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The Intelligencer. SPORTS

Linsly Claims 3A By A Hair

Cadets get best of Crusaders

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

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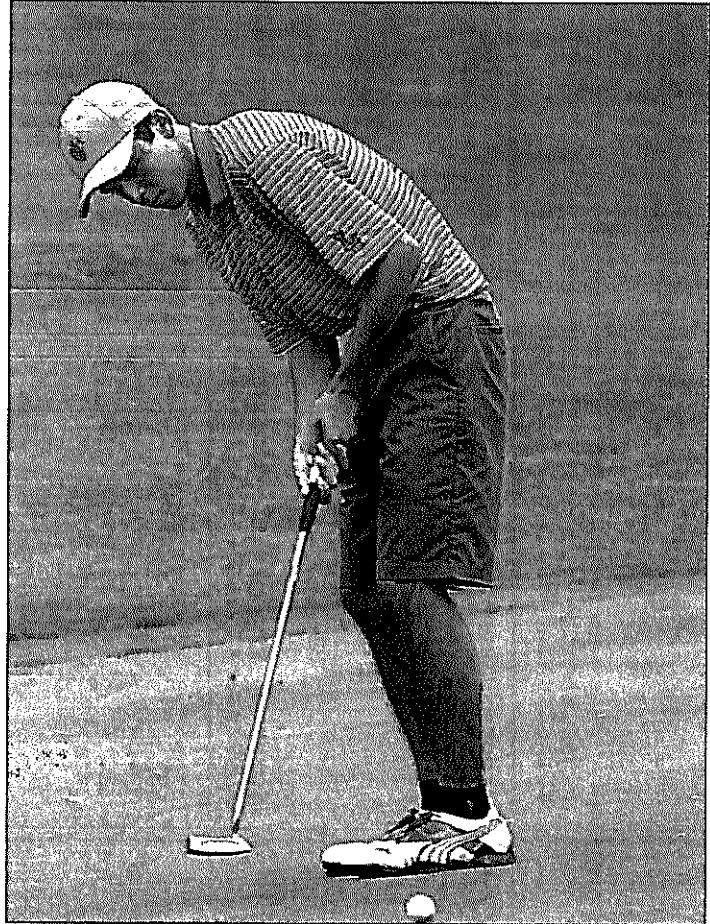


Photo by Rick Thorp

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Steubenville Catholic's Austin Meronoff repeated as medalist, firing a 2-under-par 69. He was the only golfer to break 70.

"I had a little battle toward

the end," he said, "but I hung in and made a few birdies and was happy to be able to come out on top."

After carding one birdie on the front nine, the sophomore fired three on the back.

"I birdied 16 and parred 17," he said. "Then when I birdied 18 I felt pretty confident," said Meronoff, who started his round with a pair of bogeys.

Meronoff earned the top

Please See 3A, Page 10



South Unseats WP for 5A Title

Shears is first

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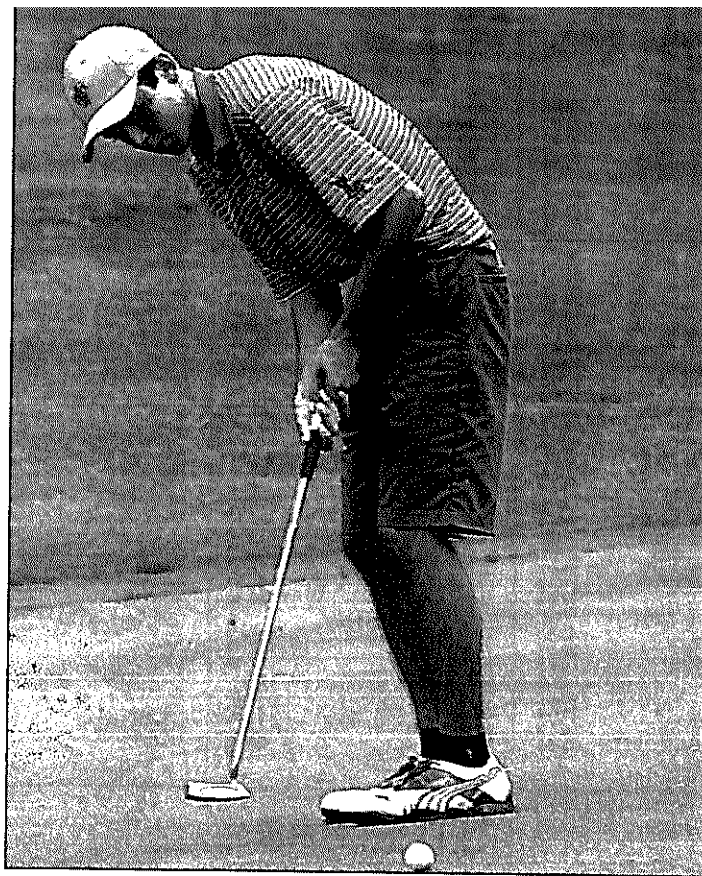


