

Jessop Broughton and Trevor Beresford both supplied double-doubles as Cameron took down Bridgeport/13

# Pairings for OVAC Girls Tourney Released

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**BELLAIRE** — The path to an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls basketball championship is set.

The basketball committee met Tuesday morning to finalize the standings and pairings for next week's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

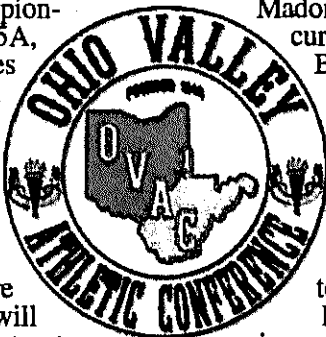
The tournament opens Monday with the higher seed in each class hosting a semifinal. The winners of those games will then play in the championship game on Feb. 8 at Ohio University Eastern.

The order of the championship games is Class 4A, 5A, 1A, 2A and 3A. The games begin at 10 a.m. and will start every two hours from there.

**Class 1A**

Beallsville garnered the top seed on the strength of a 17-3 record. The Blue Devils, who are the defending champion, will play host to first-time entrant, Hundred, which is currently 8-6.

In the other semifinal, Cameron will be on its home court, taking on



Madonna. The Dragons are currently 10-5, while the Blue Dons check in at 8-8.

**Class 2A**

A new champion is guaranteed as River — the two-time defending champ — didn't qualify for the top four.

However, the top seed is one familiar with the top four and OUE. Shadyside is the top seed with a solid 15-5 campaign. The Tigers were defeated by River each of

the last two seasons in the title games.

Standing in the way for Shadyside is fourth-seeded Wheeling Central. The injury-riddled Maroon Knights are 9-9.

In the other half of the bracket, Steubenville Catholic is the second seed and will host Shenandoah. The Crusaders are 10-7, while the Zeps punched a ticket at 11-7.

**Class 3A**

The lone undefeated team in the conference — Union Local — was the run-away winner for the top seed in this class.

Please see **PAIRINGS**, Page 12

# Vargo Sparks Park Past John Marshall

Senior all-stater tallies 32 points

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**WHEELING** — With the Youngstown State coaching staff in attendance to watch him for the second straight game, Alex Vargo didn't disappoint.

Wheeling Park's 6-foot-6 senior all-stater poured in 32 points in three quarters of action in leading the Patriots to an 81-57 win over John Marshall Tuesday night at the Palace on the Hill.

Vargo, who drained four treys on the night, tallied 20 of his points prior to intermission. He was also 6 of 6 from the stripe.

Fellow 6-6 senior Travis Zimmerman was also impressive, pouring in 22 points, 12 coming in the third period. He delivered a pair of rim-rattling slams.

"JM was down a guy or two to start, but our focus was good from the outset. Last week against Brooke I don't think it was there." Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "Alex got us going early and we did all the little things we needed to do. Travis kept it going for us in the third quarter."

"I was happy with our halfcourt defense. Travis is a rim protector and Shaheed (Jackson) delivers great ball pressure which doesn't show up in the box score."



Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Wheeling Park's Xavier Morris (1) goes up for a shot while John Marshall's Cole Gilbert defends during Tuesday's game.

Please see **VARGO**, Page 12

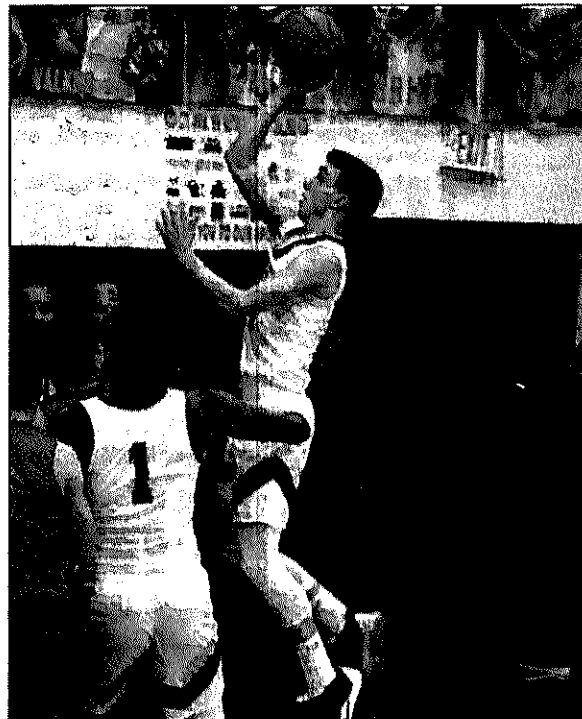


Photo by Cody Tomer  
Magnolia senior Jacob Gamble elevates toward the rim for a layup during Tuesday's game against Monroe Central.

# Eagles Soar Over Seminoles

By **CODY TOMER**  
Staff Writer

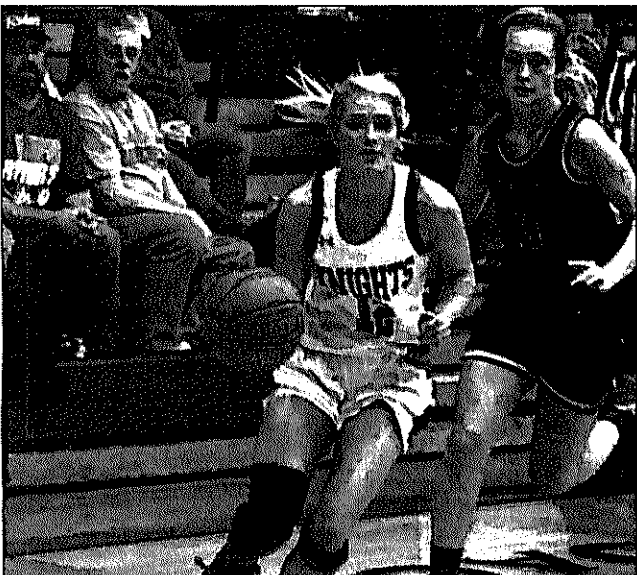
**NEW MARTINSVILLE** — Magnolia coach Dave Tallman let his team know before Tuesday's game that the upcoming contest was pivotal in locking down an OVAC Tournament spot.

The Blue Eagles rose to the occasion. Behind an impressive 26-point, 10 rebound performance from Qwailei Turner, Magnolia took down Monroe Central 62-43 inside Magnolia's gymnasium.

"We talked about it," Tallman said of possibly clinching an OVAC tournament spot. "I took this as almost like a play-in game for OVAC. I think we clinched (Tuesday). We wanted to get in and we're happy about that. We don't care where we have to go, we'll be ready."

The Blue Eagles are currently fourth in the OVAC Class 3A standings with a 12-3 record, while the Seminoles are sixth at 10-7.

Please see **EAGLES**, Page 12



# Ferry Secures Win Vs. Central

By **TRACY WATSON**  
For The Intelligencer

**WHEELING** — Winners of four games over the last six days, Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A leading Martins Ferry's girls' basketball team is playing its best basketball at the right time of the year.

Tuesday night Coach Dave Reasbeck's Purple Riders traveled across the bridge and dominated an injury-riddled, state-ranked Wheeling Central squad at its East Wheeling gym.

Senior guards Shayla Schuster and Maddie Ging helped

on Coach Skip Prosser Court, spoiling Central's Senior Night festivities.

"I wouldn't say we played great (Tuesday), but this was our fourth game in six days, all against respectable programs and all by nice margins so I really can't complain," Reasbeck said with a smile. "I also feel for them missing two great players, but I have been in that situation before and know how they feel."

While Maroon Knights' senior Hannah White was able to go, scoring a game-high 23 points on an injured hip, her

basket of the contest the Purple Riders (14-6) scored 12 of the next 14 points to seemingly take control. Central, however, rattled off seven in a row, with Marissa Horan scoring the final four to trim the deficit to 12-11.

That was when things fell apart for the Knights, who went into an 8:29 scoring drought with Martins Ferry scoring the final four of the first quarter off of turnovers then putting up the ensuing 15 points of the second quarter to extend the lead to 31-11 with 3:31 showing in the first half.

"There's a certain way we handle opportunities like this where we're in front of the media," Kelce said during the team's pre-practice availability Tuesday, "but he wants you to be yourself and that's the

ous, as evidenced by his four consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons. The Chiefs showed their appreciation for their coach — and the way he treats them — when they donned his trademark Hawai-

"A big part of why we're here is we want to succeed for him. He puts in so much work every day in making us successful, and making sure we do good. The least we can do is give him our all."

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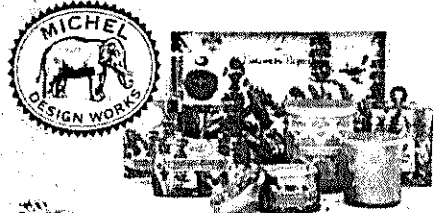
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in a really successful position in a basketball game when you have tall and athletic guys.

"We put an emphasis on boxing out and taking care of the ball. I thought we did a nice job early but we couldn't get the lid off the thing on the other end.

"As the game wore on, we got more fatigued and it started to show as we weren't boxing out."

The two teams locked horns in the second but Turner stepped up and made perhaps the biggest play of the game before halftime.

Magnolia had the ball with .7 seconds remaining on the clock when Turner jumped and caught the inbound pass inside the paint and dropped it into the basket with a soft touch while still in mid-air as the horn sounded. He was also fouled on the play and drained the free throw to send his squad into

"Monroe Central has a real nice team," Tallman said. "They're game is to come out and pressure you full court and I thought we handled the pressure really well. When we got our four guard set, it's hard to guard when we use the floor as space.

"I'm really happy for our seniors. That's what we talk about in the second half of the season. We talk about the urgency of being a senior. It's their last time around and we have three really good ones (Turner, Gamble, Scheibehood) and we're going to do the best we can to take us as far as we can."

Gamble neared double-double numbers with 13 points and eight boards, while Trevor Williamson bucketed four 3-pointers to finish with 12 points.

Talin Babcock paced Monroe Central with 15 points and Auston Hogue delivered 10.

## CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

Central (9-10) could get no closer than 13 in the third quarter, thanks in large part to 10 more miscues, as the visitors led 50-33 with eight minutes to play. Senior Richella Spielvogel shared team honors with 16 points, scoring nine of those in the fourth quarter, while battling foul trouble all night long.

Hannah White also had a big frame for the Knights, scoring 13 of her 23. The Purple Riders extended the lead to as many as 21 over the final eight minutes while the Maroon Knights was not able to get any closer than 15.

"My two guards, Schuster and Ging, both went out and were able to do what they do, and we need them to keep doing it," Reasbeck said. "It's getting real now and we have a lot to look forward too.

"We just won at Steubenville (Monday) and this is another big win for us on the road at a gym that is tough to play in. The White girls (Hannah) did a great job for them also, even though she was banged up."

Ging also tallied 16 for Martins Ferry while Jaden Stalder chipped in 14 and Maria Clark added 10. The Purple Riders grabbed a slim 27-25 edge off the glass but had 11 fewer turnovers (22) than their hosts. Hannah White was Central's only double-figure scorer on the night while Tristan White added eight.

"It really felt like we had more turnovers than that (33)," Central Head Coach Penn Kurtz said. "But we battled back a little in the first quarter and then turn the ball over a couple times to close it out.

"It's tough when you have to throw freshmen out on the floor, but we have to take better care of the basketball no matter who is out there. We have to get better, if we don't turn the ball over 33 times we might still at least be in the game.

"But it's things we can fix. That's where I really miss having all of my seniors on the floor because they can help settle everyone down. We still have a chance to get better, but we are not going to get much practice before traveling to Beallsville Thursday night."

Both teams will also be back in action next Monday night with Martins Ferry hosting Oak Glen in the OVAC Class 4A tournament and Wheeling Central traveling to Shadyside to take on the Tigers in the Class 2A event.

## PAIRINGS

(Continued from Page 11)

The Jets, who won back-to-back titles in Class 4A in 2016 and 2017, will begin chase of the 3A crown with their 19-0 record against a solid Monroe Central combine. The Seminoles are 15-4, but half of those losses came to the Jets.

A rematch of the 2019 OVAC title game is on tap for the other semifinal. Defending champion Bellaire, in the field for the fourth straight season, will make the trek to Fort Frye, which is 16-2. The Lady Reds have been one of the area's most improved teams, winning 10 of their last 12.

**Class 4A**  
Martins Ferry garnered the top seed and are currently 12-6 on the season. The Purple Riders are in the top four for the first time in several

years. Ferry, which won its last conference title in 2009, will play host to fourth-seeded Oak Glen, which overtook East Liverpool for the final bid.

The Golden Bears are 8-7 on the season. A rematch of the 2019 title game is on tap for the other half of the bracket when second-seeded Beaver Local welcomes St. Clairsville. Behind a sterling performance from West Liberty-bound Jenna Riccardo, the Beavers knocked off the Red Devils last winter.

Beaver is currently 9-7 on the season, while the Red Devils are 10-8.

**Class 5A**  
Indian Creek has sat atop the big-school standings all season and are now officially the top seed. The Redskins are an impressive 17-1 on

the season with their only loss coming to Union Local last weekend.

The Redskins will take on fourth-seeded Weir High, which qualified with a 10-6 record. The Red Riders haven't won an OVAC title since 1996, while Creek last hoisted the trophy in 2010.

Wheeling Park, which won the 2017 title and was defeated by University a season ago, is back in the mix as the second seed. The Patriots come in at 15-2 on the season.

Park will welcome 9-5 University.

The Hawks are the defending 5A champions and ironically were the fourth seed a season ago when they began the tourney. This, too, is a rematch of last winter's title game.

## VARGO

(Continued from Page 11)

"We got some big boys coming up in Parkersburg South, University and Morgantown."

Park, rated fifth in the latest WVSAC Class AAA rankings, improved to 11-3. The Patriots host South this Thursday.

"They (Park) are primed to make a run at Morgantown and University. Park is playing very well right now," John Marshall coach Chad Clutter said. "Park is well-coached.

"They can work the inside game. They can work an outside game. It will be interesting to see how they do in sectionals and regionals.

"We have another month to try and get things squared away. We got some younger guys who play hard and with heart, and hopefully that carries over the next couple of years. We are just kind of outmanned at this point."

immediately, rolling to a 21-5 advantage after one quarter. Vargo ignited the surge with 11 points.

The hosts stretched their advantage to 44-15 at intermission. The Patriots surged to a 73-38 advantage after three frames. Jebbia emptied his bench the entire fourth quarter.

Athletic senior Xavier Morris chipped in with 12 points for Park. Jackson snared seven rebounds for the winners while Vargo and Zimmerman each grabbed five boards. Junior point guard D.J. Saunders again stuffed the stat sheet with six assists, four rebounds and two steals.

"We had some positives (Tuesday). Justin had a good night shooting while controlling the ball and getting our guys in place offensively," Clutter said. "Zach Bishop played with a lot of heart and had personal best seven points. We



of its last six.  
 "We're growing up as the season moves along. We were able to weather the storm, so to speak, and handle a run.

"In the past, we might've folded. But we're trying to change the culture around here and the kids have bought in. When things go our way they just happen to click for us."

Hayden Taylor scored 17 points and Cameron Grabits added 16 as the Panthers (6-10) went on a 16-0 run early in the fourth quarter to go up 12, only to watch Powell almost single-handedly bring Barnesville back in it.

Kason Powell, who had 10 points, hit a pair of free throws for the Shamrocks with 3:57 left cutting their deficit to 10, then Luke took over.

The elder Powell, who finished with a game-high 37 points, hit back-to-back 3s making the score 67-63.

Jacob Pielech answered for the Panthers with layup, but Powell came back with five straight points, as Buckeye Local's lead dwindled to one with 2:06 left.

The Shamrocks' luck ran out there, as the night's game against Barnesville. Darrah scored 12 points in the Panthers' 79-74 victory.



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

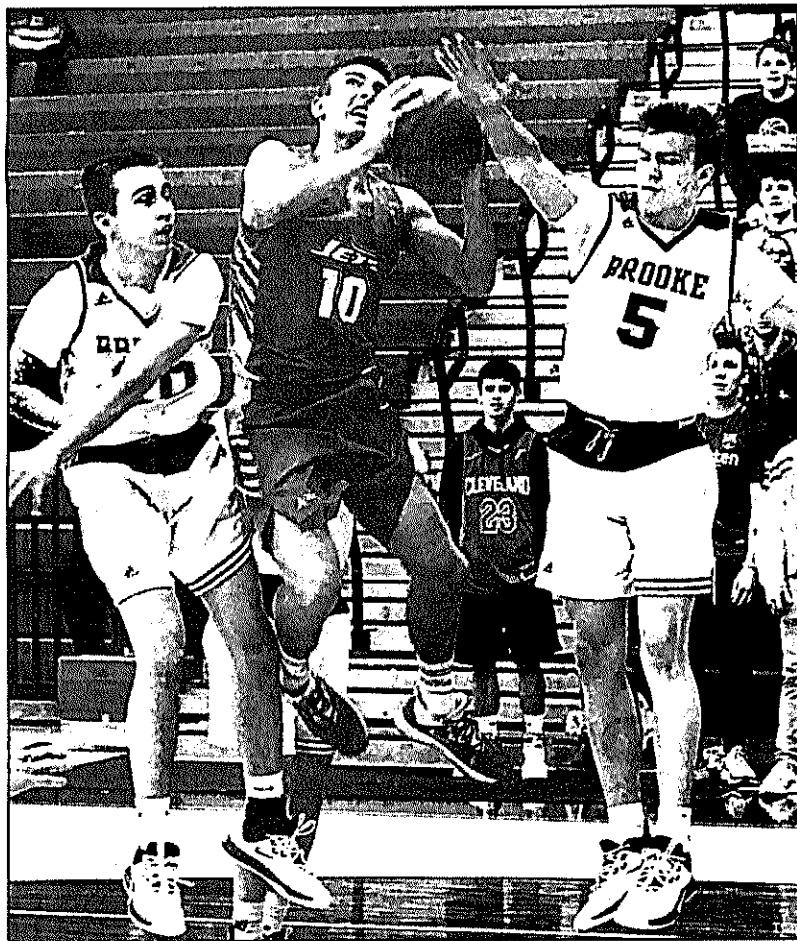
**BUCKEYE LOCAL'S** Hunter Darrah looks to make an outlet pass during Tuesday night's game against Barnesville. Darrah scored 12 points in the Panthers' 79-74 victory.

"Just play our game, play hard and just go after it. Play like we are capable and it starts at the defensive end. Get after them at the defensive end and the offense is just going to come," Andes said.

"I thought, in the first half we had (the tempo) to our liking," Bellaire coach J.R. Battista said. "They (Shadyside) are a pretty good team. They have a lot of weapons on offense, a lot of guys who can pass, catch and shoot, and that's a good combination. I thought we had it to our liking, and then we scored the first bucket to start the half, and I thought maybe we could spread it out on them a little bit, but then their pressure bothered us. We can't give up layups to people. There is no defense to a steal, lay-up. It's a problem, but we tried hard. They made more plays."

Shadyside (12-5) opened the game

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



**UNION LOCAL'S** Andrew Martin goes up for a shot as Brooke's Dalton Anderson (00) and Alex Isinghood (5) defend during Tuesday's game in Wellsburg. Martin scored 13 points and the Jets picked up a 65-48 win.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## Union Local stays hot with win at Brooke

By **SETH STASKEY**  
 Times Leader Sports Editor

**WELLSBURG** – Union Local has been one of the hottest teams in the Ohio Valley.

The Jets came into Tuesday night's trip to the gorgeous Brooke High Wellness Center as winners of nine of their last 10, but head coach Zach Delman warned his players that they couldn't afford to take their foot off the gas against a struggling Brooke squad, which has just one win.

Outside of a few minute stretch in the second half when Brooke actually got within seven, the message was well received.

And after the Bruins threatened, the Jets accelerated once again and went on for a 65-48 victory.

"We try to approach every game like they all have the same magnitude to them, and I thought we had a good start," Delman said. "I thought we got outworked in the second half. It was the little things, too. The things we talk about all the time. I think we started

to take things for granted. Little things can add up and have big results."

They actually did on both ends of spectrum for the Jets. The Bruins, who scored just 14 points in the first half, forced turnovers, were active on the glass and shot the ball much better in the second half.

However, they never got any closer than seven because Luke Merritt got free behind the arc. An adept 3-point shooter, Merritt connected on six treys for the game, but his biggest two came on back-to-back possessions to thwart the Bruins spurt.

"Once our kids settled in (against their zone), and got to the spots on the floor they should have been, rather than just random spots, we hit some open shots," Delman said.

Merritt, who finished with a game-high 18 points, ignited what became a 17-7 run to end the game.

"Luke started strong by hitting two and then we got him some looks in the fourth and he hit them," Delman said. "Nate Meyer played well, Zach

See, **UL**, Page B2

## Ferry girls race past Wheeling CC, 69-52

By **TRACY WATSON**  
 For The Times Leader

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Senior guards Shayla Schuster and Maddie Ging helped force 33 Maroon Knight turnovers while four players hit double-figures in the scoring column and Ferry used a 19-0 first half run to take control on its way to a 69-52 victory on Coach Skip Prosser Court, spoiling Central's Senior Night festivities.

See, **FERRY**, Page B3



Photo/CODY TOMER

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Austin Hogue catches a pass during Tuesday's game against Magnolia in New Martinsville.

## Monroe comes up short at Magnolia

By **CODY TOMER**  
 For The Times Leader

**NEW MARTINSVILLE** – Magnolia coach Dave Tallman let his team know before Tuesday's game that the upcoming contest was pivotal in locking down an OVAC Tournament spot.

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See, **MONROE**, Page B3

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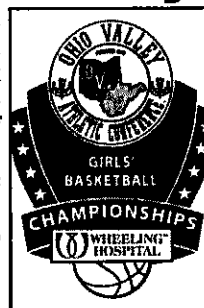
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Standing in the way for Shadyside is fourth-seeded Wheeling Central. The injury-riddled Maroon Knights are 9-9.

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



winning the tip and putting forward a balanced offense behind Bryce Amos, Kelly Hendershot and Tyler Parr, while Bellaire (3-14) took a few trips down the floor to find its rhythm.

Still, Zwack, Owen Ward and Creed Rhodes found the basket after Trenton Wilson's opening bucket for the Big Reds to put the hosts back into it. In the waning moments of the first, Bellaire worked its way down the floor and Wilson kicked the ball out to Zwack, who swished a 3 pointer just before the buzzer to put the hosts up 14-13 after one.

The second period saw both teams struggle from the floor as each team managed just three field goals apiece in the quarter, with Zwack hitting two for Bellaire and Jacob Visnic hitting a pair of buckets off the bench for the Tigers. The half ended with Bellaire leading, 21-19.

Ward hit the first shot of the second

half for the Big Reds, putting the hosts up by a 23-19 count, but the Tigers utilized a calculated defensive attack, swarming the Reds and taking the lead back for good at the 6:39 mark of the second on a bucket from Amos. In addition to the Tigers' defense waking up, Amos was a machine in the third, hitting six field goals and netting 15 of the Shadyside's 23 third quarter points.

All told, the Tigers forced 10 Bellaire turnovers, nine of which came via steals, including four from Parr. The hosts were able to stay as close as five nearing the end of the period, however timely shots from Hendershot and Visnic pushed the Tigers lead back to seven after three, 42-35.

Shadyside's offense ran through Hendershot and Amos in the fourth, as the pair combined for 16 points, while Shadyside held Bellaire to three field goals over the final eight minutes. Both

teams emptied their benches over the course of the quarter, with Shadyside continuing to pressure Bellaire, sealing the 65-43 victory.

Amos finished with a double-double, scoring 33 points while dominating the inside with 14 rebounds and three blocks.

"This was great for him (Amos) because he finally got his confidence in the second half. He spun right and left and he just did a great job. He played very confidently, which was good to see," Andes said when asked about Amos' efforts on the evening.

Hendershot filled the stat-sheet with 15 points, five steals, three assists and a block for the Belmont County Bengals.

Zwack netted 17 including a pair of threes to lead Bellaire. Ward added 10.

Bellaire was guilty of 18 turnovers compared to eight by the Tigers, who held an edge on the glass 37-23.

"Our kids just turned things up defensively," Heaton said. "They bought in."

"And toward the end of the third and into the fourth, our guards did a better job of getting (our bigs) the ball and pushing it and finding the open guy. When they started to press us they finished the job inside. That really helped us out."

Luke Powell broke a 51-all tie after three by scoring four straight points to begin the fourth. From that point, the Panthers went on their game-altering run. Taylor scored eight points during the surge.

"He made some big shots," Heaton said. "He's finally hitting his groove. We're going to need him down the stretch to help us out and score some points for us."

Johnson looked to Taylor as one of the spark plugs that churned the Panthers' offensive engine, one he said was purring at maximum efficiency, while his team's was struggling to churn consistently.

"I don't have a lot of answers right now," he said regarding his team's recent struggles. "It's a frustrating game when stuff like this happens. Give them a lot of credit. I thought they shot it as good as I've seen them on film all year."

"It went for them, and not enough for us."

## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

In the other half of the bracket, Steubenville Catholic is the second seed and will host Shenandoah. The Crusaders are 10-7, while the Zeps punched a ticket at 11-7.

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## • UL

Continued from Page B1

Bateman was big at the line and Andrew Martin gave us a nice spark in the first half."

An additional little things the Jets did well against Brooke, like they've done all season, is knock down free throws. Union Local was 15-of-15 for the game at the stripe, including 11-of-11 in the fourth.

Fueling that was Zach Bateman, who cashed in six in the fourth. Nathan Meyer, who backed Merritt with 15, added four free throws. Martin added 13 with 11 coming in the opening half.

Brooke, meanwhile, continues to search for answers and consistency.

"Other than the St. Clairsville game, we've not been able to get over the hump all season," Brooke head coach Mel Coleman said.

"We don't have the right personnel, so we have to do the best we can with who we have."

The Bruins were led by Alex Lilly and Alex Isinghood, who evenly divided 30 points. Nick Brown finished with nine.

"At some point in time, this many games into the season, you have to get beyond playing pretty well," Coleman said. "You have to play better to be successful. You play the game to win. I don't play anything to lose."

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Union Local opened up the OVAC tournament with a win to advance to the title game/12

2020 GIRLS OVAC BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS

**Knights Shock Tigers  
In Instant Classic**

Central rallies from 11 down in final 1:11 of game

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Leading by 11 points with just 1:11 to play Monday night everything seemed to be going as planned for top-seeded Shadyside as the Tigers were attempting to make a third consecutive trip to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA championship game.

However, a feisty, injury-riddled and determined Wheeling Central team had other plans as the Maroon Knights rallied late, forced overtime and crushed Shadyside's plans.

Junior Marissa Horan scored a game-high 23 points, including 14 in the fourth period and overtime, and Central overcame an early 14-point deficit and a late 11-point hole to shock the Tigers by a 66-62 margin in overtime at the Tiger Den.

Coach Penn Kurtz' fourth-seeded squad will take on Steubenville Catholic Central in Saturday's OVAC Class 2A Championship game on the Ohio University Eastern Campus.

Meanwhile, Coach Serge Gentile's Tigers fall to 15-6 and will be left to wonder what could have been heading into sectionals.

"I have been coaching for 35 years and I have to tell you this one ranks up there pretty high," a smiling and elated



Photo by Kristin Mazgai  
Wheeling Central's Hannah White goes up for a shot against Shadyside's Madysyn Stewart during Monday's OVAC semifinal game in Shadyside. The Maroon Knights won the game in overtime.



Photo by Cody Tomer  
Wheeling Park's Lindsey Garrison goes hard to the lane, while University's Eden Gibson defends during OVAC semifinal action on Monday.

**Park Rolls To  
OVAC Final**

Patriots will play Creek

By BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive  
Sports Editor

WHEELING — University and Wheeling Park staged two close games earlier this season, with the Patriots escaping with 1- and 7-point triumphs, respectively.

Such was not the case in Monday night's OVAC Class 5A semi-

final game at The Palace on the Hill. Park used an impressive first quarter in building a double-digit lead it would never relinquish the balance of the night, rolling to an impressive 67-48 triumph.

"Overall, I thought it was a good performance. University is a quality opponent. They gave us two good games this year," Park coach Ryan Young said.

Please see PARK Page 12

**Cameron Ousts Madonna for Spot in Title Game**

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

CAMERON — In her first season as Cameron girls basketball coach, Holly Pettit is taking the Dragons back to the OVAC Class 1A championship. And the Dragons did so in impressive fashion Monday night in a semifinal matchup against Madonna. Pettit's squad finished the first quarter on a 14-1 run, overcame a Blue Dons spurt along with battling some foul trouble in a 48-36 victory at Cameron High School.

The Dragons will face Beallsville for the 1A title 2 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The Blue Devils defeated Hundred in the other Class 1A semifinal.

Cameron will look for their second conference title in school history. The Dragons won their first one back in 2018 under Roger Cain.

"I told the girls before the game looking up at the banner. There's one year that they won the OVAC championship," Pettit said. "I was like, 'We want our name and our year up on there. Obviously Beallsville is a very tough team.

They have some really good basketball players. I'm ready to play them again. We'll prepare this week and hopefully we can get that year up on the banner."

And to get to the championship game took a little work. With the Dragons up 23-9 midway through the second, the Blue Dons put together a small 9-0 spurt to get within striking distance. A free throw by Anna Bachel put the score at 23-18 with 35 seconds to go in the first half. Aubrey Cain-Loy, though, gave the Dragons a little momentum with a bucket with 7 seconds remaining.

"I told them that the first quarter was great" Pettit said. "We were boxing out and getting offensive and defensive rebounds. We were jumping out, jamming the cutters and not letting the girls get to the basket. In the second quarter we got a little bit lazy. They were getting some offensive rebounds and that's when they started making their way back. At halftime, I said we had to make some adjustments and we got to get back to the game we know. Keep the intensity up and play fundamental basketball. And they did. I'm really proud of

the girls. They played really well as a team lately."

It's true. Coming out of halftime, the Dragons scored 11 of the first 12 points to take a commanding 36-19 lead with 3:25 left in the third.

But a little adversity was there for the Dragons too. Lili Neely, who finished the night with a game-high 17 points was battling foul trouble throughout the night. She picked up her fourth foul with 6:04 left in the third quarter. Both her and Reagan Gray also had three fouls going into halftime.

"Lili and Reagan Gray, who is our best defender, I put her on ((Jazzy) Melnyk. We knew she was going to drive to the basket and Reagan did a phenomenal job on defense," Pettit said. "I would put her up against anybody. She'd run through a brick wall if I asked her to. She's just one of those hard-nose basketball players. We got in foul trouble and that's what you're going to get when you play aggressive defense. The other girls stepped up and took care of things."

Please see CAMERON, Page 12

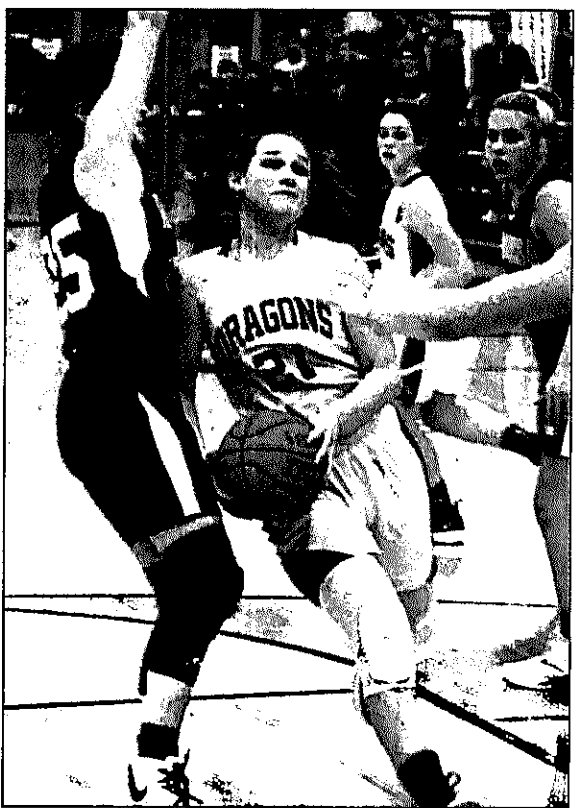


Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Cameron's Lili Neely charges at the basket during a OVAC Class 1A semifinal matchup against Madonna Monday. Neely finished with 17 points.

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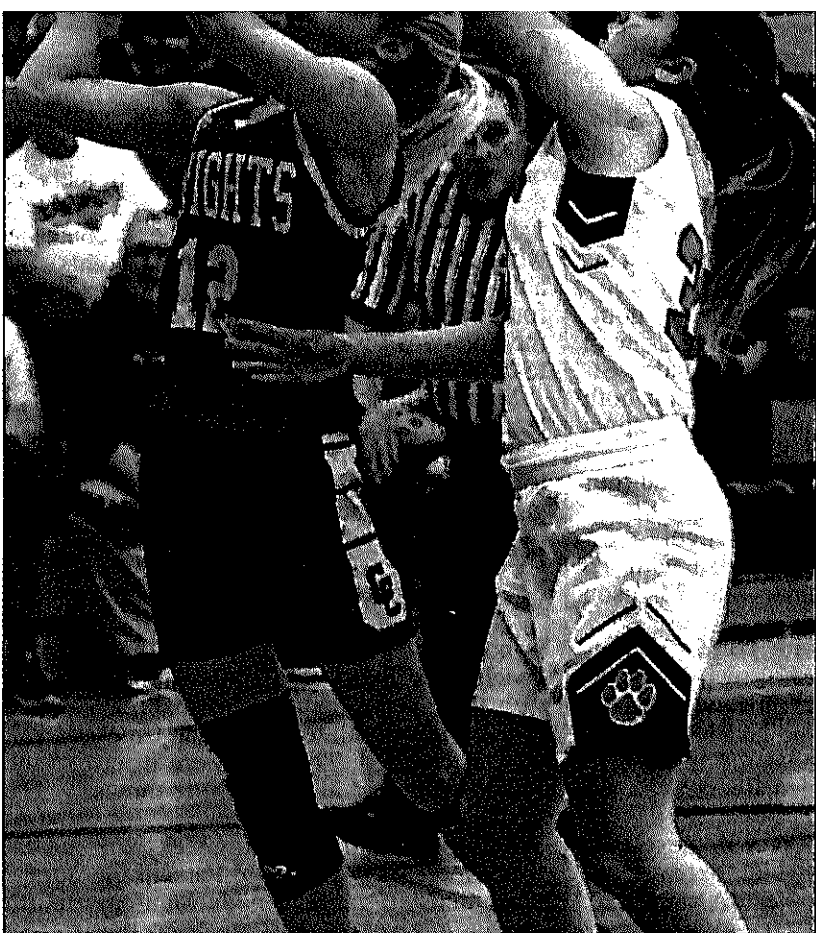


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Please see **PARK**  
Page 12

Please see **CLASSIC**, Page 13

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By **KYLE LUTZ**  
Staff Writer

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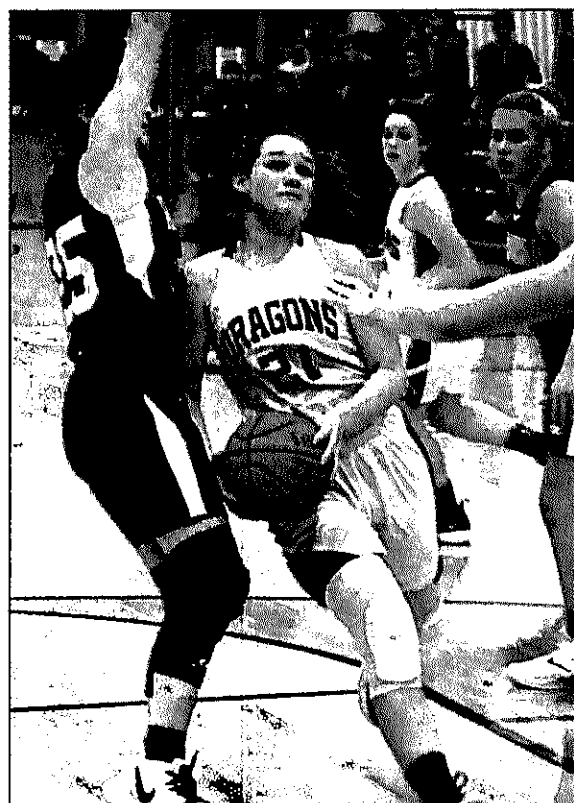


Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Cameron's Lili Neely charges at the basket during a OVAC Class 1A semifinal matchup against Madonna Monday. Neely finished with 17 points.

## Redskins Too Much for Weir

By **AARON PETCHAL**  
For The Intelligencer

**WINTERSVILLE** — Indian Creek took care of business, and now the Redskins have the opportunity to play for their second championship of the season.

The No. 1 seed Indian Creek girls basketball team raced out to an early lead against fourth-seeded Weir and never looked back in a 64-23 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 5A semifinal victory Monday night at home.

"We came out really aggressive," Indian Creek (18-1) coach Steve Eft said. "The girls played with a lot of energy at the start.

"I thought after we got to that 12-1 lead, we got kind of impatient, and we forced some shots. We missed some shots we normally make. At halftime, we talked to the girls about keeping doing what they were doing on defense, and we talked about taking our time on offense. We wanted to take our time. We wanted to slow down. We wanted to get great shots instead of good shots. I thought we did a really good job



Photo by Joe Catullo  
Indian Creek's Taylor Jones, left, looks to avoid a block by Weir's Sophia Aperfline.

of doing that."

Weir got into a big hole early and was never able to dig out of it.

Please see **REDSKINS**, Page 12

## Ferry Outlasts Oak Glen, 65-39

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**MARTINS FERRY** — Top-seeded Martins Ferry began the season in late October with its eyes on the OVAC Class 4A title.

The Purple Riders — by virtue of their impressive 65-39 victory against fourth-seeded Oak Glen — moved another step closer to the crown Monday evening as the annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Tournament opened inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

"We get to go play for a championship, so what more can you ask for?" Martins Ferry coach Dave

Reasbeck said.

