

Linsly, St. Clairsville Dominate Day Two Of OVAC Swimming

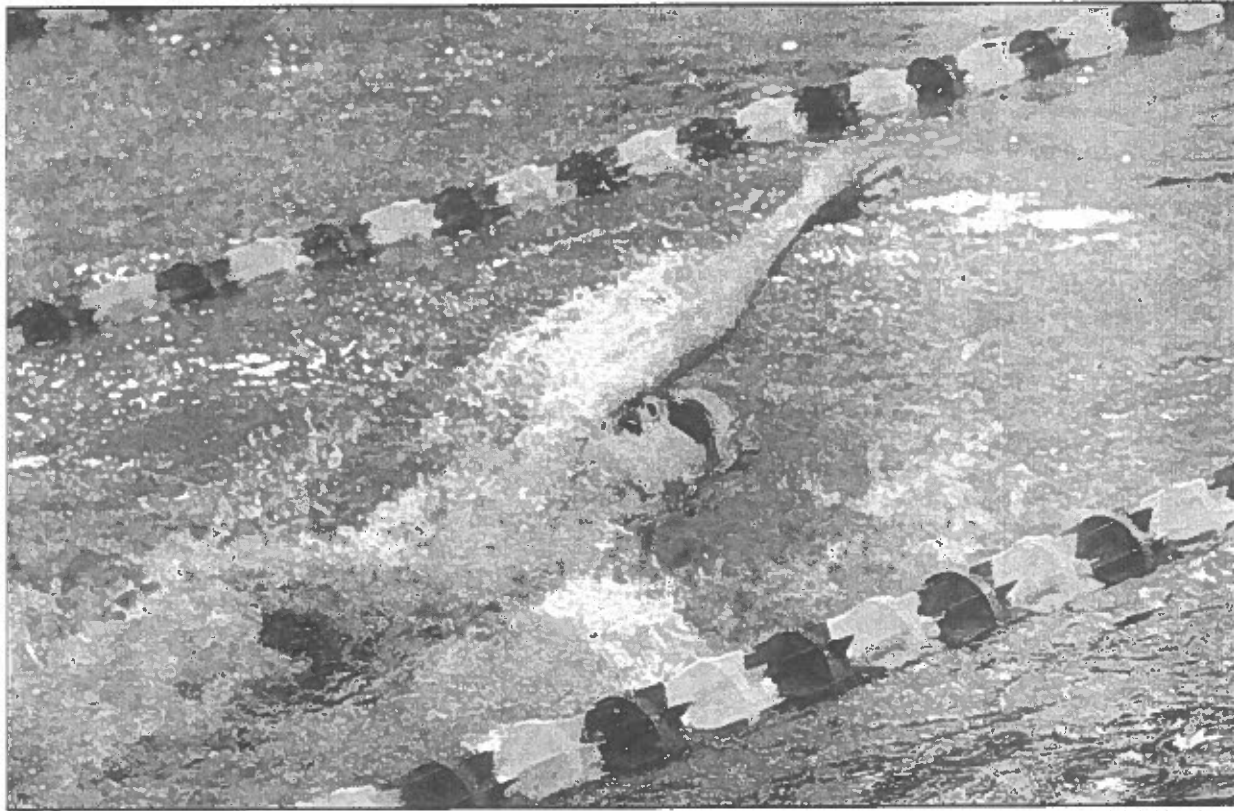


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Linsly's Rocco D'Aquila competes in the boys 100-yard backstroke on Monday's OVAC Swimming Championships. D'Aquila placed fourth in the event while the Linsly Cadets boys team placed first in 1A-3A.

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WELLSBURG - The OVAC Swimming Championships wrapped up at Brooke High School on Monday evening with the 1A-4A portion of the conference competing against one another, and two schools earning the gold in both boys and girls in their respective classes.

St. Clairsville's boys and girls won in 4A, while Linsly's boys and girls took 1A-3A.

Linsly finished leaps and bounds above the competition, the boys taking first with 358 points, Barnesville coming in second with 76 points and Wheeling Central taking third with 42 points.

On the girls side, Linsly totaled 352 points, followed by Martins Ferry's silver finish at 111, and Wheeling Central taking the bronze with 104.

"What I liked was our B-relays dropping a lot of time and getting top-six," Linsly head coach Nick Levi said. "Those are big points because relay points are doubled. You need more than just one or two swimmers to win the meet. You need everybody to come together, swim for each other. We'd harped on it every practice leading up to it, B-relays are going to be key. Obviously our goal was to compete at the high-end level too. We're excited that we got several

kids on the podium."

Linsly's Tuana Ozdemir had a record-breaking two school records on Monday.

"Broke 100 butterfly, broke 100 freestyle leading off the relay, just missed the 500," Levi said. "We're really looking forward to the rest of the year for her because we've got a couple big meets left."

St. Clairsville's boys piled up 243 team points in 4A, beating second-place Beaver Local with 159.5, and Edison with 122.

Their girls team just edged out Indian Creek, the Red Devils totaling 208 points and Creek finishing at 193. Beaver local finished in third with 91 points.

"I wanted the kids on the team to get their best times," St. Clairsville head coach Ernie Banks said. "The boys I felt were going to do extremely well today, they're a large contingent, they're really strong. The girls, I feel like they can hang in there with some of the larger teams, you've got some really good teams here."

St. C. improved three school records Monday, all coming from the boys' side.

"We had a lot of PR's in addition to three school records being broken today," Banks said. "200 freestyle by Evan Yost, 50 and 100 free by Zach May. We had personal bests by pretty much everybody who

swam today. It was a good day."

The Cadets dominated relays from Monday, winning four of six - the girls 200-yard medley relay, the boys 200-yard freestyle relay, the girls 400-yard freestyle medley relay, and the girls 200-yard freestyle relay. St. Clairsville took first place in the boys 200-yard medley relay and the boys 400-yard freestyle medley.

Local standouts on the girls side of individual events include Linsly's Chiara Chieffo, who won the girls 200-yard freestyle and girls 100-yard backstroke, St. Clairsville's Claire Daubenmeyer who won the 200-yard individual medley, Linsly's Anna Norman who won the girls 50-yard freestyle and girls 100-yard freestyle, Linsly's Tuana Ozdemir who won the girls 100-yard fly and 500-yard freestyle, and the Cadet's Sarah Coha who won the girls 100-yard breaststroke.

On the boys side, St. Clairsville's Evan Yost won the boys 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard fly, Linsly's Kameron Kezele won the boys 500-yard freestyle, and St. Clairsville's Zach May won the boys 50-yard freestyle and boys 100-yard freestyle.

Beaver Local's Cole Long won the boys 200-yard individual medley and the boys 100-yard backstroke, while Edison's Gage Cable won the boys 100-yard breaststroke.

