

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Monday,
February 13, 2023

Chiefs are champs again

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes shook off an ankle injury, turned back into a magician and pulled out another comeback on the biggest stage to help the Kansas City Chiefs win their second Super Bowl in four years.

Mahomes threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter and scrambled 26 yards on the go-ahead drive before Harrison Butker kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left to give the Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

"He's the MVP," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said about Mahomes. "That's all that needs to be said. MVP. And you saw it tonight."

Mahomes and Jalen Hurts excelled in the first Super Bowl matchup featuring two Black starting QBs. But Mahomes, the two-time AP NFL MVP, turned it up in the second half after re-aggravating a sprained right ankle. He earned his second Super Bowl MVP award, too.

Reid, who couldn't win the big game in Philadelphia, beat his former team to earn his second ring with Mahomes and the Chiefs.

"It took everybody to win the games. We're Super Bowl champs, baby," Mahomes shouted on stage as red and yellow confetti littered the field.

With the score tied at 35-35, the Eagles tried to let the Chiefs score a touchdown

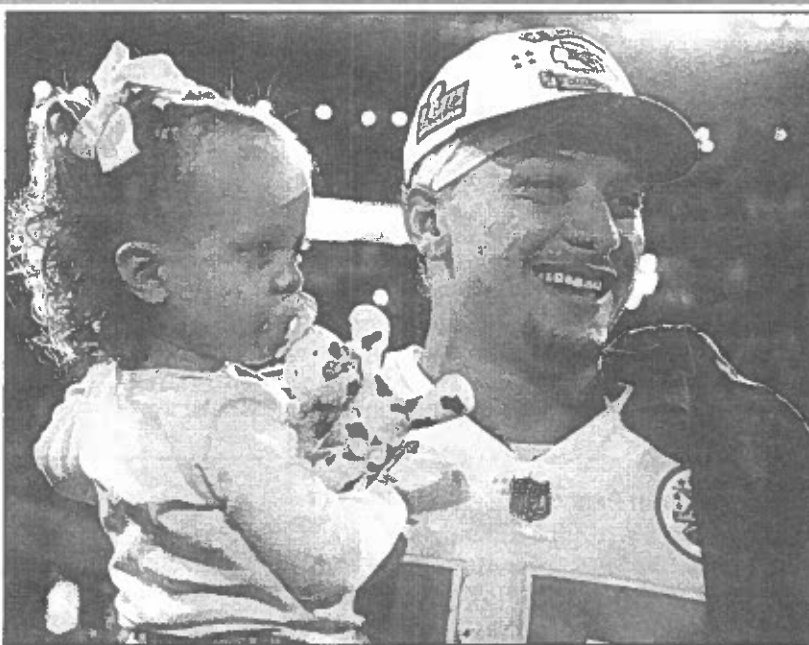
with under two minutes left so they could get the ball back. But Jerick McKinnon slid at the 2, forcing the Eagles to use their last timeout.

After Mahomes took a knee two times, Butker nailed his kick, sending thousands of red-clad Chiefs fans into a frenzy.

The Chiefs won their second Super Bowl following the 2019 season, 50 years after the first one. It took just three years to get another Lombardi.

Chiefs fans were outnumbered in the stadium, but they did their part to silence the boisterous Philly fans with the tomahawk chop chant.

Down 24-14 with a limping Mahomes, the Chiefs



AP PHOTO
KANSAS CITY Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes holds his daughter, Sterling Skye Mahomes, after the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35.

See, CHIEFS, Page B2

River wins 2A OVAC title, 48-33

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

CADIZ — The River Pilots are the class of 2A basketball in the OVAC.

Led by 18 points from Brody Lollathin, the Pilots completed the championship sweep as the boys' team defeated Monroe Central, 48-33, Saturday morning at Cadiz.

A week ago, the girls' team defeated Wheeling Central for the girls' team championship.

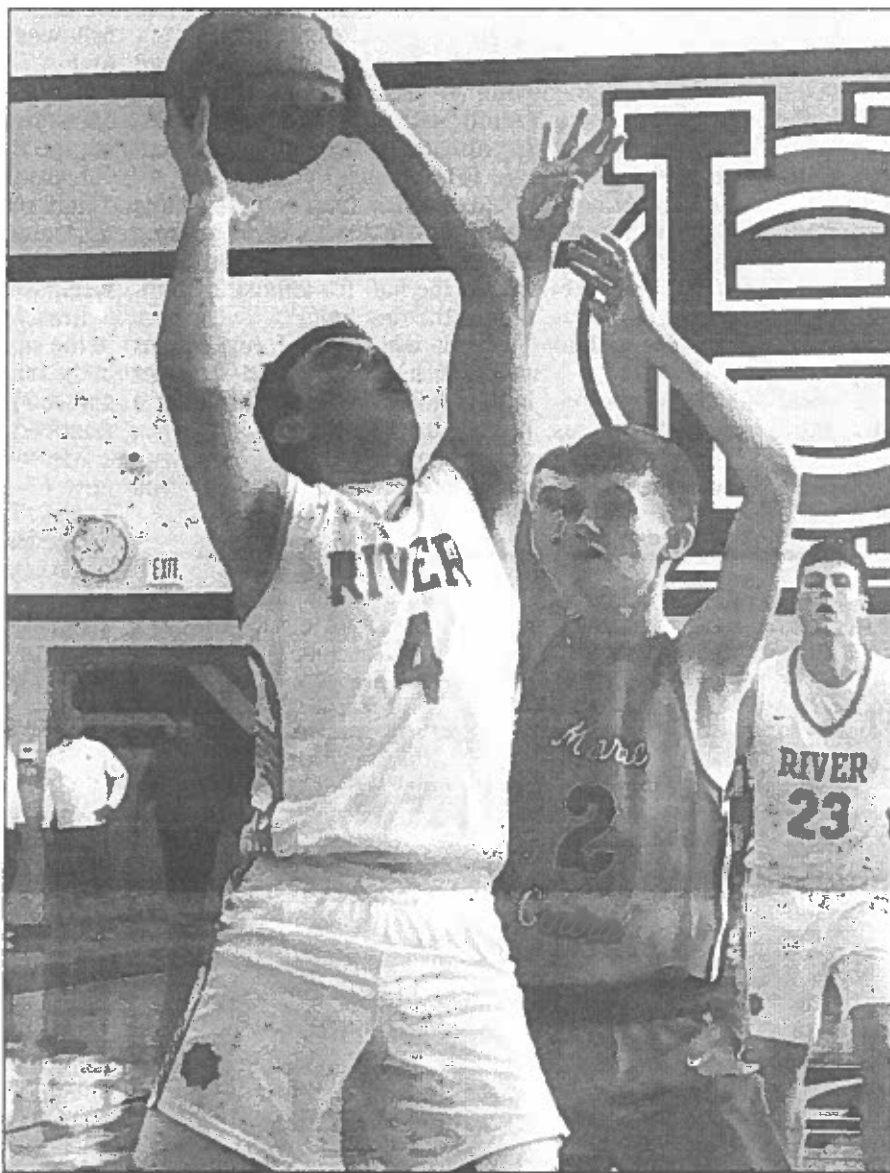
For the boys to win, they needed to knock off No. 2 seed Monroe Central for the third time this season.

The two teams last met on January 31, with the Pilots securing a 61-41 victory at Hannibal. Prior to that, the Seminoles fell at home, 50-28 on Jan. 10.

This time out, the Pilots weren't as hot from the field in the previous two meetings. Fortunately for head coach Mark Romicks' club, however, their rebounding and effectiveness on defense saw no such drop.

"I think they had eight offensive rebounds, resulting in 14 points in the first half, and they only had 18 points total," Monroe Central coach Jon Perkins said. "River is a physical team and they crushed the glass well. We talked about when you play a team like River, you have to value

See, RIVER, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
RIVER SENIOR Brody Lollathin goes up for a shot as Monroe Central's Lane Demchak during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A title game. Lollathin scored 18 points in the game to lead the Pilots to the conference title

Ohio State drops sixth straight

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Joey Hauser scored 23 points to help Michigan State beat Ohio State 62-41 on Sunday, handing the Buckeyes their sixth straight defeat.

Hauser sank 8 of 13 shots from the floor, including 6 of 9 from beyond the arc, and grabbed eight rebounds for the Spartans (16-9, 8-6 Big Ten Conference).

Tyson Walker added 10 points and Jaden Akins finished with eight points and nine boards.

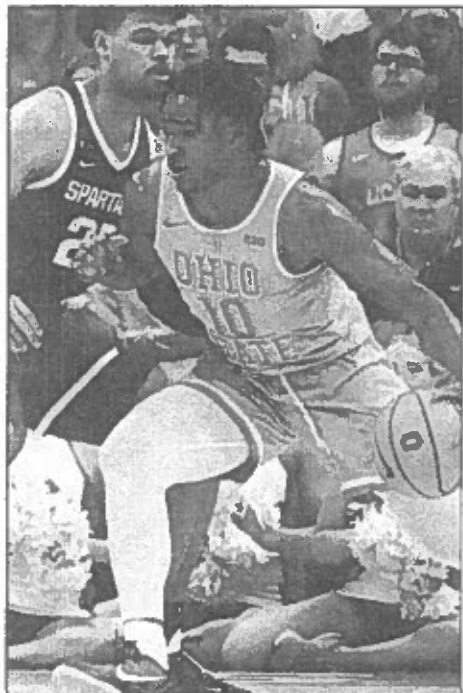
Sean McNeil led the Buckeyes (11-14, 3-11) with 10 points off the bench. Bruce Thornton had nine points and five rebounds.

Hauser scored nine points on 3-of-4 shooting from 3-point range. Michigan State held Ohio State to 19% shooting in the first half and the Spartans led 27-14.

The Buckeyes made just 5 of 26 shots, including 3 of 15 from beyond the arc, and 1 of 2 free throws.

The Spartans shot 40% — 3 of 11 from distance — and didn't attempt a foul shot. Michigan State scored eight points off of eight Ohio State turnovers, while the Buckeyes forced five turnovers and failed to score off any of them.

A.J. Hoggard hit a jumper to open the second half, pushing the Spartans' advantage to 15.



Linsly takes down Ferry for 3A title

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

CADIZ - Coming into Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 3A championship game, Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards stressed to his team that it must avoid allowing too many momentum plays.

Those momentum plays are exactly what Linsly thrives on and Edwards' fear became reality, especially during the latter stretch of the second quarter when the Cadets blew the game open and went on to post a 70-54 victory over the top-seeded Purple Riders inside Harrison Central High School.

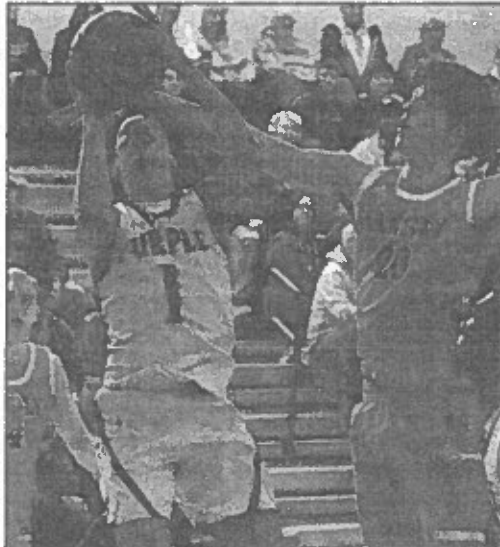
During the stretch, the Purple Riders committed turnovers on

going to be its final shot of the half and Martins Ferry rebounded, but an ill-advised pass was picked off by junior Will Taylor, who promptly buried a deep trey at the buzzer, making it a 41-25 game at the half.

"The shot at the half, no doubt, gave us a little bit more momentum," Linsly head coach Dave Wojcik said. "We wanted to wear them down. I thought our kids did a really good job, especially off the bench, in getting to (Ferry's) legs."

As he walked off the court at halftime, all Edwards could do was shake his head with how the end of the second quarter transpired.

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with 8 seconds left to give the Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

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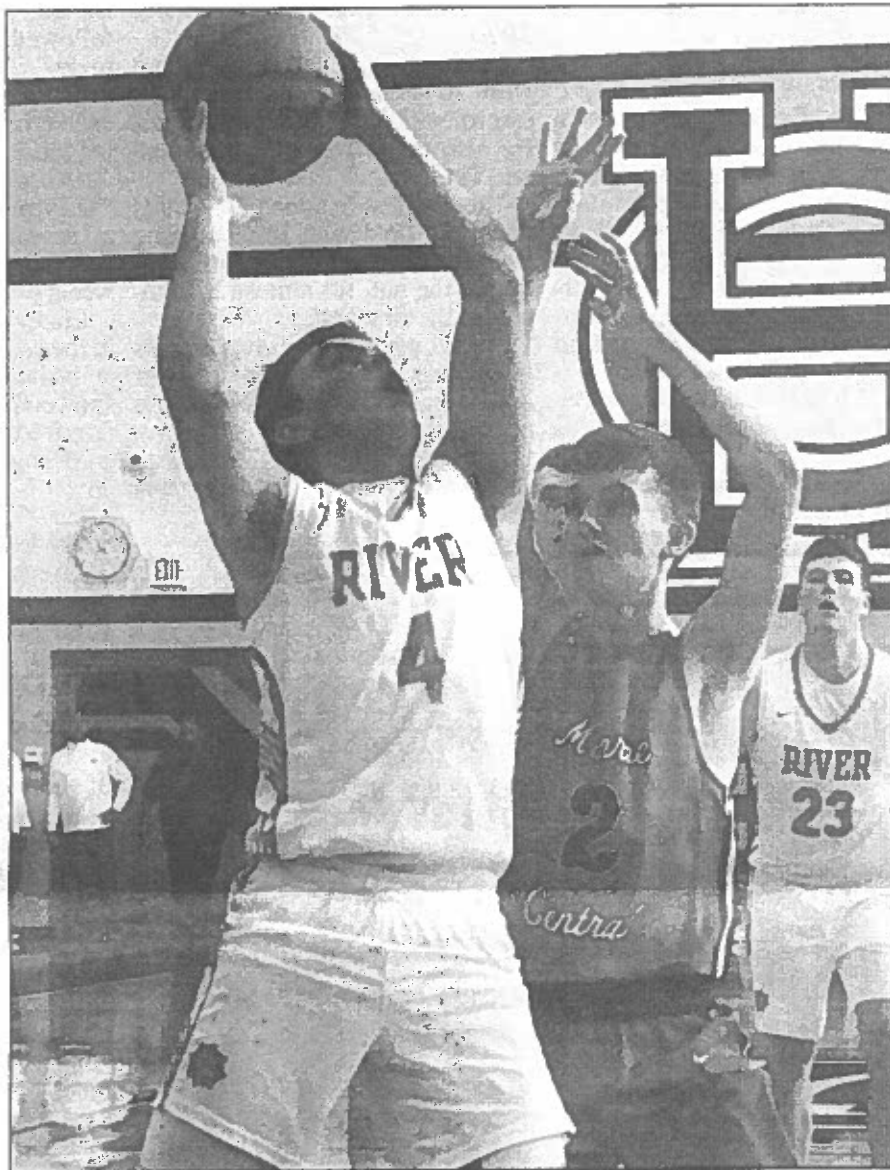
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During the stretch, the Purple Riders committed turnovers on four consecutive possessions, all of which led to Linsly buckets, including a highly impressive dunk by senior Nate Coleman.

Compounding matters, Linsly missed what looked like what was

going to be its final shot of the half and Martins Ferry rebounded, but an ill-advised pass was picked off by junior Will Taylor, who promptly buried a deep trey at the buzzer, making it a 41-25 game at the half.

"The shot at the half, no doubt, gave us a little bit more momentum," Linsly head coach Dave Wojcik said. "We wanted to wear them down. I thought our kids did a really good job, especially off the bench, in getting to (Ferry's) legs."

As he walked off the court at halftime, all Edwards could do was shake his head with how the end of the second quarter transpired.

"Linsly shot very well, especially in the first half from 3," Edwards said. "They had momentum plays, which hurt. We didn't turn the ball over a lot, but that stretch in the second quarter really got the game in their favor, which caused us to have

See, FERRY, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY'S Denali Jackson goes up for a shot as Linsly's Luis Ruiz Sanchez fouls him during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A championship game at Harrison Central High School.

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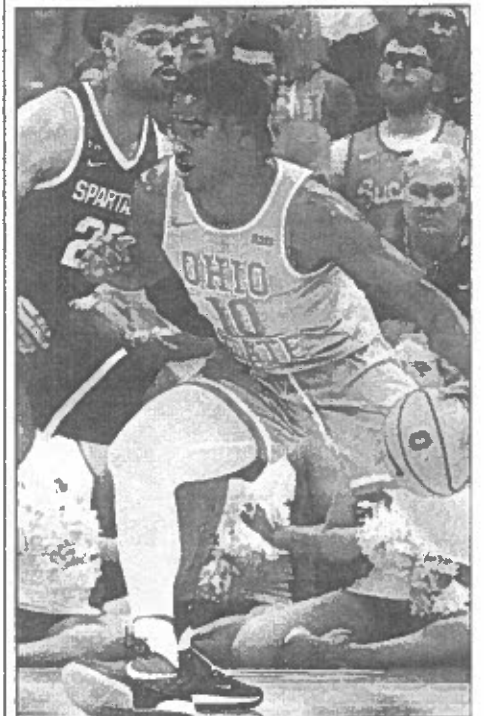
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AP PHOTO

OHIO STATE'S Brice Sensabaugh (10) tries to dribble past Michigan State's Carson Cooper, left, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game on Sunday in Columbus.

Six area swimmers win D-II sectional crowns

STEUBENVILLE — Six area swimmers have assured themselves a spot in next Thursday's Division II District Championship meet at Ohio State University.

They earned that right based on winning a sectional championship Saturday at Steubenville High School's Natatorium. Only the champion earns an automatic spot. It's expected that several other area athletes will advance based on time qualification, but those bids won't be formally announced until later today or Monday when all of the sectional results are compiled.

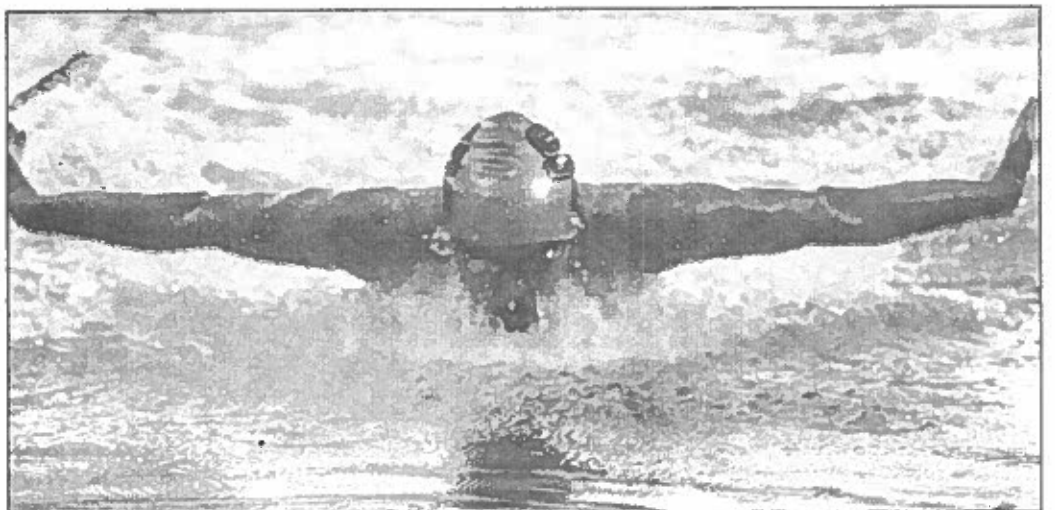
St. Clairsville finished a distant

second in the team standings to Dover in both the boys and girls meets.

St. Clairsville sophomore Zach May was the first area male to assure himself a spot individually. He touched the wall in 23.19 to claim the 50 freestyle.

Junior Evan Yost was an impressive winner in the 100 butterfly. He touched in 52.86 to win the title by nearly five full seconds. He later added the 100 backstroke crown with a time of 54.67.

St. Clairsville's 200 medley relay team of Evan Yost, Luke Stack, See, SWIMMING, Page B2



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Evan Yost swims toward a sectional championship in the 100 butterfly Saturday at Steubenville High School. Yost also won the 100 backstroke later in the meet to earn his way to the district meet, which will be held on Thursday at Ohio State University in Columbus.

Super Bowl MVP Mahomes rallies Chiefs to win • Ferry

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes and his ailing right ankle are headed for a Super Bowl victory parade.

After aggravating the sprained ankle he suffered three weeks ago, the All-Pro quarterback led the Kansas City Chiefs to a thrilling 38-35 come-from-behind victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, hoisting his second Lombardi Trophy and taking with it the game's MVP honor for the second time in his career.

Mahomes finished with 182 yards passing and three touchdowns, but he was especially brilliant on his hurt ankle in the second half: 13 of 14 for 93 yards and two touchdowns. The league's MVP also had 44 yards rushing, including his 26-yard sprint with just over 2 minutes left in a 35-all game as Kansas City was driving

for the go-ahead score.

Harrison Butker provided it with his 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds to go.

"I told you all this week there's nothing that's going to keep me off that football field," said Mahomes, who hurt the ankle in the divisional round against Jacksonville. "I just want a shoutout to my teammates — we challenged each other, we needed everyone to win this football game — so shoutout to my teammates. We're Super Bowl champs!"

Mahomes helped the Chiefs end a 50-year title drought when he led the Chiefs past the 49ers in 2020. Three years later, the do-everything quarterback has delivered a third Lombardi Trophy to Kansas City while joining Tom Brady, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Eli Manning and Terry Bradshaw as the only

players to win multiple Super Bowl MVPs.

"He's the MVP," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "That's all that needs to be said: MVP."

Mahomes reinjured his ankle late in the first half Sunday when Eagles linebacker T.J. Edwards spun him to the ground.

He lay there for several seconds before hobbling off the field in a scene eerily reminiscent of earlier in the playoffs.

Mahomes no doubt benefited from some extra treatment thanks to a longer halftime to allow for Rhianna's performance inside State Farm Stadium. And by the time the field was cleared of the stage, No. 15 was at the head of the pack as he led the Chiefs back to the field, facing a 24-14 deficit but knowing they would get the opening kickoff.

• Chiefs

Continued from Page B1

(17-3) followed up Rhianna's electrifying halftime performance with a sensational offensive outburst.

"Everybody had that determination, that look in their eye," Travis Kelce said.

Mahomes, who suffered a high ankle sprain in the divisional round, hurt it again on a 3-yard scramble late in the second quarter. He limped off the field but showed no ill effects on Kansas City's next possession.

Mahomes slipped — several players lost their footing on the natural grass surface — in the pocket yet somehow regained his balance and scrambled 14 yards to the Eagles 4, setting up Isiah Pacheco's 1-yard TD run that cut the deficit to 24-21.

After Jake Elliott's 33-yard field goal extended Philadelphia's lead to 27-21, the Chiefs struck again.

Mahomes tossed a 5-yard TD pass to a wide-open Kardarius Toney to give Kansas City its first lead, 28-27, early in the fourth

quarter.

The Chiefs tightened up their defense, forcing Philly to punt. Then Toney returned a line-drive kick 65 yards to the Eagles 5 for the longest punt return in Super Bowl history.

On third down from the 4, Mahomes connected with Skyy Moore to extend their lead to 35-27. Moore also was wide open on the play.

But the Eagles wouldn't go away.

Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 46-yard gain to the Chiefs and ran in for his third score of the game. He also ran in for the 2-point conversion to tie it at 35-35 with 5:15 to go.

As "Fly! Eagles! Fly!" reverberated throughout the stadium, Mahomes and the Chiefs went back to work.

The 27-year-old Mahomes became the third player to win his second NFL MVP award before age 28. He also became the youngest QB to start three Super Bowls.

Then, Mahomes became the first player to win the Super Bowl the same season he was MVP after nine straight players lost.

Just five years after winning the first Super Bowl in franchise history, the Eagles (16-4) came close with a different coach and new quarterback. Sirianni replaced Doug Pederson in 2021 and Hurts took over for Carson Wentz in late 2020.

Hurts set a Super Bowl record with 70 yards rushing and tied a record with three rushing scores. He also threw for 304 yards and one TD.

The Eagles marched 75 yards down the field with Hurts scoring from the 1 for a 7-0 lead, and controlled the ball for almost 22 minutes in the first half.

Hurts, who missed two games late in the season with a shoulder injury, had no trouble throwing a perfect deep ball to A.J. Brown, giving the Eagles a 14-7 lead with a 45-yard connection on the first play of the second quarter.

Continued from Page B1

to adjust and do some things we didn't necessarily want to do."

Though the Purple Riders cut down on their miscues in the second half, the hole was simply too deep to climb out of because Linsly continued to make shots. All told, the Cadets knocked down 10 bonus goals and had eight different players find the scoring column.

However, it was senior Gavin Jackson, who repeated as the winner of the John Howell MVP winner, who Ferry truly had no answer for. He scored 25 and made 10 of 18 from the field.

"Gavin has done a heck of a job all year, but he's really been playing at a high level the last two weeks," Wojcik said. "I am very excited for him because he's worked hard and deserves that success."

Ferry the lead down 11 a couple of times, but could never fully get over the hump to swing the momentum.

"Anytime we got back within striking distance, we either made an error or they made a play," Edwards said. "You simply can't have those errors against a team like that because Linsly went down and made us pay for it. They're a really, really good team, but our guys played their tails off and didn't leave anything on the court."

Along with Jackson's production, Linsly received 12 points from senior Carter Anderson. Taylor added nine and Coleman finished with eight.

Martins Ferry was led once again by its talented one-two-punch of senior Denali Jackson and sophomore Alex Reese. While both were once again solid with 18 and 16, respectively, they were both held below their average, which is something Wojcik believed would be critical.

"We did a good job defensively on both Reese and Denali," Wojcik said. "Give the kids the credit. They followed the game plan and did what we asked them to do."

The win gave Linsly its second consecutive conference crown and eighth in school history, while denying the Purple Riders their first title since 2017.

"All of the credit goes to the kids," Wojcik said. "They put the work in during the offseason and then all season to get to this point. I am really happy with how we bounced back during a tough, emotional week."

Linsly's week included a road victory at Caldwell in the semifinals, but it fell to rival Wheeling Central, at the buzzer, at home on Thursday. The Cadets really showed no ill effects despite being less than 48 hours removed from their last outing.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Martins Ferry is now 17-2, but both of its losses have come in trophy games. The Riders fell last month to Harrison Central in the Buckeye 8 title game.

"As bad as this hurts, we have to take the positives out of this and there are a lot of positives that come from this game," Edwards said.

• River

Continued from Page B1

your possessions and I thought we rushed a couple of shots here and there."

While River was working to overcome its offensive woes, it was making life difficult for Monroe.

Sophomore Tucker Howell scored four of his team high 16 points in the first quarter, but for seemingly every bucket, there was a turnover.

Monroe scored just three points in the second quarter to trail River 18-11 at the break, nearly as many first-half points (11) as turnovers (8).

The Pilots played man, threw in a little trap, and kept the designated visitors off balance throughout much of the first half.

"I thought our defense played well," longtime Pilots' head coach Mark Romick offered following the Pilots first OVAC tournament championship since the 2018 season. "Each night out, they pride themselves and their defense and it's made us pretty difficult to score upon."

"We played great team defense and I thought we did a nice job limiting them to one shot in most cases."

The Pilots couldn't get much going from the outside, so they relied on attacking off the dribble between Lollathin and Kabel Isaly, who backed him with 12 points, including eight in the third quarter.

Post players Ty Long (seven) and Peyton Blue (six) combined for 13 points in the paint, with four of Long's total coming off second-chance buckets in the first half.

Monroe tried to come back, but still couldn't shake the turnover bug as the defense forced rushed decisions and untimely shots.

That will happen sometimes with a starting lineup that boasts three sophomores. But Perkins was pleased with the effort and knows his team has a lot of good basketball ahead.

"We have a sophomore-laden team and sometimes it's hard to keep that discipline," Perkins admitted. "We try to teach patience and take good shots, but sometimes, our youth showed in the shot selection. But I'll never fault their effort. I thought we played hard and competed. The ceiling is high for this team."

The same can be said for River, though the Pilots have a few more aged players than the 'Noles. River next travels to Dover on Tuesday.

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• Swimming

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Zach May and Brady Blacker won the sectional title with a solid time of 1:47.81.

Martins Ferry's John Consort claimed the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:01.54.

Steubenville's Janyah Withers was the 50 freestyle champion in 26.21.

Area Sports Card

Monday, Feb. 13
BOYS BASKETBALL
 Calhoun Co. at Paden City
GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Division IV Sectional
 Bridgeport at River
 Regular Season
 Oak Glen at Cameron
HOCKEY
 Wheeling Central at Shaler
 Blackhawk at Wheeling Park, 6 p.m.

Ohio Hoops Scores

Aca 51, Lima Temple Christian 48
 Arc. Freestone 72, Copley 57
 Arcanum 52, Delphos St. John's 41
 Arlington 72, Van Wert Lincolnview 59
 Ashland Mapleton 90, Loganville 62
 Atica Seneca E 57, Arcadia 52
 Avon 52, Lorain 47, GT
 Batmore Loyal Union 58, Grove City Christian 50

Sports on TV

Monday, February 13
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
 7 p.m.
 CBSN — America U. at Bucknell
 ESPN — Miami at North Carolina
 9 p.m.
 CBSN — Hampton at Elon
 ESPN — Texas at Texas Tech
 ESPN2 — West Virginia at Baylor
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 7 p.m.
 BTN — Indiana at Ohio St.
 ESPN2 — Texas at Iowa St.
 SECN — Kentucky at Mississippi
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
 9 p.m.
 BTN — Ohio St. at Illinois
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
 7:30 p.m.
 NHLN — Beangol Tournament, Harvard vs. Northeastern, Championship, Boston
NBA BASKETBALL
 7:30 p.m.
 NBA TV — Denver at Miami

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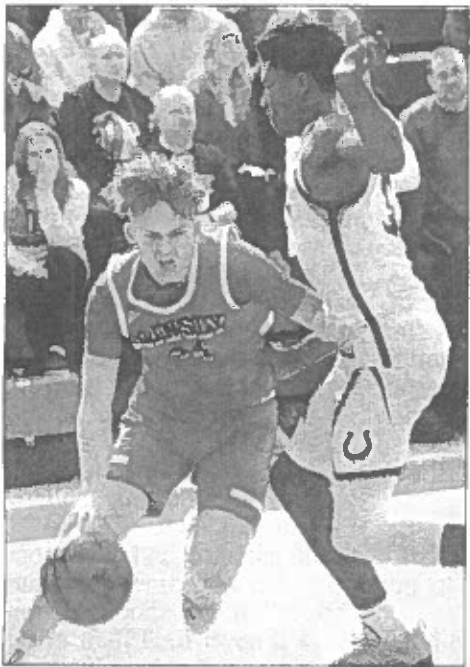


Photo by Seth Staskey
Linsly senior Nathan Coleman drives baseline against Martins Ferry's Alex Reese during the OVAC Class 3A championship game held Saturday at Harrison Central. The Cadets won, 74-60.

Linsly Tops Ferry In 3A Title Game

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — Coming into Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 3A championship game, Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards stressed to his team that it must avoid allowing too many momentum plays.

Those momentum plays are exactly what Linsly thrives on and Edwards' fear became reality, especially during the latter stretch of the second quarter when the Cadets blew the game open and went on to post a 70-54 victory over the top-seeded Purple Riders inside Harrison Central High School.

During the stretch, the Purple Riders committed turnovers on four consecutive possessions, all of which led to Linsly buckets, including a highly impressive dunk by senior Nate Coleman.

Compounding matters, Linsly missed what looked like it was going to be its final shot of the half and Martins Ferry rebounded, but an ill-advised pass was picked off by junior Will Taylor, who promptly buried a deep trey at the buzzer, making it a 41-25 game at the half.

"The shot at the half, no doubt, gave us a little bit more momentum," Linsly head coach Dave Wojcik said. "We wanted to wear them down. I thought our kids did a really good job, especially off the bench, in getting to (Ferry's) legs."

As he walked off the court at halftime, all Edwards could do was shake his head with how the end of the second quarter transpired.

"Linsly shot very well, especially in the first half from three," Edwards said. "They had momentum plays, which hurt. We didn't turn the ball over a lot, but that stretch in the second quarter really got the game in their favor, which caused us to have to adjust and do some things we didn't necessarily want to do."

Though the Purple Riders cut down on their miscues in the second half, the hole was simply too deep to climb out of because Linsly continued to make shots. All told, the Cadets knocked down 10 bonus goals and had eight different players find the scoring column.

Please see LINSLEY, Page 10



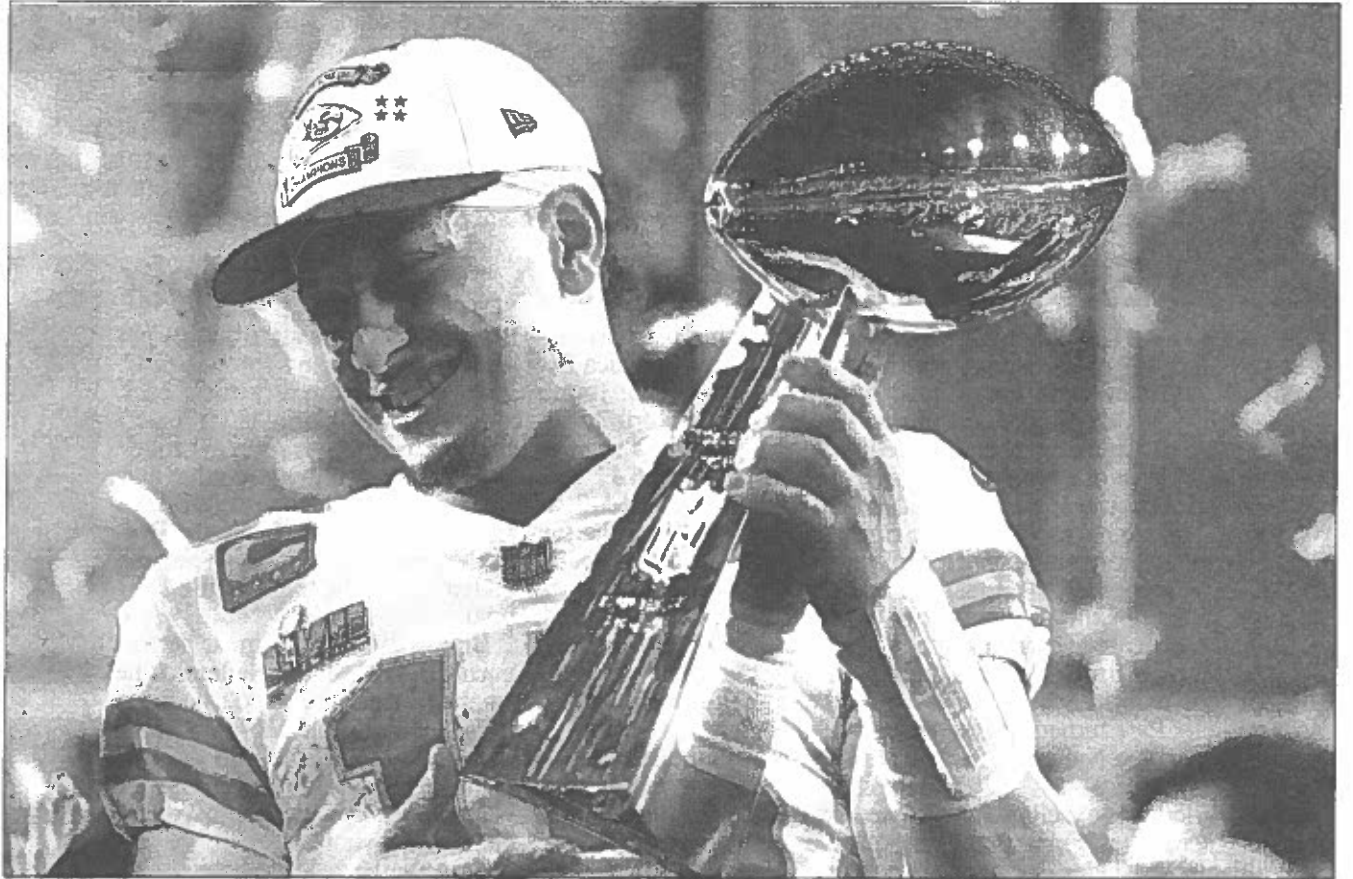
CHIEFS 38



EAGLES 35



Chiefs Are Champs After 2nd Half Rally



AP Photo
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes holds the trophy after their win against the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl 57 on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. The Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35.

Butker's FG With :08 Left Wins It; Mahomes Named MVP

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes shook off an ankle injury, turned back into a magician and pulled out another comeback on the biggest stage Sunday to help the Kansas City Chiefs win their second Super Bowl in four years.

Mahomes threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter and scrambled 26 yards on the go-ahead drive before Harrison Butker kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left to give the Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

MORE COVERAGE INSIDE

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Mahomes and Jalen Hurts excelled in the first Super Bowl matchup featuring two Black starting QBs. But Mahomes, the two-time AP NFL

MVP, turned it up in the second half after reaggravating a sprained right ankle. He earned his second Super Bowl MVP award, too.

Reid, who couldn't win the big game in Philadelphia, beat his former team to earn his second ring with Mahomes and the Chiefs.

"It took everybody to win the games. We're Super Bowl champs, baby," Mahomes shouted on stage as red and yellow confetti littered the field.

Please see CHIEFS, Page 11

Late Flag Takes Drama Out Of Game's Ending

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — football fans — particularly Eagles fans — was the anti-climatic ending. A questionable late penalty on Philadelphia Eagles cornerback James Bradberry with less than two minutes remaining meant that a scintillating Super Bowl 57 had a bit of an underwhelming finish.

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AP Photo
Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts reacts after their loss against the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 57 on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

Cameron Falls To Madonna In



Potters Capture Class 4A Crown



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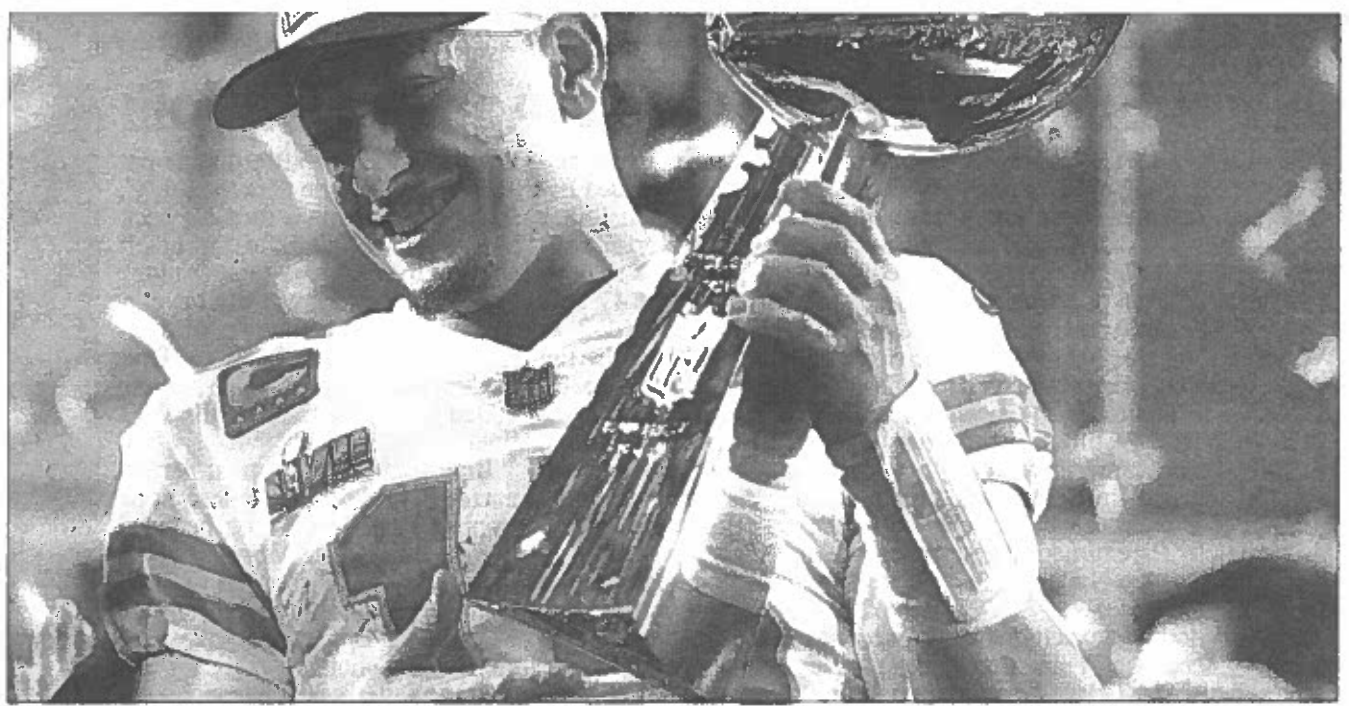
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One of the few gripes for

football fans — particularly Eagles fans — was the anti-climatic ending.

The Chiefs were driving and faced third-and-8 at the Eagles 15-yard line with 1:54 remaining when Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw incomplete to JuJu Smith-Schuster. But officials flagged Bradberry for defensive holding, which negated the incompletion and, more importantly, gave the Chiefs a first down.

Please see FLAG, Page 11



AP Photo

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts reacts after their loss against the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 57 on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

Cameron Falls To Madonna In Class 1A Final

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — In big games, sometimes an unexpected hero emerges.

That was the case for Madonna during Saturday's OVAC Class 1A Championship game, as senior Santo DoBraska drained eight 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 32 points to lead the Blue Dons to the title with a 69-55 win over rival Cameron.

"Santo's 32 points were huge," veteran Madonna head coach George Vargo said. "He hit 3s when we needed them, that was huge. We make a lot of mistakes, but we're able to recoup and rebound and somebody always picks us up — (Saturday) that was Sonny (DoBraska)."

"I never thought Sonny would have 32 or hit eight 3s, but God bless us, he did and we won."

"This means a heckuva lot to these guys (to win the OVAC title). Bringing an OVAC banner back to Madonna feels great, we haven't had one of these for a while."

