

# Huskies fall to EL in OVAC semi

By CHRIS RAMBO  
For The Times Leader

**EAST LIVERPOOL** — Shortly after taking medalist honors in East Liverpool's golf match against United, senior Isaac Davidson dashed over to Patterson Field and helped the Potter boys soccer team maintain its undefeated record.

Davidson scored the go-ahead goal with 28:15 left in the match as the Potters overcame a halftime deficit to hold off Harrison Central 3-1 in an OVAC 4A semifinal Monday.

East Liverpool improves to 10-0-1 and advances to play either St. Clairsville or Indian Creek for the 4A championship at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Clairsville. Harrison Central drops to 5-5.

Davidson—who joined the soccer team earlier this month—arrived at Patterson Field five minutes before the game. Once the game started, however, he and his teammates found themselves in a most unusual situation.

The Potters have run roughshod over their foes this season, and came into the night having outscored the opposition 103-6. The Huskies, however, were more than ready to provide a challenge.

"With the type of season we're having, we are going to get everyone's best shot and we have to be prepared for that going forward," East Liverpool coach Zack Kinsey said.

Harrison Central was

blown out 6-0 by the Potters earlier in the season, but played tenacious right from the start. The Huskies sat back on defense and held the explosive Potters scoreless in a first half for the first time all season. Despite a number of shots on goal, the Potters were unable to connect.

Isaac Arnold got Harrison Central on the board with 2:33 left before halftime.

"Their defense took away our lanes," Kinsey said. "They came prepared for us and played a great game."

"We played really well on the defensive side of the ball in the first half," Harrison Central coach Eric Sheetz said. "We played with a lot of heart."

The Potters came out visibly fired up for the second half and aggressively went to work.

Klayton Kosek just missed connecting on two occasions in the first couple of minutes, but the Potters' other leading goal-scorer Briar Meek finally broke the ice with 29:10 left in the match to tie the score.

"We just had to keep playing our game," Meek said. "They made it tough on us with everybody

back on defense. We just had to keep giving ourselves chances."

Then, in the blink of an eye, Davidson struck off of a rebound and the Potters had the lead for good.

"My job is to be there in case anything happens and I was fortunate to take advantage," Davidson said. "We were confident we would break through eventually. We had a lot of shots on goal, and once our coaches made some adjustments we were okay."

Meek iced the game with another goal very late in the match. Kosek had two assists, while Shane Talbott had one. Zack Adkins had seven saves in goal. East Liverpool outshot Harrison Central 33-11.

The Potters will look to capture their first ever OVAC title this weekend and are eyeing bigger postseason games down the line. In the long run, they agreed that a test like Monday night will prove beneficial.

"I think a game like tonight is great for us," Kinsey said. "We learned a lot. Going forward we have to come ready and prepared every single game."

"We needed a game like this," Meek said.

## ● OSU

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these 19-, 20-, 21-year-olds."

Jones this season is 26 for 46 (56.5 percent) for 334 yards with two touchdowns and three interceptions and a 118.82 efficiency rating. He has 115 yards on 21 carries (5.5) and a score.

Barrett has 103 yards passing on 20 for 35 (57.1)

**OVAC Soccer**  
Tournament Schedule  
5:30 p.m. starts unless noted  
Today  
Boys  
Magnolia at Steubenville Central  
Harrison Central at East Liverpool  
Wheeling Park at Steubenville  
Tuesday  
Girls  
Steubenville Central at Madonia  
Weir at University  
St. Clairsville at Oak Glen, 6 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Boys  
Linsly at Tyler Consolidated  
Morgantown/Spartan sen at Weir  
Indian Creek at St. Clairsville, 6:15 p.m.  
Thursday  
Girls  
Linsly at Wheeling Central  
Edison at Harrison Central  
Brooke at Parkersburg South  
Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Jordan Vincent leads the Red Devils in goals scored this season. They host Indian Creek Wednesday.

# OVAC soccer tourney begins Monday night

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Five schools will try to defend their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference soccer championships this week as tournament play begins Monday and continues through Saturday's finals.

On the boys side, Linsly (1A/3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Morgantown (5A) were crowned titlists last fall, while Linsly, Oak Glen and Wheeling Park ruled the girls divisions, respectively. The Patriots didn't make this year's field.

Of those trying to go back-to-back, only the Oak Glen girls are the top seed this year. The Golden Bears (9-2) will host No. 4 St. Clairsville (3-5-1) at 5:30 p.m.

In boys Class 4A action, No. 2 St. Clairsville (7-1-1) will look to rebound from a sound beating at the hands of top-seeded East Liverpool (9-0-1) last week. The Red Devils welcome No. 3 Indian

Creek (5-4) to Red Devil Stadium Wednesday in a 6:15 p.m. start.