"I thought once we got settled down, we played really well."

The Purple Riders found themselves with just a 16-14 lead after one quarter, but Reasbeck believed much of that slower start, which included several missed scoring chances in close to the basket, was because he had his team "too hyped up."

"These girls have put in a lot of work and know how important this week's game are," Reasbeck said.

"We finally made a few shots and converted some

Please see **FERRY**, Page 12









# SPORTS

Tuesday,  
February 4, 2020

## UL survives test from Monroe in 3A

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN — Nothing surprises Rob Barr anymore.

Battling through sickness and faced with the fact that it's tough to beat a team three times in one season, top-seeded Union Local held off a late, furious charge by visiting No. 4 Monroe Central, 63-59, Monday night in Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A tournament semifinal action before a nice-sized crowd inside "The Hangar."

With their 21st win in as many starts, the Jets will meet No. 2 Fort Frye which defeated third-seeded Bellaire, 61-46, in the other semifinal on Monday night, for the championship Saturday at 6 p.m. inside the Health and Physical Education Building on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"We got through it. We don't have anyone healthy," Barr said after watching the Seminoles outscore his Jets 33-26 in the second half. "Reagan (Vinskovich) hasn't practiced since the Linsly game (on Thursday), and she was sick then, She was sick

tonight. Hannah (Merritt) has only practiced once. She was sick all weekend. Keira (Gregor) is sick right now.

"After seeing who was available for us tonight, I was really nervous," Barr acknowledged. "Kudos go to Baylee Rex and Alleigh Cheatham. I think we got two points from them, but they gave us huge, huge minutes off the bench. They went in there and played hard. They got Reagan a break and they got Keira a break.

"The other three players ... yeoman's work. They played the entire game," he said of Merritt and the Kildow sisters, Casey and Torre. "They had too. We're a little bit sick. I think we're going to take a day off but we'll be ready for Saturday."

The Jets led 50-40 entering the final quarter and stretched it a point, 56-45, when Merritt drilled the last of her four bonus goals with 5:46 left on the clock.

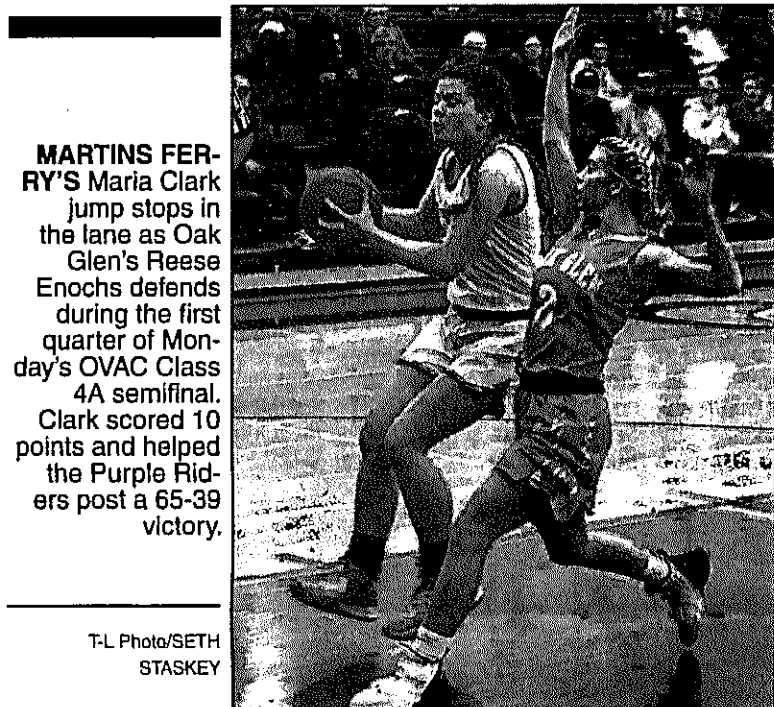
However, Amy Bettinger scored on the inside to jump-start a seven-point spree that narrowed the deficit to 56-52 when Kalista Friday final of her four treys with 3:49 showing.

See, UL, Page B3



UNION LOCAL'S Hannah Merritt (30) drives around Monroe Central's Kenzi Bishop during Monday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A tournament semifinal inside "The Hangar." Merritt led the undefeated Jets with 20 points in a 63-59 victory over the Seminoles.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH



MARTINS FERRY'S Maria Clark jump stops in the lane as Oak Glen's Reese Enochs defends during the first quarter of Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal. Clark scored 10 points and helped the Purple Riders post a 65-39 victory.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## Martins Ferry subdues Oak Glen to reach Class 4A final

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

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"These girls have put in a lot of work and know how important this week's game are," Reasbeck said. "We finally made a few shots and converted some easy chances as the game wore on. I think we'll be much more relaxed on Saturday. The tough part is getting there, but now it's the fun part."

Still find itself in a legitimate battle with under three minutes to go until the half, the Purple Riders closed with a flurry. They scored the final seven points of the half, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from Shayla Schuster, which followed a trey from tal-

**Want More?**  
Additional photos of the game can be found at [timesleaderonline.com](http://timesleaderonline.com)

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## Top-seeded Beallsville cruises to 1A title game

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

BEALLSVILLE — Beallsville wasted little time Monday night in showing its desire to repeat as OVAC Class 1A girls' basketball champs.

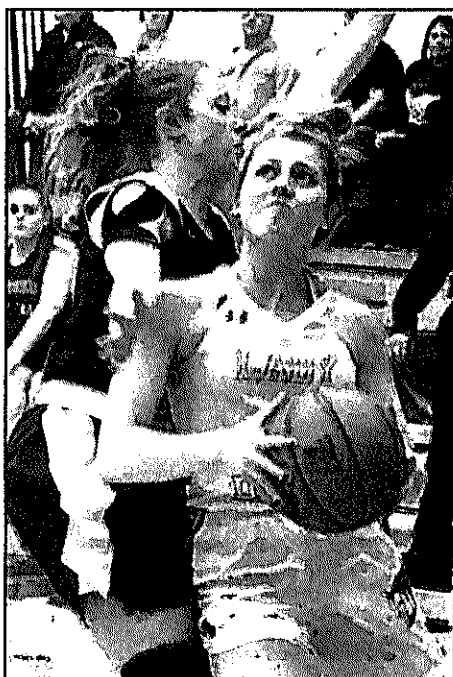
The Blue Devils jumped out to an 11-0 lead and cruised from there in routing Hundred, 66-28, in one semifinal of this season's Wheeling Hospital event inside Beallsville High School.

Ashlie Loudon poured in a game-high 31 points for Beallsville, which will face Cameron at 2 Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern in a rematch of last year's title tilt. The Dragons downed Madonna, 48-36, inside Dragon Indoor Stadium, also Monday.

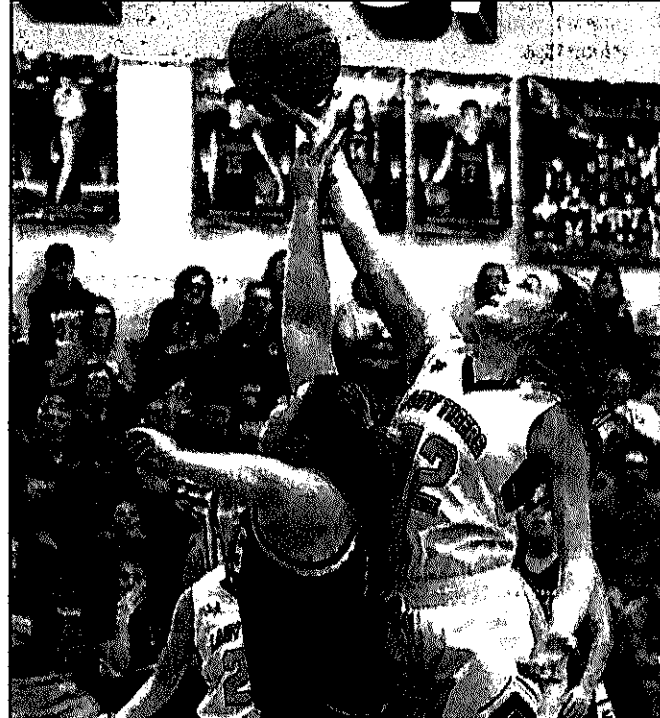
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Ashley Howell added 15 points for top-seeded Beallsville (18-3), which flexed its muscles inside and out against the Hornets (8-9), making their first OVAC Tournament appearance.

Despite having four starters back from



BEALLSVILLE'S ASHLIE Loudon (3) drives against Hundred's Kaye Davis (14) during Monday night's OVAC Clas



SHADYSIDE FRESHMAN Gentry Brown battles for a rebound with a Wheeling Central player during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Shadyside. The Maroon Knights rallied from as many as 14 down to eventually force overtime where it eventually prevailed, 66-62 to advance to face Steubenville Catholic Central in Saturday's title game.

Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

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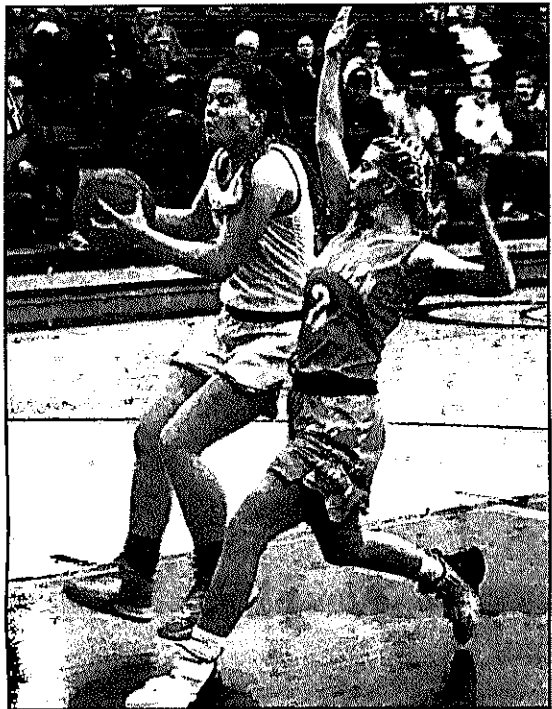
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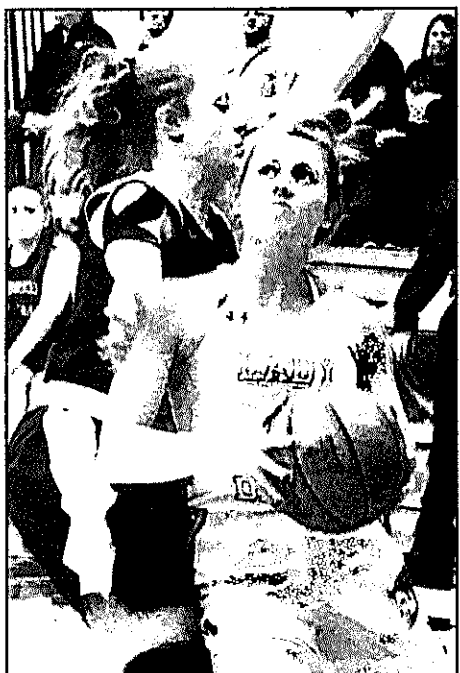
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Despite having four starters back from last season, Hundred was overwhelmed from the start by the Blue Devils' heady play in all phases, especially on the defensive end. After building a 13-point lead after the first quarter, Beallsville blanked the Hornets in the second in stretching its advantage to 30 — 35-5 — by halftime. Rachel Snedden paced Hundred with 13 points.

"We had a gameplan and we came out and stuck to it," Jarrett explained. "There's some things we still need to work on."

"We tried to work on a little bit different defense in the second half. Most people that have watched us know we haven't



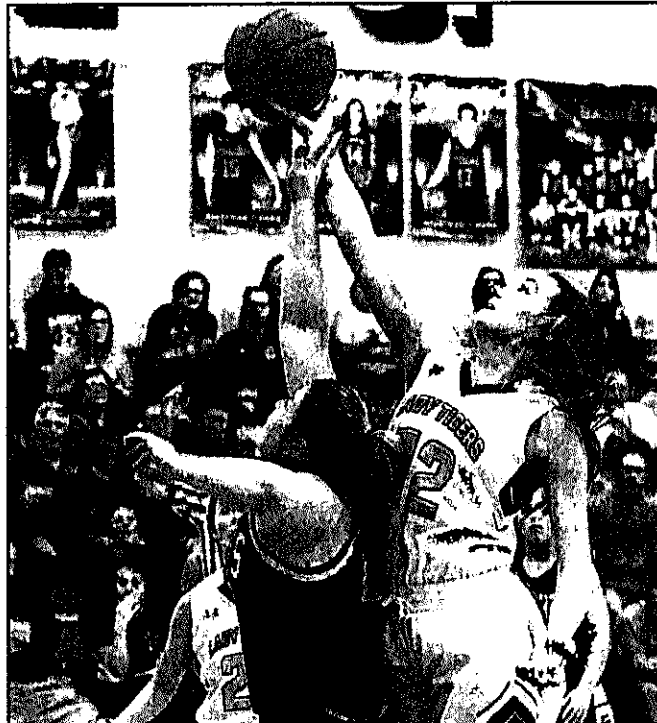
T-L Photo/RICK THORP

**BEALLSVILLE'S ASHLIE** Loudon (3) drives against Hundred's Kaye Davis (14) during Monday night's OVAC Class 1A semifinal in Beallsville.

played a 2-3 often, but it's something we need to work on, so we took the time to work on it now."

Jarrett credited her players for staying mentally involved in the game, as well as for getting everyone involved. While Howell and Loudon shared most of the workload pointwise, Beallsville's other five players touched the ball plenty of times.

"They all work really hard," she said. "Having just seven people is not easy. It's a credit to all of them because all of them work hard and play hard."



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Coach Penn Kurtz' fourth-seeded squad will take a 10-11 record into Saturday's championship game against the survivor of last night's Steubenville Central and Shenandoah

contest. Meanwhile, Coach Serge Gentile's Tig-Knights rallied late, forced overtime and crushed Shadyside's plans. See, SHADYSIDE, Page B3

## St. Clairsville comes up short at Beaver in 4A, 48-35

By CHRIS RAMBO  
For The Times Leader

CALCUTTA — The Beaver Local girls basketball team may be starting to gel at just the right time.

After struggling to find consistency for much of the season, the Beavers put together a dominant first half and cruised home with a 48-35 victory over St. Clairsville in an OVAC 4A

semifinal Monday at Beaver Local High School.

"We're young at the guard spot and it has taken time to get the young players experience and confidence," Beaver Local coach Stephanie Coie said. "I think you're starting to see us mature. Our younger kids are starting to understand what we want and we're playing more as a team."

The second-seeded Beavers (11-9) earn the right to defend their 4A title when they take on top-seeded Martins Ferry in the championship game at 10 a.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The third-seeded Red Devils (11-9) will take on Oak Glen in a consolation game Thursday.

"Earlier in the season, I don't think everyone knew what their role was, but

now we're all on the same page," Beaver Local senior Jenna Riccardo said. "I'm really excited to try and defend our title. If we can win it again after winning our first one last year, that would be awesome."

Riccardo, the Beavers leading scorer, was held without a point for the first quarter-and-a-half, but her team didn't miss a beat. Behind superb ball move- See, ST. C., Page B3













12 of 20 from the field. He also grabbed 13 rebounds.

"I don't know what's going to happen," Love said. "We'll let the chips fall. I've been saying that, but I expect to probably finish the season out here and continue to play extremely hard."

Love hit a jumper to put Cleveland ahead 134-133 with 1:19 left.

Morris missed the morning shoot-around because of an illness. He was 8 of 15 from the field and made all eight of his free throws.

"I've still got a little stomach virus there, but I'm good," Morris said.

New York's Elfrid Payton, returning from a one-game suspension, had 17 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds for his first triple-double of the season.

Cleveland led 118-108 with five minutes to play in regulation, but New York rallied behind Morris, who scored 10 points in the quarter

**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS'** Collin Sexton (2) drives against New York Knicks' Elfrid Payton (6) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday in Cleveland.

to push the Knicks ahead.

"We took it kind of bitter," Morris said of the deficit. "I told the guys, 'Step up right now, the game is not over.' I got into positions, they got the ball where I needed it, and I just made it happen."

Julius Randle's layup gave New York a 127-124 lead before Collin Sexton's 3-pointer tied the game with 13 seconds left. Morris missed a jumper, but the Knicks got the rebound and called timeout. Morris' jumper from the left corner rimmed out at the buzzer.

Sexton had 29 points for Cleveland, going 11 of 22 from the field. The Cavaliers (13-38) are tied with Atlanta for the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

Cleveland center Tristan Thompson, also the subject of trade rumors,

was sidelined by a sore right quad. He worked out on the court before the game and the team announced he was out 45 minutes prior to tip-off.

Coach John Beilein said Thompson got treatment after the shoot-around, but the leg was still bothering him before the game.

**TIP-INS**

Knicks: Randle (sore quad) was listed as probable, but he scored 20 points. ... Dennis Smith scored 15. ... G Frank Ntilikina (groin) returned after missing two games. He was hurt Jan. 28 at Charlotte.

Cavaliers: Thompson watched the second half from the bench. ... Larry Nance Jr. started at center and scored 18 points. He was hit with a technical for giving a sarcastic thumbs up to an official after not

getting a call as the first half ended. ... F Alfonso McKinnie's second 10-day contract expired and he's now a free agent.

**A LOOK BACK**

The Cavaliers acquired Love from Minnesota in 2014. He was a key part of a team that won the championship in 2016 and made the Finals every year from 2015-18.

"When my time's done here I'll reflect on how amazing it is and was," he said.

"I've known so many great people here and had so many great moments."

**SHOWING IMPROVEMENT**

The Knicks have won three of five, including two straight on the road. New York won at Indiana on Saturday.

AP PHOTO

Abbe Stackpole was also solid for the Wildcats with a team-high 20 points.

For the Bulldogs, Jaren Tucker netted a game-high 28 points.

**Morgantown 52, Linsly 30**

**WHEELING** — Carleigh Grimm had 11 points and 21 rebounds to secure a double-double, but Linsly fell to Morgantown.

## Patriots advance to face IC

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**WHEELING** — University and Wheeling Park staged two close games earlier this season, with the Patriots escaping with 1- and 7-point triumphs, respectively.

Such was not the case in Monday night's OVAC Class 5A semifinal game at The Palace on the Hill. Park used an impressive first quarter in building a double-digit lead it would never relinquish the balance of the night, rolling to an impressive 67-48 triumph.

"Overall, I thought it was a good performance. University is a quality opponent. They gave us two good games this year," Young said.

The win was the 18th in 20 starts for the state's No. 1-rated Class AAA team. More importantly, it punches the Patriots' ticket into Saturday's OVAC championship game at noon against Indian Creek at Ohio University Eastern.

Creek defeated Park at Winterville in their lone meeting this winter.

The loss dropped University to 11-7 on the campaign. The Hawks are rated No. 10 in the state.

The win also helps Park avenge an OVAC semifinal home loss to University last season. The Hawks went on to win the conference championship.

Young's battle-tested squad bolted to a 22-11 lead after the opening eight minutes to gain firm and game-long control. Guards Shanley Woods and Asia Roby fueled the quick start with seven points each.

Roby and Lindsey Garrison each delivered a pair of treys in the second quarter as the Patriot lead mushroomed to 42-23 by intermission. Woods nailed three bonus bombs in the third frame, enabling the hosts to maintain a 56-40 cushion entering the final chapter.

University never got closer than 12 (50-38) in the second half.

Park finished the night with 11 3-point goals. The winners were also an impressive 16 of 18 from the charity stripe. The Patriots, however, were somewhat sloppy taking care of the ball, committing 18 turnovers.

Woods turned in a superb effort. The senior sharpshooter netted a game-high 26 points, including four treys and six of six at the line. Roby was also impressive, tallying 14 points to go with strong board play.

Junior ace Bella Abernathy was saddled with early foul issues. She still found time, however, to score eight points and grab seven rebounds.

## Kansas City set to celebrate Super Bowl win

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs fans are flocking to buy T-shirts, lining up for photos and preparing to skip out on work for a celebratory parade after the team won its first Super Bowl in 50 years.

Schools in the area have started calling off classes so students and staff could attend "The Chiefs King-

dom Champions Parade," which is set for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Officials announced the celebration Sunday night, shortly after the Chiefs defeated San Francisco 31-20. The festivities will include a victory rally at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri, shortly after the parade ends.

Among the school districts pulling the plug on classes was the school system across the state line in Kansas City, Kansas. "For the first time in 50 years, our Kansas City Chiefs are bringing home the Vince Lombardi trophy, and we're all excited to celebrate with our players and fans," Mayor Quinton Lucas said in a news release.

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Featured in The Times Leader on Friday, February 14, 2020

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Scoreboard/B4  
Athletes of the  
Week/B6

# SPORTS

Thursday,  
February 6, 2020

## Path to OVAC boys basketball championships set

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**BELLAIRE** – The brackets are set. After a couple of months of basketball, the path to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's boys basketball championship was established Wednesday morning during the OVAC Basketball Committee meeting.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships will open on Feb. 11 with the higher seeds in each of the five

classes hosting semi-final games. Those winners will then advance to Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville to play for the title on Feb. 15.

The championship final schedule will be the same utilized this coming weekend for the girls with 4A kicking things off at 10 a.m. Games will go off every two hours and go 4A, 5A, 1A, 2A and 3A.

The teams not in the top four of their classification were assigned their final two regular season

games by the committee.

Here's a look at each class:

### CLASS 5A

**Morgantown** – on the strength of a 14-2 record – garnered the top seed in the class. The Mohigans have won three conference titles in their still relatively brief history in the OVAC.

Morgantown will welcome fourth-seeded Weir, which is 10-6 and got in after some dominoes fell its way during Tuesday evening's action. The Red Riders

own seven OVAC titles in hoops, but won their last in 2010.

The other half of the bracket pits a pair of familiar opponents. University, which is currently 14-3, garnered the two seed after it edged Wheeling Park on Tuesday. The Hawks, who are the defending champion and feature Bowling Green signee Kaden Matheny at guard, will play the third-seeded Patriots on Tuesday.

Coach Michael Jebbia's team

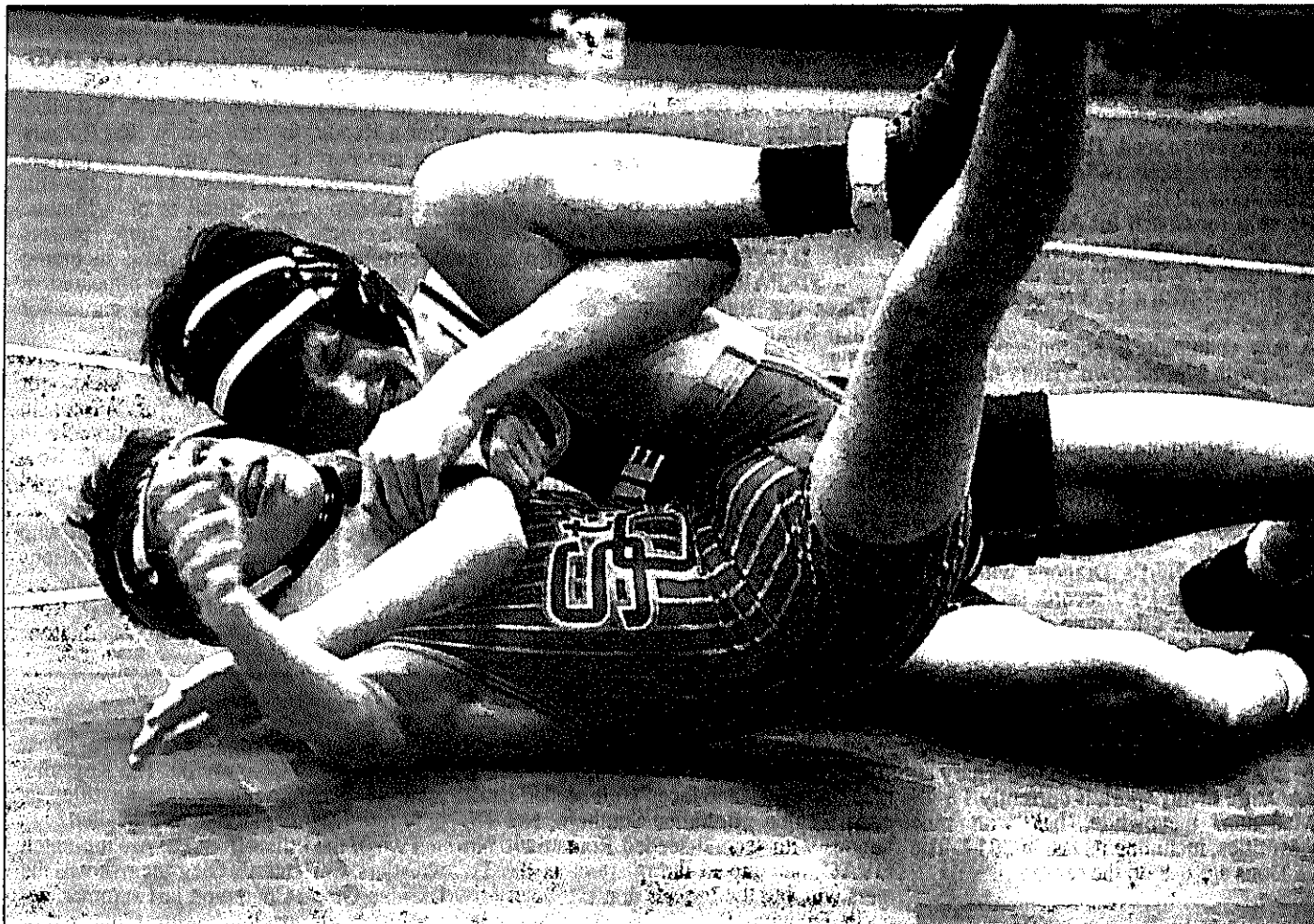
is 12-4 and is seeking its eighth conference title in school history. Park hasn't won a title since 2012.

### CLASS 4A

**Meadowbrook** has had a stranglehold on this division, winning the last four titles. Coach Scooter Tolzda's team is the top seed once again as the Colts take part for the final team with their impending departure from the conference.

Meadowbrook earned the top spot with a 14-3 record.

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



**Kim North**  
Wrestling Writer

## Ferry, St. Clairsville will both grapple ways to Columbus

The Road to Columbus and the 8th annual Ohio State Wrestling Dual Meet Championships begins this weekend with regional competition for 13 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Eastern District schools, with seven of those being located in Division III. The remaining half-a-dozen are in Division II.

Only three OVAC schools have ever advanced to the state duals, which are held inside venerable St. John Arena on the campus of Ohio State University. They are Beaver Local, Shadyside and Steubenville. The Beavers reached the state semifinals last season. Big Red made the semis in 2016.

The winners of the eight regions in each of the three divisions (there are no Division I schools in the Eastern District) qualify for quarterfinal action at the state tournament, which will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16.

In Division III, Region 22 action at Alexander High School in Albany, Barnesville and Martins Ferry are the top two seeds, respectively. Both received byes in the first round and are battling the injury bug. The Shamrocks handled the Purple Riders earlier this season in a dual. No. 3 West Muskingum and fourth-seeded Shenandoah also received first-round byes into the quarterfinals.

The Shamrocks await the winner of the Bidwell River Valley-West Jefferson bout, while the Purple Riders get the winner of Amanda Clearcreek and Trimble, the 7th and 10th seeds, respectively.

Shadyside, the No. 11 seed, meets sixth-seeded Westfall in a first-round matchup. That winner gets the third seeded Tornadoes. Shenandoah awaits either Liberty Union, the fifth seed, or No. 12 Alexander.

I'll take Martins Ferry to reach the state championships by avenging that prior setback to Barnesville.

At Mapleton High School in Ashland, Buckeye Local is the eighth seed in Region 21 and meets No. 9 Garaway in a first round match. Should the Panthers prevail, they would meet top-seeded Galion Northmor.

I like Buckeye in the first match, but not

See, **WINS**, Page B2

See, **GRAPPLE**, Page B2

**MARTINS FERRY'S** Trey Regis grimaces as earns back points against St. Clairsville's Zach McKøever during their 113-pound match Wednesday night on John Jenkins Court inside St. Clairsville High School. Regis eventually won, 11-7, but the Red Devils prevailed, 45-33. They also defeated Tri-Valley, 42-36.

## Red Devils record pair of wins

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Three teams prepping for the upcoming Ohio Regional Team Dual Meet Tournaments met Wednesday night. The host Red Devils came away with a pair of victories, but, while it's nice to come out on top, head coach Joel Sansone said it was all about getting his kids the right matchups.

St. Clairsville topped Tri-Valley, 42-36, and then held off Martins Ferry, 45-33, in triangular action on John Jenkins Court. The Purple Rid-

ers also defeated the Scotties, 48-24.

"We've got a couple of guys battling sickness. We've got a couple of guys out of the lineup," Sansone said.

"We had eight guys at practice on Monday and 10 yesterday (Tuesday). Tonight was just about getting the matchups that we wanted for the better competition, so we bumped some guys around.

"We ended up squeaking out a pair of wins with the next-man-up mentality, but it was

good competition tonight," he added. "Two very worthy opponents to get us ready for the state duals. Then it's time to rest up for the sectionals."

Half-a-dozen Red Devils collected a pair of victories, with Gannon Kazmirski (106), Mason McCort (145) and Austin DaRe

(152) each winning twice by pin. Reese Skaggs (195) had a pin and forfeit, while Derek Witsberger (220) earned a pair of decisions. Koen Kish (132) had a forfeit and a decision,

**"TWO VERY** worthy opponents to get us ready for the state duals."

— Joel Sansone  
St. C. head coach

## St. C.'s Lyons continuing grid career at BGSU

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Ever since the first time he officially put on a set of pads in the seventh grade, Ja'von Lyons had the dream of playing college football.

Lyons, a senior at St.

5 opportunity. He had one from Bowling Green, too.

However, since he elected to wait until the February signing period rather than during the early period in December, the Falcons had reached their limit of offensive linemen in this class.

Quite simply, Lyons had





# OVAC Boys Basketball Tourney Pairings Set

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

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**Coach Michael Jebbia's** team is 12-4 and is seeking its eighth conference title in school history. **Park** hasn't won a title since 2012.

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on this division, winning the last four titles. **Coach Scooter Tolzda's** team is the top seed once again as the **Colts** take part for the final team with their impending departure from the conference.

**Meadowbrook** earned the top spot with a 14-3 record.

One of the dominoes that fell in **Weir's** favor was pushed over by **Harrison Central**. The **Huskies**, by virtue of their win over **Steubenville** on Tuesday, punched their own ticket to the final four with a 10-7 record.

**Harrison** has one OVAC title to its credit and that came in 2007.

On the other half of the bracket, **East Liverpool** is the second seed and will host **Martins Ferry**.

Please see OVAC, Page 14

# Triadelphia Girls Claim PAC 8 Championship

Raiders pull away in final minutes

By **CODY TOMER**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** — The girls from the Triadelphia and Cameron eighth grade basketball teams will be reminiscing over their junior high battles all throughout their high school careers.

A season ago, the **Cameron** seventh grade girls barely edged **Triadelphia** by two points in the PAC 8 Championship.

Now in eighth grade, the **Raiders** got their revenge.

In a back-and-forth slugfest, **Triadelphia's** eighth grade team delivered the final blow, rallying from three points down with two minutes to go, by going on an 8-0 run to finish the game and capturing the PAC 8 title by a final of 41-36.

The win is **Triadelphia's** fourth straight eighth grade crown.

"We stressed all year, we use the phrase 'play present.'"

"Put mistakes away and go on to the next play," **Triadelphia** coach **Dave Stahnke** said.

"They tested us a little bit there.

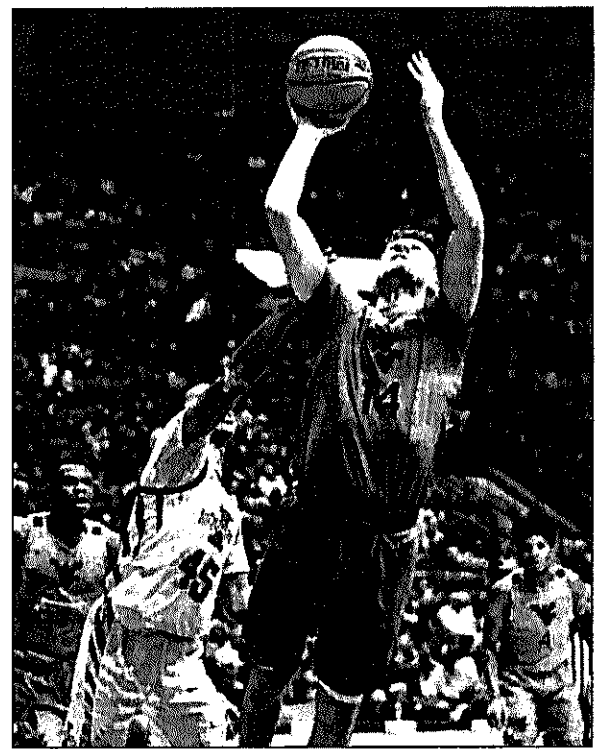
"Early on we were pressing ourselves and forcing a little bit but we talked at halftime about letting the game come to us and slow down.

"I thought that ended up happening for us. We battled through and pulled it out at the end."



Triadelphia's Natalie Daugherty takes flight with her eyes on the basket during Wednesday's eighth grade PAC 8 Championship game.

Please see PAC 8, Page 14



AP Photo

**West Virginia** guard **Chase Harler** (14) shoots as he is defended by **Iowa State** guard **Rasir Bolton** (45).

# Harler Scores 14 As WVU Defeats Iowa State, 76-61

By **MATT THORNSBURY**  
Associated Press

**MORGANTOWN** — **West Virginia's** Oscar **Tshiebwe** is making double-doubles seem routine.

The freshman had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and No. 13 **West Virginia** breezed to a 76-61 victory over **Iowa State** on Wednesday night.

"He gets better every day," **West Virginia** coach **Bob Huggins** said. "He wants to learn. He wants to get better."

**Tshiebwe** is the Mountaineers' second-leading scorer at 10.7 points per game and the leading rebounder at 9.7. He has four games with at least 17 rebounds. This was his

eighth double-double. "Play hard," **Tshiebwe** said. "Not everybody plays hard. If you keep playing hard, people are going to get tired, which is going to make it easier for you."

**West Virginia** didn't necessarily play smart against the **Cyclones**. **Huggins** left the court agitated about his team's 19 turnovers and making just 50% of its free throws.

"To turn it over 19 times is ridiculous," **Huggins** said. "When guys play bad, they miss free throws. If you're a major college team, you don't go 12 for 24. Are you kidding me?"

Please see HARLER, Page 14

# St. C. Gets Pair of Wins

By **KIM NORTH**  
For The Intelligencer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Three teams prepping for the upcoming Ohio Re-



# Wheeling Stuns Charleston

**CHARLESTON** — **Liberty** saw a game-tying 3-point shot fall off the iron at the buzzer as left to break a 66-66 tie to help **Wheeling University** stun No. 25 **Charleston** 71-66 during Wednes-

The loss snapped an

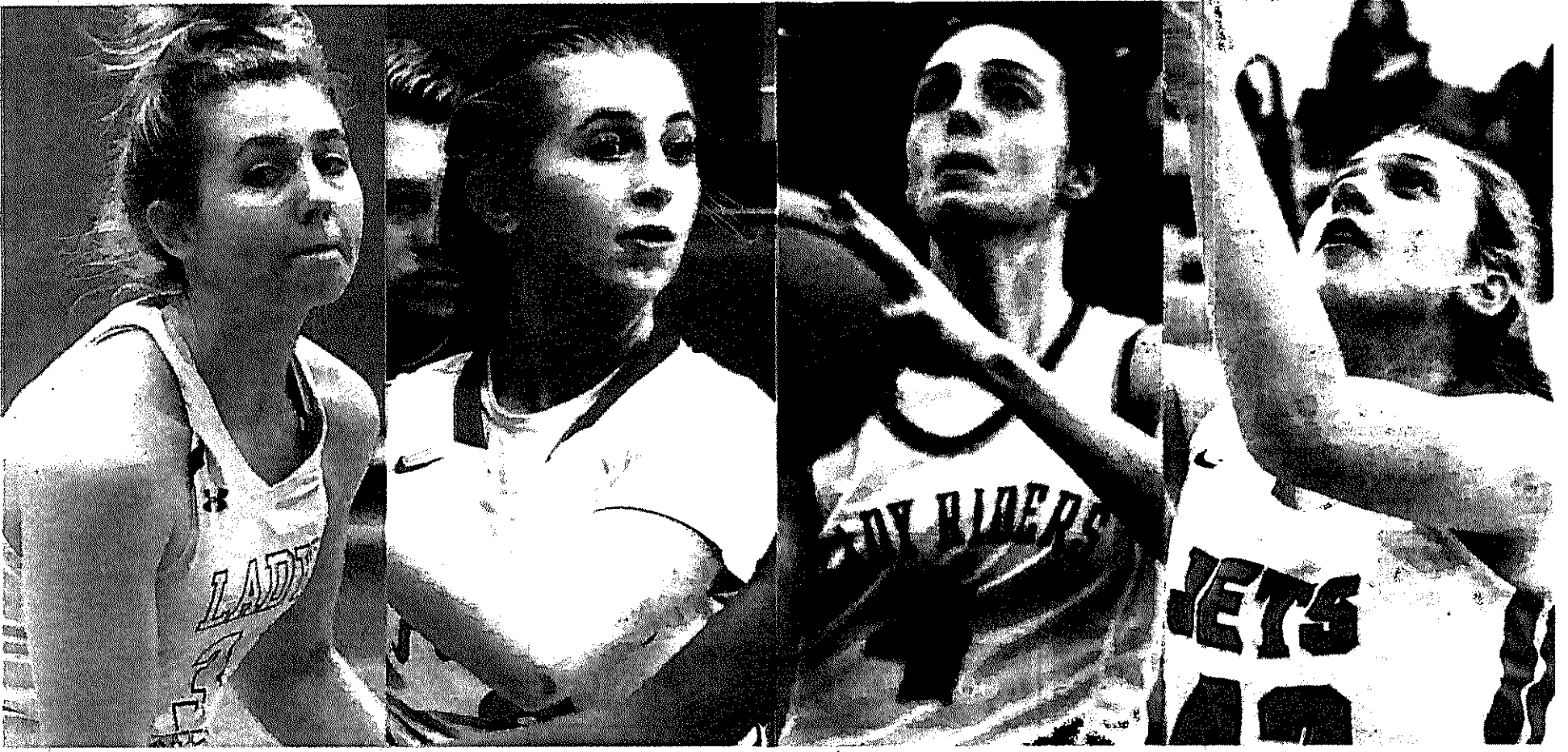
**WOMEN**  
**West Liberty** 74  
**WV State** 68  
**INSTITUTE**, W.Va.  
- The **West Liberty** University women's basketball team splashed home



 WHEELING  
HOSPITAL

# OVAC

# GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Times Leader

February 8, 2020

# Beallsville, Cameron to clash in 1A final

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Beallsville and Cameron have become quite familiar with each other in recent years.

