

TWO—PART II

# OVAC Wrestling Tourney To Be Largest in History

The upcoming Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament at the Moundsville Fieldhouse will be the largest, longest, and best ever held in these parts.

For the first time, the tournament will be spread over three days in order to accommodate its mushrooming growth. The eliminations will be launched on Thursday of this week, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. with first round action. The second round will start at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, with the quarter-finals and consolation action on Friday night, beginning at 7. Semi-finals will begin at 1 on Saturday and will be followed by further consolation action. Finals—to determine first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place in each of 13 weight classes—will open at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

A total of 31 schools, the biggest field in the history of the meet, will participate and if all enter full teams, there will be 572 matches between Thursday at 6 p.m. and the windup on Saturday night.

John Marshall High, West Virginia state titlist for the last two years, will seek its third straight conference mat crown, with its chief competition likely to be provided by Steubenville, Warwood, and Weirton.

In addition to John Marshall, past champions in the field will be eight-time titlist Martins Ferry, seven-time kingpin Bridgeport, two-time winner St. John's Central, of Bellaire, and one-time ruler Wheeling Central.

Rounding out the field will be Barnesville, Beallsville, Bellaire, Brooke, Buckeye North, Buckeye West, Cadiz, Cameron, East Liverpool, Jefferson Union, Linsly Institute, Magnolia, Mingo, Oak Glen, Shenandoah, St. Clairsville, Toronto, Triadelphia, Union Local, Wheeling High, Wintersville, Weirton, Wellsville and Weirton Madonna.

Pairings will be made at a meeting of coaches scheduled for Monday night at 7 o'clock at Room 240 at John Marshall High School at Glen Dale. Bill Hinegardner, coach at John Marshall, and George Walley, the athletic director, will be co-directors.

Because of the size of the field, an attempt will be made

to use six mats at one time, at least on the first and second days. Referees will be Joe Dyer, Zanesville; Jerry Tenaglia, Mt. Lebanon, Pa.; Walter Tolarchyk, coach at Hoover High at North Canton, O.; Frank Mosier, dean of men and assistant coach at Waynesburg College; George Nedeff, head coach at West Virginia University; and Larry Deaton, of Martins Ferry.

There will be team trophies for the schools finishing first, second and third and individual trophies for the top six places in each weight class.

Weighing-in will be from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. Athletes will be permitted a one-pound weight allowance on Friday and another pound on Saturday.

Admission will be \$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for students at each session but a ticket "book", good for admission at all five sessions, can be purchased by adults for \$5 and by students for \$2.50 at John Marshall High or at the gate.

Defending individual champions entered are Kevin Felton, Brooke, at 98 pounds; Bob Mendenhall, Linsly, the 1973 titlist at 105 but now competing at 112; Challen Stewart, Barnesville, last year's winner at 112 but now entered at 119; Dennis Haney, Warwood, heavyweight; and Eric Frankovitch, Weirton, last year's 185-pound titlist now wrestling as a heavyweight.

# Record Field Opens OVAC Mat Tourney

The biggest and best high school wrestling tournament ever held in the Ohio Valley area or in the state of West Virginia will be launched this evening at the Moundsville Fieldhouse with action simultaneously on six different mats.

A record field of 401 matmen from 32 high schools are entered in the colorful, three-day meet, which will be climaxed on Saturday night.

John Marshall, which is the defending West Virginia state titlist, will be seeking its third straight OVAC wrestling championship but the mighty Monarchs, who have not finished behind anyone in team score in either dual meets or tournaments since 1971, will be facing a severe test, with particularly stiff competition for laurels expected to come from Warwood, Steubenville, and Weirton. Warwood, also unbeaten this winter, has already won the St. John's and Brooke Invitational titles.

The giant field also includes Barnesville, Beallsville, Bellaire, Bridgeport, Buckeye North, Buckeye West, Brooke, Cadiz, Cameron, East Liverpool, Meadowbrook, Jefferson Union, Linsly, Magnolia, Martins Ferry, Mingo, Oak Glen, Shenandoah, St. Clairsville, Bellaire St. John's, Toronto, Triadelphia, Union Local, Weirton Madonna, Wellsville, Wheeling, Wheeling Central, and Wintersville.

