

WHEELING HOSPITAL

OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

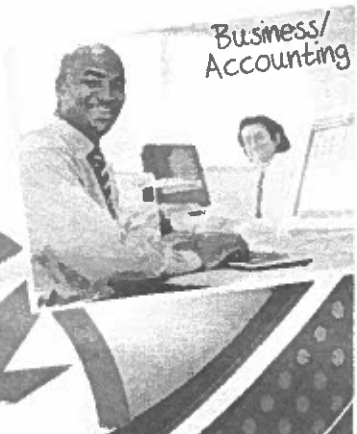


The Times Leader

Friday, February 17, 2012

*You've got the potential.
We've got the programs!*

More than 70 Associate degrees, certificates and transfer programs available including:



Find your direction...

WEST VIRGINIA
NORTHERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHEELING WEIRTON NEW MARTINSVILLE
304-233-5900 304-723-2210 304-455-4684
www.wvncc.edu

A note from the executive secretary ...

Welcome to the fifth annual Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championship.

Each year, this format gains more and more credibility, as teams vie for the OVAC title the way it should be determined: on the court.

To the players and coaches, congratulations. Your

hard work has paid off. At the end of the game, whether you receive the runner-up medal or the championship medal, you will realize that you represented your school and community in a solid, positive manner. While doing that, you also got a "pre-taste" of post-season tournament play, experienced a great venue, exciting atmosphere and felt the pressure of performing when it matters.

Hopefully, this tournament experience will bene-

fit you in the weeks to come.

The OVAC is grateful to all the sponsors who make this championship and this conference what it is, but a special thank you goes to Wheeling Hospital, the title sponsor of the games.

Its credo says it all: "a tradition of excellence, a legacy of caring." So many things they do throughout the year, behind the spotlight, allow our student-athletes to reap benefits not experienced by other schools in Ohio and West Virginia.

Ohio University Eastern is the perfect site for this championship. A big-time facility in a smaller arena allows the athletes the best playing conditions and the fans to get involved in the game. Factor in the ease of getting there and the enthusiasm of their staff to give our kids a great experience and you have the perfect atmosphere.

Let's all remember that this game is for the kids. A display of good sportsmanship will leave a lasting impression on these young men and women and, win or lose, will affect their memories for years to come.

ON THE COVER

Pictured is a player from each of the 10 schools competing in Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship. Top row, from left, are Dan Monteroso (St. Clairsville), Jordan Indermuhle (River), Sam Jackson (Beallsville) and Anthony Wallace (Linsly). Bottom row, from left, are Chandler Lang (Fort Frye), Errin Baynes (Wheeling Park), Dylan Hibbits (Indian Creek), Ross Comis (Madonna), Mark Winters (Magnolia) and Marky Thompkins (East Liverpool).

Photos by SETH STASKEY, MIKE PALMER, PAUL KRAJNYAK, AARON PETCHAL, RICK THORP, JOSH STROPE and MARIETTA TIMES

What's Inside?

- Class 1A**
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Beallsville vs. Madonna, Pg. 7
- Class 2A**
Saturday, 12:15 p.m.
Linsly vs. River, Pg. 3
- Class 3A**
Saturday, 3 p.m.
Fort Frye vs. Magnolia, Pg. 10
- Class 4A**
Saturday, 5:45 p.m.
St. Clairsville vs. East Liverpool, Pg. 12
- Class 5A**
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Indian Creek vs. Wheeling Park, Pg. 16



MATHESON VALLEY
ask... The Gas Professionals™

Industrial, Medical & Specialty Gases Welding & Safety Supplies
• Propane

15 Lombard St., Martins Ferry, OH 43935
(740) 635-1324
Fax (740) 635-1311

River, Linsly set to clash in 2A

• Pilots making first appearance in OVAC title game; Cadets in finals for first time since 2008

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Uncharted waters for River.

That's where the Pilots have navigated themselves.

Mark Romick's top-seeded club (14-5) will meet No. 2 seed Linsly (12-8) Saturday afternoon at 12:15 for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Class 2A Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building just west of St. Clairsville.

To earn their berths in the championship encounter, River had to flow past No. 4 Shadyside, 55-36, in one semifinal Tuesday night, while Linsly outlasted No. 3 Steubenville Central in an overtime thriller, 74-68.

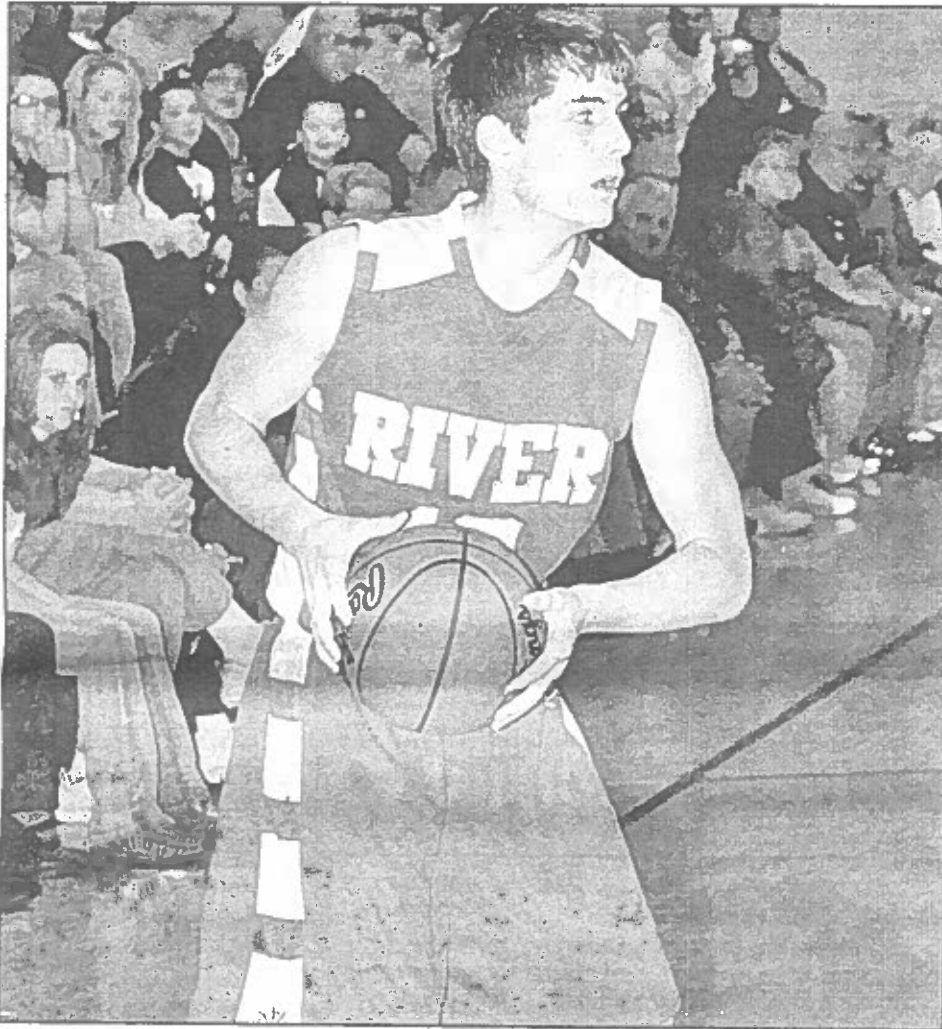
This will be the Monroe Countians first appearance in the local version of the 'big dance,' while the Wheeling-based Cadets are making their second trip to the finals, losing a heart-breaker to Shadyside in the 2008 title tilt in triple overtime.

"At the first of the year we set some goals as a team," Romick explained. "One of them was to win the OVAC and here we are."

River qualified for the tournament last year, but was bounced by county rival Monroe Central in the semis.

"Right now we've got a chance to realize that goal and some others," he continued, adding that the PVC and Division IV sectional titles were on that list. "The kids are playing pretty well right now."

Linsly head coach James Wallace said his team has been progressing all year, and reaching the title game is the end result.



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

RIVER'S Cody Caldwell looks over the defense during a game earlier this season at Shadyside. Caldwell and the Pilots will take on Linsly for the OVAC Class 2A title.

"We didn't start off very well this year," he recalled. "Trinity kind of really took it to us in that first game, but since then we've been committed to getting better every day, be it in practice or in games."

"This is the time of the year to be playing your best basketball and I feel we are doing that right now. I feel pretty good with the way we're playing," he added.

The Pilots are led by a

starting crew of juniors, with 6-1 Brett Price topping a trio of twin-digit scorers with a 15.5 norm. He had 21 in Tuesday night's triumph, including a pair of key triples that allowed his team to pull away from the Tigers late in the third quarter.

"Brett really worked hard on his game over the summer," Romick revealed. "He's a scorer that can get a

See, 2A, Page 4

LINSLY			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
10	Zak Kriechbaum	5-10	9
11	Arien Seymour	5-11	10
14	Anthony Wallace	6-3	10
15	Reno Colaianni	6-0	10
20	Colton Coss	5-10	9
21	Jameson Murray	5-9	10
22	Toddy Goodwin-Rowe	5-10	9
23	Jibri Blount	6-4	9
24	Akil Blount	6-4	12
25	Christian Braughler	6-0	9
30	Robert Idown	6-1	11
31	Steve Campbell	6-1	10
32	Leighton Gibson	6-3	12
34	Quinton Hamilton	6-3	9
40	Mike Hammond	6-0	11
Head Coach: James Wallace			
RIVER			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
1	Matt Marconi	5-9	11
2	Chad Isaly	5-10	11
4	Eric Dierkes	6-0	10
5	Kam Brown	5-8	11
10	Jordan Indermuhle	6-5	11
12	Matt Gauding	6-3	9
13	Cody Caldwell	6-2	11
21	Brett Price	6-1	11
42	Evan Eggleston	6-3	11
43	Ryan Ludolph	6-1	10
Head Coach: Mark Romick			
Assistant Coaches: Gard Curtis, Kris Pfalzgraf, Dean Caldwell and Zach Hammond			

Dr. Zambito
Family Dentistry

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL PLAYERS
IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES!**

- Single Visit Cerec Crown • Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implants • Preventative Care • Porcelain Veneer
- Root Canals • Fixed & Removable Appliances
- Laser Dentistry - Non Invasive • Drillless Dentistry
- Intra-Oral Video Cameras • Digital Photography
- Rembrandt In-Office Whitening System

1201 Mt. DeChantal Road • Wheeling • (304) 243-1500
Tues. & Thurs. Evening & Sat. Morning Hours Also Available
www.zambitodentistry.com

● 2A

Continued from Page 3

bunch of points in a hurry. He feeds off of that and his game has developed over the course of the year."

Also reaching double figures on a nightly basis are

6-2 Cody Caldwell (12.5) and 6-5 Jordan Indermuhle (11.6).

"Cody is a perimeter threat," Romick added. "He's very athletic as he

plays quarterback in football. His skills have improved as the year has progressed.

"Jordan has pretty much been a model of consisten-

cy," Romick noted. "He averages 11 (points) and 11 (rebounds) for us. He cleans the boards and has been a steady force in the paint."

See, 2A, Page 5

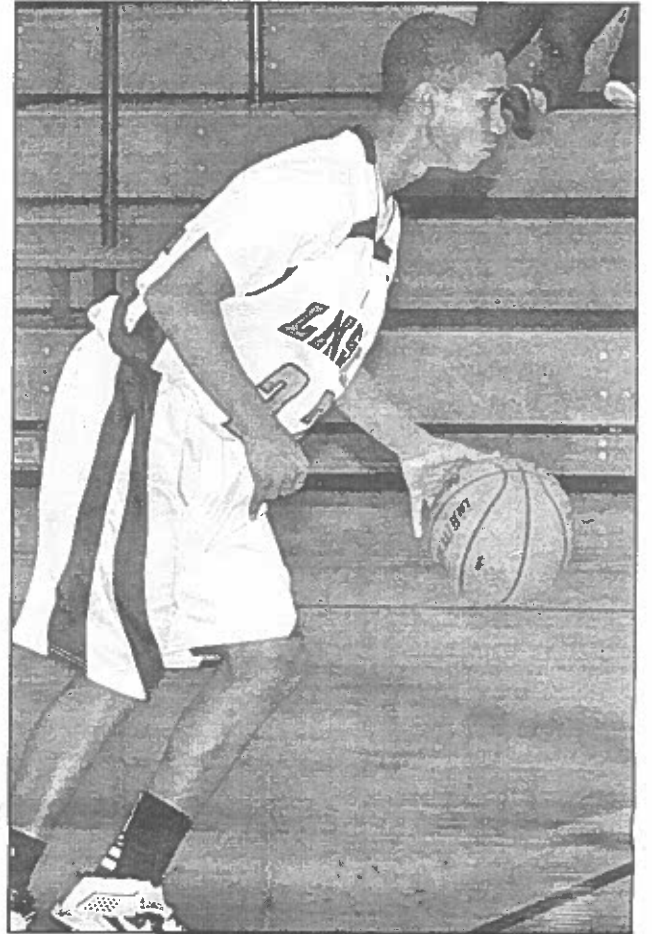
LINSLY CADETS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Linsly Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Robert Idowu, Akil Blount, Leighton Gibson and Michael Hammond. Second row, from left, are Jameson Murray, Steven Campbell, Reno Colaiani, Arien Seymour and Anthony Wallace. Top row, from left, are Christian Braughler, Colton Coss, Toddy Goodwin-Rowe, Jibri Blount, Zak Kriebbaum, Quinton Hamilton.

GOOD LUCK CADETS!
R&V Embroidery
 Rick & Valerie Nau
 303 Warwood Ave.
 Wheeling
 304-277-4120



File Photo/JOSH STROPE

LINSLY'S Toddy Goodwin-Rowe is one of the Cadets' go-to players from his point guard position. Goodwin-Rowe and the Cadets will meet River for the OVAC Class 2A title on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

**The Linsly School....
 Where Learning Never Ends.**

**Good Luck Linsly
 Boys Basketball!**

Go Cadets!

Please call (304) 233-1436 or Email admit@linsly.org for admissions information or to arrange a visit.

The Linsly School
 1514 FORWARD AND NO RETREAT 2014
 Celebrating 200 Years

The Linsly School is an equal opportunity school.

Michael Shaheen *GOOD LUCK*
 Democrat for Treasurer

**COMMITTED TO MOVING
 BELMONT COUNTY FORWARD**

P.O. Box 35 • St. Clairsville, OH 43950
 Paid for by the Committee to Elect Michael J. Shaheen, Belmont County Treasurer,
 Robyn L. Shaheen, Treasurer

**WE CAN HELP YOU
 GET THE MONEY YOU DESERVE!**

Marcellus & Utica Shale Gas & Oil Litigation Group
 Hotline: (800) 388-2529

GKT
 GoldKhourey & Turak
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 gkt.com

510 Tomlinson Ave.,
 Moundsville, WV
 (304) 845-9750
 (304) 845-1286 Fax
 1-800-388-2529 Toll Free

We were there!

CU

order your favorite Times Leader photos on mugs, mousepads, t-shirts, calendars... endless opportunities...log on today!

cu.timesleaderonline.com

2A

Continued from Page 4

The remaining two starters are 6-3 Evan Eggleston (2.6) and 5-9 Matt Marconi (8.1), who runs the show from the point.

"Matt has steadily gotten better," Romick allowed. "He's a very good shooter and leads the team in field goal percentage. He doesn't take too many bad shots."

Marconi backed his coach's thoughts against Shadyside when he knocked down a pair of quarter-ending buzzer-beaters (second and third).

One thing people might not know about Marconi is that he is also a lights-out defender, according to his head coach.

"He usually draws the opposition's top scorer, so he'll have his hands full Saturday."

Eggleston gives the Pilots another huge body inside, while Kameron Brown (2.5) and Chad Isaly (3.3) give quality minutes off the bench.

"Kam came in the other night and played super defensively," Romick said



of Brown's half-a-dozen steals. "He also got his hands on a couple of loose balls that we kept alive and eventually wound up with."

When asked about Saturday's opponent, Romick kind of rolled his eyes.

"We went to watch them play and they are a very athletic bunch. Akil (Blount) and (Anthony) Wallace are great athletes and very good players," he praised. "But they have other players who are athletic. They can all handle the basketball and they can all shoot it."

"They like to play that up-tempo game, so defen-

See, 2A, Page 6



PICTURED ARE the opposing coaches in the OVAC Class 2A championship game. From left are Mark Romick (River) and James Wallace (Linsly School). The Pilots and Cadets will meet on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern at 12:15 p.m.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Records

- INDIVIDUAL MOST POINTS**
 1A: 29, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 25, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 27, Phil Gross, St. Clairsville, 2009
 4A: 21, Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST FREE THROWS MADE**
 1A: 8, Connor Arla, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 8, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 12, Joby Barr, Union Local, 2009
 4A: 10, Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008
- BEST FREE THROW %**
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 85% (6/7), Sal Cont, Weirton Madonna, 2008
 2A: 100% (8/8), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 100% (6/6), L. J. Campbell, Weir, 2010
 4A: 100% (6/6), Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE**
 1A: 10, Garrett Price, Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 9, C. J. Goodwin, Linsly, 2008
 3A: 10, Phil Gross, St. Clairsville, 2009
 4A: 8, Marquez O'Neal, Wheeling Park, 2011
- BEST 2-POINT GOAL %**
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 60% (4/5), Ian Schau, Bishop Donahue, 2010
 2A: 83% (5/6), Drew Kennon, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 80% (4/5), D'Onite Long, Wheeling

- Central, 2008
 4A: 83% (5/6), Justin Eikieberry, John Marshall, 2009
- MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE**
 1A: 6, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 5, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 4, Matt Sapp, Magnolia, 2011
 4A: 4, Matt Sapp, Magnolia, 2011
- BEST 3-POINT GOAL %**
 (4 attempts minimum)
 1A: 60% (6/10), A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 45% (5/11), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 60% (3/5), Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2011
 4A: 60% (3/5), Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
- INDIVIDUAL MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS**
 1A: 5, Michael Bachie, Bridgeport, 2008
 2A: 4, Cody Campbell, Linsly, 2008
 3A: 8, Jared Blatt, Magnolia, 2010
 4A: 6, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS**
 1A: 13, Devon Overholt, Bishop Donahue, 2009
 2A: 7, D'Onite Long, Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 8, Allen DeRosa, St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 9, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2011

- MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS**
 1A: 13, Devon Overholt, Bishop Donahue, 2009
 2A: 10, Cody Campbell, Linsly, 2008
 3A: 10, Jared Blatt, Magnolia, 2010
 4A: 11, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2011
- MOST ASSISTS**
 1A: 4, Nathan Fallova, Bishop Donahue, 2009
 2A: 4, B. A. Holloway, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 4, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 3, Luke Martin, John Marshall, 2011
- MOST STEALS**
 1A: 5, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2008
 2A: 4, Jarrod Arnold, Fort Frye, 2009
 3A: 4, Shawn Burns, Weir, 2010
 4A: 7, Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST BLOCKS**
 1A: 1, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 69, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 60, Magnolia, 2011



- Chris Martinez, Trinity Christian, 2011
 Drazen Frankevich, Madonna, 2011
 Clay Rokisky, Maconna, 2011
 Nick Alexander, Madonna, 2011
 Garrett Price, Bridgeport, 2010
 Tre Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2010
 Nate Maleski, Bridgeport, 2010
 Zach Whitfield, Bishop Don., 2010
 Chad Riedel, Bishop Don., 2010
 Ray Barrows, Bishop Don., 2009
 Nathan Fallova, Bishop Don., 2009
 Devon Overholt, Bishop Don., 2009
 2A: 1, Guiler Bettinger, Monroe Central, 2011
 Wes Rataiczak, Shenandoah, 2010
 Cody Koehler, Wheeling Central, 2009
 Jack Weisnar, Wheeling Central, 2009
- TEAM MOST POINTS**
 1A: 86, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 69, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 60, Magnolia, 2011

- 4A: 74, Wheeling Park, 2011
- MOST FREE THROWS MADE**
 1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 18, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 19, Union Local, 2009
 4A: 17, Indian Creek, 2008
- BEST FREE THROW %**
 (10 attempts minimum)
 1A: 67% (8/12), Weirton Madonna, 2008
 2A: 91% (11/12), Fort Frye, 2009
 3A: 79% (15/19), St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 81% (17/21), Indian Creek, 2008
- MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE**
 1A: 22, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 23, Linsly, 2008
 3A: 19, Wheeling Central, 2008
 4A: 25, Wheeling Park, 2011
- BEST 2-POINT GOAL %**
 (20 attempts minimum)
 1A: 53% (21/40), Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 55% (17/31), Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 50% (19/38), Wheeling Central, 2008
 4A: 53% (25/47), Wheeling Park, 2011
- MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE**
 1A: 11, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 11, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 7, Magnolia, 2011
 4A: 5, John Marsnall, 2010
- BEST 3-POINT GOAL %**
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 63% (5/8), Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 44% (7/16), Shenandoah, 2010
 3A: 50% (7/14), St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 40% (4/10), John Marshall, 2010
- TEAM MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS**

- 1A: 18, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 12, Shadyside, 2010
 3A: 15, Magnolia, 2010
 4A: 17, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS**
 1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 25, Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 23, Union Local, 2009
 4A: 22, Wheeling Park, 2011
- MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS**
 1A: 40, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 29, Shadyside, 2010
 3A: 34, St. Clairsville, 2009
 4A: 43, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST ASSISTS**
 1A: 9, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 11, Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 8, St. Clairsville, 2011, 2009
 4A: 7, Wheeling Park, 2011
- MOST STEALS**
 1A: 12, Bridgeport, 2008
 2A: 13, Shadyside, 2010
 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008
 4A: 15, Wheeling Park, 2010
- MOST BLOCKS**
 1A: 3, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 2, Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 2, Union Local, 2009
 4A: 5, Wheeling Park, 2011, 2010

See, RECORDS, Page 6

● 2A

Continued from Page 5

sively, they are going to be a real challenge for us," he continued."

The aforementioned Blount (6-4) is the oldest of the two sons of former

Pittsburgh Steelers' defensive back Mel Blount that suit up for the Cadets. The Florida A&M football recruit averages 20 points and 10 rebounds a game.

"His numbers speak for themselves," Wallace said. "He's a great scorer and great rebounder, but this season he has had to assume the role of team leader as

it's him and a bunch of freshmen and sophomores, basically.

"He's done a great job of bringing the younger kids around. His leadership has

been way more than important that any basket he scored or any rebound he pulled down."

Sophomores Anthony Wallace (6-3) and Jameson Murray (5-9) are also two players that their coach spoke highly of.

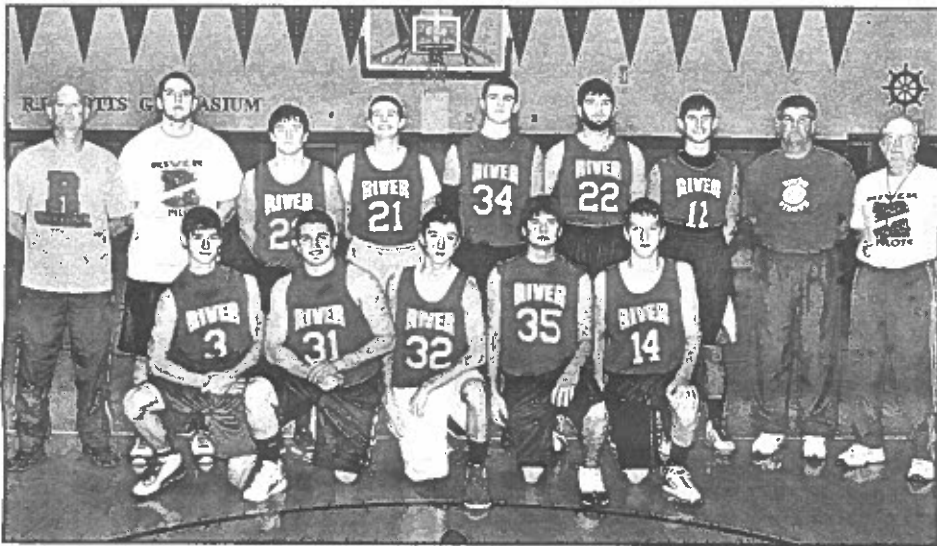
"Anthony is an extremely talented young man who works very hard and is a very good defensive player. "Jameson is a little under-sized but he brings a lot of hustle and desire. He does a lot of things that go un-

noticed in the newspaper or on the stat sheets."

The starting five is rounded out by a pair of freshmen in Jibri Blount (6-4) and Toddy Goodwin-Rowe (5-10).

Jibri, like Akil, is very talented and athletic," Wallace offered. "He's gotten a lot better as the season has progressed, while Toddy has started every game for us at point guard, which is tough to do as a freshman."

RIVER PILOTS



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 River Pilots Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Kam Brown, Nick Asturi, Justin Thomas, Erik Dierkes. Back row, from left, are Coach Kris Pfalzgraf, Coach Hammond, Chad Isaly, Brett Price, Jordan Indermuhle, Evan Eggleston, Cody Caldwell, Head Coach Mark Romick and Coach Gard Curtis. Not pictured is Ryan Ludolph.

● Records

Continued from Page 5

2008		2009		2010		2011	
CLASS A							
1	Bridgeport	49	1	Madonna (2OT)	86		
2	Weirton Madonna	37	2	Trinity Christian	81		
3	Bishop Rosecrans	61	3	Bishop Donahue	51		
4	Valley	42	4	Beallsville	55		
CLASS AA							
1	Fort Frye	47	1	Fort Frye	47		
2	Monroe Central	45	2	Monroe Central	45		
3	River	75	3	River	75		
4	Barnesville	65	4	Barnesville	65		
CLASS AAA							
1	Magnolia	60	1	Magnolia	60		
2	St. Clairsville	53	2	St. Clairsville	53		
3	Union Local	59	3	Union Local	59		
4	Weir	50	4	Weir	50		
CLASS AAAA							
1	Wheeling Park	74	1	Wheeling Park	74		
2	John Marshall	43	2	John Marshall	43		
3	Indian Creek	56	3	Indian Creek	56		
4	East Liverpool	53	4	East Liverpool	53		
COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT RECORDS							
Bishop Donahue 1-1							
Bridgeport 2-1							
Fort Frye 1-1							
Indian Creek 1-0							
John Marshall 0-4							
Linsy 0-1							
Madonna 1-1							
Magnolia 1-1							
Monroe Central 0-1							
St. Clairsville 0-3							
Shadyside 2-0							
Shenandoah 0-1							
Trinity Christian 0-1							
Union Local 1-0							
Weir 1-0							
Wheeling Central 2-0							
Wheeling Park 3-0							
ATTENDANCE RECORDS							
CLASS A							
	2008	363		2008	425		
	2009	565		2009	695		
	2010	448		2010	708		
	2011	273		2011	560		
CLASS AA							
	2008	425		2008	1043		
	2009	695		2009	1286		
	2010	708		2010	277		
	2011	560		2011	879		
CLASS AAA							
	2008	1043		2008	679		
	2009	1286		2009	722		
	2010	277		2010	525		
	2011	879		2011	493		
CLASS AAAA							
	2008	679		2008	2608		
	2009	722		2009	3591		
	2010	525		2010	2009		
	2011	493		2011	2205		
TOTAL							
	2008	2608		2008	1286		
	2009	3591		2009	1286		
	2010	2009		2010	1286		
	2011	2205		2011	1286		
SINGLE GAME							
	2008	1286		2008	1286		
	2009	1286		2009	1286		
	2010	1286		2010	1286		
	2011	1286		2011	1286		
CLASS A							
	2008	363		2008	425		
	2009	565		2009	695		
	2010	448		2010	708		
	2011	273		2011	560		

VFW POST #5565
POWHATAN POINT, OH

Good luck Pilots!

OHHS
Ohio Hills Health Services

Monroe Family Health Center
37984 Airport Road, Woodfield, OH 43973
740-472-0757

GOOD LUCK PILOTS!

Serving Eastern Ohio Since 1887

GOOD LUCK PILOTS! WOODSFIELD SAVINGS BANK

- HOME MORTGAGES
- CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
- AUTO LENDING

600 Lewisville Road
472-1641
www.woodsfieldsavings.com

Mon.-Wed. 9-4
Thur. & Sat. 9-12
Friday 9-6

MEMBER FDIC

STATE FARM INSURANCE

GOOD LUCK BEALLSVILLE & RIVER!

TIM BLUE

232 South Main St. Suite A,
Woodsfield, OH

(740) 472-1381
tim.blue.lzkl@statefarm.com



Beallsville, Madonna vie for 1A title

• Blue Dons seek repeat of small-school crown, while Blue Devils aim for first title since '03

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Not so long ago, Beallsville's Blue Devils inflicted major punishment on Weirton Madonna's Blue Dons.

The manner in which opposing coaches Scooter Tolzda and George Vargo are talking now, however, Jan. 10's regular season matchup seems like a distant memory.

"For us to become OVAC champions, we have to dethrone an OVAC champion and we know that won't be easy," Tolzda exclaimed anticipating Saturday morning's (9:30) Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 1A title game at Ohio University Eastern's athletic complex.

Suffice to say, Vargo's Blue Dons were not at their finest last month in Monroe County where Beallsville was an overwhelming 69-47 victor.

"Of course, our kids remember what happened. But Beallsville had something to do with it. They left no doubt who the better team was that night," Vargo noted. "Frankly, I considered it a healthy loss. We practiced harder because of it."

Expect Madonna to be in a championship state of mind for Saturday's rematch. Tolzda would expect nothing less. "I think we match up well with Madonna. On the other hand, I think Madonna matches up well with us," the Blue Devils' boss advised.

A year ago, Madonna used a OVAC title-winning double-overtime victory against Trinity Christian as momentum to run the West Virginia small school post-season table as Vargo's quint went on to capture the



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the opposing coaches in the OVAC Class 1A championship game. From left are Lou "Scooter" Tolzda (Beallsville) and George Vargo (Madonna). The 1A game will tipoff at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Beallsville and Madonna will be meeting for the second time this season. The Blue Devils captured the earlier meeting in Monroe County.

big trophy in Charleston. The Blue Dons appear to have necessary ammo to make a repeat run. But as Vargo stressed — first things first.

"Obviously, we have plenty of respect for Beallsville and what Coach Tolzda has been able to achieve with his program," Vargo stated. "We have a matchup Saturday of the No. 1 and 2 seeds. That's how it should be."

BEALLSVILLE brings in a 18-1 record. The Blue

Devils' lone setback came at Conotton Valley, a loss Big Blue later avenged on its home floor.

Tolzda's starting lineup includes a trio of well-skilled seniors to go with two productive juniors.

Point guard Sam Jackson is of the throwback variety — an intense competitor with scoring skills both beyond the arc and as a slasher to the hoop. Jackson owns a 13 ppg. average.

Shooting specialist Teryn Jarrett has long-range abili-

ty and like Jackson, coming off a 20-point performance in Beallsville's 73-61 semi-final takeout of Trinity. "Sam's done an exceptional job running our offense and Teryn has been solid all season," Tolzda related.

Big Blue's crafty coach calls 6-0 senior Tyler Spence, "the heart and soul of our team." Spence is a capable scorer (11.5) and equally adept defender.

Beallsville's inside attack

See, 1A, Page 8

MADONNA			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
2	Ross Comis	6-1	10
3	Nate Guio	6-2	10
4	Antonio Antinone	5-10	10
10	Nick Battista	5-10	12
11	Connor Mogan	6-1	12
12	Josh Egyud	6-0	12
15	Will Bowser	5-11	10
20	Clay Rokisky	6-4	12
22	Tyler Ewusiak	6-2	10
25	Drazen Frankovitch	6-6	12
42	Daniel Pietranton	6-2	12
55	Josh Martin	6-10	10

Head Coach: George Vargo
Assistant Coaches: Michael Hagg, Chris Blair

BEALLSVILLE			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
2	Aaron Thompson	6-3	12
3	Tyler Spence	6-0	12
5	Dalton Secrest	6-1	10
10	Kyle Groves	6-1	11
12	Sam Jackson	5-11	12
13	Gage Bates	6-6	12
20	Teryn Jarrett	6-2	11
22	Graham Dauch	6-3	12
23	Logan Nippert	6-3	10
24	Justin Dietrich	6-0	12
32	Cory Winland	6-5	12
50	Josh Baldrige	6-4	11

Head Coach: Lou "Scooter" Tolzda.
Assistant Coaches: Jeremy Beardmore, Casey Tolzda, Zac Carleton.

Bring the 1A Banner Back to Beallsville! GO BLUE DEVILS!

Celebrating 50 Years

I'M NOT BUYING 'TIL I'VE CHECKED DOAN FORD.

DOAN FORD • LINCOLN

10 Minutes From St. Clairsville
EXIT 208 FROM I-70, MORRISTOWN, OH
1-800-782-1965

CHECK OUT OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY AT WWW.DOANFORD.COM

● 1A

Continued from Page 7

centers around a pair of rugged cagers — 6-3 senior Grahamm Dauch and 6-4 junior Josh Baldrige. The former is a smooth operator in the paint, netting some

nine points an outing. Until late in the season, Baldrige brought in board-banging ability off the bench before senior regular Matt Burke was lost with a

broken bone in his hand. Baldrige has since made his presence felt and will be asked to do so once again in Saturday's championship encounter.

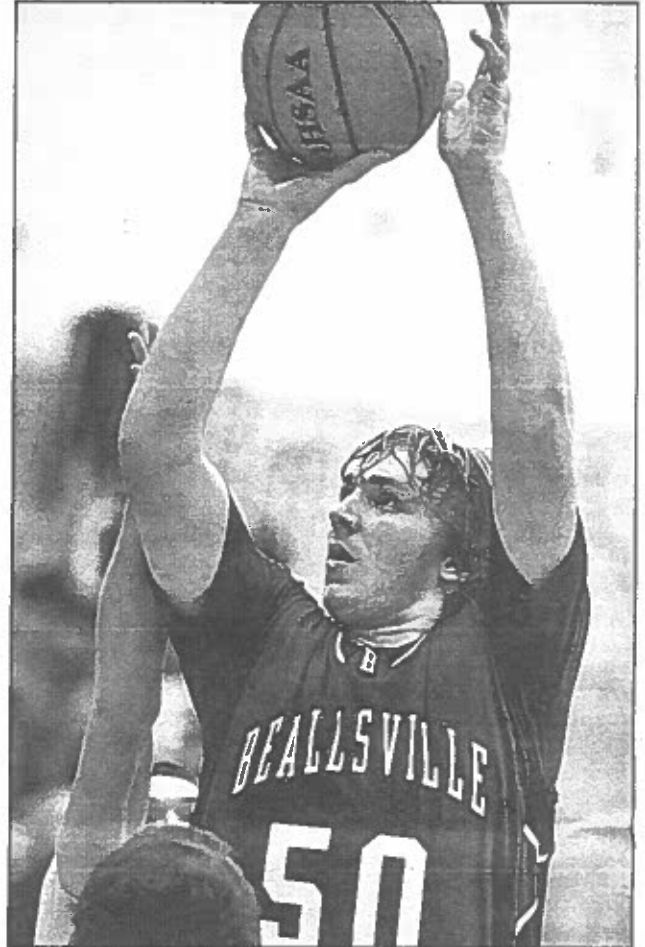
"Grahamm is very effective in the right situations and Josh has been our best defensive rebounder," Tolzda pointed out.

See, 1A, Page 9

BEALLSVILLE BLUE DEVILS



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Beallsville Blue Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Jeremy Fisher, Chad Loudon, Kage Rush, Mikey Palmer, Tristan Palmer and John Dietrich. Middle row, from left, are assistant coach Zac Carleton, Tyler Spence, Sam Jackson, Justin Dietrich and assistant coach Casey Tolzda. Standing, from left, are head coach Lou àScooterà Tolzda, Dalton Secrest, Matthew Burke, Grahamm Dauch, Josh Baldrige, Gage Bates, Cory Winland, Aaron Thompson, Teryn Jarrett, Kyle Groves and assistant coach Jeremy Beardmore.



File Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
BEALLSVILLE'S Josh Baldrige goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season. Baldrige has been a key contributor in the Blue Devils' 18-1 season thus far. Baldrige and the Blue Devils will take on Madonna in Saturday's 1A title game.

HARPER FUNERAL HOME
GOOD LUCK BLUE DEVILS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM!

PAPPY JOHN'S LLC
STATE ROUTE 145, BEALLSVILLE, OH 43716
740-926-1861
PIZZA • SUBS
BAKED GOODS
BULK FOODS
GOOD LUCK BIG BLUE!
OWNERS:
Ruth & John Cramer

WILSON CARRYOUT
SR 145, Beallsville, OH
740-926-1603
Deli, Groceries, Lunch Specials, Ice Cream & More!
GOOD LUCK BEALLSVILLE BLUE DEVILS!

Serving Eastern Ohio Since 1887
GOOD LUCK BLUE DEVILS! WOODSFIELD SAVINGS BANK
•HOME MORTGAGES
•CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
•AUTO LENDING
600 Lewisville Road
472-1641
www.woodsfieldsavings.com
Mon.-Wed. 9-4
Thur. & Sat. 9-12
Friday 9-6
MEMBER FDIC

OHHS Ohio Hills Health Services
Monroe Family Health Center
37984 Airport Road, Woodfield, OH 43973
740-472-0757
GOOD LUCK BLUE DEVILS!

We were there!
CU
order your favorite Times Leader photos on mugs, mousepads, t-shirts, calendars... endless opportunities...log on today!
cu.timesleaderonline.com

● 1A

Continued from Page 8

The Blue Devils' rotation includes 6-6 senior Gage Bates who has the ability to be an 'X-factor' type contributor.

Beallsville is vying in the spacious confines of OUE after playing its final seven games in the Blue Devils' cozy facility which recently hosted its final game.

"I'm sure people are wondering how we're going to react on a much bigger floor," Tolzda stated. "We did win nine of our 10 games away from home. We'd like to think that counts for something."

MADONNA enters Saturday's clash at 17-3. Besides Beallsville, the Blue Dons have fallen to St. Marys and Steubenville Central.

Vargo has a number of battle-tested veterans with big game experience, including one of the Ohio Valley's premier players in Clay Rokisky.

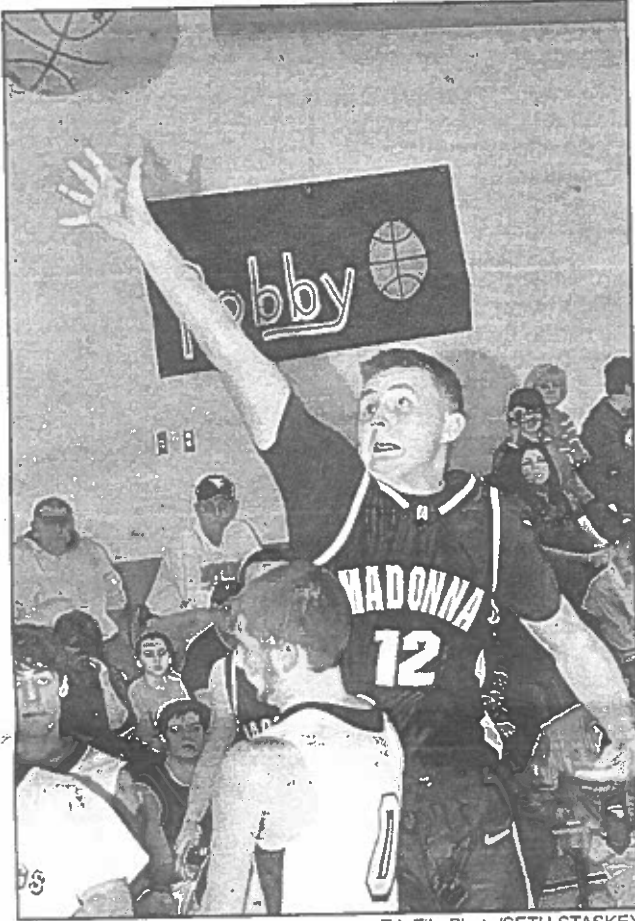
The Dons' 6-4 senior is a versatile talent headed to play at the next level for the Vikings of Cleveland State University. A 1,000-point scorer with Madonna, Rokisky is posting season norms of 16 (points) and 9 (rebounds).

Also of major concern for Beallsville is Madonna's 6-6 inside force, senior Drazen Frankovitch who registered a double-double in the Dons' prior game at Beallsville.

Frankovitch scores at a 13.5 ppg. clip and is also yanking down in excess of 11 boards per start. "Both Clay and Drazen are a couple of hard-working kids and very instrumental to our success," Vargo explained.

Senior Josh Egyud brings a deft shooting touch to the proceedings and can be especially effective from three-point range. The 6-0 Egyud is contributing a shade under 10 points per outing.

Operating the point is



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

MADONNA'S Josh Egyud goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season at Bridgeport. Egyud and the Blue Dons come into their Class 1A title game with a 17-3 record. They'll tangle with Beallsville Saturday morning

savvy senior Nick Battista, a wheeling, dealing 5-10 performer with adept passing skills. "Nick's the kid who makes us tick," Vargo offered. "He's our team captain and displays great leadership skills." Battista sports averages of 7.5 points and 6.5 assists.

Madonna's fifth starter is 6-1 seasoned sophomore Ross Comis, regarded as a lockdown defender. "Ross is playing very well for a young player his age," Vargo reported. "He's normally assigned to guard our opponent's best scorer."

Two integral components off the Blue Dons' bench include 6-1 senior Connor Morgan and 6-2 senior

Daniel Pietranton. Both have contributed major minutes. "Daniel's one of our most aggressive players and Conner provides a strong physical presence," Vargo advised.

Vargo discounts Saturday's early (9:30) tipoff and feels his club will be fully prepared for battle.

"Actually, I don't mind playing in the morning at all. Our kids have had a taste of it (at the state tournament)," he said.

Madonna outlasted Conotton Valley 58-54 in Tuesday night's 1A semifinal with four Blue Dons achieving double figure performances.

WEIRTON MADONNA BLUE DONS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Madonna Blue Dons Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Nate Guio, Will Bowser, Josh Martin, Ross Comis and Tyler Ewusiak. Standing, from left, are assistant coaches Michael Hagg, Chris Blair, Josh Egyud, Connor Mogan, Clay Rokisky, Drazen Frankovitch, Daniel Pietranton, Nick Battista and head coach George Vargo.

TED'S PLAZA PHARMACY
GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS
 265 Penco Rd., Weirton, WV 304-723-2656

GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS!
SACRED HEART OF MARY PARISH
 200 Preston Ave. Weirton, WV
 304-723-7175

OLD OAKSERVICE STATION
 GO LADY BLUE DONS!
 3128 Penn. Ave., Weirton, WV
 304-723-0660

Strip Steel
 Community Federal Credit Union
Good Luck Blue Dons!
 3316 Main St., Weirton
 (304) 748-6622

MARY H. WEIR PUBLIC LIBRARY
 3442 Main Street, Weirton, WV
 (304) 797-8510
 weirton.lib.wv.us
 GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS AND USE YOUR WEIRTON LIBRARY CARD FOR BOOKS, ONLINE RESEARCH, EBOOKS & YOUR FUTURE!

Good Luck Blue Dons
WEIRTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 3174 Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 1
 Weirton, WV 26062
 (304) 748-7212
 www.weirtonchamber.com

Fort Frye, Magnolia battle in 3A

• Cadets, Blue Eagles meet in only game of defending champions

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Something has to give. For the first time in the 5-year existence of the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships, a pair of

defending champions will collide when the Class 3-A contest tips off Saturday afternoon inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building at 3 p.m.

Fort Frye, which won the 2-A title last year before

moving up to 3-A this season after the OVAC realigned to five divisions, is paired with Magnolia, which claimed the 3-A crown a season ago.

"That's something that is pretty rare in this conference," allowed veteran Fort

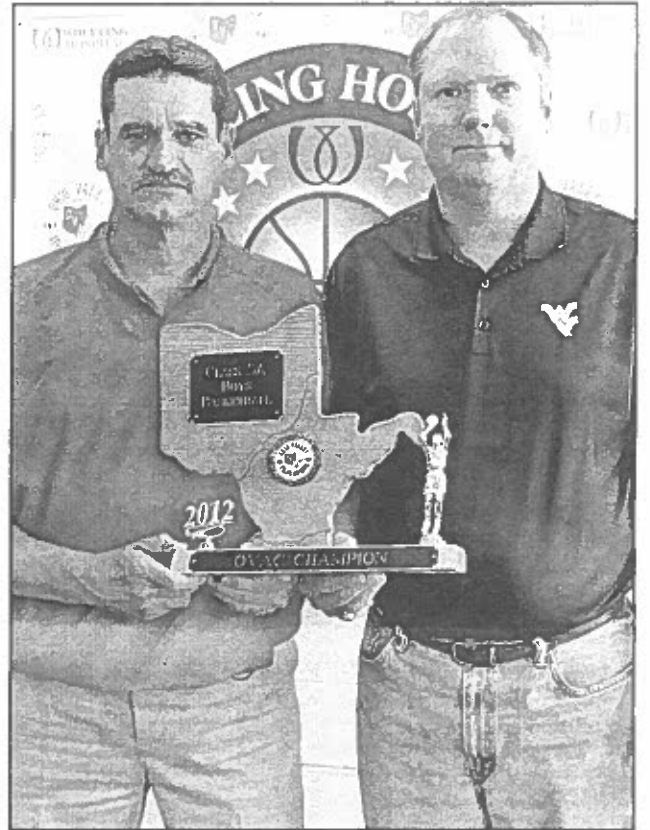
Frye head coach Dan Liedtke. "But that's because of the change in division alignments."

Liedtke's Cadets (15-3) nipped Monroe Central in a thrill-packed title tilt a year ago, while the Blue Eagles (17-2) were downing St. Clairsville for their title.

In Tuesday's semifinals, No. 2 seeded Fort Frye dispatched fellow Pioneer Valley Conference member Shenandoah by a 64-58 count, while top-seeded Magnolia routed Barnesville, 84-47.

Both head coaches feel their respective teams are playing their best basketball right now. Fort Frye has won eight games in a row, while Magnolia is riding a 5-game win skein and has won 11 of its last 12 outings.

The Cadets' three losses have come against Shenandoah, Warren Local and Waterford, while the Blue Eagles have dropped contests to Dayton Chaminade-Julienne and St. Marys Ryken, of Maryland.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the opposing coaches in the Class 3A Championship Game. From left are Dan Liedtke (Fort Frye) and Dave Tallman (Magnolia). The 3A title game will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

See, 3A, Page 11

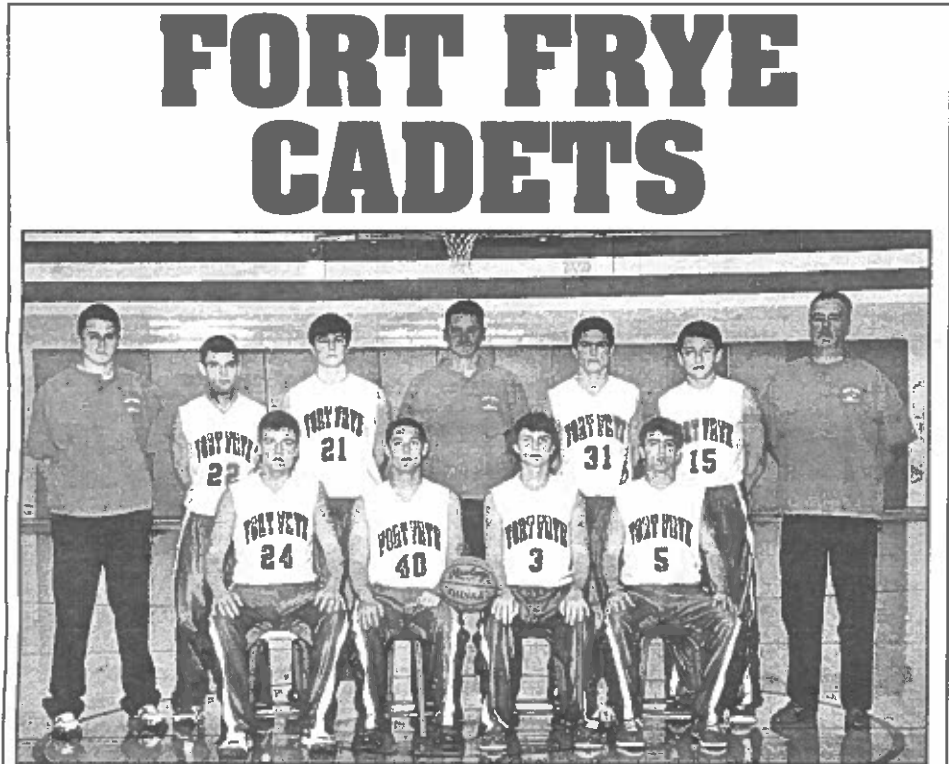
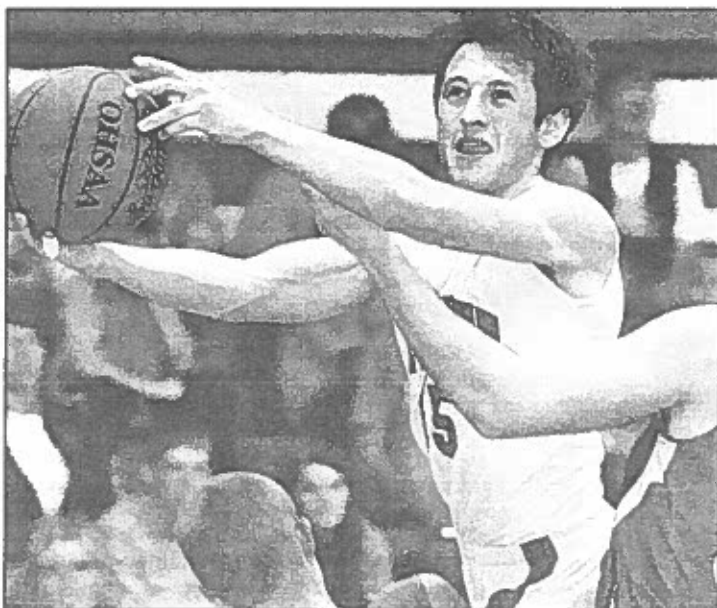


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Fort Frye Cadets Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Zach Eddy, Derek Spindler, Kyle Schwendeman and Anthony Duskey. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Eric Henniger, Jordan Anderson, Caden Brooker, head coach Dan Liedtke, Chandler Lang, Shon Smith and assistant coach Terry Huck.



FORT FRYE'S Shon Smith is one of the go-to players for the Cadets. Smith and the Cadets will take on Magnolia in Saturday's Class 3A championship game.

Photo Courtesy/MARIETTA TIMES

GOOD LUCK MIGHTY CADETS!
From The Fort Frye Athletic Department

● 3A

Continued from Page 10

"We're tickled to death to be back and defend our title," veteran Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman said.

"We're playing really well right now. We started the season with a lot of injuries, but we feel we're peaking at the right time."

Magnolia is led by junior Mark Winters who averages nearly 24 points a game and 11 rebounds.

The 6-6 forward has already been offered a full ride to Saginaw Valley State in Michigan.

He netted 21 points in the rout of the Shamrocks.

"He's our leader and to put up those kind of numbers with the tough schedule that we play, that's impressive," Tallman revealed.

The Blue Eagles' point guard is 5-9 senior Jayson Keller, who only scores at a 5.5 clip, but does so many other things that don't show up in the boxscores, according to his head coach.

"If anyone saw Jayson on this floor in last year's finals, he was like Houdini breaking the double teams," Tallman recalled. "He had a wonderful game and is a really good player for us."

Rounding out the starting five for the Big Blue are Stephen Rogalski (5-11, Jr.), Nick Blatt (6-5, Sr.) and Zach Willhoite (6-6, Soph.).

"Stephen was one of those players that was injured early on, but he has come on strong for us," Tallman said. "He's a great athlete who was first-team all-state in football."

"Nick has been playing for a couple of years now," Tallman added. "He's a really good defensive player."

"Zach is a banger inside for us, but we're trying to get him to run the floor harder," his coach continued.

When Tallman goes to his bench, he calls on

Hunter Campbell (6-4, Sr.) first.

"Hunter is probably the best offensive rebounder in the (Ohio) Valley," Tallman allowed. "We're working with him on the defensive end, though."

Liedtke admitted he hasn't seen Magnolia firsthand.

"I've got a lot of homework to do between now and Saturday afternoon," he explained during

Wednesday's annual press conference at OUE.

"We're playing really well right now," he said. "We had a couple of bad games early-on that we didn't think we should've lost."

Only one starter is back from last year's championship squad, that being junior Shon Smith, who took the last shot that was tipped in against the

Seminoles.

"We graduated six seniors," Liedtke noted.

"Of the guys coming back, besides Shon, the others saw some playing time, but not much, but they have worked really hard all summer. They are an exceptional bunch."

"I don't know if we've lost anything from last season because these guys have

See, 3A, Page 14

MAGNOLIA			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
1	Tanner Hanna	6-1	11
2	Tyler Myers	5-11	12
3	Evan Heslep	6-3	12
4	Eric Smith	5-7	10
5	Stephen Rogalski	5-11	11
11	Mark Winters	6-6	11
13	Zach Willhoite	6-6	10
22	Drew Keller	5-8	10
33	Jayson Keller	5-9	12
34	Mike Winters	6-5	11
42	Hunter Campbell	6-4	12
44	Nick Blatt	6-5	12

Head Coach: Dave Tallman.
Assistant Coaches: Mark Blair, Larry West, Tommy Kacor

FORT FRYE			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
3	Kyle Schwendeman	5-11	12
5	Anthony Duskey	5-11	12
15	Shon Smith	5-11	11
21	Caden Brooker	6-0	11
22	Jordan Anderson	5-9	10
23	Seth Legraen	6-2	9
24	Zach Eddy	6-2	12
31	Chandler Lang	5-11	10
40	Derek Spindler	5-11	12

Head Coach: Dan Liedtke.
Assistant Coaches: Eric Henniger, Terry Huck



MAGNOLIA'S Zach Willhoite has played a key role for the Blue Eagles this season. Magnolia is seeking a repeat in Class 3A, but it will face a challenge from the defending 2A champion, Fort Frye Cadets, during Saturday's title game at OUE.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Madonna Blue Dons Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Nate Guio, Will Bowser, Josh Martin, Ross Comis and Tyler Ewusiak. Standing, from left, are assistant coaches Michael Hagg, Chris Blair, Josh Egyud, Connor Mogan, Clay Rokisky, Drazen Frankovitch, Daniel Pietranton, Nick Battista and head coach George Vargo.

Good Luck Magnolia!

- Valley's Newest Emergency Department
- Regions only Full Time Hospital Based Emergency Helicopter Service
- Remodeled Patient Rooms with Flat Screen TV's, New Furnishings & Wireless Internet
- Full-time Lab, Open M.R.I., 32-Slice CAT Scan, Digital Mammography, Nuclear Medicine
- Physician Staffed Clinics in Woodsfield, Middlebourne, Pine Grove & New Martinsville

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

St. C., East Liverpool meet in 4A

• Red Devils seek first crown in fourth appearance in title game; Potters aim for first title since '99

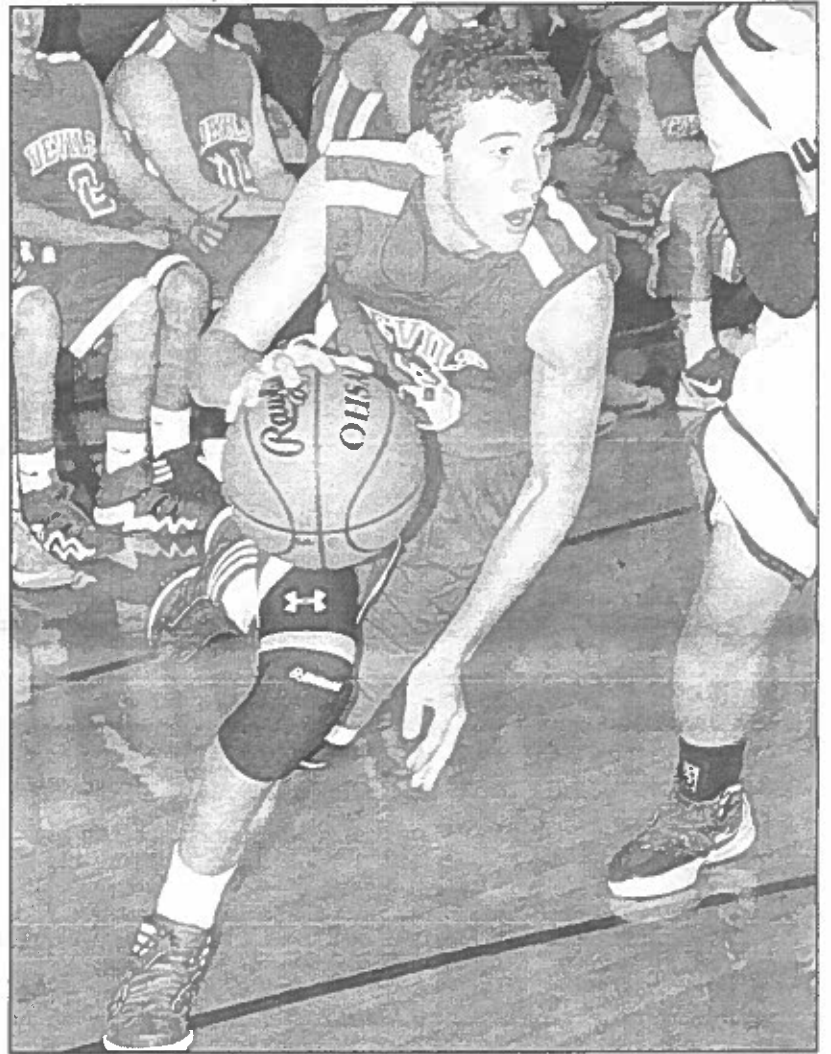
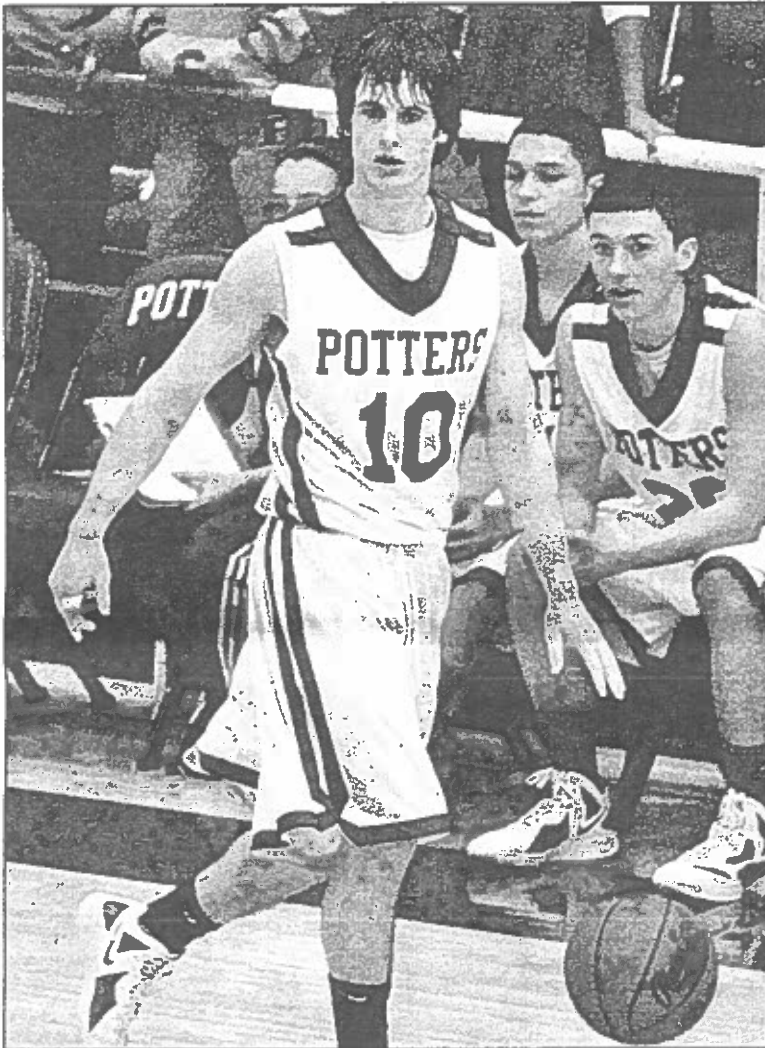
By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The St. Clairsville Red Devils boast one of the most storied athletic traditions in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

All told, the Red Devils have 100 conference titles in their collection, which ranks them third in OVAC history.

