

OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Park Makes History, Wins First OVAC Title

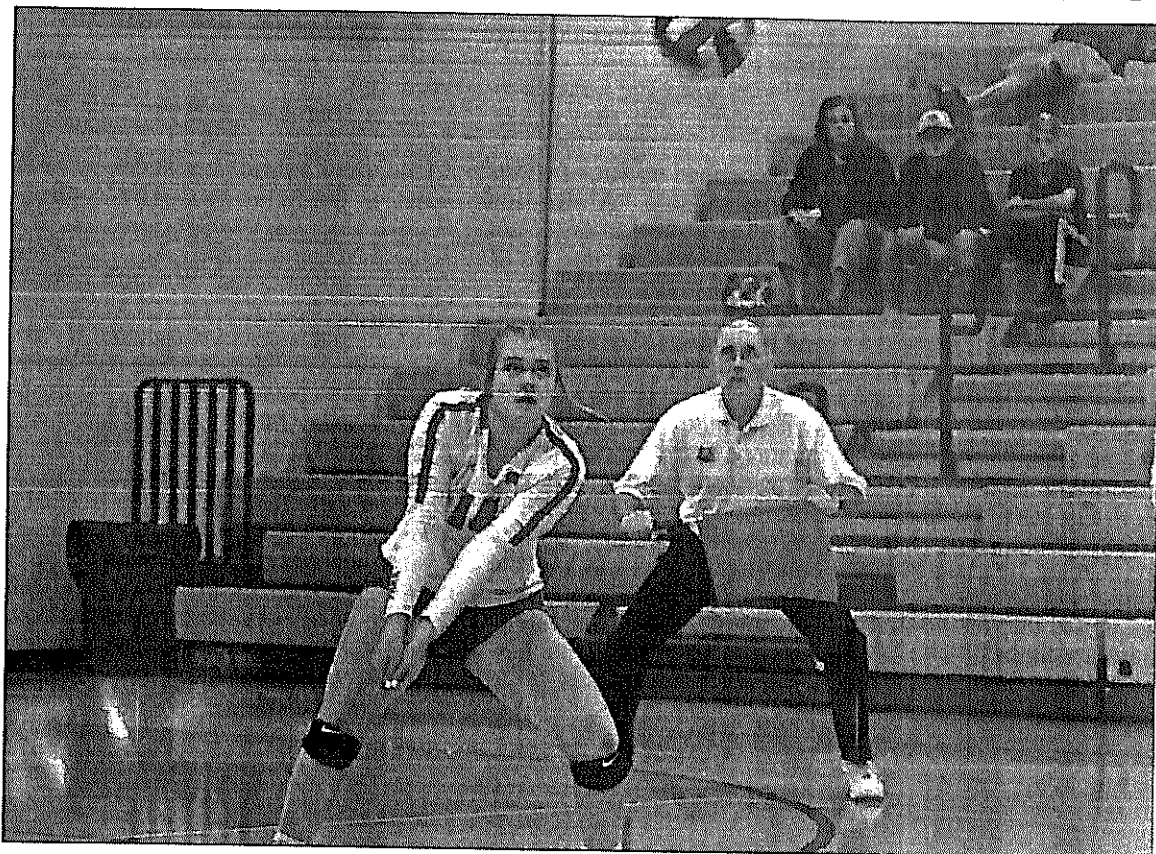


Photo by Kyle Lutz
Wheeling Park's Alexandra Franko's bumps the ball during the OVAC Class 5A championship game against University on Saturday at Union Local High School. The Patriots defeated the Hawks in five sets to claim the school's first OVAC championship in volleyball.

Patriots Show They Belong With Five-Set Win Vs. University

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos from the OVAC Volleyball championships at Union Local at www.theintelligencer.net

MORRISTOWN — When it comes to sports, Wheeling Park has an embarrassment of riches in its history. For the volleyball team, though, the Patriots almost could be considered an afterthought for so many years.

That can be put to rest.

Going into the OVAC Tournament, Wheeling Park already made history as it was the first time it earned a berth. After de-

feating Indian Creek on Tuesday, the Patriots made their way to their first OVAC championship game to face University.

The matchup lived up to the hype and Wheeling Park secured another first: an OVAC title.

During a back-and-forth affair, Wheeling Park secured a 25-17, 13-25, 25-22, 22-25, 15-8 victory over University to secure the OVAC Class 5A title Saturday morning at Union Local High School.

"It's huge," Wheeling Park (13-3) coach Samantha Gentle said. "At practice we see that banner, every other sport has a date next to it except ours."

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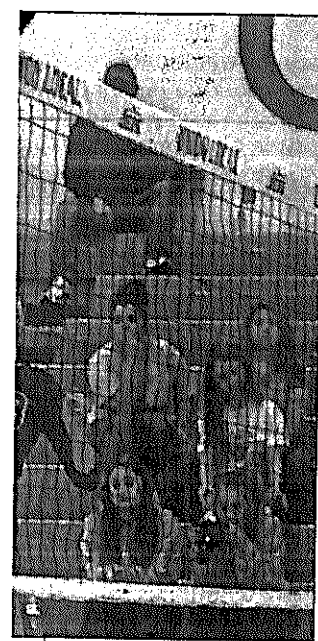


Photo by Kyle Lutz
goes up for a ball during the championship match against Frontier their third straight con-

n a Row len City

command early and had little trouble as it defeated Frontier 25-14, 25-14, 25-11 to secure its third straight OVAC Class 1A title Saturday afternoon at Union Local High School.

"It's pretty sweet that we've been able to come here for three years and take care of business," Paden City (24-4) coach Jennifer Yeater said. "We had two starters Mallory (Yeater) and Hope (Weber) have started since their freshman year. They've been apart of this, all three championships. It's pretty sweet."

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Page C4

n Keeps Perfect Record Alive With 4A Title

own rival 21, 25-12, 25-16 to secure an OVAC 4A title Saturday morning at Union Local High School.

It was also a rematch of last year's title game where East Liverpool took home the hardware.

"I thought it was a great matchup"



Oak Glen's Jacy Smith (22) bumps the ball while McKayla Goodlin looks on during the

ball role model to script his career. Rather, he gleaned key coaching principles he has implemented into his programs from three coaches.

"I went to a clinic in Wheel-

Crutchfield compiled an amazing 359-61 mark at West Liberty for an .855 winning percentage, highest in college basketball history.

After his remarkable ca-

tournament. That success has definitely affected our recruiting," Crutchfield said. "We are getting into doors with players that we were never able to get into before. You never know

completed 13 of 16 passes for 198 yards while rushing for 30. Cook is the son of Scott and Jen Cook. Scott was a standout hoopster for Shadyside High (1988 grad)

katchewan in 2018. He passed for 2,999 yards and nine TDs that season.

Bubba Kapral can be reached at bkapral@timesleaderonline.com

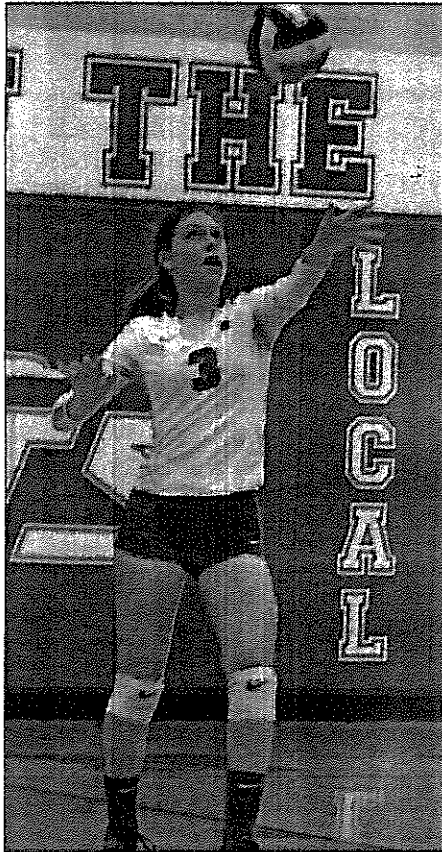


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park's Caylin Angel goes to serve during the OVAC 5A volleyball championship.

PARK

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"I'm excited that this team earned a 2019 to put on that banner. It's very exciting."

Not only was this the first time the Patriots were in the OVAC Tournament, but the Patriots were the top seed.

"First time in it and we were the No. 1 seed and I told them, 'We're supposed to be here. We're the No. 1 seed. We earned that,'" Gentile said. "So even though it's the first time in school history to go to the tournament, we deserved it and we were supposed to be here."

Leah Gaudino led the way for the Patriots as she compiled 18 points, 18 kills and 14 digs while Alexandra Franko collected eight points, 17 kills and 23 digs. Rachel Simon was solid as she totaled 18 kills, four blocks and 16 digs while Caylin Angel had eight points and 10 digs.

Rounding out the scoring for the Patriots were Anya Ritz (four points, 47 assists, 18 digs); Isabelle Miller

(seven points, 13 digs); Makara Ferguson (three digs) and Emily Braden (four digs).

"I'm really excited, the kids worked hard and we were never out of it," Gentile said. "This team is very confident and even when we're down, we persevere and we believe in ourselves."

"University is tough. We faced them twice earlier in the season and split, so we knew it was going to be a challenge coming out, but we had to play our game. Our game is we swing and hit the ball hard. I think we did that, especially in that last set and University didn't have an answer."

The Patriots showed they weren't messing around and took an 11-4 lead in the first set. After the Hawks (12-2) cut the lead to one, (16-15), Wheeling Park finished the set on a 9-2 run.

The second set was a different story. The Hawks raced out to an 11-5 lead and never

looked back. They scored the final eight points of the set to even the series at 1-1.

The third set also looked to be going in University's favor, but Wheeling Park had other plans.

Down, 16-9, the Patriots ripped off eight of the next nine points, including five straight to tie the score at 17-17.

However, the Hawks responded with three unanswered points of their own.

Wheeling Park, though, had a never say die attitude. Scoring the next four points and seven of the next eight, the Patriots took a 2-1 lead going into the fourth set.