Barring last-minute scratches, there will be 193 bouts tonight, in order to get the first round completed. Second-round action begins at 1 p.m. on Friday with quarter-finals at 6 Friday, followed by the initial consolation matches. Semi-finals begin at 1 on Saturday afternoon, followed by more consolation action. The Saturday night session will begin at 7:30, with three mats in use, and will spotlight championship bouts, as well as contests to determine third, fourth, fifth, and sixth places in each of the 13 weight classes. It would not be surprising if the outcome of the third-fourth and

fifth-sixth place tussling has much to do with the final outcome of the team score.

Warwood has 11 seeded grapplers in the meet, compared to 10 each for Steubenville and John Marshall. Weirton, which has eight seeded grapplers, and John Marshall have three top seeds apiece, compared to two each for Warwood and Linsly Institute, while Brooke, Steubenville and Martins Ferry have one each.

Returning are five of last year's individual titlists—Kevin Felton, Brooke, at 98 pounds; Bob Mendenhall, Linsly, winner at 105 last year and now competing at 112; Challen Stewart, of Barnesville, the 1973 champ at 112 but now wrestling at 119; Denny Haney, Warwood heavyweight; and Eric Frankovitch, last year's 185-pound kingpin from Weirton who has moved up to the heavyweight division.

Mendenhall, Felton, and Haney are top-seeded in their respective weight classes. The other top seeds are Martins Ferry's Jeff Oberdick, at 105; Steubenville's Joe Jarrett, at 119; Weirton's Chris Pryor, at 126; John Marshall's Ron Griffin, at 132; Warwood's Ron Jewell, at 138; Linsly's Doug Pell, at 145; John Marshall's Ron Koontz, at 155; John Marshall's Scott Lehasky, at 167; Weirton's Sheldon Grace, at 175, and Mike Kovalick, also of the Red Riders, at 185. Griffin has had 10 matches to date this season and has pinned every opponent.

Pairings for first-round matches follow:

98—K. Felton (Brooke) vs. Stenger (Whg. C.); Frizzi (Bell.) vs. Fordyce (Whg.); Blake (Cam) vs. Kosmeil (Mead.); Rogers (Mag.) vs. Winesdorffer (Lin.); Kaiser (M.F.) vs. Johnson (Buck. N.); Hodoranic (Tor.) vs. Badgley (E.L.); Nickerson (Triad.) vs. Bailey (Wells.); Molnar (Buck. W.) vs. Foster (J.M.); Davis (St. J.) vs. Bradick (O.G.); Croes (Weir.) vs. Capito (Madonna); Polen (J.U.) vs. Mansfield (Wint.); Robb (Barnes.) vs. Bressler (Steub.); Miller (War.) vs. bye; Smith (Cadiz) vs. Bates (Shen.); Shriver (Bealls.) vs. Trudo (St. C.); Kidney (Bpt.) vs. Gregg (U.L.).  
105—Oberdick (M.F.) vs. Young (Mingo); Mizer (Cadiz) vs. bye; Zerostki (Buck. W.) vs. Dimbar (Mag.); Faykus (St. J.) vs. Wallace (U.L.); West (Bell.) vs.

# John Marshall Claims OVAC Mat Championship 3d Straight Year

BY BILL VAN HORNE  
News-Register Sports Editor

Before a gym-jamming crowd of 2,300 roaring fans, host John Marshall High achieved its third straight Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling championship Saturday night at the Moundsville Fieldhouse.

The largest turnout ever for a schoolboy wrestling event in this area watched the mighty Monarchs, who have not lost either a dual meet or at a tournament since 1971, wrap up the crown when Scott Lehasky, at 167, topped previously unbeaten Bill McKenzie, of Warwood, to put the hosts so far ahead with four weight classes remaining that they were uncatchable.

The depth and balance of Bill Hinegardner's team paid off for Weirton had four champions to the hosts' three and made it close at the finish by taking the titular bouts in the last three weight classes, with two of the nods being by pins.

tillists are Bob Mendenhall, Linsly Institute, who won at 112; Challen Stewart, Barnesville, victorious at 119; and Kevin Felton, Brooke, the 99-pound ruler.

