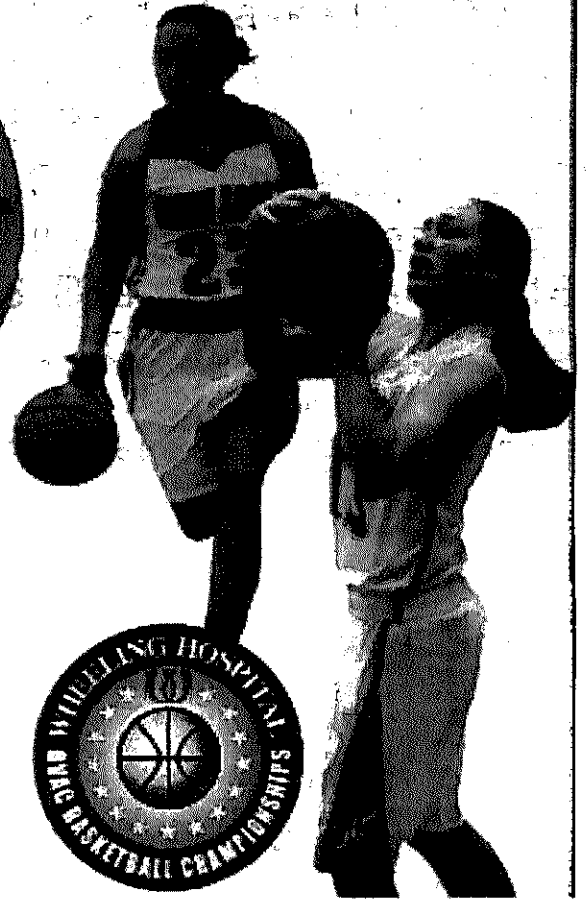


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Championship Schedule

Class 5A – 10 a.m.
 No. 1 Morgantown vs. No. 3 South – Page 10
Class 1A – 12:30 p.m.
 No. 1 St. John vs. No. 2 Bishop Donahue – Page 9
Class 2A – 3 p.m.
 No. 1 River vs. No. 3 Frontier – Page 4
Class 3A – 5:30 p.m.
 No. 1 Fort Frye vs. No. 2 Linsly – Page 6
Class 4A – 8 p.m.
 No. 2 Buckeye vs. No. 4 Union Local – Page 2

ON THE COVER

PICTURED ARE some of the premier area players in Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship. Pictured are Jensen Caretti (River), Hayley Porter (Union Local), Marissa Rose (St. John), Morgan Brunner (Linsly) and Becky Zeroski (Buckeye Local).

NOTE TO READERS

The complete story about the Union Local and Buckeye Local Class 4A championship game will be contained in Monday's printed edition because of The Times Leader's Saturday deadline. The game will be published on the T-L Website beforehand.



PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Union Local Jets Girls Basketball Team. Sitting, from left, are Alli DeLaney and Saige Butler. Kneeling, from left, are Kaden Mercer, Emilee Robb, Lauryn Menges, Mackenzie McGary, Megan Bateman, Alison Loase and Hanna Porter. Standing, from left, are Head Coach Kelley Hanlon, Sutherlynd Butler, Julia McClusky, Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson, Laryssa Brandon and Hayley Porter.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

UL, Buckeye meet for third time with added stakes

• Jets in the title game for the second straight season; Panthers set to make their debut

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

There's a cliché in sports that says it's tough to beat a team three times.

Both Union Local's Kelley Hanlon and Buckeye Local's Tom Figurski have heard it many times, but only

Figurski is hopeful that it comes to fruition in this case.

The Jets and Panthers will meet for the third time Saturday night at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

This meeting certainly being the biggest with the OVAC Class 4A title on the line. Union Local owns a 2-0 record against the Panthers and both victories came in relatively convincing fashion.

"When I am on the other end, I definitely believe it's tough to beat a team three

times," Hanlon joked. "Buckeye Local's a good team and we'll have to be ready."

The Panthers closed the gap on the Jets in their last meeting in Morristown, but taking the next step is what Figurski is most concerned about.

"We know what to expect because it's a familiar foe," Figurski said. "We have to be able to keep it close and then see if we can get one of our spurts to get us over the hump."

While the teams have obvious experience against

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4A

Continued from Page 2

each other, the Jets have a decisive edge in championship game experience after playing in last year's final against Harrison Central.

"I'd like to think the experience is a factor for us," Hanlon said. "We've also had the luxury of practicing at OUE. We joke that it's our home away from home. The girls are really comfortable in that gym."

The Jets, who are seeded fourth in the tournament, reached their second straight final by dispatching top-seeded Martins Ferry on Monday.

Buckeye Local, which is the second seed, got past Oak Glen in the semifinals.

"Our principal (Coy Sudvary) has been using the moniker 'restore the roar' and the school spirit and support our team has received makes me so proud to be an alumni," Figurski said.

The Panthers gained some experience in a championship game last week when they lost to Martins Ferry in the Buckeye 8 title game.

"Unfortunately, things didn't go how we wanted in the Buckeye 8 and part of that

could have been the fact that we've never been in that stressful of a game," Figurski admitted. "I think now that we have that game under our belts, it should serve us well in this atmosphere."

Having a familiar opponent could help cut down on the nerves for the Panthers. That aside the matchups, on the floor, are what concern Figurski the most.

"Union Local is a team that we don't match up with all that well," Figurski said. "We have to focus on limiting possessions and second-chance points. Union Local is a

well-coached team with quality players. We can't dig ourselves into a such a hole that we have to exert all kinds of energy to climb back into the game."

When starting to figure out how to defend the Jets, it's kind of a pick your poison scenario, especially now that they're healthy.

The Jets played nearly half the season without the services of post Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson. She's returned and the Jets have been soaring ever since.

See, 4A, Page 6

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Familiar foes set to meet in Class 2A

• Top-seeded River and third-seeded Frontier ready to clash for the third time

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – A pair of Ohio river-front rivals, who are no strangers by any means, will meet for the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls Basketball Class 2A Championship Saturday.

Top-seeded River (17-3) and No. 3 Frontier (15-5) will tip-off at approximately 3 p.m. inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. The contest will be the middle of five that day, and will also be the third time that the Pilots and Cougars have done battle this season.

"It's definitely not going to be easy," River head coach Rick Isaly said. "You know that old saying that it's hard to beat a team three times in one season. We know their personnel and they know our personnel. It will come down to which team takes care of the ball, makes the easy shots and makes its free throws."

River owns a pair of victories over Frontier. The Pilots prevailed by a whopping 74-45 margin last



PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Frontier Cougars Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Kylie Daugherty, head coach Scott Murphy and Tiffany Graham. Middle row, from left, are Carly Strickler, Nikki Haught, Sammi Morris and Lexi Brookover. Top row, from left, are assistant coach Trista Murphy, Kylee Newlen, Jenna Maston and assistant coach John Hoff.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

week. "We played them really tough at home early in the season, but when we went up there we didn't have a good night shooting," Frontier head coach Scott Murphy said. "They were clicking on all cylinders that night and beat us pretty good." River is led by 6-2 senior center Jensen Caretti. The

See, 2A, Page 5

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2A

Continued from Page 4

school's all-time leading scorer averages a double-double with just under 25 points and 11 rebounds per contest. The Ohio State University recruit had 24 and surpassed the coveted 2,000-point milestone Monday night in a 53-43 decision over No. 4 Wheeling Central. She is supported by 5-10 classmate Brielle Williams who averages 15 points a game. Lauren Flannery, a 5-5 freshman, adds 8.8 points. The Caldwell cousins - senior Abby and junior Bailey - round out the starting five. Bailey Caldwell is the Pilots main



outside threat. Senior Haylee Winkler (5-10) and freshman Riley Lollathin (5-4) are the first two players off the bench. River lost freshman Carsyn Reynolds last week when she suffered a serious knee injury, according to Isaly. "I feel bad for her because she was playing well for a freshman," he noted. "It's a big loss for us because she was a big factor for us on defense, rebounding and ballhandling." Saturday will mark the third time in four years that



PICTURED IS the 2015-16 River Girls' Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Lauren Flannery, Haylee Winkler, Abby Caldwell, Jensen Caretti, Brielle Williams, Bailey Caldwell and Carsyn Reynolds. Second Row, from left, are assistant coach Dean Caldwell, Hannah Straub, Halee Schultheiss, Faith Ingram, Candace Caldwell, Riley Lollathin, Marissa Hall, Olivia Rose and assistant coach Bob Cicogna. In back is head coach Rick Isaly.


See, 2A, Page 7

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A battle of Cadets set to unfold in 3A

• Linsly, Fort Frye slated to clash for the third time; Road team won each prior meeting

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Something has to give Saturday evening in the championship of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Class 3A championship game.

Top-seeded Fort Frye and second-seeded Linsly have already met twice during the season with each winning on the other's home floor.

The scene now shifts to the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville for

the rubbermatch. Not only is the site new, but the stakes are much higher as the coveted conference title is on the line.

"We try to be in the moment each time we play, but our girls have never lost sight of this goal," Linsly head coach Maggie Allison

said. "The girls have shown they're on a mission and are committed to reaching their goal."

While the Cadets are aiming for their second title in school history and first since 2014 when they defeated Fort Frye in a double-OT thriller.

Fort Frye has made the trip to Belmont County an annual stop. The Beverly-based Cadets are making the trip to the OVAC title game for the seventh straight season. They're 4-2 in their prior trips.

"We've been pretty fortunate to get there as often as

we have," Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke said. "Getting to this championship game is always one of our team's biggest goals."

Fort Frye reached the title game by dispatching

See, 3A, Page 7

4A

Continued from Page 3

"There were a lot of games early that I know that having her on the court would have been a factor," Hanlon said. "We were out-sized in many of our losses and just couldn't compete with teams that had the size."

Clark-Patterson had 21 points and nine rebounds during the semifinal win against the Purple Riders.

Her inside along with the guard trio of Alli DeLaney, Haley Porter and Saige Butler makes the Jets a for-

midable cast. DeLaney is averaging more than 18 a game and went over the 1,000-point plateau in the semis.

Porter, who broke her foot during last year's title game, had a strong game in the semis, connecting on all three of her shots from behind the arc. Butler has been steady all season at the small forward spot.

Hannah Porter rounds out the Jets' starting lineup.

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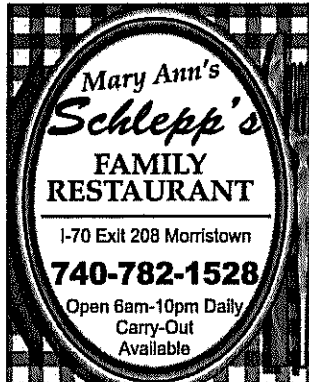
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4A

Continued from Page 6

Off the bench, the Jets utilize Allison Loase and Mackenzie McGary, primarily.

"Alli has really stepped up and has a great attitude," Hanlon said of her Notre Dame College signee. "She's not a loud kind of leader, but she's confident and it rubs off on the rest of the team."

Figurski has cautioned his team to make sure it knows where DeLaney is at all times. But, it can't lose sight of the other weapons.

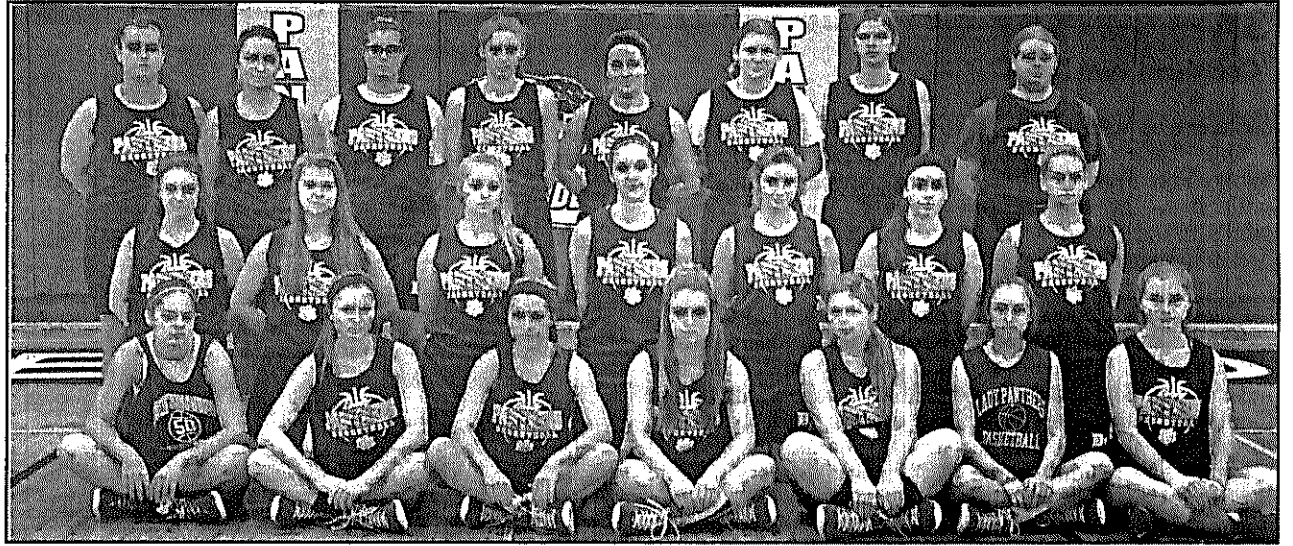
"We did a better job of controlling DeLaney in the last game, but we lost sight of Butler and she had 22," Figurski recalled. "We can't let DeLaney get as many points as quickly as she did the first two times we

played them."

The Panthers, meanwhile, are led by the one-two scoring punch of Becky Zeroski and freshman Emily Holzapfel. Both score 18 points a night. Zeroski surpassed the 1,000 point mark in the first meeting with the Jets and became the school's all-time leading scorer in the second meeting.

"We'll definitely be watching Zeroski and Holzapfel closely," Hanlon admitted.

Danielle Dvorcek, Rachel Zeroski and promising freshman Alaire Destifanes round out the Panthers' starting lineup. Lexi Swiger sees solid minutes off the bench.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the Buckeye Local Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Alaire Destifanes, Rachel Vince, Becky Zeroski, Danielle Dvorcek, Logan Cunningham, Skylar Langford and Julie Wilfong. Middle row, from left, are Casey Banal, Shannon Good, Shelby Gorlock, Emily Holzopfel, Lexie Swiger, Brooke Miller and Lillie Windsheimer. Back row, from left, are Kate Torok, Rachel Zeroski, Kylee Torok, Maddy Gill, Angelina Piergallini, Carrie Dill, Maddie Doyle and Emily Fox.

3A

Continued from Page 6

Magnolia, while Linsly had very little trouble with third-seeded Barnesville.

Though Linsly and Fort Frye have squared off twice this season, this meeting will have a different look, especially for Fort Frye.

Liedtke's team will be without its leading scorer in McKayla Liedtke. The coach's daughter went down with a torn ACL in a game at Steubenville last month.

"She's our leading scorer and really did a lot of other things well, too," her father and head coach said.

"We're starting to get things going without her now. We've played four games without her and the girls are starting to really adjust to their new roles."

Fort Frye (15-6) is working to replace 15.2 points a night that Liedtke supplied. The coach believes it'll have to be by committee.

"Without McKayla in the lineup, we're kind of without a mismatch, especially against Linsly," Liedtke said. "We're going to have to go to the drawing board this week and see what we

See, 3A, Page 8

2A

Continued from Page 5

River has made the finals. However, both previous trips came in Class 3A where it lost to Fort Frye both times, including last year. The Pilots have won four OVAC titles, the last coming in 2004.

"We're hoping the third time is a charm," Isaly said of the two previous losses. "We'd like to send our four seniors out with an OVAC championship. That would be nice for them."

Isaly said Frontier creates some mismatches for his team at times.

"They are a good basketball team. The shoot the ball well and the play aggressive

defense. They are well-coached and have some hard-nosed kids."

Frontier advanced to the finals for the second time in three seasons. The Cougars defeated Bridgeport two years ago for the Class 2A title.

"We've got some experience in the OVAC Tournament over the past few years," Murphy said. "We've been here two of the last three years, so it's nothing new to us."

Frontier upset No. 2 Bridgeport, 54-48, Monday night to reach the finals. Lexi Brookover, a 5-11 junior, led a trio of double-

digit scorers with 14 points. Sammi Morris, a 5-7 junior guard, added a dozen lightings, while 5-10 sophomore Kylie Daugherty came off the bench to score 10 points and grab a team-best eight rebounds.

"I knew it would take a total team effort and that's what I got out of these girls," Murphy stressed.

Seniors Jenna Maston (5-6) and Kylee Newlen (6-0), along with 5-11 junior Nikki Haight round out the starting five. Sophomore Tiffany Graham (5-7) also comes off the bench.

"We're going to go back and look at the two films

and see what we can improve on," Murphy said. "We're on a neutral floor this time and we like our chances."

After the OVAC Tournament, both teams will begin Ohio sectional play. They could actually clash for a fourth time in the district semifinals, but plenty of action remains for that would become a reality.

The Cougars meet 1A OVAC finalist St. John Central at Buckeye Trail High School. The Pilots are also in the bracket in Old Washington and they'll take on county-rival Beallsville next weekend.

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3A

Continued from Page 7

can come up with."

One thing that Allison knows Fort Frye will bring with it – regardless of who's in the lineup – is a defensive tenacity and solid, fundamental play.

"Fort Frye plays very patiently and controlled," Allison said. "I think we have to do our best to get them out of that a little bit by pushing the ball a little bit more. We didn't force the turnovers that we did when we lost to them. Their mistakes are usually few and far between, so we need to try to force the issue some. We will need to be at the top our game."

The Fort Frye defense will have to contend with Linsly's three-heading scoring monster of senior Morgan Brunner, junior Vivian Allison and senior

Jazzie Orth. The trio averages nearly 50 points a game between them.

Brunner, who is committed to Youngstown State, leads the way at 18 points a night. Allison, who surpassed the 1,000-point mark in the semifinals, nets 17 points, while Orth is a double-double machine on the interior with 14 points and 11 boards.

"Linsly is a very athletic team, offensively," Liedtke said. "McKayla guarded Allison in both of the earlier games, so we're going to need to concentrate and make sure we know where she is."

Rounding out Linsly's starting lineup is Manny Raymond and Mary Bedway. Freshman Sarah Pintarich has been a solid

See, 3A, Page 13



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Linsly Cadets Girls Basketball Team. Sitting, from left, are Dantallon Wu, Kevia Neely, Lindy Wen and Mumu Fang. Kneeling, from left, are Mia Cascio, Sierra Pintanich, Manny Raymond and Icho Lu. Standing, from left, are, head coach Maggie Allison, Vivian Allison, Mary Bedway, Jazzie Orth, Morgan Brunner, Nellie Wang and assistant coach Rebekah Newell.

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PICTURED IS the 2015-16 St. John Central girls' basketball team. Front row, from left, are Rachel Porter, Emily LeMasters, Jessica Alvey, Marissa Rose and Lindsey Froehlich. Second row, Hannah Boyer, Hayleigh Boyer, Taylor Lowe and Alyssa Busack. In back, from left, assistant coach Nick Nicola, Rachel Russell, Madison DeLuca, head coach Bubba Kapral, Brooke Palmer, Kaylin Nixon and assistant coach Dr. Jerry Liberatore.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

St. John, Donahue to square off in 1A

• Irish and Bishops meeting for the first time this season

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

Youth will meet experience Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern as Bishop Donahue and St. John Central will clash for the Class 1A championship in the second game of the 9th annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships.

Tipoff is set for 12:30 p.m. following the Class 5A title tilt between West Virginia big school powers Morgantown and Parkersburg South.

The spacious layout of OUE's Physical Education Center is familiar territory for Coach Bubba Kapral's Irish. St. John won the first 1A tourney crown in 2008 and have been frequent visitors since.

The event, meanwhile, is

uncharted waters for the Bishops, who have only participated in the tournament once - 2009 - when they lost to Beallsville. The school's only other OVAC girls' hoops title prior to that was in 1984, under the tutelage of current Weir boys' coach Mike Granato.

Despite the disparities in experience, Kapral is confident a top-notch contest is in the works.

"On the surface, it looks to be entertaining for fans and it should be up and down," the veteran coach said. "They like to shoot it and we like to get out and run. In advance, it should be up and down and high scoring."

Shawn Martin, in his second year coaching the McMechen squad, is eager

See, 1A, Page 15

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PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Morgantown Mohigans Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Lydia Adrian, Aliyssa Neal, Cassie Parks, Courtney Quinn, Kiersten Poland and Fallon Nicholson. Second row, from left, are Assistant Coaches Matt Kelly and John Fowkes, Shleby Boyle, Rachel Laskody, Sydney Holloway, Paige Poffenberger, Head Coach Jason White and Assistant Coach Doug Goodwin.



Photo Provided

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LET'S GO MOHIGANS!
From the Morgantown High School Athletic Department

West Virginia powers set to square off for big-school title

• Morgantown, South meet again in the 5A conference final

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
 Executive Sports Editor

If familiarity breeds contempt, then Morgantown and Parkersburg South have no love lost for each other when it comes to girls' basketball.

The two West Virginia big school powers have been knocking heads at the highest of levels for the past several years. And, for the most part, it has been the

Mohigans getting the best of the battles.

Morgantown, the lone unbeaten girls' hoop team remaining in the OVAC, has defeated the Patriots this season — 54-41 on the road and a 51-31 home victory. The Mohigans, moreover, have pocketed wins over South in the biggest of forums.

Morgantown enters Saturday's 10 a.m. OVAC 5-A title contest at Ohio

University Eastern as reigning champions. Coach Jason White's charges earned that distinction by beating South in last year's championship tilt.

The OVAC finale was an appetizer for the West Virginia Class AAA title game. White's Mohigans again prevailed by a 48-31 count for their second straight state crown. A year prior, Morgantown downed South by a 46-39 in the

championship game, the lone blemish on South's season.

The Patriots claimed the 2013 West Virginia title, defeating Logan.

So when the two talented rivals tip it off Saturday with an OVAC banner on the line, there will be no surprises. They know each other more than they may like.

See, 5A, Page 13

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OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Records