"We just have the mindset that we are never out of it," Gentile said. "We were at University one time and it was 20-24 and we came back and won that set. We have in our mind, even when we are down, we can still win the set."

The fourth set was another

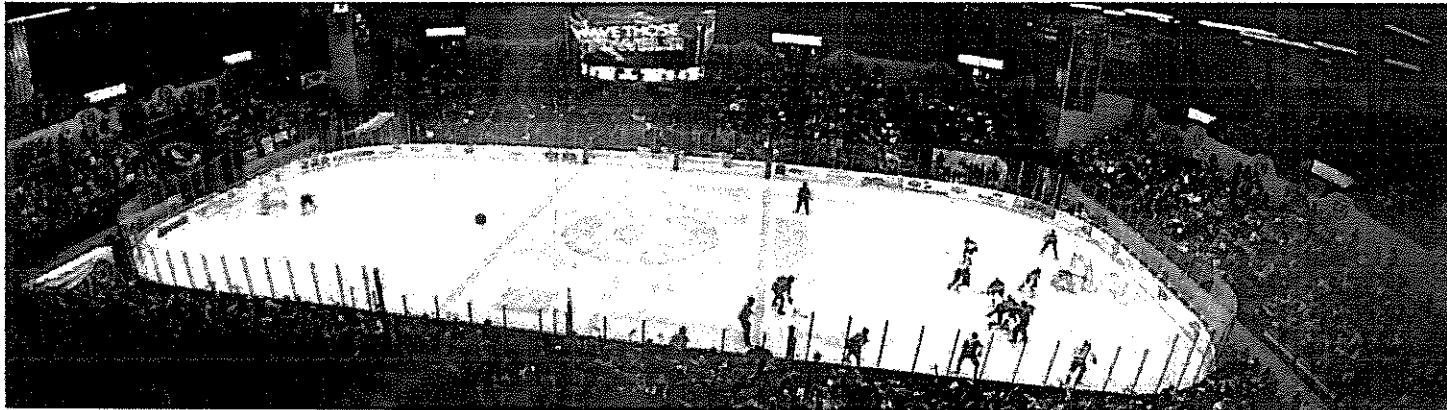
evenly played one, where University captured it to force the decisive fifth.

And right when the whistle blew, Wheeling Park left no doubt. Racing out to a 10-4 lead, the Patriots had enough breathing room to capture the school's first conference title in volleyball.

And with only one senior on the team, the future looks bright.

"The crowd here was great," Gentile said. "I was excited that people came and our middle schools are starting to get excited about volleyball. We have girls that want to be volleyball players. It's exciting for our program and our future."

Ashten Boggs led the way for the Hawks with 18 points, 14 kills, four blocks and 17 digs. Rachel Shockley was also solid as she contributed four points, 41 assists and 12 digs while Mallory Napolillo had 12 points, 12 kills and seven digs.



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OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

Park Makes Wins First OV

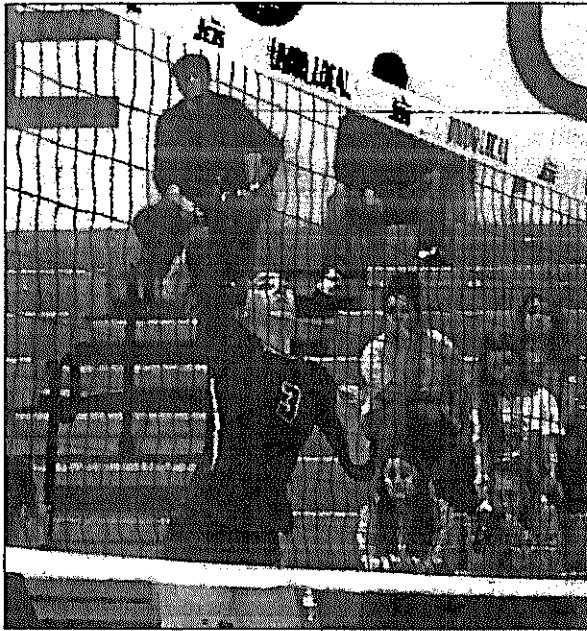


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Paden City's Maggi Still goes up for a ball during the OVAC Class 1A championship match against Frontier. The Wildcats secured their third straight conference title.

Three in a Row For Paden City

Wildcats Sweep
Cougars in 1A

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — The Paden City volleyball team has shown over recent years that it is a perennial power in OVAC Class 1A, no matter who it puts on the court.

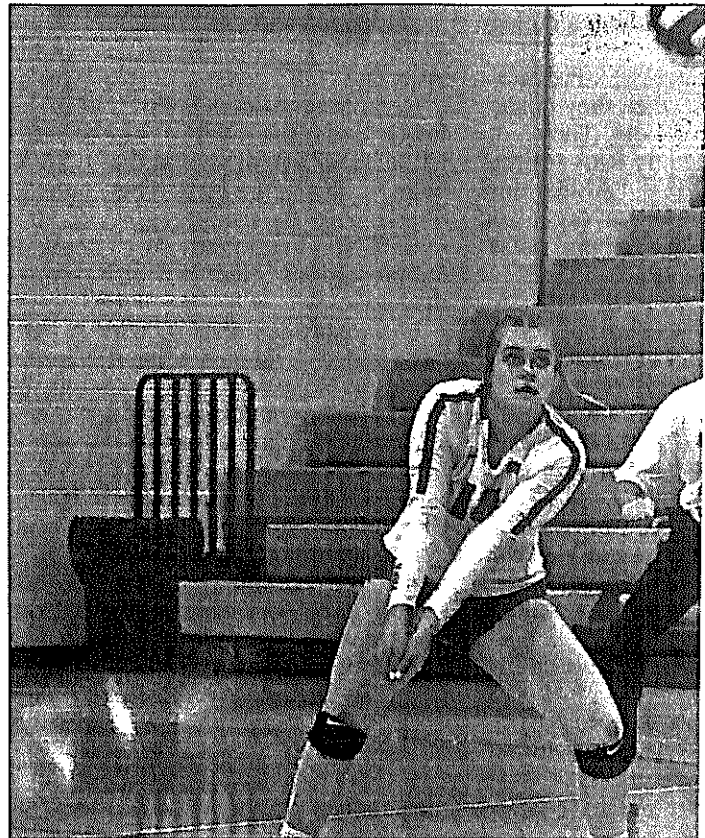
The Wildcats have found much success with a handful of underclassmen taking the majority of the reps. This year was no exception and Paden City just reloaded from last year's OVAC championship squad.

Playing with only two seniors, Paden City took

command early and had little trouble as it defeated Frontier 25-14, 25-14, 25-11 to secure its third straight OVAC Class 1A title Saturday afternoon at Union Local High School.

"It's pretty sweet that we've been able to come here for three years and take care of business," Paden City (24-4) coach Jennifer Yeater said. "We had two starters Mallory (Yeater) and Hope (Weber) have started since their freshman year. They've been apart of this, all three championships. It's pretty sweet."

Please see **Three**,
Page C4



Wheeling Park's Alexandra Franko's bumps the ball during against University on Saturday at Union Local High School. To claim the school's first OVAC championship in volleyball.

Patriots Show They Belong With Five

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feating Indian Creek on day, the Patriots made the to their first OVAC championship game to face University. The matchup lived up to hype and Wheeling Park secured another first: an OVAC title.

Oak Glen Keeps Perfect Record Alive

Golden Bears down rival
East Liverpool in 3 sets

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — It certainly has

21, 25-12, 25-16 to secure an OVAC 4A title Saturday morning at Union Local High School.

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"I thought it was a great matchup"



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three highest total yardage outputs for Texas against Oklahoma almost 200 yards below that 387-yard average.

NO. 8 WISCONSIN 38 MICHIGAN STATE 0

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Jonathan Taylor rushed for two touchdowns and No. 8 Wisconsin's defense posted its fourth shutout of the season.

The Spartans' defense held

three touchdown passes to ailing Brandon Aiyuk to lead No. 18 Arizona State in a comeback win.

LOUISVILLE 62 NO. 19 WAKE FOREST 59

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Evan Conley ran 41 yards for a critical touchdown with 2:15 remaining, and Louisville held off Wake Forest's late rally to upset the 19th-ranked Demon Deacons in the second-highest-scoring

beat Old Dominion.

Knox, who finished with 104 yards rushing on 24 carries, had a 6-yard TD run with 3:55 remaining that capped a 10-play, nearly six-minute drive for Marshall (3-3, 1-1 Conference USA). Green was 19 of 31 passing for 175 yards with a 1-yard TD toss to Devin Miller. He also had 59 yards on the ground and a 17-yard touchdown run.

THREE

Continued from Page C1

"We work hard in the offseason and it shows during the regular season."

Mallory Yeater and Weber are both juniors and will return to try and help the Wildcats go for four in a row.

Mallory Yeater stuffed the stat sheet with 12 points, four kills, nine assists and 17 digs while Weber collected 10 points, 17 kills, five assists and 14 digs.

The two seniors that saw the floor were Cora Anderson and Isabella Beverlin. Anderson had nine points, three aces and 13 digs while Beverlin totaled nine points.

With the senior leadership there, the underclassmen also did their job as two freshmen saw the court along with two sophomores and three juniors.

"Playing in the offseason helps," Coach Yeater

said about finding success while playing with many underclassmen. "I have four club players so keeping the volleyball in their hands, they have the right attitude and they have the right work ethic. They set a great example even though they are freshmen. They bring it to the table every day at practice.

"I'm real proud of their efforts and what they bring to the program. The next three years are going to be bright."

The Wildcats scored 12 of the first 14 points in the first set and never looked back en route to a 25-14 victory to go up 1-0.

In the second set, the Wildcats had to work a little bit as the Cougars (14-7) were able to take their first lead of the match, but were unable to keep the momentum going. They led by two on multiple occasions, but Paden City rallied.

