## BOSTON MOVES ON

The Celtics take down the Wizards in Game 7 and move on to the Eastern Conference Finals against the Cavallers/18

# The Intelligencer.

MAY 16, 2017 **I UESDAY** 

TV/Entertainment . .

# Magruder Named OVAC Coach of the



Former The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register sports editor Doug Huff, left, presents Wheeling Central softball coach Rick Magruder with the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year award. Photo by Josh Strope

Softball coach led Knights to 33-0 record and state title

success in his lengthy career coaching the ball coach Rick Magruder has had plenty of Maroon Knights. By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor
WHEELING - Wheeling Central soft-

Even he was amazed at what his team accomplished last season. OVAC title. Sectional title. Regional title. State title. A perfect 33-0 record.

It was a season for the ages and Monday at the OVAC Banquet of Champions, Magruder was named the OVAC Bill Van Home Coach of the Year.

"It is a great honor just to be nominated," Magruder said. "We go out and do what we love doing. We have fun at it. As long as it stays like that, we will keep at it."

Other finalists were St. Clairsville boys' track coach Tony Ciroli, Wheeling Park swimming and softball coach Pat Durkin, Shadyside wrestling coach Sean Grinch and Circuit an Steubenville baseball coach Fred Heather-

The 33-0 mark is an OVAC record for softball and one that Magruder doesn't take

special. tories piled up, Magruder and his coaching staff started to realize they had something talented. As the games went by and the vicand two sophomore pitchers, but they were The Maroon Knights had few seniors

every day, take one game at a time, "We tell the kids to go out and play hard

you do it. We had two great young pitchers (Riley Bennington and Marissa Garlitz) and Allie Cook who was our catcher and the Magruder said.
"I know that is old, but that is the way other semors who were there

See MAGRUDER, Page 16

## MAGRUDER,

(Continued from Page 13)

"They were good leaders.
"Everything just fell into place. You have to have a lot of luck. Hit the ball and play good defense.
"When we were about 20-0, we started thinking this is pretty cool.
"As it got later in the season, you thought this might bust sometime. Our toughest game was the second game down state and we were losing 2-0. But we got a couple breaks and ended up winning and that was how our season went."

Magruder said the girls never talked about the feat during, the season, worrying about the game that was in front of them. When it was

Central defeated Man, 7-2, to claim the school's first state softball championship a since 2007.

"Nobody really mentioned, but I am sure they thought about it am sure in the back of their heads they thought about it and maybe talked with each other. But they always went out and played.

"It was an amazing seation. Something like that doesn't happen very often. We were just fortunate and very lucky.

"Obespite the bullseye at this year), they take it in stride. They just go out and play and try to enjoy the is ride."

Outdoors/Page 7

Sunday News-Register

MAY 14, 2017

### MHEETING - VII OF BY SETH STARKEY OVAC Announces Five Coach of Year Finalists

which was two points betstate meet with 33 points, The Devils finished the the feat in 1976.

ter than Lexington. The Red Devils scored in four

relay. mediate hurdles and 400 pionships thanks to Malachi Mellema (high hurdles) and Jordan Vincent (long jump). They also finished highly in the intermental property of the property of th

En route to the state

Here's a capsule look at the finalists in alphabetical

This highly successful two-sport, four-team coach reached the top of the reached the Clairsville Boys, Track TONY CIROLI, St.

championship, which was Devils to a Division II state Ciroli guided his Red

Shadyside accomplished in Belmont County since title in boys' track and field was also the first male state the first in a male sport in St. C. athletic history. It

bered annals during the 2016. coach turned in a season RICK MAGRUDER, Wheeling Central Softball

This veteran softball ill long be remem-in Ohio Valley during the spring of

and 23rd district champiof the 2016 campaign, Steubenville won its 22nd OVAC title, 33rd sectional Big Red program for 28 seasons. During the course Heatherington, who has more than 550 career wins, has been in charge of the

under Heatherington's watch before falling to eventual state champion Defiance in the Division II state semifinals at Huntington Park in Columbus. Big Red finished the season with a 25-3 record and were ranked second in the ist again after yet another brilliant campaign in 2016.

