

Scoreboard/B3
Prep Roundup/B4

SPORTS

Monday,
January 21, 2019St. C. sweeps OVAC
swim championships

• Martins Ferry's Bolinger captures two golds

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG — Right when the first horned sounded, it was clear the Wheeling Park and St. Clairsville swimming teams were on a mission.

The Patriots and Red Devils accomplished that mission in dominating fashion as both the Wheeling Park boys' and girls' teams claimed the 5A title, while St. Clairsville hoisted the 1A-4A trophies at the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championships Saturday at Brooke High School.

This is the fourth straight conference title for the Wheeling Park girls and second straight for the boys.

The Brooke girls were runner-ups in the big school while Linsly came in second in the small school.

On the boys side, Parkersburg South got second in 5A and Linsly secured runner-up honors in 1A-4A.

"I think we had some phenomenal times on both the girls and boys team," Wheeling Park coach Pat Durkin said. "We had some PRs and a couple of school records fell. Everybody just stepped up. We knew what we needed to do and the boys scored 503 points. That's a lot of points to score in a meet, so we scored all the way down. I'm really happy with them."

For the Red Devils, it was the second straight year they hoisted the hardware. The

day could not have started any better for the girls' team.

In the first event, Olivia Moyer, Casadie DiBetta, Kylie McKeegan and Maggie Marody swam to a victory in the 200 medley relay in a time of 1:53.20. The time broke every record on paper including the open, pool and conference.

"It set a good tone for the day for the girls and then the boys came back in the medley relay and actually outdid themselves," St. Clairsville coach Ernie Banks said. "Both boys and girls medley, the girls winning was just absolutely starting out the day wonderful."

That set the tone for St. Clairsville as it compiled a total of five more gold medals on the day, including another OVAC record.

DiBetta, a freshman, touched the wall first in the 100 breaststroke, clocking in at 1:05.77.

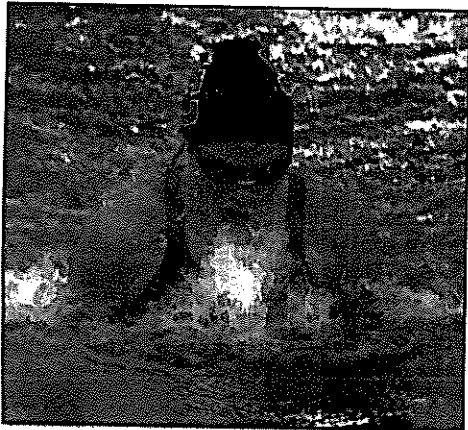
"It was really fun and it was nice doing it with all the support on the team," DiBetta said about breaking the record.

"I was really nervous before, it was really fun doing it and when I looked up, it was a nice feeling."

DiBetta also won the 200 IM (2:15.14) and was also on the first leg of the winning 400 freestyle relay team with Moyer, Marody and Brenna Planey (3:51.68).

"She did. She came out. The girl has been

See, SWIM, Page B2



Photos/KYLE LUTZ

TOP: St. Clairsville's Kylie McKeegan swims her leg of the 200 medley relay as the Red Devils set a pool and OVAC record.

ABOVE LEFT: St. Clairsville's Casadie DiBetta broke an OVAC record in the 100 breaststroke.

ABOVE RIGHT: Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger won a pair of events.

Prep Swimming

OVAC Championships
(at Brooke High School)

Girls

Large School

Wheeling Park 298, Brooke 171, University 150, Morgantown 136, Parkersburg South 134, John Marshall 120, Weir 113, Steubenville 50, Indian Creek 6

Small Schools

St. Clairsville 485, 2. Linsly 285, Martins Ferry 288, Beaver Local 207, Wheeling Central 107, Barnesville 54.5, Edison 51, Steubenville Catholic 17, Union Local 15, Oak Glen 15, Cambridge 9.5

