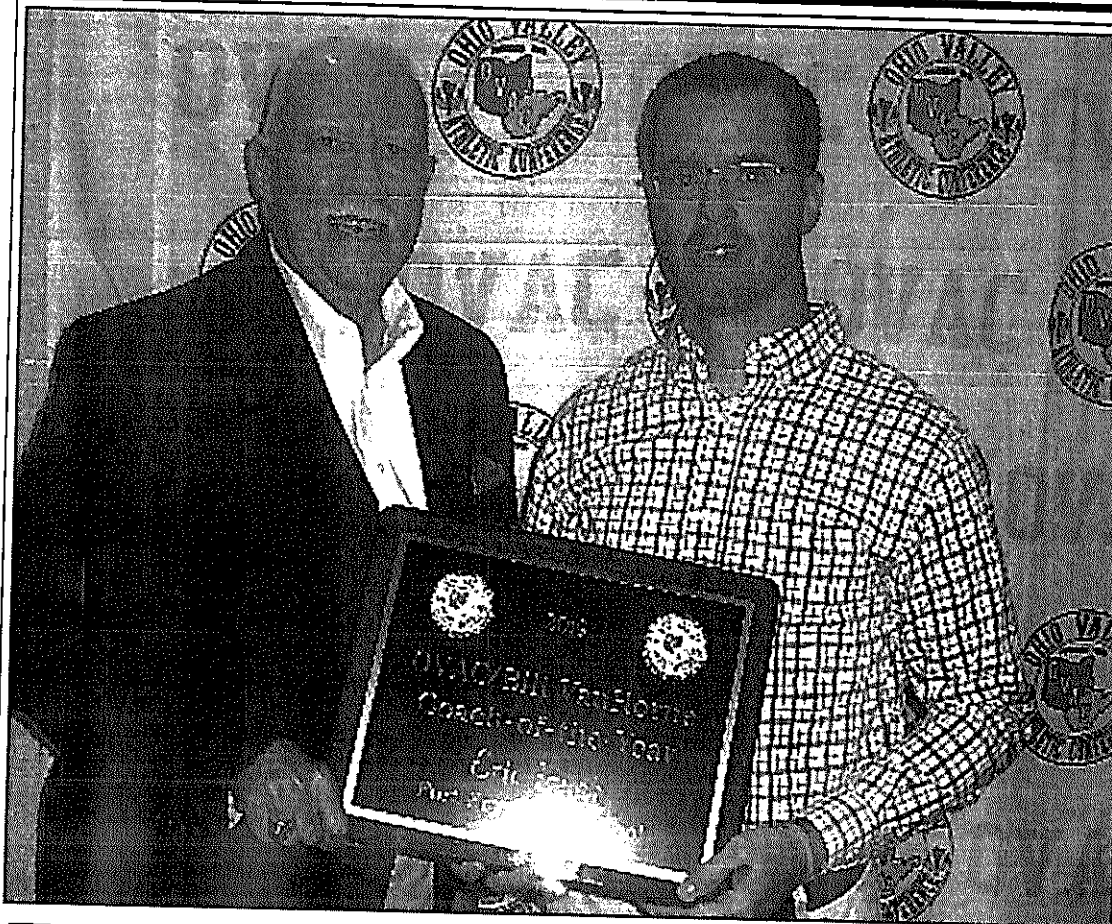


# SPORTS



**FORT FRYE** football coach Eric Huck is presented the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Award from Doug Huff, former sports editor of The Wheeling Intelligencer during Monday night's OVAC Banquet of Champions.

T-L Photo/BUBBA KAPRAL

## Fort Frye's Huck named OVAC COY

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sport Editor

**WHEELING** — Fort Frye has long been known as a basketball school. Eric Huck, however, is changing the sports landscape in Beverly.

Huck has been in charge of the Cadets' football program for 11 years now. During that time, Fort Frye's football fortunes have risen dramatically.

