

Scoreboard/C3
Prep Roundup/C3

SPORTS

Friday,
January 24, 2020



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

McKivitz prepping for Senior Bowl

Colton McKivitz realized shortly after the West Virginia University season ended with a win at TCU in November that his football life was going to be quite different.

He's getting a full glimpse of that right now. McKivitz - the Union Local product - has spent most of the week in Mobile, Alabama preparing for Saturday's Reeses Senior Bowl, which will be aired live on the NFL Network at 2:30 p.m.

McKivitz is playing on the South squad and is one of six tackles listed. He's been working at both left and right tackle.

McKivitz was named Second Team All-American by Walter Camp and was Third-Team by the Associated Press. Along with those, he was named First-Team All-Big 12 and the conference's Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Here is a listing of how area products in their sports:

FOOTBALL

CROSS WILKINSON, Toledo - The Wheeling Park graduate entered his name into the transfer portal. He was a red-shirt freshman this past season, meaning should he enroll at another FBS school, he'd have to sit a season and play three. Should he opt to go FCS or smaller, he would be eligible to play immediately.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CAITLYN KROLL, Ohio - Bridgeport graduate logged 15 minutes off the bench and collected three rebounds in a win over Ball State. She started in the win over Northern Illinois and scored five points in 27 minutes of action. She also had four rebounds and four steals.

ANGELA STAFFILENO, Duquesne - Brooke graduate played just two minutes in a win over St. Joseph's last Saturday. She played 17 minutes and had three rebounds in a win over George Mason.

LILLY RITZ, Wheeling - Cambridge product continued to make a case for MEC Player of the Year last Saturday against Fairmont. She had 35 points and 17 rebounds. In a loss at Notre Dame, she tallied 17 points and 18 rebounds.

MORGAN BRUNNER, West Liberty - Linsly graduate scored 14 points and had four rebounds in a win over Frostburg State. In the loss to Urbana, she scored 20 points and pulled down five rebounds.

EMILY HOLZOPFEL, Wheeling - The Buckeye Local product started against Fairmont State and scored six points to go along with three rebounds and three assists. In a loss at Notre Dame, she finished with two points and three rebounds.

MONICA BRAGG, West Liberty - Madonna graduate logged three points in a win over Frostburg. She scored two points in just nine minutes of action in a loss to Urbana.

KELSI CHAPMAN, Wheeling - Magnolia alumnus scored two points in the loss at Fairmont and didn't enter the game at Notre Dame.

VIVIAN ALLISON, Mercyhurst - Linsly product played nine minutes and didn't score against Ganon. She scored four points in just six minutes of action against Slippery Rock.

TAYLOR DUPLAGA, Fairmont State - Wheeling Central graduate played 12 minutes, but didn't score against Wheeling last Saturday. She had 26 minutes of action and seven points in a loss to Davis & Elkins.

See, **PREPPING**, Page C2

Rine named interim AD at Barnesville

First OVAC bowling tourney set

• St. Clair Lanes hosting event

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - A new era for prep bowling in the Ohio Valley begins Saturday when the OVAC conducts its inaugural championships event for the sport at St. Clair Lanes.

Action begins at 10 a.m. with 17 boys teams taking to the venerable bowling center's 20 lanes. Thirteen girls teams will follow about 3 p.m.

"We're really busy," event

director Ken "Campy" Campanizzi said regarding preparations leading up to the first tournament.

"We've been emailing teams and getting rosters and things like that all week. It's just busy work making sure we have all the names, etc., etc."

As with any new event, there are a handful of bugs to work out, and that will need to be worked out as things move along. But "Campy" and the staff at St. Clair Lanes are well-schooled on running tournaments. The group has been overseeing Ohio sectionals for

a handful of years, along with Buckeye 8 events.

The task this time has been making sure schools new to things are well-versed on what's happening.

"We have new schools in West Virginia that we've been in touch with so they know what we're doing," Campanizzi explained.

Each team will roll three regular games, then four Baker games.

St. Clair Lanes is rolling out the red carpet, so to speak, for the tournament, which will bring in teams from up and

down the region. Campanizzi said bleachers are being brought in to accommodate the expected large crowds, so there should be plenty of seating.

Rob Holubeck will be taking care of the results, while his brother, Gary, will be handling logistics at the center that the family has run for decades.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Campanizzi is hoping for good weather and is eager to see how the event goes. He's looking forward to a great day of bowling.

"It will be an all-day affair," he said.



UNION LOCAL'S Reagan Vinskovich, left, drives Thursday night as Barnesville's Rylee Stephens defends. The Jets improved to 17-0 with the victory.

Solid start keeps Jets unbeaten

• Showdown vs. Creek looms

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

BARNESVILLE - Torre Kildow celebrated her 15th birthday in grand fashion Thursday night, exploding for a game-high 32 points in leading unbeaten Union Local to a convincing 86-29 triumph against Barnesville.

In moving to 17-0, the Jets claimed the coveted Milk Bottle Trophy and set the stage for a mammoth Buckeye 8 girls' basketball title contest Saturday night at Buckeye Local against another unbeaten - Indian Creek. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

"I told (the girls) before the game not to get caught looking forward," Jets head coach Rob Barr said.

They didn't.

Hannah Merritt dropped in a 3 seconds after UL won the opening tip and the Jets were off and running.

Union Local scored the first 20 points of the game, but it was the fact the Shamrocks (6-11), who were led by Rylee Stephens' 14, didn't score until 1:11 was showing on the clock that caught Barr's eye the most.

"When we get out like that ... it's pretty easy after that because I think we play better defense that we do offense, especially the first seven or eight girls.

"I thought everyone played well."

Merritt added 17 points, Reagan Vinskovich had 15 and Keira Gregor 12 as the youthful Jets continued their growth as a unit.

"They've gotten better," Barnesville head coach Jason Perkins observed. "They play really well as a team. It's not like you can stop one or two players. They, collectively,

See, **JETS**, Page C2

Bonus bombs propel Tigers

• Shadyside girls drain 17 3s in topping Bridgeport

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

SHADYSIDE - When a team has its shooting eye zeroed in there isn't much a coach can do but watch. That's what Bridgeport's Greg Harkness did Thursday night. However, it was Shadyside that he was watching put on the clinic from behind the bonus arc.

The homestanding Tigers (14-5) knocked down a season-high 17 three-point goals en route to a repeat, 73-46, decision over the game Bulldogs inside the Tigers Den.

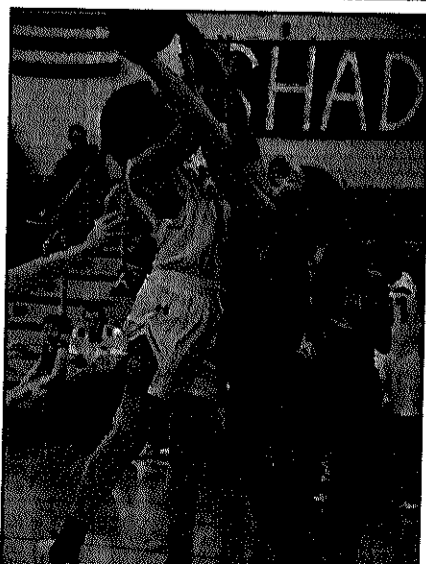
Senior Brooke Selmon led the three-point barrage with seven, including three

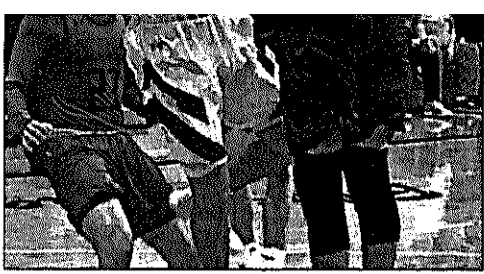
can to her tonight."

Selmon added two more bonus bombs, including one just ahead of the halftime buzzer, and sophomore Baylee Wach drilled a pair as the lead grew to 40-23 at the half. Both finished with 21 points as Wach had five treys. All told, six different Tigers

A 21-5 advantage in the third quarter allowed the hosts to pull away.

"That game had nothing ... zero ... to do with our effort. We played hard," Harkness said. "It had more to do with Shadyside executing and their shot-making abilities. We tried to play a little bit of man (defense) and maybe sag off of some people, but we didn't rebound early and we sort of had





By Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central's Ryan Reasbeck drives to the basket while Williamstown's Isaac Cutright defends Saturday.

Williamstown Knocks Off No. 2 Central Inman Drills 8 3-Pointers In Yellowjackets Victory

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Over the course of a week, Wheeling Central has faced a gauntlet of a schedule. Saturday, though, was their biggest matchup as the Maroon Knights and Williamstown squared off during the 12th annual Rotary Challenge at Magnolia High School.

In a battle against Class A's top two ranked teams, the Yellowjackets made a statement as they proved they were No. 1 for a reason. They drilled nine 3-pointers in the first half to take down Wheeling Central, 75-55.

"The teams that I've seen, they're the best team in the state right now," Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens said about Williamstown. "They got kids that can shoot it, kids that can handle it. They got good size. They're very, very good."

After a Ryan Reasbeck bucket made it 15-11 with 2:11 to go in the first, Williamstown went on a 22-2 run that transitioned

Please see Central, Page B4

Beallsville Gets Past Magnolia

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

NEW MARTINSVILLE — It wasn't the prettiest first half for Beallsville. However, Blue Devils coach Tori Jarrett advised her team to stick to the game plan. And that's exactly what her team did.

