

Wednesday,
January 30, 2013

SPORTS

OVAC girls hoop tourney pairings set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The cut-off date has come and gone. The brackets for the fifth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship are officially set. The basketball committee met Tuesday morning at the OVAC headquarters to finalize the pairings and establish the consolation pairings, which are comprised of the teams that didn't finish in the top four

of their respective class.

The tournament opens on Monday with the higher seeds hosting semifinal games. The championship games are slated for Saturday, Feb. 9 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville. The losers of Monday's contests will play on Thursday in the consolation rounds.

The schedule for Saturday's finals are as follows: Class 2A (10 a.m.), Class

3A (12:30 p.m.), Class 4A (3 p.m.); Class 5A (5:30 p.m.) and Class 1A (8 p.m.).

Seven area teams played their way into the championship bracket and of those four will host semifinal contests.

River earned the top seed in the 3A field, which is comprised completely of Pioneer Valley Conference foes. The Lady

Pilots will meet Shenandoah for the third time. River is 15-5 on the season and

narrowly edged out Fort Frye for the top seed. The Lady Pilots and Zeps split their two meetings, each winning on the other's home floor.

"We're very happy to be the top seed and excited to play at home," said River head coach Rick Isaly. "This was one of our kids' goals before the season. Now, we can focus on taking the next step."

The other half of the 3A bracket finds

See, **OVAC**, Page B2● **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

second-seeded Fort Frye (16-3) playing host to third-seeded Monroe Central (11-7). This is a rematch of last winter's 3A title game, which the Cadets won.

The 2A field is one of the most balanced classes with any of the four qualifiers a legitimate threat to claim the title.

Wheeling Central (15-2) earned the top seed. The Lady Maroon Knights are the defending class champions and are starting to get key pieces back from injuries. Central will welcome fourth-seeded Clay-Battelle (13-1) on Monday.

The other half of the bracket is one of the most intriguing matchups of the entire tournament. Second-seeded Bridgeport has run roughshod through its schedule, stubbing its paw against only River. The Lady Bulldogs are 18-1 and will welcome third-seeded Shadyside.

The Lady Tigers battled their way through arguably the area's toughest schedule, posting a 13-7 record. Shadyside was in the title game last year, but fell to Central.

The 4A field is assured a new champion because Edison failed to qualify for the top four this season. Steubenville, which has had a roller coaster month of January, pocketed the top seed with a 13-5 record. The Lady Big Red will host fourth-seeded Oak Glen, which is 8-7 for the season.

On the other side of the bracket, defending runnerup Union Local is seeking another trip to OUE. It'll meet third-seeded Martins Ferry with tipoff slated for 7 p.m. The Lady Jets, who won the 2011 title, are 13-6, while the Lady Riders are 11-8 on the season.

In Class 1A, Conotton Valley earned the top seed. The Lady Rockets posted an 11-5 record and will host Morgantown Trinity, which is the defending champion. Trinity, which is facing more than a 120-mile trip to Bowertown, is 10-7 on the season.

The other half of the small-school bracket pits second-seeded St. John (14-6) against third-seeded Madonna (9-10). These two met for the title in 2011 with the Lady Blue Dons prevailed, 47-41.

The boys' tournament pairings will be set one week from today.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Want More?

Complete OVAC Girls Pairings can be found on Page B4.

Snow Plays Havoc With OVAC Girls

Game officials biggest hurdle in rescheduling

By **JIM ELLIOTT**
Staff Writer

A snow storm wiped out Monday's entire slate of Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Tournament games.

The plan, for the moment, is for three of the quarterfinal games to be played today and the remaining seven Wednesday, according to tournament director Rick DeLuca.

The consolation games are in flux, as today also marks the cutoff date for next week's boys' tournament, meaning a full night of boys' games have already been scheduled.

"It's not so much the games," DeLuca said, "but there's only so many officials."

"You have those 10 more games, and you throw those on 20 more boys' games and you're going to start running into problems."

Many Ohio Valley officials work both boys' and girls' games, so supply could fall short of demand.

DeLuca said some schools were looking at the possibility of playing the girls' games in front of the boys' games and canceling the scheduled jayvee games.

At this point, all avenues are being discussed.

With more snowfall in the forecast, there's a possibility this problem could persist. Not to fear though, the OVAC is the type of organization that has contingency plans for its contingency plans.

In this case, if the semifinals are wiped out, they'll take the top seeds and move on to Saturday's championship games at Ohio University



OVAC

(Cont. from Page 13)

Eastern.

In the unlikely event they don't get any games in, the No. 1 seeds in all five classes would be crowned champions. That's customary in all OVAC tournaments.

"If we get more horrible weather, that's the way it would go," DeLuca said.

There is no leeway here as far as rescheduling. The Ohio girls' sectionals begin next week.

The revised schedule follows:

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships Tonight
Championship Semifinals
Class 5A
John Marshall at University
Indian Creek at Morgantown
Class 2A
Clay-Battelle at Wheeling Central
Consolation Pool
Frontier at Magnolia
Burkeville Trail at Toronto
■■■■
Wednesday
Championship Semifinals
Class 4A
Oak Glen at Steubenville, 6:30 p.m.
Martins Ferry at Union Local
Class 3A
Shenandoah at River
Monroe Central at Fort Frye
Class 2A
Sharpside at Bridgeport
Class 1A
Madonna at St. John, 7 p.m.
Trinity at Conotton Valley
Monday, Feb. 11
Consolation Pool
Meadowbrook at Harrison Central

Please See **OVAC** Page 14

Tourney hoc season about get under wa

There's a holiday song that says, "This is the most wonderful time of the year!" Personally, I think that song had more to do with talking about tournament basketball than it would so, so fitting.

And that most wonderful time of the year gets under way this week and kicks into high gear next week. This week is the tournament focus leading to the championship. Next week, eyes turn to the section and Ohio postseason.

Regardless, which level you're talking about, it's tournament basketball and the time when the teams and players will turn it up a notch.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship begins this evening with championship semifinals slated for all over the Ohio Valley with the winners earning a trip to Saturday's title games at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Let's take a closer look at the classes: In Class 1A, Bishop Donahue and Conotton Valley earned the top two seeds. Beallsville squeezed into the field in the last week, but the Blue Devils, who are led by talented senior Teryn Jarrett, could very well be an extremely tough out for the Bishops.

The Rockets have been close the last few years, and I believe they'll take the next step and follow the path of their girls and get to the OVAC final. Conotton Valley boasts the best player in the class and one of the best in the entire conference in Brandon Bailey. Keep an eye on him.

In Class 2A, Steubenville Central and Clay-Battelle are the two teams hosting this evening. Steubenville Central has been around the top of the standings all season. Coach Sean Tucker is one of the best young coaches in the area. He's got a Crusaders' team that's still fairly young and getting better each game out. They'll host Cameron, which squeezed past Shadyside for the fourth seed.

Wheeling Central, who is really turning it on at the right time, has gotten hot and bolstered itself up to the third seed. It'll trek to Blacksville to meet a CeeBees' squad, which handled Magnolia earlier this season, so it's obviously no slouch. This game has a chance to be one of the best of the semi-final round.

The Class 3A field is loaded. The same four teams have been battling for positioning basically the entire season and it's refreshing to see the actual 'best' four teams in the field.

It's a hard class to get a handle on, too. Taking a closer look at that field consider this: River beat Magnolia twice, split with Buckeye Trail and lost decisively in its lone meeting with Monroe Central.

Monroe Central just beat Buckeye Trail convincingly last Saturday and has lost twice to Magnolia, while the Blue Eagles and Warriors, who own a win against a talented Cambridge squad, don't play.

Again, that classification is wide open. It's been the most balanced all season and 12:30 p.m. Saturday could be very interesting.

The Class 4A field is balanced in the 2-4 slots. However, St. Clairsville is a clear-cut favorite. It owns a 4-0 record against the other three teams, including a blow-out victory against Martins Ferry last month.

As we've written in weeks' past, 5A is another grouping that's tough to get a handle on. Prior to the season and for much of the first two months, I would have no trouble saying Morgantown was the team to beat. But, when you take the best players, including WVU recruit Nathan Adrian out of the lineup, things get a little more interesting quickly.

If it wasn't for the lengthy trip from Wintersville to Parkersburg South, I'd have little trouble saying I wouldn't be shocked if the Redskins show up in the title game once again. The battle of Morgantown, on the other side of the bracket, could also go either way.

I am not in the business of making predictions, so I am going to hold off.

However, I will predict that there will be some quality teams and matchups at OUE on Saturday, which creates big-time crowds and atmosphere.

Let the games — and fun — begin!

VERY INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS

Last week, the OVAC Basketball Committee met to finalize the pairings for the Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championship.

OVAC girls champions crowned

Congratulations are in order for five Ohio Valley girls' basketball teams.

Those kudos go out to Conotton Valley (1A), Shadyside (2A), Fort Frye (3A), Steubenville (4A) and University High (5A).

All of those squads captured titles at Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships which were staged at the spacious Ohio University Eastern campus just west of St. Clairsville.

The Rockets might have had the day's MVP as Olivia Bower torched St. John Central to the tune of 20 points, 15 rebounds and eight blocked shots in a 50-26 romp.

In all fairness to the Lady Irish, they were minus one injured starter while two other regulars were far from 100 percent due to illness.

In the 2A game, which might have been the best of the day, Shadyside exacted some revenge on Wheeling Central from a year prior. The Tigers prevailed 53-44 after holding the Maroon Knights to 10 first-half markers.

Fort Frye continued to dominate at the 3A level, holding top-seeded River to a mere seven points after the intermission in rolling to a 46-22 rout. The victory was a repeat performance for the Cadets.

The 4A game might have been the most heartbreaking as Martins Ferry led by five with 2:56 remaining to play.

However, the Purple Gang went ice-cold as it watched Big Red score the game's final 14 points for a 45-36 triumph.

The loss spoiled a 25-point effort from Ferry's Jessica Kinney.

In 5A, the Hawks and Mohigans traveled from Morgantown to wage a battle that saw the top-seeded Hawks win, 53-41.

Once again, congratulations to the winners, and also to the runners-up for reaching the title tilts.



SETH STASKEY
From the Press Box:



KIM NORTH
Kim's Korner:

A closer look at the OVAC girls races

Girls' basketball teams have exactly one week to position themselves in the top four of their respective OVAC classification if they want to compete in the Wheeling Hospital Championships in early February.

Taking a look at the five divisions, there isn't a single one that is 'locked up' as parity has taken over.

Let's break each division down.

Class 5-A
University has all but sealed up the No. 1 spot as it leads cross-town rival Morgantown by nearly 10 points.

John Marshall is a solid third, but Wheeling Park (48.14) and Indian Creek (47.47) are battling it out for the fourth — and final — position.

The Redskins have an important game tonight when Martins Ferry visits Wintersville for a key Buckeye 8 matchup as well. The Jefferson County quint posted a victory in the Purple City just last week.

Class 4-A
This division is similar to the one above as Steubenville, Union Local and Martins Ferry are solid in the top three spots, but Oak Glen and St. Clairsville are waging an intense battle for the final position.

The Golden Bears leap-frogged the Red Devils this week to grab the fourth spot. No. 6 Harrison Central still has an outside shot.

Class 3-A
A pair of Pioneer Valley Conference squads hold down the No. 1 and No. 2 positions here, those schools being River and Fort Frye.

Two other PVC teams, Monroe Central and Shenandoah, are currently third and fourth, respectively, but those positions could easily change over the next week as they are separated by a little more than a point.

Linsly and Magnolia are darkhorses.

Class 2-A
There's a new leader here as Wheeling Central nudged past Bridgeport, which suffered its first loss last week to River.

This might be the most competitive division as no less than five schools have a legitimate shot at qualifying.

The Bulldogs are a mere .30 bonus points ahead of third-place Clay-Battelle, while Shadyside is fourth. Frontier is still in the hunt.

The Cee-Bees are the unknown in this bunch as their schedule hasn't included many teams in eastern Ohio, if any! I guess only time will tell how good that squad is.

Class 1-A
Conotton Valley holds a slim edge over St. John Central in the smallest division, while Madonna is a solid third. Trinity Christian currently holds down the fourth spot, but Paden City is a close fifth.

The OVAC Wheeling Hospital Championship semifinals will be contested on Feb. 4 at the top two seeded teams courts, while the finals are slated for Saturday, Feb. 9 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

OVAC Girls

Final Regular-Season Standings

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE.
University	12	4	16	948	59.25
Morgantown	12	4	16	944	59.00
Indian Creek	13	5	18	978	54.33
John Marshall	11	6	17	848	49.88
Wheeling Park	10	8	16	790	49.38
Parkersburg So.	9	5	14	688	49.14
Cambridge	9	8	17	566	33.29
Edison	4	15	19	290	15.26
Beaver Local	3	15	18	178	9.89
Brooke	1	15	16	74	4.63

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE.
Steubenville	13	5	18	818	51.00
Union Local	13	6	19	820	48.42
Martins Ferry	11	8	19	814	42.84
Oak Glen	8	7	15	550	36.67
St. Clairsville	9	9	18	642	35.67
Harrison Central	9	10	19	624	32.84
Weir	7	9	16	434	27.13
East Liverpool	7	11	18	444	24.67
Buckeye Local	3	14	17	224	13.18
Meadowbrook	2	14	16	106	6.63

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE.
River	15	4	19	994	52.32
Fort Frye	10	3	19	970	51.05
Monroe Central	11	7	18	606	33.78
Shenandoah	11	7	18	606	33.67
Linsly	8	8	16	496	31.00
Magnolia	8	7	16	484	30.25
Tyler Central	8	9	17	378	22.24
Bellaire	5	15	20	330	16.50
Barnesville	6	13	19	308	16.11
Buckeye Trail	3	15	18	188	10.44

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE.
Wheeling Central	15	2	17	884	52.00
Bridgeport	18	1	19	986	51.89
Shadyside	13	7	20	1016	50.80
Clay-Battelle	13	1	14	884	48.66
Frontier	12	8	18	666	37.00
Toronto	11	8	17	488	29.18
Steubenville Central	6	13	19	308	16.11
Wellsville	7	11	18	282	15.67
Cameron	5	11	18	202	12.63
Caldwell	2	17	18	106	5.58

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE.
Conotton Valley	11	6	18	520	32.50
St. John Central	14	6	20	620	31.00
Madonna	9	10	19	502	26.42
Trinity Christian	10	7	17	390	22.94
Hundred	8	8	14	216	15.43
Paden City	7	10	17	234	13.76
Bishop Donahue	5	12	17	220	12.94
Beaksville	5	15	20	244	12.20
Valley	2	12	14	62	4.43
East Richland	1	11	12	30	2.50

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Girls

Championship Semifinals Monday Class 5A

No. 1 University vs. No. 4 John Marshall
No. 2 Morgantown vs. No. 3 Indian Creek

Class 4A
No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 4 Oak Glen
No. 2 UNION LOCAL vs. No. 3 MARTINS FERRY

Class 3A
No. 1 RIVER vs. No. 4 Shenandoah
No. 2 Fort Frye vs. No. 3 MONROE CENTRAL

Class 2A
No. 1 Wheeling Central vs. No. 4 Clay-Battelle
No. 2 BRIDGEPORT vs. No. 3 SHADYSIDE

Class 1A
No. 1 Conotton Valley vs. No. 4 Morgantown
Trinity
No. 2 ST. JOHN vs. No. 3 Madonna

Consolation Round Monday

Paden City at Caldwell
Beaksville at Hundred
Valley at Bishop Donahue
Frontier at Magnolia
Bellaire at Cameron
Buckeye Trail at Toronto
Steubenville Central at Barnesville
Linsly at Parkersburg South
Meadowbrook at Harrison Central
Wheeling Park at East Liverpool
Weir at St. Clairsville
Brooke at Edison

Wednesday
Buckeye Local at Meadowbrook

Thursday
East Liverpool at Brooke
Parkersburg South at Frontier
Harrison Central at Wheeling Park
Edison at Weir

Barnesville at Buckeye Local
St. Clairsville at Linsly
Magnolia at Beaksville
Bishop Donahue at Buckeye Trail
Hundred at Bellaire
Toronto at Valley
Cameron at Paden City
Caldwell at Steubenville Central

you're talking about, it's tournament basketball and the time when the teams and players will turn it up a notch.

SETH STASKEY
From the
Press Box:

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC

Basketball Championship begins this evening with championship semifinals slated for all over the Ohio Valley with the winners earning a trip to Saturday's title games at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Let's take a closer look at the classes:
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**VERY INTERESTING
TURN OF EVENTS**

Last week, the OVAC Basketball Committee met to finalize the pairings for the Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championship.

One of the more intriguing matchups formed that day in the consolation bracket was Bridgeport visiting St. John Central.

The two long-time, small-school rivals hadn't met during the season and, obviously, it's close in terms of distance, so it seemed like a slam dunk, right?

Evidently not to Bridgeport school officials, who respectfully indicated to the OVAC that it wished to be re-assigned to

See, **HOOPS**, Page B2

SPORTS

Schedules altered for OVAC

• Girls basketball championship semifinals all wiped out Monday; Dual wrestling altered

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

For OVAC officials it's been a hectic few days.

The chaos of weather and schedule jockeying is going to cause area sports fans to choose which events they attend over the next few days.

As the continual bouts with snow have piled up, causing schools to be closed, the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball

Championship has been altered significantly.

The boys' pairings for their basketball tournament are officially set on Wednesday. That date won't be altered because of weather cancellations since schools have already played enough games to meet the minimum qualifying standards, meaning if teams don't play again tonight, the standings as they are will become official.

All 10 of the girls' championship semifinals were re-scheduled for either tonight or Wednesday evening.

The championship finals are still slated for Saturday at Ohio University Eastern and won't be adjusted.

Should the semifinals be unable to be played by Thursday evening, the higher seed will automatically advance to the title game.

See, **SCHEDULING**, Page B2



Hawk Girls Defeat Monarchs University boys win against JM

MORGANTOWN — The University High girls' basketball team followed the lead of a talented freshman to a dominating victory in the OVAC tournament semifinals Tuesday night.

Shelby Boyle, a 5-foot-10 forward/center, scored eight of her 11 points in the opening quarter, helping the Hawks to a 71-45 rout of John Marshall, at the UHS gymnasium.

"We came out immediately in our man-to-man defense and picked up the tempo," UHS coach Kamela Meikle said. "Shelby Boyle did a great job with eight points in the first quarter that got us off to a big start. Everybody else fed off that. It was an all-around effort, defensively and offensively."

M a r i a h Callen pumped in a game-high 20 points, while Kayla Boggs scored 16 and Megan Messiora 10 for the Hawks (14-5), who play for the OVAC title on Saturday night against the winner of tonight's Morgantown High-Indian Creek contest. JM will face the loser Thursday night.

Tori Derrow scored 12 points to lead John Marshall (11-8). Sissy George and Kylie Howard added 11 apiece.

**Boys' Basketball
University 62
John Marshall 49**

MOUNDSVILLE — University outscored John Marshall 13-5 during the first quarter and went on to top the Monarchs and assure itself of a spot in next week's Class 5A portion of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Tournament.

Please See **JM**, Page 15

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

SAFETY FIRST

Last week, we wrote in this space about no school, no play. We still think that's a policy that deserves more flexibility.

Take Monday for example example. Schools were closed, but since the girls' games were part of the OVAC Tournament, officials opted to take a wait-and-see approach before postponing all games for the night.

Obviously, the weather was poor and the games needed to be pushed back for the safety of everyone. That's the way the schools should work the policy. Let the officials from both schools involved talk and make a decision that makes sense.

Having said that, tonight's card could be in real jeopardy because these "clipper systems" keep wreaking havoc on the Ohio Valley. Yes, they're just nuisance snows per se, but they come at bad times for hoops.

CLIMBING THE LADDER

St. Clairsville is up to a tie for fifth in this week's Associated Press Division II poll. The Red Devils are tied with Dayton Dunbar, which is the defending state champion in the division.

The Red Devils are currently 14-2 on season after a strong 3-1 week, which included challenging non-league games against Cleveland St. Ignatius in the Dunk 4 Diabetes Shootout and Cambridge last Saturday.

The game against the Bobcats was one of the best games of the season in the area. Good play on both ends of the floor by two good teams. Making it even better was a packed house crowd despite the rough weather conditions outside.

The Red Devils have games against Union Local and Indian Creek this week before focusing on OVAC Tournament play next week.

SECTIONAL DRAWING

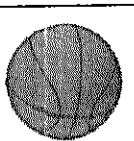
The boys' teams will learn their paths for the postseason on Sunday afternoon. Sectional drawings will be held around the Buckeye State, starting at 2 p.m. at the respective sites. It's always one of the more interesting days of the season.

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

OVAC TOURNEY LEFTOVERS

O V A C
Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak shared some interesting information with us about last month's Wheeling Hospital

See, **HOOPS**, Page B2



Prep Roundup

Lady Knights Victorious

McCormick, Bucon combine for 51 pts.

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Leading 34-31 at halftime against once-beaten Clay-Battelle, the Wheeling Central girls' basketball team turned to the two players that have been the keys to their success during the past three seasons.

Colleen McCormick and Emily Bucon combined to score the Maroon Knights first 18 points of the third quarter during a 24-2 run that set the tone for an 81-46 victory that propelled Coach Penn Kurtz's defending champions into the OVAC Class 2A final.

Central (17-3) will face the winner of tonight's Shadyside at Bridgeport game in the 10 a.m. conference championship contest on Saturday at the Ohio University Eastern campus.

McCormick pumped in 10 points during the third quarter and finished with a game-high 29 points and seven rebounds, while Bucon went 7-for-7 from

the floor after halftime to wind up with 22 points.

Along with the usual scoring achievements by the two Maroon Knights standouts, Kurtz was thrilled with the play of his team's defense coming out of the locker room after halftime.

"In the first half we did not defend very well and we talked about the easy baskets we were giving up," Kurtz said. "When we came out for the second half, we picked up the intensity of the defense and Beth Stayduhar got a couple of big steals early to get us rolling. I thought we needed to get up and down the floor and try to wear them out. It was hot in here and we can run 10 or 11 people on the floor. Our depth was definitely a factor in the second half," he added.

Clay-Battelle (14-2) came into the game ranked second among the West Virginia Class A teams, one notch ahead of the Maroon Knights.

For a while it appeared that the Cee Bees were going to give the hosts all they could handle.

Please See KNIGHTS, Page 15

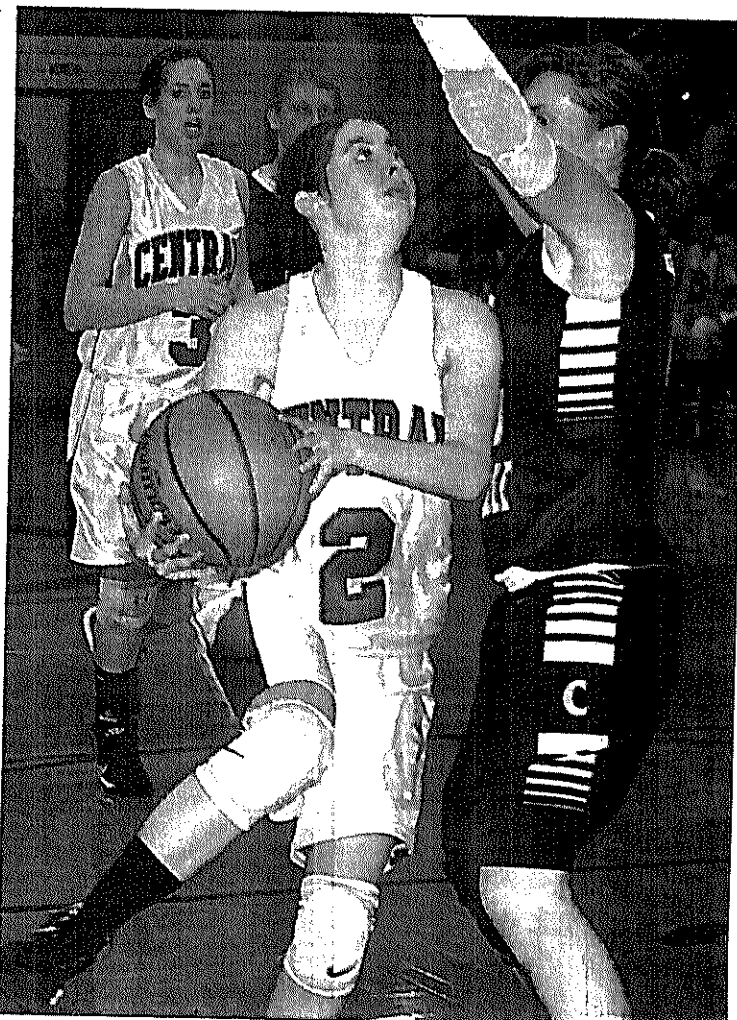


Photo by Rick Thorp

Wheeling Central's Maria Olson (2) drives against Clay-Battelle's Breann Dean during Tuesday night's Class 2A semifinal of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Tournament.

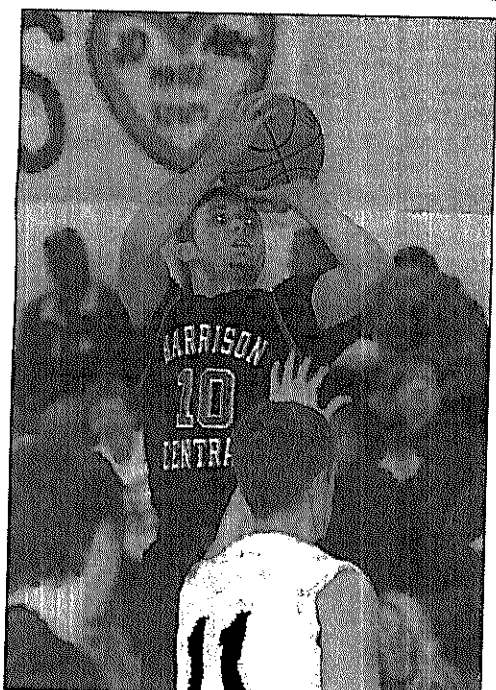


Photo by Fred Younce

Harrison Central's Fletcher Watt (10) takes a jumpshot during Tuesday night's game at Edison.

Harrison Central Wins, 58-41

Watt, Mitchell each net 19

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Intelligencer

RICHMOND — A fast start keyed Harrison Central's 58-41 victory Wednesday at Edison.

The Huskies outscored the Wildcats 14-2 in the first quarter and 27-11 during the first 16 minutes of the game before cruising to the 17-point victory.

"It was big," Harrison Central coach Justin Clifford said of this team's early run. "We traditionally haven't played well here. We got beat here last year so we came out ready to play."

After tying the score at 2-2 just under two minutes into the game, the hosts went without scoring until about a minute into the sec-

ond quarter when a Ryan Kramarich bucket made the score 15-4.

"First quarter we came out sluggish," Edison coach Nate Moses said. "We came out real sluggish. We came out and scored two in the first and were down 14-2 after one."

"You score two points in the first quarter, I'd say that's a sluggish start."

Kramarich led the Wildcats with a 10-point performance.

"Ryan's one of our three seniors," Moses said. "He played well. He had 10 points. We don't look to him for a lot of scoring most nights, but he scored for us (Tuesday). It was nice to see."

Fletcher Watt and Rashaen Mitchell spurred the Huskies first half dominance as they combined for all 14 Harrison Central

points in the opening quarter, and scored 22 of 27 points for the half.

The dynamic duo shared top honors for the Huskies with 19 points each.

The second half saw the Wildcats have more success on the offensive end, being outscored just 31-30 over the final 16 minutes.

"We tried to sub some guys in there early and it didn't work out well for us, but they've got to get their feet wet sometime," said Clifford. "Those other guys stepped up. We didn't shoot real well in the second half, but give them credit, they played hard all the way to the horn."

"We've been trying to do it all year. There's going to be a time and a point where we may get in some foul trouble or something like that."

Please See WATT, Page 15

Knights Lock OVAC Berth

Central boys edge Shadyside, 61-53

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Shadyside and Wheeling Central had the feeling of a tournament game Tuesday night in Tiger Town.

Battling for positioning in next week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships in a possible defacto play-in game, the Knights locked up their berth by fighting off the Tigers, who got within two twice in the second half, 61-53.

