

Girls' OVAC pairings set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The path to the 2014 OVAC girls' basketball championship has been laid.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship Committee met Tuesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the brackets and set the consolation pairings for next week's girls tournament.

The semifinals are set for Monday night at the higher seeds' gymnasium and the survivors will then converge on Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center in St. Clairsville on Saturday, Feb. 8 for the title games.

The championship schedule is as follows: Class 3A (10:30 a.m.); Class 4A (12:30 p.m.); Class 5A (3 p.m.); Class 1A (5:30 p.m.) and Class 2A (8 p.m.).

The Bridgeport girls earned the top seed in Class 2A. The Lady Bulldogs,



who are up to fourth in this week's Division IV AP Poll, are currently 18-0.

"Most of our players have winning the OVAC as one of their team goals," said Bridgeport head coach Rob Zitzelsberger. "I expect us to play with intensity, play smart and give it our best effort."

Coach Rob Zitzelsberger team is led

by its talented trio of senior Nicole Smolenak, senior Maclaine Murad and sophomore Caitlyn Kroll.

The Lady Bulldogs have been on top of the 2A standings all season and are hosting for the second straight year. They fell to eventual champion Shadyside last season in the semifinals.

That loss to Shadyside has served as some motivation for Bridgeport during the off-season and throughout the regular season.

"Even though we finished with a good record after the game with Shadyside, we matured a little bit," Zitzelsberger said. "We played well enough to win that game, but didn't."

The Lady Bulldogs' reward is a date with fourth-seeded Wheeling Central, which has appeared in the last two 2A championship games. The Lady Maroon Knights are 8-5.

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● OVAC

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"Wheeling Central has a rich tradition," Zitzelsberger said. "Plus, they have a complement of good players and knowledgeable coaches, which spells trouble for the teams they play. They handled us very easily this summer and have only gotten better. I think it will be a good matchup."

In the other half of the 2A bracket, River earned bonus points from Monday night's action and leaped over Frontier for the second seed.

The Lady Pilots are 13-5 and played for the 3A crown last season, falling to Fort Frye. Frontier is currently 12-3 on the season.

In Class 4A, Steubenville won its first 17 games

before falling to Linsly last week and have had the top seed locked up for quite some time.

Big Red, which is now 18-1, is led by senior dandy Emiley Masloski, who recently went over 1,000 career points. Coach Phil Casinelli's team won the 4A title last season and will begin its quest for a repeat against fourth-seeded Oak Glen (11-4).

Harrison Central earned the second seed in the class. Coach Nick Yourkovich's team is 13-4. It will welcome upstart St. Clairsville, which finished third in the standings. The Lady Huskies and Lady Red Devils split their prior two meetings.

In Class 3A, the red-hot

Linsly Cadets grabbed the top seed. Coach Erica Hall's team dropped its season opener to Steubenville and hasn't tasted defeat since, reeling off 15 straight wins.

Linsly is led by its freshman duo of Vivian Allison and Jazzy Orth. Sophomore standout Morgan Brunner is also a key contributor.

Linsly will welcome fourth-seeded Magnolia, which comes into the tournament with a 9-6 record. The Lady Blue Eagles edged Barnesville for the fourth seed.

Fort Frye, which has won the last two 3A titles, finished second in the ratings and will host Shenandoah. Coach Dan Liedtke's team is 13-2, while the Lady Zeps are 10-6.

In Class 5A, Parkersburg South — the defending West Virginia Class AAA state champion — is currently 11-0 and grabbed the top seed in the big-school competition. The Lady Patriots are led by junior guard Taryn McCutchen, who is verbally committed to Michigan State.

The Lady Patriots will welcome Morgantown on

Monday. It was jumped the third seed by Ind Creek, which beat Un Local on Monday night. The Lady Redskins v trek to the city Morgantown to take on s ond-seeded and defend champion University.

In Class 1A, defend champion Conotton Val has steamrolled its way through the pre-OVAC portion of its schedule. The Lady Rockefs are 17-0 ranked sixth in the Division IV state poll.

Led by junior Olivia Bower, who recently won over the 1,000-point mark, Conotton is the top seed and will welcome four seeded Paden City, which facing better than a 2-hour trip to Bowerston.

In the other semifinal second-seeded Madon which won the tournament in 2011, will host Trin Christian, which won 2012.

A reminder, reser games are contested when applicable — during the semifinal and consolation games. However, title games are varsity or and OUE will be clear between games.

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No. 3 Frontier upsets No. 1 Bridgeport

By KIM NORTH

For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE

Timing has been said to be everything.

Well, unfortunately for Bridgeport, it picked the wrong time to play perhaps its worst game of the season late Saturday night.

The state-ranked and top-seeded Bulldogs (20-1) saw their perfect season go by the boards with a 46-44 loss to third-seeded Frontier (16-4) in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships' Class 2A final before a boisterous crowd inside the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"Obviously, we didn't play our best," Bridgeport coach

Class 2A

Rob Zitzelsberger said. "For 20 games we've been blessed to give our best outing, (Saturday) we didn't do that. You can tell just by looking at our free throws. We shot 7 of 13 and usually we shoot 75-76 percent.

Frontier, which claimed its first OVAC girls basketball championship, jumped out to an 8-0 lead and never looked back in leading 17-10 after one period and 25-22 at the half.

"This feels really good," Frontier coach Scott Murphy said. "OVAC Class 2A champions has a nice ring to it.

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Conotton Valley repeats

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE

Class 1A

The momentum of an overtime victory wasn't enough to stop a Rockets repeat.

The Conotton Valley girls' basketball team was clicking early and cruised to a 46-30 victory against Madonna in the OVAC Class 1A championship game Saturday.

"I thought we came out intense," Rockets coach Chandra Myers said. "We got off to a great start."

Conotton Valley forced 11 Blue Dons turnovers before they recorded their

first points. An Aubrey Platek layup at the 1:28 mark of the first quarter was the only bucket made by Madonna as it trailed 18-2 after the first eight minutes.

"They got us out of sync with our offense," Blue Dons coach Don Ogden said. "They took away a lot of the passing lanes and defended very well."

Madonna (10-8), which edged Morgantown Trinity 39-38 in overtime Thursday,

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ly focus on us a team. It works for us and keeps us in games when our shots

said Myers, a former player at Ohio University. "We

defender. She's a good ballplayer."

FRONTIER

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"This team has been tested the last few weeks in a couple of different ways, but they've responded each time."

Bridgeport, which was ranked No. 3 in the latest Associated Press Division IV poll, trailed by nine entering the final quarter. Behind Caitlyn Kroll, Nicole Smolenak and Maclaine Murad, the Bulldogs slowly, but surely, started creeping closer to the Cougars.

After Frontier missed the front end of back-to-back bonus situations inside a minute remaining, Murad meshed a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 43-42 with 34 seconds showing.

"The only thing that made me sweat a little bit was the two free throws we missed there late," Murphy

said.

Corisa Fickiesen hit the front end of a 1-and-1 just 11 ticks later to make it 44-42, but Kroll deadlocked things for the first time with two free throws at the 13.4-second mark. Murphy called a timeout to setup his last-second strategy, which was simple.

"Attack the basket," he said.

Fickiesen did just that. Taking the inbounds pass and avoiding a couple of Bridgeport defenders, she dribbled across the halfcourt stripe and down the right side of the lane where she softly kissed the ball off the glass and through the net for a 46-44 edge.

Bridgeport immediately called timeout, but Kroll's shot from about 25 feet was just off the mark.

"The game didn't come down to the last shot," Zitzelsberger said. "We lost the game early on."

"But to these girls' credit, they fought back and showed some character."

Kelsea Daugherty, the Cougars' 5-foot-10 senior center, had a double-double (13 pts., 10 reb.) to lead the winners. Point guard Jenna Maston added a dozen points while handing out four assists. Fickiesen finished with nine points.

