

Counsel/B5
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SPORTS

Friday,

September 15, 2023

Linsly defends OVAC 3A boys golf title behind medalist Gill

• Cadets' junior makes it back-to-back championships

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Thursday was a good day for the Cadets during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A Boys Golf Championship at the sun-drenched Crispin Center Golf Course inside Oglebay Park.

Linsly's Adam Gill repeated as the medalist to help the Cadets tie Fort Frye, also the Cadets, with a four-player score of 322.

However, the deadlock didn't come without some controversy involving a Fort Frye player.

According to reports, the player was wrongly advised to play a ball that was ques-

tionable as to whether it was out of bounds.

After playing the ball, it was determined that the ball was out of bounds. Following a meeting of the rules committee, the player was assessed a two-shot penalty, thus leaving the Cadets both at 322 and co-champs as no playoff was held.

"I'm proud of the guys. It was a tough situation there at the end, but I am happy for us. I'm also very happy for Fort Frye," Linsly head coach Joey Seabright said. "Both teams deserved to be champions today. I know it was a tough decision to make, but I think both coaches involved are satisfied with how the results ended up."

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MEMBERS OF the all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A boys golf team are pictured. From left, Fort Frye's Brandon Dye; Fort Frye's Chatum Courson; Linsly's medalist Adam Gill; Wheeling Central's Landen Prager; and Wheeling Central's Luke Tiu.

Photo by KIM NORTH



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

RIVER QUARTERBACK Kabel Isaly (4) is sacked by Barnesville's Luke Taylor (54) during the first half of Thursday night's game at Shamrock Stadium in western Belmont County. Grasping Isaly's jersey is the Shamrocks' Marshall Meade (52). Also pictured are Barnesville's Braden Butler (62), Bradey McIntire (11), Hines Ford (6) and Salvador Almaraz (55). The Pilots' Carter Piatt (58), Maddox Mozena (7) and Cooper Cordery (50). Barnesville won, 35-7, to improve to 5-0.

Shamrocks roll River

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

BARNESVILLE — Through the first five games of the 2023 high school football season, Barnesville is perfect.

Thursday night's 35-7 dominance of visiting River (2-2) on the artificial surface at Shamrock Stadium extended the Shamrocks regular-season win streak to an impressive 21 straight. The last loss in the regular season came during week 4 of the 2021 season to Shadyside, who will visit next Friday.

"I'm so proud of these kids," Barnesville head coach Blake Allen said. "We came out ready to play and that was the key. We knew we had to set the tone early, and we did just that."

Barnesville won the toss and elected to receive to start the game.

They went 56 yards on nine plays to take a 7-0 lead when quarterback Casey Carpenter scored on a 1-yard sneak. Evan Lough was perfect on the first of his dive PAT kicks for a quick 7-0 lead.

After stopping the Pilots on a 3-and-out, the Shamrocks marched 79 yards on nine plays to take a 14-0 advantage.

"We even played through some adversity there in the second quarter," Allen noted. "The (Kabel) Isaly kid is a heck of an athlete and he made some plays to get them back in the game."

rocks for the first time on the ensuing drive, but Bradey McIntire picked off a fourth-down pass at his own 29.

It only took five plays for Barnesville to reach paydirt as Starr burst up the middle of the field after making a defender miss in the backfield. He jukeed another at the 5 before reaching the end zone to complete the 19-yard scamper. Lough made it 21-7 with 1:49 on the clock in the first half.

A sack on second down by Kobe Jones set up a third-and-12 from the River 33, but Barnesville's Marshall Meade was all over Isaly before the ball came loose and bounced to the Pilots' 14 where offensive lineman Matthew Gregg fell on it.

"If we would've got in there at the end of the first half, it might have been a different ball game in the second half," veteran River head coach Mike Flannery recalled. "But we didn't and they went down the field and scored to go up by three scores."

After receiving the punt at the 50, Starr broke off right tackle for 21 yards and Carpenter found Jason "Duker" Castello for 17. Carpenter then dropped back to pass as time was winding down, he felt pressure from his backside and the lefty spun away from it. After scrambling back to his left he spotted Starr in the left corner of the end zone before throwing a strike for the 17-yard score as the clock showed

The Beallsville Blue Devils travel to meet Clay-Battelle on its turf

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

BLACKSVILLE — Beallsville will be trying to accomplish something Friday night that it hasn't done on the football field since 2017 ... win four games in a season.

The Blue Devils (3-1) travel across the Ohio River to meet Clay-Battelle (0-2) Friday night in one of a handful of intriguing matchups as the high school season reaches the midway point in Ohio and enters into week 4 in West Virginia.

Beallsville will take a two-game win streak into the contest after back-to-back victories over Frontier (25-13) and Hundred (14-8). It is eighth in the latest Associated Press Division VII, Region 27 ratings.

Quarterback Garrett Perkins has been the Blue Devils leader on offense. He ran for 136 yards and both touchdowns last week. He also threw a 2-point pass to Markey Loudon.

Defensively, James Palmer charted 13 tackles and two quarterback sacks.

Connor Hagan also surpassed the 100-yard rushing mark.

The Cee-Bees dropped a 50-48 overtime nod to Valley last week after losing at Hundred in the season opener.

Washington High at John Marshall

Browns sent a message in Week 1

• Winning in Pittsburgh on Monday night could send a bigger one

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Cleveland Browns have won in Week 1 before.

They've dominated opponents the way they dominated the Cincinnati Bengals last week before.

What they haven't done — at least not in the past 20 years during the regular season anyway — is beat the Pittsburgh Steelers on the road.

Coaches change. Quarterbacks change. Uniforms change. Cleveland's futility at Acrisure Stadium — save for that cathartic first-round playoff win in 2020 — does not.

The Browns (1-0) will walk onto the field looking to win in Pittsburgh (0-1) for the first time since 2003.

And they'll do it under the lights of prime time with a chance to prove to a national audience their systematic beatdown of the Bengals in the opener was no fluke.

"It's an awesome opportunity for us to be able to go out there and then show the world what we got, what we can be," Deshaun Watson said.

Cleveland showed flashes of it while keeping Joe Burrow in check. Nick Chubb churned for 106 yards. Myles Garrett had a sack and debuted another in a seemingly endless supply of pass-rush moves — this one a pass-rush crossover dribble with an invisible basketball — in the process.

Yet that was at home. In the rain. Against a rival whose star quarterback missed practically all of training camp with a calf injury.

That won't be the case in Pittsburgh, which is smarting after getting its "teeth kicked in" by San Francisco.

The Steelers trailed the 49ers by 20 points before getting a single first down in a game that saw star defensive tackle Cam Heyward and standout wide receiver Diontae Johnson go down with injuries that will have them sidelined for several weeks.

Pittsburgh will use a mix of players at both positions to fill in as it tries to avoid the franchise's first 0-2 start since 2019.

To do it the Steelers will need quarterback Kenny Pickett to look far sharper than he did against the

• Golf

Continued from Page B1

"Hats off to Wheeling Central because they played a good round today," Seabright added.

Despite some difficulties with his middle game, Gill was pleased with his play that included seven birdies.

"My putter was really dialed in today. My wedges and irons weren't so much, so my putter saved me."

Gill carded a sparkling 2-under-par 69 on the spacious 18-hole layout. However, that was five shots worse than in 2022 when he fired an unbelievable 64. He said he didn't feel any pressure to defend his title.

"I just go out and play my game," he noted. "I felt good out there today."

The junior medalist shot 33 on the front 9 and finished with a 36 on the back 9 as the lone player to shoot less than 70.

Seabright said it doesn't take much to coach a player like Gill.

"I really don't do too much. He knows what he needs to do and he is really good at it," the coach praised. "He's really focused when he is on the course, so I just let him go. In addition, he is a great kid."

Gill was joined by teammates Vinny Demarchi, Carson Gessler and Seve Smathers. Kyle White was the fifth player for Linsly.

Gill also headed the all-OVAC team. Joining him were Fort Frye's Chatum Courson (71) and Bradon

Dye (73), along the Wheeling Central duo of Landen Prager (76) and Luke Tiu (79).

Wheeling Central finished third in the team race just three strokes behind the two Cadet teams.

Class 5A OVAC Golf Championship

WHEELING — The Morgantown Mohigans came away with the gold Thursday at the Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club, topping an eight-team field with a team score of 333.

Solas Chinn Kreiner led Morgantown with a 78, followed by Gabriel Watson with an 83, Andrew Sheets with an 85, Braxton Martucci with an 87 and Ayden Shepard with an 89.

It was the third-place University Hawks who can claim the medalist for the day, with Landon Spiker shooting an impressive 76 on the day.

Dover (340) finished second behind Morgantown, followed by the Hawks (342), Parkersburg South (345), Wheeling Park (354), Brooke (356), Steubenville (362), Marietta (367), Warren (371) and John Marshall (398).