Other champions are Jeff Oberdick, Martins Ferry, at 105; Rick Tluchowski, Steubenville, at 138; and Dean Patterson Oak Glen, at 145.

Brooke's Felton found himself with a little tiger on his hands in Mike Gregg, Union Local sophomore who had won 14 straight, but Felton was ahead, 7-6, going into the third period and the Brooke junior added two points on a predictament to nail down his fifteenth nod in as many starts, 9-6.

Oberdick (12-3), only a sophomore, built a 6-1 lead in the first period against Jim Fluharty (16-2), of Warwood, and stood off the Viking junior for a 6-5 verdict as Fluharty was unable to turn the blond Ferrian over in the last period



**SHELDON GRACE**

... outstanding wrestler

to get the points he needed to win.

The unbeaten Mendenhall stretched his season's winning streak to 18 matches by a 6-0

shutout of Wheeling's Duke Hanlan (13-2), a junior. Mendenhall, now a senior, was titlist at 105 last year and move up a weight.

Stewart, a Barnesville senior, also moved up a weight after being 112 titlist last year and this time copped 119 laurels with a pin of surprising Steve Nightengale (6-1-2), of Wellsville, in 2:31. It was the fourth pin in five tourney matches for Stewart (14-0). Nightengale was unseeded but upset top-seeded Joe Jarrett, Steubenville, in the first round on Thursday.

Weirton's Pryor, a senior, gained his eighteenth victory without defeat by pinning John Dolan, (15-2), Wheeling Central, impressively in 1:59.

Two unbeaten grapplers, Griffin, John Marshall, and Darrel Owens, Steubenville, both 14-0, hooked up in a wing-ding 132-pound final, with Griffin eking out a 6-5 nod, with a third-period escape providing

the margin.

The 138-pound final went overtime with Steubenville's Tluchowski getting a takedown that gave him a 13-2 record and a 2-0 nod over Butch Coleman (10-2), of Wellsville.

Linsly's Doug Pell suffered his first loss in 18 starts and had to settle for runnerup honors at 145 for the second straight year when topped by Oak Glen's Patterson (17-1), also a senior, by an 8-5 score.

John Marshall's Koontz (14-0) needed a third-period escape to decision John Kotson (11-3), of St. John's 4-3, in the 155-pound windup.

Warwood's Bill McKenzie had pinned four straight opponents on his way to the 167-pound final but suffered his first loss in 17 outings to John Marshall's Lehasky (14-1) by a 5-2 score in a win that wrapped up the team title for the Monarchs.

John Marshall finished with 136 points to 130 for the runnerup Red Riders while Warwood claimed the third place trophy with 108 points, just one more than Steubenville High. Martins Ferry was fifth with 72½ markers, followed by Wellsville, with 64½; Linsly Institute, 60½; East Liverpool, 51; Bellaire St. John's Central, 50; Brooke, 44; Oak Glen 43½; Union Local, 41; Wheeling Central, 37½; Wintersville, 29; Wheeling, 28; Bellaire, 26½; Beallsville, 25½; Shenandoah, 25; Triadelphia, 23½; Jefferson Union, 21½; Bridgeport, 19; Magnolia and Mingo 10 each; Buckeye West, 8; Meadowbrook, 6½; Cadiz, 6; St. Clairsville, 5; and Weirton Madonna, 2. Toronto, Cameron, and Buckeye North failed to score.

A brilliant sophomore from Weirton, 175-pounder Kevin Grace, who pinned five straight opponents on his way to the title, won the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award as the outstanding wrestler in the tournament.

Weir High's other tillists were Chris Pryor at 126, Mike Kovalick at 185, and Eric Frankovitch, heavyweight. John Marshall was represented in king row by Ron Griffin, 132; Ron Koontz, 155; and Scott Lehasky, 167.

