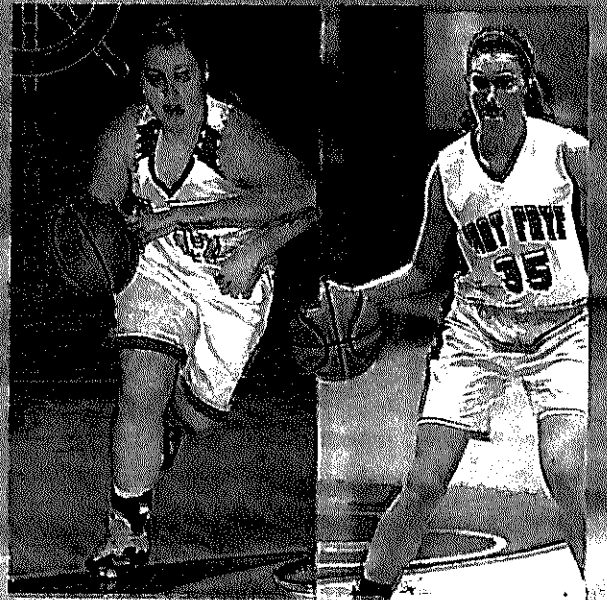


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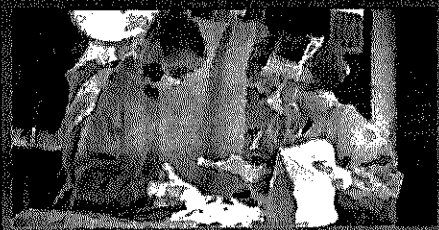
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Madonna vs. Conotton
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Union Local vs. Harrison
Page 12
South vs. Morganown

On the Cover

REPRESENTATIVES OF each team are: Olivia Bower (Conotton), Monica Bragg (Madonna), Caitlyn Kroll (Bridgeport), Lindsey Baker (Wheeling CC), Haylee Bowers (River), Makayia Liedtke (Fort Frye), Paige Richards (Harrison), Alli DeLaney (Union Local), Sydney Holloway (Morgantown) and Taryn McCutcheon (South).
Cover Design/MIKE PALMER
Tab Design/SETH STASKEY

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OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conotton, Madonna set for rematch in Class 1A final

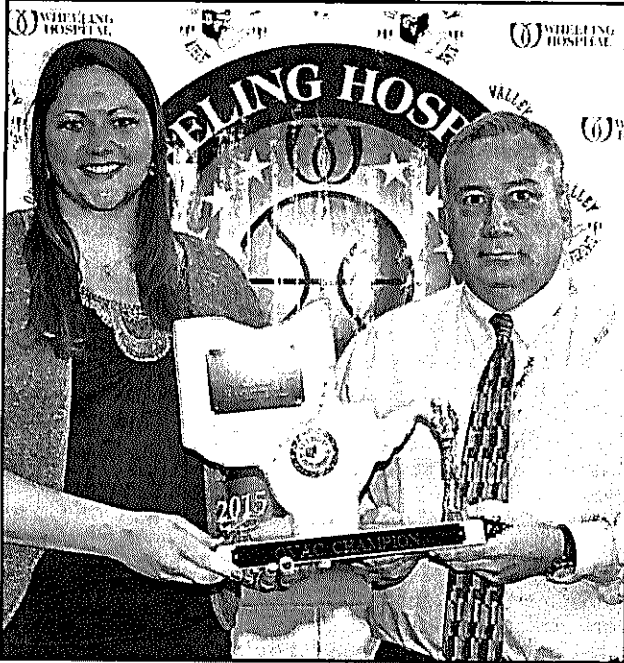
By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Conotton Valley's senior class has enjoyed a pretty good run in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls' Basketball Championships. Over the course of the past three seasons, the Rockets are a perfect 5-0 in playoff games, including back-to-back Class 1A titles.

Come Saturday afternoon at 3 inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building, third-year head coach Chandra Myers' squad will be seeking a 'three-peat' when it faces top-seeded Madonna (12-5), which it defeated in last year's championship game. The Rockets (17-3) advanced with a thrilling, 52-50, nod over No. 2 seed St. John Central, while the Blue Dons eliminated

See, 1A, Page 4

DISPLAYING THE Class 1A championship trophy for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship are Conotton Valley head coach Chandra Myers and Madonna head coach Don Ogden.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

CONOTTON VALLEY ROCKETS

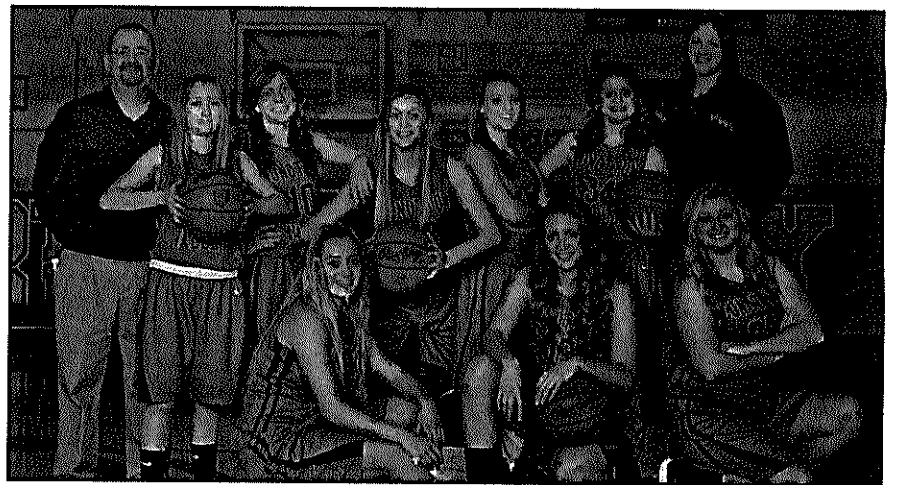
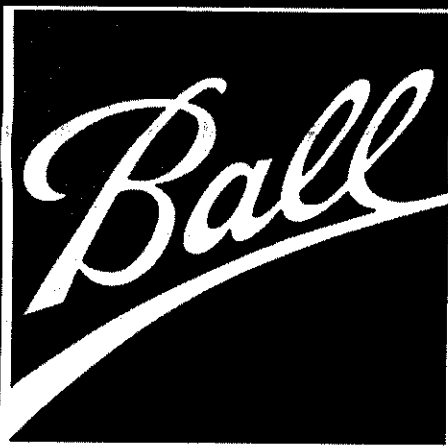


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Conotton Valley girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Aubri Jones, Olivia Bower and Kylie Manbeck. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Bart Busby, Amber Adkins, Chandice Cottis, Taylor Russell, Madison Lyon, Micah Busby and head coach Chandra Myers.

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- From Rocket Nation -



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● 1A

Continued from Page 3

fourth-seeded Morgantown Trinity Christian, 59-53, in the other semi.

"I would probably assume that other people are thinking about that," Myers

said when asked about her team having a bullseye on its back. "This our third straight year in the championship game and we've got back-to-back titles, so, yes,

I'd think we've got a bullseye on our backs."

Myers has six girls back from last year's team, including five seniors that have played on the two pre-

vious championship squads.

The Rockets are led by 6-2 senior Olivia Bower. The guard/forward has already committed to Ohio University and averages around 25 points and 12 rebounds a game. She had a career-high 37 points — including a 13 of 15 effort from the foul line — in the upset of the Irish.

"She is a very talented and skilled player," Myers said of Bower. "She's also a great kid."

"I've been blessed to have been able to coach her."

However, all good players have supporting casts that make them a good team. Bower has that, as well.

"We wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for the other girls," Myers stressed.

"Yes, Olivia steps up a lot of times, but the other girls do a lot of the things that you don't see in the box-scores."

The other starters are 5-6 senior guard Taylor Russell; 5-5 senior point guard Chandice Cottis; 5-5 senior guard Aubri Jones; and 5-9 senior forward Kylie Manbeck. Russell and Cottis are returning starters, as is Bowers.

The roster is rounded out by 5-3 senior guard Amber Adkins; 5-5 sophomore guard Madison Lyon; and 5-8 freshman forward Micah Busby.

"This group of girls has worked hard and they have really bought into what I've been trying to do as far as my coaching style," Myers explained.

Does she have a pretty good idea of what to expect from her opponent?

"Honestly, I only know that we beat them last year," Myers said of Madonna. "I haven't had the opportunity to see them this year. You can look stuff up and see what they have. I know they have one really good girl

MADONNA BLUE DONS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Becca Holt	5-6	11
4	Megan Boniti	5-5	09
5	Halle Payne	5-3	09
10	Isabella Rosso	5-6	11
12	Maddi Moore	5-7	11
21	Mikaela Lenhart	5-7	11
23	Monica Bragg	5-11	11
30	Sara Travaglino	5-4	11
32	Katie Lammers	5-8	11
55	Kasey Canel	5-9	09
Head Coach: Don Ogden			
Assistant coaches: Becky Brancker, Rusty Hodgkiss			
CONOTTON VALLEY ROCKETS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
10	Chandice Cottis	5-5	12
13	Olivia Bower	6-2	12
14	Aubri Jones	5-5	12
15	Madison Lyon	5-5	10
20	Amber Adkins	5-3	11
22	Taylor Russell	5-6	12
25	Kylie Manbeck	5-9	12
34	Micah Busby	5-8	09
Head Coach: Chandra Myers			

WEIRTON MADONNA BLUE DONS

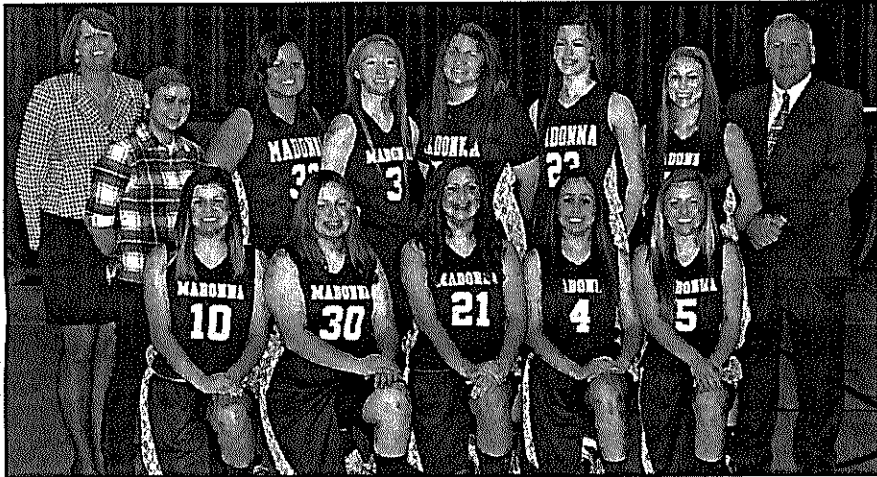


Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Madonna girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Isabella Rosso, Sarah Travaglino, Mikaela Lenhart, Megan Boniti and Halle Payne. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Becky Brancker, Emma Burns, Katie Lammers, Becca Holt, Kasey Canel, Monica Bragg, Maddie Moore and head coach Don Ogden. Absent is coach Rusty Hodgkiss.



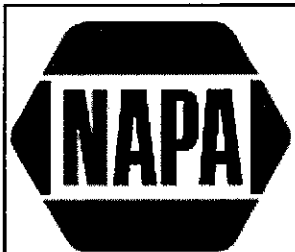
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From The Faculty, Staff & Students at St. Paul Catholic School

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Good Luck Lady Blue Dons!

and she has a good supporting cast.

"I think it will all come down to us just playing our game. I always believe that," she added. "I don't believe in scouting teams. I believe it all comes down to my kids and how bad they want it."

Madonna head coach Don Ogden feels the same.

"Even though we played them last year, I'm not familiar with them," he admitted. "We didn't see them in the regular season, but you ask around and everything you hear is what I believe to be true, that they are a very good team. It's going to be a tough matchup."

He said making the OVAC finals was one of his team's many goals.

"The girls sat down with the coaching staff and told us they not only wanted to make the championship game, but win it, as well," he said. "You have your ups and downs and wonder if you're going to make it. Fortunately for us, we did make it. We're here and we're excited to get to play on Saturday."

Leading the Madonna

attack is 5-11 junior

Monica Bragg. She is backed by 5-8 classmate Katie Lammers; 5-6 junior Becca Holt; 5-7 junior Maddie Moore; and 5-7 junior Mikaela Lenhart. Bragg had 22 points including a 14 of 16 effort from the charity stripe — in the semifinal victory, while Lammers chipped in a dozen.

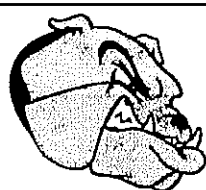
"Monica not only leads us in scoring, but a lot of other categories," Ogden said.

"Katie has really come on of late and has been playing really well. Becca has assumed a lot of different roles as a ballhandler and scorer. Maddie usually draws the other team's top scorer on defense."

The Blue Dons all-underclassmen roster is completed by juniors Megan Boniti (5-5); Isabella Rossi (5-6) and Sara Travaglino (5-4); and freshmen Halle Payne (5-3) and Kasey Canel (5-9).

Ogden, who led the Blue Dons to the 2011 championship, had nothing but praise for the way Bower plays the game.

See, 1A, Page 7



BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS

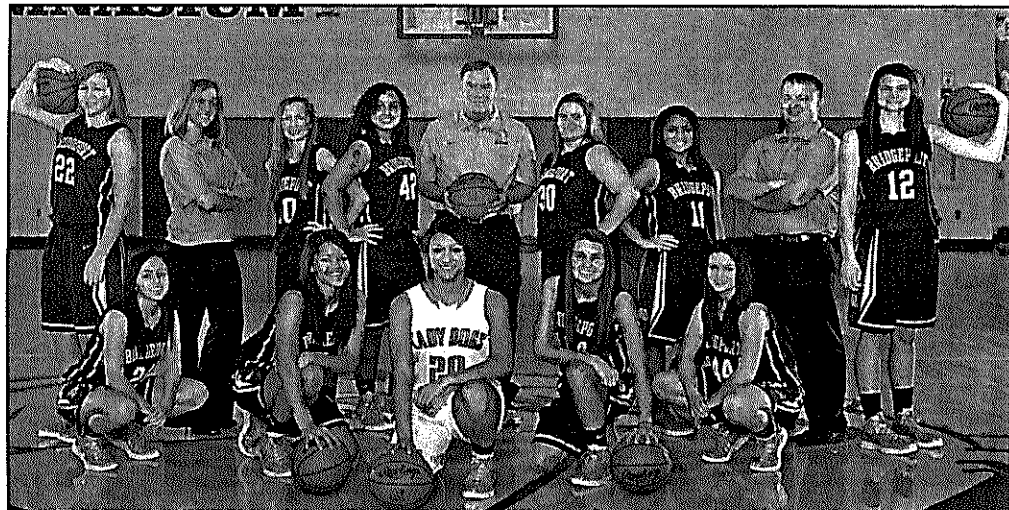
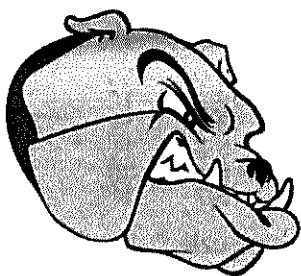


Photo Courtesy/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Bridgeport girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Randi Barker, Calllyn Kroll, Briana Massey and Josie Bugaj. Second row, from left, are Deja Massey, assistant coach Samantha Schaffner, Marissa Beal, Dorothy Johnson, Head Coach Rob Zitzelsberger, Justine Schell, Starbrea Butler, assistant coach Jason Hanson and Kamden Dulesky.



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 From The Basketball Parent Club



Bridgeport, Central to vie in Class 2A

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – A pair of state-ranked teams will do battle for the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A championship Saturday afternoon inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Top-seeded Bridgeport (20-1) and No. 2 Wheeling Central (14-2) will tip-off at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the fourth of five games. The Bulldogs are ranked seventh in the latest Ohio Division IV poll, while the Maroon Knights top the W.Va. Class A list.

The matchup is a repeat encounter from last winter's OVAC semifinal contest in which Bridgeport prevailed, 50-43, in comeback fashion. However, the Bulldogs fell to Frontier in the finals.

"There aren't too many secrets between the two teams," Bridgeport head coach Rob Zitzelsberger

said. "We've got one AAU player and they've got two AAU players."

The Bulldogs' head coach was referring to his standout Caitlyn Kroll. The 5-10 junior dandy leads the Ohio Valley at 28 points a game. She is also an outstanding rebounder with 7.9 per outing. In addition, she averages 4.5 steals and hands out 3.2 assists per game.

Her versatility showed in last Monday's 42-31 semifinal victory over fourth-seeded Clay-Battelle. She scored 14 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, charted half-a-dozen steals and handed out five assists, four of which came in the fourth quarter when the hosts went into a 4-corner delay game. She is also deadly from the free throw stripe where she connects on 88 percent of her attempts.

"Caitlyn is a great player," Wheeling Central head coach Penn Kurtz assessed. "We work on defense every day in practice. We pride



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

DISPLAYING THE Class 2A trophy that will be on the line Saturday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship are Bridgeport head coach Rob Zitzelsberger (left) and Wheeling Central A.D. Mike Young.

ourselves on our defense. We had pretty good success last year against her.

"Our game plan going in will be to try and contain her," Kurtz added. "But we can't get caught up (defending her) and let the other girls beat us."

Kurtz doesn't think his team needs to be reminded of last year's result.

"I don't think we need any extra incentive or motivation," he added. "I think there is kind of a built-in rivalry with the AAU players and such."

The Maroon Knights' AAU duo consists of 5-7 junior Lindsey Baker and 5-6 junior Cate Calissie, who provides a huge spark off the bench.

BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
2	Caitlyn Kroll	5-9	11
10	Marissa Beall	5-2	9
11	Starbrea Butler	5-3	11
12	Kamden Dulesky	5-9	12
14	Courtney Trouten	5-6	11
20	Briana Massey	5-8	12
22	Deja Massey	5-10	10
24	Randi Barker	5-3	11
30	Justine Schell	5-5	11
34	Shelby Matheny	5-2	09
42	Dorothy Johnson	5-7	11
44	Josie Bugaj	5-2	10
55	Samantha Ivan	5-9	10
Head Coach: Rob Zitzelsberger Assistant coaches: Jason Hanson, Samantha Schaffner.			
WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
2	Riley Blaha	5-6	09
3	Madison Taylor	5-8	11
4	Nicolette Nolte	5-4	09
4	Juliana Ryan	5-4	12
5	Milica Pavlovic	5-10	12
10	Regan Blaha	5-10	12
12	Lindsey Baker	5-7	11
13	Jaela Manns	5-9	10
14	Riley Bennington	5-6	09
15	Olivia Bailor	5-8	11
21	Alexis Dick	5-9	09
22	Sydney Bennington	5-8	12
23	Cate Calissie	5-6	11
24	Alyssa Gilligan	5-8	11
25	Taylor Duplaga	5-4	09
30	Nicole Lewis	5-7	11
Head Coach: Penn Kurtz Assistant coaches: Paul Kurtz, Suzie Daller, Bob Robinson.			

"Baker is the engine that makes them go, just like Kroll is for us," Zitzelsberger noted. "We'll have to try and slow her down, but it won't be easy."

According to Kurtz, Baker is more than just a scorer for his team.

"Lindsey not only leads us in scoring, but she is also our assists leader," he said of his point guard. "She has really worked hard on her game."

Role players could play a huge part in the outcome.

In addition to Kroll, the Bulldogs also start 5-8 senior Briana Massey; 5-6 junior Courtney Trouten; 5-5 junior Justine Schell and 5-10 sophomore Deja Massey. The older Massey scores nine points a game and grabs six rebounds, while her younger sister

averages five points and six boards. Deja Massey tied her career-high of 14 points in the victory over the Cee-Bees.

"It's no secret that Kroll is our go-to player," Zitzelsberger added. "But we've got to have other girls step up and play well. Deja did that the other night."

Wheeling Central's other starters are 5-10 senior forward Regan Blaha; 5-8 senior center Sydney Bennington; 5-4 senior Juliana Ryan; and 5-6 freshman Riley Bennington.

"Regan is our second leading scorer," Kurtz revealed. "She's a difficult matchup inside for the opposition. Sydney is incredible in the post. She really works hard, and

See, 2A, Page 7

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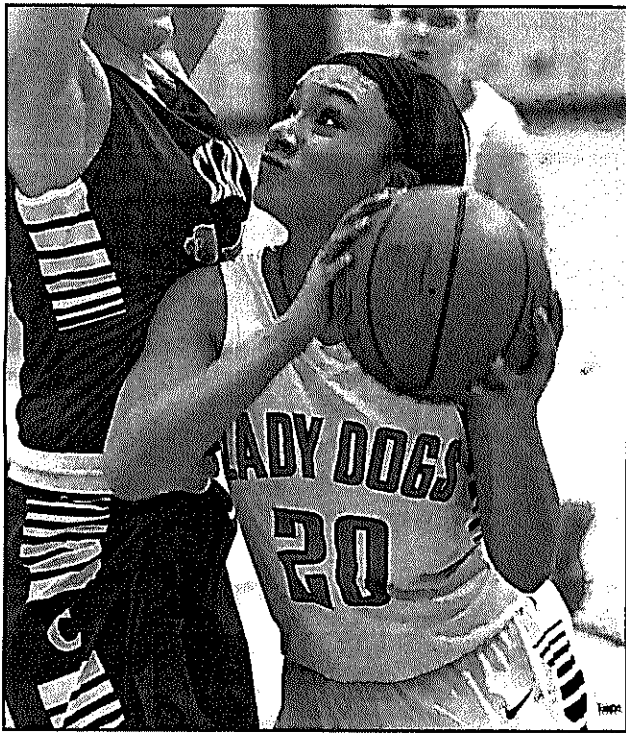
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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

BRIDGEPORT'S Briana Massey is one of the Bulldogs' key contributors. Massey and the Bulldogs will take on Wheeling Central Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the OVAC Class 2A championship game.

● **2A**

Continued from Page 6

Julianna fills her role and plays very good defense. Riley has been exceptional for a freshman."

Bridgeport, like Wheeling Central, puts a lot of emphasis on the defensive end of the floor. The Bulldogs are yielding a tad under 40 points per contest, while scoring 52.

"We have to rely on our defense at times when our offense isn't clicking," Zitzelsberger said. "We can play pretty good defense at times. We will have to Saturday night."

Kurtz said he feels confident if he can hold Bridgeport in the 45-point range.

"I think we'll have a good shot (at winning) if we can keep the game somewhere in the mid 40s."

In addition to Calissie off the bench, the Maroon Knights can also turn to 5-4 freshman Taylor Duplaga for valuable minutes.

The Bulldogs, meanwhile, are rather thin on the bench as 5-7 junior Dorothy Johnson has provided some inside presence.

● **1A**

Continued from Page 4

"She's one of the best players I've ever coached against," he revealed. "She's tall and can play inside, but she also handles the ball very well and can play on the outside. She's a nightmare to defend. I've spent a lot of late nights

thinking about how to defend her, but I haven't come up with anything yet."

He believes the key to the game will be his team's execution.

"We need to do what we do well and then contain the Bower girl," he said.

WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Wheeling Central girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Riley Blaha, Taylor DuPlaga, Nikki Nolte and Lexi Saunders. Middle row, from left, are Riley Bennington, Alexis Dick, Sydney Bennington, Regan Blaha, Milica Pavlovic, Juliana Ryan, Jaela Manns and Cameron Lloyd. Back row, from left, are Maddie Taylor, Alyssa Gilligan, Cate Callissie, Suzie Dailer, Penn Kurtz, Paul Kurtz, Bob Robinson, Lindsey Baker, Nicole Lewis and Olivia Dailer.

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Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights

From CCHS Athletic Department

River, Fort Frye clash for 3A crown

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — River and Fort Frye know each other well.

Remember, they played twice annually the last several seasons when both were members of the Pioneer Valley Conference.

However, the Pilots

departed the PVC prior to this school year and the two programs didn't continue their regular-season series.

They'll get to see each other up close and personal Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center when they meet for the Class 3A championship as part of the Wheeling

Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Tournament.

The Pilots, who are the top seed, come into the game with a 19-2 record and are fresh off a regular-season victory against Wheeling Central this past Wednesday.

River reached the OVAC final for the second time in three seasons after avenging

its only two losses by defeating Linsly in the semifinals on Monday. It's only other appearance came in 2013 when it lost to Fort Frye, ironically.

"We're happy to be in this game, but we're definitely not content with it," Isaly said. "We're here to win the game and we realize we're facing a great team and a great coach."

Fort Frye, which ousted Barnesville in the semifinal, has been a consistent participant in the OVAC championship games under head coach Dan Liedtke.

The Cadets are in the conference title game for the sixth straight season. However, they were denied the crown last season by Linsly.

"Since they started doing a tournament, there's only been twice when we didn't make it," Liedtke said. "We have good players and we have a very disciplined system that's helped us sustain our success. The players know when they come into it that it's very demanding, it's successful and they believe in it."

The Cadets' system starts with defense and taking care of the basketball.

"Fundamentals are a big key for us," Liedtke said. "We're always going to play hard. We never want to beat ourselves, so we try to make sure we do everything right defensively. Offensively, we make good decisions and we can not afford to take bad shots."

Though they didn't face them, when Isaly has watched Fort Frye this season it's just more of what he's grown accustomed to.

"They're fundamentally sound, play great defense and shoot the ball well," Isaly said. "They just don't give you good looks. Coach Liedtke does a great job with his program."



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

DISPLAYING THE Class 3A trophy that will be on the line Saturday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship are River head coach Rick Isaly (left) and Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke.



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Fort Frye girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Chloe Miller, Danielle Lamp, Brooke Haas, MacKenzie White, Avery Roof, Kelsey Adkins and Gabby Baker. Second row, from left, are Karisa Lang, Caleigh Fryman, Megan Liedtke, Michelle Adkins, Jackie Pawloski and Alexis Enochs. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Pat Lang, assistant coach Terry Huck, Tanner Booth, Makayla Liedtke, Katie Hart and head coach Dan Liedtke.

GOOD LUCK MIGHTY CADETS!

From The Fort Frye Athletic Department

RIVER PILOTS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
1	Bailey Caldwell	5-3	10
3	Alex Karpacs-Brown	5-4	10
5	Abby Caldwell	5-4	11
10	Devyn Potts	5-3	12
12	Haylee Bowers	5-6	12
20	Brielle Williams	5-10	11
22	Tiffany Conners	5-7	11
32	Kyndra Earley	5-8	10
33	Jensen Caretti	6-1	11
40	Haylee Winkler	5-10	11

Head Coach: Rick Isaly

Assistant coach: Dean Caldwell

FORT FRYE CADETS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
1	Avery Roof	5-5	09
2	Michelle Adkins	5-5	12
3	Gabby Baker	5-5	09
5	Chloe Miller	5-6	09
10	Katie Hart	5-2	10
11	Alexis Enochs	6-1	11
13	MacKenzie White	5-2	09
14	Brooke Haas	5-5	09
21	Danielle Lamp	5-8	09
22	Jackie Pawloski	5-10	11
23	Caleigh Fryman	5-9	11
24	Kelsey Adkins	5-9	09
32	Tanner Booth	5-8	10
35	Mikayla Liedtke	5-10	10
42	Megan Liedtke	5-11	12
43	Karisa Lang	5-3	11

Head Coach: Dan Liedtke

Assistant coaches: Terry Huck, Pat Lang

See, 3A, Page 9

● 3A

Continued from Page 8

Knowing the sort of defense the Cadets bring to the table, Isaly spent a lot of time this week stressing to his squad to be able to capitalize on opportunities.

"Every possession, against Fort Frye, is critical," Isaly said. "When we played them two years ago out here (at OUE), it wasn't pretty. I hope we take care of the ball and make smart decisions."

The Cadets know all about River and the success it's enjoyed this season.

"We're somewhat familiar with them and they're familiar with us and a lot of the players played against each other last year," Liedtke said.

The Pilots are led by talented junior Jensen Caretti. She's receiving all sorts of Division I interest.

"It's definitely nice knowing you have a player who's going to give you probably 20 or 25 points a game, at least 10 rebounds a game and a few blocks a game. Plus, she intimidates people around the basket. She's really grown a lot and she's continued to get better."

At 6-1, she plays both inside and outside and scores almost 28 points a game. She's also River's top rebounder and shot blocker.

"I can only go by last year and Caretti is just a phenomenal player," Liedtke said. "She can do a lot of things and if the game gets to where she can do her thing, she can be tremendously dangerous."

Though Caretti attracts much of the attention of opposing teams, Liedtke knows his squad must be prepared for the Pilots collectively, too.

Junior Brielle Williams is a solid second option for Isaly and the Pilots. After missing much of the last two seasons with injuries, Williams is scoring at a

17.4 points per game clip this winter.

Senior Haylee Bowers, senior Devyn Potts and junior Abby Caldwell round out the starting lineup.

Bailey Caldwell and junior Haylee Winkler are the top substitutes for the Pilots, who average 62.6 points a game.

"We can't focus just on

Caretti," Liedtke said. "Caretti is one of those players who's going to get points, so we have to make sure we hold their other girls down, too."

The Cadets, who are 17-3, have had some ups and downs, especially of late. Though they've continued to win with regularity, Liedtke has had to shuffle

his lineup because of injuries.

"We had three girls get hurt against Shenandoah (on Feb. 2)," Liedtke said.

See, 3A, Page 15

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RIVER PILOTS



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 River girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Devyn Potts and Haley Bowers. Middle row, from left, are Alexandria Karpacs-Brown, Kendra Earley and Bailey Caldwell. Back row, from left, are head coach Rick Isaly, Abby Caldwell, Brielle Williams, Jensen Caretti, Haley Winkler, Tiffany Connors and assistant coach Dean Caldwell.

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UL, Harrison prep for rubber match in 4A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

A lot of teams are familiar with one another in sports.

But, Union Local and Harrison Central are taking familiarity to a different level.

After each won on its home floor by 10 points during the season, the two teams will square off in a rubber match Saturday morning.

The stakes are just a bit higher this time around, however.

The top-seeded Jets and second-seeded Huskies will clash for the Class 4A championship as the tip-off game in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

It seems only fitting that the Jets and Huskies are meeting for the title. They've been the top two teams in the 4A rankings all season and showed why during the aforementioned semifinals.

"I think the best two

UNION LOCAL JETS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
4	McKenzie Deese	5-5	09
11	Mia Miller	5-3	10
13	Saige Butler	5-9	11
14	Michaela Chaney	5-6	09
22	Sanni Saarenmaa	5-7	12
23	Haley Porter	5-5	09
24	Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson	6-0	10
25	Adrean Carlile	5-6	10
30	Ali DeLaney	5-7	11
32	Kylie Russell	5-1	12
33	Mikayla Patton	6-0	12

Head Coach: Kelley Hanlon
Assistant coach: Amy DeLaney

HARRISON CENTRAL HUSKIES			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Madison Doty	5-7	10
11	Alexis Yoho	5-4	10
12	Hannah Warrington	5-5	10
14	Morgan Carter	5-5	10
15	Paige Richards	5-5	11
20	Rachel Morrison	5-7	10
21	Shianne Nameth	5-9	11
22	Emilee Yoho	5-4	09
23	Taylor Hunt	5-5	09
30	D.J. Keeseey	5-11	11
31	Ashley Mercer	5-7	10
32	Katie Ellzy	5-9	12
33	Alexia Dowdle	5-5	10
35	Megan Stackhouse	5-6	10

Head Coach: Nick Yourkovich
Assistant coaches: Jay Smith, John Visser, Sarah Hawthorne.

teams in 4A are playing here," Harrison Central head coach Nick Yourkovich said.

"We're looking forward to it. Since we are so familiar with each other, it'll be a matter of adjustments, execution and who remains more calm and relaxed."

Hanlon is excited for the



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

DISPLAYING THE Class 4A trophy that will be on the line Saturday morning in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship are Union Local head coach Kelley Hanlon (left) and Harrison Central head coach Nick Yourkovich.

game, not just because it's a conference championship game, but to get the chance to face a quality team once again.

"I kind of knew, even after the first time we played them, that we'd probably see them a few more times," Union Local head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "It just goes to show that both programs are where they should be."

Harrison Central comes into the fray as the defending champion in a similar situation as the second seed.

"Really, the only thing that's different for us is that we're the defending champ," Yourkovich said. "Basically, we took the same route together, so the week is shaping up about the same, which makes me a little calmer about it than I was last year."

Union Local last won the OVAC title in 2011 when it defeated Oak Glen for the 3A title.

For the Jets, it's a matter of continuing to "knock down" their goals.

"Our first goal was to have a better record than last year and then the next goal was the Buckeye 8," Hanlon said. "Being in this game is an honor, but we're not satisfied."

Neither team had much issue in getting to the championship game during their respective semifinals.

Union Local played as a top seed is expected, routing East Liverpool, 64-37.

The Huskies reached the title game thanks to a 73-51 victory against Oak Glen.

"With the exception of turning it over a little bit too much, we played really, really well (in the semifinal)," Yourkovich admitted. "Everyone, from top to bottom, played well on Monday. We were ready and focused and played like it."

Since, the teams know each other as well as they do, most hours this week have been spent fine tuning and preparing for adjustments the other may make.

"You definitely didn't

See, 4A, Page 11

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● 4A

Continued from Page 10

have to spend a lot of time tracking down film or scouting reports," Yourkovich said. "We know what they're going to do and they know what we're going to do. We know Union Local's a good team and we're definitely not overlooking them."

The ultimate key for the Huskies is defending the 3-point line. Union Local has connected on 124 3-point goals this season, which is a school record.

Individually, junior Alli DeLaney has made 59 from behind the arc and freshman Haley Porter has 38 makes

to her credit.

DeLaney leads the Jets in scoring at 18.4 points a game, while Porter checks in at 12.4 a night.

See, 4A, Page 12

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**HARRISON
CENTRAL HUSKIES**



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Harrison Central girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Paige Richards, Alexis Yoho and Alexia Dowdle. Middle row, from left, are Emilee Yoho, Mercedes Logsdon, Hannah Warrington, Megan Stackhouse and Rachel Morrison. Back row, from left, are Morgan Carter, Ashley Mencer, Shianne Nameth, D.J. Keesey, Katie Elzy, Maddy Doty and Taylor Hunt.

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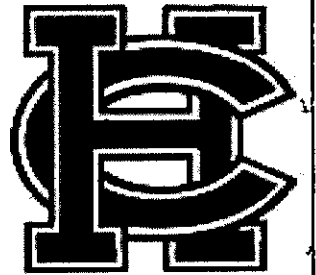
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South, Morgantown know each other well

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When the OVAC brass devised its plan to create the Wheeling Hospital Basketball Tournaments, one of its main objectives was to create a one-stop-shop, so to speak, where prep basketball fans could come and take in quality match-ups featuring the top teams in the conference from small to large.

But, it's hard to envision that anyone associated with building the event had any inkling that such a tournament could pair state champions.

Such is the case this season.

When Parkersburg South and Morgantown meet for the 5A crown at 12:30 p.m. Saturday it will feature a battle of, not just the top two seeded teams in the class, but the last two West Virginia Class AAA champions.

In fact, it will be the third time the Patriots and Mohigans have met in the past three weeks.

The West Virginia Region 1 rivals have split their previous two meetings, and both coaches agree this week's get-together promises to be another dandy.

"I expect a very good basketball game between two very good basketball teams," Morgantown head coach Jason White said. "Both of these teams are very familiar with each other. There's no secrets between the two."

"We've each stolen a game from each other on our home courts. So, to play on a neutral court I think, is an exciting time for us."

For Parkersburg South head coach Scott Stephens, he thinks the venue is moot. He believes the two teams could put on quite a show anywhere.

PARKERSBURG SOUTH PATRIOTS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
4	Taryn McCutcheon	5-4	11
10	Jordan Johnson	5-4	10
12	Lexi Moore	5-6	10
14	Devin Hefner	5-6	09
15	Allison Currey	5-9	11
22	Breaunna Haynes	5-5	11
23	Keya Bartlett	5-4	12
30	Kelsay Proffitt	5-6	12
31	Katelyn Enoch	5-5	12
33	Katelyn Byrd	5-9	11
34	Amber McMullen	5-10	11
35	Mykalyn Fallon	5-10	11
42	Anna Hayton	6-2	11
43	Laken Valentine	5-6	11
52	Carlie Wilson	5-10	11

Head Coach: Scott Stephens

MORGANTOWN MOHIGANS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Sammie Parks	5-3	12
5	Christina Secreto	5-6	12
10	Rachel Laskody	6-0	11
11	Olivia Seggie	5-3	12
12	Cassie Parks	5-5	10
21	Brie Giuliani	5-10	12
22	Sydney Holloway	5-10	11
24	Paige Poffenberger	5-7	11
25	Fallon Nicholson	5-6	10
30	Lize Morris	5-10	11
32	Kiana Turner	5-8	11
33	Lydia Adrian	5-11	10
40	Makaelynn Milik	5-7	12
55	Shelby Boyle	5-10	11

Head Coach: Jason White

"It's just going to be another good game with two really good teams competing against each other," he said.

"It should be a fun game."

The Patriots (18-3), the 2013 state champion, and the Mohigans (19-1), the reigning trophy winner, last met February 3 in Morgantown where South handed the champs their only loss of the season, 67-60.

The teams also met in Parkersburg on January 27, with Morgantown prevailing, 47-34.

"In that last game, they shot the ball really well and they got out to a good start," White said of the Patriots. "We crawled back in it, but down the stretch gave up too many offensive rebounds and too many second-chance opportunities."

"So, I think not turning the ball over, hitting the

boards hard and limiting their second-chance opportunities will be big keys for us Saturday.

"When we beat them, our defense was our key. We held them in the 30s and we were plus-17 on the boards"

The Mohigans throttled Wheeling Park, 73-48, to reach the final. It was the sixth straight AAA ranked squad Morgantown has faced.

"We've run the gauntlet of ranked teams, and we're still kind of running the gauntlet right now," White noted.

Of it's 19 victories, all but one — a 67-60 win against Logan in December — have been by double-digits.

"Our team is quick, and we have a lot of depth," White said. "We have sickness right now, but, normally, I'll play 10 kids. I have 10 kids that average

between five and 11 points per game. We'll run a lot of kids in and try to find the right combination."

White calls Olivia Seggie the leader of the team. She averages 8 points and leads the team with 4.3 assists a game.

"She's as quick as lightning and she'll give you everything he's got," he said.

Sydney Holloway paces the Mohigans in scoring (11.8) and rebounding (6.7).

Other players to keep an eye out for include Brie Giuliani (8.1 ppg), Sammie Parks (6.2 ppg), Rachel Ladosky (6.2 ppg) and Paige Poffenberger (6.2 ppg).

"We're a team that wants to get the game going up

and down (the court) and we'll try our best to execute on the offensive end," White noted. "But this game, the last time, was a track meet, and this game will be fun to watch."

That's fine with Stephens.

