

St. John spikes way to 'A' title

• Lady Irish turn back Paden City in championship match

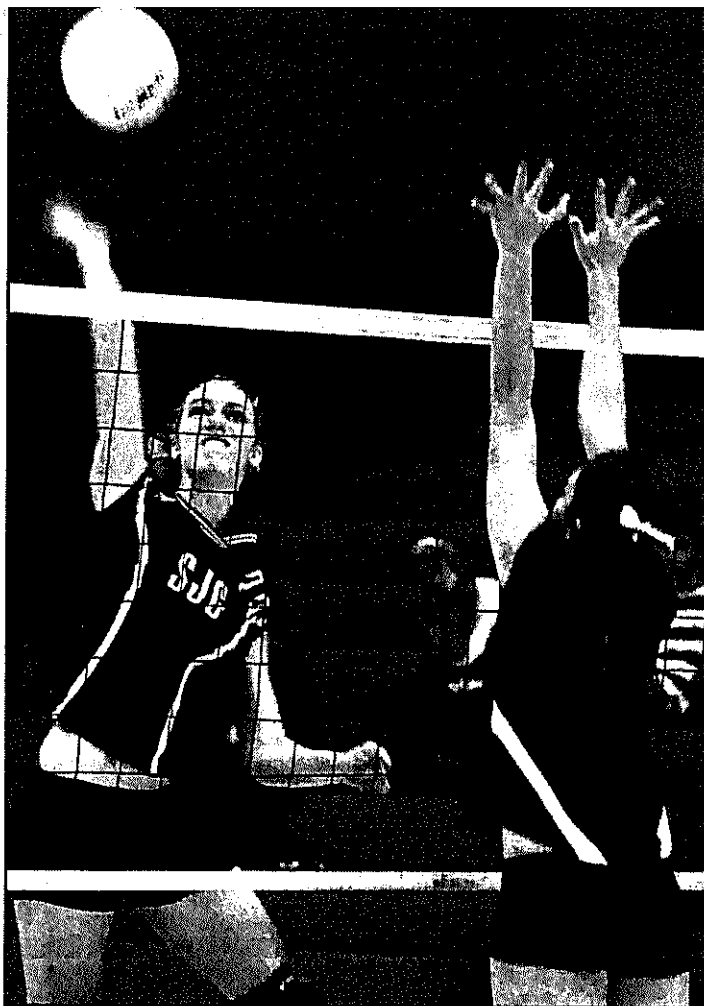
By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Head coach Ron Kelly and his St. John Central Lady Irish proved that last year was no fluke. Coming in as the defending OVAC Class 1-A champions, the Lady Irish just knew that they weren't about to give up their gold easily.

After coasting to a 25-10 decision in the first set, the Lady Irish found themselves giving way to a determined Paden City squad in second set, 19-25. Kelly's band of netters grabbed the lead in the third and made it very tough for the Lady Wildcats to comeback as they notched their second straight OVAC crown and third overall in the OVAC Volleyball Championships at the Crimson Center at Steubenville High School Saturday night.