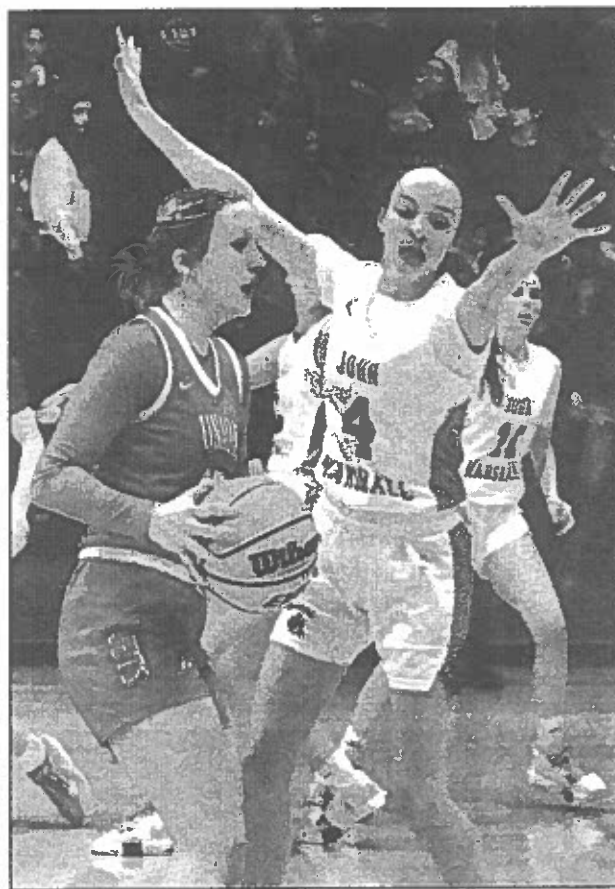


Photo by Kim North

John Marshall's Kaylee White (4) pressures Union Local's Lauren Miller during Monday night's game inside the John Marshall Field House in Moundsville. Miller had 23 points to lead the Jets to a 66-41 triumph.

UL Knocks Down 11 Treys In Win Over Monarchs

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE - Union Local had its shooting shoes laced up really tight Monday night as the visiting Jets made their first five three-point shots and had 11 for the game in rolling past John Marshall, 66-41, in girls' basketball action inside the John Marshall Field House.

The Jets (14-5) held an 18-3 advantage less than three minutes into the contest and were never threatened as they held leads of 22-7 after one quarter; 36-20 at the half and 53-29 entering the final panel. They shot 50 percent (23-46) from the floor and knocked down all nine of their free throw attempts.

"We had a great start," Union Local head coach

Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said. "We have the utmost respect for John Marshall. We were short-handed once again with Ella (Pietranton) still out. We started four sophomores and a senior and they girls played well. They shot well. They shared the ball well and we played really good defense.

"These girls are growing up and you can see it in their play," he noted. "I couldn't be more proud of any team I've coached as I am of this one."

Sophomore Alli Kellaway sparked the quick start with seven of her career-high 16 points.

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Please see TREYS.
Page 10

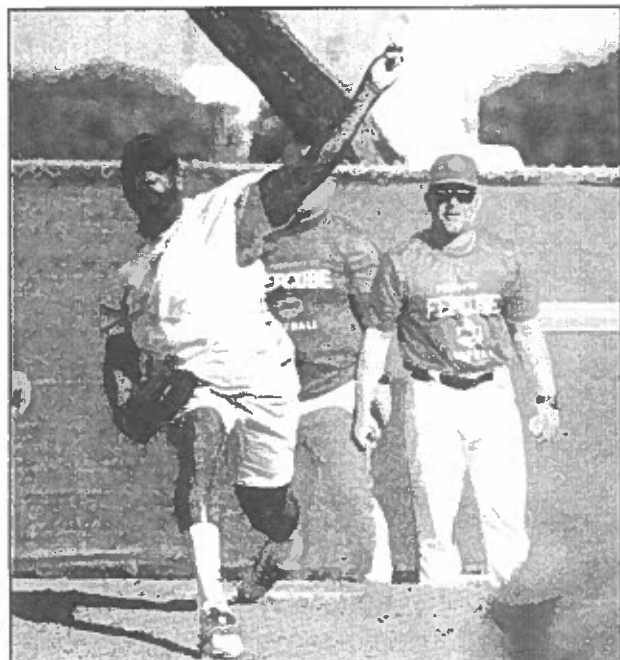
Edwards Close To Return, But What Kind Of WVU Team Is He Returning To?

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN - In the ever revolving and evolving basketball team that is West Virginia's, another change is about to occur, one that will make a complete team but that will require a bit of lineup reconstruction.

With the team set to go on the road for two games, playing Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Central Florida and then on to Oklahoma State on Saturday coming off a stunning home upset of No. 3 Kansas. Coach Josh Eilert will try to integrate his starting center back into the lineup after five weeks without him as he recovered from a broken bone in his right wrist.

Aroldis Chapman Signs One-Year Deal With Pirates



PITTSBURGH (AP) - The Pittsburgh Pirates have bolstered the back end of their bullpen, agreeing to terms with seven-time All-Star reliever Aroldis Chapman on a one-year deal worth \$10.5 million.

The deal is pending completion of a physical, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. The source spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal isn't yet final.

Chapman gives the Pirates an experienced left-hander to work in a potential set-up role for All-Star closer David Bednar. The 14-year veteran, who turns 36 next month, has 321 saves while playing for

3.09 ERA and six saves in 61 games with Kansas City and Texas last season. The Rangers acquired the hard-throwing Chapman from the Royals in late June and he responded by helping the club win its first World Series. Chapman appeared in nine postseason games for the Rangers, allowing two runs in eight innings. Chapman will be joined in Pittsburgh by Rangers teammate Martin Perez, who agreed to an \$8 million, one-year deal with the Pirates in December.

Pittsburgh used right-hander Colin Holderman and left-hander Ryan Borucki in high-leverage situations last season in front of Bednar, a two-time All-Star for his

SPORTS

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Tuesday,
January 23, 2024

St. C. boys, girls swimmers win 4A

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

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See SWIMMERS, Page B2



Photo by NICK HENTHORN

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Luke Stack competes in the 200-yard individual medley on Monday's OVAC Swimming Championships. Stack placed third in the event while the Red Devils boys team placed first in 4A.

Union Local shoots lights out in romping past JM

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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"These girls are growing up and you can see it in their play," he noted. "I couldn't be more proud of any team I've coached as I am of this one."

Sophomore Alli Kellaway sparked the quick start with seven of her career-high 16 points.

"Alli had the game of her life. That was an unbelievable effort from her," Tolzda praised.

The lone senior starter, Lauren Miller, netted nine of her game-best 23. She buried two bonus bombs, as did sophomore Myah Martin who finished with three for nine points.

"We work on our shooting every day in practice," Tolzda continued.