"That's what knew what we had to do," Coach Yeater said about starting fast. "We faced Frontier a couple other times throughout the season and we knew we had to get out to a strong start, keep the energy on

our side and if we were able to do that, I knew we were going to be able to pull it off. They stepped up to the plate and kept that energy high. We needed some big hitters to come through (Satur-

day) and they did."

The Wildcats again started off hot in the third set, taking six of the first seven points. But the Cougars cut the lead to two down the stretch (10-8). Paden City, though, ended all hopes of a comeback as it scored 15 of the next 18 points to secure the match.

"We couldn't get in a rhythm," Frontier coach Donna Murphy said. "As far as the hitters, we hit too many out. The girls still hustled, we didn't quit. But we needed to take care of business and we didn't."

Logan Haught totaled seven assists and nine digs for the Cougars while Alexis Bland had three points, three blocks and three digs. Mariah Bowersock had five kills and three blocks and McKaylyn Bowersock had four assists and five digs.

McKenzie Thomas was also solid for Paden City with four points, five kills and four assists while Tanley McEldowney had four points and 22 digs. Maggi Still collected six kills and five digs and Brandis Dalrymple had four blocks.

"I've had these girls for two years and we've been able to do a lot in those two years," Coach Yeater said. "I'm happy with our success and the attitudes of the players and the efforts makes my job a lot easier."

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"We had the best week of practice that we've had all season (leading into this game)," McLean said. "The kids want to win so badly, they got together, as a group, in the fieldhouse (last) Saturday morning and said, 'we're going to go all out at practice this week to have the best week they can,' and I am so happy that they were rewarded with a win."

The win improves the Red Devils to 5-2, entering their regular season home finale Friday night against Union Local.

On the other side of the field, Bellaire falls to 5-2 and its road gets no easier. The Big Reds must make the short trip south to take on Shadyside.

"I told the kids we have to find a way by Monday to put this game behind us," Bellaire coach Mark Spigarelli said. "We have another tough game. I expect the kids to be ready to go."

The Big Reds got the lead early, but never were able to fully get going offensively. St. Clairsville bottled up senior tailback Cole Porter to 38 yards on 13 carries. Senior quarterback Bobby Roth threw two picks and completed 8 of 18 passes for 93 yards before leaving in the fourth with an injury, which pressed freshman Jake Heatherington into duty.

"We have to go back and find something offensively to do differently," Spigarelli said. "Whether it's running

or passing more. I knew it was going to be tough because I expected St. Clairsville to stay with that four-man line with those big horses they have in there."

The Red Devils began to seize the momentum when they pounced on a Big Reds fumble. Eleven plays late they were on the board when junior quarterback Tyler Tonkovich scampered in from 4 yards out. Jake Boyard's first of three PATs put St. Clairsville on top.

"We got a flip here and a flip there to go in our direction, which allowed us to build a little bit of momentum," McLean said. "The turnovers were huge for us to set us up."

Tigers Suffer First Loss in 2A Title Game

By RICK THORP

For the News-Register

MORRISTOWN — Raegan Flood registered 25 kills and scored seven points Saturday as Shenandoah snapped a five-year OVAC volleyball championship drought by sweeping Shadyside — 27-25, 25-21, 25-20 — in the Class 2A final inside "The Hangar" at Union Local High School.

The victory was the Zeps' 11th straight and spoiled the Tigers' attempt at capping an unbeaten regular season before Ohio sectional tournament play begins this week.

All three sets were tight, but Shenandoah coach Megan Grywalski believed Flood was the source from which everything flowed.

"In the second and third sets, she really stepped up," she said outside a raucous Zeps locker room, where players were celebrating the school's 10th OVAC crown.

Shadyside head coach Eric Mercer agreed that Flood helped tilt the result in Shenandoah's favor.

"She's a great all-around player," he said after the Tigers finished regular-season play at 21-1.

"She can pass. She can set. She can swing. She plays smart. We just didn't adjust as well as I would've liked defensively."

The Zeps (15-7) came out on fire, jumping out to an 11-2 lead.

But, from there, Shadyside settled in and started clawing back, eventually grabbing the lead at 16-14 on a Riley Brown point.

Shadyside's lead swelled to 17-14 before Shenandoah closed to within one at 18-17. Another Brown point helped the Lady Tigers go up 20-17. Then, thanks to a Kylie Baker kill and an ace by Jessica Kuhn, Shadyside looked poised to take the set, leading 24-19.

The Zeps, however, scored five straight points to forge a tie before winning. Grywalski said it was definitely a momentum changer.

"We came out with a good mentality, started strong and kept finishing," she said.

The second set, too, came down to the end. Shenandoah led most of the way, but Shadyside hung tough, pulling to within one at 22-21 at one moment before the Zeps pulled away.

"Our serve-receive wasn't as sharp as it normally is," Mercer said of the first two sets. "That played a role."

Shadyside, which fell in the final for the second straight season, scored the first point in the third set. Shenandoah scored four straight and never trailed again, despite never leading by more than five (23-18).

In a match that's so tight, little things make a difference. Mercer said the Zeps simply were able to make key plays in key moments.

"We didn't pass as well as we normally do," he said. "When we passed the ball well, we scored points. I think that first set was a big momentum shift. We had the lead and they came back."

"They were just better. Congratulations to them."

Madison Davis finished with 24 assists for the Lady Tigers, while Caroline Mercer had 11 digs. Brown collected eight kills and Baker and Paige Gorby both had six kills.

Although the result wasn't what it wanted, Mercer told his team it needs to have a short memory with Ohio Division IV sectional play beginning Wednesday.

The top-seeded Tigers play the winner of Monday's Bridgeport-Caldwell match in the second game of a twinbill that opens with Strasburg battling Rosecrans.

"I was proud of the year they had," Mercer said. "Even though it was a loss, and no one likes to lose, it doesn't detract from how well they played the season and how far they've come as a team."

Trysten Smith paced Shenandoah with 14 points and 36 assists. Whitney Dixon scored 11 points and had 14 kills and seven digs.

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The Zeps also begin tourney play Wednesday, welcoming Conotton Valley.

"This was one of the goals we set at the start of the season," Grywalski said. "We just kept chipping away. It was nice to beat an undefeated team, too."

"Our goals are to win district, something we haven't done since the 1970s. That's our goal. Shadyside is in our district, so we might see them again."

Park Bo Shutout

WHEELING — Ennetted a hat trick and assist as Wheeling Park brated Senior Day with a shutout of Washington State at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Eldana Smith and Anderson added the other goals for the Patriots (15-1). Daisy Reasbeck and Hannah. Jill Blair (three) and Kerrigan Wagner combined on the shutout.

St. Clairsville
John Marshall

GLEN DALE — Merlin recorded a hat trick and Ariel Ott added another goal. Clairsville passed its best record before sectional play with a victory against John Marshall at Monarch Stadium.

Zara Zervos scored two goals for the Monarchs. Ella Anderson made 13 saves.

Boys
Wheeling Park
Washington State

WHEELING — Wheeling Park continued its treacherous season with an impressive performance on Senior Day with a win over Washington State at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Senior Jason Pennington netted two goals for the Patriots (15-1-1), while Clay and Isaac Ridgley scored others.

Andrew Glass recorded two assists, while Clay and Meredith each added a goal.

Zach Calvert had an assist in net, making one saving a shutout.

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Please see Three, Page C4

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Please see Park, Page C2

Oak Glen Keeps Perfect Record Alive With 4A Title

Golden Bears down rival East Liverpool in 3 sets

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — It certainly has been quite the fall in sports at Oak Glen. While the football team is putting its name in the history books, sitting at a record of 7-0, another team is also yet to find a blemish on its record.

The Golden Bears' volleyball team went into Saturday's OVAC Class 4A title game match up against East Liverpool with a 25-0 record on the line. It didn't take long for Oak Glen to capture Win No. 26 as it downed the Potters 25-

21, 25-12, 25-16 to secure an OVAC 4A title Saturday morning at Union Local High School.

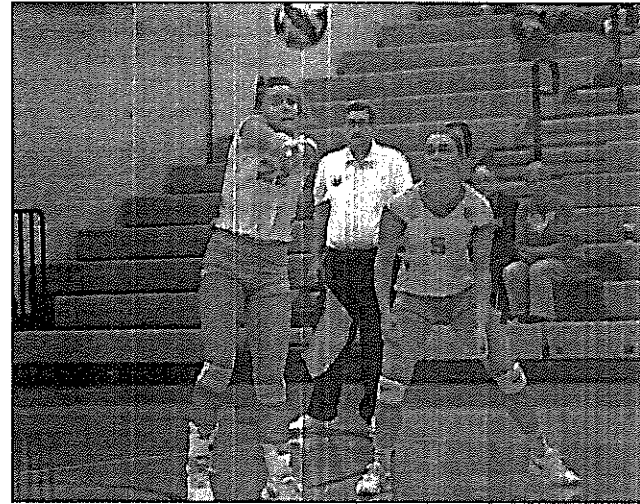
It was also a rematch of last year's title game where East Liverpool took home the hardware.

"I thought it was a great matchup," Oak Glen (26-0) coach Morgan Poling said. "East Liverpool is a great team, so hats off to them. There was a lot of good energy on both sides. It was a fun match."

Poling is in her first year as coach of Oak Glen and is enjoying the ride.

"They're a great group of girls and they're really fun to work with," she said.

Please see Oak Glen, Page C5

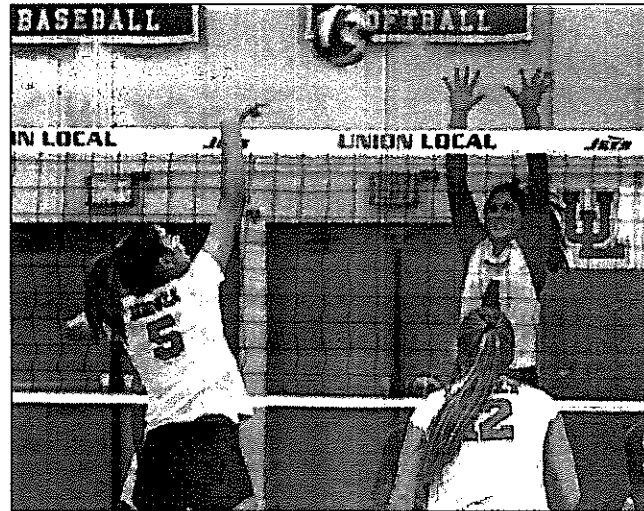


Oak Glen's Jady Smith (22) bumps the ball while McKayla Goodlin looks on during the 4A championship game. The Golden Bears defeated East Liverpool and have a record of 26-0.