Beallsville started the third quarter on a 9-0 run and opened up a double-digit lead during that span as it went on to defeat Magnolia, 54-33 during the 12th annual New Martinsville Rotary Challenge at Magnolia High School.

"We had a specific game plan going in because we know they have some pretty good post players," Beallsville coach Tori Jarrett said. "They have good players all around and we planned on doubling it when they got it into the post and watched for the lob."

Please see Beallsville, Page B4

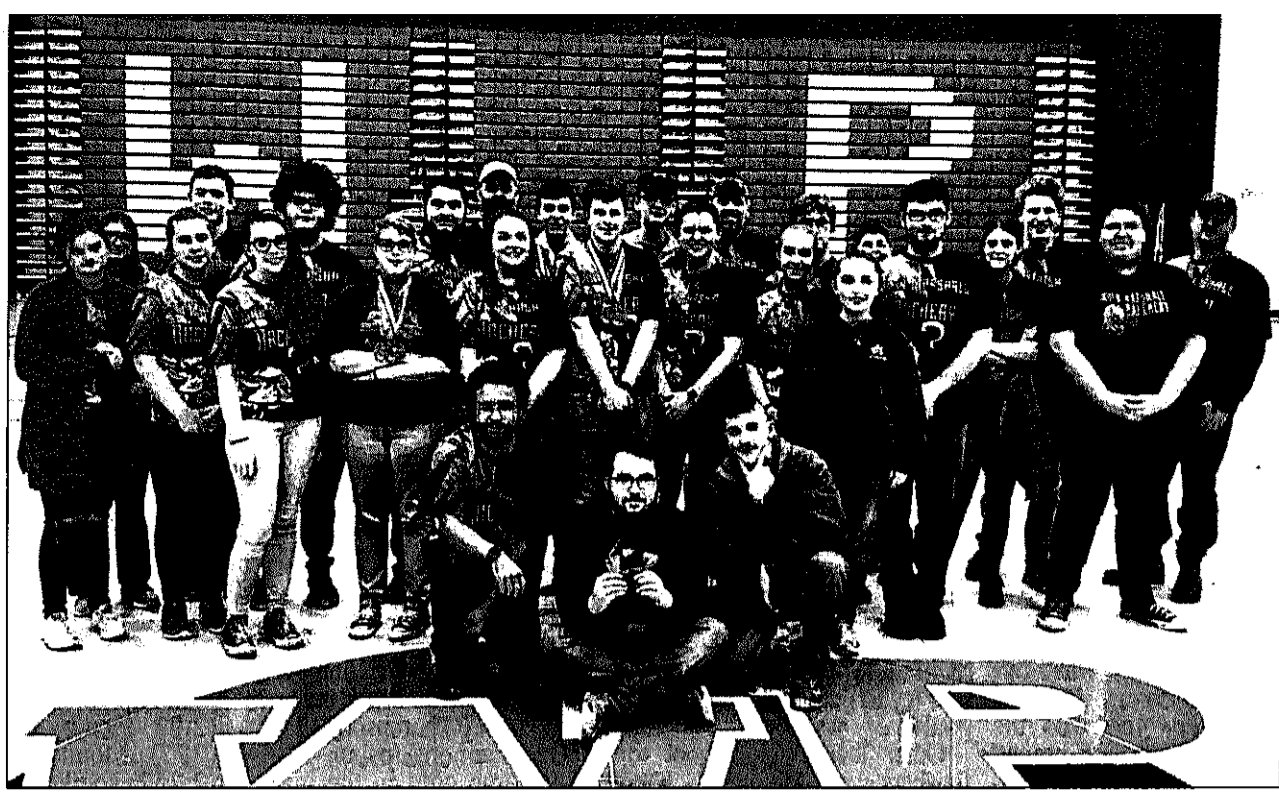


Photo by Cody Tomer

The John Marshall high school archery team finished second at the 2nd Annual "Shot in the Park" tournament at Wheeling Park on Saturday.

Buckhannon-Upshur Captures Crown in Archery Event

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The John Marshall archery team aimed high but just missed its mark on Saturday at the 2nd Annual "Shot in the Park" inside the Wheeling Park gymnasium.

The "Shot in the Park" defending champion Monarchs came up 14 points short of claiming back-to-back titles — earning runner-up honors with 3,308 points.

Buckhannon-Upshur emerged as the tournament's new champion after shooting a team score of 3,322.

Cabell Midland took third (3,263), followed by Magnolia (3,223) and Wheeling Park (3,084).

The Buccaneers were led by Clint Crites, who fired 21 perfect shots of his 30 attempts. He finished the

event as the high school champion with 289 points.

The high school girls' champion also came from Buckhannon-Upshur as Kaylin Walton garnered a 288 with 20 bullseyes.

"It's awesome," Buckhannon-Upshur assistant coach Dave Riffle said. "Our middle school has placed first in states the last two years. They went to nationals this year and we are hoping to do it with both the middle school and the high school teams this year."

"Our head coach Russ (Warner) has been doing this for about 14 years now and it's awesome for him."

"It's going to be a long night. We got home around 1:30 a.m. last week and we're probably going to get back (Sunday morning) around

1:30 again. But it's worth it. It's all for the kids."

The Monarchs' Kenny Arrick finished second in the high school boys' competition with a 286 mark and 18 bullseyes.

Other JM sharp-shooters with high scores include Isaac Woods (282), Melodee Howe (281), Wesley Standiford (280) and Claire McElwee (274).

"We did well," JM coach Russ Howard said. "This is the best we've finished all year. We are young. We've been up and down so I'll take it."

"Kenny was our top shooter and is young. He still has time to make a mark for himself."

Please see Shot, Page B2

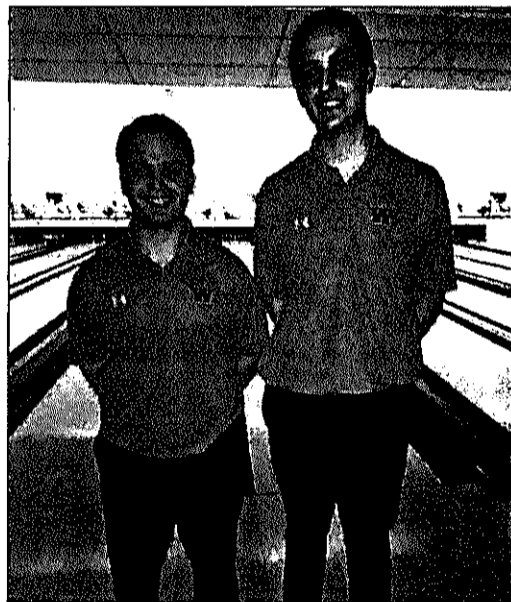


Photo by Rick Thorp

Weir's Wayne Zapotoczny, left, and Thomas Babinchak led the Red Riders to an OVAC bowling title.

Harrison Girls, Weir Boys Claim First Bowling Titles

UL's Stewart, Red Riders' Babinchak earn individual crowns

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — History was made Saturday at St. Clair Lanes as 17 boys' teams and 13 girls' squads competed in the inaugural Belmont College OVAC Bowling Championships.

There was hardly any room to move inside the venerable bowling house as an overflow crowd came out to cheer athletes from Ohio and West Virginia as they attempted to tame the center's 20 lanes and etch

their names into local bowling lore.

There was excitement at all levels, with team and individual races left undecided until the final moments.

The closest battle came for the girls' individual crown, where Union Local sophomore Alexis Stewart emerged victorious after prevailing in a tiebreaker with Harrison Central's Kamree Best.

All was not lost for Best, as the Huskies claimed the girls' team title.

The boys' crowns were swept by Weir, which was paced by individual champion Thomas Babinchak and runner-up Wayne Zapotoczny.

Please see Bowling, Page B3

OVAC Preservation Foundation Formed to Oversee Donated Funds

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

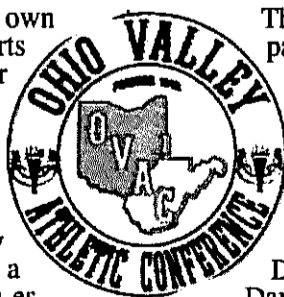
BELLAIRE — In its eight decades of existence, the OVAC has enjoyed tremendous growth.

The nation's largest functioning conference is no longer just an overseer of athletic contests and all-star teams. Far from it.

The OVAC has mushroomed into an organization of wide-ranging features. The

conference has its own hall of fame, sports museum and all-star band, while handing out thousands of dollars in scholarships each year.

To ensure the long-term viability of those programs, a new entity has been established. The OVAC Preservation Foundation has recently come into existence.



The seven-member panel is a blend of educators, financial experts and community leaders. The foundation is composed of Tom Rataiczak, Jim Rocchi, Dennis Magruder, Dave Schafer, Annette Greenwood, Anthony Rocchio and Kellie Cusick.

Rataiczak, a longtime Bel-

laire High School educator, is the current OVAC treasurer and former executive director of the conference; Jim Rocchi is a principal in the Buckeye Local School District; Magruder is the general manager of WesBanco Arena in Wheeling; Schafer is the district director for ODOT; Greenwood is employed by the state's auditor's office; Rocchio is the Belmont County auditor and Cusick is an award-winning Bellaire

teacher, as well as grant writer. OVAC Executive Director Dirk DeCoy serves in an ex-officio role.

"We wanted to get people on the board who were not OVAC soldiers. We wanted people who brought integrity to the board," Rataiczak said. "The OVAC Executive Board approved the foundation in December and gave us some seed money."

Please see OVAC, Page B6

UL Girls Claim Buckeye 8 Title

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register
CONNORVILLE —
It's amazing how quickly momentum can swing.