"When you don't play any defense, that's pretty easy to do, not taking anything away from UL because they shot well. It's hard to shoot that well without a defense," a disappointed John Marshall (9-6) head coach Brock Melko said. "From pre-game on we just weren't mentally prepared and that came in a game when we needed a win to (maybe) get into the (OVAC) tournament. To show up mentally with that effort is the most disappointing thing I could have

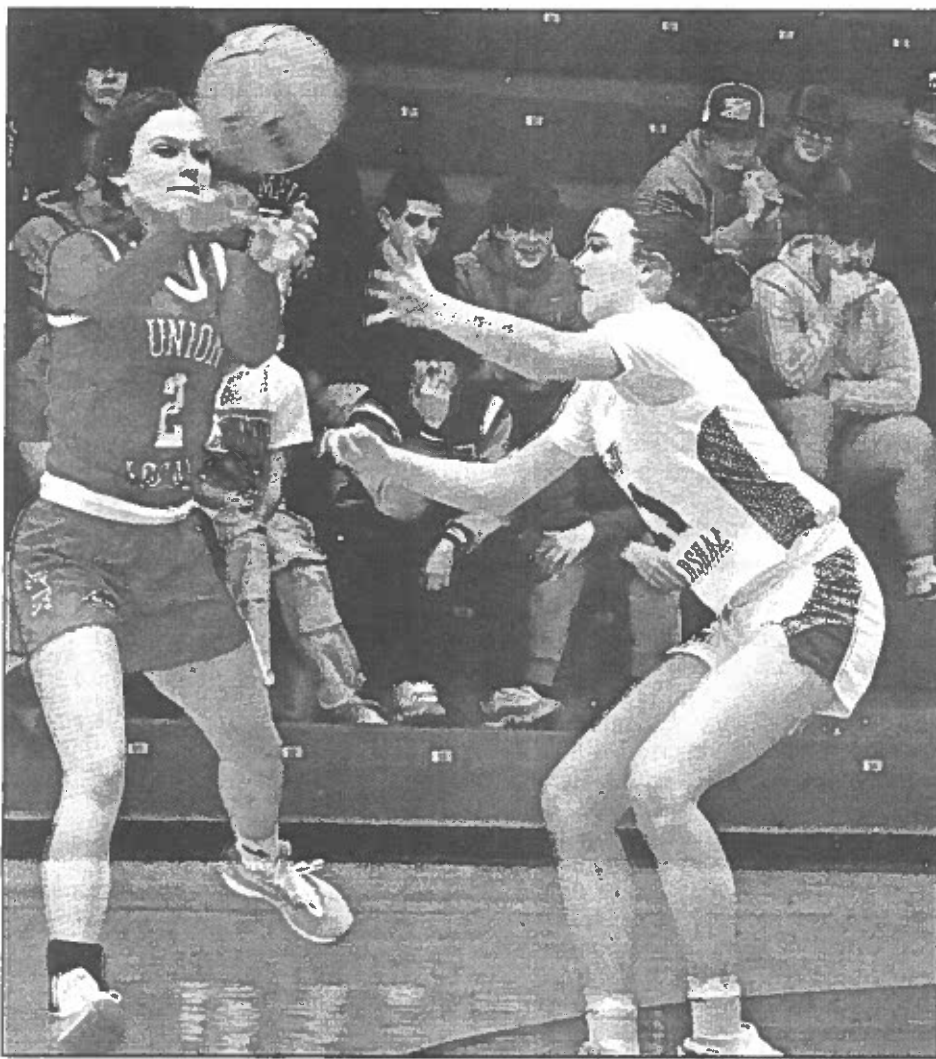


Photo by KIM NORTH

UNION LOCAL'S Alli Kellaway (2) makes a pass during the first quarter of Monday night's game at John Marshall. She scored a career-high 16 points in the Jets' 66-41 victory. Defending is the Monarchs' Rilee Storm.

ever imagined.

"I saw this coming in pre-game in the locker room. We're going over defensive assignments and the girls are giggling and laughing and weren't focused. I had a pretty bad feeling at that point.

"Then we come out and we tell them who the shooters are and we leave them wide open," he added. "We didn't pressure the ball, so we got what we deserved."

Delaney Butler pulled down 11 rebounds as the Jets held a 28-19 advantage off the glass.

"That's what she does," Tolzda said of Butler. "She has a nose for the ball

and goes and gets it."

Union Local charted 18 turnovers — 10 in the first half — which was three more than John Marshall.

Rilee Storm had 14 points for the Monarchs. Kayli Derow finished with 10.

Laken Vinskovich had 10 points and six boards for UL.

With the win, the Jets will most likely finish No. 4 in the OVAC Class 3A race and travel to top-seeded Martins Ferry next Monday. Union Local welcomes Monroe Central to Morristown on Thursday. John Marshall, meanwhile, hosts Wheeling Park on the same night.

Pirates bolster bullpen, reach \$10.5 million, 1-year deal with Chapman

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates have bolstered the back end of their bullpen, agreeing to terms with seven-time All-Star reliever Arloids Chapman on a one-year deal worth \$10.5 million.

The deal is pending completion of a physical, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. The source spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal isn't yet final.

Chapman gives the Pirates an experienced left-hander to work in a potential set-up role for All-Star closer David Bednar. The 14-year veteran, who turns 36 next month, has 321 saves while playing for five teams but has evolved into a setup man over the last two seasons.

Chapman went 6-5 with a 3.09 ERA and six saves in 61 games with Kansas City and Texas last season. The Rangers acquired the hard-throwing Chapman from the Royals in late June and he responded by helping the club win its first World Series. Chapman appeared in nine postseason games for the Rangers, allowing two runs in eight innings.

Chapman will be joined in Pittsburgh by Rangers teammate Martin Perez, who agreed to an \$8 million, one-year deal with the Pirates in December.

Pittsburgh used right-hander Colin Holderman and left-hander Ryan Borucki in high-leverage situations last season in front of Bednar, a two-time All-Star for his hometown club. Chapman gives the Pirates another option and potentially a trade chip at the deadline.



Adrian Beltre, Joe Mauer and Todd Helton on track for Hall of Fame election; Billy Wagner close

NEW YORK (AP) — Adrian Beltre, Joe Mauer and Todd Helton appeared on track to gain entry to baseball's Hall of Fame when results are announced Tuesday, while Billy Wagner was likely to be

inclusion in Cooperstown.

Stark used all 10 of his available slots on this year's Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot. Boston Globe columnist Dan Shaughnessy checked just two

total of the approximately 400 ballots; the tracker's figures includes voters who have revealed their choices, about half those eligible to mail in ballots.

Helton was at 79.8% on the tracker



AP Photo
 West Virginia guard RaeQuan Battle (21) and forward Quinn Slazinski (11) celebrate during the second half against Kansas on Saturday in Morgantown. West Virginia won 91-85.

Mountaineers Deliver Moment To Remember

You could sense what was coming as Kerr Kriisa stood at the free throw line shooting two free throws with 2 seconds to play on Saturday night. free throws would guarantee that there were no "Hail Marys", and no miracles left that could beat the West Virginia basketball team on this Saturday night.



BOB HERTZELL
 WV News

This was one of those games that seem to come along whenever Kansas comes to town. This year, it was with them holding the No. 3 spot in the Associated Press poll while WVU was trying to put pieces of its team back together again after what had been a 6-11 start.

The setting was wild. More than 12,000 had ventured out on a night made for brandy or hot chocolate in front of the fireplace, not to trudge to the most well-known building in Morgantown — the Coliseum — to watch what most expected to be another Mountaineer loss.

It's kind of funny that WVU had been saying for a month that it would become a better team when their center and best player, Jesse Edwards, came back from an injured wrist to play, making them a complete team for the first time all season.

