

Madonna Defeats Paden City For Class 1A Volleyball Title

By AARON PETCHAL
For The News-Register
STEUBENVILLE - The outcome was the same.

The No. 1 seed Madonna volleyball team defeated No. 3 seed Paden City twice during the season prior to the Blue Dons and Wildcats taking the court against each other in the OAC Class 1A Volleyball Tournament Final Saturday at the Crimson Center.

The Blue Dons entered the match at full strength as senior standout Monica Bragg returned to the Madonna lineup after missing her team's match Thursday night at Toronto.

In the end, Bragg's play and presence on the court helped to lift the Blue Dons past the Wildcats, 18-25, 25-10, 25-21, 21-25, 16-14.

"It is exciting," Madonna (13-4) coach Jennifer Ewusiak said. "The girls worked really hard. We had a few bad moments, but we recovered and got the win."

The momentum switched sides throughout the match.

"It was two evenly matched teams out there," Paden City (21-12) coach Fred King said. "Madonna was the regular season champion. They have 10 seniors, so they were the odds on favorite to win. We have three seniors.

"We had a window of opportunity. We had two serves hit the net, and we had one serve go out.

"We had three bad serves. When we had the chance for lady momentum to switch jerseys, we had some bad serves. We had some inopportune bad serves, and we had some inaccurate passing at crucial times.

"We had a window of opportunity. We had a chance.

"They were able to have Bragg in the front row when we didn't want her there. We wanted her to be in the back row. I told Jeff (Bowers) we would win if

lead, but Madonna responded with three straight points of its own to take the lead. Neither team was able to pull away in the fifth game as the two teams traded the lead back and forth.

Madonna managed to create some breathing room with a 3-0 spurt to take an 11-8 lead forcing Paden City to call timeout, but the Wildcats came back to tie the score at 12.

The Blue Dons scored the next two points to put themselves one point away from winning the match, but the Wildcats countered by scoring the next two points to draw even at 14. The see-saw affair finally came to a close as Madonna ended up scoring the next two points to win the game and the match, 3-2.

"I want to thank our three seniors - Cydney Blatt, Taylor Cosper and Dezirae Middleton. We have had a good season so far. Our season is not over with. We still have eight matches left," King said.

CLASS 2A

River d. Clay-Battelle
25-23, 25-20, 25-20

STEUBENVILLE -

Jensen Caretti closed with six points, 15 kills, three blocks and 12 digs for River while Bailey Caldwell added 11 points, 13 kills, two aces and two digs.

Freshman Lauren Flannery was on time setting up both finishing with eight points and 19 assists for the Pilots.

Madalyn Pennington led the Lady CeeBees with 13 points, one kill, two blocks and two aces.

CLASS 3A

Buckeye Trail d.

Fort Frye

25-20, 23-25, 25-17, 25-20

STEUBENVILLE -

Karlye Hensley finished with 12 points, 13 kills, 14 digs, and eight blocks for Buckeye Trail.

Alexis Wheeler helped the Warriors' cause with

serves. When we had the chance for lady momentum to switch jerseys, we had some bad serves. We had some inopportune bad serves, and we had some inaccurate passing at crucial times.

"We had a window of opportunity. We had a chance.

"They were able to have Bragg in the front row when we didn't want her there. We wanted her to be in the back row. I told Jeff (Bowers) we would win if Bragg was in the back row."

The win gave Madonna its third OVAC Tournament title, and it was the team's second championship under the guidance of Ewusiak. The Blue Dons also won a championship under Ewusiak in 2012, and they won the title in 2001 under the direction of Dawn Hawthorne.

Individually for Madonna, Bragg recorded 27 points, 22 kills, seven blocks and nine digs, Eva Bowser ended up with 15 points, 12 kills, two blocks and one kill and Chloe Conner contributed four points, 32 assists, three aces and five digs.

Also for the Blue and White, Maddi Moore delivered six points, one kill, three aces and 15 digs, Gabriella Anile tallied three points, three kills, one assist and 13 digs and Liv Mogan collected three points, five kills and three digs.

"It is something that will help us going forward," Ewusiak said about winning the title means to the program.

"The win gives us momentum going into sectionals and regionals."