"If you just sit back and watch, you're in for a long evening," he said. "They

See, 5A, Page 14

PARKERSBURG SOUTH PATRIOTS

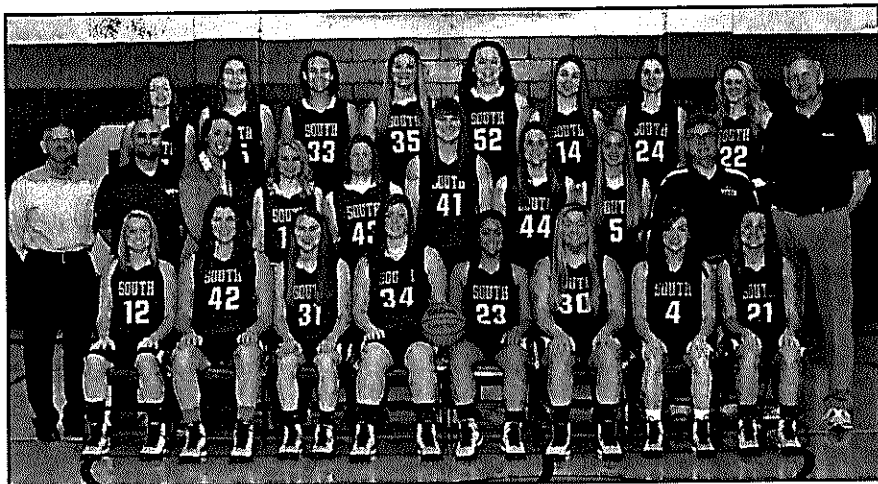


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Parkersburg South girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Alexis Moore, Anna Hayton, Katelyn Enoch, Amber McMullen, Keya Bartlett, Kelsay Proffitt, Taryn McCutcheon and Savannah Hayes. Second row, from left, are Coach Ed Davis, Asst. Coach Jordan Thornhill, Coach Stacey Houser, Jordan Johnson, Laken Valentine, Lauren Hannah, Allie Taylor, Kaitleigh Husk, Jerry Looney-scorebook and Head Coach Scott Stephens. Third row, from left, are Cassie Whitlatch, Allison Currey, Katelyn Byrd, Mykalyn Fallon, Carlie Wilson, Devin Hefner, Jasmine Morris and Breaunna Haynes.

GOOD LUCK LADY PATRIOTS!



From The
Parkersburg South
Girls Basketball
Boosters

DISPLAYING THE Class 5A trophy that will be on the line Saturday afternoon in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship are Parkersburg South A.D. Rick Leach (left) and Morgantown head coach Jason White.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

● 5A

Continued from Page 13

like to keep it in the 50s. We'd like to be in the 70s or 80s.

"They have great shooters on the perimeter and have great players on the inside. You have to keep them off the glass.

"This is probably the only team in the state that's outrebounded us. That will be a key ...hitting the boards."

South's top all-around player is Taryn McCutcheon. The Michigan State recruit is averaging

11.7 points and 6.7 assists per outing. Against Logan this past Tuesday, she had eight points, 10 assists and three steals.

"But they have five girls that can flat-out play and they're well-coached," White stressed.

Keya Bartlett, who holds the record for 3-pointers in a state tournament game, paces the Patriots with 17.1 ppg.

Anna Hayton averages 13 ppg, while Katelyn Byrd checks in at 10.3 ppg.

"They seem to take turns," Stephens noted. "Byrd had 25 against Logan. It's not just one person. You just can't focus on McCutcheon and Bartlett."

After Saturday, there's a possibility both teams could play two more times (regional and state tournaments).

"I think every time we play, it's a big game," White said.

"It's one that everyone circles on their calendars."

● 4A

Continued from Page 12

have their strengths," Hanlon said. "We try to put them in at the right time to use those strengths. We had an off game against Monroe Central.

"I think that game showed these girls that it can happen if you don't come out ready to play."

Harrison Central isn't as high octane as the Jets in terms of shooting the 3-pointer, but it has a go-to-player on the interior in senior Katie Ellzy. The Robert Morris softball signee averages 17 points a game and 12 rebounds.

"Katie is the type of girl who doesn't get too high or too low," Yourkovich said. "She comes every day focused and nothing bothers

her. She just goes out and plays."

Paige Richards is the catalyst at the point guard spot. She had a huge game against the Jets in the last meeting.

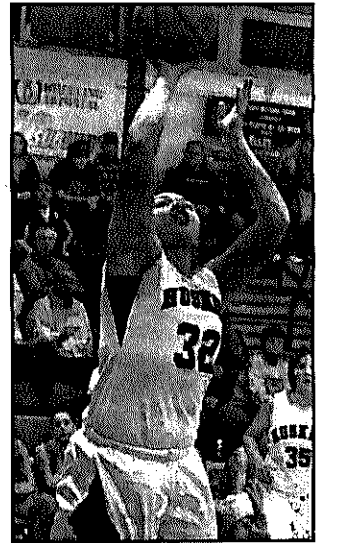
Richards made a living at the line in the prior meeting, sinking all 14 of her tries.

"We've been working really hard to make sure we don't make the same mistakes we made in the last game," Hanlon said.

"We decided that we needed a lot of work on defense, so we've been really working on it in practice. We've been mixing it up and we'll probably mix it up again on Saturday."

Joining Ellzy on the low

See, 4A, Page 15



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Katie Ellzy goes up for a shot during a game this season.

MORGANTOWN MOHIGANS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Morgantown Mohigans girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Rachel Laskody, Coach Matt Kelly, JV Coach Doug Goodwin, Head Coach Jason White, Freshmen Coach John Fowkes, Coach Marcus Law and Lydia Adrian. Second row, from left, are Shelby Boyle, Sydney Holloway, Brie Gulliani, Makaelynn Milik, Christina Secreto, Olivia Seggie, Sammie Parks and Paige Poffenberger.

LET'S GO MOHIGANS!

From The Morgantown High School Athletic Department

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● 3A

Continued from Page 12

"We had a girl miss a week with a concussion, my daughter (Makayla) broke her thumb on her shooting hand, so she's limited and we had a girl tweak a knee. I do think we're going to be back pretty much healthy for this game."

The Cadets, who buried 13 triples in their semi-final win against Barnesville, are led by Megan Liedtke and Makayla Liedtke.

Megan Liedtke went for a career-high 34 in the semi-final. Michelle Adkins added 19 in that game.

Junior Alex Enochs also had a big game in the semi-final and has played well this season.

"They have a lot of weapons," Isaly said. "Even though they have three 'key' players, the other players are good, too. We can't leave those girls open



RIVER'S Devyn Potts looks for somewhere to go with the ball during Monday's game.

because they'll make you pay."

Karisa Lang, Kate Hart, Mackenzie White, Tanner Booth, Caleigh Fryman and Avery Roof also logged minutes against the Shamrocks.

● 4A

Continued from Page 14

block is D.J. Keesey, who is a solid rebounder and scoring option. Shianne Nameth is a solid shooter from the perimeter. Maddy Doty rounds out

the starting lineup and is a solid defender.

Alexia Dowdle has developed into a solid role player off the bench.

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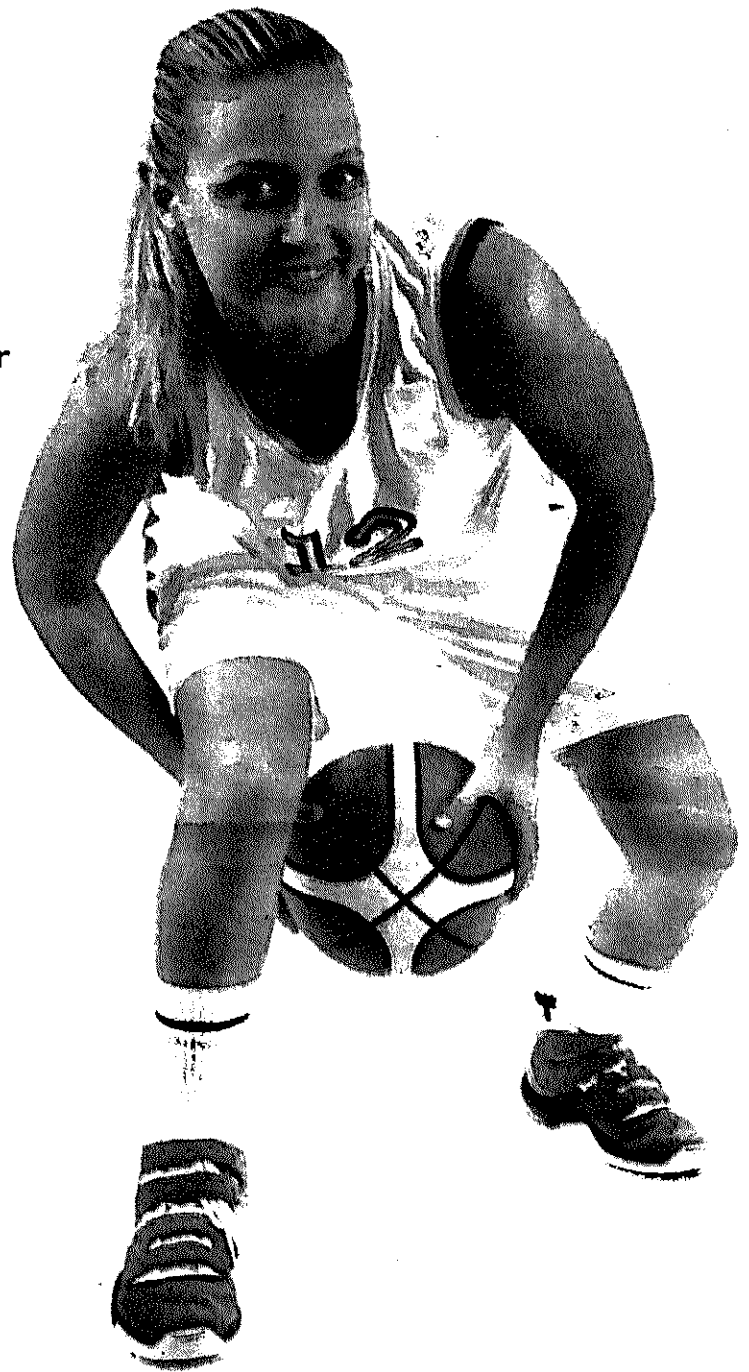
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CLASS 1A

CONOTTON VALLEY 52, ST. JOHN 50
CONOTTON VALLEY (52) — Cotts 1, 2-4 4; Bower 10, 13-25 37; Jones 0, 0-0; Lyon 0, 1-2 1; Adkins 0, 0-0 0; Russell 2, 1-2 5; Busby 2, 1-2 5. Totals, 15-56, 16-24. ST. JOHN CENTRAL (50) — Froehlich 8, 3-4 20; Rose, 4-4 18; Lemasters 1, 1-2 3; Alvey 3, 0-0 7; Lowe 1, 0-0 2; Santinoceto 0, 0-0 0; Manukin 0, 0-0 0. Totals, 19-53, 8-18.

Three-point goals: Conotton Valley (4) — Bower, 4. St. John Central (4) — Rose, 2; Froehlich, 1; Alvey, 1.

MADONNA 59, TRINITY 53

TRINITY (53) — Myers 4 2-3 12; Evans 5 4-8 15; Sauborn 2 2-2 6; Rondy 1 0-0 2; Podolski 3 1-4 7; Barnett 4 1-2 12; Tyndel 0 0-0 0; Daley 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 10-17 53. MADONNA (59) — Holt 2 4-4 8; Boniti 1 0-0 2; Payne 0 0-0 0; Moore 1 1-2 3; Lanthart 2 2-3 6; Bragg 4 14-16 22; Travaglino 0 0-0 0; Lammers 5 2-4 12; Canel 3 0-0 6. Totals 18 23-29 59.

3-Point Goals: Barnett 3, Myers, Evans.

CLASS 2A

BRIDGEPORT 42, CLAY BATTELLE 31
CLAY-BATTELLE (31) — Tennant 0 0-0 0; Ammons 4 4-6 14; Jones 3 1-2 6; B. Weber 3 0-0 6; Barr 1 0-0 2; Bryner 0 0-0 0; Totals: 11-43 5-8. BRIDGEPORT (42) — Kroll 5 4-5 14; B. Massey 4 2-2 10; Trouton 0 0-0 0; D. Massey 7 0-0 14; Scheil 2 0-2 4; Johnson 0 0-0 0; Totals: 18-51 6-9.

Three-Point Goals: Clay-Battelle 4 (Ammons 2, Jones, Barr).

WHEELING CENTRAL 53, FRONTIER 48
FRONTIER (48) — Haught 2 2-5 6; Masten 4 1-4 9; Morris 2 3-5 7; Brickover 4 7-8 15; Newlen 0 0-2 0; Graham 0 0-0 0; Daugherty 5 0-0 10; Stricker 0 0-0 0; Totals: 17 13-24 48.

WHEELING CENTRAL (53) — Ryan 2 0-0 4; Pavlovic 0 0-0 0; R. Bennington 0 1-2 1; Re. Blaha 2 3-4 7; S. Bennington 3 3-3 9; Baker 8 2-4 18; Callissie 2 2-5 7; Duplaga 3 2-2 9; Totals: 20 13-20 48.

3-Point Goals: Brickover, Callissie

CLASS 3A

RIVER 59, LINSLEY 52
LINSLEY (52) — Allison 4, 2-4 10; Brunner 5, 3-3 18; Orth 5, 3-5 13; Vehola 4, 1-2 10; Raymond 0, 1-2 1; Totals: 16, 10-16 52. RIVER (59) — A. Caldwell 1, 0-0 2; Potts 3, 1-1 7; Bowers 2, 0-0 4; Williams 6, 3-8 17; Carelli 9, 5-8 23; B. Caldwell 2, 0-0 6; Totals: 23, 9-15 59.

3-point goals: L — Brunner (5), Vehola. R — B. Caldwell (2), Williams (2).

FORT FRYE 77, BARNESVILLE 39
BARNESVILLE (39) — Powell 0 0-0 0; Swalle 0 0-0 0; Skeeth 1 0-0 2; Plumly 2 2-2 6; Hankon 2 0-0 4; Dowler 4 0-0 10; Jackson 0 0-0 0; Hannahs 1 1-2 3; Markovich 4 4-5 14; Toohy 0 0-0 0; Christman 0 0-0 0. Totals 14-33 7-8 39.

FORT FRYE (77) — Roof 0 0-0 0; Akins 7 0-0 19; Miller 0 2-2 4; Hart 0 0-2 0; Enoch 7 1-1 15; White 0 0-1 0; Fryman 0 0-0 0; Booth 0 2-2 2; Ledtke 1 0-0 2; Ledtke 11 5-5 34; Lang 1 0-0 3. Totals 27-47 10-13 77.

3-point goals: B — Dowler (2), Markovich (2); F — M. Ledtke (7), Akins (5), Lang.

CLASS 4A

UNION LOCAL 64, EAST LIVERPOOL 37
EAST LIVERPOOL (37) — Edgell 6, 4-7 17; C. Davis 0, 0-0 0; M. Davis 0, 0-0 0; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Rose 3, 1-2 9; Williams 2, 0-0 4; Bailey 0, 1-2 1; Baker 0, 4-4 4; Reynolds 0, 0-0 0; Burton 0, 0-0 0; Prince 1, 0-0 2; Coward 0, 0-0 0; Totals 12, 10-15. UNION LOCAL (64) — Gump 0, 0-0 0; Deese 0, 0-0 0; McGary 0, 0-0 0; Butler 0, 0-0 0; Chaney 0, 0-0 0; Porter 6, 2-2 16; Clark-Patterson 3, 2-2 8; Delaney 6, 3-4 18; Russell 3, 1-2 7; Patton 7, 1-4 15. Totals 27, 9-14.

Three-Point shots: East Liverpool — Rose 2, Edgell. Union Local — Delaney 3, Porter 2.

HARRISON CENTRAL 73, OAK GLEN 51
OAK GLEN (51) — Arnott 5, 14-15 26; Snow 0, 3-4 3; Witherow 2, 4-4 9; Evans 0, 1-2 1; Andrews 2, 3-8 7; Cick 0, 0-0 0; Severs 0, 0-0 0; Silvason 1, 0-2 2; McKay 1, 0-0 3. Totals 11, 25-35 51. HARRISON CENTRAL (73) — Doty 2, 0-0 5; A. Yoho 0, 0-0 0; Warrington 0, 0-0 0; Richards 2, 0-0 6; Morrison 0, 0-0 0; Nameth 3, 3-5 11; E. Yoho 0, 0-0 0; Hunt 0, 0-0 0; Keesey 6, 2-2 14; Mencer 1, 0-0 2; Elzy 13, 5-6 31; Dowdle 1, 0-0 2; Stackhouse 1, 0-2 2. Totals 29, 10-15 73.

3-point goals: O — Arnott (2), Witherow, McKay; H — Richards (2), Nameth (2), Doty.

CLASS 5A

Morgantown 73, Wheeling Park 48
WHEELING PARK (48) — C. Robb 4 0-0 12; Daugherty 0 0-0 0; Shultz 0 1-2 1; Johnson 4 2-3 11; Bumgardner 5 0-0 11; Stewart 1 0-0 2; L. Robb 3 0-0 6; McKenna 2 1-2 5; Kendle 0 0-0 0; Kamell 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 4-7 48.

MORGANTOWN (73) — S. Parks 4 0-0 10; Laskody 4 1-2 9; Seggie 2 0-0 4; Giuliani 8 0-0 20; Holloway 4 2-2 10; Poffenberger 2 2-2 6; Boyte 2 2-3 6; Secreto 2 0-2 4; Milk 1 0-2 2; C. Parks 1 0-0 2; Nicholson 0 0-0 0; Morris 0 0-0 0; Turner 0 0-0 0. Totals 30 7-13 73.

3-Point Goals: C. Robb 4, Johnson, Bumgardner, Giuliani 4, Parks 2.

SOUTH 73, JOHN MARSHALL 30
JOHN MARSHALL (30) — A. Darrow 1 0-0 2; Filben 3 2-4 8; Kaylor 1 0-0 2; T. Darrow 3 8-10 14; McMullen 0 0-0 0; Coss 0 0-0 0; Frohnapfel 0 0-0 0; Linder 1 0-0 2; Patrick 0 0-0 0; Straight 0 0-0 0; Henderson 1 0-0 2. Totals 10 10-14 30.

PARKERSBURG SOUTH (73) — McCutcheon 4 0-0 10; Bartlett 3 3-6 10; Bjrd 0 0-0 0; Hayton 8 3-3 19; Wilson 1 0-0 2; Johnson 0 0-0 0; Moore 0 0-0 0; Helmer 1 1-2 3; Curry 0 0-0 0; Haynes 1 4-4 7; Proffitt 1 0-0 2; Enoch 2 2-2 6; McMullen 2 0-0 4; Fallon 2 2-2 7; Valentine 1 0-0 3. Totals 28 15-19 73.

3-Point Goals: McCutcheon 2, Haynes, Bartlett, Fallon, Valentine.

CONSOLATIONS

SHADYSIDE 71, HUNDRED 18
HUNDRED (18) — Postlewaite 0, 0-0 0; Umstead 0, 1-3 1; Goff 1, 0-0 3; Phillips 3, 4-5 11; Topp 0, 0-0 0; Miller 0, 1-2 1; Bragg 0, 1-2 1; Wheeler 0, 1-2 1; Hostulter 0, 0-1 0; Totals: 4, 8-15 18. SHADYSIDE (71) — Ramsey 1, 0-0 2; Eneix 3, 3-6 9; Fielding 6, 3-4 15; Cioagna 5, 1-2 11; Johnson 0, 2-2 2; Osman 2, 0-0 4; Rosser 3, 0-1 6; Grogan 6, 0-0 12; Hendershot 0, 4-4 4; Smith 3, 0-0 6; Totals: 29, 13-19 71.

3-point goals: H — Goff, Phillips, S — None.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE 58, BEAVER LOCAL 40
BEAVER LOCAL (40) — Doltuin 1, 1-2 3; Talbot 0, 0-0 0; Keichum 2, 0-2 4; Messenger 2, 0-1 4; Taylor 1, 0-2 2; S. Kendal 2, 1-2 5; Theiss 1, 1-2 4; Simpson 3, 0-0 6; Barber 5, 2-3 12; Meryman 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 17, 5-14 40. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (58) — Heath 0, 0-0 0; Westlake 0, 0-0 0; DeFippo 7, 5-8 22; St. Clair 7, 4-4 18; Freeman 0, 0-2 0; Cankus 1, 2-2 4; Wood 0, 0-0 0; Silva 4, 0-0 8; Reager 1, 2-2 4; Henry 0, 0-1 0; Pintarich 0, 0-0 0; Gray 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 21, 13-17 58.

3-point goals: BL — Theiss. St. C. — DeFippo (3).

EDISON 52, BELLAIRE 48
BELLAIRE (48) — Kidder 4 2-3 10; Burney 3 0-0 6; Davis 0 0-0 0; Gillespie 2 4-6 6; Stoner 2 0-0 4; Crook 7 3-4 23; Maupin 0 0-1 0. Totals: 18 9-14. EDISON (52) — Morrison 0 0-0 0; Proffitt 1 3-4 5; McConnel 0 0-0 0; Fankhouser 5 3-5 13; Anderson 5 0-2 14; Reynolds 0 0-0 0; Cline 1 1-2 3; Miller 0 1-2 1; Huff 6 0-0 14; Springer 1 0-0 2. Totals: 18 8-15.

Three-Point Goals: Bellaire 3 (Crook 3); Edison 6 (Anderson 4, Huff 2).

STEBENVILLE CC 47, MONROE 41
STEBENVILLE CATHOLIC (47) — Virtue 0 0-0 0; Berfoia 4 0-1 9; Haritzel 2 2-2 6; Parkinson

SPORTS

Magnolia wins Class 3A OVAC title; Ferry girls ousted in D-III

Magnolia, which needed overtime to get to the Class 3A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball tournament on Friday at Monroe Central, built a 23-point lead and then had to hang on for a 67-65 victory Monday night.

The Blue Eagles received fine play from senior Spencer Campbell (26) and junior point guard Preston Boswell (20). Junior Kyle Ritz also had eight points. Derrick Blain gave good minutes off the bench, scoring seven.

Fort Frye, which is now 19-3 on the season, received 23 points from Justin Anderson and 19 from Seth Lagraen.

Oak Glen 61, Martins Ferry 53
At Martins Ferry, the host Purple Riders (10-11) got outscored 31-21 in the second and fourth quarters inside the Tolbert Gymnasium in an OVAC consolation round game.

Arjay Burress led the hosts with 20 points. Taylor Shane added a dozen — all on three-pointers — while Emilio Appolloni chipped in 10 points. Senior Jake Barritt increased his all-time assists total by 11.

Martins Ferry travels to University High in Morgantown Thursday night in another OVAC consolation game.

Buckeye Trail 43, Buckeye Local 37
At Connorville, the Panthers (0-21) search for that elusive first victory came up a bit short Monday night against the invading Warriors in an OVAC consolation game.

Ryan Moffo scored 10 points to lead Buckeye Local and Damion Beall added eight.

Jacob Doudna paced Buckeye Trail with 14.

Clay-Battelle 76, Beallsville 72
Zach Moore scored 25 points and Josh Lemley had 22 as Clay-Battelle edged Beallsville in an OVAC consolation contest.

Jeremy Ferrard added 13 points for the Cee-Bees.

Chad Loudon topped the Blue Devils with 26 points, while Chase Mercer was one back with 25. Mikey Palmer added 10 points.

Barnesville 66, Hundred 52
At Hundred, the Shamrocks surged to an early lead and went on to post the victory.

Hunter Graham led all scorers for Barnesville with 19 points.

Darien Decher added 13, while Hunter George, Gaetan Sinisagalli and Mitchell Wells went for 12, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

GIRLS

Division III Sectional
Ridgewood 73, Martins Ferry 34

At Dover, Martins Ferry's girls spotted Ridgewood a 19-2 cushion after one and simply never recovered, falling in Division III sectional play.

The Purple Riders stared up at a 40-15 deficit at the half.

The Riders were led by sophomore Myleah Coleman's 13 and junior Tyrah King's seven.

Harrison Central Escapes East Liverpool

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — Don't tell the boys' basketball teams from East Liverpool and Harrison Central that a third-place game doesn't mean something as the two Buckeye 8 rivals hooked up in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference consolation game Tuesday night.

Brandon Mitchell's 3-point attempt from the right wing was just short of the rim as the buzzer sounded, allowing the second-seeded Potters to escape the rowdy John W. Stephenson Center with a 74-73 victory against the No. 4 Huskies (14-8).

"They came out in a 1-3-1 defense, so we drew something up for that, plus the 2-3 zone and the man-

to-man," Harrison Central coach Justin Clifford explained of his team's last-second strategy. "We could've attacked the basket a little earlier, but it wasn't what we drew up."

"We had a good shooter with an open look, but the ball just didn't fall. You can't ask for any more."

The last possession came after the Potters' Isaac Davidson calmly meshed both ends of a 1-and-1 with 14.2 seconds showing, which followed Mitchell's trifecta from the left corner at the 42-second mark that gave Harrison Central its only lead, 73-72.

East Liverpool shot out to an early advantage as Harrison Central missed six of its first seven shots and its first two free

throws. That, coupled with four turnovers, allowed the Potters to take an 18-10 lead.

Both teams warmed up in the second quarter, evenly dividing 48 points, as the Potters still held an eight-point margin, 42-34.

The lead ballooned to 57-41 when Davidson tallied five quick points, but Harrison Central scored the final five to trail 57-46 with eight minutes remaining in regulation.

East Liverpool still maintained a 13-point advantage — 65-52 — as the clock showed 4:21. However, that's when things started to fall apart a little for the Potters. They were whistled for three technical fouls and had a

See HUSKIES Page 15

No. 9 Madonna Moves On to Championship

WEIRTON - For the fourth time in five years the No. 9-ranked Madonna girls basketball team has advanced to the OVAC 1A title game.

With a gritty 59-54 victory against Morgantown Trinity on Monday, the Blue Dons face Conotton Valley for the championship on Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern. Tip off is approximately 3 p.m.

The Rockets knocked off the Blue Dons, 46-30, in last year's title game. They have reached the tournament for three-straight seasons.

Inside the Bill Barrett Gymnasium, Madonna successfully knocked down fourth quarter free throws in order to set up the rematch with Conotton Valley.

The Blue Dons (12-7) were 11 of 14 from the foul line in the fourth quarter to halt a Trinity comeback. For the game, Madonna was 23 of 29 from the line.

In the first quarter, the Blue Dons opened up a 6-0 run and eventually led 11-2. However, the Warriors (10-8) battled back and took a 2-point lead before Madonna converted the last eight points to hold a 19-13 lead after the first frame.

The Blue Dons went up by double digits for the first time when Monica Bragg hit a jumper to go up 25-15 at the 6:34 mark of the second quarter. Madonna led 32-19 at halftime before slowing down the pace in the third quarter.

Madonna has now earned five-straight wins over the Monongalia County Christian school. Last year, it knocked off the Warriors, 39-38, in the OVAC 1A semifinal game. The two teams are slated to face each other again on Feb. 16 in Weirton.

Bragg led all scorers with 22 points. The junior standout also had five blocks, five steals, three assists and 11 of the Blue Dons' 31 rebounds. They held a commanding advantage on the glass as the Warriors had just 20 rebounds.

Katie Lammers added 12 points for Madonna and Holt finished with eight points, along with three steals. The Blue Dons forced 16 turnovers, while turning the ball over 21 times, themselves. Myers led Trinity with five steals and also added 12 points. Emily Evans had a team-high 17 points for the Warriors.

Conotton Valley 52, St. John 50
BELLAIRE - Olivia Bower scored a game-high 37 points as Conotton Valley defeated St. John.

Lindsay Froehlich had a double-double with 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Irish while Marissa Rose netted 18.

Class 4A

Harrison Central 73, Oak Glen 51
CADIZ - Katie Ellzy poured in 31 points to lead Harrison Central (16-5) in an OVAC 4A semifinal game.

D.J. Keeseey had 14 for the Huskies while Shianne Nameth finished with 11.

Alex Arnott scored 26 points for Oak Glen (14-5).

Union Local 64, East Liverpool 37
MORRISTOWN - Union Local had five girls score in the rout to advance to the Class 4A title game.

Ali Delaney led the way with 18 points, Haley Porter had 16, Mikayla scored 15, Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson put up eight, and Kylie Russell had the last seven for the Jets.

OVAC Consolations

Buckeye Trail 51, Bishop Donahue 36
McMECHEN - Jenni Carmichael scored 12 points to lead Buckeye Trail over Bishop Donahue.

Hannah Smith and Karlie Hensley both scored 11 points for the Warriors.

Jewel Purpura led the way for the Bishops with a game-high 18 points.

Edison 52, Bellaire 48
EDISON - Edison jumped out to a 15-

point lead en route to a victory against Bellaire.

Kayla Huff and Sarah Anderson both led the Wildcats with 14 points.

Skylar Fankhauser wasn't far behind with 13 points.

Nina Crook led the Big Reds with a game-high 23 points.

Steubenville Catholic 47

Monroe Central 41

WOODSFIELD - Samm Simmons scored 10 points to lead Steubenville Catholic to a victory against Monroe Central.

Three other Crusaders scored nine points in Brittany Bertoia, Gabby Capaldi and Miranda Parkinson.

Carly Baker scored a game-high 11 points to lead the Seminoles while Allison Kuhn had 10.

Shadyside 71, Hundred 18

SHADYSIDE - Shadyside had three girls in double figures as they won in an OVAC consolation game.

Kenzie Fielding scored 15 to lead the Tigers while Haylee Gregan had 12 and Jessica Cicogna finished with 11.

11 of Hundred's 18 points came from Josie Phillips.

St. Clairsville 58, Beaver Local 40

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Anna DeFilippo and Alexis St. Clair combined for 40 points for St. Clairsville (10-11) to win in an OVAC Tournament consolation game.

Stephanie Silva scored eight for the Red Devils.

Indian Creek 73, Brooke 57

WINTERSVILLE - Bre Berryman recorded a team-high 30 points, and Bethany Davis delivered 25 points to offset Brooke's Angela Staffileno game-high 31 points as Indian Creek (10-11) collected a victory in an OVAC Tournament consolation game.

Payge Farmer helped Brooke (2-14) with 12 points and Gabbie Velegol had 10.

BOYS'

The Big House Classic

Man 79, Paden City 74

CHARLESTON - Man held off a small Paden City comeback in the fourth quarter to claim a victory.

Kenny Adkins scored a game-high 22 points to lead Man while Jake Adkins had 19.

John Keffer had 15 points, Marquell Brown bucketed 12 and Daniel Duchanan netted 10.

Kennedy Cain and Luke Cooper both scored 21 points to lead the Wildcats (8-9) while Hayden Hizer contributed with 17.

Cooper led with 14 rebounds while Hizer dished out five assists.

Magnolia 77, Valley Fayette 72, OT

CHARLESTON - Magnolia pumped out a tough overtime period to defeat Valley Fayette.

Three Blue Eagles scored in double figures as Preston Boswell scored 25 points while Spencer Campbell had 22.

Mitch Winters bagged a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Henry Barron led the way for the Greyhounds with 26 points while Zac Warden had 21.

Regular Season

Hundred 69, East Richland Christian 52
HUNDRED - Brandon Armstrong and Danny Stewart both tallied double-doubles as Hundred defeated East Richland Christian.

Armstrong led the way with 21 points and grabbed 10 boards while Stewart bucketed 15 and had 10 rebounds.

Holden Moore had 17 points for the Hornets (4-13).



Photo by Seth Staskey

River's Brielle Williams looks for somewhere to move the ball while being guarded by Linsly junior Morgan Brunner.

LINSLEY

(Continued from Page 13)

Linsly coach Maggie Allison admitted that the Cadets' game plan was to attempt someone other than Caretti beat them.

"You just have to hand it to River in the third quarter," Allison said. "They came out hot and it seemed like everyone who shot the ball was putting it in the hoop. We knew we would have to make their other players beat us and in the third quarter ... they did."

Linsly got as close as two three times in the fourth, but each time, River had an answer. Caretti, who scored 23 points, snagged 11 rebounds and blocked five shots, scored 10 in the fourth, which helped hold the Cadets at bay.

"We told the girls at halftime that we couldn't allow them to get on runs," Isaly said. "We had to be prepared to answer and we did just that in the fourth."

Caretti's production was complemented by Williams' 17. Potts added seven.

BULLDOGS

(Continued from Page 13)

good defense," Bridgeport coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "We took away their pick-and-roll. We really stepped it up on that end of the floor."

Bridgeport, ranked second in the Buckeye State among Division IV schools, found itself locked in a 19-all stalemate after two quarters of action, despite the Cee-Bees committing 10 first-half turnovers.

"We thought are chances were pretty good being tied at the half even though we didn't play that well," Clay-Battelle coach Heather Stadler said. "Our defense kind of let us down a little at the beginning of the second half. We didn't play quite as well. They kept getting it inside on us, but we never gave up."

Junior dandy Caitlyn Kroll didn't have one of her better night's shooting the ball, so she turned to the distributor role. After she gave the Bulldogs the lead for good with a basket to start the third quarter, sophomore Deja Massey took over.

The 5-9 center tied her career-high of 14 points by netting 12 in the second half, with none coming further than three-foot. Four of her six field goals came off assists by Kroll, who executed the four corner offense in the fourth quarter to near-perfection.

Kroll would finish with six helpers to go along with 14 points, a game-tying-best 11 rebounds and half-a-dozen steals.

"That's our game plan all of the time," Zitzelsberger said of keeping the ball in Kroll's hands as much as possible. "She (Caitlyn) isn't selfish at all. All she wants to do is win."

"It's not all about the points to her," he added. "She's a very unselfish player and you saw that her first two years when she was dishing off to a pair of 1,000-point scorers in Nicole Smolenak and Maclaine Murad."

"I'm proud of the way the girls battled," he noted. "We will have our hands full Saturday."

With the win, the Bulldogs move on to Saturday's title tilt against second-seeded Wheeling Central, which dispatched No. 3 Frontier, 53-48, in the other semifinal Monday night in East Wheeling. Bridgeport knocked off the Maroon Knights in last year's semifinals before falling to Frontier in the finals.

Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Briana Massey finished her home career with 10 points, six rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

Abbie Ammons paced the Cee-Bees with 14 points. Briana Weber snagged 11 rebounds as the visitors led 40-37 off the glass.

Bridgeport shot a cool 18-for-57 (31.6%), while Clay-Battelle could only muster a frigid 25.6% on 11 of 43. The Cee-Bees charted 16 turnovers, half as many as the Bulldogs.

KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Wheeling Central - the No. 1 team in Class A - got an early nine-point lead in the third quarter before momentum shifted to the Cougars' side. Frontier went on a 12-3 run to tie the game at 30 with 90 seconds left in the quarter. The run was fueled by turnovers and six points from Sammi Morris that had the Frontier faithful on their feet.

Morris finished with just those six points while forward Lexi Brickover led the team with 15 and Jenna

MOHIGANS

(Continued from Page 13)

"I thought the pace of the game early was in our favor, going up and down," Mohigans coach Jason White said. "With our depth, that was an opportunity to wear them out early. But I have to give them a lot of credit, Coach (Ryan) Young has done a good job. Those kids kept battling to the end and they didn't give up. They made a nice little run in the third quarter."

Wheeling Park guard Chloe Robb pumped in three of her four 3s in the third quarter, cutting the Mohigans' lead to 55-40. But moments later, Giuliani answered with a 3, and the Patriots would get no closer.

"Brie is a great shooter, and on any given night it could be Brie, it could be Liv (Seggie), or Sammie (Parks), or Christina (Secretto). It's pick your poison," White said. "You want to guard one, you're going to leave another one open, and they are dangerous."

Robb finished with 12 points for Wheel-



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Alex Arnott scored 26 points for Oak Glen (14-5).

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Robb finished with 12 points for Wheeling Park, and Kendra Johnson and Tamara Bumgardner added 11 apiece.

Sammie Parks and Sydney Holloway each added 10 points for Morgantown, and Shelby Boyle had six rebounds. Thirteen Mohigans played and 10 scored in the contest.

"The past couple games, I feel like my shot has been off, but Sammie has been picking it up," Giuliani said. "It's great to



Photos by Tyson Murray/The Dominion Post
Wheeling Park's Kendra Johnson (35) tries to drive the ball past the defense of a Morgantown player.

see her making shots, and Liv. It's nice to know that no one has to be on every single game. Somebody different picks it up for us. But this is a good confidence booster for the game coming up."

SOUTH

(Continued from Page 13)

well as two more charity stripe tosses. Hayton, who led PSHS with 19 points, six boards and two blocks, tallied the final hoop of the period with six seconds left and the Monarchs were doubled up, 20-10.

John Marshall (12-8) attempted just seven field goals while being outscored 23-2 in the second quarter and had 10 turnovers. By the time Avery-Derrow beat the press and scored with 1:04 left before the break, the Patriots had tallied 18 straight points for a 38-10 advantage. Hayton started the run with a lay-in, which was followed by an Enoch layup and then 3-pointers from McCutcheon, Breanna Haynes and Mykaylyn Fallon. McCutcheon's trey with 52 ticks remaining was followed by a Bartlett basket and the Patriots were in complete control with a 43-12 halftime cushion.

Filben, who had eight points and a pair of assists, scored JM's final field goal of the third to make it 48-21. Carlie Wilson, who was joined by Haynes in netting seven points, countered with a basket to spark an 8-0 run and the Patriots led 56-21 after three.

South, which returns to action at 5:30 p.m. today versus No. 3 Logan at the Charleston Civic Center in the Little General Stores Shootout in the Big House, grabbed its then largest lead of the game at 67-26 with 3:05 to go when McMullen knocked down a short jumper via a Laken Valentine dish. Prior to that, McMullen found Proffitt open for an 8-foot deuce.

Macey Linder and Ivy Henderson had late baskets for the Monarchs, who allowed the final five points when Valentine hit a 3 and Devin Hefner scored on a steal and a layup.

points, snagged 11 rebounds and blocked five shots, scored 10 in the fourth, which helped hold the Cadets at bay.

"We told the girls at halftime that we couldn't allow them to get on runs," Isaly said. "We had to be prepared to answer and we did just that in the fourth."

Caretti's production was complemented by Williams' 17. Potts added seven.

BULLDOGS

(Continued from Page 13)

good defense," Bridgeport coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "We took away their pick-and-roll. We really stepped it up on that end of the floor."

Bridgeport, ranked second in the Buckeye State among Division IV schools, found itself locked in a 19-all stalemate after two quarters of action, despite the Cee-Bees committing 10 first-half turnovers.

"We thought our chances were pretty good being tied at the half even though we didn't play that well," Clay-Battelle coach Heather Stadler said. "Our defense kind of let us down a little at the beginning of the second half. We didn't play quite as well. They kept getting it inside on us, but we never gave up."

Junior dandy Caitlyn Kroll didn't have one of her better night's shooting the ball, so she turned to the distributor role. After she gave the Bulldogs the lead for good with a basket to start the third quarter, sophomore Deja Massey took over.

The 5-9 center tied her career-high of 14 points by netting 12 in the second half, with none coming further than three-foot. Four of her six field goals came off assists by Kroll, who executed the four corner offense in the fourth quarter to near-perfection.

Kroll would finish with six helpers to go along with 14 points, a game-tying-best 11 rebounds and half-a-dozen steals.

"That's our game plan all of the time," Zitzelsberger said of keeping the ball in Kroll's hands as much as possible. "She (Caitlyn) isn't selfish at all. All she wants to do is win."

"It's not all about the points to her," he added. "She's a very unselfish player and you saw that her first two years when she was dishing off to a pair of 1,000-point scorers in Nicole Smolenak and Maclaine Murad."

"I'm proud of the way the girls battled," he noted. "We will have our hands full Saturday."

With the win, the Bulldogs move on to Saturday's title tilt against second-seeded Wheeling Central, which dispatched No. 3 Frontier, 53-48, in the other semifinal Monday night in East Wheeling. Bridgeport knocked off the Maroon Knights in last year's semifinals before falling to Frontier in the finals.

Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Briana Massey finished her home career with 10 points, six rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

Abbie Ammons paced the Cee-Bees with 14 points. Briana Weber snagged 11 rebounds as the visitors led 40-37 off the glass.

Bridgeport shot a cool 18-for-57 (31.6%), while Clay-Battelle could only muster a frigid 25.6% on 11 of 43. The Cee-Bees charted 16 turnovers, half as many as the Bulldogs.

KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Wheeling Central — the No. 1 team in Class A — got an early nine-point lead in the third quarter before momentum shifted to the Cougars' side. Frontier went on a 12-3 run to tie the game at 30 with 90 seconds left in the quarter. The run was fueled by turnovers and six points from Sammi Morris that had the Frontier faithful on their feet.

