

College Football/B6

SPORTS

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Shadyside repeats as 2A OVAC champions

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

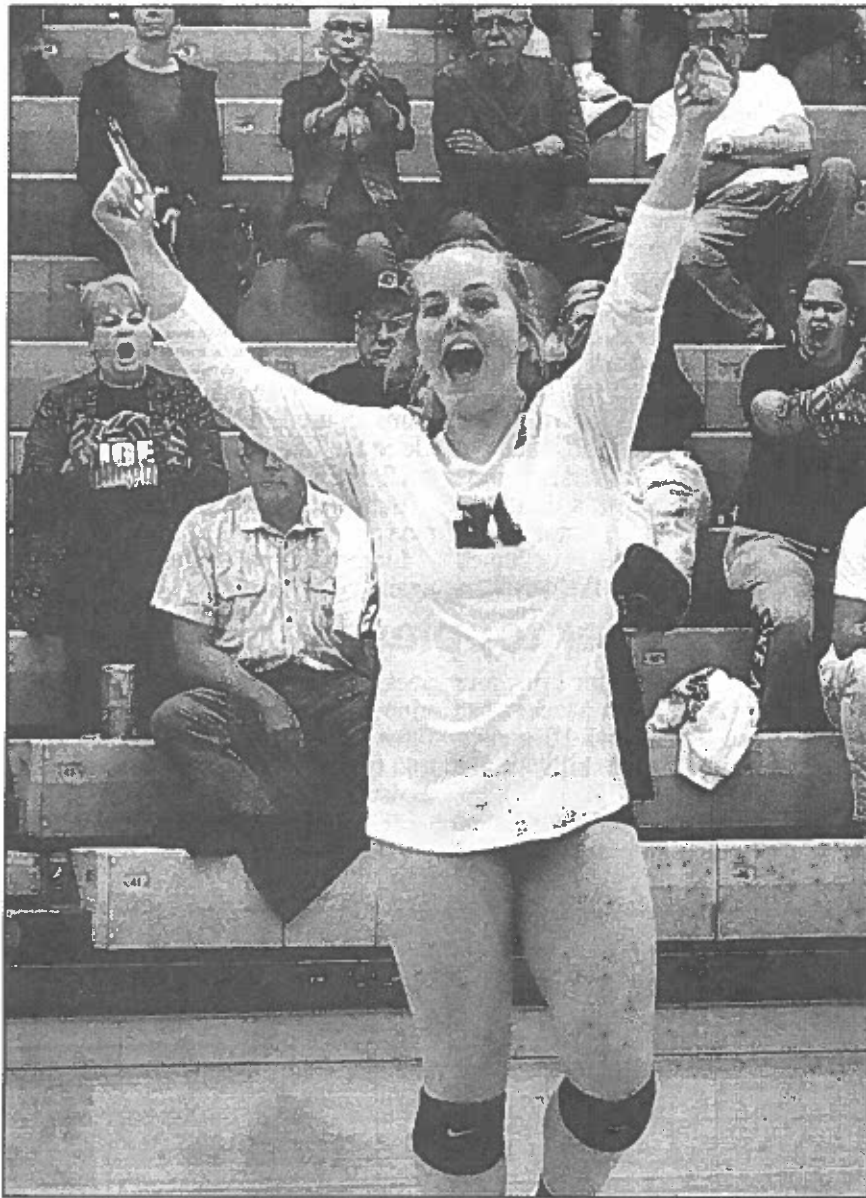
MORRISTOWN -- Many around the volleyball circles thought Shadyside may take a step back after it won its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title in the sport last season and graduated several key pieces.

The Tigers, however, didn't have those same thoughts.

Shadyside used a late surge before the OVAC cutoff to earn the top seed in the Class 2A Tournament and then Saturday night officially made it a repeat by fending off a strong and young Caldwell squad in an epic, five-set match by scores of 20-25, 25-14, 25-23, 20-25 and 15-11 at Union Local High School.

"I don't have the words right now to describe it," Tigers head coach Eric Mercer said. "It's just amazing. These girls came together when they had to. We have four, first-time varsity starters and throughout the course of the season, they came together, became a team and really lifted each other up when we were down."

That ability to lift each other up was needed early in the match against the Redskins. Caldwell, which took out Monroe Central in five sets in Tuesday's semifinal, came out ready to go and actually...



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
SHADYSIDE SENIOR Caroline Mercer celebrates a kill during the Tigers' OVAC Class 2A championship match against Caldwell at Union Local. The Tigers won an epic, five-set match over the Redskins to repeat as conference champions.

Murray throws 4 TD passes, Cards batter Browns, 37-14

CLEVELAND (AP) — As loud music blasted inside Arizona's locker room, players danced and could be heard shouting "undefeated" while coach Kliff Kingsbury smiled at the wild scene via a FaceTime call from home.

The Cardinals survived — undaunted and perfect.

Kyler Murray threw four touchdown passes as the Cardinals remained the NFL's only unbeaten team and continued their best start since 1974 — without Kingsbury on Sunday — with a 37-14 win over the battered, reeling Cleveland Browns.

The Cardinals (6-0) built a 20-0 lead in the first half and kept their perfect record intact despite not having Kingsbury or star linebacker Chandler Jones, who both tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

"It was a rough week," said Cardinals defensive coordinator Vance Joseph, who took on some of Kingsbury's duties. "No one wavered. No one blinked. Every day it was bad news."

Murray connected with DeAndre Hopkins for two TDs, and Arizona's shifty quarterback came up with a clutch play whenever the Cardinals needed one.

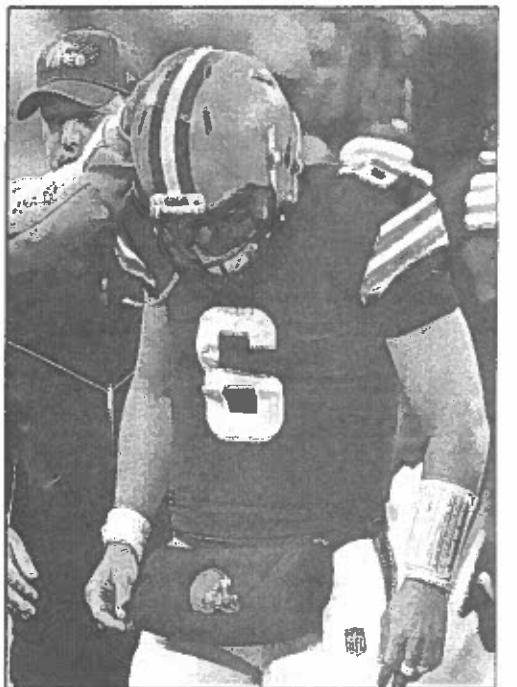
Following the game, owner Michael Bidwell reached Kingsbury, who was able to talk to several players and coaches.

