

OVAC to crown golf champs this week at Oglebay Park

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — The first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions of the 2015-16 school year are about to be crowned.

Oglebay Park will play host to the OVAC Golf Championships this week with champions in five classes to be awarded based on 18-hole stroke play.

The tournament begins on Tuesday with Class 4A playing at the Jones Course at Spiedel and Classes 1A and 2A will play concurrently at Crispin Center, but will crown a separate champion.

The other two classes — 3A and 5A — will play on Thursday on Crispin and Spiedel, respectively.

Each class' tournament will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The top five players will earn all-OVAC accolades and the champion will receive the medalist plaque.

The defending champions in the team standings are Madonna (1A), Bridgeport (2A), Linsly (3A), Meadowbrook (4A) and Wheeling Park (5A).

The big-school title race appears to a race between Wheeling Park, which is shooting for its 13th conference title, and Parkersburg South. The southern Patriots denied Park's quest in 2013. It's the only title Park hasn't captured since 2008.

In Class 4A, Mel Pesuit's Colts are amongst the favorites. East Liverpool and Harrison Central could also push Meadowbrook in the team standings.



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Bryce Walrath is one of the players to watch in this week's OVAC Class 4A tournament, which will be held Tuesday at Oglebay Park's Spiedel Course.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

The Potters are led by defending champion Isaac Davidson.

In Class 3A, Linsly is once again the favorite. Coach Mike Church's team has had a very strong season. It could be pushed by Steubenville Central, which just met the Cadets in a five-team event last week.

The Cadets are led by Jordan Patrick and Mario Saludes, while Steubenville Central's Austin Meronoff is a multiple-time all-OVAC performer and leads the Crusaders.

In Class 2A, the defending champi-

on Bulldogs were hit hard by graduation. River and Wheeling Central should contend for the top spot. The Pilots, who are led by the likes of Brandon Smith, Blaze Smos, Zac Smith and Isaac Curtis, own three conference golf titles.

The Maroon Knights, meanwhile, have hoisted the golf pennant 12 times in their school's history.

In Class 1A, Madonna appears to be the favorite once again. The Blue Dons of Coach T.J. Brancazio have won the last six small-school conference titles.

Knights Win 2A OVAC Title

Wensel earns medalist honors shooting 68

By JAKE FLATLEY
Staff Writer

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Wensel earned medalist honors with a 68 three under par as he finished with six birdies. Earning runner-up medalist was the Maroon Knights' Steve Corder with a 71 and right behind Corder in third was teammate Sean McFarland.

"I am happy that we won," Wensel said. "It's good to see everyone playing well and I am happy how the team played. I am glad we won it as a team



Photo provided by CJ McFarland

The Wheeling Central boys' golf team poses for a picture after winning the 2A OVAC title. From left Derrick Harrison, Kyle Wensel, Sean McFarland, Steven Corder, Seth Carenbauer, Jaren Straughn and coach Jim Mortakis.

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"Personally I beat it around a little bit and didn't play like I would like to. I made a few putts and got it in at a good number and didn't make too many mistakes so that helped. Besides that, today was fun and I am glad I won."

Joining Wensel, Corder and McFarland on the All-OVAC team in 2A was Southern Local's Jordan Myers, Bridgeport's Matt Herink and Clay-Battelle's

Brennan Statler. Myers shot a 75 while the Indians finished fifth overall while Statler finished with a 77 overall and was only one of two golfers for the Cee-Bees.

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Colts Take Class 4A Honors

2nd year in a row for Pesuit's squad

By SETH STASKEY
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The individual title?

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Both players signed for solid rounds of 4-over, 75 on the challenging Jones' course, which produced 22 rounds of more than 100 strokes.

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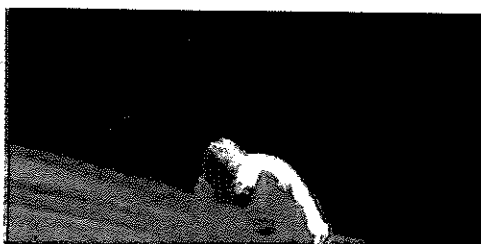
Please See COLTS, Page 15



Madonna Wins Record 7 Straight Championships

Four Blue Dons finish

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Photo by Seth Staskey

Meadowbrooks' Tanner Hewison (left) shakes hands with East Liverpool's Isaac Davidson after winning a playoff hole in the OVAC 4A Championship.