Junior standout Anthony Mascio

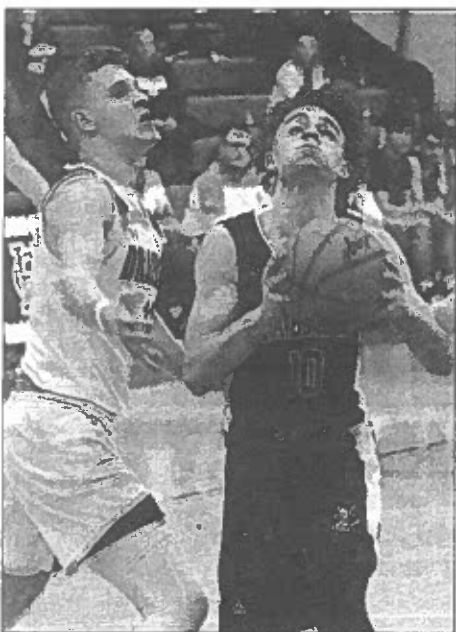


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Madonna's Santo DoBraska drives in the lane as Cameron's Cole Burkett defends during Saturday's OVAC Class 1A championship game at Harrison Central High School.

produced 21 points for Madonna despite attracting a lot of attention from the top-seeded Dragons (10-9) defense. Luca Muzzi netted 11 to give the Blue Dons (12-8) three in double digits.

Please see MADONNA, Page 10

Potters Capture Class 4A Crown As Last Shot For Weir Doesn't Fall

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — East Liverpool showed for most of Saturday's OVAC Class 4A Championship why it was the top seed and defending champion, while Weir High showed the resilience that led to the final and a strong season in the end.

Having not played their best and trailing by seven in the final minute, the Red Riders, who made a late rally Tuesday against Harrison Central in the semifinals, again stormed back and got within a point, and had the ball on the offensive end down by two at the end of the game.

A last-chance shot at the horn, however, did not fall allowing the Potters to escape with a 59-57 victory to repeat as conference champs.

"It was a great game," East Liverpool head coach Nate Conley said. "This means a lot to go back-to-back

because we had about a 20-point stretch where we didn't win it, and we



Photo by Andrew Grimm

Weir High's Colin "G" Cross looks for room to drive as East Liverpool's Cohen Pease defends during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A championship game held Saturday at Harrison Central.

broke that last year. We had five new starters coming into this year."

Colin "G" Cross, who tallied eight of his game-high 21 points in the fourth quarter, led the Red Riders' late charge, draining back-to-back 3-pointers in a span of 10 seconds to trim a seven-point deficit to just one with 40 ticks left, engaging the large, loud crowd inside Harrison Central's gym.

Please see POTTERS, Page 11

"I think they had eight offen- a team like River, you have to Sophomore Tucker Howell ble between Lollathin and Ka- for this team."

Nailers Explode For 10 Goals Against Norfolk

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers had one thing on their mind on Saturday, and they were going to do everything in their power not only to defeat, but dominate the Norfolk Admirals in front of a crowd of 3,201 at WesBanco Arena.

Wheeling's offense was on fire all night long, as the team scored ten goals in a game for the first time since 2010. Justin Addamo netted his second career hat trick, Tyler Drevitch and Brooklyn Kalmikov put four points each on the board, and Felix Pare turned on the red light twice as the Nailers clobbered the Admirals, 10-2.

The first period was exactly what the Nailers needed as Felix Pare, Justin Addamo and Tyler Drevitch found the back of the net.

Wheeling maintained its three-goal advantage through the middle

frame, as both teams put two biscuits into the baskets. Gianluca Esteves gave the Nailers their fourth tally of the night, and Norfolk followed with two goals in a span of 2:14. Addamo responded 47 seconds to put Wheeling ahead 5-2, as he ripped a wrist shot into the top shelf on the right side of the goal.

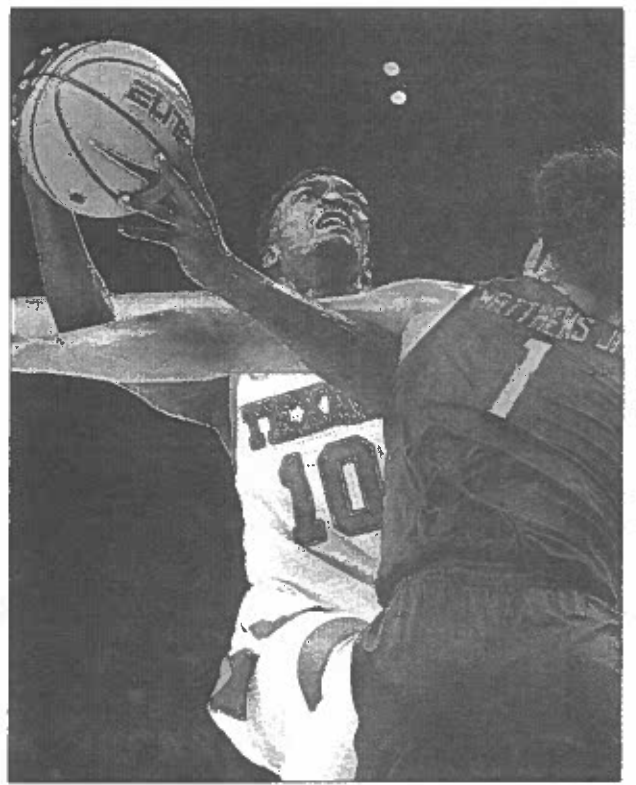
The Nailers were a team on a mission, and in the third period, they put a bunch of exclamation points on their enormous triumph. Pare used extra effort to collect his second of the night, as he lunged forward to touch in the rebound of Brooklyn Kalmikov's initial shot. 31 seconds later, Drevitch joined the parade of two-goal players, as he converted on a power play, which was set up by Bobby Hampton. Carter Johnson crashed in to poke home the rebound of Davis

Bunz's shot 1:13 after that to put a snowman on the scoreboard. C. Johnson then won a face-off back to Brooklyn Kalmikov for a left circle snipe and goal number nine.

All that was left was double digits, and that came courtesy of Addamo's hat trick, assisted by Drevitch's fourth point, as Wheeling potted five in the third for the 10-2 final.

Brad Barone had a great performance in goal for the Nailers, as he stopped 31 of the 33 shots he faced in the victory. Cale Morris gave up five goals on 16 shots in the loss for the Admirals, before giving way to Brett Epp, who allowed five goals on 21 shots.

The Nailers will spend next week on the road, as they will visit the Iowa Heartlanders on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



AP Photo

Texas guard Sir Jabari Rice drives to the basket against West Virginia forward Emmitt Matthews Jr. during the second half in Austin, Texas, Saturday.

LINSLEY

(Continued from Page 9)

However, it was senior Gavin Jackson, who repeated as the winner of the John Howell MVP winner, who Ferry truly had no answer for. He scored 25 and made 10 of 18 from the field.

"Gavin has done a heck of a job all year, but he's really been playing at a high level the last two weeks," Wojcik said. "I am very excited for him because he's worked hard and deserves that success."

Ferry got the lead down to 11 a couple of times, but could never fully get over the hump to swing the momentum.

Along with Jackson's production, Linsly received 12 points from senior Carter Anderson. Taylor added nine and Coleman finished with eight.

Martins Ferry was led once again by its talented one-two-punch of senior Denali Jackson and sophomore Alex Reese. While both were once again solid with 18 and 16, respectively, they were both held below their average, which is something Wojcik believed would be critical.

"We did a good job defensively on both Reese and Denali," Wojcik said. "Give the kids the credit. They followed the game plan and did what we asked them to do."

The win gave Linsly its second consecutive conference crown and eighth in school history, while denying the Purple Riders their first title since 2017.

"All of the credit goes to the kids," Wojcik said. "They put the work in during the offseason and

then all season to get to this point. I am really happy with how we bounced back during a tough, emotional week."

Linsly's week included a road victory at Caldwell in the semifinals, but it fell to rival Wheeling Central, at the buzzer, at home Thursday. The Cadets showed no ill effects despite being less than 48 hours removed from their last outing.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Martins Ferry is now 17-2, but both of its losses have come in trophy games. The Riders fell last month to Harrison Central in the Buckeye 8 title game.

"As bad as this hurts, we have to take the positives out of this and there are a lot of positives that come from this game," Edwards said.

MADONNA

(Continued from Page 9)

"We rebounded great as a team, Luke (Amaismeier), Chase (Littleton) were good on the boards and Anthony (Mascio) did a good job of getting to the hole," Vargo said. "A combination of things led to this win."

The game was the third meeting of the season between the foes, Madonna winning all three. A potential fourth showdown could be looming in a couple of weeks in the sectional tournament.

"Cameron is a very good basketball team," Vargo said. "Cam-

eron-Madonna has become a good rivalry and they had our number for a few years. Hopefully Madonna is back on top now."

The Blue Dons opened the lead to as many as 18 points in the third quarter, but the Dragons came charging back with a 12-2 run and scored 29 points in the third to rally all the way to within four points at the end of three.

Madonna, though, scored the first 12 points of the fourth quarter to retake control and did not look back.

"We had a great run in the third quarter ... but we dug ourselves too deep of a hole," Hart said. "You can't do that against a team like Madonna, you just can't. They're well coached and (DoBraska) was lighting it up. His first three or four shots we didn't contest, then he was feeling it."

"I'm proud of my guys, they gave a valiant effort to make that run and get back in it, but hats off to Madonna."

Cameron was led by 14 points each from Colson Wichterman and Lance Hartley.

After Building Some Momentum, WVU Hits Wall vs. No. 5 Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Sir Jabari Rice kept making shots, and the Texas guard wasn't shy about celebrating.

"Talks a lot," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said of Rice.

Huggins' team could do nothing to prevent Rice from scoring or letting the Mountaineers know about it en route to his season-best 24 points in just 17 minutes as No. 5 Texas defeated West Virginia 94-60 Saturday.

"I was just being competitive," said Rice, a guard who transferred from New Mexico State.

Thanks largely to him, Texas (20-5) remained in first place in the Big 12 at 9-3, while West Virginia (15-10, 4-8) lost for the sixth time in its last seven games against the Longhorns.

Rice was nearly perfect: He converted 5 of 6 field-goal attempts, including 4 of 5 3-pointers and all 10 free throws. The Longhorns only missed one free throw in 25 attempts and hit 10 of 17 3-pointers.

Marcus Carr added 16 for Texas, making 7 of 11 shots and contributing four assists and three steals. Timmy Allen had 14 points, nine rebounds and four assists — and passed the 2,000-point mark for his five-year career (2,013 points in 144 games).

Emmitt Matthews Jr. led West Virginia with 13 points. The Mountaineers shot 35.2%, which is their second-worst accuracy of the season, and matched the most turnovers of the season with 20.

Texas scored 32 points off West Virginia's turnovers and had a 23-7 edge in fast-break points in 144 games.

Matthews, who had a season-best 20 points

against Iowa State on Wednesday, scored nine of West Virginia's first 12. But the Mountaineers failed to take advantage of that start.

They committed 13 turnovers in the half, matching their average per game, and Texas led 51-30 at the break.

The Longhorns went 16-for-16 at the free-throw line in the first half, matching the most they've ever made in a half without missing.

Fouls calls and free throws were about even for the two teams, but Huggins said Texas was the most physical opponent the Mountaineers have faced this season.

"I don't think we were prepared for the physicality ... I think that bothered us," Huggins said.

Allen said the Longhorns always want to play that way.

"That's our mindset," Allen said. "Be physical when we guard. Be physical on rebounds."

Interim coach Rodney Terry suggested the Longhorns lacked that toughness during a loss at Kansas on Monday.

"You have to be willing to do the dirty work," Terry said. "You have to be willing to have some grit."

BIG PICTURE

The Mountaineers hit a wall after arriving in Austin with some momentum. They won five of their previous seven games after losing five straight in January. Their next opponent is No. 14 Baylor, which will be their third game in six days. They beat No. 1 Iowa State on Wednesday in Morgantown.

Texas: The Longhorns have not lost two in a row this season, giving them their best record through 25 games since 2010-11 when they were 22-3.

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Kraken Snap Losing Streak vs. Flyers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jaden Schwartz scored twice. Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist and the Seattle Kraken sapped some of Philadelphia's Super Bowl Sunday excitement with a 4-3 victory over the Flyers.

Eeli Tolvanen also scored and Philipp Grubauer made 18 saves for the Kraken, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Seattle entered in fourth place in the Pacific Division and two points out of third.

CANADIENS 6, OILERS 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Jordan Harris had his first

career two-goal game and Montreal earned wins on back-to-back afternoons.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 7, DUCKS 2

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Seven Vegas players had two points and the Golden Knight scored five times in the third period to break open a one-goal game and extend their winning streak to three games.

SHARKS 4, CAPITALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Erik Karlsson had a goal and two assists, Aaron Dell stopped all eight shots he faced in relief and San Jose ended its road trip by beating Washington.

CHIEFS

(Continued from Page 9)

With the score tied at 35-35, the Eagles tried to let the Chiefs score a touchdown with under two minutes left so they could get the ball back. But Jerick McKinnon slid at the 2, forcing the Eagles to use their last timeout.

After Mahomes took a knee two times, Butker nailed his kick, sending thousands of red-clad Chiefs fans into a frenzy.

The Chiefs won their second Super Bowl following the 2019 season, 50 years after the first one. It took just three years to get another Lombardi.

Chiefs fans were outnumbered in the stadium, but they did their part to silence the boisterous Philly fans with the tomahawk chop chant.

Down 24-14 with a limping Mahomes, the Chiefs (17-3) followed up Rihanna's electrifying halftime performance with a sensational offensive outburst.

"Everybody had that determination, that look in their eye," Travis Kelce said.

Mahomes, who suffered a high ankle sprain in the divisional round, hurt it again on a 3-yard scramble late in the second quarter. He limped off the field but showed no ill effects on Kansas City's next possession.

Mahomes slipped — several players lost their footing on the natural grass surface — in the pocket yet somehow regained his balance and scrambled 14 yards to the Eagles 4, setting up Isiah Pacheco's 1-yard TD run that cut the deficit to 24-21.

After Jake Elliott's 33-yard field goal extended Philadelphia's lead to 27-21, the Chiefs struck again.

Mahomes tossed a 5-yard TD pass to a wide-open Kardarius Toney to give Kansas City its first lead, 28-27, early in the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs tightened up their de-



AP Photo
Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Skyy Moore (24) celebrates after a touchdown during Super Bowl 57 Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

fense, forcing Philly to punt. Then Toney returned a line-drive kick 65 yards to the Eagles 5 for the longest punt return in Super Bowl history.

On third down from the 4, Mahomes connected with Skyy Moore to extend their lead to 35-27. Moore also was wide open on the play.

But the Eagles wouldn't go away.

Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 46-yard gain to the Chiefs and ran in for his third score of the game. He also ran in for the 2-point conversion to tie it at 35-35 with 5:15 to go.

As "Fly! Eagles! Fly!" reverberated throughout the stadium, Mahomes and the Chiefs went back to work.

The 27-year-old Mahomes became the third player to win his second NFL MVP award before age 28. He also became the young-

est QB to start three Super Bowls. Then, Mahomes became the first player to win the Super Bowl the same season he was MVP after nine straight players lost.

Just five years after winning the first Super Bowl in franchise history, the Eagles (16-4) came close with a different coach and new quarterback. Sirianni replaced Doug Pederson in 2021 and Hurts took over for Carson Wentz in late 2020.

Hurts set a Super Bowl record with 70 yards rushing and tied a record with three rushing scores. He also threw for 304 yards and one TD.

The Eagles marched 75 yards down the field with Hurts scoring from the 1 for a 7-0 lead, and controlled the ball for almost 22 minutes in the first half.

Hurts, who missed two games late in the season with a shoulder injury, had no trouble throwing a perfect deep ball to A.J. Brown, giving the Eagles a 14-7 lead with a 45-yard connection on the first play of the second quarter.

But Hurts then made a rare mistake on the next drive when he fumbled without being hit while scrambling away from pressure. Nick Bolton picked it up and raced 36 yards for a score that made it 14-14. Hurts had just eight turnovers this season, six picks and two fumbles.

Undeterred, Hurts kept running. He took off for 14 yards on the first play after the fumble. On fourth-and-5 from Chiefs 44, Hurts ran 28 yards. He finished off the drive with a 4-yard TD run to put Philadelphia ahead 21-14.

Elliott kicked a 35-yard field goal to send the Eagles into halftime leading 24-14.

Mahomes finished 21 of 27 for 182 yards with three TDs and no turnovers. He ran for 44 yards.

POTTERS

(Continued from Page 9)

Having seen the No. 2 seed Red Riders pull out several close wins late this season, the comeback hopes grew even stronger on the Weir (13-8) side of the bleachers as the Potters (14-6), up by two with 10.6 seconds left, missed a pair of key foul shots to give the Riders the ball back.

An inbound pass on the offensive end with 6.9 seconds left, as the Riders had hoped, ended up in the hands of Cross for one last shot, but it hit the rim and did not fall and the clock expired before Weir could attempt a shot off the rebound.

"It was there, he had a chance," Weir High head coach Anthony Santangelo said of the last shot. "How we got there was awesome. Us getting steals, them missing foul shots, us getting rebounds ... it was exciting. Our guys responded.

"This group never stops fighting. Down 10, 12, it doesn't matter, they don't quit. I love this group. They keep playing hard no matter what and that's why I love this

group. We're never out of a game. It doesn't matter if we start slow ... we're always in the game with a chance to win it.

"Give East Liverpool credit, they came out firing. They were patient, they handled the press well, they won the rebounds and the loose ball battles. Those are the little things East Liverpool did (that put them on top)."

On the possession prior, the Riders narrowly missed a 3-point try that would have given them the lead with 11 seconds left.

The Potters had held a 10-point lead twice in the fourth quarter, including inside four minutes to play.

"I thought we handled Cross for as long as we could, but he showed what kind of player he is there at the end," Conley said. "He brought them back and had a good look to tie it at the end.

"We have to finish out games better and make our foul shots, but we're going to celebrate this. We're proud of it."

Preston Kerr led the Potters with

20 points, while Cohen Pease netted 18.

The Potters scored the game's first six points and led by five after the first quarter and by six at halftime.

Weir High netted the first four points of the third quarter and got within two twice early in the third, but Pease drained triples on back-to-back possessions to move the margin back out, ultimately sitting at a five-point lead after three.

The Red Riders also got 18 points from Damarr Turner.

"This is a huge learning experience for us for tournament time," Santangelo said. "Our guys will learn from this, know the little things you have to do to win these types of games with a lot on the line, especially as you get deeper and deeper into the tournament."

UP NEXT

Weir High: Travel to John Marshall on Friday for their regular season finale.

East Liverpool: Travels to Warren Harding on Tuesday night.

Brooke's Moore Claims Title At West Virginia Girls Wrestling Tournery

PARKERSBURG — champion Johnathan Brooke's Audrey Moore Huntsman (106/113). OVAC champion Reese Stephen (150) and Blake Kirk (285).

Stephen recorded two pins and a decision, while Kirk had a pair of falls and a forfeit. Huntsman had two decisions and a pin.

Other placers included teammates Sophie Diaz (165, 3rd) and Ember Giglio (138, 5th).

Paden City's Rory Amos was third at 235.

Linsly's Caitlin Lewis took fifth at 114.

BOYS WRESTLING Barnesville Takes Third

VERSAILLES — The Shamrocks brought home the bronze medal after competing in the Division III Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association State Duals on Saturday at Versailles High School.

Barnesville, which was seeded second, advanced to the semifinals with a 45-23 victory over No. 7 Versailles in the quarters, but fell to No. 3 Rootstown, 39-33, before defeating No. 5 Legacy Christian, 37-28, in the consolation final.

Only three Shamrocks were able to go 3-0 on the day. They were OVAC

champion Johnathan Huntsman (106/113). OVAC champion Reese Stephen (150) and Blake Kirk (285).

Stephen recorded two pins and a decision, while Kirk had a pair of falls and a forfeit. Huntsman had two decisions and a pin.

Martins Ferry, which was seeded No. 8, finished eighth as the Purple Riders fell to top-seeded and eventual champion Archbold (57-15); Liberty Center (35-30) and Perry (48-27).

Only one Purple Rider went unscathed, that being Shayden Fogle (150) who earned two decisions and had a pin.

Tyler Consolidated 2nd At LKC

ELIZABETH, W.Va. — The Silver Knights finished second at the 59th Little Kanawha Conference Championships with 146.5 points, well behind champion Braxton County's 225.5.

Tyler Consolidated had a pair of individual titlists in juniors Kaden Humphrey (113) and Sean Winfrey (175). Colson Spragg (120) and Branson Winfrey (144) were both second.

Scheffler Repeats At Phoenix Open To Regain No. 1 Ranking

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Scottie Scheffler successfully defended his WM Phoenix Open title Sunday at TPC Scottsdale to regain the No. 1 spot in the world.

Scheffler closed with a 6-under 65 to beat Nick Taylor by two strokes in breezy conditions on the firm and fast Stadium Course. The 26-year-old Texan will jump from second to first in the rankings, taking the top spot from Rory McIlroy with his fifth PGA Tour victory.

Scheffler made a 22-foot eagle putt on the par-5 13th to break a tie with Taylor, then took a two-shot lead on the par-3 16th with a 15-footer for par after hitting his tee

shot far left on the stadium hole.

"I was just trying to hit a solid putt," Scheffler said about the putt on 16. "In those situations that's really all you can do. So when I'm standing over that ball all I'm thinking about is the speed, I had my line."

Scheffler birdied the short par-4 17th and closed with a par to finish at 19-under 265.

"I hit some wild shots off the tee that were pretty uncharacteristic for how I usually shape the ball," Scheffler said. "I was just able to grind it out, make a lot of putts. I think I only had two bogeys this week, which is really, really good around this golf course."

FLAG

(Continued from Page 9)

Replays showed that Bradberry made light contact with Smith-Schuster, though it didn't appear to affect the play much. Still, the cornerback said he wasn't upset at officials for the call.

"It was a holding. I tugged his jersey," Bradberry said. "I was hoping they would let it slide."

Referee Carl Cheffers said it was a "clear case of a jersey grab."

"The receiver went to the inside and he was attempting to release to the outside," Cheffers told a pool reporter. "The defender grabbed the jersey with his right hand

and restricted him from releasing to the outside. So, therefore, we called defensive holding."

Kansas City was able to essentially run out the clock from that point forward. Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon made a smart move on the ensuing down, purposefully sliding 2 yards short of the goal line instead of scoring a touchdown.

Mahomes then was able to kneel twice as the clock ran down after the Eagles used their final timeout.

Harrison Butker kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds remaining that proved to be the winner.

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Wednesday,
February 8, 2023

Martins Ferry takes down Bellaire in 3A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

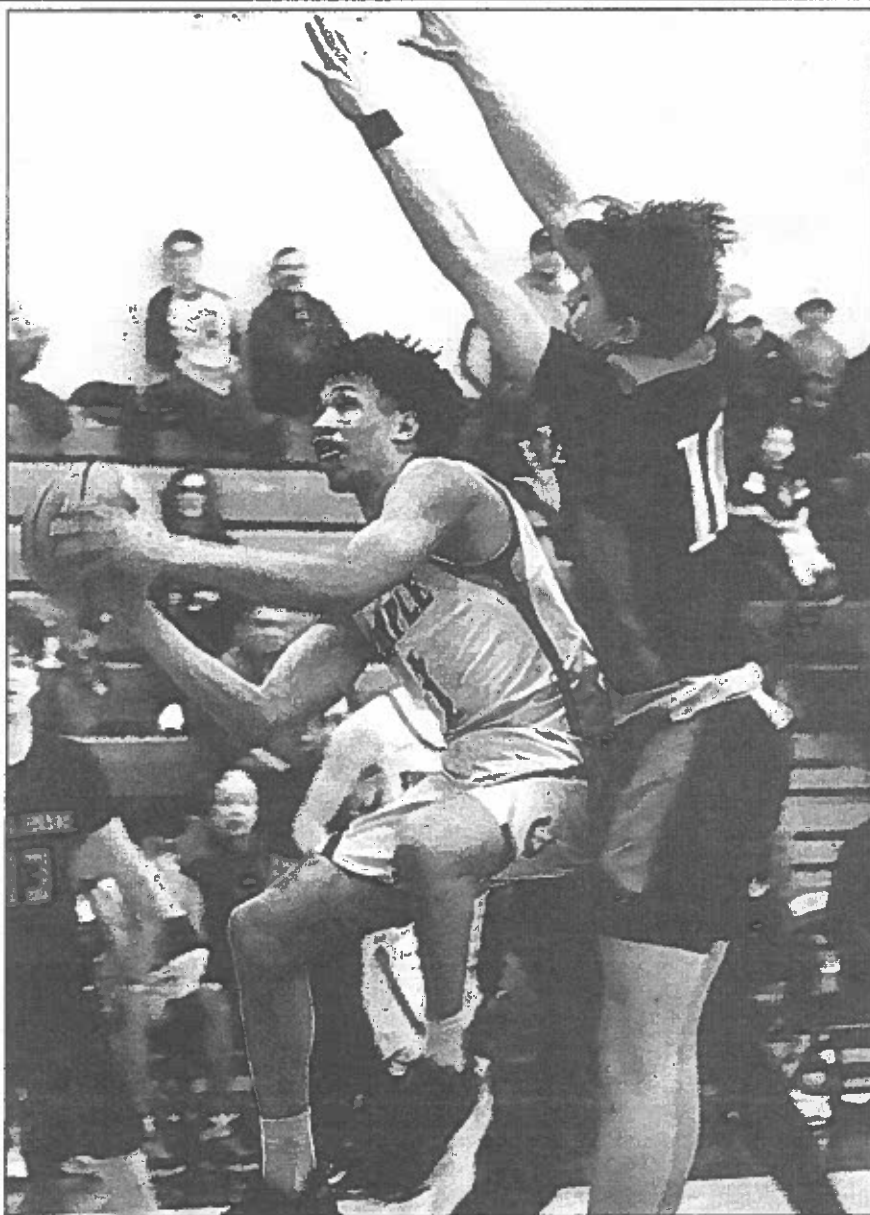
MARTINS FERRY — Martins Ferry's boys basketball team will be playing for its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship since 2017 Saturday afternoon after it handed rival Bellaire by a 64-54 score inside the Tolbert Gymnasium Tuesday evening.

Unfortunately, head coach Derek Edwards opened his post-game remarks by expressing his disappointment with events that allegedly occurred outside that led to a heavy police presence and a Martins Ferry High School game staff member informing both teams and those remaining in the gymnasium and cafetorium that they were not permitted to leave because of what was transpiring outside.

"Everyone needs a little bit of perspective," an upset Edwards said. "Win or lose, (sports) are about the student-athletes and competing in the Ohio Valley. Nothing should take attention away from the kids, especially the people in the stands. All of us need to do a better job of that and leave it to the players to enjoy the experience, especially in a game like this. I am very disappointed."

Prior to the post-game events, the Purple Riders and Big Reds played a game that had nary an issue. The Purple Riders, who now own two victories against the Big Reds this season, came out on fire and jumped to a 7-0 lead and eventually a 16-3 reading. Quite simply, the Big Reds never recovered.

"We got off to a bad start and Martins Ferry, See, **FERRY**, Page B2



MARTINS FERRY'S Denali Jackson goes up for a shot as Bellaire's Jakob Dowling defends during Tuesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal inside the Tolbert Gymnasium at Martins Ferry High School. The Purple Riders posted a 64-54 victory.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

River trips Shadyside in 2A semi

By **MARK DIERKES**
For The Times Leader

HANNIBAL -River High punched its ticket for a shot at the OVAC 2-A crown Tuesday night with a physical, defensive-minded 42-31 semi-final win over a determined defending champion Shadyside at the R.L. Potts gym.

Coach Mark Romick's 18-3 record Pilots earned a berth in the final at Harrison Central, Saturday at 10 versus county rival Monroe Central, which beat Southern in OT.

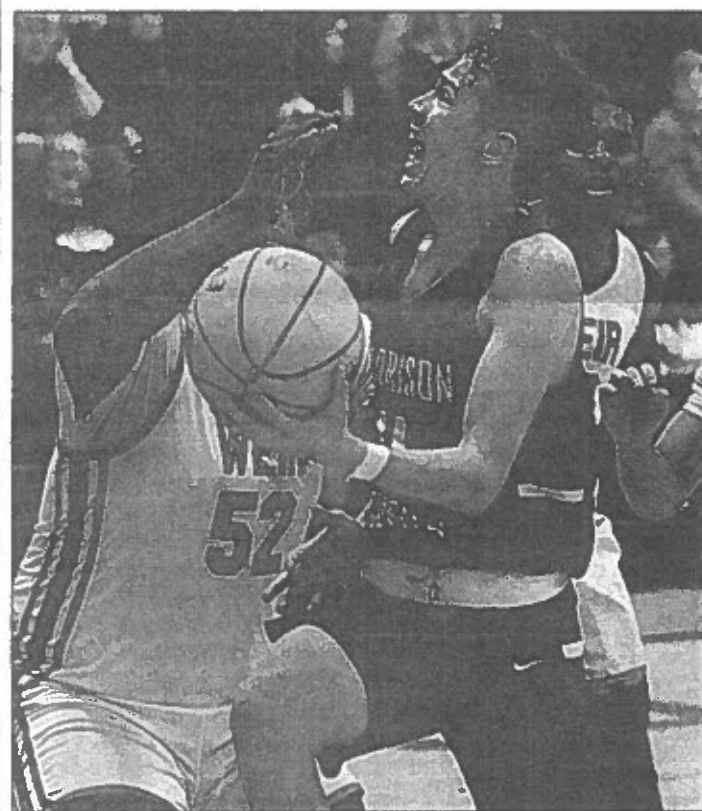
The hosts led wire-to-wire at the wheelhouse, but coach Ed Andes' Tigers were dealt a huge blow 34 seconds in when junior floor leader Ben Wach injured his ankle while attempting to block a shot along the baseline and fell awkwardly. After a delay of a few minutes he had to be assisted to the bench and was unable to return.

"If you'd told me we'd shoot one-for-12 in the first (six-for-26 in the half) and only be down five at the half I'd take it," said Andes, whose 11-10 record club couldn't get within four in the second half.

The Pilots received a game-high 15 points from junior Kabel Isaly, a steady contributor in the backcourt who had 11 in the second half. Senior Brody Lollathin added 11, while River Thompson contributed eight points.

"We didn't shoot well (14-of-44) but

See, **RIVER**, Page B2



HARRISON CENTRAL junior Hayden Cassidy goes up for a shot against Weir High's Cam Jones (52) and Malachi Stromile during Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal in Weirton.

Photo/ANDREW GRIMM

Harrison Central falls to Weir in 4A

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
For The Times Leader

WEIRTON - For the second time this season, Weir High and Harrison Central played an instant classic of a game.

And, also for the second time, the Red Riders came from behind to win it.

This time squaring off in the OVAC Class 4A semifinals, and entering the tourney having been two of the hottest teams in the Valley since their first meeting, a double-overtime contest in Cadiz, the game was everything a basketball fan could want with the outcome in the balance until the final horn.

With the score knotted, Weir High senior MoMo Prentice got fouled after grabbing an offensive re-

bound with 2.8 second to go, and made one of two from the line for a one-point lead.

After a quick timeout, the ball somehow pinballed off an inbound heave to the Huskies' Daniel Ody in the corner, but his last-second jumper as the horn sounded did not drop through the hoop, giving the Red Riders a 62-61 victory and a trip to Saturday's Class 4A Championship.

"This was a dogfight again," Santangelo said. "Give credit to (Harrison Central), they fight, they get rebounds, they hit outside shots ... that's a really good team. We are proud of getting a win over them, they were coming off some very big wins."

"It's awesome for this See, **HARRISON**, Page B2



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

RIVER JUNIOR point guard Kabel Isaly and the Pilots advanced to the OVAC 2A final by toppling defending champion Shadyside Tuesday night in Hannibal.

St. Clairsville fends off Brooke for OVAC consolation win

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For the Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The Red Devils are growing up.

St. Clairsville's youthful charges executed near flawlessly down the stretch to outlast Brooke, 74-69, in an OVAC Tournament consolation game on John Jenkins Court Tuesday night.

"We would have lost this game earlier in the year," Red Devils' head coach

line (Tuesday). I was happy with the poise we displayed in the fourth quarter."

The win was the ninth against 10 losses for St. Clairsville. Brooke, meanwhile, dropped to 7-10, despite playing a solid second half.

"We dug ourselves a big hole by playing a poor second quarter. We tightened things up in the second half defensively," Brooke head coach Adam Shinsky noted. "We put our-

forts from a trio of Red Devils.

Rising sophomore Tyson Pastor poured in a game-high 26 points while junior sharpshooter Cole Thoburn produced 23 counters. Senior Luke Porter, who made several keys plays with the outcome hanging in the balance, chipped in with 17 points.

St. Clairsville held a slim 54-51 lead heading into the fourth quarter. The Red Devils would never lead by more than the final margin in the final eight

sponded with a conventional three-point play for a five-point Red Devil edge.

Nathan Kimball, who enjoyed a solid game in the paint for the visitors, meshed a layup before Porter netted a free throw with 1:39 remaining. Bruin talented point guard Leighton Toepfer drove the paint for a deuce, cutting the Brooke deficit to 67-64 with 1:20 to play.

Pastor held the Bruins at bay by

• Harrison

Continued from Page B1

group to get to the championship game. I don't think Weir's won it since 2011, so this is cool to have a shot. We knew what was on the line and it's good to finish a game like this to get there when it was down to the nitty gritty."

The point was Prentice's 11th of the game, making him one of three Red Riders (13-7) in double digits.

Setting up the comeback was another senior, Colin "G" Cross, getting going in the fourth quarter after the No. 3 seed Huskies (11-8) defense had limited him to just six in the first three quarters. Cross, who dropped 45 points in the first meeting, netted 14 in the fourth quarter, including a pair of key triples.

While Cross was being defended, Damar Turner carried the load for Weir and finished with 18 points.

After Weir opened a 15-11 lead after one, Harrison Central nearly doubled-up the Red Riders in the second and led 30-25 at the break thanks to a 9-0 run that flipped the momentum. Hayden Cassidy, who led all players with 27 points and netted five triples, drained a trey at the second quarter horn to provide the margin.

Cassidy scored nine-straight points on his own in the third in opening the lead to double digits, but things changed for the Huskies with 3:52 to go in the quarter when Cabot Arbaugh went down with an apparent leg injury.

Linsly, Monroe advance to OVAC final

CALDWELL — Third-seeded Linsly will have a chance to defend its OVAC Class 3A title.

Linsly, which had to win several big games over the course of the last couple of weeks to even qualify for the tournament, went on the road and picked up an impressive 72-50 victory against Caldwell.

The Cadets were led by senior Gavin Jackson's 26 points. Carter Anderson added 17 and Will Taylor posted 11.

Caldwell was once again led by All-Ohioan Bede Lori. The senior dandy pumped in a game-high 28.

Monroe Central 61, Southern 58
WOODSFIELD — Monroe Central has earned the right to take on River for a third time with a conference title on the line. The Seminoles advanced to the title game by virtue of a victory against Southern Local.

The Seminoles were led by sophomore Tucker Howell, who went for 20 points. Loghan Brown scored 15 points, while Lane Demchak added 14 for the winners.

CONSOLATION

Buckeye Local 72, Edison 50

• River

Continued from Page B1

but we executed and defended well," said Romick, who had his crew in the 3-A final a year ago when it fell to Linsly. "We wanted to speed (Shadyside) up because it worked to our advantage. Brody (Lollathin) did a great job defensively."

The hosts used six points from Lollathin and a Thompson '3' to take a 9-0 lead before Dylan Booth broke the scoring drought for the Tigers on a floater at 2:40.

Karl Tsoras' pair from the stripe at :02 closed it to 9-4 at the stop.

Kaden Johnson went coast-to-coast with a steal to begin the second for River and after an Isaly bonus bomb and his dish to senior stalwart Ty Long it was 17-7.

Shadyside rallied with an 8-0 run to pare it to 17-15 as Nathan Booth scored in the low post, Tsoras canned 2-of-2, senior Elijah Brock rebounded a miss, and Tsoras drove the lane. The Riv-

RICHMOND — Buckeye Local used a strong second quarter and never looked back en route to an OVAC consolation victory against the Wildcats.

The Panthers were led by Ryder Kindberg-Colabelli's 19. Dayne Carter added 16 and Gavyn Romanyak posted 13.

Conotton Valley 57, Bridgeport 47
BRIDGEPORT — Conotton Valley picked up an OVAC consolation victory by fending off the Bulldogs Tuesday.

Bridgeport senior Gavin Jackson led all scorers with 22 points. Jaki Threet added 12.

Beallsville 39, Wood Co. 21
BEALLSVILLE — The Blue Devils won a low-scoring contest against Wood Co. Christian in the OVAC consolation bracket.

The Blue Devils were led by Logan Taylor's 16.

University 68, Union Local 43
MORRISTOWN — The Hawks proved to be too much for the Jets Tuesday in an OVAC consolation game.

The Jets were led by senior D.J. Butts' 18. Beezer Porter added seven.

ermen took a 20-15 lead at the break when Peyton Blue's steal turned into a Long layup.

When Luke Bell nailed his second '3' of the game it pulled the visitors within 22-18, but Isaly matched it with one of his own at the 5:00 mark. Brock picked his third and fourth personals in a little over a minute and Andes was forced to sit him over three minutes.

It was 30-20 after a Lollathin '3' and Thompson took a feed from Isaly to force an SHS timeout. Brock returned to hit three-of-four at the stripe to make it 32-23 after three.

The Pilots worked the clock to open the fourth and goals from Isaly and Finn Bowers forced a Tiger timeout at 4:01. Despite Brock's six points in the frame the visitors could get no closer than nine.

Shadyside will face Southern in the consolation final.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Ferry had a lot to do with that," Bellaire head coach J.R. Battista said. "Their length in the lane is a problem and we were giving extra (defensive) help to (Denali) Jackson and he did what good players do and that's make the other guys around him better."

Jackson certainly raised the level of play. In the opening spurt, Mason Redinger hit a 3 pointer and senior Gaige O'Connell got a bucket. In the second Ferry run, which was a 9-0 spurt following a Jakob Dowling trey, O'Connell hit a bonus goal and Tev'n Williams got on the board.

"I am very, very proud of how we came out playing in the first quarter," Edwards, who picked up career win number 100 in his career, said. "We can shoot. We shoot it at a high percentage, especially here (at home). We're willing to work for the good shot. I am very proud of how well our guys shared the ball and made shots."

Bellaire chipped away in the second after staring up at an 18-6 deficit at the end of one. Actually, after Martins Ferry's two leaders — Jackson and sophomore Alex Reese — both picked up their second personal foul and went to the bench, the Big Reds got a bucket from Lucas Littell and another Dowling 3 to make it a 24-18.

Edwards didn't hesitate. Jackson and Reese were quickly re-inserted into the lineup and Ferry closed the half with a 33-24 lead.

"We knew Bellaire wasn't going to go away, but when you're two horses go out (of the game), other guys have to step up," Edwards said.

Jackson was a handful throughout, but especially so in the first half.

He scored 10 of his 24 in the second quarter. All told, he had 16 points and 12 rebounds at halftime. He finished with 16 rebounds.

"Ferry was able to steady the ship and calm the waters," Battista said. "We were never able to make them nervous. We could never make the play we needed to put us over the top either offensively or defensively. Martins Ferry made all of the hinge plays in the game and that's a credit to them and why they won."

Martins Ferry, which was led by Jackson's production, also received solid scoring from Williams, who added 15. Reese was held well below his average and finished with 13 and seven rebounds. He also blocked three shots.

The Big Reds (13-7) were led by Dowling's 20. Junior Mayson Sochor finished with 18, while senior Ray Ray Pettigrew added eight.

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

ing it a 69-66 St. Clairsville advantage. Thoburn's two charity tosses with 41.8 seconds left stretched the lead to five.

Brooke refused to go quietly. Nick Cipoletti buried a trey with 30 seconds showing, bringing the visitors to within 71-69. Thoburn, however, proved clutch again, sinking two more freebies. After a Bruin miss from the floor, Pastor added a charity toss with 16.1 seconds showing to seal the deal for the hosts.

Kimball led a trio of Brooke double-figure scorers with 20 points. Leighton Toepfer finished with 15 tallies, all coming in the second half, while Charlie Fuscardo added 12 counters, all via the bonus ball.

St. Clairsville, which visits University Friday, gained a 22-18 lead after the opening frame. Thoburn sparked the hosts with nine points in the round, courtesy of a trio of treys, while Porter added seven lightings. Kimball countered with six for the Bruins.

The Red Devils, using 11 Pastor points, stretched their advantage to 42-31 at halftime. Brooke tightened matters with a strong third quarter as Leighton Toepfer, Kimball and Fuscardo each scored six points. The Red Devils, meanwhile, were guilty of seven turnovers as their lead was sliced to three heading into the fourth.

"We didn't play a good third quarter," Clifford said. "Brooke switched to a zone defense and we had some issues with it. We also got sloppy with the ball."

"But it is a nice win. Brooke is a solid team. Like us, they have played a challenging schedule," he continued. "We have another real tough stretch coming up. We go to University Friday then we have Wheeling Park and Harrison Central next week."

• Tellitocci

Continued from Page B1

and officiating for more than six years. Beyond Tellitocci's role as assistant commissioner, while at the OVC, he also was the tournament manager for the men's and women's basketball championships and the baseball championship. He also served as the tournament manager for the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament First and Second Round games at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to his work for the OVC, he also serves on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee.

"Throughout the search process, Travis demonstrated that he is an emerging leader in college athletics, and is well-suited to build on the incredible success of Rich Ensor," said Niagara University president, the Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., who also serves as the president of the MAC. "The MAC has been a

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS

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Photo Provided

WVU's Jimmy Bell (15) works toward the basket during a game from earlier this season. He has been a bright spot for the Mountaineers this season.

Three Question Marks Have Turned Into Nice Surprises For WVU

MORGANTOWN — Think about this for a minute. Bob Huggins' best players since he's come home to West Virginia have been skill type guys.

You know the names ... Da'Sean Butler, Devin Ebanks, Jevon Carter, Miles McBride.



BOB HERTZ
WV News

But he's also had a run of tough, solid, inside men who created the character with which his teams play. It's quite a list: Kevin Jones, Devin Williams, Sagaba Konate, Derek Culver, Oscar Tshiebwe.

As he entered this season, though, there seemed to be a gap there, no proven big man.

Rebounding, a Huggins staple, seemed inadequate. Shot blocking the same thing.

Huggins thought — maybe 'hoped' is a better word — that he could cover that hole up with three very tall, athletic question marks in Jimmy Bell Jr., a converted football player who had even outgrown football at 6-10 and more than 300 pounds when he arrive; James Okonkwo, who had outgrown tennis in his native England; and Mo Wague, a one-time soccer player in Mali who was pushing 7 feet.

