# Basketball Championships 2019 Roll M. T. M. P. GIRLS' BASKETBALL Saturday, February 9, 2019 A Supplement to The Times Leader-

#### What's Inside?

Class 1A Class 2A Class 3A 10 2 4 Class 4A Class 5A

#### <u>ON THE COVER</u>

Pictured is a standout player from each of the five schools from The Times Times Leader's coverage area who will be tak-ing part in today's championship games.
From left are Katrina
Davis (Bellaire), Lauren Flannery (River), Ashlie Louden (Beallsville), Baylee Wach (Shadyside) Baylee Wach and Maria Vincenzo (St. Clairsville).

Photos by Seth Staskey, Cody Tomer and Rick Thorp Cover Design by

Jesse Kovalski` Tab Design by Seth Staskey

## Bellaire, Fort Frye set to clash

 Big Reds seek first title since '06 By BUBBA KAPRAL

**Executive Sports Editor** 

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The men. 3A clash between Bellaire and Fort Frye may be the rier holds the Beverly-based marquee game of the five ballers in high regard.

OVAC Girls Basketball "Fort Frve is a ver Ohio University Eastern to-

The top-seeded Big Reds cord while the second-seedimpressive 16-2 ledger on the campaign.

Both schools are no strangers to OVAC girls to Wheeling Central in hoop championships. The last year's OVAC finale, in 2006. Fort Frye, meanwhile, owns nine conference championships, the most recent coming in 2016.

opposites when it comes to experience.

The Big Reds feature a top seven comprised of five seniors and two juniors. The

Cadets, meanwhile, have just one senior on their roster while starting three fresh-

Regardless of youth, Far-

"Fort Frye is a very well Championship contests at coached team and (Morgan) Borich is an excellent player," the fourth-year Big Reds' boss noted. "They boast a sparkling 17-2 re- have a good mix of physical players and shooters. I ed Cadets own an equally believe whatever team wins the rebounding battle will win the game.'

Bellaire. which lost Big Reds have pocketed punched its ticket into this seven titles, the last coming morning's final via an impressive semifinal rout of Union Local by an 82-53 count Monday.

Despite the lop-sided ver-The two teams are polar dict, Farrier, who has done a remarkable job of rebuilding the once-proud program, is not totally happy with how his Reds are operating.

The last few games we have played well in spots. We haven't put a complete game together for awhile," he said. "I am hoping we come out Saturday focused and ready to play from the

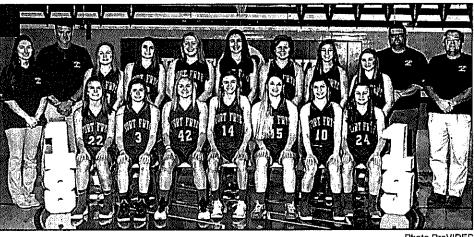
"I think last year's (title game) experience should help. Last year, we were excited to be in the game," he added. "This year we will not be satisfied unless we win the game."

To make that championship come to fruition for Bellaire, Farrier will be relying on a core four of talented and battle-tested players. All are averaging in double figures.

Maci Crozier, Natalie Stoner and Michaela Flaherty have been through the points a game. wars for four seasons now, while Katrina Davis is one of the premier juniors in the

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Bellaire girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Cristina Recio, Natalle Stoner, Brittany Falcone, Sydney Purtiman, Michaela Flaherty, Maci Crozier and Linde Verheyen. Second row, from left, are Shayleigh Sochor, Kaleigh Leigh, Bryanna Beckett, Courtney Ault, Ashley McCarthy, Mia Gavarkavich, Katrina Davis, Jenna Miller and Kaya Chilson. Back row, from left, are head coach John Farrier and assistant coach Hutch McFeely.



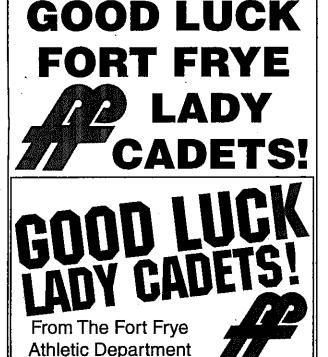
PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Fort Frye Cadets basketball team. Front row, from left, are Hannah Archer, Lexie Huck, Karlee Ross, Morgan Borich, Kiersten Kesselring. Olivia Schneider and Mackenzie Dalton. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Morgan Liedtke, head coach Dan Liedtke, Haylee Ross, Julia Zalmanek, Grace Brockmeier, Viola Angle, Khloee Ross, Bella Schilling, Lilli Schilling, assistant coach Chad Ross and assistant coach Pat Lang.

anced Big Reds with a 15.7 Flaherty, meanwhile, is a seen starting time. Senior ppg. average. Crozier, a blue-collar, hardworking Brittany Falcone supplies all-Ohio, blends toughness clip. with savvy to average 14.8

Stoner, an athletic starter. point guard and another 1,000-point scorer, checks timan gets the call the major- will face an acid test as Fort in with a 14.0 average to ity time. Junior sharpshooter Frye hangs its hat on its de-Davis leads the well-bal- go with nearly 50 treys. Mia Gavarkavich has also

1,000-point scorer and an post who scores at a 10.5 inside depth off the bench.

Bellaire, which is fueled Farrier has rotated two by a suffocating full-court players at times as the fifth press, is averaging more than 65 points game. The Senior guard Sydney Pur- Big Reds' potent offense



#### • 3A

Continued from Page 2

The Cadets' two losses fell to River at Hannibal in five. double-OT, 33-29. They also fell to quality bigschool foe Warren Local, 50-48.

rection of legendary coach job." Dan Liedtke, advanced to the finals via a 70-52 home Frye in scoring with a 13.2 triumph against Magnolia. ppg. average. Borich, a 5-9 senior, led the way with 17 points.

Ross and freshman Kenzie Liedtke. Dalton added 14 and 11 tal-

lies, respectively.

were heart-breakers. They rounds out the Fort Frye first

"I thought our girls for four quarters just flat got after it," Liedtke said.

"We needed a game like Fort Frye, under the di- this. I thought we did a great

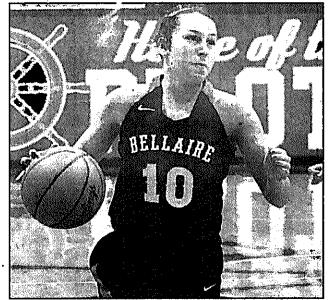
Archer checks in at 11.8 ay with 17 points.

Points per game while Ross Freshman dandy Hannah averages 9.2 points and Archer netted 16 markers 4.8 rebounds a contest and while sophomore Karlee called "a board monster," by

right now. We are down one Freshman Cathy Borich key player off the bench due to injury, however. That will hurt our depth," he noted. "Bellaire is a very talented team with a lot of speed and athleticism.

"They want to push the ball up and down the floor. Morgan Borich leads Fort We need to be patient on the offensive end," Liedtke continucd.

"The outcome will likely be determined on which team can play at the tempo it likes. The 10 a.m. start is something I don't relish with "We are playing well the long drive we have."



**BELLAIRE SENIOR** 

Maci Crozier is one of the key contributors for the Big Reds. She eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in her career earlier this season. Crozier and the Big Reds will take on Fort Frye this morning at 10 in the OVAC Class 3A final at Ohio University Eastern.

T-L File Photo/RICK THORP



Phil Pata II. **Pharmacist** 

"Your Prescription Store in Bellarie

3235 Belmont St. Bellaire 740-676-3433



Central Grille All Sports, All The Timel

Stop In After The Gamel 740-676-7000



441 37th St., Bellaire (740) 676-1611

3900 Central Ave., Shadyside (740) 676-4310

186 Main St., Powhatan Point (740) 795-5451

3300 Belmont St., Bellaire 740-676-5382 We buy gold, silver & diamonds at the highest possible price!

## **AMERICAN** LEGION



3600 Guernsey Street, Bellaire OH (740)676-2515

## **GOOD LUCK LADY BIG REDS! GULLA'S**

HOT DOG

Bellaire, Ohio

740-671-9666



## **Good Luck Lady Big Reds!**



INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL, SALES & SUPPLY** 

Serving The Tri-State Area

Ohio Valley Mall - St. Clairsville, OH 3351 Hamilton St - Bellaire, OH 844-427(ICR)-2020

www.icrsupply.com

#### YOUR COMPLETE JOBSITE OUTFITTER

**EVERYTHING FROM:** Bolts & Nuts to Top Soil & Straw-Asphalt Roller- Skid Loaders- Excavators- Trenchers-Chipper/Shredder Stump Grinder Jack Hammers Electric/Air Jack ·Hammers/Air Compressors · Augers-Lifts: Lawn Equipment: Light Towers & Power Tools NOW SERVING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES:

Industrial • Contractor · Home

IN STOCK: Silt Fence- Terratex Driveway Fabric-Orange Barrier Fence • Straw Blankets 8'x113' roll

Delta Toolboxes & Ladder Racks









## St. Clairsville, Beaver meet for 4A title

 Red Devils chasing first.crown since '07; Beavers seek initial

By RICK THORP

Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE Two years ago, St. Clairsville slowly walked off the floor at Ohio University's Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center with a sour taste in its mouth.

The Red Devils' loss to Union Local in the Wheeling Hospital Girls Basketball Championship Class 4A final was a bitter pill to swallow at the time. But as St. C. head coach Stacey Agnew looks back, it, in some ways, provided the motivation his team needed to get to where it is today.

That's back at OUE, this time batting Beaver Local for the title. Tip off is set for noon, following the 3A final between Bellaire and Fort

Frye. "It's not easy," Agnew said of the chore of reaching the championship game, where his squad hopes to bring home the program's first title in 19 years.
"This is very important

for us. Early in the year, we talked with the seniors, and (getting to the championship game) was one of their main

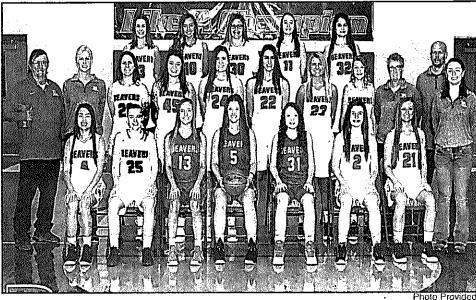
"They wanted to hang a banner. I told them they don't have banners anymore. They want to hang something on that wall be-fore they leave."

That opportunity will come against a Beavers team infused with youth. Head coach Stephanie Coie's squad has nine freshman, but is bolstered by a veteran



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the 2018-19 St. Clairsville girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Macy Malin, Maria Vincenzo, Rileigh Simpson, Kassidy Stephen and Alexis Thoburn, Second row, from left, are Mylie Gardner, Shae Brookover, Olivia Robinson, Annie Stroud and Kadaira Fordyce. Back row, from left, are Destiny Heatherington, Katle Strama, Emma Haley, Daishanay Easter, Keri Klinkoski and Sydney Miller. Absent was Dekotah Namack.



"We spent the first half PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Beaver Local basketball team. Front row, from left, are of the season just getting Kitty Chen, Halle Jordan, Madison Ours, Sydnie Holden, Alexia Harding, Riley to learn our system," said Britt, Brooke Briggs and Coach Lexie Merriman. Second row, from left, are Coach Coic, whose team is playing Bill Croxall, Coach Casey Coie, Emma Roberts, Leah Riccardo, Jenna Riccardo, in the OVAC final for the Elizabeth Kolkowski, Madison Cline, Alyson Joy, head coach Stephanie Coie and first time. "It just took time coach Scott Rogers. Back row, from left, are Jensen Britt, Chansyn Hoppel, Hailey for us to jell, mesh and work Russell, Olivia Keller and Selena Rogers.

things out."

7), Agnew was impressed harder." by what he saw of them placement event at Martins Ferry High School.

good players, and they're coached well," he said.

"They have a 6-foot girl who can shoot the 3. She's a great player.

That's one of the freshmen - Elizabeth Kolkowpoints and 8.3 rebounds per

Agnew was also impressed with Beaver Local's guards, of which it has three in its starting lineup - seniors Sydnie Holden and Madison Ours, and junior point, with Ours filling the 2-guard spot.

The Beaver's final starter, Jenna Riccardo, is also the straight to get there and led team's ace. The junior leads at halftime. We looked in the team with 23 ppg and 13.6 rpg.

"They have great talent," Agnew stressed. "We'll "I'm hoping the lead have to box out really hard ship we have will help." and get after them."

An appearance in today's final might've seemed farfetched at the start of the zo and juniors Keri Klinkosseason, but through hard work and determination, along with sophomore Macy Coie said her group is peaking at he right moment.

"We are a very unselfish team," she said. "We don't worry about who scores points. Our younger kids are really starting to understand their roles and what they need to do to be successful."

Coie said a turning point may have taken place around her shooting. the first of the year when she She went from having the varsity go against the JV, to dividing the varsity into two done a great job" teams.

our freshmen understand our defensive schemes and it's made them better," she picked up this year," he said, said, "We do nothing but See, 4A, Page 5 said. "We do nothing but

competition drills at practice Although he's had limited and it's really made us better exposure to the Beavers (12- and gotten everyone to work

Cole added her team is during the recent Buckeye 8 continually improving at game management, etc. She hopes the experience some "They have a few really of her seniors have gained playing in OVAC soccer finals will segue into today's

"They kind of know what to expect (from the bigger atmosphere)," she said. "I'm really going to be relying on ski. She's averaging 10 them to kind of relay things to the younger kids to keep them poised.'

Most of agnew's vets played in the final two years ago, so he's confident the spacious onfines at OUE won't be an issue for them.

"I'm hoping they'll be Riley Britt. Ours runs the able to handle it," he said. "I know the last time (we played in the final), we had to win seven or eight their eyes and I don't know how much more they had to give."

"I'm hoping the leader-

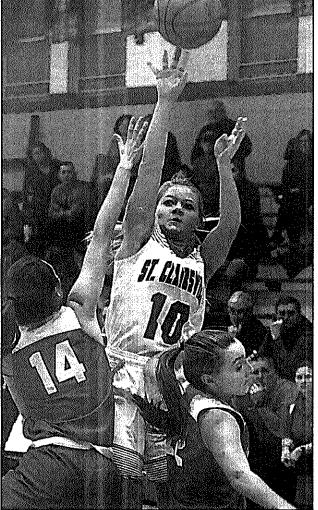
That will come from players like seniors Rileigh Simpson and Maria Vincenki and Katie Strama. They, Malin, have been the Red Devils' starters most of the season.

"She's a really good point guard," Coie said of Vincenzo, "and a really good 3-point shooter.

Agnew added that Vincenzo's defense has picked up this season, along with "She's been our prima-

switched up practice plans. ry ball handler," he said. "She's brought it up 95 percent of the time this year and

ms. Agnew said she and "I think that really helped Simpson have provided great leadership.



Continued from Page 4

noting her 9.6 points per outing. "Nothing seems to faze

Klinkoski, although not blessed with great size, has held her own with some of the best post players on St. C.'s schedule.

"She battles and battles," Agnew said. "She's very consistent.'

Strama is the team's leading scorer at 13 ppg and always

seems to have a knack for making the key shot.
"She has so much athletic ability," Angew said. "I think she' finally understanding the game in that now she's learning to consistently slow it down and kick it out.'

Malin contributes, Agnew said, many intangibles that don't show up in a box score.

"She's probably our leading offensive rebounder," he

Lately, the Red Devils have benefited from the improved play from its bench, which includes the likes of senior Kassidy Stephens, junior Olivia Robinson and freshmen Shae Brookover and Alexis Thoburn.

Agnew said the sum of the parts has equaled success for

"We've had all five starters lead the team in scoring at least once," he said. "If we could put it all together just one night, I'd like to see our scoring."

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Katie Strama has been one of the Red Devils key contributors this winter. She and the Devils will go after the OVAC Class 4A title today at Ohio University Eastern against Beaver Local. The Red Devils and Beavers haven't played this season. St. C. defeated Martins Ferry in the semifinals, while the Beavers took care of Buckeye Local.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY



## **GOOD LUCK** ST. CLAIRSVILLE DY RED DEVILS!

Funeral & Cremation Specialists ST. CLAIRSVILLE CHAPEL 204 West Main Street St. Clairsville, OH 43950

740-695-0475 www.carechapel.com Good Luck Lady Red Devils!

SALON & SPA 162 EAST MAIN ST. ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OH 740-296-5520

#### **BELMONT EQUIPMENT** SALES INC.

National Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio **GOOD LUCK** LADY RED DEVILS! (740) 695-3052

## Go Lady Red Devils! Collision Repair • Refinishing • Touch Up

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!**



INDUSTRIAL . COMMERCIAL . RESIDENTIAL

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL, SALES & SUPPLY** 

Serving The Tri-State Area

Ohio Valley Mall - St. Clairsville, OH 3351 Hamilton St - Bellaire, OH

844-427(ICR)-2020

www.icrsupply.com

#### YOUR COMPLETE JOBSITE OUTFITTER

EVERYTHING FROM: Bolts & Nuts to Top Soil & Straw-Asphalt Roller- Skid Loaders- Excavators- Trenchers-Chipper/Shredder Stump Grinder Jack Hammers Electric/Air Jack ·Hammers/Air Compressors · Augers-Lifts. Lawn Equipment. Light Towers & Power Tools

**NOW SERVING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES:** 

Industrial • Contractor · Home IN STOCK: Silt Fence-Terratex Driveway Fabric-

Orange Barrier Fence • Straw Blankets 8'x113' roll

Delta Toolboxes & Ladder Racks











## John Marshall, University clash in Class 5A

 Monarchs trying to exact revenge from decisive loss to Hawks earlier

By BUBBA KAPRAL Executive Sports Editor

ment Championship Game.

But John Marshall and University High had differpost impressive semi-finals triumphs.

No. 3-seeded John Marshall, in the midst of a sparkling renaissance season, stunned No. 2 seed Indian 10. Creek, 61-52, at Wintersville.

No. 4-seeded University, meanwhile, trekked to "The Palace on the Hill" and posted a 44-36 over top-seeded and 13-time OVAC champion Wheeling Park.

As a result, the Monarchs and Hawks will vie Saturday at Ohio University Eastern for the conference crown.

season in Moundsville.

Monarchs peeking at the perfect time. John Marshall enters the title tilt riding tougher this time around. the wave of some impressive wins. In addition to its huge win at Indian Creek, the Glen Dale-based crew coach. "I love the OUE recently bagged a road win facility. I coached in the

at Morgantown.

John Marshall is now 14-6. The Monarchs will be WHEELING -- This vying for their first OVAC wasn't the match-up most championship since 2002, people were expecting in the OVAC 5A Girls Tourna- of-legendary coach Stan Blankenship.

University, meanwhile, is guided by David Price. His ent ideas. Both the Mon-archs and Hawks took to the road Monday night to the road Monday night to girls crown in 2013.

Both teams are stateranked. University resides in the Class AAA fourth spot while John Marshall is No.

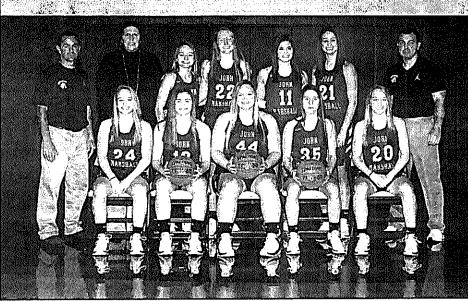
Senior standout Shay Straughn is the Monarchs' motor. The 5-6 point guard is one of the OVAC's pre-Marshall's semifinal win, pouring in a career-high 40 points.

"John Marshall has a super player in No. 35 (Straughn). That was quite Tipoff is set for 2 p.m.

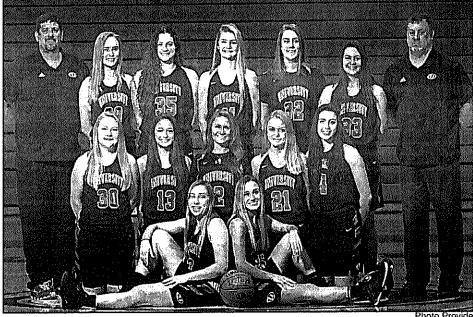
University drilled John
Marshall, 58-26, earlier this

a performance she put on against Indian Creek," Price said. "Coach Melko has his team playing at a high level. Brock Melko has his He has brought them along very nicely.

"We know it will be much They have more weapons than just Straughn," added the former Clay-Battelle



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 John Marshall Monarchs basketball team. Front row, from left, are assistant coach Curt Mele, assistant coach Beth Blake, Landyn is one of the OVAC's premier players. The all-stater was at her finest in John Melko. Sitting, from left, are Abby Blake, Kaitlyn Groves, Megan Stocklask, Shay Straughn and Anna Blake. Absent was Samara Walker



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 University Hawks basketball team. Front row, from left, are Zoe Murphy and Selena Jenkins. Second row, from left, are Emily Cordray, Isabella Bowers, Jaimalyn Ash, Lindsey Vorndran and Lauren Dean. Third row, from left, are head coach David Price, Sierra Lanham, Mallory Napolillo,

Into Your Life

Ashten Boggs, Abbie Coen, Sela Chico and assistant coach David Boggs.

OVAC All-Star game there.

a quick start Saturday.'

University boasts a tall niors and three juniors. Hopefully, we can get off to and veteran lineup, featuring a starting lineup with two se- Zoe Murphy and 5-4 senior

Selene Jenkins and junior forwards 5-11 Mallory Napalillo, 5-11 Abbie Coen and 5-11 Ashten Boggs. The Hawks feature nice offensive balance, topped by

Boggs's 16 ppg average.
"We don't press much.
We don't have enough bodies to do that. We like to rely on our halfcourt desense. Sometimes we extend it to 3/4 court," Price noted. "We like to limit our opponents' possessions. We are defi-nitely a defensive-driven team."

John Marshall's journey to the title game is nothing short of remarkable. The Monarchs were virtual 5A bottom feeders last winter.

"Before our semi-final game Monday, I printed last year's OVAC standings at the cut-off point. We were 2-13 and in dead last. That was embarrassing," Melko said. "So, now we have a chance to go from worst to first. Don't know if that has been done before.

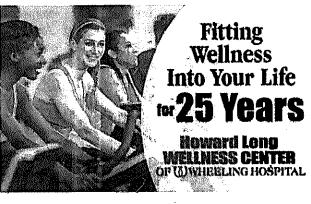
"Shay had a tremendous game at Creek. She took her game to another level," he added. "I was proud of how we played through adversity against Creek. We were down 11-0 right off the bat. But the girls didn't over-react and showed a lot of metal toughness.

On most nights, Melko likes to utilize a nine-girl rotation. Straughn, averaging some 26 points a game, is joined in the starting lineup by the Blake twins - Abby and Anna. Both are talented guards. Senior Kaitlyn Groves is solid at both ends of the floor.

Depending on the opponent, either rising frosh Catherine Hunnell or sophomore Lakyn Groves owns the fifth starting spot. Hunnell enjoyed a recent strong showing, dropping 24 points on Union Local.

Bench strength is provided by senior post Megan The guards are 5-5 senior Stocklash, junior Camryn

See, 5A, Page 5



## Beallsville, Madonna shaping up like a 'really good matchup' in 1A

• Blue Devils in final for second straight season; Blue Dons looking for 12th title

By RICK THORP Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -In watching tape of Beallsville this week, Madonna head coach Rodney Boniti sees a team itching to take the next step.

"They're a team that's built to win," Boniti said ahead of this afternoon's 1A final, the fourth game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships. "Just looking at their track record last year - getting to the OVAC final and losing to a very strong Cam-eron team – for them to repeat and get right back to the championship game tells me they have a competitive group of young ladies."

Beallsville head coach

4 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern's Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center, in high regard, too.

"I know they're very skilled," she said. "They have some really good players. They have a lot of older players. They're a veteran team.

"It should be a really good matchup.'

While Madonna (16-4) does have the upper hand in experience grade wise, the Blue Devils (16-3) have experience – at OUE. Beallsville reached the title tilt last winter, only to fall to the Dragons. Jarrett hopes the familiarity of the surroundings bolds well for her group this time.

"I don't know if it will for sure," said Jarrett, who played in the game three



Tori Jarrett agrees, although she views the top-seeded are Kileigh Darby, Harley Valley, Olivia Muncy, Cheyenne Riley and Hannah Phil-Blue Dons, who the No. 2 lips. Standing, from left, are Ashley Louden, Jayden Gabel, Ashley Howell, Makseed Blue Devils meet at enna Phillips and Jaycee Huffman.

straight years during her Devils have improve din, player, the first time you court, but in their mental apget there you have a lot of proach to the game.'

really nervous. I hope it parison to last year)," Jarrett works in our favor."

The Blue Devils showed few jitters Monday in gaining revenge on Cameron in a semifinal on their homecourt. The victory propelled Beallsville back to Belmont County and another step closer to crossing off the and our style." first of a handful of preseason goals.

has gone really well," Jarrett said. "One of our goals was to get back (to the OVAC state-ranked foes Shadyside ready to play." final), and we've done that."

Along the way, the Blue nolia.

plans and in sticking to our plateau a few weeks ago, is style of play. I think that averaging nearly 19 points helped in our victory against per game, while Howell has Cameron (on Monday). collected nearly 14 points a We've kind of learned to contest. stay true to our gameplan

Beallsville, seeking its (home-and-home) and Mag-

"I think we've all imprep days. "I know, as a not just their play on the proved, especially the older players," Jarrett noted.

each to the game." Leading the way for 'We definitely have ma-Beallsville this season has "I know last year we were tured this season (in com- been the junior tandem of Ashlie Louden and Ashley Howell. Louden, who "That includes in game- surpassed the 1,000-pont

"They're both consistent," Jarrett said. I can depend on them every time. I first OVAC crown since know what I'm going to get "I think the regular season 2010, has done so against an out of them. I know I'm go-

Jarrett also knows they'll

See, 1A, Page 8

• 5A

Continued from Page 6

Blair and freshman Landyn Helms.

"University is big and physical. Their size gave us prob-lems last time," Melko, now in his fifth season at the JM helm, said. "We have to do a better job on the boards. It will be a battle. We must maintain our poise. We are excited about the opportunity to play for the OVAC title.'

# 🚳 GOOD LUCK 🍪 IOHN MARSHA



Golden Towers • Helfer Pavillon • Kermit/Gatts Court Francine Court • Dorsey Street RENT BASED ON INCOME

501 Tenth St. • Moundsville, WV 304-845-3141





 Fitness Center Open 24 Hours

Cardio & Weight Training

Call For More Details

1003 4th St., Moundsville, WV

(304) 843-1192

#### • 1A -

Continued from Page 7

provide leadership.

er players if they're not holding up searching for i their end of the bargain," she said. in eight years. "They've been a big help when it comes to that.'

more Makenna Phillips round out dence of this group. the unit. Cheyenne Riley provides

is long and athletic and can get out

and defend.' Jarrett will need everything to

jell as her team faces one of the best "They consistently get on the oth- in West Virginia Class A, a squad searching for its first OVAC crown

They've been a big help when it omes to that."