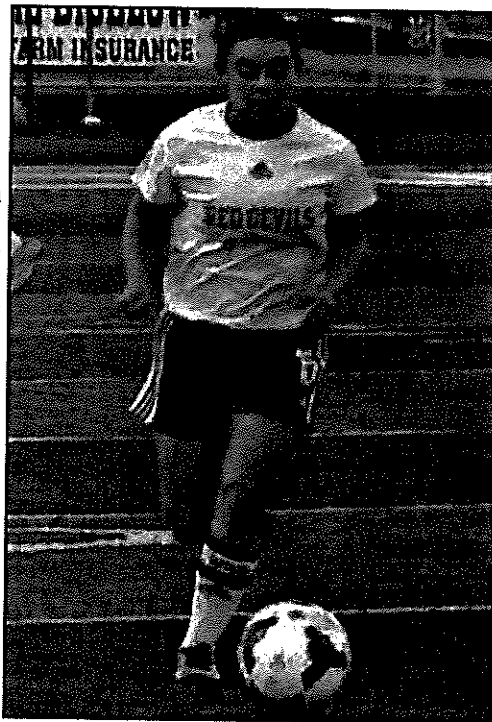
Steubenville Central (7-1) received the top seed in Class 1A/3A and will entertain No. 4 Magnolia (4-6) Monday at 5:30 p.m. No. 2 Tyler Consolidated (7-4) hosts No. 3 Linsly (4-4-1) on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

In Class 5A, Steubenville (7-0-2) is the No. 1 seed and plays fourth-seeded Wheeling Park (8-3-1) Monday at 5:30 p.m. on Reno Field at Harding Stadium, while second-seeded Weir (7-1) and No. 3 Morgantown (6-2-1) square off in Weirton on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

On the girls side, unbeaten University (10-0) earned the top seed in Class 5A and will meet No. 4 Weir (6-3-1) Tuesday in Morgantown at 5:30 p.m. Second-seeded Parkersburg South (9-2) welcomes third-seeded Brooke (8-2) on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

In Class 1A/3A, No. 1 seeded Madonna (8-4-1) meets fourth-seeded

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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Haley Callarik controls the ball during a game earlier this season. The Red Devils travel to Oak Glen Tuesday night.

## ● OVAC

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Steubenville Central (2-6-1) in Weirton Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Second seeded Wheeling Central (6-5) hosts Linsly (4-4-2) on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The other Class 4A semifinal has second-seeded Harrison Central (4-3-2) entertaining No. 3 Edison (4-4-1) in Scio on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The winners will advance to Saturday's title tilts. The girls will play at Wheeling Island Stadium at the following times: 5A: 10 a.m.; 1A-3A: noon; and 4A: 2 p.m. The boys will play at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville at the same times.

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# Five OVAC Schools Will Try to Defend Their Soccer Titles

By **KIM NORTH**  
For the News-Register

Five schools will try to defend their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference soccer championships this week as tournament play begins Monday and continues through Saturday's finals.

On the boys' side, Linsly (1-A/3-A), St. Clairsville (4-A) and Morgantown (5-A) were crowned titlists last fall, while the Cadets, Oak Glen and Wheeling Park ruled the girls' divisions, respectively. The

Patriots didn't make this year's field.

Of those trying to go back-to-back, only the Oak Glen girls are the top seed this year. The Golden Bears (9-2) will play host to No. 4 St. Clairsville (3-5-1) at 5:30 p.m.

In boys' Class 4-A action, No. 2 St. Clairsville (7-1-1) will look to rebound from a sound beating at the hands of top-seeded East Liverpool (9-0-1) last week.

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## OVAC

Continued from page B1

The Red Devils welcome No. 3 Indian Creek (5-4) to Red Devil Stadium Wednesday in a 6:15 p.m. start.

Steubenville Catholic (7-1) received the top seed in Class 1-A/3-A and will entertain No. 4 Magnolia (4-6) at 5:30 on Monday.

No. 2 Tyler Consolidated (7-4) plays host to No. 3 Linsly (4-4-1) at 5:30 on Wednesday.

In Class 5-A, Steubenville (7-0-2) is the No. 1 seed and plays fourth-seeded Wheeling Park (8-3-1) at 5:30 on Monday at 5:30 p.m. on Reno Field at Harding Stadium, while second-seeded Weir (7-1) and No. 3 Mor-

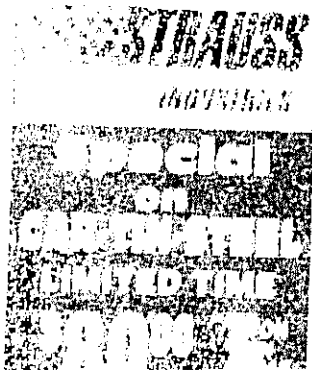
gantown (6-2-1) square off in Weirton at 5:30 on Wednesday.

On the girls' side, unbeaten University (10-0) earned the top seed in Class 5-A and will meet No. 4 Weir (6-3-1) at 5:30 on Tuesday in Morgantown. Second-seeded Parkersburg South (9-2) welcomes third-seeded Brooke (8-2) at 5:30 on Thursday.

