

# 'A Good Day' Wins Bulldogs Class 2A OVAC Golf Title

## BDHS' Gretchen overall medalist

By **KYLE LUTZ**  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — As the scores were being calculated in the club house at Crispin Golf Course, some players, coaches and parents surrounded the scoreboard wanting to see the finals results. A Bridgeport golfer took out his phone and tried to calculate the score to see if his team in fact had won the Class 2A OVAC title.

By a three-stroke margin, the Bulldogs claimed the title with a score of 333.

Steubenville Catholic came in second with a score of 336.

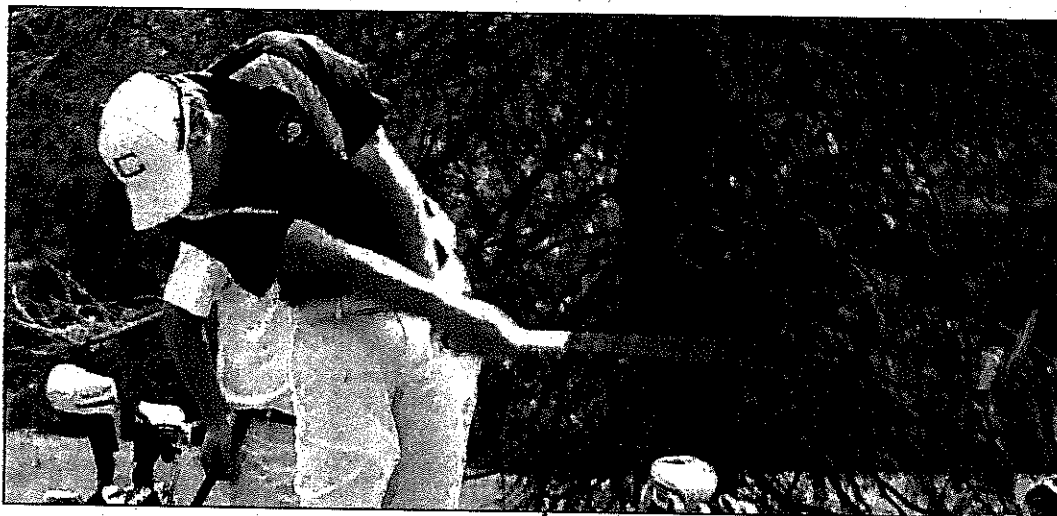
"Our kids have been working hard all season," Bulldogs coach Mike Muklewicz said. "We had strong performances by Matt Herink



**GRETCHEN**  
Bishop Donahue senior Steven Gretchen was the overall medalist with a score of 1-under-70.

and Parker Dyson as both of them made All-OVAC. I'm just happy to be out here. We had a good day and things fell our way. There's good competition out here."

Herink, the No. 3 man, shot a team-low 74 while Dyson, the Bulldogs No. 1, carded an 83. Herink shot a 2-under-par 33 on the back nine which included three birdies and five pars.



Steubenville Central junior Austin Meronoff, a tournament medalist, swings during Tuesday's tournament. Photo by Kyle Lutz

## Meadowbrook Tops Potters For First Tourney Win Since '09

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — There are a few things golfers can always expect during a championship tournament.

Those include lengthy courses and fast, challenging greens.

Oglebay Park's Jones Course at the Spiedel Golf Club provided both and more as the OVAC's Class 4A tournament was held under ideal weather conditions Tuesday.

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"That was absolutely a big help," Muklewicz said. "Anytime you come in and shoot 2-under on the back nine, that is going to help things down the stretch. Overall it was just a great performance from him.

Austin Meronoff from Steubenville Catholic was the medalist of the 2A tournament, shooting a 4-under 67 on the par-71

