

River claims first OVAC volleyball title

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE – There was a time not so long ago when an OVAC crown was simply a dream for the River High School volleyball program.

Ah, how times have changed.

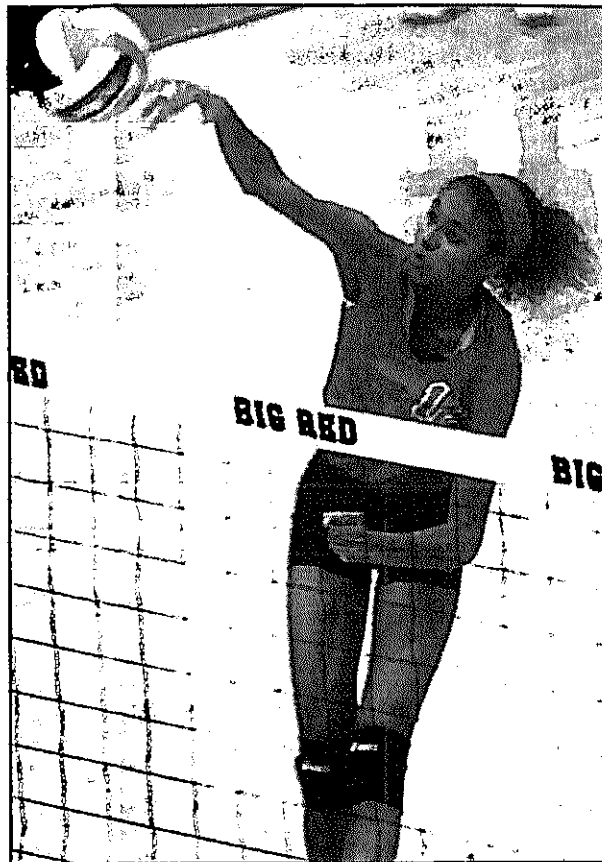
Four years removed from a 1-19 campaign, the Pilots are OVAC 2A champions, thanks to a 25-9, 25-23 victory against Bridgeport on Saturday night inside The Crimson Center.

“To come from there to this is unbelievable,” River head coach Jim Turner said following the conclusion of the OVAC Volleyball Tournament.

“This is something we talked about all through the season.”

Saturday marked River’s first appearance in the tournament in 25 years and the Pilots made the most of it, jumping out strong on the regular-season champions in the first game and then coming through when it counted

See, RIVER, Page B2



RIVER’S Jensen Caretti goes up for a spike during Saturday night’s OVAC Class 2A volleyball title match against Bridgeport. The Lady Pilots swept the Lady Bulldogs for their first conference title. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER

St. John wins Class 1A volleyball crown

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE – With no regular-season meeting against Madonna to use as a template, St. John head volleyball coach Carrie Ramsay was somewhat at a loss heading into Saturday evening’s Class 1A championship match at the OVAC Volleyball Tournament.

But sometimes what you don’t know can’t hurt you. And that proved to be the case as the Irish came out of The Crimson Center with a cherished 25-17, 25-22 victory and program’s first crown since 2010.

“It feels like a dream,” said Ramsay, the first-year coach moments after posing for a team photo with her players and the championship trophy.

“Right now, I’m just pinching

myself.”

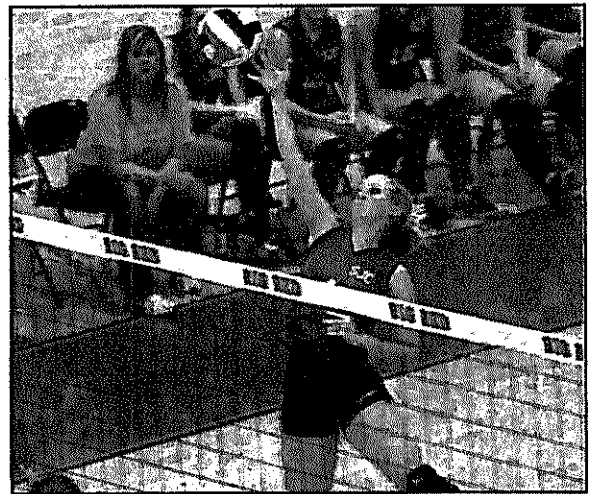
It was the fourth championship in school history and Ramsay became the fourth different coach to lead the Irish to a title. Chuck Probst coached the 1997 winners, while Donnie Murray and Ron Kelly led the 2009-2010 champs, respectively.

“I knew we had a lot of talent,” said Ramsay, who had her grandparents in her thoughts as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary without her.

“I knew that as long as we kept our heads in the match we’d be up there and we really did it (Saturday). I just knew we could do it.”

After virtually being blown out in the first game of the semifinal match against Paden City upstairs in the Joseph Stern Gymnasium, the Irish

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ST. JOHN’S junior Caitlin Sliva goes up for a shot during Saturday night’s OVAC Class 1A volleyball title match. The Lady Irish prevailed.

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stormed back to win the final two games there and then carried over that momentum to the final. "That was a major turning point," Ramsay said.

Especially on such a big stage. "At the beginning of the year, I thought they would fall apart (in a situation like that). But they kept their heads in the match, picked each other up when they needed to and got the job done.

"We played our hearts from then on. I'm very proud of them." Caitlin Sliva led a balanced attack for the Irish, scoring nine points and having six kills. Amber LaMotte and Emily LeMasters each scored five points, Sydney

Helms had 11 assists, Jessica Alvey had eight kills and Karlee Vostatek had seven assists.

"It takes everyone when you win a championship," Ramsay said.

Amanda Paul had 13 digs for the Blue Dons, while Chloe Connor dished out 12 assists and Monica Bragg had nine kills.

The only lead Madonna mustered in the first game was 1-0. Then, in the second, it never led. But it did forge four ties and kept things close throughout. But, like in its match against Paden City, St. John showed its mettle and stood strong when it had to.

"We weren't quite sure what to

expect (from Madonna)," Ramsay said. "But everyone stepped up to the plate, all contributed and played well."

The Irish (18-4) hit the Division IV sectional tournament trail starting Tuesday with a match against Bridgeport at 5:30 p.m. at Barnesville High School.

Ramsay said the OVAC title certainly came at the right time.

"It's huge," she said. "We needed that confidence and now they know they can perform at this level. I think it will guide us."

Consolation Final
Trinity d. Paden City
25-23, 23-25, 26-24

Jensen Scott had 12 points and

six digs and Marlee Keenan had 11 points and 10 kills as Trinity edged Paden City for third place.

Julie Williams added 13 points for Trinity.

Taylor Cospser had 16 points and 24 assists for the Wildcats. Myah Charkawi added 14 points, Megan Pierce had 12 points, Haley Hizer collected 11 points and eight kills and Graeson Baker recorded 10 points and eight kills.