However, none of those titles have ever come in boys' basketball despite being one of the area's premier programs.

"I think we've been playing basketball (at St. Clairsville) since 1908 and don't have an OVAC title," said St. C. head coach Kim Clifford. "We've been the top seed several times, but haven't won the game on the court. I've always been for this kind of format, so sometimes you get what you wished for. Winning this would mean a lot for the school, but by the same token, if it doesn't happen this year, I am sure eventually it will. I hope it happens because we've had such great success in the other sports in the OVAC, it would mean a lot."



File Photos

GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS IN THE OVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS!

In 1981 I volunteered into the Army, where I excelled in leadership and was disciplined in the commitment to duty. It's just like riding a bike, you never forget. It would be my privilege and honor to take these qualities to the county seat. I'm asking for your vote on March 6, 2012.



LYLE BUMGARDNER JR.
Democrat for
Belmont County Commissioner

Paid for by the committee for Lyle Bumgardner Jr., Rita Beall, Treasurer,
54241 Pike St. Neffs, Ohio 43940.

AT LEFT: East Liverpool's Christian Kyle dribbles the ball during the Potters' OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Harrison Central earlier this week.

AT RIGHT: St. Clairsville's Adam Jeffries drives baseline during a game earlier this season. The Red Devils and Potters will meet Saturday at Ohio University Eastern for the OVAC Class 4A title.

For the fourth time in five seasons, the Red Devils will attempt to claim their first conference crown as part of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The Red Devils' path, however, won't be easy as they'll match 17-2 records with East Liverpool, which hasn't won a conference title since 1999. Saturday at 5:45 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health

and Physical Education Center.

"We're going to have to bring our 'A' game because East Liverpool is a quality team," said Clifford. "They're like a mirror image of us to where if you pay too much attention to one guy, the other guys will get (you)."

While the Red Devils have become almost annual entrants, the Potters have reached the title game for

the first time in school history. They've been in the championship bracket, but were derailed by Wheeling Park in Class 4A.

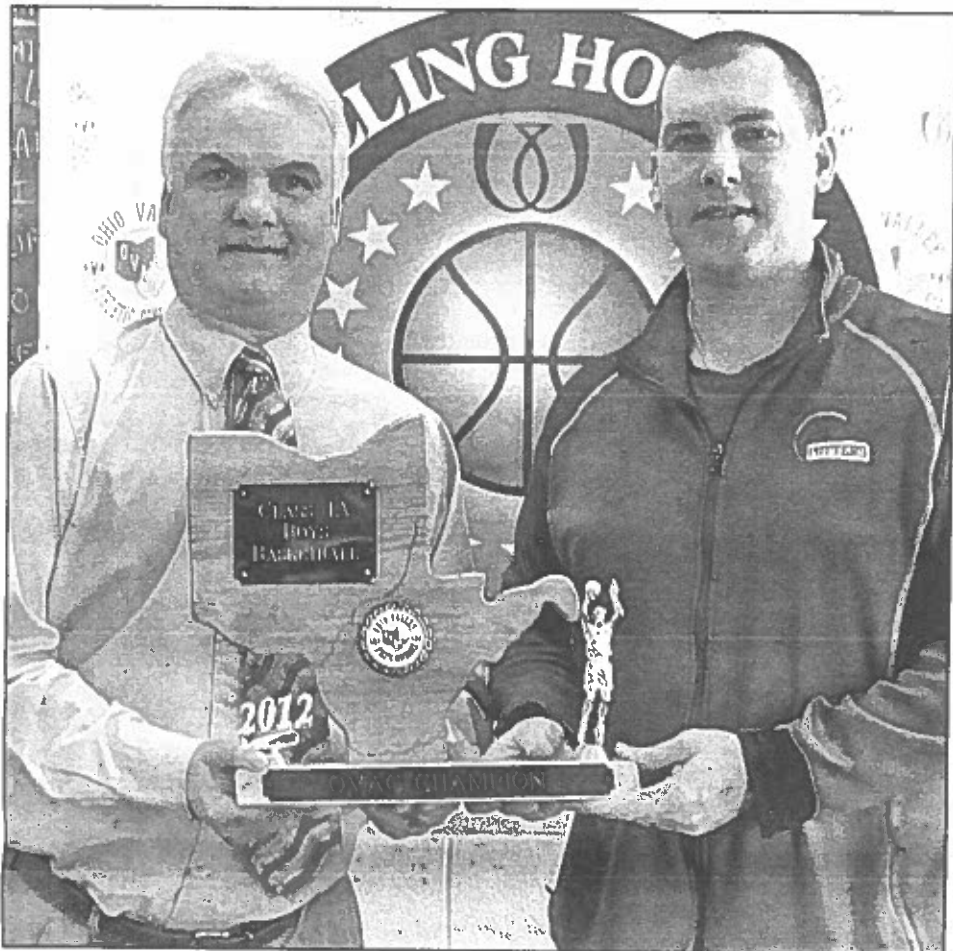
"This is exciting," said East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley. "We finally got by the first round and we know what kind of challenge we have in a very good St. Clairsville team."

St. Clairsville is 0-3 in the conference championship game, having lost to

Wheeling Central, Union Local and Magnolia in its previous appearances.

"Reflecting back, we've been beaten by a couple of state champs and the best team Union Local ever had," Clifford said. "So, the other teams have been a real factor in our demise. We just have to take it as another game and keep playing the way we've been playing."

See, 4A, Page 13



THE HEAD coaches in Saturday's Class 4A OVAC Final display the trophy, which will go to the winner. From left are St. Clairsville's Kim Clifford and East Liverpool's Nate Conley. The Red Devils and Potters both boast 17-2 records. The 4A game will begin at 5:45 p.m.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

EAST LIVERPOOL POTTERS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 East Liverpool Potters Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Coach Robbie Green, Seth Talbott, Mow Mow Thompson, Christian Kyle, Marky Thompkins, Regis Auer and Coach Josh Reed. Second row, from left, are Coach Scott Rogers, Peyton Newlun, Zach English, Trevel Thompkins, head coach Nate Conley, Hayden Cunningham, D.J. Austin, Austin Emmerling, Cory Montiero and manager Isabella Perez. Third row, from left, are Chris Mackey, Owen Crawford, Chase Mahon, Kade Reynolds, Joey Bickerton, Devon Earch, Brent Waggle, C.J. Harris and Kevin Mackey.

● 4A

Continued from Page 12

The Red Devils reached the title game after grinding out a 64-58 victory against Steubenville on Tuesday.

"I was really pleased with how we grinded out a victory," Clifford said. "We maintained and made some plays down the stretch. Not every game is going to be smooth, and we were able to win a game that got ugly, so I was pleased with that."

The Potters, meanwhile, handed Harrison Central a 51-37 setback in the other semifinal to qualify.

"That was our lowest point total of the season," Conley said. "We've tried a few different things. They sat back in a zone the entire game, and we were up, so we just stood outside and held the ball because our number one goal was to get to the championship game."

While the Red Devils and



Potters don't play during the season, they're quite familiar with one another. They scrimmaged in the pre-season, but according to Conley, that's irrelevant as they prepare to square off in the middle of February.

"It's been a long time ago, so things have definitely changed," Conley said. "With injuries and moving kids around, it's hard to look back on that scrimmage. I know, both, teams

like to get up and down the court, so it should be a high-octane game."

The Red Devils average 72 points per game and boast one of the area's premier back-court duos in juniors Dan Monteroso and Riley Carlton.

Monteroso is enjoying an all-Ohio campaign as he averages 26 points a game and almost 9 rebounds. He's also passed out 84 assists this season.

"Coach (Dick) Potts had all those sayings and one of them was, 'Willie Shoemaker didn't win the Kentucky Derby riding a mule,'" Clifford smiled. "Dan is a horse. He's carried us. Going into games, I get comfort by thinking, 'we've got Dan, and they don't.'"

While most opposing

See, 4A, Page 14.

BOB & ROBIN'S FLOWERS

510 Walnut St., East Liverpool, OH 43920

330-385-7673 bobandrobinsflowers.com

GOOD LUCK EAST LIVERPOOL POTTERS!

Good Luck Potters from the...

EAST LIVERPOOL REBOUND CLUB BRING HOME THE 4A TITLE!

● 4A

Continued from Page 13

game plans are geared toward Monteroso – and rightfully so – Carlton is a savvy, sweet-shooting guard. He's poured in 51 three-point buckets and nets almost 15 points a game.

"Carlton is very good and he sneaks up on a lot of people," Conley said. "One thing we're going to work on is stopping all five guys. We're not going to put a huge emphasis on stopping Monteroso."

Juniors Adam Jeffries (9.6) and Jerrid Marhefka (9.1) have also come up big at times during the season for the Red Devils and are

very solid in their roles. Jeffries ranks second behind Carlton with 30 bonus goals.

Rounding out the Red Devils' starting lineup is blue-collar post player Joel Giffin, who's scored only 23 points all season. However, he's a solid rebounder and post defender and sets numerous screens to get the aforementioned shooters open.

Clifford only traditionally goes seven deep with juniors Dylan Campbell (4.4 ppg.) and Jared Burghy (3 ppg.) coming off the pine.

The Potters boast a fine



tandem of their own in seniors Marky Thompkins on the perimeter and Mow Mow Thompson on the interior.

"I've seen East Liverpool several times, both on tape and in person," Clifford said. "They're much like us. They're not real big, they're real quick, shoot the ball well and like to run. It's almost a mirror image of the two teams. I think stopping their penetration and defending is the key."

Conley thinks the Thompkins-Monteroso matchup could be one of the best day of the entire day Saturday.

"Monteroso is really good, but we've got a good guard, too," Conley said. "Both are left handed and both are high octane, so I

really think they could put on a show. We've got about four guys averaging between 14 and 17 points a game, so we're pretty consistent."

Seniors Seth Talbott, Christian Kyle and Brian Beverly comprise the balance of the Potters' starting lineup.

Conley expects a solid following of Blue and White to make the a little more than hour trip to Belmont County venue, which will also host both St. C. and Liverpool in the Division II sectional tournament, starting next week.

"I would expect between 300 and 400 people will come down," Conley said. "Our home games have been packed this season. It's great that we've been able to get the pride back. These seniors deserve it because they've had a rough three years."

"Plus, I think a lot of people will come down because they've heard just how good St. Clairsville is and throw in our success this year, it should be interesting."

EAST LIVERPOOL

No.	Name	Height	Grade
4	Kade Reynolds	5-8	9
10	Christian Kyle	6-1	12
11	D.J. Austin	5-7	10
14	Regis Auer	6-1	12
15	Hayden Cunningham	6-0	10
20	Mow Mow Thompson	6-4	12
21	Brian Beverly	6-0	12
22	Zack English	6-0	10
23	Marky Thompkins	5-10	12
24	Seth Talbott	5-7	12
25	Peyton Newlum	6-1	11
32	Austin Emmerling	6-1	10
34	Trevel Thompkins	5-10	10

Head Coach: Nate Conley

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

No.	Name	Height	Grade
1	Jerrid Marhefka	5-11	11
2	Jared Derosa	5-8	10
3	Adam Jeffries	5-10	11
4	Joel Giffin	6-2	10
5	Dan Monteroso	6-2	11
10	Jared Burghy	5-8	11
14	Zach Keylor	5-9	11
24	Riley Carlton	5-10	11
25	Tanner Nemeti	5-7	10
30	J.C. Coleman	5-10	9
31	Dylan Campbell	6-1	11
34	Dylan Panepucci	5-10	10

Head Coach: Kim Clifford
Assistant Coaches: Ryan Clifford, Kevin Sacco, Eric Gay.

Good Luck Red Devils From...

BELMONT CAREER CENTER
110 Fox Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-9130

HARRISON CAREER CENTER
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH
740-942-2148

www.BHCcenters.com

"Want Career Success?
Get Career Skills!"

● 3A

Continued from Page 11

improved so much." Smith is the team leader with a nearly 20-point a game norm.

"He's that playmaker that seems to step up and get things going for us," his coach said. "He can take

over the game when he wants to."

Senior Zach Eddy, who nets 15 points per outing, is one of four upperclassmen on the squad.

"He is the tallest player on our team," Liedtke said.

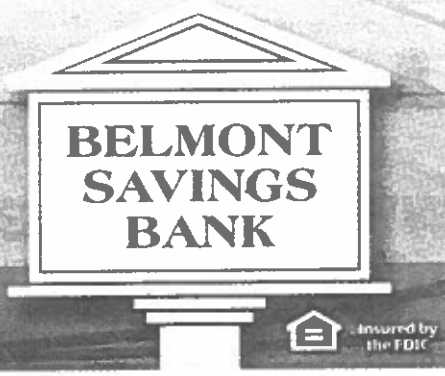
"but he has also made the most three's on our team." Eddy has nearly 60 bonus goals, with Smith a close second.

The Cadets have meshed close to 175 three-pointers. "We'll have to defend

against that." Tallman said of the Cadets' prowess from beyond the three-point arc.

One thing is guaranteed, a two-time kingpin will be crowned when this game is all said and done.

GOOD LUCK!
From the Friendly Folks at...



Bellaire 676-1165 St. Clairsville 695-0140 Powhatan 795-4565 Barnesville 425-1901

Insured by the FDIC

ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 St. Clairsville Red Devils Basketball Team. Sitting, from left, are Zach Keylor, Riley Carlton, Jared Derosa and Tanner Nemeti. Middle row, from left, are Phil Burdyn, Brandon Woodring, Jared Burghy, Dylan Campbell, Kalib Goodson, J.C. Coleman and Adam Jeffries. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Ryan Clifford, assistant coach Kevin Sacco, manager Dominic Nardo, Joel Giffin, Brandon Bosworth, Dan Monteroso, Jerrid Marhefka, head coach Kim Clifford and assistant coach Eric Gay.



ALEX M. PENTINO, DDS
creating beautiful smiles with gentle care!
 New Patients & Emergencies Welcome
 Evening & Weekend Hours
 Most Insurance Plans Accepted

- Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas)
- Preventive Dentistry
- Restorative Dentistry
- Crown & Bridges
- Porcelain Veneers
- Root Canals
- Teeth Whitening
- Denture & Partials
- Periodontal Services
- Extractions

FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY
740-695-5700
 107 Plaza Drive West, Suite F - St. Clairsville, OH
www.pentindental.com • Twitter: @PentinoDental • <http://www.facebook.com/pentindental>

TOOTHMAN FUNERAL HOME
We serve every family as if it was our very own.
 141 S. Marietta St., St. Clairsville
740-695-1905
 49484 O.R. & W. Station Rd., Jacobsburg
740-686-2525
 Thank You Ohio Valley!

Go Red Devils!
JACOB & SONS
WHOLESALE MEATS
 306 Center St., Martins Ferry, OH
(740) 633-3091
www.jacobandsonsmeats.com

NAPA
St. Clair Auto Parts
 Locally Owned & Operated
 National Rd. West
 St. Clairsville
695-3501

Spring is around the corner...
 come see us for all of your battery needs!

INTERSTATE BATTERIES

Buying Junk Batteries

Interstate Battery
 System Of Steel Valley
 44925 LAFFERTY RD.,
 ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OH
TOLL FREE 800-488-6587

JEFF'S
 AUTO BODY & COLLISION CENTER
 • Collision Repair • Refinishing • Touch Ups

APPROVED BY ALL MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

St. Clairsville's Area's Largest Independent Collision Repair Facility

(740) 695-5875
 Jeff Ross - Owner

Over 35 Years of Being Stepped On!

CLASSIC RUNNING BOARDS

- Bedliners • Tires
- Running Boards • Hitches
- Caps • Tonneau Covers
- ARE Truck Caps & Much More!

695-6395
 Rt. 9 North, 1 Block Off
 Rt. 40, St. Clairsville
Nobody Beats a "Classic" Deal!

GOOD LUCK ALL AREA TEAMS!

Breiding
 Insurance & Financial Services, LLC

Call Gary Breiding Today At
(740) 699-1095
 Registered Representative

- Investment and retirement planning
- Establishing or combining retirement or 401(k) plans
- Life insurance to help protect your loved ones
- Offering fixed and variable annuities
- Wealth transfer planning-potentially more to your heirs, not the IRS

249 E. Main St., St. Clairsville
 Securities offered through Simmons Securities Company, LLC,
 4261 Park Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Phone 734-663-1611
 A registered broker/dealer. Member FINRA & SIPC.

Tomorrow's Corner, Inc.

A Provider of Adult Day Support
We help people enjoy their day.

GOOD LUCK!

66730 Pogue Rd.,
 St. Clairsville
740.695.1110

Go Red Devils!

JENKINS SPORTING GOODS

(740) 695-9300
 Main St., St. Clairsville

BELMONT EQUIPMENT SALES INC.

National Road,
 St. Clairsville, Ohio

(740) 695-3052

Park, Creek in 5A chess match

• Patriots, Redskins meet for the first time since 1998; Pats seek fourth consecutive championship

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Talk about a contrast in style. Saturday evening's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 5A showdown between Indian Creek and Wheeling Park is all that...and more.

It's a supreme battle of wits between Michael Jebbia's running, gunning, slam-dunking, three-time defending conference champion Patriots and Joe Dunlevy's 'our way or the highway' Redskins, also known as the doctors of defense. In other words, time to circle the wagons.

"On paper, it's probably a mismatch," Dunlevy declared. "Park is so athletically gifted. We certainly can't run with them. Hopefully, we can guard them a little and make things interesting."

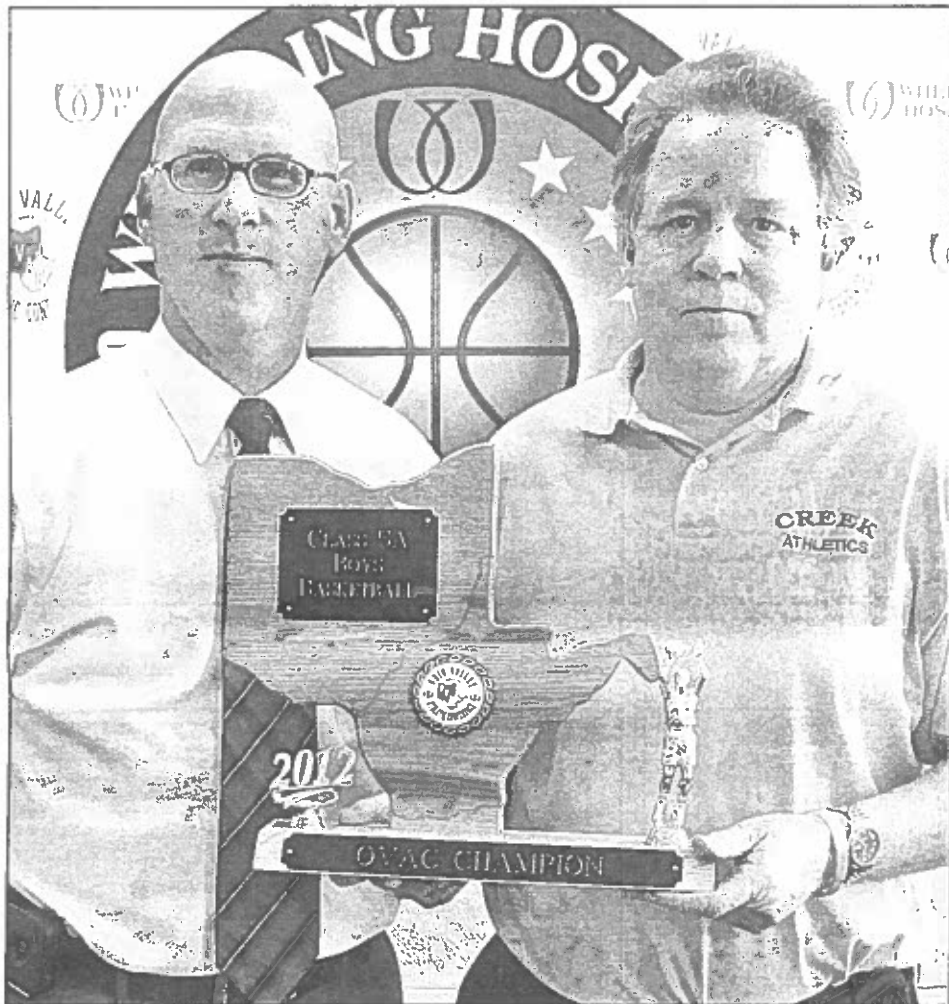
Countered Jebbia: "No doubt, we prefer an up and down game. If we can control tempo, that's definitely to our advantage. We also realize Creek will play tough defense. Their track record proves it."

Both teams were involved in lockdown semifinal encounters earlier this week. Fourth-seeded Park traveled to top seed Morgantown and returned with a prized 45-40 conquest.

Indian Creek, meanwhile, was imposing its will in a two/three seed matchup at Wintersville where Dunlevy's quint stopped Parkersburg South's Patriots, 43-38.

For Dunlevy, the 2011-12 season has been an emotionally-draining experience with the Redskins' veteran pulling out all the stops during a masterful coaching performance.

A tragic mid-January auto accident left Creek's



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE a representative of the schools battling for the inaugural OVAC 5A title during Saturday's championship game at Ohio University Eastern. From left are Wheeling Park Athletic Director Dwaine Rogers and Indian Creek head coach Joe Dunlevy.

program in disarray with the permanent loss of a key player uniting both Dunlevy's team, the entire student body and member schools representing the Buckeye 8 Conference.

On top of that adversity, the Redskins' roster suffered losses to starting personnel a result of illness and injuries. Through it all, Dunlevy managed to instill in his remaining players significant resolve and a continued desire to achieve.

"That's not so surprising," Jebbia exclaimed. "Coach Dunlevy is one of the very best in our business. There isn't a more respected coach in the valley."

So, how to prepare for a well-skilled 15-5 Pats' combine and their impressive resume spanning a number of decades?

"One thing we can't permit is Park to go on any type extended (offensive) run. If that happens, we'll

look like dogs chasing our tails," Dunlevy described. "Michael's team also proved the other night it can play solid defense when necessary."

Creek takes the floor led by senior point guard Joe Bowers, a 5-10 handful for opponents and rounding into form after missing six games. "Joe's our leader out there. It's hard to measure his value to our team," Dunlevy remarked. Bowers is a deceptive scorer, net-

INDIAN CREEK			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
5	Cody Durbin	6-1	10
10	Matt Furda	6-1	11
11	Adam Freshwater	5-10	10
12	Alex Young	6-2	11
14	Blake Roar	5-9	10
20	Dustin Rath	6-2	11
21	Dylan Hibbits	6-2	12
22	Andrew Anderson	6-2	10
23	Joe Bowers	5-10	12
30	Zach Connor	5-0	9
31	Jonathan Woodbury	6-0	10
32	Drew Sullivan	6-4	11
34	Frank Kamarec	6-2	11
40	Shane Winland	6-1	11
Head Coach: Joe Dunlevy			
WHEELING PARK			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
1	Emil Popic	6-2	12
2	Theo Blackston	6-0	9
3	Errin Baynes	6-2	12
4	Quashad Pugh	6-0	11
5	Lee Peluchette	6-3	12
10	Luke Saseen	6-3	10
12	Vondel Bell	6-4	12
21	Zach Snedeker	6-1	11
22	Michael Thomas	5-9	11
32	Kody Geisel	6-8	12
33	Boo Lathon	6-2	12
34	Trenton Smith	6-0	9
44	Andrew Kowalo	6-3	11
50	Na'Kwaun Phillips	6-4	12
Head Coach: Michael Jebbia			
Assistant Coaches: Tony Marvin, Dave Stahnke and Dave Koehler.			

ting some 17 points per game. He doubles as an adept passer.

Another senior, 6-2 Dylan Hibbits, has evolved from role player to prime time performer. Hibbits contributes occasional offense and unsung work under the boards.

Two juniors at the forefront are 6-2 swingman Frank Kamarec and 6-1 space eater Shane Winland. Kamarec is netting 10 points a start while Winland consistently finds ways to make winning plays.

"Frankie's a good shooter

who's come of age," Dunlevy advised. "Shane was our middle linebacker in football and brings that mentality to the floor. At game's end, he's normally made a positive impact."

Creek's fifth starter is 5-9 sophomore Blake Roar. "He stepped up when Joe was sidelined and has made great strides," Dunlevy described.

Prior to Saturday night's tipoff, Dunlevy was hoping for good news regarding talented junior Alex Young, out of action a month due to

● 5A

Continued from Page 16

a dislocated elbow. "Obviously, if Alex gets the green light, we're a much better and more well-rounded team," Dunlevy stressed. Before going down, the 6-2

Young was a major player at both ends, sporting norms of 10 (points) and 6 (rebounds).

Junior Matt Furda (6-1) is providing key minutes off

the bench. Eleventh graders Drew Sullivan (6-4) and Dustin Rath (6-2) also aid the cause.

JEBBIA disclosed his team is primed going up

against Creek for the big school trophy.

"Seems like we've been playing John Marshall (in this game), so facing Indian Creek is a new challenge

and one I feel our guys are looking forward to," Jebbia observed. "The last time we played Creek was 1998, so it's definitely been a while." Park floors a formidable

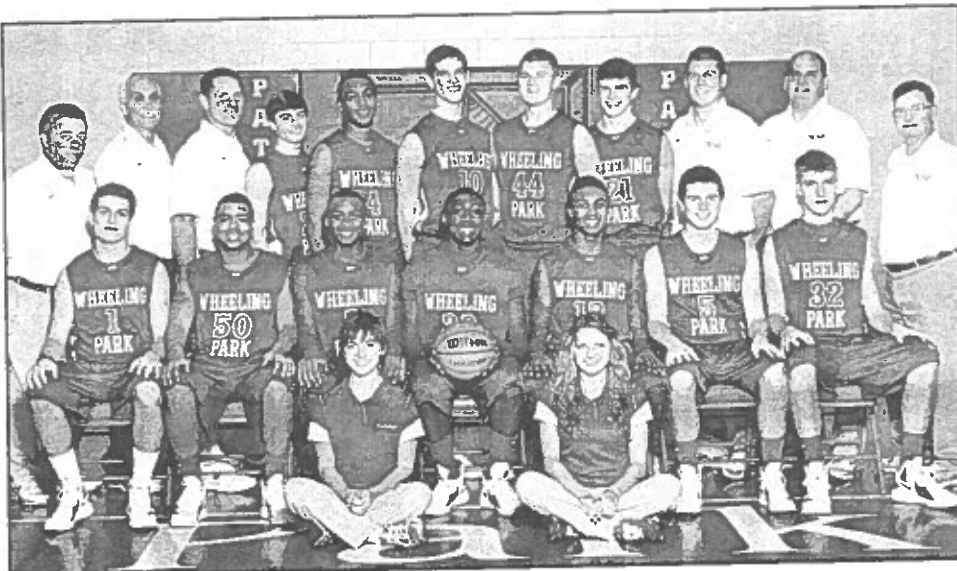
starting five led by 6-2 senior of distinction Boo Lathon, a career mover and shaker and quite possibly, the valley's most complete

See, 5A, Page 18

WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS

Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Wheeling Park Patriots Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are student trainers Laura Beihl and Lexi Chacalos. Middle row, from left, are Emil Popicg, Naakwaun Phillips, Errin Baynes, Boo Lathon, Vondel Bell, Lee Peluchette and Kody Geisel. Back row, from left, are trainer Pete Chacalos, coach Tony Marvin, coach Dave Stahnke, Michael Thomas, Quashad Pugh, Luke Saseen, Andrew Kowalo, Zach Snedeker, Head coach Michael Jebbia, coach Dave Koehler, and Equipment Manager Sarge Cordery.



CARNEY & SLOAN INC.
Food Service Equipment & Supplies, Sales, & Service
GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS!
518 Main Street, Wheeling
(304) 233-5000
carneyandsloan.com

GOOD LUCK PARK!
R & V Embroidery
Rick & Valerie Nau
303 Warwood Ave.
Wheeling
304-277-4120

GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS
From,
The Wheeling Park Athletic Department

OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS
"Enriching Minds, Ensuring The Future"
Good Luck To The Wheeling Park Patriots

Plaques Trophies Banners Business Awards
Employee Appreciation Engraved Acrylics Ink Jet Printing
Trade Show Displays Vehicle Lettering Signage of all Kinds
OHIO VALLEY AWARDS
"Custom Awards of All Kinds"
GOOD LUCK AREA TEAMS
304-233-1925 800-446-1925
2245 Main St., Wheeling, WV 26003
ovawards@comcast.net Dave & Paula Montelcone-Owners

GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!
JIM HARRIS
Jim Harris, Broker, GRI
Real Estate
128 South Marietta St., St. Clairsville Ohio
St. Clairsville Wheeling
695-2117 233-3492
 jimharrisrealestate.net

INDIAN CREEK REDSKINS

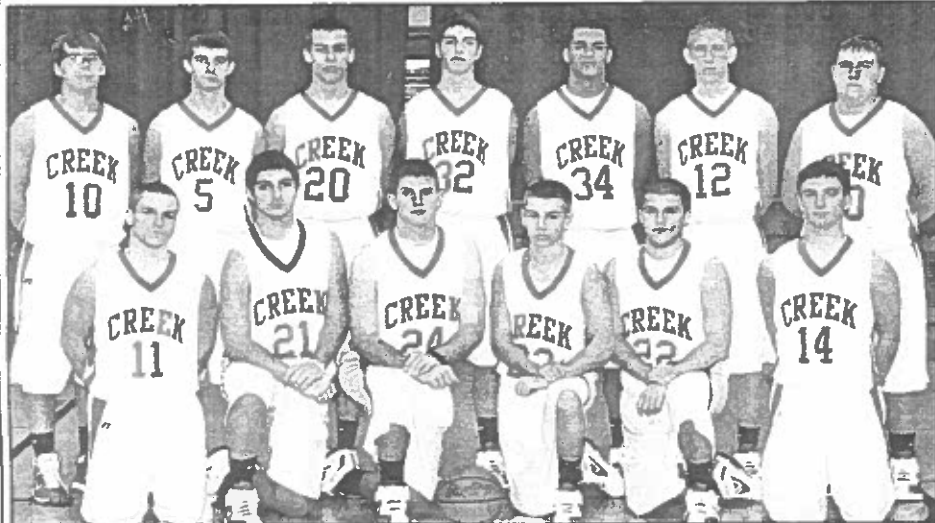


Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Indian Creek Redskins Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Blake Roar, Dylan Hibbits, Mike Furda, Joe Bowers, Tom Fante and Jonathan Haught. Back row, from left, are Matt Furda, Frank Kamarec, Dustin Rath, Drew Sullivan, Justin Cummings, Alex Young and Shane Winland.

EVERHART-BOVE FUNERAL HOMES

Funerals • Cremations
 • Pre-Arranged Funerals

Daniel B. Bove, Jr.
 Funeral Director

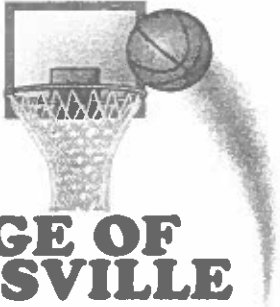
GO CREEK!

Wintersville- 264-5252
 Richmond- 765-5252
 Bergholz- 768-2271



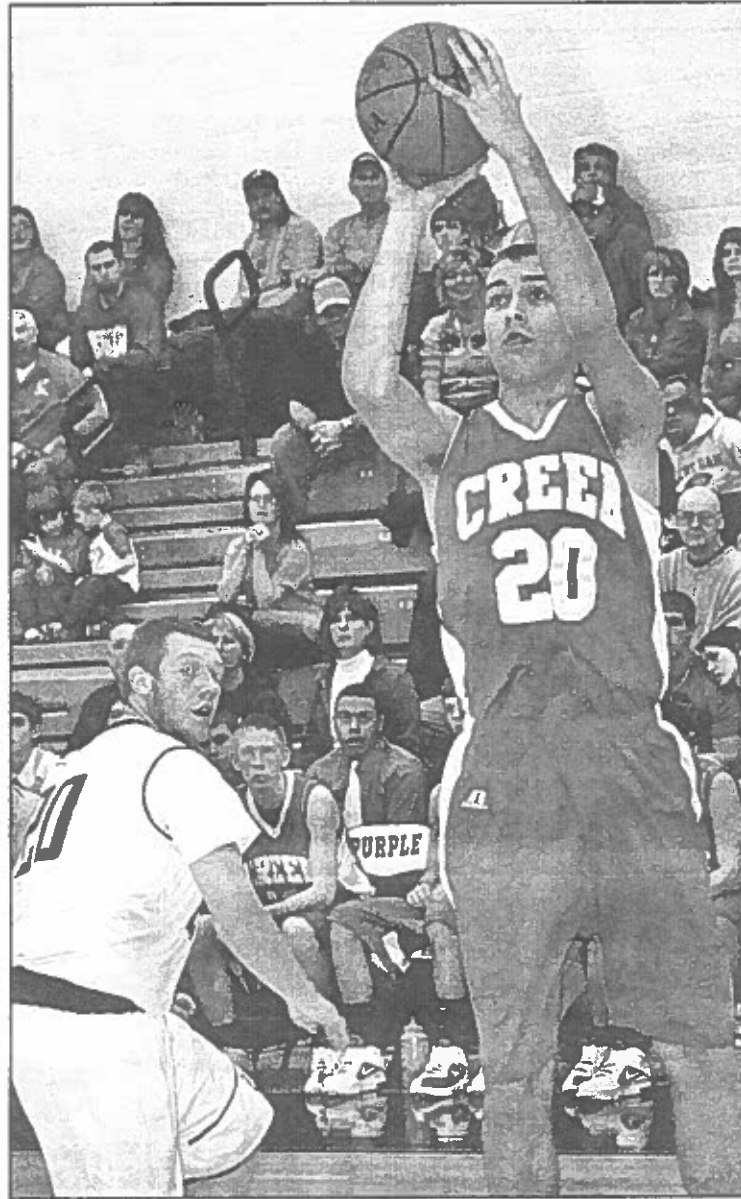
GOOD LUCK REDSKINS!

From The
VILLAGE OF WINTERSVILLE
 740-266-3175



GOOD LUCK REDSKINS!

from
 Indian Creek
 Athletic Dept.



INDIAN CREEK'S
 Dustin Rath goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season at Martins Ferry. Rath and the Redskins will face fourth-seeded Wheeling Park in the Class 5A Championship Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

● 5A

Continued from Page 17

player. Lathon certainly has his coach's vote.

"No question. Boo's a (West Virginia) player of the year candidate," Jebbia reported. "His game is so steady end-to-end. At times, Boo has a knack for making it look easy."

Lathon is knocking down 20 points per start and working equally hard on the glass where he's inhaled over 200 rebounds.

Three-year starter Errin Baynes is another athletic marvel, confirmed recently by his commitment to Southern California on a



track and field full ride to the left coast. The 6-2 Baynes backs Lathon at 13 ppg. and also is a reliable board banger.

Jebbia labels 6-4 senior Vondel Bell, "our top defensive player normally

assigned to an opponent's leading scorer." Bell nets eight points per outing and has recorded a team-leading 44 steals.

Senior Emil Popicg served as a sixth man contributor a season ago before becoming a regular this winter. The 6-2 guard is Park's team leader in trifecta connections and adds mental toughness to his resume.

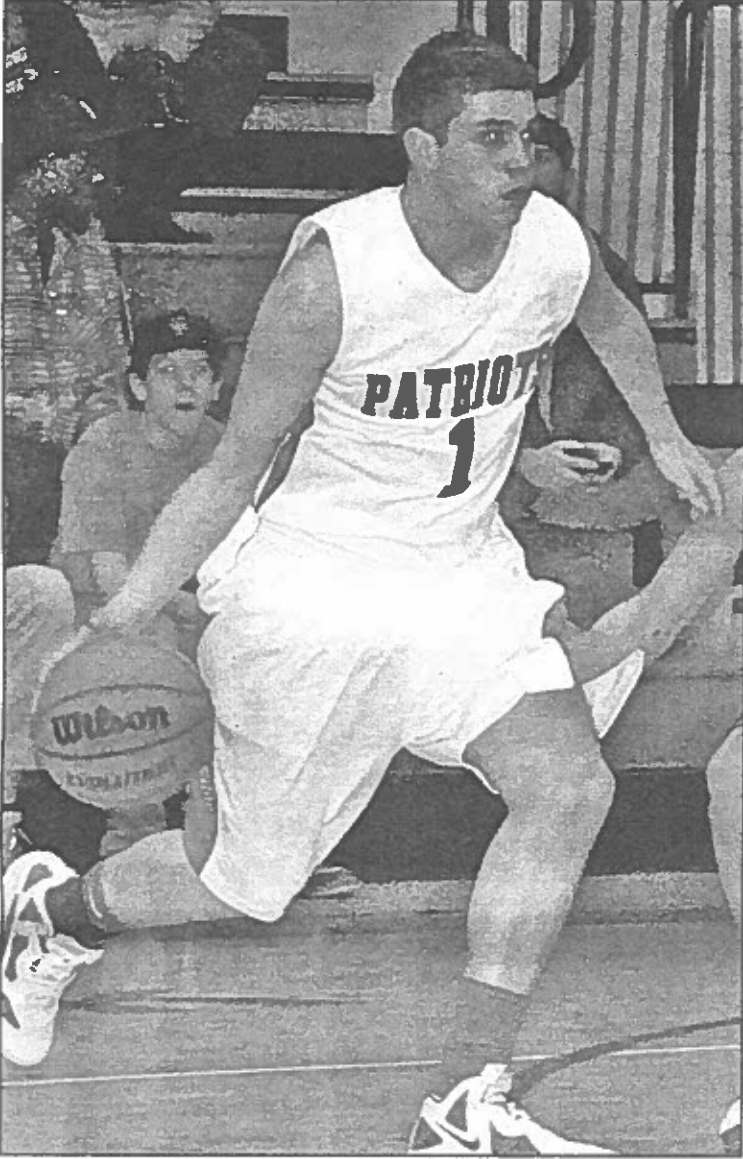
One underclassman in the Patriots' starting lineup is ever-improving sophomore Luke Saseen, making his

See, 5A, Page 19

OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL

THE TIMES LEADER - Friday, February 17, 2012 - 19

WHEELING PARK'S Emil Popicg works the ball into the frontcourt during a game earlier this season. The red-hot Patriots avenged two of their losses when they posted a victory at Morgantown in the semifinals and then on Wednesday prevailed in Charleston over South Charleston. The Patriots will try to make it three wins in a row and capture their fourth straight OVAC title when they take on Indian Creek.



File Photo/RICK THORP

● **5A**

Continued from Page 18

presence felt on a nightly basis.

In Park's recent victory over Logan, Saseen punished the Wildcats for 17 second half points. For an encore, he tallied 15 points and recorded seven steals in a road conquest of South Charleston.

"Luke's a year-round hoopster who has a productive career in his future at Park," Jebbia advised.

Off the bench, the Pats are enhanced by 6-4 senior Na'Kwaun Phillips, an inside closer as his 58 percent shooting percentage would indicate.

Wheeling Central transfer Lec Peluchette, at 6-3, was a welcome addition for his experience and steady court demeanor. Also in the mix is 5-9 junior guard Michael Thomas regarded as an effective defender.

Jebbia's recent title-achieving teams have a penchant for playing well at Ohio University Eastern's spacious facility.

"Our guys seem to enjoy playing (in this) atmosphere. Hopefully, that trend continues Saturday night," he related.

Stay Connected to the Outside World!

TimesLeaderONLINE
.com

Log on Today!

WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE

Spring OPEN HOUSE
March 31, 2012

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
 westliberty.edu

Ohio University

200 years of Tradition & Excellence



You don't have to go away...

to go far !!

45425 National Road
St. Clairsville, Ohio
740-695-1720
www.ohio.edu/eastern



OHIO
UNIVERSITY
Eastern

WHEELING HOSPITAL

OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Times Leader
Friday, February 10, 2012

*You've got the potential.
We've got the programs!*

*More than 70 Associate
degrees, certificates and
transfer programs available
including:*



Find your direction...

WEST VIRGINIA
NORTHERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHEELING WEIRTON NEW MARTINSVILLE
304-233-5900 304-723-2210 304-455-4684
www.wvncc.edu

What's Inside?

Class 1A
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Trinity vs. Madonna, Pg. 3

Class 2A
Saturday, 12:15 p.m.
Shadyside vs. Wheeling CC, Pg. 8

Class 3A
Saturday, 3 p.m.
Fort Frye vs. Monroe Central, Pg. 5

Class 4A
Saturday, 5:45 p.m.
Edison vs. Union Local, Pg. 12

Class 5A
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Morgantown vs. Wheeling Park, Pg. 16

ON THE COVER

Pictured is a player from each of the 10 schools competing in this week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship. Top row, from left, are Kayla Prokopakis (Edison), Karli Bonar (Shadyside), Alexis Davis (Union Local) and Kelsey Parks (Monroe Central). Bottom row, from left, are Morgan Liedtke (Fort Frye), Emily Bucon (Wheeling Central), Leah Taylor (Morgantown), Emily Myers (Trinity), Isabella Anile (Madonna) and Emily Puskarich (Wheeling Park).

Photos by SETH STASKEY, MIKE PALMER, PAUL KRAJNYAK, LUKE SMITH and BOB GAY, Dominion Post.



*Good Luck
Weirton
Madonna*

Weirton, West Virginia

**Metal Food & Household Products
Packaging Division
Ends & Coated Sheets for Can Bodies**

(304) 797-0062

**Half Moon Industrial Park
3010 Birch Drive, Weirton, WV**

Madonna, Trinity set to clash in 1A

• Lady Blue Dons seek second straight conference crown; Warriors making debut in title game

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

When the 2012 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships tip-off Saturday morning inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building outside of St. Clairsville, the initial contest pits the defending Class A titlists against the new kids on the block.

Weirton Madonna, the No. 3 seed and reigning queenpins, will meet top-seeded Trinity (18-0), which is making its debut in the OVAC finals, in the 9:30 a.m. lid-lifter.

The Blue Dons (15-5) upended No. 2 seed Beallsville in semifinal action Monday night to reach the championship game, while Trinity rolled past No. 4 Conotton Valley.

"I don't know very much about them," Trinity fourth-year head coach Cary Woods said of Madonna. "We had one common opponent in Linsly, but I learned early in my coaching career that you don't compare scores of other teams."

"From what I've been able to gather, they've got a really strong backcourt," he continued. "One of the young ladies is who really makes them go."

"Other than that, we're kind of going into the game blind."

The backcourt he was referring to consists of seniors Isabella Anile and Lisa Parkins, with Anile being the engine that makes the Blue Dons roll.

The 5-5 Anile leads Madonna with a 17-point-a-game scoring clip, while also averaging nearly five assists (4.8) and slightly more than four rebounds (4.1). Parkins knocks down 10.4 points and grabs 3.4 rebounds.

MORGANTOWN TRINITY			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
2	Megan Myers	5-5	9
3	Emily Evans	5-4	9
5	Tara Neely	5-6	12
11	Meagan Triplett	5-3	10
14	Leah Berhanu	5-8	10
15	Jackie Halapy	5-11	10
21	Abigail Barnett	5-5	9
23	Haley Triplett	5-9	12
24	Emily Myers	5-8	12
41	Makenzie Hill	5-11	10

Head Coach: Cary Woods
Assistant Coaches: Lori Martin, Richard Herrington

MADONNA			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
3	Lisa Parkins	5-6	12
4	Kaitlyn Conner	5-7	12
5	Melanie Mazur	5-4	12
10	Rachel Grubbs	5-9	9
12	Nicolette Sellitti	5-10	11
21	Amy Davis	5-6	11
22	Isabella Anile	5-5	12
24	Cameron Dowiak	5-4	9
25	Leanne Grubbs	5-6	9
32	Sara Lyons	6-0	12
33	Steph Magnone	5-8	12

Head Coach: Don Ogden

As far as his own team goes, in no way did Woods think his Lady Warriors would be unbeaten at this juncture of the campaign.

"I told my wife in December that I thought we would be around .500 at Christmas, so this is kind of unexpected," Woods allowed. "But we thought by the end of the year that this might be the best team we've had in the four years I've been here if the girls gelled and got along."

He said he would like to

think his team is very well rounded when asked if they were an inside or outside team.

"I'd like to think we can play in both situations," he said. "We're not big enough to just pound it inside for 32 minutes by any means. I think we're athletic enough to throw it inside and score, but also score from the perimeter."

"Sophomore Jackie Halapy (5-11) and senior Emily Myers (5-11) are the Warriors' two main

weapons.

"Jackie is pretty agile and runs the court well," Woods noted. "She's our leading scorer. Emily is the player that does so many things on the court that don't show up in the boxscore. She's started since she was a freshman and she works extremely

hard. She knows what everyone else is supposed to be doing, not just herself."

Senior Haley Triplett and Tara Neely, sophomores Leah Berhanu, Meagan Triplett and Mackenzie Hill, along with freshmen Megan Myers, Emily Evans and Abigail Barnett round

out the Trinity roster.

Madonna head coach Don Ogden said making the OVAC tournament is always one of his team's goals.

"We had to make the tournament first and then we had to get past a very

See, 1A, Page 4

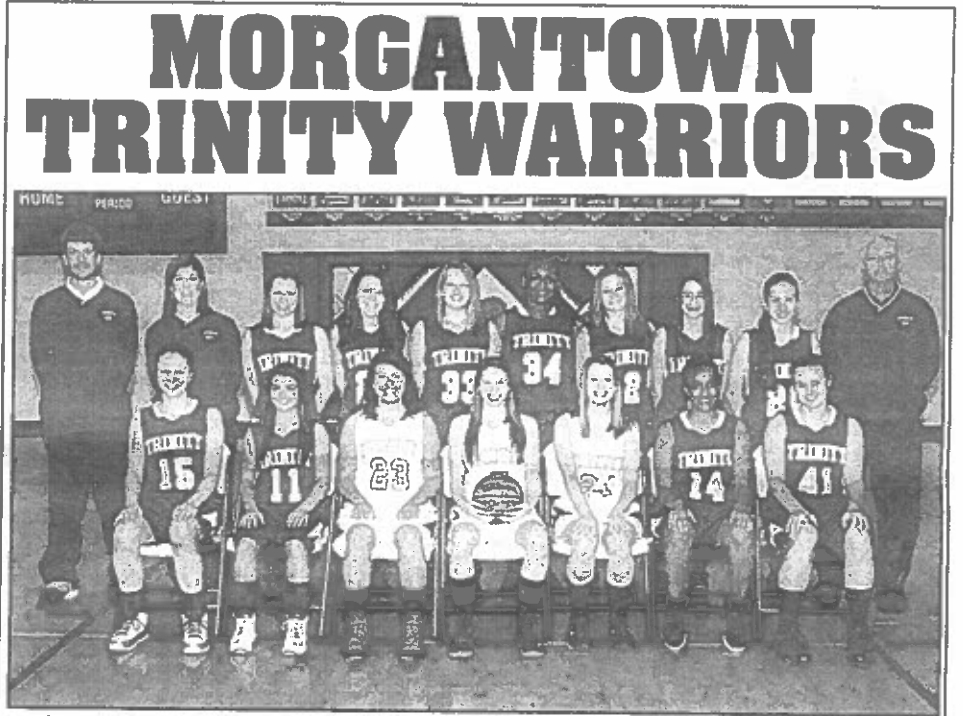


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Trinity Lady Warriors Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Jackie Halapy, Megan Triplett, Haley Triplett, Tara Neely, Emily Myers, Leah Berhanu and Makenzie Hill. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Richard Herrington, assistant coach Lori Martin, Megan Myers, Peyton Konchesky, Sophia Podolinski, Janice Tyndell, Catherine Rondy, Emily Evans, Abbie Barnett and Coach Cary Woods.

GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS!

EZCARE

WALK-IN MEDICAL CENTER

WEIRTON, WV
324 Penco Rd.

STUEBENVILLE, OH
326 S. Hollywood Blvd.

Good Luck Trinity Warriors

From The Trinity Athletic Boosters

WEIRTON MADONNA BLUE DONS



Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Madonna Lady Blue Dons Basketball Team. Kneeling, from left, are Melanie Mazur, Isabella Anile, Stephanie Magnone, Sara Lyons, Kaitlyn Conner and Lisa Parkins. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Rusty Hodgkiss, assistant coach Becky Brancker, Dylan Fenske, Nicolette Sellitti, Amy Davis, assistant coach Rocky Bragg and head coach Don Ogden.

Good Luck Lady Blue Dons
WEIRTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 3174 Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 1
 Weirton, WV 26062
 (304) 748-7212
 www.weirtonchamber.com

Good Luck Blue Dons!
 from everyone at
Moose Lodge #688
 3967 Main Street,
 Weirton, WV
 304-748-4707

MARY H. WEIR PUBLIC LIBRARY
 3442 Main Street, Weirton, WV
 (304) 797-8510
 weirton.lib.wv.us

GOOD LUCK LADY BLUE DONS AND USE YOUR WEIRTON LIBRARY CARD FOR BOOKS, ONLINE RESEARCH, EBOOKS & YOUR FUTURE!

TED'S PLAZA PHARMACY
GOOD LUCK AMY & ALL THE LADY BLUE DONS
 265 Penco Rd., Weirton, WV
 304-723-2656

OLD OAK SERVICE STATION
 3128 Penn. Ave., Weirton, WV
 304-723-0660
 GO LADY BLUE DONS!

THE HEAD coaches in the Class 1A final pose with the trophy. From left are Madonna's Don Ogden and Trinity's Cary Woods. The Class 1A final will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Strip Steel
 Community Federal Credit Union
Good Luck Lady Blue Dons!
 3316 Main St., Weirton
 (304) 748-6622

Greco-Hertnick
 FUNERAL HOME SINCE 1922
 3219 Main Street, Weirton
 304-748-3219

UNITED BANK
 @ your service FDIC
 Weirton • 304-723-2000
 www.bankwithunited.com
GOOD LUCK LADY BLUE DONS!

● 1A
 Continued from Page 3

good Beallsville team on the road," Ogden noted. "Now that we've done both of those, here we are in the championship and we're tickled pink to be here."

One of the biggest adjustments for the Blue Dons won't be how to defend the Warriors, but how they respond to playing on a much bigger floor in the finals than they did in the semis.

"That will definitely be a transition for us," he related. "It will be an adjustment that our girls will have to make, but we've played on some big courts this year, so we're pretty confident in making that adjustment."

The Blue Dons, like many area teams, have been hampered by injuries. They lost senior Stephanie Magnone early on with a knee injury that will sideline her for the season, and classmate Melanie Mazur has been out with an injury, but should return for Saturday's game.

"We've been through some adversity, but every team goes through that from time to time," Ogden continued.

Anile, who plays guard, has the aggressiveness to

See, 1A, Page 19

Fort Frye, Monroe meet for third time

• Lady Seminoles seek first conference title since 2009; Top-seeded Cadets come in at 17-2

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The adage about it being difficult to beat a team three times will be put to the test Saturday afternoon.

During the course of the regular season, Fort Frye — the top seed in OVAC Class 3A — handed Monroe Central — the third seed — a pair of decisive setbacks.

The Lady Seminoles and Lady Cadets will hook up for the third time Saturday at 3 p.m. with the conference title on the line during the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

"We're certainly familiar with our opponent and we know we've got a heck of a challenge in front of us," said Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker. "We know what we have to do, but we also know what we're up against."

Fort Frye, which fell in last year's 2A final before bumping up a class in the OVAC's re-aligned five-class system, comes into the game with a sparkling 17-2 record.

"To get to this game is a big accomplishment," Liedtke said. "You take every game of your season one-by-one and I think this is a good reward for a good season. We put ourselves in a position to be here and here are we."

The Lady Cadets — who are ranked in the Division III state poll — finished unblemished against OVAC competition this winter. Their only two losses came at the hands of Ohio powers Oak Hill and Findlay Liberty Benton.

"Playing those kinds of teams has really helped us out," Liedtke said. "We competed well against those teams and were right there. We actually wish we had

MONROE CENTRAL			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
10	Amanda Haslam	5-3	11
11	Melanie Stimpert	5-2	11
12	Anne LaFollette	5-6	11
14	Chelsie Tewanger	5-5	11
20	Laycie Ball	5-6	10
21	Kelsey Parks	5-3	12
22	Elizabeth Robey	5-8	11
24	Kayley Stephens	5-8	12
25	Demitra Habig	5-7	12
30	Casey Dignty	5-6	12
32	Chelsie Roberts	5-7	11
40	Kelsey Dick	5-8	10
42	Madison Bettinger	5-7	12
44	Kate Fickell	5-8	12

Head Coach: Troy Baker.
Assistant Coaches: Chris Kuhn and Drew Dimmerling.

FORT FRYE			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
2	Michelle Adkins	5-5	9
3	Ashley Gerber	5-7	9
4	Natalie Hart	5-6	9
10	Lexi Skinner	5-0	9
12	Rachel Sebring	5-6	9
13	Shawntell Parsons	5-7	10
14	Brooke Borich	5-6	10
21	Micayla Hupp	5	11
23	Sammi Hanson	6-0	12
24	Morgan Liedtke	5-7	11
31	Taylor Buchanan	5-11	11
32	Diedra Combs	5-11	11
42	Megan Liedtke	5-10	9

Head Coach: Dan Liedtke
Assistant Coaches: Terry Huck, Pat Lang.

the opportunity to play those kinds of teams again, but to play that kind of competition has made our team so much more stronger."

This marks the Lady Seminoles' third appearance in the title game. They boast a 2-1 record, having won the first two titles of the event, toppling Steubenville Central and Shadyside, respectively.

"It's great to be in this game," Baker said. "It's great for the kids, school and community. We're going to do our best to represent our community well."

The Lady Seminoles advanced to the title game

after winning a hard-fought 58-53 contest at second-seeded Martins Ferry on Monday.

"Monroe is a very hustling team and they've got the kind of team that you've got to play well on both ends of the floor," Liedtke said. "They're going to make us work on the offensive end as well. This is going to be a challenge."

Fort Frye got to the final regular season game by virtue of posting its third win of the season against Shenandoah. The Lady Cadets eliminated Shenandoah, 36-22, to earn the trip back to the St. Clairsville campus.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

THE HEAD coaches in the OVAC Class 3A Championship game pose with the championship trophy. From left are Monroe Central's Troy Baker and Fort Frye's Dan Liedtke.

"It's tough playing teams a third time, but in these situations, you can't look at those kinds of things," Liedtke said. "We're going to have to play our 'A' game if we want to be successful."

The first meeting between the teams was extremely one-sided, but according to Baker, the game in Beverly was much more competitive.

"Fort Frye went on a 19-0 run against us in the third quarter," Baker said. "They took the game over at that point. We were 0-12 from the floor during that stretch. Obviously, those are the

See. 3A, Page 6

Follow the
Times Leader!
Find us today on
facebook.
and


● 3A

Continued from Page 5

kinds of stretches we can't afford. We have to keep them off the boards and limit their opportunities. We also have to contest shots."

The Lady Cadets are a balanced outfit in the scoring column with three players in double figures and another at 9.2 a game.

Junior Taylor Buchanan leads the way at 15.9 points

an outing. Diedra Combs nets 11.5 points, while Brooke Borich adds 10.7 a game, but she's out of the lineup with a shoulder problem.

Junior Morgan Liedtke - who shoots a solid 46 percent from behind the arc - chips in with 9.2 points a game.

Micayla Hupp and Sammi Hanson round out

the Lady Cadets' lineup. Junior Shawntell Parsons and frosh Megan Liedtke have also been solid contributors off the bench.

