



# 2016-17 OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Times Leader • Saturday, February 11, 2017



**GOOD LUCK!**

*From the Friendly Folks at...*



Bellaire  
676-1165

St. Clairsville  
695-0140

Powhatan  
795-4565

Barnesville  
425-1901

Member  
FDIC



# Come see what Belmont College has to offer!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Belmont College Main Campus  
68094 Hammond Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio

- WHY:**
- Learn about Program Offerings
  - Meet our faculty and staff
  - Receive assistance with admissions and financial aid
  - Tour the campus
  - Enjoy FREE food & giveaways

**WHEN:** Monday, Feb. 13, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Belmont College Main Campus  
68094 Hammond Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio

- WHY:**
- High school students in grades 6 through 11 and their parents/guardians are invited to attend
  - Learn about earning college credits & high school graduation credits at the same time

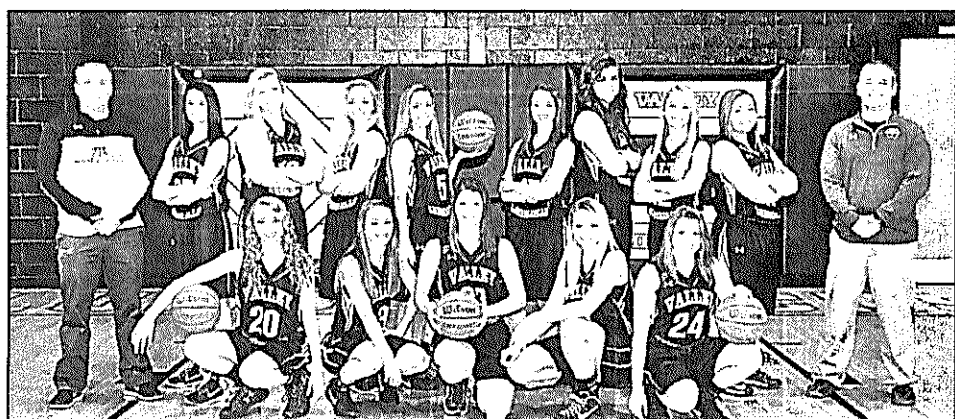


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Valley Lumberjills basketball team. Front row, from left, are Caitlyn Underwood, Cassidy West, Rachel Baker, Melanie Thomas and Emma Ueltschy. Back row, from left, are head coach Jeff Derby, Madison Greathouse, Brittany Kennedy, Tessa Dudgeon, Sophie Palmer, McKenzie Melott, Jenna Dallison, Jamey West, Kaeleen Utt and coach Logan Miller.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Frontier Cougars basketball team. The team includes Tiffany Graham, Nikki Haught, Isabella Rinard, Alisia Winstanley, Lea Dunn, Kylie Daugherty, Samantha Morris, Lexi Brookover, Carly Strickler and Abigail Eddy. The team is coached by head coach Scott Murphy, Trista Murphy and John Hoff.

# Frontier, Valley meet in 1A final

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – The Class 1A matchup of the 10th annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships can be referred to as the new against the old.

No. 2 Valley, which has never made a finals appearance, is paired with top-seeded Frontier, which has won two crowns in the last three years. However, both of those championships – against Bridgeport (2014) and River (2016) – came in Class 2A. The Cougars fell to Wheeling Central in

the 2015 semifinals.

The Lumberjills (16-5) knocked No. 3 Trinity into a semifinal last Monday with a 49-32 verdict in Pine Grove, while the Cougars (15-6) rolled past fourth-seeded Beallsville, 67-23. They will tip-off the today's five-game card at 10 a.m. at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

"We are really looking forward to this game," Valley head coach Jeff Derby added. "It's going to be a different atmosphere. I don't think I have a girl on this team that has been in an environment like that is

going to be. We've played on some big floors, but not like that."

In Valley's semifinal win over Trinity, junior Sophie Palmer displayed all of her skills. The 5-5 point guard scored 14 points, handed out eight assists and charted half-a-dozen steals.

"She's a player," Derby

said. "She averages 18.8 points, 4.8 assists, 4 steals and 3.4 rebounds a game."

In the semifinal, Rachel Baker, a 5-11 senior netted a team-high 20 points – 11 above her average – and pulled down eight boards. Sophomore Caitlyn Underwood added five points, while seniors

Melanie Thomas and Reisa Dudgeon evenly split eight markers. Junior Maggie Ueltschy had two.

The Lumberjills, who last won an OVAC title in 1993, started the campaign 9-1. Their lone loss – to Magnolia in the championship game of the Boggs Tournament to start the sea-

son. It's one of three set-backs to the Blue Eagles.

"They got us three times," Derby noted.

Pacing Frontier's 44-point triumph over the Blue Devils was a trio of double-digit scorers. Sammy Morris, a 5-5 senior

See, 1A, Page 4

## Championship Schedule

Class 1A -- 10 a.m.

No. 1 Frontier vs. No. 2 Valley -- Page 3

Class 2A -- 12:15 p.m.

No. 1 Wheeling CC vs. No. 2 Steub. CC -- Page 5

Class 3A -- 2:30 p.m.

No. 2 Buckeye Trail vs. No. 4 Linsly -- Page 7

Class 4A -- 4:45 p.m.

No. 2 Union Local vs. No. 4 St. Clairsville -- Page 6

Class 5A -- 7 p.m.

No. 1 South vs. No. 2 Wheeling Park -- Page 8

**GOOD LUCK  
FRONTIER  
LADY  
COUGARS!**

**MATAMORAS  
HARDWARE**

305 Main Street  
New Matamoras, Ohio  
740-865-3469

**GO LADY COUGARS!**

**GOOD LUCK  
FRONTIER  
LADY  
COUGARS**



**GO GET EM!**

*From the Frontier  
Athletic Dept.*

1A

Continued from Page 3

guard/forward, led the way with 18 points. Lexi Brookover, a 5-11 senior forward, added 16, while Tiffany Graham, a 5-7 junior guard/forward, had 14. Eight Cougars cracked the scoring column.

"They are a very, very disciplined and hard-working team," Derby said of the Cougars. "We played them two years ago and didn't

fare so well."

The Cougars are led by Brookover with a 16-point average. She is joined in double figures by 5-10 junior forward Kylie Daugherty with a 12-point norm. Morris scored 8 a game while Graham and 5-11 senior forward Nikki Haught both average 7.

Frontier has dropped four of its last five games but

head coach Scott Murphy said it's something his team has to go back to the drawing board about.

"We played some pretty good teams in that stretch," he noted.

"We led in every game until the end, but we just couldn't get a shot to drop or a rebound to go our way. We did a lot of good things in that stretch, but we were

not able to finish."

He said the community and school is excited about playing for another championship.

"We're really excited to be playing today. It was our first time hosting (a OVAC semifinal)," he added. "We played pretty well on that court, but this season we're in a reverse role. We've always been the underdog

before. I don't know if we're favored or not, though."

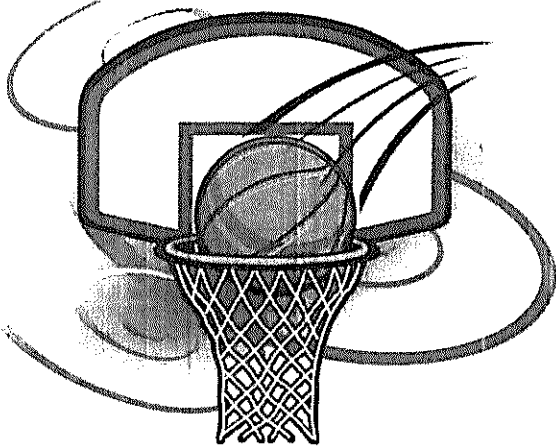
Murphy said Valley is a worthy opponent.

"They've got a point guard that is pretty good and much of their offense runs through her," he said of Palmer.

"They've also got a couple of 'bigs' that play well inside."



# Good Luck, Valley Lady Lumberjills



**GOOD LUCK LUMBERJILLS!**  
*Williams* FUNERAL HOME  
 226 N. SR 20 Pine Grove, WV 26419  
 304-889-3302

**SIMON'S MARKET**  
**GOOD LUCK Lumberjills!**  
 Rt. 20 Pine Grove, WV 26419  
**304-889-3342**

**GOOD LUCK JILLS!**  
**GO!**  
 Sophie #5  
 We love you,  
 Dad, Mom,  
 Peyton  
 and Lila

**GOOD LUCK LUMBERJILLS**  
 FROM  
**A-L**  
**CONCRETE**  
 PINE GROVE, WV  
**304-904-2696**

**GO JILLS!**  
 Good Luck, Jenna #23

**LOVE,**  
 Mom, Dad, & Luke

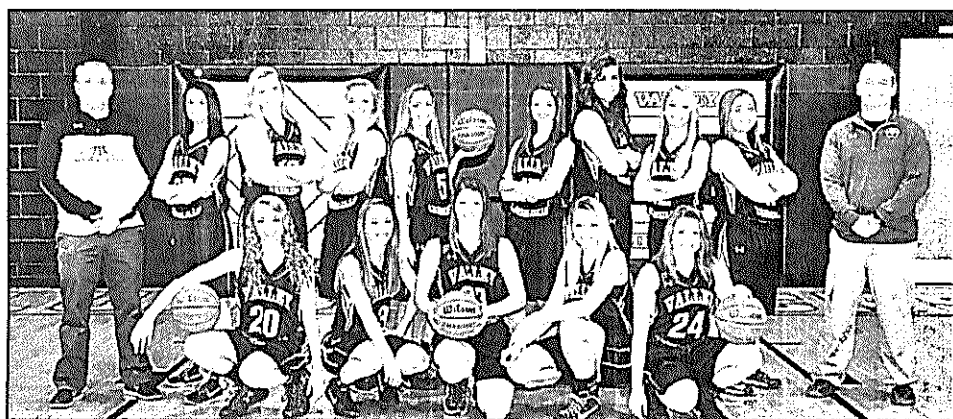


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Valley Lumberjills basketball team. Front row, from left, are Caitlyn Underwood, Cassidy West, Rachel Baker, Melanie Thomas and Emma Ueltschy. Back row, from left, are head coach Jeff Derby, Madison Greathouse, Brittany Kennedy, Tessa Dudgeon, Sophie Palmer, McKenzie Melott, Jenna Dallison, Jamey West, Kaeleen Utt and coach Logan Miller.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Frontier Cougars basketball team. The team includes Tiffany Graham, Nikki Haught, Isabella Rinard, Alisia Winstanley, Lea Dunn, Kylie Daugherty, Samantha Morris, Lexi Brookover, Carly Strickler and Abigail Eddy. The team is coached by head coach Scott Murphy, Trista Murphy and John Hoff.

# Frontier, Valley meet in 1A final

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The Class 1A matchup of the 10th annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships can be referred to as the new against the old.

No. 2 Valley, which has never made a finals appearance, is paired with top-seeded Frontier, which has won two crowns in the last three years. However, both of those championships - against Bridgeport (2014) and River (2016) - came in Class 2A. The Cougars fell to Wheeling Central in

the 2015 semifinals.

The Lumberjills (16-5) knocked No. 3 Trinity into a semifinal last Monday with a 49-32 verdict in Pine Grove, while the Cougars (15-6) rolled past fourth-seeded Beallsville, 67-23. They will tip-off the today's five-game card at 10 a.m. at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

"We are really looking forward to this game," Valley head coach Jeff Derby added. "It's going to be a different atmosphere. I don't think I have a girl on this team that has been in an environment like that is

going to be. We've played on some big floors, but not like that."

In Valley's semifinal win over Trinity, junior Sophie Palmer displayed all of her skills. The 5-5 point guard scored 14 points, handed out eight assists and charted half-a-dozen steals.

"She's a player," Derby

said. "She averages 18.8 points, 4.8 assists, 4 steals and 3.4 rebounds a game."

In the semifinal, Rachel Baker, a 5-11 senior netted a team-high 20 points - 11 above her average - and pulled down eight boards. Sophomore Caitlyn Underwood added five points, while seniors

Melanie Thomas and Reisa Dudgeon evenly split eight markers. Junior Maggie Ueltschy had two.

The Lumberjills, who last won an OVAC title in 1993, started the campaign 9-1. Their lone loss - to Magnolia in the championship game of the Boggs Tournament to start the sea-

son. It's one of three setbacks to the Blue Eagles.

"They got us three times," Derby noted.

Pacing Frontier's 44-point triumph over the Blue Devils was a trio of double-digit scorers. Sammy Morris, a 5-5 senior

See, 1A, Page 4

## Championship Schedule

Class 1A -- 10 a.m.

No. 1 Frontier vs. No. 2 Valley -- Page 3

Class 2A -- 12:15 p.m.

No. 1 Wheeling CC vs. No. 2 Steub. CC -- Page 5

Class 3A -- 2:30 p.m.

No. 2 Buckeye Trail vs. No. 4 Linsly -- Page 7

Class 4A -- 4:45 p.m.

No. 2 Union Local vs. No. 4 St. Clairsville -- Page 6

Class 5A -- 7 p.m.


No. 1 South vs. No. 2 Wheeling Park -- Page 8

**GOOD LUCK  
FRONTIER  
LADY  
COUGARS!**

**MATAMORAS  
HARDWARE**

**305 Main Street  
New Matamoras, Ohio  
740-865-3469**

**GO LADY COUGARS!**

**GOOD LUCK  
FRONTIER  
LADY  
COUGARS** 

**GO GET EM!**

*From the Frontier  
Athletic Dept.*

# Wheeling CC, Steubenville CC clash in 2A

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports  
Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – The last time Steubenville Catholic won an OVAC girls' basketball championship, George Bush was in the White House.

The first George Bush – George H.W. Bush.

Yes, it's been 28 years since a Crusaders squad affixed a banner to the walls of the Mickey Barber Gymnasium.

And Saturday, the 2017 edition of the SCC girls' basketball team hopes to end the program's drought.

"They're very excited," said Jess Looman, the Crusaders' third-year head coach. "That was one of the goals we put into place, to get a Top 4 seed and make it to 'Championship Saturday.'"

Steubenville Catholic will face Wheeling Central for the Class 2A crown at 12:15 p.m. on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in the second of five games that comprise the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships.

"The school hasn't been there since 2008, so it's been a long time coming," Looman said. "We have

four seniors that have worked especially hard and they really deserve to be there."

The Crusaders have won six OVAC crowns – five of them coming in the 1980s. Wheeling Central, meanwhile, has nine OVAC banners on display in East Wheeling

– five coming under the direction of long-time head coach Penn Kurtz.

"We're really excited to

be back," he said. "(Reaching the OVAC championship game) is something we talk about every year. "We want to be competitive in the OVAC and get to the finals. It's one of our goals."



Steubenville Catholic (14-6) reached

Saturday's final by defeating River in one of Monday night's semifinals. Looman said her team entered that

game with a week off and now appears ready for the season's stretch run.

"I think we're playing to our potential, and I hope that carries over to Saturday and (Ohio) tournament time, too," she said.

While the Crusaders don't have experience when it comes to OVAC Tournament action, they do have experience on the court with the four aforementioned seniors – Brittany Bertoia (5-3), Gabby Capaldi (5-5), Shayna Mirabella (5-7) and Sanim Simmons (5-10).

"They've played a lot of

OVAC games in softball, soccer and volleyball," Looman said. "Hopefully, that carries over to basketball."

Those girls, along with junior Grace Godich (5-10) comprise the Crusaders' starting lineup.

"We have four or five girls that can step up on any given night," Looman said.

Keying the Crusaders off the bench are juniors Tia Taglione (5-3) and Brantley Turnage (6-4), along with freshman Isabella Oliver (5-8).

SCC is shooting 46 per-

See, 2A, Page 6



Photo/JOSH STROPE

WHEELING CENTRAL'S Eden Gainer makes a move to the basket during a game earlier this season. She and the Maroon Knights will take on Steubenville Central for the OVAC Class 2A title.

**GOOD LUCK  
WHEELING CENTRAL  
LADY MAROON  
KNIGHTS!**

**Sport Your COLORS**  
Screen Printing  
Embroidery -Varsity  
Jackets -Team Apparel  
-Fundraisers  
**(304) 277-2777**  
1615 Warwood Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
sportyourcolorswhg@gmail.com  
www.sportyourcolors.org  
**GO CENTRAL!**

**WARWOOD  
ARMATURE REPAIR  
COMPANY**  
Sales & Service of Electric Motors  
Serving Mines, Mills & Industrial  
Accounts in the Ohio Valley  
Since 1927  
N. Seventh & Hazlett Ave.,  
Wheeling, WV  
Phone: (304) 277-2550  
Fax: 277-2917

**Good Luck  
Wheeling Central  
WHEELING  
RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**  
51 16th Street,  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
**304-234-3641**

free estimates | all types of roof | gutters & more

**JONES  
ROOFING**  
**304.242.1818 | 304.233.7394**  
"The name that's been serving the valley since 1957"

**GOOD  
LUCK!!!**

Wheeling Central  
Catholic Maroon  
Knights

From  
CCHS Athletic  
Department

# Familiar foes UL, St. C. meet in 4A final

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Whether or not the sports cliché that says ‘it’s tough to beat a team three times in one season’ is accurate or not depends upon who you talk to.

That’s especially true as it pertains to today’s Class 4A championship game in

the annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

For the third time this season, it’ll be a showdown between Union Local and St. Clairsville. However, the stakes a quite a bit higher than the teams’ previous meetings in December, both of which were won by the Jets.

“I hope that theory about the three times in a season is true,” St. Clairsville coach Stacey Agnew laughed. “But, really, you have to come ready to play. We hope our shots are falling and we defend well.”

The Jets are in their third consecutive Class 4A title game. They lost to Harrison Central in 2015 and defeat-

ed Buckeye Local a season ago.

“It’s definitely been one of our goals to get back here,” Union Local head coach Kelley Hanlon said. “I am disappointed in our record and we’ve had a couple of losses that have stung a little bit, but our girls have hung in there and are playing well at the right time.”

While the Jets are veterans to this game, which will tipoff at 4:45 p.m., St. Clairsville hasn’t appeared in the title game since falling to Martins Ferry in 2009.

And to be perfectly honest, after the start to the season that the Red Devils experienced, Agnew didn’t envision being the season

the Devils got back.

After all, the Red Devils began the season 0-7 and the OVAC title was probably the furthest things from anyone’s minds.

“I don’t think if someone had told me a month ago that we’d be in this game I would have believed them,” Agnew said. “We just want-

See, 4A, Page 9

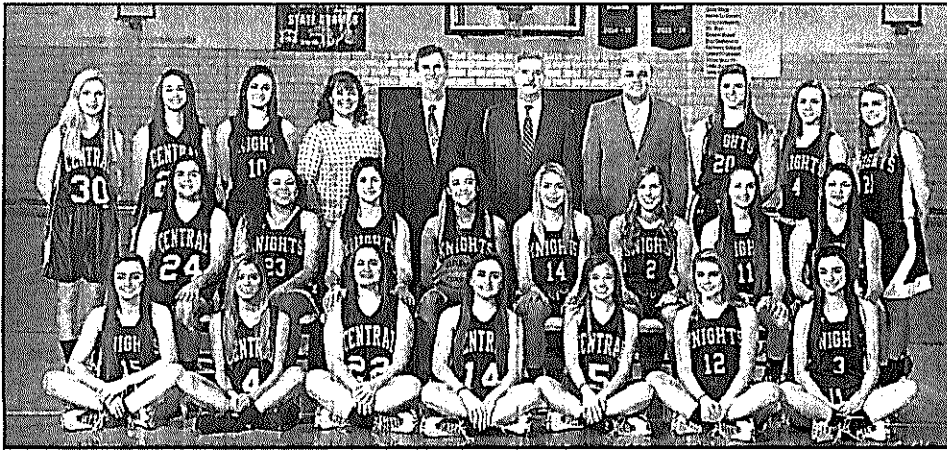


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Wheeling Central basketball team. Front row, from left, are Bailey Nixon, Kenadee Wayt, Michele Roth, Katie Bailer, Maggie Fahey, Hannah White and Sara Palmer. Second row, from left, are Maria Murphy, Lexi Saunders, Taylor Duplaga, Jaela Manns, Riley Bennington, Riley Blaha, Emilee Ondrik and Bri Downs. Back row, from left, are Allison Davidson, Camryn Blair, Kaitlyn Ferns, Coach Suzie Daller, Head Coach Penn Kurtz, Coach Paul Kurtz, Coach Hayden Cook, Kaylee Reinbeau, Eden Gainer and Cameron McCabe.




Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Steubenville Central girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Emily Bottegal, Tia Taglione, Karmen DiBlase, Emma Borden and Christine Dombrowski. Second row, from left, are Isabella Oliver, Brittany Bertoia, Shayna Mirabella, Samm Simmons, Gabby Capaldi, Natalie Mastroianni and Julia Zatta. Back row, from left, are head Coach Jess Looman, Hayley DiBenedetto, Edy Harold, Grace Godich, Brantley Turnage, Hannah Olszewski, Anna Godich, Carly Fayak and assistant coach Natasha Canella.

## GOOD LUCK

### LADY CRUSADERS!



# C

BOOSTERS

**Good Luck to CCHS Lady Crusaders at the OVAC Championship game.**

**Crusader Nation is proud of you!**

**GO BLUE!**

**2A**  
Continued from Page 5

cent from beyond the arc and averages 55 points per contest.

“We’ve really been focusing on our shooting,” said Looman, who said she prefers to see her team slow things down offensively. “We have three or four girls over 5-10, so we can dominate if we want to. I think the last eight or nine games we’ve proven we can play with anyone.”

What Looman enjoys most about her team, though, is its unselfishness.

“They understand that we don’t have person that can go out and score 20 or 30 points a game,” she

said. “That makes it kind of nice because when you say it’s a team effort it really is.”

“They all have the ability to step up.”

Kurtz feels the same way about his squad, which enters the game at 19-1. The Maroon Knights’ lone loss game at the hands of Tucker County (17-2), 40-36, in mid December.

“We have some pretty good depth and that helps us, too,” he said.

While Wheeling Central boasts plenty of OVAC banners, this particular squad is green when it comes to playing in OVAC title tilts and at OUE.

“I’m curious to see (how we play there),” Kurtz said. “I want to see how we respond.”

“We’re young. We start two freshmen and a sophomore and we only have one senior on the team.”

“We’ve exceeded expectations as far as won-loss record. The other thing that make us tough is we’re very balanced. I think we’ve had five different players be our leading scorer. So, any night it could be one player. It depends on the team we’re playing against.”

Wheeling Central’s starting five consists of juniors Taylor Duplaga (5-4) and

Riley Bennington (5-6) and freshmen Eden Gainer (5-6) and Kaylee Reinbeau (6-0). The other spots have rotated between sophomore Kaitlyn Ferns (5-8) and junior Riley Blaha (5-6).

“We can go about 10 deep on the bench,” Kurtz said.

The Maroon Knights did so in their OVAC semifinal victory against Shadyside.

“That was probably one of the better games we’ve played all season,” Kurtz said. “I was really pleased with that.”

With it being the top two seeds squaring off Saturday, Kurtz expects nothing less

# Trail, Linsly take aim at 3A crown

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Both Buckeye Trail and Linsly are excited to be in today's 3A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

But, neither is anywhere close to be satisfied.

Only one, however, will be happy on Saturday afternoon after they square off at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center with the OVAC championship on the line.

"We have kids who want this very badly," first-year Linsly head coach Rebecca Upton said. "Obviously, things are different for us because we're not state-playoff eligible, so this (OVAC) tournament is the pinnacle of these girls' seasons. There's no question about these girls' desire."

While Buckeye Trail is tournament eligible and will compete in the Division III field when it begins in a little less than two weeks, the Warriors may be participating in their last OVAC tourney. Buckeye Trail is joining the Inter-Valley Conference for the 2017-18 school year.

"I think we're still going to be eligible (for the OVAC), but I've been told our new league plays a conference tournament at the same time, so the last I heard is we won't be eligible for the OVAC," Trail second-year head coach Chris Starr said.

On top of this being their possible final opportunity, many of the Warriors' players have experienced winning a conference title in softball and volleyball over the course of the last year and would love to add a hoops crown, too.

"The same girls play all the sports, basically," Starr, an OVAC Hall of Fame



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Buckeye Trail girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Rachel Chesar, Amber Colvin, Jenni Carmichael, Lexe Starr, Kariye Hensley, Alexxys Roe, Alli McVicker and Hannah Smith. Standing, from left, are assistant coach Chad Colvin, Kylie Wayble, Joley Wildes, Katie Clipner, Britnye Roe, Sam Cannor, Olivia Neuhart, Emma Rome, Rylie Smith, Chaylanne Bamfield and head coach Chris Starr.

member, said. "These girls have been in pressure situations and have experience in winning a championship, so hopefully this big-game setting doesn't affect us too much."

The Warriors (18-3) advanced to the title game by virtue of a hard-earned 36-33 victory against Fort Frye, while the Cadets (16-5) dispatched top-seeded Bellaire, 62-55 in the other semifinal.

"Linsly is pretty good," Starr said. "I'd seen Bellaire play and I thought Linsly would give them all they wanted and have a really good chance to win the game because they'd not turn it over as much and they'd be able to control the tempo."

Starr was pretty accurate with his synopsis.

The Cadets handled the Big Reds' vaunted pressure almost as well as anyone had all season and were able to exploit a definitive size advantage on the interior with senior Jazzie Orth and junior Mary Bedway.

"We are going to have to play well and we'll have to be ready to compete," Starr said. "Linsly plays a little bit different style than we do because we're not quite

as much up and down."

The Warriors, who have stubbed their toe against Fort Frye, Frontier and Cambridge this season, hang their hat on the defensive end of the floor, which Upton is well aware of.

"They're very disciplined and solid in all phases," Upton said. "They get up in you defensively, but it's not like the kind of pressure we faced against Bellaire. They're solid in everything they do. You don't get to 18-3 without that."

The Warriors have had their issues scoring the ball. For instance, against Frontier, they scored just 11 points.

"That was definitely our worst night (offensively)," Starr continued. "There have been times where we just struggle to score. We feel like it's a matter of being able to generate enough offense."

The Warriors employ scoring by committee. Employing a nine-girl rotation, the Warriors have just one player, Jenni Carmichael, who is averaging double figures and she checks in at 12 points a game.

Point guard Hannah Smith is next in line in the

scoring column at between nine and 10 points an outing. Seniors Lexe Starr and Carlee Hensley have also had productive games.

Amber Colvin rounds out the starting lineup. Off the bench, the Warriors utilize Allie McVicker, Rachael Chesar, Alexis Roe and Sam Canter.

"We have to be solid on defense and control the boards," Upton said. "We feel like if we can outre-



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Linsly girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Johni Leach, La-Kevia Neely, Manny Raymond and Mackenzie Manukin. Back row, from left, are Vivian Allison, Mary Bedway, Jazzie Orth and Noora Pitkanen. Absent was Mia Cascio.

bound our opponent, we'll always have a chance to do well."

If the Warriors aren't having their best day offensively, getting second-chance opportunities could be tough. Along with the aforementioned big of Orth

and Bedway, senior standout Vivian Allison is also a capable rebounder. All three had double-doubles against Bellaire.

However, it was Orth, who put forth the biggest performance. She scored 21

See, 3A, Page 8

## GOOD LUCK BUCKEYE TRAIL LADY WARRIORS

**LINGO  
HARDWARE**

Quaker City, OH  
740-679-2524

**GOOD LUCK  
LADY  
WARRIORS!**

*Good Luck  
Lady Warriors*

**THORN-  
BLACK**

Funeral Homes, Inc.

Serving Guernsey County for  
Over 75 Years

Cambridge 740-439-1365  
Quaker City 740-679-2691

**DANDY DON'S  
MARKET**

185 Pike St.,  
Quaker City, OH  
**740-679-2412**

**GOOD LUCK  
LADY WARRIORS**



Continued from Page 6

ed to get some wins. We never dreamed the OVAC would be involved. We were more worried about getting to .500 and we knew that would be hard enough."

However, the Red Devils have been on a roll since. They've actually won 11 of their last 14 to not only squeeze into the final tournament spot as the fourth seed, but now they've eliminated top-seeded Buckeye Local for a title shot.

"The kids never hung their heads and we got back to working on some fundamental things," Agnew said. "We kept thinking about getting one win, then trying to win two in a row and then three in a row is a winning streak. We've continued to gain confidence and the kids are really believing in what we're

doing."

From afar, Hanlon has certainly noticed what the Red Devils have been doing to right their ship.

"This one will be a different game than the first two times we played," Hanlon confessed. "It's always nice to be familiar with an opponent, but they're really gotten better since we last played."

St. Clairsville actually isn't the only team that's kind of figured some things out about itself as the season has gone along. After enduring what Hanlon described as "a roller coaster ride" of a season, the Jets have now won three in a row, including a key game against Cambridge, which allowed the Jets to bump up to the second seed.

"We lost just about every other game for most of the

season," Hanlon said. "But, every week we'd look at the standings and we were right in the thick of the top four, so it kept our hopes alive. Hopefully, we're able to stay on our upward swing (today), but we'll have to come out ready to play."

A big reason for the Jets' success has been the stellar play of junior point guard Haley Porter, who is averaging 19.5 points a game. She comes into the game five points shy of 1,000 for her career. She's also one of the area's premier 3-point

shooters with 65 this season.

"We have to figure out a way to slow Porter down," Agnew said. "I think she's averaging 30 a game against us this season. She's a tough guard because she doesn't need much space.

She can stop on a dime to shoot the 3, too."

Porter is joined in the backcourt by her younger sister, Hannah. She's averaging just under 11 points per game. In the post, senior Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson

See, 4A, Page 10



# GOOD LUCK UNION LOCAL LADY JETS



**Quality Environmental Services, Inc.**

67440 Falloure Rd.  
Belmont, Ohio 43718  
Phone...(740) 782-1767  
FAX...(740) 782-1905  
OWNER: Fred Blackman

**GOOD LUCK JETS!**

**TOOTHMAN FUNERAL HOME**

141 S. Marietta St.,  
St. Clairsville, Ohio  
**740-695-1905**  
49484 O.R. & W. Station Rd.  
Jacobsburg, Ohio  
**740-686-2525**

We serve every family as if it was our very own.  
Serving the Ohio Valley for Over 100 Years!

Shane D. Bashline, D.C.  
Doctor of Chiropractic  
bashlineclinic@comcast.net

**BASHLINE CLINIC**

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT  
432 East High St.  
PO Box 445  
Flushing, OH 43937  
(740) 968-3610  
(844) 968-1125

Good Luck Lady Jets From...

**BELMONT CAREER CENTER**  
68090 Hammond Rd., St. Clairsville, OH  
740-695-9130

**HARRISON CAREER CENTER**  
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH  
740-942-2148  
www.BHCCenters.com

"Want Career Success?  
Get Career Skills!"

**Good Luck Union Local Lady**

**From Union Local High School!!!**

**GOOD LUCK JETS GIRLS BASKETBALL!**

**FROM THE UNION LOCAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT!**



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

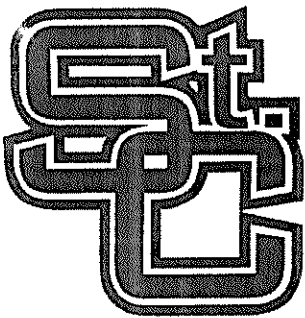
PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Union Local girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Tricia Boyer, Juliana Sexton, Alison Loase, Laryssa Anderson, Sutherlynd Butler, Hannah Porter, Ellie Johnen. Middle row, from left, are Kaden Mercer, Emilee Robb, Megan Bateman, Katelynn Clark-Patterson, Mackenzie McGary, Haley Porter and Laureyn Menges. Back row, from left, are Cierra Peck, Shauna Studenc, Cassie Ray, head coach Kelley Hanlon, assistant coach Mike Menges, Hannah Green, Abby Boyer and Austyn Peck.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 St. Clairsville girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Jada Creer and Sydney Freeman. Second row, from left, are Tiffany Burghy, Skylar Melcher, Rileigh Simpson, Maria Vincenzo, Emily Vera, Brooke Reager, Olivia Robinson, Cassidy Stephens and Sydnie Rice. Third row, from left, are Kaitlyn Wilson, Bella Saenz, Hannah Elerick, Maddie Strain, Taylor Henry, Katie Bradshaw, Ari Reager, Kerri Klinkoski and Emma Haley. Not pictured are Jordyn Palicka, Katie Strama and Alexis Hines.

# GOOD LUCK ST. CLAIRSVILLE LADY RED DEVILS



*Good Luck Maria!*  
**JACOB & SONS**  
 QUALITY MEATS  
 306 Center St.,  
 Martins Ferry, OH  
 (740) 633-3091  
 www.jacobandsonsqualitymeats.com

**TOOTHMAN FUNERAL HOME**  
 141 S. Marietta St.,  
 St. Clairsville, Ohio  
 740-695-1905  
 49484 O.R. & W. Station Rd.  
 Jobsburg, Ohio  
 740-686-2525

Go Lady Red Devils!  
**JEFF'S**  
 AUTO BODY & COLLISION CENTER  
 • Collision Repair • Refinishing • Touch Ups  
 APPROVED BY ALL MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES  
 St. Clairsville's Area's Largest Independent Collision Repair Facility  
 (740) 695-5875  
 Jeff Ross - Owner

**Bud's Bloomers**  
 Anniversaries, Birthdays, Funerals, Weddings, Homecoming, Prom and Special Occasions  
 740-695-0163  
 126 West Main Street  
 St. Clairsville, OH 43950  
 Monday - Friday: 9am to 4pm  
 Saturday: 9am - 1pm Closed Sunday  
**GOOD LUCK LADY RED DEVILS!**

*Good Luck Lady Red Devils!*  
**JENKINS SPORTING GOODS**  
 (740) 695-9300  
 Main St., St. Clairsville

## 4A

Continued from Page 9

resides.

She's the Jets' leading rebounder.

The other members of the Jets' starting five include

Mackenzie McGary and Sutherlynd Butler. Off the bench, U.L. utilizes the likes of Alison Loase. Emilee Robb and Lauryn Menges.

The Red Devils, meanwhile, have many a player who averages double figures in their lineup. However, they do have several capable on any given night.

Senior Sydney Freeman is the team's leader on both ends of the floor. According to Agnew, she's enjoyed some big games down the stretch.

On the interior, Katie Bradshaw has been a solid contributor and "has come a long way," according to her coach.

She's joined on the block by junior Ari Reager, who averages 6.5 points a game.

Sophomore Maria Vincenzo is the Red Devils' leading 3-point shooter with 21. All told, she averages 6.9 points.

Sophomore Ryleigh Simpson is the Devils' best defender and an adept rebounder.

She averages 6.2 points. Junior Taylor Henry along with Kerri Klinkoski and Katie Strama round out the Devils rotation.

Good Luck Lady Red Devils From...

**BELMONT CAREER CENTER**  
 68090 Hammond Rd., St. Clairsville, OH  
 740-695-9130

**HARRISON CAREER CENTER**  
 82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH  
 740-942-2148  
 www.BHCCenters.com

"Want Career Success? Get Career Skills!"

Continued from Page 8

said. "The girls have been playing real good team defense and everyone is playing hard. We are getting solid contributions from everyone.

Park lost two closely fought regular-season games against South, falling 77-73 at home and 66-62 in Parkersburg. In both setbacks Park was minus a key cog.

Senior center Emma Kendle missed the initial encounter while senior standout Josie Daugherty was sidelined with an injury in the rematch. The Ohio Countians will be at full strength come Saturday night.

Daugherty and Kendle are joined in the Park starting lineup junior point guard Kylie McKennen, sophomore guard Emily Pavlic and forward Lauren Schultz.

Daugherty is the offensive catalyst for Park. She averages 17 points a game.

McKennen is a 5-5 playmaker. She can score when needed but deftly distributes the ball where needed. She averages eight points and five-plus assist per contest.

Kendle is a 5-10 force inside. She is capable of being a double-double machine every night.

Schultz provides toughness, grittiness and timely scoring.

Pavlic, meanwhile, rounds out the starting five. She is combo guard.

But much of Park's success is attributable to the quality and deep bench Young has nurtured.

The Patriots' reserve support comes in the form of Kirstin Hartman, Laurel Robb, Morgan Glass, Brianna Gray, Abigail Jones, Kelsey Chacolas, Lydia Simon, Niya Cook and Shanley Woods.

While Young has his charges playing at an extremely high level, he knows his Patriots will be facing a formidable challenge.

"I expect another dog fight with South. They are a really good team with shooters everywhere," Young noted. "They are an offensive-minded team. They are well-coached. It will be a challenge.

South is currently ranked fifth in the Class AAA state poll, winning 15 of 19

starts.

Senior Jordan Johnson is the South engine. The 5-6 point guard is a dynamic player. She averages 11.4 points per game while running the point.

Jordan is joined in South's starting lineup by Cassie Whitlatch, Lexi

Moore, Hefner and Taylor.

Hefner leads the Pats in scoring with her 15.8 average.

Moore is a 5-6 senior guard. She averages 12.9 ppg while Taylor is a 5-9 junior forward averaging 9.2 ppg. Whitlatch rounds out the starting five. She is

another 5-6 senior guard.

The Patriots' reserve strength come in the form of seniors Destiny Wells and Lauren Hannah, sophomores Kenzie Johnson and Jordan Huffman as well as frosh Makenna Winans.

South's four setbacks have come at the hands of

University, St. Albans, Huntington and Morgantown.

Park brings a 14-6 mark into the contest. In addition to two reversals each to South and Morgantown, the Patriots have lost to Spring Mills (later avenged) and Zanesville.



# GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK LADY PATRIOTS!

**Sport Your COLORS**  
 Screen Printing  
 Embroidery -Varsity  
 Jackets -Team Apparel  
 -Fundraisers  
**(304) 277-2777**  
 1615 Warwood Avenue  
 Wheeling, WV 26003  
 sportyourcolorswhg@gmail.com  
 www.sportyourcolors.org  
**GO PARK!**

**Good Luck Wheeling Park**  
**WHEELING RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
 51 16th Street,  
 Wheeling, WV 26003  
**304-234-3641**

**OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**Good Luck Wheeling Park Patriots In The OVAC Finals!**



**Good Luck Wheeling Park High School in the 2016-2017 Athletic Seasons**

- Wheeling Park High School offers 20 varsity sports & three club sports.
- Boys sports offered are Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Wrestling.
- Girls sports offered are Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Volleyball.
- Club sports include Hockey, Boys Lacrosse & Girls Lacrosse.

**Call 304-243-0400**  
 Wheeling Park High School  
 1976 Park View Lane  
 Wheeling, WV 26003

**GOOD LUCK PARKERSBURG SOUTH LADY PATRIOTS!**

**GOOD LUCK LADY PATRIOTS!**

From The Parkersburg South Girls Basketball Boosters

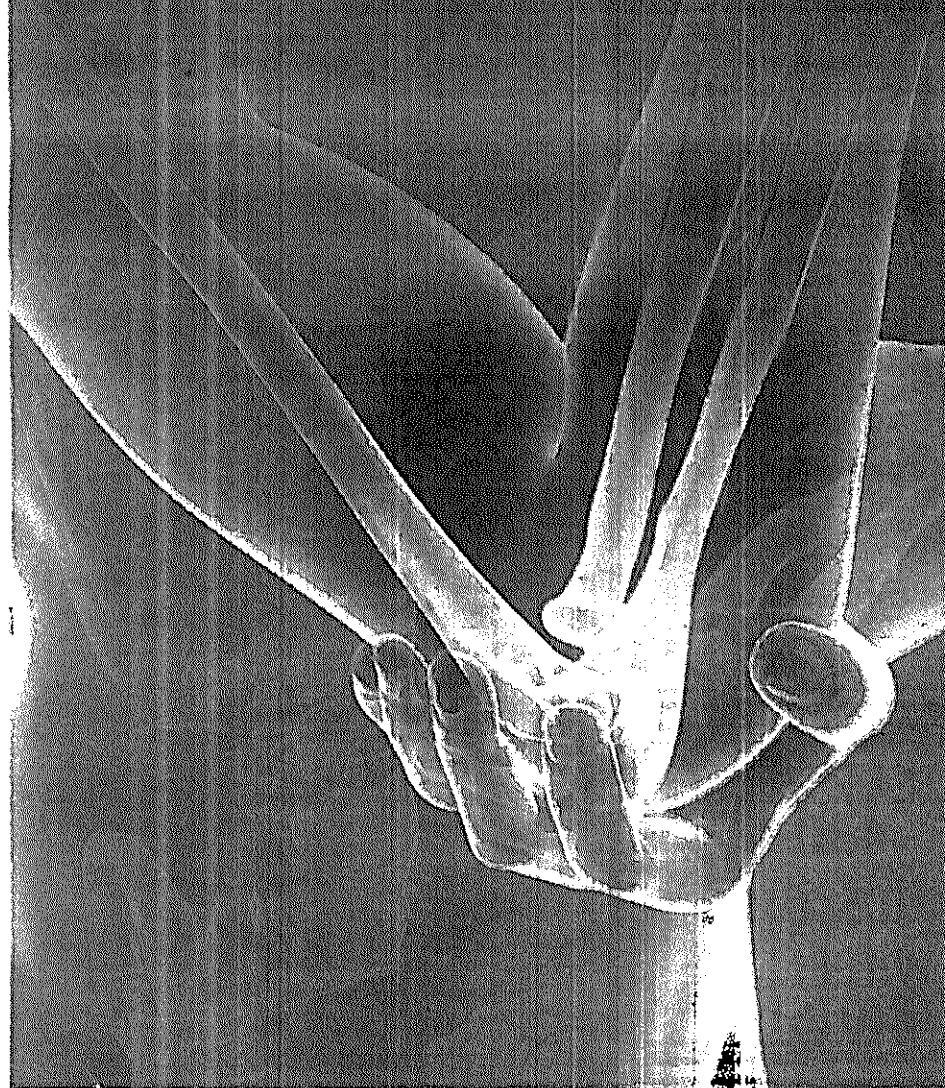


**CARNEY & SLOAN INC.**  
 Food Service Equipment & Supplies, Sales, & Service  
 518 Main St., Wheeling  
**(304) 233-5000**  
 carneyandsloan.com

**OHIO VALLEY AWARDS**  
 GOLF AWARDS, TROPHIES AND PLAQUES, GOLF SCRAMBLE SIGNS  
 "Custom Awards of All Kinds"  
 Serving the Valley for over 21 years. Stop in today and check out our show room at:  
 2245 Main St., Wheeling •  
**304-233-1925**  
**TOLL FREE 800-446-1925**  
 ovawards@comcast.net

**HILL APPRAISALS**  
**740-695-4209**  
**JODY & CHUCK HILL**  
**GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS!**

# WINTER SPORTS ARE HERE!



## WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK...

*And Your Knees, Shoulders  
Elbows and More.*

The high school and college winter sports season is here. Standing by at Wheeling Hospital is our own team of Sports Medicine experts, ready to treat bumps, bruises, strains, sprains, concussions and orthopedic issues, as well as providing the best physical therapy care.

We have the largest and most experienced hospital-based team of Sports Medicine professionals – physical therapists, as well as physicians and orthopedic surgeons board-certified in sports medicine.

**We hope everyone has a safe season. But when injuries occur, we're ready to help get athletes healthy and back in the game.**



**CALL: 304-243-8630**

SPORTS MEDICINE

## PREP BASKETBALL

## OVAC girls tournament pairings released

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The path to a conference championship is set.

The OVAC Basketball Championship Committee met Tuesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the pairings for next week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

The championship semifinals will be staged Monday with the

higher seeds hosting and the championship games will be played on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

IN CLASS 1A, a new champion is promised since St. John Central didn't qualify for the event. Frontier put together an impressive campaign despite late-season losses to Shadyside and River and earned the top seed with a 14-4 record. The



Beaverton is fourth-seeded Beallsville, which is 9-8 on the season. The Blue Devils have won six OVAC titles with the

Cougars own two OVAC titles and they came in 2014 and last year. Both titles came in Class 2A.

Slated to visit Beaverton is fourth-seeded Beallsville, which is 9-8 on the season. The Blue Devils have won six OVAC titles with the

last coming in 2010.

In the other half of the bracket, Valley is the second seed on the strength of a 12-3 record. The Lumberjills won their only OVAC title in 1993. They'll welcome Morgantown Trinity, which is 14-4. Trinity won the small-school crown in 2012.

IN CLASS 2A, a new champion is also guaranteed since the Cougars have dropped down a class. Wheeling Central, which has been impressive all winter,

locked up the top seed with a 16-1 record.

The Maroon Knights, who own nine OVAC titles and two in the current format, will welcome fourth-seeded Shadyside. The Tigers squeezed into the field, despite losing on Monday. The Tigers have captured seven titles in their school's history with two coming in the tourney format. Shadyside, which is 11-9, last won the pennant in 2013.

See, GIRLS, Page B2

## • Girls

Continued from Page B1

In the other half of the bracket, Steubenville Central is the second seed and will host third-seeded River. The Cruaders, who haven't won an OVAC title since 1989, are 13-6 on the season. River, which has been a runner-up in the last two seasons, earned a berth in the field on the strength of a win against Frontier. It edged the Tigers for the third seed by two tenths of a point. At 9-11, the Pilots, who last captured an OVAC title in 2004, are one of two teams in the field with a record below .500.

IN CLASS 3A, Bellaire has been atop the standings all season and officially wrapped up the top seed on Monday night with a convincing win at Shadyside. The Big Reds, who have never been in the playoff portion of the OVAC Tournament and haven't won a

title since 2006, are 19-1 on the season.

Bellaire will meet a talented Linsly squad on Monday. The Cadets, who are 13-5, have become a perennial entrant in the field, but claimed their only crown in 2014.

Buckeye Trail has been impressive this winter as well, sporting a 15-3 record. The Warriors will entertain third-seeded Fort Frye, which has won nine conference titles and five of those have come in the current format. The Cadets, who have battled some injuries, are 11-7 on the season.

IN CLASS 4A, Buckeye Local earned the top seed with a 12-7 record. The Panthers are in the championship field for the second straight season and will take on St. Clairsville.

The Panthers haven't won

an OVAC title since 1992. They reached the title game last season, but fell to Union Local.

The Red Devils — despite an 0-7 start to the season — have rebounded impressively to grab the fourth seed. They've now won nine of 12 and are seeking their seventh conference title in school history, but first since 2007.

The other half of the bracket finds Union Local playing host to Harrison Central, which is a matchup of the last three class 4A champions. It's also the third meeting between the squads this season. Union Local won both.

The Jets enter the event with a 10-9 record and are fresh off an impressive victory against Cambridge, which allowed them to earn the second seed.

The Huskies, who won the OVAC title in both 2014 and 15, are the third seed. After getting off to a slow start, the Huskies have turned it on en route to a 10-10 record.