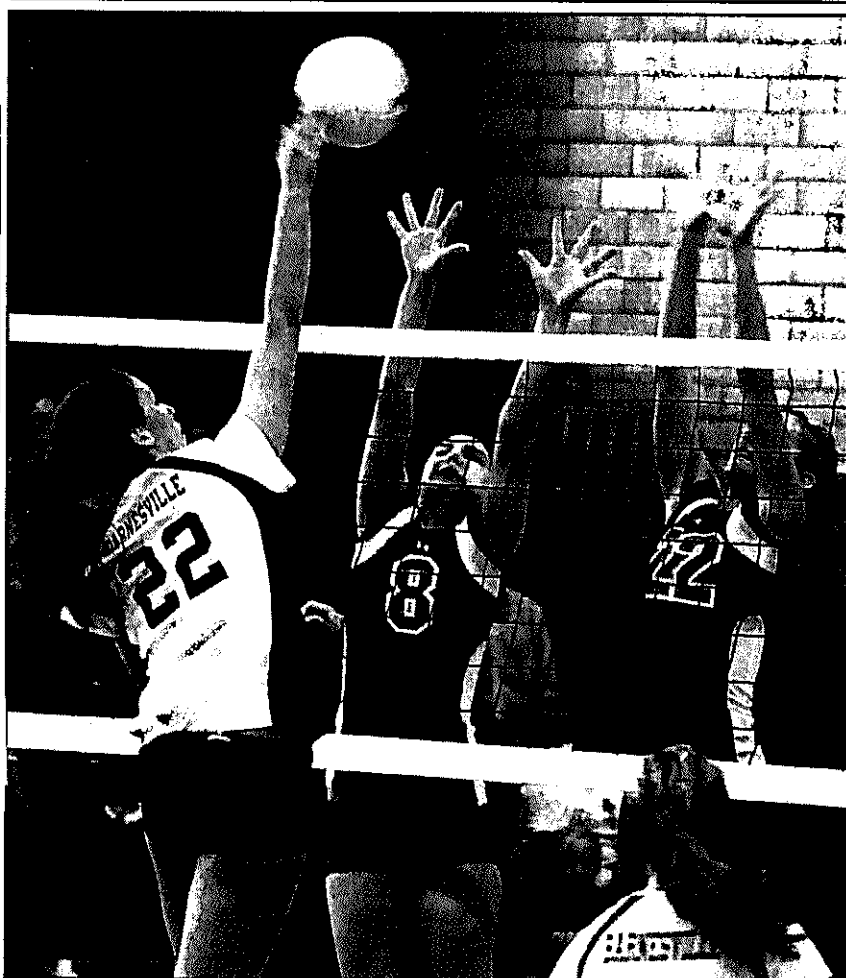
Just one week after taking the OVAC 1-A regular season title, St. John added the playoff crown to the trophy case with the dual wins. In the semi-finals, the Lady Irish were stretched to three sets before advancing with a 21-25, 25-9, 25-13 win

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ST JOHN Central middle hitter Ellie Lemasters spikes the ball over Paden City's Chiara DiLeo.

T-L Photo/
MIKE PALMER



BARNESVILLE'S Katy Hickenbottom (22) goes up for a spike as

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

'Rocks denied in 2-A OVAC title match

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Score a three-peat for Caldwell's Lady Redskins.

After twice toppling Barnesville in regular season action, the Noble County netters prevailed once again Saturday for the OVAC 2-A Volleyball Championship at Steubenville High's Crimson Center.

The rivals split the first two finals' sets before Caldwell rolled in the deciding game.

St. Clairsville, meanwhile, did not fare well in its 3-A semifinal match against Tyler Consolidated. The Lady Red Devils were swept in two straight games, then suffered a similar fate against Buckeye Trail in Saturday's consolation match.

CALDWELL captured its first-ever volleyball crown, upending the Lady Rocks, 25-18, before dropping a 25-23 second set decision.

Coach Megan Stalder's spikers recovered, however to register a convincing 25-12 third set triumph.

"We have great chemistry on the floor and it showed today," said Stalder whose team produced similar heroics in a straight sets (25-21, 28-26) semifinal sweep of Steubenville Central.

The Lady Rocks of Nikki McEndree dropped to 17-5. "We dug ourselves a huge hole (in the third game)," she advised. "We knew we were up against a very good opponent in Caldwell. Still, it's disap-

● 'Rocks

Continued from Page C1

14 kills apiece. Mugrage contributed 10 points and 18 digs. Katlin Weisend collected 20 assists.

Barnesville's Heidi Hines hammered 17 kills and donated 13 digs. Kati Hickenbottom slammed 12 kills. Paige Gibbons and Jessica Clary collected five points apiece.

IN 2-A semifinal play, Barnesville was a 25-22, 25-20 victor over Monroe Central.

Hickenbottom and Hines compiled eight and six kills, respectively. Jessica Hunkler charted seven points and six digs. Clary registered 21 digs. Devvyn Yager added nine assists and six digs.

Monroe received nine points and 19 digs from Alex Kuhn. Chelsie Roberts recorded eight kills and six digs. Demitra Habig donated 11 digs.

MONROE swept Steubenville Central in consolation action, 25-20, 25-23.

Roberts and Kayley Stephens slammed six kills apiece with Kuhn collecting five kills and eight digs. Melissa Stimpert tallied 11 points and six assists.

Lady Noles' coach Troy Baker recorded career victory No. 200.