"We've got a lot of experience," Liedtke said. "We're so much more comfortable in different situations. We've had some girls step up like Micayla and Sammi. The more playing

See, 3A, Page 7

FORT FRYE CADETS

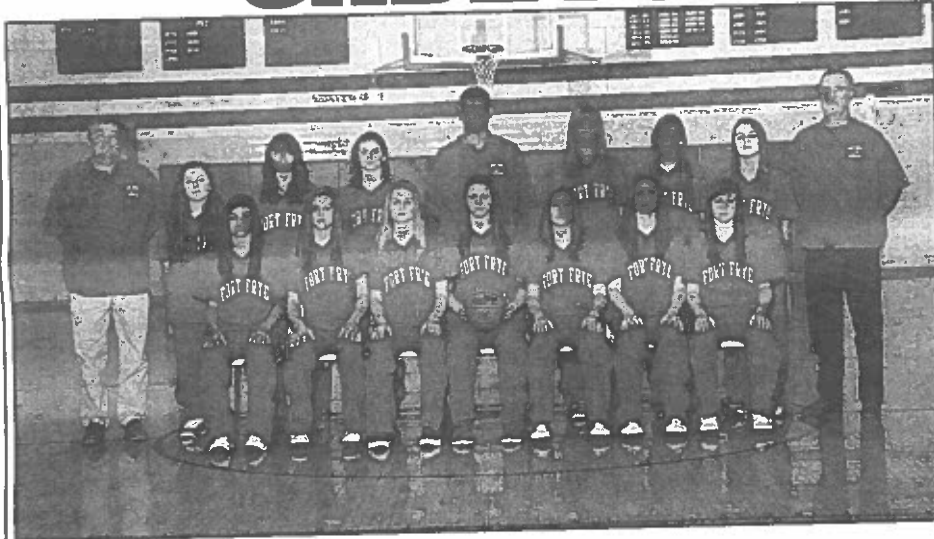
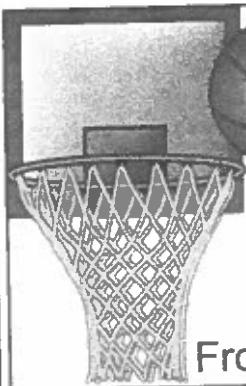


Photo Provided

PICTURED ARE the 2011-12 Fort Frye Lady Cadets. Front row, from left, are Shawntell Parsons, Diedra Combs, Taylor Buchanan, Sammi Hanson, Morgan Liedtke, Micayla Hupp and Brooke Borich. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Pat Lang, Lexi Skinner, Natalie Hart, Rachel Sebring, head coach Dan Liedtke, Morgan Liedtke, Ashley Gerber, Michelle Adkins and assistant Terry Huck.



GOOD LUCK MIGHTY CADETS!

From The Fort Frye Athletic Department



MONROE CENTRAL'S Chelsie Tewanger goes up for a shot during the Lady Seminoles' OVAC semifinal game against Martins Ferry earlier this week. Tewanger and the Lady Seminoles will meet Fort Frye in Saturday's OVAC Class 3A title game.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

Order what you WANT!

CU THE VALLEY'S PHOTO BLOG

- Purchase Prints • View Galleries • Upload Pictures
- Order great stuff from thousands of photos as puzzles, mugs, t-shirts, aprons, mouse pads prints and more!

cu.timesleaderonline.com

● 3A

Continued from Page 6
 time they get, the better they get. Thus far in their careers, these girls have had a lot of great accomplishments." Monroe Central, which

has lost twice to the Cadets and twice to 2A finalist Shadyside this season, has a pair of double-figure scorers at its disposal. The Chelsie combination of Tewanger and Roberts

goes for 10.5 and 10 points, respectively. Tewanger had a big game against Martins Ferry in the semifinals. Senior Demitra Habig is a solid contributor on the interior for the Lady

Seminoles. Senior Kayley Stephens is the Lady Seminole's leading rebounder and scores a shade under 10 points a game. Casey Diggity, Anne LaFollette, Kelsey Parks

and Kate Fickell are also solid contributors for the Lady Seminole. "We've done well the last couple of games in terms of effort or hustle, but we've had some difficulty getting

the ball into the hoop," Baker confessed. "Hopefully, that'll go better for us Saturday. I think we can make some shots, it will help us on the defensive end."

MONROE CENTRAL SEMINOLES



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Monroe Central Lady Seminole Basketball Team. Sitting, from left, are Melanie Stimpert, Anne LaFollette, Amanda Haslam. Middle row, from left are Kate Fickell, Demitra Habig, Kelsey Parks, Madison Bettinger, Kayley Stephens and Casey Diggity. Standing, from left, are head coach Troy Baker, Chelsie Tewanger, Chelsie Roberts, Elizabeth Robey, assistant coach Chris Kuhn and Drew Dimmerling.

WESTFALL'S FLORIST
 "House of a County Touch"
 111 S. Sycamore St.,
 Woodsfield
 740-472-0568
 Let's Go 'Noles!

GOOD LUCK Lady 'Noles!
 From:
 Sky-View Farm
 Roger & Myrna Morrison

D&K MINI STORAGE
 46830 Yoho Rd.
 Woodsfield, OH
 740-472-2049
LET'S GO SEMINOLES!

F.W. SCHUMACHER INSURANCE AGENCY
 • Auto • Home
 • Life • Health
 • Business • Farms
 "For All of Your Insurance Needs"
 140 N. Main St.
 Woodsfield, OH 43793
 OFFICE: 472-0876
 fwschu@sbcglobal.net

YOSS LAW OFFICE
 Richard A. Yoss
 Jason A. Yoss
 122 N. Main St.
 Woodsfield, OH 43793
 740-472-0707
 GOOD LUCK COACH BAKER & LADY NOLES

Woodsfield Auto Supply, Inc.
 NAPA AUTO PARTS
 Locally owned and operated since 1958
 124 North Main Street,
 Woodsfield, OH 43793
 (740) 472-1633
 Good Luck Coach Baker & Lady 'Noles!

Serving Eastern Ohio Since 1887
GOOD LUCK SEMINOLES! WOODSFIELD SAVINGS BANK
 • HOME MORTGAGES
 • CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
 • AUTO LENDING
 Mon.-Wed. 9-4
 Thur. & Sat. 9-12
 Friday 9-6
 600 Lewisville Road
472-1641
 www.woodsfieldsavings.com

Heritage Financial & Investment Services, LLC.
 Financial & Estate Planning Investment & Insurance Services
Nikki V. Baker, CFP®, ChFC®
 LPL Financial Advisor
 117 North Main Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 22, Woodsfield, OH 43793
 Office: 740-472-9161
 nikki.baker@pl.com • www.lpl.com/heritagefinancial
 Securities, Financial Planning & Insurance offered through IPL Financial
 a Registered Investment Advisor Member FINRA/SIPC

GARY W. SMITH LAW OFFICES
 740-968-6088
 Flushing
 740-472-1647
 Woodsfield
GO NOLES!

TIM BLUE
 STATE FARM INSURANCE
 232 South Main St. Suite A,
 Woodsfield, OH
(740) 472-1381
 tim.blue.lzkl@statefarm.com

Shadyside seeks repeat in 2A

• Lady Tigers will battle Wheeling Central for the third time for crown; Lady Knights debuting in OVAC final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There are numerous cliches about the number three when it comes to sports.

One is the fact the third time could be the charm and the other says it's tough to beat a team three times during one season.

Shadyside and Wheeling Central are of opposite opinions as they prepare to clash for the third time

Saturday at 12:15 p.m. in the Class 2A title game at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

"We've been focused and we want to continue to get better since we're in crunch time," Yates said. "It's going to be a good game (Saturday). I know both teams will come out ready to play, and hopefully, we

end up on the good side of it."

The Lady Tigers have become almost regular players in this game, making their fourth straight appearance in the final regular season game of the season.

After falling to Monroe Central and Fort Frye during the 2009 and 2010 seasons, the Lady Tigers finally got over the hump and routed Fort Frye in last season's title game.

"We're excited to be coming back with a chance to defend our title," Yates said. "It's always exciting to play in these games for the girls, the school and community. We're looking forward to Saturday."

The Lady Tigers had little trouble in reaching the title game, disposing of fourth-seeded Linsly by a decisive 78-38 score in the semifinals.

"We're playing very well right now on both ends of the floor," Yates said. "Our defense has been solid and our offense is starting to click. Plus, I think our chemistry is getting better. We're playing very unselfishly."

Wheeling Central, meanwhile, is making its debut in the OVAC title game. The Lady Maroon Knights have been almost regular players in the semi-final round, but



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

REPRESENTATIVES of the teams in the OVAC Class 2A championship game pose with the championship trophy. From left are Shadyside head coach Tina Yates and Wheeling Central Athletic Director Mike Young.

haven't got past that game until they dispatched River on Monday.

"We're very excited to be playing in the finals," said veteran Wheeling Central head coach Penn Kurtz.

"We've not won an OVAC title in a while and it would be nice to send our seniors out with a championship, but we realize what kind of challenge we have in front of us."

Shadyside comes into the game with a strong 17-2 record, falling to Zanesville Rosecrans and Wheeling Park in December. However, the Orange

See, 2A, Page 9

Good Luck Lady Tigers From...

BELMONT CAREER CENTER
110 Fox Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-9130

HARRISON CAREER CENTER
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH
740-942-2148

www.BHCcenters.com

Want Career Success?
Get Career Skills!

GOOD LUCK!
From the Friendly Folks at...

BELMONT SAVINGS BANK

Bellaire 676-1165 St. Clairsville 695-0140 Powhatan 795-4565 Barnesville 425-1901

Instituted by the FDIC

● 2A

Continued from Page 8

avenged both of those losses since and come in riding a 13-game winning streak.

"You never want to lose, but when you do lose, you can certainly learn from them," Yates said. "After our first loss, we had to go back to the drawing board and it was the same after the Park loss, too. It wasn't what we wanted, but we learned a lot and we were able to roll from there."

Included in that winning streak was a rather deceiving 62-54 victory against these Lady Maroon Knights they'll face Saturday. In that game, Shadyside was lights out offensively early in the contest and raced to a 32-5 lead after one quarter, which left Kurtz and company scratching their heads.

Knowing the feeling of avenging a loss, Yates and the Lady Tigers hope to avoid falling on the other side of the equation.

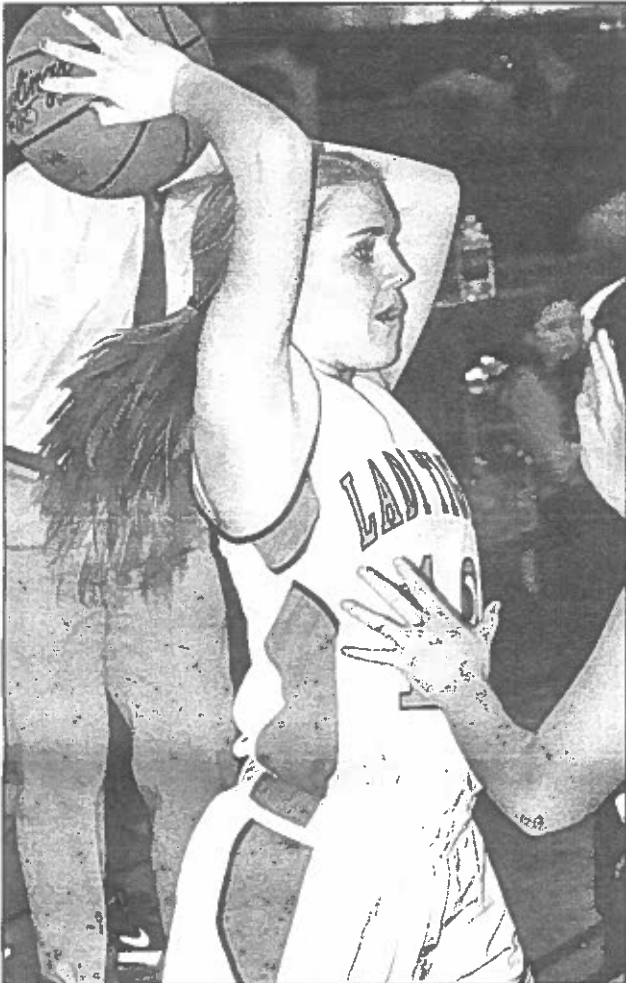
"Avenging a loss is always sweet, but we've got to keep in our mind that we don't want that feeling of revenge to come back and haunt us," Yates said.

That win completed the season sweep for the Lady Tigers, who had posted a 50-33 victory during their December meeting in Tiger Town.

"We're looking forward to the opportunity to play Shadyside again," Kurtz said. "We thought, after the game at our place, that we'd have an opportunity to face them again. Shadyside has really gotten the better of the rivalry over the last three or four years, and we've got a group of seniors who are excited to give it one more try against Shadyside."

During that game in Wheeling last month, the Lady Tigers were on fire from behind the arc, meshing 11 trifectas, including nine from their dynamic junior duo of Karli Bonar

See, 2A, Page 10



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Toni Andes looks for somewhere to go with the ball during a game earlier this season. Andes has become one of the Lady Tigers' top role players.

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!!
GOING ON NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 14TH

20% OFF STOREWIDE SALE!



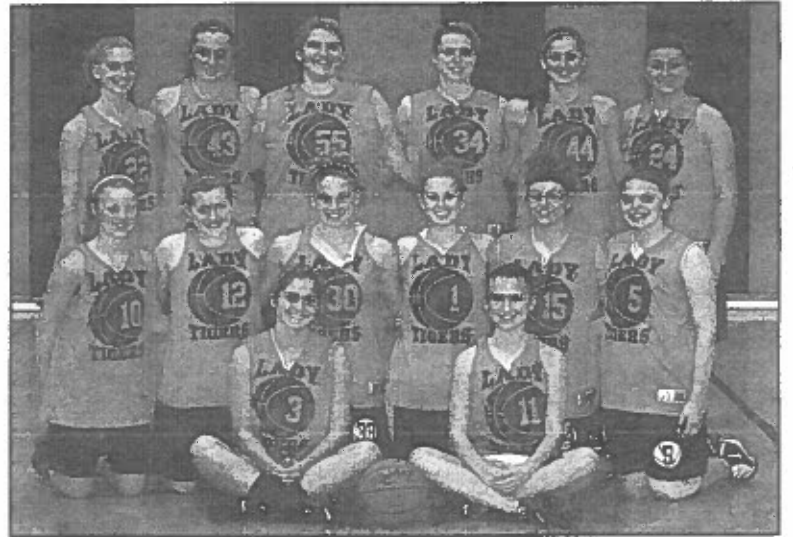
STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR VALENTINE!
Just in Time for MARCH MADNESS!



Ohio Valley Mall
740-526-0865

Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Expires 2/14/12.

SHADYSIDE TIGERS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Shadyside Lady Tigers Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Brooke Meintel and Jillian Laslo. Second row, from left, are Bethanie Ramsey, Toni Andes, Hayley Holenka, Lauren May, Shelby Benedetta and Samantha Habig. Back row, from left, are Karli Bonar, Kenzie Fielding, Dana Jackson, Kristen Fijaikowski, Bre Lappert and Megan Hagney.

GOOD LUCK LADY TIGERS!
SHADYSIDE FLOWER SHOP
3838 Central Ave.
Shadyside, OH
740-676-3202

TOTAL HAIR CARE

3807 Central Ave.
Shadyside
740-671-9638
GO LADY TIGERS!

Palmer Construction

Owner: Chas Palmer
Cell 740-310-1397
Home 740-676-8449
58718 Horsemill Hill Rd.
Shadyside, OH 43947

FREE ESTIMATES!
FULLY INSURED!
License #WV028297
GOOD LUCK TIGERS!

Newhart's Body Shop
740-676-6661
GO LADY TIGERS!



Central Grille

All Sports, All The Time! Stop In After The Game!

740-676-7000



JOYCE LUNSFORD

250 W. Main Street, St. Clairsville, Ohio
740-695-5007

allstateagencies.com/joycelunford



2A

Continued from Page 9

and Hayley Holenka.

"Bonar and Holenka are both outstanding scorers," Kurtz pointed out. "Their other players complement those two really well and when they're shooting the lights out like they did against us, it makes the challenge even tougher."

While posting the victory, Yates found plenty when she reviewed the film that her team needs to improve on during Saturday's meeting.

"We've got to be tighter on defense and we can't afford to allow as many second-chance points," Yates said. "We just have to come out and play our good, solid defense."

Shadyside averages 60.8 points a game with Holenka and Bonar netting almost 36 of those points each night.

Holenka leads the team in scoring at 18.7 a night, while Bonar, who is the area's premier three-point shooter, checks in with 17.2 a game.

Senior Brooke Meintel has come on during the Lady Tigers' winning streak. After a slow start, Meintel averages a double-double with 10 points and almost 11 rebounds a night.

Junior Kristen

WHEELING CENTRAL			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
2	Beth Stayduhar	5-6	11
3	Colleen McCormick	5-9	11
4	Emily Wizba	5-4	12
5	Ashley Martin	5-11	12
10	Julia Palmer	5-10	12
12	Cassie Sorge	5-6	12
22	Brianna Robbins	5-6	12
23	Nicole Francis	5-8	11
24	Angela Sparchane	5-11	12
25	Emily Bucon	5-7	11

Head Coach: Penn Kurtz
Assistant Coaches: Paul Kurtz, Suzie Dailer, Lindsay Ammirante, Bob Robinson.

SHADYSIDE			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
3	Hayley Holenka	5-6	11
4	Bre Lappert	5-7	10
10	Bethanie Ramsey	5-5	10
11	Jillian Laslo	5-6	12
12	Toni Andes	5-5	10
13	Kristen Fijalkowski	5-9	11
14	Lauren May	5-5	11
22	Karli Bonar	5-6	11
24	Brooke Meintel	5-9	12
42	Kenzie Fielding	5-8	9
44	Dana Jackson	5-10	11

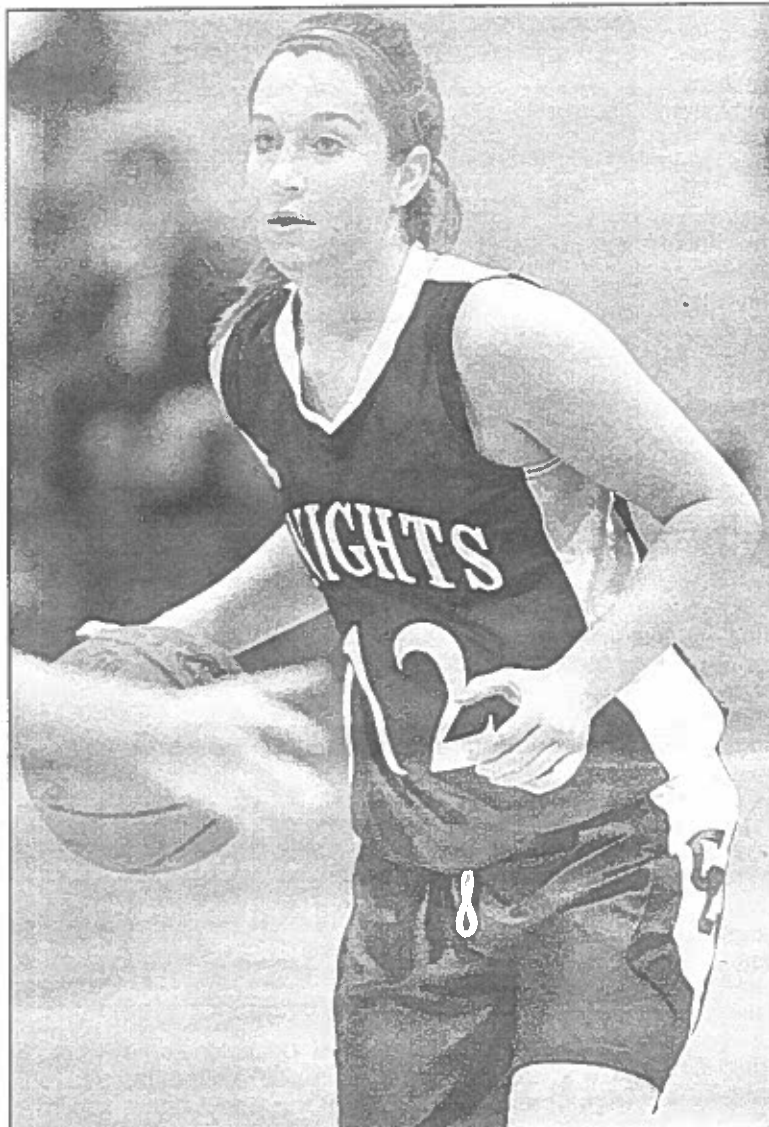
Head Coach: Tina Yates
Assistant Coaches: B.A. Holloway, Gregg Bonar, Clyde Yates.

Fijalkowski averages 3.4 points and 5.6 rebounds a night. Sophomore Toni Andes rounds out the Lady Tigers' starting lineup. Her confidence has grown with each passing start. She's now averaging almost six

points a game. Off the bench, senior Jillian Laslo and frosh Kenzie Fielding have played solid minutes as role players.

"Our role players have to

See, 2A, Page 11



WHEELING CENTRAL'S Cassie Sorge has been one of the Lady Knights' premier players this season. She's averaging 9 points per game for a Knights' squad, which will meet Shadyside in Saturday's OVAC Class 2A final at Ohio University Eastern.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK




Dr. Zambito Family Dentistry

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL PLAYERS
IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES!**

- Single Visit Cerec Crown • Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implants • Preventative Care • Porcelain Veneer
- Root Canals • Fixed & Removable Appliances
- Laser Dentistry - Non Invasive • Drillless Dentistry
- Intra-Oral Video Cameras • Digital Photography
- Rembrandt In-Office Whitening System

1201 Mt. DeChantal Road • Wheeling • (304) 243-1500
Tues. & Thurs. Evening & Sat. Morning Hours Also Available
www.zambitodentistry.com



OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Records

INDIVIDUAL MOST POINTS

1A: 27, Savannah Burke, Bealsville, 2008
2A: 24, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
3A: 20, Shae Moreland, Martins Ferry, 2009
4A: 21, Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2011

MOST FREE THROWS MADE

1A: 9, Savannah Burke, Bealsville, 2008
2A: 6, Deidra Combs, Fort Frye, 2010
3A: 8, Brooke Centus, St. Clarksville, 2009
4A: 13, Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2011

BEST FREE THROW PERCENTAGE
(5 attempts minimum)

1A: 88% (7/8), Natalie Perzanowski, St. John, 2008
2A: 100% (5/5), Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
3A: 88% (7/8), Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, 2008
4A: 93% (13/14), Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2011

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE

1A: 9, Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008
Savannah Burke, Bealsville, 2008
2A: 10, Alesha Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
3A: 9, Shae Moreland, Martins Ferry, 2009

BEST 2-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
(5 attempts minimum)

1A: 56% (10/18), Elie LeMasters, St. John, 2011
2A: 100% (6/6), Alesha Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009
3A: 58% (5/9), Leah Betinger, Barnesville, 2008
4A: 80% (4/5), Adrienne McEwen, Edison, 2009

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE

1A: 3, Lisa Parkins, Madonna, 2011
2A: 5, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
3A: 4, Payden Eckleberry, Oak Glen, 2011
4A: 2, Mallory Ball, John Marshall, 2011
Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2011
Aundrea West, Steubenville, 2010
Miki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 3-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
(4 attempts minimum)

1A: 33% (2/6), Elie LeMasters, St. John, 2011

2A: 71% (5/7), Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
3A: 75% (3/4), Lacey Neavin, Martins Ferry, 2008
4A: 50% (2/4), Haley Robb, Park, 2011


Jocelyn Pugh, Steub., 2010
Mikki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

1A: 7, Alexis Kantzigg, Bealsville, 2009
2A: 6, Brooke Meintel, Shadyside, 2010
3A: 7, Leah Betinger, Barnesville, 2008
4A: 6, Kyle Howard, John Marshall, 2011
Kayla Prokopakis, Edison, 2009

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

1A: 15, Elie LeMasters, St. John, 2011
2A: 9, Alesha Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009
3A: 9, Alexis Davis, Union Local, 2011



See, RECORDS, Page 11

2A
Continued from Page 10

out and do their jobs," said. "They need to mind, take care of the and play solid basketball. We're a very unselfish and we've got confidence in those girls to score. We work for a good so our girls know their and, at this point, they need to continue to do they're doing." While he hopes to avoid a run, Kurtz knows his has to handle the Lady Knights' spurts well and her and storms in order to have a chance at prevail-

"I think we'll respond because we've got a veteran," Kurtz said. "Our goal is to not allow them a run, but it seems like every time we play them, they go on one, so we'll just have to buckle down defensively and try to stop it." Wheeling Central also has a trio of double-figure scorers in its starting lineup. Senior Emily Bucon is the way. Shooting between 50 percent from the floor, Bucon scores just over 15 points an outing. Senior Colleen McCormick nets almost a truly double-double on

the interior. She scores 12.4 points and grabs 9.9 rebounds. Senior Bri Robbins is the Lady Knights' perimeter threat with 32 triples. All told, she scores 11.4 points a game and grabs six rebounds a game.

Senior Cassie Sorge scores nine points a game. Julia Palmer also sees quality minutes.

All told, the Knights score 58.1 points a game and allow 45.5. Central does possess a pair of victories against 5A top seed Wheeling Park this season.

"Defensively, we're playing much better at this point in the season," Kurtz said. "We've been struggling a little bit, on the offensive end. We hope to come out of that, but Shadyside is a tough team to come out of that against because they play such great defense. We're going to do our best to get good shots and when we do get good looks at the basket, we've got to make shots."

Shadyside's defense is allowing just 42.6 points per game. The LTs average almost 33 rebounds and 10 assists against just 12 turnovers a game.

WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Wheeling Central Lady Maroon Knights Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Beth Stayduhar, Colleen McCormick, Nicole Francis and Emily Bucon. Second row, from left, are Ashley Martin, Emily Wizba, Brianna Robbins, Cassie Sorge, Julia Palmer and Angela Sparachane. Top row, from left, are assistant coaches Kayleen Fitzsimmons, Suzie Dailer, Lindsay Ammirante, head coach Penn Kurtz, assistant Bob Robinson, Paul Kurtz and Aizlynn Kurtz.

Records

Continued from Page 10

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Meghan Billick, Indian Creek, 2010 | Courtney Frohnapfel, Martins Ferry, 2008 |
| MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS | 4A 4. Emily Puskanch, Wheeling Park, 2011 |
| Ellie LeMasters, St. John, 2011 | Gabbi Davis, Indian Creek, 2008 |
| Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, | Ty Harris, Indian Creek, 2008 |
| | MOST BLOCKS |
| 14. Leah Bettinger, | 1A 2. Sara Lyons, Madonna, |
| Wheeler, 2008 | 2011 |
| Meghan Billick, Indian | Lacey Hampton, Bishop |
| 010 | Donahue, 2009 |
| MOST ASSISTS | 2A |
| Natalie Perzanowski, | 3A 3. Kiley King, Oak Glen, |
| 2008 | 2011 |
| Kelsey Holloway, | 4A 1. Teryl Pendergrast, |
| de, 2011 | Stuebenville, 2010 |
| Brittany Burch, Martins | TEAM |
| 2008 | MOST POINTS |
| Courtney Frohnapfel, Martins | 1A: 71. St. John, 2008 |
| 08 | 2A: 66. Monroe Central, 2008 |
| Ty Harris, Indian Creek, 2008 | 3A: 50. Edison, 2010 |
| MOST STEALS | Barnesville, 2008 |
| Rebecca Garlick, Beallsville, 2010 | 4A: 55. Wheeling Park, 2011 |
| Kylie Kroder, St. John, 2008 | MOST FREE THROWS MADE |
| Timmy Petties, Steub. Catholic, 2008 | 1A: 17. Beallsville, 2008 |
| Payden Eckleberry, Oak Glen, 2011 | 2A: 13. Monroe Central, 2009 |
| Kiley King, Oak Glen, 2011 | 3A: 15. Edison, 2010 |
| Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, | |



See, RECORDS, Page 15

ISLAND GRILLE

135 Virginia St., Wheeling Island
304-214-4375

Wheeling Flower Shop

Flowers for all occasions!

2125 Market St.
Wheeling, WV
304-233-3320

WARWOOD ARMATURE REPAIR COMPANY

Sales & Service of Electric Motors
Serving Mines, Mills & Industrial Accounts in the Ohio Valley Since 1927

N. Seventh & Hazlett Ave.,
Wheeling, WV
Phone: (304) 277-2550
Fax: 277-2917

GOOD LUCK CENTRAL!

R&V Embroidery

Rick & Valerie Nau

303 Warwood Ave.,
Wheeling
304-277-4120

JOHN LAW OFFICES

Attorney At Law
General Practice

Joseph J. John

304-233-4380

80 12TH ST. SUITE 200,
BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
WHEELING, WV 26003

GOOD LUCK!!!

Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights

From CCHS Athletic Department

Edison, Union Local vie for 4A title

• Last two conference 3A champions set to meet for third time this season

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Looking for a little incentive? Look no further than Saturday's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 4A Girls Championship Game matching Edison and Union Local.

The top-seeded Lady Wildcats of Tony Kovalesky are seeking their second OVAC crown in three seasons. UL, meanwhile, is a defending Conference champion and Drew Greenwood's Lady Jets are intent on repeating the feat.

EDISON was a 2010 champ before suffering an upset semifinal loss to Oak Glen a season ago.

At his disposal, Kovalesky has retained three mainstays from the Cats' last OVAC title-winning achievement.

Two, of course, are the sisters Prokopakis who have



THE HEAD coaches in the OVAC Class 4A Championship game pose with the championship trophy. From left are Edison's Tony Kovalesky and Union Local's Drew Greenwood.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

made life miserable for Edison opponents four

years running. Point guard Kristin and versatile swing player Kayla are multi-talented athletes excelling both on and off the court.

The Lady Cats' sister act have enjoyed marvelous careers - not only on the

hardwood - but on the softball diamond where both are exceptional performers.

"Kayla and Kristin are true students of the game," Kovalesky observed. "Their total value to our program

See, 4A, Page 13

EDISON			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
0	Madisen Hunter	5-4	10
1	Savannah Snyder	5-8	12
2	Katelyn Pollock	5-8	10
4	Meghan Scott	5-9	10
10	Kristin Prokopakis	5-6	12
12	Molly McCoy	5-5	11
13	Megan Grimes	5-5	10
24	Abby Fonow	5-9	10
31	Breanna Westling	5-8	10
32	Kayla Prokopakis	5-9	12
33	Kayli Stewart	5-8	10
41	Lynsey Morrison	5-6	10
45	MarryAnne Reed	6-0	11

Head Coach: Tony Kovalesky.
Assistant Coaches: Jason Ensinger and Tim Elson.

UNION LOCAL			
No.	Name	Height	Grade
5	Frankie Gatten	5-6	11
10	Anna Jo Nardo	5-3	10
11	Ceceila Rucker	5-9	11
12	Amanda Swallie	5-5	9
13	Dallas Montag	5-6	11
14	Cori Medley	5-8	10
20	Alexus Davis	5-9	12
22	Abby Collins	5-10	10
24	Carlee Stiles	5-7	11
32	Kylie Russell	5-3	9
33	Mikayla Patton	5-10	9
34	Kayla Doty	5-9	11

Head Coach: Drew Greenwood
Assistant Coaches: Dustin Roe, Amy Delaney, Dave Chambers, Mike Saffell.

Good Luck Lady Jets From...

BELMONT CAREER CENTER
110 Fox Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-9130

HARRISON CAREER CENTER
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH
740-942-2148

www.BHCcenters.com

"Want Career Success?
Get Career Skills!"

GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS IN THE OVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS!

In 1981 I volunteered into the Army, where I excelled in leadership and was disciplined in the commitment to duty. It's just like riding a bike, you never forget. It would be my privilege and honor to take these qualities to the county seat. I'm asking for your vote on March 6, 2012.

LYLE BUMGARDNER JR.
Democrat for Belmont County Commissioner

Paid for by the committee for Lyle Bumgardner Jr., Rita Beall, Treasurer, 54241 Pike St., Neffs, Ohio 43940

Bring the 3A Banner Back to Mo Town! GO JETS!

Celebrating 50 Years

I'M NOT BUYING 'TIL I'VE CHECKED DOAN FORD.

DOAN
FORD • LINCOLN

10 Minutes From St. Clairsville
EXIT 208 FROM I-70, MORRISTOWN, OH
1-800-782-1965

CHECK OUT OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY AT WWW.DOANFORD.COM

4A

Continued from Page 12

can't be measured. It's been a great pleasure working with them the past four years. Obviously, we hope to play a few more games this season."

The 5-9 Kayla is a natural scorer as her current 1,445 career point total would indicate. She is a 75 percent foul shooter. Kayla also works boards with aggressiveness and is averaging nine rebounds per outing.

Operating the point, Kristin is a savvy decision maker and capable scorer. Like her sister, Kristin is a three-point threat in addition to collecting her share of key rebounds.

Third member of the senior class is no less productive in 5-8 Savannah Snyder who's netting 13 points per start.

"Savannah may be the 'X' factor in our success," Kovalesky noted. "She does so many things well and is a take-charge type player. Her contributions have been immense."

Junior Molly McCoy has enjoyed a breakout season and is a more than capable backcourt presence.

"Molly rarely comes off the floor and for good reason," Kovalesky commented. "She's a good ball-handler and above-average defender."

Edison boasts a solid sophomore class with at least two members contributing major minutes. They are 5-9 forward Abby Bonow and 5-8 guard Katelyn Pollock.

"Abby recognizes her role and it is a valuable one," Kovalesky noted. She really made her presence felt in our semifinal win over Oak Glen with some huge rebounds."

Pollock has also come on strong, scoring five ppg and performing well at both ends of the floor.

Kovalesky also lists sophomores Meghan Scott

(5-9) and MarryAnne Reed (6-0) as inside aids.

"We were able to defeat Union Local twice during the regular season but realize they are more than a capable team," the Lady Cats' coach noted.

"We expect (this) to be a highly competitive game and will need another solid defensive effort."

Kovalesky, who has announced this season will be his last following a 35-year coaching career, is assisted by Jason Ensinger and Tim Elson.

UNION LOCAL brings a 15-3 record into Saturday afternoon's (5:45) tipoff with two losses vs. Edison and a third against Indian Creek.

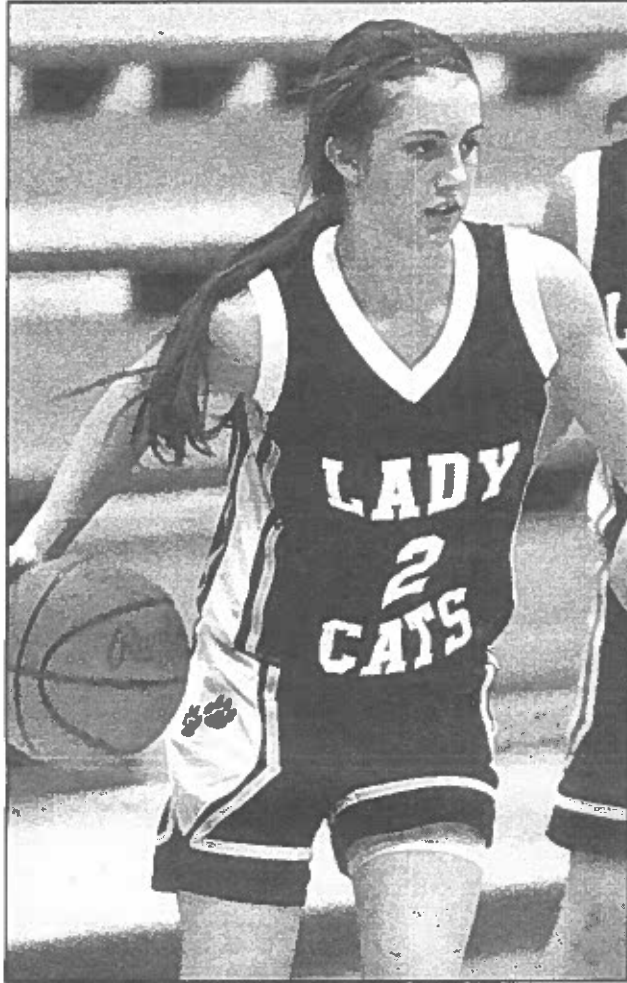
"We didn't shoot well at all in either two games against Edison," Greenwood disclosed.

"Obviously, we must improve in that area. I think another big key will be how we perform in transition defense."

Only one senior dots the Lady Jets' roster - 5-9 senior Alexis Davis whose true value to team success is immeasurable.

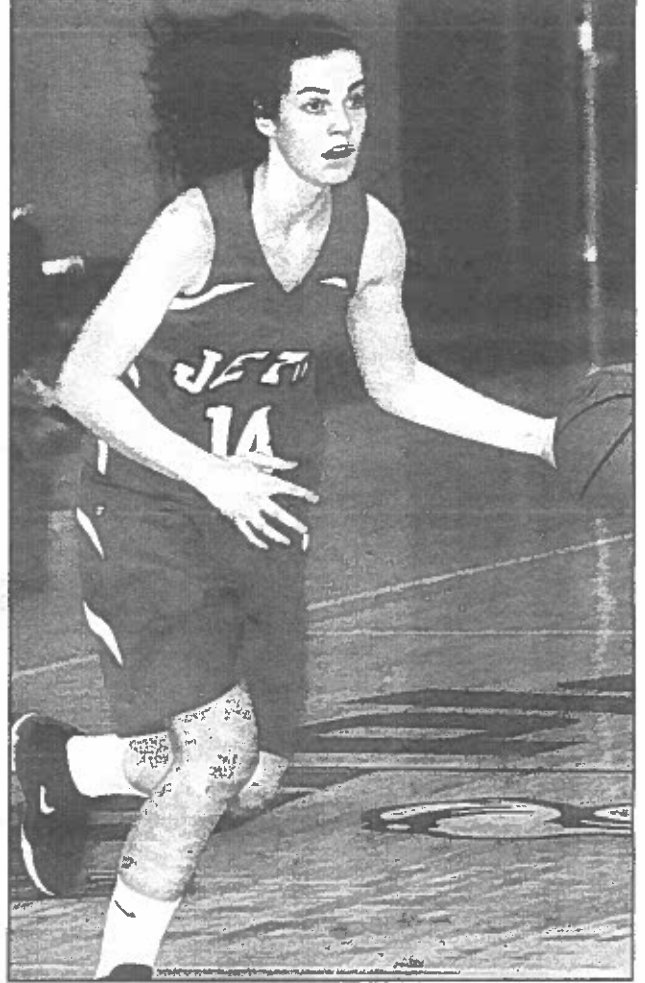
"Alexis is an athletic presence who has really come into her own,"

See, 4A, Page 15



T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

EDISON'S Katelyn Pollock makes a move to the bucket during a game at St. Clairsville earlier this season. She and the Lady Wildcats will meet Union Local Saturday in the OVAC Class 4A title game.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL'S Cori Medley brings the ball up the floor during a game earlier this season at Martins Ferry. Medley and the Lady Jets will meet Edison in the OVAC 4A championship game.

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!!
 GOING ON NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 14TH
20% OFF STOREWIDE SALE!
 OHIO STATE Tons of OSU Basketball Gear!
 STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR VALENTINE!
 Just in Time for MARCH MADNESS!
VELOCITY Ohio Valley Mall 740-526-0865
 Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Expires 2/14/12.

STEWART'S
 R.V. Center
 National Rd. East • I-70 Exit 218 at the Ohio Valley Mall, St. Clairsville, OH
 740-695-0918 or Toll Free 1-800-627-7848 www.stewartsrv.com

UNION LOCAL JETS



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH
 PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Union Local Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Khiara Tracy-Burkhart, Megen Bashline, Kylie Russell and Anna Jo Nardo. Middle row, from left, are manager Heley Porter, Selin Topallar, Amanda Swallie, Carlee Stiles, Alexis Davis, Dallas Montag, Frankie Gatten, Josie Marshall and manager Olivia Merritt. Back row, from left, are assistant coaches David Chambers Jr. and Mike Saffell, Mikayla Twarog, Cecelia Rucker, Kayla Doty, Abby Collins, head coach Drew Greenwood, Alexis Valine, Mikayla Patton, Cori Medley and assistant coaches Dustin Roe and Amy Delaney.

CENTERVILLE
FAMILY
MARKET

Main Street
 Belmont, Ohio
686-2288

GARY W. SMITH
LAW
OFFICES

740-968-6088
 Flushing
 740-472-1647
 Woodsfield

GOOD LUCK

Shep's
Transmission
Shop, LLC

TRANSMISSION &
AUTO REPAIRS
OVER 20 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

JOHN L. SHEPPARD-Owner
 103S. Main St., Bethesda, OH
 740-484-0104

Good Luck
Jets!

BELMONT
EQUIPMENT
SALES INC.

National Road,
 St. Clairsville, Ohio

(740)
695-3052

LOGOTEK SIGNS

Belmont-Bethesda Rd.
 Belmont, Ohio

COMPUTER CUT VINYL
 LETTERING,
 LOGOS & SIGNS

484-1744

1-800-420-9526

DESIGN
 ASSISTANCE

Vehicle Lettering • Directional Signs
 Wall Signs • Rubber Stencil Cut
 Logo Design • Window Lettering
 Magnetic Signs • Site Signs



Quality
Environmental
Services, Inc.

67440 Falloure Rd., Belmont, Ohio 43718
 Phone...(740) 782-1767 FAX...(740) 782-1905
 OWNER: Fred Blackman

GOOD LUCK UNION LOCAL JETS
 FROM THE STAFF OF:

Bashline
Chiropractic Clinic

SHANE D. BASHLINE, D.C.

432 EAST HIGH STREET Flushing, Ohio 43977
(740) 968-3610 (740) 695-6398

BAKKE
Surveying

740-782-1919
 Toll Free 1-866-641-6204

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Boundary • Construction • Subdivision Design
 Mortgage Location • Serving Belmont & Neighboring Counties
 Licensed in OH • Free Estimates

206 W. Church St., Morristown Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Records

Continued from Page 11

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: 79% (19/24), Wheeling Park, 2011

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 25, St. John, 2008
- 2A: 18, Monroe Central, 2008
- 3A: 20, St. Clairsville, 2010
- 4A: 20, Indian Creek, 2009

BEST 2-POINT GOAL %
(20 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 45% (21/47), Beallsville, 2008
- 2A: 52% (14/27), Shadyside, 2011
- 3A: 64% (16/25), Barnesville, 2008
- 4A: 41% (18/44), Indian Creek, 2010

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 6, Madonna, 2011
- 2A: 7, Shadyside, 2011
- 3A: 6, Martins Ferry, 2008
- 4A: 5, John Marshall, 2011

BEST 3-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
(5 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 60% (3/5), Beallsville, 2010
- 2A: 50% (7/14), Shadyside, 2011
- 3A: 56% (5/9), Barnesville, 2008
- 4A: 50% (5/10), Wheeling Park, 2011

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 23, St. John, 2008
- 2A: 13, Shadyside, 2010
- 3A: 10, Barnesville, 2008
- 4A: 17, Edison, 2009

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 32, Madonna, 2011
- 2A: 19, Fort Frye, 2010
- 3A: 22, Barnesville, 2008
- 4A: 25, Wheeling Park, 2011

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, 2011, 2008
- 2A: 9, Shadyside, 2011
- 3A: 8, Martins Ferry, 2008
- 4A: 8, Edison, 2009

MOST STEALS

- 1A: 16, St. John, 2008
- 2A: 12, Monroe Central, 2008
- 3A: 16, St. Clairsville, 2010
- 4A: 15, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST BLOCKS

- 1A: 3, Bishop Donahue, 2009
- 2A: 4, Oak Glen, 2011
- 4A: 1, Steubenville, 2010

CLASS A

- 1 St. John 71
- 2 Beallsville 65
- 3 Bridgeport (OT) 74
- 4 Valley 67

CLASS AA

- 1 Monroe Central 66
- 2 Steubenville Catholic 39
- 3 Buckeye Trail 59
- 4 Frontier 29

CLASS AAA

- 1 Barnesville 50
- 2 Martins Ferry 33
- 3 Wheeling Central 57
- 4 St. Clairsville 19

CLASS AAAA

- 1 Indian Creek 49
- 2 John Marshall 40
- 3 Edison 63
- 4 Brooke 31

2009 CLASS A

- 1 Beallsville 58
- 2 Bishop Donahue 37
- 3 Valley 59
- 4 Cameron 48

CLASS AA

- 1 Monroe Central 50
- 2 Shadyside 42

- 3 Frontier 51
- 4 Steubenville Catholic 44

CLASS AAA

- 1 Martins Ferry (2OT) 49
- 2 St. Clairsville 44
- 3 Oak Glen 44
- 4 Harrison Central 28

CLASS AAAA

- 1 Indian Creek 53
- 2 Edison 48
- 3 John Marshall 37
- 4 Steubenville 32

2010 CLASS A

- 1 Beallsville 32
- 2 Bridgeport 31
- 3 Cameron DNP
- 4 Madonna DNP

CLASS AA

- 1 Fort Frye 40
- 2 Shadyside 36
- 3 Buckeye Trail 56
- 4 Monroe Central 51

CLASS AAA

- 1 Edison 50
- 2 St. Clairsville 46
- 3 Weir DNP
- 4 Oak Glen DNP

CLASS AAAA

- 1 Indian Creek 50
- 2 Steubenville 32
- 3 Wheeling Park DNP
- 4 John Marshall DNP

2011 CLASS A

- 1 Madonna 47
- 2 St. John 41
- 3 Cameron 54
- 4 Valley 53

CLASS AA

- 1 Shadyside 52
- 2 Fort Frye 36
- 3 Monroe Central 56
- 4 Wheeling Central 52

CLASS AAA

- 1 Union Local 44
- 2 Oak Glen 33
- 3 Edison 61
- 4 Weir 46

CLASS AAAA

- 1 Wheeling Park 55
- 2 John Marshall 41
- 3 Indian Creek 64
- 4 East Liverpool 51

COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT RECORDS

- Barnesville 1-0
- Beallsville 2-1
- Bishop Donahue 0-1
- Bridgeport 0-1
- Edison 1-1
- Fort Frye 1-1
- Indian Creek 3-0
- John Marshall 0-2

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

CLASS A

- 2008 391
- 2009 417
- 2010 387
- 2011 337

CLASS AA

- 2008 367

2009 CLASS AAA

- 2009 435
- 2010 463
- 2011 515

CLASS AAA

- 2008 522
- 2009 302
- 2010 303
- 2011 400

CLASS AAAA

- 2008 317
- 2009 450
- 2010 385
- 2011 195

TOTAL

- 2008 1704
- 2009 1872
- 2010 1726
- 2011 1447

4A

Continued from Page 11

Greenwood advised. "She's become a better ball-handler and is a solid defender." Davis donates a nine-point scoring average.

The junior class features 5-6 guard Dallas Montag, an intelligent player with both above average shooting and passing skills.

Montag is a reliable three-point threat and netting some 11.5 points per start. "Dallas does so many things which don't appear in the box score," Greenwood points out.

Kayla Doty, at 5-9, has continually come up big in big-game situations. "She's an aggressive offensive player who normally finishes once she catches the ball," Greenwood said. Doty is delivering 10.5 (points) and eight (rebounds) per outing.

Carlee Stiles (5-7) brings various skills to the floor in

her role. "Carlee understands the game as well as anyone on our roster," Greenwood offered. "She does many of the intangibles necessary for success."

UL's fifth starter is savvy sophomore Cori Medley, easily one of the valley's most talented young players. The 5-8 guard was an impact player as a freshman and a standout on UL's OVAC championship squad a year ago.

"Cori's the ultimate team player. She may even be a little too unselfish," her coach reported. "She's a consistent scorer but also an adept passer at finding an open teammate."

Medley is working on her second consecutive varsity season as a double figure scorer (14.4 ppg.) She's regarded as an accurate three-point shooter but can also be effective driving to

the hoop. Greenwood is bringing an already-seasoned freshman talent off the bench in 5-5 Amanda Swallie, a two-time twin digit contributor in recent outings.

"Amanda injects instant energy when she takes the floor," Greenwood stressed. "We're impressed with the aggressive approach she takes."

"She has a very nice future in our program."

Another ninth grader of note is 5-10 post Mikayla Patton, a still work-in-progress with good potential on the varsity level.

"If our practices are an indication, the girls are definitely looking forward to another shot at Edison," Greenwood declared.

Serving as assistants on the Lady Jets' bench are Dustin Roe, Amy Delaney and Dave Chambers, Jr.

EDISON LADY WILDCATS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Edison Lady Wildcats Basketball Team. Kneeling, from left, are MaryAnne Reed, Kristen Prokopakis, Savannah Snyder, Kayla Prokopakis and Molly McCoy. Middle row, from left, are Megan Grimes, Kayli Stewart, Katelyn Pollock, Meghan Scott, Bre Westling, Abby Fonow and Madisen Hunter. Back row, from left are head coach Tony Kovalesky, assistant coaches Jason Ensinger and Tim Elson.

GOOD LUCK LADY WILDCATS, COACH KOVALESKY AT THE OVAC FINALS FROM...

Edison High School Athletic Boosters



Park out to defend big-school title

• Top-seeded Lady Patriots battle Morgantown for the third time this season

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Morgantown and Wheeling Park have already played a pair of hotly-contested regular season games. So why should Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 5A championship game be any different?

This much is certain: Both coaches expect more of the same with Meredith Dailer's top-seeded Lady Patriots going toe-to-toe against Adam Henkins' Lady Mohigans.

They're a very deep and capable team which will give us several different looks. No question, Morgantown presents a

challenge," Dailer described.

Henkins immediately returned the compliment. "Meredith does a great job and has a very well-rounded team. We'll have to be at our best to beat them."

Park advanced to the big school title tilt after stopping rival John Marshall (63-55). Morgantown, meanwhile, as number three seed, remained relatively close to home in knocking off second-seeded University, 68-56.

The Lady Patriots arrive at Ohio University-Eastern's athletic complex with a 17-3 record. Dailer's talented club retains several

See, 5A, Page 17

WHEELING PARK

No.	Name	Height	Grade
4	Marissa Tucker	5-3	10
10	Haley Robb	5-6	11
11	Kristen Slater	5-5	11
12	Alex Franke	5-7	12
21	Caitlyn Taylor	5-10	10
23	Kambrea O'Neal	5-8	10
30	Kelsi Johnson	5-7	10
34	Chloe Robb	5-4	9
35	Kendra Johnson	5-8	9
40	Emily Puskarich	5-7	11
42	Krista Crawsha	6-0	12

Head Coach: Meredith Dailer.

Assistant Coaches: Michele Parsons, Mandi Swiger, Ryan Young.

MORGANTOWN

No.	Name	Height	Grade
3	Rachel Michael	5-6	12
5	Olivia Naugle	5-6	12
10	Tiara Ireland	5-9	11
11	Tara Hanson	5-6	11
12	Leah Taylor	5-4	11
13	Alicia Golden	5-3	11
20	Maggie Williams	5-10	12
22	Caroline Colombo	5-7	11
23	Haley Holloway	5-9	11
32	Briana Nuzurr	5-11	12
33	Emily Sabatino	5-6	11
44	Ashley Holloway	5-8	11
50	Allison Thompsor	6-1	11


Head Coach: Adam Henkins

Assistant Coaches: John Fowkes and Doug Goodwin.



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

WHEELING PARK'S Marissa Tucker goes up for an off-balance shot during a game against Shadyside earlier this season. The Lady Patriots, who are the top seed in Class 5A, will take on Morgantown for the third time this season when they clash Saturday night in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A championship game.



Robert E. Murray,
Chairman, President and CEO

Murray Energy Corporation

and our independent operating subsidiaries are proud to provide Ohio with:

- 326 local high-paying direct jobs that support up to 15,000 secondary jobs
- Nearly \$100 million in wages and benefits each year
- More than \$200 million annually in supplies, capital expenditures, infrastructure creation and taxes to local, state and federal agencies
- A commitment to safety that is second-to-none

American Energy Corporation
The Ohio Valley Coal Company
OhioAmerica Energy, Inc.
The Ohio Valley Transloading Company

Something Happening In Sports?

Tell Us in Our Virtual Newsroom at TimesLeaderONLINE.com



5A

Continued from Page 16

...components from the '011 club which upset topped JM for last season's A title.

In 5-7 junior Emily Puskarich. Park has one of the Mountain State's premier players. "She does a little bit of everything well," Dailer described of the returning first team all-tater.

"Emily is much more than just a scorer. She distributes the ball, also rebounds well, and takes pride in playing defense."

Puskarich enters Saturday's game netting a shade under 19 points per game. She's also averaging 5.5 rebounds, four steals and three assists.

Junior Haley Robb is a 5-7 junior with adept shooting skills, particularly behind the three-point arc where she is a consistent threat.

Robb contributes 14.3 points and has gone deep on a team-leading 42 occasions.

Park's solid-as-a-rock post presence is 6-0 senior Krista Crawshaw, a blue collar specialist whose impressive norms total 10.5 (points) and seven (rebounds). "Krista runs the floor well for a player her size. She especially works hard under the bucket," Dailer offered.

Sophomore guard Marissa Tucker has come of age to play a major role in the Lady Pats' success. The 5-3 backcourt ace is an 8.3 ppg. contributor with long range shooting ability and effective passing.

Another 10th grade impact cager is 5-7 Kelsi Johnson whose work has been steady. Johnson nets over six points per game

and has been another key rebounder.

The sophomore class includes 5-8 forward Kambria O'Neal who brings above-average quickness to the table.

Off the bench, 5-4 freshman Chloe Robb has contributed important minutes.

"We feel we have a solid starting five on the floor," Dailer indicated. "This group has faced a formidable schedule and is used to playing in big games."

Serving as assistants to Dailer are Michele Parsons, Ryan Young and Mandi Swiger.

MORGANTOWN has rebounded nicely this season after enduring a 10-14 campaign a year ago.

"It's been a really great group of girls to work with," Henkins advised. "Like Wheeling Park, we

feel we've gone up against a strong schedule which definitely helped us reach (the OVAC finals)."

The 16-3 Lady Mohigans have done so with a varied rotation. "We've played 13 much of the season which has proven beneficial," Henkins added.

Morgantown's leading scorer is 5-10 senior Briana Nuzum whose inside work

has been exemplary.

"She's our go-to player in the post," Henkins confirmed of the Mohigan's honorable mention big school all-stater.

Nuzum works the boards with authority, bringing down nearly nine per evening.

Senior Rachel Michael (5.1 ppg.) is a smooth-operating swing player, equally

adept as an inside-outside threat. "Rachel's easily one of our most versatile players who contributes in a number of ways," Henkins related.

The junior class is deep and paced by 5-9 Tiara Ireland. "Our most athletic kid and a very well-rounded player," Henkins praised. Ireland nets nine points an

See, 5A, Page 18

MORGANTOWN MOHIGANS

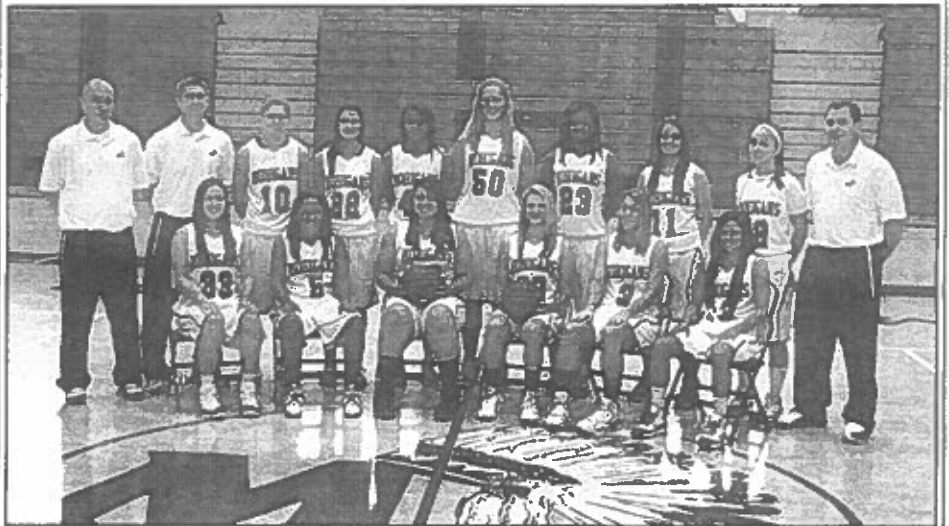
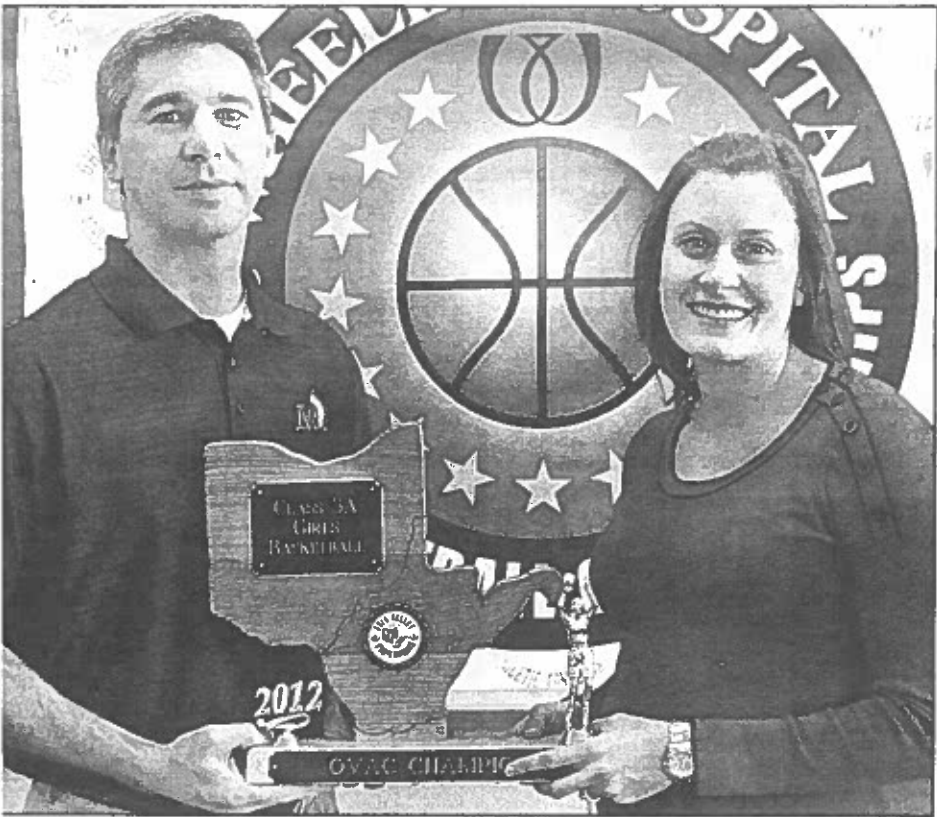


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Morgantown Lady Mohigans Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Emily Sabatino, Olivia Naugle, Briana Nuzum, Maggie Williams, Rachel Michael and Alicia Golden. Standing, from left, are assistant coach John Fowkes, head coach Adam Henkins, Tiara Ireland, Caroline Colombo, Ashley Holloway, Madison Thompson, Haley Holloway, Tara Hanson, Leah Taylor and assistant coach Doug Goodwin.