IN CLASS 5A, Parkersburg South, which won the title in 2014, claimed the top seed with a 13-4 record. The Patriots will play host to Beaver Local, which snuck into the field because of the aforementioned Cambridge loss.

Beaver Local is 13-5 on the season and is coming off a loss to Bellaire in the Buckeye 8 championship game.

The other half of the bracket finds Wheeling Park playing host to two-time defending champion Morgantown. The Patriots are 11-5, while the Mohigans are 9-6.

## PENGUINS START WITH WIN

The NHL season resumed Tuesday and the Penguins began the second half with a 4-2 victory against the Nashville Predators/15

# The Intelligencer SPORTS

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2017

COMICS .....14  
CLASSIFIEDS .....16-20

11

## Pairings Announced for OVAC Tournament

### Girls' road to conference title begins on Monday

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**BELLAIRE** — The path to a conference championship is set.

The OVAC Basketball Championship Committee met Tuesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the

pairings for next week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

The championship semifinals will be staged Monday with the higher seeds hosting and the championship games will be played on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

#### CLASS 1A

A new champion is promised since

St. John Central didn't qualify for the event. Frontier put together an impressive campaign despite late-season losses to Shadyside and River and earned the top seed with a 14-4 record. The Cougars own two OVAC titles and they came in 2014 and last year. Both titles came in Class 2A.

Slated to visit Beaverton is fourth-seeded Beallsville, which is 9-8 on the season. The Blue Devils have won six

OVAC titles with the last coming in 2010.

In the other half of the bracket, Valley is the second seed on the strength of a 12-3 record. The Lumberjills won their only OVAC title in 1993. They'll welcome Morgantown Trinity, which is 14-4. Trinity won the small-school crown in 2012.

See **PAIRINGS**, Page 12

## PAIRINGS

(Continued from Page 11)

### CLASS 2A

A new champion is also guaranteed since the Cougars have dropped down a class. Wheeling Central, which has been impressive all winter, locked up the top seed with a 16-1 record.

The Maroon Knights, who own nine OVAC titles and two in the current format, will welcome fourth-seeded Shadyside. The Tigers squeezed into the field, despite losing Monday. The Tigers have captured seven titles in their school's history with two coming in the tourney format. Shadyside, which is 11-9, last won the pennant in 2013.

In the other half of the bracket, Steubenville Catholic is the second seed and will host third-seeded River. The Crusaders, who haven't won an OVAC title since 1989, are 13-6 on the season. River, which has been a runnerup in the last two seasons, earned a berth in the field on the strength of a win against Frontier. It edged the Tigers for the third seed by two tenths of a point. At 9-11, the Pilots, who last captured an OVAC title in 2004, are one of two teams in the field with a record below .500.

### CLASS 3A

Bellaire has been atop the standings all season and officially wrapped up the top seed Monday night with a convincing win at Shadyside. The Big Reds, who have never been in the playoff portion of the OVAC Tournament and haven't won a title since 2006, are 19-1.

Bellaire will meet a talented Linsly squad Monday. The Cadets (13-5) have become a perennial entrant in the field, but claimed their only crown in 2014.

Buckeye Trail has been impressive this winter as well, sporting a 15-3 record. The Warriors will entertain third-seeded Fort Frye, which has won nine conference titles and five of those have come in the current format. The Cadets, who have battled some injuries, are 11-7 on the season.

### CLASS 4A

Buckeye Local earned the top seed with a 12-7 record. The Panthers are in the championship field for the second straight season and will take on St. Clairsville.

The Panthers haven't won an OVAC title since 1992. They reached the title game last season, but fell to Union Local.

The Red Devils — despite an 0-7 start to the season — have rebounded impressively to grab the fourth seed. They've now won 9 of 12 and are seeking their seventh conference title in school history, but first since 2007.

The other half of the bracket finds Union Local playing host to Harrison Central, which is a matchup of the last three Class 4A champions. It's also the third meeting between the squads this season. Union Local won both.

The Jets enter the event with a 10-9 record and are fresh off an impressive victory against Cambridge, which allowed them to earn the second seed.

The Huskies, who won the OVAC title in both 2014 and 15, are the third seed. After getting off to a slow start, the Huskies have turned it on en route to a 10-10 record.

### CLASS 5A

Parkersburg South, which won the title in 2014, claimed the top seed with a 13-4 record. The Patriots will play host to Beaver Local, which snuck into the field because of the aforementioned Cambridge loss.

Beaver Local is 13-5 and is coming off a loss to Bellaire in the Buckeye 8 championship game.

The other half of the bracket finds Wheeling Park playing host to two-time defending champion Morgantown. The Patriots are 11-5, while the Mohigans are 9-6.

Morgantown swept the season series with Park, winning by one in December and by seven last month.

## Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships

## Union Local tops Harrison to keep repeat bid alive

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN – When Haley Porter fouled out of Monday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship 4A semifinal with 36 points, both head coaches – Union Local's Kelley Hanlon and Harrison Central's Nick Yourkovich – saw it as an opportunity.

Hanlon saw the final 2:29 as a chance to seal the Jets' third straight trip to the championship game, while Yourkovich saw it as an opportunity for his team to erase a seven-point deficit with UL's best player on the bench.

The Huskies pulled to within two with under a minute left, but Union Local was proficient enough from the foul line down the stretch and hung on for a 57-54 triumph in what was a thrilling and physical affair inside 'The Hangar.'

"I thought it was great how we stepped up," Hanlon said. "They had a job to do. They just had to be able to get (the ball) inbounds, not turn it over and don't foul."

"I thought they did a good job."

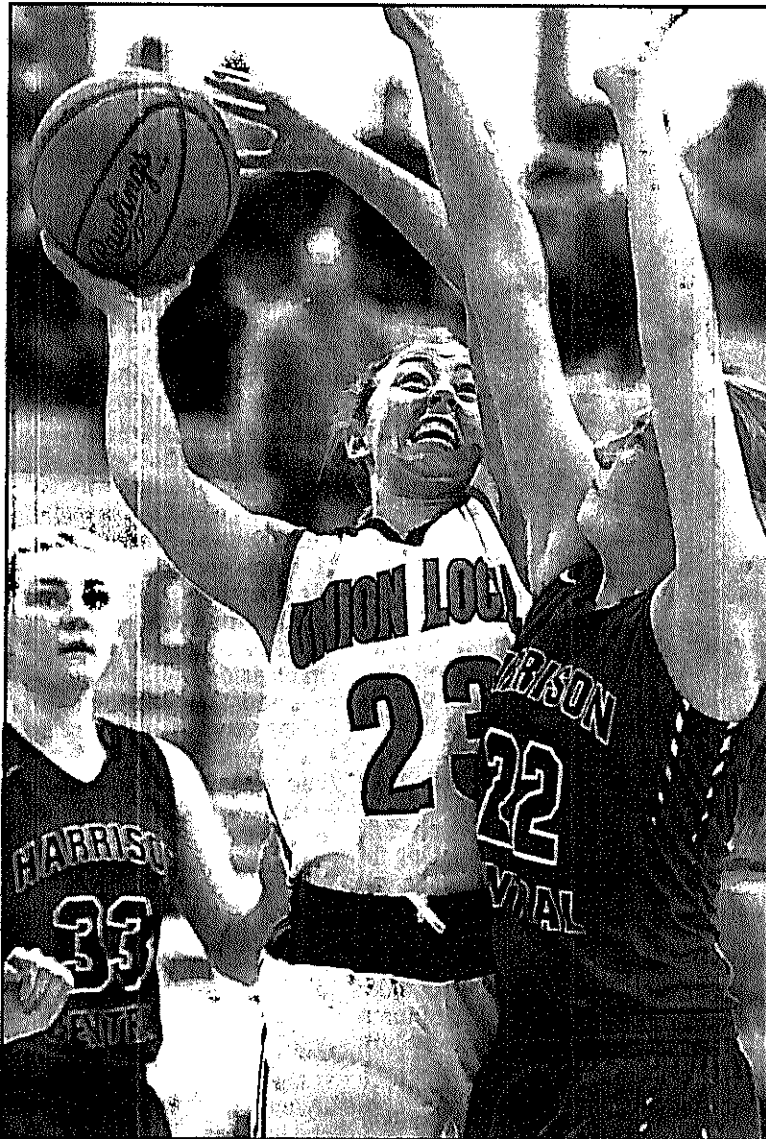
The Jets (12-9) did turn the ball over twice the first two times they had the ball after Porter sat down, resulting in three of four made Harrison Central free throws that made the score 53-49.

Following a Madison Doty miss, Allison Loase snared the rebound and was fouled. With both teams in the double-bonus, she went to the line and made one of two, pushing the Jets' lead back to five.

Harrison Central misfired on its ensuing possession, with Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson coming away with the carom. Loase was fouled again. She was perfect this time from the line, making the score 56-49.

Doty canned a triple moments later, making the score 56-52 with 50 ticks left.

See, UL, Page B2



Photo/MEGAN LATTOCHA  
UNION LOCAL'S Haley Porter goes up for a shot against Harrison Central's Sydney Starr during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal in Morristown. Looking on is Alexia Dowdle (33). The Jets prevailed, 57-54 to advance to Saturday's 4A title game.

## St. C. gets by Buckeye to reach 4A final

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

CONNORVILLE – From 0-7 to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships. That's the long and bumpy road St. Clairsville has taken this year.

The latest step was a thrill-packed 55-51 victory over top-seeded Buckeye Local before a boisterous crowd inside the Panthers Den Monday night in a semifinal contest.

With the victory, their sixth in a row and 11th in the last 14 outings, the fourth-seeded Red Devils (11-10) advanced to the Class 4A championship game opposite No. 2 Union Local, which dispatched third-seeded Harrison Central, 57-54, in the other semifinal. The Jets swept the Red Devils in the regular season.

"I can't even describe what I'm feeling right now," first-year St. Clairsville head coach Stacey Agnew said while receiving congratulatory hugs and well wishes. "I just told the girls 'that's you guys. You guys never stopped working hard. It's a credit to them. We went back to the basics and they responded.'"

After watching a 11-point halftime lead evaporate as the Panthers (12-9) eventually took a 42-41 lead on a Lexi Swiger bucket, St. Clairsville used some clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch run to seal the deal.

With the Red Devils clinging to a precarious 52-51 margin following a conventional three-point play by Buckeye Local sophomore Emily Holzapfel with 37 seconds

See, ST. C., Page B2

## Linsly upsets Bellaire in 3A, 62-55

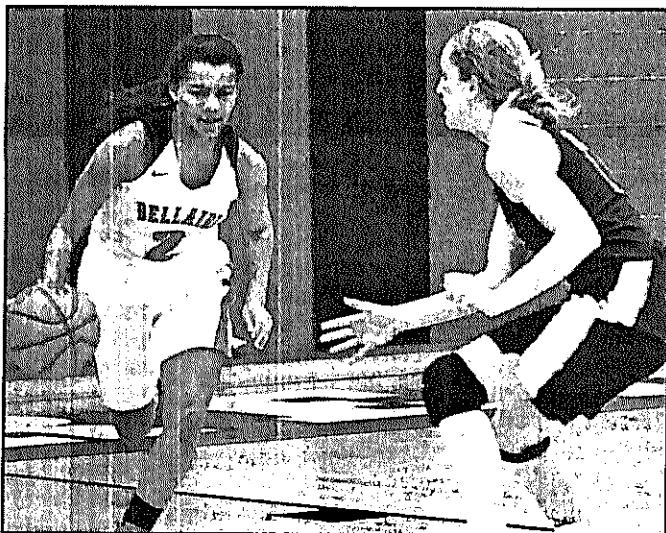
By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE – Linsly senior stand-outs Vivian Allison and Jazzie Orth both played a key role in the Cadets' only Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship in girls basketball as freshmen in 2014.

Since then, however, the Cadets have come up short in their quests to add another banner.

On Saturday, Allison, Orth and the rest of the Cadets will get another chance to make amends. They're getting that opportunity thanks to pulling off an upset of top-seeded Bellaire, 62-55, inside the 'House of Champions' Monday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We're very excited for the opportunity (to play on Saturday)," first-year Linsly coach Rebecca Upton said. "We have great senior leadership that has been there. They've been in those situations before. They know how to pull games through and they know how to make big



BELLAIRE'S Katrina Davis works the ball up the floor against Linsly's Vivian Allison during their OVAC Class 3A semifinal held Monday night. The Cadets prevailed, 62-55.

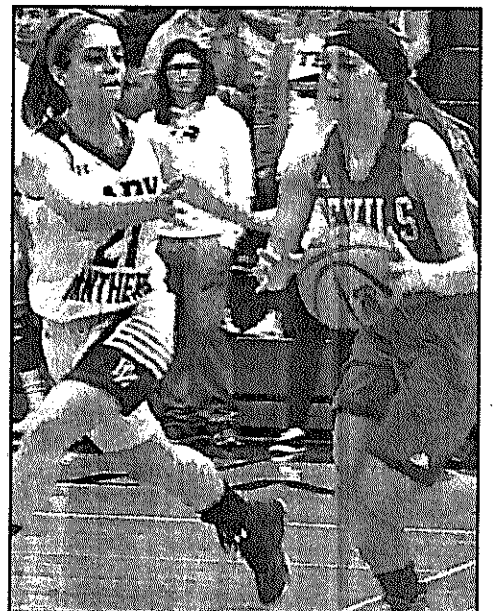
Photo/SHERI McANINCH

plays, so we're going to rely on them. My job is to not screw it up, at this point."

Next up for Linsly is a date with Buckeye Trail, which will be making its debut in the OVAC title game. The Warriors

– the second seed – dispatched Fort Frye, 36-33. Tipoff of Saturday's title game is set for 2:30 p.m. Bellaire, which is now 19-2 on the season, will visit Fort Frye Thursday evening for the consolation game.

See, BELLAIRE, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

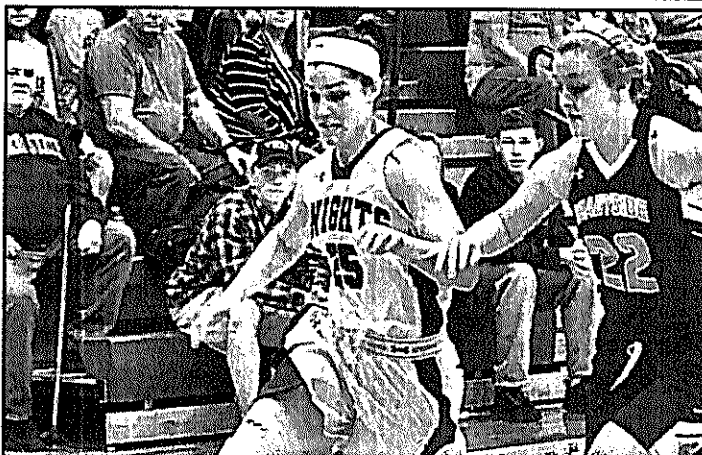
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sydney Freeman (20) dribbles against the defense of Buckeye Local's Danielle Dvorcek during a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4A Girls Basketball Championships semifinal Monday night in Connorville.

## Central too much for Shadyside in 2A semi

By KYLE LUTZ  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING – For the third time this season, the Wheeling Central and Shadyside girls' basketball teams faced off. For the third time, it was the same outcome as the Maroon Knights were able to compile 15 offensive rebounds in the first half as well as overcome some foul trouble to beat the Tigers, 81-45, in a OVAC semifinal matchup Monday night.

Wheeling Central will face Steubenville Catholic, which beat River, 83-66, for the championship Saturday on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.



## River comes up short at SCC

By MIKE MATHISON  
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE – Although it came down to a free throw shooting contest in the fourth period, it was a spurt in the third quarter that propelled Steubenville Catholic Central to an 83-66 victory over visiting River Monday night inside the Mickey Barber Gymnasium.

Trailing 32-29, Crusaders senior Gabby Canaldi (two) and Brittany Bertoin hit

# Union Local tops Harrison to keep repeat bid alive

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN — When Haley Porter fouled out of Monday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship 4A semifinal with 36 points, both head coaches — Union Local's Kelley Hanlon and Harrison Central's Nick Yourkovich — saw it as an opportunity.

Hanlon saw the final 2:29 as a chance to seal the Jets' third straight trip to the championship game, while Yourkovich saw it as an opportunity for his team to erase a seven-point deficit with UL's best player on the bench.

The Huskies pulled to within two with under a minute left, but Union Local was proficient enough from the foul line down the stretch and hung on for a 57-54 triumph in what was a thrilling and physical affair inside "The Hangar."

"I thought it was great how we stepped up," Hanlon said. "They had a job to do. They just had to be able to get (the ball) inbounds, not turn it over and don't foul."

"I thought they did a good job."

The Jets (12-9) did turn the ball over twice the first two times they had the ball after Porter sat down, resulting in three of four made Harrison Central free throws that made the score 53-49.

Following a Madison Doty miss, Allison Loase snared the rebound and was fouled. With both teams in the double-bonus, she went to the line and made one of two, pushing the Jets' lead back to five.

Harrison Central misfired on its ensuing possession, with Kaitlynn Clark-Patterson coming away with the carom. Loase was fouled again. She was perfect this time from the line, making the score 56-49.

Doty canned a triple moments later, making the score 56-52 with 50 ticks left.

See, UL, Page B2



Photo/MEGAN LATTOCHA  
UNION LOCAL'S Haley Porter goes up for a shot against Harrison Central's Sydney Starr during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal in Morristown. Looking on is Alexia Dowdle (33). The Jets prevailed, 57-54 to advance to Saturday's 4A title game.

# St. C. gets by Buckeye to reach 4A final

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

CONNORVILLE — From 0-7 to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships. That's the long and bumpy road St. Clairsville has taken this year.

The latest step was a thrill-packed 55-51 victory over top-seeded Buckeye Local before a boisterous crowd inside the Panthers Den Monday night in a semifinal contest.

With the victory, their sixth in a row and 11th in the last 14 outings, the fourth-seeded Red Devils (11-10) advanced to the Class 4A championship game opposite No. 2 Union Local, which dispatched third-seeded Harrison Central, 57-54, in the other semifinal. The Jets swept the Red Devils in the regular season.

"I can't even describe what I'm feeling right now," first-year St. Clairsville head coach Stacey Agnew said while receiving congratulatory hugs and well wishes. "I just told the girls 'that's you guys. You guys never stopped working hard. It's a credit to them. We went back to the basics and they responded.'"

After watching a 11-point halftime lead evaporate as the Panthers (12-9) eventually took a 42-41 lead on a Lexi Swiger bucket, St. Clairsville used some clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch run to seal the deal.

With the Red Devils clinging to a precarious 52-51 margin following a conventional three-point play by Buckeye Local sophomore Emily Holzapfel with 37 seconds

See, ST. C., Page B2

# Linsly upsets Bellaire in 3A, 62-55

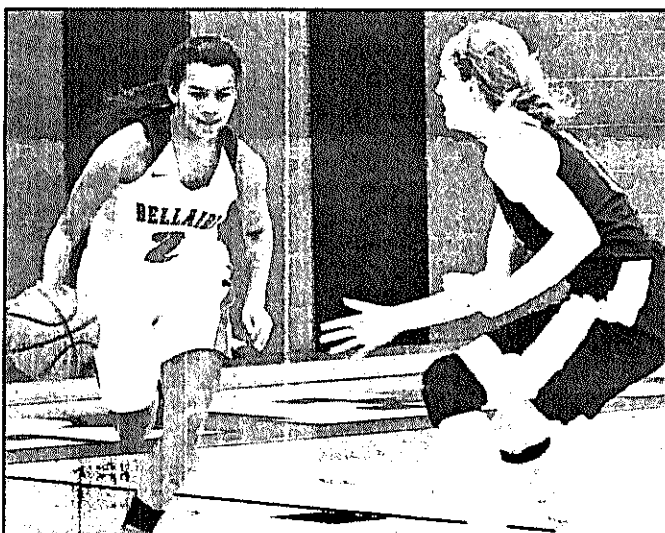
By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — Linsly senior standouts Vivian Allison and Jazzie Orth both played a key role in the Cadets' only Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship in girls basketball as freshmen in 2014.

Since then, however, the Cadets have come up short in their quests to add another banner.

On Saturday, Allison, Orth and the rest of the Cadets will get another chance to make amends. They're getting that opportunity thanks to pulling off an upset of top-seeded Bellaire, 62-55, inside the 'House of Champions' Monday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We're very excited for the opportunity (to play on Saturday)," first-year Linsly coach Rebecca Upton said. "We have great senior leadership that has been there. They've been in those situations before. They know how to pull games through and they know how to make big



BELLAIRE'S Katrina Davis works the ball up the floor against Linsly's Vivian Allison during their OVAC Class 3A semifinal held Monday night. The Cadets prevailed, 62-55.

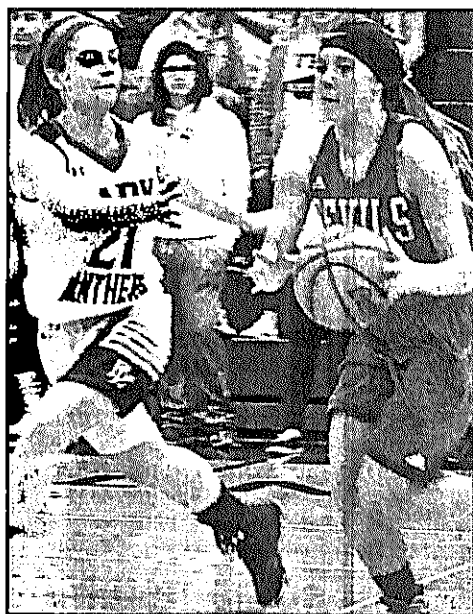
Photo/SHERI McANINCH

plays, so we're going to rely on them. My job is to not screw it up, at this point."

Next up for Linsly is a date with Buckeye Trail, which will be making its debut in the OVAC title game. The Warriors

— the second seed — dispatched Fort Frye, 36-33. Tipoff of Saturday's title game is set for 2:30 p.m. Bellaire, which is now 19-2 on the season, will visit Fort Frye Thursday evening for the consolation game.

See, BELLAIRE, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sydney Freeman (20) dribbles against the defense of Buckeye Local's Danielle Dvorcek during a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4A Girls Basketball Championships semifinal Monday night in Connorville.

# Central too much for Shadyside in 2A semi

By KYLE LUTZ  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — For the third time this season, the Wheeling Central and Shadyside girls' basketball teams faced off. For the third time, it was the same outcome as the Maroon Knights were able to compile 15 offensive rebounds in the first half as well as overcome some foul trouble to beat the Tigers, 81-45, in an OVAC semifinal matchup Monday night.

Wheeling Central will face Steubenville Catholic, which beat River, 83-66, for the championship Saturday on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"It was a good team effort," Wheeling Central (19-1) coach Penn Kurtz said. "We were in a lot of foul trouble early on and the people that came off the bench didn't miss a beat. We were able to put a lot of pressure on them and tried to take away the 3-point shot. They made some early, but by the second quarter, I thought we did a pretty good job of controlling their opportunities. That was the key and as soon as we stopped fouling, we were in pretty good shape."

Although they never trailed, the Maroon Knights had four players with two fouls in the first half, including three starters. But the other major factor in the first half was offensive rebounds. The Maroon Knights grabbed 15 of them, including nine in the opening quarter. The Maroon Knights also broke

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE  
WHEELING CENTRAL'S Taylor Duplaga and Shadyside's Jaycee Mayeres race after a loose ball during their OVAC Class 2A semifinal Monday night in Wheeling. The Knights prevailed

# River comes up short at SCC

By MIKE MATHISON  
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE — Although it came down to a free throw shooting contest in the fourth period, it was a spurt in the third quarter that propelled Steubenville Catholic Central to an 83-66 victory over visiting River Monday night inside the Mickey Barber Gymnasium.

Trailing 32-29, Crusaders senior Gabby Capaldi (two) and Brittany Bertoia hit back-to-back-to-back three-points to ignite an 18-2 to finish the third for a 47-34 lead.

"During that stretch, we couldn't buy a bucket," Pilots head coach Rick Isaly said. "We just couldn't get back in the game. When we finally did start hitting some shots, they went to the line time after time and drained everything they shot."

"They made baskets when they needed to."

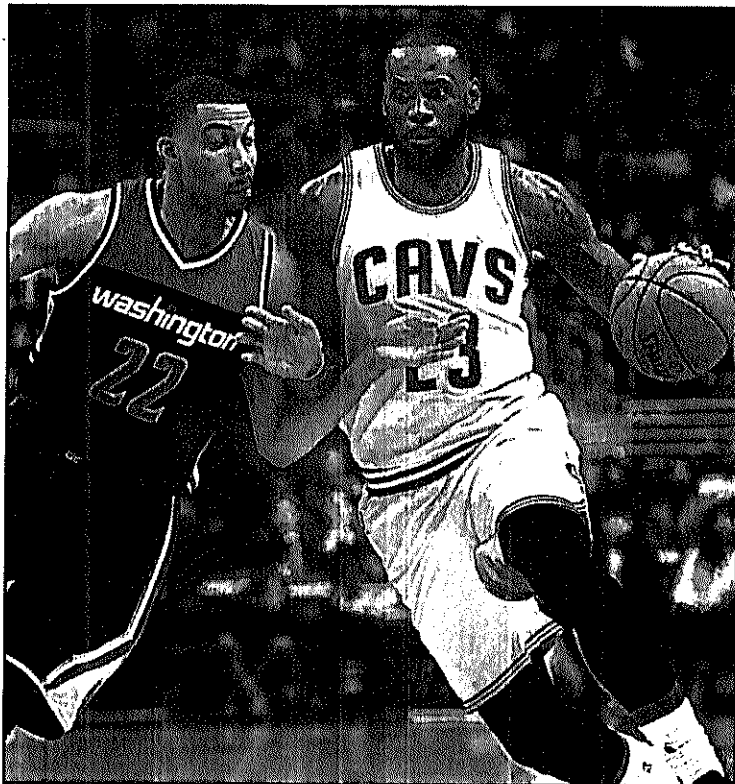
"We never gave up. I am very proud of my team for that. We're young. We have one senior and don't have a junior on the

See, RIVER, Page B2



**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS** forward LeBron James (23) dribbles the ball against Washington Wizards forward Otto Porter Jr. (22) during the first half of a game, Monday in Washington.

AP PHOTO



## Big three lead Cavs past Wizards in OT, 140-135

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's always something with LeBron James, and Monday night was no different, from the gimme layup he somehow missed after admittedly traveling ... to the turnaround, step-back, fadeaway 3-pointer he banked in with 0.3 seconds left to force overtime ... to the indignant postgame comments about a report that he'd be OK with trading Kevin Love to acquire Carmelo Anthony.

There was more involving James, who produced a career-high 17 assists and 32 points before fouling out 47 seconds into the extra period. That's when Kyrie Irving took over, scoring 11 of his 23 points in OT, including a tiebreaking 3 with 35 seconds left, to help the Cleveland Cavaliers edge the Washington Wizards 140-135 in a game that felt more akin to the playoffs in late May than the regular season in early February.

Love provided 39 points, 12 rebounds and the length-of-the-court pass that led to James' "He did what?!" 3 at the end of regulation.

"LeBron made a heck of a shot," Wizards guard John Wall said, "that you probably make one in a million times."

It put the reigning NBA champion Cavs in position to end surging Washington's winning streaks of 17 in a row at home and seven in a row overall.

When Love shot free throws in the third quarter, a small section of spectators sang, "Bron wants Melo," a reference to a New York Daily News report citing an unidentified source that said James is pushing the Cavs to get Anthony from the Knicks — even if it means sending Love to New York.

Asked about the story, the four-time NBA MVP replied: "It's trash. And the guy who wrote it is trash, too, for writing that."

For his part, Love posted a quote from Winston Churchill on his Instagram account: "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on."

Bradley Beal had 41 points and eight

assists for the Wizards, but he missed a potential tying 3 with about 5 seconds left in OT.

It was a back-and-forth contest, with little runs by each team, plenty of offense, lapses on defense, a lot of complaints about the officiating by folks on both sides and a couple of technical fouls.

All in a hyped-up atmosphere that several players likened to the postseason.

"You have it circled on your schedule for a long time," Beal said about facing the Cavs. "That was definitely a test and a battle for us. We did a tremendous job of handling it."

With 12.2 seconds left, and Washington up 118-117, James drove past Wall, aided by an extra step that he said "kind of threw me off of my rhythm," and somehow flubbed a wide-open layup.

After Wall's foul shots made it 120-117 with 3.4 ticks left, Love got the ball to James on a play the Cavaliers call "Touch-down." James' 3 went off the glass and through the net as he landed out of bounds — setting the stage for Irving to pull out the victory in OT.

### INJURIES

Cavaliers G Iman Shumpert left the game with an ankle injury. ... Wall said he was bleeding a bit and felt dizzy after taking a head butt to the mouth in the game.

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The Wizards entered with the NBA's best record over the past month (14-2) and looked at this game as a chance to show that they could hang with the Cavs. Afterward, Wall and Beal both said they heard praise from James, Irving and Co. "They all said it," Beal said.

### TIP-INS

Cavaliers: James became the first player in NBA history to rank in the top 20 in points (eighth), assists (13th) and steals (20th).

Wizards: C Ian Mahinmi is "getting closer" to a return after missing all but one game this season with injuries to both knees, coach Scott Brooks said.

## • Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

tion game.

Quite simply, it was that Linsly senior duo, a solid contribution from 6-1 junior Mary Bedway that proved to be too much for the Big Reds, who saw their 16-game winning streak snapped.

"We struggled offensively and we didn't get any second chances because their big girls gobbled up the rebounds," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said. "If we didn't make the first one, there was no second opportunity because of their big girls eating up the boards."

That aforementioned Linsly (16-5) trio all posted double-doubles with Orth's interior play leading the way. She finished with 21 points and 23 rebounds. Allison, who had to contend with Bellaire's relentless pressure in the backcourt all evening, found her way to 19 points and 12 rebounds, while Bedway finished with 10 points and a like number of rebounds.

"Obviously, (going inside) was our game plan," Upton said. "But, Bellaire's so good at what they do defensively that it makes it tough to get it down there (into the post). What Coach Farrier does defensively is really great."

Bellaire, which has hung its hat on its vaunted pressure defense all season, managed to turn up the heat on Linsly to a tune of 29 turnovers. But, the Big Reds weren't able to capitalize in transition. Linsly utilized a solid zone defense that stymied Bellaire in the second half.

The Big Reds, who led 16-8 after one and 25-21 at the half, built the lead to as many as nine in the third quarter when freshman Katrina Davis buried a 3-pointer from the wing. From then on, however, it was all Linsly.

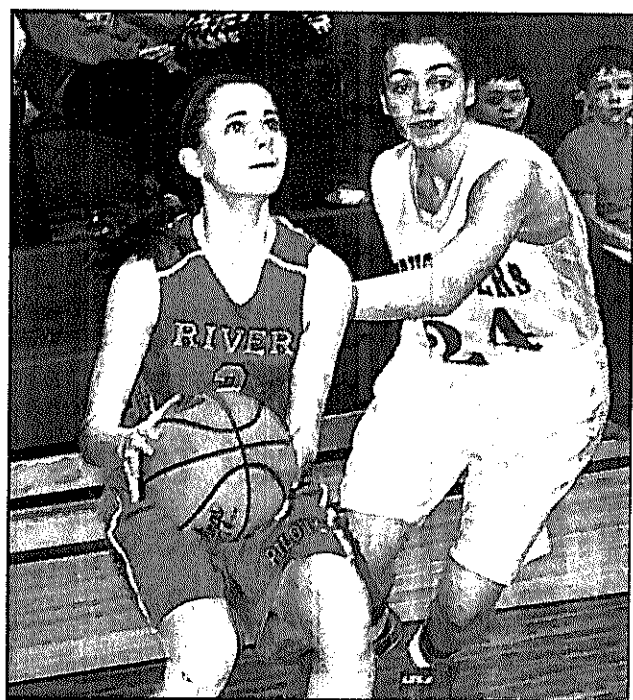
The Cadet proceeded to score 17 of the final 23 points in the third quarter to take a 40-38 lead into the fourth. Orth had eight, while Bedway had six and Allison had five in the third.

"I am disappointed in myself because I told the girls if got the lead to 10 (in the second half), we were going to pull out and make them come out and (guard) us," Farrier said. "We got it to nine, but we didn't get it to 10. They started chipping away and chipping away. Before we knew it, we were down."

Linsly certainly didn't take its foot off the gas. With Orth and Bedway cleaning up the boards as the Big Reds struggled with the zone, the Cadets scored the first 10 of the fourth. All told, the Linsly run measured 27-6 and covered nearly eight minutes of game time.

"We told the girls at half-time, the team that kept their cool was going to walk out of here with the win," Upton said. "We had a couple of (mistakes) in the second half, but, for the most part, we kept our heads."

The Big Reds were able to get as close as six in the fourth, but the Cadets had an answer each time. Orth scored eight in the fourth, while Mia Cascio had seven and Allison had six



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

**RIVER'S** Riley Lollathin goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Steubenville Central. The Pilots were defeated.

## • River

Continued from Page B1

team. We have six sophomores and two freshmen.

"Hopefully, this is a learning experience for us as we get ready for sectionals."

The No. 2 Crusaders will meet top-seeded Wheeling Central at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern in the OVAC Class 2A championship game. The Maroon Knights dispatched of Shadyside, 81-45.

Central was 24-for-32 (75 percent) from the free throw line in the final period.

"I said, 'foul somebody other than 3, 32 and 44,'" Islay said. "Seriously, I did."

Brittany Bertoia (No. 3) and Gabby Capaldi combined to go 17-for-22 in the final eight minutes (77.2 percent) as the Crusaders were 29-for-39 for the game (74.3 percent). Simmons (3-for-4) also had 12 rebounds.

Bertoia totaled a game-high 26 points and went 11-for-14 from the stripe.

Central scored 56 points in the second half.

Looman put a lot of the kudos on her four seniors — Bertoia, Capaldi, Samm Simmons and Shayna Mirabella.

Bertoia and Capaldi made back-to-back steals for layups that gave CCHS a 55-40 lead. River eventually made it 59-49 on a pair of Bailey Caldwell free throws and 61-52 when Olivia Rose buried a trey.

But, the Crusaders went on a 15-6 spurt to make it 76-58.

## • UL

Continued from Page B1

Later, following three offensive rebounds, Sydney Starr dropped in a bucket bringing the Huskies (10-11) to within two — 56-54.

Sutherland Butler was fouled with 9.5 seconds left and made one of two free throws.

The Huskies last-second triple try was off the mark.

"Everyone that got in played about as hard as they could," Yourkovich said. "We kept fighting until the end. They stayed with it and kept fighting."

"We'll get ready for whomever we play on Thursday."

That will be Buckeye Local, who lost at home to St. Clairsville, 55-51, in the other 4A semi.

The Red Devils and Jets will meet Saturday at 4:45 p.m. for the 4A crown at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's nice," Hanlon, now in the title game for the third time in four seasons as head coach, said. "We've always had a team that's had the same goals that I'm looking for, and they work hard to get them."

"It's been a roller coaster season. We're thankful to be in the (Class 4A) top four. They'll work hard to get the title."

Union Local led by eight in the third before Harrison Central went on a 6-0 run to pull within two. Starr book-ended the spurt with a layup and two free throws.

Porter and her sister, Hannah, scored four straight points, however, to put the Jets up by six.

Haley Porter, a junior, really got hot at the start of the fourth, scoring UL's first nine points. Her 36 points — three below her career high — leave her 14 shy of 1,000 for her career. Also, her four first-half 3-pointers tied her with Alli DeLaney for the most in a season in school history.

"Every time we'd get close, Haley would hit a shot," Yourkovich said. "(When she fouled out), it gave us a little more energy and made us believe a little bit more. But they made a few more foul shots that we just couldn't overcome."

Alex Wiley paced the Huskies with 17 points, while Starr had 10.

The Huskies won the two-quarter junior varsity contest, 18-2.

## • St. C.

Continued from Page B1

remaining, senior Sydney Freeman tickled the twine three times to bump the margin to the final.

"She's our leader," Agnew said of Freeman. "She plays

## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

last semifinal for the title.

The Redskins won the 4A crown last year by defeating Oak Glen, 36-30. They had beat Edison, 57-18, in the semis. The Golden Bears, who aren't eligible this season, advanced by rolling past Harrison Central, 51-18.

Parkersburg South, which won the Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament last month, also was ineligible this winter due to a lack

points while shooting well over 60 percent from the floor last week as Coach Jim Crutchfield's No. 3-ranked Hilltoppers (21-1) stretched their season-long winning streak to 14 games with a pair of impressive victories.

Monteroso led a bal-

anced West Liberty attack with a team-high 18 points on Thursday as the Hilltoppers ran away with a 97-75 win at Shepherd before turning into a human highlight reel during Saturday's 88-81 revenge win against No. 2-ranked Fairmont State.

with third-seeded Harrison Central (4-3).

Big Red won the 5A title last year by knocking off Parkersburg South in the finals, 39-26. They routed John Marshall, 63-9, in the semis. The Wood County Patriots decided Wheeling Park in the semifinals. The Monarchs defeated the Ohio County Patriots for third place.

In Class 1A/2A, third-seeded Shadyside (3-2) is back to defend its title. The Tigers

during the first half of a game, Monday in Washington.

AP PHOTO



## Big three lead Cavs past Wizards in OT, 140-135

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's always something with LeBron James, and Monday night was no different, from the gimme layup he somehow missed after admittedly traveling ... to the turnaround, step-back, fadeaway 3-pointer he banked in with 0.3 seconds left to force overtime ... to the indignant postgame comments about a report that he'd be OK with trading Kevin Love to acquire Carmelo Anthony.

There was more involving James, who produced a career-high 17 assists and 32 points before fouling out 47 seconds into the extra period. That's when Kyrie Irving took over, scoring 11 of his 23 points in OT, including a tiebreaking 3 with 35 seconds left, to help the Cleveland Cavaliers edge the Washington Wizards 140-135 in a game that felt more akin to the playoffs in late May than the regular season in early February.

Love provided 39 points, 12 rebounds and the length-of-the-court pass that led to James' "He did what?!" 3 at the end of regulation.

"LeBron made a heck of a shot," Wizards guard John Wall said, "that you probably make one in a million times."

It put the reigning NBA champion Cavs in position to end surging Washington's winning streaks of 17 in a row at home and seven in a row overall.

When Love shot free throws in the third quarter, a small section of spectators sang, "Bron wants Melo," a reference to a New York Daily News report citing an unidentified source that said James is pushing the Cavs to get Anthony from the Knicks — even if it means sending Love to New York.

Asked about the story, the four-time NBA MVP replied: "It's trash. And the guy who wrote it is trash, too, for writing that."

For his part, Love posted a quote from Winston Churchill on his Instagram account: "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on."

Bradley Beal had 41 points and eight

assists for the Wizards, but he missed a potential tying 3 with about 5 seconds left in OT.

It was a back-and-forth contest, with little runs by each team, plenty of offense, lapses on defense, a lot of complaints about the officiating by folks on both sides and a couple of technical fouls.

All in a hyped-up atmosphere that several players likened to the postseason.

"You have it circled on your schedule for a long time," Beal said about facing the Cavs. "That was definitely a test and a battle for us. We did a tremendous job of handling it."

With 12.2 seconds left, and Washington up 118-117, James drove past Wall, aided by an extra step that he said "kind of threw me off of my rhythm," and somehow flubbed a wide-open layup.

After Wall's foul shots made it 120-117 with 3.4 ticks left, Love got the ball to James on a play the Cavaliers call "Touchdown." James' 3 went off the glass and through the net as he landed out of bounds — setting the stage for Irving to pull out the victory in OT.

### INJURIES

Cavaliers G Iman Shumpert left the game with an ankle injury. ... Wall said he was bleeding a bit and felt dizzy after taking a head butt to the mouth in the game.

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The Wizards entered with the NBA's best record over the past month (14-2) and looked at this game as a chance to show that they could hang with the Cavs. Afterward, Wall and Beal both said they heard praise from James, Irving and Co. "They all said it," Beal said.

### TIP-INS

Cavaliers: James became the first player in NBA history to rank in the top 20 in points (eighth), assists (13th) and steals (20th).

Wizards: C Ian Mahinmi is "getting closer" to a return after missing all but one game this season with injuries to both knees, coach Scott Brooks said.

## Monteroso named MEC Player of the Week

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. — West Liberty University men's basketball standout Dan Monteroso has been honored as the Mountain East Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season.

The 6-3 junior from St. Clairsville poured in 49

points while shooting well over 60 percent from the floor last week as Coach Jim Crutchfield's No. 3-ranked Hilltoppers (21-1) stretched their season-long winning streak to 14 games with a pair of impressive victories.

Monteroso led a bal-

anced West Liberty attack with a team-high 18 points on Thursday as the Hilltoppers ran away with a 97-75 win at Shepherd before turning into a human highlight reel during Saturday's 88-81 revenge win against No. 2-ranked Fairmont State.

## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

last semifinal for the title.

The Redskins won the 4A crown last year by defeating Oak Glen, 36-30. They had beat Edison, 57-18, in the semis. The Golden Bears, who aren't eligible this season, advanced by rolling past Harrison Central, 51-18.

Parkersburg South, which won the Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament last month, also was ineligible this winter due to a lack of OVAC matches.

In Class 4A, top-seeded Steubenville (23-2) tangles with No. 4 Weir (9-10), while No. 2 St. Clairsville (4-1) is paired

with third-seeded Harrison Central (4-3).

Big Red won the 5A title last year by knocking off Parkersburg South in the finals, 39-26. They routed John Marshall, 63-9, in the semis. The Wood County Patriots decisioned Wheeling Park in the semifinals. The Monarchs defeated the Ohio County Patriots for third place.

In Class 1A/2A, third-seeded Shadyside (3-2) is back to defend its title. The Tigers will face No. 2 Caldwell (5-1), while top-seeded Madonna (15-9) meets No. 4 Bridgeport (2-4), which is in the Final Four for the first time.

## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

out two runs, including an 11-0 one that started with 1:41 left in the first quarter to put the score at 29-13. With 5:01 left in the second quarter, Wheeling Central went on a 7-0 spurt that it up by 20, 39-19.

"Rebounding has kind of been one of our weak points all year," Shadyside coach

she scored 11 while Reinbeau was the go-to player in the second securing nine of her points. Riley Bennington secured 14 points and Eden Gainer, who picked up two fouls in the first quarter, secured 10.

"I think they were focused," Kurtz said. "You get through that January and all of

their big girls gobbled up the rebounds," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said. "If we didn't make the first one, there was no second opportunity because of their big girls eating up the boards."

That aforementioned Linsly (16-5) trio all posted double-doubles with Orth's interior play leading the way. She finished with 21 points and 23 rebounds. Allison, who had to contend with Bellaire's relentless pressure in the backcourt all evening, found her way to 19 points and 12 rebounds, while Bedway finished with 10 points and a like number of rebounds.

"Obviously, (going inside) was our game plan," Upton said. "But, Bellaire's so good at what they do defensively that it makes it tough to get it down there (into the post). What Coach Farrier does defensively is really great."

Bellaire, which has hung its hat on its vaunted pressure defense all season, managed to turn up the heat on Linsly to a tune of 29 turnovers. But, the Big Reds weren't able to capitalize in transition. Linsly utilized a solid zone defense that stymied Bellaire in the second half.

The Big Reds, who led 16-8 after one and 25-21 at the half, built the lead to as many as nine in the third quarter when freshman Katrina Davis buried a 3-pointer from the wing. From then on, however, it was all Linsly.

The Cadet proceeded to score 17 of the final 23 points in the third quarter to take a 40-38 lead into the fourth. Orth had eight, while Bedway had six and Allison had five in the third.

"I am disappointed in myself because I told the girls if got the lead to 10 (in the second half), we were going to pull out and make them come out and (guard) us," Farrier said. "We got it to nine, but we didn't get it to 10. They started chipping away and chipping away. Before we knew it, we were down."

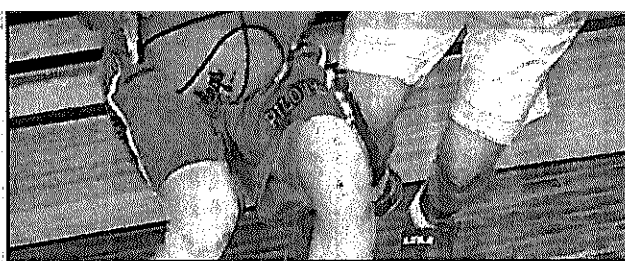
Linsly certainly didn't take its foot off the gas. With Orth and Bedway cleaning up the boards as the Big Reds struggled with the zone, the Cadets scored the first 10 of the fourth. All told, the Linsly run measured 27-6 and covered nearly eight minutes of game time.

"We told the girls at half-time, the team that kept their cool was going to walk out of here with the win," Upton said. "We had a couple of (mistakes) in the second half, but, for the most part, we kept our heads."

The Big Reds were able to get as close as six in the fourth, but the Cadets had an answer each time. Orth scored eight in the fourth, while Mia Cascio had seven and Allison had six.

"We had some lapses on defense when they beat our pressure, which is going to happen," Farrier said.

"I told the girls that this (loss) is on me. I should have had us in better positions against the zone and made a decision to pull it out earlier. The girls had a heck of a run to win 16 games in a row. It's disappointing because we wanted to be (at OUE) on Saturday. But, this will hopefully help



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

RIVER'S Riley Lollathin goes up for a shot during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Steubenville Central. The Pilots were defeated.

## • River

Continued from Page B1

team. We have six sophomores and two freshmen. "Hopefully, this is a learning experience for us as we get ready for sectionals."

The No. 2 Crusaders will meet top-seeded Wheeling Central at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern in the OVAC Class 2A championship game. The Maroon Knights dispatched of Shadyside, 81-45.

Central was 24-for-32 (75 percent) from the free throw line in the final period.

"I said, 'foul somebody other than 3, 32 and 44,'" Islay said. "Seriously, I did."

Brittany Bertoia (No. 3) and Gabby Capaldi combined to go 17-for-22 in the final eight minutes (77.2 percent) as the Crusaders were 29-for-39 for the game (74.3 percent). Simmons (3-for-4) also had 12 rebounds.

Bertoia totaled a game-high 26 points and went 11-for-14 from the stripe.

Central scored 56 points in the second half.

Looman put a lot of the kudos on her four seniors — Bertoia, Capaldi, Samm Simmons and Shayna Mirabella.

Bertoia and Capaldi made back-to-back steals for layups that gave CCHS a 55-40 lead. River eventually made it 59-49 on a pair of Bailey Caldwell free throws and 61-52 when Olivia Rose buried a trey.

But, the Crusaders went on a 15-6 spurt to make it 76-58.

## • UL

Continued from Page B1

Later, following three offensive rebounds, Sydney Starr dropped in a bucket bringing the Huskies (10-11) to within two — 56-54.