Individually for Paden City, Aubrey Neff finished with 18 points, 15 assists, one ace and seven digs, Blatt tallied 16 points, 17 kills, two aces and seven digs and Taylor Cospers recorded 23 points, 22 assists and five digs.

"Paden City is a really good team," Ewusiak said. "I knew it was not going to be an easy match. We were able to come out and win the game.

"They have some very good hitters. They move the ball around. I was happy to get the win."

Paden City opened Game 5 by scoring the first two points to take the early

points and 19 assists for the Pilots.

Madalyn Pennington led the Lady CeeBees with 13 points, one kill, two blocks and two aces.

CLASS 3A

Buckeye Trail d.

Fort Frye

25-20, 23-25, 25-17, 25-20
STEUBENVILLE -

Karlye Hensley finished with 12 points, 13 kills, 14 digs, and eight blocks for Buckeye Trail.

Alexis Wheeler helped the Warriors' cause with 13 points, four kills, four assists, six blocks, and 18 digs while Lexe Starr had 16 kills, nine blocks, three points, and 20 digs.

Megan Hesson led Fort Frye (19-3) with six points, 17 kills, three aces, and 23 digs while Jordyn Hendershot finished with eight points, four kills, 18 assists, three blocks, and 13 digs.

CLASS 4A

Meadowbrook d.

Oak Glen

25-12, 25-18, 25-13

STEUBENVILLE -

Jessica Cottle led Meadowbrook with 10 points, three kills and six digs as the Colts roll to a 21-1 record.

Miranda Marsinek chipped in for the Colts with four points and 36 assists while Morgan Modro finished with four points, seven kills, five blocks, and six digs.

Madison Juszczak led Oak Glen (21-8) with three points, six kills and five digs while Kenzie Rosenlieb finished with three points, 14 assists and three digs.

CLASS 5A

University d.

Beaver Local

25-16, 25-21, 21-25, 25-20

STEUBENVILLE -

Rachel Rousseau had seven points, nine kills, nine assists, and five blocks while Kathryn Gerbo had 15 points, 15 kills, four aces, and eight blocks in a team effort for University (18-6).

Kristen Spearer helped the Hawks with eight points and 28 assists while Emilee Hanshew finished with eight points and seven kills.

Ashlyn Milhoan led Beaver Local (20-2) with nine points, 12 kills and 32 digs while Kaitlynn Pugliano had three points, three kills, 24 assists, and 20 digs.