On the All-Conference team for 5A is Spiker. Kreiner, Wheeling Park's Campbell Keogler (79), Brooke's Garrett Hornick (82), Steubenville's Chris Elliott (83), Morgantown's Gabriel Watson (83), Parkersburg South's Parker Vannoy (83) and University's Daniel Grabo (83).

• Shamrocks

Continued from Page B1

River followed with a 23-play drive that advanced the ball to the Shamrocks' 2. However, Kaden Johnson lost two yards on first down and Isaly was tackled for a 3-yard loss on second.

A bad snap was recovered by Isaly but resulted in a 13-yard loss to the 20. A fourth-down pass from Isaly to Bowers fell three yards short of the goal line.

Flannery said during the week leading up to the game that this was the best Barnesville team he had ever seen.

"They did nothing to change my mind," he said afterwards. "I wish them the best of luck. They are going to run the table and make a deep playoff run."

"We came out healthy, except for one kid going down," Flannery noted. "But we are worried about Peyton Blue. He went out with a knee injury."

Barnesville amassed nearly 450 yards of total offense, with 259 coming on the ground and 179 through the air. Starr ran 15 times

• Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

Washington opened the season with a win over Page County, Va. (49-6), but has dropped consecutive outings to Thomas Jefferson, Md. (37-19) and Frankfort (43-13).

Conotton Valley at Bridgeport

BROOKSIDE — The Bulldogs (2-2) are coming off a 48-14 pasting on the road last Saturday at the hands of Bradford, which is near the Ohio/Indiana state line.

They will entertain the Rockets (2-2) on Perkins Field inside Bill Jobko Stadium in a 7 o'clock kick.

Freshman quarterback Aiden Kinsey has been a spark for Bridgeport, as has senior running back Michael Marshall.

The Bulldogs have defeated Frontier and East Palestine, while also falling to Monroe Central.

IN OTHER games of local interest with 7 p.m. kickoffs, Steubenville (3-1) makes the

for 138 yards and Toliver added 61 on 11 attempts. Jones had a 41-yard jaunt on his only carry. Carpenter completed 6-of-9 passes for 142 yards and a TD, while Luke Detling found McIntire for a 37-yard gain on his lone pass. Castello had three catches for 76 yards.

"I thought we played really well in all three phases of the game — offense, defense and special teams," Allen allowed.

Meanwhile the Pilots could muster only 141 total yards, with 104 of that coming on the arm of Isaly who was 13 for 19 for 104, a touchdown and a pick. He also carried the ball 15 times for 32 yards as they managed just 50 stripes on 30 rushes. Bowers caught seven balls for 80 yards.

GAME NOTES

— Former Barnesville head coach John Marks was in attendance.

— The Shamrocks lost offensive linemen Luke Taylor and Salvador Almaraz to lower body injuries.

— River's lead in the all-time series was sliced to 20-16.

short trip to Crater Stadium in Dover (2-2); Brooke (3-0) travels to Rachel to face North Marion (2-0); Harrison Central (3-1) welcomes East Liverpool (3-1) to Wagner Field in Cadiz; Cameron (2-1) visits Magnolia (0-3) at Alumni Field at Bill Stewart Memorial Stadium in New Martinsville; Beaver Local (3-1) visits Jets Stadium in Morristown to meet Union Local (3-1); Frontier (0-4) hits the road to Pine Grove where Valley (3-0) awaits at Thomas C. West Field; Toronto (3-1) crosses the Ohio River to face Oak Glen (0-3) in New Manchester; Edison (4-0) hosts North-Akron (1-3) at the Unified Sports Complex in Richmond; Shadyside (1-3) makes to long trip to Brownsville, Pa. (0-3); Weir (3-0) entertains Frankfort (3-0) at Carl Hamill Stadium; and Webster County (2-1) visits Kidwell to face Tyler Consolidated (2-0). At 7:30, St. Clairsville (3-1) welcomes Indian Valley (3-1) to Red Devil Stadium.

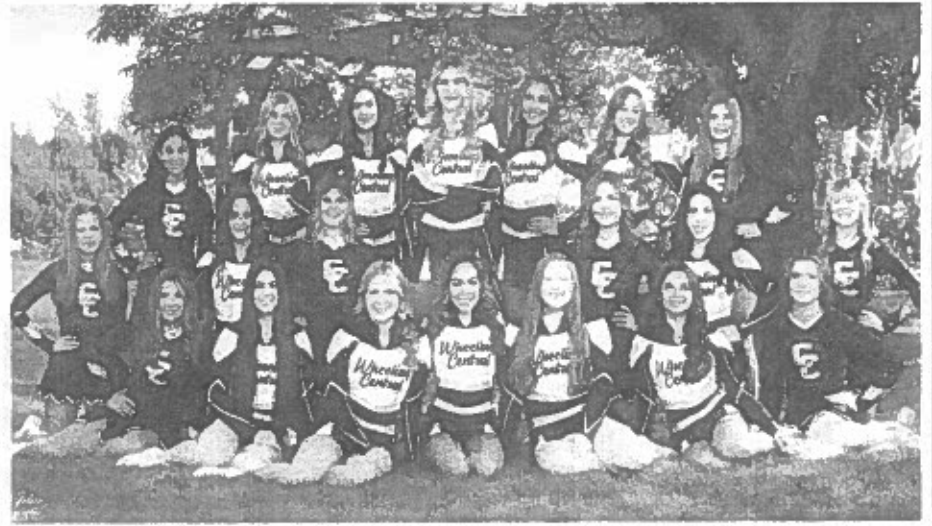
Spirit & Pride

Linsly Cadets and Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights



LINSLY CHEERLEADERS

Front Row: Seniors: Maddie Taylor, Avery Gilman, Payton Hill, Lexie Finley, Anna Norman, Emily Klempa
Second Row: Analise Baker, Reese Maroney, Mackenzie Martin, Alaina Toplovich, Sarah Ratnakar, Calli Porter, Aubrei Joanou, Rhiannon Jones, Alana Inthirath
Third Row: Annie Greene, Maddy Blatnick, Victoria Walsh, Alli Frame, Hadley Selick, Marlee Smith, Raegan Hendershot, Kaylen Inthirath (not pictured: Mireia Brulles)



WHEELING CENTRAL CHEERLEADERS

Kendall Kuchinski, Kansas Yeager, Hailey Wear, Olivia Golein, Fallon O'Connor, Maddie Potts, Abbey Miller
Kneeling: Lexey Kleeh, Annabella Blatt, Emily Blatt, Liz Clark, Jocelyn Waterhouse, Bella Drosieko
Standing: Gabriella Blake, Claire Kerr, Bella Contraguerra, Alexa Loy, Mischa McGhee, Isabella Cox, Keelin O'Connor



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From



Rodgers Announces He Had Surgery To Repair Torn Achilles

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers announced on his Instagram Stories Thursday night that he had surgery to repair his torn left Achilles tendon on Wednesday.

The post includes a picture of a smiling Rodgers in a blue medical cap and gown in a hospital bed with his left foot clearly bruised.

Rodgers said the surgery was performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache, an orthopedic surgeon based in Los Angeles who has worked with numerous professional athletes during his career.

"Surgery went great yesterday," Rodgers wrote. "Thank you for all the love and prayers and support. And thanks to the (goat emoji) Dr ElAttrache and his staff for starting me on the road to recovery."

Rodgers is out for the season af-

ter tearing his Achilles tendon on the fourth snap of his debut with his new team Monday night, a 22-16 overtime victory over Buffalo.

The 39-year-old quarterback posted Wednesday on Instagram in his first public comments that he was "completely heartbroken and moving through all of the emotions" after the injury. He added: "The night is darkest before the dawn. And I shall rise yet again."

Rodgers is also facing a long, arduous recovery and rehabilitation from the injury. But his post Wednesday appeared to indicate he might not be ready to call it a career.

Jets coach Robert Saleh said Wednesday that Rodgers was going for some medical consultations to determine his next step. It turned out the four-time MVP had surgery later that day.

GREENE

(Continued from Page 11)

He was 2-of-7 against overmatched Duquesne, an FCS opponent who played WVU on even terms into the second quarter before talent won out. And, against Penn State, he got off to a 5-of-11 passing start.

Full disclosure, the numbers would have looked better had he not suffered three drops from his receivers in the Duquesne game, but in both games he was mostly off target on simple short passes that Brown labeled "layups" that had to be made.

When looking for an explanation, Brown wondered if it isn't that Greene is flying too high as the game begins before he can get into his routine.

Anyone who has watched him pregame drills and introductions sees that his emotions are overtaking any rational actions that he might have. You wonder, as you watch, if Dana Holgorsen had not left behind a truck full of Red Bull before exiting that Greene had inherited.

"(The energy he comes out with) probably works against him a little bit at the start of games because he is amped up," Brown said. "We've got to figure out a way as a staff — everything from our sports psychology people to the strength and sports science folks — to get him to calm down a little bit where he can execute a little bit higher."