Sutherlynd Butler was fouled with 9.5 seconds left and made one of two free throws.

The Huskies last-second triple try was off the mark.

"Everyone that got in played about as hard as they could" Yourkovich said. "We kept fighting until the end. They stayed with it and kept fighting."

"We'll get ready for whomever we play on Thursday."

That will be Buckeye Local, who lost at home to St. Clairsville, 55-51, in the other 4A semi.

The Red Devils and Jets will meet Saturday at 4:45 p.m. for the 4A crown at Ohio University-Eastern.

"It's nice," Hanlon, now in the title game for the third time in four seasons as head coach, said. "We've always had a team that's had the same goals that I'm looking for, and they work hard to get them."

"It's been a roller coaster season. We're thankful to be in the (Class 4A) top four. They'll work hard to get the title."

Union Local led by eight in the third before Harrison Central went on a 6-0 run to pull within two. Starr bookended the spurt with a layup and two free throws.

Porter and her sister, Hannah, scored four straight points, however, to put the Jets up by six.

Haley Porter, a junior, really got hot at the start of the fourth, scoring UL's first nine points. Her 36 points — three below her career high — leave her 14 shy of 1,000 for her career. Also, her four first-half 3-pointers tied her with Alli DeLaney for the most in a season in school history.

"Every time we'd get close, Haley would hit a shot," Yourkovich said. "(When she fouled out), it gave us a little more energy and made us believe a little bit more. But they made a few more foul shots that we just couldn't overcome."

Alex Wiley paced the Huskies with 17 points, while Starr had 10.

The Huskies won the two-quarter junior varsity contest, 18-2.

## • St. C.

Continued from Page B1

remaining, senior Sydney Freeman tickled the twine three times to bump the margin to the final.

"She's our leader," Agnew said of Freeman. "She plays hard. That's all she knows ... play hard the entire game."

Buckeye Local head coach Tom Figurski praised the play of the Red Devils.

"That was the kind of girls basketball game you want to see. A lot of excitement between two great teams. Congratulations to St. Clairsville. I thought our effort was there the entire game, but, unfortunately, we came out on the wrong end of the score."

Turnovers really bothered the Panthers, especially in the first half when they committed 13 of their 22.

"I thought we settled down more in the second half and controlled the ball more," he said. "We didn't have as many, but we had some at crucial times."

Holzappel led all scorers in the game with 25, with 21 coming after the halftime break to spark the hosts comeback. Maddie Gill added nine.

# Crusaders Use Free Throws to Advance in Class 2A

By MIKE MATHISON  
For The Intelligencer

**STEUBENVILLE** — Although it came down to a free-throw shooting contest in the fourth quarter, it was a spurt in the third quarter that propelled Steubenville Catholic Central to an 83-66 victory over visiting River on Monday night inside the Mickey Barber Gymnasium.

Trailing 32-29, Crusaders senior Gabby Capaldi (two) and Brittany Bertoia his back-to-back-to-back 3-pointers to ignite an 18-2 to finish the third for a 47-34 lead.

"During that stretch, we couldn't buy a bucket," Pilots head coach Rick Isaly said. "We just couldn't get back in the game. When we finally did start hitting some shots, they went to the line time after time and drained everything they shot."

"They made baskets when they needed to."

"We never gave up. I am very proud of my team for that. We're young. We have one senior and don't have a junior on the team. We have six sophomores and two freshmen."

"Hopefully, this is a learning experience for us as we get ready for sectionals."

The No. 2 Crusaders will meet top-seeded Wheeling Central at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern in the OVAC Class 2A championship game. The Maroon Knights dispatched of Shadyside, 81-45.

Central was 24-for-32 (75 percent) from the free-throw line in the final period.

"I said, 'foul somebody other than 3, 32 and 44,'" Isaly said. "Seriously, I did."

Brittany Bertoia (No. 3) and Gabby Capaldi combined to go 17-for-22 in the final eight minutes (77.2 percent) as the Crusaders were 29-for-39 for the game (74.3 percent). Simmons (3-for-4) also had 12 rebounds.

"Coach (Jess) Looman preaches to us every day at practice that free throws are key to this game, especially this far into the season, and that was the case tonight," said Capaldi, who finished with 21 points, and went 10-for-13

from the line. "Free throws helped us seal the win in the fourth quarter."

Bertoia totaled a game-high 26 points and went 11-for-14 from the stripe.

"Our coaches have been stressing free throws a ton at practice," she said. "We've been running a lot because of them. I hope it pays off, it did tonight, at least."

Central scored 56 points in the second half.

Looman put a lot of the kudos on her four seniors — Bertoia, Capaldi, Samm Simmons and Shayna Mirabella.

"They've put in a lot of hard work to get to this point and I am happy for them that they get to play for an OVAC championship," she said. "I am very proud of this team."

"Those 56 points were more than we've scored in some games, so I was really happy with how we stepped to the line and made our free throws."

Bertoia and Capaldi made back-to-back steals for layups that gave CCHS a 55-40 lead. River eventually made it 59-49 on a pair of Bailey Caldwell free throws and 61-52 when Olivia Rose buried a trey.

But, the Crusaders went on a 15-6 spurt to make it 76-58. Thirteen of those points came via the charity stripe and the other two a layup by Tia tailbone from Capaldi.

"This is a nice team," Isaly said of the Crusaders. "I didn't get a chance to see them in person, but I had a couple of tapes. They are better than what they showed on the tape."

## 1A Semifinals

### Valley 49, Trinity 32

**PINE GROVE** — Rachel Baker secured 20 points and eight rebounds as Valley defeated Trinity to move on to the 1A OVAC Championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. Sophie Palmer was also solid for the Lumberjills (15-4) putting up 14 points, eight assists and six steals.

For Warriors, Emily Saurborn had 11 points.

### Frontier 67, Beallsville 23

**NEW MATAMORAS** —

Three Frontier players scored in double figures as it defeated Beallsville. The Cougars will face Valley in the championship game. Sammi Morris had a game-high 18 points while Lexi Brookover netted 16. Tiffany Graham rounded out the double-figure scorers with 14 points.

For the Blue Devils, Olivia Muncy led the way with eight points.

## 4A

### Union Local 57 Harrison Central 54

**MORRISTOWN** — Union Local was able to hit free throws down the stretch to get a victory over Harrison Central to earn a spot in the 4A championship game on Saturday.

Haley Porter led the way for the Jets with a game-high 36 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

Alex Wiley paced the Huskies with 17 points, while Sydney Starr had 10.

### St. Clairsville 55

### Buckeye Local 51

**CONNORVILLE** — Senior Sydney Freeman compiled 18 points, a team-high as St. Clairsville defeated Buckeye Local. Katie Bradshaw also had a great game for the Red Devils contributing with 15 points.

For the Panthers, Emily Holzapel led the way with a game-high 25 points while Mad-die Gill netted nine.

### OVAC Consolation

### Barnesville 76

### Bishop Donahue 44

**MCMECHEN** — Kallee Dowler lit up the scoreboard with a game-high 29 points as Barnesville defeated Bishop Donahue. Sarah Powell was also solid for the Shamrocks with 16 points.

For the Bishops (5-15), Josie Purpura had 11 points and Jewel Purpura secured 10.

### Magnolia 49, Clay-Battelle 44

**NEW MARTINSVILLE** — Taylor Ludewig supplied a game-high 20 points as Magnolia held off Clay-Battelle. Kelsi Chapman secured 17 points for the Blue Eagles while Kyndra Pilant grabbed 12 rebounds, dished out 13 assists to go along with seven

points.

For the Cee-Bees Abbey Ammons secured 15 points and Haley Barr contributed with 13.

### John Marshall 63, Edison 35

**MOUNDSVILLE** — Avery Derrow continued her successful season turning in another strong performance as she led the way for John Marshall in a victory over Edison. Derrow had 20 points for the Monarchs while Shay Straughn backed her up with 16 points. Both Monarchs hit two shots from behind the arc.

For the Wildcats, Kayla Huff netted 13 points.

### St. John Central 63 Hundred 29

**HUNDRED** — St. John Central held host Hundred to single digit points in each of the four quarters.

Madison DeLuca paced St. John (5-16) with 19 points and Taylor Lowe delivered 14.

Hundred (2-17) was led by Katherine Henderson's nine points and Hailey Eastham's eight.

### Caldwell 55, Paden City 34

**PADEN CITY** — Paden City was held to just 13 points in the second half, as the Wildcats fell to visiting Caldwell.

Lexi Wisen and Julia Griffith paced the Redskins with 24 and 19 points, respectively.

Hannah Loy and Ashlyn Moses each turned in nine for Paden City (5-13).

### Cameron 51, Madonna 34

**WEIRTON** — The second quarter was the only frame that Madonna recorded double digit points as visiting Cameron topped the Dons.

Kelsey Meintel led the Dragons with 21 points, followed by Courtney Walker with 18.

Andrea Alimario recorded 15 for Madonna.

### Toronto 50, East Liverpool 32

**TORONTO** — East Liverpool garnered 16 points in the first three quarters and Toronto tallied 17 in the third quarter alone, en route to victory.

Jenna Leasure scored 16 to lead Toronto, while Jo'zaeyah Jordan added 11.

### Cambridge 44, Indian Creek 25

**WINTERSVILLE** — Indian

Creek never scored more than eight points in a single quarter as visiting Cambridge dominated.

Marlo Taylor and Lilly Ritz paced the Bobcats with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Kacie Vandeborne paced Indian Creek with eight points.

### University 51, Brooke 22

**MORGANTOWN** — Brooke netted 18 points in the first three quarters, while host University garnered 19 in the second quarter alone.

Hope Bowman paced the Bruins with seven points.

### Bridgeport 61, Weir 56

**WEIRTON** — Despite seven 3-pointers from Weir's Bailey Stead, visiting Bridgeport held on for a narrow five-point victory.

The Bulldogs (10-10) were led by Marissa Beal who supplied 20 points and Kamden Dulesky who finished with 19.

Stead netted a game-high 23 points and Sophia Mikula bucketed 18 for Weir.

### Monroe Central 39

### Martins Ferry 34

**MARTINS FERRY** — Invading Monroe Central used a strong second and third quarter to pull out a victory inside Tolbert Gymnasium.

The Seminoles were led by Marlee Miller's 18 and Allison Kuhn's 15.

Martins Ferry was paced by junior Kyonna Johnson's 13 and Sydney Bridges' 11.

### Regular Season

### Tyler Consolidated 86

### Wirt County 45

**MIDDLEBOURNE** — JoLee Walton secured a double-double as Tyler Consolidated defeated Wirt County. Walton netted 13 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Silver Knights (8-12) while Josey Jones led the way in scoring with 20. Peyton Kocher was one rebound shy of a double-double as she put up 15 points and grabbed nine boards. Amanda Reynolds rounded out the double figure scorers with 14 points while Aleah Black and Autumn Wells had 15 and 11 rebounds respectively.

Cori Hughes led the way for Wirt County with 20 points.

# Park Gets Monkey Off Its Back

Wheeling Park's Lauren Schultz goes up for a shot against the defense of Morgantown's Courtney Quinn (34) during Monday's OVAC semifinal.



Photo by Josh Stroppe

## Patriots finally solve Mohigans; Park. South is next

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Whether or not defense will win the OVAC Championship will be decided Saturday, but it was definitely enough to earn Wheeling Park a spot in the title game.

The Patriots' defense forced 22 turnovers in a 39-21 victory over third-seeded Morgantown in the OVAC 5-A semi-final on Friday.

Wheeling Park (13-6) has already fallen in two battles with the Mohigans (10-8) this year by scores of 42-41 and 36-29, but Park delivered a big win in the most meaningful matchup.

"We were flying around defen-

sively," Park coach Ryan Young said. "We had some good full-court pressure and I think it was bothering them."

Morgantown, which had claimed back-to-back OVAC titles in the past two years, was without senior forward Lydia Adrian.

"You take a kid like Adrian out of the lineup and everybody else becomes a different option," Young said. "We just kind of took advantage of it."

"We are taking a step in the right direction," Young said of taking out the defending OVAC champions. "We have been building toward this for three years to get signature wins to build confi-

dence and hopefully it will carry over to the championship on Saturday and the postseason after that."

The Patriots were also lights out from the free-throw line, shooting 9 of 10 in the game.

"We shot the ball well from the free-throw line," Young said. "I don't think we shot the ball well overall but when you play defense and the shots aren't falling, you can get away with it."

Wheeling Park's defense was flying around the floor early in often, gathering eight turnovers in the opening quarter.

See PARK, Page 12

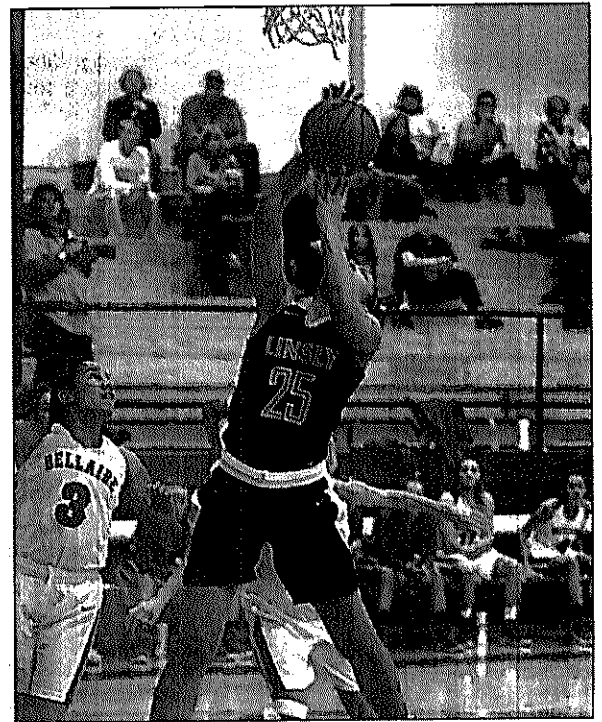


Photo by Sherri McAninch

Linsly's Jazzie Orth pulls down a rebound Monday against Bellaire.

## Linsly Knocks Off Bellaire

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

BELLAIRE — Linsly senior standouts Vivian Allison and Jazzie Orth both played a key role in the Cadets' only Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship in girls basketball as freshmen in 2014.

Since then, however, the Cadets have come up short in their quests to add another banner.

On Saturday, Allison, Orth and the rest of the Cadets will get another chance to make amends. They're getting that opportunity thanks to pulling off an upset of top-seeded Bellaire, 62-55, inside the 'House of Champions' Monday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We're very excited for the opportunity (to play on Saturday)," first-year Linsly coach Rebecca Upton said. "We have great senior leadership that has been there. They've been in those situations before. They know how to pull games through and they know how to make big plays, so we're going to rely on them. My job is to not screw it up, at this point."

Next up for Linsly is a date with Buckeye Trail, which will be making its debut in the OVAC title game.

See LINSLY, Page 12

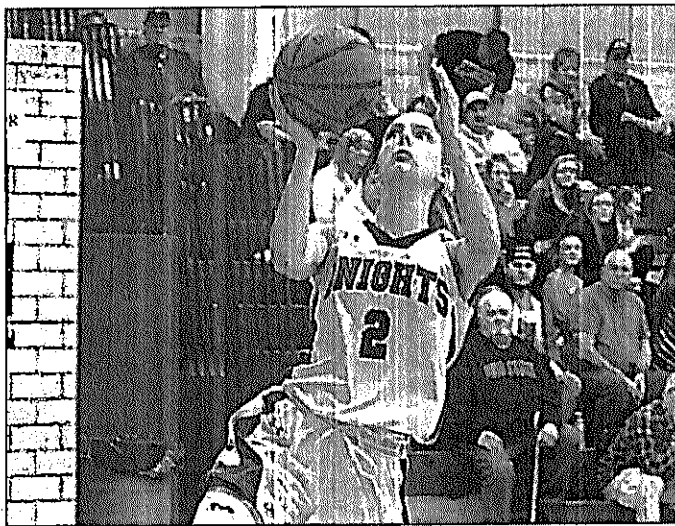


Photo by Josh Stroppe

Wheeling Central's Riley Blaha goes up for a layup after a steal during Monday's game against Shadyside.

## Maroon Knights Rout Tigers

To face Steub. Catholic in final

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — For the third time this season, the Wheeling Central and Shadyside girls' basketball teams faced off. For the third time, it was the same outcome as the Maroon Knights were able to compile 15 offensive rebounds in the first half as well as overcome some foul trouble to beat the Tigers, 81-45, in a OVAC semifinal matchup Monday night.

Wheeling Central will face Steubenville Catholic, which beat

River, 83-66, for the championship Saturday on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"It was a good team effort," Wheeling Central (19-1) coach Penn Kurtz said. "We were in a lot of foul trouble early on and the people that came off the bench didn't miss a beat. We were able to put a lot of pressure on them and tried to take away the 3-point shot. They made some early, but by the second quarter, I thought we did a pretty good job of controlling their opportunities. That was the key and as soon as we stopped fouling, we were in pretty good shape."

Although they never trailed, the Maroon Knights had four

players with two fouls in the first half, including three starters. But the other major factor in the first half was offensive rebounds. The Maroon Knights grabbed 15 of them, including nine in the opening quarter. The Maroon Knights also broke out two runs, including an 11-0 one that started with 1:41 left in the first quarter to put the score at 29-13. With 5:01 left in the second quarter, Wheeling Central went on a 7-0 spurt that it up by 20, 39-19.

"Rebounding has kind of been one of our weak points all year," Shadyside coach Serge Gentile said. "It definitely hurt us bad (Monday)."

See KNIGHTS, Page 12



# Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

## Lady Warriors edge Linsly, 45-42, for first on-court conference hoop title Trail girls win OVAC 3A championship

By JEFF HARRISON  
The Daily Jeffersonian

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — They didn't have the Tournament MVP with an NCAA Division II scholarship on their side.

They didn't have two girls looming in the "paint" who stood six-foot-one.

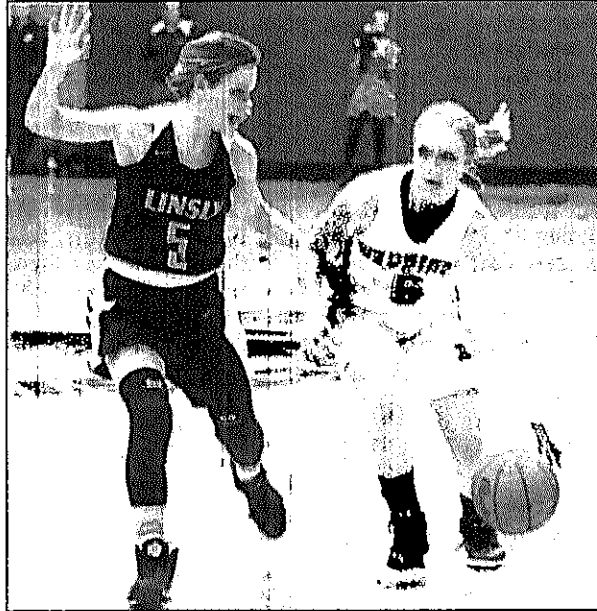
They didn't shoot the basketball very well, either from the field (36 percent) or at the free throw line (33 percent).

They didn't want to lose! It was the latter - the will to win combined with a defensive tenacity that has carried them all season long - that led the Buckeye Trail Lady Warriors to their first-ever on-court Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls' basketball championship — a hard-fought 45-42 victory over The Linsly School in the Class 3A title game of the 10th annual OVAC Wheeling Hospital Girls' Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

Saturday's title was the first for Trail in hoops since the conference went to the tournament format a decade ago and its third overall — the others in 1984 and 2007.

It also made for an "OVAC Warrior Slam" of sorts as Trail is now the reigning 3A softball, volleyball and basketball championships, with many of the same girls participating in all three sports.

"I'm so proud of our girls," beamed Buckeye Trail coach Chris Starr after his team collected its 19th win in 22 outings. "They competed so hard



Buckeye Trail High's Hannah Smith (right) makes a move to the basket against Linsly's Amanda Raymond during Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 3A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern.

and wanted it so bad...they just refused to lose."

Linsly led 16-13 at the end of the first quarter, with senior Vivian Allison — the eventual John Howell MVP Award winner headed for Mercyhurst University — tallying a dozen of her team's points while junior Jenni Carmichael scored six for Trail.

The Lady Cadets pushed their lead to 22-13 over the first five minutes of the second period as the Lady Warriors misfired on their first eight field goal attempts, but a lay-up by Carmichael and a three-point goal by Amber Colvin ended the drought and pulled Trail within four, 22-18 at the 2:11 mark. Linsly took a seven-point lead, 26-19, to the intermission.

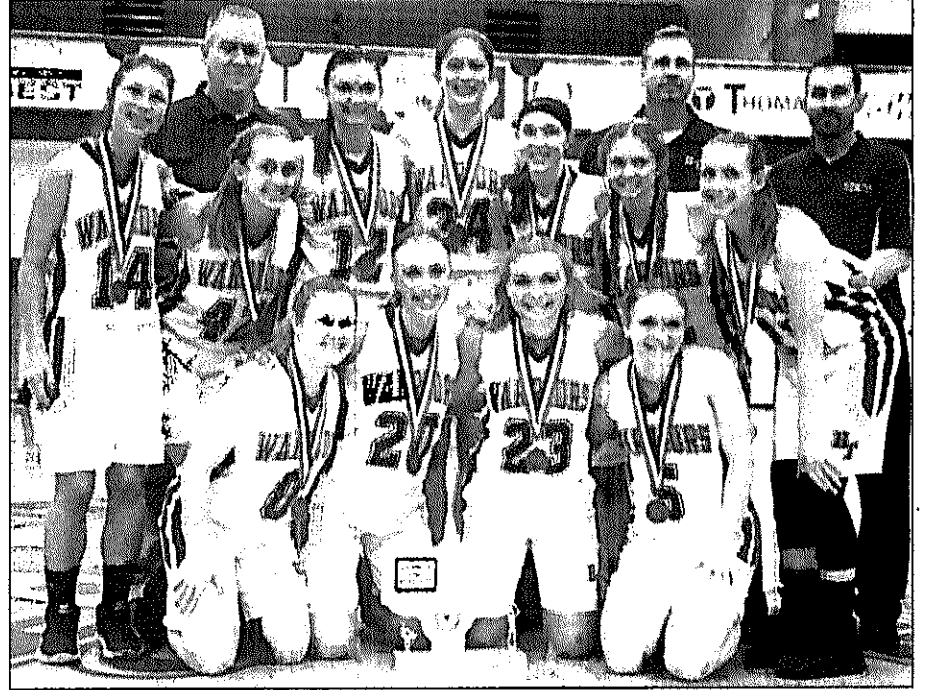
Goals by Allison and 6-1 junior Mary Bedway with a "trex" from Trail senior Karlye Hensley in between had Linsly's lead at 30-22, but the Lady Warriors

came to life with a quarter-ending 11-4 run to pull within one, 34-33, heading to the final eight minutes.

The flurry featured a drive to the hoop by junior Hannah Smith; a "triple" and two free throws by senior Lexe Starr; a bucket off a turnover by Carmichael and a jumper by Hensley.

The entire fourth quarter went back-and-forth on the scoreboard, with Linsly's Allison and Trail's Smith doing most of the scoring (Allison had all eight for her team in the fourth period and Smith had seven). Linsly took what was to be its final lead at 42-41 on a close-range goal by Allison with 1:11 remaining, but Smith hit from the baseline at the 23-second mark to put Trail up, 43-42.

After a Linsly misfire, Starr hit one-of-two at the foul line with 11.8 seconds remaining and then, after a Linsly turnovers, Smith



Garrett Knott photos/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

The Buckeye Trail Lady Warriors are all smiles as they pose with the OVAC Class 3A Championship trophy and medals after defeating Linsly, 45-42, for the title Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Recreation Center.

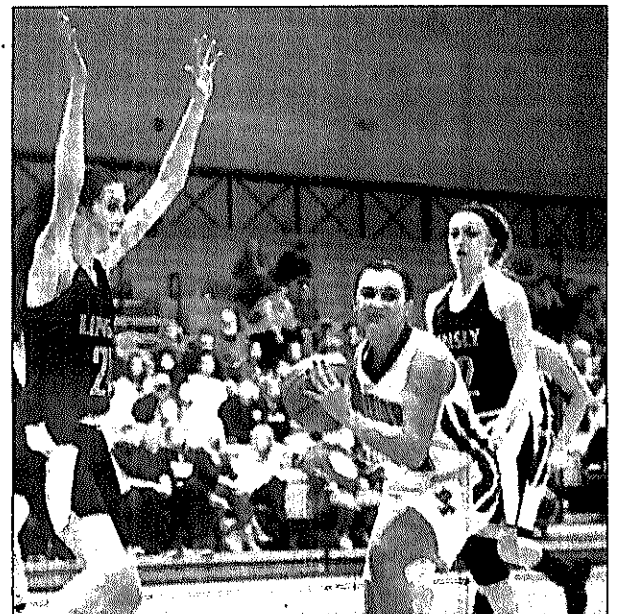
**OVAC 3A CHAMPIONSHIP  
BUCKEYE TRAIL 45, LINSLY 42**

**Linsly (15-6)**  
Marilyn Raymond 0-2 0-0 0; Mia Casco 0-4 0-0 0; Noora Pitkanen 1-3 0-0 3; Makenzie Manukin 1-1 0-0 2; Mary Bedway 2-4 0-0 6; Jazzie Orth 3-7 1-2 7; Vivian Allison 10-19 4-4 24. Totals 18-40 5-6 42.

**Buckeye Trail (19-3)**  
Amber Colvin 1-1 0-0 3; Hannah Smith 5-17 1-4 12; Jenni Carmichael 5-12 0-0 10; Lexe Starr 2-6 4-6 9; Karlye Hensley 5-8 0-3 11; Rachel Cheslar 0-1 0-0 0; All McVicker 0-3 0-0 0; Sam Canner 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 18-50 5-15 45.

**Linsly 16 10 8 8 — 42**  
**Buckeye Trail 13 6 14 12 — 45**

Three-point goals: LS 1-5 (Pitkanen); BTHS 4-76 (Smith, Colvin, Hensley, Starr).  
Rebounds: LS 32 (Orth 10, Allison 9, Bedway 6); BTHS 26 (Starr 6, Canner 5, Smith 4, Carmichael 3). Assists: LS 7 (Allison 2); BTHS 9 (Starr 3, Hensley 2, Smith 2). Steals: LS 3 (Allison 2); BTHS 10 (Hensley 3, Colvin 2, Starr 2, Cheslar 2). Blocked Shots: LS 3 (Bedway 3); BTHS 1. Fouls: LS 13; BTHS 8. Fouled Out: none. Turnovers: LS 18; BTHS 10.

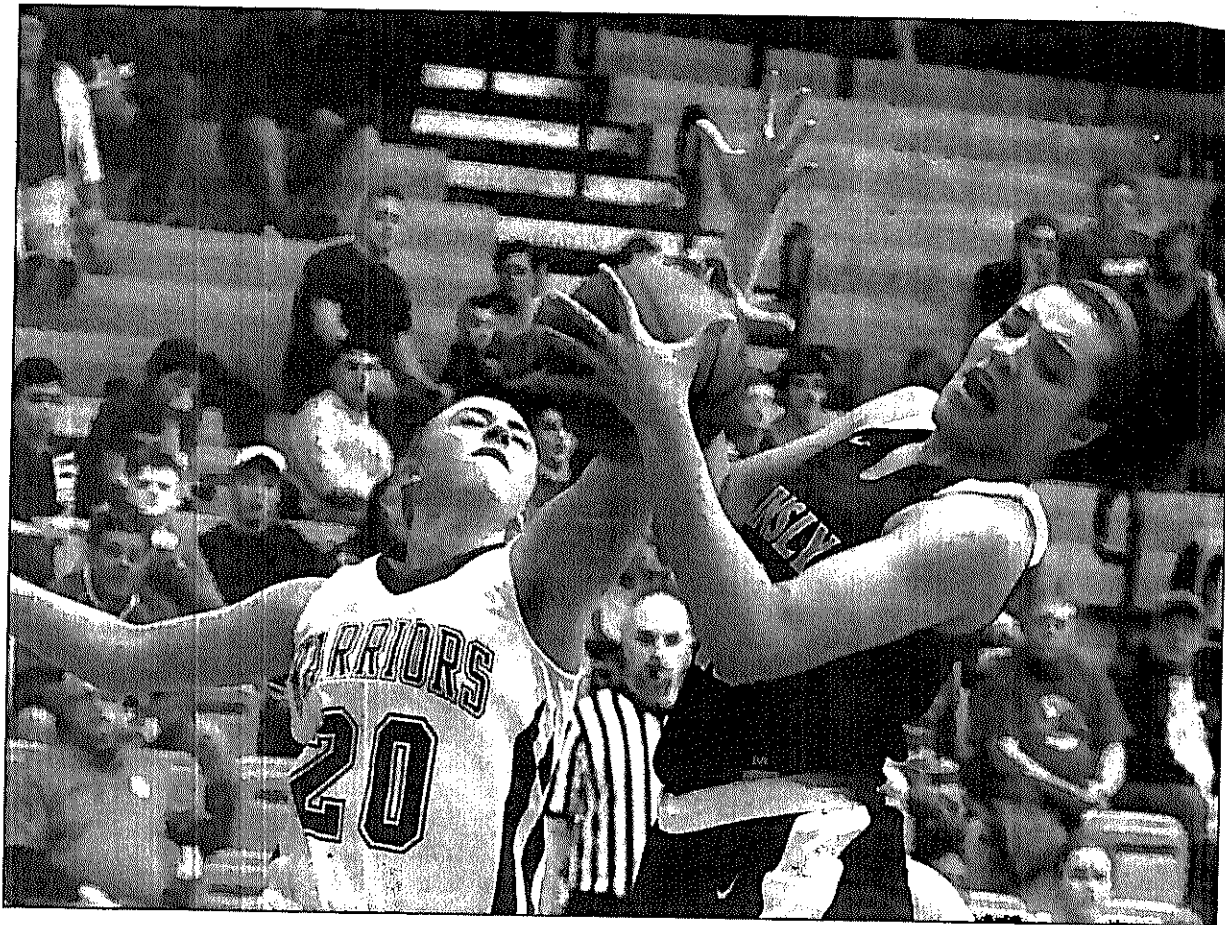


Buckeye Trail High's Jenni Carmichael looks to pass as she is confronted by Linsly's Mary Bedway (left) as Vivian Allison of the Lady Cadets closes in from behind during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A Championship Game. Trail won, 45-42.

split a pair at the stripe for a three-point edge (45-42) with 1.5 ticks left.

The Lady Cadets got the

See Page B3 | Trail



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com  
**Buckeye Trail High's Lexe Starr battles for a rebound with Linsly's Jazzie Orth during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern. The Lady Warriors claimed the title with a 45-42 victory.**

## Trail

From Page B1

ball to Allison, but her 25-footer at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Coach Starr credited yet another stellar defensive effort and more aggressive play at the offensive end as keys to overcome the subpar shooting performance.

"We knew we needed to try to get the game in the 40s or even in the 30s, and we were able to do that today," he related. "Our defense has been our mainstay all year long.

"As long as we can defend, we feel we have a chance to win," Starr continued.

"In the second half, we really attacked the rim and that's what we have to do because we're not a great shooting team (from the perimeter)," he acknowledged. "We had to be really aggressive and we did that. We turned it over a few times late, but we did a nice job overall with the basketball and we re-

bounded it well when the game was on the line.

"Our girls fought the entire time...they just never gave up," the BTHS coach added.

As usual, Trail had excellent scoring balance with Smith scoring 12; Hensley 11; Carmichael 10 and Starr nine.

"That's what makes us a good team," Coach Starr said of his team's balance. "Night-in and night-out, you don't know who our leading scorer will be so you can't really concentrate on one person."

Although the other four players who saw action — Colvin and subs Rachel Cheslar, Alli McVicker and Sam Canner — combined for just three points, they provided a much-needed spark in a variety of ways according to Starr.

"Amber and the three girls off the bench really gave us key minutes," he said. "It was really a group effort."

Trail finished 18-of-50 from the field; 4-of-16 on three-pointers and 5-of-15 at the charity stripe with 26 rebounds and just 10 turnovers.

Starr had six boards and three assists; Canner grabbed five caroms and Smith had four; and Hensley collected three steals.

Linsly (16-6) got 24 points and nine rebounds from Allison while 6-1 senior Jazzie Orth had seven points and 10 boards and Bedway added six tallies and six caroms.

The Lady Cadets were 18-of-40 from the field; 1-of-5 on "treys" and 5-of-6 at the line with 32 boards and 18 miscues.


Trail will now have a week and a half to prepare for the start of OHSAA Tournament action.

"Hopefully, we have some momentum going

into the tournament," Starr said, "but obviously we've got to shoot foul shots better than we did tonight if we want to make a run."

In other OVAC action, Frontier edged Valley, 51-46, for the 1A title; Wheeling Central downed Steubenville Catholic, 65-44, for the 2A crown and Union Local beat St. Clairsville, 50-36, in the 4A championship, with Parkersburg South playing Wheeling Park on Saturday night for the 5A crown.

NEXT — Buckeye Trail begins OHSAA Division III Sectional/District Tournament action hosting West Muskingum on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

  
**THE FORUM**  
A Theo Bros Eatery  
theforumrestaurant.com

WiFi Valentine's Day Tues., Feb. 14

*Treat Your Sweetie*  
**to The Forum!**

2205 Southgate Pkwy., Cambridge, Ohio 740-439-2777

C

Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

## SPORTS

INSIDE:

More OVAC action/Page 2

OVAC Hall of Fame/Page 3

Penguins/Page 4

Nailers/Page 7

## Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships

Wheeling Central Cruises  
By Steubenville Catholic

Photo by Josh Strope

Wheeling Park's Lauren Schultz makes her way around a Parkersburg South defender Saturday.

Wheeling Park  
Wins 5-A Title

Daugherty Sets Points, 3s Marks

By JOSH STROPE  
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

— Wheeling Park looks to have found its groove and it is coming at the perfect time.

Saturday at Ohio University Eastern, Wheeling Park exorcised another demon — Parkersburg South — to win the OVAC Class 5A championship with an impressive 68-54 victory.

It is the team's first OVAC title since 2012.

"I was an assistant coach on the back-to-back teams in 2011 and 2012, but when I took over as head coach, I knew it was going to be a little while and it was going to be a process," Wheeling Park coach Ryan Young said. "These guys have bought in and this isn't just a one-year thing. This is something we have been building

toward and the kids, they are just a good group, and they can all play. It's hard to give them as many minutes as I want to — we have 12 kids that can really play — but as long as they come in and do their best in the minutes that we give them, we are pleased."

In order to get to Saturday's title game, Wheeling Park (15-6) had to defeat a Morgantown team in the semis it previously went 0-2 against. It did that in impressive fashion.

Parkersburg South (16-5) also owned two victories against Park this season. Much the same, Wheeling Park left little doubt in this one early in the game.

Wheeling Park's press gave South fits from the opening tip.

See, Park, Page C2

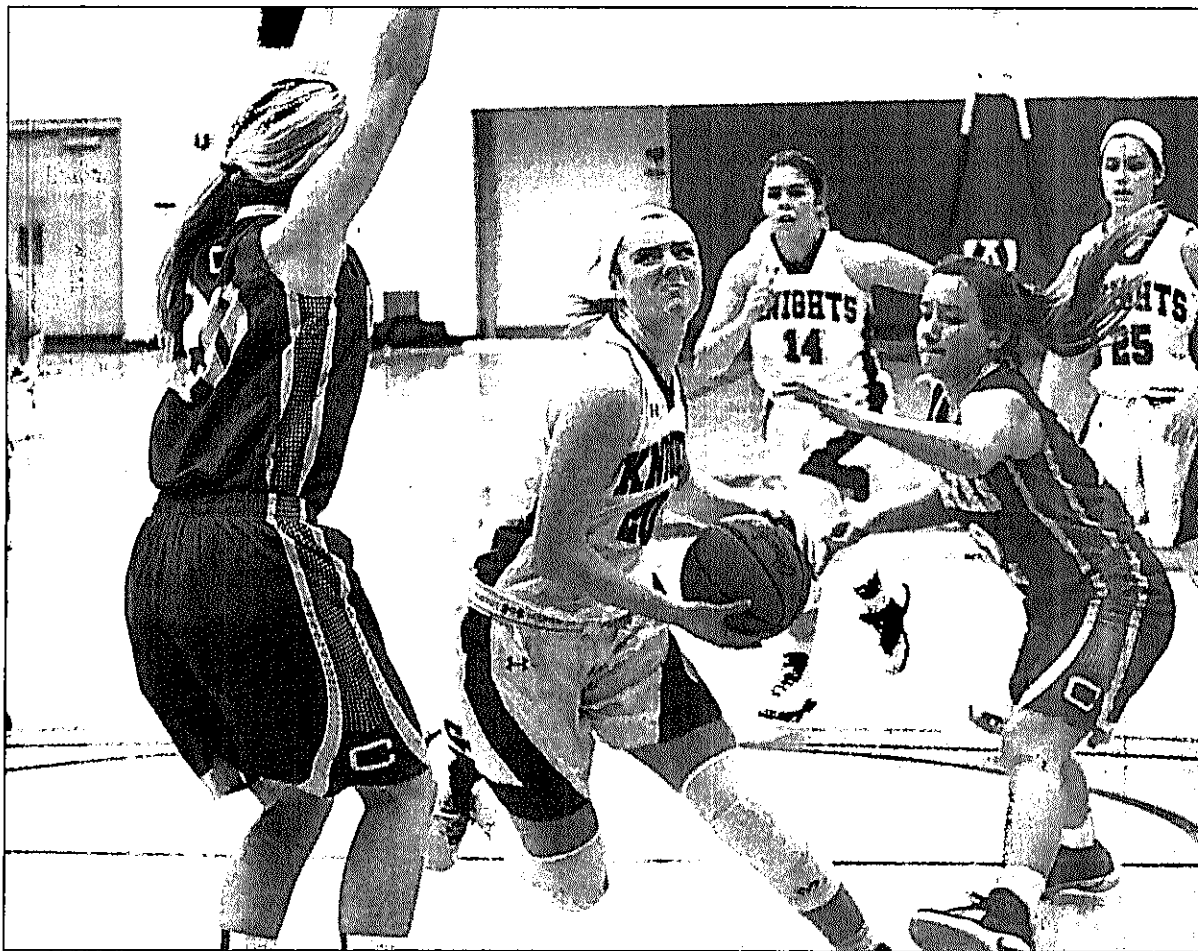


Photo by Josh Strope

Wheeling Central's Kaylee Reinbeau (20) slices through the defense of Steubenville Catholic's Grace Godlich, left and Shayna Mirabella, right, during their OVAC Championship game Saturday.

## Young Maroon Knights Force 22 Turnovers in Blowout

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The question of whether or not the Wheeling Central girls' basketball team could overcome the lack of experience playing in the OVAC 2-A Championship game has been answered.

The Maroon Knights sent a message early with a speedy defense that forced 22 turnovers and quickly transitioned them into points on the opposite side in a 65-44 rout of Steubenville Catholic Central at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday. It is Wheeling Central's 10th OVAC championship.

"We have a lot of speed," Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz said. "We have people who can finish at

the basket. We practice every day and work on our transition offense, especially against a tough team like that. They are tough in that zone and we wanted to try to get some easy shots."

To prove they were ready for the moment, freshmen Eden Gainer and Kaylee Reinbeau led the team with 21 and 14 points, respectively. Gainer was named the John Howell MVP of the game for her performance.

"It feels great," Gainer said. "Especially as a freshman to win OVACs. I have been trying to shoot at OUE to get my shot up and I think it helped."

"I love my teammates and my coach. They all inspire me to get better and hopefully we are able to

win a state championship as well, but we have to keep getting better."

The Knights sit at 20-1 and the freshmen duo has been a key piece of that success.

"Gainer is a very quiet young lady but works hard and deserves everything that she gets," Kurtz said. "She has put in an effort to be better after struggling earlier in the year, which you expect from a freshman. The last couple of games she has really been knocking shots down."

"We rely on Kaylee (Reinbeau) a lot to clean up those defensive boards and get it out because she can lead to fast breaks too."

Reinbeau hauled in a game-high 16 rebounds, with 10 coming on

See, Central, Page C2

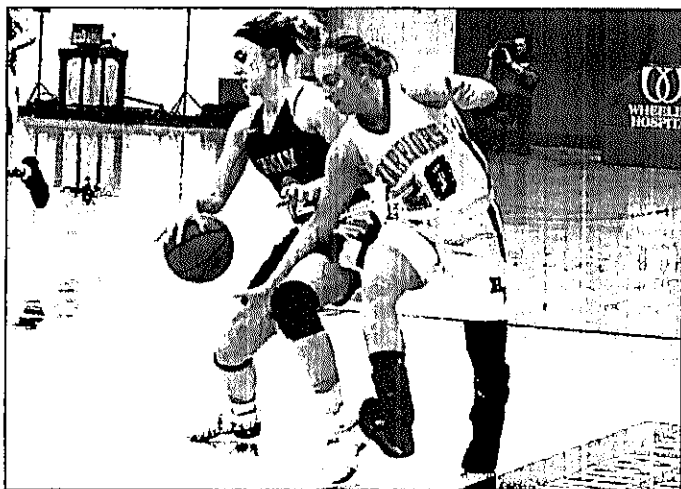


Photo by Cody Tomer

Linsly's Vivian Allison is defended closely by Buckeye Trail's Lexe Starr during their game Saturday at OUE.

## Buckeye Trail Rallies By Linsly

Allison Nets 24  
And MVP in DefeatBy JOSH STROPE  
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — With an obvious height disadvantage, Buckeye Trail coach Chris Starr knew the way to beat Linsly was to out hustle it. That's just what the Warriors did.

After the first half was firmly in favor of Linsly, Buckeye Trail played aggressive defense, got to every loose ball and made the shots when they mattered most in capturing the OVAC Class 3-A

championship with a 45-42 victory Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's been awhile since I almost cried after a game but I was very emotional and this is great for our girls," Starr said. "They wanted it so bad. We have two seniors (Lexe Starr and Karlye Hensley) that have been here during the bad times when our program really struggled and they come out of here with the OVAC title."

While Starr gave praise to his seniors, it was junior Hannah Smith that had the biggest impact for the Warriors (19-3). She finished with 12 points to pace Buckeye Trail, but that only tells

part of the story.

Linsly (16-6) took the lead at 42-41 off an inbounds play to Vivian Allison with a little more than a minute remaining.

On Buckeye Trail's ensuing possession, Lexe Starr had her shot blocked by Linsly's Mary Bedway and despite the Warriors getting a rebound, a turnover gave the ball back to the Cadets with 37 seconds to go.

Buckeye Trail had only committed three fouls and if it couldn't get a steal, it was going to need to start fouling to get the Cadets into the 1-and-1.

See, Linsly, Page C2

West Virginia Too



Freshmen Big Part

# Two Straight Titles for UL

**By SETH STASKEY**  
**For the News-Register**  
**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** - Winning a OVAC title once is special. Going back-to-back is twice is nice.

Union Local will attest. The Jets made it two conference titles in a row Saturday, capturing the Class 4-A crown in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center thanks to a 50-36 victory over rival St. Clairsville.

"It feels good," Jets coach Kelley Hanlon said. Union Local played like a different team in the second half. After watching St. Clairsville take an 18-14 lead at halftime, Hanlon didn't go on any sort of tirade or scream at her team. The message was simple, but poignant.

"I just told the girls they had to pick it up," Hanlon said. "We didn't look like we were going after it in the first half and our shots weren't falling. The girls knew it, too."

They didn't just know it. The Jets did something about it. Union Local seized control by outscoring the Devils, 23-6, in the third. Taking it a step farther, the Jets opened the third quarter on a 19-2 run that lasted nearly six minutes.

"St. Clairsville was really guarding Haley (Porter) hard in the first half, but our other girls weren't picking up the slack," Hanlon said. "I told the girls if they're taking Haley out of the mix, what do you guys need to do? We just had to get it going and get some energy."

To ignite the energy, the Jets called upon a pressure defense that they didn't utilize in

the first half. It led to a couple of turnovers, which turned into to easy opportunities. Sophomore Hannah Porter played a big role in igniting the run, scoring seven in the third.

Her older sister, Haley, found the shooting touch in that quarter, too. After being limited to five in the first half, which landed her on 1,000 points for her career, Porter scored 10 in the third, including a deep 3-pointer.

"They came out with the press and we kind of panicked against it," St. C. coach Stacey Agnew said. "I thought we did a nice job on Porter (early), but she's a great player. I wish she was a senior, but she's not."

When the onslaught ended, the Jets owned a 37-24 lead at the final stop. From there, they salted the game away.

It was a special evening for Porter. The heart and soul of the Jets not only helped her team to another title and surpassed 1,000 points in her career, but she was named the recipient of the inaugural John Howell MVP Award.

"I don't think she was pressing, but shots just weren't falling for her," Hanlon said. "At halftime I congratulated her, but said, 'we'll celebrate later. We need to move on.' It's too bad the way it worked out (in terms of the timing), but we'll make it up to her. And I am sure she's more excited about getting this win than anything for herself."

The Porter sisters led the way as Haley's 17 was complemented by Hannah's 16. Mackenzie McGary finished with eight.

St. Clairsville, which began the season 0-7 and finished the regular season with an 11-11 mark, was paced by Katie Bradshaw's 14.

# Frontier Gets By Valley

**Cougars Claim Third 3-A Title In Four Years**

**By CODY TOMER**  
**Staff Writer**  
**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** - An outstanding fourth-quarter effort by Valley came up just short Saturday as top-seeded Frontier held on to claim the OVAC 1-A Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center by a final of 51-46.

Valley (16-6) found itself with a large deficit entering the fourth quarter, trailing 44-27.

It was looking like Frontier (16-6) was rolling to its third OVAC title in the last four years but the Lumberjills did not go away quietly. In fact, Valley outscored the Cougars 19-7 in the final eight minutes of the game but ran out of time to complete what would have been a miraculous comeback.

"I am really proud of this team," Valley coach Jeff Derby said. "We really started making some shots in the fourth quarter but we just ran out of time."

Senior Melanie Thomas provided the spark with seven points in the final frame for the Lumberjills, who were playing in their first OVAC championship game in school history, though Derby hopes there will be more to come.

"The future is looking bright for Valley basketball," Derby said. "We have a young group of kids and now we just have to focus on sectionals."

Valley's Sophie Palmer collected two free throws to start the game but then the Lumberjills went cold and Frontier delivered an 11-0 run, triggered by back-to-back 3-pointers from Lexi Brookover, which really gave it momentum.

"Our girls came out nervous in the first half and Brookover came out hitting," Derby said. "She is a really good ballplayer."

Brookover was named the inaugural winner of the John Howell MVP Award, given to the star of the game. En route to garnering the award, the senior amassed 17 points, drained a trio of 3-pointers and collected a team-high nine rebounds.