In Class 1-A/3-A, No. 1 seeded Madonna (8-4-1) meets fourth-seeded Steubenville Catholic (2-6-1) at 5:30 on Tuesday in Weirton. Second-seeded Wheeling Central (6-5) plays host to Linsly (4-4-2) at 5:30 on Thursday.

The other Class 4-A semifinal has second-seeded Harrison Central (4-3-2) entertaining No. 3 Edison (4-4-1) at 5:30 on Thursday in Scio.

The winners will advance to Saturday's title tilts. The girls will play at Wheeling Island Stadium at the following times: 5-A: 10 a.m.; 1-A/3-A: noon; and 4-A: 2 p.m. The boys will play at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville at the same times.



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Big Red did not score on three of their four penalty kicks.

"Our last shootout was a couple of years ago," Wheeling Park (8-3-2) coach Mario Julian said. "We practice penalty kicks every day leading up to this."

For the Patriots, Landon Irwin, Jonathan Benson and Caige Christmas all scored in the shootout.

"I told them to keep the ball low and on target, and they did a good job of that," Julian said.

Both teams had one shot saved, while Big Red had two kicks that were not on target. The first kick sailed over the goal, while the fourth kick sailed wide.

"We determined who would shoot at practice," Bowers said. "We picked who we thought would be the best in a shootout. It just wasn't our turn."

Ryan Delelles, the third shooter was the only to convert a penalty kick in the shootout for Steubenville.

"We kept Ryan in the middle," Bowers said. "We had two seniors as our last two kickers."

By scoring on their first shot of the shootout, the Patriots were able to put the pressure on Big Red.

"We decided the order based on practice," Julian said. "We started with the two seniors, and then we had Caige third. Caige is very good."

"We have had a few penalty kicks this season, and we have done pretty well with them."

"We wanted to put pressure on them, and we did by making our first three in a row."

The fifth shooters were not needed to determine the outcome.

"We told them just to shoot their shot," Bowers said. "We told them to shoot like they did back at practice. We had one sail over the goal, and one sail wide."

At the end of the two overtime periods, Big Red goalie Tyler Clevenger recorded six saves.

Wheeling Park goalie James Miller made two saves.

Big Red scored first in regulation to take a 1-0 lead.

The goal came off of a free kick with a little more than 24 minutes to play in the first half.

Delelles took the kick, and he tapped it to Ethan Brown, who ripped a shot into the far corner giving the boys from Jefferson County a 1-0 lead with 24:03 showing on the scoreboard clock.

"Greg and I have a ton of respect for each other," Julian said. "He has built a solid program with hard work and defense, and that is similar to my philosophy."

Wheeling Park answered with a goal 11 minutes later.

Benson fired a shot into the net off of a pass from Christmas to tie the score at 1 with 13:06 left to play in the first half.

The Patriots are scheduled to play in the tournament final at 10 a.m. Saturday down at St. Clairsville. Wheeling Park will play the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between No. 2 seed Weir and

**Prep Roundup**

Park.

For the purpose of the teams' records, state rule in Ohio and West Virginia consider the game a tie as there is no overtime or shootouts in a regular season game.

**OVAC Semifinals  
5A GIRLS'**

**John Marshall 3, Indian Creek 1**  
WINTERSVILLE - Torie Darrow, Lainey Brown and Erin Smith all found the back of the net for goals to push John Marshall.

The lone goal from Indian Creek came from Kelsey Lewis.

**4A BOYS'**

**East Liverpool 3, Harrison Central 1**  
EAST LIVERPOOL - Isaac Davidson scored the go-ahead goal as East Liverpool defeated Harrison Central in an 4A OVAC semifinal. Briar Meek tallied two goals for the Potters (10-0-1) while Klayton Kosek had two assists. Isaac Arnold had the lone goal for the Huskies (5-5).

**Wheeling Park Beats Big Red In Shootout to Win OVAC Semifinal**

By AARON PETCHAL  
For The Intelligencer  
STEUBENVILLE - After 90 minutes of soccer was unable to determine a winner, No. 1 seed Steubenville and No. 4 seed Wheeling Park headed to a shootout to determine the winner of the OVAC Class 5A Semifinal played on Reno Saccoccia Field at Harding Stadium. In the end, the Patriots converted their first three penalty kicks of the shootout, en route to a 1-1 (3-1) victory to advance to the Class 5A Final. "This is the second time we have lost on penalty kicks," Big Red (7-0-3) coach Greg Bowers said. "The first time was in my first year as head coach, and we lost to Wheeling Park on penalty kicks."