Only Bell had Division I experience at St. Louis but was coming from junior college, as was Wague, while Okonkwo came in a year ago planning to redshirt after skipping his senior year of high school.

All had a problem adjusting at first, as did the Mountaineers as a team. They had to start over with seven new players, a team that popped out of the transfer portal as if it were a toaster.

But all of a sudden, midway through the threesome began finding itself. Bell muscling for points down low and rebounds up high; Okonkwo grabbing off rebounds and blocking shots with a flare not seen since Konate, and Wague, long, lean and enthusiastic to block shots, score some points, run the floor and battle on that very same floor for loose balls.

Please see QUESTION, Page 12



OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS

Dragons Slay Warriors To Reach 1A Finals Again

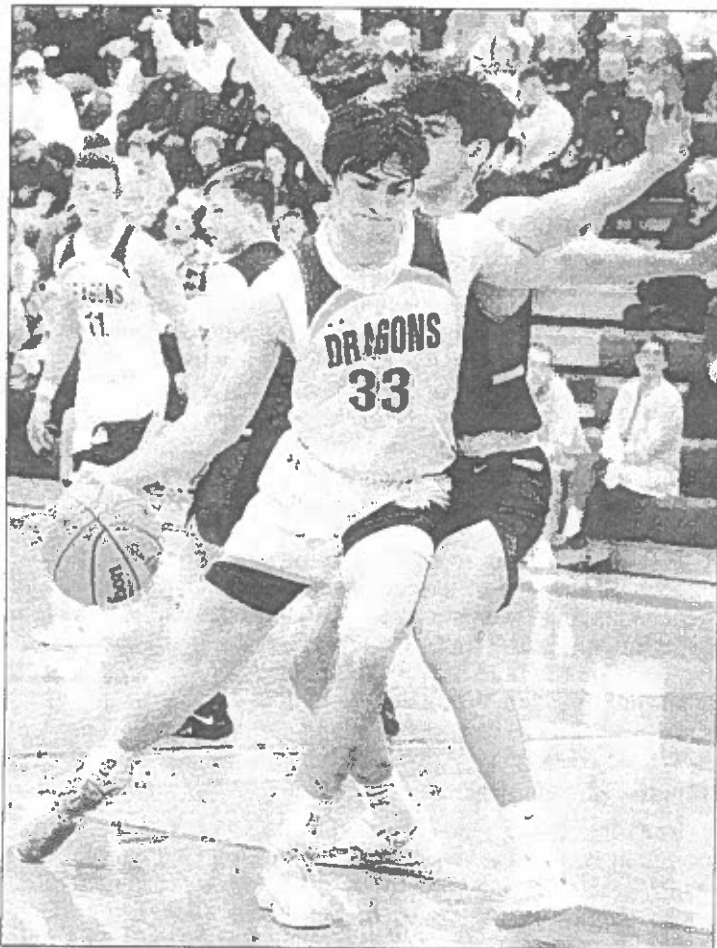


Photo by Kim North

Cameron's Lance Hartley (33) makes a move to the basket against Trinity Christian Tuesday night inside Dragons Indoor Stadium. He had 22 points and 12 rebounds.

Top-Seeded Cameron Holds Off Trinity Christian, 47-41

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CAMERON — They are back and looking for more gold.

Top-seeded Cameron (10-8) built a big enough lead in the middle two quarters Tuesday night and then held off a late run by No. 4 Trinity Christian (9-9) for a 47-41 victory in an OVAC Class 1A Boys Basketball championship semifinal inside Dragons Indoor Stadium.

With the triumph, the Dragons advanced to Saturday night's title tilt against second-seeded Madonna, a 62-50 winner over No. 3 Valley in the other semi. That game will tip at approximately 6 o'clock.

"They hit some big baskets for us," Cameron head coach Tom Hart said of Cole Burkett and Lance Hartley. "They really did, but I also thought we played really good team defense and got solid minutes off our bench. It was a real team effort."

Behind the excellent play of Hartley, Cameron extended a 13-12 lead after one quarter to 25-19 at the half. The 6-5 junior netted 10 of the Dragons 12 points in the second quarter, including a pair of treys.

Leading 29-23 with a little more than five minutes remaining in the third quarter and the Warriors converting back-to-back baskets, Hart called a 30-second timeout. Whatever he said to his troops worked as they went on a 12-5 run — sparked by six points each from Hartley and Burkett — to lead 41-28 entering the final panel.

Please see DRAGONS, Page 12

Wheeling Park Beaten By Morgantown In 5A

Patriots Fall To Mohigans For 3rd Time This Season

By CODY NESPOR
For The Intelligencer

MORGANTOWN — The Morgantown boys' basketball team survived an absolute battle against Wheeling Park Tuesday, defeating the Patriots 59-45 in an OVAC Class 5A semifinal inside the Rowdie Center.

It was the teams' second meeting in five days after MHS won 52-48 in Wheeling last Friday. That familiarity showed early in the game Tuesday as the Patriots (11-6) were able to take away Morgantown's (18-1) usual go-to options on offense while tiring out the Mohigans' defense with constant motion.

Please see PARK, Page 12



Photo by William Wotring

Wheeling Park's Mykel Davis drives to the basket Tuesday night as Morgantown's Jacob King defends during an OVAC Class 5A Boys Basketball championship semifinal contest in Morgantown.

Ferry To Play For 3A OVAC Boys Basketball Crown

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — Martins Ferry's boys basketball team will be playing for its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship since 2017 Saturday afternoon after it handed rival Bellaire by a 64-54 score inside the Tolbert Gymnasium Tuesday evening.

Unfortunately, head coach Derek Edwards opened his post-game remarks by expressing his disappointment with events that allegedly occurred outside that led to a heavy police presence and a Martins Ferry High School game staff member informing both teams and those remaining in the gymnasium

and cafeteria that they were not permitted to leave because of what was transpiring outside.

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"Win or lose, (sports) are about the student-athletes and competing in the Ohio Valley.

Nothing should take attention away from the kids, espe-



Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry's Denali Jackson goes to the basket Tuesday against Bellaire.

cially the people in the stands. All of us need to do a better job of that and leave it to the players to enjoy the experience, especially in a game like this. I am very disappointed."

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nary an issue.

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Quite simply, the Big Reds never recovered.

"We got off to a bad start and Martins Ferry had a lot to do with that," Bellaire head coach J.R. Battista said.

"Their length in the lane is a problem and we were giving extra (defensive) help to (Denali) Jackson and he did what good players do and that's make the other guys around him better."

Please see 3A, Page 12

PARK

(Continued from Page 11)

"We chased then a lot so we were tired but we've got to fight through fatigue," MHS coach Dave Tallman said. "That's great coaching by (Mike) Jebbia. he wore us down but at the end, I'd like to think our defense wore them down. It's a good win."

Usual MHS threats Brody Davis and Garrison Kisner were held scoreless in the first half and with standout point guard Sha-Ron Young sidelined with an injured hand, it was junior Izzy Everett who stepped up when the team needed it.

Everett scored six points in the first quarter and eight in the second to lead MHS with 14 at the half.

"Izzy's been big time, he's stepped up huge," Tallman said. "I'm really proud of him, he's doing a great job."

"Thank goodness Izzy was here (Tuesday). Other guys weren't producing and he stepped up."

Morgantown led 15-12 after one quarter and 32-28 at halftime. With the Mohigans all over standout Aiden Davis, Park turned to freshman Amare Johnson, who hit four treys off the bench in the first half.

Morgantown went on a 15-5 scoring run out of the break to lead by 14 midway through the third quarter, but the Patriots battled back to cut the lead to eight, 49-41 entering the

final frame. Morgantown's defense clamped down to allow just one field goal in the fourth, however, as the Mohigans pulled away for the 59-45 win.

Johnson finished with a game-high 19 points for Park while Davis ended up with 17 with three three-pointers. Those two combined for 36 of the team's 45 points.

"A lot of our strength is driving in and getting buckets inside and it's just not going to be there against them," Park coach Mike Jebbia said. "Their length just causes those problems."

"(Wheeling Park) shot the absolute lights out of it (Tuesday)," Tallman offered. "Aiden Davis is a first team all-state kind in my mind for sure. They did a great job, they schemed us up a little bit and we just had to gut it out."

Everett led Morgantown with 15 points, Jacob King was the only other player in double figures with 10. Tallman said he wants his seniors — Brody Davis (nine points), Cam Danser (nine) and Kisner (eight) — to step up with Young sidelined.

Wheeling Park will play at Parkersburg South Friday in a consolation third-place game.

Dover defeated Parkersburg South 59-53 in the other 5A semifinal Tuesday night.

SUPER

(Continued from Page 11)

"I feel like it's not a time to reflect," Hurts said about his journey to stardom. "We came here to finish the job."

Chiefs coach Andy Reid got numerous questions about his time in Philadelphia and food. The cheeseburger fanatic would not name his favorite city to eat outside of Kansas City, Green Bay and Philly.

"They won't let you back in if I do," he said.

Overall, opening night wasn't quite as outrageous as past years.

In Arizona in 2008, a female reporter showed up wearing a white wedding dress and veil and proposed to Tom Brady, who was trying to lead the Patriots to the first 19-0 season in NFL history.

One radio host walked around shirtless wearing a barrel. A television reporter from Mexico asked people to play pin the tail on the donkey and then asked them to toss foam footballs into a basket. Some of the Eagles cheerleaders participated.

Otherwise, it was more about odd questions than odd looks.

Someone asked Mahomes and Sirianni if this was a "must-win game."

Both said yes in the most polite way possible.

"The job is not finished," said Mahomes, who is also an MVP finalist.

Mahomes got the loudest ovation of the night.

Oh, his favorite song of all time is Rihanna's "Umbrella." Rihanna will be the halftime performer but he won't be watching.

"Coach Reid said if we go out there to watch to just keep walking," Mahomes said.

The Eagles (16-3) and Chiefs (16-3) meet on Sunday, both aiming for their second Super Bowl title within five years.

Perhaps the most anxious person in the stadium will be Donna Kelce, mom of All-Pros Jason and Travis.

Donna Kelce, who took part in some of the night's festivities on stage, wore a jersey that was half-green for Jason's Eagles and half-red for Travis' Chiefs. She had No. 87 for Travis on the front and No. 62 for Jason on the back.

Who is the biggest momma's boy?

Donna held up a photo of Travis.



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3A

(Continued from Page 11)

Jackson certainly raised the level of play. In the opening spurt, Mason Redinger hit a 3 pointer and senior Gaige O'Connell got a bucket. In the second Ferry run, which was a 9-0 spurt following a Jakob Dowling trey, O'Connell hit a bonus goal and Tev'n Williams got on the board.

Bellaire chipped away in the second after staring up at an 18-6 deficit at the end of one. Actually, after Martins Ferry's two leaders — Jackson and sophomore Alex Reese — both picked up their sec-

ond personal foul and went to the bench, the Big Reds got a bucket from Lucas Littell and another Dowling 3 to make it a 24-18.

Edwards didn't hesitate. Jackson and Reese were quickly re-inserted into the lineup and Ferry closed the half with a 33-24 lead.

Jackson was a handful throughout, but especially so in the first half. He scored 10 of his 24 in the second quarter. All told, he had 16 points and 12 rebounds at halftime. He finished with 16 rebounds.

Martins Ferry, which was led by

Jackson's production, also received solid scoring from Williams, who added 15. Reese was held well below his average and finished with 13 and seven rebounds. He also blocked three shots.

The Big Reds (13-7) were led by Dowling's 20. Junior Mayson Sochor finished with 18, while senior Ray Ray Pettigrew added eight.

The Purple Riders will now shift their attention to a date with defending 3A champion Linsly, which defeated Caldwell, 72-50, in the other semifinal.

DRAGONS

(Continued from Page 11)

Trinity Christian, which was a cool 2-for-13 from three-point land in the first three quarters, connected on a trio of triples down the stretch.

Carter Hartsock scored seven of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, and when Lucas Kniska tickled the twine from bonus land, it was 44-41 with 7.1 seconds showing.

Cameron's Colson Wichterman was fouled with 2.7 ticks remaining and made the first shot. The second was off the mark, but Hartley sliced between two Warriors for the offensive rebound and banked the ball off the glass ahead of the final buzzer for the six-point final.

The Dragons were their own worst enemy in the final eight minutes as they went 1-for 4 from the floor, only made half of their eight free throws and charted four turnovers.

"We were playing so hard ... trying to make things happen," Hart said of the lackluster fourth quarter in which Cameron was outscored 13-6. "Basketball is a game of runs and Trinity made a nice run there, but we were able to hold them off at the end."

Hartley finished with a double-double of 22 points

and 12 rebounds - both game-highs. Hartley chipped in 17 points and half-a-dozen rebounds. Wichterman added six markers and a like number of boards.

Kniska supported Hartsock with nine on three treys, while Chayce Adams added eight. Hartsock also pulled down 11 rebounds.

The win came just over 24 hours after the Dragons lost to Buffalo Putnam in the Par Mar Big House Classic at West Virginia State University in Institute. However, Hart said that game probably helped his team.

"Actually, I think playing Monday might have helped us because we had been off for a week," he noted. "We were a little rusty but we came to play tonight. The boys were focused and I'm proud of them."

"It doesn't matter who we play," Hart admitted. "We know Valley well. We know Madonna well. They are both good teams that are well-coached. We know we will be in a battle because they are both rivals of ours."

Trinity Christian head coach Codey Horton had no comment after the contest.

Cameron led 30-24 off the glass and also had one more turnover at 13-12.

QUESTION

(Continued from Page 11)

Bell, the starter, has scored 15 points in two of the last six games while grabbing of 33 rebounds in those games, laying claim to the area down low, while Okonkwo, against Oklahoma, had his first career double-double with 10 points and rebounds while adding some highlight blocks in each of the last few games.

"I think I'm a little more confident now, getting into the groove more," Okonkwo said. "I think my positioning on the court is getting a bit better and I think it's all just going to come with time. No rush. Everything is going to come when it comes."

One thing is certain, as Erik Stevenson said when he heard Okonkwo say that.

"He's going to be a problem. That's what he's trying to stay,

he's going to be a problem," Stevenson said.

"James is a guy who could end up being a force in college basketball if he continues to improve," Huggins said the other day. "You're talking about a guy who was a tennis player. He just continues to get better and better and I think our other guys have started to understand how talented he is.

"I think they are much more encouraged by where he could go, but I think more importantly, they're going to be encouraging him to continue to improve and continue to work at it."

He's been getting more playing time the last five games and that adds to his confidence.

And as for Wague?

"He can go as far as he wants

to go," Huggins said in his Tuesday press conference. "The weight room is going to be critical for him, especially lower body. He's long, athletic, has great feet. It's all out there for him. It's just, is he going to put the effort in?"

They have learned to play in the physically challenging Big 12, learning the games — as tough as they are — are not as tough as the practices Huggins puts them through.

"They go at each other pretty good," Huggins said. "Jimmy usually wins. He has been great for those other two guys because they are learning you've got to use your lower body. After he's knocked them out of the lane a couple of times they start to realize 'I got to get a better base here.'"

MOUNTAINEERS

(Continued from Page 11)

The Cyclones, living off an undefeated 12-0 season to date at home, are contending for the regular season title, sitting second at 7-3 in the conference behind a 9-2 Texas team. West Virginia, at 3-7 in conference play, is trying to rally itself into the NCAA Tournament.

Iowa State isn't worried about its tournament resume but certainly would like to find a path to the conference crown that no one thought it could win ... no one, that is, except themselves ever since scaring Kansas in what became a two-point defeat at Allen Field House.

WVU, on the other hand, stumbled blindly into Big 12 play, losing its first five games, but has, by coach Bob Huggins' own admission, recovered to win three of its past five as guard Erik

Stevenson has scored more than 30 points in two of the past three, victories over Auburn and Oklahoma.

What changed Stevenson after he struggled through a tough shooting slump and let his emotions and mouth get out of control?

Maybe this.

"I'll tell you the truth," Huggins said. "I put him on the phone with Mike Gansey, and Mike talked to him."

Gansey, of course, is the former Mountaineer star who now is general manager of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"If you've been around sports, you know you get tired of hearing the same voice, man. I get tired of hearing Erik's voice now," Huggins said. "That's common in sports. You are together so much and are in sit-

uations where you are uncomfortable that you have to find ways to calm it down. To his credit, he has. He has been, in the last four or five or six games, a great teammate.

"Mike is Mike. He has a calming effect on people. He's not loud. He's straight to the point."

So what we have is two teams in need of victory, each for a different reason and each with a contrasting profile.

WVU is a big, strong team that will try to muscle its way past an Iowa State team that goes with four guards and one inside player, and this one will be decided by whom ever can impose his will on the other.

The Mountaineers do possess the one major factor that is not found on the statistic sheet, and that is a home crowd that was rip-snooting wild the past two games.

Home-court advantage is huge against Iowa State, which is a far different team on the road

place to play," Huggins said. "The fans are terrific. They are really good. They were good as long as I remember."

Guard Joe Toussaint played at Iowa State when he was at Iowa. That was always a big game, and he got to see the Iowa State fans at their rowdiest. It makes a difference when they leave.

"They are a completely different team on the road," Toussaint said. "That's not a knock on them. They're still a good team, but there are holes in their game when they get on the road."

"It's really hard to play in the Hilton. That crowd is ridiculous, their fan base is ridiculous. That's why they struggle a little bit when they are on the road."

WVU has the fan base this time, and Huggins' idea against them will be to work the ball inside to Jimmy Bell and his two rapidly improving young partners, James Okonkwo and Mo Wague.

Want More Free Time?

How about having 1 less chore to deal with?

SPORTS

Thursday,
February 2, 2023

OVAC boys hoops tourney brackets set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

As it pertains to the OVAC Basketball titles, only 20 teams find themselves still alive in the chase.

Those teams learned their opponents for next Tuesday's semifinals, which will be held on the higher seed's court, Wednesday morning when the basketball committee met at Belmont College to finalize those pairings and set the consolation games for the teams that didn't advance to the semifinals.

The championship finals will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz with the 2A schools opening the action at 10 a.m. The games will be begin every two hours and run 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 1A.

Here's a capsule look at each class:

CLASS 5A

Morgantown, which is the top-ranked team in the state of West Virginia, is also the top seed in the big-school OVAC division. Coach

David Tallman's team is 15-1 on the season. The Mohigans will welcome fourth-seeded Wheeling Park. These two play on Friday in Wheeling and just played last Wednesday in Morgantown. The Patriots entered Wednesday's game at 10-4.

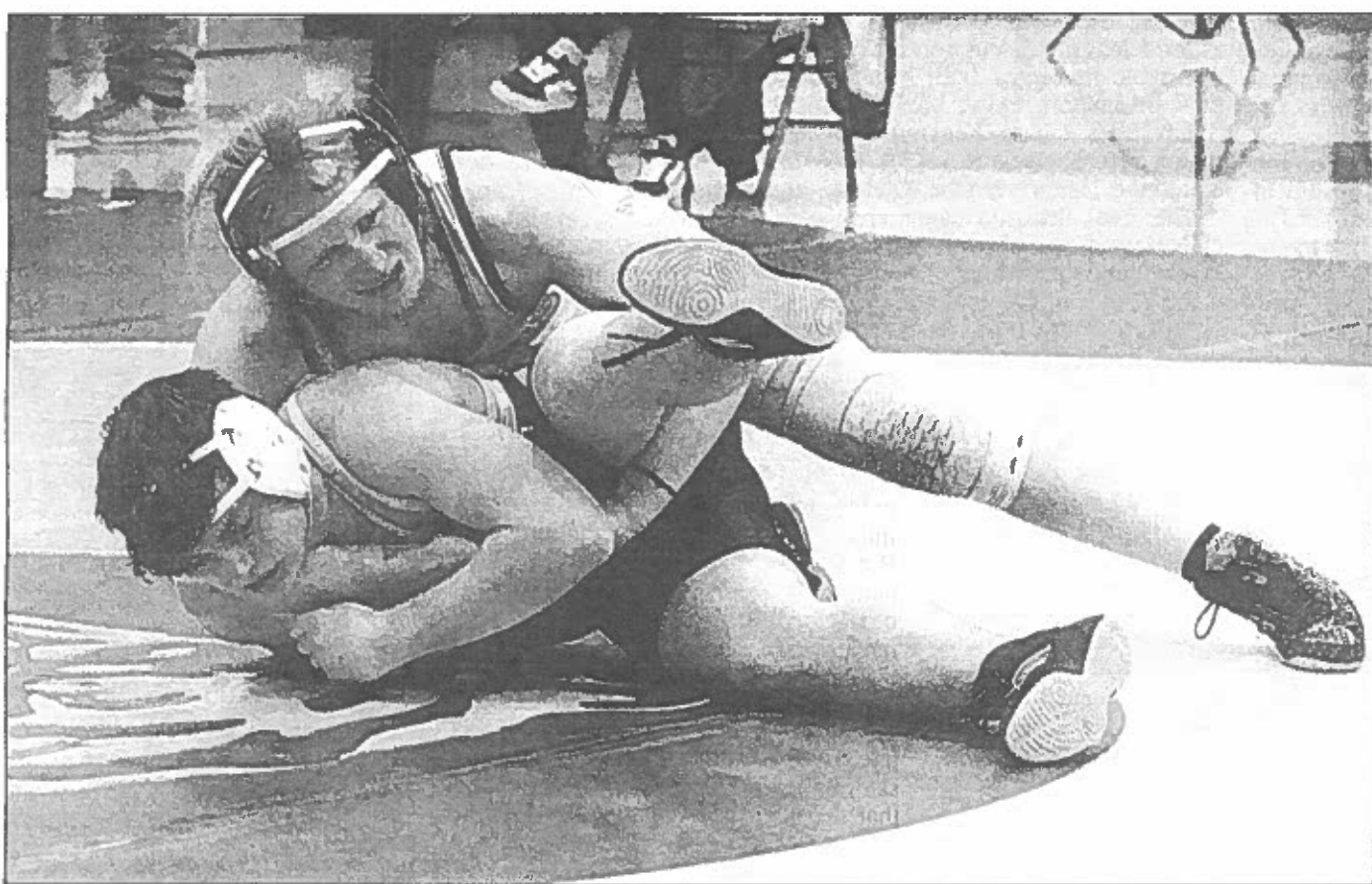
Defending champion Dover sits at 15-1 with its only loss coming to rival New Philadelphia. The Tornados will take on Parkersburg South, which is third seed with a 10-3 record. One of those

three losses came at Dover last Friday.

CLASS 4A

Defending champion East Liverpool (12-5) has been atop the standings in this class basically all season despite three consecutive losses to OVAC schools (Linsly, Wheeling Park and Harrison Central), the Potters are the top seed.

Coach Nate Conley's team will welcome Indian Creek, which has also dropped a couple in a row, but still managed to garner the fourth seed. Creek is See, OVAC, Page B2



Photos/KIM NORTH

ABOVE: SHADYSIDE'S Josh Harris works toward near-fall points against Bridgeport's Kaleb McCamick during their 150-pound match Wednesday evening at Brooke High School in the annual Bill Hinegardner OVAC Duals. Harrison won via a pin and Shadyside, claimed the match and conference title, on the 12th criteria.

BELOW: ST. Clairsville's Cody Stecyk controls an Oak Glen wrestler during their match in the semi-final round of the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Duals at Brooke.

Shadyside claims OVAC Class 1A/2A dual wrestling on criteria

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG - Whenever Bridgeport and Shadyside get together in any type of athletic event, the final result usually comes down to the very end. Wednesday night it took a little longer than normal to decide the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class 1A/2A Dual Meet championship match inside the Brooke High School Wellness Center.

With just four bouts being contested due to low numbers on each squad, the Bulldogs and Tigers evenly divided them, with both capturing a pair of pins. Each also received a pair of forfeits.

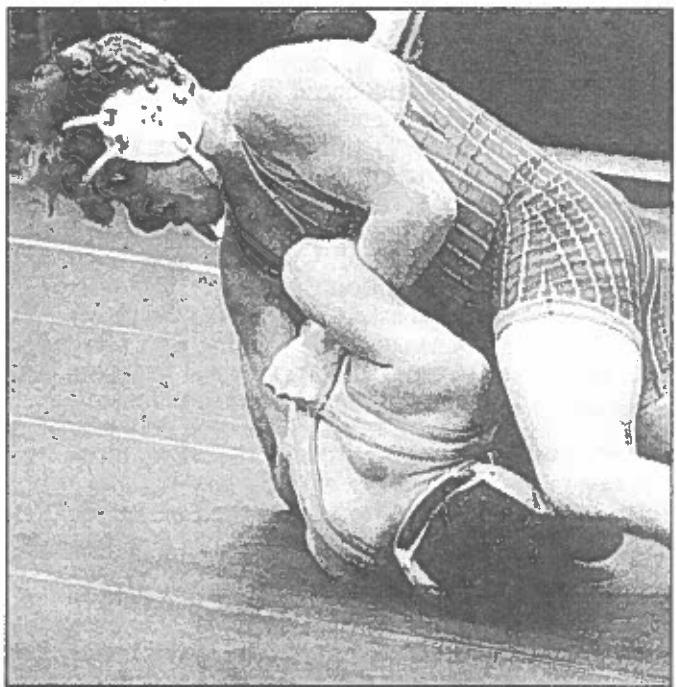
"It's nice that we were able to do this. I'm really happy

for the kids," Kinemond said. "It came down to criteria earlier this season and it came down to it again."

Kinemond is hoping this will draw some more wrestlers out for the coming years. "Hopefully, there are some kids out there that see that we won the Class 1A/2A title and want to come out and wrestle for us next year."

He is also proud of the kids that have kept the program alive after it won OVAC titles in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017.

"I've had these kids since I first started coaching and I couldn't be any prouder of them," Kinemond praised. "They have been through so much, but to win the OVACs See, **WRESTLING**, Page B2



Eagles reserve lineman Sills accused of rape

• Case dates back to 2019 for Meadowbrook product

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio (AP) — Josh Sills, a reserve offensive lineman for the NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles, has been indicted on rape and kidnapping charges that stem from an incident in his native Ohio just over three years ago, authorities said Wednesday.

Sills, an undrafted free agent who appeared in just one game this season, was placed on the commissioner's exempt list. That means he can't practice, play or travel with the team as it prepares for the Super Bowl.

The NFL announced the move Wednesday and said the issue is being reviewed under the league's personal conduct policy.

The rookie, who played at West Virginia and Oklahoma State, was indicted Tuesday by a Guernsey County grand jury in Ohio and ordered to appear in court on Feb. 16, four days after the Eagles are to play the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

His attorney, Michael Connick, said the allegations are false and that Sills will be aggressively defended.

Sills was listed as a backup guard and played just four snaps on special teams against the Cardinals on Oct. 9, the one game he played. He was on the inactive list for most of the year, including this past Sunday in Philadelphia's conference title victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

"The organization is aware of the legal matter involving Josh Sills. We have been in communication with the league office and are in the process of gathering more information. We have no further comment at this time," the Eagles said in a statement.

The indictment accuses Sills, who is from Sarahsville and attended Meadowbrook High School, of engaging in sexual activity that was not consensual and holding a woman against her will on Dec. 5, 2019.

A statement issued by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said the incident was immediately reported, and that the county sheriff's office conducted a detailed investigation.



Brady retires at 45, insisting this time it's 'for good'

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — This time, Tom Brady says he's done for good.

The seven-time Super Bowl winner with New England and Tampa Bay on



"I really thank you guys so much, to every single one of you for supporting me. My family, my friends, teammates,

we can calm down a little bit and hopefully get back to who we've been this year."

Thierry, who entered the game averaging 13 points, said she's becoming better at "letting the game come to me." She enjoys feeding off the energy of Mikesell, a transfer who reached the 1,000-point mark in a Buckeyes uniform.

"She's an amazing player and shooter, and teams like to try to take away her game on

Spectator dies after brawl at middle school boys basketball game

ALBURGH, Vt. (AP) — A brawl broke out among spectators at a middle school basketball game in northern Vermont, and a 60-year-old man who participated in the fight died, police said.

State troopers were called to the Alburgh Community Education Center just before 7 p.m. Tuesday after a report of a large fight involving spectators during a seventh- and eighth-grade boys basketball game between Alburgh and St. Albans.

The fight ended before troopers arrived, and many of the participants had left. Russell Giroux, of Alburgh, sought medical attention, police said.

He was taken by ambulance to the Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans, where he was pronounced dead.

Jay Nichols, the executive director of The Vermont Principals' Association, said in a statement that the group, which oversees school sports in the state, had no information about the event beyond what the authorities provided.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

9-9.

The other half of the bracket finds second-seeded Weir sitting at 11-6, welcoming red-hot Harrison Central, which has defeated Martins Ferry and East Liverpool in its last two outings.

The Huskies of first-year head coach Aaron Foldi are 10-7 on the season.

CLASS 3A

This has been arguably the deepest and most interesting race for the top four of all five classes.

Martins Ferry, which won 14 in a row before its aforementioned loss to Harrison last weekend, is 15-1 and the top seed. It will welcome Bellaire, which has endured a 10-game win streak, a six-game losing streak and is now riding a three-game win streak.

One of those six consecutive losses for the Big Reds (13-6) came inside the Tolbert Gymnasium at Martins Ferry.

Caldwell, which features 2,000-point scorer Bede Lori, is the second seed in this class after moving up a division this winter. The Redskins are an impressive 16-2 with neither loss coming to an OVAC foe.

The Redskins will receive a stern test when they welcome surging Linsly, which is the defending champion in this division. Coach Dave Wojcik's Cadets are 11-6 after defeating Steubenville on Tuesday. Linsly owns numerous quality wins, including one over Parkersburg South.

CLASS 2A

River has been on top of these standings all winter and is the top seed with a solid 16-3 record. The Pilots, who were runnerup in 3A last season, will welcome defending 2A champion Shadyside, which squeezed into the field by 36 hundredths of a point over Toronto.

Coach Ed Andes' Tigers are 10-9 on the season. The other half of the bracket finds Monroe Central as the second seed. The Seminoles are 13-6 and will host 11-5 Southern Local.

CLASS 1A

Defending champion Cameron has earned the top seed with a 9-7 record. The Dragons will host Trinity Christian, which is 8-8 on the season in one semifinal.

The other half of the bracket finds Madonna, which sits at 9-8 after toppling the Dragons on Tuesday evening, welcoming Valley, which qualified with a 10-6 mark.

plays at different times. The need to put together four quarters. For our team to see that we're competing with top-10 teams in the country is good."

Ohio State scored 12 points off Wisconsin turnovers to take a 45-34 halftime lead. The Buckeyes finished with 24 points off Badgers' miscues in the game.

But no lead was safe early in the second half for Ohio State.

• Wrestling

Continued from Page B1

... I'm happy for them."

When Bridgeport's Will Hunt pinned Nick Norris in the last bout at 285 pounds, the scoreboard read 24-all. After a lengthy discussion at the scorer's table involving both head coaches - Bridgeport's Matt McFarland and Shadyside's Chase Kinemond - and match referee Jack Regis, it was declared the Tigers were the winners.

The final decision came after officials delved into the rule book, finally determining the winner on criteria (1) - the 12th - of the dual meet tiebreaker system - the most reversals. There was only one in the match. Ironically, it came by Shadyside's Jacob Brown in a match he was pinned in at 175 pounds by Peyton Pyle.

"We gave it a whirl and changed things up a little bit," McFarland noted. "There's a couple of things I wish I could go back and do over, we gave it our all and wrestled well."

The teams swapped forfeits at 126 (Shadyside's Eli Gallaher) and 132 (Bridgeport's Owenn Clark) before a double forfeit at 138. The Bulldogs' Mason Aberts was awarded a forfeit at 144 as they led 12-6, but a pin by Josh Harris at 150 made it 12-all. Double forfeits at 157 and 165 preceded Pyle's pin that put Bridgeport up 18-12.

A forfeit to the Tigers' Chris Stillion (190) evened things at 18, but Shadyside's William Robinson earned a pin at 215 to put the top-seeded Orange back on top, 24-18. Hunt squared things for the final time before the outcome was determined.

"I told Will we needed a pin and went out there and got us one," McFarland said of his freshman. "He gave us a shot and that's all I can ask for as a coach. He stepped up."

• Brady

Continued from Page B1

accolades, and his influence will be felt for years to come."

Brady announced his retirement one day after attending the premiere of "80 for Brady" - which comes out Friday - in Los Angeles. The movie tells the story of four lifelong friends, played by Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field, who went to a Super Bowl to see Brady play.

He was asked Tuesday night whether he felt a connection working with women - the four stars range in age from 76 to 91 - who don't want to retire.

"They're working hard and they love it. So good for them," Brady told The Associated Press. "You know, it's just that's what life is about. You got to, you know, wake up every day with a purpose. And when you find something you love to do, you know, it's hard to stop. You really enjoy it. And there's a lot of aspects that you do enjoy. So they still bring it at this age. It's really unbelievable to watch them on set and how much energy they have. And I certainly was inspired by them and learned a lot of lessons on this whole experience."

Famously underrated coming into the NFL - he was picked 199th in the 2000 draft by the Patriots, behind six other quarterbacks, three kickers and a punter - Brady certainly wasn't expected to become synonymous with greatness. He played in one game as a rookie, completing one of three passes for six yards.

The next year, it all changed.

Brady took over as the Patriots' starter, the team beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl that capped the 2001 season and he and New England coach Bill Belichick were well on their way to becoming the most successful coach-QB duo in football history.

More Super Bowl wins came after the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The Patriots returned to football's mountaintop for a fourth time in Brady's era a decade later to cap the 2014 season, the start of three more titles in a span of five years.

He signed with Tampa Bay in free

taking care of the ball, which gave the Buckeyes an opportunity to increase their first-half lead. Wisconsin committed turnovers on six straight first-quarter possessions.

UP NEXT

Ohio State: Hosts No. 8 Maryland Sunday.

Wisconsin: Travels to Rutgers Sunday.

In Class 4A, fourth-seeded Oak Glen started both the semifinals and finals with four straight victories and never looked back as it defeated short-handed top seed St. Clairsville, 62-21, and No. 2 Indian Creek, 47-25.

"We expected to go out and win early," Cornell said. "We wrestled Creek in a dual right before the OVAC Tournament and they came back and won it. We talked all week about keeping the momentum going, and we did."

Double winners for the Golden Bears included Aiden Anderson (106), Wyatt Wolanski (120/126) and Kaiden Hebrock (285) who all won by pins: Hayden Lamb (132/138) who recorded a pair of technical falls; C.J. Duty (126/132) with a pin and decision; and Greg Sauers (190) who earned a pair of decisions.

Logan Davis (113/120) and Braxton Dlugopolski (165) each had a pin and forfeit, and Nathan Pasco (113) had a pin in the finals.

"We fell behind early like we did last year, but we didn't have the firepower we had last year to come back," Indian Creek head coach Brandon Pendleton said. "We knew Oak Glen was going to be tough to beat."

Indian Creek's winners were Gavin Pownall (144, pin), C.J. Spencer (150, forfeit), Dom Paterra (157, maj. dec.), Ethan Llewellyn (175, dec.) and Elijah Llewellyn (215).

Indian Creek had defeated Edison in the semifinals, 39-30, but the Wildcats rebounded to place third with a 57-21 win over the Red Devils.

The Class 3A and Class 5A schools will go for titles tonight inside the John Marshall Field House in Moundsville. Start time is 6.

ens of times saying there's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady, and I still feel that way," Belichick said in 2021 - shortly before Tampa Bay, with Brady, came to New England and beat the Patriots in a game dubbed "The Return." "I was very lucky to have Tom as the quarterback, to coach him, and he was as good as any coach could ever ask for."

Brady set league single-season records for completions (490) and pass attempts (733) while throwing for 4,643 yards, 25 touchdowns and nine interceptions in his final season. The Bucs, however ranked dead last in rushing offense and, forced to rely almost solely of Brady's arm, struggled to get the ball into the end zone.

After scoring 61 touchdowns in 2021, Tampa Bay slipped to 31 last season and averaged just 18.4 points per game - down from over 30 in Brady's first two seasons with the Bucs.

At 8-9, Brady's only losing season in over two decades as a NFL starter, the Bucs became just the fourth team in league history to earn a postseason berth with a losing mark in a non-strike year.

The offensive struggles continued during a lopsided loss to Dallas in the NFC wild-card round.

Brady won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times.

Brady and model Gisele Bundchen finalized their divorce this past fall, during the Bucs' season. It ended a 13-year marriage between two superstars who respectively reached the pinnacles of football and fashion.

It was announced last year that when Brady retires from playing, he would join Fox Sports as a television analyst in a 10-year, \$375 million deal.

WVU women lose

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. (AP) — Sonya Morris scored 17 points, Rori Harmon scored nine of her 14 in the fourth quarter and No. 24 Texas turned

Brooke at Beaver Local
St. Clairsville at University
Buckeye Trail at East Liverpool
Manetta at Barnesville
Shenandoah at Clay-Battelle
Weir at Toronto
Magnolia at Caldwell
Shadyside at Steubenville Central
Conotton Valley at Paden City
Bridgeport at Madonna
Wood Co. Christian at Valley
WRESTLING
OVAC Bill Hinegardner Duals
(at John Marshall Field House)
Class 3A and Class 5A

Sports on TV

Thursday, February 2
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
5 p.m.
CBSN - LIU Brooklyn at Merrimack
7 p.m.
CBSN - FAU at UAB
ESPN2 - Michigan at Northwestern
ESPNU - High Point at UNC-Asheville
FS1 - Wisconsin at Ohio St.
8 p.m.
PAC-12N - Stanford at Utah
9 p.m.
CBSN - Loyola Marymount at BYU
ESPN2 - Houston at Wichita St.
ESPNU - UTEP at Middle Tennessee
FS1 - Washington at UCLA
10 p.m.
PAC-12N - California at Colorado
10:30 p.m.
ESPN - Oregon at Arizona
11 p.m.
CBSN - Santa Clara at Gonzaga
ESPNU - San Francisco at Saint Mary's (Cal)
FS1 - Washington St. at Southern Cal
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.
ACCN - Pittsburgh at Duke
6:30 p.m.
BTN - Illinois at Michigan
7 p.m.
SECN - Kentucky at South Carolina
8 p.m.
ACCN - NC State at Georgia Tech
8:30 p.m.
BTN - Michigan St. at Nebraska
ESPN - Maryland at Iowa
9 p.m.
SECN - Vanderbilt at Missouri
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
12:30 p.m.
ESPNU - Senior Bowl: Practice, Mobile, Ala.
3 p.m.
ESPN2 - Senior Bowl: Practice, Mobile, Ala.
6:30 p.m.
NFLN - Shrine Bowl: East vs. West, Las Vegas
GOLF
3:30 a.m.
GOLF - DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, First Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
3 p.m.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, First Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.
3:30 a.m. (Friday)
GOLF - DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Second Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)
3 p.m.
ESPNU - Axe Metro Classic: Montverde (Fla.) vs. LA Lumiere (Ind.), Union, N.J.
5 p.m.
ESPNU - NBC Series: Sunrise Christian (Kan.) vs IMG Academy (Fla.), Bradenton, Fla.
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT - Memphis at Cleveland
10 p.m.
TNT - LA Clippers at Milwaukee
NFL FOOTBALL
7 p.m.
ESPN - NFL Pro Bowl Skills Showdown: AFC vs. NFC Events, Las Vegas
TENNIS
6 a.m.
TENNIS - Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Early Rounds
12:30 p.m.
TENNIS - Lyon-WTA Early Rounds
2 a.m. (Friday)
TENNIS - Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Quarterfinals
6 a.m. (Friday)
TENNIS - Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Quarterfinals ...
Girls Prep Scores
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Alliance Marlington 77, Alliance 49
Ashtabula Edgewood 62, Geneva 35
Baltimore Liberty Union 73, Marion Elgin 42
Beechwood, Ky., del. Cin. Riverside Academy, forfeit
Burton Berkshire 38, Orwell Grand Valley 34
Canfield 54, Warren Harding 31
Centerburg 47, Carlington-Lincoln 41
Chagrin Falls 32, Mentor Lake Cath. 28
Chagrin Falls Kenston 41, Mayfield 26
Chardon 69, Eastlake North 63
Cin. Wyoming 44, Cin. Finneytown 31
Cle. Hts. Beaumont 74, Andrews Osborne Academy 33
Columbiana 48, Lisbon David Anderson 35
Copley 60, Amherst Steele 43
Dresden Tri-Valley 77, Coshocton 31
Elyria Cath. 61, Rocky River 55
Gates Mills Gilmour 48, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 46
Gnadenhutten Indian Valley 36, W. Lafayette Ridgewood 31
Hillard Davidson 69, Cols. Whetstone 4
Independence 47, Brookwood 34
Kirland 45, Wickliffe 38
Louisville 60, N. Can. Hoover 42
Massillon Perry 51, Massillon Jackson 34
Mt. Gilead 50, Howard E. Knox 25
N. Royalton 48, Barberton 33
New Lexington 67, Zanesville Maysville 20
Painesville Harvey 54, Ashabula Lakeside 18
Ravenna SE 50, Mogadore 44
Richmond Hts. 55, Garfield Hts. Trinity 23
Salem 43, Beloit W. Branch 29
Sidney 52, Tipp City Tippecanoe 33
Stow-Munroe Falls 38, Rocky River Magnificat 31
Strasburg-Franklin 60, Lore City Buckeye Trail 22
Strongsville 57, Berea-Midpark 44
Sugar Creek Garaway 31, Uhrichsville Claymont 30
Tuscarawas Cent. Cath. 55, Mahan 49, OT
Vandalia Butler 51, Xenia 34

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At the conclusion of Tuesday night game between West Virginia and TCU this was proven once again.

A fan in the TCU student section, according to the account of a near incident as WVU was heading toward its locker room after a difficult defeat to swallow, drew the very wrath of the very large Jimmy Bell Jr. when the Mountaineer center saw him shaking a finger in his mother's face.

Now there's stupidity and there's stupidity, but this kind of thing breaks the parameters. If there ever is a no-no, it is not to be provocatively rude and stupid to



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

using game.

Seeing that, Bell reacted as all of us would and tried to get into the stands but was restrained by teammates and coaches. It could have evolved into an incident shared on ESPN and Court TV had cooler heads not intervened.

Most fans — and we must get this straight up front — are not a problem. They come out to have a good time, they root for their team while rooting against the opponents in a civil manner.

Please see FANS, Page 10



Photo Provided

West Virginia fans cheer during a Mountaineers game inside the WVU Coliseum earlier this season.