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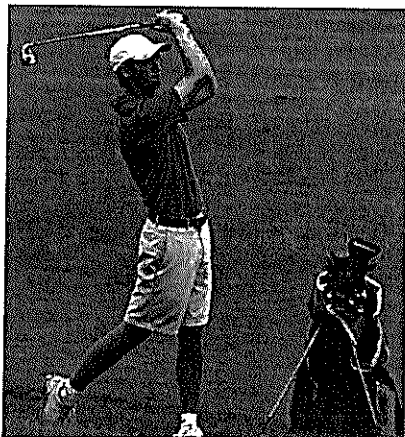


Photo by Dave Morrison

Wheeling Park's Cole Hand watches a shot Thursday during the OVAC 5A championship.

South Unseats WP for 5A Title

Shears is first female medalist

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Parkersburg South's Adeena Shears took a laid-back approach as she prepared for her one-hole playoff with University's Eric Wirth on Thursday for Ohio Valley Athletic

Conference 5A medalist honors.

"Do your best, it's all you can do," she said.

It's a pretty simple approach.

To win?

"It would be pretty cool," Shears said.

It must have been really cool, considering Shears is

Please See 5A, Page 10

SOUTH

(Continued from Page 9)

the first female OVAC 5A individual champion.

The two golfers set up the playoff by shooting even-par 72s.

After sinking a 7-foot putt to force a second playoff hole, Shears coolly landed her second shot 15 feet behind the pin, needing only to two-putt from there for medalist honors, which she did with ease.

Wirth had landed his second shot just off the far side of the green, and needed two more shots to hole No. 18 on the Robert Trent Jones-designed course at Oglebay Park.

It ended what was a big day for South, which also took home team honors, beating Wheeling Park 305-312.

"We've had a pretty good 10 days," Parkersburg South coach Sherry Morris said. "After we won the TRAC (the Patriots also beat Wheeling Park), I told the kids we could do this. Keep doing what you're doing. We needed three rounds in the 70s and they hit their mark."

South's No. 1 seed, Alex Schreckengst had a 74 and Noah Smith finished with a 79. Garrett Dailey had an 80.

Park came close. Freshman Kyle Wensel had a 74, defending state champion Cole Hand had a 76, Freddie Fitzsimmons a 79 and Dylan Wojcik an 83.

Shears admitted she was surprised to win the top spot.

"I guess that is always a goal, but I really didn't think I'd be in position to do that," she said. "I thought somebody would shoot under-par and win it. I was just focused on just doing my best to help the team win."

She did better than that, shooting even-par golf, and realized she was on to a good round after the par-5 No. 14.

"I found out my score was (1-over) and I was like, 'Huh, that's a pretty good score,'" she said.

Wheeling Park's Hand, who won

medalist on the Jones course a year ago, had a rather rough day at the office.

"I grinded it out," Hand said. "I'd been away from golf for 15 days. I went Elk hunting in Colorado and just got back Sunday. I came out and played some and I was pretty confident coming in. I got in some trouble on the front nine and finished with a 43."

He rebounded with a 33 on the backside, including birdies on three of his final four holes.

"To finish with a 76 is pretty respectable considering how poorly I played on the front side," Hand said.

While disappointed, Hand said his main goals were still in sight.

"It would have been nice to win the team title, it would have been our sixth straight, and it would have been nice to medal, it would have been my second," Hand said. "But the main goal is the state tournament and that's still ahead."

South had other plans Thursday.

"It was one of our goals," Morris said. "After we won the TRAC, I thought we could do well. Our goals were to win the TRAC, the OVAC and then the regionals. We'd like to come back here (for the state championship). We haven't had a team in it in years, so to be able to do that would be huge. This win for us was huge."

University's Wirth said his day wasn't spoiled because he finished runner-up.

"I'm not upset at all," Wirth said, after posing for a picture with Shears off the side of No. 18. "Adeena is a really good player, and it's my (18th) birthday. My day isn't ruined at all."

The obvious question for Shears was what it was like to beat the guys.

