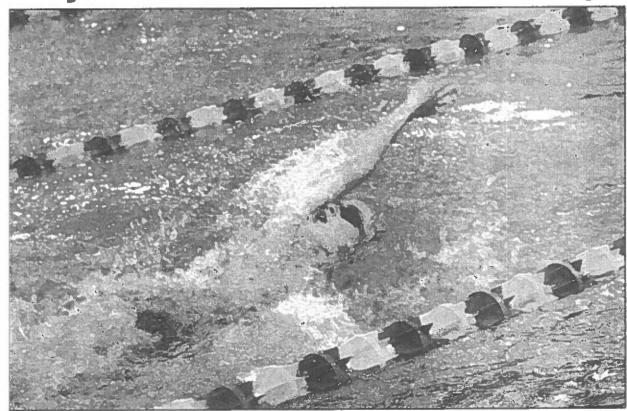
Linsly, St. Clairsville Dominate Day Two Of OVAC Swimming



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

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

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 can hang in there with some of the ville's Evan Yost won the boys larger teams, you've got some really good teams here."

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

kids on the podium."

their respective classes.

St. Clairsville's boys and girls we've got a couple big meets left."

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

Linsly finished leaps and 159.5, and Edison with 122.

Their girls team just added out

"We had a lot of PR's in addition 100-yard freestyle. harped on it every practice leading to three school records being broken up to it, B-relays are going to be key. Obviously our goal was to by Evan Yost, 50 and 100 free by ley and the boys 200-yard individual medcompete at the high-end level too. Zach May. We had personal bests stroke, while Edison's Gage Cable

swam today. It was a good day."

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 wids 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 and girls was a good day."

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

St. Clairsville's boys piled up 243 team points in 4A, beating

Local standouts on the girls side of individual events include Linsly's 59.5, and Edison with 122.

Their girls team just edged out dian Creek, the Red Devils totalng 208 points and Creek finishng at 193. Beaver local finished control of third vidual events include Entity's Chiara Chieffo, who won the girls 100yard backstroke, St. Clairsville's Claire Daubenmeyer who won the 200-yard individual medley, Linlsy'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

Beaver Local's Cole Long won We're excited that we got several by pretty much everybody who won the boys 100-yard breaststroke.



John Marshall's Kaylee White (4) pressures Únion 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

the John Marshall Field

the contest and were never threatened as they held I am of this one.' leads of 22-7 after one Sophomore Alli Kell-quarter; 36-20 at the half away sparked the quick and 53-29 entering the final panel. They shot 50 percent (23-46) from the floor and knocked down her life. That was an un-

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

Lou "Scooter" Tolzda Staff Writer said. "We have the ut-MOUNDSVILLE most respect for John Union Local had its Marshall. "We were shooting shoes laced up short-handed once again really tight Monday night with Ella (Pietranton) as the visiting Jets made still out. We started four their first five three-point sophomores and a senior shots and had 11 for the and they girls played game in rolling past John well. They shot well. Marshall, 66-41, in girls' They shared the ball well basketball action inside and we played really good defense.

"These girls are grow-The Jets (14-5) held ing up and you can see it an 18-3 advantage less in their play," he noted. "I than three minutes into couldn't be more proud of any team I've coached as

> start with seven of her career-high 16 points.
> "Alli had the game of

all nine of their free throw attempts. believable effort from her," Tolzda praised.

Please see TREYS, Page 10

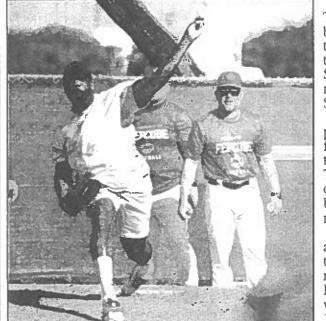
Edwards Close To Return, But What Kind Of WVU Team Is He Returning To?

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



\$10.5 million.

pletion of a physical, a person games for the Rangers, allowfamiliar with the agreement ing two runs in eight innings. told The Associated Press.

Chapman gives the Pirates December. an experienced left-hander 321 saves while playing for a two-time All-Star for his

PITTSBURGH (AP) = 3.09 ERA and six saves in 61 The Pittsburgh Pirates have games with Kansas City and bolstered the back end of Texas last season. The Rangtheir bullpen, agreeing to ers acquired the hard-throwterms with seven-time All- ing Chapman from the Royals Star reliever Aroldis Chap- in late June and he responded man on a one-year deal worth by helping the club win its first World Series. Chapman The deal is pending com- appeared in nine postseason

Chapman will be joined The source spoke to the AP in Pittsburgh by Rangers on condition of anonymity teammate Martin Perez, who because the deal isn't yet fi- agreed to an \$8 million, oneyear deal with the Pirates in

Pittsburgh used rightto work in a potential set-up hander Colin Holderman and role for All-Star closer David left-hander Ryan Borucki in Bednar. The 14-year veteran, high-leverage situations last who turns 36 next month, has season in front of Bednar,

Tuesday, January 23, 2024



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

St. C. boys, girls swimmers win 4A

By NICK HENTHORN Sports Editor

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 the gold in both

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

42 points.

On the girls side, Linsly totaled BROOKE - The OVAC Swim- 352 points, followed by Martins Ferming Championships wrapped up ry's silver finish at 111, and Wheel-cord-brea at Brooke High School on Monday ing Central taking the bronze with Monday.

eir respective classes.

Levi said. "Those are big points the year for her because we've got a St. Clairsville's boys and girls won because relay points are doubled. couple big meets left." You need more than just one or two swimmers to win the meet. You need Linsly finished leaps and bounds everybody to come together, swim ond-place Beaver Local with 159.5, above the competition, the boys tak- for each other. We'd harped on it eving first with 358 points, Barnesville ery practice leading up to it, B-relays coming in second with 76 points and are going to be key. Obviously our

Wheeling Central taking third with 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

St. Clairsville's boys piled up 243 team points in 4A, beating secand Edison with 122.

See **SWIMMERS**, Page B2

Union Local shoots lights out in romping past JM

BV 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.