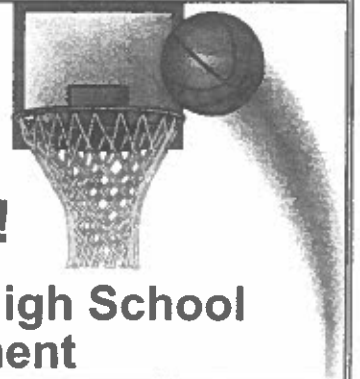
T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

THE HEAD coaches in the OVAC Class 5A Championship game pose with the championship trophy. From left are Morgantown's Adam Henkins and Wheeling Park's Meredith Dailer.

GOOD LUCK GIRLS!

We are Proud of You!

From the Morgantown High School Athletic Department



5A

Continued from Page 17

outing and also works the boards at both ends.

The Mohigans' backcourt has a diminutive dandy in 5-4 junior Leah Taylor. "She's a tough-as-nails player who really makes us

go," Henkins observed. Taylor's impressive averages include: 10.2 (points); four (steals); three (assists).

Junior Emily Sabatino is another impact player who sparked the

Lady Mohigans' semifinal win over University. "Emily's probably our best pure shooter," Henkins described the southpaw guard. Sabatino scored just under seven per game and also is a capa-

ble rebounder.

Expect junior guard Alicia Golden to make her presence felt in the backcourt. "Alicia's an up-and-down the floor player and a true point guard," her coach

noted.

The Mohigans' mix includes 5-6 senior vet Olivia Naugle who scored nearly nine points per game. Also expect major minutes from 5-9 junior Haley Holloway.

WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2011-12 Wheeling Park Lady Patriots Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Kristen Slater, Haley Robb, Krista Crawshaw, Alex Franke and Emily Puskarich. Middle row, from left, are Kelsi Johnson, Chloe Robb, Caitlyn Taylor, Kambrea OáNeal, Marissa Tucker and student trainer Rebecca Sellers. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Michele Parsons, head coach Meredith Dailer, trainer Pete Chocalas, assistant coaches Ryan Young and Mandi Swiger.

CORNER BARBER & STYLING

We Specialize In Military Cuts & Flat Tops
Sophia, Gina, Annie & Heather

Open: Tuesday-Friday 8am-7pm • Saturday 8am-4pm

(304) 242-8225

GOOD LUCK PATRIOTS!



GOOD LUCK PARK!
R & V
Embroidery
Rick & Valerte Nau
303 Warwood Ave.
Wheeling
304-277-4120

GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS

From,
The Wheeling Park
Athletic Department



OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Enriching Minds,
Ensuring The Future"

Good Luck
To The
Wheeling
Park Patriots



Plaques Trophies Banners Business Awards
Employee Appreciation Engraved Acrylics Ink Jet Printing
Trade Show Displays Vehicle Lettering Signage of all Kinds

OHIO VALLEY AWARDS

"Custom Awards of All Kinds"

GOOD LUCK AREA TEAMS

304-233-1925 800-446-1925
2245 Main St., Wheeling, WV. 26003

ovawards@comcast.net Dave & Paula Monteleone-Owners

GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!

JIM HARRIS

Jim Harris,
Broker, GRI

Real Estate

128 South Marietta St., St. Clairsville Ohio
St. Clairsville Wheeling
695-2117 233-3492

jimharrisrealestate.net

OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL

A note from the executive secretary ...

Welcome to the fifth annual Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championship.



TOM RATAICZAK

Each year, this format gains more and more credibility, as teams vie for the OVAC title the way it should be determined: on the court.

To the players and coaches, congratulations. Your hard work has paid off. At the end of the game, whether you receive the inner-up medal or the championship medal, you will realize that you represented your school and community in a solid, positive manner. While doing so, you also got a "pre-rite" of post-season tournament play, experienced a great venue, exciting atmosphere and felt the pressure of performing when it matters.

Hopefully, this tournament experience will benefit you in the weeks to come.

The OVAC is grateful to all the sponsors who make this championship and this conference what it is, but a special thank you goes to

Wheeling Hospital, the title sponsor of the games.

Its credo says it all: "a tradition of excellence, a legacy of caring." So many things they do throughout the year, behind the spotlight, allow our student-athletes to reap benefits not experienced by other schools in Ohio and West Virginia.

Ohio University Eastern is the perfect site for this championship. A big-time facility in a smaller arena allows the athletes the best playing conditions and the fans to get involved in the game. Factor in the ease of getting there and the enthusiasm of their staff to give

our kids a great experience and you have the perfect atmosphere.

Let's all remember that this game is for the kids. A display of good sportsmanship will leave a lasting impression on these young men and women and, win or lose, will affect their memories for years to come.

And finally, thanks to our media for the fantastic job it does in covering our athletes. Travel anywhere and ask the schools if they receive the coverage they do in ours.

We hope you enjoy the games and thank you for your support.



MATHESON VALLEY
ask... The Gas Professionals™

Industrial, Medical & Specialty Gases Welding & Safety Supplies
• Propane

15 Lombard St., Martins Ferry, OH 43935
(740) 635-1324
Fax (740) 635-1311

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!!
GOING ON NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 14TH

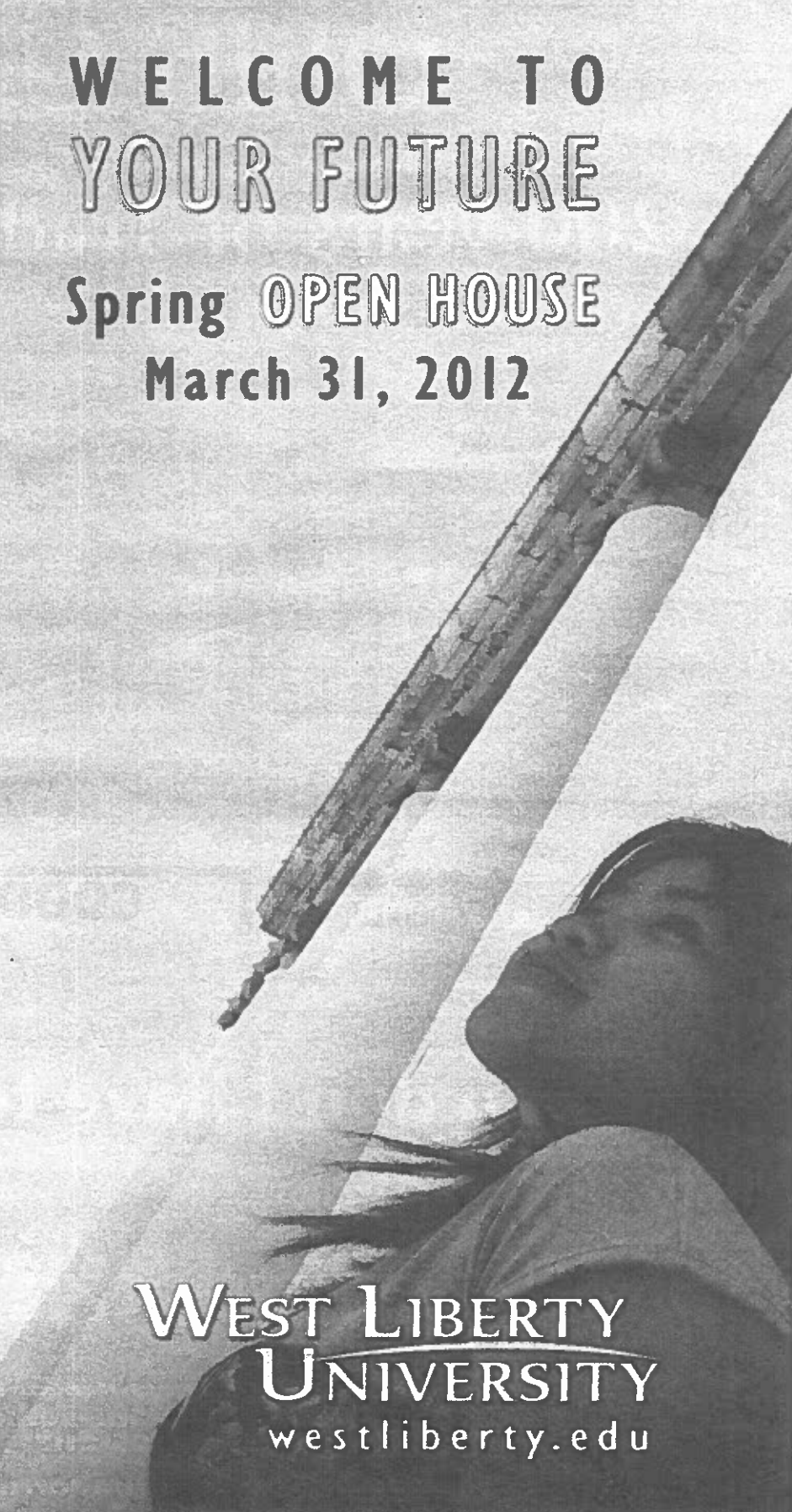
20% OFF STOREWIDE SALE!

OHIO STATE
Tons of OSU Basketball Gear!

STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR VALENTINE!
Just in Time for MARCH MADNESS!

VELOCITY Ohio Valley Mall
740-526-0865

Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Expires 2/14/12.



WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE

Spring OPEN HOUSE
March 31, 2012

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
westliberty.edu

D 1A

Continued from Page 4

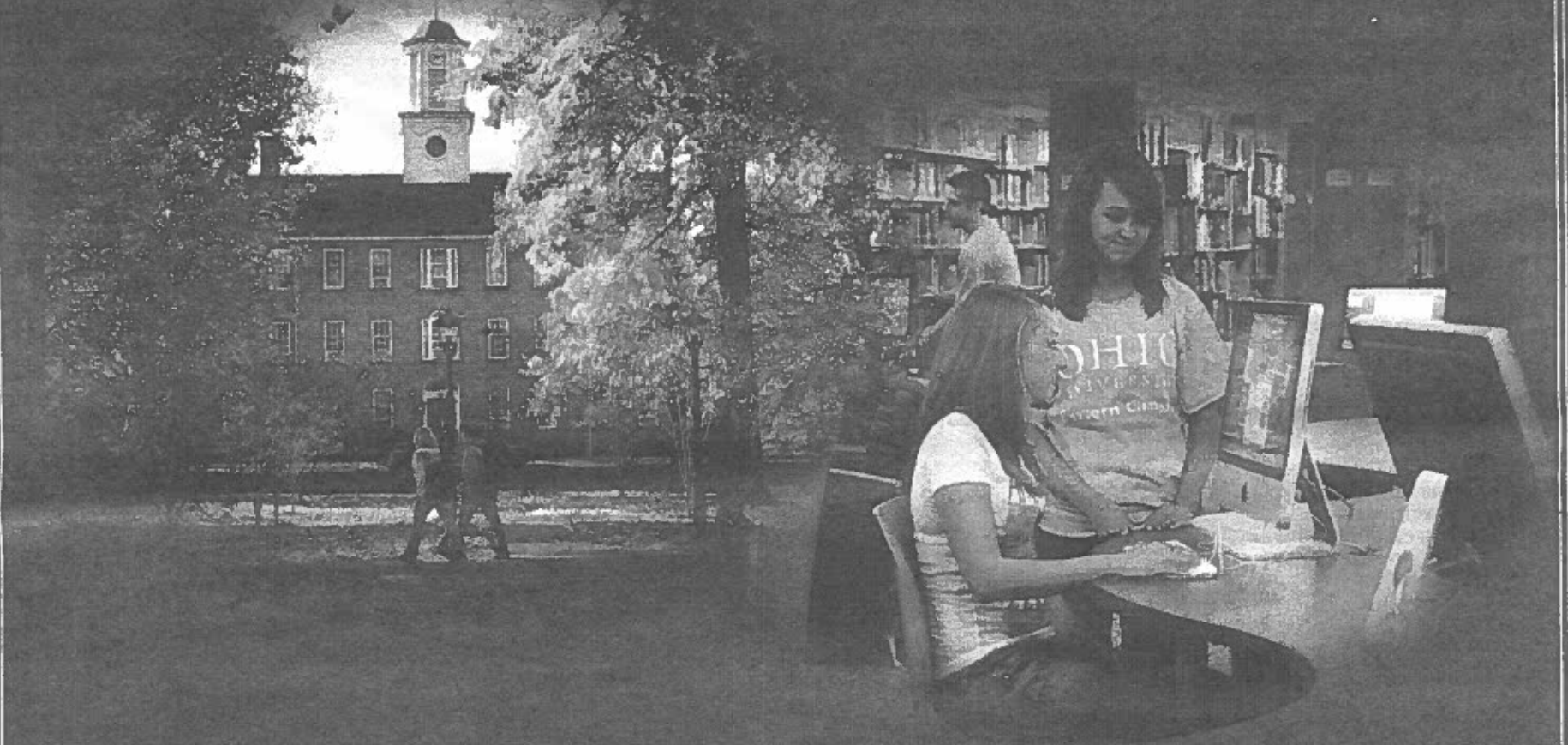
ay the post and bang sound inside, according to her coach.

The Blue Dons leading scorer is 6-0 senior center Sara Lyons, who pulls down 6.4 boards and scores 14.4 points per contest. Senior Kaitlyn Conner averages eight points, 3.7 rebounds and 2.4 assists. Nile junior Nicolette Hitti adds seven points and five rebounds.

Madonna's roster is completed by junior Amy Davis and freshmen Cameron Swiak, Leanne Grubbs and Chel Grubbs.

Ohio University

200 years of Tradition & Excellence



You don't have to go away...

to go far !!

45425 National Road
St. Clairsville, Ohio
740-695-1720
www.ohio.edu/eastern



OHIO
UNIVERSITY
Eastern

SPORTS

Romick has baseball goals firmly in place

Ryne Romick doesn't beat around the bush.

The former River High and University of Akron baseball standout has aspirations to coach at a high level of college baseball.

The current Ohio Valley University assistant coach found out last week he's going to have another opportunity to inch closer to eventually fulfilling his dream.

Romick was hired as a pitching coach with the New Bedford Bay Sox for this season. The team plays in the New England College Baseball League, which is one of the high quality wooden bat leagues for collegiate players during the summer.

"This is a league for Division I players and some really good Division II players," Romick said during a phone interview before he boarded a bus to head to Chillicothe for a series this weekend. "This is going to be huge for me as far as experience and as a resume builder is concerned when it comes to finding other jobs."

SETH STASKEY
From the Press Box:

Romick had been seeking opportunities for advancement during a trip to the college baseball coaches convention in California when he noticed the NECBL had teams seeking pitching coaches for the upcoming season.

"Most of the head coach jobs are filled by older, former players. But the assistants jobs are filled by younger college coaches who are looking for some experience," Romick said.

The former Zip proceeded to email three of the front office people in the league, but the Bay Sox weren't included in his list. He only got one reply, but he got an email from the Bay Sox, informing him they'd like to interview him.

"We were on our first bus trip of the season," Romick said. "The general manager called me and we did about an hour-long phone interview. He asked me all sorts of things about my philosophies, what I believed in, how I coached, etc."

A few days later, Romick was offered and accepted the position, which begins on June 2, in preparation of the season, which gets under way on June 7.

"I am really excited about the chance," Romick said. "The New England area loves baseball, so if you're a guy who wants to be in the mecca of baseball and do nothing but baseball for two months, this is a good (summer) job."

Romick will be working under former big-leaguer Rick Miller, who played 12 seasons for the Red Sox and three with the Angels.

"I've not met or talked to Rick yet, but from what I've been told, I'll have total control of the pitching staff," Romick said. "He doesn't want anything to do with the pitchers, but that's pretty normal for position players who are coaches."

The Bay Sox roster is about finished from what Romick has been told. The roster is usually built in the fall.

Prior to arriving at Ohio Valley, Romick worked as a graduate assistant at West Virginia Wesleyan and is working toward completing a second master's degree in education.

"I am looking to make as many connections with people as I can," Romick said.



RYNE ROMICK

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships

The Devils Do It

St. Clairsville wins 4A championship

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Finally!
The 101st Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title in St. Clairsville High School history just might be the absolute sweetest.

Using a strong second half, the Red Devils erased the demons of their three previous Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Basketball Championship Game appearances, posting a convincing 79-64 victory against second-seeded East Liverpool before a standing-room-only crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

"We've had teams here before that have been beaten by three really good teams," said St. C. head coach Kim Clifford of Wheeling Central, Union Local and Magnolia, respectively. "We were able to get it done tonight, though."

The title is not only the first for Clifford, but the first for the entire program, which has been playing roundball since 1908 and a member of the OVAC since the conference's inception.

"This is very special," Clifford said. "We've been second fiddle a lot, but I never gave up hope that (winning the OVAC) would happen. This is just a special group, that unlike our other teams, didn't get it done on the floor."

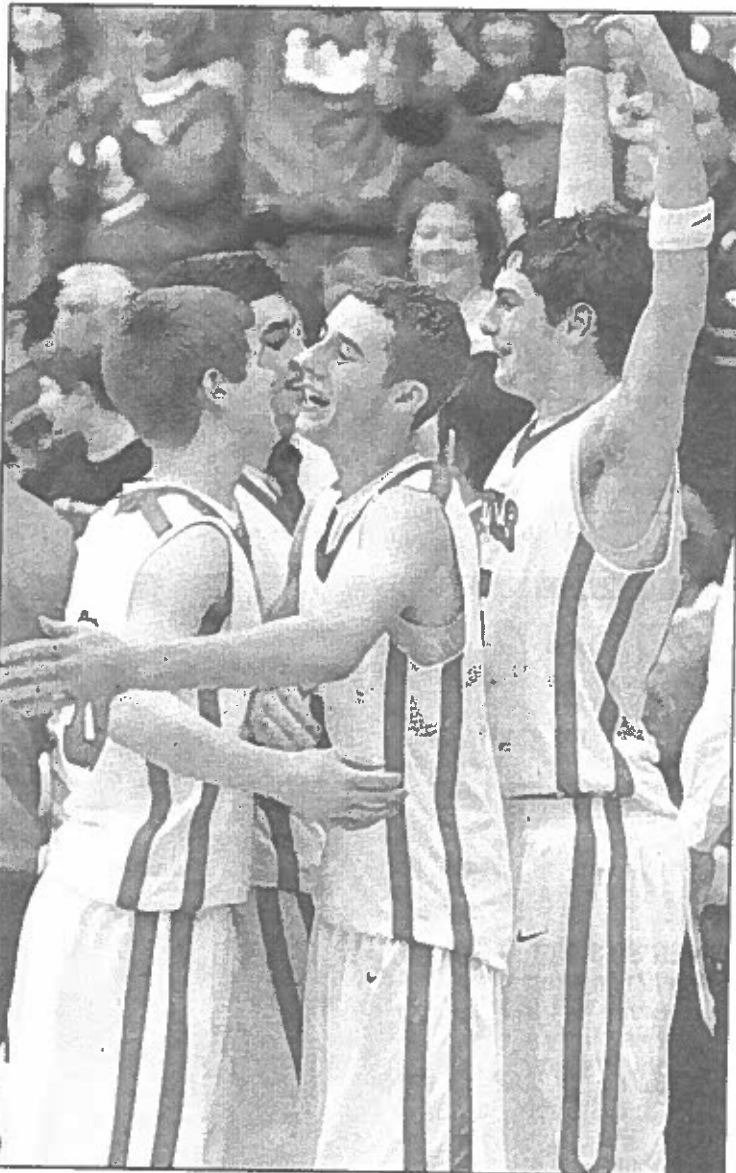
While Clifford did everything he could during the three days leading up to the title game to stress to his underclass-laden Red Devils that the game was about them, the program and the school, the St. C. players went to the floor with their head coach in mind.

"We definitely wanted this for Coach Clifford," said St. C. junior Dan Monteroso, who pumped in a game-high 33 points, including 21 in the pivotal second half. "We, as players, owe him all of the credit. He's my favorite coach ever. He's a great man, and we're happy that we were able to win this."

See, **DEVILS**, Page C3

'This very special.'

- Kim Clifford



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MEMBERS OF the St. Clairsville boys' basketball team celebrate their Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 4A Championship Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

2A: River rallies, comes up short

• Pilots furious comeback denied by talented Linsly

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

When a basketball team lives by the '3,' it can also dig itself a hole when the ball isn't dropping.

Top-seeded and junior-laden River could only get off half-a-dozen three-point attempts (making two) in the first half of Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Class 2A title tilt against Linsly, and, as a result, found itself down 20 points just before the half.

However, the Pilots (14-6) didn't quit shooting, and, as a result, found themselves down two points after Cody Caldwell knocked down 1 of 2 free throws with 35.5 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

Following a Linsly turnover, Brett Price's attempt from beyond the arc with 10 ticks left wouldn't fall and the second-seeded Cadets (13-8) would tack on some late free throws for a thrilling, 70-65, nod before a boisterous crowd inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building just west of St. Clairsville.

"We came out in the first half a little sluggish and didn't

'We got down and, at any time, the kids could've folded, but they showed a lot of character and heart.'

- Mark Romick



SETH STASKEY
From the
Press Box:

interview before he boarded a bus to head to Chillicothe for a series this weekend. "This is going to be huge for me as far as experience and as a resume builder is concerned when it comes to finding other jobs."

Romick had been seeking opportunities for advancement during a trip to the college baseball coaches convention in California when he noticed the NECBL had teams seeking pitching coaches for the upcoming season.

"Most of the head coach jobs are filled by older, former players. But the assistants jobs are filled by younger college coaches who are looking for some experience," Romick said.

The former Zip proceeded to email three of the front office people in the league, but the Bay Sox weren't included in his list. He only got one reply, but he got an email from the Bay Sox, informing him they'd like to interview him.

"We were on our first bus trip of the season," Romick said. "The general manager called me and we did about an hour-long phone interview. He asked me all sorts of things about my philosophies, what I believed in, how I coached, etc."

A few days later, Romick was offered and accepted the position, which begins on June 2, in preparation of the season, which gets under way on June 7.

"I am really excited about the chance," Romick said. "The New England area loves baseball, so if you're a guy who wants to be in the mecca of baseball and do nothing but baseball for two months, this is a good (summer) job."

Romick will be working under former big-leaguer Rick Miller, who played 12 seasons for the Red Sox and three with the Angels.

"I've not met or talked to Rick yet, but from what I've been told, I'll have total control of the pitching staff," Romick said. "He doesn't want anything to do with the pitchers, but that's pretty normal for position players who are coaches."

The Bay Sox roster is about finished from what Romick has been told. The roster is usually built in the fall.

Prior to arriving at Ohio Valley, Romick worked as a graduate assistant at West Virginia Wesleyan and is working toward completing a second master's degree in education.

"I am looking to make as many connections with people as I can," Romick said. "Sometimes it's more about who you know than what you know or how talented you are. Coaching with good people is a big key, too because you're associated with credibility."

Romick, who is a huge Boston Red Sox fan, won't have much down time since the season is 42 games long and is squeezed into a two-month window, so the players can get back to begin their respective fall semesters around the country.

However, when there is a day off, you won't have trouble finding him.

"New Bedford is about an hour south of Boston, so every chance I get, I'll be going up to Fenway," Romick said.

SPEAKING OF BASEBALL ...

The spring sports season in Ohio gets under way Monday. Official practice for baseball and softball season can begin. The OHSAA formerly allowed pitchers and catchers to begin this Monday, but the rule was altered to allow everyone to begin at the same time.

Another OHSAA change for the upcoming season deals with the schedule. Baseball and softball teams are still only allowed a maximum of 27 regular season games on 23 playing dates. However, both seasons can begin on Saturday, March 24

with the New Bedford Bay Sox for this season. The team plays in the New England College Baseball League, which is one of the high quality wooden bat leagues for collegiate players during the summer.

"This is a league for Division I players and some really good Division II players," Romick said during a phone



RYNE ROMICK

sweetest.

Using a strong second half, the Red Devils erased the demons of their three previous Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Basketball Championship Game appearances, posting a convincing 79-64 victory against second-seeded East Liverpool before a standing-room-only crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

"We've had teams here before that have been beaten by three really good teams," said St. C. head coach Kim Clifford of Wheeling Central, Union Local and Magnolia, respectively. "We were able to get it done tonight, though."

'This very special.'

- Kim Clifford

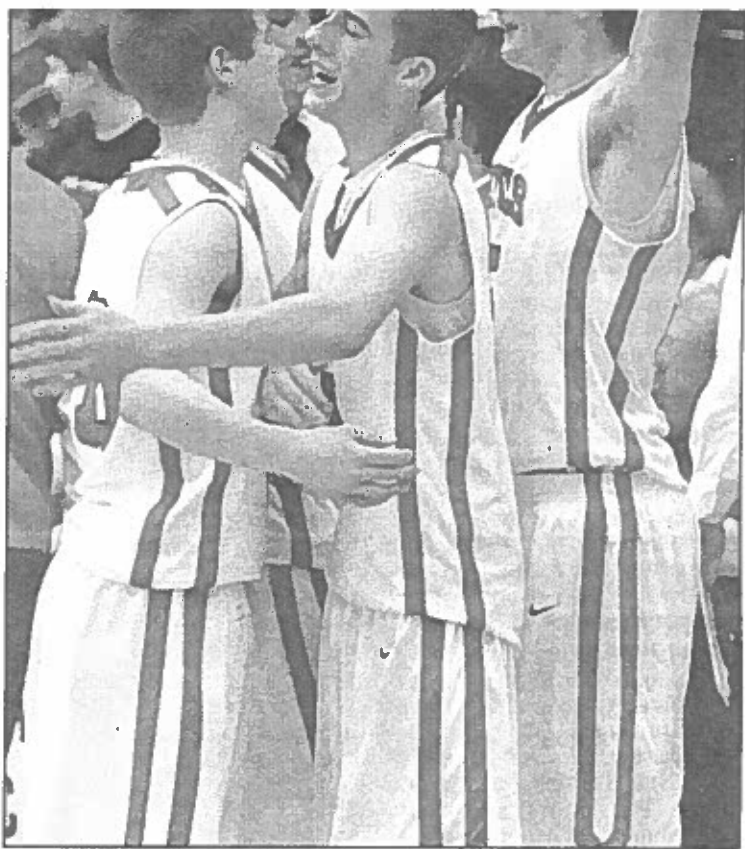
which has been playing roundball since 1908 and a member of the OVAC since the conference's inception.

"This is very special," Clifford said. "We've been second fiddle a lot, but I never gave up hope that (winning the OVAC) would happen. This is just a special group, that unlike our other teams, didn't get it done on the floor."

While Clifford did everything he could during the three days leading up to the title game to stress to his underclass-laden Red Devils that the game was about them, the program and the school, the St. C. players went to the floor with their head coach in mind.

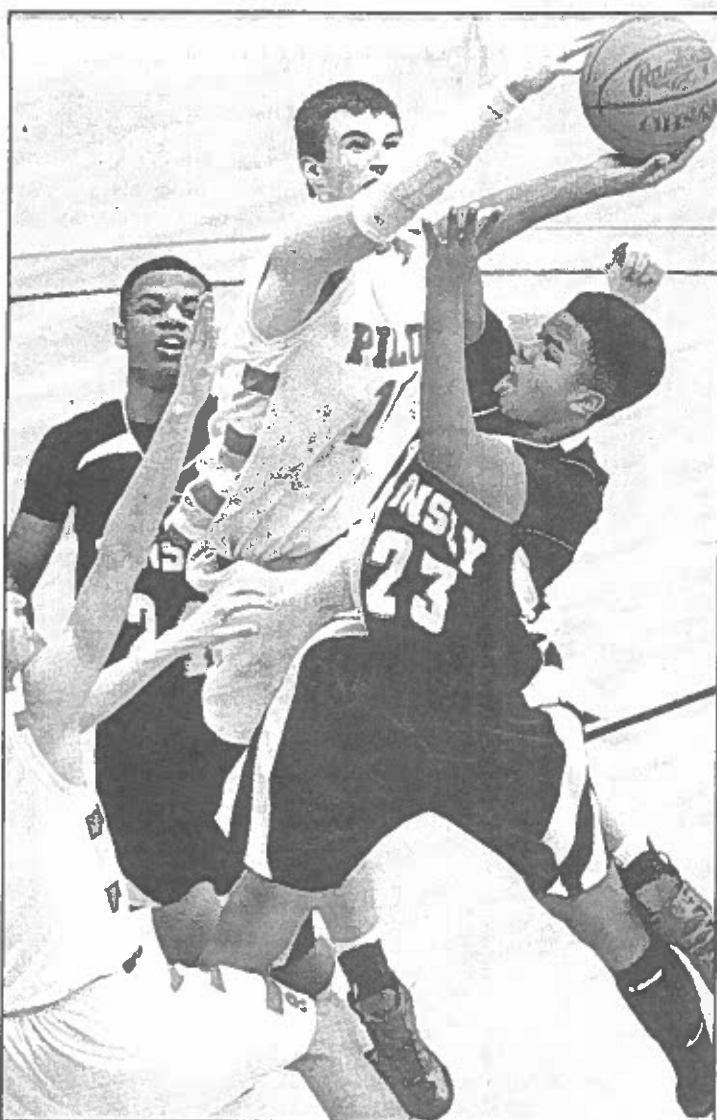
"We definitely wanted this for Coach Clifford," said St. C. junior Dan Monteroso, who pumped in a game-high 33 points, including 21 in the pivotal second half. "We, as players, owe him all of the credit. He's my favorite coach ever. He's a great man, and we're happy that we were able to win this."

See, **DEVILS**, Page C3



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MEMBERS OF the St. Clairsville boys' basketball team celebrate their Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 4A Championship Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

RIVER'S JORDAN Indermuhle (10) battles Linsly's Jibri Blount (23) for a rebound during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 2A Championship tilt at OUE. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

2A: River rallies, comes up short

• Pilots furious comeback denied by talented Linsly

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

When a basketball team lives by the '3,' it can also dig itself a hole when the ball isn't dropping.

Top-seeded and junior-laden River could only get off half-a-dozen three-point attempts (making two) in the first half of Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Class 2A title tilt against Linsly, and, as a result, found itself down 20 points just before the half.

However, the Pilots (14-6) didn't quit shooting, and, as a result, found themselves down two points after Cody Caldwell knocked down 1 of 2 free throws with 35.5 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

Following a Linsly turnover, Brett Price's attempt from beyond the arc with 10 ticks left wouldn't fall and the second-seeded Cadets (13-8) would tack on some late free throws for a thrilling, 70-65, nod before a boisterous crowd inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building just west of St. Clairsville.

"We came out in the first half a little sluggish and didn't shoot the ball very well," Romick admitted. "We got down and, at any time, the kids could've folded, but they showed a lot of character and heart."

'We got down and, at any time, the kids could've folded, but they showed a lot of character and heart.'

- Mark Romick

See, **RIVER**, Page C2

1A: Late spurt propels Madonna

• Blue Dons defend championship with win over Beallsville

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Just when it appeared as though Beallsville was making its move, a stoppage in play halted all of the Blue Devils' momentum.

Trailing top-seeded Madonna 62-56 with 5:50 left to play in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Basketball Class A Championship game, Blue Devils' head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda called a timeout following Teryn Jarrett's three-point goal to get his troops a much-needed rest and to

'It just steamrolled from there.'

- Scooter Tolzda

setup their defense.

However, little did the veteran court boss, nor anyone among the huge crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Building on the campus of Ohio University Eastern, know that the Blue Dons (18-3) would reel off the next 16 points en route to an unexpected, 84-64, blowout of the Blue Devils (18-2).

"We called that timeout, but then they got two quick baskets and we turned it over. It just steamrolled from there," Tolzda allowed. "They just kept coming at us and we didn't slow them down."

See, **MADONNA**, Page C2



TERYN JARRETT floats towards the basket during Saturday morning's Class 1A title game with Madonna. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

Fort Frye's free throws do in Magnolia in 3A

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

If you dissect the box score of a close, back-and-forth basketball game, more often than not you will find that the team that eventually won was more proficient from the free throw line.

In a game that featured 18 lead changes and five ties Saturday afternoon between Fort Frye and Magnolia, it was the Cadets who had the glaring advantage from the charity stripe and was able to cash in another Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship.

Junior sharp-shooter Shon Smith scored 19 of his all-class tournament record 35 points in the fourth quarter, including hitting all 11 of his free throws, and Fort Frye made a set a new mark with 21 made free-bees as the Cadets outlasted the Blue Eagles by a 64-51 margin in the Class AAA title tilt at Ohio University Eastern.

The victory makes Head Coach Dan Liedtke's 16-3 record team the first to win boys basketball championships in two classes after capturing the AA title a season ago.

Meanwhile, Dave Tallman's squad drops to 17-3 and failed in its bid for a second straight 3A crown, but should still be a factor

in the upcoming West Virginia Class AA tournament field.

"This is a great tournament and the OVAC does an amazing job with it," Tallman admitted. "But our goal is to win a West Virginia state championship and I think overall this means just a little bit more to the Ohio schools because it is tougher for them to get there (state tournament)."

The first half had 12 lead changes and two ties with Fort Frye's biggest advantage coming early at 5-2 while Magnolia twice led by four in the opening quarter, 9-5 and 11-7.

Big Blue owned period leads of 13-12 and 25-24 at the break. It was more of the same in the third chapter, however, a Mark Winters hoop at 2:24 did cap an 8-0 run and gave Magnolia its biggest lead of the game 38-33.

It stood at 41-38, Big Blue, after three and was still 46-46 with 4:36 to play before Smith helped put things away for the Cadets. A conventional three-point play at 3:39 equaled Fort Frye's biggest advantage, to that point, and with a 49-46 reading, Liedtke's team never trailed again.

Beginning with Smith's free throw to convert the three-point play, the Cadets' final 16 points came from the charity stripe as

'I think the foul shooting speaks for itself and that is all I can say about that.'

— Dave Tallman

they nailed 16 of 17 in the final 3:39 of play.

Magnolia did get a banked-in triple from Jayson Keller with 51 seconds showing, but overall the winner's outscored the Eagles by an 18-5 margin down the stretch.

"I know that there were a lot of people who felt we didn't have a chance in this one," Liedtke mentioned. "But we have a tradition of taking on all challenges. We put in a lot of hard work on details every day in practice.

"We have been playing very well recently, and I told the kids that if they go out and do well on all the things we have worked on the rewards would come to them.

"I think it was real huge for us to stay close. We wanted to run the tempo and not let them start using their speed. And there is no question that championship teams make

free throws, but if it had been up to me I would have liked to run more clock.

"Our goal was to hold the ball and shoot layups, but when the other team is fouling you have to put them in and we did that

(Saturday). These kids have such big hearts and are gym rats. They are just super good kids.

"I actually resigned the boys job last spring, but some of these kids kept on me about coming back. And I knew this would be one of the most fundamental teams I had ever had. They get along so well and are just successful kids and I am so glad I came back. I also have to thank our school administration for making some things easy on me."

While Smith finished with 35, the only other double-figure scorer was senior Zach Eddy with 10. Chandler Lang added eight while Smith also pulled down eight missed shots.

"Shon (Smith) as a player is just such a fierce competitor," Liedtke, who also coaches the Cadets' girls added. "And sometimes I think he shines even more in bigger games.

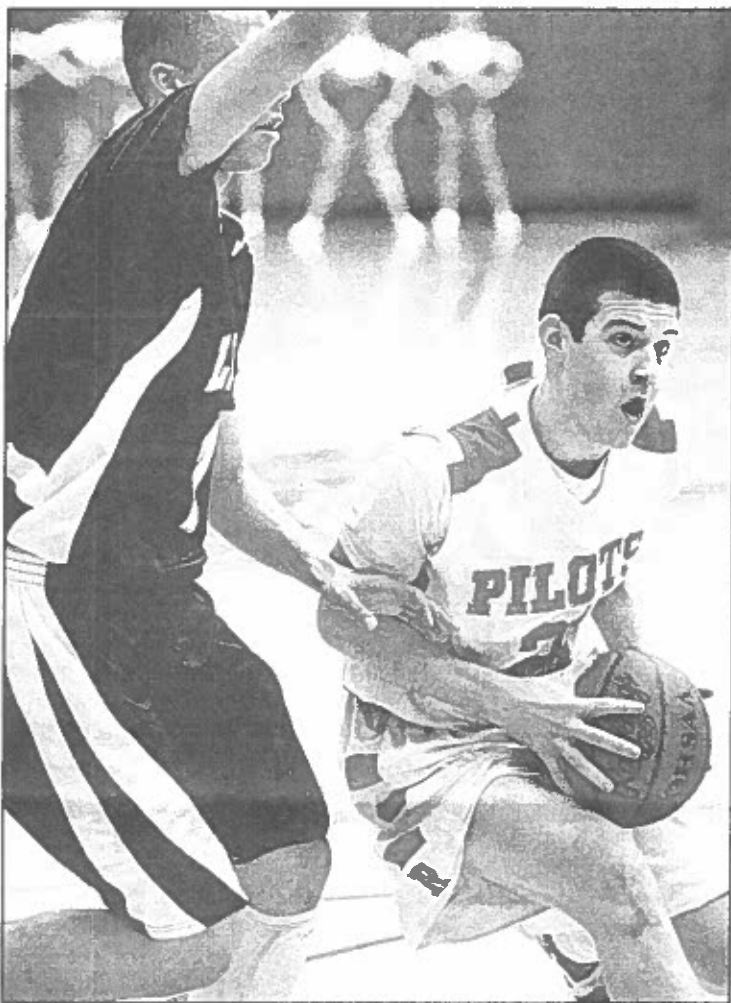
I know he took this one over (Saturday). He got some opportunities and I knew he was feeling it, so we just let him go."

Winters, a Class AA all-stater, finished with a team-high 16 tallies and 10 rebounds while Hunter Campbell also had a double-double coming off the bench with 12 points and 10 caroms. Stephen Rogalski chipped in 12 points, 10 of those coming in the third period, before a back injury slowed him down.

"I think the foul shooting speaks for itself and that is all I can say about that. I will put our OVAC officials up against any other officials, but I really think they had a rough patch (Saturday). Day in and day out, we have some great basketball officials," Tallman added.

"We won our first six and lost to a good Dayton Chaminade-Julienne team. Then we won six more and lost to my son's St. Marys Ryken team and now this game breaks a five-game winning streak. But I believe they exposed some weaknesses in our team and we will go to work on those."

Tallman's remark were in regards to the fact that the Cadets were 21 of 24 from the stripe while his Blue Eagles were a mere 1 of 4.



RIVER'S BRETT Price (21) makes a move to the basket as Linsly's Anthony Wallace defends Saturday afternoon.

T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

● River

Continued from Page C1

"They battled back and showed what they are made of. This was a great basketball game and a great atmosphere. That's what you want at this time of the year."

Linsly head coach James Wallace was very pleased with his team's performance.

"I feel really good for our guys. They've worked very hard in practice all season. We've come a long way with a young group," he lauded. "This is a great win for these kids, our fans and our program."

On the short end of a 37-23 count at the half, the Pilots turned it up a notch in the second half as they meshed five triples in the third period — four by Price — in slicing the deficit to 51-45 with eight minutes left to play.

"We just told the kids to keep shooting and that the shots would start falling," Romick said of his halftime address, "and they did. We shoot over 40 percent from the floor (on the season), so I guess it's the old adage 'shoot until you get hot.'"

Price was the hottest as the 6-1 junior drained back-to-back treys late in the third panel to bring River to within half-a-dozen.

"Brett got hot there and carried us a little," Romick said.

What also helped carry the Pilots back into the hard-fought contest was their work on the boards in the second half. Jordan Indermuhle tallied eight of his 17 points and grabbed half of his 14 rebounds after

the intermission. He also blocked five shots.

"Jordan also did a great job today," Romick allowed. "He really banged inside, especially in the second half, and I also thought he did a very good defensively on Akil (Blount)."

Blount, the oldest son of two that stars for Linsly, came into the game averaging 20 (points) and 10 (rebounds) but was only able to notch a dozen points and 10 boards.

However, coming up big in his place were Anthony Wallace and Akil's 6-4 freshman brother, Jibri. Wallace slashed his way to the basket for a Class 2A tournament-record 31 points and also grabbed 13 rebounds. The younger Blount finished with a career-high 16 points and 11 caroms.

"We knew Linsly was very athletic and we tried to simulate that in practice, but they are so athletic we couldn't handle it in the first half," Romick said. "We made some adjustments at the half, and they worked to get us back in the game with a chance late to win it. That's all you can ask as a coach."

River is back in action Thursday when it meets Bridgeport in Division IV sectional tournament action at Union Local High School. The game starts at 8 p.m.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● Madonna

Continued from Page C1

"We knew they were going to fastbreak ... kick it out and go and we prepared for it," Tolzda continued, "but not to the extent that they did it."

"They looked like a state championship team today and you've got to believe that they have a legitimate shot in West Virginia," Tolzda noted. "If they play like they did today, they just could be West Virginia state champs again."

Following the break in the action, Madonna's 6-6 senior Drazen Frankovich scored on the inside and then sophomore Ross Comis picked a Blue Devils' pocket and went in for an uncontested layup to push the margin back to 10, 66-56.

A Beallsville turnover ensued on the next trip down the floor and Frankovich and Comis combined for 8 of the next 12 points as Madonna start-

playmaker Nick Battista to Frankovich who sent the ball through the hoop with a two-handed slam.

Madonna head coach George Vargo thanked his counterpart for the compliment, but said his team still has a ways to go.

"We are just taking one game at a time. Today it was the OVAC Championship," Vargo offered. "I want to thank my team for playing a great game in winning back-to-back titles. It means a lot to our program."

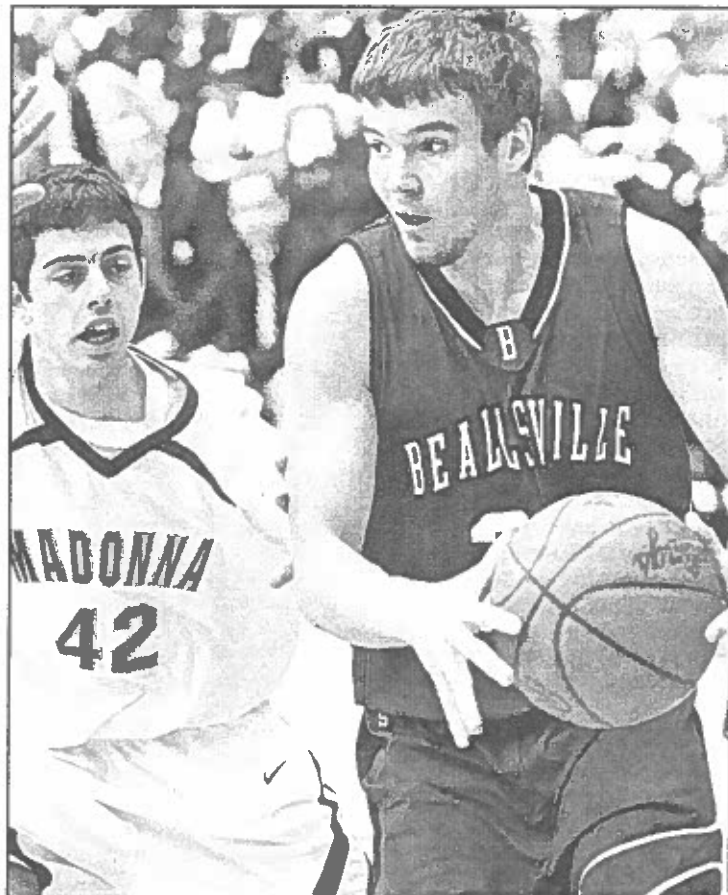
The game was deadlocked at 19 after one quarter before the Blue Dons, who avenged an earlier loss to the Blue Devils this season, took a 5-point, 39-34, lead into the lockerroom at the half.

Free-throw shooting kept the Blue Devils close as they meshed 15 of 16 in the first 16 minutes.

keep Beallsville at bay and defend their small-school title. The Blue Dons tickled the twine on 16 of 21 attempts in the second half, led by Comis with a perfect 10-for-10 performance.

Jarrett paced Beallsville with 13 points. Tyler Spence added a dozen and Gage Bates came off the bench to add 10. Comis led five Blue Dons, and all scorers, in double digits with 21. Frankovich finished with 20, followed by Division I signee Clay Rokisky (Cleveland State) with 14, Battista 13 and Daniel Pietranton with 11 off the bench.

Madonna had a commanding, 39-18, advantage off the glass as Rokisky had 11 and Frankovich 10. Battista added nine and five assists. Josh Baldrige had seven of Beallsville's rebounds. Spence had six and also charted four steals



BEALLSVILLE'S GRAHAMM Dauch (22) drives to the basket as Madonna's Daniel Pietranton defends Saturday morning.

T-L Photo/PAUL

capturing the AA title a season ago.

Meanwhile, Dave Tallman's squad drops to 17-3 and failed in its bid for a second straight 3A crown, but should still be a factor

49-46 reading, Liedtke's team never trailed again.

Beginning with Smith's free throw to convert the three-point play, the Cadets' final 16 points came from the charity stripe as

the rewards would come to them.

"I think it was real huge for us to stay close. We wanted to run the tempo and not let them start using their speed. And there is no question that championship teams make

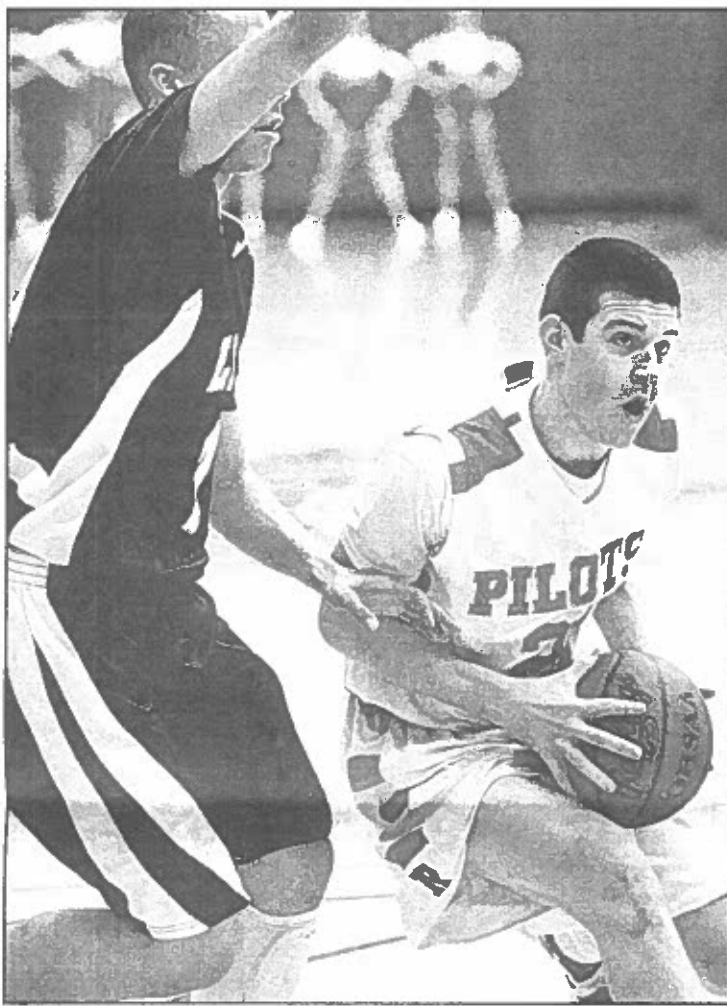
missed shots.

"Shon (Smith) as a player is just such a fierce competitor," Liedtke, who also coaches the Cadets' girls added. "And sometimes I think he shines even more in bigger games.

we will go to work on those."

Tallman's remark were in regards to the fact that the Cadets were 21 of 24 from the stripe while his Blue Eagles were a mere 1 of 4.

RIVER'S BRETT Price (21) makes a move to the basket as Linsly's Anthony Wallace defends Saturday afternoon.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

● Madonna

Continued from Page C1

"We knew they were going to fastbreak ... kick it out and go and we prepared for it," Tolzda continued. "but not to the extent that they did it."

"They looked like a state championship team today and you've got to believe that they have a legitimate shot in West Virginia," Tolzda noted. "If they play like they did today, they just could be West Virginia state champs again."

Following the break in the action, Madonna's 6-6 senior Drazen Frankovich scored on the inside and then sophomore Ross Comis picked a Blue Devils' pocket and went in for an uncontested layup to push the margin back to 10, 66-56.

A Beallsville turnover ensued on the next trip down the floor and Frankovich and Comis combined for 8 of the next 12 points as Madonna started to pull away for good.

The run was punctuated by a nifty behind-the-back pass from Madonna senior

playmaker Nick Battista to Frankovich who sent the ball through the hoop with a two handed slam.

Madonna head coach George Vargo thanked his counterpart for the compliment, but said his team still has a ways to go.

"We are just taking one game at a time. Today it was the OVAC Championship," Vargo offered. "I want to thank my team for playing a great game in winning back-to-back titles. It means a lot to our program."

The game was deadlocked at 19 after one quarter before the Blue Dons, who avenged an earlier loss to the Blue Devils this season, took a 5-point, 39-34, lead into the lockerroom at the half.

Free-throw shooting kept the Blue Devils in the lead as they meshed 15 of 16 in the first 16 minutes.

However, in the second half it was Madonna's accuracy from the charity stripe that allowed them to

keep Beallsville at bay and defend their small-school title. The Blue Dons tickled the twine on 16 of 21 attempts in the second half, led by Comis with a perfect 10-for-10 performance.

Jarrett paced Beallsville with 13 points. Tyler Spence added a dozen and Gage Bates came off the bench to add 10. Comis led five Blue Dons, and all scorers, in double digits with 21. Frankovich finished with 20, followed by Division I signee Clay Rokisky (Cleveland State) with 14, Battista 13 and Daniel Pietranton with 11 off the bench.

Madonna had a commanding, 39-18, advantage off the glass as Rokisky had 11 and Frankovich 10. Battista added nine and five assists. Josh Baldrige had seven of Beallsville's rebounds. Spence had six and also charted four steals and four assists.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● River

Continued from Page C1

"They battled back and showed what they are made of. This was a great basketball game and a great atmosphere. That's what you want at this time of the year."

Linsly head coach James Wallace was very pleased with his team's performance.

"I feel really good for our guys. They've worked very hard in practice all season. We've come a long way with a young group," he lauded. "This is a great win for these kids, our fans and our program."

On the short end of a 37-23 count at the half, the Pilots turned it up a notch in the second half as they meshed five triples in the third period — four by Price — in slicing the deficit to 51-45 with eight minutes left to play.

"We just told the kids to keep shooting and that the shots would start falling," Romick said of his halftime address, "and they did. We shoot over 40 percent from the floor (on the season), so I guess it's the old adage 'shoot until you get hot.'"

Price was the hottest as the 6-1 junior drained back-to-back treys late in the third period to bring River to within half-a-dozen.

"Brett got hot there and carried us a little," Romick said.

What also helped carry the Pilots back into the hard-fought contest was their work on the boards in the second half. Jordan Indermuhle tallied eight of his 17 points and grabbed half of his 14 rebounds after

the intermission. He also blocked five shots.

"Jordan also did a great job today," Romick allowed. "He really banged inside, especially in the second half, and I also thought he did a very good defensively on Akil (Blount)."

Blount, the oldest son of two that stars for Linsly, came into the game averaging 20 (points) and 10 (rebounds) but was only able to notch a dozen points and 10 boards.

However, coming up big in his place were Anthony Wallace and Akil's 6-4 freshman brother, Jibri. Wallace slashed his way to the basket for a Class 2A tournament-record 31 points and also grabbed 13 rebounds. The younger Blount finished with a career-high 16 points and 11 rebounds.

"We knew Linsly was very athletic and we tried to simulate that in practice, but they are so athletic we couldn't handle it in the first half," Romick said. "We made some adjustments at the half, and they worked to get us back in the game with a chance late to win it. That's all you can ask as a coach."

River is back in action Thursday when it meets Bridgeport in Division IV sectional tournament action at Union Local High School. The game starts at 8 p.m.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com



BEALLSVILLE'S GRAHAMM Dauch (22) drives to the basket as Madonna's Daniel Pietranton defends Saturday morning.

T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

JACOB AND SONS
QUALITY MEATS

306 Center Street
Martins Ferry, OH
(740) 633-3091

www.jacobandsonsmeats.com

JEFF'S
AUTO BODY & COLLISION CENTER

- Collision Repair
- Refinishing • Touch Ups

APPROVED BY ALL MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

St. Clairsville Area's
Largest Independent
Collision Repair
Facility

(740) 695-5875

Jeff Ross - Owner

JENKINS SPORTING GOODS

(740) 695-9300

Main St.,
St. Clairsville

STATE FARM INSURANCE

GOOD JOB
BEALLSVILLE & RIVER!

TIM BLUE

232 South Main St. Suite A,
Woodsfield, OH
(740) 472-1381
tim.blue.lzkl@statefarm.com

Serving Eastern Ohio
Since 1887

WOODSFIELD SAVINGS BANK

- HOME MORTGAGES
- CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
- AUTO LENDING

600 Lewisville Road
472-1641
www.woodsfieldsavings.com
Mon.-Wed. 9-4, Thur. & Sat. 9-12
Friday 9-6

FDIC

GOOD JOB BLUE DEVILS & PILOTS!