The Blue Devils and Dragons — who meet at 2 Saturday afternoon for the 1A title at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships — have made acquaintances frequently in both regular-season and tournament play during the past few seasons.

The highlight was a showdown in the 1A title tilt on the floor of Ohio University Eastern's Physical

Education and Recreation Center two years ago. Cameron won that installment, 69-58, but Beallsville rebounded by claiming last year's crown with a 38-33 triumph against top-seeded Madonna.

One team will make it two titles in three seasons Saturday. And for Blue Devils head coach Tori Jarrett, it would cap what's been a great regular season thus far.

"We have a lot of other things we want to do, but this has definitely been a big goal," she said. "It's awesome to get back. This is the third straight year we've been in the championship game so, hopefully,

we can get two in a row."

The Dragons, meanwhile, are eager to get the sour taste of a semifinal loss to the Blue Devils in last season's 1A semis out of their mouths. Holly Pettit, Cameron's first-year head coach, is looking forward to capping her inaugural campaign with a crown.

"It's pretty exciting," said Pettit, who played at John Marshall in high school for OVAC Hall of Famer Stan Blankenship at John Marshall and collegiately for Cameron native Lynn Ullom at West Liberty.

"We couldn't ask for a better group of girls to be taking this jour-

ney with."

Beallsville advanced to Belmont County with a 66-28 drubbing of Hundred in a semifinal tilt Monday night. It was the 18th victory of the season for the top-seeded Blue Devils, a team powered by the senior tandem of Ashlie Loudon and Ashley Howell.

Loudon (5-7) poured in 31 points vs. the Hornets, nearly 16 above her average. Jarrett said the Bluefield State signee is a vocal leader.

"I think she and Ashley Howell (6-0, 16.5 ppg) have done a good job of being there for the other players and helping them out when necessary, 1A, Page 3

**WHAT'S INSIDE?**

Class 1A	2
Class 2A	10
Class 3A	6
Class 4A	4
Class 5A	8

**ON THE COVER**

**PICTURED ON** the cover are four of the premier players taking part in today's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships. From left are Ashlie Loudon (Beallsville), Shanley Woods (Wheeling Park), Maddie Ging (Martins Ferry) and Reagen Vinskovich (Union Local).  
Cover Design/SCOTT HANSON

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• 1A

Continued from Page 2

essary," Jarrett said.

Things took a dramatic turn for the Blue Devils shortly before the start of the regular season when the loss of a pair of players from a year ago reduced their roster to just seven. Juniors Harley Nalley (5-7) and Cheyenne Riley, sophomores Hannah Phillips (5-1) and Jaycee Huffman, and freshman Hallie Bommer (5-7) round out the lineup. Bommer has been playing with a broken nose for about the past week.

"The girls have been great," Jarrett said. "All of the credit goes to them.

They play hard every game."

The lack of bodies has presented its challenges.

"How do you replicate game scenarios in practice?," Jarrett said. It's hard. But we've done the best with what we've had. The kids have stepped up. And the ones who might not've gotten as much playing time have definitely stepped up."

All seven play mostly every game. Jarrett has found a recipe for success with including everyone in the lineup, which has resulted in an 18-3 mark.

That includes two victories against the Dragons. The losses have come to Morgan (a Division III region-

al semifinalist a year ago), Wheeling Central and Linsly.

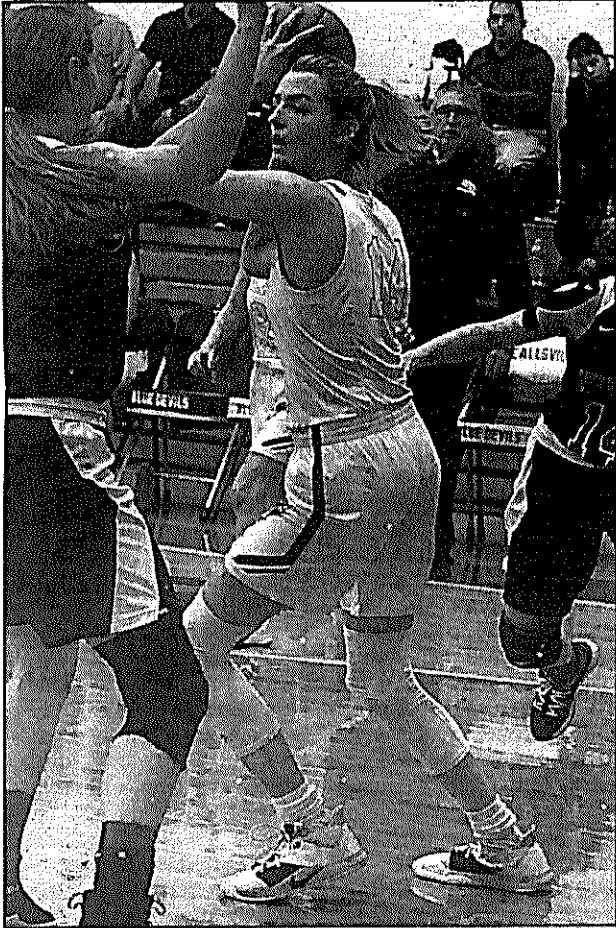
"We lost to them by 16 at

Linsly," Jarrett noted. "We didn't get off the bus."

But the Blue Devils answered with a big victory

against the Cadets at home.

"That's when we really started to peak," Jarrett said.



T-L Photo/HICK THORP

BEALLSVILLE'S ASHLEY Howell looks for somewhere to pass during Monday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal against Hundred. Howell is one of the Blue Devils leaders and they'll be looking for their second straight OVAC 1A title Saturday at 2 p.m. against Cameron.

# GOOD LUCK CAMERON LADY DRAGONS!



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Kenny Richmond, Sherry Johnson, Terry Galentine**





# Ferry, Beaver set for round 4 this season

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**MARTINS FERRY** — There will be no secrets Saturday morning at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

Martins Ferry and Beaver Local didn't need to spend a lot of time this week tracking down information or film on the other one. They've learned plenty about each other during their three prior meetings this season.

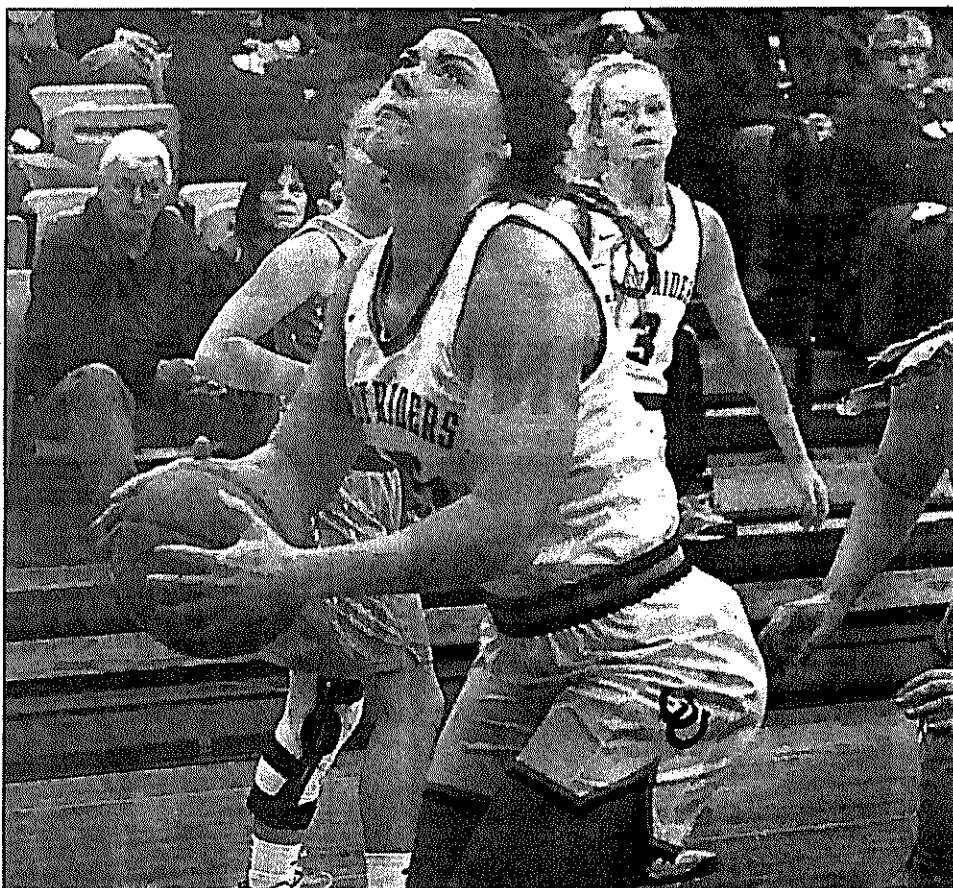
However, this meeting has far greater stakes.

The top-seeded Purple Riders and second-seeded Beavers will clash at 10 a.m. in the 4A game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships to begin a day-long basketball fest.

"We know them and they know us," Martins Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck said. "We're playing well. I'd take us against about anyone right now. We're excited to go out, play and see what happens."

Beaver Local head coach Stephanie Coie, meanwhile, believes it'll be all about execution.

"It's going to come down to which team executes the best," Coie said. "We're familiar with their personnel as they are with ours. They have a really nice team and it'll probably come down to which team is ready to play



TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

**MARTINS FERRY** senior Richella Spielvogel is the Purple Riders leading scorer this season and led the way in the semifinal game against Oak Glen. Her performance helped send the Purple Riders to today's 10 a.m. 4A final against Beaver.

at 10 a.m."

Before either team could shift focus to a fourth meeting they had to take care of their respective business on Monday. Martins Ferry rolled past Oak Glen, while

the Beaver dispatched St. Clairsville to the consolation bracket.

The Purple Riders last hoisted an OVAC girls hoops championship trophy in 2009. Reasbeck was the coach of that team, but many of the Purple Riders weren't probably old enough to remember much about it.

"These kids don't care about what's happened before," Reasbeck said. "It's all about now. We may talk a little bit about our last time there just in terms of differences in the court and such, so the kids are aware, but really it's all about this team and this season."

On the other side, the

Beavers' roster is far more aware of its last crown since it came last year when Beaver outlasted St. Clairsville, the same team it defeated Monday in the semifinals, for the title.

"Getting back to this game was definitely one of our goals at the start of the season," Beaver Local head coach Stephanie Coie said. "We're excited about the chance to play in the game."

Prior to this season, Martins Ferry had been in the consolation bracket for the last several years, finishing well below .500 for the season. However, Reasbeck identified in late October when practice began that his newly inherited club had a

chance to do something special.

"I knew we had six seniors who had played a lot," Reasbeck said. "They hadn't won a lot, but they had gained valuable experience and were willing to be learn and were willing to take to the coaching. Plus, we had a good mix of guards and posts, so I thought if we ever learned how to win, and play hard, we had the potential."

The Purple Riders — in their second game of the season — took down Beaver Local, which was the first signal that Reasbeck was on to something.

But, it wasn't until an early January game against undefeated Union Local that the Riders lost by an astounding 51 points that the light switched flipped.

"It took longer than I expected," Reasbeck said of that switch flipping to on.

"That Union Local game was a major wake-up call, especially in practice the next day. The girls could have quit on the season and started to think about softball or track, but I told them 'you still have a chance to win the (OVAC)' and ever since that practice they've taken it and ran."

The Purple Riders have won eight of nine since that debacle against the Jets. Ironically, the one loss in there occurred at Beaver Local. However, just a few days later, in the Buckeye 8 third and fourth-place game, the Purple Riders defeated Beaver in the third matchup.

"All of the games against them have been different," Reasbeck said. "The first game was close and we kind of ran away in the second half, then they controlled the game at their place from the start and we had our way in the third game."

Reasbeck believes the fact that the most lopsided score, 69-37, coming in the last

meeting should certainly help his team mentally.

"We should have all the confidence in the world," Reasbeck said. "We know we can beat them. We're going to build from that game and hope that carries over."

The Purple Riders feature a balanced attack offensively. Senior post Richella Spielvogel is a nightly double-double at 15 points and 10 rebounds.

However, she's not alone as it pertains to scoring the ball. Senior Madison Ging donates 11 a game, while classmate Shayla Schuster and sophomore Maria Clark check in at 10 points a night. Senior Jaden Stalder rounds out the starting lineup and is playing "her best basketball of the season," according to her coach.

Off the bench, the Riders rely on Sidne Sidon, Allarah Jones and Haleigh Boyer for minutes.

On the other side of the equation, Coie believes her team will shake off the aforementioned Buckeye 8 meeting.

"We didn't play well that day, but I think we'll be ready to play this time," Coie said. "I really think this will be a good game. We know it's going to be a physical game."

An area that the Beavers know they must play better is handling the Riders' full-court pressure, which was been effective in the two wins against Beaver.

"We had a ridiculous amount of turnovers in the first meeting," Coie observed. "We have to eliminate those. We have to make some shots, rebound the ball and take care of it. Our young guards have gotten better and really

See, 4A, Page 12

**Congratulations to the Lady Riders Basketball Team! Good Luck in the OVAC Championship Game**  
From the Martins Ferry Schools Staff and Students

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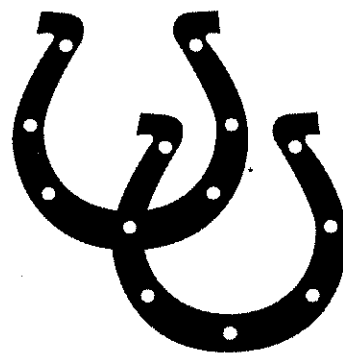
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# UL, Fort Frye to meet for 3A crown

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A pair of schools that have bounced back and forth

between divisions will conclude a long day of girls' high school when Union Local and Fort Frye do battle at 6 p.m. for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A

championship inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building.

The top-seeded and undefeated Jets (21-0) and No. 2 Cadets (18-2) both own OVAC championships, and both have very young squads as just one senior will suit up for the contest. Union Local won in Class 4A in 2016-17 and were Class 3A titlists in 2010-11 while competing in Class 2A. Fort Frye, meanwhile, claimed three consecutive Class 2A crowns from 1998-2001, while also winning in 2009-10. The Beverly-based quint repeat-

ed Class 3A titles in 2011-12 and 2013-13, along with 2014-15 and 2015-16.

"Fort Frye has kind of been a nemesis of Union Local for a long, long time," Union Local head coach Rob Barr said. "Fort Frye was a team we could never get a handle. I don't know how many times we've beaten them in the last 20 years, but I know it isn't very many."

Union Local advanced with a 63-59 nod over fourth-seeded Monroe Central in one semifinal. Fort Frye held off third-seeded Bellaire, 61-See, 3A, Page 7

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• 3A

Continued from Page 6

46, in the other. "I think it will be a battle of tempo. We like a lot of possessions and they like to take their time on offense," Barr noted. His Jets are scoring 67.5 points per game, while giving up just under 40. They have scored more than 80 points on four occasions, and have topped 70-or-more seven times. A pair of talented freshmen – Reagan Vinskovich (5-11) and Torre Kildow (5-10) – pace the Union Local attack with 20.9 and 17.1 scoring averages, respectively. Kildow has a team-best 38 three-point goals and shoots 74.4 percent from the foul line. They are also the top two rebounders

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# Wheeling Park, Creek vie in clash of 5A powers

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**WHEELING** - The Class 5A game undoubtedly shapes up as one of the feature attractions in today's OVAC Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

The contest serves as a rematch between top-seeded Indian Creek and No. 2 seed Wheeling Park. The two teams met on Jan. 13 in Winterville with the Redskins emerging with a hard-fought 67-57 triumph.

Indian Creek advanced to today's title tilt with a 64-23 beatdown of Weir Monday night. The Patriots, meanwhile, punched their ticket via a 67-48 win over University that same evening.

Coach Steve Eft's Redskins are an impressive 18-1. The lone blemish has come at the hands of unbeaten Union Local in the Buckeye 8 championship game.

Coach Ryan Young's Pa-

triot, meanwhile, are 18-2 and ranked No. 1 in the WVSSAC Class AAA rankings. Park's other loss this season was a road setback at Huntington.

"When we went up to Creek, I thought we played a really good game. We built up a pretty good lead, but give them credit. They responded," Young said. "It was a kind of a back-and-forth game and they took over in the fourth quarter and we never really recovered."

"It left a sour taste in our mouths. This is the matchup we have been waiting for," he added. "Hopefully, we can go over there (OUE) and play like we know how and bring back another title to Wheeling Park. It's always exciting playing for championships and this tournament has somewhat of a post-season feel to it."

Park boasts a veteran group that packs inside and

See, 5A, Page 9



## GOOD LUCK WHEELING PARK LADY PATRIOTS!



**INDIAN CREEK'S** All Tweedy drives to the basket during a game earlier this season. Tweedy is a senior and a solid contributor for the once-beaten Redskins. Indian Creek defeated Wheeling Park in January and will take on the Patriots today at noon in the OVAC Class 5A title game.

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# OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL



**WHEELING PARK'S** Linsey Garrison drives to the basket during a game earlier this season. She and the Patriots will try to exact revenge and claim the OVAC 5A title today at noon when they take on Indian Creek in the 5A title game.

Photo/CODY TOMER

## • 5A

Continued from Page 8

outside offensive firepower.

Junior Bella Abernathy is one of the finest posts in the OVAC. The physical 5-11 junior is a double-double machine.

Young has two explosive guards in senior Shanley Woods and junior Lindsey Garrison. Both are deadly from beyond the arc. Woods is coming off a 26-point effort in the OVAC semifinal win.

Asia Roby rounds out Park's three-guard lineup. The steady 5-7 junior has bounced back from a knee injury a year ago to effectively run the point while also adding another shooting threat.

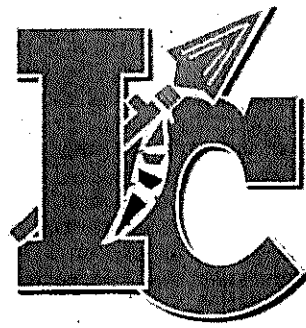
Kieran Johnson is the Patriots' glue. The 5-6 senior forward is a rebounding machine while also a capable scorer inside the paint. Much of her work goes unnoticed in the box

score.

The Patriots will again be without the services of senior dynamo Abby Snedeker. The 5-6 forward served as a tempo-changer in her role as sixth man. She is sidelined with a hand injury.

While Snedeker's absence is a tough blow, Young still has several quality performers coming off the See, 5A, Page 12

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# GOOD LUCK TO THE CREEK GIRLS!

*from*

Indian Creek  
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# Steubenville CC, Wheeling CC to battle in 2A

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Wheeling Central and Steubenville Central have been two of the area's most steady girls basketball programs.

Still, however, not many would have predicted this as the Class 2A championship game in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball tournament when the brackets were finalized more than a week ago.

But, when the ball is

thrown up this afternoon at 4, the Maroon Knights and Crusaders will be on the court with the winner securing the championship trophy.

Wheeling Central, which entered the OVAC at 9-11, was reeling to say the least in the last couple of weeks. Ravaged by injuries to several key players, the Maroon Knights squeezed into the field as the fourth seed and faced a road trip to Shadyside to take on a Tiggers team that had beatem

them twice earlier in the season.

Facing a double-figure deficit with just 70 seconds to play, Wheeling Central hit a quartet of three pointers, took advantage of some free throw issues and miscues, forced overtime and eventually pulled out a 66-62 victory to reach today's final.

"We had just lost Kayleigh (Reinbeau) to injury and we faced a stretch of four games in seven days, so we didn't have a lot of time to practice

or make adjustments to playing without her," Kurtz said. "We had a great practice, though, last Saturday, and talked about doing whatever it takes to win the game. I left that practice feeling like if we played how we practiced that day, we'd have a chance, but I am not sure many others gave us a chance."

Steubenville Catholic, meanwhile, was able to take care of business on its home court, against Shenandoah, despite playing without head

coach Jess Looman, who was out of town on work-related matters.

The Crusaders pulled away from the Zepps for a 51-34 win and a berth in their second title game in the history of the event. Their last appearance ended with a loss, ironically, to Wheeling Central in the 2017 title game.

"We're excited," Looman said. "We've made the final four the last four years, but only gotten to the final that one time previously. We're just super excited to get back."

The Crusaders are now 13-7 on the season, but they've had their ups and downs, too.

"We've had a few tough losses, including five of the six that are by fewer than six points," Looman said. "Our kids played hungry against Shenandoah and we'll need that to carry over."

Wheeling Central will once again bring its never-say-die attitude because it will still be without Division I signees Eden Gainer and Reinbeau with injuries.



"We've had to play a lot of younger players (because of the injuries), and they've stepped up," Kurtz said. "We've had kids elevate their kids."

Of the players suiting up today, senior Hannah White is the unquestioned leader. See, 2A, Page 12

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Photo/JOE CATULLO  
**STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL'S** Isabella Oliver makes a move to the basket during a game earlier this season. Oliver averages a double-double for the season.

• 3A

Continued from Page 7

with 11 and 6.5 per game.

"To be honest with you, I thought when the season started that we were probably a year away," Barr acknowledged. "It's hard to put this much pressure on freshmen, but they've responded every time we've needed them too."

Junior point guard Casey Eldow (5-6) runs the show and scores at a 10.9 clip. He has 18 long-distance baskets and is an 82.5-percent free throw shooter.

"Casey is the glue that holds us together," Barr raised of his returning starter. "She handles the ball against the opponent's press. He distributes the ball to the open players. She does a lot of things that don't show up in the boxscore."

Sophomores Hannah Merritt (5-7) and Keira Gregor (5-7) round out the starting lineup. Merritt led the Jets with 20 points in their semifinal victory. She has 11 treys and averages 12.7 points per outing. Gregor scores 6.8 a contest and also works hard in the paint.

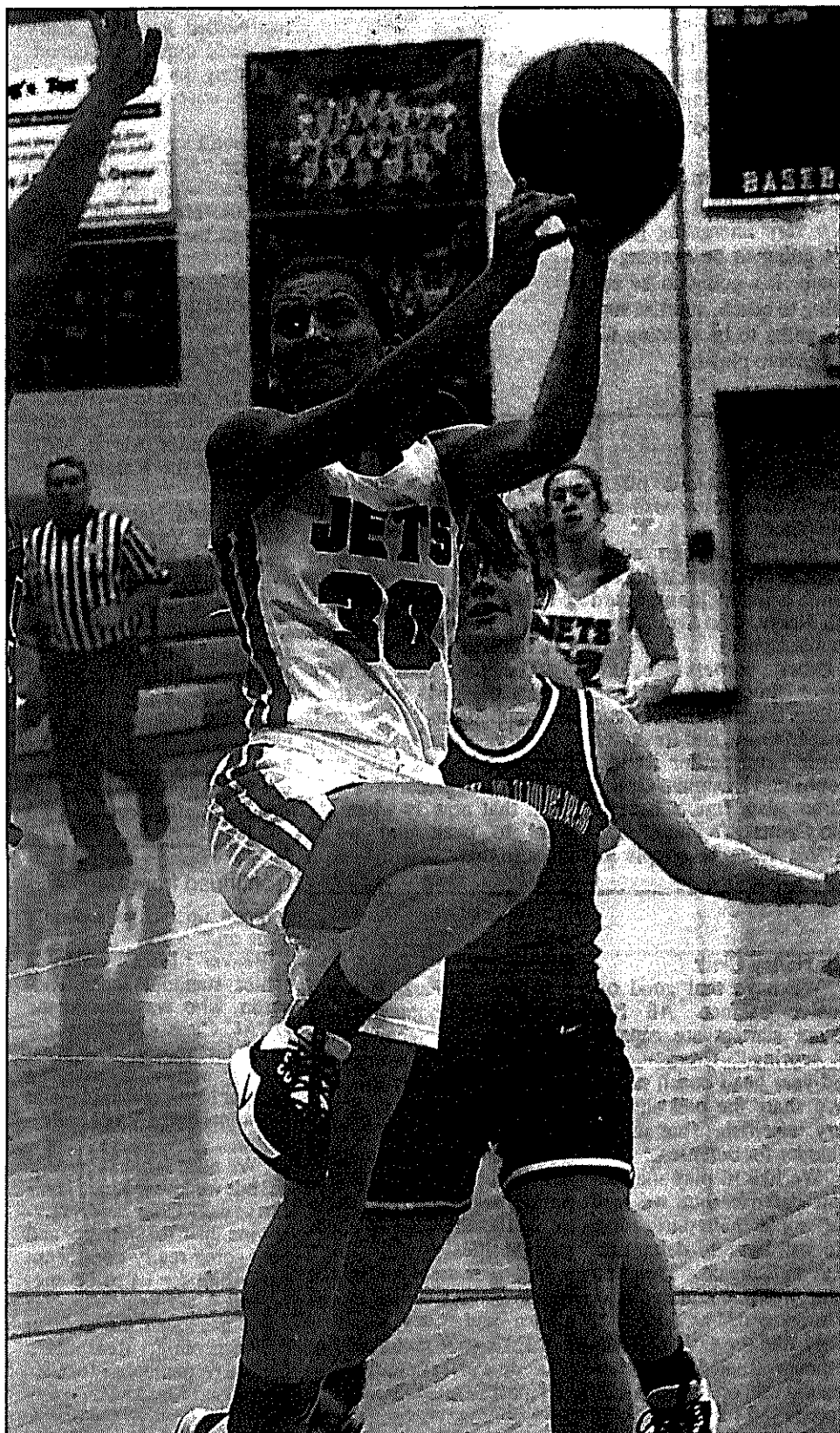
"Hannah has really been a big difference maker in the last month-and-a-half. She can run. She can jump and she gives us another outside shooter," Barr added. "Her outside shooting has come around. We changed her not a little bit. They were coming down wet, so we took some of the arc out of them and she has been more accurate."

Sophomores Alleigh Heatham (5-8) and Baylee Rex (5-7) are the Jets who come off the bench.

Fort Frye's two losses have come to Wheeling Park in the Sam Andy Classic and Warren Local.

"They can shoot the free," Barr said of the Cadets. "They had 19 in one game this season. We will definitely have to get out on their shooters."

Sophomore Hannah See, 3A, Page 12



**UNION LOCAL** sophomore Hannah Merritt has been one of the top contributors for the Jets on both ends of the floor during their 21-game winning streak. Merritt averages nearly 13 points a game. Merritt and the Jets will take on Fort Frye in this evening's OVAC Class 3A championship game. Tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.



TL File PhotoSETH STASKEY

**GOOD LUCK  
FORT FRYE  
LADY  
CADETS!**

**GOOD LUCK  
LADY CADETS!**  
From The Fort Frye  
Athletic Department





## • 3A

Continued from Page 11

Archer (5-7) is Fort Frye's leading scorer with a 16-point norm. She is joined in double figures by junior Lexie Huck (5-5) who scores 11 a game. The other starters are senior Kiersten Kesselring (5-9), junior Olivia Schneider (5-3) and sophomore Kenzie Dalton (5-2).

Archer and Dalton are the top rebounders.

Coming off the Cadets bench are junior Karlee Ross (5-6), sophomore Julia Zalmanek (5-6) and freshman Riley Medley (5-3).

## • 1A

Continued from Page 3

aggressive team, especially on the defensive end. She said Pettit has brought a man-to-man scheme to the Dragons this season, one that's paying dividends.

"I think they might some different stuff on us," Jarrett envisioned. "We'll just try to play our game and, hopefully, we'll come out on top."

Cameron comes into the game 11-5, with also a pair of losses to St. Marys and one to Lincoln County on its record.

## • 5A

Continued from Page 9

bench.

Junior forward Maggie Stakem and sophomores Jai'lah Walker and Zariah Marling are all proven commodities. Senior Daisy Reasbeck - a 5-10 center - can also deliver quality inside minutes.

Woods tops the team with a 19-point average while Abernathy and Garrison check in at 13 points game.

"Park has a lot of offensive firepower," Eft said. "Bella does a good job on the inside. They have shooters all over the floor. They have a really good offense.

"We're a smaller, quicker, faster team than they are," veteran Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke said. "We actually thought we could be good this year, despite our youth, because three of our juniors started as freshmen and we have two sophomores who started last year as freshmen."

Ross started as a freshman but missed last season with a knee injury.

"She's coming along," Liedtke said. "We're still easing her in a little bit at a time."

"If they go to a 5-guard offense and try to run up-and-down the floor, that could cause matchup problems for us because we usually play two centers," Barr explained. "But that will cause them problems at the other end. It's going to be a very interesting game. It's going to be exciting to watch. It's going to be exciting to coach, and I'm sure it's going to be exciting for the girls to play in."

"They're a physical team with the two mainstays in Loudon and Howell and their other great players," Pettit said of Beallsville. "They shoot the ball very well. They're a great team."

The hope, Pettit said, is that her team can slow down either Howell or Loudon, thus opening the door for an opportunity to contain the Blue Devils offensively.

"I want our girls to play their best defensively," she said. "If we play good defense and do the things

we're supposed to do offensively, everything will fall into place."

The Dragons go about seven deep into their lineup, which is led by junior guard Lili Neely, who averages in double figures.

Other starters include senior Stephanie Starcher, juniors Emma Whipkey and Reagan Gray, and freshman Aubrey Loy. Senior Kendra Dobbs and freshman Gracie Carter also figure heavily into Cameron's plans.

"We have a couple of



## • 2A

Continued from Page 10

- both emotionally and on the stat sheet. White, who has battled her own injury problems during her career, is netting 18 points a game despite not being at 100 percent.

"I can't say enough about Hannah," Kurtz said. "There are times when she can barely walk, but she drags herself out there and helps her team."

Junior post Tristen White is a solid defender and leader on the boards, while junior Marisa Horan hit the 3-pointer at Shadyside to send the game to overtime.

Freshman Elle Canestraro and junior Alexis Mills round out the Knights lineup.

Freshmen Naliah Lekandous, Lily Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz have also developed into solid contributors.

"We know Wheeling Central is always super prepared and we have a ton of respect for the job that Penn and his staff do," Looman said. "We scrimmaged them before the season, so we've both seen each other. It's going to come down to us doing the small things we need

## • 4A

Continued from Page 4

stepped up as the season's gone on."

Beaver Local features senior standout Jenna Riccardo, who was named the OVAC Class 4A title game MVP last season. The West Liberty signee is enjoying another brilliant campaign at 22 points and 13 rebounds a night.

"We need Jenna to be Jenna, but we know Jenna can't carry us," Coie said. "Everyone has to step up and play some really good team basketball for us to be successful."

As has been the case in each meeting, Reasbeck's defensive gameplan focuses heavily on Riccardo.

"She can play," Reasbeck

to make ourselves better." Steubenville Catholic is led by 5-9 senior Bella Oliver, who is enjoying a strong campaign. She averages 13.7 points and 13.4 rebounds to go along with 4.2 assists and 3.2 steals. For her career, she has 885 points and 943 rebounds.

Senior Carly Fayak and senior post Hannah Olszewski are multiple-year starters. The former averages 5.4 points, while the latter is averaging 6.9 points and 9.1 rebounds a night.

Senior Edy Harold and Morgan Green round out the starting lineup. Green averages 6.3 points and is the team's leading 3-point shooter with 23 makes.

Katie Zatta and junior Ali Grimm are the top two subs.

"We know how well coached Steubenville Catholic is," Kurtz said. "I know they'll come in ready to play. We've faced them before and they always give us a tough challenge. We'll see who's going to be on the court (for us) and come up with a plan and be competitive."

said. "We have to know where she is. We need to try to wear her down, make her play defense. She's a special player, going to West Liberty for a reason. We need to account for her and make her work for everything she gets."

Complementing Riccardo are Madison Cline and Eli Kolkowski, who is a 6-foot sophomore post. Both score 10 points a game.

Seniors Riley Britt and Brooke Briggs are expected to make up the remainder of the starting lineup. Danica Taylor, Jensen Britt and Halle Jordan come off the bench.



Photo by John McCabe

Wheeling Park's Devan Kuttan, right, fist bumps Parkersburg South's Maguire McDuff after they finished first and second in the 100 backstroke.

cluding South heading into the final event of Saturday's West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Region 1 Swim Championships at Brooke High School.

All Park's 4X100 relay team of Owen Leary, Max Kellas, Devan Kuttan and Isaac McCabe had to do to capture the school's third consecutive Region 1 Championship was win the final event.

And win they did, going away. Leary set the stage with a strong 54.7 out of the gate, Kellas swam a 56.3, Kuttan extended the lead with a 53.8 and McCabe brought it home with a blistering 52 flat to allow the Patriots to earn the regional crown.

Park coach Pat Durkin commended his boys for their final-heat effort.

"That last relay was amazing. The boys left no doubt. It was awesome," Durkin said.

Parkersburg South finished second, followed by Brooke.

The final-heat showing capped a strong day overall for the Patriot boys, both in relays and individual honors.

The same foursome of Leary, Kellas, Kuttan and McCabe kicked off the event with a 3-second win over Brooke in the 200 Medley Relay. Kuttan, a senior, followed that up with a victory in the 200 Individual Medley (2:10.00), and then Kellas, also a senior, earned the top spot in the 100 butterfly (58.26).

In the 100 freestyle, McCabe (52.5) finished second to Weir's Chris Hoover (51.89) while Kuttan finished second in the 100 backstroke (58.00) to Parkersburg South powerhouse Maguire McDuff (54.21).

McCabe finished third in the 100 breaststroke, and Leary finished third in the 100 butterfly.

Please see Swimming, Page B4

# Central Secures 12th OVAC Championship

White Leads Knights With 23 Points

By BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — No miracles needed this time.

Wheeling Central used a miraculous rally Monday to upset Shadyside in the semifinals of Wheeling Hospital's OVAC Girls Basketball Championships. Down double figures with a minute to play, the Maroon Knights managed to pull out an overtime win despite being shorthanded against the top-seeded Tigers.

Saturday's 2A championship game at Ohio University Eastern was a much different story.

Coach Penn Kurtz's No. 4-seeded charges pressured their way to a third conference crown in four years with a 58-39 win over No. 2-seeded and gutty Steubenville Catholic.

It was also Central's 12th OVAC girls' basketball title in school history.

Wheeling Central employed a stifling fullcourt press, forcing the Crusaders into 30 turnovers, 19 coming prior to intermission. The Maroon Knights also received superb efforts from two of their stars — Hannah White and Kaylee Reinbeau.

White topped all scorers with 23 points, 20 coming in the first half, while playing

Please see Central, Page B6

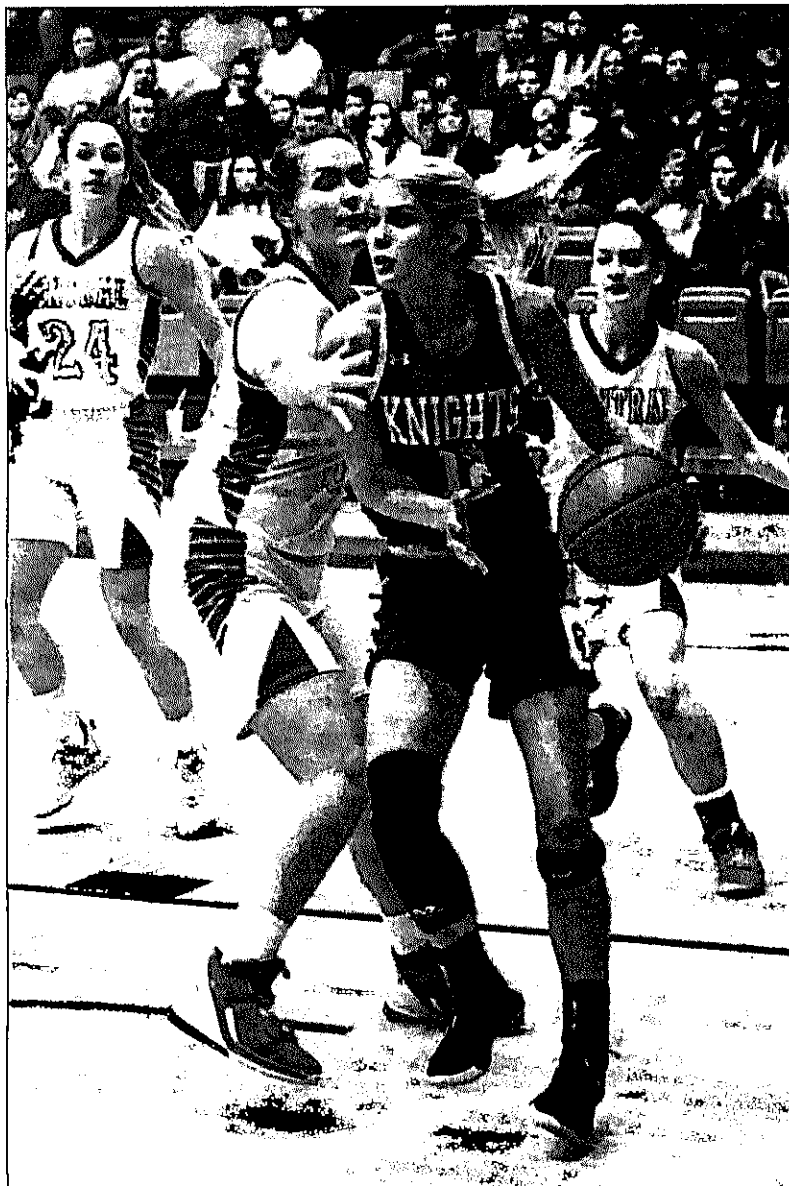


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Hannah White looks for an open teammate during the OVAC Class 2A championship against Steubenville Catholic.



Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Park's Bella Abernathy looks to drive against Indian Creek's Makenzie Taylor during the second quarter.

## Creek Edges Park for 5A Title

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Two weeks ago, Indian Creek came up short in its first chance for a league championship during the Buckeye 8 Championships.

The Redskins weren't about to let a second opportunity to win a title go by.

By virtue of a hard-earned, 46-42 overtime victory against second-seeded Wheeling Park, Indian Creek captured the OVAC Class 5A title during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

"I am so happy for the kids," Indian Creek coach Steve Eft said.

"They've worked so hard for this (championship) and they weren't going to be denied."

Please see Creek, Page B2

## Beallsville Takes Down Cameron

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Beallsville only dressed seven players for its OVAC Class 1A championship game Saturday afternoon.

Two of its seven, however, were named Ashlie Loudon and Ashley Howell, and that proved to be more than Cameron could handle inside a crowded and loud Ohio University Eastern Health and Physical Education Center.

By virtue of their 40-29 victory, the Blue Devils (19-3) successfully defended their small-school crown and are celebrating their eighth con-

ference title in school history.

"It feels really good (to win) and I think it will sink in even more later," Beallsville coach Tori Jarrett said.

"It's really awesome to win back-to-back.

"Having only seven players is really hard, but the girls have stepped up and did what we've asked them to do."

The difference proved to be a 15-0 run that stretched from the latter portion of the first quarter into the middle of the second quarter.

Fueling the run was the combination of Loudon and Howell, who scored all 12 of the Blue Devils' second quar-

ter points. It was when Loudon got going in the first with a 3-pointer that ignited the spurt.

"Our defense was on during that spurt," Jarrett said. "I thought we played excellent defense, especially in the first half. They couldn't score in the halfcourt."

Loudon — the smooth lefty guard — poured in 11 of her game-high 20 points in the first half and went on to claim the John Howell Award as the game's MVP.

Loudon finished the double-double with 10 rebounds.

Please see Beallsville, Page B4

Cameron's Kendra Dobbs goes up for a shot as Beallsville's Hannah Phillips (22) and Ashley Howell defend.



Photo by Seth Staskey

## Oklahoma Pulls Upset of No. 13 West Virginia, 69-59

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — It'd been awhile since Kristian Doolittle was Oklahoma's top offensive option.

The Sooners needed it Saturday and Doolittle delivered, scoring 27 points and grabbing 12 rebounds as Okla-

game even as West Virginia dominated the boards early.

But then Oklahoma's lone senior really got going.

In a 17-2 first-half run that lifted the Sooners from a deficit to a 10-point

might as well shoot.' Then when you start making them, they have to game plan you a lot differently.

"It makes the game a whole lot easier when you're a threat from deep."

The senior played a role in helping

would do it more," Huggins said.

Doolittle said his confidence was elevated from the start.

"If I was open, just shoot it regardless if I was going to make it or miss it," he

Banco opened its doors to the top three crowds in MEC tourney history.

The MEC success mirrors that of the Super Six. The state football championships have blossomed since leaving Charleston and taking root in Wheeling more than two decades ago.

I have said before that the Super Six will never leave Wheeling as teams are treated royally.

Moreover, the local organizing committee has turned the weekend into more than football, highlighting academics and social activities as well.

With that said, I predict the MEC basketball Tournament will call West-Banco Arena home for a long time, if

on how well last year's tournament went that they're willing to exercise that third year option. I think last year was a great marriage of two great organizations, the MEC and the city of Wheeling. I think we're good fits for each other."

I agree. I also believe it is a marriage that will continue to grow stronger and stronger the next two years, leading to a long and fruitful marriage, just like the Super Six.

**DONNELLY TO SPEAK**

The Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce is holding a Fall Chamber Banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Martins Ferry Recreation Center at

away. You cannot blow a 10-point lead with seven minutes to play when you have the best defense in the league, combined with an effective ground game. Chiefs' QB Patrick Mahones, barring injury, is on track to be the GOAT.

The St. Thomas University men's basketball team is now 15-5 on the season. Wheeling Park grad D.P. Harris is the first-year coach of the Miami Gardens, Fl.-based institution. Harris scripted a Hall of Fame coaching career at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., before heading to the Sunshine State.

The Los Angeles Dodgers made

Sharks to seven straight wins, improving to 17-2 overall and 11-2 in the Sunshine State Conference. Nova is a half-game out of the SSC lead.

The annual MAC/BMAC WVU Coaches Caravan is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at River City Restaurant in Wheeling. More information will be coming in the future.

West Liberty's football fortunes drastically improved this past week when former WVU quarterback Jack Allison announced his plans to become a Hilltopper. He will be eligible immediately.

Bubba Kapral can be reached at [bkapral@timesteaderonline.com](mailto:bkapral@timesteaderonline.com)

**CREEK**

Continued from Page B1

Eft believes the loss in the Buckeye 8 to Union Local paid dividends in the OVAC title game.

"That game and the atmosphere definitely helped us," Eft said. "It was a great crowd that night and our girls really feed off the crowd."

The game went to overtime tied at 35-35 and was scoreless in the extra session for the opening two minutes of action, but Creek finally broke through on an inside basket by Makenzie Taylor and then made it a two-possession game

on a run-out chance from Hailey Clark.

The Patriots stopped the bleeding with a pair from the free-throw line and Creek got one of two at the foul line itself, setting up a trey from Park's Shanley Woods, which knotted the game at 40

with 1:11 to play.

Taylor, who had three field goals in the OT, put the Redskins back on top for good. Park rushed a three-pointer and Ally Tweedy got two at the line, making it a 44-40 reading.

Creek was fouled and missed both, but got an

offensive rebound with 18 seconds to go. After a time out, Park allowed eight seconds to run off before fouling and the Redskins iced the game with a pair.

"Indian Creek did a good job of pounding the ball inside at the end of the game and we didn't move like we did on the defensive end in the first half," Wheeling Park coach Ryan Young said. "They out-rebounded us by 10 in second half."

"I thought we were really inefficient all day offensively, never got in the flow of offense and we needed to get Bella the ball more."

It was a slugfest throughout the game with Park leading 15-14 at halftime, but the Redskins took a 28-26 lead into the fourth.

At the end of regulation, Indian Creek had two chances to win, but missed two foul shots and then turned it over. Wheeling Park's opportunities ended in a turnover and a missed desperation heave.

In the overtime, the Redskins went back to what worked early and that was in the inside play of Taylor and eventual game MVP Taylor Jones.

Jones finished with 17 points, while Taylor added nine. Clark also added nine.

The win was the second of the season for the Redskins over Park, which is the top-ranked team in the state of West Virginia. The other was a 67-57 win in Wintersville on Jan. 13.

Wheeling Park was led by Woods' 20 and Bella Abernathy added 12.

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# Ferry Claims 4A OVAC Championship

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When Dave Reasbeck began the season — the first of his second tenure as girls basketball coach he made absolutely no bones about it.

He spoke openly that his senior-laden team, which had struggled at times during their prep careers, was on a mission for a championship.

The mission was completed Saturday morning at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center where the Purple Riders claimed an OVAC Class 4A title with a 63-45 victory against defending champion Beaver Local.

"These girls deserve this (championship)," Reasbeck said. "This senior class has dealt with three coaches, who were all the complete opposites of each other.

"They've dealt with a lot of sad locker rooms and just down stuff. I told them 32 minutes could make up for all of that and it did. Look at these kids now ... they couldn't be happier."

The title is the sixth in Martins Ferry history and first since 2009 when Reasbeck was also the head coach.

"I knew we had the ingredients (to win this title)," Reasbeck said. "The kids have worked hard from Day 1."

As they've done for most of the season, the Riders relied on their defense and energy to force Beaver into 21 turnovers, many of which resulted in easy scoring chances.

Along with using their defense to predicate their offense, the Riders also took control in the middle two quarters, which has become customary during the course of the season.

"I don't know how great we played, but I told the kids in championship games it doesn't matter," Reasbeck said.

"You just want to have more points than the other team. We turned them over and capitalized."

Turnovers and easy scoring chances have been aspects that Beaver Local has dealt with all season.

"Turnovers have been a complete nightmare for us this season and they've really determined whether we

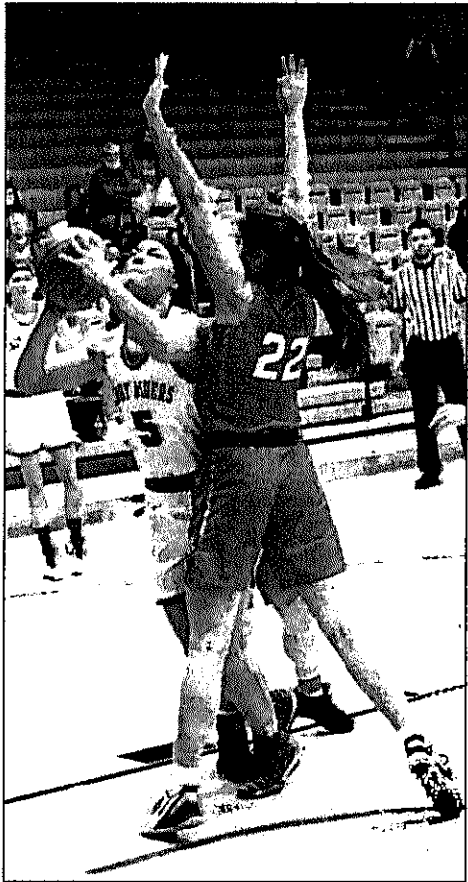


Photo by Seth Staskey

**Martins Ferry's Richella Spielvogel makes a move around Beaver Local's Eli Kolkowski.**

win or lose a game," Beaver Local coach Stephanie Coie said. "We're just very young at the guard spot, so we're having some growing pains, especially when you don't have any pressure on you and turn the ball over. It's just frustrating."

When they weren't scoring in transition, the Purple Riders were pounding the ball inside to senior center Richella Spielvogel or watching Madison Ging slash to the goal or senior Jaden Stalder knock down shots from behind the arc.

Spielvogel, who was named the winner of the John Howell MVP Award, finished with a game-high 29 points and 12 rebounds.

"Eleven years ago, when we last won the OVAC, Shae Moreland did the same thing ... dominated inside like Richella did," Reasbeck said. "When she wants to be, she's dominant."

Along with Spielvogel's production, Madison Ging added 16.

Beaver Local, meanwhile, received another sterling performance from senior Jenna Riccardo. The West Liberty recruit scored 18 points and had seven rebounds. She was complemented by Madison Cline's 16.

# Jets Fall to Cadets in 3A Title Tilt

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE

— Throughout the regular season as it racked up win after win, Union Local was able to continually dictate the tempo and style of play in every game it played.

The Jets met their match Saturday evening in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

Fort Frye, which also hangs its hat on dictating the style of play, proved to be just a little bit better inside the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern as it pocketed a 46-41 victory to claim the Class 3A OVAC title in the nightcap.

"Really, we're a transition team and our game plan was to be in a transition game (Saturday), but Union Local got down the floor faster than I thought they would," Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke said. "We were doing a good job of getting back, so it kind of turned it into that type of game. It wasn't that we meant to do that."

Regardless of how, the method worked again for Liedtke. The veteran Cadets coach guided his team to their 10th conference title, but first since 2016. It also eliminated the bad taste that remained from the 2019 loss to Bellaire.

As they tend to do, the Cadets did it with suffocating defense.

They held Union Local to more than 30 points below its season average, including holding it to 14 combined points in the middle two periods.

"I don't think we played poorly, but they played tremendous defense and we knew that

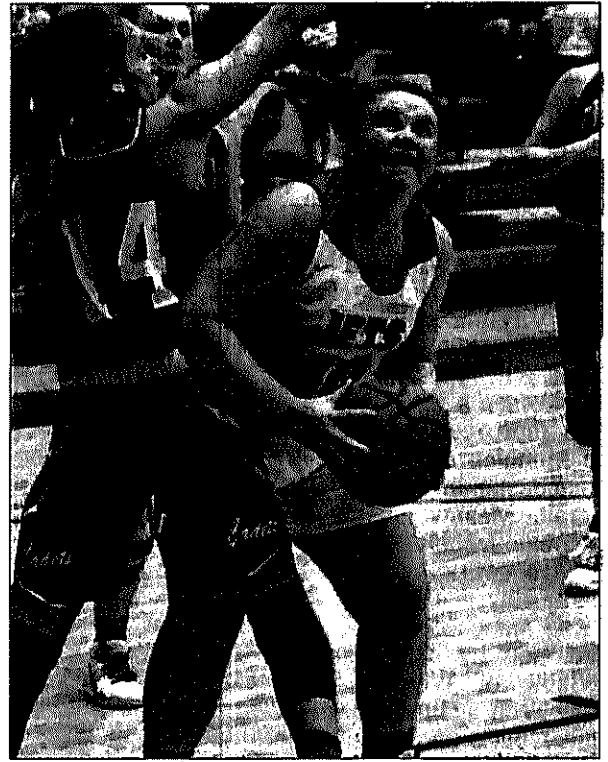


Photo by Seth Staskey

**Union Local's Kierra Gregor goes up for a shot during the 3A title game against Fort Frye.**

coming in," UL coach Rob Barr said. "They posed a matchup problem for us and we knew that coming in, but we just hoped we'd provide a little bit more of a matchup problem."

Union Local's matchup problem was neutralized when the Cadets were able to sit down in the halfcourt and make the Jets work extremely hard for good looks, let alone buckets.

Union Local, which led 13-10 after one, trailed by five at half-time. In the fourth, Fort Frye stretched the lead to as many as seven twice, but each time Union Local answered.

However, the Jets got only as close as three when talented freshman center Reagan Vinskovich scored on the interior. The Jets were obliged by the Cadets thanks to misses on front ends of three bonus situations,

but Union Local had a field goal waived off on a travel call.

Fort Frye had its own issues against Union Local's match-up zone, but the Cadets aided their cause by knocking down eight bonus goals, including three by Olivia Schneider.

Lexie Huck also hit a key bonus goal in the fourth and stopped Fort Frye's bleeding at the foul line to, in essence, salt the game away.

Hannah Archer, who was named the winner of the John Howell Award as the game's MVP, led Fort Frye with 12 points.

Union Local, which is now off for 11 days before opening Division III sectional play, was led by Vinskovich's double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Freshman Torrey Kildow and sophomore Hannah Merritt each had 11 points.

## OVAC Winter Championships

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**SAT., FEB. 15 -**  
**OVAC**  
**Wheeling Hospital**  
**Boys Basketball**  
**Championships**  
**at OUE**



All Girl's Basketball Championship Games played yesterday will air tape-delayed on METV on Sunday, Feb. 9 starting at 12 noon and Boy's Championship Games will air tape-delayed on Sunday, Feb. 16, starting at noon.

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12:15- RUG AR-556 FFH 300BLK 16B 30RD	5:00- SAV STV 555 28/24MC OU Turkish Walnut, Checkered
12:30- WRA SXP FLD CMP SHTGN 20M/26MC	5:15- \$450 if present, if not present \$250.
12:45- WRA XPR HNT STRATA 243 SCP	5:30- BERETTA TIKKA T3X HUNTER 30-06
1:00- \$450 if present, if not present \$250.	5:45- RUG PC CARBINE 9MM
1:15- WRA SXP SHADOW DEF 12M/18MC 3	6:00- SW M&P SHIELD W/LASER 9MM
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1:45 GLK 43 9MM PST 6RD FS CK BWODE	6:30- WBY VANGRD CAMILLA BA 7MM-08 B
2:00- BRN XBL0T HUNTER 30-06 22B	6:45- GLK 45 9MM 17R DDE HC STPL BLD Apollo
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# SPORTS

Sunday,  
February 9, 2020

## Like father, like son

• Barnesville's Powell passes father on all-time scoring list

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**BARNESVILLE** – It's safe to say there isn't a father in the country who doesn't hope that his son or daughter exceeds anything he achieved in life.

Matt Powell – an OVAC and Rio Grande College Hall of Famer – cast a big shadow for his son, Luke, as it pertained to basketball.

During his career with the Shamrocks, Powell scored an impressive 2,173 career points, which up until recently was the most in BHS history.

It was last Friday, against Bridgeport, in front of a jam-packed 'Greenhouse' at Barnesville High School when senior standout Luke Powell took over the title as the all-time leading scorer in Shamrocks history. By virtue of his 39-point outburst, Powell surpassed Matt's total.

"It was very emotional," Luke confessed. "All of the work that we both put in led up to that moment. It was just a joyful moment for both of us and our entire family."

Matt actually missed the Union Local game last month when Luke surpassed the 2,000-point barrier because he was out of the country on business. However, he was seated next to his wife, Penny, in the front row for last Friday's game against Bridgeport.

As he watched Luke loft a free throw early in the second quarter, Matt knew his place in history, which had stood since 1990, had been bumped down a notch. With that free throw, Luke had scored his 2,174th career point, officially giving him the record.

"I never thought I would feel so good about being number two in anything, but I did that night," Matt said. "I still vaguely remember (becoming) number one and it's not close to the amount of pride and joy I had when I became number two and Luke became number one."

After Luke completed his free throws, he was publicly recognized for his achievement. He and his dad shared an emotional moment, capping a journey that the two had shared since the Powells lived in Kentucky and Luke began playing in a church league as a kindergartner.

"I owe so much of what I've been able to accomplish to both of my parents," Luke said. "Whether it's the countless hours, trips to play basketball at camps or in travel tournaments, they've always been willing to do whatever they could to help me get better."

Entering Friday's game against Martins Ferry, Luke had scored 2,222 points in his illustrious career. He still had a minimum of five games to go in his prep career. At his current 34-points per game average, he could legitimately flirt with the 2,500-point plateau. That's rarified air. Only three players in OVAC history – Geno Ford, Nate Davis and Preston Boswell – have surpassed the 2,500-point mark.

For Luke, however, everything he earns individually is gravy. He'd like to see his team get back on track from a mid-season swoon and make a run in the Division III tournament later this month.

"I can't get complacent," Luke said. "It's nice to be recognized and it's something I'll never for-

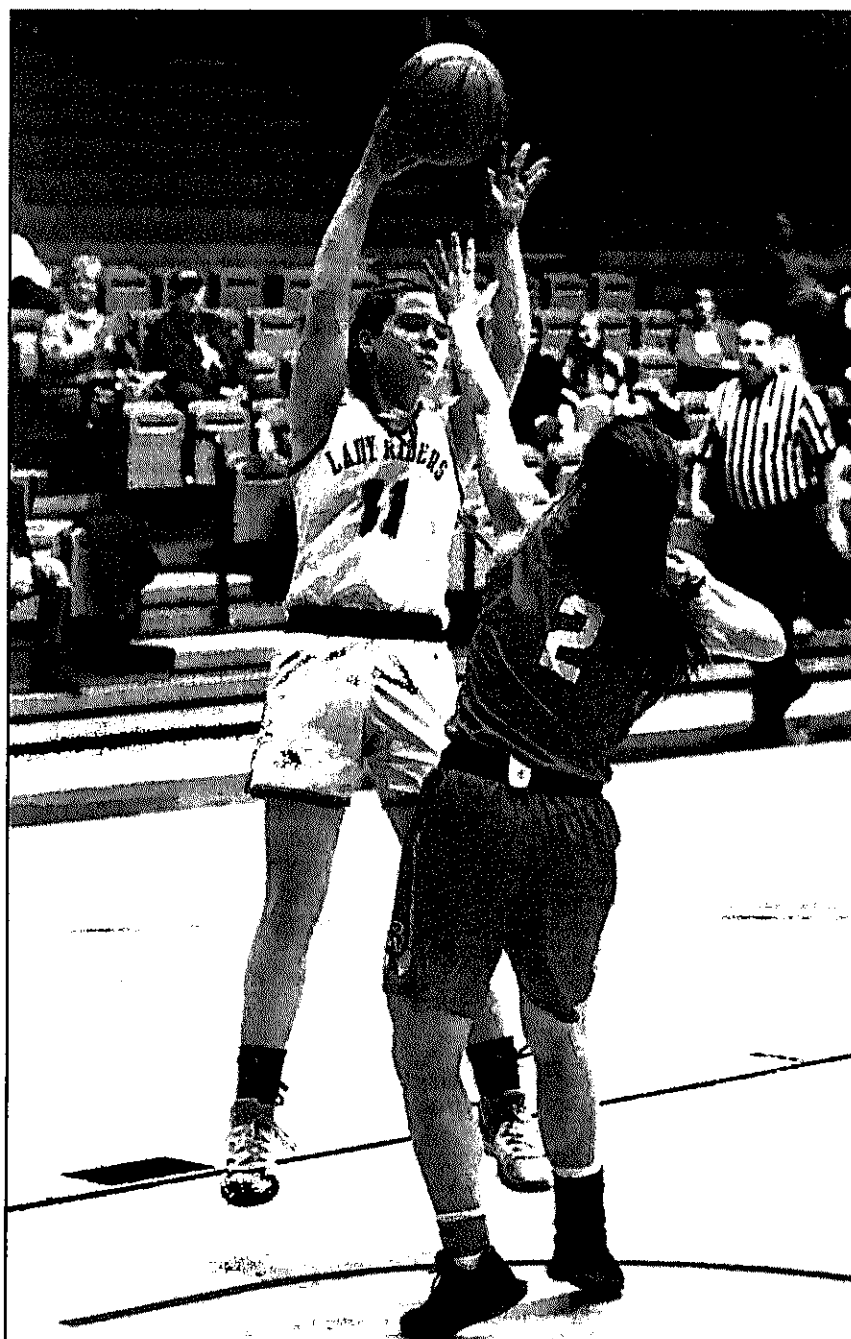
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See, **POWELL**, Page C2



TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

**MARTINS FERRY'S** Maria Clark throws a pass over Beaver Local's Riley Britt during the first quarter of Saturday morning's OVAC Class 4A championship game at OUE.

## Ferry girls cap mission for a crown

• Purple Riders win 4A

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – When Dave Reasbeck began the this season – the first – of his second tenure as girls basketball coach, he made absolutely no bones about it.

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"I don't know how great we played, but I told the kids in championship games it See, **FERRY**, Page C2

## Beallsville repeats as 1A champs

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

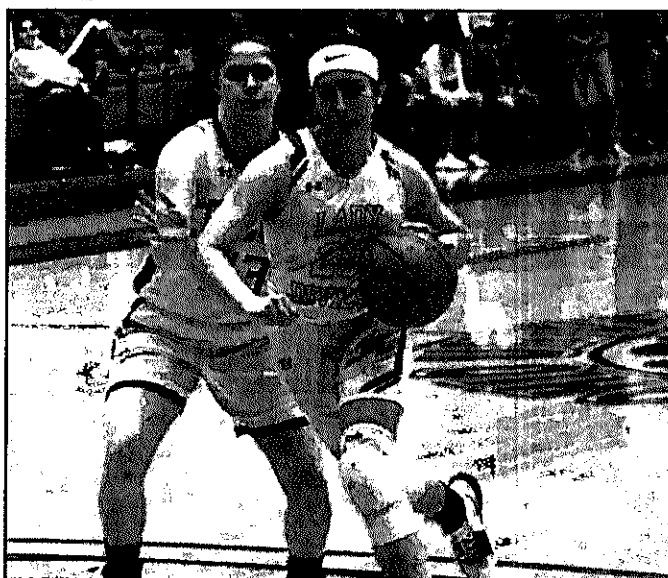
**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Beallsville only dressed seven players for its OVAC Class 1A championship game Saturday afternoon.

Two of their seven, however, were named Ashlie Loudon and Ashley Howell, and that proved to be more than Cameron could handle inside a crowded and loud Ohio University Eastern Health and Physical Education Center.

By virtue of their 40-29 victory, the Blue Devils (19-3) successfully defended their small-school crown and are celebrating their eighth conference title in school history.

"It feels really good (to win) and I think it will sink in even more later," Beallsville head coach Tori Jarrett said. "It's really awesome to win back-to-back. Having only seven players is really hard, but the girls have stepped up and did what we've asked them to do."

The difference proved to be a 15-0 run that stretched from the latter portion of the first quarter into the middle of the second quarter.



**BEALLSVILLE'S** HALLIE Bommer drives to the basket as Cameron's Maelyn Canada defends during the first quarter of Saturday's OVAC Class 1A championship game at Ohio University Eastern.

TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

Fueling the run were the aforementioned combination of Loudon and Howell, who scored all 12 of the Blue Devils' second quarter points. It was when Loudon got going in the first with a 3-pointer that ignited the spurt.

"Our defense was on during that spurt," Jarrett said. "I thought we played excellent defense, especially in the first half. They couldn't score in the halfcourt."

Loudon – the smooth lefty guard –

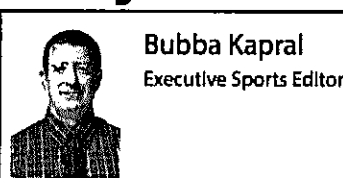
See, **REPEATS**, Page C3

## MEC tourney may never leave Wheeling

**WHEELING** – It was a slam dunk no-brainer.

Mountain East Conference Commissioner Reid Amos announced Tuesday that the conference basketball tournament will remain in Wheeling in 2021, exercising its third-year option.

It was not a tough decision. The Friendly City knocked it out of the park last year, hosting the event for the initial time, setting attendance records at gorgeous WesBanco Arena. Total atten-



**Bubba Kapral**  
Executive Sports Editor

yielded red ink. WesBanco opened its doors to the top three crowds in MEC tourney history.

The MEC success mirrors that of the Super Six. The state football champi-

nizing committee has turned the weekend into more than football, highlighting academics and social activities as well.

With that said, I predict the MEC basketball Tournament will call WesBanco Arena home for a long time, if not permanently. No one does hospitality better than the Ohio Valley.

Year one is always the toughest to get something of such magnitude off the ground. Wheeling did it seamlessly, establishing a solid foundation for even







ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Two weeks ago, Indian Creek came up short in its first chance for a league championship during the Buckeye 8 Championships.

The Redskins weren't about to let a second opportunity to win a title go by.

By virtue of a hard-earned, 46-42, overtime victory against second-seeded Wheeling Park, Indian Creek captured the OVAC Class 5A title during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern.

"I am so happy for the kids," Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft said. "They've worked so hard for this (championship) and they weren't going to be denied."

Eft believes the loss in the Buckeye 8 to Union Local paid dividends in the OVAC title game.

"That game and the atmosphere definitely helped us," Eft said. "It was a great crowd that night and our girls really feed off the crowd."

The game went to overtime tied at 35 and was scoreless in the extra session for the opening two minutes of action, but Creek finally broke through on an inside basket by Makenzie Taylor and then made it a two-possession game on a run-out chance from Hailey Clark.

The Patriots stopped the bleeding with a pair from the line and Creek got one of two at the foul line itself, setting up a trey from Park's Shanley Woods, which knotted the game at 40 with 1:11 to play.

Taylor, who had three field goals in the OT, put the Redskins back on top for good. Park rushed a 3-pointer and Ally Tweedy got two at the line, making it a 44-40 read-

## Johnson eyes Clash repeat

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The last trophy won by Jimmie Johnson sits in his youngest daughter's bedroom, where it will likely remain until Daddy can bring home new hardware.

Lydia is only 6, too young to remember almost any of Johnson's 83 Cup victories. So she claimed the Busch Clash trophy Johnson earned in last year's exhibition opener at Daytona International Speedway, where he'll try Sunday to earn a second win in the 75-lap shootout.

That win is the only trip to victory lane Johnson has made since early in the 2017 season and he's now decided to make this year his last as a full-time NASCAR driver. The seven-time champion feels

the sting of his long losing streak, with no tougher critic than young Lydia.

"That trophy is still sitting in my daughter's room. She asked me to bring her a trophy home and we did, and it's still sitting on her nightstand in her room," Johnson said.

"My wife suggested that we move it to the trophy room in my man cave, and (Lydia) said 'Nope, not until Daddy brings another one home', so I have the pressure."

The 18-driver Clash field is composed of 2019 pole winners, former Clash winners, former Daytona winners and former Daytona 500 pole winners, all of whom must have competed full time last season.

Johnson is a two-time winner of both the Daytona

## New XFL kicks off with debut game

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new XFL got under way Saturday in the latest attempt to bring more professional football to the U.S.

Billionaire Vince McMahon's latest venture kicked off with a game between the D.C. Defenders and Seattle Dragons in front of almost 20,000 fans at Audi Field. The crowd was into as early as warmups when it booed Seattle players and roared during the game when D.C. drove down the field.

National championship-winning former Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones, one

### • Repeats

Continued from Page C1

pouring in 11 of her game-high 20 points in the first half and went on to claim the John Howell Award as the game's MVP. Loudon finished the double-double with 10 rebounds.

Howell, meanwhile, was force on the interior with her size and length. She finished with 10 points and seven rebounds.

"Ashlie and Ashley are really talented players and will always be there for us, but the other girls have stepped up and played hard for us," Jarrett continued.

With the Blue Devils' bench trimmed to six after Hallie Bommer, who scored four early points, left with an injury, the Dragons began to cut into the lead.

Emma Whipkey hit a bonus goal in the middle of the third to get Cameron within eight at 25-17, which led to a Blue Dev-

il time out. Lili Neely then got an inside bucket to go, but the momentum was short lived.

Loudon got a bucket to go inside, making it an eight-point game again.

Beallsville eventually took a 32-22 lead into the fourth and the Dragons were never able to cut the deficit under 10.

Cameron was led in the scoring column by Maelyn Canada, who had 10. Lili Neely finished with nine.

"Defensively, we didn't play our best game," Cameron head coach Holly Pettit said. "We didn't execute the way we practiced, but sometimes you have those days. Give the credit to Beallsville. They played a great game. We knew what to expect, but some of the things we worked on, we didn't execute, which is frustrating."

to Mike Tyson, but I don't look up to him as much as Coach," said 11-year-old Colton Matson, who has worked with Douglas since he was 6.

"Really, Mike Tyson was the second-most greatest boxer in the world still to this day. It's crazy that Coach, like, just beat him," he said. "It might have just been luck, but I can tell you that Coach worked hard for it even if it was luck."

Tyson was the reigning undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, and a frightening opponent to boot, when he entered the ring against James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990, in Tokyo. Only one Las

Jones finished with 17 points, while Taylor added nine. Clark also added nine. The win was the second of the season for the Redskins over Park, the top-ranked team in the state of West Virginia. The other was a 67-57 win in Wintersville on Jan. 13.

"Park is a really good team," Eft said. "I think the low scoring game was because of the familiarity we have with each other. We have a scout on them, they have a scout on us. We had to feel each other out to make adjustments."

Wheeling Park was led by Woods' 20 and Bella Abernathy added 12.

500 and the Clash, but to make it back-to-back in the Speedweeks staple, Johnson will undoubtedly have to get through the Toyota Juggernaut at Joe Gibbs Racing.

The organization went 1-2-3 to sweep last year's Daytona 500 and combined to win a record 19 of 36 races. Gibbs driver Kyle Busch is the reigning NASCAR champion.

In the only practice for Sunday's race, Gibbs drivers Erik Jones, Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr. and Busch went 1-2-3-4. Johnson was 17th in the 18-driver field, ahead of only Kyle Larson.

Chevrolet, which this year is rolling out an updated Camaro, had the bottom four spots in Clash practice.

of the biggest names in the XFL and the most well-known player on the Defenders, took the mic to tell fans: "This is for the love of football. Enjoy."

Former Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds took the opening kickoff with new rules implemented for safety.

The XFL is hoping to capture the attention of hardcore football fans in the aftermath of the Super Bowl and the end of the NFL season.

Games don't feature a coin toss and are full of changes like one-, two- and three-point conversions.

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## Harvick signs extension with SHR

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Kevin Harvick has agreed to a two-year contract extension with Stewart-Haas Racing that will take the 44-year-old NASCAR champion through the 2023 season.

Harvick, who won the 2014 Cup Series

2015 that it was Busch's anniversary" to celebrate, not his. Tyson said the loss was a positive for him in the end, allowing him to learn how to "overcome adversity." The two have barely crossed paths since the fight.

The dispute over the fight's outcome — combined with lingering grief over his mother's death shortly before the fight — sent Douglas into a slump, he said.

"Believe it or not, I was where I really didn't care about anything," he recalled. "Something I always looked forward to becoming one day and then you get it and it turns into a

things to do.

Inside a training ring at Columbus' Thompson Community Center, Douglas towers over most of his students, chanting, "Left, right, left, right, left, left" as they punch away at the pads on he wears on his hands in place of gloves.

He said he gave up on his life and health for a period after the fight. In 1996, he woke up in a hospital on death's door. Again, life presented him a mountain to overcome.

"A light bulb came on. It was either get back into life or cash it on in," he said. "I decided to get back into life."

championship, said Saturday at Daytona International Speedway that he had been signed through 2021. He has 49 career wins and won the 2007 Daytona 500.

Harvick has finished third in the final standings each of the last three seasons.



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# SPORTS

Wednesday,  
February 12, 2020

## Top-seeded UL fends off Magnolia in OT

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN — Magnolia and Union Local went head-to-head Tuesday night like a pair of heavy-weight boxers. Thirty-two minutes of action wasn't enough for the two Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Class 3A Tournament semifinalists.

However, after watching the Blue Eagles send the game into the 4-minute extra session on Trevor Williamson's three-point basket, the Jets held the fourth-seeds scoreless en route to a 47-43 victory before a vocal crowd inside "The Hangar" at Union Local High School.

With the hard-earned triumph, head coach Zach Delman's squad punched its ticket to the championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The top-seeded Jets (15-5) will meet No. 3 Fort Frye, which knocked off second-seeded Linsly, 45-42, in the other semifinal Tuesday night inside the Stifel Center on the Leatherwood campus.

"What a game! What a game," Delman said. "I'm so proud of the way our kids battled and battled. It would've been easy for our kids to come to the bench after they (Magnolia) hit that three-pointer at the end of regulation and be dejected to start the overtime, but they didn't. We go

*"I'M SO proud of the way our kids battled and battled. It would've been easy for our kids to come to the bench after (Magnolia) hit that three-pointer at the end of regulation and be dejected to start the overtime, but they didn't...."*

—Zach Delman  
Union Local Head Coach

out and get a stop to start the overtime. That was a big key."

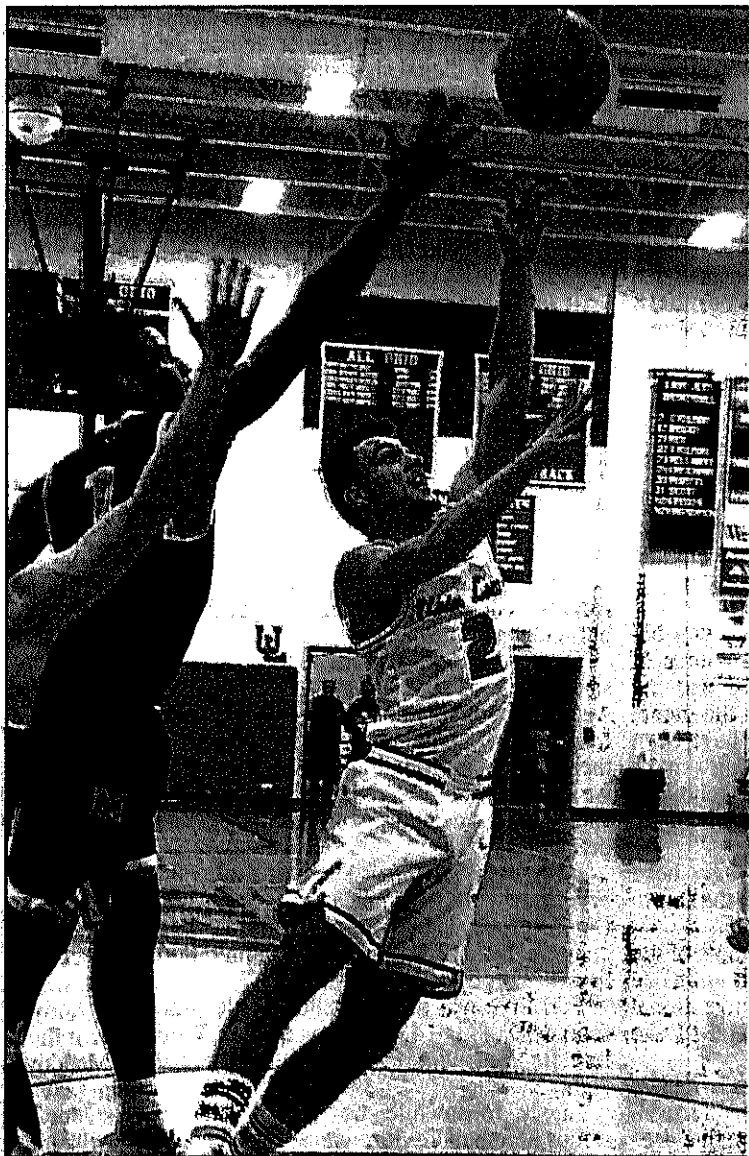
Neither team could seize the upperhand during the first three quarters. Magnolia (12-5) led 10-8 after one and 22-21 at the half. However, Union Local took a 34-31 edge into the fourth quarter and led 41-36 with 90 seconds left when Luke Merritt dribbled into the lane before dishing off to Matt Bateman for a layup.