"Lexi has been our 3-



**Photo by Cody Tomer**  
**Frontier's Tiffany Graham (1) dribbles against the defense of Valley's Sophie Palmer on Saturday.**

point shooter for us all year," Frontier coach Scott Murphy said. "It was just icing on the cake for Lexi to get that first MVP. I thought it was cool because I didn't know they were going to hand that out."

"I am proud of her and that whole senior group. They are pretty special."

The seniors of Frontier have gathered OVAC titles in three of their four years with the program.

"This says a lot about our senior class and who they are," Murphy said. "They came in with the right attitude and it has never been about stats. It is all about wins with them. We are building a program that is trying to get to championships and wow, they have a lot to show for it."

The second quarter began with Frontier securing a 13-4 advantage and an 18-11 lead with 4:14 left in the half when the it recorded an 8-0 spurt to extend the lead to 26-11. Kylie Daugherty provided a basket with five seconds left in the first half to give her squad a 30-18 lead at the break.

The Cougars extended their lead in the third behind six points from Nikki Haught and a buzzer-beater from Brookover, who con-

tinued to shine on the game's biggest stage, giving Frontier a 44-27 lead at the end of the third.

In the fourth, Valley received 3-pointers from Caitlyn Underwood and Emma Ueltschy and three buckets from Thomas. All three players had been held scoreless until the final quarter.

"Melanie (Thomas) kept playing out there," Derby said of the senior. "Sophie Palmer, who always plays well, had a good game for us too, as well as Rachel Baker. I am just proud of all of our girls."

The Lumberjills connected on 9-for-19 from the free-throw line, while Frontier drilled 15 of 17.

Complementing Brookover's solid performance for Frontier was Daugherty who tallied 13 points and six rebounds, while Haught cashed in for 11 points and Samantha Morris added seven points, eight boards and four steals.

Baker recorded a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds, while Palmer turned in a team-high 17 points and four steals and Thomas garnered seven points and seven rebounds.

# PARK

Continued from page C1

Lauren Schultz scored seven points in the early going as Wheeling Park opened on a 11-2 run. Parkersburg South never got closer than four.

"I didn't think we would build as big as a lead as we did but they wouldn't go away," Young said. "The press was definitely effective. I think the kids got a little bit tired but in a game like this, with all that excitement, there are so many emotions involved, that is going to happen. We may change our defense a tad, but we are still going to apply pressure."

When the defense is clicking for Wheeling Park, it is going to be tough beat. When the defense is clicking and Josie Daugherty is on fire, warm up the buses early.

Daugherty has been on a roll lately and Saturday was a stamp on what is a stellar career for the Patriots.

The senior sharpshooter hit eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points - both championship game records for any class - on her way to being named the John Howell Most Valuable Player.

"I didn't even know it was a record until they announced it," Daugherty said. "It feels like my hard work has really paid off. I have to give all the credit to God. He has put me here in this position."

"(Winning the OVAC title) means a lot because we haven't been here in a couple years. It has been a goal to at least be in this game, but to win it feels amazing. We were ready to play them and we knew what we had to do. We wanted this and we knew what it took to beat this team and we definitely showed up and played."

Daugherty hit five of her 3s in the third quarter, accounting for all her team's points.

Parkersburg South entered the fourth quarter down 19 and by as many as

22, and tried to get back in by sending Park to the foul line.

Not a good move. Wheeling Park was 13 of 18 from the line in the final eight minutes to seal a victory.

"Parkersburg South, I bet that was their worst free-throw shooting game of the year (9 of 16). They are 80 percent from the line," Young said. "A free-throw battle is not something we wanted to get into. But, yes, I am comfortable with our kids knocking down free throws at the end of the game. We struggled at the beginning of the year and it probably cost us the first Morgantown game, but now, I feel like I can put any five kids out there that can shoot well from the line."

Schultz and Kylie McKenna each scored 11 for Park. Schultz also added 10 rebounds.

Devin Hefner paced South with 22 points, followed by 15 from Alexis Moore and 14 from Allie Taylor.

**Boys' Basketball**  
**Madonna 77, Magnolia 58**  
**WEIRTON** - Joey Ewuasiak poured in 29 points to lead Madonna.

Tavon Jeter complemented him with 15 points, while Tripp Moore added 13.

Loe Herrick paced the Eagles with 19 points, Jake Fruner turned in 14 and Tyler Williamson added 10.

**VVHIT**  
**Valley 60, Buffalo 38**  
**CLARKSBURG** - Dylan Irvin had 27 points, 26 rebounds and five blocked shots as Valley cruised past Buffalo.

Alex Midcap added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lumberjacks (10-9).

**Swimming**  
**Girls**  
**1. Dover 546, 2. Martins Ferry 305.5, 3. Tri-Valley 240, 4. St. Clairsville 191.5, 5. River View 140, 6. Beaver Local 114, 7. New Philadelphia 112, 8. East Liverpool 96, 9. John**

**Glenn 81, 10. Steubenville 71, 11. Steubenville Catholic Central 46, 12. Cambridge 41, 12. Barnesville 41, 14. Coshocton 38, 15. Philo 34, 16. Maysville 21, 17. Bishop Rosecrans 13, 18. Edison 11, 19. Indian Creek 10, 20. Zanesville 6, 21. Garaway 5, 21. Union Local 5, 22. Zanesville 2.**

**STEUDEVILLE** - Dover completed a sweep of the 2017 Eastern District Sectional swim meet with a girls win, topping runner-up Martins Ferry 546-305.5.

The Purple Riders were led by Alyssa Kalinski who won the 200 (2:02.10) and the 500 (5:28.27).

**Boys**  
**1. Dover 430, 2. New Philadelphia 266, 3. River View 203, 4. St. Clairsville 192, 5. Beaver Local 167, 6. Tri-Valley 152, 7. Martins Ferry 133, 8. Cambridge 111, 9. Steubenville Catholic 99, 10. John Glenn 93, 11. Edison 66, 12. West Muskingum 62, 13. Steubenville 59, 14. East Liverpool 31, 14. Toronto 31, 16. Zanesville 30, 17. Indian Creek 14, 18. Bishop Rosecrans 9, 19. Coshocton 8.**

On the boys side of the action, it was Dover defeating New Philadelphia 430-266.

Dover was led to victory by Cade Fuller and Patrick Tolloti.

Fuller claimed first in the 200 (1:52.89) and the 500 (5:09.96), while Tolloti won the 200 IM (2:01.82) and the 100 breaststroke (1:00.79).

**WRESTLING**  
**Class A Challenge**  
**ELLENBORO** - Madonna saw victories from Alex Cook (132) and Vince Pulice (138) on its way to winning the inaugural W.Va. Class A Challenge at Ritchie County High School.

Magnolia came in fifth with Caleb Nice winning at 195. Cory Chippis of Tyler Consolidated was the 285 champion.

# LINSLEY

Continued from page C1

Smith did them one better.

"We talked and we had to deny it or get a foul,"

shot to be taken, she is not afraid to take it. That is

basket, she lost control of the ball out of bounds.

on a lot of plays," Linsley coach Rebecca Upton said.

that wasn't where the game was won and lost."



said. "I told the girls if they're taking Haley out of the mix, what do you guys need to do? We just had to get it going and get some energy."

To ignite the energy, the Jets called upon a pressure defense that they didn't utilize in

## PARK

Continued from page C1

Lauren Schultz scored seven points in the early going as Wheeling Park opened on a 11-2 run. Parkersburg South never got closer than four.

"I didn't think we would build as big as a lead as we did but they wouldn't go away," Young said. "The press was definitely effective. I think the kids got a little bit tired but in a game like this, with all that excitement, there are so many emotions involved, that is going to happen. We may change our defense a tad, but we are still going to apply pressure."

When the defense is clicking for Wheeling Park, it is going to be tough beat. When the defense is clicking and Josie Daugherty is on fire, warm up the buses early.

Daugherty has been on a roll lately and Saturday was a stamp on what is a stellar career for the Patriots.

The senior sharpshooter hit eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points — both championship game records for any class — on her way to being named the John Howell Most Valuable Player.

"I didn't even know it was a record until they announced it," Daugherty said. "It feels like my hard work has really paid off. I have to give all the credit to God. He has put me here in this position."

"(Winning the OVAC title) means a lot because we haven't been here in a couple years. It has been a goal to at least be in this game, but to win it feels amazing. We were ready to play them and we knew what we had to do. We wanted this and we knew what it took to beat this team and we definitely showed up and played."

Daugherty hit five of her 3s in the third quarter, accounting for all her team's points.

Parkersburg South entered the fourth quarter down 19 and by as many as

22, and tried to get back in by sending Park to the foul line.

Not a good move. Wheeling Park was 13 of 18 from the line in the final eight minutes to seal a victory.

"Parkersburg South, I bet that was their worst free-throw shooting game of the year (9 of 16). They are 80 percent from the line," Young said. "A free-throw battle is not something we wanted to get into. But, yes, I am comfortable with our kids knocking down free throws at the end of the game. We struggled at the beginning of the year and it probably cost us the first Morgantown game, but now, I feel like I can put any five kids out there that can shoot well from the line."

Schultz and Kylie McKennen each scored 11 for Park. Schultz also added 10 rebounds.

Devin Hefner paced South with 22 points, followed by 15 from Alexis Moore and 14 from Allie Taylor.

**Boys' Basketball**  
Madonna 77, Magnolia 58  
WEIRTON — Joey Ewusiak poured in 29 points to lead Madonna.

Tavon Jeter complemented him with 15 points, while Tripp Moore added 13.

Loe Herrick paced the Eagles with 19 points, Jake Fruner turned in 14 and Tyler Williamson added 10.

**WVHIT**  
Valley 60, Buffalo 38  
CLARKSBURG — Dylan Irvin had 27 points, 26 rebounds and five blocked shots as Valley cruised past Buffalo.

Alex Midcap added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lumberjacks (10-9).

**Swimming**  
Girls  
1. Dover 546, 2. Martins Ferry 305.5, 3. Tri-Valley 240, 4. St. Clairsville 191.5, 5. River View 140, 6. Beaver Local 114, 7. New Philadelphia 112, 8. East Liverpool 96, 9. John

17 was complemented by Hannah's 16. Mackenzie McGary finished with eight.

St. Clairsville, which began the season 0-7 and finished the regular season with an 11-11 mark, was paced by Katie Bradshaw's 14.

Glenn 81, 10. Steubenville 71, 11. Steubenville Catholic Central 46, 12. Cambridge 41, 12. Barnesville 41, 14. Coshocton 38, 15. Philo 34, 16. Maysville 21, 17. Bishop Rosecrans 13, 18. Edison 11, 19. Indian Creek 10, 20. Zanesville 6, 21. Garway 5, 21. Union Local 5, 22. Zanesville 2.

**STEUBENVILLE** — Dover completed a sweep of the 2017 Eastern District Sectional swim meet with a girls win, topping runner-up Martins Ferry 546-305.5.

The Purple Riders were led by Alyssa Kalinski who won the 200 (2:02.10) and the 500 (5:28.27).

**Boys**  
1. Dover 430, 2. New Philadelphia 266, 3. River View 203, 4. St. Clairsville 192, 5. Beaver Local 167, 6. Tri-Valley 152, 7. Martins Ferry 133, 8. Cambridge 111, 9. Steubenville Catholic 99, 10. John Glenn 93, 11. Edlington 66, 12. West Muskingum 62, 13. Steubenville 59, 14. East Liverpool 31, 14. Toronto 31, 16. Zanesville 30, 17. Indian Creek 14, 18. Bishop Rosecrans 9, 19. Coshocton 8.

On the boys side of the action, it was Dover defeating New Philadelphia 430-266.

Dover was led to victory by Cade Fuller and Patrick Tolloti.

Fuller claimed first in the 200 (1:52.89) and the 500 (5:09.96), while Tolloti won the 200 IM (2:01.82) and the 100 breaststroke (1:00.79).

**WRESTLING**  
Class A Challenge  
ELLENBORO — Madonna saw victories from Alex Cook (132) and Vince Pulice (138) on its way to winning the inaugural W.Va. Class A Challenge at Ritchie County High School.

Magnolia came in fifth with Caleb Nice winning at 195. Cory Chipps of Tyler Consolidated was the 285 champion.

"I am really proud of this team," Valley coach Jeff Derby said. "We really started making some shots in the fourth quarter but we just ran out of time."

Senior Melanie Thomas provided the spark with seven points in the final frame for the Lumberjills, who were playing in their first OVAC championship game in school history, though Derby hopes there will be more to come.

"The future is looking bright for Valley basketball," Derby said. "We have a young group of kids and now we just have to focus on sectionals."

Valley's Sophie Palmer collected two free throws to start the game but then the Lumberjills went cold and Frontier delivered an 11-0 run, triggered by back-to-back 3-pointers from Lexi Brookover, which really gave it momentum.

"Our girls came out nervous in the first half and Brookover came out hitting," Derby said. "She is a really good ballplayer."

Brookover was named the inaugural winner of the John Howell MVP Award, given to the star of the game. En route to garnering the award, the senior amassed 17 points, drained a trio of 3-pointers and collected a team-high nine rebounds.

"Lexi has been our 3-

Photo by Cody Tomer  
Frontier's Tiffany Graham (1) dribbles against the defense of Valley's Sophie Palmer on Saturday.

point shooter for us all year," Frontier coach Scott Murphy said. "It was just icing on the cake for Lexi to get that first MVP. I thought it was cool because I didn't know they were going to hand that out."

"I am proud of her and that whole senior group. They are pretty special."

The seniors of Frontier have gathered OVAC titles in three of their four years with the program.

"This says a lot about our senior class and who they are," Murphy said. "They came in with the right attitude and it has never been about stats. It is all about wins with them. We are building a program that is trying to get to championships and wow, they have a lot to show for it."

The second quarter began with Frontier securing a 13-4 advantage and an 18-11 lead with 4:14 left in the half when the it recorded an 8-0 spurt to extend the lead to 26-11. Kylie Daugherty provided a basket with five seconds left in the first half to give her squad a 30-18 lead at the break.

The Cougars extended their lead in the third behind six points from Nikki Haught and a buzzer-beater from Brookover, who con-

tinued to shine on the game's biggest stage, giving Frontier a 44-27 lead at the end of the third.

In the fourth, Valley received 3-pointers from Caitlyn Underwood and Emma Ueltschy and three buckets from Thomas. All three players had been held scoreless until the final quarter.

"Melanie (Thomas) kept playing out there," Derby said of the senior. "Sophie Palmer, who always plays well, had a good game for us too, as well as Rachel Baker. I am just proud of all of our girls."

The Lumberjills connected on 9-for-19 from the free-throw line, while Frontier drilled 15 of 17.

Complementing Brookover's solid performance for Frontier was Daugherty who tallied 13 points and six rebounds, while Haught cashed in for 11 points and Samantha Morris added seven points, eight boards and four steals.

Baker recorded a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds, while Palmer turned in a team-high 17 points and four steals and Thomas garnered seven points and seven rebounds.

## CENTRAL

Continued from page C1

the defensive side of the ball, to complete the double-double.

Steubenville Catholic (14-6) took its only lead at 2-0 on a Samm Simmons bucket but the Knights answered with a 8-0 run. After a three-point play by the Crusaders late in the first, Gainer drained a trey to give her squad a 15-10 advantage going into the second.

Gainer recorded 12 of her 21 points in the opening quarter.

Wheeling Central jumped out to a 10-0 start to the second quarter sparked by Taylor Duplaga, who connected from beyond the arc.

The top-seeded Knights continued to extend the lead in the second as Hannah White and Duplaga each netted six points to take a 36-20 advantage at the half.

The Maroon Knights delivered two 6-0 runs during the third quarter with Gainer and Reinbeau each supplying eight to take a commanding 56-30 lead into the fourth, where the lead was not relinquished.

"We knew coming in that they would

be quick and tough," Crusaders coach Jess Looman said. "We knew that if we played good defense and hustled back down the court that we would be able to stay with them. Unfortunately, we had some spurts where we were unable to do that and they were able to beat us in transition a few times."

"They are a well-rounded team with good shooters and solid post players but I am really proud of my girls. They came out and fought hard."

Simmons provided a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Crusaders, while leading scorer Gabby Capaldi tallied 17 points and seven boards and Shayna Mirabella added eight points and four rebounds.

Following Gainer and Reinbeau on the scoresheet was Duplaga with nine points, White with eight and Kaitlyn Ferns with six.

"This season has been a lot of fun," Kurtz said. "When you have a group of kids that show up every day and work hard, it makes coaching pretty easy."

## LINSLEY

Continued from page C1

Smith did them one better.

The pass went into Allison and Smith tied her up and grabbed the ball. Possession arrow: Buckeye Trail.

Smith then drove the baseline and hit a jumper off the glass to give the Warriors a 43-42 lead with 11.8 seconds left.

"We talked and we had to deny it or get a foul," Coach Starr said. "We know we had to be extremely aggressive no matter what and just happened to make the right play."

"One thing we said about Hannah is that she is not afraid of the moment. If there is a big

shot to be taken, she is not afraid to take it. That is what we like. We are not always successful but our girls are aggressive, physical and play hard."

Linsley wasn't without its chances to win the game.

The Cadets raced down the court and Jazzie Orth had a good look at a layup, but the ball rolled off the front rim.

Lexe Starr was fouled and made 1 of 2.

Again, Linsley raced down the floor, but as Orth made a move to the

basket, she lost control of the ball out of bounds.

Smith was fouled, making 1 of 2 to make the score 45-42 and keep Linsley's hopes alive.

With 1.5 seconds left on the clock, Allison caught a deep pass, stepped back and fired a 3-pointer. The ball hit the side of the rim as Warriors players hugged in celebration of the school's first OVAC title since 2007 and first of the tournament era.

"I give them a ton of credit. They outfought us

on a lot of plays," Linsley coach Rebecca Upton said. "They came up with tips, rebounds. That is where the game was won and lost, those hustle plays. We had kids in the fight, we just weren't coming up with the loose balls."

"We looked like we were waiting for someone else to do it. Vivian took the team on her shoulder but that is a lot of responsibility for one kid. (The final shot) is exactly what we need to happen. There wasn't a lot of time and we had a good look, but

that wasn't where the game was won and lost."

Allison paced the Cadets with 24 points and eight rebounds and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Orth added 10 rebounds.

"She comes up with the big plays when we need them," Upton said of Allison. "She is a great player, great leader and I have been really, really lucky to have this season with her."

Starr and Hensley pitched in with 11 points for the Warriors.

**FULTON TIRE** Let our Family take care of your Family



**Fulton Tire Inc.**  
304.233.4166  
460 National Rd., Wheeling  
www.fultontirewv.com

**AFFORDABLE & RELIABLE COMFORT**



**GAL**  
Heating • Air Conditioning  
GeoThermal  
(740) 769-7709  
OH Lic. #24730 WV Lic. #025788

The new designer in comfort

**DROVER'S INN**  
Restaurant & Tavern

**JOIN US ON VALENTINES DAY**  
OPEN  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
5PM TO 10PM



1001 Washington Pike, Wellsburg  
Located 3 miles East off St. Rt. 27  
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED  
HOURS: Wed. thru Sat. 5PM - 11PM  
Sundays 12 Noon - 7PM

**304-737-0188**



**Robert "Bubba" Kapral**  
Executive Sports Editor

**Men's soccer, Olivier good fits at West Lib**

WEST LIBERTY — "If you are not getting better, you are getting worse." Those words were spoken by West Liberty co-athletic director and highly successful women's basketball coach Lynn Ullom. It is a statement I am in full agreement with.

Ullom's remark came on the heels of WLU President Stephen Greiner's announcement during a Wednesday press conference that the Route 88 institution was adding men's soccer as its 18th varsity sport. He subsequently announced that Marshall University assistant Thomas Olivier has been chosen to get the program off the ground as head coach.



A native of France, Olivier was the top assistant to legendary Marshall University coach Bobby Gray, spending the past eight seasons with the Thundering Herd after serving eight years as a coach with a youth club in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The move, as we see it, is a positive and progressive one. WLU brought women's soccer on board five years ago. Coach Barry Christmas has quickly turned the Hilltoppers into one of the top programs in the Mountain East Conference.

There is no reason to believe the men's soccer program cannot follow along the same timeline of success. The Hilltoppers will field a club team in the fall before moving to NCAA Division II varsity status in 2018, competing with a full Mountain East Conference schedule.

In essence, Olivier has a year-and-a-half to hit the ground running in the MEC. It will be time well spent on scouring the landscape for quality talent. Olivier's background should be beneficial when it comes to recruiting. Serving as a Marshall aide has enabled him to target the premier players in the tri-state area. He also has roots in Michigan.

He can also use Christmas's recruiting expertise as a template. The Hilltopper women's roster is stocked with players from West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, including three OVAC products. Christmas, however, has no geographic barriers in landing talent as he has a player from Australia and another from Canada on his team.

Soccer is a growing prep sport in the Ohio Valley. It will steadily yield more and more college soccer recruits in coming years. That bodes well for both West Liberty and Wheeling Jesuit.

Olivier is highly regarded in collegiate soccer circles. He enters his latest challenge fully confident he can deliver a competitive program early on. It will be no easy task. The MEC is a strong soccer conference. The MEC annually qualifies multiple teams to the NCAA Division II Tournament. The University of Charleston is the kingpin, advancing to the Final Four the past three seasons.

Olivier beat out more than 50 applicants for the WLU job. Only three were interviewed. That speaks volumes of his credentials.

"Players can go to other places around here and be a part of history. Or they can come here and make history," Olivier said at the press conference.

With his pedigree, personality and confidence, Olivier appears the right fit for a fledgling program. In October, West Liberty added Acrobatics & Tumbling as its 17th varsity sport. The two new sports will help increase enrollment.

OVAC WHEELING HOSPITAL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**UL defends 4A title**

**Jets soar by St. Clairsville**

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Winning the OVAC title once is special.

Going back-to-back is twice is nice. Union Local will certainly attest.

The Jets made it two conference titles in a row Saturday evening, capturing the Class 4A crown in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center thanks to a 50-36 victory over rival St. Clairsville.

"It feels good," Jets head coach Kelley Hanlon said.

Quite simply, Union Local played like a different team in the second half. After watching St. Clairsville take an 18-14 lead at halftime, Hanlon didn't go on any sort of tirade or scream at her team. The message was simple, but poignant.

"I just told the girls they had to pick it up," Hanlon said. "We didn't look like we were going after it in the first half and our shots weren't falling. The girls knew it, too."

They didn't just know it. The Jets did something about it. They came out on fire.

Union Local seized control of the game by outscoring the Devils, 23-6 in the third. Taking it a step further, the Jets opened the third quarter on an impressive 19-2 run that lasted nearly six minutes.

"St. Clairsville was really guarding Haley (Porter) hard in the first half, but our other girls weren't picking up the slack," Hanlon said. "I told the girls if they're taking Haley out of the mix, what do you guys need to do? We just had to get it going and get some energy."

To ignite the energy, the Jets called



Photo Provided

**UNION LOCAL'S** Allison Loase (31) drives to the basket as St. Clairsville's Raleigh Simpson applies pressure during the Class 4A final Saturday.

upon a pressure defense that they didn't utilize in the first half. It led to a couple of turnovers, which led to easy opportunities. Sophomore Hannah Porter played a big role in igniting the run, scoring seven in the third.

Her older sister, Haley, found the shooting touch in that period, too. After being limited to just five in the first half, which did land her on 1,000 points on her career, Porter scored 10 in the third,

including a deep trey. "They came out with the press and we kind of panicked against it," St. C. head coach Stacey Agnew said. "I thought we did a nice job on Porter (early), but she's a great player. I wish she was a senior, but she's not."

When the onslaught ended, the Jets owned a 37-24 lead at the final stop. From there, they just salted the game away.

See, **UL**, Page B3

**Trail rallies past Linsly in Class 3A**

By **JOSH STROPE**  
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — With an obvious height disadvantage, Buckeye Trail coach Chris Starr knew the way to beat Linsly was to just outthrustle the Cadets.

That's just what the Warriors did.

After the first half was firmly in favor of Linsly, Buckeye Trail played aggressive defense, got to every loose balls and made the shots when they mattered most in capturing the OVAC Class 3A championship with a 45-42 victory Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's been awhile since I almost cried after a game but I was very emotional and this is great for our girls," Starr said. "They wanted it so bad. We have two seniors (Lexie Starr and Karlye Hensley) that have been here during the bad times when our program really struggled and they come out of here with the OVAC title."

While Starr gave praise to his seniors, it was a junior in Hannah Smith that had the biggest impact for the Warriors (19-3).

Smith finished with 12 points to pace Buckeye Trail, but that only tells part of the story.

than a minute remaining. On Buckeye Trail's ensuing possession, Lexie Starr had her shot blocked by Linsly's Mary Bedway and despite the Warriors getting a rebound, a turnover gave the ball back to the Cadets with 37 seconds to go.

Buckeye Trail had only committed three fouls and if they couldn't get a steal, they were going to need to start fouling to get the Cadets into the one-and-one.

Smith did them one better. The pass went into Allison and Smith tied her up and grabbed the ball. Possession arrow: Buckeye Trail.

Smith then drove the baseline and hit a jumper off the glass to give the Warriors a 43-42 lead with 11.8 seconds left.

"We talked and we had to deny it or get a foul," Coach Starr said. "We knew we had to be extremely aggressive no matter what and just happened to make the right play."

"One thing we said about Hannah is that she is not afraid of the moment. If there is a big shot to be taken, she is not afraid to take it. That is what we like. We are not always successful but our girls are aggressive, physical and play hard."

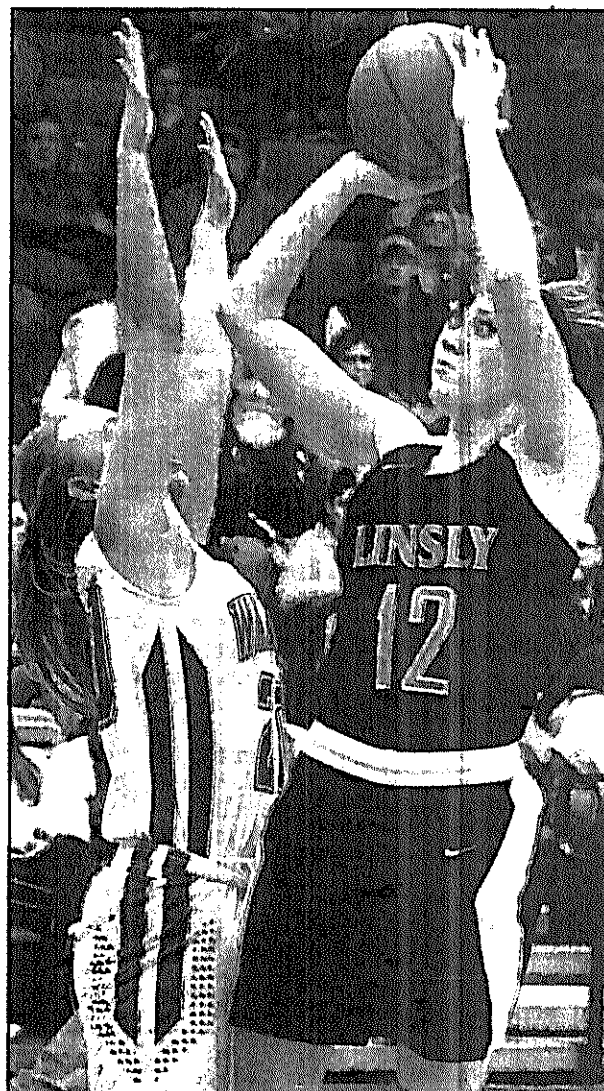


Photo Provided

**LINSLY'S VIVIAN** Allison (12) shoots over a Buck-



**Robert "Bubba"  
Kapral**  
Executive Sports Editor

## Men's soccer, Olivier good fits at West Lib

WEST LIBERTY — "If you are not getting better, you are getting worse."

Those words were spoken by West Liberty co-athletic director and highly successful women's basketball coach Lynn Ullom. It is a statement I am in full agreement with.

Ullom's remark came on the heels of WLU President Stephen Greiner's announcement during a Wednesday press conference that the Route 88 institution was adding men's soccer as its 18th varsity sport. He subsequently announced that Marshall University assistant Thomas Olivier has been chosen to get the program off the ground as head coach.

A native of France, Olivier was the top assistant to legendary Marshall University coach Bobby Gray, spending the past eight seasons with the Thundering Herd after serving eight years as a coach with a youth club in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The move, as we see it, is a positive and progressive one.

WLU brought women's soccer on board five years ago. Coach Barry Christmas has quickly turned the Hilltoppers into one of the top programs in the Mountain East Conference.

There is no reason to believe the men's soccer program cannot follow along the same timeline of success. The Hilltoppers will field a club team in the fall before moving to NCAA Division II varsity status in 2018, competing with a full Mountain East Conference schedule.

In essence, Olivier has a year-and-a-half to hit the ground running in the MEC. It will be time well spent on scouring the landscape for quality talent.

Olivier's background should be beneficial when it comes to recruiting. Serving as a Marshall aide has enabled him to target the premier players in the tri-state area. He also has roots in Michigan.

He can also use Christmas's recruiting expertise as a template. The Hilltopper women's roster is stocked with players from West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, including three OVAC products. Christmas, however, has no geographic barriers in landing talent as he has a player from Australia and another from Canada on his team.

Soccer is a growing prep sport in the Ohio Valley. It will steadily yield more and more college soccer recruits in coming years. That bodes well for both West Liberty and Wheeling Jesuit.

Olivier is highly regarded in collegiate soccer circles. He enters his latest challenge fully confident he can deliver a competitive program early on.

It will be no easy task. The MEC is a strong soccer conference. The MEC annually qualifies multiple teams to the NCAA Division II Tournament. The University of Charleston is the kingpin, advancing to the Final Four the past three seasons.

Olivier beat out more than 50 applicants for the WLU job. Only three were interviewed. That speaks volumes of his credentials.

"Players can go to other places around here and be a part of history. Or they can come here and make history," Olivier said at the press conference.

With his pedigree, personality and confidence, Olivier appears the right fit for a fledgling program.

In October, West Liberty added Acrobatics & Tumbling as its 17th varsity sport. The two new sports will help increase enrollment.

### HOLUBECK BLOOD DRIVE

GARRETT HOLUBECK was a three-sport standout during his prep days at St. John Central. The 2014 SJC is now waging a passionate fight for the state's best players.

## OVAC WHEELING HOSPITAL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

# UL defends 4A title

## • Jets soar by St. Clairsville

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Winning the OVAC title once is special.

Going back-to-back is twice is nice. Union Local will certainly attest.

The Jets made it two conference titles in a row Saturday evening, capturing the Class 4A crown in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center thanks to a 50-36 victory over rival St. Clairsville.

"It feels good," Jets head coach Kelley Hanlon said.

Quite simply, Union Local played like a different team in the second half. After watching St. Clairsville take an 18-14 lead at halftime, Hanlon didn't go on any sort of tirade or scream at her team. The message was simple, but poignant.

"I just told the girls they had to pick it up," Hanlon said. "We didn't look like we were going after it in the first half and our shots weren't falling. The girls knew it, too."

They didn't just know it. The Jets did something about it. They came out on fire.

Union Local seized control of the game by outscoring the Devils, 23-6 in the third. Taking it a step further, the Jets opened the third quarter on an impressive 19-2 run that lasted nearly six minutes.

"St. Clairsville was really guarding Haley (Porter) hard in the first half, but our other girls weren't picking up the slack," Hanlon said. "I told the girls if they're taking Haley out of the mix, what do you guys need to do? We just had to get it going and get some energy."

To ignite the energy, the Jets called



Photo Provided  
**UNION LOCAL'S** Allison Loase (31) drives to the basket as St. Clairsville's Rileigh Simpson applies pressure during the Class 4A final Saturday.

upon a pressure defense that they didn't utilize in the first half. It led to a couple of turnovers, which led to easy opportunities. Sophomore Hannah Porter played a big role in igniting the run, scoring seven in the third.

Her older sister, Haley, found the shooting touch in that period, too. After being limited to just five in the first half, which did land her on 1,000 points on her career, Porter scored 10 in the third,

including a deep trey. "They came out with the press and we kind of panicked against it," St. C. head coach Stacey Agnew said. "I thought we did a nice job on Porter (early), but she's a great player. I wish she was a senior, but she's not."

When the onslaught ended, the Jets owned a 37-24 lead at the final stop. From there, they just salted the game away.

See, **UL**, Page B3

## Trail rallies past Linsly in Class 3A

By **JOSH STROPE**  
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — With an obvious height disadvantage, Buckeye Trail coach Chris Starr knew the way to beat Linsly was to just outthrust the Cadets.

That's just what the Warriors did.

After the first half was firmly in favor of Linsly, Buckeye Trail played aggressive defense, got to every loose ball and made the shots when they mattered most in capturing the OVAC Class 3A championship with a 45-42 victory Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"It's been awhile since I almost cried after a game but I was very emotional and this is great for our girls," Starr said. "They wanted it so bad. We have two seniors (Lexie Starr and Karlye Hensley) that have been here during the bad times when our program really struggled and they come out of here with the OVAC title."

While Starr gave praise to his seniors, it was a junior in Hannah Smith that had the biggest impact for the Warriors (19-3).

Smith finished with 12 points to pace Buckeye Trail, but that only tells part of the story.

Linsly (16-6) took the lead at 42-41 off an inbounds play to Vivian Allison with a little more

than a minute remaining.

On Buckeye Trail's ensuing possession, Lexie Starr had her shot blocked by Linsly's Mary Bedway and despite the Warriors getting a rebound, a turnover gave the ball back to the Cadets with 37 seconds to go.

Buckeye Trail had only committed three fouls and if they couldn't get a steal, they were going to need to start fouling to get the Cadets into the one-and-one.

Smith did them one better. The pass went into Allison and Smith tied her up and grabbed the ball. Possession arrow: Buckeye Trail.

Smith then drove the baseline and hit a jumper off the glass to give the Warriors a 43-42 lead with 11.8 seconds left.

"We talked and we had to deny it or get a foul," Coach Starr said. "We knew we had to be extremely aggressive no matter what and just happened to make the right play."

"One thing we said about Hannah is that she is not afraid of the moment. If there is a big shot to be taken, she is not afraid to take it. That is what we like. We are not always successful but our girls are aggressive, physical and play hard."

Linsly wasn't without its chances to win the game.

See, **TRAIL**, Page B3

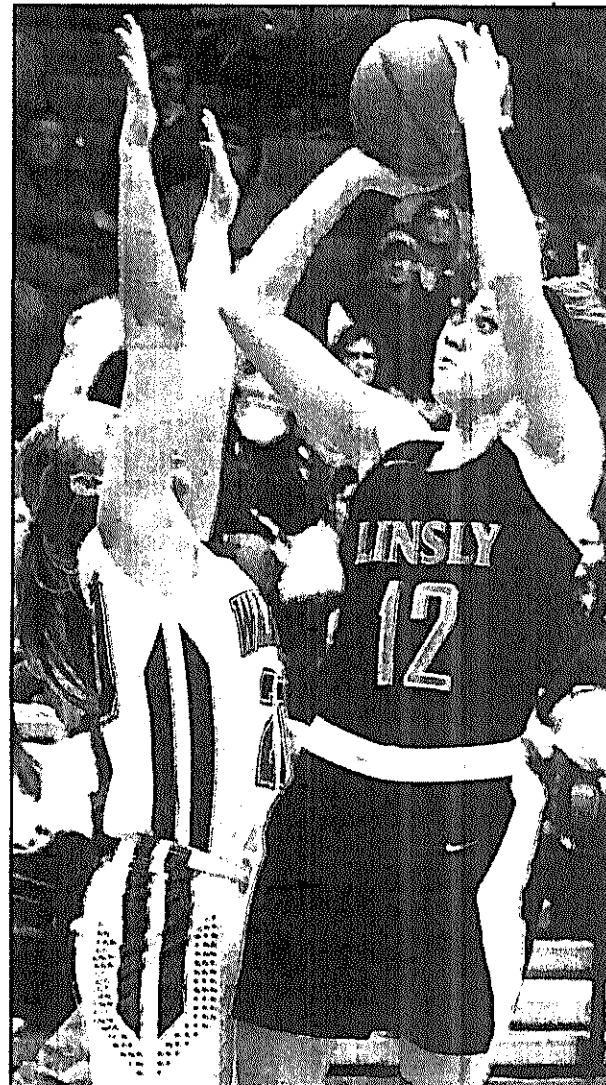


Photo Provided  
**LINSLY'S VIVIAN** Allison (12) shoots over a Buckeye Trail defender during Saturday's OVAC Wheeling Hospital Girls Basketball Championships. The Warriors won.

# Frontier defeats Valley in 1A

By CODY TOMER  
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — An outstanding fourth-quarter effort by Valley came up just short Saturday as top-seeded Frontier held on to claim the OVAC 1A Championship at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center by a final of 51-46.

Valley (16-6) found itself with a large deficit entering the fourth quarter, trailing 44-27.

It was looking like Frontier (16-6) was rolling to its third OVAC title in the last four years but the Lumberjills did not go away quietly. In fact, Valley outscored the Cougars 19-7 in the final eight minutes of the game but ran out of time to complete what would have been a miraculous comeback.

"I am really proud of this team," Valley coach Jeff Derby said. "We really started making some shots in the fourth quarter but we just ran out of time."

Senior Melanie Thomas provided the spark with seven points in the final frame for the Lumberjills, who were playing in their first OVAC championship game in school history, though Derby hopes there will be more to come.

"The future is looking



Photo Provided

**FRONTIER'S TIFFANY** Graham (1) dribbles the ball as Valley's Sophie Palmer defends during Saturday's OVAC Wheeling Hospital Class A championship game. The Cougars won, 51-46.

bright for Valley basketball," Derby said.

"We have a young group of kids and now we just have to focus on sectionals."

Valley's Sophie Palmer collected two free throws to start the game but then the Lumberjills went cold and Frontier delivered an 11-0 run, triggered by back-to-back 3-pointers from Lexi Brookover, which really gave it momentum.

"Our girls came out nervous in the first half and Brookover came out hitting," Derby said. "She is a really good ballplayer."

Brookover was named the inaugural winner of the John Howell MVP Award, given to the star of the game.

En route to garnering the award, the senior amassed 17 points, drained a trio of 3-pointers

and collected a team-high nine rebounds.

"Lexi has been our 3-point shooter for us all year," Frontier coach Scott Murphy said.

"It was just icing on the cake for Lexi to get that first MVP. I thought it was cool because I didn't know they were going to hand that out.

"I am proud of her and that whole senior group. They are pretty special."

The seniors of Frontier have gathered OVAC titles in three of their four years with the program.

"This says a lot about our senior class and who they are," Murphy said. "They came in with the right attitude and it has never been about stats. It is all about wins with them. We are building a program that is trying to get to championships and wow, they have a lot to show for it."

## • UL

Continued from Page B1

It was an extra special evening for Porter. The heart-and-soul of the Jets not only helped her team to another title and surpassed 1,000 points in her career. She was named the recipient of the inaugural John Howell MVP Award.

"I don't think she was pressing, but shots just weren't falling for her," Hanlon said. "At halftime, I congratulated her, but said, 'we'll celebrate later. We need to move on.' It's too bad the way it worked out

(in terms of the timing), but we'll make it up to her. And I am sure she's more excited about getting this win than anything for herself."

The Sisters Porter led Union Local. Haley's 17 was complemented by Hannah's 16. Mackenzie McGary finished with eight.

St. Clairsville, which began the season 0-7 and finished the regular season with an 11-11 mark, was paced by Katie Bradshaw's

14. Senior Sydney Freeman finished with nine points.

"Our girls have nothing to be ashamed of," Agnew said. "Where they came from to get to this game? They have nothing to hang their heads about. We'll just keep working hard and get ready for the tournament."

Union Local held a 39-27 edge on the glass. Kaitlyn Clark-Patterson and Sutherlynd Butler both had nine for the winners, while Bradshaw had six for St. C.

## • Trail

Continued from Page B1

The Cadets raced down the court and Jazzie Orth had a good look at a layup, but the ball rolled off the front rim.

Lexe Starr was fouled and made 1 of 2.

Again, Linsly raced down the floor, but as Orth made a move to the basket, she lost control of the ball out of bounds.

Smith was fouled, making 1 of 2 to make the score 45-42 and keep Linsly's hopes alive.

With 1.5 seconds left on the clock, Allison caught a deep pass, stepped back and fired a 3-pointer. The ball hit the side of the rim as Warriors players hugged in

celebration of the school's first OVAC title since 2007 and first of the tournament era.

"I give them a ton of credit. They outfought us on a lot of plays," Linsly coach Rebecca Upton said. "They came up with tips, rebounds. That is where the game was won and lost, those hustle plays. We had kids in the fight, we just weren't coming up with the loose balls."

"We looked like we were waiting for someone else to do it. Vivian took the team on her shoulder but that is a lot of responsibility for one kid. (The final shot) is exactly what we need to

happen. There wasn't a lot of time and we had a good look, but that wasn't where the game was won and lost."

Allison paced the Cadets with 24 points and eight rebounds and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Orth added 10 rebounds.

"She comes up with the big plays when we need them," Upton said of Allison.

"She is a great player, great leader and I have been really, really lucky to have this season with her."

Starr and Hensley pitched in with 11 points for the Warriors.

# Wheeling Central captures Class 2A crown over SCC

By CODY TOMER  
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The question of whether or not the Wheeling Central girls' basketball team could overcome the lack of experience playing in the OVAC 2-A Championship game has been answered.

The Maroon Knights sent a message early with a speedy defense that forced 22 turnovers and quickly transitioned them into points on the opposite side in a 65-44 rout of Steubenville Catholic Central at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday. It is Wheeling Central's 10th OVAC championship.

"We have a lot of speed," Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz said. "We have people who can finish at the basket. We practice everyday and work on our transition offense, especially against a tough team like that. They are tough in that zone and we wanted to try to get some easy shots."

To prove they were ready for the moment, freshmen Eden Gainer and Kaylee Reinbeau led the team with 21 and 14 points, respectively. Gainer was named the John Howell MVP of the game for her performance.

"It feels great," Gainer said. "Especially as a freshman to win OVACs. I have been trying to shoot at OUE to get my shot up and I think it helped."

"I love my teammates and my coach. They all inspire me to get better and hopefully we are able to win a state championship as well, but we have to keep getting better."

The Knights sit at 20-1 and the freshmen duo has been a key piece of that success.

"Gainer is a very quiet young lady but works hard and deserves everything that she gets," Kurtz said. "She has put in an effort to be better after struggling earlier in the year, which you expect from a freshman. The last couple of games she has really been knocking shots down."

"We rely on Kaylee (Reinbeau) a lot to clean up those defensive boards and get it out because she can lead to fast breaks too."

Reinbeau hauled in a game-high 16 rebounds, with 10 coming on the defensive side of the ball, to complete the double-double.

Steubenville Catholic (14-6) took its only lead at 2-0 on a Samm Simmons bucket but the Knights answered with a 8-0 run. After a three-point play by the Crusaders late in the first, Gainer drained a trey to give her squad a 15-10 advantage going into the second.

Gainer recorded 12 of her 21 points in the opening quarter.

Wheeling Central jumped out to a 10-0 start to the second quarter sparked by Taylor Duplaga, who connected from beyond the arc.

The top-seeded Knights continued to extend the lead in the second as Hannah White and Duplaga each netted six points to take a 36-20 advantage at the half.

The Maroon Knights delivered two 6-0 runs during the third quarter with Gainer and Reinbeau each supplying eight to take a commanding 56-30 lead into the fourth, where the lead was not relinquished.

"We knew coming in that they would be quick and tough," Crusaders coach Jess Looman said. "We knew that if we played good defense and hustled back down the court that we would be able to stay with them. Unfortunately, we had some spurts where we were unable to do that and they were able to beat us in transition a few times."

"They are a well-rounded team with good shooters and solid post players but I am really proud of my girls. They came out and fought hard."

Simmons provided a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Crusaders, while leading scorer Gabby Capaldi tallied 17 points and seven boards and Shayna Mirabella added eight points and four rebounds.

Following Gainer and Reinbeau on the scoresheet was Duplaga with nine points, White with eight and Kaitlyn Ferns with six.

"This season has been a lot of fun," Kurtz said. "When you have a group of kids that show up everyday and work hard, it makes coaching pretty easy."



Photo Provided

**WHEELING CENTRAL'S** Kaylee Reinbeau (20) drives down the lane between a pair of Steubenville Catholic Central defenders during Saturday's Class 2A final.

## • Nardo

Continued from Page B1

Anyone who's ever attended a Jets event, especially inside the high school, will usually find a bevy of students sitting with Nardo at the ticket table with her as she does her job.

"They like and sit and talk with me and they like to talk about what happened the next day at school," she said.

And, they enjoy having her watch their exploits on the court, mat, etc.

"They look for you in the crowd," Nardo said. "They like someone watching them."

One of Nardo's greatest joys is seeing UL athletes go on to achieve great success at the collegiate level.

"You look at someone like Colton McKivitz (playing football at West Virginia University)," she said. "Now, it's amazing, you watch him on TV and say 'hey, that's one of our kids!'"