Morris finished with just those six points while forward Lexi Brickover led the team with 15 and Jenna Masten chipped in with nine.

"The girls came in and executed our game plan really well," Frontier coach Scott Murphy said. "We knew we had to defend them as a team and they have a couple girls that can score. My girls battled from start to finish and gave themselves every opportunity at the end of the game to have a chance to win it and you can't ask for more than that."

"I am pretty proud of their effort. You play enough ball games and sometimes things don't go your way. They did everything I asked them to do tonight and then some. It's disappointing but when you get in the OVAC tournament, you are playing good teams."

The Maroon Knights stepped up as a team in the fourth quarter as they held a slim two-point lead after the third. Blaha, Sydney Bennington, Baker, Duplaga, and Calissie all hit shots down the stretch to put the game away.

Wheeling Central will now face Bridgeport in the OVAC 2A championship game being played Saturday on the campus of OUE.

Before the Maroon Knights can think about the Bulldogs, they will face a huge challenge with River coming to town Wednesday for a regular season matchup. The Pilots handed the Maroon Knights their first loss of the season on December 20.

"Bridgeport has one of the best players in the valley," Kurtz said. "It's going to be a tough battle and we are going to have to play our best ball on Saturday. But right now we are going to try on focus on River on Wednesday and try to keep rolling."

Frontier will now face Clay-Battelle in a 2A consolation game on Thursday before gearing up for their Ohio Division IV Sectional tournament.

GIRLS' OVAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS



Photo by Seth Staskey

Linsly's Vivian Allison's shot is blocked by River's Jensen Caretti (33).

Defending Champ Linsly Falls

Isaly's Pilots rally to defeat Cadets, 59-52

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

HANNIBAL — The sports cliché that it's tough to beat a team three times proved true once again Monday night.

River's two losses this season both came in narrow setbacks to Linsly, but the Pilots turned the tables in their biggest game of the season thus far.

Overcoming a seven-point halftime differential, the Pilots turned it up a notch and went on to score a 59-52 victory to advance to the Class 3A title game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship inside the R.L. Potts Gymnasium.

If he wasn't a believer in the hard to beat a team three times cliché prior to Monday, Rick Isaly certainly does now.

"It was two good teams playing," Isaly said. "This is just a tremendous win for the kids and we're really excited."

The win sends River to Ohio University Eastern Saturday night at 8 to face second-seeded Fort Frye, which dispatched Barnesville, for the 3A crown. Linsly (15-6), which was the defending champion in Class 3A, will trek to Barnesville on Thursday for a consolation game.

"We're happy and excited to be (in the championship) game," Isaly said. "This was one of our goals and now we're there. We knew it would have to be a team effort, too."

All season, Isaly has been preaching that Pilots outside of juniors Jensen Caretti and Brielle Williams would have

to step up and provide a spark if they're to get on a run late in the campaign.

He got just what he wanted in a pivotal third quarter. River outscored Linsly, 20-9, to take a four-point lead into the fourth. Included in the quarter was a 12-0 spurt that was sparked by a pair of bonus goals from Bailey Caldwell, a 3 from Williams and a corner jumper from Devyn Potts.

Caretti, who averages 27.9 points a game, tallied only one bucket in the third.

"Those were big shots from Bailey, who has been our surprise player of late," Isaly said. "Devyn hit some important shots, too. I can't say enough about the effort of all of our players against a good team."

Please See **LINSLY**, Page 15

Monarchs No Match For South

Derrow finishes with double-double

By **JAY W. BENNETT**
For The Intelligencer

PARKERSBURG — John Marshall's Torie Derrow had the only double-double Monday inside the Rod Oldham Athletic Center with 14 points and 10 rebounds, but top-ranked Class AAA Parkersburg South rolled to an easy 73-30 triumph against the Monarchs during an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 5A semifinal, which doubled as senior night for the Patriots.

Coach Scott Stephens' club, who honored Keya Bartlett, Katelyn Enoch, Kelsay Proffitt and Amber McMullen, received a huge 15-point first quarter from 6-foot-2 junior pivot Anna Hayton and then put on a dominating defensive effort in the second quarter to salt the affair away by intermission.

"Anna Hayton had a fantastic game," said Stephens, whose club will play No. 2 Morgantown at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern for the OVAC 5A title.

"We tried to put as much pressure on them as we could. Their guards are younger and we had an advantage there."

Although Taryn McCutcheon, who had 10 points, seven assists and four steals, made it 2-0 just 27 seconds in, Bailey Filben's foul shot and a Derrow putback gave the Monarchs their only lead of the contest.

However, Hayton's shot put the Patriots (17-3) ahead for good. After Bartlett, who chipped in 10 points and a game-high six steals, scored to make it 6-3, the hosts got another five field goals from Hayton in the stanza. That included a three-point play as

Please See **SOUTH**, Page 15



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central junior Lindsey Baker (12) drives to the basket against Frontier.

Knights Keep Rolling

Baker goes for 18 in semifinal victory

By **JAKE FLATLEY**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Come tournament time in order to win games you need everyone to step their play up a few notches.

Wheeling Central (17-2) did just that as it received big contributions from multiple girls, including Lindsey Baker scoring 18 points, in the Maroon Knights' 53-48 victory against Frontier (13-7) in the OVAC Tournament 2A semifinal.

"Lindsey is just relentless and keeps after it," Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz said. "We got contributions from many like Cate Calissie, Taylor Duplaga, Juilanna Ryan, and Riley Bennington. For us as a team, we have to have everyone contribute if we are going to win games."

Both teams got off to a cold start shooting as Wheeling Central had an 11-6 lead after a quarter of play.

Baker carried the Maroon Knights in the first half as she scored 12 of her 18 points as Central led at the half 22-17 in a defensive struggle. Sydney Bennington and Duplaga had nine points each, while Regan Blaha and Calissie scored seven each.

"Frontier played hard and they were all over the court," Kurtz said. "Not to make an excuse but this was our third game in four days and had one practice in nine days and that's what it looked like. Hopefully we will get in the gym (today) and get after it. It's that time of the year where you just want to start playing better."

Please See **KNIGHTS**, Page 15



Photo by Kim North

Bridgeport's Dorthea Johnson blocks a shot by Clay-Battelle's Briana Weber.

Bulldogs Advance To Finals

Big second quarter propels Bridgeport

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Intelligencer

WOLFURST — State-ranked and top-seeded Bridgeport overcame a sluggish night offensively, relying on its defense in advancing to the Class 2A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls' basketball tournament for the second consecutive season.

Monday night inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium, the Bulldogs (20-1) outscored No. 4 seed Clay-Battelle (13-6) by a 23-12 margin in the second half en route to a 42-31 victory in semifinal action on Frank Baxter Court.

"The third quarter we played pretty

Please See **BULLDOGS**, Page 15

Mohigans Still Too Much for Park

Morgantown sets up rematch with South

By **KRISTIN KURELIC**
The Dominion Post

MORGANTOWN — After the Wheeling Park girls' basketball team lost to Morgantown in mid-January, the Patriots went 6-1 to qualify for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament and earned the right to face the Mohigans again, in Monday's semifinal.

The defending state champion Mohigans (19-1), however, were still too much for the improved Patriots (11-9), as Morgantown cruised to a 73-48

semifinal victory at the Rowdy Center. Mohigans senior guard Brie Giuliani broke out of a shooting slump in spectacular fashion, and dominated on the boards, as well, for her first double-double of the season.

She finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds, and broke into a wide grin while dribbling the ball down the court after her last board in the third quarter.

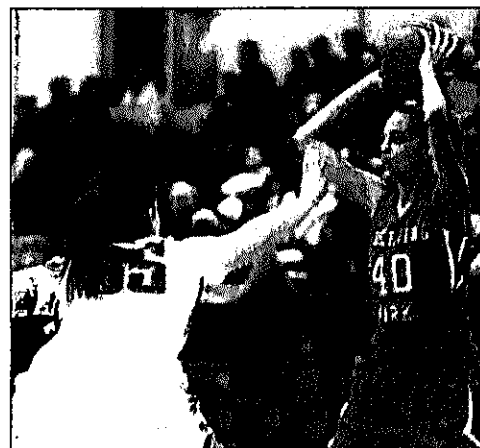
"Me and one of the coaches (Matt Kelly) made a bet to see how many I could get in that quarter, and I did it, so he has to run at practice," Giuliani said. "I needed to get four, and I knew that was the fourth, so I was laughing at him on the bench."

Giuliani all but dashed the Patriots' hopes in the first quarter, scoring seven points and grabbing six rebounds in the first five minutes to help the Mohigans gain a 22-10 advantage by the end of the period.

Morgantown pushed the pace, and rarely needed to set up an offensive play in the first half, scoring transition layups on fast breaks.

Mohigans forward Rachel Laskody boosted the hot start, with nine points in the first half, and finished with five rebounds. Point guard Olivia Seggie had all six of her assists before Morgantown took a 43-21 lead into halftime.

Please See **MOHIGANS**, Page 15



Photos by Tyson Murray/The Dominion Post Park's Tamara Bumgardner (40) looks to inbound the ball while being defended.

Championship matchups set

River avenges two losses with win over Linsly, 59-52

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

HANNIBAL – The sports cliché that it's tough to beat a team three times proved true once again Monday night.

River's two losses this season both came in narrow setbacks to Linsly, but the Pilots turned the tables in their biggest game of the season thus far.

Overcoming a seven-point halftime differential, the Pilots turned it up a notch and went on to score a 59-52 victory to advance to the Class 3A title game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship inside the R.L. Potters Gymnasium.

CLASS 3A
Who: River vs. Fort Frye
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

If he wasn't a believer in the hard to beat a team three times cliché prior to Monday, Rick Isaly certainly is now.

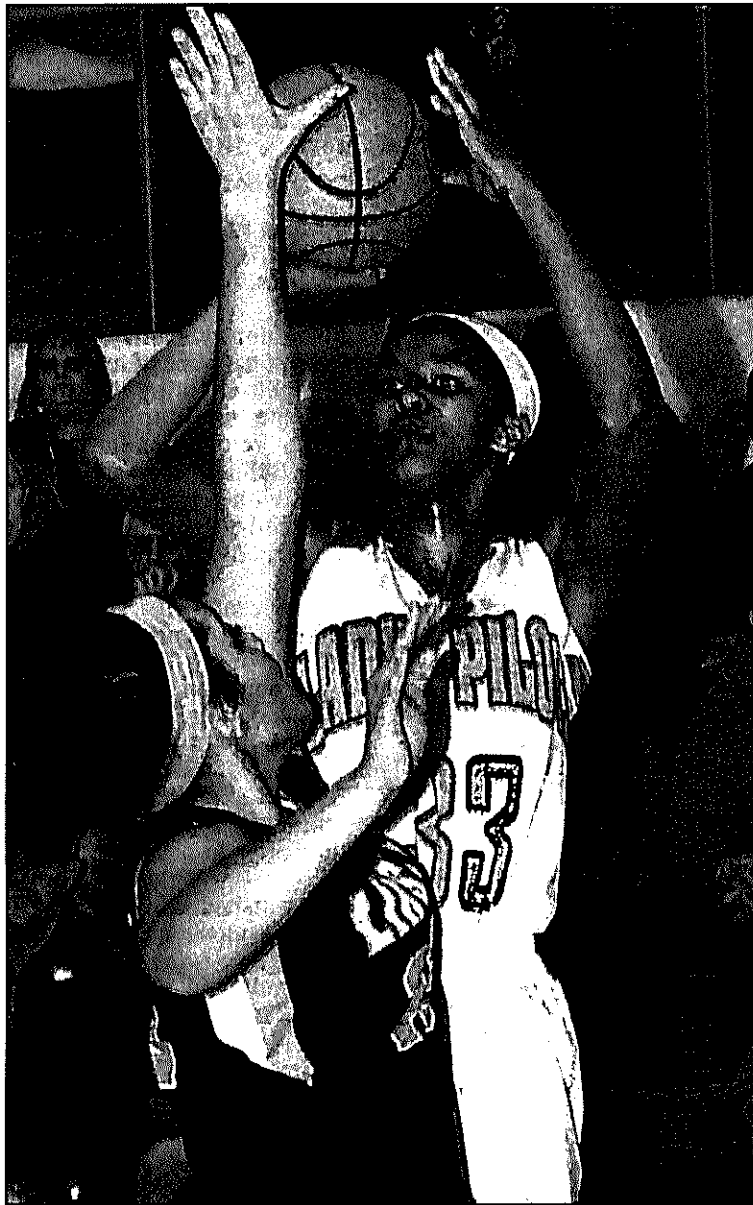
"It was two good teams playing," Isaly said. "This is just a tremendous win for the kids and we're really excited."

The win sends River to Ohio University Eastern Saturday night at 8 to face second-seeded Fort Frye, which dispatched Barnesville, for the 3A crown. Linsly (15-6), which was the defending champion in Class 3A, will trek to Barnesville on Thursday for a consolation game.

"We're happy and excited to be (in the championship) game," Isaly said. "This was one of our goals and now we're there. We knew it would have to be a team effort, too."

All season, Isaly has been preaching that Pilots outside of juniors Jensen Caretti and Brielle Williams would have to step up and provide a spark if they're to get on a run late in the campaign.

See, **RIVER**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

RIVER'S Jensen Caretti goes up for a shot over Linsly's Jazzie Orth during the second quarter of Monday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship semifinal. Caretti and the Lady Pilots advanced with a 59-52 victory. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Strong third quarter sparks UL to 4A championship game

By **MIKE PALMER**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN – Union Local held a seven-point lead at the half, but thanks to a lopsided 24-4 third quarter, the Jets soared ahead of East Liverpool to advance to the OVAC 4A final by a 64-37 decision in 'The Hangar.'

In the opening quarter, the Jets were working the ball inside against the Potters' defense and drawing fouls. Union Local converted on 6 of 8 from the charity stripe in the first quarter and lead by ten points including two 3-point aerials from Haley Porter they took an 18-10 advantage.

CLASS 4A
Who: Union Local vs. Harrison Central
When: Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

In the second quarter, East Liverpool would outscore their hosts 11-10 and trail 28-21 at the intermission.

"At halftime I told them this was a very important game and they were just not playing like it was," Jets head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "I told them you have to go out in the second half and show them that you want this."

Union Local's Alli DeLaney had just two points in the first half, both coming at the foul line. After a halftime challenge by Hanlon, the junior came out in the third period firing in three treys and adding two jumpers to spark the offensive surge with 13 points.

"We came out and played hard in the third quarter," Union Local's coach added. "We have a habit of starting slow, we need to find a way to get going early."

DeLaney netted 16 of her 18 points in the second half to lead all scoring. Porter had carried the Jets in the first half with 14 points before the break. Senior Mikayla Patton was consistent throughout as she tallied 15 points for Union Local. Kaitlynn

See, **UL**, Page B2

Harrison headed back to 4A final

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ – Katie Ellzy had a home finale to remember Monday night inside the John W. Stephenson Center.

The senior went 13 of 19 from the field and 5 of 6 from the line en route to 31 points to lead Harrison Central to a convincing 73-51 triumph against Oak Glen in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Tournament Class 4A semifinal.

The victory sends the Huskies (16-5) back to Ohio University Eastern for Saturday's championship game. There, Harrison Central will look to defend its title against Union Local in the third meeting of the season between the teams. The squads split this season's two previous meetings, with both home teams prevailing.

The Jets topped East Liverpool, 64-37, in the other 4A semi Monday night.

"We have to get out on their shooters and shore up our defense," Harrison Central head coach Nick Yourkovich said of the 10 a.m. con-



Photo/SANDI THOMPSON

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Katie Ellzy goes up for a shot against Oak Glen during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

test.

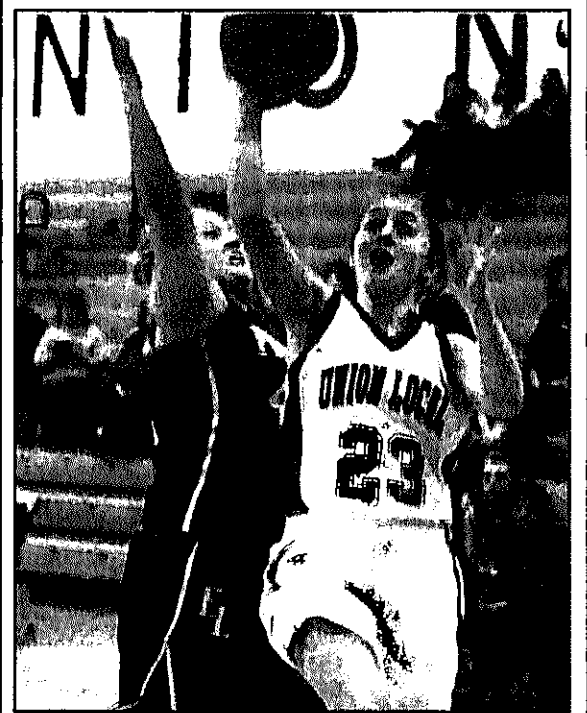
"We didn't play really good defense the last time we played them. We're really familiar with them. We saw them twice. We kind of know what they're going to do and they kind of know what we're going to do. So, it's going to be whoever executes the best."

The Huskies put together a game-clinching 24-8 run against Oak Glen from midway through the second quarter to midway through the third. Along the way, they turned what was a slim 17-14 lead after the first period into a commanding 49-29 advantage with about three minutes left in the third.

"We quit turning the ball over and we ran our halfcourt offense," Yourkovich said. "We kind of knew coming in (Oak Glen) wanted to play fast and play up and down. Although we knew we could play up and down like that, we knew we were much better than them in the halfcourt, so we wanted to take advantage of that."

Harrison Central did – at both

See, **HARRISON**, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

UNION LOCAL'S Haley Porter goes up for a shot against East Liverpool during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal in Morristown. Porter and the Jets advanced by virtue of a 64-37 victory.

Bridgeport fights off Clay-Battelle in 2A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WOLFHURST – State-ranked and top-seeded Bridgeport overcame a sluggish night offensively, relying on its defense in advancing to the Class 2A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls' basketball tournament for the second consecutive season.

CLASS 2A
Who: Bridgeport vs. Wheeling Central
When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

Monday night inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium, the Bulldogs (20-1) outscored No. 4 seed Clay-Battelle (13-6) by a 23-12 margin in the second half en route to a 42-31 victory in semifinal action on Frank Baxter Court.

"The third quarter we played pretty good defense,"

See, **DOGS**, Page B2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BRIDGEPORT'S Deja Massey looks to pass during Monday's Class 2A semifinal. She scored 14 points to help the Bulldogs past Clay-Battelle.

St. John falls in OT to Conotton Valley

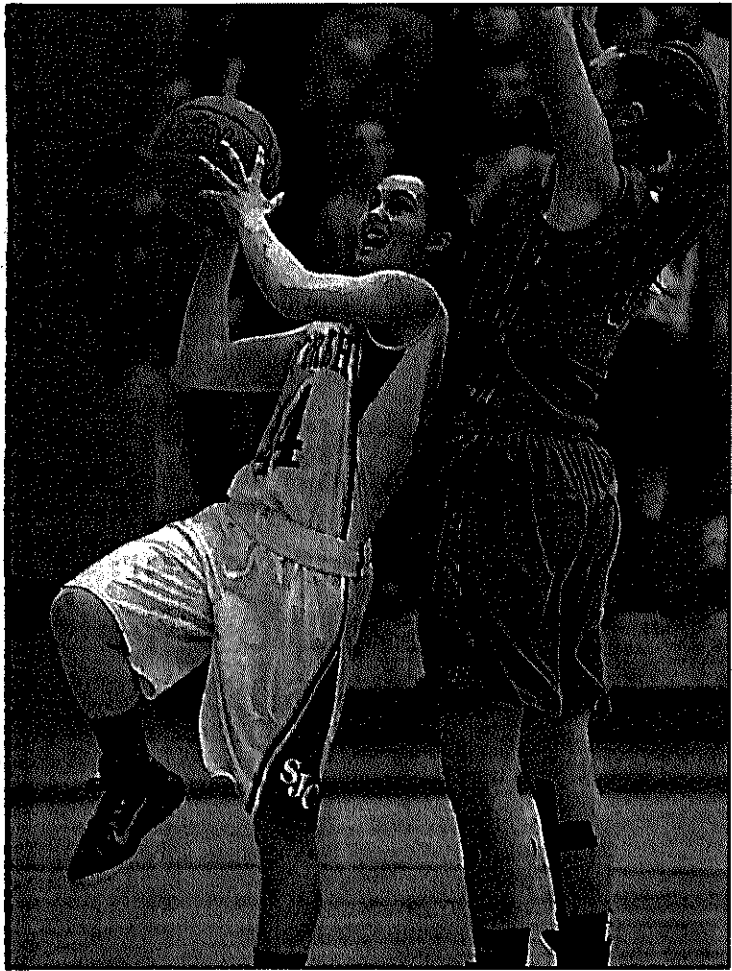
By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BELLAIRE – One word that describes the Conotton Valley-St. John Central girls OVAC semifinal battle is simply - WOW!

Two OVAC Class 1A heavyweights clashed to the final seconds, twice, and when the smoke finally cleared Conotton Valley was heading to its third straight conference championship game.

With the Rockets' Olivia Bower ripping the nets

See, **SJC**, Page B2



ST. JOHN'S
Jessica Alvey goes up for a shot against Conotton Valley's Olivia Bower during Monday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal game in Bellaire. The Rockets posted a 52-50 victory in overtime to advance to the conference final for the third straight season.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

● SJC

Continued from Page B1

for a career-high 37 points and the Lady Irish getting a 20-point, 14-rebound effort from junior Lindsay Froehlich, it wasn't until overtime that Conotton Valley was able to secure a 52-50 win over St. John Central on the Lady Irish floor Monday night.

Coach Chandra Myers will be taking her third straight team to the OVAC 1-A finals and will be looking to grab a third straight title when the Lady Rockets take on Madonna in the 3 p.m. game at OUE. Conotton boosted their record to 17-3 with the win.

Coach Bubba Kapral's Lady Irish, sporting an all-underclassmen starting five, suffered a heart-breaking loss to a team they had beaten earlier in the season. Kapral, who also has an OVAC championship game win under his belt, was also hoping to make a return trip. They will take on Trinity Christian in Morgantown in the consolation final.

"I've been coaching at Conotton Valley for three years and this is our third year playing in the OVAC championship game," Lady Rockets' coach Chandra Myers said after the nerve-wracking win. "That was our goal again this year. We wanted to get to the OVAC finals for a third time."

"We knew this was going to be a tough game," she added. "We played them here earlier this year and we got beat. They ran up and down the floor on us the last time and we wanted our girls to cut down on that. We told the girls they got to put a lot more pressure on them."

Conotton Valley's pressure forced 12 first half turnovers and gave Bower the opportunity to take charge at both ends of the court with 18 points in the first two frames.

St. John opened with a foul conversion by Marissa Rose and a bucket by Froehlich to take a 3-0 lead. Bower countered with a trey and after the Lady Irish's Taylor Lowe and CV's Candice Cottis traded scores, the Lady Rockets reeled off eight straight with Bower netting five. Rose drove the lane for two to close the first frame at 13-10.

In the second session, the Irish were able to bounce back added knot the score at 16, but the Lady Rockets pressure and Bower's shooting prevented the hosts from getting back on top as the half ended with the winners ahead by 26-21.

"This is a huge win for us," Myers said. "We have tremendous support from our fans and you can see how they turned out tonight. Saturday, we will bring even more people for the championship."

● Tennant

Continued from Page B1

a little dry today, so that helped."

His final shot? "A replica of the 11th (strike)," he added with a smile. "It was ... an amaz-

Holubeck, proprietor of St. Clair Lanes, Tennant's perfection was the third in the EOBL since its inception. The others were rolled by Martins Ferry's Corey

his mother, Marcy's, side of the family.

"My mom bowled and her parents, my grandparents, also bowled," he said. "I guess it's in my blood."

In the third quarter, the Lady Irish were able to limit Bower to just five points, but more importantly were able to assert themselves on both ends on the court. Two buckets by Froehlich and two-pointers by Jessica Alvey and Emily LeMasters allowed the hosts to push open a 29-26 lead to start the half. Bower's three-pointer knotted the score, but Froehlich tallied six points around pair at the line by Bower to grab a 35-31 lead at the break.

Starting the fourth, Froehlich extended the lead to 37-31 with a deuce, but Bower cranked things up by scoring the Lady Rockets next nine points that enabled them to pull within 41-40 of the Lady Irish.

With 26.5 seconds left in regulation, Froehlich added one at the stripe for a 42-40 margin. Conotton came back with a baseline score with 10 seconds left by Taylor Russell to knot the score and Cottis dropped in one of two at the line for a 43-42 lead. St. John had one last shot with less than a second remaining. Rose was fouled and sank one of two at the line to send it to overtime.

In the extra period, it was the foul line that provided the edge to the Lady Rockets, hitting seven of 10 and getting a bucket by Russell. Conotton Valley saw the Lady Irish drained two treys by Rose and Froehlich to narrow the gap to one before Bower iced it with one at the line.

"There are no excuses," a disappointed Kapral said after the tough loss. "There's nothing to be ashamed of. That's a very good team and you have to give them a lot of credit for the way they played."

"This is a great bunch of kids, but this is the kind of loss that will hang around for awhile," the Lady Irish coach added. "Those fouls shots were crucial in the end. We needed to make ours, because (Bower) wasn't about to miss much."

Kapral pointed out that one play that turned out to be a very crucial part of the game was early in the fourth period. Up by six, the Lady Irish were able to bat the ball out of the hands of Bowers under the Lady Rocket bucket, but Bowers was able to regain possession and was eventually fouled seconds later, making both attempts. That play seemed to give the Lady Rockets the momentum as they battled back sending the game to overtime.

While Bower was scoring 37 for the winners, Froehlich tossed in 20 and Rose added 18 to lead the Lady Irish.

On the boards, Froehlich led all players with 14 boards, while Cottis and Bower had eight each for the winners. Froehlich and Bower matched blocked shots with eight apiece.

● Dogs

Continued from Page B1

Bridgeport head coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "We took away their pick-and-roll. We really stepped it up on that end of the floor."

Bridgeport, ranked second in Division IV the Buckeye State, found itself locked in a 19-all stalemate after two quarters of action, despite the Cee-Bees committing 10 first-half turnovers.

"We thought our chances were pretty good being tied at the half even though we didn't play that well," Clay-Battelle head coach Heather Stadler said.

"Our defense kind of let us down a little at the beginning of the second half.

"We didn't play quite as well. They kept getting it inside on us, but we never gave up."

Junior dandy Caitlyn Kroll didn't have one of her better nights shooting the ball, so she turned to the distributor role. After she gave the Bulldogs the lead for good with a basket to start the third quarter, sophomore Deja Massey took over.

The 5-9 center tied her career-high of 14 points by netting 12 in the second half, with none coming further than three-foot.

Four of her six field goals came off assists by Kroll, who executed the four corner offense in the fourth quarter to near-perfection.

Kroll finished with six helpers to go along with 14 points, a game-tying-best 11 rebounds and half-a-dozen steals.

"That's our game plan all of the time," Zitzelsberger said of keeping the ball in Kroll's hands as much as possible. "She (Caitlyn) isn't selfish at all. All she wants to do is win."

"It's not all about the points to her," he added. "She's a very unselfish player and you saw that her first two years when she was dishing off to a pair of 1,000-point scorers in Nicole Smolenak and Maclaine Murad."

"I'm proud of the way the girls battled," he noted. "We will have our hands full Saturday."

With the win, the Bulldogs move on to Saturday's title tilt against second-seeded Wheeling Central, which dispatched No. 3 Frontier, 53-48, in the other semifinal Monday night in East Wheeling. Bridgeport knocked off the Maroon Knights in last year's semifinals before falling to Frontier in the finals.

Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

Briana Massey finished her home career with 10 points, six rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

Abbie Ammons paced the Cee-Bees with 14 points. Briana Weber snagged 11 rebounds as the visitors led 40-37 off the glass.

Bridgeport shot a cool 18-for-57 (31.6 percent), while Clay-Battelle could only muster a frigid 25.6 percent on 11 of 43. The Cee-Bees charted 16

● River

Continued from Page B1

He got just what he wanted in a pivotal third quarter. River outscored Linsly, 20-9, to take a four-point lead into the fourth. Included in the quarter was a 12-0 spurt that was sparked by a pair of bonus goals from Bailey Caldwell, a triple from Williams and a corner jumper from Devyn Potts.

Caretti, who averages 27.9 points a game, tallied only one bucket in the third.

"Those were big shots from Bailey, who has been our surprise player of late," Isaly said. "Devyn hit some important shots, too. I can't say enough about the effort of all of our players against a good team."

Linsly head coach Maggie Allison admitted that the Cadets' game plan was to attempt someone other than Caretti beat them.

"You just have to hand it to River in the third quarter," Allison said. "They came out hot and it seemed like everyone who shot the ball was putting it in the hoop. We knew we would have to make their other players beat us and in the third quarter ... they did."

Linsly got as close as two three times in the fourth, but each time, River had an answer. Caretti, who scored 23 points, snagged 11 rebounds and blocked five shots, scored 10 in the fourth, which helped hold the Cadets at bay.

"We told the girls at halftime that we couldn't allow them to get on runs," Isaly said. "We had to be prepared to answer and we did just that in the fourth."

Caretti's production was complemented by Williams' 17. Potts added seven.

The aforementioned turnover bug didn't bite the Pilots in the third meeting. After having just four at halftime, River finished with only 10 turnovers.

"We focused all week on taking care of the ball," Isaly said. "We took the air out of the ball, slowed it down to the point where we could have to pass the ball for three, four or five minutes before taking a shot. We needed to be patient and take care of the ball."

Mission accomplished.

But, the other mission was making sure to locate shooters. In the second quarter, when the Cadets made their run by outscoring River, 23-7, junior talent Morgan Brunner buried five 3-pointers to spark the spurt.

"We didn't do a good job at all of containing Brunner in the second," Isaly said. "I thought we did much better on her in the second half."

Brunner, who recently scored her 1,000th career point, finished with 18 to pace the Cadets. Sophomore Jazzie Orth was her top support with 13. Sophomore Vivian Allison and Annie Vehola each had 10.

"We missed some shots tonight that we usually make and we just couldn't create the turnovers, in the end, to get us back in it," Coach Allison said. "We're playing third and we'll try to get the one at Barnesville on Thursday."

No reserve game was contested.

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● Harrison

Continued from Page B1

ends.

On offense, Ellzy and D.J. Keesey, who finished with 14 points, took care of the inside. Defensively, a plethora of players helped hold the Golden Bears (14-5) to one field goal in the second quarter and three in the third.

"Once we we quit fouling and putting them at the foul line, they had a hard time getting anything going," Yourkovich said. "And other big

reason behind that was we rebounded the ball extremely well on the defensive end. We didn't give them any second or third chances.

"That's a credit to the girls playing together as a unit, no matter who was out there. We were shuffling in eight and nine girls again."

Oak Glen head coach Ryan Wells said the performance of Harrison Central's guards played a huge role in the success of the Huskies' inside game. "We just weren't knocking down shots," he said. "We got good looks

"YOU JUST have to hand it to River in the third quarter. They came out hot and it seemed like everyone who shot was putting it in the hoop."

- Maggie Allison
Linsly Head Coach

We couldn't make a free throw.

"And then 32. Thirty-two was the difference-maker in that basketball game. She had almost half their points. So, we went man and they went to their strong suit in man."

"We were doing a pretty job guarding it, but when you have guards knocking down shots you have to extend."

Ellzy got stronger as the game wore on, scoring 10

points in the fourth quarter. After she poured in six straight Huskie points, she left the game to a thunderous standing ovation.

"It just seemed like every time she got the ball she finished," Yourkovich said. "I don't know what she shot from the floor, but it was pretty efficient. But that's been her lately."

Shianne Nameth added 11 points for Harrison Central.

Alex Arnott, who played most of the second half with cotton in her left nostril after sustaining a bloody nose, paced the

OVAC Boys' Pairings Announced

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — There were plenty of familiar names when the pairings for the OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament were announced Wednesday by the conference. In fact, four teams are in the race for repeats — Bishop Donahue in 1A, Wheeling Central in 2A, Fort Frye in 3A, and Morgantown in 5A, while a fifth, Steubenville, is looking to capture a Big School crown after moving up from 4A.

Action gets under way Tuesday night at host sites, with the winners advancing to the championship at Ohio University Eastern a week from Saturday.

The experience isn't old hat for anyone, especially those like Cameron and St. John who are making their initial voyages into the championship bracket.

The Dragons are 15-3 and as the No. 4 seed earned the right to tackle defending champion Wheeling Central (16-2), the No. 1-ranked team in West Virginia, which also is gunning for a second consecutive state

title.

Cameron doesn't seem to get much recognition outside of the area. Despite being separated by one game with Wheeling Central in terms of record, the Dragons are in the others receiving votes category when it comes to the state poll.

In a section and regional that's arguably the best in the state, Cameron coach Chad Clutter and his players might see the matchup with the Maroon Knights as a chance to prove they belong.

The winner of that matchup takes on the survivor of Bridgeport (13-6) and Shadyside (13-7) in the 2A finale.

In Class 1A, the story has to be St. John Central (11-7). Dave Reasbeck took over what had been a down-and-out program and made it into a contender in what only seems like overnight, but in actuality is the result of a lot of hard work.

Please See OVAC, Page 15



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park and Parkersburg South will be two of the 5A schools that will be looking to claim a championship title.

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Will West Liberty set the record for consecutive weeks in the Top 10?

Yes:	79%
No:	21%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Would you travel to Canton to see your favorite team play in the Hall of Fame game?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at www.theIntelligencer.net

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

"Chaice Truex helps. He kind of made us legit," Reasbeck said with a laugh. "It was a goal to qualify this year and it's going to be a goal every year."

"These kids had to learn how to compete and how to win. (The tournament) is going to be a challenge."

The Fighting Irish travel to Madonna (12-5) in the opener, with the winner taking on either Bishop Donahue (15-2) or Trinity (7-10).

"What a story line that would be with Truex going

against Bishop Donahue," Reasbeck said of the possibility of the former Bishop facing his old team.

"But Bishop Donahue is not only the best in our division, but maybe all the divisions."

Class 3A has a foursome that can put points on the scoreboard with the best of them. Included will be a rematch between Magnolia (14-4) and Monroe Central (15-4) in Woodsfield.

The Seminoles handled the Blue Eagles by 30 early in the season.

"We'll be better than we were the last time," Magnolia coach Dave Tallman

said. "We'll be ready."

On the other side of the bracket is defending champ and No. 1 seed Fort Frye (17-2) playing host to River, which is one of two teams in the tournament that is below .500.

The Buckeye 8 is well represented in Class 4A. In fact, all four teams are members of the Ohio league.

No. 1 Union Local (17-2) fell to Steubenville in last season's title game, which was its first defeat to that point.

The Jets will battle Harrison Central (12-6), which eclipsed both Edison and

Martins Ferry on the final day, for the third time this season.

The winner of that contest faces the St. Clairsville-East Liverpool (16-4) survivor.

Class 5A features some serious firepower. They aren't called the big boys for no reason.

Coach Michael Jebbia and Wheeling Park will face second-seeded Morgantown (15-3) for the third time this season, and second in a four-day span. The squads were already scheduled to meet Friday night in Wheeling.

"The one negative in 5A

is you are playing same teams all the time," Jebbia said.

"We kind of knew we would be the 3 seed, it was just a matter of who the opponent was going to be."

"We've played well down there in the past and we played well down there this year."

"Most years we would be a 1 or a 2 seed but we knew with South and Morgantown coming in that wouldn't always be the case."

The other side of the bracket features No. 1 South (15-2) playing host to Steubenville (13-6).

SPORTS

B

Thursday,
February 12, 2015

OVAC boys hoop pairings announced

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The path to the pennant is set.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Basketball Championship Committee finalized and announced the pairings for the eighth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship tournament, which will open on Tuesday and culminate with the finals on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Ohio University Eastern.

The top seeds for the event are Parkersburg South (5A), Union Local (4A), Fort Frye (3A), Wheeling Central (2A) and Bishop Donahue (1A).

IN CLASS 5A, Parkersburg South overtook Morgantown for the top spot in



the big-school rankings. The Patriots will welcome reigning OVAC 4A champion Steubenville to Wood County.

In the other half of the bracket, Morgantown and Wheeling Park will meet in a rematch of the 2014 OVAC title game. The Mohigans, who are coached by former Magnolia standout David Tallman, are 15-3 on the season.

Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots finished the pre-OVAC portion of their schedule with a 12-6 mark.

IN CLASS 4A, Union Local has been holding down the top spot virtually all season.

The Jets, who are 17-2 on the season, advanced to the title game last season

See, OVAC, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

before falling to Steubenville. To get back to OUE, the Jets will have to defeat Harrison Central (12-6) for the third time. The Huskies snuck past Edison for the fourth seed after defeating Martins Ferry on Tuesday.

In the other half of the bracket, East Liverpool locked up the two-seed with a 16-4 mark. The Potters will welcome St. Clairsville in a rematch of last year's 4A consolation tilt.

IN CLASS 3A, Fort Frye has put together an impressive campaign this winter, racking up a 17-2 record thus far.

The Cadets will roll out the red carper for former PVC rival, River on Tuesday. The Pilots edged past Bellaire for the final berth in 3A. River is one of just two teams in the 16-team event that is below .500.

In the other semifinal, second-seeded Monroe Central (15-4) will renew acquaintances with Magnolia (14-4). The Seminoles defeated the Blue Eagles by upwards of 30 in a meeting earlier this season.

IN CLASS 2A, Wheeling Central will attempt to defend its title and will begin with a meeting with fellow West Virginia Class A member Cameron. The Maroon Knights, who are led by West Virginia recruit Chase Harler, are 16-2 and coming off a thrilling victory at Paden City on Tuesday.

The Dragons, who are led by 7-footer Logan Routt, were edged out for the third seed by Bridgeport on the final day of action.

The other half of the bracket has second-seeded Shadyside (13-7) awaiting their third meeting with Bridgeport (13-6). The teams split their earlier meetings, each winning on their home floors. Shadyside prevailed by 18 in the most recent meeting last month.

IN CLASS 1A, Bishop Donahue has set the pace all winter and enters with a 15-2 record. Despite battling its fair share of injuries, the Bishops have put together an impressive resume.

Donahue will host Morgantown Trinity on Tuesday. The Warriors snuck into the field with a 7-10 record.

In the other half, Madonna locked up the second seed with a 12-5 record. It will take on St. John Central, which qualified for the boys event for the first time. Coach Dave Reasbeck's Irish are 11-7. The Blue Dons held off a furious rally by the Irish to prevail in Bellaire during a meeting in December.

Along with the championship semifinals, the consolation pairings for the balance of the schools were also established. Those can be found on Page B4

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SPORTS

Tuesday,
February 24, 2015Central denies Bridgeport
in OVAC 2A championshipBy SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash had scouted and watched enough film of Wheeling Central to know just how good the Knights were.

He got an up-close look at it Monday evening inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

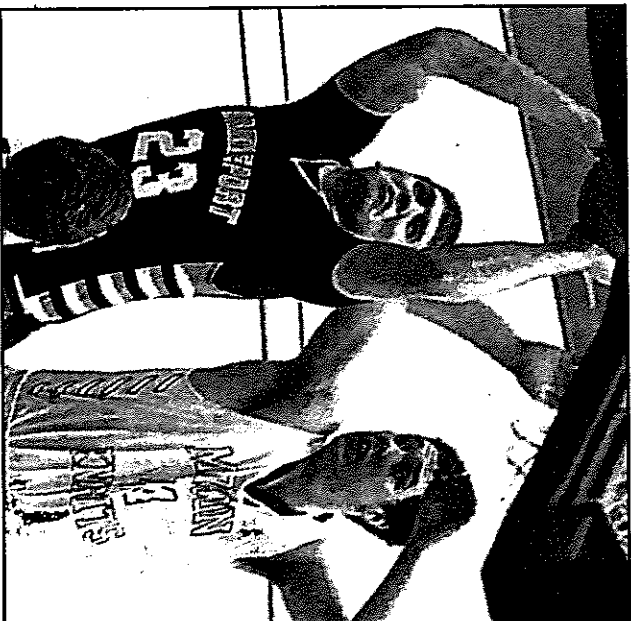
The third-seeded Bulldogs simply had no answer for Wheeling Central (20-2) and

its bevy of scoring options during the Class 2A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball tournament, which allowed the Knights to claim their third straight conference title, 72-53.