Frankovitch was a repeat champion, although he won a 185 last year. Other two-year

# OVAC Tourney Results

## CHAMPIONSHIP

98 - Kevin Felton (Brks) d. Mike Gregg (UL), 8-6.  
 106 - Jeff Oberdick (MF) d. Jim Fluharty (War), 6-5.  
 112 - Bob Mendenhall (Lns) d. Duke Hanlan (Whg), 6-0.  
 119 - Challen Stewart (Barns) p. Steve Nightengale (Wells), 2 mins, 31 secs.  
 126 - Chris Eryor (Weir) p. John Dolan (Whg Can), 3 min, 56 secs.  
 132 - Ron Gaffin (JM) d. Darrell Owens (Staub), 8-0.  
 138 - Rick Tuchowski (Staub) d. Butch Coleman (Wells), 2-0 ovt.  
 OVT.  
 146 - Dean Patterson (OG) d. Doug Pell (Liq), 8-6.  
 1100 - Ron Koppitz (JM) d. John Kotson (St J), 4-3.  
 167 - Scott Lahaaky (JM) d. Bill McKenale (War), 3-2.  
 175 - Sheldon Grace (Weir) p. Mike Yankovitch (War), 2 mins, 47 secs.  
 187 - Mike Kovalick (Weir) d. Mike Cain (JM), 8-4.  
 Heavy - Eric Frankovitch p. Henry Haney (War), 2 min, 51 secs.

## THIRD AND FOURTH PLACE

98 - Jack Willer (War) d. Mike Davis (St J), 2-0.  
 105 - Craig Platt (Staub) d. Kevin Chronister (Wells), 6-2.  
 112 - Rick Jephkins (EL) p. Jeff Felton (Brks), 4 mins 54 secs.  
 119 - Joe Jarratt (Staub) d. Gary Dobbs (St J), 2-1.  
 126 - Art Cohen (Staub) d. Tim Sullivan (JM), 8-6.  
 132 - Keith Carter (Wells) d. Carl Wilkerson (Weir), 3-2.  
 138 - Mike Waldeck (Weir) d. Denny Blackford (Sten), 1-0.  
 145 - Brian Brecht (Weir) d. Dan Parsons (EL), 4-4.  
 155 - Sid Hercules (War) p. Tom Barr (MF), 4 mins 25 secs.  
 167 - Scott Smith (Barns) d. Butch Blondello (Brks), 6-2.  
 175 - Tom Taylor (Bealls) d. Rick Schmied (Wells), 10-8.  
 187 - Steve Wojick (Whg Can) d.

Tim Monclovitch (Staub), 1-0.  
 Heavy - Jim Dean (MF) d. Rick Jarrate (JM), 5-0.

(Triad), 2 mins, 49 secs. Parsons (EL) d. Lahaaky (JM), 11-9.  
 152 - Barr (MF) d. Ridgeway (UL), 4-1; Hercules (War) d.

Sensational Weirton sophomore Grace (16-3) garnered his fifth straight pin of the journey in the 175 final when he flattened Warwood's Mike Yankovitch (16-2) in 2:47.

Weirton's Mike Kovalick (17-1), whose dad has coached seven conference champion teams and whose elder brother was an OVAC titlist, won a crown of his own when he lopped Mike Cain (11-2-1), of the Monarchs (6-2) in a 175-pound battle of juniors. Cain had scored four straight pins prior to the final.

Warwood's Denny Haney had won 17 straight and had scored four straight pins going into the heavyweight final, in which he was defending titlist, but was pinned by Eric Frankovitch (8-0) of Weirton, who was last year's OVAC and state champion at 185 but was late reporting this season and moved up a class.



## Individual Winners in OVAC Wrestling Meet

Individual champions in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament received their awards following the conclusion of the giant three-day event Saturday night at the Moundsville Fieldhouse. In the front row (left to right) are Kevin Felton, 98-pounder from Brooke; Jeff Oberdick, 105-pounder from Martins Ferry; Bob McDonald, 125-pounder from Linsly Institute; Challen Stewart, 119-pounder from Barnesville; Chris Pryor, 128-pounder from Weirton; and Ron Griffin, 122-pounder from John Marshall. In the back row

(left to right) are Rick Tuchowski, 138-pounder from Steubenville; Dean Patterson, 145-pounder from Oak Glen; Ron Koontz, 155-pounder from John Marshall; Scott Lehasky, 167-pounder from John Marshall; Sheldon Grace, 175-pounder from Weirton; Mike Kovalick, 187-pounder from Weirton; and Eric Frankovitch, heavyweight from Weirton. John Marshall won the team championship for the third year in a row while Weirton took second place.