"With Donahue and Cameron not playing, I think it might come down to bonus points," Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens said. "I guess we'll see what happens, but I told the kids we controlled our own destiny,

which was kind of our focus coming in."

As for the Tigers, who were sitting in fourth in the OVAC standings released on Monday, they'll have to wait and see how the bonus points fall.

The official pairings will be finalized this morning.

The Knights surged out to a 16-point lead in the first half, taking advantage of a chilly shooting performance by Shadyside. The Tigers meshed 5 of 25 from the field during the first 16 minutes of action.

"We told our kids at halftime that Shadyside was going to shoot the ball better than they did in the first half," Stephens said. "That was by no means a normal Shadyside shooting performance."

Please See LOCK, Page 15

Big Red Girls Triumph, 53-39

Steubenville now in OVAC finals

By ED LOOMAN
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Two second half scoring bursts made the difference Tuesday as Steubenville's girls knocked off Oak Glen 53-39 and advanced to the finals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4A Tournament.

Phil Casinelli's top-seeded crew will play the survivor of tonight's Martins Ferry-Union Local clash at 3 p.m. Saturday for the conference crown. The title game is scheduled for Ohio University's Eastern campus in St. Clairsville.

"It definitely is a nice win for our program," Casinelli said. "I'm so proud of our

girls. This is a great accomplishment for them. They work hard and they earned it.

"We'll enjoy this for maybe a day. We'll find how who our opponent will be then we'll get to work and come up with a game plan."

The trip to the OVAC championship contest will be Big Red's first in four years.

Big Red (14-7) and Oak Glen went toe to toe during the first 16 minutes. The Golden Bears used baskets by Jessica Stivason, Casey Patterson and Kaitlyn Herstine to grab a 14-10 advantage after one quarter.

Lysiah Rice and Hannah Masloski recorded back-to-back hoops to give Big Red a 22-20 lead at halftime. The contest featured five opening half lead changes.

See TRIUMPH, Page 15

Tigers claw way by 'Dogs

• Shadyside's Bonar now state leader in 3-pt. goals

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When it comes to girls' basketball games in the Ohio Valley, you'd be hard pressed to find one better than the one that unfolded Wednesday evening inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium at Bridgeport High School.

Third-seeded Shadyside and second-seeded Bridgeport treated the huge crowd to a dandy.

In the end, however, the deep shooting of talented Lady Tiger senior Karli Bonar proved to be too much for the Lady Bulldogs to overcome as Shadyside punched its ticket to its fourth straight Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship game with a 52-49 victory.

"I said when they first started this tournament that it was a great idea because it gave you a tournament atmosphere before the actual sectional tournament begins and tonight was definitely a great atmosphere," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We're excited to get out of here with a win. Bridgeport's a really quality team that gave us all we wanted. We were fortunate to just make a few more shots."

Next up for the Lady Tigers (14-7) is a date with top-seeded Wheeling Central in a rematch of last season's 2A title game, which was won by the Lady Maroon Knights. Tip-off is slated for 10 a.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's pretty exciting to have a chance to avenge last year's loss," Yates said. "We've got to get back to work. They're a good team, but so are we. I know



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S KARLI Bonar (22) eyes the basket as she drives past Bridgeport's Maclaine Murad during action Wednesday night inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium. The Lady Tigers prevailed and Bonar became the all-time leader in made three-point goals in state history.

See, **TIGERS**, Page B4

SJC girls advance to Class 1-A title tilt

By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Senior Kristen Russell made her points count when her team needed them and freshman Lindsey Froehlich dominated the board by grabbing rebounds, swatting away shots and just getting in the way. Their efforts paved the way as St. John Central's second-seeded Lady

Irish punched their ticket for the OVAC Class 1-A championship game with a convincing 42-31 win over a very good Madonna Lady Blue squad on the Irish boards Wednesday night.

Winning over the Lady Blue Dons for the second time this season, coach Bubba Kapral's Lady Irish moved into the 1-A title game of the OVAC-Wheeling Hospital Girls'

Basketball Championships on Saturday.

Kapral's group will battle Conotton Valley in the 8 p.m. finale.

St. John Central improved to 15-6 with the win. They came into the playoffs as the second-seed.

Coach Don Ogden's Lady Blue Dons dropped to 9-11 on the season with the loss. They

will take on the loser of the Conotton Valley-Trinity matchup in the consolation finals on their home court.

St. John came out smoking in the first period and appeared to be headed to a blow-out. The Lady Irish could do no wrong in jumping out to a 17-0 lead and Madonna was having problems getting anything to go right.

See, **SJC**, Page B2

Ferry defeats Union Local in Class 4-A thriller, 43-42

• Rose's free throws seal deal for Purple Riders

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Lindsay Coyne doesn't think her Martins Ferry girls' basketball team is getting the respect it should around the Ohio Valley.

Following Wednesday night's thrill-packed, 43-42, triumph over homestanding Union Local in a Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Class 4-A semifinal at 'The Hangar' in Morristown, she hopes people start taking notice of the 13-8 Purple Riders.

With the much-cherished victory, third-seeded Martins Ferry will bat-

tle No. 1 seed Steubenville Saturday afternoon at 3 for the title inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. Big Red (14-5) eliminated Oak Glen Tuesday night.

"I give my girls all the credit," Coyne said. "They were pumped up and ready to go. They have brought it day-in and day-out, but I don't think they get enough credit from the people around the valley, or anybody else.

"They've been playing great basketball ... team basketball," she continued. "They are just gritting it out

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



MARTINS FERRY'S Jessica Kinney drives to the past as Union Local's Kayla Doty (34) defends. The Jets' Cori Medley looks on.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ly picked up in the summer for Tollett, who kind of stepped onto the scene in the fall of 2011 when she reached her ticket to her state cross country event.

She obviously carried that momentum into the track season.

"I guess I definitely had potential all along, but I didn't take advantage of it," Tollett said.

"My coaches and my family encouraged me to work hard to make the best of my ability, so that's what I did."

In cross country, Tollett is the bronze medalist at the district and OVAC, won the gold in the regional fore earning her first all-district acclaim as a harrier. Tollett owns a personal record of 18:24.63 in cross, which she posted at the OVAC.

"I was satisfied with how

ately for the Lady Bobcats, but she realizes she won't be able to rest on her accolades.

"They have a fantastic program with a lot of talented runners," Tollett said. "I know I'll have to continue to improve, but I definitely think I'll be in good hands."

Away from athletics, Tollett also shines. She's president of the National Honor Society, member of the Chemistry Club, Yearbook staff, JETS, student council, Who's Who Among American High School Students and is a little sister for football and basketball.

Tara, who is the daughter of Tom Tollett, plans on studying nutrition with hopes to become a registered dietician.

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Of course, I didn't think we would come out and run out to a 17-0 lead.

"We knew they would make a run, but we played well," the Lady Irish coach added. "It's hard to jump out to a 17-0 lead and not expect them to make a run. There were times out there when we weren't playing real smart, but our defense stepped up that helped."

"I'm very happy with this," Kapral said. "These (OVAC) games are a lot of fun. This is the way it is suppose to be. We are happy to be moving on to play on Saturday. This was a great way for our two seniors to finish out their careers here."

In the second half the two teams battled evenly, but it was the scoring of Russell in the third with eight of her team's 10 that kept the Lady Blue Dons at bay. Russell converted

Guernsey Street. The Lady Irish won.

three straight from the field early in the session that handed the hosts a 30-16 lead. The winners led by 34-24 at the final break.

Rose opened the fourth with a deuce and Froehlich scored off a nice pass from Russell to push their lead to 38-24. Madonna's hopes for a comeback were throttled by a strong effort on the boards by Froehlich who grabbed six rebounds in the session.

"When you don't come ready to play and they do, that's what happens," coach Ogden said after the tough loss. "That's my fault. I've got to have them better prepared for a game like this."

"Give St. John Central all the credit," he added. "They were able to disrupt us and get us out of our rhythm and take us out of our half-court game."

Russell closed with a game-high 12 points to go with nine rebounds and three assists. Rose followed close behind with 11 counters. Froehlich added six points, 10 rebounds and seven blocked shots. Emily Lemasters had seven boards.

Bragg led Madonna with nine points and four rebounds while Sellitti finished with eight points and 10 team-high rebounds.

ST. JOHN CENTRAL (42) — Russell 5, 2-4 12; Coppa 2, 0-0 5; Rose 3, 5-10 11; Silva 1, 0-0 2; Alvey 3, 0-0 6; Roberts 0, 0-0 0; Knox 0, 0-0 0; Froehlich 3, 0-1 6; Lemasters 0, 0-0 0. Totals, 17-50, 7-15. MADONNA (31) — Dowiak 0, 0-2 0; Holt 1, 2-4 4; Antinone 0, 0-0 0; Rosso 2, 0-2 5; Sellitti 2, 4-0 8; Platek 2, 0-4 4; Davis 0, 0-0 0; Bragg 2, 5-6 9; Lammers 0, 1-2 1. Totals, 9-50, 12-24.

Three-point goals: St. John Central (1) — Coppa, 1. Madonna (1) — Rosso, 1.

● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

and paying attention and executing our offense very well."

Wednesday's see-saw affair had eight deadlocks and 10 lead changes as the two Buckeye 8 rivals went toe-to-toe for 32 minutes.

Senior standout Jessica Kinney put the visitors ahead 40-39 with a drive to the basket, and the No. 2-seeded Jets (14-7) misfired on four consecutive free throws before Martins Ferry sealed the deal.

With the visitors clinging to the precarious one point margin and in control of the basketball, Coyne opted to run some precious time off the clock as Megan Rose and Kinney kept a handle on the orange sphere.

Union Local finally fouled, but Rose, the Purple Riders' senior point guard, tickled the twine on 3 of 4 attempts in the final 36.1 seconds to give her team a 43-39 advantage.

Union Local's Cory Medley banked home a three-pointer at the buzzer for the final margin of victory.

"There was a lot of pressure on me, but I made the shots," Rose said. "I felt a little better the second time at the line after I made the first two."

She said winning the OVAC title has been a goal of the five seniors since they started playing together four years ago.

"It feels great. It's a big accomplishment for us. Winning the championship is something that we've wanted since the very beginning of our careers."

Kinney, a returning all-stater and 1,000-point scorer, led all scorers in the game with 19 points. Rose finished with seven counters, but also charted five steals and four

assists. Kinney pulled down five rebounds.

Union Local head coach Drew Greenwood said the first quarter got his team behind early and the missed free throws down the stretch didn't help.

"We just weren't able to get into the flow of things there early on," he recalled. "Most of our troubles in the first quarter were because of self destruction. We didn't respond to some situations that could've put us in a good spot."

Medley, a junior, paced the Jets with 18 points. Senior Dallas Montag added 15 and classmate Kayla Doty had eight. Only one other player scored for the hosts.

Coyne was also very pleased with the way her bench performed, especially freshman Tyrah King. The frosh grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds, including half of them in the second quarter. She also added three crucial points.

"My little freshman came in and did a great job of rebounding the ball tonight," Coyne praised. "That was a huge key in our victory, but everyone played well."

Union Local will now journey to New Manchester to take on Oak Glen in the consolation finals.

MARTINS FERRY (43) — Kinney 6 5-6 19; Rose 2 3-4 7; K. Stalder 0 2-2 2; M. Stalder 2 0-0 6; Oberdick 1 0-0 2; Suriano 0 0-0 0; DeLeonardis 1 0-0 2; King 1 1-2 3; Lee 1 0-0 2; Totals: 14-29 11-14. UNION LOCAL (42) — Medley 7 1-2 18; Montag 6 0-3 15; Doty 3 1-2 8; Stiles 0 0-0 0; Collins 0 1-2 1; Delaney 0 0-0 0; Russell 0 0-0 0; Rucker 0 0-2 0; Totals: 16-34 3-11.

Three-Point Goals: Martins Ferry 4 (Kinney 2, M. Stalder 2); Union Local 7 (Medley 3, Montag 3, Doty)

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● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

one but Amanda Clearcreek is tough top to bottom.

"They fight and fend off the pins," Kinmond said of the Aces wrestlers. In a dual meet like this, that

means a lot."

"Shadyside has a lot of good wrestlers," Aces coach Brian Brison said. "Our motto is you wrestle hard for six minutes win or lose, You don't give up, you do your job,"

Amanda Clearcreek

as they travel to Steubenville tonight to face the Big Red, still stinging from a loss to Claymont in their regional final.

Shadyside will also host a tri-meet Saturday with East Liverpool and Indian Creek

ho is always willing to compete. I know he'll compete quickly to play and have an impact on their team."

Shortly after the end of the college season, Boston College fired its head coach and entire staff, hiring Steve Addazio.

However, Monteroso elected to open up his recruiting after the coaching staff change.

"I wasn't too comfortable with the coaching change at C.," Monteroso said.

After Hazel officially took over at Purdue, after leaving Kent State, he began recruiting Monteroso immediately.

"When Coach Hazel started recruiting me, I really felt comfortable," Monteroso said.

He took visits to Purdue and Maryland before offering a verbal commitment to the Boilermakers about two weeks ago.

Monteroso, who will take part in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game in Dayton in April, will report to West Lafayette in early June to begin summer classes and preparations for the 2013 season.

es and preparations for the 2013 season.

"I am going to go there and compete," Monteroso said. "I want to start as a freshman. Everywhere I've been, I've worked hard to play. I don't want to sit behind anyone, so my I am going to go to Purdue and do what I have to do to get to play."

Monteroso, who is currently the leader of the Red Devils' basketball team, admits he must get faster and stronger to achieve his goals of early playing time for the Boilermakers.

"I have to get bigger and faster, but I also have to work on my route running and things like that," Monteroso said. "I'll spend the spring with my dad (Jeff), Matt (Kinnick) and my brother (Michael) will throw with me."

Until the spring, however, Monteroso's total focus lies with the Red Devils' basketball team and trying to make a run deep into March.

"We've really not had time to reflect on the football season because we went right into basketball," Monteroso said. "I am really excited to see what we can accomplish the rest of this basketball season. We've got a lot of goals ahead of us to work toward."

Monteroso, who is the son of Jeff and Cathy Monteroso, is undecided about his major.

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Shadyside Girls Edge Bridgeport

Tigers girls win 4th straight OVAC game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the Intelligencer

BRIDGEPORT — When it comes to girls' basketball games in the Ohio Valley, you'd be hard pressed to find one better than the one that unfolded Wednesday evening inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium at Bridgeport High School.

Third-seeded Shadyside and second-seeded Bridgeport treated the huge crowd to a dandy.

In the end, however, the deep shooting of talented Tigers senior Karli Bonar proved to be too much for the Bulldogs to overcome as Shadyside punched its ticket to its fourth straight Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship game with a 52-49 victory.

"I said when they first started this tournament that it was a

great idea because it gave you a tournament atmosphere before the actual sectional tournament begins and (Wednesday night) was definitely a great atmosphere," Shadyside coach Tina Yates said. "We're excited to get out of here with a win. Bridgeport's a really quality team that gave us all we wanted. We were fortunate to just make a few more shots."

Next up for the Tigers (14-7) is a date with top-seeded Wheeling Central in a rematch of last season's 2A title game, which was won by the Maroon Knights. Tip-off is slated for 10 a.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

Bridgeport, meanwhile, suffered its second loss in 21 outings. The Bulldogs will make a trip to Clay-Battelle a date to be determined next week for the consolation game of the 2A tournament.

Please See **GIRLS**, Page 16

Linsly Defeats Kiski

Cadets win 70-61, get above .500

By **TONY VIOLA**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — With all the snowfall and school cancellations during the past week, the Linsly boys' basketball team caught a case of cabin fever.

The Cadets, however, finally were able to hit the court against Kiski on Wednesday night and handed the visitors a 70-61 defeat inside Stifel Fieldhouse.

"Our guys were chomping at the bit and then (the games would) get canceled," Cadets coach James Wallace said. "We hadn't played for a week. We were just ready to stop beating each other up during practice and go at somebody."

Linsly (10-9) began the game furiously and quickly jumped out to a 14-3 lead, fueled by six points from Arien Seymour.

The Cougars (16-6) were able to pull within four at the end of the first at 16-12, but a

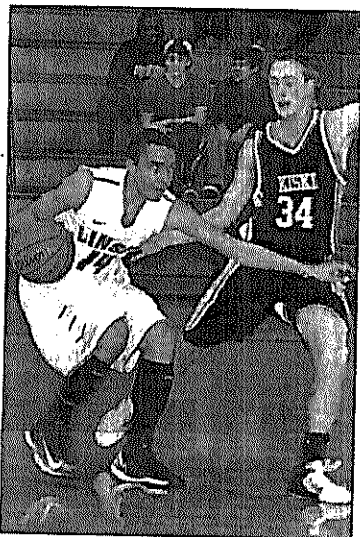


Photo by Tony Viola

Linsly's Anthony Wallace (14) sets up a play while being guarded by Kiski's Augie Luptah (34).

22-9 Cadets run, courtesy of nine points from Anthony Wallace and another eight from Jirbi Blount, put the hosts up by 17 at the half, 38-21.

"We talked in the locker room about starting early and controlling the tempo," Wallace said. "Make them play our style of basketball and make them match our intensity. It took them a long time to match the intensity we brought to the floor. When we bring that kind of intensity, we're a very good team."

Please See **LINSLY**, Page 17

Martins Ferry Sneaks By Union Local, 43-42

Morgantown routs Indian Creek, 56-32

MORRISTOWN — With a 43-42 victory against Union Local on Wednesday night, third-seeded Martins Ferry will battle No. 1 seed Steubenville on Saturday afternoon at 3 for the title at Ohio University Eastern.

With the Purple Riders clinging to the precarious one-point margin (40-39) and in control of the basketball, Coach Lindsay Coyne opted to run some time off the clock as Megan Rose and Kinney kept a handle on it.

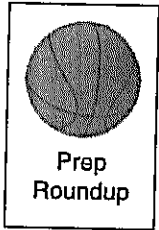
Union Local finally fouled, but Rose made 3 of 4 attempts in

the final 36.1 seconds to give her team a four-point advantage. Union Local's Cory Medley banked home a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the final margin.

Kinney led all scorers with 19 points. Rose finished with seven, but also charted five steals and four assists. Kinney pulled down five rebounds.

Cori Medley paced the Jets with 18 points. Dallas Montag added 15 and Kayla Doty had eight.

Please See **FERRY**, Page 16



FERRY

(Continued from Page 15)

Class 5A
Morgantown 56
Indian Creek 32
MORGANTOWN — Morgantown punched its ticket to Saturday's 5A championship game — where it will play city rival University — by knocking off Indian Creek.

Emily Sabatino scored 15 points to pace the Mohigans (16-4).

Kiarra Kamaree's 14 points led the way for the Redskins (15-6).

University defeated John

Marshall, 71-45, on Tuesday night.

Class 3A
Fort Frye 71
Monroe Central 41
NEW MATAMORAS — Diedra Combs scored 18 points and Brooke Borich added 12 points, four steals, and five assists as Fort Frye advanced.

Taylor Buchanan added 11 points for the Cadets (18-3).

Chelsea Roberts paced the Seminoles (12-8) with 17 points. Chelsie Tewanger added 11.

River 56, Shenandoah 39

HANNIBAL — Landyn Ramsay scored 14 points to lead a balanced attack as River beat Shenandoah and advanced to the Class 3A Final.

Cassidy McCullough added 12 for the Pilots.

Rachel Rossiter, Ashlee Wukelich, and Kaysay King each had nine for the Zeps.

Class 1A
St. John Central 42
Madonna 31

WEIRTON — Kristen Russel scored 12 points and Marissa Rose added 11 as they helped St. John advance to the Class 1A final by beating Madonna.

Monica Bragg scored nine points to lead the Blue Dons Nicollette Sellitti added eight.

Cnotton Valley beat Trinity, 43-42, in the other Class 1A semifinal.

Consolation Game
Bellaire 68, Cameron 31
CAMERON

Cameron didn't have the outcome it wanted while playing its first game in its new gym as Bellaire's Kierstyn Kidder hit for 22 points in leading the Big Reds to victory.

Nina Crook added 15 and both Carie Crozier and Myleah Green each totaled 10 for Bellaire.

Leah Stern's nine points paced the Dragons (6-12).

● Hoops

Continued from Page B1

OVAC Basketball Championships.

Since the event's inception, the OVAC has given back \$185,788 to the participating schools. The biggest share for a school came in 2009 at \$1,635, while the smallest was in 2012 when the participating schools each received \$1,230.

Of those funds, about 55 percent comes from the sponsorships of the event, while the other 45 percent comes from ticket sales and clothing sales.

In the history of the event, 25 girls and 26 boys' schools have taken part in the title games. Nary a school has appeared in all six title games. Shadyside and Fort Frye lead the girls' teams with five and four appearances, respectively.

St. Clairsville leads the boys' squads with five appearances in its class' title game. John Marshall, Magnolia and Wheeling Park have shown up four times.

The OVAC Basketball Committee will meet in the coming weeks to begin organizing the 2014 event.

● Hoops

Continued from Page B1

another game because of a falling out between the schools over an issue from their football game played on Wheeling Island. SJC eventually had to forfeit due to an ineligible player.

The OVAC opted to jockey the games around, so Bridgeport is making the trip to Madonna this evening, while St. John is hosting Valley.

Personally, I think the schedule should have remained the same. It's one basketball game and from all accounts the Bridgeport and St. John student-athletes were excited to play the game. Aren't prep sports supposed to be about the kids?

In a bizarre twist of events, those Bulldogs and Irish players will get their wish and a chance to meet on the hardwood this winter and no one will be able to do anything about it.

Bridgeport and St. John Central will clash in the 8 p.m. game on Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the Division IV sectional tournament at Union Local.

That should attract a large crowd and, unfortunately, for the schools, neither will benefit from the gate like they could have if they had played during the consolation round.



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Colleen McCormick tries to maintain possession of the ball during Saturday morning's game against Shadyside.

CLASS 3A

Fort Frye Repeats As Champs

Cadets clamp down on River in posting victory

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — River just couldn't get into the flow Saturday afternoon.

As a result, the top-seeded Pilots dropped a 46-22 decision to Fort Frye in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships' Class 3-A title game inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Falling behind 13-2 after one quarter, River (16-6) would never mount any type of offense as the No. 2 Cadets (19-3) turned up their defense.

"Fort Frye is a good basketball team," River coach Rick Isaly said. "They're sound defensively and they're good on the offensive end.

"You have to play your 'A' game when you play this team if you're going to beat them, and we didn't play our 'A' game."

Fort Frye, which defended its title, jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead on back-to-back treys by Morgan Liedtke and Taylor Buchanan and never looked back.

Shawntell Parsons made it 8-0 before the Pilots would dent their side of the scoreboard when Cassidy McCullough scored at the 1:17 mark.

The Cadets led 13-2 after the first quarter, but River made a run in the second. The Pilots cut the deficit to 21-15 with just under a minute to play before halftime, but Morgan Liedtke knocked down a three-pointer with 31 ticks on the clock for a 24-15 advantage.

See, Repeats, Page B4

Tigers on Top

Shadyside caps big week with OVAC crown

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Capping off one of the more memorable weeks in the history of the highly successful Shadyside girls' basketball program, the Tigers reclaimed the Wheeling Hospital/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 2A Division Championship on Saturday morning on the Ohio University Eastern campus.

Earlier in the week, Coach Tina Yates'

CLASS 2A

club won a thriller on the road against second-seeded Bridgeport as Shadyside's Karli Bonar became the state of Ohio's all-time leading 3-point goal scorer.

In the opening salvo of five conference title-deciding contests, the Tigers excelled both offensively and defensively to knock off familiar rival and defending champion Wheeling Central, 53-44, avenging last year's defeat. The victory

See, Tigers, Page B4

Free Throws Key Steubenville 'W'

Big Red claims Class 4A crown

By ED LOOMAN
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Steubenville's girls put on a couple of clinics Saturday to capture the Class 4A championship in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament.

The first came at the free-throw line



Jessica Kinney

where Big Red knocked down 11 straight during the final minutes of the contest played inside the Health and Physical Education Building at Ohio University's Eastern Campus.

Those points, coupled with a sorely needed triple by Taylor Young, helped the event's top seed overcome a fourth-quarter deficit and

See, Key, Page B4

CLASS 1A

Rockets Down Irish

Conotton Valley rolls to triumph

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Conotton Valley claimed the OVAC Class 1 championship on Saturday night, besting St. John, 50-26.

The two teams played last season and Irish coach Bubba Kapral remembered a

See, Rockets, Page B4

ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

then lanky freshman, Olivia Bower, doing significant damage for the Rockets.

The long-time coach is certainly going to remember Bower for an even longer time this season. The 6-foot-1 swing player and her Rockets' teammates proved to be too much as they seized the Class 1A title inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

"Give Conotton Valley all of the credit because they kicked our butts," Kapral said. "We didn't do what we needed to do, but having said that, we played against a very good team."

The Rockets, who won their only other OVAC title in 1997, had set the conference title as a goal as their first-year coach Chandra Myers took over and tried to figure out the ins and outs of the OVAC.

"I knew nothing about the OVAC other than it was a bunch of river teams that stretched into West Virginia," Myers admitted. "I still don't know much, but I am learning and I know this meant a lot to these girls and it's great for them that their hard work allowed them to achieve one of their main goals."

Conotton Valley and St. John were in a back-and-forth affair in the first with the game tied at 12-12 in the waning seconds of the quarter. However, Conotton Valley's Chandice Cottis picked off a Irish pass and turned into a layup and from there, the Rockets took off.

"That play hurt, but it wasn't the turning point," Kapral said. "It was just a speed bump, but we didn't play through it as well as we needed to. It was just

one mistake."

The Rockets began to pull away when they outscored the Irish, 14-6, in the second quarter.

After scoring nine points in the first period, Bower continued to pile up points. She scored six more and had 15 of her 20 in the first half.

"Kristen (Russell) is a great defender, but Bower really hit some big-time shots," Kapral said. "We didn't help (on her) like we should have, but she's a big-time player and we knew that. She's also got a nice supporting cast around her."

Owning a 28-18 lead at halftime, the Irish came out in the second half to find seemingly a cover on the basket at their end of the court. St. John didn't record its first of three second-half field goals until there was only 3:02 left to play.

"They imposed their will and played more physical than we did," Kapral said. "We like to go baseline to baseline, but we couldn't get out and run. When you can't score that just compounds matters worse and it wears on you."

The Irish, who had a few players under the weather, failed to have a player reach double figures. Frosh point guard Marissa Rose led the way with seven points.

Class 5A Championship University 53

Morgantown 41

ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

Mariah Callen poured in 27 points and University rallied with a strong second half to top cross-town rival Morgantown for the OVAC crown.

Leah Taylor paced the Mohigans with 14 points.

REPEATS

Continued from page B1

"That's something we didn't want to do is fall behind early, and that's exactly what we did," Isaly said. "We made that one run there in the second quarter, but the third quarter was another bad one."

Indeed it was as the Cadets held the Pilots to three points in the period, and seven total in the second 16 minutes.

"We just basically clamped down on them,"

Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke said. "We tried to press some their in the second quarter and they were getting through us. We decided at halftime that we were going to go back to our basic halfcourt, solid defense."

"That's what we work on every day in practice. That's one of our goals is to keep the other team from scoring as much as possible."

"So, even if we're not having a good shooting day, we can still be in the game because of our defense."

River was a meager 3-for-15 from the field (20 percent) in the second half. For the game, the Pilots connected on 10 of 34 shots.

Meanwhile, Fort Frye shot 35 percent (17 of 48).

The telling stat, however, was rebounding where the much taller Cadets pulled

down 31 - 12 off the offensive glass - to nine for the Pilots.

Fort Frye's Diedra Combs led all scorers in the game with 14 points, one more than teammate Taylor Buchanan. Combs also yanked down half-a-dozen rebounds, as did Micayla Hupp.

Senior Cassidy McCullough paced River with eight points. Jensen Caretti had three rebounds.

TIGERS

Continued from page B1

also gave Shadyside a 2-1 edge against the Maroon Knights in this season's matchups.

"It's been awesome," Yates said when asked about the accomplishments of her 15-7 team the past several days. "It's always special to win. We had a bitter feeling last year and we wanted to get that (winning) feeling back from two years ago."