"I like the competition," Shears said. "I always feel like the guys are more respectful than when I play with girls. You wouldn't think it would be that way, but it is."

Pretty cool.

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 9)

individual honor by two strokes, edging teammate Mike Manfreda, who fired a 71. Linsly's Casey O'Korn, David Coram and Jordan Patrick rounded out the All-Tournament squad with rounds of 72, 73 and 74, respectively.

The good news for Zavatsky is all three should be back next season.

"We still don't have any seniors," he said.

Nor did they last season when the Cadets lost to Buckeye Trail by three shots. Linsly finished second to Steubenville Catholic for the 2A crown in 2011.

"Our No. 3 and 4 (golfers) were the difference," Zavatsky said. "That

sealed the deal for us."

Coram has been the top scorer for most of the season for the Cadets, whose roster is stocked with juniors and sophomores.

"David plays in a lot of local events and some Top-Flite events," Zavatsky said.

Meronoff was disappointed the team didn't take home the top hardware, but was encouraged by the effort with the sectional tournament just around the corner. The Crusaders will be part of the Ohio Division III Eastern District Sectional Tournament at Willandale Golf Club in Sugarcreck a week from Tuesday.

"We came up a little short, but we'll be ready for the tournament," he said.

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SPORTS

Potters cruise to OVAC 4A golf title

• St. C.'s Vannoy takes runner-up medalist

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING – Regardless if it was the heat, the challenging Jones Course at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club or the balance of the Class 4A field, nothing was going to stand in the way of the East Liverpool Potters Tuesday afternoon.

The talented and deep Potters' golf team cruised to its second consecutive Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title, beating runner-up Meadowbrook by 36 shots and third-place St. Clairsville by 39 strokes.

"These guys have played pretty steadily all season long and this kind of score has been about the norm for us," said Potters' head coach Ben Wright.



"We've got about two or three tournaments before the sectional and hopefully we're able to keep playing this way."

For East Liverpool, the title was just the second in school history.

Fueling the Liverpool score was a trio of all-OVAC players, which consist of the top five in each division.

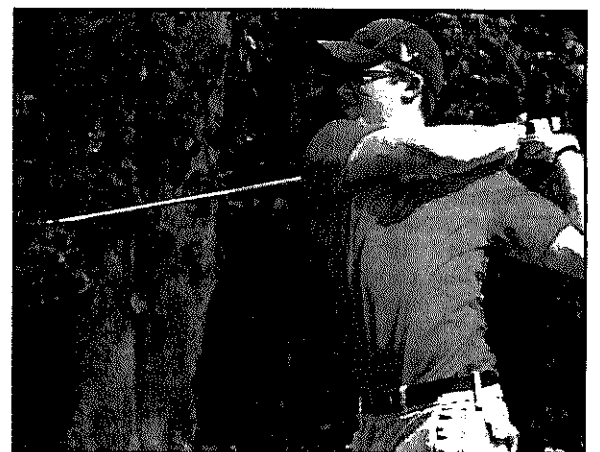
Senior Blake Prince, who is headed to Cleveland State University, notched his third consecutive OVAC medalist finish, posting an impressive 1-over round of 73.

"It feels great to win again," Prince said. "I played really consistently. Outside of a couple of bad holes, I thought I played well. The course was in great shape, the ball rolled real well on the greens. but the wind made it so



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

ABOVE: St. Clairsville senior Seth Vannoy marks his ball on the 14th green during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Tournament at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club. Vannoy fired a round of 75, which tied for second. He won the runner-up medalist plaque in a playoff. **BELOW LEFT:** Martins Ferry's Taylor Shane tees off on the 12th hole. **BELOW RIGHT:** Union Local's Tristan Bruce watches his tee shot on the 14th. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*