We've played a heckuva schedule," Boniti said. "But the girls love the challenge. I think they'll be con-Devils' third starter.

"She has always been a good rebounder," Jarrett said of Muncy.
"She has a real knack for getting the ball."

"She has a real knack for getting the ball."

To play, and beat, those types of teams has only added to the confi-Junior Jayden Gabel and sopho- teams has only added to the confi-

bench depth.

"Makenna has really come in to her own," Jarrett said. "And Jayden is long and athletic and can get and "I think they'll accept the chal-

The Blue Dons boast an experienced group that includes five se-See, 1A, Page 9



**BEALLSVILLE'S ASHLIE** Louden pressures Shadyside's Jaycee Mayeres during a game in December. The Blue Devils will take on Madonna in the Class 1A final today at 2 p.m. at OUE.

T-L File Photo/SETH STAS-



M.A.C.O. Workshop

(740) 472-5445

Good Luck Lady Blue Devils! **&** StateFarm"

LADY BLUE DEVILS!

232 South Main St., Suite A Woodsfield, OH (740) 472-138 I tim.biue.lzki@statefarm.com

Beallsville First Christian Church A Growing, Active, Community Involved Church

Where Everybody is Somebody Special"

Wayne Clark-Minister Main & Ohio Street Church: (740) 926-1830 Cell: (740) 213-0589

GOOD LUCK LADY BLUE DEVILS!

Country
Real Estate
Smithberger
Realty, LLC

111 Main St., Clarington, OH www.smithbergerrealty.com

mellssasmithberger@gmail.com Melissa A. Smithberger Owner/Broker (740) 213-4037

#### **Good Luck Lady Blue Devils!**

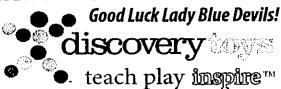
Best wishes for a successful post season run!

From Your Friends At

### HARPER **FUNERAL HOME**

**Bob & Robin Harper** 

#### GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING!



Pat Marcum Team Leader 740.310.7312 www.discoverytoys.com/Patricia304

Good Luck LADY BLUE DEVILS!



#### • 1A

Continued from Page 8

niors, four of whom have ing 6."
wen with the program "We rotate those six girls been with the program hrough middle school.

arough middle school.

Leading the way is forvard Andrea Alimario. The depending on who we're playing," he said.

And although Alimario is ward Andrea Alimario. The louble-figure scorer, aver-

10 is at the other forward, ing between five and nine while junior Kennedy Marpoints an outing.

in sees time at center.

Senior Rachel Boniti s the point guard, while classmate Gia Riccadonna plays the 2-spot. Sopho
Think the girls are under the graph of na's gameplan, one Coach ally balanced attack." Boniti said features a "start-

senior is the team's lone his team's only player averaging double figures, Coach Boniti the Blue Dons benerging 15.8 ppg.

Senior Gabriella StaffileBoniti the Blue Dons beneit from the others averag-

nore Jazzy Melnyk also playing with a lot of confiigures heavily in Madon- dence. I think we have a re-



19 Madonna basketball team. Front row, from left, are Gabriella Staffileno, Gia Riccadonna, Rachel Boniti and Andrea Alimario. Second row, from left, are Anna Backel, Jazzlyn Melnyk, Alaina Moore, Kennedy Martin, Marianna Martinez-Perez, Vanessa Alatis and assistant coach Michaela Battista Back row, from left, are head coach Rodney Boniti, Dave Lammers and Cory Wingett.

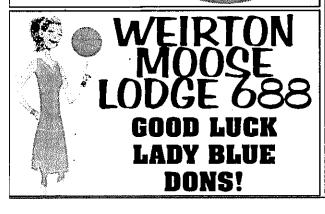
Photo Provided



## GOOD LUCK DY BLUE DONS!

**GOOD LUCK LADY BLUE DONS YOU MAKE US PROUD!** 

St. Joseph the Worker Church







3131 Main Street, Weirton, WV 26062

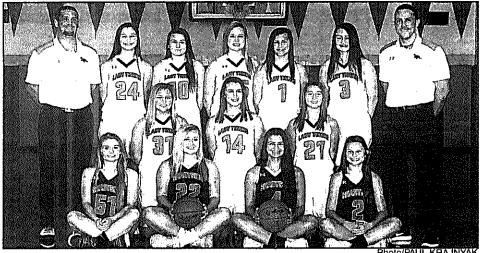
304-748-4525

Gary and Mary Lyons





FROM THE MADONNA ATHLETIC DEPT.



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Shadyside basketball team. Front row, from left, are Haleigh Osman, Jaycee Mayeres, Macy Coffland and Syd Destifanes. Middle row, from left, are Madisyn Stewart, Julie Hendershot and Brooke Selmon. Back meeting in the Tiger Den row, from left, are head coach Serge Gentile, Paige Gorby, Mandy Doyno, Baylee Wach, Kamdyn Elerick, Tory Hendershot and assistant coach Brandon Parr.

## Shadyside, River set for 2A rematch and rubbermatch

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

Good, evenly matched games in the regular season on the line? happens all the time, but winning on the other team's home court usually doesn't.

That's exactly what happened between River and of the day-long Wheeling Shadyside, who played on Hospital OVAC Girls Baspened between River and back-to-back Mondays in the middle of January.

and a week later, Shadyside and second-seeded Pilots won the rematch inside the

R.L. Potts Gymnasium.

And what could be better them.' than playing a rubbermatch

That's exactly what Rivning at 6 in the final game tral. Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

The top-seeded Tigers goals. will meet for the second straight season in the 2A title game.

"The great thing about like this," Shadyside head coach Serge Gentile said.
"To play for an OVAC

championship against a "Wach and Hendershot rival is exciting. There's make them go, but they been a rivalry since my par- definitely have other kids ents were in school here, so there's just a different feel to it. That is what makes it fun. are good.

The Pilots didn't wait 44 victory against the Tigers to establish their goals back to - and winning -

"We've had this down as ball handler. the goal since last season ended and we knew it would Rick Isaly said. "We're excited to be here and excited well right now."

back to the Pilots on Jan. 14.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now," Gentile said. "Getting to this out the starting lineup. Both game was one of our goals. We had a shot last year and than we did.

'We have to find a way

to make more plays than

The Tigers are led by its - on a neutral floor - with dynamic sophomore duo of teams splitting a pair of a conference championship Baylee Wach and Tory Hendershot.

They both came up huge er and Shadyside have the in Monday's semifinal vicopportunity to do this eve- tory against Wheeling Cen-

16 points a game, pumped ketball Championships at in 30 against the Maroon

ly missed a triple-double in the semis, is a stat-sheet stuffer.

She's averaging almost high school sports are games 12 points a game. She's also

"We're a very deep team

"I don't think we're a. to be facing a really good team that you can just key team that's playing very on one girl. We have five girls who can get their feet Shadyside has won five set and bury shots. That in a row since its 54-48 set- opens up things for every-

have some big moments throughout the season. River just made more plays Mayeres is a small forward, 9 while Coffland, despite be-See, 2A, Page 11

Wach, who is averaging

Knights. She's also hit 52 bonus

Hendershot, who narrow-

averaging upwards of five assists and five rebounds,

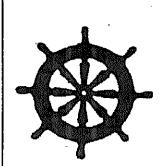
who can come in and knock down a shot, too," Isaly said. "We will have to guard them especially when the teams and challenge their 3-point looks." The

long after last season's 47- Shadyside's engine is senior point guard Syd Destifanes. She's picked up her scoring for this season and getting of late, including a 22-point outburst against Bellaire this game was near the top nearly two weeks ago. She's also a tireless defender and

that is complementing each be tough," River head coach other really well right now," Gentile said.

> Seniors Jaycee Mayeres and Macy Coffland round

## GOOD LUCK RIV LADY PILOTS!



#### **GOOD LUCK LADY PILOTS!**



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

### **M.A.C.O.** Workshop (740) 472-5445

Good Luck Lady Pilots!

#### **♣** StateFarm<sup>™</sup> TIM BLUE **Good Luck Lady Pilots!**

232 South Main St., Sulta A Woodsfield, OH (740) 472-1381

#### Smithberger Realty, LLC Country Real Estate GOOD LUCK

LADY PILOTS! 111 Main St., Clarington, OH www.smithbergerrealty.com mellseasmithberger@gmail.com

Melissa A. Smithberger Owner/Broker (740) 213-4037

#### **BEST OF LUCK** LADY PILOTS AND

**PLAY YOUR BEST GAME! May The Best Team Win! Training Plus** 

740-795-4449

#### **Good Luck** River Lady Pilots!

37268 Fifth Ave.,

Sardis, OH 43946

1-800-473-1989

1-740-483-1989

• 2A-

Continued from Page 10

ely on Brooke Selmon, Ju-really wants this (champion-Smith. ie Hendershot and freshman ship) bad." Paige Gorby.

nas responded since its set-

and to get a little bit tough-

River, meanwhile, is led points a game. y all-Ohioan Lauren Flanverything and then some

or the Pilots. out four assists, grabs four contest. ebounds and comes up with

the's on the floor, you al- hard. ways feel like you have a

Gentile has been quite checks in at nine points a Lauren (Flannery)," Gentile pleased with how his team game. Battling through a said. pair of knee injuries during back to the Pilots last month. her prep career, Reynolds is player who might be the best "They just pushed us back to playing much like wound and really took it her old self. She nets nine o us," Gentile said. "Since points and pulls down six like that you have to slow

purselves and realized we well and Riley Lollathin ter. It's going to be a tough are solid role players for the Pilots. Both average seven

A key player, who didn't chance." iery, who does a little bit of play in the earlier loss to the Tigers because of illness, senior Alli Long. She was big Averaging 23 points is in the first game on glass, esust part of the story for pecially. She averaged nine Flannery. She also passes points and six rebounds a

"This is a great senior our steals a night, too.

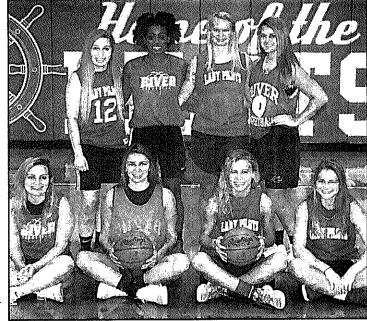
"Lauren's a great kid who s as hard worker as I've Isaly said. "It's a tight-knit" coached," Isaly said. "When group that works extremely

Off the bench, the Pi-

ng only 5-8, plays on the chance to win the game. lots utilize junior Miken-She does it all. She scores, zie Cieszeski, senior Livi Off the bench, the Tigers distributes, defends and she Rose and sophomore Emily

"The key - for us - is Senior Carsyn Reynolds always trying to slow down

"She's an exceptional player in the entire OVAC. When you have someone hen, I think it flipped a rebounds a game. her down because she's able witch for us. We looked at Seniors Candace Cald- to make everyone else bether down because she's able game, but we have to find a way to slow Lauren down a little bit to give us a better



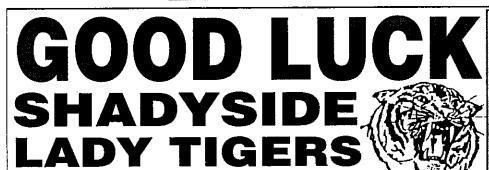
PICTURED IS the 2018-19 River girls basketball team. Front row, from left, are Livi Rose, Carsyn Reynolds, Lauren Flannery and Riley Lollathin. Top row, from left, are Hannah Straub, Jonayah Moeller, Emily Smith and Candace Caldwell.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

All Sports, All The Time!

Stop in After The Game!

740-676-7000



#### MISS SYD'S PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

Starting at 2 Years · Contact Us Today To Get Your Child Registered For Fall Registration 2019-2020 School Year and Before & After Daycare

GO TIGERS!

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm Kathy Lay-Owner 455 East 39th St., Shadyside

671-9616

#### **GOOD LUCK** LADY TIGERS!



411 37th St., Bellaire, OH (740) 676-1611 3900 Central Ave., Shadyside, OH (740) 676-4310 186 Main St., Powhatan Point (740) 795-5451

#### BEST OF LUCK **LADY TIGERS** AND

**PLAY YOUR BEST GAME!** 

May The Best Team Win! **Training Plus** 

740-795-4449





The region's leading provider of quality

Good Luck Lady Tigers!

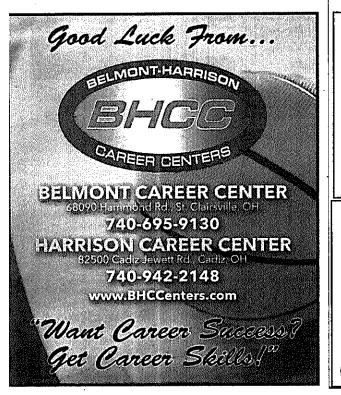
• Bridge • Construction • Slip Repair

 Utility Installation Site Prep & More

56461 Ferry Landing Road • Shadyside, OH 43947

740-676-7464

www.owvexcavating.com



## Treating Minor to Major Injuries

# SPECIAL (S) WHIBELING HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT OF

CALL: 304-243-8630



The Intelligencer

ANDES GETS 300TH WIN

With Shadyside's 59-29 victory over Bellaire, Ed Andes secured his 300th career win at his alma mater/11

**Basketball Semifinal** 

ify into the top four.
The winners of Monday's primed for Feb. 9 at OUE Monday; title matchups Games will be played

By virtue of its head-to-head win over p Indian Creek Monday evening, Wheeling is Park catapulted into the top seed in the or class by half a point over the Redskins Coach Ryan Young's Patriots (13-4) and will welcome University (12-5) on y, Monday. The two W.Va. Class AAA rina vals split their previous two meetings this

championship schedule has

undergone a minor change. One ticket will now be honored throughout the day, unlike years past when

Wheeling Park, which won the Big School title in 2017, owns 13 OVAC titles, which trails only St. John for the most all time. University, a relative newcomer to the OVAC, won its only title in 2013.

Please see PAIRINGS, Page

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer
BELLAIRE — The road to an Ohio
Valley Athletic Conference champion-

ship is set.

The OVAC Basketball Championship is Committee met Tuesday morning at the c OVAC office to formally nall down the C pairings for the semifinals, which will be p played on Monday at the higher seed's 3 gym, and the consolation matchups for N

in St. Clairsville on Saturday, Feb. 9 in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship

A new champion is promised in three of the five classes. Only River (2A) and cameron (1A) will have the ability to retire peat. Wheeling Central is the defending the sample of the complete (AA) or Parkersburg in the companion.

the gym was cleared st between each game.

The title games will St begin at 10 a.m. and tle per ytwo hours. The order of the all ittle games is 3A, 4A, 5A, 1A and 2A. to Here's a look at the semifinal pairings in each class:

Pairings -(Continued from Page 13)

dian Creek, which has now team is 13-2 on the sealost two games in a row after a 15-0 start, will welcome John Marshall on Monday. The Monarchs are 13-5.

Creek won its three OVAC titles in succession opening task in the form of from 2008-10, while the Magnolia.

Monarchs are bidding for their 10th title, but first since boast a tough inside threat of Kyndra Pilant and Mad-2002.

CLASS 4A

In arguably the most wideopen class of the five, St. Clairsville earned the top seed in a field, which fea-tures four Buckeye 8 Athletic League members.

Coach Stacey Red Devils are in the tournament for the second straight season, but will be on their home boards this time around. St. C. hasn't won an OVAC title in girls' hoops since 2007 and own six overall.

The Red Devils will have to contend with Martins Ferry, which has turned it on of late. Coach Paul Matuska's Purple Riders have won four games in a row and could become the first school to win a conference title with a sub .500 record (7-11).

Ferry last won an OVAC Pilots last season. title in 2009 and have six total banners.

Beaver Local nailed down the two seed by fighting off Harrison Central in double overtime on Monday. The Beavers (9-7) have never won an OVAC title in girls basketball.

Buckeye Local, which played in the conference title game last season, pockin a row and only two games

in January.

The Panthers (8-9) will meet Beaver Local for the third time. The teams split their earlier meetings. Buckeye's lone girls' basketball title came in 1992.

CLASS 3A Bellaire was the wire-to-wire leader in this class for the third straight season. Now, Coach John Farrier's team is looking to get over the hump.

Last season, the Big Reds advanced to the championship game before falling to Wheeling Central in the final. Bellaire last won an OVAC title in girls hoops in 2006 and owns seven overall.

The Big Reds path to title No. 8 begins with a date with county rival Union Local, which has already suffered two losses to the Big Reds this season.

Union Local has won six OVAC titles, including three in the tournament format.

ne other half of bracket, Fort Frye has had a stranglehold on the second seed for the bulk of the seathe other half of the cord, excerning the total and the bracket, Fort Frye has had a winning seven in a row. The Dragons' title last year was the first in school history.

In the other semifinal, In- son. Coach Dan Liedtke's son and is seeking its 10th OVAC title. The Cadets have won five crowns in the playoff era.

They will face a tough opening task in the form of

of Kyndra Pilant and Maddy Winters. The Blue Eagles defeated Paden City on Monday to jump up to the No. 3 seed.

Coach Meredith Pilant's squad will look to win the school's first OVAC cham-Agnew's pionship since 2004 and second overall.

**CLASS 2A** 

Shadyside and defending champion River had a toothand-nail battle for the top seed for much of the season before the Tigers pulled away in the last couple of weeks. Coach Serge Gentile's

team has won four in a row since losing to River on Jan.

The Tigers (17-3), who have won seven OVAC titles in school history, are seeking their first since 2013. They finished as runnerup to the

Shadyside has no easy task ahead in fourth-seeded Wheeling Central. The Ma-roon Knights, who have won its class two straight seasons, fought off Clay-Battelle for

the fourth seed.

Coach Penn Kurtz's team,
which has battled injuries, is

River, which owns five OVAC titles, will begin eted the third seed despite a its quest for No. 6 against late-season tailspin, which that seed the third seed despite a its quest for No. 6 against late-season tailspin, which that seed the third seed despite a its quest for No. 6 against late-season tailspin, which that seed the seed that the

The Crusaders, who haven't won an OVAC title since 1989, are 11-7.

CLASS 1A

Madonna and Beallsville have been atop the 1A stand-ings for basically the entire season and formally locked down the home games as the 1 and 2 seeds, respectively.
The Blue Dons (12-4)
own 11 conference titles, the

last coming in 2011.

For Madonna to have

a crack at No. 12, it will have to defeat fourth-seeded Trinity Christian (12-6). The Warriors have won one OVAC title (2012) in their brief time in the conference.

The two teams met last week in Weirton with the Blue Dons earning a narrow 38-36 victory.

Beallsville, which fell to Cameron in the title game last winter, will meet the Dragons in a rematch. The Blue Dev-The Jets, who fell on ils, who have played a chal-Monday at John Marshall, lenging schedule, are 14-3 dropped to the fourth seed and are vying for their first and are currently 10-8. OVAC title since 2010 and seventh overall. Cameron, meanwhile,

has posted a solid 12-4 record, entering the tournament

JANUARY 30, 2019



Wednesday, January 30, 2019

## pairings tournament VAC girls set

V SETH STASKEN d to an Ohio e champion-

P is set.
The OVAC Basketball Championship

1 the id OVAC Girls Basket-in games. s promised in three nly River (2A) and we the ability to re-

past when each game, and to and and of the rate of the

at the semifinal pairings

CLASS 5A

by virtue of its head-to-head win r Indian Creek Monday evening, eeling Park catapulted into the top in the class by half a point over the Ryan Young's Patriots are cur-4 and will welcome Universi-

which is 12-5, on Monday.
Wheeling Park, which won the bigool title in 2017, owns 13 OVAC 25, which trails only St. John for the st all time. University, a relative newner to the OVAC, won its only title in

r semifinal, Indian Creek, w lost two games in a row start, will welcome John fonday. The Monarchs are

after a 15-0 start, will welcome John Marshall on Monday. The Monarchs are 13-5 on the season.

Creek won its only three OVAC titles in succession from 2008-10, while the Monarchs are bidding for their 10th title, but first since 2002.

CLASS 4A

In arguably the most wide-open class of the five, St. Clairsville earned the top seed in a field, which features four Buckeye 8 Athletic League members.

Coach Stacey Agnew's Red Devils are in the tournament for the second struight season, but will be on their home boards this time around. St. C. hasn't won an OVAC title in girls' hoops since 2007 and own six overall.

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

with a sub .500 record.

rently 7-11 on the season. Ferry last Reds this season. six total banners.

seed by fighting off Harrison Central cal has won six OVAC titles, including season. in double overtime on Monday. The three in the tournament format. Beavers are 9-7 on the season and In the other half of the bracket, Fort OVAC title since 1989, are 11-7 on basketball.

son, pocketed the third seed despite OVAC title. a late-season tailspin, which has seen

The Cadets have won five crowns in down the home games as the one and it lose seven games in a row and only the playoff era. two games in January.

meet Beaver Local for the third time. River had a tooth-and-nail battle for Their last came in 2011. came in 1992.

#### CLASS 3A

in this class for the third straight sea- losing to River on Jan. 14. son. Now, head coach John Farrier's once again.

to the championship game before fall- season. ing to Wheeling Central in the final. overall.

The Big Reds path to title number Clay-Battelle for the fourth seed. eight begins with a date with coun-

Coach Paul Matuska's team is curready suffered two losses to the Big the season.

have never won an OVAC title in girls Frye has had a stranglehold on the sec- the season. ond seed for the bulk of the season. Buckeye Local, which played in Coach Dan Liedtke's team is 13-2 the conference title game last sea- on the season and is seeking its 10th atop the 1A standings for basically

#### CLASS 2A

couple of weeks.

The Tigers, who have won seven team is looking to get over the hump OVAC titles in school history, are in the title game last winter, will meet seeking their first since 2013. They the Dragons once again. The Blue Last season, the Big Reds advanced finished as runnerup to the Pilots last Devils, who have played a challenging

Bellaire last won an OVAC title in in fourth-seeded Wheeling Central. seventh overall. girls hoops in 2006 and owns seven The Maroon Knights, who have won

Coach Penn Kurtz's team, which

ty-rival Union Local, which has al- has battled injuries, is currently 9-8 on

River, which owns five OVAC tiwon an OVAC title in 2009 and have The Jets, who fell on Monday at tles, will begin its quest for number John Marshall, dropped to the fourth six against third-seeded Steubenville Beaver Local nailed down the two seed and are currently 10-8. Union Lo- Catholic. The Pilots are 15-4 on the

The Crusaders, who haven't won an

#### CLASS 1A

Madonna and Beallsville have been the entire season and formally locked two seeds, respectively.

The Blue Dons are 12-4 on the Now sitting at 8-9, the Panthers will Shadyside and defending champion season and own 11 conference titles.

The teams split their earlier meetings. the top seed for much of the season be-Buckeye's lone girls' basketball title fore the Tigers pulled away in the last number 12, it will have to deal with fourth-seeded Trinity Christian at 12-Coach Serge Gentile's team, which 6. The Warriors have won just one Bellaire was the wire-to-wire leader is 17-3, has won four in a row since OVAC title (2012) in their brief time in the conference.

Beallsville, which fell to Cameron schedule, are 14-3 and are vying for Shadyside has no easy task ahead their first OVAC title since 2010 and

Cameron, meanwhile, has posted a its class two straight seasons, four off solid 12-4 record. The Dragons' title last year was the first in school history.

# The Intelligencer. PORTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Financial.....10-11

## Chase for OVAC Girls' Titles Are Wide O

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships tip off Monday with 10 quality matchups spread across the five classes.

As I sit here and type this, I am intrigued by many of the matchups and how wide open the field is this season.

Sixteen of the 20 teams in the field have double-digit victories. There is plenty of star power and some of the best coaches in the game.

This is one of those times I wish I could clone myself and take a seat in all 10 gymnasiums. Unfortunately, modern technology isn't that far along and I will have to settle for just one

Don't fret. Between The Intelligencer, Herald Star and Times Leader staffs, harmed Wheeling Park more than it we will be able to bring you all the

But why wait until next Saturday at Ohio University Eastern to find out who will win. I am going to tell you right now.

Class 5A

This past Monday, we may have had a sneak peek of the Class 5A final when Wheeling Park defeated Indian Creek.

The victory gave the Patriots the top seed on the Redskins, who entered the contest with a narrow lead:

In fact, when you look at that victory, it may have helped. Wheeling Park plays host to



**JOSH** STROPE **SPORTS EDITOR** 

ing their victory just last week.
Had Wheeling Park stayed
at No. 2, it would have played John Marshall. The Patriots have

recently had the Monarchs' number, including two blowout wins earlier this season. Instead, the Monarchs will

University on Monday. The

two teams split their previous

meetings with the Hawks earn-

have to handle an Indian Creek squad coming into the tournament having saw its sea-son-opening 15-game winning streak snapped last week against Bellaire in the Buckeye 8 title

game. The Redskins followed that up with a loss at Wheeling Park where

they couldn't throw the ball in the ocean.

In games like these, I tend to lean toward the team with the better defense and the two defenses this season that have impressed me the most are Wheeling Park and Indian Creek.

I predict those teams will escape with close wins in the semis. I feel Indian Creek will shoot the ball a lot better than it did at Wheeling Park, but I just like the inside-outside punch of Shanley Woods and Bella Abernathy too much. I am going with the Patriots in another low-scoring bout. Final: Wheeling Park 49, Indian

Please see STROPE, Page 8

#### STROPE

(Continued from Page 7)

Class 4A Nothing soups up a semifinal better than pure disdain.

And that is what you will get when Martins Ferry and St. Clairsville meet on the hardwood. These schools don't like each other. The fanbases are often the most opinionated in the valley.

Expect this game to be competitive and hard fought. Bragging rights and a spot in the final is on the line.

In the other game, Buckeye Local travels to Beaver Local.

I had the chance to see the Beavers in action recently and came away impressed. Granted, they were playing a team that hasn't had much success this season and will get a stiffer test against the Panthers.

Still, I liked the way they played and I just have a feeling about this one. Call this my upset pick.

Final: Beaver Local 50, and Mady Winters and

St. Clairsville 45 Class 3A

When you are as balanced as Bellaire is, you have a chance to win any game you are in.

The Big Reds boast four double-digit scorers and that is a luxury any team would love to have. If one person is having an off night, you are backed up by three others. And don't discount the fifth starter and a solid bench.

And the way they play defense.

I think the Big Reds will be too much for Union Local.