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Linsly's Mirissa Garchar (5) lifts a shot over the net during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A title game against Buckeye Trail.

Photo by Rick Thorp



Trail Too Much for Linsly

Warriors sweep young Linsly for 18th crown

By **RICK THORP**
For the News-Register

MORRISTOWN — Buckeye Trail is back on top of the OVAC mountain.

After a one-year hiatus, the Warriors returned to a familiar spot Saturday, sweeping Linsly in the Class 3A championship match 25-18, 25-10, 25-22 to cap the day's action inside "The Hangar" at Union Local High School.

"One of our goals this year was to

qualify for the OVAC Tournament because we didn't last year," Warriors coach Wendy McVicker said. "That was a big thing for us."

Buckeye Trail claimed its conference-best 18th title and gave McVicker, who took over for Hall of Fame mentor Jeff Beros two years ago, her first. The Warriors entered the tournament seeded fourth and took out top-seeded, and unbeaten, Union Local in the semis before dispatching the No. 3 seed Cadets.

McVicker and her fellow coaches

Please see Linsly, Page C6

on Saturday while skating on the fourth line.

Johnson started a Penguins surge later in the period as they scored three times in 2:28.

Guentzel scored on the power-play for a 6-2 lead midway through the third before Minnesota scored twice in 21 seconds on goals from Hunt and Kunin.

BLUE JACKETS 3 HURRICANES 2

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Markus Nutivaara, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Pierre-Luc Dubois scored and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat Carolina, ending the best start to a season in Hurricanes' franchise history.

Dubois overpowered Brock McGinn on a rush from the opposite blue line

Montreal beat the defending Stanley Cup champions.

MAPLE LEAFS 5, RED WINGS 2
DETROIT (AP) — Ilya Mikheyev scored in the final minute of the second period when goalie Jimmy Howard's gamble backfired, and Toronto ended a three-game losing streak.

ISLANDERS 3, PANTHERS 2
UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Brock Nelson scored in the shootout and New York snapped a two-game skid.

JETS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2, OT
CHICAGO (AP) — Mark Scheifele scored 47 seconds into overtime and Winnipeg rallied from an early two-goal deficit to beat winless Chicago and extended its winning streak to three games.

OAK GLEN

Continued from Page C1

"That's what it's all about."

The Golden Bears faced a small deficit in the early going of the first set. Down 6-4, Oak Glen rattled off eight unanswered points to take a commanding lead. However, East Liverpool did not go away. Down 19-14, the Potters tied the match after scored five straight. The Golden Bears, though scored six of the final eight points to capture the first set.

The second set was when Oak Glen took command. With the scored tied at 4-4, the Golden Bears raced out to a 22-10 lead after an ace. After the Potters scored two straight, the Golden Bears ended the set with three consecutive points to go up, 2-0.

"Every day show up and they work hard," Poling said about her team clicking. "They work for each other and they are best friends on and off the court. I think that plays a major role in that."

Skye Stokes was all over the place for Oak Glen as she tallied six points, three aces, nine kills, five assists and three digs while Hannah Rogers stuffed the stat

sheet with seven points, 12 kills and six digs. Jaedyn Hissam collected eight points, 37 assists and five digs while Britney Giorgini had four digs.

McKayla Goodlin had 13 kills and Alyana Kranis totaled 11 kills and three blocks.

"It's an amazing feeling for them," Poling said about the championship. "Especially for our five seniors."

The Golden Bears wasted little time in the third set as they scored the first four points and 10 out of the first 13. The lead blossomed to nine on multiple occasions and the Potters never found a way to get back in the match.

"I don't think we came ready to play," East Liverpool coach Kelly Kiger. "We just made too many unforced errors which is a shame."

Alexa Aldrich had four points for the Potters while Gabby George had eight points and 16 assists. Addisyn Galeoti compiled eight digs while Sharnae Wilson collected five kills and three blocks.

Emily Recktenwald also had eight points for

the Potters and Victoria Flores collected four digs.

"We have to work harder in practice, have more effort and have better vision," Kiger said. "We can't have two players working hard and the other four not. You don't win a game with two players, you win a game with six. We didn't do that (Saturday)."

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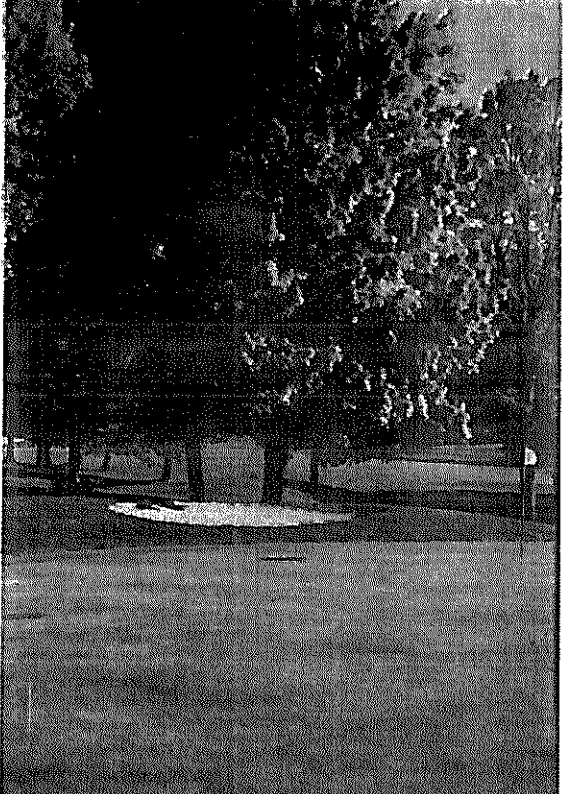
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LINSLY

Continued from Page C1

sported shirts emblazoned with the slogan "We Came, and We Will." The Warriors did what they set out to do behind stellar efforts from a handful of players, just like McVicker said they had all season in compiling a mark of 16-6.

Guided by Western Kentucky signee Sam Canner, Buckeye Trail jumped out to an 8-3 lead in the opening set, only to watch the Cadets eventually tie things at 12-12.

The Warriors responded with a 5-0 run keyed by two points from Madison King, who finished with 14 points, seven digs, six kills, five blocks and five aces.

Linsly scored two straight points following a time out. But, after calling her own stoppage sensing the Cadets were garnering some momentum, McVicker watched her team score four of the next five points to grab a 21-15 advantage.

The Warriors' cruised in the second set, one that saw setter Sidney Beaver record her 1,000th career assist. McVicker said Beaver was out for three weeks before returning Monday.

Despite being down two sets, Linsly stayed resilient in the third. Down 5-0, the Cadets rallied to tie the score at 6-6. The score was tied two more times before Linsly's Mirissa Garchar gave the Cadets a 13-12 lead.

Linsly built its lead to

16-12 before the Warriors mounted a comeback that saw the score knotted three more times — at 17, 19 and 20.

From there, Buckeye Trail scored four straight en route to securing the title.

"They hustled," Linsly coach Ashlee Jividen said of her team. "They played hard."

Jividen pointed to Canner as a catalyst for the Warriors' success. The senior finished with 12 kills, 10 digs and seven blocks.

"She gave them a lot of momentum," she said. "We knew coming in they had her. She's amazing."

Garchar finished with 10 points and 10 kills for the Cadets (15-7). Charlie Allison added 13 points and 10 kills, while Amanda Thomas registered 15 assists.

A large contingent was on hand supporting the Cadets, including one fan holding the OVAC championship banner from the 1995 team, which was the last time Linsly was in the OVAC Tournament. Although her team came up short, Jividen was proud of what her team accomplished this fall, especially putting Linsly back on the local volleyball map.

"The fact we made the finals was huge," she said. "It sets the expectations for Linsly volleyball higher. I think now, for the younger girls, they know what to expect."

PADEN CITY GOING FOR 3-PEAT

The Paden City volleyball team defeated Conotton Valley to advance to the OVAC Class 1A title game Saturday/15

The Intelligencer. SPORTS

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2019

COMICS.....16
TV/ENTERTAINMENT.....17

13

Park Volleyball Advances to OVAC 5A Title Tilt

Wheeling Park's Any Ritz sets the ball during Tuesday's game against Indian Creek. The Patriots defeated the Redskins in straight sets.

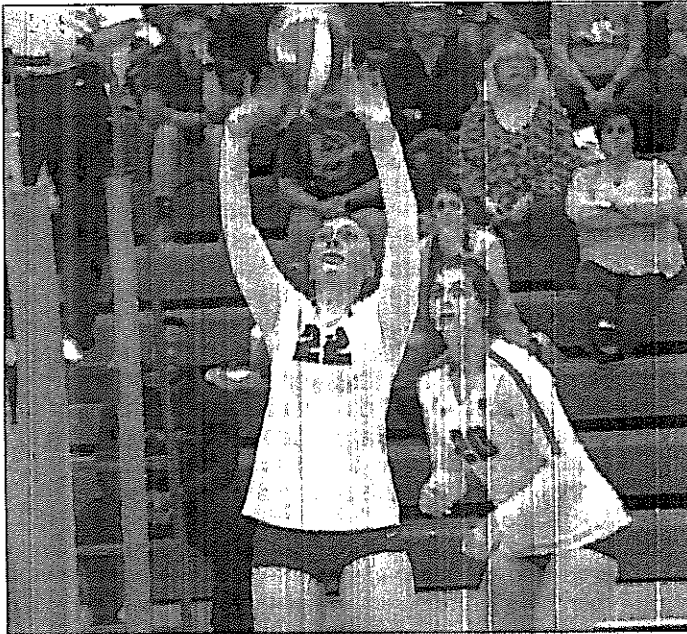


Photo by
Kyle Lutz

Hawks defeat Big Red in other semifinal match

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — With strong play at the net, both on offense and defense, Wheeling Park's first trip to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference volleyball tournament turned into a berth in the championship round Tuesday night.