It's kind of like you are going in for surgery in the hospital and the doctor comes bouncing in, chugging on a mug of coffee, loud music blaring and his pupils greatly expanded.

"When he gets really excited, that

ball comes out hot and those balls are there to catch sometimes," Brown said. "He knows this and he's conscious of it, but it hurts him a little bit early in the game. He'll get better at it — it's just handling those emotions."

As excitable as Greene is, you'd expect him to react badly when passes are dropped or when he overthrows or has bad misses on simple swing pass routes, but somehow, he has managed to keep himself under control in those situations.

"He handled it better than I did," Brown admitted, indicating it got under his skin a bit as he watched from the sideline. "He probably handled that as good or better than any quarterback I've ever had. We had four legitimate drops in the Duquesne game but it didn't faze him one bit."

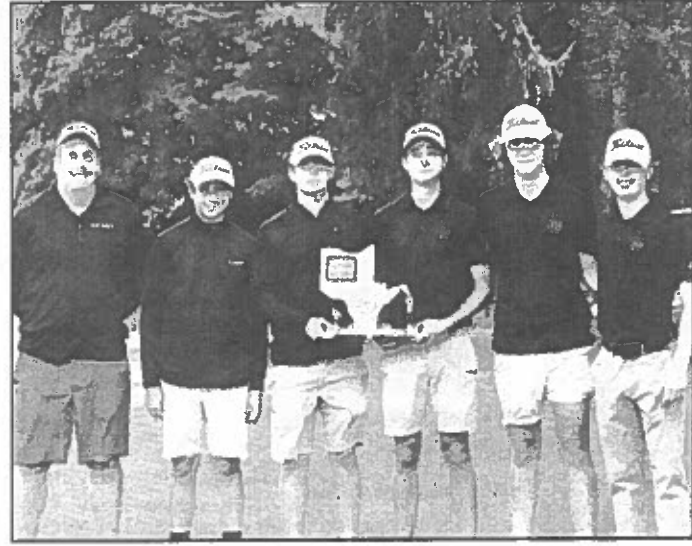
In fact, he went off to console the receivers.

"Totally unsolicited, he's over there talking to the guys who didn't make the catches. He didn't let it affect him."

You can get away with that loose play against Duquesne, but obviously can't against a Top 10 team like Penn State and, certainly, there's no room for it in a traditional rivalry game.

Once Greene settled in, he threw the ball all right, not Geno Smith or Marc Bulger or Will Grier all right, but he completed 26 of 45 passes of 402 yards with 4 touchdowns and no interceptions.

This is all right with the running threat he presents on any play, having rushed for 104 yards on 20 carriers, 5.2 per attempt, and a touchdown.



Linsly defended its Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A boys golf championship on Wednesday at the Crispin Center Golf Course although the Cadets tied with Fort Frye at 322. From left are head coach Joey Seabright; Vinny Demarchi; Carson Gessler; medalist Adam Gill; Seve Smathers; and Kyle White.

Photo by Kim North

Linsly Cadets Defends OVAC 3A Boys Golf Title Behind Medalist Gill

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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OSU

(Continued from Page 11)

4,746 — than any quarterback in Division I and was third in the number of pass attempts (603). He tossed 40 touchdowns — one fewer than Ohio State's C.J. Stroud and two fewer than USC's Heisman Trophy winner Caleb Williams.

Reed is at his third school. He started at Southern Illinois and moved on to West Florida, where in 2019 he passed for 4,089 yards and 40 touchdowns in leading the Argonauts to a Division II national title.

In the first two games of this season, the NFL prospect has already thrown for 589 yards and six TDs with a completion rate of 67.5%. And the Hilltoppers throw a lot — 83 times in the first two games.

"He's accurate. He gets the ball out of his hands," Day said. "You can tell he's very, very intelligent, has good vision. A really good challenge for our defense this week. They're going to come after us."

THE BIG STAGE

Western Kentucky coach Tyson Helton has seen some big-time football,

having worked on coaching staffs at Tennessee, USC and others. He's eager to get his team into Ohio Stadium.

"We love playing in these games and love being on this stage," the 46-year-old Helton said. "We talk about all the time being part of the national conversation. If you want to be a part of that conversation, you've got to go to places like Ohio State and show out."

"I can't think of a better place to go play a college football game," he said.

RUNNING THE BALL

With at least two NFL prospects at running back — TreVeyon Henderson and Miyan Williams — Ohio State is still working on getting its ground game uncorked. In wins over Indiana and Youngstown State, the Buckeyes rushed for 143 yards and 123 yards, respectively. In the two games they converted just seven of 24 third downs.

"We got to get it fixed," Day said. "We've just been in situations where we haven't executed very well."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 11)

"Early strikes, first-pitch strikes, finish them off with my whole array of pitches," Gray said. "Just getting ahead early worked a lot today, just believing in my stuff. Using the whole part of the plate. It was a good day."

It was Gray's first big league appearance since Sept. 3 against Miami, when he allowed three runs and walked four in

the early returns are good, but just like every day, have to come to the ballpark tomorrow and get back to work. Just continue to build off it."

Pittsburgh jumped in front when Jack Suwinski led off the second with his team-high 25th homer on a drive to right. Alfonso Rivas connected with two out in the fifth, hitting a 411-foot shot to center

ners on in the first when CJ Abrams hit a leadoff single and Lane Thomas reached on an error by shortstop Liover Peguero. But Keller retired Keibert Ruiz on a fly ball to left, picked off Abrams at second and struck out Joey Meneses.

"The at-bats today were not good. They weren't crisp," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "We chased a lot out of the

FIERY FALL GOLF

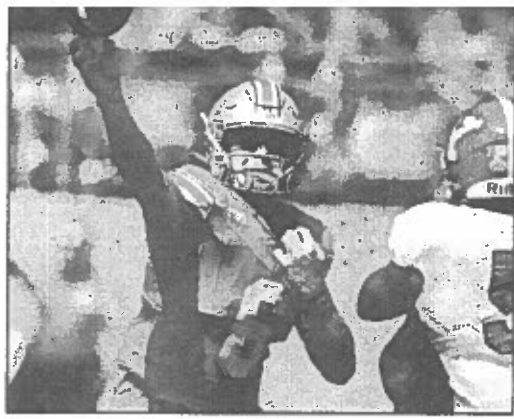
TWO PRISTINE MOUNTAIN COURSES



to be starting quarterback

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State coach Ryan Day said Kyle McCord will remain the Buckeyes' starting quarterback, finally committing to the third-year player after two games where he received most of the playing time. Day has refrained from naming a definitive starter after McCord and Devin Brown competed throughout the offseason to replace C.J. Stroud. "We decided that Kyle is going to be the starter," Day told reporters. "We're

going to go ahead and make that distinction." McCord has thrown for 497 yards, three touchdowns and interception for the sixth-ranked Buckeyes (2-0). Brown is 8 for 16 in two games against Indiana and Youngstown State. "It gives Kyle, first off, peace of mind that I think he realizes he is the starter," Day said. "He earned that opportunity." The Buckeyes face Western Kentucky at home on Saturday.



MCCORD

rally past Guardians 6-5 in 10

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a game-winning sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 10th inning and the San Francisco Giants rallied past the Cleveland Guardians 6-5 on Wednesday in the rubber match of a three-game series.

Xzavion Curry (3-4) walked a pair to load the bases with no outs. Wade hit a fly ball to left and Patrick Bailey beat a strong throw from left fielder Steven Kwan, sliding under Bo Naylor's tag at the plate. The call was upheld upon video review.

"There's a bunch of fighters in that room and those guys are consistently battling," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said. "I think we're going to look at this game at the end of the season and believe that it's very meaningful."

J.D. Davis tied the game in the eighth with a towering three-run homer to left off Guardians reliever Eli Morgan.

"It was just a matter of a coin flip if it was going to go out or not," Davis said. "I knew it was going to be a sac fly, but once Kwan started backing up, backing up, and finally hit the wall, I was like, 'Wow, this is a three-run home run. Different ballgame right now.' So I was fortunate."

Camilo Doval (6-4) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn his first win since Aug. 20.

Jose Ramirez hit his 215th career home run, tying Larry Doby for seventh in Guardians history.

Josh Naylor added an RBI single, as every Cleveland starter had at least one hit.

Luis Matos and Wilmer Flores had RBI singles for the Giants (75-71), who moved within one game of Arizona for the final NL wild card spot.

The Diamondbacks were scheduled to play at the New York Mets on Wednesday night.

Cleveland built a 4-0 lead in the first inning on Ramirez's two-run homer and a throwing error by third baseman Casey Schmitt that led to two more runs.

Matos cut the lead to 4-1 with an RBI single in the bottom of the first.