Murad, who reached the 1,000-point plateau for her career early in the game, had 19 points to pace the Bulldogs. Kroll added 10 points, five rebounds, two steals and a pair of assists, while Smolenak had seven points and three assists. Briana Massey added six points and five boards.

OVAC Champs Crowned

Class 3A

Linsly wins in double overtime

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — You have to get up pretty early in the morning to beat Linsly.

Fort Frye found out 10 a.m. isn't early enough.

Morgan Brunner scored 21 points, including seven in the second overtime, as Linsly won the girls' Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 3A championship at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday morning.

It was Linsly's 190th OVAC sports championship, but the first in girls' basketball.

"We wanted this bad," said Brunner, who also 10 rebounds and four steals. "Especially after not even making it here (to the OVAC title game) last year. We wanted to make history and we did it."

Not that it was easy for the Cadets, who ran their winning streak to 19 and improved to 19-1 overall.

Linsly committed 27 turnovers, shot 24 percent for the game and found itself in a 9-0 hole to start the game.

"I told the girls (prior) to tipoff that there would be runs, I think I even mentioned nine," Linsly coach Erica Hall said. "So when we came to the bench during that timeout, I said we were going to be just fine."



Photo by Dave Morrison

Linsly's Vivian Allison (21) dribbles the ball during the Class 3A Championship game.

See, Linsly, Page B2

Huskies capture first title in school history

Class 4A

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Harrison Central came into the season with the goal of playing for championships in February.

It accomplished that and took it a step further Saturday afternoon inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University.

For the first time in school history, the Huskies can call themselves OVAC Girls' Basketball Champions.

Harrison Central reached the top of the Class 4A mountain thanks to a 66-58 victory against defending champion Steubenville.

"I told the girls that this is one no one in Harrison County will ever forget," Huskies coach Nick Yourkovich said. "I'll never forget the pure emotion on these girls' faces. I am just thrilled for these girls. This is just really special."

The Huskies played their style to get to the championship. They defended, utilizing more zone than maybe Yourkovich had expected, shot the ball fairly well and got production from several people.



Herald Star Photo

Harrison Central's Kara Dunfee drives toward the basketball as Steubenville's Lysiah Rice defends during the OVAC Class 4A Championship game.

minor injuries that didn't come off the floor."

The game featured 17 lead changes

"We wanted to keep within striking distance and we thought if we could do that, our depth was in our favor," Yourkovich said.

LINSLY

Continued from page B1

After that, it was a back-and-forth tilt that saw 16 lead changes and neither team had a lead of more than three points once the Cadets got the score to 9-6 at the end of the first quarter.

The final lead change came at the 1:32 mark of the second overtime, when Brunner canned a 3-pointer to put the Cadets up 43-41. She then rebounded a Fort Frye miss and calmly sank a pair of free throws to make it a two-possession game. Vivian Allison then ended it with a pair of free throws with 22.2 seconds left.

"She played a great game," Hall said of Brunner. "The thing I like to say about Morgan is she likes the spotlight. The great thing about this team is we have a bunch of Morgan Brunners."

Such as Allison, who had 16 points and hit a huge 3-pointer in the first overtime. Her trey answered a 3 by Makayla Liedtke that had given Fort Frye a short-lived lead and tied the game at 34-34.

"I'm not sure there was a bigger shot in the game than Viv's 3-pointer," Hall said.

Megan Liedtke had a pair of free throws to give Fort Frye the lead but Jazzie Orth, who was held to four points, answered with a pair when she was fouled with 1:06 remaining.

Neither team was able to capitalize forcing the second overtime.

The turning point might have come in the third quarter, when Linsly went into its full-court press. The constant harassment caused turnovers, something that

also haunted Fort Frye.

"We didn't do anything we haven't done all year but when we went to our press, we did start causing a few turnovers," Hall said. "With J.J. (Jackson) on top of our press, it is effective. She might be one of the best I've seen."

Jackson had three steals and Linsly had 14 as a team.

"There were so many so many times we never got a shot off because we had a turnover before we had the opportunity to get the shot," Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke said. "For this team here, I would never expect that. We couldn't handle the ball. Right from the beginning of the game we were turning the ball over and it never stopped."

Fort Frye had 13 field goals, and eight of them were 3s.

Linsly outbounded Fort Frye 27-13, another big factor in the overtime periods, when the Cadets of Fort Frye couldn't get many second-chance opportunities.

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Linsly's Vivian Allison (21) dribbles the ball during the Class 3A Championship game.

Photo by Dave Morrison

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See, Linsly, Page B2

Huskies capture first title in school history

Class 4A

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Harrison Central came into the season with the goal of playing for championships in February.

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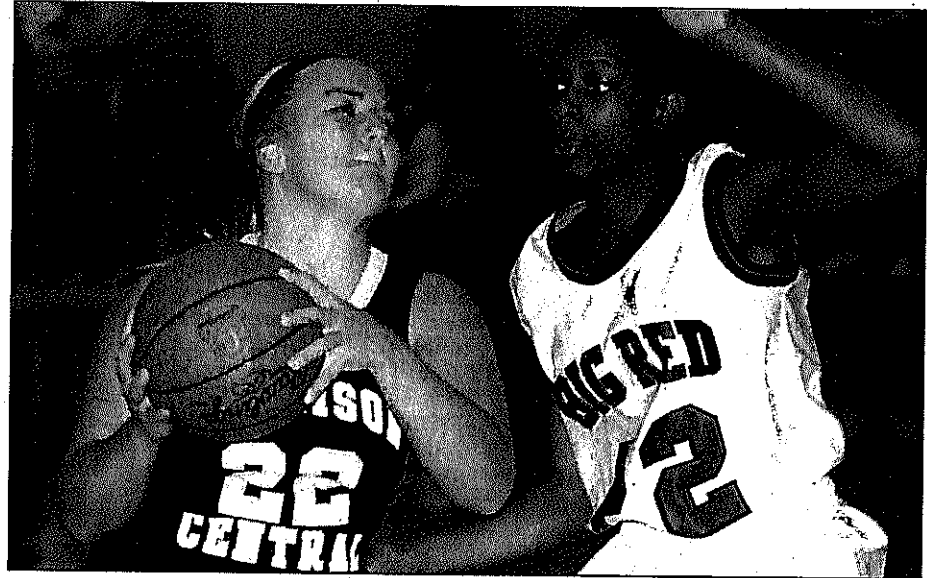
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"I told the girls that this is one no one in Harrison County will ever forget," Huskies coach Nick Yourkovich said. "I'll never forget the pure emotion on these girls' faces. I am just thrilled for these girls. This is just really special."

The Huskies played their style to get to the championship. They defended, utilizing more zone than maybe Yourkovich had expected, shot the ball fairly well and got production from several people.

"This was the type of game we expected," Yourkovich said. "Our girls gutted it out. We had some girls battling some



Herald Star Photo

Harrison Central's Kara Dunfee drives toward the basketball as Steubenville's Lysiah Rice defends during the OVAC Class 4A Championship game.

minor injuries that didn't come off the floor."

The game featured 17 lead changes throughout the first three quarters, but the Huskies grabbed the lead at 44-43 after three and didn't look back.

"We wanted to keep within striking distance and we thought if we could do that, our depth was in our favor," Yourkovich said.

See, Huskies, Page B2

N ● Huskies

Continued from Page C1

after Steubenville's Mytia Barker cashed two at the foul line. However, the Lady Huskies went on one of the runs they'd been using all season. They scored seven in a row.

The spurt was capped by senior sharpshooter Jesse Ledger. As Big Red was chasing trying to foul with the clock turning down toward a minute, Ledger got free on the wing and cashed in a bonus goal.

"That was the shot when everyone seemed to start to sense that it was our turn," Yourkovich said. "Jesse's been hitting shots the last month. She was struggling

early on, but for the past month or so, she's really started to heat up."

Also big during the Lady Huskies' spurt was Steubenville played the last three minutes without its senior floor general Emiley Masloski, who was disqualified with fouls. She had a big first half, scoring 13 of her 16 in the opening 16 minutes.