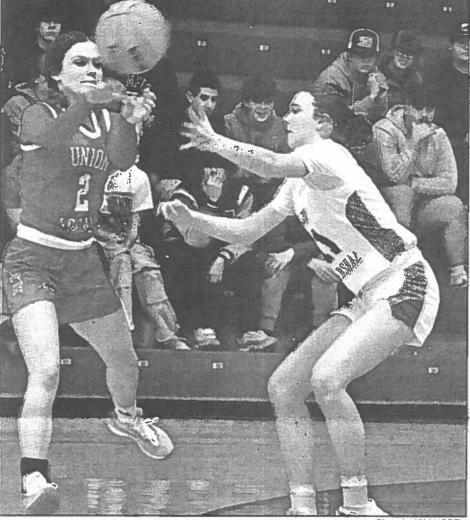
Sophomore Alli Kellaway sparked the quick start with seven of her career-high 16 points.

"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 ever imagined. three for nine points.

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 (may-bounds as the Jets held a 28-19 advanbe) get into the (OVAC) tournament. To tage off the glass. show up mentally with that effort is the most disappointing thing I could have of Butler. "She has a nose for the ball hosts Wheeling Park on the same night.



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.

"I saw this coming in pre-game in the "We work on our shooting every day locker room. We're going over defen- 10 in the first half - which was three sive 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 10. who the shooters are and we leave them wide open," he added. "We didn't six boards for UL. pressure the ball, so we got what we deserved."

and goes and gets it."

Union Local charted 18 turnovers more than John Marshall.

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

Laken Vinskovich had 10 points and

With the win, the Jets will most likely finish No. 4 in the OVAC Class 3A race Delaney Butler pulled down 11 re- and travel to top-seeded Martins Ferry next Monday. Union Local welcomes Monroe Central to Morristown on 'That's what she does," Tolzda said Thursday. John Marshall, meanwhile,

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

NEW YORK (AP) - Adrian Beltre, inclusion in Cooperstown. Joe Mauer and Todd Helton appeared on

track to gain entry to baseball's Hall of this year's Baseball Writers' Association have revealed their choices, about half Fame when results are announced Tues- of America ballot. Boston Globe colum- those eligible to mail in ballots. day, while Billy Wagner was likely to be nist. Dan Shaughnessy checked just two

nal total of the approximately 400 ballots; Stark used all 10 of his available slots on the tracker's figures includes voters who

Helton was at 70 8% on the tracker

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 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 five teams but has evolved into a setup man over the

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 twotime All-Star for his hometown club. Chapman gives the Pirates another option and potentially a trade chip at the deadline.



Camerons swat the Hundred Hornets

CAMERON – Lance Hartley led three Kaylee Hagan added 14 points.

ameron players in double figures with Martins Ferry 66, Shadyside 17 Cameron players in double figures with 17 points and the Dragons (8-3) roared to a 29-10 lead after one quarter in drilling visiting Hundred, 79-39. Monday night in boys' high school basketball action inside the Dragons Den.

Colin Magers added 14 points and Mason Scott had a dozen. Colson Wichterman and Colton Winters had nine and eight, respectively.

Colt Sandy paced the Hornets with 14. one more than Brayden Bartrug.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Monroe Central 64, River 62

WOODSFIELD Jadyn Miller knocks down half of the Seminoles 12 three-point goals on her way to a teamhigh 20 points and three other teammates reached double figures in their narrow win over the Pilots.

Mayzie Emery had five treys and 17 points, while Riley Bettinger had 12 and Jacey English 11. Bettinger also grabbed 12 rebounds for a double-double. She also dished out five assists. English charted four steals and a like number of assists.

River's Kelsey Harlan led all scorers with 31, with 25 coming in the second half. had a 135 and 250.

SHADYSIDE - Lindsey Best had a game-high 16 points and Savannah Koller added 10 as the Purple Riders (12-4) won their fifth straight and eighth in their last nine outings.

Clay-Battelle 42, Valley 37 PINE GROVE - The visiting Cee-Bees outscored the Lumberjills 15-10 in the

fourth quarter for their narrow victory Ali Hellyer had eight of her game-high 18 in the decisive quarter.

Winter Higgins had 17 for Valley Harrison Central 66, Edison 47 CADIZ - Danica Rensi scored 24 points as the Huskies ran away from the

Wildcats. Angi Ferri added 10. **BOWLING**

Monroe Boys Still Perfect WOODSFIELD - The Seminoles rolled past Beallsville, 1,229 to 914 Monday night at the Russell Family Bowling Center.

Owen Weckbacher had a 194 game and 330 series while Ethan Gillespie added a 179 and 313.

The Blue Devils were led by Joey Osborne with a 137 and 238. Kyler Graham

Swimmers

Continued from Page B1

Their girls team just edged out Indian Creek, the Red Devils totalling 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'

"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 TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS) Daubenmeyer who won the 200-yard individual medley, Linlsy'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, Linlsy's Kameron Kezele won the boys 500yard 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.

Fame

Continued from Page B1

"I don't think there's any clear dividing line anymore," said Bob Costas, winner of the Hall's Frick Award for broadcasters but not a voter. "I think the modern analytics have been informative. and they've revealed a valid case for some people who previously had been overlooked. But you've got so many overlapping circumstances.

"It's a mishmash. There's so many different ways to come at it." added Costas, saying debate often comes down to: "Well. if this guy is in it, why isn't that guy in?"

Steroids-tainted Alex Rodr guez (35.7%) and Manny Ram rez (33.2%) fell far short last year. Shaughnessy left them off, citing the criteria on the ballot specifying "voting shall be based upon the player's record. playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the play-

er played."
"The hard part's been the disqualifiers for those who take the character clause into consideration,

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and that's been the bane of existence for this Hall voter for quite some time," Shaughnessy said. "It feels like we're finally clearing through a little bit, but it's still strict, unforgiving on that one.

"I know it's not popular, and I know it's going away. I think the younger voters don't care about it, and I understand that.'

Beltre, a four-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove third baseman, hit .286 with 477 homers and 1,707 RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers (1998-2004), Seattle (2005-09), Boston (2010) and Texas (2011-18). His 2,759 games at third base are second to Brooks Robinson's 2,870 and his 636 doubles are 11th on the career list.