"We had a couple of chances and didn't expand (the lead)," Guardians manager Terry Francona said. "You give a good team free bases and sometimes they make you pay."

FOR STARTERS

Guardians rookie Logan Allen allowed one run and five hits in five innings. The left-hander struck out five and walked three.

"Happy to get through five," Allen said. "Happy to kind of settle in there after what was a shaky first inning. Happy with the outing, but tough with the way it ended."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Guardians: OF Ramon Laureano returned after missing three games with a jammed left thumb. Laureano went 1 for 5 with a double. ... RHP Triston McKenzie (sprained right elbow) was scheduled to make a rehab start for Double-A Akron on Wednesday night.

Giants: Davis started at first base after missing Tuesday's game with lower back tightness. ... Bailey was activated from the 7-day concussion injured list and went 1 for 4. ... OF Michael Conforto (strained left hamstring) is expected to return from the 10-day IL at some point next series, according to Kapler. ... RHP Cole Waites underwent Tommy John surgery on his right elbow and is projected to return to play in 12 to 16 months.



Photo PROVIDED

THE INAUGURAL all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls Golf team is pictured above. From left, are River's Kiera Saksa; Fort Frye's Khoon Carson; medalist St. Clairville's Olivia Baker; runnerup Marietta's Saylor Wharff; Harrison Central's Kaily Banal; and Dover's Mya Downing.

St. C.'s Baker wins inaugural OVAC girls golf championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Olivia Baker had a tough decision to make earlier this week. The way it played out, she made the right one.

The St. Clairville sophomore, who is a key member of the Red Devils boys' golf team, could only play in one event this week when the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference golf championships were held. She could either play in the Class 4A boys tournament — like she did in 2022 — or the inaugural girls event.

Playing in the first group Wednesday, the sophomore trailed Marietta's Saylor Wharff, who was also in the foursome, by two strokes entering the 18th — and final — hole at the Crispin Center Golf Course.

That's when Baker went for it. She sent her tee shot over the trees to the left of the fairway on the par-4 hole.

The ball landed approximately 10-15 feet from the hole. On the other side, Wharff drilled her tee shot into some high grass and weeds, but the area was not considered out of bounds, so she had to play her second shot from the difficult conditions.

Although Baker three-putted the hole to finish at 74, Wharff curled her second putt — which would have forced a playoff — around the hole from 5-foot away to give Baker the championship in the 78-player field.

"It was really, really stress-

ful out there. There was a lot of pressure. I'm just happy I shot what I shot," Baker, who qualified for the Ohio Division II girls state tournament last fall as a freshman and finished in a tie for 18th, said.

Baker was three shots back of Wharff entering the back 9, but kept steady and pulled back into competition.

"That tee shot on 18 was pure luck," she noted. "My driver wasn't good at all today. I hit about three good drivers. That shot was amazing."

Although she will covet the fact that she is the first-ever girls OVAC champion, she was really hoping Wharff would have made the last putt.

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As for her decision,

"I think there's more pressure on me when I play against the boys because I have to play from their tees, but that's not that big of a deal," Baker admitted. "It's fun to be able to go out and play with them."

Baker said she actually went on Tuesday when it captured its third consecutive Class 4A title.

Harrison Central's Kaily Banal finished third with a 79. Fort Frye's Khoon Carson was fourth at 83, with River's Kiera Saksa and Dover's Mya Downing rounding out the top



T.L. Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRVILLE'S Olivia Baker watches her tee shot on the 18th hole Wednesday during the first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls Golf Championship at the Crispin Center Golf Club. The hole proved to be the key to a one-shot win.

5 with 85s. All of the aforementioned received all-OVAC honors.

Just missing the all-conference team were the Martins Ferry duo of Danielle Lude and Julia Hancock, who finished at 86 and 87, respectively.

Fort Frye, behind Carson's

effort, won the 12-team, 23-school event with a 385, which was three shots better than River's 388.

Edison finished third at 400, while Martins Ferry was fourth at 405. John Marshall and Marietta tied for fifth at 411.

Bears' Justin Fields says he was 'too conservative' in opener against Packers

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields wishes he aired it out more in a disappointing season-opening loss to Jordan Love and the Green Bay Packers.

want to give them more chances deep down the field."

Fields gets another chance to start showing he can become the passer the Bears would like him to be when Chi-

ago for bigger gains, he didn't take them. He dumped the ball off when he could have scrambled to buy time and gone deep.

"There was a good opportunity I

teams are playing a zone, as Green Bay was. They do that to try to contain scrambling quarterbacks. And he is, of course, one of the NFL's most electric players when he's using his legs.



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin (4) pulls out of the would-be tackle during a game from earlier this season. The Maroon Knights host Midland Trail Friday at Bishop Schmitt Field on the Wheeling University campus.

Maroon Knights Hope To Fortify For Midland Trail

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING - The last two times that Coach Mike Young's Wheeling Central team lost two of its first three football games, during the 2020 and 2017 seasons, the Maroon Knights managed to finish the campaign strong with a winning record.

Coming off a 60-24 setback to powerful St. Clairsville last Friday, a youthful Central squad finds itself in that position once again and looking to turn things around with unbeaten Midland Trail (3-0) set to pay a visit to Bishop Schmitt Field on the campus of Wheeling University Friday night.

While there is still plenty of season left to play, the first set of West Virginia playoff rankings were released this week with the Maroon Knights needing to climb out of a hole at No. 29, while the Patriots are currently No. 4 and a victory over them could be a huge start towards making that climb.

"We just need to bounce back and take care of Wheeling Central after losing to St. Clairsville," Young said. "For the first quarter-and-a-half we were in the game, then a fumble and kick return turned everything around. When you are going against a quality team like that with the inexperience we have, that is going to happen."

"This team has 47 kids on the roster and 35 of them are freshmen or sophomores with just eight seniors and five juniors. But we may be 1-2 right now, but there are still plenty of games to play."

Wheeling Central will be led into action by quarterback Seth Cover, who has thrown five touchdown passes, and when he is looking for help he usually turns to dual-threat Branden McWreath. The junior averages 73 receiving yards a game while rushing for 111 yards an outing. He has also scored seven touchdowns, four through the air and three on the ground. On defense, McWreath has a

pair of interceptions to his credit.

Senior running back J.J. White also averages 48 yards rushing per outing.

"We learned a lot from that St. Clairsville game," Young added. "When we got back to practice on Monday the kids all knew how much harder they needed to work. We have the potential to be a good team this year, but by the time these kids are juniors and seniors we are going to be a lot better."

"There are few schools that are able to come out and be as good as the previous seasons year in and year out, schools like Steubenville and St. Clairsville, but we are still Wheeling Central and we have a tradition to uphold. This stuff goes in cycles, but we will continue to improve and compete."

Second-year head coach Jeremy Moore will bring a group of Patriots to the Friendly City with heavy hearts after one of their teammates was tragically killed in an early morning car crash this Tuesday.

Midland Trail is led by quarterback Jaden Gladwell, who has completed 17 of 35 passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns. Jayden Roop is the team's leading rusher with 64 carries for 323 yards and seventh scores while Will McGraw adds 21 totes for 137 yards and a touchdown.

Preston Compton is the leading receiver with nine grabs for 94 yards while Landon Snyder has four catches for 91. Both Ian Harper and Jacob Ewing have found the end zone through the air.

The Patriots are coming off a 24-0 victory over Meadow Bridge and have outscored their three opponents by a 74-32 margin.

"They are a very good 3-0 football team," Young commented. "They have an explosive offense and while they are a good running team, they throw the ball even better."

Things will not get any easier for the Maroon Knights after this one as they host the fifth of seven consecutive home contests when University Prep, Pa. comes to town.

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Shamrocks, Pilots Prepare For Thursday Clash

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer



Photo Provided

Barnesville quarterback Casey Carpenter looks for a receiver in the season opener against Buckeye Local. The Shamrocks host River tonight.

BARNESVILLE - River (2-1) and Barnesville (4-0) will meet for the 36th time tonight in a clash on the artificial surface at Shamrock Stadium in western Belmont County. The Pilots hold a slim 20-15 all-time advantage.

The series began in 1966 and was played every year until 1974. The rivalry resumed in 1983 and lasted until 1990 before starting back up again in 1993. After five years, the two stopped playing again until 2004, but didn't meet again until 2019. They are 2-2 in the last four years.

"I'm proud of the kids. We've played pretty well in all three phases of the game so far, and the good thing is we've been able to get healthy. We're as healthy as we've been all season," Barnesville head coach Blake Allen said. "This will, however, be our biggest test of the season."

"This is the fifth meeting since we resumed this rivalry. They got us the first two years and we've gotten them the last two. They've all been dogfights, close contests."

"I respect Coach Flannery and what they do at River," Allen continued. "Their quarterback is one of the best players in the (Ohio) valley. I think it's going to a heckuva game."