Semifinals
St. John d. Paden City
10-25, 25-16, 25-19

Lindsee Perry had 10 points and seven digs as St. John rallied past Paden City.

Helms added seven points and six assists, while LaMotte and Sliva each had five points.

Cospser scored 20 points and had 17 kills for the Wildcats, while Pierce had 12 points.

Madonna d. Trinity
20-25, 25-19, 25-14

Connor amassed 18 assists and Paul had 15 digs as Madonna got past Trinity.

Bragg added 10 kills for the Blue Dons.

Scott scored 13 points for Trinity, while Keenan and Hannah Vecchio each scored 12 points.

Thorp can be reached at rthorp@timesleaderonline.com

● River

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late.

"(The team) did a great job when things weren't going well and they fought through it," Turner said. "Great, great job. Great bunch of kids ...hard workers."

The Pilots certainly brought their lunchpails Saturday night and the foreman of the group - Jensen Caretti - sealed the deal with a flurry of points in the latter moments of the second game.

"She is tremendous," Turner said. "She's a tremendous talent and she has a bunch of great players with her. This is definitely a team victory."

Caretti finished with 18 kills and 12 digs. MacKenzie Wade had 16 points and 12 digs. Amanda Bennett added 11 points and Monica Curtis added 23 assists and 10 digs. Curtis, MacKenzie Marshall and Brissa Marshall all scored six points.

The Pilots showed just how deep their talent well flowed when they played the title match without Brielle Williams, who was injured in the semifinal victory against Clay-Battelle.

Brissa Marshall and Tiffany Conners took her place.

"They stepped in and they really stepped up," Turner said. "They key for us was really playing as a team."

River (13-8) had little trouble with the Bulldogs in the first game, but struggled in the second.

With the two squads tied at 3-3, Caretti started the Pilots on a 2-0 run and, from there, River maintained a slight advantage.

Then, near the midway point of the match, Bridgeport rallied to knot things at 16-16. From there, the game saw-sawed and the Bulldogs eventually took their first lead of the match at 19-18.

River later tied the match and went ahead 23-21 on a Caretti point.

Bridgeport tied things at 23-23 before Caretti powered the Pilots down the stretch.

Briana Massey scored five points for the Bulldogs (15-8), while Alyssa Cook had 16 assists and Maclaime Murad had 10 digs.

"We just made some critical mistakes at some wrong times," Bridgeport head coach Ron Kelly said. "That big girl over there (Caretti) played really well."

Bridgeport and River both open Division IV sectional tournament play Tuesday night at Barnesville. The Bulldogs face St. John at 5:30 p.m., while the Pilots take on Frontier in the evening's second match.

Consolation Final
Frontier d. Clay-Battelle
22-25, 25-20, 25-17

Corisa Fickiesen had 11 points and 13 kills as Frontier topped Clay-Battelle.

Semifinals
River d. Clay-Battelle
25-15, 25-9

MacKenzie Marshall had 13 points and 16 digs and Wade scored 10 points as River took care of Clay-Battelle in quick fashion in Steubenville High's Joseph Stern Gymnasium.

Curtis added 15 assists and 14 digs for the Pilots and Caretti had 14 kills and nine digs.

Bridgeport d. Frontier
25-20, 25-23

Massey had 16 points in Bridgeport's victory against Frontier.

Murad added 15 digs for the Bulldogs, while Cheyenne Flowers scored eight points and Cook had nine assists.

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Semifinals**Edison d. Morgantown**

25-19, 25-16

E — Jarvis 7 pts., 9 kills, 5 blocks; Williamson 3 pts., 3 kills; Brenstuhl 4 pts., 6 kills, 24 assists, 3 blocks; Gill 5 pts., 5 kills; Pollock 9 kills; Neal 8 pts..

M — C. Parks 3 pts., 6 assists; S. Parks 4 pts., 5 assists; Wassick 4 kills; Shreeves 3 kills; Gantzer 3 pts., 3 kills, 5 digs; Hartman 3 pts.

Indian Creek d. Parkersburg South *

25-13, 25-15

I — Martin 8 pts., 6 kills, 6 digs; Sullivan 10 digs; Davis 9 pts., 9 digs; LaRue 6 digs; Berryman 3 blocks; Kamarec 3 pts.; Fithen 4 kills, 3 digs; Furda 7 pts., 5 kills, 14 assists, 5 aces, 5 digs.

P — Ratliff 10 assists, 8 digs; Somerville 13 digs; Harper 4 digs; Rexroad 5 kills; Williams 4 pts., 6 digs; Boso 3 kills.

Class 4A**Championship****Oak Glen d. Meadowbrook**

15-25, 25-9, 25-11

O — Williams 8 pts., 16 assists; Rosenlieb 10 assists; Juszczak 7 kills; Stivason 9 pts., 10 kills, 3 aces, five blocks; Poling 10 pts., 11 kills, 6 digs; Hissam 9 pts., 9 kills, 5 digs;

M — Black 9 kills, 4 digs; Cottle 3 digs; DeLong 4 digs; Graham 6 pts., 3 aces; Hunt 21 assists; Modro 10 kills; Singleton 6 kills.

Consolation**Steubenville d. East Liverpool**

25-18, 25-22

S — Biasi 3 pts., 6 digs; Taylor 9 pts., 4 kills, 7 assists, 3 digs; Young 3 pts., 5 kills, 9 assists, 2 digs; Nehrbas 4 pts., 4 kills; Bodo 4 digs; Rice 3 kills; Barker 8 pts., 3 aces, 3 digs.

E — Cowart 3 kills, 4 blocks; Craig 4 pts., 3 kills; Golden 8 digs; Voorhees 6 assists; Davis 9 kills; White 7 pts., 12 assists.

Semifinals**Meadowbrook d. Steubenville**

17-25, 25-23, 25-19

M — Black 3 pts., 13 kills, 3 blocks, 6 digs; Cottle 6 pts., 8 kills, 9 digs; Graham 4 pts., 4 kills, 30 assists, 3 digs; Modro 3 kills, 3 blocks; Singleton 11 kills.

S — Biasi 7 pts., 9 digs; Taylor 5 kills, 10 assists, 7 digs; Young 8 points, 8 kills, 9 assists, 5 digs; Nehrbas 8 pts., 6 kills, 6 blocks; Bodo 3 kills, 3 assists, 8 digs; Rice 4 kills, 4 blocks; Barker 3 pts., 9 digs.

Oak Glen d. East Liverpool 25-23, 25-9

O — Williams 6 pts., 14 assists; Rosenlieb 6 pts., 4 kills; Juszczak 6 pts.; Stivason 4 pts., 4 kills, 4 blocks; Delekta 4 assists, 5 digs; Poling 6 pts., 9 kills, 6 blocks; Hissam 7 kills.

E — Cowart 4 kills; Ward 4 kills; Craig 5 pts., 10 digs; Voorhees 4 pts., 10 assists; Davis 8 kills; White 3 kills, 10 assists.