Mauer was a six-time All-Star, three-time Gold Glove winner and the 2009 AL MVP during 15 seasons with Minnesota. He is the only catcher to win three batting titles. He batted .306 with 143 homers and 906 RBIs with Minnesota from 2004-18.

Helton received 16.5% support in 2019, his first year on the ballot. A five-

time All-Star first baseman and the 2000 major league batting champion, he hit .316 in 17 seasons for Colorado with 369 homers, 1,406 RBIs and 1,401 runs. He had widely divergent home/road statistics, batting .345 with 200 homers and 791 RBIs in the mile-high air of Coors Field and .287 with 142 homers and 547 sin RBIs on the road.

of ballots when he was Election Announcement first eligible in 2016. The seven-time All-Star is sixth in career saves with 422, going 47-40 with a 2.31 ERA in 16 seasons. A left-handed reliever, he struck out 1,196 in 903 innings with Houston (1995-2003), Philadelphia (2004-05), the New Boston (2009) and Atlan-

ta (2010). Sheffield received 11.7% when first on the ballot in 2015. A nine-time All-Star and the 1992 NL batting champion, Sheffield started as an infielder before shifting to the outfield for most of his career. He hit .292 with 509 homers and 1,676 RBIs in 22 seasons for Milwaukee (1988-91), San Diego (1992-93), Florida (1993-98), the Dodgers (1998-2001),Atlanta (2002-03), the New York

York Mets (2006-09).

Yankees (2004-06), Detroit (2007-08) and the

LOCAL CARD

Tuesday, Jan. 23 BASKETBALL (BOYS) Barnesville at Buckeye Local, 5:30 p.m.

Whg Central at Linsly, 6 p.m. Martins Ferry at Buckeye Trail Bellaire at St. Clairsville Shadyside at Caldwell Tyler Consolidated at Camer-

Steubenville at Indian Creek Wood Co. Christian at Bridge-

BASKETBALL (GIRLS) Morgantown at Wheeling

Park, 5:45 p.m. BOWLING St. John at Wheeling Central. (Rose Bowl Lanes). TBA.

Local Card

Tuesday, Jan. 23 MEN'S BASKETBALL West Virginia at UCF. 7 p.m.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 20 Baltimore 34, Houston 10 San Francisco 24, Green Bay

Sunday, Jan. 21 Detroit 31, Tampa Bay 23 Kansas City 27, Buffalo 24 **Conference Championships** Sunday, Jan. 28 AFC

Kansas City at Baltimore, 3 p.m. (CBS)

NFC Detroit at San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11

Sports on TV

Tuesday, Jan. 23 COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 6:30 p.m.

FS1 - Butler at Georgetown 7 p.m. Duke at Louisville

BTN - Wisconsin at Minne-CBSSN - Loyola of Chicago

at VCU ESPN — Texas at Oklahoma

ESPN2 - Florida St. at Syra-ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Geor-

aia Tech PEACOCK --- Ohio St. at Nebraska

SECN — Kentucky at South Carolina 8:30 p.m.

FS1 — Xavier at Creighton 9 p.m. ACCN -

Boston College at Virginia Tech Wyoming at San Diego St. ESPN2 — TCU at Oklahoma

PEACOCK — Michigan at Pur-

due Missouri at Texas A&M

10:30 p.m. FS1 - Boise St. at Fresno St. **11 p.m.** – Air Force at UNLV CBSSN -**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

(WOMEN'S) 9 p.m. Minnesota at Wiscon-BTN -

MLB BASEBALL

Wagner was on 10.5% MLBN — 2024 Hall of Fame **NBA BASKETBALL**

TNT — New York at Brooklyn 10 p.m. TNT - LA Lakers at LA Clip-

pers SOCCER (MEN'S)

2:45 p.m. CONMEBOL U-23 FS2 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Bolivia vs. Brazil, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela

5:45 p.m. CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Ecuador vs. Venezuela, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela **TENNIS**

ESPN2 - ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia 12 p.m. ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Aus-

3 a.m.

tralian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia (Taped) 9 p.m. ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Aus-

Melbourne, Australia 3:30 a.m. (Wednesday) ESPN2 - ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia

tralian Open, Quarterfinals,

NBA

Monday's Games Cleveland 126, Orlando 99 Milwaukee 122, Detroit 113

Prep Boxscores

BOYS Cameron 79, Hundred 39 HUNDRED (39) – Bartrug 5 2-4 13; Sandy 4 2-3 14; J. Huggins 0 0-2 0; Sleeth 1 0-0 2; T. Hug-gins 4 0-0 9; Greaver 0 1-2 1; Hayhurst 0 0-0 0; Totals: 15 5-11 39. CAMEERÓN (79) - Estel 0 2-2 2; McCauley 1 0-0 3; Wichterman 4 0-0 9; Frye 3 0-0 6; Paczewski 2 0-1 4; Winters 4 0-0 8; Scott 5 0-0 12; Yoss 2 0-0 4; Magers 7 0-0 14; Hartley 7 3-5 17; Totals: 35 5-8 79 Three-point goals: Hundred 4 (Sandy 2, Bartrug, T. Huggins). Cameron 4 (Scott 2,

gins). Cameron 4 (Sco Wichterman, McCauley) GIRLS Union Local 66

John Marshall 41 UNION LOCAL (66) - Kella-way 5 4-4 16; Miller 7 3-3 23; Vinskovich 5 0-0 10; Martin 3 0-0 9; Butler 2 2-2 6; Saunders 1 0-0 2; Day 0 0-0 0; Unroe 0 0-0 0; Saffell 0 0-0 0; Uscio 0 0-0 0; Totals: 23-46 9-9 66. JOHN MARSHALL (41) - Derrow 4 2-6 10; White 2 2-2 6; Storm 5 4-6 14; Inclan 0 0-0 0; Miller 2 0-0 4; Finley 0 0-0 0; Updegraff 0 0-0 0; Ebert 0 0-0 0; Reese 3 0-0 7; Shock 0 0-0 0; Whitlatch 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-40

Three-point goals: Union Local 11 (Miller 6, Martin 3, Kellaway 2). John Marshall 1

Martins Ferry 66.