"We drove home to the girls this week in practice that we had to know where Masloski was at all times," Yourkovich said. "She's a great player and we lost track of her in the first half and she made us pay."

Along with Ledger's production, Steubenville also had no answer for the penetration of guard Kara Dunfee, who Yourkovich thought could be an 'X' factor. She scored a game-high 19 points, including eight in the fourth quarter.

"We were focused on (Katie) Ellzy, but Dunfee really hurt us by driving the ball into the lane," said Steubenville head coach Phil Casinelli. "She got the basket, finished and then got to the line and made foul shots."

The Lady Huskies also iced the game away with a sharp 13-of-16 effort at the

foul line in the fourth quarter.

"We're disappointed," Casinelli said. "We didn't want (the OVAC) season to end this way, but I am optimistic and we'll go back to work and get ready for the sectional. This just wasn't our day today."

Dunfee and Ledger, who scored 19 and 16, respectively, were complemented by junior Katie Ellzy's 14 points and seven rebounds. Shianne Nameth provided a big lift with 12 points.

Steubenville (19-2) was paced by Mytia Barker's 21 points. Lysiah Rice added 11 points.

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"Obviously, we didn't play our best," Bridgeport coach

See, Frontier, Page B2



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Boys' Pairings Set For OVAC Tourney



Intriguing semifinal matchups on tap

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — While the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls' Basketball Championships to be decided Saturday at Ohio University Eastern, the boys' semifinals were announced Wednesday. Some extremely intriguing matchups are on tap, beginning Tuesday at the higher-seeded teams.

The foursome in Class 5A couldn't be more competitive, with No. 1 Parkersburg South (12-2) playing host to No. 4 Morgantown (5-6) and No. 2 Wheeling Park (10-3) welcoming Brooke. All four of these teams meet twice each in the regular season.

In Class 4A, No. 1 Union Local (16-0), which is also the top-ranked team in the state of Ohio, will welcome No. 4 St. Clairsville (10-7), a team it just beat 46-34 on

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OVAC

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Tuesday night. In the other half of the bracket, No. 3 East Liverpool (11-4) travels to the Crimson Center to face No. 2 Steubenville (14-3). Big Red earned a 62-61 victory against the Potters earlier this season.

Perhaps the best matchup of them all will occur in Class 3A, where a deceiving No. 4 Linsly (11-3) will travel to Beverly to tangle with No. 1 seed Fort Frye (15-2). No. 3 Steubenville Catholic (13-5) is at No. 2 Monroe Central (12-4).

Class 2A finds No. 4 Bridgeport (11-6) at No. 1 Wellsville (15-1) and No. 3 Caldwell (12-6) making the trip to East Wheeling to take on No. 2 Wheeling Central (11-3). The Maroon Knights cemented a home game with Tuesday night's victory against Shadyside.

As usual, Class 1A appears to be tough, with No. 1 Madonna (9-4) welcoming No. 4 Trinity (5-10) and No. 2 Bishop Donahue (9-4) playing host to No. 3 Paden City (7-5). Trinity and Madonna are no strangers, having met frequently in the West Virginia Class A state tournament. Meanwhile, the Bishops own a pair of victories against the Wildcats this season, winning by scores

of 75-54 and 82-55.

The standings were so tight that teams like red-hot Martins Ferry, Beaver Local, Magnolia, and Clay-Battelle were unable to get in.

Tuesday

Class 5A
No. 4 Morgantown at No. 1 Parkersburg South

No. 3 Brooke at No. 2 Wheeling Park

Class 4A

No. 4 St. Clairsville at No. 1 Union Local
No. 3 East Liverpool at No. 2 Steubenville

Class 3A

No. 4 Linsly at No. 1 Fort Frye
No. 3 Steubenville Catholic at No. 2 Monroe Central

Class 2A

No. 4 Bridgeport at No. 1 Wellsville
No. 3 Caldwell at No. 2 Wheeling Central

Class 1A

No. 4 Trinity at No. 1 Madonna
No. 3 Paden City at No. 2 Bishop Donahue

Championship Schedule

(Saturday, Feb. 15 at Ohio University Eastern)

Class 3A, 10 a.m.

Class 4A, 12:30 p.m.

Class 5A, 3 p.m.

Class 1A, 5:30 p.m.

Class 2A, 8 p.m.

10 a.m. — Class 3A

Consolation Games

Tuesday

Valley at River

St. John at Cameron

Conotton Valley at Beallsville

Frontier at Clay-Battelle

Buckeye Trail at Shadyside

Hundred at East Richland Christian

Bellaire at Shenandoah

Toronto at Weir

Magnolia at Harrison Central

Oak Glen at Indian Creek

Beaver Local at Edison

John Marshall at Buckeye Local

Barnesville at Martins Ferry

Wednesday

University at Magnolia

Friday

East Richland Christian at Valley

Shadyside at Bellaire

Weir at Barnesville

Edison at Oak Glen

Martins Ferry at Beaver Local

Clay-Battelle at University

Indian Creek at Buckeye Trail

Harrison Central at John Marshall

Buckeye Local at Toronto

Shenandoah at Conotton Valley

Cameron at Frontier

River at St. John

Beallsville at Hundred

Continued from Page B1

wins. Fort Frye earned the top seed on the strength of a 15-2 record. The Cadets drew a talented Linsly squad in the opening round. Coach James Wallace's team is 12-3 and has won 11 games in a row to edge quality clubs like Buckeye

Trail and Magnolia out for the final spot. Monroe Central grabbed the second seed. The Seminoles are 12-4 and will have to contend with defending Class 2A runnerup Steubenville Central. The Crusaders are 14-5 on the season.

In Class 2A, Wellsville — a first-time participant in the OVAC Tournament — qualified as the top seed. The talented Tigers earned the top spot thanks to an impressive 15-1 record.

They'll welcome Bridgeport (11-7), which earned the fourth spot. The Bulldogs own two OVAC Basketball Tourney titles, but both came in Class A.

Defending champion Wheeling Central earned the second seed. Coach Mel Stephens' talented Knights combine owns a 12-3 mark. Central will welcome a solid Caldwell squad (13-6) to downtown Wheeling.

In Class 5A, defending champion Parkersburg South earned the top seed thanks to a 12-2 record. The Patriots will entertain Morgantown, which qualified despite a 5-6 record.

Wheeling Park is back in the field after missing the top four a season ago. Coach Michael Jebbia's team had won the previous four big-school crowns. The Patriots are 10-3 and will welcome third-seeded and rival Brooke (8-5).

The Patriots and Bruins haven't met yet this season, but the OVAC game will be the first of three meetings in 12 days.

In Class 1A, a new champion is guaranteed because Conotton Valley didn't qualify. The top seed is perennial entrant Madonna. Coach George Vargo's Blue Dons will welcome Trinity Christian in the semifinal.

The Blue Dons are 10-4, while Trinity earned a spot with just a 5-11 record.

Bishop Donahue earned the second seed thanks to a strong 9-4 mark. The Bishops will welcome Paden City (7-5) in the semifinal.

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The path to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys basketball championship is officially set.

The formal pairings for next week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships were set Wednesday morning at the OVAC office.

The top four teams in each class will take part in the championship portion of the event, while the remaining schools had their games assigned by the basketball committee during the meeting:

The semifinals will be held on the top two seeds' home floors on Tuesday night. The winners will then advance to the OVAC title games on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Ohio University Eastern, while the semifinal losers will meet in the consolation games on Friday.

The schedule for the championship games is as follows: 10 a.m. (Class 3A), 12:30 p.m. (Class 4A); 3 p.m. (Class 5A); 5:30 p.m. (Class 1A) and 8 p.m. (Class 2A).

The undefeated Union Local Jets (17-0) are the top-ranked team in the state in Division II and have claimed the top seed



in the 4A tourney. Coach Ben Porter's team will open the quest for the school's second OVAC Tourney title against rival St. Clairsville.