Big Red advanced to their sixth state tournament in school history and fifth final coaches association

Red skipper was named the conference's top coach after the 1994 campaign and finds himself as a final-

sports of this school year.

The finalists for the award, which has been presented since 1969, are Tony Ciroli (St. Clairsville boys' track), Pat Durkin the spring of 2016 along with the fall and winter

Award, which encompasses OVAC Coach of the Year Horne/News-Register presentation of the Bill Van also be recognized with the ships, the top coach will champions and scholarpennants, overall class

will be formally recognized throughout the Ohio Valley academic honorees from

deer of champions, begins at 6:30 p.m.
Along with the presentation of the championship quet of Champions, which at the annual OVAC Ban-

It also claimed its sec-straight OVAC Class '2A dual team title

In the state final, the Knights had no issues, rolling past Man, 7-2. During the course of the season, Wheeling Central took sectional and regional champions – produced that memorable campaign despite having a relatively young cast. They had four seniors on that club and relied on two underclass pitchers in Riley Benning-

Shadyside Wrestling — This Tigers coach, who has been at the helm for four egional title and took part n the OHSAA State Team ournament in late Februhis past winter.
Shadyside claimed its econd consecutive Divieasons, is a finalist for the ion III team tournament gional title and took part irecting his team to an lmost identical campaign GRINCH after Magruder guided his Maroon Knights to a 33-0 season, which was capped with a West Virginia Class The Maroon Knights also the OVAC Class sectional and regio A state championship.

econd straight season

and regional champion and also qualified for the OVAC Tournament. All told, Park finished with a 20-13 record. is state runnerup.
Park was the sectional

final against Hurricane where it fell, 11-3, to finish In the spring of 2016, the Patriots softball team advanced to the AAA state games to reach the state After dropping an early game there, Park won three consecutive elimination ournament in Vienna

ournament team. rriving at the state meet, he Patriots won the OVAC ve on the big school alllass 5A title and also the Prior to

history when the girls' swim team captured the Class AAA state championship, fighting off Fairmont Senior, 144-142.

At the state meet, the Patriots claimed two state championships and placed This past winter, Durkin, who was in his ninth season at the helm, watched his Patriots do something that had never been done in Park's illustrious athletic

way, too.
PAT DURKIN, Wheeling Park Girls' Swimming and Softball n two sports.

TON, Steubenville Base

This veteran

at the state tournament with Coshocton district and 11th

FRED HEATHERING

meet, the Red Devils were district champions and scored 50 points in the regional, which tied for the championship with Lan-St. Clairsville won the Buckeye 8 and OVAC Class 4A titles along the

Shadyside was the Bar-nesville sectional champi-

teams, their coaches and

Arena, members of those

school year have been pionships for the 2016-17

Athletic Conference cham-

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Monday at WesBanco

postseason

finished fourth in

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A/2A champion, lating 124.5 points

decided.

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Magruder Heatherington Durkin two individual state chammountain last June in the 17-event meet, but won events during the course of

(Wheeling Park girls,

winding and softball), Sean Grinch (Shadyside Mrestling), Fred Heatherington (Steubenville, baseball) and Rick Magruder (Wheeling Central softball)

See, OVAC, Page C2

In the individual tourna-ient portion of the season, hadyside was the OVAC

# Times Leader

SECTION

May 14, 2017 Sunday,

Q

# VAC Coach of the Year finalists nam

at Banquet of Champions Award to be presented Monday

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships for the 2016-17 school year have been decided. WHEELING - All of the nearly 70

coaches and academic honorees from recognized at the annual OVAC Banquet of throughout the Ohio Valley will be formally Wheeling, members of those teams, their Champions, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening, at WesBanco Arena in pionship pennants, overall class champions and scholarships, the top coach will also be recognized with the presentation of the





