

# Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year



Photo by Monica Lahr

Magnolia boys' basketball coach Dave Tallman, right, is congratulated by Doug Huff, retired sports editor of The Intelligencer, after winning the Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year on Monday at WesBanco Arena.

## Tallman Stands Above Rest

### Magnolia boys' boss takes home top honor

By JAKE FLATLEY  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Time and again this season Magnolia's boys' basketball team under the direction of Dave Tallman was put to the test.

Time and again the group passed those tests on their way to a West Virginia Class A basketball title.

Tallman was presented the 2014-15 Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year award Monday night at the Banquet of Champions inside Wes-Banco Arena because of the remarkable season.

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**Dave Tallman**

tribute to all the players, coaches and to everybody I have been associated with," Tallman said. "Over 600 coaches in this conference and just to be mentioned in the top 5 was unreal, really."

His Blue Eagles squad finished the season at 23-5 with just one senior on the team, Spencer Campbell. They rode off into the sunset and claimed the fourth bas-

ketball state title in school history by beating rival Wheeling Central, 51-46, in the Class A championship game.

"We did this with a young team," Tallman said. "Our lone senior captain Spencer Campbell did a great job with leadership and the other guys stepped up. Every time we needed them we never saw panic in their eyes, and no matter what they found a way to grind it out."

Magnolia's victory against 2013-14 state champion Wheeling Central in the title tilt, was its third time beating the Maroon Knights this season. The Blue Eagles beat the likes of Central and Bishop Donahue earlier in the season to win the Undo's Classic and they beat both of those schools again in the Region One, Section One tournament in what was considered

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# TALLMAN

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the toughest region in Class A.

The Blue Eagles also won the OVAC 3A Tournament championship by beating Fort Frye, 67-65. In the semifinals, Magnolia beat Monroe Central in double overtime, 92-85, in a game that saw the state's leading scorer Preston Boswell go for 39 points.

The most remarkable game of Magnolia's season was in the quarterfinals of the state tournament. Tallman's bunch, who were seeded third, rallied from as many as 13 points down in the fourth quarter against sixth-seeded Notre Dame to win 49-48.

"The moment I knew this group was special is earlier in the season when we won the Undo's Classic," Tallman said. "The field there was very difficult and we beat Bishop Donahue and Wheeling Central. That tournament gave us a little indication of how good we could be."

The OVAC, the biggest high school con-

ference in the United States, had five worthy finalists for the award. Mike Blackburn (Steubenville wrestling), Dan Demchak (University cross country), Ben Porter (Union Local boys' basketball), and Jason White (Morgantown girls' basketball) were all presented plaques for being finalists for Coach of the Year in a conference that includes 52 schools and 600 coaches.

Tallman, in his 24th season as head coach at Magnolia, has more than 300 victories and has won three of the four state championships in the program's history. He also is the head golf coach at Magnolia.

"This conference is special," Tallman said. "I know a lot of people in this conference because I have been here a long time and it's just the great people behind the scenes that do all the work."

"I've got a lot of friends and fellow coaches through golf and basketball. It just is a very special conference and it is a great honor to be the No. 1 coach."

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The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION

B

Tuesday,  
May 19, 2015

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## Magnolia's Tallman honored

By JAKE FLATLEY  
For The Times Leader

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See, TALLMAN, Page B2

## ● Tallman

Continued from Page B1

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The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION  
**C**

Sunday,  
May 17, 2015

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## OVAC coach of the year finalists named

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• Award to be presented Monday  
at Banquet of Champions

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is the largest high school conference in the United States with now 52 members.

The number of impressive team performances during the course of a school year are plentiful.

With good teams come good athletes and coaches.

There are more than 600 coaches in the OVAC, many of whom, enjoyed seasons to remember. and Jason White (Morgantown girls basketball).

Only one, however, will be recognized as the Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach of the Year on Monday at the annual Banquet of Champions, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

Still in the running for the award are: Mike Blackburn (Steubenville wrestling), Dan Demchak (University cross country), Ben Porter (Union Local basketball), Dave Tallman (Magnolia basketball)



All five of the finalists will all be recognized at the banquet.

Here's a capsule look, in alphabetical order, at the finalists:

**BLACKBURN** - A multiple-time finalist for the award, the Big Red wrestling program continues to get it done at a high level under Blackburn's guidance.

Big Red won the OVAC Class 5A dual-meet championship at the Bill Hinegardner

See, **OVAC**, Page C2

Continued from Page C1

Championship event. That was just the start for a Steubenville squad, which finished second at the Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament to Parkersburg South.

Steubenville won the Division II sectional at Buckeye Local and then finished second to Claymont in the district tournament at Heath High School.