Indian Creek was starting to feel really good about itself and was starting up at a four-point deficit shortly before halftime of Saturday night's Buckeye 8 Girls' Basketball Championship Game at Buckeye Local High School.

Union Local sophomore Hannah Merritt made sure it was the Jets who went into the locker room with the momentum by hitting a 40-foot buzzer beater to give the Jets a 30-23 lead in which they built on with an impressive third quarter and went on for a convincing 64-45 victory in a meeting of unbeatens with the Redskins.

"That (shot) changed our whole outlook going into halftime," UL coach Rob Barr said. "I had a big halftime speech planned for going in up four and then we went up seven and it all changed."

As quickly as Barr's halftime speech changed, so did Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft's words, too.

"I don't even think (Union Local) knew exactly how much time was left (when she took the shot)," Eft said. "I thought they were going to run the clock out, but then it was ... bang from 40 feet."

And as the ball went through the net and the horn sounded, the Redskins fully realized they were up against it.

With freshman Reagan Vinskovich and junior guard Casey Kildow fueling the offensive charge in the third, the Jets out-

scored Creek (16-1), 15-7, in the third and then continued to add on in the fourth.

"When you play a good team, sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce your way," Eft said. "I thought we missed a lot of easy shots early, but we settled down and battled back. It was just one of those nights. I thought we lost our composure in the third quarter a little bit."

The win makes the Jets 18-0 and gives them their first league title in girls' basketball since 2015.

"This means the world," Barr said. "Because it's their first one of hopefully many. I told the girls, in the locker room, 'you're going to have a lot of chances to win championships, but you better relish (the opportunity) when you get them because you may not win them all.'"

This marks the first of several crowns the Jets hope to add to their list of accomplishments this winter. Next up will be the OVAC title, which will be determined, starting a week from Monday when they host an opponent to be determined in the Class 3A Tournament.

Before emptying his bench when the game was out of reach, Union Local played just six players. Four of his five starters had double figures and Kildow finished with nine.

Vinskovich was a tough matchup for the Redskins. She scored 21 points and collected 14 rebounds, both were game high totals. Merritt finished with 13 points, while sophomore Keira Gregor added 11 and freshman Torre Kildow found her way to 10, de-

spite battling foul trouble. Indian Creek was led by Makenzie Taylor's 14. Talented junior guard Kylie Kiger had 12 and junior Hailey Clark finished with nine.

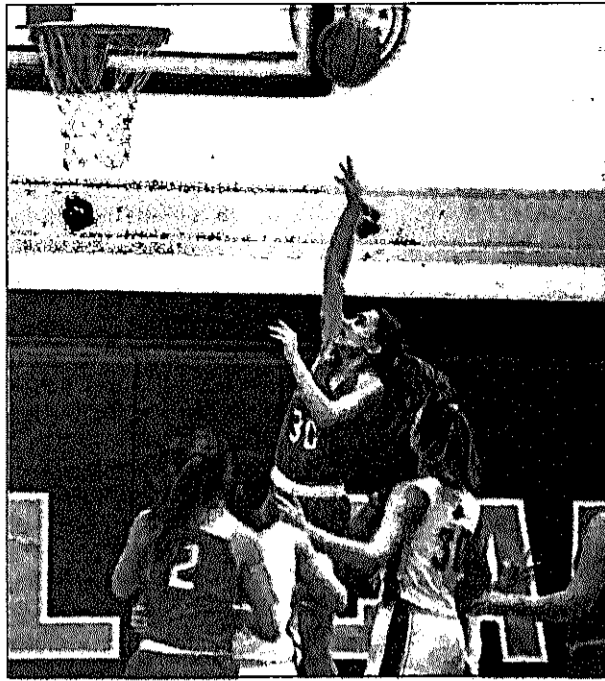


Photo by Kristin Mazzaj
Union Local's Hannah Merritt goes up for a shot along the end line during the first half of Saturday's Buckeye 8 Championship Game.

Third-Fourth Place

Martins Ferry 69
Beaver Local 37

Seventh-Eighth Place

St. Clairsville 53
Buckeye Local 29

Ninth-Tenth Place

Edison 47
Harrison Central 36

Fifth-Sixth Place

Bellaire 68
East Liverpool 43

past East Liverpool. Davis scored 31 points, had 18 steals and 10 rebounds. Her steal total is tied for the second most in Ohio history.

Backing Davis' production was Mia Gavarkavich, who poured in 17. Emma Ludwig led the Potters with 22.

The Purple Riders received a huge game from senior post Richella Spielvogel, who scored 23. Classmate Madison Ging finished with 16 and sophomore Allarah Jones added 15 off the bench.

Buckeye Local was paced by Megan Valuska's eight.

Harrison Central was led by McKayla Dunkle's nine.

BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

Stewart became overwhelmed with emotion after learning she'd won, something that wasn't even on her radar when she arrived for Saturday's competition.

"I didn't think I had it in me," she said smiling. "I'm not going to lie."

Stewart, in fact, did, and it was her opening game 196 that proved to be the difference. She and Best both finished the three 10-frame games with a score of 523, but the tie-breaker is best individual score. Best's was a 181, also rolled in Game 1.

Admitting that her season has been filled with ups and downs, Stewart was speechless when trying to think of answers to why her OVAC performance worked.

"You just have to stay calm and keep your eye on the mark," she said, noting the lane's oil pattern was to her liking. "And, you just have to have fun while doing it."

Stewart credited her teammates for helping her earn the victory.

"I just don't have the words to explain it," she said.

Doug Stephens, the Jets' head coach, did.

"I'm not surprised," he said. "Alexis is a great bowler. She just needs to realize she has all the ability in the world and have more confidence in herself. I hope (Saturday) helps her do that."

Stephens said Stewart has matured beyond her years on the lanes.

"She picked up her spares, that's always a key," he noted. "Anytime you can do that, you're in good shape."

Best was one of three top 5 finishers for the Huskies, who finished with a score of 2,991, 160 pins better than runner-up Barnesville. Union Local was third with

2,761, followed by East Liverpool (2,651), Buckeye Local (2,600), Beaver Local (2,575), Conotton Valley (2,555), St. Clairsville (2,512), Monroe Central (2,453), Bridgeport (2,113), Wheeling Central (2,017), Linsly (2,013) and Martins Ferry (1,988).

Weir, too, hopes to end the season strong. It's the first campaign for the Red Riders, one that's been full of triumphs, culminating with an OVAC victory.

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys," an elated Weir co-coach David Thompson said. "I'm proud of all the support our principal (Kristin Bissett) and our AD (Donna Ferguson) have given us. It's been an amazing journey thus far."

"The kids have been working hard on their own and in youth leagues and stuff like that and they came in knowing what they wanted to do and they did it."

The Red Riders finished with a score of 3,793, holding off the Huskies, who ended with 3,631 with a late run in the four baker games. Parkersburg South was third (3,621), followed by UL (3,531), Monroe Central (3,353), Barnesville (3,215), East Liverpool (3,212), Bridgeport (3,153), St. Clairsville (2,945), Beaver Local (2,938), Buckeye Local (2,795), Martins Ferry (2,662), Conotton Valley (2,595), Beallsville (2,294), River (2,272), Wheeling Central (2,263) and Linsly (2,001).

Babinchak posted a 681, bolstered by a 235 middle game.

"It feels great to bring this back to Weir High," Babinchak, a junior who has one sanctioned 300 game to his credit, said. "We've all been bowling in the youth league together at Holiday Lanes, so we already have experience. We just hopped on together as a team and kept trucking along."

Choose
**Kent State
Tuscarawas**

**CREATE YOUR OWN
SUCCESS**

**Saturday,
April, 4, 2020**
**DOORS OPEN
AT 11AM**

**Moundville Training Center (Old Prison)
8th St., Moundville, WV**
TICKET REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION
Limited number of tickets available

Like us on Facebook
@ Moundville Volunteer Fire Department
to stay up to date with events

GRAND PRIZE:
SIG 1911 Emperor Scorpion PST 45 8RD & Aero Precision
M5E1 Complete Rifle, 18" .308 Stainless/Dark Earth Cerakote

12:00- RUG AM RFL PRED 350 16DDE DE	4:45- ARM 1911 ROCK STD FS 45AP PB 8 Cerakote
12:15- RUG AR-556 FFH 300BLK 16B 30RD	Patriot Brown
12:30- WRA SXP FLD CMP SHTGN 20M/26MC	5:00- SAV STV 555 28/24MC OU Turkish Walnut,
12:45- WRA XPR HNT STRATA 243 SCP	Checked
1:00- \$450 If present, if not present \$250.	5:15- \$450 If present, if not present \$250.
1:15- WRA SXP SHADOW DEF 12M/18MC 3	5:30- BERETTA TIKKA T3X HUNTER 30-06
1:30- HEN STANDARD LVR 22LR	5:45- RUG PC CARBINE 9MM
1:45 GLK 43 9MM PST 6RD FS CK BWODE	6:00- SW M&P SHIELD W/LASER 9MM
2:00- BRN XBLT HUNTER 30-06 22B	6:15- RUG SP101 .357 MAG STAINLESS
2:15- \$450. If present. If not present \$250.	6:30- WBY VANGRD CAMILLA BA 7MM-08 B

been established. The OVAC Preservation Foundation has recently come into existence.

The seven-member panel is a blend of educators, financial experts and community leaders. The foundation is composed of Tom Rataiczak, Jim Rocchi, Dennis Magruder, Dave Schafer, Annette Greenwood, Anthony Rocchio and Kellie Cusick.