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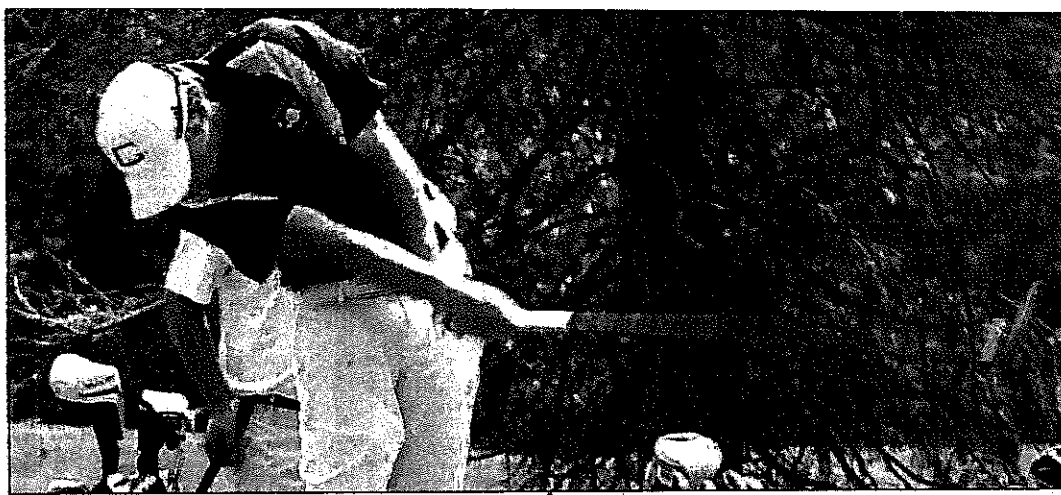


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Steubenville Central junior Austin Meronoff, a tournament medalist, swings during Tuesday's tournament.

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On a day when the course yielded two players under 80 and no scores under-par, the Meadowbrook Colts put forth a team effort that including not one of their scoring players posting higher than 85.

The end result was a score of 334 and a 20-shot victory on runner-up East Liverpool, which produced the tournament's champion in Isaac Davidson.

"We've been pretty balanced all year and that showed," Meadowbrook coach Mel Pesuit said. "Even though our No. 1 player (Damon Moore) didn't have his best day, the other guys stepped up."

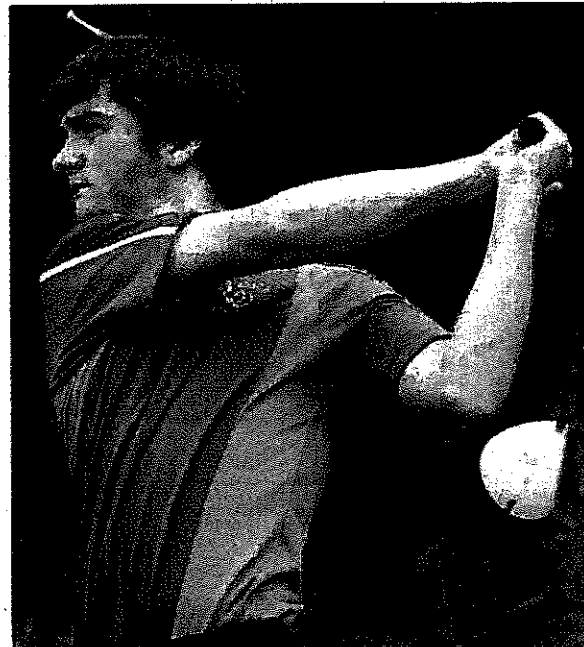


Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry's Joel Shane swings during the OVAC Class 4A tournament Tuesday at Oglebay's Jones Course.

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course.

"I always just try to go out there and play my own game," Meronoff said. "I didn't really try to push anything too far, I just let the birdies come and that was about it."

He certainly did let them come as he piled on five for the day, not including the eagle he had on 16.

"From here, I just want to try and make it to states," Meronoff said. "I've been close the past two years, but I hope our team can play well, too. We'll see what happens."

Brennan Statler from Clay-Battelle (78), Sean McFarland from Wheeling Central (82) and Jake Grehan from Shadyside (83) were also named to the 2A All-OVAC team.

Herink was named the runner-up.

"You got to put your hand out to Matt," Muklewicz said. "Anytime somebody comes in with an All-OVAC performance, it's pretty big. He anchored it, and Bailey McGrath came out from the football team and helped us. It has been a good season."

McGrath shot an 84 while Dylan Nowakowski shot a 92 to round out the Bulldogs.

Coming in third place in the 2A division was Wheeling Central as it scored a 352, followed by Shadyside at 365. Toronto finished with a 377. With only three golfers, Clay-Battelle did not have a final score tallied.

In the 1A division, Madonna was crowned champion after a dominating showing with an overall score of 303, beating the runner-up Trinity Christian by 68 strokes.

"We are happy with the way we played," Blue Dons coach T.J. Brancazio said. "Of course we always like to be better, but we are working on improving to getting ready for the regionals and states now."