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND

BUY ONE GET ONE
50% OFF
ENTIRE STORE

VELOCITY

OHIO VALLEY MALL
740-526-0865

Funkhouser Bros. Construction
Masonry, Contracting, Roofing & Excavating
(740) 695-0088

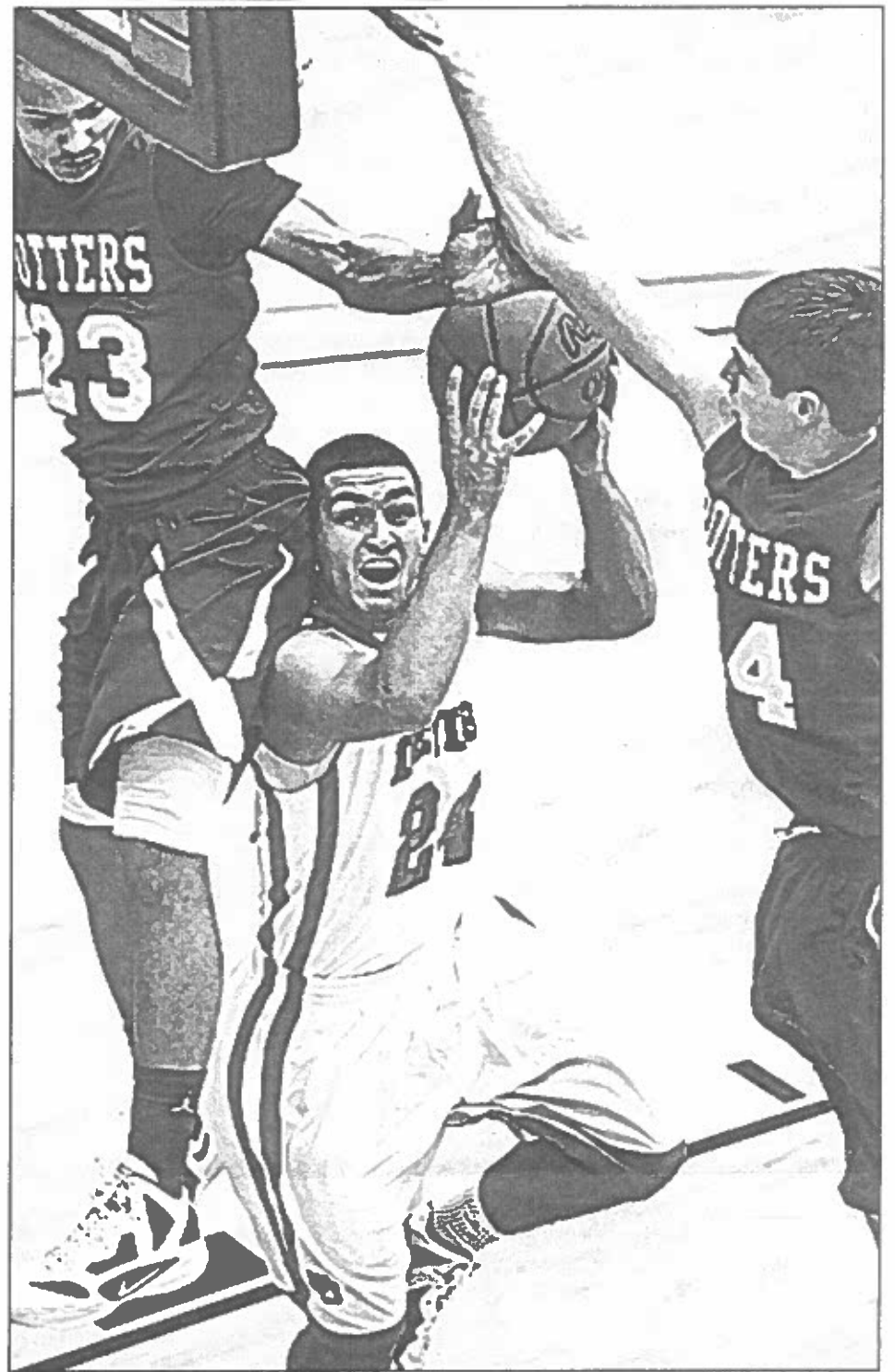
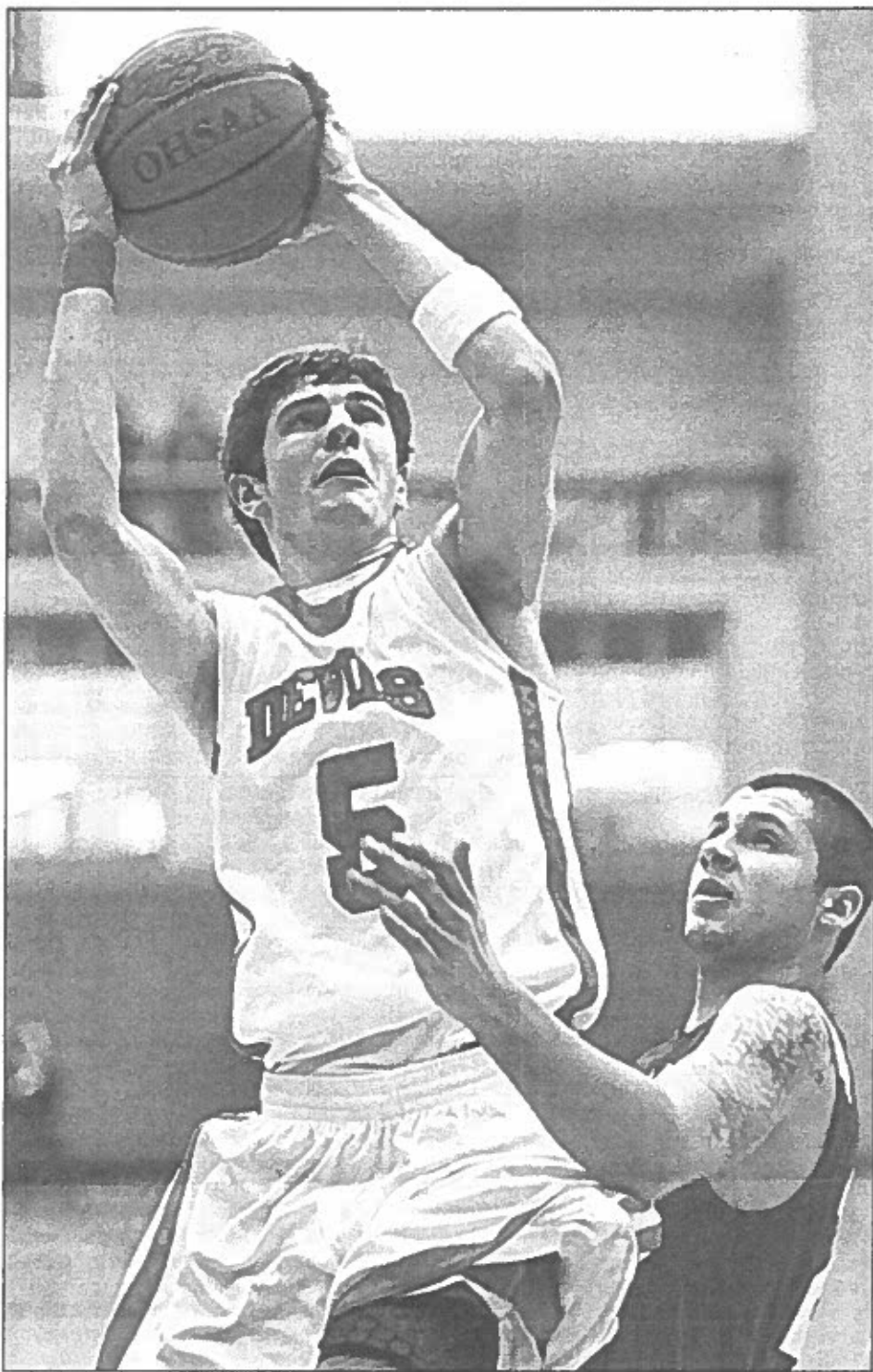
Fully Insured & Licensed

Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President and CEO
Murray Energy Corporation

and our independent operating subsidiaries are proud to provide Ohio with:

- 1,326 local high-paying direct jobs that support up to 15,000 secondary jobs • Nearly \$100 million in wages and benefits each year
- More than \$200 million annually in supplies, capital expenditures, infrastructure creation and taxes to local, state and federal agencies
- A commitment to safety that is second-to-none

American Energy Corporation • The Ohio Valley Coal Company
OhioAmerica Energy Inc. • The Ohio Valley Transloading Company



T-L Photos/PAUL KRAJNYAK

LEFT: St. Clairsville's Dan Monteroso (5) rises over an East Liverpool defender for two of his game-high 33 points Saturday night in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.
RIGHT: The Red Devils' Riley Carleton (24) splits a pair of East Liverpool defenders during Saturday night's contest. St. Clairsville prevailed for their first-ever OVAC boys' basketball title. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Devils

Continued from Page C1

While the final score was a convincing margin, there were certainly some moments of trepidation before the final buzzer.

"I think our mental toughness paid off," Clifford said. "We're not really physically imposing, but we're a very gritty team. I thought we were much more relaxed on both ends of the court in the second half."

The Red Devils went to the intermission nursing a 28-25 lead, after scoring just nine points in the second quarter.

"(East Liverpool) tightened up their defense in the second (quarter)," Clifford said. "We struggled to get into a rhythm and we didn't hit shots that we normally hit."

The Potters actually took the lead for one possession in the second half at 35-34 and the game was also knotted at 40, but the Red Devils took over from there.

St. C., which connected on 10 three-point goals in the contest, closed the third quarter with a 10-2 run and seemingly never looked back.

Coming into the game, East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley was concerned about the Red Devils' shooting ability.

"We've not defended the three very well all season," Conley admitted.

Junior sharp shooter Riley Carlton scored eight of his 15 in the third, while Monteroso scored seven. Rugged junior forward Joel Giffin, who seldom shoots let alone scores, buried two

this was actually a total team effort," Clifford said. "Adam (Jeffries) hit some big shots early, Riley hit shots. Joel threw two shots in and J. Mar (Jerrid Marhefka) carried us late."

Marhefka, who hadn't scored, delivered six straight points during the fourth quarter after Marky Thompkins had tallied for the Potters to make it a 54-48 contest.

"Those were big shots when we needed them," Clifford said. "There were times when we could have folded, but we just shook our heads and got back to business. East Liverpool is a well-coached, talented team. They were everything I thought they would be."

Marhefka's flurry began a 17-0 run, which pushed the margin to 71-48. The run included a steady

stream of Monteroso foul shots. He drilled 10 straight in the fourth. All told, Monteroso made good on 16-of-17 at the line.

"We knew (St. Clairsville) was good and Monteroso is very good," said Conley. "We've got some district and OVAC meetings (on Sunday), and I am thinking he's got to be the district and OVAC Player of the Year."

The Potters never threatened in the fourth after Thompson, the talented senior guard, was disqualified with five fouls with nearly seven minutes to play.

"We were in severe foul trouble," Conley said. "I thought there were some questionable calls. Again, I am not taking anything away from St. Clairsville, but I thought the officials

should have let the kids play more because there was never a really good flow to the game. But, for us, this is just another regular season game and now we'll move on to the tournament."

There's a chance the Red Devils and Potters could meet with a trip to Athens for the Division II regional on the line in a few weeks on the very same OUE floor.

"We'll learn from this, and we feel we'll see St. Clairsville again," Conley said.

Monteroso's scoring production was complemented by 12 rebounds. Carlton, who Conley raved about during his post-game speech, and junior Adam Jeffries each had 15 points. Jeffries came up huge in the first quarter, drilling a trio

of triples. Marhefka finished with 11.

East Liverpool was led by Zack English and Hayden Cunningham, who went for 15 and 14, respectively. Thompson and post Mow Mow Thompson finished with 12 combined points, which was well below their average.

The Potters (17-3) finished with 38 rebounds and 11 turnovers. St. Clairsville

snagged 30 boards and were charted for 10 turnovers.

The win caps an 18-2 regular season for the Red Devils, who have an extended break.

They return to OUE on March 1 to take on Meadowbrook in Division II sectional play.

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

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND

BUY ONE GET ONE

50% OFF

ENTIRE STORE

VELOCITY

OHIO VALLEY MALL
 740-526-0865

EVERHART-BOVE FUNERAL HOMES

- Funerals • Cremations
- Pre-Arranged Funerals

Daniel B. Bove, Jr.
 Funeral Director

Go Creek!

Wintersville-264-5252
 Richmond-765-5252
 Bergholz-768-2271

WATER TRANSPORT

It's All In Good Taste

Free Installation & Service
 Residential & Commercial

100 Sammi Dr.
 Hopedale, OH 43976

(740) 264-9999
 (800) 875-9909

Monday thru Friday,
 9am - 5pm

Established 1896
 115 Years

SANDS ELECTRIC

52 Eighteenth St., Wheeling, WV
304-233-3030

Hours:
 Mon-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"A Full Line Distributor
 Serving The Ohio Valley
 For 115 Years."

- Cutler-Hammer Loadcenters
- Progress Lighting

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND

BUY ONE GET ONE

50% OFF

ENTIRE STORE

VELOCITY

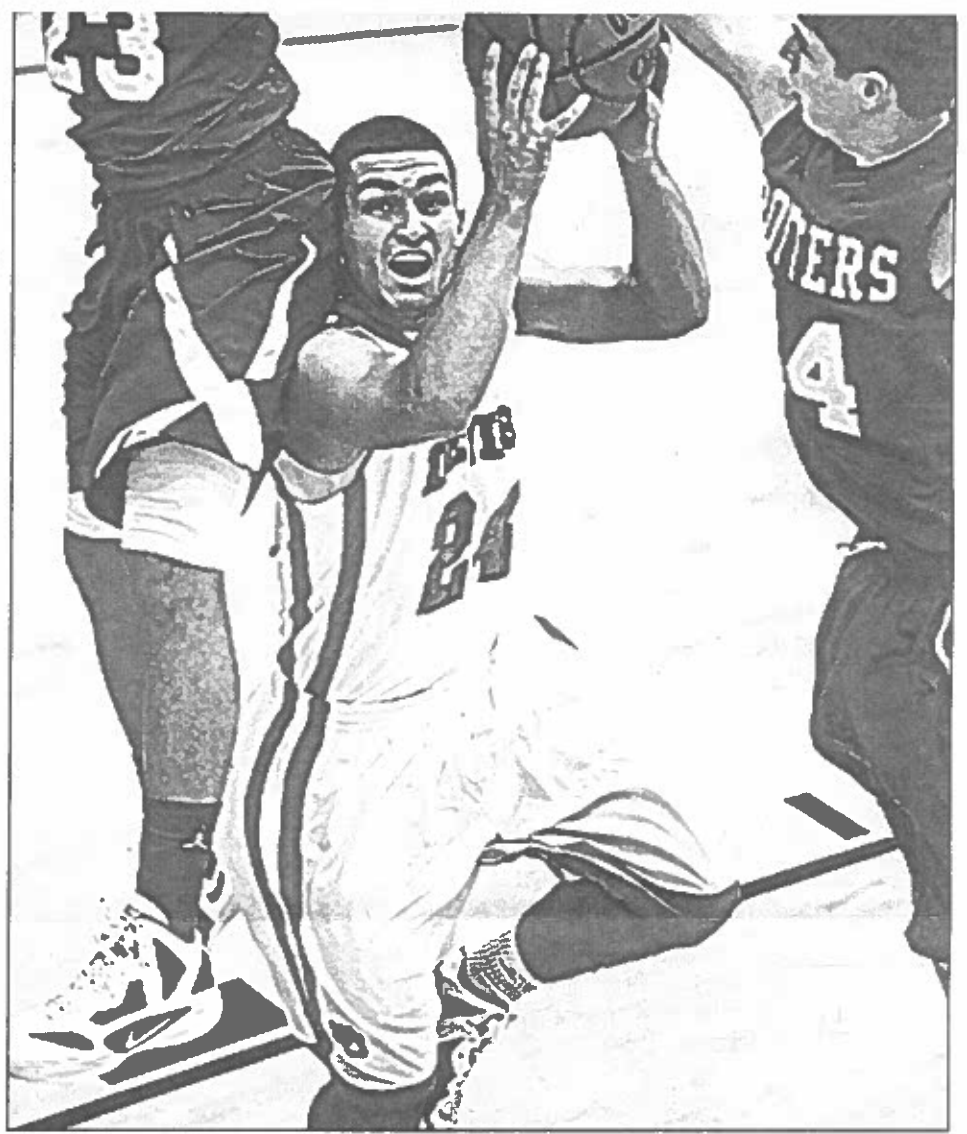
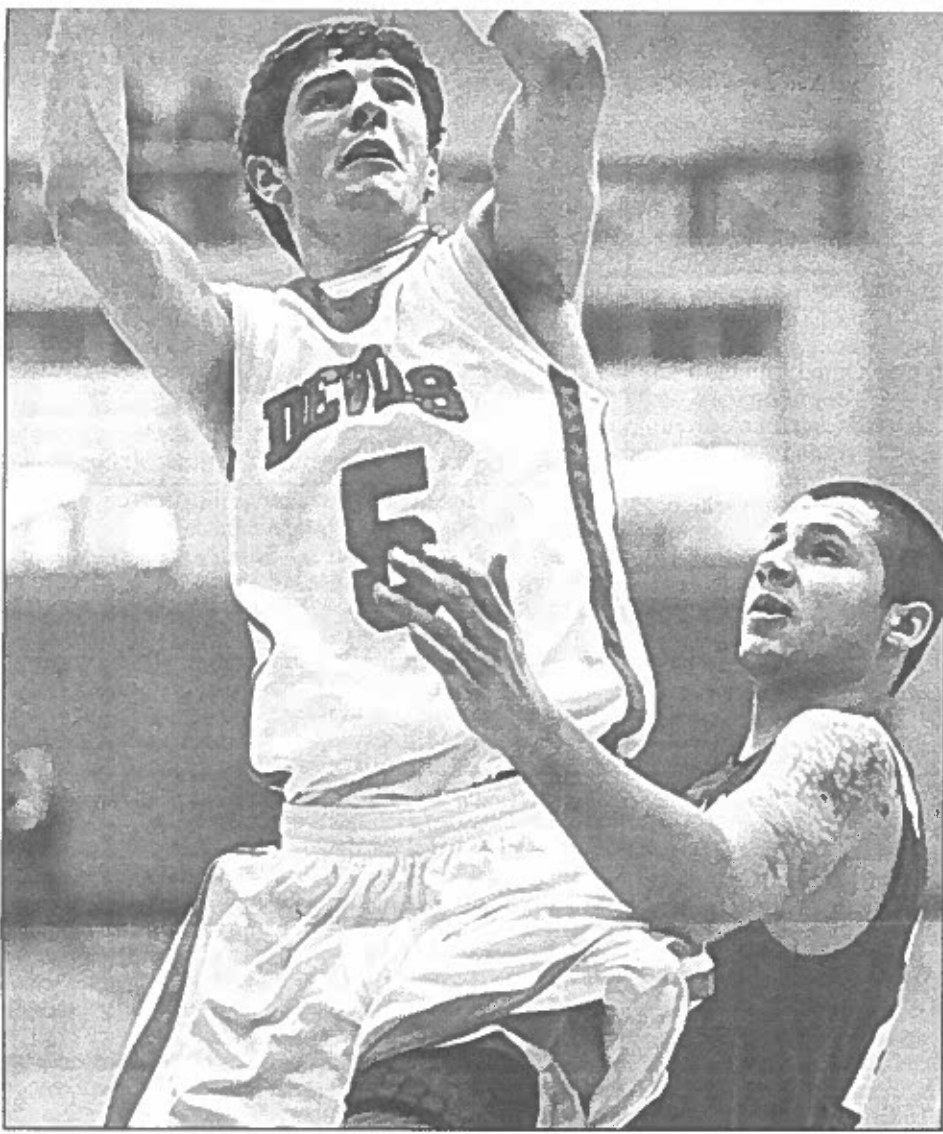
OHIO VALLEY MALL
 740-526-0865

GOOD JOB REDSKINS!

Marley's
 ITALIAN RESTAURANT

DON'T FORGET TO STOP IN THE LOUNGE!

3806 Main Street, Weirton, West Virginia



T-L Photos/PAUL KRAJNYAK

LEFT: St. Clairsville's Dan Monteroso (5) rises over an East Liverpool defender for two of his game-high 33 points Saturday night in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

RIGHT: The Red Devils' Riley Carleton (24) splits a pair of East Liverpool defenders during Saturday night's contest. St. Clairsville prevailed for their first-ever OVAC boys' basketball title. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Devils

Continued from Page C1

While the final score was a convincing margin, there were certainly some moments of trepidation before the final buzzer.

"I think our mental toughness paid off," Clifford said. "We're not really physically imposing, but we're a very gritty team. I thought we were much more relaxed on both ends of the court in the second half."

The Red Devils went to the intermission nursing a 28-25 lead, after scoring just nine points in the second quarter.

"(East Liverpool) tightened up their defense in the second (quarter)," Clifford said. "We struggled to get into a rhythm and we didn't hit shots that we normally hit."

The Potters actually took the lead for one possession in the second half at 35-34 and the game was also knotted at 40, but the Red Devils took over from there.

St. C., which connected on 10 three-point goals in the contest, closed the third quarter with a 10-2 run and seemingly never looked back.

Coming into the game, East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley was concerned about the Red Devils' shooting ability.

"We've not defended the three very well all season," Conley admitted.

Junior sharp shooter Riley Carlton scored eight of his 15 in the third, while Monteroso scored seven. Rugged junior forward Joel Giffin, who seldom shoots let alone scores, buried two medium range jumpers, which were big during the stretch.

"I know it's a cliché, but

this was actually a total team effort," Clifford said. "Adam (Jeffries) hit some big shots early, Riley hit shots, Joel threw two shots in and J. Mar (Jerrid Marhefka) carried us late."

Marhefka, who hadn't scored, delivered six straight points during the fourth quarter after Marky Thompkins had tallied for the Potters to make it a 54-48 contest.

"Those were big shots when we needed them," Clifford said. "There were times when we could have folded, but we just shook our heads and got back to business. East Liverpool is a well-coached, talented team. They were everything I thought they would be."

Marhefka's flurry began a 17-0 run, which pushed the margin to 71-48. The run included a steady

stream of Monteroso foul shots. He drilled 10 straight in the fourth. All told, Monteroso made good on 16-of-17 at the line.

"We knew (St. Clairsville) was good and Monteroso is very good," said Conley. "We've got some district and OVAC meetings (on Sunday), and I am thinking he's got to be the district and OVAC Player of the Year."

The Potters never threatened in the fourth after Thompson, the talented senior guard, was disqualified with five fouls with nearly seven minutes to play.

"We were in severe foul trouble," Conley said. "I thought there were some questionable calls. Again, I am not taking anything away from St. Clairsville, but I thought the officials

should have let the kids play more because there was never a really good flow to the game. But, for us, this is just another regular season game and now we'll move on to the tournament."

There's a chance the Red Devils and Potters could meet with a trip to Athens for the Division II regional on the line in a few weeks on the very same OUE floor.

"We'll learn from this, and we feel we'll see St. Clairsville again," Conley said.

Monteroso's scoring production was complemented by 12 rebounds. Carlton, who Conley raved about during his post-game speech, and junior Adam Jeffries each had 15 points. Jeffries came up huge in the first quarter, drilling a trio

of triples. Marhefka finished with 11.

East Liverpool was led by Zack English and Hayden Cunningham, who went for 15 and 14, respectively. Thompson and post Mow Mow Thompson finished with 12 combined points, which was well below their average.

The Potters (17-3) finished with 38 rebounds and 11 turnovers. St. Clairsville

snagged 30 boards and were charted for 10 turnovers.

The win caps an 18-2 regular season for the Red Devils, who have an extended break.

They return to OUE on March 1 to take on Meadowbrook in Division II sectional play.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND

BUY ONE GET ONE

50% OFF

ENTIRE STORE

VELOCITY

OHIO VALLEY MALL
740-526-0865

EVERHART-BOVE FUNERAL HOMES

- Funerals • Cremations
- Pre-Arranged Funerals

Daniel B. Bove, Jr.
Funeral Director

Go Creek!

Wintersville-264-5252
Richmond-765-5252
Bergholz-768-2271

WATER TRANSPORT

It's All In Good Taste

Free Installation & Service
Residential & Commercial

100 Sammi Dr.
Hopedale, OH 43976

(740) 264-9999
(800) 875-9909

Monday thru Friday,
9am - 5pm

Established 1896
115 Years

SANDS ELECTRIC

52 Eighteenth St., Wheeling, WV
304-233-3030

Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"A Full Line Distributor
Serving The Ohio Valley
For 115 Years."

- Cutler-Hammer Loadcenters
- Progress Lighting

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
FEBRUARY 16TH-22ND

BUY ONE GET ONE

50% OFF

ENTIRE STORE

VELOCITY

OHIO VALLEY MALL
740-526-0865

GOOD JOB REDSKINS!

from

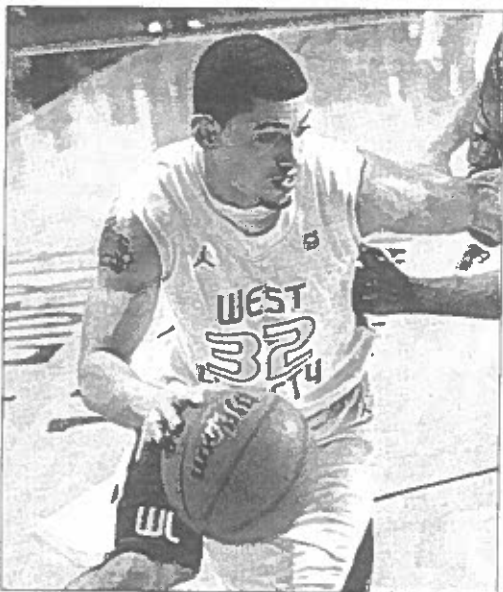
Indian Creek Athletic Dept.

Mario's
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

DON'T FORGET TO STOP IN THE LOUNGE!

3806 Main Street, Weirton, West Virginia
304-748-1179
www.mariodicarlos.com

Mario's opens at 11:30 Mon.-Fri., 3:00 Sat. & 12:00 Sun.



West Liberty's Cedric Harris drives to the hoop Saturday against Glenville State.

WLU Photo

WLU Likely To Be Back at No. 1

Crutchfield captures 200th coaching victory

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

WEST LIBERTY — West Liberty coach Jim Crutchfield called a timeout two-thirds of the way through the second half Saturday for a bit of impromptu instruction concerning the way a team should play down the stretch when it has the lead in a close game.

"I had to make sure they understood 'hold the ball' didn't mean do it for 7 seconds," the eighth-year coach said with a chuckle.

Well, in the team's defense,

Coach, it's not like game film for such situations is readily available on the hilltop. It just doesn't happen very often.

West Liberty (25-1 overall, 20-0 West Virginia Conference) took Glenville State's best shot at the ASRC before pulling away for a 103-88 victory. It was the Hilltoppers' 60th consecutive regular-season conference victory, and their 42nd in a row against WVC foes on the home floor.

Oh, and in a program that keeps churning out never-before-seen numbers, there's this one: Crutchfield won his 200th career game against 41 defeats, becoming the second-fastest to that milestone in

league history. Only legendary Fairmont coach Joe Retton (231 games) did it faster.

"That's 200 wins for the whole program, not just for one man," Crutchfield said. "You can't win 200 games without having good assistant coaches and good players in your program and that's certainly been the case here."

"I'm just proud to be part of that program."

His program is likely to earn another distinction when the latest NCAA Division II rankings are unveiled next week. With a loss Thursday by No. 1 Bellarmine, the

See, WLU, Page B4

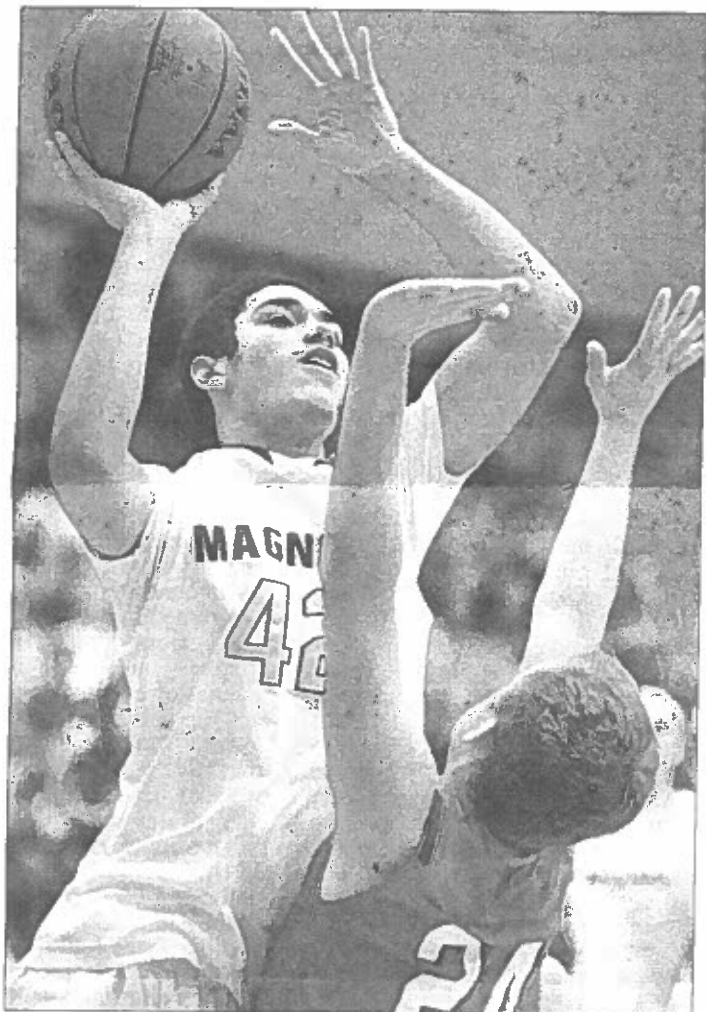


Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Magnolia's Hunter Campbell takes a shot over Fort Frye's Zach Eddy during action of their game.

Fort Frye Takes Out Magnolia

Free throws are key for Cadets

CLASS 3A

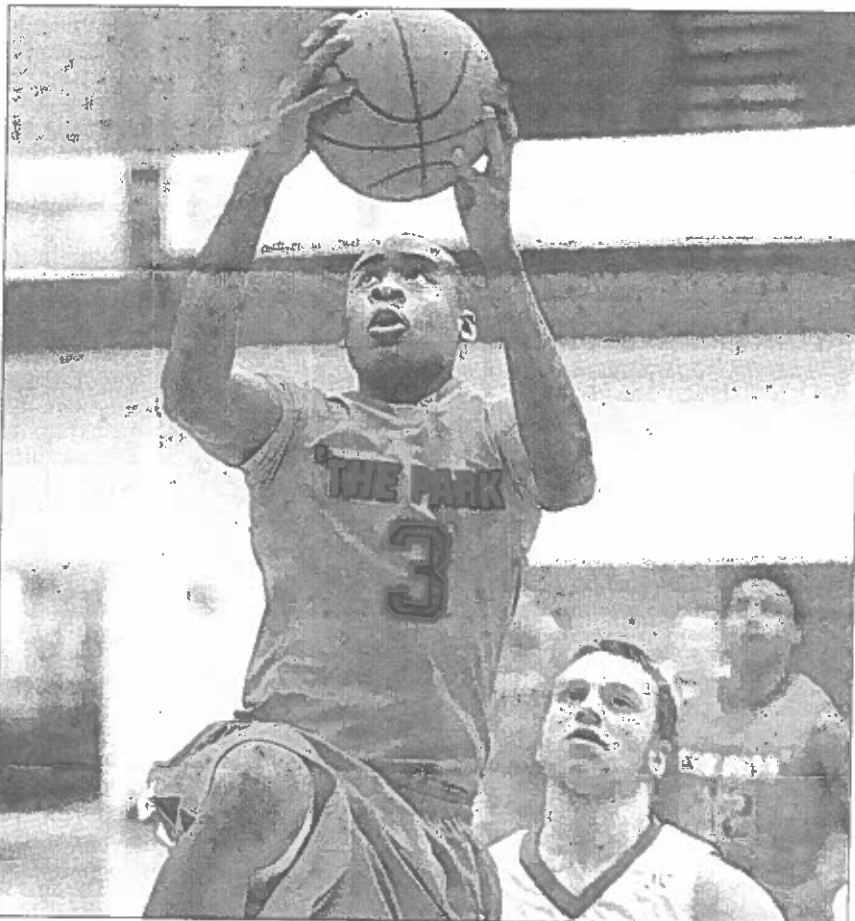
By TRACY WATSON
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — If you dissect the box score of a close, back-and-forth basketball game, more often than not you will find that the team that eventually won was more proficient from the free-throw

line.

In a game that featured 18 lead changes and five ties Saturday afternoon between Fort Frye and Magnolia, it was the Cadets who had the glaring advantage from the charity stripe and were able to cash in another OVAC championship.

See, Fort Frye, Page B2

Wheeling Park Captures Another Big School Crown



Wheeling Park's Errin Baynes goes up for two as Indian Creek's Blake Roar trails the play during action of the OVAC Class 5A Championship game Saturday night at OUE.

Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Jebbia's Club has won 4 straight OVAC Finals

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — In a week that saw Wheeling Park take down the top two ranked teams in West Virginia on the road, a game against Indian Creek almost looked like a mismatch on paper.

It was anything but.

Wheeling Park came away with a fourth consecutive OVAC big-school championship, winning the Class 5A title with a 51-45 victory against a feisty Redskins team that never backed down and

More Champs

Madonna and St. Clairsville also capture crowns/B2-B3.

never gave in.

"We knew what we were getting into," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "I thought in the second quarter, we sped them up a little bit to get a little bit of a cushion and they never really recovered."

"They kept coming though. We'd get it up to eight or 10 and then they would make a run."

CLASS 5A

Wheeling Park (16-5) changed its defense throughout the game but had the most success with its press in the second quarter.

The Patriots forced seven Redskins turnovers in the span, taking a seven-point lead into halftime.

Wheeling Park led by 10 heading into the fourth and grabbed its largest lead as Boo

See, Park, Page B5

Linsly Holds off Furious Rally By River to Claim 2A Title

Pilots battle back from down 20

CLASS 2A

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Withstanding an incredible River rally from a 20-point deficit to where the Pilots had an opportunity at winning the game in the final seconds, the Linsly boys' basketball team

hung on to capture the Wheeling Hospital/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A Tournament championship Saturday afternoon on the Ohio University Eastern campus.

Cody Caldwell's 3-pointer from the right baseline trimmed Linsly's once seemingly insurmountable advantage to 67-64 with 1:07 to play. It became a two-point deficit at the 35-second mark after Caldwell hit 1 of 2 attempts from the foul line

and the Pilots got the ball back again by forcing a second straight Cadets turnover.

River had a chance to take the lead for the first time but Caldwell and Brett Price both missed 3-point attempts before Cadets freshman Jibri Blount was fouled while pulling down the rebound with 10 seconds remaining.

Shooting the double-bonus, Blount netted just the second shot for a three-point Linsly lead. Before the Pilots could even get off an attempt at a game-tying shot, Cadets sophomore Anthony Wallace stripped Caldwell of the ball, was immediately fouled and buried both shots to wrap up a 70-65 Linsly victory.

The late defensive stop and subsequent free throws capped off a brilliant day for Wallace,

who set an OVAC 2A championship game tournament record by scoring 31 points. The previous mark of 25 points was shared by Shadyside's Jared Andes and Linsly's Cody Campbell during the 2008 title game, won in triple overtime by the Tigers.

Wallace's standout game saw him pull down 13 rebounds and collect four steals as the Cadets

See, Linsly, Page B3

FORT FRYE

Continued from page B1

Junior sharpshooter Shon Smith scored 19 of his all-class tournament record 35 points in the fourth quarter, including hitting all 11 of his free throws, and Fort Frye set a mark with 21 made freebies on their way to a 64-51 victory against Magnolia in the Class 3A title tilt at Ohio University Eastern.

The victory allowed Coach Dan Liedtke's 16-3 team to become the first to win boys' basketball championships in two classes after capturing the 2A title a season ago.

Meanwhile, Dave Tallman's squad dropped to 17-3 and failed in its bid for a second straight 3A crown.

"This is a great tournament and the OVAC does an amazing job with it," Tallman said. "But our goal is to win a West Virginia state championship, and I think overall this means just a little bit more to the Ohio schools because it is tougher for them to get there (state tournament)."

The first half had 12 lead changes and two ties with Fort Frye's biggest advantage coming at 5-2 while Magnolia twice led by four in the opening quarter, 9-5 and 11-7.

The Blue Eagles owned period leads of 13-12 and 25-24 at the break. It was more of the same in the third quarter, however, a Mark Winters hoop at 2:24 did cap an 8-0 run and gave Magnolia its biggest lead, 38-33.

It stood at 41-38 in favor of Magnolia after three quarters and was still 46-46 with 4:36 to play before Smith helped put things away for the Cadets. A conventional three-point play at 3:39 equaled Fort Frye's biggest advantage, to that point, and with a 49-46

reading, Liedtke's team never trailed again.

Beginning with Smith's free throw to convert the three-point play, the Cadets' final 16 points came from the free-throw line as they nailed 16 of 17 in the final 3:39 of play.

Magnolia did get a banked-in 3-pointer from Jayson Keller with 51 seconds showing, but overall the Cadets outscored the Eagles by an 18-5 margin down the stretch.

"I know that there were a lot of people who felt we didn't have a chance in this one," Liedtke said. "But we have a tradition of taking on all challenges. We put in a lot of hard work on details every day in practice."

"We have been playing very well recently, and I told the kids that if they go out and do well on all the things we have worked on, the rewards would come to them."

"I think it was real huge for us to stay close. We wanted to run the tempo and not let them start using their speed. And there is no question that championship teams make free throws, but if it had been up to me, I would have liked to run more clock."

"Our goal was to hold the ball and shoot layups, but when the other team is fouling you have to put them in and we did that. These kids have such big hearts and are gym rats. They are just super good kids."

While Smith finished with 35, the only other double-figure scorer was senior Zach Eddy with 10. Chandler Lang added eight while Smith also pulled down eight missed shots.

"Shon (Smith) as a player is just such a fierce competitor," Liedtke, who also coaches the Cadets' girls,

added. "And sometimes I think he shines even more in bigger games. I know he took this one over. He got some opportunities and I knew he was feeling it, so we just let him go."

Winters, a Class AA all-stater, finished with a team-high 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Hunter Campbell also had a double-double coming off the bench with 12 points and 10 caroms. Stephen Rogalski chipped in 12 points — 10 of those coming in the third — before a back injury slowed him down.

"The fans really got their money's worth with this one," Tallman said. "I think we just picked the wrong day to try and pick on (Shon) Smith. And the thing is that he had two great defenders on him for most of the game."

"I think the foul shooting speaks for itself and that is all I can say about that. I will put our OVAC officials up against any other officials, but I really think they had a rough patch (Saturday). Day in and day out, we have some great basketball officials."

"We won our first six and lost to a good Dayton Chaminade-Julienne team. Then we won six more and lost to my son's St. Marys Ryken team and now this game breaks a five-game winning streak. But I believe they exposed some weaknesses in our team and we will go to work on those."

"The bottom line is that we want to win the last game of the season (state championship) and we feel like we can do that."

Tallman's remark regarding the officiating was in regard to the fact that the Cadets were 21 of 24 from the stripe while his Blue Eagles were a mere 1 of 4.

Liedtke, meanwhile, had little time to celebrate, needing to leave OUE right away and head to Cambridge where his girls' team was playing in an Ohio Sectional game.

The longtime boys' coach, however, did agree with one thing Tallman mentioned.

"It is really great to win OVAC championships, especially in Class AA and now AAA," he said. "(Tallman) is right, not only is it a very tough road to the state tournament in Ohio, it is a rough road just to get to the regionals. That is just so big, and if you are lucky enough to get past the regional, well that is huge."

OVAC Cheerleading CHAMPIONSHIP



Saturday, Feb. 4
at WesBanco Arena

TELEVISED ON
FEBRUARY 18TH
2 P.M.



Wheeling Hospital OVAC
Basketball Championships
Ohio University Eastern Campus



At The Finals . . .
One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of

THE HEALTH PLAN



Schedule / Media Coverage

GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 11 at OUE

1A: 9:30 AM • 2A: 12:15 PM • 3A: 3:00PM • 4A: 5:45 PM 5A: 8:30 PM

BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 18 at OUE

1A: 9:30 AM • 2A: 12:15 PM • 3A: 3:00PM • 4A: 5:45 PM 5A: 8:30 PM

Girls'/Boys' Games will air on Me-TV as follows:

GIRLS' TV SCHEDULE:

5 A	2/13/12	8 pm
4 A	2/14/12	8 pm
3 A	2/15/12	8 pm
2 A	2/16/12	8 pm
1 A	2/17/12	8 pm

BOYS' TV SCHEDULE:

5 A	2/20/12	8 pm
4A	2/21/12	8 pm
3A	2/22/12	8 pm
2A	2/23/12	8 pm
1A	2/24/12	8 pm

all games live on WKKX 1600 AM

OVAC CORPORATE PARTNERS:



MURRAY ENERGY CORPORATION
29325 Chagrin Boulevard, Suite 300
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44122

Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President & CEO

Murray Energy Corporation and our independent operating subsidiaries are proud to provide Ohio with:

- 1,326 local high-paying direct jobs that support up to 15,000 secondary jobs
- Nearly \$100 million in wages and benefits each year
- More than \$200 million annually in supplies, capital expenditures, infrastructure creation and taxes to local, state and federal agencies
- A commitment to safety that is second-to-none

• American Energy Corporation • The Ohio Valley Coal Company • OhioAmerican Energy, Inc. • The Ohio Valley Tranzloading Company

LINSLY

Continued from page B1

finished off their season with a 13-8 record that included seven victories in their last nine games.

"This is a great day for our school and our program but all the credit goes to the guys (seated) behind me," Linsly coach James Wallace said of his players. "River has such a great shooting team. We knew they would make a run. Our guys hung in there and made enough plays down the stretch to finish the game."

Although the Pilots came up on the short end of the scoreboard in this spellbinder that had the big crowd supporting both schools on their feet through most of the fourth quarter, River coach Mark Romick couldn't say enough about the all-out effort of his players.

"We came out in the first half a little bit sluggish and didn't shoot the ball real well," Romick said. "At any point after we got down like that, we could have folded. But our kids battled back and played with a lot of heart and showed what they were made of."

"Our fan support was great. It reminded me of the days when Coach (Dick) Potts was at our school and the gym was full every night. The atmosphere gave me goose bumps."

River falls to 14-6 just ahead of sectional play.

"You have to take things in stride," Romick said. "We dug ourselves a hole, got out of it and battled back to where we had a shot at it. That is all you can ask of yourself at the end of a great game like this."

"We have no seniors on our team and playing in a game like this was a great learning experience. Linsly has a great basketball team. What we get out of it may determine how far we go in the postseason."

The Cadets came out of the starting block red hot, scoring the first seven points as Jibri Blount hit a putback shot and Wallace racked up five straight points with a conventional three-point play and then adding a runner forcing River to call time out 1:31 into the game.

The Pilots scored the next four points on baskets from Jordan Indermuhle and Caldwell but, as was the case nearly every time River made a move at catching up, Anthony Wallace answered for the Cadets.

His trifecta from the left sideline and transition basket a minute later helped Linsly open the lead to 16-8 heading into the second quarter.

Limiting River (14-6) to just one shot underneath the glass most of the first half, the Cadets blew out to a 37-17 bulge late in

the second quarter. The Pilots then showed some signs of life with back-to-back 3-pointers from Price and Chad Isaly that cut the deficit to 37-23 at the half.

Price came back and drained four shots from behind the arc in the third quarter, including a pair right at the end that pulled the Pilots to within 51-45 with 8 minutes remaining.

When Caldwell gunned in still another 3-pointer from the left baseline, suddenly it was a 51-48 game. River quickly got a chance for a tie but Price was unable to hit the target with this 3-point attempt this time. Indermuhle, a game-long standout offensively and defensively for the Pilots, scored eight points and Caldwell added seven in the final quarter to keep the Pilots alive.

Jibri Blount's seven points and Wallace's six points were just enough for Linsly to maintain the lead.

The 6-foot-5 Indermuhle's 17 points, 14 rebounds, five blocked shots and some excellent defensive work playing Linsly senior Akil Blount brought the Pilots back. Akil Blount struggled shooting the ball, hitting 2 of 14 shots but still finished with eight points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

"Jordan does a great job body-

ing people inside and he is long-armed which helped him a lot," Romick said.

Price's 21 points paced the Pilots scoring, while Isaly had 14 coming off the bench and Caldwell finished with 13.

Anthony Wallace was supported by Jibri Blount's 17 points, 11 rebounds and three steals.

"We knew River would try and take Akil away," James Wallace said. "Their pressure disrupted our rhythm a little but we've got some mentally tough kids. We missed some opportunities at the rim that might have kept the game from getting close and I thought we made a few decisions that weren't great. I kept emphasizing to them that we were going to finish this thing off with a win and we did."

While this was James Wallace's first title as a coach, the Linsly School and Bethany College product knows a lot about winning championships. He was part of an OVAC title-winning team during his junior year at Linsly and played on three Presidents' Athletic Conference championship squads at Bethany.

"This feels great but it's not necessarily the championships you win as much as the guys you win them with."

"I've had a great bunch of kids this year," he said.

PARK

Continued from page B1

Lathon scored the opening bucket of the quarter to go up 40-28.

Indian Creek responded by scoring the next seven points to trim the deficit to five as baskets by Dylan Hibbits and Joe Bowers and a 3-pointer by Frank Kamarec put the Redskins in striking distance midway through the fourth.

"We had a plan and we tried to execute it. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't," Indian Creek coach Joe Dunlevy said. "We didn't come down here to lose. When we cut it to five, we knew we had been here before. We have been in a lot of games this year where we have been down but gutted it out and came back to win."

Lathon scored on the ensuing possession, but a Hibbits conventional three-point play made the score 42-38 with 3:20 left to play.

Lathon scored again and was fouled. He missed the free throw, but Vondel Bell grabbed the rebound and

made 1 of 2 to push the lead back to seven.

After Indian Creek's Shane Winland was stripped by Emil Popiec, Winland made up for his error by intercepting a pass on the other end. His driving layup was off but Matt Furda was there to clean up the miss and bring Indian Creek back to within five.

Errin Baynes made a basket for Wheeling Park and Kamarec hit a free throw to make it a six-point game with a minute remaining.

Lathon was called for a charge, giving Indian Creek the ball back, but Bell stole the ball from Bowers off the inbounds pass and flipped it to Lathon to seal the victory.

While turnovers came into play, Dunlevy was more disappointed in his team's ability to box out.

Indian Creek had just 12 rebounds. Lathon, who led all scorers with 20 points, had 11 rebounds.

"We knew we had to box out to have a chance

and that was the thing we saw on film and that's what had to do," Dunlevy said. "I don't dwell on us making turnovers or missing shots, those are things that are going to happen over the course of a game. I dwell on us not doing the fundamentals. That turned out to be our undoing."

Kamarec and Hibbits led the Redskins with 11 points each. Baynes added 14 for the Patriots.

"Being the four seed, it turned out being a good thing because we know we can beat Morgantown on their floor if we have to and beating South Charleston on that new floor (at the Charleston Civic Center) where the state tournament is being held, this has given us a lot of confidence," Jebbia said. "It's been a tough week but to finish it out with an OVAC championship is very special for these kids."

Ohio Division III Sectional Union Local 62 Steubenville Catholic 21

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship

- Class 5A Semifinals**
1. Wheeling Park vs. 4. John Marshall
2. University vs. 3. Morgantown
Finals
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
- Class 4A Semifinals**
1. Edison vs. 4. Oak Glen
2. Union Local vs. 3. Harrison Central
Finals
Saturday at 5:45 p.m.
- Class 3A Semifinals**
1. Fort Frye vs. 4. Shenandoah
2. Martins Ferry vs. 3. Monroe Central
Finals
Saturday at 3 p.m.
- Class 2A Semifinals**
1. Shadyside vs. 4. Linsly
2. Wheeling Central vs. 3. River
Finals
Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
- Class 1A Semifinals**
1. Trinity Christian vs. 4. Conotton Valley
2. Beallsville vs. 3. Madonna
Finals
Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
- Consolation Games Monday, Feb. 6**
Steubenville at St. Clairsville
Meadowbrook at Parkersburg South
Brooke at Indian Creek
Paden City at Magnolia
Buckeye Local at East Liverpool
Bellair at Weir
Frontier at Bridgeport
Barnesville at Steubenville Central
Cameron at Toronto
Hundred at St. John
Valley at Bishop Donahue
Thursday, Feb. 9
- St. John at Valley
Magnolia at Hundred
Steubenville Central at Paden City
Bishop Donahue at Frontier
Toronto at Bellair
St. Clairsville at Cameron
Bridgeport at Buckeye Local
Weir at Barnesville
East Liverpool at Brooke
Parkersburg South at Steubenville
Indian Creek at Meadowbrook

OVAC GIRLS

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship

- Class 5A Semifinals**
No. 1 Wheeling Park vs. No. 4 John Marshall
No. 2 University vs. No. 3 Morgantown
Finals
(at Ohio University Eastern)
Saturday at 8:30 p.m.
- Class 4A Semifinals**
No. 1 Edison vs. No. 4 Oak Glen
No. 2 Union Local vs. No. 3 Harrison Central
Finals
(at Ohio University Eastern)
Saturday at 5:45 p.m.
- Class 3A Semifinals**
No. 1 Fort Frye vs. No. 4 Shenandoah
No. 2 Martins Ferry vs. No. 3 Monroe Central
Finals
(at Ohio University Eastern)
Saturday at 3 p.m.
- Class 2A Semifinals**
No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 4 Linsly
No. 3 River at No. 2 Wheeling Central
Finals
(at Ohio University Eastern)
Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
- Class 1A Semifinals**
No. 1 Trinity Christian vs. No. 4 Conotton Valley
No. 2 Beallsville vs. No. 3 Madonna
Finals
(at Ohio University Eastern)
Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
- Consolation Pool Monday, Feb. 6**
Steubenville at St. Clairsville
Meadowbrook at Parkersburg South
Brooke at Indian Creek
Paden City at Magnolia
Buckeye Local at East Liverpool
Bellair at Weir
Frontier at Bridgeport
Barnesville at Steubenville Central
Cameron at Toronto
Hundred at St. John
Valley at Bishop Donahue
Thursday, Feb. 9
- St. John at Valley
Magnolia at Hundred
Steubenville Central at Paden City
Bishop Donahue at Frontier
Toronto at Bellair
St. Clairsville at Cameron
Bridgeport at Buckeye Local
Weir at Barnesville
East Liverpool at Brooke
Parkersburg South at Steubenville
Indian Creek at Meadowbrook

Crowds come out in droves for OVAC hoop tourney

When an event is still relatively new, there always seems to come a time when it finally turns the corner.

It's as if validation is needed before something new can finally be taken seriously. Plus, let's be honest, when it comes to the Ohio Valley, the people here tend to resist change or cite the always impressive reasoning, "it's always been done that way."

Seven years ago, the OVAC began talking about moving to a basketball championship event rather than using the standings and point system to determine the champions.



SETH STASKEY
From the Press Box:

Five years ago, the talks turned into reality as the inaugural Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championship was born at Ohio University Eastern. And

finally - we think and hope - the event has become a staple of the Ohio Valley basketball community.

And this past Saturday, the fifth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship took the next step and became more than just regular season games that featured a trophy presentation.

This year's conference title games had it all. Good teams, spectacular individual performances, players laying it on all the line with their eyes on the prize and really impressive crowds.

Unofficially, OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak estimated more than 3,900 people came through the doors Saturday. Each division, except for Class 3A, set an attendance record this season.

On top of the matchups being really good, the weather came through. There was absolutely no precipitation, which could have been used as an excuse for travel issues.

Once the games tipped off, the action on the court didn't disappoint those in attendance, unless you were on the short end of the scoreboard.

I've been known, in this space, to chastise the amount of support basketball receives in this football-first Ohio Valley. However, I will also give credit when its due and it's due right now because the fans came out in droves and put forth the kind of atmosphere that many teams in the area won't experience in the postseason.

Unfortunately, as good as the crowds were for the boys' games this past weekend, they weren't real good at all for the girls.

I am a huge proponent of girls' athletics. I enjoy watching and covering them and respect them. However, I am probably in a minority when I say that, and that's unfortunate.

Regardless of how good the teams, matchups or players are, I am afraid there's just a portion of people who won't come out to watch girls' sports. To which, I say, shame on them!

Whether you particularly like girls' basketball or not, small communities - such as what we have up and down the river in the Ohio Valley - should come out and support the name on the front of the jersey, rather than the gender of those wearing it.

I saw all 10 games the last two weekends. Some of the girls' crowds were truly embarrassing. The only two teams which brought impressive followings were Shadyside and Union Local.

Having said that, I also realize that some of the trips were further, too. The city of Morgantown had two of its teams - Morgantown High and Trinity Christian - playing.

But for instance, Madonna's boys team had a huge crowd, while the girls, who were the defending Class 1A champions, was sparse.

I am just not sure the girls' games will ever get to the level of the boys and that's no disrespect.

The facts and statistics don't lie. Whether it's the respective state tournaments in Ohio and West Virginia, the NCAA Tournament or the WNBA, women's basketball doesn't draw as well as men.

For instance, at the OHSAA state tournament, the upper bowl of the Schottenstein Center isn't even open and each paying fans gets two games per ticket, whereas the boys is a single ticket for all 12 games.

But, when it comes to local games, these are the players you know and have heard about all season. They deserve to be supported, too.

See, HOOPS, Page B2

● Hoops

Continued from Page B1

RECORDS FALLING

Attendance records weren't the only ones falling Saturday at OUE.

Obviously, everything that occurred in the Wheeling Park victory against Indian Creek is a record since 5A is a new class.

As points were scored in bunches by almost every team, all sorts of scoring records were erased. Fort Frye's Shon Smith scored 35 points, which is an all-class record.

St. Clairsville's Dan Monteroso scored 33, which is the new 4A record and Linsly's Anthony Wallace's 31 points in the 2A game was a record and his 10, 2-point goals were also a record.

Ross Comis' 10-of-10 effort at the foul line for Madonna was a record for most free throws made and his 100 percent shooting clip is also a new record.

River's Brett Price equaled the Class 2A record with five three-point buckets. St. Clairsville's Adam Jeffries and Riley Carlton each buried four triples, which is a new mark in 4A.

All told, the Red Devils cashed in 10 bonus baskets, which is a 4A standard. River's impressive 10 triples was also a new standard in Class 2A. Beallsville's sharp 16-of-20 effort at the foul line set a new mark at 80 percent.

Linsly's 70 points is the new standard in Class 2A, while the Red Devils' 79 points is an all-time high in 4A.

MEANS MORE TO OHIO?

I listened to the majority of the press conferences during the two weekends and one statement by Magnolia boys coach Dave Tallman jumped out at me.

In talking about what lies ahead for his Blue Eagles after they were unsuccessful in their bid to repeat in Class 3A, Tallman said, "this (the OVAC title) probably means more to the Ohio schools because it's so difficult to get there (the state tournament).

He's extremely correct in the level of difficulty that's involved in reaching Columbus for either the boys or girls' state tournament.

Obviously, the Ohio teams - like the West Virginia teams - want to do as well as they possibly can in the OHSAA tournament, but realistically, the OVAC title is probably the best some of these schools are going to do on a given season.

Whenever I start thinking of the Ohio tournament, I always think of a line Gene Ammirante - the former Bellaire High head coach - quoted from legendary River High head coach Dick Potts.

Directed at West Virginia coaches, he said "some of those coaches would have massive heart failure at the Steubenville (Arena) sectional draw."

YOUTH MOVEMENT

The amount of teams in the championship games this weekend who were underclass dominated was highly impressive.

River, Linsly, Fort Frye, St. Clairsville and Indian Creek all feature squads that had very few - if any - seniors.

River and St. C. boast nary a senior on their roster, let alone in their rotations. Linsly's Akil Blount will be a tough loss, but the likes of Wallace, Jibri Blount and Toddy Goodwin-Rowe are going to keep Linsly in the thick of things for many years to come.

CLARIFICATION

If I had looked a little closer at the 'Notebook of Champions' that Rataiczak has built on the OVAC website, I would have realized this was not Kim Clifford's first conference championship squad.

Clifford guided the Cadiz Cardinals to the 1986 conference title. His Saturday title was his first at St. C. and the school's first-ever.

SECTIONAL ACTION

After a week of girls' sectional play, seven local teams remain in the tournament. In Division IV, the immediate area is promised two teams heading to the district as Barnesville and Shadyside as well as River and Bridgeport clash in sectional co-finals on Wednesday evening.

Monroe Central meets West Muskingum Wednesday in Cambridge in the upper bracket, while Union Local tangles with Fort Frye in the lower bracket.

The boys' tournament begins Tuesday around the Eastern District.

Speaking of the Eastern District, I'm often critical of how poorly its website is maintained and relatively slow pace at which it works in keeping schools and media updated on tournament pairings.

I'm still critical of the lack of doubleheaders and split sessions for games.

However, one area that I think the Eastern District does extremely well is separating the nights for the boys and girls' tournament, so fans don't have to choose.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

St. Clairsville Snares Its First OVAC Boys' Title

Monteroso hits for 33 in triumph

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The 101st Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title in St. Clairsville High School history might be the sweetest.

Using a strong second half, the Red Devils erased the demons of their three previous Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Basketball Championship Game appearances, posting a 79-64 victory against second-seeded East Liverpool before a standing-room-only crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

"We've had teams here

before that have been beaten by three really good teams," St. C. coach Kim Clifford said of Wheeling Central, Union Local and Magnolia, respectively. "We were able to get it done, though."

The title is not only the first for Clifford, but a first for the program, which has been playing basketball since 1908 as a member of the OVAC since the conference's inception.

"This is very special," Clifford said. "We've been second fiddle a lot, but I never gave up hope that (this) would happen."

"This is just a special group, that unlike our other teams, didn't get it done on the floor."

While Clifford did everything he could during the three days leading up to the

title game to stress to his young Red Devils that the game was about them, the program and the school, the St. C. players went to the floor with their head coach in mind.

"We definitely wanted this for Coach Clifford," said junior Dan Monteroso, who pumped in a game-high 33 points, including 21 in the pivotal second half. "We, as players, owe him all of the credit."

"He's my favorite coach ever. He's a great man, and we're happy that we were able to win this."

While the final score was a convincing margin, there were certainly some moments of trepidation before the final buzzer.

The Red Devils went to halftime nursing a 28-25 lead after scoring just nine points in the second quarter.

"(East Liverpool) tightened up their defense in the second (quarter)," Clifford said. "We struggled to get into a rhythm and we didn't hit shots that we normally hit."

The Potters took a lead for one possession in the second half at 35-34 and the game was also knotted at 40-40, but the Red Devils took over from there.

St. C., which connected on 10 3-point goals, closed the third quarter with a 10-2 run and never looked back.

Going into the game, East Liverpool coach Nate Conley was concerned about the Red Devils' shooting ability.

"We've not defended the 3 very well all season," Conley admitted.

Junior sharpshooter Riley Carlton scored eight of his 15 in the third, while Monteroso scored seven. Rugged junior forward Joel Giffin, who seldom shoots, let alone scores, buried two medium-range jumpers, which were big during the stretch.

"I know it's a cliché, but this was actually a total team effort," Clifford said. "Adam (Jeffries) hit some big shots early, Riley hit shots, Joel threw two shots in and J-Mar (Jerrid Marhefka) carried us late."

Marhefka, who hadn't

CLASS 4A

scored, delivered six straight points during the fourth quarter after Marky Thompkins had scored for the Potters to make it a 54-48 contest.

Marhefka's flurry began a 17-0 run, which pushed the margin to 71-48. The run included a steady stream of Monteroso foul shots. He drilled 10 straight in the fourth, made good on 16 of 17 overall.

"We knew (St. Clairsville) was good and Monteroso is very good," Conley said. "We've got some district and OVAC meetings (today), and I am thinking he's got to be the district and OVAC Player of the Year."

The Potters never threatened in the fourth after Thompson, the talented senior guard, fouled out with nearly 7 minutes to play.

"We were in severe foul trouble," Conley said. "I thought there were some questionable calls. Again, I am not taking anything away from St. Clairsville, but I thought the officials

should have let the kids play more because there was never a really good flow to the game."

"But, for us, this is just another regular-season game and now we'll move on to the tournament."

There's a chance the Red Devils and Potters could meet with a trip to Athens for the Division II regional on the line in a few weeks on the very same OUE floor.

Monteroso's scoring production was complemented by 12 rebounds.

Carlton and Jeffries each had 15 points. Jeffries came up big in the first quarter, drilling a trio of 3s. Marhefka finished with 11.

East Liverpool was led by Zack English and Hayden Cunningham, who went for 15 and 14, respectively. Thompson and post Mow Mow Thompson finished with 12 combined points, which was well below their average.

The Potters (17-3) finished with 38 rebounds and 11 turnovers. St. Clairsville snagged 30 boards and were charted for 10 turnovers.



Post-Timeout Run Keys Madonna Past Beallsville

Blue Dons repeat as 1A champions

By **KIM NORTH**
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Just when it appeared as if Beallsville was making its move, a stoppage in play halted all of the Blue Devils' momentum.