"We didn't do the little things," Cash said. "I am proud of my kids and their effort, but we just didn't make enough plays. Wheeling Central is a very good team with a lot of weapons, so you can't cheat off of anyone."

The Bulldogs' game plan — like most teams that have lined up against Central this season — focused on West Virginia University commit Chase Harter. However, while Harter is supremely talented, he's by no means a one-man show.

"Harter's able to do basically everything, but they have the weapons around him, too," Cash said. "They really don't have a weakness or an area that you can pinpoint and say that you can pinpoint and say See, OVAC, Page B2

BRIDGEPORT'S Parker Dyson goes up for a shot as Wheeling Central's Brian Campbell defends during Monday's OVAC Class 2A final at Ohio University Eastern. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

River girls
fall in 3-A
title gameBy SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

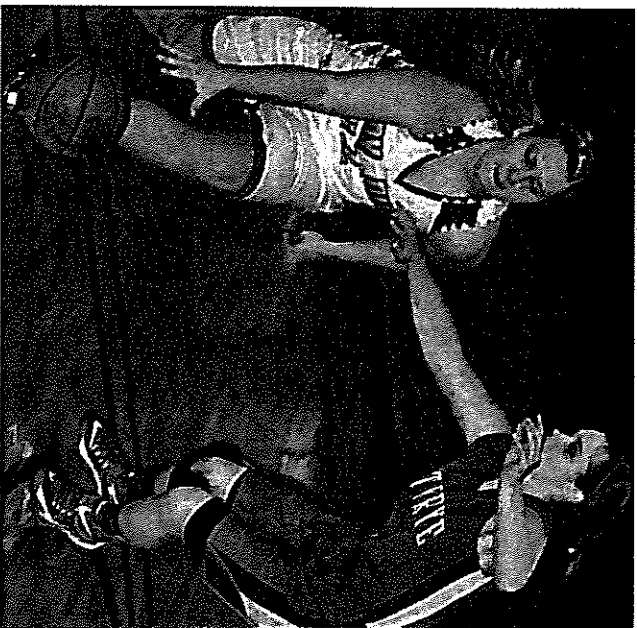
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — River knew what it was getting into against Fort Frye Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The Pilots, however, still couldn't do much about it.

Fort Frye — on the strength of 11 bonus goals and smothering defense — cruised to 56-35 victory and the school's eighth OVAC title in a game that was played two weeks after it was originally scheduled because of bouts with Mother Nature.

"I was really glad we

CAN DIVED DANA D3

RIVERS' Haylee Bowers dribbles past a Fort Frye defender during Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Class 3-A championship game at Ohio University Eastern. The Cadets won. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

focused and you don't see anyone slacking. This team is so fun to coach because it's such a blue-collar team."

River was never able to make a run to even dent into the Cadets' cushion. The deficit was under 10 just once that came on the opening basket of the second half by Haylee Bowers.

Fort Frye, which shot 46 percent from behind the arc, was led by the Sisters Liedtke. Megan had 16, while Makayla added 13. Michelle Adkins and Karisa Lang evenly divided 16 points.

River was led by Caretti's 16. She also had seven rebounds and four blocked shots.

"They were doubling Jensen down low and making it hard on her inside and she got frustrated," Isaly said. "We had a couple of girls step up and make a few shots, but not enough against a team like Fort Frye."

Junior Brielle Williams finished with eight, which was top support of Caretti.

Fort Frye held a commanding 28-17 lead in the rebounding department and its 11 turnovers were two fewer than the Pilots.

Both teams are in action in Ohio tournament play on Thursday. Fort Frye will meet Harrison Central in the Division III district tournament at Steubenville, while River will try to bounce back against Rosecrans in the Division IV district at New Philadelphia.

"We told the girls that it's a tough loss, but hopefully we'll learn from this and come more prepared on Thursday when we play Rosecrans," Isaly said. "We can't take them lightly."

FORT FRYE (56) — Adkins 2, 2-4 8; Hart 1, 0-0 3; Enochs 1, 0-0 3; Fryman 1, 0-0 3; Booth 0, 2-2 2; Ma. Liedtke 4, 2-2 13; Me. Liedtke 6, 1-1 16; Lang 4, 0-0 8; Totals: 19, 7-9 56. RIVER (35) — B. Caldwell 2, 1-2 6; A. Caldwell 0, 0-0 0; Potts 1, 0-0 2; Bowers 1, 1-2 3; Williams 2, 3-5 8; Connors 0, 0-0 0; Earley 0, 0-0 0; Caretti 6, 2-4 16; Williams 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 35, 13-22 56.

River

Continued from Page B1

were able to get this game in and the timing of it, for us, is perfect because of how our tournament games fell," Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke said. "We always look at the OVAC as the grand finale of the (regular) season. First, you have to get into the Final Four, then win a game and if you're able to win that championship, it's the greatest way you can go out with your regular season."

The Cadets got out of the gates quickly against the Pilots, scoring nine of the game's first 11 points and eventually held a 15-9 lead after one quarter.

"This was about the same scenario as it was two years ago in this game," River head coach Rick Isaly said. "They came out, knocked down a bunch of threes and we didn't do a whole lot on offense."

During that opening chapter, the Cadets knocked down four triples. It was just the start of a barrage of baskets from behind the arc. Makayla Liedtke hit a pair of those.

Fort Frye just kept doing what it does in the second, outscoring the Pilots, 16-11. Of the Pilots' 20 first-half points, talented junior Jensen Caretti scored 16 of them.

As they tend to do, however, Fort Frye adjusted. Caretti, who is averaging more than 25 points a game, didn't record a point in the second half.

"We were out of sync the entire game, both offensively and defensively," Isaly continued. "That's what happens against a good team that's fundamentally sound. Give Fort Frye all the credit because it's so tough to get good looks (at the basket). When you do get one, you have to knock down a shot and make it count."

The Fort Frye defense limited River to 9-of-29 shooting from two-point range and an abysmal, 3-of-17 from deep.

"We work a lot on

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

Ellzy is key as Huskies capture title

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Katie Ellzy is a big-time athlete.

It doesn't take much to figure that out. After all, she is signed to play Division I softball at Robert Morris. And they just don't pass out those opportunities to just anyone.

The thing that some don't realize is Ellzy's talents aren't limited to the softball diamond.

She showed that again Saturday morning at Ohio University Eastern.

Whether it was early in the game when she scored the first eight points or late when she knocked down critical foul shots, Ellzy came through.

The end result? Another Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship banner is heading for the John W. Stephenson Center in Cadiz after a hard-earned 46-45 victory against top-seeded Union Local.

Down the stretch, Ellzy admitted nerves creeping in, but she thought back to the other big spots she had found herself in during prior athletic events.

"It was a little stressful, but I knew I had to make them," Ellzy said.

As a softball pitcher, Ellzy has been in tight spots before. Falling behind in a count, having to pitch out of a jam or needing to come through in the clutch with a big hit are all comrable moments, right?

"Being a pitcher, I am pretty used to having some pressure on me," Ellzy confirmed. "It's just like throwing a strike."

If there was anyone on the OUE campus who definitely wasn't surprised by the effort Ellzy put forth, it was her head coach, Nick Yourkovich.

"That's what she does," Yourkovich said. "We expect it from her and there was no doubt she was making the last two (foul shots)."

Ellzy, who had 31 points in the semifinal win against Oak Glen, came out ready to play from the get-go. She connected on her first four shots. Meanwhile, Union Local shot eight percent in the first half.

"I think that start got us pumped up and more excited for the game," Ellzy said. "We knew we had to execute and want it more."

See, ELLZY, Page C2



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Katie Ellzy (32) eyes the basket Saturday morning as the Union Local duo of Kaitlin Clark-Patterson (24) and Mikayla Patton (33) look on during the Class 4-A championship game. The Huskies won, 46-45. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Huskies defend 4-A title

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — You can only keep Katie Ellzy down for so long.

Ellzy was held to one field goal during the second half of Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Tournament opener. But she came up big when it counted, canning two free

throws with 5.6 seconds left as the Huskies staved off a Jets' rally and emerged victorious, 46-45, to repeat as Class 4A champs at Ohio University Eastern.

"I was thinking, 'Foul shots win games,'" said Ellzy, the reigning 4A Player of the Year who finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds. "So, my goal was to make my foul shots just like in practice."

Ellzy actually hit 3 of 4 from the charity stripe during the final 19 seconds to make the score 46-42. UL's Haley Porter hit a 3-pointer as the horn sounded for the final margin.

"We expected a tight ballgame," said Harrison Central head coach Nick Yourkovich, now 2-1 against the Jets this season.

See, HUSKIES, Page C2

Bridgeport falls to WC in 2A final

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The law of averages say things have to balance out at some point.

However, you'd have a tough time selling the Bridgeport girls basketball team on that idea.

For the second straight season, the top-seeded Bulldogs were denied the OVAC Class 2A title.

After falling to Frontier in 2014, Wheeling Central turned the trick Saturday evening at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, posting a 48-30 victory.

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page C2



BRIDGEPORT'S Caitlyn Kroll shoots over top of two Wheeling Central defenders Saturday night. She scored 24 points, but the Bulldogs lost, 48-30.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Valentine sinks OSU

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Ohio State needed to withstand one last Michigan State possession to force overtime. The Buckeyes closed off the area around the basket, but gave Denzel Valentine some space beyond the arc.

That's all he needed. "Give Valentine credit — that was an incredible shot," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "I thought we had them right where we wanted them in terms of how the action developed."

Valentine made a 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds remaining — on Feb. 14, no less — to give Michigan State a 59-56 victory over No. 23 Ohio State on Saturday. Sam Thompson had made a 3-pointer of his own for the Buckeyes, tying the game with 36 seconds left, but Michigan State patiently ran the clock down

times this season, losing three of those games.

The Buckeyes (19-7, 8-5 Big Ten) rallied from a nine-point halftime deficit, and even after Valentine's big shot, Ohio State had a chance to send the game to overtime, but the Buckeyes lost the ball on the ensuing inbound pass.

Valentine finished with 17 points, going 5 of 9 from beyond the arc. Branden Dawson had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Michigan State.

Shannon Scott scored 15 points for the Buckeyes. Thompson, D'Angelo Russell and Jae'Sean Tate added 10 apiece.

Freshman Lourawls "Tum Tum" Nairn played 36 minutes for Michigan State, scoring seven points with five rebounds and four assists — including the pass to set up Valentine's winning shot.

MICHIGAN STATE'S Travis Trice, center, goes to the basket between Ohio State's Jae'Sean Tate, left, and Amir Williams (23) during the second half Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State won, 59-56.





T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Paige Richards, left, shoots over top of Union Local's Haley Porter during their game Saturday morning at Ohio University Eastern. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Huskies

Continued from Page C1

"We knew they were going to make a run. We let it get a little closer than we would've liked. We did enough to stop the bleeding there to keep us on top so we didn't completely lose our edge.

"But (Union Local) is a good team. We knew they were going to start making some shots."

Union Local (17-5) trailed by as many as 17 points, 24-7, in the second quarter.

"We dug ourselves in really deep, but we were positive at halftime," Jets head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "We thought, we've been down like this before and came back. And we did.

"We had our chances. It came down to a couple of different plays and it just didn't go our way."

After watching Ellzy score the first eight points of the game and the Huskies' first ten, Union Local altered its defense at halftime. She scored early in the third period, but it was only one of two buckets the Huskies would convert in the period.

Otherwise, the quarter was all Jets. And, mainly, it was all Porter.

The freshman point guard, playing on what was later learned to be a broken foot, willed her way to 10 of her team-high 18 points in the stanza, one in which Union Local won, 18-4. Porter's two free throws and a jumper by Saige Butler with seven seconds left in the period cut the Jets' deficit to 34-32 after three.

"Our shots couldn't keep not falling," Hanlon said. "We knew we were going to start hitting. Haley hit a couple of quick 3s and we got it inside.

"(Haley) was hurt. She played her heart out. You can always go to her for that type of stuff. She doesn't act like a freshman anymore."

As Union Local's offense cranked up, it's defense clamped down.

"They were just taking away the low block and we got a little bit passive on the perimeter," Yourkovich said. "Just passing the ball around and not attacking the gaps. Once we started doing that again, everything opened up."

Shianne Nameth drained a 3-pointer a minute into the fourth quarter putting the Huskies up by six, 38-32. But the Jets rallied to tie the game with a 3-point play by Porter and a long-distance trey by Kylie Russell.

Layups by D.J. Keesey and Paige Richards put Harrison Central up by four again, 42-38.

A free throw by Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson, who finished with 10 boards, and a layup by Mikayla Patton, who snared 11 caroms, made it a 42-41 game. But the Jets could never get over the hump, leaving the door open for Ellzy to seal things at the line in the closing moments.

"We expect that from her and there was no doubt she was going to make those last two (free throws)," Yourkovich said.

Nameth and Richards both finished with 11 points.

Harrison Central (17-5) and Union Local both return to action next Saturday as Ohio Division III sectional tournament play opens at Cambridge High School. The Huskies will face Barnesville in the first game at 1 p.m., with the Jets playing St. Clairsville at 3 p.m. If the Huskies and Jets win, they'll play for a fourth time Feb. 26.

For now, Yourkovich and the Huskies will bask in the glow of another OVAC title.

"This is great," he said. "It's a wonderful feeling for us. "It sort of validates our program as one of the top ones in the valley."

HARRISON CENTRAL (46) — Doty 0, 1-2 1; A.Yoho 0, 0-0 0; Warrington 0, 0-0 0; Richards 3, 5-5 11; Nameth 3, 2-4 11; Keesey 1, 0-0 2; Mencer 0, 0-0 0; Ellzy 7, 5-8 19; Dowdle 0, 0-0 0; Stackhouse 1, 0-0 2. Totals 15, 13-19 46. **UNION LOCAL (45)** — Deese 0, 0-0 0; Butler 1, 2-2 5; Porter 5, 5-5 18; Clark-Patterson 1, 3-6 5; DeLaney 3, 1-2 8; Russell 1, 0-2 3; Patton 1, 4-7 6. Totals 12, 15-24 45.

3-point goals: H — Nameth (3); U — Porter (3), Butler, DeLaney, Russell.

Thorp can be reached at rthorp@timesleaderonline.com

● Bridgeport

Continued from Page C1

"Last year, we were probably the favorites and this year we were probably the underdogs," Bridgeport head coach Rob Zitzelsberger reasoned. "We're disappointed, but we realize a lot of teams would like to be here. When you play a good team, you have to play well."

For a quarter — the second — the Bulldogs did play well, turning a nine-point deficit into a 17-16 lead at halftime.

However, the momentum shifted right back to the Maroon Knights in the second half.

"We struggled in the first half shooting the ball and I attribute that to playing too many games in too short of a period of time," Central head coach Penn Kurtz said. "I could tell we didn't have our legs early, but the end of the third and start of the fourth, we started reversing the ball more and getting easier looks."

The game was tied at 24 at a juncture in the middle of the third quarter. From there, Taylor Duplaga and Sydney Bennington basically took over as Bridgeport committed a lot of attention to junior stand-out Lindsey Baker.

"I was surprised we were up at half to be honest," Zitzelsberger said. "We played poorly and then we played the second half just like we did the first half. We threw balls away and they played pretty good defense. Our defense fell a part a few times and they knocked down shots and we didn't."

Duplaga hit a pair of bonus goals in the third to spark the rally and in the fourth Bennington was the beneficiary, scoring 10 of her 12.

"When you play a good team, you have to play well," Zitzelsberger said. "It's not that we hung our heads and gave up, but I knew once we started chasing them, they'd find the open people."

● Ellzy

Continued from Page C1

Though she's the only senior on the squad, Ellzy didn't feel any extra pressure to go out on top. Again, it's part of the mental make-up of a big-time athlete. They continually stay within the moment and trust their teammates.

"I am the only senior, but we have a lot of other girls on this team who contribute and help us to be successful," Ellzy said.

Repeating is nice, but Ellzy and Harrison Central head coach Nick Yourkovich don't think of it quite like that. But, the win does "validate" last year's title a bit, according to the Huskies' head coach.

"Coach Yourk stressed when we got into the lockerroom that last year's team had won the OVAC," Ellzy relayed. "The feeling between last year and this year is just as nice, but this one seemed like it was tougher."

Now, Ellzy and Harrison's attention will shift to the Division III post-season, which opens Saturday in



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BRIDGEPORT'S Briana Massey (20) dribbles past a Wheeling Central defender during Saturday night's game at OUE.

Wheeling Central held a 31-25 edge entering the fourth, but Bridgeport continued to struggle mightily on the offensive end of the floor. All told, the Bulldogs shot a bone-chilling 10-of-52 from the field.

"We got it done on the defensive end," Kurtz said. "This was a great team win for us."

Bridgeport's talented junior Caitlyn Kroll did her thing. She scored 24 points, but she took 32 shots in the contest. She also had 10 rebounds.

"Kroll tried to do it all herself, but that can't happen," Zitzelsberger said. "We need teams to focus (defensively) on Kroll and then for our other players to step up. We've been fortunate all year to have that for

the most part and Kroll coming through."

No other Bridgeport player scored more than two points.

Wheeling Central was led by Baker's 15. Bennington's production complemented Baker and Duplaga finished with nine.

Bridgeport's regular season finishes with a 20-2 record, while Wheeling Central is now 18-3.

WHEELING CENTRAL (48) — Ri.Blaha 0, 0-0 0; Re.Blaha 1, 0-0 2; Baker 3, 9-10 15; Bennington 2, 1-2 5; S. Bennington 6, 0-0 12; Calissie 1, 0-0 3; Duplaga 3, 1-1 9; Baller 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 17, 11-13 48. **BRIDGEPORT (30)** — Kroll 7, 9-13 24; Beal 1, 0-0 2; Trouten 0, 0-0 0; B. Massey 1, 0-1 2; D. Massey 0, 0-2 0; Scheff 0, 0-0 0; Johnson 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 10, 9-16 30.

3-point goals: WC — Duplaga (2), Calissie. B — Kroll.

Class 3-A game postponed until Monday night

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Just three hours before it was supposed to tip, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference — with advice from River and Fort Frye school officials — opted to postpone the Class 3A championship game in the Wheeling Hospital Girls Basketball Championship.

Because of the travel distance and the bout with Mother Nature, the game will be played on Monday at 7 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

Morgantown tops P. South

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Much of the talk entering Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A girls' basketball championship centered on the matchup of the point guards, and for obvious reasons.

Parkersburg South's Taryn McCutcheon (Michigan State) and Morgantown's Olivia Seggie (West Virginia) will both go on to play Division-I collegiately.

Conotton Valley three-peats in 'A'

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It didn't start well for the Madonna girls basketball team and it never got any better.

Conotton Valley pitched a shutout in the first quarter and went on to win its third straight Class 1A title in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

Conotton Valley was led by Oliver Bower, the 6-footer on her way to Ohio University. She finished with 25 points, 18 rebounds and 10 blocks. She also became the all-time leading scorer in school history for all basketball players.

Cambridge. Ironically, if both teams win, they would have to go through Union Local again to get to the district tournament.

Once basketball season ends, Ellzy's attention shifts back to the circle and her final prep season. Another bit of irony is that Ellzy has a part of two OVAC titles in basketball, but is still seeking one in softball.

So, what's she plan to do about that?

"I guess we have to win the OVAC and advance even further than we did last year (in the tournament)," Ellzy said.

SETH'S SCOOPS

■ **HARRISON CENTRAL'S** Shianne Nameth had a big day for the Huskies, draining three bonus goals, which all proved critical in the Huskies' successfully defending their 4A title. However, the biggest winner of the day may have been her mom, Dana. She won the 50-50 raffle during the first game.

■ **IN THE 5A game**, it was a battle

of two of the premier point guards in the state of West Virginia in South's Taryn McCutcheon, who is heading for Michigan State, and Olivia Seggie, who is also drawing Division I interest. Both are highly impressive players. West Virginia hoop fans are highly fortunate because the could possibly see those two go head-to-head twice more this season. Morgantown won the third meeting between the two, 55-52, for the big-school title.

■ **CONOTTON VALLEY'S** Olivia Bower had an afternoon to remember on Saturday. First off, the Ohio University recruit led the Rockets to their third straight title with a dominating victory against Madonna, 40-21. She produced a triple-double with 25 points, 18 rebounds and 10 blocks. On top of that, she became Conotton's all-time leading scorer, regardless of gender. She now has 1,712 points.

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Mohigans Slip Past Patriots

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Much of the talk entering Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A girls' basketball championship centered on the matchup of the point guards, and for obvious reason. Parkersburg South's Taryn McCutcheon (Michigan State) and Morgantown's Olivia Seggie (West Virginia) will both go on to play Division-I collegiately.

But basketball is far from a 1-on-1 game, and it was a handful of the lesser-known stars that proved the difference.

Shelby Boyle came off the bench to score 13 points and Morgantown, the No. 1 seed, took advantage of early McCutcheon foul trouble to earn a 55-52 victory Saturday at Ohio University Eastern, denying South its second consecutive title.

"We've got a lot of respect for their program and a lot of respect for Coach (Scott) Stephens and the job he does," Mohigans coach Jason White said. "It's two good programs and it seems like last year and this year at the end of the season we're seeing each other every other day."

"It's like Groundhog day."

The Patriots jumped out early, 11-7, on a pair of Keya Bartlett free throws, but they lost the momentum when McCutcheon picked up her second foul with 2:35 remaining in the first quarter and were never fully able to regain it.

"It had a big effect," Stephens said. "We went from up five or six to a tie game (11-11) at the end of the first quarter."

"It's a shame because I think they missed a call — I think it was on Bartlett, but it doesn't matter. That's all water under the bridge."

South scored seven of the first eight points of the second quarter — two Anna Hayton shots inside and a McCutcheon 3 — but another Mohigans bench player, junior Paige Poffenberger, scored seven straight for her team and Brie Giuliani (10 points) added a hoop for a 30-24 lead.

See, Mohigans, Page B2

Rockets Make It A Three-Peat

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — As the clock was winding down, the student section from Conotton Valley started chanting, "Three peat, Three peat." The Rockets defeated the Blue Dons of Madonna 40-21 to claim the 1A title for the third year in a row.

That was probably the second loudest the crowd was during the game. As loud as the crowd was at that moment, it roared when Olivia Bower made a layup with 3:08 left in the game.

With that, Bower became Conotton Valley's all-time leading scorer. She currently sits with 1,712 points.

"In all honesty, I didn't know that was the point that I needed," Bower said. "Coach kind of kept that a secret from me. I didn't know how many I needed. But I had a feeling that once everybody went crazy, that's what it was."

While that moment was the cherry on top of a great performance by the Rockets, the game started off the right way as



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central freshman Riley Bennington (14) tries to strip the ball away from Bridgeport junior Justine Schell during the OVAC 2A championship game.

Maroon Knights Claim 2A Title

Central earns its second championship in 8 years

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — During the first quarter, it seemed Wheeling Central had gotten back to its original roots. As the second quarter started, the originality seemed to go away. However, the Maroon Knights picked things up in the second half as they ran away with the 2A OVAC title in a 48-30 victory against Bridgeport Saturday night on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

It's the second title the Maroon Knights have won in eight years.

"I thought for us, it was a team win," Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz said. "We struggled in the first half shooting the ball. We've been struggling lately. I just attribute it to too many games in a short amount of time. The players were telling me after the game with River that their legs were gone. So we tried to take it easy for a couple days in practice."

In the first quarter, an 8-0 run gave the Maroon Knights a 12-4 advantage.

The Bulldogs turned on the defense in the second quarter. Bridgeport went on a 10-0 run to end the quarter and take a 17-16 lead going into halftime. The Maroon Knights struggled from the field and did not score a field goal in the eight-minute span.

See, Knights, Page B2



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Conotton Valley senior Chandice Cottis passes the ball during the OVAC Tournament 1A title game.

well. The five senior starters came out and held the Blue Dons scoreless for the first quarter as they raced out to a 11-0 lead. The Rockets did not allow a field goal for the first 13 minutes.

"I thought we came out ready to play," Conotton Valley coach Chandra Myers said. "We didn't have a difficult drive

See, Rockets, Page B2

Ellzy, Huskies Repeat As Champions

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Harrison Central's Katie Ellzy was on fire early Saturday, scoring her team's first 10 points during the OVAC Class 4A championship matchup with top-seeded Union Local on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

The Jets found a way to corral her — one defender in front and one in back — for the majority of the second half, but when the chips were down Ellzy found a way to get it done.

Ellzy drained a pair of free throws with 5.7 seconds remaining to give the No. 2 Huskies a four-point lead. Jets freshman Haley Porter drained a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded, but Harrison Central had emerged with a 46-45 victory and its second title in as many seasons.

"That's what she does," Huskies coach Nick Yourkovich said with a smile. "Big-time players show up in big-time games."

"We expect that from her and there was no doubt she was making the last two (free

See, Huskies, Page B2

Oak Glen Wrestling Tops Brooke

Final tune up before regionals for both teams

By AARON PETCHAL
For The News-Register

WELLSBURG — The battle of the bears went to the Oak Glen wrestling team.

Oak Glen traveled south to take on Brooke in the two team's final dual and tune up heading into the regional tournaments. In the end, the Golden Bears won 11 of the 14 weight classes against the Bruins as Oak Glen came away with a 63-9 victory Saturday afternoon to spoil Brooke's Senior Day.

"Things went well," Oak Glen coach Patrick McGillian said. "This was our last tune up before regionals next week."

"We come down here and it is usually a tri, but we were not able to get a third team to take part in it this year. We knew the match count would be low today."

Brooke won two weight classes.

"I saw a couple good matches," Brooke coach Rod Pattison said. "We had Matt Doll wrestle (Noah) Flowers at 195, and he beat Flowers."

There was also a double forfeit at 120 pounds. Brooke only had six wrestlers compete in the match.

"We have a really-young team," Pattison said. "We had three kids out with sickness. We have regionals upcoming next week, and I didn't want to risk it."

Matches were held in only five weight classes. Oak Glen won four of those five matches.

All told, the Golden Bears won seven weight classes by forfeit, three matches by pin and one match by decision.

"Things are going well for us," McGillian said. "We are taking the right steps heading into regionals. We have won our last seven or eight dual meets. We are going in the right way."

The Bruins won one weight class by forfeit and one match by decision.

Individually for the Golden Bears, Zack Eckenrod (132), Patrick Arneault (145), Wyatt Strum (152), Will Hogan (160), Devon Chadwick (182), Dakota Price (220) and Noah Mills (285) all won via forfeit.

Also for the visitors from northern Hancock County, Robert Bozek (126) pinned Gage Barnhart in 1:02, Nick Tice (138) pinned Dalton Yost in 1:33 and Stevie Cool (170) pinned Garrett Finskey in 2:40.

Finally for the boys in the yellow, Ryan Debee defeated Michael Keiordan by decision by a score of 6-3.

"Yeah, it was a typical Oak Glen team," Pattison said.

See, Oak Glen, Page B2

Central Sweeps Two-Game Road Trip

By RON JOHNSTON
For The News-Register

PARKERSBURG — Parkersburg Catholic made defending Class A champion Wheeling Central work.

The Crusaders proved to be a handful for the Mel Stephens-coached Maroon Knights, but at the end it wasn't quite enough as they dropped a 60-52 decision in non-conference boys' basketball action at the Fairview Avenue gym Saturday. Both Parkersburg Catholic and Wheeling Central were coming off wins against Ravenswood and Charleston Catholic, respectively, on Friday night.

"I thought we played really well against Wheeling Central," Crusaders fourth-year coach Rob Strula said. "We did the best we could, but at the end we couldn't get a basket in our last six possessions."

See, Central, Page B5



Today's Results:
Q. Is it time for Major League Baseball to consider Pete Rose for the Hall of Fame?

Yes 66%
No 43%

ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Do you believe Ohio University Eastern is the best place for the OVAC to hold its basketball tournaments?

Tell us what you think.
Register your answer at www.news-register.net
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)



HUSKIES

Continued from page B1

throws).
That it came down to that was somewhat of a surprise, given that Harrison Central had dominated the first half and went into the locker room with a 30-13 lead, thanks in large part to Ellzy scoring 14 of her team-high 19 points.

However, it didn't take Union Local long to get back in the game.

The Jets received a three-point play from Mikayla Patton out of the gate and Porter sandwiched a two and a 3 around a Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson hoop to make it 32-24 Huskies. Megan Stackhouse answered with her only bucket off a nice post-up move to get it back to 10, but Union Local closed on an 8-0 run that was punctuated by a 3 from Saige Butler to cut the margin to two - 34-32 - heading to the fourth.

"We dug ourselves in really deep, but we were still really positive at halftime," UL coach Kelly Hanlon said. "We've been down before like that and came back."

"We came back and tied it and we had our chances, but it came down to a couple different plays that didn't go our way."

Harrison Central's Shianne Nameth (11 points) scored the first four points of the fourth including her third and final 3-pointer, but Union Local battled back to tie things at 38-38 on a deep 3 from Kylie Russell.

D.J. Keesey responded with a putback for the Huskies as the Jets never got over the hump. They had several chances to take the lead down the stretch but couldn't convert, whether it be at the foul line (3 of 8 in the fourth, 15 of 24 overall) or with open looks.

"We expected a tight game and told the girls at halftime - we were up pretty comfortably - but I knew they would make a run," Yourkovich said. "We let them get a little bit closer than we would have liked."

"This is a wonderful feeling and I think this kind of validates our program as one of the top ones in the valley. Someone



Photo by Mike Mathison

Harrison Central junior Shianne Nameth drives the lane past Union Local junior Alli Delaney during the OVAC Tournament 4A Championship game on the campus of Ohio University Eastern on Saturday.

could say 'well, they got lucky last year.' But we did it again."

Paige Richards had a nice game for Harrison, adding 11 points.

Porter paved the way for the Jets, scoring 17 of her 19 in the second half despite playing on a bad ankle that required treatment at halftime.

"She's not a freshman anymore," Hanlon said. "She played great."

Alli Delaney added eight points for the Jets.

ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

down, I mean we are used to long rides, but the weather was different. The girls were a little shaken up on the bus, but they came out ready to play. They wanted it, especially that senior class. Our goal was to come out and play defense.

"We had to get stops. I thought my girls did just what I asked them."

The lead got up to as many as 22 after a Kylie Manbeck bucket put the score at 29-7 in favor of the Rockets. But the Blue Dons didn't call it quits as they went on a small 8-0 run to cut the deficit to 14, 29-15.

The Rockets answered right back with a 5-0 run of their own to end the quarter.

"We had a slow start," Blue Dons coach

Don Ogden said. "Same as last year. The girls played hard; just didn't seem to be very effective on offense. The Bower girl, we tried to neutralize her, but that's why she's going to a Division I school on a scholarship. I found myself watching her and she's all what they said she's going to be."

Bower, an Ohio University commit, finished with a triple-double with 25 points, 18 rebounds and 10 blocks.

"I'm very excited," Bower said. "I'm excited for my senior class. We've been playing together for so long, it's a big accomplishment for us."

Becca Holt and Monica Bragg both scored six points to lead Madonna.

OAK GLEN

Continued from page B1

Individually for the boys from Brooke County, Doll defeated Flowers by decision by a score of 7-3, and Clay Biney (106) won by forfeit.

"We were down some kids today," Pattison said. "We had three kids out sick. We only had six kids."

WRESTLING

Linsly 203.5, Magnolia 192, Berkeley Springs 175.5, St. Clairsville 141, River 114.5, Steubenville Central Catholic 78, Weir 73.5, Tyler Consolidated 67, Liberty (H) 59, Ravenswood 59, Doddridge County 51, Wahama 43, Madonna 0

NEW MARTINSVILLE - Linsly had five wrestlers make it to the championship round as three wrestlers would for the Cadets.

Tommy Curtin won at 126, Gage Giovengo took it home at 195, and Chimechi Oparanoize won at 285.

Magnolia was a close second as they had one wrestler bring home a gold as Caleb Nice won at 182.

BOYS BASKETBALL

VVHIT

Cameron 60, St. Marys 56

SUMMERSVILLE - Logan Routt put up 14 points, 19 rebounds, and six blocks while Trey Routt had 14 points and nine rebounds to lead Cameron (16-3) to the championship.

Ryan Clutter also chipped in with 14 points and six assists.

Dillon Hupp scored 13 points for St. Marys (15-3).

Paden City 65, Doddridge County 45
SUMMERSVILLE - Kennedy Cain scored 22 points, took down five rebounds, and had four steals as Paden City (9-10) took home fifth place.

Luke Cooper scored 19 points and had six rebounds while Zach Heasley scored 12 points and had seven assists.

Brandon Smith scored 14 points for Doddridge County (13-7).

Valley 67, Van 50

SUMMERSVILLE - Tucker Cain had 25 points, Joey Preat pulled down 13 rebounds, and Trey Streets put up 14 points for Valley (9-10).

Greg Lail and Taylor Jarrell went for 14 points each for Van (5-15) in the 11th place game.

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

"I was surprised we were up 17-16 at the half," Bridgeport coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "We played in the first half like we did the second half. We just never stepped it up. We threw some balls away. They play pretty good defense, and ours fell apart. A couple times, we lost their shooter and they knocked them down and we didn't."

"Last year we were the favorites, this year we were probably the underdogs. A lot of teams would like to be here. Yes, we are disappointed, but when you play a good team, you got to play well."

After a pair of free throws by Caitlyn Kroll, the lead was 19-16 in favor of Bridgeport. With 6:27 left in the third, Taylor Duplaga gave the Maroon Knights the spark they were waiting for on a conventional 3-point play to tie the game. Not too long after, Duplaga had another big play as she hit a key 3-pointer to give



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central's Sydney Bennington dribbles the ball up the court.

the Maroon Knights the lead, 22-19.

"She's a great player," Kurtz said of Duplaga. "For a freshmen, she just walks in and looks like she's been playing for four years. We rely on her a lot on both the defensive and offensive end of the floor. She just hit

some big shots that opened it up for us."

Duplaga finished the third quarter with nine points.

The Maroon Knight lead got to double digits after a Riley Bennington basket made it 35-25. The lead grew to as many as 21 after a four minute, 11-0 run sparked by a Sydney Bennington layup. Bennington scored 10 points in the final frame including six points in the four minute stretch. She finished the game with 12 points.

Lindsey Baker had a team-high 15 points for the Maroon Knights.

For the Bulldogs, Kroll finished with a game-high 24 points.

"The second quarter was a good quarter for us," Zitzelsberger said. "You got to continue that. The third quarter was atrocious and the fourth was even worse. I'm proud of them. Nobody likes to be a runner up, but we'll take the trophy and be happy."

MOHIGANS

Continued from page B1

Bartlett, who led the Patriots with 14 points, hit

a 3 at the horn to make it a three-point halftime lead.

"I think the focus goes to the point guards because it's going to be such a great matchup, but what gets lost are the Anna Haytons, the Sydney Holloways, the Rachel Laskodys, the Carlie Wilsons and Keya Bartletts.

"We're really two evenly matched teams where people only look at the point guards, but if you went position-by-position it's about even."

A pair of Rowle free

buckets from Wilson and McCutcheon, followed by a Byrd free throw made it 47-45.

Byrd drained her third 3 of the afternoon to cut it to 51-50 late, but the Mohigans got a pair of baskets off patient, backdoor plays - the last by Seggie - to go up 56-50.

McCutcheon (12 points) drilled two free throws to make it 56-62, but the Patriots waited until 5.7 showed on the clock to commit a foul. But Morgantown wasn't in a bonus situation and South was



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Madonna Downs St. John

Blue Dons begin fast, finish strong

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — The Dube Dome wasn't a haunted house Tuesday night — there was actually a tropical vibe as the Madonna student section held a beach theme — but St. John was still spooked by the Blue Dons.

"My biggest fear was realized," St. John coach Dave Reasbeck said. "On the road in a big game, we came out flat. That was my biggest fear and it happened."

Madonna surged to an early lead on the Fighting Irish and forced 15 first-half turnovers to earn a 70-56 victory in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC 1A semifinal. The Blue Dons advance to Saturday's championship game for the first time since 2012.

Please See MADONNA, Page 15

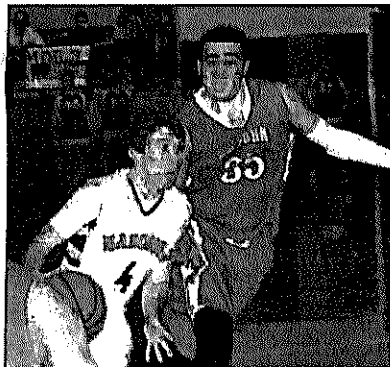


Photo by Matthew Peaslee
Madonna's Levi Shreve (4) tries to get to the basket past St. John defender Chaice Truex.

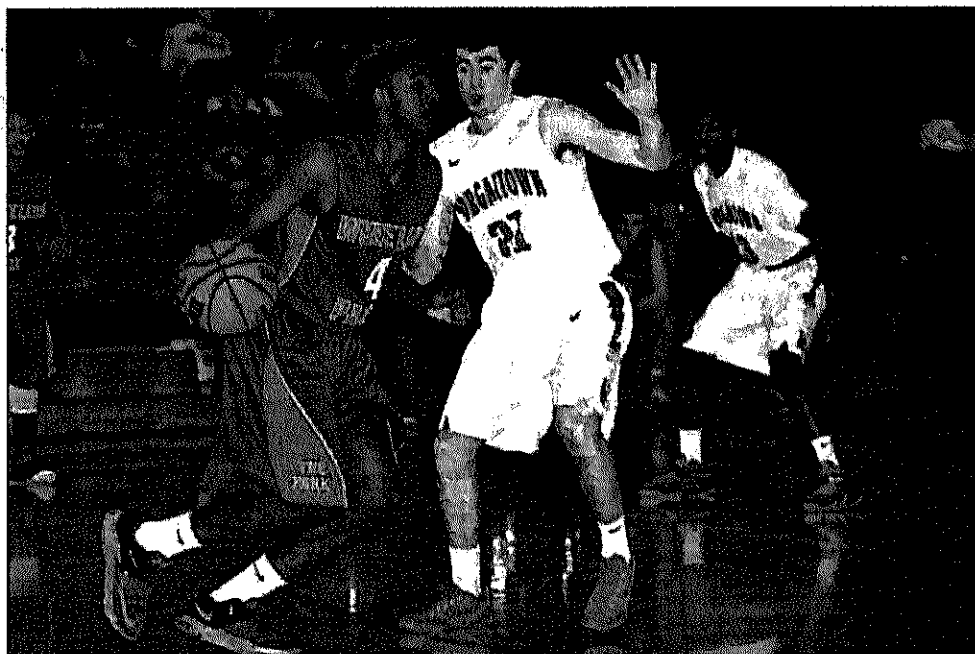


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park's Elijah Bell (4) looks to get around the defense of Morgantown's Tyler Shipley during Tuesday night's OVAC contest.

Park Can't Climb All the Way Back

Motown advances to 5A title contest

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

MORGANTOWN — Wheeling Park made it a game. The Patriots, who were down 16 at halftime, put together a team effort in the second half, only to come up short of the 5A OVAC Final in a 62-52 loss to Morgantown on Tuesday night.

"We were down so many, and we've been in that position before," Patriots coach Michael Jebbia said. "We exerted so much energy to come back and we had the ball three times when we were down four. We didn't convert. So if we could have gotten it

to two or one, we might have gotten over the hump. But Morgantown made some plays when they had to."