After each team turned the ball over, the Blue Eagles' Trevor Williamson was fouled while attempting a three-pointer. He connected on the first two, making it 41-38.

Nathan Meyer knocked down both ends of a 1-and-1 with 40.1 ticks showing, but Magnolia's Qwailei Turner got an offensive rebound and scored while being fouled with 29.5 left. He missed the second shot as the margin remained 41-40.

The Jets missed two free throws at

See, UL, Page B2



UNION LOCAL'S Hunter McCort (2) watches the ball as Magnolia's Qwailei Turner (1) attempts to block the shot during third-quarter action Tuesday night inside "The Hangar" at Union Local High School. The Jets defeated the Blue Eagles, 47-43, in overtime in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Class 3A Tournament semifinal.

TL Photo/KIM NORTH

## Shadyside holds off Southern Local to reach 2A title game

• Hendershot scores 26 to become school's all-time leading boys scorer  
By BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE - There was good cause for a double celebration in Tiger Town Tuesday night.

First, and foremost, Shadyside punched its ticket into Saturday's Wheeling Hospital's OVAC 2A championship game at Ohio University Eastern via a hard-earned 65-63 win over Southern Local. The second-seeded Tigers will now face familiar foe top-seeded Wheeling Central, which survived its own semifinal scare against Clay-Battelle, in the 4 p.m. title tip.

Shadyside will be seeking its first OVAC hoop crown since 2010.

Making the Orange victory even sweeter came at the 1:58 mark of the first quarter

*"I FEEL happy to get the record, but the big thing is it came with a win. But, it is a record I could not have attained without my teammates, coaches and family. They were all a part of it."*

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Shadyside Senior

when all-stater Kelly Hendershot became the school's all-time boys' scoring leader via a conventional three-point play. He entered the contest with 1,355 markers, needing just nine to pass Todd Antill's 32-year-old record. Antill congratulated Hendershot in a brief ceremony after the record-setting point.

Hendershot, who threw down a pair of third-quarter dunks, led all scorers on the See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

SHADYSIDE SENIOR Kelly Hendershot is congratulated by Todd Antill after Hendershot scored his ninth point during the first quarter to become the all-time leading boys scorer in Shadyside basketball history. Hendershot finished with 26 and the Tigers defeated Southern, 65-63 to advance to the OVAC 2A title game.



Photo/TERRY HANCOCK

## Linsly comes up short to FF in 3A

By SETH STASKEY  
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WHEELING — Momentum in basketball games — actually in all sports — can be a funny thing, especially when the teams are relatively even.

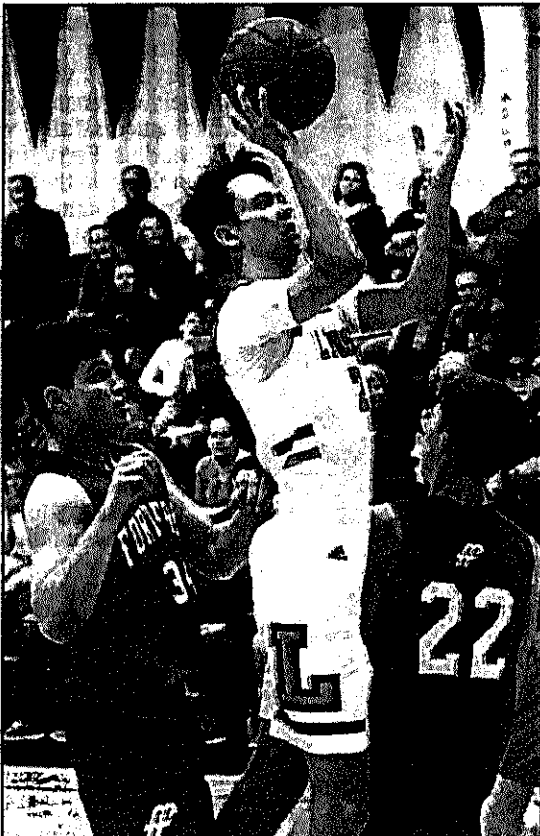
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"Two evenly matched teams and I kept telling our guys this was like looking in a mirror," Fort Frye head coach Eric Henniger said. "Linsly plays a disciplined game and has a lot of athletes everywhere. I am proud to come up here and get a win."

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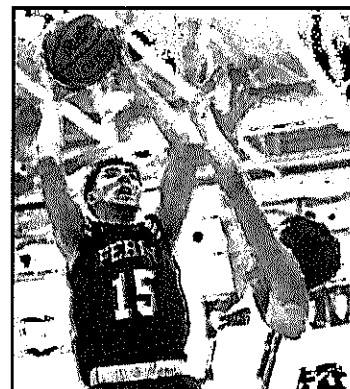
## Ferry denied by EL in Class 4A semifinal, 80-41

By CHRIS RAMBO  
For The Times Leader

EAST LIVERPOOL - With seven days to stew over last week's upset loss to Oak Glen, the East Liverpool Potters took the court for Tuesday's OVAC 4A semifinal looking very much like they had a point to prove.

Behind a smothering defense and a special effort from senior point guard Tresean Jackson, the second-seeded Potters obliterated third-seeded Martins Ferry 80-41 at Potter Fieldhouse.

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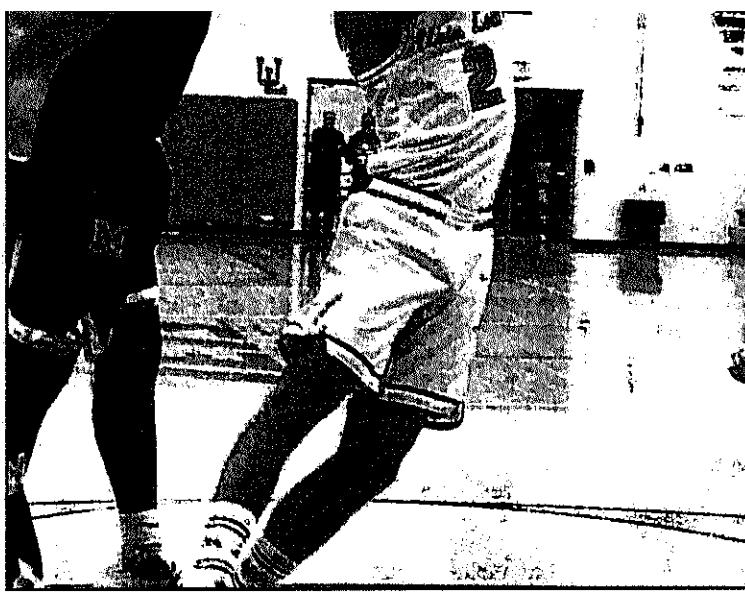
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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

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It actually appeared after Caleb Murray drilled a 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer that Linsly may have seized the momentum along with the lead.

Fort Frye, which found itself down by two at 32-30 at that point, had other ideas. The Beverly-based Cadets held Linsly scoreless for the first 6:26 of

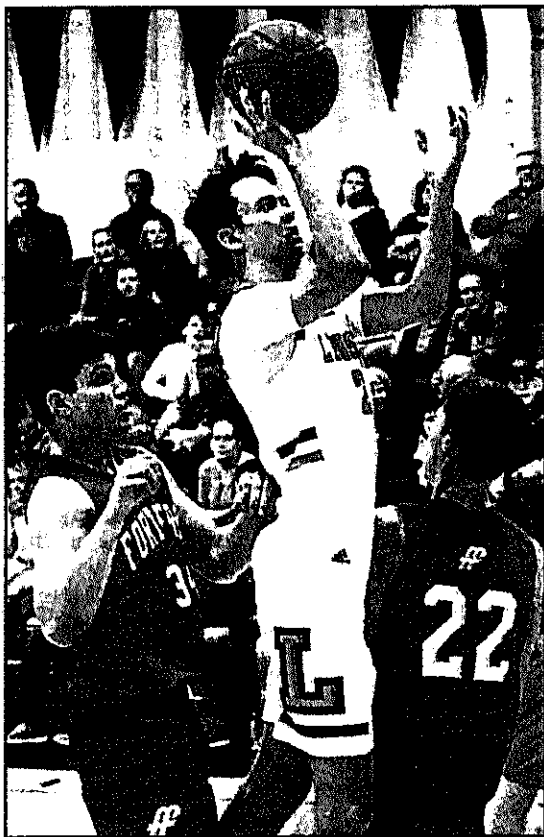
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Fort Frye, which was knocked out in the semi-final round on its home court last year by eventual champion Barnesville, will next take on top-seeded Union Local, which needed overtime to get past Magnolia.

"We crossed off some of our goals by getting into the top four to give ourselves a chance to win a championship and now

See, LINSLY, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**LINSLY'S MARSHALL Taylor** goes up for a shot in traffic during Tuesday's game against Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A semifinals. Taylor scored a game-high 20, but Linsly fell, 45-42.

## Ferry denied by EL in Class 4A semifinal, 80-41

By CHRIS RAMBO  
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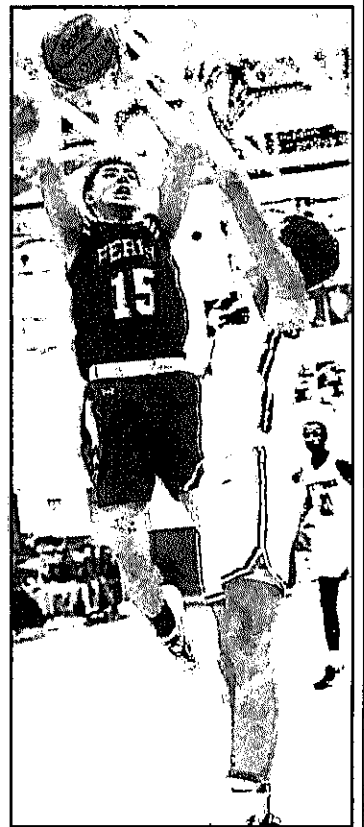
"If you can't tell, we were a little upset about that Oak Glen game last week. They played good, but we thought we let that one slip away," East Liverpool coach Nate Conley said. "We had a bitter taste in our mouths and the kids came out and played really tough tonight. I think it was the best game we've played all year."

The Potters (14-4) now get a chance to fulfill one of their biggest season-long goals when they take on top-seeded Meadowbrook for the 4A championship at 10 a.m. Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

Martins Ferry falls to 11-9. "The OVAC is something we've had marked down since the beginning of the year," Conley said. "We've only made the finals in two of my ten years here. It's going to be a lot of fun Saturday."

Jackson put his stamp all over the game with 31 points, eight assists and five steals. Brennan O'Hara had a fine night of his own with 15 points and four rebounds. Timmy

See, FERRY, Page B2



Photo/JIMMY JO SAVAGE

**MARTINS FERRY'S Logan Smith** rises over East Liverpool's Brennan O'Hara on Tuesday in an OVAC Class 4A semifinal at Potter Fieldhouse.

## Meadowbrook cruises by Harrison in 4A

By KEVIN SUTTON  
For The Times Leader

BYESVILLE - Seeking a fifth consecutive Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship 4A title, top-seeded Meadowbrook High took step one on Tuesday evening with a convincing 70-43 semi-final victory over visiting No. 4 seed Harrison Central.

With the lopsided win, the Colts improve to a sparkling 16-3 record and will now battle East Liverpool on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Ohio University-Eastern to attempt to secure their fifth straight 4A championship.

In the night's other OVAC semi-final match-up, East Liverpool routed Martins Ferry, 81-41 to clinch their spot in the championship game.

*"WE'RE EXCITED to get the opportunity to go down and try and defend our title game. It will be a challenge for us and we will need to work hard for the next few days to get ready for it."*

— Lou "Scooter" Tolzda  
Meadowbrook Head Coach

"We put ourselves in position to win a fifth straight title against a good East Liverpool team," Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda explained. "They have a lot of great athletes, and it's at a tough time with being 10 in the morning. So that will be a challenge for both teams."

"We're excited to get the opportunity to go down and try and defend our title again," Tolzda added. "It will be a challenge for us and we will need to work hard for the next few days to get ready for it."

In the early going, led by high-scoring junior Kobe Mitchell, the visiting Huskies stayed within striking distance in the opening quarter. Mitchell pumped in eight points in the quarter to try to offset Meadowbrook senior Jonathan McCall's nine point frame, including a pair of 3-pointers.

"We knew (Kobe) Mitchell is a really talented player...he's averaging over 30 points a game and that's not easy to do," Tolzda offered. "We kind of guarded him by committee and feel like we were able to frustrate him some. Plus we were able to lock down on their other guys and keep them from hurting us."

But McCall received a little more help from his 'friends' with senior Zach Rusnak knocking down a pair of triples for six points, and junior Da-

See, HARRISON, Page B2

## Red Sox make Roenicke interim manager

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) – It took Ron Roenicke almost five years to get another chance as a major league manager.

He'll need to wait at least until next week for "permanency."

The Red Sox made Roenicke their interim manager Tuesday, promoting the former Brewers skipper to replace Alex Cora on the day Boston's pitchers and catchers reported for the start of spring training.

Although there is no expiration date on Roenicke's tenure, the interim tag will stay until Major League Baseball completes its investigation into whether the Red Sox engaged in illegal sign-stealing during their 2018 World Series championship season. If the probe clears Roenicke, who has denied being part of any rules violations, he is expected to stay.

"We felt that naming Ron our interim manager was the best way to respect the investigation that's ongoing into our 2018 club. But we feel very strongly about Ron's

## • Linsly

Continued from Page B1

a championship and now we just have to get focused on Saturday," Henniger said.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Linsly head coach Dave Wojcik was left wondering what might have been had his team had just a few more seconds or made just a couple more plays.

"Fort Frye, overall, deserved to win because they played better for the course of the game," Wojcik said. "If we had the sense of urgency we had late in the game, coming out of the gate, it might have been a different story, but when you don't make free throws, give up offensive rebounds and turn the ball over, you're in for a long night."

Those issues all reared their ugly head for the Wheeling-based Cadets in the fourth quarter.

Fort Frye scored the first 11 points of the fourth, which included a trey and an inside bucket from Zane Wallace, a conventional 3-point play by Brady Schilling and a Luke Huffman goal.

Meanwhile, on the other end, Linsly couldn't buy one. On top of missing from the field, Linsly missed its first five free throws in the fourth quarter.

Even after Luca DiLorenzo stopped the scoring skid with a transition bucket, Wallace sank two at the line to push it back to a 43-34 reading.

Linsly simply wouldn't go away. DiLorenzo scored again and Linsly stole the inbound pass and found Murray again from deep. Another steal resulted in DiLorenzo kissing one home and just like that it was 43-41 with just under a minute to play.

"We have to do a better job of managing our possessions at the end (of games)," Henniger said. "We had a lot of timeouts. We kept getting trapped and didn't call

ability to lead this group and how well-suited he is for this task," Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said in a news conference on the eve of the team's first formal workout.

"We have no reason to think that there is anything that would cause an adverse result for Ron in this investigation," Bloom said.

Just one year after winning the World Series in his first season in Boston, Cora was let go when Commissioner Rob Manfred named him as a ringleader behind the Astros' 2017 illegal sign-stealing. The Red Sox have maintained that there was no similar scheme after Cora took over in Boston the next year.

Manfred said last week that he hoped to have the Red Sox investigation completed before the start of spring training. But a person with knowledge of the probe said Tuesday the investigation will continue at least into next week. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity.

a time out. We have to do a better job of handling the pressure at the end and being smarter."

The teams traded one-of-two at the line and Linsly was forced to foul again. Wallace got one-of-two. Linsly got a clean look from the corner to tie as time wound down, but it clanged off the rim.

"We lost our poise in the fourth," Wojcik said. "We took some quick, deep 3s and we weren't in rebounding position. We were frazzled and splintered. We sort of lost it there a little bit, tried to get it back late, but we came up short. Give Fort Frye credit because they made plays, both offensively and defensively."

Both teams had their share of runs. Fort Frye ended the first on a 15-0 spurt and Linsly proceeded to win the middle two quarters by a 25-12 count, holding Fort Frye to six points in each period.

Fort Frye was led by Kelton Fogle, who scored 10 of his 14 in the first quarter. Wallace finished with 13 and Schilling added eight.

Linsly, meanwhile, was led by talented senior Marshall Taylor, who single handedly kept Linsly in the game early. He scored 17 of his team's 22 in the first half and finished with 20 for the game. Murray was next in line with nine points.

"At the end of the day, after the game, you have to look in the mirror and ask, 'what could I have done differently?'" Wojcik said. "I know I am going to do that and ask, 'what could I have called differently? The kids have to self-check themselves as well and see what they could have done better, so it doesn't happen the next time."

The next time for Linsly comes Friday in the 3A consolation game. It will visit Magnolia.

## • UL

Continued from Page B1

the 19.6 mark, but the Blue Eagles followed suit with 7.8 left. However, on the second miss, Magnolia's Gavin Postlethwait grabbed the rebound and immediately sent the ball to Williamson who calmly drained a trey with three seconds on the clock.

Union Local's desperation shot from midcourt was off the mark as the teams headed to overtime.

Unfortunately for the West Virginians, little did they know Williamson's bonus goal would be the last points they would score.

Luke Merritt, who had misfired on two free tosses 25 seconds earlier, tickled the twine twice on a pair of attempts with 12.7 showing for a 46-43 advantage. After Magnolia failed to connect on a three-point try, Zach Bateman secured the rebound and was fouled with 1.5 remaining. He missed the first shot, but cashed in the second for the final four-point margin.

"We've got confidence in

those guys to step up there and make their free throws. They've got to wipe out what happened in the past and focus on the present," Delman said. "We did that."

The Blue Eagles misfired on all five of their field goal attempts in OT.

"We didn't score in overtime?" veteran Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman said when informed. "Oh my, you've got to score, right?"

"I thought the effort was there. It's great being part of the OVAC playoff and give Union Local credit. They made plays when they had to," Tallman offered.

"A big thing was free throw shooting late. We're supposed to be the best free throw shooting team in area, and we weren't down the stretch," Delman noted as his team made 4 of 8 in OT. "Had we made our free throws, I think we shot 17-for-26 which doesn't seem bad but they (the misses) were all at crucial times, we would've been alright."

That was an area Tallman wasn't happy with, the disparity in free throws. Union Local went 17-for-26 from the charity stripe, including 10 of 12 in the first half to keep the game close, compared to 3-for-10 for Magnolia.

"Look at the fouls and the number of foul shots they took compared to what we took," he said. "I never complain about officials ... ever, but it's just disheartening."

However, he said his team will learn from this loss.

"They (Union Local) made us better. On the Ohio-side the OVAC means a great deal to them because it's hard for them to get to the state tournament," Tallman said. "Our goal is to win the (West Virginia) state tournament and we feel that UL made us better. We've got bigger fish to fry."

Meyer led a trio of double-digit scorers for the Jets with 12. Merritt added 11 and Matt Bateman had 10. Meyer also pulled down 11 rebounds.

## • Harrison

Continued from Page B1

Singleton scoring four to give the Colts a 19-11 lead heading to the second period.

In the second stanza, the Colts seemed to pick up the pace and quickly reeled off a quick 6-0 run, capped by a two-handed dunk from senior Addy Black for a 25-11 lead at the 7:20 mark.

Meadowbrook would then take control of the contest for good, outscoring Harrison Central 21-9 in the quarter to extend the lead out to 40-20 at the halftime break with Rusnak's third 3-pointer of the half ending first half play.

McCall finished with six points to run his first half total to 15, while Black and Davis Singleton each contributed four markers for the

## • Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Neal added nine points and a team-high seven rebounds.

"I thought tonight was Tresean's best overall game as a Potter," Conley said. "He didn't gamble on defense and he was able to get everyone else going. When he plays like that, that's when we're at our best."

The potential was there for a competitive matchup coming into the night, but the Potters made sure the game was essentially over by halftime.

Everything was fueled by their dominant defense, which successfully walled off Martins Ferry forward Logan Smith in the first half and created ample transition opportunities for the

## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

night with 26 points, giving him 1,381 for his career. Ashley Holenka is the school's all-time leading hoop scorer with over 1,700 markers.

"I feel happy to get the record but the big thing is it came with a win," Hendershot said. "But it is a record I could not have attained without my teammates, coaches and family. They were all a part of it."

Shadyside is now a sparkling 16-5. The hard-playing Indians, meanwhile, dropped to a fine 15-5.

"We didn't play one of

Colts.

Defensively, Meadowbrook was able to slow down the high-scoring Mitchell, limiting him to just four points in the quarter.

"They are just a good team...they can make you look bad at times," Harrison Central head coach Justin Clifford stated. "Give them all the credit tonight, I was just a little disappointed with the way we competed. We were OK early with our effort, but then when one or two things went wrong we seemed to kind of feel sorry for ourselves instead of battling."

Black led the Colts out to a 15-10 third quarter scoring edge with six points, including his second 'flush' of the night. Sophomore Jake

Singleton also tallied six points to give Meadowbrook a comfortable 55-30 edge after three quarters of play.

Mitchell picked up his scoring pace in the third frame with nine points for the Huskies.

Meadowbrook placed four players in double figures led by McCall with his 15 points all in the first half, Black who led the Colts off the glass with 10 rebounds and Jake Singleton each finished with 13 points and Davis Singleton added 10. Rusnak just missed double figures with nine on his trio of 3-pointers.

Mitchell took game-high scoring honors with 30 points for Harrison Central (10-8), with Cale McAfee chipping in with five.

offense.

The Potters led by three with 3:47 left in the first quarter before blowing the game wide open with a 28-5 extended run that lasted the rest of the half. The lead was 37-11 at the break.

"A lot of people are going to leave here tonight not knowing how good Martins Ferry is," Conley said. "They have a good team with some nice wins this year. I just thought our guys came out and played really tough tonight."

The Purple Riders shot 4-of-18 in the first half, while also turning the ball over nine times.

"We have to be better in every facet of the game than we were tonight," Martins

Ferry coach Derek Edwards said. "Their athleticism bothered us and we weren't able to get anything going offensively. We have a lot to work on starting tomorrow at practice."

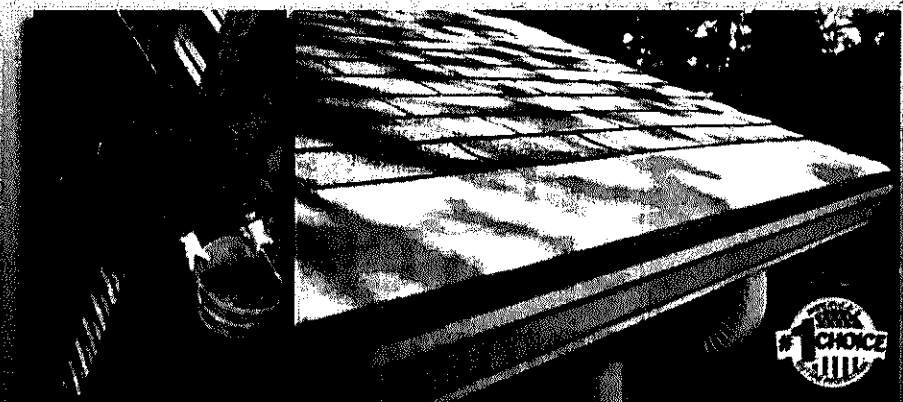
Smith got going a little bit in the second half and finished with 16 points and seven rebounds for the Purple Riders. By then, though, the issue had long been decided. Dasyn Hores added 11 points for Martins Ferry, which will host Harrison Central in a consolation matchup Friday.

"The biggest thing I told the kids is that there is a tomorrow," Edwards said. "It's a fresh opportunity to get back in the gym and get to work."



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Shadyside is now a sparkling 16-5. The hard-playing Indians, meanwhile, dropped to a fine 15-5.

"We didn't play one of our better games but we won. We had chances to put them away. They kept fighting back," Shadyside head coach Ed Andes said. "We were sloppy with the ball at times and missed too many free throws. Give Southern credit, however, they have a nice team and play extremely hard."

"I am also very happy for Kelly. That is a great achievement," he added. "He is a character young man who has worked hard and is a team player. He is very deserving of the record."

Sweet-shooting Tyler Parr was Hendershot's top support with 22 points, 17 coming after intermission. Corey Beckett and Jordan Joseph each netted seven tallies for the Tigers.

Cam Grohaus paced Southern with 18 points. Josh Pratt and Brock Smalley each checked in with 12 for the Sa-



Photo/TERRY HANCOCK

**SHADYSIDE'S TYLER** Parr drives to the basket against a Southern Local defender during the first half of an OVAC 2A semifinal.

lineville-based Indians.

"The last couple of games we have struggled shooting threes and at the foul line. Tonight we did a much better job of both. That enabled us to compete," Southern head coach Gerard Grimm said. "We made some nice runs but just couldn't get over the hump. We just needed to do a little better job with the 50-50 balls and taking care of the ball at the end."

The game was knotted at 56-all with just over four minutes to play before Parr busted a trey. After a Southern hoop, Beckett buried a trifecta with 2:44 showing for a 62-58 Tiger advantage.

Pratt brought the Indians back to within one at 62-61 with a bonus goal. Parr again stepped up for the hosts, meshing another trey with 1:50 remaining, good for a 65-61 Orange lead.

A series of missed Shadyside free throws and Southern turnovers kept the scoring frozen until Southern's Sam May goaled at the final buzzer for the final two-point margin.

Shadyside led 18-13 after one period and owned a 32-26 halftime advantage. The hosts took a 52-45 upperhand into the final frame.

Shadyside committed 11 turnovers, many at the most inopportune times. Southern was guilty of 10 miscues.

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# Lee Lifts Central To Class 2A Title Game

Junior's layup with 3 seconds stuns Cee-Bees

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — A pair of teams looking for different things battled for 32 minutes Tuesday night on Coach Skip Prosser Court and while only one could get the victory both achieved goals.

Clay-Battelle brought a 15-2 record to the Northern Panhandle looking for respect and the chance to show they could play with powerful Wheeling Central while the Maroon Knights were looking for a berth in an eighth consecutive Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A championship game.

Coach Josh Kisner's Cee-Bees most definitely went home with the respect they were seeking but it will be Coach Mel Stephens' Wheeling Central team that takes the court Saturday in search of an eighth straight conference title.

After sophomore Ryan Reasbeck tied the score late with a steal and basket, junior Avery Lee capped an amazing night with a driving layup with 3 seconds showing on the clock as the Maroon Knights avoided the upset and recorded a come-from-behind 87-85 victory over Clay-Battelle at their East Wheeling gym.

Stephens and his crew will take a 15-6 record to Ohio University Eastern



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central's Avery Lee drives to the basket during Tuesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal game against Clay-Battelle.

Please see LEE, Page 13



Photo by Seth Staskey

Jy'Leik Johnson goes up for a shot during the first quarter of Tuesday's game against Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A semifinal inside the Stifel Fieldhouse.

## Fort Frye Holds Off Linsly, 45-42

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Momentum in basketball games — actually in all sports — can be a funny thing, especially when the teams are relatively even.

The momentum in Tuesday night's OVAC Class 3A semifinal between third-seeded Fort Frye and second-seeded Linsly inside the Stifel Fieldhouse went back and forth multiple times.

It actually appeared after Caleb Murray drilled a 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer that Linsly may have seized the momentum along with the lead.

Fort Frye, which found itself down by two at 32-30 at that point, had other ideas. The Beverly-based Cadets held Linsly scoreless for the first 6:26 of the fourth and built a nine-point lead and eventually hung on for a 45-42 victory to advance to the conference title game Saturday evening at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

"Two evenly matched teams and I kept telling our guys this was like looking in a mirror," Fort Frye coach Eric Henniger said. "Linsly plays a disciplined game and has a lot of athletes everywhere. I am proud to come up here and get a win."

Please see LINSLEY, Page 16

## Hawks Throttle Patriots

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

MORGANTOWN — Defeating an opponent three times in a season can be a daunting task.

West Virginia Class AAA's top ranked University Hawks had no trouble completing that chore.

University drained 10 3-pointers in the first half and handed visiting Wheeling Park a convincing 108-69 setback on Tuesday night in the OVAC 5A semifinal.

The 108 points allowed by the Patriots are the most given up in team history.

"They are an exceptional team," Park coach Michael Jeb-

bia said. "We've shown that we can play with them earlier this season but it just wasn't going to happen (Tuesday). Not with the first quarter that they had."

University's third win over Park this season earns them an appearance in Saturday's OVAC championship against Morgantown at OUE at noon.

"This feels great," University coach Joe Schmide said. "The kids knew how important (Tuesday's) game was and I knew they were ready to play. They were well-rested and had a week off. They wanted to come to the gym this weekend and I wouldn't let them."

"This is the first time all year we've been truly healthy. I was

really pleased with the effort on both sides of the ball in the first half.

"We shot lights out. To put up 108 points against Wheeling Park — one of the best teams in the state of West Virginia — all in all, we're just happy to be playing on Saturday against Morgantown."

The Hawks jumped out to a quick 10-2 upper hand to start the game thanks to a pair of 3-pointers from sharp-shooting Kaden Metheny, which made him the all-time leader in school history in 3s made. He finished the game with six triples, increasing his career total to 239.

Please see PATRIOTS, Page 16

Wheeling Park's Alex Vargo goes up for a shot during Tuesday's OVAC 5A semifinal game at University.

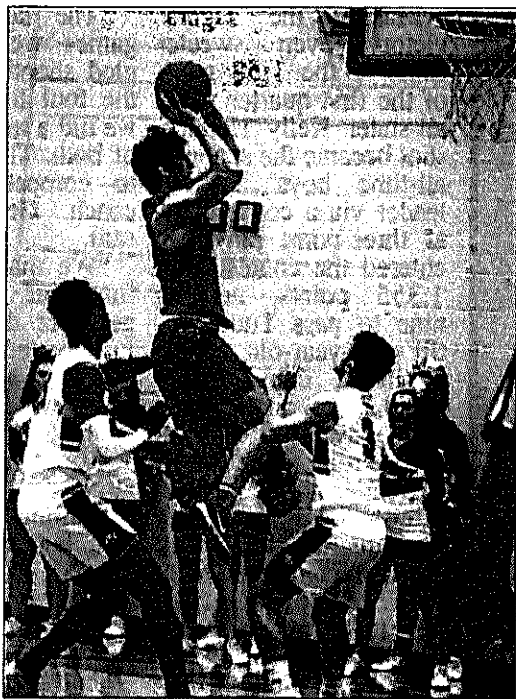


Photo by Cody Tomer

## Jets Down Blue Eagles in OT

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

MORRISTOWN — Magnolia and Union Local went head-to-head Tuesday night like a pair of heavyweight boxers. Thirty-two minutes of action wasn't enough for the two Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Class 3A Tournament semifinalists.

However, after watching the Blue Eagles send the game into the 4-minute extra session on Trevor Williamson's 3-point basket, the Jets held the fourth-seeds scoreless en route to a 47-

43 victory before a vocal crowd inside "The Hangar" at Union Local High School.

With the hard-earned triumph, coach Zach Delman's squad punched its ticket to the championship game Saturday at Ohio University Eastern. The top-seeded Jets (15-5) will meet No. 3 Fort Frye, which knocked off second-seeded Linsly, 45-42, in the other semifinal Tuesday night inside the Stifel Center on the Leatherwood campus.

"What a game. What a game," Delman said. "I'm so proud of

the way our kids battled and battled. It would've been easy for our kids to come to the bench after they (Magnolia) hit that 3-pointer at the end of regulation and be dejected to start the overtime, but they didn't. We go out and get a stop to start the overtime. That was a big key."

Neither team could seize the upperhand during the first three quarters. Magnolia (12-5) led 10-8 after one and 22-21 at the half.

Please see EAGLES, Page 16



Magnolia's Jacob Gamble (4) secures a rebound Tuesday night.

Photo by Kim North

## Madonna Advances to 1A Title Game

**HUNDRED** — Four Madonna players scored in double figures as it secured a 63-60 victory over Hundred to claim a spot in the OVAC Class 1A championship game Tuesday during boys' prep basketball action.

Lucky Pulice paced the Blue Dons with 18 points while Evan Boniti contributed with 15. Brennan Secrist supplied 14 points and Santino Arlia had 11.

Cody Soles turned in game-high 22 points to pace the Hornets while Logan Norris netted 20.

**Frontier 54, Cameron 47**  
**NEW MATAMORAS** — Logan Brookover scored 23 points and Tanner Bills had 16 as Frontier defeated Cameron to advance to the OVAC Class 1A title game.

Cole Burkett paced the Dragons with 15 points and five boards and Trevor Beresford had 10 points, 13 rebounds, five blocks and four steals.

### Class 5A

**Morgantown 88, Weir 24**  
**MORGANTOWN** — Reed Reitter garnered six points to lead Weir as the Red Riders were handled easily by Morgantown.

The Mohigans outscored the Red Riders 52-10 in the first half.

**Consolation Games**  
**River 60, Beallsville 51**  
**HANNIBAL** — Stone Thompson tallied 25 points including hitting five 3-pointers to lead River to a victory over Beallsville. Brody Lollathin was also solid for the Pilots as he netted 19 while Ty Long had 10.

For the Blue Devils Adam Baker supplied 17 points, Dakota Phillips secured 16 and Wyatt Brown chipped in 11.

**Valley 71, Bridgeport 59**  
**PINE GROVE** — Gavin Streets and Levi Anderson both poured in 25 points as Valley secured a victory over Madonna. Ryan Baker also was solid for the Lumber-

jacks with 10 points.

Dylan Gregorcic paced the Bulldogs with a team-high 16 points while Riese O'Kernick and Cooper Dulesky netted 14.

**Brooke 76, Buckeye Local 74**  
**WELLSBURG** — Cole Sperlizza scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as Brooke edged Buckeye Local.

Alex Lilly and Alex Isinghood each netted 14 points for the victorious Bruins, while Nick Brown added nine.

Jacob Moffo paced the Panthers with 34 points, followed by Cameron Grabits with 17.

**Monroe Central 66**  
**Buckeye Trail 65**  
**WOODSFIELD** — Dillon Lincoln turned in 17 points as Monroe Central won a thriller over Buckeye Trail.

Auston Hogue supplied 12 points and Garet Cramer added 10 for the Seminoles.

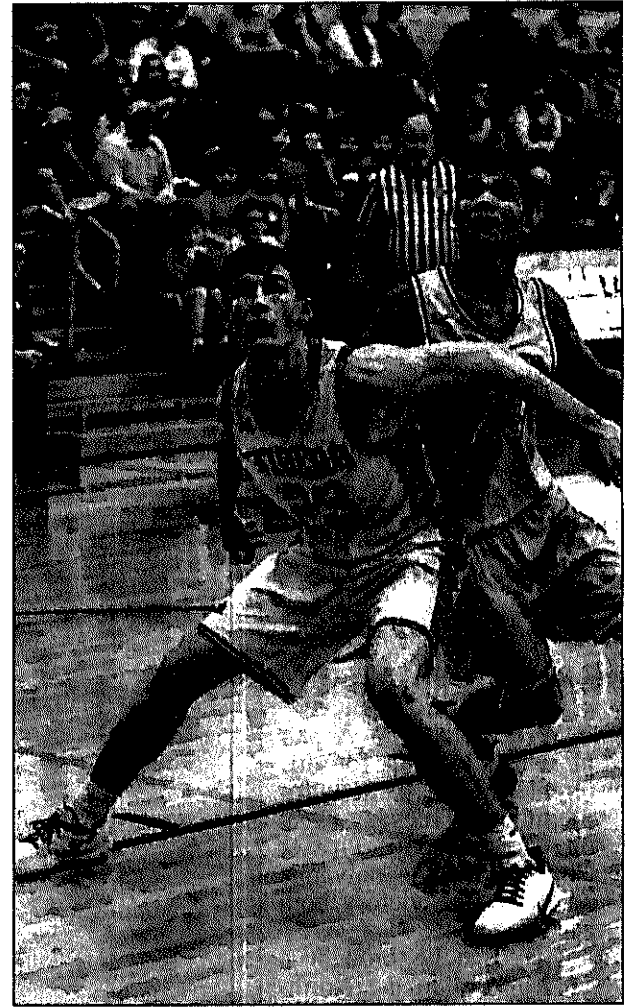


Photo by Terry Hancock

Shadyside's Kelly Hendershot, front, became the school's all-time boys' leading scorer Tuesday night.

## Simmons Leads 76ers Past Clippers

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP) — Ben Simmons had 26 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Los Angeles Clippers 110-103 on Tuesday night.

Joel Embiid also scored 26 points and Tobias Harris added 17 points and 12 boards for Philadelphia, which has the NBA's best home record at 25-2. Josh Richardson scored 17 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Kawhi Leonard led Los Angeles with 30 points, and reserve Landry Shamet scored 19 against his former team.

Richardson nailed his

third 3-pointer of the quarter to give Philadelphia a 102-94 lead with 4:44 left. Then he scored on a driving left-handed layup and made the free throw to complete the 3-point play, extending the lead to 11.

**PELICANS 138**  
**TRAIL BLAZERS 117**  
**NEW ORLEANS** (AP) — Zion Williamson scored a season-high 31 points, powering New Orleans to the victory.

Playing 28 minutes in just his ninth NBA game, Williamson used his 6-foot-6, 285-pound frame, quick feet and explosive vertical to have his way with every defender Portland tried against him.

JJ Redick scored 20 and Josh Hart had 17 points for New Orleans, which trailed by as many as 16 in the first quarter before taking command en route to a third straight victory.

**WIZARDS 126**  
**BULLS 114**  
**WASHINGTON** (AP) — Bradley Beal scored 30 points, and the Wizards held off Zach LaVine and the Bulls for the victory.

Rui Hachimura added 20 points for Washington, which won for the fourth time in six games. Shabazz Napier and Ian Mahinmi had 15 apiece.  
**SPURS 114,**  
**THUNDER 106**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**

(AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and the Spurs stopped a five-game slide.

Dejounte Murray also scored 25 points for San Antonio, which had dropped eight of 10 overall.

Patty Mills had 20 points, and fellow reserve Derrick White finished with 17.