The job Shadyside turned in defensively against Wheeling Central's dynamic twosome of Colleen McCormick and Emily Bucon resulted in some incredible numbers. The Maroon Knights were limited to 10 points in the opening half, scoring three during the second quarter. McCormick and Bucon were held without a single point until the former got room for a layin with 1:50 remaining in the third quarter.

While McCormick was able to add eight points in the fourth quarter to finish with 10 overall, Bucon never got untracked and managed one basket along with two free throws for a total of four points.

"I felt like we were a step slower in the first half," Central (17-4) coach Penn Kurtz said. "I mean, the score was 20-10. I can't remember the last time we only scored 10 points and I know there hasn't been a game in Colleen and Emily's four-year careers where they didn't score in the first half."

"Shadyside kept collapsing in the paint and taking away our drives to the basket. Every time Colleen

touched the ball there were two or three players on her."

The Maroon Knights were able to attempt 49 shots, hitting 17 while the patient Tigers were 16 of 42 but swished 17 of 28 free throws, connecting on 13 of 21 at the line the last quarter when Central was forced to keep putting them on the line.

Most of the offense on the Knights; end was provided by Delaney Denniston, the zone buster who came off the bench to nail three 3s. One of them was turned into a four-point play as Denniston was fouled putting up the shot. She drained the free throw and finished with 10 points to match McCormick's total.

Hayley Holenka's effective use of her left hand resulted in several easy trips to the rim for Shadyside. Holenka scored 21 points to lead the Tigers. Bonar nailed three shots from behind arc and scored 16 points after hitting 5 of 6 free-throw attempts.

Holenka's runner opened the scoring and Shadyside trailed just once at 3-2 after Beth Stayduhar nailed a 3-pointer from the left wing. Holenka came right back by pulling down a rebound following a missed Central shot and she drove coast to coast for a layin. Bonar, who spent much of the game being shadowed by Stayduhar, then rubbed off a screen and buried a triple. After Holenka added another 3-point bomb, the Tigers were on top 10-3.

Bucon was 0-for-5 from the floor

while McCormick got off just two shots and missed them both during the first 16 minutes.

Getting much of the praise for keeping McCormick in check was Shadyside's 5-foot-10 senior Kristen Fijalkowski.

"Kristen did a great job guarding her," Yates said. "We kept practicing defending that move McCormick likes to make. When she made that move, we also had somebody collapse on her."

Fijalkowski scored two points but her six rebounds and defensive effort played a major role in the victory. So were the six points on 3-for-3 shooting and five rebounds from Toni Andes along with six points from Kenzie Fielding.

"I'm proud of these girls," Yates said. "They leave everything they have on the floor. Usually, there aren't enough basketballs in the gym but we were very patient. We found the open person and were fortunate enough to have to make those bunnies," she added.

Kurtz was quick to heap praise on the Tigers.

"If you look at the teams in the OVAC championships, Shadyside beat University (5A Division), beat both teams in 4A (Steubenville and Martins Ferry) and beat River (3A qualifier) twice. Pretty much, they've beaten everybody that is going to be out here playing."

"They have a great team and they had a lot to do with happened to us."

SPORTS

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Sunday,
February 10, 2013

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships

Tigers capture 2A title

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

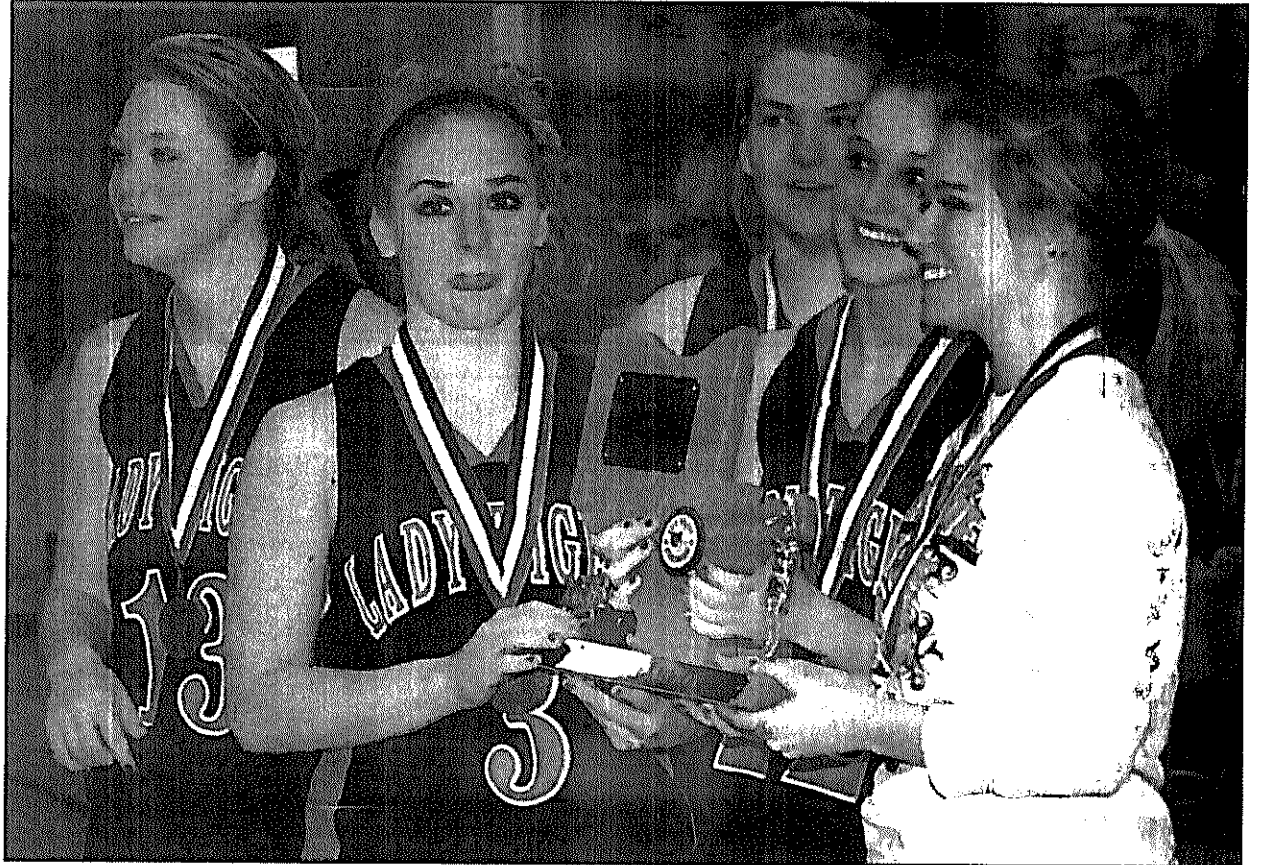
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With seniors Karli Bonar, Hayley Holenka and Kristen Fijalkowski leading the way, Shadyside made sure they didn't have to experience it again.

Leading basically wire-to-wire, the Lady Tigers put an impressive finishing touch on their regular season by winning the Class 2A title, 53-44, over top-seeded Wheeling Central Saturday morning at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

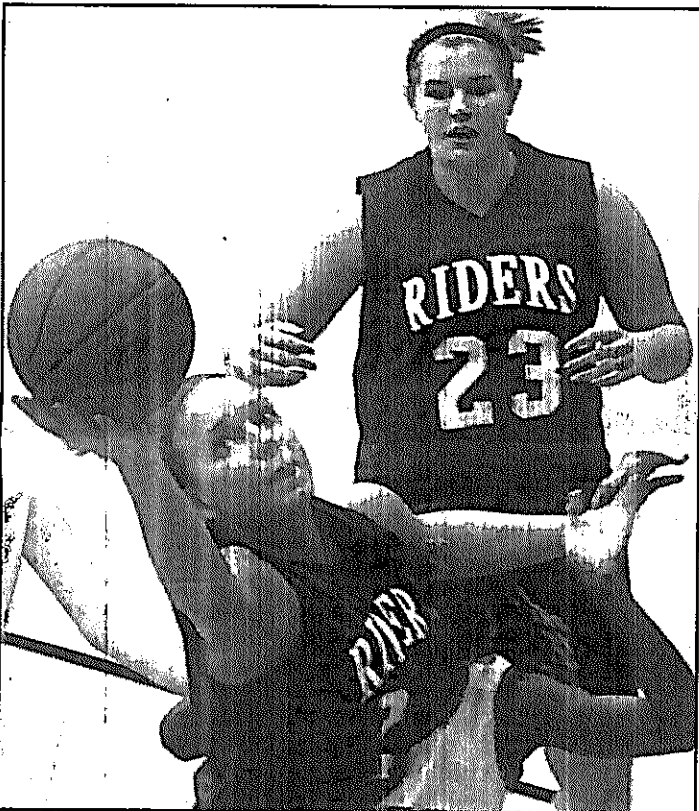
The win gave Shadyside a 2-1 edge in the season series against the Lady Maroon Knights and also

See, **TIGERS**, Page C2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

SENIOR CHAMPS. Shadyside's seniors proudly display the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships Class 2A trophy after the Tigers defeated Wheeling Central Saturday morning. They are, from left, Kristen Fijalkowski, Haykey Holenka, Dana Jackson, Karli Bonar and Lauren May. *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Jessica Kinney (20) drives past a Steubenville defender to the basket Saturday night. Looking on is the Purple Riders' Shaina Oberdick (23). *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Late cold spell, turnovers doom Ferry in setback

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Leading by five with just under three minutes to play, it appeared as though Martins Ferry was about to pick up its second Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship.

However, as red-hot as the Purple Riders have been of late, they suddenly went ice-cold from the floor and turned the ball over on three straight possessions as top-seeded Steubenville ended the Class 4-A title tilt on a 14-0 run for a 45-36 victory inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

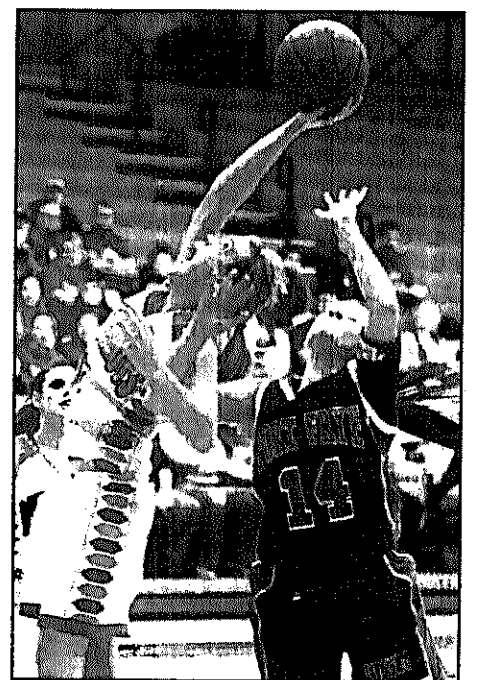
"That's the game of basketball," first-year Martins Ferry head coach Lindsay Coyne allowed. "They were No. 1 and they hit a big, big three. Then they hit a jumper in the lane and we came down and had a few turnovers."

"But the girls were still listening to me and executing the offense," she continued. "Some times the ball just won't drop for you."

Big Red's late-game run was ignited by Taylor Young's bonus bomb that made it 36-34 in favor of the Purple Riders with 2:41 to go. The next 11 Steubenville points came from the free throw stripe, including two by Mytia Barker that deadlocked the game at 36.

Abby Taylor's two charity tosses with 1:48 remaining

See, **FERRY**, Page C2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S EMILE Weaver (20) and Fort Frye's Brooke Borich (14) battle for a rebound during Saturday's Class 2A game. *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Fort Frye defends 3A crown

By **KIM NORTH**
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As a result, the top-seeded Pilots dropped a 46-22 decision to Fort Frye in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships Class 3-A title game inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Falling behind 13-2 after one quarter, River (16-6) would never mount any type of offense as the No. 2 Cadets (19-3) turned up their defense.

Bower propels Rockets past St. John Central

By **SETH STASKEY**
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The long-time Lady Irish head coach is certainly going to remember Bower for an even longer time this season.

The 6-1 swing player and her Lady Rockets' teammates



ST. JOHN Central's Kristen Russell eyes the basket during Saturday night's Class 1A game. *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

2A title

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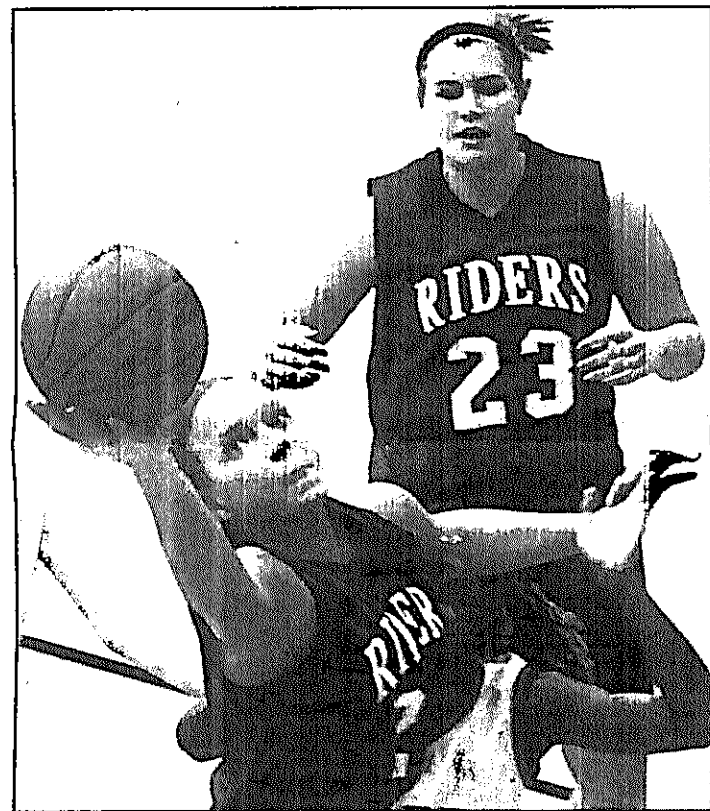
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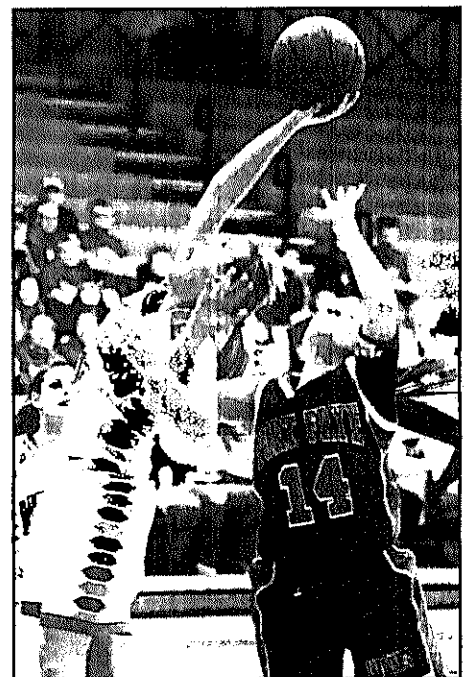
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"Fort Frye is a good basketball team," River head coach Rick Isaly said during the post-game press conference. "They're

See, **FORT**, Page C2

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The long-time Lady Irish head coach is certainly going to remember Bower for an even longer time this season.

The 6-1 swing player and her Lady Rockets' teammates proved to be too much as they seized the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class 1A title with a convincing 50-26 victory in

See, **BOWER**, Page C3



ST. JOHN Central's Kristen Russell eyes the basket during Saturday night's Class 1A game. *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

St. C.'s Eaton wins 100 free at sectional

By **Staff Reports**

St. Clairsville's Michael Eaton fashioned a first place performance in his specialty — the 100-yard freestyle — during Saturday's OHSAA Eastern District Sectional Swimming competition contested at Steubenville High's aquatic facility.

Eaton posted a 50.11 finals time to nip runnerup Jesse Toney of Dover. As a result, the Red Devils' veteran automatically advances to district action next weekend. Remainder of district qualifiers was to be determined by times posted Saturday and were scheduled to be made official today. A complete dis-

trict preview will be featured in this week's Times Leader.

Eaton produced a runner-up effort in the 100-yard breaststroke, clocking in at 1:00.41 to finish just short of Dover's Jake Armstrong whose victorious winning time was 1:00.16.

Barnesville's Christopher Baker produced a pair of second place efforts. The Shamrocks' senior clocked in at 5:11.23 in the 500-yard freestyle and hit the wall in 2:10.01 in the 200-yard individual medley. Baker was runnerup to River View's Coleston Pope in both events.

See, **EATON**, Page C3



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Michael Eaton swims in the 100-yard freestyle Saturday in Steubenville.

Photo Provided

RIGHT: Shadyside's Kristen Fijałkowski (13) grabs a rebound Saturday morning as teammate Karlin Bonar looks on.

BOTTOM: Hayley Holenka drives to the basket for two of her game-high 21 points. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH



● Tigers

Continued from Page C1

avenged last season's loss when the Lady Tigers were the top seed.

"Winning the OVAC is always special, but we had such a bitter feeling last year that this is especially nice," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We wanted to get the feeling back from two years ago and these kids invested countless hours to make it happen."

The Lady Tigers, who will next see action in Division IV sectional play Saturday against Caldwell, got out of the gates quickly, which basically set the tone for the game as the Lady Maroon Knights (17-4) could never get untracked in the first half.

"I thought the difference was our defense," Yates said. "It was just a total team effort. We worked hard to stop (Emily) Bucon and (Colleen) McCormick and every girl contributed in stopping them."

The aforementioned Lady Tiger leaders — Bonar and Holenka — combined for 37 points, while the Knights' lethal duo was held to just 15 and McCormick scored 11 of those.

"Shadyside did a good job of clogging up the middle, taking away driving lanes and just completely took away Colleen in the first half," said Central head coach Penn Kurtz. "Plus, we couldn't make a shot. It just felt like we were a step slower than Shadyside for most of the first half."

The Lady Tigers owned a 20-10 lead at the intermission after holding Central to just one Delaney Denniston bonus basket in the second quarter.

"I can't remember a game when we've ever had just 10 points at halftime," Kurtz lamented. "We couldn't get the ball to go through the hoop. Shadyside is a great team and deserved to win. Look at how many of the teams out here (Saturday) that they've played and beaten."

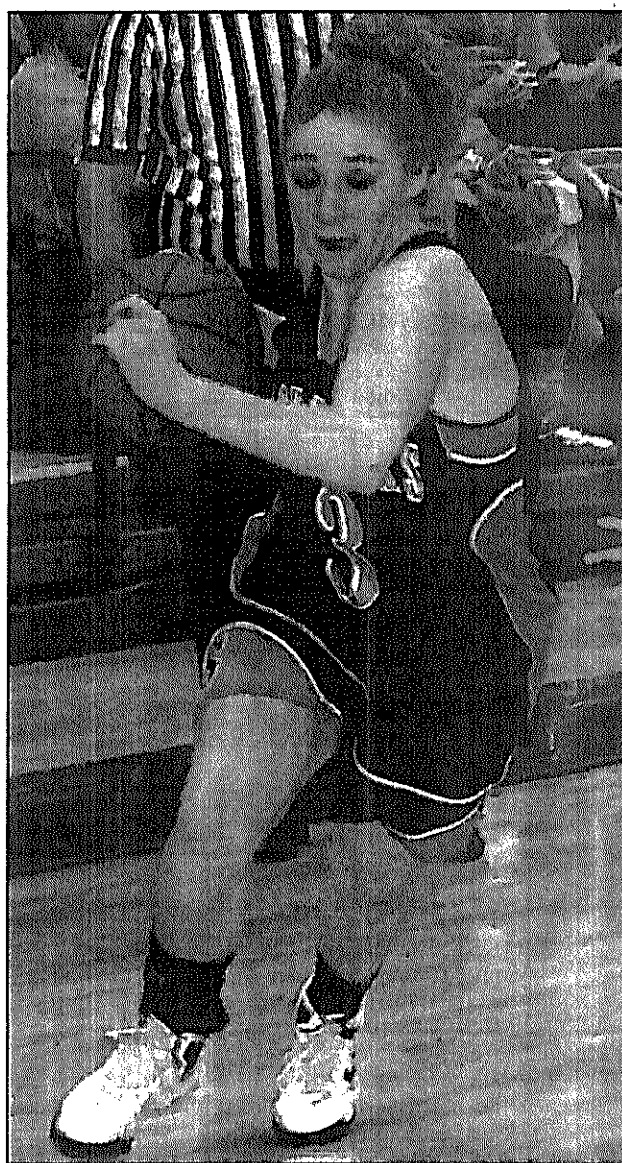
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"I thought our whole offense was good," Yates said. "The girls played very unselfishly. They were patient and found the open girl."

That continued in the second half as the LTs were able to fend off several mini spurts by the Lady Knights. Central trailed by nine after three chapters and couldn't get much closer thanks to a 13-of-20 effort at the line.

Bonar hit three bonus baskets in the game and now has 335 in her career. She also passed out five assists as sophomore Kenzie Fielding and junior Toni Andes got going in the second half. Andes scored all seven of her points in the second half and Fielding finished with six points and four boards.

Senior Kristen Fijałkowski also had a workmanlike



performance. She had only two free throws, but she made countless winning plays that won't appear in the boxscore, including a team-high six rebounds.

McCormick and Denniston had 11 and 10 points, respectively to lead the Knights. Lindsey Baker contributed eight before fouling out.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

No. 23 Pitt rallies past No. 17 UC

CINCINNATI (AP) — Tray Woodall scored 14 points and led a late surge that sent No. 23 Pittsburgh to a 62-52 victory over No. 17 Cincinnati on Saturday, keeping the momentum going for one of the Big East's hottest teams.

The Panthers (20-5, 8-4) have won seven of their last eight games overall and four of their last five on the road. They beat No. 6 Syracuse 65-55 a week ago, vaulting them into the Top 25.

Woodall hit a pair of free throws and a 3-pointer during a 7-0 run that put Pitt

ahead to stay with 3:21 left. The conference's stingiest defense held Cincinnati (18-6, 6-5) without a field goal over the final 9 minutes, 21 seconds.

The Bearcats managed only seven free throws during that stretch. Sean Kilpatrick led Cincinnati with 16 points, but had only one free throw in the second half, when he missed all seven shots from the field. He came into the game averaging 18.3 points, third-best in the Big East.

Cincinnati missed its last

14 shots and made only 30.8 percent from the field, a season low.

The Bearcats were coming off a 54-50 loss at Providence on Wednesday night that ended when Kilpatrick lost his dribble at midcourt while Cincinnati set up for a final shot.

Both teams rely on their depth, using 10 players regularly.

Cincinnati's depth on the frontline was tested by an injury and foul trouble. Forward Justin Jackson played only 7 minutes before leaving with an injury. He came out at half-time and tried to shoot and shuffled his feet, but favored his left leg and quickly gave up.

Center Cheikh Mbodj

fourth foul at the 16:25 mark of the second half, leaving the Bearcats' frontline further depleted. Pitt's balance and depth pulled out a close game throughout — neither team led by double digits until the closing seconds.

The game started as a defensive slog, which was expected. Pitt leads the Big East in defense, allowing only 54.5 points per game. Cincinnati is fourth, giving up 58.6.

Kilpatrick has been the Bearcats' only consistent scoring threat lately, with point guard Cashmere Wright recovering from a sprained knee. Kilpatrick carried his team through the first half, scoring 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting for a

● Ferry

Continued from Page C1

gave Big Red the lead for good. Emiley Masloski, Barker and Lysaih Rice all tickled the twine twice in the waning moments.

"We do a drill at the end of practice every day that's called the 28-point drill where we see how many baskets we can score in four minutes," Steubenville head coach Phil Casinelli explained. "I told the girls that we had four minutes to go. We've scored as many as 100 points in four minutes in practice, and I think that helped us today."

"I told them to keep playing solid defense and the shots would start to fall eventually," Casinelli said.

The defensive pressure forced the Purple Riders into six fourth-quarter turnovers, while the shots, even from the foul line, started to drop.

Despite the loss, Coyne was quick to praise the effort of her third-seeded squad.

"I am very, very proud of these girls. There's no reason for them to hang their heads because they gave a great fight. I couldn't be any more proud of them. Yes, we might have lost on the scoreboard, but you girls are winners because you play hard, and that's a coach's dream."

"You got here," she continued. "It's been four years, but you girls got here."

Senior standout Jessica Kinney scored 25 points to lead all scorers in the game. Only one other player scored more than two points.

"Jess is a special player, and maybe we tried to go to her too many times there at the end," Coyne admitted. "But she's our go-to player."

Masloski had a team-best dozen lightings for Steubenville. Rice, a freshman who came off the bench, added 11 and drew high praise from her head coach.

"Lysaih really gave us a lift early," he recalled. "When Emiley (Masloski) went down with a knee injury earlier this season, Lysaih's minutes really picked up and she has improved as the season has progressed."

Martins Ferry held a 29-25 edge off the boards as Kinney, Shaina Oberdick and Tyrah King all finished with five each. Barker led Big Red with nine caroms. Rice chipped in seven and also charted three steals and a pair of blocked shots.

The Purple Riders, who are idle until next Saturday when sectional tournament action begins, turned the ball over 17 times, two more than Big Red.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● Fort

Continued from Page C1

sound defensively and they're good on the offensive end.

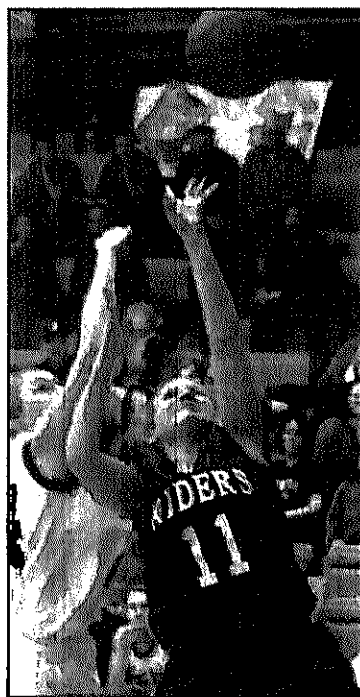
"You have to play your 'A' game when you play this team if you're going to beat them, and we didn't play our 'A' game today."

Fort Frye, which defended its title from 2012, jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead on back-to-back treys by Morgan Liedtke and Taylor Buchanan and never looked back.

Shawntell Parsons made it 8-0 before the Pilots would dent their side of the scoreboard when Cassidy McCullough scored at the 1:17 mark.

The Cadets would lead 13-2 after the first eight minutes, but River made a run in the second eight minutes. The Pilots cut the deficit to 21-15 with just under a minute to play before the half, but Morgan Liedtke knocked down a three-pointer with 31 ticks on the clock for a 24-15 advantage.

"That's something we didn't want to do is fall behind early, and that's exactly what we did," Isaly added. "We made that one run there in the second



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Meghan Rose is fouled while driving to the basket Saturday night against Steubenville.

Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Auto Choice

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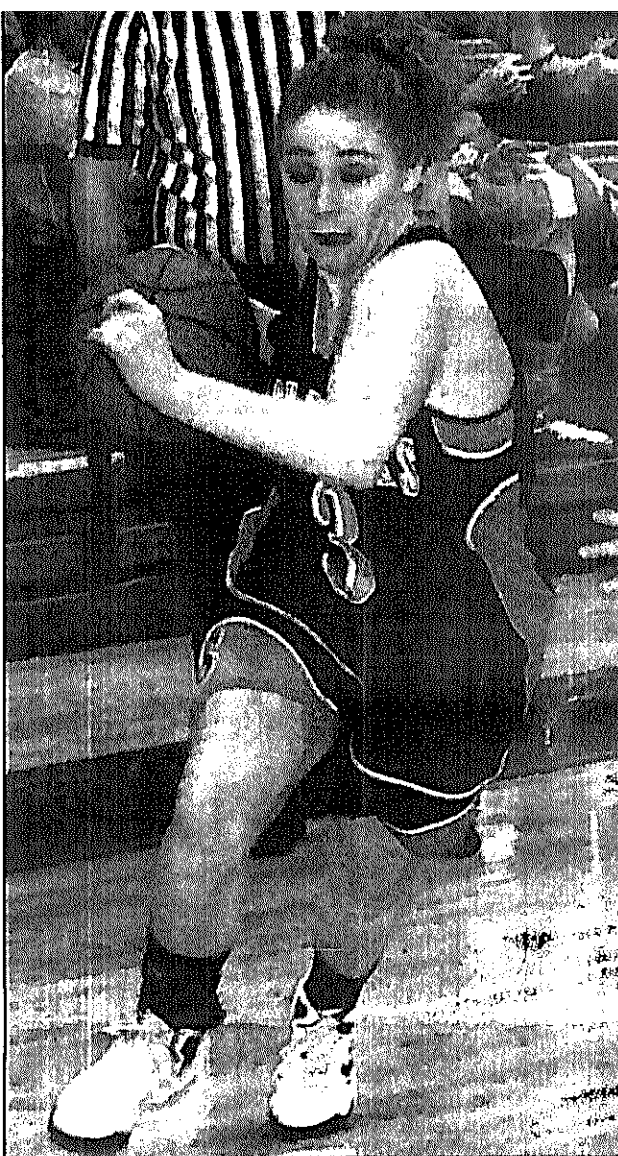
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"I thought our whole offense was good," Yates said. "The girls played very unselfishly. They were patient and found the open girl."