Class 3A**Championship Match****Shenandoah d. Buckeye Trail**

20-25, 25-21, 26-24

B — Beros 10 pts, 12 digs; J. Hensley 5 pts., 10 kills, 8 digs; Starr 6 pts., 17 kills, 6 blocks, 6 digs; Wheeler 8 pts., 3 kills, 13 digs; Burga 2 pts., 28 assists, 13 digs.

S — Wukelich 10 pts., 17 kills, 14 digs; Kasper 8 pts., 15 kills, 10 blocks, 19 digs; Cowgill 3 kills, 15 digs; King 5 pts., 17 assists, 16 digs; Rossiter 2 pts., 2 kills, 5 digs.

Consolation Match**Tyler Consolidated d. Magnolia**

25-15, 25-12

T — Carpenter 8 pts., 4 kills, 4 aces; Cline 8 assists, 5 digs; Reed 6 pts., 5 kills; Fish 4 pts., 7 kills, 4 blocks, 7 digs; West 7 pts., 4 digs.

M — M. Chapman 4 kills, 1 block, 5 digs; Cline 2 pts., 12 assists, 1 block; Fowler 4 kills, 6 blocks, 3 digs; Gibb 3 pts., 1 ace, 5 digs; Standiford 2 kills, 2 blocks.

Semifinals**Shenandoah d. Tyler Consolidated**

25-18, 25-14

T — Carpenter 3 pts., Cline 4 pts., 8 assists, 5 digs; Fish 3 kills, 3 digs; Reed 3 pts.; Fletcher 5 digs.

S — Rossiter 7 pts., 5 kills, 3 aces, 4 blocks; Wukelich 5 pts., 6 kills, 4 digs; King 10 assists, 4 digs; Kasper 3 pts., 12 kills, 3 blocks, 9 digs.

Buckeye Trail d. Magnolia

24-26, 25-22, 25-23

B — Beros 8 pts., 3 kills, 13 digs; J. Hensley 10 pts., 14 kills, 3 aces, 10 digs; Starr 10 pts., 12 kills, 3 blocks, 20 digs; Burga 5 pts., 30 assists, 12 digs; Wheeler 6 pts., 3 kills, 5 digs.

M — M. Chapman 12 pts., 15 kills, 7 blocks, 12 digs; Cline 11 pts., 33 assists,

aces, 9 blocks, 5 digs; Pride 7 pts.; Shriver 3 digs; Tennant 4 pts.

Semifinals**Bridgeport d. Frontier**

25-20, 25-23

B — Flowers 8 pts., 5 kills, 4 aces, 8 digs; Crook 9 assists; Millard 4 kills; Massey 16 pts.; Murad 6 pts., 15 digs.

F — Dominiak 4 digs; Haught 5 blocks; Hinton 8 pts., 9 assists, 14 digs; Viney 9 pts.; Keith 5 pts., 3 kills, 4 digs; Fickiasen 7 pts., 8 kills, 3 aces, 4 digs; Bowersock 4 pts., 5 digs.

River d. Clay-Battelle

25-15, 25-9

R — Bennett 9 pts.; Curtia 5 pts., 15 assists, 14 digs; M. Marshall 13 pts., 5 aces, 16 digs; Wade 10 pts., 3 aces, 6 digs; Caratti 4 pts., 14 kills, 5 blocks, 9 digs; Williams 6 digs; B. Marshall 3 digs.

C — Haught 7 digs; Wolfe 3 pts.; Holmes 6 assists; Carreon kills, 3 blocks; Bryner 5 digs; Pride 3 pts., 3 kills, 6 digs.

Class 1A**Championship****St. John d. Madonna**

25-17, 25-21

S — Alvey 3 pts., 8 kills, 4 blocks; Froelich 9 kills; Helms 2 pts., 11 assists; LaMotte 5 pts., 5 digs; Lemasters 5 pts.; Sliva 9 pts., 6 kills; Vostatek 7 assists.

M — Paul 13 digs; Pietranton 7 digs; Sellitti 4 digs; Thompson 3 digs; Conner 12 assists, 5 digs; Bragg 9 kills.

Consolation**Trinity d. Paden City**

25-23, 23-25, 26-24

T — Vecchio 7 pts., 4 digs; Jordan 7 pts., 9 digs; Staud 5 digs; Scot 12 pts., 3 assists, 6 digs; Halapy 6 pts., 3 kills; Keenan 11 pts., 10 kills, 4 assists, 8 digs; Williams 13 pts., 7 digs.

P — Charkawi 14 pts., 4 aces; Baker 10 pts., 8 kills; Hizer 11 pts., 8 kills; Pierce 12 pts.; Cosper 16 pts., 24 assists; Blatt 9 pts., 8 kills.

Semifinals**Madonna d. Trinity**

25-21, 25-19, 25-14

M — Paul 16 digs; Pietranton 4 pts., 4 aces, 7 digs; Sellitti 4 pts., 9 digs; Kaczmarek 4 pts.; Thompson 3 pts., 4 digs; Conner 4 pts., 3 kills, 18 assists; Bowser 3 pts., 3 kills; Bragg 3 pts., 10 kills.

T — Vecchio 12 pts., 3 kills, 6 digs; Jordan 10 pts., 5 digs; Staud 5 pts., 7 digs; Scott 13 pts., 4 kills, 4 digs; Halapy 6 pts., 14 kills; Keenan 12 pts., 4 kills, 20 assists, 8 digs; Williams 16 pts., 6 kills, 15 digs.

St. John d. Paden City

25-10, 25-17, 25-19

S — Alvey 13 digs; Froelich 5 kills, 7 blocks; Helms 7 pts., 6 assists; LaMotte 5 pts., 7 digs; Lemasters 3 blocks; Perry 10 pts., 7 digs; Santinoceto 6 digs; Sliva 5 pts., 10 digs.

P — Charkawi 7 pts; Baker 8 pts., 4 kills; Hizer 8 pts, 3 kills, 3 assists; Pierce 12 pts., 8 kills; Cosper 20 pts., 3 kls, 17 assists; Blatt 6 pts., 7 kills.

REGULAR SEASON**Monroe Central d. Barnesville 28-26,**

25-16, 25-21

M — Marley 8 kills; Ball 5 kills; Miller 5 kills, 9 digs; Baker 17 points, 10 aces, 8 digs; Dimmerling 5 points, 7 assists; Knuchel 5 points; Dick 9 assists, 3 blocks.

B — Plumly 13 kills; Rolston 8 kills; Broomhall 6 points, 15 assists; Roberts 5 aces; Huntsman 13 assists.