Shadyside 17 MARTINS FERRY (66) - Chir-pas 2 3-6 8; Sidon 2 0-0 6; Best 6 4-6 16; M. Lucas 3 0-0 8; Reese 1 3-4 5; Call 0 0-0 0; Koller 3 1-2 10; Smith 1 0-0 3; Ke. Brandon 0 0-0 0; Clark 2 0-0 4; Hughes 0 2-2 2; G. Lucas 0 0-2 0; Cole 2 0-0 4; Shreve 0-0 0; Totals: 22 13-18 66. SHADYSIDE (17) - Hender-shot 1 0-0 3; Fulton 1 0-0 2; Sims 0 0-0 0; Tsoras 2 0-0 4 Zdunczyk 2 1-2 5; Boltz 1 0-0 2; Faulkner 0 1-2 1; Totals: 7

Three-point goals: Martins Ferry 9 (Chirpas, Sidon 2, M. Lucas 2, Koller 3, Smith). Shadyside 1 (Hendershot)

Monroe Central 64, River 62 RIVER (62) - Hobbs 1 1-2 3; Harlan 12 34-5 31; Reed 1 0-0 2; Isaly 2 0-0 5; Hagan 6 0-0 14; Prim 2 0-0 4; Fox 1 0-0 3; Totals: 25 4-7 62. MONROE CENTRAL (64) – Emery 5 2-2 17; Henthorn1 0-0 2; English 3 4-5 11; Miller 6 0-2 20; McFrederick 0 0-0 0; McGarry 1 0-5 2; Bettinger 5 2-2 12; Smitley 0 0-0 0; Totals: 22 8-16 64

Three-point goals: River 8 (Harlan 4, Hagan 2, Isaly, Fox). Monroe Central 12 (Miller 6, Emery 5, English)

Clay-Battelle 42, Valley 37 VALLEY (37) – Higgins 6 3-5 17; Rush 3 2-6 8; Dawson 2 1-3 6; Miller 1 1-4 3; Booher 1 1-2 3; Totals: 13 8-20 37. CLAY-BATTELLE (42) - Riley 1 0-0 2; DeBolt 3 0-2 6; Hellyer 7 1-4 18; Dalton 2 5-7 9; Statler 1 5-7 7; Totals: 14 11-13 42 Three-point goals: Valley Higgins 2, Dawson). Clay-Battelle 3 (Hellyer 3)

Harrison Central 66. Edison 47

EDISON (47) -Stull 2 0-0 6; Henderson 5 4-7 16; Meadows 2 4-6 8; Boka 4 4-4 13; Evans 1 2-2 4; Loprete 0 0-0 0; Carpenter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 14 14-19 47. HARRISON CENTRAL (66) - Doane 2 0-0 5; Dunlap 5 0-0 10; Rensi 10 3-6 24; Ferri 3 2-2 10; Sedgmer 4 0-0 8; Pelegreen 1 3-4 5; Blackburn 1 0-0 2; B.Smith 1 0-0 2; Totals: 27 8-12 66

Three-point goals: Edison 5 (Stull 2, Henderson 2, Boka). Harrison Central 4 (Doane, Rensi, Ferri 2).

PREP BASKETBALL

W.VA. BOYS Cameron 79, Hundred 39 Paw Paw 64, Timber Ridge, Va. 28

Va. 28
Tucker County 91, Trinity 60
W.VA. GIRLS
Belmont Union Local, Ohio
66, John Marshall 41

Cross Lanes Christian 38, Sherman 26 Greenbrier West 47, Midland

Trail 30 Huntington 70, Hurricane 48 Lincoln 78, Liberty Harrison 42 Martinsburg 55, East Hardy 42 Oak Glen 56, Beaver, Ohio 39 Parkersburg Catholic Ritchie County 41 PikeView 54, Bluefield 26

St. Albans 44, Spring Valley **OHIO GIRLS**

Barnesville 67, Bridgeport 13 Belmont Union Local 66, John Marshall, W.Va. 41 Berlin Hiland 67, Gnadenhutten Indian Valley 23 Beverly Ft. Frye 45, Marietta

Cadiz Harrison Cent. 66, Rich-

ECHL

Monday's Games No games scheduled Tuesday's Game Atlanta at Orlando, 7 p.m.

AP TOP 25 MEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basket-ball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

Record Pts P 1. UConn (44) 17-2 1508 2. Purdue (17) 17-2 1472 N. Carolina 15-3 1391 4. Houston 16-2 1309 14-4 1237 5. Tennessee 14-3 1205 Kentucky Kansas 15-3 1157 16-2 1094 8. Auburn 14-4 1060 Arizona 10. Illinois 14-4 862 15-3 15 849 11. Oklahoma 13-4 12. Duke 13. Wisconsin 14-4 801 13-5 14. Marquette 747 15. Baylor 16. Dayton 17. Creighton 15-2 14-5 546 505 18 Utah St. 19. Memphis 15-4 329 20. Texas Tech 15-3 304 14-4 22. FAU 15-4 290 23. Iowa St. 24. Colo. St. 14-4 253 24 15-3 25. N. Mexico 16-3 177 Others receiving votes: Seton Hall 84, San Diego St. 64, Kansas St 39, Alabama 30, TCU 27, Mississippi 25, Princeton 21, Utah 20, Texas 16, Boise St. 9, Florida 6, Gonzaga 6, Grand Canyon 5, Michigan St. 3, Saint Mary's 2, NC State 1, San Francisco 1, Indiana St 1, Samford 1, McNeese St. 1, Colorado 1.