PAT Durkin

Along with the presentation of the cham-



SEAN GRINCH



HEATHERNGTON 



MAGRUDER 

encompasses the spring of 2016 along with the fall and winter sports of this school year. OVAC Coach of the Year Award, which

See, COACH, Page B2

sented since 1969, are Tony Ciroli (St. Clairsville boys track), Pat Durkin (Wheeling Park girls swim-ming and softball), Sean Grinch (Shadyside ball) and Rick Magruder (Wheeling Central softball). wrestling), Fred Heather-ington (Steubenville, base-The finalists for the award, which has been pre-

order: the Here's a capsule look at YNOT finalists in alphabetical CIROLI, S

Clairsville Boys Track — This highly successful two-sport, four-team coach reached the top of the mountain last June in Columbus.

Wheeling Central Softball

This veteran softball

coach turned in a season

that will long be remembered in Ohio Valley annals

during the spring of 2016.

Ciroli guided his Red Devils to a Division II state championship, which was the first in a male sport in St. C. athletic history. It in Belmont County since title in boys' track and field was also the first male state

Magruder guided his Maroon Knights to a perfect 33-0 season, which was capped with a West Virginia Class A state

state meet with 33 points, which was two points better than Lexington. The Red Devils scored in four events during the course of the 17-Mellema (high hurdles) and Jordan Vincent (long event jump). Jordan onships thanks to Malachi individual state champimeet, but won two (long

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PAT DURKIN, Wheeling Park Girls Swimming and Softball - This Patri-

This past winter, Durkin, who was in his ninth season at the helm, watched his Patriots do something that had never been done in Park's illustrious athletic history when the girls's swim team captured the Class AAA state championship, fighting off Fairmont Senior, 144-142.

Patriots claimed two state At the state meet, the

AAA state tournament in Vienna. After dropping an early game there, the Patriots won three consecutive the state final against Hurrito finish as state runnerup. cane where they fell, 11-3, elimination games to reach

Continued from Page

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and regional champions and also qualified for the OVAC Tournament. All told, Park finished with a told, Park fin 20-13 record. SEAN Park was the sectional

second straight season after directing his team to basically an identical campaign this past winter. This Tigers' coach, who has been at the helm for four seasons, is a finalist for the Shadyside Wrestling GRINCH

sion III team tournament regional title and took part in the OHSAA State Team Tournament in late Februsecond consecutive Diviary. It also claimed its sec-ond straight OVAC Class Shadyside claimed its

1A/2A dual team title along the way, edging Madonna on a late pin, 36-33.

In the individual tournament portion of the season, Shadyside was the OVAC Class 1A/2A champion, accumulating 124.5 points with four placers.

In the postseason, Shady-side was the Barnesville sectional champion, fin-ished fourth in the Coshocpoints. state tournament with 39.5 ton district and 11th at the

Red skipper was named the conference's top coach after the 1994 campaign and finds himself as a finalist ball TON, Steubenville Base again after yet another brilliant campaign in 2016. FRED HEATHERING This veteran Big

their sixth state tournament in school history and fifth under Heatherington's watch before they fell to Red finished the season with a 25-3 record and were ranked second in the final coaches' association ton Park in Columbus. Big eventual state champion Defiance in the Division II state semifinals at Huntingstate poll. Big Red advanced to

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### at OVAC Banquet of Champions on Monday OVAC's Coach of the K ear to be announced

By SETH STASKEY

For The Jeffersonian

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Continued from Page B1

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being named OVAC Coach of the Year at Mon-WesBanco Arena. Magrudand a Class A state champi-Magruder (right) Secretary Iom poses with OVAC Executive ball coach Rick CENTRAL day's Banquet of Ratalczak after onship in 2016. to a 33-0 record er led the Champions at Maroon Knights soft-

Photo/JOSH STROPE

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# Central's Magruder wins OVAC Coach of the Year

By JOSH STROPE For The Times Leader

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See, MAGRUDER, Page B2