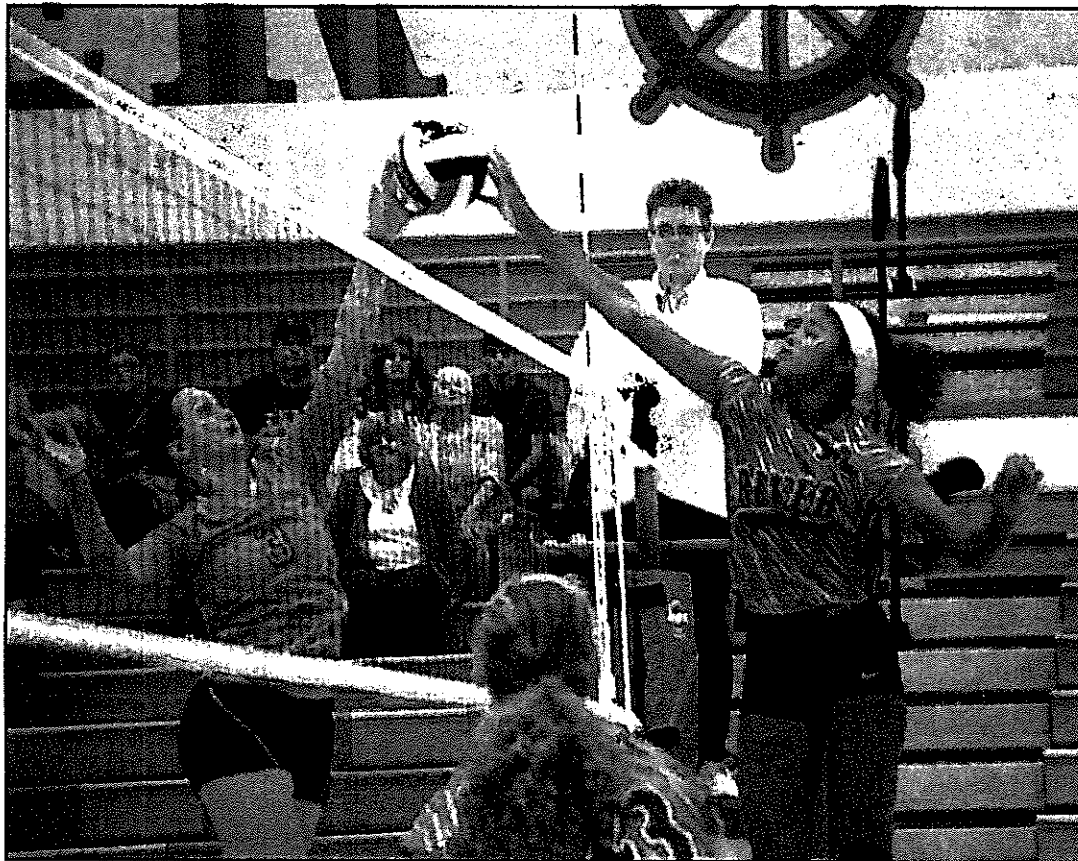
SPORTS

Wednesday,
October 14, 2015OVAC Volleyball**Paden City
advances to 1A
championship**By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WEIRTON — In Paden City's first game of the season, they faced against a tough St. John team, who was in it's fifth game. In a hard fought battle, the Irish won the match in three sets. Wildcats coach Fred King knew if they could hang with them, that his team would be alright. Fast forward to Tuesday night during one of the OVAC 1A semifinal games between the two teams. In two evenly faced matches, the Wildcats defeated the Irish 25-22, 25-20 at Madonna High School.

The win put No. 3 seed Paden City in the 1A OVAC championship game against No. 1 seed Madonna Saturday morning at Steubenville High School with a start time of 11:30 a.m.

"We played really well," King said. We did a good job at passing. Serving was rough at first, but in the second game, I don't think we had one bad serve. We had three early, but we were able to get through that. Everything went right. We served so well, that they couldn't set it up to get a nice hit. When they did get a chance, they did hit well. I got to give our girls credit. They did a nice job of



RIVER'S Jensen Caretti, right, and Frontier's Nikki Haught, left, battle at the net during the first of two OVAC Class 2A volleyball semifinals Tuesday evening at River High School. The Pilots prevailed — 26-24, 25-18 — and will face Clay-Batteille for the championship Saturday.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

**Trail, Fort
Frye
advance
to 3A final**By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

OLD WASHINGTON — Buckeye Trail and Fort Frye split their regular-season meetings in volleyball.

They'll get a chance to play a rubbermatch on Saturday with a championship on the line.

The Warriors and Cadets marched through to the OVAC Class 3A volleyball tournament title match, which is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at Steubenville High School's Crimson Center, after dispatching fellow PVC foes Shenandoah and Monroe Central, respectively.

The Seminoles (16-6) bounced back to defeat Shenandoah to win the consolation match by virtue of a sweep.

Volleyball proved to once again be a game of momentum

that they couldn't set it up to get a nice hit. When they did get a chance, they did hit well. I got to give our girls credit. They did a nice job of returning it, and getting it up so we could get one down."

During the first set, Paden City started to gain some momentum as it build a 14-10 lead after being down 5-4. The lead was extended to 16-11 before the Irish called a time out to talk about some things. The brief intermission worked as St. John made a small rally of its own, closing the gap to 18-16 before the Wildcats burned a timeout.

"I think we both played well and we both had our ups and downs," Irish coach Carrie Ramsay said. "They covered everything and we kept giving it to them. They kept taking it and we just went back and forth, back and forth. It was their night (Tuesday.)"

The Irish tied the score at 20-20 before the Wildcats score five of the next seven points to take the first set.

Aubrey Neff had a solid night for Paden City as she secured 25 sets, seven assists, seven digs and 12 points while Taylor Cosper had 30 sets, 13 sets, four digs and 11 points.