Barnesville is riding a 20-game regular season win streak that extends back into week 5 of the 2021 campaign.

"That is a testament to the kids. It's hard to win night-in and night-out," Allen said. "The kids, this team and teams in the past, have really been locked in. Preparation is a real key in high school football and these kids work hard."

Although the streak is nice, Allen said he looks forward and what lies ahead.

Please see CLASH, Page 10

St. Clairsville's Baker Finishes Atop Inaugural OVAC Girls Golf Championship

Fort Frye Team Places First Among 12-Team Field

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Olivia Baker had a tough decision to make earlier this week. The way it played out, she made the right one.

The St. Clairsville sophomore, who is a key member of the Red Devils boys' golf team, could only play in one event this week when the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference golf championships were held. She could either play in the Class 4A boys tournament - like she did in 2022 - or the inaugural girls event.

Playing in the first group Wednesday, the sophomore trailed Marietta's Saylor Wharff, who was also in the foursome, by two strokes entering the 18th - and final - hole at the Crispin Center Golf Course.

That's when Baker went for it. She sent her tee shot over the trees to the left of the fairway on the par-4 hole. The ball landed approximately 10-15 feet from the hole. On the other side, Wharff drilled her tee shot into some high grass and weeds, but the area was not considered out of bounds, so she had to play her second shot from the difficult conditions.

Although Baker three-putted the hole to finish at 74; Wharff curled her second putt - which would have forced a playoff - around the hole from 5-foot away to give Baker the championship in the 78-player field.

"It was really, really stressful out there. There was a lot of pressure. I'm just happy I shot what I shot," Baker, who quali-

fied for the Ohio Division II girls state tournament last fall as a freshman and finished in a tie for 18th, said.

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As for her decision.

"I think there's more pressure on me when I play against the boys because I have to play from their tees, but that's not that big of a deal," Baker admitted. "It's fun to be able to go out and play with them."

Baker said she actually went and cheered on the boys' team on Tuesday when it captured its third consecutive Class 4A title.

Harrison Central's Kaily Banal finished third with a 79. Fort Frye's Khoon Carson was fourth at 83, with River's Kiera Saksa and Dover's Mya Downing rounding out the top 5 with 85s. All of the aforementioned received all-OVAC honors.



Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker receives congratulations after winning the inaugural Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls Golf Championship Wednesday at the Crispin Center Golf Course. She carded a 74, which was a stroke better than Marietta's Saylor Wharff.

Just missing the all-conference team were the Martins Ferry duo of Danielle Lude and Julia Hancock, who finished at 86 and 87, respectively.

Fort Frye, behind Carson's effort, won the 12-team, 23-school event with a 385, which was three shots better than River's 388.

Edison finished third at 400, while Martins Ferry was fourth at 405. John Marshall and Marietta tied for fifth at 411.

the air a minute later.

"Bella Fitzsimmons, she came in as a freshman and she's a phenomenal goalie," Wheeling Central head coach Mackenzie Smith said. "I have full confidence in her, she's a leader, she knows when to step to the ball, calls people off, directs our defense. She had some great, game-saving games, so definitely appreciated her being on her game today."

Fitzsimmons had 10 saves on the day.

Steubenville Catholic Central did outshoot Wheeling Central Catholic in the first half, and had four

shots on goal to the Maroon Knights' three.

In the second half, the script was flipped, with Wheeling often possessing in Steubenville Catholic territory, but not being able to generate many good looks at the net. Steubenville, meanwhile, tied the game up in the 54th minute on a goal by Jemma Clum amidst a scrum in front of the goal.

The Crusaders had flipped field quickly and gotten into a run-out which resulted in a corner kick, giving Clum her scoring opportunity amidst a crowd.

"We just started going to the ball, we weren't wait-

Edison on Monday. Wheeling Central Catholic has a quick turnaround, facing Magnolia at home Thursday.

Wheeling Central has now won five of six, with one tie among the victories.

"I think we need to pick that side of things up, being more physical and trying to establish ourselves in games," Hoover said. "I was happy with that second half performance, we did a better job of that and we're heading in the right direction."

BOYS SOCCER

Wheeling Central Catholic 0, Steubenville Catholic Central 0

Reynolds Hits 21st Homer, Pirates Top Nationals 7-6

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bryan Reynolds watched Washington Nationals rookie pitcher Jackson Rutledge try to gather himself after taking a throw off the back of his head from a teammate and wondered if a little baseball justice was about to be served.

Rutledge had tried to make himself as small as possible — no easy task at 6-foot-8 — when catcher Drew Millas fired the ball toward second base in an effort to throw out Pittsburgh's Ji Hwan Bae with one out in the bottom of the fourth inning on Wednesday night.

The ball never got there. Instead, it caromed off the back of Rutledge's red cap and rolled into right field while Bae raced to third. While trainers tended to Rutledge, Reynolds took a couple of practice swings to keep warm.

Rutledge stayed in the game and when the count evened at 2-2, Reynolds felt a twinge of empathy for the former first-round pick making his major league debut.

"I was like, 'Well, if he gets me here, he kind of deserves it (after getting hit),' " Reynolds said.

He didn't.

Reynolds instead turned on Rutledge's changeup for his third hit of the night and 21st homer of the season and the Pirates held on late for a 7-6 win.

Josh Palacios and Liover Peguero added two hits and an RBI apiece for the Pirates, who jumped to a 7-1 lead and then escaped when closer David Bednar retired C.J. Abrams and Lane Thomas with the bases loaded in the ninth for his 34th save.

"Just wanted to make it interesting, obviously that's not the goal," Bednar said. "You want to make it quick. Once you get guys on, it's just like we want to put a stop to it and come away with a win."

Pittsburgh rookie Quinn Priester (3-2), back up for his second stint in the

majors after six rocky starts earlier in the season, gave up four runs in four-plus innings after coming on for opener Colin Selby to earn the victory.

Priester, the 18th overall pick in the 2019 draft, came on in the second inning following opener Colin Selby. He retired the first 10 batters he faced, showing off a fastball that topped out at 97 mph, a significant uptick from his first call-up.

"It's awesome man," Priester said. "The results aren't indicative of how I feel about it. I think there's so much more to build on there than there was before. I'm really excited to keep working and the results are going to come."

Dominic Smith hit his ninth home run for Washington. Millas hit his first major league homer for the Nationals, who fell to 4-10 in their last 14.

Rutledge, taken one spot after Priester in the 2019 draft, arrived in the majors fresh off a solid season in the minors, posting an 8-4 record with a 3.71 ERA and 106 strikeouts in 119 innings across 23 starts in Double-A and Triple-A.

Pittsburgh jumped on him immediately, tagging him for four runs in the first and another in the third. What will be remembered far longer than Rutledge's stat line, however, is the play that ended with him rubbing the back of his head while his family sat in the stands with a look of concern on their faces.

They weren't the only ones.

"It was wild," Reynolds said. "I'm impressed that he stayed in and finished the inning. To stay in and keep pitching after getting domed up like that is pretty impressive."

Rutledge became the latest in a long line of Nationals rookies to fail to earn a win in their MLB debut. The group is 0-11 with six no-decisions since Stephen Strasburg's historic 14-strikeout performance against the Pirates in 2010.

Inaugural All-OVAC Girls Golf Team



Photo Provided

The Inaugural All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls Golf team is pictured above. From left, are River's Kiera Saks; Fort Frye's Khoon Carson; medalist St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker; runnerup Marietta's Saylor Wharff; Harrison Central's Kaily Banal; and Dover's Mya Downing.

Steubenville Gets Rolling; River Wins Nailbiter

STEUBENVILLE - The Big Red volleyball team shook off the first game against Harrison Central as Big Red rallied to win the next three to win the match, 18-25, 25-11, 25-17, 25-9, Wednesday night inside the Crimmon Center.

Individually for the Red-and-Black, Sarah Allen collected 12 kills, four aces and one dig, Te'Jah Montgomery tallied six kills, four aces and one dig and Emma Lyons added eight kills.

Statistical leaders for Harrison Central included Lauren Doane with 12 kills and six blocks; Nessa Culver had 12 digs; Kennedy Dunlap eight points and Olivia Tonkovich with seven assists.

Edison Sweeps St. Clairsville

RICHMOND - The Wildcats won this Buckeye 8 encounter by scores of 25-18, 25-16 and 25-22.

Rachel Finnical led the Red Devils with 14 assists, 18 digs and two aces. Ella Carpenter had seven kills, half-a-dozen digs and a pair of blocks, while Jenna Gorza charted 27 digs and

Brooke Biancarelli finished with 18 digs, five kills and three aces.

River Wins In Five Over Panthers

RAYLAND - River took a road victory Wednesday, beating Buckeye Local 25-16, 24-26, 12-25, 25-18, 15-12.

Hallie Hammel had 12 kills for the Pilots, followed by Reese Hobbs and Emma Reed, both with seven.