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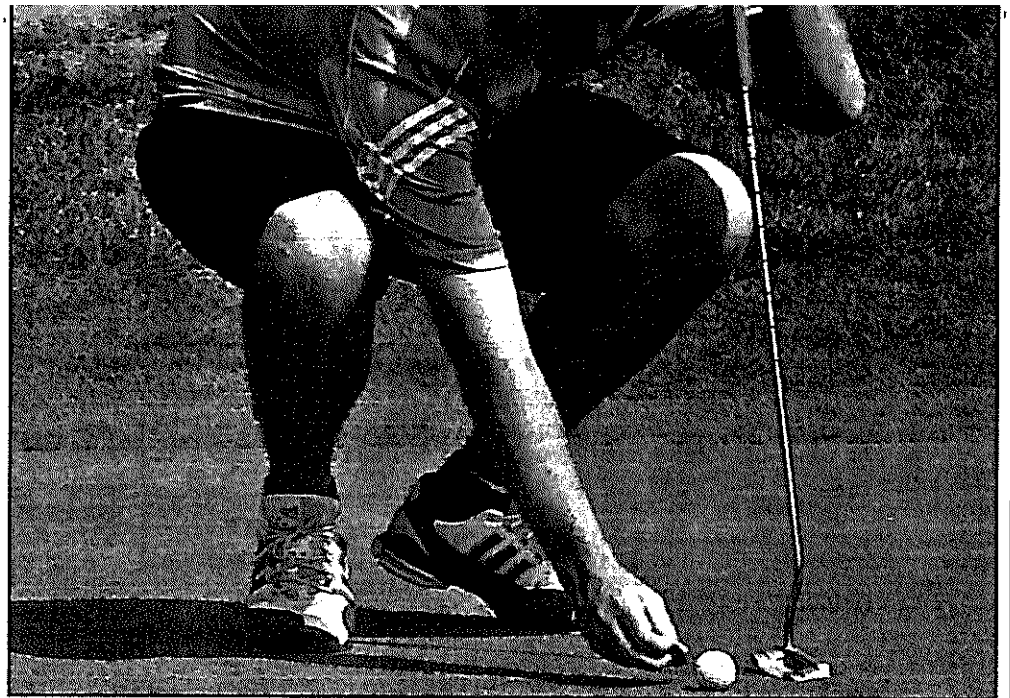
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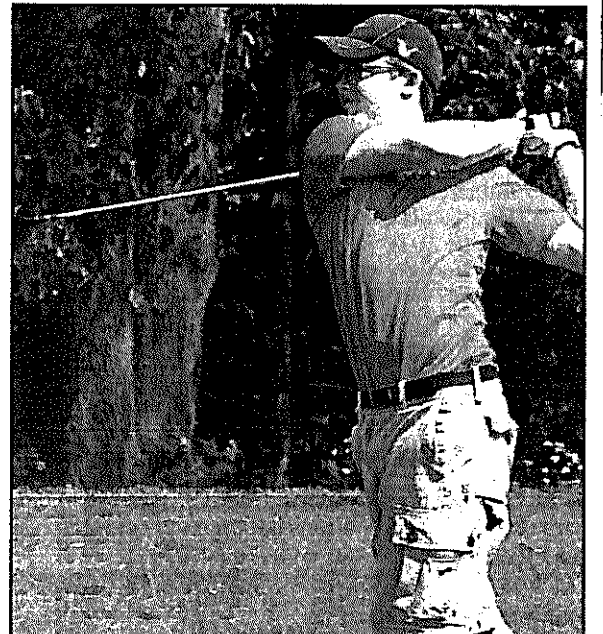
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See, 4A, Page B2



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

ABOVE: St. Clairsville senior Seth Vannoy marks his ball on the 14th green during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Tournament at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club. Vannoy fired a round of 75, which tied for second. He won the runner-up medalist plaque in a playoff. **BELOW LEFT:** Martins Ferry's Taylor Shane tees off on the 12th hole. **BELOW RIGHT:** Union Local's Tristan Bruce watches his tee shot on the 14th. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



Madonna, Wheeling CC win small-school crowns

By **DAVE MORRISON**
For The Times Leader

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Gentleman's game?

The tournament was by then all but decided.

Wheeling Central and Madonna had already easily, and as expected, wrapped up team titles.

There was one thing left to decide. The 2A

medalist title.

The combatants were not in the mood for any polite talk. So the barbs ripped.

It was not an affront to the unwritten rules of golf. The two duffers are best friends.

As the final scores were being tabulated, Justin Leonard and Thomas Stanley waged a mano-a-mano duel for the coveted medalist plaque.

"I told him, 'I hope you duff this chip,'" Stanley said, grinning.

"Secretly, I was hoping he would hit a bad shot," Leonard shot back.

Aloud, Stanley was hoping for a little tightness in the backside during his teammate's shot.

As it turned out, the aptly named Leonard won the hole, with a birdie, which was just fine by Stanley.

"Losing to my teammate and best friend on the team is OK," Stanley said. "If it had been someone on another team I probably would end up leaving a little bit mad. I'm glad it was him. And he earned it with a birdie. I had a par."

"I was a little nervous, but if I lost, and it was (Stanley) I lost to to, it would have been OK," Leonard said. "We both had great rounds. And we won the team trophy. That was the important thing."

Indeed, Central did win the 2A team title.