See, **PADEN CITY**,
Page B5

Pilots prevailed — 26-24, 25-18 — and will face Clay-Battelle for the championship Saturday.

Pilots cage Cougars

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

HANNIBAL — The River High School volleyball team has been known for starting slow this season.

Not Tuesday evening.

The Pilots jumped out to big leads in both sets of their 26-24, 25-18 victory against Frontier inside the R.L. Potts Gymnasium. And they needed them.

The Cougars staged epic rallies in both, but still came up short in an OVAC Class 2A Tournament semifinal.

"We did start out quicker than we usually do," River head coach Judi Curtis admitted. "But they we had that lull and that made me nervous.

"But, we got the win and that was the most important thing."

The Pilots will head to Steubenville High's Crimson Center at 1:30 p.m. Saturday to face Clay-Battelle seeking the school's second OVAC crown and first since 2013. The Cee-Bees defeated Toronto — 27-25, 25-14 — in the night cap.

"When we got in the locker room (after the match) I asked them what they were doing (in

those two sets)," Curtis said smiling. "But, the girls got it turned around and did a great job."

Not before Frontier turned what looked to be a rout into a thriller.

River jumped out to a 6-1 lead and eventually surged ahead 20-13. From there, the Cougars reeled off nine straight points to grab a 22-20 lead.

With the Pilots leading, 20-14, Frontier's Marley Cline sent a block back into River's side of the court for a point. Later, she spiked the ball, making the count 20-19. That forced Curtis to call time.

"I think we got so far ahead they thought they had it made," Curtis said, trying to explain her team's slide in the opening set. "And Frontier wasn't hitting.

"But Frontier is a good team. I tried telling the girls that."

It's true the Cougars' 9-9 record can be a bit deceiving, especially when one considers they play in the PVC, a league that includes fellow OVAC Tournament squads Buckeye Trail, Monroe Central and Shenandoah.

"The girls haven't quit all year," Frontier

See, **PILOTS**, Page B5

Oak Glen edges Union Local

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BYESVILLE — The top two seeds in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A Volleyball Tournament held true Tuesday night, but took different paths in doing so.

Top-seeded and host Meadowbrook (19-1) cruised past No. 4 Indian Creek (11-7) in two games, 25-9 and 25-20, while No. 2 Oak Glen (21-7) had to rally past third-seeded Union Local (13-8) in three games, 24-26, 25-10 and 25-23.

The Colts, who are the defend-

ing champions, and Golden Bears, who have recent won titles in 2013-14 (4A) and 2009-2010 (3A) will square off Saturday at 5:30 p.m. inside Steubenville High School's Crimson Center for the 4A championship.

Indian Creek then defeated Union Local, 25-23 and 25-21 for third place.

Union Local head coach Bridget Applegarth, despite the setback, was proud of how her girls played in taking Oak Glen to the limit.

"I'm extremely proud of these girls," she said. "We started the

season off strong, but we've had two injuries the last couple of weeks that has changed our team up a little bit.

"I wasn't sure what was going to happen tonight," she admitted. "The girls gave it their all and everybody pulled around each other. I'm pleased with what the outcome was tonight."

The first game was deadlocked eight times, including 23- and 24-all, but the Jets' Cortney Otto served an ace to put the Belmont Countians up 25-24. After an Oak Glen timeout, Otto once again rifled an unreturnable serve to give Union Local the victory.

Oak Glen, which has won multiple W.Va. state crowns under veteran head coach Ethel Riser, stormed back as it jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the middle game and was never threatened.

The closest Union Local could get was 12-9, but the Golden Bears reeled off 13 of the next 14 points to force a third-and-deciding game.

The Jets held a 11-5 advantage until the Hancock Countians battled back and drew even at 14. After ties at 15, 18 and 19, Oak Glen's Hanna Tice served points

See, **OAK GLEN**, Page B5

sweep.

Volleyball proved to once again be a game of momentum shifts. Monroe Central had it early against Fort Frye, but the Cadets grabbed it and didn't give it back en route to a 19-25, 25-17 and 25-13.

During the pivotal second game, the Seminoles shot out to an 8-2 lead, but the Cadets responded.