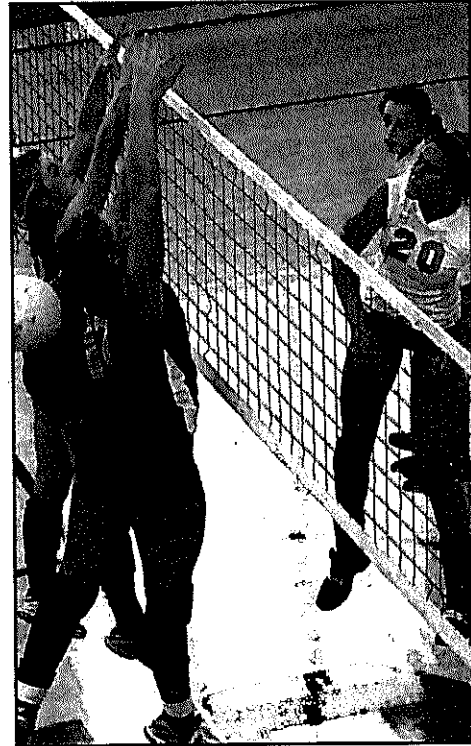
Rachel Antonelli nailed five kills and teammate Toni Jo Teramana tallied four for coach Kurt Vandeborne's Crusaders.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE never led in dropping a pair of close decisions to Tyler in a 3-A semi match.

"We played like a totally different team today," lamented Lady Red Devils' coach Rebecca Hays. "We fell too far behind and made a nice comeback but it was a case of too little, too late. We expected much better than this."

Brittany Saffell slammed eight kills. Sarah Slenski and Lexie King contributed six and five, respectively. Erica Costine charted 19 assists. Saffell and Alexis Emrisko donated seven digs apiece.

Tyler received a nine-kill output from Heather Suter. Sami Jones netted five kills with Allison Wable and Lynsey Casteel contributing four apiece.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brittany Saffell (20) watches her spike sail past a pair of Tyler Consolidated defenders. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

BUCKEYE Trail was a straight sets victor over St. C. in consolation round action. The Lady Warriors prevailed by identical counts of 25-18.

Saffell totaled 12 digs and six kills for St. Clairsville. Costine charted 12 assists. Slenski and Emrisko supported with eight digs apiece.

Trail received 15 kills from Alexa Abrams. Lynsey Beros charted 29 assists, nine points and six digs. Amy George netted eight points and three digs.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

ball programs lock horns when second-seeded Indian Creek takes its 16-2 record up against third-seeded and defending champion Cambridge. The Lady Bobcats bring a 15-3 OVAC mark to the semis. The two teams faced each other once during the season with coach Rod Johnson's Lady Cats coming away the winner.

Johnson enjoyed considerable in his first coaching stint at Buckeye and is in his sixth year at Cambridge. For his career, he has 379 wins combined. Crystal Hammack is in her sixth year at the Indian Creek helm and has been nothing short of outstanding. In that brief time she has amassed a 97-35 coaching mark which is one of the best in the valley during that span.

Jeff Beros is another one of those coaches that can produce winners every year regardless of how many returning players he has. In just 20 years at Buckeye Trail, Beros has surpassed the 400-win mark and owns a 402-89 career record. His 2010 Lady Warriors reeled off 17 straight wins and were unfazed by the jump to Class 3-A this year by gaining the top seed in 3-A. They will face fourth-seeded Edison, who making their third straight trip to the playoffs.

Edison, coached by third-year man Chuck Woodward, finished third last year and won the championship in 2008. Ironically, five of the Lady Wildcats six losses came at the hands of OVAC playoff qualifiers - twice to Indian Creek and single losses to East Liverpool, Beaver Local and Steubenville Central.

While Trail and Edison square off in one 3-A semi-final at noon, second-seeded St. Clairsville and third-seeded Tyler Consolidated face off in the other semi. St. Clairsville, with Rebecca Hays as a coach and as a former player, has had its fair share of success. As a matter of fact, during the span from 2000 to 2008, the Lady Red Devils captured five OVAC titles including four straight from 2003 to 2006.

Hayes saw her Lady Devils continue that success this year posting a 13-5 OVAC record. St. C faced five different OVAC qualifiers during the season that accounted for four of their five losses. Tyler Consolidated, qualifying for the OVAC tourney for the first in years due to scheduling conflicts, have had great success under head coach Richard Summers. Tyler, along with Oak Glen and Magnolia, have been dominating the West Virginia state tournament over the past few years. Playing a scheduled mixed with OVAC and downstate opponents, Tyler has put together a 16-4 OVAC record and continued to win matches beyond the conference limit.