The other matchup in this class may be the most intriguing first-round

Coach Dan Lietdke and Fort Frye are almost always among the top schools battling in the semifinals, but recently their luck getting to the big game hasn't been

Enter Magnofia's inside duo of Kyndra Pilant the Cadets are going to have their hands full in the paint.

A game like this may be too close to call. And while I don't know much about Fort Frye, I am going to give the home team the nod here in a close victory against the Blue Eagles.

But the long wait will end for Bellaire, winning its first title since 2006.

Final: Bellaire 63, Fort Frye 50

Class 2A River is the defending

champion, having defeated Shadyside in a classic last season.

In order for the two teams to meet again, they will each have a tough task standing in front of them.

River welcomes a feisty Steubenville Catholic squad, while Shadyside welcomes Wheeling Central, the winners of last season's Class 3A title.

Shadyside and ing Central split their

two meetings this season, setting up a rubber match with everything to gain.

It is hard for me to go against Penn Kurtz. The Wheeling Central coach knows the right buttons to push and is one of the best coaches around come tournament time.

But Shadyside is clicking right now. Coach Serge Gentile's team had an impressive victory against Bellaire this past week, and I think the Tigers have the depth and health right now to keep the Maroon Knights at

As well as Shadyside is playing, I think it will suffer another year of heartbreak.

River may have the best player in the field in Lauren Flannery and I am going with the senior having another tournament to remember, first beating Steubenville Catholic and then carning John Howell Most Valuable Player honors in leading the Pilots to a victory against the Tigers.

Final: River 57. Shadyside 49

Class 1A A lot of credit must be given to Madonna coach Rodney Boniti for the turnaround he did this

season with Madonna. The Blue Dons faced a ton of injuries last season and he still kept them competitive in a tough section.

Healthy this season, he has Madonna as the top seed in Class A. The Blue Dons draw a tough first opponent, though, in Trinity

Madonna carned a close victory against the Warriors last week and expect another tooth-andnail fight Monday,

Cameron claimed the first OVAC girls' basketball title in school history last season, beating Beallsville in the final.

One of those teams are guaranteed to play on the OUE floor for the second year in a row as they meet in a semifinal.

The Dragons lost a number of key players from that team and Tori-Jarrett's Beallsville squad has been one of the most consistent in the valley.

The Blue Devils own a victory against Cameron already this season and I think they will get one here and ther move on to knock off Madonna.

Final: Bealfsville 43, Madonna 37

Good luck to all the teams this week!

Winter Weather

I am not a big Twitter guy. In fact, if it wasn't for this job, I probably would never tweet and only check it sparingly.

So when the snow hits. I spend hours a day trying to find out if games are being played and when makeups are to keep our daily card updated and to help with our coverage. Needless to say, not very fun for me.

So I want to say a very big THANK YOU to Wheeling Park boys' basketball coach Michael Jebbia and Magnolia athletics director Brian Castilow,

Both Jebbia and Castilow use old-fashioned email to inform me when games have been postponed. And more importantly, when the makeups are going to be. It makes my job a whole lot easier and affeviates a ton of stress.

Let's Go Patriots While I am getting

tired of seeing the Patriots in the Super Bowl, I hate the Rams. I hate the Rams so very, very much.

Super Bowl pick: Patriots 37, Rams 33 Josh Strope can be reached at jstrope@thein. telligencer.net



#### WHEELING PARK HALL OF FAME

Joey Burkland, Mike Riccl and John Mallett will be honored at Wheeling Park's basketball game Saturday night/11

# The Intelligencer.

THURSDAY, February 7, 2019

Comics......14 TV/Entertainment......15 CLASSIFIED......17-20

11

## Pairings Set for OVAC Boys' Basketball Tourney

off Feb. 16 at OUE

By SETH STASKEY For The Intelligencer BELLAIRE – The bra The brackets are officially set.

After one of the most competitive and interesting pre-OVAC portions in the history of the tour-nament, the dust settled Tuesday

evening.
The OVAC Basketball Championship committee met Wednesday

Semifinals take place morning at the OVAC office to finalize the pairings and set the consolation matchups for the teams fourth-seeded Morsolation matchups for the teams and a trip to Ohio University-Eastern is solation matchups for the teams that didn't finish in the top four.

The boys tournament begins Tuesday and the championship darted by Weir in finals will be staged on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Here's a look at each class: CLASS 5A

Wheeling Park earned the top seed with an 11-2 record. Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots are bidding for their eighth conference

title overall and first since 2012. Standing in the way of the Pa-

gantown. The Mo-(10-6)higans the final days prior to the cut-off date to grab the fourth spot. Coach Dave Tallman's squad won three consecutive titles from

2014-16.

In the other half of the bracket, University - which is the OVAC in 2014 and it owns the two-time defending big-school seven 13 hoops crowns.

champion - earned the second seed and will host Steubenville.

University is 14-Big Red (13-

3) spent most of the season in one of the toptwo spots, but lost their grip on a home game thanks to a loss Tuesday to Meadowbrook. Coach

Mike Haney's team last won

Meadowbrook - in its final year as a member of the OVAC before it joins the Muskingum Valley League — is again the top seed.

Coach Scooter Tolzda's Colts posted wins over 5A powers Warren and Steubenville earlier this week to move onto the top line. Meadowbrook has won four OVAC titles, including the last three

Next up for the Colts is a game with East Liverpool.

Please see OVAC, Page 12

#### OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

Harrison Central in a de facto play-in game on Tues- a third meeting with Mon- which has seemingly turned day to clinch the final bid. roe Central. The Seminoles the corner of late. Despite Coach Nate Conley's team — by virtue of their win its loss at Wheeling Cenis bidding for the school's over River and Union Lotral on Tuesday, the Tigers

In the other half of the the field with a 9-9 record. bracket, Oak Glen locked

title game, Oak Glen will formed Monroe, won the secondary to knock off St. a combined five titles. Maroon Clairsville, which is back

First-year coach Ryan taking Clifford has directed the (11-7) its only two OVAC hoop fourth in the playoff for- all. They enter this year's titles in 2012 and 2013. mat, but first since 2014. event with a 12-4 record.

CLASS 3A dropped down a division.

Shenandoah was the wire-to-wire leader. The Zeps, who own three OVAC titles, but none since 2001, finished the pre-OVAC portion of the season an

is bidding for the school's over Kivel and Olivon Edition on to the fourth spot.

The cday — squeezed into Coach Ed Andes'

Coach Jon Perkins' down the second seed with team is trying to become OVAC basketball crown, a win over Wellsville on the first in Monroe Central but first since 2010. Tuesday. The Golden Bears history to win an OVAC are an impressive 14-3. hoops title. Woods- Wheeling Central — a
To get to its first OVAC field and Skyvue, which perennial entrant — is

The other 3A semifiin the championship brack-nal finds second-seed-et after a year absence, ed Fort Frye (11-6) on Barnesville in Beverly

Barnesville, meanwhile, new champion is locked down its second promised in this class bid to the championship 3) was awarded the top as reigning champion bracket with a victory seed in the small-school Wheeling Central has against UL. Coach Matt class. The defending Johnson's Shamrocks champions will await a have never won an OVAC visit from fourth-seedboys basketball CLASS 2A

A new champion is guar-

Toronto, a team that tory, but none since 2004. River beat in last year's Cameron, which fell

iday event at Steubenville. school's first title in hoops.
The Red Knights Coach Rick Jarrett's Blue

The Potters knocked off impressive 17-3 record. Toronto will have to deal Next up for the Zeps is with a Shadyside squad,

> team is 11-8 and bidding for the school's 14th In the other bracket,

won the second seed. The Maroon Knights own an OVAC-best 26 boys hoop titles, including six championships in a row.

To have the opportunity Beverly. to play for a seventh, they'll Red Devils to a 14-4 re
The Cadets have been have to deal with third-seedcord and locked down their consistent members in ed Wellsville. The Tigerspot in the field with a win the championship brack- haven't won an OVAC tiat Martins Ferry on Mon- et and are vying for tle since 1996 when they day. St. Clairsville won their eighth title overall, claimed their seventh over-

> CLASS 1A Trinity Christian (12title, ed Frontier, which enters with an 8-9 record.

Coach Roger Kirkpatanteed in this division africk's Cougars have won ter River failed to qualify. five OVAC titles in their his-

River beat in last year's Cameron, which fell semifinal, garnered the top to Trinity in last seaseed. Coach Sean Tuck-son's OVAC, title game, er's Red Knights, who are is the second seed. Coach ranked third in Ohio Divi- Tom Hart's Dragons will sion IV, are 17-1 with their welcome Beallsville as only loss coming to Alli-they seek a return trip ance Marlington in a hol- to OUE to play for the

own two OVAC boys Devils are one of the area's titles in their histo- most improved teams with ry, but haven't hoisted its 10-9 record. The Devils the trophy since 1992. own one OVAC title in bas-To get to the title game, ketball and it came in 2003.





## **SPORTS**

**SECTION** 

Monday, February 11, 2019

## **River rallies** past Shadyside to repeat in 2A

• Flannery wins Howell MVP Award By SETH STASKEY

Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - River is not short on con-

When a roster is loaded with seniors and experience, there's no need to hit any type of panic buttons

And that includes when the Pilots were down 11 early in the fourth quarter to top-seeded Shadyside on Saturday evening in the Class 2A portion of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Cham-

pionships at Ohio University-Eastern.

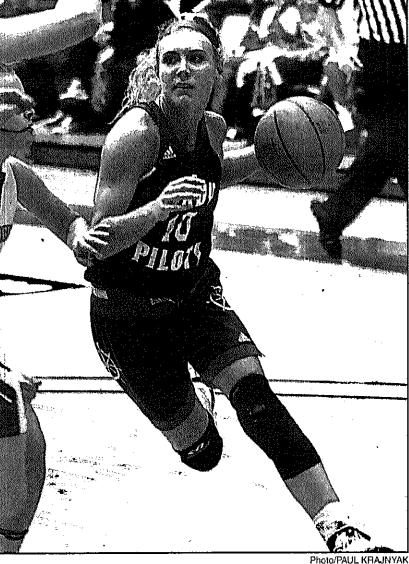
The Pilots proceeded to take the game over in the fourth quarter where they outscored the Tigers, 27-10, to go on for a hard-earned and cherished 55-49 win over the top-seeded Tigers.

"This is a huge win for these girls," River coach Rick Isaly said. "This gives us a mountain of confidence to come back the way we did."

The Pilots not only showed the grit, will and determination that comes with an experienced team that's a defending conference champion. They also broke out their press, which they hadn't showed for most of the game.

"We don't press all the time," Isaly said. "We got into a situation where we had to press. It rattled them to the point where we got steals and points. That press was the big issue because I felt their younger kids got rattled."

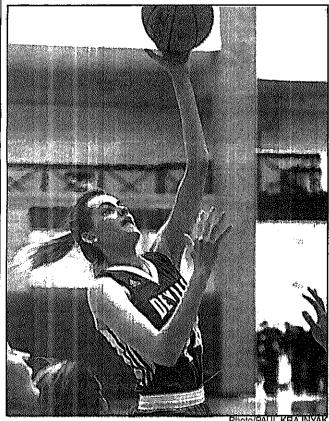
Indeed.



Quite simply, Shadyside couldn't handle the Pilots' pressure. The Tigers were guilty of seven turnovers in the fourth quarter, many of which were of the live-ball variety and resulted in run-out opportunes. Flannery scored 23 points and was named the game's MVP See. RIVER, Page B2

Photo/PAUL NHADIVIAN RIVER'S LAUREN Flannery drives to the bucket during Saturday evening's OVAC Class 2A championship game against Shadyside's Syd Destifanes. Flannery scored 23 points and was named the game's MVP after River rallied for a 55-49 victory.

## Beallsville stymies Madonna in 1A



BEALLSVILLE'S ASHLEY Howell goes up for a shot during the second half of Saturday's OVAC Class 1A championship game. The Blue Devils defeated Madonna, 38-33.

 Blue Devils' Louden wins Howell MVP Award

By JOSH STROPE For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The old saying is "defense wins championships."

That was true for Beallsville during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohio University-Eastern.

Beallsville held Madonna to one of its lowest outputs of the season, defeating the Blue Dons, 38-33, to claim an OVAC Class 1A championship.

The victory is the school's first since current coach Tori Jarrett's squad won it in 2010. That team, coached by her father, Terry, makes the Jarretts the first father-daughter combination to win quarter). OVAC championships. Terry is currently an assistant on the team.

"I thought we played really good defense and made our foul shots at the end," Tori Jarrett said. "They had me a little neryous, but I had 100 percent faith in our team. We came out and executed our game plan exactly. I knew they (Madonna) were going to go on some runs because they are a really good team.

"But we held true to our game

plan and came out on top."

Beallsville (17-3) held Madonna to 29 percent shooting on 13 of 45. Senior standout Andrea Alimario finished with a teamhigh 16 points for the Blue Dons, but the Blue Devils held her to two in the first half.

"Our defense has been solid all year and I really didn't change much," Jarrett said. "We wanted to go underneath screens and force them to shoot from the outside. I thought that was our best game plan and that worked out

Despite Madonna's lack of offense, it was able to keep Beallsville from blowing the game open. Beallsville's largest lead was six points (22-16 in the third

The Blue Dons (16-5) tied it early in the fourth at 24-24 and got within one twice, but could never take the lead.

Ashley Howell, who paced the Blue Devils with 16 points, drained a 3-pointer to push the lead to two scores at 30-26 with 3:42 left.

See, BEALLSVILLE, Page B2

## **Ohio State** hangs on for third straight win

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) - Ohio State's Andre Wesson kept fighting through the muck Sunday.

When he finally got free in the final minute, he stole a win.

Wesson forced a game-changing turn-over in the final minute and then slipped behind one defender and got to the basket for a tie-breaking dunk with 20 seconds left to give the Buckeyes a 55-52 victory over In-

"This is kind of the Andre I've seen since he got here," said C.J. Jackson, whose long, shot-clock beating 3 tied the score with 71 seconds left. "He's playing unbelievable for us right now and we're going to need his scoring, his ability to do everything he does on the court for us."

Sunday's game was a perfect example of

how valuable Wesson can be.

While his teammates struggled to get in sync offensively, the junior forward continually made an impact. He finished with 15 points, four rebounds and two steals - none bigger than the one he had with 42 seconds to go that prevented Indiana from taking a potential go-ahead shot.

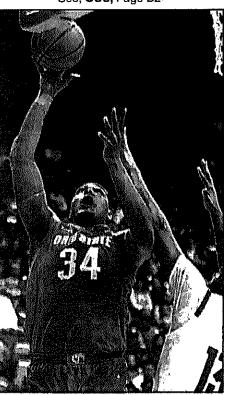
And when it mattered most, Wesson

played perfectly.

"They slipped him out. Our rotation was there. I thought Romeo (Langford) had a chance to make maybe a blocked shot, but he got it off the glass quickly," Hoosiers coach Archie Miller said. "Our help obviously didn't get there in time."

Wesson's younger brother, Kaleb, and Jackson each scored 10 points and were the only other players to reach double figures for the resurgent Buckeyes (16-7, 6-6 Big Ten),

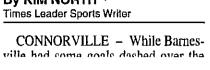
See, OSU, Page B2



OHIO STATE'S Kaleb Wesson (34) shoots over Indiana's Juwan Morgan (13) during the first half of an NCAA collegé basketball game, Sunday in Bloom-

## **Barnesville** wins Panther Classic title

By KIM NORTH





#### Byron claims Daytona 500 pole positition

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - William Byron put Hendrick Motorsports in a familiar position: on the pole for the Daytona 500. His bigger goal is to make the starting spot pay dividends for the NASCAR powerhouse.

The 21-year-old Byron and 25-year-old teammate Alex Bowman locked in the front row for "The Great American Race" during qualifying laps Sunday at Daytona International Speedway. They comprise the youngest front row in

eball club est teams war popuig players, i as a gen-

ld be found Cincinnati,"

io had been

aled around

ETHEY?

11

mh a

mi-

us-

ook

vel-

ınd-

4-2

Fer-

e fi-

The

0-6,

periver-

after

OUL

urned

avy-

entral

L said

other

in se-

195).

Scio-

vho is

ed his

2018.

el Seied, as

s Lo-

were

an Le

s Jesse

en Lo-

(126)

); West

cGeary

s Cole

d East

Wooley

ne Gary

tanding

tourna-

713

nd St.

Park

strict

3ldg.

9

m

tion:

168

noc

<u>7, 2019</u>

pitcher Asa Brainard.

HOW BIG A DEAL WERE THEY? ame more by storm, playing coast-to-coast with

swings through the East and a transcontinental railroad trip to California. Wearing knickers with bright ter a quest stockings instead of long pants gave dent for marketing. There will also be iseball his- the young (seven of the 10 were age season-long special content on MLB's es to New 22 or younger), muscular players an social media channels, and McHugh

ised of the rotundity.

Author Darryl Brock, who retraced their travels for his historical novel, "If I Never Get Back," describes women igning play- greeting the players by lifting their with different versions for home and t's younger skirts to show their own red stockings. The team arrived at games singing a ditty that concluded: "Red Stockings all will toss the ball, and shout our loud one homestead or even in a month, so Hurrah!" They showed off their skills in crowd-pleasing warmup drills.

teams. They national sensation through telegraph Phil Castellini, the Reds' chief operatruns a game reports, newspapers and national ing officer.

w out of his slow "dew drop" to disrupt batnati attorters' timing after fast-throwing regular
settled in Atlanta.

TRIBUTES?

All Major League Baseball teams The Red Stockings took the nation will wear uniform patches marking 150 years throughout this season, and there will be special patches for caps for their opening day games, said Barbara McHugh, MLB senior vice presiorge Stein-ore than a of San Francisco observed, "shows be in Cincinnati for the March 28 their calves in all their magnitude and Opening Day festivities and will take part in the annual pregame parade through the city.

The Reds, meanwhile, will have their own commemorative patches,

And that's just for starters.
"You don't do it in one day or in we're really taking the entire season to celebrate that and tell you about the Before mass media, they became a history a little piece at a time," said

Ohio State women fall to lowa

of her 29 points in the sec- player of the week award, ond half when No. 16 Iowa one more than Lavender. pulled away for a 78-52 win Gustafson has scored 20 or

16 points for the Hawkeyes all to lead the nation at 27.2 (19-5, 10-3 Big Ten), who points a game. have won three straight and eight of the last nine.

rebounds for her 77th ca- Hawkeyes led 19-9 after the conference record with scored eight points in the Buckeyes were at 28. The

Doyle and Gustafson rebounds for her 77th career double-double, tying one quarter. Asliyah Patty
the conference record with scored gight points.

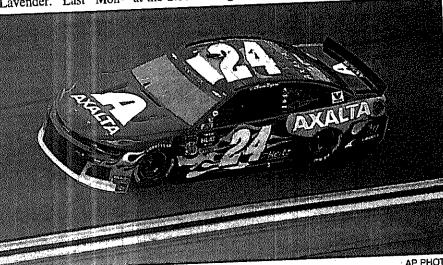
12 points.

13- and 18-footers early you get in a hole. We missed layups down the stretch. It was just one of those days.\*

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) day, Gustafson received State at 27-26 lead. A Gus-Megan Gustafson had 19 her record 20th conference tafson jumper and Doyle's 31-27 at the half.

Gustafson opened the over Ohio State on Sunday. more points in 12 of 13 con- second-half scoring with Kathleen Doyle added ference games and 21 over- a 3-point play and had 15 points in the quarter to help Iowa take a 58-37 lead.

Dorka Juhasz led the combined for the first eight Buckeyes (10-12, 6-7) with



WILLIAM BYRON (24) makes his way through Turn 4 during qualifying for the Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla. Byron qualified as the pole-sitter.

#### Daytona

Continued from Page B1

we had. It's really cool."

The rest of the 40-car lineup will be set by two qualifying races Thursday. Thirty-six of those spots are already filled because of NASCAR's charter system.

Former Hendrick driver Casey Mears and Tyler Reddick secured two of the remaining spots in the Daytona 500. They posted the top speeds of the six drivers vying for four open spots in NASCAR's season opener.

really feel like we'll be able to be competitive," Mears said. "I can tell you this: I've been at Daytona with a lot less and ran inside the top five."

Joey Gase, Ryan Truex, Parker Kligerman and Brandan Gaughan likely will have to race their way into the 500 during the qualifying races. Two of them will make it,

and the other two won't. Byron and his teammates will spend the week being lauded as the Daytona 500 favorites. They also will try to stay out of trouble in the qualifying races.

"We want to take care of the cars for sure," Hendrick said. "We don't want to put the cars in any unnecessary harm's front row. You don't want to take a chance four cars running that good. I can't believe of tearing up a really good car, but you've it."

got to figure out what to race."

Hendrick has been outspoken about how difficult the 2018 season was on the organization, calling it one of the worst in team history.

The Hendrick cars were mediocre at best Johnson failed to win for the first time in his Cup career - and it took 22 races for the organization to get its first victory. The final tally included three victories for Elliott and no drivers in the championship-deciding finale for the second consecutive year.

Hendrick responded by splitting up Johnson and Knaus, tasking Knaus with building another team around Byron. A new racing package in 2019 also should benefit Bowman and Byron because neither had much experience under the old rules.

For at least one day or maybe even a week, the moves are paying off.

"You work all these years coming down here and you want all the cars to run well," Hendrick said. "And if you have one up front and a couple in the back, in the middle; but this is a tribute to our organization, the engine shop, the chassis, body shop, and way. It's kind of a two-edge sword on the the teams to come down here and run with

sport of basketball.

STAT PACK Ohio State: After shooting 38.5 percent in the first half, the Buckeyes shot 50 percent in the second half. ... Musa Jallow led the Buckeyes with six rebounds.

Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

With 1:27 to go, Madonna's Kennedy Martin scored underneath to bring the Blue Dons within 30-28

For the Blue Devils, it then became a free-throw shooting contest and one they were more than ready to handle.

Beallsville went 8-for-10 from the free-throw line down the stretch - 11 of 14 in the fourth quarter as Howell's 3-pointer was the lone field goal for the Blue Devils during the final eight minutes.

An Alimario 3 kept Madonna's hopes alive at 34-33 with 15 seconds remaining.

Olivia Muncy was fouled and true on her two shots.

Madonna had one final chance, but the inbounds pass was intercepted by Beallsville's Ashlie Louden, who was fouled immediately. Her free throw sealed a championship for the Blue Devils.

"This community needed that," Jarrett said. "The last time we won was my senior year so it has been awhile. Last year, coming so close and not winning it, I said in pregame that we had been here and knew what to do. I am really proud of the girls.'

Louden scored eight points, but her all-around effort on both sides of the ball carned her the John Howell Most Valuable Player Award.

"You come down here in this great environment, you State at 27-26 lead. A Gustafson jumper and Doyle's saw the two best Single A teams in the OVAC," Madonna coach Rodney Boniti said. "We knew Beallsville was wellcoached, extremely disciplined and my hats off to them. They hit the shots when they had to. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the ball to drop (Saturday).

"Normal shots we make didn't fall. All year, I give credit to the other team and you have to give credit to Beallsville's defense. They play very disciplined defense. We got the shots we wanted, between jumpshots, between backdoors, between layups, but if you don't hit some of those 15- and 18-footers early you get in a hole. We missed two

Continued from Page B1

nities for the Pilots.

Fueling those run outs was senior standout Lauren Flannery. The future Lake Erie College point guard scored eight of her 23 points in the fourth.

She's going to do that to teams," Shadyside coach Serge Gentile said. "I thought we did the best we could on her, but there's not going to be anyone who's really going to stop her, especially when she gets in the open floor.

She ignited a fourth quarter in which the Pilots scored 27 points after having 28 through the first three periods.

Before the fourth quarter, I told the other seniors that this was our last chance and we had to leave it all out on the court," Flannery, who was named the winner of the John Howell MVP Award, said.

Flannery ignited the fourth-quarter spurt on both ends. She got two layups and then - after a Pilots turnover raced back down the court and blocked a shot. That ignited not only the droves of Pilots faithful, but also her team-

"Shadyside called a timeout and you could tell they were frustrated, so we knew we had to continue to take advan-

tage of that," Flannery said. The initial River onslaught was a 13-2 run that knotted

the game at 41-41 with 4:12 to play. Shadyside took the lead back at 44-43 on an inside basket from Macy Coffland. The Tigers' lead was short-lived, however. Alli Long and senior Candace Caldwell, who was big throughout with 15 points, scored on back-to-back possessions, putting River back in front, 47-44.

"We knew we had to get the lead, so we could then spread it out and get the ball into (Flannery's) hands," Isaly said. "Once we got the lead, I could see it in their eyes."

The Tigers only got as close as one the rest of the way. The Pilots held the Tigers at bay thanks to a sharp 12 of 16 effort at the foul line in the fourth quarter.

Gentile, who watched his team finish the regular season with an 18-4 record, could really only shake his head.

"They diamond pressed us, we threw it to them and they shot layups," Gentile said of the fourth quarter. "For whatever reason, we couldn't get our wits about us. We welle making bad passes and weren't making the right plays. That led to them shooting layups."

Caldwell, who Isaly said "came up huge," finished with 15 points in support of Flannery. Senior Carsyn Reynolds added eight.

The Tigers, who led 19-15 at halftime, were led by Coffland's 12 points. Senior Jaycee Mayeres, sophomore Baylee Wach and sophomore Tory Hendershot all evenly divided 24 points.

Shadyside is off until opening tournament play on Feb. 21 against Malvern.

"I am worried about Malvern and then we'll go from there," Gentile said. "We'll get back in the gym and do our best to move past this. There's going to be a winner and loser and unfortunately we were on the short end tonight. Give River credit because they made plays when they had

former Ohio State star Jan-tel Lavender. Last Mon-at the 2:52 mark gave Ohio

Buckeyes were at 25. The
Hawkeyes lead the nation in
shooting at 52.3 percent.

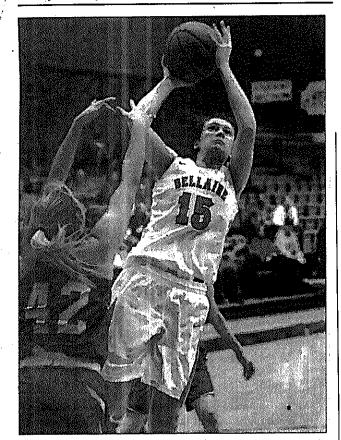


Photo by Paul Krajnyak Bellaire's Michaela Flaherty attempts a shot against Fort Frye during the 3A Championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

## **Bellaire Holds** Off Fort Frye

By RICK THORP For the News-Register

down Saturday moming.

The Big Reds — semifinalists last season — held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by Fort Frye in claiming a 36-34 victory in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships Class 3A final contraints the school of the second of nal, capturing the school's first conference crown in 13 years, Macket first in the playoff era, and eighth overall.