"We missed a couple of serves in the second game that gave (Fort Frye) the momentum and seemed to suck the energy out of us," Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker said. "I thought we let up on some of our aggressiveness in terms of our hitting. I am not sure if some of that was from bad passing or Fort Frye doing a better job of placing some of their hits."

The Cadets (19-2) shot out of the gate in the third game, never allowing Monroe to get any closer than two at 13-11 before pulling away.

"Fort Frye picked up their defense," Baker said. "They're a good team. The last two matches with them have been much better. We have to play better and be better serving."

Megan Hesson led Fort Frye with 13 kills, 10 digs and two blocks. Ally Brookover had six kills. Jordyn Hendershot had 18 assists and four kills. Karisa Lang had 16 digs and four aces, while Jordan Schilling had 12 assists.

Monroe Central, meanwhile, was led by Taryn Burkhart's 11 kills. Kaleigh Marley had eight kills and 13 digs. Erin Miller had 16 digs, while Olivia Gauding posted five kills and two blocks. Samantha Knuchel had seven points and two aces to go

See, **TRAIL**,
Page B5

Continued from Page B1

head coach Donna Murphy said. "They've always played 'til the end."

Bailey Caldwell scored two straight points as River tied the set at 22-22. Then, Frontier scored two straight to go up 24-22.

A shot by the Cougars' Danielle Reed went long, bringing the Pilots to within one, 24-23. Then, a Frontier shot went out, tying the match.

Caldwell followed with a server that was too hard for Frontier to handle, giving River the lead. And when Jensen Caretti laid down a ferocious spike, the set was over.

"They realized we had to kick in gear," Curtis said.

The momentum River garnered late in the first set carried over into the set, as the Pilots built a commanding 16-1 lead. But, again, Frontier rallied, turning a 24-10 deficit into a 24-18 one before River secured the game-winner.

"One person can't do everything," Curtis said. "They just put it together. And when they did, they did a great job."

● Cubs

Continued from Page B1
the infamous Bartman defeat in Game 6.

Chicago will face the winner of the Los Angeles Dodgers-New York Mets matchup. The Mets took a 2-1 lead into Game 4 Tuesday night.

No team was hotter down the stretch than Chicago, which finished third in the majors with 97 wins after

five straight losing seasons.

The Cubs knocked out the two teams that finished ahead of them in the NL Central, beating Pittsburgh in the wild-card game and sending St. Louis home after it led the majors with 100 wins.

The banged-up Cardinals had reached the NLCS in the last four years.

● Trail

Continued from Page B1
along with five assists.

THE WARRIORS (19-2) sent the Zeps packing by identical 25-11 scores in the best-of-three format in just over 30 minutes.

Not only will Jeff Beros have a chance to notch his 10th OVAC title and 15th in Trail's history, but he will also aim for victory number 500 in the process.

For those accomplishments to happen, however, Beros knows his team will have to be sharper when it returns to the court on Saturday.

"We're going to have to play harder than what we played and more inspired," Beros said. "I think tonight had something to do with the fact that we'd already beaten Shenandoah twice this year.

We split with Fort Frye, so it's going to be the team that plays the hardest and smartest."

The Warriors raced to the first-game victory with ease and simply kept their foot on the pedal.

"When you're playing just a best-of-three, we know that you have to start strong," Beros said. "We're going to have to start a lot stronger Saturday and then into the sectional tournament."

The Warriors were led by Lexe Starr's nine kills and six digs. Jenni Carmichael had 14 points, three aces and four kills. Carley Hensley donated seven kills and 11 digs.

Ashley Nichols had nine kills, seven points, three aces and five digs. Jennifer Burga had 26 assists and five digs.

● Oak Glen

Continued from Page B1
to give the Golden Bears a 23-19 lead.

However, after an exchange of points made it 24-20, Union Local's Adrean Carlile reeled off three consecutive points for a 24-23 reading as the crowd

and eight points.

"Those two girls really hurt us," Applegarth revealed.

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● Oak Glen

Continued from Page B1
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However, after an exchange of points made it 24-20, Union Local's Adrean Carlile reeled off three consecutive points for a 24-23 reading as the crowd got loud. Oak Glen sophomore Alexis Swan slammed the door — and the Jets title hopes — with the last of her 17 kills.