Rachel Simon (14), Leah Gaudino (8) and Ally Fanko (8) combined for 30 kills and the Patriots came from behind to record a 26-24 first game win before cruising 25-14, 25-15 in the ensuing two games to sweep past Indian Creek in a Class 5A semifinal match at the Palace on the Hill.

Coach Samantha Gentle's top-seeded, 11-3 record, Park squad advances to Saturday's 11:30 a.m. championship match at

Union Local against second-seeded University. The Hawks swept Steubenville, 25-21, 25-21, 25-22 in Tuesday night's other semifinal at Wheeling Park.

The two schools have split their two previous meetings this season with the Patriots winning in five games on the hill.

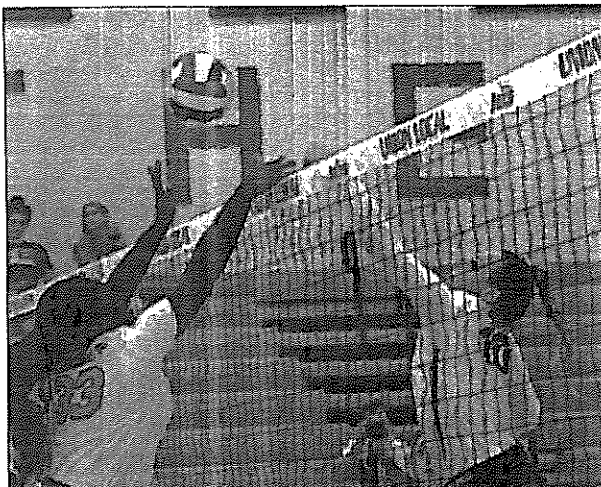
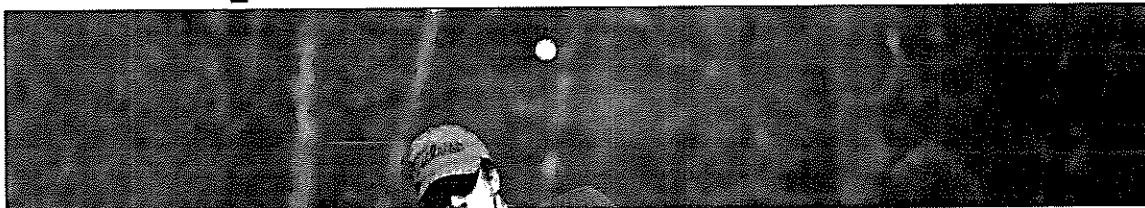
"This is the school's first trip to the OVAC tournament, and the entire Wheeling Park community is so excited and proud," Gentle said. "This is a great group of girls and they really deserve this."

Indian Creek took an early lead in game one before Wheeling Park rallied to go up 10-4 on seven consecutive points with Caylin Angel holding service. However, Coach Molly Edgerly's Redskins (10-10) battled back with a nine-point run of their own to grab the lead back at 18-17.

The teams traded the lead three other times with Indian Creek actually sitting at

Please see 5A, Page 14

Wheeling Park Sits Atop State Tourney



UL first loss

16-25, 25-12 and 15-13.

Linsly, meanwhile, jumped out to a two-set lead on Magnolia and eventually prevailed in four sets by scores of 25-18, 25-23, 21-25 and 26-24.

In the opening match, fourth-seeded Buckeye Trail rallied from a 2-1 deficit to stun Union Local and advance to the title game.

"It was (Trail's) night and it deserved it," UL coach Kaye Sechrest said.

The Warriors, who had been perennial OVAC contenders, failed to qualify last season in Wendy McVicker's first season

Please see CADETS, Page 14

By **SETH STASKEY**
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MORRISTOWN — Seeds are simply a number.

And in the case of the OVAC Class 3A volleyball tournament, which unfolded Tuesday evening at Union Local High School, they didn't mean much.

Both of the lower seeds — fourth-seeded Buckeye Trail and third-seeded Linsly — earned a return trip here Saturday afternoon to play in the conference championship game.

The Warriors dispatched the host and top-seeded Jets in five highly entertaining and

Tigers Remain Undefeated

Will face Shenandoah in OVAC Class 2A title game

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE — Perfection lives on. State-ranked and unbeaten Shadyside punched its ticket into the OVAC volleyball championship game via a 25-9, 25-16, 25-18 sweep of Toronto in the Class 2A conference semifinals on the Orange boards Tuesday night.

The Tigers will meet Shenandoah, winner of Tuesday's nightcap, at Union Local Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Shadyside will take a 21-0 mark into that contest, hoping to finish the regular season unblemished.

The Red Knights dropped to 12-8 on the campaign.

Shadyside, featuring a well-balanced starting lineup boosted by a solid bench, served notice immediately that it was going to be its night. The Tigers rolled to a 16-3 lead in the first set, setting the tone for the balance of the contest.

"We started strong and gained control early. We relaxed a little bit in the third set but that happens," first-year coach Eric Mercer said. "But it was good for them to claw back to take control and win the set and the match.

"We played well (Tuesday). We have a lot of balance. We really don't have a weak spot that I can point to.

Please see TIGERS, Page 14



Wheeling Park's Owen Leary chips a shot toward the green during Tuesday's bay's Jones Course for the state tournament.

Brooke's Bilby takes 2-shot lead into

By **CODY TOMER**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — As the wind swirled around Oglebay's Jones Course on Tuesday, the best prep golfers in West Virginia went toe-to-toe with the conditions and each other.

When the dust settled, it was Wheeling Park sitting in first place in Class AAA at the end of Day 1 with a score 245.

Huntington and Capital are both on Park's heels as they are knotted at 247 and Greenbrier East came in at 254.

Brooke's Ryan Bilby is the Class AAA leader in the clubhouse after the opening round.

The junior Bruin fired a 74.

Washington's Ethan Hardy is second at 76 and Park's Noah

Seivertson is third with a 77.

Wheeling Park's James Salvatori turned in an 83 but it was No. 4 golfer Owen Leary who made the difference for the Patriots with a card of 85.

"Our No. 4 man came through with an 85," Park coach Don Headley said. "The No. 1 and 2 guys have to do their jobs but the No. 3 and No. 4 guys battle it out for every team. Leary coming in with an 85 was really big and put us in the lead by two shots.

"Noah's 77 was outstanding — even with a double-bogey on the last hole. He would have shot a 75 if he pars the last hole.

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Patriots Take Down Rec

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Wheeling Park is rounding back into form.

Following a disappointing loss to Morgantown in the OVAC Class 5A finals, the Patriots bounced back with a convincing win against OVAC champion Linsly last week.

Park continued its winning ways Tuesday with a dominant 3-1 victory against OVAC Class 4A runner-up St. Clairsville on the Red Devils' home pitch.

Emma Delk struck first for the visitors, ripping a shot to the bottom left of the net past a diving Jaeda Nowak. Mia Zecca's brilliant center pass into the middle of the box set up Delk for what was the first of two goals for the senior midfielder.

It took nearly 36 minutes for Park to finally get one past Nowak, as the Devils' keeper was blocking multiple blasts from Delk, Graceylyn Hanna and



St. Clairsville's Mikayla Hendershot (18) and Hanna (17) go after a loose ball during Tue

Faith Mealy, who was seemingly and the a touch or two away from a goal able. Sh more than a few times.

"We had a great night (Tuesday)," Wheeling Park coach Carrie Hanna said. "But St. Clairsville did a tremendous job defensively

and the able. Sh

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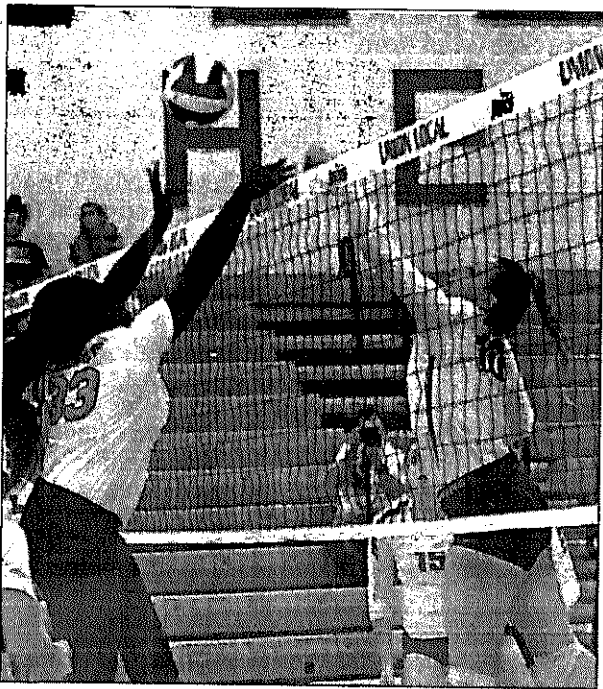


Photo by Seth Staskey

Linsly's Arella Kluviste goes up for a block of a return by Magnolia's Kyndra Pilant during Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A volleyball semifinal at Union Local High School.

Cadets Defeat Blue Eagles

Trail hands UL first loss

competitive sets by scores of 26-24, 23-25, 16-25, 25-12 and 15-13.