Please see MOUNTAINEERS, Page 12

Shamrocks Shine At OVAC Tournament

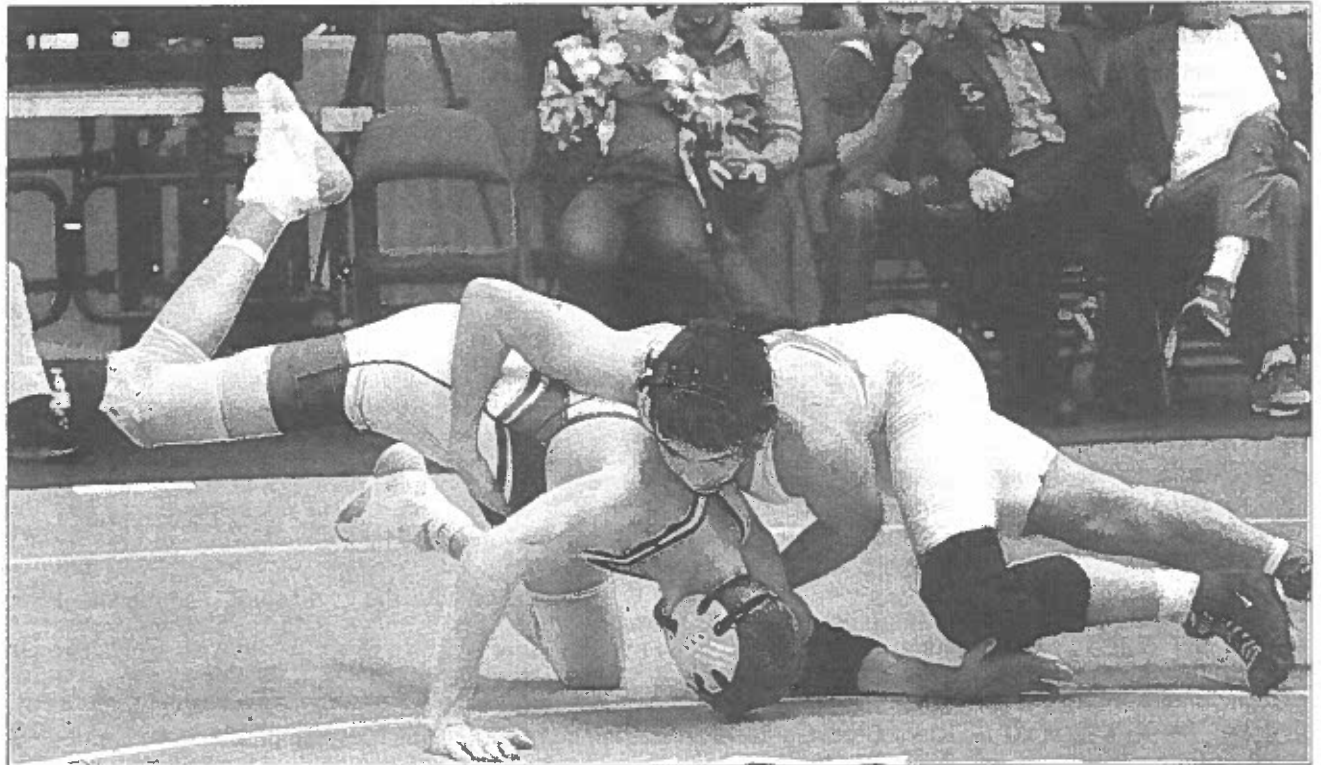


Photo by Kim North

Barnesville's Dakota King works for one of his 11 takedowns against Cameron's Slaton Pettit during the 138-pound finals at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament Saturday night inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. King became a three-time champion with a 23-8 technical fall. The Shamrocks also won their first overall team title since 1985 and their fifth consecutive Class 3A championship.

Barnesville Wrestlers Win First Conference Title Since 1985

By **KIM NORTH**
 Staff Writer

WHEELING — For the first time in nearly four decades, Barnesville finished as the overall team champion as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament came to a close Saturday night inside WesBanco arena.

The talented Shamrocks piled up 259 points to slip past University which tallied 251.5. It's the first overall championship since 1985. Barnesville also collected its fifth straight Class 3A crown and now has 13 total OVAC Tournament titles.

"The kids battled and battled. We had some kids that stepped up and got higher places on the podium that they were projected," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "This is a big deal. It's an awesome feeling but this team had a lot of bigger goals for down the road."

Please see SHAMROCKS, Page 10

West Named 2024 Mr. Mat



Photo by Kim North

Ed West, center, is presented the Mr. Mat Award by OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, right, and former Mr. Mat, Dr. Vince Monseau, right, Saturday prior to the championship finals. West is a former W.Va. state champion as a wrestler and longtime coach at John Marshall.

WHEELING — Ed West is a graduate of John Marshall High School, where he was a 1973 West Virginia state wrestling champion, compiling a career record of 58-11-1. He was a member of two state championship teams (1972 & 1973).

West earned his BA degree at West Liberty State College (now West Liberty University), and later acquired a master's degree from West Virginia University.

While coaching five years at Moundsville Junior High School (1978-1982) with Larry Chambers, West produced four undefeated teams.

Please see MAT, Page 10



Photo by Andrew Grimm

Wheeling Park senior Abby Heilman competes in the 100 breaststroke during Saturday's Bill Brubaker OVAC Swimming Championships. Heilman won the event, one of three Park swimmers to capture an individual title.

Brooke Girls Win OVAC Swimming Title; Park Boys Finish In Second

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
 For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — Thanks to a winning effort, the last member of the Brooke swimming team to hit the pool Saturday was one of its coaches.

Bruins coach Kelsie Blumette made a deal with her team that if they delivered a strong performance in the OVAC Championships, she would go in the water.

Not only did the Bruins girls team top the OVAC Class 5A field to claim the conference ti-

tle for the seventh-year coach, but the Brooke boys also tied for fourth and Blumette was named the OVAC female coach of the year prior to her own swim — assisted by an encouraging shove from celebrating Bruin swimmers.

"It was a great day for Brooke swimming," Blumette said. "Every kid swam out of their minds. We only had two days of practice we were allowed in the pool this past week and the kids showed up in a big way (Saturday)."

The Bruins girls racked up 241 points to beat out perennial contenders Morgantown (203) and Parkersburg South (200) to stand atop the podium inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

That performance was led by an event win from the 200 free relay unit of Ella Dietrich, Ella McCullough, Lyla Horvath and Faith Farrell who turned in a 1:48.22, more than four seconds better than their seed time.

Please see SWIMMING, Page 10

WLU Cruises Past Glenville



Kelce Scores Twice, Chiefs Beat Bills For Spot In AFC Title Game

Nailers Sweep Weekend Series With Iowa Heartlanders

CORALVILLE, Iowa — The Wheeling Nailers put together back-to-back stellar performances, and came away with four points to show for it, as they swept a two-game series from the Iowa Heartlanders at Xtream Arena.

Taylor Gauthier made 25 saves on Saturday night and Tanner Laderoute scored twice as Derek Army earned his 90th

career head coaching win, placing him third on the team's all-time list. The final score of the finale was 3-1.

Neither team could find the back of the net in the first period, but that changed quickly, as both sides lit the lamp within the first 63 seconds of the middle frame.

Wheeling got on the board first at the 21-second mark. Davis Bunz

lofted a saucer pass through the slot to Justin Addamo, who placed a one-timer into the left side of the cage, before crashing into the left post.

The Heartlanders knotted things up 42 seconds later. Will Calverly tossed a feed through the low slot for Pavel Novak, who lifted a one-timer into the top-left corner of the goal.