The comeback started near the end of the third quarter as the Patriots, led by Phil Bledsoe, went on a 6-0 run to cut the Mohigans lead to single digits, 48-39.

Early on in the fourth, a Rhett Schodzinski 3-pointer and Tre' Saunders bucket cut the lead to 48-44. That's as close as Wheeling Park got as Zakeem Davis stopped the Morgantown scoring drought with a big bucket to put the home team back up by six.

With the score at 54-48, Carlton King made a conventional three-point play and Kenzie Melko hit a shot to give the Mohigans a comfortable 59-48 lead with 1:44 left to put the game on ice.

Please See PARK, Page 15

South Gets By Big Red

Patriots have to work overtime

By JAY W. BENNETT
For The Intelligencer

PARKERSBURG — Parkersburg South received a career-high 27 points from JR Kerr and the Patriots needed overtime Tuesday night inside the Rod Oldham Athletic Center to nip Steubenville, 77-75, in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A semifinal.

Big Red sophomore Charles Reeves put on a dominating performance with 18 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists, three steals and three blocks, but the visitors couldn't pull the upset as the No. 4 seed because Dionee Wallace-Jones' potential game-winning 3-pointer from the left wing glanced the edge of the iron at the final horn.

"We couldn't finish it when we needed to," South coach Mike Fallon said of his second-ranked Class AAA squad, who also got 16 points from Cody Monroe along with 13 apiece from Garrett Gilkeson and Ty Dobson. "Steubenville's pretty good. This time of year we're just trying to get better."

The Patriots, who were an awkward Kerr long lay-in attempt away from winning it at the end of regulation after Wallace-Jones sank three foul shots with 4.6 seconds left, improved to 16-2 and return to the ROAC tonight versus rival Parkersburg.

Dobson tallied 10 of his total in the opening quarter and eight of those came in a span of 90 seconds thanks to a pair of 3s sandwiched around a lay-in, which gave the

Please See SOUTH, Page 15

Bulldogs Will Play for Crown

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — The last time Bridgeport traveled south on Ohio 7 to Shadyside for a boys' basketball game, the Bulldogs were muzzled, 68-50, on Jan. 20. Tuesday night inside a jam-packed Tigers Den, their bite was back.

Bridgeport outscored Shadyside 9-4 in the final four minutes to claim a 57-52 victory in a Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class

2A semifinal. It propels the third-seeded Bulldogs (15-6) into Saturday's 5:30 p.m. championship game at Ohio University Eastern against the winner of tonight's No. 4 Cameron at top-seeded Wheeling Central semifinal that was postponed Tuesday night. The No. 2 Tigers (16-5) head to the loser of tonight's game, Friday in the third-place contest.

Please See BULLDOGS, Page 15

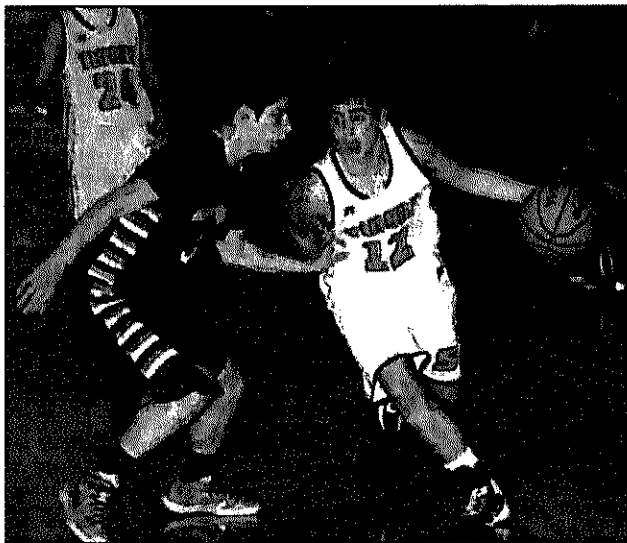


Photo by Seth Staskey

Shadyside's John Michael Schuetz brings the ball up the court against Bridgeport's J.C. Cash.

Jets Soar Past Harrison Central

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

MORRISTOWN — The first quarters put forth Tuesday night by Union Local and Harrison Central couldn't have been more different.

The Jets drained four 3-pointers en route to an 18-point period. The Huskies, meanwhile, went 0-for-10 from the field and scored three points.

Union Local's 15-point bulge after the

opening eight minutes was just the spark needed to propel itself to a 54-31 triumph in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament Class 4A semifinal inside 'The Hangar.'

"We came out fast and started fast," Jets coach Ben Porter said. "We were hoping to be able to do that."

The victory sends Union Local (19-2) into

Please See UL, Page 15

slays Cameron in OVAC semis

• Knights will meet Bridgeport for conference's 2A crown

By SHAWN RINE
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Cameron entered Wednesday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Wheeling Central in search of a measure of respect. The Dragons earned that much, even though they left with a loss.

The Maroon Knights' depth and ball pressure simply proved too much. Chase Harler had 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and handed out six assists as Wheeling Central (19-2), the No. 1 team in West Virginia Class A and the tournament's top seed, emerged with a 63-49 victory.

The Maroon Knights play Bridgeport for the championship at 5:30 on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"We knew coming in they were good and we knew the big kid (Logan Routt) was going to be tough to handle," Central coach Mel Stephens said. "And Ryan Clutter is also a good player, and both those guys got theirs like we thought they would."

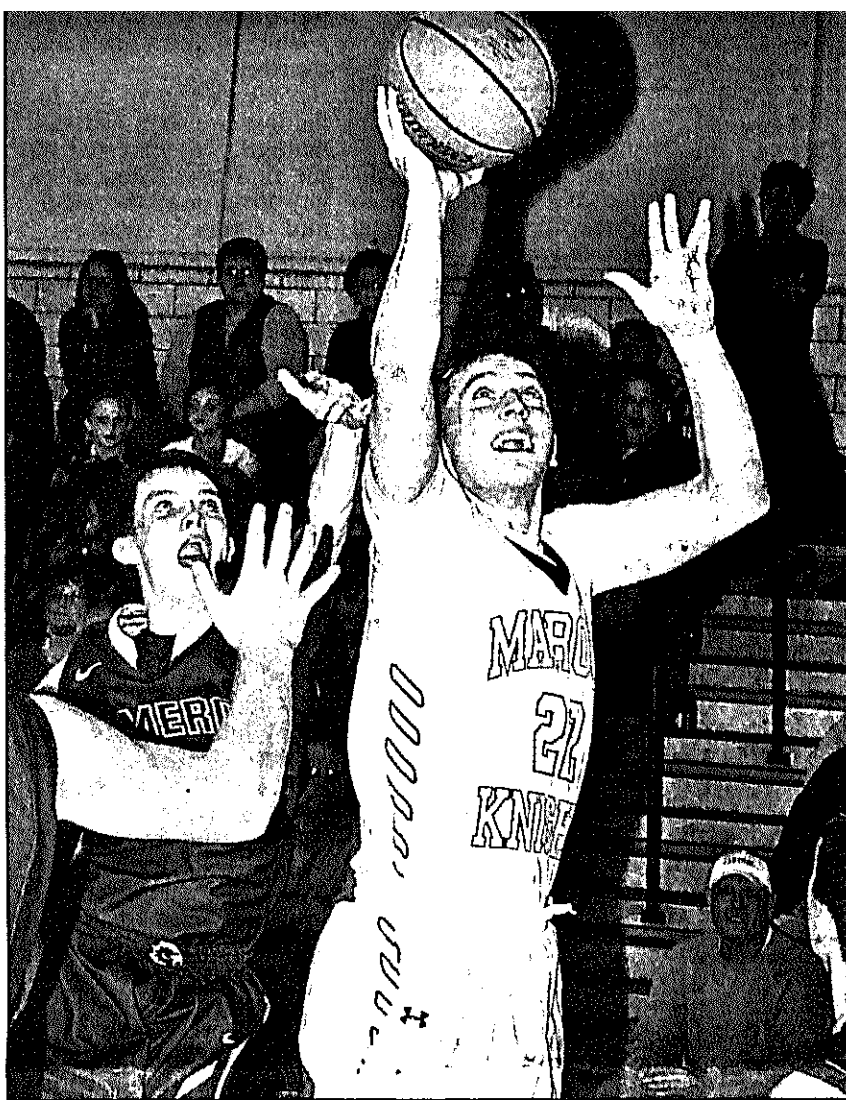
"But we thought if we held everyone else down to decent numbers we would be all right, and that's the way it worked out."

That's exactly how it went.

Clutter and Routt, who was honored by the home team after his first bucket that gave him 1,000 points for his career, combined to make 16 of Cameron's 18 baskets and score 40 of its 49 points. The Dragons (16-4), ranked 10th in Class A, couldn't find the secondary scoring they so desperately needed.

See, CENTRAL, Page B2

CLASS 2A
Who: Bridgeport vs. Wheeling Central
When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

WHEELING CENTRAL'S Boyd Bibey goes up for a shot amongst a host of Cameron defenders during Wednesday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A semifinal in Wheeling. The Maroon Knights prevailed, 63-49. They'll now meet Bridgeport in the OVAC championship game on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

alters prep card

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Because of another round of winter weather, the Eastern District announced several changes to the girls basketball tournament schedule.

In Division III, Bellaire and Fort Frye's game at Cambridge has been pushed back until this evening with tip off slated for 6. It will be the first game of a doubleheader.

In Division IV, Shadyside and Steubenville Central, which were set to meet at Indian Valley, will play tonight at 8, following the Hiland and Toronto encounter.

At John Glenn High School, River and Newcomerstown along with Beallsville and Malvern both had their games pushed back 24 hours as well. They'll play at 6 and 8, respectively this evening.

The games originally set for tonight New Concord, which involve Bridgeport against Caldwell and St. John Central against Zanesville Rosecrans have been pushed back until Monday, Feb. 23 at the same times. The game times are 6 and 8, respectively.

As for the OVAC Girls 3A title game, which was supposed to pit Fort Frye and River against each other at OUE tonight, has also been postponed. According to OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak, game will be played on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The media day for boys teams in the OVAC Tournament Finals set for today at OUE was postponed.

Strong second half sparks Donahue

By TONY VIOLA
For The Times Leader

McMECHEN — The rust was evident.

No. 3-ranked Bishop Donahue had not played a game in nearly 10 days before its OVAC semifinal matchup with Trinity.

When the No. 4-seeded Warriors (7-12) took a 32-25 halftime lead on Donahue's senior night, Coach Tom Wise challenged his guys in a way he never thought he'd have to. He wanted them to be more physical.

It worked. Donahue muscled its way inside and connected on 14 of its 17

CLASS 1A
Who: Madonna vs. Donahue
When: Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

shots in the second half to punch its ticket to the 1A title game with a 66-54 victory Wednesday night.

The Bishops, the No. 1 seed in the tournament, will play No. 2 seed Madonna, which they beat by 16 points in their third game of the season, on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"I think that was the first time we've been out-physicaled all year to be honest," Wise said of the first half. "I've got a bunch of all-

state football players on this team. We shouldn't be out-physicaled."

Thanks to a few mental mistakes by Trinity which led to early turnovers, Donahue started the second half on a 14-0 run capped with a Brett Moore 3-pointer off an assist by Josh Miller to take a 39-32 lead, one the Bishops (16-2) never relinquished.

"For the most part, our guards have done a really good job of taking care of the ball lately," Warriors coach Jamal Womble said. "Turnovers are going to happen. I thought we did a good job of responding to the run. When you play a good of a team as Bishop

See, DONAHUE, Page B2

BISHOP DONAHUE'S Taylor Straughn goes up for a shot in a game earlier this season at Bridgeport. He and the Bishops advanced in the OVAC Class 1A tournament on Wednesday.



T-L File Photo/KIM NORTH

Seven Springs' halfpipe largest in eastern U.S.

By DORSEY KINDLER
For The Times Leader

SEVEN SPRINGS, Pa. — On a clear but frigid afternoon in February, friends Mark Oshie and Steve Slyman carved their way to the top of Seven Spring Mountain Resort's Olympic-size halfpipe. Balancing on their snowboards, they looked down its 500-foot length and discussed its condition.

Both men note specific spots to hit. They also talk about how to properly attack the pipe, and areas to avoid.

With that, they point the noses of their boards downward and disappear over the edge.

Moments later they reappear, having gained speed, shooting up the 22-foot walls and "grabbing air" each time.

Before long they're tiny, colorful specs at the bottom of the 15-percent pitch.

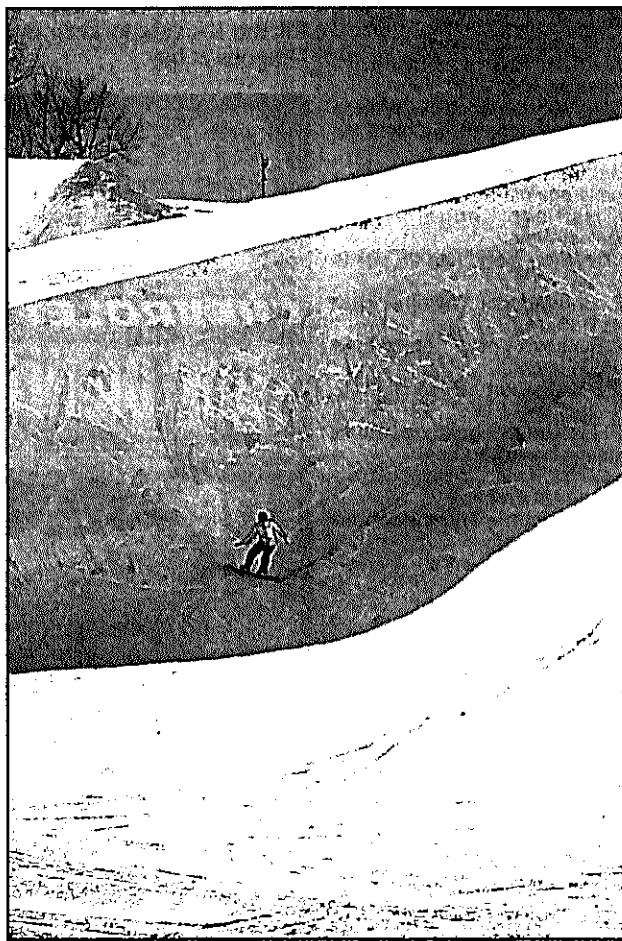
The halfpipe is the only one of its kind on the East Coast now that Killington in Vermont has shut down its own Olympic-size halfpipe. Approximately 60 feet in width, its massive walls are made entirely of snow — 45 acre feet of snow, to be exact. Maintaining the feature takes a serious commitment, according to Joel Rerko, director of mountain operations for the resort.

"It takes a lot of dedication to your terrain park program," he said. "And it takes a lot of resources to build a pipe. A lot of snow making. A lot of water. And the proper equipment to do it correctly."

Olympic-size halfpipes are much more common at resorts in the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast, Rerko said.

And just what exactly is a halfpipe of any size good for?

See, HALFPIPE, Page B2



Photo/DORSEY KINDLER

A SNOWBOARDER makes his way through Seven Springs Mountain Resort's Olympic-sized halfpipe, the largest halfpipe in the eastern U.S.

WVU slapped with NCAA probation

By JOHN RABY
AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON — The NCAA placed West Virginia's athletic department on two years' probation Wednesday for recruiting violations involving illegal text messages and phone calls in 14 sports.

The NCAA said a Division I infractions committee determined that coaches in 14 sports sent impermissible texts and made phone calls to prospects and parents between June 2010 and February 2013. Most of the infractions occurred in women's gymnastics, football, women's basketball and women's soccer.

Most of the women's gymnastics violations were committed by one assistant coach, who was placed under a one-year show-cause penalty, cannot recruit during a 30-day signing period and must attend an NCAA regional rules seminar.

The committee determined that infractions in other sports were limited.

The NCAA said several coaches involved in the violations believed there was a misunderstanding in some of the recruiting communication rules.

"Additionally, the school did not fully understand how to use compliance software it purchased to monitor phone and text activity," the NCAA said. "It wasn't until the software company updated the software that the school learned of the violations."

The NCAA said the violations occurred while the

See, WVU, Page B2



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Additionally, the school did not fully understand how to use compliance software it purchased to monitor phone and text activity," the NCAA said. "It wasn't until the software company updated the software that the school learned of the violations."

Lyons said he was aware of the issue when he interviewed for the job. "While I am disappointed with today's NCAA report, I do take note that our department found the infractions, self-reported them and worked with the NCAA in full cooperation to address and correct

ment to continue its strong dedication to NCAA compliance." In addition to the probation, West Virginia self-imposed penalties adopted by
Please See PROBATION, Page 16

Knights Too Deep For Dragons In 2A Semifinal

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor
WHEELING

Cameron entered Wednesday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Wheeling Central in search of a measure of respect. The Dragons earned that much, even though they left with a loss.

The Maroon Knights' depth and ball pressure simply proved too much. Chase Harler had 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and handed out six assists as Wheeling Central (19-2), the No. 1 team in West Virginia Class A and the tournament's top seed, emerged with a 63-49 victory.

The Maroon Knights play Bridgeport for the championship at 5:30 on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"We knew coming in they were good and we

See CENTRAL, Page 15



Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's John Burkhalter (33) goes up for a bucket while Cameron's Logan Routt (33) tries to defend. The Maroon Knights won the game to move on to the 2A OVAC title.

WLU First In Atlantic Region

Hilltoppers have won the crown the last four years

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Four-time defending NCAA Division II Atlantic Region champion West Liberty stood head and shoulders above the Atlantic Region field on Wednesday when this season's first set of Atlantic Region rankings were released by the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Ranking Committee.

Coach Jim Crutchfield's No. 7-ranked Hilltoppers (22-2) were a clear No. 1 in the region as the only team with fewer than five Division-II losses on the season.

West Liberty has already clinched its second straight Mountain East Conference championship — the Hilltoppers' sixth consecutive league title — and is one of five MEC teams to earn a spot in the initial ranking of the region's top 10 teams.

Fairmont State (17-8), one of only two teams to beat WLU, squeezed ahead of perennial Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference power Indiana, Pa. (20-5) for the No. 2 spot with two other PSAC teams — Gannon (17-8) and Mercyhurst (18-7) rounding out the top five.

Slippery Rock (16-7) was No. 6 with Bowie State (19-7) — the lone Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association representative — at No. 7. Glenville State (17-8), Charleston (14-9) and Concord (16-8) complete the Top 10.

The regional rankings will be released each Wednesday through the end of the regular season with the final set of rankings compiled at the conclusion of conference tournament play.

Please See WLU, Page 16

Second-Half Surge Propels Bishops, 66-54

By TONY VIOLA
Staff Writer

McMECHEN — The rust was evident.

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When the No. 4-seeded Warriors (7-12) took a 32-25 halftime lead on Donahue's Senior Night, Coach Tom Wise challenged his guys in a way he never thought he'd have to. He wanted them to be more physical.

It worked. Donahue muscled its way inside and connected on 14 of its 17 shots in the second half to punch its ticket to the 1A title game with a 66-54 victory Wednesday night.

The Bishops, the No. 1 seed in the tournament, will play No. 2 seed Madonna, which they beat by 16 points in their third game of the season, on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"I think that was the first time we've been out-physicaled all year, to be honest," Wise said of the first half. "I've got a bunch of all-state football players on this team. We shouldn't be out-physicaled."

Thanks to a few mental mistakes by Trinity which led to early turnovers, Donahue started the second half on a 14-0 run capped with a Brett Moore 3-pointer off an assist by Josh Miller to take a 39-32 lead, one the Bishops (16-2) never relinquished.

Please See BISHOPS, Page 16

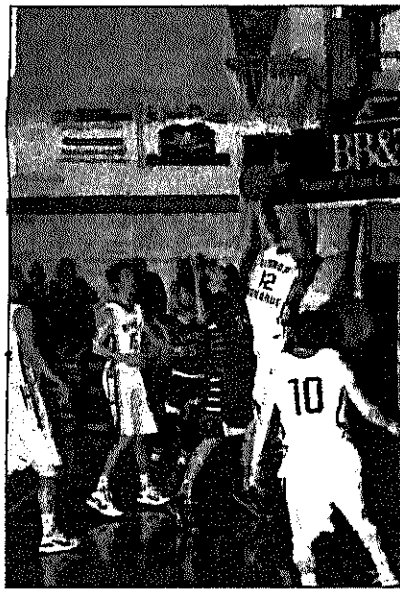


Photo by Jake Flatley

Bishop Donahue's Taylor Straughn (12) and Trinity's Christian Hawkinberry go up for a ball in a game Wednesday night.

Brooke Strong After Halftime

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

MOUNDSVILLE — After watching John Marshall sophomore Logan Grimm put on a 3-point shooting clinic in the first half, Brooke stepped up its defense during the final two quarters and started using its huge

rebounding edge to its advantage.

Senior Garrison Mathison and junior Justin Loughrie evenly dived 32 points while juniors Thomas Cole and Nathan Green each had double-doubles as the Bruins pulled away in the second half for a 70-53 victory



Photo by Jake Flatley

John Marshall's Logan Grimm (5) goes after a loose ball while Brooke's Thomas Cole (22) tries to defend.

Please See BRUINS, Page 16

Please See SPRING, Page 17

Seven Springs' Halfpipe Largest In Eastern U.S.

By DORSEY KINDLER
Staff Writer

SEVEN SPRINGS, Pa. — On a clear but frigid afternoon in February, friends Mark Oshie and Steve Slyman carved their way to the top of Seven Springs Mountain Resort's Olympic-size halfpipe. Balancing on their snowboards, they looked down its 500-foot length and discussed its condition.

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made entirely of snow — 45 acre feet of snow, to be exact. Maintaining the feature takes a serious commitment, according to Joel Rerko, director of mountain operations for the resort.

"It takes a lot of dedication to your terrain park program," he said. "And it takes a lot of resources to build a pipe. A lot of snow making. A lot of water.

See HALFPIPE, Page 17



Photo by Dorsey Kindler

A snowboarder makes his way through Seven Springs Mountain Resort's Olympic-sized halfpipe, the largest halfpipe in the eastern U.S.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship

Championship matchups set

Bridgeport gets by Shadyside in 2A thriller

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

SHADYSIDE — The last time Bridgeport traveled south on Ohio 7 to Shadyside for a boys' basketball game, the Bulldogs were muzzled, 68-50, on Jan. 20. Tuesday night inside a jam-packed Tigers' Den, their bite was back.

Bridgeport outscored Shadyside 9-4 in the final 4 minutes to claim a cherished, 57-52, victory in a Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A semifinal.

The win propels the third-seeded Bulldogs (15-6) into Saturday's 5:30 p.m. championship game at Ohio University

Eastern against the winner of tonight's No. 4 Cameron at top-seeded Wheeling Central semifinal that was postponed Tuesday night.

The No. 2 Tigers (16-5) head to the loser of tonight's game Friday in the third-place contest.

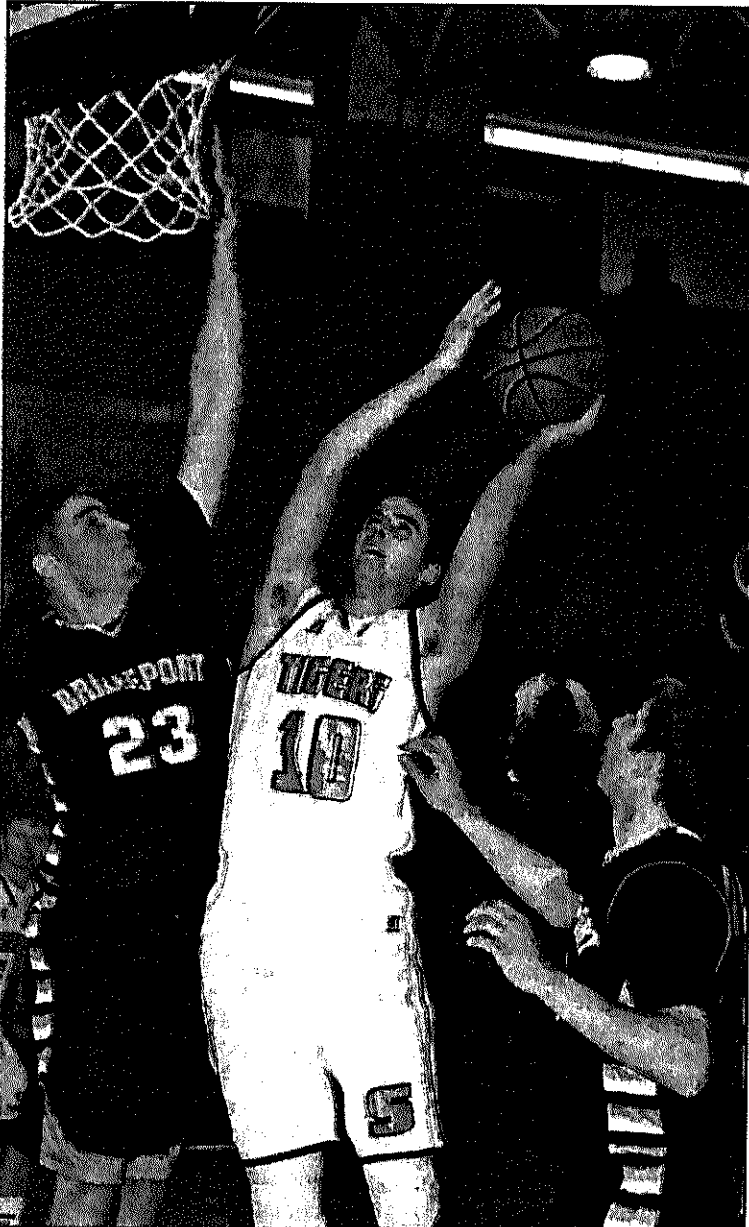
"This was a huge win for us because of the way we played down here a few weeks ago," Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash admitted. "We weren't into that night and we stressed that to the kids all week in practice."

"The kids trusted and believed in each other and that's what we focused on this week (in practice)," he added. "They did a great job tonight of not putting their heads down and keep playing the next play."

The back-and-forth contest was deadlocked half-a-dozen times, the last coming at 48 when Bridgeport sophomore Guy Pagano knocked down one of his five treys with 3:55 remaining.

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2

CLASS 2A
Who: Bridgeport vs. Wheeling CC/Cameron
When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Zach Frizzi (10) goes up for a shot as Bridgeport's Parker Dyson (23) defends during Tuesday night's Class 2A semifinal at Shadyside. The Bulldogs prevailed, 57-52. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Union Local rolls past H. Central in 4A semifinals

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN — The first quarters put forth Tuesday night by Union Local and Harrison Central couldn't have been more different.

The Jets drained four 3-pointers en route to an 18-point period. The Huskies, meanwhile, went 0-10 from the field and scored three points.

Union Local's 15-point bulge after the opening eight minutes was just the spark needed to propel itself to a 54-31 triumph in a Wheeling Hospital

OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament Class 4A semifinal inside "The Hangar."

"We came out fast and started fast," Jets head coach Ben Porter acknowledged. "We were hoping to be able to do that."

The victory sends Union Local (19-2) into the first of five scheduled championship games Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The Jets will meet St. Clairsville, which dispatched East Liverpool, 67-63, in Tuesday's other semifinal.

The Red Devils handed Union Local one of its two losses this season, 75-69, on John Jenkins Court on January 23. Porter expects another dandy between the Buckeye 8 rivals.

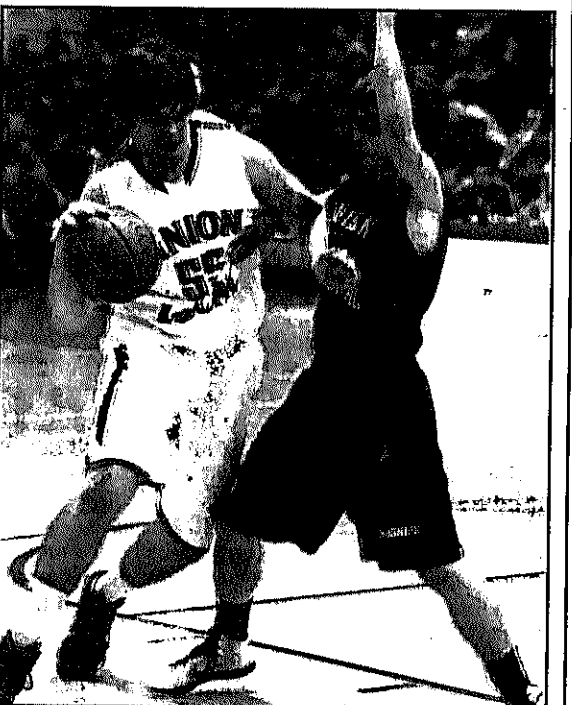
"They're a dangerous team ... very skilled," he said. "They're well-coached. It will be a battle."

"It's a 10 a.m. game, but I have a feeling the gym will still be packed."

It's Union Local's second straight OVAC championship game appearance. It had its unbeaten season stopped in last year's 4A title game by Steubenville.

"We're excited to have a chance to play in the finals again and build from there."

See, UNION, Page B2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

UNION LOCAL'S Colton McKiviltz (55) muscles his way past Harrison Central's Tyler Redish during Tuesday night's Class 4A semifinal in Morristown. The Jets won and will meet St. Clairsville Saturday.

Madonna eliminates St. John Central in 1A

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For The Times Leader

WEIRTON — The Dube Dome wasn't a haunted house on Tuesday — there was actually a tropical vibe as the Madonna student section held a beach theme — but St. John Central was still spooked by the Blue Dons.

"My biggest fear was realized," St. John Central head coach Dave Reasbeck said. "On the road in a big game, we came out flat. That was my biggest fear and it happened."

Madonna surged to an early lead over the Irish in the first quarter and forced 15 first half turnovers to earn a 70-56 win in a Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 1A semifinal. The Blue Dons now advance to Saturday's championship game for the first time since 2012.

"These guys haven't experienced that yet, so hopefully they work hard and know what's at stake," Madonna coach George Vargo said.

A Joey Ewusiak 3-pointer at the 3:23 mark of the opening quarter put the Blue Dons (13-5) up 14-2 and they led 19-4 at the end of the first.



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

ST. JOHN CENTRAL'S Chaice Truex (35) chases a Madonna player during Tuesday night's game in Weirton. The Irish lost.

CLASS 1A
Who: Madonna vs. Donahue/Trinity
When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

"I'll take that kind of lead anytime," Vargo said.

The Irish (12-8) did outscore Madonna, 15-10, in the second quarter, and went to the locker room on a high note, though still trailing by 10 points. At the buzzer, St. John Central's Chaice Truex successfully heaved a half-court shot to cut the deficit to 29-19.

"I felt very good then," Reasbeck said.

But those feelings didn't last long. Madonna went on a 12-4 run to start the third quarter, then went up 46-27 after Grant Retton converted a 3-point-play at the 3:45 mark.

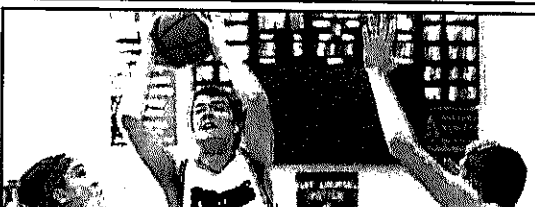
"We came out and handed them the basketball," Reasbeck said. "We didn't come out very well in either half, and it hurt."

See, SJC, Page B2

St. Clairsville advances to 4A title game again

By CHUCK GREENWOOD
For The Times Leader

Liverpool Tuesday night at Potter Fieldhouse in the semi-



River's stall tactics not enough vs. FF

By MIKE MORRISON
For The Times Leader

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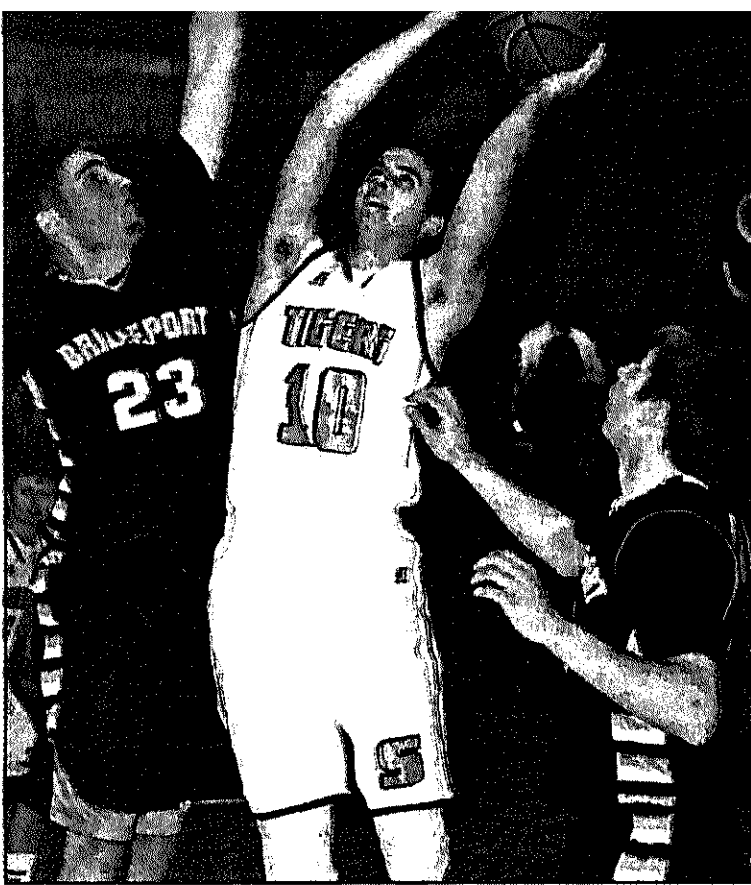
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See, SJC, Page B2

St. Clairsville advances to 4A title game again

By CHUCK GREENWOOD
For The Times Leader

EAST LIVERPOOL - St. Clairsville and the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Boys' Basketball Championship have grown synonymous.

For the sixth time in the 8-year history of the event, the Red Devils will play for their class championship.

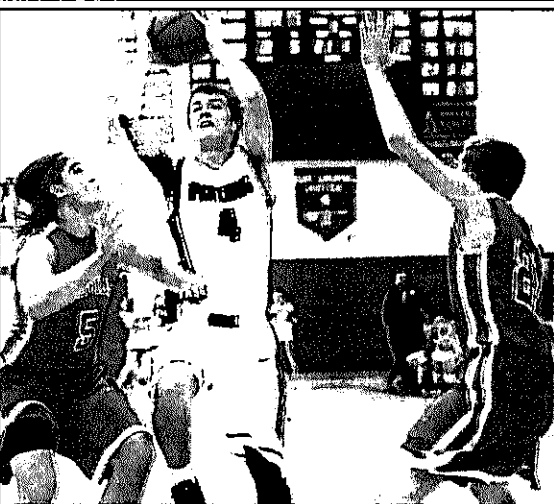
It was by no means easy, but the third-seeded Red Devils found a way down the stretch, holding on for a 67-63 victory against second-seeded East

Liverpool Tuesday night at Potter Fieldhouse in the semifinals of the Class 4A tournament.

Both teams are now 16-5. The Red Devils, who are 2-3 in the title game, advance to play Union Local, which beat Harrison Central, for the Class 4A title Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. Tipoff will be at 10 a.m.

The Potters will play Harrison Central in Cadiz Friday night in the consolation game.

See, ST. C., Page B2



Photo/JIMMY JOE SAVAGE

EAST LIVERPOOL'S Owen Crawford (4) splits St. Clairsville's Brendan Ferns (5) and Patrick Buchanan during Tuesday night's Class 4A semifinal inside the Potter Fieldhouse.

Tuesday night by Union Local and Harrison Central couldn't have been more different.

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The Red Devils handed Union Local one of its two losses this season, 75-69, on John Jenkins Court on January 23. Porter expects another dandy between the Buckeye 8 rivals.

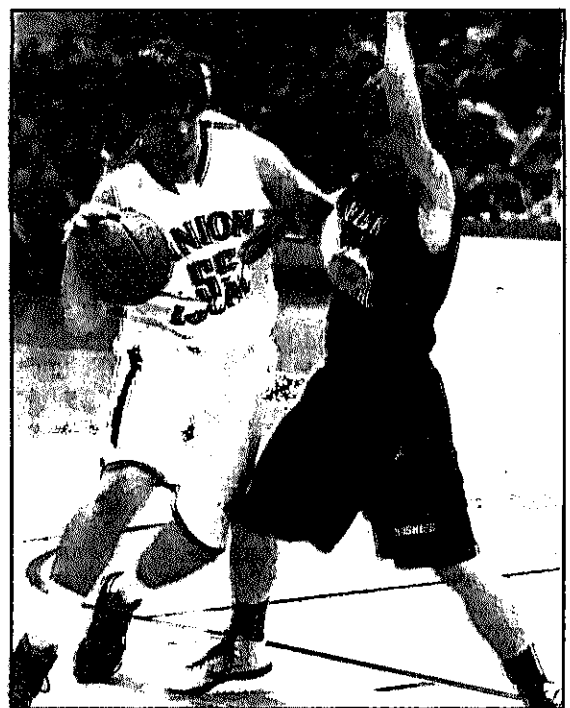
"They're a dangerous team ... very skilled," he said. "They're well-coached. It will be a battle."

"It's a 10 a.m. game, but I have a feeling the gym will still be packed."

It's Union Local's second straight OVAC championship game appearance. It had its unbeaten season stopped in last year's 4A title game by Steubenville.

"We're excited to have a chance to play in the finals again and build from there."

See, UNION, Page B2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

UNION LOCAL'S Colton McKivitz (55) muscles his way past Harrison Central's Tyler Redish during Tuesday night's Class 4A semifinal in Morristown. The Jets won and will meet St. Clairsville Saturday.

River's stall tactics not enough vs. FF

By MIKE MORRISON
For The Times Leader

BEVERLY — There is no shot clock in Ohio high school basketball.

Those basketball fans who braved the freezing cold weather outside to make the trip to Fort Frye High School for Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal contest between host Fort Frye and visiting River can attest to that.

Those basketball fans who braved the freezing cold weather outside to make the trip to Fort Frye High School for Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal contest between host Fort Frye and visiting River can attest to that.

See, RIVER'S, Page B2

CLASS 3A
Who: Fort Frye vs. Monroe/Magnolia
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: OUE
Radio: AM 1600

Havlicek headed to college basketball HoF

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bridgeport native John Havlicek was among seven new inductees announced Tuesday for the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Havlicek was a three-sport high school honoree for the Bulldogs who later became one of Ohio State's basketball greats and was selected one of the 50 greatest NBA players.

In high school, the 6-foot-5, 180-

pounder was a two-time All-OVAC Class AA basketball performer and was selected captain as a senior as well as All-Ohio Class A. The Bulldogs won the OVAC AA crown in 1958.

An excellent rebounder and passer, he also scored 1,594 career points in 59 games and averaged more than 30 points per game the last two seasons. He led the OVAC in scoring as a junior with a 31.9-point norm, including a school record 53

in a 103-101 overtime victory against Cadiz.

He played in the Ohio North-South All-Star game with Jerry Lucas. The two later led Ohio State to three straight NCAA championship games including a title their sophomore season of 1960.

When he arrived at Illinois in 1975, the first thing Lou Henson did was preach patience.

The new coach wanted to build the

Fighting Illini into a national contender, but he wanted to do it with in-state prospects, even if it'd take a while. So that first year, Henson and his young assistants met with more than 400 high school coaches, building relationships for the future.

It took five years before they paid off, and even then it was a trip to the NIT. It

See, HAVLICEK, Page B2

SPORTS

C

Sunday,
February 22, 2015

OVAC Basketball schedule reset

• Sectional hoops and bowling also rescheduled

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – Mother Nature was up to her same old tricks Saturday. And she meant business this time around.

For the second straight weekend, wintry weather played a role in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's quest to crown basketball champions.

