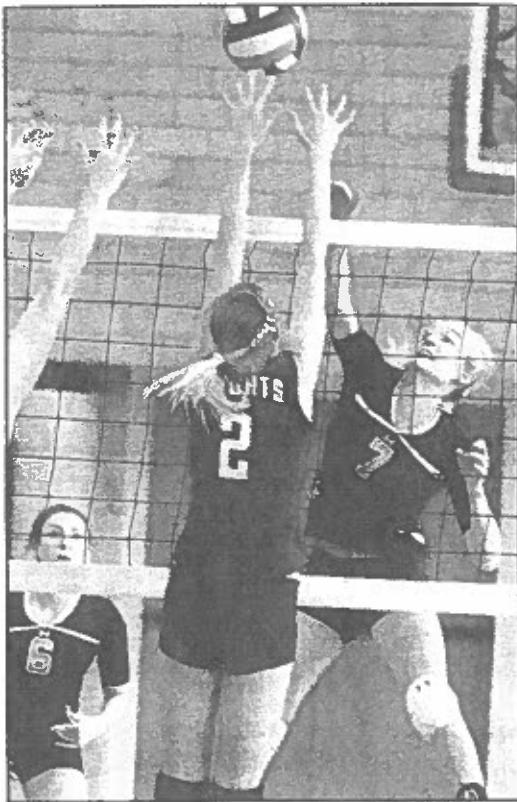


MONROE CENTRAL outside hitter Chelsie Roberts spikes over Tyler defender Allison Wable (2) during Saturday's OVAC Volleyball Tournament at Steubenville High School. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleadersonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



Local teams come up empty at OVAC Volleyball Tourney

By **MIKE PALMER**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The OVAC Volleyball Championships can be both surprising and disappointing as the four top teams in each division battle for the trophy.

The 3A class promised to be the toughest competition of the day and did not disappoint. The number two seed Tyler Consolidated battled with number three seed Monroe Central in the semifinals for two hours of what fans described as "inspired volleyball."

The Seminoles (15-2) won the opener 25-20 but the Silver Knights (19-1) were there to prove they were legitimate contenders. Tyler Consolidated evened the score and forced the third and final set with a 25-23 win in game two.

The Silver Knights looked poised to eliminate the "Noles with a 24-

12 advantage but Monroe Central battled back to tie it up at 24 apiece and then moved ahead to 25-24 with a chance to turn the tables.

Tyler got their side out and then celebrated as a spike landed outside the lines, but the whistle from the podium waved off the win as the Silver Knights were cited for a net violation knotting the scoreboard once again at 26 all.

This time Tyler Consolidated's celebration would not be shortened by the officials as they moved to the finals against top seeded Shenandoah, 28-26.

It was also a disappointing day for the Shamrocks in 3-A as they lost 25-20 and 25-16 to the Zeps in their semifinal game.

The Silver Knights would win the 3-A trophy over the Zeps. The 'Noles won the consolidation match over the Shamrocks 25-19, 25-23.