"I couldn't really hear him because it was pretty loud," said Murray, who joked that Kingsbury's absence allowed him to freelance a little more. "It might be a product of not having a coach out there. I have a little more leeway without him."

Murray said he and his teammates weren't unfazed by the succession of COVID-19 cases.

"I think we were even more excited because the odds seemed stacked against us," Murray said. "It was on us to give them our best."

The Browns (3-3) have lost two straight under coach Kevin Stefanski for the first time and Cleveland has bigger concerns, most notably a growing list of major injuries.



AP PHOTO
CLEVELAND BROWNS quarterback Baker Mayfield walks off the field after the Browns were defeated by the Cardinals, 37-14, on Sunday in Cleveland.

Ferry individuals sweep OVCCCL titles

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

CONNORVILLE — The annual Ohio Valley Cross Country League's championship Saturday turned into a day of sweeps.

Martins Ferry's duo of Josie Hancock (girls) and Francis Toohey (boys) slogged their way to individual crowns on the soggy course on the campus of Buckeye Local, while Linsly claimed both team titles.

GIRLS

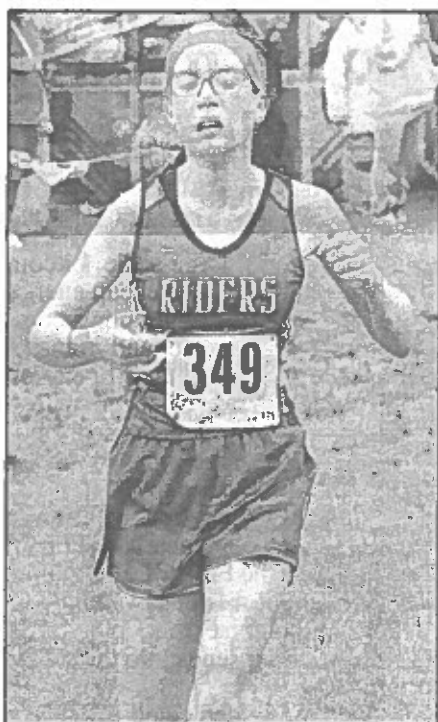
Hancock toured the course in 19 minutes, 40.34 seconds, finishing a full second ahead of Haley Heitz of Linsly.

"I was pleased with my time. Very much," the Purple Riders junior said. "The course wasn't that bad. There were a couple of muddy spots at the top of the hill, but other than that it wasn't that bad."

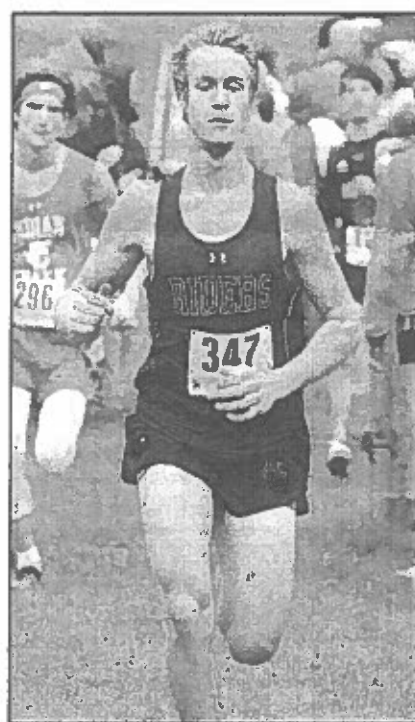
She ran the same course two seconds faster in 2020, but ended up second.

"It was a snowy day," she recalled. "My time was a very good one for me."

Linsly used its balance to easily out-distance runnerup Barnesville. The Cadets finished with 39 points as all five of its runners were in the top 13. Leading the way was the senior tandem of Heitz and Ally Hicks. Heitz checked in at 20:40.64 for sec-



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH
MARTINS FERRY junior Josie Hancock runs toward a victory in Saturday's OVCCCL Championship at Buckeye Local.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH
MARTINS FERRY senior Francis Toohey runs toward a victory in Saturday's OVCCCL Championship at Buckeye Local.

ond overall, while Hicks was right on her heels in 20:51.78.

"We have two seniors that have really been our leaders this year," Linsly girls coach Chrissy D'Aquila said of Heitz and Hicks. "We've also

had three freshmen that have really stepped up and they were our next three (finishers). Those three freshmen have finished in a different order every time, but they have certainly

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Steelers win in OT



Cincinnati up to AP No. 2; Purdue snaps poll drought

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The Braves won with a walk-off hit for the second night in a row when Eddie Rosario lined a two-out single off shortstop Corey Seager's glove, giving Atlanta a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday night and a 2-0 NL Championship Series lead.

Atlanta twice rallied from two-run deficits before Rosario came up with his fourth hit of the game, a 105 mph scorcher up the middle on the first pitch after closer Kenley Jansen reliever. Seager tried for a

backhand snag, and the ball went under his glove into the outfield.

Dansby Swanson raced around from second with the winning run, dropping his helmet as he crossed the plate, a virtual repeat of Game 1 when Austin Riley came through with a winning hit in the ninth for a 3-2 victory.

The series resumes on Los Angeles, where Game 3 is set for Tuesday night.

The Braves need two more victories for their first World Series appearance since 1999, but they

can't celebrate just yet.

A year ago, they held leads of 2-0 and 3-1 over the Dodgers in the NLCS, only to lose the last three games.

Los Angeles went on to beat Tampa Bay in the World Series, while the Braves stewed for another shot.

They are halfway there after rallying in the eighth off Julio Urías, who pitched three hitless innings to finish Game 7 against the Braves last October.

Larson wins at Texas for 1st spot in NASCAR's championship

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kyle Larson was willing to play it smart in the closing laps at Texas. He also had a fast car that stayed in front through all of the restarts to secure the first of the four championship-contending spots in NASCAR's season finale.

Larson led 256 of 334 laps at the 1 1/2-mile track and got his eighth win this season. He led the final 218 laps, staying in front through seven restarts in the final stage that included three late after incidents involving playoff contenders Joey Logano, Denny Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr.

"Even if I didn't come out with the lead or the win or whatever, I wanted to play it smart and take what I could get," Larson said. "But I got good shoves from behind every restart, and it allowed me to get clear into the lead into (Turn) 1 and do some blocking for a few laps. ... We had a great race car to allow me to be aggressive with the

blocks, and fast too."