Saturday's most recent winter blast,

"WE'D BEEN pretty lucky (weather wise) throughout the history of the tournament, but you almost know it's going to catch up to you sooner or later."

- Tom Rataiczak
OVAC Executive Secretary

which dropped several inches of snow around the Ohio Valley, forced the cancellation of all five boys championship games that were slated for Ohio University Eastern.

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and Basketball Championship Director Rick DeLuca made the call at approximately 7 a.m. that the entire day would be wiped out.

"We'd been pretty lucky (weather wise) throughout the history of the tournament, but you almost know it's going to catch up to you sooner or later," Rataiczak said. "It's definitely a unique year in that of the 10 games, only four got in as scheduled. And as frustrated and as upset as you want to get, there's just nothing you can do."

Since many forecasters predicted a

See, **OVAC**, Page C5

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

decent amount of snowfall, the OVAC brass had contingency plans in place to get the champions crowned early this week.

The boys championships will remain at Ohio University Eastern, but will be played on Monday through Wednesday.

Monday's card features the 2A game between Wheeling Central and Bridgeport tipping off at 5:30 p.m. The second game, which is slated to tip at approximately 7:30 p.m. will feature the 3A division between Fort Frye and Magnolia, which just won its semifinal in OT against Monroe Central on Friday.

On Tuesday, the same time schedule will be utilized with the all West Virginia battles unfolding. The lidlifter will be the 1A division, pitting Bishop Donahue against Madonna. The second game is the 5A battle, which includes Morgantown and Parkersburg South.

The Class 4A showdown between St. Clairsville and Union Local will be a solo game at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

"If someone could have showed us two computer models where both said the same thing and agreed, we wouldn't have even waited to cancel," Rataiczak said.

Though the boys won't get a day-long showcase, Rataiczak believes the strength of the matchups in all five classes will definitely add to the event.

"If we happen to get lucky (weather wise) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night, people may just want to get out of the house," Rataiczak said. "The matchups are good and fans will get to see a doubleheader since we won't be clearing the gym."

Along with the boys' OVAC card, the weather also took a toll on sectional basketball and bowling throughout the eastern district.

In girls basketball, a pair of games were wiped out in Division III action at Cambridge High School.

Harrison Central and Barnesville were set to square off at 1 p.m., while Union Local and St. Clairsville were going to meet at 3 p.m.

Those games were pushed to Monday and will be played in the same order at 6 and 8 p.m., respectively.

The Division II tournament at Steubenville's Franciscan University was pushed to Tuesday. Buckeye Local will take on Carrollton at 6 p.m. Steubenville and Minerva will battle for a trip to the OUE district at 8 p.m.

The Division II sectional bowling tournaments, which were set for St. Clair Lanes, will be played on Monday and Tuesday. The girls will roll Monday at 1 p.m. and the boys will take to the lanes 24 hours later.

OVAC Girls

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball
Championship
Championship Semifinals
Monday, Feb. 9

Class 5A
1. Morgantown vs. 4. Wheeling Park
2. Parkersburg South vs. 3. John Marshall

Class 4A
1. Union Local vs. 4. East Liverpool
2. Harrison Central vs. 3. Oak Glen

Class 3A
1. River vs. 4. Linsly, 6:30 p.m. (Varsity only)
2. Fort Frye vs. 3. Barnesville

Class 2A
1. Bridgeport vs. 4. Clay-Battelle
2. Wheeling Central vs. 3. Frontier

Class 1A
1. Madonna vs. 4. Trinity Christian
2. St. John vs. 3. Conotton Valley, 6:30 p.m. (Varsity only)

Championship Game Schedule
Saturday, Feb. 14

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. — Class 3A

Consolation Games
Monday, Feb. 9

Steubenville at University
Brooke at Indian Creek
Weir at Martins Ferry
Beaver Local at St. Clairsville
Bellaire at Edison
Steubenville Central at Monroe Central
Magnolia at Shenandoah
Buckeye Trail at Bishop Donahue
Paden City at Cameron
Hundred at Shadyside
Toronto at Beallsville

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Bishop Donahue at Valley

Thursday, Feb. 12

Shadyside at Paden City
Beallsville at Bellaire
Valley at Hundred, 7 p.m. varsity only
Cameron at Buckeye Trail
Shenandoah at Steubenville Central
Monroe Central at Buckeye Local
Martins Ferry at Toronto
St. Clairsville at Magnolia
Edison at Brooke
Indian Creek at Steubenville
Cambridge at Beaver Local
University at Weir

Saturday, Feb. 14

Buckeye Local at Cambridge

OVAC GIRLS

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls
Basketball Championship
Championship Semifinals
(Monday, Feb. 9)

Class 5A
1. Morgantown vs. 4. Wheeling Park
2. Parkersburg South vs. 3. John Marshall

Class 4A
1. Union Local vs. 4. East Liverpool
2. Harrison Central vs. 3. Oak Glen

Class 3A
1. River vs. 4. Linsly, 6:30 p.m. (Varsity only)
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Martins Ferry at Toronto
St. Clairsville at Magnolia
Edison at Brooke
Indian Creek at Steubenville
Cambridge at Beaver Local
University at Weir

Saturday, Feb. 14

Buckeye Local at Cambridge

BROWNS REVEAL "NEW" UNIFORMS
The Cleveland Browns will keep their tradition going as their new uniforms have minor color changes/18

The Intelligencer SPORTS

Straughn Sinks 3, Bishops Win Last-second shot gives Bishop Donahue 1A Title

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — For the majority of the second half, Madonna boys' basketball coach George Vargo was imploring his team not to leave No. 12. Three times the Blue Dons let Bishop Donahue sophomore Taylor Straughn get loose, and each time he burned them.

The final instance came with 1.7 seconds remaining in overtime, when a wide-open Straughn sank a 3-pointer from the right wing to give the Bishops a 69-68 victory against the Blue Dons in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 1A championship game Tuesday night at Ohio University Eastern.

"We're dealing with kids," Vargo said. "I'm happy for my friend, Tom Wise. He and I have been doing this and competing against one another for a long time."

"We played an outstanding defensive championship game, however we lost the game at the foul line."

It's true.

The Blue Dons (13-6) missed 11 free throws (12 of 23) including eight in the fourth quarter and overtime. They led 56-52 with 45.4 seconds left, but hit 2 of 4 chances at the stripe that could have put it away.

That left the door open for Josh Miller, who scored on a reverse and then hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to tie the things at 57-57. Nick Mazur's 3 at the buzzer to end regulation was nearly all the way down, but spun out.

"All he does is win," Donahue (17-2) coach Tom Wise said of Miller. "He played forever with four fouls and played intelligent to stay in the game."

Please See BISHOPS, Page 15

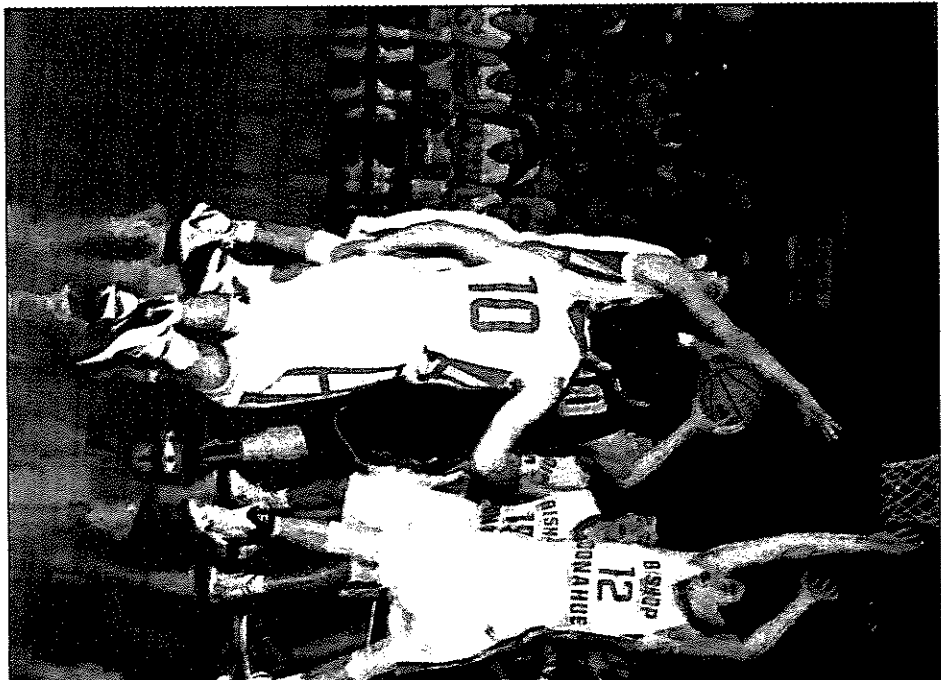


Photo by Jake Flalley
Bishop Donahue's Taylor Straughn (12) tries to block a shot while Brett Moore (10) watches on in the 1A OVAC title game. Straughn made a 3-pointer with 1.7 seconds to give the Bishops their second straight title.

Mohigans Capture 5A Title

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Parkersburg South picked about the worst possible time to play its worst basketball game of the season. The exact opposite is true of Morgantown.

The Mohigans shot 67 percent (27 of 40) and had a 31-2 run that spanned the end of the second quarter and much of the third, on their way to a 73-38 victory and a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A championship Tuesday night at Ohio University Eastern. Kenzi Melko scored a game-high 20 points and C.J.

King added 17 as the Mohigans got what seemed like any shot they pleased throughout the contest. Meanwhile, Morgantown blanketed the Patriots' arsenal of sharpshooters to the tune of 25-percent shooting (11-for-44).

"Our guys really bought in," Morgantown coach David Tallman said. "When you hold a team like that to 38 points you really did something defensively."

"Parkersburg South is very, very good. This wasn't what it was supposed to be. We thought we were going

Please See MOHIGANS, Page 15

Fort Frye Wins 3A Title

By SETH STASKEY
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — River knew what it was getting into against Fort Frye Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The Pilots, however, still couldn't do much about it.

Fort Frye — on the strength of 11 3-pointers and smothering defense — cruised to 56-35 victory and the school's eighth OVAC title in a game that was played two weeks after it was originally scheduled because of bouts with Mother Nature.

"I was really glad we were able to get this game in and the timing of it, for us, is perfect because of how our tournament games fell," Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke said. "We always look at the OVAC as the grand finale of the (regular) season. First, you have to get into the Final Four, then win a game and if you're able to win that championship, it's the greatest way you can go out with your regular season."

The Cadets got out of the gates quickly against the Pilots, scoring nine of the game's first 11 points and eventually held a 15-9 lead after one quarter.

"This was about the same scenario as it was two years ago in this game," River coach Rick Isaly said. "They came out, knocked down a bunch of threes and we didn't do a whole lot on offense."

During that opening quarter, the Cadets knocked down four 3s. It was just the start of a barrage of baskets from behind the arc. Makayla Liedtke hit a pair of those.

Fort Frye just kept doing what it does in the second, outscoring the Pilots, 16-11. Of the Pilots' 20 first-half points, talented junior Jensen Caretti scored 16 of them.

As they tend to do, however, Fort Frye adjusted. Caretti, who is averaging more than 25 points a game, didn't record a point in the second half.

"We were out of sync the entire game, both offensively and defensively," Isaly said. "That's what happens against a good team that's fundamentally sound. Give Fort Frye all the credit because it's so tough to get good looks (at the basket). When you do get one, you have to knock down a shot and make it count."

The Fort Frye defense limited River to 9-of-29 shooting from two-point range and an abysmal, 3-of-17 from deep.

"We work a lot on defense, but these girls take (defense) very seriously and that's obvious when you watch us play," Liedtke said. "They're staying focused and you don't see anyone slacking. This team is so fun to coach because it's such a blue-collar team."

River was never able to make a run to even dent into the Cadets' cushion. The deficit was under 10 just once that came on the opening basket of the second half by Haylee Bowers.

Ohio Division II Tournament Belmont District (at Ohio University Eastern) Maysville 88, Indian Creek 28

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Senior Brooke Smith, who will head to Ashland University in the fall, tallied 25 to pace Maysville (23-1).

Sophomore Juanita Slappy paced Indian Creek (12-12) in scoring with nine. She also hauled down five rebounds. Junior Bethany Davis added seven.

BOYS'

W.Va. Class A Region I, Section II (at Paden City H.S.)

Valley 56, Tyler Consolidated 46

PADEN CITY — Tucker Cain put up 22 points, Trey Streets had 19, and Joey Preat scored 10 for Valley (13-10).

The Lumberjacks will now play St. Marys on Wednesday at 7:30 at Doddridge County High School.

Jace Reed scored 12 points for Tyler Consolidated (5-16) while Blake Carpenter had 10.

W.Va. Class AA Region I, Section I Weir 75, North Marion 54

FARMINGTON — Jonathan West put up 25 points for Weir (5-18) while Marquis Smith had 14 and Chris Wood finished with 13.

Chandler Cutrone finished with 16 points for North Marion (2-19) while Devin Ayersman had 12.

OVAC Consolation Steubenville Catholic 64, Barnesville 55

BARNESVILLE — Jake Bolger put up 20 points for Steubenville Catholic while Brandon Svec finished with 11.

Mitchell Wells scored 13 points for Barnesville and Kaelen Hannahs had 11.

Ohio Division IV Tournament Meadowbrook District (at New Philadelphia H.S.) Malvern 85, Toronto 46

NEW PHILADELPHIA — Ty West scored 17 points and Blaze Glenn put up 12 as Toronto's season came to a close.

MOHIGANS

(Continued from Page 13)
to be in a dogfight."

But that never really materialized.

The Mohigans (18-3) shot to a 14-4 upperhand by making their six of their first seven shots and settled for a 20-13 lead after one quarter. With Morgantown leading 26-22 late in the second the wheels fell off for the Patriots, who were not only the No. 1 seed in this tournament, but the top-ranked Class AAA team in West Virginia.

Morgantown finished the second quarter on a 10-run and opened the third with a 14-0 blitz — eight points from King — and suddenly the gap ballooned to 50-22.

Garrett Gilkeson stopped the bleeding for South (17-3), but Morgantown responded by scoring the next 12 points for a 62-24 bulge.

"We hadn't had that lay-an-egg game yet, but I think we had it," Patriots coach Mike Fallon said with a laugh. "I give them

all the credit in the world. They wanted it more, they out hustled us, they were more physical and they hit their shots.

"We just seemed out of rhythm all night."

The Mohigans led 62-28 through three and the only suspense was the final score.

It was the third meeting between the teams this season, with Morgantown holding a 2-1 advantage. The Mohigans previously won by four at home, but fell at South by 27

"I give a lot of credit to my assistant coach, Stephen Sutherland, who scouted them. We were very, very well prepared for them," said Tallman, whose father, Dave, won the 3A title with Magnolia a night earlier in the same building. "We're probably going to see them again down the road.

"This is probably one or two of the best teams in the state."

Zakeem Davis added nine points and eight rebounds for the Mohigans.

Nick Solomon had eight points.

Cody Boggs and Cole Day evenly divided 14 points for the Patriots.

"When they were on offense we were letting them get to the rim, and they don't shoot the ball great," Fallon said.

"You look at their stats at halftime and they had 28 points in the paint, and that killed us.

"They scored any time they wanted and took advantage of the mismatches."

HUSKIES

(Continued from Page 13)
player ejected in that final stretch of time, allowing the Huskies a chance to get back in the game.

The first technical capped a 7-0 run and fueled a 10-3 spurt which drew the Huskies to within 68-62 with 1:29 left to play. That's when things got a little heated as pushing and shoving led to a trio of technicals and an

ejection being whistled by the veteran officiating crew. Two of the technicals went against the Pot- ters.

Davidson netted both free shots to make it 70-62, but Harrison Central senior Austin Kowalski knocked down four straight to make it 70-66. After a steal, Kowalski was fouled again, this time sinking the first attempt.

His second shot was off the mark, but Mitchell snagged the rebound and banked home the ball while being fouled. His ensuing free throws drew the Huskies even at 70-70 with 69 seconds remaining.

Dallas Brewer's only basket came with 59 seconds left and gave East Liverpool a 72-70 edge, thus setting the stage for

the dramatic ending.

"We started off strong, but we just couldn't put them away," East Liverpool coach Nate Conley said.

"Justin does a good job with the kids."

Trailing by 16 late in the third quarter, the Huskies looked as though they were headed for a double-digit setback. However, after that push-

ing and shoving that allowed the hosts to utilize the free-throw line in clawing their way back into the contest.

"We flipped our switch and started to compete like the team I've seen in the past," Clifford said. "(East Liverpool) is a pretty good team. They've got some good players, do some good things and are well-coached."

BISHOPS

(Continued from Page 13)
"He's just what you need."

Madonna jumped out to a 63-57 lead by scoring the first six of overtime, but Koltin Kleeh's only bucket — a putback — stopped the bleeding. Straughn had a 3 spin out, but Madonna was only able to cash 1 of 2 at the line for a 64-59 advantage.

Jesse Padlow scored with 1:11 remaining, and

Madonna went 2 of 4 at the line to make it 66-61.

Miller responded again, this time with a 3-pointer from the left wing to get the deficit to two with 46.5 to goal, and a Padlow steal and dish to Miller ended with the senior on the foul line with 41.7 left and two shots. Miller drained both for the final two of his game-high 23 points, as well as a 66-66 tie.

Madonna's Joey Ewusiak spun into the lane and

got a layup to drop for a two-point lead, and the Blue Dons forced a jump ball with 5 seconds remaining. Donahue got possession and following a timeout, Straughn got loose off a double-screen and drilled the winner.

"I didn't think we had a pulse a couple times, but our guys don't quit. I'd like a little more sense of urgency at times, but we could have easily (packed it in)," Wise said. "Taylor

did not have one of his better games, but he's our best outside shooter.

"We were running a play where if he didn't get it, we were running Josh back to the ball. I couldn't believe he was that wide open."

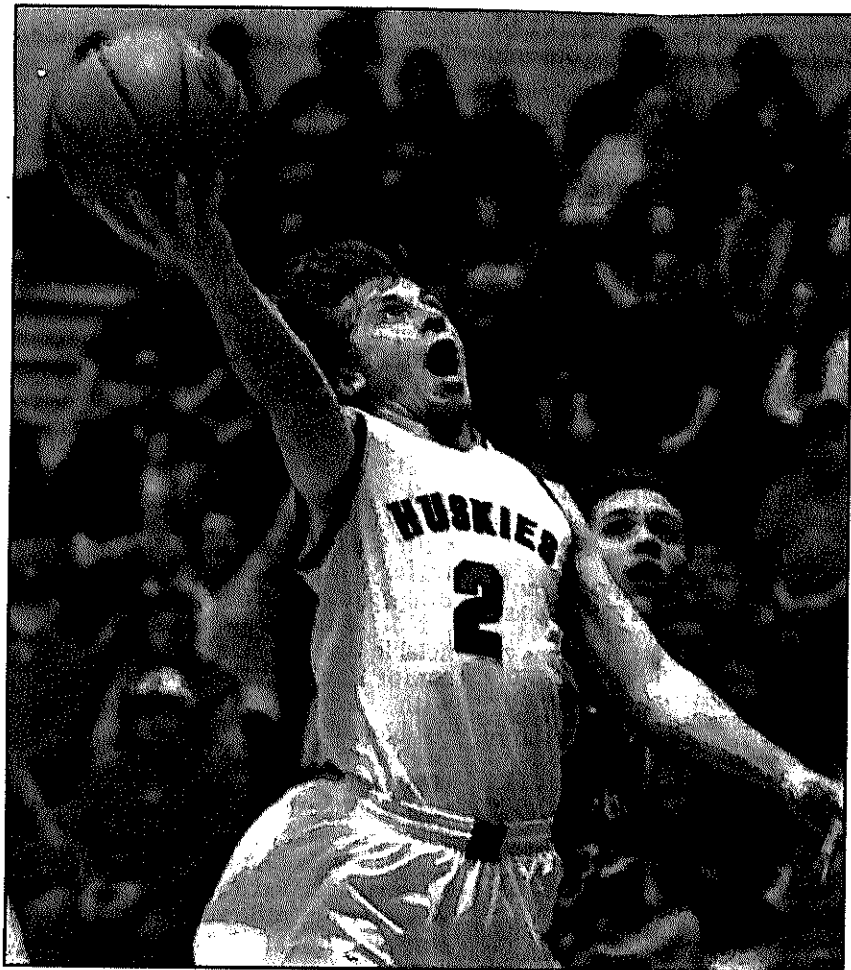
Padlow added 21 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Bishops. Straughn finished with 19 points, including five 3s.

Tavon Jeter paced the Blue Dons with 17 points.

James Carnes added 14 points and a game-high 10 rebounds, and Ewusiak had a great floor game with 14 points, five rebounds and five assists. Mazur scored 12 before fouling out.

"Straughn ... what a player. He hit (five) 3s and we were in his face," Vargo said. "He was wide open on the last one, but if he doesn't drain it we don't talk about it.

"It was an outstanding OVAC championship."



Photo/SANDI THOMPSON

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Austin Kowalski (2) sails to the basket Tuesday night against East Liverpool during the third-place game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4-A Tournament inside the John W. Stephenson Center in Cadiz. The Huskies fell, 74-73.

Huskies' rally comes up shy

• East Liverpool holds off HC for third place in 4-A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ — Don't tell the boys' basketball teams from East Liverpool and Harrison Central that a third-place game doesn't mean something as the two Buckeye 8 rivals hooked up in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4-A consolation game Tuesday night.

Brandon Mitchell's three-point attempt from the right wing was just short of the rim as the buzzer sounded, allowing the second-seeded Potters to escape the rowdy John W. Stephenson Center with a hard-earned, 74-73, victory over the No. 4 Huskies (14-8).

"WE HAD a good shooter with an open look, but the ball just didn't fall."

— Justin Clifford
Harrison Central
Head Coach

"They (East Liverpool) came out in a 1-3-1 defense, so we drew something up for that, plus the 2-3 zone and the man-to-man," Harrison Central head coach Justin Clifford explained of his team's last-second strategy. "We could've attacked the basket a little earlier, but it wasn't what we drew up.

"We had a good shooter with an open look, but the ball just didn't fall," he added. "You can't ask for any more."

See, 4-A, Page B2

4-A

Continued from Page B1

The last possession came after the Potters' Isaac Davidson calmly meshed both ends of a 1-and-1 with 14.2 seconds showing, which followed Mitchell's trifecta from the left corner at the 42-second mark that gave Harrison Central its first — and only — lead of the hotly contested game at 73-72.

East Liverpool shot out to an early lead as Harrison Central missed six of its first seven shots from the floor, and its first two charity tosses. That, coupled with four turnovers, allowed the Potters to take a 18-10 lead.

Both teams warmed up in the second quarter, evenly dividing 48 lightings, as the Columbiana Countians still held an 8-point margin, 42-34.

The lead ballooned to 57-41 when Davidson tallied five quick points, but Harrison Central scored the final five to trail 57-46 with eight minutes remaining in regulation.

East Liverpool still maintained a 13-point advantage — 65-52 — as the clock showed 4:21. However, that's when things started to fall apart a little for the Potters. They were whistled for three technical fouls and had a player ejected in that final stretch of time, allowing the Huskies a chance to get back in the game.

The first "T" capped a 7-0 run and fueled a 10-3 spurt which drew the Huskies to within 68-62 with 1:29 left to play. That's when things got a

little heated and ugly as pushing and shoving led to a trio of technicals and an ejection being whistled by the veteran officiating crew. Two of the technicals went against the Potters.

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Dallas Brewer's only basket of the night came with 59 seconds left and gave East Liverpool a 72-70 edge, thus setting the stage for the dramatic ending.

"We started off strong, but we just couldn't put them away," East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. "Justin does a good job with the kids."

Trailing by 16 late in the third quarter, the Huskies looked as though they were headed for a double-digit setback. However, after the pushing and allowed the hosts were able to utilize the free throw stripe in clawing their way back into the contest.

"We flipped our switch and started to compete like the team I've seen in the past," Clifford explained of the late turnaround. "They (East Liverpool) is a pretty good team. They've got

some good players, do some good things and are well-coached.

"We went at it with them," he continued. "We didn't back down from them. It was a heck of a basketball game."

Davidson led all scorers with 26 points. Zack Adkins added 17 before fouling out, while Kade Reynolds chipped in 14. Owen Crawford had 11 before also fouling out.

Kowalski finished with a team-high 20 for Harrison Central, which put him at 1,002 for his stellar career. Dustin Redish tallied 19, Mitchell 13, Cory Yoho 11 and Tyler Redish 10.

The Huskies led 30-29 off the glass as Dustin Redish wiped it clean 12 times, three more than Mitchell. Joey Bickerton had eight for EL. The Potters also charted more turnovers at 18-13.

East Liverpool made it a clean sweep with a win in the JV game.

EAST LIVERPOOL (74) — Davidson 9 5-5 26; Bickerton 1 2-3 4; Crawford 5 1-2 11; K. Reynolds 5 3-4 14; Adkins 7 3-4 17; D. Reynolds 0 0-0 0; Bombich 0 0-0 0; Waggle 0 0-0 0; Brewer 1 0-0 2; Harris 0 0-0 0; Totals: 28-47 14-18. **HARRISON CENTRAL (73)** — Kowalski 5 7-9 20; Mitchell 5 2-4 13; D. Redish 8 2-4 19; Johnson 0 0-0 0; Yoho 3 5-6 11; T. Redish 4 2-2 10; Roberts 0 0-0 0; Totals: 25-60 18-25.

Three-Point Goals: East Liverpool 4 (Davidson 3, K. Reynolds); Harrison Central 5 (Kowalski 3, Mitchell, D. Redish)

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

Central Rolls Bridgeport To Claim OVAC 2A Title

By TONY VIOLA
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Chase Harler receives much of the opponent's attention when playing Wheeling Central, and quite deserving so.

It's his supporting cast, though, that makes the Maroon Knights so tough, according to Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash.

Case in point, the OVAC 2A championship game.

John Burkhalter finished with 18 points, five rebounds, four blocks and three steals, while Harler added a game-high 20 points, four assists and three boards as top-seeded Wheeling Central won the conference title for the third consecutive season and fifth-time overall with a 72-53 rout of No. 3 seed Bridgeport on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"They have the weapons around (Harler) where if you double him, (Boyd) Bibey can shoot, Burkhalter can score, Trenton Smith can score," Cash noted. "They really don't have a weakness and it's hard to prepare for."

Of course, it starts with Harler, who scored

nine points in the first quarter as the Maroon Knights jumped out an 18-11 lead through one.

"You can see he works hours and hours on his game," Cash said. "It's paying dividends for him now."

Q.J. Williams led the Bulldogs (15-7) with 16 points, while J.C. Cash and Parker Dyson had 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Trenton Smith finished with seven points, four rebounds and three steals for Wheeling Central, the top-ranked team in West Virginia Class A, while Brian Campbell added eight points and five rebounds.

"We pushed the ball on transitions, pressured them and tried to make the game faster than they probably wanted to play," Knights coach Mel Stephens said. "We did what we needed to do."

A Burkhalter steal and score gave Central (20-2) its first double-digit lead at 23-13 with 4:38 to go in the second.

"Defensively, he came up with some big steals and some big blocks," Stephens said of Burkhalter. "He played really well."

Please See CENTRAL, Page 13

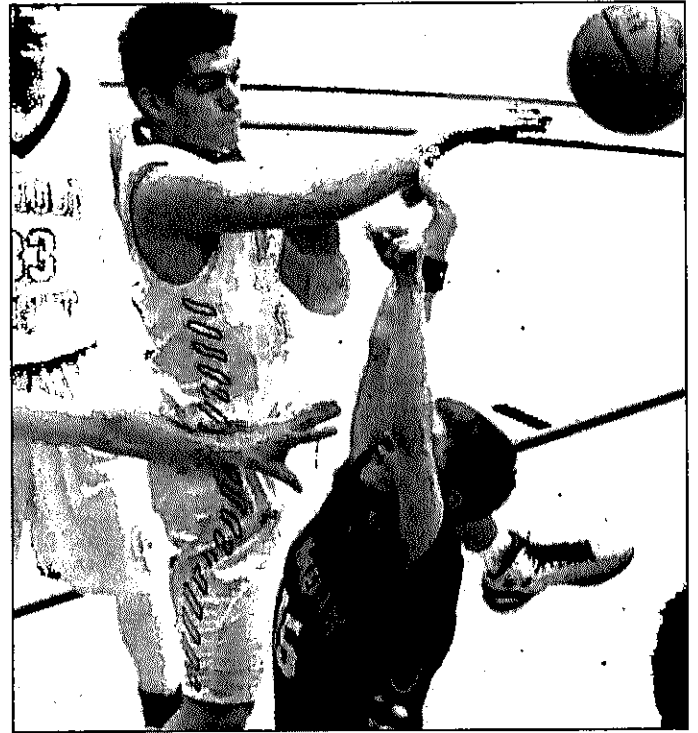


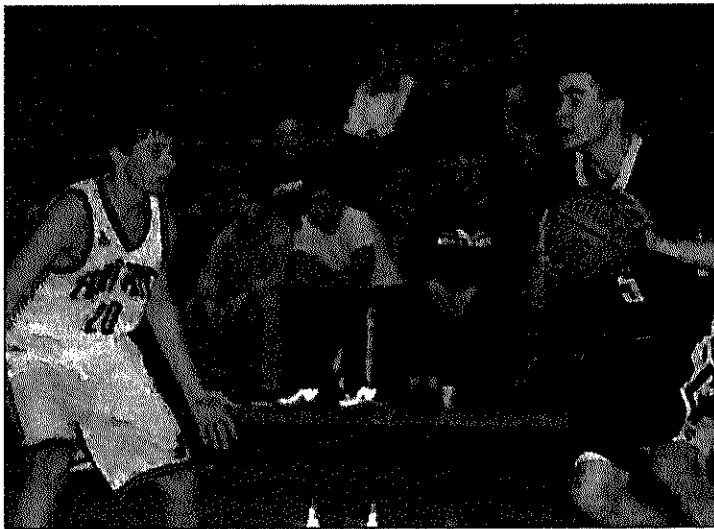
Photo by Mike Palmer

Wheeling Central's Trenton Smith blocks a shot attempt by Bridgeport's Guy Pagano in the 2A OVAC Final. The Maroon Knights defeated the Bulldogs to claim their third straight OVAC title.

Magnolia Survives To Win Third Conference Title

Photo by Jake Flatley

Magnolia's Derrick Blain looks for an open teammate while Fort Frye's Devin Brooker provides pressure. Magnolia won 67-65.



By TONY VIOLA
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Magnolia's speed in the first half of the OVAC 3A title game caught Fort Frye off guard.

Problem was, the No. 3-seeded Blue Eagles didn't know how to slow it down.

Magnolia raced out to a 38-18 halftime lead, but had to survive a huge rally by the top-seeded Cadets as the Blue Eagles won their third conference title, 67-65, on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"I don't think our guys were prepared for their speed," Fort

Frye coach Eric Henniger said. "It took them a lot longer to adjust than we wanted. I wish we would have figured it out a lot sooner."

Fort Frye, which was playing in its second-straight title game after beating Steubenville Catholic a season ago, used a 16-5 run to start the third quarter and trailed by only nine (45-34) to begin the fourth quarter.

"What happens is, you got guys that want (to score in transition) and run out a little bit early, and if you don't get the defensive rebound, then you're going to be in trouble,"

Please See EAGLES, Page 13

EAGLES

(Continued from Page 11) Magnolia coach Dave Tallman said.

"That's what happened to us."

A Carter Kiefer conventional three-point play followed by a Justin Anderson 3-pointer moved the Cadets (19-3) to within four (50-46) with just under five minutes left, but a Derrick Blain 3 extended the Blue Eagles' lead to seven (53-46) with 3:30 to play.

Another Blain 3-pointer off an assist by Preston Boswell put Magnolia (16-

4) back up by double-digits (56-46) with a little more than two minutes remaining.

Following a bucket by Kyle Ritz, Kiefer hit another layup to get the Cadets back within five (58-53), which forced Tallman to call a timeout.

After a Spencer Campbell layup off another Boswell assist put the Blue Eagles up seven (60-53) with a little more than a minute to play, Fort Frye was forced to foul.

Magnolia, the No. 4-ranked team in West Vir-

ginia Class A, went 6 of 8 from the line to end the game.

"I think Fort Frye came out very determined in the second half and you knew they were going to," Tallman said.

"They're a great basketball team. You could see the fire in their eyes. They out-hustled us a little bit. That doesn't happen very often."

Campbell led Magnolia, which made its fifth title game appearance in eight years, with a game-high 26 points, while Boswell

added 20 points and six assists.

"That's a great tandem of guards," Tallman noted. "Spencer has really stepped up the leadership role. Preston just needs to understand that, as long as we have the ball, the other team can't score. He gets a little excited, but we've trained him to play that way."

Kyle Ritz chipped in eight points and eight rebounds and Mitch Winters finished with six points and five boards for the Blue

Eagles.

Justin Anderson led Fort Frye with 23 points and Lagrean, who hit a 3 right before the final buzzer, finished with 19 points and eight boards.

Magnolia, which outscored the Cadets 20-6 in the second quarter, shot 26 of 44 and 7 of 13 from 3, while Fort Frye connected on 25 of its 57 attempts, but went just 9 of 15 from the foul line.

The Cadets also dominated on the boards, 26-17, with 11 of those coming on the offensive end.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

"I thought him and Brian Campbell and Matt Plev did a great job on Parker Dyson inside. That's one of their big guys and we pret much neutralized him with those two guys."

Central held an 11-point lead at halftime (34-23) and led by as much as 21 down the stretch.

"We had some mental turnovers where we just threw the ball to (Central) Cash said. "We just didn't take care of the basket; good enough. We didn't pick up Harler, but he fouled other people on the bench. He's very good at that. He's a great player."

The Knights shot 29 of 55, but connected on or seven of their 21 3-point attempts. Bridgeport finished 21 of 42.

Central also won the rebounding battle, 22-16.

OVAC girls hoop tourney brackets set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The path to the pennant is set.

The brackets for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship were finalized Tuesday morning at the OVAC headquarters.

The tournament opens on Monday with the top two seeds in each class hosting a

semifinal game. The winners advance to championship at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Before thoughts of Valentine's Day at OUE can come into focus, some work remains.

The five top seeds are Morgantown (5A), Union Local (4A), River (3A), Bridgeport (2A) and Madonna (1A).

In Class 1A, many of the usual faces

earned a spot in the championship portion of the event.

Madonna, on the strength of its win against 5A member Weir on Monday, overtook both St. John Central and Conotton Valley for the top seed.

The Blue Dons (11-5) will play host to Trinity Christian (8-7).

The other half of the bracket is a rematch of a game played prior in the sea-

son.

Two-time defending champion Conotton Valley will make the trip to St. John Central to take on the second-seeded Irish (14-2).

The Irish and their three-pronged attack of Marissa Rose, Lindsey Froehlich and Jessica Alvey defeated the Rockets, who are led by Ohio University bound Olivia Bower, 53-47.

See, OVAC, Page B2



● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

The 2A field is also extremely solid. For the second straight season, Coach Rob Zitzelsberger's Bulldogs are the top seed and own an 18-1 record.

Bridgeport's lone defeat came on Monday at Barnesville. The Bulldogs, who feature one of the OVAC's premier players in junior Caitlyn Kroll, will welcome Clay-Battelle (12-5).

In the other half of the bracket, second-seeded Wheeling Central will welcome defending champion Frontier. The Maroon Knights, who are ranked number one in the state of West Virginia, are 13-2 and led by talented junior Lindsey Baker.

Frontier finished the pre-OVAC cut-off portion of its schedule at 13-5.

On paper, the 3A field appears to be the deepest.

River earned the top seed. The Pilots have soared to a 17-2 record,

which is good for the top seed.

Coach Rick Isaly's team's reward is a date with fourth-seeded Linsly that checks in with a 14-4 record. The Cadets, who are the defending class champion, handed River both of its losses with the most recent coming last week.

Fort Frye, which lost to Linsly in last season's 3A final, owns a 15-2 record and will play host to third-seeded Barnesville at 14-5. The Shamrocks knocked Bridgeport from the ranks of the unbeaten on Monday to solidify the third seed.

The 4A field had some late jockeying over the course of the last few days.

Union Local overtook Harrison Central for the top seed thanks to its win against East Liverpool last Saturday evening in the Buckeye 8 Championship event.

The Jets, who score

almost 70 points a game, are 14-3 on the season. Coach Kelley Hanlon's squad will get another opportunity to play East Liverpool. The two just met for the Buckeye 8 title last Saturday and the Jets rolled, 83-51.

East Liverpool got into the field with a 9-8 mark without playing on Monday. The Potters began the night in fifth, but jumped into the top four when Buckeye Local lost to Bellaire.

In the other half of the bracket, defending champion Harrison Central is the second seed. The Huskies of head coach Nick Yourkovich are 13-5.

They'll try to get to the title game for the second straight season against Oak Glen, which is 13-3.

The 5A field includes all West Virginia big-school powers.

The Mohigans, who are the defending Class AAA

state champions and currently 16-0, are seeking another berth in the OVAC title game. It's quest will begin against Wheeling Park, which squeezed into the field just ahead of Steubenville at 9-8.

The two teams have met twice already this season.

Parkersburg South, which is the two-time defending OVAC champion and 2014 state runnerup, will host John Marshall.

The Patriots, who are 15-3, are led by Michigan State commit Taryn McCutcheon at point guard. John Marshall (12-7) is led by talented junior Torrie Derrow, who recently surpassed the 1,000-point mark.

The complete pairings for the championship and consolation pool games can be found on Page B4.

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

The Journey to OVAC Crown Is Upon Us

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For The Intelligencer

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Please See OVAC, Page 15

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

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SPORTS

Strong fourth quarter lifts UL past St. C. for OVAC title

• Jets outscore Devils, 18-6 in fourth

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A season ago, and even once this season, the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern was a house of horrors for the Union Local Jets.

Regardless if it was the OVAC Class 4A championship game or the Division III Eastern District tournament, Union Local headed back to Morristown with a sour taste in its mouth each time.

The Jets, however, started the process of totally eliminating that taste Wednesday night in front of a huge crowd

Using an impressive fourth-quarter shooting display, the Jets were crowned conference champions for the second time in school history and first since 2009 by virtue of a 53-45 victory against rival St. Clairsville.

"Players make plays and that's absolutely what our guys did," Union Local head coach Ben Porter said. "Our guys stepped up and knocked down big shots in pressure situations, which is a credit to them."