"It's hard when you've never seen a team or played against it," Riser offered. "The first game was a close one and they (UL) hit the ball hard, but we came back and put it to them in the second. The third game went right down to the end."

In addition to her 17 kills, the lanky Swan had seven spikes, six digs and a trio of points. Madison Juszczak added 16 kills, 12 points, 15 spikes, eight digs and two aces. Lindsay Smith charted eight points and half-a-dozen digs. Kenzie Rosenlieb finished with 74 sets, 19 assists

and eight points.

"Those two girls really hurt us," Applegarth revealed.

The Jets were led by Otto's seven aces and a like number of kills.

"Cortney really played well tonight," Applegarth said. "This is her senior season. She had an excellent night serving."

Carlile charted 11 digs and 10 kills, while Katie Bashline had nine assists, six digs and two aces. Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson finished with fives kills. Serena Lodge added seven digs. McKenzie Deese had 14 assists and three kills, while Baylee Wiseman chipped in seven digs.

In the consolation match, Deese charted 12 assists and seven digs. Lodge had a dozen digs, while Carlile finished with eight digs and five kills. Morgan Edwards added five kills and four digs. Otto and Clark-Patterson each had three kills. Wiseman had three digs.

● Paden City

Continued from Page B1

After receiving some good news in the morning, Cydney Blatt tallied 13 kill, five digs and eight points. "We got a thing (Tuesday) in the mail from MaxPreps. And the American Volleyball Coaches Association, chose her as West Virginia Player of the Week for the Week September 28. She got a nice certificate and she got a nice patch. It really made her feel good. She played well. She did some nice things, and put the ball where it needed to be."

The second set was identical to the first one. With the score tied at 5-5, the Wildcats put up a small rally and took the lead 10-5, but the Irish would not go away. After a timeout, the momentum was on their side for a while as the Irish cut the lead to 12-10 and eventually took the lead at 15-14.

The momentum however, went back to Paden City and the Wildcats went on a 7-2 run to put the score at 21-17.

For the 1A Championship, Paden City will face Madonna.

SPORTS

Sunday,
October 18, 2015

River captures 2A OVAC volleyball

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

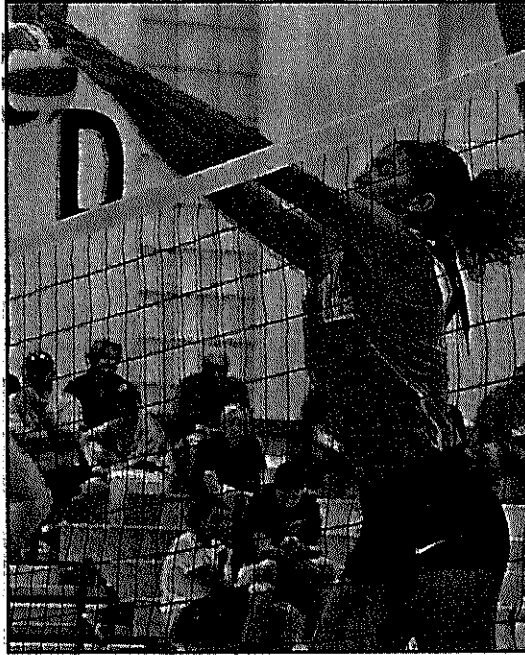
STEUBENVILLE -- When you are a No. 1 seed, you're expected to have just a little more than the other team. River had a combination of plenty more and yet just enough.

Forced to battle back from deficits in both of the first two sets, the Pilots were then forced to hold off a gallant group from Clay-Battelle to take the OVAC Class 2A crown Saturday afternoon at Steubenville High School's Crimson Center.

Coach Judi Curtis' River squad rallied to take the first set 25-23 and followed that with another thriller in the second winning, 25-20. In the third, and clinching set, the Pilots came out strong, but had to hold off a late rally by the CeeBees to take away another 25-20 decision.

The win improves River's record to 16-6 with the win and presented its faithful with its second OVAC crown in three years. It returns to action on

See, RIVER, Page C3



RIVER'S
Jensen Caretti goes up for a block during a match earlier this season. She helped lead the Pilots to the OVAC Class 2A volleyball title Saturday afternoon in Steubenville.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

● River

Continued from Page C1

Wednesday hosting Beallsville in Division IV sectional action.