See, **GOLF**, Page B2.

● Golf

Continued from Page B1

With relative ease.

Leonard and Stanley had 73s while teammates John Haley and Sean McFarland had a 74. They were the top four All-OVAC 2A finalists. Bridgeport's Zack Herink and Shadyside's Jake Gregan had 79s and were also named to the All-OVAC team.

"We're a senior-led team and that was the two seniors in the (medalist) playoff," coach Ed Cihy said. "It was up to the kids to do the work and they did that. When you have two 73s and two 74s, that shows they were focused. I'm proud of them. They swing the clubs, they make the shots."

Another team swinging the clubs was Madonna, which won its fifth straight OVAC 1A golf title.

Michael Rogers had his best round at Crispin, with a 70, to earn 1A medalist.

"It means a lot because I lost (the medalist title) to my teammate last year (Nick Mazur)," Rogers said. "To win it my senior year is special."

Rogers' finish was hotter than the blazing sun, which shot temperatures into the 90s. It did not affect Rogers, whose score settled at 70 when he birdied his final three holes.

He needed it to hold off Bishop Donahue's Stephen Gretchen, who carded a 71.

Rogers was joined on the All-OVAC 1A team by

Gretchen, teammates Thomas Gianni (72), Mazur (73), Beallsville's John Deitrich (73) and Conotton Valley's Brandon Busby (74).

"I'm not sure he knew he needed those final three birdies, but I did tell him it was close," Madonna coach T.J. Brancazio said. "Coming in, I knew it was going to be close. That's his second straight 70, so he is playing his best golf right now."

So is Madonna, which made collected that fifth straight trophy.

"I'm very proud of these kids," Brancazio said. "With these guys I never know who is going to shoot the low round. This is our conference title so there is always a high priority placed on it. The other teams are getting better. There were a lot of nice rounds by some other No. 1s today. We're happy to be able to win it again."

The Blue Dons did it with relative ease. Again. Of the schools fielding complete teams, Conotton Valley was the closest to Madonna is 1A with a 348, 56 strokes behind the winners.

"I had a feeling that I was going to have a good round," Rogers said.

"I felt good on the range and it followed me on the course. I've never played Crispin this well so I'm happy."

● 4A

Continued from Page B1

a team that went to state last year, so we're in a position to hopefully make another run in the postseason," Wright said. "I think every tournament we've played this year we've had Blake, Isaac and Joey in the 70s. These kids really push each other and they want to beat each other, too."

Meadowbrook finished three shots ahead of St. Clairsville for the runner-up spot. However, Red Devils' senior Seth Vannoy, who was a member of the Devils' state tournament team in 2012, took the runner-up medalist over Meadowbrook's Nate Frencik in a one-hole playoff.

Both Vannoy and Frencik signed for rounds of 3-over 75, but Vannoy edged the Colts' senior in the playoff, which was staged on the 10th hole.

"I didn't putt real great today, but I hit 13 greens (in regulation), so something was going right for me," Vannoy said. "In the playoff, I was just hoping to keep it in play, hit the green and two putt for par. When I had the short putt for par to win, it was in the back of my mind that I hadn't putt very well, but I was able to make it when I had to."

The OVAC Golf Championships resume on Thursday at Oglebay Park when Class 3A plays at Crispin and Class 5A plays on the Jones Course.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

● 4A

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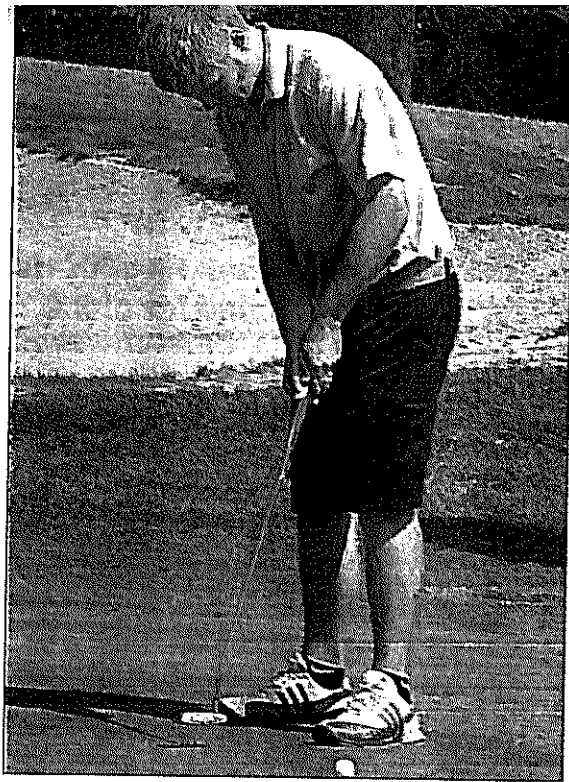


Photo by Seth Staskey

St. Clairsville's Seth Vannoy putts during competition on Oglebay's Jones Course.