The 2018 grid season proved to be the pinnacle in the school's football annals. Huck led his Cadets to a perfect regular season en route to capturing the OVAC 3A

championship.

It didn't end there.

Fort Frye's dream season carried all the way to the Division VI state semifinals, pocketing three playoffs wins along the way. The Cadets were finally derailed by eventual state champion Kirtland, 35-18.

Such success does not go unnoticed.

Fittingly, Huck was named the recipient of the prestigious OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Award at Monday night's OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena.

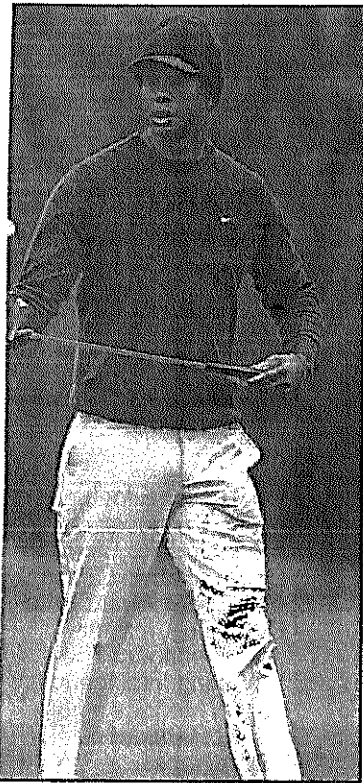
"Winning this award was totally unexpected. With all the great coaches in the

OVAC, it was just an honor to be one of the five finalists," Huck said. "I am very humbled. I want to thank my wife, father-in-law and son for being here (Monday) to share this with me.

"It was a very special season. Three years ago we won our first playoff game. Everything has gotten better since. Winning the regional was a huge achievement for our program."

Earlier this year, Huck, 41, was honored as the Eastern District Coach of the Year. His Cadets were also champions of the Pioneer Valley Conference.

See, **HUCK**, Page B2



AP PHOTO

**PETER WOODS** flips his ball as he tees off along the ninth green during the final round of the PGA Championship golf tournament, Monday at Farmingdale, N.Y.

players who will compete in all three majors, and the only major champions at Bethpage Black so far.

That might be the only thing that no one will ever use his and my name for the same breath," Glover said with a laugh. "But any time you're lumped in with him, it's a pretty good honor. Pretty cool for sure."

Both have gone through some down times, Woods mainly from injury, Glover from the frustrating nature of golf.

It got so bad for Glover that in 2012 – the only time he missed a tournament at Bethpage – he finished at No. 216 on the money list and made it to the final round in only four of the 16 events he played. His last victory was at Quail Hollow in 2011.

"I don't know of anybody that's played this game for a long time that hasn't gone through some ups and downs," Glover said. "I've come out the other side. I haven't won. I haven't accomplished any of my goals. But I've come through it, and there's not much you can do that you can't get through."

Driving into Bethpage State Park felt comfortable for Glover, even under a gray sky that made it seem even colder and wetter than it was. It feels less like the PGA Championship than stops at Riviera and Pebble Beach in the cold, coastal air of California.

But this is where he became a major champion in 2009, and that hasn't left him.

"I'm in every way a different person than 10 years ago, but I can still lean on all of that," he said. "I still get comfortable when I walk into the clubhouse or drive through the gate. It's just that calming feeling. It's almost like how I imagine some guys feel driving down Magnolia Lane at Augusta that have had success there. It's just like an automatic deep breath, like I've done it here. Let's see what we can do again."

For at least a few days, Glover and everyone else will be doing it with a rain suit.

## • Huck

Continued from Page B1

"Going into the season we thought we could do a lot of good things. We talked about it as a team," Huck said. "We only had 30 players but our eight seniors were great leaders."

"The players really believed we could do something special. My staff did a tremendous job. This award really caps a truly special season."

Huck has authored an 88-33 record at the Fort Frye helm while guiding the Cadets to all of their six playoff berths in school history.