Rataiczak, a longtime Bellaire High educator, is the current OVAC treasurer and former executive director of the conference; Jim Rocchi is currently a principal in the Buckeye Local School District; Magruder is the general manager of WesBanco Arena in Wheeling; Schafer is the district director for ODOT; Greenwood is employed by

and Jim Rocchi are permanent members," Rataiczak said. "The other three serve three-year terms. We want to be able to constantly pump new blood into the board."

The Foundation Board of Trustees is a separate branch of the OVAC. It is entrusted to oversee that monies donated are used in accordance with the specified programs. Those are: the Sports Museum, Hall of Fame, All-Star Band and scholarships or another OVAC program specified by the contributor.

The OVAC Preservation Foundation Fund came to life in December at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, to help supporters of the OVAC give back to the

extremely strong, all the money you bring in from marketing goes right back into the program and goes out. What we also found out is that some people are hesitant to give money to the conference because they feel you are going to spend it on this or spend it on that.

"So we got people together and said we must keep the hall of fame going at all costs as well as the museum and the McDonald's band. We also want to keep the reunions (football, wrestling) going and improve on them. So we wanted to go to a foundation with specific purposes. It is not for general operations. As a matter of fact, we hope we don't have to touch this money for another

back to the conference. It can be a tax benefit to businesses. The oil and gas industry can also be a revenue source," Rataiczak noted. "Hopefully, this will take off. We have already received some donations. We want to 'pay it forward' so that the OVAC can continue to provide for our students and athletes for years to come, just as we have since 1943."

Donations to the Preservation Foundation can be made online at www.AppalachianOhio.org or by mail to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, P.O. Box 456, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

Anyone needing additional information should call, 740-753-1111.

OVAC Bowling Championship



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

THE INAUGURAL OVAC Bowling Championship, presented by Belmont College, was held Saturday with upwards of 30 teams taking part in the competition at St. Clair Lanes. Barnesville's Jake Edwards prepares to roll a ball Saturday afternoon during the inaugural Belmont College OVAC Bowling Championships at St. Clair Lanes in St. Clairsville. Seventeen boys teams and 13 girls teams participated in the event, which was still going as of The Times Leader's press time. See complete coverage in Monday's edition.

• Pirates

Continued from Page C1

The ultimate punishment for Hinch, Luhnow, Red Sox skipper Alex Cora (who was a member of the Astros coaching staff in 2017) was served as all three lost their jobs.

But, in the big picture, all three have a World Series ring that they didn't earn fair and square.

Why not strip the Astros of their World Series title? During the ALCS, the Astros won all four games at Minute Maid Park against the Yankees. It's much easier to hit when the players are pounding on a garbage can to alert the hitter of what's coming next. In the Fall Classic, Houston won two games both at home and away against the Dodgers.

While the fine sounds extremely hefty to you, me and nearly every person in the country, is a \$5M fine to a big-league franchise is a hit? I don't think so.

And the club must forfeit draft picks. Okay, that's costly, but the Astros have been a playoff team in four of the last five seasons, so the picks being taken are coming from near bottom of first anyway.

Clay Holmes — a Pirates relief pitcher — was with the Indianapolis Indians in AAA ball during the 2017 season, but believes that "Major League Baseball did its job" with the punishment.

"When the hitter knows what's coming, it certainly

takes away from the game of baseball," Holmes pointed out. "I feel like MLB did what they needed to do and hopefully this is the end of it and we (as a sport) can move on from it."

There are certainly different levels of cheating. For me, what the Astros did takes the cake.

Obviously, there has been stealing of signs for as long as the game's been around, but using technology and equipment is far worse.

Taking it a step farther, using technology to steal signs is much worse than performance enhancing drugs.

Quite simply, a professional hitter, who knows what's coming, has a far greater advantage than a PED-laced professional hitter, who is unsure if a fastball or slider is about to be delivered.

Josh Bell, who is coming off an all-star season in 2019, said during the Care-A-Van stop that the Houston World Series has "an asterisk" in his mind.

"In my mind, it's worse than steroids," Bell said. "If I was going to cheat, and had a choice between steroids and knowing what pitch was coming for half the games during the season, I'd pick knowing the pitches."

By the way, don't look for Bell to be doing either anytime soon.

ally, if they're smart, don't look for any MLB team or player to be pulling this kind of stunt again. The message has been sent.

PIRATE CARE-A-VAN NOTE

SHELTON MIGHT be new to the Pirates, but he was aware of the Ohio Valley. He spent seven seasons as an assistant coach with the Tampa Bay Rays and actually lived with Buckeye South graduate and current Rays bullpen coach Stan Boroski during spring training.

"I knew when I heard we were coming to Wheeling it was near Martins Ferry, Oh. from knowing Stan so well," Shelton said. "Stan is a great guy. He's an unbelievable human being and a great coach. I am very happy about the success he's had in the game. I consider him a dear friend."

Ironically, Shelton and Boroski will get to catch up during the opening series of the season. The Pirates open in Tampa with three games, starting on March 26.

Staskey can be reached via email at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com or at twitter.com/TLSportsSeth

• Suriano

Continued from Page C1

teams.

LAST WEEK, I mentioned that Bob Brown (Packers) and Andy Rice (Chiefs) both played in Super Bowl I. Prior to that, both played for the Wheeling Ironmen. A third local product, although not an Ironman, also played in that initial Super Bowl. Weir High's Bob Jeter was a starting cornerback for Green Bay, after starring at Iowa as a running back. Jeter played for the Packers from 1963-1970, being named All-Pro twice.

THE OVAC broke new ground yesterday, staging its first conference championships in bowling. While participation in many Ohio Valley prep sports is waning, bowling is a co-ed sport trending upward.

RYANDAY continues to make one great move after another. The latest by the Ohio State head coach was bringing back Kerry Coombs to be Buckeyes' co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach. Coombs was on the Buckeyes' staff before taking an assistant's job with the Tennessee Titans.

DURING WHEELING Park's boys' basketball game Tuesday against Brooke, the Patriots wore uniforms from the 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons. The 1996-97 team finished 20-6, advancing to the state championship game, losing to 83-76 to Beckley. The 1997-98 squad finished the regular season rated No. 1 in the state, Park finished with a 21-4 mark, bowing in the state tourney semifinals. Legendary Sam Andy was the Patriots' head coach for those two powerhouse teams that featured current Patriot head coach Michael Jebbia.

PRIOR TO Tuesday's Park-Brooke game, Patriots' senior all-stater Alex Vargo was honored with a plaque for being nominated as a McDonald's All-American. Var-

go went on to score 32 points that night.

THE AUSTIN College (Texas) women's basketball team is off to a sparkling 14-2 start. Former St. John Central two-time all-stater Michelle (Bielanski) Filander is in her 10th season at the helm of the Lady Kangaroos. Filander, a 1997 SJC grad, scored 1,436 points for the Lady Irish, winning three OVAC titles before earning a scholarship to Robert Morris University.

ON SUNDAY, Feb. 9, the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association will be holding its annual football awards banquet at the Steubenville High School Commons. The banquet will begin at noon. OVAC championship teams and first-team all-conference players will be honored. Hall of Fame inductions will also be held.

IN AN *Unsung Hero* article on the 1940 Powhatan High football team, one of its featured players was inadvertently omitted. Len McVey was a two-way standout for the unbeaten and unscored on Indians before heading off to the University of Cincinnati. McVey also helped Powhatan win the state Class B baseball title.

WHEELING UNIVERSITY is holding a special recognition presentation for golfing legend and current WU golf coach Sue Vail at halftime of today's men's basketball game against West Liberty. Vail won the West Virginia Women's Championship eight times and the state Senior Amateur six times. She has been inducted into the Ohio Valley Legends of Golf and the West Virginia State Golf Hall of Fame. The men's game will tip at 4 p.m., following the conclusion of the Cardinals-Hilltoppers women's contest.

WINDOWS & DOORS
FOR 2020 INSTALLATION CALL NOW
Siding • Decks • Sun Rooms
www.repwinco.com WV 52436

EARN YOUR BSN CLOSE TO HOME
Exceptional, High-Quality Education

Rumer Loudin INC.
In business for over 40 years.
Furnaces • Air Conditioners
Heat Pumps • Geothermal
Residential • Commercial
Repair • Installation
Financing Available
Free estimates on new installations
Two locations to best serve you
St. Clairsville 740-695-2487

Lippoli during Thursday's game.

Monarchs Charge Past Bruins

Groves, Lucey lead John Marshall to victory

By **CODY TOMER**
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — Focus, focus, focus. That is what John Marshall girls' coach Brock Melko needed to see from his squad on Thursday night.

Early in a tight game with 1-16 Brooke, Melko decided to briefly pull his starters as a wake-up call.

It worked. With Brooke leading 24-23 nearing the half, the JM starters took the floor re-energized and re-focused and charged to a 72-44 victory over the Bruins.

Abby Blake and Madge Lucey each hit 3-pointers to give the Monarchs a 29-24 lead at the half. They outscored the Bruins 43-20 the rest of the way.

"They just weren't focused," Melko said. "I knew if we would lock in mentally that we would have some success. It's hard, especially with teenagers sometimes, you can tell them something but until they see the results, they aren't going to listen."

"I told them, 'I know we beat Brooke pretty handily last time but they are improving.' I don't think we really took that serious until we saw in the first half. The only thing I could think to do was sit them on the bench. I thought that might wake them up."

The Monarchs (7-8) took better care of the ball in the second half, as well, with no turnovers in the third quarter, while forcing the Bruins into eight miscues.