At the state, however, Big Red avenged that loss. Steubenville finished sixth in Division II, tallying 52 points. It got that high on the board thanks to three all-Ohio finishes, including a second consecutive runner-up performance by Tariq Wilson.

**DEMCHAK** – The Hawks long-distance running program has been one of the state's most impressive for many years.

Much of that is because of the work done by this veteran head coach.

Demchak has turned the Hawks' cross country program into a juggernaut, both in the OVAC and the on the state level.

The University boys and girls swept the Class AAA state titles last fall at Cabell Midland High School.

The girls finished with 54 points and their scoring five was entirely comprised of underclassmen, including three freshmen. They finished with six fewer points than city-rival Morgantown.

The boys tallied 44 points and simply ran away from runner-up Cabell Midland, which finished with 76 points. The Hawks' had the individual state champion in Seth Edwards. For the boys, the title was a repeat win.

University has also won four consecutive OVAC boys titles. The girls, meanwhile, got back on top of the 5A division after watching Morgantown claim the last two crowns.

**PORTER** – It was quite the season, and school year, for this head coach.

Not only did he lead his Jets' basketball team to its first trip to the Division III regional tournament, but he also took over as the district's superintendent and handled a double role seamlessly.

After coming up short in the district and OVAC tournaments in 2014, the Jets went back to work with a renewed resolve and it paid dividends.

Returning six of their top seven players, the Jets finished with a 20-2 record in the regular season. Along the way, they claimed the OVAC Class 4A title with a victory against rival St. Clairsville and they also won the Buckeye 8 championship by defeating East Liverpool.

In the tournament, the Jets dispatched Garaway and then took down St. C., 46-38, for the third time in four meetings to win the district title.

The Jets bowed out in the Division III regional semifinal in Athens against eventual state semifinalist Columbus Eastmoor Academy, 77-71.

**TALLMAN** – The veteran Blue Eagles coach led a squad that featured just one senior to the fourth state championship in the school's history.

In his 24 seasons at the helm, Tallman has eclipsed the 300-win barrier and owns three of the aforementioned state titles.

This season, the Blue Eagles were a junior-dominated squad and finished with a 23-5 record. They knocked off Wheeling Central, which was the 2013-14 state champion, three times during the season, including in the state championship game, 51-46.

The Blue Eagles, who were seeded third in the state tournament, had to rally from as many as 13 down in the fourth quarter against Clarksburg Notre Dame to advance from the quarterfinal round, 49-48.

It was that kind of season for the Blue Eagles. After waiting nearly a week because of weather-related issues, the Blue Eagles withstood a double OT test to get past second-seeded Monroe Central in the OVAC semifinals. They then defeated Fort Frye, 67-65 in the 3A champi-

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**WHITE** – Winning a championship is no easy task. However, this Mohigans' girls basketball coach is certainly making it seem that way.

For the second straight season, White climbed the ladder at the Charleston Civic Center to cut down the nets as the Class AAA state champions. Ironically, Morgantown had to go through the same opponent. It defeated Parkersburg South, 48-31, to repeat.

The Mohigans and Patriots also clashed in the OVAC Class 5A title game, which Morgantown claimed, 55-52. That avenged a semi-final loss from the 2014 campaign.

Morgantown did it with defense, especially at the state tournament. The Mohigans allowed less than 100 points for the three games at the state tourney. It also won by an average of 23 points.

To top the season off, White completed the trifecta. On top of the OVAC and state titles, White directed the Mountain State to a victory in the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game.

Along with his basketball coaching duties, White also serves as the head volleyball coach at Morgantown.

## PARTY LIKE IT'S 1997

The Houston Rockets are back in the Western Conference Finals for first time in 18 years/16

# The Intelligencer. SPORTS

MONDAY  
MAY 18, 2015

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BUSINESS .....15  
CLASSIFIEDS .....17-20

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## Five are Finalists for OVAC Coach of the Year

### Winner revealed tonight at WesBanco Arena

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

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*Please See OVAC, Page 13*



(Continued from Page 11)

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## Memorial Day Tributes

On Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register will publish In Memoriam Tributes for Veterans who have left us.

In Loving Memory Of  
My Dad  
John Smith  
Who Passed Away  
April 21, 1977



To me his name will ever be the key that unlocks the memory of a dear one gone

Remember Your Loved One For Only

**\$44.00\***

\* Includes up to 20 typed lines, border and color photo.

Additional lines \$1.00 each.  
With black and white photo \$40.00.

Use your own verse or choose from those available in our office.

DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE

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## DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE TUESDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

Call our Classified Department  
at 304-233-0100 or stop by our  
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1501 Market St., Wheeling, WV

*The Intelligencer*

Wheeling News-Register