Trailing top-seeded Madonna 62-56 with 5:50 left to play in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' Basketball Class A Championship game, Blue Devils coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda called a timeout following Teryn Jarrett's 3-pointer to get his troops a much-needed rest and to setup their defense.

However, little did the veteran court boss, nor anyone among the huge crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Building on the campus of Ohio University Eastern, know that the Blue Dons (18-3) would reel off the next 16 points en route to an unexpected, 84-64, blowout of the Blue Devils (18-2).

"We called that timeout, but then they got two quick baskets and we turned it over. It just steamrolled from there," Tolzda said. "They just kept coming at us and we didn't slow them down. We knew they were going to fastbreak ... kick it out and go and we prepared for it, but not to the extent that they did it."

"They looked like a state championship team and you've got to believe that they have a legitimate shot in West Virginia. If they play like they did (Saturday), they just could be West Virginia state champs again."

Following the break in the action, Madonna's 6-foot-6 senior Drazen Frankovich scored on the inside and then sophomore Ross Comis picked a Blue Devils' pocket and went in for an uncontested layup to push the margin back to 10, 66-56.

A Beallsville turnover ensued on the next trip down the floor and Frankovich and Comis combined for eight of the next 12 points as Madonna started to pull away for good.

The run was punctuated by a nifty behind-the-back pass from Madonna senior playmaker Nick Battista to Frankovich, who sent the ball through the hoop with a two-handed slam.

Madonna coach George Vargo thanked his counterpart for the compliment, but said his team still has a ways to go.

"We are just taking one game at a time. (Saturday) it was the OVAC Championship," Vargo said. "I want to thank my team for playing a great game in winning back-to-back titles. It means a lot to our program."

The game was dead-

CLASS 1A

locked at 19-19 after one quarter before the Blue Dons, who avenged an earlier loss to the Blue Devils, took a five-point, 39-34, lead into the locker room at the half.

Free-throw shooting kept the Blue Devils close as they meshed 15 of 16 in the first 16 minutes.

However, in the second half, it was Madonna's accuracy from the free-throw line that allowed it to keep Beallsville at bay and defend its small-school title. The Blue Dons tickled the twine on 16 of 21 attempts in the second half, led by Comis with a perfect 10-for-10 performance.

Jarrett paced Beallsville with 13 points. Tyler Spence added a dozen and Gage Bates came off the bench to add 10. Comis led five Blue Dons, and all scorers, in double digits with 21. Frankovich finished with 20, followed by Division I signee Clay Rokisky (Cleveland State) with 14, Battista 13 and Daniel Pietranton with 11 off the bench.

Madonna had a commanding, 39-18, advantage off the glass as Rokisky had 11 and Frankovich 10. Battista added nine and five assists. Josh Baldridge had seven of Beallsville's rebounds. Spence had six and also charted four steals and four assists.



Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships

Ohio University Eastern Campus

At The Finals . . .
One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of THE HEALTH PLAN

GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 11 at OUE
1A: 9:30 AM • 2A: 12:15 PM • 3A: 3:00PM • 4A: 5:45 PM 5A: 8:30 PM

BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 18 at OUE
1A: 9:30 AM • 2A: 12:15 PM • 3A: 3:00PM • 4A: 5:45 PM 5A: 8:30 PM

Girls'/Boys' Games will air tape-delay on



GIRLS' TV SCHEDULE:			BOYS' TV SCHEDULE:		
5 A	2/13/12	8 pm	5 A	2/20/12	8 pm
4 A	2/14/12	8 pm	4A	2/21/12	8 pm
3 A	2/15/12	8 pm	3A	2/22/12	8 pm
2 A	2/16/12	8 pm	2A	2/23/12	8 pm
1 A	2/17/12	8 pm	1A	2/24/12	8 pm

all games live on WKKX 1600 AM

OVAC CORPORATE PARTNERS:



SPORTS

CLASS 1A

No. 1 Madonna 58, No. 3 Conotton 54
No. 2 Beallsville 73, No. 4 Trinity 61
Championship
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. at OUE
Madonna vs. Beallsville
Consolation
Trinity at Conotton Valley

CLASS 2A

No. 1 River 55, No. 4 Shadyside 36
No. 2 Linsly 74, No. 3 Steub. CC 68, OT
Championship
Saturday, 12:15 p.m. at OUE
River vs. Linsly
Consolation
Shadyside at Steubenville CC

CLASS 3A

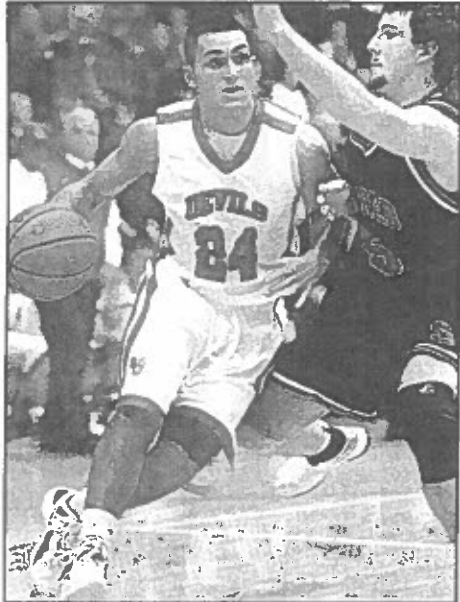
No. 1 Magnolia 84, No. 4 Barnes 47
No. 2 Fort Frye 64, No. 3 Shen 58
Championship
Saturday, 3 p.m. at OUE
Magnolia vs. Fort Frye
Consolation
Barnesville at Shenandoah

CLASS 4A

No. 1 St. Clairsville 64, No. 4 Steub. 58
No. 2 E. Liverpool 51, No. 3 Harrison 37
Championship
Saturday, 5:45 p.m. at OUE
St. Clairsville vs. East Liverpool
Consolation
Steubenville at Harrison Central

CLASS 5A

No. 4 W. Park 45, No. 1 Morgan. 40
No. 2 I. Creek 43, No. 3 Park. So. 38
Championship
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. at OUE
Wheeling Park vs. Indian Creek
Consolation
Morgantown at Parkersburg South



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Riley Carlton drives to the bucket against Steubenville during Tuesday's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 4A semifinal game. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



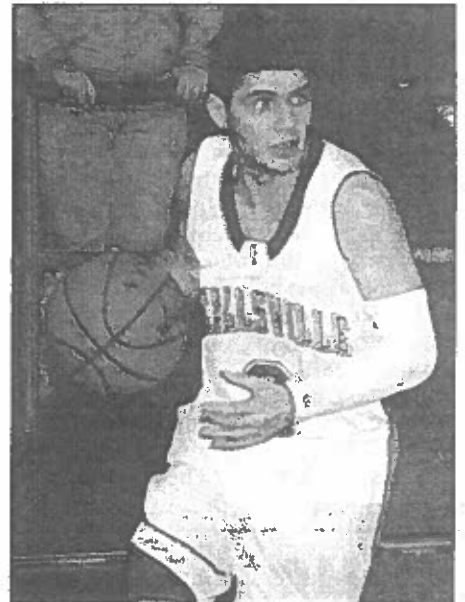
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Jordan Indermuhle looks to the basket during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 2A Tournament game in Hannibal. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleader-online.com*



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BARNESVILLE'S Tyler Fitzpatrick shoots for two points during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 3A semifinal in New Martinsville. The Lady Jets prevailed. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



T-L Photo/RICH GIBSON

BEALLSVILLE'S Tyler Spence brings the ball upcourt Tuesday night against Trinity in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class A Tournament. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Onward to the title game

• River navigates way to Class 2-A title game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

With only one returning starter and nary a senior back from last year's Division IV sectional championship squad, River boys' basketball coach Mark Romick wasn't sure what to expect from his team this season.

All the top-seeded Pilots have done is win 14 games, the latest being a 55-36 pounding of visiting Shadyside Tuesday night in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class AA Tournament semifinal inside R.L. Potts Gymnasium in Hannibal.

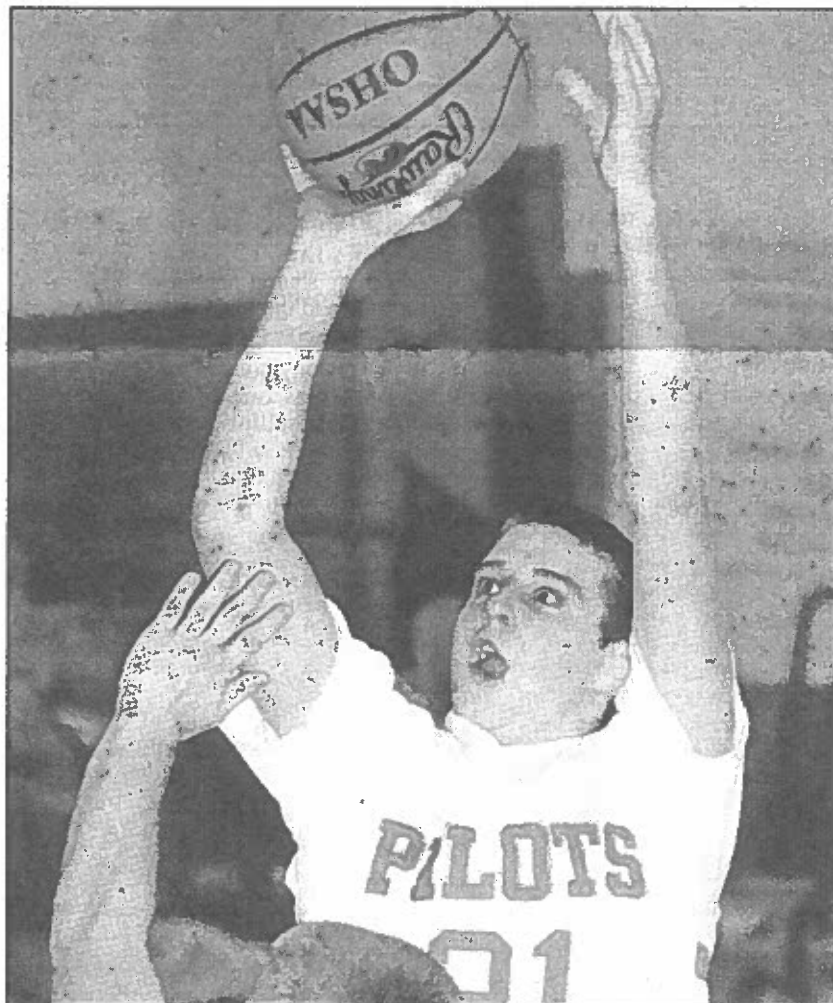
With the victory, Romick's youthful squad (14-5) advances to the championship game Saturday at 12:15 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building opposite No. 2 seeded Linsly, which defeated No. 3 Steubenville Central, 74-68, in overtime Tuesday night in the other semi.

"We believe in these kids and they have believed in themselves all year," Romick allowed. "It's like I told people earlier in the year, 'we think we're good, but nobody else does.' I tell them (the kids) every night they have to go out and prove it."

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

'We believe in these kids and they have believed in themselves all year'

— **Mark Romick**



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Brett Price eyes the basket for two of his game-high 21 points Tuesday night as the Pilots defeated Shadyside in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 2-A Tournament semifinal in Hannibal. River will meet Linsly Saturday at 12:15 p.m. for the championship. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

• Beallsville knocks off Trinity to reach 1-A final

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Some 57 years after the first jump ball, it was time to close down one of the Ohio Valley's historic high school gymnasiums.

And don't think Beallsville's Scooter Tolzda wasn't feeling the pressure. An OVAC 1A semifinal victory meant literally everything to Tolzda and his once-beaten Blue Devils.

But Tuesday night's challenge was major as Big Blue welcomed an equally-talented Trinity Christian ball club from Morgantown.

The two teams went toe-to-toe until the final 90 seconds when Beallsville authored a game-ending 9-0 run to secure a 73-61 victory in front of a full house.

"I think there was a little more to it than just a basketball game," Tolzda stated afterwards. "From a personal standpoint, I definitely felt anxiety (leading up to this game). Our kids had to dig down deep and they did. I'm very, very proud of their effort."

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page B2

'I think there was a little more to it than just a basketball game'

— **Scooter Tolzda**

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Adam Jeffries drives to the basket during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 4A



St. C. holds off Big Red to make 4-A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

In the five-year history of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship, St. Clairsville has become common

'... hopefully, we can get it done this time.'

count.

"We've been (to the final) quite a few times and hopefully, we can get it done this time," Clifford said. "But, like I've said everytime we've been there, it's not about me. It's about these kids and this



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Riley Carlton drives to the bucket against Steubenville during Tuesday's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 4A semifinal game. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Jordan Indermuhle looks to the basket during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 2A Tournament game in Hannibal. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleader-online.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BARNESVILLE'S Tyler Fitzpatrick shoots for two points during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC 3A semifinal in New Martinsville. The Lady Jets prevailed. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/RICH GIBSON

BEALLSVILLE'S Tyler Spence brings the ball upcourt Tuesday night against Trinity in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class A Tournament. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Onward to the title game

• River navigates way to Class 2-A title game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

With only one returning starter and nary a senior back from last year's Division IV sectional championship squad, River boys' basketball coach Mark Romick wasn't sure what to expect from his team this season.

All the top-seeded Pilots have done is win 14 games, the latest being a 55-36 pounding of visiting Shadyside Tuesday night in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class AA Tournament semifinal inside R.L. Potts Gymnasium in Hannibal.

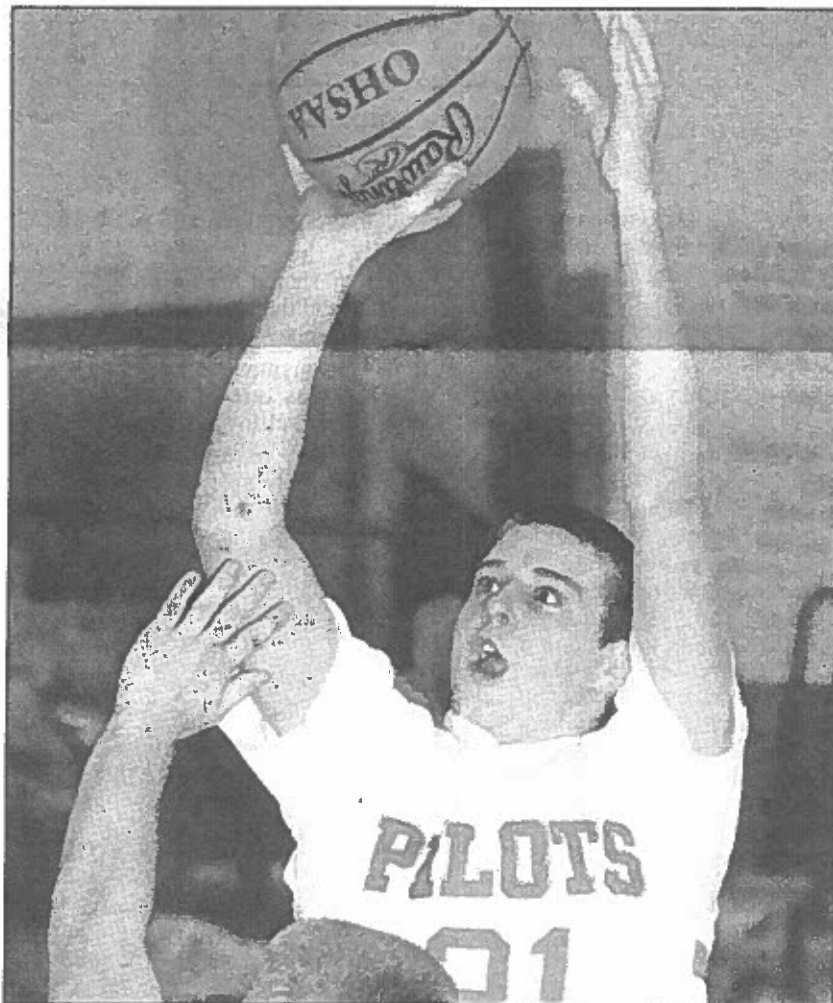
With the victory, Romick's youthful squad (14-5) advances to the championship game Saturday at 12:15 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building opposite No. 2 seeded Linsly, which defeated No. 3 Steubenville Central, 74-68, in overtime Tuesday night in the other semi.

"We believe in these kids and they have believed in themselves all year," Romick allowed. "It's like I told people earlier in the year, 'we think we're good, but nobody else does.' I tell them (the kids) every night they have to go out and prove it."

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

'We believe in these kids and they have believed in themselves all year'

— Mark Romick



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Brett Price eyes the basket for two of his game-high 21 points Tuesday night as the Pilots defeated Shadyside in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 2-A Tournament semifinal in Hannibal. River will meet Linsly Saturday at 12:15 p.m. for the championship. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

• Beallsville knocks off Trinity to reach 1-A final

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Some 57 years after the first jump ball, it was time to close down one of the Ohio Valley's historic high school gymnasiums.

And don't think Beallsville's Scooter Tolzda wasn't feeling the pressure. An OVAC 1A semifinal victory meant literally everything to Tolzda and his once-beaten Blue Devils.

But Tuesday night's challenge was major as Big Blue welcomed an equally-talented Trinity Christian ball club from Morgantown.

The two teams went toe-to-toe until the final 90 seconds when Beallsville authored a game-ending 9-0 run to secure a 73-61 victory in front of a full house.

"I think there was a little more to it than just a basketball game," Tolzda stated afterwards. "From a personal standpoint, I definitely felt anxiety (leading up to this game). Our kids had to dig down deep and they did. I'm very, very proud of their effort."

'I think there was a little more to it than just a basketball game'

— Scooter Tolzda

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page B2

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Adam Jeffries drives to the basket during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 4-A Tournament semifinal.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK



St. C. holds off Big Red to make 4-A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

In the five-year history of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship, St. Clairsville has become common entrants.

However, head coach Kim Clifford and his three-point shooting Red Devils hope Saturday's trip to Ohio University Eastern goes better than the first three trips. After fending off a valiant come-

'... hopefully, we can get it done this time.'

— Kim Clifford

back by Steubenville Big Red, the Red Devils advanced to the Class 4A title game at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday by virtue of a 64-58

count. "We've been (to the final) quite a few times and hopefully, we can get it done this time," Clifford said. "But, like I've said everytime we've been there, it's not about me. It's about these kids and this team. If we get it done, great, but if not, I'll take the blame."

The Red Devils will face East Liverpool, which advanced by virtue of taking out Harrison Central in the other 4A semifinal.

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

Potters bounce Huskies from Class 4-A tournament field

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Times Leader

EAST LIVERPOOL — The Potters are perfect.

The No. 2 seed East Liverpool boys' basketball team ripped off a 9-0 run in the fourth quarter to pull away and defeat Harrison Central, 51-37, Tuesday night in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class AAAA Tournament semifinal at Potter Fieldhouse.

With the win, the No. 8 Ohio ranked Potters improve to 17-2 on the season, and the victory enables East Liverpool to finish the season 10-0 at home.

East Liverpool will now play St.

'We lost that game -- not lost it -- but we got ourselves behind the 8-ball in the first quarter.'

— Justin Clifford

Clairsville in the championship game at 5:45 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. St. Clairsville advanced to the final by defeating Steubenville, 64-58, in Tuesday's

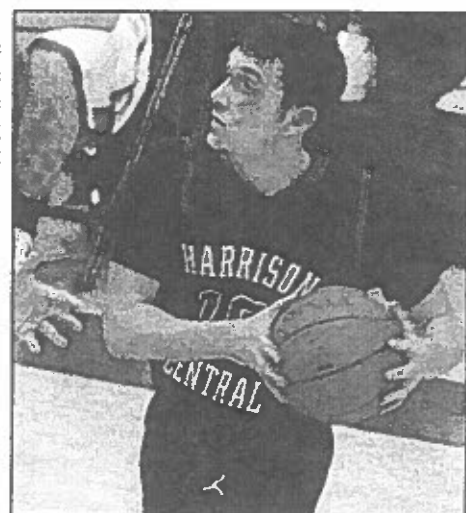
other semifinal.

The No. 1 seed Red Devils are also 17-2 on the season. The Potters and Red Devils are also the top two teams in the upcoming Ohio Division II Eastern District Sectional Tournament to be played starting Tuesday at OUE.

The Huskies (14-5) will play Friday against Big Red in the consolation final.

Six straight points by Nick Pelegreen pulled the Huskies to within 40-33 in the fourth quarter, but Harrison Central did not get any closer. The Potters were able to milk precious time off of the clock

See, **POTTERS**, Page B2



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Fletcher Watt looks for room to pass during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 3-A semifinal.

Photo/AARON PETCHAL

Magnolia ousts Barnesville from 3-A ● St. C.

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Barnesville coach Chris Pack could do nothing but sit there and watch what Magnolia was doing once the ball tipped to begin their Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 3A Tournament semifinal contest.

Magnolia 6-0 lead. Barnesville timeout. 7:07 left in the first.

Magnolia 13-4 lead. Barnesville timeout. 5:20 left in the first.

It was that kind of game and things only got better for Magnolia en route to an 84-47 thumping Tuesday at Magnolia High School.

"Magnolia played at a really high level and we played at a really low level," Pack said. "When that happens, you get beat badly. I'm not sure we ever really got off the bus."

The Blue Eagles (17-2) seem to be clicking on all cylinders as they look to defend the Class 3A championship Saturday against Fort Frye at Ohio University Eastern. The Cadets — champions in 2A

'Magnolia played at a really high level and we played at a really low level.'

— Chris Pack

last season — topped Shenandoah, 64-58, in the other semifinal.

Magnolia started the game the way any coach would want.

Stephen Rogalski drove to the hoop off the opening tip for a score. After a Barnesville miss, Rogalski went back to the hoop for another basket. A Barnesville turnover led to an easy basket underneath by junior standout Mark Winters.

"All we have been talking about playing hard and getting better," Magnolia coach Dave Tallman said. "We are healthy and you saw what the real Stephen Rogalski was like (Tuesday night). He really got us out quick."

"They tried to play us in a 1-3-1 zone and we just kept pounding it off the

boards. I think top to bottom, we may have played our best game of basketball."

Magnolia exploded for 30 points in the first quarter and never looked back. At halftime, the Blue Eagles were up 30 (47-17) and the starters played for less than 4 minutes of the third quarter before giving way to the bench players.

Even assistant coach Mark Blair got in on some of the action as Tallman stretched out and relaxed as the final minutes ticked off the clock.

"We do that and Coach Blair does such a good job," Tallman said.

"Coach Blair spends so much time making sure the gym is ready and when he gets an opportunity to do some coaching, he really enjoys that."

Winters recorded a double-double with 21 points and 13 rebounds, followed by 15 points from Rogalski. Tyler Myers came off the bench and drained three 3-pointers on his way to 11 points.

Tyler Fitzpatrick paced the Shamrocks (10-9) with 12 points.

"(Magnolia) is heads and tails better than anyone I've seen in the OVAC," Pack said. "I'm not sure that if you wouldn't match them up against anyone in the OVAC that they wouldn't beat them."

BARNESVILLE (47) — P.Dornon 2-13 0-1 5; Burkhardt 2-8 1-3 5; MacMillan 1-6 3-4 5; Fitzpatrick 6-19 2-3 12; Z.Dornon 1-12 4-7 7; I.Wells 3-4 0-0 6; Clark 0-3 0-0 0; Stephens 0-1 0-0 0; Hannahs 0-2 0-0 0; McGee 0-1 0-0 0; M.Wells 1-1 0-0 2; Stewart 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 17-71 10-18. MAGNOLIA (87) — Rogalski 6-8 1-2 15; Ma.Winters 9-15 1-2 21; Wilhoite 3-5 0-0 6; J.Keller 2-5 0-0 5; Blatt 4-5 0-0 8; D.Keller 2-3 0-0 4; Hanna 1-2 0-0 3; Totals 17-71 10-18.

3-Point Goals: Barnesville 3 (P.Dornon, Z.Dornon, Stewart); Magnolia 11 (Rogalski 3, Myers 3, Ma.Winters 2, J.Keller, Hanna, Smith)

Continued from Page B1

"We're happy to be in that game and we know East Liverpool is a quality team," Clifford said. "This is what it should be about. It's about two teams, who traditionally don't play each other, that have led the standings most of the year. We expect it will be a great atmosphere."

Before any focus could shift to the Potters, the Red Devils had quite a challenge in a Big Red club, which had lost to the Belmont Countians a little more than a week ago at the Crimson Center.

St. C. came out from the opening tip and as Clifford referenced it, "blitzed" Steubenville, outscoring Big Red, 32-16 in the opening stanza.

During the quarter, St. C. dialed long distance five times and got scoring from five different players, including 10 from junior standout Dan Monteroso.

"I thought our effort was there early, but we just gave a team that can shoot too many good looks," said Steubenville head coach Mike Haney. "They're a good shooters and they made us pay."

The Red Devils went into the halftime break with a comfortable 45-27 lead. However, no one evidently told Big Red the game was over.

Steubenville took advantage of back-to-back turnovers to begin the third quarter and eventually scored the first six points of the period. All told, Big Red outscored the Red Devils, 16-7 in the third to make it a 52-43 reading after three.

"I told the kids that our goal was to cut the lead in half in the third," Haney said. "We had two possessions, down six, but we turned it over and then we had to foul. Give St. Clairsville credit, they knocked them down."

Big Red — on the strength of senior William

Houst on the interior and impressive freshman Malik Richmond — got as close as six twice and five once in the fourth, but each time, the Red Devils had the answer.

Monteroso, who scored 28 points in the game, was 3-of-6 from the line in the fourth. Junior Adam Jeffries connected on a key triple to stop the bleeding during one Big Red spurt in the fourth.

Junior Riley Carlton, who netted 17 in the game, also came up big in the fourth quarter.

"I was really happy with this game," Clifford said. "Everything was really pretty for us in the first quarter, but in the last three, it was really ugly. But, this is the first time (this season) where we actually had to gut a game out."

Big Red was led by Periogn West, who had 16 points. Richmond added 14 points and nine rebounds. Dylan Snyder came off the bench to net 11 points.

St. Clairsville received solid minutes from junior Joel Giffin, who had nary a point, but he snared eight rebounds. Monteroso also had eight boards and four assists.

Steubenville managed a split by taking the JV game.

While the Red Devils will prep for the title game, Big Red will load up the buses again Friday and head to Cadiz to take on Harrison Central in the 4A consolation game.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE (58) — West 5, 6-8 16; Linn 0, 0-0 0; Snyder 4, 0-0 11; Sherrell 0, 1-2 1; Lawson 0, 0-0 0; Garcia 1, 2-2 4; Lavender 0, 0-0 0; Houst 5, 0-0 10; Davis 0, 0-0 0; Richmond 6, 0-0 14; Law 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 22, 9-12 58. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (64) — Monteroso 10, 7-10 28; Carlton 5, 4-4 17; Burghy 0, 0-0 0; Jeffries 2, 0-1 5; Marhefka 4, 0-0 8; Giffin 0, 0-0 0; Campbell 2, 0-0 6; Totals: 23, 11-15 64.

Three-Point Goals: S — Snyder (3), Richmond (2). St. C. — Monteroso, Campbell (2), Jeffries, Carlton (3).

Blue Jackets slip past Blues

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — With time running out and his team down by a goal, the St. Louis Blues' David Perron was frantically trying everything he could to get the tying score.

A video review determined he went too far.

The NHL said Perron "gloved the puck into the net" with 1.8 seconds left, disallowing the goal and giving the Columbus Blue Jackets a 2-1 victory on Tuesday night.

Perron conceded that he used his hand to push the puck.

"As I fell down (it) kind of hit my hand and it went in and ... that was the right call," Perron said. "You don't know how it's going to turn out, how they're going to see it, but they made the right call."

Perron had jumped on top of Blue Jackets goalie

Steve Mason during a wild scramble in front of the net. Mason, who was brilliant with 31 saves, said he didn't know what was happening.

"Once guys started piling in I had no idea where the puck was," he said. "I didn't know if it was going to be a goal or not. You never know until they make the call. Once they did, it was a good feeling."

It was one of two video reviews that went Columbus' way, a team suffering through a dismal season with the worst record in the league.

James Wisniewski's power-play goal was ruled to have crossed the goal line with 0.1 seconds left in the first period.

"Finally, it's nice to get a break there," he said. "They reviewed it and we got the bounce that we needed to get."

● River

Continued from Page B1

Deadlocked with the No. 4 seeded Tigers (4-15) in the waning moments of the third quarter, the hosts went on a 11-0 run to end the period and any upset ideas the visitors might have had.

Sweet-shooting Brett Price knocked down back-to-back trifectas to give River a 38-32 lead as time was winding down in the third panel. He then swiped the ensuing inbound pass and fed Cody Caldwell who laid it off the glass for two more points.

Not to be outdone, freshman Matt Marconi, who played beat the buzzer in the second quarter, followed suit in the third as he drained a bonus bomb just ahead of the horn as the Pilots were in control, 43-32.

"Brett came through big-time there for us," Romick revealed. "He hit those two big shots and then got the steal and assist to Cody. Those plays were huge."

The late spurt seemed to take all of

the fight out of the Tigers, who qualified for the semifinals due to five Class 2-A teams not being eligible for the tournament.

"We gave them that one little run where they made 10 or 12 points, and that was it," Shadyside head coach Ed Andes offered. "We didn't have enough offensive firepower to come back, but I can't fault the kids' effort. They battled all night."

Price paced the Pilots with a game-high 21 points. Jordan Indermuhle was a force inside as he tallied 17 points, with nine of those coming in the third panel, and pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds, with a dozen of them coming after halftime. Kameron Brown came off the bench to chart half-a-dozen steals and kept several balls alive with tips.

"Kameron came up big defensively," Romick noted. "Our defense really won us this game."

Freshman Austin Dorris led

Shadyside with 14 points and eight rebounds.

River led 36-32 off the glass and turned the ball over 10 less times at 16-6.

"They played an excellent game," Romick said of Shadyside. "They had a very good game plan coming in. They tried to limit our possessions and slowed it down on us. There for awhile, we were only able to get one shot and that was it."

No JV game was contested.

SHADYSIDE (36) — Dorris 7 0-1 14; Stupak 2 0-0 6; Richardson 3 0-0 7; Gibson 2 0-0 4; Ramsey 0 0-0 0; Nardo 1 1-2 3; Howell 1 0-0 2; Frizzi 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-46 1-3. RIVER (55) — Marconi 2 0-0 6; Eggleston 0 0-0 0; Price 9 0-3 21; Caldwell 3 0-0 7; Indermuhle 8 1-3 17; Brown 2 0-0 4; Isaly 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-53 1-6.

Three-Point Goals: Shadyside 3 (Stupak 2, Richardson); River 6 (Marconi 2, Price 3, Caldwell)

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

Beallsville, now 18-1, moves on to Ohio University-Eastern and a 9:30 Saturday morning tip against Weirton Madonna for a 1A championship.

"I don't know what's going to happen (up there) Saturday," Tolzda added. "It's a really odd start time for both teams. We just need to get on that floor and get some work in."

Tolzda watched his team blow out to early 23-8 command against Herman Pierson's 13-6 Warriors

direct result of the Blue Devils' limited floor dimensions.

"I counted four possessions we lost with a foot on the (out of bounds) line," Pierson related. "But I'm not going to blame (the floor) on this loss. We had far too many turnovers which you obviously can't make against quality opponents like Beallsville."

After falling behind 54-46 after three periods, the Warriors worked their way back, eventually pulling

ing layup while drawing a foul. Jackson's conversion made for a 67-61 lighting with 1:10 to play.

Over the final 70 ticks, Jackson drained four additional foul shots and Tyler Spence converted a layup for the final reading.

"Of course, we wanted to come in here and win this game," Pierson advised. "But our main focus is still in front of us. Our ultimate goal is (getting back down to Charleston) and the state tournament."

— Cody Triplett and Anthony Ghiardi — collected 21 and 18 points, respectively. Senior guard Jerid Jento tallied eight.

Triplett registered nine rebounds as Trinity was a 29-27 leader off the glass. Turnovers were even at 18.

The Blue Devils' jayvees also prevailed in their finale, 53-42.

TRINITY (61) — Rondy 0, 0-0 0; Caridi 1, 0-4 2; Earl 1, 0-0 2; Retton 2, 0-0 4; Western 2, 1-2 6; Jento 3, 0-0 8; Ghiardi 8, 2-3 18; Triplett 8, 4-4 21. Totals — 25-55, 7-13. BEALLSVILLE (73) — Bates 0, 0-0 0;

really got off the bus.”
The Blue Eagles (17-2) seem to be clicking on all cylinders as they look to defend the Class 3A championship Saturday against Fort Frye at Ohio University Eastern. The Cadets — champions in 2A

coach Dave Tallman said. “We are healthy and you saw what the real Stephen Rogalski was like (Tuesday night). He really got us out quick.”
“They tried to play us in a 1-3-1 zone and we just kept pounding it off the

“We do that and Coach Blair does such a good job,” Tallman said. “Coach Blair spends so much time making sure the gym is ready and when he gets an opportunity to do some coaching, he really enjoys that.”

2-5 0-0 5; Blatt 4-5 0-0 8; D.Keller 2-3 0-0 4; Hanna 1-2 0-0 3; Myers 4-8 0-0 11; Heslep 0-5 0-0 0; Mi.Winters 0-3 0-0 0; Smith 2-2 0-0 5; Campbell 2-3 1-2 5. Totals 35-64 3-8.
3-Point Goals: Barnesville 3 (P.Dornon, Z.Dornon, Stewart); Magnolia 11 (Rogalski 3, Myers 3, Ma.Winters 2, J.Keller, Hanna, Smith)

“I thought our effort was there early, but we just gave a team that can shoot too many good looks,” said Steubenville head coach Mike Haney. “They’re a good shooters and they made us pay.”
The Red Devils went into the halftime break with a comfortable 45-27 lead. However, no one evidently told Big Red the game was over.

points and nine rebounds. Dylan Snyder came off the bench to net 11 points.
St. Clairsville received solid minutes from junior Joel Giffin, who had nary a point, but he snared eight rebounds. Monteroso also had eight boards and four assists.

Blue Jackets slip past Blues

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — With time running out and his team down by a goal, the St. Louis Blues’ David Perron was frantically trying everything he could to get the tying score.

A video review determined he went too far. The NHL said Perron “gloved the puck into the net” with 1.8 seconds left, disallowing the goal and giving the Columbus Blue Jackets a 2-1 victory on Tuesday night.

Perron conceded that he used his hand to push the puck.

“As I fell down (it) kind of hit my hand and it went in and ... that was the right call,” Perron said. “You don’t know how it’s going to turn out, how they’re going to see it, but they made the right call.”

Perron had jumped on top of Blue Jackets goalie

Steve Mason during a wild scramble in front of the net. Mason, who was brilliant with 31 saves, said he didn’t know what was happening.

“Once guys started piling in I had no idea where the puck was,” he said. “I didn’t know if it was going to be a goal or not. You never know until they make the call. Once they did, it was a good feeling.”

It was one of two video reviews that went Columbus’ way, a team suffering through a dismal season with the worst record in the league.

James Wisniewski’s power-play goal was ruled to have crossed the goal line with 0.1 seconds left in the first period.

“Finally, it’s nice to get a break there,” he said. “They reviewed it and we got the bounce that we needed to get.”

Steubenville took advantage of back-to-back turnovers to begin the third quarter and eventually scored the first six points of the period. All told, Big Red outscored the Red Devils, 16-7 in the third to make it a 52-43 reading after three.

“I told the kids that our goal was to cut the lead in half in the third,” Haney said. “We had two possessions, down six, but we turned it over and then we had to foul. Give St. Clairsville credit, they knocked them down.”

Big Red — on the strength of senior William

Stauberville managed a split by taking the JV game.

While the Red Devils will prep for the title game, Big Red will load up the buses again Friday and head to Cadiz to take on Harrison Central in the 4A consolation game.

STEUBENVILLE (58) — West 5, 6-8 16; Linn 0, 0-0 0; Snyder 4, 0-0 11; Sherrell 0, 1-2 1; Lawson 0, 0-0 0; Garcia 1, 2-2 4; Lavender 0, 0-0 0; Houst 5, 0-0 10; Davis 0, 0-0 0; Richmond 6, 0-0 14; Law 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 22, 9-12 58. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (64) — Monteroso 10, 7-10 28; Carlton 5, 4-4 17; Burghy 0, 0-0 0; Jeffries 2, 0-1 5; Marhefka 4, 0-0 8; Giffin 0, 0-0 0; Campbell 2, 0-0 6; Totals: 23, 11-15 64.

Three-Point Goals: S — Snyder (3), Richmond (2), St. C. — Monteroso, Campbell (2), Jeffries, Carlton (3).

River

Continued from Page B1

Deadlocked with the No. 4 seeded Tigers (4-15) in the waning moments of the third quarter, the hosts went on a 11-0 run to end the period and any upset ideas the visitors might have had.

Sweet-shooting Brett Price knocked down back-to-back trifectas to give River a 38-32 lead as time was winding down in the third panel. He then swiped the ensuing inbounds pass and fed Cody Caldwell who laid it off the glass for two more points.

Not to be outdone, freshman Matt Marconi, who played beat the buzzer in the second quarter, followed suit in the third as he drained a bonus bomb just ahead of the horn as the Pilots were in control, 43-32.

“Brett came through big-time there for us,” Romick revealed. “He hit those two big shots and then got the steal and assist to Cody. Those plays were huge.”

The late spurt seemed to take all of

the fight out of the Tigers, who qualified for the semifinals due to five Class 2-A teams not being eligible for the tournament.

“We gave them that one little run where they made 10 or 12 points, and that was it,” Shadyside head coach Ed Andes offered. “We didn’t have enough offensive firepower to come back, but I can’t fault the kids’ effort. They battled all night.”

Price paced the Pilots with a game-high 21 points. Jordan Indermuhle was a force inside as he tallied 17 points, with nine of those coming in the third panel, and pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds, with a dozen of them coming after halftime. Kameron Brown came off the bench to chart half-a-dozen steals and kept several balls alive with tips.

“Kameron came up big defensively,” Romick noted. “Our defense really won us this game.”

Freshman Austin Dorris led

Shadyside with 14 points and eight rebounds.

River led 36-32 off the glass and turned the ball over 10 less times at 16-6.

“They played an excellent game,” Romick said of Shadyside. “They had a very good game plan coming in. They tried to limit our possessions and slowed it down on us. There for awhile, we were only able to get one shot and that was it.”

No JV game was contested.

SHADYSIDE (36) — Dorris 7 0-1 14; Stupak 2 0-0 6; Richardson 3 0-0 7; Gibson 2 0-0 4; Ramsey 0 0-0 0; Nardo 1 1-2 3; Howell 1 0-0 2; Frizzi 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-46 1-3. RIVER (55) — Marconi 2 0-0 6; Eggleston 0 0-0 0; Price 9 0-3 21; Caldwell 3 0-0 7; Indermuhle 8 1-3 17; Brown 2 0-0 4; Isaly 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-53 1-6.

Three-Point Goals: Shadyside 3 (Stupak 2, Richardson); River 6 (Marconi 2, Price 3, Caldwell)

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Potters

Continued from Page B1

as well as scoring the next nine points in the game to open up a 49-33 advantage.

“We tried something new at the end,” second-year East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. “They were sitting in that zone, and there is no sense still firing up shots when you are up 13 points with three minutes to go, so we tried to stall the ball. It was a good teaching point for the kids to understand that playoffs are one game away. All you have got to do is win and move on.”

“There was no sense in us firing up jump shots or turning the ball over and giving them opportunities. If they are going to sit in that zone, let them.”

It was a three-possession game most of the way, and in the end the mountain proved too tough to climb for the Huskies.

“Yeah, we battled there,” Harrison Central head coach Justin Clifford said. “We cut it to seven I think in the third, and then they started holding it. They got us out of what we didn’t want to do.”

“We lost that game — not lost it — but we got ourselves behind the 8-ball in the first quarter. We were 1-for-11 inside the paint with pretty much dead layups, and we didn’t finish. I think we were 9-for-29 inside the lane, and when you are 9-for-29 from the line three feet from the hoop and 4-for-9 from the floor you aren’t going to beat many people.”

“They had stuff to do with that. They are athletic, and they challenge you. They challenged us, and they get their hands on things.”

Thompkins scored a team-high 15 points to lead the way for the Potters, and Beverly recorded 13 points.

Pelegreen netted a team-high 15 points to lead the way for the Huskies, and Rasheen Mitchell collected eight points.

Thompkins scored six points in the first quarter as East Liverpool jumped out to a 17-8 advantage.

Two straight baskets by Pelegreen pulled the Huskies to within 18-15 in the second quarter, but the Potters ripped off a 10-0 spurt to take a 28-15 lead forcing Clifford to call timeout with 2:10 left to play before halftime. East Liverpool led 28-17 at the half.

The Potters extended their lead in the third quarter. A 3-pointer by Beverly made the score 36-22. East Liverpool led 38-27 after three quarters of play.

Clifford said he was surprised the Potters held the ball at the end of the third and fourth quarters.

“A little bit, a little bit,” he said. “I always tell them though that the point is to have more points than the other team at the end game, and that is probably what they should have done to win the game.”

“We made a little run there and put them on their heels a little bit. They did what they had to do to win the game.”

East Liverpool won the JV game, 56-39.

HARRISON CENTRAL (37) — Kowalski 2 1-2 5, DiLoreto 0 0-0 0, Sproull 1 0-0 2, Watt 2 0-0 6, Cumberworth 0 1-2 1, Mitchell 3 2-4 8, Pelegreen 6 1-3 15. Totals: 14 5-11. EAST LIVERPOOL (51) — Reynolds 0 0-0 0, Kyle 3 1-5 8, Austin 0 0-0 0, Auer 2 0-0 4, Cunningham 0 3-3 3, Thompson 3 0-0 6, Beverly 5 0-0 13, English 0 0-0 0, Thompkins 6 3-3 15, Talbott 1 0-0 2, Newlun 0 0-0 0, Emmerling 0 0-0 0. Totals: 20 7-11.

Three-Point Goals: Harrison Central 4 (Watt 2, Pelegreen 2); East Liverpool 4 (Beverly 3, Kyle)

Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

Beallsville, now 18-1, moves on to Ohio University-Eastern and a 9:30 Saturday morning tip against Weirton Madonna for a 1A championship.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen (up there) Saturday,” Tolzda added. “It’s a really odd start time for both teams. We just need to get on that floor and get some work in.”

Tolzda watched his team blow out to early 23-8 command against Herman Pierson’s 13-6 Warriors before the West Virginia quint rallied within 24-17 at the first break.

The junior-dominated Warriors used a 19-9 second period turnaround to pull ahead 36-33 at halftime.

Trinity, though, coughed up 10 second half turnovers, at least three a

direct result of the Blue Devils’ limited floor dimensions.

“I counted four possessions we lost with a foot on the (out of bounds) line,” Pierson related. “But I’m not going to blame (the floor) on this loss. We had far too many turnovers which you obviously can’t make against quality opponents like Beallsville.”

After falling behind 54-46 after three periods, the Warriors worked their way back, eventually pulling within 64-61 in the final 90 seconds.

In possession with an opportunity to possibly knock down a game-tying trifecta, the Warriors, instead, committed a critical turnover which Beallsville’s Sam Jackson turned into a steal and ensu-

ing layup while drawing a foul. Jackson’s conversion made for a 67-61 lighting with 1:10 to play.

Over the final 70 ticks, Jackson drained four additional foul shots and Tyler Spence converted a layup for the final reading.

“Of course, we wanted to come in here and win this game,” Pierson advised. “But our main focus is still in front of us. Our ultimate goal is (getting back down to Charleston) and the state tournament.”

Jackson and junior Teryn Jarrett each tallied 20 points in Tuesday’s win. Spence provided 16-point support. Grammm Dauch donated 11. Inside ace Josh Baldrige landed a game-leading 10 rebounds.

In defeat, two of Trinity’s prime-time juniors

— Cody Triplett and Anthony Ghiardi — collected 21 and 18 points, respectively. Senior guard Jerid Jento tallied eight.

Triplett registered nine rebounds as Trinity was a 29-27 leader off the glass. Turnovers were even at 18.

The Blue Devils’ jayvees also prevailed in their finale, 53-42.

TRINITY (61) — Rondy 0, 0-0 0; Caridi 1, 0-4 2; Earl 1, 0-0 2; Retton 2, 0-0 4; Western 2, 1-2 6; Jento 3, 0-0 8; Ghiardi 8, 2-3 18; Triplett 8, 4-4 21. Totals — 25-55, 7-13. BEALLSVILLE (73) — Bates 0; 0-2 0; Baldrige 3, 0-0 6; Dauch 3, 5-7 11; Spence 7, 0-0 16; Jarrett 7, 2-3 20; Jackson 6, 6-6 20. Totals — 26-50, 13-18.

Three-point goals. Trinity — Jento (2), Triplett, Western, Beallsville — Jarrett (4), Jackson (2), Spence (2).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



SUBARU
Confidence in Motion

2012 SUBARU
OUTBACK
251 PREMIUM

WHEELING SUBARU 1-70 Exit 5, Rt. 40 East - Elm Grove
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-7313

www.wheelingsubaru.com

CHECK OUT MY BLOG

www.timesleaderonline.com

“Wacky World of Sports”

SETH STASKEY

The Times Leader

200 S. 4th St.
Martins Ferry, OH 43935
740-633-1131

Carpet Cleaning
Commercial & Residential

Panhandle
CLEANING & RESTORATION

FIRE • SMOKE • WIND
MOLD • SEWAGE • WATER

“WE’RE GONNA SAVE YOU!”

www.panhandlecr.com
Robert C. Contraguerra, Sr., President
WV LIC#014743

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

304-232-2321 • 800-504-7054

OVAC girls tourney pairings established

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

One of the most difficult girls' basketball seasons to predict has hit its stretch run.

While Ohio tournament pairings will be set Sunday, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference announced its brackets for the fifth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Tournament Tuesday morning.

Games played through Monday evening counted toward the standings with the top

four teams earning the right to compete in the championship tournament.

The non-qualifying schools had two games scheduled for them by the basketball committee with each school receiving a home and away game. Those were also finalized on Tuesday.

All of the opening-round games will be played on Monday with the two semifinal winners advancing to Ohio University Eastern for Saturday's championship game. Action at OUE will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the



Class 1A game. The games will go off every 2 hours and 45 minutes. The 5A championship game will be the final game contested and it will tip at 8:30 p.m.

The losers of Monday's semifinal games will meet on Thursday at the higher seed's court unless one of the top two seeds is upset. If either a one or two seed falls and it's meeting the a three or four seed in the consolation game, the third or fourth seed will host. That's a stipulation the committee added a year ago, so more teams are able to host a

game.

In Class 1A, the only undefeated team in the OVAC, Morgantown Trinity, earned the top seed. The Lady Warriors will host fourth-seeded Conotton Valley in what's the longest trip geographically of the entire week. The Lady Rockets earned the final sport with a 10-4 record.

The red-hot Beallsville Lady Blue Devils (15-2) will play host to defending Class A champion, Madonna, which finished the pre-OVAC portion of its schedule at 14-5.

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

In Class 2A, Shadyside is the defending champion after cruising to the crown a season ago en route to the Division IV state tournament.

The Lady Tigers are again the top seed and will host Linsly (8-8), which technically finished fifth, but OVAC newcomer, Clay Battelle isn't eligible, so Erica Hall's Cadets bumped up a spot.

Wheeling Central, which fell to Shadyside twice, is the second seed with a strong 15-3 record.

Coach Penn Kurtz' team will host third-seeded River (10-8) at the Maroon Knights' gymnasium.

In Class 3A, Fort Frye is the top seed after finishing with a strong 15-2 record. The Cadets of Coach Dan Liedtke were OVAC champions in 2010, but fell to Shadyside in last year's title game.

The Lady Cadets' only losses have come to Liberty Benton and Oak Hill. Fort Frye will welcome PVC-rival Shenandoah for the opening round. The Lady Zeps are 10-7 on the season.

Reeling Martins Ferry, which led the Class 3A race much of the season, narrowly held on to the two seed. The Lady Purple Riders (10-7) of Coach Dave Reasbeck will host Monroe Central (13-4). The Lady Seminoles only losses have come to Shadyside and Fort Frye.

In Class 4A, Edison is once again the top seed and will face Oak Glen in a rematch of last year's semifinal, which was won by Oak Glen.

The Lady Wildcats, who won the Buckeye 8 title outright, finished 16-2. Oak Glen, which has been playing well down the stretch, overtook East Liverpool for the fourth spot with its 13-5 record.

The other semifinal finds defending Class 3A champion Union Local hosting Harrison Central. The Lady Jets are 14-3 on the season, while the Lady Huskies are 13-5. Union Local defeated Harrison Central twice earlier this season.

In Class 5A, Wheeling Park has been the queenpin all season with a 16-3 record. The Lady Patriots of Coach Meredith Dailer won the big-school crown a season ago, upsetting Indian Creek and John Marshall along the way.

The Lady Patriots' opponent Monday evening will be John Marshall, which finished 10-6 on the season.

A battle of the city of Morgantown will unfold in the other semifinal with the Lady Hawks of University (12-3) pinochle with the Lady Mohicans (12-2).

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

some ready answers when questioned about his team's success in finally getting the best of the Tigers (17-3), who had swept the season series against the Maroon Knights the past three years.

"What went right this time was our defense," a pleased Kurtz said. "We knew coming in that we had to shut down (Karli) Bonar and (Hayley) Holenka. We just wanted to get out early with the lead and make them play from behind because if they get ahead of you, they are a different team."

That part of Central's game plan also worked to perfection. Shadyside led just once the entire afternoon, seizing a 5-4 lead after one of the rare occasions when Bonar got enough daylight to nail a 3-pointer. Cassie Sorge's baseline drive put the Maroon Knights back in front and the game was tied just once the rest of the way — 23-23 after Toni Andes' three-point play nearly 3 minutes into the fourth quarter.

Emily Bucon, Central's leading scorer with 13 points, then stroked in a 3-pointer from the left wing, followed by Colleen McCormick's stickback shot for a 28-23 Knights advantage with 3:29 left in the game.

Although Central had several misses at the foul line down the stretch, Bucon was the exception, swishing six foul shots in a row. Overall, the junior standout finished with a perfect 8-for-8 at the free-throw line.

Bonar and Holenka entered the OVAC title contest with 18-point scoring averages and they had combined for 11 trifectas in that most recent matchup against the Maroon Knights. Saturday, they managed only three 3-pointers, all by Bonar, who scored 11 points while Holenka was limited to three points before fouling out late in the game.

The Maroon Knights also did a terrific job rebounding the basketball, limiting Shadyside to one shot on nearly every first-half possession although the final statistics had both teams with 26 total rebounds.

"We didn't do a good job of boxing out the last couple of minutes but, overall, I was really proud of our effort on the boards," Kurtz said.

McCormick, Central's other double-figure scorer with 12 points, was almost a one-girl window cleaner underneath the glass, pulling down seven of her game-high 13 rebounds on the defensive end of the floor. Shadyside's top rebounder was Kristen Fijalkowski, who had nine rebounds and eight points.

"We started out flat-footed and not playing with a lot of intensity," a disappointed Yates said as Shadyside scored 11 points in the first half on 4 of 20 shooting from the floor.

When asked about the Tigers' long possessions which saw them often take more than 30 seconds before attempting a shot, Yates said, "We weren't moving on

offense but their defense had a lot to do with it. They just shut us down."

The two biggest shots of the game were provided by Bri Robbins at the end of the half and Bucon's trey that gave Central the lead for keeps in the fourth quarter.

At the end of a second quarter that saw the Tigers score three points, Robbins buried her 3-pointer just ahead of the buzzer extending Central's advantage to 19-11. It was the second game in a row for the senior guard to hit a critical buzzer beater. During Monday night's OVAC semifinal victory against River, Robbins' 3-pointer trimmed an 11-point deficit to eight and the Maroon Knights went on to dominate the second half against the Pilots.

Shadyside, which's two previous losses this season were against Zanesville Rosecrans and Wheeling Park, made a run in the third quarter also thanks largely to its defense which limited Central to two points.

Bonar drained her third and final 3-pointer of the game, followed by two-point baskets from Fijalkowski and Toni Andes as the Tigers rallied to within 19-18. The only points the remainder of the quarter came on a baseline hoop from Central's Julia Palmer and another Fijalkowski hoop.

McCormick opened the final quarter with a stickback goal, restoring the three-point lead that was wiped out when Andes flashed across the lane to hit a runner. She also was fouled and cashed the free throw to knot the score at 23-23 with 6:29 to play.

Bucon got control of a long rebound, went up and dropped her 3-pointer into the twine to put the Knights in front 26-23. McCormick's rebound and stickback, followed by another Bucon goal from in close, pushed the lead out to 30-23, leaving the Tigers with too much of a hill to overcome.

Missed free throws by the Maroon Knights helped the defending champs get within 35-32 with 9 seconds remaining. Bucon then stepped back to the free-throw line and buried both shots to put the game out of reach just ahead of Kenzie Fielding's last-second basket.

The victory improved Central's record to 18-3 during a season which has seen the Maroon Knights defeat W.Va. Class AAA power Wheeling Park twice and achieve a victory against a Shadyside team that had advanced to Ohio's final four last season.

The Tigers' coach scoffed at a question about how difficult it was to beat a team for the third time in one season.

"We have been in that position before and were fortunate enough to come out on the positive side," Yates said. "(Saturday) it just didn't happen. The only positive thing is that there is still life after this loss. Our girls will be focused and they'll come out ready to play in our sectional tournament next Thursday night."

Patriots Reign Again

Wheeling Park defeats Morgantown in 5A

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Down eight points with 3:30 to go and staring defeat in the face, Wheeling Park used a stingy defense — with a little luck from missed Morgantown free throws — to force overtime in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Championships.

From there, the Patriots did their damage at the free-throw line as Emily Puskarich and Haley Robb knocked down a combined 12 free throws in the

extra 4 minutes — the only points scored by Wheeling Park — to win a second consecutive OVAC championship, topping the Mohigans, 68-62, in overtime for the Class 5A crown.

“We knew we had to maintain our composure on offense and get the looks we wanted to get,” Wheeling Park coach Meredith Dailer said. “We were protecting the bucket on defense and that is really where the difference came. We stepped it up better defensively in the last 3 minutes and got some stops.

“We let our kids set the goals because we believe when they set the

See, **Reign**, Page B5

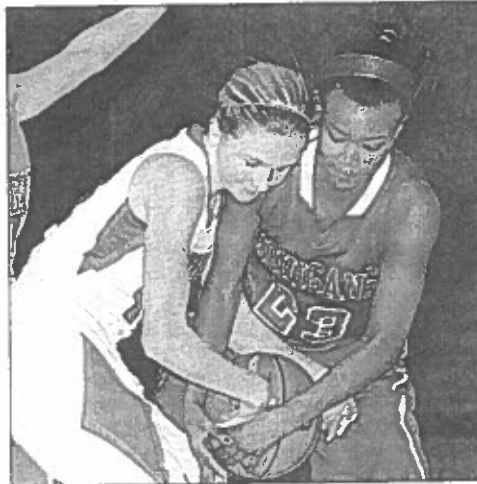


Photo by Josh Strobe

Haley Robb, left, and Sammi Hanson get tied up Saturday night.

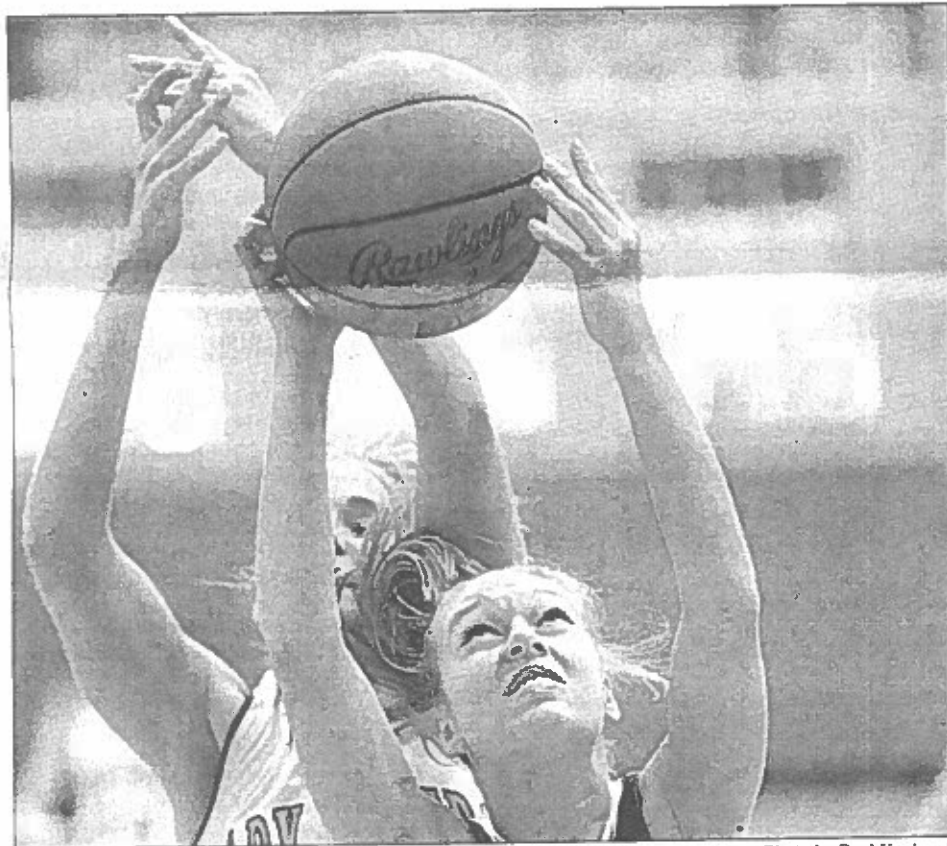


Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Wheeling Central's Julie Palmer reaches for a rebound during the Class 2A championship game Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern.