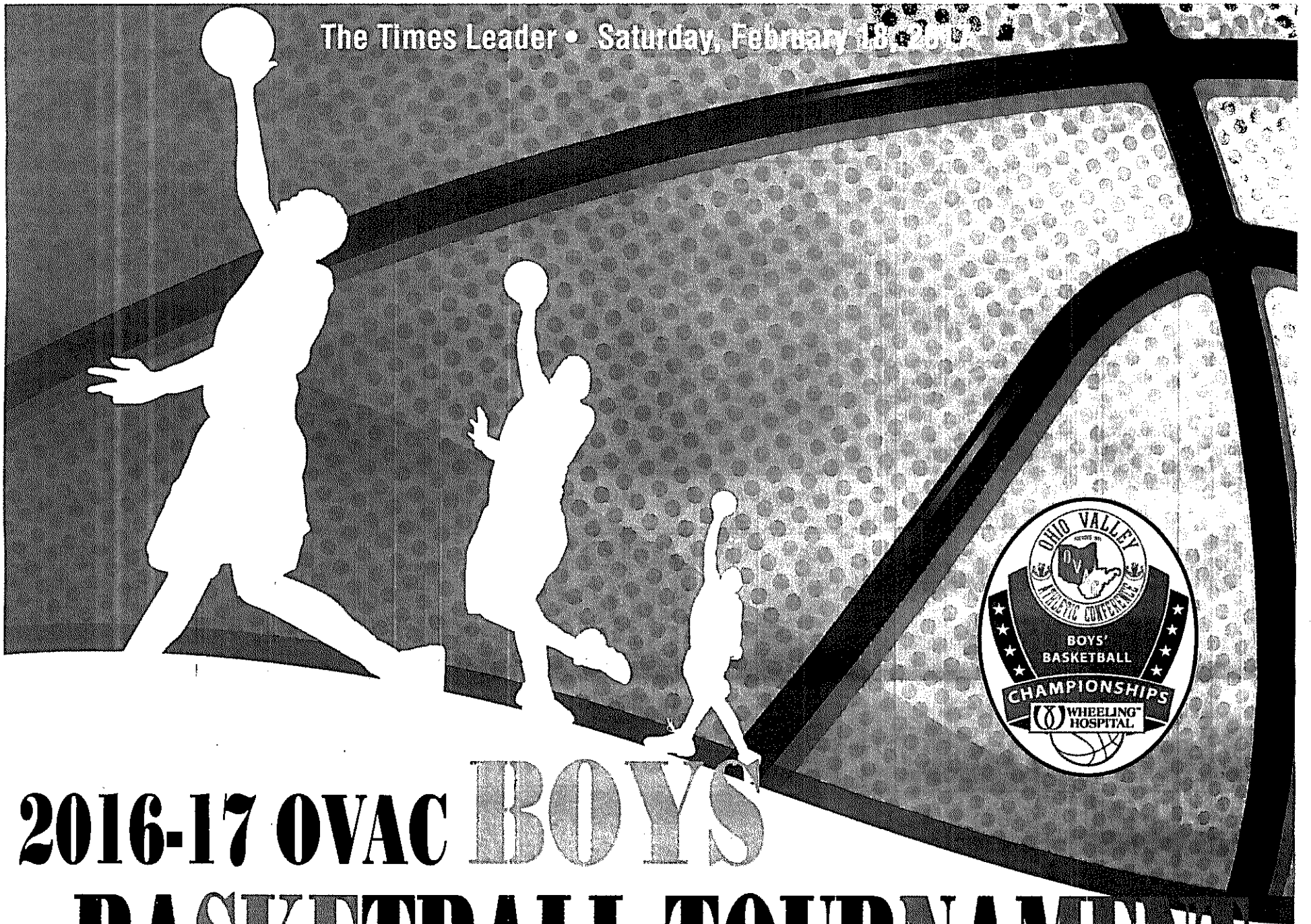
"I've seen a lot of great athletes come through here."

And Nardo is ready to see a lot more. "I like it that way," she said. "It keeps you busy ... keeps you young."

*If you know of someone in sports in the Ohio Valley whom I could feature as an Ohio Valley Unsung Hero, drop me a line at rthorp@timesleaderonline.com or via Twitter @RickThorp1*

Liberty Safe Dealer

## • Men's



# 2016-17 OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



**GOOD LUCK!**  
*From the Friendly Folks at...*



**Bellaire**  
676-1165

**St. Clairsville**  
695-0140

**Powhatan**  
795-4565

**Barnesville**  
425-1901

# Wellsville, Madonna vie for 1A title

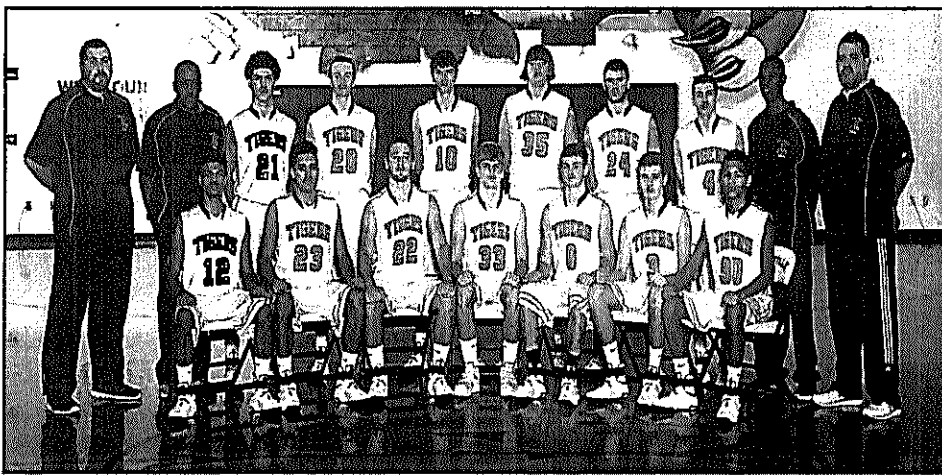
By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** - Experience will meet experience this morning when Wellsville and Madonna tangle for the Class 1A boys' basketball championship.

Nine senior starters will grace the court when action tips at 10 a.m. for the first of five title tilts in the annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

Both the Blue Dons (14-7) and Tigers (18-2) have redemption on their minds. Madonna has lost back-to-back championship games since winning crowns in 2011 and 12, while Wellsville hopes to atone for its loss to Wheeling Central in the 2014 Class 2A title game.

While avenging any sort of losses isn't on the top of any wish lists, Madonna head coach Chris Blair is pretty sure his players, especially his seniors would like to go out with an OVAC championship in tow.



**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Wellsville basketball team. The team consists of Jace Cartwright, Jake Green, Branzen Grodhaus, Ishmeil Heard, Justin Miller, Mikey Shope, Tristen Hinkle, Brandon Patterson, Matt Rawson, Garrett Scott, Darien Suggs and Justin Wright. The Tigers are coached by David Thompson.

Photo Provided

"Every year has its challenges and you set forth

your goals," he said. "We know we were able to make it the last two years and fell short, so I'm sure that, in their minds, they wanted to compete and play for a championship. We're hoping the outcome this time is a little bit different."

"This is a goal of ours every year. We're excited to be back."

Veteran Wellsville head coach David Thompson, too, is excited to be back.

"The kids are playing well," he said.

The Tigers have two losses - McDonald (19-1) the top-ranked team in Ohio Division IV, and Western Reserve.

"It's good competition up here," Thompson said.

Madonna, too, has played a rugged slate. Thompson is

quite aware of that and what the Blue Dons bring to the table.

"We've seen them in the summer," he said. "They have a good, scrappy team and they are well-coached. I remember when he played."

The Blue Dons are an image of their coach, and have been playing like it since he arrived on the bench. This season, it's been more of the same for Madonna, and that showed Tuesday night in their 69-60 semifinal victory against Bishop Donahue.

"That was the third time we played them," Blair said. "We know them pretty well."

"There were really good

See, 1A, Page 3

**Good Luck Weirton Madonna Blue Dons!**

**GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS**

From the Faculty, Staff & Students at St. Paul Catholic School

**Good Luck Blue Dons**

**WEIRTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
3174 Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 1  
Weirton, WV 26062  
(304) 748-7212  
www.weirtonchamber.com

**WEIRTON MOOSE LODGE 688**

**GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS!**

**GOOD LUCK BLUE DONS!**

**NAPA WEIRTON NAPA**

**Good Luck Blue Dons!**

**McCauslen**

Any Occasion Florist

382 Penco Road,  
Weirton, WV 26062

**304-748-4525**

Gary and Mary Lyons

**Championship Schedule**

**Class 1A - 10 a.m.**  
No. 1 Wellsville vs. No. 2 Madonna - Page 2

**Class 2A - 12:15 p.m.**  
No. 3 Wheeling CC vs. No. 4 Shadyside - Page 4

**Class 3A - 2:30 p.m.**  
No. 1 Martins Ferry vs. No. 3 Buckeye Trail - Page 6

**Class 4A - 4:45 p.m.**  
No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 2 Meadowbrook - Page 8

**Class 5A - 7 p.m.**  
No. 1 University vs. No. 2 Morgantown - Page 3

# Morgantown, University meet in 5A final

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – Dave Tallman Jr. and his Morgantown High hoop team experienced a dream season a year ago.

The Magnolia High product guided the Mohigans to the school's first-ever boys' state basketball crown. They also won the OVAC

5A championship. The icing on the cake was Tallman's crew doing it all in unbeaten style, fashioning a remarkable 27-0 season.

Morgantown is not unbeaten this winter. However, the Mohigans are enjoying another successful campaign, one in which includes a return trip to the OVAC finals tonight at

Ohio University Eastern.

Second-seeded Morgantown punched its ticket into the conference championship via a 78-58 win over Parkersburg South Tuesday night.

The Mohigans will be meeting intra-city rival University in their quest to repeat. The top-seeded Hawks blasted Beaver Local in their semi test by a

105-50 count.

Morgantown and University have split a pair of regular-season decisions, both winning on the road. The Hawks won the initial matchup, 54-50, before the Mohigans gained a measure of revenge, 59-54.

This year's OVAC championship matchup serves as a rematch to last year's finale – a 69-52

Morgantown triumph.

The Mohigans bring a 16-4 mark and No. 4 state rating into the title tilt while the Hawks are 16-4 and ranked No. 2 in the latest state poll.

Joe Schmidle guides the Hawks. He employs a pressuring defensive style while also utilizing a deep bench.

"I am very confident in

See, 5A, Page 9



## 1A

Continued from Page 2

players on both sides of the ball and I felt our defense and our defensive intensity was the difference. Our guys were able to handle it and we found our guys open on the blocks late in the game.

"Both teams played really hard and we're excited to be moving on to the finals."

The Blue Dons boast a pair of 1,000-point scorers in their starting lineup – seniors Joey Ewusiak (6-1) and Tavon Jeter (6-1). Ewusiak is averaging 20 points and nine boards per game, while Jeter is averaging 9 points and nearly eight caroms per outing.

Chase DiBartolomeo (5-10), another senior, is Madonna's point guard, while senior Jimmy Mazzone (5-11) is the shooting guard. Dustin Brown (6-0), also a senior, serves as a power forward.

"This a close-knit group that's played together for a long time," Blair said. "We're hoping to send them out as OVAC champs."

Key reserves are seniors Justin Canei (6-7) and Hunter Payne (5-10), along with juniors Angelo Gurrera (5-9) and Trip Moore (6-1).

"Last year, we pretty much had one senior and, this year, everyone is back," Blair noted.



Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Madonna Blue Dons basketball team. The team consists of Joey Ewusiak, Tavon Jeter, Jimmy Mazzone, Dustin Brown, Chase DiBartolomeo, Justin Canei, Hunter Payne, Tim Seech, Trip Moore, Angelo Gurrera, Giovanni Lenhart, Gavin Dietrich and Dom Mazur. The team is coached by head coach Chris Blair.

"Over the last half of the season we've really come into our own and we're playing our best basketball. Every season you go through your ups and downs, but our kids have been outstanding and have given maximum effort. You can't ask for much more than that."

Blair doesn't believe having more OVAC finals experience will play a role vs. the Tigers. He does believe, though, the OVAC event itself provides quality prep for the postseason.

"It helps you get ready," Blair said. "It will give you confidence, if you're playing well."

"It's a very good display of the talent here in the valley."

As for Wellsville, Blair simply knows the Tigers are loaded.

"They like to get up and down and play quick and space teams out," he said. "It's a big challenge for us."

Wellsville routed Trinity, 72-44, in their semifinal.

"I feel we are playing

better defense right now," Thompson said. "And, going into the (state) tournament, you have to play good defense."

The Tigers were ineligible for the OVAC Tournament last season because they didn't play enough conference games.

"So, when they saw they were eligible this season the players started talking about getting back to the title game and advancing to the state tournament," Thompson said.

"These guys have been

playing together all their lives and they seem to be playing together really well."

Thompson lauded his players' ability to share the wealth and it shows in the stats as all of his starting five is averaging double figures in points.

Justin Miller, a 6-3 senior point guard, leads the way, averaging about 22 points a game. Michael Shope, a 6-1 senior, records about 14 ppg, while Jake Green, a 6-1 senior records about 13 ppg. Branzon Grodhaus, a 6-1 senior, and Garrett Scott, a 5-8 sopho-

more, score about 10 ppg.

Key reserves include senior Jace Cartwright (6-0) and junior Brandon Patterson (6-0).

"They can all get to the basket and handle the ball well," Thompson said. "We like to get after it."

Blair thinks the game will come down to who can make stops.

"I think defense will be the key," he said. "We we good defense, we have a shot. I'm positive we can score, it's going to come down to who can stop who."

**GOOD LUCK  
WELLSVILLE  
TIGERS!**

**GOOD LUCK  
TIGERS!**

*From The Faculty, Staff  
& Students of  
Wellsville High School!*

# Central, Shadyside to meet again

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – As it pertains to today's OVAC Class 2A championship game, there will be no secrets. After all, Wheeling

Central and Shadyside are quite familiar with one another. That's what happens when you're embarking on the third matchup of the season.

Though it's the third matchup – with the  
See, 2A, Page 5

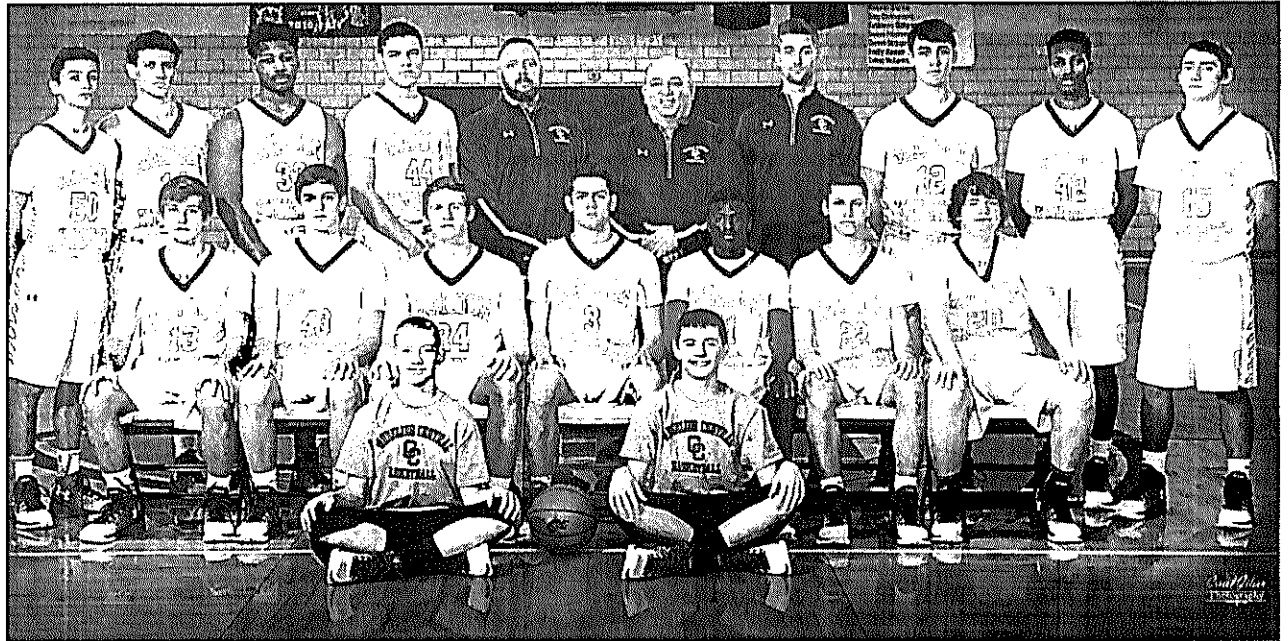


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Wheeling Central basketball team. In front, from left, are Jordan Waterhouse and J.C. Maxwell. Seated, from left, are Adam Jarrett, Jacob Pleva, Gabe Rohmann, John Burkhalter, Jaquan Jackson, Trey Mueller and James Fillipovich. Standing, from left, are Ian Georges, Jimmy Zecca, Brent Price, Cedric Williams, Coach Chip Calissie, head coach Mel Stephens, assistant coach Tyler Morando, Owen Gainer, Bray Price and Blake Peluchette.

## GOOD LUCK SHADYSIDE TIGERS!



**MISS SYD'S PRESCHOOL/ DAYCARE**  
Starting at 2 Years -  
Before & After Daycare  
Available  
**GOOD LUCK TIGERS!**  
455 East 39th St., Shadyside  
**671-9646**  
Kathy Lay-Cyrus

**GOOD LUCK TIGERS!**

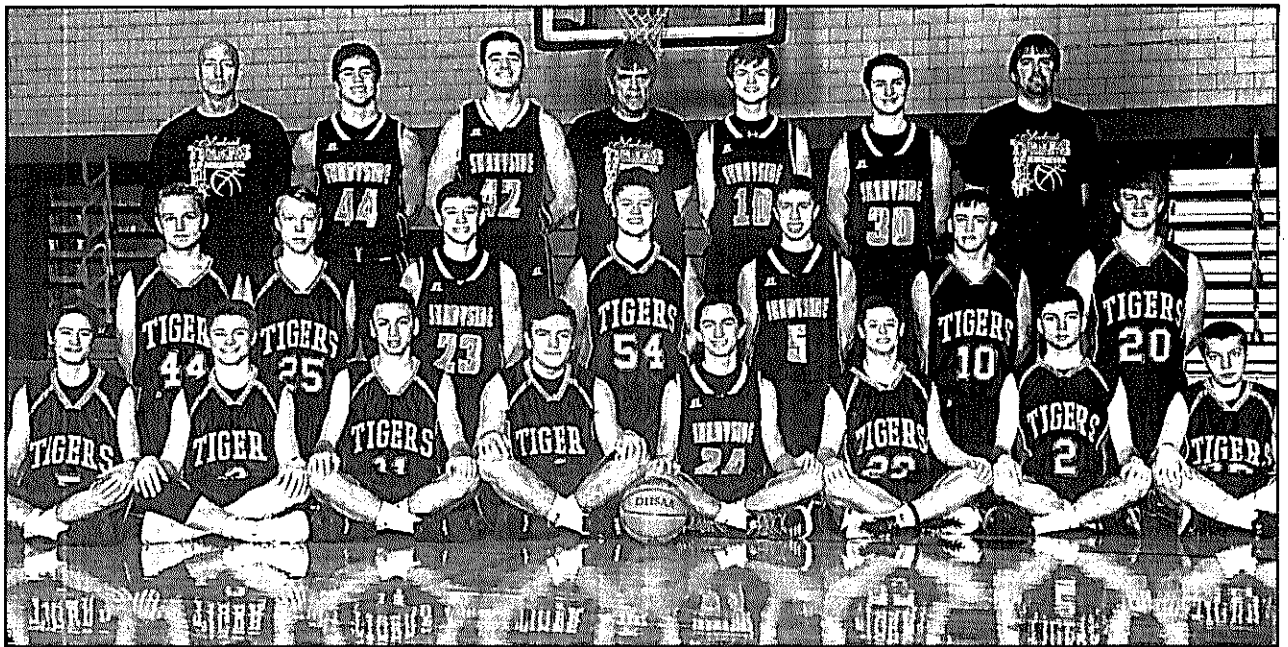


**BAUKNECHT  
ALTMAYER**

FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY  
441 37th St., Bellaire, OH • (740) 676-1611  
3900 Central Ave., Shadyside, OH • (740) 676-4310  
186 Main St., Powhatan Point, OH • (740) 795-5451

**CAREER  
strategy** ↗  
**CONSULTANTS**

"Let us introduce you to your future"  
**740-325-1151**  
[www.careerstrategyinc.com](http://www.careerstrategyinc.com)  
**GOOD LUCK TIGERS!**



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Shadyside Tigers basketball team. Front row, from left, are Frank Ripoly, Quinn Berletch, Nick Murphy, Timmy Kosek, Anthony Coggins, Collin Holmes, Shane Gust and Douglas Renshaw. Middle row, from left, are Tanner Crozier, Jacob Wharry, Kelly Hendershot, Robbie McFarland, Josh Zandron, Jakob Klug and Bryce Tiger. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Mike Schlanz, Alex Krupa, Chase Wade, head coach Ed Andes, Colby Sherwood, Austin Carroll and assistant coach Jared Andes. Absent was Shane McDonough.



2A

Continued from Page 4

Maroon Knights winning the previous two by decisive margins – the stakes are much higher this time around with the conference title is on the line.

“We’re just going to go out, hopefully play well and then hope for the best,” Shadyside head coach Ed Andes said. “It’s a great opportunity for our kids. We’re playing a really good team.”

You could make the argument that Shadyside (12-9) is playing with house money in this game. After all, the Tigers were the fourth seed and went on the road to beat top-seeded Toronto in the semifinals. They’ve not been overly competitive against the Knights this season, losing by more than 20 in the opening game and then 78-45 some 10 days ago in Wheeling.

“For us to be in this (championship) game, it’s a little bit surprising,” Andes explained. “We had no starters back from last year, but the kids have performed

well. I am happy for them that they’ve gotten to this point. The OVAC does a great job with the event and we’re excited.”

Wheeling Central, meanwhile, is 19-2 on the season and took down second-seeded River in the semifinals earlier this week in Hannibal.

“That was a big win for us,” Central head coach Mel Stephens said of the victory against the Pilots. “You have to get that one before you can get to the championship game, so that was the first step and it came against a really good team.”

The tournament experience advantage certainly lies with the Maroon Knights. They’re taking part in their fifth straight conference title game and have been consistent members of the West Virginia State Tournament field, too. The Tigers, meanwhile, haven’t played for an OVAC title since 2010.

“We’re just treating it like another away game,” Andes said. “Obviously,

it’ll have a little bigger atmosphere.”

Central hasn’t only played the previous four conference title games. It has prevailed in those, too. All told, the Knights have claimed 24 conference banners, including seven under the current tournament for-

mat.

“Our tradition has a lot to do with it, I think,” Stephens said. “Even before the current format, the OVAC has always been a goal of ours. We’ve been fortunate to get into the top four and then win two good games over good teams to

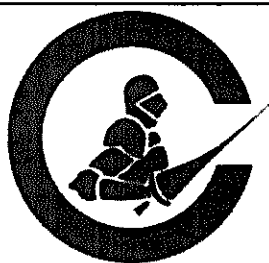
win a championship. We always feel like if we’re able to get into the top four, we’ll have a chance because of the schedule we play (during the season).”

Stephens really couldn’t pinpoint one area where his team has been able to really exploit an advantage against

the Tigers.

“I don’t think it’s one area ... we were fortunate and played really well, especially in the last game with them,” Stephens said. “The first game was close for three quarters and then we kind of made a run to

See, 2A, Page 9



# GOOD LUCK WHEELING CENTRAL CATHOLIC MAROON KNIGHTS!

**WARWOOD ARMATURE REPAIR COMPANY**  
Sales & Service of Electric Motors  
Serving Mines, Mills & Industrial Accounts in the Ohio Valley Since 1927  
N. Seventh & Hazlett Ave., Wheeling, WV  
Phone: (304) 277-2550  
Fax: 277-2917

**Wheeling Flower Shop**  
Flowers for all occasions!  
2125 Market St., Wheeling, WV  
**304-233-3320**

**CARNEY & SLOAN INC.**  
Food Service Equipment & Supplies, Sales, & Service  
518 Main St., Wheeling  
**(304) 233-5000**  
carneyandsloan.com

**Good Luck Wheeling Central WHEELING RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
51 16th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003  
**304-234-3641**

Good Luck Shadyside Tigers!

**BELMONT CAREER CENTER**  
68090 Hammond Rd., St. Clairsville, OH  
740-695-9130

**HARRISON CAREER CENTER**  
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH  
740-942-2148  
www.BHCCenters.com

*“Want Career Success? Get Career Skills!”*

free estimates... all types of roofs... gutters & more

**JONES ROOFING**  
304.242.1818 | 304.233.7394  
*“The name that’s been serving the valley since 1957”*

**R&V EMBROIDERY & SCREENPRINTING**  
303 Warwood Avenue  
Wheeling, WV  
304-277-4120

Let's Go! **MAROON KNIGHTS**

# GOOD LUCK!!!

Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights

From CCHS Athletic Department



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Martins Ferry basketball team. Front row, from left, are Micade Masters, Darius Ray, Zac Selby and Shane Schuster, Second row, from left, are assistant coach Mike Beck, Logan Selby, Jack Davis, head coach Derek Edwards, Darrell Price, Javon Garriel and assistant coach Ron Hill. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Kim Appoloni, Shaun Jeter, Logan Powell, Deandre Pugh, Justin Geery, Demetrius Dokes, Troy Wise, Trent Rice, Donovan Shrodes, Marcus Clark and assistant coach Dave Edwards. In back is assistant coach Mikale Roby.



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Buckeye Trail basketball team. The team consists of Jacob Doudna, Justin Jones, C.J. McCall, Troy Pontius, Trey Dougherty, Keyshawn Murphy, Chandley Hixson, Levi Douglass, Logan McVicker, Branden Barnett, Dylan Beaver and Zach Grafton. The Warriors are coached by Gary Chumney.

# Ferry, Trail to battle for 3A championship

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – Both Martins Ferry and Buckeye Trail have high expectations for the Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball tournament that begins in just a few weeks.

However, before any attention shifts to that tournament, the Purple Riders and Warriors are focused on the current pennant chase.

Top-seeded Martins Ferry and third-seeded Buckeye Trail will meet today at 2:30 p.m. for the OVAC championship in Class 3A as part of the day-long Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

"We're excited and honored to be a part of this game," first-year Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards said. "Being in this game means a lot to our program, school and athletic department."

The Purple Riders (19-2) are making their debut in the title game, which is hard to believe when you consider the Purple Riders have been to three regional tournaments in recent memory.

"We've had some talented teams in recent memory and made some nice runs in the tournament," Edwards said. "We're looking forward to the opportunity we have in front of us."

Today's trip to OUE appeared to be a foregone conclusion Tuesday evening when the Riders owned what appeared to be a commanding 14-point lead entering the fourth quarter. However, a few missed foul shots, turnovers and Linsly buckets later, the game was headed for overtime where the Riders pulled out a 58-55 victory.

"I liked a lot of the things we did for three-and-a-half quarters," Edwards said. "We ran great offense the entire game and took what the defense was giving us, but down the stretch, we didn't execute very well and Linsly came back like a

good team will. But, I am very proud of how the guys kept playing and were able to close out the game."

It's the second straight game where similar things happened for the Riders. At River, last Friday, the Purple Riders squandered a six-point lead in less than a minute and eventually lost in overtime.

"There is always something you need to work on, especially toward the end of the season and (finishing games) is one area where we need to improve," Edwards explained. "I still love the way we're playing going into this game and the tournament, but we do need to improve if we're going to accomplish all of our goals."

Meanwhile, Buckeye Trail, which also needed OT to advance, was able to exact some revenge in its semifinal. The Warriors (16-5) took down Fort Frye, which had swept Trail during the pre-OVAC portion of the regular season, 68-66.

See, 3A, Page 7

## GOOD LUCK BUCKEYE TRAIL WARRIORS

**LINGO HARDWARE**  
Quaker City, OH  
740-679-2524  
**GOOD LUCK WARRIORS!**

*Good Luck Warriors*  
**THORN-BLACK**  
Funeral Homes, Inc.  
Serving Guernsey County for Over 75 Years  
Cambridge 740-439-1365  
Quaker City 740-679-2691

**DANDY DON'S MARKET**  
195 Pike St.,  
Quaker City, OH  
740-679-2412  
**GOOD LUCK WARRIORS**

**BROWN HOUSE PIZZA**  
219 Pike Street  
Quaker City, OH  
740-679-9801  
OPEN 11:00AM-9:00PM  
**GOOD LUCK WARRIORS!**

**THE BEAR'S DEN STEAKHOUSE**  
  
• hand-cut steaks • burgers  
• ribs • chicken  
• seafood • and much, much more!  
• all natural grain-fed beef, proprietor raised  
St. Rt. 40 E. between Cambridge & Old Washington  
Open Tues. - Sat. at 11:00am • www.thebearsdensteakhouse.com  
740-432-5285  

**A**

Continued from Page 6

"(Beating Fort Frye) was a nice step for us," rookie head coach Gary Chumney said. "They've been the best of our league (the 7C) for a long time and it's the kind of program we've wanted to get to at this point."

Though the win against the Cadets was one the Warriors had been longing for, Chumney hasn't had trouble in getting his team focused as it prepares for the talented Riders' squad.

"This team is focused and we're well aware of what good Martins Ferry is," Chumney said. "They're a very experienced team with eight seniors. They're very well rounded. They beat Sublet and they're ranked 11th in the state, which tells me they're no joke."

On top of getting past the Cadets, Trail is also looking to go out on top. With it set to join the Inter-Valley Conference next school year, Trail will no longer

take part in the OVAC tournament.

"The OVAC's always been a part of Trail's history," Chumney said. "I was on two OVAC-winning teams when I was in high school, so it definitely means a lot to me personally. Plus, it means a lot to our guys after watching our girls win last weekend. We're going to go down and give it our best shot."

Both the Riders and Warriors like to hang their hat on the defensive end of the floor. Trail employs more of a full-court pressure approach, while the Riders buckle down in the halfcourt.

"Speed is one of our strengths, so we like to let the guys get out and use that," Chumney said. "There have been some games where we've struggled offensively, but our defense has been able to keep us in it. We got some big stops when we needed them (at Fort Frye) the other night."

The Purple, meanwhile,

is allowing just over 40 points a game.

"We're a fantastic half-court team, defensively," Edwards noted. "At this point (in the season), it's vital to continue to be that way if you're going to win and keep playing. We still

have things to clean up and improve on, but I like where we are."

When he began preparing for the Warriors, two players really stood out for Edwards. Those are senior post Jacob Doudna (6-6) and Troy Pontius, who

plays on the perimeter. They average 12 and 13.5 points per game, respectively.

"(Pontius) is a talented guard who can take it 90 feet on you in a hurry," Edwards said. "Doudna, inside, is a handful. We're


going to have to keep them out of the paint and limit them to one shot per possession."

Other members of the Warriors' starting five are C.J. McCall, who is coming off a 20-point outburst

See, 3A, Page 8

# GOOD LUCK MARTINS FERRY PURPLE RIDERS!

**Defend Till The End!**  
**GOOD LUCK DARIUS!**



Love, Your Family & Friends

**Belmont County District Library**  
20 James Wright Place,  
Martins Ferry, Ohio  
**Good Luck Purple Riders!**  
**633-0314**  
Visit Our Web Site At:  
bcdlibrary.org

**Good Luck Purple Riders in the OVAC Finals!**  
From  
**Keith Sommer**

**JACOB AND SONS**  
WHOLESALE MEATS  
**Good Luck Purple Riders!**  
306 Center Street,  
Martins Ferry, OH  
**(740) 633-3091**  
www.jacobandsonsqualitymeats.com

**GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS!**

**Colerain IGA**

Rt. 250,  
Colerain, OH  
**740-635-3770**

**GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS! MIKE'S AUTO CENTER**  
Tire & Automotive Care  
714 N Lincoln Ave.,  
Bridgeport, OH  
**740-633-1916**

**GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS!**

**DEFEND & DOMINATE**

**BRING HOME THE 3A OVAC CHAMPIONSHIP!**

**LOVE YOUR BIGGEST FANS MARTINS FERRY BASKETBALL PARENTS**

**Affordable HUD Housing**  
• Free Utilities  
• 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Units  
APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

**MARTINS FERRY**  
(740) 633-1203 tty (800) 750-0750  
www.jayceemanor.com

*Good Luck Martins Ferry Purple Riders!*



**BELMONT CAREER CENTER**  
68090 Hammond Rd., St. Clairsville, OH  
**740-695-9130**

**HARRISON CAREER CENTER**  
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, OH  
**740-942-2148**  
www.BHCcenters.com

*"Want Career Success? Get Career Skills!"*

# Steubenville, Meadowbrook clash in 4A

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Steubenville and Meadowbrook are no strangers when it comes to boys basketball. They met earlier this season in Steubenville with the Big Red prevailing, 83-79, on Jan. 7.

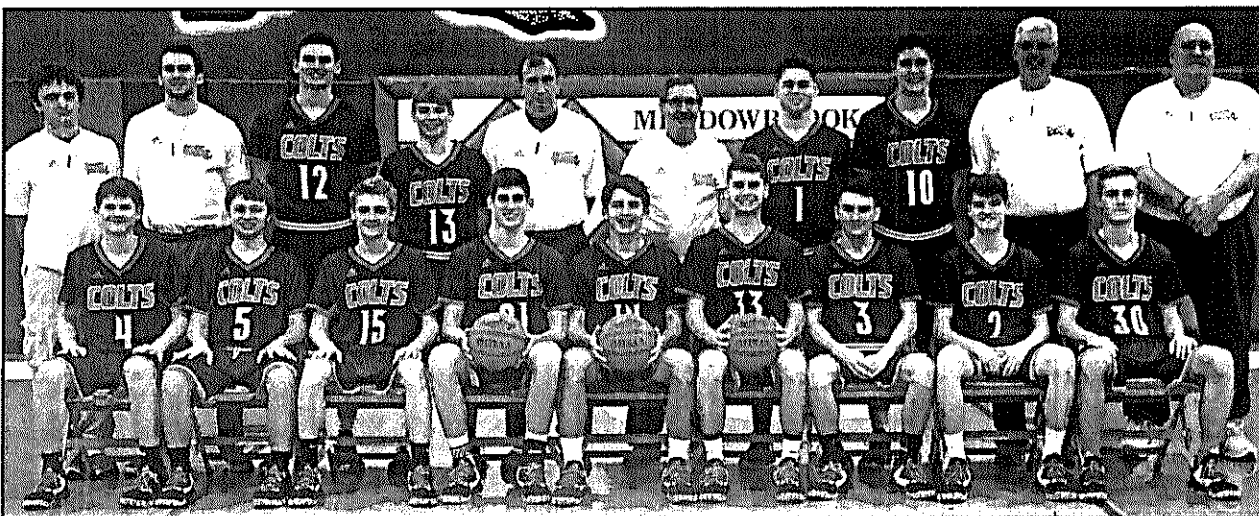
The two schools are no strangers to the OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Class 4A Championships either. Steubenville (16-4), this year's No. 1 seed, finished as runnerups in 2013 before claiming the crown a season later. The second-seeded Colts (18-3), meanwhile, are the defending champions, having defeated St. Clairsville, 65-52, a year ago. They also won a title in 1987.

They will meet again today for the Class 4A championship at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. Tip-off is set for 4:45 p.m. Big Red advanced with a 90-56 rout of No. 4 Buckeye Local, while the Colts won 74-49

over third-seeded Edison. "We're a different team than we were early in the season," first-year Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "We've changed throughout the season. We lost two starters due to various reasons midway through the season, but the kids have done an amazing job of re-inventing themselves without even blinking."

"We've evolved into being that explosive, high-scoring team that shoots the ball extremely, extremely well," Tolzda, who has coaching stops at River, Beallsville and Monroe Central on his resume, added. "We shoot nearly 50 percent from the field and 79 percent from the free-throw stripe. We also handle the ball very well."

All five starters score in double figures for Meadowbrook, led by 6-3 senior forward/center Parker Black at 14 points a game. Classmates Konnor Roberts (5-11 guard/forward), Justin Cork (6-3 forward/center) and Logan Wolverton (5-7 guard) also net more than



PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Meadowbrook basketball team. Front row, from left, are Dalton Wood, Alec Bell Peyton Neff, Davis Black, Bobby Feyko, Easton Black, Trey Singleton, Dylan Webster and Will Ford. Back row, from left, are manager Conner Diaz, assistant coach Teryn Jarrett, Parker Black, Logan Wolverton, head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda, coach Dan Schwieterman, Konnor Roberts, Justin Cork, coach Woody Biggs and coach Mel Pesuit.

10 points a game, along with 5-10 junior guard Trey Singleton.

Tolzda, who led Beallsville to the 2012 title game, thinks the bigger court at OUE will help his team.

"For some reason, we seem to play better on the road than we do at home," Tolzda admitted. "I don't

know why, but that's the way it's been. The bigger floor might also allow us to spread them out a little more."

Tolzda had nothing but praise for his opponent.

"I learned that they are unbelievably athletic. They want to play the game the way we do, up-and-down the floor," he said. "I also

learned that you have to have a Plan A and a Plan B for them, and you'll probably use both."

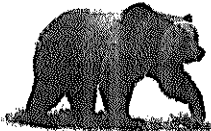
Steubenville, which has 13 overall boys basketball championships, has won six of its last seven outings after starting out 1-2.

"We always want to be playing our best basketball at the end of the season, and

I think we're doing that right now," Steubenville head coach Mike Haney said. "We had a little spell there against Martins Ferry when we didn't play very well but that was because of Ferris' play. Overall though, I think we're playing well."

See, 4A, Page 9

## GOOD LUCK MEADOWBROOK COLTS!!





**THE BEAR'S DEN  
STEAKHOUSE**

- hand-cut steaks • burgers
- ribs • chicken
- seafood • and much, much more!
- all natural grain-fed beef, proprietor raised

St. Rt. 40 E. between Cambridge & Old Washington  
Open Tues. - Sat. at 11:00am • [www.thebearsdensteakhouse.com](http://www.thebearsdensteakhouse.com)

740-432-5285

## 3A

Continued from Page 7

against the Fort, sophomore Zach Grafton and Trey Dougherty, who is Trail's top defender. McCall averages 13.5 points a game, while Grafton adds 10. Brandon Barnett, Justin Jones and Dylan Beaver round out the Warriors' rotation.



**STONEY'S  
T.V.**

**Sales • Service • Parts**

11510 East Pike Rd., Cambridge, OH  
1-866-682-0753

"We've had basically a different leading scorer almost every game," Chumney said. "We really have six guys we can count on on any given night. Being balanced has made us tougher to defend."

The Purple Riders have been extremely balanced, too.

The inside-outside combination of seniors Zac Selby and Darius Ray lead the way. Selby checks in at 15 points and nine rebounds per game, while Ray is the team's leading scorer at 17 points a night.

Senior Jack Davis has

been a solid contributor as well, scoring 11 points a game.

In the backcourt, seniors Shane Schuster and Javon Garriel reside. Schuster averages nearly seven points a game and is the Riders' "lock-down defender" according to his head coach. Garriel is also a solid defender and he "manages the offense."

Off the bench, the Riders utilize Micade Masters, who has had some big games, and Darrell Price. Logan Selby provides depth on the interior.

**5A**

Continued from Page 3

my kids coming off the bench," Schmidle said. "We have kids coming off the bench who could start for most teams."

Morgantown's success is somewhat surprising. Tallman graduated four starters. All four are playing on the collegiate level.

"I don't think many people expected us to be 16-4 this year after the people we lost and the schedule we have played. We graduated most of our scoring," Tallman said. "We lost four games at the free throw line. We have played seven games in 11 days against good competition. We have really challenged the kids and it has really helped us." Senior Nicky Solomon is

the lone returning Mohigan starter, and a very good one. The 6 ft. point guard leads the team in scoring (20 ppg.) and rebounds (6 rpg).

Torin Hanson is another starter at guard. The 6-1 senior is the team's second leading scorer (16.0 ppg.) and is coming off a 32-point explosion in the semifinals.

Hard-working Deon Agnew starts in the front-court. The 6-3 forward, who has a slew of relatives in the Ohio Valley, is a deadly three-point shooter while also being a defensive enforcer.

Promising Nick Malone is the man the middle for the Mohigans. He is a 6-6 sophomore who has steadily

See, 5A, Page 10

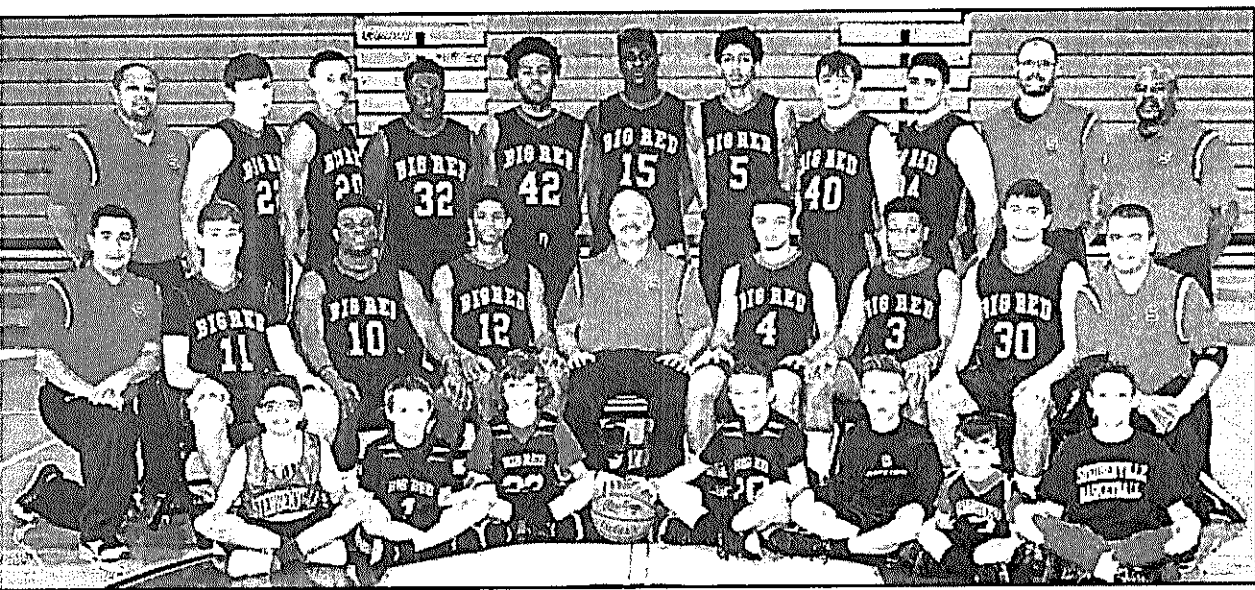


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2016-17 Steubenville basketball team. The team consists of Shayoun Petteway, Javon Davis, Isaiah Lee-Granatir, Dajuan Jones, Josh Zimmerman, Charles Reeves, Davon Smith, Jack Marx, Mitchell Gulan, NyJuan Robinson, Alec Davis and James Roundtree. Big Red is coached by Mike Haney.

**4A**

Continued from Page 8

Big Red is led by 6-6 senior center Charles Reeves who averages 14 joint and 7.5 rebounds per contest. The University of Pitt football recruit also averages 4.5 assists, 2.2 steals and a block every night out.

"Charles has played in this game as a freshman against Union Local," Haney recalled. "He's the only one of our kids that has

that experience."

He is joined in the starting lineup by classmates Shyoun Petteway (6-0 guard), Jack Marx (6-2 forward) and Alec Davis (6-2 senior), along with 6-4 junior guard Davon Smith. Of that group, Marx averages 12-13 points.

Haney learned one thing from the previous meeting.

"They can all shoot the lights out ... everyone of

them," he stressed. "They are never out of it (the game) no matter what the score is."

"We played a really good first quarter against them and got a big lead," he recalled.

"But they caught fire in the second quarter by shooting three's. Defensively, we have to play a full four quarters against them. No one can take a play off or

their guy can knock down that three."

When asked about the neutral floor, Haney is tickled to be playing at OUE.

"I definitely like the floor at OUE," he said. "We've played a lot of tournament games there through the past couple of years. Our kids are very familiar with the floor."

**2A**

Continued from Page 5

open it up a little bit. Those games really don't matter now. This is a big game, a championship game. We expect Shadyside to come out and play well and we have to do the same."

Though he didn't specify one individual matchup, Andes believes a big key for his team is keeping the Knights out of the lane.

"They got in there pretty easily against us the last time," Andes said. "We have to limit their penetration."

The Knights' balance is tough on a lot of teams.

Junior standout Brent Price leads the way at 18 points per game. On top of that, he raises the play of the guys around him, which is something that Andes is most impressed by.

He's complemented by senior John Burkhalter, who checks in at 14 points a game. He had a key 16 points against the Pilots in the semifinals. Junior Owen Gainer knocks down 16 points a game for Central. Adam Jarrett and Gabe Rohman round out the starting unit. Bray Price, Jimmy Zecca and Cedric Williams

are the top subs.

"We know Central pretty well," Andes said. "We know what they like to do and they do it very well. If they're shooting well (from the perimeter), they're even tougher to defend because guys like Price and Burkhalter can get to the rim."

Shadyside, meanwhile, is led by senior Chase Wade. The Tigers' post player is averaging 15 points and nine rebounds per game. He's one of four double-figure scorers in the Tigers' lineup. Junior Josh Zandron

checks in at 14 points per, while seniors Colby Sherwood and Austin Carroll add 11 and 10, respectively. Freshman Kelly Hendershot, who has had some big games this season, rounds out the starting five at seven points per game.

Alex Krupa and Anthony Coggins are the first two off the Shadyside bench.

"We have to try to limit (Wade) on the inside and pretty much lock onto their guys on the perimeter," Stephens admitted. "

**GOOD LUCK  
STEUBENVILLE  
BIG RED!**

**GOOD LUCK  
FROM  
STEUBENVILLE  
ATHLETIC  
DEPARTMENT!!!**



5A

Continued from Page 9

improved during the course of the season.

Junior Jayron Wilson rounds out the starting five. The 5-7 guard is Tallman's defensive stopper.

Tallman has no problems with depth as he relies on a trio of solid reserves. They include 6-3 senior forward Nathaniel Phillips, 5-10 junior guard Andrew Selders and 6-ft sophomore forward Lamar Haskins.

"We take pride in our defense. We pressure the ball. We are giving up only 49 points a game which is really impressive considering who we play," Tallman said. "There is a high level of respect between University and us. We have both been ranked in the state top four for most of the season.

"They are a great team with no real weakness. They can shoot it and pass it. They have great chemistry," he added. "University mixes things up. It is a tough matchup. We need to execute in all aspects."

University's only other blemish was a tough 58-53 setback to Huntington, the No. 6-ranked team in West Virginia.

"This season has been an exciting one for UHS. We have traveled throughout the state trying to play a tough schedule with hopes that it will prepare us to make a run at the state tournament," Schmidle said. "We feel like our program has improved the last three years, but we still haven't accomplished our goal of going to Charleston for the state tournament. We are happy with our record of 18-2, but that record means nothing if we don't advance to states. The kids have been focused and we are just trying to peak at the right time.

"Honestly playing MHS is always a great experience and we know that we will be in for a great game vs. one of the top teams in the

state. The kids love playing in that game against each other, but you could potentially have to play the same team five times in one season, and I don't think that's necessarily good for anyone," he added. "It would be nice to play a school you don't play in the regular season. I think it would give it more of a true tournament feel rather than playing your crosstown rival two hours from home."

The Hawks' starting lineup is a mixture of youth and experience, featuring three seniors a junior and a freshman.

Ethan Ridgeway is the team's top scorer. The 6-foot junior forward is averaging 17.8 points and 4.7 rebounds per contest.

Geoff Hamperian provides punch at power forward. The 6-4 senior averages 15 points and 5.4 boards per outing. Ryan McCord rounds out the front court. The 6-5 senior center averages five points and four rebounds.

The backcourt is comprised of Kaden Metheny and Holton Summers. Metheny is a 5-8 freshman dishing out four assists to go with nine points and 2.5 steals. Summers is a 5-10 senior tossing in 6.5 points and handing out four assists per game.