East Liverpool Throttles 4A Competition

St. C. finishes in third place, Vannoy runner-up medalist

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer
WHEELING

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See GOLF, Page 16



Photos by Dave Morrison

Top: Madonna's Michael Rogers follows through on a drive during the OVAC Tournament Tuesday.

Bottom: Central's Justin Leonard watches his putt on the green.

Knights, Dons Are Crowned

Madonna pockets fifth straight golf title

By DAVE MORRISON
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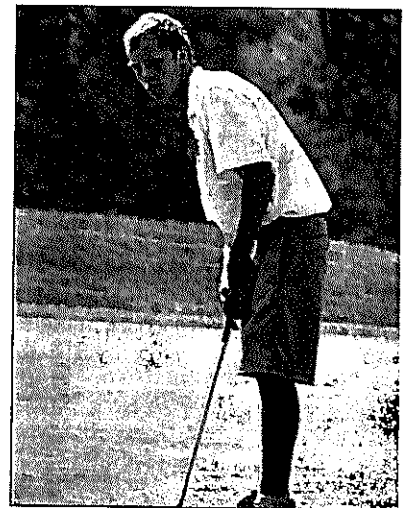
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CROWNED

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Linsly wins 3A golf title

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

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Well, most everyone who follows high school golf in the Ohio Valley.

So, there they were Thursday dodging the raindrops at the OVAC Class 3A Championship at Oglebay's Crispin layout. And, just like everyone figured, the Crusaders and Cadets stood atop the leaderboard.

But this time, it was the group from the Woodsdale campus that walked away happy.

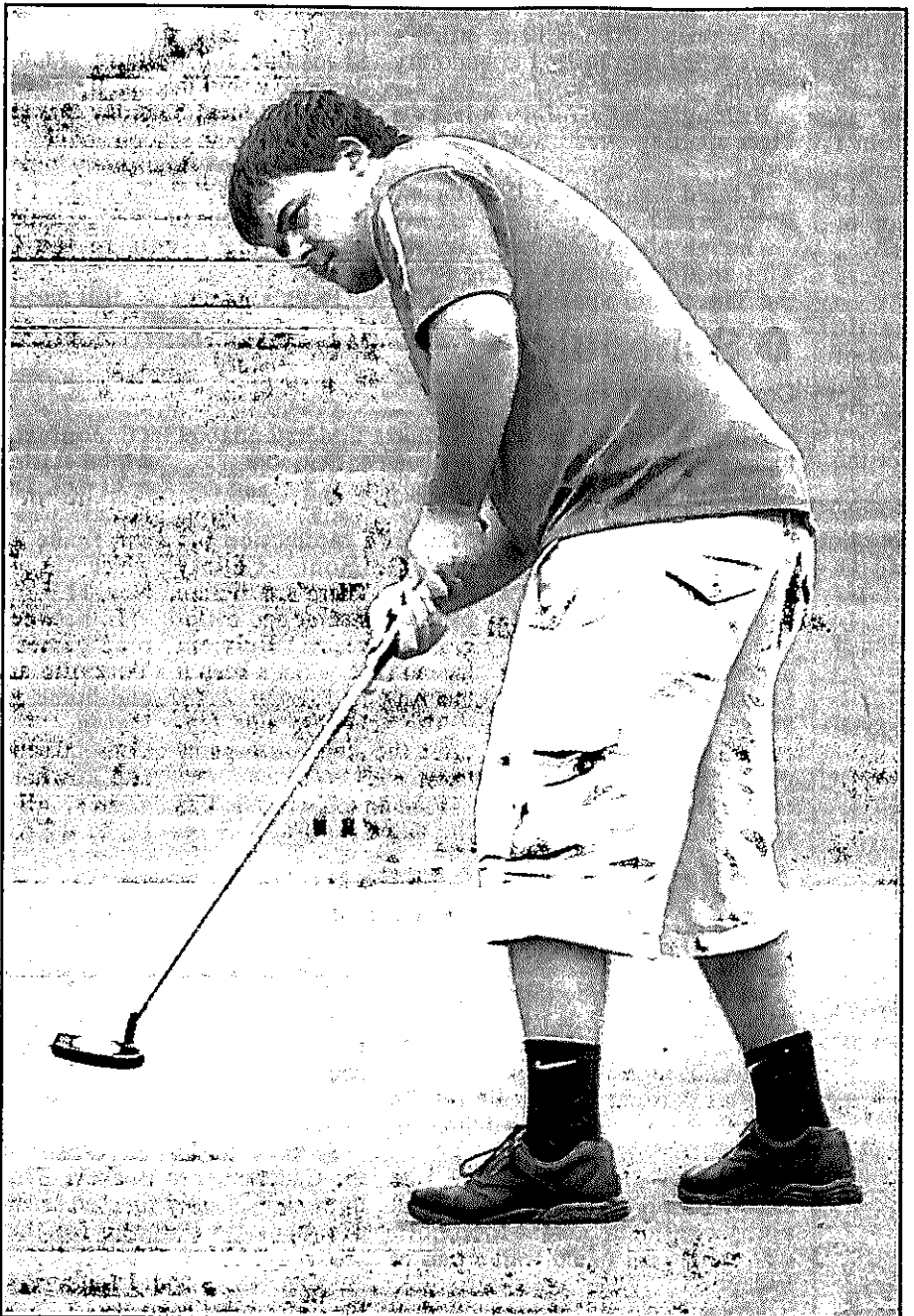
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T-L Photo/RICK THORP