That continued in the second half as the LTs were able to fend off several mini spurts by the Lady Knights. Central trailed by nine after three chapters and couldn't get much closer thanks to a 13-of-20 effort at the line.

Bonar hit three bonus baskets in the game and now has 335 in her career. She also passed out five assists as sophomore Kenzie Fielding and junior Toni Andes got going in the second half. Andes scored all seven of her points in the second half and Fielding finished with six points and four boards.

Senior Kristen Fijalkowski also had a workmanlike



performance. She had only two free throws, but she made countless winning plays that won't appear in the boxscore, including a team-high six rebounds.

McCormick and Denniston had 11 and 10 points, respectively to lead the Knights. Lindsey Baker contributed eight before fouling out.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

quarter turnovers, while against Steubenville. the shots, even from the foul line, started to drop. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleader-online.com

Despite the loss, Coyne was quick to praise the effort of her third-seeded squad.

"I am very, very proud of these girls. There's no reason for them to hang their heads because they gave a great fight. I couldn't be any more proud of them. Yes, we might have lost on the scoreboard, but you girls are winners because you play hard, and that's a coach's dream."

"You got here," she continued. "It's been four years, but you girls got here."

Senior standout Jessica Kinney scored 25 points to lead all scorers in the game. Only one other player scored more than two points.

"Jess is a special player, and maybe we tried to go to her too many times there at the end," Coyne admitted. "But she's our go-to player."

Masloski had a team-best dozen lightings for Steubenville. Rice, a freshman who came off the bench, added 11 and drew high praise from her head coach.

"Lysaih really gave us a lift early," he recalled. "When Emiley (Masloski) went down with a knee injury earlier this season, Lysaih's minutes really picked up and she has improved as the season has progressed."

Martins Ferry held a 29-25 edge off the boards as Kinney, Shaina Oberdick and Tyrah King all finished with five each. Barker led Big Red with nine caroms. Rice chipped in seven and also charted three steals and a pair of blocked shots.

The Purple Riders, who are idle until next Saturday when sectional tournament action begins, turned the ball over 17 times, two more than Big Red.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleader-online.com

Fort

Continued from Page C1

sound defensively and they're good on the offensive end.

"You have to play your 'A' game when you play this team if you're going to beat them, and we didn't play our 'A' game today."

Fort Frye, which defended its title from 2012, jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead on back-to-back treys by Morgan Liedtke and Taylor Buchanan and never looked back.

Shawntell Parsons made it 8-0 before the Pilots would dent their side of the scoreboard when Cassidy McCullough scored at the 1:17 mark.

The Cadets would lead 13-2 after the first eight minutes, but River made a run in the second eight minutes. The Pilots cut the deficit to 21-15 with just under a minute to play before the half, but Morgan Liedtke knocked down a three-pointer with 31 ticks on the clock for a 24-15 advantage.

"That's something we didn't want to do is fall behind early, and that's exactly what we did," Isaly added. "We made that one run there in the second quarter, but the third quarter was another bad one."

Indeed it was as the Cadets held the Pilots to three points in the period, and seven total in the second 16 minutes.

"We just basically clamped down on them,"

WLU women hold off A-B

PHILIPPI, W. Va. — West Liberty shot nearly 60 percent from the floor and held off a late Alderson-Broadus surge to beat the Battlers, 83-79, Saturday night in West Virginia Conference women's basketball action at Rex Pyles Arena.

No. 23 Pitt rallies past No. 17 UC

CINCINNATI (AP) — Tray Woodall scored 14 points and led a late surge that sent No. 23 Pittsburgh to a 62-52 victory over No. 17 Cincinnati on Saturday, keeping the momentum going for one of the Big East's hottest teams.

The Panthers (20-5, 8-4) have won seven of their last eight games overall and four of their last five on the road. They beat No. 6 Syracuse 65-55 a week ago, vaulting them into the Top 25.

Woodall hit a pair of free throws and a 3-pointer during a 7-0 run that put Pitt

ahead to stay with 3:21 left. The conference's stingiest defense held Cincinnati (18-6, 6-5) without a field goal over the final 9 minutes, 21 seconds.

The Bearcats managed only seven free throws during that stretch. Sean Kilpatrick led Cincinnati with 16 points, but had only one free throw in the second half, when he missed all seven shots from the field. He came into the game averaging 18.3 points, third-best in the Big East.

Cincinnati missed its last

14 shots and made only 30.8 percent from the field, a season low.

The Bearcats were coming off a 54-50 loss at Providence on Wednesday night that ended when Kilpatrick lost his dribble at midcourt while Cincinnati set up for a final shot.

Both teams rely on their depth, using 10 players regularly.

Cincinnati's depth on the frontline was tested by an injury and foul trouble. Forward Justin Jackson played only 7 minutes before leaving with an injury. He came out at halftime and tried to shoot and shuffled his feet, but favored his left leg and quickly gave up.

Center Cheikh Mbodj went to the bench with his

fourth foul at the 16:25 mark of the second half, leaving the Bearcats' frontline further depleted. Pitt's balance and depth pulled out a close game throughout — neither team led by double digits until the closing seconds.

The game started as a defensive slog, which was expected. Pitt leads the Big East in defense, allowing only 54.5 points per game. Cincinnati is fourth, giving up 58.6.

Kilpatrick has been the Bearcats' only consistent scoring threat lately, with point guard Cashmere Wright recovering from a sprained knee. Kilpatrick carried his team through the first half, scoring 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting for a 31-26 lead.

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● Bower

Continued from Page C1

Saturday's nightcap inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

"Give Conotton Valley all of the credit because they kicked our butts," Kapral said. "We didn't do what we needed to do, but having said that, we played against a very good team tonight."

The Lady Rockets, who won their only other OVAC title in 1997, had set the conference title as a goal as their first-year coach Chandra Myers took over and tried to figure out the ins and outs of the OVAC.

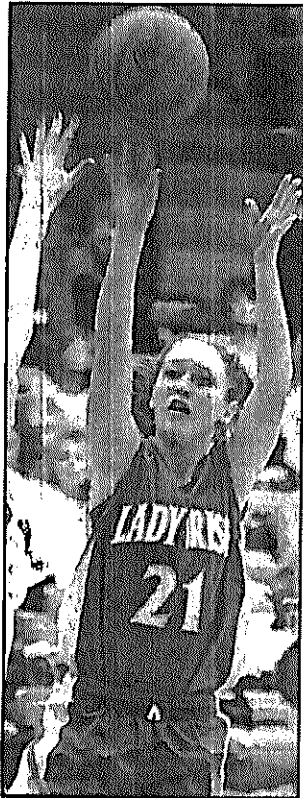
"I knew nothing about the OVAC other than it was a bunch of river teams that stretched into West Virginia," Myers admitted. "I still don't know much, but I am learning and I know this meant a lot to these girls and it's great for them that their hard work allowed them to achieve one of their main goals."

Conotton Valley and St. John were in a back-and-forth affair in the first quarter with the game tied at 12 in the waning seconds of the period. However, Conotton Valley's Chandice Cottis picked off a Lady Irish pass and turned into a layup and from there, the Rockets took off.

"That play hurt, but it wasn't the turning point," Kapral said. "It was just a speed bump, but we didn't play through it as well as we needed to. It was just one mistake."

The Lady Rockets began to pull away when they outscored the Lady Irish, 14-6 in the second quarter.

After scoring nine points in the first period, Bower



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. JOHN Central's Marissa Rose shoots for two points Saturday night.

continued to pile up points. She scored six more and had 15 of her 20 in the first half.

"Kristen (Russell) is a great defender, but Bower really hit some big-time shots," Kapral said. "We didn't help (on her) like we should have, but she's a big-time player and we knew that. She's also got a nice supporting cast around her."

Owning a 28-18 lead at the intermission, the Lady Irish came out in the second half to find seemingly a cover on the basket at their end of the court. St. John didn't record its first of

three second-half field goals until there was only 3:02 left to play.

"They imposed their will and played more physical than we did," Kapral said. "We like to go baseline to baseline, but we couldn't get out and run. When you can't score, that just compounds matters worse and it wears on you."

St. John had trouble scoring in the second half because Bower was erasing shots at quite a clip. She swatted eight shots to go along with her scoring and 15 rebounds. All told, the Lady Irish cashed just 10-of-52 from the field for a frigid 19 percent clip.

"I know 'Livvy' likes to block shots," Myers said. "She's pretty long and she can do it without fouling, but it still makes me nervous. We're definitely fortunate to have her on our team. She really steps up when we need her to, but she'll be the first to credit her teammates."

The Lady Irish, who had a few players under the weather, failed to have a player reach double figures. Frosh point guard Marissa Rose led the way with seven points. Senior leading scorer Russell and frosh Jessica Alvey each had six.

"We knew Russell was their go-to-player," Myers said. "I didn't have a lot of information to go on, but we knew we had to limit second chance points, not turn the ball over and limit Russell's scoring."

Bower, meanwhile, was complemented in the scoring column by Brynlyn Belknap's 13 points and 11 boards.

Conotton held a 36-22 edge on the boards.

OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



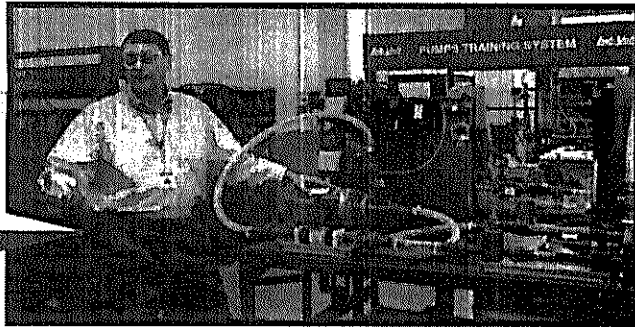
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Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships

- Class 1A (Page 3)**
8 p.m.
No. 1 Conotton Valley vs. No. 2 St. John
- Class 2A (Page 6)**
10 a.m.
No. 1 Wheeling CC vs. No. 3 Shadyside
- Class 3A (Page 10)**
12:30 p.m.
No. 1 River vs. No. 2 Fort Frye
- Class 4A (Page 12)**
3 p.m.
No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 3 Martins Ferry
- Class 5A (Page 14)**
5:30 p.m.
No. 1 University vs. No. 2 Morgantown

ON THE COVER

PICTURED are representatives of eight of the schools in action this weekend at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship. Top row, from left, are Shaina Oberdick (Martins Ferry), Mytia Baker (Steubenville), Madison Basinger (Wheeling Central) and Hayley Holenka (Shadyside). Bottom row, from left, are Marissa Rose (St. John), Olivia Bower (Conotton Valley), Haylee Bowers (River) and Taylor Buchanan (Fort Frye).

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St. John, Conotton to meet in 1A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Class 1A title game in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship is a matchup of unknowns.

Both St. John Central head coach Bubba Kapral and Conotton Valley head coach Chandra Myers spent much of Thursday on the phone trying to track down information on the other team from as many sources as possible.

What both do know is they don't have much time to put together a gameplan. The top two seeds in the smallest classification will clash at 8 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. St. John Central is seeking its 15th OVAC title in school history, while Conotton Valley owns just one conference title.

"Seriously, I don't know a thing except they beat us on our home floor last year," Kapral said as he worked the phones and email for more information. "I know they have one of the best players around in Olivia Bower, but other than that, I don't know much, but we'll prepare our team the right way and if you do that, it doesn't matter who you play."

The common opponents between the two schools are the likes of Toronto and Steubenville Catholic Central.

"We don't know too much about them right now," Myers admitted. "I know we've played some common opponents and played them to similar scores, so I feel like this will be a very tough game."

The experience factor certainly lies in the Lady Irish corner. They're making their second trip in three seasons to the small-school

CONOTTON VALLEY (13-5)			
No.	Name	Grade	Height
10	Chandice Cottis	10	5-4
11	Chaska West	11	5-3
13	Olivia Bower	10	6-0
14	Aubri Jones	10	5-3
20	Edie Piper	11	5-1
21	Brynlynn Belknap	11	5-10
22	Taylor Russell	10	5-6
24	Tristen Wallace	10	5-5
25	Kylie Manbeck	10	5-7

Head Coach: Chandra Myers

Assistant Coach: Luke Donohoe

ST. JOHN CENTRAL (15-6)			
No.	Name	Grade	Height
1	Lindsey Froehlich	9	6-1
2	Rachel Porter	9	6-0
4	Kaydie Coppa	12	5-6
10	Caitlin Sliva	10	5-6
15	Chloe Roberts	9	5-6
21	Marissa Rose	9	5-7
22	Gabby Santinoceto	10	5-5
23	Morgan DeLuca	10	5-6
24	Kristen Russell	12	5-7
34	Molly Knox	11	5-8
35	Emily LeMasters	9	5-9
44	Jessica Alvey	9	5-6

Head Coach: Robert "Bubba" Kapral
Assistant Coaches: Tammy Selmon, Erin Nicola and Dr. Jerry Liberatore.

title game. They fell to Madonna in 2011.

"This is our third time in the tournament and third time in the finals," Kapral said. "This is where we want to be. The semifinals were fun and it's always nice to host one of those games. It's nice to have the top seeds in there and now we've got a chance to win the OVAC."

Conotton Valley, meanwhile, is making its initial appearance in the title game after it took out Trinity Christian in the semifinal on Wednesday night by a point.

For Myers, the OVAC - as a whole - is a new experience. She's a Garaway High School graduate, who played collegiate-

ly at Ohio University, and is in her first year as head coach of the Lady Rockets.

"Anytime a team is playing for a championship, that's where you want to be," Myers said. "I don't think people thought we'd do this well this year and our success is all because of the girls and how hard they've worked."

While the conference may be new for Myers, she got introduced to it quickly when she sat down with her team shortly after getting hired last spring.

"I had each girl fill out a questionnaire telling me about themselves and their goals," Myers said. "Almost every goal listed the OVAC title as a goal. Now, they're one step closer to achieving

it, so we have to go out and play hard Saturday against a quality St. John team."

In reaching the finals, the 15-6 Lady Irish dispatched the Lady Blue Dons to the consolation game by a 42-31 score in a game that the Green sprinted out to a 17-0 cushion.

The Lady Irish don't hide from who they are. Kapral's

squad wants to get up and down and utilize full-court pressure to speed up the game from the outset.

"We have to do what we do best," Kapral said. "Our meal ticket has become full-court pressure. I think our semifinal was the exclamation point of that since we got out and went up 17-0."

The Lady Irish employ of

a lineup of two seniors and three freshmen.

Senior Kristen Russell is the unquestioned leader, averaging nearly 17 points and 10 rebounds a game.

The other senior is Kaydie Coppa, who is one of those lock-down defenders that Kapral utilizes in

See, 1A, Page 4

CONOTTON VALLEY ROCKETS

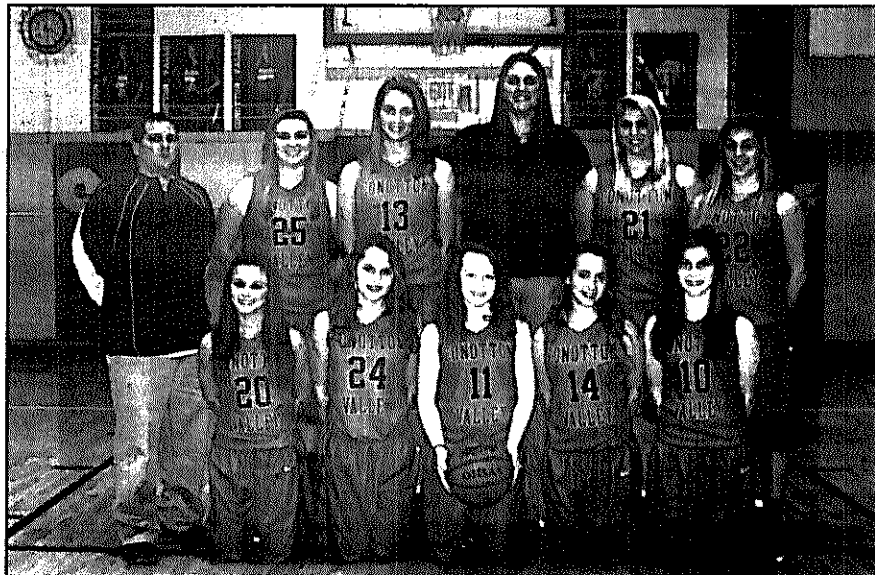


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Conotton Valley Lady Rockets basketball team. The team consists of Chandice Cottis, Chaska West, Olivia Bower, Aubri Jones, Piper Edie, Brynlynn Belknap, Taylor Russell, Tristen Russell and Kylie Manbeck.

On Behalf Of The
Conotton Valley Board of Education,
Administration & Athletic Department;
**GOOD LUCK IN THE
OVAC TOURNAMENT!**

● 1A

Continued from Page 3

the pressure game.

The balance of the starting lineup consists of ninth graders Marissa Rose, who runs the offense at the point-guard spot. She averages 13.3 points a game.

Pivot Lindsey Froehlich is rounding back into form after missing a couple of weeks with an injury. She had a big game against Madonna. The other defensive sparkplug is Jessica Alvey.

Sophomore Caitlin Sliva and frosh Emily LeMasters are the Lady Irish's top two subs.

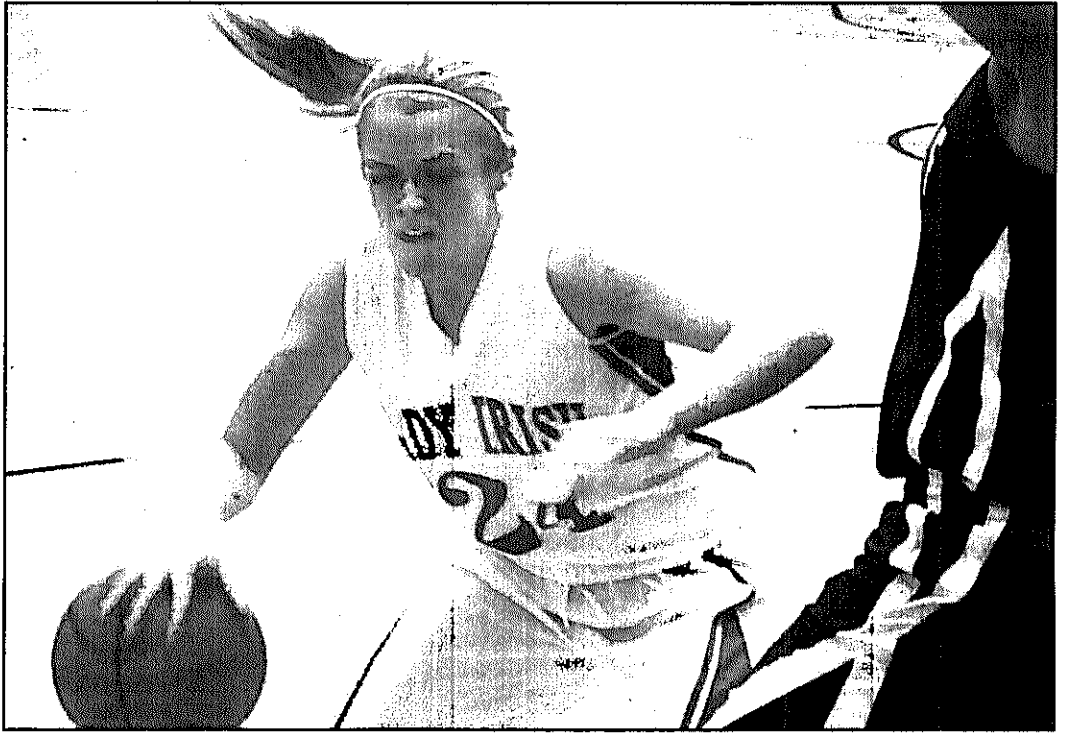
"I don't know if three freshmen are supposed to be starting in the OVAC final, but having said that, those girls have really matured nicely throughout the course of the season," Kapral said. "We're young, but we've got a really nice blend because of those seniors we start."

Conotton Valley, which doesn't boast a senior on the roster, is led by Bower, who is averaging 15 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

Junior forward Brynlynn Belknap is the second-leading scorer and rebounder

with 10 points and six boards. Junior Piper Edie averages nearly 7 points a game, while sophomores Chandice Cottis (4.5 ppg) and Taylor Russell (4.5 ppg) round out the starting lineup.

"I think this game is going to come down to fundamentals and which team takes better care of the ball," Myers said. "We need to continue to receive contributions from everyone on our team and that's we got in the semifinal."



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. JOHN'S senior Kristen Russell works the ball into the post during a game earlier this season. Russell is the Lady Irish's leading scorer. They'll meet Conotton Valley for the Class 1A title Saturday night at OUE. The Lady Irish are 15-6 on the season, while the Lady Rockets are 13-5. Conotton Valley advanced by virtue of a one-point victory against Morgantown Trinity Christian.

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Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
PICTURED IS the 2012-13 St. John Central Lady Irish basketball team. Front row, from left, are manager Brooke Selmon, Kristen Russell, Kaydie Coppa and manager Brooke Palmer. Second row, from left, are Molly Knox, Morgan DeLuca, Gabby Santinoceto, Chloe Roberts, Caitlin Silva and Jessica Alvey. In back, from left, are assistant coach Tammy Selmon, Emily Lemasters, Rachel Porter, head coach Bubba Kapral, Lindsey Froehlich, Marissa Rose and assistant coach Dr. Jerry Liberatore.

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Shadyside, Central meet again in 2A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When it comes to girls' basketball, Shadyside and Wheeling Central know each other extremely well.

Actually, it might be too well according to the respective head coaches.

Regardless, the two

small-school powers will have a chance to add another chapter to their growing rivalry Saturday morning at 10, but the stakes will be a little higher.

The Lady Tigers and Lady Maroon Knights will stage a rematch of their title game from last season at Ohio University Eastern's

Health and Physical Education Center in the Class 2A title game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We're absolutely looking forward to this chance," said Lady Tigers' head coach Tina Yates. "Our kids had hoped we'd have a

chance to avenge last year's game."

For the Lady Tigers, this is their fifth straight appearance in the OVAC final. Wheeling Central, meanwhile, is making its second straight and second overall trip to the St. Clairsville campus.

"This series has really become a nice rivalry," said Wheeling Central head coach Penn Kurtz. "Shadyside's been a dominant team in the Ohio Valley and one of the great teams in the state of Ohio, which is kind of the same roles we've been fortunate enough to play in West Virginia. I know both teams really respect each other and enjoy playing each other."

While the Lady Knights are bidding for a repeat and their eighth conference title overall, Kurtz and company really only feature just two players, Colleen McCormick and Emily Bucon, who saw a lot of action in last year's final.

"It's exciting for the team to be back in this game," Kurtz said. "For most of our team, this will be a new experience, but I think our kids are ready for it. We've played a challenging sched-

ule and I think we'll be ready to go when we step on the floor."

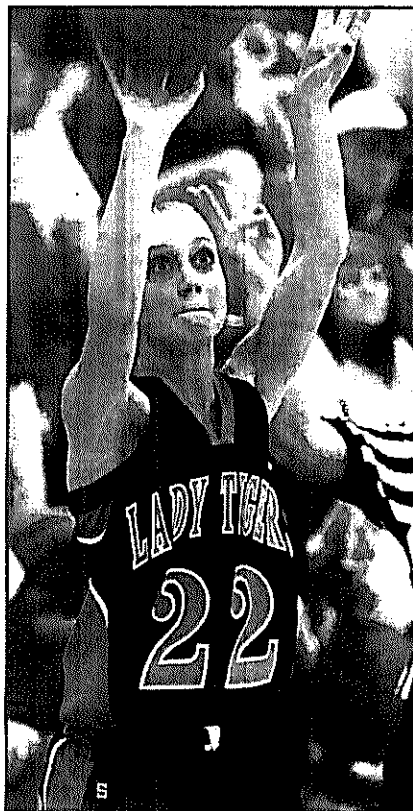
The Lady Tigers, who upset second-seeded Bridgeport on its home floor in Wednesday's semifinal, 52-49, have certainly challenged themselves throughout the course of the first 21 games.

Counting Bridgeport, Shadyside has played just seven games against Division IV-sized schools. They wanted to upgrade their schedule and played six games against what would equal Ohio Division I squads.

"We wanted to be as battle-tested as possible,"

Yates said. "Our kids responded to the challenges and I think the schedule has definitely made us a better team as we pre-

See, 2A, Page 7



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S Karli Bonar goes up for one of her seven 3-point goals during Wednesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Bridgeport. Bonar, who is now the Ohio State record holder for 3-point goals in her career, will lead the Lady Tigers into Saturday's OVAC title game against Wheeling Central.

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WHEELING CENTRAL (17-3)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
2	Maria Olson	11	5-2
3	Colleen McCormick	12	5-10
4	Julianna Ryan	10	5-4
5	Cara Stahl	10	5-4
10	Regan Blaha	10	5-10
12	Lindsey Baker	9	5-7
13	Cate Calissie	9	5-6
15	Delaney Denniston	11	5-6
22	Sydney Bennington	10	5-8
23	MacKenzie Michaels	11	5-9
24	Madison Basinger	11	5-9
25	Emily Bucon	12	5-9
30	Ashton Cross	11	5-7
42	Bianca Saporito	12	5-5
44	Elizabeth Stayduhar	12	5-7

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

SHADYSIDE (14-7)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
3	Hayley Holenka	12	5-7
4	Shelby Benedetta	10	5-9
10	Alicia Gulley	12	5-7
11	Kenzie Fielding	10	5-11
12	Toni Andes	11	5-5
13	Kristen Fijalkowski	12	5-10
14	Lauren May	12	5-7
22	Karli Bonar	12	5-7
24	Samantha Rosser	9	5-5
32	Logen Johnson	9	5-5
40	McKayla Kinemond	9	5-5
44	Dana Jackson	12	5-11

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

● 2A

Continued from Page 6

pare for this game and beyond into our sectional."

The Lady Tigers and Lady Maroon Knights split their regular season matchups with each winning on its home floor.

However, Central was a decisive winner in the first meeting and played without standouts McCormick and Bucon because of injury.

"That's about 40 points a game for us that was out of the lineup when we played in Shadyside," Kurtz said. "Emily still isn't 100 percent, so we're still not quite

where we want or need to be yet, but we did play a great

See, 2A, Page 8

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**SHADYSIDE
 TIGERS**



Photo Courtesy/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Shadyside Lady Tigers Basketball Team. The team consists of Hayley Holenka, Shelby Benedetta, Alicia Gulley, Kenzie Fielding, Toni Andes, Kristen Fijalkowski, Lauren May, Karli Bonar, Samantha Rosser, Lindsey Dunn, Logen Johnson, McKayla Kinemond and Dana Jackson.

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Continued from Page 7

second half in the semifinal."

The Lady Knights reached this game by dispatching fourth-seeded Clay-Battelle to the consolation round. Central blew open a tight game at half to win by an 81-46 count.

As preparations continue for the game, Yates will spend time looking at both Central games, but realizes that her team's ability to slow down Bucon and McCormick will be key.

"We definitely have to stop both of them," Yates said. "They're good players, good scorers, play well on defense, their tall and long, so it's a challenge."