OVAC BILL HINEGARDNER DUAL MEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shadyside Wins Class 1A/2A On Criteria Over Bridgeport

No. 4 Oak Glen Claims Class 4A Championship

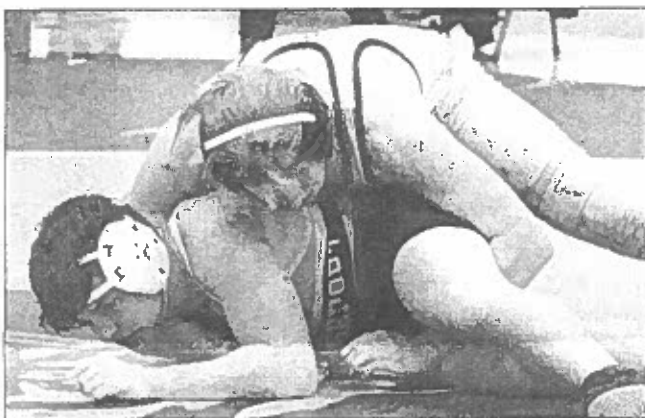
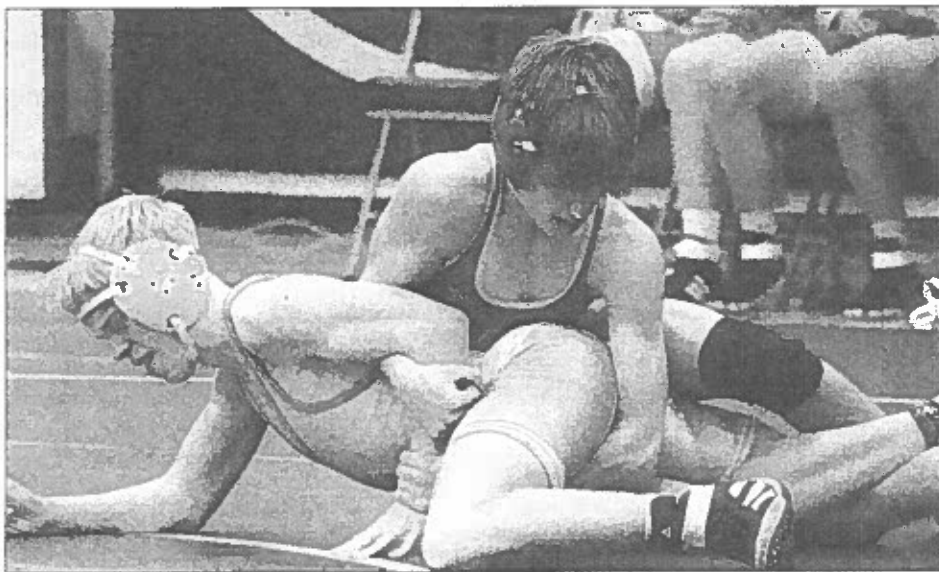
By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG - Whenever Ohio River rivals Bridgeport and Shadyside get together in any type of athletic event, the final result usually comes down to the very end. Wednesday night it took a little longer than normal to decide the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class 1A/2A Dual Meet championship match inside the Brooke High School Wellness Center.

With just four bouts being contested due to low numbers on each squad, the Bulldogs and Tigers evenly divided them, with both capturing a pair of pins. Each also received a pair of forfeits.

"It's nice that we were able to do this. I'm really happy for the kids," Kinemond said. "It came down to criteria earlier this season and it came down to it again."

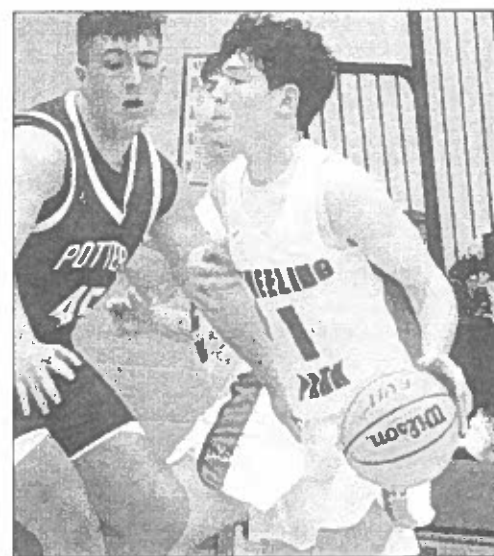
Please see CRITERIA, Page 10



TOP: Indian Creek's Brent Rayburn (top) has a grip on Oak Glen's C.J. Duty at 132 pounds, but Duty prevailed, 6-5.

LEFT: Shadyside's Josh Harris looks for a cradle against Bridgeport's Kaleb McCamick at 150 pounds. Harris won by pin.

Photos by Kim North



File Photo

Wheeling Park's Aiden Davis makes a move to the basket in a recent game against East Liverpool. The sophomore knocked down 31 points Wednesday in a win over Brooke.

Park Romps Past Brooke On Sr. Night

Sophomore Davis Nets Career-High 31 Points

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING - As the Wheeling Park boys' basketball team celebrated Senior Night, it was an underclassmen that made the most noise for the Patriots.

Aiden Davis scored 24 points in the first half en route to a career-high 31 including six shots from behind the arc to lead the Patriots to a victory over Brooke Wednesday night, 84-52 at the Palace on the Hill.

While Davis had the career-night, it was a pair of seniors that got Wheeling Park off to a hot start. Brett Phillips and Cole Wilkinson each had four points in the early going as the Patriots raced out to an early 8-0 lead before Brooke called a time out.

"I told them it was probably one of the best Senior Nights we've had in a while," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "All five (seniors) contributed and played well. It was a good start for us and we preached to them to just play solid defense. We knew that Brooke had guards that could shoot. They played a lot of different defenses, but I thought we reacted to each of them well. Brett Phillips and Cole Wilkinson really stepped up as seniors and Adien... When Aiden gets it going, there's not much there you can do, especially if it's open."

Such was the case in the second quarter. After Blake Shorts hit the first basket of the second quarter to cut the Bruins' deficit to 23-12, the Patriots scored 15 unanswered points over the next three minutes with Davis draining three treys in that span. A Wilkinson bucket capped the run to put Wheeling Park up, 38-12 with 3:10 left in the first half.

Davis' 31 points broke his career-high by one point. Just this past Saturday against Buckhannon-Upshur, the sophomore poured in 30. He also dished out five assists.

"The best thing about him is he comes out in the third quarter and he's dishing it out to the seniors," Jebbia said. "He's getting the other guys involved and that's what we need. We understand we have the No. 1 team (Morgantown) coming on Friday. We got a day to get ready and it was just good to have this type of win, we understand what we're up against on Friday, but we're going to come out ready to play."

Wilkinson secured 16-points while Phillips, who signed his letter of intent to play football at Frostburg State hours earlier, finished with 15 points to round out the double digit scorers.

"We were not ready to play. We were

Boys OVAC Pairings Are Announced

Cameron (1A), River (2A), Martins Ferry (3A), East Liverpool (4A), Morgantown (5A) Earn Top Seeds

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

As it pertains to the OVAC Basketball titles, only 20 teams find themselves still alive in the chase.

Those teams learned their opponents for next Tuesday's semifinals, which will be held on the higher seed's court, Wednesday morning when the basketball committee met at Belmont College to finalize those pairings and set the consolation games for the teams that didn't advance to the semifinals.

The championship finals will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz with the 2A schools opening the action at 10 a.m. The games will be begin every two hours and run 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 1A.

Here's a capsule look at each class:

CLASS 5A

Morgantown, which is the top-ranked team in the state of West Virginia, is also the top seed in the big-school OVAC division. Coach David Tallman's team is 15-1 on the season. The Mohigans will welcome fourth-seeded Wheeling Park. These two play on Friday in Wheeling and just played last Wednesday in Morgantown. The Patriots entered Wednesday's game at 10-4.



Defending champion Dover sits at 15-1 with its only loss coming to rival New Philadelphia. The Tornadoes will take on Parkersburg South, which is third seed with a 10-3 record. One of those three losses came at Dover last Friday.

CLASS 4A

Defending champion East Liverpool (12-5) has been atop the standings in this class basically all season an despite three consecutive losses to OVAC schools (Linsly, Wheeling Park and Harrison Central), the Potters are the top seed.

Coach Nate Conley's team will welcome Indian Creek, which has also dropped a couple in a row, but still managed to garner the fourth seed. Creek is 9-9.

The other half of the bracket finds second-seeded Weir sitting at 11-6, welcoming red-hot Harrison Central, which has defeated Martins Ferry and East Liverpool in its last two outings.

The Huskies of first-year head coach Aaron Foldi are 10-7 on the season.

CLASS 3A

This has been arguably the deepest and most interesting race for the top four of all five classes.

Please see BOYS, Page 10

Tom Brady Retires From Football ... Again

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — This time, Tom Brady says he's done for good.

The seven-time Super Bowl winner with New England and Tampa Bay announced his retirement from the NFL on Wednesday, exactly one year after first saying his playing days were over, by posting a brief video lasting just under one minute on social media.

Unlike last winter, though, the most successful quarterback in league history, as well as one of the greatest

A year ago when he retired, it was in the form of a long Instagram post. But about six weeks later, he decided to return for one more run, citing "unfinished business" after an early playoff exit.

The Buccaneers — with whom he won a Super Bowl two seasons ago — made the playoffs again this season, losing in their playoff opener. And at the time, it begged the question about whether Brady would play again.

teammates, my competitors. I could go on forever. There's too many. Thank you guys for allowing me to live my absolute dream.

"I wouldn't change a thing. Love you all."

Brady is the NFL's career leader in yards passing (89,214) and touchdowns (649). He is the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and has been MVP of the game five times. He also holds marks for regular-season wins (251), Super Bowl appearances (10), playoff games and wins

OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

3rd Time Is Charm For Morgantown

Mohigans Avenge Losses To Park, Capture 5A Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CADIZ — The third time was definitely a charm for Morgantown Saturday afternoon. After dropping a pair of regular-season contests to top-seeded Wheeling Park, the Mohigans more than made up for it with a 59-49 victory in the OVAC Class 5A Girls Basketball championship game at Harrison Central High School.

The coveted triumph also allowed Morgantown (16-4) repeat as the 'Big School' titlists, as it also defeated the Patriots (18-2) in last year's championship contest.

"Morgantown wanted it more than us. Morgantown deserved to win the game," Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young said. "They played four full quarters and we played just one. We played a good third quarter, and even in that third quarter when we got the lead, there was a sequence of a couple of things ... selfish play, an offense rebound that led to a score. That was kind of the story of the game.

"You've got to give Morgantown credit," Young added. "They played an absolutely fantastic game. I tip my hat to them."

As far as his team goes, "if we had played a whole game like we played in the third quarter it might have been a different story."

Morgantown started the game on a 15-6 run and led 23-13 midway through the second quarter before Woods scored five and Alexis Bordas added a basket that made it a 23-20 deficit. However, the Mohigans netted 10 of the final 12 points of the half to lead 33-22.

It was the Patriots turn to



Wheeling Park's Abby Delk (10) goes up for a shot during the Patriots' 59-49 loss to Morgantown in the OVAC 5A championship game.

Photo by Kim North

make a run as a layup by Natalie Daugherty capped a 14-4 spree that made the score 37-37.

After a Morgantown miss, Bordas was fouled. The sophomore tickled the twine twice, giving Wheeling Park its first lead at 39-37.

Please see CHARM, Page 11

MORE INSIDE

- Union Local cruises to a third-straight OVAC 3A title over Fort Frye, while Indian Creek's suffocating defense gets the Redskins past Oak Glen in the Class 4A championship game/10

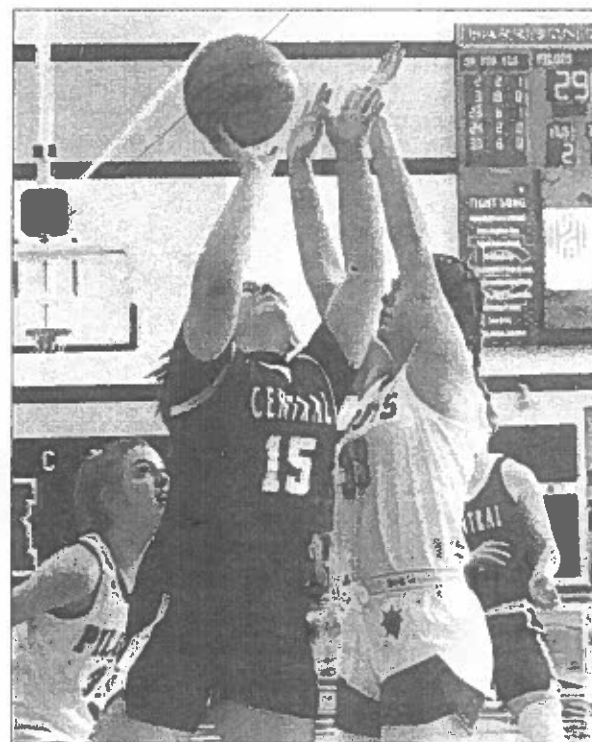


Photo by Mike Hughes

Wheeling Central's Lily Vogrin (15) scores two of her team-high 12 points Saturday against River in the OVAC Class 2A championship game at Harrison Central High School.

River Sinks Central In 2A

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — River broke open a nip-and-tuck game against Wheeling Central with a big run, then hung on in the fourth as the Pilots defeated the Maroon Knights 57-46 on Saturday in the OVAC Class 2A championship.

Pilots head coach Rick Islay received MVP-worthy performances from both junior point guard Kelsey Harlan and senior post Rylee Knight who combined for 40 points.

Harlan, who totaled 19 points and had a number of steals and assists, also did an admirable job defending Wheeling Central's leading scorer Brook Edge, who totaled nine points.

Knight, meanwhile, led all scorers with 21 points while snagging an equal number of rebounds in a dominating effort in the paint.

The pair are peaking at the right time, having each scored 23 points in a semifinal win against Southern Local to reach Saturday's finale at Cadiz.

"Hats off to Kelsey, our point guard," Islay said. "She can do it all, drive, shoot, play defense, and Rylee was just a beast on the boards."

Please see RIVER, Page 11

Cameron Makes It Back-To-Back 1A Crowns



Photo by Kim North

Cameron's Ashlynn Van Tassell makes a move to the basket Saturday night during the OVAC Class 1A Girls Basketball championship game at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz.

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CADIZ — Back-to-back!

That's what No. 2 seed Cameron accomplished Saturday night inside Harrison Central High School when it defended its OVAC Class 1A Girls Basketball Championship with a hard-fought, 47-36, nod over top-seeded Frontier.

"Back-to-back sounds really, really good. I like the sound of that," Cameron head coach Holly Pettit said. "It means a lot."

Although the victory is sweet, Pettit knows there's still work ahead for the defending W.Va. Class A queenpins (14-5).

"We're taking it one game at

a time. I still don't think we've played our best basketball yet," Pettit noted. "Tonight was a pretty ugly game. You could tell that we've been off for almost a week. We play Monday and then we travel to Morgantown on Friday, so it's time to get to playing our best basketball."

The Cougars (15-6) were up to the task early as both teams battled nerves and ended up an 8-all stalemate after one quarter.

A 10-3 run to open the second quarter built the lead to 18-11 as four different Dragons scored during the spurt. Gracie Carter and Emilee Dobbs both knocked down treys to spark the designated visitors as the margin grew to

23-16 at the half.

"Gracie really stepped up," Pettit said. "She got two fouls early on and had to sit, but when Maci got her second, she went back in and played really

After the Cougars' Kara Ramsey scored to open the third quarter, Cameron used a basket from Maci Neely, two free throws from Ashlynn Van Tassell and a Kenzi Clutter bucket to lead by 11, 29-18, prompting Frontier head coach Mike Cisler to call timeout.

Frontier would run off 10 of the next 14 points to pull to within five, 33-28, and trailed 35-28 with eight minutes to play.

Please see CAMERON, Page 11



Role Players Deliver In A Big Way For Union Local In 3A Title Game

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — The plan, when playing Union Local's girls basketball team, to take away senior All-Ohioans Reagan Vinskovich and Torre Kildow makes good sense.

But when the Jets "role players" like Lauren Miller, Emily Kellaway and Ella Pietranton are making shots early in the game, the plan needs revision.

Such was the case Saturday afternoon when the Jets took on Fort Frye for the OVAC Class 3A title at Harrison Central High School. Miller, Kellaway and Pietranton all rained in bonus goals in the opening quarter, allowing the Jets to build a 23-6 lead after one and they never looked back en route to a 49-34 victory and the program's third consecutive conference title.

"We prepared to be in a grind game, but when we were able to get the lead like we did they had to play our game a little bit," UL head coach Scooter Tolzda said. "Fort Frye rolled the dice and left our role players open and we said 'our role players will definitely have to play well (Saturday).'" They delivered.

In the first quarter, which proved to be the decisive chapter, Union Local connected on its first eight shots from the field. It didn't miss any of its five, 3-point shots and simply had their way.

"Lauren (Miller), Laken (Vinskovich), Emmy (Kellaway) and Ella (Pietranton) all did admirable jobs," Tolzda said. "They were the key because they were guarding Reagan and Torre. And honestly, we'll probably go as far (in the tournament) as our role players take us."

On the other end, veteran and highly successful Cadets head coach Dan Liedtke, who owns more than 700 career victories, simply could tip his cap to the Jets.

"They were really hot that first quarter," Liedtke said. "It didn't seem like it mattered who was going to shoot it. The ball was going to go in. Against a team like this, you simply can't get buried like that that early in the game because you're not going to be able to come back."

The Jets cooled off considerably, scoring just 26 points for the next three quarters.

However, their defensive prowess, which has been unheralded at times in the last couple of seasons, wasn't about to let the Cadets make too much of a run.

"We quit attacking (offensively) and tried to take some time off



Photo by Seth Staskey

Union Local's Ella Pietranton takes a shot during the Jets' 49-34 victory over Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A championship game at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz.

the clock, which we are trying to improve on," Tolzda said. "It got a little bit sloppy from our point of view, which happens every once in a while."

On top of their defense, despite the Cadets' concerted efforts to take away Reagan Vinskovich on the interior, Union Local's all-time leading scorer was able to get hers. She scored 12 of the Jets' 16 in the second half. All told, Vinskovich finished with 22 points, putting her the 1,900 mark for her career. She also collected seven rebounds.

Vinskovich was complemented by junior Lauren Miller, who hit four bonus goals and finished with 14 points. Kellaway, who was solid with the ball and defensively, finished with seven points.

Kildow, who didn't score and only took one shot, still made an impact with six rebounds, three assists and a blocked shot.

Fort Frye was led by Emmy

Duskey's 12. Kianna O'Brien finished with nine.

While the title is Union Local's third consecutive, it's the second straight on the floor because the 2021 crowns were decided via paper because of the pandemic and last season's title came in Class 4A. Regardless of how, where and what class, the excitement level doesn't change.

"I've been fortunate enough to win a few (OVAC titles) and everyone of them is precious," Tolzda said.

Next up for the Jets is the regular-season finale against OVAC Class 5A runnerup Wheeling Park on Wednesday in Morristown. The Jets will be seeking a perfect regular season.

"It's going to be an exciting game with an electric atmosphere," Tolzda said. "It's going to be worth the price of admission and we think it's going to be a heck of a game."

Creek Takes Over In 2nd Half To Win 4A Championship

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft loves collecting OVAC basketball championships, regardless of the classification.

The affable mentor guided his defensive-minded and top-seeded Redskins past third-seeded Oak Glen, 42-26, Saturday afternoon in the OVAC 4A title game.

Eft adds his freshly-minted Class 4A championship trophy to the 5A crown his Redskins pocketed in 2020 when they downed Wheeling Park in overtime.

"It really feels great winning another OVAC title. It's been three years since the last one," Eft said. "It's nice to see all the hard work these girls and my coaches put in during the summer and fall pay dividends."

"The girls are a very committed group. We have great leadership and camaraderie," he added. "Winning the OVAC is always one of our goals. I am very happy for these girls."

Creek had its hands full for one half against the upstart Golden Bears as points were at a premium in the opening two quarters. The Redskins took a 16-15 lead into intermission as both teams encountered shooting woes.

The Redskins began to take control in the third quarter.

Eft's charges limited Oak Glen to just five points in the frame while getting scoring from five Redskins to forge a 30-20 advantage entering the final eight minutes. Junior Tori Robertson keyed the Creek surge with five points in the period.

The Redskins methodically pulled away in the final stanza. Hard-working junior forward Kylie Anderson delivered six points for the Jefferson Countains while only one Golden Bear was able to score in the fourth period

(Kami Ward).

"We missed a lot of easy shorts early on, but I thought we began to settle in offensively late in the second quarter. We began to find holes in their zone," Eft said. "Defensively, I felt we were locked in from the start."

"I really like the fact we had balanced scoring today. That is key for us," he continued. "We got solid contributions from everyone today. They could have chosen several of our players for the MVP award."

The John Howell Memorial MVP Award went to McKenna Scott. The talented sophomore guard netted 10 points while displaying loads of savvy point play.

Anderson led Creek with 14 points while Robertson chipped in with 11 counters. Eft received scoring from six Redskins.

Creek improved to a sparkling 15-4 on the campaign. The Redskins have a stern test Monday at Tusky Valley.

Oak Glen, which upset second-seeded Harrison Central Tuesday to make the title tilt, dropped to 8-10 on the campaign.

"We lost to a very good team today. Give Creek a lot of credit," Golden Bears' head coach Ryan Wells noted. "I was happy with our defensive effort. We held them to 42 points."

"But we obviously had trouble scoring. We missed way too many easy shots and we did a poor job at the foul line (5-of-13)," he added. "But I am proud of my girls they played hard and didn't quit. It is also a nice achievement to make the finals."

Ward topped the Oak Glen attack with 12 points while Lizzie Kell and Alexis Greenleaf evenly divided 12 tallies.

The Golden Bears take on East Liverpool Monday.

Creek committed nine turnovers. Oak Glen was guilty of 15 miscues.

Wheeling Park Places Third At W.Va. Class AAA State Duals

LEWISBURG — The Patriots went 2-1 at the West Virginia Class AAA State Duals Saturday, winning their quarterfinal match over St. Albans (55-24) before falling in the semifinals to Spring Mills (39-30).

They defeated Woodrow Wilson (44-33) in the third-place match.

OHSWCA District

Team Duals, Division III

Barnesville, Ferry Headed To State
BARNESVILLE — The Shamrocks advanced to their third consecutive state tournament with lop-sided victories over Waterford (76-6) and Pleasant (52-21) inside "The Greenhouse."

OVAC champions Dakota King (132), Skyer King (138) and Reese

Stephen (150) all recorded two pins each, while Ayden King (157) had a pin and was awarded a forfeit. Johnathan Huntsman (106) received two forfeits.

Other double winners were Aydan Andrews (120), Hines Ford (126), Karson Milhoan (165), Robby Nixon (175) and Marshall Meade (190).

MARTINS FERRY — The Purple Riders will be making their first trip to Versailles and the state tournament after defeating Shenandoah (59-21) and Malvern (49-24) inside Tolbert Gymnasium.

Registering two pins were David Proctor (106), Shayden Fogle (150) and Johnny McFarland (165), while Kaden Archer (138) and Alexander

Finsley (190/215) each had a decision and a pin.

Trey Regis (144) received a forfeit and won a decision. Dylan Ward (120) and George Hulsey (175) received two forfeits each.

BOWLING

Wheeling Park Boys Win City Title

The Patriots rolled a 2,860 to beat Linsly 2,382 and Wheeling Central 2,020 on Saturday.

Wheeling Park's Mikel Henderson was the individual winner with games of 211, 213 and 202 for a 626 series.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Linsly 72, Spire Academy 62

WHEELING — Linsly got a final tuneup for next week's OVAC Class

3A semifinal at Caldwell with a victory against SPIRE Academy Saturday inside the Stifel Fieldhouse.

Linsly was led by Carter Anderson's 24. Gavin Jackson added 12, while Dharae Goodwin and Nate Coleman went for 11 and 10, respectively.

HIT Tournament Finals

Hundred 60, Harman 51

HUNDRED — The Hornets were led by Josiah Morgan with 14 points. Colt Sandy and Brayden Bartrug both had 10. All three were named MVPs.

Valley 50, Calhoun Co. 34

(Late Friday)

PINE GROVE — Gavin Derby scored 27 points and Dallas Preat added 10 as the Lumberjacks topped the Red Devils.

Stevenson's 34 Keys WVU Rout Of Oklahoma

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN — It's Erik

good bit of the second half from the bench, enjoying the scene.

Over his last four games, since early and spanked them and sent them off to bed early as he poured 23 points through the hoop in the



OVAC CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS DECIDED



Photos by Joe Lovell

ABOVE LEFT: Pictured is the Wheeling Park cheering squad, which won the OVAC Class 5A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Mary Darrow, Katherine L'Ecuyer, Jermaniq Edmonds and Hannah McKeegan. Standing, from left, are Coach Kristi Taylor, Head Coach Shawna Shepherd, Shae Marling, Addison Baker, Civita Hooper, Adisyn Gessler, Adam Carman, A.J. Walters, Elle Terek, Amber Yanchak and assistant coach Ashley Darrow. ABOVE RIGHT: The St. Clairsville cheering squad won the OVAC Class 4A cheering championship on Saturday. Front row, from left, are Ashlynn Stock, Laili Dombroski, Angelina Applegarth, Mady Drosieko, Alivia DaRe and Kamryn Orum. Back row, from left, are Coach Shawn Tomlan, Alianna Hawthorne, Avamarie Norris, Alexa Plumby, Ava Borkoski, Gracie Smith, Olivia Perzanowski, Brynlee Newton, Ava Crum, Nya Davis and Coach Cathy Wolfe. BELOW LEFT: The Barnesville cheering squad won the OVAC Class 3A cheering championship on Saturday. Front row, from left, are A.J. Empeno, Kaylee Darby, Lillian Ford, Lakyn Abrigg, Ashlyn Spangenburg and Addison Carpenter. Top row, from left, are Addy DeGenova, Belle Corder, Tate Spangenburg, Lilah Lucas and Ava Sobotka. BELOW RIGHT: The Wheeling Central cheering squad won the OVAC Class 2A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Jocelyn Waterhouse, Alysa Kalo, Anna Hester, Hailey Wear and Maddie Potts. Back row, from left, are Isabelle Cox, Bella Contraguerro, Alexa Loy, Fallon O'Connor, Olivia Golein, Mischa McGhee and Kansas Yeager. Not pictured is the Conotton Valley cheerleading squad, which won the Class 1A championship during Saturday's action.



CAMERON

(Continued from Page 9)

Van Tassell netted eight of her game-high 22 points in the final quarter, including a 6-for-8 performance from the free-throw line. Emilee Dobbs had a key basket and Frontier could get no closer than six.

"With teams doubling and triple-teaming Ashlynn, we've got to have some other players step up, and she does a good job of looking for them when she gets the ball in the post with defenders on her," Pettit added.

Emilee Dobbs supported Van Tassell's scoring with eight, while Clutter had six points, seven rebounds and half-a-dozen assists. Neely also had six boards while Van Tassell completed a double-double with a game best 16.

For her performance, she was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game.

Ramsey was the lone twin-figure scorer for the Cougars with 14. Grace Knowlton added eight points and four rebounds, while Morgan Haught had six points and a like number of boards.

Frontier charted 15 turnovers, with eight coming in the third quarter. Cameron had 14.

SUPER BOWL

(Continued from Page 9)

Odds makers are expecting a good game, though they are giving the Eagles a slight edge. Philadelphia opened as a 1 1/2-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

The Chiefs advanced to their third Super Bowl in four seasons when Harrison Butker made a 45-yard field goal with 3 seconds left to push Kansas City past the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in the AFC championship game last weekend.

The Eagles routed the San Francisco 49ers 31-7 in the NFC title game. They've looked dominant in the playoffs, also beating the New York Giants 38-7 in the divisional round.

Philadelphia is back in the Super Bowl five years after beating the New England Patriots 41-33.

Now a mostly new generation of Eagles — led by Hurts and Sirianni — will come to Arizona to try and win another title.

The teams will both take part in the "Super Bowl LVII Opening Night" today in downtown Phoenix, where players and coaches from both teams are available for the annual media extravaganza.

Then it's down to business. The Chiefs will practice throughout the week at Arizona State's football facilities while the Eagles will do their preparation at the Arizona Cardinals' practice facility.

There is no shortage of storylines: Kansas City coach Andy Reid goes against his former team in a game that's also the first matchup of Black starting quarterbacks in the Super Bowl with Mahomes and Hurts.

There's also a brother-against-brother show-

CHARM

(Continued from Page 9)

The lead was short lived as Morgantown's Kate Hawkins completed a conventional three-point play before the quarter ended to put the Mohigans in the lead.

They never trailed again as Mia Henkins drained a trio of bonus balls. She finished with 14 points, 11 in the final panel.

"Mia is a shooter. I've been watching her for four years now," Young said of Henkins, who was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game. "Her dad used to coach at Morgantown. She's a coach's kid and she took advantage of her opportunities today."

By not making many shots in the first half, Wheeling Park wasn't able to utilize its full court pressure like it likes. The Patriots were 8-for-26 from the floor in the first half and ended up 16 of 49. They were 4-for-21 from beyond the bonus arc.

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"We've been pretty successful against Morgantown by playing them in the half-court, but they dictated right from the start what they were going to do offensively. ... Our defensive focus didn't start until the third quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Morgantown."

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points. She also finished with a team-leading seven rebounds.

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Bordas added 11 points and six rebounds and Seneca Heller also had six boards. Sophie Abraham had eight points.

RIVER

(Continued from Page 9)

Edge's lone 3-pointer of the game came with 5:14 left in the second quarter to cut River's lead to one at 21-20. That was the last time Central scored until senior Reagan Olejasz stuck a putback of a Valerie Downing missed triple attempt in the third quarter.

The preceding span saw the Pilots amass a 19-point lead courtesy of the 18-0 run that began with a Hannah Raper triple in the second quarter and ended with a Knight putback, one of eight second-chance points for the senior.

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Robinson admitted while the

making the OVAC tournament the previous season.

Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz led the second-half resurgence, with Vogrin canning three triples between the third and fourth quarters, and Olejasz scoring all 10 of her points in the half.

With Central's inside game requiring a bit more attention, the Knights' were able to work the ball around and get better looks from the perimeter that weren't there early.

"We decided not to press (in the second half) as we didn't want to give up any transition buckets, but if I had to do it over again, I might go back and press

Knight noted the Knights' size advantage in the paint, with multiple 6-footers, adding that it made her work far more difficult in grabbing boards.

Prior to tip-off, Central's perimeter game was a concern, but the early success inside necessitated a shift in focus.

"They have good 3-point shooters and we wanted to get out on them a little more, but we got beat on the inside a few times and we needed to close that off," Knight said.

Harlan won the MVP award for the game. Raper backed her and Knight with 12 points, including eight in the first half.

Wheeling Central cheering squad won the OVAC Class 2A cheering championship on Saturday at Wesbanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Jocelyn Waterhouse, Alysa Kalo, Anna Hester, Hailey Wear and Maddie Potts. Back row, from left, are Isabelle Cox, Bella Contraguero, Alexa Loy, Fallon O'Connor, Olivia Golein, Mischa McGhee and Kansas Yeager. Not pictured is the Conotton Valley cheerleading squad, which won the Class 1A championship during Saturday's action.



She was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game.

Ramsey was the lone twin-figure scorer for the Cougars with 14. Grace Knowlton added eight points and four rebounds, while Morgan Haught had six points and a like number of boards.

Frontier charted 15 turnovers, with eight coming in the third quarter. Cameron had 14.

SUPER BOWL

(Continued from Page 9)

Odds makers are expecting a good game, though they are giving the Eagles a slight edge. Philadelphia opened as a 1 1/2-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

The Chiefs advanced to their third Super Bowl in four seasons when Harrison Butker made a 45-yard field goal with 3 seconds left to push Kansas City past the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in the AFC championship game last weekend.

The Eagles routed the San Francisco 49ers 31-7 in the NFC title game. They've looked dominant in the playoffs, also beating the New York Giants 38-7 in the divisional round.

Philadelphia is back in the Super Bowl five years after beating the New England Patriots 41-33.

Now a mostly new generation of Eagles — led by Hurts and Sirianni — will come to Arizona to try and win another title.

The teams will both take part in the "Super Bowl LVII Opening Night" today in downtown Phoenix, where players and coaches from both teams are available for the annual media extravaganza.

Then it's down to business. The Chiefs will practice throughout the week at Arizona State's football facilities while the Eagles will do their preparation at the Arizona Cardinals' practice facility.

There is no shortage of storylines: Kansas City coach Andy Reid goes against his former team in a game that's also the first matchup of Black starting quarterbacks in the Super Bowl with Mahomes and Hurts.

There's also a brother-against-brother showdown between Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce and Philadelphia center Jason Kelce.

CHARM

(Continued from Page 9)

The lead was short lived as Morgantown's Kate Hawkins completed a conventional three-point play before the quarter ended to put the Mohigans in the lead.

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"Mia is a shooter. I've been watching her for four years now," Young said of Henkins, who was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game. "Her dad used to coach at Morgantown. She's a coach's kid and she took advantage of her opportunities today."

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But Wilkinson was forced to sit in the second quarter after picking up her second foul, and things quickly turned south for the designated visitors.

"Not having her inside to help hurt quite a bit (in the second) and that's the quarter they blew up on us," Wheeling Central coach Roberta Olejasz said. "We battled back and got to within six and made it a ball game."

"Kelsey is a heck of a point guard and I hope that (River) goes deep, but I'm also really proud of the way our girls played today."

Robinson admitted while the sting of losing may linger for her Knights, there's still plenty to play for and be proud of, including reaching the finale after not

making the OVAC tournament the previous season.

Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz led the second-half resurgence, with Vogrin canning three triples between the third and fourth quarters, and Olejasz scoring all 10 of her points in the half.

With Central's inside game requiring a bit more attention, the Knights were able to work the ball around and get better looks from the perimeter that weren't there early.

"We decided not to press (in the second half) as we didn't want to give up any transition buckets, but if I had to do it over again, I might go back and press a bit, just to wear them down," Isaly admitted. "They were fresher in the second half and made more of their shots."

KIDNEY

(Continued from Page 9)

Her winning swim in the girls 100 backstroke broke one of her own records as she turned in a meet record 57.80, about eight tenths quicker than her previous meet record of 58.63 set back in 2020. It was just a hair off her pool record 57.64 set at the OVAC Championships last month.

She was also part of the 200 free relay unit that placed second in 1:48.60 to earn a state qualifying spot. Joining her on that unit were Sierra Taylor, Sydney Hess and Maitlyn Miller.

"It was another successful day for us," JM head coach Timothy Martin said. "We're very proud of everything we did (Saturday)."

"Victoria is a rockstar. She broke two more records and a previous record she set before. We came in with a goal to excel and she blew away the expectations as always."

The event wins gave her 18 points,

which was matched by Riggs for a tie for the top overall girl. Riggs, a Yale commit, topped the 200 freestyle in just a hair over her meet and pool record, and the 100 breaststroke in a meet record time for her share of the title.

The Monarchs as a team finished fifth overall.

The host Bruins also will be sending swimmers to the state meet, as the Bruins placed fourth in the girls team score and fifth on the boys side.

Brooke's Faith Farrell (sixth) and Ella McCullough (10th) both placed in the high point results.

Farrell, a freshman for the Bruins, topped the girls 50 freestyle in 26.48. McCullough was second in the 100 freestyle in 57.20.

On the boys side, Dameon Rea finished third in the 50 free in 24.47 to earn a trip to states.

"I thought we did very well, a lot of

our kids dropped time," Bruins coach John McGowan said. "Some dropped chunks of time. I was very pleased with the day overall. I think a lot of teams did well, and we did well, too."

"It's great to have this at home. It's so nice to have the pool here, we're one of two high schools to have a pool. The kids get to walk down the hall and into the pool. It makes a big difference."

Wheeling Park will also be sending a delegation to the state meet, as the Patriots had swimmers finish in the high point standings on both the boys and girls sides.

Levi Parker, who followed his strong showing in the OVACs last month with another good day, placed second overall on the boys side with Jackson Kiziminski coming in at No. 11. On the girls side, Lacie Langmeyer was fourth and Abby Heilman was sixth.

Park placed second overall in the

girls team score and fourth on the boys side.

Park's 200 medley relay unit of Molly George, Heilman, Ava Sunseri and Langmeyer topped the event in 2:01.07. Langmeyer was second in the 200 free in 2:02.14, Parker topped the boys 200 free in 1:52.78. Langmeyer topped the girls 500 free in 5:29.17. Parker was second in the boys 500 free in 5:17.74 and Heilman was second in the 100 breaststroke.

Wheeling Central's JulieAnne Humpe earned a state bid with a third in the 200 IM in 2:30.10, as did Abie Riedel, who was third in the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.51.

Parkersburg South won the boys team and individual titles, as its Quade Harris was the top male swimmer.

Morgantown won the girls team title. The state meet takes place Feb. 16-17 in Morgantown.

LOCAL CARD

Monday, Feb. 6 BOYS BASKETBALL Phar Mor Big House Shootout Cameron vs. Buffalo Putnam... GIRLS BASKETBALL Valley at Cameron... WHEELING PARK (49) - Bordas 2 7-9 11; Abraham 3 1-2 8; Woods 7 5-6 22; Daugherty 2 0-0 4; Heller 2 0-0 4; Huffman 0 0-0 0; Delk 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-49 13-17 49... 3-point goals: M - Wassick, Henkins (4), Hawkins; WP - Woods (3), Abraham

OVAC HOOPS

GIRLS BASKETBALL OVAC Championship Games Class 5A Morgantown 59, Wheeling Park 49 MORGANTOWN (59) - Wassick 3 4-4 11; Henkins 5 0-0 14; Bechtel 3 1-4 7; Hawkins 3 3-4 9; Jordan 6 3-4 15; Sweeny 1 0-0 2; Smith 0 1-2 1; Totals: 21-49 11-18 59. WHEELING PARK (49) - Bordas 2 7-9 11; Abraham 3 1-2 8; Woods 7 5-6 22; Daugherty 2 0-0 4; Heller 2 0-0 4; Huffman 0 0-0 0; Delk 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-49 13-17 49... 3-point goals: M - Wassick, Henkins (4), Hawkins; WP - Woods (3), Abraham

COLLEGE HOOPS SCORES

NCAA MEN Sunday, Feb. 5 EAST Houston 81, Temple 65 Iona 70, Fairfield 61 La Salle 73, Saint Joseph's 65 Marist 75, Canisius 67 Seton Hall 69, DePaul 64 SOUTH Richmond 68, Fordham 58 MIDWEST Michigan 77, Ohio St. 69 Nebraska 72, Penn St. 63 Northwestern 54, Wisconsin 52 S. Illinois 73, Missouri St. 53 SOUTHWEST Wichita St. 86, Tulsa 75 FAR WEST Colorado 84, Stanford 62 Utah 61, California 46 NCAA WOMEN Sunday, Feb. 5 EAST Delaware 77, Northeastern 67 Iowa 95, Penn St. 51 Maryland 90, Ohio St. 54 Pittsburgh 60, Virginia 51 Rutgers 73, Wisconsin 67 South Carolina 81, UConn 77 Syracuse 79, Boston College 72 SOUTH Arkansas 54, Auburn 51 Georgia 79, Vanderbilt 61 Louisville 62, North Carolina 55 Miami 64, Georgia Tech 58 Mississippi 68, Florida 42 Wake Forest 69, Clemson 64, OT MIDWEST Alabama 76, Missouri 69 Duke 57, Notre Dame 52 Illinois 69, Minnesota 62 Indiana 69, Purdue 46 Michigan 77, Michigan St. 67 Milwaukee 62, Detroit 57 N. Iowa 91, Indiana St. 51 SOUTHWEST LSU 72, Texas A&M 66 Texas Tech 78, Kansas St. 68 FAR WEST Arizona 81, Southern Cal 75, 20T Colorado 67, Oregon St. 48 Hawaii 80, Cal Poly 58 UCLA 82, Arizona St. 63 Utah 100, Oregon 92 Washington 72, Stanford 67 Washington St. 70, California 60

Nailers Shut Out By Walleye; Drop Third Straight, 8th in 10

TOLEDO, Ohio - The Wheeling Nailers threw everything they had at the net on Sunday afternoon, as they recorded 40 shots on goal at Huntington Center against the Toledo Walleye. Unfortunately, they ran into the hot goaltending of John Lethemon, who stopped every single one of them to earn a point in his 13th straight outing. Toledo gave him four goals of support to pick up its first home win of the season series, 4-0. Despite the score, the Nailers turned in a decent first period, as they out-shot Toledo, 15-8. However, a goal with 2:32 left in the stanza gave the Walleye the lead. Cedric Lacroix led the way on a transition rush, as he delivered a pass to Drew Worrad, who stepped into the right circle, and drove

a wrist shot along the ice and into the net. There was plenty of physicality throughout the match, and in the middle frame, three sets of matching minor penalties were handed out. There was also a goal in period two, and that went to Toledo. Gordie Green dropped a pass to Conlan Keenan in the left circle, then skated to the right post, where Keenan put a return feed on his tape for a tap-in and a 2-0 advantage. Wheeling poured 13 more shots on target in the third period for a game total of 40, but the Walleye tacked on two insurance markers in the closing minutes. Lacroix won a face-off back to Charlie Curti, who launched a one-timer under the crossbar, then Conlan Keenan threw in an empty netter for a 4-0 final.

The Nailers and Walleye will make their way to WesBanco Arena for a re-match on Wednesday night at 7:10 p.m. HEARTLANDERS 7, NAILERS 2 (SATURDAY) Saturday night was one of the more challenging nights of the season for the Wheeling Nailers, who suffered back-to-back losses at the hands of the Iowa Heartlanders. Iowa scored multiple goals in each period of a 7-2 result at WesBanco Arena. Former Nailers Bo Hanson was one of four players with multiple points for Iowa, who got two goals from Brendan Robbins. Samuel Tremblay and Felix Pare were the Wheeling goal scorers, while David Drake pitched in with a pair of assists.