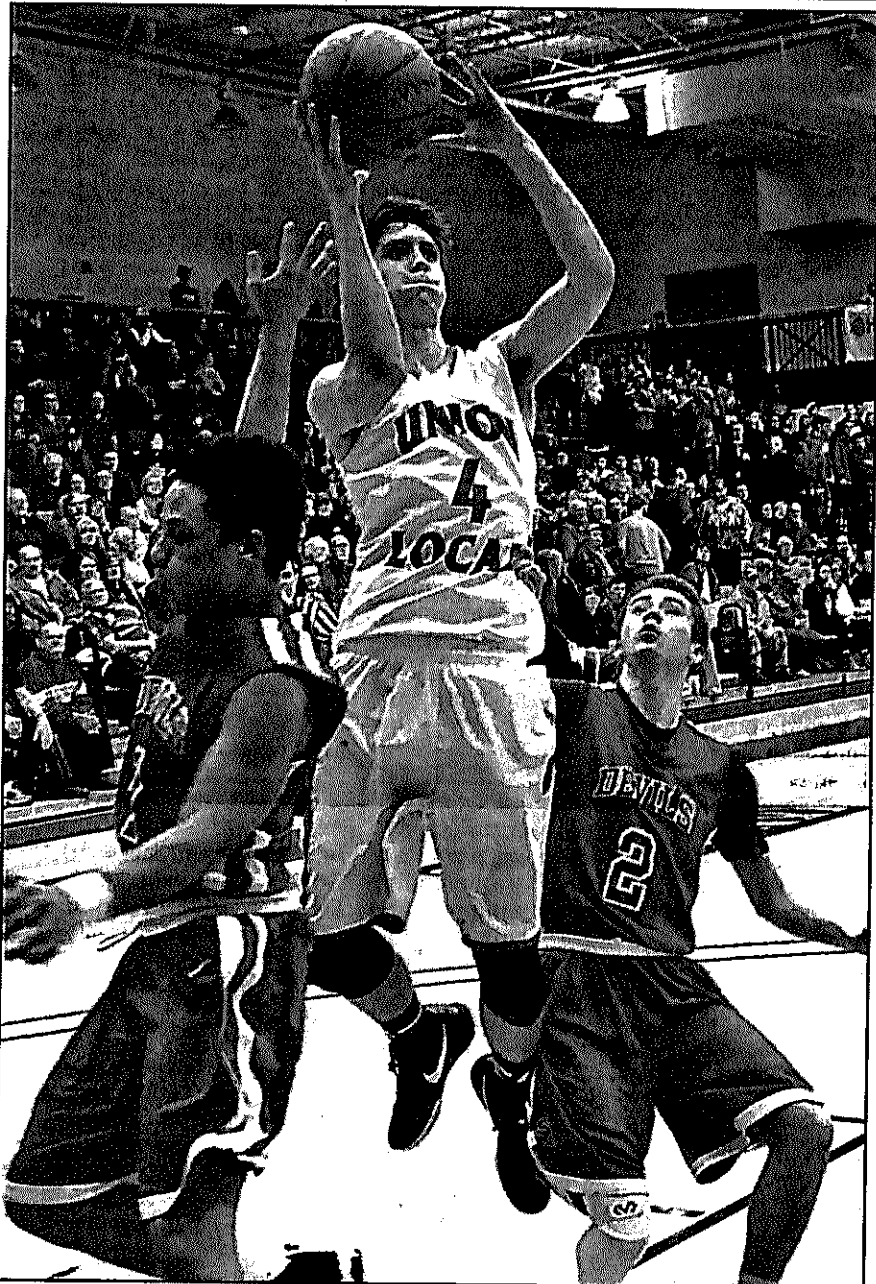
The Jets have now claimed the Buckeye 8 league title and the OVAC championship. They'll now set their sights on the OHSAA Division III postseason, which begins Friday at Meadowbrook High School against Ridgewood.

"Winning the OVAC championship is special," Porter said. "We have to get back on the ground quick and get ready to go on Friday. We want to be

See, UL, Page B2

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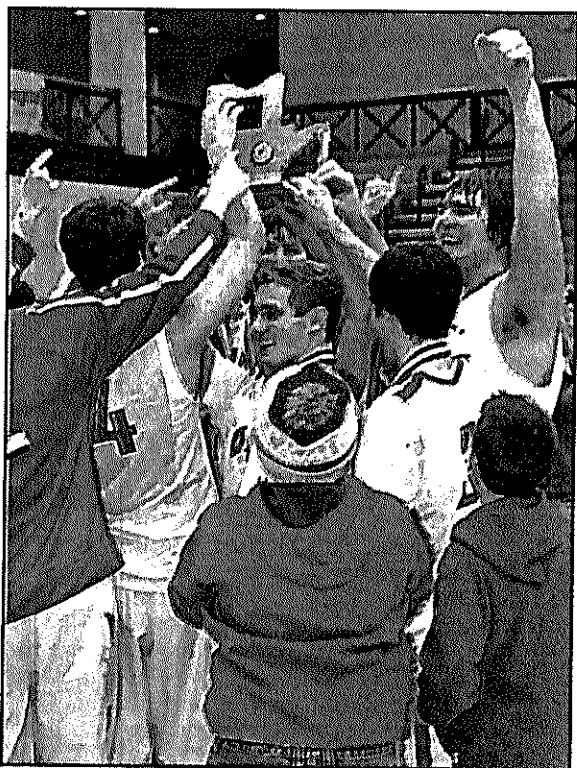
— Ben Porter
UL Head Coach



T-L Photos/JOE LOVELL

ABOVE: Union Local's Trenton Tipton (4) drives between St. Clairsville's Daniel Trouten (1) and Logan McCort on Wednesday night.

BELOW: Jets players hoist the OVAC Class 4A trophy following their 53-45 victory.



Jets hope conference title is sign of good things to come

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — As the seconds ticked down inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center on Wednesday night, Colton McKivitz raised his arms in the air and clapped his hands together as a smile as wide as the I-470 bridge beamed across his sweat-drenched face.

Finally.

After a year of waiting, this crop of Union Local Jets had their OVAC championship.

"It's awesome," belted McKivitz, the 6-8 stalwart known more for his football blocking than his moves on the hardwood.

"We can't get enough of this. It's awesome to finally win this.

"We hadn't won here."

It's true.

As a class, McKivitz and his senior peers were "0-for" at OUE coming



Rick Thorp
Sports Writer

into the 4A championship clash against rival St. Clairsville.

The Jets, now winners of 20 games for the second-straight season, suffered one of their two losses there in December against Columbus Africentric.

Last season, a stellar campaign came to an abrupt halt at the hands of

See, JETS, Page B2

Continued from Page B1

playing for a couple more weeks at least because this is a special group of kids."

St. Clairsville had the game certainly to its liking. The Red Devils led, 23-22, at half after a Patrick Buchanan offensive rebound and stickback.

They stretched the margin to 39-35 after three quarters, thanks to the hot shooting of sophomore Michael Scarnecchia, who scored eight of his team-high 15 in the panel.

"Give St. Clairsville all kinds of credit because they're a very good team and Coach Clifford is a very good coach," Porter said. "They had a great game plan, and I thought they executed their offense very well. They were moving the ball well and had us moving all over the place. We were just able to hang around and hang around."

The fourth quarter —

from controlling the possession arrow on — was all Jets.

Union Local scored the first five points of the fourth, which was a driving bucket by junior Kaleb McDiffitt and then a trey by classmate Trenton Tipton.

"Our kids were pretty determined," Porter said. "Once we got over the hump, the kids didn't want to give the lead back."

And that's exactly what they did.

Despite Clifford using three timeouts in the fourth quarter's first five minutes, the Jets kept shooting and scoring.

"They set some good screens, got loose (from the defense) and made some big shots," St. C. head coach Kim Clifford summarized. "They knocked down shots and that's why they're the champs. They made big plays."

With the Red Devils' struggling to score in the fourth, the Jets kept bringing it. McDiffitt hit a triple and senior sharpshooter Joel Mott, who came up huge in the Buckeye 8 championship game win against East Liverpool, scored on a runner and then hit back-to-back shots from behind the arc.

"Joel's not afraid to step up in these types of situations," Porter said. "We were sitting on the bench, during one of his shots, saying, 'no and then yeah! That's just a credit to a kid making a play.'"

Meanwhile, St. Clairsville mustered just six points in the fourth quarter. All of those came from Buchanan.

"I don't know what it was ... their good defense? Fatigue? I don't know, but Union Local made the big plays," Clifford said.

The Jets were led by a trio of double-figure scorers. Tipton finished with 15, while McDiffitt added 14. Mott closed with 10. Gavin Porter scored seven points and turned in yeoman's work on the defensive end.

Scarnecchia led St. C. Buchanan finished with 13.

In the last meeting, which St. C. won, talented junior Logan McCort went off for 10 triples and 43

total points. He finished with just six this time around.

"We had different guys scoring at different times and didn't have to rely on certain guys," Clifford said. "The ball just didn't go in the basket enough."

Now 16-6 entering Division III sectional play on Tuesday against Shenandoah at Indian Valley, St. Clairsville will get back to work to prepare for the second season.

"I told the kids to enjoy the opportunity to play in a championship game before a big crowd, but certainly don't be satisfied," Clifford said. "Every possession is so important in the tournament and this game helps both teams in that regard."

St. Clairsville was charted for 12 turnovers, while the winners committed just three miscues. The Jets also held a 24-23 edge on the boards. Colton McKivitz grabbed seven of those. Brendan Ferns had eight to pace the Devils.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE (45) — Trouten 2, 1-1 6; McCort 1, 3-4 6; Coleman 0, 0-0 0; Ferns 1, 0-0 2; Buchanan 4, 4-6 13; Slavik 1, 0-0 3; Scarnecchia 5, 3-3 15; Totals: 14, 12-14 45. UNION LOCAL (53) — McDiffitt 5, 2-2 14; Mott 3, 2-3 10; Tipton 6, 1-2 15; Porter 2, 1-2 7; Paulick 3, 0-2 6; McKivitz 0, 1-4 1; Totals: 19, 7-15 53.

3-point goals: St. C. — Trouten, McCort, Buchanan, Scarnecchia (2). UL — McDiffitt (2), Mott (2), Tipton (2), Porter (2).

Continued from Page B1

Martins Ferry in a Division III district semifinal. That loss came a few weeks after the Jets' hopes of an undefeated season were dashed by Steubenville in the 4A title contest.

This year, there would be no disappointment. Union Local's "3M's" would have none of it.

McKivitz, Kaleb McDiffitt and Joel Mott took over the final quarter, scoring 15 of the Jets' 18 points and creating problems on the glass and defensively as Union Local overcame a four-point, third quarter deficit en route to the 53-45 triumph.

The victory was especially sweet for McDiffitt, the Jets' junior point guard who only played a half in last season's loss against Big Red as he was coming off an injury, finishing with three points.

McDiffitt scored the first basket of the final period, one that set the tone. This time he had seven points in the fourth alone to help close things out.

"No way, no way was this going to be like last year," McDiffitt stated. "We just kept our heads up. We knew the shots would fall eventually. They finally did. And once they started to fall, they all seemed to."

Trenton Tipton's 3-pointer with 6:20 left gave Union Local the lead for good. From there, Mott got in on the act.

In his first season on the squad after playing last year at East Richland

Christian, Mott embraced the 6th man for Head Coach Porter.

"I've accepted role," Mott said, glancing at the OVAC champion medal draped around neck.

"I'm just here to whatever I can do to this team win. That's it's all about for me and worked out really well."

After hitting a 2-point shot that gave the Jets a 41-37 lead with 4:47 remaining, Mott canned two trifles, the latter one giving Union Local an eight-point cushion with 3:08 left.

"I've been practicing really hard in the off-season and every day late a practice," Mott said. "After I made (3) I felt like I couldn't do everything go in. I gave it a chance and everything started going way."

Just like it has since arrived in Morristown.

"It's been unbelievable" he said. "They have welcomed me in well. To be able to compete and experience this OVAC championship with the unreal."

"March Madness doesn't start for another week or so, but the atmosphere for Wednesday night's game was electric."

That, McDiffitt said, made the experience more rewarding. In fact, he wouldn't mind repeating the scene a few weeks, with a trip to Athens at stake.

"It's so great," he said. "It's the best feeling I've had on a basketball court my entire life."

Thorp can be reached at rthorp@timesleader.com

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Magnolia 104, Madonna 73

WEIRTON — Spencer Campbell hit 18 shots and all five of his free-throw attempts en route to a career-high 44 points as Magnolia scored at least 22 points in every quarter.

Campbell went past 1,000 points for his career, and was honored by Blue Dons coach George Vargo who stopped the game and presented him with the basketball.

Preston Boswell added 31 points for the Blue Eagles (17-5), while Derrick Blain and Mitch Winters evenly divided 18 as the team hit 11 from 3-point range.

Joey Ewusiak led the Blue Dons (13-7) with 14 points, while Tavon Jeter and James Carnes netted 13 and 12, respectively. Nick Mazur contributed 10 points.

Bishop Donahue 63, St. Marys 48

ST. MARYS — Taylor Straughn took over in the second half, finishing with a game-high 22 points as Bishop Donahue used a 28-point fourth quarter to knock off St. Marys.

Josh Miller checked in with 18 points for the Bishops, who finish the regular season 19-2. Jesse Padlow scored 10.

Jesse Moore paced the Blue Devils (16-4) with 17 points.

Williamstown 70, Paden City 52

WILLIAMSTOWN — Josh Palmer scored 22 and Gage Wix added 16 as Williamstown (19-2) downed Paden City.

Luke Cooper paced the Wildcats (10-12) with 17 points. Kennedy Cain had 12 points and grabbed five rebounds, and Zach Heasley ended with 11 points and four boards.

Hayden Hizer contributed eight assists, five points and three steals for Paden City.

Valley 62, Frontier 60

NEW MATAMORAS — Trey Streets poured in 30 points as Valley rallied past Frontier with 37 second-half points.

Tucker Cain added 11 points for the Lumberjacks, while Joey Preat scored eight.

Damon Matheny paced the Cougars with 26 points, while Nick Camino scored 17.

Choice
Save Thousands



Photo by Joe Lovell

Union Local's Kaleb McDiffitt takes a shot over St. Clairsville defender Brendan Ferns on Wednesday night.

Jets Stake Claim To 4A Crown

St. Clairsville can't slow UL

By SETH STASKEY For The Intelligencer
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Class 3A – 8 p.m.
Fort Frye vs. Monroe or
Magnolia
Page 14
Class 4A – 10 a.m.
Union Local vs. St. C.
Page 18
Class 5A – 12:30 p.m.
P. South vs. Morgantown

On the Cover

REPRESENTATIVES OF each team taking part today are: Trenton Tipton (Union Local), Luke Slavik (St. Clairsville), James Carnes (Madonna), Jesse Padlow (Bishop Donahue), Q.J. Williams (Bridgeport), Chase Harler (Wheeling CC), Seth Lagraen (Fort Frye), Gavin Morton (Monroe Central), Spencer Campbell (Magnolia), Cody Monroe (Parkersburg South) and C.J. King (Morgantown). This is the eighth annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship event, which are held each February at Ohio University Eastern.
Cover Design/MIKE PALMER
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Donahue, Madonna set for 1A battle

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The opponents in today's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A championship game are no strangers. Top-seeded Bishop Donahue (16-2) and No. 2 Madonna (13-5) have developed quite a storied rivalry during their days on the hardwood.

The Bishops will be seeking their second straight title as they defeated Trinity in 66-54 in last week's semifinals. They also defeated the Warriors in last year's championship game. Today's 3 p.m. game inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building will also mark the fifth time in eight years that the McMechen-based school has appeared in the title tilt. They are 2-2.

The Blue Dons advanced with a 70-56 decision over St. John Central in their semi.

"We've been pretty consistent since they started this tournament," Bishop Donahue head coach Tom Wise said. "We've won two, but we've also lost



T-L File Photo/KIM NORTH

BISHOP DONAHUE'S Taylor Straughn has been a steady contributor for the Bishops this season. They'll take on Madonna at 3 p.m. today in the 1A final.

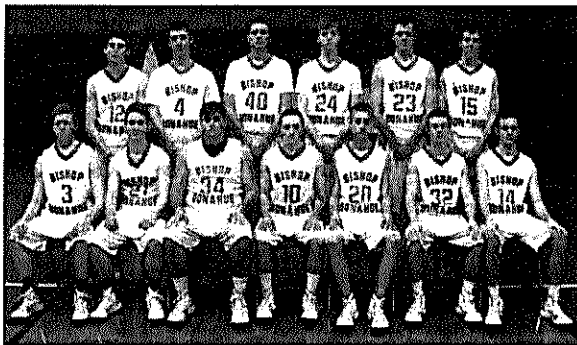


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Bishop Donahue boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Will Robinson, Coleton Berletch, Matt Vucelik, Brett Moore, Jimmy Hull, Jacob Beyser and Trey Miller. Back row, from left, are Taylor Straughn, Kollin Kleeh, Junior Holmes, Zach McCoy, Josh Miller and Jesse Padlow.

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two. So, we're trying to get over the hump."

Despite only having one returning starter back, Wise isn't surprised that the Bishops have only lost twice and are playing for the conference crown.

"To be perfectly honest, I'm not surprised by what we've accomplished so far," he admitted. "I've had

these three seniors for four years. They are gym rats. They are very athletic and competitive.

"I knew we had some talent coming back, but I thought maybe four or five losses," he continued.

"We've played a pretty difficult schedule so far, but things have worked out." Bishop Donahue's two

losses have come to Magnolia. The Bishops also own a victory against the Blue Eagles.

Of their 16 wins, one has come against the Blue Dons.

"That was the third or fourth game of the year, but it seems like two years ago," Wise said of his

See, 1A, Page 4

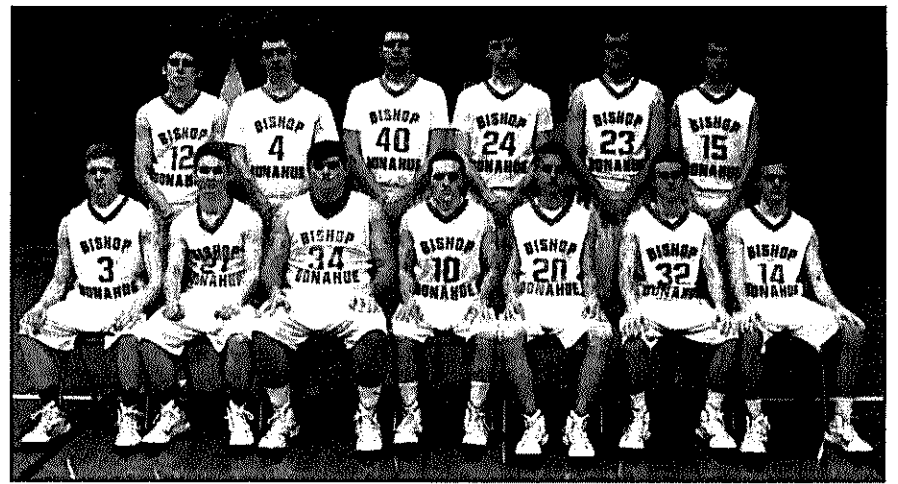


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Bishop Donahue boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Will Robinson, Coleton Berletch, Matt Vucelik, Brett Moore, Jimmy Hull, Jacob Beyser and Trey Miller. Back row, from left, are Taylor Straughn, Kollin Kleeh, Junior Holmes, Zach McCoy, Josh Miller and Jesse Padlow.

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● 1A

Continued from Page 3

team's 16-point win during the Williams Energy Challenge in Cameron.

The Bishops are happy to have point guard Taylor Straughn back in the lineup. The 6-2 sophomore had missed five games with an ankle injury before playing in the semifinal victory over No. 4 Trinity. Straughn averages a team-best 21 points an outing. He had 17

in the semifinals.

Bishop Donahue is far from a one-player squad, especially on offense where three other starters average in double figures. They are the lone returning starter – 6-3 senior Jesse Padlow – who scores 15.6 a night. Classmates Josh Miller and Brett Moore add 13.2 and 12.8, respectively. Koltin Kleeh, a 6-2 sophomore, is the other starter. Miller is also the leading rebounder with nine. Padlow averages 5.6.

Off the bench for the Green-and-Gold are 6-4 junior Zach McCoy, 6-0 senior Matt Vucelich and 6-4 sophomore Junior Holmes.

Against Trinity, the 5-5 Moore tallied 16 points, a team-leading six rebounds, two steals and a pair of assists. The 6-4 Miller finished with 13 points, while Padlow added a dozen markers.

"I know everything about Bishop Donahue. I know where they live, eat, who their girlfriends are ... I know them like I know my own team ... all kidding aside," Madonna head coach George Vargo said. "Coach-wise, Bishop Donahue has great athletes and an outstanding state-

MADONNA BLUE DONS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
1	Tavon Jeter	6-0	10
2	Marquise Jeter	6-1	12
3	James Carnes	6-5	12
4	Levi Shreve	5-11	12
10	Joseph Ewusiak	6-1	10
11	Jarod Taflan	6-2	12
12	Grant Retton	6-1	12
15	James Mazzone	5-11	10
20	Nicklas Mazur	6-0	12
21	Chase DiBartolomeo	5-10	10
22	Dustin Brown	5-11	10
23	Matthew Lyons	6-1	12
24	Nicholas Higgins	5-11	11
42	George Stakias	6-0	12
55	Justin Canei	6-4	10
Head Coach: George Vargo			
BISHOP DONAHUE BISHOPS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Will Robinson	6-0	11
4	Koltin Kleeh	6-2	10
10	Brett Moore	5-9	12
12	Taylor Straughn	6-2	10
14	Trey Miller	5-9	10
15	Jesse Padlow	6-3	12
20	Jimmy Hull	5-9	10
21	Coleton Berletch	5-10	11
23	Josh Miller	6-4	12
24	Zach McCoy	6-4	11
32	Jacob Beyser	5-10	10
34	Matt Vucelik	6-0	12
40	Junior Holmes	6-4	10
Head Coach: Tom Wise			
Assistant coaches: Curt Mele, Jim Dailer			

bound team, which includes a high-scoring offense and a experienced coaching staff led by my good friend, Tom Wise."

The Blue Dons are led by 6-5 senior center James Carnes who averages a dou-

ble-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds. He is supported by 6-0 classmate Nick Mazur who scores 11 points and pulls down 11 rebounds a game. Mazur is

See, 1A, Page 5



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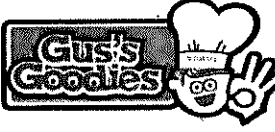
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● 1A

Continued from Page 4

also the leading three-point shooter. Sophomore Tavon Jeter, a 6-1 guard, lends 7.5 points and 7 rebounds. Grant Retton, a 6-1 senior forward, and Joe Ewusiak, a

6-1 sophomore guard, both average 8 points and 5 rebounds.

In the win over the Irish, Mazur led a quartet of Blue Dons in double digits with

20, including a trio of treys. Ewusiak added 14, Retton 13 and Carnes 10. Jeter finished with nine.

"It doesn't surprise me that we are in the finals,

with 8 returning seniors on this years squad showing good leadership and the will to win," Vargo added. "This was a team goal at the beginning of the season to

be playing for the OVAC championship."

George Stakias, a 6-0, senior forward, and Marquise Jeter, a 6-1 senior forward, came off the bench

for the Blue Dons in the semifinals.

"The Ewusiak kid didn't play in that first game," Wise recalled. "He was

See, 1A, Page 12

WEIRTON MADONNA BLUE DONS

Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Madonna Blue Dons basketball team. The team consists of Jake Gasouda, Tony Sellitti, Nicholas Higgins, Levi Shreve, Marquise Jeter, Nate Smith, Tavon Jeter, George Stakias, Giovanni Lenhart, Jared Tafian, Mark Licata, Dustin Brown, Matthew Lyons, Justin Canei, Nicklas Mazur, Max Carey, James Mazonne, James Carnes, Kyle McAfee, Joey DeFelice, Fritz Mooro, Chase DiBartolomeo, Grant Retton, Joseph Ewusiak and Tim Seech.



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Wheeling Central, Bridgeport to clash in 2A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Today's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A boys' championship

game features a pair of schools already with multiple titles since the tournament format began. Wheeling Central, the top seed, has four championship trophies, while third-seed Bridgeport has a pair. However, the Maroon Knights (19-2)

are looking to 'three-peat,' having defeated Steubenville Catholic and Wellsville the last two winters. In fact, they are a perfect 4-for-4 in title tilts, winning the Class 3A championship in 2008 over St. Clairsville and topping Fort Frye a year later.

Meanwhile the Bulldogs (15-6) haven't been to the finals since winning in 2010 when they were in Class 1A.

"That may a little advantage for them, but we talked to the kids about rising to the

See, 2A, Page 7

WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS

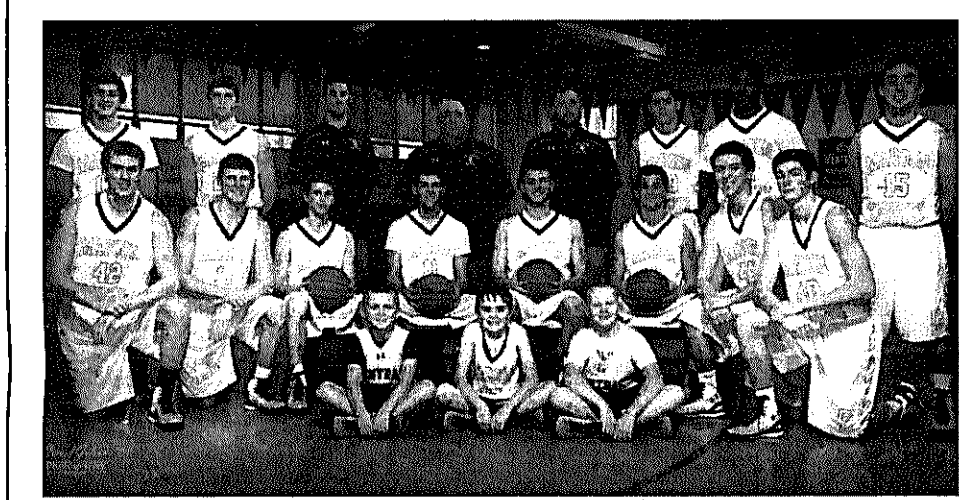


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Wheeling Central. Front row, from left, are managers, from left, are Bo Heller, J.C. Maxwell and Jordan Waterhouse. Second row, from left, are David Sampson, Chase Harler, John McLaughlin, Trenton Smith, Boyd Bibey, Matt Pleva, Brian Campbell, Patrick Hurley. Top row, from left, are Adam Jarrett, Gabe Roman, assistant coach Tyler Morando, head coach Mel Stephens, assistant coach Chip Calissie, John Burkhalter, Brent Price and Isaac Rine.

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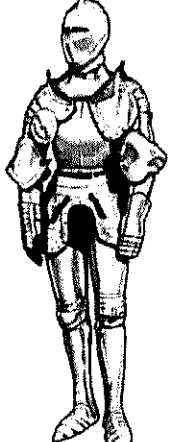
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Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights



From
CCHS Athletic Department

WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	John McLaughlin	6-1	12
11	Trenton Smith	5-11	12
12	Owen Gainer	5-11	09
13	Adam Jarrett	5-10	10
14	Chase Harler	6-3	11
15	Isaac Rine	5-8	10
20	Matt Pleva	6-2	12
22	Boyd Bibey	6-2	12
24	Gabe Rohmann	6-0	10
33	John Burkhalter	6-1	10
40	Patrick Hurley	6-1	11
44	Brian Campbell	6-3	11

Head Coach: Mel Stephens
Assistant coaches: Chip Calissie, Tyler Morando

BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS

No.	Name	Height	Gr.
0	Marc Perrelli	6-0	11
1	Koty SeEVERS	5-10	12
2	Eli Williams	5-10	10
3	J.C. Cash	6-0	12
4	Robert Teeman	6-2	12
11	Bailey McGrath	5-9	12
12	Q.J. Williams	6-1	12
13	Tyler Darrah	5-10	11
15	Guy Pagano	5-9	10
21	Jace Johnston	6-0	10
23	Parker Dyson	6-6	12
24	Luke Bendel	5-7	10

Head Coach: Donnie Cash
Assistant coaches: Mike Muklewicz, Jim Murad

● 2A

Continued from Page 6

challenge," Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash said. "We respect them and know it's going to be a tough task."

Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens wasn't sold on any past experiences playing into this season's encounter.

"It may help a little, but it's a championship game, and I know they will be ready to play," Stephens said of the Bulldogs, who upset No. 2 seed ShadySide, 57-52, last week in semifinal action. The Maroon Knights took care of fourth-seeded Cameron, 63-49 on Wednesday.

Bridgeport is peaking at the right time, according to Cash.

"We talked a couple of weeks ago about getting on a roll at this time of the season," he said. "We've won

six of seven since. I like how we've been playing, but we know we've got to be totally focused and play four complete quarters against them.

"However, we've got to play one quarter at a time," he added. "We've got to play eight minutes. Then we've got to play eight more minutes and like that

for four quarters." The senior-laden Bulldogs are led by 6-2 QJ Williams and 6-5 Parker Dyson, both of whom averaged 10 points per game. See, 2A, Page 8

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● 2A

Continued from Page 7

age in double figures. Williams, a 1,000-point scorer, leads the team with a 17.9 scoring norm, while Dyson checks in at 14. Other starters include 6-0 JC Cash, 5-10 point guard Koty Seevers and 5-9 Bailey McGrath. Sophomore Guy Pagano, a 5-9 sharpshooter, adds instant offense off the bench.

In the come-from-behind win at Shadyside, Williams and Pagano evenly divided 30 markers, with Pagano's coming on five trifectas. Dyson added 12 and Cash eight. However, it was some

late free throws from Seevers and a last-second steal and charity tosses from McGrath that sealed the deal.

"If we bring that same effort and enthusiasm we'll be alright," Cash allowed.

Stephens was in the front row scouting the Bulldogs-Tigers matchup and came away impressed with the Black-and-Blue.

"They play hard and are very scrappy," he said. "They aren't very big with the exception of the Dyson kid."

"I think it's a good matchup for us because we

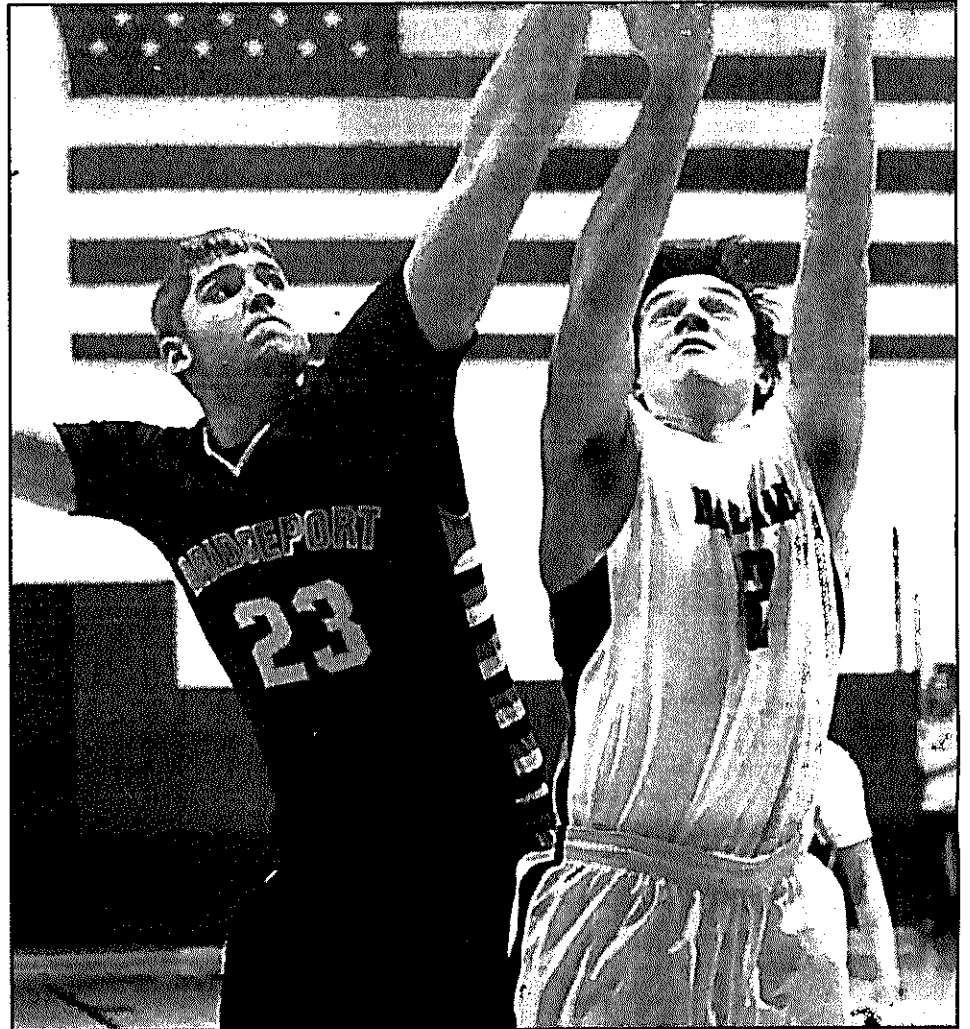
are usually playing teams with two post players and Bridgeport only has one. We've played some teams with guys Dyson's size, but his being left-handed gives him an advantage. You don't see too many left-handed big men."

Cash said he hopes Dyson can dominate in the paint.

"We've challenged him and he knows he has to come to play, but until you get there and the lights come on, you never know."

When talking about Wheeling Central you have

See, 2A, Page 10



T-L File Photo/KIM NORTH

BRIDGEPORT'S Parker Dyson battles for a loose ball with Bellaire's Tyler Ramsay during a game earlier this winter. Dyson and the Bulldogs are slated to play Wheeling Central in today's OVAC Class 2A championship at 5:30 p.m.

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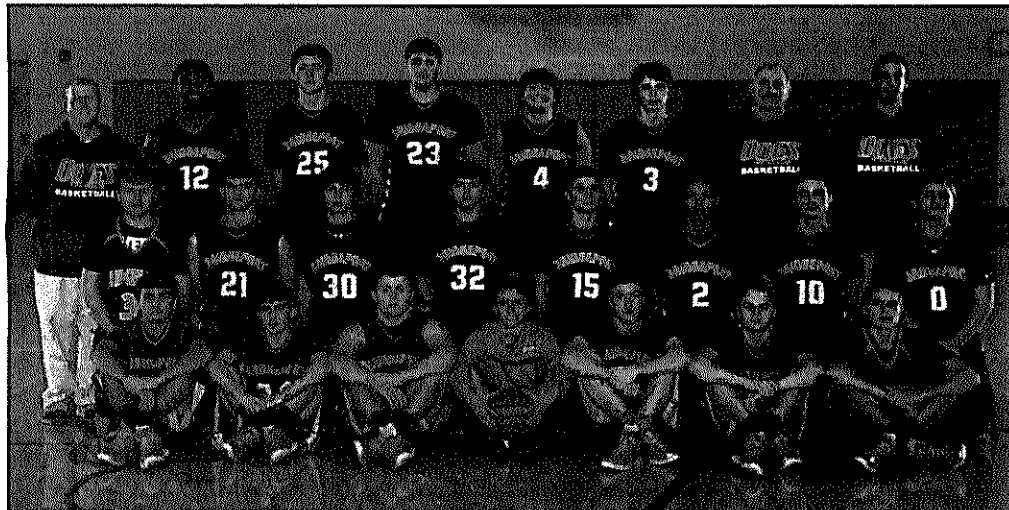
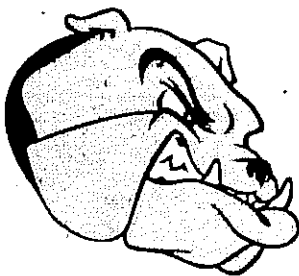


Photo Courtesy/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Bridgeport boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Treavon Clark, Luke Bendel, Bailey McGrath, Manager Lucas Pomaranski, Kory Seevers, Tyler Darrah and John Simmons. Second row, from left, are Andrew Bloom, Jace Johnston, Dance Cash, Dylan Nowakowski, Guy Pagano, Eli Williams, Thomas Coyne and Marc Perrelli. Third row, from left, are Head Coach Donnie Cash, Q.J. Williams, Ricky Dunlap, Parker Dyson, Robert Teeman, J.C. Cash, Assistant Coaches Jim Murad and Mike Muklewicz.



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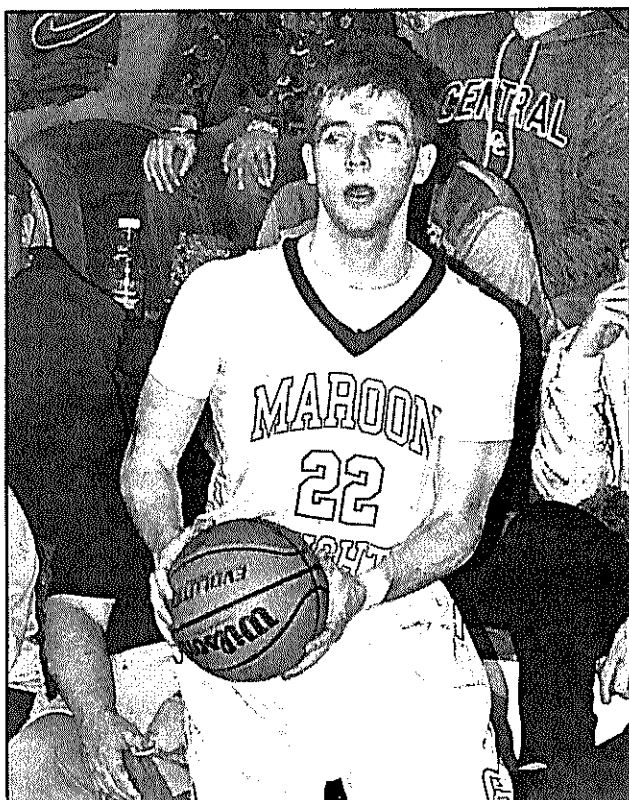
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● 2A

Continued from Page 8

WHEELING CENTRAL senior Boyd Bibey prepares to go up for a shot during last Wednesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal game against Cameron. Bibey and the Maroon Knights will take on Bridgeport today at 5:30 p.m. in the conference championship game.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

to start with junior Chase Harler, who has already verbalized to West Virginia University. The 6-3 guard does a little bit of everything for the Knights.

"He's a really good player," Cash said of Harler, who averages nearly 25 points a night. "He's as good as advertised. He not only scores for them, but he finds the open guys. He has a lot of weapons around him and he utilizes them.

"We've got to stick to our gameplan and execute it," Cash continued. "If they (Wheeling Central) get on a run, we can't let them keep extending it."

Harler is the lone returning starter from last year's W.Va. Class A state champs, but he's far from the lone talent. He is joined

in the starting lineup by seniors Trenton Smith and Boyd Bibey; junior Brian Campbell; and sophomore John Burkhalter.

The 6-2 Bibey and 6-1 Burkhalter each average between 10 and 11 points, while Burkhalter is the leading rebounder. Smith scores almost points and also lends support on the boards.

"It may be a little surprising to some people that we're 19-2, ranked No. 1 in the state and playing for the OVAC title," Stephens allowed.

"But you never know coming into a season how kids will respond. A lot of the teams we've played we haven't overwhelmed, but we've found ways to win at the end."

Stephens can also call on

6-2 senior Matt Pleva; 6-0 sophomore Gabe Rohmann; 5-11 sophomore Adam Jarrett; and 5-11 freshman Owen Gainer.

"Bridgeport shoots the ball very well from the perimeter," Stephens added. "I think that's the key to winning, who ever shoots better, rebounding is always a key, but I think it will even out."

Cash, on the other hand, wants to limit his team's turnovers.

"We have to have quality possessions of the offensive end of the floor," he stressed. "We have to take care of the basketball at all times."

This game is a rematch of last week's girls' Class 2A final where the Maroon Knights prevailed.

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Weather dictated 3A title game

• Fort Frye was playing waiting game until Friday

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It's been a wild week in the Ohio Valley.

Whether you're talking about basketball or the weather, it all fits under the same umbrella. Actually, they go hand-in-hand.

Because of the weather, the Class 3A championship game, which is slated to tip at 8 p.m. wasn't finalized until last night when second-seeded Monroe Central and third-seeded Magnolia met in Woodsfield.

The other half of the championship game was slated on Tuesday when the

other semifinal was originally scheduled for as well. However, winter weather and brutally cold temperatures shut down schools all week and forced coaches and athletic directors hands.

While seven of the 10 semi-final games were played on their scheduled day, the Seminoles and Blue Eagles found themselves in the waiting game.

They were the last two teams to decide their fate. Had they not gotten their game in on Friday night, the Seminoles would have automatically advanced based on the paper standings of the teams.

Complete coverage of the Seminoles and Blue Eagles -- as well as a complete preview of the 3A title game -- can be found in today's

Sports Section.

Meanwhile, Fort Frye just sat around and played the waiting game.

The Cadets punched their ticket to their second straight OVAC final on Tuesday when they won, 21-17, against River.

The Pilots implemented a stull tactic gameplan and actually had a shot to win the game late.