(Please see **PARK**,  
Page 14)

**Steubenville Catholic's Early Flurry Ends in Semi Win Against Magnolia**

By AARON PETCHAL  
For The Intelligencer  
STEUBENVILLE - The start was perfect. The top-seeded Steubenville Catholic boys' soccer team scored a goal just 19 seconds into its OVAC Class 1A/3A Boys Soccer Semifinal against fourth-seed Magnolia, and the Crusaders scored goals on their first four shots of the game en route to shutting out the Blue Eagles, 5-0, Monday evening at the Tony Rechella Soccer Field. "That is something we wanted to do," Crusaders 1 (9-1) coach Steve Kopcha said. "We wanted to get off to a quick start. Scoring on our first shot in under a minute gave us the quick start we were looking for."

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Page 14)

## CATHOLIC

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The Crusaders scored four goals in the first half and one in the second half.

"Catholic Central is a really good team," Magnolia (4-7) head coach Spencer Pritchard said.

Connor Pecar and Jacob Rigaud each contributed two goals for the Crusaders, while Brady Bolger delivered one.

Also for the Blue and Gold, Kevin Herrmann recorded two assists, while Caleb Moore, Joey Schlich and Bolger all collected one.

The hosts used two goalies in the game. Austin Fowkes started the game in the net, and he was replaced by Travis Shore with under 15 minutes to play in the game. Neither goalie made a save.

Tyler Kazlman made three saves in goal for Magnolia.

"We played them earlier in the season, and we expected them to be much improved," Kopcha said about the Blue Eagles. "We expected them to be stronger and tougher, and that is exactly what they were. It was a well-played game on their part. They have improved a lot."

The hosts outshot the visitors, 16-3, in the game. Steubenville Catholic took nine shots on goal, while Magnolia totaled one shot on goal.

Madonna's shot on goal came with 27:22 left to play in the game. The shot hit the top corner of the goal, where it bounced off the crossbar and the post.

"Our defense has been consistently quite all season," Kopcha said. "We have not allowed a lot of goals. They have done their job quietly. They have gotten the results. They are playing with confidence."

Catholic Central's offensive pressure forced Magnolia into taking 18 goal kicks in the game, while the Crusaders took four.

The victors held an 8-2 advantage in corner kicks.

"It is pretty awesome to be in the tournament," Magnolia senior Alex Anderson said. "This is our last time to be able to do it. We didn't make it a couple of years ago. To make it this year is a big accomplishment."

The Crusaders are scheduled to play in the tournament final at noon Saturday down at St. Clairsville. Catholic Central will play the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between No. 2 seed Tyler Consolidated and No. 3 seed Linsly.

# SCC Wins First Crown

By AARON PETCHAL  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Ten minutes is nothing compared to 25 years.

Kevin Herrmann netted his second goal of the game with 2:58 left in the first overtime period to lift the top-seeded Steubenville Catholic boys' soccer team to a 3-2 victory against third-seeded Linsly in the OVAC Class 1-A/3-A Tournament final Saturday at Red Devil Stadium.

"It feels great," Steubenville Catholic (10-1) coach Steve Kopcha said. "It is very exciting. The kids worked hard. We are lucky and thankful."

"We are happy to get a win against a difficult opponent."

The game was tied at 2-2 at the end of regulation.

"I am so proud of my team," Linsly (5-5-2) coach Eric Fries said. "This team has come a long way since the beginning of the season, and to make it back to the finals against Steubenville (Catholic) is a big accomplishment."

"Both teams played hard. It was a good final."

"They got up two and then the comeback happened. We have a thin bench, so fitness was a concern. The

See, SCC, Page B2



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Linsly's Morgan Brunner (13) works around the defense of Madonna's Makayla Virden on Saturday.

## Linsly Claims Title

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It certainly felt like a championship game. After a scoreless first half, the Linsly girls' soccer team tallied two second-half goals and went on to win the 1-A/3-A OVAC Championship game for the second year in a row. The Cadets secured a 2-1 victory against Madonna at Wheeling Island Stadi-

um on Saturday morning, which was also a rematch of last year's OVAC title game.

The Blue Dons scored a goal in the final minute of the contest, but the Cadets were able to hold their own and take home the hardware.

"It was definitely a nail-biter in the first half," Cadets coach Chelsea

See, Linsly, Page B2

# Weir Tops Park in 5-A

By AARON PETCHAL  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The celebration was 19 years in the making.

Ethan Gilbert scored with 10:28 left to play in the second half enabling the No. 2-seeded Weir boys' soccer team to defeat No. 4 seed Wheeling Park, 1-0, in the OVAC Class 5-A Tournament final Saturday at Red Devil Stadium.

"I can't describe how good this feels," second-year Weir (10-1) coach Jim Luevano said. "These kids have worked really hard the last couple weeks leading up to the OVAC Tournament. We have been doing a lot of finishing drills, and it paid off. We only scored one goal, but that is all we needed."

Gilbert's goal came less than two minutes after Wheeling Park senior tri-captain Nick Nestor was injured in front of the goal as a result of a collision with another player. Nestor was down on the field for several minutes. He ended up being taken off of the field on a stretcher and taken by ambulance to a local hospital.