With Buckeye Trail leaving the 2-A ranks and moving up to Class 3-A, the race for the top spots in Class 2-A was wide-open. At different times during the season, as many as eight different teams were considered true contenders. In the end, it was a pair of 14-4 teams that held the top two seeds.

To some, top-seeded Caldwell may have been the surprise of the season, but the Lady Redskins were red-hot late in the season and were practically unbeatable winning 10 of their last 11 matches during the OVAC season. Coach Megan Stalder's team recorded wins over each of the other three 2-A qualifiers during the season. Her squad will be paired up with fourth-seeded Steubenville Central in one of the lid-lifter semi-finals at 9 a.m. Central, coach by Kurt Vandeborne, struggled in the first half of the season with a 4-4 mark before coming on strong in the last couple weeks.

In the other 2-A semi-final, a squad accustomed to winning OVAC titles is facing a team looking for its first. Troy Baker's Monroe Central team, the third-seed, enters the playoffs with four consecutive titles from 2005 to 2008. Coach Nikki McEndree's second-seeded Barnesville squad is hoping that 2010 brings the school its first OVAC title.

McEndree's Lady Shamrocks brought a 12-2 record into the month of October, stumbled a bit as the month started then got hot all over again. Two of Barnesville's win this season came over Class 1-A top-seed St. John Central. Monroe Central posted a 13-5 record with three of those losses coming at the hands of Cambridge, Buckeye Trail and Caldwell, all playoff qualifiers. In his 11th year, Baker is just a couple wins shy of his 200th career victory.

Some might say the best is being saved for last. Well, the day's finale will feature some very good and competitive matches with a strong Class 1-A field strong with semi-finals at 6 p.m.

Top-seeded St. John Central, the defending champs in the class, are back with a new coach but the goal in mind. Veteran Ron Kelly, the owner of over 300 career wins and most recently the coach at Union Local, brings a very talent group into the 1-A mix after posting a 16-3 mark. Despite losing six to graduation, the Lady Irish managed to put together winning streaks of eight and seven matches during the season.

Interestingly, the Lady Irish faced only one of the other 1-A qualifiers during the season beating Paden City early. St. John Central will face Trinity Christian from Morgantown in the semi-final. Trinity is another team that came on strong winning nine of its last 11 matches for Coach Jennifer Hefner.

In the second semi-final, second-seeded Paden City, coached by Fred King, brings a 15-5 OVAC record in its battle with third-seeded Madonna, coach by first-year man Joe Edminston. King has over 150 with the Lady Wildcats and advanced his squad with just two returning seniors. This will be the first meeting of the year between these two teams. At one point during the season, Paden City reeled off 11 straight wins while Madonna notched wins in seven of its last eight.

The Times Leader

SECTION

B

SPORTS

Wednesday,
October 13, 2010

OVAC volleyball event set

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's a rarity to see an unbeaten team in the OVAC Volleyball Championship Playoffs. The seasons are long, the competition is fierce and a slight switch in momentum has cost a lot of good teams victories.

With the 2010 OVAC volleyball champions to be determined on Saturday, the day-long playoffs will feature two unbeaten - one from Columbiana County and the other from Guernsey County. Of course between the two are 14 other teams that may have blemishes on their records, but are all capable of going home with the gold on Saturday.

East Liverpool and Buckeye Trail are similar in so many ways yet different in others.

The Potters finished the OVAC regular season with a perfect 18-0 mark and is the top seed in the Class 4-A pairings. They are coach by Bob Shansky, not only one of the winningest coaches in the Ohio Valley, but in the state. With 433 career wins and a boatload of OVAC championship, Shansky's bad teams are good.

East Liverpool's Lady Potters strung together 18 wins this season by beating a pre-dominantly big school schedule including teams from Warren, Youngstown and Poland along with 14 wins over OVAC schools. They will square off with their neighbor to the north, Beaver Local in the 4-A semi-final at 3 p.m. on the main court. The Lady Beavers have fallen twice to the Lady Potters already this season.

In the other Class 4-A semi-final, two more top-notch volleyball teams will meet.

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Sunday News-Register

OCTOBER 17, 2010

SPORTS

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Edison Outlasts Tyler in 3 Sets

Wildcats add to school's recent strong of success

CLASS AAA

seed Tyler Consolidated in the title match.