Hobbs also had a team-high six blocks, while Zoey Fox had five for River.

Aubrey Fetty finished with 20 digs, Hammel with 15 and Maci Isaly with 14 on the Pilots.

Isaly also racked up 28 assists in the win.

GIRLS SOCCER

Brooke 3, St. Clairsville 0

WELLSBURG - Lucia Rubio, Morgan McMahon and Mikaya Childers all scored for the Bruins, while senior keeper Frankie Neff needed only six saves to preserve her second consecutive clean sheet and fourth on the season.

The Bruins move to 6-4 on the season, while the Red Devils move to 5-5.

CLASH

(Continued from Page 9)

"We know the streak is there but we're looking at only one game and that is tonight against River."

Veteran River head coach Mike Flannery is well aware of the Shamrocks explosive offense, but it's the defense that caught his eye on film.

"They've got 11 guys that really get to the ball," he said. "We kind of matchup with them size-wise, but they are still bigger than us in the trenches. Offensively, we want to control the ball and the clock to keep them off the field."

Barnesville has all the pieces.

All the tools in the tool box are sharp. We will have to play a perfect game in order to come out on top."

The Shamrocks offense is ignited by quarterback Casey Carpenter who threw five TD passes a week ago in a 41-0 romp over Newcomerstown. All-Ohio tailback Taison Starr has recovered from an early knee injury and fullback Trey Toliver has shown signs of his explosiveness. Luke Detling and Duker Castello are reliable receivers.

"This is definitely the best team on our schedule this year," Flannery admitted.

"This is one of the best Barnesville teams I've seen in a long time."

Senior Kabel Isaly is the key to the River offense and he has a stable of running backs that can get the job done.

Finn Bowers and Kaden Johnson are the power backs while Lucas Dennis is the speed back. All three are capable of taking it all the way.

"We feel we're able to run the ball with our backs and Kabel is very good at reading the defense," Flannery added.

Tight end Maddox Mozena is a quality receiver and good blocker, according to Flannery.

"They have a big offensive line and they've got two really big backs and a speed back," Allen said of the Pilots. "What really makes them dangerous, though, is when they want to pass they've got a really good one (Kabel) Isaly."

Kickoff is set for 7.

CHALLENGE

(Continued from Page 9)

got the edge 35-14 the year before.

Going back to week two against Brashear, the Patriots had little trouble scoring, quarterback Aiden Davis going 8-8 for 188 yards and four touchdowns.

The scores went to Mykel Davis, Keohn Stephens Jr., Jameson Maynard and Kolin Wiley.

Sophomore Amare Johnson ran four times for 69 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while Zac Lydick had five carries for 57 yards and a TD. Lydick also pulled down a sack on defense. Stephens also grabbed an interception on defense.

"The usual suspects who we knew we would rely on, Mykel Davis, Keohn Stephens, Aiden Davis, all those guys are having a great start to their season. Amare Johnson is really kind of emerging also."

Johnson is one member of a sophomore class which has impressed Daugherty in the early stages of the season, a class also including Issac Sands, Jed Hunley, Brennan Wack and Malaki Washington - though he is one of the Patriots' players who are banged up currently, according to Daugherty.

"So far we've been happy with our group of sophomores who we knew would have to play, we just weren't sure how each of them would react," he said. "Right now it's so far, so good. I'm not sure how much we've been tested, I think we'll be tested this Friday so it'll be interesting to see how they perform against a very good opponent like University will be."

For University, they are hoping to rebound from a 14-9 defeat to Brooke, a game in which their defense allowed only one touchdown, but their offense turned the ball over five times.

"I think it'll be important to see if their size will weigh on us or if our speed will win out," Daugherty said. "People think of speed at wide receiver and running back, but it can be at d-line. If our d-line is too quick, it can be a problem for them, if they're too big, it can be a problem for us. I think that'll be an interesting thing to watch during the game, who's winning the line of scrimmage."

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

THE ST. CLAIRSVILLE boys' golf team captured the OVAC Class 4A championship on the Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park. From left, are head coach Ryan Clifford, Ethan Turner, Maverick Malin, Evan Fix, medalist Andrew Abel and Brodi Foster. They shot a 327 and won by 52 shots.

St. C. boys golf wins third straight 4A title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Just a couple of weeks ago, St. Clairsville's Andrew Abel lost in a playoff for the Buckeye 8 championship on his home course. He played that day with a heavy heart as his grandfather was undergoing a serious medical procedure.

Fast forward two weeks and Abel was playing care-free with his grandfather in attendance. The junior fired a 41 on the front nine at the spacious Jones Course at the Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park that was tied for the high score on the talented Red Devils squad.

However, he caught fire on the backside and finished with a blistering 36 to earn medalist honors by four strokes over teammate Maverick Malin and Indian Creek's Noah Tweedy, who both carded 80s.

With Abel and Malin leading the way, St. Clairsville completed a three-peat with a four-player score of 327. Buckeye Local was a distant second at 379. Beaver Local finished at 403, three shots ahead of Indian Creek. East Liverpool was fifth at 408.

"We spend a lot of time over here working on our game at this course, and it shows," St. Clairsville head coach Ryan Clifford explained. "This is a tough place to play and if you're not ready, it can eat you up."

"After we shot even par in a win against Dover at Belmont Hills Country Club on Monday, I felt pretty confident coming in here today."

Clifford was pleased that his entire team, including fifth man Ethan Turner, shot under 90.



MONROE CENTRAL captured its first-ever OVAC Class 1A/2A Golf Championship Tuesday at the Crispin Center Golf Course. Team members are, front from left, Dylan Pardon and James Williams. Back row, from left, are Owen Weckbacher, medalist Zander Potts;

Monroe Central boys golf wins first OVAC title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Fall of 2023 has been really, really good to the Monroe Central boys' golf team. A few weeks back the Seminoles pocketed the Mid-Ohio Valley League championship. On Tuesday, they claimed their first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic Conference golf title.

Led by senior medalist Zander Potts, Monroe Central carded a four-man total of 331 to easily outdistance second-place Trinity Christian which finished 29 strokes back at 360 on the overcast Crispin Center Golf Course inside Oglebay Park. Toronto was third with a 369.

The victory marked the second time this

hardware, something that head coach Jared Highman said was a key.

"It's always nice to play a couple of rounds on a course so that the kids are familiar with certain things," Highman noted. "I think that really helped us today."

Potts, who bettered his M-OVL medalist score of 78 by four shots Tuesday and won by seven strokes, but it still didn't suit the standout.

"It (my score) should've been better. I had some bad shots when I didn't need to," he admitted. "I just had a couple of bad holes but I'm not mad about my round. It was alright."

Highman wasn't surprised at Potts' demeanor.

The Browns' defense transformed under Jim Schwartz

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns' most significant acquisition this off-season wasn't on the field for a single snap in Sunday's season-opening win over Cincinnati.

Jim Schwartz received a game ball.

Cleveland's new defensive coordinator designed a plan that overwhelmed quarterback Joe Burrow and the Bengals, who managed just 142 total yards and six first downs in a rain-soaked 24-3 loss to the Browns.

With All-Pro end Myles Garrett leading the charge — while also showing off some basketball moves — the Browns pressured Burrow from the start, hurrying the newly minted \$275 million QB into making bad throws on a day when just gripping the ball was a challenge.

Burrow managed 82 yards passing — by far the worst performance of his NFL career — against a rebuilt Cleveland defense that showed off its depth, versatility, swagger and an aggressiveness that has defined Schwartz's career.

The fiery 57-year-old former Detroit head coach, who won a Super Bowl as Philadelphia's defensive coordinator in 2017, was hired by Cleveland coach Kevin Stefanski in January and tasked with repairing a defense that was awful last season.

So far, Schwartz has delivered.

With his input, Cleveland's front office revamped its defensive front, acquiring three-time Pro Bowl end Za'Darius Smith in a trade to pair with Garrett, and signing free agent end Ogbo Okoronkwo and tackle Dalvin Tomlinson.

On Sunday, Schwartz kept the Bengals and Burrow guessing by moving his linemen from side to side, from inside to outside. Cincinnati struggled to counter.

"In real time you can see it," Okoronkwo said. "They're pointing everywhere. They don't know who to block, who's dropping, who's coming. It's a beautiful thing. It all was executed perfectly."

Smith set the tone on the first play, coming off the left side and hitting Burrow just as he released the ball. Although Cleveland only had two sacks — Garrett essentially closed the game with his — the Browns were credited with 10 hits on Burrow.

Schwartz has the Browns playing fast and physical. And, maybe most important, with confidence.

From the moment he arrived, Schwartz was intent on making his mark. He's demanded excellence and accountability, and it doesn't take long to locate him on the practice field. Actually, you'll hear him before you see him.

"I'm not everybody's cup of tea," he said last week when asked about his coaching style.