Led by Aldridge and Murray, the Spurs made 25 of 27 foul shots.  
**Oklahoma City** dropped its second straight after a stretch of nine wins in 10 games. Chris Paul scored 31 points for the Thunder, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 17.

## Tigers Hold Off Southern, 65-63

Hendershot becomes Shadyside's all-time leading boys' scorer

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
**Executive Sports Editor**  
**SHADYSIDE**

There was good cause for a double celebration in Tiger Town Tuesday night.

First, and foremost, Shadyside punched its ticket into Saturday's Wheeling Hospital's OVAC 2A championship game at Ohio University Eastern via a hard-earned 65-63 win over Southern Local. The Tigers will now face familiar foe Wheeling Central, which survived its own semifinal scare against Clay-Battelle, in the 4 p.m. title tip.

Shadyside will be seeking its first OVAC hoop crown since 2010.

Making the Tigers' victory even sweeter came at the 1:58 mark of the first quarter when all-stater Kelly Hendershot became the school's all-time boys' scoring leader via a conventional three-point play. He entered the contest with 1,355 points, needing nine to pass Todd Antill's 32-year-old record. Antill congratulated Hendershot in a brief ceremony after the record-setting point.

Hendershot, who threw down a pair of third-quarter dunks, led all scorers on the night with 26 points, giving him 1,381 for his career. Ashley Holenka is the school's all-time leading hoop scorer with over 1,700 points.

"I feel happy to get the record but the big thing is it came with a win," Hendershot said. "But it is a record I could not have attained without my teammates, coaches and family. They were all a

throws. Give Southern credit, however, they have a nice team and play extremely hard.

"I am also very happy for Kelly. That is a great achievement. He is a character young man who has worked hard and is a team player. He is very deserving of the record."

Sweet-shooting Tyler Parr was Hendershot's top support with 22 points, 17 coming after intermission.

Korey Beckett and Jordan Joseph each netted seven points for the Tigers.

Cam Grodhaus paced Southern with 18 points. Josh Pratt and Brock Smalley each checked in with 12 for the Indians.

"The last couple of games we have struggled shooting 3s and at the foul line. (Tuesday) we did a much better job of both. That enabled us to compete," Southern coach Gerard Grimm said.

"We made some nice runs but just couldn't get over the hump. We just needed to do a little better job with the 50-50 balls and taking care of the ball at the end."

The game was knotted at 56-56 with just over four minutes to play before Parr busted a trey. After a Southern hoop, Beckett buried a trifecta with 2:44 showing for a 62-58 Tiger advantage.

Pratt brought the Indians back to within one at 62-61 with a bonus goal. Parr again stepped up for the hosts, meshing another trey with 1:50 remaining, good for a 65-61 Orange lead.

A series of missed Shadyside free throws and Southern turnovers

# OGDEN NEWSPAPERS HALF MARATHON

*Classic*



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"I feel happy to get the record but the big thing is it came with a win," Hendershot said. "But it is a record I could not have attained without my teammates, coaches and family. They were all a part of it."

Shadyside is now a sparkling 16-5. The hard-playing Indians, meanwhile, dropped to 15-5.

"We didn't play one of our better games but we won. We had chances to put them away. They kept fighting back," Shadyside coach Ed Andes said.

"We were sloppy with the ball at times and missed too many free

throws. Give Southern credit, however, they have a nice team and play extremely hard.

"I am also very happy for Kelly. That is a great achievement. He is a character young man who has worked hard and is a team player. He is very deserving of the record."

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A series of missed Shadyside free throws and Southern turnovers kept the scoring frozen until Southern's Sam May goaled at the final buzzer for the final two-point margin.

Shadyside led 18-13 after one period and owned a 32-26 halftime advantage. The hosts took a 52-45 upperhand into the final frame.

Shadyside committed 11 turnovers, many at the most inopportune times. Southern was guilty of 10 miscues.

# OGDEN NEWSPAPERS HALF MARATHON

Classic

MAY  
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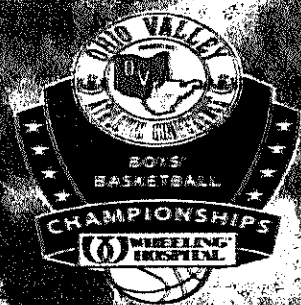
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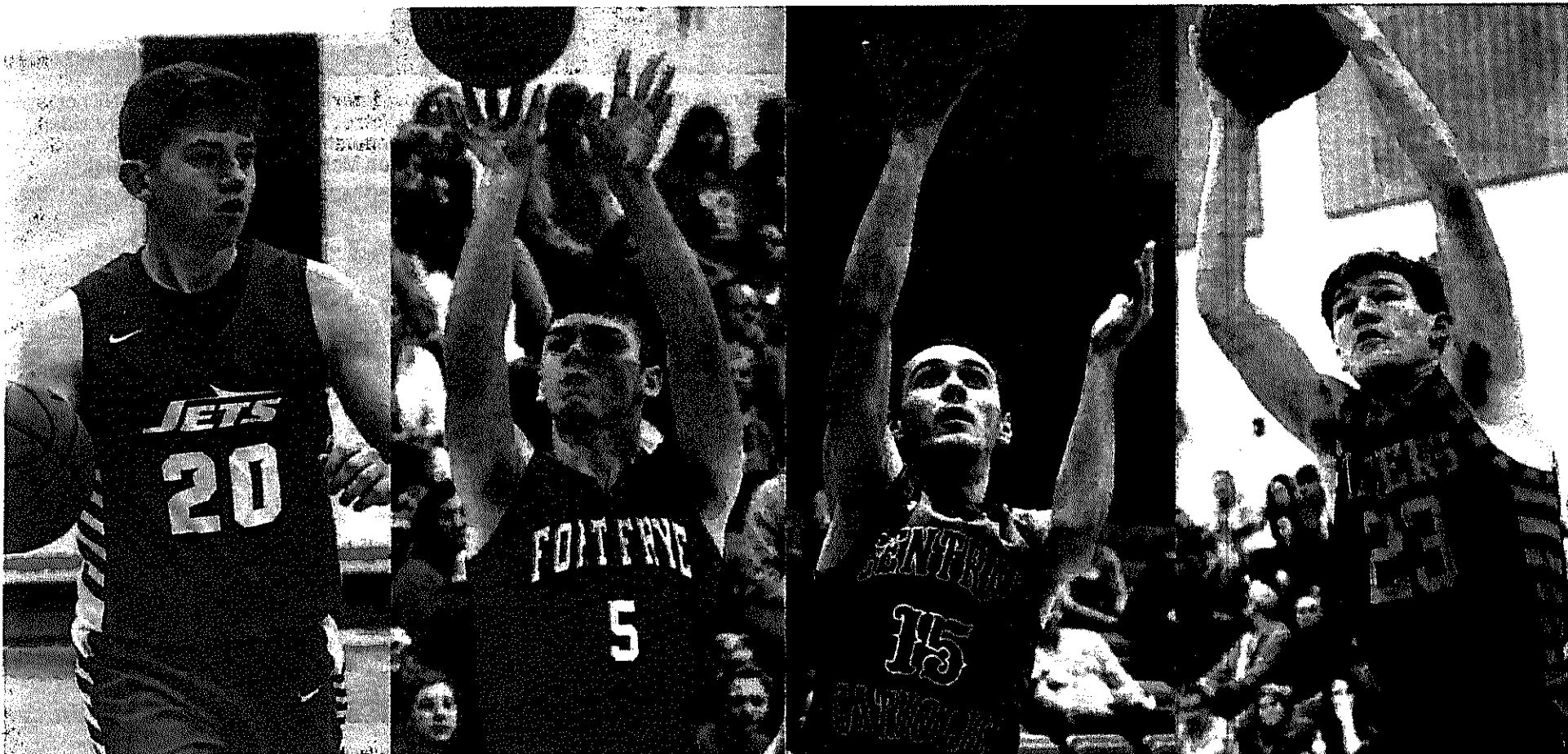




# OVAC



# BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Times Leader

February 15, 2020

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# Shadyside, Central to clash for the third time

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ON THE COVER**

**PICTURED ON** the cover are four of the premier players taking part in today's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships. From left are Luke Merritt (Union Local), Caden Fryman (Fort Frye), J.C. Maxwell (Wheeling Central) and Kelly Hendershot (Shadyside).

Cover Design/SCOTT HANSON

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Neither Shadyside's Ed Andes nor Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens had to spend a lot of time this week seeking information on the other's team.

To say that Shadyside and Wheeling Central know each other quite well might still be selling them short.

After all, the Tigers and Maroon Knights have played twice annually for the last several years, including this season. As has happened in the past, just a couple of years ago to be exact, Shadyside and Central will clash for a third time with a lot on the line.

The small-school heavyweights will vie for the OVAC Class 2A title this afternoon at 4 in the fourth of five games at the annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship. See, 2A, Page 3



Photo/RICK THOMP

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 Shadyside boys basketball team. Front row, from left, are Jacob James, Nicholas Murphy, Korey Beckett, Jordan Joseph, Caiden McCutcheon, Colton Wetzel, Douglas Renshaw and Jayden Carmichael. Top row, from left, are Jacob Visnic, Tyler Parr, Kelly Hendershot, Bryce Amos, Elijah Brock, Alec Shepherd and Mason VanNest. Unavailable for the photo were Lee McKittrick and Holden Salgat.



Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 Wheeling Central basketball team. The team includes: Avery Lee, Ryan Reasbeck, Treston Nemeth, Jayvon Miller, Michael Toepfer, J.C. Maxwell, Jalen Creighton, Luke Rohmann, Caleb Ratcliffe, Vinnie High, Clayton Abate, Kaden Yocum. The Maroon Knights are coached by head coach Mel Stephens, assistant coaches Tyler Morando, Adam Shinsky and Lance Bibey.

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• 2A

Continued from Page 2

ships. "It seems like they're in this game every year," Andes said of the Maroon

Knights, who are seeking their eighth conference title in a row and 10th on the court at Ohio University

Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. Shadyside hasn't been there as regularly. The Ti-

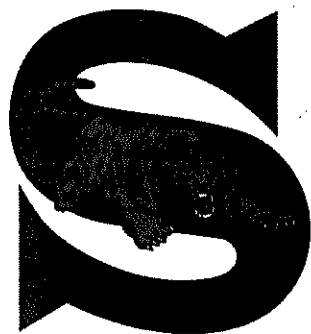
gers have claimed two crowns (2008 and 2010) in the current format, but they've played in an addi-

tional championship and actually lost to the Maroon Knights. For the Maroon Knights

to reach this game, it took a come-from-behind effort in Tuesday's semifinal against

See, 2A, Page 5

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# Union Local, Fort Frye to play for 3A crown

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Union Local-Fort Frye II.

For the second time in two weeks, the top-seeded Jets and No. 3 Cadets will play for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3A Basketball Championship. This time, however, it will be for the boys title.

Union Local (15-5) and Fort Frye (16-3) will tip at 6 Saturday night to cap a day full of hoops inside Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Building. The Jets advanced with a hard-earned 47-43 overtime nod over fourth-seeded Magnolia in semifinal action on Tuesday, while the Cadets punched their ticket with a 45-42 decision over No. 2 Linsly the same night.

"It feels great. I can't lie to you," Union Local head coach Zach Delman said. "If you would have said before the year started that we'd be playing for the OVAC title, I would have called you a liar. That's just being honest."

That was before a 1-4 start.

"We've won 14 out of our last 15 games. We had a little slipup on Senior Night against John Marshall, but we were able to get right back on track and do things the way we do them," he added.

The Jets have soared to six consecutive victories.

"It's a great feeling, especially when you yourself aren't sure if it's possible. Then when the outside world says you guys are going to be good in the future, then all of a sudden you're 15-5, just a few days away from playing for a championship and the chance to hang another banner, it's really humbling yet exciting feeling."

*"IT FEELS great. I can't lie to you. If you would have said before the year started that we'd be playing for the OVAC title, I would have called you a liar. That's just being honest."*

— Zach Delman  
Union Local Head Coach

Union Local will be seeking its third OVAC title and its first since the 2014-15 campaign when it claimed the Class 4A crown. The Jets also prevailed in 2008-09 when they were in Class 3A.

"I like our matchup with Fort Frye. They are more our size. Magnolia was a lot bigger than us and presented a lot of problems for us," Delman assessed. "Fort Frye is more of our style and play similar to us with the open post. They play really good defense and are very well disciplined and very well coached."

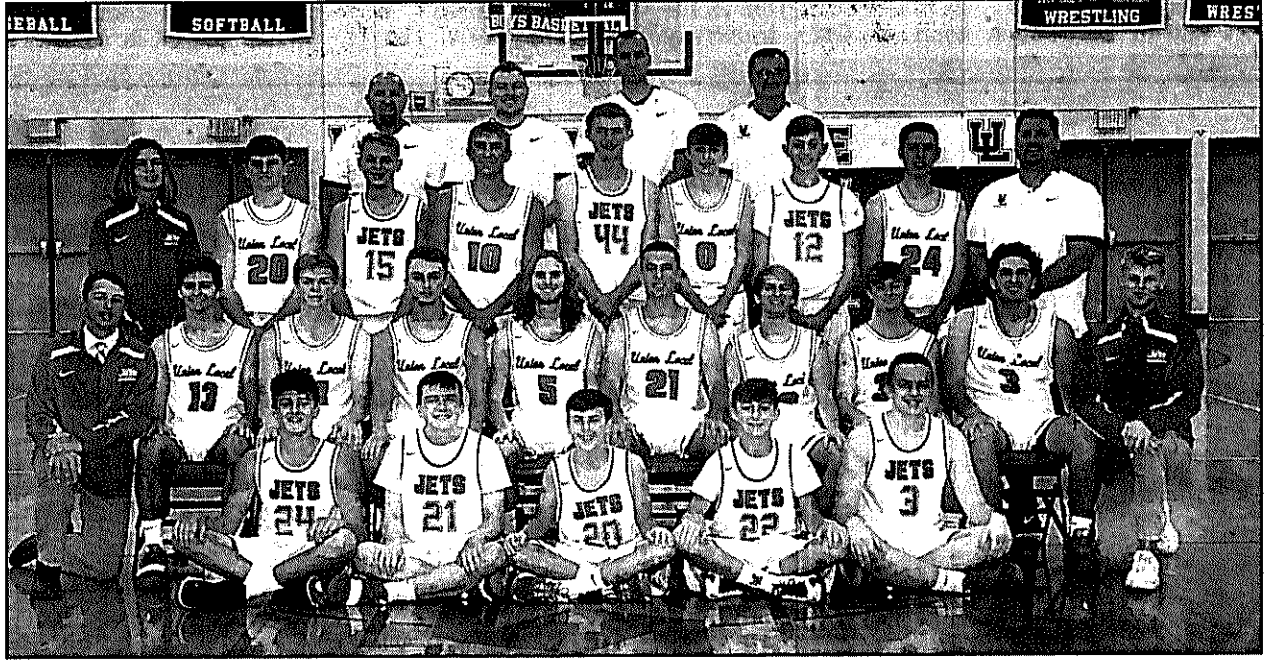
Ironically, this won't be the first time these two teams have met each other this season on the OUE court.

Over Thanksgiving break just before the season started we had a scrimmage at OUE against Fort Frye," Delman revealed. "I thought we played well then, but we've changed our lineup some since then."

Union Local is led by 5-10 guard Luke Merritt. The junior averages 19.2 and shoots 42 percent from behind the bonus arc. He has set a single-season record with 80 so far. An all-around performer, he pulls down 3.1 rebounds and charts 2.1 assists per game.

Classmates Nathan Meyer (5-10) and Zach Bateman (6-1) average 9.9 and 8.3 points per game, respectively. Both average 3.4 rebounds, while Meyer has taken 21 charges. Bateman

See, 3A, Page 10



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Union Local boys basketball team. First row, from left, are Carter Blake, Matt Grob, Gavin Loy, Beezer Porter and Elijah Butterworth. Second row, from left, are manager Bryley Jennewein, Carter Loase, Nathan Meyer, Hunter McCort, Luke McDiffitt, Matt Bateman, Jared Reitter, Cade Latham, Dakota Hess and manager Karl Wehhofer. Third row, from left, are manager Alvaro Alves, Luke Merritt, D.J. Butts, Andrew Martin, Jared Miller, Liam Vinskovich, Tre Rex, Zach Bateman and assistant coach Doug Butts. Fourth row, from left are assistant coach Jim Hess, head coach Zach Delman, and assistant coaches Vaughn Butler and Dustin Roe.

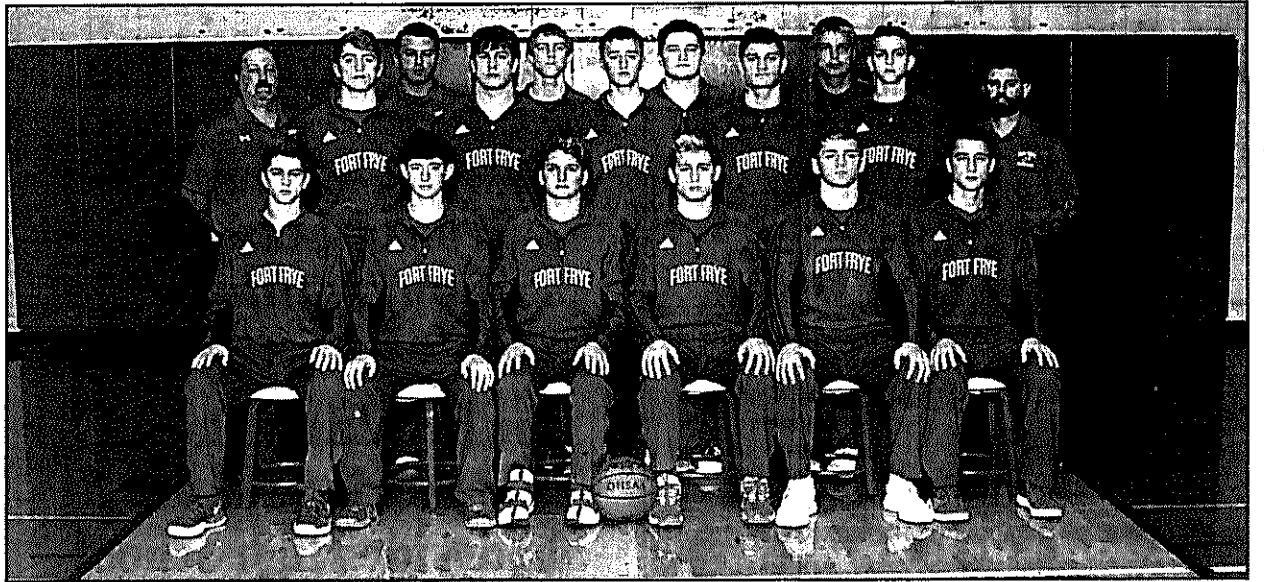


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Fort Frye basketball team. The team includes Ethan Brooker, Caden Fryman, Brady Schilling, Zane Wallace, Brian Adkins, Kelton Fogle, Dylan Hart, Luke Huffman, Casey Brooker, Garrett Lippot and Owen Brown. The Cadets are coached by Eric Henniger, Rob Nelson, Matt Barton and Troy Fogle.

**• 2A**

Continued from Page 3

Clay-Battelle. Central found itself down by double figures in the second half, but got the lead on an Avery Lee bucket with just under four seconds to play and closed out a thrilling 87-85 victory.

"Give Clay-Battelle credit, they came in and shot the ball very well," Stephens said. "We just kept plugging away. We were able to scramble, get a few stops and rebounds when we really needed them and scored some points at the line with clock stopped, which helped, too."

Shadyside, meanwhile, had no walk to the title game in its own right. The Tigers built a double-figure lead on Southern Local, but then found themselves in a battle to the final horn before posting a 65-63 victory to improve to 16-5 on the season.

"That was a good game for us," Andes said of his team's semifinal with Southern. "Southern played really hard and never quit. We'd get up, but they just kept coming back. We were able to stay ahead at the end, which is what we were ultimately trying to do."

The reward for both teams is the third meeting with one another. Central has won the prior two. It claimed an 81-75 victory in Belmont County on Dec. 17 and then a 75-58 victory on Jan. 14.

So, will the adage that it's tough to beat a team three times in a season come to fruition?

"It's tough to beat a team once," Stephens said. "Shadyside has some weapons and we'll really have to focus and play well on defense. We played pretty well in the last meeting, but now it's a neutral court. We'll have to do our best defensively and try to hold their guys down."

Andes is certainly hopeful that the aforementioned adage proves to be true for his club, but he also knows it'll boil down to more than just

a cliché.

"We just have to go and play the game and not really worry about the other games," Andes confessed. "We know them and they know us. We're just excited to play in this game. It's a challenge we're looking forward to."

Since the earlier meetings, a few of the faces have actually changed. Central will be without Clayton Abate due to injury. When he suffered his injury, he was averaging 12 points and 10 rebounds.

"They don't have the (size) inside that they used to, so it's more of a five out or four out and one in approach," Andes said. "It's a different look. We'll still have to defend all five spots well because they have scoring punch at each spot."

The Maroon Knights still feature one of the area's premier one-two combinations in sophomore Ryan Reasbeck and junior J.C. Maxwell.

Lee, who had a 31-point outburst against the Cee-Bees earlier this week, is a steady contributor on both ends at the point guard spot. Jalen Creighton is another to keep an eye on for the Maroon Knights.

With Abate out of the lineup, it's meant extended minutes for sophomore Michael Toepfer. Vinnie High has also developed into a solid contributor off the bench.

"We want to be as balanced as possible," Stephens said. "Avery has really picked it up the last few games, and we think Jalen is due to break out. We'd like to get four guys in double figures every night."

Shadyside, meanwhile, has the ability to score the ball in bunches quickly.

Senior Kelly Hendershot, who poured in 26 against Southern, just became the school's all-time leading

male scorer with 1,381 points.

"Kelly is a tremendous player, who can score inside

and outside," Stephens said. "He's definitely where our focus has to start."

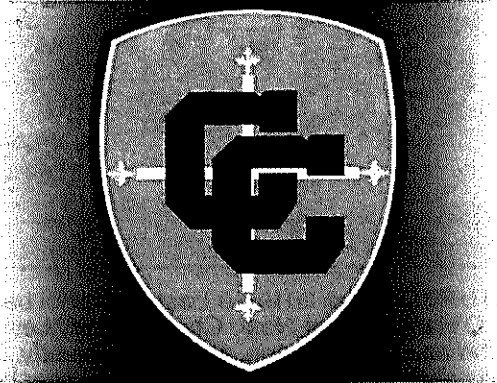
Hendershot isn't alone.

Sophomore Korey Beckett has been impressive, averaging better than 15 points a game and leading the team

in 3-point shooting. Senior Tyler Parr has been a solid addition to the lineup and actually had two of his best

See, 2A, Page 10

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# Meadowbrook, East Liverpool to tangle in 4A

• Colts seeking fifth straight conference title; Potters after their first since '99

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – To say East Liverpool and Meadowbrook are both hungry for a championship wouldn't be exaggerating it.

And the reasons go far beyond the simple fact of accomplishing a goal of winning the OVAC Championship that so many teams set for themselves in November.

East Liverpool hasn't won an OVAC title since 1999 and came up short to St. Clairsville in its only other appearance in the championship game.

"To be back in this game is awesome for our kids," East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. "Not a lot of motivation or pep talks will be needed (this) morning when you're playing for an OVAC title."

On top of the title drought, East Liverpool has some "unfinished business" with Meadowbrook. En route to claiming the conference title last season, Meadowbrook dispatched the Potters in the semifinals and defeated them earlier this season.

Meadowbrook's motivation stems from the opportunity to win its fifth consecutive conference title. The only other school with a streak that long in the tournament era is Wheeling Central, which is playing later today in the 2A game, riding a seven-year winning streak.

"We've looked at the opportunity to 'five-peat' as a challenge all season," fourth-year Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "Getting to this game and hopefully winning it has been something we've been working toward all season."

On top of the Colts' title

*"I'M AN OVAC guy, so being able to take part in this (event) has some real sentimental value to me. I grew up in the OVAC and I am going to miss this event and the people involved with it."*

– Lou "Scooter" Tolzda  
Meadowbrook Head Coach

streak, this marks the final chance for them to win a title because Meadowbrook is departing the OVAC at the end of the school year to join the Muskingum Valley League.

"I'm an OVAC guy, so being able to take part in this has some real sentimental value to me," Tolzda said. "I grew up in the OVAC and I am going to miss this event and the people involved with it."

Add it all up and it should be quite the morning show-down at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The Potters and Colts will begin the day-long event at 10 a.m. in the 4A game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships.

Neither team is obviously accustomed to playing so early in the day, which has led to some additional preparation work for their respective coaches.

"We're planning 90 minutes for the bus trip, so it's a matter of when do you eat? When do you get the kids up? When do you shoot around? We've spent time talking about that this week. It's just an uncommon start time for a boys basketball game, but we'll make the most of it," Conley said.

On the other side, the Colts don't have quite as far to come since it's just a 45-minute or so ride from their gym in Byesville to the

See, 4A, Page 10

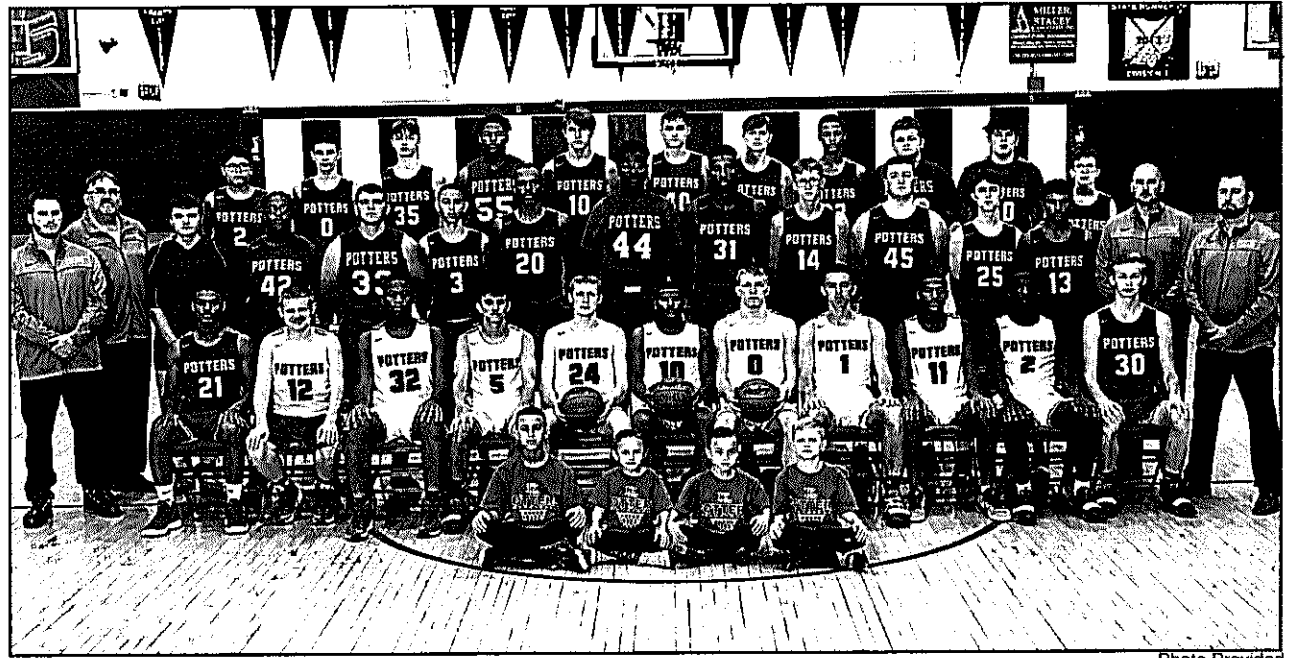


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 East Liverpool basketball team. The varsity team includes Nick Woodyard, Brennan O'Hara, Timmy Neal, Chance Stull, Levi George, Gannon Irvine, Tresean Jackson, Cole Dailey, Devin Toothman, Zavea Green, Cameron Beverly, Jerone Deal and Demani Brown. The Potters are coached by head coach Nate Conley and assistant coaches Andy Miller, J.R. Walker and Robert Nizer.

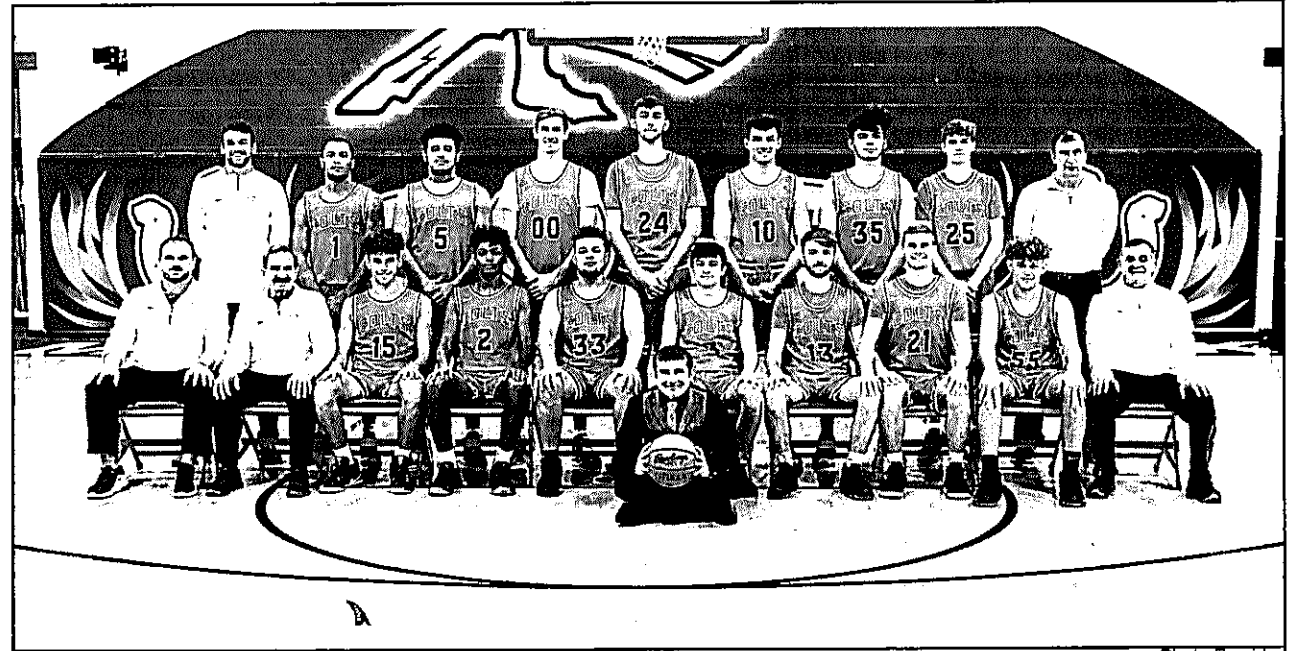


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 Meadowbrook basketball team. The varsity team includes Addy Black, Johnathan McCall, Johna McCall, Jake Singleton, Malachii Phillips, Davis Singleton, Josh Hupp, Zach Rusnak, Jerome Todd, Boston Black, Drew Webster, Tyler Lacey, Eric McCulloch and Trevon Mayle. The Colts are coached by Lou "Scooter" Tolzda and assistant coaches Tyler Engle, Dan Schweltermann, Teryn Jarrett and Mel Pesuit.

# City rivals Morgantown, University meet in 5A

• Top-seeded Mohigans, second-seeded Hawks have split earlier meetings

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – Crosstown rivals Morgantown and University will be traveling some 90 miles one-way today to play each other for a title.

The Mohigans and Hawks, already very familiar foes, will meet for the third time this season with the Wheeling Hospital OVAC 5A championship going to the winner. Tipoff is slated for noon at Ohio University Eastern.

Morgantown advanced to the finals via an 88-24 win over Weir Tuesday night. University downed Wheeling Park, 108-69, in the other semi that same evening.

University enters the championship tilt with a 15-3 mark and ranked No. 1 in the WVSSAC ratings. Morgantown is now 15-2 and ranked one slot lower.

The Hawks are defending OVAC and state champions.

The two squads have split their meetings this winter. University took the opener, 49-46, before Morgantown evened matters with a 67-65 win. The two passionate rivals may end up playing five times this season.

University boasts one of the premier players in the state in Kaden Metheny. The 5-11 senior point guard poured in 29 points in Tuesday's semifinal. He has signed to continue his hoop career at Bowling Green next year.

Metheny is joined in the Hawks' backcourt by K.J. McClurg. The 6-3 senior tossed in 24 counters in the victory over Wheeling Park. He is also the target of D-I recruiters. He recently de-committed from Niagara.

Senior Kyle Smith is another starter at guard while 6-5 sophomore Aaron Forbes and 6-6 classmate

*"It's a great rivalry between Morgantown and us. It's a year-long thing. We bring out the best in each other. We know how hard they work and how good they are. They know the same about us. So that competition makes us both better."*

—Joe Schmidle  
—University Head Coach

Blake Barkley deliver size inside. Mike Maumbe, a 6-7 senior, John Mazza, a 6-2 senior guard, and 6-3 junior forward Ryan Niceler are quality reserves.

"The season has played out pretty much as we had expected. We played in the Beach Ball Classic in South Carolina and won a couple games, including beating the No. 1 team in Illinois. We knew at that point we could have a nice season," University head coach Joe Schmidle said. "Kaden and K.J. have meant a lot to this program. They are both excellent players, surrounded by a nice supporting cast. When Aaron was inserted into the starting lineup that is when things really began to click. Blake is a really nice shooter while Kyle is a real tough defender," added the Fairmont State grad.

"It is a great rivalry between Morgantown and us. It is a year-long thing," added the Hawks' sixth-year head man. "We bring out the best in each other. We know how hard they work and how good they are. They know the same about us. So that competition makes us both better."

Morgantown is coached by Magnolia High grad Dave Tallman Jr. He guided the Mohigans to the school's only boys' state hoop title in 2016 via a perfect record.

While University boasts star power in its backcourt, Morgantown counters with impressive depth.

See, 5A, Page 10



Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 Morgantown basketball team. The varsity team includes: Alec Poland, Troy Battle, Jaheim Felton, Brooks Gage, Mac McMillen, Luke Bechtel, Xavier Pryor, Ryan Smith, Alexander Rudy, Antonio Rollo, Carson Poffenberger, Lonnie Borom and Max Washington. The Mohigans are coached by head coach David Tallman and assistants Matt Lemine, Nate Tallman, Dennis Kerns and Stephen Sutherland.



Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2019-20 University basketball team. The varsity team includes: K.J. McClurg, Kyle Smith, Kaden Metheny, T.T. Brooks, Javier Reyes, Blake Barkley, Ryan Niceler, Jaeden Hammack, Mike Maumbe, John Ross Mazza, Noah Braham and Aaron Forbes. The Hawks are coached by Joe Schmidle.



# Frontier, Madonna feel prepared for 1A clash

• Cougars have never won a title in current format; Dons last won in '17

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – In many ways, Frontier and Madonna are mirror images of each other.

The Cougars and Blue Dons, who meet this afternoon at 2 for the 1A crown at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships, have endured many ups and downs to reach this pinnacle.

But while the road may have been bumpy at times, both head coaches – Frontier's Roger Kirkpatrick and Madonna's George Vargo – believe their teams' obstacles have prepared them for this moment.

"This has been one of goals, to get to (Ohio University Eastern)," Kirkpatrick said. "I told the kids that, with the schedule we play, we'd get a higher seed because of that."

"We had a little taste of it last year and got beat (in the semifinals). I told them (Tuesday night) at halftime that we didn't work hard in the summer not to make it. It means a lot to the kids."

The Blue Dons are back in the tournament for the first time in two years. George Vargo is also back on Madonna's bench after a short hiatus.

"I'm very satisfied with the way the season is going and very satisfied with the way the kids are responding with me coming back," he said. "I'm happy to be coaching again, and I'm excited to have the team back in the OVAC championship."

The third-seed Blue Dons secured a spot at OUE's Physical Education and Recreation Center via a 63-57 victory at Hundred on

*"THIS HAS been one of the goals, to get to (Ohio University Eastern). I told the kids, with the schedule we play, we'd get a higher seed because of that. We had a little taste of it last year and got beat (in the semifinals). I told them (Tuesday night) at halftime that we didn't work hard in the summer not to make it. It means a lot to the kids."*

– Roger Kirkpatrick  
Frontier Head Coach

Tuesday. After besting the Hornets by 28 at home in early January, Madonna's long trek to Wetzel County resulted in a more challenging contest.

"That's probably the best Hundred team I've seen in my years of coaching," Vargo said.

Despite a subpar night at the foul line late, Madonna got the job done and improved to 9-8, snapping a three-game slide.

"The kids hung in there and played hard," Vargo said. "It was a great game. I was just glad to be on the winning end."

Frontier, the class' top seed, advanced with a 54-47 triumph against Cameron in Beaverton. The victory improved the Cougars to 13-7 and has the Washington County school on the verge of its first OVAC title since 2004, and the first under the current tourney format.

"We played Caldwell last Saturday and I thought we played extremely well," Kirkpatrick said. "We came out a little flat against Cameron, but (Logan) Brookover, (Kyle) Daugherty, and Tanner (Bills) played really well in the second half."