USA TODAY MEN

The USA TODAY Sports Top 25 men's basketball poll, with first-place votes received in parenthesis, team's records, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last week's final poll: Record Pts Pvs

. UConn (24) 17-2 791 . Purdue (8) 17-2 769 3. N. Carolina 15-3 734 678 5 671 7 16-2 Houston Tennessee 14-4 Kentucky 14-3 16-2 609 10 609 11 Auburn 576 4 Kansas Arizona 14-4 528 13 10. Wisconsin 14-4 480 8 . Illinois 14-4 437 14 13-4 15-3 12. Duke 421 6 13. Oklahoma 401 16 Baylor 13-5 14-5 15. Marquette 360 18 299 15 16. Creighton 17. Dayton 18. Iowa State 19. BYU 14-4 220 20 14-4 181 19 20. Utah State Texas Tech 15-3 Memphis 15-4 21. Texas Tecl 22. Memphis 148 25 130 12 23. Colorado St. 15-3 24. Florida Atla. 15-4 101NR 25. New Mexico 16-3 54NR Dropped Out: No. 21 Missis-sippi (15-3); No. 22 TCU (13-5); No. 24 San Diego State (15-4). Others receiving votes: Al-abama (12-6) 43; San Diego State (15-4) 43; Seton Hall (13-6) 33; Gonzaga (13-5) 30; TCU (13-5) 26; Texas (13-5) 18; Clemson (13-5) 15; Kansas State (14-4) 14; Prince-ton (15-1) 13; Utah (14-5) 10; Saint Mary's (14-6) 6; Boise State (13-5) 5; Grand Canyon (17-2) 4; Indiana State (16-3) 4; James Madison (17-2) 2; Mississippi (15-3) 2; Michigan State (12-7) 1.

AP WOMEN

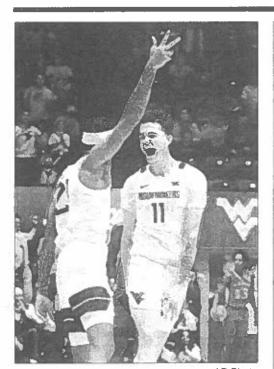
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote

and previous ranking.

Rec Pts Prv 1. S. Carolina (35) 17-0 875 2. UCLA 15-1 833 5 16-2 763 18-1 753 Colorado Kansas St 18-2 729 17-2 695 16-2 646 lowa Stanford NC State 8. UConn 16-3 635 18-2 575 10 18-2 553 11 9. LSU 10. Texas 13-3 515 11. So. Cal 15-3 493 18 15-2 480 12 16-2 396 16 12. Ohio St. Baylor 14. Indiana 15. Notre Dame 14-3 331 19 13-5 328 18-2 320 16. Utah 17. Gonzaga 16-3315 13 14-2 272 14 18. Louisville 19. Va. Tech

14-5243 23

20. N.Carolina



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.

This was one of those games that seem to come along whenever Kan- BOB HERTZEL sas comes to town. This year, it was with them

WV News 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.

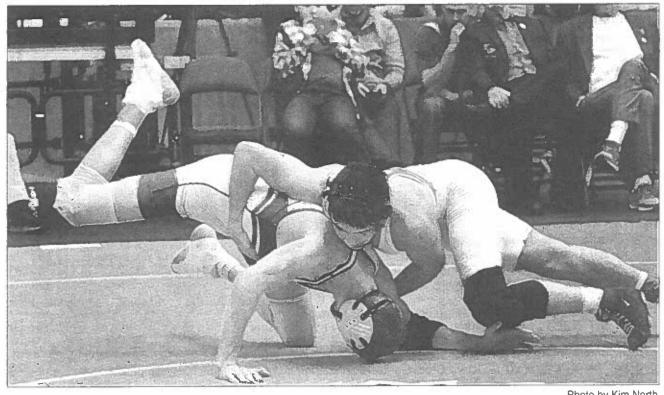
The setting was wild. More than 12.000 had ventured out on a night made for brandy or hot chocolate in front of the fireplace, not to trudge to the most wellknown building in Morgantown - the Coliseum - to watch what most expected

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



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

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

Please see SHAMROCKS, Page 10



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.

West Named 2024 Mr. Mat

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 an masters degree from West Virginia University.

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



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

team top the OVAC Class 5A past week and the kids showed up field to claim the conference ti- in a big way (Saturday).

tle for the seventh-year coach, The Bruins girls racked up but the Brooke boys also tied for 241 points to beat out perennial WELLSBURG - Thanks to a fourth and Blumette was named contenders Morgantown (203) hit the pool Saturday was one of assisted by an encouraging its coaches.

Bruins coach Kelsie Blumette swimmers

Bruins coach Kelsie Blumette swimmers

Bruins coach Kelsie Blumette swimmers winning effort, the last member the OVAC female coach of the and Parkersburg South (200) to

ships, she would go in the water. We only had two days of practice Not only did the Bruins girls we were allowed in the pool this better than their seed time.

made a deal with her team that if they delivered a strong performance in the OVAC Championery kid swam out of their minds. Faith Farrell who turned in a 1:48.22, more than four seconds

Please see SWIMMING, Page 10

WLU Cruises Doot Clanvilla



Nailers Sweep Weekend Series With Iowa Heartlanders

four points to show for it,

25 saves on Saturday the middle frame. night and Tanner Lader- Wheeling got on the who lifted a one-timer a wraparound between Wheeling triumph. oute scored twice as Der- board first at the 21-sec- into the top-left corner of Hunter Jones' right pad Taylor Gauthier ek Army earned his 90th ond mark. Davis Bunz the goal.

CORALVILLE, Iowa career head coaching lofted a saucer pass

as they swept a two-game find the back of the net in post. series from the Iowa the first period, but that

The Nailers regained and the left post.

The Wheeling Nail- win, placing him third on through the slot to Jus- the lead at the 7:53 mark his biggest performance consecutive nights this ers put together back-to- the team's all-time list, tin Addamo, who placed of the second. Justin Lee of the night for the third, season, as he denied 25 back stellar performanc- The final score of the fi- a one-timer into the left launched a pass from as lowa peppered the of the 26 shots he faced. es, and came away with nale was 3-1. side of the cage, before his own end to Tanner net with 12 shots, and Hunter Jones took the Neither team could crashing into the left Laderoute at the offen- not one of them broke loss for the Heartlanders, sive blueline. Laderoute through. One of those as he made 19 saves on The Heartlanders knot- left his defender be- saves led to the final goal 21 shots. Heartlanders at Xtream changed quickly, as both ted things up 42 sec- hind on the right side, of the contest, as Ladersides lit the lamp within onds later. Will Calverly then wound around the oute swept his second six-game road stretch for Taylor Gauthier made the first 63 seconds of tossed a feed through the back of the net, before of the tilt into an empty the Nailers is Reading, low slot for Pavel Novak, he eventually stuffed net to punctuate the 3-1 where they will face the

Taylor Gauthier saved his second set of wins on

The next stop on the Royals on Wednesday, Taylor Gauthier was Friday and Saturday, all tremendous in earning 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 eventhigh 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.