PREP SCORES

LOCAL

Linsly 47, Western Reserve Acad. 10
Paden City 27, Conotton Valley, Ohio 0
Valley Wetzel 26, Bellaire St. John 0
Bellaire 38, St. Clairsville 28

WEST VIRGINIA**PREP FOOTBALL**

Parkersburg Catholic 37, S. Harrison 14
Washington 63, Skyline, Va. 0

OHIO**PREP FOOTBALL**

Akr. Ellet 23, Akr. Buchtel 2
Akr. SVSM 41, Day, Thur. Marshall 12
Beachwood 48, Richmond Hts. 9
Can. Glenoak 10, Can. McKinley 7
Cle. Benedictine 31, Ment. Lake Cath. 21
Cle. Cent. Cath. 56, Cle. Hts. Luth. E. 0
Cle. Glenville 56, Cle. John Marshall 0
Cle. John Adams 26, Cle. Rhodes 7
Cle. VASJ 18, Garfield Hts. Trinity 3
Fost. St. Wendelin 20, Troy D., Mich. 14
Norwalk St. Paul 68, Plymouth 20
Oak Hill 14, Portsmouth Notre Dame 6
Par. Hts. Holy Name 26, Warren JFK 19
Shaker Hts. 50, Medina 30
Youngs. Christian 41, Vermillion 28

OVAC volleyball champions crowned at Steubenville HS

TRACY WATSON
The Times Leader

STEBENVILLE - For the past three seasons Shenandoah has advanced to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference volleyball tournament only to leave with disappointment and frustration.

That all changed Saturday morning as Coach Shannon Leasure's Zeps defeated past defending Class 3A champion Tyler in the semifinals before holding off Guernsey County rival Buckeye in the championship match inside the Crismon Center at Steubenville.

Shenandoah actually watched Trail in the first set of the title game, 25-

20, before taking the second by a 25-21 margin and rallying late to win the third, 26-24, and hoist the trophy after a classic three-set victory over the youthful Warriors.

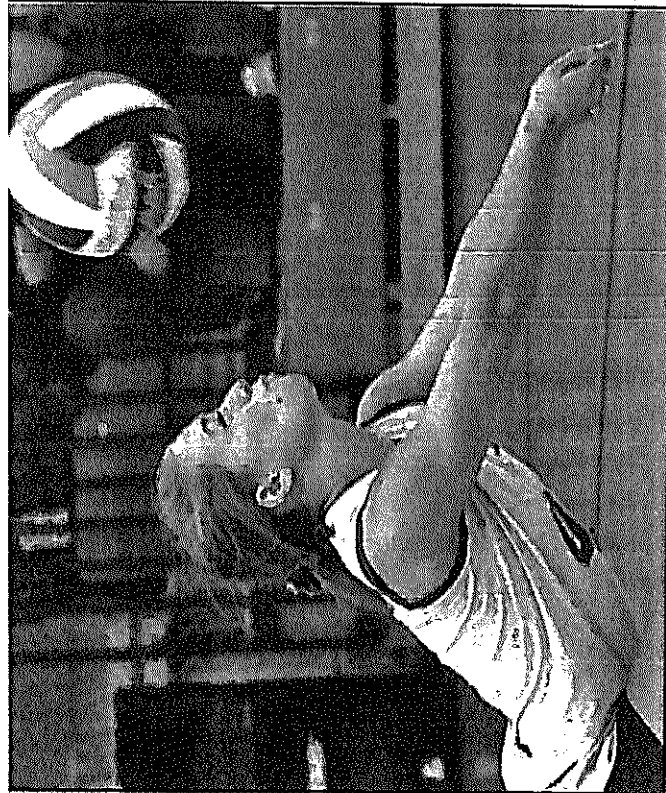
The top-seeded Zeps advanced to the championship match by breezing past the Silver Knights, 25-18, 25-14 while Buckeye Trail (17-5) was busy holding off Magnolia, 24-26, 25-22, 25-23. Tyler Consolidated (22-5) dominated the Blue Eagles (15-5), 25-15, 25-12 in the consolation match.

Beating a team three times in a season is not an easy thing to do, shutting them out three times is even harder, something Shenandoah (18-3) quickly found out in its match against the

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ST. JOHN libero Amber LaMotte digs a ball out during the Lady Irish Class 1A semifinal victory against Paden City. St. John advanced to meet Madonna in the 1A final. Complete coverage of the match can be found at timesleaderonline.com and in Monday's edition.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



Continued from Page C1

Warriors. The two squads had already met twice before Saturday with the Zeps picking up three-set wins in each against a Trail team that features only one senior and four quality freshmen.

The Zeps led most of the way in the finale, even going up by six points, 19-13, at one juncture only to watch Buckeye Trail battled back and take a 21-20 lead. The Warriors eventually pushed the count to 24-22 and was on the brink of bringing home the title before Shenandoah zipped off the final four markers for the victory.

CLASS 4A

Oak Glen captured the title by toppling defending champion Meadowbrook in three games. The Lady Colts captured the opener, 25-15, but Oak Glen rallied to post 25-9 and 25-11 verdicts to prevail.

The Lady Golden Bears were led by Carissa Williams' eight points and 16 assists. Morgan Poling had 10 points, 11 kills and six digs. Vanessa Hissam had nine points and nine kills.

Morgan Modro led Meadowbrook with 10 kills. Sydney Black had nine kills and four digs.

Steubenville upended East Liverpool, 25-16, 25-12 to win the consolation match.

Oak Glen defeated East Liverpool in the semifinals, 25-23 and 25-9, while Meadowbrook upended Steubenville, 17-25, 25-23 and 25-19.

CLASS 5A

Indian Creek notched yet another OVAC title as it spiked Edison in three games by scores of 25-22, 23-25 and 25-17.

The Lady Redskins were led by Bre Berryman's 15 kills, 10 blocks and two digs. Kiarra Kamarec added six blocks, four points and two kills. Jessica Furda donated 25 assists. Bethany Davis had seven points and seven kills. She also had 13 digs.

Edison was paced by Cassidy Jarivs' 17 kills. Caitlin Brenstuhl had 20 assists, five points and three kills. Katelyn Pollock had nine points, eight assists

for the victory.

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Edison was paced by Cassidy Jarivs' 17 kills. Caitlin Brenstuhl had 20 assists, five points and three kills. Katelyn Pollock had nine points, eight assists and six aces. Kalee Neal added 11 points.

Parkersburg South finished third by defeating Morgantown in the consolation match, 25-23, 27-25.

Edison defeated Morgantown in one semifinal, 25-19, 25-16. Indian Creek got by South, 25-13 and 25-15.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Class 1A and 2A Tournaments were still in progress when The Times Leader went to press. Complete coverage of those classes can be found online at timesleaderonline.com and in Monday's edition.