Those three, along with Colby Curtis and Breckin Hoff have cemented Fron-

See, 1A, Page 9

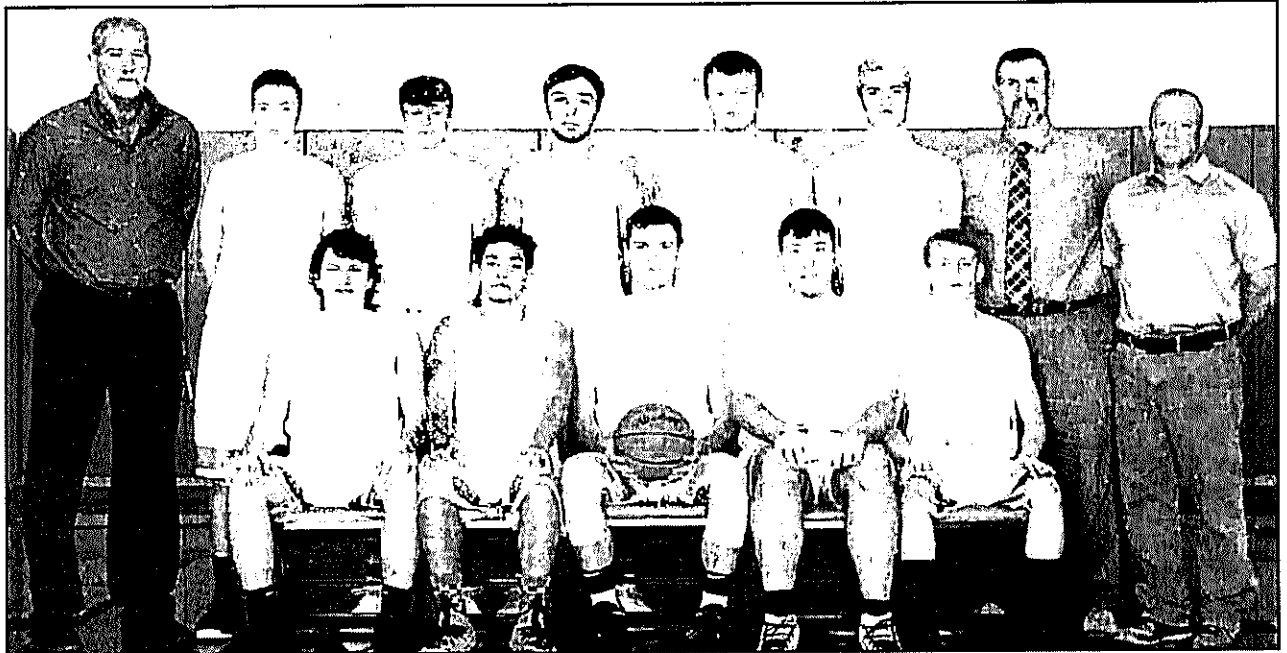


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Frontier basketball team. The varsity team includes Logan Brookover, Corby Curtis, Kyle Daugherty, Kalyn McQueary, Jansen Stewart, Gaige Bowersock, Jacob Gutberlet, Breckin Hoff, Tanner Bills, Lucas Cox, Tice Curtis, Walker Hendershot and Noah West. The Cougars are coached by head coach Roger Kirkpatrick, assistant coaches Erin Curtis and Todd Bradford.

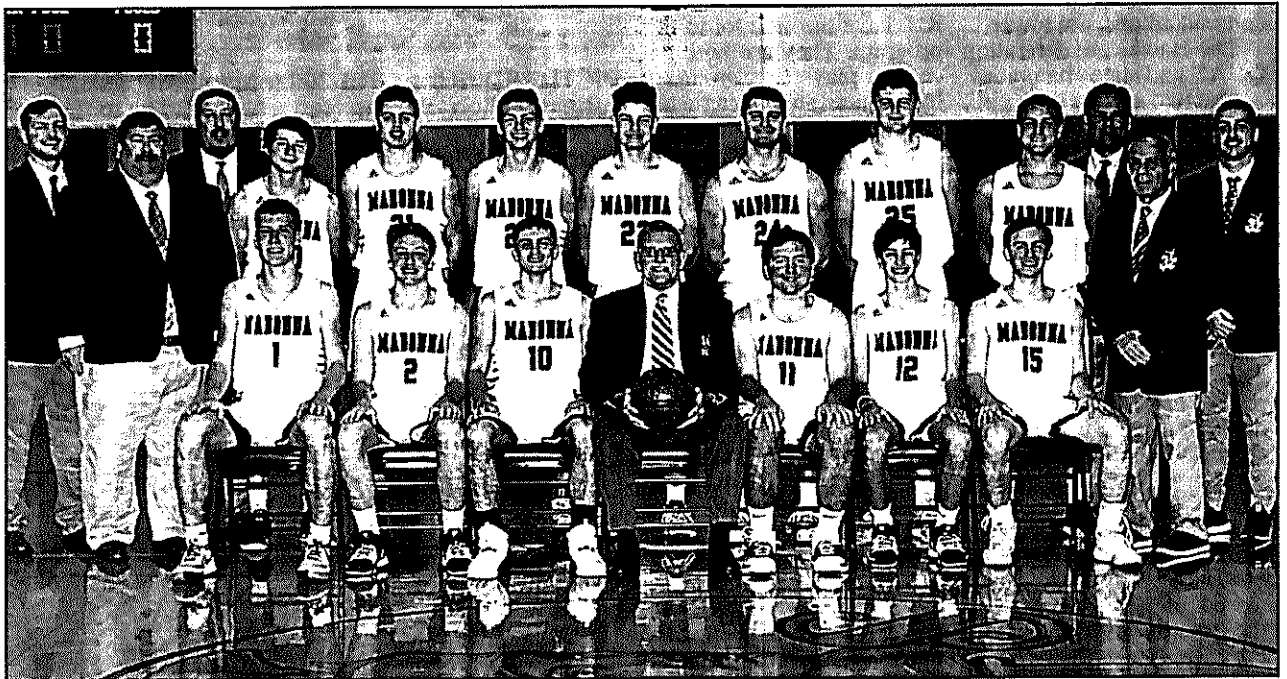


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Madonna basketball team. The varsity team includes Brennan Secrist, Evan Quering, Coleton Littleton, Thomas Sessi, Mark Pietranton, Santino Arlia, Evan Boniti, Peyton Moore, Lennon Dietrich, Michael Burdine, Matt Amalsmeier, Lucky Pulice, Evan Bone and Josh Gavoda. The Blue Dons are coached by head coach George Vargo.

• 1A

Continued from Page 8

tier's lineup most of the season. Brookover and Daugherty, though, have been the Cougars' lynchpins.

"Logan is a 4-year starter who averages about 22 points and 12 rebounds a game, while Kyle is about 15 (ppg) and 13 (rpg)," Kirkpatrick said. "They've been with me for four years and they've progressed tremendously. When they're both playing well, we're pretty good."

They also provide solid leadership.

"They know what to expect, and they're good and demonstrating that," Kirkpatrick said.

Curtis is also a senior, while Hoff and Bills are a junior and sophomore, respectively. Jacob Gutberlet can also see time.

One of the biggest challenges for Frontier this winter has been its schedule. Playing a schedule filled with former PVC foes, the Cougars have held their own with most of them, including Fort Frye and Shadyside, also playing for titles today on the OUE floor.

"We've only had one or two 'cupcake' teams on our schedule," Kirkpatrick said, noting a pair of close losses to Fort Frye.

"Hopefully, those games have made us better and will help us we move down the road and into the tournament."

Kirkpatrick marveled at Madonna's schedule, which has also included some tough foes.

"I think George is a good coach," he said. "They've had an up and down season, too. We have a lot of respect for them. We think it'll be a good game. We need to defend, rebound and limit our turnovers."

The Blue Dons started the season winning six of their first seven, with a

two-point loss at home to Weir the only blemish on the slate. A nine-point loss to the Red Riders midway through the campaign triggered a slide that saw Madonna drop seven of nine before Tuesday's semifinal victory.

"That's why we play a challenging schedule, to be ready for things like Saturday," Vargo said. "The kids are playing good basketball. They've bought back into my system and I'm happy for that. They're great kids and I think it will be a good game."

The Blue Dons are led by a pair of seniors in Evan Boniti (14 ppg) and Brennen Secrist (18 ppg). But, for the most part, Madonna's roster is comprised of youngsters, mainly sophomores.

"We have a lot of them, and that's a positive moving forward," Vargo said, noting he hopes to get between 15 and 20 points a game from the class.

The sophomores making an impact include starters Santino Arlia and Matt Amaismeier. Junior Lucky Pulice (15 ppg) has also fashioned a fine campaign.

Vargo said sophomores Peyton Moore and Evan Bone, and junior Anthony Sessi will likely see time off the bench.


"The OVACs is a good jumpstart in getting ready for our sectional," Vargo said. "Hopefully, our young guys can do well."

Kirkpatrick expects nothing but a challenge from the Blue Dons.

"They have speed, height; it will be a challenge," he said.

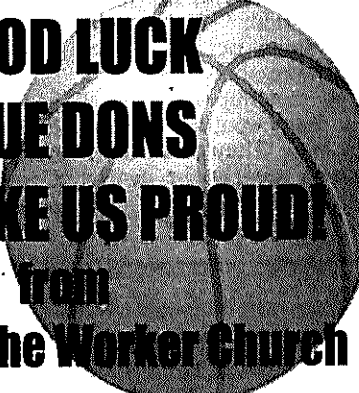


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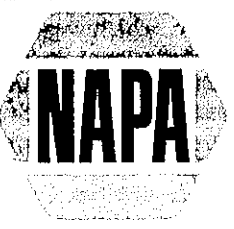
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**FROM THE  
MADONNA  
ATHLETIC DEPT.**

• **4A**

Continued from Page 6

St. Clairsville campus. "It's a different animal than what we're used to for," Tolzda said. "Along with preparing for East Liverpool, we have to prepare for that difference, too. But, both teams have to play at that time, so we'll get the kids going in the morning and do the best we can with."

Once the ball goes up, regardless of the start time, it's going to be a basketball game and boil down to who hits shots and who gets stops.

The teams have familiarity with one another beyond their previous meeting in the conference tournament. They actually played each other on Dec. 21, on the same OUE court, as part of the annual Buckeye 8 Challenge. The Colts pulled away in the second half for a 53-37 victory.

"One of my biggest fears is the fact that we beat them by 16 already," Tolzda admitted. "They're athletic and very talented. We know them and they know us. I have the utmost respect for the job that Nate does. He's a graduate of East Liverpool and his teams are always well coached. It's going to

be a good battle and should be a good game to start the day."

Conley isn't going to let the fact that his team already lost to Meadowbrook fester, but he does take one major thing from the game.

"We have to figure out how to score the ball better than we did," Conley said. "I know that game in December feels like seasons ago, but Scooter's teams always have a way to control the tempo and make you play uncomfortable. They just don't give up a lot of points."

Before either team could shift its focus to the rematch, it had business in Tuesday's semifinal to tend to. Meadowbrook, which is 16-3 on the season, easily took care of Harrison Central (70-43). East Liverpool, meanwhile, cruised past Martins Ferry, 80-41, in the other semifinal.

"We got out in transition early and, honestly, we played about as well as we could play in the first half (against Martins Ferry)," Conley said.

The Colts, who are the top seed in the upcoming Division II Eastern District, have played a challenging sched-

ule. Two of its three losses came to Wheeling Park. They also posted wins – on back-to-back nights – over Dover and New Philadelphia late last month.

"We have some big-game experience," Tolzda said. "Our schedule is solid and it makes us better. We were 2-2 at a juncture and the only game we've lost since that point was to Park, at our place."

When Conley begins breaking down the Colts, he looks at senior Johnathan McCaul, who averages 15.3 points a game.

He's backed, in the scoring column by Davis Singleton, who checks in at 111 points and then Jake Singleton at 10.9 a night. However, Conley also has concerns with Colts post presence Addy Black, who averages 8.8 points, 8.9 rebounds and 2.9 blocks a contest.

"Addy Black can really make an impact on both ends of the floor with his size," Conley said. "He blocks a lot of shots, but he changes a lot more shots. They're a tough matchup because of how many spot-up shooters they have. They're the number one seed in the district for a reason."

Zach Rusnak, Jerome Todd and Boston Black are also contributors.

On the other side, the Potters are led by Tresean Jackson, who is scoring 23 points a game and has eclipsed the 1,200-point barrier for his career.

"It all starts with Jackson and we have a ton of respect for him," Tolzda said. "He's a great player, who is really the true heartbeat of their team. He's not alone though. He has a lot of good players around him."

In the Potters' four losses, Jackson has battled foul trouble, which is something that Conley knows he must avoid this morning.

Along with Jackson, senior Brennan O'Hara has been a solid contributor for Liverpool at 13.5 points and five rebounds per contest.

Timmy Neal is the third member of the Potters' double-figure scoring collection at 10.5 points a night. Senior Gannon Irvine and sophomore Zavea Green round out the starting lineup.

Nick Woodyard, who is headed to Fairmont State to play football, is the sixth man at 7 points a night. Levi George also sees quality minutes off the bench.

• **5A**

Continued from Page 7

"We can go 12 deep. I really have a nice bunch," Tallman said. "On any given night we can have someone lead us in scoring."

"It's good to be back at OUE and in the OVAC finals. It is a special event and a super facility," he continued. "I don't mind driving to St. Clairsville to play University. Sometimes, it gets a little too crazy when we play each other in Morgantown."

The Mohigans feature 6-2 junior Xavier Pryor at point guard. Antonio Rollo, a 6-0 senior, and Mac McMillen, a 6-2 senior, also start in the backcourt. Troy Battle, a 6-2 junior, and 6-7 junior Carson Poffenberg-

er man the Morgantown frontcourt.

The Mohigans' deep bench is highlighted by Luke Bechtel.

"University is definitely one of the top teams in the state. They have two D-I guards who can play anywhere," Tallman said.

Morgantown and University have combined to dominate the OVAC 5A championship race. The Mohigans claimed conference titles in 2014, 2015, 2016 while the Hawks have won the last three.

"We feel if we can be the best team in the city of Morgantown then we have a chance to be state champs," Schmidle said.

• **2A**

Continued from Page 5

games of the season against the Knights earlier.

The Tigers' starting lineup also includes sophomores Bryce Amos and Mason Vannest, who is a pass-first point guard. Amos has had some big games as a scorer and is also one of the Tigers' best rebounders.

"We're going to need (production from) everyone," Andes said. "We'll

need as much offense as we can get and a lot of help on the defensive end."

Shadyside utilizes juniors Jordan Joseph and Jacob Visnic off the bench as well as Alec Shepherd.

"We know this is going to be a battle, but our kids realize what's on the line," Stephens said. "Being in this game is one of the goals we set at the beginning of the year."

• **3A**

Continued from Page 4

has knocked down 27 three-point shots. Meyer has 17.

Seniors Hunter McCort (5-9) and Matt Bateman

(6-1) round out the starting five. McCort scores 5.6 points a game while grabbing 4 rebounds. Bateman

is the leading rebounder at 5.5. He scores 5.3.

Junior Andrew Martin (6-2) and sophomore Dakota Hess (5-11) provide depth off the bench. Martin averages 9.6 points and 4.8 points. Hess, who missed most of the season with a football injury, scores 1.4 but averaging 9 as a freshman.

Meyer led a balanced scoring attack in the win over the Blue Eagles with a dozen. Merritt added 11 and Matt Bateman had 10. Meyer also grabbed a team-best 11 rebounds.

As a team, the Jets average 61.3 points, give up 51.1 and shoot 69.8 percent from the free-throw line.

Fort Frye, which was upset on its homecourt in last year's semifinals by eventual champion Barnesville, has claimed championships in Class 3A in 2011-12 and 2013-14. It also has Class 2A titles in 1999-2000, 2003-04 and 2010-11.

"Like I've been saying for most of the season, it's like looking in a mirror," Fort Frye head coach Eric Henniger said of Union Local. "They are the same type

of team that we are, but I think they might have more shooters."

Kelton Fogle, a 6-0 junior, led the Cadets with 14 points in the win over Linsly. Ten of those came in the first quarter. Zane Wallace, a 5-9 senior, added 13 and 6-2 senior Brady Schilling chipped in eight. All three average 12 points a game, according to their head coach.

Shilling is the top rebounder at six a game.

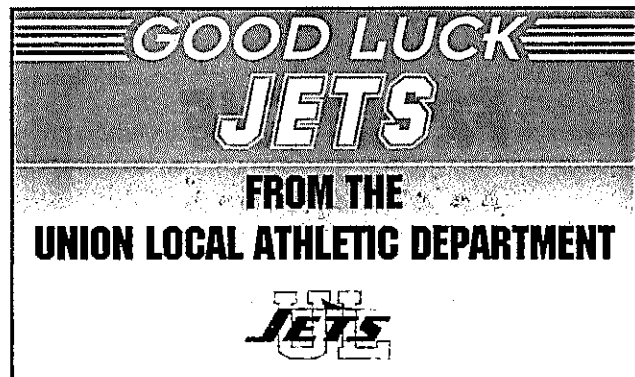
The other two starters are senior Caden Fryman (6-3) and junior Luke Huffman

(5-11).

Wallace is a three-year veteran. Fogle and Shilling have lettered two years each.

"They really put it on us," Henniger said of that preseason scrimmage. "But we were just coming off our deep (playoff) run in football and had only had a few practices together."

"We both like to get up-and-down the floor, so I think it should be a fun, exciting game," he added. "I think it will be a close game."



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Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

## SPORTS

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OVAC Hoops/B3

Daytona/B5

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## WU Earns Huge Victory Over Glenville St.

## Four Cardinals Reach Double Figures in Win

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — After securing two victories against two of the Mountain East Conference's top teams (Charleston and West Virginia State), Wheeling seemed to be making a big leap. However, the Cardinals hit a buzzsaw this past Wednesday when Concord shot 67.3 percent from the floor to hand the Cardinals a loss.

Wheeling Coach Will Ryan, had to make defense one of the main focuses over the next couple of days of practice as Glenville State, which averages more than 90 points per game was scheduled to make a trip to the McDonough Center Saturday evening.

The Cardinals definitely showed that they can play defense as they held the Pioneers well below their season aver-

age in an 87-67 victory.

"First and foremost, I'm proud of our guys and how they defended (Saturday)," Ryan said. "You hold a team that averages 94-95 (points) per game, to 67, well below their average, says a lot about our team. I thought they showed great resolve, coming off a setback against Concord, where we didn't defend really well. We tried to hammer that home the last few days in practice. We kind of had to readjust some things, they locked in and they got stops when they needed to. For the most part, it was a great defensive performance. They got multiple guys that can attack you off the bounce and they shoot a plethora of 3s. They lull you here and there."

The Cardinals (13-9, 10-8 MEC) took a one-point halftime lead at 35-34. However, the Pioneers (13-11, 10-8 MEC) scored first in the second half off a Phil Bledsoe bucket. It was the first lead for Glenville State since

the 15:09 mark in the first half.

Hegel Augustin increased the lead to three on a basket of his own. However, the Cardinals responded with a 13-2 run to put the score at 48-40 with 13:33.

Emmanuel Ansong sparked the run while Jordan Reid gave the Cardinals back the lead for good. Reid had eight points during the spurt.

However, Glenville State did not go away. With 9:57 left in the game, Augustin converted on a conventional three-point play as the score read 54-51 in favor of the Cardinals.

Wheeling, though, did not break and scored 11 of the next 14 points. Jarrett Haines' basket gave the Cardinals their first double digit lead of the evening, 65-54.

"We went pretty light the last couple of days and refocused our energy on the defensive end," Ryan said. "We

Please see WU, Page B4

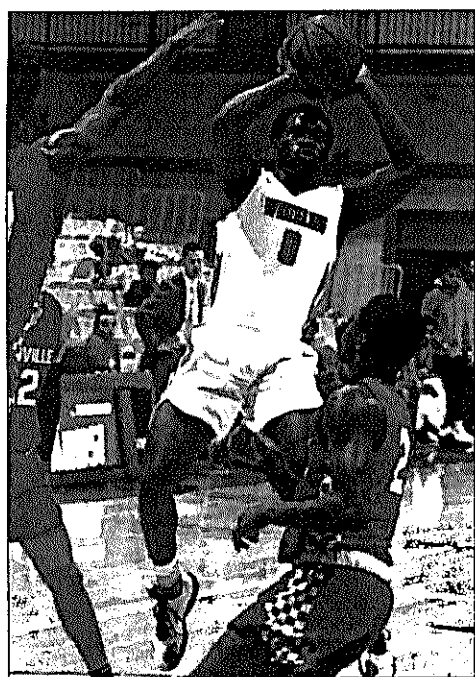


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling's Jarrett Haines supplied 16 points to help the Cardinals complete the season sweep of Glenville State.

Central Extends  
OVAC Title Streak to 8Lee Scores 34 As  
Knights Top TigersBy BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The streak continues.

Wheeling Central pocketed its eighth consecutive Wheeling Hospital OVAC basketball championship Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern, holding off fast-closing Shadyside, 72-67, in the Class 2A finale.

Overall, it is the Maroon Knights' 28th OVAC basketball crown. It also marks their third win over the Tigers this winter.

Coach Mel Stephens' charges received a huge performance from junior Avery Lee.

The dynamic guard was virtually unstoppable, pouring in 34 points, including seven treys. He was named the John Howell MVP for his impressive efforts.

"It is very special winning the OVAC title. It is a great conference," Stephens said. "Doing it eighth straight times means that a lot of different players have gotten to share winning something very nice."

The triumph was the 16th against six losses for Wheeling Central. Shadyside owns an identical record.

The game began in an old-fashioned shootout.

The two teams both boarded 21 points in the opening quarter. Lee was scorching, dropping in 12 points. Shadyside All-Ohioan Kelly Hendershot,

Please see Central, Page B4

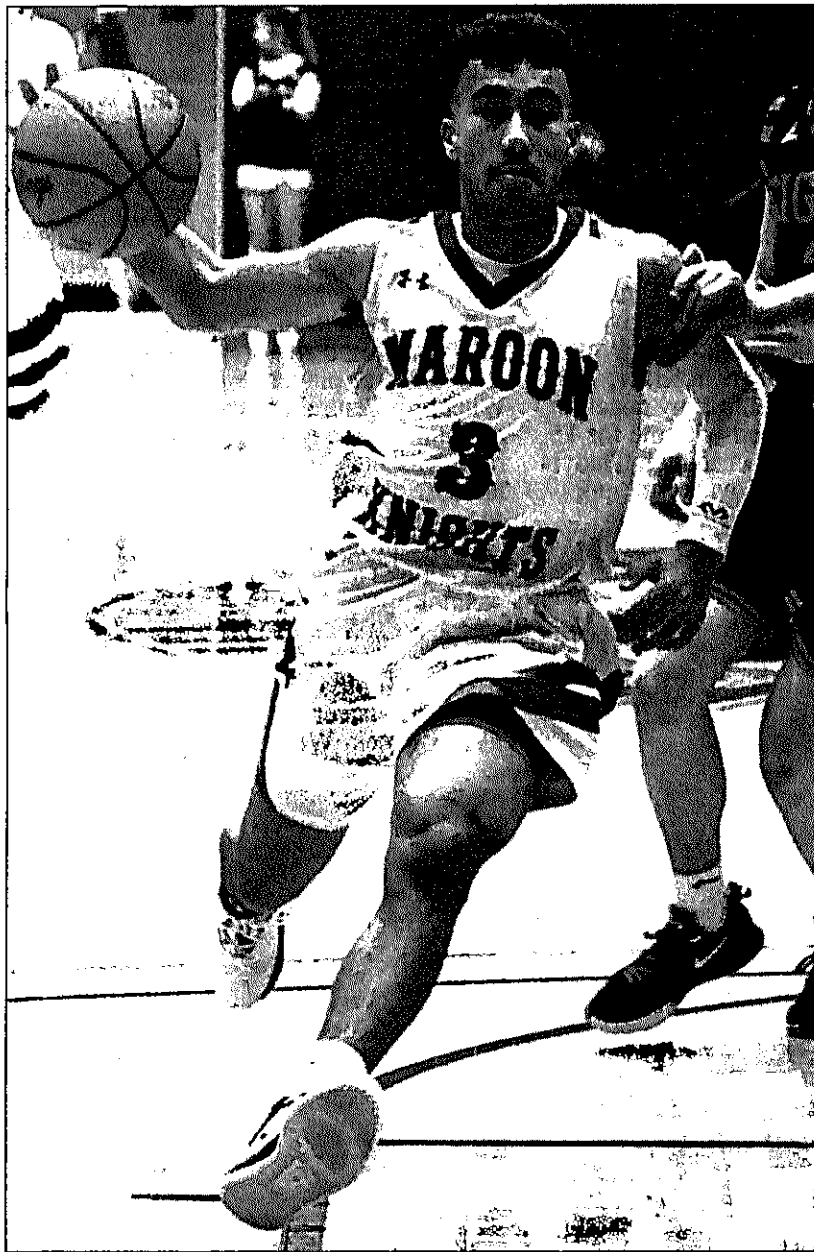


Photo by Sheri McAninch

Avery Lee drives to the bucket against Shadyside during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A championship at OUE. Lee scored 34 points and was named the game's MVP.

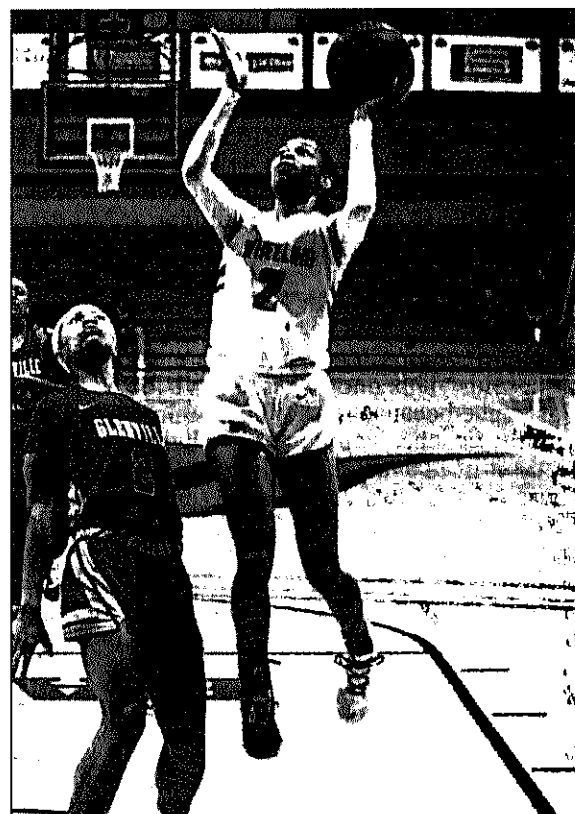


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling's Khira Burton attempts a shot for while Glenville State's Zakiyah Winfield defends during Saturday's game.

Glenville Puts  
121 on WheelingBy KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — When a team plays Glenville State in women's basketball, it's certainly hard to keep up its style of play. After all, the Pioneers are averaging more than 108 points per game.

For Wheeling, it wasn't exactly hard for it to drive to the basket. It was more of finishing the play as the Cardinals missed a plethora of layups and point blank shots and were not able to overcome the dynamic offense of the Pioneers in a 121-89 setback Saturday afternoon at the McDonough Center.

"A dozen, 12-15 layups. We were right there. We wanted to be three possessions, plus or minus at half," Wheeling coach Mike Llanas said. "And we didn't do that. We were down by 19 at half. I guess in any other game that's a disappointment. We had a lot of teaching points. I told them at the end of the game, you missed 13 layups. Cut that in half and we shot 48 percent. We shot 48

Please see Glenville, Page B7

No. 1 Baylor  
Too Much For  
No. 14 WVU

## Ruby, Nailers Pocket Win

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers knew they were faced with a big game on Saturday night, as they played host to the Fort Wayne





Photo by Sheri McAninch

Union Local's Andrew Martin makes a move in the post during Saturday night's OVAC Class 3A championship game against Fort Frye. The Jets lost, 54-44.

## Jets Fall to Cadets

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It was a week later and a different gender, but the approach and opponent were the same.

For the second straight Saturday, Fort Frye used an impressive defensive performance, showcased a disciplined offense and captured an OVAC Class 3A championship.

Eerily similar to the exact way in which the Cadets' girls team went about its business, the Fort Frye boys outlasted Union Local at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, 57-47, to win a conference title in the nightcap of the day-long Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships.

"Winning this is huge," Fort Frye coach Eric Henniger said. "We hadn't won since 2014 and it's something we kept talking about. We want to win it every single year because we like winning championships. It slingshots us into the tournament."

While the Cadets are riding a high entering Division III sectional play against Bellaire on Tuesday, Feb. 25, Union Local coach Zach Delman must find a way to get his team, which had lost just once since December prior to Saturday, back up before a Tuesday road trip to River to close out the regular season.

"It's unfortunate, but congrats to Fort Frye because they played a great game," Delman said. "Hopefully, we'll press the reset button on Monday and shift our focus to River and hopefully get back on the winning track. We have a chance to play Fort Frye again, so that's a goal we can set right now, but we can't afford to look ahead."

The win capped a tough week for the Cadets, who went on the road to Linsly and prevailed during Tuesday semifinal round and then survived what was basically a home game for the Jets, who

again filled their side of the gymnasium.

"I have pretty tough kids," Henniger said. "They've been in pressure situations in different sports. To come here and beat Union Local is a good win because Coach Delman does an awesome job. We knew we'd be in for a battle, and I am just happy to get a win."

It's been a long road to the title for the Cadets. They were upset as the top seed in the semifinals last season by eventual champion Barnesville and this season, while rolling along, they lost a key cog due an eligibility issue.

"I have a lot of players and they're resilient," Henniger said. "These kids have really stuck together and it's just a testament to them. We have a good group of kids, which makes it easier to coach."

While the Jets scratched and clawed their way back, the hole was simply too deep. They found themselves down 16-7 after one and then looked up at a 30-15 reading at the half.

Union Local began the process of chipping away in the third by outscoring the Cadets, 12-8. In the fourth, as Delman pointed out, each time the Jets seemed to be gaining some traction, Fort Frye had an answer.

The Jets got to within eight three times in the fourth, but only as close as six once and that came on a trey by junior Luke Merritt, who led his team with 16 points.

Union Local, which has hung its hat on its 3-point shooting, struggled from the field. On top of shooting just 4 of 18 from behind the line, they were 13 of 38 from inside the arc, including a bevy of missed layups.

While the Jets were led by Merritt's 16 and Nathan Meyer's 14, Hunter McCort added eight.

Fort Frye was led by Brady Schilling, who was named the recipient of the John Howell MVP Award, finished with 17 points.

# Frontier Rallies Past Madonna

By BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It was a line-in-the-sand moment.

Frontier found itself trailing 34-26 with three minutes to play in the third quarter in its Wheeling Hospital OVAC 1A championship game against Madonna at Ohio University Eastern Saturday afternoon.

At that point, Cougars coach Roger Kirkpatrick opted to scrap his zone defense and go full-court man. It may have been one of the best coaching decisions in his long and successful tenure at the New Matamoras-based school.

Frontier went on an 11-0 run to grab a lead it would never relinquish. The Cougars pressured the Blue Dons into nine turnovers after the switch to win going away, 54-44.

The OVAC crown was the first for Frontier since 2004 and first since the conference went to the tournament format.

"When we switched to the man

defense it made all the difference. Our zone was too passive," Kirkpatrick said. "Our man (defense) really changed the tempo of the game and created some problems for them."

"I am just so happy for my players and staff. They have worked so hard for this. This was one of our goals going into the season. It is great to have them realize that goal."

The win was the 14th in 21 starts for the top-seeded Cougars. They advanced to the finals via a 54-47 triumph over Cameron.

Madonna, meanwhile, evened at 9-9 on the season. The Blue Dons punched their ticket into the final with a hard-earned 63-57 triumph at Hundred.

"You have to be able to take care of the basketball. We did not do that when we needed to," Madonna coach George Vargo said. "They turned up the heat on us and we didn't handle it. But I am proud of my team. We played hard. We just didn't handle their pressure."

Logan Brookover fueled the Cougar title drive. The 6-foot-2 forward pumped in a game-high 18 points, six coming in the climactic fourth quarter, en route to earning the John Howell MVP Award.

Tanner Bills was solid support with 14 points while Kyle Daugherty netted 11.

Junior Lucky Pulice paced Madonna with 13 points. Athletic senior Brennen Secrist produced nine points.

The two teams battled on dead-even terms in the first quarter, ending the frame in a 12-12 standoff. Frontier inched ahead, 24-23, at intermission.

Madonna committed 14 turnovers, twice as many as Frontier.

**5A Championship**  
University 74, Morgantown 44

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Kaden Metheny racked up 27 points to lead University to an OVAC crown.

K.J. McClurg was solid for the Hawks as he turned in 26 points.

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Aug. 15.

The entire OVAC Hall of Fame class, which is sponsored by Robinson Auto Group and housed at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, will be announced by the committee every two weeks.

The next release will contain the honorees from the 1960s and it will be announced on March 1.

Previously announced Hall of Fame honorees for the 2020 event are Monroe Central grad Leekycia Brown and St. John Central product Natalie (Perzanowski) Bigelow, representing the decade of the 2000s, while Wheeling Park graduate Daryl "Boogie" Johnson and Magnolia alumnus Josh Watson have been tabbed to represent the decade of the 1990s.

The 1980 honorees are JoJo Blaha of Wheeling Central and Carl Fodor of Weir.

Here's a capsule look at the honorees

a school with 343 points (a school record at the time), a 27.3 average, scoring in double figures in all 21 games including six 30-point games, topped by 40 against New Philadelphia. Abuls led the Bobcats to three OHSA District Tournament finals.

As would be expected, he received many post-season honors.

Abuls was named first-team All-Ohio as a senior, joining Ohio State legends Clark Kellogg and Art Schlichter on that list. He was also the AP Eastern District Class AAA "Player of the Year" and a first-team All-OVAC Class AAAA and all-District 12 selection.

As a junior, he was an honorable mention all-Eastern District honoree as a junior when he scored 342 points.

Abuls was also a dynamic performer in track & field for the Bobcats.

The three-year letterman set what

12.2 average, 702 rebounds, 137 assists and 110 steals. He averaged 13.3 points as a freshman and led the team at 12.1 as a sophomore. After an injury-plagued junior campaign, he again led the team in scoring at 14.5 as a senior.

Abuls earned all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference accolades following his senior campaign.

Abuls was inducted into the District 12 Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2015.

**Don "Kip" McClane, Steubenville Catholic Central (Class of 1971)** — McClane rates among the best hoopsters ever to suit up at Steubenville Catholic Central.

McClane put together a dominating senior year for the Crusaders. He averaged 25.4 points and an amazing 20 rebounds a contest.

Not surprisingly, a slew of honors

to him also earned him to play in the Ohio North/South All-Star Game.

His outstanding exploits also resonated on the national landscape.

McClane was named to a pair of All-American teams: The U.S. Basketball Writers Association Coach and Athletic Magazine and the Surildest Growers A-A squad.

He ended his Steubenville Central career with 1,008 points. He is also a member of the school's Hall of Fame.

After his illustrious Crusader career, McClane received a basketball scholarship to Duquesne University — a national power in those days.

He was a three-year starter at Duquesne University, scripting an outstanding college career with the Dukes. McClane picked up his Duquesne degree in 1975 and currently works as a business consultant in Florida.

## Meadowbrook Captures Fifth Straight OVAC Title

By **SETH STASKEY** For the News-Register  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Meadowbrook's history in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has been vast.

The Colts added another chapter — their last — in boys basketball Saturday morning at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

Headed to another conference, starting in the fall, Meadowbrook won its fifth consecutive championship at the Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championships, but it had to fight tooth and nail for it.

After building a commanding, 22-point lead at halftime, Meadowbrook held off a spirited comeback from East Liverpool for a 47-39 victory.

"Winning this again (in our last year) is kind of emotional," Meadowbrook head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "I don't know if I'll ever get to coach in it again, but it feels good to win again. To win five-in-a-row is something that no school, other than Wheeling Central, has ever done, so that's something for our entire school to be proud of."

While the end result was what Tolzda had hoped for, getting there was a challenge. "What a first half! What a second half," Tolzda said. "We've seen that before. Actually, similar to what happened to us when we played (East Liverpool) the first time. And I told the kids at halftime, let's not have a repeat of the first time we played, and I think they must have misunderstood me."

Evidently, after building a 31-9 cushion and appearing on the brink of blowing the Potters out, Meadowbrook watched East Liverpool score the first

11 of the third and eventually 19 of the first 20 and a Brennan O'Hara field goal to end the third made it a 38-32 game entering the fourth.

"I thought we were a little big-eyed or shellshocked (to start the game)," East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. "We played in the district final last year and the Buckeye 8 Championship already this year, so that surprised me a little bit. We got our butts kicked in the first half, and I wasn't sure if we'd come out and lay down or perform (in the second half)."

In the fourth, the Colts struck first with a basket from eventual game MVP Johnathan McCall, making it 40-32.

East Liverpool, meanwhile, missed its first three shots of the fourth and had a turnover. Those empty trips proved to be enough for the Colts to be able to escape because East Liverpool — outside of two Nick Woodyard buckets — never got on a run in the fourth.

"What could have turned out to be a fun fourth quarter ended up being a possible nightmare situation," Tolzda said. "At the end of the day, our seniors — Johnathan and Addy (Black) — did what they had to do. Plus, we were able to take some of the air out of the ball, which is something we work on."

Meadowbrook was led in the scoring column by McCall's 14. Davis Singleton added 11 and Addy Black, who was a force on both ends of the floor, added 10.

East Liverpool was led by Tresean Jackson, who was held 11 points below his average. He finished with 12. Zavea Green finished with nine.

"Their defense and the way they can dictate the tempo worried us," Conley said.

## CENTRAL

Continued from Page B1

who became the school's all-time leading boys' scorer Tuesday, countered with 10 points.

Wheeling Central remained hot in the second frame. Shadyside did not, tipping the momentum in the Maroon Knight direction.

Central outpointed the Tigers 19-10 in the period for a 40-31 halftime advantage. Lee and sophomore sharpshooter Ryan Reasbeck each delivered six points in the quarter for the Knights.

Shadyside's hopes for a quick start after intermission when up in flames on its first two possessions. The Tigers failed to connect on a breakaway layup followed by a turnover.

Central capitalized. Lee drained three more trifectas in the third, the last coming at the 2:14 lighting, ballooning the lead to 53-34. Coach Ed Andes' squad was able to pare the gap to 58-44 entering the final chapter.

Shadyside, with Hendershot leading the way, methodically made matters interesting in the final eight minutes.