SPORTS ON TV

Monday, February 6 AHL HOCKEY 7 p.m. NHLN - 2023 All-Star Classic: From Laval, Quebec COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 7 p.m. CBSN - Lafayette at Holy Cross ESPN - Duke at Miami 9 p.m. ESPN - Texas at Kansas ESPNU - Bethune-Cookman at Texas Southern 11 p.m. ESPNU - Weber St. at N. Colorado COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 6 p.m. ESPN2 - Virginia Tech at NC State 7 p.m. BTN - Nebraska at Northwestern SECN - Tennessee at Mississippi St. COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S) 9 p.m. BTN - Iowa at Nebraska HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS) 7 p.m. ESPNU - GEICO Showcase: Newton (Ga.) vs. Wheeler (Ga.), Marietta, Ga. NBA BASKETBALL 7:30 p.m. NBATV - LA Clippers at Brooklyn 10 p.m. NBATV - Milwaukee at Portland NFL FOOTBALL 8 p.m. ESPN2 - Super Bowl Opening Night FS1 - Super Bowl Opening Night NFLN - Super Bowl Opening Night TENNIS 6 a.m. TENNIS - Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds 5 a.m. (Tuesday) TENNIS - Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds 6 a.m. (Tuesday) TENNIS - Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds

AP Source: Nets Deal All-Star Kyrie Irving To The Mavericks

DALLAS (AP) - All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving is being traded by the Brooklyn Nets as the team has struck a deal with the Dallas Mavericks. That's according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither team had announced the move. The Mavericks will trade Spencer Dinwiddie, Dorian Finney-Smith and a package of draft picks to the Nets. The blockbuster trade ends Irving's pairing with Kevin Durant before it ever had much of a chance to click. Dallas also gets Markieff Morris in the deal. In on-court action in the NBA Sunday: CAVALIERS 122, PACERS 103 INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Darius Garland scored 24 points, Isaac Okoro added 20 and Cleveland made 15 3-pointers to rout Indiana. KNICKS 108, 76ERS 97 NEW YORK (AP) - Julius Randle had 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, Jalen Brunson scored 21 points and the New York Knicks overcame an early 21-point deficit to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 108-97 on Sunday night.



Evan Fournier came off the bench to add 17 points for the Knicks, who were playing a night after an overtime loss to the Los Angeles Clippers. RAPTORS 106, GRIZZLIES 103 MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Pascal Siakam scored 19 points, including a pair of free throws with 9 seconds left, and Toronto rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat Memphis. TIMBERWOLVES 128, NUGGETS 98 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - D'Angelo Russell had 18 points and 10 assists. Anthony Edwards scored 20 and Minnesota cruised past Denver, which was missing two-time MVP Nikola Jokic and three other starters on the second night of a back-to-back. PELICANS 136, KINGS 104 NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Trey Murphy III made six 3-pointers and scored 30 points as New Orleans overcame the absence of several starters to beat Sacramento. MAGIC 119, HORNETS 113 CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Paolo Banchero had 22 points and 10 rebounds, Wendell Carter Jr. added 20 points and 12 rebounds and Orlando took advantage of Charlotte's poor foul shooting.

GOLF SCORES

Sunday Pebble Beach, Calif. a-Monterey Peninsula Shore Course (Host Course) 6,934 yards; Par 71 b-Pebble Beach Golf Links 6,972 yards; Par 72 c-Spyglass Hill Golf Course 7,041 yards; Par 72 Purse: \$9 million Partial Final Round Suspended due to darkness Leaderboard SCORE THRU Justin Rose -15 9 Denny McCarthy -13 15 Brendon Todd -13 12 Peter Malnati -13 9 Taylor Pendrith -12 18 Beau Hossler -12 12 Keith Mitchell -12 10 Brandon Wu -12 10 Michael Kim -10 17 Richy Werenski -10 15 Ryan Moore -10 13 Brent Grant -10 12

Rose Has 2-Shot Lead At Pebble Heading Into A Monday Finish

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) - On a day of wild weather at Pebble Beach, Justin Rose was a steady presence. Rose was 9 under in the 19 holes he played Sunday in the weather-delayed AT&T

Pebble Beach Pro-Am. That gives him a two-shot lead going to the Monday finish and a good chance to win for the first time in four years. Rose still has the back nine to play. He leads by two over Denny

McCarthy, Peter Malnati and Brendon Todd. The day featured rain, wind, hail and sunshine, sometimes all in one hour. Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers won the pro-am.

Ryland And Haener Lead National Team's 27-10 Win At Senior Bowl

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) - Maryland's Chris Ryland kicked four field goals and Fresno State quarterback Jake Haener passed for 139 yards and a touchdown to lead the National team to a 27-10 victory over the American team in the Senior Bowl. Haener, named the game's MVP, delivered a 44-yard touchdown pass to Stanford receiver Michael Wilson in the

fourth quarter. The American team's biggest play came early in the fourth when Virginia's Anthony Johnson Jr. returned an interception 37 yards for a touchdown. Johnson was wearing the No. 15 jersey in honor of wide receiver Devin Chandler, who was among three Cavaliers players shot and killed in November.

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Cousins Rallies NFC Over AFC In Pro Bowl

NBA

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Southeast, Central), Western Conference (Southwest, Northwest, Pacific).

NHL

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Metropolitan), Western Conference (Central, Pacific).

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Monday,

February 6, 2023

UL claims 3A OVAC title, 49-34

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

CADIZ -- The plan, when playing Union Local's girls basketball team, to take away senior All-Ohioids Reagan Vinskovich and Torre Kildow makes good sense.

But when the Jets "role players" like Lauren Miller, Emily Kellaway and Ella Pietranton are making shots early in the game, the plan needs revision.

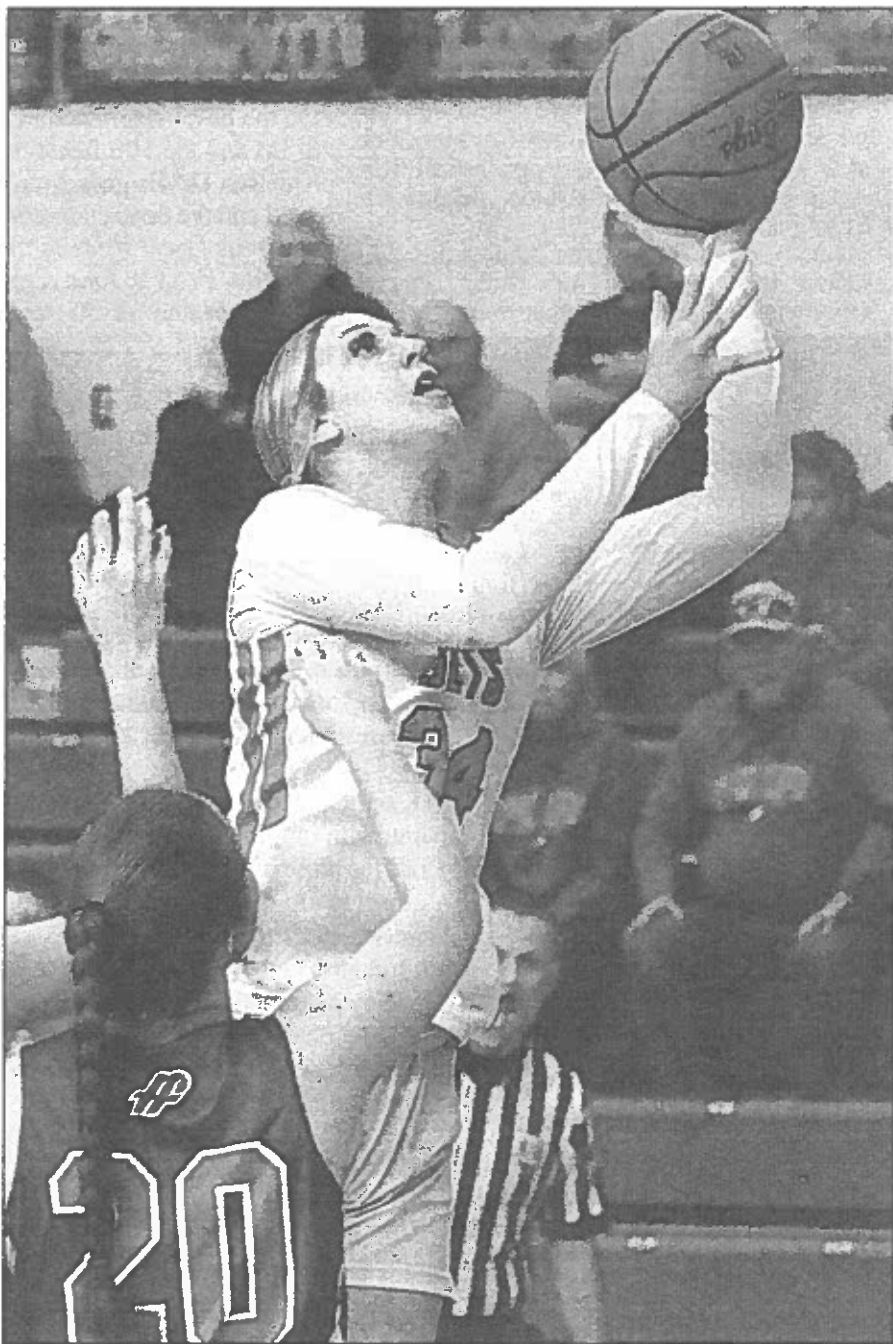
Such was the case Saturday afternoon when the Jets took on Fort Frye for the OVAC Class 3A title at Harrison Central High School. Miller, Kellaway and Pietranton all rained in bonus goals in the opening quarter, allowing the Jets to build a 23-6 lead after one and they never looked back en route to a 49-34 victory and the program's third consecutive conference title.

"We prepared to be in a grind game, but when we were able to get the lead like we did they had to play our game a little bit," UL head coach Scooter Tolzda said. "Fort Frye rolled the dice and left our role players open and we said 'our role players will definitely have to play well (Saturday).'"

They delivered. In the first quarter, which proved to be the decisive chapter, Union Local connected on its first eight shots from the field. It didn't miss any of its five, 3-point shots and simply had their way.

"Lauren (Miller), Laken (Vinskovich), Emmy (Kellaway) and Ella (Pietranton) all did admirable jobs," Tolzda said.

See, UL, Page B2



UNION LOCAL senior Reagan Vinskovich goes up for a shot during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A title game against Fort Frye. Vinskovich scored 22 points in the game to fuel the Jets to their third straight conference title.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

River tops Wheeling CC for 2A title

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

CADIZ -- River broke open a nip-and-tuck game against Wheeling Central with a big run, then hung on in the fourth as the Pilots defeated the Maroon Knights 57-46 on Saturday in the OVAC Class 2A championship.

Pilots head coach Rick Isaly received MVP-worthy performances from both junior point guard Kelsey Harlan and senior post Rylee Knight who combined for 40 points.

Harlan, who totaled 19 points and had a number of steals and assists, also did an admirable job defending Wheeling Central's leading scorer Brook Edge, who totaled nine points.

Knight, meanwhile, led all scorers with 21 points while snagging an equal number of rebounds in a dominating effort in the paint.

The pair are peaking at the right time, having each scored 23 points in a semifinal win against Southern Local to reach Saturday's finale at Cadiz.

"Hats off to Kelsey, our point guard," Isaly said. "She can do it all, drive, shoot, play defense, and Rylee was just a beast on the boards."

Edge's lone 3-pointer of the game came with 5:14 left in the second quarter to cut River's lead to one at 21-20. That was the last time Central scored until senior Reagan Olejasz stuck a



RIVER'S KELSEY Harlan goes up for a shot over Wheeling Central's Valerie Downing during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A championship game.

Photo/MIKE HUGHES

putback of a Valerie Downing missed triple attempt in the third quarter.

The preceding span saw the Pilots amass a 19-point lead courtesy of the

18-0 run that began with a Hannah Raper triple in the second quarter and ended with a Knight putback, one of eight second-chance points for the senior.

Central had success beating River's press early, resulting in six first quarter points from Keiera Wilkinson, one of the Knights' 6-footers. Wilkinson was able to get position behind the defense and convert easy buckets off the break.

But Wilkinson was forced to sit in the second quarter after picking up her second foul, and things quickly turned south for the designated visitors.

"Not having her inside to help hurt quite a bit (in the second) and that's the quarter they blew up on us," Wheeling Central coach Roberta Olejasz said. "We battled back and got to within six and made it a ball game."

"Kelsey is a heck of a point guard and I hope that (River) goes deep, but I'm also really proud of the way our girls played today."

Robinson admitted while the sting of losing may linger for her Knights, there's still plenty to play for and be proud of, including reaching the finale after not making the OVAC tournament the previous season.

Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz led the second-half resurgence, with Vogrin canning three triples between the third and fourth quarters, and Olejasz scoring.

See, RIVER, Page B2

Ohio State falls again at Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) -- Hunter Dickinson scored 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead Michigan to a 77-69 win over Ohio State on Sunday.

Jett Howard added 16 points and Kobe Bufkin 13 with eight rebounds for the Wolverines (13-10, 7-5 Big Ten Conference), who missed their last four shots to drop to 49% for the game.

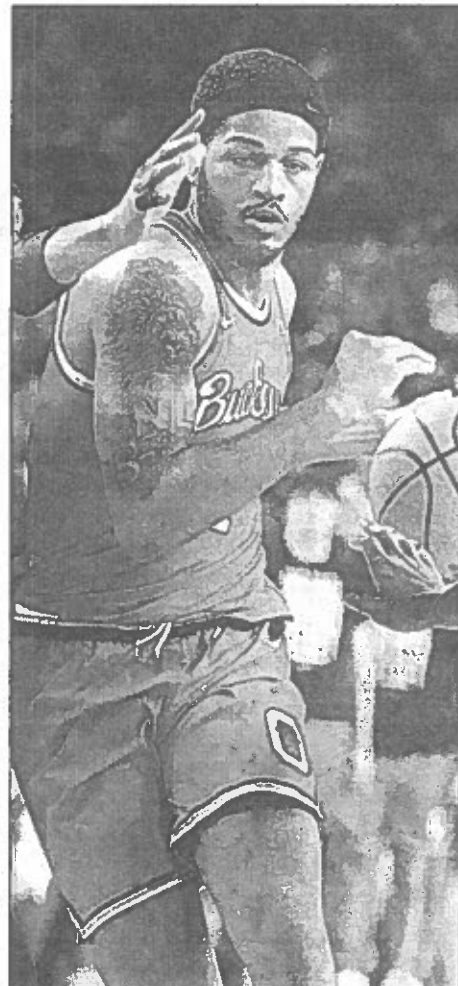
Bruce Thornton scored 22 points to lead the Buckeyes (11-12, 3-9), who have lost four straight and 10 of 12. Justice Sueing and Brice Sensabaugh both had 13 with Sensabaugh snaring nine rebounds. Thornton was 10-of-13 shooting and Ohio State made five of its last eight shots but that only raised the shooting percent to 41.

Bufkin, Dickinson and Howard combined for a Michigan 12-3 run for a 24-14 lead midway through the first half. Despite a poor shooting half, the Buckeyes closed it to 41-36 at the half as Sueing hit a last-minute 3-pointer.

The Wolverines hit five 3-pointers and shot 52% (16 of 32) but they also had four more turnovers and the Buckeyes had three more offensive rebounds, which helped off-set Ohio State's 34% shooting (12 of 35). Ohio State had three 3s but was 9 of 12 from the line to Michigan's 4 of 7.

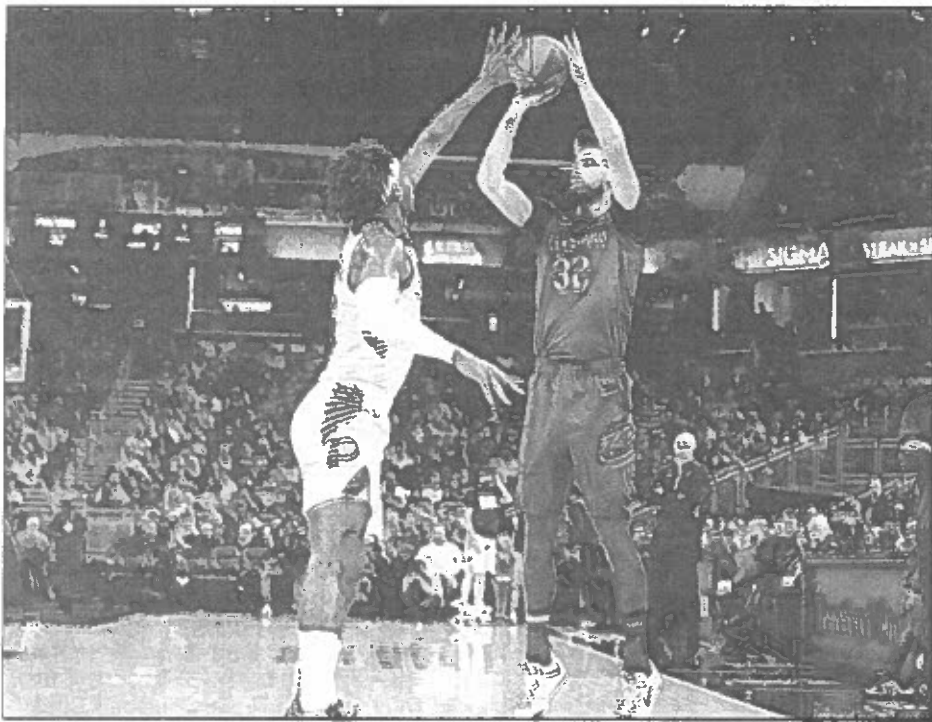
Ohio State shot better after the break (48%) but couldn't put together a run as Dickinson scored 13 points and the Wolverines made 9 of 11 free throws.

Michigan's three-game homestand continues Wednesday with a visit from Nebraska. Northwestern visits Ohio State on Thursday.



AP PHOTO

OHIO STATE guard Roddy Gayle Jr. (1) drives next to Michigan guard Kobe Bufkin (2) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Sunday in Ann Arbor, Mich.



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS forward Dean Wade (32) shoots over Indiana Pacers guard Buddy Hield (24) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday.

Garland leads hot-shooting Cavs to 122-103 win over Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Darius Garland scored 24 points. Isaac Okoro added 20 and the Cleveland Cavaliers made 15 3-pointers Sunday in a 122-103 rout of the Indiana Pacers.

All five starters scored in double figures for the Cavaliers, who shot 52.3% percent from the field, including 15 of 37 (40.5%) from long range, to complement a top-ranked defense that held Indiana to 43.5% shooting.

Jarrett Allen contributed 18 points and 13 rebounds, Evan Mobley had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell added 19 points and six assists for the Cavs. Garland — a Gary, Indiana, native who was not named an All-Star despite averaging 22 points and 8.2 assists — made four 3s and had six assists.

“No extra fuel,” Garland said. “I think I was a snub, but I’ve just got to come out and prove it every night.”

Myles Turner had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana, which has lost 12 of 14.

All-Star Tyrese Haliburton finished with 15 points and 11 assists, while Buddy Hield had 16 points.

After alternating wins and losses over its prior eight games, Cleveland took control in the second quarter, led 62-46 at halftime and stretched its advantage

Ohio State women routed at Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Diamond Miller and her Maryland teammates took out their frustrations on Ohio State.

Miller scored 16 of her 29 points in the third quarter, and the eighth-ranked Terrapins routed the 10th-ranked Buckeyes 90-54 on Sunday in the program’s most lopsided win over a top-10 opponent. Maryland rebounded emphatically from its loss to No. 6 Iowa on Thursday night, and Miller had quite a response to what she thought was some physical play by Ohio State.

“I was definitely pissed off. They were playing dirty,” Miller said. “Not really dirty I guess, because people call me a dirty player, but they were very aggressive towards me, and I guess I just showed them what real aggression is.”

Abby Meyers added 22 points and Shyanne Sellers contributed 19 points and nine assists for the Terrapins. Taylor Thierry scored 21 for Ohio State.

to 23 points in the third quarter and as many as 26 in the fourth.

“There’s a seriousness to our approach and an attitude to how we are playing,” Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. “I think we are taking steps in the right direction. Sometimes when the offense comes easy, you just get in a back-and-forth, but in the fourth we did a much better job of tightening back up and controlling the tempo. We are growing in that area of understanding the intensity level that it takes.”

The Pacers were within 27-25 at the end of the first quarter but couldn’t keep up after that.

“They did a good job controlling us in the pick-and-roll,” Haliburton said. “We weren’t able to get stops, and that allowed them to set their defense. Kudos to them. A lot of different guys contributed for them. They just outplayed us.”

TIP-INS Cavaliers: This was Cleveland’s NBA-best 23rd double-figure victory. ... Caris LeVert, who played parts of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons with the Pacers, sat out his second straight game with a sore right hamstring. He is averaging 12.5 points per game. ... Backup point guard Ricky Rubio finished with seven points and nine assists.

The Buckeyes (20-4, 9-4 Big Ten) have dropped four of five since starting the season 19-0.

Maryland (19-5, 10-3) took control by scoring the final 12 points of the first quarter to lead 19-7. Meyers had 11 points in the opening quarter, and after the Terps entered halftime up 42-30, Miller took over.

The Buckeyes couldn’t keep the 6-foot-3 guard away from the hoop. Miller’s 3-point play made it 52-37, and after another layup, she connected from 3-point range to put the Terps up by 17.

Another 3-point play by Miller made the score 64-44. It was 69-44 at the end of the third quarter, and then Maryland dominated the fourth as well, as Ohio State suffered its most lopsided defeat since losing 100-56 to UConn on Nov. 16, 2015.

• River

Continued from Page B1

ing all 10 of her points in the half.

With Central’s inside game requiring a bit more attention, the Knights’ were able to work the ball around and get better looks from the perimeter that weren’t there early.

“We decided not to press (in the second half) as we didn’t want to give up any transition buckets, but if I had to do it over again, I might go back and press a bit, just to wear them down,” Isaly admitted. “They were fresher in the second half and made more of their shots.”

Knight noted the Knights’ size advantage in the paint, with multiple 6-footers, adding that it made her work far more difficult in grabbing boards.

Prior to tip-off, Central’s perimeter game was a concern, but the early success inside necessitated a shift in focus.

“They have good 3-point shooters and we wanted to get out on them a little more, but we got beat on the inside a few times and we needed to close that off,” Knight said.

Harlan won the MVP award for the game. Raper backed her and Knight with 12 points, including eight in the first half.

Vogrin led the Knights with 12, followed by Olejasz’s 10, Edge’s nine, and eight from Downing.

• UL

Continued from Page B1

“They were the key because they were guarding Reagan and Torre. And honestly, we’ll probably go as far (in the tournament) as our role players take us.”

On the other end, veteran and highly successful Cadets head coach Dan Liedtke, who owns more than 700 career victories, simply could tip his cap to the Jets.

“They were really hot that first quarter,” Liedtke said. “It didn’t seem like it mattered who was going to shoot it. The ball was going to go in. Against a team like this, you simply can’t get buried like that that early in the game because you’re not going to be able to come back.”

The Jets cooled off considerably, scoring just 26 points for the next three quarters.

However, their defensive prowess, which has been unheralded at times in the last couple of seasons, wasn’t about to let the Cadets make too much of a run.

“We quit attacking (offensively) and tried to take some time off the clock, which we are trying to improve on,” Tolzda said. “It got a little bit sloppy from our point of view, which happens every once in a while.”

On top of their defense, despite the Cadets’ concerted efforts to take away Reagan Vinskovich on the interior, Union Local’s all-time leading scorer was able to get hers. She scored 12 of the Jets’ 16 in the second half. All told, Vinskovich finished with 22 points, putting her the 1,900 mark for her career. She also collected seven rebounds.

Vinskovich was complemented by junior Lauren Miller, who hit four bonus goals and finished with 14 points. Kellaway, who was solid with the ball and defensively, finished with seven points.

Kildow, who didn’t score and only took one shot, still made an impact with six rebounds, three assists and a blocked shot.

Fort Frye was led by Emmy Duskey’s 12. Kianna O’Brien finished with nine.

While the title is Union Local’s third consecutive, it’s the second straight on the floor because of the pandemic and last season’s title came in Class 4A. Regardless of how, where and what class, the excitement level doesn’t change.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to win a few (OVAC titles) and everyone of them is precious,” Tolzda said.

Next up for the Jets is the regular-season finale against OVAC Class 5A runnerup Wheeling Park on Wednesday in Morristown. The Jets will be seeking a perfect regular season.

“It’s going to be an exciting game with an electric atmosphere,” Tolzda said. “It’s going to be worth the price of admission and we think it’s going to be a heck of a game.”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

- 6 p.m.
- ESPN2 — Virginia Tech at NC State
- 7 p.m.
- BTN — Nebraska at Northwestern
- SECN — Tennessee at Mississippi St.
- COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
- 9 p.m.
- BTN — Iowa at Nebraska
- HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)
- 7 p.m.
- ESPNJ — GEICO Showcase: Newton (Ga.) vs. Wheeler (Ga.), Marietta, Ga.
- NBA BASKETBALL
- 7:30 p.m.
- NBATV — LA Clippers at Brooklyn
- 10 p.m.
- NBATV — Milwaukee at Portland
- NFL FOOTBALL
- 8 p.m.
- ESPN2 — Super Bowl Opening Night
- FS1 — Super Bowl Opening Night
- NFLN — Super Bowl Opening Night
- TENNIS
- 6 a.m.
- TENNIS — Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds
- 5 a.m. (Tuesday)
- TENNIS — Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds
- 6 a.m. (Tuesday)
- TENNIS — Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Early Rounds

Girls Boxscores

- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
OVAC Championship Games
Class 5A
- Morgantown 59, Wheeling Park 49**
MORGANTOWN (59) — Wassick 3 4-4 11, Henkins 5 0-0 14, Bechtle 3 1-4 7, Hawkins 3 3-4 9, Jordan 6 3-4 15, Sweeney 1 0-0 2, Smith 0 1-2 1, Totals: 21-49 11-18 59. WHEELING PARK (49) — Bordes 2 7-9 11, Abraham 3 1-2 8, Woods 7 5-6 22, Daughery 2 0-0 4, Heller 2 0-0 4, Huffman 0 0-0 0, Delk 0 0-0 0, Totals: 16-49 13-17 49
- 3-point goals: M — Wassick, Henkins (4), Hawkins; WP — Woods (3), Abraham
- Class 4A**
- Indian Creek 42, Oak Glen 26**
OAK GLEN (26) — Kell 2 1-3 6, Greenleaf 2 2-4 6; Barr 1 0-2 2; Sy, Brown 0, 0-0 0; Ward 5, 2-4 12; Sa, Brown 0, 0-0 0, Totals 10, 5-13 26. INDIAN CREEK (42) — Anderson 5, 4-8 14; Taylor 0, 2-2 2; Robertson 5, 1-2 11; Bailalo 1, 2-4 4; Scott 3, 2-2 10; Starkey 0, 1-2 1; Ketrion 0, 0-0 0, Totals 14, 12-20 42
- 3-point goals: OG — Kell (2); SC — Scott (2)
- Class 3A**
- Union Local 49, Fort Frye 34**
FORT FRYE (34) — Ludwig 1, 0-0 2; E. Duskey 4, 2-2 12; Treadway 0, 0-0 0; A. Duskey 2, 2-4 4; Lang 0, 2-4 2; Buckhanan 0, 2-2 2; Wynn 0, 0-0 0; O'Brien 2, 3-9 9; Rauch 1, 0-0 3; Morgensen 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 10, 9-14 34. UNION LOCAL (49) — R. Vinskovich 11, 0-1 22; Kildow 0, 0-0 0; Miller 5, 0-0 13; Pietranton 1, 1-2 4; E. Kellaway 3, 0-0 7; L. Vinskovich 1, 0-0 2; A. Kellaway 0, 0-0 0; Butler 0, 0-0 0; Martin 0, 0-0 0; Day 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 21, 1-3 49
- 3-point goals: FF — E. Duskey (2), O'Brien (2); Rauch, UL — Miller (4), Pietranton, Kellaway
- Class 2A**
- River 57, Wheeling Central 46**
WHEELING CENTRAL (46) — Olejasz 5 8-0 10; Downing 3 8 0-0 8; Edge 4 1-3 0-9; Vogrin 4 1-2 1-2 12; Wilkinson 3 5 1-2 7; Downer 0 0-0 0; Sevems 0 1-0 0-0; Payton 0 1 0-0 0; Ratcliffe 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19-48 2-4 46. RIVER (57) — Hobbs 2 3 0-0 4; Harlan 8 18 3-5 0-0 19; Reed 0 2 0-0 0; Raper 4 9 0-0 11; Knight 9 2-1 2-2 21; Fox 1 8 0-0 2; Pimm 0 1 0-2 0; Totals: 24-62 2-4 57
- 3-point goals: WC — Vogrin (3), Downing (2); Edge, R — Raper (3), Knight
- Class 1A**
- Cameron 47, Frontier 36**
CAMERON (47) — Clutter 2 2-4 6; E. Dobbs 3 1-2 8; Neely 1 2-5 4; A. Dobbs 2 0-0 4; Van Tassel 6 10-16 22; Carter 1 0-0 3; Bertram 0 0-0 0; Schrack 0 0-0 0; Francis 0 0-0 0; Neehouse 0 0-0 0; Littleton 0 0-0 0; Totals: 15-47 15-27 47. FRONTIER (36) — Ramsey 6 1-2 14; Knowlton 3 1-2 8; Em, Cislis 0 0-0 0; Haught 2 2-3 6; Liripalrick 0 1-2 1; Schmidt 0 2-2 2; Shapley 0 5-8 5; Bowersock 0 0-0 0; Dye 0 0-0 0; Barrows 0 0-0 0; Allen 0 0-0 0; El, Cislis 0 0-0 0; Totals: 11-36 12-19 36
- 3-point goals: C — E. Dobbs, Carter F — Ramsey, Knowlton

Ohio Boys Scores

- Akr. Ellet 55, Akr. Coventry 54
Akr. Hoban 76, Warren JFK 40
Albany Alexander 54, Glouster Trimble 42
Alliance 80, E. Liverpool 70
Antwerp 54, Edon 20
Archbold 46, Defiance Tiroca 34
Arlington 73, Ada 37
Ashland Blazer, Ky. 69, Ironton 53
Ashville Teays Valley 77, Circleville 49
Austintown Frick 62, Carleton 61
Baltimore Liberty Union 52, Cos. Hamilton Twp. 40
Bellevue 61, Oak Harbor 48
Bishop Peary 69, Day, Dunbar 53
Bloom-Carroll 59, Circleville Logan Elm 42
Bluffton 70, Mt. Blanchard Riverside 55
Bradford 56, Spring, NE 54
Brooklyn 65, Lorain Clearview 52
Brunswick 70, Avon 55
Bryan 43, Celina 37
Caledonia River Valley 204, Bidwell River Valley 203
Canal Winchester Harvest Prep 68, Rosecrans 65
Canfield S. Range 35, New Middletown Spring, 34
Carey 66, Bucyrus 25
Carlisle 59, W. Alexandria Twin Valley S. 40
Castalia Margareta 69, Sandusky Perkins 57
Chardon NDCL 77, Ashabula Laxeside 62
Cin. Anderson 56, Cin. Elder 50

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Area Sports Card

Friday, Feb. 3
BOYS BASKETBALL
 Wheeling Central at Pitts. North Catholic
 Morgantown at Wheeling Park
 Calhoun Co. at Valley
 Barnesville at Martins Ferry
 Harrison Central at St. Clairsville
 Caldwell at Monroe Central
 Steubenville at Dover
 Shenandoah at Shadyside
 Brocks at Weir
 Edison at Steubenville Catholic
 Indian Creek at Toronto
 Oak Glen at Beaver Local

Sports on TV

Friday, February 3
BOXING
 10 p.m.
 ESPN - Top Rank Main Card: Emanuel Navarrete vs. Liam Wilson (Super-Featherweights), Glendale, Ariz.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
 5 p.m.
 ESPNU - Yale at Harvard
 9:30 p.m.
 CBSN - E. Michigan at Ball St.
 7 p.m.
 ESPN2 - VCU at Saint Louis
 ESPNU - Fairfield at Quinnipiac
 9 p.m.
 ESPNU - Kent St. at Akron
 FS1 - Boise St. at San Diego St.
 11 p.m.
 CBSN - Air Force at Nevada
 FS1 - Fresno St. at UNLV
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 9 p.m.
 PAC-12N - Utah at Oregon St.
 11 p.m.
 PAC-12N - Arizona at UCLA
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
 6 p.m.
 SECN - Kentucky at Missouri
 7:30 p.m.
 SECN - Auburn at Alabama
 9 p.m.
 ESPN2 - UCLA at Utah
 SECN - Georgia at LSU
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
 8:30 p.m.
 CBSN - W. Michigan at Minn. Duhoh
COLLEGE WRESTLING
 7 p.m.
 ACCN - North Carolina at Pittsburgh
 BTN - Penn St. at Ohio St.
 9 p.m.
 BTN - Iowa at Minnesota
GOLF
 3:30 a.m.
 GOLF - DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Second Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
 3 p.m.
 GOLF - PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Second Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.
 3:30 a.m. (Saturday)
 GOLF - DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Third Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
HORSE RACING
 3 p.m.
 FS2 - NYRA: America's Day at the Races
NBA BASKETBALL
 7:30 p.m.
 NBA TV - Phoenix at Boston
NHL HOCKEY
 7 p.m.
 ESPN - NHL All-Star Skills Competition: From Sunrise, Fla.
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 3 p.m.
 USA - Premier League: Fulham at Chelsea

Sports on TV

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Martins Ferry 50, Bellaire 36
BELLAIRE (36) - Ault 2, 0-0; Harveth 5, 4-7; 15: McClain 4, 0-0; Mason 1, 1-7; Powson 1, 0-0; Kanyuch 0, 0-0; Totals: 13, 5-14 36. **MARTINS FERRY (50)** - Luce 2, 0-1; Sidon 3, 0-0; Best 5, 2-2; 12: McFarland 1, 0-0; 3, Roe 4, 3-3; 11: Marchbank 3, 0-0; Smith 0, 0-0; Clark 1, 0-0; Totals: 19, 5-6 50.
 3-point goals: B - Ault (2), Harveth MF - Marchbank (3), Sidon (2), McFarland, Luce.
Linsly 61, John Marshall 58
JOHN MARSHALL (58) - Derraw 25-12; Updegraff 1, 0-0; Storm 7-1; 15: N. Miller 0-0; Indan 0-1; 2: White 0-2; 2: Babiczuk 4-2; 4: 10: Blake 7-4; 18: Totals: 21, 15-27 58. **LINSLY (61)** - H. Cook 10-4; 7: Hinebaugh 0-0; 0: Ratcliffe 0-0; 0: Martinez 5-3-4; 15: Pappura 0-0; 0: Sohberg 3-0-1; 7: White 3-0-0; 8: Reed 2-1-2; Totals: 23, 9-14 61.
 3-point goals: JM - Storm; L - H. Cook (2), Martinez (2), Sohberg, White (2)
Buckeye Local 57, Harrison Central 51
HARRISON CENTRAL (51) - Rens 0, 2-2; Fischer 3, 1-1; 8: Saral 0-0; Butler 6, 1-1; Fern 5, 2-2; Lewis 3, 0-1; Harbold 3, 0-0; Sedgner 1, 0-0; Ledger 0, 0-0; Totals: 21, 6-7 51. **BUCKEYE LOCAL (57)** - McKeever 7, 12-15; Ankrum 1, 3-5; Stock 0, 0-0; Daley 1, 0-0; Kandrach 7, 1-3; 18: Kinyo 0, 0-0; Long 0, 0-0; Valuska 1, 1-4; Totals: 17, 17-27 57.
 3-point goals: HC - Fischer, Ferri (2), BL - McKeever (2), Daley, Kandrach (3)
Madonna 54, Bridgeport 39
BRIDGEPORT (39) - Clemens 0, 2-2; Bain 7, 2-4; 20: Smith 0, 1-1; Stewart 4, 1-4; 12: McElroy 0, 0-0; Herman 1, 0-0; Gonzalez 0, 0-0; Allen 1, 0-1; 2: Totals: 13, 6-12 39. **MADONNA (54)** - Wingett 5, 4-6; McCoy 5, 3-6; Long 3, 0-1; Pielanton 0, 1-3; 1: Birchmier 2, 1-3; 5: Coady 6, 0-0; 12: Totals: 21, 7-18 54.
 3-point goals: B - Bain (4), Stewart (3), M - Wingett (3)
Shadyside 43, Steubenville CC 36
SHADYSIDE (43) - Stewart 0, 0-0; T. Fulton 1, 2-2; Sims 0, 0-0; Brown 7, 5-6; Hendershot 2, 0-0; Smith 2, 0-0; Tsozas 2, 2-3; Totals: 14, 9-11 43. **STEUBENVILLE CC (36)** - Roinde 0, 0-0; Cherepico 0, 0-0; Mayagos 2, 0-0; E. Rhode 2, 5-6; Karker 2, 0-0; O'Karma 2, 0-0; Arai 4, 6-8; 14: Totals: 12, 11-14 36.
 3-point goals: S - Brown, Hendershot (2), Smith (2), Tsozas, SCC - Kerker
Monroe Central 55, Southern Local 37

Linsly, Shadyside, Buckeye pick up OVAC wins

WHEELING - Linsly used a game-high 26-point effort from Haylen Cook in a 61-58 overtime decision over visiting John Marshall Thursday night inside the Stifel Field House in an OVAC girls' basketball consolation bracket contest.

The Cadets also received 15 points from Miriam Martinez.

Kaitlyn Blake paced the Monarchs with 18. Rilee Storm added 16.

Shadyside 43, Steubenville CC 36
STEUBENVILLE - Shadyside picked up its second OVAC consolation win in as many tries Thursday, toppling host Steubenville Catholic.

Senior Gentry Brown continued to move closer to the 1,000-point mark for her career with a game-high 20 points. Kaci Tsozas added seven.

Arai led Steubenville Catholic with 14.

Buckeye Local 57, Harrison Central 51
CONNORVILLE - Buckeye Local

fended off rival Harrison Central to garner third place in the OVAC Class 4A tournament Thursday evening.

The Panthers received a huge game from Brynn McKeever. She went for 28 points, while Pam Kandrach continued her strong season with 18.

Harrison Central was led by Angi Ferri's 14 and Maddy Butler's 13.

Madonna 54, Bridgeport 39
WEIRTON - The Bulldogs dropped an OVAC consolation matchup with the Blue Dons on Thursday.

Kaylee Bain paced Bridgeport with 20 points, while Brooke Stewart added 12.

Madonna was led by Julia Wingett's 17. Shea McCoy posted 13.

Monroe Central 55, Southern Local 37
WOODSFIELD - Monroe Central bounced back from a tough loss to Wheeling on Monday by toppling Southern to earn third place in the OVAC 2A Tournament.

The Seminoles were led by Kynzi Bishop's 15 points. Rylie Bettinger added 14 and Jacey English posted 10.

University 80, St. Clairsville 33
MORGANTOWN - University jumped on invading St. Clairsville and ran away with a lop-sided win in an OVAC consolation game Thursday evening.

The Red Devils were led by Megan Malin's eight points. Makenna Moran and Lacie Tuttle each had seven.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Beallsville 65, Hundred 48
BEALLSVILLE - The Blue Devils picked up another win on Thursday by taking care of invading Hundred.

The Blue Devils received a huge game from Chance Allen. He went for 30 points. Sophomore Kaylee Hagan hit a trio of treys en route to nine.

Brayden Bartrug led the Hornets with 16, while Jaxon Huggins netted 13.

James pulls within 63 of breaking Kareem's record

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - LeBron James had 26 points, seven rebounds and seven assists and pulled within 63 points of becoming the NBA's career scoring leader as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat the Indiana Pacers 112-111 on Thursday night.

James has 38,325 points, with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar holding the record at 38,387.

James gave Los Angeles its first lead on a 3-pointer with 2:35 left, and Anthony Davis'

11-footer with 35.1 seconds left was the decisive basket. Davis had 31 points and 14 rebounds.

MAVERICKS 111, PELICANS 106

DALLAS (AP) - Luka Doncic scored 31 points before leaving with a right heel injury, and Dallas Mavericks on without their All-Star to hamper travel-weary New Orleans its 10th consecutive loss.

Doncic stayed in the game after taking a hard fall in the third quarter when he was winding up

for a one-handed dunk on a drive and Brandon Ingram knocked the ball out of his hand as Doncic was bumped by Jonas Valanciunas.

Ingram was called for a foul, and New Orleans successfully challenged. Doncic returned after the break for the review, but after one trip down the court, the 23-year-old star screamed in frustration as he limped to the locker room without looking at the Dallas bench.

The Mavericks were up by 27

points when Doncic exited with 6:47 remaining in the third, and the lead was all the way down to four when Herbert Jones hit a layup with 58 seconds left in the game. Ingram scored 26 points.

NUGGETS 134, WARRIORS 117

DENVER (AP) - Jamal Murray scored 33 points and Nikola Jokic had his 17th triple-double of the season, leading Denver past short-handed Golden State.

Jokic finished with 22 points, 16 assists and 14 rebounds.

• **Cavs**

Continued from Page B1

As the altercation threatened to spill into the seats, officials and players were able to get things under control before any punches were thrown.

Mitchell, who was having a tough night with just six points on 2-of-11 shooting, received a loud ovation from the sellout Cleveland crowd as he made his way to the locker room following his dismissal.

The Mitchell-Brooks tussle seemed to motivate the young Cavs.

They built a 12-point lead after three quarters, pushed it to 21 in the fourth and handed Memphis its seventh loss in eight games.

The Grizzlies, who have a reputation as the NBA's most talkative team, lost their sixth straight road game.

Cedi Osman scored 21 points and Jarrett Allen added 18 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland.

Evan Mobley had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Desmond Bane scored 25 points and All-Star Ja Morant had 24 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for Grizzlies despite being in foul trouble most of the night.

Memphis played without All-Star forward Jarren Jackson Jr., who sustained a thigh bruise in Tuesday night in a loss to Portland.

There were 10 lead changes in the first six minutes of the second quarter.

• **Barnesville**

Continued from Page B1

Landon Taylor (215) and Anderson Palian (285) all won by pin, with Hayes needing just

• **AFC takes early lead over NFC**

in newly designed Pro Bowl

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) - Las Vegas quarterback Derek Carr scored an event-high 31 points in the precision passing contest of the Pro Bowl skills competitions Thursday night to give the AFC an early 9-3 lead over the NFC.

Carr, in familiar territory with the events being held at Raiders headquarters, said he will not extend the Feb. 15 deadline to help facilitate a trade from Las Vegas. The Raiders must trade or release the quarterback by that date - three days after the Super Bowl - or Carr's contract will become guaranteed and Las Vegas will have to pay him \$40.4 million over the next two years.

But his performance during the two-day competitions boosted the AFC with each event counting as three points.

The AFC also won the lightning round - a series of competitions that included a water balloon toss - and long drive contest, and the NFC got on the scoreboard by winning the dodgeball tournament.

The NFL changed the Pro Bowl format this year, replacing the traditional all-star game with a flag football contest and series of other skills events. Four skills events take place Sunday at Allegiant Stadium, and those also will be three points each.