"They've worked hard, not just this season, but in all the offseasons to prepare for this," Davis, a junior guard, made Bellaire coach John Farrier a 3-point play a short time later minutes posing for team photos with his victorious hoopsters on the OUE Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center floor.

they've worked for, and I just couldn't be more proud of a group. I've been with this group since eighth grade. I'm proud of the seniors, and the underclassmen are buying in

and working hard, too."
After trailing by as many as 10 in the second half, the Cadets (16-3) had an opportunity to tie or win the game in the closing seconds.

Inbounding the ball under the basket with 3.9 ticks left, Fort Frye got the ball to Morporate Posich on the right wing. But her shot failed to draw net, sending the Bellaire bench into

"We were right there," Cadets coach Dan Liedtke said, who's directed his program to fense five of its nine OVAC crowns, out." the last coming three years ago. "We were looking for a good shot from our hot shooter. She's a senior and we put it in her hands.

She was a little off balance. They got close enough to her where she had to take a drib- 36-31. ble to the side. But I would bet money on that shot.

a beat them by quite a bit.

to a nine-point, hist-quanter lead behind eight points from year.

"They got it done."

feeling it from mid-range.
"She made some buckets ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After to kind of relax us," Farter two years of knocking on rier said of Crozier, who finthe door to an OVAC championship, Bellaire finally broke it almost automatic from mid-

range."
The Cadets scored the final ists two years ago and final- four points of the first and extended their momentum into the second, scoring 10 of the first 12 points of the period to go up 18-16. Hannah Archer, who finished with a team-high 10 points, had two buckets in

> Mackenzie Dalton's layup ended the run — and gave Fort Frye the lead — with 21 seconds left in the half. Then, Kat Davis took over.

said after spending almost five giving Bellaire the lead. Then, she stole the ensuing inbounds pass and was fouled. Her two free throws put the Big Reds up 21-18 at halftime.

"(That sequence) gave us a "(That sequence) gave us a lot of momentum," said Davis, who finished with a team-best 17 points and was named the game's John Howell Memorial Most Valuable Player. "Sometimes, we need a bucket to actually get us going. I was happy to be able to be the one to do it for my team.

Bellaire scored the first seven points of the second half to go up 28-18. It's defense also came to the forefront, holding

some bad (shots) on our press, Farrier said. "Honestly, maybe we should've been more in the halfcourt because our halfcourt defense is pretty good. Our defense stepped up and bailed us

Especially on a day where neither team's offenses were clicking.

Bellaire went cold during the final three minutes, only getting a Michaela Flaherty layup, one that put Bellaire up

Archer drained a 3 from the left side with 2:21 left, but the "I knew this wasn't going to Big Reds stood strong the rest be a game where we'd come in of the way to bring home the

"I knew it would come down to this type of ending."

Bellaire (18-2) jumped out to a nine-point, first-quarter to a hine-point, first-quarter "That's what they've doing all

## Red Devils Edged By Beavers

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Beaver Local went into the locker room staring up at a 11-point deficit during the Class 4A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Game.

There were absolutely no panic but-

cal coach Stephanie Coie said. "We just

had to settle down." The Beavers did just that and they did so by going into their unquestioned lead-

er, Jenna Riccardo. The standout junior responded in a big way, too. She scored 24 of her game-high 34 points in the second half to help the Beavers pull out a 52-51 victory against top-seeded St. Clairsville Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern, giving the school its first girls basketball crown.

This was one of our preseason goals because we felt like when we dropped down (from 5A), we had a chance to be competitive," Coie said. "These kids have worked really, really hard to get

Riccard displayed an entire arsenal of moves as she scored — and rebounded — at will. She also collected 18 rebounds. Her points and rebounds are both OVAC Championship records.

They really made it a point to pound We were a bit nervous," Beaver Lo- the ball inside to (Riccardo)," St. Clairsville coach Stacey Agnew said. "She was tough. Actually, she's the best player we've played all year.

Despite the antics that Riccardo put forth, St. Clairsville had plenty of chanc-

However, the Red Devils were unable to capitalize on several chances. Beaver Local trimmed the deficit to six at the final stop by limiting St. C. to eight points and one field goal.

"We've struggled all (season) playing with the lead," Agnew said. "I don't know what it is. This (loss) hurts more than the last one, but our kids gave it everything they had.'

drilled a 3-pointer, which came during 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Having Riccardo on the interior cer-tainly helped to make that goal attain-reached three and a half minutes before Macy Malin converted a free throw.

Rileigh Simpson buried a 3-pointer for the Devils and Malin split a pair at the line to bring the Red Devils within one at 48-47.

But, Riccardo wasn't going to be denied. She kept the Red Devils at bay by cashing four straight free throws down

St. Clairsville actually thought it had sent the game to overtime when Cassidy Stephens buried a shot from top of the key just before the final buzzer. However, the official quickly ruled it was a

2-pointer.
"I never saw her feet and everyone said it was definitely a 2," Agnew said. "When she first went up to shoot, I

thought it was a 3. While Riccardo, who was named the John Howell Game MVP, was the lone

double-figure scorer for the Beavers, Britt finished with six.

St. Clairsville was led by Keri Klin-Beaver Local took its first lead of the koski's 18 points. She also had seven game with 5:16 to go when Riley Britt rebounds. Simpson and Malin went for Sunday News-Register **FEBRUARY 10, 2019** 

# **SPORTS**

INSIDE:

Kapral Column/C2 3A, 4A OVAC Games/C3 Nailers/C4 Penguins/C5

## Defense Keys Beallsville To OVAC 1A Title

Blue Devils Hold Madonna To 33 Points

By JOSH STROPE Sports Editor ST. CLAIRSVILLE

The old saying is "defense wins championships.

That was true for Beallsville during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohio University-Eastern.

Beallsyille held Madonna to one of its lowest outputs of the season, defeating the Blue Dons, 38-33, to claim an OVAC Class

1A championship.
The victory is the school's first since current coach Tori Jarrett's squad won it in 2010. That team, coached by her father, Terry, makes the Jarretts the first father-daughter combination to win OVAC championships. Terry is currently an assistant on the team.

"I thought we played really good defense and made our foul shots at the end," Tori Jarrett said. "They had me a little nervous, but I had 100 percent faith in our team. We came out and executed our game plan exactly. I knew they (Madonna) were going to go on some runs because they are a really good team.

"But we held true to our game plan and came out on top.

Beallsville (17-3) held Madonna to 29 percent shooting on 13 of 45. Senior standout Andrea Alimario finished with a team-high 16 points for the Blue Dons, but the Blue Devils held her to two in the first half.

Please see Beallsville, Page C2



Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Beallsville's Olivia Muncey goes in for a layup while Madonna's Kennedy Martin attempts a block during the 1A OVAC championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos the OVAC girls championship games at Ohio University Eastern at www.theintelligencer.net

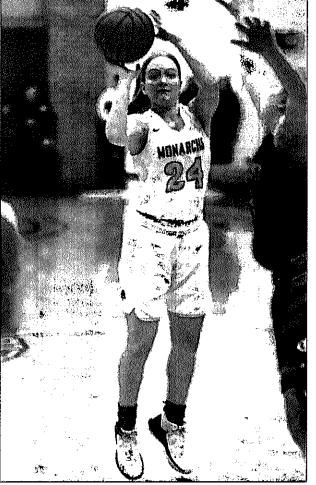


Photo by Paul Krajnyak John Marshall's Abby Blake attempts a shot against University during the 5A Championship game.

## JM No Match For University

Hawks Start 2nd on 13-0 Run

By JOSH STROPE Sport Editor ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When John Marshall and University last met, the Hawks dominated the entire game

on their way to a 32-point victory.

After the first quarter of Saturday's OVAC Class 5A championship at Ohio University-Eastern, it looked like this one was going to be much tighter.

Then the second quarter started. And that wasn't good

news for John Marshall.

With the score tied at 15-15, University (15-5) went on a 13-0 run to start the second and outscored the Monarchs, 27-8, in the quarter on its way to a dominating 71-51 victory for the school's first OVAC title since

"That is a great win to start the postseason run," University coach David Price said. "That is a great win for our program and it is great for the girls to get to take that trophy back to UHS.

Please see JM, Page C2

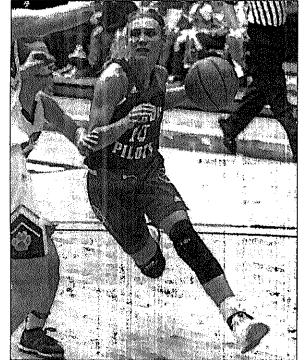


Photo by Paul Krajnyak gers. River's Lauren Flannery drives to the basket during "This is a huge win for these girls," Shadyside coach Serge Gentile said.

Satruday's 2A OVAC Championship game against River coach Rick Isaly said. "This "I thought we did the best we could Shadyside.

#### River Claims 2A Championsii come back the way we did."

Flannery paces Pilots with 27 points

By SETH STASKEY For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE - River is not short on confidence.

When a roster is loaded with seniors and experience, there's no need to hit any type of panic buttons at any

And that includes when the Pilots were down 11 early in the fourth Saturday evening in the Class 2A portion of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC GIrls Basketball Champion-

ships at Ohio University-Eastern.
The Pilots proceeded to take the game over in the fourth quarter where they outscored the Tigers, 27-10, to

gives us a mountain of confidence to on her, but there's not going to be

will and determination that comes with an experienced team that's a defending conference champion. They also broke out their press, which they hadn't showed for most of the game.
"We don't press all the time," Isaly

said. "We got into a situation where we had to press. It rattled them to the point where we got steals and points. That press was the big issue because I felt their younger kids got rattled."

Indeed. were down 11 early in the fourth quarter to top-seeded Shadyside on handle the Pilots' pressure. The Tigers were guilty of seven turnovers sulted in run-out opportunities for the also her teammates.

Fueling those run outs was senior standout Lauren Flannery. The future go on for a hard-earned and cherished Lake Erie College point guard scored

55-49 win over the top-seeded Tigers.

"This is a huge win for these girls,"

"This is a huge win for these girls,"

"Shadyside coach Serge Gentile said.

anyone who's really going to stop The Pilots not only showed the grit, her, especially when she gets in the open floor."

She ignited a fourth quarter in which the Pilots scored 27 points after having 28 through the first three periods.

"Before the fourth quarter, I told the other seniors that this was our last chance and we had to leave it all out on the court," Flannery, who was named the winner of the John Howell MVP Award, said.

Flannery ignited the fourth-quarter spurt on both ends. She got two layups and then - after a Pilots turnover - raced back down the court in the fourth quarter, many of which and blocked a shot. That ignited not were of the live-ball variety and re-

> "Shadyside called a timeout and you could tell they were frustrated, so we knew we had to continue to take advantage of that," Flannery said.

The initial River onslaught was a 13-2 run that knotted the game at 41-41 with 4:12 to play.

Please see River, Page C2

#### KIVER

Continued from Page C1

Shadyside took the lead ter. back at 44-43 on an in-Alli Long and senior Can- shake his head. dace Caldwell, who was

the ball into (Flannery's) the right plays. That le hands," Isaly said. "Once them shooting layups." we got the lead, I could see it in their eyes.'

close as one the rest of the way. The Pilots held the Reynolds added eight. Tigers at bay thanks to a foul line in the fourth quar- Coffland's 12 points.

Gentile, who watched side basket from Macy his team finish the regu-Coffland. The Tigers' lead lar season with an 18-4 was short-lived, however, record, could really only

"They diamond pressed big throughout with 15 us, we threw it to them and points, scored on back-to-they shot layups," Gentile back possessions, putting said of the fourth quarter. River back in front, 47-44. "For whatever reason, we "We knew we had to couldn't get our wits about get the lead, so we could us. We were making bad then spread it out and get passes and weren't making the right plays. That led to

Caldwell, who Isaly said in their eyes." "came up huge," finished Tigers only got as with 15 points in support

The Tigers, who led 19sharp 12 of 16 effort at the 15 at halftime, were led by

Continued from Page C1

should have, the easy shots. the second quarter, we basi-We made shots around the cally played even (44-43 in basket (Saturday) and that favor of the Hawks). is something I have emphasized all week. I feel like pointing because we worked they did a lot better job of executing on those shots 3 feet and in.

Ashten Boggs, who netted a game-high 26 points to "She g win the John Howell Most and that is 12 points we Valuable Player Award, got can't get back. Then Boggs the scoring started in the hurt us in the post in the secsecond quarter and it was all ond half. Hawks the rest of the way.

drained two 3-pointers in the quarter, while Mallory Napolillo and Abbie Coen also deficit. added baskets.

Monarchs were ice cold.

An Anna Blake basket could only get as close as the was the only field goal in the final 20-point margin in the second quarter for the Monarchs, with the rest of their points coming from the free- Monarchs with 21 points. throw line.

John Marshall (14-7) settled for a number of 3-pointers and rarely attacked the of 3s by design, but more basket,

the difference in the game. we shot."

"We made the shots we Other than that lull we had in

That first half was disapfor days on not letting Murphy get any open shots and knew if she got open, it was

"She got four wide-open

John Marshall went from Zoe Murphy, who had the big shot in a semifinal victory against Wheeling Park, room in a 19-point hole. Against a team like Uni-

versity, that was too big of a

The Hawks stretched the On the other hand, the lead to 25 points at 60-35 after three and the Monarchs fourth.

> Shay Straughn led the Abby Blake hit four 3-pointers and added 12.

"We didn't shoot a lot sket. to spread the floor and then "Second quarter, I think penetrate," Melko said. "At we just got impatient offen-sively," John Marshall coach the first open 3. University Brock Melko said. "If we did a good job of guarding would have just stayed pa- the basket. I am OK with all tient and not let them get so the 3s, I just wish we would many easy baskets, that was have made more of the ones

#### **B**EALLSVILLE

Continued from Page C1

solid all year and I really one twice, but could never didn't change much," Jartake the lead.

The down the stretch in the free-throw sealed a championship for rett said. "We wanted to Ashley Howell, who is a later than the fourth quarter the Blue Devils. force them to shoot fror the outside. I thought that 3-pointer to push the lead the Blue Devils during the was our best game plan to two scores at 30-26 final eight minutes. and that worked out for with 3:42 left. us.

Despite able to keep Beallsville bring the Blue Dons with-from blowing the game in 30-28. ppen. Beallsville's largest For the Blue Devils, it 16 in the third quarter).

ied it early in the fourth to handle.

lys a week.

JS OF

)701 x357

"Our defense has been at 24-24 and got within

lack of offense, it was tin scored underneath to maining.

For the Blue Devils, it lead was six points (22- then became a free-throw shooting contest and one chance, but the inbounds The Blue Dons (16-5) they were more than ready

paced the Blue Devils ter as Howell's 3-pointer "This community needwith 16 points, drained a was the lone field goal for ed that," Jarrett said. go underneath screens and paced the Blue Devils ter as Howell's 3-pointer

> With 1:27 to go, Ma- Madonna's hopes alive at year, coming so close and Madonna's donna's Kennedy Mar- 34-33 with 15 seconds re-

> > Olivia Muncy was fouled and true on her two I am really proud of the

Madonna had one final pass was intercepted by Beallsville's Ashlie Loud-

& disposal of old tires

Beallsville went 8-for- en, who was fouled im-

"The last time we won was my senior year so An Alimario 3 kept it has been awhile. Last not winning it, I said in pregame that we had been here and knew what to do. girls.'

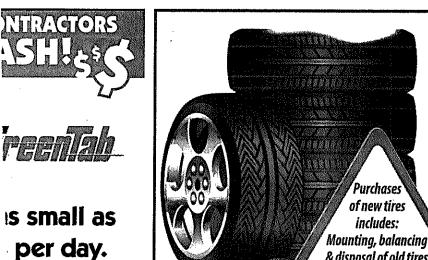
Louden scored eight points, but her all-around effort on both sides of the ball earned her the John Howell Most Valuable

Player Award.
"You come down here in this great environment, you work for it all year and if anybody watched the game, they saw the two best Single A teams in the OVAC," Madonna coach Rodney Boniti

"We knew Beallsville was well-coached, ex-tremely disciplined and my hats off to them. They hit the shots when they had to. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the ball to drop (Saturday).

"Normal shots we make didn't fall. All year, I give credit to the other team and you have to give credit to Beallsville's defense.

"They play very disciplined defense. We got the shots we wanted, between jumpshots, between backdoors, be-tween layups, but if you don't hit some of those 15- and 18-footers early you get in a hole. We missed two layups down the stretch. It was just one of those days.'



Quality service • Family owned & operated

97 Years of Serving \_ the Ohio Valley

Fulton Tire Inc.



304.233.4166

460 National Road, Wheeling www.fultontirewv.com

Sunday, February 10, 2019



**Bubba Kapral Executive Sports Editor** 

#### St. John's scripted rich athletic tradition

BELLAIRE - Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019 may not mean much to many people, but it will be a date not soon forgotten by thousands in the Fighting Irish Nation.

That is the day when the Diocese of Steu-benville announced its intentions to pull the plug on St. John Central. The high school, established way back in 1857, will no longer come to exist this June.

It is the same heartbreaking hand Bishop Donahue was dealt two years prior. Those priestly decisions yield pain, bitterness and

reflection...and no appeals process.

The enrollment at St. John's currently stands at 43. While low, it is still a bump from last year's 30. The lack of bodies has resulted in fewer athletic programs at the school and corresponding less success.

But such has not always been the case, far from it. The Fighting Irish athletic tradition stacks up quite nicely amongst the 50 other OVAC schools.

St. John's has collected 92 OVAC championship pennants, 10th most in conference annals, one behind John Marshall. The Irish have the most OVAC titles in girls basketball (15) and girls track (17).

The remainder of the 92 championship banners are comprised by: football (6), boys cross country (10), girls cross country (6), golf (1), volleyball (4), boys basketball (3), wrestling (5), baseball (10), softball (10), boys track (4) and cheerleading (1).

Quite impressive. While OVAC titles are sweet, they take a backseat to state championships, especially in Ohio. St. John's has acquitted itself quite nicely on the highest of athletic prep stages.

The Fighting Irish have collected three state team championships, more than any other school in Belmont County. They were girls track champs in 2007 and 2008 and boys cross country in 2008. Those state championships were preceded by state runnersup team finishes by the girls track teams in 2005 and 2006.

Individually, the school has produced nine state track champions (April Rotilio owning three of the gold medals and Natalie Perzanowski possessing a pair) and four in wrestling (John Ferguson, Eric Anderson, Joe Skoff and Derek Koch). Kenny Howell, state champion in the discus in 1999, still holds the all-time Ohio Valley record in that event with his 180-0 toss.

SJC has produced some legendary performers in basketball.

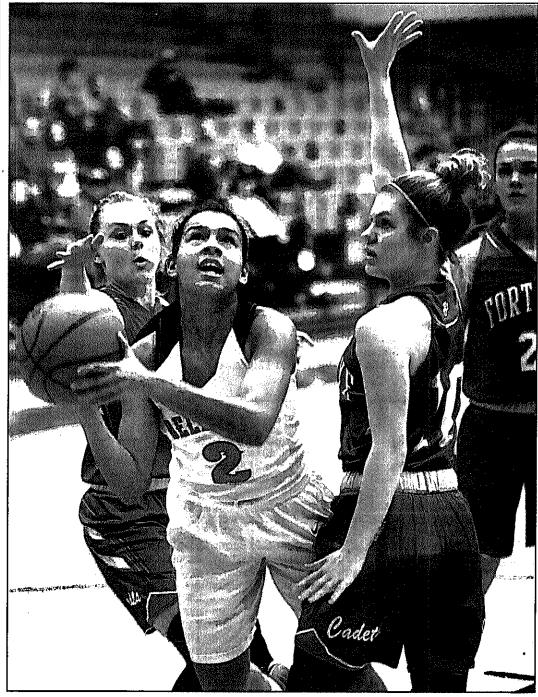
Allan Hornyak joins Bridgeport's John Havlicek and Weir's Ron "Fritz" Williams as one of the three greatest boys hoopsters in OVAC annals. He is legendary for his 86-point explosion against Warren Consolidated while averaging 42 points a game in both his junior and senior seasons. He nixed a scholarship offer to play at UCLA with Bill Walton to stay close to home and earn

All-American honors at Ohio State. Hornyak wasn't the only Irish hoopster to star at Ohio State. A decade earlier, Dick Reasbeck was the finest player on the Ohio Valley hardwoods, earning him to a chance to sparkle at Ohio State while rooming with Bobby Knight.

Prior to those two phenoms, Fred Burda was a SJC basketball icon. He matriculated to Steubenville College, helping to lead Barons to the small-college national champion-

ship.
When the topic of girls' basketball surfaces in the Ohio Valley, the discussion has to start with Stephanie Petho. The 5-7 guard owns the OVAC record for total points (2,667) and single game (57). She averaged 35.9 as a junior and 37.1 as a senior, earning her Division IV Player of the Year honors. She also finished second to the legendary Katie Smith as Ms. Basketball. Petho went on to be a two-year starter at Pitt.

Irish football enjoyed a 90-year run, spanning 1925 to 2015, producing great players WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



**BELLAIRE'S KAT** Davis (2) spilits a pair of Fort Frye defenders during Saturday's Class 3A final at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohlo University Eastern. Davis paced the Big Reds with 17 points en route to winning the John Howell Memorial Most Valuable Player Award. Bellaire won its eighth OVAC crown and first in 13 years.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

## Big Reds break through

#### • Bellaire holds off Fort Frye for Class 3A championship

By RICK THORP

Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - After two years of knocking on the door to an OVAC championship, Bellaire finally broke it down Saturday morning.

The Big Reds - semifinal ists two years ago and final-ists last season - held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by Fort Frye in claiming a 36-34 victory in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships Class 3A final, capturing the school's first conference crown in 13 years, first in the playoff era, and eighth overall.

"They've worked hard, not just this season, but in all the

offseasons to prepare for this," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said after spending almost five minutes posing for team in the closing seconds.

photos with his. victorious hoop-sters on the OUE \*ANYTHING THEY'VE achieved and be more proud of a group.

Recreation Center floor. "Anything they've achieved they've worked for, and I just

"I've been with this group since eighth grade. I'm proud of the seniors, and the underclassmen are buying in and working hard, too."

couldn't be more proud of a

After trailing by as many

as 10 in the second half, the Cadets (16-3) had an opportunity to tie or win the game

Inbounding the ball under the basket with Health, Physical they've worked for, and I just couldn't 3.9 ticks left, got me ball to Morgan - John Farrier Borich on the Bellaire head coach right wing. But

her shot failed to draw net, sending the Bellaire

bench into a frenzy "We were right there," said veteran Cadets head coach Dan Liedtke, who's directed his program to five of its nine OVAC crowns, the last coming three years ago. "We were looking for a good shot from

our hot shooter. She's a senior and we put it in her hands.

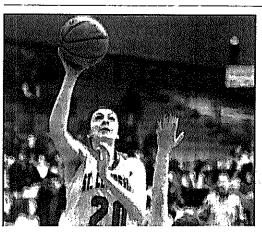
"She was a little off balance. They got close enough to her where she had to take a dribble to the side. But I would bet money on that shot.

"I knew this wasn't going to be a game where we'd come in a beat them by quite a bit. I knew it would come down to this type of ending.'

Bellaire (18-2) jumped out to a nine-point, first-quarter lead behind eight points from senior Maci Crozier, who was feeling it from mid-range.

"She made some buckets there to kind of relax us," Farrier said of Crozier, who finished with 12 points. "She's

See, REDS, Page C2



## **Beaver Local pulls out** 4A title against St. C.

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Beaver Local went into the locker room staring up at a 11-point deficit during the Class 4A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Game.

There were absolutely no panic but-

its first girls basketball crown.

"This was one of our pre-season goals because we felt like when we dropped down (from 5A), we had a chance to be competitive," Coie said. "These kids have worked really, really hard to get here."

Having Riccardo on the interior certainly helped to make that goal at-

pionship pennants, 10th most in conference annals, one behind John Marshall. The Irish have the most OVAC titles in girls basketball (15) and girls track (17).

The remainder of the 92 championship banners are comprised by: football (6), boys cross country (10), girls cross country (6), golf (1), volleyball (4), boys basketball (3), wrestling (5), baseball (10), softball (10), boys track (4) and cheerleading (1).

Quite impressive.

While OVAC titles are sweet, they take a backseat to state championships, especially in Ohio. St. John's has acquitted itself quite nicely on the highest of athletic prep stages.

The Fighting Irish have collected three state team championships, more than any other school in Belmont County. They were girls track champs in 2007 and 2008 and boys cross country in 2008. Those state championships were preceded by state runnersup team finishes by the girls track teams in 2005 and 2006.

Individually, the school has produced nine state track champions (April Rotilio owning three of the gold medals and Natalie Perzanowski possessing a pair) and four in wrestling (John Ferguson, Eric Anderson, Joe Skoff and Derek Koch). Kenny Howell, state champion in the discus in 1999, still holds the all-time Ohio Valley record in that event with his 180-0 toss.

SJC has produced some legendary performers in basketball.

Allan Hornyak joins Bridgeport's John Havlicek and Weir's Ron "Fritz" Williams as one of the three greatest boys hoopsters in OVAC annals. He is legendary for his 86-point explosion against Warren Consolidated while averaging 42 points a game in both his junior and senior seasons. He nixed a scholarship offer to play at UCLA with Bill Walton to stay close to home and earn All-American honors at Ohio State.

Hornyak wasn't the only Irish hoopster to star at Ohio State. A decade earlier, Dick Reasbeck was the finest player on the Ohio Valley hardwoods, earning him to a chance to sparkle at Ohio State while rooming with

Prior to those two phenoms, Fred Burda was a SJC basketball icon. He matriculated to Steubenville College, helping to lead Barons to the small-college national champion-

ship.
When the topic of girls' basketball surfaces in the Ohio Valley, the discussion has to start with Stephanic Petho. The 5-7 guard owns the OVAC record for total points (2,667) and single game (57). She averaged 35.9 as a junior and 37.1 as a senior, earning her Division IV Player of the Year honors. She also finished second to the legendary Katie Smith as Ms. Basketball. Petho went on to be a two-year starter at Pitt.

Irish football enjoyed a 90-year run, spanning 1925 to 2015, producing great players and quality teams. The Green won OVAC grid championships in 1951, 1956, 1968, 1984, 1999 and 2001. The 1999 team, coached by Mike Rose, qualified for the OHSAA playoffs via its 9-1 mark.