BARNESVILLE'S SAM Leach watches a putt on the 18th green Thursday. Leach paced the Shamrocks with a 97. *View additional images at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

See, LINSLY, Page B2

Golfers Vie For Top Spot

OVAC tournaments set to begin play

By TONY VIOLA
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Like most of his golfers, Don Headley has been pretty consistent in his time at Wheeling Park.

OVAC Golf

Today

1A-2A,

(Crispin)

4A

(Jones)

Thursday

3A

(Crispin)

5A

(Jones)

*all 9:30 a.m.
starts

In his first five years of coaching the Patriots, they've won five OVAC championships, making it the second time Park has won five straight titles since the start of the 21st century.

On Thursday, they'll try to go 6-for-6, a feat the Patriots of the early 2000s failed to accomplish.

"It means a great deal," Headley said. "That's been the kid's goal. This whole thing started five years ago with a different group, but these kids want to carry on that tradition."

They'll get the chance on Oglebay's Jones Course where the 5A tournament is set to tee off at 9:30 that morning.

Park returns last year's 5A and W.Va. AAA state medalist in junior Cole Hand as well as Dylan Wojcik, who finished third on the team in last

Please See OVAC, Page 16

OVAC

(Continued from Page 15)

year's tournament as a freshman.

Wojcik will be Park's No. 2 man, while freshman Kyle Wenzel and sophomore Freddie Fitzsimmons will fill in at No. 3 and No. 4, respectively.

"We're very young," — the Patriots have no seniors on their roster — "but some (players) have experience," Headley said. "We've been playing pretty well recently. The kids' chemistry is very, very good. They're excited."

Despite a solid group of contenders, Headley knows it won't be easy for the Patriots.

Parkersburg South and University both have strong, experienced teams. The Wood County Patriots actually beat Park for the Three Rivers Athletic Conference championship — the first time the Ohio County Patriots haven't won the TRAC title.

South's Alex Schreckengost and the Hawks' Cale Wheeler will be Cole's top competition, as well as Brooke's Logan Lojszyk and Cambridge's Skyler Roederer.

"The kids have been practicing and getting ready for this tournament," Headley said. "They're ready to defend."

The same can be said for Madonna as coach T.J. Brancazio's Blue Dons will try to win a fifth consecutive 1A title this morning on Oglebay's Crispin Course.

The Blue Dons, who won last year by 49 strokes, have everyone back — five players were all-OVAC last year, led by

senior Michael Rogers, though teammate Nick Mazur is the defending medalist. Alex Colantonia, Matthew Lyons and Thomas Gianni rounded up that group. Gianni's score was among the top five in the class, but because they take only the top four, it wasn't counted on Madonna's total.

Meanwhile, in Class 4A, East Liverpool will look for back-to-back championships as it captured its first league title in school history last year to break St. Clairsville's two-year run as the toast of the class.

The Red Devils, though, will look to return to the top spot today on the Jones Course after they claimed the Buckeye 8 Championship behind medalist Seth Vannoy. St. Clairsville was also the only team in that tournament to have three players finish in the Top 10 with Nathan Teater sixth and Joel Giffin 10th.