"It's a great time to be a Wildcat fan," Woodward exclaimed. "Our football team is rocking' and our girls just won an OVAC volleyball championship."

The Cats made life somewhat difficult for themselves in both matches Saturday, twice falling in the opening set before storming back to prevail.

See, Edison, Page B3

By RICH GIBSON
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE — Fourth-seeded Edison won Saturday's OVAC 3A volleyball title the old fashioned way. It earned it.

Coach Chuck Woodward's Wildcats first handed top-seeded Buckeye Trail its initial loss of the season, then followed by knocking off No. 3

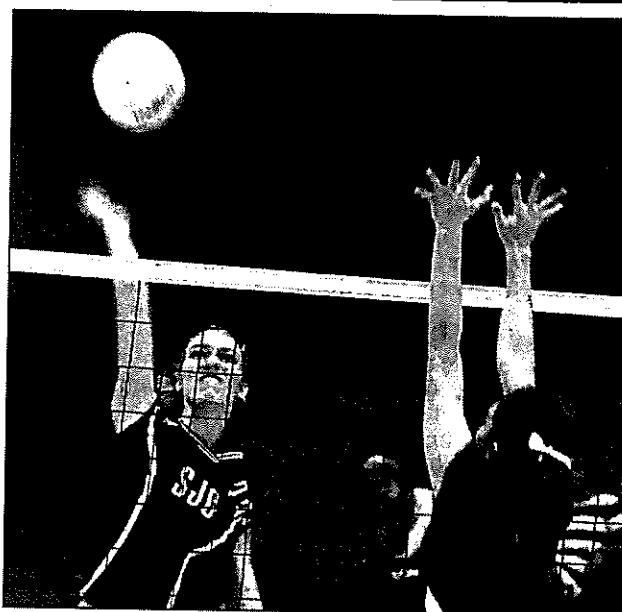


Photo by Mike Palmer

St. John Central's Ellie LeMasters spikes the ball over Paden City's Chiara DiLeo during the OVAC Class A volleyball championship.

Irish Repeat As Class A Champs

St. John tops Paden City in three-set final

CLASS A

Fighting Irish found themselves giving way to a determined Paden City squad in second set, 25-19. Kelly's band of netters grabbed the lead in the third and made it very tough for the Wildcats to come back as it notched its second straight OVAC crown and third overall in the OVAC Volleyball Championships at the Crimson Center at Steubenville High School on Saturday night.

By RICK DeLUCA
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE — Ron Kelly and St. John Central last season was no fluke. Coming in as the defending OVAC Class A champions, the Fighting Irish just knew that they weren't about to give up their gold easily.

After coasting to a 25-10 decision in the first set, the

See, Irish, Page B3

● St. John

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over Trinity Christian from Morgantown. SJC boosted the record to 18-3 on the season.

Paden City extended their season mark to 23-9 with the split on Saturday.

Coach Fred King's Lady Wildcats stopped Madonna in their semi-final match, 25-9, 25-19.

In the consolation final match, Trinity topped Madonna in three, 25-19, 17-25, 25-20.

"We played them earlier and they took us to three so we sort of knew what to expect coming in here today," Kelly said after his championship match. "They came back and got some big points, but we answered."

"We had a letdown in the second set, but we've been running into that most of the season," Kelly added. "It seems that whenever we win the first match we have to play harder to win the second."

"One play can upset the whole thing and you lose the momentum and then you have to fight hard to get it back," Kelly said. "We are strong on the nets, but I think we can get better and hopefully we will get better before the tournaments."

In the title match, the Lady Irish were led by Alexis Sharpe with 14 points, three aces, five kills, four blocks and 11 digs. Andrea Timko added nine points, four aces, four kills, five blocks, 16 assists and seven digs.

Ellie Lemasters was strong on the court with seven points, three aces, 10 kills, six blocks, three assists and 12 digs.

Freshman Lindsee Perry added five points and four kills while Kristen Russell supported with five points, two aces, four kills and five digs.

Devon Carpenter had four points and nine digs and Lacey Dobrovich had three kills for the Lady Irish.