Arguably the three best teams in Irish gridiron history are the 1951 8-0-1 squad which featured future Iowa Hawkeye star Ed Frohnapfel; the 9-0 1956 team that boasted a bevy of D-I players, highlighted by Joe Maroon and Paul Rose; and the 1968 Hornyak-

St. John's football also produced a Parade All-American - Rick Boron in 1964. He turned down a scholarship offer from Notre Dame to star for Bo Schembechler at Miami

Six Fighting Irish athletes have been inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame. Petho and Hornyak were part of the inaugural HOF By RICK THORP class followed by Maroon, Boron, Howell Times Leader Sports Writer and Rotilio. More will follow as Perzanowski and hoop great Kayla Magistro (1,970 points) are deserving candidates.

Not to be overlooked are some of the finest coaches in the history of the OVAC who plied their trades at St. John's: Dan McGrew at Ohio University in Athens, and Hen Healy in football; Denny Bowman he registered for an elective and Joe Bates in wrestling; Kim Appolloni in girls hoops; Bob Fialkowski and Tom Sli"It was actually a five-week va in baseball; Jerry Magistro in softball as course in football and a five-

See, TRADITION, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

## Big Reds break through

#### Bellaire holds off Fort Frye for Class 3A championship

By RICK THORP

Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - After two years of knocking on the door to an OVAC championship, Bellaire finally broke it down Saturday morning.

The Big Reds - semifinalists two years ago and final-ists last season - held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by Fort Frye in claiming a 36-34 victory in the Wheeling Hospital ÓVAC Girls Basketball Championships Class 3A fi-nal, capturing the school's first conference crown in 13 years, first in the playoff era, and eighth overall.

"They've worked hard, not just this season, but in all the offseasons to prepare for this," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said after spending almost five minutes posing for team photos with his Inbounding victorious hoop-

"ANYTHING THEY'VE achieved sters on the OUE Health, Physical they've worked for, and I just couldn't Education and be more proud of a group."

Recreation Center floor.

'Anything they've achieved they've worked for, and I just couldn't be more proud of a

"I've been with this group since eighth grade. I'm proud of the seniors, and the underclassmen are buying in and working hard, too.

After trailing by as many

as 10 in the second half, the Cadets (16-3) had an opportunity to tie or win the game in the closing seconds.

the ball under

the basket with 3.9 ticks left, Fort Frye got the ball to Morgan -John Farrier
Borich on the right wing. But Bellaire head coach

her shot failed to draw net, sending the Bellaire bench into a frenzy

"We were right there," said veteran Cadets head coach Dan Liedtke, who's directed his program to five of its nine OVAC crowns, the last coming three years ago. "We were looking for a good shot from

our hot shooter. She's a senior and we put it in her hands.

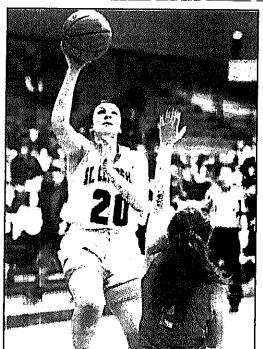
"She was a little off balance. They got close enough to her where she had to take a dribble to the side. But I would bet money on that shot.

"I knew this wasn't going to be a game where we'd come in a beat them by quite a bit. I knew it would come down to this type of ending."

Bellaire (18-2) jumped out to a nine-point, first-quarter lead behind eight points from senior Maci Crozier, who was feeling it from mid-range.

"She made some buckets there to kind of relax us," Farrier said of Crozier, who finished with 12 points, "She's

See, REDS, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Keri Klinkoski (2) goes up for a shot Saturday.

## **Beaver Local pulls out** 4A title against St. C.

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Beaver Local went into the locker room staring up at a 11-point deficit during the Class 4A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Game.

There were absolutely no panic but-

"We were a bit nervous," Beaver ocal head coach Stephanie Coie said. We just had to settle down.

The Beavers did just that and they did so by going into their unquestioned leader, Jenna Riccardo.

The standout junior responded in a big way, too. She scored 24 of her game-high 34 points in the second half to help the Beavers pull out a 52-51 victory against top-seeded St. Clairsville Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern, giving the school

its first girls basketball crown.

"This was one of our pre-season goals because we felt like when we dropped down (from 5A), we had a chance to be competitive," Coie said. "These kids have worked really, really hard to get here."

Having Riccardo on the interior certainly helped to make that goal at-

Riccardo displayed an entire arsenal of moves as she scored — and rebounded - at will. She also collected 18 rebounds. Her points and rebounds are both OVAC Championship re-

"They really made it a point to pound the ball inside to (Riccardo)," St. Clairsville head coach Stacey Agnew said. "She was tough. Actually, she's the best player we've played all

See, 4A, Page C2

OHIO VALLEY UNSUNG HEROES

## Levi remains face in local hoops officiating circles

Growing up, Roger Levi enjoyed basketball.

So, when he was a student

week course in basketball,"

fied in both."

Soon, Levi and his buddies were working intramurals around campus and the like. Little did he know, however, that officiating would play a major role in his life.

As it turned out, Levi carved out quite an officiating career in Eastern ing out and he, frankly, wasn't

duction into the Ohio High School Athletic Association's cials Hall of Fame.

Levi was a steady presence in gyms throughout the Ohio Valley until a few years ago when time caught up to his body. His knees were wear-

Levi remembered. "I got certi- Ohio, one that led to his in- enjoying himself anymore.

Although he had to step away from something he loved prematurely following 44 years, Levi remains a fixture in the local officiating family behind the scenes.

As the secretary/treasurer for the local officials' association, Levi remains heavily involved with a vocation that he said changed his life.

See, LEVI, Page C2

劉

per's Hilltoppers (15-7, 12-4), who took control at the end of the first half and

one domice nor were nein to just one more field goal the remainder of the half. That smothering defen-

up where they had left off when play resumed and Concord was never able to reduce the deficit.

#### • 4A

Continued from Page C1

St. Clairsville had plenty of chances itself.

However, the Red Devils were unable to Coie said. capitalize on several chances. Beaver Local

"We've struggled all (season) playing with the lead," Agnew continued. "I don't know what it is. This (loss) hurts more than the game to overtime when Cassidy Stethe last one, but our kids gave it everything

Beaver Local took its first lead of the game with 5:16 to go when Riley Britt drilled a 3-pointer, which came during a St. C. scoreless stretch that eventually reached 3:30 before Macy Malin converted a free

Devils and Malin split a pair at the line to bring the Red Devils within one at 48-47.

But, Riccardo wasn't going to be denied. four straight free throws down the stretch. "Our kids have shown a lot of resilience tively.

Despite the antics that Riccardo put forth, the last few weeks where we've been in close games and managed to pull it out,"

'We were able to control the clock, and trimmed the deficit to six at the final stop by I am so proud of them because we've never limiting St. C. to eight points and only one been able to do that. Jenna is the glue to our team and it's not just with her play, but with her leadership.

> St. Clairsville actually thought it had sent phens buried a shot from top of the key just before the final buzzer. However, the officially quickly ruled it was a 2-pointer.

> "I never saw her feet and everyone said it was definitely a two," Agnew said. "When she first went up to shoot, I thought it was a

row. While Riccardo, who was named the Rileigh Simpson buried a trey for the John Howell Game MVP, was the lone double-figure scorer for the Beavers, Britt finished with six.

St. Clairsville was led by Keri Klinkos-She kept the Red Devils at bay by cashing ki's 18. She also had seven rebounds. Simpson and Malin went for 13 and 12, respec-

It wasn't enough for the NCAA Division I Basketball Committee to give the Volunteers the top overall seed in its initial rank-

The committee revealed its preliminary rankings on Saturday and it was Duke, not the Vols, earning the No. 1 overall seed.

The Blue Devils were No. 1 in the East Region and the Vols topped the South, with Virginia in the Midwest and Gonzaga out

West earning the other No. 1 seeds.
"They are heading to the East by the slightest of margins," committee chairman and Stanford athletic director Bernard Muir said. "There was a very close conversation between the No. 1 seed and the No. 2 seed, but the strength of schedule won out in

Duke was slated to play in Washington, D.C., in an East Region that includes Michigan, Marquette and Iowa State

Tennessee tops a South Region in Louisville with North Carolina, Purdue and

Virginia led a Midwest Region in Kansas City that also includes Kentucky, Houston and Wisconsin. The West Region in Anaheim, California, had Michigan State, Kansas and Louisville with the Zags.

The initial rankings offered a preview of the committee's thoughts five before Selection Sunday on March 17.

The NCAA ditched the RPI this season for its own ranking system, the NCAA Evaluation Tool, to select teams for the

tucky in its season\_opener, kn Auburn and Texas Tech and pl loaded ACC.

Tennessee's only loss was to t Kansas. It has the longest winn in school history, 17 straight vict Vols (21-1, 9-0) moved to No. 1 Top 25 in Week 12 after Duke

Syracuse.
"When I say they're the No. 2 ly, in the committee's mind, it w 1B," Muir said.

Muir said defending national Villanova was the last team out o ings, with Virginia Tech, Texas LSU also being considered.

Kentucky, the top No. 2 seed, v in Kansas City instead of playing the road in Louisville, so it can't p Duke until the Final Four.

Kansas was moved out West petitive balance in the bracket. is about 40 miles from the Sprint Kansas City.

Nevada, No. 6 in the AP poll No. 14 overall seed in the initial after opening the season 21-1. Pack's loss came at New Mexico and Muir said they were close to No. 3 sced.

"We're so happy to be part of twe know there's five weeks of 1 to be played and a lot of work to by a lot of teams, including oursel vada coach Eric Musselman said.

#### Reds

Continued from Page C1

almost automatic from put the Big Reds up 21-18 been more in the halfcourt • Levi

The Cadets scored the

Mackenzie layup ended the run - and gave Fort Frye the lead -

Davis, a junior guard, made a 3-point play a short field goal. time later giving Bellaire the

at halftime.

"(That sequence) gave us final four points of the first a lot of momentum," said fense stepped up and bailed and extended their momen- Davis, who finished with tum into the second, scoring a team-best 17 points and 10 of the first 12 points of was named the game's John neither team's offenses were the period to go up 18-16. Howell Memorial Most clicking. Hannah Archer, who fin- Valuable Player. "Some- Bellai ished with a team-high 10 times, we need a bucket to the final three minutes, only points, had two buckets in actually get us going. I was the spurt. Dalton's one to do it for my team."

Bellaire scored the first seven points of th second the left side with 2:21 left, a middle school position in with 21 seconds left in the half to go up 28-18. It's dehalf. Then, Kat Davis took · fense also came to the fore, holding the Cadets to four bring home the title. the mill, the Army reserve worked boys' and girls' fipoints in the period and one "They dug in," Farrier and even spent a year as an nals in Ohio and West Virif you want to star.

That believe the great and year of the great and year of the great and year. points in the period and one

lead. Then, she stole the ensome bad (shots) on our ments. "That's what they've suing inbounds pass and was press," Farrier said. "Hondoing all year. fouled. Her two free throws estly, maybe we should've

because our halfcourt defense is pretty good. Our deus out."

Especially on a day where

Bellaire went cold during getting a Michaela Flaherty layup, one that put Bellaire up 36-31.

but the Big Reds stood Tiltonsville - his homestrong the rest of the way to

said of his team's defensive 'assistant basketball coach at "Sometimes we give up effort in the closing mo-

"They got it done."

Continued from Page C1

just wanted to give back," he said.

"It was just so great ... the people I met, the coaches, the other officials. I just enjoyed officiating, period."

Levi spent years in the teaching profession, retiring ty to work there, and much tutor up-and-comi Archer drained a 3 from more than a decade ago from more. town. He's also labored in Jewett. Many folks around the area recognize him as a basketball official, though, honor," he recalled. "I was it. and, for him it was a labor

"I liked it," he said. "The Levi said he's also been fans, the way they carried blessed to have worked on sometimes, that never

seemed to bother me. that was to officiate up at the friends.'

"Officiating was great to in Steubenville. For years, and Ron White," me in so many ways that I Levi said, he would go to games there, and remembers fondly the days when the created between yo venerable venue would play other officials. You host to, perhaps, two games depend on each ot a night, six-days-a-week many ways to get during March.

Levi got the opportuni-

"Everything after that need is certainly t was just gravy," he said. officials. He hopes

Along the way, Levi ginia. That helped lead to his the sport and you t HOF induction in 2008.

"That was a tremendous very humbled and honored to be inducted into that."

with so many talented peers in sports in the Ohi throughout the years, many "I only had one goal and of whom have become great

"We'd take long there'd be a spec many ways to get the tough games."

Levi said he isn cials, but he stre folks will give the je

could help out, to t You might find that

"Once you get th becomes a part of ye

If you know of . whom I could featu Ohio Valley Unsur drop me a line at "I remember guys like timesleaderonline.co That being St. John Arena John Howell, Warren Hood via Twitter @RickT.

## Winter Championships SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



#### **FEBRUARY 16:**

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships -OUE 3A: 10:00AM; 4A: 12:00PM; 5A: 2:00PM; 1A: 4:00PM; 2A: 6:00PM



**OVAC** Winter Championship remormances will **Impact the Belmont College Standings!** 

> Go To OVAC.org for More Information.

#### OFFICIAL CORPORATE PARTNERS:



BELMONT

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

**1HMS**|**▲PPS** 









WHEELING HOSPITAL



BORDAS

**BORDAS** 



KINETIC



#### Tradition

Continued from Page C1

well as Dennis Delbert and Jeremy Midei  $\,$  the ultimate egg while the Patriots  $\epsilon$ in cross country. Football coaching legend John Magistro is an SJC grad who cut his

closure in the coming months, the rich Irish and deserved the MVP trophy. He athletic tradition will live on.

#### **BUBBA'S BITS**

ZAC BRUNEY has added another nugget to his Wheeling Jesuit University foot-ball staff. Former Steubenville Central and St. John Central head grid boss Steve Daley is now tutoring the Cardinals' tight ends and tackles. He is a quality addition to an

already strong staff. CONOTTON VALLEY is a small school 2017. district about to embark on huge things. The district, located between Cadiz and New hoop squad is now 18-2 on the Philadelphia, will commence on construction of an \$18 million Rocket Center. The 80,000-square-foot facility will house a gymnasium, eight-lane indoor competition pool, six-lane bowling alley, daycare center, senior center, a walking track, fitness ets fell to W&J, 81-74. The forme equipment, a cafe and health clinic. Funding for the massive project comes via a public utility property tax being levied on the yound the three-point line. Rover Pipeline, which crosses 15 miles of SPEAKING of W&J women's the Conotton Valley district. In addition, the ball, former Wheeling Park all-sta school will install turf to its football field guard Kylie McKennen also s and has already constructed new softball and baseball fields.

MALONE COLLEGE has announced plans to eliminate its football program. The Canton-based school has experienced a \$2.5 million debt due to football.

Boring Bowl. The high-octane Rams laid eyes are 10-11.

just enough offense to pull out a win. Tom Brady started to show t coaching teeth at his alma mater.

Although the school appears doomed for of a 41-year-old QB. Julian Edelmi mer Kent State quarterback, was in: suspended for the first four games by the NFL for using a banned sub:

OKLAHOMA HEAD footbal Lincoln Riley received a nice sala recently. The youthful Sooner bos pact will pay him \$25 million over five years. He will receive a \$' bonus each year for just remainin Sooners' coach. Riley made \$3.1 m

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN'S Coach Jim Crutchfield's crew is rar. 8 in the latest NCAA D-II poll.

HALEY PORTER had a supert mance in a losing cause Wednes Waynesburg University. The Yello Local all-stater, however, exploded points, including an 8-of-11 effort f

against Waynesburg. The 5-6 dyna lied 16 points while dishing out 10

FORMER RIVER High all-Ohic sen Caretti has played in 17 of Ohic 21 games this winter.

The junior guard is averaging 3. SUPER BOWL 53 could be renamed the and 1.6 rebounds per contest. The

#### IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR RELIABILITY, YOU'RE GETTING WARM

Rumer

# Basketba npionships 2019 leavis 12 KNIGHT BOYS' BASKETBALL Saturday, February 16, 20

#### What's Inside?

10 Class 1A Class 2A Class 3A Class 4A 4 Class 5A

#### ON THE COVER

Pictured is a standout player from five of the 10 schools taking part today. From left are Davis Black (Meadowbrook), Alex Vargo (Wheeling Park), Anthony Robbins (Wheeling Central), Luke Powell (Barnesville) and Craig Bober (St. Clairs-

Photos by Seth Staskey, Paul Krajnyak, Jeff Harrison. Cover by Jesse Kovalski Tab Design by Seth Stas-

## Barnesville, Shenandoah bidding for 3A title

Times Leader Sports Editor

Barnesville and Shenandoah are neighboring school

However, for whatever reason, the schools have not met in boys basketball this season.

That will change Saturday higher than just bragging

pital OVAC Girls Basket- squad, which features only ball Championships at 10 three seniors.

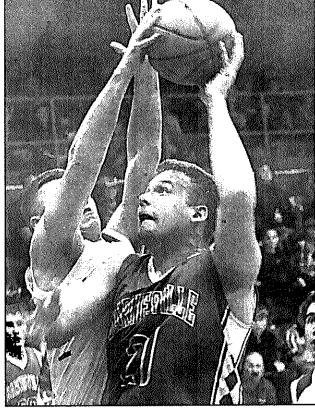
Shenandoah head coach Now, here we are.' Marc Smith, who is in his The top-seeded Zeps and third season at the Zeps' the third-seeded Shamrocks helm, called the chance to played for the title. They lost will meet in the Class 3A play for a conference tigame of the Wheeling Hos- tle for the ultimate for his in 2010. See, 3A, Page 3

"This started three years The Shamrocks and Zeps ago when we decided to met twice last year with change the culture of ac-Shenandoah prevailing both times.

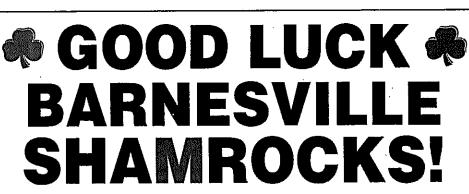
discipline," Smith said. "We "They handled us pretty were lacking in those areas. good last year," Barnesville And really in the last half of head coach Matt Johnson the 2016 season, the kids recalled. "Obviously, it's a. started to really turn the cormorning at Ohio University new season and we're ex- ner. We got into the OVAC Eastern in St. Clairsville. cited for the chance to play And the stakes will be much them again in this game."

Tournament last year and came up short of this game.

> This marks the second time that the Zeps have to Shadyside in the 2A final



T.L. Photo/SETH STASKEY BARNESVILLE'S AARON Marovich goes up for a shot during Tuesday's OVAC semifinal at Fort Frye.



112 N. Chestner St. Barnosville, OH (740) 425-2218

GO SHAMROCKS

#### **Fitzpatrick** Roofing & **Painting**

 Residential Commercial Exterior

740-238-0280



400 Mulberry Street Barnesville, OH 43713 RETAIL, WHOLESALE CUSTOM BUTCHERING *7*40-425-19*7*3

### **Go Shamrocks! East Ohio Home Inspection, Inc.**

Now offering Radon and Mold Testing:

Jay Mayberry 36780 Fairview St., Barnesville Business: 1.740.425.1854 『Cell: 1.740.359.1194



SERVICE CENTER Body Shop • Service Center Alignment & Front End Repair

WRECKER SERVICE 827 E. Main St., Barnesville, OH, Jim Jones, Owner 740-425-1842

#### 740-238-0157 John Moore, Owner GOOD LUCK SHAMROCKS Go Shamrocks! **GOOD LUCK ROCKS! American** Legion

Post No. 168 Barnesville, OH



#### • 3A

Continued from Page 2

young men have bought in doah)." to the system and our style done that."

while, are making their ther, Barnesville has never mentality in the offseason." won an OVAC title in boys basketball.

our kids they have a chance too. to do something that's never something that won't be taken away from them. They call it history for a reason happens once."

in the Class AAA stand- the table."

stings us," Johnson said.

Frye. Barnesville erased a 12-point, third-quarter bounds against the Fort. deficit in about six minutes

in the first half of the first to limit the other guys. quarter, the second half of

"It's very, very reward- nice to be able to go get a ing for our kids and school," win like that in a tough place Smith said. "We had hit to play, we will not be able some hard times, but these to do that (against Shenan-

Shenandoah, meanwhile, of play. It's great to see has been taking care of its them get rewarded after business basically all seamaking steady progress over son. And Tuesday's 69-53 the last few seasons. It boils victory against Monroe Cendown to staying true to the tral was no different. The process and our kids have Zeps are 18-3 with two of their losses coming to Fort The Shamrocks, mean- Frye and one to Cambridge.

"We're working to build first venture to OUE for a a culture that we can and championship game. Until will compete with anyone," this year, they'd only been Smith said. "Our kids have in the top four of the event bought into that, too. We once. Taking it a step fur- work on creating in that

Playing the Shamrocks is probably a little bittersweet said. "We've been telling es to Fort Frye were there,

However, Smith had been done and accomplish a feeling the Shamrocks would be his team's oppo-

"We've been preparing and that's because it only for Barnesville," Smith said. "We had film on them and Johnson was actually a I know they have film on player on the 1990 team us, too. Coach Johnson and that came the closest to I have a decent relationship winning the title. It fell a and we're definitely not half-point short to Bellaire blind to what they bring to

What the Shamrocks That half point still bring is a heavy dose of junior standout Luke Pow-The Shamrocks reached ell. Pouring in 31 points the championship game a game, Powell is the unafter Tuesday's come- questione go-to-guy for the from-behind win at Fort Shamrocks. He scored 33 points and grabbed 17 re-

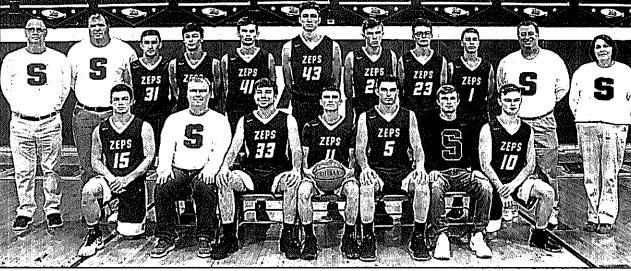
"No one has stopped and then fought off a Cadet Powell all year," Smith spurt to pull off the upset. conceeded. "We're not go-"I honestly don't think ing into this game thinking we played a complete we're going to stop him game (at Fort Frye)," John- either. But, we do hope to son said. "We played prob- make him really have to ably two good quarters, earn what he gets We would I thought we played well like to come up with a plan

But, to hear Johnson tell the third quarter and the it, the key for the Shamentire fourth. Though it's rocks are the other members



Photo/PAUL KFIAJNYAK

"It's hard to win an for the Zeps. Obviously, it's PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Barnesville boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Jeremy Hunkler, Gage OVAC title in any sport and a chance to meet a long-time Hannahs, Aaron Marovich, Manager Eric Keylor, Tate Dowler, Hunter Carpenter and Colton Hines. Back row, our kids have the chance foe, but a chance to make from left, are head coach Matt Johnson, Jacob Burghy, assistant coach Johnny Hines, Evan Hudson, Luke in front of them," Johnson ammends for their two loss- Powell, Zack Thompson, Payne Johnson, assistant coach Jason Perkins, Alden Hannahs and Kason Powell.



PICTURED IS the Shenandoah boys basketball team. The team includes Kendal Sherman, Nickolai Wickham, Drew West, Boone Jones, Colby Farmer, Cade Denius, Kade Varhola, Max McVicker, Shakur Payton, Ayden Smith, Dayton Hill and Christian Duniver.

of their cast.

"It doesn't matter, from

did that at Fort Frye."

Seniors Aaron Marovich and a defender. game to game, who it is, but and Tate Dowler were we need to get other guys in the two who came up big plained. "We're usually able 12 and 10, respectively, right now." to come out on top when Ayden Hannahs has shown that happens. We know some flashes and is an ad- much more balanced in the what Luke is going to give ept 3-point shooter. Junior scoring column with two us, but we need the other Payne Johnson - Matt's players averaging in double

ing lineup. He's a glue guy der 10.

er guys," Smith said. "Their

guys to come through. They son - rounds out the start- figures and another just un-

Sophomore "We're aware of their oth- Christan Duniver is a savvy point guard. He's scores double figures," Johnson ex- against the Cadets, scoring role players are playing well at a 14.8 points per game clip and aso averages four The Zeps, meanwhile, are rebounds and 2.4 assists a

Senior wing Nickolai Wickham checks in at 13.3 See, **3A,** Page 7

## St. C., Meadowbrook to meet in 4A final

By SETH STASKEY

Times Leader Sports Editor

A definitive contrast in styles is set to unfold Saturday at high noon in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 4A Boys Basketball Championship game.

Top-seeded Meadowbrook St. Clairsville comes in with an is some 30 below their average. offense that averages upwards of 3-point shot.

So, the age-old question, 'what's going to give?' is totally in play.
"We know St. Clairsville is good

and quite capable," Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "We know they're really

expect them to shoot it just as well were handed to them by New Philat OUE. They're just a tremendous adelphia and Coshocton. scoring team.

just over 40 points a game and are Marshall and Steubenville. coming off a semi-final win against brings a defensive-minded attitude East Liverpool in which they held Colts do not meet during the preinto the game, while third-seeded the Potters to just 42 points, which OVAC portion of the regular sea-

77 points and relies heavily on the team," St. C.'s first-year coach in the OVAC title game in 2016 have the record they have, playing what's started a string of three tithe schedule they do without being the in a row.

> The Colts come into the game at met several times during the sum-15-4. Two of their losses came to mer season.