Three flag football games will then be played, the first two each worth six points. The points will then be combined with those accumulated from the skills events, which will be the score entering the third and final flag football game to determine the winner.

Most of Thursday's events were played at the Raiders' facility before about 500 fans, cheerleaders from 12 teams and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

• **Ferry**

Continued from Page B1

The Purple Riders outscored the Big Reds, 18-17, in the third. Six different players scored for Ferry with sophomore Lindse Sidon netting five. Senior Avery Marchbank, who connected on two bonus goals in the first half, hit another from behind the arc in the third.

Bellaire was able to stay close thanks to sophomore Zara Harveth, who scored six of her 15 in the third.

The Riders were able to stretch it out in the fourth. Sophomore Lindsey Best and freshman Charli Roe each had six points in the final quarter.

The Purple Riders (13-8) are off until Wednesday when they visit Wheeling Central.

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Bellaire (11-10) was led in the scoring column by Harveth. She was complemented by senior Lizzie McAninch, who was solid with 10 points.

"The ultimate goal is to win, but I am proud of the resiliency these kids have shown," Farrier said. "These girls are winners because they've been here, stuck it out and that's what basketball and sports are really about," Farrier said.



GOOD LUCK

Cameron Lady Dragons!

& Frontier Lady Cougars!

F

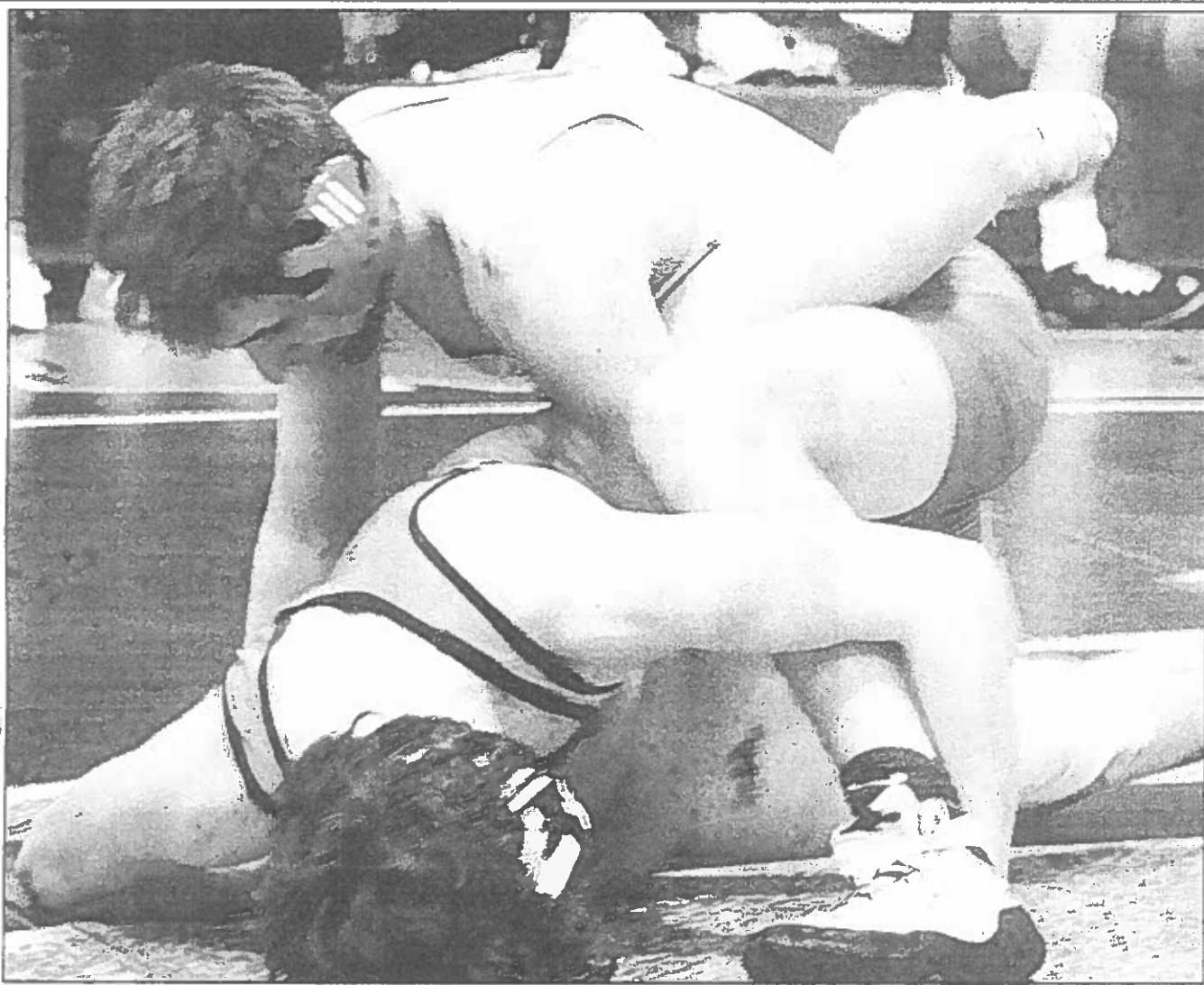
OVAC Class 1A Championship

February 4 - 6pm

Classified/B9-10

SPORTS

Friday,
February 3, 2023



Photos/KIM NORTH

ABOVE: BARNESVILLE'S Hines Ford works for control of Linsly's Lucca Troullos during their match in the OVAC Class 3A championship at the Bill Hinegardner OVAC Dual Championships held Thursday evening at John Marshall High School.

BELOW: LINSLY'S Anderson Palian flips Barnesville's Brent Kirk onto his back during their 285-pound match during the OVAC duals at John Marshall. Palian recorded the pin.

Barnesville wins OVAC 3A duals

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

MOUNDSVILLE - You'll have to excuse Barnesville wrestling coach Jayson Stephen for not getting too excited Thursday night after watching his team roll to another OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class 3A Dual Meet Championship. After all, the veteran mat boss and his young Shamrocks have a lot bigger goals in mind.

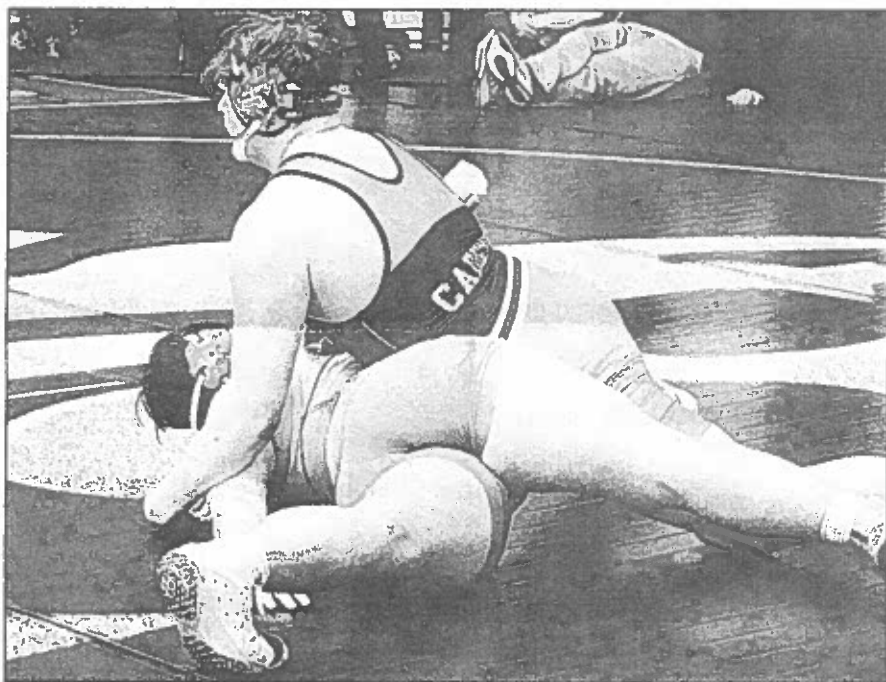
Seeded second, Barnesville took care of Belmont County rival and third-seeded Martins Ferry, 51-26, before reeling off the first 55 points in a 55-23 victory over No. 1 Linsly in the title tilt inside the John Marshall Field House.

"I'm happy for the kids. They're the ones that go out there and wrestle," Stephen said. "They do all the hard work. It's nice for them to win a championship. I'm proud of them."

Barnesville is the two-time defending Division III district champions and are eyeing a third next month. They are ranked third in the team standings, according to Borofan, with 84 points. The Shamrocks only trail small school powers Legacy Christian (117) and Milan Edison (88) in a three-team race. No. 4 Troy Christian has just 64.

"We've got some much bigger goals ahead," Stephen noted. "Both as a team and individually, but this is nice for the kids."

The triumph completed a dou-



ble-double as the Shamrocks easily captured the Class 3A team title at the recently completed 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament. They piled up 200.5 and had five individual champions in finishing fourth overall behind Class 5A heavyweights Parkersburg South, University and Wheeling Park.

In the championship match Connor Wilson (106) received a forfeit and OVAC titlist Johnathan Huntsman (113) recorded a pin in 1:09 for a 12-0 lead. Ayden Andrews (120) was also awarded a forfeit and Hines Ford (126) picked up a 4-2 decision as the margin grew to 21-0.

Dakota King (132), a two-time OVAC kingpin and the top-ranked wrestler in his weight class, was given

a forfeit. Skyler King (138), ranked No. 3 in the Buckeye State and an OVAC champ, earned a 12-1 major decision before a trio of consecutive pins ballooned the count to 50-0.

Logan Tague (144), the lone senior of murder's row who is ranked No. 8, needed just 46 seconds in his match, while No. 1-ranked Reese Stephen (150) finished up in 1:32. Fifth-ranked Ayden King (157) posted the quickest fall in 42 seconds. The latter two are OVAC champs.

Karson Milhoan (165) completed the blitz with an 18-3 technical fall.

The Cadets won the last four matches.

Neri Weiner (175) won by technical fall while Wvatt Havnes (190).
See, BARNESVILLE, Page B3

Ferry girls top Bellaire for third in OVAC 3A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — It's gotten to the point where the Martins Ferry girls basketball team isn't just excited to have qualified for the OVAC Tournament.

Thursday evening's 50-36 victory against rival Bellaire gave the Purple Riders their third consecutive third-place finish in the conference tournament. And head coach Dave Reasbeck wants more.

"You just don't know what you're going to get from us and it's been that way for three years," Reasbeck lamented. "Are we going to play 15-point halves where we look absolutely terrible or are we going to flip the switch like we did (Thursday)?"

When the switch flipped on at halftime, the Purple Riders looked more like the club that Reasbeck expects and has seen glimpses of during the latter portion of the season.

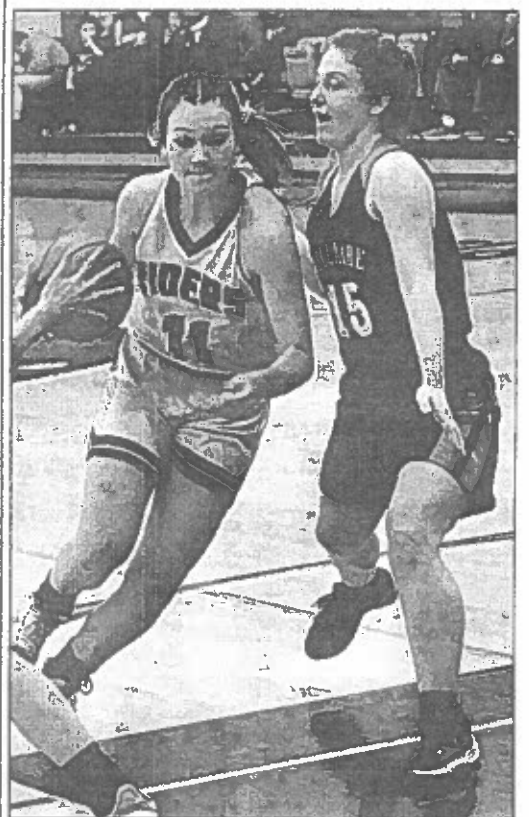
"We looked pretty good in the second half, but we can't keep having third-place years and 14-win seasons," Reasbeck said. "That's decent, but we have to elevate this program somehow. We're just not consistent enough. We have to eliminate the blah halves we've put out there."

The first half would qualify as one those halves, but still the Purple Riders found themselves with the lead at 15-9.

"We kind of set basketball back a little bit in the first half," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said. "Most of our games have been pretty ugly, but we've been short handed. The outcome didn't go our way, but our kids continued to battle and did that again (Thursday)."

Both teams picked up the energy, shot making and took better care of the ball after the first half when both teams had more turnovers than points.

See, FERRY, Page B3



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY'S Lindsey Best drives to the basket against Bellaire's Sidney Rowson during an OVAC Class 3A consolation game inside the Tolbert Gymnasium at Martins Ferry.

Area Sports Card

Friday, Feb. 3
BOYS BASKETBALL
Wheeling Central at Pitts North Catholic
Morgantown at Wheeling Park

Sports on TV

Friday, February 3
BOXING
10 p.m.
ESPN - Top Rank Main Card: Emanuel Navarre vs Liam Wilson (Super-Featherweights), Glendale, Ariz.

Sports on TV

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Martins Ferry 50, Bellaire 36
Bellaire (35) - Aug 2, 0-0 6; Harveth 5, 4-7

Linsly, Shadyside, Buckeye pick up OVAC wins

WHEELING - Linsly used a game-high 26-point effort from Haylen Cook in a 61-58 overtime decision over visiting John Marshall Thursday night inside the Stifel Field House in an OVAC girls' basketball consolation bracket contest.

The Cadets also received 15 points from Miriam Martinez. Kaitlyn Blake paced the Monarchs with 18. Rilee Storm added 16.

Shadyside 43, Steubenville CC 36

STEUBENVILLE - Shadyside picked up its second OVAC consolation win in as many tries Thursday, toppling host Steubenville Catholic.

Senior Gentry Brown continued to move closer to the 1,000-point mark for her career with a game-high 20 points. Kaci Tsores added seven.

Arai led Steubenville Catholic with 14. Buckeye Local 57, Harrison Central 51

CONNORVILLE - Buckeye Local

fended off rival Harrison Central to garner third place in the OVAC Class 4A tournament Thursday evening.

The Panthers received a huge game from Brynn McKeever. She went for 28 points, while Pam Kandrach continued her strong season with 18.

Harrison Central was led by Angi Ferri's 14 and Maddy Butler's 13.

Madonna 54, Bridgeport 39

WEIRTON - The Bulldogs dropped an OVAC consolation matchup with the Blue Dons on Thursday.

Kaylee Bain paced Bridgeport with 20 points, while Brooke Stewart added 12.

Madonna was led by Julia Wingett's 17. Shea McCoy posted 13.

Monroe Central 55, Southern Local 37

WOODSFIELD - Monroe Central bounced back from a tough loss to Wheeling on Monday by toppling Southern to earn third place in the OVAC 2A Tournament.

The Seminoles were led by Kynzi Bishop's 15 points. Rylie Bettinger added 14 and Jacey English posted 10.

University 80, St. Clairsville 33

MORGANTOWN - University jumped on invading St. Clairsville and ran away with a lop-sided win in an OVAC consolation game Thursday evening.

The Red Devils were led by Megan Malin's eight points. Makenna Moran and Lacie Tuttle each had seven.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Beallsville 65, Hundred 48

BEALLSVILLE - The Blue Devils picked up another win on Thursday by taking care of invading Hundred.

The Blue Devils received a huge game from Chance Allen. He went for 30 points. Sophomore Kaylee Hagan hit a trio of treys en route to nine.

Brayden Bartrug led the Hornets with 16, while Jaxon Huggins netted 13.

James pulls within 63 of breaking Kareem's record

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - LeBron James had 26 points, seven rebounds and seven assists and pulled within 63 points of becoming the NBA's career scoring leader as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat the Indiana Pacers 112-111 on Thursday night.

James has 38,325 points, with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar holding the record at 38,387.

James gave Los Angeles its first lead on a 3-pointer with 2:35 left, and Anthony Davis'

11-footer with 35.1 seconds left was the decisive basket. Davis had 31 points and 14 rebounds.

MAVERICKS 111, PELICANS 106

DALLAS (AP) - Luka Doncic scored 31 points before leaving with a right heel injury, and Dallas Mavericks on without their All-Star to hamper travel-weary New Orleans (its 10th consecutive loss).

Doncic stayed in the game after taking a hard fall in the third quarter when he was winding up

for a one-handed dunk on a drive and Brandon Ingram knocked the ball out of his hand as Doncic was bumped by Jonas Valanciunas.

Ingram was called for a foul, and New Orleans successfully challenged. Doncic returned after the break for the review, but after one trip down the court, the 23-year-old star screamed in frustration as he limped to the locker room without looking at the Dallas bench.

The Mavericks were up by 27

points when Doncic exited with 6:47 remaining in the third, and the lead was all the way down to four when Herbert Jones hit a layup with 58 seconds left in the game. Ingram scored 26 points.

NUGGETS 134, WARRIORS 117

DENVER (AP) - Jamal Murray scored 33 points and Nikola Jokic had his 17th triple-double of the season, leading Denver past short-handed Golden State.

Jokic finished with 22 points, 16 assists and 14 rebounds.

Cavs

Continued from Page B1

As the altercation threatened to spill into the seats, officials and players were able to get things under control before any punches were thrown.

Mitchell, who was having a tough night with just six points on 2-of-11 shooting, received a loud ovation from the sellout Cleveland crowd as he made his way to the locker room following his dismissal.

The Mitchell-Brooks tussle seemed to motivate the young Cavs.

They built a 12-point lead after three quarters, pushed it to 21 in the fourth and handed Memphis its seventh loss in eight games.

The Grizzlies, who have a reputation as the NBA's most talkative team, lost their sixth straight road game.

Cedi Osman scored 21 points and Jarrett Allen added 18 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland.

Evan Mobley had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Desmond Bane scored 25 points and All-Star Ja Morant had 24 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for Grizzlies despite being in foul trouble most of the night.

Memphis played without All-Star forward Jaren Jackson Jr., who sustained a thigh bruise in Tuesday night in a loss to Portland.

There were 10 lead changes in the first six minutes of the second quarter.

Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

Landon Taylor (215) and Anderson Palian (285) all won by pin, with Hayes needing just

AFC takes early lead over NFC in newly designed Pro Bowl

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) - Las Vegas quarterback Derek Carr scored an event-high 31 points in the precision passing contest of the Pro Bowl skills competitions Thursday night to give the AFC an early 9-3 lead over the NFC.

Carr, in familiar territory with the events being held at Raiders headquarters, said he will not extend the Feb. 15 deadline to help facilitate a trade from Las Vegas. The Raiders must trade or release the quarterback by that date - three days after the Super Bowl - or Carr's contract will become guaranteed and Las Vegas will have to pay him \$40.4 million over the next two years.

But his performance during the two-day competitions boosted the AFC with each event counting as three points.

The AFC also won the lightning round - a series of competitions that included a water balloon toss - and long drive contest, and the NFC got on the scoreboard by winning the dodgeball tournament.

The NFL changed the Pro Bowl format this year, replacing the traditional all-star game with a flag football contest and series of other skills events. Four skills events take place Sunday at Allegiant Stadium, and those also will be three points each.

Three flag football games will then be played, the first two each worth six points. The points will then be combined with those accumulated from the skills events, which will be the score entering the third and final flag football game to determine the winner.

Most of Thursday's events were played at the Raiders' facility before about 500 fans, cheerleaders from 12 teams and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Ferry

Continued from Page B1

The Purple Riders outscored the Big Reds, 18-17, in the third. Six different players scored for Ferry with sophomore Lindse Sidon netting five. Senior Avery Marchbank, who connected on two bonus goals in the first half, hit another from behind the arc in the third.

Bellaire was able to stay close thanks to sophomore Zara Harveth, who scored six of her 15 in the third.

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GOOD LUCK
Cameron Lady Dragons! & Frontier Lady Cougars!
OVAC Class 1A Championship
February 4 - 6pm

LOCAL CARD

Friday, Feb. 3
BOYS BASKETBALL
Wheeling Central at Pitts. North Catholic...

GIRLS BASKETBALL

OVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS
(at Harrison Central High School, Cadiz Saturday
Class 2A, 10 a.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

OVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS
(at Harrison Central High School, Cadiz Saturday, February 11
10:00 a.m. - Class 2-A
12 noon Class 3 A
2:00 p.m. - Class 4-A

NFL INJURY LIST

Sunday Super Bowl
State Farm Stadium Glendale, Ariz.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS vs. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES...

NFL PLAYOFFS

Sunday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17

PREP BOXSCORES

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Martins Ferry 50, Bellaire 36
Bellaire (36) - Ault 2, 0-0 6; Harveth 5, 4-7 15; McAninch 4, 0-0 10;

BOYS BASKETBALL
Martins Ferry 50, Bellaire 36
Bellaire (36) - Ault 2, 0-0 6; Harveth 5, 4-7 15; McAninch 4, 0-0 10;

MONROE CENTRAL 55, SOUTHERN LOCAL 37
Shrodes 1, 0-0 3; Brewer 1, 0-0 3; Jones 0, 0-0 0; Kerns 2, 3-5 7; Riggs 0, 0-0 0;

NBA

Thursday's Games
L.A. Lakers 112, Indiana 111
New York 106, Miami 104
Cleveland 128, Memphis 113

PREP SCORES

W.VA. BOYS
Beallsville, Ohio 65, Hundred 48
Buckhannon-Upshur 49, Lewis County 46

OHIO BOYS
Beallsville 65, Hundred, W.Va. 48
Bloom-Carroll 55, Logan 42
Caledonia River Valley 61, Marion Harding 45

COLLEGE SCORES

Men EAST
Drexel 70, Coll. of Charleston 69
Elon 69, Stony Brook 55
Hofstra 76, Towson 72

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Men EAST
Drexel 70, Coll. of Charleston 69
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SPORTS ON TV

Friday, February 3
BOXING
10 p.m.
ESPN - Top Rank Main Card: Emanuel Navarrete vs. Liam Wilson...

NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
NBATV - Phoenix at Boston
NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
ESPN - NHL All-Star Skills Competition: From Sunrise, Fla.

COLLEGE SCORES

Men EAST
Drexel 70, Coll. of Charleston 69
Elon 69, Stony Brook 55
Hofstra 76, Towson 72



Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry's Charli Roe makes a move to the basket Thursday night against Bellaire.

Martins Ferry Tops Bellaire To End 3rd Again In OVAC 3A

By SETH STASKEY For The Intelligencer

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Bellaire (11-10) was led in the scoring column by Harveth. She was complemented by senior Lizzie McAninch, who was solid with 10 points.

It does, however, complicate things for coach Bob Huggins as he enters the second half of the Big 12 season because, out of necessity, he has had to mix and match, to experiment with different lineup combinations and now finds himself facing a number of different approaches to each game, each situation.

Due to the manner in which the team was constructed, through the transfer



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

He played the first half of the season with a starting five of Kedrian Johnson at the point alongside Erik Stevenson at the shooting guard with Emmitt Mat-

suming and, to be honest, costly period of time when any number of games that could have been won slipped away.

and Johnson, which nurt their effectiveness, through an inexplicable spell of bad free throw shooting and with some crazy ball handling.

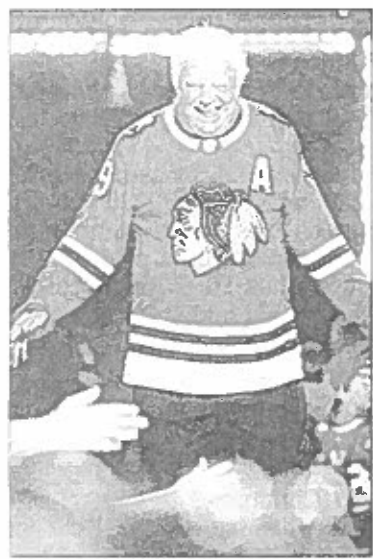
The result was a five-game conference losing streak after cracking into the Top 25, leaving the Mountaineers trying to put things back together.

Please see **TURNAROUND**, Page 10



Photo Provided

WVU's Joe Toussaint brings the ball up floor during a recent game.



AP Photo

Former Chicago Blackhawks player Bobby Hull is introduced to fans during the team's convention in Chicago, July 26, 2019. Hull, a Hall of Fame forward who helped the Blackhawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup Final, has died. He was 84.

NHL Hall Of Famer Hull Dies

'The Golden Jet' Was 84

CHICAGO (AP) — When Bobby Hull got the puck, he was tough to stop. He had blazing speed, a hard slap shot and tons of confidence.

Long before today's biggest stars took the ice, "The Golden Jet" put on quite a show.

Hull, a Hall of Fame winger and two-time NHL MVP who helped the Chicago Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup in 1961, has died. He was 84.

The Blackhawks and the NHL Alumni Association announced Hull's death on Monday. There were no further details provided by either organization.

The Blackhawks said Hull "delivered countless memories to our fans, whom he adored. Generations of Chicagoans were dazzled by Bobby's shooting prowess, skating skill and overall team leadership that led to 604 career goals, a franchise record that remains to this day. We send our deepest sympathies to the Hull family."

Hull was one of the most prolific forwards in NHL history, scoring 610 times during his 16-year career with Chicago, Hartford and Winnipeg. Nicknamed "The Golden Jet" for his speed and blond hair, he also collected 303 goals while playing for the Jets in the World Hockey Association for seven seasons.

While Hull starred on the ice, he faced legal and family issues in his personal life.

Hull was convicted of assaulting a police officer who intervened in a dispute with then-wife Deborah in 1986. He also was accused of battery, but that charge was dropped after Deborah told authorities she didn't want to testify against her husband, a state attorney told the Chicago Tribune.

Hull's second wife, Joanne, accused him of abuse during an interview with ESPN for a 2002 show.

A Russian newspaper reported in 1998 that Hull said Adolf Hitler "had some good ideas." Hull denied making the comment, saying it was "false and de-

OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS

Wheeling Park Tops Warren, Sets Up Morgantown Rematch

Top-Seeded Patriots Pull Away From Warriors In 5A

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Park will look to go 3-for-3 against Morgantown this season when West Virginia-ranked squads clash for the third time Saturday in the OVAC Class 5A Girls Basketball Championship Game after both picked up victories in Monday night's semifinals.

The top-seeded Lady Patriots (18-1) pulled away from No. 4 Warren Local (17-4) late in the second quarter en route to a 77-56 victory inside the "Palace on the Hill" high atop the Friendly City. Meanwhile, the No. 2 Mohigans rolled past third-seeded Marietta, 54-19.

Saturday's contest, which starts at 4 p.m. inside Harrison Central High School in Cadiz, will be a rematch of last year's title tilt that Morgantown won.

"We know they will be ready. I'm sure they are pretty hungry to beat us, especially in a game like this," Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young said of the Mohigans, which are ranked No. 3 in the latest W.Va. Class 4A poll in which the Patriots returned to the No. 1 spot after being No. 2 last week. "We'll be ready, too."

But before looking ahead to Morgantown, Wheeling Park had to get past a good Warren Local squad that gave it all it could handle for a quarter-and-a-half. Unfortunately for the Warriors, a basketball game has four quarters.

Please see **PARK**, Page 10



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Alexis Bordas looks for room to dribble against a Warren Local player Monday night in a Class 5A Tournament semifinal inside the "Palace on the Hill." She scored 26 points to lead the Patriots to victory.

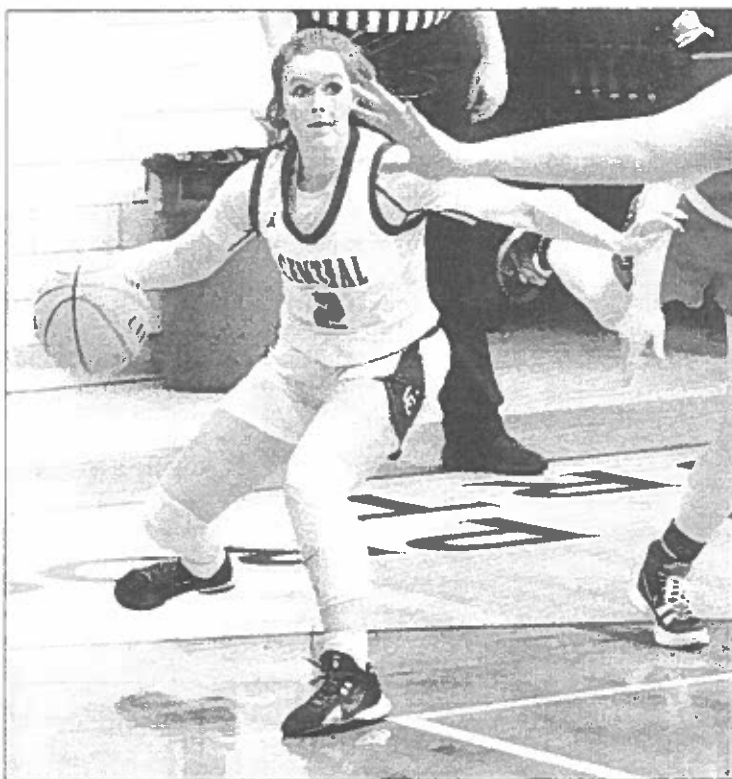


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Valerie Downing tries to drive baseline against Monroe Central Monday night in a Class 2A Tournament semifinal inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling.

Wheeling Central Returns To 2A Title Game With Victory

No. 2 Maroon Knights Meet No. 1 River

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — It was by no means a work of art. But, in a tournament setting, there's no extra credit for style points. Quite simply, it's all about winning the game.

Wheeling Central did just that Monday evening on Coach Skip Prosser Court inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling. Central got just enough stops and banked-in, 3-pointer from senior Valerie Downing, which helped the Knights to pull out a hard-earned 41-37 victory against third-seeded Monroe Central in the semifinals of the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

"It certainly feels good to advance," Central head coach Roberta Olejasz said. "Monroe Central is a good, athletic team."

The win sends Wheeling Central to Saturday's conference championship game at 10 a.m. against top-seeded River, which easily dispatched Southern Local, 68-37 in the other 2A semifinal.

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 10

Defense Leads Oak Glen To 4A Final

No. 3 Golden Bears Post Lone Upset Of Night Over Harrison Central

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — Ryan Wells knew from the start of preseason practice his Golden Bears were good enough to play for an OVAC championship — a belief that did not waver despite some disappointing early results.

After overcoming a 1-5 start and putting together enough wins to make the Class 4A top four as the No. 3 seed, they proved him right on Monday night with an impressive 53-33 upset win over No. 2 seed Harrison Central on the road.

team clicks, they were going to be fine and they're putting it all together now. They want to finish it out on Saturday.

"The last few games we turned the corner, we're peaking at the right time and everyone is playing unselfish."

After a close first quarter ended with a 12-10 advantage, the Oak Glen (8-9) defense took over limiting the Huskies (11-8) to just seven points in the second quarter while pushing the lead to double digits at 27-17 at the break.

Then, in the third quarter, Oak Glen's defense turned it up even



Wheeling Park Tops Warren, Sets Up Morgantown Rematch

Top-Seeded Patriots Pull Away From Warriors In 5A

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Saturday's contest, which starts at 4 p.m. inside Harrison Central High School in Cadiz, will be a rematch of last year's title tilt that Morgantown won.

"We know they will be ready. I'm sure they are pretty hungry to beat us, especially in a game like this," Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young said of the Mohigans, which are ranked No. 3 in the latest W.Va. Class 4A poll in which the Patriots returned to the No. 1 spot after being No. 2 last week. "We'll be ready, too."

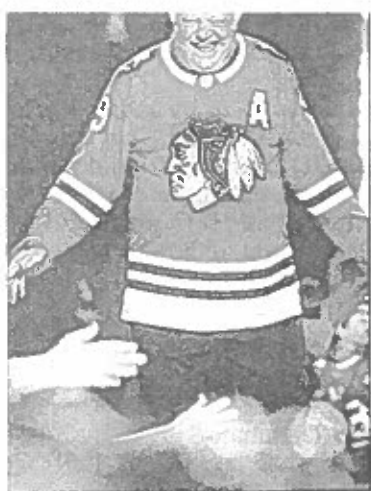
But before looking ahead to Morgantown, Wheeling Park had to get past a good Warren Local squad that gave it all it could handle for a quarter-and-a-half. Unfortunately for the Warriors, a basketball game has four quarters.

Please see **PARK**, Page 10



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Alexis Bordas looks for room to dribble against a Warren Local player Monday night in a Class 5A Tournament semifinal inside the "Palace on the Hill." She scored 26 points to lead the Patriots to victory.



AP Photo

Former Chicago Blackhawks player Bobby Hull is introduced to fans during the team's convention in Chicago, July 26, 2019. Hull, a Hall of Fame forward who helped the Blackhawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup Final, has died. He was 84.

NHL Hall Of Famer Hull Dies

'The Golden Jet' Was 84

CHICAGO (AP) — When Bobby Hull got the puck, he was tough to stop. He had blazing speed, a hard slap shot and tons of confidence.

Long before today's biggest stars took the ice, "The Golden Jet" put on quite a show.

Hull, a Hall of Fame winger and two-time NHL MVP who helped the Chicago Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup in 1961, has died. He was 84.

The Blackhawks and the NHL Alumni Association announced Hull's death on Monday. There were no further details provided by either organization.

The Blackhawks said Hull "delivered countless memories to our fans, whom he adored. Generations of Chicagoans were dazzled by Bobby's shooting prowess, skating skill and overall team leadership that led to 604 career goals, a franchise record that remains to this day. We send our deepest sympathies to the Hull family."

Hull was one of the most prolific forwards in NHL history, scoring 610 times during his 16-year career with Chicago, Hartford and Winnipeg. Nicknamed "The Golden Jet" for his speed and blond hair, he also collected 303 goals while playing for the Jets in the World Hockey Association for seven seasons.

While Hull starred on the ice, he faced legal and family issues in his personal life.

Hull was convicted of assaulting a police officer who intervened in a dispute with then-wife Deborah in 1986. He also was accused of battery, but that charge was dropped after Deborah told authorities she didn't want to testify against her husband, a state attorney told the Chicago Tribune.

Hull's second wife, Joanne, accused him of abuse during an interview with ESPN for a 2002 show.

A Russian newspaper reported in 1998 that Hull said Adolf Hitler "had some good ideas." Hull denied making the comment, calling it "false and defamatory."

Hull was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983 and his No. 9 sweater was retired by the Blackhawks that same year.

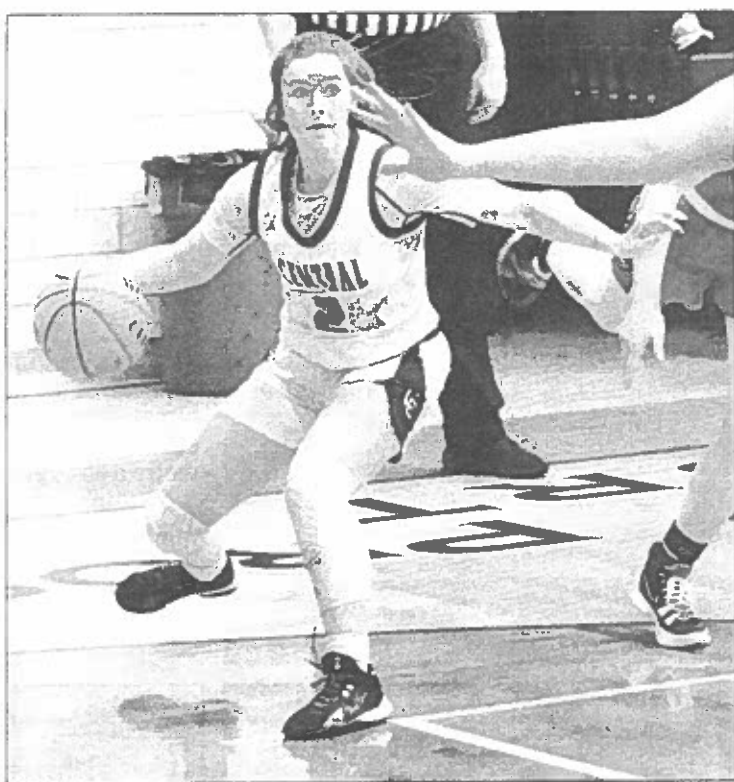


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Valerie Downing tries to drive baseline against Monroe Central Monday night in a Class 2A Tournament semifinal inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling.

Wheeling Central Returns To 2A Title Game With Victory

No. 2 Maroon Knights Meet No. 1 River

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — It was by no means a work of art. But, in a tournament setting, there's no extra credit for style points. Quite simply, it's all about winning the game.

Wheeling Central did just that Monday evening on Coach Skip Prosser Court inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling. Central got just enough stops and banked-in, 3-pointer from senior Valerie Downing, which helped the Knights to pull out a hard-earned 41-37 victory against third-seeded Monroe Central in the semifinals of the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

"It certainly feels good to advance," Central head coach Roberta Olejasz said. "Monroe Central is a good, athletic team."

The win sends Wheeling Central to Saturday's conference championship game at 10 a.m. against top-seeded River, which easily dispatched Southern Local, 68-37 in the other 2A semifinal.

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 10

Defense Leads Oak Glen To 4A Final

No. 3 Golden Bears Post Lone Upset Of Night Over Harrison Central

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — Ryan Wells knew from the start of preseason practice his Golden Bears were good enough to play for an OVAC championship — a belief that did not waver despite some disappointing early results.

After overcoming a 1-5 start and putting together enough wins to make the Class 4A top four as the No. 3 seed, they proved him right on Monday night with an impressive 53-33 upset win over No. 2 seed Harrison Central on the road.

"It's huge for these girls," Wells said of his team reaching the final. "These girls played in the OVAC final last year so getting back was definitely one of our goals. I said (after a loss to Big Red in December) if this

team clicks, they were going to be fine and they're putting it all together now. They want to finish it out on Saturday.

"The last few games we turned the corner, we're peaking at the right time and everyone is playing unselfish."

After a close first quarter ended with a 12-10 advantage, the Oak Glen (8-9) defense took over limiting the Huskies (11-8) to just seven points in the second quarter while pushing the lead to double digits at 27-17 at the break.

Then, in the third quarter, Oak Glen's defense turned it up even more and allowed the hosts to tally just two points while taking complete control, leading by as many as 24 on the way to the 20-point victory.

Please see **4A**, Page 11



Photo by Andrew Grimm

Harrison Central's Mackenzie Harbold drives to the paint against Oak Glen's Kami Ward during their OVAC Class 4A semifinal Monday night in Cadiz.

No. 15 TCU Without Top Scorer Vs. WVU Due To Knee Injury

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — TCU leading scorer Mike Miles Jr. will miss tonight's home game against West Virginia because of a hyperextended right knee.

Miles got hurt less than four minutes into 15th-ranked TCU's overtime loss at Mississippi State on Saturday in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge. A subsequent MRI showed no serious issues for the Big 12's second-leading scorer.

While the timetable for his return was still uncertain, coach Jamie Dixon said Miles didn't have an ACL or MCL injury.

"I don't anticipate him being out as long as others have been," Dixon said before practice Monday afternoon.

The Horned Frogs (16-5) have also played their last two games without Eddie Lampkin Jr., their leading rebounder (6.8 per game).

Lampkin suffered a high left ankle sprain in their win at Kansas on Jan. 21.

Miles was the preseason player of the year, as chosen by the Big 12 coaches.

PARK

(Continued from Page 9)

Trailing 28-24 with just over 4 minutes left in the second quarter, the Patriots turned it up a notch, on a 16-3 run to take a 40-31 lead into the lockerroom.

Senior Sophie Abraham ignited the spurt with a three-pointer and sophomore Lala Woods added a conventional bucket and a trey. Following a Warren Local timeout, Abraham knocked down another bonus goal and Woods scored again before the Warriors' Alex Frazee hit a bonus goal with just under a minute left to make it 36-31.

A three by Woods, who netted 16 of her 21 in the first half, and a layup by Abraham capped the half.

Sophomore Alexis Bordas caught fire in the third quarter with 17 of her team-high 26 points. She tallied nine of her team's first 13 points and connected on back-to-back triples - after Warren Local had pulled to within 13 - to spark.

"I thought Alexis and Lala played really well tonight," Young said of his high-scoring backcourt tandem.

After a Warriors' timeout, Abraham made it 65-43 with a quarter to go.

In addition to her 26 markers, Bordas grabbed eight rebounds, five coming off the offensive glass where the Patriots had 17 of their 35 boards. Woods

added four assists, a like number of steals and a pair of rebounds to her point total, while Seneca Heller charted seven rebounds (5 offensive), four steals and a trio of assists.

Frazee, who led all scorers with 28, had 20 at the break. She did, however, reach a milestone with a free throw at the 3:53 mark of the third quarter that gave her 1,000 career points.

"She's one heckuva player," Young said of Frazee. "Warren played us tough there for a while, but then we finally broke away."

The hosts started the third quarter on a 22-9 scoring spree that led to a 65-45 advantage after three quarters.

Abraham, a West Liberty recruit, added 14 points and Natalie Daugherty had nine, four assists and three rebounds. Merritt Delk chipped in four rebounds and three assists in a reserve role.

"For the most part I thought we played fine. I thought we were pretty good in the third quarter and we rebounded the ball very well.

"Seneca Heller had some great hustle plays tonight like she has all year. We also did a nice job of driving and kicking the ball out in the third quarter and Sophie knocked down a couple of shots," Young added.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 9)

Before any attention could shift to the Pilots, however, Central had its hands full.

Despite never trailing after the early stages of the first quarter, the Maroon Knights found themselves in a 23-all battle after three.

Central, which connected on eight, 3-pointers in the game, got two of those on back-to-back trips from Lily Vogrin and added in a pair of baskets from junior guard Brooke Edge and it ended up being a 34-25 edge with a little more than two minutes to play.

It was far from over, though. "Our girls persevered," Olejasz said. "I thought they were warriors out on the floor. We've really not won a game like this. We've played in games like this, but we've figured out how to win this way, which is a huge step for us.

"We've won a lot of games in different ways, but this was still a different way still and it's a big step for our girls."

The Seminoles, who knocked down just 14 of 49 shots from the field and only had two bonus goals, ignited a run of theirs with a Riley Bettinger field goal. A missed front end of a bonus situation by Central opened the gates even more.

Monroe Central took advantage, producing a five-point trip. Hallie Bommer drilled a corner trey and while the shot was in the air, Central committed a

foul, which sent Abby Thompson to the line. She calmly sank a pair and with 1:46 to play, the Maroon Knights lead had been shaved to two at 34-32.

"That (five-point) possession hurt us a little bit even though they never pulled ahead," Olejasz said. "It was the correct call on the foul, but it was weird because you just aren't used to seeing that."