Already with a significant points lead, after closing out the second elimination round a week earlier with a win on the road course at Charlotte, the opening race in the round of eight provided the first chance to get into the championship four Nov. 7 in Phoenix

There were two laps remaining on the final restart, and with a push from playoff contender Brad Keselowski, Larson was able to stay out in front of teammate William Byron.

"Kyle really deserves it, they've been awesome all year, flawless on pit road and they do everything right," Byron said.

The seven remaining playoff contenders leave Texas with two more chances to advance for a title shot, with Kansas and Martinsville left before the finale. Texas had always been the eighth of the final 10 races, and the middle race of the third and final elimination round,

before this season.

Ryan Blaney, Hamlin and Kyle Busch are above the cutline going to Kansas, where Busch won earlier this year.

Defending Cup champion Chase Elliott is fifth, ahead of Keselowski, Truex and Logano.

Larson's first appearance in NASCAR's championship four comes in the same season that Rick Hendrick gave him an opportunity to get back into the Cup Series.

He also won at Texas in the \$1 million, non-points All-Star race in June.

The 29-year-old Larson, who made his Cup debut in 2013, also won in his previous All-Star race, in 2019 with Chip Ganassi Racing. But he missed the big-money exhibition last year and the rest of that season while suspended for using a racial slur during a livestream while in a virtual race when NASCAR was on pause during the pandemic.

• Shadyside

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usually owned a 21-9 lead in the first before the Tigers rallied to make the first set respectable.

Because of what Mercer alluded to, his team didn't blink.

"We had momentum going our way and played really well in the second set, well in the third, but you have to finish," Mercer said. "Caldwell's a good team and you can not give them a window."

After the Tigers appeared to gain full control in the second and third-set victories, the Redskins took that window that the Tigers opened and crawled through it to get the match to the fifth set.

"When the match goes to the fifth, you have to believe that the girls can fight back and do what they have to to win the match," Mercer said. "As a coach, you have to trust their heart and effort. The girls' energy was phenomenal and we made plays when we had to (in the fifth)."

While the newcomers were key cogs, many of those key plays came from the veteran trio of senior Paige Gorby, senior Caroline Mercer and junior Gentry Brown.

It seemed each time Shadyside needed a point to stop a Caldwell spurt Brown or Gorby received an ideal set from Mercer to deliver a bruising spike.

Brown may actually need to ice her arm after she delivered 28 kills, while taking numerous big swings. She also had 20 digs, four aces, two blocks and 12 points.

Gorby, meanwhile, posted nine kills, 23 digs and four blocks. Mercer handed out 42 assists and had 12 digs.

"Those three have been amazing," Mercer said. "I can't ask for any more leadership or hustle out of that group."

Sophomore Macy Hendershot was an important contributor with 10 kills, six blocks and three digs. Bayleigh Harman posted four kills, three digs and 12 points. Janelle Greenwood was charted for 10 points, two blocks and four digs.

With the OVAC trophy back in

their possession, the Lady Tigers will take aim at defending the Division IV Eastern District Championship they won last season.

Shadyside's second season opens on Monday at home against St. John Central Academy. Should it prevail, the Tigers would then face the winner of the opening match inside the Tiger Den, which pits Monroe Central against Conotton Valley.

"We'll see what happens," Mercer said. "Caldwell is in our half of the bracket, so assuming higher seeds prevail, we would see them again. I would love to get back to the district final again. Our goals are high, and I think we've shown that we can play with anybody."

Here's a look at the other four championship games:

Class 1A

Wellsville def. Conotton Valley, 25-12, 25-8, 25-19

The Tigers remained undefeated by sweeping the Rockets.

The title is the 10th in school history, but first since 2003.

Wellsville was led on the stat sheet by talented freshman Pressley Stokes, who had 22 kills, four blocks, three aces and seven points. Alana Amato had 10 kills, two digs and eight points. Aubri Ramsey had 10 digs, 13 points and two aces. Emily McNichol had 14 assists and four kills.

The Rockets were led Masy Baker, who had eight kills. Chloe Stuber posted 17 assists and five digs. Daphne Stuber posted six digs. Kelsey Edie had nine digs.

Class 3A

Fort Frye def. Shenandoah, 25-17, 25-27, 25-22, 25-11

The Cadets successfully defended their conference title and posted their championship of the young school year by fending off the Zeps in four sets.

Fort Frye was led on the stat sheet by Makenna Long, who had 28 kills, 12 digs and nine points. Julia Zalmanek had 13 kills and Madyson Long posted 12 kills and nine digs.

Lilli Schilling had 20 digs and Bella Schilling had 44 assists.

Leading Shenandoah was sophomore Mya Leach, who had seven kills and 19 digs. Charli Wickham had five kills. Grace Wikander and Makenna Clift each had 11 digs. Ryleigh Sherman had seven assists. Heather Merry had six assists and five blocks.

Class 4A

Beaver Local def. East Liverpool, 25-13, 25-19, 25-15

By virtue of sweeping the county-rival Potters, the Beavers made it back-to-back conference titles.

The Beavers were led on the stat sheet by Grace Hill, who had 12 kills and five blocks. Elizabeth Kolkowski had 12 kills.

Brooke Talbot put forth a brilliant all-around performance with five kills, 18 assists, nine digs, three aces and seven points. Bailey Bowersock had five kills and 11 digs. Emma Joseph had 19 assists and five digs. Briar Wolski added five kills and eight digs.

The Potters, meanwhile, were led by Jetta Fitch, who had five kills. Naudia Williams and Dalani Ice each had four kills. Gabby George and Faith Grafton each had nine assists.

Class 5A

Morgantown def. University, 25-22, 25-18, 25-17

The Mohigans made quick work of the city-rival Hawks to repeat as the big-school champions.

The title is the fourth all time for Morgantown.

On the stat sheet, Morgantown was led by Kaitlyn Anderson's 10 kills. Emily Goldcamp had nine kills and four digs. Audrey Buck had seven kills, 18 assists and eight digs. Paige Brock had 13 assists, four digs and six kills.

The Hawks were led by Norah Chase's seven kills, three digs and eight points. Sierra Lanham had five kills and six blocks, while Sidney Reed had five kills and five digs. Anna Voris had 22 digs and Elana Haddad added nine digs.

come out strong, and I did," the Purple Riders senior mentioned. "I knew I could get ahead of everyone else and if I could hold it (the lead), that would be good."

Toohy said the conditions were perfect for running.

"It was great weather. It wasn't really cold. You did get a nice breeze on the back stretch," he explained. "The course was a little muddy in the turns, but you're going to have that after a few races on it. Other than that, it was great."