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● OVAC

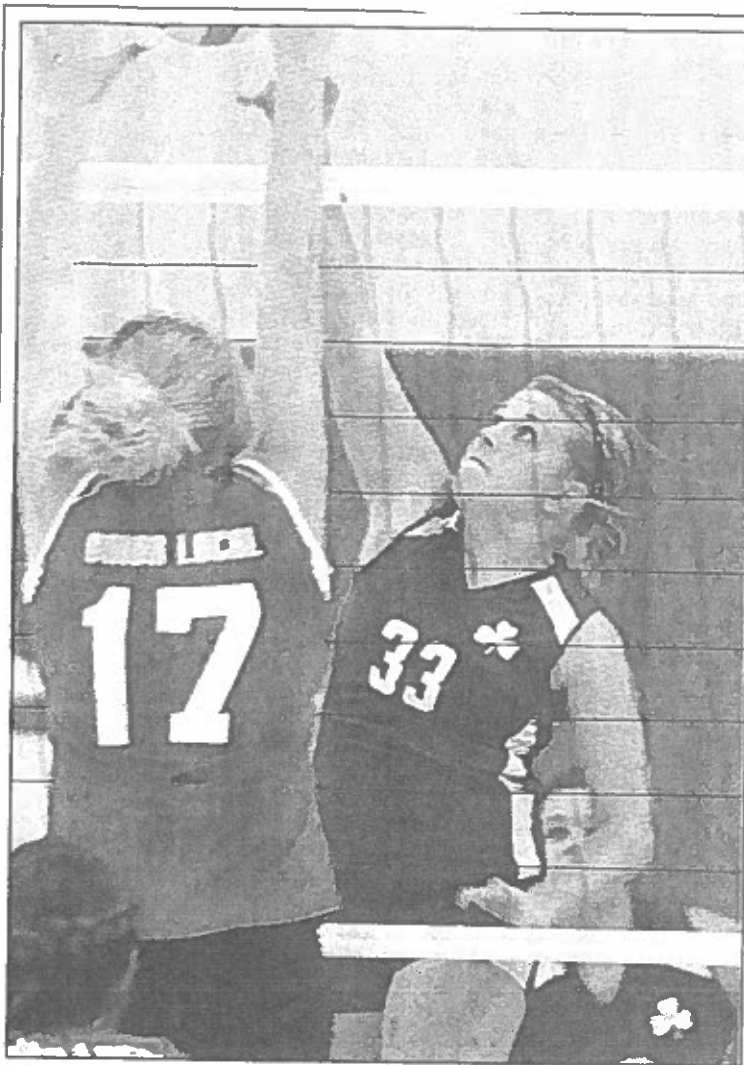
Continued from Page C1

In 1-A, both St John Central and Beallsville won their opening set but fell in three sets to Paden City and Weirton Madonna, respectively. Beallsville won the consolation match in two sets.

Top seed Madonna won the 1-A championship title, Steubenville Central was crowned 2-A champion. In that class, the Bridgeport Bulldogs would lose their semifinal to the Crusaders 25-8, 25-19. Bridgeport recovered to win the consolation match over Clay-Battelle 25-18, 28-26.

Top seeded Oak Glen won 4-A. Union Local would lose its semifinal in 4-A to East Liverpool 25-15, 25-23.

Number four seed Edison surprised the field, defeating Indian Creek in the opener and Parkersburg South in the finals to win the 5-A trophy.



BARNESVILLE'S Marissa Burga goes up for a return during a match earlier this season against Union Local. Burga and the Lady Shamrocks are set to vie for the OVAC 3A crown. Union Local qualified for the 4A Tournament, which is slated for Saturday.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

OVAC volleyball tourney set to unfold Saturday

By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Four defending champions will return and 16 others will be there with hopes of being the next OVAC champions when it all unfolds on Saturday with the annual OVAC Volleyball Championships at Steubenville and Brooke High schools.

Action gets under way at both sites on Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. with gates opening at 8:30 a.m. Brooke High will be the host for the Class 1-A and 2-A semifinals and finals. Steubenville High's Crimson Center will be entertaining the Class 3-A, 4-A and 5-A championships.

Coach Fred King's Lady Wildcats of Paden City will be back to defend their Class 1-A title as a second-seed. Paden City comes in with a very respectable 17-3 conference record, but is being relegated to the second rung by virtue of Madonna's rare unbeaten 19-0 mark. The Lady Blue Dons were OVAC champions in 2001, but are coming into this weekend's championships

with an unblemished record. Due to the quality of competition in the OVAC, there have been very few unbeaten entering the championships.

Madonna will host a resurgent Beallsville squad on Court One and Paden City will take on a very good St. John Central team on Court Two in the semifinals at Brooke, starting at 12:30 p.m. All four have won OVAC titles in the past. Beallsville most recently in 2008 and St. John Central in 2010.

Quite possibly one of the most interesting semifinals will come in Class 2-A which gets under way at 10 a.m. at Brooke High. The foursome is the most diversified of the day. Top-seeded Steubenville Central, another defending champion, will take on Bridgeport on Court One and second-seeded Frontier will battle Clay-Battelle on Court Two.