(News-Register Photo by Jim Cochran)

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

FINANCIAL REPORT

JAN. 24-25-26, 1974

RECEIPTS	
ENTRY FEES	\$ 560.00
121 ADULT BOOKS @ \$5.00	605.00
85 STUDENT BOOKS @ \$2.50	212.50
1292 ADULTS @ \$1.50	1938.00
1673 STUDENTS @ .75¢	<u>1254.75</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$4570.25
EXPENSES: BROKEN TABLE & STOP	
WATCHES	85.00
CHAMPIONSHIP STAND	75.00
COFFEE DONUTS, TABLE CREW	
FOOD & OFFICIALS	125.00
DIRECTORS	250.00
FIELDHOUSE RENTAL	500.00
GATE MEN & GUARDS	310.00
JANITOR	105.00
MAT TAPE & SUPPLIES	100.00
MOUNDSVILLE JR. HIGH	100.00
OFFICIAL SCORE TABLES	206.00
PRESS TABLE	80.00
PHONE, POSTAGE, & PAPER	100.00
OFFICIALS & JUDGES	1089.00
SCORING BRACKET CARDS	50.00
SET UP MATS & TRUCK	150.00
STATE TAX	135.91
TRAINER	25.00
TROPHIES	375.00
T.V. TAPE	<u>=20.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3880.91
NET	689.34

CO. DIRECTORS:

GEORGE WALLEY  
BILL HINEGARDNER

## TWENTY-FIRST OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

February 1, 1974

OVAC Directors  
OVAC Wrestling Tournament

The twenty-first OVAC Wrestling Tournament was held at Moundsville Fieldhouse on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, January 24, 25, 26, 1974.

John Marshall won the Conference Championship, Weirton second, and Warwood third. A list of Individual Champions and team standings is included in this report.

Yours in sports,

George Walley  
Bill Hinegardner  
Tournament Directors

### 1974 Champions

### Runner-ups

98 Kevin Felton (Brke)	Mike Gregg (UL) decision 9-6
105 Jeff Oberdick (MF)	Jim Fluharty (War) decision 6-5
112 Bob Mendenhall (Lins)	Duke Hanlan (Whg.) decision 6-0
119 Challen (Barnes)	S.Nightengale (Wls)pinned 2:31
126 Chris Pryor (Weir)	John Dolan (WhgCen)pinned 1:59
132 Ron Griffin (JM)	Darrell Owens(Steub) dec. 6-5
138 R.Fluchowski(Steub)	Butch Coleman(Wells) dec. 2-0
145 Dean Patterson (OG)	Doug Pell (Lin) decision 8-5
155 Ron Koontz (JM)	John Kotson (ST.J) decision 4-8
167 Scott Lehasky (JM)	Bill McKenzie(War) decision 5-2
175 Sheldon Grace (Weir)	M.Yankovitch(War) pinned 2:45
187 Mike Kovalick (Weir)	Mike Cain (JM) decision 6-2
HWT Eric Frankovitch(Weir)	Henny Haney(War) pinned 2:51

### 1974 Team Standings

1	John Marshall	136	17.	Beallsville	25 1/2
2	Weirton	130	18.	Shenandoah	25
3	Warwood	108	19.	Triadelphia	23 1/2
4	Steubenville	107	20.	Jefferson Union	21 1/2
5	Martins Ferry	72 1/2	21.	Bridgeport	19
6	Wallsville	64 1/2	22.	Magnolia	10
7	Linsly Institute	60 1/2	23.	Mingo	10
8.	East Liverpool	51	24.	Bucheye West	8
9.	Bellaire St. John's	50	25.	Meadowbrook	6 1/2
10.	Brooke	44	26.	Cadiz	6
11	Oak Glen	43 1/2	27.	St. Clairsville	5
12.	Union Local	41	28.	Weirton Madonna	2
13	Wheeling Central	37 1/2	29.	Toronto	0
14.	Wintersville	29	30.	Cameron	0
15.	Wheeling	28	31.	Buckeye North	0
16.	Bellaire	26 1/2			