Another missed front end of a one plus one set the stage for the Seminoles to tie the game on a well executed high low play to Kynzi Bishop with 67 seconds to go.

On the ensuing trip, Central took the lead for good when Downing kissed in a trey from basically the top of the key.

"That was obviously a huge shot for us," Olejasz said. "Then (Downing) hit a couple of big foul shots, too. We've not been the greatest at the line this season."

Downing then knocked down a pair at the line and Keiera Wiikinson got one of two from the stripe for a 40-34 reading, which simply proved to be too much for Monroe.

"I'm okay with how our girls played, but it stinks that a banked three is the difference in the game, but that's literally what it came down to," Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker said.

"When it left her hand, I didn't not think it was going in, and I was

looking to see how far our it was going to rebound, but it stuck in there and that's life."

The Maroon Knights were led by Vogrin's 14.

Edge added 13 and Downing chipped in with 12.

Monroe Central, meanwhile, received 12 points from Bettinger and 10 from Abby Thompson in the paint. Bommer added seven.

"We got good looks, but we didn't shoot it well," Baker said. "We got a little sped up at times, but I am okay with all of the shots we took."

"We had 16 turnovers, most of which were because of good defensive plays by Central. Our turnovers are what I consider aggressive plays that didn't end up working out for us."

Monroe Central (15-6) will return to action Thursday, at home, against Southern Local in the 2A consolation game.

River 68, Southern Local 37
HANNIBAL — River locked up its spot in the title game without much issue.

The Pilots owned a 14-point lead at halftime and never looked back.

River was led by junior Kelsey Harlan, who scored 23 points and eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career in the process. She currently has 1002 points. Junior Rylee Knight added 23 points for the Pilots.

TURNAROUND

(Continued from Page 9)

While all this was going on Huggins tried to make the most of what he had. He tried not to play Johnson together in the backcourt with Joe Toussaint for fear of foul trouble at the point and brought young James Okonkwo along slowly as a big man, even while his team was being beaten badly on the boards and in the paint, using him as a replacement for Bell and Mo Wague.

Events, however, forced him to use more and more of Johnson and Toussaint together in the backcourt as Stevenson slumped, and to increase Okonkwo's playing time as he improved.

Recently, with both Mitchell and Matthews going through rough times, he has used Okonkwo and Bell together and it has given a new life to the team and helped not only the rebounding, as one would expect, but the offense and the defense.

Okonkwo's progress has been most impressive. "I think the biggest thing is his teammates are developing confidence in him more and more," Huggins said after he made a 10-rebound, 5-point and 2-block contribution against Auburn, often sharing the floor with Bell. "I think that really helps him."

"James came over here from England and didn't know anybody, talked funny and really didn't know anything about basketball. I think as he matures as a player and as he matures as a person, he's just going to continue to get better and better."

A couple of games back against Texas Tech it all came together for Okonkwo.

"I think what James did at Texas Tech opened a lot of eyes; most importantly, it opened James' eyes," Huggins said.

Huggins admits he liked what he saw of the combination in the Auburn game.

"I liked it," He said. "It's just hard to get Tre out because he's played well and has been our best player. But he had a bad day and that happens. He wasn't as bouncy."

Another who liked the new look was Stevenson as he poured in 31 points against Auburn.

"Erik struggled. He'll be the first to admit that," Huggins said, "but he came out of it a much better

player and a much better teammate."

And Stevenson liked what he saw of Bell and Okonkwo on the court together.

"I like it," Stevenson said. "We're so comfortable with having Tre out there. He's more of a finesse and perimeter guy; so versatile that he can get to the block and score as well. But when you have James out there, he's so athletic."

"Four for five at the free throw line," Stevenson went on. "That's big, huge. And he helps us ... helps us defensively and he helps us on the glass. He's probably one of the best athletes I've ever played with. He is just now tapping into his potential."

"We've been on him since the summer. During the summer, I was watching highlights and saw Sags (Sagaba Konate) blocking shots and I'm like 'James can do that.' He was doing that in the summer in pickup games. You could ask anybody."

"You saw that (two-handed) block against Texas Tech! He was doing that in the summer. He had another one today. I was like, you can do that all the time."

While that is going on, Toussaint has been turned loose by Huggins and developed a side no one really knew he had, that of being a scorer. He always was a solid guard at Iowa, but the points came from elsewhere and that's one of the reasons he transferred, to get to a place where he could display his other abilities.

"Keddy's been banged up. They've really banged him up, but Joe has come in and done a terrific job for us," Huggins said.

Toussaint has shown an ability to penetrate into the heart of the defense and shoot midrange, which is effective with Stevenson demanding defensive attention almost as far back as half-court with his shooting range.

And, if Huggins were to go with three guards -- Kedrian Johnson, Stevenson and Toussaint -- and Bell and Okonkwo, you have Johnson penetrating to the hoop, Toussaint at midrange, Stevenson shooting from wherever and Bell and Okonkwo down low.

With Mitchell able to shoot from the outside or inside and Matthews shooting 3s from the corner when he's on and slashing to the rim, the offense is versatile and can be intimidating.

"At the beginning we were kind of lost," Huggins said. "We had such a conglomeration of a lot of different people who had been coached so many different ways. To get all those guys on the same page was really a struggle."

"I think everyone understands what his role is. They understand what they can do, what their teammates can do and that puts us in a much better place. But, that being said, everybody else has played as many games as we have and gone through the same kind of things we have."

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Motorcoach Trips Info Night

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Uniglobe Office | 6:00 PM

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ACCN — Clemson at Boston College
BTN — Nebraska at Illinois
CBSSN — VCU at Davidson
ESPN — Wake Forest at Duke
ESPNU — Texas A&M at Arkansas
ESPNU — Virginia Tech at Miami
8 p.m.
FS1 — UConn at DePaul
8:30 p.m.
SECN — Vanderbilt at Alabama
9 p.m.
BTN — Northwestern at Iowa
CBSSN — Loyola of Chicago at Dayton
ESPN — Kentucky at Mississippi
ESPN2 — Indiana at Maryland
ESPNU — West Virginia at TCU
10 p.m.
FS1 — Fresno St. at Wyoming
11 p.m.
CBSSN — San Diego St. at Nevada
COLLEGE GOLF
4:30 p.m.
GOLF — The Southwestern Invitational: Second Round, North Ranch CC, Westlake, Calif.
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT — LA Lakers at New York
10 p.m.
TNT — New Orleans at Denver
NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
NBATV — Texas at Sioux City
NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
NHLN — Los Angeles at Carolina
SOCCER (MEN'S)
3 p.m.
CBSSN — The Italian Cup: Atlanta at Inter Milan, Quarterfinal
TENNIS
6 a.m.
TENNIS — Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Early Rounds
2 a.m. (Wednesday)
TENNIS — Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Early Rounds
6 a.m. (Wednesday)
TENNIS — Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Early Rounds

OVAC WRESTLING

OVAC Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships (at Brooke High School)
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 6 p.m.
Semifinals
Class 4A
No. 1 St. Clairs vs. No. 4 Oak Glen
No. 2 Indian Creek vs. No. 3 Edison
Finals
Immediately following semis
Class 1A/2A
Finals
No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 2 Bridgeport
Thursday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m. (at John Marshall F.H.)
Semifinals
Class 3A
No. 1 Linsly vs. No. 4 Magnolia
No. 2 Barnesville vs. No. 3 Ferry
Class 5A
No. 1 Whg Park vs. No. 4 Brooke
No. 2 Big Red vs. No. 3 J. Marshall
Immediately following semis

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
San Francisco 41, Seattle 23
Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30
Sunday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17
Monday, Jan. 16
Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 21
Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20
Philadelphia 38, N.Y. Giants 7
Sunday, Jan. 22
Cincinnati 27, Buffalo 10
San Francisco 19, Dallas 12
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 29
AFC
Kansas City 23, Cincinnati 20
NFC
Philadelphia 31, San Francisco 7
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 12
At Glendale, Ariz.
Philadelphia vs. Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

ECHL

Monday's Games
No games scheduled
Tuesday's Games
No games scheduled

NHL

Monday's Game
Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 2
Tuesday's Games
Los Angeles at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Washington at Columbus, 7 p.m.

NBA

Monday's Games
Orlando 119, Philadelphia 109
Brooklyn 121, L.A. Lakers 104
Golden State 128, Okla. City 120
Sacramento 118, Minnesota 111, OT
Washington 127, San Antonio 106
Dallas 115, Detroit 105
Phoenix 114, Toronto 106
Atlanta at Portland, late
Tuesday's Games
Miami at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at S. Antonio, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Shenandoah at Clay Battelle
John Marshall at Linsly
Steuubenville at Dover
Cambridge at Edison
Brooke at Beaver Local

PREP SCORES

W.VA. BOYS
Fort Hill, Md. 74, Berk. Springs 35
High-Mont., Va. 67, U. Grant 39
Keyser 70, Bishop Walsh, Md. 55
Logan 80, Nitro 76
Roane County 59, Buffalo 46
W.VA. GIRLS
Bluefield 47, Graham, Va. 35
Brooke 61, Edison 36
Cameron 85, Hundred 29
E. Liverpool, Ohio 53, Weir 32
Herbert Hoover 67, Scott 58
John Marshall 51, Dover, Ohio 24
Magnolia 66, Valley Wetzel 41
Martin Co., Ky. 68, Tug Valley 33
Morgantown 54, Marietta, Ohio 19
Oak Glen 53, Harrison Cent. 33
Oakland So., Md. 43, Keyser 24
Philip Barbour 54, Lincoln 39
Robert C. Byrd 43, Sissonville 33
Spring Mills 58, Washington 39
Summers Co. 81, Poca, Co. 22
U. Grant 67, High-Mont., Va. 29
University 51, Steubenville 48
Wayne 68, Poca 36
OHIO GIRLS
Athens 40, Albany Alexander 37
Bel. Union Local 50, Bellaire 21
Berea-Midpark 43, Massillon 36
Berlin Hilland 45, Tus. Valley 41
Bethel-Tate 54, Blanchester 21
Beverly Ft. Frye 49, M. Ferry 26
Botkins 58, Lima Perry 46
Bowers C. Valley 42, Madonna 39
Bracken Co., Ky. 66, RULH 18
Bristol 48, Warren Lordstown 7
Brooke, W.Va. 61, Edison 36
Brookfield 67, Warren Champion 45
Brunswick 52, Strongsville 46
Camden Preble Shawnee 48, Bishop Fenwick 33
Can. McKinley 64, Cle. Hts. Lutheran E. 34
Canal Winchester Harvest Prep 51, Plain City Jonathan Alder 45, Canfield S. Range 43, Cortland Lakeview 30
Carrington 68, Magnolia Sandy Valley 45
Cedarville 51, Spring. Kenton Ridge 38
Chardon 68, Geneva 33
Cin. Christian 41, St. Bernard-Elmwood Place 39
Cin. Mt. Healthy 41, Cin. Wyoming 31
Cin. Princeton 63, Liberty Twp. Lakota E. 58
Cin. Walnut Hills 52, Cin. Winton Woods 48
Cin. West Clermont 53, Loveland 25
Clarksville Clinton-Massie 40, Batavia 31
Cle. Hts. 52, Bedford 25
Cle. St. Martin De Porres 50, Beachwood 49
Clyde 45, Attica Seneca E. 44
Cols. Grandview Hts. 51, Cols. Whetstone 11
Cuyahoga Falls CVCA 53, Chardon NDCL 31
Day. Meadowdale 69, Day. Belmont 53
Delphos Jefferson 58, Wapakoneta 22
Delta 47, Pioneer N. Central 19
E. Liverpool 53, Weir, W.Va. 32
E. Palestine 55, Wellsville 24
Elyria 41, LaGrange Keystone 32
Findlay 52, Tol. St. Ursula 31
Franklin Middletown Christian 44, Day. Christian 38
Fremont Ross 68, Lima Sr. 53
Garfield Hts. Trinity 52, Burton Berkshire 42
Garrettsville Garfield 39, Newton Falls 13
Georgetown 50, W. Union 45
Girard 56, Jefferson Area 37
Goshen 48, Wilmington 29
Greenwich S. Cent. 60, Sullivan Black River 48
Hubbard 48, Niles McKinley 36
John Marshall, W.Va. 51, Dover 24
Kings Mills Kings 51, Milford 46
Kinsman Badger 58, Vienna Mathews 45
Lebanon 56, Cin. Turpin 29
Leetonia 47, Youngs. Valley Christian 17
Liberty Center 55, Sherwood Fairview 48
L. C. Buck. Trail 44, Barnesville 42
Mason 57, Bellbrook 37
MCom 41, Arcadia 29
Miamisburg 55, Franklin 34
Mogadore Field 59, Willoughby S. 30
Morgantown, W.Va. 54, Marietta 19
N. Ridgeville 48, Medina 41
N. Royalton 67, Fairview 47
New Lebanon Dixie 45, Pittsburg Franklin-Monroe 37
Notre Dame Academy 44, Tol. Whitmer 36
Oak Glen, W.Va. 53, Cadiz Harrison Cent. 33
Pataskala Watkins Memorial 58, Newark Licking Valley 39
Philo 39, Gnadenuhthen Indian Valley 35
Piqua 31, Clayton Northmont 23
Poland Seminary 60, Struthers 44
Portsmouth Notre Dame 70, Pomeroy Meigs 46
Richfield Revere 53, Rootstown 32
Rockford Parkway 49, Van Wert 44
Seton 41, Hamilton Ross 30
Southington Chalker 59, Windham 37
Springfield 34, Berlin Center West-ern Reserve 19
Streetsboro 59, Akr. Springfield 19
Swanton 36, Metamora Evergreen 31
Tallmadge 51, Akr. Firestone 14
Thornville Sheridan 43, New Concord John Glenn 40
Tipp City Bethel 59, Riverside 20
University 51, Steubenville 48
Wadsworth 46, Hudson 35
Warren JFK 43, Cle. Cent. Cath. 35
Wauseon 47, Tol. Bowshier 29
Waynesville 63, Greeneview 33
Wellston 50, Vinton County 26
Youngs. Liberty 57, LaBrea 30
W. Muskingum 61, Zanesville 39

Others receiving votes: Wirt County 7.

Class A table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Points. Includes teams like J. Monroe, Webster Co., Tug Valley, Tucker Co., Cameron, Pendleton Co., Clay-Battelle, East Hardy, St. Joseph, etc.

Class AA table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Points. Includes teams like Wyo. East, M. Cent., Summ Co., Williams, Whg Central, Park. Cath., Chapman, St. Marys, Char. Cath., Petersburg, etc.

inside the rangar.

Class AAA table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Points. Includes teams like Wayne, Marion, Ripley, East Fair, Nitro, Lewis Co., Phillip Bar., R.C. Byrd, Keyser, Logan, etc.

Class AAAA table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Points. Includes teams like Whg Park, Sp. Valley, M'town, C. Midland, Sp. Mills, Hunt, University, Parkers. So., St. Albans, W. Wilson, etc.

Others receiving votes: George Washington 3, John Marshall 2, Bridgeport 1.
Class AAA table with columns: Rank, Team, Score, Points. Includes teams like Wayne, Marion, Ripley, East Fair, Nitro, Lewis Co., Phillip Bar., R.C. Byrd, Keyser, Logan, etc.

Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Semifinals

Monroe falls to Central

• River advances in 2A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — It was by no means a work of art. But, in a tournament setting, there's no extra credit for style points.

Quite simply, it's all about winning the game.

Wheeling Central did just that Monday evening on Coach Skip Prosser Court inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling. Central got just enough stops and banked-in, 3-pointer from senior Valerie Downing, which helped the Knights to pull out a hard-earned 41-37 victory against third-seeded Monroe Central in the semifinals of the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

"It certainly feels good to advance," Central head coach Roberta Olejasz said. "Monroe Central is a good, athletic team."

The win sends Wheeling Central to Saturday's conference championship game at 10 a.m. against top-seeded River, which easily dispatched Southern Local, 68-37 in the other 2A semifinal.

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TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

MONROE CENTRAL freshman Jacey English drives to the basket in transition as Wheeling Central's Brooke Edge races to get back on defense during the first half of Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal on Skip Prosser Court at the Wheeling Central Athletic Center. The Maroon Knights picked up a 41-37 victory to advance to Saturday morning's title game against River.

Jets soar by Bellaire to 3A final

• Fort Frye ousts Ferry

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For the Times Leader

MORRISTOWN - It is said that defense wins championships. If that is such the case, Union Local's unbeaten Lady Jets are primed for much success.

Union Local, despite not operating on all of its offensive cylinders, turned in a defensive-minded effort, punching its ticket into the OVAC Tournament 3A championship game via a 50-21 workmanlike win over shorthanded and fourth-seeded Bellaire Monday night at "The Hanger."

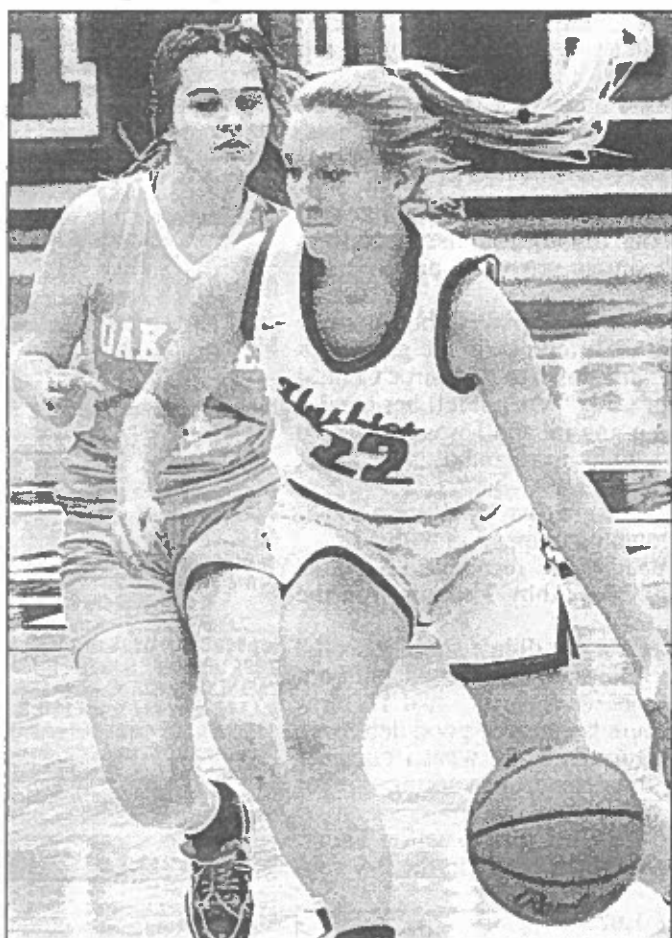
The win was the 20th in as many starts for Scooter Tolzda's powerful charges. The top-seeded Lady Jets will look to repeat as OVAC queenpins when they take on a formidable Fort Frye quint Saturday at Harrison Central at noon. The Lady Cadets downed Martins Ferry, 49-26, in the other semifinal.

"Sometimes our defense gets overlooked. I think we are a solid defensive team," Tolzda said. "Our staff does a great job teaching it. We did a real good job on the defensive end tonight."

"We were a little out of sorts offensively tonight and sloppy at times," he added. "We took some quick shots. We didn't allow ourselves a chance to run an offense."

Despite not exhibiting its usual explosive offense, Union Local did ride the coattails of its two stars to victory. Seniors Reagan Vinskovich poured in 21 points while Torre Kildow delivered 15 counters. Junior Lauren Miller chipped in with seven tallies.

Bellaire suited up just seven players for the contest. Coach John Farrier's Lady Reds were playing without the See, UL, Page B2



Photo/ANDREW GRIMM

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Mackenzie Harbold drives to the basket during Monday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Oak Glen. The Huskies fell to the third-seeded Golden

Harrison Central upset in 4A semi

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Times Leader

CADIZ - Ryan Wells knew from the start of preseason practice his Golden Bears were good enough to play for an OVAC championship - a belief that did not waiver despite some disappointing early results.

After overcoming a 1-5 start and putting together enough wins to make the Class 4A top four as the No. 3 seed, they proved him right on Monday night with an impressive 53-33 upset win over No. 2 seed Harrison Central on the road.

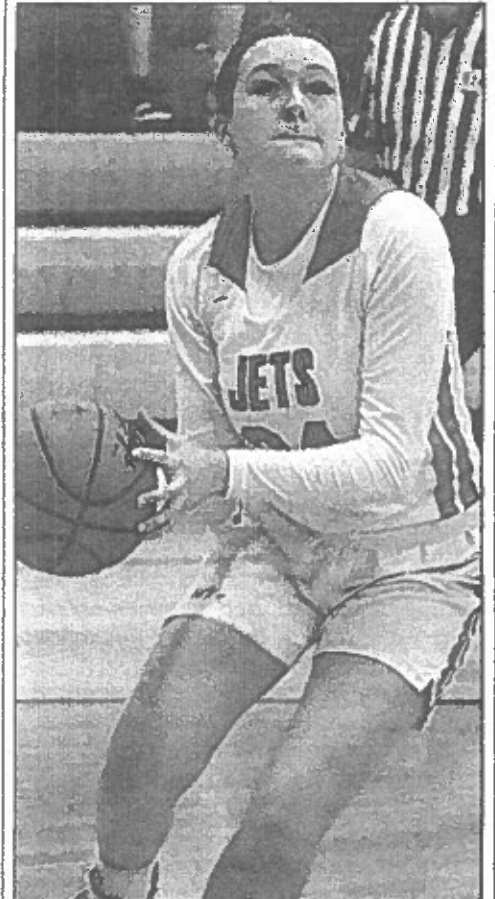
"It's huge for these girls," Wells said of his team reaching the final. "These girls played in the OVAC final last year so getting back was definitely one of our goals. I said (after a loss to Big Red in December) if this team clicks, they were going to be fine and they're putting it all together now. They want to finish it out on Saturday."

"The last few games we turned the corner, we're peaking at the right time and everyone is playing unselfish."

After a close first quarter ended with a 12-10 advantage, the Oak Glen (8-9) defense took over limiting the Huskies (11-8) to just seven points in the second quarter while pushing the lead to double digits at 27-17 at the break.

Then, in the third quarter, Oak Glen's defense turned it up even more and allowed the hosts to tally just two points while taking complete control, leading by as many as 24 on the way to the 20-point victory.

"I cannot be any happier with our defense," Wells said. "We're holding teams to some really low totals right now, and we knew coming into the season defense was going to



TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL sophomore Ella Pietranton looks to make a play against Bellaire during a game earlier this season. Pietranton and the Jets advanced to Saturday's OVAC 3A final to take on Fort Frye

WHEELING - It was by no means a work of art. But, in a tournament setting, there's no extra credit for style points.

Quite simply, it's all about winning the game.

Wheeling Central did just that Monday evening on Coach Skip Prosser Court inside the Knights Athletic Complex in East Wheeling. Central got just enough stops and banked-in, 3-pointer from senior Valerie Downing, which helped the Knights to pull out a hard-earned 41-37 victory against third-seeded Monroe Central in the semifinals of the OVAC Class 2A tournament.

"It certainly feels good to advance," Central head coach Roberta Olejask said. "Monroe Central is a good, athletic team."

The win sends Wheeling Central to Saturday's conference championship game at 10 a.m. against top-seeded River, which easily dispatched Southern Local, 68-37 in the other 2A semifinal.

Before any attention could shift to the Pilots, however, Central had its hands full.

Despite never trailing after the early stages of the first quarter, the Maroon Knights found themselves in a 23-all battle after three.

Central, which connected on eight, 3-pointers in the game, got two of those on back-to-back trips from Lily Vogrin and added in a

See, **MONROE**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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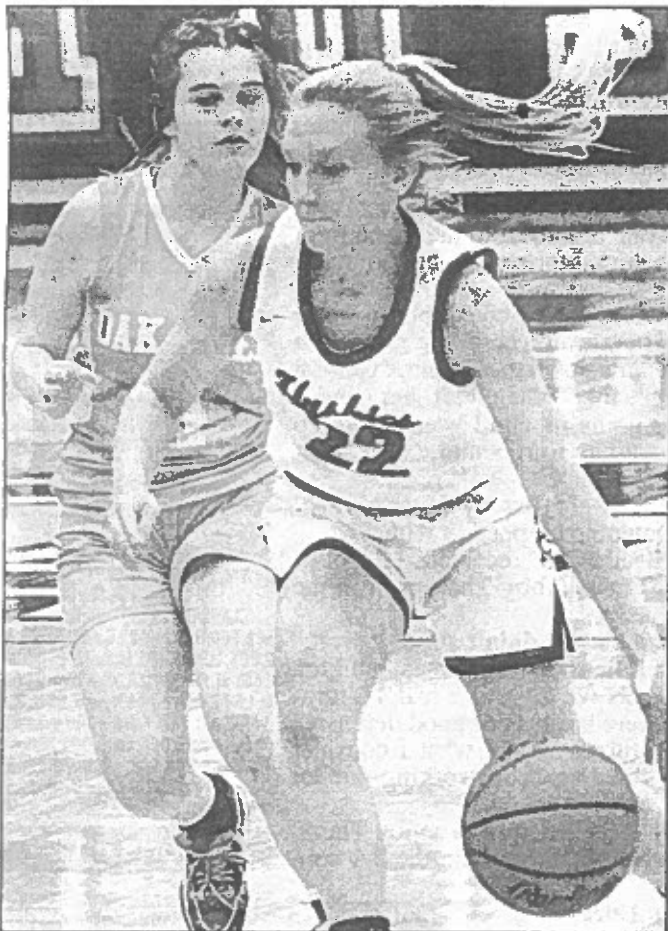
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For The Times Leader

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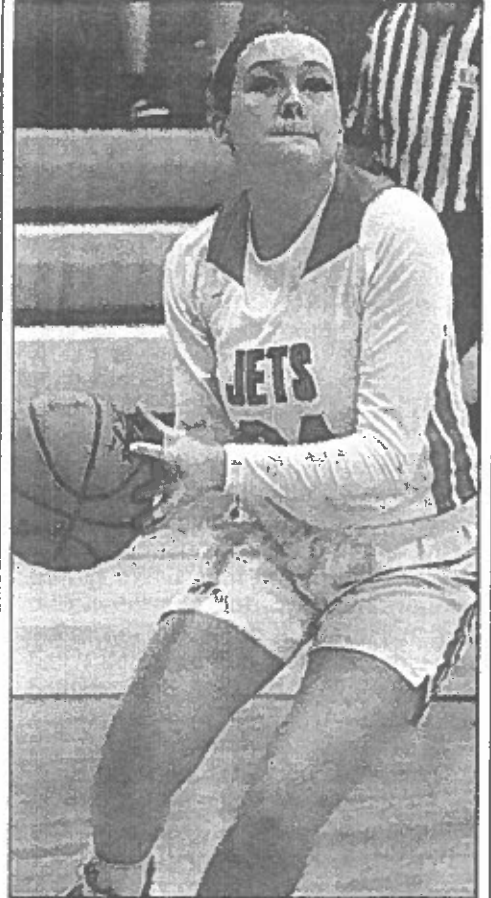
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See, **HARRISON**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL sophomore Ella Pietranton looks to make a play against Bellaire during a game earlier this season. Pietranton and the Jets advanced to Saturday's OVAC 3A final to take on Fort Frye by defeating Bellaire on Monday.

Strong second half lifts Creek past Buckeye in 4A

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Times Leader

"**THE SECOND** half was much better. We got going offensively. We locked them up defensively.

-Steve Eft
Indian Creek Head Coach

WINTERSVILLE - Indian Creek's offense finally caught up to its defense.

Buckeye Local committed 17 turnovers in the first half, however, Panthers led the Redskins by two at half-time. Unfortunately for the girls in blue, the second half belonged to the Red-and-Gold.

Indian Creek - the No. 1 seed - caught fire in the second half, and the Redskins rolled to a 70-36 victory against the fourth-seeded Panthers in a Class 4A Semifinal in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Monday night on Senior Night on Coach D Court.

"We have not played since the Buckeye 8 Championship Game, and it showed early in the game," Indian Creek (14-4) head coach Steve Eft said. "We missed shots we are capable

of making. We got off to a very slow start.

"It was Senior Night, and there are a lot of distractions that comes a long with that. I was worried about our mental focus with it being Senior Night.

"We had not played in 10 days or whatever. We tried to settle in, but things snowballed on us. We missed shot on offense, and we hung our heads on defense. That is not what you want to see. We were really struggling."

"The second half was much better. We got going offensively. We locked them up defensively."

"We were able to create turnovers, and we were able to turn those into points. We shook off a slow start."

"Buckeye Local played hard. They

played a good game. They made their shots. It was just one of those nights."

The Redskins outscored the Panthers, 30-5, in the third.

"We did not get many open looks in the second half," Buckeye Local (7-12) head coach Tom Valuska said. "They amped up the pressure. We had some turnovers. In the first half, we moved the ball. In the second half, we didn't move the ball."

Indian Creek will take on No. 3 seed Oak Glen in the final at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon out at Harrison Central. Oak Glen advanced by defeating No. 2 seed Harrison Central, 53-33, Monday night on the road in the other semifinal.

"We have a couple of days to get ready for," Eft said. "Hopefully, we

will have a couple of good practices. We will see what happens on Saturday."

The Panthers will play the Huskies in the consolation final Thursday night up at home.

"We played them once," Valuska said. "We played them early in the year. I don't remember what the score was. We are going to go to work the next couple of days to get ready."

The Huskies defeated the Panthers, 69-56, Nov. 28 at home.

The Redskins were balanced offensively as five players produced at least eight points en route to the win. Individually, Kylie Anderson delivered a double with a game-high 24 points, while pulling down a game-high 13 rebounds.

Also, Gabby Taylor tallied 13 points, Tori Robertson recorded 12 points and Maddie Ballato collected 11 points.

See, **CREEK**, Page B2

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Thursday,
January 26, 2023

Brackets set for OVAC Girls Basketball tourney

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

The path to an OVAC girls basketball championship is set.

The seeds and pairings were finalized Wednesday morning for the semi-finals as well as the consolation pairings for the upcoming Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship, which opens on Monday and will conclude on Feb. 4 with the five championship games at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz.

The schedule for the championship

games is Class 2A (10 a.m.), Class 3A (noon), Class 4A (2 p.m.), Class 5A (4 p.m.) and Class 1A (6 p.m.).

CLASS 5A

Wheeling Park has garnered the top seed on the strength of a 15-1 record. The Patriots, who fell in the big-school title game a season ago, will welcome Warren to the Palace on the Hill.

The Warriors are 15-3 and garnered the four seed.

In the other half of the bracket, defending champion Morgantown is the



two seed. The Mohigans are 12-4 and half of those losses have come to Park.

Morgantown will welcome a solid 14-2 Marietta squad.

CLASS 4A

A new champion is promised in this class as Union Local has dropped down to 3A. Indian Creek, which won the 5A title in 2020, is the top seed with a 13-4 in a class that only half the top four has a winning record.

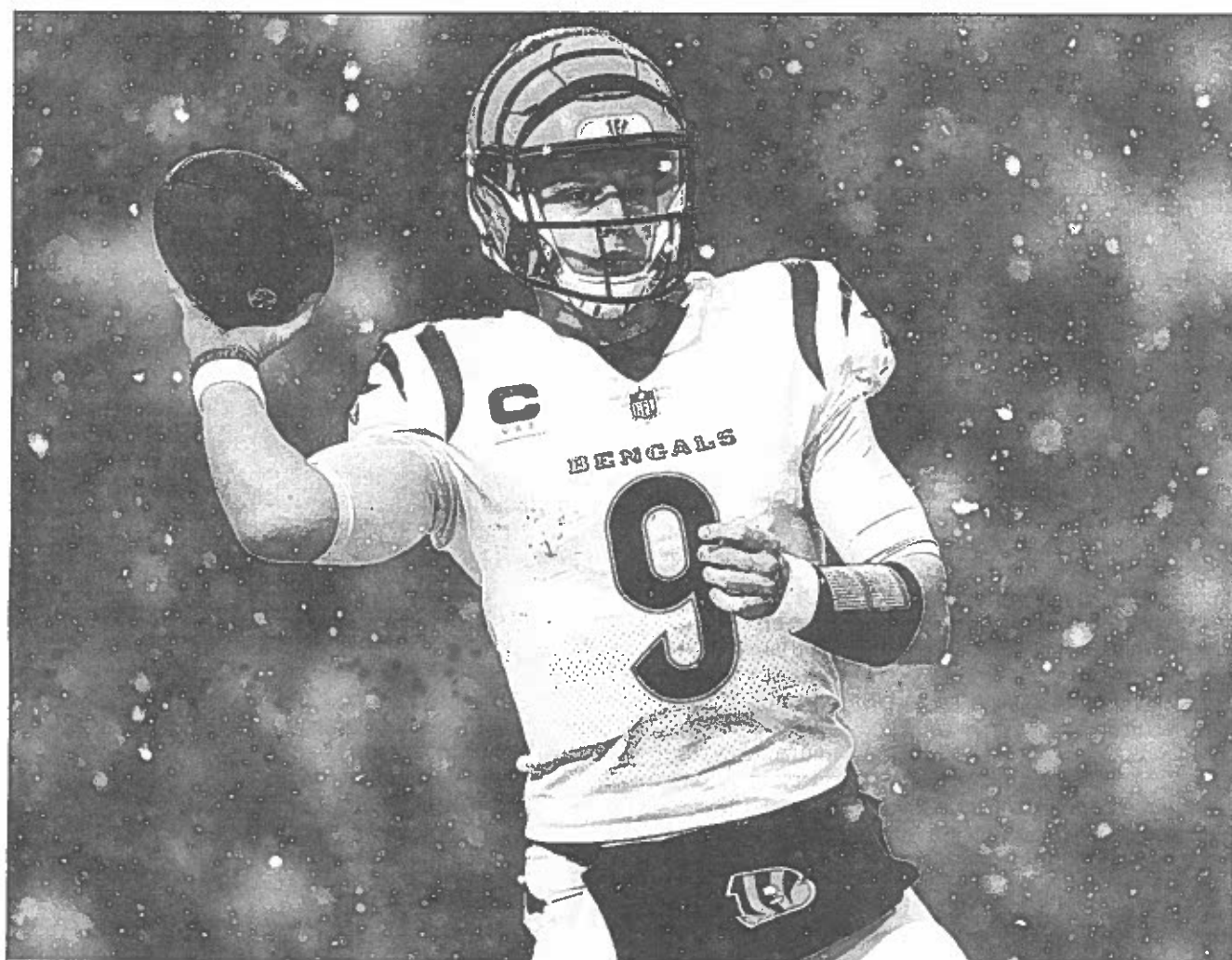
The Redskins will welcome fourth-seeded Buckeye Local (7-11) to Joe D. Court on Monday.

The other half of the bracket finds Harrison Central, which last won a conference girls hoops title in 2015, welcoming Oak Glen. The Huskies are 11-7 on the season, while the Golden Bears, who fell in last season's title game, are 5-9.

CLASS 3A

Union Local, which has been one of the premier teams in the Ohio Valley all winter, has been atop the rankings all season. The Jets, who have won the last two OVAC titles in their class, are

See, OVAC, Page B2



AP PHOTO

CINCINNATI BENGALS quarterback Joe Burrow (9) passes against the Buffalo Bills during the third quarter of an NFL division round football game, Sunday in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Conference title games are most evenly matched in 25 years

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

It's been 25 years since both NFL conference championship games were this evenly matched from an oddsmakers standpoint.

The San Francisco 49ers are 2 1/2-point underdogs against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday in the NFC championship game, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

In the AFC title game, the Cincinnati Bengals are 1 1/2-point favorites on the road against the Kansas City Chiefs.

The previous time both conference championship games featured spreads under 3 points was 1998. The Packers were 2 1/2-point favorites at San Francisco in the NFC game. The Broncos were 2 1/2-point favorites at Pittsburgh in the AFC matchup. Both road teams won.

The Eagles and Chiefs have history on their side. No. 1 seeds are 32-14 in conference championship games, but only 4-3 since the 2017 season when the Eagles became the last No. 1 seed to win a Super Bowl.

Home teams are 34-18 in the NFC title game, 36-16 in the AFC.

San Francisco (15-4) at Philadelphia (15-3)

The 49ers have won 12 straight games, including seven in a row since rookie seventh-round pick Brock Purdy took over at quarterback after Jimmy Garoppolo was injured.

The Eagles opened 13-1 behind Jalen Hurts, earned the No. 1 seed and a bye and dominated the New York Giants in the divisional round.

This game pits the two top defenses in the NFL, two of the best rushing offenses and plenty of playmakers on both sides. Miles Sanders, AJ Brown, Devonta Smith and Dallas Goedert for the Eagles. Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle and Brandon Aiyuk for San Francisco.

It should be a tough, physical game involving teams who are no strangers to reaching this point. The Eagles are in the NFC championship game for the seventh time in

See, QBS, Page B2

See, CONFERENCE, Page B2

Mahomes the old man among 4 NFL conference title game QBs

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Patrick Mahomes will be the old man among the starting quarterbacks in the conference title games.

The 27-year-old All-Pro for Kansas City is the oldest member of one of the youngest groups of starting quarterbacks to make it to this round.

The other three scheduled starting QBs on Sunday are 26-year-old Joe Burrow for Cincinnati, 24-year-old Jalen Hurts for Philadelphia and 23-year-old rookie Brock Purdy for San Francisco.

The only other time all four start-

ing QBs in the conference title game hadn't yet turned 28 came in 1996 when Brett Favre (27), Mark Brunell (26), Drew Bledsoe (24) and Kerry Collins (24) got there.

Getting to this stage isn't new for Mahomes and Burrow. Mahomes has reached the AFC title game in all five seasons as a starter and can join Tom Brady as the only starting QBs to reach the Super Bowl three times in their first six seasons with a win on Sunday.

Burrow won his fifth playoff start last week against Buffalo, joining Russell Wilson (six) and Ben Roethlisberger (five) as the only QBs

to win at least five starts in their first three seasons in the NFL.

While Burrow was the No. 1 draft pick in 2020 and Mahomes went 10th in 2017, Hurts and Purdy had more improbable journeys to this stage.

Hurts was picked in the second round in 2020 and Purdy went with the last pick in the 2022 draft. The winner on Sunday will join Colin Kaepernick, Russell Wilson, Nick Foles and Jimmy Garoppolo as the only ones of the 192 QBs taken after the first round in the draft since 2002

Beltre, Mauer eligible for Baseball HOF next year

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Baseball Writer

Jurkovec happy to come home to Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Phil Jurkovec committed to Notre Dame as a sophomore in high school back in the spring of 2016, a decision the quarterback described as difficult because it meant choosing the Fighting Irish over the hometown Pittsburgh Panthers.

the Panthers over the last four or five years that former local standouts like Jurkovec, who eschewed scholarship offers from Narduzzi in lieu of opportunities at more traditional powers, now view

option. Running back Derrick Davis and safety Donovan McMillon grew up within 30 minutes of Acrisure Stadium. Davis left for LSU. McMillon chose Florida. Both, like Jurk-

month. "I feel like Pitt is on the up rise," McMillon said. "They keep going and inching up. I think we have the opportunity to go win and go and do really big things."

cinnati has won 10 in a row, joining 10 other teams that reached this round on a winning streak of at least 10 games.

The last team to do it was the 2007 Patriots, who won 17 straight before beating San Diego to make the Super Bowl. Their bid for perfection ended with a loss to the Giants.

Of the 10 previous teams to take winning streaks of at least 10 games into the championship game only two failed to make the Super Bowl: the 1976 and 2004 Steelers.

Five of the 10 won it all, with the 2003 Patriots, 1986 Giants, 1984 49ers, 1976 Raiders and 1972 Dolphins streaking to championships.

Washington in 1983 and Atlanta in 1998 joined the 2007 Patriots as Super Bowl losers.

BIG RED
Kansas City coach Andy Reid reached some more milestones with his latest playoff win, which gave him 10 with the Chiefs and 10 with Philadelphia.

Reid's 20 total wins in the postseason are tied with Hall of Famer Tom Landry for the second most in NFL history, trailing only Bill Belichick with 31.

Reid has coached a team to the conference title game 10 times in the past 22 seasons, going from 2001-04 and in 2008 with Philadelphia and the last five seasons with Kansas City.

The only coaches with more conference title appearances in the Super Bowl era are Belichick (13) and Landry (12).

Reid and the Chiefs also joined Belichick's Patriots (2011-18) and John Madden's Raiders (1973-77) as the only teams to get there five straight seasons.

JUST FOR KICKS
San Francisco kicker Robbie Gould extended his postseason run of perfection.

Gould made all four field goal tries against Dallas on Sunday, as well as his one extra-point attempt. That made Gould perfect on all 67 kicks he has tried in 15 postseason games for the 49ers, Giants and Chicago. He has made all 29 field goals and all 38 extra points.

The only other kicker in NFL history who is perfect in the postseason with at least 10 field goals is Brandon McManus, who is 10 for 10 on field goals and 3 for 3 on extra points.

• HOF

Continued from Page B1

"Is Wagner able to get that final 7% in one shot, or does it take him until his 10th ballot? I think that's going to be really interesting to watch next year."

DECENT START
Next year also seems like a significant one for Carlos Beltr n, who received the support of 46.5% of the voters in his debut on the ballot. That type of first-year performance normally bodes very well for a candidate, but Beltr n's total was probably hurt by his role in the Houston Astros' cheating scandal.

"I made a bit of a joke in our Slack of our tracker team, that we should have, this entire time, been tracking who either said explicitly or sort of hinted that they were giving like a one-year punishment," Thibodaux said. "I can only kind

of anecdotally say that I think there are a significant number of voters who are planning to vote for him next year who didn't vote for him this year."

Bonds and Clemens, dogged by performance-enhancing drug accusations, seemed to hit a ceiling in the vote after a while. If Beltr n is treated in a similar fashion he could be in trouble, but if voters indeed are only planning to penalize him for one year, that should be evident in 2024.

LAST CHANCE
Gary Sheffield received 55.0% of the vote, and next year is his last on the ballot. He needs to pull off a repeat of Larry Walker's final-year surge.

Walker was at 54.6% in 2019. Then he made it to 75% the following year.

• Conference

Continued from Page B1

22 seasons and are seeking their third trip to the Super Bowl in that span. They won it all after the 2017 season.

The Niners are making a record 18th appearance in the NFC title game, second in a row and third in four years. They're 7-10 overall.

Home-field advantage is the difference in this one. Purdy has only made two road starts in Seattle and Las Vegas. Philadelphia is just different. The Eagles have hostile fans who won't let up.