"No turnovers and we limited our fouls," Melko said of his team's third quarter play. "But it comes back to focus."

Please see **MONARCHS**, Page 9

OVAC To Hold First Bowling Championships

By **RICK THORP**
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — A new era for prep bowling in the Ohio Valley begins Saturday when the OVAC conducts its inaugural championships event for the sport at St. Clair Lanes.

Action begins at 10 a.m. with 17 boys teams taking to the venerable bowling center's 20 lanes. Thirteen girls teams will follow about 3 p.m.

"We're really busy," event director Ken "Campy" Campanzzi said regarding preparations leading up to the first tournament.

"We've been emailing teams and getting rosters and things like that all week. It's just busy work making sure we have all the names, etc, etc."

As with any new event, there are a handful of bugs to work out, and that will need to be worked out as things move along. But "Campy" and the staff at St. Clair Lanes are well-schooled on running tournaments. The group has been overseeing Ohio sectionals for a handful of years, along with Buckeye 8 events.

The task this time has been making sure schools new to things are well-versed on what's happening.

Please see **BOWLING**, Page 8



Photos by Scott McCloskey

The Pittsburgh Pirate Care-A-Van made visits to Wheeling and Weirton Thursday. The Miracle League of the Ohio Valley Fantasy Camp and Laughlin Memorial Chapel's youth baseball clinic were both held at the J.B. Chambers YMCA in Elm Grove in partnership with volunteers from Bordas & Bordas. Pirate pitcher Clay Holmes congratulates Zach Neidert of Bellaire on a great pitch during the fantasy camp.



Bell, new manager Shelton among those who stopped by

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The Pittsburgh Pirates are a little more than two weeks away from reporting to Pirate City in Bradenton to begin spring training.

The team bonding and building of chemistry is already ongoing, however.

Many of the Pirates players and staff have spent most of this week on the road getting to know each other and the fans during their annual Pirates Charities Care-A-Van tour around the tri-state area. It made a stop at the YMCA in Elm Grove Thursday afternoon.

"I haven't worn a jersey or even been to Pittsburgh in a few months, so it's nice to get back,

Please see **PIRATES**, Page 8

Left: Pirates Chairman Bob Nutting, left, presents a baseball to Jamie Bordas during the Miracle League Fantasy Camp Thursday as a way to remember Jamie's father, the late Jim Bordas as part of the Pirate family. The baseball was used in a Pirate game last August, which was the last time Jamie's father attended a game.

Shelton Looks to Earn Fans' Respect

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — Making his second day of CARE-A-Van stops as the new Pirates manager Derek Shelton, could not be happier with the reception he's gotten from Pirate fans so far.

"It's been very good. The reception has been great," he said Thursday afternoon during the CARE-A-Van's stop at Weirton Elementary School. "I got some really good advice early on from Jim Leyland right as I took the job just to be myself. I'm going to be myself and be honest and open."

By doing so, he hopes to build off of the early reception and gain the respect of the Pittsburgh faithful.

"I'm going to look to grow and develop that relationship (with the fans)," Shelton said. "I realize in any relationship you have to build trust, whether it's with players or with the fan base, and that is what we're going to do."

Please see **SHELTON**, Page 9

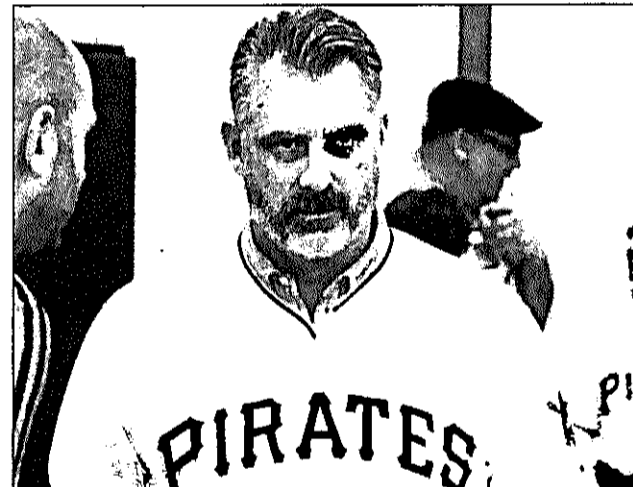


Photo by Scott McCloskey

New Pirates manager Derek Shelton takes in the Pirates Charities Care-A-Van.

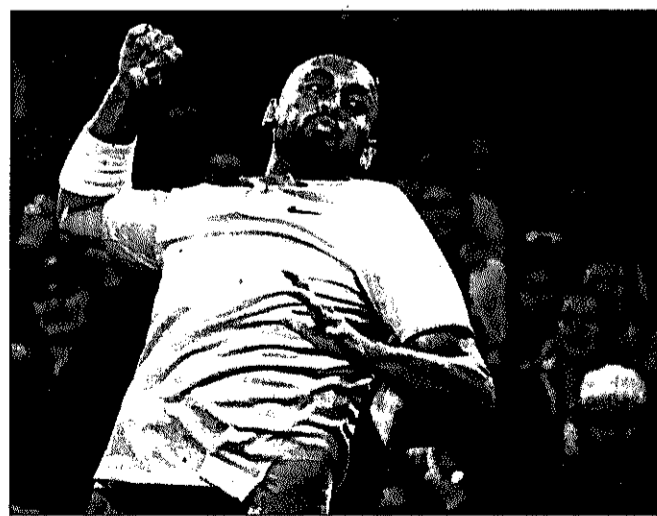
Kyrgios Barks, Mocks Way to 3rd Round

Pokes fun at Rafael Nadal

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Love him or hate him — and make no mistake, there are plenty in each camp — Nick Kyrgios never allows for a dull moment when he's on a tennis court, whether it's shot selection, showmanship, momentum swings, barking at his entourage or mocking another player not even involved in the match at hand.

All of the above happened during his ever-eventful 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory over Gilles Simon in the Australian Open's second round Thursday night. That included a moment



AP Photo

Nick Kyrgios celebrates after defeating Gilles Simon in their second round singles match at the Australian Open.

when Kyrgios — currently on six months' probation from the ATP for verbally abusing tennis officials — poked fun at the

serves, Kyrgios mimicked how Nadal fidgets before a point, as if to remind the chair umpire that there are folks who more egregiously waste time.

When a reporter asked Nadal about Kyrgios' imitation of the 19-time major champion, the Spaniard replied: "I really don't care. I'm here to play tennis."

About the only boring segment of the proceedings came during the in-stadium interview, when an allusion was made to later rounds and Kyrgios, an Australian seeded 23rd, told the Melbourne Arena crowd, "I'm not thinking ahead. ... I'm just taking it one match at a time at the moment."

Zzzzzzzz.

Please see **KYRGIOS**
Page 8

with 19 points. Abby Thompson added 13 while Allee Zwick and Amy Bettinger had 10 each.

Clay-Battelle 52, Paden City 32
PADEN CITY — McKenzie Thomas led the way with 13 points, but Paden City (3-12) failed to score in the fourth quarter and was defeated by Clay-Battelle.

Shadyside 73, Bridgeport 46
SHADYSIDE — It was raining 3s as Shadyside knocked down 17 of them in a rout of Bridgeport.

Brooke Selmon had seven of those to led the way with 21 points. Wach also scored 21 with five coming from beyond the arc. Tory Hender-shot scored 10 for the Tigers.

Stuebenville 59, Toronto 24
TORONTO — Steubenville snapped a two-game losing skid in impressive fashion, routing Toronto.

Big Red (11-5) led wire to wire, and the visitors led by as many as 36 points in the fourth. Kylie Maxwell and Elexis Martin each tallied a game-high 16 points.

The Red Knights (6-12) were led by Jensyn Jackson with seven points.

Martins Ferry 91, Edison 32
MARTINS FERRY — Richella Spielvogel scored 22 points, leading five Martins Ferry players in double figures in a rout of Edison.

Maddie Ging (15), Maria Clark (13), Jaden Stalder (10) and Allarah Jones (10) chipped in for the Purple Riders.

four 3-pointers, and finished with 32 points as Union Local pounded Barnesville.

Hannah Merritt provided 17 points for the Jets, while teammates Reagan Vinskovich and Keira Gregor added 15 and 12, respectively.

Rylee Stephens paced the Shamrocks with 14 points.

Weir 43, Madonna 24
WEIRTON — Sophia Mikula garnered 14 points to help push Weir (8-8) past rival Madonna (8-6).

WVHIT
St. Marys 48, Cameron 35
CAMERON — Lili Neely netted 13 points to lead Cameron, but the Dragons lost to St. Marys in the WVHIT.

SWIMMING
Girls
Weir 71, Brooke 71
WELLSBURG — The Brooke and Weir girls' swimming team swam to a tie.

Veronica Mann paced the Bruins with wins in the 50 (27.79) and the backstroke (1:14.24), while Claire Stewart spearheaded the Red Riders with top finishes in the 200 (2:25.12) and the 100 (1:02.34).

Boys
Brooke 97, Weir 65
WELLSBURG — Ethan Robey placed first in the 200 IM (2:19.49) and the butterfly (1:01.50) to help lift Brooke over Weir in the boys' event.



Photo by Scott McCloskey
 Josh Bell congratulates high fives Trisha Tucker of Wheeling on a great batting session during the fantasy camp.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 7)

get in the clubhouse, meet the coaches and serve the community," Pirates first baseman and 2019 National League All-Star Josh Bell said.

Along with Bell, the Wheeling stop also included new manager Derek Shelton, assistant coach Tarrick Brock, pitchers Clay Holmes and Sam Howard.