Knights Clamp Down

Wheeling Central's solid on defense in victory

By **NICK BEDWAY**
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The last time the Wheeling Central and Shadyside girls' basketball teams squared off, Coach Tina Yates' usually hot-shooting Tigers bombed in eight 3-pointers and raced out to a 32-5 lead during the first quarter before hanging on at the end for an eight-point triumph.

Only two words were needed to explain

how the Maroon Knights prevented Shadyside from reaching the 32-point mark until 9 seconds remained in the fourth quarter of Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A championship game played on the Ohio University Eastern campus — rebounding and defense.

Clearly those were the keys to Wheeling Central's 37-34 victory that ended Shadyside's one-year run as conference champions and also snapped the Tigers' 13-game winning streak.

Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz had

See, **Knights**, Page B2

Park Boys Get Past Logan

Saseen leads the way with team-high 17

By **TRACY WATSON**
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Wheeling Park sophomore Luke Saseen was not running around with a cape on his back or leaping any tall buildings Saturday night.

However, it was Saseen who rose up and helped save the day for the Patriots in a battle of West Virginia Class AAA ranked clubs against Logan at the Palace on the Hill.

Saseen scored a team-high 17 points, all in the second half, and hit 9 of 11 free throws while his teammates struggled from the line and Park held off the Wildcats' attempt to take control in the third quarter to record a 61-53 victory to help cap off Hall of Fame night festivities at Wheeling Park High School.

The victory not only moves Coach Michael Jebbia's team to 13-5, it finishes off a weekend of revenge in which his Red, White and Blue turned the tables on Parkersburg South on Friday night and Logan (13-4) last night.

It also sends the Patriots into a very tough two-game stretch with a little confidence.

Park will travel to Morgantown on Tuesday night to battle the No. 2 Mohigans in an OVAC semifinal game before taking on W.Va.'s top-ranked club, South Charleston, on Wednesday.

See, **Park**, Page B5

PARK

Continued from page B1

"We really needed this one with what is ahead of us next week," Jebbia said. "The two top-ranked teams in the state on the road is what is next for us, but the kids know there is still a lot ahead for us and we can still control our fate."

It looked like the Patriots might run away early on with seven consecutive Boo Lathon points giving the hosts an 11-4 lead with 2:15 showing in the opening quarter. However, Coach Mark Hatcher's team tallied the final six of to cut the margin to 11-10.

With Errin Baynes sitting on the bench with two fouls, Logan managed to keep things close the remainder of the half, trailing 28-22 at the break.

The Wildcats' only two leads came in the third as a Da'Jon Streeter deuce gave the visitors a 32-31 upper hand before a pair of

Steven Browning charity tosses again put them ahead, this time 34-33 at 4:33.

Saseen then tallied five in a row of his own to put the Park back in front for good, while Emil Popicg's only basket of the game, with three ticks showing in the third, made it 45-40 after three.

Logan managed to keep the game manageable in the fourth, before Park put things away, scoring the final six points of the contest. Leading 50-49 with 3 minutes to play, Park actually finished on an 11-4 spurt.

"Luke Saseen was real special (Saturday)," Jebbia added. "But he has had some games like this. He has also had some injuries and we are just bringing him back, but he really put us over the top. I had a short, very positive talk with him before the game,

and I think it really helped.

"I also can't say enough about the senior leadership that was around him. You know, people are going to lean on Boo and Errin, and luckily Luke was there to pick things up (Saturday).

"These kids really stuck together when things looked like they might sway the other way, and that is also something that I am very proud of."

While Saseen finished with 17, Lathon added another double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds and Baynes finished with eight. Lee Peluchette also contributed seven tallies, including five big points in the second period.

Browning scored a game-high 24 points and added 11 caroms for the Wildcats while Streeter added 14 and Keaton Johnson 10 in a losing

REIGN

Continued from page B1

goals, that is the path they want to take. This is something they decided they wanted and I am very happy for them."

Wheeling Park led going into the fourth quarter but Morgantown scored the first six points to regain the lead. Wheeling Park cut it to one with 4:40 to go on a free throw by Puskarich before the Mohigans ran off a 7-0 run thanks to two baskets by Rachel Michael and a 3-pointer from the top of the key by Emily Sabatino to go ahead 54-46.

The Patriots followed that up with a 6-0 run. Marissa Tucker added a free throw and a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 54-50.

On the next two Morgantown possessions, Sabatino and Olivia Naugle missed the front end of 1-and-1s to breath more life back into the Patriots.

Krista Crawshaw got Park within two with a layup, only to be answered at the other end by a Sabatino layup.

With a minute remaining, Puskarich missed a 3 at the other end, but made up for it with an interception, running the floor and feeding Kambrea O'Neal for an easy layup to make the score 56-64.

O'Neal immediately repaid the favor, coming away with a strip and dish-

ing off to Puskarich for a layup that tied the game. The junior was fouled but missed a free throw that would have given the Patriots the lead.

With 35.5 seconds left, Morgantown held for the last shot, but Leah Taylor's jumper from just inside the top of the arc bounced off the rim. Robb came up with the rebound but was unable to get a shot off before the regulation buzzer.

"I thought we had the game down the stretch," Morgantown coach Adam Henkins said. "We got everything we wanted, a four-point lead with a minute to go and we didn't knock down foul shots. We had two, three critical turnovers in that last minute and I was very upset we weren't able to put the game away.

"(For the last shot) we had a play set up where we were attacking the rim and we had a go-to player — Leah Taylor, who was playing very well (Saturday) — looking to take the shot she did, and more times than not that shot

goes in."

Added Dailer: "Their substitution pattern made it look like they were trying to shoot 3s so we wanted to make sure we were defending the 3."

The overtime belonged to the Patriots. Robb was a perfect 6-for-6 from the line, while Puskarich was 6 of 8. Wheeling Park scored the first nine points before Taylor hit a 3 with 35 seconds left. Puskarich sealed it with three free throws down the stretch.

"It's a big win and gets us ready for sectionals and if we have to play Morgantown again," Puskarich said. "It gets our excitement level up and gets us ready for the rest of the season.

"You have to work on the defensive end to get to offense first. We had to work hard to play defense and that led to things going our way on offense."

Puskarich led the Patriots with 22 points, followed by Robb with 14 and Tucker and O'Neal each with 10. Taylor paced the Mohigans with 18 points and Michael had 12.

PATRIOTS

(Cont. from Page 15)

The Patriots continued to hit from distance, starting the second quarter with three more 3-pointers as then put together a 16-2 run. Morgantown was sloppy on offense, a step slow defensively, and seemed to lose its poise, as evidenced by three first-half technical fouls.

It couldn't have been much worse.

Not surprisingly, the Mohigans came out too late for the shootaround before the second half, no doubt enduring an earful from their coach, and it seemed to make a difference, as solid defense and assertive point guard play from junior Nick Colasante allowed them to whittle the Patriots' lead to single digits at 38-29 by the end of the quarter.

Morgantown forward Nathan Adrian took control to begin the final quarter and his pair of free throws and 3-pointer sliced the lead to five. After Mark Johnson's

steal, layup, and conversion after the foul, the Mohigans had crept to within a bucket. Finally, after three unsuccessful offensive trips were squandered, Adrian converted a pair of free throws and Morgantown's furious 28-7 second-half run brought them all the way back at 40-40 with 2:29 to play.

But that was the last point the Mohigans scored. Lathon hit a tough leaver, Colasante's short jumper rolled around and out, and Park hit enough free throws down the stretch to ice it.

Indian Creek 43

Parkersburg South 38

WINTERSVILLE — Indian Creek limited Parkersburg South to just 17 points through three quarters on its way to a five-point victory and a Saturday date against Wheeling Park for the 5A Championship.

Joe Bowers led the Redskins with 13 points, while Frankie Kamerec added 12.

DEVILS

(Cont. from Page 15)

During the quarter, the Red Devils hit five 3-pointers and got scoring from five different players, including 10 from junior standout Dan Monteroso.

"I thought our effort was there early, but we just gave a team that can shoot too many good looks," Steubenville coach Mike Haney said. "They're a good shooters and they made us pay."

The Red Devils went into the halftime break with a comfortable 45-27 lead but Big Red wasn't finished yet.

Steubenville took advantage of back-to-back turnovers to begin the third quarter and eventually scored the first six points of the period. All

told, Big Red outscored the Red Devils, 16-7, in the third to make it a 52-43 score after three.

Riley Carton finished with 17 points for the winners.

Big Red was led by Periogn West, who had 16 points. Richmond added 14 points and nine rebounds. Dylan Snyder came off the bench to net 11 points.

East Liverpool 51

Harrison Central 37

EAST LIVERPOOL — Marky Thompkins scored 15 points and Brian Beverly added 13 as East Liverpool advanced the the Class 4A championship game by beating Harrison Central.

Nick Pelegreen's 15 points paced the Huskies. Rasheen Mitchell added eight.

DONS

(Cont. from Page 15)

Things were looking bleak for Madonna after four straight points by Jet Masters put the visitors ahead 54-51. Comis' 3-pointer, coming off a Battista assist, tied the score with 49 ticks remaining. His hoop in the paint, which followed a Battista steal, made it 56-54. Madonna got the ball right back after a turnover and Battista sealed it at the free-throw line.

Early on, it appeared Mike Fierbaugh's Rockets were going to run the Dons out of the Dome. After Drazen Frankovitch turned a Battista pass into two points, the Rockets ran off 14 straight. Zac Lyon, a 6-foot-5 junior, buried three in a row from behind the arc to key the spurt. Brandon Bailey, Conotton Valley's 6-6 junior post player, contributed eight and the visitors were up 23-12 after the initial period.

Battista opened the second quarter by swishing two free tosses. Comis and Clay Rokisky had back-to-back 3-pointers, both coming off Battista feeds. Conotton Valley hung on and took a 33-24 advantage into the halftime.

Lyon and Bailey combined for 25 of the 33 points. Madonna struggled from the floor during the first 16 minutes, connecting on just 7 of 34 tries. From behind the arc, the Dons made only 2 of 14.

Beallsville 73, Trinity 61

BEALLSVILLE — Sam Jackson and Teryn Jarrett each scored 20 points in leading Beallsville past Trinity and into the Class 1A finals against Madonna.

Tyler Spence added 16 points and Graham Dauch finished with 11 for the Blue Devils (18-1). Josh Baldrige helped out with six points and 10 rebounds.



Patriots Hang On In Motown

Wheeling Park to face Creek for 5A crown

By MARK SCHRAF
The Dominion Post

MORGANTOWN — He could see this one coming.

Morgantown boys' basketball coach Tom Yester didn't like his team's practice Monday, didn't like the way it walked — as opposed to ran — onto the court Tuesday when it played host to Wheeling Park in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals.

"Kids this age, they should be hop-pin' and boppin' every time they're given a chance to go out and play," he said, "but we didn't have that, not at game time."

And that lethargy led directly to a 31-14 halftime deficit, and although the Mohigans woke up in the second half well enough to tie the score, they couldn't quite make it over the hump and finally bowed to the Patriots, 45-40.

In a first half that Yester described as "just the worst," Morgantown (14-4) rebounded atrociously and couldn't keep Park's athletic wingman, Boo Lathon, in check. Lathon, who scored 10 first-quarter points on his way to a game-high 17, pounded the glass, and hit a 3 at the buzzer to lead Wheeling Park (14-5) to a 15-8 advantage.

Please See PATRIOTS, Page 16

Blue Dons Slip Past Rockets

Madonna earns date against Beallsville

By ED LOOMAN
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — Madonna's goal of capturing back-to-back Wheeling Hospital/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament championships remained alive Tuesday because Ross Comis and Nick Battista made big plays when they mattered the most.

Comis knocked down a 3-pointer and another basket to bring his team even then give it the lead for good. Battista, the senior floor general, put things on ice with two free throws as the top-seeded Blue Dons earned a thrilling 58-54 victory against Conotton Valley inside the Dube Dome.

The victory sends George Vargo and his 17-3 club into Saturday's Class A title game at Ohio University Eastern against Beallsville.

Please See DONS, Page 16

Red Devils Look to Earn First Tourney Title

St.C. bests Steubenville in Class 4A semifinal

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — In the five-year history of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship, St. Clairsville has become a common entrant.



Photo by Jim Elliott

Linsly's Anthony Wallace (14) shoots over SCC's Ryan Fletcher (24) during Tuesday night's game.

Cadets Prevail in OT

Akil Blount scores 31 against Steub. Catholic

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — On a night when Akil Blount went over 1,000 points for his sparkling four-year career, the Linsly stalwart made it even more memorable by leading the Cadets into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A basketball championship game.

Blount, headed to Florida A&M University next fall to play football, poured in 30 points and yanked down 13 rebounds Tuesday evening as Linsly prevailed 74-68 against Steubenville Catholic in a heart-stopping overtime battle at the noisy Stifel Field House.

Coach James Wallace's Cadets are making their second appearance in the OVAC finals since the tournament format was adopted five years ago. Linsly, the second-seed, will carry a 12-8 record

into the 12:15 p.m. Saturday contest against top-seeded River, a 55-36 winner against Shadyside in the other 2A semifinal contest. In their last title-game appearance, the Cadets private school fell in three overtime to Shadyside.

Although Steubenville Catholic dominated much of the first half while building a 34-26 advantage, the Crusaders lost the lead and had to rally in the last minute of regulation, finally knotting the score at 64-64 to force overtime when Michael Carapellotti buried a 3-pointer from the right sideline.

Two seconds remained on the clock when Carapellotti rubbed off a screen and got open in front of the Steubenville Catholic bench as his teammates and coaches leaped to their feet celebrating when the ball dropped cleanly through the cords.

Jibri Blount, Akil's freshman brother who plays with the coolness of a veteran that has been in these situations countless

Please See OT, Page 20

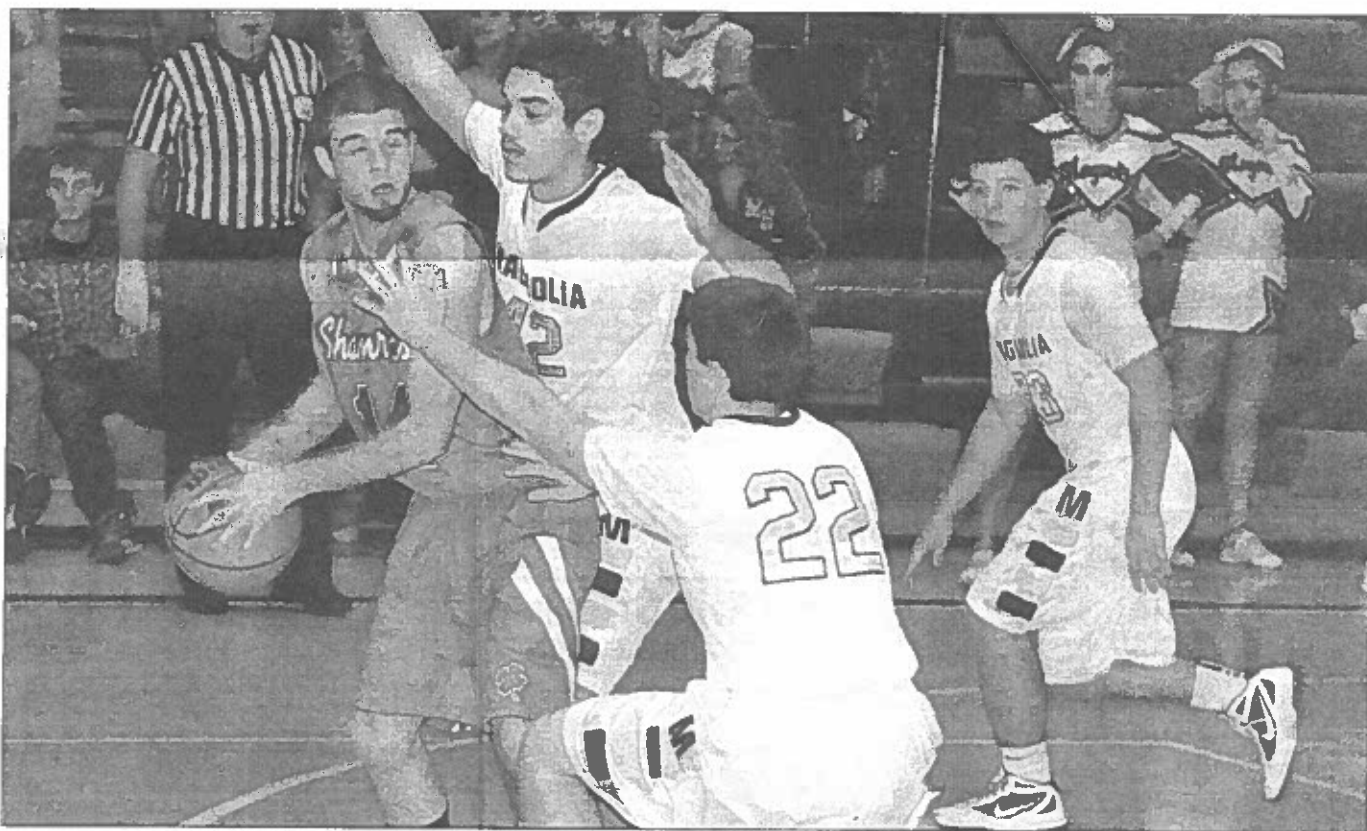


Photo by Josh Strope

The Magnolia trio of Hunter Campbell (42), Drew Keller (22) and Jayson Keller (33) swarm Barnesville's Zack Dornon (14) during Tuesday night's game in New Martinsville.

Eagles Crush Rocks

Magnolia jumps out to 30-point halftime lead

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Barnesville coach Chris Pack could do nothing but sit there and watch what Magnolia was doing once the ball was tipped to begin their OVAC Tournament semifinal contest.

Magnolia 6-0 lead. Barnesville timeout. 7:07 left in the first.

Magnolia 13-4 lead. Barnesville timeout. 5:20 left in the first.

It was that kind of game and things only got better for Magnolia en route to an 84-47 thumping Tuesday at Magnolia High School.

"Magnolia played at a really high level and we played at a really low level," Pack said. "When that happens, you get beat badly. I'm not sure we ever really got off the bus."

The Blue Eagles (17-2) seem to be clicking on all cylinders as they look to defend the Class 3A championship Saturday against Fort Frye at Ohio Univer-

sity Eastern. The Cadets — champions in 2A last season — topped Shenandoah, 64-58, in the other semifinal.

Magnolia started the game the way any coach would want.

Stephen Rogalski drove to the hoop off the opening tip for a score. After a Barnesville miss, Rogalski went back to the hoop for another basket. A Barnesville turnover led to an easy basket underneath by junior standout Mark Winters.

"All we have been talking about

Please See EAGLES, Page 16

However, Coach Kim Clifford and his 3-point shooting Red Devils hope Saturday's trip to Ohio University Eastern goes better than their first three.

After fending off a valiant comeback by Steubenville, the Red Devils advanced to the Class 4A title game at 5:45 p.m. on Saturday by virtue of a 64-58 victory.

"We've been (to the final) quite a few times and hopefully, we can get it done this time," Clifford said. "But, like I've

said every time we've been there, it's not about me. It's about these kids and this team. If we get it done, great, but if not, I'll take the blame."

The Red Devils will face East Liverpool, which advanced by taking out Harrison Central in the other 4A semifinal.

"We're happy to be in that game and we know East Liverpool is a quality team," Clifford said. "This is what it should be about. It's about two teams, who traditionally don't play each other,

that have led the standings most of the year. We expect it will be a great atmosphere."

Before any focus could shift to the Potters, the Red Devils had quite a challenge in Big Red.

St. C. came out from the opening tip and as Clifford referenced it, "blitzed" Steubenville, outscoring Big Red, 32-16 in the opening stanza.

Please See DEVILS, Page 16

Huge Run Keys Cadets in 3A

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

It was a script Monroe Central coach Troy Baker had seen before.

His Seminoles found themselves in a nip-and-tuck affair with powerful Fort Frye again Saturday afternoon on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

And then *deja vu* set in for the Seminoles in the OVAC Class 3A Championship Game.

The Cadets used one of their patented runs, scoring 14 consecutive points to blow the game open and from there put it on cruise control en route to a 50-34 victory and the school's sixth OVAC title.

"We didn't come here (to OUE) to get second place," Baker said. "But, having said that, I really believe this game will help us next week in the (sectional) because there's no better atmosphere in the regular season than what we experienced here."

The Seminoles were making their fourth appearance in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships and dropped to 2-2 in the finals. They'll open sectional play Thursday at

Cambridge against Martins Ferry.

Fort Frye owned a 13-4 lead after one, but Monroe Central charged back to make it a 17-15 game at the intermission in the Cadets' favor.

"Fort Frye really jumped on us, but I am proud of how our girls battled back," Baker said. "They do a good job defensively and really made it tough on us, but we were able to hit some shots from the perimeter, and I think when we shifted to a zone it threw them off a bit."

During the third quarter, Monroe Central's Chelsie Tewanger hit a 3-pointer, bringing the Seminoles to within two at 26-24.

Then, the proverbial wheels fell off for the Seminoles.

Fort Frye turned up the heat defensively and took over, extending the lead to 40-24 early in the fourth quarter.

Junior Diedra Combs sparked the Cadets assault by scoring 12 of her game-high 20 points in the third.

"Diedra stepped up and gave us some big steals and hit some big shots like players do," Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke



said. "But, we've got the capability with this team to have five or six girls to do that on any given night."

The Fort Frye defense was outstanding, limiting Monroe Central to 36 percent shooting. And in turning up the heat, the Cadets were whistled for only four personal fouls and Monroe Central shot just two foul shots.

"We work on hands every day in practice," Liedtke said. "We want to play tough, clean defense. We don't swat too often at the ball. We're not going to play solid defense and then commit a silly foul."

The Cadets, meanwhile, sank 16 of 24 from the foul line.

"We just didn't get to the line and some of that has to do with their defense," Baker said. "They defend the paint so well that it's tough to attack the hoop."

Combs' production was complemented by Taylor Buchanan, who had 12 points, nine of which came in the second half.

Monroe Central was led by Tewanger who had 12. Senior Demitra Habig added six points.

Madonna to meet Beallsville

By **ED LOOMAN**
For The Times Leader

WEIRTON — Madonna's goal of capturing back-to-back Wheeling Hospital/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament championships remained alive Tuesday because Ross Comis and Nick Battista made big plays when they mattered the most.

Comis knocked down a 3-pointer and another basket to bring his team even then give it the lead for good. Battista, the senior floor general, put things on ice with two free throws as the top-seeded Blue Dons earned a thrilling 58-54 victory against Conotton Valley inside the Dube Dome.

The victory sends George Vargo and his 17-3 club into Saturday's Class A title game at Ohio University's Eastern against Beallsville.

Things were looking bleak for Madonna after four straight points by Jet Masters put the visitors ahead 54-51. Comis' 3-pointer, coming off a Battista assist, tied the score with 49 ticks remaining. His hoop in the paint, which followed a Battista steal, made it 56-54. Madonna got the ball right back after a turnover and Battista sealed it at the free-throw line.

"This was just a great team effort," a jubilant Vargo said. "Ross hit the 3, then the deuce. Nick had that great steal. We forced some turnovers there at the end. It was just a total team effort."

Linsly tops SCC in overtime

By **NICK BEDWAY**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — On a night when Akil Blount went over the 1,000 points for his sparkling four-year career career, the Linsly School stalwart made it even more memorable by leading the Cadets into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A basketball championship game.

Blount, headed to Florida A&M University next fall to play football, poured in 30 points and yanked down 13 rebounds Tuesday evening as Linsly finally prevailed 74-68 over Steubenville Catholic

Central in a heart-stopping overtime battle at the noisy Stifel Field House.

Coach James Wallace's Cadets are now forward to making just their second appearance in the OVAC finals since the tournament format was adopted five years ago. Linsly, the second-seed, will carry a 12-8 record into the 12:15 p.m. Saturday contest against top-seeded River, a 55-36 winner over Shadyside in last night's other 2A semifinal contest. In their last title-game appearance, the Wheeling-based private school fell in double overtime to the Tigers from Shadyside.

Although Steubenville Catholic dominated much of the first half while building a 34-26 advantage, the Crusaders lost the lead and had to rally in the last minute of regulation, finally knotting the score at 64-64 to force overtime when Michael Carapellotti buried a trifecta from the right sideline.

Just two seconds remained on the clock when Carapellotti rubbed off a screen and got open in front of the Steubenville Catholic bench as his teammates and coaches leaped to their feet celebrating when the ball dropped cleanly through the cords.

Madonna Goes Cold in Loss

By **FRED YOUNCE**
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A cold, snowy morning outside turned into a cold day of shooting for the No. 3 seed Madonna girls' basketball team as it dropped a 47-37 decision to No. 1-seeded Morgantown Trinity in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The victory marked the first OVAC crown for Coach Cary Woods' Warriors.

"It's a very humbling experience to come in here and do that," Woods said. "The OVAC has such a storied history due to the competition level here."

Added Madonna coach Don Ogden: "We knew going into this game that it was going to be a tough competition with a quality team that's undefeated and ranked in the state. The girls gave a gallant effort and I couldn't be prouder of them."

"They played well enough to win, but unfortunately Trinity played better."

The Blue Dons struggled to get the ball to fall in the hoop for a majority of the action, shooting 9-for-56 from the field, including 2-for-15 from behind the 3-point arc.

"I think Trinity was doing a good job of coming out on us and I also think we had a hard time finding our rhythm offensively," Ogden said. "I thought we had good shots. I had no problem with any of the shots we took as far as selection. You have those days where those shots don't fall and days where they're going to go in. (Saturday) they didn't."

Things started slowly for both teams. Madonna scored the game's first three points, but failed to score again for the rest of the opening quarter. Trinity took the lead, but could only muster seven points in the quarter.

The second quarter looked much like the first only with Trinity holding a slight early advantage only to watch Madonna

OVAC CLASS 1A

score the last six points to leave the game tied at 11-11 at halftime. Amy Davis led the Blue Dons in the first half with six points while Tara Neely and Haley Triplett scored four each to lead the Warriors.

The third quarter belonged to Trinity as the girls from Morgantown doubled up Madonna 16-8 in the quarter. Emily Meyers for Trinity and Isabella Anile for Madonna led their respective teams with four each and the score read 27-19 after three.

Madonna made things interesting in the fourth quarter.

With 5:53 left Anile knocked down two free throws to make the score 31-26. The first of those gave Anile the milestone of 1,000 points for her career.

"Certainly it's a great accomplishment for her as an individual, but I'm certain right now she'd trade that 1,000 points for a victory," Ogden said. "I'm pretty confident she'd give credit to all her supporting cast this year and the years prior because it takes a lot to get to 1,000 points."

"It takes rebounds and assists so she's the face of that 1,000 points, but I'm sure she'd agree it was a team contribution."

Madonna forced a turnover on the ensuing inbounds pass following Anile's trip to the free-throw line and Lisa Parkins converted it into two points, cutting the lead to three at 31-28 and forcing the Warriors to call a timeout.

"We're pretty confident, we don't care who we play," Ogden said of his team's ability to make a run at the No. 3 team in the state of West Virginia Class A. "That's why we played the No. 1 team in the state and I think No. 6 team in the state also. We're pretty confident. We think we can beat anybody."

"That's the attitude this club has and

Edison Bests Union Local

By **RICH GIBSON**
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Edison's Wildcats authored another defensive masterpiece Saturday. This one resulted in an OVAC championship.

The Jefferson County squad completed a season 'three-peat' of Union Local, finishing with a fourth-quarter flourish to post a 48-35 victory before a nice turnout at Ohio University Eastern's spacious athletic complex.

Coach Tony Kovalesky's 4A title-winning club sprinted to the locker room at halftime trailing by a point, 21-20. But the Cats benefited from a fortuitous play to end the third quarter, then methodically pulled away down the stretch.

"We went to a triangle

CLASS 4A

and 2 (defense) the second half and may have caught them by surprise," Kovalesky said. "We hadn't shown them that look in either (regular season game)."

The sisters Prokopakis combined for 34 of the winners' 48 points. Kayla connected for 18 points with Kristen contributing a solid 16.

Indeed, Drew Greenwood's 16-4 Jets found good looks more difficult to come by after the break.

But UL was its own worst enemy more times than not. The Jets were charted for 19 turnovers.

With the Morristown-based school trailing 28-27 and holding for a final

possession in the third quarter, a turnover led to a careless foul with Edison senior Kristen Prokopakis attempting a desperation 35-footer at the buzzer.

With no time on the clock, Prokopakis converted 2 of 3 free throws and it was 30-27.

The Cats used that momentum to score five quick fourth-quarter points and slowly build a comfortable lead.

The Jets, in turn, sent Edison to the line 11 times in the final minutes from where the Cats cashed in eight opportunities.

"We're a 75 percent foul shooting team and that showed up," said Kovalesky whose 17-2 team knocked down 20 of its 26 charity chances.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships

SECOND-PLACE SATURDAY

• Shadyside, Monroe Central, Union Local all fall



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S KRISTEN Fijalkowski (13) looks for room to pass the basketball during Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships Class 2A game against Wheeling Central. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

2A: Defense propels Wheeling Central

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's been said many, many, many times that offense brings people into the arena, but defense wins championships.

That was very evident Saturday afternoon as a huge crowd watched Wheeling Central hold high-scoring Shadyside to its lowest point total of the season in a 37-34

triumph in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship's Class 2-A title tilt inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building in St. Clairsville.

Shadyside (18-3) entered the contest averaging just under 61 points an outing and had knocked down 137 three-point goals, an average of nearly eight a night.

However, the Maroon Knights (17-3) never let the Lady Tigers get their feet set and unload. The White-clad designated hosts could only mesh three bonus bombs — all by junior Karli Bonar — on 17 attempts. (They had eight in a first-quarter blitzing of the hosts in East Wheeling earlier this season.)

The hard-earned victory also allowed the Wheeling Central seniors to notch their first-ever win over Shadyside.

'Not a lot worked.'

— Tina Yates

See, 2A, Page C2

3A: Fort Frye explodes in second half for win

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It was a script Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker had seen before.

His Lady Seminoles found themselves in a nip-and-tuck affair with powerful Fort Frye again Saturday afternoon on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

And then ... *deja vu* set in for the Lady Seminoles in the OVAC Class 3A Championship Game.

The Lady Cadets used one of their patented runs, scoring 14 consecutive points to blow the game open and from there put it on cruise control en route to a 50-34 victory and the school's sixth OVAC title.

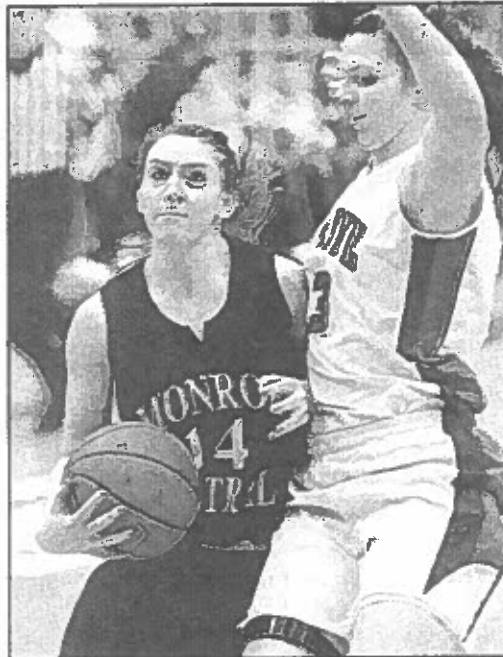
"We didn't come here (to OUE)

to get second place," said Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker. "But, having said that, I really believe this game will help us next week in the (sectional) because there's no better atmosphere in the regular season than what we experienced here."

The Lady Seminoles were making their fourth appearance in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship and have now dropped to 2-2 in the final. They'll open sectional play Thursday at Cambridge High School against Martins Ferry.

Fort Frye owned a 13-4 lead after one, but Monroe charged back to make it a 17-15 game at the intermission in the Cadets' favor.

See, 3A, Page C2

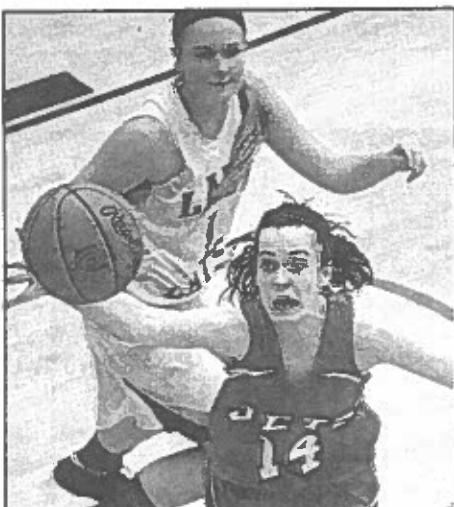


T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MONROE CENTRAL'S Chelsie Tewanger (14) drives to the basket as Fort Frye's Sammie Hanson defends during Saturday's game. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

UNION LOCAL'S Cori Medley (14) reaches for a rebound during Saturday's action. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK



4A: Edison completes sweep of Union Local

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Edison's Lady Wildcats authored another defensive masterpiece Saturday evening. This one resulted in an OVAC championship.

The Jefferson County quint completed a season 'three-peat' of Union Local, finishing with a fourth quarter flourish to post a 48-35 victory before a nice turnout at Ohio University Eastern's spacious athletic complex.

Coach Tony Kovalesky's club sprinted to the locker-room at halftime trailing by a point, 21-20. But the Lady Cats benefited from a fortuitous play to end the third quarter.

See, 4A, Page C2

● **Streak**

Continued from Page C1

Spartans, hit two free throws and Derrick Nix coaxed in a baby hook to push the lead back to eight.

Payne then banked in a left-handed shot over Sullinger, before Sullinger was called for a charge to pick up his fourth foul with 2 minutes left. Next Green drove around Deshaun Thomas for a baseline layup to stretch the lead to 10.

Ohio State never got closer than eight again.

"I thought we did a good enough

job defensively to win the game," Buckeyes coach Thad Matta said. "It all came down to our inability to put the ball in the basket."

Izzo was happy with what he called perhaps his team's best defensive effort of the year, but also said he was relieved that the Buckeyes continually misfired even when unguarded.

"Maybe they wore down a little bit, I don't know," he said. "They missed some 3s, a couple of open,

open ones late that I've seen them make on a regular basis."

Sullinger had 17 points and 16 rebounds but was just 5 of 15 from the field.

Deshaun Thomas and William Buford, averaging a combined 30 points, totaled just 12 — each hitting just 2 of 12 shots from the field.

"I wasn't expecting the double (team). Michigan State didn't show that on film," Sullinger said. "They

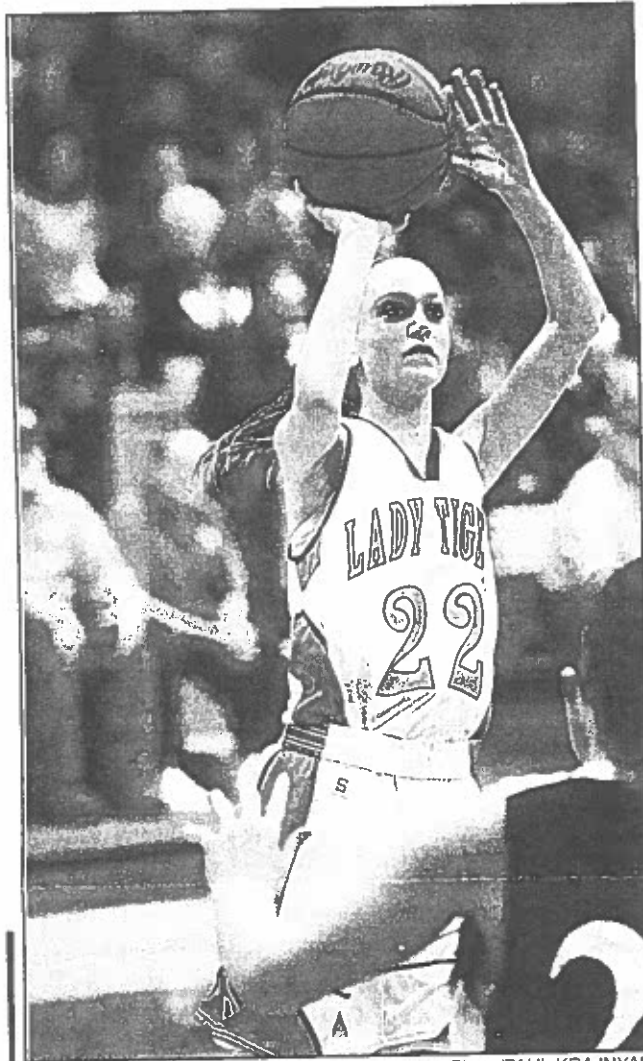
had a great game plan."

Nix, who had shared with Payne the responsibility for guarding Sullinger, was stunned when told Sullinger's stats.

"He had 10 turnovers? Wow," he said. "I guess we did frustrate him."

The Buckeyes were held 29 points under their season scoring average.

Sullinger said he and his teammates lost sight of their strengths.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S KARLI Bonar eyes the basket during Saturday's game with Wheeling Central.

● **2A:**

Continued from Page C1

"What went right this time was our defense," an elated Wheeling Central head coach Penn Kurtz offered during the post-game press conference. "We knew coming in that we had to shut down (Karli) Bonar and (Hayley) Holenka. We just wanted to get out early with the lead and make them play from behind because if they get ahead they're a different team"

Bonar's first try put Shadyside, the No. 1 seed and defending queenpins, up 5-4, but Wheeling Central went on a 6-0 run to double the count at 10-5.

Brooke Meintel's three-point play with 24 seconds made it 10-8 after eight minutes. They would be the only points of the game for the Tigers' talented senior.

The tenacious, in-your-face defense of the Maroon Knights forced four Shadyside turnovers in the second quarter when the Tigers couldn't have thrown a beach ball into the ocean from the boardwalk. They went 1-for-12 in the period and trailed 19-11 at the half.

"We started out flat-footed and not playing with a lot of intensity," allowed Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We weren't moving, but their defense had a lot to do with it. They just shut us down."

Baskets by Bonar, her third triple, Kristen Fijalkowski and Toni Andes sliced the deficit to 21-18 in the third quarter, but the Maroon Knights still led, 21-20, after 24 minutes.

A Colleen McCormick bucket gave Wheeling Central a 23-20 edge, but Andes dove into the lane and was fouled as the ball trickled through the net. Her ensuing free throw knotted the contest with 6:29

remaining to play, but the Maroon Knights' Emily Bucon put her team back on top, 26-23, with a huge three-pointer from the left wing, and her torrid free-throw shooting (6-for-6) down the stretch kept the Tigers at bay.

She tickled the twine twice with 8.3 ticks left to make it 37-32 before the Tigers' promising freshman Kenzie Fielding scored at the buzzer for the final margin of victory.

When asked what didn't go right for her team, Yates couldn't come up with many words.

"Not a lot worked," she quickly answered. "Not a lot."

While the loss snaps the Tigers' 13-game winning streak, the season isn't over by any means as they enter Division IV sectional tournament action Thursday night against Frontier at Union Local High School.

"The positive out of this is that there is still life tomorrow," Yates noted. "We'll be more focused when the (sectional) tournament begins next week."

Bonar led Shadyside with 11 points. Fijalkowski chipped in eight and pulled down nine of her team's 26 rebounds. Holenka, who was held to three points before fouling out late, charted eight steals and a trio of assists.

Bucon led all scorers with 13 points, one more than McCormick, who grabbed game honors by cleaning the glass 13 times. Wheeling Central finished with 26 boards.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● **3A:**

Continued from Page C1

"Fort Frye really jumped on us, but I am proud of how our girls battled back," Baker said. "They do a good job defensively and really made it tough on us, but we were able to hit some shots from the perimeter, and I think when we shifted to a zone it threw them off a bit."

During the third quarter, Monroe Central's Chelsie Tewanger hit a triple, bringing the Lady Seminoles to within two at 26-24.

Then, the proverbial wheels fell off for the Lady Seminoles.

Fort Frye turned up the heat defensively and took over, extending the lead to 40-24 early in the fourth quarter.

Junior Diedra Combs sparked the Lady Cadets' assault by scoring 12 of her game-high 20 points in the third.

"Deidra stepped up and gave us some big steals and hit some big shots like players do," said Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke. "But, we've got the capability with this team to have five or six girls to do that on any given night."

The Fort's defense was outstanding, limiting Monroe Central to 36 percent shooting. And in turning up the heat, the Lady Cadets were whistled for only four personal fouls and Monroe Central shot just two foul shots.

"We work on hands every day in prac-

tice," Liedtke said. "We want to play tough, clean defense. We don't swat too often at the ball. We're not going to play solid defense and then commit a silly foul."

The Lady Cadets, meanwhile, sank 16-of-24 from the foul line.

"We just didn't get to the line and some of that has to do with their defense," Baker said. "They defend the paint so well that it's tough to attack the hoop."

Combs' production was complemented by Taylor Buchanan, who had 12 points, nine of which came in the second half.

Monroe Central was led by Tewanger who had 12. Senior Demitra Habig added six points.

The Lady Cadets held a slim 27-23 edge on the glass.

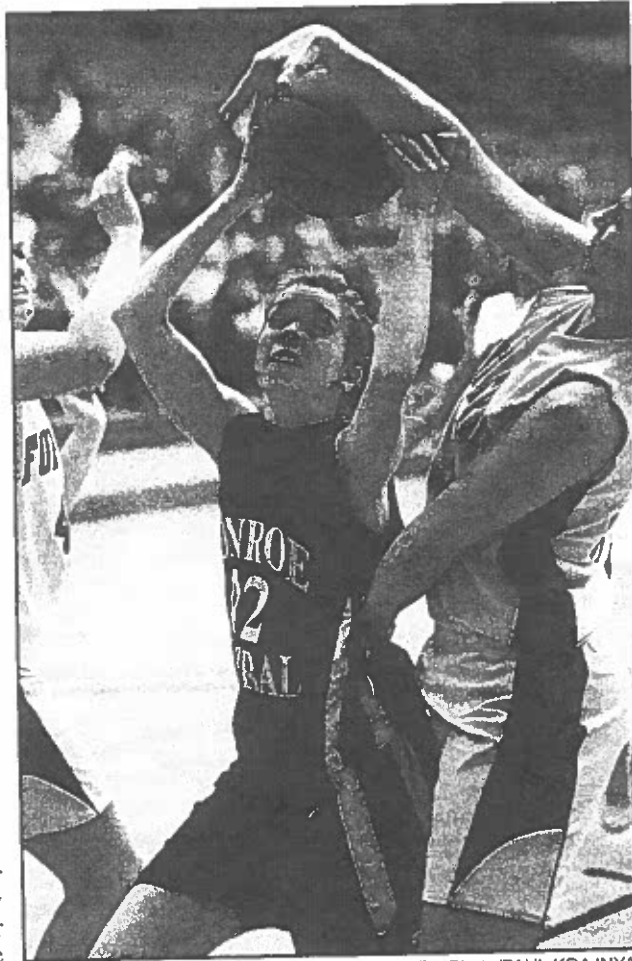
Fort Frye was charted for only six turnovers, which was three fewer than Monroe Central.

Fort Frye, which finishes the regular season at 18-2, will open tournament play this Saturday at 8 p.m. against the winner of Bellaire and St. Clairsville at Cambridge High School.

"I've bragged up our girls some here today, but I hope they realize we've got a lot of bigger goals ahead of us," Liedtke said.

'Fort Frye really jumped on us, but I am proud of how our girls battled back.'

- Troy Baker



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MONROE CENTRAL'S Elizabeth Robey (22) shoots over a Fort Frye defender during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' basketball Championships 3-A game.

Continued from Page C1

ter, then methodically pulled away down the stretch.

"We went to a triangle and two (defense) the second half and may have caught them by surprise," Kovalesky reported. "We hadn't shown them that look in either (regular season game)."

Indeed, Drew Greenwood's Lady Jets found good looks more difficult to come by after the break.

But UL was its own worst enemy more times than not. The Jets were charted for 19 costly turnovers.

With the Jets trailing 28-27 and holding for a final possession in the third round, a turnover led to a careless foul with Edison senior Kristen Prokopakis attempting a desperation 35-footer at the buzzer.

With no time on the clock, Prokopakis con-

verted two of three free throws and it was 30-27.

The Cats used that momentum to score five quick fourth period points and slowly build a comfortable lead.

The Jets, in turn, sent Edison to the line 11 times in the final minutes from where the Cats cashed in eight opportunities.

"We're a 75 per cent foul shooting team and that showed up tonight," said Kovalesky whose team knocked down 20 of its 26 charity chances.

Union Local scored no more than 14 second half points, shooting four-of-16 from the floor. "We just never were in sync (the second half)," Greenwood observed. "Turnovers were not a major problem in our regular season games.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

UNION LOCAL'S Alexis Davis (20) shoots over Edison's Abby Fonow during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' basketball Championships 4-A game.

Tonight, though, they really hurt us."

As did the sisters Prokopakis who combined for 34 of the winners' 48 points. Kayla connected for 18 points with Kristen contributing a solid 16.

Also coming up big for Edison was junior guard Molly McCoy who tallied eight. "I think Molly had her best games (this season) against Union Local," Kovalesky offered.

UL's Dallas Montag registered a trio of three-point buckets, the final of which brought her team within 41-35. Edison, however, boarded the game's final seven points.

Scoring eight points apiece for UL were Alexis Davis and Kayla Doty. UL finished 12-of-35 from the floor.

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 17)

"Except for their big guys, basically any of them could guard any of us. So they were switching a lot and denying a lot. I think that bogged us down.

"But I think our kids did a great job of staying focused and staying positive." Especially in the second half.

Kiski led by as many as 21 in the third before Linsly trimmed the deficit to 16. But from there, the Cougars went on an 11-0 run to lead 73-46.

"There were times when we played better than they did and it was just the kids decided they were going to be tougher and more physical.

"I think our intensity was very good."

Akil and Jabri Blount backed up Wallace with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

"This was a great opportunity for some of our guys to go against guys who are college-bound," Wallace said. "This will show them how hard they have to lift, how hard they have to shoot and how they have to play.

"I think it was a great way to prepare for the OVACs."

The Cadets (11-8) are the No. 2 seed in Class 2A and will play host to Steubenville Catholic in a championship semifinal Tuesday night.

"We didn't start the season the way we liked." Coach Wallace said referring to an 0-3 mark. "Our guys just decided to keep working. I think they understand all that work can't be wasted at this point."

OVAC Consolation Finals

OVAC Class 5A

University 60, John Marshall 54
GLEN DALE - Mariah Callen

Prep Roundup

scored 21 points and Samantha Gaspar added 13 as University (16-5) locked up a third-place finish in the league's 5A Division.

Kylie Howard's 17 points led John Marshall, with Alexis Montes and Jenna Stephens each adding 10.

Class 3A

Shenandoah 52, Martins Ferry 28

SARAHSVILLE - Behind 18 points and four steals from Sami Schott, Shenandoah (12-8) defeated Martins Ferry.

Morgan Stalder hit a trio of 3-pointers and finished with nine points for the Purple Riders (10-9).

Kristen Russell 19 points 14 rebounds.

Class 2A

Linsly 48, River 44

HANNIBAL - Emma Cecil and Damonique Patterson each scored 15 points as they led Linsly past River and to a third-place finish in 2A.

Cecil finished off a double-double with 10 rebounds for the Cadets (9-12).

Consolation Pool

Magnolia 72, Hundred 59

HUNDRED - Katie Blatt led five players in double figures with 16 points as Magnolia beat Hundred.

Audrey Gibb (12), Mallory Chapman (16), Dallas Mullett (13), and Jasmine Litton (10) also reached double digits for the Blue Eagles. Mullett added 12 rebounds and Litton pulled down 13.

Mercedes Goff hit five 3-pointers on her way to 17 points for the Hornets. Haley Hayes hit a trio of 3-pointers and

finished with 13 points.

Steubenville Catholic 39

Paden City 19

PADEN CITY - Rachel Irvin scored 10 points to lead Steubenville Catholic past Paden City.

Amanda Heasley and Dominique Craft each scored five points for the Wildcats.

Parkersburg South 77

Steubenville 31

STEUBENVILLE - Jenna McAtee scored 33 points in leading Parkersburg South past Steubenville.

Veronica Orellana scored 12 points to pace Big Red (12-8).

St. Clairsville 72, Cameron 52

CAMERON - Brige Mick scored 16 points and Alexis St. Clair added 12 as St. Clairsville topped Cameron.

Lindsay Sibert hit a pair of 3-pointers and eight free throws on her way to an 18-point night to lead the Dragons (10-11).

Taylor Whipkey added 13 points.

Frontier 47, Bishop Donahue 22

NEW MATAMORAS - McKenzie Heasley scored eight points to lead a balanced Frontier attack in a victory against Bishop Donahue.

Selena Ghaphery's seven points were tops for the Bishops.

Brooke 50, East Liverpool 48

WELLSBURG - Angela Staffileno scored 18 points and Desiree Bosley added eight as Brooke (3-15) beat East Liverpool.

Whitni Davidson's 16 points paced the Potters.

Barnesville 62, Weir 44

BARNESVILLE - Jessica Hunkler scored 36 points to lead surging Barnesville past Weir.

Devvyn Yager added 10 points for the Shamrocks (5-15).

Alyssa Shingle paced the Red Riders with 13 points.

St. John 62, Valley 38

PINE GROVE - Kristen Russell scored 19 points and pulled down 14 rebounds in leading St. John past Valley.

Maclaine Murad added 16 points and Rosa Young totaled 11 for the Fighting Irish (12-8).

Megan Bucher scored 14 points to lead the Lumberjills, while Brittany Sivert had 11.

Meadowbrook 38

Indian Creek 35

BYESVILLE - Tori Wolverton scored 18 points, pulled down nine rebounds and picked up six steals in leading Meadowbrook (3-15) past Indian Creek.

Bre Berryman had a monster night for the Redskins (6-14) with 26 points and 22 rebounds.

Bellaire 71, Toronto 46

BELLAIRE - Katie Fry hit four 3-pointers and scored 27 points in leading Bellaire past Toronto.

Myleah Green added 15 points for the Big Reds.

Kayla Brown's 11 points paced the Red Knights.

Buckeye Local 39

Bridgeport 31

BRIDGEPORT - Brooke Mains scored 14 points and Kayla Phillipovich added four points and 12 rebounds as they led Buckeye Local (7-13) past Bridgeport.

Tiffany Heckathorn and Nicole Smolenak each hit a trio of 3-pointers and wound up with 11 points for the Bulldogs (9-11).

Brittany Higgenbotham added five points and eight rebounds.

Thursday,
February 9, 2012

OVAC boys pairings announced

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The fifth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships are shaping up to be one of the best yet.

The seeds, pairings and consolation matchups were determined Wednesday morning at Ohio University Eastern as the final standings were released.

The tournament begins Tuesday with championship semifinals being staged on the higher seeds' home courts. Also that night, the consolation

matchups will get under way with games that were determined by the committee.

The remaining consolation round and actual consolation games will be staged on Friday, Feb. 17 and the five championship games will be contested on Saturday, Feb. 18. The Class 1A game will tip at 9:30 a.m. The 2A game begins at 12:15 p.m., the 3A begins at 3 p.m., the 4A game gets under way at 5:45 p.m. and the 5A game will be the final one of the day with a 8:30 p.m. tip.

The 1A field is arguably the



deepest and most wide-open of the five divisions.

Madonna jumped over

Beallsville when the standings were announced to pocket the top seed. The Blue Dons are the defending champion.

Coach George Vargo's squad will host Conotton Valley, which slipped to fourth after falling at Beallsville on Tuesday night. The Blue Dons are 15-2, while the Rockets are 13-4.

The Blue Devils, who sat in the top spot much of the season and handed Madonna one of its two losses, are the second seed and will host Trinity Christian in a rematch of last year's semifinal.

Beallsville finished the regular

season with a 17-1 record and will officially drop the curtain on its current gymnasium when the 13-5 Warriors come calling.

The 2A field had been set for weeks it seemed. Of the 10 schools in the division, only half are eligible for the tournament.

River has had an impressive season despite nary a senior on the roster. The Pilots finished the regular portion at 13-5 and will host fourth-seeded Shadyside (4-14) in the semifinal at Hannibal.

The Tigers actually finished eighth overall, but earned the spot

See, **BOYS**, Page B2

— THE TIMES LEADER • Thursday, February 9, 2012 • B2

● Boys

Continued from Page B1

in the tourney. Shadyside lost its two prior meetings with the Pilots in decisive fashion.

The other semifinal site came down to the final day. Linsly edged out Steubenville Central for the second seed by 47 hundredths of a point. The Cadets come into their game with a 11-7 record, while the Crusaders are 10-8.

The 3A field is led by top-seeded Magnolia. The Blue Eagles are the defending champions in the classification and own a strong 15-2 record. Their quest for a return trip to Ohio University Eastern begins with a date with Barnesville.

The Shamrocks got off to a slow start and ended with a disappointing loss Tuesday evening, but finished 10-8 for the fourth seed.

Tournament regular Fort Frye earned the second seed

and will host Shenandoah in a rematch of the girls' semifinals, which the Cadets claimed. Coach Dan Liedtke's boys squad finished 13-3, while the Zeps check in at 12-4.

St. Clairsville is back in the OVAC Tournament once again. This marks the fifth straight season the Red Devils have qualified, but they're still seeking their first conference title in school history.

The Red Devils (16-2) are the top seed for the third time and will welcome Steubenville Tuesday evening. The two just hooked up in a dandy this past Monday in Jefferson County, which St. C. won, 77-70.

East Liverpool, which sat on top of the 4A standings for much of the season, held on for the second seed and a home game. The Potters are 15-2 and will welcome Harrison Central, which is 13-4 on the year.

In 5A, Morgantown's season sweep of Wheeling Park propelled the Mohigans to their first-ever appearance in the championship bracket.

The Mohigans (13-3) earned the top seed with a 13-3 record and will welcome the two-time defending champion Patriots (11-5) on Tuesday in the semifinal. The two just squared off for the second time Tuesday and Morgantown won convincingly.

Indian Creek, which has been one of the area's most resilient teams all winter, held on to the second seed. The Redskins, who won the 2008 big-school title in the inaugural season of this format, are 13-4 and will welcome red-hot Parkersburg South to Wintersville on what measures as a 125-mile trip one way.

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

McCormick Powers Central

Maroon Knights rally past River, 48-41

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Although junior forward Colleen McCormick had a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds, it was the Wheeling Central Catholic pressure defense that helped turn the game in the Maroon Knights' favor against visiting River during Monday night's OVAC Class 2A basketball semifinal.

Trailing 23-15 after struggling through the first half, Central's half-court trap forced the Pilots into nine third-quarter turnovers that paved the way for the Knights' hard-earned 48-41 victory.

Once in the lead, Coach Penn Kurtz' second-ranked West Virginia Class A power buried 11 of 13 free throws in the fourth quarter and was 17 of 21 overall from the line while racking up victory No. 17 against just three set-backs.

The Maroon Knights next will face top-seeded Shadyside for third time this season at 12:15 p.m. Saturday with the OVAC championship on the line at Ohio University Eastern.

Two of Wheeling Central's losses this winter have come at the hands of the Tigers.

"The thing that defines Shadyside is their team play," Kurtz said. "They play so well together and execute everything well. We are going to have to try and match their style a little bit if we want to play with them."

Please See POWERS, Page 14

Tigers Have Little Trouble With Cadets

Top-seeded Shadyside cruises to 40-point win

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — It was business as usual Monday night in Shadyside.

Top-seeded Shadyside took the first step toward defending its Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A Tournament championship with a convincing 78-38 thumping of No. 4 Linsly in semifinal action.

The Tigers (17-2) used a mixture of their potent inside-outside attack to slowly, but surely, pull away from the

Please See TIGERS, Page 14



Photo by Josh Strope

Wheeling Park's Marissa Tucker (4) sets up the offense as John Marshall's Kylie Howard (24) defends during Monday night's OVAC Class 5A semifinal. The Patriots advanced to face Morgantown with the victory.

Pressure-Packed

Park turns up the heat on JM in OVAC semi

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — When Wheeling Park played John Marshall on Jan. 19, the Patriots' pressure forced the Monarchs into 23 turnovers on the way to a 61-50 victory.

If it isn't broke, don't fix it. Wheeling Park turned up the pressure and John Marshall again couldn't handle

it, committing 24 turnovers as the Patriots won 63-55 at Wheeling Park High School in the semifinal of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A Tournament.

Wheeling Park, winner of the 4A championship last season, will play Morgantown at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at OUE for the championship. The Mohigans beat rival University, 60-56, in the other semifinal.

"I'm really pleased with how our kids played — they came out with a lot of intensity," Wheeling Park coach Meredith Dailer said. "The defensive stops we got, keeping them on their toes and we

created a bunch of turnovers.

"We felt like (the press) was a strength the last time we played. The adjustments we made to the press were to our advantage. It was a strength and we wanted to stick with it."

Ten of those turnovers came in the second quarter and in the middle of a 15-0 Wheeling Park (17-3) run.

John Marshall (10-8) led 13-7 as Kylie Howard scored nine of her team-high 26 in the first quarter.

Wheeling Park went to the press and

Please See PACKED, Page 14

Seminoles Headed to 3A Final

Monroe Central holds off Ferry, 58-53

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — It's been two years since Monroe Central has played for an OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship.

The drought will come an end Satur-

day afternoon.

Using a strong fourth quarter, the Seminoles marched on to Ohio University Eastern and the Class 3A final where they'll meet rival Fort Frye for the third time by dispatching second-seeded Martins Ferry 58-53 inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"It's great to be going back," Monroe Central coach Troy Baker said. "The tournament is a great thing for the kids, school and community. We're

excited and we'll do our best."

The challenge that lies ahead is a daunting one from a Cadets squad, which is making its third straight appearance in the finals, winning in 2010 and falling last season.

This will mark the third encounter between the two teams with Fort Frye winning the previous contests.

"We know each other pretty well,"

Please See SEMINOLES, Page 14

Marshall Perry was paced by sophomore Dionna Lee, who had Chapman rounded out the dou- ten Russell added a double-dou- Moulder added 13.