EAGLES 24-23
Cincinnati (14-4) at Kansas City (15-3)
Joe Burrow is 3-0 against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, including

a comeback win in overtime last year in the AFC championship game also played in Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bengals are slight favorites because Mahomes has a high ankle sprain. He returned from the injury to help lead the Chiefs to a win over Jacksonville last week, but there's no doubt it should limit his ability to do superhuman things on the field.

The Chiefs are making their fifth straight appearance in the AFC title game with all five at home. They're 2-2 in that span with one Super Bowl victory.

Before last season, the Bengals hadn't won a playoff game in 31 years.

Now, they're 5-1 over the past two seasons with Burrow leading the way. He has plenty of help in Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Joe Mixon.

Cincinnati's banged-up offensive line held up well against Buffalo. The Chiefs will look to take advantage this week.

The Chiefs will have to protect Mahomes and give him time to stay in the pocket so he's not trying run around on a gimpy ankle. Expect Mahomes to target fellow All-Pro Travis Kelce quite often. Kelce had 14 catches last week.

Bengals defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo designed a scheme to confuse Josh Allen and held Buffalo's dynamic offense to just 10 points. He'll have to do it again against one of the top play-callers in the NFL.

Kansas City's Andy Reid is coaching his 10th conference championship game, but only has one Super Bowl trophy on his mantel. He's going to need Mahomes to be magical at some point.

If anyone can be spectacular with an injury such as the one he has, it's Mahomes.

CHIEFS, 30-27
2022 RECORD
Last Week: Straight up: 4-0. Against spread: 2-2.

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• OVAC

Continued from Page B1 currently 19-0.

Coach Scooter Tolzda's team will welcome fourth-seeded Bellaire, which last won an OVAC title in girls hoops in 2019. The Big Reds are 11-8 and have lost twice to the Jets already this season.

The other half of the bracket finds defending champion Fort Frye welcoming third-seeded Martins Ferry. The Cadets, who own 11 OVAC crowns in girls basketball, are currently 12-5 on the season.

The Purple Riders have come on of late and find themselves at 11-7. Ferry last won an OVAC girls crown in 2020. Fort Frye defeated Ferry, in December, at Harrison Central, 39-19.

CLASS 2A
A new champion is guaranteed in this class after defending champi-

on Steubenville Catholic failed to qualify.

River, on the strength of its 17-1 record, has earned the top seed and is aiming for its first crown since going back-to-back in 2018 and 19.

The Pilots will welcome Southern Local to Hannibal. Southern, which has never won an OVAC title in hoops, is currently 12-4.

The other half of the bracket finds perennial entrants Wheeling Central and Monroe Central squaring off. The Maroon Knights, who last won a title in 2020, are 13-2 and pocketed the second seed.

Central will host Monroe Central, which qualified with a 13-5 record. The Seminoles fell in the title game last season and are bidding for their third title in school history, but first since 2009.

CLASS 1A
Cameron is back in the field, attempting to defend its title, but the Dragons will have to do so as the second seed.

The Dragons punched their ticket with an 11-4 record, playing against a quite challenging schedule. To get back to the title game, Cameron will have to get past Hundred, which qualified with a 10-3 record.

Frontier, which owns three conference girls titles, is the top seed. The Cougars are 14-4 and will welcome 10-7 Trinity Christian, which won the 2012 crown.

PAC-12N — Utah at Oregon St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.
ACCN — Louisville at Wake Forest
6:30 p.m.
BTN — Michigan at Maryland
7 p.m.
SECN — Alabama at Arkansas
8 p.m.
ACCN — Virginia Tech at Duke
ESPN — UConn at Tennessee
8:30 p.m.
BTN — Ohio St. at Indiana
9 p.m.
SECN — Mississippi St. at Mississippi
FIGURE SKATING
9 a.m.
E! — ISU: European Championships. Espoo, Finland
7 p.m.
USA — U.S. Championships: Rhythm Dance. San Jose, Calif.
10 p.m.
USA — U.S. Championships: Women's Short Program. San Jose, Calif.
GOLF
3 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Farmers Insurance Open, Second Round, Torrey Pines South Course. San Diego
2:30 a.m. (Friday)
GOLF — DP World Tour: The Hero Dubai Desert Classic, Second Round, Majlis Course. Dubai, United Arab Emirates
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT — New York at Boston
10 p.m.
TNT — Dallas at Phoenix
TENNIS
3:30 a.m.
ESPN — WTA: The Australian Open, Semifinals. Melbourne, Australia
2 p.m.
ESPN — WTA: The Australian Open, Semifinals. Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
10:30 p.m.
ESPN — ATP: The Australian Open, Karen Khachanov vs. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Semifinal 1. Melbourne, Australia
3:30 a.m. (Friday)
ESPN — ATP: The Australian Open, Tommy Paul vs. Novak Djokovic, Semifinal 2. Melbourne, Australia ---

OVAC Girls Hoops

Monday, Jan. 30

OVAC Tournament Championship Semifinals
Class 5A
Warren at Wheeling Park
Maretta at Morgantown
Class 4A
Buckeye Local at Indian Creek
Oak Glen at Harrison Central
Class 3A
Bellare at Union Local
Martins Ferry at Fort Frye
Class 2A
Souther Local at River
Monroe Central at Wheeling Central
Class 1A
Trinity at Frontier
Hundred at Cameron
Consolation Games
Paden City at Bridgeport
Madonna at Conotton Valley
Caldwell at Wood Co. Christian
Toronto at Shadyside
Barnesville at Buckeye Trail
Valley at Magnolia
Steubenville Central at Shenandoah
Clay-Battelle at St. Clairsville
Linsly at Parkersburg South
Dover at John Marshall
Edison at Brooke
University at Steubenville
East Liverpool at Weir
Beaver Local at Cambridge
Thursday, Feb. 2
Consolation Games
Steubenville at Dover
Cambridge at Edison
John Marshall at Linsly
Brooke at Beaver Local
St. Clairsville at University
Buckeye Trail at East Liverpool
Parkersburg South at Barnesville
Shenandoah at Clay-Battelle
Weir at Toronto
Magnolia at Caldwell
Shadyside at Steubenville Central
Conotton Valley at Paden City
Bridgeport at Madonna
Wood Co. Christian at Valley

PGA Scores

First Round
Note: Tournament is played on two courses.
Brent Grani 32b-32b-64
Aaron Rai 31b-33b-64
Sam Ryder 33b-31b-64
Brendan Steele 33b-32b-65
Hayden Buckley 34b-32b-66
Garrick Higgo 32b-34b-66
Harry Higgs 31b-35b-66
Andrew Novak 35a-31a-65
Sam Stevens 32a-34a-66
Sahith Theegala 34b-32b-66
Gary Woodland 33b-33b-66
Ben Griffin 33a-34a-67
Lanto Griffin 33b-34b-67
Seonghyeon Kim 35b-32b-67
Luke List 34b-33b-67
Taylor Montgomery 33a-34a-67
Colin Morikawa 34b-33b-67
Vincenzi Norman 35a-32a-67
Byeong Hun An 34b-34b-68
Wyndham Clark 32b-36b-68
Jason Day 33b-35b-68
Thomas Detry 34b-34b-68
Paul Haley 34b-34b-68
Charley Hoffman 33b-35b-68
Max Homa 33b-35b-68

LOCAL CARD

Thursday, Jan. 26
BOYS BASKETBALL
Clay-Battelle at Valley
Tyler Consolidated at Magnolia
Union Local at Bellaire
Harrison Central at Buckeye Local
GIRLS BASKETBALL
John Marshall at Wheeling Park
Tyler Consolidated at Cameron
Valley at Hundred
Linsly at Oak Glen
Martins Ferry at Brooke
Bridgeport at Toronto
Stuebenville at Weir
Edison at Weirton Madonna
BOWLING
Harrison Central at Buckeye Local
Wheeling Park at Weir
Martins Ferry at Bridgeport
PREP SWIMMING
Union Local, St. John and Brooke

OVAC STANDINGS

Released 01/23/2023
FINAL GIRLS BASKETBALL
CLASS 5-A
SCHOOL W L CP AVE
Wheeling Park 14 1 1056 70.40
Morgantown 12 3 896 59.73
Marietta 14 2 906 56.63
Warren 15 3 994 55.22
John Marshall 13 5 990 55.00
Stuebenville 12 5 794 46.71
University 9 7 680 42.50
Parkers. South 7 5 494 41.17
Brooke 7 8 520 34.67
Dover 4 14 240 13.33
CLASS 4-A
SCHOOL W L CP AVE
Indian Creek 13 4 890 52.35
H. Central 11 7 742 41.22
Oak Glen 5 9 310 22.14
Buckeye Local 7 11 370 20.56
East Liverpool 4 12 280 17.50
Weir 4 9 210 16.15
Edison 7 10 268 15.76
St. Clairsville 4 13 260 15.29
Beaver Local 3 14 188 11.06
Cambridge 2 18 134 6.70
CLASS 3-A
SCHOOL W L CP AVE
Union Local 19 0 1312 69.05
Fort Frye 12 5 810 47.65
Martins Ferry 11 7 742 41.22
Bellaire 11 8 708 37.26
Shenandoah 11 7 654 36.33
Linsly 8 10 546 30.33
Buckeye Trail 10 6 446 27.88
Magnolia 7 9 314 19.63
Barnesville 5 12 276 16.24
Caldwell 4 13 210 12.35
CLASS 2-A
SCHOOL W L CP AVE
River 17 1 1100 61.11
Whg Central 13 2 712 47.47
Mon. Central 13 5 756 42.00
Southern 12 4 576 36.00
Stueb. Central 7 8 378 25.20
Wellsville 8 5 324 24.92
Clay Battelle 6 8 236 16.86
Toronto 4 12 186 11.63
Shadyside 4 16 212 10.60
Bridgeport 0 18 0 0
CLASS 1-A
SCHOOL W L CP AVE
Frontier 14 4 792 44.00
Cameron 11 4 582 38.80
Hundred 10 3 384 29.54
Trinity 10 7 452 26.59
Valley 8 8 312 19.50
Wood Co. Ch. 6 7 208 16.00
Paden City 4 12 164 10.25
Madonna 3 11 116 8.29
Con. Valley 1 14 40 2.67
OVAC Championships
(at Harrison Central H.S.)
February 4
Class 2A, 10 a.m.
Class 3A, 12 noon
Class 4A, 2 p.m.
Class 5A, 4 p.m.
Class 1A, 6 p.m.

PREP SCORES

W.VA. BOYS
Cameron 68, Clay-Battelle 57
Morgantown 79, Wheeling Park 43
Oak Hill 54, Liberty Harrison 41
Princeton 109, PikeView 57
Tug Valley 84, Tolsia 53
POSTPONEMENTS
Jefferson vs. Hampshire, ppd.
Sherando, Va. vs. Musselman, ppd. to Feb 6th.
W.VA. GIRLS
East Fairmont 52, Bridgeport 50
Gilmer Co. 52, Ritchie County 48
Huntington 48, St. Albans 39
Independence 47, Montcalm 13
James Monroe 53, Green West 41
North Marion 66, Lincoln 44
Philip Barbour 51, Preston 40
Ripley 40, Logan 39
South Charleston 51, Oak Hill 32
Spring Valley 66, Riverside 31
St. Mary's 47, Wheeling Central 36
Westside 47, PikeView 42
OHIO BOYS
Cols. Bexley 54, Cols. Hamilton Twp. 39
Cols. Patriot Prep 69, Genoa Christian 24
Ironton Rock Hill 46, Willow Wood Symmes Valley 45
Jamestown Greeneview 79, Spring Green 53
Lancaster Fairfield Union 48, Circleville 39
Windham 66, Kinsman Badger 64
Zanesville Rosecrans 81, Corning Miller 41
OHIO GIRLS
Ashtabula Edgewood 57, Painesville Harvey 34
Austintown Fitch 58, Youngs Boardman 51
Avon 61, Elyria 20
Avon Lake 67, Berea-Midpark 39
Beavercreek 51, Miamisburg 35
Berlin Hilland 56, W. Lafayette Ridgewood 25
Brooklyn 57, Rocky River Lutheran W. 35
Can. McKinley 61, Massillon Perry 32
Chagrin Falls 59, Orange 25
Chagrin Falls Kenston 56, Wiloughby S. 16
Chesterland W. Geauga 65, Beachwood 17
Chillicothe 47, Washington C.H. Miami Trace 44
Cin. Indian Hill 38, Cin. Madeira 37, OT
Cin. Mt. Healthy 63, Trenton Edgewood 44
Cin. Sycamore 49, Cin. Colerain 37
Cle. Hay 66, Cle. Max Hayes 31
Copley 58, Kent Roosevelt 31
Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 64, Mentor Lake Cath. 25
Day, Chaminade Julianne 47, Bishop Fenwick 33
Dresden Tri-Valley 58, Byesville Meadowbrook 25
E. Palestine 49, Heartland Christian 33
Eastlake North 54, Mayfield 43
Euclid 61, Cle. Lincoln W. 10
Gates Mills Gilmour 48, Chardon NDCL 43
Grafton Midview 52, Amherst Steele 42
Granville 61, Utica 31
Green 43, Uniontown Lake 41
Harrison 47, Hamilton Ross 34
Jackson 45, Greenfield McClain 39
Kettering Alter 69, Cin. McNicholas 48
Kettering Fairmont 60, Centerville 42
Kirtland 53, Burton Berkshire 40
Lorain 51, Maple Hts. 12
Madison 69, Chardon 59
Mason 49, Fairfield 39
McConnelsville Morgan 41, Crooksville 31
Medina 60, Hudson WRA 36
N. Bend (Cleves) Taylor 34, Cin. Wyoming 29
N. Can. Hoover 56, Can. Glenoak 41
New Concord John Glenn 52, Warsaw River View 27
Oberlin Firelands 50, Wellington 37
Orwell Grand Valley 46, Mantua Crestwood 30
Oxford Talawanda 46, Cin. NW 7
Pataskala Watkins Memorial 55, Hebron Lakewood 27
Perry 61, Geneva 32
Philo 45, Zanesville Maysville 16
Plain City Jonathan Alder 42, Bellefontaine 34
Richmond Hts. 46, Independence 19
Salem 41, Alliance Marlinton 35
Seaman N. Adams 45, Ironton Rock Hill 30
Shaker Hts. Hathaway Brown 50, Cuyahoga Falls CVCA 49
Sidney 62, Troy 25
Sullivan Black River 63, Lorain Clearview 50
Thornville Sheridan 56, New Lexington 50
Warren Howland 44, Warren Harding 34
Windham 61, Kinsman Badger 27
Woodsfield Monroe Cent. 60, Steubenville Cath. 39
Xenia 61, Greenville 55
Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley 33, Claymont 32
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Akr. Firestone vs. Massillon, ccd.
Carrollton vs. W. Branch, ccd.
Massillon Jackson vs. STVM, ppd.
Minerva vs. Alliance, ppd.

ELKS JANUARY ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Photos Provided

TOP: John Marshall boys' basketball stalwart, Brennan Sobutka, center, is the Wheeling Elks Marshall County Athlete of the Month for January. He is shown receiving his award from Elks Youth Activities Committee member, Jeff Miller, left. Looking on is the Monarchs' head coach, Chad Clutter.
BOTTOM: Wheeling Central girls' basketball standout, Lily Vogrin, center, is the Wheeling Elks Ohio County Athlete of the Month for January. She is shown receiving her award from Elks Youth Activities Committee Chairman, Joe Marchlenski, right. Looking on is the Lady Maroon Knights' head coach, Roberta Olejasz.

SPORTS ON TV

Thursday, January 26
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
5 p.m.
CBSN - St. Francis (N.Y.) at Wagner
7 p.m.
CBSN - Middle Tennessee at FAU
ESPN2 - SMU at Memphis
ESPNEWS - SIU-Edwardsville at Tennessee Tech
ESPNU - Longwood at Radford
FS1 - Iowa at Michigan St.
9 p.m.
CBSN - Louisiana Tech at UAB
ESPN2 - UCLA at Southern Cal
ESPNU - UTSA at North Texas
FS1 - Purdue at Michigan
PAC-12N - Colorado at Oregon
11 p.m.
ESPNU - Arizona St. at Washington
FS1 - Arizona at Washington St.
PAC-12N - Utah at Oregon St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.
ACCN - Louisville at Wake Forest
6:30 p.m.
BTN - Michigan at Maryland
7 p.m.
SECN - Alabama at Arkansas
8 p.m.
ACCN - Virginia Tech at Duke
ESPN - UConn at Tennessee
8:30 p.m.
BTN - Ohio St. at Indiana
9 p.m.
SECN - Mississippi St. at Mississippi
FIGURE SKATING
9 a.m.
E! - ISU: European Championships, Espoo, Finland
7 p.m.
USA - U.S. Championships: Rhythm Dance, San Jose, Calif.
10 p.m.
USA - U.S. Championships: Women's Short Program, San Jose, Calif.
GOLF
3 p.m.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The Farmers Insurance Open, Second Round, Torrey Pines South Course, San Diego
2:30 a.m. (Friday)
GOLF - DP World Tour: The Hero Dubai Desert Classic, Second Round, Majlis Course, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT - New York at Boston
10 p.m.
TNT - Dallas at Phoenix
TENNIS
3:30 a.m.
ESPN - WTA: The Australian Open, Semifinals, Melbourne, Australia
2 p.m.
ESPN - WTA: The Australian Open, Semifinals, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
10:30 p.m.
ESPN - ATP: The Australian Open, Karen Khachanov vs. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Semifinal 1, Melbourne, Australia
3:30 a.m. (Friday)
ESPN - ATP: The Australian Open, Tommy Paul vs. Novak Djokovic, Semifinal 2, Melbourne, Australia

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Jan. 30
OVAC Tournament Championship Semifinals
Class 5A
Warren at Wheeling Park
Marietta at Morgantown
Class 4A
Buckeye Local at Indian Creek
Oak Glen at Harrison Central
Class 3A
Bellaire at Union Local
Martins Ferry at Fort Frye
Class 2A
Southern Local at River
Monroe Central at Whg Central
Class 1A
Trinity at Frontier
Hundred at Cameron
Consolation Games
Paden City at Bridgeport
Madonna at Conotton Valley
Caldwell at Wood Co. Christian
Toronto at Shadyside
Barnesville at Buckeye Trail
Valley at Magnolia
Stueb. Central at Shenandoah
Clay-Battelle at St. Clairsville
Linsly at Parkersburg South
Dover at John Marshall
Edison at Brooke
University at Steubenville
East Liverpool at Weir
Beaver Local at Cambridge
Thursday, Feb. 2
Consolation Games
Stuebenville at Dover
Cambridge at Edison
John Marshall at Linsly
Brooke at Beaver Local
St. Clairsville at University
Buckeye Trail at East Liverpool
Parkersburg South at Barnesville
Shenandoah at Clay-Battelle
Weir at Toronto
Magnolia at Caldwell
Shadyside at Steubenville Central
Conotton Valley at Paden City
Bridgeport at Madonna
Wood Co. Christian at Valley

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Jan. 30
OVAC Tournament Championship Semifinals
Class 5A
Warren at Wheeling Park
Marietta at Morgantown
Class 4A
Buckeye Local at Indian Creek
Oak Glen at Harrison Central
Class 3A
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Valley at Magnolia
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Buckeye Trail at East Liverpool
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Shenandoah at Clay-Battelle
Weir at Toronto
Magnolia at Caldwell
Shadyside at Steubenville Central
Conotton Valley at Paden City
Bridgeport at Madonna
Wood Co. Christian at Valley

WVU MEN

West Virginia 76, Texas Tech 61
WEST VIRGINIA (12-8)
Bell 0-1 1-4 1, Matthews 1-3 0-0
2, Mitchell 1-4 0-0 3, Ke-Johnson 1-4 1-1 4, Stevenson 3-12 9-11 16, Toussaint 4-9 12-14 22, Okonkwo 1-2 3-3 5, Wilson 5-12 0-0 15, Ko-Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Wague 1-1 2-2 4, Harris 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 19-51 28-35 76.
TEXAS TECH (10-10)
Batcho 1-4 2-3 4, Obanor 7-13 5-5 20, Harmon 5-10 4-7 14, Isaacs 1-4 0-0 2, Tyson 2 8 1-2 6, Fisher 1-2 0-0 2, Jennings 2-5 3-4 7, Walton 1-3 0-0 3, Allen 1-2 1-2 3, Washington 0 3 0 0 0, D.Williams 0 0 0 0 0. Totals 21-54 16-23 61.
Halftime—West Virginia 33-28.
3-Point Goals—West Virginia 10-35 (Wilson 5-11, Toussaint 2-6, Ke-Johnson 1-4, Mitchell 1-4, Stevenson 1-7, Harris 0-1, Matthews 0-2), Texas Tech 3-20 (Walton 1-2, Tyson 1-5, Obanor 1-6, Allen 0-1, Jennings 0-1, Washington 0-1, Harmon 0-2, Isaacs 0-2). Fouled Out—Walton. Rebounds—West Virginia 41 (Stevenson, Okonkwo 10), Texas Tech 22 (Obanor 8). Assists—West Virginia 8 (Stevenson 4), Texas Tech 9 (Batcho 3). Total Fouls—West Virginia 21, Texas Tech 28.

John Marshall Rolls In Wrestling; Wheeling Central Girls Defeated

MONDSVILLE - John Marshall recorded a 62-6 victory in high school wrestling action Wednesday night over visiting Morgantown inside the John Marshall Field House.
The Monarchs had seven pins, three decisions and a pair of forfeits in winning 12 of the 13 matches contested. The only loss was a forfeit.
Winning by falls were Atley Bonar (120), OVAC champion Ethan Cook (126), Alex Harbert (138), Waylon Wyckoff (144), OVAC runner up Klypsan Wallace (165), Maverick Lemasters (175) and Mathieu Wright (285).

etion Hill knocked down half-a-dozen treys to finish with a game-high 23 points in the win over the Redskins (9-7) on Coach D Court inside Indian Creek High School.
Trevor Francis, Logan Kuczykowski and Lucca Morelli all had 11 points for Indian Creek.
Toronto 49, Edison 41
TORONTO - The host Red Knights received 18 points from Cayden Benton in edging past the visiting Wildcats inside George J. Kunzler Memorial Gymnasium.
Brayden Moses netted 11 points for Edison.
BOWLING
Union Local sweeps St. C.
ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The Jets boys and girls each picked up a win over St. Clairsville at St. Clair Lanes on Tuesday.
The Jets boys were a 1999-1943 winner.
Union Local's Evan White rolled a solid 200 game for the high game, while St. Clairsville's Sebastian Lewis posted a 374 for the high series.
The Jets' girls posted a 1557-1243 victory.
UL's Chloe Porter posted a 207 for the high game and followed with a 201 for a 408 series.
Brooke, Harrison Central Split
NEW ATHENS - The Bruins and Huskies split a match on Tuesday with Brooke winning the girls match and Harrison claiming the boys.
Brooke's girls finished with 1619, while Harrison knocked over 1523

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
San Francisco 41, Seattle 23
Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30
Sunday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17
Monday, Jan. 16
Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 21
Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20
Philadelphia 38, N.Y. Giants 7
Sunday, Jan. 22
Cincinnati 27, Buffalo 10
San Francisco 19, Dallas 12
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 29
AFC
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
San Francisco at Philadelphia, 3 p.m. (FOX)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 12
At Glendale, Ariz.
Conference Championship winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

COLLEGE SCORES

Men
EAST
American 63, Army 61
Boston College 75, Louisville 65
Duquesne 72, Loyola Chicago 58
Fordham 79, St. Bonaventure 68

MC-squared.

That, you see, is his formula for relativity. To Neal Brown, West Virginia's football coach, E has an entirely different meaning.

To him, E has come to represent what could stand between success and failure in the 2023 season, which could decide his career fate.

He says that three Es, relatively speaking, separated a winning season from becoming the losing season it was in 2022. That, at least, is how he sold it to the media last week as he went over the state of his union.

Those three Es represented "errors, efficiency and explosive plays"; all of which were below critical

were at the bottom of the Big 12 and missed out on bowl play.

Errors ... Efficiency ... Explosive Plays. Trying to win without improving in those three areas is like trying to bake a cake without an oven.

Before we get into those areas of critical concern, Brown offered up some background on how they reached the point they are at today. It was a much too brief synopsis, of course, for it would require volumes to trace back through how everything that could go wrong went wrong.



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

Please see E'S, Page 12



Photo Provided

West Virginia University head football coach Neal Brown talks to reporters.

Wheeling Park Weathers Strong JM Start, Rolls To 16-1 Pressure Defense Sparks Three Scoring Runs In 93-57 Win

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - When you're No. 1 in anything you can expect every opponent to give you everything it has. That is what occurred Thursday night high atop the Friendly City.

Wheeling Park, the top-ranked Class AAAAA girls' basketball team in West Virginia, weathered a strong start by rival John Marshall, but used a trio of huge scoring runs on its way to a 93-57 repeat victory inside the 'Palace on the Hill' inside Wheeling Park High School. The hosts won 79-36 earlier this season in Moundsville.

The Monarchs (13-6) started on an 8-4 run before Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young called full time out. When the visitors went up 12-10 three minutes later, Young burned a 30-second timeout.

"I kind of had a feeling that at some point in the season we were going to start a game off slow, especially on the defensive end tonight," Young said. "That's where I was disappointed ... really all night as we let (Kaitlyn) Blake score down low an awful lot, but give her credit, she's a great player when she gets the ball down low."



Photo By Kim North

Wheeling Park's duo of Seneca Heller, left, and Natalie Daugherty, right, force John Marshall's Rilee Storm into one of the Monarchs' 33 turnovers Thursday night in a 93-57 victory by the Patriots inside the 'Palace on the Hill.'

Please see PARK, Page 12

Bellaire Outlasts Union Local In OT

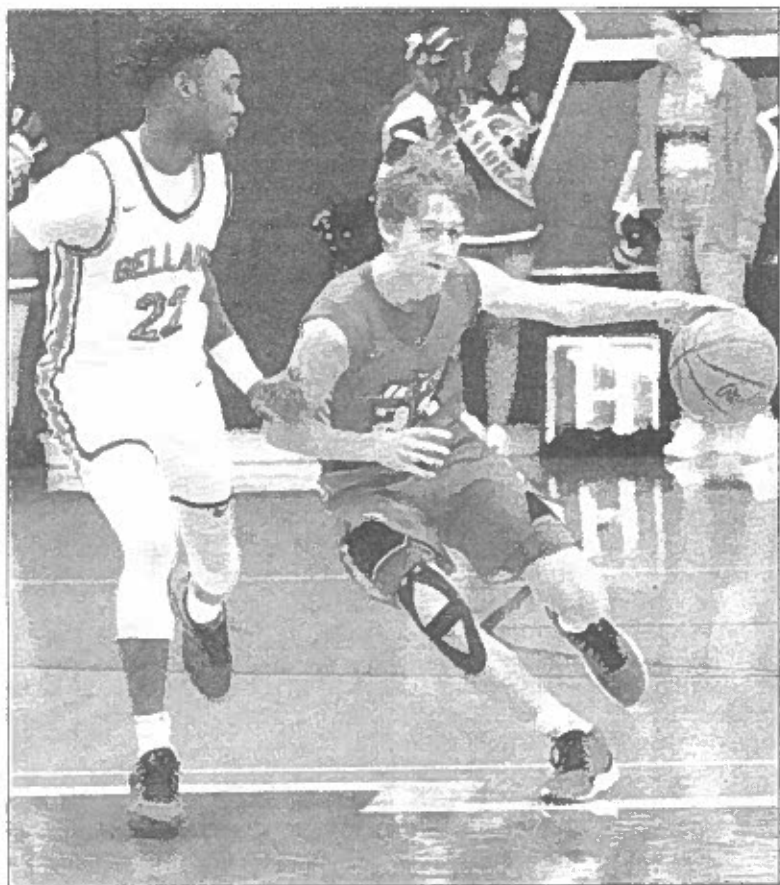


Photo By Seth Staskey

Union Local's Beezer Porter dribbles the ball upcourt Thursday night as Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew applies pressure during their game inside the 'House of Champions.' Bellaire won in overtime.

Big Reds Snap 6-Game Losing Streak With 74-69 Triumph

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

BELLAIRE - All wins are important and cherished.

Some, however, still seem to mean more.

Bellaire experienced one of those Thursday evening inside the 'House of Champions.'

The Big Reds, who opened the season by winning their first 10, had dropped their last six. In the process, they had fallen to fifth in the latest OVAC Class 3A standings with Tuesday's cut-off date looming.

Hence why head coach J.R. Battista felt like the weight of the world had been lifted off his shoulders after his Big Reds' fended off a valiant effort from invading Union Local and pulled out a hard-earned 74-69 victory in overtime.

"Winning is always big, but this will hopefully put us back into the top four of the OVAC Tournament and help us with our seed in the (upcoming) district tournament," Battista said. "But, most importantly, the kids deserved this win. They play as hard as we'll ever ask kids to play."

"We'll take it."

While the win was big for the Big Reds' OVAC playoff hopes, it may have been equally damaging for the Jets, who had just overtaken Bellaire in the 3A standings after Tuesday's games had been factored in.

Please see OT, Page 12

Girls' OVAC Basketball Pairings Set

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

The path to an OVAC girls basketball championship is set.

The seeds and pairings were finalized Wednesday morning for the semi-finals as well as the consolation pairings for the upcoming Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship, which opens on Monday and will conclude on Feb. 4 with the five championship games at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz.

The schedule for the championship games is Class 2A (10 a.m.), Class 3A (noon), Class 4A (2 p.m.), Class 5A (4 p.m.) and Class 1A (6 p.m.).

CLASS 5A

Wheeling Park has garnered the top seed on the strength of a 15-1 record. The Patriots, who fell in the big-school title game a season ago, will welcome Warren to the Palace on the Hill.

The Warriors are 15-3 and garnered the four seed.

In the other half of the bracket, defending champion Morgantown is the two seed. The Mohigans are 12-4 and half of those losses have come to Park. Morgantown will welcome a solid 14-2 Marietta squad.

CLASS 4A

A new champion is promised in this class as Union Local has dropped down to 3A. Indian Creek, which won the 5A title in 2020, is the top seed with a 13-4 in a class that only half the top four has a winning record.

The Redskins will welcome fourth-seeded Buckeye Local (7-11) to Joe D. Court on Monday.

The other half of the bracket finds Harrison Central, which last won a conference girls hoops title in 2015, welcoming Oak Glen. The Huskies are 11-7 on the season, while the Golden Bears, who fell in last season's title game, are 5-9.

CLASS 3A

Union Local, which has been one of the premier teams in the Ohio Valley all winter, has been atop the rankings all season. The Jets, who have won the last two OVAC titles in their class, are currently 19-0.

Coach Scooter Tolzda's team will welcome fourth-seeded Bellaire, which last won an OVAC title in girls hoops in 2019. The Big Reds are 11-8 and have lost twice to the Jets already this season.

The other half of the bracket finds defending champion Fort Frye welcoming third-seeded Martins Ferry. The Cadets, who own 11 OVAC crowns in girls basketball, are currently 12-5 on the season.

The Purple Riders have come on of late and find themselves at 11-7. Ferry last won an OVAC girls crown in 2020. Fort Frye defeated Ferry, in December, at Harrison Central, 39-19.

CLASS 2A

A new champion is guaranteed in this class after defending champion Steubenville Catholic failed to qualify.

River, on the strength of its 17-1 record, has earned the top seed and is aiming for its first crown since going back-to-back in 2018 and 19.

Please see OVAC, Page 12

"We have talked about not wanting to put our (OVAC Tournament) fate in anyone else's hands." UL head coach Zach Delman said. "We felt that if we went out and won the games in front of us, we'd put ourselves back in (the top four). We had been doing a good job of that, but now we have to come back and win the next two (before Tuesday) and see where it falls."

Bellaire, which had the final possession of regulation and turned it over just before the buzzer sounded, wasted no time in asserting itself in the extra period.

Senior Jakob Dowling, who had scored only nine points in regulation, buried a corner trey to open the OT. Bellaire then got back-to-back buckets from senior Ray Ray Pettigrew, making it a 68-61 game more than 90 seconds into OT.

"I thought, for once, we were trying to make smart plays down the stretch and let (UL) foul us," Battista said. "We played really well in overtime. We jumped on them, made some plays, made some foul shots and stretched it out."

Union Local stopped the bleeding with a bucket from junior Alex

Moore, but Big Reds' junior Mayson Sochor, who turned in a brilliant 28-point effort, converted a pair at the line. Dowling then sank one of two from the stripe and all of the sudden, Bellaire owned its biggest lead since the third quarter at 71-63.

Union Local got as close as three after senior Beezer Porter converted in transition to make it 72-69, but time was clearly on the side of the Big Reds, who knocked down two from the line to seal the victory.

"We talk, almost daily, about how games, more often than not, seem to come down one or two possessions," Delman said. "We were 14 of 28 from the foul line and one of 16 from behind the 3-point line and we still had every opportunity to win the game. I am proud of how our guys for how we responded in the second half to give ourselves opportunities, but it just felt like Bellaire was able to get both of their hands on every loose ball."

The Big Reds, who led by as many as 14 in the early moments of the third quarter, watched the Jets climb back into the game with a strong third quarter in which they outscored the Big Reds, 25-18 to

make it a 51-47 reading at the final stop.

The Jets, who never took the lead in the fourth, scored the final five to get the game to the extra session.

The Big Reds, as they have been most the season, were extremely balanced in the scoring column. Sochor's production led everyone. Pettigrew finished with 17 and Dowling added 15. Junior Mac Mac Pettigrew added 12.

"Playing at home always helps," Battista said. "You feel more comfortable, make a few more shots, etc. I think the pressure bothered at times."

Union Local also had four in double figures. Porter recorded 21 points, while classmate D.J. Butts posted 19. Moore had arguably his best game of the season with 17 points, while Carter Blake added 10.

Both teams are in action on Saturday, back on Guernsey Street as part of the Buckeye 8 crossover day.

The Big Reds will play in the third and fourth place game against Indian Creek at 2 p.m., while the Jets hit the floor at high noon against Beaver Local.

penchant for high-risk, high-reward play was evident against Linette, who had never before been past the third round in 29 appearances at majors.

Sabalenska finished with a whopping 33-9 edge in winners, but also compiled more unforced errors — including a trio that led to a break at love by Linette in the opening game.

Sabalenska said. Started trusting myself. Started going for my shots."

Rybakina's win over Azarenka, the champion at Melbourne Park in 2012 and 2013, added to what already was an impressive run through a string of top opponents. She also beat No. 1 Iga Swiatek and No. 17 Jelena Ostapenko — both owners of major titles

at Wimbledon Thursday. Her performance was particularly noteworthy against a returner and defender as established on hard courts as Azarenka, a former No. 1 and a three-time runner-up at the U.S. Open.

"Kind of hard to digest," Azarenka said. "Obviously, I had quite a few chances that I gave myself."

Rybakina is just 23.

PARK

(Continued from Page 11)

The brief, but stern, talk seemed to sink in as the Patriots (16-1) went on a 16-2 run, sparked by their fullcourt in-your-face press that forced numerous turnovers, to lead 26-17 at the end of the first quarter.

Leading 36-27 with three minutes left in the first half, Wheeling Park reeled off 15 of the next 17 markers as the margin ballooned to 51-29 at the half.

"I didn't think we did a good job of matching up with them in man-to-man as (Kayli) Derrow and (Rilee) Storm both played well early on," Young added. "I didn't think our energy level was there so we went to our run-and-jump press."

"We know that every team we play is going to give us their best shot. That's to be expected," Young continued. "We've been playing so well for a while now, but, I've said it before and I'll say it again, I still don't think we are anywhere near our ceiling."

The final dagger was a 24-6 spurt to begin the third quarter and boosted the advantage to 40 points at 75-35.

Sophomore Alexis Bordas paced a well-balanced scoring attack for Wheeling Park with 20 points as five players reached twin figures. Bordas also stuffed the state sheet with half-a-dozen steals, three assists and a like number of rebounds. Classmate LaLa Woods added 19 points, eight steals

and seven helpers, while senior Sophie Abraham added 17 points. Junior Merritt Delk finished with a career-high 15 lightings and grabbed six boards. Junior Natalie Daugherty contributed 10 points, five steals, four assists and four caroms.

"We had 26 steals and 19 assists as a team," Young pointed out. "Those are both pretty good numbers, and then to have five players with 10-or-more points. That's a pretty good night."

John Marshall had a trio of double-digit scorers in sophomore Kaitlyn Blake who scored a game-high 23. Freshman Rilee Storm added 18 and junior Kayli Derrow finished with a dozen as the trio netted all but four of their team's points. Blake completed a double-double with 11 rebounds.

"They played better than us. We played hard but they make the game chaotic at times and we didn't handle it," John Marshall head coach Brock Melko said.

"I was proud of how my team handled themselves, regardless of the score. As long as we handle ourselves with class, I'm happy with that."

Wheeling Park will host Buckhannon-Upshur Saturday afternoon on Senior Day before hosting Warren Local in an OVAC Class 5A Tournament semifinal on Monday night. John Marshall hosts Dover on Monday in an OVAC Consolation contest.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

The Pilots will welcome Southern Local to Hannibal. Southern, which has never won an OVAC title in hoops, is currently 12-4.

The other half of the bracket finds perennial entrants Wheeling Central and Monroe Central squaring off. The Maroon Knights, who last won a title in 2020, are 13-2 and pocketed the second seed.

Central will host Monroe Central, which qualified with a 13-5 record. The Seminoles fell in the title game last season and are bidding for their third title in school history, but first since 2009.

CLASS 1A

Cameron is back in the field, attempting to defend its title, but the Dragons will have to do so as the second seed.

The Dragons punched their ticket with an 11-4 record, playing against a quite challenging schedule. To get back to the title game, Cameron will have to get past Hundred, which qualified with a 10-3 record.

Frontier, which owns three conference girls titles, is the top seed. The Cougars are 14-4 and will welcome 10-7 Trinity Christian, which won the 2012 crown.

E's

(Continued from Page 11)

Blame what you will — COVID, rules changes, defections, bad coaching, officiating. Doesn't really matter because you can't rewrite the past. You can change what the future may hold, but the past is etched in stone.

"I felt like we under-achieved on the offensive side of the ball last year," Brown said. "When we got here in January of '19 it was brand new and we knew it would be a little bit of a process on offense. We made a decision — and if I had to do it all over again, I'd make the same decision."

"We were going to go young on the offensive line and have young receivers who we hoped to develop," Brown continued. "We really took some lumps during the developmental process as we worked with the O-line in 2019-20 and while we were growing with the youth at receiver."

"Last fall was really the point where I felt really good about our personnel from an experience and talent level so that we could compete week in

showed, came down to those three Es — errors, efficiency and explosive plays, or the lack thereof. "We've got to eliminate the errors — too many turnovers and too many penalties on the offensive side of the ball," Brown explained. "Several of those were at critical times."

Think back to the false starts, the interceptions, the fumbles and timing of them. Think how they kept WVU fighting an uphill battle all season on offense.

"We've got to be able to clean those up," Brown said.

The bookkeeping looks something like this:

There were 77 penalties committed and accepted for 63 yards, ranking in the lower half of the NCAA and not what's expected of what by last year had become an experienced offense. There were 18 turnovers (12 INTs, 6 fumbles lost), which is 1.5 per game, which was 55th in the nation.

The second area of concern was efficiency.

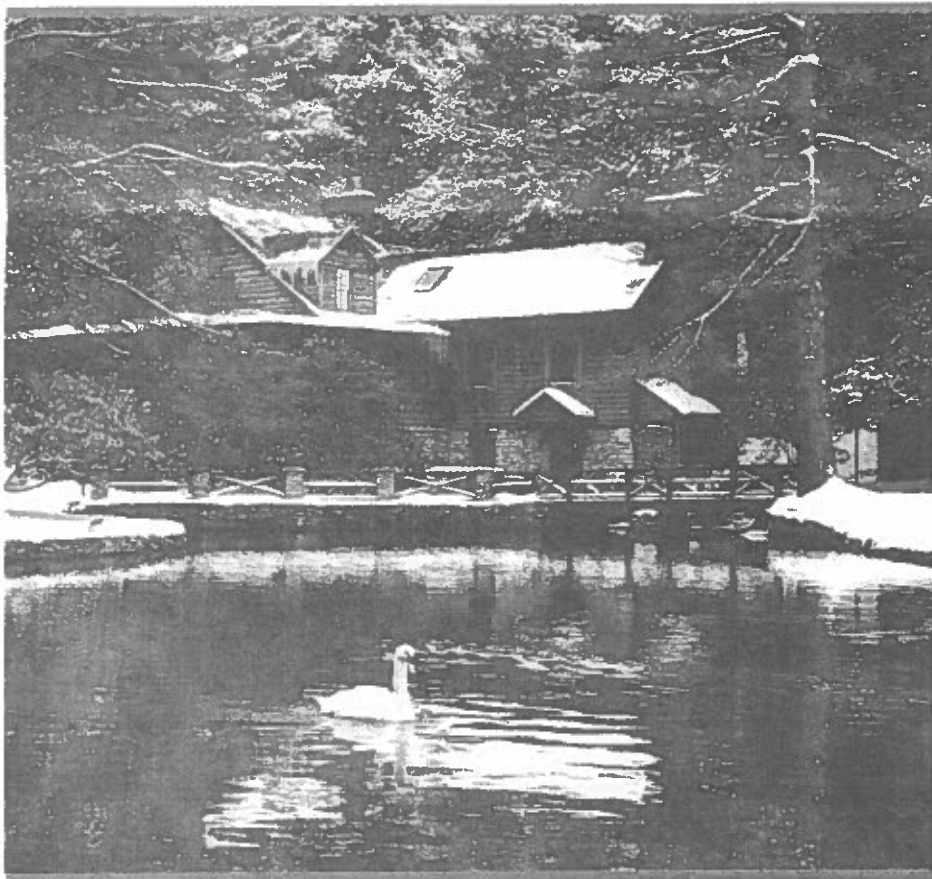
reel stuff. It's breaking a tackle that turns a second and 9 into a second and 5. It's making a block on a blitzing backer on third and 6 that allows a first-down completion.

It's little stuff compared to the third E — explosive plays.

"We regressed in that," Brown said. "We had been kind of steadily building but we regressed a year ago."

He said that in 2020 they recorded 50 plays that qualified as explosive in just 10 games due to COVID. had 58 in 2021 when they had a full season and a bowl game but last year were at just 50 explosive plays, not at all what you would expect with JT Daniels at quarterback, a high profile offensive coordinator, the addition of JD Donaldson at running back and what seemed to be potentially dangerous deep receivers.

"Last fall was really the first point where I felt really good about our offensive personnel from an experience and talent level, where I felt we could compete week in



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