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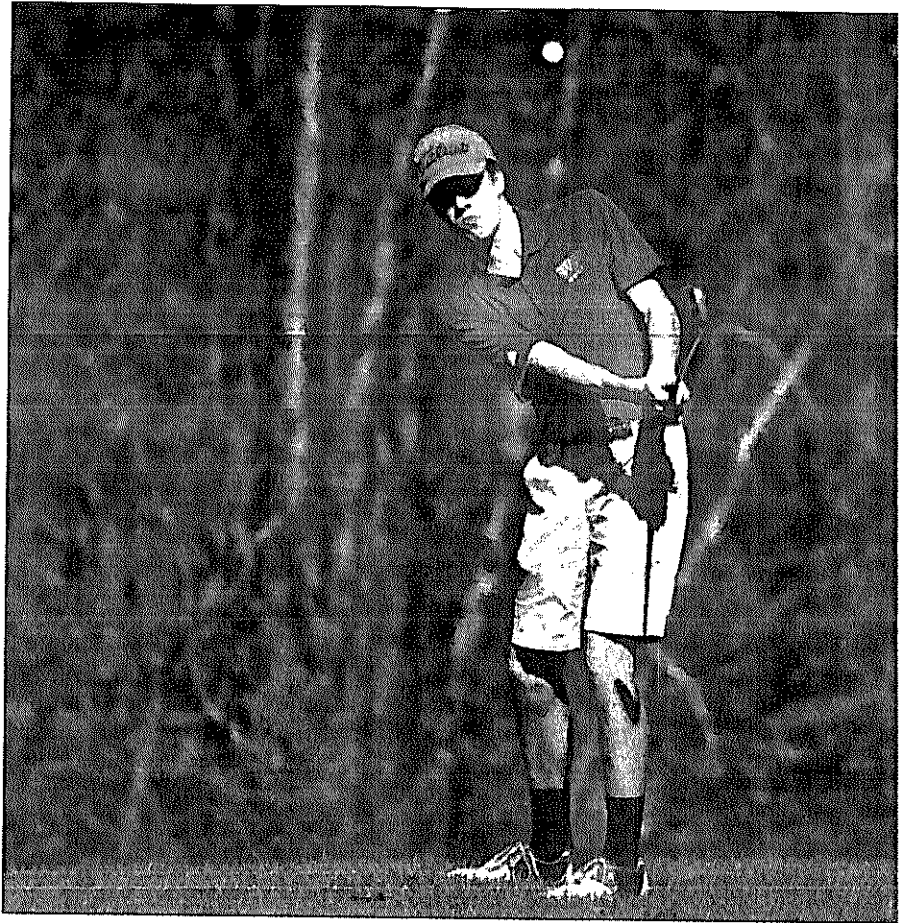
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Please see **CADETS**,
Page 14

Wheeling Park Atop State Tour



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Tigers Remain Undefeated

5A

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game-point with a 24-22 advantage at one point. But Fanko recorded a kill and then kept service before a Leah Gaudino completed the come-back with a 26-24 verdict.

In all, Game 1 produced five lead changes, four of those coming late, and five ties.

The Redskins once again took an early lead in game two before the teams traded ties and leads until Park took control on another Fanko kill that gave them the lead for good at 11-10.

It was still a 16-13 Patriots lead before the hosts finished things off with a 9-1 run that produced a 25-14 final.

Game 3 was also close, and back-and-forth, early on before Wheeling Park used an Indian Creek mistake to take the lead for good at 7-6. Another Patriots' run, this time 9-0, helped them take control before cruising to the finish line and a three-game sweep.

"Our girls definitely dominated the net (Tuesday)," Gentle said. "I think our hitters really built their confidence level after getting rid of the butterflies following the first game. They hit the ball hard all night.

"We really stepped it up on defense as well and just did not let the ball drop while our service receive passes were

beautiful."

It wasn't hard for Edgerly to figure out where things started going wrong for her Redskins.

"As soon as we lost that first game we lost the momentum and it just never came back to us," Edgerly said. "We have been working on keeping momentum and making runs, but we struggled with it (Tuesday).

"Hopefully it is something we can fix before sectionals.

"I think we will take the next week to really work hard on being aggressive and loud as a time and trying to push things forward."

The other semifinal produced a special night for University in more ways than one.

After winning the OVAC big-school championship in 2015 the Hawks have been knocked off in the semifinals in each of the past three campaigns. And while advancing to its second championship match, University also awarded long-time coach Don Godfrey with his 400th career victory on the bench.

"I've kind of kept that low-key," Godfrey mentioned of his accomplishment.

"The girls, parents and school aren't even aware of it yet, but it is something

that is very special to me."

It only took three games to get to that cherished victory, however, Coach Kristin Taylor's Big Red squad pushed them to the limit the entire way.

University (12-3) jumped to a quick 8-0 lead in the first game before Big Red (12-8) used a 9-1 run a short time later to take a 12-11 lead on an Anna Taylor ace.

The Hawks again moved out to a four-point lead at 16-12, but once again Steubenville battled back, scoring the next four points to knot the score on Sammie Cucarese's ace.

Godfrey's squad used a 4-0 swing to take a 24-19 lead a short time later before Sierra Lanham's tap found nothing but floor to end the 25-21 victory.

University scored the initial three points in game two and while Big Red eventually evened the score at 4-4 the Hawks never trailed again after taking a 5-4 lead. The lead grew to as many as seven along the way before a 5-0 Steubenville rally late in the game cut the deficit to 22-20.

A Big Red serve into the net ended things with another 25-21 score.

The Hawks seemed to be in control again in game three leading by as many as six at the midway point before Steu-

benville made a late run, scoring seven consecutive points with Kiera O'Brien serving to battle back. Steubenville actually took the lead at 20-19 and again at 22-21 on a Taylor tap.

However, University again took control late, scoring the final four points of the game with Mallory Napolillo's kill sending the Hawks back to the finals.

"They kept battling back every time we got a nice little lead, but our girls hung in there and were able to get it done," Godfrey said. "Our two seniors 23 (Ashten Boggs) and 35 (Napolillo) have been getting it done at the net all season long and they kept it going (Tuesday).

"We managed to keep a comfortable lead at times but still had to play strong at the end in all three games. My comfort zone is a lead of five or more. I was worried about that third game because teams have a tendency to let up a little after winning the first two and then anything can happen.

"It's real nice to get this win and get back to the championship.

"We won in our only other trip to the finals so hopefully we can do that again Saturday. We played a couple of great matches with Wheeling Park earlier this year."

STATE

(Continued from Page 13)

haven't been in this position before. It's going to be fun to see how they handle it."

Seivertson began his day on the back 9 and started slow but came alive on the front 9.

"I came to the front 9 and turned it around," Seivertson said. "I started out 3-under going into the seventh hole. I couldn't ask for a better turnaround."

Aside from a double-bogey on the ninth hole, Seivertson enjoyed his run

count as he drained a birdie on 9 to pad his lead.

However, it wasn't an easy day for anyone with the high winds wreaking havoc on the course.

"Sometimes there's not much that you can do," Bilby said. "I did what I could. I'll take this two-shot lead into (today).

"I'm not going to play defensive. When you are four back you have to go for everything but I'm going to

CADETS

(Continued from Page 13)

at the helm. Now, they'll have the opportunity to play for the school's 18 conference title.

"It broke our hearts that we didn't qualify (for OVAC) last year," McVicker said. "The girls wanted this. They never quit and never stopped playing. We're (in the championship game) and we're going to try to win it."

Union Local, which had only lost two sets all season, was seeking its first OVAC title since 1986 when it claimed

but the sport of volleyball hasn't been where the Cadets have experienced the most success. Linsly will seek its fourth OVAC title and first since 1995.

But, coach Ashlee Jividen and her youthful squad are only worried about the present.

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CADETS

(Continued from Page 13)

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Union Local, which had only lost two sets all season, was seeking its first OVAC title since 1986 when it claimed the combined 3A/4A title.

However, the youthful Jets will now have to shift their focus to the Division III sectional, which opens next week.

"We're 19-1 and I am still proud of these girls," Sechrest said. "It was a good match. We got up in the fifth, but we just couldn't close it out. These girls are tough, and I know they'll bounce back."

Indeed.

The Jets built a three-point lead in the fifth set, but seemingly each time they seemed to gain some steam, Buckeye Trail senior Sam Canner, who is bound for Western Kentucky, was there to 'kill' the momentum.

Canner was an absolute force from both rows, but she especially made her presence felt around the net. She finished with 22 kills, 14 blocks and 16 points.

"Sam is a great player and does a lot of big things for us every game," McVicker said.

Union Local was led on the stat sheet by talented freshman Torre Kildow, who had 20 kills, 23 assists and 16 digs.

Junior Casey Kildow contributed 12 kills, 23 assists and 21 digs. Sophomore Keira Gregor added six kills and six digs. Chloe Doud added 12 digs and four kills.

"We lost to a good team and there are little things we need to continue to work on," Sechrest said. "Serving and getting to defense a little faster. They did some quicks and our girls were just getting off the ground and (Canner) was already hitting."

Complementing Canner's brilliant performance were Madison King, who had 11 kills, six blocks, six digs and two aces. Ava Tank added three aces and five kills. Sidney Beaver handed out 19 assists.

Linsly boasts a rich athletic tradition,

but the sport of volleyball hasn't been where the Cadets have experienced the most success. Linsly will seek its fourth OVAC title and first since 1995.

But, coach Ashlee Jividen and her youthful squad are only worried about the present.

"The girls were stoked just to be here (Tuesday), so now that we're going to the finals, it's tough to even find the words to describe that feeling," Jividen said. "These girls have worked hard every single day and they deserve to be here. I don't think many people ever thought Linsly would be in the OVAC semifinals, let alone the final."

To defeat Magnolia, which is the defending West Virginia Class A state champion, Jividen knew exactly what the game plan had to be.

"We know they're a good team and we knew to be able to beat them, we had to outplay them in serve-receive wise and defensively," Jividen said. "Our goal is to never let a team get two points in a row, so we're able to keep our momentum."

The Cadets jumped on the Blue Eagles (15-7-1), taking the first two sets rather impressively.

However, Magnolia showed its resolve and then actually fought off four match points to knot the game at 24 before falling in the fourth.

Helping to further set the tone and establish the momentum was the hitting of sophomore Charlie Allison. She had 15 kills and numerous blocks.