The Nailers regained the lead at the 7:53 mark of the second. Justin Lee launched a pass from his own end to Tanner Laderoute at the offensive blueline. Laderoute left his defender behind on the right side, then wound around the back of the net, before he eventually stuffed a wraparound between Hunter Jones' right pad and the left post.

Taylor Gauthier saved his biggest performance of the night for the third, as Iowa peppered the net with 12 shots, and not one of them broke through. One of those saves led to the final goal of the contest, as Laderoute swept his second of the tilt into an empty net to punctuate the 3-1 Wheeling triumph.

Taylor Gauthier was tremendous in earning

his second set of wins on consecutive nights this season, as he denied 25 of the 26 shots he faced. Hunter Jones took the loss for the Heartlanders, as he made 19 saves on 21 shots.

The next stop on the six-game road stretch for the Nailers is Reading, where they will face the Royals on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, all with 7 p.m. face-offs.

SWIMMING

(Continued from Page 9)

A slew of Bruins — Farrell second in the 50 free; McCullough third in the 100 free and second in the 100 breaststroke; Lyla Horvath fourth in the 500 free; Dietrich third in the 100 back; Kiersten Harvath fourth in the 100 back; and the second place 400 free relay unit of Lyla Horvath, Kiersten Harvath, Farrell and McCullough — also finished in the medals.

McCullough tied for an event-high four medals on the day.

"We had a runner-up on the girls side in 2019 and now a title this year ... it shows how our program keeps growing," Blumette said. "It's just awesome to see. The boys tying for fourth is big, too. They're a small, but mighty group and they shocked me today. They saw the seed sheet and wanted to be better, and they were."

Blumette's coach of the year award was a new award added this year. It was voted on by the coaches.

"It's pretty cool to be recognized by my peers," she said.

Also on the girls side, John Marshall came in fifth, Wheeling Park sixth and Big Red ninth.

The Patriots' Molly George topped the 100 backstroke in 1:05.10 and was runner-up in the 100 butterfly, while Abby Heilman won the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.25 and finished the day with four medals (third place 200 free relay unit, second in the 200 IM, fifth in the 400 free).

Big Red's Kinsey Tucker finished sixth in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly to give Steubenville a multi-event medalist.

Parkersburg South's Jordan Claypool was the female swimmer of the year recipient after capturing

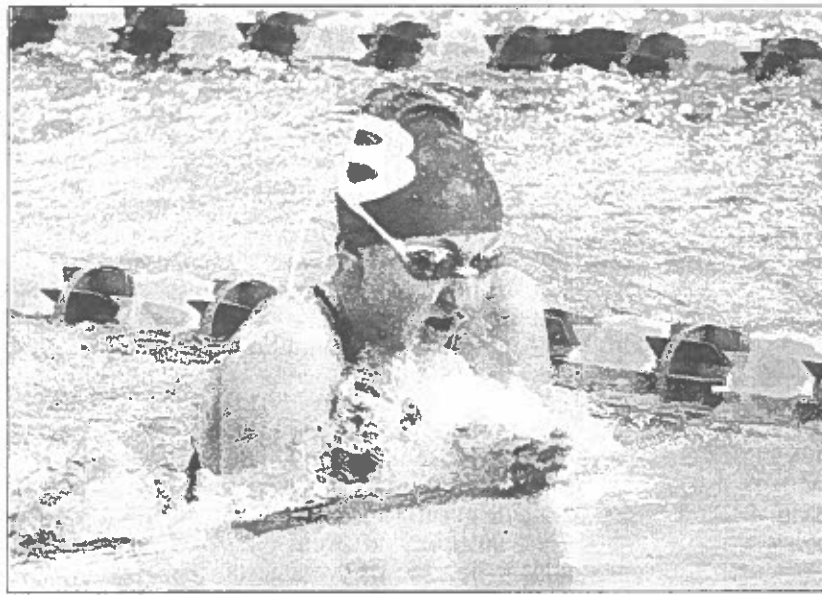


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Brooke's Ella McCullough competes in the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday during the OVAC 5A Swim Meet. McCullough tied for an event-high four medals on the day.

three golds and a bronze.

BOYS

Parkersburg South, whose coach, Ryan Radcliff, was named the conference's boys coach of the year, racked up 354 points to claim the title, topping Wheeling Park's 254 and Dover's 151.

Brooke tied Morgantown for fourth and JM came home in eighth.

South swimmers were on the podium in a total of nine of 22 events on the way to earning the crown.

Park's runner-up effort was led by Levi Parker winning the 200 free in 1:50.84 on the way to earning four medals (second place 200 medley relay team, second in the 500 free, second place 400 free relay team).

Jackson Kiziminski also had four medals for Park (second place 200

medley relay team, second place 200 IM, fourth place 100 breaststroke, second place 400 free relay team).

The Bruins didn't put anyone atop the podium on the boys side but earned their place as a team with medals in eight different events by 10 individuals/relay teams.

Warren's Mason Francis was named the male swimmer of the year after winning two golds, a bronze and a fourth-place medal on the day.

MORE TO COME

Due to being postponed Friday because of the winter storm that came through the area, the titles in Class 1A-3A and 4A will be decided today, also at the Brooke Wellness Center. The meet is set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCKS

(Continued from Page 9)

Barnesville led the 42-team field with 10 placers, including three champions, a trio of runners up, a third, a fifth and two sixths. Winning his third title, which clinched the team championship, was senior Dakota King (138).

The Ohio State University recruit put on a takedown clinic in his 23-8 technical fall of Cameron's Slaton Pettitt in the finals. He had four of his 11 two-pointers in the first period and coasted from there. All of Pettitt's points came on escapes.

"This one feels better than the first two because I finally passed my dad," Dakota said. "He won two and now I'm one up on him. That feels good."

As much pleasure as he took in passing his father, assistant Barnesville coach T.J. King, he was equally proud to be part of a championship team.

"It's been a long, long time since Barnesville won the OVAC Tournament, so this is an exciting time right now," Dakota added. "It was a total team effort and I'm glad to have been a part of it."

Other Shamrocks claiming titles were senior Skyler King (157), no relation to Dakota, and surprising freshman Colt Carpenter (126). It was Skyler King's second consecutive title as he blanked Southernville's

they are doing big things. We made a run at them, but just could get over the top."

The Hawks won the Class 5A team title and also had a trio of titlists in three-time champ Luca Felix (165), two-time titlist Brock Kehler (285) and Pepper Martin (106). Felix defeated Barnesville's Ayden King, 8-2, while Kehler pinned Harrison Central's Landen Thomas and Martin decisioned Beaver Local's Justus Fisher, 9-1.

Parkersburg South, which finished as the Class 5A runner up with 203 points, had two champions, as did Steubenville, which finished third in Class 5A with 181.

The Wood County Patriots winners were Gage Wright (175) and Cole Smith (113). The No. 1 nationally ranked Wright posted a 12-2 major decision over Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard, who was a defending OVAC champion. Smith edged East Liverpool's Tristen Eckles, 3-2.

Big Red winners were sophomore Cooper Smith (144) and senior Brody Saccoccia (150). Smith topped Barnesville senior Karson Milhoan, 5-1, while Saccoccia outlasted the Shamrocks' Reese Stephen, 2-1, in an ultimate tiebreaker.

Wheeling Central was the Class 3A runner up with 101.5 points.