This is the sixth straight OVAC victory for the Blue Dons.

"I guess you could call us a dynasty," Brancazio said. "We got good players who are working hard, and they are starting at a young age and are just doing a great job."

Three Madonna players were named to the All-

## PARK

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a bit over confident last year coming in; we thought we were the big dogs, and we ended up not being that. It kind of stuck under the boys skin a little bit, and we practiced hard up here and played some matches and shot good numbers. We came here this morning knowing what we had to do, and that was on our mind and we proved it. We were good."

Wheeling Park was more than good. All five Patriot golfers' shot under 80 with Cole Hand, who did not play at Speidel last week as he was on vacation, shot a 74. Kyle Wensel and Jacob Nickell both shot 77, while Dylan Wojcik rounded out the scoring for the Patriots with a 78. Freddie Fitzsimmons shot a 79.

"I think that is our second or third lowest score here this year," Headley said. "We play the Jones course well. Weather was a factor. All week long this course was being played on with no rain. It changed the condition of the course. So they had to adjust to the conditions, and they did. They played very well."

Another golfer that played really well was Adeena Shears from Parkersburg South, who shot a 71.

Shears also won the tournament last year as the individual, only this year, her score was better by two shots.

"I'm glad to see some improvement," she said. "The course was wonderful both years."

When the scores were being tallied, Shears, was named the overall medalist for the tournament, but there is also a runner-up medalist. The next lowest score was a 74 in which two golfers had. Hence, a playoff hole was needed. Park's Hand and Parkersburg South's Alex Schreckengost went down to the 18th hole to swing it out. In the end, Hand came away with the victory.

"I've been in tons of playoff holes this year, so I was not really that nervous," Hand said. "It was more relaxed, really. If it would have been for first place,

there may have been a little more pressure. I put a good putt on that last one, and I happened to make it."

Schreckengost was named to the All-OVAC playoff team along with Shears, Hand, Wensel, Nickell and Brooke's Michael Spatak (76). Spatak's score paced the Bruins to an overall third place finish (331). University placed fourth (338) followed by Morgantown (350), Cambridge (382), John Marshall (384), Steubenville (421), Weirton (461) and Indian Creek (NC).

## MEADOWBROOK

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The title is the Colts' seventh in school history, but first since 2009.

"We're definitely pleased," Pesuit said. "I think we've finished second eight times and we've been in a five-year drought. This is something we all wanted."

Damon Moore, who played in the No. 1 spot for the Colts, didn't have his score, of 85, counted in the final team rankings.

If he had been told the Colts would prevail without Moore's score, Pesuit never would have believed it.

"I would have thought we would have been in trouble, for sure," Pesuit said. "Plus, the way we were playing on the front side, it didn't look like it was going to happen."

While golf is thought of as an individual sport primarily, the remaining Colts picked up their senior leader.

Taylor Gander led the way, finishing third overall. He earned All-OVAC by virtue of a round of 81.

Trey Singleton and Zach Clair both posted rounds of

84, while Devin Webster signed for an 85.

"My kids all year have been able to stay with it, even when they aren't playing that well," Pesuit said. "We did that. We weren't outstanding, but we were steady."

Meadowbrook actually shot an identical score of 334 during a match against Wheeling Park just a week ago.

"The course was playing slow and the greens weren't doing much, but a 334 on this course, as it was (Tuesday), is a whole lot better," Pesuit said.

East Liverpool, which had won the last two conference titles, was led by Davidson's round of 73. He fired an impressive 1-under 34, on the back nine to win the medalist.

It's the third straight year a Potter took home the medalist honor.

Current Cleveland State competitor Blake Prince prevailed each of the past two seasons.

The runner-up medalist honor went to Union Local senior Jarret Causby, who wrapped up a brilliant tour-

namment with a round of 77.

"I played pretty well, especially with how hard the greens were playing," Causby said. "I just tried to keep everything in play because the fairways were kicking everywhere. I just tried to play my best and keep it safe. The back was playing a little bit harder."

Causby was the medalist at a league match at Belmont Hills on Monday, posting a 3-under 33 on the challenging St. Clairsville course.

"I am finding out my misses and I've been able to hit the ball a lot better ... plus my putting has been really good lately and that's helping me a lot," Causby said. "I just have to continue to take it one step and one shot at a time."