Coach Josh Kisner saw his Clay-Battelle squad finish the day at 16-8. The CeeBees will continue with its regular slate until West Virginia sectional play starts in November.

"Our freshman setter had a little trouble at first, but she calmed down, she did an excellent job," Curtis said after the win. "They are a very good team and our girls were able to battle back."

"Tonight is Homecoming at our school and we just told our girls that they had to stay focused on what we had to do here," she added. "And they told us that they wanted to hang that banner on the wall in our school."

Curtis pointed out that her team includes just two seniors and she also has three freshmen on the varsity. For

the Lady Pilots, it was a freshman that set things for a pair of veteran players who dominated the front line.

Senior standout Jensen Caretti was a very dominating force at the net and she got plenty of help from and big player in Bailey Caldwell. Of course, freshman Lauren Flannery set the stage for plenty of those comeback points.

Caretti closed with six points, 15 kills, three blocks and 12 digs while Bailey Caldwell added 11 points, 13 kills, two aces and two digs. Flannery was on time setting up both finishing with eight points and 19 assists.

Candace Caldwell ended with two points and nine assists, Haylee Winkler contributed seven points, two aces and a block. Madison Harman had two points, a kill and four digs, Brissa Marshall added three points

and six digs and Lexi Piatt had one dig.

In both the first and second sets, it was the combo of Flannery and Caretti that sparked the comeback. The comeback included a rally from a 16-19 deficit in which Flannery's sets made way for Caretti hard returns both right-handed and left-handed.

"They are a very good team," Kisner said after the tough loss. "That Caretti is a great player. She has an amazing jumping ability and we just couldn't handle her returns."

Madalyn Pennington led the Lady CeeBees with 13 points, one kill, two blocks and two aces. Abby Sine added six points, three kills and one block, Candace Holmes had three points, 26 assists and seven digs and Hannah Carreon finished with three points, 17 kills.

● Steubenville

OVAC Volleyball

SEMI-FINALS

Today

(all Semi-Finals and Consolation Finals
matches are Best of Three)

CLASS 5-A

at Beaver Local High School

#1 Beaver Local vs. #4 Parkers. So., 5:30 p.m.
#2 Morgantown vs. #3 University, 6:45 p.m.

Consolation finals, 8 p.m.

Winners advance to Class 5-A Championship
Finals on Saturday at Steubenville High School
at 9:30 a.m.

CLASS 4-A

at Meadowbrook High School

#1 Meadowbrook vs. #4 Indian Creek, 5:30 p.m.
#2 Oak Glen vs. #3 Union Local, 6:45 p.m.

Consolation finals, 8 p.m.

Winners advance to Class 4-A Championship
Finals on Saturday at Steubenville High School
at 5:30 p.m.

CLASS 3-A

at Buckeye Trail High School

#1 Buckeye Trail vs. #4 Shenandoah, 5:30 p.m.
#2 Fort Frye vs. #3 Monroe Central, 6:45 p.m.

Consolation finals, 8 p.m.

Winners advance to Class 3-A Championship
Finals on Saturday at Steubenville High School
at 3:30 p.m.

CLASS 2-A

at River High School

#1 River vs. #4 Frontier, 5:30 p.m.
#2 Clay-Battelle vs. #3 Toronto, 6:45 p.m.

Consolation finals, 8 p.m.

Winners advance to Class 2-A Championship
Finals on Saturday at Steubenville High School
at 1:30 p.m.

CLASS 1-A

at Madonna High School

#1 Madonna vs. #4 Bealsville, 5:30 p.m.
#2 St. John Central vs. #3 Paden City, 6:45 p.m.

Consolation finals, 8 p.m.

Winners advance to Class 1-A Championship
Finals on Saturday at Steubenville High School
at 11:30 a.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Saturday

Steubenville High School

(all Championship matches are Best of Five)

8 a.m. Gates Open

9:30 a.m. Class 5-A Finals

11:30 a.m. Class 1-A Finals

1:30 p.m. Class 2-A Finals

3:30 p.m. Class 3-A Finals

5:30 p.m. Class 4-A Finals