Going to camps also helped me further my skills," he said.

Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120) became a three-time champ with a pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Rositer in 3:49. The win helped the Golden Bears to the Class 4 team title in head coach Josh Cornell's second year. They tied with Indian Creek last year.

"Our depth really came through this weekend," Cornell said. "We had some guys step up and get on the podium. Sure we would've liked to have had more, but we had enough to get the job done."

When asked about Davis, Cornell really didn't know what to say that he already hasn't about his senior stud.

"He just goes out and takes care of business."

Other champions were Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215) and Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (132). Both won their second titles, but Thomas's first came two years ago. He was runner up last year.

Thomas pinned Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin in 5:37.

"This championship feels a lot better than the first because I felt I was more dominant and in control tonight," Thomas said.

Buccheit earned a 3-1 decision over University's Carter Bayler

Bellaire Girls Get Past Indian Creek, 54-51, In Buckeye 8 Title Game

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Bellaire just may have Indian Creek's number in girls basketball.

Squaring off Saturday in the Buckeye 8 championship game, the Big Reds once again forced numerous turnovers with their pressure defense which ultimately led to their 54-51 triumph on John Jenkins Court.

The win also snapped Union Local's streak of four-straight conference titles, dating back to the 2019-20 season. Prior to that, it was head coach John Farrier's Big Reds who won the previous three, making Saturday's Buckeye 8 title the team's fourth in conference history.

While the outcome came down to the wire, Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft believes the game was lost in the first quarter.

It was there Creek turned the ball over nine times in the first quarter and at one point trailed 10-2 before battling back to trail by two at 15-13 by quarter's end.

A couple steals and lay-ins from McKenna Scott helped Creek cut back into the lead as Scott scored 12 of her game-high 23 points in the first half.

Bellaire, meanwhile, featured a balanced scoring effort, led early by Rhyann O'Grady.

The Big Reds' guard also scored 12 in the first quarter plus a couple easy buckets off turnovers. She was backed by eight from Zara Harveth and nine from Eliana Mason, but it was O'Grady leading the charge early.

Bellaire took the lead for good on a pair of Harveth free throws with 39 seconds remaining to break a 51-51 tie.

Trailing by two and after a miss, Creek fouled Harveth again with nine seconds. She missed the first but made the second, putting the Reds up by three.

Creek worked the ball down the floor, but a player fed the ball inside to Kylie Anderson, who had to shoot with only a second to go. The shot rimmed out and the game ended.

Anderson, who finished with nine points, had only two after the break as Creek opted to

O'Grady totaled 15 and Mason added 11 for Bellaire.

Martins Ferry 66, Beaver Local 22

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Purple Riders (12-4) took command early behind their full-court pressure and held a 46-17 advantage at the half.

The 44-point margin of victory was Martins Ferry's fourth straight win by at least 20 points.

Lindsey Best had a team-best 22 points, followed by Lindse Sidon with 15. Maddie Lucas chipped in 10.

The Beavers (5-11) were led by Karsyn Bowyer with 11 points.

Union Local 72, St. Clairsville 15

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Jets wasted little time early in putting any upset thoughts from the Red Devils to bed, taking a 19-4 lead after one.

Defensively, Union Local forced numerous turnovers and never allowed St. Clairsville to score more than five points in a quarter. Anna Kain led the Red Devils with seven points.

The Jets, meanwhile, got a balanced effort, led by 15 apiece from Lauren Miller and Delaney Butler while Laken Vinskovich went for 10.

Teagan Day added nine off the bench for Union Local.

Harrison Central 63, Cambridge 35

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Maddie Sedgmer had a game-high 20 points as the Huskies rolled past the Bobcats.

Danica Rensi added 19 and Lauren Doane finished with 10.

River 67, Shenandoah 32

SARASVILLE — Senior Kelsey Harlan led River High with 23 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in a win over Shenandoah on Saturday.

Freshman Maci Isaly (14) and junior Kaylee Hagan (11) backed Harlan in scoring.

River led 28-5, 41-14 and 57-25 at the breaks.

Coach Rick Isaly's 12-2 Lady Pilots visit Monroe Central (13-3) tonight in a huge OVAC 2-A clash.

BOYS BASKETBALL Barnesville 43, Caldwell 39

CALDWELL — Asa Geilinger led three

SPORTS

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Sunday,
January 21, 2024

Miners prep for 2024 debut with new head coach

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Miners are off and running in preparations for their 2024 debut in the American Arena League 2 indoor football.

The fifth indoor franchise to call WesBanco Arena its home this summer, the Miners have hired Josh Resignalo as their

head coach/general manager. 'Coach Res' has 17 years of Indoor and Arena league experience.

Majority owner Chris Duffy said in a release, "We are thrilled to have Coach Res join our team. His wealth of experience will undoubtedly elevate Wheeling to new heights, and we're excited for the journey ahead under his guidance."

"Coach Res' is as eager to get started as Duffy is to have him.

"I've been around indoor football since 2006 as a scout, player, coach and general manager up and down the East Coast," he said in a Friday telephone interview from his home in Mount Airy, NC. "I've known Chris for quite some time and we worked together

with the Atlanta Havoc in 2018 when we won the American Arena League title by beating the Richmond Roughriders which a year later became the West Virginia Roughriders."

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris Duffy and Josh Resignalo to the American Indoor Football League for the 2024 season," said John Morris, AIF Commissioner, in a release.

"Their experience, expertise, and dedication to the sport will undoubtedly bring a new level of excitement and competitiveness to the league. We look forward to their contributions in further solidifying the AIF as one of the premier indoor football leagues in the United States."

See MINERS, Page C2

OVAC postpones several events due to weather

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Due to the forecast of inclement weather, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was forced to postpone its Bill Brubaker Swimming and Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships on Friday as the Ohio Valley was blanketed with a few inches of snow.

Swimming

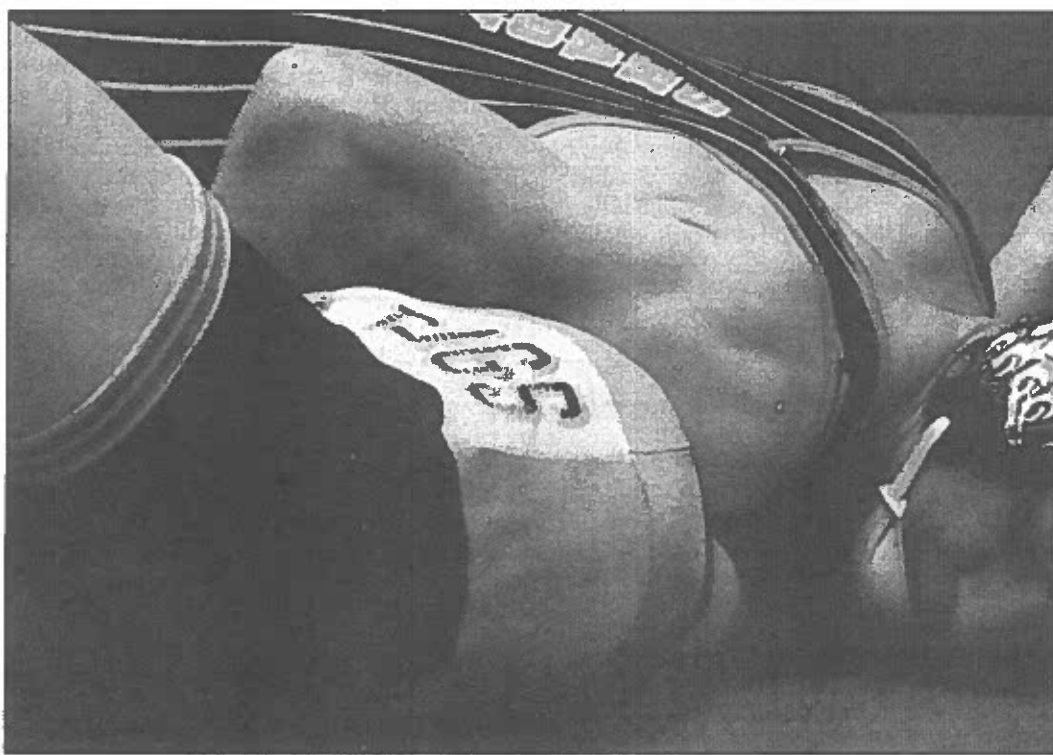
According to a release, the Class 5A portion of the event will be held Saturday, as scheduled, but the start time has been pushed up to 11:30 a.m. inside the Wellness Center at Brooke High School.