200 Relay: 1. St. Clairsville (Moyer, DiBetta, McKeegan, Marody) 1:53.20; 2. Wheeling Park (Heilman, Bopp, Turner, McCabe) 1:55.89; 3. Martins Ferry (Huber, Williams, Fogle, Wyatt) 2:01.17. 200 Free: 1. Marody (St. C.) 2:02.63; 2. Planey (St. C.) 2:04.02; 3. Rice (Uni) 2:04.48. 200 IM: 1. DiBetta (St. C.) 2:15.14; 2. Bopp (WP) 2:19.41; 3. Moore (Mar) 2:21.65. 50 Free: 1. Turner (WP) 24.92; 2. McCutchan (Uni) 25.62; 3. Garan (WC) 25.78. 100 Butterfly: 1. Heilman (WP) 1:00.10; 2. Moyer (St. C.) 1:00.90; 3. McCutchan (Uni) 1:01.95. 100 Free: 1. Turner (WP) 54.43; 2. Garan (WC) 57.00; 3. Bull (Lin) 59.02. 500 Free: 1. Marody (St. C.) 5:20.77; 2. Moore (Mar) 5:30.10; 3. Mann (Bro) 5:33.95. 200 Free Relay: 1. Wheeling Park (Heilman, McCabe, Bopp, Turner) 1:46.53; 2. St. Clairsville (Planey, Smith, Thomas, McKeegan) 1:47.98; 3. Linsly (Fidantour, Bern, Lei, Bull) 1:49.92. 100 Backstroke: 1. Heilman (WP) 1:00.10; 2. Moyer (St. C.) 1:03.26; 3. Lei (Lin) 1:06.33. 100 Breaststroke: 1. DiBetta (St. C.) 1:05.77; 2. Bopp (WP) 1:07.66; 3. Rice (Uni) 1:15.73. 400 Free Relay: 1. St. Clairsville (DiBetta, Moyer, Planey, Marody) 3:51.68; 2. Martins Ferry (Huber, Fogle, Williams, Wyatt) 4:04.74; 3. Parkersburg South (Ott, Boothe, Meredith, Fink) 4:17.12.

Boys

Large School

Wheeling Park 503, Parkersburg South 323, Brooke 180, University 173, Morgantown 149, John Marshall 117, Weir 102, Steubenville 89, Indian Creek 22

Small School

St. Clairsville 334, Linsly 274, Martins Ferry 154, Beaver Local 91, Wheeling Central 65, Cambridge 36, Edison 35, Barnesville 28, Oak Glen 6

200 Relay: 1. Parkersburg South (McDuff, Parr, Rojo Sato, Fletcher) 1:48.74; 2. Wheeling Park (D. Kuttan, Dague, Kellas, M. Kuttan) 1:47.94; 3. Linsly (Kang, Zwicker, Yuan, Suchozka) 1:51.71. 200 Free: 1. McDuff (PS) 1:51.00; 2. Lucas (WP) 1:53.62; 3. Yost (St. C.) 1:56.05. 200 IM: 1. Schellhase (WP) 2:09.24; 2. McCutchan (Uni) 2:09.33; 3. Banks (St. C.) 2:10.06. 50 Free: 1. McDuff (PS) 22.98; 2. Marling (St. C.) 23.36; 3. Gresak (Mar) 23.97. 100 Butterfly: 1. 1. Rojo Sato (PS) 53.63; 2. Marling (St. C.) 1:00.13; 3. Kellas (WP) 1:00.28. 100 Free: 1. Bolinger (WF) 49.32; 2. Lucas (WP) 49.87; 3. Miller (Ed) 54.25. 500 Free: 1. McCutchan (Uni) 5:04.78; 2. Schellhase (WP) 5:05.43; 3. Banks (St. C.) 5:11.67. 200 Free Relay: 1. Wheeling Park (Dague, Schellhase, M. Kuttan, Lucas) 1:37.23; 2. Linsly (Yuan, Kang, Suchozka, Zwicker) 1:38.07; 3. Stewart, Banks, Yost, Marling) 1:38.17. 100 Backstroke: 1. Rojo Sato (PS) 55.50; 2. Yost (St. C.) 59.40; 3. D. Kuttan (WP) 1:00.08. 100 Breaststroke: 1. Bolinger (WF) 1:02.43; 2. Power (Stev) 1:03.99; 3. Dague (WP) 1:05.60. 400 Free Relay: 1. Parkersburg South (McDuff, Rojo Sato, Haught, Fletcher) 3:31.23; 2. Wheeling Park (Schellhase, Dague, M. Kuttan, Lucas); 3. St. Clairsville (Balcar, Banks, Yost, Marling) 3:36.95.