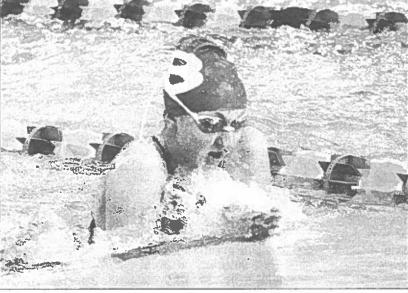
Blumette's coach of the year award was a new award added this four medals on the day. year. It was voted on by the coaches.

sixth and Big Red ninth.

1:05.10 and was runner-up in the and Dover's 151. 100 butterfly, while Abby Heil-1:12.25 and finished the day with relay unit, second in the 200 IM, on the way to earning the crown. fifth in the 400 free).

a multi-event medalist.

Parkerburg South's Jordan Clay-second place 400 free relay team). pool was the female swimmer of the year recipient after capturing medals for Park (second place 200 begin at 5:30 p.m.



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

"It's pretty cool to be recognized three golds and a bronze. by my peers," she said.

Also on the girls side, John Mar
Parkersburg South, who

shall came in fifth, Wheeling Park Ryan Radcliff, was named the conference's boys coach of the year, The Patriots Molly George racked up 354 points to claim the topped the 100 backstroke in title, topping Wheeling Park's 254

Brooke tied Morgantown for man won the 100 breaststroke in fourth and JM came home in eighth. four medals (third place 200 free dium in a total of nine of 22 events after winning two golds, a bronze turned the ball over nine

Park's runner-up effort was led by Big Red's Kinsey Tucker fin- Levi Parker winning the 200 free in relay team, second in the 500 free,

medley relay team, second place three, making Satur- The Beavers (5-11) 200 IM, fourth place 100 breast- day's Buckeye 8 title the were led by Karsyn Parkersburg South, whose coach, stroke, second place 400 free relay team's fourth in confer- Bowyer with 11 points. team).

The Bruins didn't put anyone atop the podium on the boys side came down to the wire, but earned their place as a team with Indian Creek head coach. The Jets wasted little medals in eight different events by Steve Eft believes the time early in putting any 10 individuals/relay teams.

Warren's Mason Francis was South swimmers were on the po- named the male swimmer of the year and a fourth-place medal on the day.

MORE TO COME

ished sixth in the 200 IM and the 1:50.84 on the way to earning four because of the winter storm that back to trail by two at to score more than five 100 butterfly to give Steubenville medals (second place 200 medley came through the area, the titles in Class 1A-3A and 4A will be decided today, also at the Brooke lay-ins from McKenna Jackson Kiziminski also had four Wellness Center. The meet is set to Scott helped Creek cut

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

Indian Creek's number Bellaire. in girls basketball.

Squaring off Saturday in the Buckeye 8 chamnumerous turnovers with early behind their fulltheir pressure defense court pressure and held which ultimately led to a 46-17 advantage at the their 54-51 triumph on half. John Jenkins Court.

titles, dating back to the Lindsey Best had a 2019-20 season. Prior team-best 22 points, folto that, it was head coach lowed by Lindse Sidon who won the previous chipped in 10. ence history.

While the outcome game was lost in the first quarter.

times in the first quarter Local forced numerous Due to being postponed Friday 10-2 before battling lowed St. Clairsville 15-13 by quarter's end.

A couple steals and the first half.

Bellaire, meanwhile,

The Big Reds' guard She Zara Harveth and nine the Bobcats.

Bellaire took the lead for good on a pair of Harveth free throws with 39 seconds remaining to Senior Kelsey Harlan

ter a miss, Creek fouled seconds. She missed the

Creek worked the "This championship feels a lot shot rimmed out and the

> Anderson, who finished with nine points,

CLAIRSVILLE O'Grady totaled 15 and - Bellaire just may have Mason added 11 for

Martins Ferry 66, **Beaver Local 22**

CLAIRSVILLE pionship game, the Big - The Purple Riders Reds once again forced (12-4) took command

The 44-point margin The win also snapped of victory was Martins Union Local's streak of Ferry's fourth straight four-straight conference win by at least 20 points.

John Farrier's Big Reds with 15. Maddie Lucas

Union Local 72, St. Clairsville 15

ST. CLAIRSVILLE upset thoughts from the Red Devils to bed, tak-It was there Creek ing a 19-4 lead after one.

Defensively, and at one point trailed turnovers and never alpoints in a quarter. Anna Kain led the Red Devils with seven points.

The Jets, meanwhile, back into the lead as got a balanced effort, Scott scored 12 of her led by 15 apiece from game-high 23 points in Lauren Miller and Delaney Butler while Laken Vinskovich went for 10.

Teagan Day added ing effort, led early by nine off the bench for Union Local.

Harrison Central 63, Cambridge 35

ST. CLAIRSVILLE Maddie Sedgmer had was a game-high 20 points as

Danica Rensi added finished with 10.

River 67, Shenandoah 32

SARAHSVILLE led River High with 23 Trailing by two and af-points, 10 rebounds and six assists in a win over

Freshman Maci Isaly (14) and junior Kaylee lan in scoring. River led 28-5, 41-14

Coach Rick Isaly's side to Kylie Anderson, 12-2 Lady Pilots visit who had to shoot with Monroe Central (13-3) only a second to go. The tonight in a huge OVAC 2-A clash.

BOYS BASKETBALL Barnesville 43, Caldwell 39

CALDWELL - Asa

SHAMROCKS (Continued from Page 9)

Barnesville led the 42-team field they are doing big things. We made with 10 placers, including three a run at them, but just could get champions, a trio of runners up, a over the top."