On the strength of all five runners in the top 17, the Cadets claimed their first OVCCL championship in school history with 47 points.

"That's cool. It's unexpected I think," Linsly head coach Nate Cumberworth said. "After last week at the OVACs, I knew the guys had it in them. They showed a lot of determination the last few weeks. This was the seniors' last meet and they really wanted to go out with something. We had an emotional practice yesterday (Friday). There were a lot of tears, but they were good tears because they knew they had a really good season this year."

"I'm proud of them," he added. "They are an amazing group. I brag about them all the time."

Freshman Micah Kramer led the way with an eighth-place finish in 18:20.90. Classmate Jon-Michael Falbo was 11th in 18:23.12, while senior Jeb Bertram (14th), sophomore Andrew Heath (16th) and Darrian Bertram (17th).

Barnesville ran without pre-race favorite Tyler Jenkins who was held out as a precaution with a back injury, saw freshman Conner Starr finish third overall in 17:34.55. St. Clairsville's Sawyer Bonnette was fourth in 17:54. Steubenville Catholic freshman Andrew Rohde rounded out the top 5.

Bridgeport senior John Tully was sixth, Union Local senior Derick Garrison (7th), Martins Ferry senior Trent Lewis (8th), Buckeye Local junior Cai McKeever (10th).

• Poll

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to 47.

In each of the last three weeks, a top-three team has lost to an unranked team, starting with Stanford over then-No. 3 Oregon on Oct. 2.

Texas A&M knocked off then-No. 1 Alabama last week before Iowa was upset at home.

IN

All those losses by ranked teams shook up the back half of the rankings and put five new teams in the poll this week, including one that has never been there before.

— No. 19 Auburn (5-2) is back in the rankings after a road victory against Arkansas.

— No. 20 Baylor (6-1) returned to the Top 25 with a convincing victory against BYU.

— No. 23 Pittsburgh (6-1) is ranked for the first time this season. Quarterback Kenny Pickett and the Panthers thumped Virginia Tech on Saturday. Pitt has been briefly ranked in four of the last six seasons but never higher than 21st.

— With Purdue (4-2) entering the rankings, Kansas takes over the top spot on the list of longest current runs without being ranked among Power Five schools. The Jayhawks were last ranked in October 2009. Up next are Illinois, Rutgers, Oregon State and Vanderbilt.

— No. 24 Texas-San Antonio (7-0) is unbeaten and ranked for the first time in the history of the program. The Roadrunners have only been playing at the highest level of Division I football since 2012. They are the first Conference USA team to make the Top 25 this season.

OUT

Florida fell out of the rankings for the first time this season after the Gators were beaten by LSU on Saturday.

That leaves the state of Florida with no ranked teams, a rare occurrence in recent poll history. The last time it happened was 2011, when six times the Sunshine State did not have a single ranked team.

— Arkansas' three-game losing streak has dropped the Razorbacks from the rankings after a five-week run.

— Arizona State is out again after losing to Utah.

— BYU lost for the second straight week and is unranked for the first time since last month.

— Texas is back ... to be being unranked after the Longhorns blew a double-digit, second-half lead for the second consecutive week.

CONFERENCE CALL

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 25).

SEC — 6 (Nos. 1, 4, 12, 15, 17, 19).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 16, 18, 23).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 3, 8, 20).

American — 2 (Nos. 2, 21).

Pac-12 — 1 (No. 10).

Conference USA — 1 (No. 24).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 22).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 14).

Independent — 1 (No. 13).

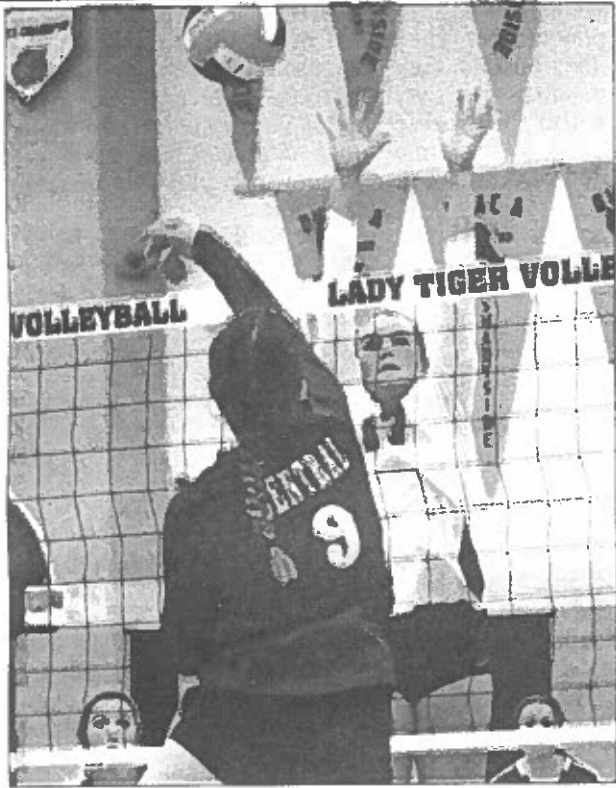


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Delaney O'Connell works around an attempted block by Shadyside's Gentry Brown during Tuesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal match at Shadyside.

Central Swept By Shadyside

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Just last Thursday, Shadyside swept Wheeling Central in relatively easy fashion en route to locking up the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

Ironically, the Tigers and Maroon Knights met in the first round of that event Tuesday evening back inside the Tiger Den.

Wheeling Central wasted no time in showing that it had come to Belmont County with an upset in mind. The Maroon Knights found themselves with a pair of set points in the first game.

However, the Tigers showed the resolve of a team that's looking to defending their OVAC championship. They ral-

lied to win the first set, 27-25 and then went on to finish the sweep by scores of 25-15 and 25-16.

"When you've beaten someone already twice during the season, it's easy to think that it's just going to happen again," Shadyside head coach Eric Mercer said. "I told the girls in pre-game that you can't take anything for granted. You have to come to play and you have to play to win and during that first set, (Wheeling Central) played to win.

"Luckily, we were able to make the plays we needed to to get that set headed in our direction and get the momentum on our side."