But it's effective. Schwartz is building trust along with a Cleveland defense that couldn't have had a much better debut.

"It worked out exactly how coach Schwartz said," Okoronkwo said. "So we listen to coach Schwartz, and in coach Schwartz we trust."

WHAT'S WORKING

Along with the defense's demolition job, Cleveland's often suspect special teams were on point.

Aubrey Johnson with 31 digs and six points.

GIRLS SOCCER

Huskies, Blue Dons Play to Draw

WEIRTON - In a match full of comebacks, the Harrison Central girls' soccer team saved the best for the last against Madonna.

With the Huskies trailing 3-2 in the closing minutes of the game, senior standout Angi Ferri fired a shot into the net to knot the score at 3 with a just a few minutes remaining.

Both teams had opportunities to win the game, however, the final whistle blew without another goal being scored resulting in the match ending in a 3-3 tie Tuesday evening at the JC Williams Soccer Complex.

Madonna led 1-0, however, Harrison Central collected the next two goals to take a 2-1 lead in the second half. The Blue Dons delivered the next two to regain the lead at 3-2 before Ferri knotted the score late in the match.

Lily Gibbons tallied two goals and an assist for the girls from Harrison Central, while Ferri finished with a goal and an assist.

Brynn Artman netted a hat trick to lead the way offensively for the girls from Hancock County.

BOYS SOCCER

Brooke Deals Weir Lopsided Defeat

WEIRTON - The Bruins scored early and often to hand rival Weir High a 9-2 defeat on the artificial pitch at Jimmy Carey Stadium.

Ben Ferguson tallied a four-goal night for the Bruins (6-2), while Chase Hile netted a goal and factored in on five more Brooke markers with five assists.

All-told, the Bruins got goals from six different players, Ferguson being the only one with multiple tallies. Nick Sagan had a goal and an assist, while Brayden Ferrell and Sam Mockbee scored while Jeg Hilt and Evan Urso added assists for the Green and Gold.

Brooke opened up a 6-1 lead at halftime. The Red Riders (3-7-1) got an early second half goal from Ben Howard to cut the deficit to four, but Brooke answered right away and seemed to carry the momentum the whole way.

The Red Riders' other goal came from Kalen Kuhns.

Browns

Continued from Page B1

Newly acquired kicker Dustin Hopkins made all three field-goal attempts in slippery conditions.

Cleveland fans erupted in cheers that were mixed with relief when Hopkins split the uprights on his 42-yarder in the second quarter.

Hopkins credited long snapper Charley Hughlett and holder Corey Boroquez, who averaged 47.3 yards on seven punts.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Like Burrow, Deshaun Watson had a tough time throwing what Stefanski called a "heavy ball" in the steady,

St. C.

Continued from Page B1

"To have everyone shooting in the 70s and 80s was great," he said. "We'll celebrate this for a while, but we've got bigger fish yet to fry."

A trio of Red Devils have now won three OVAC championships.

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Monroe

Continued from Page B1

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Highman hopes the success continues.

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In addition to the three Seminoles, also earning all-OVAC were Trinity Christian's Will McPherson (85); and Shadyside's Luke Bell

and Toronto's Ty Sufoletta who both carded 86s.

Steelers at Indy

December 16 - 18

Motor coach to Indy for two night stay.

Visit to NCAA Hall of Champions.

Game ticket to Steelers at Colts.

Motor coach home the next day.

\$699 per person (double)

Uniglobe Ohio Valley Travel

1165 Market Street, Wheeling • (304) 232-5171

River and Frontier at St. Marys, 4 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

John Marshall at Wheeling Park

GIRLS GOLF

Edison vs. River at Clair Mar GC, 4:15 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

John Marshall at Linsly, 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Valley at St. John

Shadyside at Wheeling Central

John Marshall at University

Bellaire at Harrison Central

Edison at Cambridge

Toronto at Steubenville

Frontier at Bridgeport

Parkersburg South at Wheeling Park, 6 p.m.

Magnolia at Linsly, 6:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL CARD

(all games start at 7 p.m. unless noted)
Thursday, Sept. 14

PREP

River at Barnesville

Friday, Sept. 15

Conotton Valley at Bridgeport

Beallsville at Clay Battelle

Steubenville at Dover

Warren at Fort Frye

Brooke at North Marion

East Liverpool at Harrison Central

Washington at John Marshall

Cameron at Magnolia

Buckeye Local at Monroe Central

Toronto at Oak Glen

North-Akron at Edison

Webster County at Tyler Consolidated

Martins Ferry at Newcomerstown

Frontier at Valley

Beaver Local at Union Local

Frankfort at Weir

Shadyside at Brownsville, Pa.

Midland Trail at Wheeling Central

University at Wheeling Park

Steubenville Catholic at Fairpoint

Indian Valley at St. Clairsville, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16

PREP

Cambridge at Bellaire, noon

Mount View at Paden City, 1 p.m.

Madonna at Vienna Mathews

COLLEGE

West Liberty at Frostburg State, 1 p.m.

Wheeling at Fairmont St., 1 p.m.

Bethany at Thiel, 1 p.m.

Central Michigan at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.

Western Kentucky at Ohio State, 4 p.m.

Pitt at WVU, 7:30 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East	West	Pct	PPFA
Miami	1	0	1.000	36 34
Buffalo	0	0	.000	0 0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	.000	0 0
N Eng.	0	1	.000	20 25

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Jackson	1	0	0	1.000	31 21
Houston	0	1	0	.000	9 25
Indian	0	1	0	.000	21 31
Tenn.	0	1	0	.000	15 16

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Balt.	1	0	0	1.000	25 9
Cleve.	1	0	0	1.000	24 3
Cincin.	0	1	0	.000	3 24
Pitts.	0	1	0	.000	7 30

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Vegas	1	0	0	1.000	17 16
Denver	0	1	0	.000	16 17
Kan. City	0	1	0	.000	20 21
Chargers	0	1	0	.000	34 36

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East	West	Pct	PPFA
Dallas	1	0	1.000	40 0
Phila	1	0	1.000	25 20
Wash	1	0	1.000	20 16
N.Y. G	0	1	.000	0 40

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	24 10
N. Ori	1	0	0	1.000	16 15
T. Bay	1	0	0	1.000	20 17
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10 24

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	21 20
G. Bay	1	0	0	1.000	38 20
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	20 38
Minne.	0	1	0	.000	17 20

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Rams	1	0	0	1.000	30 13
S Fran	1	0	0	1.000	30 7
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	16 20
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	13 30

Monday's Game

Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, Thursday, Sept. 14

Minnesota at Philadelphia, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 17

Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Chicago at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.

Kansas City at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

L.A. Chargers at Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Las Vegas at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Seattle at Detroit, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.

San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.

Miami at N England, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 18

N Orleans at Carolina, 7:15 p.m.

Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.

	W	L	T	Pct	PPFA		W	L	T	Pct	PPFA
Los Angeles	87	56	1	.608	72 1/2		4-6 L-1	47-25	40-31		
Arizona	76	70	1	.521	1 1/2		6-4 L-1	38-35	38-35		
San Fran.	74	70	1	.514	1 1/2	1	4-6 W-4	42-31	32-39		
San Diego	68	77	1	.469	20 7/2		6-4 W-1	39-36	29-41		
Colorado	52	92	1	.361	35 1/2	23	3-7 W-1	30-39	22-53		

z-clinched playoff berth

AMERICAN LEAGUE Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 2, 1st game
Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 2, 1st game
St. Louis 5, Baltimore 2
Texas 6, Toronto 3
Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2
Cincinnati 6, Detroit 5, 10 innings

Oakland 6, Houston 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 1, 2nd game
Kansas City 11, Chicago White Sox 10, 2nd game
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

Cleveland at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Tampa Bay (Bradley 5-7) at Minnesota (Keuchel 1-1), 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Allen 7-7) at San Francisco (Harrison 1-1), 3:45 p.m.

L.A. Angels (TBD) at Seattle (Castillo 12-7), 4:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Rom 0-2) at Baltimore (Gibson 14-8), 6:35 p.m.
Texas (Montgomery 8-11) at Toronto (Kikuchi 9-5), 7:07 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 9-8) at Boston (Houck 4-9), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Blackburn 4-4) at Houston (Brown 10-11), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (TBD) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 7-7), 7:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Cincinnati at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.
Texas at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 7:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:15 p.m.

Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, 7:40 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Wednesday, September 13

MLB BASEBALL

1 p.m.

MLBN - Tampa Bay at Minnesota

6:35 p.m.

ATTSN -

7 p.m.

MLBN - Regional Coverage: NY Yankees at Boston OR Texas at Toronto

11 p.m.

MLBN - San Diego at LA Dodgers (Joined in Progress)

TENNIS

8 a.m.

TENNIS - Davis Cup Finals Group Stage: U.S. vs. Croatia, Australia vs. Britain, Spain vs. Czech Rep., Canada vs. Italy; San Diego-WTA, Osaka-WTA Early Rounds

WNBA BASKETBALL

8 p.m.