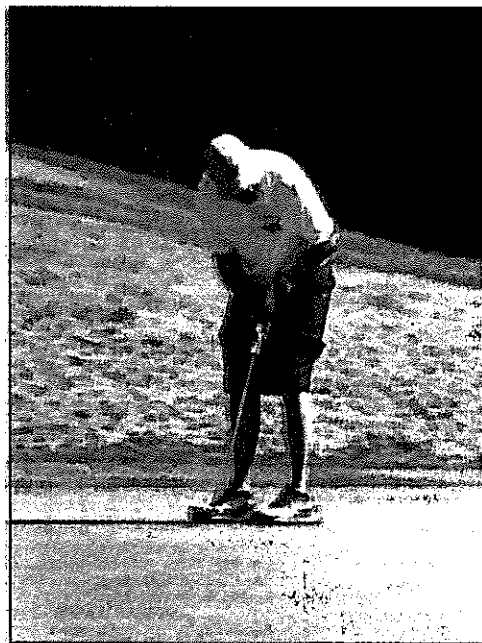


Photo by Jake Flatley

Madonna's Hunter Sistilli putts his ball during the 1A championship.

Madonna Wins Record 7 Straight Championships

Four Blue Dons finish with All-Conference

By JAKE FLATLEY
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Tuesday was a special day for Madonna's golf program.

Led by sophomore Howie Peterson's 67, four under par at Oglebay's Crispin Course, the Blue Dons captured their seventh straight OVAC 1A Golf Championship, breaking Linsly's record of six straight from 2001-2007.

"This feels awesome," Madonna coach T.J. Brancazio said. "This is just a great group of boys and I have had great groups for the last nine years of my tenure. These guys have just worked so hard and is just a great group."

"Howie is just a sophomore and he is one of the best, if not the best golfer in the state. He shoots par or better anywhere we go. Today he shot four under and could have been better."

Peterson earned medalist honors with his blazing score, hitting three birdies on the back nine. Madonna's Hunter Payne was runner-up medalist with a 76 while Nick Higgins of Madonna shot a 78. The Blue Dons' Hunter Sistilli finished with an 85 as all four golfers were named to the All-OVAC team as the team finished with a 306. Tony Sellitti of Madonna finished with an 87, which was seventh best overall but did not count in the team scoring because he was fifth best on the Blue Dons.

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KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 13)

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Shadyside's Dalton Palmer finished with an 86 but his Tigers were not eligible for team scoring with only three golfers. Jaren Straughn of Wheeling Central shot an 83 and was fourth best on his squad while Will Newbold and Sante Carducci both shot a 91 to lead Toronto. The Red Knights finished fourth as a team with a 363.

DONS

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Rounding out the All-OVAC team in 1A was Bishop Donahue's Cub Varner with an 82 overall. The Bishops finished second as a team with a 363 behind efforts from Logan Ruckh (92), Dustin Beazel (93) and Logan Ingram

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Paden City finished fourth overall with a 386 and four golfers under 100. Michael Wilcox led the Wildcats with a 95 while Jake Pierce and Dezirae Stackpole both shot 96. Trinity finished fifth with a 422 and was led by Myles Kochka with a 97 while Conotton Valley checked out with a 439 overall with its leader being Hunter Fluharty with a 98.

COLTS

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"I felt really good on the range and I was chipping and putting well this morning," Hewison said. "I was very nervous going into the playoff. I was just hoping to play decently and do anything but screw it up."

Hewison, who said he shot in the mid 90s in the conference tournament last year, led a quartet of Colts on the all-conference team.

"Winning the team title also makes the individual win even more special," Hewison said. "It's great to be able to share it with my teammates."

"The kids work hard at it and if you work hard, good things happen," Meadowbrook head coach Mel Pesuit said. "We shot a 344 here the other day, so we played a whole lot better. We point to this tournament. The OVAC has always been a feather in our cap if we can get it."