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Resilient Hawks Bounce Monarchs

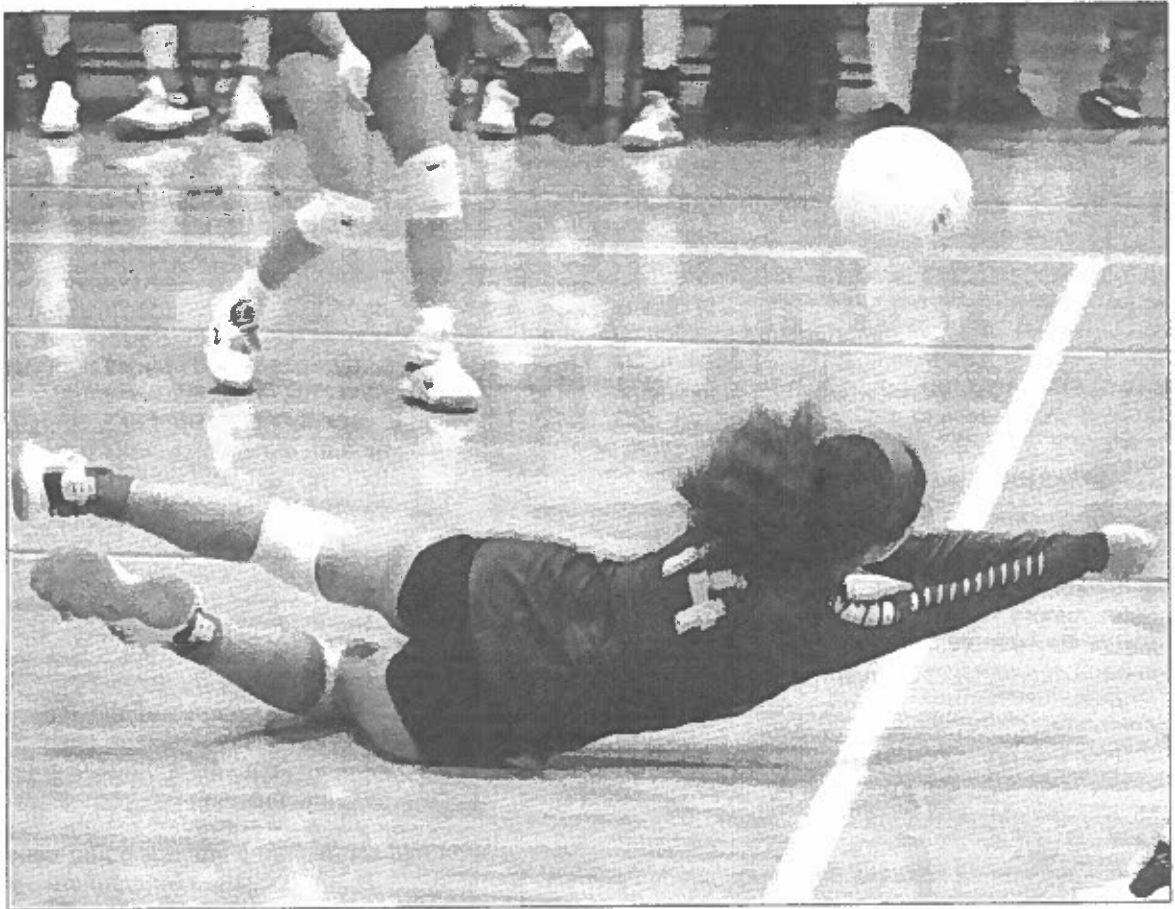


Photo by Cody Nespor

John Marshall's Isabella Linton makes a diving attempt during Tuesday's OVAC Semifinal match against University.

University rallies from seven and eight point deficits

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — No John Marshall lead was safe from University Tuesday night as a resilient Hawks volleyball team fought back from deficits as big as seven and eight points to bounce the Monarchs from the OVAC semifinals, winning three sets to one (25-16, 23-25, 25-22, 27-25).

"We were down every time," said University coach Don Godfrey. "The thing about volleyball is it's about momentum, it swings so much."

Playing in the John Marshall field house, the first set was the least dramatic of the night. Af-

ter a back-and-forth start, the Hawks (13-5) used a 5-1 run midway through to build an 18-12 lead and then coasted to a 25-16 victory.

The Monarchs (10-5) came out firing in set two and exploded to an early 11-4 lead. The Hawks fought back, however, and scored five straight points on the serve of Laney Haddad to make the score 11-9. JM responded with a timeout and quickly rebuilt their lead on the serve of Landyn Helms, going back up 14-9.

No matter what the Monarchs did, however, University would not go away. The Hawks eventually tied the score at 19-19 and

fought the Monarchs all the way to the end, just barely dropping the set 25-23.

"That was big," said JM coach Cathleen Harr. "We've struggled with allowing other teams to get a lead on us and then fighting to come back. It was good to get the lead in the beginning."

JM senior Isabella Linton was all over the floor in the second set, throwing her body around to keep the ball alive on several occasions.

"It's her style," Harr said. "She's done it probably as long as she's played volleyball but at least as long as she's played in

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Shenandoah KO's Linsly in Semis

By JEFF HARRISON
For The Intelligencer

SHENANDOAH — Linsly came out with a burst of energy to start its OVAC Class 3A semifinal match against host Shenandoah, but the third-seeded Cadets couldn't keep it going and the second-seeded Zeps rallied for a four-set win - 24-26, 25-13, 25-11 and 25-17 on Tuesday.

The victory puts Shenandoah into an OVAC final for the fourth time in five years, and the Zeps will try to knock off top-seeded, defending 3A champion Fort Frye in the championship match Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Union Local High School.

Fort Frye - which defeated Shenandoah twice during the regular season - punched its ticket to the finals with a 25-12, 25-7, 25-13 sweep of

fourth-seeded Barnesville.

Shenandoah led 11-6 midway through the first set, but Linsly found a spark and reeled off 10 of the next 11 points to go up, 16-13. The action saw-sawed the rest of the way until the Cadets scored the final two points, ending with an ace for a 26-24 victory.

Linsly's fire was evident to Shenandoah coach Megan Grywalski after the opening set.

"Their serves were really tough to handle early," said the Zeps' coach, "and we were drowning in their energy. They brought the most excitement to the court at the beginning and we were really flat and didn't match it until we got things rolling in the second set."

Get rolling they did, breaking out from a 7-5 advantage with an 11-4 spurt to take control at 18-9 en route to

winning by a dozen, 25-13, to even the match at 1-1.

Linsly was down seven, 17-11, in the third set but Shenandoah took control of the match with eight straight points to win, 25-11, and go up 2-1.

The Zeps led throughout the fourth set, with the closest the Cadets could get was 21-17, but SHS scored the final four tallies to seal the deal.

Despite the loss, Linsly coach Ashlee Jividen was proud of her team's effort against the state-ranked Zeps.

"We had a couple of ball-control errors that added up in the last three sets, but the girls battled to the end," said Jividen. "I told them I haven't seen a Linsly volleyball team battle that hard and that's what we want."