"It is hard for the team the injured player plays for," Wheeling Park (8-4-2) coach Mario Julian said. "They saw him lying there. We just couldn't

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Miazgowicz said. "We talked a little bit about certain things at halftime and we were able to come out a little bit stronger and a little bit more prepared in the second half. Thankfully that paid off."

In a defensive struggle of a first half, it appeared Linsly got on the board first. With 21:24 left before intermission, a Cadets attempted a shot on goal. The Linsly section of the crowd started to cheer, but the ball did not find the back of the net and neither team managed to dent the scoreboard as they went into the locker rooms with a 0-0 stalemate.

The game remained scoreless until 9:29 into the second half when Linsly's Kaitlin Snyder booted a rocket toward the Blue Dons goal. Goalkeeper Tessie Tokash smacked the ball down, but the ricochet hit the inside of the net and the Cadets got on the board first, 1-0.

"We have a lot of different girls who have been scoring goals throughout the season," Miazgowicz said. "It's really great. Everybody is shooting and everybody is getting opportunities, and two happen to go in. So it's great."

The Blue Dons had an opportunity to tie the score

## PREP ROUNDUP

as they controlled the ball in Linsly's territory. Cadets goalkeeper Vivian Allison tried to save the ball, but the Blue Dons remained with the possession and earned a small empty-net opportunity. Linsly defenders stepped up and denied Madonna with the game-tying goal.

"This is absolutely a classic soccer game," Blue Dons coach Bob Kolanko said. "For the first 48 minutes there was no scores. It was actually back and forth, back and forth. You knew any team that was going to make a mistake was the one that was going to be the problem. We made one little mistake and they ended up getting one goal on us. And they fought back."

The Cadets increased their lead to 2-0 with 5:54 left. Miyah Kureishy towered the ball at the perfect height, just high enough that Tokash was able to get a small finger on it, but not enough to fully block it as the ball found the back of the net.

The game was not out of reach just yet, though. With 41 seconds to play, Madonna's Haley Timko scored on a direct kick to put the score at 2-1 with the clocked stopped due to a dangerous

play.

"It's definitely nerve racking in that situation," Miazgowicz said about the goal. "We pulled an extra player back to just help out defensively, but trying to play calm and collective. Getting the balls to the outside of the field and up is really all you can do."

The goal proved to be too little too late as the clock ran down and the Cadets claimed the title for the second year in a row.

The Blue Dons have four games left before their post-season starts.

"We were very heavy on our games in the beginning of the season," Kolanko said. "We planned it so there's just a few games left after this so we can relax more players, take care of some injuries and get ready for the next round of the tournament."

The Cadets are 7-4-2 and their season is winding down as the OVAC Tournament was the main one of their season, as always.

"It's definitely exciting," Miazgowicz said. "Obviously this is the main tournament that we play throughout the entire season. It's all what we look forward to for the entire year."

### 4-A OVAC Championship

**Oak Glen 3, Edison 0**  
WHEELING — Top-seeded Oak Glen scored two goals in the final 12:29 of the game to pull away and defeat third-seeded Edison.

Mollie Williams tallied two goals to lead the way offensively for the girls from Hancock County while Emily Bodo also delivered a goal for the victors.

Goalie Domenica Price made nine saves for the Golden Bears and Emily Smith made 11 saves for Edison.

### BOYS'

### 4-A OVAC Championship

**East Liverpool 9 St. Clairsville 0**  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — East Liverpool denied St. Clairsville of a repeat of the title as the Potters claimed the hardware in the shutout. Senior Klayton Kosek scored five goals for the Potters (11-0-1). Shane Tal-

bott, Nykolos Pelley, Briar Meek and Robert Hill also tallied goals. Josh Recktenwald led the assist attack with two.

For the Red Devils, freshman Ryan Davenport tallied 15 saves while Potters goalkeeper Zack Adikins recorded 14.

### Regular Season

**Minerva 2, Steubenville 0**  
MINERVA — Phillip Blackburn and Jacob Stewart found the back of the net as Minerva defeated Steubenville.

Big Red's (7-1-3) goalkeeper tallied 12 saves in the contest while Lions' goalie, Logan Monter had eight.

Alec Muller also had an assist for Minerva.

### GOLF

(at River Greens Golf Course, par 72)

### Coshocton

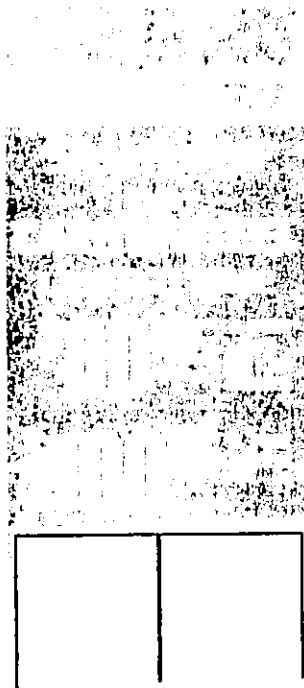
### Eastern District Open

Garaway 309, John Glenn 314, Meadowbrook 320, Hiland 321, Strasburg 323, Coshocton 328, Indian Valley 328, Ridgewood 329, Cambridge 329, Dover 332, River View 333, Tuscarawas Valley 336, Harrison Central 349, Claymont 349, West Muskingum 355, New Philadelphia 364, Steubenville 370, Morgan 376, St. Clairsville 388, Carrollton 403, Newcomerstown 411, East Liverpool NT, Union Local NT

WEST LAFAYETTE — Meadowbrook was the highest-placed OVAC school in third, just 11 strokes behind first. Taylor Gander of Meadowbrook shot a 76 while Tanner Hewison finished with a 77 as the duo have become deadly for the Colts.