"It's been an exciting season so far," said Porter. "We have had a large number of competitive games and our kids have hung in and persevered through some challenging situations. There are three other very good teams in our class and our focus will be well prepared."

The Jets have been on top of the rankings all season. The Red Devils, mean-

while, are just 10-8 and two of those losses have come to the Jets. St. C. is the only school to have qualified for the semifinals all seven years of the event. The Red Devils have claimed the last two titles.

Steubenville, which lost to St. C. in the title game a season ago, earned the second seed with an impressive 15-3 record. They'll take on third-seeded East Liverpool, which lost in the 2012 title game to the Red Devils. The Pottery are 12-5 on the season.

The deepest class is 3A where all four qualifying teams have no fewer than 12

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Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 16, 2014

SPORTS

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WLU men fall/Page B3

Olympics/Page B4

Outdoors/Page B7

OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships

Big Red Shoots Down UL Jets

Steubenville claims 4A championship

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

Sometimes you just have to tip your hat to the other team.

That was the case in the Class 4A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament.

Union Local, Ohio's top-ranked Division III team in the Associated Press Poll, came

into the OVAC title game with a spotless 20-0 record. However, Steubenville was simply too fast, too long and too talented Saturday inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University, in handing the Jets a 63-51 setback before a standing-room-only crowd.

"There's no shame in losing to Steubenville," Union Local coach Ben Porter said. "We'd been tested during the season, but Steubenville is a very good, athletic team and we dug ourselves too big of a hole early."

Big Red, which came up

short to St. Clairsville in the 2013 title game, came out from the opening tip playing like a team on a mission.

"We talked about getting off to a fast start," Big Red coach Mike Haney said. "We made them use some timeouts early in the game. We were able to keep the pace going."

Steubenville trailed 4-2, but in a blink of an eye had seized control. Big Red used seven points from both Brandon Herring-Hill and Adam Sterling to

See, Big Red, Page B2



Union Local's Trenton Tipton (4) goes up for a shot as Steubenville's Charles Reeves (15) defends.

Times Leader Photo

Fort Frye Wins In Double OT

Lagraen's big day leads Cadets to title

By FRED YOUNCE
For The News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE —
Steubenville Catholic and Fort



Park, Harler Lead Knights To 2A Crown

Duo makes Thompson eat his words with win

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Like Batman and Robin in basketball jer-

"That was classic deep-hole syndrome," Jebbia said. "We got so far behind we had to expend a lot of energy just to get back in the game."

Park (12-5) woke from its lethargic play for a moment near the end of the first half, using a 6-0 run to cut a 12-point deficit in half to make it 37-31.

But just like that, Morgantown found a spark, using a 5-0 run in the final moments to lead 42-31 at the half.

"We get it down to single digits there, who knows, maybe it's a different game," Jebbia said. "As it was, it was a pretty key run for them right there."

Park went to a 1-3-1 press in the second half and it started paying dividends,

rebound corralled with Park making a run in the third. It bounced out of his hands to Zakeem Divas for an easy stick back.

Core also countered with several big shots in the fourth and Morgantown went 12 of 15 at the free-throw line in the final eight minutes.

"Whenever they needed a shot, or needed a big play, they got it," Jebbia said. "I give them a lot of credit because they really played a great game and they made the plays they had to make to win the game."

"It is huge," Core said. "We wanted to come out, play well, and not just win this championship, but try to earn a home game (in the postseason). We have a pretty good home-court advantage with our fans."

off the bench during its third-quarter comeback, from Johnson, Chalmer Moffett and Richard Cummings, who had six points in his first extended action of the season.

"Richard came in and did a good job," Jebbia said. "We are looking for an eighth man and I thought Richard showed he deserves a chance to do that."

Aside from Core, whose 25 points are the most by a player in the 5A championship game since it moved to OUE seven years ago, Antonio Morgano had 13, King 12 and Steveh Solomon 11.

The 76 points Morgantown scored was the most Park has given up this season.

five and 17 defensive rebounds.

"We had to do two things to win this game. We had to stop Seth Lagraen and we also had to control the boards. Those are two things we didn't do, and that cost us the game. Lagraen was 9-for-13 from two. We did against the 3, he went 0-for-2. He hurt us on the boards with putbacks."

Fort Frye led by as many as 12 in the first half before a pair of Matt Martello 3-pointers cut the lead in half. The Cadets led 29-23 at intermission.

The Crusaders tied the game at 33-33 after three quarters led by a defensive effort that allowed the Cadets one field goal and a pair of free throws. Michael Manfreda scored half of Central's 10 third-

in the first-quarter when Matt Martello canned a 3 with 5:35 remaining to make the score 38-37, but Fort Frye then appeared to take control of the game with an 11-2 run that put the score at 48-40 Cadets with about 1:30 left.

Central was far from done though as a pair of Ryan Fletcher 3s made it a two-score game with one remaining. Chandler Lang hit 1-of-2 from the charity stripe to make it a three-point game. On the ensuing possession Martello drained another Central 3 to tie the game at 49 and ultimately send the game to overtime.

Lagraen converted a hoop-and-horn opportunity to put Fort Frye up three in overtime, but Fletcher did the honors snatching the victory from the Cadets

52-52 and forcing a second overtime period.

With the Crusaders leading 56-54 in the second overtime, Fort Frye's offensive rebound and free-throw advantage showed itself in a big way. Carter Kiefer hit his first free throw to make the score 56-55, but missed the second. Lagraen pulled down the offensive board, would eventually get fouled, and knock down both free throws to put Fort Frye 57-56 with 2:10 left. The Cadets went on to hit three of their next four foul shots to make the final 60-56.

Martello led the Crusaders with 15 points to go with four rebounds. Fletcher had 10 points and eight rebound with Mike Manfreda adding seven points and seven rebounds.

BIG RED

Continued from page B1

set the tone, which led to a 22-10 advantage after one quarter.

"We knew how athletic they were, but falling behind really was tough because you just can't afford to do that against a team as good as

Steubenville."

Big Red (18-3) continued in the second quarter, stretching the margin to 42-22 at the intermission. Sterling, who scored 19 points, got a steal and dunk in transition and then buried a 3 from the wing to ignite the

droves of Big Red faithful that made the trip.

"We did a good job of shooting the ball from behind the arc," Haney said. "I think we'd made 132 3-pointers for the season coming in. That's probably more than I want to shoot because I want guys driving to the bucket more."

Steubenville connected on four of its five 3-pointers in the first half, which didn't totally stun Porter.

"Some teams have athletic players who are unable to shoot, but they have kids who can shoot and know how to play," Porter said. "Steubenville is a football school, but Coach Haney has done a great job of turning it into a competitive basketball school, too."

Union Local (20-1) made

a run in the early moments of the third quarter. Working the ball inside to Colton McKivitz and David Paulick, the Jets were able to get on a bit of a spurt, but Sterling dialed long distance again to keep them at bay.

The Jets made it an 11-point game entering the fourth and was able to get as close as seven after Eric Dunfee hit a triple from the corner, but Big Red was able to fend off the rally.

"This is a tribute to our seniors," Haney explained. "They had a bad feeling after last year's game, so they wanted to get back here and get back at it."

Big Red was led by Sterling's 19 points and seven rebounds. Herring-Hill added 16 and impressive freshman Charles Reeves

added 10.

Union Local was paced by McKivitz's 16 points and 12 rebounds. Paulick finished with nine, while Trenton Tipton, Gavin Porter and Dunfee evenly divided 21.

The Jets did welcome the return of Kaleb McDuffitt to the lineup. He came off the bench, played only in the first half and scored three points.

"The OVAC (title) is important to us and this is a great event before the (sectional) tournament," Porter said. "We've got a week to get healthy and the rest at this time of the year is really big. We're going to take (Sunday) off and get back at it on Monday and start preparing for Coshocton."

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really good, and (Saturday) wasn't any different. It was two good teams going back and forth at each other. You come down here this early and you want to get a win or it doesn't feel like it was worth it. They guys played really well and executed a lot of things on offense and defense."