The stop included two sessions. The first was with players from the Miracle League and included volunteers from Bordas & Bordas, while the second group included a baseball clinic for youngsters from the Laughlin Memorial Chapel and included officers from the Wheeling Police Department.

For Shelton, the entire experience has been something he's welcomed. Along with learning about his players and team that he's taking over, he's also enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the areas that comprise the bulk of the Pirate fanbase.

"It's nice to get out to the outlying areas of Pittsburgh and you quickly realize the passion there is for Pirates baseball," Shelton said. "I can sense that people are ready for the season to start. They're ready for the change and ready for the new faces."

The Pirates are coming off a 69-93 season in which they finished 22 games back in the NL Central. Included in that record was a 25-48 showing after the all-star break, which seemingly led to the ousting of manager Clint Hurdle, general manager Neal Huntington and team president Frank Coonley.

Enter Shelton, General Manager Ben Cherrington and Team President Travis Williams to form the team that is expected to lead the Pirates, who are just five seasons removed from being part of the National League playoffs.

Shelton comes to Pittsburgh after spending two seasons as the Minnesota Twins' bench coach.

"I've been a part of playoff teams in small markets with Cleveland, Tampa and Minnesota," Shelton said. "When you win in a small market, it's really fun."

That's the fun and excitement that Pirate fans are hoping returns to PNC Park, starting this spring.

"There's a good core to this team," Shelton said. "All rosters are always fluid, but I really like the nucleus we have. I believe the core group of this team will be here."

Bell is clearly a member of that core, especially when you consider the season he put forth in 2019. En route to earning his first all-star game start, he hit 37 home runs, drove in 116 and had a .936, which was more than 100 points higher than any other season during his career.

"I am excited for the changes in terms of the scenery and atmosphere (in the clubhouse)," Bell said. "I am definitely ready to get (back on the field). I've worked my tail off this offseason and excited to show what I can do."

Like many of the Pirates, Bell's numbers tailed off in the second half of the season. He hit 10 home runs and drove in 32 after the break.

"I've watched a ton of video (this off-season) on what was going right for me and I've worked hard to get my body to where it needs to be," Bell said.

Another one of the core members of the Pirates is expected to be relief pitcher Clay Holmes, who made 35 appearances in 2019, which was his first working primarily out of the pen. He allowed 45 hits and 51 runs last season and had a WHIP of 1.6.

"I had some great stretches last year," Holmes said. "I learned a lot and a key for this season will be taking that success and continuing to build on it."

Holmes believes the Pirates bullpen can be a strength this season and realizes that he's going to be a big part of it, too.

"We have the makings of a good pen and a good pitching staff, overall," Holmes said. "Being dependable out of the pen, so your manager and teammates know they can count on you is huge. The key is putting good outings together."

BOWLING

(Continued from Page 7)

"We have new schools in West Virginia that we've been in touch with so they know what we're doing," Campanizzi explained.

Each team will roll three regular games, then four Baker games.

St. Clair Lanes is rolling out the red carpet, so to speak, for the tournament, which will bring in teams from up and down the region. Campanizzi said bleachers are being brought in to accommodate the expected large crowds, so there should be plenty of

seating.

Rob Holubeck will be taking care of the results, while his brother, Gary, will be handling logistics at the center that the family has run for decades.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Campanizzi is hoping for good weather and is eager to see how the event goes. He's looking forward to a great day of bowling.

"It will be an all-day affair," he said.

ENGLERT LeafGuard is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

- One-piece, seamless gutter system
- Protective Overhang/Trim
- ScratchGuard® Paint Finish
- Clog-Free Design

75% OFF LABOR†

Receive a FREE \$100 Restaurant.com Gift Card with FREE in-home estimate!**

ENGLERT LeafGuard

(304) 553-7914

Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!

†Does not include cost of material. Expires 1/31/20. **All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$100 gift certificate. Visit <https://www.leafguard.com>

KYRGIOS

(Continued from Page 7)

After Kyrgios wrapped up, the No. 1-seeded Nadal was still in the early stages of what became a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-1 win against Federico Delbonis over at Rod Laver Arena.

Those results were the most intriguing of Day 4 at the year's first Grand Slam tournament, especially given the distaste Kyrgios and Nadal have for each other in a raucous rivalry that provided one of the highlights of Wimbledon in 2019.

Never too early to begin pondering a meeting with a quarterfinal berth

at stake during Week 2 in Melbourne, with the popular Nadal facing the home-backed Kyrgios.

For that to materialize, Kyrgios first needs to beat No. 16 Karen Khachanov of Russia on Saturday, when Nadal plays No. 27 Pablo Carreno Busta in an all-Spanish matchup.

A massive overnight storm blew dirt all over town, turning the Yarra River brown and leaving traces of red dust on the blue courts Thursday. The playing surfaces required power washing, which delayed the start of action on some outside courts for more than four

hours.

Among the noteworthy winners were U.S. Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who took a medical timeout because of a nosebleed late in the second set of his 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Spanish qualifier Pedro Martinez, along with two-time French Open finalist Dominic Thiem, No. 7 Alexander Zverev, No. 10 Gael Monfils and a trio of women who have been ranked No. 1 and own Grand Slam titles: Simona Halep, Angelique Kerber and Garbine Muguruza.

Nothing captivated a crowd quite like Kyrgios did against Simon, a 35-year-old from France who is ranked 61st.

Not all for good reasons, though.

Yes, Kyrgios delighted the fans with his between-the-legs shots: his booming serves — the tune of 28 aces — including one at 136, to end the match.

He also proved made them nervous the way he seemed completely give and take the third set after being a single point serving for the winners.

VARLAS TRAILER PARK LLC

- RV & Mobile Home Parts • Mobile Home Doors
- Windows • Plumbing Supplies • Heated Water Hoses
- Propane Hoses & Regulators • Furnace Units
- Korkay Cleaning Products

304-845-3855

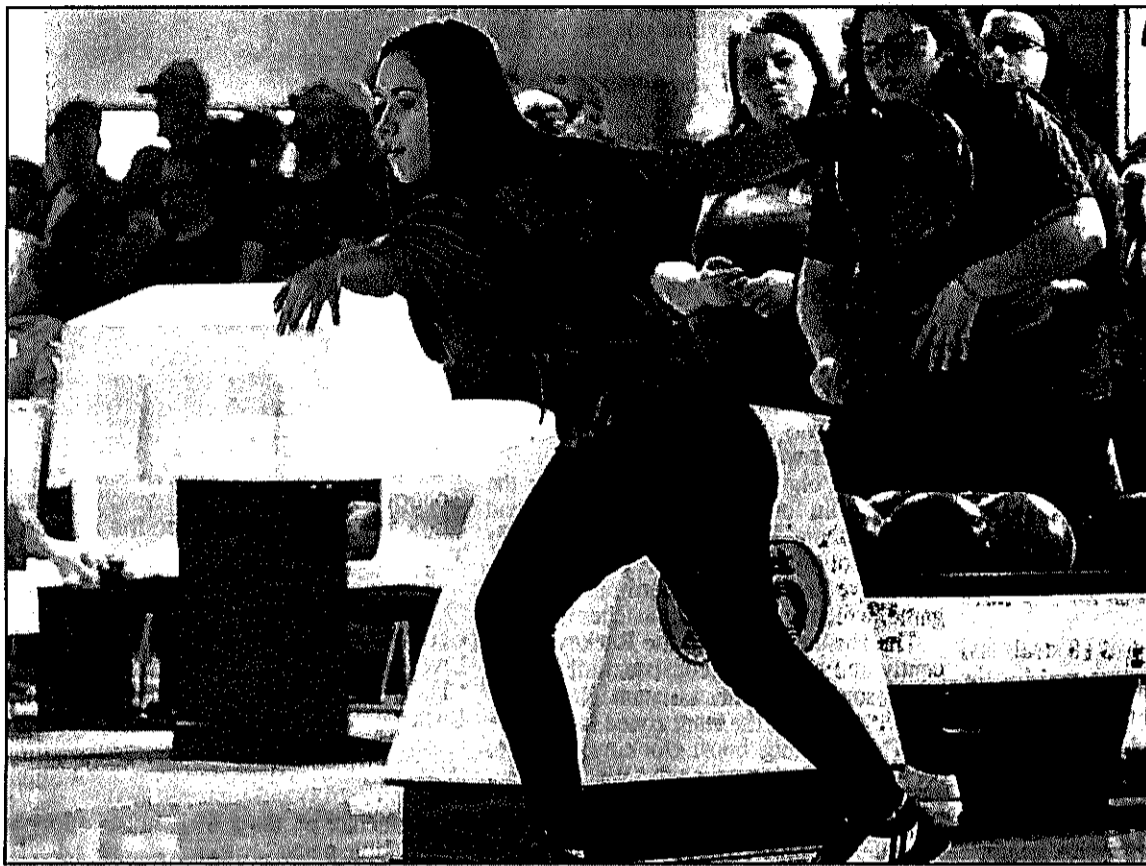
PROPANE FILLING STATION
 Quick & Hassle Free Propane fill ups
 Lowest price in the Valley!
 New 20, 30, 40, & 100# Tanks

Winter Hours: Nov. 1 - March 31

SPORTS

Monday,

January 27, 2020



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Tory Thompson prepares to release her ball during Saturday's Belmont College OVAC Bowling Championships. Thompson finished fifth overall, helping the Huskies claim the team title.

TL Photos/RICK THORP

Kobe Bryant, eight others die in chopper crash

CALABASAS, Calif. (AP) — NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others were killed Sunday when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California, his sudden death at age 41 touching off an outpouring of grief for a star whose celebrity transcended basketball.