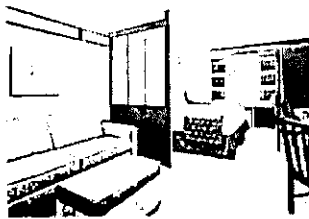
Harrison Central put together a solid team round finishing right in the middle of the pack. The Huskies were led by Bryce Walrath with an 85 and Kyle Zaucha with an 86. Paul Mastro's of Steubenville finished with an 85 while Brendan Vucelich led St. Clairsville with a 90.

East Liverpool and Union Local only used three golfers but the Potters' Austin Burson cranked out an 85 and Alex Tambellini shot an 88.



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kids gave every effort they could out on the field. We wanted to improve every day, and we have done that. To make it to the finals and to play like this, this is a good result for us."

The title was the first for Steubenville Catholic in program history. The Crusaders first season as a varsity team was 1989.

"It is well worth the wait," Kopcha said.

Connor Pecar recorded the other goal for the Crusaders. Jacob Rigaud and Herrmann each collected an assist.

Austin Fowkes finished with six saves for Steubenville Catholic.

Mike Reed delivered a goal and an assist to lead the way offensively for the Cadets, while Jamal Davis also scored a goal. Mason Obeldobel also tallied an assist for Linsly. Goalie

Chaz Graphy made three saves.

"I am proud of Corey Cunningham and Mike, our two captains," Fries said. "Corey caused a lot of havoc out on the field. They both played tremendous. We are going to miss both of them.

"We have a lot of new guys this season. We lost 12 kids to graduation last year and a couple others didn't come back, so it is like having a whole new varsity team.

"Our kids are inexperienced with stuff like this. They don't understand about shutting a team down in the first 10 minutes.

"Steubenville Catholic is an older team. They have a lot of experienced kids. They were last year, but they did not lose as many kids as we did.

"The kids just fought so hard."

## **PARK**

*Continued from page B1*

regroup.

"Weir deserved to win. They pass the ball well."

Both teams were affected by the injury.

"You never want to see that happen," Luevano said.

"You never want to see that. Hopefully he is fine. Hopefully, he is all right. It was an unfortunate accident."

Nestor was injured with 11:52 left to play in the game.

"We told the kids you never know how a team is going to respond when one of their players get injured like that," Coach Luevano said. "They may come out really hard and fight for the team.

"We wanted to come out and put the ball into the back of the net. We told them we had to finish."

Chayton Luevano assisted on Gilbert's goal.

The Red Riders gained possession of the ball on the Patriots end of the field, and Chayton Luevano sent a pass through the Wheeling Park to defense to Gilbert, who ripped a shot into the

net.

"This is great for Weir soccer," Coach Luevano said. "We were always in control. We played real good soccer. The kids are really focused on what they have to do. When we do what we are supposed to do and play the way we want to play, the game usually works out well for us."

Michael Ceraolo made one save for the Red Riders.

"They're good," Julian said of the Red Riders. "They were the better team."

James Miller made four saves for the Patriots.