Going to camps also helped me furing effort, led early by Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120)

Rhyan O'Grady. third, a fifth and two sixths. Win-Dakota King

the first period and coasted from Beaver Local's Justus Fisher, 9-1. had some guys step up and get the charge early. there. All of Pettit's points came on escapes.

first two because I finally passed ons, as did Steubenville, which finmy dad," Dakota said. "He won ished third in Class 5A with 181. two and now I'm one up on him. That feels good.

was equally proud to be part of a ing Park's Jameson Maynard, who Central's Lucas Thomas (215) and ond, putting the Reds up Hagan (11) backed Har-

championship team. Barnesville won the OVAC Tour- ten Eckles, 3-2. nament, so this is an exciting time

have been a part of it.

relation to Dakota, and surprising an ultimate tiebreaker. freshman Colt Carpenter (126). It was Skyler King's second consecu3A runner up with 101.5 points.

ning his third title, which clinched team title and also had a trio of pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Ros- also scored 12 in the the team championship, was senior titlists in three-time champ Luca siter in 3:49. The win helped the first quarter plus a cou-Felix (165), two-time titlist Brock Golden Bears to the Class 4 team ple easy buckets off The Ohio State University re- Kehler (285) and Pepper Martin title in head coach Josh Cornell's turnovers. cruit put on a takedown clinic in (106). Felix defeated Barnesville's second year. They tied with Indian backed by eight from the Huskies rolled past his 23-8 technical fall of Camer- Ayden King, 8-2, while Kehler Creek last year. on's Slaton Pettitt in the finals. He pinned Harrison Central's Landen "Our depth really came through from Eliana Mason, but Danica Rensi added had four of his 11 two-pointers in Thomas and Martin decisioned this weekend," Cornell said. "We it was O'Grady leading 19 and Lauren Doane

Parkersburg South, which fin- on the podium. Sure we would've ished as the Class 5A runner up liked to have had more, but we had "This one feels better than the with 203 points, had two champi- enough to get the job done."

ners were Gage Wright (175) and nior stud. As much pleasure as he took Cole Smith (113). The No. 1 nain passing his father, assistant tionally ranked Wright posted a of business. Barnesville coach T.J. King, he 12-2 major decision over Wheelwas a defending OVAC champion. Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit by three. "It's been a long, long time since Smith edged East Liverpool's Tris-

right now," Dakota added. "It was Cooper Smith (144) and senior Broa total team effort and I'm glad to dy Saccoccia (150). Smith topped Barnesville senior Karson Milhoan, Other Shamrocks claiming titles 5-1, while Saccoccia outlasted the

Wheeling Central was the Class tonight," Thomas said.

The Hawks won the Class 5A became a three-time champ with a

"Our depth really came through from Eliana Mason, but liked to have had more, but we had

When asked about Davis, Cornell really didn't know what to say break a 51-51 tie. The Wood County Patriots win- that he already hasn't about his se-

"He just goes out and takes care Harveth again with nine Shenandoah on Saturday.

Other champions were Harrison first but made the sec-(132). Both won their second titles, but Thomas's first came two ball down the floor, but and 57-25 at the breaks. Big Red winners were sophomore years ago. He was runner up last a player fed the ball in-

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

were senior Skyler King (157), no Shamrocks' Reese Stephen, 2-1, in better than the first because I felt I game ended. was more dominant and in control

Buccheit earned a 3-1 decision had only two after the CALDW

SPORTS

SECTION

Sunday,

January 21, 2024

Miners prep for 2024 debut with new head coach

Staff Writer

hired Josh Resignalo as their ahead under his guidance.'

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

The fifth indoor franchise to call WesBanco Arena its home this summer, the Miners have this summer, the Miners have this summer. The fifth indoor franchise to call WesBanco Arena its home this one we're excited for the journey known Chris for quite some season," said John Morris, AIF

See MINERS Page C2 time and we worked togeth- Commissioner, in a release.

"Coach Res' is as eager to er with the Atlanta Havoc in "Their experience, expertise, get started as Duffy is to have 2018 when we won the Ameriand dedication to the sport will can Arena League title by beat- undoubtedly bring a new level WHEELING – The Wheeling Miners are off and running in preparations for their 2024 debut in the American Arena League 2 indoor football.

"I've been around indoor ing the Richmond Roughriders of excitement and competitive football since 2006 as a scout, which a year later became the player, coach and general manders of excitement and competitive which a year later became the player, coach and general manders of their contributions ager up and down the East our team. His wealth of expectations in further solidifying the AIF coast," he said in a Friday our team. His wealth of expectations in further solidifying the AIF as one of the premier indoor football leagues in the United

See MINERS, Page C2

OVAC postpones several events due to weather

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.

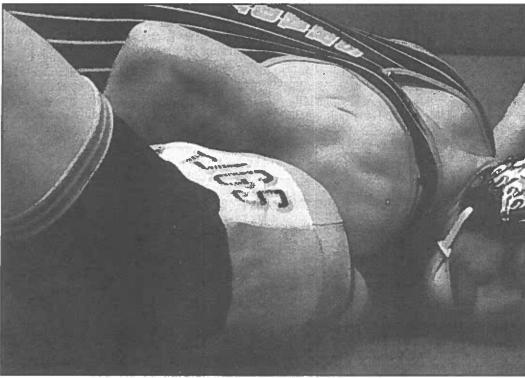
Swimming

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) ing titlists.

WRESTLING



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.

Action resumed Saturday session. at 10 a.m. inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Are- gious Mr. Mat Award will State University recruit Dana with quarter final matches be presented prior to match- kota King (138). The othand Dover (5A) are defending the championship bracket es for first-, third-, fifth- and er three are defending Ohio and second-round consola- seventh-places being contest- Division III state champion tion bouts. Third- and fourth- ed simultaneously on four Reese Stephen (150), Johna-The 70th annual event be-round consolation matches mats. gan Thursday night and com- will also be contested before pleted three rounds - two the championship semifinals the 42-team field with 89 are No. 1 seeds. in the championship bracket at approximately 2 p.m. Semi points and 11 quarter final-and one in the consolation final consolation matches ists. The Shamrocks are led

will conclude the afternoon by four of the returning nine champions. Leading the way At 5:30 p.m., the presti- is two-time titlist and Ohio than Huntsman (113) and Class 3A Barnesville leads Ayden King (157). All four

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

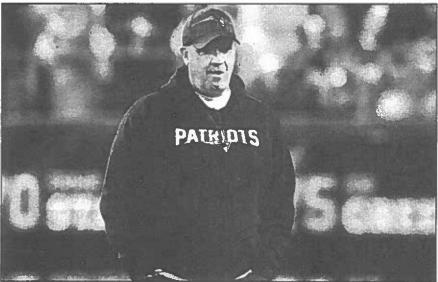
Ohio State has hired former Houston Texans and Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien as its offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, the program confirmed in a statement Friday.