Joining Davidson, Causby and Gander on the All-OVAC team were Harrison Central's Austin Kowalski, who finished fourth with an 82, and Beaver Local's Joey Newlin, who posted an 83.

The OVAC Tournament continues at Spiedel on Thursday when the 5A schools take to the course.

# Patriots Back On Top In 5A Play

Park scores 306  
to beat Parkersburg  
South at Oglebay

By **KYLE LUTZ**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** — From past years, the Wheeling Park boys golf team was a dominating force in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. From 2008-2012, the Patriots won their conference championship. Last year, Parkersburg South dethroned them from winning six in a row.

Wheeling Park is back on top as they topped the 5A conference with a score of 306, beating out Parkersburg South (325) by 19 strokes in the 10 team event at Speidel Jones Golf Course.

"It does feel good," Wheeling Park coach Don Headley said. "We had some things to prove because we screwed up last year, and did not play as well as we could, and it bit us. I think we were

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Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Parkersburg South's Adeena Shears putts at Oglebay's Speidel Jones Golf Course. Shears is the event's overall medalist — an honor she won last year as well.

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Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Parkersburg South's Adeena Shears putts at Oglebay's Speidel Jones Golf Course. Shears is the event's overall medalist — an honor she won last year as well.

## Linsly Tops Magnolia at 3A Championship

By RICK THORP  
For the Intelligencer

WHEELING — The more things change, the more they stay the same.

That sentiment held true Thursday afternoon as Linsly raced to the OVAC Class 3A golf championship on a windy, overcast, and sometimes, wet day, at Oglebay's Crispin course.

The Cadets shot 292, topping runner-up Magnolia by 27 strokes (319). Buckeye Trail was third with 337, followed by River (339), Tyler Consolidated (361), Fort Frye (395) and Barnesville (446).

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The crown was Linsley's 17th all-time — second to St. Clairsville's 23 — and second straight. It was the first for Coach Mike Church, who took over the program after long time head man Mark Zavatzky left the school in June after his wife accepted a job in Florida.

"It's been a goal all year to win this," Church said. "I had hard shoes to fill with Coach Z, but he left me with a great group of guys, and I do lose three of them. But we'll have a pretty good group coming back (in 2015)."

The four players that scored for the Cadets earned All-

OVAC honors — Casey O'Korn (70), David Coram (70), Mario Saludes (75) and Jordan Patrick (77). Magnolia's Peyton Moore (75) rounded out the unit.

O'Korn earned medalist honors after topping Coram in a thrilling one-hole playoff neither was too enthusiastic about playing. Both seniors and long-time friends, the duo was content with sharing the crown and made it known to Church and tournament officials their feelings about forgoing the playoff.

However, upon consideration, tournament officials said, by rule, the pair had to stage the playoff. So, off they went to the first green.

O'Korn hit his tee shot to the left of the green, while Coram directed his near the front.

Then, O'Korn gave the sizable gallery a thrill when his second shot hit the flag and almost dropped in the hole. Instead, it rolled about a foot from the cup.

"I was about 50 feet from the hole and I didn't realize I hit the flag until I got up (on the green)," O'Korn said.

Coram's second shot wasn't as close and O'Korn closed things out on his next shot to win it.

"It was good that I got to play with David in our last OVAC championship," O'Korn

said.

O'Korn started strong, shooting 1-under on the front nine, with a pair of birdies on Par 5 holes. That offset a bogey on No. 2. He was even on the back nine.

"I started out pretty slow, then came on strong at the end by getting birdies on the last three holes," O'Korn said. "My expectations were to hit every shot as well as I could. But we won as a team, and that's all that matters to me."

For Coram, who Church said will also get a medalist plaque at some point, the playoff with his friend was an unexpected surprise.

"I didn't imagine that happening when I woke up this morning, but it was a memorable way to end my golf career here at Linsley," he said. "I'm really blessed to have been able to have the opportunity."

"We've had a lot of success and I can't think of any better way to go out. It could've went any better. I always root for teammates."

Coram shot even on his front nine, before two birdies in his first three holes on the back propelled him to his 1-under day.

"I had a lot of pars ... 15, which is somewhat boring," he said smiling. "It was a pretty solid round. I can't complain."

# Colts claim OVAC 4A golf title

WHEELING — The Meadowbrook High golfers captured the championship at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A Championships at Oglebay's Speidel Golf Club on Tuesday.