<p>INDIVIDUAL MOST POINTS [27] 1A: 27, Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008 2A: 24, Caitlyn Kroll, Bridgeport, 2015 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 21, Morgan Brunner, Linsly, 2014 4A: 25, Jessica Kinney, Martins Ferry, 2013 5A: 27, Mariah Callen, University, 2013 MOST FREE THROWS MADE [13] 1A: 9, Olivia Bower, Conotton Valley, 2014 Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008 2A: 9, Caitlyn Kroll, Bridgeport, 2015 3A: 8, Brooke Cankus, St. Clairsville, 2009 4A: 13, Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2011 5A: 11, Mariah Callen, University, 2013 BEST FREE THROW % [100%, 10/10] (5 attempts minimum) 1A: 100% (9/9), Olivia Bower, Conotton Valley, 2014 2A: 100% (8/8), Emily Bucon, Wheeling Central, 2012 3A: 100% (8/8), Diederica Combs, Fort Frye, 2013 4A: 100% (5/5), Hayley Porter, Union Local, 2015 Paige Richards, Harrison Central, 2015 5A: 100% (10/10), Haley Robb, Wheeling Park, 2012 MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE [10] 1A: 9, Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008 Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008 2A: 10, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 9, Shae Moreland, Martins Ferry, 2009 4A: 8, Jessica Kinney, Martins Ferry, 2013 Meghan Balfick, Indian Creek, 2009 5A: 5, Taryn McCutcheon, Parkersburg South, 2014 Kambrea O'Neal, Wheeling Park, 2012 Emily Puskarich, Wheeling Park, 2012 Rachel Michael, Morgantown, 2012 BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [100%, 6/6] (5 attempts minimum) 1A: 58% (10/18), Elie LeMasters, St. John, 2011 2A: 100% (6/6), Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009 3A: 80% (4/5), Karisa Lang, Fort Frye, 2015 4A: 80% (4/5), Adrienne McEwen, Edison, 2009 5A: 86% (5/6), Kambrea O'Neal, Wheeling Park, 2012 MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [5] 1A: 3, Lisa Parkins, Madonna, 2011 2A: 5, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008</p>	<p>3A: 4, Brooke Borich, Fort Frye, 2014 Payden Eckleberry, Oak Glen, 2011 4A: 5, Jesse Ledger, Harrison Central, 2014 5A: 5, Mariah Callen, University, 2013 INDIVIDUAL BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [75%, 3/4] (4 attempts minimum) 1A: 40% (2/5), Piper Edie, Conotton Valley, 2014 2A: 71% (5/7), Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 75% (3/4), Mikayla Liedtke, Fort Frye, 2015 Lacey Neavin, Martins Ferry, 2008 4A: 71% (5/7), Jesse Ledger, Harrison Central, 2014 5A: 71% (5/7), Mariah Callen, University, 2013 MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [8] 1A: 8, Brilynn Belknap, Conotton Valley, 2013 Sara Lyons, Madonna, 2012 2A: 8, Colleen McCormick, Wheeling Central, 2012 Brooke McIntal, Shadyside, 2010 3A: 7, Leah Bettlinger, Barnesville, 2008 4A: 7, Mikayla Patton, Union Local, 2015 5A: 6, Keya Bartlett, Parkersburg South, 2015 MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [16] 1A: 16, Olivia Bower, Conotton Valley, 2015 2A: 9, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009 3A: 9, Alexis Davis, Union Local, 2011 4A: 10, Meghan Balfick, Indian Creek, 2010 5A: 8, Carlie Wilson, Parkersburg South, 2014 MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [18] 1A: 18, Olivia Bower, Conotton Valley, 2015 2A: 13, Colleen McCormick, Wheeling Central, 2012 3A: 14, Leah Bettlinger, Barnesville, 2008 4A: 14, Katie Elizy, Harrison Central, 2015 5A: 9, Carlie Wilson, Parkersburg South, 2015, 2014 MOST ASSISTS [7] 1A: 5, Chandice Cottis, Conotton Valley, 2015 2A: 5, Karlie Bonar, Shadyside, 2013 Kelsey Holloway, Shadyside, 2011 3A: 4, Michelle Adkins, Fort Frye, 2015 Karissa Lang, Fort Frye, 2015 Morgan Liedtke, Fort Frye, 2013 4A: 5, Hayley Porter, Union Local, 2015 5A: 7, Taryn McCutcheon, Parkersburg South, 2015 MOST STEALS [8] 1A: 8, Piper Edie, Conotton Valley, 2014</p>	<p>2A: 8, Haley Holenka, Shadyside, 2012 3A: 4, Megan Liedtke, Fort Frye, 2015 Abby Caldwell, River, 2015 Morgan Brunner, Linsly, 2014 Diederica Combs, Fort Frye, 2012 Payden Eckleberry, Oak Glen, 2011 Kiley King, Oak Glen, 2011 Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, 2009 Courtney Frohnapfel, Martins Ferry, 2008 4A: 6, Lyslah Rice, Steubenville, 2014 5A: 6, Megan Messlora, University, 2013 MOST BLOCKS [9] 1A: 8, Olivia Bower, Conotton Valley, 2013 2A: 2, Corisa Fickjenson, Frontier, 2014 3A: 4, Jensen Carotti, River, 2015 4A: 3, Katie Elizy, Harrison Central, 2015 5A: 4, Anna Hayton, Parkersburg South, 2014 TEAM MOST POINTS [71] 1A: 71, St. John, 2008 2A: 68, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 58, Fort Frye, 2015 4A: 68, Steubenville, 2014 5A: 68, Wheeling Park, 2012 MOST FREE THROWS MADE [24] 1A: 17, Madonna, 2012 Beallsville, 2008 2A: 13, Wheeling Central, 2012 Monroe Central, 2009 3A: 18, Linsly, 2014 4A: 24, Harrison Central, 2014 5A: 21, Wheeling Park, 2012 BEST FREE THROW % [93%, 14/15] (10 attempts minimum) 1A: 92% (12/13), Conotton Valley, 2014 2A: 85% (11/13), Wheeling Central, 2015 3A: 90% (9/10), Martins Ferry, 2008 4A: 79% (19/24), Wheeling Park, 2011 5A: 83% (14/15), Parkersburg South, 2014 MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE [25] 1A: 25, St. John, 2008 2A: 18, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 20, St. Clairsville, 2010 4A: 20, Indian Creek, 2009 5A: 17, Morgantown, 2015 Parkersburg South, 2014 BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [64%, 16/25] (20 attempts minimum) 1A: 45% (21/47), Beallsville, 2008 2A: 52% (14/27), Shadyside, 2011 3A: 64% (16/25), Barnesville, 2008 4A: 41% (18/44), Indian Creek, 2010 5A: 46% (17/37), Parkersburg South, 2014 MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [11] 1A: 6, Madonna, 2011 2A: 7, Shadyside, 2011 3A: 11, Fort Frye, 2015 4A: 6, Union Local, 2015 Harrison Central, 2014 Steubenville, 2014 5A: 8, Morgantown, 2012 BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [67%, 6/9] (5 attempts minimum)</p>	<p>1A: 60% (3/5), Beallsville, 2010 2A: 50% (7/14), Shadyside, 2011 3A: 56% (5/9), Barnesville, 2008 4A: 67% (6/9), Harrison Central, 2014 5A: 60% (6/10), University, 2013 ATTENDANCE RECORDS CLASS 1A [446] 2008 391 2009 417 2010 387 2011 337 2012 158 2013 262 2014 446 2015 246 CLASS 2A [595] 2008 367 2009 435 2010 463 2011 515 2012 496 2013 431 2014 595 2015 300 CLASS 3A [522] 2008 522 2009 302 2010 303 2011 400 2012 326 2013 368 2014 289 2015 483 CLASS 4A [572] 2008 317 2009 450 2010 385 2011 195 2012 572 2013 341 2014 510 2015 489 CLASS 5A [244] 2012 191 2013 155 2014 219 2015 244 TOTAL [2059] 2008 1704 2009 1872 2010 1726 2011 1447 2012 1743 2013 1598 2014 2059 2015 1794 SINGLE GAME 595 Bridgeport v. Frontier, 2014 TEAM MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [23] 1A: 23, St. John, 2008 2A: 13, Shadyside, 2010 3A: 12, Fort Frye, 2014 Fort Frye, 2013 4A: 17, Edison, 2009 5A: 18, Parkersburg South, 2015 MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [32] 1A: 32, Madonna, 2011 2A: 21, Wheeling Central, 2015 3A: 22, Barnesville, 2008 4A: 25, Harrison Central, 2015 Wheeling Park, 2011</p>	<p>5A: 21, Wheeling Park, 2012 MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [47] 1A: 47, St. John, 2008 2A: 27, Wheeling Central, 2015 Bridgeport, 2015 3A: 32, Barnesville, 2008 4A: 40, Harrison Central, 2015 5A: 31, Parkersburg South, 2015 MOST ASSISTS [16] 1A: 8, Conotton Valley, 2015 St. John, 2011, 2008 2A: 9, Shadyside, 2011 3A: 16, Fort Frye, 2015 4A: 9, Union Local, 2015 5A: 11, Parkersburg South, 2015 MOST STEALS [16] 1A: 16, St. John, 2008 2A: 12, Monroe Central, 2008 3A: 16, St. Clairsville, 2010 4A: 15, Indian Creek, 2008 5A: 16, Morgantown, 2012 MOST BLOCKS [9] 1A: 9, Conotton Valley, 2013 2A: 3, Frontier, 2014 3A: 4, River, 2015 River, 2013 Oak Glen, 2011 4A: 3, Harrison Central, 2015 Steubenville, 2013 5A: 4, Parkersburg South, 2014</p>
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OVAC Girls Basketball Championship History

Year	Class	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
2008	CLASS A	1 St. John 71	2 Bealsville 65	3 Bridgeport (OT) 74	4 Valley 67
	CLASS AA	1 Monroe Central 66	2 Steubenville Catholic 39	3 Buckeye Trail 59	4 Frontier 29
	CLASS AAA	1 Barnesville 50	2 Martins Ferry 33	3 Wheeling Central 57	4 St. Clairsville 19
	CLASS AAAA	1 Indian Creek 49	2 John Marshall 40	3 Edison 63	4 Brooke 31
2009	CLASS A	1 Bealsville 56	2 Bishop Donahue 37	3 Valley 59	4 Cameron 48
	CLASS AA	1 Monroe Central 50	2 Shadyside 42	3 Frontier 51	4 Steubenville Catholic 44
	CLASS AAA	1 Martins Ferry (2OT) 49	2 St. Clairsville 44	3 Oak Glen 44	4 Harrison Central 28
	CLASS AAAA	1 Indian Creek 53	2 Edison 48	3 John Marshall 37	4 Steubenville 32
2010	CLASS A	1 Bealsville 32	2 Bridgeport 31	3 Cameron DNP	4 Madonna DNP
	CLASS AA	1 Fort Frye 40	2 Shadyside 36	3 Buckeye Trail 58	4 Monroe Central 51
	CLASS AAA	1 Edison 50	2 St. Clairsville 46	3 Weir DNP	4 Oak Glen DNP
	CLASS AAAA	1 Indian Creek 50	2 Steubenville 32	3 Wheeling Park DNP	4 John Marshall DNP
2011	CLASS A	1 Madonna 47	2 St. John 41	3 Cameron 54	4 Valley 53
	CLASS AA	1 Shadyside 52	2 Fort Frye 36	3 Monroe Central 56	4 Wheeling Central 52
	CLASS AAA	1 Union Local 44	2 Oak Glen 33	3 Edison 61	4 Weir 46
	CLASS AAAA	1 Wheeling Park 55	2 John Marshall 41	3 Indian Creek 64	4 East Liverpool 51
2012	CLASS 1A	1 Trinity Christian 47	2 Madonna 37	3 Conotton Valley 61	4 Bealsville 51
	CLASS 2A	1 Wheeling Central 37	2 Shadyside 34	3 Linsly 48	4 River 44
	CLASS 3A	1 Fort Frye 50	2 Monroe Central 34	3 Shenandoah 52	4 Martins Ferry 28
	CLASS 4A	1 Edison 48	2 Union Local 35	3 Harrison Central 43	4 Oak Glen 40
2013	CLASS 1A	1 Wheeling Park (OT) 68	2 Morgantown 62	3 University 60	4 John Marshall 54
	CLASS 1A	1 Conotton Valley 50	2 St. John 26	3 Trinity Christian DNP	4 Madonna DNP
	CLASS 2A	1 Shadyside 53	2 Wheeling Central 44	3 Bridgeport 63	4 Clay-Battle 59
	CLASS 3A	1 Fort Frye 46	2 River 22	3 Monroe Central 51	4 Shenandoah 45
2014	CLASS 1A	1 University 53	2 Morgantown 42	3 Indian Creek 60	4 John Marshall 53
	CLASS 1A	1 Conotton Valley 46	2 Madonna 30	3 Trinity Christian 73	4 Paden City 35
	CLASS 2A	1 Frontier 46	2 Bridgeport 44	3 River DNP	4 Wheeling Central DNP
	CLASS 3A	1 Linsly (2OT) 47	2 Fort Frye 41	3 Shenandoah DNP	4 Magnolia DNP
2015	CLASS 1A	1 University 48	2 Indian Creek DNP	3 Morgantown DNP	4 Morgantown DNP
	CLASS 1A	1 Conotton Valley 40	2 Madonna 21	3 St. John 65	4 Trinity Christian 54
	CLASS 2A	1 Wheeling Central 48	2 Bridgeport 30	3 Frontier 50	4 Clay-Battle 40
	CLASS 3A	1 Fort Frye 56	2 River 35	3 Linsly 53	4 Barnesville 49
COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT RECORDS	CLASS 1A	1 Morgantown 55	2 Parkersburg South 52	3 John Marshall 55	4 Wheeling Park 53
	CLASS 2A	Barnesville 1-0	Bealsville 2-1	Bishop Donahue 0-1	Bridgeport 0-3
	CLASS 3A	Conotton Valley 3-0	Edison 2-1	Fort Frye 4-2	Frontier 1-0
	CLASS 4A	Harrison Central 2-0	Indian Creek 3-0	John Marshall 0-2	Linsly 1-0

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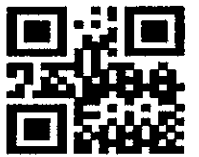




Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Fort Frye Cadets girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Tanner Booth, Katie Hart, Karisa Lang, Alexis Enochs, Megan Hesson, Makayla Liedtke and Chloe Miller. Second row, from left, are assistant coach John Bostic, Danielle Lamp, Kelsey Adkins, Gabby Baker, MacKenzie White and head coach Dan Liedtke. Back row, from left, are Brooke Haas, Morgan Borich, Kasey Buchanan, Bailey Snider-Miller and Caylin Anderson.

3A

Continued from Page 8

contributor off the bench. "I am happy with where we are as a team," Allison said. "I feel like everyone's contributing and all of the pistons are firing."

Fort Frye, meanwhile, is currently led in the scoring column by senior Alexis

Enochs. She pours in 14 points a game and is the only healthy double-figure scorer.

The balance of the Fort's lineup consists of Karisa Lang, point guard Katie Hart, Tanner Booth and Megan Hesson, who has

stepped into Liedtke's void. Kasey Buchanan and Morgan Borich are the Fort's top subs.

"We're starting to show signs of confidence," Coach Liedtke said. "We were kind of shaky for a few games without McKayla,

but this is what we have and we play with now."

After OVAC play concludes, Fort Frye was voted the third seed in Division IV and will meet Shenandoah on Feb. 15 at Indian Valley High School. Linsly's season will be complete.

5A

Continued from Page 10

Morgantown has been dominant in its 15-0 campaign. The closest contest was an 8-point verdict at St. Albans back on Dec. 5. The Mohigans punched their OVAC finals ticket via a 54-36 over Cambridge Monday.

Parkersburg South, meanwhile, enters the title clash with 14-3 mark, coming on the heels of its 71-40 semi-final win over Steubenville. The Patriots are 13-3, their third loss coming at the hands of Linsly School, 64-62, on Dec. 10 on the Leatherwood campus.

"I was happy with how we performed against Steubenville. They are a good team, but one we match up real well with," South head coach Scott Stephens said. "We have speed to match theirs. I believe our pressure wore them down."

Stephens, now in his 13th year at the Patriots' helm, also knows Morgantown will be a different animal.

"Morgantown has a great program. They play tremendous defense. That make it a struggle to score," Stephens said. "They are big and long and so fundamentally sound. Coach White must train them with shock collars, because he can get his girls to do what other coaches cannot do. He does a great job."

South's successful season has not been all smooth sailing.

Star guard Tara McCutcheon - a Michigan State signee - relocated to the state of Michigan earlier this season. Such a departure could have been lethal to many programs. South is not one of those programs.

"We were 5-2 when Tara left. It was a big shock," Stephens noted. "But adversity creates opportunities. We have had several girls step up, including Jordan Johnson and Savannah Hays."

Johnson is a 5-4 junior

See, 5A, Page 14



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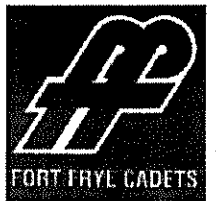
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From The Fort Frye
Athletic Department



Continued from Page 13

guard while Hays is a 5-8 sophomore forward.

Breaunna Haynes, a 5-5 senior guard, is South's top scorer at 15 points a game. Katelyn Byrd is a 5-9 senior dandy. The Morehead State recruit is averaging 14 points a game.

The Patriots also rely on 6-2 senior center Anna Hayton and 5-10 senior forward Carlie Wilson, who may miss the game due to ACT testing that morning.

Morgantown advanced to the OVAC finals courtesy of a 52-36 win over Cambridge.

"It was an ugly win. We struggled to make shots, and we had to score in transition and off our defense," White said. "Cambridge has a nice team. It is good to be moving on."

Success breeds success, but White was unsure of how this year's team would mesh. He had to replace five quality seniors.

"The season has played out as I would have hope, but I wasn't sure what



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Parkersburg South Patriots Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Carlie Wilson, Mykalyn Fallon, Breaunna Haynes, Laken Valentine, Anna Hayton, Katelyn Byrd, Taryn McCutcheon, Allison Currey. Second row, from left, are assistant coaches Ed Davis, Susie Davis, Stacy Houser; Alexis Moore, Devin Hefner, Lauren Hannah, Savannah Hays, Allie Taylor, Jordan Johnson and Scorekeeper Jerry Looney. Third Row, from left, are Manager Kylie Metz, Kenzie Johnson, Hannah Boone, Haley Cothem, Jordan Huffman, Kaylee Boothe, Cassie Whitatch, Kyla Marshall, Charity Anderson and Head Coach Scott Stephens.

would be this year. We lost some real good kids to

graduation," White said. "I knew we had a good nucleus returning. But until you

plug them into the starting lineup, you do not know how they will handle it. We

have established an identity with our defense."

White is in his third season as Morgantown's head coach.

Amazingly, this will be the 11th time facing South. The Mohigans lost to the Patriots two years ago in the OVAC semifinals. South went on to capture the crown.

"It's ironic we are talking on Groundhog Day. Playing Parkersburg South is like the movie, 'Groundhog Day.' Heading into the season, we were 4-4 against them the last two years," White offered. "Two teams cannot be more familiar with each other than South and us."

"It has grown into one of the greatest unnatural rivalries in the state. Most rivalries are because of proximity. We are two schools on opposite ends of the state," he added. "They are good people and well-coached. Coach Stephens does a

great job with them."


Morgantown, like South, may lose a starter Saturday due to ACT testing. Senior Rachel Laskody, a 6-ft senior, is scheduled to take the standardized test that morning.

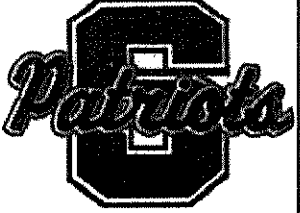
The Mohigans' top scorer is senior Sydney Holloway. The 5-10 power forward is averaging 15 points a contest.

She is ably supported by junior Lydia Adrian, whose brother is a member of the WVU hoop squad. She is a 5-11 forward, averaging 11 points a contest.

The other two Morgantown starters are Paige Poffenberger and Shelby Boyle. Poffenberger is a 5-7 senior point guard while Boyle is a 5-10 senior center.

Laskody's absence will be filled by either 5-10 junior forward Courtney Quinn or 5-6 sophomore forward Fallon Nicholson.

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Continued from Page 9

to face the Irish.
 "I have a young group, but they play extremely hard," said Martin, who is assisted by Donnie Anderson and Ed Metz, the former Bridgeport head man and John Marshall assistant. "They're quick and they listen really well for a young group."

Kapral said hidden beneath all of Bishop Donahue's youth is a team keen in hoops experience.

"They put five people on the floor that can score," he advised. "They're basketball smart and they've been through the wars. Shawn does a good job of getting the most out of them."

"They're young, but they're not young on experience."

The Bishops are senior free and have six freshmen on their roster. Two of them

Shay Straughn (5-3) and Josie Purpura (5-6) – start.

"They're 12-6, but that's a little misleading," Kapral said, noting a few of those defeats came with Straughn out of the lineup.

Sophomore Madison Wiedebusch (5-4) and juniors Jewel Purpura (5-4) and Cassidy Campbell (5-7) round of the Bishops' starting lineup.

"The Purpura sisters are quality players and big-time shooters, and Wiedebusch started last year as a point guard and has been through the wars."

"You add Straughn, who is as good as any freshman in the valley, and you have a good team."

The Bishops, seeded second in the tournament, reached the final by virtue of a 61-44 home victory against Madonna. Straughn scored a game-high 20 points. Jewel Purpura added 12 points, while her sister tacked on 10.

"I have three girls averaging double figures (in scoring), and one that's close," Martin said of the



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Bishop Donahue Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Melanie Kwiatkoski, Madison Wiedebusch, Madison Menendez, Sarah Heller and Shay Straughn. Second row, from left, are Emily Nelson, Morgan Padlow, Cassidy Campbell, Jewel Purpura, Josie Purpura and Tiara Bertrand.

scoring potential of his lineup. "So, at any given time, we could start hitting shots."

"We have several shooters. The girls know they have the green light. We look for anyone we can to get hot during the game."

The two teams haven't faced off this season, but they split a home-and-home series last winter.

And last season was a rare time when the Irish didn't reach the OVAC final. They were upended in the semifinals by Conotton Valley.

"This is our fourth time in the final," said Kapral, who is assisted by Nick Nicola and Dr. Jerry

Liberatore.

St. John stands at 18-3 and is the event's top seed. After defeating Bridgeport on the road last week and Valley on Monday night in the other 1A semi – both tight games – Martin thinks the Irish are peaking at the right time.

"They have a veteran group," he said. "It's pretty much the same group they had last year. They have a lot of size and experience."

The Irish bring to the floor a starting five that includes four seniors: Lindsey Froehlich (6-2), Marissa Rose (5-8) – both

career 1,000-point scorers – Emily LeMasters (5-9) and Jessica Alvey (5-6). Junior Taylor Lowe (5-6) rounds out the unit.

"Froehlich gives us a size advantage," Kapral said. "And, we have LeMasters, too."

But while seniors have been the anchor of Kapral's team, his two freshmen Madison DeLuca (5-4) and Kaylin Nixon (5-9) – have provided a spark off the bench.

"They have played very well the last two games," he said. "And Nixon gives us a nice post inside."

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Supplement to The Times Leader ■ Saturday, February 13, 2016

2016 OVAC BOYS Basketball Championships



Championship Schedule

Class 5A – 10 a.m.
 No. 1 Morgantown vs. No. 2 University – Page 2
Class 1A – 12:30 p.m.
 No. 1 Madonna vs. No. 2 Trinity – Page 3
Class 2A – 3 p.m.
 No. 1 Wheeling CC vs. No. 3 Caldwell – Page 5
Class 3A – 5:30 p.m.
 No. 1 Magnolia vs. No. 2 Fort Frye – Page 8
Class 4A – 8 p.m.
 No. 1 St. Clairsville vs. No. 3 Meadowbrook – Page 10

ON THE COVER

PICTURED ARE three of the premier area players in today's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship. Pictured are Chase Harier (Wheeling Central), Preston Boswell (Magnolia) and Patrick Buchanan (St. Clairsville).

NOTE TO READERS

The complete story about the St. Clairsville and Meadowbrook Class 4A championship game will be contained in Monday's printed edition because of The Times Leader's Saturday deadline. The story will be available at timesleaderonline.com Sunday morning.



Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Morgantown Mohigans Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Antonio Morgano, Kenzie Melko, head coach David Tallman, Steven Soloman and Elvin McNally. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Stephen Sutherland, assistant coach Dennis Kerns, Jared Fagan, Jayron Wilson, Torin Hanson, Deon Agnew, Nick Malone, Aaron Alvarez, Colton Stover, Nicky Soloman, Arohnday Lowe, assistant coach Matt Lemine and assistant coach Denny Crouso.

Morgantown rivals battle for 5A crown

Mohigans, University taking contest out of town

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
 Executive Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — City rivals will be trekking some 90 minutes today to square off for the second time this season.

The lengthy trip has plenty on the line, however, as either University or Morgantown will be returning home with an OVAC 5A boys' basketball championship. The intercity foes square off at 10 a.m. at Ohio University Eastern, the lidlifter of a quintet of title games.

The two teams met once this season. The Mohigans prevailed on their home boards by a 61-43 count on Jan. 29. They are scheduled to vie again on Tuesday at the Hawks' nest.

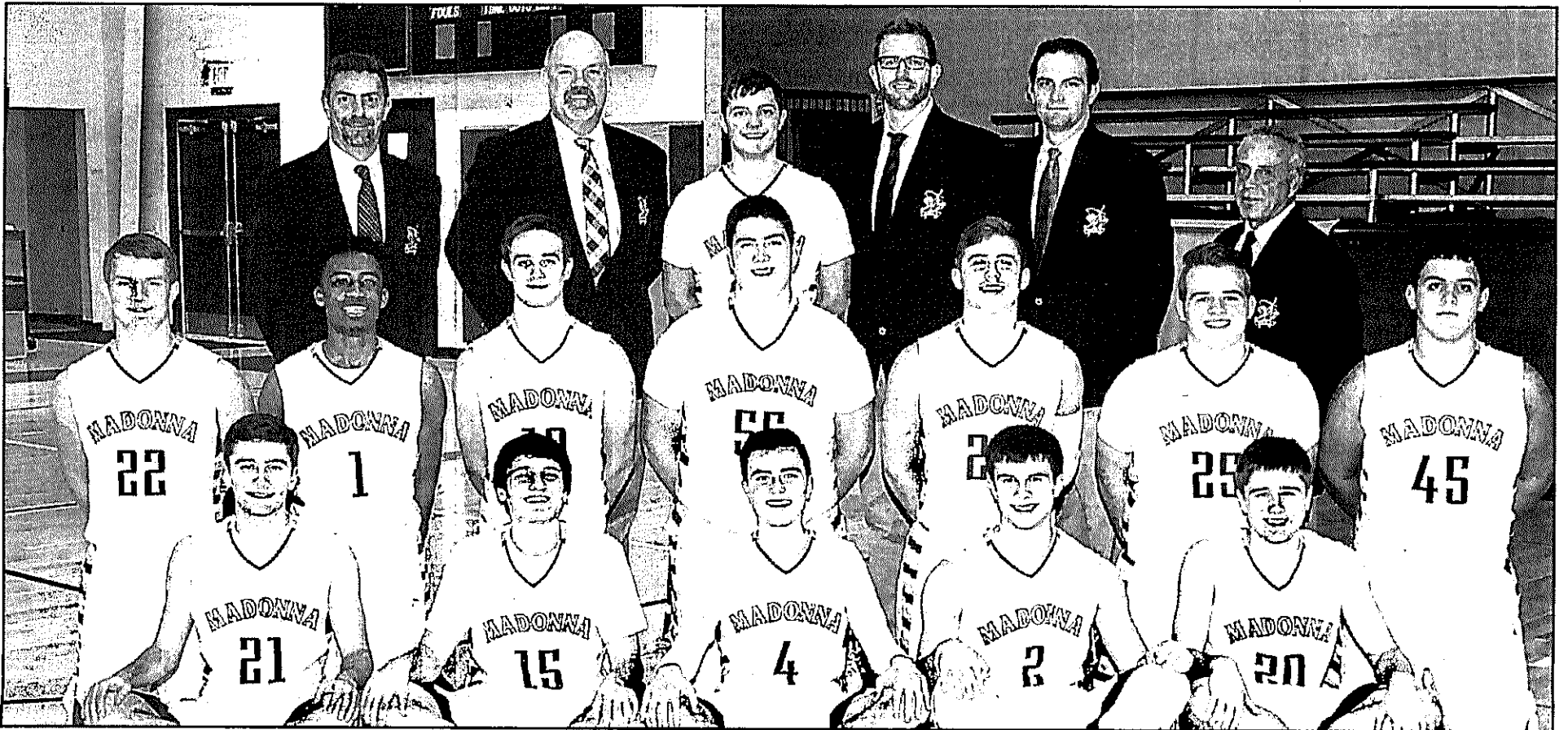
Morgantown is coached by Dave Tallman, a New Martinsville native. He has experienced great success at the Mohigans' helm in just his second year.

His well-drilled charges won the OVAC crown a year ago, downing Parkersburg South. Tallman also has his team perfect after 16 starts this winter.

University, meanwhile, is 12-4. The second-seeded Hawks, coached by Joe Schmidle, punched their ticket into today's finals by ousting Wheeling Park, 76-47, Wednesday.

In addition to Morgantown, University has fallen to Capital, Parkersburg South and Wheeling Park. Morgantown, meanwhile, eliminated Steubenville, 78-

See, **MORGANTOWN**,
 Page 7



PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Madonna Blue Dons Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from-left, are Joey DeFelice, Chase DiBartolomeo, Hunter Payne, Jimmy Mazzone, Kyle McAfee. Second row, from left, are Dustin Brown, Tavon Jeter, Nate Smith, Justin Canel, Joey Ewusiak, Max Carey and Jake Gasvoda. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Michael Payne, assistant coach Gary Lyons, Nick Higgins, head coach Chris Blair, assistant coach David Wilharm and assistant coach Michael Battista.

Photo Provided

Madonna, Trinity meet for 1A title

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Madonna and Trinity are separated by nearly 85 miles. But when the Blue Dons and Warriors meet today inside Ohio University Eastern's Physical Education Center, it will have the feel of two neighbors getting together.

The two teams know plenty about each other, annual opponents on each other's rugged slates. In fact, they met last Saturday, with Trinity coming out on the winning end of a 63-60 road verdict. Madonna's road game in the season series — which was slated for mid January — was canceled due to weather. But first-year Blue Dons head coach Chris Blair hopes his team can atone for last week's loss in today's Wheeling Hospital

OVAC Class 1A boys' basketball championship game. "I know they had a distinct advantage from the foul line," said Blair, who assumed control of the Madonna program this season from George Vargo, whom he previously served as an assistant to.

See, MADONNA,
Page 4

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PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Trinity Christian Warriors Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Caleb Jenkins, Trevor Laskody, Christian Moats, Adam Robertson and Noah Jones. Standing, from left, are assistant coach Ryland Newman, Cam Kellar, Kellan Alderman, Daniel Woods, Spencer Kendall, Joseph Zini, Jacob Martin and head coach Jamal Womble.

Photo Provided

Madonna

Continued from Page 3

"I know there are a lot of areas we have to get better at in order to beat them."