Mirissa Garchar actually led the Cadets with an impressive 31 kills. She also had four aces. Amanda Thomas, meanwhile donated 41 assists and seven kills.

Magnolia, meanwhile, will go back to work and begin preparations to try to defend their state championship. However, coach Pamela Chapman knows her team has some areas in which they need to sure up.

"We gave away too many points, including the last three of the match," Chapman said. "We need to continue to work on that."

The Blue Eagles were led by senior standout Kyndra Pilant, who had 37 kills, five blocks and eight digs. Junior Lenicia Grimm was charted for 37 assists and senior Kayna Anderson was credited with 18 digs. Liza Clegg had five kills.

TIGERS

(Continued from Page 13)

"And we have some players we can bring in off the bench and pick up where the starters left off."

Athletic junior Tory Hendershot and Sarah Teasdale were catalysts in helping the Tigers get out of the gates quickly. Hendershot delivered three kills while Teasdale slammed a pair as the hosts surged to a 7-0 lead in game one.

The Red Knights never recovered as Madison Davis delivered big hit after big hit as did Riley Brown while junior Kiley Jo Baker was a beast at the nets with countless blocks.

Shadyside never trailed in the second set but found itself in a 6-6 tie early on. Sparked by the all-around play of libero Caroline Mercer, Shadyside rattled off six unanswered points for a 12-6 advantage. The Red Knights would never get closer than four points the remainder of the set.

To its credit, Toronto showed some resolve in

the third set. The Jefferson Countians jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead and stretched their edge to 9-5.

Shadyside, however, slowed the surge with a nice dink from Teasdale, and knotted the affair via back-to-back blocks by Baker.

The Tigers went on to tally 10 of the next 12 points to build a 19-11 lead thanks to solid contributions from Mercer, Brown and Davis.

Toronto used one last-ditch surge to close to 22-18. Hendershot and Davis helped seal the deal with fine plays at the net.

"When you are No. 1 seed you always feel pressure," Coach Mercer said.

"I feel pressure to make sure the girls are relaxed and ready to play. They were definitely ready (Tuesday)."

Toronto received strong play at the net from Maddie Anderson.

"We weren't mentally prepared to play. We dug ourselves a big hole

right off the bat," Toronto coach Rebecca Antonelli said. "We showed some life in the third set but it wasn't enough. Shadyside is an excellent team."

Davis tallied 22 assists for the Tigers. Brown delivered 11 kills for the winners while Baker and Hendershot had nine kills each, one more than Teasdale. Mercer, meanwhile, supplied endless hustle and savvy in her libero duties.

"We will be ready to go Saturday. It's like what we have been saying the last two weeks — you got to leave everything on the floor and give it all you got," Coach Mercer said. "Our goal from the beginning of the season was an OVAC championship. Now the opportunity presents itself."

Shadyside has never won an OVAC volleyball championship. The Tigers lost in last year's title tilt to Southern.

The program was started in 2012 by Joel Joseph.

SPORTS

Buckeye Trail, Linsly win to reach 3A final

• Jets streak snapped at 19

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MORRISTOWN — Seeds are simply a number.

And in the case of the OVAC Class 3A volleyball tournament, which unfolded Tuesday evening at Union Local High School, they didn't mean much.

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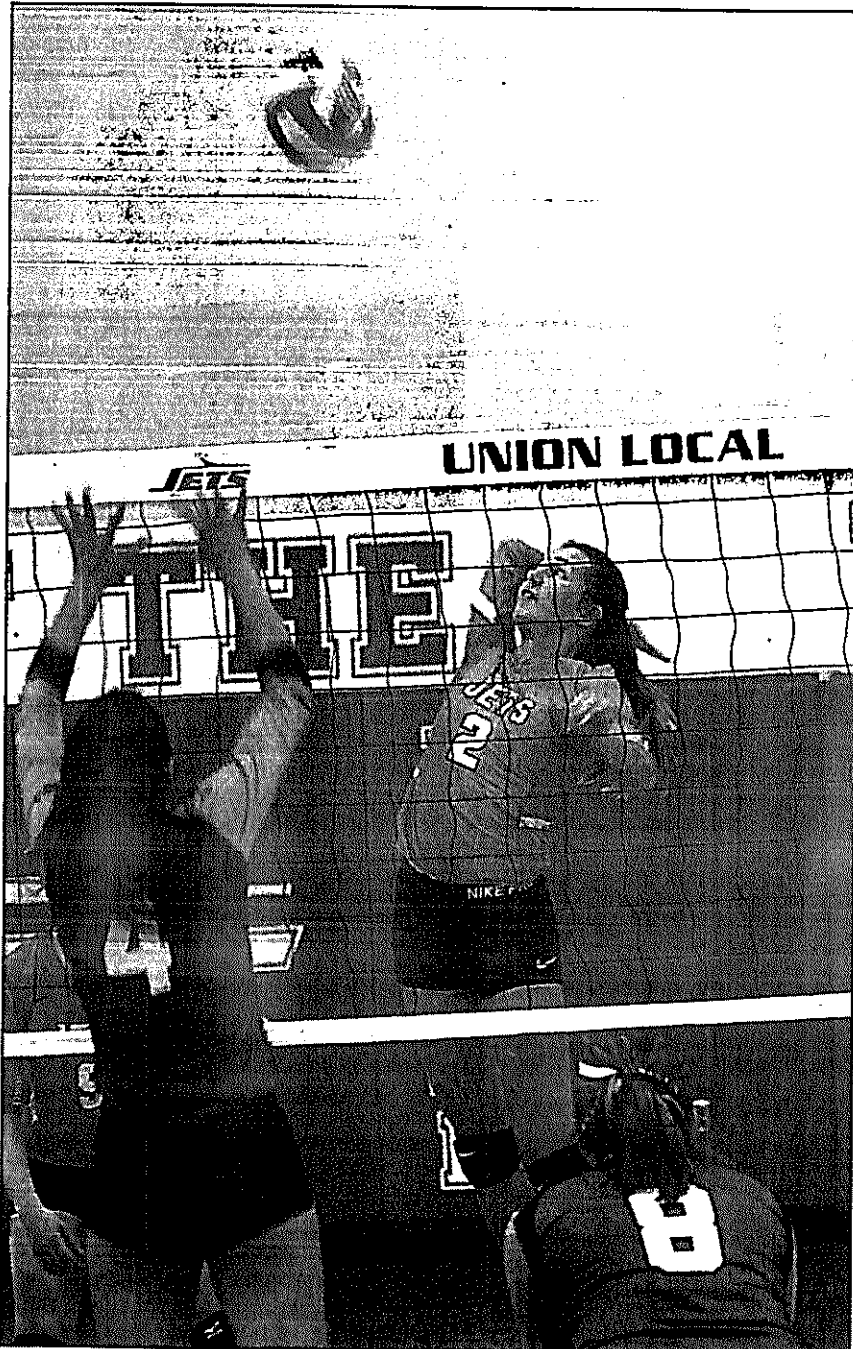
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However, the youthful Jets will now have to shift their focus to the Division III section-
See, 3A, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
UNION LOCAL'S Casey Kildow goes up for a hit as Buckeye Trail's Madison King elevates to attempt to block during Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal in Morristown. The Warriors won in five sets to reach Saturday's championship game where they will take on Linsly.

Shadyside head to 2A title

• Tigers

By **BUBBA K**
Executive Sports

SHADYSIDE

State-ranked Shadyside earned its ticket into the title game via a 25-12 win in the Class 2A/3A match-up on Tuesday.

The Tigers of Shenandoah, Tuesday's opponent, won Union Local 3:30 p.m. Shadyside took a 21-0 match in the regular season.

The Red Knights won 12-8 on the Shadyside bench, served to be its night. In the first set, Sechrest.

"We started relaxed a little for them to close set and the match."

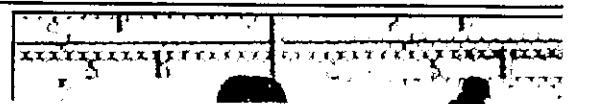
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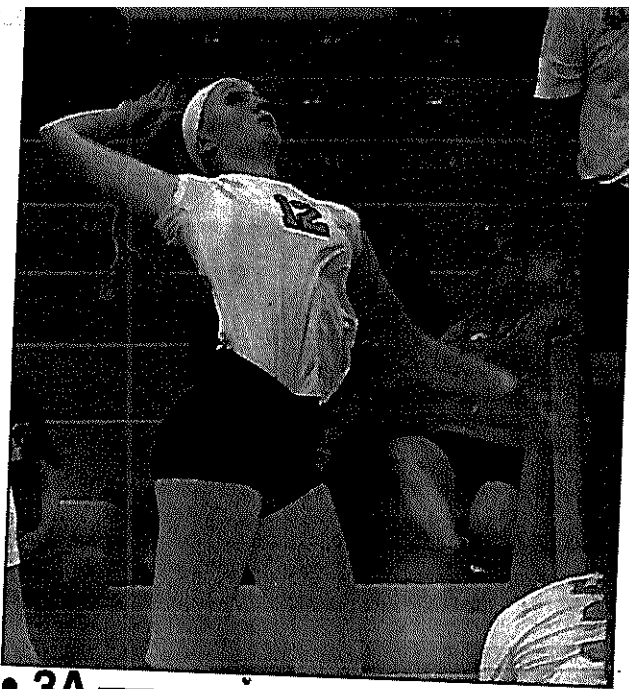
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See

Wheeling Park fends off





Allison goes up for a hit during Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal match against Magnolia at Union Local High School.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

• 3A

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al, which opens next week.

"We're 19-1 and I am still proud of these girls," Sechrest said. "It was a good match. We got up in the fifth, but we just couldn't close it out. These girls are tough, and I know they'll bounce back."

Indeed.

The Jets built a three-point lead in the fifth set, but seemingly each time they seemed to gain some steam, Buckeye Trail senior Sam Canner, who is bound for Western Kentucky, was there to 'kill' the momentum.