FORT FRYE CADETS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
2	Carter Kiefer	6-1	11
3	Derek Layton	6-0	11
10	Isaac Klinger	5-9	10
11	Casey Lewis	5-10	10
20	Devin Brooker	5-8	12
23	Seth Lagraen	6-4	12
32	Carter Lang	6-4	11
42	Justin Anderson	6-2	10
44	Logan Madison	6-3	12
50	Kyle Cline	6-2	12

Head Coach: Eric Henniger
Assistant coaches: Terry Huck, Matt Barton, Troy Fogle

MAGNOLIA BLUE EAGLES			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
1	Spencer Campbell	6-0	12
2	Tyler Anderson	5-10	11
3	Tyler Williamson	5-8	10
4	Preston Boswell	6-1	11
5	Derrick Blain	6-0	11
10	Jake Fruner	5-9	10
11	Mitch Winters	6-4	11
13	Zach Haught	6-0	11
22	Peau Halahingano	5-8	10
33	Brooks Parson	6-0	09
34	Jaret Delaney	6-3	11
40	Alex Anderson	6-0	11
42	Dylan Jackson	5-11	11
44	Kyle Ritz	6-2	11

Head Coach: Dave Tallman
Assistant coaches: Mark Blair, Bob Ripley, Larry West

MONROE CENTRAL SEMINOLES			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Gage Ash	6-2	12
5	Trey Duffy	5-9	10
10	Zach Jorris	5-9	12
12	Cole Howell	6-3	11
14	Tanner Burkhart	5-10	12
20	Levi Brown	5-6	12
22	Seth Allaman	5-11	12
24	Dustin Graham	5-10	11
30	Joey Schumacher	5-9	11
32	Jarret Hooper	5-10	10
34	Gavin Morton	6-6	12
40	Dalton Lincoln	5-9	11
44	Cole Craig	5-9	11

Head Coach: Lou "Scooter" Tolzda
Assistant coaches: Ryan Rosnick, Scott Jorris, Jason Shaw

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FORT FRYE CADETS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Fort Frye Cadets basketball team. Front row, from left, are Isaac Klinger, Cater Lang, Derek Layton, Oater Kiefer, Justin Anderson and Casey Lewis. Second row, from left, are coach Matt Barton, Devin Brooker, Seth Lagraen, head coach Eric Henniger, Kyle Cline, Logan Madison, coach Terry Huck.

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GOOD LUCK MIGHTY CADETS!

From The Fort Frye Athletic Department

MAGNOLIA BLUE EAGLES



Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Magnolia Blue Eagles basketball team. The team includes: Spencer Campbell, Tyler Anderson, Tyler Williamson, Preston Boswell, Derick Blain, Jake Fruner, Mitch Winters, Zach Haught, Peau Halahingano, Brooks Parsons, Jaret Delaney, Alex Anderson, Dylan Jackson and Kyle Ritz. The Blue Eagles are coached by Dave Tallman, Mark Blair, Bob Ripley and Larry West.

OVAC Boys Championship Game Records

OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS - MEN'S INDIVIDUAL
MOST POINTS [35]
 1A: 29, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 31, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 35, Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 33, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 25, Scottie Core, Morgantown, 2014
MOST FREE THROWS MADE [16]
 1A: 10, Ross Cornis, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 8, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 15, Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 16, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 11, Elijah Bell, Wheeling Park, 2014
BEST FREE THROW % [100%, 10/10] (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 100% (10/10), Ross Cornis, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 100% (8/8), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 100% (6/6), Zach Roe, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 L. J. Campbell, Weir, 2010
 4A: 100% (6/6), Bobby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 100% (8/8), Scottie Core, Morgantown, 2014

1A: 10, Brandon Bailey, Conotton Valley, 2013
 Garrett Price, Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 10, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 13, Mark Winters, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 9, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 10, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [83%, 10/12] (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 83% (5/6), Gage Bales, Beaksville, 2012
 2A: 83% (5/6), Drew Konnon, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 80% (4/5), D'Onto Long, Wheeling Central, 2008
 4A: 83% (5/6), Christian Kyle, East Liverpool, 2012
 Justin Elkberry, John Marshall, 2009
 5A: 83% (10/12), Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [8]
 1A: 8, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 5, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 Biby Moryman, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 5, Matt Martello, Steubenville Catholic, 2014
 Zach Roe, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 4, Adam Jeffries, St. Clairsville, 2012
 Riley Carlton, St. Clairsville, 2012

5A: 4, Travis Tomer, University, 2013
INDIVIDUAL
MOST STEALS [7]
 1A: 5, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2012
 2A: 4, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 Jarrod Arnold, Fort Frye, 2009
 C. J. Goodwin, Linsly, 2008
 3A: 5, Caleb Gray, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 7, Myik Young, Steubenville, 2013
 Bobby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 4, Steve Sokomon, Morgantown, 2014
MOST BLOCKS [5]
 1A: 2, Chace Truex, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 Brandon Bailey, Conotton Valley, 2013
 Drazen Frankovitch, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 5, Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 3, Josh Toland, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 3, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2013
 Marqez O'Neal, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 2, Travis Tomer, University, 2013
INDIVIDUAL
BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [100%, 4/4] (4 attempts minimum)
 1A: 60% (6/10), A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 100% (4/4), Jordan Sloan, Weisville, 2014
 3A: 60% (3/5), Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 60% (3/5), Bobby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 Logan Marlin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 60% (4/5), Travis Tomer, University, 2013
MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [13]
 1A: 13, Chace Truex, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 5, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 8, Jared Blatt, Magnolia, 2010
 4A: 6, Demetrius Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
 5A: 4, Savion Johnson, Wheeling Park, 2014
 Phil Bledsoe, Wheeling Park, 2014
 Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [13]
 1A: 13, Devon Overholt, Bishop Donahue, 2009
 2A: 9, Chase Harler, Wheeling Central, 2013
 Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 11, Mark Winters, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 9, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 7, Travis Tomer, University, 2013
 Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [23]
 1A: 23, Chace Truex, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 14, Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 17, Seth Lagreen, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 12, Cotton McKivitz, Union Local, 2014
 5A: 11, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012
MOST ASSISTS [5]
 1A: 5, Ross Cornis, Madonna, 2012

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See, RECORDS, Page 13

● **1A**

Continued from Page 5

coming off a football injury. He's a good player and the Carnes kid can be a force in the middle. He's a good athlete."

Wise said the key to his team coming out on top will be its pressure defense.

"If we can execute our fullcourt press and get the game into an up-tempo style, then that's to our advantage," he noted. "If we let it get into a halfcourt slugfest, then that's to Madonna's advantage."

● Records

Continued from Page 12

2A: 4, Camden Douglas, Wellsville, 2014
 B. A. Hoagway, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 4, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 3, Lucas Herrington, Steubenville, 2014
 Chris Smith, Steubenville, 2014
 Trenton Tipton, Union Local, 2014
 Adam Jefferies, St. Clairsville, 2013
 Luke Martin, John Marshall, 2011
 Erin Baynes, Wheeling Park, 2011
 Bobby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2011
 Erin Baynes, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 5, Deion Cunningham, University, 2013



5A: 71% (12/17), Parkersburg South, 2013
MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE [30]

1A: 28, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 24, Wheeling Central, 2014
 3A: 30, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 25, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 20, Wheeling Park, 2012

BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [59%, 24/41]
 (20 attempts minimum)

1A: 53% (21/40), Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 59% (24/41), Wheeling Central, 2014
 3A: 55% (30/55), Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 53% (25/47), Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 54% (20/37), Wheeling Park, 2012

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [11]

1A: 11, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 11, Wellsville, 2014
 Shadyside, 2008

3A: 10, Steubenville Catholic, 2014
 4A: 10, St. Clairsville, 2012

5A: 6, Morgantown, 2014

BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [80%, 4/5]
 (5 attempts minimum)

1A: 63% (5/8), Bridgeport, 2010

2A: 44% (11/25), Wellsville, 2014

3A: 50% (7/14), St. Clairsville, 2011

4A: 43% (10/23), St. Clairsville, 2012

5A: 80% (4/5), Indian Creek, 2012

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [22]

1A: 22, Bishop Donahue, 2014

2A: 17, River, 2012

3A: 16, Magnolia, 2012

4A: 17, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 18, Wheeling Park, 2014
ATTENDANCE RECORDS
CLASS 1A [711]

2008 363
 2009 565
 2010 448
 2011 273
 2012 711
 2013 470
 2014 425

CLASS 2A [729]

2008 425
 2009 696
 2010 708
 2011 560
 2012 729
 2013 411
 2014 674

CLASS 3A [1286]

2008 1043
 2009 1286
 2010 277
 2011 879
 2012 576
 2013 546
 2014 465

CLASS 4A [1407]

2008 679
 2009 722
 2010 525
 2011 493
 2012 1183
 2013 1107
 2014 1407

CLASS 5A [822]

2012 822
 2013 221
 2014 716

TOTAL [4021]

2008 2608
 2009 3591
 2010 2009
 2011 2205
 2012 4021
 2013 2806
 2014 3687

SINGLE GAME 1407
 Union Local v. Steubenville, 2014

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [30]

1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 28, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 24, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 22, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 17, Parkersburg South, 2013
 University, 2013

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [46]

1A: 46, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 43, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 36, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 43, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 28, Wheeling Park, 2014

MOST ASSISTS [11]

1A: 10, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 11, Wheeling Central, 2013
 Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 11, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 7, Steubenville, 2014
 Union Local, 2014
 St. Clairsville, 2012
 Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 8, University, 2013

MOST STEALS [15]

1A: 13, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 13, Shadyside, 2010
 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008
 4A: 15, Steubenville, 2013
 Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 10, Morgantown, 2014
 Parkersburg South, 2013

MOST BLOCKS [7]

1A: 5, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 7, River, 2012
 3A: 6, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 5, Wheeling Park, 2011, 2010
 5A: 3, Parkersburg South, 2013

TEAM MOST POINTS [86]

1A: 88, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 70, Linsly
 3A: 73, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 79, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 76, Morgantown, 2014

MOST FREE THROWS MADE [30]

1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 18, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 21, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 23, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 22, Morgantown, 2014
 Wheeling Park, 2014

BEST FREE THROW % [91%, 11/12]
 (10 attempts minimum)

1A: 78% (21/27), Madonna, 2012
 2A: 91% (11/12), Fort Frye, 2009
 3A: 79% (15/19), St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 82% (23/28), St. Clairsville, 2012

MONROE CENTRAL SEMINOLES

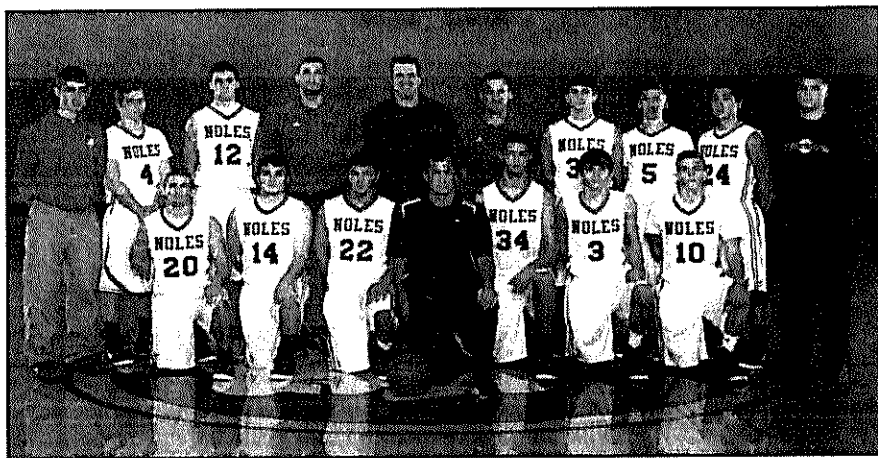


Photo Courtesy/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Monroe Central boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Levi Brown, Tanner Burkhardt, Seth Alleman, Head Coach Lou Tolzda, Gavin Morton, Gage Ash and Zach Jorris. Back row, from left, are manager Micah Roberts, Jarett Hooper, Cole Howell, Assistant coach Jason Shaw, Assistant coach Jared Highman, Assistant coach Ryan Rosnick, Joey Schumacher, Trey Duffy, Dustin Graham, and manager Alex Meigh.

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UL, St. C. renew rivalry in 4A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There will be no early morning secrets.

Even if Ben Porter and Kim Clifford wanted to, it would be awful tough to slip something past the other one.

After all, saying Union Local and St. Clairsville know each other well would be a significant understatement.

The long-time rivals will clash once again, today at 10 a.m., for the right to be called a conference champion.

The top-seeded Jets and third-seeded Red Devils will be playing in a rubber-match after each on its home floor during the course of the season. The

venue this time around will be almost right in the middle of the two schools — Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center in the Class 4A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

"I don't expect it to be anything less than a battle," Porter said. "Hopefully it plays out to be a pretty exciting game because that's definitely the way it shapes up."

Clifford doesn't see anything different than what Porter envisions.

"This is a rivalry game between two schools and programs that have great respect for each other," Clifford said. "We know them really, really well and they know us really, really

well, so it'll come down to whichever team makes the most plays."

The Jets and Devils took slightly different paths to OUE. Union Local (19-2) started fast and didn't look back en route to a convincing win against Harrison Central.

"We hit some 3s early and when you make shots, the game is easier to play," Porter confirmed. "Plus, on top of hitting shots, we played pretty good defense. We really played well on both ends."

St. Clairsville, meanwhile, went on the road to East Liverpool and pulled out a hard-fought victory against the second-seeded Potters. They had to fight off a late rally by Liverpool to prevail, 67-63.

See, 4A, Page 15



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Daniel Trouten drives to the bucket against Union Local's David Paulick during a game last month on John Jenkins Court at St. Clairsville H.S. The Red Devils and Jets will renew their rivalry this morning at 10 a.m. with the OVAC Class 4A championship on the line.

T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

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● 4A

Continued from Page 14

"I'm really happy with how we played," Clifford said. "I told the kids we made our own bed (for playing on the road) when we lost to Edison. I'm real-

ly happy with how we went into a tough place and got it done."

The early tip time is something that both coaches have thinking about.

Clifford has actually been thinking more about himself than his players.

"I just hope I make it to the game," Clifford joked. "I don't usually get up until

9:30, so I may have to get up a little earlier to make sure I make the game.

Porter has tried to incorporate some earlier start times to his practices, but

being out of school all week because of weather has thrown off routines for both teams.

"I'm not sure what you can do other than get them

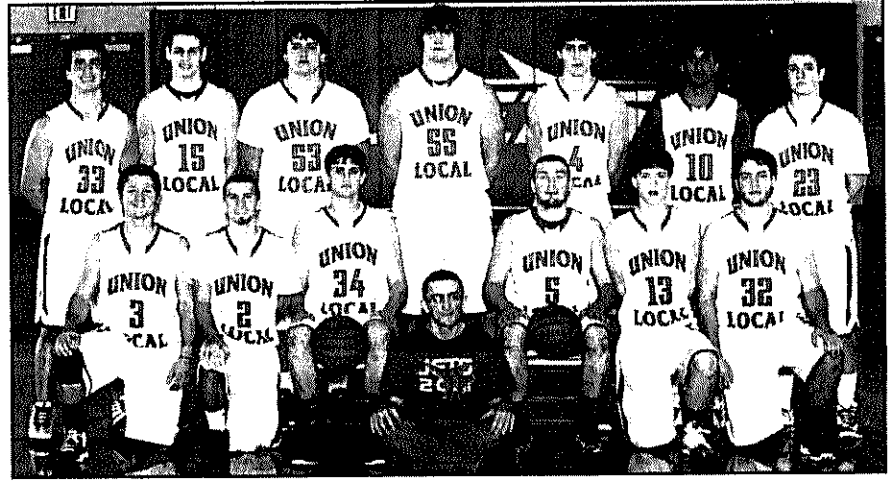
up early (today), bring them in for a shoot around and just get ready to go compete. It's early for both teams, but you have to go

See, 4A, Page 16

JETS UNION LOCAL JETS JETS

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Union Local boys basketball team. Sitting, from left, are Jesse Moore, Joel Mott, Kaleb McDiffitt, Gavin Porter, Ryan Groves and Isaac Goodson. Standing, from left, are manager Jake Boyd, David Paulick, Trenton Tipton, Colton McKivitz, Colton Bumheimer and Jason Turner. Not pictured is Patrick Abboud.



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GOOD LUCK JETS

● 4A

Continued from Page 15

and play.”
 Regardless of the tip time, a big-time atmosphere and huge crowd is expected to be on hand, which should help awaken the players – and coaches.
 “I think it’s good that the third meeting is on a neutral court,” Clifford said. “We’ve both teams have
 See, 4A, Page 17

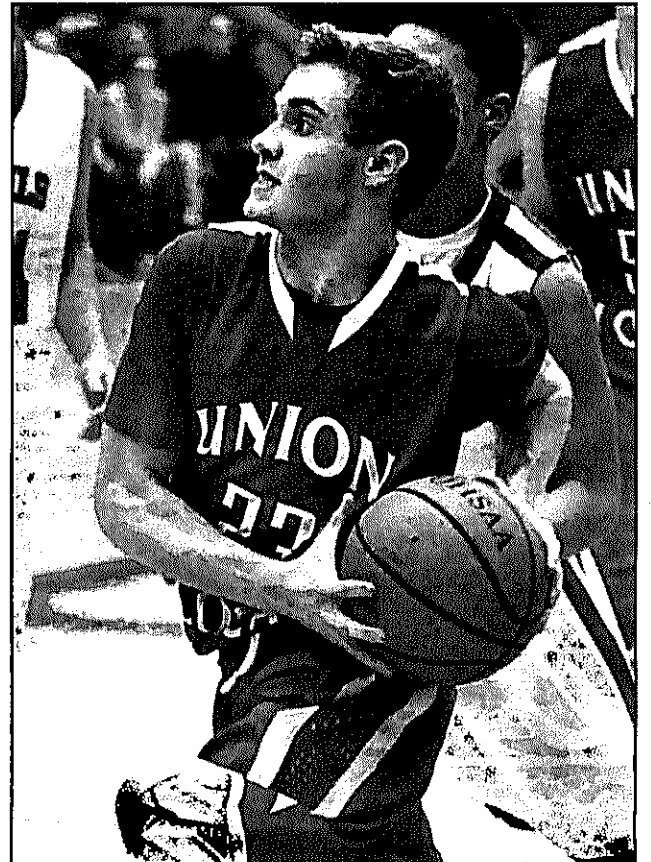
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UNION LOCAL JETS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
2	Kaleb McDiffitt	5-7	11
3	Joel Mott	5-11	12
4	Trenton Tipton	6-5	11
5	Isaac Goodson	5-10	11
10	Jaysen Turner	6-2	12
13	Ryan Groves	5-10	12
15	Colton Burnheimer	6-3	11
23	Gavin Porter	6-0	12
32	Jesse Moore	5-10	12
33	Patrick Abboud	6-1	11
53	David Paulick	6-4	11
55	Colton McKivitz	6-7	12

Head Coach: Ben Porter
 Assistant coaches: Zach Delman, Vaughn Butler, Nick Nardo


ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
1	Daniel Trouten	5-7	11
2	Logan McCort	5-10	11
3	J.C. Coleman	5-11	12
4	Matt Mazgaj	6-0	12
5	Brendan Ferns	6-4	11
21	Patrick Buchanan	6-1	11
24	Luke Slavik	5-11	11
25	Michael Monteroso	6-3	12
31	Alex Gazdik	5-9	12
34	Logan Williams	5-8	10
35	Travis Hotham	6-4	12
44	Michael Scarnecchia	6-4	10

Head Coach: Kim Clifford
 Assistant coaches: Ryan Clifford, Kevin Sacco, Eric Gay




T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER
 UNION LOCAL'S Gavin Porter makes a move to the bucket during the Jets' game at St. Clairsville earlier this season. Union Local lost that night. The Jets and Red Devils will meet for the third time this morning at 10 in the OVAC Class 4A championship.


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GOOD LUCK
ALL AREA TEAMS!

● 4A

Continued from Page 16

held serve and we'll see what happens in this one. OUE has been kind of a cruel place for teams and I've been on both ends of it, but I am guessing the atmosphere will help carry both teams."

Both teams have become perennial entrants in the top four of the boys basketball title chase. St. Clairsville's boys are the only team in the OVAC – regardless of gender – that's played in the championship portion of the event in all eight years.

"Being back in the OVAC tournament and now the final is a great feeling," Clifford said. "We try to play a good schedule, so if you beat some decent teams, you'll get enough points to get in. We've lost some games doing that, too, but the OVAC Tournament and then into the sectional are two things we strive for."

The Red Devils have advanced to the title game in either Class 3A or 4A now six times and earn two banners.

Union Local, meanwhile, is in its third title game. It actually defeated the Red Devils in 2009 and then fell last year to Steubenville when it was undefeated.

"Our kids feel like we

have some unfinished business," Porter said. "Our guys are very hungry, but they've handled it well and not put any extra pressure on themselves. It's a fun

time of the year." Nothing in the past or previous years matters today. For Union Local, making sure it knows where St. C. junior Logan McCort

is on the floor is a very key factor.

He torched the Jets for 10 triples in the last meeting, which was played on John Jenkins Court.

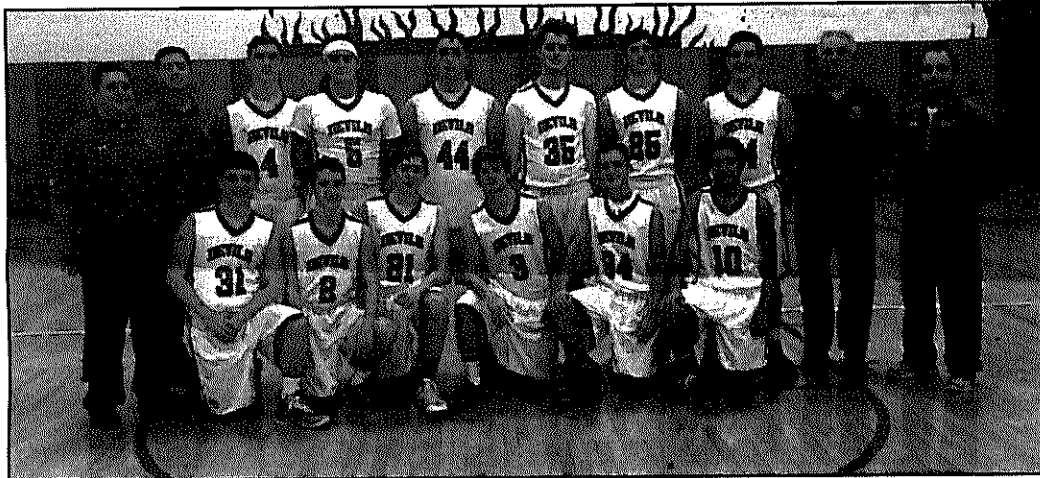
"We've talked about that," Porter said. "McCort has good range, gets his shot off quickly and doesn't need a lot of room. We need to be aware of him on each

possession." He's not the only scoring option by any means for the Red Devils.

Sophomore Michael

See, 4A, Page 18

ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
 PICTURED IS the 2014-15 St. Clairsville basketball team. Front row, from left, are Alex Gazdik, Logan McCort, Patrick Buchanan, J.C. Coleman, Logan Williams and Jordan Vincent. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Kevin Sacco, assistant coach Eric Gay, Matt Mazgaj, Brendan Ferns, Michael Scamecchia, Travis Hotham, Michael Monteroso and Luke Slavik. Absent was Daniel Trouten.

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Morgantown, South seeking 5A hardware

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – A pair of West Virginia powers will take the floor Saturday in the annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament.

Parkersburg South and Morgantown will battle for the Class 5A championship.

The top two seeds in the tournament will meet at 12:30 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Fitness Center.

"South has a heck of a team," Mohigans head coach Dave Tallman noted. "They're one of the best shooting high school team's I've ever seen. We're going to have to get out and really guard them."

It will be a homecoming of sorts for Tallman, in his first season guiding the Mohigans. A Magnolia High School graduate, the former St. Mary's Ryken (Md.) High School head coach grew up playing under another famous Tallman, his father, Dave. "It's been fantastic," Tallman said of his first season in Morgantown. "We

have a great administration and the kids have been wonderful. They're really hard-working guys. We really have a good group. We haven't had any issues. It's been a coach's dream."

It's also been a dream being back in the OVAC.

"I love everything about it," he said. "They're the best people in the world. We played against

(Wheeling) Park on Tuesday night (a 58-43 semifinal victory) and it was nice being home and seeing a lot of familiar faces. It's an honor to be in the championship game."

There, the Mohigans (17-3) will face a Patriots team Tallman is quite familiar with.

"We played them two times in three days in

January," he explained.

The first meeting was a 64-60 Morgantown victory. South (16-4) got revenge in a big way two days later, posting an 82-55 triumph.

"Most of the times we've played them it's been a really physical, up-and-down game," Patriots head coach Mike Fallon said. "The team that has been more

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● 4A

Continued from Page 17

Scarnecchia is averaging upwards of 13 points a game. Junior Patrick Buchanan has also shined at times with his ability to get to the rim and checks in at nearly 13 points a game as well. Junior Daniel Trouten runs the offense from the point-guard spot.

Trouten had a big night at East Liverpool, scoring 23 points. Junior Brendan Ferns rounds out the starting lineup. He doesn't look to score, but he's an effective rebounder and good

defender.

"I like where our guys are (mentally and physically) at this point," Clifford noted. "The test of a team is how it responds, and I like how we responded after we lost to Edison. Our kids have stepped up and we're getting production from a lot of different kids."

Off the bench, the Red Devils primarily utilize J.C. Coleman, Luke Slavik and Michael Monteroso.

Union Local has four starters back from its

OVAC 4A runner-up squad a season ago. While the Jets' backcourt makes things go, Clifford is most concerned with keeping UL's posts – Colton McKivitz and David Paulick – off the offensive boards.

"We have to be able to rebound the ball," Clifford said. "They're a good scoring team, but they also rebound well, so we can't allow a bunch of second and third opportunities."

Along with McKivitz and Paulick on the interior, the Jets boast a talented and deep backcourt with junior point guard Kaleb McDuffitt leading the way. In last year's conference final, McDuffitt played sparingly as he battled an injury.

This season, McDuffitt is the Jets' catalyst from the point guard spot. He's averaging 17.4 points and is the area's best foul shooter at 92.5 percent.

Junior Trenton Tipton – the area's second-leading foul shooter – averages 14.1 points a game. Gavin Porter – an all-Ohioan in 2014 – rounds out the starting lineup. He's a shade under 10 points a game.

Off the bench, the Jets bring in Joel Mott, who has really turned it on as a legitimate scoring threat. Junior Colton Burnheimer is the top sub for the two Jets' bigs.

PARKERSBURG SOUTH PATRIOTS

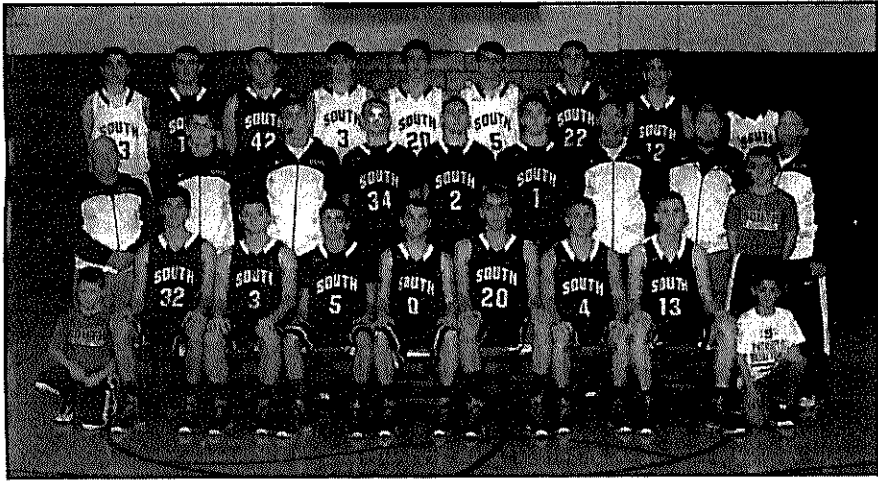


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Parkersburg South boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are manager Cam Fallon, Cody Boggs, Cody Monroe, Logan Fryfogle, Ty Dobson, Tyler Shelton, J.R. Kerr and manager Kaden Marshall. Second row, from left, are team videographer Marion Goldsmith, student manager Alex Townsend, Head Coach Mike Fallon, Andrew Myers, Garrett Gilkeson, Cole Day, assistant coach Bill Marshall, statistician Bill Camp, student manager Noah Barker and assistant coach Chris Hyson. Back row, from left, are Cole Plants, Nick Sanders, Josh Wolfe, Shane Snider, Bobby Fogglin, Brandon Hall, Dylan Ward, Jordan Hockman and Phayzon White.

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**GOOD LUCK TO ALL
TEAMS AT THE OVAC
CHAMPIONSHIPS!**

5A

Continued from Page 18

physical and handled it the best has come out on top the most days."

And the last time the two teams met, it was South that did so. Can they do it again? Fallon hopes so.

"Winning the OVAC Tournament and winning the state championship were two of the biggest goals we wanted to achieve at the start of the season," he said.

South lost in the OVAC semis last season, one year removed from falling to University in the final. This year, Fallon brings a veteran group to Belmont County.

"We're a veteran team, but we're not blessed with great size," he said. "But we're very long and have more length than height."

Cody Monroe is South's point guard. He averages about nine points a game, but is about more than points, Fallon noted.

"He's kind of the engine that makes us go," he said. "He only averages about nine points a game. But if you look at his stats, you see six to seven assists per game, six to seven rebounds and four or five steals per game."

Fallon calls Ty Dobson (14.5 ppg) the team's best shooter.

"When he crosses half court, he's one of those kids that's already in range," he

MORGANTOWN MOHIGANS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
3	Steven Solomon	6-3	11
4	Seth Ray	5-9	10
5	Kenden Reaves	6-6	10
10	Antonio Morgano	5-10	11
13	Felipe Castellanos	5-10	12
15	Nicky Solomon	5-10	10
21	Tyler Shipley	5-10	12
22	Stone Wolfley	6-5	12
23	Zakeem Davis	6-3	12
24	Maverick Wolfley	6-3	10
31	Kenzie Melko	6-3	11
32	C.J. King	6-6	12
33	Thomas Selby	6-3	12
43	Elvin McNally	6-7	11
45	Jacob Workman	6-3	11

Head Coach: David Tallman
Assistant coaches: Dennis Kerns, Denny Crouso, Stephen Sutherland, Matt Lemine

PARKERSBURG SOUTH PATRIOTS			
No.	Name	Height	Gr.
0	Ty Dobson	6-0	12
1	Cole Day	6-5	11
2	Garrett Gilkeson	6-4	11
3	Cody Monroe	6-2	12
4	Brad Emerick	6-0	12
5	Logan Fryfogle	6-0	12
10	Nicholas Sanders	6-0	11
12	Jordan Hockman	5-9	11
13	J.R. Kerr	6-5	12
20	Tyler Shelton	6-7	12
22	Dylan Ward	6-1	11
32	Cody Boggs	6-5	11
34	Andrew Myers	6-2	11
40	Brandon Hall	6-3	10
42	Joshua Wolfe	6-1	11

Head Coach: Mike Fallon
Assistant coaches: William Marshall, Chris Hyson

said. JR Kerr, who had a big game in South's semifinal victory against Steubenville, averages about 9.4 ppg.

Garrett Gilkeson leads the team with about 15 ppg. "That's what I like about

this team," Fallon said. "It's like we have guys that average 15, 13, 12 and 10 points a game. They're OK with that. It's a pretty special group."

Fallon said he goes about four deep off the bench, with players such as Logan

Fryfogle, Cole Day and Cody Monroe getting plenty of playing time.

Tallman, meanwhile, said he sometimes goes 12 deep, depending on the situation.

"They are long and athletic," Fallon said of the Mohigans. "They are one of the biggest teams we've seen all year."

Tyler Shipley and

Stephen Solomon are Morgantown's guards.

Tallman said both players missed the first month of the season. Shipley has a 4-to-1 assist to turnover ratio.

An inside presence is 6-4 junior Kenzie Melko. He is joined in the post by 6-3 Zakeem Davis.

"Those guys like to get out on the wing, get out and dunk the ball," Tallman

said. "They're fun to watch."

Another key inside force comes in the form of 6-6, 320-pound CJ King.

Tallman said Solomon and Davis average about 14 points a game, while Shipley and Melko record about 10. Then the Mohigans have Elvin McNally coming off the bench.

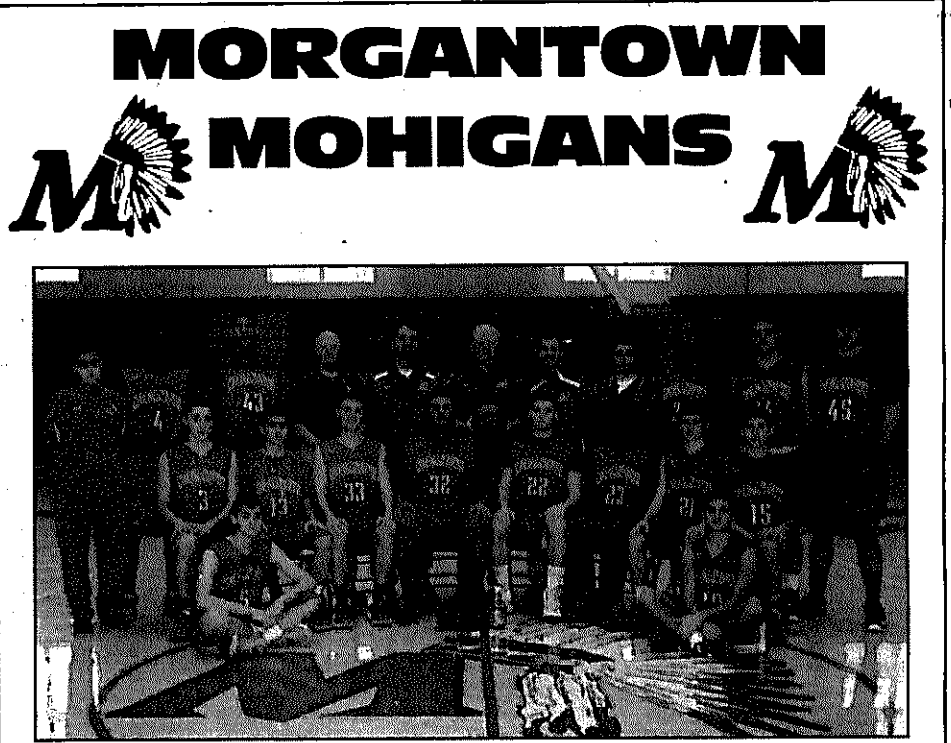


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2014-15 Morgantown Mohigans basketball team. In front, from left, are Torin Hanson and Antonio Morgano. Sitting, from left, are Steven Solomon, Felipe Castellanos, Thomas Selby, CJ King, Stone Wolfley, Zakeem Davis, Tyler Shipley and Nicky Solomon. Standing, from left, are Damien Crayne, Deon Agnew, Elvin McNally, coach Dennis Kerns, coach Denny Crouso, Head Coach Dave Tallman, coach Stephen Sutherland, coach Matt Lemine, Kenzie Melko, Maverick Wolfley and Jacob Workman.

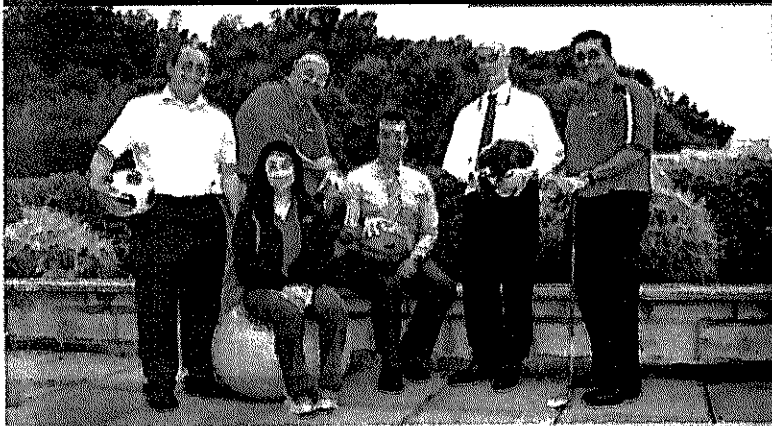
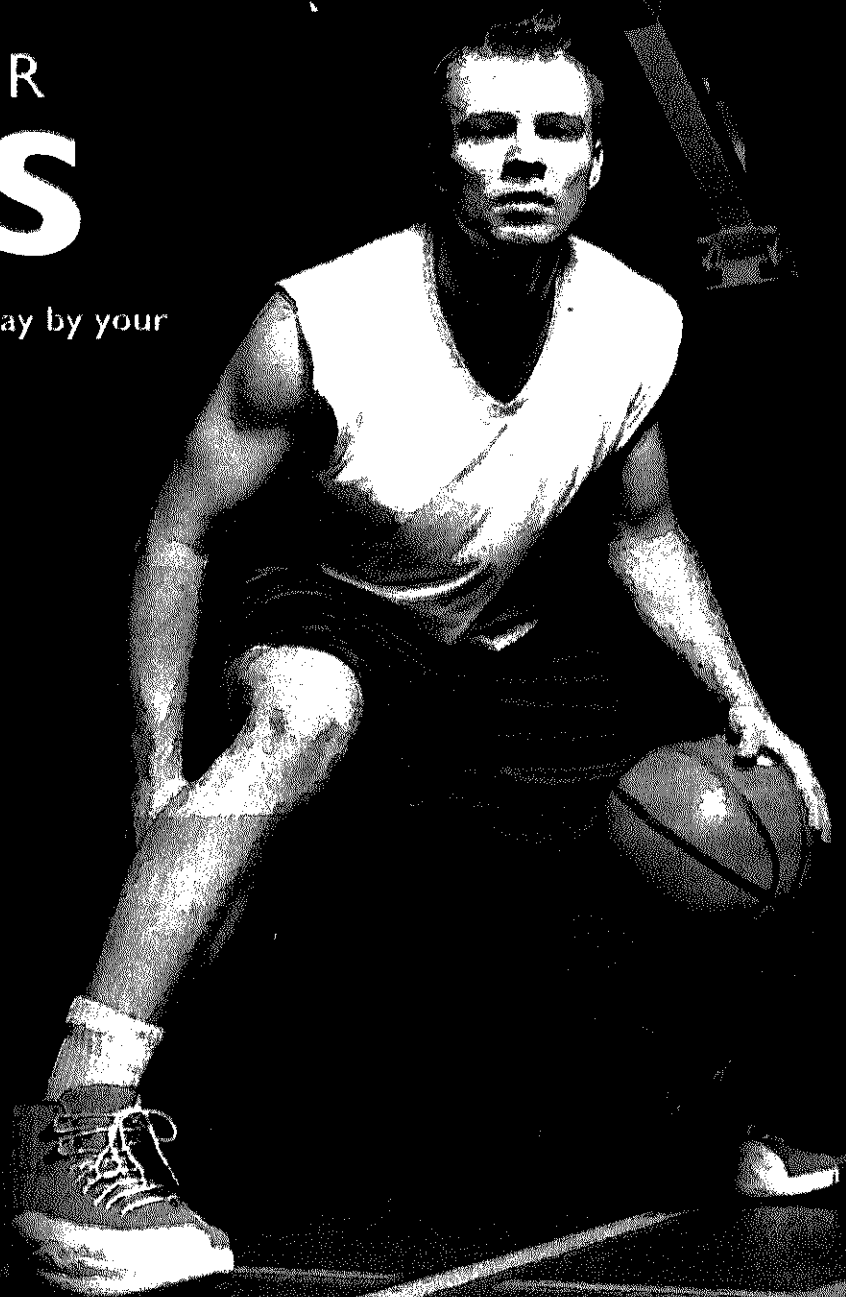
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