University's top two reserves are Austin Forbes and Storm Leftridge. Forbes is a 6-2 junior forward averaging eight points a game while Leftridge is a 6-3 junior center, delivering 4.7 points and four rebounds a game.

"I like the OVAC Tournament and enjoy getting to play at Ohio University Eastern," Schmidle offered. "We have been fortunate enough to be here two years in a row.

"We're hoping we can leave here with a different result than we did last year."

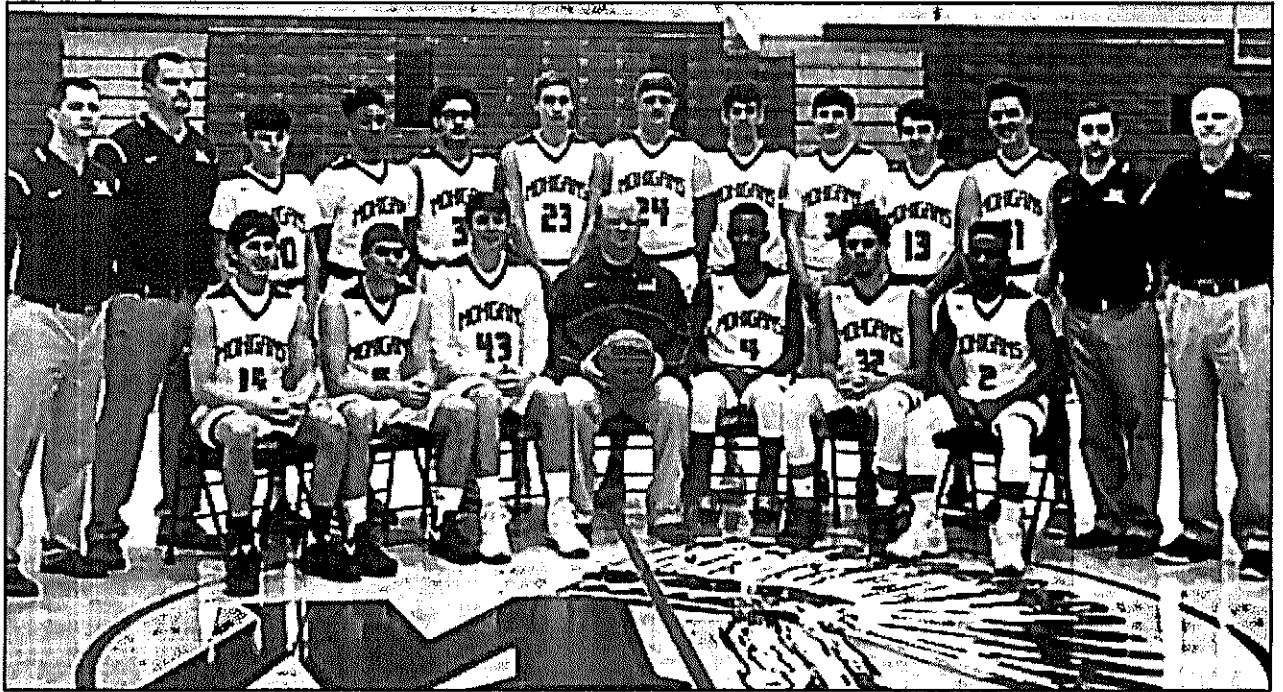


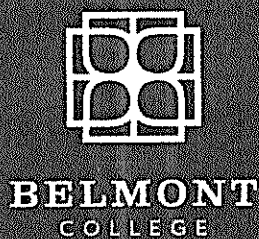
Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 Morgantown basketball team. Front row, from left, are Nicky Solomon, Torin Hanson, Michael Oliverio, head coach David Tallman, Deon Agnew, Nate Phillips and Jayron Wilson. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Stevie Sutherland, assistant coach Nate Tallman, Drew Selders, Adam Hill, Lamar Haskins, Garrett Haines, Nick Malone, Aaron Alvarez, Cam Selders, Ty Konchesky, Preston Hartman, assistant coaches Matt Lemine and Dennis Kerns.



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2016-17 University basketball team. The team consists of Oliver Reed, Clay Bailey, Kaden Metheny, Holton Summers, Ethan Ridgeway, Rodney Bucklew, Geoff Hamperian, Derek Richardson, Storm Leftridge, Austin Forbes, Buddy Leach, Riley McCord, Ryan McCord.



Come see what  
Belmont College has to offer!

*Join Us at Our New Student*

# OPEN HOUSE

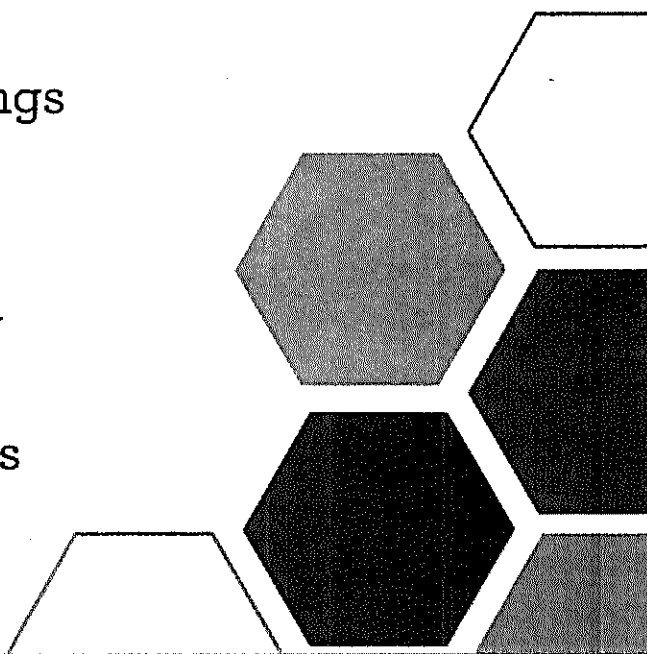
**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Belmont College Main Campus  
68094 Hammond Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio

- WHY:**
- Learn about Program Offerings
  - Meet our faculty and staff
  - Receive assistance with admissions and financial aid
  - Tour the campus
  - Enjoy FREE food & giveaways

740.699.9500

WWW.BELMONTCOLLEGE.EDU



# WINTER SPORTS ARE HERE!



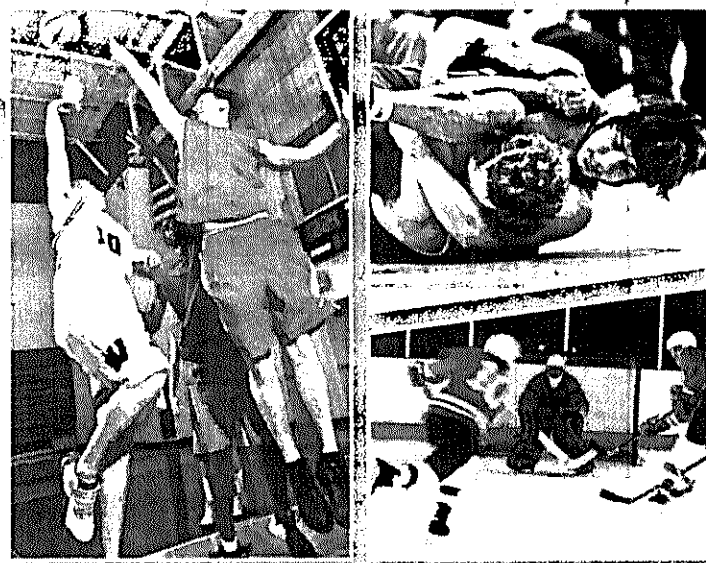
## WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK...

*And Your Knees, Shoulders  
Elbows and More.*

The high school and college winter sports season is here. Standing by at Wheeling Hospital is our own team of Sports Medicine experts, ready to treat bumps, bruises, strains, sprains, concussions and orthopedic issues, as well as providing the best physical therapy care.

We have the largest and most experienced hospital-based team of Sports Medicine professionals – physical therapists, as well as physicians and orthopedic surgeons board-certified in sports medicine.

**We hope everyone has a safe season. But when injuries occur, we're ready to help get athletes healthy and back in the game.**



**CALL: 304-243-8630**

SPORTS MEDICINE



# Field for OVAC boys' hoops event set

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**BELLAIRE** — Get your brackets ready.

The OVAC boys basketball's 'Big Dance' is set.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship committee met Wednesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the brackets for the annual event, which opens Tuesday with the higher two seeds in each class hosting a semi-final contest. Along with those games, the consolation pairings for the teams that failed to finish inside the top four were also assigned their

games.

The survivors of Tuesday's semifinals will advance to play for the conference title on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

## CLASS 1A

Wellsville garnered the top seed in its first season in the classification. The Tigers are 16-2 on the season. This is just the second time the Columbiana County quint has taken part in the event. They were defeated in the 2014 2A final by Wheeling Central.

The Tigers will welcome Morgantown Trinity Christian, which will make a more than 100 mile trip. Trinity is currently 8-7 and serves as the defending champion in the event.

In the other half of the bracket, Madonna, which owns eight conference titles, pocketed the second seed. The Blue Dons are 12-7 on the season. They'll host Bishop Donahue, which won the 2014 and 15 championships and own seven overall.

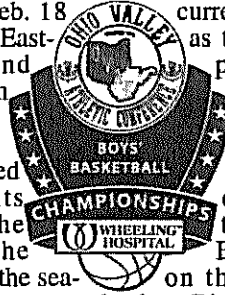
## CLASS 2A

Despite a two-game losing

streak, Toronto managed to hold onto the top seed. The Red Knights are 16-3 on the season and are in the championship portion of the event for the second straight winter. Toronto, which is seeking its first OVAC crown since 1992, will welcome perennial entrant, Shadyside.

The Tigers, who also struggled down the stretch, qualified fourth with an 11-9 record. Shadyside owns 13 OVAC boys hoops banners, but hasn't won one since 2010.

River, which has yet to lose to an OVAC opponent all season, is the second seed  
See, **OVAC**, Page B2



## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

at 17-2. The Pilots haven't won an OVAC boys title since 1973 and their path to another won't be easy. Wheeling Central, which sports an identical 17-2 record, will come to Hannibal as the third seed.

The Maroon Knights have hung 24 OVAC boys basketball banners, including the last four. Central's lost only one game to an OVAC opponent and that was in December to Madonna.

## CLASS 3A

Martins Ferry, which has been one of the area's premier teams all winter, garnered the top seed on the strength of an impressive 18-1 record. Rookie head coach Derek Edwards and company are seeking their sixth conference title in school history, but first since 2002.

Standing in the way of the Riders and a trip to OUE is a date with a formidable Linsly squad, which boasts a 12-6 mark. Two of those Cadets' losses came to the Purple Riders, but the last meeting, just over a week ago, came down to the wire. Linsly has won six banners in basketball and one in the tournament format. It came in 2012.

The second seed in 3A is perennial entrant Fort Frye. The Cadets are 15-4 and have seven previous OVAC titles on their resume with the last coming in 2014. They'll take on third-seeded Buckeye Trail, which is 15-5. The two split their regular season meetings. The Warriors have hoisted eight conference titles in their illustrious history.

A new champion is promised in this class as defending champion Magnolia failed to qualify.

## CLASS 4A

Steubenville sat idle on Tuesday evening and managed to edge out Meadowbrook for the top seed in this class. Big Red, which is 14-4 on the season, will welcome first-time qualifier Buckeye Local to the Crimson Center on Tuesday.

Big Red, which owns 13 OVAC titles, last prevailed in 2014. The Panthers, meanwhile, are 12-7 and have never won a conference title.

The Colts, who are the defending champions, have been impressive this season. With first-year head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda guiding the Colts, they've put together a 16-3 record. The Colts will welcome Edison, which is 13-7. The Wildcats have never claimed an OVAC title.

## CLASS 5A

University, which has been impressive all season, earned the top seed with a 16-2 record. The Hawks, who have never won an OVAC title in their short stint as a member, will welcome upstart Beaver Local, which turned has turned it on of late. The Beavers are 9-10 and will make a more than 2-hour trip to Morgantown.

Three-time defending champion Morgantown, which handed University one of its losses, is the second seed and will host Parkersburg South in a rematch of last winter's title game. The Patriots are 9-7 and claimed the 2013 title.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship

# Ferry survives in OT to reach 3A title game

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

MARTINS FERRY – It's hard to beat a team three times. Especially, a good, talented team. Martins Ferry found a way Tuesday night, but it surely didn't come easy and it had to work a little extra in doing so.

The top-seeded Purple Riders (19-2) overcame a sluggish fourth quarter – in which everything seemed to go wrong – but outlasted No. 4 Linsly, 58-55, in overtime before a raucous crowd inside Tolbert Gymnasium high atop the Purple City in an OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Class 3A Championship semifinal.

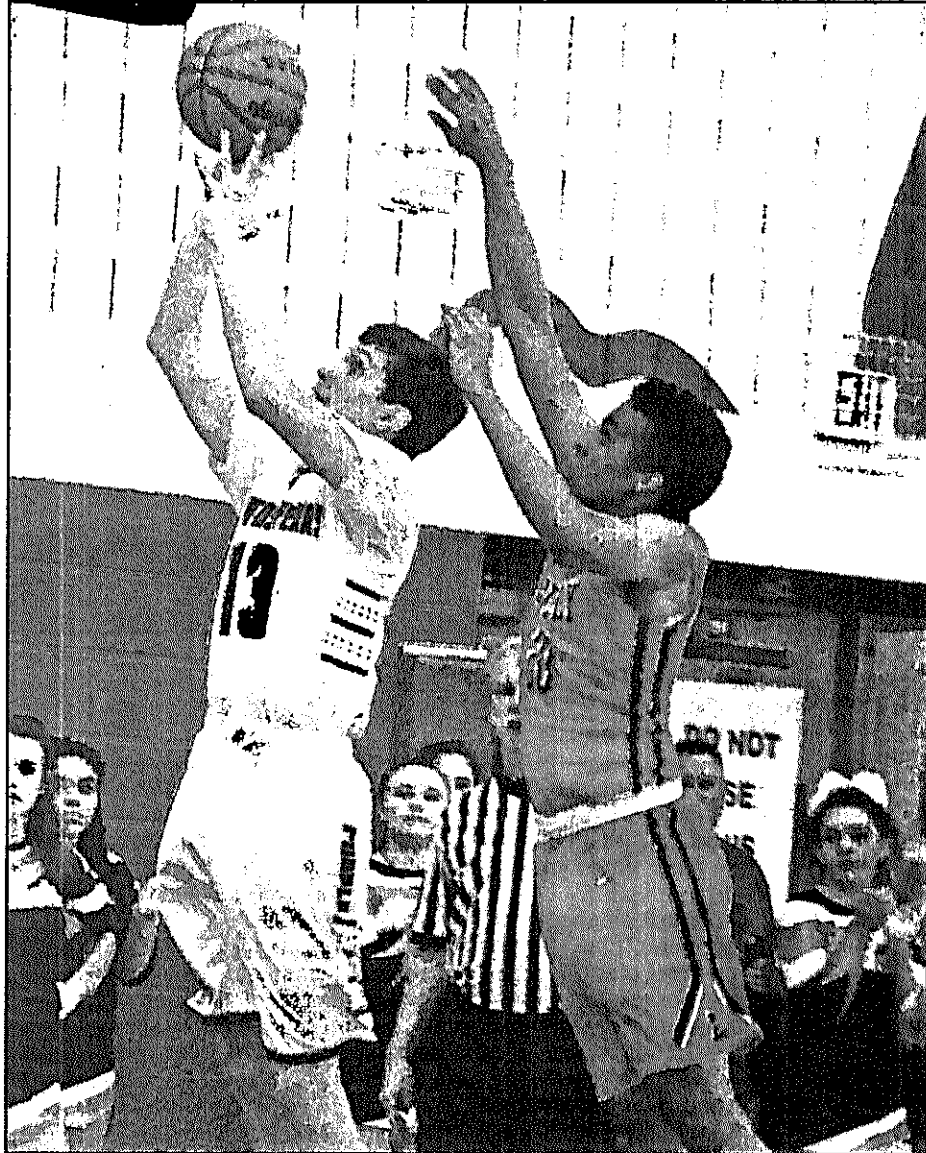
Martins Ferry now advances to Saturday's championship encounter against No. 3 Buckeye Trail, which sent second-seeded Fort Frye into the loser's bracket. The game will be played 2:30 p.m. inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

"It feels awesome," first-year Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards said. "The players earned it. We feel very fortunate to play in such a big game and we're going to do our best to play and win that game."

Leading 42-28 after three panels, Martins Ferry appeared headed towards its first OVAC Championship game, but the visiting

**"THE PLAYERS earned it. We feel very fortunate to play in such a big game and we're going to do our best to play and win that game."**

*- Derek Edwards  
Ferry Head Coach on advancing to the 3A final*



MARTINS FERRY'S Zac Selby goes up for a shot against Linsly's Dylan Harrison during the first half of Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal inside the Tolbert Gymnasium. The Purple Riders prevailed, in OT, 58-55.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

See, FERRY, Page B2

# Central outlasts River in Class 2A semifinal

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

HANNIBAL – It's not often that a game – at any level – lives up to the hype.

Tuesday night's OVAC Class 2A semifinal inside a loud and packed R.L. Potts Gymnasium at River High School certainly did ... and then some.

Second-seeded River and third-seeded Wheeling Central went back-and-forth matching body blow for body blow before the Maroon Knights were able to salt the game away in the final minute en route to a 58-52 victory and another trip to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship on Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education.

"We had to battle, and we were able to make a couple of plays that we had to make," a relieved Mel Stephens said outside of the Maroon Knights' locker room. "We forced them into a couple of tough, long shots down

**"WHEN TWO good teams play, this is the type of game you see."**

*- Mark Romick  
River Head Coach*

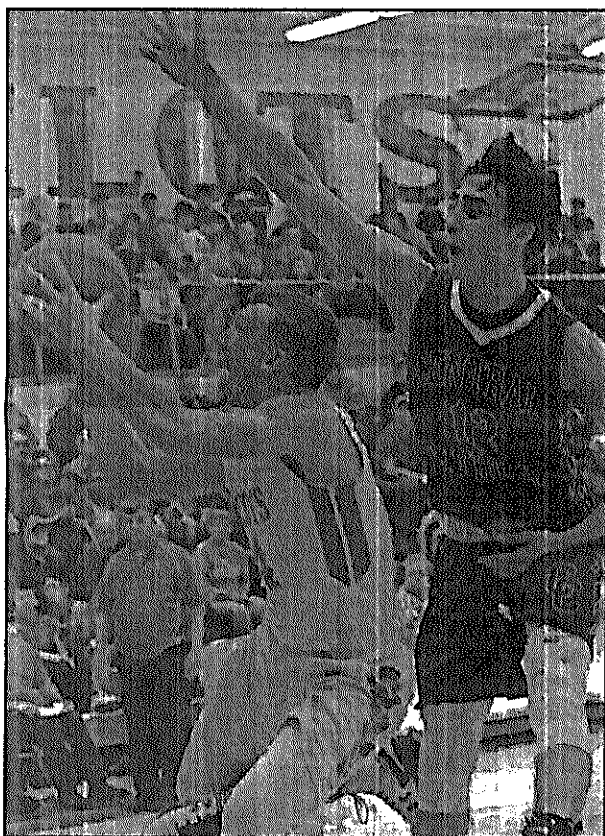
the stretch and we were able to get rebounds." Central – which owns an OVAC best 24 conference titles – will go after another crown against a Shadyside squad, which upset top-seeded Toronto on Tuesday. The Knights already own two decisive victories against the Tigers this season.

"I told the kids not to take (going to OUE) for granted," Stephens said. "We're excited for the opportunity we have ahead of us on Saturday. We'll get back to work (Wednesday) to prepare again for Shadyside."

There was no thought of Saturday or the Tigers at any point before the final buzzer

See, RIVER, Page B2

RIVER'S Lukas Isaly goes up for a shot as Wheeling Central's Owen Gainer defends during Tuesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal in Hannibal. The Pilots fell to the Maroon Knights, 58-52.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

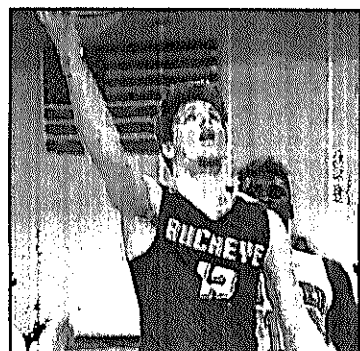
# Steubenville rolls past Buckeye Local, 90-56

By ED LOOMAN  
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE – Steubenville's band of basketball athletes was just too much for Buckeye Local Tuesday in the Class 4A semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Tournament.

Steubenville scored 20 plus points in all four quarters enroute to a convincing 90-56 victory over the game but outmanned Panthers inside The Crimson Center.

With the victory, Mike Haney's top-seeded club improves to 16-4 and will battle Meadowbrook, the two seed, in Saturday's title game. The tip is set for 4:45 p.m. on the campus of Ohio University Eastern Ruckeye which falls to



SHADYSIDE'S Colby Sherwood is guarded by Toronto's Jacob Keenan during Tuesday's OVAC class 2A semifinal in Toronto. The Tigers prevailed, 60-46.

Photo/MATT PEASLEE

# Tigers dispatch Toronto in Class 2A

which everything seemed to go wrong — but outlasted No. 4 Linsly, 58-55, in overtime before a raucous crowd inside Tolbert Gymnasium high atop the Purple City in an OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Class 3A Championship semifinal.

Martins Ferry now advances to Saturday's championship encounter against No. 3 Buckeye Trail, which sent second-seeded Fort Frye into the loser's bracket. The game will be played 2:30 p.m. inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

"It feels awesome," first-year Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards said. "The players earned it. We feel very fortunate to play in such a big game and we're going to do our best to play and win that game."

Leading 42-28 after three panels, Martins Ferry appeared headed towards its first OVAC Championship game, but the visiting

**ERS earned it. We feel very fortunate to play in such a big game and we're going to do our best to play and win that game."**

**- Derek Edwards  
Ferry Head Coach on  
advancing to the 3A  
final**

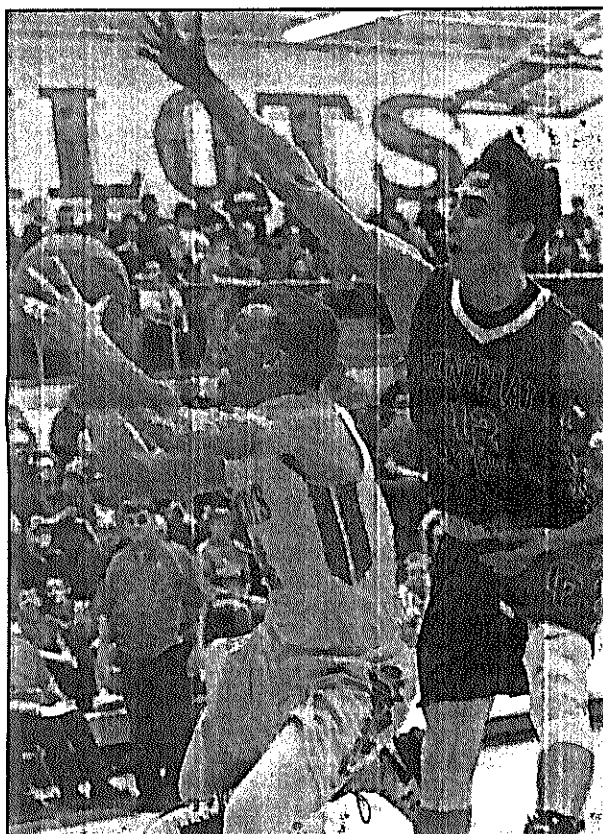


first half of Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal inside the Tolbert Gymnasium. The Purple Riders prevailed, in OT, 58-55.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

See, **FERRY**, Page B2

**RIVER'S** Lukas Isaly goes up for a shot as Wheeling Central's Owen Gainer defends during Tuesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal in Hannibal. The Pilots fell to the Maroon Knights, 58-52.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## Central outlasts River in Class 2A semifinal

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**HANNIBAL** — It's not often that a game — at any level — lives up to the hype.

Tuesday night's OVAC Class 2A semifinal inside a loud and packed R.L. Potts Gymnasium at River High School certainly did ... and then some.

Second-seeded River and third-seeded Wheeling Central went back-and-forth matching body blow for body blow before the Maroon Knights were able to salt the game away in the final minute en route to a 58-52 victory and another trip to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship on Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education.

"We had to battle, and we were able to make a couple of plays that we had to make," a relieved Mel Stephens said outside of the Maroon Knights' locker room. "We forced them into a couple of tough, long shots down

*"WHEN TWO good teams play, this is the type of game you see."*

**- Mark Romick  
River Head Coach**

the stretch and we were able to get rebounds." Central — which owns an OVAC best 24 conference titles — will go after another crown against a Shadyside squad, which upset top-seeded Toronto on Tuesday. The Knights already own two decisive victories against the Tigers this season.

"I told the kids not to take (going to OUE) for granted," Stephens said. "We're excited for the opportunity we have ahead of us on Saturday. We'll get back to work (Wednesday) to prepare again for Shadyside."

There was no thought of Saturday or the Tigers at any point before the final buzzer

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

## Steubenville rolls past Buckeye Local, 90-56

By **ED LOOMAN**  
For The Times Leader

**STEUBENVILLE** — Steubenville's band of basketball athletes was just too much for Buckeye Local Tuesday in the Class 4A semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Tournament.

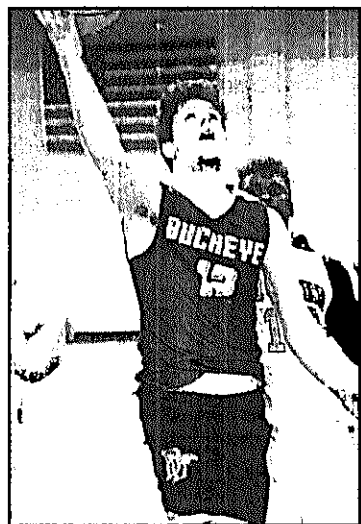
Steubenville scored 20 plus points in all four quarters enroute to a convincing 90-56 victory over the game but out-manned Panthers inside The Crimson Center.

With the victory, Mike Haney's top-seeded club improves to 16-4 and will battle Meadowbrook, the two seed, in Saturday's title game. The tip is set for 4:45 p.m. on the campus of Ohio University Eastern. Buckeye, which falls to 13-8 and had its seven game win streak snapped, will visit Edison Friday in the 4A consolation game.

"We have goals at the beginning of every season and one of the first is making the OVAC final four and earning a home game," Haney said. "I thought overall we played pretty well tonight. Defensively, we had a few letdowns in the first half but we got stronger at the game moved along."

"Now we have the chance to play for a championship on Saturday. We'll practice hard the rest of the week and be ready when Saturday rolls around."

See, **BUCKEYE**, Page B2



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

**BUCKEYE LOCAL'S** Sean Millard goes up for a shot Tuesday at Steubenville.



**SHADYSIDE'S** Colby Sherwood is guarded by Toronto's Jacob Keenan during Tuesday's OVAC class 2A semifinal in Toronto. The Tigers prevailed, 60-46.

Photo/MATT PEASLEE

## Tigers dispatch Toronto in Class 2A

By **MATTHEW PEASLEE**  
For The Times Leader

**TORONTO** — With a strong inside presence and an ability to make shots in the second half, the Shadyside boys basketball team blew by No. 1 seed Toronto, 60-46, in the OVAC 2A semifinal game.

The No. 4 seed Tigers will now face Wheeling Central in the title game at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday.

"We just played ball in the second half," said Shadyside coach Ed Andes. "We were missing shots in the first half, but we were able to convert them around the basket in the second half.

Things opened up for us and they missed shots, which helped us. It was back-and-forth there for a bit, then momentum went our way. And, it kept going our way."

Chase Wade was the driving force behind the Tigers' offense, scoring 12 of the team's 14 points in the third quarter and finished with a game-high 23 points. Wade also grabbed nine of Shadyside's 31 rebounds.

There were four ties and six lead changes in the contest. The Tigers led by as many as 10 early in the second quarter as Toronto came up empty on its first six possessions of the game.

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2

## St. Clairsville snaps losing skid with win at Park

By **RICK THORP**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**WHEELING** — Maybe St. Clairsville and Wheeling Park should play more than once every three-plus decades?

The Red Devils and Patriots staged a dandy Tuesday night in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tourna-

ment consolation contest at 'The Palace,' with St. C. coming out the victor, 70-65, in overtime behind 21 points from Matt Greenwood.

"Even though we had an opportunity to win the game in regulation, we got the game into overtime," Red Devils head coach Kim Clifford said following the

fourth meeting between the two storied programs and the first since the 1982-83 campaign. "We dominated the last five minutes (of regulation) and we told (the players), it's just four more minutes. Let's keep it going."

St. Clairsville rallied from eight down during the final six minutes of regulation

before scoring the first six points of OT to seize control.

"St. Clairsville played a good game and our kids battled," Wheeling Park head coach Michael Jebbia said. "But when you get down six ..."

Both teams stand 7-13.

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

## • St. C.

Continued from Page B1

The victory kept the Red Devils from falling for the second straight game in OT in The Friendly City. St. C. dropped a three-point decision at Wheeling Central on Friday night.

To avoid that same fate, Clifford said his team clamped down defensively late and made better choices on the offensive end.

"I think we moved the ball better, and going back to man-to-man helped," he said.

A tip in by Park senior Maezi Mosby gave the Patriots a 52-44 lead with about six minutes remaining in the fourth.

Logan Williams (13 points) made a layup at the other end for St. C. That jumpstarted a 7-0 run that had Jebbia calling for time at the 5:01 mark.

"They started to chip at (the lead)," Jebbia said. "Give St. Clairsville credit. They started making some plays.

"They started getting a lot of drives and (Michael) Scarnecchia started to get loose inside a little bit."

Scarnecchia (14 points) made his presence known from the perimeter, however, coming out of the timeout, draining a 3 that gave the Red Devils a 54-52 lead with 4:09 left.

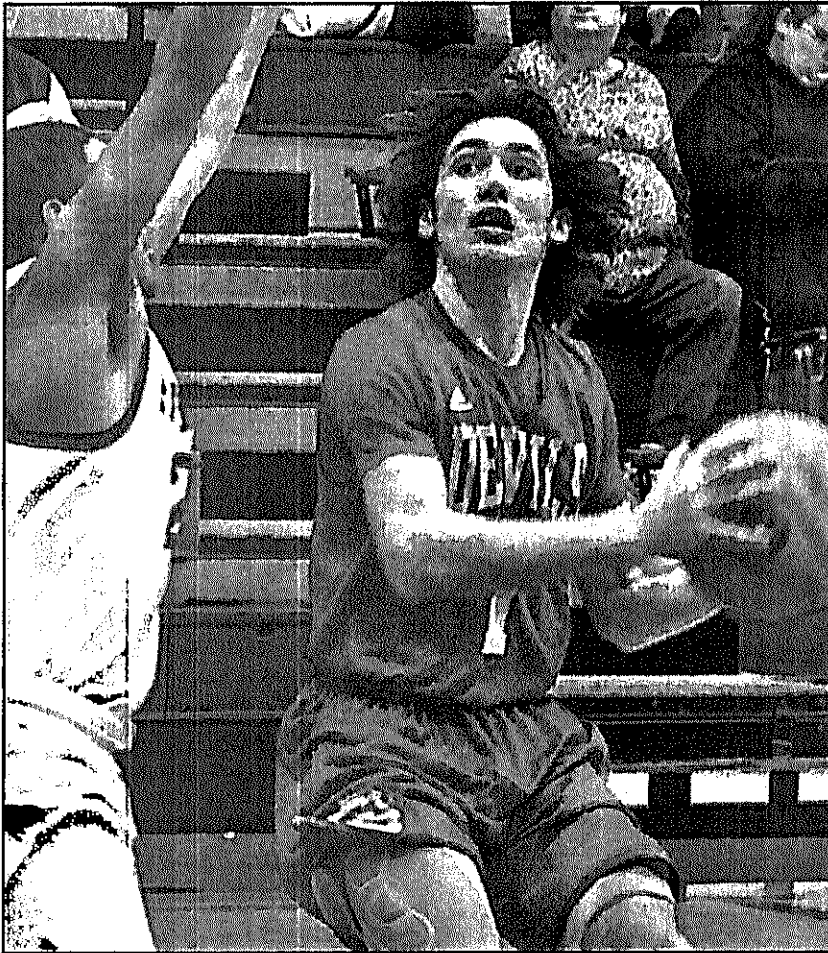
From there, the score went back and forth until St. C.'s Matthew Busby (11 [points] made the front end of a 1-and-1 with 53.2 seconds left tying the game at 57-57.

Park's Jack Stakem himself went to the line for a 1-and-1 with 36.7 ticks left, but missed the front end. The Red Devils brought the ball down, with Scarnecchia eventually being fouled attempting a shot in the lane with 4.6 seconds left.

Scarnecchia missed both shots and the game headed to overtime.

Justin Heatherington hit back-to-back buckets to start the extra session, then Scarnecchia followed with a basket off an offensive rebound giving the Red Devils the lead for good at 63-57.

The victory was satisfying for Clifford, who watched his team overcome a 17-0 run by the Patriots at the start



Photo/JOSH STROPE

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Matt Busby goes up for a shot against a Wheeling Park defender during their game at the Palace on Tuesday. The Red Devils prevailed.

of the second quarter that put them up 11. Keondre King scored six of his team-high 21 points during the run, while Alex Vargo poured in seven of his 14.

"We just chipped away," he said. "There aren't any 17-point plays or seven-point plays; just concentrate on every possession. That's what the kids did, they concentrated."

The Red Devils conclude the regular season Friday at home vs. John Marshall in another OVAC Consolation contest.

Park, meanwhile, visits Oak Glen.

"Our guys have improved, but we've been in a few games here where we just haven't been able to get over the hump," Jebbia said.

"The last month has been very positive. We've lost some close games and won some. We're trying to improve before we get to March.

"It would've been nice to win this one, but we just didn't make enough plays."

The Patriots won the JV tilt, 72-49.

## • Buckeye

Continued from Page B1

Big Red used a 7-0 scoring run early in the first quarter (the spurt started with a Davon Smith triple and ended on a Jack Marx put back) to grab the lead for good. Steubenville's defensive pressure forced eight Buckeye Local turnovers during the opening period. After one, Haney's squad led 21-15.

Buckeye Local, making its first ever appearance in the OVAC semifinals, put together a run of its own in the second. Shane Heitz came off Greg Haberfield's bench to bury a three then followed it with a deuce to make it 38-34.

Josh Zimmerman scored for Big Red before Drake Novak knocked down a couple of freebies. Steubenville closed the half on a 6-0 spurt, Isaiah Lee-Granatir getting four of the total, and took a 46-36 lead into the dressing room.

Big Red broke things open in the third, outscoring Buckeye 23-12. It was more of the same in the fourth, Steubenville getting

21 points to just eight for the Panthers.

"Steubenville's probably one of the better teams I've ever seen," Haberfield stated. "They get the ball out and get it down the floor in a hurry. When you only have about a six or seven man rotation, your guys get pretty tired. I think that helped determine the outcome of the game; that along with us being a little overmatched athletically.

"I'm extremely proud of our kids. They hung in there the entire game and didn't quit. We just ended up getting out played at the end of the game."

Haney thought the difference in the second half involved "a much better defensive effort" by his Big Red.

"(Drake) Novak had a great first half for them, scoring 18 points," he noted. "He was making some tough shots. (Sean) Millard had 10 and we talked at the half about slowing those two guys down. I thought we did a

much better job on them in the second half.

"I thought we ran the floor better in the second half also. We were getting rebounds, getting out and spreading the floor. In addition, we also had well-balanced scoring."

Novak, a smooth-shooting 6-0 junior, paced the Panthers with a game-high 27 points. Millard, a 6-4 senior, collected 19, 15 coming from behind the arc. Heitz contributed eight.

"They kept us in tonight's game," Haberfield said of his scoring-duo. "But really when we get four guys in double digits, that's when we play a little better. Steubenville did a good job of keeping the ball out of people's hands tonight. They take you out of what you want to do offensively.

"They're so good at speeding up the tempo of the game and that's not the style we're really comfortable playing. We really couldn't get into any of our sets offensively. Give them

credit defensively, they took us out of what we wanted to do."

Big Red had five players finish with double digits. Lee-Granatir led the way with 18 while Marx added 15 and hard-working Alec Davis 12. Charles Reeves finished with 11, two coming via one of his patented break away dunks. He also collected 12 rebounds to record a double-double. Zimmerman tallied 10.

Big Red has captured 13 OVAC basketball titles, the last coming in 2014.

"This is the first time in school history for us to be here," Haberfield said when discussing Buckeye Local's final four berth. "So we are very humbled that we had the opportunity to be here and play against a great basketball team. Of course, you don't want to go home on the losing end.

"Our guys gave it their all and that's all I can ask of them. We'll now look forward to our next game and the state tournament."

## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Jake Keenan's 3-pointer at the 4:55 mark of the first quarter was the Red Knights' first field goal.

"We didn't come out with any emotion at all," said Toronto coach Sean Tucker. "We didn't want to play defense in the first half. Our defense is what sparks us. For some reason, we had zero emotion tonight. Whatever we tried to do, we just couldn't get it going. When we don't play with emotion defensively, we'll be flat

going to come in the game of basketball," Andes said. "Anything can happen. Our kids were looking up and just trying to take care of the basketball. We had to, because if we didn't, we knew they were going to come back.

"We were able to get good shots and we finished. It was just a really good team win for the kids."

The Tigers had 10 more rebounds than the Red Knights, who had 21 as

urgency," Tucker said. "I'm just sick to my stomach because I'm not sure how to correct it. It's totally on me to try to correct this and try to get us going in the right direction. We had an opportunity to make it to OUE and that was one of our goals.

"Give Ed Andes credit, Shadyside came all the way up here and they were ready to play. We got a monkey on our back when it comes to playing Shadyside. We just couldn't get it

## • Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Cadets (13-7) had other ideas.

Sparked by James "Butter" Murray and Dylan Harrison, Linsly slowly, but surely, cut into the deficit. Harrison netted 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter. His two free throws with 12.1 seconds remaining deadlocked the contest at 49.

Martins Ferry got off a last-ditch effort, but it was well off the mark.

"It was a combination of a lot of things," Edwards said. "Make no mistake about it. Linsly is a very good team and they make things very difficult. Their press was very good and very well-executed. We didn't handle it the way we should. We had mental lapses and it got them (Linsly) back in the game. They still had to make plays, and boy did they make them.

"Murray and Harrison made some very difficult shots," Edwards continued.

Murray drained a trey to start the 4-minute extra session that gave Linsly its first lead since early in the second quarter at 52-49. The bonus goal also prompted Edwards to immediately call a timeout.

"Our guys put their heads down and kept playing," Edwards noted. "We played through runs. We knew how explosive this team was."

Following the 60-second break in the action, Martins Ferry took command as Darius Ray knocked down a three-pointer from the left wing to re-tie the contest. Nearly a minute later, Darrell Price tickled the twine twice on free throws for a 54-52 Martins Ferry lead with 1:52 left.

Harrison put the Cadets back on top with an NBA three, 55-54, but Ferry's Shane Schuster dropped in two charity tosses as the hosts went back ahead, 56-55, with 1:28 showing.

After a Linsly miss, Zac Selby grabbed one of his team-high 11 rebounds and was fouled. He walked to the other end of the court and missed the first shot. However, he sank the second for a 57-55 edge.

The Cadets called timeout at the 47.8-second mark, but then committed a turnover 14 seconds later.

Ray was fouled with 32.2 seconds on the clock. He made the first for a three-point margin, 58-55, but missed the second, opening the door for Linsly. Harrison missed a three-pointer, but the Cadets got the offensive rebound and shipped it out to Harrison. However, his second attempt was off the mark under heavy pressure as the buzzer sounded.

Martins Ferry connected on 6 of 8 free throws in overtime after misfiring on 7 of 8 during regulation play.

"Free-throw shooting can win you a lot of games and it can lose you a lot of games," Edwards said. "Against good teams you have to make your free throws. We didn't do that tonight and it almost cost us."

Linsly head coach James Wallace was proud of the way his team kept battling.

"Our guys have the ability to play phenomenal defense. We don't necessarily have the depth to do that for 32 minutes, but we have a group of seniors that didn't want it to end the way it looked like it was going to," he said. "They put their foot down and battled back the way they have all season.

"I couldn't be any more proud of a bunch of guys. They are a resilient group," he added. "We had the opportunity to make some plays down the stretch, we just didn't make enough. Ferry made some plays when they had to."

While Martins Ferry was burning the nets at a 66-percent (23-35) clip, Linsly couldn't find their range.

"We had some good looks that didn't go down, but we didn't shoot the ball like we normally do," Wallace said. "But, we had our hottest three-point shooter with two looks at the end. There was a lot of contact and the shot wouldn't go down."

Selby and Ray evenly divided 38 points between them, while Jack Davis added 10. Selby also charted 11 rebounds to complete his double-double. He also finished with half-a-dozen assists and three blocks.

Murray led all scorers with 23. Warren Saunders had a dozen rebounds.

The Cadets host Fort Frye for third-place Friday night.

Martins Ferry made it a clean sweep with a 36-33 JV victory.

## • River

Continued from Page B1

sounded. After owning a 29-27 lead at half and a 40-36 upperhand at the final stop, the Maroon Knights appeared to be on the cusp of gaining a measure of comfort at least twice in the fourth. They opened up a 48-40 lead, which was the game's biggest margin, and then with just under three minutes they owned a seven-point cushion.

"Part of it was execution," Stephens said. "I told the kids at halftime that when we slowed down, ran a set and executed, we got good shots. There have been times in games earlier this season where we get a lead in the second half and we tend to freelance a bit. We let the other team get back into it and River's too good for that to happen."

Starting up from a 53-46 hole, the Pilots showed their own resolve. Michael Collins got two at the line and talented junior Lukas Isaly scored going to the bucket and then cashed in a foul shot, making it a 53-51 reading.

The Pilots got another stop and a wide-open look at a corner 3, but it was too strong.

The Knights boarded and found junior standout Brent Price at the other end for a bucket, from which the Pilots couldn't recover.

"Our kids fought tooth and nail," a disappointed River head coach Mark Romick said. "We came back several times and had a shot for the lead. Our kids never say die."

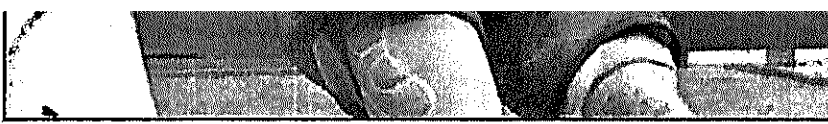
From there, the score went back and forth until St. C.'s Matthew Busby (11 [points]) made the front end of a 1-and-1 with 53.2 seconds left tying the game at 57-57.

Park's Jack Stakem himself went to the line for a 1-and-1 with 36.7 ticks left, but missed the front end. The Red Devils brought the ball down, with Scarnecchia eventually being fouled attempting a shot in the lane with 4.6 seconds left.

Scarnecchia missed both shots and the game headed to overtime.

Justin Heatherington hit back-to-back buckets to start the extra session, then Scarnecchia followed with a basket off an offensive rebound giving the Red Devils the lead for good at 63-57.

The victory was satisfying for Clifford, who watched his team overcome a 17-0 run by the Patriots at the start



Photo/JOSH STROPE

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Matt Busby goes up for a shot against a Wheeling Park defender during their game at the Palace on Tuesday. The Red Devils prevailed.

of the second quarter that put them up 11. Keondre King scored six of his team-high 21 points during the run, while Alex Vargo poured in seven of his 14.

"We just chipped away," he said. "There aren't any 17-point plays or seven-point plays; just concentrate on every possession. That's what the kids did, they concentrated."

The Red Devils conclude the regular season Friday at home vs. John Marshall in another OVAC Consolation contest.

Park, meanwhile, visits Oak Glen. "Our guys have improved, but we've been in a few games here where we just haven't been able to get over the hump," Jebbia said.

"The last month has been very positive. We've lost some close games and won some. We're trying to improve before we get to March.

"It would've been nice to win this one, but we just didn't make enough plays."

The Patriots won the JV tilt, 72-49.

## • Buckeye

Continued from Page B1

Big Red used a 7-0 scoring run early in the first quarter (the spurt started with a Davon Smith triple and ended on a Jack Marx put back) to grab the lead for good. Steubenville's defensive pressure forced eight Buckeye Local turnovers during the opening period. After one, Haney's squad led 21-15.

Buckeye Local, making its first ever appearance in the OVAC semifinals, put together a run of its own in the second. Shane Heitz came off Greg Haberfield's bench to bury a three then followed it with a deuce to make it 38-34.

Josh Zimmerman scored for Big Red before Drake Novak knocked down a couple of freebies. Steubenville closed the half on a 6-0 spurt, Isaiah Lee-Granatir getting four of the total, and took a 46-36 lead into the dressing room.

Big Red broke things open in the third, outscoring Buckeye 23-12. It was more of the same in the fourth, Steubenville getting

21 points to just eight for the Panthers.

"Steubenville's probably one of the better teams I've ever seen," Haberfield stated. "They get the ball out and get it down the floor in a hurry. When you only have about a six or seven man rotation, your guys get pretty tired. I think that helped determine the outcome of the game; that along with us being a little overmatched athletically.

"I'm extremely proud of our kids. They hung in there the entire game and didn't quit. We just ended up getting out played at the end of the game."

Haney thought the difference in the second half involved "a much better defensive effort" by his Big Red.

"(Drake) Novak had a great first half for them, scoring 18 points," he noted. "He was making some tough shots. (Sean) Millard had 10 and we talked at the half about slowing those two guys down. I thought we did a

much better job on them in the second half.

"I thought we ran the floor better in the second half also. We were getting rebounds, getting out and spreading the floor. In addition, we also had well-balanced scoring."

Novak, a smooth-shooting 6-0 junior, paced the Panthers with a game-high 27 points. Millard, a 6-4 senior, collected 19, 15 coming from behind the arc. Heitz contributed eight.

"They kept us in tonight's game," Haberfield said of his scoring-duo. "But really when we get four guys in double digits, that's when we play a little better. Steubenville did a good job of keeping the ball out of people's hands tonight. They take you out of what you want to do offensively.

"They're so good at speeding up the tempo of the game and that's not the style we're really comfortable playing. We really couldn't get into any of our sets offensively. Give them

credit defensively, they took us out of what we wanted to do."

Big Red had five players finish with double digits. Lee-Granatir led the way with 18 while Marx added 15 and hard-working Alec Davis 12. Charles Reeves finished with 11, two coming via one of his patented break away dunks. He also collected 12 rebounds to record a double-double. Zimmerman tallied 10.

Big Red has captured 13 OVAC basketball titles, the last coming in 2014.