The chopper went down in Calabasas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Authorities said nine people were aboard and presumed dead. Bryant, an all-time basketball great who spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, was among the victims, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Bryant's 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, also was killed, a different person familiar with the case said.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva would not confirm the identities of the victims Sunday pending official word from the coroner.

"God bless their souls," Villanueva said at a news conference.

The cause of the crash was unknown. News of the charismatic superstar's death rocketed around the sports and entertainment worlds, with many taking to Twitter to register their shock, disbelief and anguish.

"Words can't describe the pain I am feeling. See, KOBE, Page B2

Harrison girls win OVAC bowling

• UL's Stewart claims girls individual crown; Weir boys edge Huskies for team title

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — History was made Saturday at St. Clair Lanes as 17 boys teams and 13 girls squads competed in the inaugural Belmont College OVAC Bowling Championships.

There was hardly any room to move inside the venerable bowling house as an overflow crowd came out to cheer athletes from Ohio and West Virginia as they attempted to tame the center's 20 lanes and etch their names into local bowling lore.

There was excitement at all levels, with team and individual races left undecided until the final moments.

The closest battle came for the girls' individual crown, where Union Local sophomore Alexis Stewart emerged victorious after prevailing in a tiebreaker with Harrison Central's Kamree Best.

All was not lost for Best, as the Huskies claimed the girls' team title.

The boys' crowns were swept by Weir, which was paced by individual champion Thomas Babinchak and

runner-up Wayne Zapotoczny.

Stewart became overwhelmed with emotion after learning she'd won, something that wasn't even on her radar when she arrived for Saturday's competition.

"I didn't think I had it in me," she said smiling. "I'm not going to lie."

Stewart, in fact, did, and it was her opening game 196 that proved to be the difference. She and Best both finished the three 10-frame games with a score of 523, but the tiebreaker is best individual score. Best's was a 181, also rolled in Game 1.

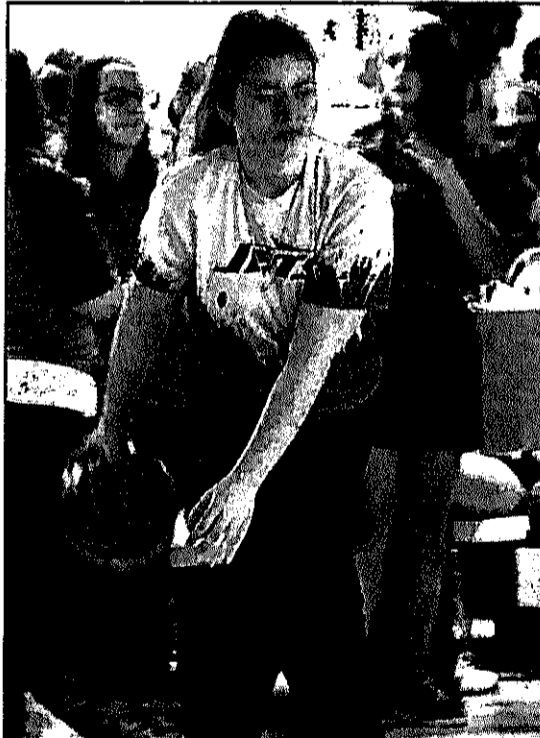
Admitting that her season has been filled with ups and downs, Stewart was speechless when trying to think of answers to why her OVAC performance worked.

"You just have to stay calm and keep your eye on the mark," she said, noting the lane's oil pattern was to her liking. "And, you just have to have fun while doing it."

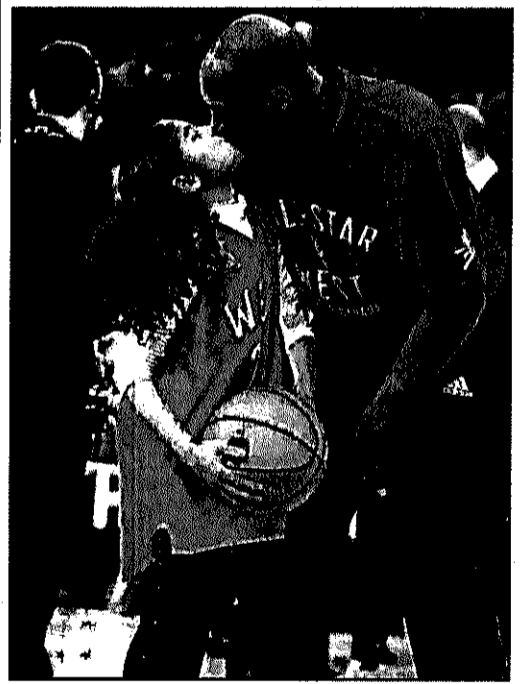
Stewart credited her teammates for helping her earn the victory.

"I just don't have the words to ex-

See, OVAC, Page B2



UNION LOCAL'S Alexis Stewart claimed the girls' OVAC championship Saturday with a 523. She rolled a 196 in the first of three regular games, allowing her to prevail over Harrison Central's Kamree Best in a tiebreaker for the top spot.



AP FILE PHOTO

LOS ANGELES Lakers Kobe Bryant (24) kisses his daughter Gianna on the court in warm-ups before first half NBA All-Star Game basketball action in Toronto. Bryant, Gianna, and several others are dead after their helicopter went down in California.

Union Local pulls away from Creek to claim Buckeye 8 title

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

CONNORVILLE — It's amazing how quickly momentum can swing.

Indian Creek was starting to feel really good about itself and was staring up at just a four-point deficit shortly before halftime of Saturday night's Buckeye 8 Girls Basketball Championship Game at Buckeye Local High School.

Union Local sophomore Hannah Merritt made sure it was the Jets who went into the locker room with the momentum by hitting a 40-foot buzzer beater to give the Jets a 30-23 lead in which they built on with an impressive third quarter and went on for a convincing 64-45 victory in the 'Meetin' of unbeatens' with the Redskins.

"That (shot) changed our whole outlook going into halftime," UL head coach Rob Barr said. "I had a big half-time speech

changed, so did Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft's words, too.

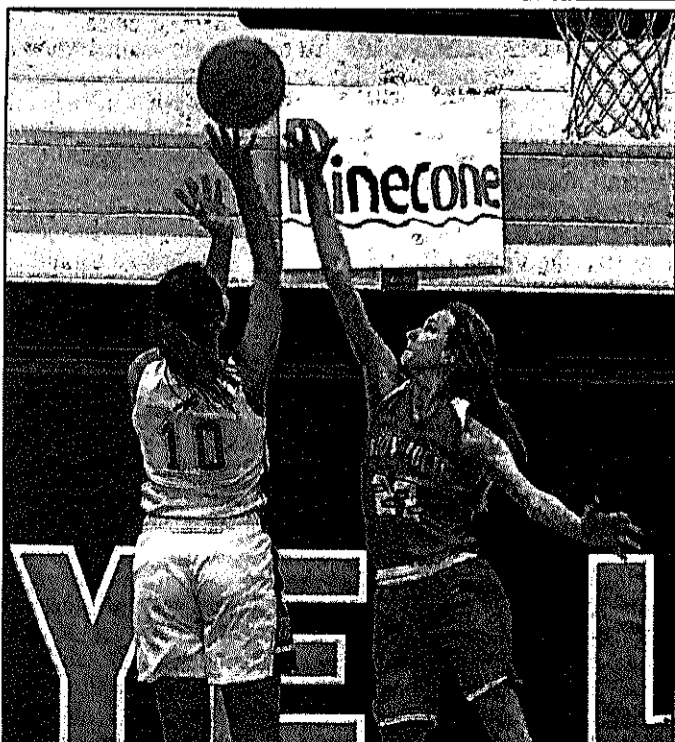
"I don't even think (Union Local) knew exactly how much time was left (when she took the shot)," Eft said. "I thought they were going to run the clock out, but then it was ... bang from 40 feet."

And as the ball went through the net and horn sounded, the Redskins fully realized they were up against it.

With freshman Reagan Vinskovich and junior guard Casey Kildow fueling the offensive charge in the third, the Jets outscored Creek, 15-7, in the third and then continued to add on in the fourth.

"When you play good team, sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce your way," Eft said. "I thought we missed a lot of easy shots early, but we settled down and battled back. It was just one of those nights. I thought we lost our composure in the third

UNION LOCAL freshman Torre Kildow goes up to block a shot of Indian Creek's Mackenzie Taylor during Saturday evening's Buckeye 8 championship game at Buckeye Local. The Jets improved to 18-0 with a 64-45 victory.



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

• UL

Continued from Page B1

ball since 2015. "This means the world," Barr said. "Because it's their first one of hopefully many. I told the girls, in the locker room, 'you're going to have a lot of chances to win championships, but you better relish (the opportunity) when you get them because you may not win them all.'"

This marks the first of several crowns the Jets hope to add to their list of accomplishments this winter. Next up will be the OVAC title, which will be determined, starting a week from Monday when they host an opponent to be determined in Class 3A tournament.

Indian Creek (16-1), meanwhile, realizes it's season is far from over. The Redskins are still well on their way to hosting an opening-round OVAC Tournament game as well.

"We still have goals ahead," Eft said. "We need to let this hurt (Saturday night), but put it behind us (Sunday) and get ready for Monday."

Though the Jets and Redskins had yet to meet in the regular season, they were certainly familiar with one another from an early November scrimmage.

"We knew how good of a team they are, what we were getting into and we came in confident," Barr said. "We had a lot of girls step up. Every girl (who played) had a great game and that's what it takes."