Linsly will look to move up a spot from the its runner-up finish a year ago in Class 3A. The Cadets, who returned six of their top seven players from that squad and are looking to bring a title home for the first time since 2007, will be in action Thursday on the Crispin Course, while in 2A, Wheeling Central enters the tournament today as defending champs after claiming last year's crown to make it two out of the past four years the Maroon Knights have won it.

The 2A tournament will be held in conjunction with 1A as both classes will play on the Crispin Course starting at 9:30 a.m.

● Schedule

Continued from Page B1

Now, when Mahaffee found the schedule it wasn't in the best shape. It's brittle and looks to have been taped at least once. So, to make sure no more damage was done to it, Mahaffee had an 8x11 copy made and framed. That copy hangs near the front of the Shady Spot for all patrons to see.

"I really didn't want too many people touching the original," Mahaffee explained.

That's understandable. It's quite an heirloom.

One side of the card promotes W.T. (Tom) McCort's re-election bid for Belmont County Auditor. There's a picture of the democrat and a slogan that reads "Belmont has no debt - let's keep it that way."

The schedule side features the slate, with game times, etc.

First on the schedule was the game Saturday, Sept.

16 contest at Bellaire, which started that year at 2:30 p.m. There was another 2:30 p.m. start, the season finale at Barnesville, which was played Saturday, Nov. 11.

In between, there were road games at Dennison, Yorkville and Bridgeport and home games against Union, Warren

Consolidated, St. Clairsville and Powhatan. The night games, all on Fridays, began at 8 p.m.

As for Saturday's game, Mahaffee, a 1984 Shadyside High grad, hopes the Tigers come out on top. He hopes to attend, but might not be able to because of work.

"It'll be an interesting game," he said. "I think the stadium will be filled to capacity. I know that much."

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PREP GOLF

O'VAC Class 5A Golf Championships
 (at Robert Trenton Jones Course)
 Parkersburg South 305, Wheeling Park 312,
 University 321, Cambridge 356, Beaver
 Local 367, Brooke 370, Morgantown 387,
 Edison 413, Indian Creek 421

John Marshall 436.
P — Adeona Sheers 72; Schroekengost 74; Smith 79; Doley 80; W — Wentzel 74; Hersh 79; Williamson 79; Wolck 83; U — Wirth 72; Treaster 84; Volharder 80; Weigand 85; C — Williams 81; Ronsler 86; Fildner 82; Bruner 97; 98 — Wilson 83; Carr 90; Moore 94; Hildebrand 98; Lolezyk 82; Teaff 89; Patrosky 99; Gilham 136; M — Hamm 89; Green 99; Burrens 89; Tanner 101; E — March 97; Pendleton 89; Boyd 105; Woodward 112; I — Doley 97; Foltz 98; House 103; Freshwater 123; J — Blake 100; Masters 109; Pettit 110; Griffith 117.

All-O'VAC (Top-5 Finishers)
 1. Adeona Sheers, Parkersburg South (72*); 2. Eric Worth, University (72); 3. Kyle Wentzel, Wheeling Park (74); 4. Alex Schroekengost, Parkersburg South (74); 5. Cole Wheeler, University (74).

O'VAC Invitational playoffs
 (at Ogden Park Club, Columbus, Pa. 7/1)
 Linsley 299; Strawnville 300; Conasa 32; Magnolia 339; Buckeye Trail 354; York 369; Corbett dated 369; Fort Frye 371; Barnesville 404; Monroe Central 412.

L — O'Korn 72; Corran 73; Patrick 74; Songar 80; S — Austin Meronoff 89; Manfresca 71; Merriman 80; Benser 82; M — Moore 77; Statkey 83; Durig 84; Mason 95; Bu — Burga 78; Archer 82; Davis 90; Markel 104; T — Kemp 88; Pratt 90; Cooner 95; Lancaster 96; F — Schilling 97; Brooker 87; Martin 98; Huck 101; B — Leach 97; Carpenter 98; Bauman 101; Senoff 108; Blackstone 88; Gramm 89; Ormth 116; Roberts 119.

All O'VAC (Top 5, including ties)
 1. Austin Meronoff (SSC) 69; 2. Mike Manfresca (CC) 71; 3. Casey O'Korn (LH) 72; 4. Dan Corran (LH) 73; 5. Jordan Patrick (LH) 74.
REGULAR SEASON

GIRLS

Claymont 177; Tri Valley 182
 Barnesville 211
 B — McEndree 55; Norris 55; Bauman 56; Hayes 50; Flood 54; Butler 51.