Please see LINSLY, Page 12

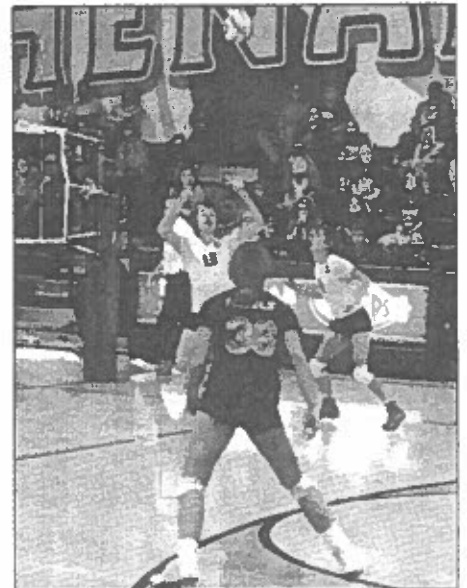


Photo by Jeff Harrison

Linsly's Ava Gainer, 13, sets the ball as teammate Celia Demarchi, 36, looks on during Tuesday's OVAC Semifinal.

Brown Has Optimism In



Pens Down Defending



MONARCHS

(Continued from Page 11)

high school. She goes all out." Linton finished the match with five digs and three kills.

Set three was the most even set of the night. The biggest lead either team built was just four points, when John Marshall led 19-15 partway through.

The teams were tied eight separate times throughout the set and as late as 20-20.

University took a 23-20 lead and fought hard to hold on and win 25-22.

"Our problem's been all year that we get down and stay down," Godfrey said. "They

got down a little bit, but they picked themselves up."

University hitter Sydney Reed picked up five of her 11 kills in the third set.

In the fourth set, John Marshall again got out to a big lead, going up 10-6 in the early going. They continued to add on and eventually led 16-8 at one point.

Like they did all match, however, University found a way to battle back. The Hawks went on an 11-3 run to tie the set at 19-19.

They were powered by serves from Haddad and Norah

Chase, who finished the match with 15 and 11 service points, respectively.

From there, it was a complete slugfest to the end. University went up 24-21 only for JM to come back and tie the game at 24.

They went back and forth until University finally strung two points together to win 27-25 and take the match.

With the win, University advances to the OVAC Class 5A finals Saturday at Union Local. They will play the winner of Dover and Morgantown, who play later tonight.

"We made some (lineup) changes last night and some of them were pouting," Godfrey explained. "But they picked themselves up and they came out to play tonight. They played hard, they hustled, they made some mistakes, but they hung in there and fought. We were down 10-4 at one time but they battled back and I'm proud of them."

Sierra Lanham led the Hawks with 15 kills, followed by Reed and Mulhall both with 11.

Lauren Brandt finished with 38 assists.

John Marshall will have about a week off and return to action on Oct. 21, hosting a tri-match with Brooke and Morgantown.

"I'm a little disappointed because not everyone played their best game tonight," Harr said. "When you're playing a tough opponent, you need every player to play one of their best games."

Lilie Babiczuk led the Monarchs with eight kills, Hannah Gaiser had five kills and four aces, Sybil Willis had 15 digs and Helms had 17 digs and two aces.

LINSLEY

(Continued from Page 11)

"Things keep getting better each year," she added. "and we want to keep that momentum going next year."

Sophomore Mya Leach finished as the leader in kills with 15 followed by junior Charli Wickham with 11; freshman Klara Anderson with eight; sophomore Brylee May with six and sophomore Kinsley Brown with five. Senior Ryleigh Sherman collected 13 assists and sophomore Heather

Merry had 11 while Leach led in aces with three.

Junior Grace Wikander led the defense with 12 kills followed by sophomore MaKenna Clift with nine; Leach with eight and sophomore Kadence Noll with seven.

"I think Klara played very mature at the net for a freshman and we've been waiting for Charli to kick into gear and she did that tonight," said Shenandoah's Grywalski.

Sophomore Avery Sadlowski led Linsley (14-6) at the net with a dozen kills while senior Mili Sekulovic, junior Rumer Beazel and sophomore Ava Gainer each had three, with Gainer also handing out 18 assists. Freshman Katerina Spanos and Gainer both had four aces.

Sekulovic and junior Celia Demarchi led in digs with five and four, respectively, and Gainer was charted with three blocks.

PENS

(Continued from Page 11)

Boyle, who signed a \$750,000, one-year contract before the game after coming to training camp on a tryout offer, scored from the low slot at 4:11. The 12-year veteran last played with Florida in 2019-20.

Simon made it 3-0 when his long-range shot eluded Vasilevskiy with 8:28 left in the third. It was his first goal since Feb. 2, 2020.

Lightning coach Jon Cooper pulled Vasilevskiy with 6 minutes left and it paid off when Cirelli scored at 14:23. However, with Vasilevskiy off the ice again, Blueger picked up an empty-netter 30 seconds later.

Killorn got another Lightning goal with the extra attacker but Rodrigues and Rust got the Penguins' second and third empty-net goals.

Pittsburgh outshot the Lightning 14-7 in the first period. Simon had his in-close chance stopped during a 2-on-1 by Vasilevskiy, and Rodrigues lost control of the puck on a breakaway.

TWO IN A ROW GATHERING
Chicago senior ad-

visor Scotty Bowman was at the game. Bowman (Detroit 1997-98), Lightning coach Jon Cooper and Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan (2016-17) are the last three NHL coaches to win back to back Stanley Cups. Bowman (Montreal 1976-79) and Al Arbour (1980-83) are the last two to win three straight championships when both had streaks of four consecutive titles.

RECORD-TYING WIN
Sullivan tied Dan Bylsma for the most regular-season wins by a Pittsburgh coach with 252.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Penguins: Crosby (wrist) is practicing, as are LW Jake Guentzel (Covid-19) and LW Zach Aston-Reese (Covid-19). ... Malkin (knee) was placed on long-term IL. ... D Mike Matheson (lower body) was scratched.

Lightning: D Cal Foote (finger) and C Gmel Smith (lower body) didn't play.

UP NEXT
Penguins: Wrap up a two-game trip at Florida on Thursday night.
Lightning: At Detroit

on Thursday night.
Alex Ovechkin questionable for Capitals opener vs. Rangers

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) - Alex Ovechkin is questionable to play in the Washington Capitals season opener against the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Ovechkin took part in an optional practice Tuesday after skating several laps around the ice to test out his unspecified lower-body injury. The 36-year-old Russian star is listed as day to day.

Asked about Ovechkin's availability against the Rangers, coach Peter Laviolette said, "Anything's possible" but was awaiting further evaluation.