Before emptying his bench when the game was out of reach, Union Local played just six players. Four of his five starters had double figures and Kildow finished with nine.

Vinskovich was a tough matchup for the Redskins. She scored 21 points and collect-

ed 14 rebounds, both were game high totals. Merritt finished with 13 points, while sophomore Keira Gregor added 11 and freshman Torre Kildow found her way to 10, despite battling foul trouble.

Indian Creek was led by Makenzie Taylor's 14. Talented junior guard Kylie Kiger had 12 and junior Hailey Clark finished with nine.

Here's a look at the four other games played at Buckeye Local High School Saturday:

Third-Fourth Place**Martins Ferry 69, Beaver Local 37**

Just five days after falling at Beaver Local, Martins Ferry shot out to an 18-8 lead after one and never looked back en route to victory.

The Purple Riders received a huge game from senior post Richella Spielvogel, who scored 23. Classmate Madison Ging finished with 16 and sophomore Allarah Jones added 15 off the bench.

Beaver Local was led by West Liberty signee Jenna Riccardo and sophomore Elizabeth Kolkowski. Each had 12.

Fifth-Sixth Place**Bellaire 68, East Liverpool 43**

Katrina Davis was up to her same old tricks as she recorded her second triple double of the week and came up steal shy of setting an OHSAA record as the Big Reds rolled past East Liverpool.

Davis scored 31 points, had 18 steals and 10 rebounds. Her steal total is tied for the second most in Ohio history.

Backing Davis' production was Mia Garkavich, who poured in 17.

Emma Ludwig led the Potters with 22.

• Monroe

Continued from Page B1

Burkhart, who knocked down four treys, led the Seminoles with 17. Talin Babcock added 11 and Austin Hogue had nine. Cramer and Dillon Lincoln each garnered seven rebounds as the visitors led 37-35 off the glass. They also had 17

turnovers.

"We had some open shots. We just didn't make them," Battista pointed out. "They are shots that you have to make over someone and when you get bumped. That's part of the game. That's how it goes."

Bellaire senior Trenton Wilson led all scorers in the contest with 19 points. He also pulled down a game-best nine rebounds. A.J. McCarthy had 10 points for the Big Reds (3-14). David Zwack finished with nine. Bellaire had 11 turnovers.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

plain it," she said. Doug Stephens, the Jets' head coach, did. "I'm not surprised," he said. "Alexis is a great bowler. She just needs to realize she has all the ability in the world and have more confidence in herself. I hope (Saturday) helps her do that."

Stephens said Stewart has matured beyond her years on the lanes, as of late.

"She picked up her spares, that's always a key," he noted. "Anytime you can do that, you're in good shape."

Best was one of three top 5 finishers for the Huskies, who finished with a score of 2,991, 160 pins better than runner-up Barnesville. Union Local was third with 2,761, followed by East Liverpool (2,651), Buckeye Local (2,600), Beaver Local (2,575), Conotton Valley (2,555), St. Clairsville (2,512), Monroe Central (2,453), Bridgeport (2,113), Wheeling Central (2,017), Linsly (2,013) and Martins Ferry (1,988).

Aleya Runevitch was fourth for Harrison Central with 507, while teammate Tory Thompson was fifth with 484. St. C.'s Sabrina Frazier was third (520).

"This is big for our school, big for the girls and big for the county," Huskies head coach Bobbie Parkinson said. "The girls bowled solid."

"We've been working hard on our spare game, which will win you matches."

The Huskies also won the Buckeye 8 recently and have been consistent all season. Parkinson credited her assistant, Katie Norris, with keeping the team zoned in.

"This is a big boost (looking ahead to sectional)," Parkinson said. "We have four regular-season matches left and we're going to work hard on those."

Weir, too, hopes to end the season strong. It's the first campaign for the Red Riders, one that's been full of triumphs, culminating with the OVAC victory.

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys," said an elated Weir co-coach David Thompson. "I'm proud of all the support our principal (Kristin Bissett) and our AD (Donna Ferguson) have given us. It's been an amazing journey thus far."

"The kids have been working hard on their own and in youth leagues and stuff like that and they came in knowing what they wanted to do and they did it."

The Red Riders finished with a score of 3,793, holding off the Huskies, who ended with 3,631 with a late run in the four baker games. Parkersburg South was third

• Kobe

Continued from Page B1

I loved Kobe — he was like a little brother to me," retired NBA great Michael Jordan said. "We used to talk often, and I will miss those conversations very much. He was a fierce competitor, one of the greats of the game and a creative force."

NBA players were in tears during pre-game warm-ups as crowds chanted "Kobe! Kobe!" Tiger Woods was unaware of the news during his final round at Torrey Pines in San Diego when he started hearing the gallery yell "Do it for Mamba," referring to Bryant by his nickname.

The medical examiner's office said specialists were working at the scene to recover the bodies, and investigators were trying to confirm identities. Federal transportation safety investigators were en route.

Bryant's helicopter left Santa Ana shortly after 9 a.m. and circled for a time just east of Interstate 5, near Glendale. Air traffic controllers noted poor visibility around Burbank, just to the north, and Van Nuys, to the northwest.

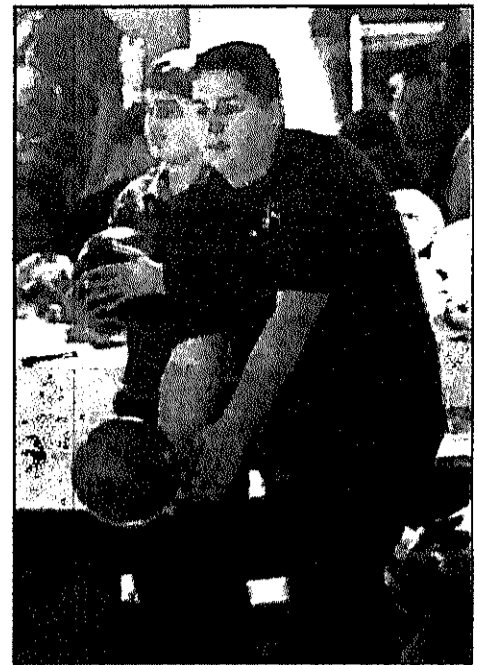
After holding up the helicopter for other aircraft, they cleared the Sikorsky S-76 to proceed north along Interstate 5 through Burbank before turning west to follow U.S. Route 101, the Ventura Highway.

Shortly after 9:40 a.m., the helicopter turned again, toward the southeast, and climbed to more than 2,000 feet above sea level. It then descended and crashed into the hillside at about 1,400 feet, according to data from Flightradar24.

When it struck the ground, the helicopter was flying at about 160 knots (184 mph) and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute, the Flightradar24 data showed.

At the time of the crash, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had grounded its own helicopters because of the poor weather conditions. The impact scattered debris over an area about the size of a football field, Villanueva said.

Among other things, investigators will



TL Photo/RICK THORP

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Hunter Stark fires a ball during Saturday's Belmont College OVAC Bowling Championships. Stark finished 11th, helping the Huskies to a runner-up team finish.

(3,621), followed by UL (3,531), Monroe Central (3,353), Barnesville (3,215), East Liverpool (3,212), Bridgeport (3,153), St. Clairsville (2,945), Beaver Local (2,938), Buckeye Local (2,795), Martins Ferry (2,662), Conotton Valley (2,595), Beallsville (2,294), River (2,272), Wheeling Central (2,263) and Linsly (2,001).

Babinchak posted a 681, bolstered by a 235 middle game.

"It feels great to bring this back to Weir High," said Babinchak, a junior who has one sanctioned 300 game to his credit. "We've all been bowling in the youth league together at Holiday Lanes, so we already have experience. We just hopped on together as a team and kept trucking along."

Zapotoczny, a senior, who's rolled a trio of perfect games, finished with a 664. Union Local's Jordan Duke was third (633).

"These guys came out of the womb with a bowling ball, it seems," Weir co-coach Charlie Whiteman offered. "Now that the school has gotten involved in this and the community can see the kids shine, it's allowed everyone to see a hidden talent in our valley."

Bryant retired in 2016 as the third-leading scorer in NBA history, finishing two decades with the Lakers as a prolific shot-maker with a sublime all-around game and a relentless competitive ethic. He held that spot in the league scoring ranks until Saturday night, when the Lakers' James passed him for third place during a game in Philadelphia, Bryant's hometown.

"Continuing to move the game forward (at)KingJames," Bryant wrote in his last tweet. "Much respect my brother."

Bryant had one of the greatest careers in recent NBA history and became one of the game's most popular players as the face of the 16-time NBA champion Lakers franchise. He was the league MVP in 2008 and a two-time NBA scoring champion, and he earned 12 selections to the NBA's All-Defensive teams.

He teamed with O'Neal in a combustible partnership to lead the Lakers to consecutive NBA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

His Lakers tenure was marred by scandal, when in 2003, Bryant was accused of raping a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort. He said the two had consensual sex, and prosecutors later dropped the felony sexual assault charge at the request of the accuser. The woman later filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court.

Bryant went on to win two more titles in 2009 and 2010, and retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final NBA game.

After leaving the game, Bryant had more time to play coach to daughter Gianna, who had a budding basketball career of her own and, her father said, wanted to one day play in the WNBA. They were seen sitting court-side at a Brooklyn Nets game late last year, Bryant clearly passing along his wisdom to his daughter. He regularly showcased her talents on the court on social media.

Bryant's death was felt particularly painfully in Los Angeles, where he was unquestionably the most popular athlete and one

be local NETWORK

because
Carvana
probably

will not

support

your school's