However, the Class 1A-3A and Class 4A portions, originally scheduled for Friday, have been pushed back until Monday, still at Brooke High School, with a start time of 5:30 p.m.

Defending champions on the boys side are Linsly (Class 1A-3A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A) and Parkersburg South (Class 5A). The Cadets have a record 63 titles. On the girls side, Linsly (1A-3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Dover (5A) are defending titlists.

WRESTLING

The 70th annual event began Thursday night and completed three rounds — two in the championship bracket and one in the consolation



SHADYSIDE'S ANDREW Osman pins Bridgeport's Dakota Lashhorn during their 144-pound pigtail match on Thursday night at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

Photo by KIM NORTH

bracket.

Action resumed Saturday at 10 a.m. inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena with quarter final matches in the championship bracket and second-round consolation bouts. Third- and fourth-round consolation matches will also be contested before the championship semifinals at approximately 2 p.m. Semi-final consolation matches

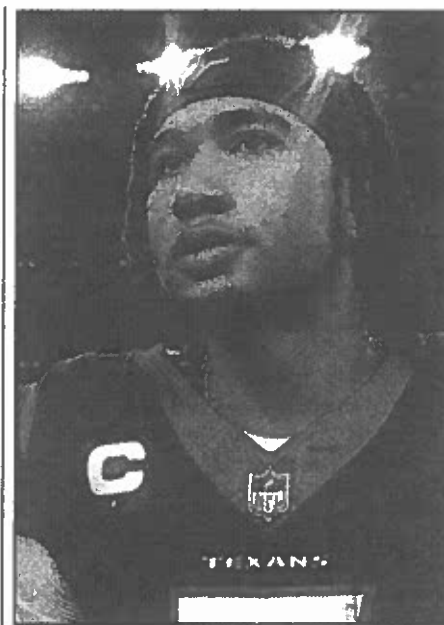
will conclude the afternoon session.

At 5:30 p.m., the prestigious Mr. Mat Award will be presented prior to matches for first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-places being contested simultaneously on four mats.

Class 3A Barnesville leads the 42-team field with 89 points and 11 quarter finalists. The Shamrocks are led

by four of the returning nine champions. Leading the way is two-time titlist and Ohio State University recruit Dakota King (138). The other three are defending Ohio Division III state champion Reese Stephen (150), Johnathan Huntsman (113) and Ayden King (157). All four are No. 1 seeds.

See OVAC, Page C2



AP Photo

HOUSTON TEXANS quarterback C.J. Stroud celebrates after their win against the Cleveland Browns in an NFL wild-card playoff football game in Houston.

Stroud shows poise beyond his years in leading Texans to playoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — Rookie C.J. Stroud impressed fans across the country with his poise and calmness in leading the Houston Texans to a win over Cleveland in his playoff debut.

Though the performance was eye-opening to many, for those in Houston who know him best, it was just what they expected.

"He's proven that big games don't phase him," offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik said. "I wonder if his heart rate drops. He's a special individual in that way."

Stroud even impressed Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson, who he'll square off against Saturday in the divisional round, with his work against the Browns.

"From my experience, he played better than I did from my rookie playoff game, I would say that," said Jackson, who threw for 194 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in a 23-17 loss to the Chargers in his playoff debut in 2019. "He was throwing the ball all over the field, making things happen. He did great."

Stroud, the second overall pick, threw for 274 yards and three touchdowns against Cleveland's top-ranked defense in the 45-14 rout. At just 22, he became the youngest quarterback to win a playoff game.

Stroud was 16 of 21 before sitting down for good with about nine minutes left and the game well in hand. His 157.2 passer rating was the best by a rookie with at least 20 passing attempts in a game in NFL history.

He was asked to explain how he's

Ohio State hires Bill O'Brien, ex-Texans coach and Alabama assistant, as offensive coordinator

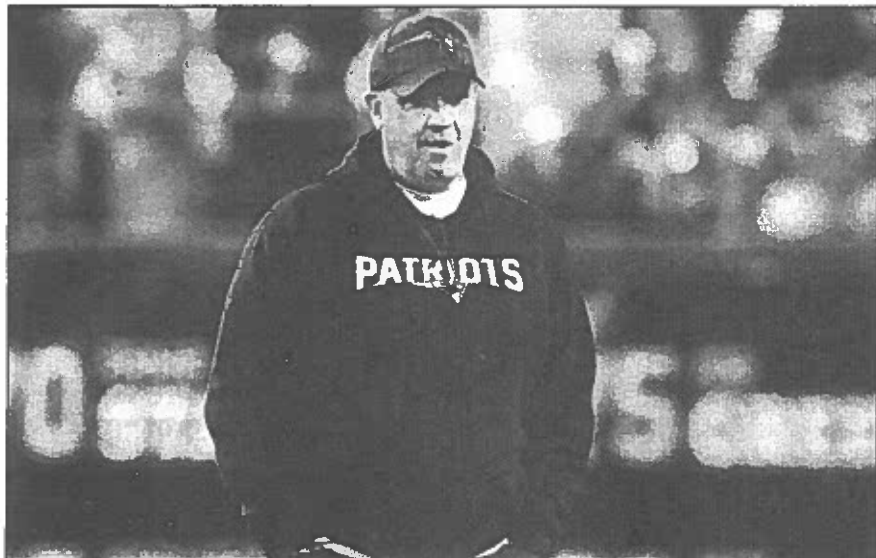
Ohio State has hired former Houston Texans and Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien as its offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, the program confirmed in a statement Friday.

"He is an excellent and experienced offensive coach who has run NFL and Power 5 programs and developed some truly elite players throughout his career," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said in a statement. "He'll be an excellent teacher and recruiter for us, and he absolutely strengthens our staff."

Day has been Ohio State's primary play-caller since being promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach in 2019 to replace Urban Meyer.

Bringing in an experienced play-caller at both the college and NFL level could allow Day to hand off those responsibilities.

Brian Hartline will remain a co-offensive coordinator as well as wide receivers coach. Quarterbacks coach Corey Dennis, Meyer's son-in-law, "will transition into a still-to-be-determined role with the program," the statement said.