Added Central coach Sean Tucker: "One key aspect to basketball is boxing out. If you look at their offensive rebounds they had 14 and they probably scored on 75 percent of those rebounds."

See, Fort Frye, Page B2

No. 4-seeded Mohigans jump out to early lead

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — One hot player. One hot team.

Morgantown jumped all over Wheeling Park early, then held off the Patriots' late rally to take the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 5A Championship on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern

Scottie Core poured in 25 points, including

11 in the fourth quarter, to spur the resurgent Mohigans, who had lost to Park by 25 points earlier in the season.

Clearly, it wasn't the same Morgantown team, which has beaten Martinsburg, Parkersburg South and now Park, all teams that have been in the Class AAA Top 10 at different points this season.

Morgantown started quickly, leading by as many as 13 points in the first half.

At times, it seemed like the Mohigans couldn't miss. Even big man C.J. King, who at 6-foot-5, 310 pounds, was the biggest man

See, Morgantown, Page B2

with 1:06 to play and after Camden Douglas made it a one-point game with a slam dunk, Harler made a floater with 21 seconds left to restore the lead.

"I wasn't even sure it was going in, but it sure felt good when it did," Harler said. "When we get in those tight situations, we (Park and Harler) know we are expected to step up. But there are a lot of good

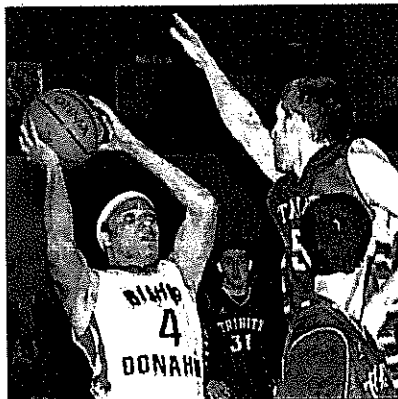
See, Knights, Page B2



Chase Harler

Bishop Donahue's Lavonte Hampton (4) attempts a shot as Trinity's Grant Culton (5) defends.

Photo by Dave Morrison



Truex, Bishop Donahue Hammer Trinity 'Chief' scores 24 points, grabs 23 rebounds in Class 1A rout

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It was almost too easy for Chaiice Truex.

The Bishop Donahue big man, known as Chief, certainly was in charge during the Bishops' 77-53 victory against Trinity in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 1A Championship Game on Saturday at Ohio Eastern University.

Truex scored 24 points and grabbed 23 rebounds in the Bishops victory.

It was enough to make Trinity coach Jamal Womble have nightmares.

"I said it before the game, he is a monster," Womble said. "Our goal was to limit his touches and limit his effectiveness on the glass. Obviously, we didn't do either of those

things."

Truex was a monster, making 9 of 20 shots from the floor, many of them putbacks of shots he missed. A lot of them were contested. He simply powered his way to the basket and was nearly unstoppable.

"I really have to give it to my teammates," Truex said. "They were

See, Donahue, Page B2

West Virginia Falls to Texas

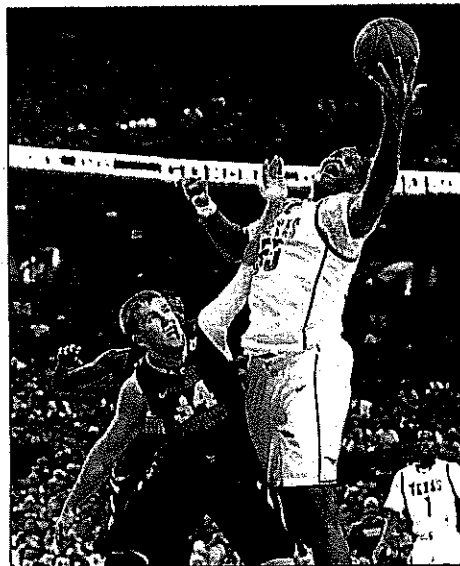
Five score in double figures for Longhorns in victory

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — West Virginia came to Texas on a roll, surging upward in the Big 12 as perhaps the most dangerous team to play during the second half of the conference season.

The Mountaineers ran into a Longhorns team that has been the surprise of the season and just now seems to be hitting its stride on both ends of the court.

Javan Felix scored 18 points and No. 19 Texas used another impressive offensive effort to roll to an 88-71 victory Saturday night, a win that kept the Longhorns within a game of Kansas for the Big



AP Photo

Texas' Cameron Ridley (55) grabs a rebound over WVU's Kevin Noreen (34).

Oshie Leads U.S. Past Russia

Shootout specialist gets it done for Americans in victory

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia — T.J. Oshie brainstormed while he skated to center ice, desperately trying to come up with one last move to end an epic shootout. He had already taken five shots at Sergei Bobrovsky, and the Russians were still even.

Yet Oshie was chosen for the U.S. men's hockey team with just such a situation in mind, and the shootout specialist concocted one last clever goal to silence an arena filled with screaming Russian fans.

Oshie scored four times in the shootout and put the winner between Bobrovsky's legs in the eighth round, leading the United States past Russia 3-2 Saturday in the thrilling revival of a classic Olympic hockey rivalry.

"I was just thinking of something else I



Medals Table

At Sochi, Russia
Through Saturday, Feb. 15
(51 of 98 total events)

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Russia	4	6	5	15
Netherlands	4	4	6	14
United States	4	3	7	14
Norway	4	3	6	13
Germany	7	3	2	12
Canada	4	6	3	12
Sweden	1	5	2	8
Switzerland	5	1	1	7
Austria	2	4	1	7
China	3	2	0	5
Japan	1	3	1	5
Slovenia	1	1	3	5
Italy	0	2	3	5
Poland	4	0	0	4
Belarus	3	0	1	4
France	2	0	2	4
South Korea	1	1	1	3
Czech Republic	0	2	1	3
Latvia	0	1	2	3

of year where we need to turn it up and take our game to another level in order to be a playoff-competitive team," Goers

DONAHUE

Continued from page B1

boxing out. I was just snatching rebounds. Without those guys doing their thing, I wouldn't have been getting those rebounds, those shots."

To that point, even when Truex and emotional leader Jesse Padlow (both of whom encountered foul trouble along the way) on the bench, the Bishops not only maintained the lead, they built on it.

"It's a huge win for us, and depth has been a big factor for us this year," Bishop Donahue coach Tom Wise said. "We had a lot of guys come in and do some good things for us. I think our press really was the difference at that point."

It was, as the vaunted Bishop press — and key contributions from Lavonte Hampton (14 points and six

water battle on to the net to the ice.

It remained that way until Wheeling's seventh shooter, Sahir Gill, beat

rebounds) and Taylor Straughn (12 points) — helped make an 11-point lead 16 with Truex and Padlow on the bench.

"We didn't do a good job against their press," Womble said. "And we didn't shoot well from the foul line (9 of 23). That really hurt us. A lot of those were misses on the front end of the 1-and-1 when we were still within striking distance."

Straughn, a freshman, was key in the third when he scored 10 of his 12 points.

"Because he is a freshman he is sometimes passive and defers to the older kids," Wise said. "We told him at the half, 'If you can score 27 points against Linsly (earlier in the season) then you can score against anyone.' What does he do?"

he's on, he's on," Donatelli said of Ratchuk. "I always tell Mike that less is more because he's already ahead of everyone

He comes out and hits his first shot (of the third)."

Bryce Jones was also key, scoring a majority of his 17 points on drives to the basket.

The Bishops put the game away in the fourth with a 16-2 run (after Trinity had cut the lead to 13 on a 3 by Roger Scott).

Truex had 13 of his rebounds on the offensive glass, and added two assists, two steals and two blocked shots.

"Someone told me that Chief outrebounded Trinity by himself," said Wise.

Actually, he was three from that, but Bishop did outrebound Trinity 46-26.

"That's impressive," Wise continued. "In terms of rebounding, that was probably our best performance of the season."

Park was led by Ryan Reinbeau's 18 points, all but two coming in the first half.