ESPN2 - Playoffs First Round: Minnesota at Connecticut, Game 1

10 p.m.

ESPN - Playoffs First Round: Chicago at Las Vegas, Game 1

OVAC FOOTBALL

CLASS 5-A

School	W	L	TG	CPAVE.
Park South	3	0	3	215 71.67
Brooke	3	0	3	210 70.00
M'town	3	0	3	210 70.00
Whg Park	2	0	2	140 70.00
Steuben	3	1	4	210 52.50
Dover	2	2	4	130 32.50
Marietta	2	2	4	130 32.50
University	1	2	3	70 23.33
Warren	1	3	4	50 12.50
J Marshall	0	3	3	0 0.00

CLASS 4-A

School	W	L	TG	CPAVE.
Weir	3	0	3	180 60.00
Edison	4	0	4	215 53.75
Bea Local	3	1	4	195 48.75



Photo by Nick Henthorn
 Linsly's Oscar Sundell dribbles downfield while Oak Glen's Cammin Dittman gives chase.

Linsly Stays Unbeaten With Victory Over Bears

By NICK HENTHORN
 Sports Editor

TRIADELPHIA - The past careers of Linsly's most senior soccer players, and the future careers of their youngest were both on display Tuesday as the Cadets squared off with the Oak Glen Golden Bears in a 7-1 win.

The Cadets put their seniors out on the field for the start of Tuesday's game at the Highland Sports Complex, in recognition of their dedication to the program.

"First of all, tonight was about honoring our seniors, making sure we got them out there tonight, let them play for a good bit," Linsly head coach Greg Martin said.

Seniors for the Linsly Cadets include Jacopo Vinco, Allessandro Cimigotto, Mariano Fonseca, Wes Palmer, Agustin Liu, Allessandro Romeres, Diego Villalobos, Stefan Malovic, and Andrew Skadra.

When it came to the play on the field, Linsly dominated the ball and took a quick 2-0 lead by the 10th minute of

play, Palmer scoring in the seventh minute and Liu pounding a header through in the 10th minute.

Oscar Sundell made it 3-0 Cadets in the 20th minute, finally finding the back of the net after a prolonged barrage of Linsly attempts squarely in front of the Golden Bears goal.

"We took control of the match early, held possession, scored some early goals," Martin said. "Then it was about just getting the young guys in and letting them play most of that second half. They don't get a whole lot of minutes, so it's nice to let them get out there and compete as well."

Linsly scored twice in the 39th minute. Liu first intercepting a horizontal pass in front of the goal by Oak Glen, and Villalobos scoring only a few moments after the following kickoff.

The score stood 5-0 Linsly at the half.

The Cadets wasted little time adding to their lead, Fonseca putting through a penalty kick in

Please see LINSLY, Page 10

Monroe Central Wins First-Ever OVAC Title

Potts Is Medalist, Seminoles Place Three On All-Conference Team



Photo by Kim North

Earning all-OVAC Class 1A/2A golf on Tuesday were, front row from left, Will McPherson (Trinity Christian), Luke Bell (Shadyside) and Ty Suffoletta (Toronto). Back row, from left, are Monroe Central's Owen Weckbacher, medalist Zander Potts; and Lane Demchek. The Seminoles also won the team title.

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WHEELING - The Fall of 2023 has been really, really good to the Monroe Central boys' golf team. A few weeks back the Seminoles pocketed the Mid-Ohio Valley League championship. On Tuesday, they claimed their first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic Conference golf title.

Led by senior medalist Zander Potts, Monroe Central carded a four-man total of 331 to easily outdistance second-place Trinity Christian which finished 29 strokes back at 360 on the overcast Crispin Center Golf Course inside Oglebay Park. Toronto was third with a 369.

The victory marked the second time this season that Monroe Central has walked away from the Crispin Center with the top hardware, something that head coach Jared Highman said was a key.

"It's always nice to play a couple of rounds on a course so that the kids are familiar with certain things," Highman noted. "I think that really helped us today."

Potts, who bettered his M-OVL medalist score of 78 by four shots Tuesday and won by seven strokes,

but it still didn't suit the standout.

"It (my score) should've been better. I had some bad shots when I didn't need to," he admitted. "I just had a couple of bad holes but I'm not mad about my round. It was alright."

Highman wasn't surprised at Potts' demeanor. "He is a senior and he expects a lot from himself," the coach said. "He did a really nice job today."

His teammate, Lane Demchek, was runnerup with an 81, while fellow Seminole, Owen Weckbacher, also earned all-OVAC with an 85. The fourth player, James Williams, shot 91.

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Photo Provided

Oak Glen's Kami Ward, pictured with her coaches after becoming the all-time leading scorer for the Oak Glen girls soccer team on Tuesday.

Ward Becomes All-Time Leading Scorer At Oak Glen

From Staff Reports

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Ward has 159 goals for her career with 24 coming



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The St. Clairsville boys' golf team captured the OVAC Class 4A championship on the Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park. From left, are head coach Ryan Clifford, Ethan Turner, Maverick Malin, Evan Fix, medalist Andrew Abel and Brodi Foster. They shot a 327 and won by 52 shots.

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Ward has 159 goals for her career with 24 coming as freshman, 49 as a sophomore, 56 as a junior and 30 through nine games as a senior.

"Yes, she scores a lot but the most surprising thing about her is how selfless she is," Oak Glen coach Bill Watts said. "She's all about the team and one of our hardest workers."

Ward's career overlapped with Enochs' in Ward's freshman season and the passing of the torch is now complete. Ward, who is perhaps better known for her exploits as a sprinter on the Golden Bears' track team, has used her speed to dominate opponents on the soccer field.

"She has a dynamic first step and in space she is very dangerous," Watts said.

With Oak Glen's deep tournament runs and strong regular season schedules over the past four years, these goals have come against top competition in West Virginia.

"We play a lot of 3A schools and very strong opponents like your Winfields and Charleston Catholics," Watts said. "She has done it against a lot of kids who are going on to become college players."

Oak Glen is 7-2 and will be at University in Morgantown on Saturday.

Linsly falls to 3-3-2.

Oak Glen did play 30 minutes against Philip Barbour on Saturday, but lightning stopped the match and it did not resume.

Oak Glen will make the three hour trip back to Philip Barbour on Sept. 23.



Photo by Kim North

The St. Clairsville boys' golf team captured the OVAC Class 4A championship on the Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park. From left, are head coach Ryan Clifford, Ethan Turner, Maverick Malin, Evan Fix, medalist Andrew Abel and Brodi Foster. They shot a 327 and won by 52 shots.

Red Devils Claim Third Straight OVAC Crown

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Just a couple of weeks ago, St. Clairsville's Andrew Abel lost in a playoff for the Buckeye 8 championship on his home course. He played that day with a heavy heart as his grandfather was undergoing a serious medical procedure.

Fast forward two weeks and Abel was playing carefree with his grandfather in attendance. The junior fired a 41 on the front nine at the spacious Jones Course at the Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park that was tied for the high score on the talented Red Devils squad.

However, he caught fire on the backside and finished with a blistering 36 to earn medalist honors by four strokes over teammate Maverick Malin and Indian Creek's Noah Tweedy, who both carded 80s.

With Abel and Malin leading the way, St. Clairsville completed an OVAC three-peat with a four-player score of 327. Buckeye Local was a distant second at 379. Beaver Local finished at 403, three shots ahead of Indian Creek. East Liverpool was fifth at 408.

"We spend a lot of time over here working on our game at this course, and it shows," St. Clairsville head coach Ryan Clifford explained. "This is a tough place to play and if you're not ready, it can eat you up."

"After we shot even par in a win against Dover

at Belmont Hills Country Club on Monday, I felt pretty confident coming in here today."

Clifford was pleased that his entire team, including fifth man Ethan Turner, shot under 90.

"To have everyone shooting in the 70s and 80s was great," he said. "We'll celebrate this for a while, but we've got bigger fish yet to fry."

A trio of Red Devils have now won three OVAC championships.

"There's not too many kids that can say that," Clifford said. The trio are Abel, Brodi Foster and Evan Fix. Foster checked in with an 83, while Fix had an 87. Turner finished at 88.

Abel was happy to help his team while also earning medalist honors.

"My grandfather was here in great health and my teammates were so supportive," Abel said. "I was looking out for them. They kept encouraging me and that really made me step up on the back 9."

"This title definitely feels better than the first two because I was the medalist today, but I'm so happy for my teammates. It's all about our team."

The runnerup Panthers were led by Kamden Kinoy with an 89.

In addition to Abel, Malin and Foster, Indian Creek's Noah Tweedy was all-OVAC, as were East Liverpool's Preston Dawson and Harrison Central's Nash Roberts who both shot 86. Dawson was the Buckeye 8 champ.