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MARTINS FERRY'S Joel Shane watches a drive sail through the air Tuesday during OVAC Class 4A action.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

sparks Maroon Knights in 2A

• Wensel is medalist with 68

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See, **KNIGHTS**, Page B6



Photo/JAKE FLATLEY

ST. JOHN'S Zac Schnegg lines up a putt Tuesday during the OVAC Class 1A Tournament at Oglebay.

Madonna wins seventh straight

• Peterson leads Blue Dons to 1A championship

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See, **MADONNA**, Page B6

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OVAC 2A Championship (at Crispin Course Oglebay Park, par 71)

Wheeling Central 296, River 335, Bridgeport 360, Toronto 363, Southern Local 374, Clay-Battelle NT, Shadyside NT
W - Wensel 68, Corder 71, McFarland 74, Straughn 83; R - B. Smith 81, Curtis 81, Z. Smith 83, Riley 90; B - M. Herink 77, Nowakowski 82, K. Herink 87, Simmons 114; T - Carducci 91, Newbold 91, Smith 92, Keirse 94; S - Myers 75, Sevek 97, May 100, Dowling 101; C - Statler 77, Poling 110; S - Palmer 86, Weeks 110, Bowers 123.

4A

Continued from Page B1

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OVAC Class 4A at Oglebay Park, Jones Course (Par 71)

Team Scores: Meadowbrook, 311; East Liverpool, 360; Harrison Central, 374; St. Clairsville, 387; Martins Ferry, 401; Edison, 417; Buckeye Local, 429; Indian Creek, 429; Union Local, 428; Oak Glen, 544.

Individual Scores:

M - Tanner Hewison, 75; Zach Clair, 77; Trey Singleton, 78; Devin Webster, 81.
EL - Isaac Davidson, 75; Austin Burson, 88; Alex Tambellini, 94; Liam O'Hara, 103.
HC - Kyle Zaucha, 84; Clint Heavilin, 91; Evan Ossman, 99; Jarrett Edwards, 100.
St. C. - Brendan Vucelich, 86; Jacob Jefferies, 93; Chase Wietha, 104; Ryan Petrozzi, 104.
MF - Joel Shane, 85; Jimmy Yost, 103; Logan Miller, 104; Thomas Orzolek, 109.
E - Josh DeFrank, 94; Tristan Haught, 103; Jonah Moro, 106; Mason Allese, 114.
BL - Jake Savage, 94; Blake Ring-Fish, 103; Emily Holzopfel, 107; Austin Anderson, 125.
IC - John Paulman, 96; Aaron Foldi, 99; Cody Hopkins, 115; Josh Speaker, 119.
UL - Lucas Robb, 105; Bryce Gatti, 113; Josh Britton, 117; Audie Hezoucky, 147.
OG - Jayson Chappell, 114; Josh Cline, 123; Mike Watkins, 153; Kalia Szymanski, 154.
All-OVAC Team - Tanner Hewison, 75 (Medalist, won playoff); Isaac Davidson (EL), 75; Zach Clair (Meadow), 77; Trey Singleton (Meadow), 78; Devin Webster (Meadow), 81.

● Madonna

Continued from Page B1

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OVAC 1A Championship
(at Crispin Course Oglebay Park, par 71)
Madonna 306, Bishop Donahue 363, St. John 369, Paden City 386, Trinity 422, Conotton Valley 439
M - Peterson 67, Payne 76, Higgins 78, Sistiilli 85; B - Varner 82, Ruckh 92, Beazel 93, Ingram 96; S - Ratiaczak 86, Donahue 88, Schnegg 96, Lollathin 99; P - Wilcox 95, Pierce 96, D.Stackpole 96, K.Stackpole 99; T - Kochka 97, Wolfe 107, Spruill 108, Donham 110; C - Fluharty 98, Yosick 108, Hendershot 116, Robinson 117.

Hawks Soar to OVAC 5-A Golf Title

Patriots finish one shot back

By JAKE FLATLEY
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The University and Wheeling Park golf programs have built up a friendly rivalry the past few seasons.

Whether they squared off in the OVAC, regional or state tournament, the two schools seem to be at the top of the standings.

Another chapter was added to the rivalry Thursday as University edged Wheeling Park by one stroke, 324-325, to claim the OVAC 5-A golf title at Oglebay's Speidel Golf Club.