A Hendershot trey brought the Tigers to within 66-59 at

the 1:59 mark. Hard-working sophomore Mason Vannest buried another Tiger trifecta to make it a 66-62 score with 1:24 to play.

Lee, however, slowed the Tigers' surge, meshing two charity tosses. After a Tiger miss from the floor, Lee drained two more freebies for a 70-62 Central advantage with 38.8 to play.

Seconds later, Lee added one more free throw before Shadyside sophomore Corey Beckett nailed a bonus ball with 7.2 seconds left, making it a 71-67 score. Central's J.C. Maxwell, however, delivered the final nail in the Tigers' coffin with a free throw with 6.5 ticks left.

"What can you say about Avery? He was super again (Saturday). Avery has been playing and practicing very well for a good while now," Stephens said. "We didn't play the best of defense in the first quarter, but Shadyside has weapons. They shot it well."

"But we did like the tempo. We like to get it out and go, so the pace was good. Shadyside made a nice run. J.C. (Max-

well) made a couple of 3s that help to slow them down. We probably need to spend some more time on time-and-score. But I am happy for my players and coaches. It's very nice winning OVAC titles."

Maxwell and Reasbeck were Lee's chief support with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Hendershot was nothing short of sensational in a losing cause. The 6-3 dandy equalled Lee's 34 points, 14 coming in the final quarter. He now has over 1,400 career points.

Beckett was next with nine counters.

"We missed way too many easy shots. We had good looks but left too many points on the table," Andes said. "We played well in the first and fourth quarters but had trouble scoring in the middle two."

"Lee was tremendous for them, as was Kelly for us. We made a nice run, cutting it to four. Give Wheeling Central credit. They are a very good team."

Michael Toepfer grabbed nine rebounds for Central. Hendershot collared eight for the Tigers.

## WU

Continued from Page B1

shoot the ball well enough and do a decent job against pressure. I thought we could get some good looks offensively. It's just about getting stops."

Reid and Ansong both tallied 21 points to pace the Cardinals while Haines chipped in a solid 16.

Jay Gentry rounded out the double digit scorers with 10 points.

For the Pioneers, Bledsoe secured a double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Augustin had a team-high 18 points and Steven Verplancken had 14.

The Cardinals will have another big test ahead of them on Wednesday when they play host to Fairmont State. The Falcons are currently tied for second place in the conference with Charleston.

Wheeling currently sits in fifth place. "I tell our guys, there's no rest for the weary," Ryan said.

"You play who's next on that schedule and you take it one game at a time. I know that may sound cliché and coach speak, that's the way you have to look."

"We talk a little bit about standings. I don't really get into all that stuff, but coming down the home stretch, there's a logjam for some seeding. You better take game seriously, try to close this thing out and get to the highest seed as possible because come tournament time, anything can happen."

"You want to be playing your best basketball during this stretch and we were, I thought. Then we hit a snag against Concord, but we got back on track (Saturday)."

"It's a testament to our guys. They've worked extremely hard in practice."

"They believe in one another and they believe that things can happen. They're pretty focused every day and that's all you can ask. Hopefully that continues."

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## SPORTS

Sunday,

February 16, 2020

OVAC Hall of Fame/C3  
Hores to Wheeling U./C4  
Scoreboard/C5  
MLB News/C6  
Linsly Duo to Marietta/C7



Bubba Kapral  
Executive Sports Editor

## Snively, Circosta are enshrined into OVFCFA hall

STUEBENVILLE — Jay Circosta and Terry Snively are no strangers to halls of fame. The two football coaching icons added yet another shrine to their impressive resumes last Sunday.

The Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association held its 41st Annual All-Conference Awards Dinner at Steubenville High. The event pays tribute to OVAC award-winning players and coaches.

It also has a Hall of Fame wing. Snively (River) and Circosta (Woodsfield & Monroe Central) fittingly got the call together. They both scripted long and ultra-successful careers in Monroe County.

This marks the first time since 2015 that the OVFCFA has added to its HOF. That year, Shadyside's David "Ty" Fleming was enshrined.

Circosta was unable to attend the affair, as he was in Florida. His daughter, Susan Snively, also the daughter-in-law of Terry, accepted eloquently on his behalf.

I was able to reach out to Circosta by phone Tuesday morning.

"They are all special (halls of fame). This is my fourth one," Circosta said. "This one is really nice because it is with the coaches you go head-on-head against. These are the guys you have an association with on a day-to-day basis."

"I have always said some of the best coaches are in the Ohio Valley," he added. "I regret that I couldn't be there. It is a great honor. I would have loved to be there with Terry."

Circosta compiled an amazing 336-144-5 during his 47-year head coaching career. That win total sits second only to Steubenville legend Reno Saccoccia in Ohio Valley history while ranking in the top 10 all-time in the state of Ohio.

He launched his coaching career in 1968, serving as an assistant three years at Woodsfield under former Ohio State University standout Bob Butts. When Butts left for Union Local, Circosta took over to begin a 47-year head coaching run, the first 23 seasons at Woodsfield and then, following consolidation, for 24 years at Monroe Central.

Circosta-coached teams enjoyed six undefeated regular seasons (1973, 1976, 1991, 1993, 1999 and 2002); captured 14 OVAC championships (nine at Woodsfield; five at Monroe Central) and earned 14 OHSAA playoff appearances (five at Woodsfield; nine at Monroe Central). Woodsfield was crowned the 1976 Class A state champions by The Associated Press and Monroe Central won the Division V, Region 19 championship in 2001 before falling to Bedford Chanel in the state semifinals.

He was previously inducted into the West Liberty University Athletic Hall of Fame, OVAC Hall of Fame and the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

SNIVELY, meanwhile, cut his coaching teeth in 1970 as an assistant to Jake Olsavsky at Bellaire High, helping to coach such luminaries as Ed Burgy, Ron Lee, John Ostrander and Lance Mehl. He left the All-American Town after six years with the Big Reds heading south, serving as Shadyside head basketball coach and assistant football coach for two seasons.

In 1978, he returned to his roots, being named head football coach at River, a job he relished with great success until his retirement in 2002. He guided the Pilots to 127 wins.

His 1997 team went 10-0 and won the OVAC title while his teams made the Ohio playoffs in 1993 and 1997. Snively coached in the OVAC All-Star Game twice while also coaching the Ohio North-South

## WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Meadowbrook captures fifth consecutive Class 4A title

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Meadowbrook's history in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has been vast.

The Colts added another chapter — their last — in boys basketball Saturday morning at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

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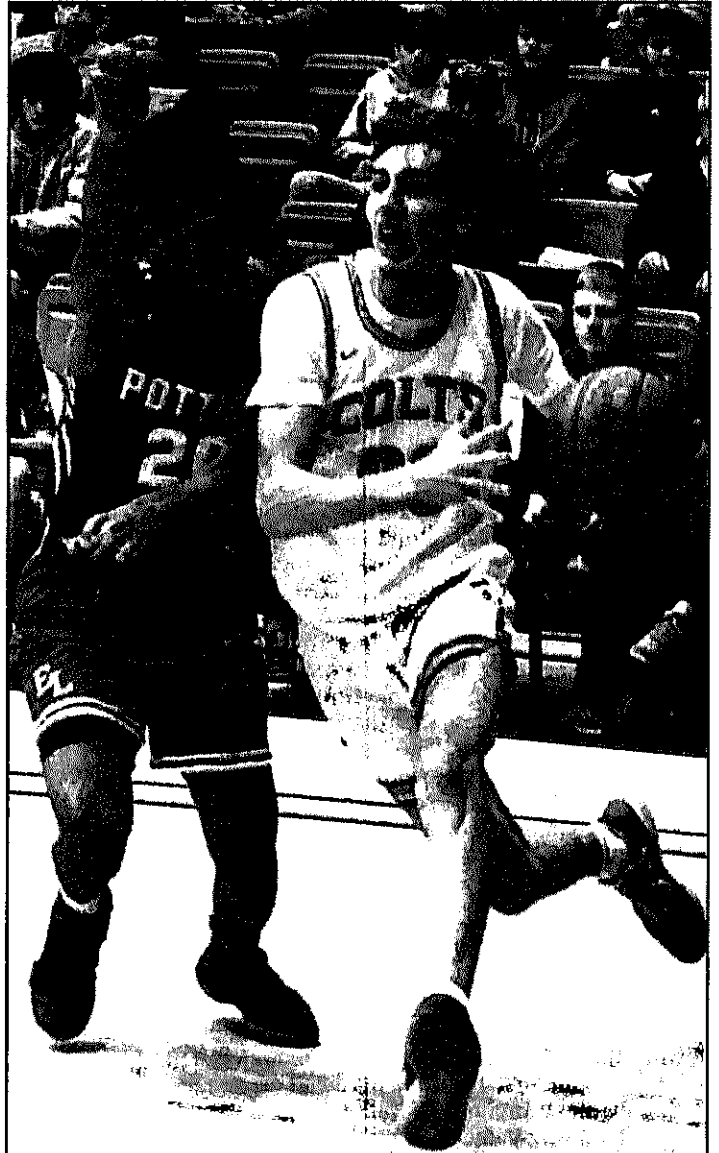
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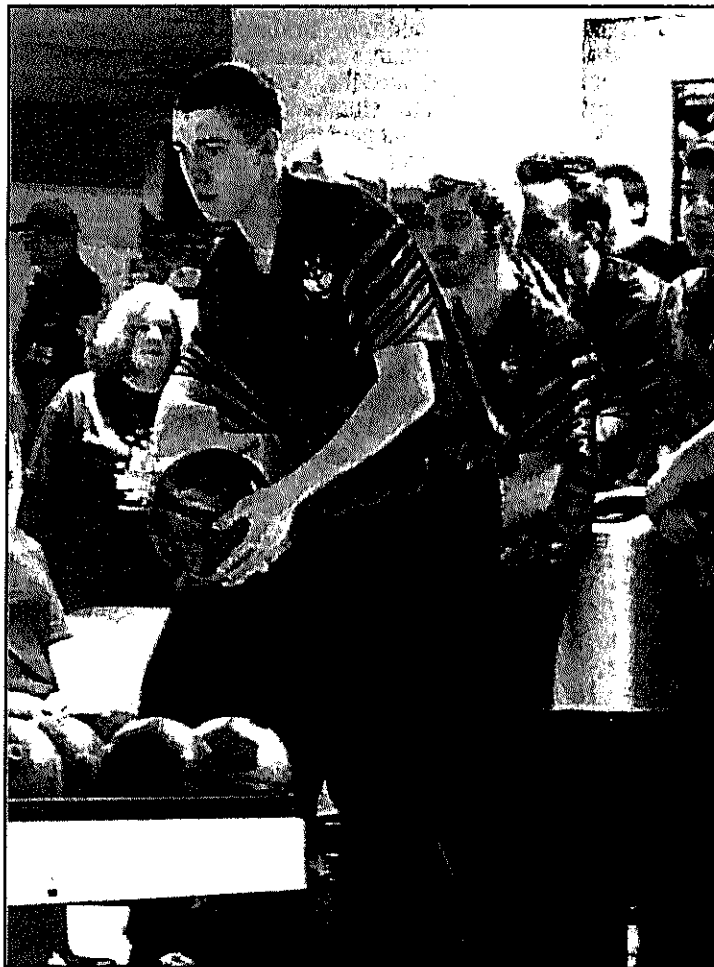
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See, MEADOWBROOK, Page C2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MEADOWBROOK'S ADDY Black drives baseline against East Liverpool's Zavea Green during Saturday morning's OVAC Class 4A championship game at Ohio University Eastern.



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Trevor Thompson eyes the lanes during Saturday's Ohio Division 2 sectional bowling tournament in St. Clairsville. Thompson won the individual title with a 699, leading the Huskies, who advanced with a runner-up place in the team standings.

## Harrison, UL boys roll to D-II district

## Balanced OSU topples Purdue

COLUMBUS (AP) — Ohio State hit its first bucket of the game against Purdue and never looked back.

Aside from a 28-second tie at 3-3, the Buckeyes led every minute and topped the Boilermakers 68-52 Saturday afternoon for their fifth win in the past six games.

Ohio State (17-8, 7-7) was pulled to .500 in the Big Ten for the first time since December, while Purdue (14-12, 7-8) lost its second in a row.

All eight Buckeyes to play hit the scoreboard, led by Kyle Young with a career high 16 points, and Kaleb Wesson had 13 and a season-high three steals. Luther Muhammad added 11.

"We knew it was going to be a fight from start to finish," Muhammad said. "Purdue came out to play hard. The coaches were just hitting on us to compete, execute, Toughness."

"They got on us to pressure the ball a lot and really just find a way to... guard the three and control the drive."

Ohio State beat Purdue for just the second time in their last six meetings.

"Our defense was as good

and as sound as we have played all year," Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann said. "Our defensive consistency was good. Purdue puts their players in great position to make it difficult to guard. We had stretches in first half where we both missed shots and turned it over on their pressure, which they are good at. Some of that was on us; some of that was a credit to them."

Evan Boudreaux contributed 17 for the Boilermakers, while Jahaad Proctor added 15.

Ohio State led from the opening tip but left plenty of opportunity for Purdue to stay in the game, committing nine first-half turnovers and going scoreless for more than five minutes in the first half.

But Purdue failed to capitalize, shooting just 35.2% from the field and 20% from beyond the arc.

The Boilermakers, who force more turnovers than any other team in the Big Ten, nudged Ohio State into nine in the first half. The Buckeyes ended with 16 turnovers, but forced Purdue into 16, as well.

See, OSU, Page C2



genes, Johnson will zip ahead of the other 39 cars and take a ceremonial trip around the track up front during the warm-up lap. Daytona International Speedway will honor the seven-time NASCAR champion with a tribute video on the track's big screen that will celebrate his greatest accomplishments. Johnson will then fall in line and start sixth today, the two-time Daytona 500 champion still as respected as any driver in NASCAR — but far from the serious threat he once was to contend for the victory. For those who know Johnson best, his drive to finish his final season in NASCAR in championship style can't be beat. "I've never seen Jimmie so energized," team owner Rick Hendrick said Saturday. "Sometimes a guy in his last year, they're celebrating, it's the end. I don't want to say

took a moment before practice Saturday to shake hands with Richard Petty, the only other living seven-time NASCAR champion. Johnson seemed poised to pass Petty and Dale Earnhardt atop the record book when he won his seventh title in 2016. Sure, the winner of 83 career Cup races would love to close his full-time career with a record eighth title, but the 44-year-old Californian is trying to enjoy his final ride. Johnson says he's doing nothing more than "retire" from 38 NASCAR weekends a year and intends to shift into other forms of motorsports. He hasn't ruled out a limited NASCAR schedule, and has been hesitant to commit that Sunday is, in fact, his final Daytona 500.

pace lap drive in the No. 48 Chevrolet, fans can relive Johnson's two Daytona 500 wins (2006, 2013) at a three-panel kiosk located in the infield. His Hendrick Motorsports teammates and his rivals taped testimonials to Johnson that will be played at the race. His car sponsor stationed 48 flags along a sidewalk across from Daytona International Speedway. "We're going to give him everything we got," Hendrick said. Johnson stopped by an IndyCar test this week in Texas to catch a glimpse of his next potential racing pit stop. "The (Indy) 500 has passed for me," Johnson said. "I haven't had enough conversations to figure everything out. But

another year in 2019, a tumultuous season that included two crew chiefs. Johnson led 131 laps last season and only 40 in 2018, a precipitous drop from his dominant days when he led more than a 1,000 laps in eight straight seasons (2007-2014). Going out on top may be a long shot, but going out in 2020 on his own terms is what matters most. He'll have no shortage of career options, and just might have more time for his wife and two young daughters. "I don't know what it's like to be bored," Johnson said. "What is that? What would that look and feel like? I hope to get to that point at some time next year. Bored? That's just not me. It's not been me. I'll probably hate it and bury myself with more work in another way."

## • OSU

Continued from Page C1

"I thought we got some good shots in the first half... but too many turnovers in both halves," Purdue coach Matt Painter said.

"I thought we had some good shots that didn't go down. They are a good defensive team. They do a good job being physical on your cuts. I thought at times their defense was just better than our offense."

### BIG PICTURE

Both Purdue and Ohio State battled long stretches of cold shooting, but the

Buckeyes caught fire late to keep their NCAA hopes alive by dispatching the Boilermakers, pulling to .500 in the Big Ten.

### MAKING HISTORY

Kaleb Wesson's has now scored 1,158 in his Ohio State career and surpassed Frank Howard for 40th on the Buckeyes all-time list. He has added 618 career boards, putting him 21st in school history. He is three away from passing Keita Bates-Diop for 20th in school history.

## • Meadowbrook

Continued from Page C1

Evidently. After building a 31-9 cushion and appearing on the brink of blowing the Potters out, Meadowbrook watched East Liverpool score the first 11 of the third and eventually 19 of the first 20 and a Brennan O'Hara field goal to end the third made it a 38-32 game entering the fourth.

"I thought we were a little big-eyed or shellshocked (to start the game)," East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. "We played in the district final last year and the Buckeye 8 Championship already this year, so that surprised me a little bit. We got our butts kicked in the first half, and I wasn't sure if we'd come out and lay down or perform (in the second half)."

In the fourth, the Colts struck first with a basket from eventual game MVP Johnathan McCall, making it 40-32.

East Liverpool, meanwhile, missed its first three shots of the fourth and had a turnover. Those empty trips proved to be enough for the Colts to be able to escape because East Liverpool — outside of two Nick Woodyard buckets — never got on a run in the fourth.

"What could have turned out to be a fun fourth quarter ended up being a possible nightmare situation," Tolzda said. "At the end of the day, our seniors — Johnathan and Addy (Black) — did what they had to do. Plus, we were able to take some of the air out of the ball, which is something we work on."

Meadowbrook was led in the scoring column by McCall's 14. Davis Singleton added 11 and Addy Black, who was a force on both ends of the floor, added 10.

East Liverpool was led by Tresean Jackson, who was held 11 points below his average. He finished with 12. Zavea Green finished with nine.

"Their defense and the way they can dictate the tempo worried us," Conley said. "We had some good looks at the end, but we just couldn't make enough shots.

## • Harrison

Continued from Page C1

The Huskies started strong out of the gate, rolling a 930 in the first of three regular games. Things trailed off a bit from there, before picking up steam in the six Bakers. All told, Harrison Central finished with a score 3,653, 18 pins behind Carrollton.

"We just had a couple of flat tires," Parkinson said. "We had one bad Baker. If we would've bowled a better one it would've made a difference."

"But I'm happy with the outcome." For the first time, Harrison Central will take both boys' and girls' teams to district. The boys will look to return to the state tournament after winning the district title last year. One boys team and two girls teams qualify to Columbus in two weeks, with one boy and two girls not on qualifying squads advancing, as well.

Union Local just missed sending its girls team Thursday. Saturday, though, its boys staged a rally in the Bakers to

edge St. Clairsville for third.

The Jets finished with a score of 3,393, 40 pins better than the Red Devils. UL was, in fact, sixth after three games, but registered a 993 in the Bakers, including a 210 in the second one to surge ahead.

"Bakers are what pay the bills," a smiling Union Local head coach Doug Stephens said. "We didn't start strong at all. But, it's not how you start, but how you finish."

Nathan Brown and Chad Barbe, both juniors, spearheaded the Jets' effort, finishing eighth and ninth, respectively, with scores of 541 and 536.

Union Local's Cherika Koplets advanced as an individual on Thursday in Dover.

Despite not qualifying as a team, St. C. will be represented at district competition by Patrizi, who returns to Sunrise Strikes after finishing second overall with a 595. That included a

210 in his second game.

No stranger to advancing in the postseason, Patrizi has been a lynchpin for the Red Devils the last four years, and that's why it came as no surprise to his head coach that he advanced.

"No one deserves this more than him," St. Clairsville head coach Courtney Reinbold said. "He puts in so much time and effort."

Joining Patrizi as an individual qualifier will be Harrell. The junior becomes the second Seminole bowler — and the first boy — to qualify for the district. His teammate, Shaylei Giesey advanced Thursday.

"He bowled really well," Monroe Central head coach Jacob Hill said of Harrell, who bowled a 576, third overall.

"He stayed consistent and hit his marks. He was never under any pressure. He stayed calm. He just bowled really well."

## • OVFCFA

Continued from Page C1

In 2004, Snively received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl Hamill Award. He and his son, Mike, are both enshrined in the OVAC Hall of Fame.

"I want to thank the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association for such a great honor," Snively said at the banquet. "It is hard to believe I started way back in 1970 as an assistant for Jake Olsavsky in Bellaire. It doesn't seem that long ago."

"I have to thank all my coaches over the years. During my 25 years at River, 75 percent of my coaches worked with me for 15 years or longer. That is great loyalty on their part," added the former Powhatan High four-sport great. "I have to thank my players. They always gave me 100 percent."

Snively was selected to the All-Time WVU 1950-69 Era team.

"Thanks to Mike Flannery at River, I am still in this business. He asked me to come around and help a few days. I am with him every day and in the pressbox every Friday night," Snively said. "But most of all, I have to thank my wife Rose. She has put up with me and this coaching profession for 50 years."

ONE DISAPPOINTING note about the banquet was poor attendance by OVAC schools.

There are 49 football-playing schools in the conference. Of that number, only 29 schools showed

up for the banquet. The no-shows included Parkersburg South, New Philadelphia, Dover, Brooke, Cambridge, Meadowbrook, Southern, Shenandoah, Wellsville, Caldwell, Bridgeport, Madonna, Conotton Valley, Beallsville, Valley, Trinity and Hundred. The classy event paid tribute to all-conference award-winners. A slew of nice plaques went unclaimed at those schools' tables.

### DONNELLY TO SPEAK

THE MARTINS Ferry Chamber of Commerce is holding a Fall Chamber Banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Martins Ferry Recreation Center at 6 p.m.

Featured speaker will be Rich Donnelly. The Steubenville native has coached at the major league level for several teams, and owns a World Series ring while assisting Jim Leyland with the Florida Marlins. He also wrote a best-selling book — "The Chicken Runs at Midnight."

In conjunction with the banquet, the Martins Ferry Chamber is selling copies of that book at a reduced price. Book sales are moving briskly. For more information on the banquet or the book, call the chamber office at 740-633-2565.

Donnelly's latest coaching gig is bench coach for the New York Mets' Triple-A affiliate farm team in Syracuse. He coached the Pittsburgh Pirates with Ley-

land from 1986-96.

### BUBBA'S BITS

DAVE BRUNEY is doing well after undergoing open-heart surgery a few weeks back. The Martins Ferry football coaching legend is at home, rehabbing under the tender loving care of his wife, Cheryl.

TUCKER WILKINSON, a two-time all-state lacrosse player at Wheeling Central and a captain of the Maroon Knights' first state lacrosse championship team, has started a boys' lacrosse program at AAA Fox Creek High School in North Augusta, S.C. Wilkinson previously served as an assistant football coach and head soccer coach at Fox Creek. Wilkinson received his B.S. in education from West Liberty University and his master's degree in teaching from Clemson University.

I HAD the privilege of covering the boys' PAC 8 basketball championships at Sherrard Middle School recently. Bridge Street defeated Triadelphia in the seventh grade title tilt while Warwood topped Brooke in the eighth grade championship game. The gym was standing-room-only with raucous fans. There was more excitement and passion in those games than most high school games.

LILY RITZ is amazing. The former Cambridge High all-Ohioan hoopster and thinclad is weaving a magical season with the Wheeling University hoop team.

Her 36-rebound effort in a 75-72 win over West Virginia State last weekend set a national collegiate record for any level. Her outstanding play has put her in conversation for MEC player-of-year accolades while also helping the Cardinals exhibit much team improvement. She was named MEC and national player-of-the-week for her rebounding feat.

CONGRATULATIONS GO out to Shadyside all-stater Kelly Hendershot on becoming the school's all-time boys' basketball scoring leader. He set the mark Tuesday against Southern Local in a 65-63 OVAC semifinal win. The 6-3 senior now stands at 1,381 tallies. Todd Antill held the previous mark for 32 years with 1,363. Both are class acts.

MAJOR LEAGUE Baseball's proposed playoff plan is simply goofy. So much for tradition. Fourteen teams are way too many. Picking your opponent is an automatic chip on the shoulder for the lower seed, while the division winner hosting all three games is totally unfair. Leave it alone, commissioner.

CARMEN LICHT is a redshirt freshman on the University of Cincinnati track team. She is a middle distance runner. Licht is a 2018 graduate of Macedonia Nordon High School in Ohio, where she was a seven-time placer at the state meet.

Licht is the daughter of former Martins Ferry High track standout Mary Margaret Brown. This past weekend, the Cincinnati women's distance medley relay team broke the school record while competing in the Charlie Thomas Invitational in College Station, Texas. Licht was a member of that quartet. She ran the 400-meter portion of the event and clocked a sharp 57.8.

KUDOS TO River High boys' basketball coach Mark Romick for achieving the 300-win plateau this past Tuesday.

He also has done excen-

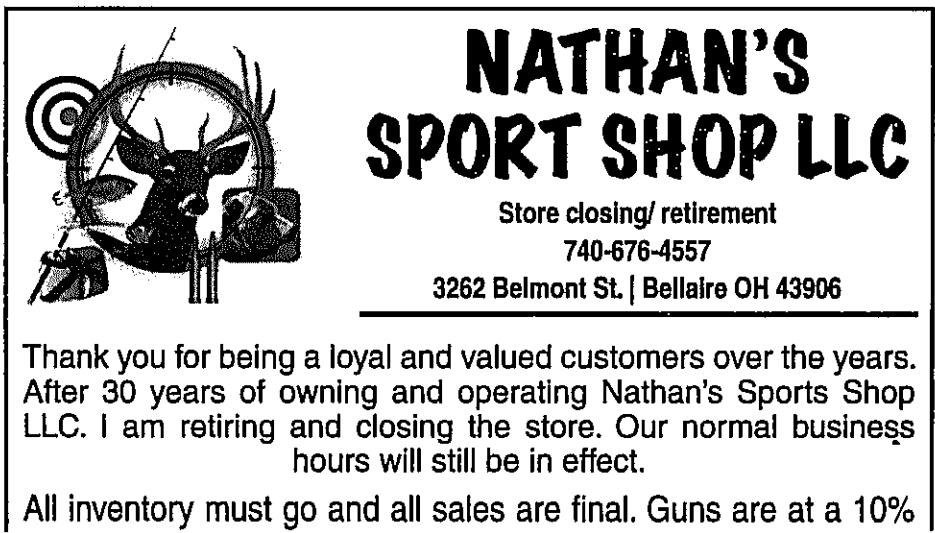


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## SPORTS

Monday,  
February 17, 2020Union Local denied  
OVAC 3A title by FFBy SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – It was a week later and a different gender, but the approach and opponent were the same.

For the second straight Saturday, Fort Frye used an impressive defensive performance, showcased a disciplined offense and captured an OVAC Class 3A championship.

Eerily similar to the exact way in which the Cadets' girls team went about its business, the Fort Frye boys outlasted Union Local at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, 57-47, to win the conference title in the nightcap of the day-long Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships.

"Winning this is huge," Fort Frye head coach Eric Henniger said. "We hadn't won since 2014 and it's something we kept talking about. We want to win it every single year because we like winning championships. It slingshots us into the tournament."

While the Cadets are riding a high entering Division III sectional play against Bellaire on Tuesday, Feb. 25, Union Local head coach Zach Delman must find a way to get his team,

which had lost just once since December prior to Saturday, back up before a Tuesday road trip to River to close out the regular season.

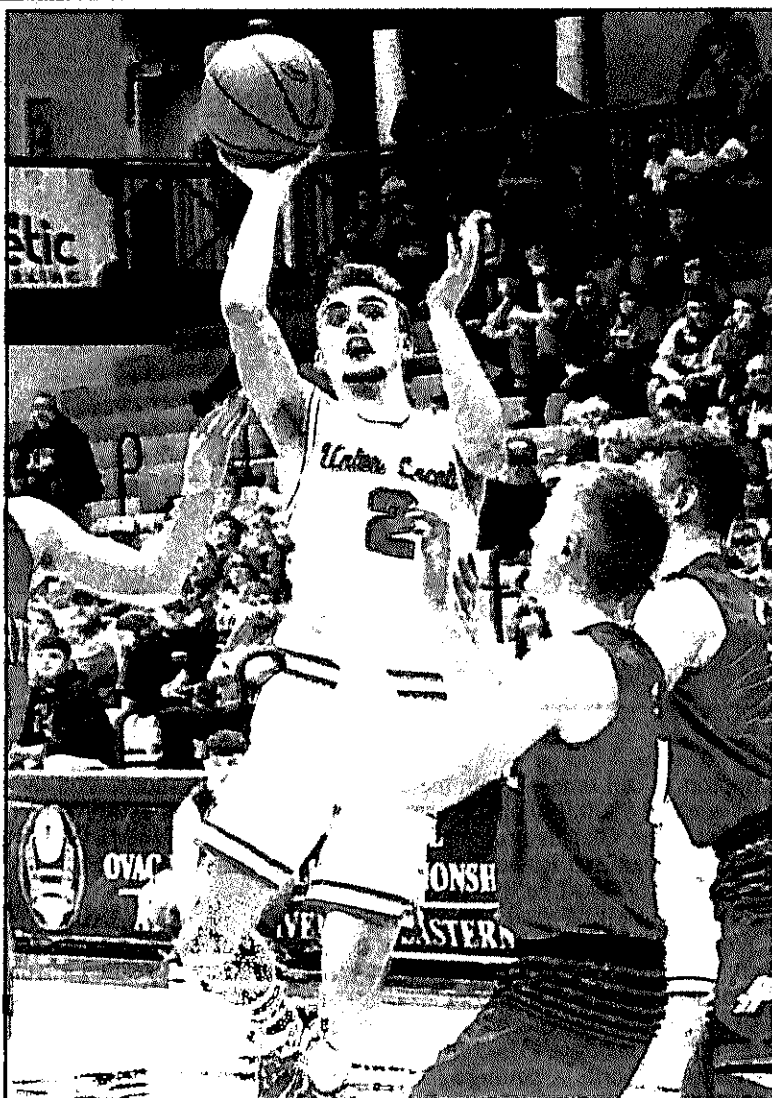
"It's unfortunate, but congrats to Fort Frye because they played a great game," Delman said. "Hopefully, we'll press the reset button on Monday and shift our focus to River and hopefully get back on the winning track. We have a chance to play Fort Frye again, so that's a goal we can set right now, but we can't afford to look ahead."

The win capped a tough week for the Cadets, who went on the road to Linsly and prevailed during Tuesday semi-final round and then survived what was basically a home game for the Jets, who once again filled their side of the gymnasium.

"I have pretty tough kids," Henniger said. "They've been in pressure situations in different sports. To come here and beat Union Local is a good win because Coach (Zach) Delman does an awesome job. We knew we'd be in for a battle, and I am just happy to get a win."

It's been a long road to the title for the Cadets. They were upset as the top seed in the semi-finals last season by eventual champion Barnesville and this

See, UL, Page B2



Photo/SHERI MCANINCH

UNION LOCAL'S Hunter McCort goes up for a shot during the second half of Saturday evening's OVAC Class 3A championship game against Fort Frye. The Jets fell to the Cadets, 57-47.

Daytona 500  
postponed  
due to rain

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) – The Daytona 500 has been postponed by rain for the first time since 2012, dampening NASCAR's season opener that started with a bally-hooded visit from President Donald Trump.

The race was postponed after two lengthy delays totaling more than three hours. The race will now begin at 4 p.m. Monday and be broadcast live on Fox.

It's the second time in 62 years that "The Great American Race" will finish on a Monday.

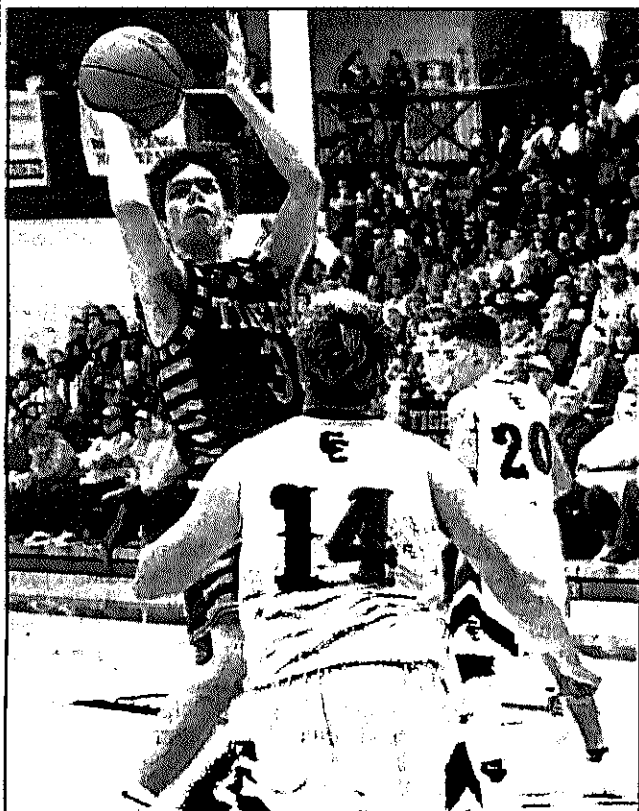
The first delay of the day came moments after the presidential motorcade completed a ceremonial parade lap around the 2 1/2-mile track. Trump's armored limousine nicknamed "The Beast" exited Daytona International Speedway, and the sky opened for a brief shower that forced drivers back to pit road.

The start already had been pushed back 13 minutes to accommodate Trump's trip. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. eventually led the field to the green flag and was out front for the first 20 laps before heavier rain soaked a racing surface that takes hours to dry.

NASCAR called drivers back to their cars around 6:40 p.m. EST, hoping to get more laps in before more showers hit again. Some drivers showed, but the heaviest rain of the day forced a postponement.

It no doubt choked some of the excitement out of an event that had been a raucous celebration

See, DAYTONA, Page B2



Photo/SHERI MCANINCH

SHADYSIDE'S MASON Vannest goes up for a shot over Wheeling Central's Michael Toepfer during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A final at OUE.

Second quarter proves costly  
for Shadyside in OVAC 2A finalBy BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – The streak continues.

Wheeling Central pocketed its eighth consecutive Wheeling Hospital OVAC basketball championship Saturday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern, holding off fast-closing Shadyside, 72-67, in the Class 2A finale.

Overall, it is the Maroon Knights' 28th OVAC basketball crown. It also marks their third win over the Tigers this winter.

Coach Mel Stephens' charges received a huge performance from junior Avery Lee.

The dynamic guard was virtually unstoppable, pouring in 34 points, including seven treys. He was named the John Howell MVP for his impressive efforts.

"It is very special winning the OVAC title. It is a great conference," Stephens said. "Doing it eighth straight times means that a lot of different players have gotten to share winning something very nice."

The triumph was the 16th against six losses for Wheeling Central. Shadyside owns an identical record.

The game began in an old-fashioned shootout.

The two teams both boarded 21 points in the opening quarter.

Lee was scorching, dropping in 12 points. Shadyside All-Ohioan Kelly Hendershot, who became the school's all-time leading boys' scorer Tuesday, countered with 10 points.

Wheeling Central remained hot in the second frame. Shadyside did not, tipping the momentum in the Maroon Knight direction.

Central outpointed the Tigers 19-10 in the period for a 40-31 halftime advantage. Lee and sophomore sharpshooter Ryan Reasbeck each delivered six points in the quarter for the Knights.

Shadyside's hopes for a quick start after intermission when up in flames on its first two possessions. The Tigers failed to connect on a breakaway layup followed by a turnover.

Central capitalized.

Lee drained three more trifectas in

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



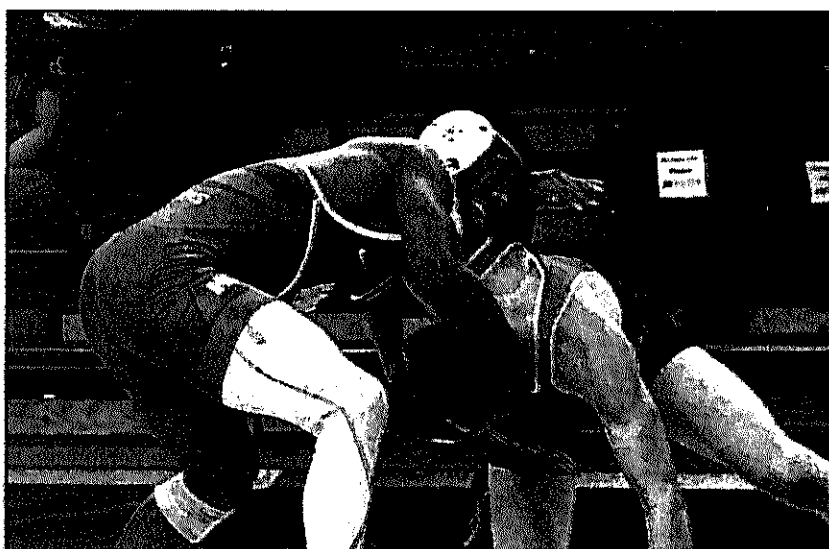
AP PHOTO

ERIK JONES walks down pit road after rain caused a delay in the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Bunch's  
decision  
lifts WLUBy KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

WEST LIBERTY – Darius Bunch couldn't have scripted a better way to end his senior season at home.

The West Liberty standout posted a major decision Sunday afternoon that lifted the No. 16 Wildcats (9-9) to

Team LeBron takes  
All-Star Game 157-155  
in revamped format

CHICAGO (AP) – Players were taking charges, bodies were hitting the floor, calls and non-calls were being screamed about on both ends. The fourth quarter of the NBA All-Star Game was as intense as the final moments of a playoff game, the biggest stars in the league holding absolutely nothing back.

And in the end, Anthony Davis was a hometown hero by making a free throw.

Kobe Bryant – ever the competitor – would have simply loved the way this night went.

"That was pretty damn fun," a sweat-soaked, exhausted LeBron James said at the end.