OVAC Record

Swim

Continued from Page B1

"She did. She came out. The girl has been sick all week and soldiering through," Banks said about DiBetta. "She's got some pretty hard cheerleading practices going on also. She came in tired, came in sick and was still able to do what she did. I'm real proud of her."

Another impressive feat that was accomplished was by Wheeling Park's Sarah Heilman in the 100 butterfly. While she didn't set a record, she did complete the sweep in the event, winning it for the fourth time in as many tries when she touched the pad in 1:00.10.

"I'm really happy about that," Heilman said. "I was so nervous this whole week about the 100 fly because I wasn't seeded to win it this year and I really wanted to

be a four-time champion in it. So, I was just really happy about it."

Heilman secured another individual gold medal in the 100 backstroke as she clocked in at 1:00.10.

She was also on the winning 200 freestyle relay team with Melina McCabe, Jenna Bopp and Abby Turner (1:46.53).

"Sarah has been an outstanding swimmer for the last four years," Durkin said. "She's a competitor. When she gets on the blocks, she's going to win. You can tell she wants to win."

Turner also won two individual events for the Patriots in the 50 freestyle (24.92) and 100 freestyle (54.43).

On the boys side for Wheeling Park, Charles Schellhase claimed the lone individual victory that came

down to the final stretch.

Seeded No. 3 in the final heat of the 200 IM, his qualifying time was about eight seconds behind the top seed. However, Schellhase let his work do all the talking as he edged out University's Frank McCutchan by a fingernail as he clocked in at 2:09.24 compared to McCutchan's 2:09.33.

"Chuckie had an outstanding meet. He dropped time in both individual events," Durkin said. "He stepped up and that just gives me a lot of hope and faith in him in the next couple of weeks."

A similar incident occurred during the 200 freestyle relay as Wheeling Park foursome of Schellhase, Alexander Dague, Manaved Kuttan and Caleb Lucas won the gold on the final stretch in 1:37.23.

Marody also claimed two individual titles for St. Clairsville in the 200 freestyle (2:02.63) and 500 freestyle (5:20.77).

"It's a good streak to have," Banks said about winning two conference championships in a row. "These kids train hard. They work hard and I hope they enjoy this. I hope they enjoy this moment. Team-wise, we did great, but individual-wise, each and every one of these kids that swam (Saturday), all of them had a tremendous swim."

Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger claimed two gold medals.

The junior first won the 100 freestyle in a time of 49.32.

He followed that up with a victory in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.43).

The picks are in. Who will be playing for the Super Bowl?/12

Wheeling Park, St.C. Hope to Hold on to Crowns

OVAC swim meet is Saturday at Brooke

By KYLE LUTZ Staff Writer

WHEELING — When it comes to swimming invitations, the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship always provides prep swim fans with exciting races. That will certainly be the case again when the swimmers get in the pool Saturday morning at Brooke High School as Meet Director Bill Brubaker feels there could be many records that could fall.

"They're quite good across the board. The top seeds are in with very good swims," Brubaker said about the qualifying times. "And it looks like it's going to be a very good meet.

"I think we'll see several records go by the boards on Saturday."

In 2018, it was a clean sweep for both the big school and small school as the Wheeling Park boys and girls won the 5A division while St. Clairsville claimed the

1A-4A titles.

For the Patriots, it was the third consecutive title for the girls' team, while the boys' team hoisted the hardware for the first time since 2009.

With a reigning champion returning in four events, Wheeling Park coach Pat Durkin feels confident about this year's squads, but knows that they'll have to put in the work.

"Last year, our boys team was young. We were made up of a bunch of juniors," Durkin said. "They swam really well. This year, they're all back, they're older, they're swimming much better and look like ready to repeat.

"The core is still there. We lost some girls to graduation. The younger kids, (Abby) Turner, (Jenna) Bopp and (Sarah) Heilman, they're still there. And we got some other seniors and juniors that can add to the mix. We'll be in the hunt overall. It's going to take some work to catch St. Clairsville. Their girls team is loaded this year."