Wheeling Park	11	8	19	798	42.00
John Marshall	8	9	17	606	35.65
Beaver Local	7	11	18	532	29.58
Brooke	8	12	20	548	27.40
University	5	14	19	308	16.21
Cambridge	3	15	18	170	9.44

CLASS 4-A

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
Oak Glen	19	1	20	1492	74.60
Steubenville	13	6	19	940	49.47
Meadowbrook	12	6	18	810	45.00
East Liverpool	10	7	17	750	44.12
St. Clairsville	12	6	18	762	42.33
Martins Ferry	10	7	17	682	40.12
Union Local	6	12	18	374	20.78
Buckeye Local	2	15	17	124	7.29
Weir	2	14	16	112	7.00
Harrison Central	1	18	19	58	2.95

CLASS 3-A

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
Shenandoah	15	3	18	1016	56.44
Magnolia	14	2	18	818	51.00
Buckeye Trail	15	4	19	952	50.11
Tyler Consol.	17	3	20	938	46.90
Barnesville	15	4	19	888	46.74
Fort Frye	14	4	18	792	44.00
Steubenville Cath.	13	6	19	744	39.16
Bellaire	8	10	18	460	25.56
Monroe Central	7	11	18	388	21.56
Linsly	3	17	20	140	7.00

CLASS 2-A

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
Wellsville**	15	4	19	680	35.79
Bridgeport	11	7	18	533	29.61
River	10	8	18	506	28.11
Clay Battelle	9	5	14	318	22.71
Toronto	8	12	20	396	19.60
Frontier	6	12	18	276	15.33
Caldwell	5	13	18	250	13.89
Wheeling Central	3	16	19	144	7.58
Shadyside	2	17	19	68	3.58
Cameron	1	14	15	34	2.27

CLASS 1-A

School	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
Madonna	15	2	17	718	42.24
St. John Central	16	3	19	758	39.89
Paden City	13	7	20	578	29.90
Trinity Christian	10	10	20	484	24.20
Bishop Donahue	10	10	20	428	21.40
Conotton Valley	7	10	17	304	17.88
Beatsville	4	13	17	200	11.76
Hundred	4	10	14	140	10.00
Valley	3	9	12	114	9.50
East Richland	2	11	13	60	4.62

** - Not eligible for the OVAC Playoffs
OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 (at Steubenville on Saturday)

CLASS 3-A
 9 a.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Shenandoah vs. No. 4 Tyler Consolidated
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 Magnolia vs. No. 3 Buckeye Trail
 Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 4-A
 11:30 a.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Oak Glen vs. No. 4 East Liverpool
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 Steubenville vs. No. 3 Meadowbrook
 Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 5-A
 2 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Indian Creek vs. No. 4 Parkersburg South
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 Edison vs. No. 3 Morgantown
 Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 1-A
 4:30 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Madonna vs. No. 4 Trinity Christian
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 St. John Central vs. No. 3 Paden City
 Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 2-A
 7 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Bridgeport vs. No. 4 Toronto
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 River vs. No. 3 Clay Battelle
 Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semif-

OVAC Volleyball

OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 (at Steubenville on Saturday)

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 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 5-A

2 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Indian Creek vs. No. 4 Parkersburg South
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 Edison vs. No. 3 Morgantown

Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 1-A

4:30 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Madonna vs. No. 4 Trinity Christian
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 St. John Central vs. No. 3 Paden City

Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

CLASS 2-A

7 p.m. Court No. 1 - No. 1 Bridgeport vs. No. 4 Toronto
 Court No. 2 - No. 2 River vs. No. 3 Clay Battelle

Winners advance to Championship Finals on Court No. 1 immediately following semifinals
 Losers advance to the Consolation Finals on Court No. 2 immediately following semifinals

B

Sunday News-Register

OCTOBER 13, 2013

SPORTS

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Zeps Claim OVAC Class 3A Volleyball Crown

Shenandoah sweeps Trail in straight sets

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — For the past three seasons Shenandoah has advanced to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference volleyball tournament only to leave with

disappointment and frustration.

That all changed Saturday morning as Coach Shannon Leasure's Zeps rolled past defending Class AAA champion Tyler Consolidated in the semifinals before holding off Guernsey County rival Buckeye Trail in the championship match at Steubenville High School.

Shenandoah watched Trail win the first set, 25-20, before taking the second

by a 25-21 margin and rallying late to win the third, 26-24, and hoist the trophy after a classic three-set victory against the youthful Warriors.

The top-seeded Zeps advanced to the championship match by breezing past the Silver Knights, 25-18, 25-14 while Buckeye Trail (17-5) was busy holding off Magnolia, 24-26, 25-22, 25-23. Tyler Consolidated (22-5) dominated the

Blue Eagles (15-5), 25-15, 25-12 in the consolation match.

After dropping its first set of the season to the Warriors, and facing elimination, Shenandoah bounced back with a 25-21 victory to set up the deciding showdown in the final set. The Zeps led most of the way in the finale, even going

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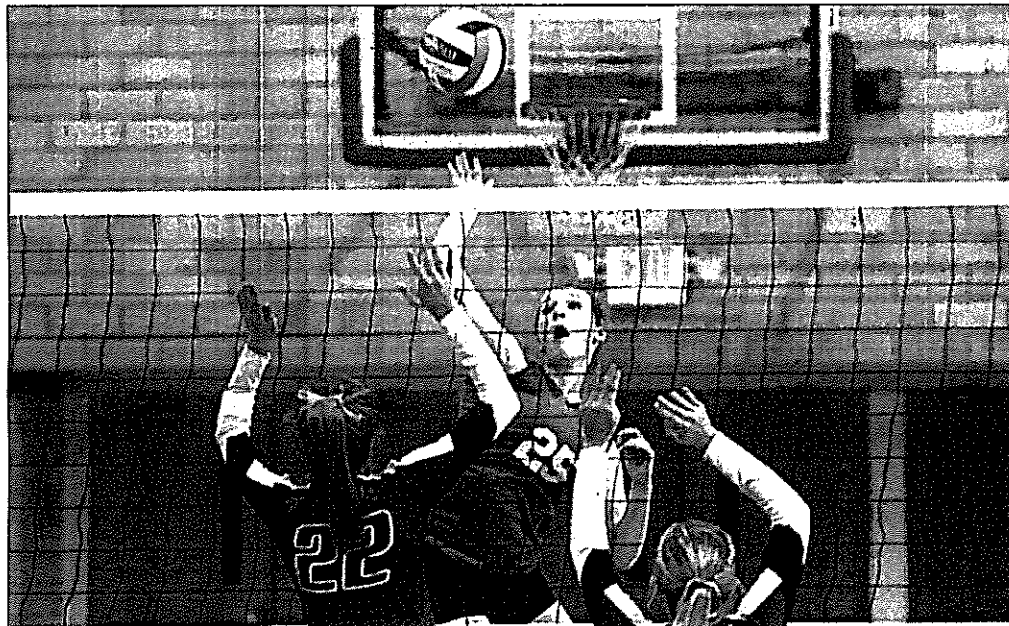
Bears Match Mark

Oak Glen wins seventh title

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — Oak Glen got the Meadowbrook monkey off of its back.