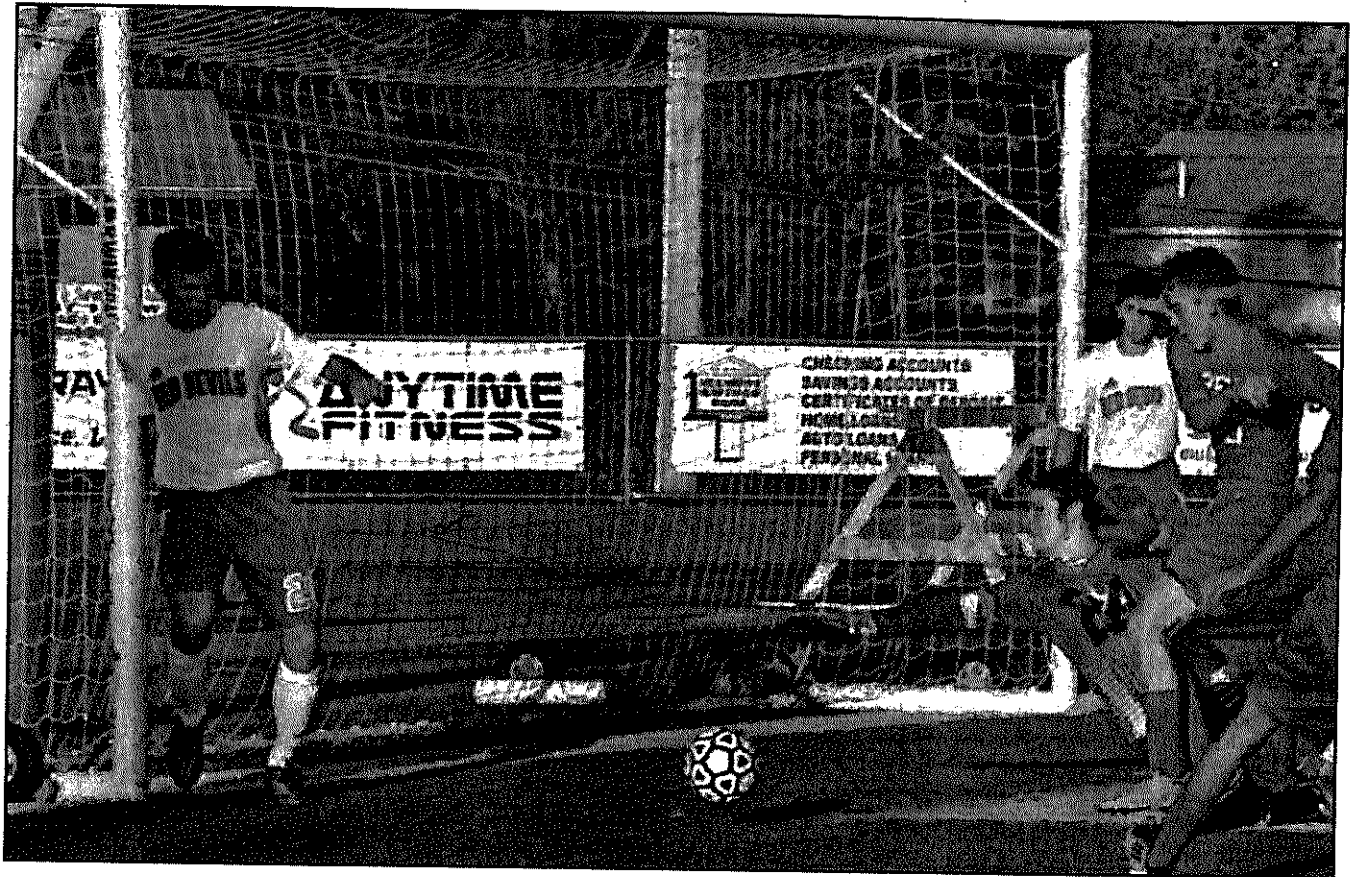
Nestor recorded a save in the first half when he cleared the ball off of the line in front of a wide-open goal.

"Nick is a leader on the field," Julian said. "I think you have an emotional let-down when you see your leader go down like that.

"I don't want to take anything away from Weir. They are a really good team."



# OVAC Boys Soccer



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Daniel Gross (20) and goalkeeper Devin Case (in blue) watch the ball trickle towards the net as Indian Creek's Andrew Price (pink headband) chases it during Wednesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A tournament semifinal at Red Devil Stadium. The Red Devils won, 4-1.

## St. C. advances to 4A finals with 4-1 victory over Creek

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — The "Walking Wounded," aka the St. Clairsville boys soccer team, continues to work its magic with several key pieces out of the lineup.

Down four seniors, the second-seeded and defending champs (8-1-1) advanced to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A championship game with a 4-1 victory over visiting Indian Creek (5-5-1) Wednesday night at Red Devil Stadium. They will play Saturday at 2 p.m. at home against top-seeded East Liverpool, which they defeated last year for the title.

"We're a work in progress right now," St. Clairsville head coach Gary Watt explained. "We've got some guys out with injuries and we've had to move some kids around. With not much depth and losing four seniors like that, it makes a big difference."

However, he was quick to praise the players who did play.

"We had some young guys step tonight," he noted. "Matt Cervelli

the half on the first of three goals by St. Clairsville senior sensation Jordan Vincent. He took a beautiful throw-in from Daniel Gross and beat Indian Creek goalkeeper Zach Barker with a laser to the top shelf of the cage in the 15th minute.

"That's probably the best half we've played all year," Indian Creek head coach Chuck Brettell assessed. "We've come a long since we played them a couple of weeks ago. We had more shots (on goal) tonight in the first half than we had in that entire game."

The Red Devils were buzzing around the Redskins' net like bees early in the second half, but Barker made a great play to come out and deny Vincent. He then made a kick save on a blast by Bailey Balcar, but he couldn't stop Vincent's header in the box off a corner kick by Kyle Hendershot in the 48th minute.

"I have to give Kyle credit," Watt said. "He stepped up and played in the middle. He created so many opportunities."

Brettell said the goal was a back-breaker.

goalkeeper Devin Case left the game momentarily with an apparent cut on his head. he returned five minutes later.