"This is the first time we have won it," University coach Bill Hines said. "We have come in second every year behind Wheeling Park, and this year we were able to get them by one shot. It was rough out there and the greens were tough.

"The course itself just played very difficult and there were very few scores in the 70s, and that's a testament to how difficult this course can be. It's a team game and you have to use four scores, and fortunately our four scores were not too bad.

"It's been Park or us every time for the last four years in the regional which is coming up. The only time we won the regional is when we went on to win the state tournament and break Wheeling Park's streak. It's a good rivalry — a friendly rivalry — and both teams have good players. We look forward

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Blue Eagles Win First OVAC



Photo by Jake Flatley

Chris Stansberry hits out of the sand trap at the OVAC 5-A tournament Thursday.

Moore wins medalist with 67

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — As the scores started to trickle in Thursday at the OVAC Class 3-A Golf Championship, Linsly coach Mike Church started to gauge where his team might fall in the standings.

"It'll be close," he said.

He didn't know how right he'd be.

Magnolia — fueled by Peyton Moore's medalist-winning 67 — finished with a 308, good enough for the school's first OVAC golf title. Linsly, the two-time defending champ, and Steubenville

Catholic were next with scores of 312. The Cadets earned second place on the tiebreaker (fifth-place score).

"I thought it would come down to our No. 4 player, really," said Blue Eagles coach Dave Tallman, who added a conference golf championship to his three OVAC boys' basketball titles.

"I thought our one through three were OK. I challenged Shane Mason a couple of weeks ago and

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HAWSKS

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to that and that is what you want to play for. You want to play against good competition and we are thankful to be in this position."

The Hawks were led by junior Chris Stansberry who finished with a 75. Stansberry fell to Cambridge's Jacob Feldner in a one-hole playoff for medalist honors. Chase Voithofer and Nathaniel Shuman both turned in 80s for University to help it claim the championship.

"This is a beautiful golf course here at Oglebay," Stansberry said. "They do a wonderful job here getting it ready for us to play. I started a little rough out there with four bogeys, but I picked the pace up a little bit so I can kick it into gear and get a job well done."

"We have a great team. Chase had a slight off day but I am sure he will get it back. Shuman, Brayden (Wassick) and I are just ready to go and ready for

states."

Wheeling Park sophomore Jacob Nickell led his club with a 77 while senior Freddie Fitzsimmons shot a 78. Jared Jorden finished with an 84 for the Patriots while teammates Dylan Wojcik and Ryan Payne hit 86s.

OVAC newcomer Warren Local finished third as a team with a 340. The Warriors were paced by Nick Ward and Kyler Dennis, who both shot 81s. Parkersburg South finished fourth as a team with the help of Ohio State recruit Adenna Shears. She shot a 77, which was good enough for All-OVAC honors. Shears joined Nickell, Fitzsimmons, Stansberry and Feldner on the all-conference team. Feldner's 75 helped the Bobcats finish fifth with a 352.

"The front nine I played exactly how I wanted to," Feldner said. "The back nine I knew I had to come out and play and I made a

birdie on 10, which really helped boost my back nine. That playoff hole I was a little aggressive on the first putt but I made it work somehow. This is my sixth time playing here in my high school career and I have never broke 80 until (now). It's a great feeling."

Evan Cuomo paced Brooke with an 84 as the Bruins finished sixth with a 361. Morgantown finished behind the Bruins with a 370 as Stephen Green and Cam Wisman both hit 88. John Marshall finished eighth with a 377 and was led by Stewart Bloch with a 91, while Beaver Local finished with a 379 as senior Josh Newlin led the way with an 87.

Steubenville finished 10th with a 401 and was led by freshman Paul Mastros with an 84. Weir was not eligible for team scoring for using only three golfers, but Noah Woodnicki checked in with a 98.

BLUE EAGLES

(Continued from Page 9)

he came through with an 84. It was good enough to win."

Moore's score made all the difference, though. The only player to shoot under-par and under 70, the junior lit up the picturesque Crispin layout with three birdies on the front nine and two eagles on the back to secure medalist honors for the first time.

"I just wanted to shoot the best round I could so I could help my team," he said humbly. "The most

important part for me was helping these seniors on the team. I'm just so excited we won OVACs."