The top-seeded Oak Glen volleyball team showed why it was the top seed in the OVAC Class 4A Tournament on Saturday as it shook off a



St. John's Emily LeMasters goes up for a spike against the defense of Paden City's Haley Hizer in a semifinal match.

Photo by Mike Palmer

Pilots Down Dogs

River wins first trophy since '88

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — River captured its first OVAC Volleyball Tournament championship Saturday night by topping Bridgeport 25-9, 25-23 in the Class 2A title tilt inside The Crimson Center.

It was the Pilots' first trip to the tournament

Oak Glen wins seventh title

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE — Oak Glen got the Meadowbrook monkey off of its back.

The top-seeded Oak Glen volleyball team showed why it was the top seed in the OVAC Class 4A Tournament on Saturday as it shook off a shaky first set to rally and to defeat the third-seeded Colts, 15-25, 25-9, 25-11, in the inside the Crimson Center.

"It's wonderful," Oak Glen (24-3-2) coach Ethel Riser said. "We played Meadowbrook, and this is the third time in the last three years we have played them. This is the first time we have won. It is really special."

The Golden Bears have won seven tournament

See, 4A, Page B2



goes up for a spike against the defense of Paden City's Haley Hizer in a semifinal match.

Photo by
Mike Palmer

St. John Is Class 1A's Best

Fighting Irish knock off defending champ

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — If for whatever reason the OVAC Volleyball Championship Tournament was played a few weeks ago, the result of the Class 1A final may have been different.

Madonna, the reigning champion, was just caught on a bad day.

"It was a long day," Blue Dons coach Jennifer Ewusiak said.

With the OVAC regular-season title already ensured, Madonna entered the tournament at Big Red's Crimson Court with a 15-game winning streak.

It continued with a three-set victory against Trinity Christian in the semifinals.

"I told the girls to overcome the nerves of playing in a big tournament against a very good team," Trinity coach Jennifer Hefner said.

On Sept. 24, the Blue Dons beat

the Warriors in two sets as part of three-team set with Wheeling Central.

"I thought we improved a lot since then," Hefner said.

Trinity collected eight-straight points in Game 1, overcoming an early four-point deficit, to win, 25-21. The Blue Dons had to fend off a five-point streak in Game 2 to but held on, 25-19, to force a deciding third game, which they won, 25-14.

See, 1A, Page B2

RIVER WILDS MISS trophy since '88

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE —

River captured its first OVAC Volleyball Tournament championship Saturday night by topping Bridgeport 25-9, 25-23 in the Class 2A title tilt inside The Crimson Center.

It was the Pilots' first trip to the tournament since 1988 and capped a tremendous turnaround for a program that finished 1-19 four years ago.

"They did a great job when things weren't going well," River coach Jim Turner said. "Great, great job by our kids. We have a great bunch of kids ... hard workers."

Jensen Caretti had 18 kills and 12 digs for the Pilots (13-8) and closed things out with a pair of spikes.

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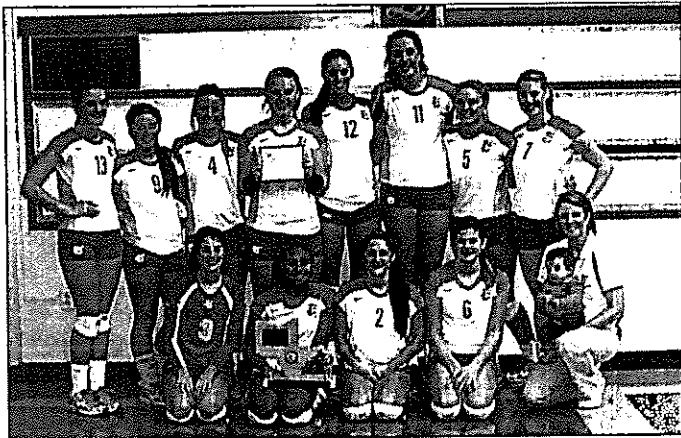


Photo provided

The Indian Creek volleyball team poses with the trophy after winning the OVAC Class 5A title Saturday.

Indian Creek Captures 5A Title

Redskins avenge loss in 2012 semifinals

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — The Indian Creek and Edison volleyball trilogy came to a thrilling finish.

In the end, the top-seeded Redskins were able to pull away down the stretch to hold off the second-seeded Wildcats, 25-22, 23-25, 25-17, to win the OVAC Class 5A Tournament title Saturday night inside the Crimson

Center.

"It was a fantastic match," Edison (16-6) coach Leah Eft said. "It always is with them."

The title was the Redskins' sixth, and the first under current coach Crystal Hammack. Indian Creek won five straight tournament titles from 1997-2001 under the guidance of former coach Erin DeSantis.

"It's huge," Hammack said. "It is one of our goals. It is one of the goals the kids set for themselves this season."

"It is a testament to how hard our kids play and how hard they

work."

The Wildcats have also won six tournament titles with the last one coming last season. Edison defeated Indian Creek in the semifinals en route to that crown.

Individually for Indian Creek (18-2), Bethany Davis scored seven points to go along with seven kills, 20 assists and 13 digs, Whitney Martin netted five kills, six blocks and 10 digs and Jessica Furda recorded seven points, 25 assists and four digs.

See, 5A, Page B2

2A

Continued from page B1

"Jensen is a tremendous talent and she has a bunch of great players around her," Turner said. "This is definitely a team win."

Mackenzie Wade paced River with 16 points and added 12 digs. Amanda Bennett added 11 points and Monica Curtis had 23 assists and 10 digs. Curtis, MacKenzie Marshall and Brissa Marshall all scored six points.

"The key for us was

playing as a team," Turner said.

River had little trouble with the Bulldogs (15-8) in the first set, but the second was a different story.

With the two squads tied at 3-3, Caretti started the Pilots on a 3-0 run and, from there, River maintained a slight advantage.

That was until the midway point of the set where Bridgeport rallied to tie the score at 16-16. From

there, things see-sawed back and forth and the Bulldogs taking their first lead of the match at 19-18.

River tied the match and eventually jumped ahead 23-21 on a Caretti point.

Bridgeport was able to tie things at 23-23 before River pulled away.

Briana Massey scored five points for the Bulldogs, while Alyssa Cook had 16 assists and

Maclaine Murad had 10 digs.

"We just made some critical mistakes at some wrong times," Bridgeport coach Ron Kelly said. "That big girl over there (Caretti) played really well."

Consolation Final

Frontier d. Clay-Battelle
22-25, 25-20, 25-17

Corisa Fickiesen had 11 points and 13 kills as Frontier topped Clay-Battelle.

Emily Hinton added 27 assists for the Cougars.

3A

Continued from page B1

up by six points, 19-13, at one juncture only to watch Buckeye Trail battled back and take a 21-20 lead. The Warriors eventually pushed the count to 24-22 and were on the brink of bringing home the title before Shenandoah zipped off the final four points for the victory.