On the other side of the floor, Shadyside has a duo of players, in Karli Bonar and Hayley Holenka, who've caused many coaches to lie awake at night trying to come up with a plan. Kurtz has actually been that guy many times in the last four years.

"I think I am going to send (Bonar and Holenka) a graduation card in the spring," Kurtz said. "We've faced them too many times over the years."

During the semifinal, Bonar became the state of Ohio's all-time leader for 3-point goals. She buried seven against Bridgeport and now sits at 332 bonus baskets in her career.

For the season, Bonar is averaging just under 20 points a game and more than four triples a night.

"I think the best way to slow Bonar down is tell her the game starts at noon and hope she shows up late," Kurtz joked. "All kidding aside, when you play Shadyside, you know Karli and Hayley are going to get their points. We have to hold the rest of their players under control."

Holenka, a tireless defender, is a versatile offensive player. Whereas Bonar is the premier deep shooter in the Ohio Valley, Holenka is able to shoot the



WHEELING CENTRAL'S Colleen McCormick looks to make a pass during a game earlier this season. McCormick and the Lady Knights will take on Shadyside for the OVAC Class 2A title Saturday morning.

Photo/TONY VIOLA

ball well, but she's also more than capable of putting the ball on the deck. For the season, she averages 17.2 points per game.

The Shadyside supporting cast has shown glimpses this season that it's ready to take the next step and be solid complements to the Bonar and Holenka duo.

Senior Kristen Fijalkowski is a solid defender and rebounder and came up with a clutch conventional 3-point play on Wednesday. Sophomore Kenzie Fielding is an athletic 5-11 post. She's a solid rebounder and has developed as more of a scorer of late.

Rounding out the starting lineup is junior Toni Andes, who is a solid perimeter shooter.

"When Kristen, Toni and Kenzie play like they're capable, we're a much better team," Yates said. "I think the biggest thing for us is to show up mentally prepared from the tip. I think we'll be fine physically, but we have to be ready to play mentally."

The Lady Tigers aren't the deepest team around. Senior Dana Jackson and sophomore Logen Johnson

are the top subs.

As for the Lady Maroon Knights, Bucon and McCormick are clearly the go-to-players, but Yates is impressed with how well the other Knights' players execute their roles.

"They do a really good job with their roles because they understand them so well," Yates said.

The impressive quality of the Knights is their depth. Kurtz feels comfortable playing as many as 11 or 12 players on most nights.

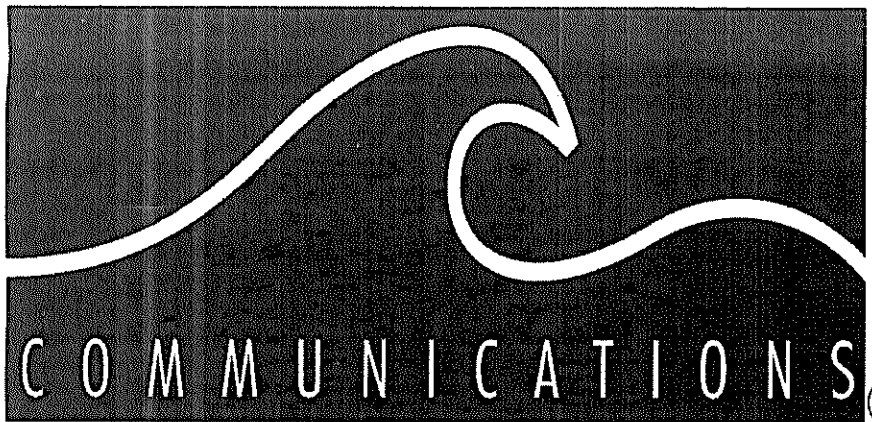
"Our depth is a great luxury," Kurtz said. "A lot of teams focus on Colleen and Emily, but really, a lot of our games have been about who has the hot hand off the bench. We hope that balance we've had continues."

Senior Beth Stayduhar gets the start at one of the guard spots, while Maria Olsen, who is a junior, is the point guard. Junior center Madison Basinger rounds out the starting lineup.

Off the bench, the likes of Ashton Cross, Delaney Denniston, Lindsey Baker, Cate Calissie, Regan Blaha, Sydney Bennington and MacKenzie Michaels all see quality minutes.

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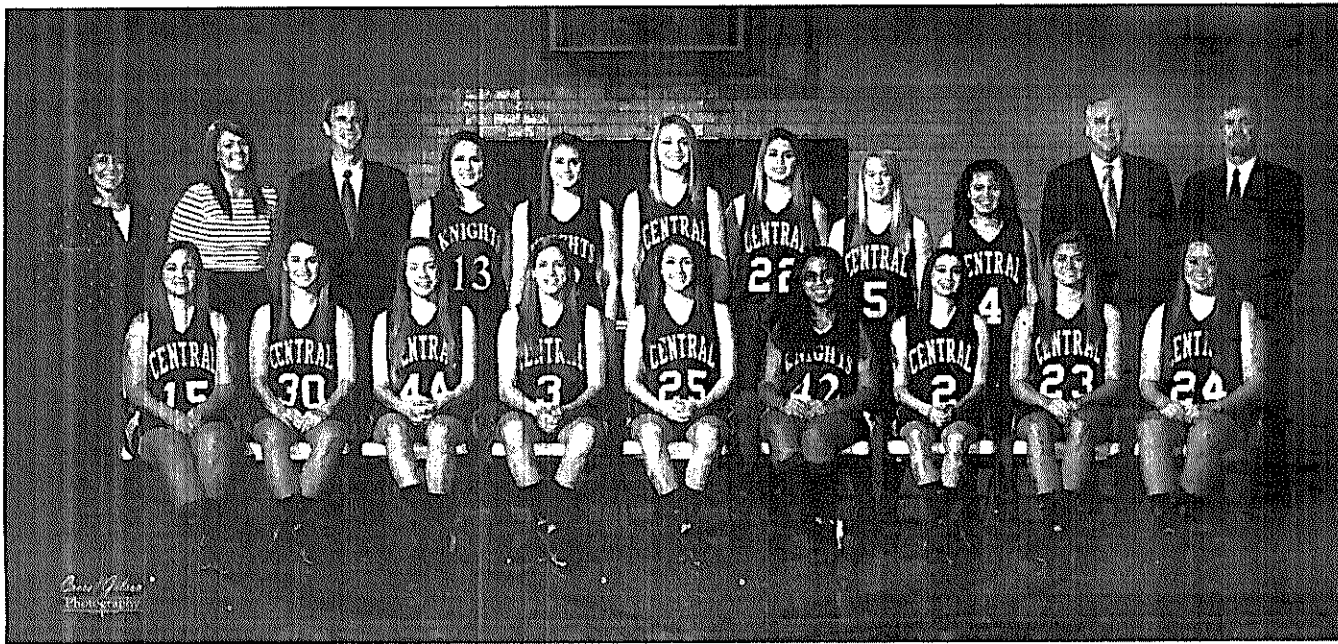
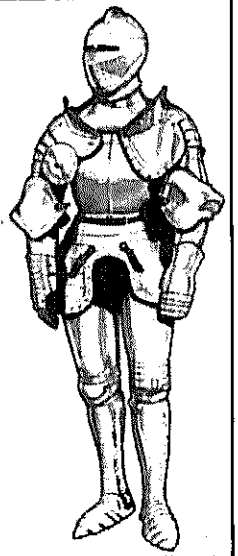


Photo Courtesy/CRESS/GILSON PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Wheeling Central Lady Maroon Knights Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Delaney Denniston, Ashton Cross, Beth Stayduhar, Colleen McCormick, Emily Bucon, Bianca Saporito, Maria Olson, Mackenzie Michaels and Madison Basinger. Back row, from left, are Coach Suzie Dailer, Coach Lindsay Ammirante, Head Coach Penn Kurtz, Cate Callisia, Lindsay Baker, Regan Blaha, Sydney Bennington, Cara Stahl, Jullanna Ryan, Coach Bob Robinson and Coach Paul Kurtz

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River, Fort Frye vie for 3A championship

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Same venue, new opponent for Dan Liedtke and his Fort Frye Lady Cadets.

Certainly no strangers to the spacious confines of Ohio University-Eastern's Health & Physical Education complex, the Lady Cadets are making their fourth consecutive appearance in a Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship Game.

When Fort Frye and River tip off Saturday afternoon (12:30) in this season's 3A title tilt, Liedtke's talent-laden quint will be vying for its third confer-

ence postseason title.

Previously, Fort Frye was victorious one year ago, defeating Monroe Central for the 3A crown. In 2011, the Cadets were subdued by Shadyside in a 2A finale.

And in 2010, the Beverly-based Lady Cadets toppled Shadyside to claim their initial OVAC trophy.

Following a highly-successful 27-year tenure as head boys' hoop coach at Fort Frye, Liedtke - somewhat reluctantly - stepped down to fully concentrate on taking over a girls' program which has flourished during his four-season tenure.

Saturday, the 18-3 Cadets face a River quint

responsible for handing FF one of its three setbacks. The two teams split a pair of regular season encounters.

As River's nine-season hoop boss Rick Isaly painfully recalls, his Lady Pilots were soundly beaten by a 63-36 count in an early-season battle at Beverly.

River, however, rebounded dramatically in the rematch on its homecourt at Hannibal. There, Isaly's club mounted a 15-point upperhand only to see Fort Frye roar back to force overtime before River regrouped to post a 46-42 victory.

Naturally, both coaches speak highly of their respective opponent.

"We didn't play well at all (at River) but give them credit. River has some talented players and they caused us some problems (in the rematch)," Liedtke reported.

Obviously pleased to have earned a split, Isaly fully acknowledges the Cadets will be a formidable foe in Saturday's rubber

RIVER PILOTS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2012-13 River Lady Pilots. The team consists of Laken Ramsay, Devyn Potts, Landyn Ramsay, Myla Smith, Hannah Jones, Haylee Bowers, Emille Weaver, Mackenzie Marshall, Cassidy McCullough, Brielle Williams, Monica Curtis, Jensen Caretti, Leslie Young, Mikayla Cieszeski and Darci Winkler.
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See, 3A, Page 11

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● 3A

Continued from Page 10

match encounter.

"Fort Frye is such a well-rounded team," he observed. They're very well-coached and most of their girls have been playing together for years."

INDEED, Liedtke has four well-schooled seniors, at least three of whom will be continuing their cage careers at the next level.

Liedtke need look no further than across the dinner table for one of the Lady Cadets' leading catalysts.

His eldest daughter, 5-8 senior Morgan Liedtke, is among the district's most fundamentally sound players and has collegiate offers from three Ohio schools.

A 10 points-per-game contributor, Liedtke is an adept shooter - particularly behind the three-point line - where she has been especially effective of late.

Another prime time performer - Diedra Combs - is a versatile 5-10 player who's taking her talents to West Virginia Conference member school Fairmont State College.

In Taylor Buchanan, the Lady Cadets have yet another go-to type player who presents frequent mismatch problems for opponents.

The 5-10 Buchanan, who has signed with a Division II program in West Palm Beach (Fla.) sports a 12 ppg. average and is known for her aggressiveness going to the basket.

Fort Frye's fourth senior vet is two-year letterman Micayla Hupp, a 5-11 inside presence.

Lone junior in Fort Frye's starting lineup is certainly no less productive. In fact, the 5-6 Brooke Borich is herself a heady player and a perfect fit in the Cadets' system.

Borich nets some eight points per start and like many of her teammates, is an accurate shooter from the perimeter.

RIVER (16-5)			
No.	Name	Grade	Height
1	Lakyn Ramsay	12	5-7
3	Devyn Potts	10	5-4
4	Landyn Ramsay	11	5-3
5	Cara Stahl	10	5-4
10	Hannah Jones	12	5-4
12	Haylee Bowers	10	5-5
20	Emile Weaver	12	5-9
22	Mackenzie Marshall	10	5-5
23	Cassidy McCullough	12	5-5
30	Brielle Williams	9	5-9
32	Monica Curtis	10	5-5
33	Jensen Caretti	9	6-0
40	Leslie Young	12	5-10
45	Mikayla Cieszeski	11	5-11
50	Darci Winkler	11	5-8

Head Coach: Rick Isaly
Assistant Coach: Brian Williams

FORT FRYE (18-3)			
No.	Name	Grade	Height
2	Michelle Adkins	10	5-5
4	Natalie Hart	10	5-6
10	Lexi Skinner	10	5-0
13	Shawntell Parsons	11	5-7
14	Brooke Borich	11	5-6
21	Micayla Hupp	12	5-11
24	Morgan Liedtke	12	5-7
31	Taylor Buchanan	12	5-11
32	Diedra Combs	12	5-11
42	Megan Liedtke	10	5-10

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

Fort Frye advanced to Saturday's title tilt with a 71-41 semifinal homecourt triumph over Monroe Central.

RIVER'S Lady Pilots are making their initial championship game appearance in the Wheeling Hospital/OVAC event.

"We're thrilled to (be here). At the same time, our goal is to play the best game we can against who we realize is a very good opponent," Isaly related.

"Obviously, we know what it takes to (beat Fort Frye). It takes an outstanding 32-minute effort. We have to limit mistakes and try and limit them to one shot per possession."

Isaly is expected to send

three seniors, a sophomore and a highly-regarded freshman to the floor for Saturday's tipoff.

The Lady Pilots have a smooth operating, four-year letterwinner in 5-5 senior guard Cassidy McCullough.

McCullough is a 14 points-per-game scorer and three-year starter whose overall floor game includes steady ball distribution and defensive prowess.

Laken Ramsay, a 5-8 senior, is River's wheeling, dealing point guard. Ramsay has scored at a 13 ppg. clip this season.

Not necessarily a potent scorer though an integral part of River's success is 5-9 senior Emile Weaver, a

three-season letterwinner. Sophomore Haylee Bowers, at 5-5, is an aggressive guard known for her fearless play.

One of the valley's most promising young prospects is 6-1 freshman Jensen Caretti, whose presence was felt immediately this season.

Caretti has averaged just over 12 points per game

and is bringing down some 10 boards per start. She's also swatting away three shots per night.

Off the Pilots' bench comes 5-3 junior guard Landyn Ramsay, younger sibling of Laken. In River's 56-39 semifinal victory over Shenandoah, Landyn sparked the Scarlet & Gray with a clutch 14-point outing.

Three additional seniors adding to the mix include 5-10 experienced vet Leslie Young, a two-year letterwinner who hits the boards with regularity.

The Lady Pilots' senior contingent includes guards Hannah Jones (5-5) and Myla Smith (5-4). "Hannah and Myla are scrappy players with strong work ethics," Isaly offered.

FORT FRYE CADETS



PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Fort Frye Lady Cadets Basketball Team. The team consists of Megan Hesson, Michelle Adkins, Ashley Gerber, Natalie Hart, Alexis Enochs, Lexi Skinner, Rachel Sebring, Shawntell Parsons, Brooke Borich, Micayla Hupp, Jackie Pawloski, Caleigh Fryman, Morgan Liedtke, Taylor Buchanan, Diedra Combs, Megan Liedtke and Karlsa Lang.

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Ferry, Steubenville clash for 4A title

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

The third time will definitely be a charm for either Martins Ferry or Steubenville.

Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Basketball Class 4-A Championship Game will

serve as the rubber match this season between the two rivals, with each winning on its home floor.

However, this time around Big Red (14-7), the top seed, and the third-seeded Purple Riders (13-8) will meet for all the marbles inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building with tipoff slated for 3 p.m.

Following Wednesday night's thrilling semifinal victory over host Union Local, first-year Martins Ferry head coach Lindsay Coyne said her team has received about as much respect as Rodney Dangerfield during one of his stand-up acts.

"I hope everyone starts recognizing that Martins Ferry is a good basketball team," Coyne stressed after the 43-42 win over the No. 2-seeded Jets. "I don't think these girls have been getting enough credit around the Ohio Valley, but we're ready to take on the next level."

That would be

Steubenville, which entered the Martins Ferry Holiday Tournament unbeaten in 10 starts. The Purple Riders took care of that with a 61-59 upset win, but Big Red evened the score inside its Crimson Center a month later, 52-49.

"It's the rubber match, I guess. We split this year," Steubenville head coach Phil Casinelli said after taking in Wednesday's semifinal. "They're a great team and it's going to be a great game."

"It was a close game when we played them down there, and it was a close game at our place," Casinelli added. "We're looking forward to the challenge, and I'm sure they are as well."

Martins Ferry, which has won three straight after four consecutive setbacks, enters the championship contest on a roll, while Steubenville has struggled of late, losing seven of their final 11 outings after the perfect 10-0 start.

"They're gritty too," Coyne said of Big Red.

"They are very similar to us in certain ways."

She said in order for the Purple Riders to come out on top, they will have to duplicate Wednesday night's effort.

"We will have to do all the little things right," Coyne, a former Martins Ferry and Wheeling Jesuit University court standout continued. "We have to take care of the basketball, box out and play as hard as we have been."

"We must put a body on them when the shot goes up because they are a very athletic team."

Martins Ferry is led by returning Division III all-stater Jessica Kinney. The 5-9 senior averages 21.5 points per outing and surpassed the 1,000-point barrier at the end of last season. She is on pace to finish well up on the Riders' all-time scoring list.

"Jess is a player," Coyne noted. "She has a great sense of the game and has really developed into one of the premier players in the valley."

Kinney is joined in the starting lineup by classmates Meghan Rose, Kylie Stalder, Shaina Oberdick and junior Morgan Stalder.

See, 4A, Page 14

STEUBENVILLE BIG RED

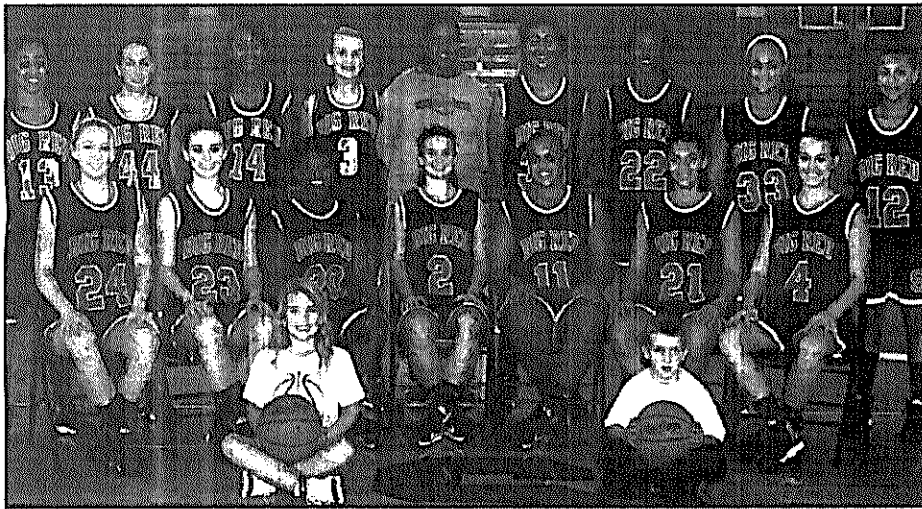


Photo Courtesy/NEWBROUGH PHOTO
PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Steubenville Big Red Girls Basketball Team. The team consists of Emiley Masloski, Hannah Masloski, Taylor Young, Tenia Baker, T'Shai Smith, D'Zharay Herrin, Dominique Wilson, Mytia Barker, Lysaih Rice, Brittany Bodo, Abby Taylor, Janelle Dokes and Sierra Porter.

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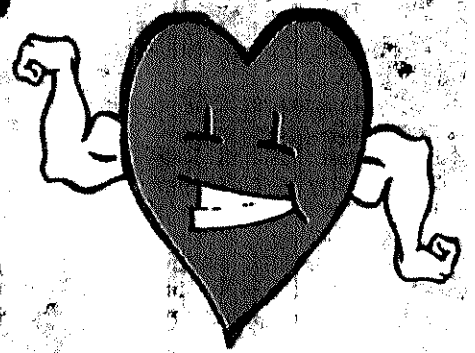
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4A

Continued from Page 12

Senior Addie Suriano, junior Dionna Lee, and freshmen Tyrah King and Shaye DeLeonardis round out the roster. Junior Ashlei Ray was lost early in the season due to a knee injury.

King, although scoring only three points, pulled down a career-high 10 rebounds against Union Local.

"These girls have brought it day-in and day-out," Coyne said. "They've been playing great basketball ... team basketball. They are gritting it out and paying attention to all of the little things. They are executing our offense and defense the way they are coached."

Clinging to a precarious 1-point lead with time running down, the Purple Riders executed their delay game to perfection as Kinney and Rose were the primary ballhandlers.

"We played very smart there at the end of the game," Coyne recalled. "We were very careful about not turning the ball over. That just says a lot

about my senior leadership. (Meghan) Rosie hitting those free throws and Jess wanting the ball in her hands."

In holding onto the ball, Union Local opted to foul Rose, who drained both the first time around to make it 42-39. Then, a few seconds later, the Purple Riders' point guard made it a 4-point cushion, which proved to be the game-winning point as the Jets' Cori Medley banked home a trey at the buzzer.

"That was an outstanding game," Casinelli said. "Both teams played very well."

Big Red, which does not have a senior on their roster, is led by juniors Emiley Masloski and Mytia Barker. The 5-6 Masloski is still recovering from a knee injury and still isn't at 100 percent. She had 10 points in Steubenville's 53-39 semifinal win over No. 4 Oak Glen Tuesday night. The 5-8 Barker paced the winners with 18 points, and also grabbed nine rebounds.

See, 4A, Page 15

STEUBENVILLE (14-7)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
2	Emiley Masloski	11	5-6
3	Hannah Masloski	9	5-7
4	Taylor Young	10	5-7
12	Tenia Barker	9	5-5
13	T'Shai Smith	9	5-6
14	D'Zharay Herrin	9	5-8
20	Dominique Wilson	11	5-8
21	Mytia Barker	11	5-8
22	Lysaih Rice	9	5-9
23	Brittany Bodo	11	5-9
24	Abby Taylor	11	5-7
33	Janelle Dokes	9	5-8
44	Sierra Porter	10	5-6

Head Coach: Phil Casinelli
Assistant Coaches: Mark Masloski, Angie Forte

MARTINS FERRY (13-8)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
0	Kylie Stalder	12	5-6
4	Morgan Stalder	11	5-6
5	Addie Suriano	12	5-4
11	Meghan Rose	12	5-5
13	Shaye DeLeonardis	9	5-7
20	Jessica Kinney	12	5-9
23	Shaina Oberdick	12	5-9
25	Ashlei Ray	11	5-10
33	Dionna Lee	11	5-8
40	Tyrah King	9	5-10

Head Coach: Lindsay Coyne
Assistant Coaches: Zac Bruney, Jerry Magistro.

CLASS 5A

MORGANTOWN (13-4)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
3	Tiara Ireland	12	5-7
10	Sammy Parks	10	5-5
11	Olivia Seggie	10	5-4
12	Leah Taylor	12	5-4
13	Alicia Golden	12	5-3
14	Maria Williams	11	5-7
21	Brie Giuliani	10	5-10
22	Caroline Colombo	12	5-8
23	Haley Holloway	12	5-9
24	Katie Ferrebee	11	5-8
33	Emily Sabatino	12	5-6
40	Madison Thompson	11	6-0
44	Ashley Holloway	12	5-8
50	Allison Thompson	12	6-2

Head Coach: Adam Henkins
Assistant Coaches: Doug Goodwin, Nick Lusk, John Fowkes

UNIVERSITY (13-4)

No.	Name	Grade	Height
1	Mariah Callen	11	5-5
3	Cassidy Seamon	11	5-6
5	Shae Chico	11	5-7
10	Sarah Miller	11	5-5
20	Megan Messori	12	5-7
21	Hayley Harrison	12	5-7
23	Kayla Boggs	12	5-10
24	Shelby Boyle	9	5-10
30	Lexi Kolar	12	5-9
32	Cortney Mercer	11	6-2
34	Ricki McCord	11	5-11
42	McKenley Meadows	11	6-1

Head Coach: Kamela Meikle
Assistant Coaches: Brandon Tate, Brett Puckett

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he provides the same high-quality, high-caliber care to nonathletes, as well. So when you suffer a sports-type injury, you can trust Dr. Michalski to deliver the best possible care and results. He can reconstruct your torn ACL or MCL or repair your torn shoulder rotator cuff with less pain and less recover time than you ever thought possible.


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CONGRATULATIONS!

TO ALL THE TEAMS ON A GREAT TOURNAMENT

from Belmont County Commissioner

MATT COFFLAND



● 4A

Continued from Page 14

"Mytia has been having big nights since Emiley's injury," Casinelli noted. "She has stepped up with her rebounding and scoring. We're putting her in unusu-

al positions and she's been doing well at the point."

Another threat for Steubenville is freshman Hannah Masloski, who knocked down nine points against the Golden Bears.

"We've had different girls step up at different times," Casinelli allowed. "We've dealt with our share of injuries, but different girls at different times have stepped up in different

ways, be it on the offensive or defensive end of the court.

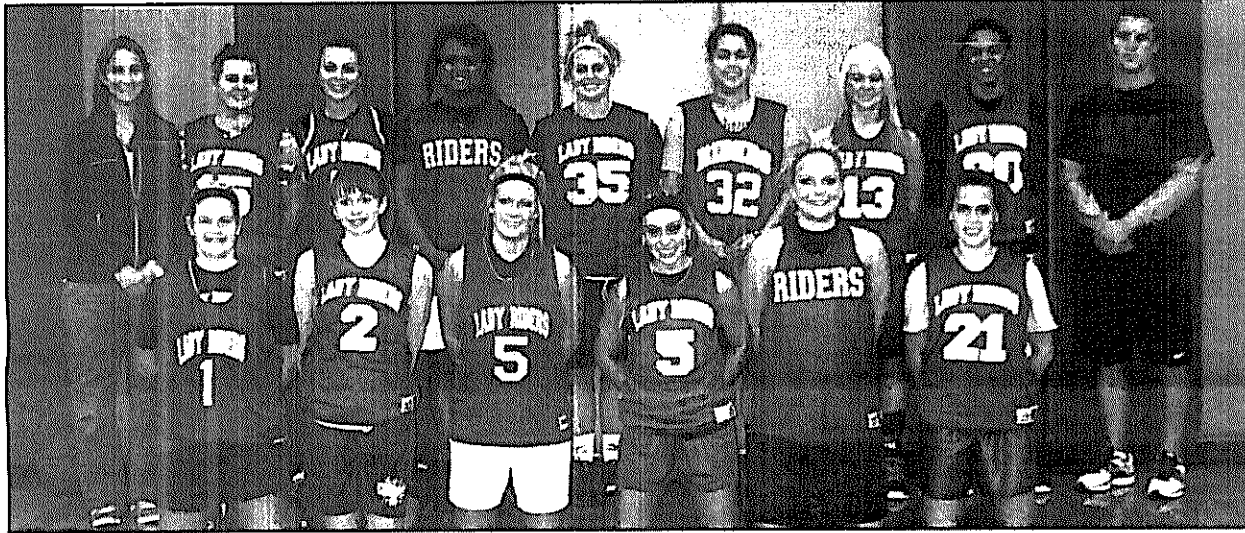
"We've struggled of late," he continued. "We had a stretch of games where we didn't play so

well, but the girls have stuck to the game plan. We played good basketball Tuesday night, and hopefully, we can continue that Saturday."

Saturday's appearance

will be the third title game for Martins Ferry. The Purple Riders lost to Barnesville and defeated St. Clairsville. Big Red is back for the first time in four years.

MARTINS FERRY PURPLE RIDERS



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the 2012-13 Martins Ferry Lady Riders Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Justine Schell, Shaye DeLeonardis, Kylie Stalder, Addie Suriano, Jessica Kinney and Vanessa Ray. Back row, from left, are head coach Lindsay Coyne, Sarah Staats, Morgan Carpenter, Tyrah King, Shaina Oberdick, Ashlei Ray, Morgan Stalder, Dionna Lee and assistant coach Zac Bruney. Not pictured is Meghan Rose.

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SPORTS

Wheeling Central wins 2-A thriller

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A boys basketball championship game was an instant classic.

And Wheeling Central Catholic's Justin Hammers got to play its hero.