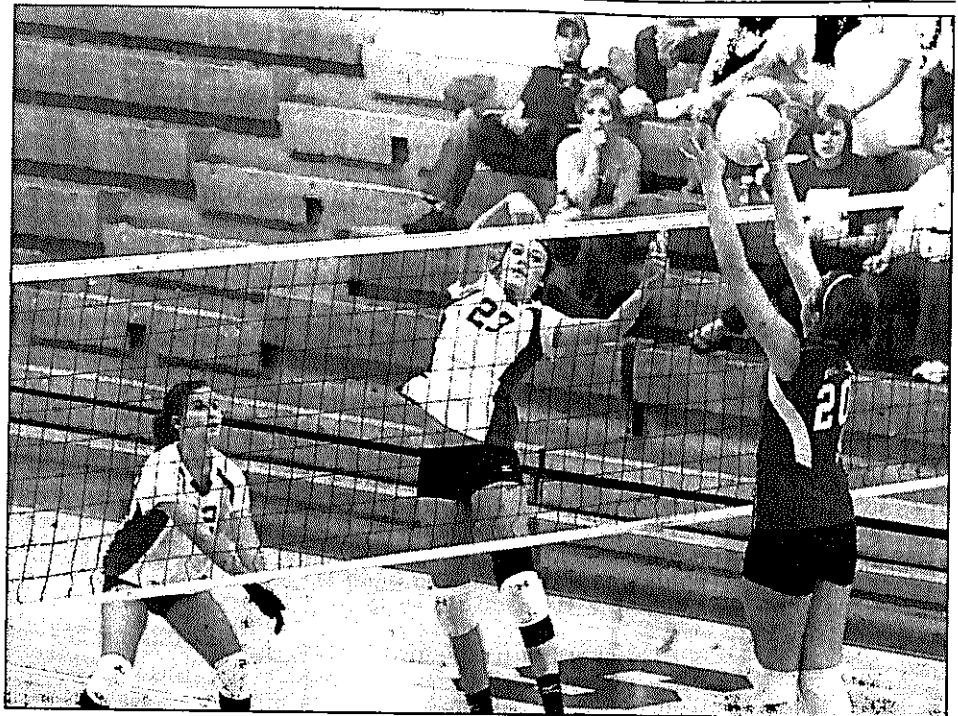
"We're very proud of our girls considering that we have no seniors and play three sophomores," King after the showing on Saturday. "It's been a fun year because no one expected us to do this well except us and these girls."

"Now we have to get ready for Mason Dixon," King added. "We won the regular season title and now we have to get ready for the tournament and our sectionals. This is a great venue for what is coming. This tournament is really super and we are proud to be a part of it."

"I'm very proud of our girls because we got here and because we won that first match and played well in the second," King said.

Paden City was led by Dominique Craft with five points, six kills and 11 digs, Amanda Heasley with eight points, nine kills and four digs and Megan Cutlip with nine kills, three blocks and five digs.

Adding to the Lady Wildcat attack was Chiara DiLeo with 11 points, five kills and seven digs, Logan Cosper with nine points and six digs and Lynnsie Parsons with 12 points, 20 assists and two digs.



Barnesville's Heidi Hines (23) and Caldwell's Maggie Tilton (20) go up at the net during the OVAC Class AA Championship in Steubenville. Photo by Mike Palmer

Skins Earn Third Straight

Cambridge takes out Beaver Local for 4-A title

By RICH GIBSON
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — Score a 3-peat for Caldwell.

After twice toppling Barnesville in the regular season, the Noble County netters prevailed once again Saturday for the OVAC AA Volleyball Championship at Steubenville High's Crimson Center.

The rivals split the first two sets before Caldwell rolled in the deciding game.

Caldwell captured its first volleyball crown, upending the Shamrocks Rocks, 25-18, before dropping a 25-23 second set decision.

Coach Megan Stalder's spikers recovered to register a convincing 25-12 third-set triumph.

"We have great chemistry on the floor and it showed," said Stalder, whose team produced similar heroics in a straight sets (25-21, 28-26) semifinal sweep of Steubenville Central.

Coach Nikki McEndree's Shamrocks dropped to 17-5.

"We dug ourselves a huge hole in the third game," she said. "We knew we were up against a very good opponent in Caldwell. Still, it's disappointing for our girls."

Caldwell veterans Lizzy Nau, Maggie

OVAC VOLLEYBALL

Tilton and Stacy Mugrage led the title-winning effort, collecting 14 kills apiece. Mugrage contributed 10 points and 18 digs. Katlin Weisend collected 20 assists.

Barnesville's Heidi Hines hammered 17 kills and donated 13 digs.