If there was one narrative that was repeated in the team's first meeting, according to Blair, it was inside play. He said most points were scored in the paint and expects a similar type of sto-

ryline for today's game, which tips at 12:30 p.m.

"It was a rebounding battle," he said. "They bring some size. They have a couple of big players and some good ball handlers."

"They are not so much a threat to beat you from the perimeter, but they will beat

you with their ball movement and dribble penetration and kick out.

"They like to score in the paint. It will be a challenge to stop them in the paint."

Starting for the Warriors (12-4) are — seniors Noah Jones (6-1), Adam Robertson (6-0) and

Christian Moats (6-2), along with sophomores Joseph Zini (6-1) and Kellan Alderman (6-1). Trevor Ladosky, a 5-11 senior, and Jacob Martin, a 5-11 sophomore, provide muscle off the bench.

"Ladosky and Martin came off the bench and did a good job for us," Trinity head coach Jamal Womble said referencing Thursday night's 78-61 OVAC semifinal victory against Valley. "That's kind of been the MO with our team. Every night we have someone step up and make quality plays to help us win."

Womble, in his third season guiding the Warriors, agreed with Blair that the

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See, TRINITY,
Page 14



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Caldwell Redskins Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Christopher Hubb, Clark Jennings, Brody Farkas, Erik Myers and Logan Heller. Standing, from left, are head coach Clint Crane, Jack Ridenour, Tanner Clark, Casey Farnese, Dalton Ivey, Troy Francis, Caleb Heller, Sheldon Archer and assistant coach Seth Thompson.

Caldwell, Central clash for 2A glory

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Boys Basketball Class 2A championship game can be billed as the wily veterans against the new kids on the block.

Wheeling Central (17-1) is 5-0 in championship games since the event began in the 2007-08 season. The Maroon Knights have won three straight conference championships and are 4-0 in 2A title tilts. They won Class 3A championship the first season.

Meanwhile, Caldwell (16-4) has never appeared in an OVAC championship game.

The Maroon Knights and Redskins will tip-off at 3 p.m. today inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. The game will be the middle one of five that day.

Top-seeded Wheeling Central advanced to the finals with a 70-57 victory over No. 4 Shadyside Tuesday night in East Wheeling, while third-seeded Caldwell needed overtime to upset No. 2 Toronto, 55-54, Wednesday night in the Gem City.

"I think a lot of our success lately can be attributed to

Chase," Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens said of his West Virginia University recruit, Chase Harler. "It's not by coincidence that we've had this run since he came on as a freshman, but we've had some other pretty good kids alongside him."

The 6-3 Harler averages 24.1 points per outing, one of three double-digit scorers for the Maroon Knights. The others are 6-0 junior Gabe Rohmann (10.6) and 6-0 sophomore Brent Price (10.5). Junior John Burkhalter (6-0) and sophomore Owen Gainer (6-0), round out the starting five.

Harler fired in 27 points in the win over Shadyside. Price added 19.

"Having a player like Chase on your team makes our job as coaches a whole lot easier," Stephens noted. "He has a very good IQ for the game of basketball and he understands the game. There are a lot of things that he does on the court that we don't have to relay to him."

Price has been a bright spot for Stephens and Co. "He's very athletic and jumps pretty well," the head coach said. "He could probably be averaging more points, but he's unselfish to a fault."

See, CALDWELL, Page 6

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PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Wheeling Central Maroon Knights Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are managers J.C. Maxwell and Jordan Waterhouse. Second row, from left, are Gabe Rohman, Adam Jarrett, Brian Campbell, Chase Harler, Patrick Hurley, Mike Niggemyer and Brent Price. Back row, from left, are John Burkhalter, Owen Galner, assistant coach Chip Calissie, head coach Mel Stephens, assistant coach Tyler Morando, James Phillipovich and Trey Mueller.

Photo Provided

Caldwell

Continued from Page 5

Despite being three-time defending champions, Stephens said his team being in the finals again is kind of a surprise. "A little bit," he allowed. "We expected to be decent, but to be where we are right

now, probably not. We've struggled in some games this season that we've won, and there's some other games where we've played really well."

As for Caldwell, Stephens didn't attend Wednesday night's game in Toronto, but has relied on the scouting report developed by assistants Chip Calissie and Tyler Morando.

"They do a decent job of playing hard," Stephens said of the Redskins. "They are tough kids. They shoot the ball pretty well and they like to drive it hard to the bas-

"THEY DO a decent job of playing hard. They are tough kids."

CENTRAL COACH MEL STEPHENS,
on the Caldwell squad

ket."

Tanner Clark, a 6-0 senior, led Caldwell with 27 points in its win over Toronto. He is a three-year letterman for head coach Clint Crane's squad. Jack Ridenour, a 5-9 senior and two-year letterwinner,

added 14, while Troy Francis, a 6-5 senior transfer from Cambridge, finished with 11.

"We knew we could be pretty solid this year," Crane said. "We've been pretty good the last two years, but we thought we

could make it to the finals this year."

For the first time in 39 years, Caldwell won the Pioneer Valley Conference title.

"Our defense has been our key," Crane noted. "We defend pretty well and we've got good chemistry. We might not be as talented as teams in the past, but that makes us play together better."

Clark leads the Redskins with a 23-point average,

See, **CENTRAL,**
Page 14

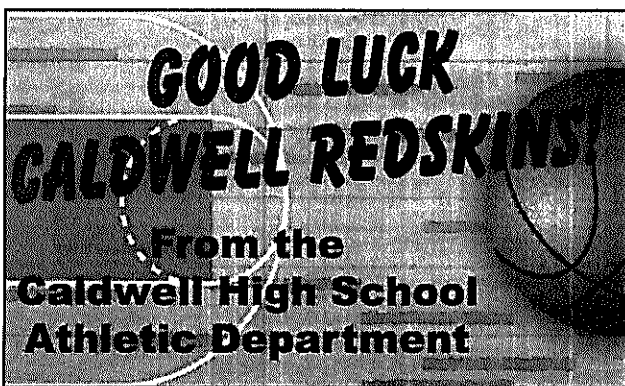




Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 University High School Boys Basketball Team. The Hawks consist of Clay Bailey, Kaleb Jennings, Holton Summers, Ethan Ridgeway, Brady Winge, Tyler McElroy, Tyler Hart, Geoff Hamperian, Ryan McCord, Austin Forbes, Storm Leftridge and Oliver Reed. The team is coached by head coach Joe Schmidle and assistant coaches Sean Freeland, Corey DeHaas, Barry Sanders and John Ellis.

Morgantown

Continued from Page 2

41, Thursday night. The Mohigans are the tourney's No. 1 seed.

"I did not know how our kids would respond against Steubenville after a tough road game against Capital the night before. But we came out and got on top 53-16 at halftime," Tallman said. "We are a senior-laden bunch. It is a great group.

"We are quite familiar with University. They are right across town," he added. "They are a much-improved team. Coach Schmidle has done a great job with his team. Ethan Ridgeway is a super shooter. If he gets off early, he creates a lot of

"WE ARE quite familiar with University. They are right across town. They are a much-improved team. Coach Schmidle has done a great job with his team. Ethan Ridgeway is a super shooter. If he gets off early, he creates a lot of problems."

Morgantown coach
DAVE TALLMAN

problems." Tallman will trot out a starting lineup that features four seniors and one

junior.

Point guard Nicky Solomon is the junior. The 5-11 dynamo is also the team's leading rebounder, which speaks volumes of his toughness.

His brother, Steven, is a prime-timer. The 6-3 two-guard is a consistent double-digit scorer. Tallman calls him, "a first-team all-state caliber player."

Antonio Morgano is a 5-10 guard and serves as the Mohigans' defensive stopper.

Kenzie Melko and Elvin McNalley provide the size up front for Morgantown. Melko is a 6-4 forward while McNally is a 6-7 post.

Depth is provided by 6-2 junior guard Torin Hanson, 5-7 sophomore guard Jayron Wilson and 6-5 frosh post Nick Malone.

While Morgantown is deep in experience,


University is quite the opposite. The Hawks have just three seniors on the roster.

Schmidle has done a

See, **UNIVERSITY**,
Page B14

GOOD LUCK
MIGHTY CADETS!

From The Fort Frye
Athletic Department



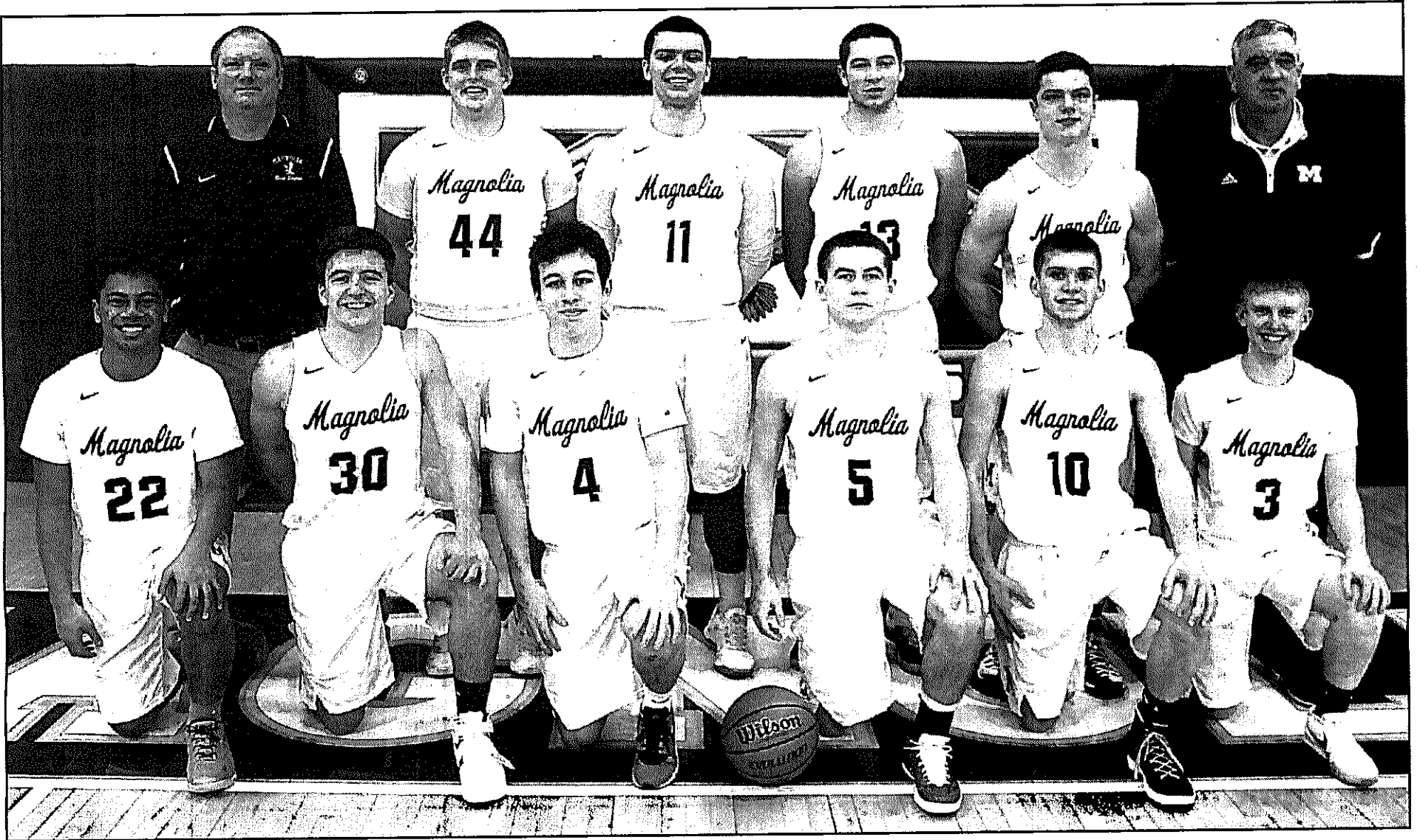


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Magnolia High School Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Peau Halahingano, Tyler Anderson, Preston Boswell, Derrick Blain, Alexander Anderson and Tyler Williamson. Back row, from left, are head coach Dave Tallman, Kyle Ritz, Mitchell Winters, Zach Haught, Brooks Parsons and assistant coach Mark Blair.

Magnolia, Fort Frye on collision course

Blue Eagles, Cadets to battle for 3A championship

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It seems like Magnolia and Fort Frye have been on a collision course for one another.

At the start of the season, both teams had today's date circled on their calendars.

After several ups and downs along the way, both the Blue Eagles and Cadets have arrived at their destination ... Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship in Class 3A.

The game will tip off at 5:30 p.m. and the victor will

receive the coveted conference championship trophy.

The top-seeded Blue Eagles come in with a 13-2 record, riding an eight-game winning streak and are fresh off a victory against Monroe Central in the semifinals.

"This is a great event for the players to play in," Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman said. "We know we have a great opponent in Fort Frye. We're excited."

The second-seeded Cadets didn't have quite as easy time getting to the final as the Blue Eagles did in their 58-43 victory against the Seminoles.

Fort Frye was taken to overtime by Bellaire before posting a 56-54 victory thanks to a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Carter Lang.

"That game definitely drained us," Cadets' head coach Eric Henniger said earlier this week. "I think we're playing well right now. It took us a little while for some of our guys to figure out their roles, but they're starting to come together and are playing really good basketball right now."

The teams — though they don't play in the pre-OVAC portion of the regular-season slate — are growing quite familiar with one another. This is the second straight season they've met in the title game. Magnolia won last year's encounter, 67-65, and rode the momentum to Charleston and eventually a West Virginia Class A state championship.

The Blue Eagles have been more of a work-in-progress this season despite having several key cogs back. They got

See, **MAGNOLIA**, Page 9



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Fort Frye Cadets Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Carter Lang, Derek Layton, Carter Kiefer and Justin Anderson. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Matt Barton, Brayson Schilling, Tyler Bradford, Grayson Schott, head coach Eric Henniger, Jacob Prichard, Ben Wagner, Tate Engle and assistant coach Rob Nelson.

Magnolia

Continued from Page 8

a late start to the season because the Blue Eagles' football team captured the Class A state championship in a 14-0 season.

"We're really starting to play good ball," Tallman said. "We had to be more patient with this team because of the football team's success."

Fort Frye has had a roller-coaster ride at times, too. The Cadets are 15-5.

"It's been a grind," Henniger said. "We were up and down during the summer and that's kind of how the season has gone, too. We've played well against good team and we've played down to the level of some other teams. We've never panicked though."

Like they showed against the Big Reds when they trailed by nine after one, the Cadets are a gritty team, according to their head coach.

"We fight hard every time out," Henniger admitted. "We're always working hard and that helps to make up for some areas where we may lack or nights when we haven't played well."

Henniger knows that is his team will have to be on top of its game to notch its eighth conference title in history.

"We want to play great teams and Magnolia is one of those teams," Henniger said. "(The OVAC) is one of our main goals each season. It's going to take one of our best games of the season for us to win."

Tallman believes the same kind of effort will be needed if the Blue Eagles are going to win their fifth conference title in history and fourth since 2011.

"We've kind of felt we'd be seeing Fort Frye in this game," Tallman said. "They have

a great program. It starts at a young age. They're going to play great defense and they're very patient on offense."

For both teams, it all starts with Magnolia senior point guard Preston Boswell. With better than 2,200 career points, Boswell is the engine that makes the Blue Eagles go and is the guy that Fort Frye must find a way to slow down.

"The thing about Preston is he's so coachable and brings the level of everyone else up on the floor," Tallman said. "He's just been a tremendous asset to our program. He's the kind of kid who every youngster, who plays basketball in New Martinsville, wants to be like."

Boswell comes into the game averaging 36 points per game and is the all-time leading scorer in Wetzel County history.

"You know he's going to score a lot of points," Henniger said. "We have to find a way to contain him, hopefully keep him below his average and then go from there. Great players, though, are going to get their points."

While Boswell, who is headed to Wheeling Jesuit University, is the floor general, he's not alone for the Blue Eagles. He also averages six assists.

Boswell's complemented well by the presence of two talented players on the interior in Mitch Winters and Kyle Ritz. Winters averages 10 points and seven rebounds a night, while Ritz, who is headed to West Liberty to play football, scores 7.3 points and grabs six rebounds a game.

See, FORT FRYE, Page 15





Photo Courtesy/NEAL WARREN

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 St. Clairsville Red Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are David Orr, Logan McCort, Jayden Starks, Daniel Trouten, Matthew Busby, Justin Lane and Logan Williams. Standing, from left, are assistant coach Kevin Sacco, Kaden Blomquist, Craig Bober, Luke Slavik, Grant Cameron, Patrick Buchanan, Matt Greenwood, head coach Kim Clifford and assistant coach Ryan Clifford.

St. C., Meadowbrook vie for 4A honor

Red Devils taking on Colts for title

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Like most basketball coaches, St. Clairsville's boys staff likes to make sure all of its Is are dotted and Ts are crossed as it

pertains to their preparation.

Kim Clifford and company have been a bit handcuffed this week, however.

With the OVAC Class 4A title on the line tonight, the Red Devils didn't have a whole lot of time to prepare. It wasn't because

they didn't want to or put the effort into collecting information. They didn't learn their opponent — Meadowbrook — until Friday night when the Colts dispatched East Liverpool during the other semifinal of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys

"I AM really, really happy with our schedule. We've seen a lot of different things and good players. That's helped make it easier."

St. Clairsville coach
KIM CLIFFORD

Basketball Championship by a 70-47 score.

"We've struggled with a practice schedule because we haven't known who we're exactly preparing for," Clifford said. "We've worked on things for both teams and both teams present different problems."

The Red Devils squared off against East Liverpool just two weeks ago in the Buckeye 8 Championship game and used a strong fourth quarter to prevail by a 67-53 score.

"Having already played East Liverpool helped, but we've only been able to talk about the other team," Clifford said. "East Liverpool has a really good player (Isaac Davidson), who can control the game and Meadowbrook has five guys who can shoot the 3, so it's going to be a good, tough game regardless of who it is."

St. C. actually met Meadowbrook, too, but it didn't count. The teams squared off in a November

scrimmage in Belmont County. For all parties, it seems like light years ago. This is the first time the Colts have elected to play in the OVAC Tournament.

"Both teams are different at this point," Clifford said. Having the late game today helps both teams' causes. St. C., which went through a full-scale practice before playing the

See, ST. C.,
Page 13

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OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Records & History

INDIVIDUAL

MOST POINTS [35]

1A: 29, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 31, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 35, Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 33, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 25, Scottie Core, Morgantown, 2014

MOST FREE THROWS MADE [16]

1A: 10, Ross Comis, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 8, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 15, Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 16, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 11, Elijah Bell, Wheeling Park, 2014

**BEST FREE THROW % [100%, 10/10]
 (5 attempts minimum)**

1A: 100% (10/10), Ross Comis, Madonna, 2012
 2A: 100% (8/8), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 100% (6/6), Zach Roe, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 L. J. Campbell, Weir, 2010
 4A: 100% (6/6), Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 100% (8/8), Scottie Core, Morgantown, 2014

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE [13]

1A: 10, Brandon Bailey, Conotton Valley, 2013
 Garrett Price, Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 10, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 13, Mark Winters, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 9, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2013
 5A: 10, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012

**BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [100%, 6/6]
 (5 attempts minimum)**

1A: 100% (6/6), James Cames, Madonna, 2015
 2A: 83% (5/6), Parker Dyson, Bridgeport, 2015
 Drew Kennon, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 80% (4/5), D'Onta Long, Wheeling Central, 2008
 4A: 83% (5/6), Christian Kyle, East Liverpool, 2012
 Justin Elkberry, John Marshall, 2009
 5A: 83% (10/12), Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [6]

1A: 6, A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 5, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
 Billy Merryman, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 5, Matt Martello, Steubenville Catholic, 2014
 Zach Roe, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 4, Adam Jeffries, St. Clairsville, 2012
 Riley Carlton, St. Clairsville, 2012

INDIVIDUAL

MOST STEALS [7]

1A: 5, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2012
 2A: 5, J.C. Cash, Bridgeport, 2015
 3A: 5, Caleb Gray, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 7, Mylik Young, Steubenville, 2013
 Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 4, Steve Solomon, Morgantown, 2015, 2014

MOST BLOCKS [5]

1A: 4, Grant Retton, Madonna, 2015
 2A: 5, Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 3, Josh Toland, Buckeye Trail, 2013
 4A: 3, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2013
 Marqez O'Neal, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 2, Travis Tomer, University, 2013

**BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [100%, 4/4]
 (4 attempts minimum)**

1A: 60% (6/10), A.J. Mayle, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 100% (4/4), Jordan Sloan, Wellsville, 2014

3A: 60% (3/5), Shon Smith, Fort Frye, 2011
 4A: 60% (3/5), Bubby Goodwin, Wheeling Park, 2010

Logan Martin, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 80% (4/5), Travis Tomer, University, 2013

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [13]

1A: 13, Chalice Truex, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 5, Anthony Wallace, Linsly, 2012
 Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 8, Jared Blatt, Magnolia, 2010
 4A: 6, Demetrius Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2010

5A: 4, Savion Johnson, Wheeling Park, 2014
 Phil Bledsoe, Wheeling Park, 2014

Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [13]

1A: 13, Devon Overholt, Bishop Donahue, 2009
 2A: 9, Chase Harter, Wheeling Central, 2013
 Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 11, Mark Winters, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 9, Dan Monteroso, St. Clairsville, 2012
 Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 7, Travis Tomer, University, 2013
 Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [23]

1A: 23, Chalice Truex, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 14, Jordan Indermuhle, River, 2012
 3A: 17, Seth Legraen, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 12, Colton McKivitz, Union Local, 2014
 5A: 11, Boo Lathon, Wheeling Park, 2012

MOST ASSISTS [8]

1A: 8, Jesse Padlow, Bishop Donahue, 2015
 2A: 4, Camden Douglas, Wellsville, 2014
 B. A. Holloway, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 7, Preston Boswell, Magnolia, 2015

4A: 6, Kaleb McDiffitt, Union Local, 2015
 5A: 5, Deion Cunningham, University, 2013

TEAM

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS [30]

1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 28, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 24, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 22, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 22, Morgantown, 2015

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS [46]

1A: 46, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 43, Linsly, 2012
 3A: 38, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 43, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 30, Morgantown, 2015

MOST ASSISTS [13]

1A: 11, Bishop Donahue, 2015
 2A: 11, Wheeling Central, 2013
 Wheeling Central, 2009
 3A: 13, Magnolia, 2015
 4A: 11, St. Clairsville, 2015
 5A: 13, Morgantown, 2015

MOST STEALS [15]

1A: 13, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 13, Shadyside, 2010
 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008
 4A: 15, Steubenville, 2013
 Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 10, Morgantown, 2014
 Parkersburg South, 2013

MOST BLOCKS [7]

1A: 7, Madonna, 2015
 2A: 7, River, 2012

See, RECORDS, Page 12



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From CCHS Athletic Department

OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Records & History

Records

Continued from Page 11

3A: 6, Fort Frye, 2014
 4A: 5, Wheeling Park, 2011, 2010
 5A: 3, Parkersburg South, 2013

TEAM MOST POINTS [86]
 1A: 86, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 72, Wheeling Central, 2015
 3A: 73, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 79, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 76, Morgantown, 2014

MOST FREE THROWS MADE [30]
 1A: 30, Madonna, 2011
 2A: 18, Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 21, Fort Frye, 2012
 4A: 23, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 22, Morgantown, 2014

BEST FREE THROW % [91%, 11/12]
 (10 attempts minimum)
 1A: 78% (21/27), Madonna, 2012
 2A: 91% (11/12), Fort Frye, 2009
 3A: 79% (15/19), St. Clairsville, 2011
 4A: 82% (23/28), St.

Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 71% (12/17), Parkersburg South, 2013

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE [30]
 1A: 28, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 24, Wheeling Central, 2014
 3A: 30, Magnolia, 2013
 4A: 25, Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 22, Morgantown, 2015

BEST 2-POINT GOAL % [66%, 29/44]
 (20 attempts minimum)
 1A: 65% (22/34), Madonna, 2015
 2A: 59% (24/41), Wheeling Central, 2014
 3A: 66% (29/44), Fort Frye, 2015
 4A: 53% (25/47), Wheeling Park, 2011
 5A: 63% (22/35), Morgantown, 2015

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE [11]
 1A: 11, Trinity Christian, 2011
 2A: 11, Wellsville, 2014

Shadyside, 2008
 3A: 10, Steubenville Catholic, 2014
 4A: 10, St. Clairsville, 2012
 5A: 6, Morgantown, 2014

BEST 3-POINT GOAL % [80%, 4/5]
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 63% (5/8), Bridgeport, 2010
 2A: 44% (11/25), Wellsville, 2014
 3A: 54% (7/13), Magnolia, 2015
 4A: 44% (8/18), St. Clairsville, 2015
 5A: 80% (4/5), Indian Creek, 2012

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS [22]
 1A: 22, Bishop Donahue, 2014
 2A: 17, River, 2012
 3A: 16, Magnolia, 2012
 4A: 17, Wheeling Park, 2010
 5A: 18, Wheeling Park, 2014

ATTENDANCE RECORDS CLASS 1A [711]
 2008 363
 2009 565
 2010 448
 2011 273
 2012 711
 2013 470
 2014 425
 2015 364

CLASS 2A [729]
 2008 425
 2009 695
 2010 708
 2011 560
 2012 729
 2013 411
 2014 674
 2015 523

CLASS 3A [1286]
 2008 1043

2009 1286
 2010 277
 2011 879
 2012 576
 2013 546
 2014 465
 2015 269

CLASS 4A [1407]
 2008 679
 2009 722
 2010 525
 2011 493
 2012 1183
 2013 1107
 2014 1407
 2015 1084

CLASS 5A [822]
 2012 822
 2013 221
 2014 716
 2015 145

TOTAL [4021]
 2008 2608
 2009 3591
 2010 2009
 2011 2205
 2012 4021
 2013 2806
 2014 3687
 2015 2538

SINGLE GAME 1407
 Union Local v. Steubenville, 2014

OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES - MEN'S 2008
CLASS A
 1 Bridgeport 49
 2 Weirton Madonna 37
 3 Bishop Rosecrans 61
 4 Valley 42

CLASS AA
 1 Shadyside (3OT) 69
 2 The Linsly School 64
 3 Fort Frye 67
 4 Steubenville Catholic 53

CLASS AAA
 1 Wheeling Central 58
 2 St. Clairsville 50
 3 Martins Ferry 54
 4 Magnolia 44

CLASS AAAA
 1 Indian Creek 40
 2 John Marshall 35
 3 Wheeling Park 53
 4 Weir 50

2009 CLASS A
 1 Bishop Donahue 50
 2 Bridgeport 42
 3 Paden City 63
 4 Cameron 37

CLASS AA
 1 Wheeling Central 52
 2 Fort Frye 41
 3 Shadyside 61
 4 Shenandoah 53

CLASS AAA
 1 Union Local 54
 2 St. Clairsville 46
 3 Magnolia 78
 4 Oak Glen 61

CLASS AAAA
 1 Wheeling Park 54
 2 John Marshall 42
 3 Weir 75
 4 East Liverpool 52

2010 CLASS A
 1 Bridgeport 60
 2 Bishop Donahue 39
 3 Valley 66
 4 Hundred 55

CLASS AA
 1 Shadyside 64
 2 Shenandoah 43
 3 Steubenville Catholic 71
 4 Barnesville 60

CLASS AAA
 1 Weir 48
 2 Magnolia 43
 3 St. Clairsville 75
 4 Harrison Central 50

CLASS AAAA
 1 Wheeling Park 74
 2 John Marshall 43
 3 Indian Creek 56
 4 East Liverpool 53

2012 CLASS 1A
 1 Madonna 84
 2 Beallsville 64
 3 Trinity Christian 79
 4 Conotton Valley 70

CLASS 2A
 1 Linsly 70
 2 River 65
 3 Steubenville Catholic 69
 4 Shadyside 46

CLASS 3A
 1 Fort Frye 64
 2 Magnolia 51
 3 Barnesville 76
 4 Shenandoah 68

CLASS 4A
 1 St. Clairsville 79
 2 East Liverpool 64
 3 Steubenville 62
 4 Harrison Central 56

CLASS 5A
 1 Wheeling Park 51
 2 Indian Creek 45
 3 Parkersburg South 71
 4 Morgantown 60

2013 CLASS 1A
 1 Conotton Valley 65
 2 Bishop Donahue 42
 3 Beallsville 52
 4 Paden City 42

CLASS 2A
 1 Wheeling Central 52
 2 Steubenville Catholic 50
 3 Clay-Battelle 62
 4 Cameron 47

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See, HISTORY, Page 15

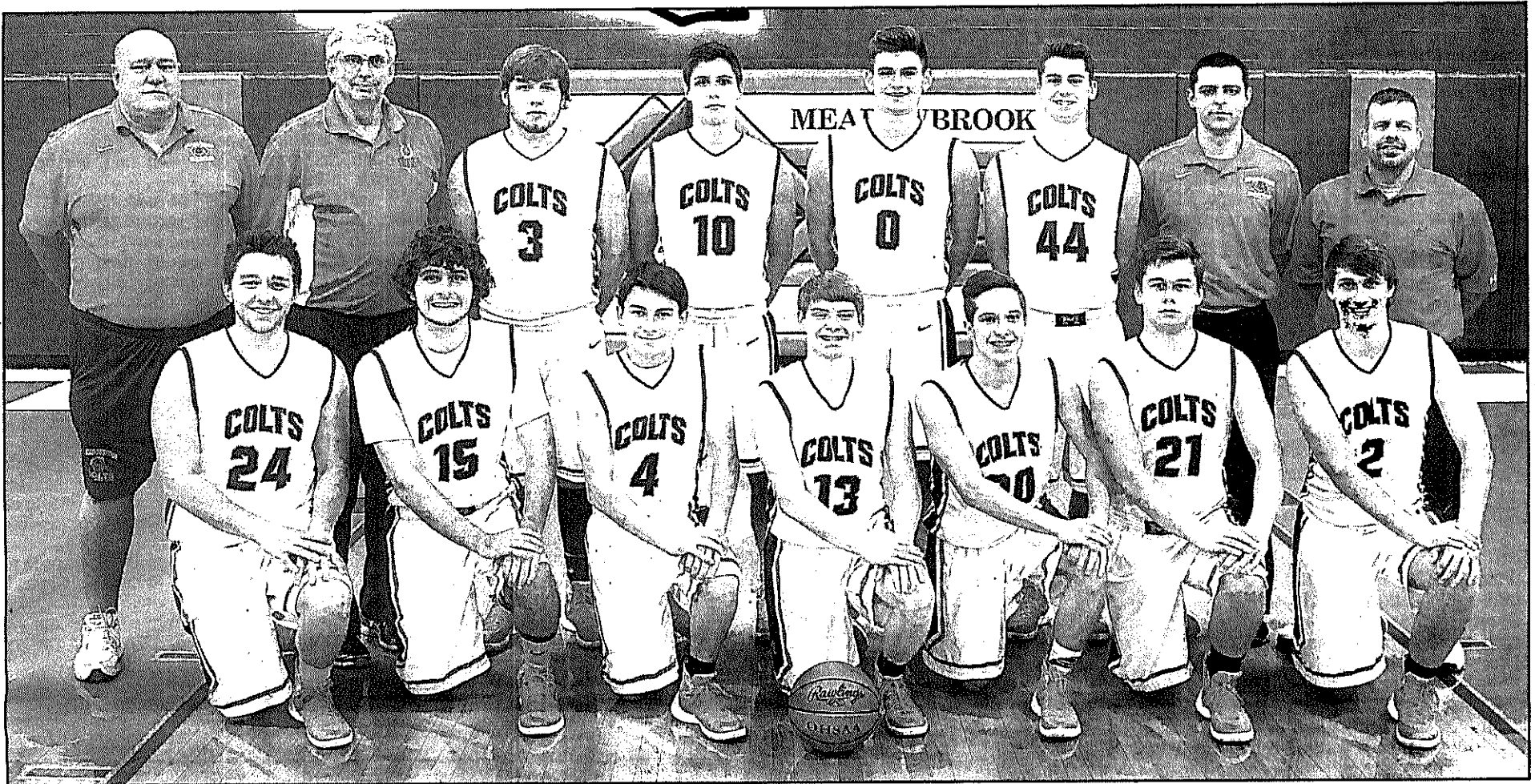


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2015-16 Meadowbrook Colts Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Kaleb Graham, Dalton Wiggins, Trey Singleton, Logan Wolverton, Wade Urdak, Konnor Roberts and Zach Touvell. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Mel Pesuit, assistant coach Woody Biggs, Bobby Feyko, Justin Cork, Parker Black, Easton Black, assistant coach Dave Holdren and head coach Keith Arnold.

St. C.

Continued from Page 10

Purple Riders this week, held a walk through and shoot-around this morning before making the short jaunt to OUE.

Clifford believes that the schedule the Red Devils have lined up against leading up to this game will pay dividends because they've faced so many different styles.

"I am really, really happy with our schedule," Clifford said. "We've seen a lot of different things and good players. That's helped make it easier."

St. Clairsville advanced to the championship thanks to a convincing 69-49 victory against Martins Ferry in the third meeting between the two rivals.

The Red Devils drained 13 treys in that win against the Riders. Plus, they turned in a solid defensive performance, which had Clifford smiling from ear-to-ear inside his office that night.

"Our commitment to the defensive end has changed and it's led to a lot of our success of late," Clifford said. "Early in the season, we weren't a good defensive team. We were relying on our offense to carry us. We've committed to being a good defensive team, too. And the combination is working out pretty well for us."

On the offensive end, the Red Devils are one of the premier shooting teams in the area. They've knocked down 156 shots from behind the 3-point line this season.

"Our kids get a lot of shots up in practice and then they take it upon themselves to get extra shots up, too," Clifford said. "You really can't have a conscience on our team. If you do, you'll have to play somewhere else."

But, they do much more than just shoot the ball from deep and everything's done within the structure of the offense.

See, MEADOWBROOK, Page 15

University

Continued from Page 7

superb job of bringing the Hawks to the brink of a title in his second year at the helm. University failed to qualify for the tourney a year ago.

"The season has gone well. We have tackled a tough schedule and have played only four home games so far. We went through a stretch where we had only one home game in 54 days," Schmidle said. "I was happy with how we competed in the second half against Park in our semifinal game. I realize they were shorthanded, but we did play well."

He also realizes the task at hand Saturday. "Morgantown is the best team I have seen this year," Schmidle said. "Their defense creates all types of problems."

"They take you out of your comfort zone. They disrupt patterns and do a great job on the boards," he added. "Morgantown is a team with no weaknesses."

University's offense is fueled by Ridgeway. The 6-ft. sophomore guard averages about 17 points a game.

The Hawks have a nice inside tandem in 6-6 senior post Brady Winge and 6-4 junior Geoff Hamperian.

Senior Tyler Hart is the Hawks' 5-9 two-guard, and is called, "tough as nails" by Schmidle.

Junior Holton Summers is a 5-10 guard who directs the team's offense. Kaleb Jennings, a 6-2 senior forward, is University's top reserve.

"We are young team with a bright future. Our jayvee team hasn't lost this year," Schmidle added.

Tallman has deep Ohio Valley roots. The 34-year-old is a Magnolia High grad where his dad has won three state hoop titles. His dad's Blue Eagles will be vying for the OVAC 3A crown this afternoon against Fort Frye.

Before landing the Morgantown High post, Tallman coached 10 years at St. Mary's Ryken Academy in Maryland. He served as assistant the first three years to Danny Sancomb, current Wheeling Jesuit University head coach, before becoming head coach the final seven seasons.

"I am a big OVAC man. I really enjoy this tournament," Tallman said. "I look forward to playing at OUE, watching my dad and Magnolia and then going to dinner with him afterward."



Trinity

Continued from Page 4

inside game should be a focus of attention again today.

"I think multiple things will be key," he said. "Definitely the offensive glass and transition defense. And you have to stop (Joey) Ewusiak and (Tavon) Jeter. They had 44 of the 60 points the first time we played. And (Jimmy) Mazzone and (Hunter) Payne are really good shooters."

Womble said he is impressed with the Blue Dons' role players and how they work a team.

"They're a handful," he said. "They've improved a lot since last year."

"We won a nail-biter at their place, so they will come in wanting revenge and we'll have to bring our 'A' game, that's for sure."

Madonna (10-7) enters today's game fresh off a 72-67 OVAC semifinal triumph against Bishop Donahue.

"We were down double-digits in the third quarter," Blair said. "We displayed grit and toughness and we fought all the way through. I was proud of that."

"We protected the ball down the stretch. We

had a goal of less than 10 turnovers and I think we had eight. That's a recipe for success, especially against a team like Donahue."

Tough, determined play, Blair said, has been a hallmark of his squad.

"I really like their grit," he said. "We've been down double-digits in the second half multiple times this year and have found ways to crawl back and win those games. I admire their grit, their toughness, their competitiveness; really how much they enjoy playing with each other."

"This team has a lot of chemistry."

In addition to players mentioned earlier, the Blue Dons also receive contributions from Nick Higgins — the team's lone senior — along with Dustin Brown, Chase DiBartolomeo and Justin Canei. Outside of Higgins, the rest of the Blue Dons' roster is comprised of juniors.

"Coming into the season we had two players with varsity experience, but we had a bunch of younger guys," Blair said. "The attitude has been outstanding. The effort has been 100 percent every day."

Madonna has seven losses, but they've come to some pretty good teams like Wheeling Central, Steubenville Catholic and Toronto.

"We've played a challenging schedule and we like it that way," Blair noted. "That only means we're going to get better, win or lose."

"We'll take each game and build off it. It's a challenge, but we like challenges."

Central

Continued from Page 6

while Francis and Ridenour each score 12 a contest.

Dalton Ivey, a 6-1 junior, and Caleb Heller, a 6-1 senior, round out the starting five. Ivey grabs 8.5 rebounds per contest, as does sixth man Casey Farnese, a 6-5 junior. Heller is a three-year letterman.

As far as Wheeling Central goes, Crane is well

aware of what lies ahead.

"I've seen them play a few times," he allowed. "They are a great program with a great player in (Chase) Harler. They've got a lot of good players around him."

Neither coach thought the bigger floor at OUE would affect their team.

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Meadowbrook

Continued from Page 13

"We talk about what a good and bad shot are," Clifford explained. "I have confidence in our kids because I know the number of shots they've invested. So, for our kids to have thousands of shots invested and for me to tell them not to shoot would be downright dumb."

Four of the five St. C. starters average double figures for the season. Senior ace Logan McCort leads the way at 16.4 points a game.

Senior point guard Daniel Trouten has enjoyed an excellent final season. He's scoring at a solid 12.2 points a night clip. Senior Patrick Buchanan and junior Michael Scarnecchia are next in line at 11.8 and 11.5 points per

game, respectively.

Senior Luke Slavik has been a strong addition to the lineup since his return from an injury. Ironically, he was hurt during the Red Devils' scrimmage against Meadowbrook. Since his return, he's averaging just under seven points a game.

Sophomore Matt Greenwood has also been a pleasant addition to the rotation. An adept 3-point shooter, Greenwood averages 8.3 points a game.

Logan Williams has also seen solid minutes off the bench for the Red Devils' seven-man rotation.

Though they've had to wait on who their opponent is,

Clifford basically just wants his team to do what it's been doing since a rough patch in late December and into January where it lost three in a row.

"We need to continued to be focused on the task at hand," Clifford said. "Obviously, we wish we knew who our next opponent was (a bit earlier), but a key to our success has been our ability to not look too far ahead or beyond that possession. If we stay focused, we'll have a good chance to win."

During that stretch, the Red Devils lost to Columbus Africentric, Indian Creek and Union Local. Their other two losses came to OVAC Class 2A finalist, Wheeling Central.

"Basketball's a long season," Clifford said. "I compare it to a baseball hitter. Those guys go through slumps, but they hit their way out of it. That's kind of what we did. We played some good teams, didn't play at times and those things happen at times. We've been playing consistently and pretty well of late."

Regardless of the opponent, St. Clairsville has the edge in OVAC Tournament experience. The Red Devils are the only program that's been a part of the championship bracket each season the event has existed. Taking it a step further, the Devils have claimed two titles under this format and are playing for the top prize for the seventh time.

"We've got a good situation right now," Clifford said. "I hope we can duplicate our crowd and support that we've received at OUE (tonight). We've had our student body and community behind us all season."

OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Records & History

History

Continued from Page 12

- 3 Morgantown 56
- 4 Indian Creek 43
- 2014**
- CLASS 1A**
- 1 Bishop Donahue 77
- 2 Trinity Christian 53
- 3 Madonna 62
- 4 Paden City 44
- CLASS 2A**
- 1 Wheeling Central 69
- 2 Wellsville 65
- 3 Caldwell 64
- 4 Bridgeport 65
- CLASS 3A**
- 1 Fort Frye 60
- 2 Steubenville Catholic 56
- 3 Linsly 80
- 4 Monroe Central 70
- CLASS 4A**
- 1 Steubenville 63
- 2 Union Local 51
- 3 East Liverpool 61
- 4 St. Clairsville 47
- CLASS 5A**
- 1 Morgantown 76
- 2 Wheeling Park 69
- 3 Parkersburg South 70
- 4 Brooke 60

- 2015**
- CLASS 1A**
- 1 Bishop Donahue 69
- 2 Madonna 68
- 3 Trinity Christian 60
- 4 St. John 59
- CLASS 2A**
- 1 Wheeling Central 72
- 2 Bridgeport 53
- 3 Shadyside 56
- 4 Cameron 48
- CLASS 3A**
- 1 Magnolia 67
- 2 Fort Frye 65
- 3 Monroe Central 66
- 4 River 60
- CLASS 4A**
- 1 Union Local 53
- 2 St. Clairsville 45
- 3 East Liverpool 74
- 4 Harrison Central 73
- CLASS 5A**
- 1 Morgantown 73
- 2 Parkersburg South 38
- 3 Wheeling Park 76
- 4 Steubenville 61
- COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT RECORDS**

- Beallsville 0-1
- Bishop Donahue 3-2
- Bridgeport 2-2
- Buckeye Trail 0-1
- Conotton Valley 1-0
- East Liverpool 0-1
- Fort Frye 3-2
- Indian Creek 1-1
- John Marshall 0-4
- Linsly 1-1
- Madonna 2-2
- Magnolia 3-2
- Monroe Central 0-1
- Morgantown 2-0
- Parkersburg South 1-1
- River 0-1
- St. Clairsville 2-4
- Shadyside 2-0
- Shenandoah 0-1
- Steubenville 1-1
- Steubenville Catholic 0-2
- Trinity Christian 0-2
- Union Local 2-1
- University 0-1
- Weir 1-0
- Wellsville 0-1
- Wheeling Central 5-0
- Wheeling Park 4-1

Fort Frye

Continued from Page 9

Derrick Blain and Tyler Anderson join Boswell on the perimeter. Blain scores seven points and snags four rebounds a game. Anderson is the Blue Eagles' best defender and draws the assignment of the opposing team's best player.

The Blue Eagles utilize an eight-man rotation, primarily. Tyler Williamson, Zach Haught and Brooks Parsons come off the bench.

"Those three guys off the bench could start for a lot of teams," Tallman said. "They're very valuable to what we do."

The Cadets feature a pair of double-figure scorers in their rotation. Senior Justin Anderson leads the way at 15

points a night. Senior Carter Keifer checks in at 11 points a game.

The balance of the Fort's starting lineup includes Derek Layton, junior Jacob Pritchard and the aforementioned Lang.

"They shoot the ball very well and we can't let them get to the foul line because they're automatic at the line," Tallman said. "We will have to play well defensively."

While the Blue Eagles continue their regular season after the OVAC wraps up, Fort Frye will begin Division III sectional play on Friday against Sandy Valley at Meadowbrook High School.

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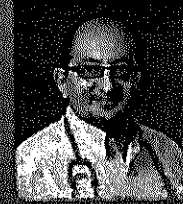
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Donahue Heads To 1-A Title Game

Straughn leads victory vs. Dons

By **SHAWN RINE**
Sports Editor

McMECHEN — Using a relentless pressure defense and five of its 11 baskets from beyond the 3-point line in the second quarter, the Bishop Donahue girls' basketball team quickly turned a five-point deficit in blowout on Monday night at Tommy "Dino" Smith Memorial court.

Freshman Shay Straughn scored a game-high 20 points to lead four players in double figures as the No. 2-seeded Bishops (13-6) advanced to the OVAC Class 1-A championship with a 61-44 victory against No. 4 Madonna (10-7). The Bishops will face No. 1 St. John at 12:30 on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's special for the girls and it's special for the school," Donahue coach Shawn Martin said. "This school hasn't been there since 2009 and before that was 1984 when they won it before it was a tournament. They won it because they had the best record."

"These girls have responded."

Martin could only watch as his club started slow out of the

(Please see **DONAHUE**,
Page 12)



Photo by Shawn Rine
Madonna's Monica Bragg, right, goes after a loose ball with Bishop Donahue's Madison Wiedebusch during their OVAC 1-A game Monday night.

River Pulls Past Wheeling Central, 62-48

By **RICK THORP**
For The Intelligencer

HANNIBAL — When Wheeling Central and River met inside the R.L. Potts Gymnasium a little more than two weeks ago, the former left Belmont County with a convincing 62-48 victory.

The two teams met again in the same locale Monday night, this time in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2-A semifinal.

"We were ready this time," River coach Rick Isaly said.

Were they ever.

With a boisterous group of River rooters behind them, the Pilots led virtually from start to finish and engineered a 52-43 triumph.

"Last time they came down here with a chip on their shoulder and they just outplayed us," said Isaly, whose team led by as many as 12 — 37-25 — in the third quarter.

And after that loss, he told his players to put it behind them knowing bigger things lie ahead — like Monday's rematch, which had larger implications.

"That's what we did," Isaly said. "We came out and played harder."

A fact that wasn't lost on Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz.

(Please see **RIVER**,
Page 12)

Allison Surpasses 1,000 Points as Linsly Routs Shamrocks

By **DONNIE YEAGER JR.**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The Linsly student section jubilantly chanted "O-U-E! O-U-E!" as the final seconds ticked down at Stiefel Field House on Monday night, knowing the Cadets were headed to the OVAC 3-A final at Ohio

University Eastern with the victory. Linsly had three players reach double-figures, pulling away from a game Barnesville team by a 70-43 count.

"It really was a total team effort," Linsly coach Maggie Allison said. "We were so pleased by that and we (assistant

coach Rebekah Newell and I) were just saying how well the points were distributed.

"All of our starters were scoring and we had scoring off of the bench and our bench isn't that big, so we are really pleased with that. Our game plan was to come out and try to get ahead early ...

we wanted to run the floor and thought we could get some points in transition and we executed that and did a good job."

Linsly (15-4) opened up the scoring when 6-foot junior Jazzie Orth drained a mid-range jumper at the 7:36 mark, but it was the next basket that brought

the crowd to its feet as junior Vivian Allison curled around the left side to drain a 3 and go over the 1,000-point mark for her career, bringing a halt to the game.

(Please see **LINSLY**,
Page 12)

Jets Upset No. 1 Ferry

Union Local ousts top-seeded Riders

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer
MARTINS FERRY — Union Local nearly buried itself in the OVAC Class 4-A standings after a rough start to this season.

The Jets didn't panic or throw in the towel and stuck with the plan. They played themselves back into contention and then captured a pair of victories just before the OVAC cut-off date to squeeze into the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship bracket as the fourth seed.

Coach Kelley Hanlon and her team must have thought, why stop now?

The Jets bought into that Monday night, ousting top-seeded Martins Ferry, 69-50, before a large crowd inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"There was a reason we (qualified for) this tournament," Hanlon said. "The first part of our season wasn't what we wanted, whatsoever. We scratched our way in and then I told the girls 'let's not mess it up. Let's take this as far as we



Photo by Joe Lovell
Union Local's Saige Butler drives down the lane against Martins Ferry's Kyonna Johnson during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal at Martins Ferry High School.

can take it.' "

Where they're taking it is to Ohio University Eastern

(Please see **JETS**,
Page 12)

Cougars Claw Bulldogs, No. 2 Bridgeport Upended

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Intelligencer

BRIDGEPORT — During the last four seasons, Bridgeport has had a pretty good record against every opponent it has played in girls' basketball, with the exception of Frontier.

That was the case again Monday night inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium as the No. 3 Cougars (15-5) upset the second-seeded Bulldogs by a 54-48 count in a Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A Girls semifinal on Frank Baxter Court.

"It's a bad matchup for us," Bridgeport coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "They have some height and some girls that can handle the basketball. We don't have that."

Frontier head coach Scott Murphy said his team's tournament experience came through.

(Please see **COUGARS**, Page 12)

Ogden said. They use their hands well and go after the ball.

"It's a credit to them because they executed their game plan. A big part of why we couldn't execute ours, was because of them."

That no doubt focused on getting the ball to Monica Bragg. The Bishops limited her touches and surrounded her each time she went to the high post looking for the basketball. Bragg didn't score her first basket until 42 seconds were left in the second

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 11)

"She (Vivian) is just a great all-around player. She gives 110-percent effort every single time. She can work outside and she can work inside and she came on a mission and did a good job," Maggie Allison said.

It was steady play by Orth, Allison and lone senior Morgan Brunner that buoyed Linsly's effort in the initial quarter, however Barnesville (14-7) came back from the early deficit behind the play of Kallee Dowler, trailing 17-11 after one.

"Our shots didn't fall. It seemed like everything we put up rolled off of the rim and everything they put up rolled in" Barnesville coach Jamie Carpenter lamented. "It seemed like it was one of those days when things didn't go our way, but when that happens you have to give the other team credit because that (Linsly) is a good ball team right there."

"That's probably the best team we played this year next to Cambridge. They altered some shots inside to make it roll off of the rim. It's not like we were shooting free all night. I don't really attribute it to anything."

The hosts used a 4-0 run to open the second, eventually pushing their lead to a 25-12 count after five steals in the first 3:46, with Sierra Pintarich grabbing three and Allison snaring the other two. Shayla Markovich provided the Rocks' only points of the quarter with a strong bucket inside, but was also able to go 7 of 8 from the free-throw line in the final two and a half minutes, leaving the score at 30-20 in favor of the Cadets at the half.

Barnesville cut the lead to 30-24 early in the third after a pair of jumpers by Sarah Powell, however that was as close as the visitors got as the Cadets roared out to a 40-24 lead. Linsly distributed the ball well throughout the quarter with five players denting the scoring column and most of the bench receiving quality minutes, taking a 46-28 lead into the last quarter.

"Cass is left-handed and has a little bit of an awkward shot. She draws a lot of contact and a lot of times referees don't call it if they think you're off-balance," Martin said. "Her and Morgan Padlow, those two girls pound the boards for us and Emily Nelson comes off the bench and does a nice job as a freshman."

"With no seniors we have to play several girls. But we can live with it."

Straughn hit a pair of 3s in the fourth but the Blue Dons won the quarter, 12-9.

"We didn't do a great job at getting back in transition and we were focused on finding the girl we were guarding at halfcourt, instead of guarding the girl who had the ball," Ogden said. "But that's the way it goes."

"Certainly we had a height advantage and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that's what you've got to do. With that being said, Bishop Donahue didn't go along with that script and did a heckuva job from keeping us from getting the ball to our bigs."

Jewel Purpura finished with 12 and sister Josie added 10 for the Bishops. Kasey Canei paced the Blue Dons with 12 points and Alimario added eight.

St. John 62, Valley 59
BELLAIRE — In a nail-biter, St. John defeated Valley. The Irish will move on to the 1A OVAC Championship game. Marissa Rose led the charge as she netted

RIVER

(Continued from Page 11)

"It was kind of the reverse of the last game," he said. "That game they couldn't make a shot and we did. (Monday), they made their shots and we didn't."

"Their scorers did a better job. Of course, it's pretty hard to stop her."

"Her" is Jensen Caretti, who finished with 24 points after only collecting 11 in the teams' last meeting. And, with 15.6 second left in the third quarter, her eighth basket pushed Caretti past the 2,000-point mark.

Already the school's leading scorer — boys or girls — Caretti joins a select group of Ohio Valley players to reach the plateau — Stephanie Petho (St. John), Amie Marks (Jewett-Scio), Kim Tullis (Jewett-Scio), Liz Repella (Steubenville), Ashley Vavrek (Bellaire) and Caitlyn Kroll (Bridgeport).

Caretti also snagged 12

JETS

(Continued from Page 11)

on Saturday night to face second-seeded Buckeye Local, which dispatched Oak Glen, 56-45, in the other 4-A semifinal.

"I am very proud of my girls," Hanlon

For the Golden Bears, Alex Arnott led the way with 15 points while Maisie Withrow netted 10.

OVAC Consolation
Wheeling Park 92
St. Clairsville 36

WHEELING — Wheeling Park scored 26 first quarter points in a victory over St. Clairsville. Josie Daugherty led the way for the Patriots (12-6) with 16 points while Tamara Bumgardner compiled 14.

For the Red Devils, Anna DeFillippo tallied a game-high 20 points.

Cameron 52
Clay-Battelle 40

CAMERON — Kelsie Meintel netted 16 points as Cameron defeated Clay-Battelle. Courtney Walker added 13 points for the Dragons (9-6).

For the Cee-Bees (5-9), Abby Ammons had 14 points.

Steubenville Catholic 54
Shadyside 34

STEUBENVILLE — Samm Simmons and Britany Bertoia scored 12 each as Steubenville Catholic defeated Shadyside.

Macy Coffland led the way for the Tigers with 10 points.

Monroe Central 62
Indian Creek 58, OT

WINTERSVILLE — Three Monroe Central players scored in double figures as it defeated Indian Creek. Allison Kuhn led the way for the Huskies with 20 points while Erin Miller had 16. Kaleigh Marley also had a

rebounds as the Pilots (17-3) earned a berth in Saturday's final opposite Frontier, a 54-48 winner against Bridgeport. Tip off is set for 3 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

River finished with 28 boards, something Isaly believed was key to his team's surge.

"That and they were taking too many wide-open 3s," he said.

Kurtz said his team had opportunities from the field, but wasn't able to knock down enough.

"They were running a triangle-and-2 trying to take out Lindsey (Baker, 12 points) and Taylor (Duplaga) and we needed some other people to step up with scoring," he said.

While Kurtz got that, the quantity wasn't there.

"We just weren't consistent enough," he said. "(The last game) we had real balance with scoring."

Turner led the way for University with 17 points as it defeated Weir. Morgan Okubo had 15 points for the Hawks while Zoe Murphy tallied 14.

For the Red Riders, Bailey Stead had nine points.

Boys
WVHIT Division II
Paden City 62, Union 52

MOUNT STORM — Aaron Heasley buried five 3-pointers on his way to a game-high 25 points and also grabbed seven rebounds as Paden City advanced with a victory against Union.

Luke Cooper added 16 points and four boards for the Wildcats (6-8), who shot 41 percent from the floor and only turned the ball over eight times. Hayden Hizer contributed 11 points, four rebounds and four assists.

Nathan Evans paced Union (11-4) with 19 points.

Regular Season
Linsly 73, St. John 61

WHEELING — Cole Griffin recorded a double-double as he filled the stat sheet with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Linsly defeated St. John. The Cadets' (8-9) 20 of their 27 field goals were from assists as Jacob Murray dished out six along with nine points.

Mavreick Kelley had a team-high 22 points. Leo Herrick knotted 14 points to round out the double digit scorers.

For the Irish, Cody Hamilton led the way with 18 points while Cameron Opic netted 15.

The Maroon Knights (8-8) also had a sizable advantage at the line in the last meeting — 23 of 31 to 6 of 14. Monday, neither team reached the charity stripe much. Wheeling Central was 3 of 4, with River 6 of 8.

Another factor that was different this time around for the Pilots was the absence of Carsyn Reynolds, who tore her ACL last week. Riley Lollathin filled in admirably for her defensively, Isaly said.

"She was all over," he said. "She's scrappy."

Her performance was indicative of the Pilots' overall effort, Isaly noted, and something he hopes carries over to Saturday and beyond.

"Jensen played better and she got us going," she said. "And when she got us going, we had some other kids knock down some shots."

Clark-Patterson scored nine of her points in the decisive third quarter. During that time the Jets extended what was a 32-27 lead at the half into a 52-42 upperhand entering the fourth.

points in the first quarter and ended with 15 total.

Bell rounded out the double-figure scorers for Wheeling Park with 10 points while dishing out eight assists.

The Patriots will face rival Brooke tonight in Wellsburg as seedings for the OVAC tournament will be a major factor for Park.

"We don't look at the OVAC a whole lot until about a week before," Jebbia said. "(The Brooke) game will I'm sure dictate some seedings. There's no question. We will have to be ready to play with (Tuesday being the cutoff.)"

COUGARS

(Continued from Page 11)

"We've got some experience in the OVAC Tournament from a few years ago," he said. "We played good last year, but Wheeling Central got us up there. They had us on the ropes, but we came back."

The Cougars will return to the finals at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education at 3 p.m. on Saturday when they meet rival River. The Pilots have topped the Cougars twice this season.

Frontier, which starts three girls 5-foot-10 or taller, relied on its outside shooting to grab an early lead, which it stretched to nine twice in the second quarter before leading 27-21 at the half.

"We've expanded our offense this season because we have some girls that can shoot the 3," Murphy said. "We've had some games where we've really been hot, but not lately. We were do."

Bridgeport, behind Caitlyn Kroll, started its comeback in the latter stages of the third quarter and continued it into the fourth when it drew even and then took a 42-41 lead on a Kroll free throw with less than 4 minutes remaining.

However, Frontier was

SUPER

(Continued from Page 11)

All of this thoughtfully brought to prime time by the NFL for the first time in the 50-year history of the Super Bowl.

For decades, Media Day was a Tuesday-morning affair — set early in the day, early in the week, so as not to interrupt the teams' schedules too much and to give writers the rest of the week to craft the stories out of the questions they'd asked.

But this year, the NFL moved it to Monday night, where minor details like dress code, off-color banter and 8-year-olds asking football players questions after bedtime barely raise an eyebrow anymore.

NFL spokesman Michael Signora described the scheduling change as one that allows "more fans (to) experience what has grown to become a very unique, popular Super Bowl event."

Surprising they didn't do this earlier. It's a nod to the reality that "Media Day" has long been a "journalism-free zone" — one in which fans have willingly, for the last five years, paid money for tickets that allow them to sit in the stands and watch the hilarity unfold.

Speaking of which ...

Late in the Broncos media session, Rocky the Leprechaun — a regular at Broncos games over the years — laid a dollar bill out on the blue carpeting of SAP Center and waited to see if someone would pick it up. Several minutes passed. Nobody did.

"Crazy to see that," he said.

The social experiment complete, he waited for a TV crew that needed him for a live shot.

In the meantime, he answered one question: What makes this week so great?

UL soars past Ferry to 4A final

• Jets' DeLaney scores 1,000th

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY - Union Local nearly buried itself in the OVAC Class 4A standings after a rough start to this season.

The Jets didn't panic or throw in the towel. They simply stuck with the plan. They played themselves back into contention and then captured a pair of victories just before the OVAC cut-off date to squeeze into the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship bracket as the fourth seed.

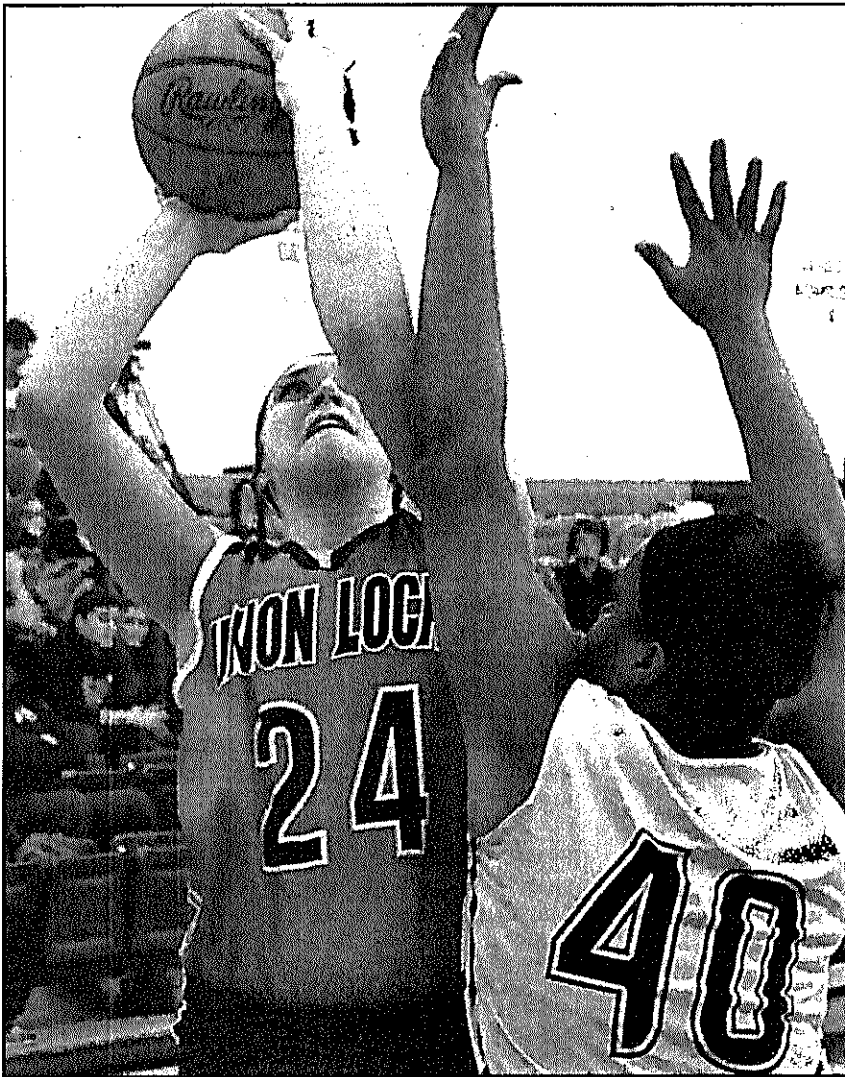
So, basically, head coach Kelley Hanlon and her team must have thought, why stop now?

The Jets' players bought into that in a big way Monday night, ousting top-seeded Martins Ferry, 69-50, before a large crowd inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"There was a reason we (qualified for) this tournament," Hanlon said. "The first part of our season wasn't what we wanted, whatsoever. We scratched our way in and then I told the girls, 'let's not mess it up. Let's take this as far as we can take it.'"

Where they're taking it is to Ohio University Eastern on Saturday night to face second-seeded Buckeye Local, which dis-

See, **UL**, Page B2



UNION LOCAL'S Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson goes up for a shot against Martins Ferry's Tyrah King during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal. Clark-Patterson scored 21 to lead the Jets past Ferry, 69-50.

T-L Photo/JOE LOVELL

Buckeye to play for title in Class 4A

By **MATTHEW PEASLEE**
For The Times Leader

RAYLAND - For the Buckeye Local girls basketball team to enter uncharted territory, it had to alter Oak Glen's shot chart.

On Tuesday in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 4A semifinal, the No. 2 Panthers used a stingy defense to earn a 56-45 win over the No. 3 Golden Bears. They now advance to Saturday night's championship game against No. 4 Union Local. Tip off is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

"We're off to primetime," said Buckeye Local coach Tom Figurski. "I've been coaching here 14 years and this is the first time we've reached the OVAC tournament and, now, we have the opportunity to play for a title. They're a great group of girls and they deserve to be where they're at."

"The defense was there tonight. We had to take away No. 1 (Alex Arnott) in the lane and No. 44 (Taylor McKay) on the 3-pointers. Our girls keyed on them and got the job done."

The Panthers forced 22 turnovers and contested most of Oak Glen's shots.

"There must have been Saran wrap on the rims," Golden Bears coach Ryan Wells said, with a laugh, as his team went 4 of 19 from the free throw line and missed 28 shots in the lane. "The execution was there and our defense played lights out. We just couldn't make free throws

See, **BUCKEYE**, Page B2

River gets by Central

• Caretti scores 2,000th point

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

HANNIBAL - When Wheeling Central and River met inside the R.L. Potts Gymnasium a little more than two weeks ago, the Maroon Knights left Monroe County with a convincing 62-48 victory.

The two teams met again in the same locale Monday

night, this time in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

"We were ready this time," River head coach Rick Isaly said.

Were they ever. With a boisterous group of River rooters behind them, the Pilots led virtually from start to finish and engineered a 52-43 triumph.

"Last time, (Wheeling Central) came down here with a chip on their shoulder and they just outplayed us," said Isaly, whose team led by

as many as 12 - 37-25 - in the third quarter.

And after that loss, he told his players to put it behind them knowing bigger things were ahead - like Monday's rematch, which had larger implications.

"That's what we did," Isaly said. "We came out and played harder."

A fact that wasn't lost on Wheeling Central head coach Penn Kurtz.

"It was kind of the reverse

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

RIVER'S Jensen Caretti (33) goes airborne Monday night while making a pass between Wheeling Central's Maddie Taylor (3) and Riley Bennington (14). Caretti surpassed the 2,000-point mark in the Pilots' 52-43 victory.



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

Frontier upsets Bridgeport

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BRIDGEPORT - Over the past four years, Bridgeport has had a pretty good record against every opponent it has played in girls basketball, with the exception of Frontier.

That was the case once again Monday night inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium as the No. 3 Cougars (15-5) upset the second-seeded Bulldogs by a 54-48 count in a Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A Girls Championship semifinal on Frank Baxter Court.

"It's a bad matchup for us," Bridge-

port head coach Rob Zitzelsberger said. "They have some height and some girls that can handle the basketball. We don't have that eighth."

Frontier head coach Scott Murphy said his team's tournament experience came through.

"We've got some experience in the OVAC tournament from a few year's ago," he said. "We played good last year, but Wheeling Central got us up there. They had us on the ropes, but we came back."

The Cougars will return to the finals at Ohio University Eastern's Health and

See, **BRIDGEPORT**, Page B2



FRONTIER'S Jenna Maston dribbles the ball as she is pressured by Bridgeport's Courtney Trouten during their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2A semifinal Monday night inside John J. Havlicek Gymnasium in Bridgeport. The Cougars upset the No. 2 Bulldogs, 64-58.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

SJC gets past Valley to reach 1A title game

By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BELLAIRE - Coach Bubba Kapral and his St. John Central girls basketball team is back in the OVAC title game and for the third time, Lady Irish's trip to the Class 1A final goes through a win over Valley.

Despite a gutsy effort by the visiting Lumberjills down the stretch, the top-seeded Lady Irish held off fourth-seeded Valley en route to a 62-59 win in a nail-biter Monday night.

St. John Central, the

OVAC's leader in girls' basketball championships with 14, embark on their fourth trip to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships at OUE on Saturday after notching its 18th win of the season. Kapral's cagers will head into their 12:30 p.m. championship battle with second-seeded Bishop Donahue with an 18-3 record.

Coach Jeff Derby's impressive Valley crew saw their record dip to 11-5 on the season. "We turned it into a nail-biter," Kapral said. "We were

See, **SJC**, Page B2



ST. JOHN'S Jessica Alvey races the ball up the court during Monday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal against Valley.

T-L Photo/JOE LOVELL

Linsly unloads on Barnesville in 3A

• Cadets' Allison scores 1,000th point

By **DONNIE YEAGER JR.**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING - The Linsly student section jubilantly chanted "O-U-E! O-U-E!" as the final seconds ticked down at Stiefel Field House on Monday night, knowing the Cadets were headed to the OVAC 3-A final at Ohio University Eastern with the victory. Linsly had three players reach double-figures, pulling away from a game Barnesville team by a 70-43 count.

"It really was a total team effort," Linsly coach Maggie Allison said. "We were so pleased by that and we (assistant coach Rebekah Newell and I) were just saying how well the points were distributed."

See, **LINSLY**, Page B3

doing. I give Valley credit. We had them on the ropes and they never quit. It's just nice to advance. Last year, at this point, we were losing to Conotton Valley by one point in overtime," Kapral continued.

"Next, we play Bishop Donahue and we will have to play a different kind of ball game because they are guard-oriented."

St. John struggled from the field in the first period, connecting on just three of 13 shots in the opening eight minutes while Valley cashed six of their 13 shots.

Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

Physical Education on Saturday at 3 p.m. when they meet rival River, the top seed which sent Wheeling Central to the third-place game last night. The Pilots have topped the Cougars twice this season.

Frontier, which starts three girls 5-10 or taller, relied on its outside shooting to grab the early lead, which it stretched to nine twice in the second quarter before leading 27-21 at the half.

"We've expanded our offense this season because we have some girls that can shoot the three," Frontier head coach Scott Murphy said. "We've had some games where we've really been hot, but not lately. We were do."

Bridgeport, behind St. Francis (Pa.) signee Caitlyn Kroll, started its comeback in the latter stages of the third quarter and continued it into the fourth when it drew even and then took a 42-41 lead on a Kroll free throw with just under 4 minutes remaining.

However, Frontier was up to the challenge as it had an answer every

third frame.

The teams exchanged runs with the Irish opening eight and nine-point leads only to see the Lumberjills get some key rebounds and buckets to stay close. Down 44-40 late in the third, the Lady Irish put together a six straight points on a bucket and free throw by Rose, a lay-in by DeLuca off a Lowe pass and a conversion by Rose to close out the third with a 50-40 lead.

"We've only practiced two times in the last three weeks," Derby said about his Lumberjills. "We played

time Bridgeport scored. The lead changed hands eight times down the stretch.

Sammi Morris gave the Cougars a 49-48 lead with a layup with 51 ticks left. Jenna Maston then stole the inbounds pass and scored for a 51-48 advantage.

"That steal was a very big play in the game," Murphy noted.

A Bridgeport turnover gave Frontier the ball back and it was able to cash in three free throws in the waning seconds.

"Credit to my girls," Murphy said. "We knew Bridgeport was going to make a run. The Kroll girl is as good as they come and I actually thought she was going to take the game over, but we were able to hold on."

Kroll scored 34 points in her final game on Frank Baxter Court, including 21 in the second half when he put the Bulldogs on her back and carried them in the comeback. She also pulled down 12 rebounds.

Lexi Brookover led a balanced Frontier attack with 14 points, two more than Morris. Kylie Daugherty

points and 14 rebounds, 11 assists and closed with 14 points and six assists and Arnolds added nine markers. Katelyn Brown had eight rebounds.

St. John notched a win in the pre-lim. Varsity scoring:

ST. JOHN CENTRAL (62) — Froehlich 7, 8-8 22; Lowe 3, 0-0 6; Rose 6, 12-16 25; DeLuca 1, 0-0 2; Nixon 0, 0-0 0; Lemasters 0, 1-2 1; Alvey 1, 4-8 6. Totals, 18-53, 25-34. VALLEY (59) — West 0, 0-0 0; Palmer 6, 0-0 14; K. Brown 2, 0-1 5; Underwood 3, 1-2 7; Thomas 0, 0-0 0; Arnolds 4, 1-2 9; E. Brown 8, 6-7 20; Baker 1, 0-0 2. Totals, 24-52, 8-12.

Three-point goals: St. John Central (1) — Rose, 1. Valley (3) — Palmer, 2; K. Brown, 1.

came off the bench to record 10 points and grab a team-high eight rebounds.

"I told the girls it would take a team effort and that is exactly what I got tonight," Murphy said.

For Zitzelsberger and his Bulldogs, who have dropped three straight for the first time in four years, it's back to work with a consolation round game at Wheeling Central Thursday night.

"We've got to get back to the drawing board and work hard," he said. "It won't be easy over there Thursday."

Scoring:

FRONTIER (54) — Haught 0 0-0 0; Maston 3 0-0 7; Morris 5 0-0 12; Brookover 4 5-8 14; Newlan 2 2-4 6; Daugherty 4 2-4 10; Graham 2 0-0 5; Totals: 20-47 9-19. BRIDGEPORT (48) — Kroll 9 13-16 34; Schell 3 0-0 8; Trouten 1 0-1 2; Dulesky 0 0-0 0; Massey 0 2-4 2; Beal 1 0-0 2; Neer 0 0-0 0; Butler 0 0-0 0; Sommer 0 0-0 0; Ivan 0 0-0 0; Matheny 0 0-0 0; Totals: 14-55 15-21.

3-Point Goals: Frontier 5 (Morris 2, Maston, Brookover, Graham); Bridgeport 5 (Kroll 3, Schell 2)

River

Continued from Page B1

of the last game," he said. "That game, they couldn't make a shot and we did. (Monday), they made their shots and we didn't."

"Their scorers did a better job. Of course, it's pretty hard to stop her."

"Her" is Jensen Caretti, who finished with 24 points after only collecting 11 in the team's last meeting. And, with 15.6 ticks left in the third quarter, her eighth basket of the game pushed her past the 2,000-point mark. She now has 2,007 career points.

Already the school's leading scorer — boys or girls — the Ohio State signee joins a select group of Ohio Valley players to reach the plateau — Stephanie Petho (St. John's), Amie Marks (Jewett-Scio), Kim Tullis (Jewett-Scio), Liz Repella (Stuebenville), Ashley Vavrek (Bell-laire) and Caitlyn Kroll (Bridgeport).

Caretti also snagged 12 rebounds as the Pilots (17-3) earned a berth in Saturday's 2A final opposite Frontier,

a 54-48 winner against Bridgeport. Tip off is set for 3 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

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"They were running a triangle-and-2 trying to take out Lindsey (Baker, 12 points) and Taylor (Duplaga) and we needed some other people to step up with scoring," he said.

While Kurtz got that, the quantity wasn't there.

"We just weren't consistent enough," he said. "(The last game) we had real balance with scoring."

The Maroon Knights (8-8) also had a sizable advantage at the line in the last meeting — 23 of 31 to 6 of 14. Monday, neither team reached the charity stripe much. Wheeling Central

was 3 of 4, with River 6 of 8.

Another factor that was different this time around for the Pilots was the absence of Carsyn Reynolds, who tore her ACL last week. Riley Lollathin filled in admirably for her defensively, Isaly said.

"She was all over," he said.

"She's scrappy."

Her performance was indicative of the Pilots' overall effort, Isaly noted, and something he hopes carries over to Saturday and beyond.

"Jensen played better and she got us going," she said. "And when she got us going, we had some other kids knock down some shots."

Scoring:

WHEELING CENTRAL (43) — Blaha 3, 1-2 7; Taylor 3, 0-0 7; Ferns 3, 0-0 6; Baker 4, 2-2 12; Manns 0, 0-0 0; Bennington 2, 0-0 6; Duplaga 2, 0-0 5. Totals 17, 3-4 43. RIVER (53) — Lollathin 1, 0-0 2; A.Caldwell 3, 0-1 6; Flannery 4, 0-0 8; B.Caldwell 1, 2-2 4; Williams 3, 2-2 8; Caretti 11, 2-3 24; Winkler 0, 0-0 0. Totals 23, 6-8 52.

3-point goals: Taylor, Baker (2), Bennington (2), Duplaga.

UL

Continued from Page B1

patched Oak Glen, 56-45, in the other 4A semifinal.

"I am very proud of my girls," Hanlon said. "They stuck to the gameplan and played their hearts out. We're playing good ball going into the tournament."

The Jets, who have been scoring the ball at an impressive clip the last few weeks, spent most of their practice time working on the defensive end of the floor. They knew they had to take away Ferry senior Tyrah King as much as possible to advance.

King, who scored the first two Ferry goals of the game, finished with just seven points. She erupted for 32 against the Jets the last time the two squads met.

"We knew they were going to try to do whatever they had to do against Tyrah, whether it was double or triple team her," Ferry head coach Lindsay Coyne said.

Much of the defensive work was supplied by Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson. She missed a good chunk of the season with an injury, but she made up for lost time against the Riders. Not only did she make things tough on King, she scored a team-high 21 points and came up a rebound shy of

a double-double.

"We weren't the same team without Kaitlyn," Hanlon said. "Since she's come back (to the lineup), we've really been playing well. The girls all work well together."

Clark-Patterson scored nine of her points in the decisive third quarter. During that period, the Jets extended what was a 32-27 lead at the half into a 52-42 upperhand entering the fourth.

"Union Local played extremely well," Coyne said. "It seemed like every shot they were taking was going in, whereas ours were hitting, clanking and just not dropping for us."

Ferry, which never led in the game, got the deficit under 10 once in the fourth, but could never get any closer. Union Local scored the game's final 10 points. Talented sophomore guard Hayley Porter calmly sank all four of her charity tosses in the final period and finished with 17.

Clark-Patterson and Porter were joined in double figures by seniors Alli DeLaney and Saige Butler. DeLaney surpassed the 1,000-career point in the first half and finished with 13. She now has 1,008 points.

Butler added 10.

The Riders will now trek to Oak Glen to play in the consolation game.

"This was one of the girls' biggest goals," Coyne said. "The past couple of years haven't been easy, but these girls fought hard. We talk about this tournament and wanted to experience it. It feels like crap right now, but there's a lot of basketball left."

The Purple was led by senior Shaye DeLeonardis. She tried single handedly to keep her team in it, scoring 28 points. Kyonna Johnson joined King with seven points.

The Jets held a commanding 34-20 edge on the glass. Union Local overcame 20 turnovers, which was seven more than the Riders.

Scoring:

UNION LOCAL (69) — DeLaney 6, 0-0 13; Sa. Butler 3, 2-4 10; Hay. Porter 4, 6-6 17; Clark-Patterson 10, 1-1 21; Han. Porter 2, 0-0 6; McGary 0, 0-0 0; Loose 1, 0-0 2; Su. Butler 0, 0-0 0; Robb 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 26, 9-11 69. MARTINS FERRY (50) — King 3, 1-2 7; Coleman 2, 0-0 4; DeLeonardis 9, 8-8 28; Bridges 1, 0-0 2; D. Johnson 1, 0-0 2; Barritt 0, 0-0 0; K. Johnson 3, 1-1 7; Sulton 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 19, 10-13 50.

3-point goals: UL — DeLaney, Sa. Butler (2), Hay. Porter (3), Han. Porter (2). MF — DeLeonardis (2).

21-17, at halftime.

Holzapfel goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC 4A semifinal against Oak Glen.

score five points in a quarter and expect to win after that," Wells said.

A steal and jump shot by Emily Holzapfel on the first play of the second half gave the Panthers a five-point lead. Shortly after, Rachel Zeroski had a steal, then found her sister, Becky, who converted on a layup which allowed Buckeye Local to have a 28-20 lead.

At the 3:36 mark of the third quarter, the Panthers went up by double digits for the first time (31-20) on a 3-pointer by Holzapfel.

Holzapfel led all scorers with 26 points. Becky Zeroski finished with 17 points after knocking down four 3-pointers. Zeroski also had four assists and three steals. Holzapfel also had three steals, while Alaire Destifanes had two assists and three blocks.

"I told them, 'I'll take a foul if you push them back,'" Figurski said. "We had to body them up tight. I thought the officials did an excellent job controlling the game and letting them play. They're doing our job, and if we're not giving them an opportunity to make a foul call because there's no contact, that's our fault."

Arnott led the Golden Bears with 15 points, while Logan Andrews had 11 and Maisie Witherow added 10.

Oak Glen had a 36-31 advantage on the glass. Andrews grabbed 20 rebounds, herself.

The Panthers now face off against a familiar Union Local team, which knocked off Martins Ferry in the other 4A semifinal. The Jets have defeated Buckeye Local twice already this season.

Scoring:

OAK GLEN (45) — Arnott 6 2-11 15, Kovalcik 0 0-0 0, Stipeck 0 0-0 0, Witherow 5 0-2 10, Grotfend 0 0-0 0, Clunk 0 0-0 0, Andrews 5 1-4 11, Severs 3 1-1 7, McKay 1 0-1 2. Totals: 20 4-19 45. BUCKEYE (56) — B. Zeroski 4 5-6 17, Gill 0 0-0 0, Piergallini 1 0-0 2, Vince 0 0-1 0, R. Zeroski 1 2-2 4, Banal 0 1-4 1, Holzapfel 10 4-4 26, Swiger 0 0-0 0, Dvorcek 2 0-0 4, Destifanes 1 0-0 2, Garlock 0 0-0 0, Toroko 0 0-0 0, Miller 0 0-0 0, Doyle 0 0-0 0. Totals: 19 12-17 56.

3-pointers: OG — Arnott. BL — B. Zeroski 4, Holzapfel 2.

Spigarelli

Continued from Page B1

tle behind in terms of the weight room and getting to know the kids better, but we'll be OK."

The Nelson Field sidelines will be no place new for Spigarelli. The 1988 Bellaire High School graduate played three seasons of varsity football and then spent 12 years on the varsity coaching staff, working under John Magistro and Gregg Bonar.

"We're trying to get (this program) back to where it was in the good ol' days," Spigarelli said. "I hear people say we don't have the caliber of athletes that we had back then. Well, we could if these kids put in the effort and the time with the commitment to being good."

During Spigarelli's time on the staff under Magistro, the Big Reds won four regional titles. He was an eighth grade coach during the Big Reds' two trips to the Ohio State Championship Games in 1995 and 96. His last two seasons on the Big Reds' staff, which were 2007 and 08, Spigarelli was the defensive coordinator.

"I've been working toward this position and goal for the past 25 years," Spigarelli admitted.

After graduating from Bellaire, Spigarelli attended Ohio University, earning a degree in education in 1992. He also owns a master's degree from OU, too.

Spigarelli's teaching and coaching careers started at Union Local. He was an eighth grade football and assistant baseball coach. He then accepted a job at Martins Ferry and was eighth grade football and reserve basketball coach for a short stint.

Now, he's in his 21st year as a member of the Bellaire High School faculty. After taking the 2009 season off from coaching, Spigarelli landed a position at West Liberty, working with the strong safeties.

"I really appreciate everything Coach (Roger) Wailiac did for me the last six years," Spigarelli said. "I learned a tremendous amount of football during that time."

Along with his football experience, Spigarelli was also the Big Reds' baseball coach for two seasons. He guided the 2003 team to a berth in the Division III regional final in Chillicothe.

Spigarelli believes the biggest key to success is building relationships, whether it's within the staff, with the kids or in the community.

"Everyone needs to be on the same page," Spigarelli said. "The kids have to see that you care about them, both as people and players. If they do, I believe they'll play that much harder for you, the staff, the school and entire community."

As for the 2016 Big Reds, Spigarelli is excited about the talent that returns at the skill positions, but he knows depth must be created in the trenches.

"I think, at any level, the number one key in football is in the trenches," Spigarelli said. "I think we're kind of slim up there right now, but from this day forward, I expect the kids to work hard in the weight room."

Spigarelli, who will run the defense, hopes to employ a 4-2-5. Offensively, he expects a mixture of Big Reds' offenses of old along with some of the things he's learned with the Hilltoppers.

"I would like to get back to the days when Mark and Gregg (Bonar) were the offensive coordinators here," Spigarelli said. "We will obviously try to take what the defense gives us."

The Spigarelli era of Big Reds' football officially begins Aug. 27 against newly scheduled, River. The Big Reds don't leave the friendly confines of Nelson Field for four of the first five weeks, but road trips to Shadyside, St. Clairsville and Martins Ferry can be found in the second half of the season.

"I believe we'll be able to compete with any team we have on our schedule," Spigarelli said. "There's only one way for this program to go and that's up after a few down seasons."

B

Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

SPORTS

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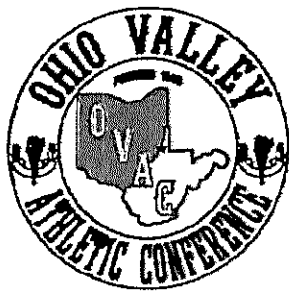
— OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BASKETBALL — Froehlich, Irish Win 1-A Crown

Record Double-Double for Star

By SHAWN RINE
 Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A coach cannot teach the type of height Lindsey Froehlich possesses. And statistics show that nobody produces OVAC girls' basketball champions like St. John and Coach Bubba Kapral.

Froehlich set an all-class tournament record with 21 rebounds to go along with her 20 points and the Fighting Irish (19-3) used that performance along with a masterful effort on the defensive end to stymie Bishop Donahue for a 49-39 victory in the Class 1-A title game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. It's the ninth crown with Kapral in charge and the conference-high 15th for the St. John girls' program.



"These kids have grown up for four years together and that's why we played so tight in the first half ... it meant a lot to them," Kapral said. "This is their last go-around."

"This meant the world to them and this is as good a class of young ladies as I have ever had."

The teams walked off the court at halftime tied at 23-23, but when Jewel Purpura hit a 3-pointer and Josie Purpura scored and then hit a 3 at 5:34 of third, the Bishops (13-7) led 31-25 and Kapral had seen enough. He burned a quick timeout and from that point it was all Irish.

Bishop Donahue didn't score again until there was 5:26 remaining in the

See, 1-A, Page B2



Photo by Seth Staskey
 St. John's Lindsey Froehlich looks to shoot the ball during Saturday's game against Bishop Donahue. St. John prevailed and took the crown for the class 1-A title.

WVU Men Defeat Baylor

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Dexter Miles Jr. scored a season-high 20 points and No. 14 West Virginia beat No. 15 Baylor 80-69 on Saturday night to grab sole possession of first place in the Big 12.

West Virginia (19-4, 8-2) took over at the top of the standings after No. 1 Oklahoma lost to Kansas State 80-69 earlier Saturday. The Sooners fell into a second-place tie with No. 7 Kansas and Texas at 7-3.

Jaysean Paige added 17 points, Devin Williams scored 16 and Nathan Adrian had 11 for West Virginia.

King McClure and Ish-mail Wainright had 11 points apiece while Taurean Prince and Terry Maston scored 10 each for Baylor (17-6, 6-4).

The Mountaineers led 38-29 at halftime and extended the lead to as many as 19 in the second half.

See, WVU, Page B4

Linsly Falls to Fort Frye for 3-A Title

By TRACY WATSON
 For The News-Register

FLUSHING — There is no question that if you want to beat Linsly's girls' basketball team you have to find a way to either stop, or at least slow down the Lady Cadets' big three of Morgan Brunner, Vivian Allison and Jazzy Orth.

Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern, Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke created a defensive scheme to do just that and his Fort Frye squad worked it to perfection to earn a conference championship.

Megan Hesson scored five of her team-high 13 points in overtime and the down-river Cadets survived a late scare in regulation to hold off Linsly, 43-38, and capture the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA championship.

Liedtke's team is no stranger to the conference championship round, winning their fifth title since 2010 while twice finishing as runner-up during that time. The same two teams played a two-overtime thriller just two years ago in the finals with Linsly taking a 47-41 victory.

It looked like the Wheeling-based squad was going to get off to a quick start, getting a pair of Orth hoops in the first two minutes of the game to take an early 4-1 advantage. But the Cadets went over nine minutes until their next field goal and Orth, who battled foul trouble the entire game, never got off another shot in the contest.

Fort Frye (15-5) also limited high-scoring Vivian Allison to just six points and while Brunner finished with a game-high 18, she didn't

can her first field goal until the third quarter and 10 of those came from the line.

Trailing 34-32, Brunner was able to nail a pair of charity tosses at the 1:32 mark to knot the count at 34. And when Liedtke's squad turned it over with 59 seconds showing Linsly looked to play for a final shot. Unfortunately for Maggie Allison and her Cadets they were unable to get off a good look before the buzzer.

Top-seeded Fort Frye never trailed in overtime, getting the lead when Karisa Lang twice made the front-end of a two shot foul to make it 36-34 at 2:21 of overtime. Hesson made it a four-point bulge with a hoop at 1:17 before Brunner finally got Linsly on the board at 1:07 to cut the deficit back to just two.

But a pair of Katie Hart free throws, another by Hesson and a break-away basket by Hesson wrapped things up. Brunner added a pair of late free throws for the Cadets' only other points of the extra session.

"We ran a defense that we haven't ran all year," Liedtke admitted. "I knew there were going to be some tough match-ups so we changed things up to try and keep their big three from hurting us too much."

"The plan was that if we were going to get beat the other girls were going to have to beat us. I think it all worked out pretty well, we really didn't let their bigs get on any kind of a roll."

See, 3-A, Page B2

Park Beats Preston

By KYLE LUTZ
 Staff Writer

WHEELING - Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia saw the future of Wheeling Park basketball Saturday night at the Palace on the Hill.

And the future looked bright.

Three freshman scored while many other underclassmen got valuable varsity minutes as seniors Tre' Saunders, Phil Bledsoe, Elijah Bell and Jamez Coles did not play in the Patriots' 57-37 victory over Preston.

Following the game, Jebbia would not say why the four seniors did not play, noting the decision was handled by "the administration." The Ohio County Sheriff's Department currently is investigating an alleged incident on an Ohio County school bus as the team returned from a trip to a WVU game in Morgantown more than a week ago. It is not clear if that investigation has anything to do with the four seniors not playing.

"These 16 kids came out (Saturday) and busted their butt. Our goal was to come out and play as hard as we can," Jebbia said. "It's been a tough week, and Wheeling Park will survive. I know we are going to have some tough games coming

River's Jensen Caretti goes up for a shot during Saturday's OVAC 2A game against Frontier. Caretti set marks for most points scored in a title game (all classes) and most 2-point field goals made.



Photo by Rick Thorp

Frontier Takes 2-A Title

By RICK THORP
 For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After coming up short in its quest to repeat as conference champions last season, Frontier coach Scott Murphy knew his team was on a mission Saturday to finish the job this year.

"At the Bridgeport game, I could see it in their eyes they were ready," Murphy said of Monday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Class 2A semifinal victory against the second-seeded Bulldogs.

Were they ever. The Cougars set a pair of shooting records and came up short of a scoring mark Saturday in handing River a 65-54 defeat in the 2A title tilt inside Ohio Uni-

versity Eastern's Physical Education Center.

"We've shot really well more than once this year," Murphy said. "It's something we talk about every day in practice. And the only way you're going to shoot well is if you make good passes."

Frontier was 26 of 36 (72 percent) from 2-point range, establishing a shooting standard for all five conference classes and shattering the previous mark — 16 of 25 (64 percent) — set by Barnesville in 2008. All told, the Cougars were 29 of 42 from the field (69 percent).

The 26 2-pointers also set an all-class mark, breaking the previous record of 25,

See, 2-A, Page B2

Jets Take Down Buckeye Local to Claim 4-A Title

By SETH STASKEY
 For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Who says it's tough to beat a team three times in one season? It certainly wasn't the Union Local girls' basketball team that coined that phrase.

On one of the biggest stages, the Jets took

and first since 2011.

"I feel so good about (this title) because we were so far down (in the standings) and I thought there was no chance of us getting in, but once we did, I thought we could make a run at it," Union Local coach Kelly Hanlon said. "This really feels good."

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"She had a great game tonight," Hanlon said of her sophomore point guard. "She's always a

set an all-class tournament record with 21 rebounds to go along with her 20 points and the Fighting Irish (19-3) used that performance along with a masterful effort on the defensive end to stymie Bishop Donahue for a 49-39 victory in the Class 1-A title game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. It's the ninth crown with Kapral in charge and the conference-high 15th for the St. John girls' program.



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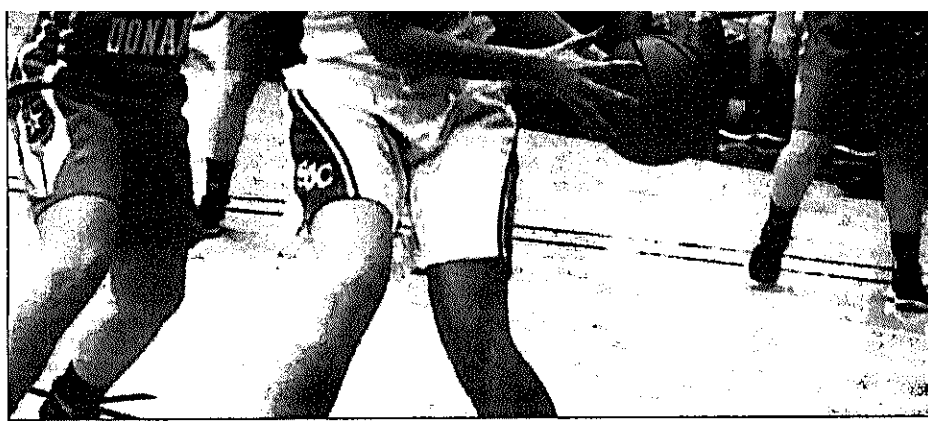


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St. John's Lindsey Froehlich looks to shoot the ball during Saturday's game against Bishop Donahue. St. John prevailed and took the crown for the class 1-A title.

See, 1-A, Page B2

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See, 3-A, Page B2

River's Jensen Caretti goes up for a shot during Saturday's OVAC 2A game against Frontier. Caretti set marks for most points scored in a title game (all classes) and most 2-point field goals made.



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By SETH STASKEY
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ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Who says it's tough to beat a team three times in one season? It certainly wasn't the Union Local girls' basketball team that coined that phrase.

On one of the biggest stages, the Jets took down Buckeye Local, 66-43, Saturday night inside a jam-packed Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

The victory not only gave the Jets the season sweep, but it also gave them the OVAC Class 4A championship for the fifth time in school history

and first since 2011. "I feel so good about (this title) because we were so far down (in the standings) and I thought there was no chance of us getting in, but once we did, I thought we could make a run at it," Union Local coach Kelly Hanlon said. "This really feels good."

The Jets came up short in last year's conference title game to Harrison Central. During that game, they lost Haley Porter to a broken foot. Playing on two good feet made quite the difference for the Jets this time around.

Porter helped ignite the Jets in the first quarter

after the Panthers had sprinted out of the gates to an 8-2 lead. The Jets proceeded to score the next 13 with Porter netting seven in the first quarter. She continued with the hot hand in the second quarter, scoring 10 more.

"She had a great game tonight," Hanlon said of her sophomore point guard. "She's always a leader on the court."

That first-quarter spurt, which basically turned the tide in the Jets' favor for good, was aided by a Hanlon timeout. Though her team had the

See, 4-A, Page B2

Rick DeLuca: The Dedicated OVAC Soldier

RAYLAND — Rick DeLuca wears many hats. He is not a fashion plate, but rather a very busy man. Make that a very, very busy man. The Jefferson Countian owns and operates his own realty company, is head baseball coach at Buckeye Local, an active member of the Ohio Association of Realtors, a U.S. Army Reservist for 14

years and has been a Times Leader staffer since 1969. Impressive indeed. But, there is more. DeLuca does voluminous work for the OVAC. He is director of the OVAC volleyball championship, compiles conference standings and is the innovator and director of the now popular OVAC Girls' & Boys' Basketball Champi-

onships. "It keeps me a little busy," DeLuca said tongue-in-cheek. The OVAC basketball tournaments are major undertakings and make for long days. DeLuca and OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak usually get to OUE on championship Saturday at 6 a.m. (earlier in inclement weather), and may not leave until 11

p.m. But DeLuca's vision and persistence with making the tournaments come to fruition has met with resounding success. There are no more paper champions. Champions are determined on the court. "It got to the point where it was time to settle the argu-

See, Kapral, Page B2



BUBBA KAPRAL

EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

tion of first place in the Big 12. West Virginia (19-4, 8-2) took over at the top of the standings after No. 1 Oklahoma lost to Kansas State 80-69 earlier Saturday. The Sooners fell into a second-place tie with No. 7 Kansas and Texas at 7-3. Jaysean Paige added 17 points, Devin Williams scored 16 and Nathan Adrian had 11 for West Virginia.

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Staff Writer

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And the future looked bright.

Three freshman scored while many other underclassmen got valuable varsity minutes as seniors Tre' Saunders, Phil Bledsoe, Elijah Bell and Jamez Coles did not play in the Patriots' 57-37 victory over Preston.

Following the game, Jebbia would not say why the four seniors did not play, noting the decision was handled by "the administration." The Ohio County Sheriff's Department currently is investigating an alleged incident on an Ohio County school bus as the team returned from a trip to a WVU game in Morgantown more than a week ago. It is not clear if that investigation has anything to do with the four seniors not playing.

"These 16 kids came out (Saturday) and busted their butt. Our goal was to come out and play as hard as we can," Jebbia said. "It's been a tough week, and Wheeling Park will survive. I know we are going to have some tough games coming up. But to have the depth of a Triple-A program and just to be able to funnel our freshman team in to win the JV game and put together a mix of a varsity, JV and freshman for the varsity, it was good. I thought Rhett Schodzinski and Maezi Mosby were leaders and everyone contributed. It was a key game for us. We needed to win it."

Wheeling Park gained the lead at 8-6 with 4:38 in the opening frame after a Noah Moulton 3-pointer and would not relinquish it. With the score at 16-13, the Patriots had a small 6-0 spurt to go up by a comfortable nine points, with

See, Park, Page B3

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Will the Nailers make the playoffs?



Tomorrow's Poll:

Will you go to the boys' OVAC basketball championship?

Tell us what you think.

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



KAPRAL

Continued from page B1

ment over who should the champion is on the court instead of just by the numbers. I guess there comes a time when you need a true champion, and the best way to do that was to put the best teams on the court and let them duke it out." DeLuca noted. "Tom and I discussed it and put a lot of ideas together before we decided to find the right people to form a basketball committee. The idea was well received and it's just grown from that point."

"This will be our ninth year of crowning champions on the court. We actually started putting this together 11 years ago. The first year was taking an idea and developing a plan, checking on costs, putting together a proposal to present to the board, then the ADs and coaches," he added. "The second year we actually went through as dry run. We waited until the season was over, then put the teams on the board and gave the system a try. We did that with both boys and girls. It worked well, and we knew we were ready for the real thing the next year."

Championship Saturday always presents concerns. That is understandable when

10 teams are involved and travel may include trips from Morgantown, Parkersburg, Beverly or East Liverpool.

"Our biggest concern will always be worrying about the weather. Tom and I have done our share of shoveling snow. I think that after a while nothing is perfect and you can't make everybody happy with the decisions you make," DeLuca said. "I really think what a lot of people don't understand is that our committee, with very few exceptions, has remained the same since day one. Our core of game-day workers has been there for us from the start and they have been tremendous."

"Replacing any of those people on the committee or the workers would be a huge undertaking. We have had a great relationship with E.J. Schodinzki and OUE, our security people, radio, TV and now with the live streaming of the games," he continued. "All of these are better than any Tylenol I could take for headaches and, of course, our sponsors. It's a lot of work. I guess you always worry about it not coming together, but come game day, it's like a well-oiled machine."

DeLuca's and Rataiczak's

efforts have yielded a huge and successful event. The tournament's growth is a source of self-satisfaction for its director.

"You can't imagine what it feels like looking down on the floor, seeing those kids going up and down the floor, coaches deeply involved with the games and the fans enjoying every second of it," DeLuca said. "I still remember one of the greatest feelings I had was in that very first year. Just before the first championship game we ever had, I was walking on that floor and seeing the pre-game activity and watching everyone busy setting up for the start. At that point, I knew that all the work had paid off and it was really going to happen — and I could feel it was going to be a success."

"There is no question in my mind, it is here to stay. What we have done here is give teams and schools and fans something to really get excited about. We gave them something to look forward to and most importantly, we gave them a goal to build and work for," he added. "Regardless of who is in charge of any championship event like this, that person may be the face you see, but

believe me it takes an amazing group of people to pull it off."

Rataiczak has worked hand-in-hand with DeLuca from day one on making the tournament a reality. He knows better than anyone the work DeLuca has put in.

FOOTBALL FINALE
SUPER BOWL 50 plays out tonight. The Carolina Panthers are favored and the trendy pick.

I am going against the grain. I like the Broncos, and Peyton Manning is one reason why. Not because he is the gunslinger he used to be, but rather, he understands his limitations.

Manning's arm is a shell of its former bazoooka-self. He now is a game-manager, avoiding turnovers.

The deciding factor, however, is Denver's defense. It is relentless, proving chaotic to opposing quarterbacks. Panthers' QB Cam Newton is the league's MVP this year, but will have his hands full with Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware and Beaver Local product Derek Wolfe.

My pick: Denver 23, Carolina 16.

Kapral may be reached at bkapral@timesleaderonline.com.

Mohigans Repeat as OVAC 5-A Champs

Defense Keys Rout of South

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After having played and beaten two previously undefeated teams in as many nights in Beckley, the Morgantown girls' basketball team didn't arrive in the Upper Ohio Valley until 1:30 a.m. Saturday in advance of that day's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5-A championship at Ohio University Eastern. Coach Jason White feared tired legs, but it turned out to be unfounded worry.

Sydney Holloway scored a game-high 18 points as the Mohigans (18-0) blitzed Parkersburg South (15-4) by a 58-37 count. It's Morgantown's second consecutive conference title and its 49th victory in its last 50 outings overall.

"It's not just playing three teams in three days, but playing the caliber of teams we have," White said. "We played two incredibly talented basketball teams and then to come in here and play a team we know the caliber of team South is because we've seen them so often."

"I think that was the saving grace, is we didn't have to game plan for someone we didn't know."

Morgantown busted out of the gate 10-3 and led 13-5 after one quarter. Behind a strong defensive effort and four points apiece from Lydia Adrian and Aliyssa Neal, the Mohi-

gans held a commanding 27-9 halftime advantage.

"Those worries went away after I saw our defense in the first quarter," White said. "Katelyn Byrd and Anna Hayton are great players and we really try to game plan what they can get. Anna Hayton, we try to limit how many times she touches it with backside help in the post."

"Not only that, but guard pressure so maybe the entry pass is not perfect."

Two-time defending West Virginia Class AAA champion Morgantown entered allowing 29 points per game, and South only had 23 entering the fourth quarter.

Holloway scored twice and Shelby Boyle hit a 3-pointer to make it a 36-11 lead early in the third. An Adrian (13 points) 3-pointer and Paige Poffenberger runout made it 41-13, and the Mohigans settled for a 24-point bulge at the end of three.

South made a bit of a run in the fourth, but never threatened.

"The thing we talk about is having that bullseye on our back and we want to embrace that," White said. "A lot of teams have that pressure of having the bullseye and maybe play a little bit nervous or a little tense, and we want to be the opposite."

"Isn't that what anybody wants? You want to be successful."

Hayton led the Patriots with 13 points and Mykaly Fallon chipped in 12. Byrd finished with 10.

4-A

Continued from page B1

experience factor on its side, it was a bit nervous at the outset.

"I told the girls just to calm down and treat this like any other game," Hanlon said.

The message got across loud and clear. Union Local, which led by eight after one, upped it to 40-27 at the half and basically never looked back.

"There were some things we worked

on that we didn't execute very well," Buckeye Local head coach Tom Figurski said. "In games like these, you need to be patient and disciplined. We probably didn't show a lot of that tonight. I can't be prouder than I am of this group of girls. We battled and teams know we were here."

Porter led the Jets with 22 points. The Jets also received solid play from

senior ace Alli DeLaney. The Notre Dame College signee finished with 19 points, while junior Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson added 13 points.

The Panthers, who head into Division II sectional play at OUE, at 13-9 were led by talented freshman Emily Holzapfel's 20. The school's all-time leading scorer, Becky Zeroski, finished with seven points.

2-A

Continued from page B1

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Following an Isaly timeout, River went on a 10-0 run, sparked by an increased defensive effort and Jensen Caretti, who scored six of her game-high 28 points during the spurt.

Caretti, who surpassed the 2,000-point career scoring mark in Monday's semifinal victory against

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3-A

Continued from page B1

"They really like to run transition with those athletes, but we just didn't allow that to happen (Saturday)."

After Linsly took the early 4-1 lead Fort Frye scored the final nine of the period for a 10-4 reading after one. Allison's crew managed to battle back and tie the score at 16-16 late before Alexis Enochs' hoop just ahead of the buzzer sent the down-river Cadets to the locker room with an 18-16 lead.

Linsly's biggest lead came at 28-24 late in the third before settling for a 28-26 lead after three.

"They played very solid defense and just shut us down," Linsly coach Maggie Allison said. "Give Fort Frye credit, they played

our big scorers tight and really frustrated us the entire game."

"I felt like Jazzy (Orth) really worked hard inside, but I also feel like she played tentative with the foul problems. The last foul they called on her (on the offensive end) was really a momentum killer, and I really have to question that call."

"It's definitely a disappointing loss, this has been our goal all season long, but they are a very tough team and they beat us (Saturday)."

Hart shared team-high honors with Hesson, scoring 13 in the contest, while Enochs chipped in 10. Fort Frye held a slip 20-19 edge off the glass and turned the ball over 13 times, one fewer than Linsly.

1-A

Continued from page B1

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"We knew they had four very good guards," Kapral said. "Our rule was 'you've got your man and don't help on anyone and switch on all picks.'"

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The second half was a different story as Froehlich took over on both ends. She was unstoppable on the low block and provided the Irish with a cushion in transition.

Bishop Donahue makes a

worked well, and we knew we were ready for the real thing the next year." Championship Saturday always presents concerns. That is understandable when

It's a lot of work. I guess you always worry about it not coming together, but come game day, it's like a well-oiled machine." DeLuca's and Rataiczak's

gave them a goal to build and work for," he added. "Regardless of who is in charge of any championship event like this, that person may be the face you see, but

Local product DeLuca wrote. My pick: Denver 23, Carolina 16. Kapral may be reached at bkapral@timesleaderonline.com.

three teams in three days, but playing the caliber of teams we have," White said. "We played two incredibly talented basketball teams and then to come in here and play a team we know the caliber of team South is because we've seen them so often. "I think that was the saving grace, is we didn't have to game plan for someone we didn't know."

Morgantown busted out of the gate 10-3 and led 13-5 after one quarter. Behind a strong defensive effort and four points apiece from Lydia Adrian and Aliyssa Neal, the Mohi-

three. South made a bit of a run in the fourth, but never threatened. "The thing we talk about is having that bullseye on our back and we want to embrace that," White said. "A lot of teams have that pressure of having the bullseye and maybe play a little bit nervous or a little tense, and we want to be the opposite. "Isn't that what anybody wants? You want to be successful." Hayton led the Patriots with 13 points and Mykaly Fallon chipped in 12. Byrd finished with 10.

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3-A

Continued from page B1

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Jewell Purpura finally stopped the bleeding at 5:26 of the fourth, but by that time it was too late. The Irish

had already put the clamps on Bishop freshman Shay Straughn, who scored 12 of her team-high 14 in the first half. She rarely touched the ball in the second half, with her first shot — and only basket — coming with 4:32 remaining to make it 43-35 St. John.

"We knew they had four very good guards," Kapral said. "Our rule was 'you've got your man and don't help on anyone and switch on all picks."

"Halfcourt defensively, yeah it was as good as we've been."

The Fighting Irish jumped to an 8-2 lead before Cassidy Campbell calmed the waters with a 3. Straughn scored twice, Jewel Purpura

popped in a 3-pointer and Straughn finished the first quarter with another 3 as Bishop finished on a 10-0 run to lead 15-9.

It was back and forth in a second quarter that featured a pair of ties and two lead changes before the half ultimately ended in the 23-23 stalemate.

The second half was a different story as Froehlich took over on both ends. She was unstoppable on the low block and provided the Irish with a cushion in transition.

Bishop Donahue makes a living out of turning teams over — St. John was guilty of 24 in this one — and then scoring easy buckets when its shooters get lost on the break. The Irish ran to the wings and allowed Donahue to drive to the basket where Froehlich either blocked or altered numerous shots.

"You can do that when you have somebody who is 6-foot-2 in the paint," Martin said. "We have girls in Jewell and Josie and Shay who can put the ball on the floor and attack the glass.

"But when you get there you have somebody that's 6-2. Any other team when they get there they are going to put it on the floor and get to the rim."

Jessica Alvey, who was tremendous in defense of Straughn, also scored 12 points for the Irish. Marissa Rose added 10.

Straughn paced the Bishops while Jewell Purpura netted 10 points. Madison Wiedebusch didn't score, but came away with nine rebounds and four steals.



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The Times Leader
SPORTS

SECTION
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Sunday,
February 7, 2016

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships

Irish win 1-A crown

Record double-double for Star

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

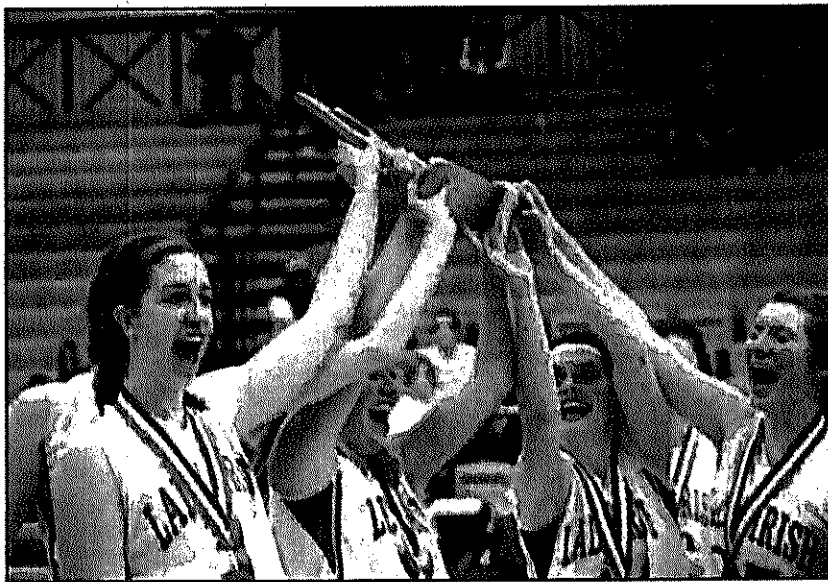
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A coach cannot teach the type of height Lindsey Froehlich possesses. And statistics show that nobody produces OVAC girls' basketball champions like St. John and Coach Bubba Kapral.

Froehlich set an all-class tournament record with 21 rebounds to go along with her 20 points and the Fighting Irish (19-3) used that performance along with a masterful effort on the defensive end to stymie Bishop Donahue for a 49-39 victory in the Class 1-A title game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. It's the ninth crown with Kapral in charge and the conference-high 15th for the St. John girls' program.

"These kids have grown up for four years together and that's why we played so tight in the first half ... it meant a lot to them," Kapral said. "This is their last go-around."

"This meant the world to them and this is as good a class of young ladies as I have ever had."

The teams walked off the court at halftime tied at 23-23, but when Jewel Purpura hit a 3-pointer and



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

MEMBERS OF the St. John girls' basketball team celebrate with the first-place trophy Saturday afternoon after it claimed the Wheeling Hospital OVAC 1A championship by defeating Bishop Donahue, 49-39 at Ohio University Eastern.

Josie Purpura scored and then hit a 3 at 5:34 of third, the Bishops (13-7) led 31-25 and Kapral had seen enough. He burned a quick timeout and from that point it was all Irish.

Bishop Donahue didn't score again until there was 5:26 remaining in the game. During that time St. John went on a 14-0 run that included six from Froehlich and four each from freshman Kaylin Nixon and Jessica Alvey.

"Offensively when (Froehlich) catches it on the block there isn't a

whole lot you can do," Bishop coach Shawn Martin said. "The one thing you want to do is not let her catch it. Even on a double team she is going to turn and face and she's got so much height and she keeps the ball high."

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See, IRISH, Page C2

Record shooting propels Cougars

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After coming up short in its quest to repeat as conference champions last season, Frontier head coach Scott Murphy knew his team was on a mission Saturday to finish the job this year.

"At the Bridgeport game, I could see it in their eyes they were ready," Murphy said of Monday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Class 2A semifinal victory against the second-seeded Bulldogs.

Were they ever.

The Cougars set a pair of shooting records and came up short of a scoring mark Saturday in handing River a 65-54 defeat in the 2A title tilt inside Ohio University Eastern's Physical Education Center.

"We've shot really well more than once this year," Murphy said. "It's something we talk about every day in practice. And the only way you're going to shoot well is if you make good passes."

Frontier was 26 of 36 (72 percent) from 2-point range, establishing a shooting standard for all five conference classes and shattering the previous mark — 16 of 25 (64 percent) — set by Barnesville in 2008. All told, the Cougars were 29 of 42 from the field (69 percent).

The 26 2-pointers also set an all-class mark, breaking the previous record of 25, set in 2008 by St. John. Frontier's 65 points were one short of the 66 Monroe Central put up in the 2208 championship contest.

It all added up to the Cougars' second OVAC title in three years.

"We've had some experience in the OVACs," said Murphy, whose team lost to Wheeling Central in last season's

See, COUGARS, Page C2

Cougars

Continued from Page C1

semifinals. "This is something we've talked about since March. And, here it is. We played really well at Bridgeport and we had a great week of practice. I could tell we were going to come and play well (Saturday)."

River head coach Rick Isaly was looking for good things from his team, too. But a number of factors contributed to the Pilots (17-4) missing an opportunity to win their first conference crown since 2004.

"Everyone thinks Frontier isn't a good team," he said. "But I know Frontier is a good team."

"We just gave up way too many easy baskets, didn't do much on offense and didn't get enough people involved in the game."

"The bottom line was defense. But give Frontier (16-5) credit. They're a good team. I knew they could shoot the ball well. We left people wide open the whole game. Many shots went uncontested."

The first quarter was like a track meet, with Frontier jumping out to a 22-16 lead after eight minutes. And when the Cougars went on a 7-2 run to start the second, the Pilots found themselves trailing 29-18.

Following an Isaly time-

out, River went on a 10-0 run, sparked by an increased defensive effort and Jensen Caretti, who scored six of her game-high 28 points during the spurt.

Caretti, who surpassed the 2,000-point career scoring mark in Monday's semifinal victory against Wheeling Central, set an all-class OVAC Championship mark for most points in a game, passing the record of 27 previously shared by Beallsville's Savannah Burke and University's Mariah Callen.

Still, the Pilots couldn't get over the hump. Frontier responded with a 7-2 run of its own and grabbed a 36-30 advantage early in the third quarter. River never got any closer the rest of the game and, at one point, trailed by 12 in the third. It seemed like every time River came at Frontier with a run, the Cougars had an answer. And it usually involved flawless execution on the offensive end.

"The hard part is you have to do that against good teams," Murphy said. "And we've done that the last two games."

"I told them it's going to take seven girls to win this game, and I think if you go and look through the stats and the scorebook all seven contributed."



T-L Photo/RICK THORP
RIVER'S JENSEN Caretti goes in for two of her game-high 28 points during Saturday's OVAC 2A championship game against Frontier. Caretti set marks for most points scored in a title game (all classes) and most 2-point field goals made (11, all classes).

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"You can do that when you have somebody who is 6-foot-2 in the paint," Martin said. "We have girls in Jewell and Josie and Shay who can put the ball on the floor and attack the glass."

"But when you get there you have

Golden

Continued from Page C1

Clay's development, from the time he landed at Linsly through his eight-year NFL career, was impressive, according to Depew.

"Willie had never played before when he came to Linsly," Depew said. "We knew he was a great athlete, but he had dreamed of being a basketball player in college."

After spending a year on the freshman squad, Clay lettered as a sophomore and then really came on both as a junior and senior, helping to lead Linsly to back-to-back undefeated seasons in 1986 and 1987.

"He really flourished as a senior," Depew said. "To say that I thought he had professional qualities when he was here would be tough, but we did expect him to do well in college."

A 12-10 victory against Western Reserve during Clay's senior season is one game that's always stuck with Depew.

"We ran a reverse on a kickoff to start the second half and Willie took it back and then he picked up a fumble and took it back, too," Depew said. "Those were the only two scores we could muster."

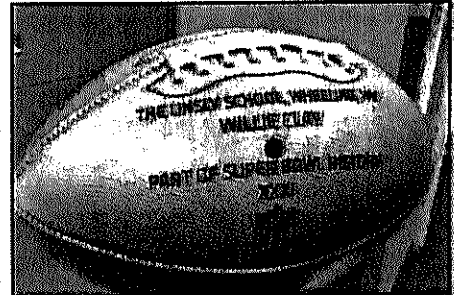
The legend had been born at that point. After not being heavily recruited, former Linsly assistant Dan Buchwach reached out to a contact at Georgia Tech on Clay's behalf.

"That got his foot in the door and then once they saw the tapes, they really, really liked him and were anxious to have him come there," Depew said.

Clay was a four-year mainstay in the Yellow Jackets' secondary, recording 16 career interceptions, which is a school record. He was drafted in the eighth round of the 1992 NFL Draft by the Lions. He spent four years there, three with the Patriots and his final season, which was 1999, was with the Saints.

"Willie being successful was never a surprise," Depew said. "He had the drive to be successful in whatever he did. He was very focused and aggressive, both academically and athletically."

Linsly is one of three current OVAC member schools that received a Golden Football. Weir High and Madonna were represented in the Super Bowl by Bob Jeter (Packers, 1967 and 68) and Gene Trosch (Chiefs,



SPORTS

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Wednesday,
January 27, 2016

OVAC girls tourney pairings set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The path is now official. Girls basketball teams learned their routes to an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title Tuesday morning.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship brackets were finalized by the committee at the OVAC office with the top four teams in each of the five classes qualifying for the tourney.

The ninth annual event opens on Monday and the winners of those games advance to the championship games, which are slated for Saturday, Feb. 6 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

In Class 5A, Morgantown will seek to defend its championship, but the top-seeded Mohigans will face Cambridge in the opening round. Morgantown is currently 13-0, while the Bobcats are 16-2 and in the championship

tournament for the first time.

The other half of the big-school bracket finds second-seeded Steubenville (17-2) playing host to third-seeded Parkersburg South (11-3).

In Class 4A, a new champion is guaranteed after Harrison Central finished just out of the mix in fifth.

Martins Ferry earned the top seed by finishing the pre-OVAC portion of the regular

season with a 12-7 record. The Purple Riders, who last won the OVAC girls title in 2009, will welcome a familiar foe to the Tolbert Gymnasium. Union Local, which overcame a rough start to the season, played its way into the field with a 10-9 record. The Jets reached the conference title game last season.

Buckeye Local, which is in the top four for the first time, used an 8-0 record in the

See, **OVAC**, Page C2



Continued from Page C1

Buckeye 8 North to catapult itself to the second seed. The Panthers (11-7) will welcome third-seeded Oak Glen (10-7). The Golden Bears were fifth entering Monday's cut-off, but their win, coupled with Harrison's loss elevated them to third.

In Class 3A, defending champion Fort Frye earned the top seed thanks to a 13-5 record. The Cadets, who own eight OVAC girls' titles, will welcome Magnolia in the opening round. Coach Tom Tisher's Blue Eagles are currently 10-4 on the season.

Second-seeded Linsly will play host to Barnesville. The Cadets (12-4) own just one OVAC title and it came in 2014. The Shamrocks will enter the OVAC tourney on a high after knocking off Bridgeport on Monday, solidifying its spot in the 3A field. The Shamrocks (13-6) won the 3A crown in 2008, which was the inaugural season for the tournament-style event.

In Class 2A, River earned the top seed with its 16-3 record. The Pilots fell in the 2015 3A title game to Fort Frye and are seeking their first conference title since 2004.

The Pilots will welcome Wheeling Central for the second time in a little more than two weeks. The Maroon Knights (8-7), who won the 2A title last season, defeated River on Jan. 16 in Hannibal.

Bridgeport, which sat atop the 2A rankings much of the season, settled for the two seed after falling to Barnesville on Monday. The Bulldogs (16-2) have been the runner-up each of the last two seasons. They'll welcome Frontier (14-4) on Monday. The Cougars defeated the Bulldogs for the 2014 crown.

In Class 1A, St. John Central (16-2) is the top seed. The Lady Irish will play host to Valley (8-4) in the opening round. St. John Central, which owns an OVAC-best 14 conference titles, hasn't won one since 2008. The Lumberjills, meanwhile, won their only crown in 1993.

Bishop Donahue (10-6) is the second seed and will host Madonna (10-6). The Bishops haven't won an OVAC title since 1984, while the Blue Dons prevailed in 2011.

OVAC Girls Hoops

Ninth Annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship

Championship Game Schedule
Saturday
(at Ohio University Eastern)
10 a.m. — Morgantown vs. Parkersburg South
12:30 p.m. — St. John vs. Bishop Donahue
3 p.m. — River vs. Frontier
5:30 p.m. — Fort Frye vs. Linsly
8 p.m. — Union Local vs. Buckeye Local
Tonight
Caldwell at St. Clairsville

OVAC Boys Hoops

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship

Championship Semifinals

Class 5A

1. Morgantown vs. 4. Steubenville

2. University vs. 3. Wheeling Park

Class 4A

1. St. Clairsville vs. 4. Martins Ferry

2. East Liverpool vs. 3. Meadowbrook

Class 3A

1. Magnolia vs. 4. Monroe Central

2. Fort Frye vs. 3. Bebaire

Class 2A

1. Wheeling Central vs. 4. Shadyside

2. Toronto vs. 3. Caldwell

Class 1A

1. Madonna vs. 4. Bishop Donahue

2. Trinity vs. 3. Valley

Championship Game Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 13

(at Ohio University Eastern)

10 a.m. — 5A

12:30 p.m. — 4A

3 p.m. — 3A

5:30 p.m. — 2A

8 p.m. — 1A

Consolation Matchups

Tuesday, Feb. 9

St. John at East Richland

Shenandoah at Bealsville

Conotton Valley at Steubenville Central

Paden City at Clay-Battelle

Harrison Central at River

John Marshall at Beaver Local

Linsly at Union Local

Buckeye Local at Barnesville

Weir at Parkersburg South

Indian Creek at Brooke

Cameron at Frontier

Bridgeport at Buckeye Trail

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Oak Glen at Edison

Thursday, Feb. 11

Hundred at Paden City

Friday, Feb. 12

Parkersburg South at Linsly

Bealsville at St. John

Steubenville Central at Indian Creek

E. Rich. Christ. at Bridgeport, 6 p.m. varsity only

Edison at Conotton Valley

Clay-Battelle at Hundred

River at Cameron

Frontier at Buckeye Local, 6:30 p.m. varsity only

Barnesville at Oak Glen

Brooke at Harrison Central

Union Local at Shenandoah

Buckeye Trail at John Marshall

Beaver Local at Weir

OVAC Girls Tourney Pairing Set

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

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The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship brackets were finalized by the committee at the OVAC office with the top four teams in each of the five classes qualifying for the tourney.

The ninth annual event opens on Monday and the winners of those games advance to the championship games, which are slated for Saturday, Feb. 6 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

In Class 5A, Morgantown will seek to defend its championship, but the top-seeded Mohigans will face Cambridge in the opening round. Morgantown is currently 13-0, while the Bobcats are 16-2 and in the championship tournament for the

first time.

The other half of the big-school bracket finds second-seeded Steubenville (17-2) playing host to third-seeded Parkersburg South (11-3).

In Class 4A, a new champion is guaranteed after Harrison Central finished just out of the mix in fifth.

Martins Ferry earned the top seed by finishing the pre-OVAC portion of the regular season with a 12-7 record. The Purple Riders, who last won the OVAC girls title in 2009, will welcome a familiar foe to the Tolbert Gymnasium. Union Local, which overcame a rough start to the season, played its way into the field with a 10-9 record. The Jets reached the conference title game last season.

Buckeye Local, which is in the top four for the first time, used an 8-0 record in the Buckeye 8 North to catapult itself to the second seed. The Panthers (11-7) will welcome

(Please see OVAC, Page 15)



Rick DeLuca
Sports Writer

Lady Rockets won't seek fourth title

Last winter, the Lady Rockets became rare OVAC champs for three consecutive years since the conference implemented its playoff system to declare winners each of the classes. Conotton Valley had become a regular at OUE.

That bunch from the Bowerston-based school was also one of the most appreciative and celebratory of all OVAC champions, both boys and girls. Let's face it, when Conotton Valley won a title, it was a chore getting them to leave the gymnasium.

Well, the chance of the Rockets winning a fourth straight OVAC crown has been wiped off the slate with the school's decision to cancel its girls' basketball season. While it may seem a bit late in the game to be closing the doors are the upcoming season, Conotton Valley opponents are now scrambling to fill those spots in their schedules.

Under head coach Chandra Myers, the Rockets captured their first OVAC playoff title in 2013 and returned most of that team to recapture the crown in 2014. Last season, the Rockets had one of best players in the state on their roster and she helped guide them to their third title.

Last season, they were led by record-setting Olivia Bower, a 6-2 senior who averaged more than 26 points per game. They won the OVAC as a third seed in 2015.

It's sad to hear that any school is giving up any program, successful or not. Today, the numbers just aren't in a lot of schools to pacify the needs of fielding teams. Losing numbers can happen easier than building the numbers.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

third-seeded Oak Glen (10-7). The Golden Bears were fifth entering Monday's cut-off, but their win, coupled with Harrison's loss elevated them to third.

In Class 3A, defending champion Fort Frye earned the top seed thanks to a 13-5 record. The Cadets, who own eight OVAC girls' titles, will welcome Magnolia in the opening round. Coach Tom Tisher's Blue Eagles are currently 10-4 on the season.

Second-seeded Linsly will play host to Barnesville. The Cadets (12-4) own just one OVAC title and it came in 2014. The Shamrocks will enter the OVAC tourney on a high after knocking off Bridgeport on Monday, solidifying its spot in the 3A field. The Shamrocks (13-6) won the 3A crown in 2008, which was the inaugural season for the tournament-style event.

In Class 2A, River earned the top seed with its 16-3 record. The Pilots fell in the 2015 3A title game to Fort Frye and are seeking their first conference title since 2004.

The Pilots will welcome Wheeling Central for the second time in a little more than two weeks. The Maroon Knights (8-7), who won the 2A title last season, defeated River on Jan. 16 in Hannibal.

Bridgeport, which sat atop the 2A rankings much of the season, settled for the two seed after falling to Barnesville on Monday. The Bulldogs (16-2) have been the runner-up each of the last two seasons. They'll welcome Frontier (14-4) on Monday. The Cougars defeated the Bulldogs for the 2014 crown.

In Class 1A, St. John Central (16-2) is the top seed. The Lady Irish will play host to Valley (8-4) in the opening round. St. John Central, which owns an OVAC-best 14 conference titles, hasn't won one since 2008. The Lumberjills, meanwhile, won their only crown in 1993.

Bishop Donahue (10-6) is the second seed and will host Madonna (10-6). The Bishops haven't won an OVAC title since 1984, while the Blue Dons prevailed in 2011.

SPORTS

B

Thursday,
February 11, 2016

OVAC Boy's Basketball Semifinal

St. C. too much for Ferry

Devils advance to OVAC 4A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Sometimes you live by the three and other times you die by the three.

St. Clairsville is certainly living well after Wednesday's performance in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship.

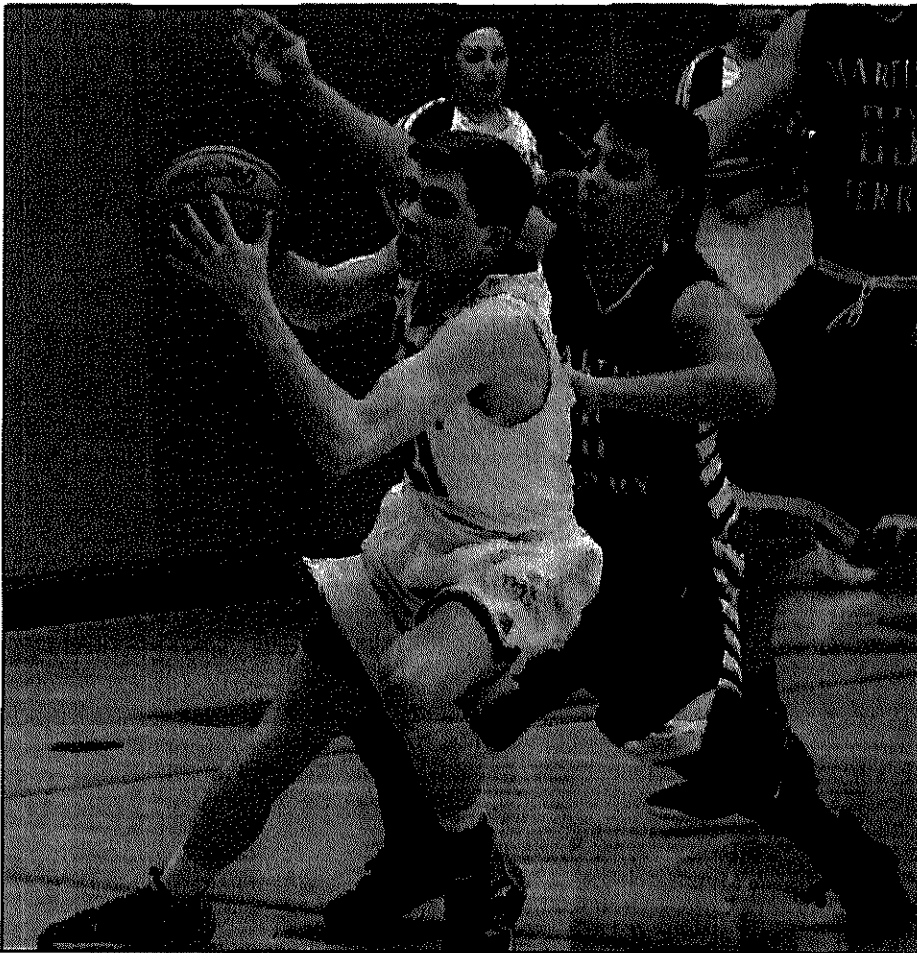
The Red Devils connected on 13 shots from behind the arc en route to a convincing 69-49 victory against rival Martins Ferry. The victory is the Red Devils' third this season against the Purple Riders.

"We shot it really well," St. C. head coach Kim Clifford said. "Martins Ferry threw some different things at us defensively, and I thought we handled it well and got good shots."

The victory sends St. C. to Saturday night's OVAC Class 4A championship game at Ohio University Eastern against the survivor of Meadowbrook and East Liverpool. They'll meet Friday night in Columbiana County.

This marks the Red Devils' seventh trip to the conference championship game. They're gunning for their third title in this format. St. C. fell to Union Local, 53-45 a season ago.

"You get to this game and everyone's pretty good, so we're glad that we'll be able to take the challenge," Clifford said. "We

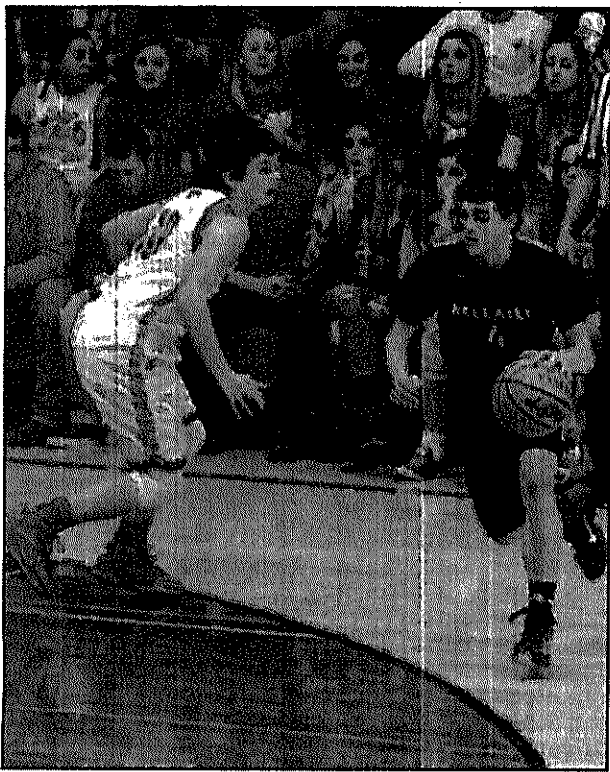


T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Patrick Buchanan looks for somewhere to go with the ball as Martins Ferry's James Edwards defends during the first quarter of Wednesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal. The Red Devils rolled to a 69-49 victory.

See, St. C., Page B2

Cadets stun Big Reds in OT



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

BELLAIRE'S Chase Yoho (4) dribbles around Fort Frye's Tyler Bradford (10) during Wednesday's game. Yoho scored 16 first-quarter points en route to a game-high 22, but the Big Reds fell, 56-54.

Lang's 3 lifts Fort Frye at Buzzer

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BEVERLY — Sometimes the Basketball Gods giveth and sometimes they taketh away.

Coach Eric Henniger and his Fort Frye Cadets have been on both ends of the spectrum.

In its last postseason game, Fort Frye saw a three-quarters court heave waved off at the buzzer that would've given it an Ohio Division III sectional title against Monroe Central inside Meadowbrook High School.

Wednesday night on its home court, the Cadets left on more pleasant terms.

Carter Lang's 3-pointer from the right corner was ruled good as the horn sounded giving Fort Frye a remarkable 56-54 overtime victory against Bellaire in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship 3A semifinal.

"After he shot it, I felt like it was off in time," Henniger said. "He caught it and barely got it up. It was a great shot. I'm glad

we were on the good side this time."

A spot in Saturday's championship game at Ohio University Eastern opposite the winner of tonight's Magnolia-Monroe Central didn't look good for the Cadets after Bellaire's John Michael Schuetz drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key giving the Big Reds a 54-53 lead with 2.4 seconds left.

But Henniger calmly told his players during a time out they had plenty of time to pull things out, even though they had to go the length of the court to do so.

"I brought them over and told them, 'Hey, we have enough time to make a shot,'" Henniger said.

"I told them we were going to run the same play we always go over in practice and we're going to execute it and we're going to knock it down. It's as simple as that."

Things didn't go quite as Henniger and his staff planned. But, still, the Cadets walked away with the victory, only after escaping the mob of fans the stormed the court after the shot went through.

See, CADETS, Page B2

Golden State men take down Phoen

PHOENIX (AP) — Stephen Curry nearly had a triple-double before sitting out the fourth quarter, and Golden State stormed into the All-Star break on an 11-game winning streak with a victory over free-falling Phoenix.

Curry had 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the defending NBA champions. At 48-4, the Warriors have the best record through 52 games in NBA history, one win better than the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls and 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers. Those Bulls finished the season with a league-record 72 wins.

Klay Thompson added 24 points for Golden State.

Archie Goodwin scored 20 and

Markieff Morris 19 for the Suns, who have lost nine straight and 24 of 26. Rookie guard Devin Booker added 15 points and a career-best 10 assists.

SPURS 98, MAGIC 96

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points and drilled a jumper from the tip of the key with 0.9 on the clock to lift San Antonio to a win over Orlando.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and Patty Mills added 17 points and seven assists for the Spurs, who won their fourth straight game.

Evan Fournier, whose 3-point-er tied the game with 13.3 seconds left, led Orlando with 28

points. Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Victor Oladipo scored 14 and Elfrid Payton had 13 points and seven assists.

Payton missed an open layup at the buzzer that could have tied it.

KINGS 114, 76ERS 110

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and Darren Collison scored 21 of his 25 points after halftime to lead Sacramento to a comeback victory.

Rajon Rondo added 14 points, eight rebounds and 15 assists for the Kings, who snapped a four-game losing streak overall and six-game skid on the road while winning for just the second time

in their last 10. It also all Sacramento to enter the break with a positive note following a turbulent week that included rumors of the impending dismissal of coach George Karl.

Rookie Jahlil Okafor tied career high with 26 points with 10 rebounds, and Roy Covington scored a career-high 29 points for the 76ers, played without top big man Nerens Noel.

CELTICS 139, CLIPPERS 134, 07

BOSTON (AP) — I Thomas had 36 points and 11 assists, including a fade-jumper that sent the game into extra time, to help Boston

Richardson kids score at record clip for Alba

By CRAIG MERZ
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It's been a family affair for the Richardsons of the Albany Alexander basketball team with three siblings reaching impressive marks recently for the Division III school.

Junior point guard Leah became the girls' program all-time scoring leader 45 seconds into a 64-11 win against Athens on Feb. 1. She finished with 10 points to give her 1,239 in her career, 10 more than Josie Carr scored from 1997 to 2001.

On the record-setting basket, she stole the ball and went in for a layup. The game was halted and she was given the ball while her teammates and the Athens players con-

gratulated her.

"It was fun to see everyone's reaction when the game stopped," Alexander coach Cory McKnight told The Athens Messenger. "The Athens team all came down and shook her hand. That was pretty cool of (Athens coach) Paul (McNeal) to have them do that."

Three days later, Leah's freshman sister, Rachel, scored 38 points and made nine 3-pointers during a 69-31 win over Wellston. The point total and treys are believed to be school records.

Leah made her 3-pointers in the first three quarters of play. She hit four in the first and had seven by halftime.

The records for the sisters came less than a week after senior brother Seth

became the sixth player in Spartans' history to surpass the 1,000th-point mark.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Lima Senior's Xavier Simpson, a Michigan commit, scored 65 points in a 103-54 win against Fremont Ross last week to set the city scoring record he had established earlier in the season when he had 59 against Fremont Ross.

The 5-foot-11 point guard credited his teammates for his latest record.

"They had a mind set to let me break the record," Simpson told The Lima News. "They wanted me to break it, and I'm very thankful for the unselfish teammates that I have."

BIG NIGHT

It was a record-setting night for the Lisbon David Anderson boys in a 77-45

win over Columbiana on Friday.

Senior point guard Josh Liberati scored his 1,000th career point in the fourth quarter and two possessions later senior forward Austin Rutecki became the school's career scoring leader with 1,447 points.

Rutecki scored a school-record 48 points on 18-of-24 shooting from the field along with 12 rebounds as the Blue Devils claimed the Inter-Tri County League White Division title outright and improved to 18-1 on the season.

NOTABLES

Cleveland St. Ignatius on Saturday ended Columbus Northland's 91-game home win, the longest active streak in Ohio. The current longest confirmed home win streak is owned

by Cleveland

which has won and last lost at 11, 2012. The who are 17-3 third straight

Senate League played on a floor until the was updated before the

son....Metan green's John I picked up coaching win 21 victory of Michigan, on days later the completed an west Ohio Ath season with a over Wauseon first time Ev gone unbeaten play....The N town Spring captured a sha straight leag

St. C

Continued from Page B1

fell short last year and this a good chance to get some hardware."

Before any thoughts could shift to Saturday, the Red Devils had to take care of business.

"We brought our kids in today for a practice," Clifford admitted. "Not a shoot-around, but an actual practice and it was a really good practice, too. That carried over to tonight, which was good."

Similar to the first two meetings, the Red Devils set the tone for the game in the first quarter. Five different players dialed long distance en route to a 19-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Red Devils didn't slow down in the second quarter. They

hit four more treys — all by different players — en route to a 36-19 upperhand at the half.

"Nine threes in the first half," Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino said. "Who makes nine threes in the first half? They had a couple of guys make 3s who we weren't allowing to catch the ball. They had a small window and still made shots. That's clutch. They're good and I wish them all the luck in the world."

The Purple Riders were only able to get as close as 12 at any point in the second half.

Quite simply, it just doesn't add up when you're trading threes for twos and that was the case for the Riders. They connected on only one trey in the

entire game.

"We had great shots and just didn't make them from start to finish," Sabatino said. "When they're making all those 3s and you're not going to make easy shots at the other end, of course they're going to open up a big lead. Our confidence level dwindles and their confidence level escalates."

St. Clairsville has been playing with confidence since the early part of last month. It's now won nine of its last 10.

During that stretch, the Red Devils have received solid contribution from their entire rotation. Such was the case again. Junior Michael Scarnecchia continued his fine play of late, netting 20

points.

He was complemented by Daniel Trouten (11) and Buchanan (10). Seniors McCort and Luke Slavik won nine and eight, respectively. Greenwood came off the bench and hit a trio of treys for points.

Martins Ferry (12-8) paced by junior Zac Selb Senior Emilio Appolloni scored 11 points and seven rebounds. Bass added 11.

Despite a size disadvantage, St. C. held a 25-19 edge in the second quarter. Buchanan snagged 11 rebounds for St. C. The team were charted for nine turnovers which was two less than the other teams.

Apicella

Continued from Page B1

Von Miller was the game's MVP. Denver defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, however, was the true MVP as he scripted a suffocating game plan. It needed to be as the Broncos had minimal offense.

Penguins

Continued from Page B1

Carolina on Dec. 19. The Penguins previously won six of seven with points in 16 of their last 20 games.

Moore gave the Rangers a 2-0 lead early in the third period, snapping a sharp wrist shot over Fleury's shoulder during a 2-on-1.

Fast capped the scoring with an empty-net goal with 1:31 left.

It was the first time the teams played each other since

Beaver Local's Derek Wolfe was one of Denver's defensive standouts in the game. He had five tackles and half a sack.

Lady Gaga nailed the national anthem. It wasn't Whitney Houston-esque, but it was terrific. The half-

time show was disappointing. Coldplay, Beyonce and Bruno Mars would have been dynamite separately, but not thrown together as was the case.

Cam Newton struggled in the game and then fumbled how he handled his post-game interview, walking out after less than three minutes. The former Heisman Trophy winner loves the spotlight, but cannot

handle the low lights. He still has some maturing to do.

BUBBA'S BITS

KUDOS GO out to Magnolia High girls' basketball coach Tom Tisher for recording his 400th career victory when his Blue Eagles defeated Madonna on Monday. Tisher pocketed 373 victories as River High's hoop boss before crossing the Ohio

River to take helm.

THESE ARE times with 1 basketball. W and West Li hoop squads a ond and third nationally in while the Hill are 18th.

FOR TI straight year Winter is wr

Cadets

Continued from Page B1

"We wanted Carter Kiefer to catch the ball

We had our chance to put them away in regulation and we had a few chances

two after the — before pu 47-47 — to

OHIO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Eagles Going to Title Game

Magnolia to face Fort Frye

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — After the tempo was slowed down in the first quarter, Magnolia began to find its stride. Having two spurts in the second quarter — 6-0 and 9-0 runs — the Blue Eagles not only claimed their spot in the OVAC Class 3-A championship game, but earned the right to defend their title.

However, Magnolia coach Dave Tallman had an interesting statistic about Magnolia basketball after its 58-43 semifinal victory against Monroe Central on Thursday night.

"This school has never won one (an OVAC tournament championship) on an even year," Tallman said. "We've won all our OVAC championships on an odd one. You got to find a way to challenge your players and that was one of our goals this year."

"At least we are in the finals. Hopefully we bring our A-game and play a very good, disciplined Fort Frye team that's been there quite a bit too. It should be great game."

Fort Frye defeated Bellaire, 56-54 in overtime, in the other 3-A semifinal.

The Blue Eagles broke the game open after that 9-0 run in the second quarter, sparked by a Mitch Winters bucket. Winters scored the first and final basket of that run to put the score at 25-6 with 4:04 to go in the first half.

Monroe Central, however, found its rhythm as it started to erase a 16-point halftime deficit. The Seminoles hit two 3-pointers to start the second half to make it 27-17 in favor of the Blue Eagles. After a Winters put-back, Cole Howell hit his third 3-pointer and second of the third quarter, to trim the deficit to single digits.

(Please see EAGLES, Page 10)



Photo by Robby Parsons
Magnolia's Derrick Blain (5) drives around Monroe Central's Logan Dimmerling during action of Thursday night's OVAC Class 3-A semifinal in New Martinsville.

Maroon Knights Punish Crusaders

Stephens substitutes liberally

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — With an OVAC 2-A championship game looming less than 48 hours away, Wheeling Central was not caught looking ahead Thursday night.

The powerful Maroon Knights, two days removed from their conference semifinal victory against Shady-side, rolled past depleted Steubenville Catholic, 58-33.

The victory was the 17th in 18 starts for Coach Mel Stephens' Knights. Wheeling Central will face Caldwell in the OVAC championship game Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern.

The Crusaders, coming off a hard-earned victory against Conotton Valley on Wednesday, dropped to 10-9. Coach Sean Tucker's squad suited up without three

(Please see KNIGHTS, Page 10)

Wheeling Central's Owen Galner (12) looks for an open teammate, with Steubenville Catholic's Jake Bolger (12) defending.



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Local High School & College Basketball

Eagles going to title game

Tempo no issue for Magnolia

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — After the tempo was slowed down in the first quarter, Magnolia began to find its stride. Having two spurts in the second quarter — 6-0 and 9-0 runs — the Blue Eagles not only claimed their spot in the OVAC Class 3-A championship game, but earned the right to defend their title.

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Photo/ROBY PARSONS
MAGNOLIA'S Derrick Blain (5) drives around Monroe Central's Logan Dimmerling during action of Thursday night's OVAC Class 3-A semifinal in New Martinsville.

See, EAGLES, Page B2

St. Clairsville falls in OVAC 4A title tilt

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The senior class of St. Clairsville's basketball team reached the championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship three times during their careers.

Unfortunately for them, Saturday night marked the third consecutive season they left with silver medals around their necks.

The Red Devils, who earned the top seed in the tournament, were dealt a cruel fate inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, falling to Meadowbrook, 65-52 in the Class 4A championship game.

"It's disappointing for our kids," St. C. head coach Kim Clifford said. "Everytime we had a chance (to make a run) something went wrong for us. Either we missed a shot or something else happened to us. That stuff happens and we just couldn't overcome it tonight."

Each time that happened to the Red Devils, the Colts capitalized. In the end, it equated to Meadowbrook's second win in as many nights and the school's second OVAC title, but first since 1987.

See, 4A, Page B2



LUKE SLAVIK makes a move to the basket against a Meadowbrook defender during the second half of Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4A championship game at Ohio University Eastern.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

"I would say it was a pretty good weekend for our kids," Meadowbrook head coach Keith Arnold said of his club that features nary a senior starter. "It's an awesome win right before the (Ohio) tournament. We're excited to be OVAC champs."

St. Clairsville got off to a strong start, but eventually looked up at a 16-14 deficit after one thanks in large part to 11 points from Parker Black.

The Colts didn't stop there. They outscored St. C., 14-9 in the second and owned a 30-23 lead at the half. In the second, Zach Touvell got going, scoring eight of his 13 points.

"We couldn't get the stops we needed," Clifford said. "They got us in a little bit of foul trouble, which forced us to play a little bit softer at times."

St. Clairsville's deficit swelled to 11 after three quarters. Senior Patrick Buchanan had nine of his 15 points in the third quarter to help keep the Red Devils in it.

In the fourth, St. C. got within seven on a Logan McCort trey, but Black answered right back on the other end and from there it was simply too much of an up-hill climb for the Devils.

Meadowbrook was relentless in its attack. It netted 18 points in the fourth and only five of those came from the foul line.

"I thought we played pretty good defense, especially against their shooters," Arnold said.

Just a few days removed from drilling 13 treys in the semi-final win against Ferry, the Red Devils were limited to six triples in the title game. Three of those came from McCort, who led St. C. with 16 points.

The Colts (18-4) were led by Black and Justin Cork. Each finished with 20 points. Touvell added 13.

St. Clairsville — now 15-6 — will welcome River on Monday in a make-up game. Meadowbrook, meanwhile, will await Division II tournament play back at OUE when it faces the winner of Cambridge and Beaver on Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.

MEADOWBROOK (65) — Black 7, 4-4 20; Touvell 5, 0-1 13; Singleton 0, 0-0 0; Cork 8, 4-4 20; Wolverton 1, 1-3 3; Urdak 2, 4-4 8; Roberts 0, 1-2 1; Totals: 23, 14-18 65. **ST. CLAIRSVILLE (52)** — McCort 4, 5-6 16; Trouten 2, 1-1 6; Buchanan 7, 1-2 15; Slavik 3, 0-2 6; Scarnecchia 3, 0-0 8; Greenwood 0, 1-4 1; Williams 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 19, 8-15 52.

3-point goals: M — Black (2), Touvell (3). St. C. — McCort (3), Trouten, Scarnecchia (2).

OVAC Boy's Basketball Semifinal

Central Holds Off Shadyside

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — The Maroon Knights of Wheeling Central held off a second-half surge from Shadyside on Tuesday night to advance to the OVAC Class 2A championship game for the fourth year in a row.

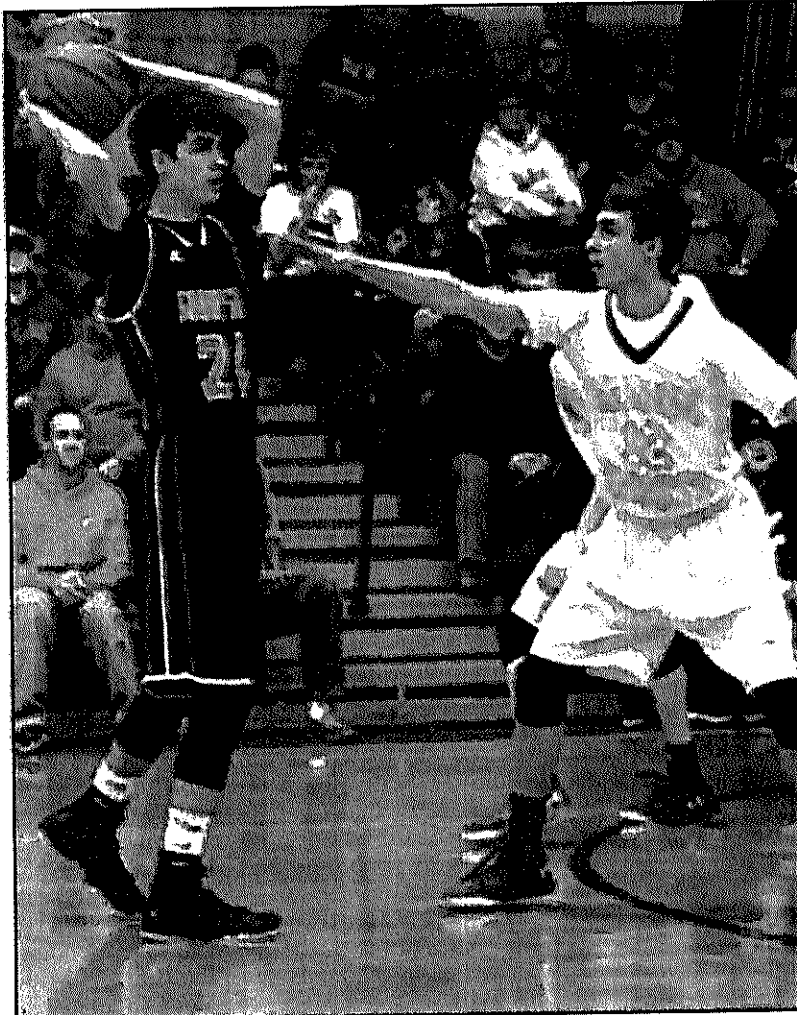
After ending the first quarter on a 10-0 run, Wheeling Central had a commanding 16-point lead in Tuesday's OVAC semifinal. The Tigers, however, battled their way back in the third quarter to get within six points.

The hole proved to be too big for Shadyside and the Maroon Knights were able to go on another 10-0 spurt to put the game away as the Maroon Knights advanced by a final score of 70-57 Tuesday night.

Wheeling Central will face the winner of the Caldwell-Toronto semifinal game. The two teams will tip off tonight at 7:30 p.m.

"We didn't play real well on offense," Maroon Knights coach Mel Stephens said. "We turned the ball over a few times, took some quick shots in possessions that we were trying to avoid. I give them credit (Shadyside) for coming in and playing the way they did. They came in to win and they were making plays. If we didn't get out to a good first quarter, it's probably more of a struggle than what it was."

John Burkhalter hit a three-pointer with 4:34 in the first quarter to put the Maroon Knights up 7-6, a lead that they would not relinquish. He hit a shot from behind the arc with 1:32 left to play in the quarter to start the first 10-0 spurt. Burkhalter finished with 13 points



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

SHADYSIDE'S Travis Foulton (24) looks for a pass as Wheeling Central's Owen Gainer (12) tries to block him during Tuesday's basketball game.

in the game, all coming in the opening frame.

"John can shoot it. He was knocking down shots," Stephens said. "With these guys, sometimes

I hate to see getting off to a start like that shooting the ball. Then we kind of get that mentality that it's

See, **CENTRAL**, Page B2

Central

Continued from Page B1
going to be an easy one. They never are, especially against good teams like Shadyside."

The Wheeling Central lead blossomed to 19 after a Chase Harler bucket to put the score at 39-20 with 2:13 left in the first half. Shadyside's offense started to click. The Tigers scored the final six points of the first half to cut the lead to 13, at 39-26. The 6-0 run extended into the third as the lead was cut to single digits after a Shane Johnson bucket.

With Mark Fahey's second three-pointer in 20 seconds, the Maroon Knights' lead was down to six, 46-38.

After exchanging buckets, Johnson hit a long ball

with 10 seconds left in the third to extend the lead to 52-46.

"You can't come to Central and dig yourself a hole that deep," Shadyside coach Ed Andes said. "I was proud of our guys because we fought back. You got to stay right with them because they have a lot of offense. Harler's tough and he does so much for them offensively and defensively. Two guys have to guard him and that frees somebody up. It's tough and I was proud of our guys for being able to come back."

The Tigers could not get any closer as Wheeling Central went on a 10-0 run, with Harler and Brent Price hitting key free throws down the stretch.

Harler had 27 points to lead the way for the Maroon Knights while Johnson tallied 27 as well for the Tigers.

Price had another solid game with 19 points.

Fulton netted 14 points for the Tigers while Fahey contributed with 10 to round out the double-figure scorers.

The Tigers have one more regular season game before tournament play starts.

"This is a good game because you have to play four quarters," Andes said. "If you don't play four, you lose. We played three and got beat. That tells us mentally that we have to be ready and play four quarters to keep going into the tournament."

OHIO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Central Wins Crown Again

Knights overcome slow start, Redskins

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — To win one conference tournament title is no easy task, let alone four in a row. Wheeling Central did just that Saturday on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

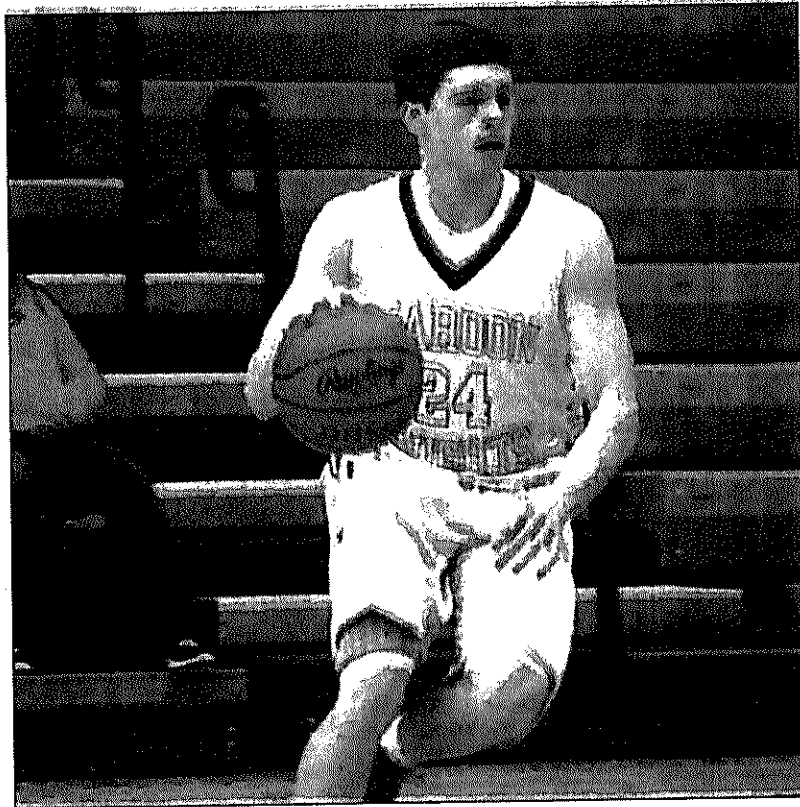
Before raising the hardware, the Maroon Knights had to put in some work. Falling behind 9-0 in the first quarter, Wheeling Central showed resiliency and ended the game on a 10-0 run by making key free throws down the stretch to beat Caldwell, 53-41, for the OVAC Class 2-A title for the fourth straight year.

"It's pretty special," Maroon Knights coach Mel Stephens said. "Chase (Harler) and Brian (Campbell) have been part of four in a row. Now those younger guys, the juniors, they've been part of three in a row. Hopefully we get a chance to come back next year and go for another one."

For the first four and a half minutes of the game, the shots were not falling for the Maroon Knights and they found themselves in that hole. Harler got them on the scoreboard with a pair of free throws.

The lead was cut to four, 11-7, after Harler hit a 3-

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Wheeling Central's Gabe Rohmann (24) looks for a pass during Saturday's OVAC Class 2-A game. Wheeling Central prevailed 53-41 against Caldwell to take the Class 2-A crown.

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Warriors Roar To 1-A Crown

Madonna struggles, falls

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The game was a completely different matchup from the last time Madonna and Trinity squared off. But for the Warriors, the pregame message remained the same.

"We write M.D.I.T on our white board before each game," Trinity coach Jamal Womble said. "We Must Do It Together. We're not a team that's designed for one guy to get off. We have to have a bunch of different players get in the game."

"Any one of our players has the ability to step up and take control of the game. We do pretty well as a team with different guys stepping up."

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Eagles Repeat in 3-A

Cadets rally falls short

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Nothing was going to stop Preston Boswell from claiming back-to-back OVAC titles. The senior standout scored the game's first nine points, including hitting a 3-pointer upon re-entering the game after being tended to for a bloody nose.

Boswell finished with a game-high 34 points and the Blue Eagles held off a resilient Fort Frye rally to give Magnolia the Class 3-A title, 63-57. This is also the first time in school history that Magnolia has won the OVAC championship on an even-numbered year.



Magnolia's Brooks Parsons concentrates as he fades away for a shot during Saturday's OVAC Class 2-A championship.

Photo by Robby Parsons

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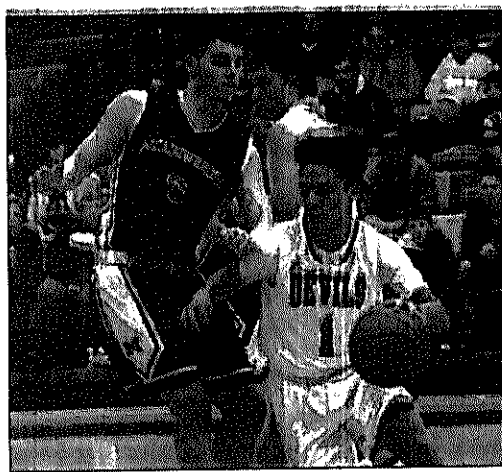


Photo by Seth Staskey
St. Clairsville's Daniel Trouten looks to drive against Meadowbrook's Parker Black during the second half of Saturday night's OVAC Class 4A championship game at Ohio University Eastern.

Colts Kick Devils For Title

Meadowbrook Claims 4-A

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — St. Clairsville's senior class reached the championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship three times during its career. Unfortunately for them, Saturday night marked the third consecutive season they left with silver medals around their necks.

The Red Devils, who earned the top seed in the tournament,

were dealt a cruel fate inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, falling to Meadowbrook, 65-52, in the Class 4-A championship game.

"It's disappointing for our kids," St. C. coach Kim Clifford said. "Everytime we had a chance (to make a run) something went wrong for us. Either we missed a shot or something else happened to us. That stuff happens and we just couldn't overcome it."

Each time that happened to the Red Devils, the Colts capitalized. In the end, it equated to Meadowbrook's second victory in as many nights and the

school's second OVAC title, but first since 1987.

"I would say it was a pretty good weekend for our kids," Meadowbrook coach Keith Arnold said of a club that doesn't feature a senior starter. "It's an awesome win right before the (Ohio) tournament. We're excited to be OVAC champs."

St. Clairsville got off to a strong start, but eventually looked up at a 16-14 deficit after one thanks in large part to 11 points from Parker Black.

The Colts didn't stop there. They outscored St. C. 14-9 in

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