While the Lady Crusaders are coming in as 2011 champions, Bridgeport and Frontier have both taken home the gold as well. Bridgeport was a champion in 2004 and

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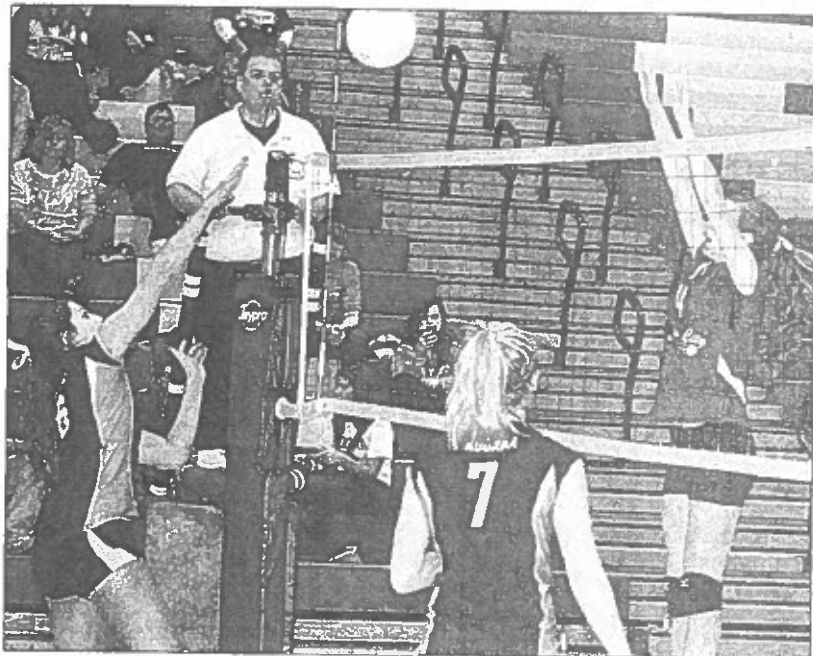


Photo by Tony Viola

Madonna's Nicolette Selitti (6) powers one over the net as Paden City's Megan Pierce attempts a block during action of the OVAC Class 1A title game. Looking on is the Blue Dons' Dylan Fenske (7).

Madonna Claims OVAC Class 1A Title

Crusaders, Silver Knights, Colts, Wildcats crowned

By **TONY VIOLA**
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — Championship teams are built on experience. It's the seniors who have played in the big games that know how to keep their composure when times get tough.

So when Madonna saw Paden City come from behind and take the second set to tie the Class 1A OVAC Volleyball Championship Game on Saturday, the Blue Dons didn't panic.

"I just told them play like they know how to play," first-year coach Jennifer Ewusiak said. "We are a good team. We just made some mistakes we shouldn't have."

Then, behind its four seniors and a couple of key blocks from Monica Bragg, Madonna came together to defeat the Wildcats, 25-17, in the third set to lay claim to the championship trophy.

"We're beyond excited," Ewusiak said. "We've been so much better this season than I thought we would."

On the other side of the court, Paden City coach Fred King didn't feel the sting of a loss, but pride for a young team.

"For us to be here, I'm pretty happy," King said. "We probably shouldn't be here with a freshman-sophomore laden team.

OVAC Championships	
Class 5A	
Semifinals	
Edison d. Indian Creek 25-23, 27-25	
Pkb. South d. University 16-25, 25-8, 25-11	
Championship	
Edison d. Parkersburg South 25-16, 20-25, 25-22	
Consolation semifinal	
Indian Creek d. University 26-16, 25-18	
4A	
Semifinals	
East Liverpool d. Union Local 23-15, 25-23	
Meadowbrook d. Oak Glen 23-28, 25-15	
Championship	
Meadowbrook d. E. Liverpool 25-15, 22-25, 25-19	
Consolation Final	
Oak Glen d. Union Local 25-11, 25-16	
3A	
Semifinals	
Shenandoah d. Barnesville 25-20, 25-16	
Tyler Cons. d. Monroe Central 20-25, 25-23, 28-26	
Championship	
Tyler Cons. d. Shenandoah, 25-22, 19-25, 27-25	
Consolation Final	
Monroe Central d. Barnesville 25-19, 25-23	
Class 2A	
Semifinals	
Steubenville Catholic d. Bridgeport 25-8, 25-19	
Frontier d. Clay-Battelle 25-12, 25-13	
Championship	
Steub. Catholic d. Frontier 25-22, 15-22, 25-18	
Consolation Final	
Bridgeport d. Clay-Battelle 25-18, 28-26	
Class 1A	
Semifinals	
Madonna d. Beallsville 25-27, 25-22, 25-18	
Paden City d. St. John 23-25, 25-14, 25-19	
Championship	
Madonna d. Paden City 25-21, 23-25, 25-17	
Consolation Final	
Beallsville d. St. John 27-25, 27-25	

seven blocks.

Beallsville won the consultation round as the Blue Devils defeated St. John, 27-25, 27-25.