"We wanted to make things difficult for Ryan, but he played really well in the first half," Yester said. "I thought we played pretty well aside from that in the first half."

Bell had 17 for the Patriots.

Park did have good play off the bench during its third-quarter comeback, from Johnson, Chalmer Moffett and Richard Cummings, who had six points in his first extended action of the season.

"Richard came in and did a good job," Jebbia said. "We are looking for an eighth man and I thought Richard showed he deserves a chance to do that."

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The 76 points Morgantown scored was the most

NG, Manderson NG, Ratchuk G, Mackay NG, Sylvester NG, Torquato NG, Gill G, Goers G).

Shots on Goal-Elmira 9-8-11-1-0-

27. Wheeling 16-8-7-2-1-34.

Power-Play Opportunities-Elmira

0-5; Wheeling 1-2.

Goalies-Elmira, Conway 5-0-0-1 (33

shots-32 saves). Wheeling, Mannino

3-1-0-0 (27 shots-26 saves).

A-3,032

Referee-Andy Thackaberry (22);

Linesmen-Jim Scarpace (50), Justin

Eckman (72).

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

guys on this team that put us in those situations. This was a big team win for us."

Boyd Bibey then hit a big free throw with 16 seconds left to make it a two-possession game.

After Nate Scott, who had been so key in keeping Wellsville alive in the third with four NBA-range 3-pointers (and 15 points), made a deuce with nine seconds left, Park closed it out with a pair of free throws.

Park and Harler had 19 of the Maroon Knights' 20 fourth-quarter points.

"They made their shots," Thompson said. "We knew what they were going to do and they did it. We missed a lot of easy shots and we made some bad mistakes and it cost us. We played a good team. We expected a battle and that is exactly what it was."

The Dynamic Duo of Park and Harler had 24 points each in the Maroon Knights' eighth straight

FORT FRYE

Continued from page B1

They also had 24 defensive rebounds. If you look at us we had eight offensive and 19 defensive rebounds.

"We had to do two things to win this game. We had to stop Seth Lagraen and we also had to control the boards. Those are two things we didn't do, and that cost us the game. Lagraen was 9-for-13 from two. We did against the 3, he went 0-for-2. He hurt us on the boards with putbacks."

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ST. MARY grabbed eight Cameron took out Invitational Cole Clutte points, nine as 6).

victory.

Wheeling C Mel Stephens the fact that gained any from Thompson

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"We knew said and yes some extra m after the gar was just a g said. "We kn a good tear made the play to at the end c

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MORGANTOWN

Continued from page B1

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Elijah Bell, who was making his first career start, got a steal and an emphatic slam dunk to cut the Mohigans lead to four in the fourth quarter.

Park got as close as three points, but the breaks kept going against it.

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FOR THE NEWS-REGISTER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

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That was the case in the Class 4A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament.

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See, Big Red, Page B2



Fort Frye Wins In Double OT

Lagraen's big day leads Cadets to title

By FRED YOUNCE
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

Steubenville Catholic and Fort Frye put on a great show for the crowd at Ohio University Eastern Saturday during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A boys' basketball championship game.

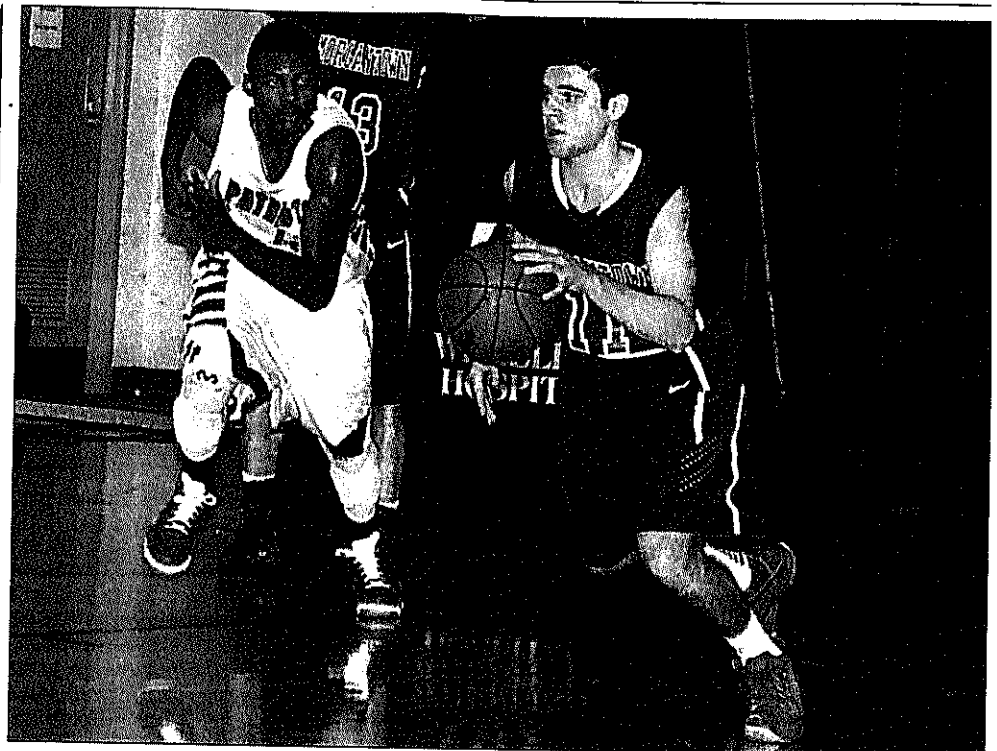
In the end, the Cadets had too many offensive rebounds and free throws for the Crusaders to overcome during their 60-56, double-overtime victory.

Fort Frye snagged 14 offensive rebounds and outscored Central 14-2 from the foul line while being led by Seth Lagraen's 25 points and 17 rebounds to claim the crown.

"This was a tough game and this is a very tough division," Fort Frye coach Eric Henniger said. "The top six or seven teams are really good, and (Saturday) wasn't any different. It was two good teams going back and forth at each other. You come down here this early and you want to get a win or it doesn't feel like it was worth it. They guys played really well and executed a lot of things on offense and defense."

Added Central coach Sean Tucker: "One key aspect to basketball is boxing out. If you look at their offensive rebounds they had 14 and they probably scored on 75 percent of those rebounds."

See, Fort Frye, Page B2



Morgantown's Antonio Morgano (11) brings the ball up court as Wheeling Park's Eljah Bell (4) looks on.

Photo by Dave Morrison

Streaking Morgantown Tops Park in 5A Tilt

No. 4-seeded Mohigans jump out to early lead

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

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See, Morgantown, Page B2

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MORGANTOWN

Continued from page B1

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"We wanted to make things difficult for Ryan, but he played really well in the first half," Yester said. "I thought we played pretty well aside from that in the first half."

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Park did have good play off the bench during its third-quarter comeback, from Johnson, Chalmer Moffett and Richard Cummings, who had six points in his first extended action of the season.

"Richard came in and did a good job," Jebbia said. "We are looking for an eighth man and I thought Richard showed he deserves a chance to do that."

Aside from Core, whose 25 points are the most by a player in the 5A championship game since it moved to OUE seven years ago, Antonio Morgano had 13, King 12 and Steveh Solomon 11.

The 76 points Morgantown scored was the most Park has given up this season.

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Park and Harler had 19 of the Maroon Knights' 20 fourth-quarter points.

"They made their shots," Thompson said. "We knew what they were going to do and they did it. We missed a lot of easy shots and we made some bad mistakes and it cost us. We played a good team. We expected a battle and that is exactly what it was."

The Dynamic Duo of Park and Harler had 24 points each in the Maroon Knights' eighth straight

FORT FRYE

Continued from page B1

They also had 24 defensive rebounds. If you look at us we had eight offensive and 19 defensive rebounds.

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Fort Frye led by as many as 12 in the first half before a pair of Matt Martello 3-pointers cut the lead in half. The Cadets led 29-23 at intermission.