"This is the first time in school history for us to be here," Haberfield said when discussing Buckeye Local's final four berth. "So we are very humbled that we had the opportunity to be here and play against a great basketball team. Of course, you don't want to go home on the losing end.

"Our guys gave it their all and that's all I can ask of them. We'll now look forward to our next game and the state tournament."

## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Jake Keenan's 3-pointer at the 4:55 mark of the first quarter was the Red Knights' first field goal.

"We didn't come out with any emotion at all," said Toronto coach Sean Tucker. "We didn't want to play defense in the first half. Our defense is what sparks us. For some reason, we had zero emotion tonight. Whatever we tried to do, we just couldn't get it going. When we don't play with emotion defensively, we'll be flat offensively. That's how it goes. We weren't finishing at the rim like we normally do and that's because we had no momentum."

The Red Knights would rally to tie it at 22 just before halftime on a jumper by Nick Sninchak. The Tigers held a 36-34 advantage right before the end of the third quarter, and they would hold the lead for the remainder.

"When they started pressing us, I thought there could have been another change in momentum, because you never really know how the runs are

going to come in the game of basketball," Andes said. "Anything can happen. Our kids were looking up and just trying to take care of the basketball. We had to, because if we didn't, we knew they were going to come back.

"We were able to get good shots and we finished. It was just a really good team win for the kids."

The Tigers had 10 more rebounds than the Red Knights, who had 21 as a team. Freshman Lucas Gulczynski recorded a double-double with 10 rebounds and 11 points. Jake Keenan led the hosts with 14 points, while Nate Karaffa added nine.

For Shadyside, Colby Sherwood added 15 points and Josh Zandron scored nine. Zandron also had three assists and five steals. Wade had two steals and three assists and Sherwood had three steals.

The Tigers forced 18 Toronto turnovers, while Shadyside committed 13 turnovers.

"We didn't play with a sense of

urgency," Tucker said. "I'm just sick to my stomach because I'm not sure how to correct it. It's totally on me to try to correct this and try to get us going in the right direction. We had an opportunity to make it to OUE and that was one of our goals.

"Give Ed Andes credit, Shadyside came all the way up here and they were ready to play. We got a monkey on our back when it comes to playing Shadyside. We just couldn't get it going."

With the win, Shadyside is now 12-9 on the year. Toronto fell to 17-4 with the loss. The Tigers will now go for their first OVAC championship since 2010, facing off against a Wheeling Central team which beat River, 58-52.

"We have a lot of new kids this year," Andes said. "We lost all five starters to graduation, so for this group to make it to the championship, that's a great accomplishment."

Toronto will host the Pilots in a consolation game on Friday.

showing.

After a Linsly miss, Zac Selby grabbed one of his team-high 11 rebounds and was fouled. He walked to the other end of the court and missed the first shot. However, he sank the second for a 57-55 edge.

The Cadets called timeout at the 47.8-second mark, but then committed a turnover 14 seconds later.

Ray was fouled with 32.2 seconds on the clock. He made the first for a three-point margin, 58-55, but missed the second, opening the door for Linsly. Harrison missed a three-pointer, but the Cadets got the offensive rebound and shipped it out to Harrison. However, his second attempt was off the mark under heavy pressure as the buzzer sounded.

Martins Ferry connected on 6 of 8 free throws in overtime after misfiring on 7 of 8 during regulation play.

"Free-throw shooting can win you a lot of games and it can lose you a lot of games," Edwards said. "Against good teams you have to make your free throws. We didn't do that tonight and it almost cost us."

Linsly head coach James Wallace was proud of the way his team kept battling.

"Our guys have the ability to play phenomenal defense. We don't necessarily have the depth to do that for 32 minutes, but we have a group of seniors that didn't want it to end the way it looked like it was going to," he said. "They put their foot down and battled back the way they have all season.

"I couldn't be any more proud of a bunch of guys. They are a resilient group," he added. "We had the opportunity to make some plays down the stretch, we just didn't make enough. Ferry made some plays when they had to."

While Martins Ferry was burning the nets at a 66-percent (23-35) clip, Linsly couldn't find their range.

"We had some good looks that didn't go down, but we didn't shoot the ball like we normally do," Wallace said. "But, we had our hottest three-point shooter with two looks at the end. There was a lot of contact and the shot wouldn't go down."

Selby and Ray evenly divided 38 points between them, while Jack Davis added 10. Selby also charted 11 rebounds to complete his double-double. He also finished with half-a-dozen assists and three blocks.

Murray led all scorers with 23. Warren Saunders had a dozen rebounds.

The Cadets host Fort Frye for third-place Friday night. Martins Ferry made it a clean sweep with a 36-33 JV victory.

## • River

Continued from Page B1

sounded. After owning a 29-27 lead at half and a 40-36 upperhand at the final stop, the Maroon Knights appeared to be on the cusp of gaining a measure of comfort at least twice in the fourth. They opened up a 48-40 lead, which was the game's biggest margin, and then with just under three minutes they owned a seven-point cushion.

"Part of it was execution," Stephens said. "I told the kids at halftime that when we slowed down, ran a set and executed, we got good shots. There have been times in games earlier this season where we get a lead in the second half and we tend to freelance a bit. We let the other team get back into it and River's too good for that to happen."

Staring up from a 53-46 hole, the Pilots showed their own resolve. Michael Collins got two at the line and talented junior Lukas Isaly scored going to the bucket and then cashed in a foul shot, making it a 53-51 reading.

The Pilots got another stop and a wide-open look at a corner 3, but it was too strong.

The Knights boarded and found junior standout Brent Price at the other end for a bucket, from which the Pilots couldn't recover.

"Our kids fought tooth and nail," a disappointed River head coach Mark Romick said. "We came back several times and had a shot for the lead. Our kids never say die. They just keep digging. We had good looks at the bucket."

Though Price shared the team-high honor with 16 points, sometimes it was his passing that proved to be the difference. He found Owen Gainer and his younger brother, Bray, for wide-open treys in the fourth, both of which were clutch shots at the time.

"When two good teams play, this is the type of game you see," Romick said. "You can take some things away, but you're going to give something else up. You can't take everything away. Price is a handful and he got us twice in the fourth quarter, which were key trips."

While Price and Isaly, rightfully so, garner much of the attention on their respective teams, the Knights' supporting cast proved to be the difference. Senior John Burkhalter turned in a spectacular effort on both ends. He scored 16 points, including nine in the fourth.

"You really have to pick your poison with Central because they have more than one shooter out there," Romick said. "Burkhalter was a big key. We knew how athletic he was. He's quick to the bucket and jumps well. We ended up getting into some mismatches with them. We got caught a few times, which hurt us at times."

Gainer finished with 13 points. River had just one double-figure scorer. Isaly was impressive en route to 24 points. Parker Caretti finished with eight points.

The Pilots (18-3) will trek to Toronto for the Class 2A consolation game.

Central prevailed, decisively, in the reserve encounter.

SAVE BIG ON WINTER TREE SERVICE!

Estimates in Hours...Not Days!

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
MONSTER TREE DOES IT ALL!

- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Tree & Shrub Pruning
- Stump Grinding

- Complete Tree Removal
- Storm Risk Assessment
- Lot & Land Clearing

MONSTER  
Tree Service.

www.WhyMonster.com/OV

15%  
OFF

ALL WINTER  
TREE SERVICE

\*Only valid on select services. Not valid on 24-hour service. Not valid on emergency service. Offer good through 12/31/14. See website for details. ©2014 Why Monster Tree Service. All rights reserved.

resent their school colors on the biggest stage.

Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central, John Marshall, Weir and Brooke will all have members of both the boys and girls teams competing against the state's best

a state champion. "Butts has also been doing very well and we are excited to see how he does on Thursday."

See SWIMMERS, Page 12

The Wheeling Park swim teams will compete at the state tournament beginning Thursday in Morgantown. Front row, from left, Nicholas DeFazio, Max Kellas, Ronald Butts, Chuckie Schellhase, Caleb Lucas and Zach Seals. Middle row is Victoria White, Sydney Moffell, Alexa Hickman, Kat Donzella and Sarah Hellman. Back row is head coach Pat Durkin, assistant coach Katie DiCola, Melina McCabe, Allison Holmstrand, Lydia Bischof, Lillian Bischof and assistant coach Amy Heusler.

# OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys' Basketball Tournament Central Outlasts River in Classic

## Knights to play Shadyside for Class 2A title

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

HANNIBAL — It's not often that a game — at any level — lives up to the hype.

Tuesday night's OVAC Class 2A semifinal inside a loud and packed R.L. Potts Gymnasium at River High School certainly did ... and then some.

Second-seeded River and third-seeded Wheeling Central went back-and-forth, matching body blow for body blow before the Maroon Knights were able to salt the game away in the final minute en route to a 58-52 victory and another trip to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship on Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education.

"We had to battle, and we were able to make a couple of plays that we had to make," a relieved Mel Stephens said outside of the Maroon Knights' locker room. "We forced them into a couple of tough, long shots down the stretch and we were able to get rebounds."

Central — which owns an OVAC-best 24 conference titles — will go after another crown against a Shadyside squad, which upset top-seeded Toronto on Tuesday. The Knights already own two decisive victories against the Tigers this season.

See CENTRAL, Page 12



Wheeling Central's Bray Price skies toward the rim during Tuesday's OVAC semifinal game at River.

Photo by Seth Staskey



Photo by Mike Mathison

Madonna's Joey Ewusiak (23) goes up for a shot as Bishop Donahue's Taylor Straughn defends Tuesday in Weirton.

## Madonna Gets Best of Bishop

By AARON PETCHAL  
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — Every time Bishop Donahue knocked, Madonna answered and proceeded to close the door.

The Bishops scored the first basket of the third quarter to pull within two points, but the Blue Dons responded and ripped off an 18-4 spurt to build a game-high 16 point lead and the No. 2 seed Madonna boys' basketball team withstood one last challenge by No. 3 seed Bishop Donahue en route to a 69-60 victory in an OVAC Class 1A Tournament semifinal Tuesday night inside the Dube Dome to reach the tournament final for the third straight season.

"It was back-and-forth," Madonna (14-7) coach Chris Blair said. "It was a battle. It was a very good OVAC semifinal like we knew it would be. Both teams played hard. It was a good basketball game. Hopefully, the fans enjoyed it."

After trailing by 16 points early in the fourth quarter, the Bishops were able to close within five points on a couple of occasions, but were never able to get over the hump.

See MADONNA, Page 13

# Ferry Loses Big Lead, Downs Linsly in Overtime

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — It's hard to beat a team three times. Especially, a good, talented team. Martins Ferry found a way Tuesday night, but it surely didn't come easy and it had to work a little extra in doing so.

The top-seeded Purple Riders (19-2) overcame a sluggish fourth quarter — in which everything seemed to go wrong — but outlasted No. 4 Linsly, 58-55, in overtime before a raucous crowd inside Tolbert Gymnasium high in an OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Class 3A Championship semifinal.

Martins Ferry advances to Saturday's championship encounter against No. 3 Buckeye Trail, which sent second-seeded

Fort Frye into the loser's bracket. The game will be played 2:30 p.m. inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

"It feels awesome," first-year Martins Ferry coach Derek Edwards said. "The players earned it. We feel very fortunate to play in such a big game and we're going to do our best to play and win that game."

Leading 42-28 after three panels, Martins Ferry appeared headed towards its first OVAC Championship game, but the visiting Cadets (13-7) had other ideas.

Sparked by James "Butter" Murray and Dylan Harrison, Linsly slowly, but surely, cut into the deficit.

See FERRY, Page 13



Linsly's James "Butter" Murray dribbles against Martins Ferry's Shane Schuster.

Photo by Kim North

# Cole Hopes for Healthier, More Productive 2017

Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Gerrit Cole throws during a workout Tuesday at baseball spring training in Bradenton, Fla.

AP Photo



BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Two years ago, Gerrit Cole won 19 games and finished fourth in the National League Cy Young voting.

After slogging through an injury filled 2016, the Pittsburgh Pirates' ace has set more modest goals for the upcoming season.

"Staying healthy, being able to contribute," Cole said. "Staying disciplined and staying on a routine. Just keep trying to perfect the things I can control is a

pretty good goal."

On Tuesday, when Pirates pitchers and catchers held their first workout of spring training, Cole threw a normal bullpen session. He fired 35 fastballs in front of a crowd of a couple dozen fans and several keenly interested members of the Pirates' coaching staff and front office.

It was uneventful. It was mundane. And it was exactly what Cole needed.

"It certainly is an advantage

for us if he's healthy and he's Gerrit Cole again," general manager Neal Huntington said. "There's no coincidence that we were good when Gerrit was good."

Last year, Cole sustained a rib injury about a month before camp began. It threw his offseason training routine out of whack and still bothered him a couple of months into the season.

See COLE, Page 13

## ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Will the UConn women's basketball team get to 150 straight

Yes: 40%  
No: 60%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Will a local swim team win a state championship?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at  
www.theintelligencer.net

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the

# FERRY

(Continued from Page 11)

Harrison netted 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter. His two free throws with 12.1 seconds remaining deadlocked the contest at 49.

Martins Ferry got off a last-ditch effort, but it was well off the mark.

"It was a combination of a lot of things," Edwards said. "Make no mistake about it. Linsly is a very good team and they make things very difficult. Their press was very good and very well-executed. We didn't handle it the way we should. We had mental lapses and it got them (Linsly) back in the game. They still had to make plays, and boy did they make them.

"Murray and Harrison made some very difficult shots."

Murray drained a 3-pointer to start the four-minute extra session that gave Linsly its first lead since early in the second quarter at 52-49. The bonus goal also prompted Edwards to immediately call a timeout.

"Our guys put their heads down and kept playing," Edwards noted. "We played through runs. We knew how explosive this team was."

Following the 60-second break in the action, Martins Ferry took command as Darius Ray knocked down a 3-pointer from the left wing to tie the contest. Nearly a minute later, Darrell Price tickled the twine twice on free throws for a 54-52 Martins Ferry

lead with 1:52 left.

Harrison put the Cadets back on top with an NBA 3, 55-54, but Ferry's Shane Schuster dropped in two free throws as the hosts went back ahead, 56-55, with 1:28 showing.

After a Linsly miss, Zac Selby grabbed one of his team-high 11 rebounds and was fouled. He walked to the other end of the court and missed the first shot. However, he sank the second for a 57-55 edge.

The Cadets called timeout at the 47.8-second mark, but then committed a turnover 14 seconds later.

Ray was fouled with 32.2 seconds on the clock. He made the first for a three-point margin, 58-55, but missed the second, opening the door for Linsly. Harrison missed a 3-pointer, but the Cadets got the offensive rebound and shipped it out to Harrison. However, his second attempt was off the mark under heavy pressure as the buzzer sounded.

Martins Ferry connected on 6 of 8 free throws in overtime after misfiring on 7 of 8 during regulation play.

"Free-throw shooting can win you a lot of games and it can lose you a lot of games," Edwards said. "Against good teams you have to make your free throws. We didn't do that tonight and it almost cost us."

Linsly head coach James Wallace

was proud of the way his team kept battling.

"Our guys have the ability to play phenomenal defense. We don't necessarily have the depth to do that for 32 minutes, but we have a group of seniors that didn't want it to end the way it looked like it was going to," he said. "They put their foot down and battled back the way they have all season.

"I couldn't be any more proud of a bunch of guys. They are a resilient group. We had the opportunity to make some plays down the stretch, we just didn't make enough. Ferry made some plays when they had to."

While Martins Ferry was burning the nets at a 66-percent (23-35) clip, Linsly couldn't find their range.

"We had some good looks that didn't go down, but we didn't shoot the ball like we normally do," Wallace said. "But, we had our hottest three-point shooter with two looks at the end. There was a lot of contact and the shot wouldn't go down."

Selby and Ray evenly divided 38 points between them, while Jack Davis added 10. Selby also charted 11 rebounds to complete his double-double. He also finished with half-a-dozen assists and three blocks.

Murray led all scorers with 23. Warren Saunders had a dozen rebounds.

## MADONNA

(Continued from Page 11)

"In the fourth quarter, we turned up the pressure pretty well," Bishop Donahue (11-9) coach Tom Wise said. "They kept dumping the ball down on the blocks.

"We would double team them, and then they would dump off for baskets. We were not smart enough to leave our man and help some other way.

"It was not because of a lack of effort. We made some mental mistakes in some key situations. That intentional foul was crazy. That should not have happened."

The intentional foul came with 3:51 left in the game. The Bishops hit a 3-pointer to pull within 56-51, but Koltin Kleeh knocked Trip Moore to the ground giving the Blue Dons two shots and the ball. Moore made 1 of 2 shots from the line, and the Blue Dons scored on the ensuing possession to push the lead back up to eight points.

Later, a 3-pointer by Trey Miller pulled the visitors to within 65-60, but the hosts hit four straight foul shots down the stretch to record the victory.

"Both teams made runs," Blair said. "We just made the last run. They are a good team. We knew they were going to have runs. We wanted to make their runs as short lived as possible, and we wanted to start our own runs. We were able to do that tonight.

"We were able to spread them out. Our guards did a good job of penetrating and finding our bigs on the block, and our big guys finished on the block."

With the win, Madonna will play in the tournament final against No. 1 seed Wellsville at 10 a.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

Wellsville advanced by defeating No. 4 seed Trinity Christian, 62-44, at home in Tuesday's other semifinal game.

"We have not seen Wellsville play," Blair said.

"They were in first place for most of the season. They have a great record. It is going to be a challenge. It is a huge deal for us. We are excited about playing for an OVAC championship. We have been down there the last two years, but we have fallen short. We are going to go down there and try again on Saturday."

Tavon Jeter recorded a game-high 26 points for the Blue Dons, Joey Ewusiak collected 18 and Justin Canei contributed 10.

"Playing fast is not a problem for either team," Wise said. "Neither team likes to put the brakes on. We just take each team and do the best we can."

Taylor Straughn netted a team-high 17 points for the Bishops, Anthony Robbins recorded 15 and Logan Ruckh collected 12.

"Both teams are good in transition," Blair said. "They have good scorers in Straughn and Kleeh. We do as well with Tavon and Joey. Both teams like to get out in transition when the opportunity is there."

The Bishops scored five straight points to take an 11-7 lead in the first quarter, but the boys in white rallied and went on a 12-0 run to build an eight-point in the second quarter. After leading 14-13 after the first quarter, the victors extended their advantage to 31-27 at halftime.

After the Bishops pulled within 31-29 early in the third quarter, the home team tallied the next 10 points to build a 41-29 lead with 3:18 still showing on the scoreboard clock. The Blue Dons led 47-33 entering the fourth quarter.

"Defense," Blair said asked what made the difference for his team in the victory. "Defense. Period. It was our defense. We had multiple guys take charges. It was a great team effort on defense."

Madonna is 3-0 this season against Bishop Donahue.

minutes of regulation before scoring the first six points of OT to seize control.

"St. Clairsville played a good game and our kids battled," Wheeling Park head coach Michael Jebbia said. "But when you get down six ..."

Both teams stand at 7-13.

The victory kept the Red Devils from falling for the second straight game in OT in The Friendly City. St. C. dropped a three-point decision at Wheeling Central on Friday night.

To avoid that same fate, Clifford said his team clamped down defensively late and made better choices on the offensive end.

"I think we moved the ball better, and going back to man-to-man helped," he said.

A tip in by Park senior Maezi Mosby gave the Patriots a 52-44 lead with about six minutes remaining in the fourth.

Logan Williams (13 points) made a layup at the other end for

the 5:01 mark.

"They started to chip at (the lead)," Jebbia said. "Give St. Clairsville credit. They started making some plays.

"They started getting a lot of drives and (Michael) Scarnecchia started to get loose inside a little bit."

Scarnecchia (14 points) made his presence known from the perimeter, however, coming out of the timeout, however, draining a 3 that gave the Red Devils a 54-52 lead with 4:09 left.

From there, the score went back and forth until St. C.'s Matthew Busby (11 points) made the front end of a 1-and-1 with 53.2 seconds left tying the game at 57-57.

Park's Jack Stakem himself went to the line for a 1-and-1 with 36.7 ticks left, but missed the front end. The Red Devils brought the ball down, with Scarnecchia eventually being fouled attempting a shot in the

and the game went into overtime.

Justin Heatherington hit back-to-back buckets to start the extra session, then Scarnecchia followed with a basket off an offensive rebound giving the Red Devils the lead for good at 63-57.

The victory was satisfying for Clifford, who watched his team overcome a 17-0 run by the Patriots at the start of the second quarter that put them up 11.

Keondre King scored six of his team-high 21 points during the run, while Alex Vargo poured in seven of his 14.

"We just chipped away," he said. "There aren't any 17-point plays or seven-point plays; just concentrate on every possession. That's what the kids did, they concentrated."

**OVAC Consolations**  
**Indian Creek 52**  
**John Marshall 44**

**MOUNDSVILLE** - Indian Creek got off to a quick start, which proved to be the difference

Dylan Irvan and Alex Midcap each recorded double-doubles for Valley as it cruised past host Frontier.

Irvan shined with 15, while Midcap and Levi Streets each supplied 12 points for Valley (11-9).

**Caldwell 58, Paden City 43**  
**CALDWELL** - Caldwell held all but two Paden City players under two points in a home victory.

Clark Jennings paced the Redskins with 25 points and Logan Heller added 17.

Aaron Heasley provided 29 points and nine rebounds for the Wildcats (9-12), while Hayden Hizer turned in 12 points.

**Ritchie County 61**  
**Tyler Consolidated 50**

**SISTERSVILLE** - Ritchie County delivered a 30-17 first half en route to topping visiting Tyler Consolidated.

The Silver Knights (5-15) were led by Jace Reed with 14

five treys for 21.

**Girls**  
**OVAC Consolation**  
**St. John Central 68**  
**Paden City 49**

**BELLAIRE** - St. John Central celebrated Senior Night by downing Paden City.

Sophomore Madison DeLuca tossed in a career-high 32 points in helping the Irish overcome an early 14-2 deficit. Senior Taylor Lowe netted nine points while Alyssa Busack and Kaylin Nixon evenly divided 16 counters.

Chelsea Baker paced Paden City with 15 points while Ali Suter chipped in with 10 tallies.

**Regular Season**  
**St. Marys 70, Valley 47**

**ST.MARYS** - Although host St. Marys won the game, Valley's Sophie Palmer reached the 1,000th point milestone.

Palmer led the Lumberjills (16-7) with 13 points, while Jenna Dallison chipped in with 11.

## SWIMMERS

(Continued from Page 11)

The Patriots have three relay teams taking part as well with the 200 medley team of Lucas, Butts, Schellhase and Zach Seals; the 200 relay squad of Lucas, DeFazio, Butts and Seals; as well as the 400 relay group of Schellhase, Butts, Seals and Lucas.

As strong as the boys are looking for Wheeling Park, the girls' team looks just as ready for its opportunity.

The talented trio of freshman Lydia Bischof (100 breaststroke, 200 IM), sophomore Sarah Heilman (100 backstroke, 100 butterfly) and junior Victoria White (500, 200 IM) have been unstoppable all season and aren't looking to slow down any time soon.

"We have a very talented team and the girls got third place last year," Durkin said. "They are a great group of kids and they are fun to coach."

Lillian Bischof (200 IM, 500), Alexa Hickman (50, 100 breaststroke), Allison Holmstrand (200, 100 backstroke), Melina McCabe (200 IM, 500), Kat Donzella (50) and Sydney Moffett (100) round up the girls' squad for Park.

Wheeling Central has three boys and three girls heading to the state meet as Kidney Creed (200, 500), Austin Schramm (50, 100 backstroke) and Nathan Blair (500) make up the boys team and Rachel Drnach (100 breaststroke), Grace Taylor (100 butterfly) and Patricia Tiu (200, 500) represent the girls.

"We are hoping to get to the finals on Friday," Wheeling Central coach Jeani Humpe said. "We have done very well as of late, especially Tiu and Creed and we are hoping for another drop on Thursday."

The John Marshall boys' team that is aiming for a title is led by Billy Fox (200, 100 backstroke).

"We are hoping that Fox can make the finals," Monarchs coach Liz Kaczor said. "He has put in a lot of work this season and just missed the finals in the backstroke last year."

Jeremy Fahey qualified for the 50 freestyle.

The Monarchs 200 and 400 relay teams consists of Scott Postle, Walker Postle, Fahey and Fox.

The girls' 200 relay team of Jayden Conner, Katie Minor, Emily Monti and Paige Pethel will look to lead John Marshall in a rare appearance at the state tournament.

"This is a huge deal for us," Kaczor said.



The Brooke state bound swim team. Front, from left, Bethany Harlan, Leah Caparros, Mary Ossman. Back: Joey Siudak, Tim Julio, Noah Horvath. Absent are Emily Donley and Damian Campbell.

zor said. "These girls are best friends and they are the first girls team to make the state meet in five years."

Weir also has a strong team in contention with Michael Miller (100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke), Tyler Virtue (100, 100 breaststroke) and Wil Visnic (500, 200).

Virtue, Visnic and Miller will join Isaac Piatt in both the 200 medley and 200 relay teams.

"Hopefully they all do well," Weir coach John McGowan said. "The 200 and 500 races are going to be dog fights and you never know who will rise to the occasion but Wil is ready to be up there."

Visnic is in his fourth year qualifying for the state meet.

Weir's girls team is sparked by Mickayla Cook (200, 500) and Kaitlyn Stumpf (500, 200 IM), while Anita Village takes part in the 100 breaststroke.

"Cook and Stumpf are both in the 500," McGowan said. "They both made the state meet last year after a really nice regional meet, while Stumpf made the IM the last two years and made it to states both times. We are hoping for the same outcome this year."

Weir's 200 medley relay team

consists of Katelyn Haspel, Village, Stumpf and Claire Stewart, while the 200 relay squad includes Stewart, Nevaeh Colliers, Village and Cook and the 400 relay team of Stewart, Cook, Stumpf and Village rounds off the state team.

Brooke's Noah Horvath (100 backstroke, 200 IM) and Joseph Siudak (100 butterfly) are the two individuals on the Bruins boys team, while the 200 medley relay squad of Horvath, Tim Julio, Siudak and Damian Campbell are also hoping to medal.

Mary Ossman (500), Leah Caparros (100 backstroke), Emily Donley (100 backstroke) and Bethany Harlan (100) made individual events and the 200 medley, 200 and 400 relay teams for the Bruins.

"Horvath is just a freshman so I am pretty excited to see how he does," Brooke coach Gina Reitter said. "I am also excited for Caparros to do well in the 100 backstroke. It was a spur of the moment decision to put her there and she blew me away. She must have been a natural."

Caparros is a senior for Brooke who has made it to the state meet all four years.

## CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

"I told the kids not to take (going to OUE) for granted," Stephens said. "We're excited for the opportunity we have ahead of us on Saturday. We'll get back to work (Wednesday) to prepare again for Shadyside."

There was no thought of Saturday or the Tigers at any point before the final buzzer sounded. After owning a 29-27 lead at half and a 40-36 upperhand at the end of three, the Maroon Knights appeared to be on the cusp of gaining a measure of comfort at least twice in the fourth. They opened up a 48-40 lead, which was the game's biggest margin, and then with just less than three minutes they owned a seven-point cushion.

"Part of it was execution," Stephens said. "I told the kids at halftime that when we slowed down, ran a set and executed, we got good shots. There have been times in games earlier this season where we get a lead in the second half and we tend to freelance a bit. We let the other team get back into it and River's too good for that to happen."

Staring up from a 53-46 hole, the Pilots showed their own resolve. Michael Collins got two at the line and talented junior Lukas Isaly scored going to the bucket and then cashed in a foul shot, making it a 53-51 reading.

The Pilots got another stop and a wide-open look at a corner 3, but it was too strong. The Knights boarded and found junior standout Brent Price at the other end for a bucket, from which the Pilots couldn't recover.

"Our kids fought tooth and nail," a disappointed River coach Mark Romick said. "We came back several times and had a shot for the lead. Our kids never say die. They just keep digging. We had good looks at the bucket."

Though Price shared the team-high honor with 16 points, sometimes it was his passing that proved to be the difference. He found Owen Gainer and his younger brother, Bray, for wide-open 3-pointers in the fourth, both of which were clutch shots at the time.

"When two good teams

play, this is the type of game you see," Romick said. "You can take some things away, but you're going to give something else up. You can't take everything away. Price is a handful and he got us twice in the fourth quarter, which were key trips."

While Price and Isaly, rightfully so, garner much of the attention on their respective teams, the Knights' supporting cast proved to be the difference. Senior John Burkhalter turned in a spectacular effort on both ends. He scored 16 points, including nine in the fourth.

"You really have to pick your poison with Central because they have more than one shooter out there," Romick said. "Burkhalter was a big key. We knew how athletic he was. He's quick to the bucket and jumps well. We ended up getting into some mismatches with them. We got caught a few times, which hurt us at times."

Gainer finished with 13 points.

River had just one double-figure scorer. Isaly was impressive en route to 24 points. Parker Caretti finished with eight points.

The Pilots (18-3) will trek to Toronto for the Class 2A consolation game.

**Shadyside 60, Toronto 46**  
**TORONTO** - Shadyside doubled up Toronto in the fourth quarter of its OVAC 2-A semifinal contest at Toronto.

Chase Wade paced the Tigers with 23 points, while Colby Sherwood delivered 15.

Toronto was led by Jake Keenan who bucketed 14 and Lucas Gulczynski who recorded 11.

**OVAC 4-A Semifinal**  
**Steubenville 90**  
**Buckeye Local 56**

**STEUBENVILLE** - The Big Red put up 90 points on 34 made field goals en route to an OVAC semifinal win over visiting Buckeye Local.

Isaiah Lee-Granatir led the way with 18 points, while Jack Marx provided 15. Alec Davis earned 12 and Charles Reeves garnered 11 for Steubenville (16-4).

Buckeye Local (13-8) was led by Drake Novak who accounted for 27 and Sean Millard who tallied 19.

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!**

**WE CAN GET YOU IN A BETTER CAR NEW OR A NEWER 2014, 2015, OR 2016**

**KIA A&B KIA**

aandbautosales.com  
 Marshall St., Benwood WV • 304-233-1480

**BLEIFUS TIRE SERVICE, INC.**

Alignment • Brakes • Shocks • Struts • Oil Change

**STEER CLEAR THIS SEASON!**

**SCHEDULE YOUR ALIGNMENT TODAY!**

304-547-5300 • 800-254-5303  
 4274 National Rd, Triadelphia, WV  
 Daily: 8am - 5:30pm • Saturday 10am - 2pm

**YOKOHAMA**

**AFFORDABLE & RELIABLE COMFORT**

**Heating • Air Conditioning**  
**GeoThermal**  
**(740) 769-7709**  
 OH Lic. #24730 WV Lic. #0257B8

**The new designer in comfort**





# Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

## Colts outscore Edison 35-12 over final 10 minutes; MHS to face Steubenville for title

# Meadowbrook advances to OVAC 4A final

By JEFF HARRISON  
The Daily Jeffersonian

**BYESVILLE** — Teams often stress the term “finish”, hoping to close out games playing well.



Meadowbrook High took that to another level on Tuesday.



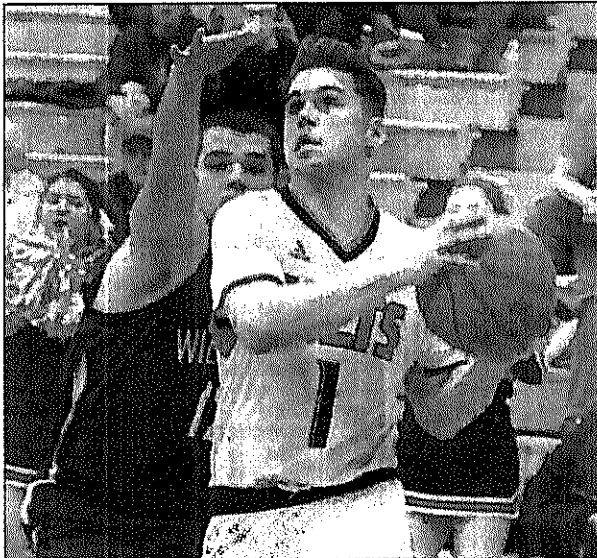
Locked in a two-point struggle with two minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Colts turned on the after-burners and exploded with a 35-12 finish to defeat Edison, 74-49, in the OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys' Basketball Tournament's Class 4A semifinals.

The victory gives Meadowbrook (18-3) a chance to defend its conference crown from a year ago, but in order to do so they'll have to contend with No. 1 seed Steubenville Big Red, a 90-56 winner over Buckeye Local in Tuesday's other 4A semifinal.

**OVAC CLASS 4A SEMIFINALS**  
**MEADOWBROOK 74, EDISON 49**  
**Edison (13-9)**  
 Bryce Platt 5-10 0-0 13, Connor Hyndman 3-8 2-4 9, Dom Rogers 4-5 2-2 10, Joe Nave 3-11 0-0 7, Zac Kramarich 3-6 0-0 7, Anthony Sinacropi 1-2 0-0 2, Michael Speedy 0-1 0-0 0, Zach Easter 0-2 0-0 0, Andrew Ninney 0-0 0-0 0, Alec McBane 0-0 0-0 0, Bryce MacAfoosa 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 20-45 4-6 49.

**Meadowbrook (18-3)**  
 Connor Roberts 5-6 0-0 7, Trey Singleton 0-11 1-1 20, Justin Cork 2-9 2-3 6, Parker Black 8-15 1-1 17, Logan Wolverton 6-9 3-4 16, Davis Black 1-3 0-0 2, Easton Black 1-2 0-0 2, Bobby Feyko 1-1 2-2 4, Dylan Webster 0-1 0-0 0, Dalton Wood 0-0 0-0 0, Peyton Neff 0-0 0-0 0, Will Ford 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-59 9-12 74.

**Edison 9 12 16 12 — 49**  
**Meadowbrook 11 16 21 26 — 74**  
 Three-point goals: EHS 4-12 (Nave 2, Kramarich, Platt); MHS 3-12 (Roberts, Singleton, Wolverton).  
 Rebounds: EHS 27 (Nave 7, Rogers 6, Platt 4); MHS 26 (P. Black 6, D. Black 5, Singleton 4). Assists: EHS 9 (Platt 3, Nave 3); MHS 17 (Singleton 4, Cork 4, Wolverton 4). Steals: EHS 6 (Platt 2, Nave 2, Kramarich 2); MHS 12 (Singleton 3, P. Black 3, Wolverton 3, D. Black 2). Blocked Shots: EHS 3; MHS 3 (P. Black 2). Fouls: EHS 15; MHS 8. Fouled Out: EHS (Nave); MHS (none). Turnovers: EHS 21; MHS 13.



Meadowbrook High's Connor Roberts (1) goes to the hoop past Edison's Joe Nave during Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A Tournament semifinal game in Byesville. The Colts advanced to the title game with a 74-49 victory.



Meadowbrook High's Logan Wolverton has his path to the basket cut off by Edison's Bryce Platt (2) during Tuesday night's OVAC Class 4A Tournament semifinal in Byesville. The Colts advanced to the championship game, where they'll take on Steubenville for the title.

The teams played on near-even terms in the first quarter, with Meadowbrook managing an 11-9 edge aided by seven early Edison turnovers.

Five points by senior Justin Cork and a lay-up by senior Logan Wolverton helped the Colts move out to an 18-13 edge, but Edison scored eight of the next 10 points — four by Dom Rogers — to take a short-lived 21-20 lead with 3:08 remaining in the half.

Meadowbrook closed the half strong with a 7-0 spurt to go on top, 27-21, at the intermission.

The scoring picked up in the third period both ways, with the Colts up by seven mid-way through the round before the Wildcats clawed back with a 7-2 surge to get within a bucket, 39-37, with 2:50 left in the round.

That's when the dam broke, so to speak, and Meadowbrook began to flow. Junior Trey Singleton scored five straight and senior Parker Black tallied consecutive hoops to fuel a 9-0 close to the round which gave Meadowbrook some breathing room at 48-37.

See Page B3 | Colts

## Warriors beat Fort Frye, to play Martins Ferry in title game

# Trail wins in OT to reach OVAC 3A final

By CLAY MCCAULEY  
The Daily Jeffersonian

**BEVERLY** — With an electrifying crowd behind them on the road, visiting Buckeye Trail High got some revenge and finally pulled out a victory over its Pioneer Valley Conference rival, Fort Frye, with a thrilling 68-66 overtime win in the OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys' Basketball Tournament Class 3A semifinals on Tuesday.



The Cadets claimed both of the previous match-ups — a 71-58 victory in Old Washington earlier in the season and more recently, a 64-62 buzzer-beater in Beverly — so Buckeye Trail coach Gary Chumney was ecstatic to have this one go his way.

“I don't even know what to say right now,” said Chumney about his OVAC title bound squad. “I am just so happy and so happy for the guys. They battled throughout the whole game. There were a couple of times we were down, but they responded so well. Fort Frye is such a fundamentally sound team and they have a great program going.”

**BUCKEYE TRAIL 68, FORT FRYE 66**  
**Buckeye Trail (16-5)**  
 CJ McCall 8-14 2-5 20, Jacob Doudna 6-12 2-2 14, Troy Pontius 5-11 0-0 12, Zach Grafton 4-7 0-0 10, Justin Jones 2-8 2-2 8, Brandon Barnett 1-5 2-2 4, Trey Dougherty 0-2 0-0 0, Dylan Beaver 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 26-60 8-9 68.

**Fort Frye (16-5)**  
 Justin Anderson 8-16 5-6 24, Jacob Prichard 9-14 0-0 20, Tyler Bradford 4-8 1-2 11, Luke Nelson 2-5 0-0 5, Grayson Schott 1-6 0-0 2, Tate Engle 1-8 0-1 2, Kane Greenleaf 1-1 0-0 2, Brayson Schilling 0-4 0-0 0, Totals 26-62 6-9 66.

**Buckeye Trail 8 18 20 8 14 — 68**  
**Fort Frye 12 11 20 11 12 — 66**  
 Three-point goals: BTHS 8 (Pontius 2, McCall 2, Grafton 2, Jones 2); FFHS 8 (Anderson 3, Prichard 2, Bradford 2, Nelson).  
 Rebounds: BTHS 33 (Doudna 6, Jones 6, McCall 5); FFHS 45 (Prichard 13, Anderson 7, Bradford 7). Assists: BTHS 15 (Dougherty 4, Doudna 3, McCall 3); FFHS 18 (Schilling 6, Engle 4, Sisk 3). Blocked Shots: BTHS 2; FFHS 3 (Anderson 3). Fouls: BTHS 14; FFHS 13. Fouled Out: none. Turnovers: BTHS 11; FFHS 20.

“This was the one we wanted to get,” Chumney continued. “I told the guys before the game ‘let's go out and take the torch from them’ and we did it. I can't even put into words how proud I am of them and how hard they played tonight.”

Fort Frye's Jacob Prichard carried the scoring load in the first quarter for the Cadets, leading his team to a 12-8 scoring edge with seven points.

The Warriors trailed by eight points early in the second round after a pair of “treys” from Fort Frye senior Justin Anderson, but quickly rebounded and closed the quarter on a 14-5 run to take a slim 26-23 advantage into the halftime intermission.

Anderson finished 3-of-4 in the quarter with eight of his squad's 11 points, while Trail senior CJ McCall put up seven counters of his own going a perfect 3-of-3 in the stanza.

Following the break, the Warriors exploded to open the third period with a 9-0 scoring run paced by a pair of clutch buckets from senior Troy Pontius and a two-hand slam from senior Jacob Doudna that lifted everyone off of their seats and forced the Cadets to call a time-out.

Trail had its largest lead of the game at 35-23 with 6:15 remaining in the third quarter, but the momentum rapidly shifted in favor of Fort Frye as it responded to Trail's run with an 8-0 burst of its own.

Both teams put up 20 tallies in the third quarter and the Warriors led 46-43 heading into the final quarter of regulation.

The fourth period was back-and-forth from start-to-finish, but

the Cadets climbed their way back in the game to take their first lead at 51-50 since the 4:40 mark in the second quarter.

The Warriors trailed 54-52 with a measly 30 seconds remaining when McCall swiped the ball away from the Cadet offense and scored to tie things up at 54 each.

The Trail defense continued to stay right on Fort Frye's heels and forced another turnover with six seconds left, but it was not enough time to get a good shot off and the teams headed to overtime tied at 54-all.

“I am mostly proud of our defense,” noted Chumney. “They (Fort Frye) is such a good offensive team with a great player in Anderson and we were able to force some big turnovers.”

Despite falling behind 60-56 with two minutes remaining in the contest, the Warriors shot their way back with a pair of “triples” from Pontius and senior Justin Jones to take a 62-60 lead with one minute remaining.

Trail closed out the game going a perfect 6-of-6 from the free throw line in overtime to punch its ticket to the OVAC 3A title game.

McCall, Doudna and Jones of BTHS all knocked down a pair of

“freebees” in crunch time.

“Our free throw shooting was phenomenal,” said Coach Chumney. “We usually aren't great free-throw shooters, but we made them when it counted and they were definitely some big ones. It just showed how much we wanted to win this game. The guys really showed some heart when we went down in overtime and answered right back. We held our composure and we did what we had to do as a team.”

Four players reached double-digit scoring for the Warriors (16-5), led by McCall with a team-best 20 points to go along with five boards and a trio of assists and steals. Doudna tallied 20 points and seven rebounds followed by Pontius with 12 and sophomore Zach Grafton with 10.

Fort Frye's Anderson finished with the game-high honors with 24 points as well as seven rebounds and a trio of assists and rejections. Also putting up big numbers for the Cadets (16-5) was Prichard with a huge double-double including 20 markers and 13 rebounds while junior Tyler Bradford tacked on 11 points.

The other Class 3A semifinal

See Page B3 | Trail

# Colts

From Page B1

37 heading to the final chapter.

The onslaught continued over the final eight minutes as Meadowbrook outscored Edison 26-12 to turn a nail-biter into a 25-point runaway.

Singleton tallied nine and Black seven in the final round for the hosts.

"I think we just relaxed and started making some shots," said Meadowbrook coach Lou 'Scooter' Tolzda, "and maybe we wore them down a little. We were a little tight and out of sorts at the beginning, and we had to keep grinding. We knew they were the type of team that wouldn't quit, and they had some good athletes.

"We were gambling and getting out of position and giving them the lane," he continued, "but once we hooked up against them in half-court (defense), we

were pretty solid.

"We attacked the rim well late and shared the basketball," the MHS coach added. "One we got things rolling, we really took it to another level."

Singleton poured in 20 points to lead the Colts offensively, with Parker Black netting 17 and Wolverton scoring 16 as the top support.

"Trey has been playing better and better," said Coach Tolzda.

"He's under the radar a little, but the more he's got to play, the steadier he's been."

Meadowbrook was 31-of-59 from the field, including a sizzling 20-of-30 in the second half, and hit 9-of-12 free throws. The colts had 26 rebounds, led by Parker Black with six; Davis Black with five and Singleton with four; and 13 turnovers.

Singleton, Cork and Wolverton each handed out four assists and Singleton, Parker Black and Wolverton each had three

steals.

For Edison (13-8), senior Bryce Piatt tallied 13 followed by Rogers with 10; junior Connor Hyndman with nine; senior Joe Nave with eight and senior Zac Kramarich with seven.

The Wildcats were 20-of-45 on action shots and 4-of-6 at the charity stripe with 27 boards and 21 miscues.

Nave collected seven rebounds and Rogers had six while Nave and Piatt both dished out three assists.

In the other 4A semifinal, Steubenville Big Red pulled away in the second half for a 90-56 victory against Buckeye Local.

"We're looking forward to playing Steubenville on Saturday," he said, "and having a chance to defend the (OVAC) title."

NEXT — Meadowbrook and Steubenville will battle for the Class 4A crown on Saturday at 4:45 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern in the fourth of five championship games.

## Trail

From Page B1

also went overtime, with Martins Ferry edging The Linsly School, 58-55.

NEXT — Buckeye Trail and Martins Ferry will play for the OVAC Class 3A title on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

## Pairings Set For Boys Tournament

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

BELLAIRE — Get your brackets ready.

OVAC boys basketball's 'Big Dance' is set.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship committee met Wednesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the brackets for the annual event, which opens Tuesday with the higher two seeds in each class hosting a semifinal contest. Along with those games, the consolation pairings for the teams that failed to finish inside the top four were also assigned their games.

The survivors of Tues-

day's semifinals will advance to play for the conference title on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

### CLASS 1A

Wellsville garnered the top seed in its first season in the classification. The Tigers are 16-2. This is the second time the Columbiana County quint has taken part in the event. They were defeated in the 2014 2A final by Wheeling Central.

The Tigers will welcome Morgantown Trinity Christian, which will make a more than 100-mile trip.

See PAIRINGS, Page 14

## PAIRINGS

(Continued from Page 13)

Trinity is 8-7 and serves as the defending champion in the event.

In the other half of the bracket, Madonna, which owns eight conference titles, pocketed the second seed. The Blue Dons are 12-7. They'll host Bishop Donahue, which won the 2014 and '15 championships and own seven overall.

### CLASS 2A

Despite a two-game losing streak, Toronto managed to hold onto the top seed. The Red Knights are 16-3 and are in the championship portion of the event for the second straight winter. Toronto, which is seeking its first OVAC crown since 1992, will welcome perennial entrant, Shadyside.

The Tigers, who also struggled down the stretch, qualified fourth with an 11-9 record. Shadyside owns 13 OVAC boys hoops banners, but hasn't won one since 2010.

River, which has yet to lose to an OVAC opponent all season, is the second seed at 17-2. The Pilots haven't won an OVAC boys' title since 1973 and their path to another won't be easy. Wheeling Central, which sports an identical 17-2 record, will come to Hannibal as the third seed.

The Maroon Knights have hung 24 OVAC boys' basketball banners, including the last four. Central has lost only one game to an OVAC opponent and that was in December to Madonna.

### CLASS 3A

Martins Ferry, which has been one of the area's premier teams all winter, garnered the top seed on the strength of an impressive 18-1 record. Rookie head coach Derek Edwards and company are seeking their sixth conference title in school history, but first since 2002.

Standing in the way of the Riders and a trip to OUE is a date with a formidable Linsly squad, which boasts a 12-6 mark. Two of those Cadets' losses came to the Purple Riders, but the last meeting, a little more than a week ago, came down to the

wire. Linsly has won six banners in basketball and one in the tournament format. It came in 2012.

The second seed in 3A is perennial entrant Fort Frye. The Cadets are 15-4 and have seven previous OVAC titles on their resume with the last coming in 2014. They'll take on third-seeded Buckeye Local, which is 15-5. The two split their regular season meetings. The Warriors have hoisted eight conference titles in their illustrious history.

A new champion is promised in this class as defending champion Magnolia failed to qualify.

### CLASS 4A

Steubenville sat idle Tuesday evening and managed to edge out Meadowbrook for the top seed in this class. Big Red (14-4) will welcome first-time qualifier Buckeye Local to the Crimson Center on Tuesday.