"Certainly a positive sign that he's out there," Laviolette said while Ovechkin was skating. "We'll do what's best for the player and make sure that they're healthy and we won't put them in any situations where they might be jeopardized out there. But obviously it's great to see him out there."

Ovechkin was not made available to reporters. Washington's captain is beginning a five-year contract 164 behind Wayne Gretzky's career goals record. The Capitals put long-time Ovechkin running mate Nicklas Backstrom on long-term injured re-

serve on the eve of their opener, meaning they will be without their top center for at least the first 10 games of the season. Backstrom has been rehabbing a lingering left hip injury and skated Wednesday for the first time since training camp began in September.

"Part of a progression for him," Laviolette said. "He's working hard back here with the therapist to continue to improve on a daily basis."

Rangers-Capitals has been highly anticipated after some incidents between the teams late last season. Washington's Tom Wilson injured Artemi Panarin and was fined for roughing Pavel Buchnevich in a post-whistle scum, and their next game included six fights.

New York bulked up in the offseason after replacing coach David Quinn with Gerard Gallant, acquiring gritty forward Barclay Goodrow and enforcer Ryan Reaves, trading Buchnevich for tough winger Sammy Blais and signing big defensemen Patrik Nemeth and Jarrod Tinordi.

"I think if you look at the teams in the past that have won, you have the hard-nosed players that produce offense, but they're tough to play against," Rangers defenseman Jacob Trouba said.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

Getting to the finish line in sets has been an issue all season for the Knights, according to head coach Delaney Denniston, who watched her squad drop to 15-6.

"That first set was huge, but not being able to finish has kind of been our theme this year," Denniston said. "That carried on to the second and third sets, which was huge."

"They took our mistakes and capitalized on them."

That momentum that Mercer referenced never went back to the Maroon Knights.

And a big reason for that was the hitting of Gentry Brown and senior Paige Gorby, who delivered big swing after big swing. Most of which ended up on the floor for a kill.

The Tigers dynamic net duo combined for 22 kills with Brown pounding 14 of those to the floor.

Shadyside's hitters were the beneficiaries of some solid passing, much of which came from senior Caroline Mercer, who posted 26 assists. She also had four digs.

Brown's entire stat line included eight digs and three aces. Gorby added five digs.

All told, Shadyside had 16 aces in the match with Bayleigh Harman, Janelle Greenwood and Macy Hendershot all producing four.

"We cleaned some things up after the first set and played well in the second two sets," Mercer said.

Wheeling Central was led on the stat sheet by Nicole Reasbeck, who had nine kills, three blocks and two aces.

Ashlyn Knight had four kills and three blocks. Sydney Doyle had four blocks.

Alexis Hood handed out 16 assists and posted six aces.

Gabby Leadbitter had four digs.

"We have a talented group of girls and we just need to put it all together," Denniston said. "I'm happy with how the season has gone, but there are still things we can continue to improve on."

The victory sends Shadyside to Saturday's championship match, which is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. at Union Local High School against Caldwell, which rallied from two sets down to stun Monroe Central in the other 2A semifinal.

"A couple of weeks ago, we weren't playing real well and were sitting in the third spot (in the OVAC standings), but we finished with six straight wins and have been playing much, much better," Shadyside head coach Eric Mercer said.

"This wasn't our best effort, but it was good enough and we're back in the championship, which is what we wanted."

BROWN

(Continued from Page 11)

But, the team's defense ranks No. 4 in the conference and, outside of WVU's performance against Baylor, the Mountaineers have been within a possession in every loss.

"We've got a lot of football left. We've got half a season," Brown said. "Everything's doom and gloom right now, (but) I don't think you approach it like that ... I think right now is the time to lead. It's easy to lead when things are going well, it's hard to lead when things are going poorly."

"Our performance on Saturday was poor," he added. "Right now is when we need leadership, not only from myself, but from our assistant coaches and from

the media on Tuesday. Brown mentioned the struggles of the offensive line as one of the issues plaguing the team this season. Outside of the play of center Zach Frazier and left guard James Gmitter, Brown said the team's play upfront is in need of more seasoning and an area of emphasis moving forward.

"That's the hardest position to get right. It takes time," Brown said. "You don't want to hear that, nobody wants to hear that, but the truth is, it takes time. We have not performed well enough on the right side. ... The guys that are out there, those are the best we've got and we've got to get them better."

Moving forward, West Virginia has six more

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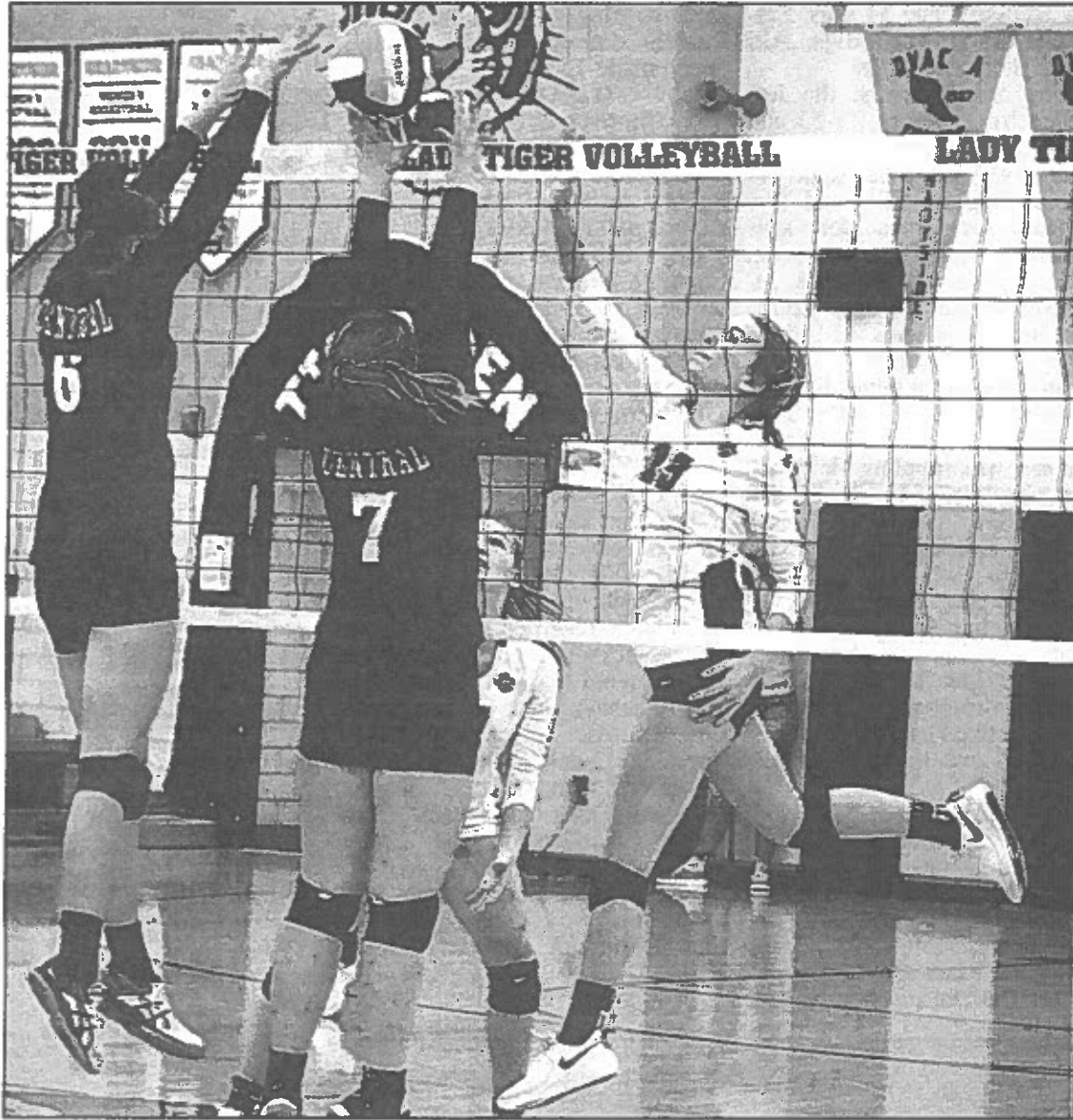
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SPORTS