The Crusaders tied the game at 33-33 after three quarters led by a defensive effort that allowed the Cadets one field goal and a pair of free throws. Michael Manfreda scored half of Central's 10 third-

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CAR-TIN-STEEL
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\$180⁰⁰ A TON
TIN
OR CAR
BODIES

BIG RED

Continued from page B1

set the tone, which led to a 22-10 advantage after one quarter.

"We knew how athletic they were, but falling behind really was tough because you just can't afford to do that against a team as good as

Steubenville."

Big Red (18-3) continued in the second quarter, stretching the margin to 42-22 at the intermission. Sterling, who scored 19 points, got a steal and dunk in transition and then buried a 3 from the wing to ignite the

droves of Big Red faithful that made the trip.

"We did a good job of shooting the ball from behind the arc," Haney said. "I think we'd made 132 3-pointers for the season coming in. That's probably more than I want to shoot because I want guys driving to the bucket more."

Steubenville connected on four of its five 3-pointers

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Actually, he was three from that, but Bishop did outrebound Trinity 46-26.

"That's impressive," Wise continued. "In terms of rebounding, that was probably our best performance of the season."

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Not that it was easy against a Wellsville team that was 18-1 entering the game and had won 11 straight.

Neither team managed to lead by more than seven points, and that was Central, twice, in the third quarter, when Alonzo Manns, who added 15

his run, and Scott, he of the NBA-range 3s, hit back-to-back 3s to give his team a 46-44 advantage.

By the time he was done, he had 15 of his game-high 25 in the quarter and Wellsville led by six before Bibey, a 3-point artist in his own right, nailed a long-range shot to make it 52-49 heading to the fourth.

From there it see-sawed, the lead changing hands four times with three ties.

"We made a couple of huge plays at the end to win the game," Stephens said.

Jordan Sloan had 16 points for Wellsville (18-2), 14 in the first half, Seth Bradford added 12, 10 in the first half and Douglas added 11, all in the second half.

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Central took its first lead since a 3-2 advantage early in the first-quarter when Matt Martello canned a 3 with 5:35 remaining to make the score 38-37, but Fort Frye then appeared to take control of the game with an 11-2 run that put the score at 48-40 Cadets with about 1:30 left.

Central was far from done though as a pair of Ryan Fletcher 3s made it a two-score game with one remaining. Chandler Lang hit 1-of-2 from the charity stripe to make it a three-point game. On the ensuing possession Martello drained another Central 3 to tie the game at 49 and ultimately send the game to overtime.

Lagraen converted a hoop-and-harm opportunity to put Fort Frye up three in overtime, but Fletcher did the honors snatching the victory from the Cadets

this time when he drained a 3-pointer with five seconds left making the score 52-52 and forcing a second overtime period.

With the Crusaders leading 56-54 in the second overtime, Fort Frye's offensive rebound and free-throw advantage showed itself in a big way. Carter Kiefer hit his first free throw to make the score 56-55, but missed the second. Lagraen pulled down the offensive board, would eventually get fouled, and knock down both free throws to put Fort Frye 57-56 with 2:10 left. The Cadets went on to hit three of their next four foul shots to make the final 60-56.

Martello led the Crusaders with 15 points to go with four rebounds. Fletcher had 10 points and eight rebound with Mike Manfreda adding seven points and seven rebounds.

RED

ued from page B1

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a run in the early moments of the third quarter. Working the ball inside to Colton McKivitz and David Paulick, the Jets were able to get on a bit of a spurt, but Sterling dialed long distance again to keep them at bay.

The Jets made it an 11-point game entering the fourth and was able to get as close as seven after Eric Dunfee hit a triple from the

added 10.

Union Local was paced by McKivitz's 16 points and 12 rebounds. Paulick finished with nine, while Trenton Tipton, Gavin Porter and Dunfee evenly divided 21.

The Jets did welcome the return of Kaleb McDif- fit to the lineup. He came off the bench, played only in the first half and scored

hoots Down UL Jets

nto the OVAC title game with a spotless 20-0 record. However, Steubenville was simply too fast, too long and too talented Saturday inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University, in handing the Jets a 63-51 setback before a standing-room-only crowd.

"There's no shame in losing to Steubenville," Union Local coach Ben Porter said. "We'd been tested during the season, but Steubenville is a very good, athletic team and we dug ourselves too big of a hole early."

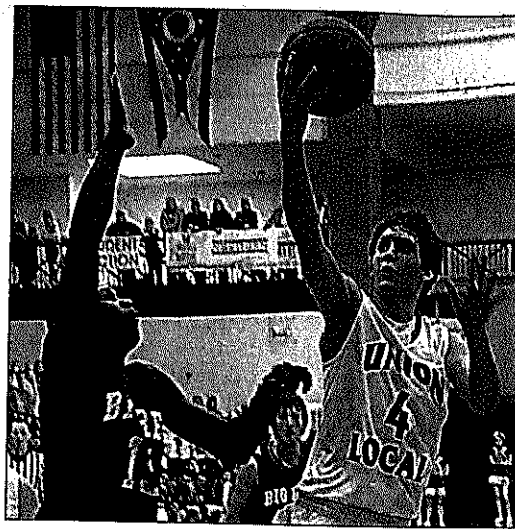
Big Red, which came up

short to St. Clairsville in the 2013 title game, came out from the opening tip playing like a team on a mission.

"We talked about getting off to a fast start," Big Red coach Mike Haney said. "We made them use some timeouts early in the game. We were able to keep the pace going."

Steubenville trailed 4-2, but in a blink of an eye had seized control. Big Red used seven points from both Brandon Herring-Hill and Adam Sterling to

See, Big Red, Page B2



Union Local's Trenton Tipton (4) goes up for a shot as Steubenville's Charles Reeves (15) defends.

Times Leader Photo

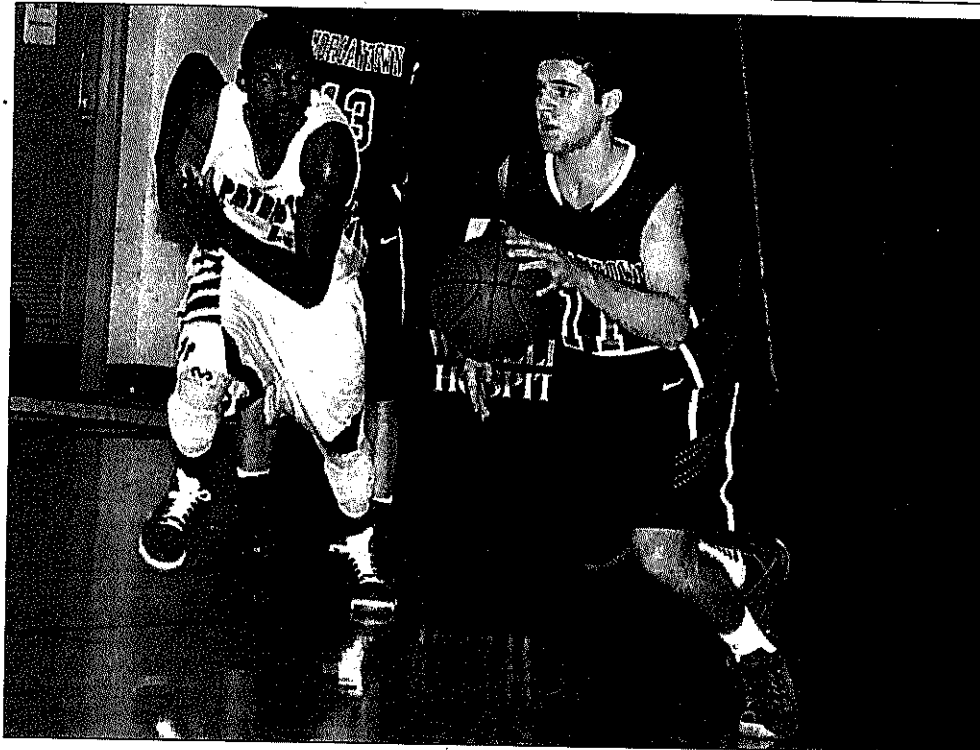


Photo by Dave Morrison

Morgantown's Antonio Morgano (11) brings the ball up court as Wheeling Park's Elijah Bell (4) looks on.