With 3.3 seconds left, Hammers put in a layup off a backdoor cut to give the Maroon Knights a 52-50 lead over Steubenville Catholic Central.

The Crusaders called timeout to set up a play, but their desperation fullcourt pass was intercepted setting off a Maroon Knights' celebration.

"I've got to give a ton of credit to my kids," said Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens. "We were down eight or nine, and got in a little bit of foul trouble, but they kept playing.

"We made plays when we had to. We got a few stops. Made some big plays on offense when we had to, and were just able to hang around to have the ball in our hands at the end for the win."

Added Crusaders head coach Sean Tucker of the final pass, "That last play of the game was drawn up for an out-of-bounds play. Not having a timeout, I would have liked to call timeout and call something different because they did a good job of taking away the player Brenton (Colabella) was going to.

"That puts my kid in a bad situation to have my kid throw the ball on the break, and that falls on me. In that situation, with no timeouts, I have to have them ready with a different play if they go to that, and, quite honestly, I didn't."

The play leading to the Hammers' bucket looked to be going the Crusaders way at its inception. The Knights' leading scorer, Chase Harler, started with the ball in his hands, but a Crusaders' double-team knocked the ball away from the star freshman. Unfortunately for the Crusaders, the Maroon Knight regained control and got the ball to David Park who dished to Hammers for the game-winner.

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"So he (Hammers) slipped back door and scored."

Steubenville Central kept control of the game defensively in the first half, holding the Maroon Knights to just 17 points in the game's first 16 minutes. Harler was forced to sit for the final 3:45 of the first-half after picking up his third foul, and Stephens took his team out of their normal man-to-man defense and switched to a zone.

"They're very deliberate," said Stephens. "Sean does a great job with those guys. They're very deliberate against the man, and we got in foul trouble which made us switch to the zone, and that slowed them down a little more. I thought we did fairly well in the zone. I thought where they hurt us was where they kept it to one side for a couple passes and then reversed it to the other side.

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At intermission Ryan Fletcher led the Crusaders with nine points, Harler had six for the Maroon Knights, and Steubenville Central led 22-17.

Wheeling Central pulled back within two entering the final quarter after falling behind by as many as eight the third stanza. Harler led a balanced attack with five points in the quarter. Fletcher kept his team in the lead with a 10-point quarter.

The fourth quarter saw the two teams swing at each other like heavyweight prizefighters until the score was tied again for the first time since 2-2 when the Maroon Knights' Brandon Wallace knotted the action at 45 with 2:41 remaining.

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"These kids played their hearts out today. The outcome of this game, I don't want to point fingers, the outcome of this game should be going to these kids behind me.

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OVAC boys hoops has reached cut-off day

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A look back at the OVAC Tournament

It's been quite a month of sports in the Ohio Valley.

All of the winter sports champions have been crowned ... finally.

The quest for the OVAC pennant for basketball, wrestling, swimming and cheering wrapped up last weekend with the sixth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

It was once again quite a day of hoops. All but two of the games came down to the wire and were highly entertaining. The crowds were decent, but not as good as they were in 2012.

I took in the first three games of the day and was highly impressed with both Steubenville Central and Wheeling Central.

Personally, I think it'll be the same two teams in the title game next year. Both rosters are underclass dominated. Steubenville Central, which visits Bridgeport in a 6:30 varsity only contest tonight, is a feisty basketball team. I really like how they play and love the intensity with which Sean Tucker coaches.

Wheeling Central, meanwhile, is a team that's steadily improved and that trend continued against the Crusaders. Trailing much of the way, Central rallied for a late victory and the 2A crown.

Freshman Chase Harler is going to be a very special player before it's all said and done. He's already doing big things and he's only going to be get better. Junior David Park is extremely talented as well. He's got a nice frame and is a very adept perimeter shooter.

In the Class 3A game, Magnolia simply took Buckeye Trail behind the woodshed. The Blue Eagles were too big for the Warriors, who have a very nice club.

Senior standout Mark Winters, who I believe is the premier player on the West Virginia side of the river this winter, saddled up the Blue Eagles. He did have some help though as senior standout Stephen Rogalski played exceptionally well.

The Warriors, however, will be a team to keep an eye on in the Division III sectional at Meadowbrook.

St. Clairsville and Steubenville was a track meet as advertised. The Red Devils overcame not having a field goal in the final quarter to win their second straight title.

It was a very entertaining game going end-to-end, but it got a little sloppy. Both teams turned the ball over more times than they're accustomed. St. C. didn't shoot it as well as they normally do, but Steubenville couldn't get much going from the perimeter, either.

Though he was bottled up late, senior standout Dan Monteroso turned in another brilliant effort as he's done so many times during his career. But, he wasn't alone. Riley Carlton returned from an injury to play well. Dylan Campbell gave good minutes off the bench, while Jerrid Marhefka and Adam Jeffries were steady as always.

As we've written countless times in this space over the years, this basketball tournament has a chance to be something really special. It's continuing to get better and the more teams who experience it, the better it will be.



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Harlan led the Maroon Knights with an 18-point, 10-rebound performance. Park joined him in double figures with 12 points and added five assists. Wallace added 10 points and five boards.

Fletcher led all scorers with 21 points while adding four rebounds. Herrington scored 11 and pulled down six boards. The Crusaders had eight steals with Michael Barber snatching three and Michael Carapellotti swiping a pair.

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It was good to see some new schools back in the fold for the tournament this season.

After seeing Cambridge last Saturday, I can honestly say it's a shame the Bobcats have elected not to participate.

I've not seen Wellsville this season, but the Tigers have led the 2A standings all season.

However, they're not in the tournament. The OHSAA allowed two extra games.

Participation should have been a slam dunk.



SETH STASKEY
From the
Scrrer's Table:

OVAC tourney makes every game intense

A few years back, the OVAC crowned its basketball champions strictly on paper.

There was no fanfare, no real sense of accomplishment because often times the teams and fans didn't even realize they'd won until the season had ended.

However, when the OVAC made the decision to add the basketball championship, the quest for the conference title has become a dog-eat-dog battle for first and second level points and causes a lot of scoreboard watching every night.

I'd be willing to bet the standings page on the OVAC website garners the most hits of anything on the site as people are continually checking to see where their team stands as it pursues a spot in the coveted top four of their respective class.

We know for sure most of the coaches are keeping track closely of their own divisions and opponents as they look to add up bonus points, which may prove to be the ultimate difference between being in the tournament or relegated to the consolation bracket.

SETH STASKEY
From the
Press Box:

It's probably still a little too early to begin to be a prognosticator for matchups, but I think we know enough to surmise that Morgantown and St. Clairsville are the clear-cut favorites in Classes 5A and 4A, respectively.

The Mohigans, who are led by West Virginia recruit Nathan Adrian, just knocked off powerful Martinsburg, which was ranked No. 1 in the Class AAA rankings.

St. Clairsville's only loss came on a buzzer beater to Columbus Africentric. The Red Devils are the defending champions in the class with every player back and have already beaten the other current members of the top four in a decisive manner.

The other three classes are wide-open, in my opinion. That's a good thing for the OVAC when you consider intrigue, which leads crowds and atmosphere at the title games, which are slated for Feb. 16 at Ohio University-Eastern.



OVAC boys tourney pairings established

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The brackets and pairings are set for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship.

The tournament, which opens Tuesday, was finalized at a meeting Wednesday morning at the OVAC office in Bellaire.

The championship games for the boys' event will be held on Feb. 16 at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The top seeds for the tournament are: Bishop Donahue (1A), Steubenville Catholic Central (2A), Buckeye Trail (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Morgantown (5A).

The top two seeds in each class will host their semifinal games, while the teams that didn't qualify in the top four were assigned

their two consolation games by the basketball committee.

A new champion is guaranteed in four of the five classes as defending champions in all but 4A didn't qualify for the tournament.

The only defending champion in the field is St. Clairsville, which is the top seed in 4A. The Red Devils, who are 15-2 on the season, will welcome fourth-seeded Martins Ferry.

The other game in that class pits second-seeded Steubenville against third-seeded Harrison Central.

Big Red is 14-4 on the season, while Harrison Central checked in with a 14-5 record.

In Class 1A, Bishop Donahue earned the top seed. The Bishops are 10-6 and will welcome Beallsville, which made a

late charge to earn a trip into the top four. The Blue Devils, who lost in the title game last season, are 9-9.

The other semifinal finds Conotton Valley (11-6) hosting Paden City (11-5) in one of the lengthiest trips of the semifinal round.

In Class 2A, Steubenville Catholic earned the top seed after posting a 14-4 record. The Crusaders of Coach Sean Tucker will host Cameron, which edged past Shadyside, on the strength of late bonus points.

The Dragons, who are 8-6, edged out the Tigers by 16 hundredths of a point.

The other semifinal pits second-seeded Clay-Battelle (10-4) against third-seeded Wheeling Central (9-11).

The 3A field appears, on paper, to be one of the most balanced and competitive

fields.

Buckeye Trail finished as the top seed with a 12-4 mark. The Warriors will welcome Monroe Central, which edged past Fort Frye after it lost to Vincent Warren on Tuesday, in the semifinal. Magnolia earned the second seed and will host River.

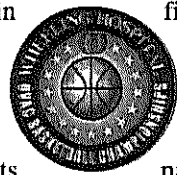
The Blue Eagles (11-4) lost twice to the Pilots (13-4) during the regular season.

In Class 5A, Morgantown (13-3) earned the top seed.

It'll be a battle of Motown in the semifinals as the Mohigans welcome University (12-5). The other semifinal finds Parkersburg South (14-3) welcoming Indian Creek (13-4).

The balance of the pairings can be found on Page B4.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



LEADER - Tuesday, February 5, 2013 - B2

● Scheduling

Continued from Page B1

Media day for the semi-final winning teams is still up in the air. It was originally scheduled for Wednesday, so it could be held Thursday if all of the games are played.

Only classes 2A and 4A have games scheduled on different days. Wheeling Central and Clay-Battelle will clash this evening, while Bridgeport and Shadyside will meet Wednesday night with the reserve game tipping at 6 p.m.

In Class 4A, number one seeded Steubenville will host Oak Glen this evening at 6:30, while Martins Ferry will visit Union Local in a 6 p.m. varsity only encounter Wednesday.

In Class 1A, Morgantown Trinity will make the lengthy trip to Conotton Valley on Wednesday. St. John Central will host Madonna in a 7 p.m. varsity only game that same evening.

In Class 3A, both the River vs. Shenandoah and Fort Frye vs. Monroe Central will clash on Wednesday night.

The 5A schools will play this evening. University will host John Marshall and Morgantown will welcome Indian Creek.

While it's not been affected by weather, the second annual Bill Hinegardner OVAC Dual Wrestling Tournament has also been altered.

The tournament, which was originally scheduled for Wednesday at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling, has been shifted to a two-day event being held at both John Marshall and Steubenville high schools on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

The change occurred because of a conflict with the inaugural Ohio High School Athletic Association Duals, which both Shadyside and Steubenville are still competing in.

Wednesday's action at the JM Fieldhouse will feature classes 5A and 3A competing. Two semifinal duals will be contested in each class and then the championship and consolation final will follow.

The 3A field will feature Barnesville against Monroe Central in one semifinal and River against Tyler Consolidated in the other semifinal.

The 5A tournament Wheeling Park against Morgantown and defending champion John Marshall against Brooke.

At Steubenville, host Big Red is the top seed in the 4A field. They will battle Martins Ferry. The other semifinal is Harrison Central against Oak Glen.

In the 1A/2A field, Shadyside will take on Toronto and Steubenville Central will meet Caldwell.

The wrestling at both sites is scheduled for 6 p.m. Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Czuchran powers BL; Shoemaker leads SJC

Junior Brennan Czuchran scored a career-high 25 points and pulled down a season-high 13 rebounds in leading home-standing Buckeye Local to a 70-54 victory over Shenandoah Tuesday night in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Consolation Round game in Connorville.

Kyle Michalo added 17 markers and Shane Duncan 10 as the Panthers (10-10) led 41-24 at the half before watching the Zeps pull to within 53-47 at the end of three panels.

The Panthers travel to Barnesville tonight for another consolation round game.

Class 2A

Championship Semifinals

Steubenville Central 81, Cameron 42

STEUBENVILLE — Sean Tucker's club shot a torrid 53 percent from the floor (29 of 55) to easily dispose of Cameron, 81-42, and clinch a berth in Saturday's 10 a.m. title game on the campus of Ohio University Eastern. The Crusaders will be looking for revenge when they square off against Wheeling Central.

Ryan Fletcher took game scoring honors with 22. Zach Herrington added 15 and Michael Barber 13. Michael Manfreda finished with eight. Brenton Colabella scored just three points but dished out five of Central's 21 assists. Herrington hauled down eight of his team's 34 rebounds. In addition to its outstanding shooting night from the floor, Central also went 17 for 23 from the charity stripe.

Mark Walker and Hunter Chambers both scored 12 for the Dragons, now 10-8. Routt ended with 11, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked seven shots.

Wheeling Central 72, Clay-Battelle 60

BLACKSVILLE — Chase Harler continued his impressive freshman campaign with a 26-point outing as Wheeling Central defeated Clay-Battelle.

Justin Hammers added 14 points behind four 3s for the Maroon Knights (10-11), while David Park finished with 12.

Logan Opyoke led the Cee-Bees with 19 points.

Consolation Pool

St. John 56, Valley 50

At Bellaire, the Irish hung on for a 56-50 victory against invading Valley in an OVAC consolation contest Tuesday evening.

The Irish were led by senior D.J. Shoemaker who scored 32 points. Alex Francis donated 13 points and John Alvey went for seven.

Trinity 73, Shadyside 71, OT

At Shadyside, the Warriors (10-8) scored with five seconds remaining in the extra session, but the Tigers were unable to get the last shot to drop on a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Consolation Round contest.

Cody Triplett meshed 36 of Trinity's points.

Adam Stupak poured in 22 to lead the

Tigers (10-11). Ryan Richardson added 16 and Austin Dorris 11.

Shadyside travels to Morristown Friday night to meet Union Local.

Madonna 65, Bridgeport 55

At Weirton, the Blue Dons (7-12) made it 2 of 3 against the visiting Bulldogs this season with their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Consolation Round triumph.

Dallas Fields paced Bridgeport with 16 points. Aaron Roth and QJ Williams had 11 apiece.

Bridgeport hosts Weir Friday.

Caldwell 66, Bellaire 58

At Caldwell, the Redskins (4-15) got 35 points from standout Jonathan Wiechman and went on to post a 66-58 victory against Bellaire (3-17) in an OVAC consolation game Tuesday night.

The Big Reds were led by junior Kenny Hess (20) and Nathan Steele (15).

Bellaire is in action Thursday at Buckeye Local and will host Oak Glen Friday.

Wheeling Park 73, East Liverpool 39

At East Liverpool, Ryan Reinbeau fired in a game-high 20 points behind three 3s as Wheeling Park hammered East Liverpool.

Chalmer Moffett added 14 points for the Patriots (8-10), while Luke Saseen finished with 13.

Hayden Cunningham paced the Potters (6-14) with 15 points.

Brooke 65, Linsly 47

At Wheeling, Thomas Cole had 14 points and 10 rebounds as Brooke defeated Linsly.

Russel Schwertfeger added 15 points, four steals and four assists for the Bruins (13-7), while Ryan Heaton chipped in 10 points.

Jabri Blount led the Cadets (9-11) with 18 points, while Anthony Wallace and Toddy Goodwin-Rowe finished with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Hundred 62, East Richland Christian 60

At St. Clairsville, Rusty Morris stuffed the stat sheet with 17 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists as Hundred edged East Richland Christian.

Brandon Amrstong backed Morris with a game-high 27 points and seven boards for the Hornets (5-11).

Grant Bruner hit four 3s on the way to 22 to lead ERC, while Joel Mott had five 3s of his own to total 20 points.

Edison 62, Weir 55

At Weirton, Alec Jones had a game-high 21 points as Edison defeated Weir.

Dylan Jones added 12 points for the Wildcats, while J.D. Howell chipped in nine.

Josh Groves led the Red Riders with 16 points.

Toronto 37, Oak Glen 25

At New Manchester, Tyler Owens hit two 3s on the way to 10 points as Toronto beat Oak Glen.

Matt McLaughlin led the Golden Bears with nine points.

SPORTS

C

Sunday,
February 17, 2013

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Jerrid Marhefka sails to the basket as a pair of Steubenville defenders look on Saturday afternoon during the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern. The Red Devils held off Big Red, 62-58, for the 4-A crown. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Red Devils repeat in 4A

• St. C. squeaks past Big Red for conference championship

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It didn't take quite as long for St. Clairsville to earn its second Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship as it did its first.

The Red Devils put the cap on a brilliant 19-2 regular season by making it back-to-back in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship.

St. Clairsville took Steubenville's best shot — actually several shots — before posting a hard-earned 62-58 victory in front of a jam-packed crowd at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center Saturday afternoon.

"It's very special to repeat," said St. C. head coach Kim Clifford. "You hear coaches at different levels talk about how tough it can be to get the first one, but staying there is an even tougher task. It's just a tribute for these kids."

The Red Devils' victory completed the season sweep of Big Red, but the latest meeting was much more difficult seeing that the Devils won by more than 20 during their clash in Belmont County last month.

"We expected a battle," Clifford said. "We designed our (regular-season) schedule to play in a lot of big games to prepare us for these types of games and I think that paid off for us today."

Each time it appeared as if St. C. was on the brink of pulling away from Big Red, Steubenville answered and it usually did it with a defensive tenacity that forced the Devils into an uncharacteristic 18 turnovers.

Plus, Steubenville held St. C. without a field goal in the fourth quarter. However, the Devils cashed 14-of-16 from the charity stripe, which kept Big Red at bay down the stretch.

See, **DEVILS**, Page C2

Magnolia too big and strong for Trail in 3A

By **JEFF HARRISON**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A brief 10-second "exchange of words" during an early second quarter time-out between Magnolia High head coach Dave Tallman and his top performer — Mark Winters — apparently lit a fire in the Blue Eagle senior's belly and the result was trouble for Buckeye Trail.

After a scoreless first quarter, Winters exploded in the second period en route to a 30-point outburst which led Magnolia to a

75-53 conquest of Trail in the Class 3A title game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday.

"Mark and I have been through the wars together," said Coach Tallman. "He's been a part of 70-some wins with us and things like that are going to happen. I'm sure he even argues with his parents sometimes."

"Mark gave us his usual effort," the Magnolia coach continued. "It was a 'quiet' 30, but it was also a total team effort out there today."

Magnolia, appearing in its fourth consec-

utive Class 3A championship game (the Eagles also won the title in 2011), improved its record to 14-4 while Trail, in the title game for the first time, dropped to 13-7.

Senior Stephen Rogalski paced Magnolia in the early-going, tallying seven points in the first quarter as the Blue Eagles moved on top, 15-11.

Trail got off to a slow start offensively by hitting just 4-of-15 shots including 1-of-7 from three-point range, a sign of things to come.

See, **3A**, Page C3

Danica fastest in Daytona 500 practice

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — If two practices are any indication, Danica Patrick is a solid candidate to win the pole for the Daytona 500.

Patrick turned the fastest lap Saturday in a pair of practice sessions focused solely on qualifying for the Daytona 500. She went 196.220 mph around Daytona International Speedway in the second practice session and said she's eyeing the top starting spot in "The Great American Race."

"Everything that we do is to make sure that we do whatever we can to be on the pole," Patrick said. "That is what we all are shooting for."

The front row for the Feb. 24 season-opening Daytona 500 will be set in Sunday's time trials. The rest of the field is set next Thursday after a pair of qualifying races.

Patrick said it would be an accomplishment for her Stewart-Haas Racing team to lock into the field on Sunday.

"I think it would be really nice for all of us to know we were in the race," she said. "It's nice to know as a team, but it's also nice to know for your (sponsors) like GoDaddy and all the other people that are involved in the car. That is who really pays for you to be out there on the track."

Patrick was nearly a second faster than the other drivers Saturday.

Second fastest in the afternoon session was three-time champion Tony Stewart, her teammate and car co-owner, who turned a lap of 195.363 mph in his Chevrolet. Kyle Busch was third in a Toyota, and he was followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jamie McMurray as Chevrolet took four of the top five spots.

Trevor Bayne, the 2011 Daytona 500 winner, was the fastest Ford in sixth.

Joey Logano paced the morning practice with a fast lap at 195.410 mph in his Penske Racing Ford.

Mat

Continued

the Olympics) West Liberty Un vote) is a shame, America the past in the sport at tl adding programs.

Recently hired a former Buckeye was obviously up Olympic program sentence for wres

"I'd say at the wrestlers don't h Doyle said. "Obv grow up to beco just don't think t stomach, but a lo be taken aback."

Doyle's point r the Ohio Valley v

Some of the yc for the Olympics ball players wan NFL team in the pitch Game 7 of

It's the old, 'd However, man tell you their go qualify for their with the aspirati passing season a opportunity to co

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Over the cours added wrestling participants has g span. That's imp Title IX has caus sport.

Douglas, who c State and Iowa St ties that wrestling battle to remain re has been eliminate

"Olympics is a tion should be th want wrestlers to g izens and great America."

Martins Ferry I wrestled collegiat that wrestling is th school students.

Roth achieved a career. He won th champion as a ser at the major colle

Still, though, th that he dreamed a

"I remember I Trials were held t best wrestlers ir day," Roth recall dreamed of that levels, but it g Olympic gold is

Doug

Continued from

wrestling.

For instance, States has only medals in Olym in wrestling, bu rank third among sports, trailing and field and swir

The facts are

Devils

Continued from Page C1

Steubenville also limited Devils' senior all-Ohioan Dan Monteroso to just a pair of foul shots in the fourth quarter as it made its surge. However, he did score a game-high 28 points in the game.

"All we wanted to do was win by whatever means it took," Monteroso said. "We're excited to win this and now we want to go into the tournament with a head of steam. All eyes are forward to the tournament."

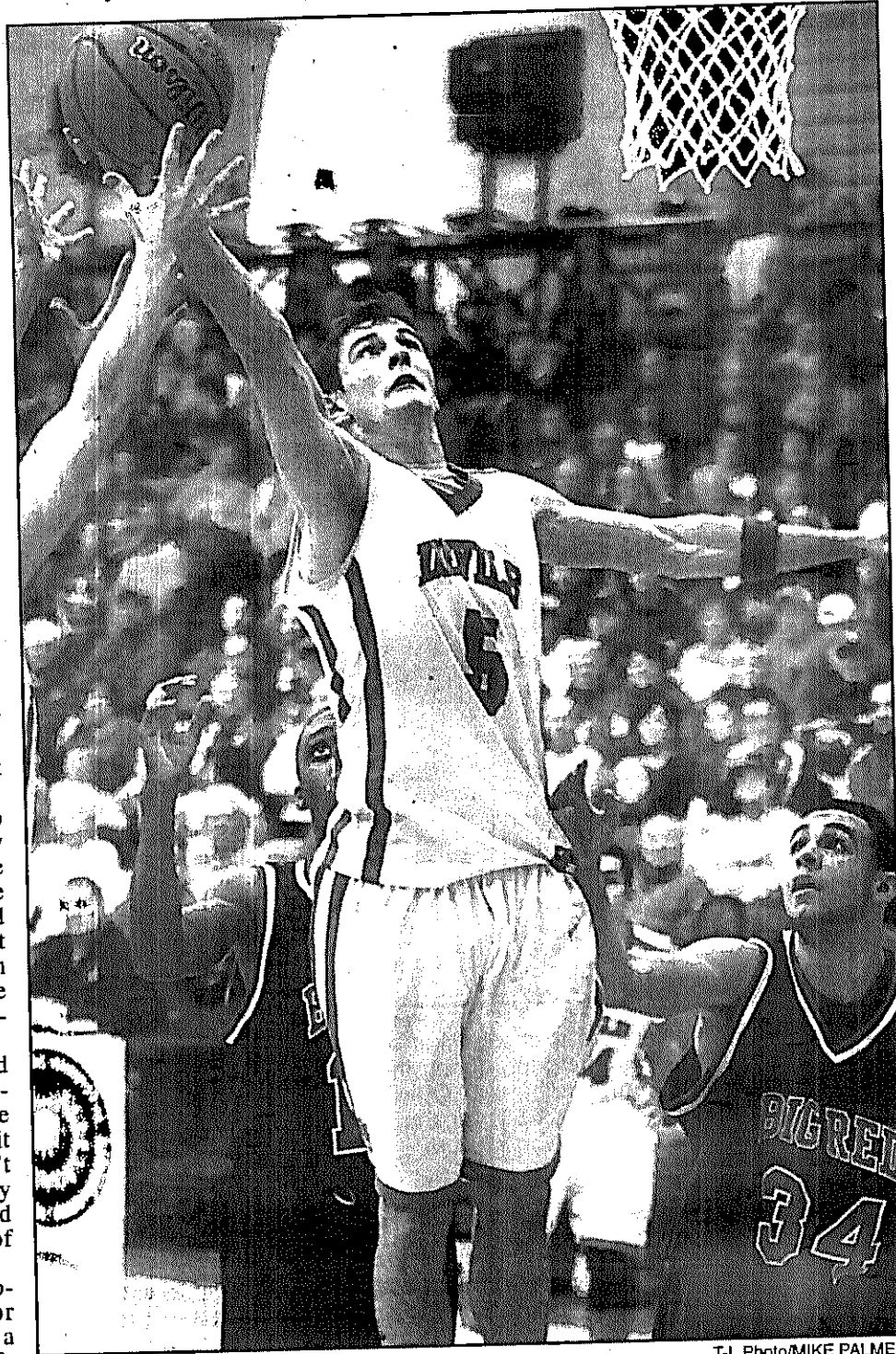
Steubenville tied the game at 55 on a John Linn bucket with just over two minutes to play. Senior Dylan Campbell, who hit two big triples in the first half, converted a pair at the line. St. C. then stole the inbounds pass and senior Adam Jeffires cashed one of two at the line, making it 58-55.

Big Red got one of two at the line and fouled steady senior Riley Carlton. He calmly sank both once again. Carlton, who had missed basically the last three games due to an injury, was 6-of-6 at the line in the fourth and finished with 10 points.

"The kids really focused in on that final three minutes," Clifford said. "Give Steubenville a ton of credit because they just wouldn't go away, but our kids really gutted it out when they had to. I think, again, part of that is due to experience."

West, who was exceptional on both ends for Steubenville, cashed a floater, making it 60-58. However, St. C. was able to get the ball back into Carlton, who iced the game with two more at the line.

"It's tough when you send a good shooting team to the line that many times," said Steubenville head coach Mike Haney. "I thought we played good,



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Dan Monteroso (5) goes to the basket during Saturday's game against Steubenville at OUE.

buzzer," Clifford smiled. "This was like a heavy-weight fight throughout. Luckily, it was our day."

Monteroso and Carlton's scoring was aided by senior Terrid Marhekfa's eight

once again.

Steubenville is now 15-6 on the season and will open Division II sectional play back at OUE against East Liverpool on Saturday.

"I told the guys that a lot

rest," Clifford admitted. "We've played a lot of games down the stretch here and we need to get our legs back under us a little bit. I know these kids are excited to try to make a run

CLASS 3A

Blue Eagles Trounce Warriors

Mark Winters pours in
33 points for Magnolia

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Big-time plays, big-time players, big-time situations and big-time calls are all part of basketball.

Saturday afternoon, Magnolia parlayed that foursome into a second Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A championship in four seasons.

Senior all-stater Mark Winters, held scoreless in the opening quarter, scored 15 of his game-high 30 points in the second quarter while classmates Stephen Rogalski, Kyle Elliott and freshman Preston Boswell did an admirable job keeping the Blue Eagles ahead during some early foul troubles as Magnolia pulled away down the stretch to record a comfortable 75-53 victory against Buckeye Trail at the Ohio University Eastern Health and Physical Recreation Center.

Magnolia coach Dave Tallman watched his team improved to 14-4, and also even its record at 2-2 in the championship tilt.

"We are always just so happy to be here," Tallman said. "This is always a community effort and a great event and it feels good to get another victory."