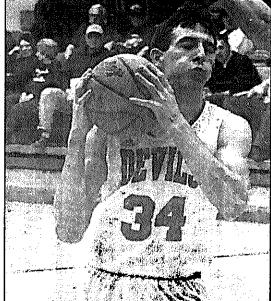
good on their home court and we Division I Dover. Other setbacks

St. Clairsville, meanwhile, is Meanwhile, the Colts are a tre- 15-5 on the season. Its losses have mendoùs defensive scoring team. come to Harrison Central, Wheel-They're limiting their opponents to ing Park, Wheeling Central, John

Though the Red Devils and son, they're certainly no strangers "Meadowbrook's a really good to one another. They actually met Ryan Clifford said, "They don't with Meadowbrook prevailing in

Beyond that, however, the two

See, 4A, Page 5



ST. CLAIRS-VILLE'S Justin Heatherington makes a move to the bucket during a game earlier this season. He and the Red Devils will take on Meadowbrook today at noon in the OVAC Class 4A title game.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

# GOOD LUCK ST. CLAIRSVILLE





Standard & Automatic

Rt. 149 • North Warnock Mon.-Frl. 7-5 FREE ESTIMATES 695-6817

## REB BEVILSI

Funeral & Cremation Specialists ST. CLAIRSVILLE CHAPEL 204 West Main Street

St. Clairsville, OH 43950 740-695-0475 www.carechapel.com

#### Go Red Devils!

UTO BODY & COLLISION CENTER Collision Repair • Refinishing • Touch Up:

St. Clairsville's Area's Largest Independent Collision Repair Facility

(740) 695-5875

Jeff Ross - Owner

#### State Farm® BELMONT Providing Insurance Financial Services Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710 Al Bigelow, Agent 67801 Banfleld Road

St. Clairsville, OH 43950 740.695.1175 Toll Free 800.887.2318 al.bigelow.nggq@statefarm.com



24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

## **EQUIPMENT** SALES INC.

National Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio **GOOD LUCK** RED DEVILS! (740) 695-3052

## **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

FOOD DE MILE

#### **Good Luck Red Devils!**



INDUSTRIAL . COMMERCIAL . RESIDENTIAL

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL, SALES & SUPPLY** 

Serving The Tri-State Area Ohio Valley Mall - St. Clairsville, OH

3351 Hamilton St - Bellaire, OH 844-427(ICR)-2020

www.icrsupply.com

#### YOUR COMPLETE JOBSITE OUTFITTER

EVERYTHING FROM: Bolts & Nuts to Top Soil & Straw-Asphalt Roller, Skid Loaders, Excavators, Trenchers, Chipper/Shredder Stump Grinder Jack Hammers Electric/Air Jack ·Hammers/Air Compressors · Augers-Lifts: Lawn Equipment: Light Towers & Power Tools **NOW SERVING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES:** 

Industrial • Contractor - Home

IN STOCK: Silt Fence- Terratex Driveway Fabric-Orange Barrier Fence • Straw Blankets 8'x113' roll Delta Toolboxes & Ladder Racks







Continued from Page 4

"We know them and they know us," Clifford said. "They have a lot to be concerned with. They're big, fast and physical. Plus, they're experienced.'

Meadowbrook's experience has put a target on its back for much of the season. The Colts advanced to the Division II state semifinals in Columbus before falling to Trotwood-Madison.

"I feel like we're battle-tested and I feel good about the schedule we play, but what makes basketball a great game is that anything can happen on any given night," Tolzda offered. "Teams coming off successful years, the next year, often times, is hard. There literally hasn't been one game on our schedule that you could just point to and say, 'that's a win.'"
The Colts (15-4) used

a late-season surge to ascend to the top seed. They defeated 5A powers Warren and Steubenville in their final games before the cut-off date to move to the top line.

This marks St. Clairsville's first time in the title game since that aforementioned 2016 loss to the Colts. The Red Devils didn't qualify for the top four each of the last two seasons.

"For a while it felt like we were (playing) in this game every year and now having been out of it for two years, it seems like forever," Clifford said. "It's exciting and fun for the kids. This is a good group that's really put in a lot of time, so they deserve this chance.'

The Red Devils actually had a defacto three-game OVAC tourney. They had to beat Martins Ferry a night before the cut-off date to even secure a bid into the 'Final Four' of 4A. They then went on the road and defeated Oak Glen, 79-66.

"The (Oak Glen) game

DEVILS GEVILS DEAIL VETILS! / DEVILS 30

PICTURED IS the 2018-19 St. Clairsville basketball team. Front row, from left, are managers Kaden Clifford, Nico Jacob and Kolby Clifford. Second row, from left, are Brett Vike, Broc Crist, Drew Sefsick, Cade Wolfe, Nate Harris, Matt Busby, Ryan McCort and Colin Oberdick. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Kevin Sacco, David Lane, Will Balgo, Justin Heatherington, Greg Norman, Avery Henry, Craig Bober, Javon Lyons, head coach Ryan Clifford and assistant coach Eric Gav.

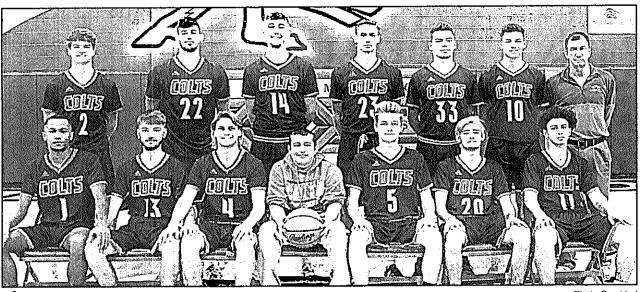


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the Meadowbrook boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Johnathan McCall, Zach Rusnak, Boston Black, manager Brayden Stillion, Peyton Neff, Chance Carpenter and Elijah Chandler; back row, Dylan Webster, Davis Black, Logan Fox, Addy Black, Eric McCulloch, Davis Singleton and head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda.

home at times, so it was nice to be able to go get a win against a good team."

The Colts' time in the at Beallsville, values the the OVAC not bein a big score the ball quite effec-

had a different energy about OVAC is shrinking. The OVAC title, it," Clifford said. "The school has announced its "I don't out the school has a s OVAC Tournament is real- intentions to leave the con- one says, there's not a team ed to be there. This was one ly a nice thing. We've had ference and become sole in the OVAC that wouldn't of our kids' goals - along some struggles away from members of the Muskingum love to be playing in their with getting back to the re-Valley League.

alley League. class' championship game gional – fror Tolzda, a River High (today)," Tolzda said. "I've of the season." grad and long-time coach heard naysayers talk about

deal. It is a big deal. It's a "I don't care what any- nice event and we're excitgional - from the first day

The Red Devils not only

tively, but they're also quite balanced in doing so.

Seniors Matt Busby and Craig Bober both check in at nearly 19 points a game. Junior Brett Vike pumps in nearly 13 points a game. Seniors David Lane and

Justin Heatherington contribute 9.2 and 7.5 points a game.

Junior Nate Harris is the catalyst at point guard and nets just under six a night.

"We're going to have to do another great job on defense," Tolzda said, "St. Clairsville has multiple guys who can score. I am really impressed with Bober's versatility.

"But, really, all of their guys can shoot the 3, but if you close out too hard. they're driving by you.'

The Colts, meanwhile, are led by 6-5 swing player Davis Black. The recent University of Charleston football signee is a nightly double-double at 16 points and 11 rebounds.

He's complemented by his younger brother, Addy Black. He scores six points a game.

Junior Johnathan McCall runs the point for the Colts and is netting about 10 points a game. Senior Peyton Neff is "an important cog" according to Tolzda.

Senior Dylan Webster doesn't score much, but Tolzda said he's "worth 15 points because of what he does on defense.

Logan Fox, Zach Rusnak, Davis Singleton and Boston Black round out the rotation. All nine members of that rotation have started at some point this season.

"We have to defend," Clifford said. "There were long stretches at Oak Glen when we really sat down and guarded well. They're going to guard us and try to make it difficult for us to score, so we have to be able to do the same thing. This game is going to come down to who gets more stops.'

## Park, University set for rubbermatch in 5A final

semifinal.

University, sitting third championship affair. in the latest Class AAA state ratings, enters the has some Division I offers championship game as the already," University heac time defending confertwo-time defending confer-

By BUBBA KAPRAL

Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — The monkey has been removed from of Mohigans. The Pa
The monkey has been removed from the back of the Wheeling Park boys' basketball program.

The monkey came in the monkey has been removed from of Mohigans. The Pa
The monkey has been removed from the back of the Wheeling Park boys' basketball losing streak to Morgantown High Tuesday night, pocketing a cherished 57-46 win at The Palace On The Hill.

More importantly, the Patriots' 12th win in 17 starts take on University High triots' 12th win in 17 starts take on University High demolished Steubenville, title context, claiming their game at OUE. Coach Mi
The Morgantown has a charge will ence champions. The 16-3

OVAC 5A championship demolished Steubenville, title context, claiming their game at OUE. Coach Mi
The Morgantown has a charge will ence champions. The 16-3

Chael Jebbia's charges will ence champions. The 16-3

Chael Jebbia's

The Morgantown-basec Park and University split squad is led by junior point a pair of regular-season guard Kaden Metheny. He was the MVP in last year's

"Kaden is our leader. He





#### NOW HRING W. N. VI (6) VI SMARING **GOOD LUCK PATRIOTS!**

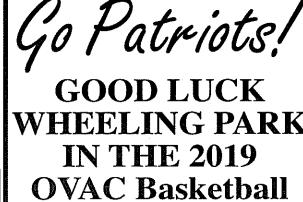
1224 Chapline St. Wheeling

304-232-0028 www.mancan.com

## CARNEY & SLOANING

Food Service Equipment & Supplies, Sales, & Service

518 Main St., Wheeling (304) 233-5000 carneyandsloan.com



Championship Wheeling Park High School offers Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football,

Soccer, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Wrestling,

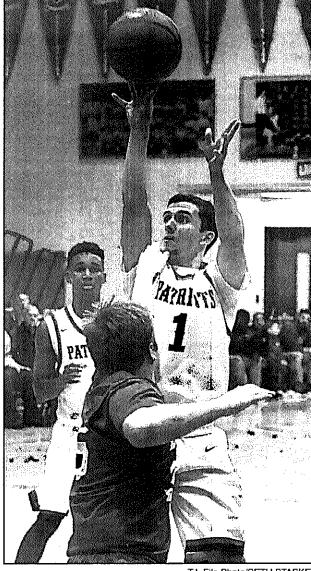


Softball, Volleyball, Competitive Dance, Hockey, and Lacrosse.



Follow us on Facebook! facebook.com/ OhioCountySchools





T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY WHEELING PARK senior Jack Stakern goes up for a shot during the Patriots' game in December against St. Clairsville. Stakem had a big night in helping to get Park past Morgantown Tuesday. He and his teammates will take on University Saturday at 2 p.m.

Tracker Country • 2019 MODELS AVAILABLE

UMINUM • SUNTRACKER PONTOON-NITRO FIBERGLASS

**5 MINUTES FROM WHEELING** 1959 Middle Creek Road, Triadelphia, WV 304-547-5044

TAHOE FIBERGLASS

grovemarinewy.com Open: 9-5 Mon - Fri, 10-Noon Sat, Sun Closed - COMPLETE LINE OF PARTS & ACCESSORIES!

#### • 5A

Continued from Page 4

coach Joe Schmidle said. ;"We have been guard-driven for much of the year. But mow our bigs are starting to contribute much more with

"Park, meanwhile, is the direct opposite. Their bigs were doing the bulk of the scoring for much of the year. Now their guards are really stepping up with scoring, lhe added.

"Park is a tough matchup for us. This will be a game of matchups.

Joining Metheny in the Hawks' backcourt is 6-3 junior K.J. McClurg. University's frontcourt is composed of 6-2 senior forward Rodney Bucklew, 6-2 sophomore forward Ryan Niceler and 6-6 junior center Mike Maumbe.

working hard with our big guys. Our front line has really, really improved, and they've made us such a better basketball team," Schmidle said. "We knew those kids had the ability, and wewere waiting for it to show. I think they realized they needed to step up for this team to reach our full poten-

Jebbia will bring a veteran bunch to OUE in Park's quest for its eighth OVAC

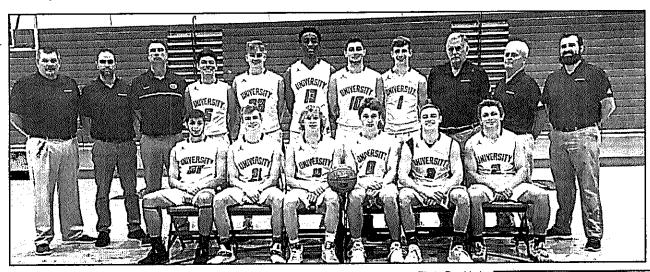
The Patriots, ranked seventh this week in the Class AAA state poll, have pocketed conference championship trophies in 1977, 1998, 2000, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012. Park's last appearance in the title game came in 2014, falling to Morgantown.

"It feels good to be back in the OVAC finals. The biggest key was being able to play at home for the semifinal game," Jebbia said. "We are really happy for our six seniors. They have made huge strides over four years.

'University is a high-octane basketball team. They average 80 points a game, which leads our state. They



PICTURED IS the Wheeling Park boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Trevor Thomas, David Croft, "We have really been Donovan Goddard, De'Vaughn McWhorter, Jack Stakem and Keondre' King. Standing, from left, are Assistant coach Gene Ammirante, manager Milano Ammirante, head coach Michael Jebbia, Shaheed Jackson-Mayfield, Dustin VanSickle, Alex Vargo, Alex Dunlevy, Xavier Morris, assistant coach Terry Payne, manager Sarge Cordery and assistant coach Jerry Ammirante.



PICTURED IS the University boys basketball team. The team includes: K.J. Mc-Clurg, Ryan Niceler, Kyle Smith, Kaden Metheny, Tyler Blohm, Javier Reyes, Rodney Bucklew, Mike Maumbe, Tyler Belt, Ryan Forbes and Aaron Forbes. The Hawks are coached by Joe Schmidle.

have two dynamic players way." in Metheny and McClurg. Metheny is one of the best seniors and a standout junior of-10 showing at the free players we have ever faced. in his starting lineup. He does it all. He is like a queen on a chess board, at point guard.

The best thing about him is The 5-9 senior is coming The best thing about him is

Jack Stakem is a dynamo

he plays the game the right off a huge effort in Park's McWhorter and Donovan

semifinal win. He tallied Jebbia will trot out four 17 points to go with a 10throw line in the fourth quarter. For good measure, he grabbed nine rebounds.

De'Vaughn Seniors

Goddard, both 5-10, are also quality guards.

Keondre'King and Alex Vargo bring size and potency to the Patriots frontcourt. King is an explosive 6-4 senior, averaging 17.4

ppg. Vargo is a 6-5 power-packed junior, tossing in

20.8 ppg.

Jebbia, one of the greatest players in Park's glorious hoop tradition, is not afraid to use his bench.

His top reserves are senior Trevor Thomas, junior Alex Dunlevy, junior Xavier Morris, junior Dustin VanSickle and senior David

Today's 5A title tilt tips at 2 p.m.

#### • 3A-

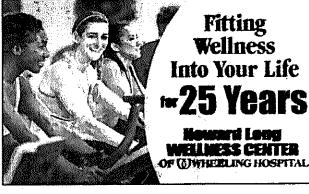
Continued from Page 3

and 8.1 rebounds a game. Senior Boone Jones has been a four-year regular for the Zeps. He scores 9.1 points a night and 7.6 re-

Junior Kendal Sherman is next on the list at 7.1 points a game and sophomore Max McVicker scores 6.5 points a night.

Drew West is the Zeps' sixth man and scores 5.7 a game.

"They present some really (defensive) challenges in the post," Johnson said. "We're not blessed with great size, so we have to find a way to limit their touches inside. They have some kids who are extremely long and can score in multiple ways."



GOOD

**LUCK** 

TORONTO

**RED KNIGHTS!** 

Good luck coaches and

players! I am so proud of

your accomplishments

both on the court and in

the classroom.

Bring it home boys!

**Principal Betsy Jones** 

Good Luck to our

coaches and players!

Your Red Knight nation

is behind you!

#Earnit #Family #Finish

Toronto High School

**Athletic Department** 

## Toronto, Wheeling Central battling for 2A crown

Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -Wheeling Central is seeking championship. It is an aston-

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Boys Basketball

lass 3A.

ond-ranked Maroon Knights against No. 1 Toronto (19game of the day inside again. Ohio University Eastern's To get to Saturday's title standing things Health and Physical Educatilt, Wheeling Central had ing this season.' tion Building.

coming back after we lose after topping fourth-ranked ranked. The lone loss is

MARNH (

MARCON

its unprecedented seventh ishing 8-0 overall in the title a pretty good senior class," straight Wheeling Hospital games, be it in Class 2A or veteran Maroon Knights' head coach Mel Stephens Saturday night the sec- said. "We lost two really good players in Brett Price (16-4) will tip-off at 6 and Owen Gainer. Both of are going to happen, espeagainst No. 1 Toronto (19- those kids scored 1,000 ca- cially for our seniors," third-1) in the fifth - and final reer points, but here we are

to dispatch No. 3 Wells-

Gem City.

"It feels very, very good. We told the kids that if they put in the time, good things year Toronto head coach Sean Tucker revealed. "Outstanding things are happen-

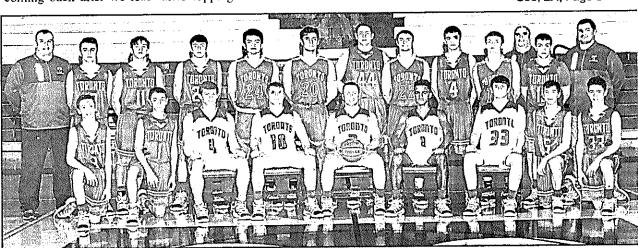
Toronto is ranked third Tradition has a lot to do ville, 83-60, Tuesday night in Division IV in the Buckwith it. We've always been in East Wheeling, while the eye State. It's the first time fortunate to have a pretty Red Knights will be making a Red Knights boys' basgood nucleus (of players) their championship debut ketball team has been state

Shadyside, 64-55, in the 6-point setback to Division II Marlington during a Holiday Tournament in Steuben-

"The dedication is really paying off," Tucker contin-ued. "The kids have really bought in to what we have been preaching to them.

While the two squads haven't met on the hardwood in recent history, Tucker has coached against the Maroon Knights when he was at Steubenville Catholic.

"Wheeling Central has a See, 2A, Page 9



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Toronto basketball team. The team includes: Trillion West, Kobe Herrick, Nate Karaffa, Caleb Leasure, Trent Wright, Brendan Matyas, Jay Hanlin, Lucas Gulczynsji, A.J. Clegg, Bryson



MAROOM

KAROON

MARION

42

PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Wheeling Central basketball team. The team includes: D.J. Saunders, Avery Lee, Jalen Creighton, Dom Mills, Bray Price, Anthony Robbins, J.C. Maxwell, Luke Rohmann, Clayton Abate, Ryan Reasbeck, Josh Custer and Michael Toepfer. The team is coached by Mel Stephens.

MARODH

#### • 2A ·

#### Continued from Page 8

game against them. They rebounders. never have a down year."

their 11th game in a row Stephens admitted. "We've Wednesday with a 94-56 got three guys in double triumph over Magnolia.

Ryan Reasbeck, a 6-foot takes.' freshman, leads a balanced Wh Wheeling Central attack been surprised by Reaswith a 13-point-a-game beck's play at the varsinorm. He is joined in twin ty level, the veteran head figures by 6-2 sophomore coach didn't hesitate in an-J.C. Maxwell and 6-3 senior swering. Anthony Robbins with 12.9 and 12.6 marks, respective- watched him play since he ly. Seniors Bray Price (6-0) was in the 6th, 7th and 8th and Dom Mills (6-3) also grades," Stephens noted. "He's a good player with Clayton Abate (6-4) and a lot of experience. He Jalen Creighton (6-0); and handles the pressure really sophomores Avery Lee (5- well." 11) and D.J. Saunders (6-

of respect for them and I (6-0) and Josh Custer (6-0) 6-2 senior Nate Karaffa senior, is at 9.2. Brendon to Ohio State for baseball, ful in other sports," Tucker think that's mutual," Tucker round out the roster. Rob- (19.7); 6-1 senior Trillion Matyas, a 6-0, senior; Trent while Gulzynski, Sninchak said. "They are accustomed said. "There's never an easy bins and Abate are the top West (14.6); 6-3 junior Lu- Wright, a 6-1, senior; and

'We've basically done it 6-2 senior Nick Sninchak nior, complete the roster. The Maroon Knights won offensively by committee," figures and that is what it

When asked if he has

The Red Knights have

"No. Not at all. I've

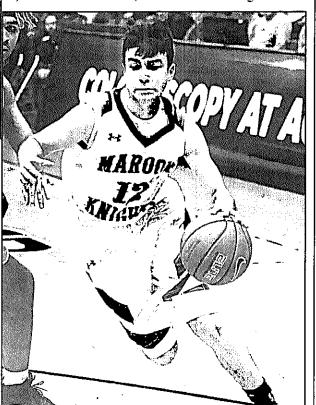


Photo Courtesy/WHEELING HOSPITAL WHEELING CENTRAL'S Ryan Reasbeck has been a key contributor during his freshman season for the Maroon Knights. Reasbeck and the Knights will take on Toronto this evening in the OVAC Class 2A champior iship game.

great program. I have a lot 0). Juniors Luke Rohmann four twin-digit scorers in (10.1). A.J. Clegg, a 6-2 cas Gulzynski (11.2) and Colby Herrick, a 5-11 se-

and Clegg are also standouts to pressure situations and on the baseball diamond.

'A lot of these kids have They go out and play."

Karaffa has verballed been extremely successthey feed off of the energy.



#### 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

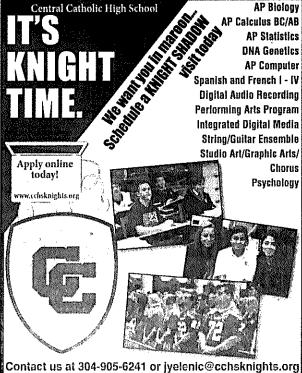
## AT MANCAN STAFFING

1224 Chapline St. Wheeling 304-232-0028

**Good Luck** Maroon **Knights!** 304-242-2577

Wheeling

www.mancan.com 740-282-4816 Good Luck Steubenville Maroon Knights Central Catholic High School



#### GREENBACKS Saturday, March 30th White Palace in Wheeling Park! BIGGESTIFUNDRAISEROFTHEYEAR

in support of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School! Come recognize & thank the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Spring Is In The Air

Dinner/Dance/Auction and Raffle! Raffle tickets are still available! Tickets are \$20 each والمتكلفان BORES OPEN 5-90PM with a chance to win your share of waren

Dinner/Dance tickets for the event are \$30 each or you can purchase a table of 8 for \$200.

Both raffle and event tickets can be purchased at the school or parish office or by calling John Yelenic, Advancement Director at 304-650-6298

**BIGGEST** AUCTION IN WHEELING I

## Cameron, Trinity set for 1A title-game rematch

By RICK THORP Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE It's been a month and one - the two head coaches pionship game.

day since Cameron and - are using that contest as Trinity last locked horns on a barometer for today's re- championship-caliber team fense and they were shoot- of the season with an injury. the hardwood. But neither match in the Wheeling Hos- that night," Hart said regard- ing the lights out. They're Tom Hart nor John Fowkes pital OVAC boys 1A cham- ing the Warriors' 88-57 tri- one of the contenders to ago and hopes to lead the

"They played like a state umph in Morgantown.

win it all in West Virginia Warriors to a repeat per-

6-5 senior Daniel Woods. step out and shoot." al Most Valuable Player points per game. Award last February in against the Dragons in the

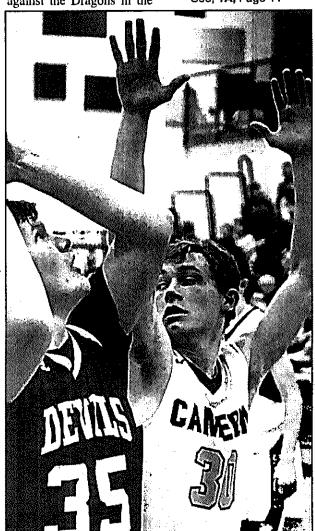
"They played good de- 1A title tilt, has missed most

But he returned six games (Class A) and, that night, formance today at 4 inside they played a heckuva ball-game." Ohio University Eastern's Health, Physical Education That might be true, but and Recreation Center.

Trinity played that night "Not only can he play in-without the services of side," Hart said, "but he can

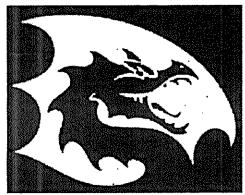
Since his return, Woods Woods, who earned the Since his return, Woods John Howell Memori- has averaged nearly 18

"It's nice when you can Trinity's 52-40 victory throw it down to that kid,' against the Dragons in the See, 1A, Page 11



CAMERON'S NOAH Neely defends a Beallsville player during their OVAC Class 1A semifinal on Tuesday. Neely and the Dragons are back in the OVAC championship game and will take on Morgantown Trinity today at 4 p.m. at OUE.

# GOOD LUCK **CAMERON DRAGONS!**

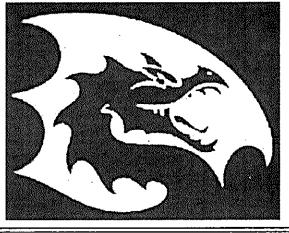


**GOOD LUCK CAMERON** CITY OF CAMERON MAYOR BETTY SCOTT

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mary Leichter, Greg Galentine, Jack Hart SR., Sarah Burge, Wayne Simmons



GOOD LUCK DRAGONS from CAMERON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



Continued from Page 10

Fowkes, second-year head coach. guards.'

Even year, the defending Class A semifinalists got plenty of including senior Joel Robertson, who exploded for 36 points.

"He's a great shooter," Hart said. "Then they have (senior Josh) Hart (no relaexcellent ballhandler and passer, but he's a nice shooter, as well."

Robertson averaging 18 ppg, while senior Briston Bennett is dropping in close to 12 ppg. Senior Logo Zervos rounds out the starting lineup.

Junior Fletcher Hartstock, who filled in for Woods when he was out, is usually Trinity's first sub. Others off the bench include seniors Caleb Rice, Jon Morley and Mark Spruill.

All told, the Warriors (14-5) have 11 seniors, most of whom see game action.

"John is a very good coach," Tom Hart said. "He hasn't been there very long, but he's done a very good job with that program. They have length and they're very athletic and quick."

The latter two attributes were on full display in the teams' last meeting, according to Tom Hart. He said the Warriors have kicked it up a notch as far as offense goes.

"This year, they're more of a full-court team," he said. "They're much better in pushing the ball in transition. They like to get up and down the floor.'

Fowkes agreed.

"The kids are pushing the made strides. ball better than they ever have," he said. "We don't in the road, but I'm proud of really look to set up an offense, and when we do we shoot the 3 pretty well.

"When we push the ball,

Trinity's we're a pretty good team."

As Trinity has a differ-"It makes it easier for our ent look from a season ago, so do the Dragons (15-3). without Woods Gone are the days of dropagainst Cameron earlier this ping the ball into a dominant post presence.

'Last year, we had two production from its guards, big guys we could pound the ball into, and one that could step out and shoot the 3," Tom Hart, in his third year guiding Cameron, said. "This year, we're a little more guard-oriented. Most tion) on the point. He's an of the time we could have three guards on the floor. We don't have the thickness we had last year, but we

still have our share of athleticism and quick-

Cameron has three seniors in its starting lineup - Aiden Lucey, Dillon Meintel and Travis Mickey. Meintel is averaging

18.5 ppg, while Lucey Mickey are averaging 10.6 and 10.4 ppg, respec-

"They have a tough group of kids," Fowkes said. "Es-pecially the Lucey kid. He's been tough for us to handle."

Juniors Zane Clutter and Noah Neely round out the Dragons' starting five.

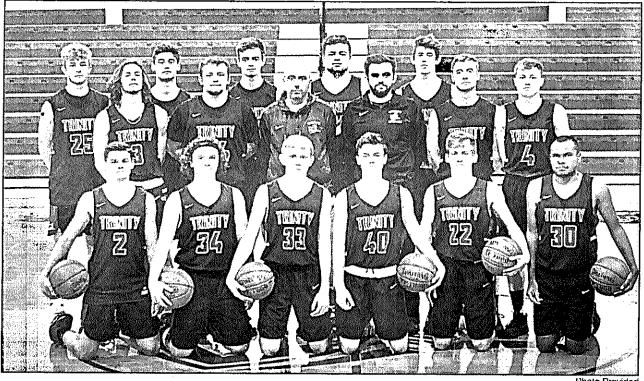
"We've had seven different guys start for us this Tom Hart noted. "We year," may change things up (today).

Juniors Garrett Scott and Jessop Broughton provide Cameron, seeking its first OVAC crown, strength off the bench.

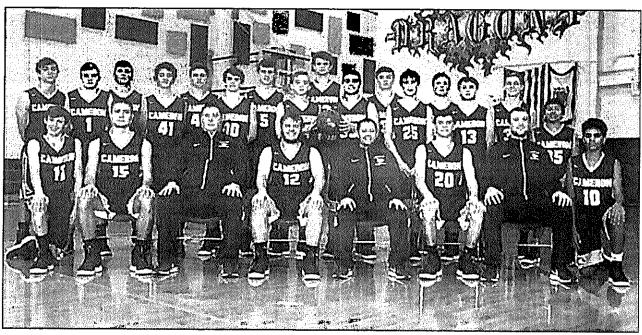
"I've been blessed with good athletes and some good kids," Tom Hart said. My first year we won 14 games and we won 19 last year. We lost a lot from last year, so we're still fairly young. But we've improved during the season and we've

the kids and how they've responded.

'We're not done yet."



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Morgantown Trinity basketball team. Front row, from left, are Caleb Rice, Jack Barnett, Carter Anderson, Mason Steptoe, Nick Beimel and Dakota Shepherd. Middle row, from left, are Jon Morley, Jalen Wimer, Head Coach John Fowkes, Assistant Coach Brandon Staley, Briston Bennett and Josh Hart. Back row, from left, are Joel Robertson, Logo Zervos, Mark Spruill, Daniel Woods and Fletcher Hartsock.



PICTURED IS the 2018-19 Cameron basketball team. The team includes: Dillon Meintel, Aidan Lucey, Travis Mickey, Conner Powell, Garrett Scott, Clayton Bryan, Maliki Martin, Landon Van Tassell, Zane Clutter, Logan Burkett, Hank Bogard, Austin Day, Conner Howard, Trevor Beresford, Scott Pekula, Nathan Haberle, Noah Neely and Chris McCauley. The Dragons are coached by Tom Hart.

Treating Minor to Major Injuries

# SPECIAL SPITAL OF SPITAL SPITA

CALL: 304-243-8630



# PORTS

SECTION

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Meadowbrook - in its final

year as a member of the OVAC

before it joins the Muskingum

Valley League – is once again

Coach Scooter Tolzda's Colts

## Pairings finalized for boys' OVAC hoops event

• Wheeling Hospital championships begin Tuesday, with finals set for Ohio University Eastern

By SETH STASKEY

Times Leader Sports Editor

BELLAIRE - The brackets are officially set.

After one of the most competitive and interesting pre-OVAC portions in the history of the tournament, the dust settled Tuesday

The OVAC Basketball Championship committee met Wednesday morning at the OVAC office to finalize the pairings and set the consolation matchups for the

teams that didn't finish in the top

The boys tournament begins on Tuesday, Feb. 12 and the championship finals will be staged on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Here's a look at each class:

CLASS 5A

Wheeling Park earned the top seed with an 11-2 record. Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots are bidding for their eighth conference title overall and first since 2012.

Standing in the way of the

Pats and a trip to Ohio Universi- second seed and will host Steuty-Eastern is fourth-seeded Mor-

gantown. The Mohigans (10-6) darted by Weir in the final days prior to the cut-off date to grab the fourth spot. Coach Dave Tallman's squad won three consecutive titles from 2014-16.

In the other half of the bracket, University - which is the two-time defending bigschool champion - earned the

benville,

University is 14-3 on the season.

Big Red spent most of the season in one of the top-two spots, but lost their grip on a home game thanks to a loss Tuesday to Meadowbrook. Coach Mike Haney's team is 13-

3. Steubenville last won the OVAC in 2014 and it owns seven 13 hoop crowns, all told.

CLASS 4A

posted wins over 5A powers Warren and Steubenville earlier this week to move onto the top

the top seed.

line. Meadowbrook has won four OVAC titles, including the last three.

Next up for the Colts is a game with East Liverpool. The Potters See, OVAC, Page B2

#### OVAC -

Continued from Page B1

knocked off Harrison Central in a de facto play-in game on Tuesday to clinch the vision after River failed to qualify final bid. Coach Nate Conley's team is bidding for the school's first conference crown since 1999 and fifth overall.

locked down the second seed with a win Bears are an impressive 14-3

To get to their first OVAC title game, Oak Glen will have to knock off St. Clairsville, which is back in the championship trophy since 1992. bracket after a year's absence.

locked down their spot in the field with a win at Martins Ferry on Monday. St. Clairsville won its only two OVAC hoop titles in 2012 and 2013.

#### CLASS 3A

A new champion is promised in this class reigning champion Wheeling Central has dropped down a division.

Shenandoah was the wire-to-wire leader in this class. The Zeps, who own three OVAC titles, but nont since 2001, finished the pre-OVAC portion of the season an impressive 17-3 record.

with Monroe Central. The Seminoles – by virtue of their win over River and Union event with a 12-4 record. Local's loss to Barnesville on Tuesday squeezed into the field with a 9-9 record.

come the first in Monroe Central history to small-school class. The defending chamwin an OVAC hoop title. Woodsfield and Skyvue, which formed Monroe, won a combined five titles.

ond-seeded Fort Frye (11-6) taking on but none since 2004. Barnesville (11-7) in Beverly.

the playoff format, but first since 2014.

Barnesville, meanwhile, locked down its hoops. second-ever bid to the championship bracket with a victory against UL. Coach Matt of the area's most improved teams with Johnson's Shamrocks have never won an its 10-9 record. The Devils own just one OVAC boys basketball title.

CLASS 2A

A new champion is guaranteed in this di-

Toronto, a team that River beat in last year's semifinal, garnered the top seed. Coach Sean Tucker's Red Knights, who are In the other half of the bracket, Oak Glen ranked third in Ohio Division IV, are 17-1 with their only loss coming to Alliance over Wellsville on Tuesday. The Golden Marlington in a holiday event at Steuben-

> The Red Knights own two OVAC boys titles in their history, but haven't hoisted the

To get to the title game, Toronto will have First-year coach Ryan Clifford has di- to deal with a Shadyside squad, which has rected the Red Devils to a 14-4 record and seemingly turned the corner of late. Despite its loss at Wheeling Central on Tuesday, the Tigers hung on to the fourth spot.

Coach Ed Andes' team is 11-8 and bidding for the school's 14th OVAC basketball crown, but first since 2010.

In the other bracket, Wheeling Central a perennial entrant – is the second seed. The Maroon Knights own an OVAC-best 26 boys hoop titles, including six championships in a row,

To have the opportunity to play for a seventh, they'll have to deal with third-seeded Wellsville. The Tigers haven't won an Next up for the Zeps is a third meeting OVAC title since 1996 when they claimed their seventh overall. They enter this year's

#### CLASS 1A

Trinity Christian - by virtue of its 12-3 Coach Jon Perkins' team is trying to be- record - was awarded the top seed in the pions will await a visit from fourth-seeded Frontier, which enters with an 8-9 record.

The Cougars of Coach Roger Kirkpatrick The other 3A semifinal finds sec- have won five OVAC titles in their history,

Cameron, which fell to Trinity in last sea-The Cadets have been consistent mem-son's OVAC title game, is the second seed. bers in the championship bracket and are The Dragons of Coach Tom Hart will welyying for their eighth title overall, fourth in come Beallsville as they seek a return trip to OUE to play for the school's first title in

> Coach Rick Jarrett's Blue Devils are one OVAC title in basketball and it came in

#### River grad Bell reaches coaching with 500 victories

WHEELING - Forty-eight years is a long time. In prep coaching circles, it is an eter-

But for Bob Bell a near half-century of coaching high school basketball as flown by with no end in sight. The former River High hoop great reached a major milestone recent-

Bell collected his 500th varsity coaching win via a 55-46 triumph over Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. He began his coaching career as jayvee mentor for Kent State High School, shortly after finishing his collegiate playing career for the Golden Flashes. His first head coaching position was with Skyvue in 1975.

Reaching 500 wins is a wonderful experience. That plateau places you with some of the coaching greats across the state, including my high school coach Dick Potts," Bell noted. "I loved playing for him. I miss him to this day. He had a great sense of humor and was the best story-teller ever. Coach Potts was the Will Rogers of basketball coaches.

"I have loved my 18 years at Kirtland. It has been a great ride," he continued. "Kirtland is a wonderful community. It reminds

me of River High."
Bell, 1967 River High grad, was an all-OVAC honoree as a senior and all-Eastern Ohio selection as a junior and senior. He also played football and baseball for the Pi-

This marks the second straight season Bell has realized a tremendous achievement.

Last winter, Bell guided Kirtland to a perfect 22-0 regular season and a school-record 23 wins. It was the Hornets' 10th Chagrin Valley Conference title in the last 14 years as they also collected a 14th sectional title in Bell's 17 years at the school.

Such an impressive campaign landed Bell some half-dozen coach-of-the-year awards, topped by the AP Ohio Division III Coach-

of-the-Year plaque.

"Last year was a very special season. We had a group of talented and committed players," Bell said.

The Hornets are working on another successful campaign this winter. Kirtland, located some 20 miles east of Cleveland, is currently 16-5, earning the No. 3 seed in the district tournament.

Bell's 500 wins are somewhat of a novelty. He amassed 212 while coaching boys. His coaching resume is one of a Buckeye

State roadmap. After his maiden voyage in the coaching ranks at Kent State High School, Bell moved to Ravenna Southeast High, serving two years as frosh coach and a third as jayvee mentor. Bell then returned to his Monroe County roots, taking the head boys job at Skvvue High in 1975. He led the Golden Hawks to the PVC championship in 1978 and into the district tournament in 1977 at St. John Arena in Steubenville. The Hawks dropped a close encounter to the Terry Snively-coached Shadyside Tigers who featured the legendary Ed Andes.

Bell moved onto the head varsity boys job at Riverside High in 1979, taking his wife closer to her hometown of Willoughby South. Six years later, he accepted the head boys post at his wife's alma mater, winning sectional crowns in 1989 and 1992.

In 1998, Bell found his way to his current home at Kirtland High. He guided the Hornets' jayvee girls for three years before assuming the head post in 2001, and a successful and lengthy marriage was formed.

Bell, now age 69, has won nearly 300 games as Kirtland's head man. In addition, his Hornets have pocketed 12 sectional crowns and a district title in 2005.

"Looking back, there are a lot of great memories. The district game with Shadyside is one. Andes shot the ball amazingly," Bell noted. "Our 2005 Kirtland team also stands out. We went to the regionals and lost to Lowellville in double-overtime.

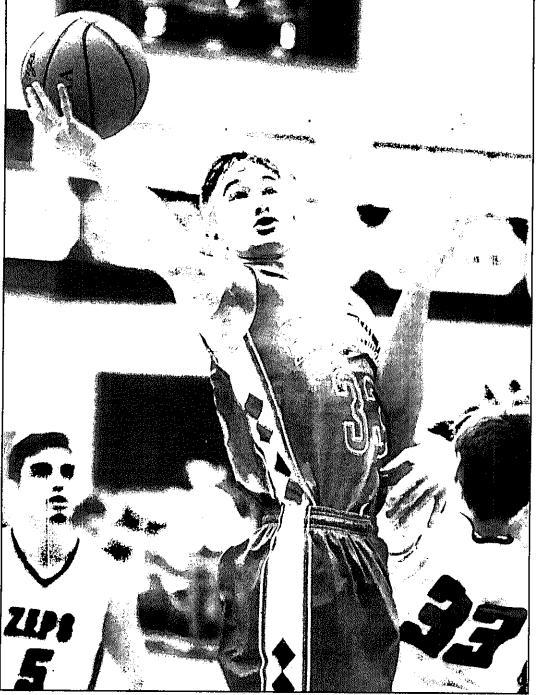
"It has been great times at Kirtland. This is a great place with an administration 100 percent behind us with super youth programs," he added. "I also have really enjoyed coaching girls after coaching boys for 27 years. I find girls more eager to learn and more coachable with less attitude problems.

Bell also played baseball at Kent State, in addition to hoops. One of his diamond teammates has turned into a legendary coaching

"Nick Saban was our shortstop. He was a good defensive back on the football team,' Bell said. "But he was also a pretty good shortstop. Nick was a great competitor.

Bell met his wife Cindy at Kent State. By RICK THORP They have five doughters and 10 amended-

VVHEELING MOSPITAL UVAU BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



**BARNESVILLE'S** LUKE Powell splits a pair of Shenandoah players as he sails to the basket Saturday morning during the Class 3A championship game at Ohio University Eastern. Powell scored a game-best 33 points as the Shamrocks held off the Zeps, 58-54, for the title.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

## 'Rocks stave off Zeps

#### Barnesville captures first-ever boys basketball championship

By SETH STASKEY

Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE History has been made.

For the first time in school history, the Barnesville Shamrocks are celebrating an OVAC Championship in boys basketball.

Like head coach Matt Johnson expected, it wasn't easy

Barnesville watched a 13-point, fourth-quarter lead dwindle to as few as two twice in the final two minutes, but managed to hit just enough foul shots to pull out a 58-54 victory over top-seeded Shenandoah in Saturday morning's opening game at

Ohio University Eastern.

"I am glad to see this group do it," a relieved Johnson said.

we talked - about getting we've done and we talked about ....." and then if we could get in, we felt like we had a

good chance." The Shamrocks' path to the title was by no means an easy one. Barnesville didn't lock up its bid until it defeated Union Local on the cut-off day. It then went to Fort Frye on Tuesday for a win in the

semifinals and then had to

deal with a Zeps' team that is now 18-4.

"That's not an easy path to These kids have embraced take, but we always like our everything we've done and

"I AM glad to see this group do it. A reason for since day one These kids have embraced everything that optmism is because Barnesville has junior

Matt Johnson standout Bamesville head coach Powell on its

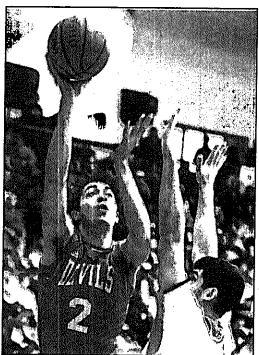
team. The all-Ohio candidate delivered in a big way once again After scoring 33 points and grabbing 18 rebounds at Fort Frye, Powell was huge once again. He scored 32 points and yanked down 11 rebounds en route to winning the John Howell

"We came out, did what we needed to do and took care of business," Powell said. "I couldn't be more proud of

While Powell had the hot hand in the first and third quarters when he scored 28 of his total, it was senior Tate Dowler who delivered late. In the second quarter, Ayden Hannahs buried a pair of corner treys that knotted the game at 27 at halftime.

"Those threes that Ayden hit were huge to get us tied because if those don't go in, it might have slipped away from us a little bit," Johnson said. "Tate came through down the stretch, too."

See, 'ROCKS, Page C5



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Craig Bober shoots during Saturday's game at OUE.

## Meadowbrook defeats St. Clairsville for 4-peat

Luke

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The fourpeat is complete.

Meadowbrook used its stingy defense and plenty of timely plays from leaders Davis Black and Johnathan McCall in the fourth quarter to hold off third-seeded St. Clairsville to claim the 4A title, 58-48, Saturday afternoon in the Wheeling Hospital

"There was some pressure (to win the fourth straight)," Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "It's hard to do. I am an OVAC guy and this is important. We didn't jump up and down and celebrate a whole lot because it's kind of like business as usual for our guys, but this never gets old."

OVAC Boys Basketball Champion-

ships at Ohio University Eastern.

Meanwhile, the Red Devils are now 2-6 in the conference title game in the 12-year history of the event.

"We knew what we were up against here," St. C. rookie head coach Ryan Clifford said. "For the most part, I thought we played well, but a couple of bad spurts really hurt us.'

Like they have for much of the season, the Colts did it their way and that's with defense. The Red Devils were held 29 points under their average and shot 16-of-53 from the field.

We locked in (defensively)," Tolzda said. "Hats off to our guys. We used a tweet we saw as motivation. I kept repeating to our kids 'what's going to give in?' We

As St. C. head coach Ryan Clifford pointed out, the Colts don't only play defense with their defense. Their more patient offensive approach also helps See, 4-PEAT, Page C5

OHIO VALLEY UNSUNG HEROES

#### Bowling truly a labor of love for Holubeck family would he have been the nitty, gritty weeds, smoothly. It's a labor of love.



#### 4-Peat

Continued from Page B1 to hold the tempo in their

"Their defense is good "Their defense is good and they slow you down on offense," Clifford said.
"They actually guard you it out on us to 10 at half and they slow you down on offense," Clifford said.
"They actually guard you it out on us to 10 at half and they slow we couldn't said."
"We knew we couldn't said as slow on their shoot." on offense," Clifford said. experience. They stretched it out on us to 10 at half and we just really couldn't get it shooters," Tolzda said. "They any closer." down, we spurted, but it it was senior Davis Black.

Meadowbrook grabbed a with 24 points. 17-11 lead after one quarter and was seemingly in the fourth. control throughout. The lead

McCall, who earned the lead and couldn't get over made a few more plays than John Howell MVP honors. the hump to break them, but we did," Clifford said. He scored seven consecu- we were in control. When tive points to really put the we needed a bucket, we got now 15-6, will close out

"They made every big greatly enhanced by the basket that they needed," aforementioned defense Clifford said. "They're which almost limited the

seemed to always revert The future University of Charleston football player led all scorers in the game

He had nine of those in

was 10 at half and nine after three.

It swelled to as many as Johnathan down low was big and put some pressure on the form of 16 in the fourth thanks to for us. We got the 10-point them in the end, but they

If McCall wasn't scoring, have guys who can knock them down and it's boom, boom, boom real quick.

The Red Devils were led by senior standout Craig Bober.

He had yet another double-double with 19 points

their regular season at Indi-The Colts' offense was an Creek on Tuesday.

#### • 'Rocks

Continued from Page B1

The Shamrocks saw their free throws could cost you as close as one when sophlead swell to 49-36 with something you've dreamed omore Christian Duniver

Zeps' run by missing its ah's Kendal Sherman con-

"I was thinking to myself, one going to the bucket, but added eight. both teams have worked Cade Denius answered that. so hard and something like

Shenandoah actually got Boone Jones' 15.

about four minutes to play, about," Johnson confessed. drove to the bucket for anbut the Zeps - over the "Luckily, we made enough other easy one, but Dowline in a row.

Dowler finally stopped foul shots and then the final bucket of the game.

Dowler finally stopped bucket of the game. er iced the game with two

first seven foul shots of the nected on a trey, making it points to complement Pow-Dowler finished with 16 52-50. Dowler got an easy ell's production. Hannahs

Shenandoah was led by

Kapral Column/C2 1A, 4A OVAC/C3 WVU-Kansas/C5 OVAC HOF/C7

## **Central Claims 7th Straight OVAC Championship**

#### Maroon Knights Hold Off Toronto Rally

By JOSH STROPE Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Winning OVAC titles has been a staple at Wheeling Central.

Saturday's 63-53 victory against Toronto at Ohio University Eastern in the Class 2A championship was the school's seventh straight.

The real story was how the Maroon Knights did it and just how far this team has matured.

Wheeling Central (17-4) was dominant from the opening tipoff, racing out to an 18-3 advantage after one quarter against a talented Toronto squad.

But the Red Knights didn't go away. They chipped at the lead. Made big runs and put the Maroon Knights on their heels.

When Toronto (19-2) had the deficit cut to one early in the fourth, the Maroon Knights didn't panic. They stuck together and made play after play down the stretch.

"We just have a bunch of kids that are willing to do whatever it takes," Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens said. "It doesn't matter who get the points. They just want to be successful. They feed off each other. "I thought Ryan (Reasbeck) made some hig shots. Anthony (Robbins)

some big shots. Anthony (Robbins) made a big difference. We knew coming in that Toronto was a very tough team, well-coached and they have come from behind a lot this year. I kept telling the kids that it year. I kept telling the kids that it doesn't matter what kind of lead we had, (Toronto) was going to come back and make a run.

"They did and we never relinquished that lead. We were able to make some big plays when we really needed to down the stretch. I think it shows we have matured through the year. We have been in some big games and the kids had that confidence in each other."

Wheeling Central, which won its 27th OVAC boys' basketball title in school history, never trailed.

Please see Central, Page C3



Wheeling Central's Anthony Robbins drives to the basket while Toronto's Lucas Gulczynski defends during the OVAC 2A title game Saturday evening at Ohio University Eastern.

#### ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos of the OVAC boys championship matchups at www.theintelligencer.net



Photo by Paul Krajnyak Wheeling Park's Keondre' King attemps a shot while University's Mike Maumbe defends during the 5A title game at Ohio University Eastern.

## **Park Comeback Attempt Falls Short in 5A Tilt**

Hawks Capture 3rd Straight

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After having split the previous two meetings, the rubber match between Wheeling Park and University was Saturday at Ohio University Eastern for the OVAC Class 5A title.
Wheeling Park (12-6) found itself down by as many as 15 in the second half, rallying to cut it to five.
But in the end, University made the plays it had to, winning its third straight OVAC championship with a 63-53 victory.

63-53 victory.

"Hats off to University, they are obviously one of the best teams in the state," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "We got into some foul trouble in the state of the said that got us into a little bit of a hole bethe first half and that got us into a little bit of a hole being down 12. Our guys kept fighting, hustled all over the floor. We didn't have our best offensive game but we finally got a few shots to go down.

Please see Park, Page C2

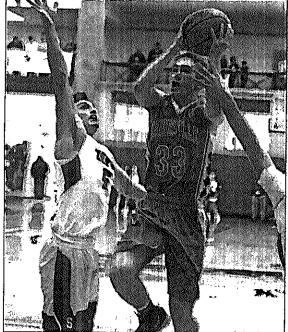


Photo by Paul Krajnyak Barnesville's Luke Powell (33) goes in for a layup while Shenandoah's Boone Jones defends.

## Barnesville Secures 3A Title

#### First Championship For Boys Basketball

By SETH STASKEY For the News-Register

first time in school history, the Barnesville Shamrocks are celebrating an OVAC Championship in boys' basketball.

Like Shamrocks coach Matt Johnson expected, it wasn't easy either.

Barnesville watched a 13-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to as few as two twice in the final two minutes, but managed to hit just enough foul shots to pull out a 58-54 victory over top-seeded Shenandoah in Saturday morning's opening game at Ohio University Eastern.

"I am glad to see this group do it," a relieved Johnson said. "These kids have embraced everything we've a relieved Johnson said." It rebounds en route to will John Howell MVP Award.

that is now 18-4. 'That's not an easy path to take, but we always like our chances,"

then had to deal with a Zeps' team

Johnson said. A reason for that optimism is because Barnesville has junior standout Luke Powell on its team. The All-Ohio candidate delivered in a big 11 rebounds en route to winning the

done and we talked — since Day 1
— about getting into the top four and then if we could get in, we felt like Powell said. "I couldn't be more we had a good chance."

we had a good chance."

The Shamrocks' path to the title was by no means an easy one.
Barnesville didn't lock up its bid unscored 28 of his points, it was senior ST. CLAIRSVILLE - For the til it defeated Union Local on the cut- Tate Dowler who delivered late. In off day. It then went to Fort Frye on the second quarter, Ayden Hannahs Tuesday for a win in a semifinal and buried a pair of corner 3-pointers that knotted the game at 27-27 at half-

> "Those 3s that Ayden hit were huge to get us tied because if those don't go in, it might have slipped away from us a little bit," Johnson said. "Tate came through down the stretch, too.

The Shanrocks saw their lead way again After scoring 33 points swell to 49-36 with about four minand grabbing 18 rebounds at Fort utes to play, but the Zeps — over the Frye, Powell was huge again. He next two minutes — scored nine in a scored 32 points and yanked down row.

Please see Barnesville, Page C3

## **Knights in Tourney Driver's Seat**

By CODY TOMER Staff Writer WHEELING - Wheel- goals and an assist. ing Central put itself in the

the rest of the game. The forward finished with four

In the crease, it was sedriver's seat on Saturday. nior Jacob Laurine making



## Morgantown **Makes Statement Against Linsly**

By CODY TOMER

Quintin Smith paved the

# Buckeye 8 Legacy By KIM NORTH For the News-Register MORRISTOWN — Beaver Local's senior class completed a four peat Saturday Buckeye 8 Legacy they've wrestled this year," Ware said. "This is where Drake needs to be right now for sectionals." Dobson recorded three

pleted a four-peat Saturday inside 'The Hangar' at Union Local High School.

The Beavers, despite not having several standouts in their lineup, had eight champions and racked up 338.5 points to continue their stranglehold on the Buckeye 8 Conference wrestling tournament. St. Clairsville finished a distant second with 216. Indian Creek was third with 167, Martins title. Ferry next at 141 and Buckeye Local rounded out the Top 5 with 136.

Four individuals repeated as titlists. They included Beaver Local's Cole McComas (132) who won as a freshman two years ago; the Beavers' Logan Krulik (160) who prevailed at 152 a year ago; Buckeye Lo-cal's Shayne Christian (182); and Martins Ferry's Drake double overtime. Dobson (195).

Riders senior leader, he earned an 8-6 decision over rival Derek Witsberger for his back-to-back crown. Dob-son secured a trio of 2-point takedowns for the victory, his third in four tries against

the Red Devils junior.
"This one feels a lot better than last year," Dobson said. 'Last year I didn't have an arch-nemesis to say. This is the fourth time we've met this year. he got me at the St. Clairsville Tournament, but I've got him three times

Dobson also defeated Witsberger twice in the OVAC Ron Mauck Championships, including in the

third-place bout.
"Taking shots," Dobson said as the key to victory. "That's all we do for 40 minutes straight in practice. Shots. Shots and more shots. That's what the coaches preach from the (matside) chairs.

First-year Martins Ferry coach Chad Ware was impressed with Dobson.

'He wrestled well today. It's been close every time Golden Bears with 14 points.

Dobson recorded three pins prior to the finals in a total of 82-seconds.

Christian scored a major decision over Martins Ferry's Richard McFarland, 11-2, in the final pool round, but had to wait until Harrison Central's Blayne Erwin knocked off St. Clairsville's James Dobbs, 2-1, before he realized his

Other Panthers claiming championships were fresh-man Trevor Herbert (106) and senior Charles Smith (170).

Smith was paired with Martins Ferry's Kameron Hughes for the second time on the day, and for the second time, he won by a narrow 2-1 count, this time in

obson (195). The Red Devils' Koen For Dobson, the Purple Kish (120) continued his solid sophomore season with three pins and a technical fall over Bellaire's Jo-

seph Bonfini in the finals.
"He looked good in the finals. He's looking to score more from his feet," St. Clairsville coach Joel Sansone said. "When he's on top, he's been turning every-

Beaver Local's champions, in addition to McComas and Krulik, included Landon Landfried (113), Dorian Jackson (126), Jonathon Potts (138), Devon Salsberry (145), Christian Lerussi (160) and Daniel Wirth (285).

East Liverpool's Skylor Wooley (220) rounded out the champions.

#### Girls Basketball W.Va. Class AA Region One Section, One Weir 54, Oak Glen 30

CUMBERLAND Sophia Mikula tallied 18 points while Isabella Aperfine netted 14 as Weir defeated Oak Glen.

Reece Enochs paced the

#### ENTRAL

Continued from Page CI

The Maroon Knights while Robbins and Clayton scored the final 14 points of Abate each scored 10. the first quarter and looked to be in cruise control.

But Toronto was the No. 1

seed for a reason. ing Karaffa's buzzer-beating (Mills) for us to win out like layup at the end of the third this. We want to keep this gounree at 4 /-44

After nearly three scoreless back and win this. minutes to open the fourth, Toronto was able to get within in the fourth, but we calmed one twice at 47-46 and 49-48. down. (On the steal), I saw

the game.

After teammate J.C. Maxhustled to snare the long rebound and dribbled out past the 3-point line.

With an open look, the senior leader drained the shot to put Wheeling Central back up

After a missed Toronto Toronto possession, Robbins got a good break on a pass, took it the distance for a layup while also getting fouled. He hit his free throw for a threepoint play, the icing on a cruing Central trophy case.

Robbins earned the John Howell Most Valuable Player Award.

"This means everything Led by Nate Karaffa, the to us, especially to me be-Red Knights cut the deficit cause I am a senior," Robbins to 10 at halftime and follow- said. "Me and Bray and Dom quarter, Toronto was down ing and make the younger kids have to work hard to come

With four minutes remain- (Karaffa) look out of the coring, Wheeling Central's Bray ner of his eye and I cheated Price made maybe the play of over. I went for it and that was

Karaffa had a stellar game, well missed a 3-pointer, Price leading all scorers with 22 points, 18 coming during the middle quarters to get the Red Knights out of their hole. Trillion West added 10.

"We came out and played very slow," Toronto coach Sean Tucker said. "We were very prepared for the game, shot, Reasbeck hit a basket on but we just weren't ourselves the other end. On the ensuing in the first quarter. When you play against Wheeling Central, as good as they are, you can't come out that slow.

"We didn't attack the glass the way we worked on and give (Wheeling Central) cial 8-0 run that helped to eredit. We have been a team ensure another OVAC trophy would be joining the Wheel-bounding war and we didn't (Saturday) and it showed. The "(Price's play) was huge," game didn't come down to the Stephens said. "You can look back on a lot of his plays  $\Delta n_{-}$  the first quarter Scoring three

## Beavers Build On | Cameron Halted by Trinity

#### Warriors Top Dragons for Class 1A Title

By JOSH STROPE Sports Editor ST. CLAIRSVILLE

Trinity Christian captured its second straight OVAC Class 1A title and third in four years with a 59-42 victory against Cameron on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

If you just looked at the box score, you would think Cameron was no match for the Warriors, ranked No. 7 in the latest

W.Va. Class A poll.

But Cameron coach

Tom Hart sees things a lit-

tle differently.

"When we played them the first time, they beat us pretty bad over there,' Hart said of the 88-57 setback on Jan. 15. "They had their way with us. This time, it wasn't anything they did, it was more us doing it to ourselves

this time.
"I thought we had a good game plan coming in both offensively and defensively, but when we stepped outside of that game plan, that is when we made our mistakes and we didn't execute. I think that was a big factor (Saturday).'

lowing an Aidan Lucey 3-pointer. The Warriors preceded to score the next

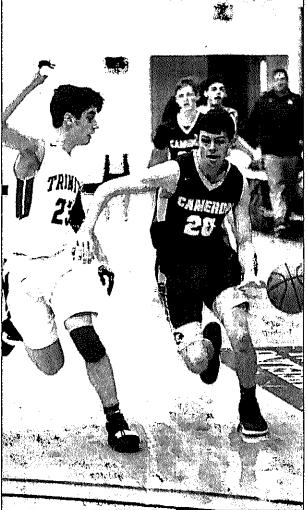


Photo by Paul Krainyak Cameron's Travis Mickey brings the ball down court while Trinity's Logo Zervos defends during the 1A OVAC title game at Ohio University Eastern.

quarters in the first half back and force them to lob Cameron (15-4) took and built an eight-point the ball in. But we also its only lead at 5-4 fol- lead heading into the lock- wanted to limit their tran-

preceded to score the next with Daniel (Woods). "In the first quarter, with the game. We battled seven points to take a lead He is 6-foot-5, 270 we missed several shots they never relinquished. (pounds)," Hart said. "We inside. Same thing in the type of atmosphere will The Warriors held were trying to front him second quarter. We got benefit us coming post-Cameron to single-digit and have help side on the

er room. sition game because they feed off that.

The third quarter, the first three, four minutes, we laid an egg. We started crawling back into it, but they got more transition baskets that put it back into double-digits."

The start of the third quarter was a momentum

swing for the Warriors.

After two free throws by Trinity's Briston Bennett, he then stole the inbounds pass and added a

Another Dragons turnover turned into a basket by Woods and a 30-16 Trinity lead.

"We didn't execute our press break really well," Hart said. "We didn't screen very well and cut very well. Trinity has good defenders and they were able to step in those passing lanes."

The Warriors stretched

their lead to as many as 19 and never let it get closer than 12 the rest of

the way.

The Dragons didn't have a double-digit scorer as Dillon Meintel and Lucey each scored eight to pace Cameron.

Woods scored 15 to lead the Warriors and was named the John Howell Most Valuable Player.

"We are playing in the championship game in a tournament-like atmosphere with one of the top contenders for the state championship," Hart said, "The lack of execution is disappointing, but Trinity didn't run away with the game. We battled to the end and I think this

## **Meadowbrook Secures 4-Peat**

By SETH STASKEY

For the News-Register ST. CLAIRSVILLE -The four-peat is complete.

Meadowbrook used its stingy defense and plenty of timely plays from leaders Davis Black and Johnathan McCall in the fourth quarter to hold off third-seeded St. Clairsville to claim the 4A title, 58-48, Saturday afternoon in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball ed, but it seemed to always re-Championships at Ohio Univert back (to their pace)." versity Eastern.

"There was some pressure (to win the fourth straight)," Meadowbrook coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "It's hard to do. I am an OVAC guy and this is important. We celebrate a whole lot because usual for our guys, but this never gets old." consecutive points to really put the Red Devils in a bind

Meanwhile, the Red Devils are 2-6 in the conference title games in the 12-year history of the event.

up against here," St. C. coach Ryan Clifford said. "For the most part, I thought we played well, but a couple of bad spurts really hurt us.'

Like they have for much of the season, the Colts did it ton football player led all their way and that's with defense. The Red Devils were held 29 points under their average and shot 16 of 53 from

"We locked in (defensively)," Tolzda said, "Hats off Johnathan down low was big to our guys. We used a tweet we saw as motivation. I kept repeating to our kids 'what's going to give in?'

As Clifford pointed out, the Colts don't only play defense with their defense. Their more patient offensive approach also helps to hold the tempo in their favor.

Their defense is good and they slow you down on of-fense," Clifford said. "They actually guard you with their offense, too. The few times we were able to get the game going up and down, we spurt-

Indeed. Meadowbrook grabbed a 17-11 lead after one quarter and was seemingly in control

throughout. The lead was 10 at half and nine after three. It swelled to as many as 16 didn't jump up and down and in the fourth thanks to McCall, who earned the John Howell it's kind of like business as MVP honor. He scored seven

with the score at 48-32. They made every big basket that they needed," Clifford said. " They're good play-'We knew what we were ers with a lot of experience. They stretched it out on us to 10 at half and we just really couldn't get it any closer.'

If McCall wasn't scoring, it was senior Davis Black. The future University of Charlesscorers in the game with 24 points. He had nine of those in the fourth.

"We were able to take advantage of some mismatch-Tolzda said, "Putting for us. We got the 10-point the hump to break them, but real quick." we were in control. When

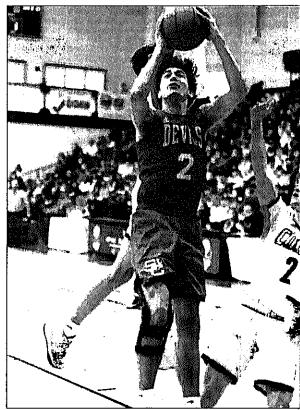


Photo by Paul Krainyak St. Clairsville's David Lane (2) takes a shot during the 4A OVAC championship game against Meadowbrook.

The Colts' offense was greatly enhanced by the defense, which almost limited the Red Devils to just three bonus goals.

fall asleep on their shooters," Tolzda said. "They have guys who can knock them down lead and couldn't get over and it's boom, boom, boom

The Red Devils were led

we needed a bucket, we got a by senior standout Craig bucket." Bober. He had yet another double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Brett Vike added 14.

"I thought we fought hard and put some pressure on "We knew we couldn't them in the end, but they made a few more plays than we did," Clifford said.

The Red Devils, (15-6), will close out their regular season at Indian Creek on Tuesday.

I have privacy –



For Dobson, the Purple Kish (120) continued his Riders senior leader, he earned solid sophomore season an 8-6 decision over rival with three pins and a tech-Derek Witsberger for his nical fall over Bellaire's Jo-back-to-back crown. Dob- seph Bonfini in the finals. son secured a trio of 2-point his third in four tries against the Red Devils junior.

"This one feels a lot better than last year," Dobson said. "Last year I didn't have an arch-nemesis to say. This is the fourth time we've met this year, he got me at the St. Clairsville Tournament, but I've got him three times

Dobson also defeated Witsberger twice in the OVAC Ron Mauck Championships, including in the third-place bout.

'Taking shots," Dobson said as the key to victory. "That's all we do for 40 minutes straight in practice. Shots. Shots and more shots. That's what the coaches preach from the (matside) chairs.

First-year Martins Ferry coach Chad Ware was impressed with Dobson.

'He wrestled well today. It's been close every time Golden Bears with 14 points.

seph Bonfini in the finals.

"He looked good in the takedowns for the victory, finals. He's looking to score more from his feet," St. Clairsville coach Joel Sansone said. "When he's on top, he's been turning every-

> Beaver Local's champions, in addition to McComas and Krulik, included Landon Landfried (113), Dorian Jackson (126), Jonathon Potts (138), Devon Salsberry (145), Christian Lerussi (160) and Daniel Wirth (285).

East Liverpool's Skylor Wooley (220) rounded out the champions.

Girls Basketball W.Va. Class AA Region One Section, One Weir 54, Oak Glen 30

CUMBERLAND Sophia Mikula tallied 18 points while Isabella Aperfine netted 14 as Weir defeated Oak Glen.

Reece Enochs paced the

### ENTRAL

Continued from Page C1

The Maroon Knights while Robbins and Clayton scored the final 14 points of Abate each scored 10. the first quarter and looked to be in cruise control.

But Toronto was the No. 1 seed for a reason.

Red Knights cut the deficit to 10 at halftime and following Karaffa's buzzer-beating layup at the end of the third quarter, Toronto was down three at 47-44.

After nearly three scoreless minutes to open the fourth, Toronto was able to get within one twice at 47-46 and 49-48.

With four minutes remaining, Wheeling Central's Bray Price made maybe the play of the game.

Äfter teammate J.C. Maxwell missed a 3-pointer, Price hustled to snare the long re-bound and dribbled out past

the 3-point line.
With an open look, the senior leader drained the shot to put Wheeling Central back up

After a missed Toronto shot, Reasbeck hit a basket on the other end. On the ensuing Toronto possession, Robbins got a good break on a pass, took it the distance for a layup while also getting fouled. He hit his free throw for a threepoint play, the icing on a crucial 8-0 run that helped to ensure another OVAC trophy would be joining the Wheeling Central management ing Central trophy case.

"(Price's play) was huge,"
Stephens said. "You can look
back on a lot of big plays. Anthony's steal got us a basket. J.C. got a steaf on an inbounds play. Free throws. I tell them all the time you have to make free throws and Ryan was the guy at the line (4 of 6 in the fourth)."

Wheeling Central effort with proud of them and there is a lot 18 points. Price scored 11, to be proud of.

Robbins earned the John Howell Most Valuable Player

But Toronto was the No. 1
ed for a reason.

Led by Nate Karaffa, the ed Knights cut the deficit 10 at halftime and follow10 at halftime and follow
Navard.

"This means everything to us, especially to me because I am a senior," Robbins said. "Me and Bray and Dom (Mills) for us to win out like this. We want to keep this going and make the younger kids have to work hard to come back and win this.

"We were getting nervous in the fourth, but we calmed down. (On the steal), I saw (Karaffa) look out of the corner of his eye and I cheated over. I went for it and that was

Karaffa had a stellar game, leading all scorers with 22 points, 18 coming during the

points, 18 coming during the middle quarters to get the Red Knights out of their hole. Trillion West added 10.

"We came out and played very slow," Toronto coach Sean Tucker said. "We were very prepared for the game, but we just weren't ourselves." but we just weren't ourselves in the first quarter. When you play against Wheeling Central, as good as they are, you can't come out that slow.

"We didn't attack the glass the way we worked on and give (Wheeling Central) credit. We have been a team all year that has won the rebounding war and we didn't (Saturday) and it showed. The game didn't come down to the second half, it came down to the first quarter. Scoring three points, with the team we have, just can't happen.

"This was a good taste for what we need to do in the state tournament. I think our guys are going to be even more hungry to come and play. We Reasbeck led a balanced have resilient guys and we are

#### BARNESVILLE

Continued from Page C1

Zeps' run by missing its answered that. first seven foul shots of Shenandoah the fourth quarter.

"I was thinking to mything like free throws Dowler iced the game could cost you something you've dreamed about," Johnson said. "Luckily, we made enough down the stretch."

Dowler finally stopped the bleeding, but Shenandoah's Kendal Sherman Hannahs added eight. connected on a 3, making it 52-50. Dowler got by Boone Jones' 15 and an easy one going to the Duniver's 14.

Barnesville obliged the bucket, but Cade Denius

Shenandoah close as one when sophomore Christian Duniself, 'both teams have ver drove to the bucket worked so hard and some- for another easy one, but with two foul shots and then the final bucket of the game.

> Dowler finished with 16 points to complement Powell's production.

Shenandoah was led

This time, it wasn't anything they did, it was more us doing it to ourselves this time.

"I thought we had a good game plan coming in both offensively and defensively, but when we stepped outside of that game plan, that is when we made our mistakes and we didn't execute. I think that was a big factor (Saturday)."

lowing an Aidan Lucey er room. 3-pointer. The Warriors



Photo by Paul Krajnyak Cameron's Travis Mickey brings the ball down court while Trinity's Logo Zervos defends during the 1A OVAC title game at Ohio University Eastern.

Cameron (15-4) took and built an eight-point the ball in. But we also its only lead at 5-4 fol- lead heading into the lock- wanted to limit their tranlead heading into the lock- wanted to limit their tran-

preceded to score the next with Daniel (Woods). seven points to take a lead they never relinquished.

The Warriors held were trying to front him cameron to single-digit and have help side on the several shots to the end and I think this type of atmosphere will second quarter. We got benefit us coming post-some looks inside, but we season time."

quarters in the first half back and force them to lob room. sition game because they "It is hard to match up feed off that.

"In the first quarter,

The Dragons didn't have a double-digit scorer as Dillon Meintel and Lucey each scored eight to pace Cameron.

Woods scored 15 to lead the Warriors and was named the John Howell Most Valuable Player.

"We are playing in the championship OVAC game in a tournament-like atmosphere with one of the top contenders for the state championship," Hart said. "The lack of execution is disappointing, but Trinity didn't run away with the game. We battled to the end and I think this

## **Meadowbrook Secures 4-Peat**

By SETH STASKEY For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -The four-peat is complete.

stingy defense and plenty their favor. of timely plays from leaders "Their d Clairsville to claim the 4A title, 58-48, Saturday afternoon in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

"There was some pressure (to win the fourth straight)," Meadowbrook coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "It's hard to do. I am an OVAC guy and this is important. We didn't jump up and down and celebrate a whole lot because it's kind of like business as usual for our guys, but this never gets old.

Meanwhile, the Red Devils are 2-6 in the conference title games in the 12-year history of the event.

"We knew what we were up against here," St. C. coach Ryan Clifford said. "For the most part, I thought we played well, but a couple of bad spurts really hurt us."

their way and that's with defense. The Red Devils were held 29 points under their average and shot 16 of 53 from

"We locked in (defensive-ly)," Tolzda said. "Hats off to our guys. We used a tweet we saw as motivation. I kept repeating to our kids 'what's going to give in?'

As Clifford pointed out, the Colts don't only play defense with their defense. Their more he four-peat is complete. patient offensive approach Meadowbrook used its also helps to hold the tempo in

"Their defense is good and Davis Black and Johnathan they slow you down on of-McCall in the fourth quarter fense," Clifford said. "They to hold off third-seeded St. actually guard you with their offense, too. The few times we were able to get the game going up and down, we spurted, but it seemed to always revert back (to their pace).

Indeed. Meadowbrook grabbed a 17-11 lead after one quarter and was seemingly in control throughout. The lead was 10 at half and nine after three.

It swelled to as many as 16 in the fourth thanks to McCall, who earned the John Howell MVP honor. He scored seven consecutive points to really put the Red Devils in a bind with the score at 48-32

"They made every big bas-ket that they needed," Clifford said. " They're good players with a lot of experience. They stretched it out on us to 10 at half and we just really couldn't get it any closer."

If McCall wasn't scoring, it

was senior Davis Black. The Like they have for much future University of Charles-of the season, the Colts did it ton football player led all scorers in the game with 24 points. He had nine of those in the fourth.

'We were able to take advantage of some mismatch-Tolzda said. "Putting Johnathan down low was big for us. We got the 10-point lead and couldn't get over the hump to break them, but we were in control. When

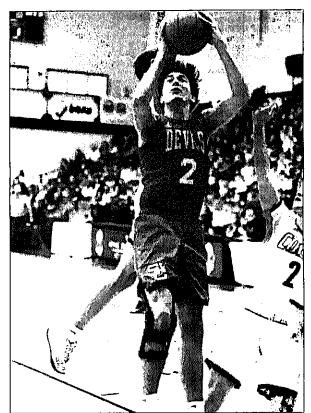


Photo by Paul Krajnyak St. Clairsville's David Lane (2) takes a shot during the 4A OVAC championship game against Meadowbrook.

we needed a bucket, we got a by senior standout Craig bucket.'

The Colts' offense was greatly enhanced by the defense, which almost limited the Red Devils to just three bonus goals.

"We knew we couldn't fall asleep on their shooters," Tolzda said. "They have guys who can knock them down and it's boom, boom, boom real quick.'

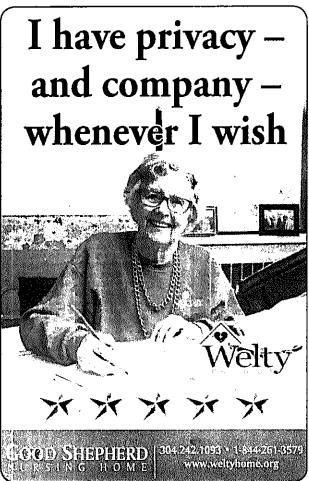
The Red Devils were led

Bober. He had yet another double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Brett Vike ndded 14.

"I thought we fought hard and put some pressure on them in the end, but they made a few more plays than we did," Clifford said.

The Red Devils, (15-6), will close out their regular season at Indian Creek on

e en con la proprieta de la constante de la co





#### CONTINUING THEIR CAREERS

Local student athletes recently signed their letters of intent to continue their football careers/11

# The Intelligencer.

Monday, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Соміся......12 CLASSIFIED......13-16

## OVAC Boys' Tourney Has Tough Act to Follow



JOSH STROPE

**SPORTS EDITOR**  The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championships concluded Saturday at Ohio University Eastern with four exciting finals filled

with incredible performances.
Congrats to University, Beaver
Local, Bellaire, River and Beallsville on capturing titles.

Now it's your turn, fellas. Good luck following that act!
The boys' tournament tips off at gyms across the Ohio Valley on Tuesday for semifinals. The finals are Saturday back at OUE.

Like last week, The Intelligencer,

Times Leader and Herald Star will have you covered on all the action this week.

You can also check out photos from the action on our slideshows at www.theintelligencer.net.

Now, I hate to toot my own horn, but last week, I correctly predicted four of the championship games, as well as four champions.

So naturally you are on the edge of your seats to see who I am predicting to win the boys' titles.

Despite my predictions, good luck to all the teams!

Class 5A
Morgantown at Wheeling Park.
Steubenville at University.

Talk about big-time programs playing big-time games. This is going to be an interesting bracket.

If you would have asked me last week, I would be big time riding the Wheeling Park train. The Patriots were on a roll, but suffered three losses in four days last week.

One of those losses was a road setback to Morgantown in overtime.

The rematch takes place at the Palace on the Hill and Coach Michael

Jebbia will have to get his reeling Patriots ready to take on a Mohigans team that could possibly also stand in their way of making the trip to Charleston for the state tournament.

This is a hard one to predict, but Wheeling Park is too talented to not get it together. Alex Vargo, Keondre' King and De'Vaughn McWhorter make up a solid trio. I am going to pick the Patriots to get off the schneid, hold home court and earn a victory against the Mohigans.

Please see STROPE, Page 11

#### STROPE

#### (Continued from Page 9)

University better be ready for a physical battle when it welcomes Steubenville. Coach Mike Haney's team was at the top of the conference for most of the year before slipping down to the No. 3 seed. And it is not like Big Red went on a free fall. Losses to Wheeling Park and Meadowbrook are nothing to be ashamed

Still, University is a state title contender and I will go with the home team.

That puts the Hawks and Patriots into the middle game Saturday and a rubber match at that. The teams split their meetings with each winning on their home court. This one will be on a neutral court (although much closer for Wheeling Park).

Often when I make these predictions, I go with the best player on the court. That is University's Kaden Metheny.

And if you know how good Vargo and King are, that should tell you something about Metheny. If you haven't seen this young man play, be at OUE at 2 p.m. I predict he takes over in the fourth quarter and the Hawks earn

Final: University 73, Wheeling Park 64

with one final trophy.

Glen 65
Class 3A

Class 4A Of all the semifinal matches

in the tournament, the one I am most interested in is St. Clairsville at Oak Glen. These are two of the most

balanced teams in the valley. Both feature players that can take a game over (St. Clairsville's Matt Busby and Craig Bober, and Oak Glen's Ethan Travis and Sean Smith), as well as extremely talented second options.

I have gone back and forth on this one probably five times. I expect this to come down to one possession, a buzzer-beater, overtime.

When in doubt, go with the home team. Oak Glen escapes.

On the other side, Meadowbrook begins its swan song in the OVAC against East Liverpool. The Colts are leaving the conference after this season and are the three-time defending champions.

They have wins against Steubenville and Wheeling Central. They made a run to the state tournament last season and looked poised to do so again.

The Colts walk out the door

Final: Meadowbrook 79, Oak

porter is there are so many teams in the OVAC to keep track of. Especially some of the ones that are a little farther away that don't report scores to us. That being sald, I know very little about Shenandoah and Fort Frye, the top two teams in Class 3A.

I haven't even come across

them during my referee travels. That makes picking the winner

of this tournament a little tough. Barnesville will oppose Fort Frye in one of the semifinals, while Monroe Central gets top-seeded Shenandoah.

The Shamrocks' Luke Powell is a dynamic scorer. Barnesville athletics director Mark Cook is as good as they come and a Notre Dame fan. And honestly, if I went chalk for every bracket, what fun would this be?

This is my upset pick of the tournament. Barnesville wins its first OVAC title.

Final: Barnesville 59, Shenandoah 57

Class 2A

I think most people would be shocked if top-seeded Toronto and No. 2 seed Wheeling Central weren't playing in the nightcap

the valley.

Still, don't sleep on Wellsville. or Shadyside. I had a chance to referee a

game featuring Wellsville this season, and let me tell you, these guys are as athletic as they come and can jump out of the gym. Shadyside is Shadyside and

most nights they are going to have a chance to win just because of veteran Ed Andes' coaching. (On a side note, congrats to Coach Andes on recently earning win No. 300, joining Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens, who also reached that mark this season).

Not to be boring and like everyone else, but Toronto and Wheeling Central just seem to be on a collision course.

Wheeling Central has won six straight OVAC championships (last year's 3A title, the previous five in Class 2A). It is the defending state champion and looks poised to make another run. In fact, the Maroon Knights just hammered the top-ranked team in W.Va. Class A Notre Dame by 19 points.

No one knows how to prepare his team for big game situations len 65 come Saturday night. like Stephens. And until someone in the OVAC knocks them from that perch, it is hard to go against of the hard things as a re-

them. A wise man once said, "to be the man, you have to beat the

Final: Wheeling Central 61, Toronto 50

#### Class 1A

Last season, Trinity denied Cameron its first boys' basketball championship with a 52-40 victory.

Trinity should have no problem with Frontier, while Cameron must play a game Beallsville squad that will be playing with a lot of emotion following the girls' team's win.

Still, I expect Coach Tom Hart's Dragons to pull through and set up this rematch with the Warriors.

Trinity has won two of the past three titles. The Warriors have an impressive resume this season with a win over Wheeling Central at the Undo's Tournament. Of their five losses, two have come to top-ranked Notre Dame, two to No. 2 Greater Beckley Christian and one to No. 3 and undefeated Webster County.

Another thing the Warriors have is an 88-57 win against Cameron.

Final: Trinity 80, Cameron 67 Josh Strope can be reached at