Kati Hickenbottom slammed 12 kills. Paige Gibbons and Jessica Clary collected five points apiece.

In semifinal play, Barnesville was a 25-22, 25-20 victor against Monroe Central.

Hickenbottom and Hines compiled eight and six kills, respectively.

Jessica Hunkler charted seven points and six digs. Clary registered 21 digs. Devvyn Yager added nine assists and six digs.

Monroe received nine points and 19 digs from Alex Kuhn. Chelsie Roberts recorded eight kills and six digs. Demitra Habig donated 11 digs.

Class AAAA

Cambridge topped Beaver Local 23-25, 25-20, 25-20 to win its second straight championship.

Indian Creek was swept by Cambridge 25-17, 25-20 in a semifinal and then defeated East Liverpool 20-25, 25-22, 25-15 in the third place game.

The Potters had their undefeated season come to an end by rival Beaver Local 25-21, 25-15 in the other semi.

Just one week after taking the regular-season title, St. John added the playoff crown to the trophy case with the dual victories. In the semifinals, the Irish was stretched to three sets before advancing with a 21-25, 25-9, 25-13 victory against Trinity Christian from Morgantown. SJC boosted the record to 18-3.

Paden City extended its season mark to 23-9 with the split. Coach Fred King's Wildcats stopped Madonna in their semifinal match, 25-9, 25-19.

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digs.

Ellie Lemasters was strong on the court with seven points, three aces, 10 kills, six blocks, three assists and 12 digs. Freshman Lindsee Perry added five points and four kills while Kristen Russell supported with five points, two aces, four kills and five digs.

Devon Carpenter had four points and nine digs and Lacey Dobrovich had three kills for the Lady Irish.

"We're very proud of our girls considering that we have no seniors and play three sophomores," King said. "It's been a fun year because no one expected us to do this well except us and these girls.

"Now we have to get ready for Mason Dixon. We won the regular season title and now we have to get ready for the tournament and our sectionals. This is a great venue for what is coming. This tournament is really super and we are proud to be a part of it.

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Paden City was led by Dominique Craft with five points, six kills and 11 digs, Amanda Heasley with eight points, nine kills and four digs and Megan Cutlip with nine kills, three blocks and five digs.

Adding to the Wildcats attack was Chiara DiLeo with 11 points, five kills and seven digs, Logan Cosper with nine points and six digs and Lynnsie Parsons with 12 points, 20 assists and two digs.

EDISON

Continued from page B1

"I can't say enough about our kids' work ethic," Woodward continued. "And I really have to compliment my assistants. They're as responsible as anyone for (this victory)."

Tyler Consolidated, under Coach Richard Summers, started strong, rolling to a 25-14, first-set decision against Edison. The Silver Knights were involved in a 23-23, second-set deadlock and just two points from completing a sweep for the conference trophy.

Edison, though, tallied consecutive points for a 25-23 victory. The third and deciding set was all Edison.

"This sport is all about momentum," Summers said. "Edison took it from us by winning that second set. Unfortunately, we just could not recover."

The Wildcats never trailed in the final set and came off a 6-6 tie by going on a 11-1 run to seize control and win with relative ease, 25-14.

"This is our second (OVAC) title in three years, so it's a really nice accomplishment for our pro-

gram," Woodward added. "I thought this field was very balanced. Any of the four teams could have won it."

Keely Drabick delivered a dozen kills, 10 assists, five digs and five points as Edison improved to 15-7. Kylie Smith supported with seven points and six kills.

Mycela Stewart tallied seven points and four digs. Katelyn Pollock produced six kills. Caitlin Brenstuhl collected 15 assists.

Tyler Consolidated (21-9) received 10 kills from Heather Suter. Whitney Williams recorded 15 serving points. Allison Wable donated 20 digs. Keri Suter collected 20 assists.

Edison dropped a 22-25 first set match to Trail, then came back to prevail by counts of 25-22, 22-20. It was the first loss in 20 starts for Coach Jeff Beros' Warriors.

Drabick slammed 13 kills and charted eight assists for Edison. Smith and Jasmyn Falasca contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively. Katie Davidson totaled seven points, six blocks and four kills.

In defeat, Trail's Alexa Abrams compiled 18 kills with younger sister, Morgan Abrams adding slamming eight. Lyndsey Beros boarded 29 assists and in the process, netted her 1,000th career assist.

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