Canner was an absolute force from both rows, but she especially made her presence felt around the net. She finished with 22 kills, 14 blocks and 16 points.

"Sam is a great player and does a lot of big things for us every game," McVicker said.

Union Local was led on the stat sheet by talented freshman Torre Kildow, who had 20 kills, 23 assists and 16 digs.

Junior Casey Kildow contributed 12 kills, 23 assists and 21 digs. Sophomore Keira Gregor added six kills and six digs. Chloe Doud added 12 digs and four kills.

"We lost to a good team and there are little things we need to continue to work on," Sechrest said. "Serving and getting to defense a little faster. They did some quicks and our girls were just getting off the ground and (Canner) was already hitting."

Complementing Canner's brilliant performance were Madison King, who had 11 kills, six blocks, six digs and two aces. Ava Tank added three aces and five kills. Sidney Beaver handed out 19 assists.

Linsly boasts a rich athletic tradition, but the sport of volleyball hasn't been where the Cadets have experienced the most success. Linsly will seek its fourth OVAC title and first since 1995.

But, coach Ashlee Jividen and her youthful squad are only worried about the present.

"The girls were stoked just to be here (Tuesday), so now that we're going to the

finals, it's tough to even find the words to describe that feeling," Jividen said. "These girls have worked hard every single day and they deserve to be here. I don't think many people ever thought Linsly would be in the OVAC semifinals, let alone the final."

To defeat Magnolia, which is the defending West Virginia Class A state champion, Jividen knew exactly what the game plan had to be.

"We know they're a good team and we knew to be able to beat them, we had to outplay them in serve-receive wise and defensively," Jividen said. "Our goal is to never let a team get two points in a row, so we're able to keep our momentum."

The Cadets jumped on the Blue Eagles (15-7-1), taking the first two sets rather impressively. However, Magnolia showed its resolve and then actually fought off four match points to knot the game at 24 before falling in the fourth.

"It was huge to win the first two sets," Jividen said. "We wanted to set our tempo and our expectations. I think those things really gave us the confidence."

Helping to further set the tone and establish the momentum was the hitting of sophomore Charlie Allison. She had 15 kills and numerous blocks.

Mirissa Garchar actually led the Cadets with an impressive 31 kills. She also had four aces. Amanda Thomas, meanwhile donated 41 assists and seven kills.

Magnolia, meanwhile, will go back to work and begin preparations to try to defend their state championship. However, coach Pamela Chapman knows her team has some areas in which they need to sure up.

"We gave away too many points, including the last three of the match," Chapman said. "We need to continue to work on that."

The Blue Eagles were led by senior standout Kyndra Pilant, who had 37 kills, five blocks and eight digs. Junior Leticia Grimm was charted for 37 assists and senior Kayna Anderson was credited with 18 digs. Liza Clegg had five kills.

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Brown while junior Kiley Jo Baker was a beast at the nets with countless blocks.

Shadyside never trailed in the second set but found itself in a 6-6 tie early on. Sparked by the all-around play of libero Caroline Mercer, Shadyside rattled off six unanswered points for a 12-6 advantage. The Red Knights would never get closer than four points the remainder of the set.

To its credit, Toronto showed some resolve in the third set. The Jefferson Countians jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead and stretched their edge to 9-5.

Shadyside, however, slowed the surge with a nice dink from Teasdale, and knotted the affair via back-to-back blocks by Baker. The Tigers went on to tally 10 of the next 12 points to build a 19-11 lead thanks to solid contributions from Mercer, Brown and Davis.

Toronto used one last-ditch surge to close to 22-18. Hendershot and Davis helped seal the deal with fine plays at the net.

"When you are No. 1 seed you always feel pressure," Coach Mercer said. "I feel pressure to make sure the girls are relaxed and ready to play. They were definitely ready (Tuesday)."

Toronto received strong play at the net from Maddie Anderson.

"We weren't mentally prepared to play. We dug ourselves a big hole right off the bat," Toronto coach Rebecca Antonelli said. "We showed some life in the third set but it wasn't enough. Shadyside is an excellent team."

Davis tallied 22 assists for the Tigers. Brown delivered 11 kills for the winners while Baker and Hendershot had nine kills each, one more than Teasdale. Mercer, meanwhile, supplied endless hustle and savvy in her libero duties.

"We will be ready to go Saturday. It's like what we have been saying the last two weeks - you got to leave everything on the floor and give it all you got," Coach Mercer said. "Our goal from the beginning of the season was an OVAC championship. Now the opportunity presents itself."

Shadyside has never won an OVAC volleyball championship. The Tigers lost in last year's title tilt to Southern. The program was started in 2012 by Joel Joseph.

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SPORTS

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October 9, 2019

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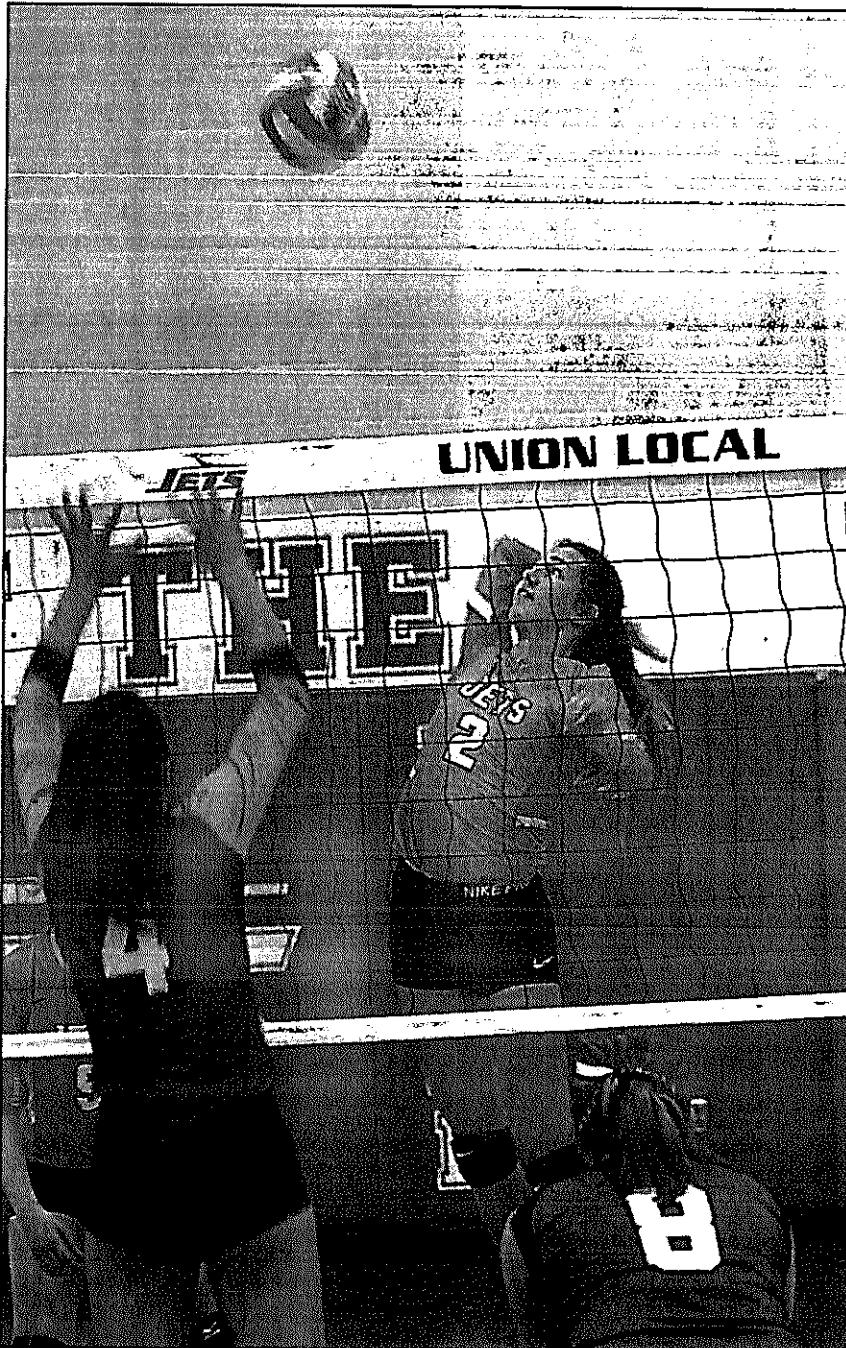
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TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL'S Casey Kildow goes up for a hit as Buckeye Trail's Madison King elevates to attempt to block during Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal in Morristown. The Warriors won in five sets to reach Saturday's championship game where they will take on Linsly.

Shadyside headed back to 2A title game

• Tigers improve to 21-0

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE – Perfection lives on.

State-ranked and unbeaten Shadyside punched its ticket into the OVAC volleyball championship game via a 25-9, 25-16, 25-18 sweep of Toronto in the Class 2A conference semifinals on the Orange boards Tuesday night.

The Tigers will meet Shenandoah, winner of Tuesday's nightcap, at Union Local Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Shadyside will take a 21-0 mark into that contest, hoping to finish the regular season unblemished.

The Red Knights dropped to 12-8 on the campaign.

Shadyside, featuring a well-balanced starting lineup boosted by a solid bench, served notice immediately that it was going to be its night. The Tigers rolled to a 16-3 lead in the first set, setting the tone for the balance of the contest.

"We started strong and gained control early. We relaxed a little bit in the third set but that happens," first-year coach Eric Mercer said. "But it was good for them to claw back to take control and win the set and the match.

"We played well (Tuesday). We have a lot of balance. We really don't have a weak spot that I can point to. And we have some players we can bring in off the bench and pick up where the starters left off."

Athletic junior Tory Hendershot and Sarah Teasdale were catalysts in helping the Tigers get out of the gates quickly. Hendershot delivered three kills while Teasdale slammed a pair as the hosts surged to a 7-0 lead in game one.

The Red Knights never recovered as Madison Davis delivered big hit after big hit as did Riley

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