Big Red, which owns 13 OVAC titles, last prevailed in 2014. The Panthers, meanwhile, are 12-7 and have never won a conference title.

The Colts, who are the defending champions, have been impressive this season. With first-year coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda guiding the Colts, they've put together a 16-3 record. The Colts will welcome Edison (13-7). The Wildcats have never claimed an OVAC title.

### CLASS 5A

University, which has been impressive all season, earned the top seed with a 16-2 record. The Hawks, who have never won an OVAC title in their short stint as a member, will welcome upstart Beaver Local, which turned has turned it on of late. The Beavers are 9-10 and will make a more than two-hour trip to Morgantown.

Three-time defending champion Morgantown, which handed University one of its losses, is the second seed and will host Parkersburg South in a rematch of last winter's title game. The Patriots are 9-7 and claimed the 2013 title.

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at  
[www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)



# Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships Wheeling Central Wins Fifth Straight OVAC Title



Photo by Josh Stroppe

Martins Ferry's Darius Ray, right, drives to the basket as Buckeye Trail's Justin Jones defends.

## Ferry Beats Buckeye Trail

Selby Fuels Purple Riders, 64-47

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For the News-Register

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Martins Ferry sat atop the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A standings all season.

The Purple Riders showed Saturday afternoon that wasn't by accident.

Using a dominating inside game — fueled by game MVP Zac Selby and senior Jack Davis — the Purple Riders put forth an impressive second half en route to claiming the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A Boys Basketball Championship, 64-47, against Buckeye Trail before a huge crowd at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"It's a blessing," first-year Purple Riders coach Derek Edwards said. "(The work toward this)

started right after last season. The guys came in at 5 a.m. to get shots up and get in the weight room. It's a long process, but the guys did a great job of putting in the work to get to this point. These are the rewards."

For the Riders, the title has been a long time coming. It is their first since 2002 and first in the tournament era.

"We needed and wanted this OVAC title and everyone played great," Selby said. "It's been a long time since we've won one of these and all eight seniors dialed in on it. It's a great feeling."

Selby, who put forth maybe the best performance of his impressive career, went for 28 points and grabbed 16 rebounds en route to the John Howell Memorial MVP Award.

See, Ferry, Page C7

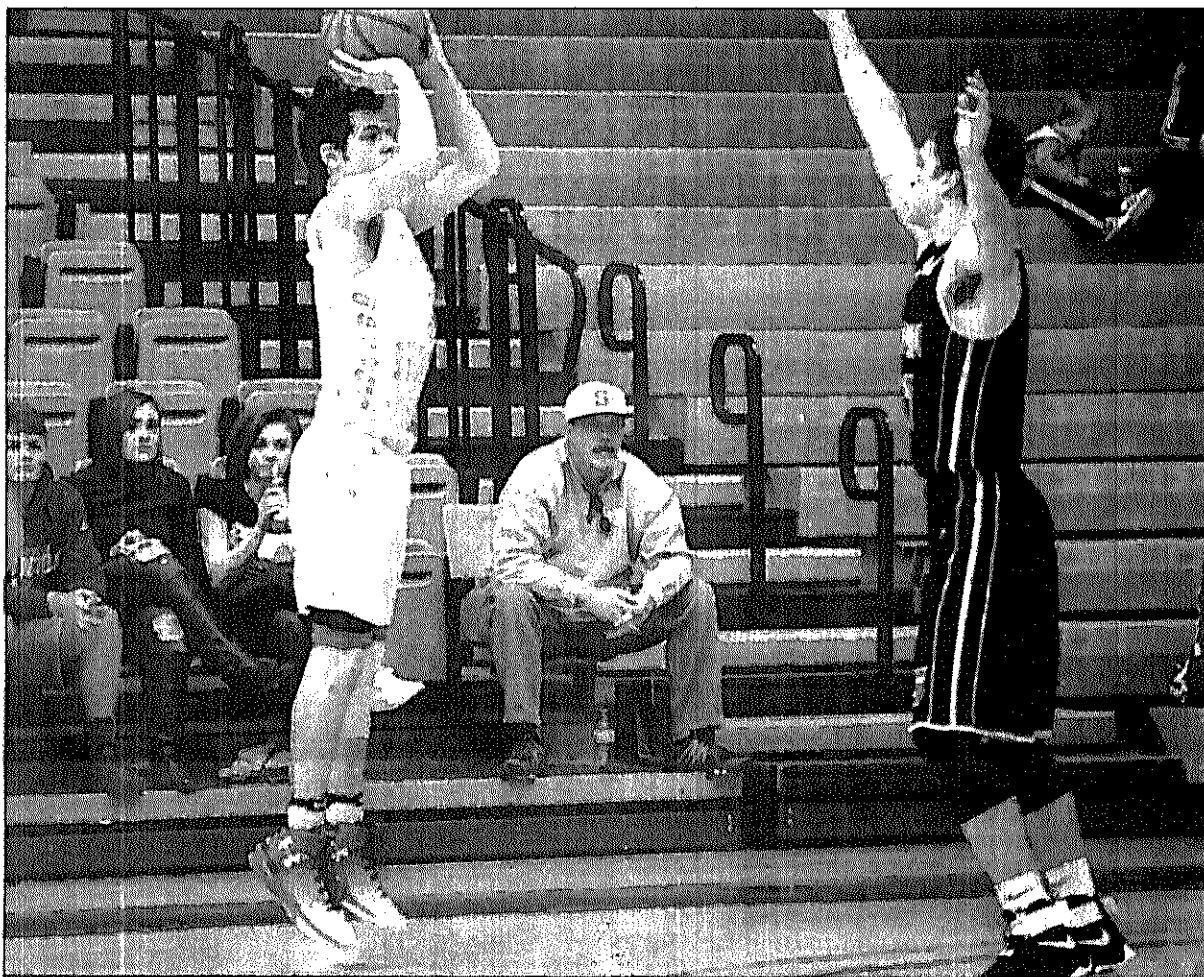


Photo by Josh Stroppe

Wheeling Central's John Burkhalter, left, pulls up for one of his championship game record six 3-pointers Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. Defending on the play is Shadyside's Chase Wade.

## Senior John Burkhalter Sets Record With Six 3-Pointers

By **JOSH STROPE**  
Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Shadyside coach Ed Andes thought the best way to be successful against Wheeling Central was to try and keep Brent Price from doing damage inside the paint.

Price had a solid game with 20 points, but the Tigers' Chase Wade did a good job on not allowing him to take over the game.

Wheeling Central is no one-trick pony, though. Saturday during the OVAC Class 2A title game at Ohio University Eastern, it was John Burkhalter that made the Tigers pay.

The senior hit a Class 2A championship game record six 3-pointers on his way to 22 points and the Maroon Knights claimed their fifth

straight OVAC title with a 75-61 victory against Shadyside.

"I woke up this morning and I was feeling good," said Burkhalter, who was named the John Howell Most Valuable Player. "I was shooting away and doing alright in warmups. I was iffy if I was going to shoot a lot but after the first couple, I was going to let them fly."

"To win one is amazing, but to win all four years I was here is a real honor.

"I couldn't have done it without all the other guys that help me out like Owen (Gainer), Brent, Gabe (Rohmann), Bray (Price) and everybody else that contributed on the court."

Wheeling Central (20-2) scored the first six points and looked like it would run away with it again —

it has beaten Shadyside in its two previous meetings this season, 77-55 and 78-45.

Shadyside (12-10) wasn't going to go down easy this time. The Tigers tied it at 19-19 late in the first quarter on a basket by Wade.

Burkhalter's first 3-pointer gave the Maroon Knights a lead before the end of the quarter and they never trailed again.

Wheeling Central pushed the lead to double digits in the second quarter, paced by three 3-pointers from Burkhalter.

The lead grew to as many 17 as Brent Price snatched a rebound away from Wade and put it back for a 55-38 advantage in the third quarter.

See, Central, Page C7

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Purple power

• Second-half rally gives Martins Ferry first 3A title

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Martins Ferry sat atop the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A standings all season.

The Purple Riders showed once again Saturday afternoon that wasn't by accident.

Using a dominating inside game — fueled by game MVP Zac Selby and senior Jack Davis — the Purple Riders put forth an impressive second half en route to claiming the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A Boys Basketball Championship, 64-47, against Buckeye Trail before a huge crowd at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"It's a blessing," first-year Purple Rider head coach Derek Edwards said. "(The work toward this) started right after last season. The guys came in at 5 a.m. to get shots up and get in the weight room. It's a long process, but the guys did a great job of putting in the work to get to this point. These are the rewards."

For the Riders, the title has been a long time coming. It's their first since 2002 and first in the tournament era.

"We needed and wanted this OVAC title and everyone played great," Selby said. "It's been a long time since we've won one of these and all eight sen-

See, PURPLE, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE  
MARTINS FERRY'S Darius Ray (10) dribbles past Buckeye Trail's Trey Dougherty (15) during Saturday's 3A final.



Robert "Bubba" Kapral  
Executive Sports Editor

## Barnesville's Sawvell relishes new role at Wake Forest

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Jay Sawvell is ACC-bound.

The 1989 Barnesville High grad has been named defensive coordinator at Wake Forest University, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. His move comes on the heels of a highly successful six-year stint with Minnesota.

Sawvell was the Golden Gophers' defensive coordinator this past winter after serving as defensive backs coach from 2011-15. Under Sawvell's tutelage, the Minnesota defense led the country in fumble recoveries with 16 and ranked among the nation's top 25 in scoring defense (22.1 points per game), yards allowed per game (348.8), sacks per game (2.85) and turnovers forced (25).

Minnesota enjoyed a fine 9-4 season, including a 17-12 Holiday Bowl win over Washington State. In that bowl win, Sawvell's defense limited the Cougars to their lowest point total of the season and only 264 total yards.

Sawvell was not retained, however, when head coach Tracy Claeys was let go. Claeys was fired after allegations of sexual assault were brought upon several Minnesota players. Ten players were suspended indefinitely just two weeks before Minnesota was scheduled to play in the Holiday Bowl.

The Minnesota football team decided to boycott all team activities leading up to the bowl game. Claeys came out in support of those plans which rubbed the administration the wrong way, costing Claeys and his staff their respective jobs.

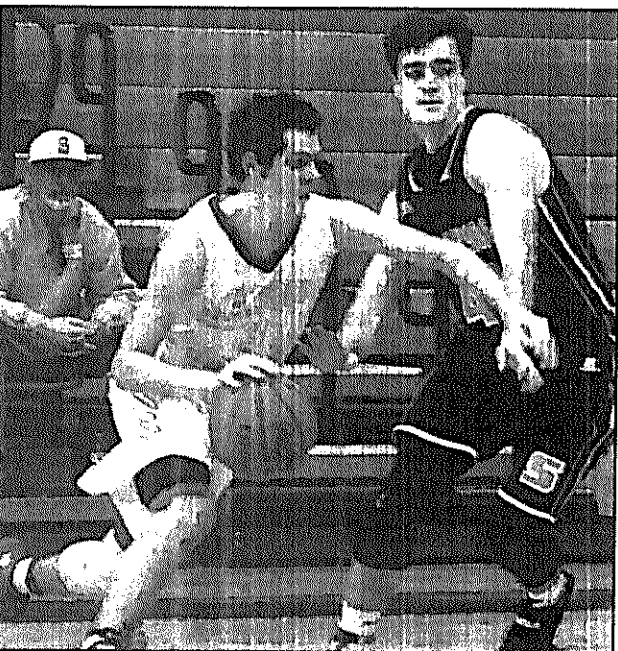
Sawvell, however, has landed on his feet quite well.

"I am excited about the opportunity to coach in a great conference like the ACC. It is an honor for me to be the defensive coordinator at a great school like Wake Forest and to try and help this program continue building to a championship level," Sawvell said. "Leaving Minnesota was tough — it's always tough to change jobs after you spent six seasons building a program from the ashes to where we had become a difficult opponent for everyone we played. But the new AD wanted his own head coach and that is a part of the business."

Wake Forest went 7-6 last fall, including a Military Bowl win over Temple. Former Brooke High star Thomas Cole is a frosh receiver for the Deacons.

"I did hit the ground running — my first day here was Jan. 20 which was the start of a recruiting weekend, and that was followed by a lot of visits to our committed defensive players and 2018 recruits — and then we had to build and install a new defensive system here — very busy time," Sawvell stated. "I have known of Coach Dave Clawson, our head coach, for a number of years. While I didn't know him personally, I knew he had

See, SAWVELL, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE  
WHEELING CENTRAL'S John Burkhalter (3) drives past Shadyside's Chase Wade during Saturday's 2A final.

## Wheeling Central defeats Shadyside for 5th crown

By JOSH STROPE  
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Shadyside coach Ed Andes thought the best way to be successful against Wheeling Central was to try and keep Brent Price from doing damage inside the paint.

Price had a solid game with 20 points, but the Tigers' Chase Wade did a good job on not allowing him to take over the game.

Wheeling Central is no one-trick pony, though. Saturday during the OVAC Class 2A title game at Ohio University Eastern, it was John Burkhalter that made the Tigers pay.

The senior hit a Class 2A championship game record six 3-pointers on his way to 22 points and the Maroon Knights claimed their fifth straight OVAC title with a 75-61 victory against Shadyside.

"I woke up this morning and I was feeling good," said Burkhalter, who was named the John Howell Most Valuable Player. "I was shooting away and doing alright in warmups. I was iffy if I was going to shoot a lot but after the first couple, I was going to let them fly."

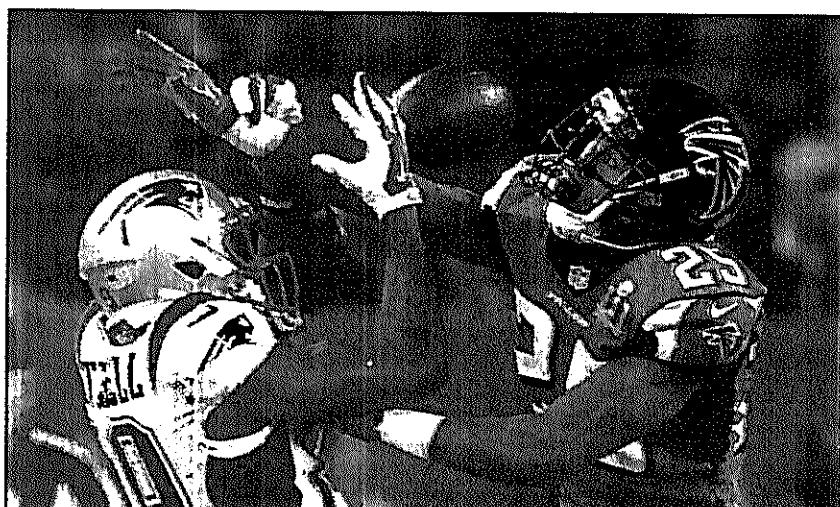
"To win one is amazing, but to win all four years I was here is a real honor. I couldn't have done it without all the other guys that help me out like Owen (Gainer), Brent, Gabe (Rohmann), Bray (Price) and everybody else that contributed on the court."

See, CENTRAL, Page B2

## Goodwin realizes hard work pays off

• Wheeling native saw extensive action in SB LI

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer



## Walter ready to keep chasing his big league dream

• Ex-Park WVU hurler in Arizona

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

TRIADELPHIA — As easy as it might be, Corey Walter won't allow himself to become impatient.

Quite simply, the Wheeling Park and West Virginia University product understands the process takes time, especially to get where he wants to go.

## • Central

Continued from Page B1

Wheeling Central (20-2) scored the first six points and looked like it would run away with it again — it has beaten Shadyside in its two previous meetings this season, 77-55 and 78-45.

Shadyside (12-10) wasn't going to go down easy this time. The Tigers tied it at 19-19 late in the first quarter on a basket by Wade.

Burkhalter's first 3-pointer gave the Maroon Knights the lead before the end of the quarter and they never trailed again.

Wheeling Central pushed the lead to double digits in the second

quarter, paced by three 3-pointers from Burkhalter.

The lead grew to as many 17 as Brent Price snatched a rebound away from Wade and put it back for a 55-38 advantage in the third quarter.

"We battled but they have so many weapons," Andes said.

"We tried to keep Price out of the lane, but Burkhalter was hitting. Then you have to worry about Gainer. Just a lot of guys to guard and you don't know who is going to beat you.

"I can't fault our kids' effort. Price does a great

job of getting guys a lot of shots and when he gets in the lane, nothing but good things happen. We missed some layups and we had some good looks, but the outside shot just wasn't really falling for us."

The Tigers went on an 11-3 run to get within nine, but Brent Price drilled a 3-pointer from the top of the arc, followed by a Burkhalter 3-pointer.

On the ensuing inbounds pass, Gainer tipped the ball to himself and scored an easy layup.

Price's steal and dunk a few minutes later was the

exclamation point as Wheeling Central earned another title.

"It doesn't (get old)," Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens said.

"The neat thing is you basically come in with a new group of kids and it is special for them. The guys coming back, they realize that now we won five in a row, the pressure is on them next year. It keeps them focused, keeps them energized.

"You have to give Shadyside a lot of credit. They played better. Our pressure hurt them at times, but other times they made us pay for it at the other end.

"The Wade kid inside played well. We didn't play our best, but knowing the pressure was what we wanted to do and it had the result that we wanted.

"John had a really good hand. Sometimes you live

by that, you die that. That has been our game all year, though.

"When you are making shots like that, even if you give up a two at the other end, you are still ahead a little bit."

Wade led the Tigers with 19 points, followed by Josh Zandron and Austin Carroll, each with 14.

Gainer added 12 for the Maroon Knights.

## • Walter

Continued from Page B1

eat up some of the innings in the big-league games during the spring, too."

Walter's last outing came during the Texas League Championship Series last fall for the Midland Rockhounds, who are the A's Class Double A affiliate. That team won the championship by defeating the Northwest Arkansas Naturals. Walter started and won game two of that series, going five solid innings. He didn't record a strikeout, but he issued only one walk and scattered four hits.

"Winning a championship was awesome," Walter confirmed. "It was the best baseball experience of my life so far. It was an indescribable feeling to win. All of the games and the competition were unbelievable. It's just what you dream of as a competitor."

Walter, who was a solid member of Midland's rotation last summer, finished with a 3-2 record. He had a 2.15 earned run average. He made 16 starts and appeared in 29 games. He didn't figure in many decisions because he was on a strict innings limit, so he

rarely worked deep into games.

"(The organization) didn't want me to go over double the innings I had thrown in 2015," Walter said. "This year, however, I should have a little bit more freedom to go deeper and pitch as long as I can."

For his career, which is entering its fourth season, Walter has a 6-5 record and a 1.95 ERA. He's worked 184 innings and made 95 appearances. Last season was his first as a starter.

Though he consistently knew the organization had a plan and his best interest in mind, Walter admitted it was tough many nights being lifted despite throwing the ball well.

"There were games where I had given up one or no runs through five and you're feeling good and want to go out for the sixth and seventh, but they took me out," Walter said. "I knew that was the plan. They had my future in mind, so I just had to learn to deal with it and prepare for the next outing. You can't look too much into it."

Along with another year

of physical growth, Walter believes the addition of a third pitch to his repertoire will enhance his value to whichever club he's with this season.

"I was still trying to develop that third pitch last year and now I'm not hesitant to throw it," Walter said of a splitter that he and his Midland pitching coach started developing last season as he tinkered with grips for his changeup. "I feel like that third pitch will allow me to become a quality starter. That change of grip has worked for me and I've stuck with it. It's been a real focus this offseason."

Walter now has a fastball that hovers between 90 and 93 miles per hour along with a curveball and a split finger. He admitted he's seen his velocity level off, but he has topped out at 96.

"I think you can pitch effectively and get through games with three good pitches," Walter said. "Because I'll have some movement, too. I think my movement is what makes me successful. Being able to locate and mix up those pitches is key."

## • Purple

Continued from Page B1

iors dialed in on it. It's a great feeling."

Selby, who put forth maybe the best performance of his impressive career, went for 28 points and grabbed 16 rebounds en route to the John Howell Memorial MVP Award.

Davis, who had only two points at halftime, scored seven clutch points in the third. Included was one trip where he blocked a shot defensively, outraced everyone and was rewarded with a layup. He finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"Zach and Jack really took over the game," Edwards said.

Selby — and Davis — found much more space to operate on the interior in the middle of the second quarter and on. Buckeye Trail's talented center, Jacob Doudna, went down with an injury and spent the remainder of the game with ice wrapped on his knee.

"You never want to see anyone get hurt and I wish the best to him," the classy Edwards said. "It really opened up the paint for us. Not only for Zac and Jack,

but also for our guards to get in there. It's, unfortunately, part of the game. We definitely took advantage of that injury."

After watching the Warriors build a 31-26 lead at the half, the Riders unleashed a blitzkrieg on the Old Washington-based squad. Ferry's first lead was short lived thanks to a Dylan Beaver 3-pointer. However, from there, the Riders took over.

They proceeded to go on a 17-3 run to blow the game open.

"I think at halftime, when we went into the locker room, everything (about Doudna's injury) really sunk in," Trail head coach Gary Chumney said. "We were still playing with the fire and emotion in the first half, but it sunk in at halftime. On top of that, the matchups were tough because Selby is such a good player. Our kids battled and I am proud of that, but the mismatches just caught up with us."

Along with what Selby and Davis were doing on the interior, the Riders also were able to get senior standout

Darius Ray going. He scored 18 points despite struggling early from the field.

If the Purple Riders' offensive output wasn't enough, they didn't get away from their calling card, which is at the defensive end of the floor. They limited Trail to 4-of-33 shooting in the second half and nary a field goal in the fourth quarter.

"Our defense was immaculate in the second half," Edwards noted. "It was an incredible effort. That's been our MO all year and the guys bought into it. Holding a talented team like Trail without a field goal for an entire quarter is incredibly difficult to do."

Buckeye Trail was paced by senior Troy Pontius and C.J. McCall. Each had 17. Pontius had the hot hand early, connecting on four, first-half treys. McCall got sapped with foul trouble in the second half before being disqualified.

Martins Ferry held a 42-29 edge on the glass. The Riders were guilty of 15 turnovers, which was one more than the Warriors.

## • Sawvel

Continued from Page B1

a great reputation as a program builder and successful head coach.

"It has been enjoyable working for him so far - he's very intelligent and organized," he added. "This program is making the right steps - two years of building, then a bowl victory in year three, and a good recruiting class just signed."

After starring at Barnesville, Sawvell, now age 45, matriculated to D-III power Mount Union. He was a three-year letterman and an all-Ohio Athletic Conference linebacker.

He launched his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Eastern Kentucky (1994-95) and Notre Dame (1996-99), earning master's degrees from both universities.

He then moved on to coach defensive backs/special teams at Ferris State (1999-2000); Southern Illinois (2001-07) and Northern Illinois (2008-10) before joining the Minnesota staff.

"I make it back to Barnesville typically at holidays. Winston-Salem is much closer than Minneapolis so those opportunities will be there more," Sawvell said. "I spent a lot of time in Barnesville in the past year coming back to see my dad, who died of cancer."

Sawvell and his wife, Jeannine, have two daughters - Mackenzie and Miranda.

### TODD FITCH

FORMER BELLILARE High football standout Todd Fitch enjoyed a banner first year coaching at Louisiana Tech this past fall. Fitch served as offensive coordinator for Coach Skip Holtz's squad.

Tech went 9-5 which included a bowl win over Navy. Fitch did such a quality job with the Tech receiving corps that he was named the recipient of FootballScoop Wide Receivers Coaches of the Year Award presented by ProGrass as selected by prior winners.

Moreover, Fitch was a finalist for the Broyles Award given each year to the nation's top assistant football coach. Clemson's Brent Venables was the eventual

College, South Florida and East Carolina among his stops.

### BUBBA'S BITS

WVU is too good a basketball team to squander a 14-point lead with three minutes to play regardless of the opponent or venue. The Mountaineers pressure as good as any team in the nation. They should also be able to handle it. A win in Lawrence would have played out huge when it came to Selection Sunday and bracket seeding.

DON OGDEN has stepped down after seven years as the Madonna girls basketball coach. He led the Lady Dons to the state tournament last winter.

MICHELLE BIELANSKI-Filander has her Austin College (Texas) women's basketball team enjoying another successful season. The former St. John Central all-stater has guided the Kangaroos to a 17-7 record and a 9-4 Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference mark. She is in her seventh season at the Austin helm. Bielanski-Filander is a 1997 SJC grad, scoring 1,436 points for the Lady Irish, earning a hoop scholarship to Robert Morris.

REGARDLESS of the sport, 100 straight wins is mind-boggling. That amazing feat was achieved Monday by the UConn women's hoop team. The Lady Huskies obviously have five-star talent, but so do a lot of schools. Head coach Geno Auriemma doesn't get enough credit for such remarkable success.

WE HAVE another month of winter but Wheeling Post 1 has already finalized its summer Legion baseball schedule. The two-time reigning state champions open play Sunday, June 4, hosting Morgan-town.

TWO TEAMS and three individuals really stood out in last weekend's OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships. Wheeling Central and Wheeling Park were both ultra-impressive in gaining titles. The Maroon Knights manhandled Steubenville Central in Class 2A while Park pressed Parkersburg South into oblivion in winning the 5A crown. Individually, Central's

ENERGY  
MINERALS  
ENVIRONMENT  
safety  
dialogue  
business  
economy  
EDUCATION  
community  
environment

# Third Time Is Charm as Madonna Wins 1A Title

By MIKE MATHISON  
For the News-Register  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Maybe third time is the charm.

Having lost the last two Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Tournament Class 1A finals, the Weirton Madonna Blue Dons got it done Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern.

"After losing two years in a row, this is a great feeling," Blue Dons senior Tavon Jeter said.

Said teammate Joey Ewusiak, who was named the John Howell Most Valuable Player, "We lost the close game to Bishop Donahue two years ago — that was a heartbreaker — and last year we weren't mentally prepared coming into this (a loss to Trinity). Our experience today

got the job done." The Blue Dons held on down the stretch to defeat No. 1-seeded Wellsville, 65-62.

"We know how to win now. We know how to win these games and we showed it (Saturday) on a very big stage," second-year Madonna coach Chris Blair said. "These kids played their hearts out on defense and gave it everything they had."

"We deserved the championship through two quarters, but they don't give a trophy for that. Defense and rebounding was going to win this game and that's what we showed. We had some mistakes and didn't handle the ball very well late, but we found a way to get it done."

Justin Miller hit a pair



Photo by Josh Strobe

Madonna's Tavon Jeter, left, snatches the ball before it heads into the backcourt as Wellsville's Justin Miller defends during the OVAC Class 1A title game.

of 3-pointers and scored nine points as Wellsville cut Madonna's 36-26

"We have a lot of experience in close games," Ewusiak said. "We've had a lot of them this year and we've played in this game the past two years. We've been in this situation tons of times. With our tough schedule and everything we've been through, we were ready for it."

Jeter had the task of guarding Miller, who missed a tough 3 to tie the game as time was winding down.

"He's tough, but I held my own," Jeter said. "I always guard good players."

The teams were tied at 58-58 with 4:30 left.

Wellsville's Michael Shope buried a 3 to cut Madonna's lead to 63-60 with 1:33 left.

After the teams traded turnovers, Jeter had a nice

follow-putback for a 65-60 Dons advantage.

A Tigers bucket made it 65-62 and, after a timeout, Madonna turned it over, giving Wellsville a chance to tie it up.

Miller led the Tigers with 20 points. Shope added 17 and Jake Green 16, including four threes.

"We knew coming in Madonna had two scorers and we knew they were athletic."

"I know Chris is a good coach and I knew they'd be ready to play tonight," Tigers veteran coach David Thompson said. "We had to stop their two scorers and we couldn't do it."

Jeter finished with 22 points and Ewusiak 21. Chase DiBartolomeo chipped in with nine points and Caneigh eight.

# Meadowbrook Gets Victory Over Steubenville in 4A

By ED LOOMAN  
For the News-Register  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE —

Following Tuesday's OVAC semifinal victory over Buckeye Local, Mike Haney predicted his Big Red would need a better defensive effort in the Class 4A title game.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Second-seeded Meadowbrook took the ball to the hoop early and often on its way to an 81-73 victory Saturday inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The high energy and lightning quick Colts shot a blistering 60 percent for the game (they were 16 of 25 from the floor in the second half) to repeat as champions in the Wheeling Hospital sponsored tournament.

"We talked about playing good defense the whole week," Haney said after watching his Big Red fall to 16-5. "We spent three days preaching about the need to stop the three. We gave

them up early (Meadowbrook drained three triples in the first quarter) but stopped it after that. Every time we'd make a run, we knew we had to find a way to get a stop on the defensive end. We never did."

The Colts, who dropped an 83-79 verdict to Steubenville (the top seed in the conference event) earlier this season, opened with a 6-0 run and led 21-14 after eight minutes. During the quarter, Meadowbrook was eight for 12 from the field.

Meadowbrook's lead reached nine (27-18) early in the second but Big Red rallied behind six Javon Davis points (the junior connected from behind the arc before getting three the old-fashion way). Trey Singleton scored for the Colts then Alec Davis drilled a three-ball and Steubenville trailed by just two (29-27).

Justin Cork sparked a 9-0 Meadowbrook scoring run and the Colts led 40-31 at the break.

Midway through the third, Isaiah Lee-Granatir swished a triple to help Big Red creep to within four (46-42). Once again, however, the Colts responded, outscoring Steubenville 15-4 to take a 61-48 lead with eight minutes to go.

Cork and Parker Black scored nine points each during the final period as Meadowbrook hung on to record its 19th victory in 22 starts. Seven of Black's points came from the line.

"It always feels good — winning never gets old," said first-year Meadowbrook coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda, a native of the Ohio Valley. "My hat's off to my seniors. It's my first year here and it wasn't the most perfect situation when I came here. The kids bought into our staff and what we wanted to do."

In the first meeting, Big Red's defensive pressure forced Meadowbrook into 15 turnovers. On Saturday, the Colts were guilty of just

three miscues, none in the first half.

Five players did all the scoring for Meadowbrook. Cork, who was named the game's MVP and Singleton had 24 points each. Singleton had 12 in the third, all coming on drives to the basket. Black contributed 18 and Wolverton 10.

Javon Davis came off Haney's bench to lead Big Red with 16. He scored 11 during the second period. Alec Davis totaled 13, Lee-Granatir 12 and Davon Smith, who encountered early foul trouble, 10. Charles Reeves added seven points, seven rebounds and three blocks before leaving in the fourth quarter with an injury.

Big Red will conclude its regular season Tuesday when New Philadelphia visits The Crimson Center (the junior varsity tip is set for 6 p.m.). Haney's club then will begin Division II East District action Friday with a 7 p.m. home game against



Photo by Josh Strobe

Steubenville's Alec Davis drives to the basket during the Class 4A championship game against Meadowbrook on Saturday at OUE.

Claymont. Steubenville earned the top seed in the district with Meadowbrook second.

5A  
University 65  
Morgantown 45  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Geoff Hamperian scored 19

points as University defeated Morgantown for the 5A OVAC title. Ethan Ridgeway tallied 14 points for the Hawks.

For the Mohigans, Jayron Wilson led the way with 13 points while Torin Hanson tallied 10.

# THE DAILY JEFF Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

## Colts avenge earlier loss to Steubenville; Cork named MVP Meadowbrook wins OVAC 4A back-to-back

By JEFF HARRISON  
The Daily Jeffersonian



**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — For the second straight year, the Meadowbrook Colts have pulled off an OVAC/ECOL “double”.

Led by four senior veterans and a junior who's no longer flying under the radar, Meadowbrook made it back-to-back victories in the OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championships by defeating top-seeded Steubenville Big Red, 81-73, to claim the conference's Class 4A title at Ohio University Eastern on Saturday.

Having dropped an 83-79 decision at Steubenville at mid-season, second-seeded Meadowbrook may have been a slight underdog in the title game but the Colts certainly weren't intimidated, turning in a solid performance from start-to-finish to rack up their 19th victory in 22 outings.

“They did everything we wanted to do,” Meadowbrook coach Lou “Scooter” Tolzda said after his team hoisted the championship trophy at mid-court. “We spread them out...attacked...hung in there on defense...battled some adversity.”

When the dust cleared, four of the five Meadowbrook starters reached double figures led by senior Justin Cork and junior Trey Singleton who poured in 24 points apiece, with Cork

gaining the nod as the OVAC John Howell MVP Award winner. Senior Parker Black proved to be the “closer” and finished with 18 points while senior-point guard Logan Wolverton chipped in 10 tallies.

“You win with seniors and my hat's off to my kids,” beamed Tolzda. “You could see it in their eyes before the game...they were ready to play.”

“Cork's been struggling a little bit,” the Colts' coach continued, “but we knew it was inside him and he really stepped it up tonight the way a senior is supposed to.”

“It's amazing what Trey's doing right now,” Tolzda said of Singleton, perhaps wishing that the MVP award could have been chopped in half.

Meadowbrook managed a 21-14 lead after one quarter behind eight points from Cork and five from Singleton, with consecutive “threes” by Cork and senior Konnor Roberts extending the lead in the final minute.

A “triple” by Black helped push the Colts' advantage to nine at 27-18, but Steubenville's Javon Davis nailed a ‘trej’ and converted a three-point play to pull Big Red within 27-24 at the 4:37 mark of the second period.



Michelle Witt photos/The Daily Jeffersonian

**Meadowbrook High's Logan Wolverton (13) delivers a pass as he jumps into the air with Steubenville's Shyoun Petteway (3) guarding him during Saturday's Class 4A title game at the OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championships. The Colts won, 81-73.**

A “trej” by Alec Davis had the margin at two, 29-27, when Meadowbrook put together a nine-point featuring five by Cork which led to a 40-31 upperhand at the intermission.

Cork, Singleton and Black each scored five in round two for MHS while Davis enjoyed an 11-point quarter for Big Red.

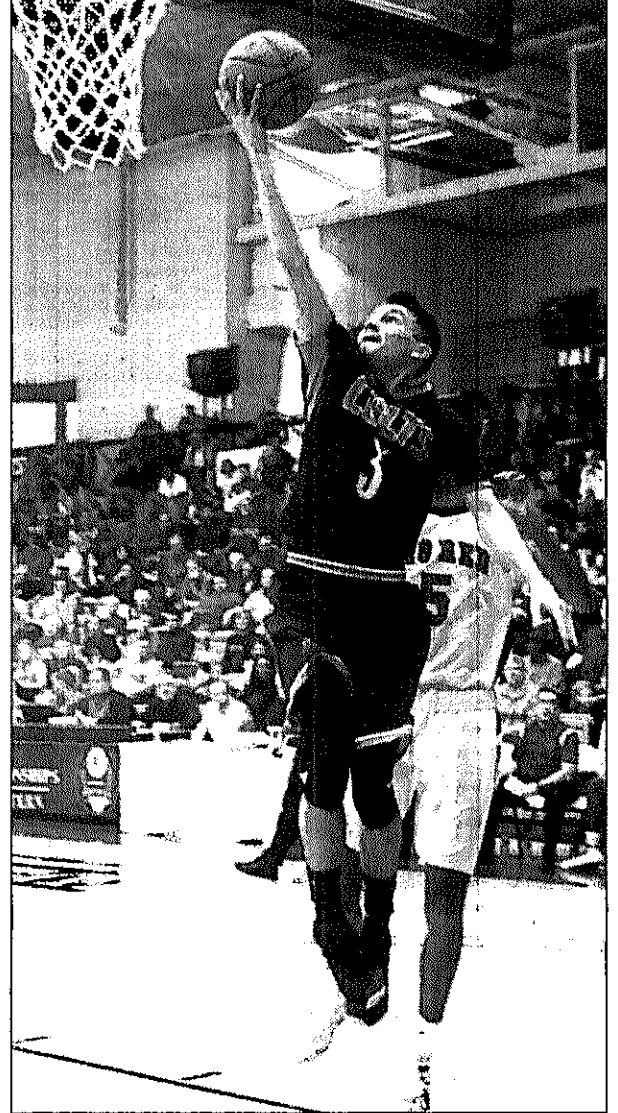
Steubenville hit three early “triples” in the third quarter

to slice Meadowbrook's lead down to four at 46-42, but the Colts countered with six in a row and 15 of the next 19 points to take control, 61-48, heading to the final quarter.

Singleton had four buckets and Wolverton added five points in the surge.

The Colts maintained that 13-point lead at the 3:30 mark, but Big Red had

See Page B3 | Back



**Meadowbrook High's Trey Singleton (3) goes in for a lay-up past Steubenville's Isaiah Lee-Granatir during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern. Singleton tallied 24 points in the Colts' 81-73 victory.**

## Doudna's injury costly as Riders' Selby shines inside to key 64-47 win Ferry tops Trail to claim OVAC 3A title

By JEFF HARRISON  
The Daily Jeffersonian



**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Buckeye Trail lost its big man early and Martins Ferry's big man took over the game in Saturday afternoon's OVAC Wheeling Hospital Class 3A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern.

Trail senior Jacob Doudna went down with what appeared to be a serious knee injury late in the first quarter and while his team continued to play well the remainder of the first half, Ferry's Zac Selby proved too much and the Warriors' shooting went ice-cold, resulting in a 64-47 victory for the Purple Riders' first boys' conference tournament title.

The Warriors took a 31-26 lead at the intermission thanks to the one-two punch of Troy Pontius and CJ McCall, but the second half simply belonged to the Ferrians.

A 22-11 edge in the third period, fueled by nine points from the 6-5 Selby, turned

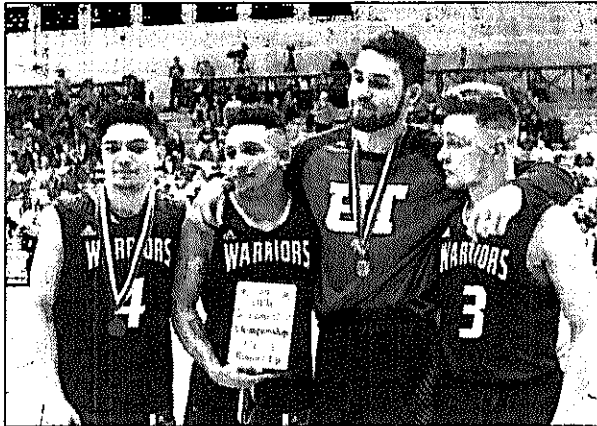
the game in Ferry's favor at 48-42 by quarter's end.

Trail connected on just 4-of-17 shots in the third round, with freshman Dylan Beaver as the lone bright spot with a pair of three-point goals.

It got even worse in the final frame as Ferry continued to pull away, posting a 16-5 scoring edge. The lid completely closed on Trail's end in the last eight minutes, with the Warriors going 0-of-16 from the field while scoring all five of their points from the free throw line.

“When we lost Jake, the guys continued to play with a lot of fire the rest of the half,” said Trail coach Gary Chumney, “but things kind of sunk in at halftime and really took the wind out of our sails.”

“Selby is a great player,”



Michelle Witt photos/The Daily Jeffersonian

**Buckeye Trail High's seniors — Justin Jones, CJ McCall, Jacob Doudna and Troy Pontius — stand with the team runner-up plaque at the conclusion of Saturday's 64-47 loss to Martins Ferry in the OVAC Class 3A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern.**

the Trail coach continued, “and without Jake in there, they really dominated us on the inside. They started attacking the basket and their defense picked it up while we lost our intensity.”

Selby closed with a mon-

ster double-double that included 28 points and 16 rebounds, earning him the OVAC John Howell MVP Award for the game. Darius Ray contributed 18 tallies and

See Page B3 | Title



**Buckeye Trail High senior Jacob Doudna (34) dribbles to the hop past Martins Ferry's Zac Selby (13) during the OVAC Class 3A Championship Game at Ohio University Eastern. Trail lost Doudna to a knee injury in the first quarter and Selby turned in a 28-point, 16-rebound effort to lead Ferry to a 64-47 victory.**

# Back

From Page B1

visions of a comeback similar to what had occurred in the earlier meeting and scored nine of the next 11 points to climb back within six, 72-66, with 2:29 to play.

Down the stretch, it was Black who sealed the deal by connecting on 7-of-8 free throws as Big Red fouled the wrong guy time and time again in the final two minutes.

Tolzda felt one of the key factors was his team's switch to a zone defense against Big Red.

"It's unusual for us to play a zone defense, but we sold our guys on it and they believed in it," he related. "I think it was a big difference in the game because it allowed us to neutralize their athleticism a little bit."

Meadowbrook knocked down 31-of-52 field goal attempts for a shade under 60 percent; hit 4-of-9 three-pointers and were strong as usual at the foul line with a 15-of-18 effort. The Colts collected 24 rebounds and turned the ball over just four times.

In addition to their point production, Black had eight rebounds and four assists; Singleton collected five boards, three steals and three assists; Cork hauled in four rebounds and Roberts had three; and Wolverton handed out three assists.

Steubenville (16-5) got 16 points from Javon Davis - the son of former Bellaire High and Kent State University standout Jose Davis - along with 13 from Alec Davis, 12 from Isaiah Lee-Granatir and 10 from Davon Smith. Senior post Charles Reeves was limited to seven points, but he did contribute five rebounds, three assists and three blocked shots.

Big Red was 26-of-48 on action shots; 9-of-14 on "treys" and 12-of-15 at the charity stripe with 26 rebounds and eight turnovers.

The Colts will quickly turn their focus to the upcoming postseason tournament with their sights set on even bigger and better things.

"They accomplished this last year, though, and we know what happened,"

Tolzda said, referring to a one-and-done in the Division II Sectional Tournament after the Colts had won the OVAC and ECOL titles in 2016. "It feels good right now, but we've got a lot more to go after now with the tournament starting."

NEXT — Meadowbrook begins OHSAA Division II Sectional Tournament play Friday hosting West Holmes at 7 p.m.

# Title

From Page B1

seven boards for the Riders (20-2) while Jack Davis also had a double-double with 13 markers and a dozen caroms.

Pontius and McCall carried the scoring load for Trail (16-6) in Doudna's absence with 17 and 15 points, respectively. McCall also had eight rebounds and three steals while Pontius had five caroms.

Ferry was 23-of-53 from the field and 18-of-24 at the free throw line while Trail closed 15-of-58 on action shots and 10-of-16 at the stripe.

The Riders dominated the boards, 47-34, and had 14 turnovers to a dozen for the Warriors.

Trail led 13-12 at the end of quarter number one,

with Pontius nailing three "triples" for the Warriors while Selby opened with an eight-point quarter for the Purple.

The Warriors opened the second chapter with a 10-1 spurt to open a 23-13 advantage with 4:35 remaining in the first half, with McCall scoring three times and Pontius connecting on another "trey".

Behind seven more from Selby, Ferry managed to cut the lead in half to 31-26 by the halftime break.

In the earlier championship games, Madonna captured the Class 1A crown with a 65-62 win over Wellsville and Wheeling Central downed Shady-side, 75-61, to earn the Class 2A title.

NEXT — Buckeye Trail opens OHSAA Division IV Sectional Tournament ac-

tion on Tuesday, Feb. 28 hosting Bridgeport in a 7 p.m. contest.

## OVAC CLASS 4A CHAMPIONSHIP MEADOWBROOK 81, STEUBENVILLE 73

**Meadowbrook (19-3)**  
Konnor Roberts 2-2 0-0 5, Trey Singleton 11-17 2-3 24, Justin Cork 0-14 4-4 24, Parker Black 5-11 7-8 18, Logan Wolverton 4-8 2-2 10, Davis Black 0-0 0-0 0, Easton Black 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-52 15-18 81

**Steubenville (16-5)**  
Shyoun Pettaway 2-7 2-2 6, Javon Davis 5-0 3-3 16, Isaiah Lee-Granatir 4-7 2-2 12, Josh Zimmerman 0-0 0-0 0, Charles Reeves 3-3 1-2 7, Davon Smith 4-5 0-1 10, Jake Marx 1-4 0-0 2, Mitchell Gulan 0-0 0-0 0, Nyjuan Robinson 3-4 0-1 6, Alec Davis 4-9 4-4 13, Totals 26-48 12-15 73

**Meadowbrook 21 19 21 20 — 81**  
**Steubenville 14 17 17 25 — 73**  
Three-point goals: MHS 4-9 (Cork 2, Roberts, P. Black); SHS 9-14 (J. Davis 3, A. Davis 2, Lee-Granatir 2, Smith 2).  
Rebounds: MHS 24 (P. Black 8, Singleton 5, Cork 4, Roberts 3); SHS 26 (Reeves 5, Lee-Granatir 4, Marx 3, Robinson 3, A. Davis 3). Assists: MHS 10 (P. Black 4, Wolverton 3, Singleton 3); SHS 8 (Reeves 3, Marx 1). Blocked Shots: MHS 3 (D. Black 2); SHS 4 (Reeves 3). Fouls: MHS 14; SHS 18. Fouled Out: none. Turnovers: MHS 4; SHS 8.

## OVAC CLASS 3A CHAMPIONSHIP MARTINS FERRY 64, BUCKEYE TRAIL 47

**Buckeye Trail (16-6)**  
Zach Grafton 0-7 0-0 0, Troy Pontius 5-14 3-5 17, Justin Jones 2-5 0-0 5, CJ McCall 6-14 5-9 17, Dylan Beaver 2-7 0-0 6, Trey Dougherty 0-2 0-0 0, Brandon Barnett 0-4 0-0 0, Jacob Doudna 0-4 2-2 2, Chandler Hixson 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 15-58 10-16 47

**Martins Ferry (20-2)**  
Darrell Price 2-7 1-2 5, Javon Garriel 0-0 0-0 0, Micade Masters 0-2 0-0 0, Darius Ray 7-17 4-5 18, Jack Davis 4-9 5-8 13, Zac Selby 10-16 8-8 28, Logan Selby 0-0 0-0 0, Shane Schuster 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 23-53 18-24

**Buckeye Trail 13 18 11 5 — 47**  
**Martins Ferry 12 14 22 16 — 64**  
Three-point goals: BTHS 7-24 (Pontius 4, Beaver 2, Jones); MFHS 0-8 (none).  
Rebounds: BTHS 34 (McCall 8, Pontius 5, Grafton 4, Dougherty 4, Barnett 4, Jones 3, Beaver 3); MFHS 47 (Z. Selby 16, Davis 12, Ray 7, Masters 3, Price 3, Schuster 4). Assists: BTHS 8 (Grafton 3, Pontius 2); MFHS 9 (Garriel 3, Price 2). Steals: BTHS 7 (McCall 3, Pontius 2); MFHS 4. Blocked Shots: BTHS 1; MFHS 3 (Z. Selby 2). Fouls: BTHS 19; MFHS 17. Fouled Out: BTHS (McCall, Dougherty); MFHS (Garriel, Schuster). Turnovers: BTHS 12; MFHS 14.