"I am so glad we came out on top of this one," a smiling Leasure said. "We have won three PVC championships in a row and been here the last three years only to come up short. The girls really stepped up and I am just very proud of them."

Jeff Beros, meanwhile, echoed Leasure's thoughts on his squad.

"Games like this are why you play spring and summer games to get ready for," the Trail coach said. "We had our chances, but overall the good news is that we had more positive plays than not so great ones. We didn't win a set against them in our regular-season games, but I think (Saturday) was a real tribute to this team."

Things looked like they were going to go Magnolia's way early, however, that quickly changed and Coach Pam Chapman's squad found themselves not only losing in the semifinals, but also to arch-rival Tyler Consolidated in the consolation game.

Down by seven points to Trail in the first set of their semifinals, Big Blue scored the final eight points, seven off the serve of freshman Kelsi Chapman and strong net play from junior Kiera Standiford to capture a hard-fought 26-24 victory.

But the Warriors turned the tables in the second set, trailing for much of the set and looking like they might be headed for the consolation match themselves. Beros' crew rallied to advance. Trail's first lead of the set came at 18-17 and they never trailed again, in either of the final two matches.

Facing an upset Tyler Consolidated team, who had come to defend its title only to lose in the semifinals,

PREP ROUNDUP

Magnolia was never able to regain its composure and watched the Silver Knights sweep them away.

"I really believe the Trail game took a lot out of us," Pam Chapman said. "It was a hard-fought game and we expended a lot of energy and it was just so hard to bounce back. When they got the tables turned on us we lost all of our momentum."

Regular Season Monroe Central d. Barnesville

28-26, 25-16, 25-21

WOODSFIELD — Carly Baker put together a line of 17 points, 10 aces and eight digs while Katelyn Dimmerling added five points and seven assists as Monroe Central (9-12) swept Barnesville (15-6).

Kelsey Dick produced nine assists and three blocks for the Seminoles, while Erin Miller registered five kills and nine digs.

Leading the way for the Shamrocks were Layna Broomhall (six points, 15

Irwin scored two goals in Park's victory against Washington at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Jonathan Benson had the other goal for Park and Stanley Czahoroski and Anthony Chapman had assists.

Ryan Seidewitz was in goal but did not have any saves. The visiting Patriots (9-8-1) had just one shot against Park's stingy defense.

Benson Capriola had Washington's lone goal and goalkeeper Becker Junkin had seven saves.

No. 6 Park (12-3-2) plays host to Weir on Tuesday evening ahead of a big matchup with No. 1 George Washington at 1 p.m. Saturday on the island.

GIRLS'

Madonna 4

John Marahall 1

WEIRTON — Rachel Grubbs recorded a hat trick and Tessie Tokash made four saves as Madonna (9-7-1) took care of John Marahall.

4A

Continued from page B1

titles, moving into a seventh-place tie with Skyvue for the most in history. Buckeye Trail leads the way with 13 tournament titles.

The Golden Bears also won the Class 4A regular season title this season.

Individually for Oak Glen in the final, Morgan Poling produced 10 points, 11 kills and six digs, Vanessa Hissam scored nine points to go along with nine kills and five digs and Jessica Stivason ended up with nine points, 10 kills, three aces and five blocks.

Individually for Meadowbrook (14-8), Morgan Modro recorded 10 kills, Baylee Graham tallied six points and three aces and Sydnie DeLong ended up with four digs.

"They just had different kids," Riser said when asked if Meadowbrook did anything differently than it has

in the prior matchups the last couple of years. "It is the mental game. They beat us the last two years. It got into their heads that they could beat us again, but then we started playing our game.

"I just had to remind them about what we have done and who we are. We are the No. 1 team and not the No. 3 team. They decided to play ball."

Oak Glen advanced to the finals by defeating No. 4 seed East Liverpool, 25-23, 25-9 in the third meeting between the teams this season.

Meadowbrook advanced to the final by defeating No. 2 seed Big Red, 17-25, 25-23, 25-19, inside the Joseph Stern Gymnasium.

After the loss to the Colts, Big Red bounced back and defeated the Potters, 25-16, 25-22, in the consolation final.

5A

Continued from page B1

Also, Kiarra Kamarec contributed four points, six blocks and three digs, Martina Marko produced nine points and Bre Berryman ended up with 15 kills and 10 blocks.

"Most of our kids are healthy," Hammack said. "We have not been healthy all year. Our outside hitter (Martin) got hurt (Saturday), and we had to mix our lineup in the third set. We are fortunate with the team that we have that we are

able to rotate players in to fill positions."

Individually for Edison, Katelyn Pollock collected nine points, eight kills and six aces, Caitlin Brenstuhl tallied five points, three kills and 20 assists and Cassady Jarvis recorded 17 kills and three blocks.

The Wildcats were on the verge of being swept in the second set, but Edison's veteran leaders came through in the clutch to force a third and deciding game.

1A

Continued from page B1

Monica Bragg had 10 kills against the Warriors, while Amanda Paul tallied 16 digs. Chloe Conner added 18 assists, four points and three kills.

Emily Pietranton scored four aces, with seven digs.

Madonna could have used a time machine before taking on St. John in the championship match.