The game had the feel of an early season encounter out of the gate as both teams struggled with possessions and shots. It was also a part of the game in which Coach Rod Gray's Warriors (13-

See, *Trounce*, Page B3

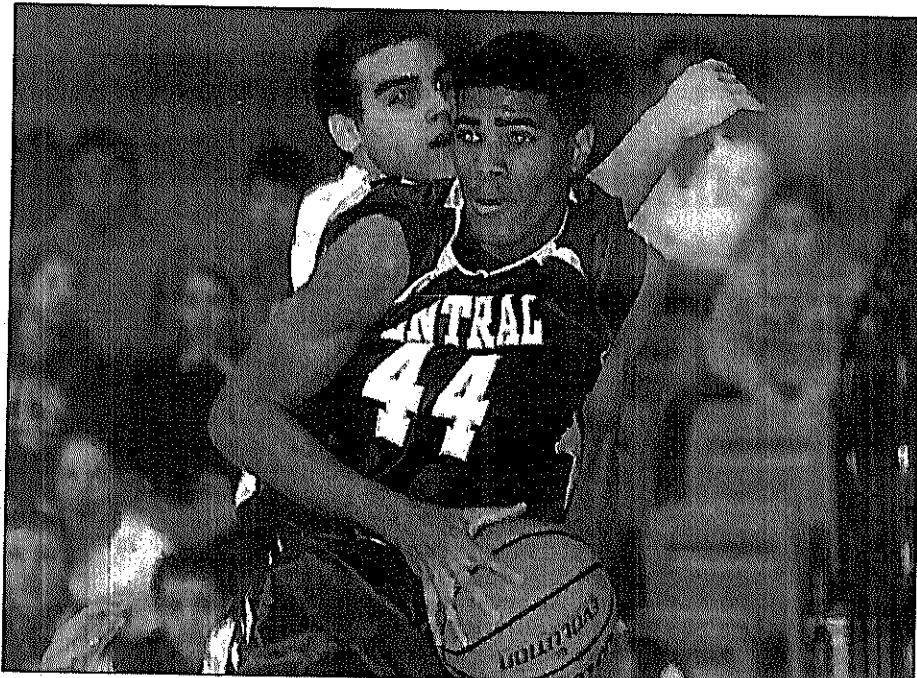


Photo by Fred Younce

Wheeling Central's Brandon Wallace (44) snares a rebound during Saturday morning's OVAC Class 2A title game at OUE.

Knights Rally

Wheeling Central edges
Steubenville Catholic

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After a 2-7, not even the staunchest of the Wheeling Central fans could have envisioned a .500 record and, even less likely, would have been thoughts of winning the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Class 2A championship.

Typically of Mel Stephens-coached teams during his highly-successful 10-year reign, the Maroon Knights kept plugging away, getting better with each game before finally ascending to the top

of the bi-state league's boys' basketball mountain after a thrill-packed 52-50 victory against Steubenville Catholic Central.

Rallying from a nine-point deficit midway through the third quarter on the Ohio University campus, opportunity finally came knocking at Wheeling Central's door as it had possession of the basketball with the score tied and just 20 seconds left in the hard-fought contest.

Even then, victory wouldn't come easy. It had to survive what would have been a disastrous turnover. But the ball

See, *Knights*, Page B3

CLASS 1A

Rockets Boys Join Girls As OVAC Champs

Bailey posts double-double with
26 points and 12 rebounds

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Simply put, Conotton Valley showed up at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday night with every intention of winning the boys' Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship.

And just seven days after the Rockets girls' captured the school's first conference title, Coach Mike Fierbaugh's boys did exactly the same.

Senior Brandon Bailey was nearly unstoppable inside with 26 points and 12 rebounds and Conotton Valley had a total of two double-figure scorers and three with double-digit rebounds as the Rockets broke open a close game early with a 25-2 run en route to a 65-42 pounding of Bishop Donahue at OUE's Health and Physical Education Center.

The victory was the 16th in 21 games for Fierbaugh's crew, which launched into a wild celebration with their fans after the final buzzer.

With the Bowerston bunch leading 7-6 at the 3:15 mark of the opening quarter, things took a drastic change with an 11-0 spurt that pushed the count to 18-6 at the end of one. Conotton Valley added the initial five points of the second before a Chace Truex deuce snapped a 16-0 run.

However, the Rockets weren't even close to being finished, putting up the next nine points to cap a remarkable 25-2 rally that gave them a whopping 32-8 lead with 2:42 to play in the half. The

See, *Rockets*, Page B3

St. Clairsville Edges Steubenville for Crown

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It didn't take quite as long for St. Clairsville to earn its second Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship as it did its first.

The Red Devils put the cap on a brilliant 19-2 regular season by making it back-to-back in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships.

St. Clairsville took Steubenville's best shot — actually several shots — before posting a hard-earned 62-58 victory in front of a jam-packed crowd at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Edu-

cation Center on Saturday afternoon.

"It's very special to repeat," St. C. coach Kim Clifford said. "You hear coaches at different levels talk about how tough it can be to get the first one, but staying there is an even tougher task. It's just a tribute for these kids."

The Red Devils' victory completed the season sweep of Big Red, but the latest meeting was much more difficult seeing that the Devils won by more than 20 during their clash in Belmont County last month.

"We expected a battle," Clifford said. "We designed our

CLASS 4A

(regular-season) schedule to play in a lot of big games to prepare us for these types of games and I think that paid off for us."

Each time it appeared as if St. C. was on the brink of pulling away from Big Red, Steubenville answered and it usually did it with a defensive tenacity that forced the Devils into an uncharacteristic 18 turnovers.

Plus, Steubenville held St. C. without a field goal in the fourth quarter. However, the Devils cashed 14 of 16 from the charity

stripe, which kept Big Red at bay down the stretch.

Steubenville also limited Devils' senior all-Ohioan Dan Monteroso to just a pair of foul shots in the fourth quarter as it made its surge. However, he did score a game-high 28 points in the game.

"All we wanted to do was win by whatever means it took," Monteroso said. "We're excited to win this and now we want to go into the tournament with a head of steam. All eyes are forward to the tournament."

Steubenville tied the game at

See, *Edges*, Page B3



Photo by Mike Palmer

St. Clairsville's Jarrod Marhefka drives toward the basket Saturday.

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

bounced its way and eventually into the hands of oft-unheralded senior guard Justin Hammers for the wide-open backdoor layup that sealed the deal.

Hammers' game-winner improved Wheeling Central's record to 11-11 heading into West Virginia Class A sectional play next week. Steubenville Catholic was saddled with its just its fifth loss against 15 victories, two of those setbacks coming at the hands of their down-river parochial rival.

Central also won the earlier meeting 72-60, but the Crusaders were without two of their key starters that were sidelined with the flu.

Coach Sean Tucker and his battling squad took the latest defeat hard and vowed to make up for it this week when his Crusaders also begin what they hoop will be a long tournament run.

"Two teams played their

hearts out," Tucker said. "Neither team quit. I thought we rotated (on defense) fairly well, but we had a couple of breakdowns and that's going to happen in high school basketball.

"(Losing) this game really made our kids mad and I feel sorry for whoever we play next and here on out," Tucker added.

While the Steubenville Catholic coaches were teary-eyed, there were smiles all around around the Wheeling Central contingent.

"You've got to give a ton of credit to the kids," an elated Stephens said. "We were down eight or nine and in a little bit of foul trouble but they kept playing. When we had to get some stops and we needed some big plays on offense we got them. At the end when you have the ball in your hands with a chance to win the game that is all you can ask for in that situation."

The Maroon Knights' strategy

for the last play was certainly no surprise to anybody, especially Tucker. He knew the ball would first be placed in the hands of Wheeling Central's highly-capable freshman point guard Chase Harler.

"We ran what we called an eagle jump and double-teamed Harler when he came off the screen," Tucker noted. "We believed we could get him to bobble the ball and we clearly hit it but the bounce did not fall our way."

Stephens expected the same double-team but he also felt the Crusaders also would use the foul they had at their disposal to waste before putting Wheeling Central on the foul line.

"I told the kids they were going to play extremely hard there," he said. "We had Chase coming off the ball screen and they were able to deflect it away. The second part of that was David (Park) making a great

read when the defense came out on him after he had picked up the ball. He then made the pass to Michael (Pleva), who turned around and found Justin underneath by himself. That was a big bucket," added Stephens in what was clearly an understatement.

Just three seconds remained on the clock after Hammers deposited the basketball into the nylon. Steubenville Catholic's desperation long pass into the front court was picked off by Harler sealing the victory.

Although the Crusaders led most the game, neither team ever managed a double-figure advantage.

Matt Martello's dribble penetration for a layup sent the Crusaders on top 6-5 and they went on to lead 13-10 at the end of the first quarter. Ryan Fletcher's four points during a low-scoring second quarter helped Steubenville Catholic leave the court up by 22-17 at halftime.

Park's triple pulled the Maroon Knights to within 22-20 at the outset of the third quarter before the Crusaders responded with a 11-4 run, keyed by two more Fletcher trifectas and another from Martello that extended the lead to 33-24, the largest of the game.

Brandon Wallace's backside rebound basket followed by Hammers nice roll to the hoop brought Wheeling Central to within 33-28. Harler buried a triple and Brian Felton also cashed a huge three-pointer closing the quarter with the Maroon Knights down by just two points at 36-34.

Harler scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half and pulled down 10 rebounds. He was joined in double figures by Park with 12 points, five assists and four rebounds along with Brandon Wallace with 10 points. Wallace also collected five rebounds.

TROUNCE

Continued from page B1

7) had opportunities to make some noise. Late in the first period, Magnolia junior Zach Willhoite had already picked up his second foul while Winters had not scored a point and was about to pick up his second personal just seconds into the second quarter.

However, it was still Big Blue which led by seven points, an advantage that was sliced to four on Zach Roe's buzzer-beating 3-pointer that made it 15-11 after one.

With both big men in foul trouble, and each coach obviously sensing what could be, Winters took control and showed the crowd what the difference in the game was going to be. But what may have

been the biggest play happened at the 3:28 mark of the second. Already saddled with two fouls, Winters drove the paint and plowed through a Trail defender.

On a huge play that could have gone either way, Winters was awarded the hoop with a blocking foul on the Warriors being called. The free throw made it a 27-18 count, in a situation that could have been 24-18 with Winters on the bench with three fouls.

"Winters is a very nice all-around player, and yes, you could definitely feel everything kind of change a little bit after that call," Gray said.

From there Magnolia's lead grew to 38-25 at the

break before swelling to 57-36 after three.

A 9-2 run early in the fourth, keyed by nine points from Roe, had Buckeye Trail within 14 at 61-47 before Winters followed with three consecutive baskets to key a 10-0 burst and put the final icing on the cake.

"Buckeye Trail is a very nice team, but I really believe that we are peaking at the right time," Tallman said. "We are playing very focused basketball with an awful lot of enthusiasm right now. I felt like we played a great game (Saturday), with the exception of a few unforced turnovers early on.

"But this is all about our seniors and their leadership,

which makes my job very easy. Each of these five starters and our kids off the bench played a big part in all of this. I can't say enough about kids like Kyle Elliott, Stephen Rogalski, Zach Willhoite, Preston Boswell and on down the line. Somebody always seems to pick us up when we need it.

"We had some pretty lofty goals coming into the season and this championship was one of them, now we have another and I am sure that everyone knows what that is. This game (Saturday) means the world to us as far as momentum, sectional seeding and even state seeding if we can get there.

"The last few years we

have been fortunate enough to get to the state tournament, but always get the four or five seed. I would love to get back there and maybe move up a little in seeding, that is why every game matters at this point."

Rogalski added 17 for the Blue Eagles while Elliott gave his normal high-octane defensive performance along with scoring a season-high 13 points.

Winters completed his afternoon by adding 14 rebounds for a double-double. Roe's performance was also sparkling for the Warriors, finishing with 29 points while Caleb Gray followed with 11.

"We really didn't play as well as we needed to

early on," Rod Gray said. "And with that we had to do some things later on that we really didn't want to have to do. We figured coming in that their bigs could give us trouble, but we weren't expecting them to do as much from the perimeter. But credit them, they had some kids step up.

"As far as Winters and Willhoite go, they are tough to handle. I feel like we could have handled one of them, but the second was just too much for us. Magnolia played very well and shot the ball very well. They have a nice team."

In all, Magnolia, which shot 59 percent from the floor in the first half, finished 34 of 61 for 56 percent for the contest.

ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

Bishops (12-8) pulled to within 38-18 at the break, but it was just too late.

It was a 24-point margin, 53-29, with eight minutes to play.

"This is just a great group of kids that have done an amazing job responding to hard work," Fierbaugh said. "A few years ago something like this was just unimaginable. I just love these kids.

"It was a great job overall (Saturday), but this was what we

wanted to do and we did it. Honestly, second place was not an option for this group. We came close last year, losing by four to Weirton Madonna, but we have a lot of kids back and this was a major focus and goal for them.

"I think it is great that both the girls and boys won championships this year, but they did beat us to it."

Senior Brandon Galigher added 10 points for the Rockets, but rebounding was a big factor

throughout. Zach Lyon added 12 caroms while Galigher had 10. Conotton Valley led 22-8 off the glass at the half, 31-15 after three and finished with a 38-22 margin.

Truex and Bryce Jones each finished with 11 for Donahue, which struggled mightily from the floor, hitting 14 of 43 tries. The Bishops had four 3-pointers, but all of them came after the score was already out of hand.

"This is a young group that

hasn't experienced this before," Bishop Donahue coach Tom Wise said. "Hopefully they learned something (Saturday). We have not shot that bad all season long, but for some reason we couldn't get much to fall.

"They are a veteran team with seven seniors and we have just two and I think that showed. Brandon Bailey is a tremendous player and they have a nice team with good size. I really can't raise a lot of heck with my team,

I don't doubt the effort given, the shots just didn't fall.

"As far as rebounding goes, I will take the heat for that. We wanted to run a zone on defense and double-down on Bailey thinking if we could limit his touches it might be a good thing. But it created other shots for them and second and third efforts. They just started stroking it when they got their feet wet and started building confidence."

EDGES

Continued from page B1

55 on a John Linn bucket with just over two minutes to play. Senior Dylan Campbell, who hit two big triples in the first half, converted a pair at the line. St. C. then stole the in-bounds pass and senior Adam Jeffries cashed one of two at the line, making it 58-55.

Big Red got one of two at the line and fouled steady senior Riley Carlton. He calmly sank both once again. Carlton, who had missed basically the last three games due to an injury, was 6 of 6 at the line in the fourth and fin-

ished with 10 points.

"The kids really focused in on that final three minutes," Clifford said. "Give Steubenville a ton of credit because they just wouldn't go away, but our kids really gutted it out when they had to. I think, again, part of that is due to experience."

West, who was exceptional on both ends for Steubenville, cashed a floater, making it 60-58. However, St. C. was able to get the ball back into Carlton, who iced the game with two more at the line.

"It's tough when you

send a good shooting team to the line that many times," Steubenville coach Mike Haney said. "I thought we played good, aggressive team defense, but we just fouled too much. Our kids played as hard as they could and I don't think they have anything to hang their heads about."

St. Clairsville led 22-20 after one and 31-30 at the intermission. Monteroso scored 14 in the first half. The Devils seemed to be in command after surging to a 48-41 lead entering the

final chapter.

"I just told the kids let's have more points at the final buzzer," Clifford smiled. "This was like a heavyweight fight throughout. Luckily, it was our day."

Monteroso and Carlton's scoring was aided by senior Jerrid Marhefka's eight points. Campbell also finished with eight.

Steubenville, meanwhile, was led by West's 26. Senior Mylik Young scored 10 points, while Tajuan Lawson and Adam Sterling each had seven for Big

Red.

Steubenville held a 29-22 edge on the boards. West completed the double-double for Big Red with 11 rebounds. Monteroso had six rebounds, four steals and swatted three shots as he stuffed the stat sheet once again.

Steubenville is now 15-6 on the season and will open Division II sectional play back at OUE against East Liverpool on Saturday.

"I told the guys that a lot of players never get a chance to play for a championship, so we wanted to

enjoy the opportunity. Obviously, we would have enjoyed it a little bit more had the outcome been different," Haney said. "We'll go back to work and get ready for the sectional."

St. Clairsville will open defense of its sectional, district and regional championship on Feb. 27 against Edison.

"We need to get some rest," Clifford admitted. "We've played a lot of games down the stretch here and we need to get our legs back under us a little bit. I know these kids are

Shadyside rallies past UL, 45-43

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

MORRISTOWN — Union Local head coach Vaughn Butler had a solid game plan in place for Friday's game against Shadyside in the consolation round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship.

The Jets, who are without senior standout Jacob Bailey for the remainder of the season due to an injury, wanted to control the tempo, play good defense and limit Shadyside's touches on the interior.

In terms of those three factors, the Jets were on point all night.

However, the name Zach Frizzi wasn't discussed all that much during Jets' practices the past two days. The Tigers' sophomore dialed in 3-point bombs on three occasions and finished with 18 clutch points to lead Shadyside (11-11) to a hard-earned 45-43 victory in their regular-season finale.

"That kid just kept hitting threes," Butler said. "Where did he come from?"

Frizzi got the start because Shadyside played without sophomore pivot Austin Dorris due to illness.

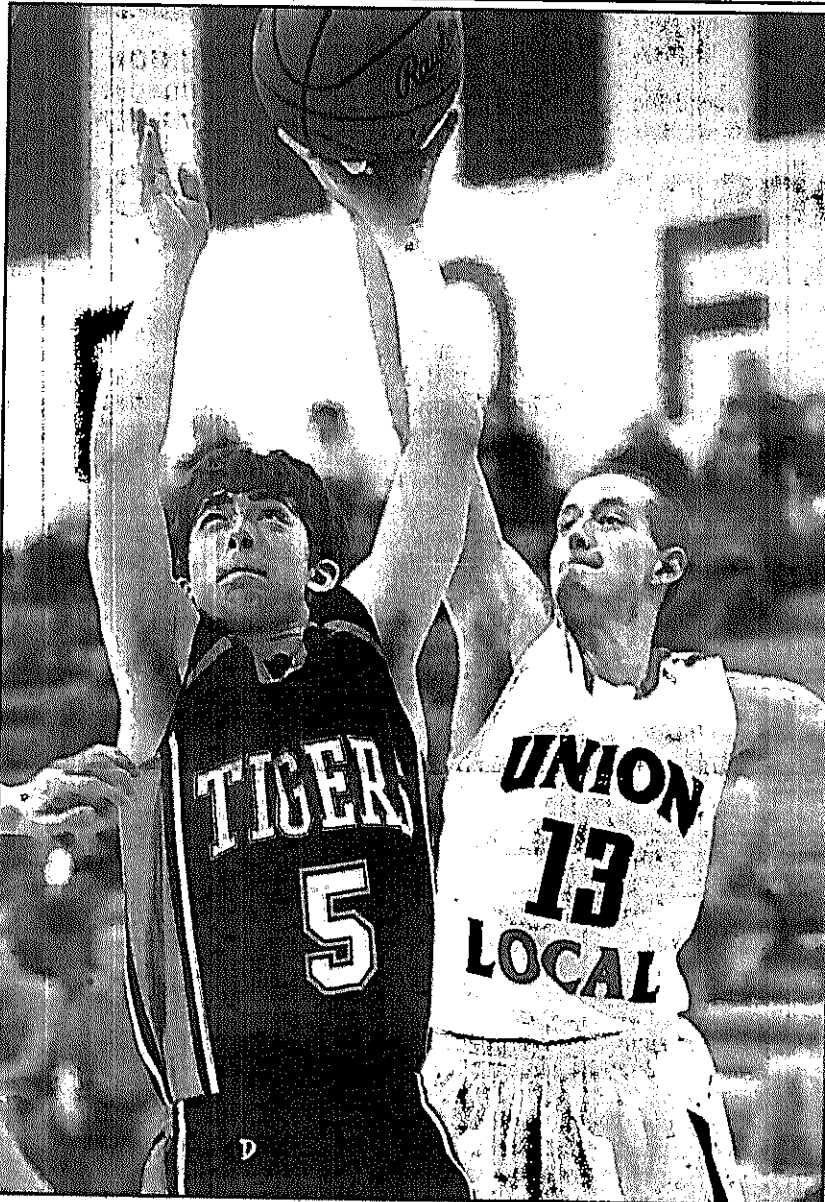
Frizzi certainly made the most of his opportunity, especially in the second half when he erupted for 14 of his points.

"There was a while in this game that I didn't

See, SHADYSIDE, Page D2

"THERE WAS a while in this game that I didn't think we'd come back. We had to do everything possible to come out with a win."

- Ed Andes
Shadyside Coach



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S Jared Brooks goes up for a shot as Union Local's Collin Jones defends during Friday's game in Morristown. Brooks scored 11 as the Tigers prevailed, 45-43.

River unloads on Monroe for third place

By MIKE PALMER
Times Leader Sports Writer

HANNIBAL — The inter-district battle between Switzerland of Ohio schools River and Monroe Central was a typical battle between rival schools until the third

"WE HAD trouble scoring, we had trouble rebounding ... That's a good combination to get you beat by 20 points."

- Booster Tolzda
Monroe Coach

quarter when the host Pilots ran away with the contest, burying the Seminoles by a final of 73-49.

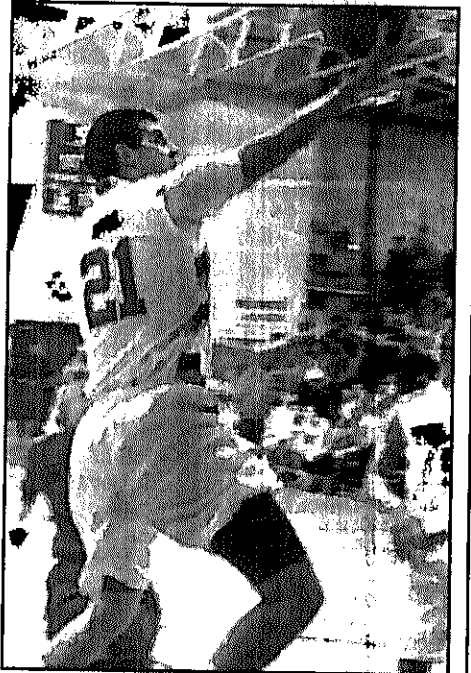
River's Brett Price and Cody Caldwell had the hot hands for the hosts as Price netted a pair of first quarter treys scoring 10 in the opener while Caldwell added his own long-range

contribution giving the Pilots a double digit lead.

The Seminoles' Corey Lafferre netted a buzzer-beater just before the intermission to outscore River 19-18 in the second stanza but the invaders still trailed, 37-29.

Monroe Central came out in the third

See, RIVER, Page D3



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Brett Price goes up for a shot during Friday's game against Monroe Central in Hannibal. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com.

Riders race past Harrison Central

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ -- When you're hot, you're hot.

When you're not, you're not. Martins Ferry was. Harrison Central was not.

That summed up Friday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships Class 4-A consolation final won by the visiting Purple Riders, 60-37, in Cadiz.

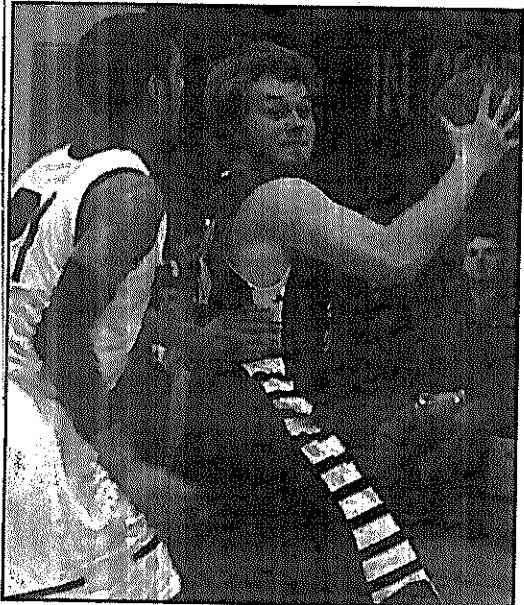
Martins Ferry (10-8) blis-

tered the John W. Stephenson Center nets at a 64 percent (25 of 39) clip from the floor as it shot out to a commanding 24-6 advantage after eight minutes.

"For all intents and purposes, this was our last regular-season game," veteran Martins Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino said. "There are a couple of home games that we won't be able to play because of the (D-III sectional) tournament coming up, so we wanted to leave a bit of

See, FERRY, Page D2

MARTINS FERRY'S Tyler Strama makes a move against Harrison Central's Rashaen Mitchell during Friday's game in Cadiz.



Photo/SANDI THOMPSON



from the...
SHADYSIDE
BOYS
BASKETBALL
PARENTS

just under 12 seconds before Stupak made a move to the goal and was fouled with 11.7 to play. He calmly sank both.

Union Local then advanced the ball to halfcourt with 6.6 seconds

7-9 43.

Three-Point Goals: S — Frizzi (3).
 UL — McDiffitt, Porter.

Staskey can be reached at
 sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

UNION LOCAL'S Colin Jones goes up for a shot against Shadyside's Ryan Richardson during Friday's game in Morristown. The Tigers rallied for a 45-43 victory.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

Jacobson, Bae tied for lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A move down the California coast hasn't changed a thing for Fredrik Jacobson.

One week after his best finish in more than a year, Jacobson birdied the two toughest holes at Riviera on his way to a 6-under 65 on Friday and a share of the lead with Sang-Moon Bae going into the weekend at the Northern Trust Open.

The Swede did just about everything well, from his tee shots to his iron play, just what it takes to get around the classic design of Riviera. And it helps to get a little luck, such as a 55-foot birdie putt from just off the green at

No. 9 that bumped along until disappearing for an unlikely birdie.

"That was probably the biggest bonus of the day," Jacobson said.

Bae played in the morning and began with four straight birdies, all of them from tap-in range until holing a 25-foot putt on the 13th. He wound up making birdies on half of his holes in his round of 65.

They were at 9-under 133, one shot clear of John Merrick (66) and John Rollins (65).

Still very much in the picture was Luke Donald, who chipped in twice for birdie and worked his short-game magic around the course

for a 66. Playing for the first time in two months, Donald didn't look as if he had much rust. He was two shots behind.

Lee Westwood birdied the last hole for a 68 to join the group at 6-under 136 that includes a pair of major champions, Charl Schwartzel (67) and Webb Simpson (66).

Phil Mickelson was lurking, despite a sloppy double bogey on the 10th hole. Mickelson still managed a 67 and was five shots back.

"I had a little hiccup on the 10th," Mickelson said. "I was just trying to make 4 and I couldn't even do that. But 4 under is not a bad round, with the exception of No. 10."

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Ferry

Continued from Page D1

legacy for this year.

"We really haven't had all of our guys on the court at the same time that often this year because of one thing or another," he continued. "I think Harrison is a really good team, but we wanted to play a good team and test ourselves against them before the tournament. They bought into it and brought it."

"I was really pleased with the effort and focus, particularly in the first half. I don't know if you could play much better than that."

Martins Ferry senior standout Cody Schau, who returned to the lineup after missing two games, tallied 21 of his game-high 30 points in the first half as the Purple Gang led 38-16 at the intermission. It was the sixth time he has netted 30-or-more points in a game this season.

"Cody looked like he was shot out of a cannon," Sabatino noted. "He was playing with a purpose."

Power forwards Tyler Strama (15) and Robert Vargo (12) teamed for 27 points down low, mostly off nifty assists from sophomore point guard Jake Barritt. The 6-5 Vargo also pulled down 14 of the Purple's 41 rebounds, while Schau added eight. Strama and Barritt each landed six, with Barritt also dishing out eight helpers.

"Now we know what we can

Justin Clifford, he's seen this scenario one too many times.

"We haven't shot well lately," he lamented of his team's ice-cold 12-for-58 effort (20.7%). "We really didn't defend tonight. Give them credit. Coach Sab does a great job with them."

"They've got a pretty good player. They made plays and we didn't defend and make plays."