Moore said he did pretty well in practice and, when it came to the par-4 15th and 16th holes, he was ready.

"I just wanted to hit good drives on them," Moore said of the holes on which he made eagle. "I ended up killing my drives, getting on the greens and making some good putts."

Tallman said he almost did even better.

"He almost had a hole-

in-one on one of those," he said. "That's how well he hits the ball."

Moore was part of one of the first threesomes to finish the par-71 Oglebay course, and when Tallman saw what he'd shot, he knew the Blue Eagles were in for a good day.

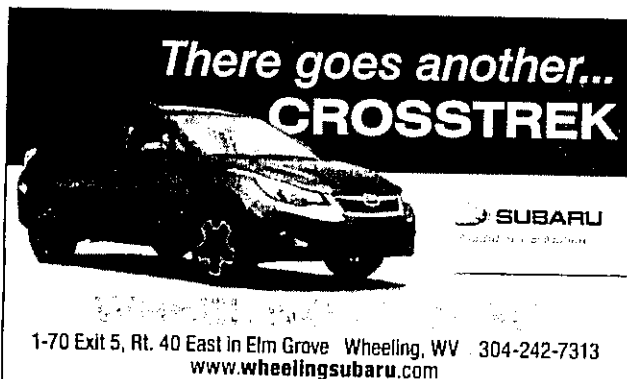
"When you have a Peyton Moore going out first and being a medalist and shooting a 67, that kind of sets the tone for our team."

Matthew Durig and Derrick Blain — both seniors, along with Mason — followed Moore with scores of 77 and 80, respectively.

"When you have seniors that put the time in and love the game, you have to be really tickled for them," Tallman said.

Jordan Patrick paced the Cadets with a 74 and joined Moore on the All-Tournament Team. The group also included Steubenville Catholic's Austin Meronoff (72), and Buckeye Trail's Evan Archer (75) and Will Davis (76).

There goes another...
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Eagles soar to 3A title

By RICK THORP
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“It’ll be close,” he commented.

He didn’t know how right he’d be.

Magnolia – fueled by Peyton Moore’s medalist-winning 67 – finished with a 308, good enough for the school’s first OVAC golf title. Linsly, the two-time defending 3A champ, and Steubenville Catholic were next with scores of 312. The Cadets earned second place on the tiebreaker (fifth-place score).



“I thought it would come down to our No. 4 player, really,” said Blue Eagles Head Coach Dave Tallman, who added a conference golf championship to his three OVAC boys’ basketball titles.

“I thought our one through three were OK. I challenged Shane Mason a couple of weeks ago and he came through with an 84. It was good enough to win.”

Moore’s score made all the difference, though. The only player to shoot under par



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

LINSLY’S Cory Smith putts during the OVAC Class 3A Golf Championship at Oglebay Park’s Crispin Course.

and under 70, the junior lit up the picturesque Crispin layout with three birdies on the front nine and two eagles on the back nine to secure medalist honors for the first time.

“I just wanted to shoot the best round I

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could so I could help my team,” he said humbly. “The most important part for me was helping these seniors on the team. I’m just so excited we won OVACs.”

Moore said he did pretty well in practice and, when it came to the par 4 15th and 16th holes, he was ready.

“I just wanted to hit good drives on them,” Moore said of the holes on which he made eagle. “I ended up killing my drives, getting on

the greens and making some good putts.”

Tallman said he almost did even better.

“He almost had a hole-in-one on one of those,” he said. “That’s how well he hits the ball.”

Moore was part of one of the first threesomes to finish the par 71 Oglebay course, and when Tallman saw what he’d shot, he knew the Blue Eagles were in for a good day.

“When you have a Peyton Moore going out first and

being a medalist and shooting a 67, that kind of sets the tone for our team.”

Matthew Durig and Derrick Blain – both seniors, along with Mason – followed Moore with scores of 77 and 80, respectively.

“When you have seniors that put the time in and love the game, you have to be really tickled for them,” Tallman said.

Jordan Patrick paced the Cadets with a 74 and joined Moore on the All-Tournament Team. The group also included Steubenville Catholic’s Austin Meronoff (72), and Buckeye Trail’s Evan Archer (75) and Will Davis (76).

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