Huck and his wife, Joel, have a son, Brendan. He was a senior tight end-linebacker this past fall for the Cadets. They reside in Beverly.

Monday night's four other OVAC Coach of the Year finalists were Ernie Banks (St. Clairsville swimming), Ed West (John Marshall softball), Jordan Williams (Beaver Local wrestling) and Joe Schmidle (University boys basketball).

Also at the banquet, the overall school champions in each classification were announced. They were: Wheeling Park in 5A; St. Clairsville in 4A; Linsly in 3A; Wheeling Central in 2A and Madonna in 1A.

OVAC President Jeff Crosier delivered the closing remarks, paying tribute to Tom Rataiczak. He is stepping down as the conference's OVAC executive director after 20 years in that capacity.

Dirk DeCoy will assume that post July 1. Rataiczak will remain as executive secretary.

## • Beilein

Continued from Page B1

program; not to mention the fact that John Beilein wins everywhere he goes."

From Nazareth College to LeMoyne to Canisius, Richmond, West Virginia and finally to Michigan, Beilein has built a strong reputation for developing young players and teams. He's one of only four coaches to take four schools to the NCAA Tournament, and he leaves Michigan with the most wins in school history.

The deal with Beilein came together quickly in the past 24 hours and was finalized Sunday after the Cavs had spent the weekend in Denver interviewing several NBA assistants. Cleveland is expected to surround Beilein with an experienced staff, and it's possible the team will hire one of the other candidates as an associate head coach.

It took him nearly a decade, but Cavs owner Dan Gilbert finally landed a college coach from Michigan.

Gilbert, who went to Michigan State, had made an unsuccessful overture to Spartans coach Tom Izzo in 2009, and has now plucked Beilein from his alma mater's biggest rival.

"We could not be more thrilled to name John Beilein as the new coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers," Gilbert said. "First, John is a great human being. He cares deeply about his players and others who work for him and around him. ... John is a brilliant basketball mind and last but not least, John Beilein is a winner."

Beilein knows he has to work to do in Cleveland. The Cavs are coming off a stormy 19-63 season that followed LeBron James' departure for Los Angeles as a free agent

innings, including on a balk by Pirates reliever Michael Feliz in the fifth. Josh Bell, Bryan Reynolds and Javy Berra drove in a run each for

Pirates, whose three-game winning streak was stopped. Bell extended his hitting streak to a career high 13 games.

Walker's eighth home run of the season led off the bottom of the seventh, his first since April 22, also

It's Sherfy's second call-up to the majors this season, and he's appeared in parts of three seasons for the Diamondbacks. He entered Monday's game in the seventh and loaded the bases on three straight singles, then struck out the next three Pirates to escape unscathed.

### TRAINER'S ROOM

Pirates: INF Jung Ho Kang was placed on the 10-day injured list with

# Fort Frye's Huck Named OVAC Coach of the Year

## Cadets boss led team to perfect regular season

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sport Editor

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Please see **HUCK**, Page 13