B

Counsel/B3
Comics/B4
Classified/B5-6

Wednesday,
October 13, 2021



SHADYSIDE'S JANELLE Greenwood places a shot over the attempted block of Wheeling Central's Sydney Doyle (6) and Alexis Hood (7) during Tuesday's OVAC class 2A semifinal at Shadyside. The Tigers swept the Maroon Knights and will meet Caldwell in the championship game on Saturday at Union Local.

TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

St. C. HOF to add three members

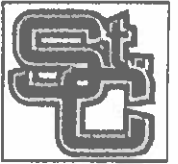
By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – After a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Clairsville High School Athletic Hall of Fame is back.

The hall will formally induct three new members Thursday evening when the Red Devils take on Wheeling Central in football.

This marks the 16th class to be inducted and raises the total membership of the group of 57 members.

Here's a capsule look at the honorees:



JAYLON BROWN,
Class of 2014

Whether it was on the football field or the track, speed was the name of the game for this Red Devil standout.

Brown earned four letters in both football and track before accepting a scholarship offer to continue his football career at Youngstown State University.

Before joining the Penguins, however, Brown etched his name into not only St. Clairsville lore, but Ohio Valley and Ohio history.

In football, Brown made his biggest impact as the primary tailback. During his junior season, which saw the Red Devils advance to the Division IV state championship game, Brown rushed 213 times for 1,848 yards. He also caught 16 passes for 323 yards. All told, he scored 38 touchdowns.

He followed that up with a senior campaign in which he rushed 171 times for 1,328 yards. He caught six passes for 115 yards and scored 22 touchdowns.

All told, Brown finished his prep career with 484 carries for 4,167 yards. He caught 43 passes for 791 yards and finished with astounding 78 career touchdowns.

Brown was a First-Team All-Ohio running back as a senior and was named Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year. He played in the North-South Football Classic, too.

On the track, Brown was a six-time All-Ohioan. Half of those medals came during his senior season.

He finished second in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes during 2014. He was also part of the fourth-place 4x100

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

Shadyside cruises to 2A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE – Just five days ago, Shadyside swept Wheeling Central in relatively easy fashion en route to locking up the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

Ironically, the Tigers and Maroon Knights met in the first round of that event Tuesday evening back inside the Tiger Den.

Wheeling Central wasted no time in showing that it had come to Belmont County with an upset in mind. The Maroon Knights found themselves with a pair of set points in the first game.

However, the Tigers showed the resolve of a team that's looking to defending their OVAC championship. They rallied to win the first set, 27-25 and then went on to finish the sweep by scores of 25-15 and 25-16.

"When you've beaten someone al-

ready twice during the season, it's easy to think that it's just going to happen again," Shadyside head coach Eric Mercer said. "I told the girls in pre-game that you can't take anything for granted. You have to come to play and you have to play to win and during that first set, (Wheeling Central) played to win. Luckily, we were able to make the plays we needed to to get that set headed in our direction and get the momentum on our side."

Getting to the finish line in sets has been an issue all season for the Knights, according to head coach Delaney Denniston, who watched her squad drop to 15-6.

"That first set was huge, but not being able to finish has kind of been our theme this year," Denniston said. "That carried on to the second and third sets, which was huge. They took our mistakes and capitalized on them."

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See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



AP PHOTO PITTSBURGH PENGUINS center Brian Boyle (11) ...

Jarry has 26 saves, Penguins beat Lightning 6-2 in opener

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) – Tristan Jarry had 26 saves, Danton Heinen and Brian Boyle scored early second-period goals, and the short-handed Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning 6-2 in the regular-season opener on Tuesday night.

Dominik Simon, Teddy Blueger, Bryan Rust and Evan Rodrigues also scored, and Kris Letang had two assists for the Penguins, who played without injured stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. The final three Pittsburgh goals were into an empty net.

Tampa Bay got goals from Anthony Cirelli and Andrew Killorn,

man was in attendance as Tampa Bay unveiled its 2020-21 Stanley Cup banner during a pregame ceremony.

The Lightning have won two consecutive titles following pandemic-impacted and abbreviated regular seasons.

Jarry turned aside Brayden Point's low slot shot during the game's first power play midway through the second.

Heinen and Boyle put the Penguins up 2-0 with goals in the first 4:11 of the second.

Jeff Carter stole Vasilevskiy's clearing attempt behind the net and set up Heinen's goal 12 seconds in. Boyle, who signed

scored from the low slot at 4:11. The 12-year veteran last played with Florida in 2019-20.

Simon made it 3-0 when his long-range shot eluded Vasilevskiy with 8:28 left in the third. It was his first goal since Feb. 2, 2020.

Lightning coach Jon Cooper pulled Vasilevskiy with 6 minutes left and it paid off when Cirelli scored at 14:23. However, with Vasilevskiy off the ice again, Blueger picked up an empty-netter 30 seconds later.

Killorn got another Lightning goal with the extra attacker but Rodrigues and Rust got the Penguins' second and third empty-net