The Colts finished with a team total of 334 to claim the crown, followed by East Liverpool (354), Harrison Central (363), Union Local (395), Beaver Local (405), Martins Ferry (427), St. Clairsville (432), Oak Glen (443), Edison (447), and Buckeye Local (488).

Taylor Gander was Meadowbrook's low scorer with a total of 81. Trey Singleton and Zach Clair both carded 84, while Devin Webster finished with 85.

"We didn't start out well," Meadowbrook coach Mel Pesuit explained. "But we hung in there and battled until the end. It's a tough course, and I'm really pleased with the effort. I didn't know if we'd ever win the OVAC again, but they really came through."

This is Meadowbrook's seventh OVAC title, with previous wins in 1993, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2009.

Isaac Davidson (73) of East Liverpool, Jarret Causby (77) of Union Local, Gander (81) of Meadowbrook, Austin Kowalski (82) of Harrison

Central, and Joey Newlin (83) of Beaver Local were all named All-OVAC in the 4A Division.

NEXT — Meadowbrook returns to action on Saturday at the River View Black Bear Invitational at Hilltop Golf Course in Coshocton at 9 a.m.

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## S O U T H ZANESVILLE —

John Glenn High School collected an Muskingum Valley League dual victory over Maysville at Eagle Sticks Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Muskies finished at 149 for the match and Maysville finished with a 173 total.

John Glenn moves to 11-0 in the MVL, and Maysville slips to 7-5.

Match medalist Dylan Van Fossen led the Muskies with an even-par 35, followed by teammates Jordan Wheeler and Derek Crum with matching scores of 37, and Nate Terry who checked in with 40.

Luke Engle was low-man for the Maysville, with 37, with Hayden Perry adding 42, and both Walker Stalnaker and Laken Bunting closed with scores of 47.

NEXT — John Glenn travels to Zanesville Country Club for a triangular match against Zanesville and Tri-Valley, with play beginning at 4

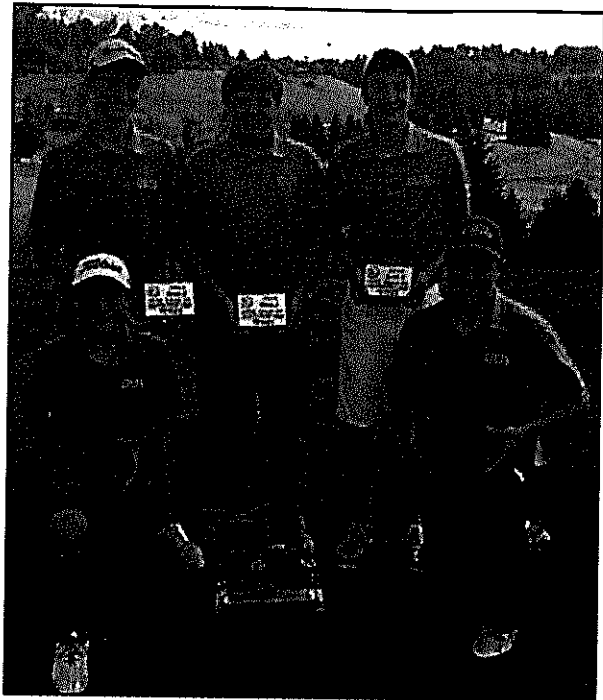


Photo Courtesy of Seth Staskay/Times Leader  
Meadowbrook High captured the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 4A golf championship with a score of 334 on Tuesday at Oglebay Speidel Golf Course in Wheeling. Team members are front row (left to right) — Trey Singleton and Zach Clair. Second row — Devin Webster, Damon Moore and Taylor Gander.

p.m.

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WEST LAFAYETTE — The Newcomerstown High Trojans claimed an Inter-Valley Conference win against Tuscarawas Catholic Central on Tuesday in local golf action at Hickory Flats golf course.

The Trojans registered a 189-224 victory over the Saints to move to 5-8 in duals, 2-4 in the IVC and 9-27 overall.

Tuesday's match med-

alist was Zach Gibson (40) followed by Rylan Popadak and Thurman Gibson each with a 49 and Jared Brooks finished with a 51.

TCC's low men were Jared Scolati and Jeremy Krese each with 47, followed by Francesca Ciraci (58) and Elizabeth Clemence (72).

NEXT —

Newcomerstown faces off against Strasburg at Hickory Flats at 4 p.m.

Prep Golf  
Roundup