Class 2A

WELLSBURG — The Steubenville Catholic Central Crusaders won their second consecutive title by knocking off Bridgeport in the semifinals, and then Frontier in the finals.

"It means everything (to win back-to-back OVAC title)," Catholic Cen-

I just told them play like they know how to play," first-year coach Jennifer Ewusiak said. "We are a good team. We just made some mistakes we shouldn't have."

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On the other side of the court, Paden City coach Fred King didn't feel the sting of a loss, but pride for a young team.

"For us to be here, I'm pretty happy," King said. "We probably shouldn't be here with a freshman-sophomore laden team."

"Madonna has got a very good volleyball team and for us to get one from them, I felt pretty good about that."

The Blue Dons were able to take the first set, 25-21, before going ahead 23-18 in the second, only to see Paden City comeback and win 25-23.

However, both squads had grown accustomed to close games as neither had an easy path to the championship game.

The No. 1-seeded Blue Dons were nearly upset by No. 4-seed Beallsville after falling in the first set 27-25, in the semifinals.

Madonna, however, was able to pull it together and get victories of 25-22 and 25-18 to punch their ticket to the finals.

"I didn't know what to expect from (Beallsville)," Ewusiak said. "I saw their record, but I've never seen them play or heard anything about them. I knew since they were in the top four they would be a good team, but I just didn't know what to expect from them."

On court No. 2, second-seeded Paden City had its hands full with No. 3 St. John, but was able to defeat the Irish, 23-25, 25-14, 25-19.

"We dove, we scrapped and we kept balls alive," King said. "Everyone did something great several times in the first match. In the second match, we got up against a better foe. A couple times we were lazy at the net and at crucial times when we could have gone up four or five, we went down two. Those are big plays. We didn't have control of the net, but overall I am very happy and very positive about our teams progress."

The opposite played out last season on the courts at Brooke as Paden City swept Madonna, 25-14, 25-18, on its way to the OVAC crown.

Madison Stephen had 11 points, five aces and four kills for the Wildcats. Anna Jones added five points and three kills and Laikyn Tubaugh totaled six points.

Leading the way for the Blue Dons was Nicolette Selletti with seven aces. Bragg added five kills and

Championship
Steub. Catholic d. Frontier 25-22, 15-22, 25-18
Consolation Final
Bridgeport d. Clay-Battelle 25-18, 28-26
Class 1A
Semifinals
Madonna d. Beallsville 25-27, 25-22, 25-18
Paden City d. St. John 23-25, 25-14, 25-19
Championship
Madonna d. Paden City 25-21, 23-25, 25-17
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Class 2A

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"It means everything (to win back-to-back OVAC title)," Catholic Central senior Rachel said. "We worked hard for this and I'm so proud of everyone."

The Crusaders made short work of Bridgeport 25-8, 25-19 in the semis.

Rachel Antonelli had two kills and eight digs; Jenna Ogden had eight points, four assists, and three digs; Rachel Rigaud had three kills; Kamy Belardine had two kills and nine digs; Monica Fischer had two points, four kills, and eight digs; Maddy Gulan 11 points, five aces, and three digs; Monica Rigaud had seven kills; and Robyn Runkel had six points, eight assists, and six digs.

Class 3A

After Shenandoah beat Barnesville and Tyler Consolidated beat Monroe Central in the semifinals, the Silver Knights went on to claim a championship by beating the Zeps 25-22, 19-25, 27-25.

Shay Yonaley paced the Silver Knights with nine points, four aces and 22 digs. Allison Wable added five points, 15 kills, three blocks, and five digs.

Leading the way for the Zeps were Ashley Zwick with six points, four aces, 10 kills, four blocks, and 15 digs and Morgan Diehl, who added four points and six blocks.

Class 4A

Meadowbrook beat Oak Glen and East Liverpool topped Union Local to set up a final featuring the Colts and Potters.

That was won by Meadowbrook, 25-15, 22-25, 25-19, as Bria Graham had seven points, and 17 assists and Trislyn Treherne added 13 points and nine digs.

Leading the way for the Potters was Taylar Jordan with five points, 12 kills, and eight assists.

Class 5A

Edison beat Indian Creek and Parkersburg South topped University in the semifinals, then the Wildcats went on to win the a title, 25-16, 20-25, 25-22.

Katie Davidson had five points, five kills, 11 assists, and five digs to lead the Wildcats.

Cassidy Jarvis added four points, three aces, and eight kills for Edison.