That may be an understatement.

Please see CROWNS, Page 9

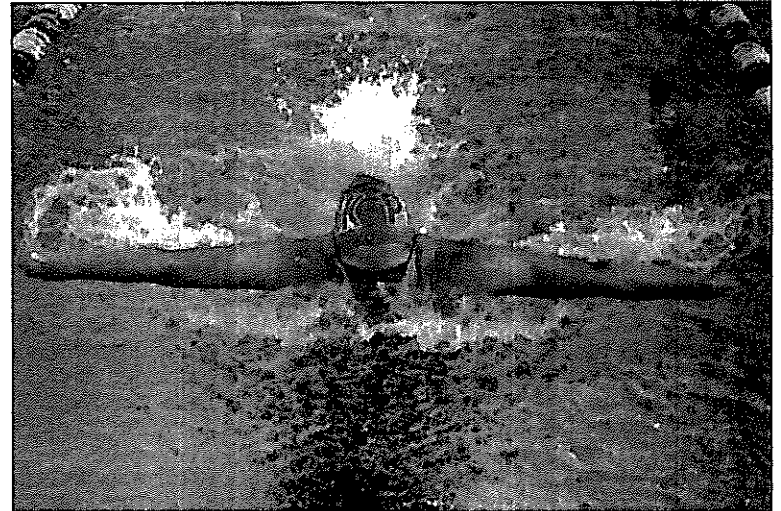


Photo by Cody Tomer Wheeling Park's Sarah Heilman and the Patriots are ready to hit the pool for Saturday's OVAC Championships at Brooke.

CROWNS

(Continued from Page 7)

The Red Devils girls' team returns Maggie Marody, the winner of the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. She won both events last season as a freshman and is the top seed in both events going into Saturday.

"Oh, very impressive. I expect her to repeat it this year," St. Clairsville coach Ernie Banks said about Marody. "We got a brand new pack of freshman that are extremely strong in Kylie McKeegan, Olivia Moyer, Brenna Planey, Casadie DiBetta.

"We're looking for her to break the OVAC record in the 100 breaststroke."

The boys 200 freestyle relay team for St. Clairsville will return every leg from last year's winning squad, too.

"I want to say, the ones that were on the podium last year, they all return except for one senior boy, Michael DiBetta. The boys did lose a lot of point getters, though. We did lose a lot of seniors. It's going to be hard to make up for that," Banks said.

For Park, Heilman claimed two individual titles last year in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. She currently holds the fastest time in the backstroke.

Turner looks to repeat as the 50 freestyle champion as she touched the wall first last year as a freshman.

"Sarah is a real consistent swimmer," Durkin said. "Since her freshman year, she has always been one of our top performers and again she is one of our top performers. She's a hard worker, whatever stroke she decides to swim, I think she'll do well. Every event Sarah swims, whether the two relays or two individual events, she's looking at a really close first- or second-place finish."

Speaking of relays, one of the events of the day will be the 200 freestyle relay on the girls' side. And, of course, the Patriots and Red Devils will clearly be the favorites. With St. Clairsville as the top seed and Wheeling Park the No. 2, the two teams already have some successful history together.

On Jan. 7, the Patriots (Heilman, Bopp, Turner and Melina McCabe) and

of Wheeling Park (500 freestyle), Brooke's Noah Horvath (100 backstroke) and Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger (100 breaststroke).

Other winning relay teams on the boys side from last year include the Beaver Local 200 medley relay and St. Clairsville (200 and 400 freestyle relay).

The reigning girls relay champions are Linsly (200 freestyle) and Wheeling Park (200 medley and 400 freestyle).

"As a team, we would like to repeat. We would absolutely like to repeat," Banks said on goals. "If the cards come out right, then we shall. For the boys, our top point getters, they did all return this year. Between Matthew Marling, Ethan Banks, Adam Balcar and Nate Yost, all four of our top point getters are returning, so we should have a very strong boys, although, we don't have the depth. The girls did lose some point getters, but we lost just as many as we gained..