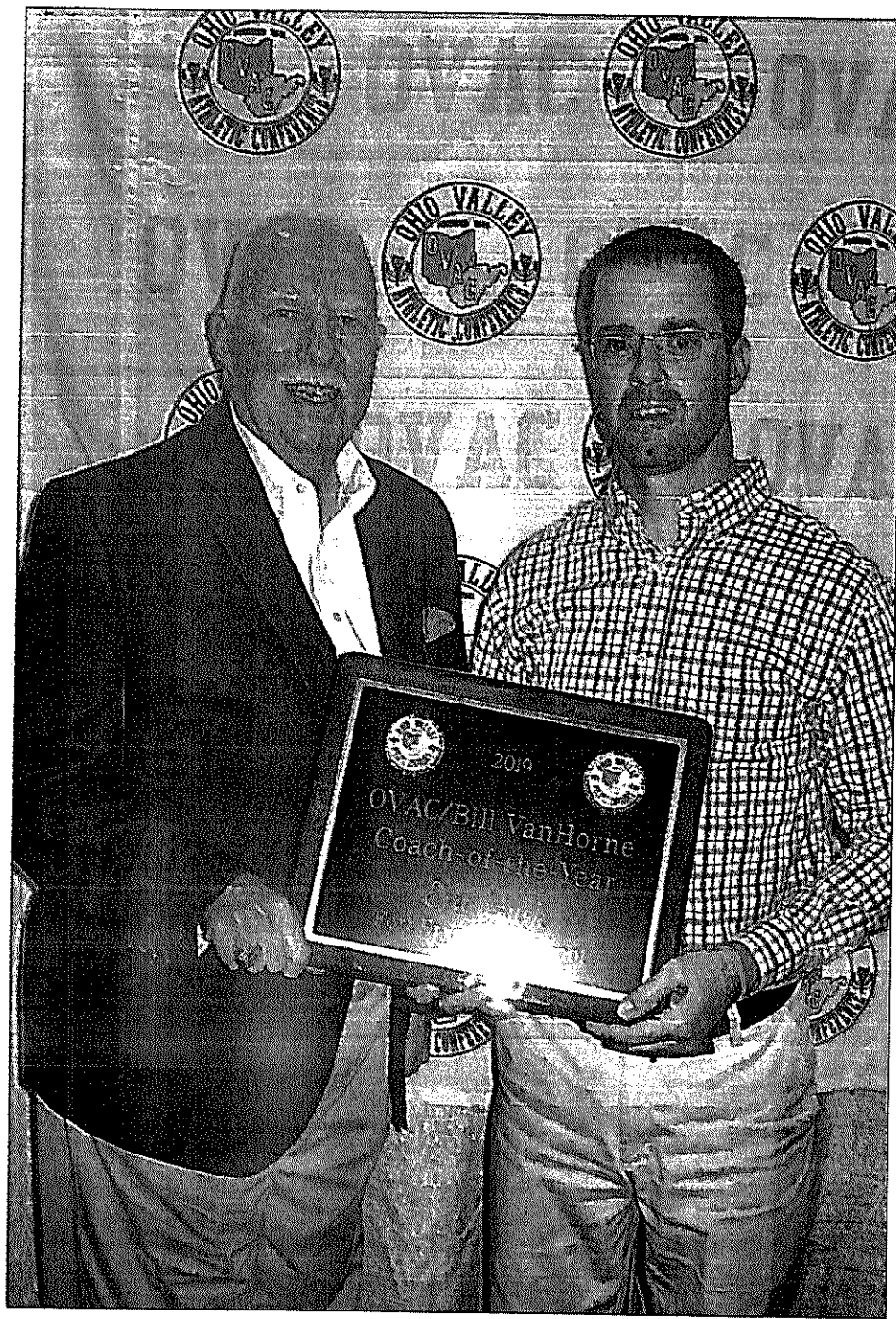


Photo by Bubba Kapral  
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## HUCK

(Continued from Page 11)

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# OVAC Coach of Year Nominees Announced

Winner Will Be Named Monday at WesBanco

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

**WHEELING** — All of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships for the 2018-19 school year have been dispersed.

However, one more big award remains. The OVAC Coach of the Year will be presented Monday evening during the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

The coach of the year honor, which will be given for the 55th consecutive year, is

one of the highest honors an OVAC coach can receive because of the sheer volume of highly successful coaches who compete in the now 52-member conference.

All of the candidates, which stem from the 2018 spring season, fall and winter of this school year, were narrowed to a list of five finalists, all of whom will be recognized during the banquet.