Streaking Morgantown Tops Park in 5A Tilt

No. 4-seeded Mohigans jump out to early lead

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — One hot player. One hot team.

Morgantown jumped all over Wheeling Park early, then held off the Patriots' late rally to take the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 5A Championship on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern

Scottie Core poured in 25 points, including

11 in the fourth quarter, to spur the resurgent Mohigans, who had lost to Park by 25 points earlier in the season.

Clearly, it wasn't the same Morgantown team, which has beaten Martinsburg, Parkersburg South and now Park, all teams that have been in the Class AAA Top 10 at different points this season.

Morgantown started quickly, leading by as many as 13 points in the first half.

At times, it seemed like the Mohigans couldn't miss. Even big man C.J. King, who at 6-foot-5, 310 pounds, was the biggest man

See, Morgantown, Page B2

Park, Harler Lead Knights To 2A Crown

Duo makes Thompson eat his words with win

By DAVE MORRISON
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Like Batman and Robin in basketball jerseys, Wheeling Central's David Park and Chase Harler arrived on the scene with huge plays late to help the Maroon Knights win the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 2A title Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern.

And it ended up making Wellsville coach David Thompson look like the Joker.

Thompson's statement that Wheeling Central (15-3) had won so many recent OVAC titles because his team wasn't eligible backfired.

Harler and Park made sure of it.

Park made a key three-point play with 1:06 to play and after Camden Douglas made it a one-point game with a slam dunk, Harler made a floater with 21 seconds left to restore the lead.

"I wasn't even sure it was going in, but it sure felt good when it did," Harler said. "When we get in those tight situations, we (Park and Harler) know we are expected to step up. But there are a lot of good



David Park



Chase Harler

See, Knights, Page B2

Truex, Bishop Donahue Hammer Trinity

'Chief' scores 24 points, ...

I MIKE VASKIVUO in the first round of otout but Wheel-ike Ratchuk tallied fourth time this in a shootout — the league among nen — by waiting was almost past line before shoot- and knocking the attle on to of the e ice. nained that way heeling's seventh Sahir Gill, beat

Denver Manderson (five-game points streak) fed the puck to Ratchuk at the mid-point and he blasted home his 10th goal of the season off a one-timer. Zack Torquato extended his points streak to six with the secondary assist. "He's a game-changer. He can skate and when he's on, he's on," Donatelli said of Ratchuk. "I always tell Mike that less is more because he's already ahead of everyone

) and Taylor (12 points) — take an 11-point with Truex and Pad-bench. In't do a good job their press," aid. "And we did- well from the foul 23). That really lot of those were the front end of 1 when we were in striking dis- m, a freshman, the third when he of his 12 points. se he is a fresh- sometimes pas- sers to the older e said. "We told half, 'If you can points against lier in the season) an score against hat does he do?"

He comes out and hits his first shot (of the third)." Bryce Jones was also key, scoring a majority of his 17 points on drives to the basket. The Bishops put the game away in the fourth with a 16-2 run (after Trinity had cut the lead to 13 on a 3 by Roger Scott). Truex had 13 of his rebounds on the offensive glass, and added two assists, two steals and two blocked shots. "Someone told me that Chief outrebounded Trinity by himself," said Wise. Actually, he was three from that, but Bishop did outrebound Trinity 46-26. "That's impressive," Wise continued. "In terms of rebounding, that was probably our best performance of the season."

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1st Period-1, Wheeling, Ratchuk 10 (Manderson, Torquato), 14:40 (PP). Penalties-Pietrus Elm (slashing), 13:21; Lamarche Elm (hooking), 19:10. 2nd Period- No Scoring. Penalties- Cianfrini Whl (cross-checking), 6:46; Fernandez Whl (hooking), 15:36; Cianfrini Whl (delay of game), 18:57. 3rd Period-2, Elmira, Demkov 13 6:29; Penalties-Torquato Whl (hooking), 9:11; Areshanko Whl (tripping), 13:53. OT Period- No Scoring. Penalties- No Penalties. Shootout - Elmira 2 (Vaskivuo G, Koger NG, Demkov NG, Hobbs NG, Karlsson NG, Culék NG, Pietrus G, Walters NG), Wheeling 3 (Rowney NG, Manderson NG, Ratchuk G, MacKay NG, Sylvester NG, Torquato NG, Gill G, Goers G). Shots on Goal-Elmira 9-6-11-1-0-27. Wheeling 16-8-7-2-1-34. Power-Play Opportunities-Elmira 0-5; Wheeling 1-2. Goalies-Elmira, Conway 5-0-0-1 (33 shots-32 saves). Wheeling, Mannino 3-1-0-0 (27 shots-26 saves). A-3,032 Referee-Andy Thackaberry (22); Linemen-Jim Scarpace (50), Justin Eckman (72).

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1
guys on this team that put us in those situations. This was a big team win for us." Boyd Bibey then hit a big free throw with 16 seconds left to make it a two-possession game. After Nate Scott, who had been so key in keeping Wellsville alive in the third with four NBA-range 3-pointers (and 15 points), made a deuce with nine seconds left, Park closed it out with a pair of free throws. Park and Harler had 19 of the Maroon Knights' 20 fourth-quarter points. "They made their shots," Thompson said. "We knew what they were going to do and they did it. We missed a lot of easy shots and we made some bad mistakes and it cost us. We played a good team. We expected a battle and that is exactly what it was." The Dynamic Duo of Park and Harler had 24 points each in the Maroon Knights' eighth straight

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Breaststroke. The Bruins' Emiley Czeszycki captured the 100 Butterfly. On the boys' side, the area finished with spots 2-4 (John Marshall's Aaron Mull and the Brooke duo of Alex Wilson and James Herrick) in the 100 Backstroke. Park's Noah Salvatore qualified fourth in the 200 Free and 500 free, and teammate Trent Connor was fourth in the 200 IM. The Monarchs' Nick Cecil was third in the 100 Freestyle. The Patriots' 200 Medley Relay team of Zach Sherman, Tanner Gantzer, Seth Scatterday and Michael Mueller qualified third. Cameron 65, St. Marys 46 ST. MARYS — Logan Routt poured in 30 points, grabbed eight rebounds and blocked nine shots as Cameron took fifth place in the West Virginia Home-town Invitational Tournament Saturday. Cole Clutter had 13 points and Ryan Clutter had 12 points, nine assists and seven steals for Cameron (10-6).

victory. Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens downplayed the fact that his team gained any motivation from Thompson's words. "He is certainly entitled to his opinion and I respect that," Stephens said. "We told the kids about it earlier in the week but I don't think it had a great deal to do with (winning the title). We came to win a championship." "We knew what was said and yes, it gave us some extra motivation, but after the game started, it was just a game," Park said. "We know they have a good team. We just made the plays we needed to at the end of the game." Not that it was easy against a Wellsville team that was 18-1 entering the game and had won 11 straight. Neither team managed to lead by more than seven points, and that was Central, twice, in the third quarter, when Alonzo Manns, who added 15

points and followed a Harler basket with two of his own, to make it 41-34 in the third. Then Wellsville made its run, and Scott, he of the NBA-range 3s, hit back-to-back 3s to give his team a 46-44 advantage. By the time he was done, he had 15 of his game-high 25 in the quarter and Wellsville led by six before Bibey, a 3-point artist in his own right, nailed a long-range shot to make it 52-49 heading to the fourth. From there it see-sawed, the lead changing hands four times with three ties. "We made a couple of huge plays at the end to win the game," Stephens said. Jordan Sloan had 16 points for Wellsville (18-2), 14 in the first half, Seth Bradford added 12, 10 in the first half and Douglas added 11, all in the second half. Cental faces Linsly, the last team to beat it, at 8 p.m. Monday at Linsly.

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