"I expect the girls to keep steady and the boys, I hope they fight to keep what they had before."

On the girls' side, the Red Devils have 8 of 11 top seeds including the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle (Marody), 200 IM (Casadie DiBetta), 50 freestyle (McKeegan), 500 freestyle (Marody), 200 freestyle relay, 100 breaststroke (Casadie DiBetta) and 400 freestyle relay.

Turner has the top time in the 100 freestyle while Heilman has the fastest time on hold in the 100 backstroke. University's Jacqueline McCutchan holds the top time in the 100 butterfly.

For the boys, Parkersburg South holds six of the fastest times going into Saturday including the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay. Macguire McDuff boasts the No. 1 seed in the 200 freestyle and 50 freestyle, while teammate Jorge Rojo Sato has the top time in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.

Bolinger clocked in the fastest during the season in the (100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke) while Frank McCutchan of University also holds two No. 1 seeds (200 IM and 500 freestyle).

The boys 200 freestyle relay team for St. Clairsville will return every leg from last year's winning squad, too.

"I want to say, the ones that were on the podium last year, they all return except for one senior boy, Michael DiBetta. The boys did lose a lot of point getters, though. We did lose a lot of seniors. It's going to be hard to make up for that," Banks said.

For Park, Heilman claimed two individual titles last year in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. She currently holds the fastest time in the backstroke.

Turner looks to repeat as the 50 freestyle champion as she touched the wall first last year as a freshman.

"Sarah is a real consistent swimmer," Durkin said. "Since her freshman year, she has always been one of our top performers and again she is one of our top performers. She's a hard worker, whatever stroke she decides to swim, I think she'll do well. Every event Sarah swims, whether the two relays or two individual events, she's looking at a really close first- or second-place finish."

Speaking of relays, one of the events of the day will be the 200 freestyle relay on the girls' side. And, of course, the Patriots and Red Devils will clearly be the favorites. With St. Clairsville as the top seed and Wheeling Park the No. 2, the two teams already have some successful history together.

On Jan. 7, the Patriots (Heilman, Bopp, Turner and Melina McCabe) and Red Devils (Casadie DiBetta, McKeegan, Planey and Marody) both broke their respective schools records in the 200 freestyle relay.

"It looks like those two relay teams are set to go at it again," Durkin said. "The difference, I think it was three or four hundredths of a second. Those two teams are going to be going at it and I don't think anybody else in the OVAC is going to touch those teams. I think that's going to be the race of the day. It's going to be fun to watch."

Other champions returning are Charles Schellhase

shall. For the boys, our top point getters, they did all return this year. Between Matthew Marling, Ethan Banks, Adam Balcar and Nate Yost, all four of our top point getters are returning, so we should have a very strong boys, although, we don't have the depth. The girls did lose some point getters, but we lost just as many as we gained..

"I expect the girls to keep steady and the boys, I hope they fight to keep what they had before."

On the girls' side, the Red Devils have 8 of 11 top seeds including the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle (Marody), 200 IM (Casadie DiBetta), 50 freestyle (McKeegan), 500 freestyle (Marody), 200 freestyle relay, 100 breaststroke (Casadie DiBetta) and 400 freestyle relay.

Turner has the top time in the 100 freestyle while Heilman has the fastest time on hold in the 100 backstroke. University's Jacqueline McCutchan holds the top time in the 100 butterfly.

For the boys, Parkersburg South holds six of the fastest times going into Saturday including the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay. Macguire McDuff boasts the No. 1 seed in the 200 freestyle and 50 freestyle, while teammate Jorge Rojo Sato has the top time in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.

Bolinger clocked in the fastest during the season in the (100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke) while Frank McCutchan of University also holds two No. 1 seeds (200 IM and 500 freestyle).

Wheeling Park is the No. 1 seed in the 400 freestyle relay.

"I expect the boys to win overall," Durkin said. "They have enough talent and we have enough kids in all the events seeded high enough that if we don't make any major mistakes, the boys should walk with the overall championship. The girls should win the 5A, but to win the overall, they have a lot of ground to catch against St. Clairsville. That girls' team is one of the gems of the OVAC right now. They're really talented and have some very good swimmers over there."