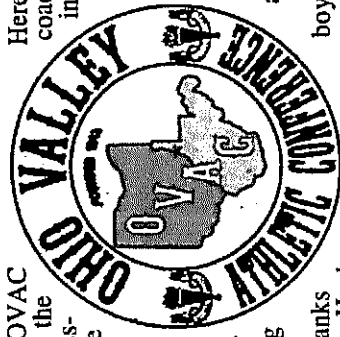
The final five are Ernie Banks (St. Clairsville swimming), Eric Huck (Fort Frye football), Joe Schmidle (University boys basketball), Ed West (John Marshall softball) and Jordan Williams (Beaver Local).

Here's a capsule look at the coach of the year finalists in alphabetical order:

**Ernie Banks, St. Clairsville Swimming** — This Red Devils coach took the reins of the program in 2014 after serving several seasons as an assistant coach.

**The Red Devils** — boys and girls — enjoyed one of their best seasons in the history of the program this past winter.

St. Clairsville swept the Class 1A-4A swim titles and the girls won the over-



all crown, too. St. C. also won the girls' sectional championship and finished fifth in the district, which is a program best.

Actually, no OVAC member had ever finished that high in the district swim championship.

St. Clairsville qualified to the state meet in a program-best five events this season and finished with 23 points at the state meet, fueled by its medley relay team and a state runner-up performance from Casadie DiBetta, who touched the wall second in the 100 breaststroke.

No Ohio-side female has finished that high in the state swim meet.

Please see Coach, Page C2

## COACH

Continued from Page C1

**Eric Huck, Fort Frye Football** — This veteran coach has turned a school long known for its basketball program into a highly respected football school, too.

In 11 years at the helm, Huck has guided the Cadets to an 88-33 record and six school playoff berths. But, it was in 2018 when the Fort achieved its greatest season.

The Cadets won all nine of their regular-season games en route to winning the OVAC Class 3A championship. In the postseason, the Cadets weren't finished.

Prior to this past season, Fort Frye owned only three playoff victories in its school history. Huck and the Cadets equaled that with an impressive run through the Region 23 field, which culminated with an 18-6 victory against Shadyside in the regional championship game.

In the state semifinals, the Cadets fell to eventual Division VI state champion Kirtland, 35-18.

Along with the regional and OVAC title, the Cadets claimed the PVC crown and Huck was named Eastern District Coach of the Year.

**Joe Schmidle, University Boys Basketball** — The Hawks got to the top of the Mountain in the Mountain State this past winter under the fifth-year coach's guidance.

The Hawks finished the season with a strong 24-4 record, claiming the OVAC 5A championship before embarking on a postseason, which saw them win the Class AAA state championship with a 51-45 victory against then undefeated Martinsburg. Schmidle has guided the Hawks to three

consecutive OVAC titles and the state championship was the first in boys hoops in the school's illustrious history.

**Ed West, John Marshall Softball** — This veteran skipper posted one of the most successful seasons in the illustrious history of the Monarch program in 2018.

John Marshall finished the season with an impressive 30-3 record, which saw them advance to the Class AAA state championship game. Both of the JM losses in state tournament came to powerful Hurricane.

The Monarchs finished undefeated against Ohio Valley competition and at one point rode a 21-game winning streak.

En route to Vienna, John Marshall won its seventh consecutive OVAC championship and moved into a share of the conference lead in all-time crowns with 14.

**Jordan Williams, Beaver Local Wrestling** — This ninth-year head coach took the Beavers to impressive heights this past winter.

Williams guided the Beavers to an overall championship at the Ron Mauk OVAC Wrestling Tournament as well as the 4A title after four of his wrestlers claimed individual titles. They claimed the 4A dual title as well and finished 13-2 in duals during the season.

Beyond the Beavers' OVAC success, Williams led his team to its first appearance in the OHSAA Wrestling State Team Tournament where they advanced to the state semifinals before falling.

In the individual tournament, the Beavers won the Division II District Championship and finished 13th in the state tournament with three all-Ohioans, including a state runner-up, Cole McComas.

# SPORTS

Sunday,

May 12, 2019

## OVAC Coach of the Year finalists named

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See, **OVAC**, Page C2

### • OVAC

Continued from Page C1

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