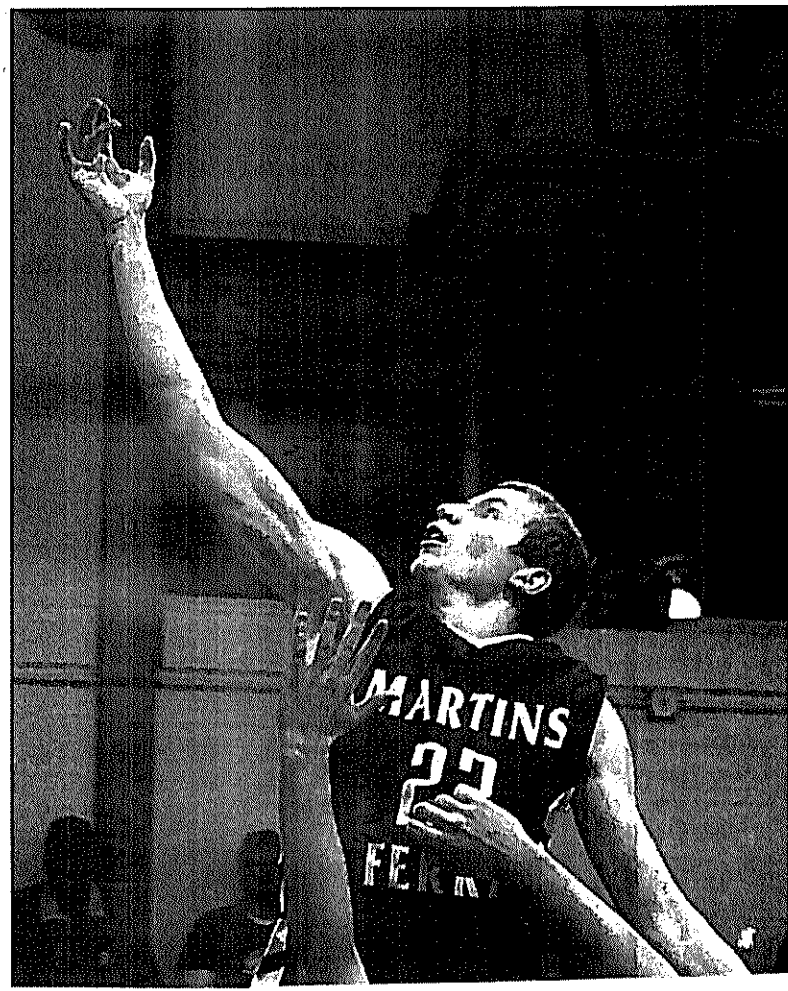
Nate Olmstead came off the Huskies' bench to fire in a team-high 15 points, which included four bonus bombs — three of them coming in the third panel.

Martins Ferry meets Buckeye 8 rival Bellaire Wednesday night at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville in tournament action. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, Harrison Central plays Beaver Local next Friday at 8 p.m. inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center in Division II sectional tournament action.

The Huskies won the JV game.

MARTINS FERRY (60) — C. Schau 11-18 7-7 30; Vargo 6 0-2 12; Barritt 0 1-2 1; Appolloni 1 0-0 2; Strama 7 1-6 15; A. Burress 0 0-0 0; D. Schau 0 0-0 0; Sears 0 0-0 0; Edwards 0 0-0 0; J. Burress 0 0-0 0; Shane 0 0-0 0; Agnew 0 0-0 0; Totals: 25-39 9-17. HARRISON CENTRAL (37) — R. Mitchell 1 0-0 2; Pelegreen 3 2-4 8; Watt 2 5-5 9; Kowalski 1 0-0 3; K. Mitchell 0 0-0 0; Olmstead 5 1-3 15; Rutter 0 0-0 0;



Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship

St. C. cruises past Ferry to 4A title game

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

The night before playing his final game on John Jenkins Court, St. Clairsville senior standout Dan Monteroso dreamed he lit the scoreboard up for a career-high 55 points.

Even though the 6-3 all-stater fell a little short of that lofty mark Tuesday night, he did tally 37 counters — 5 shy of his career-best — in leading the top-seeded Red Devils to a 76-48 triumph over short-handed Martins Ferry in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4-A semifinal on the hilltop in Belmont County.

"This game meant a lot. It's been a great year. It's been a great four years with these guys," Monteroso revealed. "Everything the coaching staff has done for us has been outstanding.

"It's nice to go out with a win on this court," he continued. "This isn't probably good to say, but I didn't think much about school (Tuesday). I knew tonight was going to be a special night. Senior night last week was

See, ST. C., Page B2

MARTINS FERRY'S
Emilio Appolloni looks for a teammate Tuesday night while St. Clairsville's Jerrid Marhefka (1) and Dan Monteroso (5) apply the defensive pressure. The Red Devils won, 76-48. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Buckeye Trail rolls past Monroe in Class 3A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

OLD WASHINGTON — Monroe Central all but ran Buckeye Trail off the court Saturday night in a game in Woodsfield, posting a 78-56 victory.

The two PVC rivals clashed again on Tuesday night with a lot more on the line as the sixth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship got under way.

The difference was only 21 this time, but the roles were reversed as the

Warriors used a strong second half and pulled away from the Seminoles to march on to Saturday afternoon's Class 3A title game at Ohio University Eastern.

So, what was the difference in just 72 hours?

Quite simply, it was foul trouble or lack thereof.

During the meeting a few days ago, Warriors' big man Josh Toland was saddened with three quick fouls, which never

"IF THEY shoot and play like they did tonight, with their quickness, I think they'll a chance against Magnolia."

- Scooter Tolzda
Monroe Central Head Coach

allowed him to get into the flow of the game.

He was whittled for just one personal in this meeting and just happened to finish with 23 points and 16 rebounds. Plus, he altered several shots on the defensive end.

"He hurt us up here the first time we played Trail," said Monroe head coach Scooter Tolzda. "He hurt us again, especially on the defensive end because we

were able to attack when he wasn't in there."

While Toland was certainly the difference maker, he was by no means alone. The gritty Warriors' backcourt of C.J. Beaver and Zach Roe played well, too. They controlled the tempo and were able to penetrate, which created room for Toland to work on the block.

Plus, they scored well. Roe chipped in with 22 and Beaver went for 12.

"Tonight's game was kind of similar to the first time we played Monroe here,"

See, MONROE, Page B2

Steubenville thumps HC to reach 4A final

• Huskies' Watt scores 1,000th point

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE — The Steubenville Big Red boys' basketball team advanced to the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4-A championship game with a victory over Harrison Central Tuesday at the Crimson Center.

And Big Red made it look easy.

Steubenville jumped out to a 15-2 lead before cruising to 77-41 win spurred by a press defense that turned 23 Huskies' turnovers.

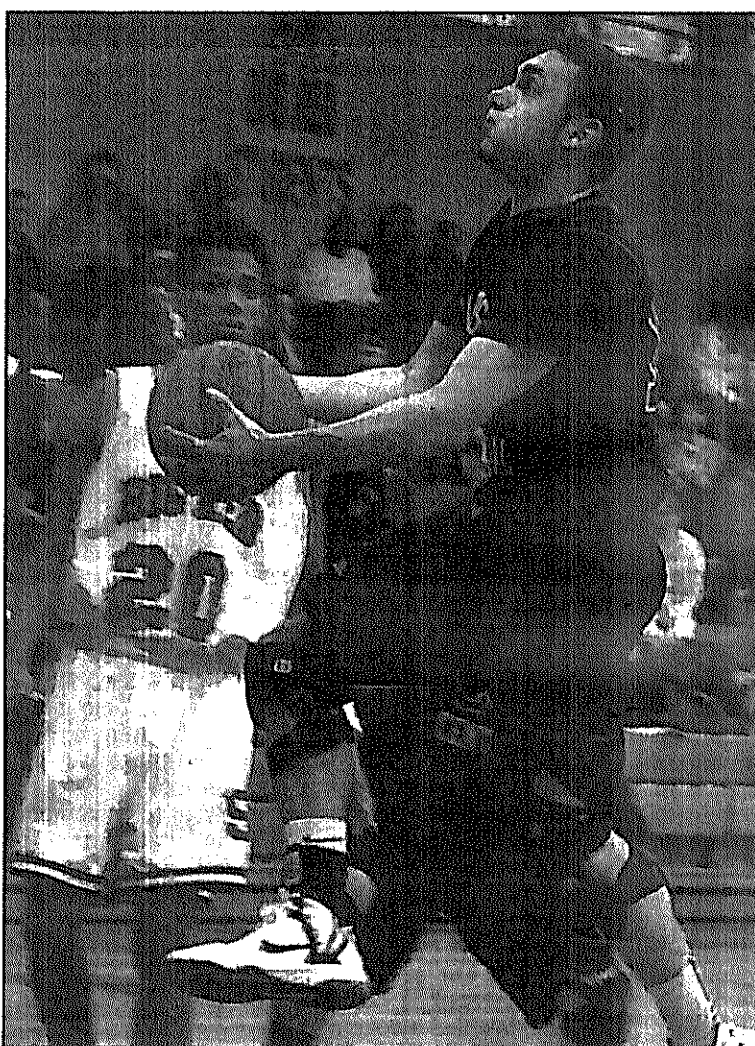
"That was a big point of emphasis for all the coaches when talking to them," said Big Red head coach Mike Haney. "We thought our last two games we kind of lost because our defense wasn't where we thought it would be.

"We worked on it, the kids came in focused and ready to go, and I thought our defense was pretty fast. It was good team defense where guys were helping each other."

After Harrison Central's Austin Kowalski hit two free throws to make the score 4-2 Big Red with 5:36 left in the first quarter the Huskies went almost five minutes before a Kowalski three-pointer gave them their next points at 15-5.

"I take full responsibility," said Harrison Central head coach Justin Clifford of his team's struggles. "Obviously, I didn't have them prepared enough for this stage. We just weren't prepared."

See, STEUBENVILLE, Page B2



Photo/SANDI THOMPSON

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Fletcher Watt drives to the basket Tuesday night during action inside Steubenville High School's Crimson Center. He scored his 1,000th career point in a loss.

Magnolia pulls away from River

By RICK THORP
For The Times Leader

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The third time was the charm for Magnolia on Tuesday night as the Blue Eagles thumped River, 72-45, before a packed house in the semifinals of Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships.

Boosted by a 19-0 fourth-quarter run, Coach Dave Tallman's squad earned a berth in Saturday's Class 3A championship game (12:30 p.m.) against Buckeye Trail. The Warriors knocked off Monroe Central, 80-59, in the other semifinal in Old Washington. It will be the first time the schools will meet on the boys' basketball court, according to Tallman.

River handed Magnolia (13-4) its first loss of the season, 79-68, on Jan. 5 behind 40 points from Brett Price. Then, 10 days later, the Pilots turned the trick again, 54-52, on their home court.

So, what changed Tuesday night? "The main difference was the man-to-man (defense)," Tallman said. "We knew we couldn't sit in the zone because (River) shoots the ball too well.

"Kyle Elliott did a great job on Price. We just can't say enough about him."

Price finished with 12 points on 5 of 18

See, MAGNOLIA, Page B2

Beallsville eliminated by BD ● Magnolia

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Times Leader

MCMECHEN — Seeking a third victory this season against scrappy Beallsville, homestanding Bishop Donahue jumped in front 11-0 but then had to weather a familiar storm Tuesday night inside the Fr. Raymond Jablinske Memorial Gymnasium.

Blue Devils' senior standout Terryn Jarrett exploded for 32 points and had Beallsville within two possessions of a tie three times in the fourth quarter only to see the Bishops hang on for the 73-66 victory in the semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 1A Division tournament.

The 1,000-point career scorer for Beallsville hit for 28 in the previous visit to

the Bishops' home court, but the Blue Devils also wound up on the short end of the score.

Last night, Jarrett hit on five 3-point attempts and scored 19 of his 32 points during the second half. He was Beallsville's only double-figure scorer as its record dropped back below the .500 mark at 9-10.

Bishop Donahue's narrow victory put Wise's youthful but talented squad into the conference small school title game for the third time in the last five years. The Bishops split back-to-back OVAC finals appearances against Bridgeport in 2009 and 2010.

On Saturday evening, they will be matched up against rangy Conotton Valley in the championship game.

The biggest play of the night might have been turned in by Bishops' sophomore Jesse Padlow with under two minutes on the clock after two free throws by Jarrett narrowed the Blue Devils' deficit to 66-62.

Beallsville thought it had slapped the ball away from Padlow as he advanced past half court. However, the determined Bishop point guard kept hustling, got his hands on the basketball and, in the same motion, passed it inside to Chaice Truex for an easy shot off the glass.

"I thought we were going to get a steal, but it landed back in their hands and they got a layup," Blue Devils' coach Casey Tolzda said.

Three other Bishops reached double figures.

Miller enjoyed a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Padlow added a dozen and Truex scored 11 points, while also yanking down eight rebounds.

Lavonte Hampton came off the Donahue bench to contribute eight points and also grabbed five rebounds.

Conotton Valley 82, Paden City 41
BOWERSTON — Brandon Bailey scored 19 points as Conotton Valley defeated Paden City.

Zach Lyon and Brandon Galisher each had 12 points for the Rockets (15-5), while Brandon Rodin had 11.

Kennedy Cain paced the Wildcats (11-7) with 14 points and six rebounds, while Zach Healsey finished with nine points and six boards.

Continued from Page B1

shooting from the field.

Two of Price's points capped a 7-0 run that gave River a 15-12 lead after one quarter. From that point, the two teams were tied twice before Magnolia went up 27-22 with Mark Winters on the bench in foul trouble. The Wheeling Jesuit recruit finished with 19 points.

Matt Marconi's layup pulled the Pilots to within five at 45-40 at the start of period. But from there, Magnolia went on the game-clinching run and led 64-40 with a little more than two minutes remaining.

A Winters' hook started the run. Zach Willhoite, who finished with a game-high 22 points, converted a 3-point play.

Then, freshman Preston Boswell drained a pair of 3s from both sides of the court. He finished with 18 points.

All told, the Blue Eagles shot 83 percent from the field during the quarter, compared to River's 3 of 17 (17 percent) showing.

"We just couldn't put a shot in," River coach Mark Romick said. "When the heat turns up like that you have to be patient and we didn't do that and (the score) was the result."

"We got to the fourth quarter and we became impatient. The past two games (against Magnolia) we maintained that patience the whole game."

"We shot a lot better that last two times (against Magnolia). Then, we hit those shots. (Tuesday), we couldn't hit them."

Cody Caldwell joined Price with 12 points. Marconi finished with 10.

RIVER (45) — Marconi 3-7 2-2 10; J.Indermuhle 4-9 1-2 9; Caldwell 5-16 0-0 12; Price 5-18 1-2 12; Eggleston 0-0 0-0 0; Isaly 0-1 2-2 2; Dierkes 0-1 0-0 0; Brown 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 17-55 6-8.
MAGNOLIA (72) — Boswell 5-9 4-5 18; Elliott 1-3 0-0 2; Rogalski 2-6 0-2 4; Ma.Winters 7-15 3-6 19; Willhoite 9-12 4-5 22; Brookover 0-0 0-0 0; Emch 0-0 0-0 0; Mik.Winters 0-0 0-0 0; Campbell 2-5 3-4 8; Mit.Winters 0-0 0-0 0; Ritz 0-0 0-0 0; Shimp 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-48 13-20.

Three-Point Goals: River 5 (Marconi 2, Caldwell 2, Price); Magnolia 4 (Boswell 2, Ma.Winters, Campbell).

● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

special, but I knew it wasn't the last game here.

"It's tough to realize that we've played our final game on this court, but I'm glad to have done it with this group of guys," he said in referring to his group senior classmates.

With the win, state-ranked St. Clairsville (19-2) will meet No. 2 seeded Steubenville Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. for the title inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. Big Red prevented an all-Clifford final by beating Harrison Central, 77-41.

Veteran St. Clairsville head coach Kim Clifford had trouble keeping his composure when asked what it meant to watch this group of seniors play its final game on John Jenkins Court.

"It's tough," he said, choking back his emotions. "When you've got a connection with a group of guys like this, it goes deep. I've been with these kids in this gym for four or five years now."

"They're a tight group," he continued as the seniors posed for pictures with Clifford's wife, Penny. "It's a family thing. It's tough, but it's special, as well."

Behind the silky-smooth Monteroso, the Red Devils took control early and never looked back in reaching the championship game for the third straight season. They are 1-1, winning last year over East Liverpool.

Monteroso scored 17 points in the first eight minutes as the hosts grabbed a 22-11 advantage. He then tacked on 14 more to account for all but 20 of his team's points in a 51-25 halftime margin.

"Dan came out focused tonight,"

"WE JUST ran into one of the greatest players I've ever coached against, playing one of the greatest games he's ever played."

— Jeff Sabatino
Martins Ferry head coach

Clifford noted. "We said 'the standard is a standard,' something that the (Pittsburgh) Steelers use. We knew they (Ferry) were a little short-handed, but we wanted to make sure we came out and did what we had to do."

In addition to Monteroso's game-high effort, Jerrid Marhefka knocked down a dozen lightnings. Adam Jeffries and Dylan Campbell evenly split 14.

Martins Ferry (9-8), which played with seniors Cody Schau and Tyler Strama, was led by bullish junior Robert Vargo. The 6-5 banger scored 21 points and yanked down a game-high 16 rebounds. Freshman Emilio Appolloni donated 10 points. Jake Barritt added seven.

Monteroso also grabbed six rebounds, as did Jay Gossett as both teams landed 33. Monteroso also added four assists, three blocked shots and a pair of steals.

"I've never been prouder of a team that got beat by 28 points," veteran Martins Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino admitted. "We played with no seniors. We started two freshmen, two sophomores and a junior, and for the most part, I felt they played as well as they were capable."

"We just ran into one of the greatest players I've ever coached against,

playing one of the greatest games he's ever played," Sabatino said of Monteroso. "That first half was unbelievable. What we're we going to do? We were in awe."

"Maybe we can get healed up a little and get ready for the postseason," he added. "We get a pretty good player back in Cody. I like where we are sitting because these kids that played tonight showed that they can play a little."

St. Clairsville only turned the ball over five times, four of those coming in the fourth quarter long after the five senior starters — injured Riley Carlton (ankle) checked in at the quarter break — had taken their final curtain call, which came a mere two ticks into the fourth quarter. They walked off the floor arm-in-arm to a well-deserved standing ovation.

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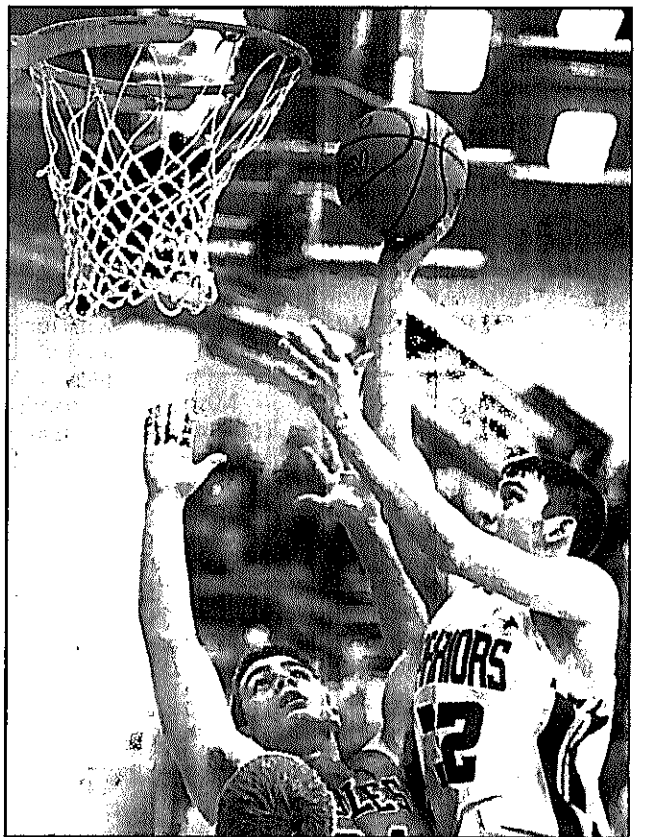


Photo Provided

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● Monroe

Continued from Page B1

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Then it became the Toland and Roe show. The duo scored 17 in the second and a late 13-4 run allowed the Warriors to maintain their four-point cushion at the break.

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● Steubenville

Continued from Page B1

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Just Right

Continued from Page B1

special, but I knew it wasn't the last game here.

"It's tough to realize that we've played our final game on this court, but I'm glad to have done it with this group of guys," he said in referring to his group senior classmates.

With the win, state-ranked St. Clairsville (19-2) will meet No. 2 seeded Steubenville Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. for the title inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. Big Red prevented an all-Clifford final by beating Harrison Central, 77-41.

Veteran St. Clairsville head coach Kim Clifford had trouble keeping his composure when asked what it meant to watch this group of seniors play its final game on John Jenkins Court.

"It's tough," he said, choking back his emotions. "When you've got a connection with a group of guys like this, it goes deep. I've been with these kids in this gym for four or five years now.

"They're a tight group," he continued as the seniors posed for pictures with Clifford's wife, Penny. "It's a family thing. It's tough, but it's special, as well."

Behind the silky-smooth Monteroso, the Red Devils took control early and never looked back in reaching the championship game for the third straight season. They are 1-1, winning last year over East Liverpool.

Monteroso scored 17 points in the first eight minutes as the hosts grabbed a 22-11 advantage. He then tacked on 14 more to account for all but 20 of his team's points in a 51-25 halftime margin.

"Dan came out focused tonight,"

"WE JUST ran into one of the greatest players I've ever coached against, playing one of the greatest games he's ever played."

- Jeff Sabatino
Martins Ferry head coach

Clifford noted. "We said 'the standard is a standard,' something that the (Pittsburgh) Steelers use. We knew they (Ferry) were a little short-handed, but we wanted to make sure we came out and did what we had to do."

In addition to Monteroso's game-high effort, Jerrid Marhefka knocked down a dozen lightings. Adam Jeffries and Dylan Campbell evenly split 14.

Martins Ferry (9-8), which played with seniors Cody Schau and Tyler Strama, was led by bullish junior Robert Vargo. The 6-5 banger scored 21 points and yanked down a game-high 16 rebounds. Freshman Emilio Appolloni donated 10 points. Jake Barritt added seven.

Monteroso also grabbed six rebounds, as did Jay Gossett as both teams landed 33. Monteroso also added four assists, three blocked shots and a pair of steals.

"I've never been prouder of a team that got beat by 28 points," veteran Martins Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino admitted. "We played with no seniors. We started two freshmen, two sophomores and a junior, and for the most part, I felt they played as well as they were capable."

"We just ran into one of the greatest players I've ever coached against,

playing one of the greatest games he's ever played," Sabatino said of Monteroso. "That first half was unbelievable. What we're we going to do? We were in awe.

"Maybe we can get healed up a little and get ready for the postseason," he added. "We get a pretty good player back in Cody. I like where we are sitting because these kids that played tonight showed that they can play a little."

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finished with 10.

RIVER (45) - Marconi 3-7 2-2 10; J. Indermuhle 4-9 1-2 9; Caldwell 5-16 0-0 12; Price 5-18 1-2 12; Eggleston 0-0 0-0 0; Isaly 0-1 2-2 2; Dierkes 0-1 0-0 0; Brown 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 17-55 6-8.
MAGNOLIA (72) - Boswell 5-9 4-5 18; Elliott 1-3 0-0 2; Rogalski 2-6 0-2 4; Ma. Winters 7-15 3-6 19; Willhoite 9-12 4-5 22; Brookover 0-0 0-0 0; Emch 0-0 0-0 0; Mik. Winters 0-0 0-0 0; Campbell 2-5 3-4 8; Mit. Winters 0-0 0-0 0; Ritz 0-0 0-0 0; Shimp 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-48 13-20.

Three-Point Goals: River 5 (Marconi 2, Caldwell 2, Price); Magnolia 4 (Boswell 2, Ma. Winters, Campbell).

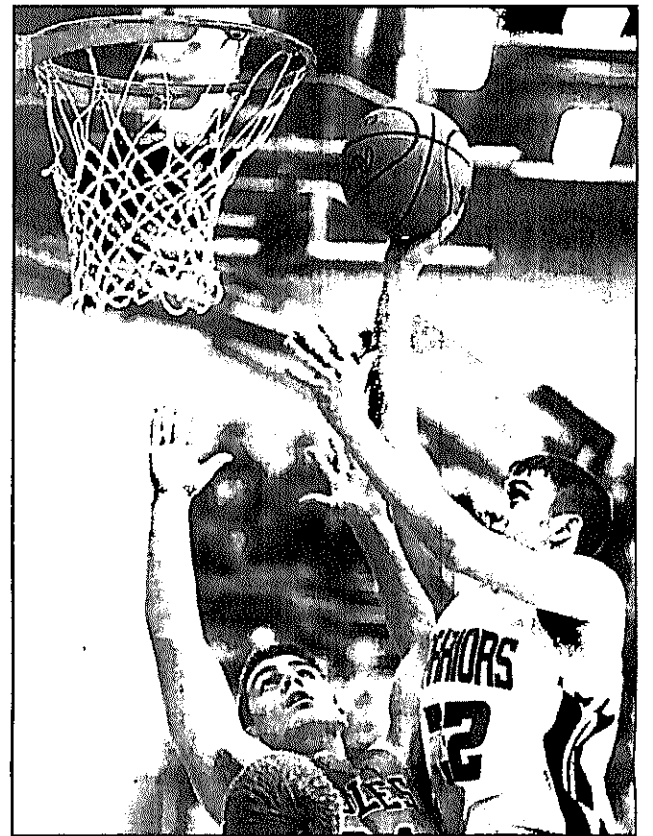


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Cameron Jorris led the Seminoles with 15 points. Corey Lafferre added 14 points and eight rebounds.

The Seminoles will trek to River on Friday for the consolation game in Class 3A.

Monroe Central managed a split, however, since its reserve squad posted a 61-50 victory in the prelim.

Varsity scoring:
MONROE CENTRAL (59) - C. Jorris 5, 3-3 15; Antill 5, 0-0 10; Lafferre 5, 4-5 14; Brown 2, 0-0 4; Guller 0, 0-0 0; Kuhn 3, 0-1 6; Z. Jorris 2, 0-0 6; Burkhardt 0, 0-0 0; Duffy 1, 0-0 2; Hill 0, 0-0 0; Logston 0, 0-0 0; Schuerman 0, 0-0 0; Yontz 0, 0-0 0; Alleman 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 24, 7-9 59.
BUCKEYE TRAIL (80) - Roe 7, 7-8 22; Toland 10, 3-3 23; Beaver 5, 0-2 12; T. Starr 3, 3-4 11; Gray 3, 1-2 7; Evans 1, 0-0 2; Doudna 0, 0-0 0; Lashley 0, 0-0 0; Douglas 0, 1-2 1; Warden 0, 0-0 0; Cutlip 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 29, 12-18 80.

Three-Point Goals: MC - C. Jorris (2), Z. Jorris (2). BT - Roe, Beaver (3), Starr (2).

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● Steubenville

Continued from Page B1

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"Him and those other two seniors (Rashaen Mitchell and Nick Pelegreen) are the reason we got to play in this game."

Awaiting Big Red in the title game is St. Clairsville, 76-48 winners over Martins Ferry in the other semifinal game.

That game tips off at 3 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"At the beginning of the year we have some goals, and that's one of the goals, to always get in the top four," said Haney of the OVAC tournament. "We'd like to have a home game, like we did coming in second, and to make it in the championship.

"We want to come home with the championship, too."

Harrison Central hosts Martins Ferry Friday.

HARRISON CENTRAL (41) - K. Mitchell 1 0-0 2, Kowalski 4 2-2 12, Yoho 2 3-3 8, B. Mitchell 0 0-0 0, Rutter 0 0-0 0, Watt 3 0-0 7, Redish 0 0-2 0, Evans 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-0 0, R. Mitchell 1 0-3 2, Olmstead 0 2-2 2, Pelegreen 3 0-0 6, Mizer 1 0-0 2. Totals: 15 7-12.
STUEBENVILLE (71) - West 8 1-2 20, Linn 0 2-2 2, Herring-Hill 5 0-1 10, Bailey 0 0-0 0, Lawson 5 1-2 13, Herrington 0 0-0 0, Young 5 5-8 15, Sterling 2 0-2 4, Redman 3 1-1 7, Smith 1 0-0 2, Perdue 2 0-0 4. Totals: 31 10-18 77.

Three-Point Goals: Harrison Central 4 (Kowalski 2, Watt, Yoho); Steubenville 5 (West 3, Lawson 2).



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