PACKED

(Continued from Page 13)

John Marshall did its best to let the Patriots back into the game.

With less than a minute remaining in the first quarter, a Kelsi Johnson steal led to a basket to tie the game at 13-13. The next possession was the same as Emily Puskarich intercepted a Shannon Pegg pass and raced to the other end for an easy lay-in and a 15-13 lead right before the end of the quarter.

A basket by Krista Craw-

shaw, three free throws by Puskarich and two by Kambria O'Neal pushed the lead to 22-13 before Howard's layup finally changed the Monarchs' score.

"This was a rough pill to swallow," John Marshall coach Mark McCormick said. "We got in a little hole in that second quarter with turnovers and then we put ourselves in a halftime deficit of 10.

"It's been our M.O. over the last three or four games and these turnovers have

been our Achilles' heel. I have been preaching to the girls that if you take care of the little things, that leads to big things. We did a better job in the second half."

As if the turnovers weren't bad enough for John Marshall, Puskarich was showing why she was a first team all-stater as a sophomore.

The junior scored a game-high 29 points. Her 10 points in the first quarter helped keep Wheeling Park from falling in too big of a

hole. The rest of the way saw her get to the basket, fight for rebounds, and jump in the passing lanes.

"We talked about (Monday) where everybody needed to put together 32 minutes of basketball," Dailer said. "This tournament is one of the goals in our locker room. It's something we look at every day. We want to defend that title and we also understand that these are the teams we are going to be seeing over the course of the next couple

weeks and we need to maintain our standing."

John Marshall closed the gap to 54-47 midway through the fourth but couldn't force Wheeling Park into the same turnovers that plagued it. Puskarich and Crawshaw each came up with key baskets stemming from wide-open looks after escaping the Monarchs press.

Haley Robb added 13 points for the Patriots. Alexis Montes chipped in with 14 for the Monarchs.

POINTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Red is always going to be competitive and tough. We knew they would make a run and they did. Our kids made one more and really showed their character."

Even though the score-

board said otherwise. Haney was quick to say he "told the kids it wasn't a loss."

"For them to go out there after this morning (following the funeral service for Lee West) and give the effort, play the way they did

and come back the way they did, it wasn't a loss," Haney said. "They won just by putting on the uniform and playing as hard as they did."

Monteroso captured game-high scoring honors

by pouring in 36. He nailed 17 of 21 from the line, closing by making 10 straight. Thanks to the performance, he surpassed the 1,400 point mark and became the second leading scorer in school history.

Marhefka finished with 18, including six straight to open the third quarter. Carlton added 16.

Freshman Malik Richmond continued to impress for Big Red, netting 20. Garcia contributed 13.

TIGERS

(Continued from Page 13)

Cadets (8-9).

With the victory, they will play No. 2 Wheeling Central at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday at OUE.

The Maroon Knights defeated No. 3 River 48-41 on Monday night.

"When we come out focused and ready to play, we're pretty tough to beat," Shadyside coach Tina Yates said. "(Monday night) was one of those nights."

With all five starters scoring in the first quarter, Shadyside held a 19-11 advantage as Linsly scored six of the final eight points to keep it close.

In fact, the Cadets pulled to within 23-15 just 90 seconds into the second period, but when the halftime buzzer sounded, Shadyside had reeled off 20 unanswered points and was cruising.

Three straight trips down the

floor resulted in a trio of 3-pointers, one each by Karli Bonar, Hayley Holenka and Toni Andes that made it 29-15.

Then, senior Brooke Meintel, playing her last game on the home boards, took over. She netted eight of her team's final 10 points, and also grabbed eight of her game-high 13 rebounds in that span.

"We're very unselfish," Yates continued. "Give all of my kids credit. I'm fortunate to have a group of great, talented student-athletes who have an unbelievable work ethic. I'm blessed to be a part of it."

With its 'Big 3' of Bonar, Holenka and Meintel combining for 31 first-half points, Shadyside led 43-15. Meintel worked the paint for 13 points and wiped the glass clean nine times, while Bonar and Holenka evenly divided 18 points.

"Coming into the game we knew it was going to be tough," Linsly coach Erica Hall said. "They (Shadyside) have an awesome team, but we couldn't have asked for a better start. We made them work about a minute for their first basket and then we scored on our first two possessions.

"We lost our head a little bit there in the second quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Shadyside. They definitely made us pay for that, but when we were patient on offense — we got a lot of good looks — but the ball just wouldn't fall."

Holenka led four Tigers in twin figures with 19. Bonar had 17, including five 3-pointers, while Meintel finished her double-double with 16. Freshman Kenzie Fielding came off the bench to chip in a dozen points and six boards. Bonar also handed out

half-a-dozen assists.

"Kenzie has a lot of potential," Yates said of her promising 5-foot-8 post player. "She needs to come focused in every night."

The Tigers connected on 31 of 53 attempts for just under 60 percent, and also knocked down 9 of 16 shots from beyond the bonus arc (56 percent). They also enjoyed a 42-30 advantage off the glass behind Meintel's effort. Kristen Fijalkowski grabbed five rebounds.

Dominique Patterson led Linsly with 15 points. JJ Jackson and Krista Emch had eight each. Emch also pulled down nine rebounds. Both teams took especially good care of the basketball, as Linsly had nine turnovers, one more than Shadyside. The Cadets suffered five of those in the fateful second quarter, while only turning it over one time after the half.

POWERS

(Cont. from Page 13)

"We'll find out if we are the 32-5 team that trailed Shadyside the last time we played or the team that outscored them 49-30 the rest of the game."

The Maroon Knights wound up losing that contest, 62-54.

Central's hopes of getting that third opportunity against the Tigers nearly blew up in its face during the first half against a 10-9 River team that had visions of making it to the championship round.

"This was one of the best efforts we've had certainly the most emotion we

played with all season," Pilots coach Rick Isaly said.

He is hoping his girls can regain their stride after starting the season with a 7-2 record before losing seven of their last 10 game.

River entered the OVAC contest with an well-designed triangle-and-2 defense that was looking to contain the Maroon Knights' main offensive weapons McCormick and Emily Bucon.

"We wanted to make some other people step up for them and it worked for a while," Isaly said. "But in that third quarter we kept

turning the ball over and our two post players got in foul trouble playing against McCormick. Central also drained their foul shots and that killed us."

The Pilots' defensive scheme gave the hosts plenty of problems during the opening half. Bucon was limited to just a pair of shots and four points the first two quarters. The Maroon Knights cashed just five of their first 22 field goal attempts and trailed by 11 points on three occasions. River, sparked by standout junior Cassidy McCullough, who scored 11 of her 17 points in the

first half, probably should have left the floor at the break with at least a double-figure advantage.

However, with just a couple of ticks on the clock, Central's Bri Robbins left fly from with a long-distance attempt at a 3-pointer from WNBA range and the ball swished cleanly through the cords cutting the deficit to 23-15.

"We kind of let them control the tempo and run their offense during the first half," Kurtz said. "They had a nice game plan and did a pretty good job against Colleen and Emily. We finally got Julia

(Palmer) to find some open spots and she made some big shots for us."

Palmer broke open at the foul line and knocked down her first bucket, then scored again with a soft shot along the baseline, pulling Central to within 27-21 midway through the third quarter.

Bucon, who scored six of her 10 points in that quarter, cashed two free throws but McCullough's goal restored River's six-point lead with her runner. The Knights finally caught up at 29-29 on a spin move by Bucon and then gained the lead heading into the final 8 minutes when Sorge's entry pass led to a McCormick

Miller (440), second and third, respectively.

Super Bowl still ratings winner

NEW YORK — For the third consecutive year, the Super Bowl set a record as the most-watched television show in U.S. history.

The Nielsen Co. said Monday that an estimated 111.3 million people watched the New York Giants beat the New England Patriots on Sunday night. That narrowly beat the 111 million who watched Green Bay's victory against Pittsburgh last year.

NBC was blessed by a competitive game between two teams that played in one of the Super Bowl's most memorable contests four years ago, with one of them representing the largest media market in the country.

Stoudemire's brother dies

LAKE WALES, Fla. — Officials say the brother of New York Knicks player Amare Stoudemire has died in a car crash.

A Florida Highway Patrol report says Hazell Stoudemire was driving an SUV that crashed into the back of a trailer being towed by a truck early Monday morning. He had been driving on a highway in the heart of Florida's citrus country. The report says Hazell Stoudemire, who lived in Lakeland, Fla., was not wearing a seat belt and died at the scene.

Authorities are still investigating the crash and awaiting test results to find out if alcohol was a factor.

Amare Stoudemire has returned to Florida to be with his family and was missed Monday night's game against Utah. Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz says he doesn't know how long Stoudemire will be away.

Lakers' Brown is suspended game

PHILADELPHIA — Los Angeles coach Mike Brown has been suspended one game without pay and fined \$25,000 for making contact with a game official and failure to leave the court in a timely manner following

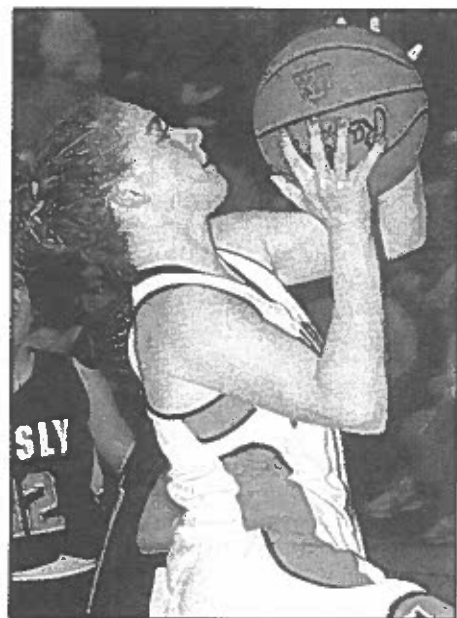
SPORTS

<p>CLASS 1A No. 1 Trinity 57, No. 4 Conotton 50 No. 3 Madonna 55, No. 2 Bealls 48 Championship Saturday, 9:30 a.m. at OUE Trinity vs. Madonna Consolation Beallsville at Conotton Valley</p>	<p>CLASS 2A No. 1 Shadyside 78, No. 4 Linsly 38 No. 2 Whg. CC 48, No. 3 River 41 Championship Saturday, 12:15 p.m. at OUE Shadyside vs. Wheeling Central Consolation Linsly at River</p>	<p>CLASS 3A No. 1 Fort Frye 36, No. 4 Shen. 22 No. 3 Monroe 58, No. 2 Ferry 53 Championship Saturday, 3 p.m. at OUE Fort Frye vs. Monroe Central Consolation Martins Ferry at Shenandoah</p>	<p>CLASS 4A No. 1 Edison 52, No. 4 Oak Glen 37 No. 2 Union Local 55, No. 3 Harrison 33 Championship Saturday, 5:45 p.m. at OUE Edison vs. Union Local Consolation Oak Glen at Harrison Central</p>	<p>CLASS 5A No. 1 Park 63, No. 4 J. Marshall 55 No. 3 Morgan. 60, No. 2 Univ. 56 Championship Saturday, 3 p.m. at OUE Wheeling Park vs. Morgantown Consolation University at John Marshall</p>
---	---	---	---	---



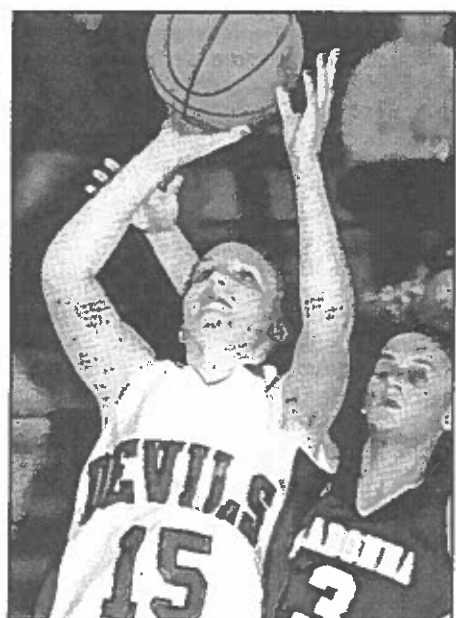
Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MONROE CENTRAL'S Chelsie Roberts makes a move to the bucket against Martins Ferry's Kylie Stalder Monday evening inside the Tolbert Gymnasium. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



T-L Photo/MIKE HUGHES

SHADYSIDE'S Hayley Holenka goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC Class 2A girls' semifinal game against Linsly. The Lady Tigers cruised, 78-38. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE'S Madison Stephen goes up for a shot during the Lady Blue Devils' OVAC 1A semifinal game against Madonna. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



T-L Photo/MIKE HUGHES

UNION LOCAL'S Kayla Doty shoots over Harrison Central's Jess Custer during Monday's OVAC 4A semifinal in Morristown. The Lady Jets prevailed. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

OVAC title chase continues

Monroe Central downs Ferry in 3A semifinal

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It's been two years since Monroe Central has played for an OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

The drought will come an end Saturday afternoon.

Using a strong fourth quarter, the Lady Seminoles marched on to Ohio University Eastern and the Class 3A final where they'll meet rival Fort Frye for the third time by dispatching second-seeded Martins Ferry, 58-53 inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"It's great to be going back (to the finals)," said Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker. "The tournament is a great thing for the kids, school and community. We're excited and we'll do our best."

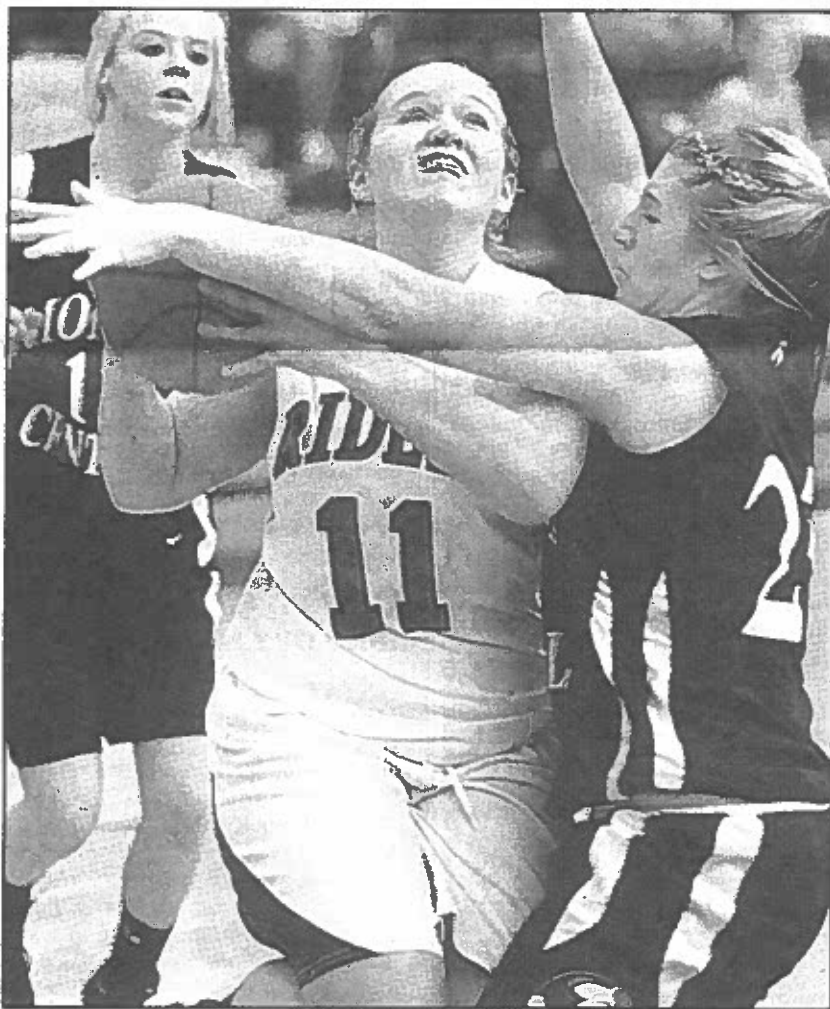
The challenge that lies ahead is a daunting one from a Lady Cadets' squad, which is making its third straight appearance in the finals, winning in 2010 and falling last season.

This will mark the third encounter between the two teams with Fort Frye winning the previous contests.

"We know each other pretty well," Baker said. "It is what it is. Fort Frye has a heck of a team, but I am confident our girls will be ready for the challenge."

See, **MONROE**, Page B2

'It's great to be going back (to the finals.)'
- Troy Baker



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MARTINS FERRY'S Meghan Rose is fouled as she goes up for a shot by Monroe Central's Demitra Habig during Monday's Class 3A OVAC semifinal game at the Tolbert Gymnasium. Rose scored 10 points, but the Lady Seminoles scored the 58-53 victory. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Shadyside cruises past Linsly in 2A semifinal

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was business as usual Monday night in Tiger Town.

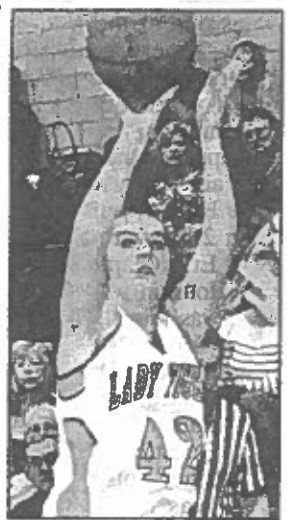
Top-seeded Shadyside took the first step towards defending its Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A Tournament girls' basketball championship with a convincing, 78-38, thumping of No. 4 Linsly in semifinal action.

The highly regarded Lady Tigers (17-2) used a mixture of their potent inside-outside attack to slowly, but surely, pull away from the Cadets (8-9).

With the win, the Orange-and-White will play No. 2 Wheeling Central Saturday at 12:15 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health Education Building. The Maroon Knights defeated No. 3 River, 48-41, Monday night.

"When we come out focused and ready to play, we're pretty tough to beat," allowed

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



SHADYSIDE'S Kenzie Fielding goes up for a Physical shot during Monday's Education game against Linsly.

UNION LOCAL'S Dallas Montag drives to the bucket against Harrison Central's Brooke Shultz during



Union Local gets by Harrison in 4A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Union Local's Lady Jets are soaring back to the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC championships. Coach Drew Greenwood's tal-

'We're honored to be back.'

- Drew

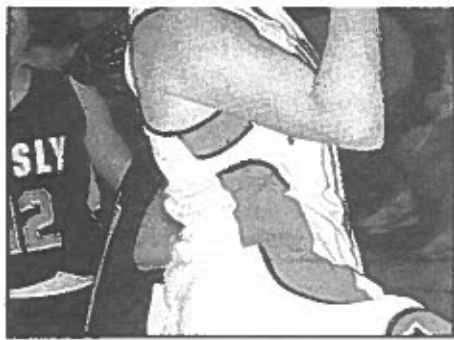
The Lady Bears saw a halftime lead dissipate Monday at Edison before falling to Tony Kovalesky's top-seeded club, 52-37.

"We're honored to be back (in the championship game). It's not something you take for granted."



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MONROE CENTRAL'S Chelsie Roberts makes a move to the bucket against Martins Ferry's Kylie Stalder Monday evening inside the Tolbert Gymnasium. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE HUGHES

SHADYSIDE'S Hayley Holenka goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC Class 2A girls' semifinal game against Linsly. The Lady Tigers cruised, 78-38. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE'S Madison Stephen goes up for a shot during the Lady Blue Devils' OVAC 1A semifinal game against Madonna. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE HUGHES

UNION LOCAL'S Kayla Doty shoots over Harrison Central's Jess Custer during Monday's OVAC 4A semifinal in Morristown. The Lady Jets prevailed. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC title chase continues

Monroe Central downs Ferry in 3A semifinal

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It's been two years since Monroe Central has played for an OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

The drought will come an end Saturday afternoon.

Using a strong fourth quarter, the Lady Seminoles marched on to Ohio University Eastern and the Class 3A final where they'll meet rival Fort Frye for the third time by dispatching second-seeded Martins Ferry, 58-53 inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"It's great to be going back (to the finals)," said Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker. "The tournament is a great thing for the kids, school and community. We're excited and we'll do our best."

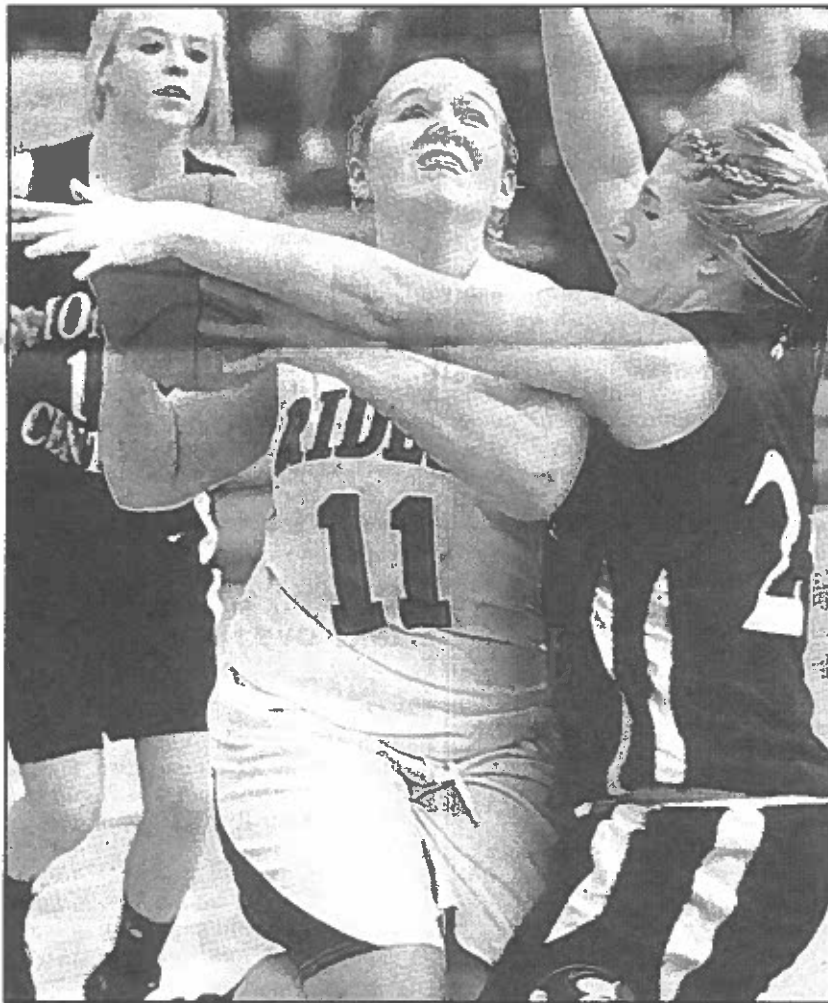
The challenge that lies ahead is a daunting one from a Lady Cadets' squad, which is making its third straight appearance in the finals, winning in 2010 and falling last season.

This will mark the third encounter between the two teams with Fort Frye winning the previous contests.

"We know each other pretty well," Baker said. "It is what it is. Fort Frye has a heck of a team, but I am confident our girls will be ready for the challenge."

See, **MONROE**, Page B2

'It's great to be going back (to the finals.)'
— Troy Baker



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MARTINS FERRY'S Meghan Rose is fouled as she goes up for a shot by Monroe Central's Demitra Habig during Monday's Class 3A OVAC semifinal game at the Tolbert Gymnasium. Rose scored 10 points, but the Lady Seminoles scored the 58-53 victory. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Shadyside cruises past Linsly in 2A semifinal

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was business as usual Monday night in Tiger Town.

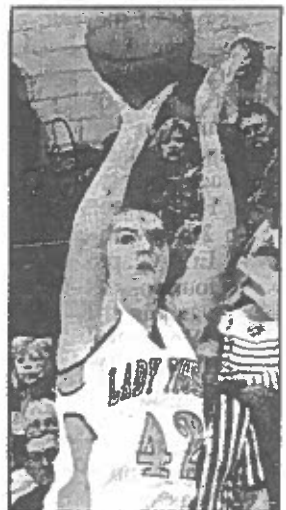
Top-seeded Shadyside took the first step towards defending its Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A Tournament girls' basketball championship with a convincing, 78-38, thumping of No. 4 Linsly in semifinal action.

The highly regarded Lady Tigers (17-2) used a mixture of their potent inside-outside attack to slowly, but surely, pull away from the Cadets (8-9).

With the win, the Orange-and-White will play No. 2 Wheeling Central Saturday at 12:15 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. The Maroon Knights defeated No. 3 River, 48-41, Monday night.

"When we come out focused and ready to play, we're pretty tough to beat," allowed

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



SHADYSIDE'S Kenzie Fielding goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC 2A semifinal game against Linsly.

Union Local gets by Harrison in 4A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Union Local's Lady Jets are soaring back to the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC championships.

Coach Drew Greenwood's talented quint made it look mostly methodical in a 55-33 Monday night 4-A semifinal triumph over invading Harrison Central.

Improving to 16-3, UL has a late Saturday afternoon (5:45) tipoff against Edison when the Jets

'We're honored to be back.'

— Drew Greenwood

attempt to defend a 3-A title they captured a year ago against Oak Glen.

The Lady Bears saw a halftime lead dissipate Monday at Edison before falling to Tony Kovalesky's top-seeded club, 52-37.

"We're honored to be back (in the championship game). It's not something you take for granted," Greenwood disclosed. "Edison beat us twice (in the regular season), so I'm sure our girls will be looking forward to playing them again."

A similar scenario was in play

See, **UL**, Page B2

UNION LOCAL'S Dallas Montag drives to the bucket against Harrison Central's Brooke Shultz during Monday's OVAC Tournament Game.



T-L Photo/MIKE HUGHES

Defending champion Madonna gets past Beallsville in 1A

By **MIKE PALMER**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a bitter ending to an era as Beallsville head coach Rick Jarrett watched the clock run out on the final game his team would play on the hardwood at the current high school with Weirton Madonna earning the final win on the floor, 55-48, in the semi-final round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"It would have been nice to go out with a win because we will remember this game forever," said Jarrett. "But, basketball is a game of runs and Madonna made the last run."

'It would have been nice to go out with a win because we will remember this game forever.'

— Rick Jarrett

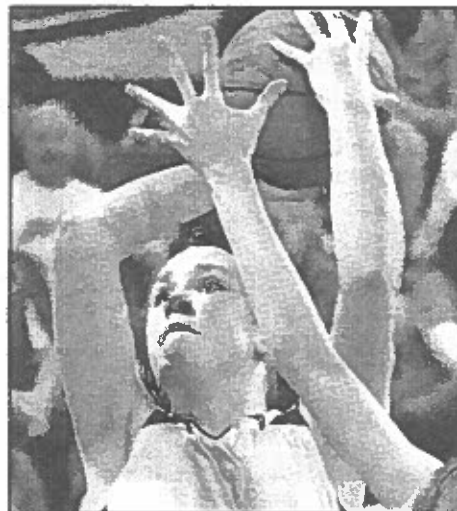
The statement described the contest accurately as the two teams took turns making points in bunches during lopsided scoring blocks. While the host Lady Blue Devils

struggled in the final minutes of the contest the Lady Blue Dons' Isabella Anile was just hitting her stride. Scoring 24 points in the second half, netting 8 of 9 foul shots in the fourth quarter combined with a steal and a block on defense as the Dons outscored their hosts 21-13 in the final frame.

"Isabella had a big game for us tonight," said Madonna coach Don Ogden. "We knew it would be a dogfight and we were fortunate to get out with a victory."

Madonna led 13-11 after the opening frame then jumped out to a 7-point lead midway through the

See, **DEVILS**, Page B2



BEALLSVILLE SENIOR Julie Bilyeu paced the Blue Devils with 26 points as she played her final game on the floor at the old high school, but the Lady Devils fell, 55-48 to Madonna

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Wheeling Central headed to first OVAC title game

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Times Leader

Although junior forward Colleen McCormick had a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds, it was the Wheeling Central Catholic pressure defense that helped turn the game in the Maroon Knights; favor against visiting River during Monday night's OVAC Class 2A basketball semifinals.

Trailing 23-15 after struggling through the first half, Central's half-court trap forced the Pilots into nine third-quarter turnovers that paved the way for the Knights' hard-earned 48-41 victory.

Once in the lead, Coach Penn Kurtz' second-ranked West Virginia Class A power buried 11 of 13 free throws in the fourth quarter and was 17 of 21 overall from the line while racking up victory No. 17 against just three setbacks.

The Maroon Knights next will face top-seeded Shadyside for third time this season at 12:15 p.m. Saturday with the OVAC championship on the line at Ohio University Eastern.

Two of Wheeling Central's losses this winter have come at the hands of the Tigers.

"The thing that defines Shadyside is their team play," Kurtz said. "They play so well together and execute everything well. We are going to have to try and match their style a little bit if we want to play with them."

The Maroon Knights wound up losing that contest, 62-54.

Central's hopes of getting that third opportunity against the Tigers nearly blew up in its face during the first half against a 10-9 River team that had visions of making it to the championship round.

"This was one of the best efforts we've had certainly the most emotion we played with all season," Pilots coach Rick Isaly said.

He is hoping his girls can regain their stride after starting the season with a 7-2 record before losing seven of their last 10 games.

River entered the OVAC contest with an well-designed triange-and-2 defense that was looking to contain the Maroon Knights' main offensive weapons McCormick and Emily Bucon.

"We wanted to make some other people step up for them and it worked for a while," Isaly said. "But in that third quarter we kept turning the ball over and our two post players got in foul trouble playing against McCormick. Central also drained their foul shots and that killed us."

The Pilots' defensive scheme gave the hosts plenty of problems during the opening half. Bucon was limited to just a pair of shots and four points the first two quarters. The Maroon Knights cashed just five of their first 22 field goal attempts and trailed by 11 points on three occasions. River, sparked by standout junior Cassidy McCullough who scored 11 of her 17 points in the first half, probably should have left the floor at the break with at least a double-figure advantage.

However, with just a couple of ticks on the clock, Central's Bri Robbins left fly from with a long-distance attempt at a 3-pointer from WNBA range and the ball swished cleanly through the cords cutting the deficit to 23-15.

Palmer broke open at the foul line and knocked down her first bucket, then scored again with a soft shot along the baseline, pulling Central to within 27-21 midway through the third quarter.

Bucon, who scored six of her 10 points in that quarter, cashed two free throws but McCullough's goal restored River's six-point lead with her runner. The Knights finally caught up at 29-all on a spin move by Bucon and then gained the lead heading into the final 8 minutes when Sorge's entry pass led to a McCormick layup.

The score was tied twice early in the fourth quarter before Robbins turned a steal and drive to the basket for a four-point play and a 37-33 Central lead.

Lakan Ramsay backed McCullough's double-digit effort for the Pilots with 11 points. Emile Weaver had five points and collected a game-high 12 rebounds.

● Devils

Continued from Page B1

second quarter. The Blue Devils would make a late run behind 10 points from Julie Bilyeu to narrow the gap to 23-21 at intermission.

The Lady Dons would run up a double digit lead in the third quarter scoring 9 unanswered but Beallsville was not ready to concede the contest as Bilyeu notched another 7 points and Madison Stephen chipped in five points to give the Devils a 35-34 lead at the end of three.

The Madonna defense took away the outside shooting, the Blue Devils struggled inside mixed in with some offensive miscues by the hosts in the fourth frame sealed the fate of Beallsville.

"I thought we were trying too hard to make things happen," the Beallsville coach reflected. "We wanted to push the ball, but we got anxious and forced things."

"We usually play a zone but tonight we went with a man scheme and I thought we played well defensively all night," said Jarrett. "We executed our game plan on offense but turnovers always kill you no matter."

Bilyeu finished with 26 points and Stephen 10 lightings for Beallsville.

Anile paced the Blue Dons with a game-high 27 points. Lisa Parkins added 10 to round out double figures for Madonna (15-5) who advance to the finals on Saturday facing number one seed Trinity Christian.

Beallsville (15-4) will play in the consolation round of the tournament at Conotton Valley on Thursday before preparing for its sectional debut against Bridgeport.

No reserve game was contested.

Scoring:
WEIRTON MADONNA (55) — Parkins 4 0-4 10; Connor 1 0-0 2; Grubbs 4 0-0 8; Sellitti 1 0-0 2; Davis 1 1-1 3; Anile 8 11-13 27; Lyons 1 1-2 3; Totals: 20 13-22. BEALLSVILLE (48) — Myers 0 0-0 0; Headley 1 0-0 2; Campbell 2 1-2 5; Gallaher 0 0-0 0; Stephen 4 1-2 10; Kinney 1 3-5 5; Bilyeu 12 2-6 26; Totals: 20 7-15.

Three-Point Goals: Weirton Madonna 2 (Parkins 2); Beallsville 1 (Stephen).

Palmer can be reached at mpalmer@timesleaderonline.com

● O'Brien set to take over at PSU

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — The first rule on a sign affixed to the players' entrance at the Penn State football building reads "Know Your Role/Do Your Job."

Come Tuesday, new Nittany Lions coach Bill O'Brien should be doing just that, full time, in Happy Valley.

O'Brien had planned to return to State College by Tuesday, win or lose, after the Super Bowl. Since replacing the late Joe Paterno in January, O'Brien has also been finishing up as offensive coordinator for the Patriots and position coach for star quarterback Tom Brady.

● UL

Continued from Page B1

Monday at Morristown where Harrison was seeking to avenge a pair of regular season reversals to UL.

Coach Nick Yourkovich's team trailed 14-8 after one period and 24-16 at halftime before the Lady Jets refueled and won going away."

"I felt good coming into this game. I thought we matched up fairly well," Yourkovich said. "We basically struggled in two areas: we didn't guard very well and we also didn't crash the boards."

UL successfully exploited both of Yourkovich's concerns. The Lady Jets continually got good looks enroute to a sizzling 20-of-34 effort from the field.

Additionally, the Lady Huskies were hammered off the glass where UL was a dominating 33-17 leader.

"I also thought we were more selective in our transition game," Greenwood advised. "We didn't always take good care of the ball (20 turnovers) but we also played pretty good defense."

At the offensive end, Jets' sophomore Cori Medley and junior Kayla Doty did major damage, combining for 39 points.

The versatile Medley used a combination of accurate perimeter shooting and a number of savvy inside moves to net a game-leading 22 points.

Doty, meanwhile, was solid at both ends, scoring 17 points and landing a game-high 11 rebounds. Alexis Davis and Amanda Swallie supported with six points apiece.

Harrison seniors Brooke Shultz and Madison Richards tallied 14 and 11 points, respectively. The Lady Huskies finished 13-of-48 from the floor and were guilty of 17 giveaways. Harrison will host Oak Glen in a Thursday night tipoff/

In Monday's jayvee contest, the Lady Huskies rallied in the fourth quarter for a 41-39 victory.

HARRISON CENTRAL (33) — Rutter 0, 0-0 0; Thompson 0, 0-0 0; Ledger 0, 0-0 0; Compher 0, 0-0 0; Brown 0, 0-0 0; Koch 0, 0-0 0; Custer 0, 0-0 0; Elzy 0, 0-2 0; Dunfee 1, 0-0 2; Kelley 1, 0-0 2; Dodds 2, 0-0 4; Richards 4, 2-2 11; Shultz 5, 2-2 14. Totals — 13, 4-6. UNION LOCAL (55) — Collins 0, 0-0 0; Gatten 0, 0-0 0; Russell 0, 0-0 0; Patton 0, 0-0 0; Stiles 0, 0-0 0; Montag 1, 2-2 4; Swallie 2, 2-4 6; Davis 2, 2-4 6; Doty 6, 5-6 17; Medley 9, 1-2 22. Totals — 20, 12-18.

Three-point goals. Harrison Central — Shultz (2). Richards. Union Local — Medley (3).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "Tonight was one of those nights."

With all five starters etching their name in the scorebook in the first quarter, the hosts held a 19-11 advantage as Linsly tallied six of the final eight points to keep it close.

In fact, the Cadets pulled to within 23-15 just 90 seconds into the second period, but when the halftime buzzer sounded, Shadyside had reeled off 20 unanswered points and were cruising.

Three straight trips down the floor resulted in a trio of trifectas, one each by Karli Bonar, Hayley Holenka and Toni Andes that made it 29-15.

Then, senior Brooke Meintel, playing her last game on the home boards, took over. She netted eight of her team's final 10 points, and also grabbed eight of her game-high 13 rebounds in that span.

"We're very unselfish," Yates continued. "Give all of my kids credit. I'm fortunate to have a group of great, talented student-athletes who have an unbelievable work ethic. I'm blessed to be a part of it."

With its 'Big 3' of Bonar, Holenka and Meintel combining for 31 first-half points, Shadyside led 43-15. Meintel worked the paint for 13 markers and wiped the glass clean nine times, while Bonar and Holenka evenly divided 18 tallies.

"Coming into the game we knew it was going to be tough," Linsly head coach Erica Hall said.

"They (Shadyside) have an awesome team, but we couldn't have asked for a better start. We made them work about a minute for their first basket and then we scored on our first two possessions."

"We lost our head a little bit there in the second quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Shadyside," Hall added. "They definitely made us pay for that, but when we were patient on offense, we got a lot of good looks, but the ball just wouldn't fall."

Holenka led four Tigers in twin figures with 19. Bonar had 17, including five three-pointers, while Meintel finished her double-double with 16.

Freshman Kenzie Fielding came off the bench to chip in a dozen lightings and six boards. Bonar also handed out half-a-dozen assists.

"Kenzie has a lot of potential," Yates said of her promising 5-8 post player. "She needs to come focused in every night."

The Tigers tickled the twine on 31 of 53 attempts for just under 60 percent, and also knocked down 9 of 16 shots from beyond the bonus arc (56 percent).

They also enjoyed a 42-30 advantage off the glass behind Meintel's effort. Kristen Fijalkowski grabbed five caroms.

Dominique Patterson led Linsly with 15 points. JJ Jackson and Krista Emch had eight each. Emch also pulled down nine rebounds.

Both teams took especially good care of the basketball, as Linsly had nine, one more than Shadyside. The Cadets suffered five of those in the fateful second quarter, while only turning it over one time after the half.

No JV game was contested.

● Monroe

Continued from Page B1

On the other side, the Lady Purple Riders must now board up the buses for Shenandoah Thursday evening and a consolation game in the OVAC Tournament.

"We don't participate in this tournament to play in the consolation game, so we're upset about that," lamented Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck, who's team has now lost three in a row. "Our girls played hard, but we always have a spurt where we struggle to score and tonight it killed us because Monroe Central (14-5) took advantage and they deserve all of the credit."

A week from Thursday, the Lady Riders meet these same Lady Seminoles at Cambridge High in the Division III sectional.

"We had three sophomores and two juniors on the court most of the night, we lost an all-state player (Jessica Kinney) who averages 25 points a game," said Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck. "How can I be upset with my team?"

As both coaches expected, the game was nip-and-tuck throughout. The Lady Seminoles led 11-9 after one, but Ferry rebounded

for a 23-21 lead at the break and held a 40-36 edge after three.

Neither team had a lead bigger than four until Monroe Central went on a 6-0 spurt in the middle stages of the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't pretty by any means, but in terms of effort and hustle, I don't know that I've seen two teams play that hard and give so much in a game," Baker said. "It was up-and-down and back-and-forth. I am wore out."

Ferry had a chance in the latter stages of the third quarter to get some separation, but the Lady Noles kept the margin at four, 40-36 entering the fourth, which Baker thought was key.

"That little stretch, late in the third, was make or break for us," Baker said. "I didn't want them to separate themselves anymore, at that point, because I felt like we'd be in trouble if they did that."

Monroe Central seized control by capitalizing on three consecutive Lady Rider turnovers to begin the fourth, which resulted in buckets by either Chelsie Roberts, who scored eight of her 15 in the fourth, or

Chelsie Tewanger, who netted nine of her 19 in the final frame.

After Monroe Central grabbed the lead at 42-40, it never relinquished it. A 10-2 spurt all but sealed the deal.

"Monroe Central just made more plays than we did," Reasbeck said. "I am proud of my team because we put up a heck of an effort. We're going to battle (Monroe) again and we'll be ready to play."

Kelsey Parks complemented Tewanger and Roberts' production with eight points and 3 assists. Kayley Stephens had 9 rebounds to go along with her six markers.

Martins Ferry was paced by sophomore Dionna Lee, who had 19 points. Juniors Meghan Rose and Kylie Stalder each had 10 points.

Monroe Central made it a clean sweep with a victory in the jayvee game.

MONROE CENTRAL (58) — LaFollette 1, 0-0 2; Tewanger 6, 6-7 19; Parks 3, 1-2 8; Stephens 2, 2-2 6; Habig 0, 3-4 3; Diggity 2, 1-2 5; Roberts 5, 5-10 15; Bettinger 0, 0-0 0; Fickell 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 19, 18-27 58. MARTINS FERRY (53) — Ray 2, 1-2 5; M. Stalder 1, 0-1 2; K. Stalder 2, 5-6 10; Suriano 2, 2-2 7; Rose 4, 2-4 10; Lee 4, 8-10 19; Oberdick 0, 0-0 0; West 0, 0-0 0; Monroe 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 15, 17-23.

Three-Point Goals: MC — Tewanger, Parks, MF — Lee (3), K. Stalder, Suriano.

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

EMERGENCY SERVICE
THANKS FOR VOTING US #1 TOWING SERVICE!
We're Always on our Tows
Bill's TOWING
Light - Medium - Flat Bed • Local & Long Distance

Carpet Cleaning Commercial
Panhandle CLEANING & RESTORATION

Two of Wheeling Central's losses this winter have come at the hands of the Tigers.

"The thing that defines Shadyside is their team play," Kurtz said. "They play so well together and execute everything well. We are going to have to try and match their style a little bit if we want to play with them."

The Maroon Knights wound up losing that contest, 62-54.

Central's hopes of getting that third opportunity against the Tigers nearly blew up in its face during the first half against a 10-9 River team that had visions of making it to the championship round.

"This was one of the best efforts we've had certainly the most emotion we played with all season," Pilots coach Rick Isaly said.

He is hoping his girls can regain their stride after starting the season with a 7-2 record before losing seven of their last 10 game.

● Monroe

Continued from Page B1

On the other side, the Lady Purple Riders must now board up the buses for Shenandoah Thursday evening and a consolation game in the OVAC Tournament.

"We don't participate in this tournament to play in the consolation game, so we're upset about that," lamented Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck, who's team has now lost three in a row. "Our girls played hard, but we always have a spurt where we struggle to score and tonight it killed us because Monroe Central (14-5) took advantage and they deserve all of the credit."

A week from Thursday, the Lady Riders meet these same Lady Seminoles at Cambridge High in the Division III sectional.

"We had three sophomores and two juniors on the court most of the night, we lost an all-state player (Jessica Kinney) who averages 25 points a game," said Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck. "How can I be upset with my team?"

As both coaches expected, the game was nip-and-tuck throughout. The Lady Seminoles led 11-9 after one, but Ferry rebounded

for a 23-21 lead at the break and held a 40-36 edge after three.

Neither team had a lead bigger than four until Monroe Central went on a 6-0 spurt in the middle stages of the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't pretty by any means, but in terms of effort and hustle, I don't know that I've seen two teams play that hard and give so much in a game," Baker said. "It was up-and-down and back-and-forth. I am wore out."

Ferry had a chance in the latter stages of the third quarter to get some separation, but the Lady Noles kept the margin at four, 40-36 entering the fourth, which Baker thought was key.

"That little stretch, late in the third, was make or break for us," Baker said. "I didn't want them to separate themselves anymore, at that point, because I felt like we'd be in trouble if they did that."

Monroe Central seized control by capitalizing on three consecutive Lady Rider turnovers to begin the fourth, which resulted in buckets by either Chelsie Roberts, who scored eight of her 15 in the fourth, or

from with a long-distance attempt at a 37-pointer from WNBA range and the ball swished cleanly through the cords cutting the deficit to 23-15.

Palmer broke open at the foul line and knocked down her first bucket, then scored again with a soft shot along the baseline, pulling Central to within 27-21 midway through the third quarter.

Bucon, who scored six of her 10 points in that quarter, cashed two free throws but McCullough's goal restored River's six-point lead with her runner. The Knights finally caught up at 29-all on a spin move by Bucon and then gained the lead heading into the final 8 minutes when Sorge's entry pass led to a McCormick layup.

The score was tied twice early in the fourth quarter before Robbins turned a steal and drive to the basket for a four-point play and a 37-33 Central lead.

Lakan Ramsay backed McCullough's double-digit effort for the Pilots with 11 points. Emile Weaver had five points and collected a game-high 12 rebounds.

Chelsie Tewanger, who netted nine of her 19 in the final frame.

After Monroe Central grabbed the lead at 42-40, it never relinquished it. A 10-2 spurt all but sealed the deal.

"Monroe Central just made more plays than we did," Reasbeck said. "I am proud of my team because we put up a heck of an effort. We're going to battle (Monroe) again and we'll be ready to play."

Kelsey Parks complemented Tewanger and Roberts' production with eight points and 3 assists. Kayley Stephens had 9 rebounds to go along with her six markers.

Martins Ferry was paced by sophomore Dionna Lee, who had 19 points. Juniors Meghan Rose and Kylie Stalder each had 10 points.

Monroe Central made it a clean sweep with a victory in the jayvee game.

MONROE CENTRAL (58) — LaFollette 1, 0-0 2; Tewanger 6, 6-7 19; Parks 3, 1-2 8; Stephens 2, 2-2 6; Habig 0, 3-4 3; Diggity 2, 1-2 5; Roberts 5, 5-10 15; Bettinger 0, 0-0 0; Fickell 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 19, 18-27 58. **MARTINS FERRY (53)** — Ray 2, 1-2 5; M. Stalder 1, 0-1 2; K. Stalder 2, 5-6 10; Suriano 2, 2-2 7; Rose 4, 2-4 10; Lee 4, 8-10 19; Oberdick 0, 0-0 0; West 0, 0-0 0; Monroe 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 15, 17-23

Three-Point Goals: MC — Tewanger, Parks, MF — Lee (3), K. Stalder, Suriano.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

coach reflected. "We wanted to push the ball, but we got anxious and forced things."

"We usually play a zone but tonight we went with a man scheme and I thought we played well defensively all night," said Jarrett. "We executed our game plan on offense but turnovers always kill you no matter."

Bilyeu finished with 26 points and Stephen 10 lightings for Beallsville.

Anile paced the Blue Dons with a game-high 27 points. Lisa Parkins added 10 to round out double figures for Madonna (15-5) who advance to the finals on Saturday facing number one seed Trinity Christian.

Beallsville (15-4) will play in the consolation round of the tournament at Conotton Valley on Thursday before preparing for its sectional debut against Bridgeport.

No reserve game was contested.

Scoring:
WEIRTON MADONNA (55) — Parkins 4 0-4 10; Connor 1 0-0 2; Grubbs 4 0-0 8; Sellitti 1 0-0 2; Davis 1 1-1 3; Anile 8 11-13 27; Lyons 1 1-2 3; Totals: 20 13-22. **BEALLSVILLE (48)** — Myers 0 0-0 0; Headley 1 0-0 2; Campbell 2 1-2 5; Gallaher 0 0-0 0; Stephen 4 1-2 10; Kinney 1 3-5 5; Bilyeu 12 2-6 26; Totals: 20 7-15.

Three-Point Goals: Weirton Madonna 2 (Parkins 2); Beallsville 1 (Stephen).

Palmer can be reached at mpalmer@timesleaderonline.com

O'Brien set to take over at PSU

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — The first rule on a sign affixed to the players' entrance at the Penn State football building reads "Know Your Role/Do Your Job."

Come Tuesday, new Nittany Lions coach Bill O'Brien should be doing just that, full time, in Happy Valley.

O'Brien had planned to return to State College by Tuesday, win or lose, after the Super Bowl. Since replacing the late Joe Paterno in January, O'Brien has also been finishing up as offensive coordinator for the Patriots and position coach for star quarterback Tom Brady.

Harrison seniors Brooke Shultz and Madison Richards tallied 14 and 11 points, respectively. The Lady Huskies finished 13-of-48 from the floor and were guilty of 17 giveaways. Harrison will host Oak Glen in a Thursday night tipoff.

In Monday's jayvee contest, the Lady Huskies rallied in the fourth quarter for a 41-39 victory.

HARRISON CENTRAL (33) — Rutter 0, 0-0 0; Thompson 0, 0-0 0; Ledger 0, 0-0 0; Compher 0, 0-0 0; Brown 0, 0-0 0; Koch 0, 0-0 0; Custer 0, 0-0 0; Ellzy 0, 0-2 0; Dunfee 1, 0-0 2; Kelley 1, 0-0 2; Dodds 2, 0-0 4; Richards 4, 2-2 11; Shultz 5, 2-2 14. Totals — 13, 4-6. **UNION LOCAL (55)** — Collins 0, 0-0 0; Gatten 0, 0-0 0; Russell 0, 0-0 0; Patton 0, 0-0 0; Stiles 0, 0-0 0; Montag 1, 2-2 4; Swallow 2, 2-4 6; Davis 2, 2-4 6; Doty 6, 5-6 17; Medley 9, 1-2 22. Totals — 20, 12-18.

Three-point goals. Harrison Central — Shultz (2). Richards. Union Local — Medley (3).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "Tonight was one of those nights."

With all five starters etching their name in the scorebook in the first quarter, the hosts held a 19-11 advantage as Linsly tallied six of the final eight points to keep it close.

In fact, the Cadets pulled to within 23-15 just 90 seconds into the second period, but when the halftime buzzer sounded, Shadyside had reeled off 20 unanswered points and were cruising.

Three straight trips down the floor resulted in a trio of trifectas, one each by Karli Bonar, Hayley Holenka and Toni Andes that made it 29-15.

Then, senior Brooke Meintel, playing her last game on the home boards, took over. She netted eight of her team's final 10 points, and also grabbed eight of her game-high 13 rebounds in that span.

"We're very unselfish," Yates continued. "Give all of my kids credit. I'm fortunate to have a group of great, talented student-athletes who have an unbelievable work ethic. I'm blessed to be a part of it."

With its 'Big 3' of Bonar, Holenka and Meintel combining for 31 first-half points, Shadyside led 43-15. Meintel worked the paint for 13 markers and wiped the glass clean nine times, while Bonar and Holenka evenly divided 18 tallies.

"Coming into the game we knew it was going to tough," Linsly head coach Erica Hall said.

"They (Shadyside) have an awesome team, but we couldn't have asked for a better start. We made them work about a minute for their first basket and then we scored on our first two possessions.

"We lost our head a little bit there in the second quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Shadyside," Hall added. "They definitely made us pay for that, but when we were patient on offense, we got a lot of good looks, but the ball just wouldn't fall."

Holenka led four Tigers in twin figures with 19. Bonar had 17, including five three-pointers, while Meintel finished her double-double with 16.

Freshman Kenzie Fielding came off the bench to chip in a dozen lightings and six boards. Bonar also handed out half-a-dozen assists.

"Kenzie has a lot of potential," Yates said of her promising 5-8 post player. "She needs to come focused in every night."

The Tigers tickled the twine on 31 of 53 attempts for just under 60 percent, and also knocked down 9 of 16 shots from beyond the bonus arc (56 percent).

They also enjoyed a 42-30 advantage off the glass behind Meintel's effort. Kristen Fijalkowski grabbed five caroms.

Dominique Patterson led Linsly with 15 points. JJ Jackson and Krista Emch had eight each. Emch also pulled down nine rebounds.

Both teams took especially good care of the basketball, as Linsly had nine, one more than Shadyside. The Cadets suffered five of those in the fateful second quarter, while only turning it over one time after the half.

No JV game was contested.

LINSLY (38) — Cecil 1 0-0 2; Patterson 7 1-2 15; Jackson 3 0-0 8; Emch 3 0-2 8; Tolbert 1 0-0 3; Lee 0 0-0 0; Tennant 1 0-0 2; Petho 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-59 1-4. **SHADYSIDE (78)** — Bonar 6 0-0 17; Holenka 6 5-6 19; Meintel 7 2-6 16; Fijalkowski 2 0-0 4; Andes 2 0-0 6; Laslo 1 0-0 2; Fielding 6 0-0 12; Jackson 1 0-0 2; Lappert 0 0-0 0; Ramsey 0 0-0 0; Totals: 31-53 7-12.

Three-Point Goals: Linsly 5 (Jackson 2, Emch 2, Tolbert); Shadyside 9 (Bonar 5, Holenka 2, Andes 2)

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

THANKS FOR VOTING US #1 TOWING SERVICE!

We're Always
Bill's on our Tows
TOWING

Light - Medium - Flat Bed • Local & Long Distance

309 HALL ST. BRIDGEPORT 635-1986
ST. CLAIRSVILLE RT. 9 NORTH 699-1986
BELLAIRE 676-8729

Request The BEST! ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

We Offer Complete Bumper-To-Bumper Automotive Service

Carpet Cleaning Commercial & Residential

Panhandle
CLEANING & RESTORATION

**FIRE • SMOKE • WIND
MOLD • SEWAGE • WATER**

"WE'RE GONNA SAVE YOU!"

www.panhandlecr.com

Robert C. Contraguero, Sr. President
WV LIC#014743

304-232-2321 • 800-504-7054

BROWN'S PRO
Hardware • Building Supply

178 Walden Ave., Tiltonsville, OH
740-859-3180

IT'S GETTING COLD...
Bring in Your Propane Tanks.
We Fill Almost All Sizes.

WE HAVE LIVE BAIT!

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
Fri. & Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Sun. Closed

**VALENTINE'S DAY
Dinner For Two**

8 oz. Filet,
Baked Potato, Salad &
Glass of Wine

\$65

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!

42478 National Rd. West, Belmont, OH
740-782-0069
WINTER HOURS: Closed Sun. & Mon.

Has Your Homeowners Policy Been Canceled?
Too Many Claims?
Rising Rates? Are You Uninsured?
I CAN HELP!!

CALL RICK FERRELL AT
740-695-1995
TODAY!

Trinity Christian remains unbeaten

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A cold, snowy morning outside turned into a cold day of shooting for the No. 3 seed Madonna girls basketball team as it dropped a 47-37 decision to No. 1 seeded Morgantown Trinity in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The win marked the first ever OVAC crown for coach Cary Woods' Warriors.

"It's a very humbling experience to come in here and do that," Woods said. "The OVAC has such a storied history due to the competition level here."

Stated Madonna head coach Don Ogden of his team's effort, "We knew going into this game that it was going to be a tough competition with a quality team that's undefeated and ranked in the state. The girls gave a gallant effort and I couldn't be prouder of them."

"They played well enough to win, but unfortunately Trinity played better."

The Lady Dons struggled, not to find open shots, but to get the ball to fall in

'It's a very humbling experience to come in here and do that.'

— Trinity's Cary Woods

the hoop for a majority of the action Saturday, shooting 9-for-56 from the field, including 2-for-15 from behind the three-point arc.

"I think Trinity was doing a good job of coming out on us and I also think we had a hard time finding our rhythm offensively," Ogden said. "I thought we had good shots. I had no problem with any of the shots we took as far as selection. You have those days where those shots don't fall and days where they're going to go in."

"Today they didn't." Things started slowly for both teams. Madonna scored the game's first three points, but failed to score again for the rest of the opening quarter. Trinity took the lead, but could only muster seven points itself in the frame.

The second quarter looked much like the first only with Trinity holding a slight early advantage only to watch Madonna score the last six points of the quarter to leave the game tied at 11-all at intermission. Amy Davis led

the Lady Dons in the first half with six points while Tara Neely and Haley Triplett scored four each to lead the Warriors.

The third quarter belonged to Trinity as the girls from Morgantown doubled up Madonna 16-8 in the stanza. Emily Meyers for Trinity and Isabella Anile for Madonna led their respective teams with four each and the score read 27-19 after three.

Madonna made things interesting in the fourth quarter.

With 5:53 left in the game Anile knocked down two free throws to make the score 31-26. The first of those free throws gave Anile the milestone of 1,000 points for her career.

"Certainly it's a great accomplishment for her as an individual, but I'm certain right now she'd trade that 1,000 points for a victory today," Ogden said of the feat. "I'm pretty confident she'd give credit to all her supporting cast this year and the years prior because it takes a lot to get

to 1,000 points.

"It takes rebounds and assists so she's the face of that 1,000 points, but I'm sure she'd agree it was a team contribution."

Madonna forced a turnover on the ensuing inbound pass following Anile's trip to the charity stripe and Lisa Parkins converted it into two points, cutting the lead to three at 31-28 and forcing the Warriors to call a timeout.

"We're pretty confident, we don't care who we play," Ogden said of his team's ability to make a run at the No. 3 team in the state of West Virginia Class A. "That's why we played the No. 1 team in the state and I think No. 6 team in the state also. We're pretty confident. We think we can beat anybody."

"That's the attitude this club has and going on hopefully we can prove that at some level."

Trinity was up to the task though, scoring six straight to get a little breathing room and eventually securing the 47-37 win.

The Warriors survived game long foul trouble that saw two players foul out. Morgantown was called for 23 fouls in the game, sending Madonna to the line 30 times where it converted 17.

Madonna had one player foul out and was called for 18 fouls on the day. Trinity went to the charity stripe 25 times where it knocked down 13.

DELING
Baths



Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships

Ohio University
Eastern Campus

At The Finals . . .

One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of
THE HEALTH PLAN

BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 18 at OUE

1A: 9:30 AM • 2A: 12:15 PM • 3A: 3:00PM • 4A: 5:45 PM 5A: 8:30 PM

Girls'/Boys' Games will air tape-delay on



GIRLS' TV SCHEDULE:

5 A	2/13/12	8 pm
4 A	2/14/12	8 pm
3 A	2/15/12	8 pm
2 A	2/16/12	8 pm
1 A	2/17/12	8 pm

BOYS' TV SCHEDULE:

5 A	2/20/12	8 pm
4A	2/21/12	8 pm
3A	2/22/12	8 pm
2A	2/23/12	8 pm
1A	2/24/12	8 pm

all games live on WKKX 1600 AM

OVAC CORPORATE PARTNERS:

