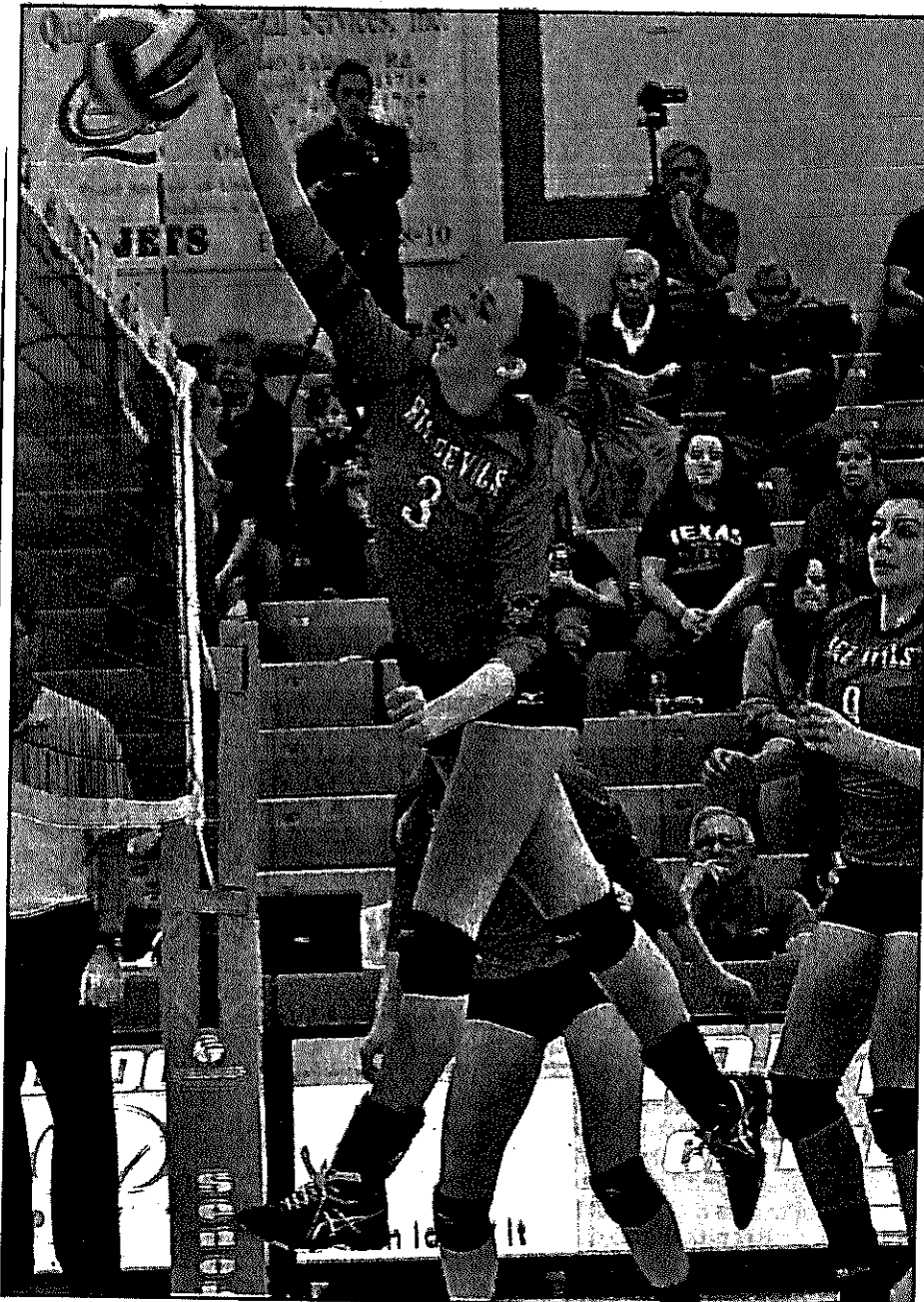


OVAC Volleyball Championships



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Abby Miller goes up for a spike during the Red Devils' OVAC Class 4A volleyball championship at Union Local High School on Saturday. The Red Devils fell to East Liverpool, 27-25, 25-14 and 25-19.

St. C. falls to EL in 4A title match

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN – Getting to the championship in any sport is half the battle. Completing the mission is another story. St. Clairsville found that out the hard way Saturday afternoon.

The third-seeded Red Devils (16-6) knocked off No. 2 Oak Glen in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A volleyball semifinal Tuesday night to advance to the finals. However,

they fell in straight sets to top-seeded East Liverpool, 27-25, 25-14 and 25-19 inside 'The Hangar' at Union Local High School.

"I'm proud of the girls for the way they played," a disappointed St. Clairsville head coach Christa Truchan said. "They played hard."

St. Clairsville had a pair of chances late in the first set to clinch a victory, but left both slip away. The teams were knotted at 23 – the sixth of eight deadlocks before Courtney Storer gave the Red Devils a 24-23 lead. The Potters drew even on a Skye Stokes kill, but a net serve gave the Red Devils another shot at winning, 25-24.

However, another Stokes' kill made it 25-all and the Potters tallied the next two points for a hard-earned triumph.

East Liverpool (17-3) led wire-to-wire in the second set. They scored six of the final seven points for a 2-0 set advantage.

After three early ties in the third set, the Potters completed the sweep with some fine play

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Trail wins another conference title

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN – At the outset of Saturday's OVAC Class 3A championship match between Fort Frye and two-time defending champion Buckeye Trail, veteran Warriors head coach Jeff Beros reminded his unbeaten squad to "be ready for anything."

It was and, as a result, the best season in 23 years for the Guernsey County program continues.

Jennifer Burga recorded 14 points and, with 41 assists, became the school's all-time leader in that category, as the Warriors swept the Cadets, 25-9, 25-15, 25-17, to claim their 16th conference crown inside 'The Hangar' at Union Local High School.

"I couldn't be more proud of this 13-member team we have," Beros said. "We were expecting a successful season, and we're not done yet."

Buckeye Trail enters Ohio Division IV sectional tournament action next Saturday

at 22-0; it's best start since finishing 25-1 in 1993 when it fell to Sydney Lehman in the state semifinals in 1993.

"And what's more remarkable about this season is this group has only lost one set all season," Beros noted.

And that came in the season opener vs. Tri-Valley – on August 20.

The Warriors dominated the Cadets (15-7) – a team it defeated twice in Pioneer Valley Conference play – from the get-go. Trail jumped out to an 8-2 lead in Set 1

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down the stretch.

"I don't think it was too much energy spent, I just think that is one of the area's that we are working on," Truchan said when asked about the tough loss in the opening set. "We get down after losing the first set instead of coming back. A couple of things didn't go our way. They (East Liverpool) are a very good, disciplined team and we can't do that against good teams."

For the Potters, Stokes, an impres-

sive freshman and daughter of head coach Jonathan Stokes, led the way with 22 kills, nine digs, seven aces and five assists.

"She works hard, but so do all of the other girls," Stokes said amidst a quick celebration as many of the girls had to prepare for Homecoming later in the night.

"Most of these girls play club ball and that's where it is at. That's where you get prepared."

Junior Kiandria Cowart added six

kills, four blocks and a pair of assists. Mariah Peachey contributed four kills, four blocks and two assists. Terran Stacey chipped in a dozen assists and Emily Recktenwald had eight digs.

Senior Emma Lewis led St. Clairsville with 14 kills. Ari Reager had 13 assists and nine digs, while Abby Miller charted nine digs and half-a-dozen kills. Madison Vickers finished with nine digs and Storer had eight assists.

• Trail

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and cruised from there.

"We have a group of girls that have worked, well, to say they have put hours in is an injustice to them," Beros said. "Because since fourth grade this senior class has put in so much time with volleyball. I knew someday it would start to payoff and it's paying off now."

Burga, Lexe Starr, Karley Hensley and Alexis Wheeler comprise Trail's senior class. During the match, Burga surpassed Lynsey Beros' school mark for assists. She now has 2,727.

"We expected to have a good season," Beros said. "I don't think we ever go into a season saying we want to win every set. Our goal is to be competitive every time we take the

floor. We want to be competitive in practice, we want to be competitive in in our PVC and OVAC matches, in the East Ohio Tournament and the OVAC Tournament.

"We're moving in the right direction."

Even when the Warriors face adversity they seem to have an answer. Leading 17-5 in Set 1, the Cadets seem to have the Warriors on the ropes, but Trail found a way to salvage a point, which was registered by Jenni Carmichael.

Fort Frye led just once - 3-2 on Set 2.

"Our goal is to build a cushion of points and to build a lead so when we do start to have those bad runs we can

give up a few points and still maintain a lead," Beros explained. "I thought the intensity and enthusiasm we came out with was the difference."

Wheeler added 11 points and 14 digs for the Warriors, who await the West Muskingum/Sandy Valley survivor in their tournament opener. Hensley added nine points, 15 digs and seven kills; Ashlyn Doudna had 14 digs, nine kills and six blocks; Starr had 10 digs, nine kills and nine blocks; and Carmichael collected 13 kills.

Jordyn Hendersot had seven points and 10 assists for the Cadets. Kelsey Sampson added six blocks and five kills, while Kasey Buchanan had seven digs.

Paden City Falls in Class 1A Final

Frontier Gets Best of Wildcats

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

BELMONT — There are times in sports when a very good team just meets its match. That was the case Saturday as top-seeded Paden City fell to the second-seeded Frontier in straight sets of the OVAC Class 1A volleyball championship at Union Local by scores of 25-16, 27-25 and 25-19.

Paden City's biggest lead was only 25-24 in the second set, but the Wildcats couldn't seal the deal and they never led the first or third sets.

"Frontier is a very good volleyball team," Paden City coach Fred King said. "They are gifted, athletic and nice kids and the coaches do a good job. When you put good instruction, talented athletes and good plays together, you are going to be tough to beat.

"As a coach I have to give them credit. We didn't play bad, they just made it look that way because they are so good. They put us in a position and we couldn't respond."

The good instruction that King is referring to comes from Cougars coach Donna Murphy, who has led her squad to an 18-6 record and now an OVAC championship.

"Our girls did well," Murphy said. "They played as a team and not individuals. They also picked it up on defense and that made a big difference because we knew they would do a lot of tipping and rolling and our girls were ready for it.

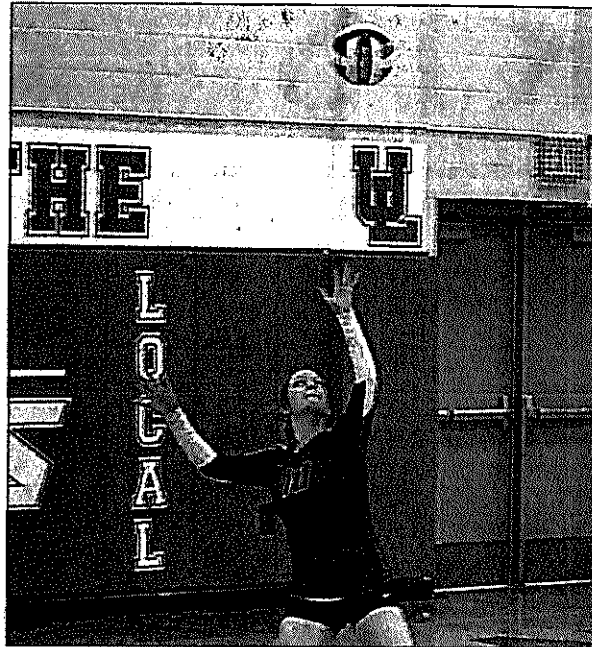


Photo by Cody Tomer

Aubrey Neff serves for Paden City in OVAC volleyball action on Saturday.

"This win means a lot. They have worked hard from Day 1. We don't have summer ball or club ball so it's a big step for them. To me, it is very important for them to get this feeling."

Frontier sent a message early, jumping out to a 7-1 lead in the first set behind quality serving from senior Lexi Brookover.

The Wildcats clawed their way back into the set with three straight points from Malayna Price to cut the deficit to 8-5 but Frontier just continued to extend the lead and stopped any scoring runs Paden City generated. Tiffany Graham set Brookover up perfectly to deliver the final kill of the first set for the Cougars.

The second set was a much different story. Paden City took a 1-0 lead before Frontier snatched it right back. The Cougars led the

majority of the set but the Wildcats hung around until they were able to regain the lead at 21-20. The teams traded points until the set was knotted at 25-25.

The next points were crucial as Frontier's Nikki Haught and Dani Reed tallied kills to give their squad a 2-0 advantage in the match, instead of Paden City knotting the match at 1-1.

Frontier controlled the third set from the start as Brookover recorded a four-point run to give the Cougars a 5-1 edge and they never looked back.

As Paden City faced elimination with the score at 24-14, Jenna Arnett stepped behind the service line for the Wildcats and served her team to five consecutive points, showing that her team has a never-give-up attitude. Finally,

Paden City failed to get the ball over the net and Frontier completed the sweep and an OVAC championship victory.

"It was a good finish," Murphy said. "We allowed some freshmen to get in and the feeling of what it is like on the court during this circumstance but when they started coming back, we put the seniors back in. They deserve it."

Brookover paced the OVAC champions with 11 points, nine kills and 17 digs, while Marley Cline tallied 11 points, 10 digs and seven kills, Reed provided four points, 13 kills and five digs, Graham turned in six points, 14 assists and 17 digs and Maddie Greathouse collected 41 digs.

Cala Curtis also supplied 17 digs and nine assists. Brittany Martin produced nine digs and Haught added four points and four digs in the win.

Jenna Arnett led Paden City with 15 points. Aubrey Neff handed out 16 assists, along with 10 points and nine digs, Jenna Ferrebee garnered nine points, seven kills and six blocks, Katrina Heasley earned six points, seven kills and 10 digs and Malayna Price finished with 11 points and 12 digs.

Madison Kelly also collected 10 points and Kallie Arnett added seven kills for the Wildcats.

"When we were hitting the ball and swinging hard, we were getting points," King said. "However, when they got free shot, it was like shooting fish in a barrel but overall I am very proud of our girls for hanging in there with one of the best teams."

SCC Tops Rival Toronto



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SCC Tops Rival Toronto For Title

By MIKE MATHISON
For the News-Register

MORRISTOWN — Steubenville Catholic won an OVAC Class 2A volleyball championship Saturday with an 18-25, 25-15, 25-18, 25-17 victory against rival Toronto at Union Local High School.

"We came out slowly and they did a good job in the first game," Crusaders senior Samm Simmons said. "We capitalized on some of their errors in the second game and started to get our confidence back."

She finished with a game-high 14 kills, and added 12 points, four digs and two blocks.

"We just played with heart," she said.

CCHS called a timeout down 16-10 in Game 1 and scored four in a row.

But, the Red Knights won nine of the last 13 points to take a 1-0 lead.

"I switched the lineup for the first set hoping to catch them off guard and that happened," first-year Red Knights coach Walter Anchors said. "But, they made the adjustments."

Central took an 8-3 lead in Game 2 and cruised.

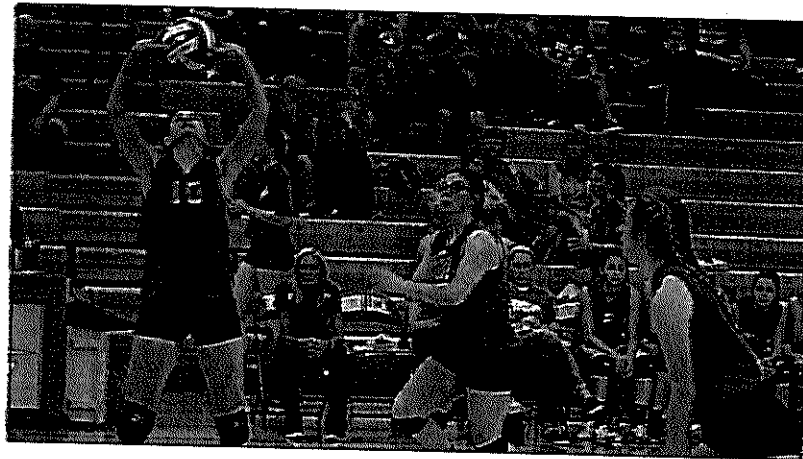
"We spread the ball around offensively," Crusaders coach Sherri Barber said. "We can go to anyone at any time."

Bonnie Thibault finished with 19 assists and Crissy Fornasaglio 17 for the winners.

CCHS jumped out 10-3 in Game 3 and eventually made it 20-11 on two kills each by Grace Godich and Fornasaglio and a Chloe Pieniazek ace.

Pieniazek totaled four aces, to go along with her 19 points, five digs and two kills. Thibault added 11 points, two kills and two points and Fornasaglio 16 points, seven kills and two aces.

"I think we just started playing our type of volleyball," Barber said.



Steubenville Catholic's Crissy Fornasaglio (10) sets the ball in OVAC action on Saturday.

Photo by Cody Tomer

"Toronto has some good players and we really had to watch what the girl in the middle was doing."

That would be Red Knights senior Delaney Merideth, who collected 13 kills, five blocks and five points.

"We've had trouble with middle hitters," Barber said.

It was the fourth OVAC championship in the last six years for the Crusaders, all coming in Class 2A. They beat Toronto in straight sets two years ago and defeated Frontier in 2012 and 2011.

CCHS had another quick start in Game 4, going up 11-6 and that led to a Toronto timeout. That lead ballooned to 18-9 on a Brittany Bertoia kill and Anchors took his final timeout.

Jenna Leasure had six kills, six points and four digs for the Red Knights, while Maddie Robins totaled 21 assists and four digs and Gina Fogle 12 digs.

Serena Burkey added 15 digs, eight points and two aces, Desiree Meadows six points, three kills and two aces, Jamie Anderson eight points, three kills and three aces, Madison Sapp two points and two digs and Jocelyn Merideth one dig.

Also for the Crusaders, Bertoia delivered 13 points, 14 digs, five kills and two aces, Hannah Spiess 10 points and five kills and Godich eight kills.

OVAC Class 3A Buckeye Trail d. Fort Frye 25-9, 25-15, 25-17

Jennifer Burga recorded 14 points and, with 41 assists, became the school's all-time leader in that category, as Buckeye Trail swept the Fort

Frye to claim their 16th conference crown.

Buckeye Trail enters Ohio Division IV sectional tournament action next Saturday at 22-0; it's best start since finishing 25-1 in 1993 when it fell to Sydney Lehman in the state semifinals in 1993.

Alexis Wheeler added 11 points and 14 digs for the Warriors. Karley Hensley added nine points, 15 digs and seven kills; Ashlyn Doudna had 14 digs, nine kills and six blocks; Lexe Starr had 10 digs, nine kills and nine blocks; and Jenni Carmichael collected 13 kills.

Jordyn Hendersot had seven points and 10 assists for the Cadets. Kelsey Sampson added six blocks and five kills, while Kasey Buchanan had seven digs.

Class 4A East Liverpool d. St. Clairsville 27-25, 25-14, 25-19

Skye Stokes led the way with 22 kills, nine digs, seven aces and five assists as top-ranked East Liverpool defeated No. 3 seed St. Clairsville.

Senior Emma Lewis led St. Clairsville with 14 kills. Ari Reager had 13 assists and nine digs, while Abby Miller charted nine digs and half-a-dozen kills. Madison Vickers finished with nine digs and Storer had eight assists.

CLASS 5A Beaver Local d. Morgantown 25-21, 25-14, 25-12

Reed McGeehan had 17 digs and 14 points, while teammate Kaitlynn Puliano had 22 assists, eight points, seven digs, six kills, three blocks and two aces as Beaver Local topped Morgantown for the Class 5A title.