"He is an excellent and experienced offen-sive 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."

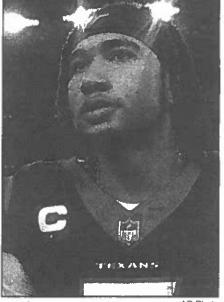
Day has been Ohio State's primary play-caller since being promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach in 2019 to replace Urban Meyer.

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 state-



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 coor-



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

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 touch-downs 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

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

the West Virginia State Footly in limbo.

The WVSSAC board of directors heard four competing of the state championships the last 30 years, on Wednesday in their Parkersburg office. A de-

WHEELING - The future of ball coach Chris Daugherty.

ball Championships is official- contract to host the games ex- through the entire weekend, pring in December, the pair's among other things. presentation Wednesday drew Members of the board - made attention to what has kept the up of the WVSSAC executive bids to host the games, including event in Wheeling for decades, director David Price along with one from Wheeling, the home and what the future of the a number of assistant directors, three years when I was a prin-

cision on where the champion-sentation that highlighted all bid locations, and are expected ships will be held should come the things the people before to make a decision in February. next month. us have worked so hard on to Aside from Wheeling, the Wheeling was represented by make this a top-notch event," other bids came from Charles- to take it somewhere else or Ohio County Schools assistant Jones said. "We also highlight- ton, Bluefield, and a hybrid to keep it here, and they know

with the jumbotron, videos for With Wheeling's four-year all the players following them

championships can look like in high school principals and state the Friendly City. high school principals and state representatives will conduct

superintendent Rick Jones, and ed some things that we will proposition involving both what they're getting here.'

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

"I already kind of know what "We had a great bid pre-visits to the sites of the different 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

Wheeling Park High School add to enhance the experience West Virginia University and With the ball now in the Athletic Director and head foot- for the teams- added features Marshall University in which SSAC's court, Jones and Daugherty will have to wait and see what route the state will

"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.'



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

Jayhawks Travel To Face WVU In Old Rivalry Without Old Dynamic

By BOB HERTZEL

Virginia at 4 p.m. in a game considered neutral. shown on what is fast becoming known as WVU-TV: ESPN+.

eer coach Josh Eilert, what has asked whether he'll miss seemade West Virginia vs. Kansas special since the Mountaineers jumped from the Big East Self said, certainly aware that tion from Memory Lane to Satto the Big 12 in 2013 is that it Huggins has been among the urday night's game. matched up two Hall of Fame crowd at a number of Mouncoaches in Bill Self at Kansas taineer home games. and Bob Huggins at WVU.

each other in all 27 meet- for he added this: ings, with Self winning 21 of ranked in each and every game the same thing. while Huggins' only 14 times.

Kansas almost never loses.

WV News And against WVU, you re-MORGANTOWN - Let's move the qualifier "never" for understand one thing right Kansas is 11 in "The Phog" and now, it just won't be the same 5-0 on neutral courts, if playing when No. 3 Kansas comes to in the Big 12 Tournament held gins and his sit the Coliseum to face West in KANSAS City can really be being asked to.

the way it is supposed to be between two great coaches, and legacy to our profession. I With apologies to Mountain- so it was only fair that Self be wish the best for him, but I'm ing Huggins on this trip.

'Maybe I will see Huggs,"

They had coached against prepared for such a question, such

"I guarantee Josh will be them, but then again Self's better dressed, no doubt. And Kansas team was nationally he'd look better if they wore

What's more. Self was playing taineer coach this year after when you only have a size 8 his home games in the vener- a pair of off-season indiscre- foot. able Allen Fieldhouse, where tions, 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 Hug-gins and his situation without

"I want him to be remem-The rivalry has been spirited bered and thought of in a way as a guy who brought a great not saying that at the expense of anyone else," he said.

That was the perfect transi-

WVU may be 6-11, but Self would not point any fingers It was obvious that Self had at Eilert being responsible for

> "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 Huggins, deposed as Mounto fill a pair of size 14 shoes

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OVAC Events Put On Hold With Weather Postponements

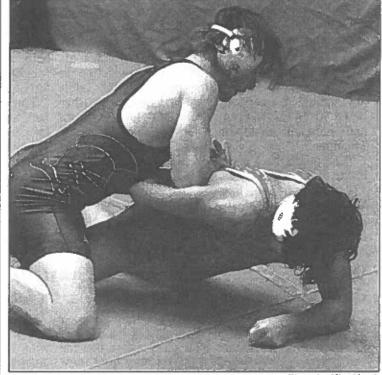


Photo by Kim North

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

forecast of inclement weather, the Ohio Valley Athletic Con-Championships on Friday as the Ohio Valley was blanketed with a few inches of snow.

Swimming

High School.

and Class 4A portions, origi-solation matches will conclude nally scheduled for Friday, have the afternoon session. been pushed back until Monday, with a start time of 5:30 p.m.

3A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A) on four mats. and Parkersburg South (Class 5A). The Cadets have a record

63 titles. On the girls side, Linsly (1A-3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and WHEELING - Due to the Dover (5A) are defending titlists. Wrestling

The 70th annual event began ference was forced to postpone Thursday night and completed its Bill Brubaker Swimming three rounds - two in the chamand Ron Mauck Wrestling pionship bracket and one in the consolation bracket.

Action resumed Saturday at 10 a.m. inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Are-According to a release, the na with quarter final matches Class 5A portion of the event in the championship bracket will be held Saturday, as sched- and second-round consolation uled, but the start time has been bouts. Third- and fourth-round pushed up to 11:30 a.m. inside consolation matches will also the Wellness Center at Brooke be contested before the championship semifinals at approxi-However, the Class 1A-3A mately 2 p.m. Semi final con-

At 5:30 p.m., the prestigious still at Brooke High School, Mr. Mat Award will be presented prior to matches for first, Defending champions on the third, fifth and seventh-places boys side are Linsly (Class 1A/- being contested simultaneously

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 decid- wideout Emeka Egbuka's