That seemed to spark the hosts as Jacob Hawthorne scored a beautiful goal to up the margin to 3-0 in the 57th minute.

However, Indian Creek didn't quit as Andrew Price lobbed a shot from just outside the top of the box that was just out of the reach of Case, cutting the lead to 3-1 two minutes later.

The Redskins nearly closed the gap even further as Nick Quaigg had a golden opportunity when Case bobbed a free kick, but his point-blank shot sailed over top of the net.

Vincent iced the verdict two minutes later when he sent a right-footed shot from outside the box that cleared Barker's reach and tickled the twine for the final of 4-1.

"Jordan is a horse and we're going to ride him," Watt said.

The soft-spoken Vincent said it's all about the team.

"Our team chemistry has been the



TL Photo/KIM NORTH

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However, he was quick to praise the players who did play.

“We had some young guys step tonight,” he noted. “Matt Cervelli played defense the entire game. He hasn’t played there before tonight. He did a spectacular job.”

“We are absolutely excited about the way we’re starting to come together.”

The Redskins dominated the first half but found themselves down 1-0 at

the half on the first of three goals by St. Clairsville senior sensation Jordan Vincent. He took a beautiful throw-in from Daniel Gross and beat Indian Creek goalkeeper Zach Barker with a laser to the top shelf of the cage in the 15th minute.

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“I have to give Kyle credit,” Watt said. “He stepped up and played in the middle. He created so many opportunities.”

Brettell said the goal was a back-breaker.

“That goal took all the wind out of our sails,” he admitted. “I told the kids they were going to come out strong in the second half and they did. They got that goal and we were suddenly down 2-0.”

St. Clairsville dodged another injury bullet moments later when

goalkeeper Devin Case left the game momentarily with an apparent cut on his head. he returned five minutes later.

That seemed to spark the hosts as Jacob Hawthorne scored a beautiful goal to up the margin to 3-0 in the 57th minute.

However, Indian Creek didn’t quit as Andrew Price lobbed a shot from just outside the top of the box that was just out of the reach of Case, cutting the lead to 3-1 two minutes later.

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“Jordan is a horse and we’re going to ride him,” Watt said.

The soft-spoken Vincent said it’s all about the team.

“Our team chemistry has been the key this season,” he pointed out. “We’ve had so many injuries, but guys keep stepping up. That’s what we need.”

Case finished with 15 saves. Barker charted 13.

*North can be reached at [knorth@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:knorth@timesleaderonline.com)*

## OVAC Soccer Championship



**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Daniel Gross and East Liverpool's Josh Recktenwald race for possession of the ball during the first half of Saturday's OVAC Class 4A championship game held at Red Devil Stadium. The Potters cruised to victory, 9-0.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

# St. C. blanked in 4A final

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — St. Clairsville's bid to repeat as Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A boys' soccer champions was derailed Saturday by a blue-and-white freight train named East Liverpool.

The top-seeded Potters (11-0-1) rolled to a 9-0 whitewashing of the No. 2 Red Devils (8-2-1) on the artificial surface at Red Devil Stadium to avenge last year's shootout loss. The victory also came on the heels of a 10-1 shellacking the winners recorded earlier this month in the Potter City.

"That's a special team they've got there," St. Clairsville head coach Gary Watt said of the Potters. "They've got some great scorers and they took advantage. They had four beautiful goals that would've scored on anybody."

St. Clairsville entered the contest with freshman Ryan Davenport in between the

pipes as senior Devin Case was sidelined with concussion protocol after being injured in Wednesday night's semifinal win over Indian Creek.

"He might have misplayed one or stepped the wrong way on one, but the bottom line is I'm very proud of the way he played," Watt added of Davenport. "He stepped up in a big game. I'd be lying if I told you he wasn't overwhelmed a little bit. Ryan played well all through the game."

The senior-laden Potters had this date circled on their calendars after losing the heart-breaker last fall.

"We always have this day circled. They took the Buckeye 8 and OVAC Class 4A championships away from us," East Liverpool head coach Zack Kinsey said. "We just wanted to come back this season and get those championships back."

The Potters were led by senior Klayton Kosek who scored five of the nine goals. That pushes his season total to 40, to go

along with 28 assists. Shane Talbott, Nykolas Pelley, Briar Meek and Robert Hill also notched goals. Assists went to Josh Recktenwald (2), Pelley, Talbott, Isaac Davidson and Dallas Brewer.

"He's a special player," Kinsey said. "This whole team is special. The seniors are a great group."

Watt agreed.

"When you've got a group of seniors like they do, you can do some pretty good things," he explained. "There's a reason why they are undefeated."

East Liverpool tied Steubenville in its season opener before running off 11 straight victories.

Davenport finished with 15 saves. Zack Adkins recorded 14 for the Potters.

In addition to Case, St. Clairsville once again played without the services of senior starters Lucas Heidelberg and Merrick Malin.

The Red Devils host Beaver Local Monday.