AP Photo

NEW ENGLAND Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien watches warmups for the team's NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Dec. 7, 2023, in Pittsburgh. Ohio State is hiring O'Brien as its offensive coordinator.

INSIDE:

More States Join NCAA Lawsuit/C2
Gauff, Sabalenka Advance/C3
Scoreboard/C4
Bills Look To Avoid Loss vs. Chiefs/C5
Stroud Showing Poise In Playoffs/C6

SSAC To Determine Winning State Championship Host Bid Soon

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The future of the West Virginia State Football Championships is officially in limbo.

The WVSSAC board of directors heard four competing bids to host the games, including one from Wheeling, the home of the state championships the last 30 years, on Wednesday in their Parkersburg office. A decision on where the championships will be held should come next month.

Wheeling was represented by Ohio County Schools assistant superintendent Rick Jones, and

Wheeling Park High School Athletic Director and head football coach Chris Daugherty.

With Wheeling's four-year contract to host the games expiring in December, the pair's presentation Wednesday drew attention to what has kept the event in Wheeling for decades, and what the future of the championships can look like in the Friendly City.

"We had a great bid presentation that highlighted all the things the people before us have worked so hard on to make this a top-notch event," Jones said. "We also highlighted some things that we will

add to enhance the experience for the teams- added features with the jumbotron, videos for all the players following them through the entire weekend, among other things."

Members of the board- made up of the WVSSAC executive director David Price along with a number of assistant directors, high school principals and state representatives- will conduct visits to the sites of the different bid locations, and are expected to make a decision in February.

Aside from Wheeling, the other bids came from Charleston, Bluefield, and a hybrid proposition involving both

West Virginia University and Marshall University in which the two schools would alternate hosting the event.

Though the SSAC is already well-acquainted with Wheeling.

"We know almost everybody [on the board]," Jones said. "I used to serve on that board for three years when I was a principal."

"I already kind of know what they think- that they really like the event here and they always have, it's just a matter of deciding as a group if this is the time to take it somewhere else or to keep it here, and they know what they're getting here."

With the ball now in the SSAC's court, Jones and Daugherty will have to wait and see what route the state will choose.

"We've been interviewing for this for 30 years," Jones said. "There was nothing in that 30-minute presentation that was going to make or break what they think of Wheeling. Regardless of what happens, they know Wheeling's done a fantastic job. I've estimated Wheeling has invested over \$2 million over the past 30 years into this event. People have done the best they possibly could, and we hope to continue that."



AP Photo

West Virginia guard Kerr Kriisa (3) is defended by Oklahoma guard Javian McCollum (2) and others during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Norman, Okla.

Jayhawks Travel To Face WVU In Old Rivalry Without Old Dynamic

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN - Let's understand one thing right now, it just won't be the same when No. 3 Kansas comes to the Coliseum to face West Virginia at 4 p.m. in a game shown on what is fast becoming known as WVU-TV: ESPN+.

With apologies to Mountaineer coach Josh Eilert, what has made West Virginia vs. Kansas special since the Mountaineers jumped from the Big East to the Big 12 in 2013 is that it matched up two Hall of Fame coaches in Bill Self at Kansas and Bob Huggins at WVU.

They had coached against each other in all 27 meetings, with Self winning 21 of them, but then again Self's Kansas team was nationally ranked in each and every game while Huggins' only 14 times. What's more, Self was playing his home games in the venerable Allen Fieldhouse, where

Kansas almost never loses.

And against WVU, you remove the qualifier "never" for Kansas is 11 in "The Phog" and 5-0 on neutral courts, if playing in the Big 12 Tournament held in KANSAS City can really be considered neutral.

The rivalry has been spirited the way it is supposed to be between two great coaches, and so it was only fair that Self be asked whether he'll miss seeing Huggins on this trip.

"Maybe I will see Huggs," Self said, certainly aware that Huggins has been among the crowd at a number of Mountaineer home games.

It was obvious that Self had prepared for such a question, for he added this:

"I guarantee Josh will be better dressed, no doubt. And he'd look better if they wore the same thing."

Huggins, deposed as Mountaineer coach this year after a pair of off-season indiscretions, of course, is responsible

for the coaching fraternity disposing with wearing coats and ties to coach games, starting a "fashion" trend with pullovers.

Self paid homage to Huggins and his situation without being asked to.

"I want him to be remembered and thought of in a way as a guy who brought a great legacy to our profession. I wish the best for him, but I'm not saying that at the expense of anyone else," he said.

That was the perfect transition from Memory Lane to Saturday night's game.

WVU may be 6-11, but Self would not point any fingers at Eilert being responsible for such.

"I think Josh has done a good job in a hard situation. That's not easy," Self said.

Think about what it's like replacing a legend. It's hard to fill a pair of size 14 shoes when you only have a size 8 foot.

Please see WVU, Page C2

OVAC Events Put On Hold With Weather Postponements

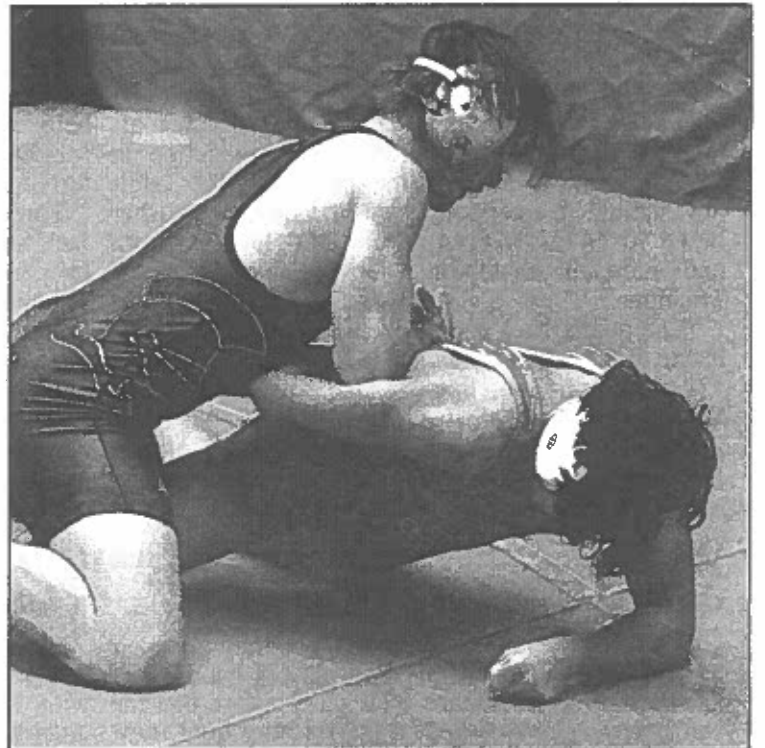


Photo by Kim North

Martins Ferry's Andrew Leiffer supplies an arm bar to St. Clairsville's Daelyn Harris during their 165-pound first round match Thursday night at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. Leiffer won the bout.

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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Please see OVAC, Page C2



Braced For Tough Sledding, Offseason Seems "So Far, So Good" For Buckeyes

By MITCH STACY
AP Sports Writer

key contributors eligible mitigated by blue chip for the NFL draft decision wideout Emeka Egbuka's