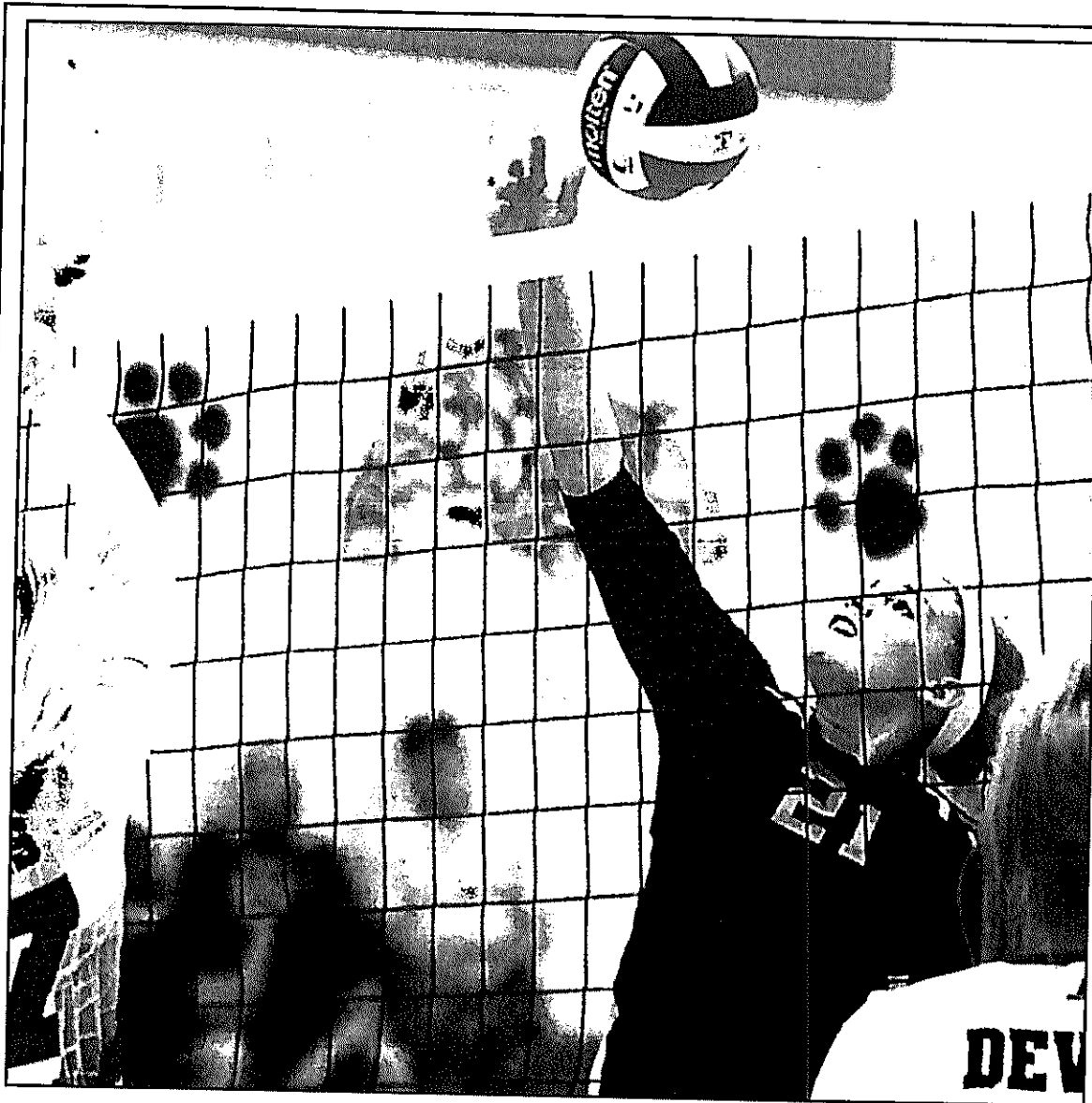
The Fighting Irish edged Paden City in three sets before taking on the defending champs.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect," St. John coach Carrie Ramsey said, "but they really stepped up to the plate."

Madonna fell in two sets, 25-17 and 25-22.

"Some of them were just getting their serves in," Ewusiak said. "There was not any movement. That was not one of the toughest teams we've come up against.

"Our blocks weren't very good. It was just a bad day."



BRIDGEPORT'S Maclaine Murad goes up for a return during a match earlier this season against Beallsville. Murad and the Lady Bulldogs are the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A Tournament, which is set for Saturday evening at Steubenville High School.

T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

OVAC Volleyball

Champions to be crowned Saturday

• Action begins at 9 a.m. at Steubenville H.S.; Bridgeport, River, SJC qualify

By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Volleyball season in the Ohio Valley is heading into tournament time without skipping a beat, without looking back and primed to take on the best of the best.

It all starts on Saturday morning at Steubenville High School's Crimson Center where the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will serve up another exciting round of championship volleyball and crown five class champions in the process.

It has been a sport that has been getting better and better each year and the teams have been more competitive with each new season. If you're looking for parity, there's no place but the OVAC five class races will you find a better example.

This year's races were so competitive and tight that in the final two weeks each race had six or seven teams still in the running to qualify for the championships on Saturday.

Class 5A was probably settled before the other five races with Indian Creek finishing as the No. 1 seed, neighboring Edison as the No. 2 seed followed by Morgantown and Parkersburg South in the three and four slots, respectively.

Indian Creek and Edison have been two of the premier programs in Eastern Ohio over the past few years and could find themselves battling in the finals in what would be a Buckeye 8 final. Both schools have been multiple OVAC champions in the sport and both are hoping to add a bit more hardware to the trophy

case.

Class 4-A had a very interesting race that came down to the last day of the season and bonus points. Of course, it was no mystery that Oak Glen was going to punch its ticket to the championships. Owing a 19-1 OVAC and having a nearly 30-point lead over the second-seed Steubenville, the Lady Bears will be the team to beat in the 4-A session. With Lynn Meyer's Lady Big Red holding the second seed, Meadowbrook and East Liverpool will be sitting in the next two spots.

Class 3A has been the most impressive of the five classes.

Seven of the 10 Class 3-A teams have 13 or more wins and pulling the top four

See, OVAC, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

from that group was a major task. Top-seeded Shenandoah has been hot all season and is hoping to stay that way heading into the post-season. Second-seeded Magnolia, 10-0 at one point in the season, has

been playing very well and has done so against a pretty tough schedule. Jeff Beros' Buckeye Trail squad has been a regular in the OVAC playoffs and come in as the No. 3 seed just ahead of Tyler

Consolidated. This class could be the most heated and exciting of the day.

Class 2-A is another session that will hard to pick a winner. With Wellsville opting not to participate in the tournament despite having the best record in the division, the four-team battle for the 2-A title is a real toss-up. Bridgeport has come back from a slow start to grab onto the top-seed while River's up-and-down season good enough to be a solid No. 2 seed. Clay-Battelle, despite the last season tragedy at the school will join Frontier as the other two seeds. The Lady Cee-Bees are coming in as the three-seed and Frontier will coming in as the No. 4 seed. Class 1A has an interesting look to it with two teams at the top that have amassed 15 and 16 wins, but no slouch of a team right behind in third. Madonna (with 15 wins at the cut-off) and St. John Central (with 16 victories at the cut-off) have been jockeying back-and-forth in the top spot all season and hold down the top two

seeds with Madonna at No. 1 and the Lady Irish at No. 2. Paden City will have the third seed with a 13-7 OVAC record while Trinity Christian holds the fourth spot.

Four of last year's champions return in hopes of repeating. Madonna was the 1A winner last season, Tyler Consolidated prevailed in 3A, Meadowbrook notched the 4A crown and Edison colared the 5A title. Steubenville Central was the 2A champion last season and moved up to 3A this season finishing seventh with a 13-6 OVAC record.

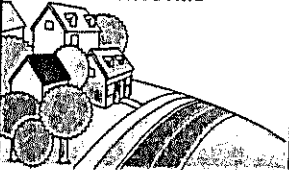
Doors open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday with the Class 3A semi-finals scheduled to start at 9 a.m. using two gyms.

In each class, the finals and consolation finals will start immediately following the semi-finals. The remainder of the Saturday lineup has semifinals starting at 11:30 a.m. for Class 4A; 2 p.m. for Class 5A; 4:30 p.m. for Class 1A and 7 pm. for Class 2A.

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