

'Turning On the Turned Off' Former Miss America Motivates Youth

By GLADYS FULLERTON

Thursday morning Marilyn Van Derbur spoke in Harrisburg, Pa. Thursday night she addressed a sellout audience at the OVAC banquet at Glessner Auditorium. The day before she was in Atlanta, Ga. Today she is to be at home in Denver, Colo.

This is a sample of the whirlwind pace the former Miss America keeps as she tours the country conducting her motivational work with youth.

As slim and lovely as she was when she promenaded the runway as Miss Colorado to become Miss America of 1958, Miss Van Derbur is in great demand as a keynote convention speaker.

"Turning on the Turned Off" is the topic of her dynamic presentation. She is the only woman who is a guest lecturer for General Motors, which sponsored her appearance last night at the 34th annual spring dinner and awards program of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

"Believe in yourselves," she tells students.

"Help your students to develop confidence in themselves," she charges teachers.

Miss Van Derbur captivated the audience of more than 500 young athletes, parents, education personnel and fans last night as she outlined her 10-point mini course of motivation.

Miss Van Derbur developed the course after she addressed more than 250,000 teenagers in high school assemblies from Maine to California in 1969. Now she speaks primarily to adult business and educational groups.

She colored her talk with just the right touch of drama, challenging, "Are you going to quit and let the world go by, or are you going to accomplish something that is important to you?" as she recounted the failures-turned-into-successes of several prominent Americans.

She closed her presentation by singing "The Impossible Dream" a capella.

In a pre-dinner interview Miss Van Derbur, who was dressed in elegant simplicity in a long, soft orange shade gown and matching jacket that were splashed with white print and clear crystal sequin-like beads, discussed the busy life she leads.

"I waste very little time," she said, "but I find time to play and have fun. I'll leave for the Pittsburgh airport after I speak tonight so that I can get the 8 a.m. plane out to Denver tomorrow."



Marilyn Van Derbur

skis and has broken and trained her own horses.

Miss Van Derbur classifies the Miss America Pageant as the largest scholarship foundation for girls in the world. While not discounting the beauty angle, she believes that girls enter primarily to win stipends for education.

She would urge girls to continue to enter the beauty-talent competitions.

A sophomore English literature major at the University of Colorado when she vied — playing the organ in the talent category — Miss Van Derbur returned to college after the year of reign and graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

"As Miss America, I was committed to reach beyond what I thought I could do," she said.

She wants to impart that drive to the youth of today.

"The four hours on the plane will allow me time to write my thank-you notes, fill out expense accounts, and answer letters on the dictaphone for my secretary to type and mail.

"And I will get home in time to pick up my five-year-old daughter Jennifer at school."

Miss Van Derbur's quiet time is early morning because she arises between 4:30 and 5 o'clock every day. From now until fall she and her husband, Larry Adler, a prominent Denver attorney, will jog every morning.

She is an avid sportswoman, swims,

TOM VICHICH HONORED

Shadyside Track Boss Is OVAC Coach of Year

By BRIAN BONENBERGER
The Intelligencer Staff

A sure sign of the changing of the guard took place at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's annual spring dinner and awards night Thursday night at Oglebay Park's Gleason Auditorium.

For the first time in the nine-year history of the OVAC Wheeling News-Register coach of the year award, the honors went to a coach of a "non-major" spring sport—Tom Vichich, coach of Shadyside High School's 1976 Ohio Class A track champions.

Only once in the history of the award had it gone to someone rather than a football or basketball coach, and that was in 1974 when Bill Hinegardner, who had just led John Marshall to its third straight state wrestling championship, had to share the honors with Woodsfield football mentor Jay Circosta.

But this year, the hard work put in by Vichich, and all track and baseball coaches in general, was recognized when he was announced as the winner of the conference coach of the year honors.

And because the vote was clearly in favor of Vichich, it was a victory not only for the third-year Tiger head coach, but for all spring sports coaches as it marked the acceptance of spring athletics as major sports.

It appears that the dominance of football and basketball coaches in OVAC awards is over. The efforts of those such as Warwood High's retired track coach Don Minder and ex-Shadyside track mentor Jack Berger have, in a way, been recognized by the media's voting of Tom Vichich as OVAC coach of the year.

Vichich's honor shared the highlight of the dinner with a moving speech by former Miss America Marilyn Van Derbur, now working in public relations with General Motors.

Miss Van Derbur spoke on motivation, and the effect failing had on a young student-athlete. She stressed the point that though a person might have failed once, that person is not a failure.

The main speaker pointed to times that such noted persons as Abraham Lincoln, Robert Kennedy, Winston Churchill, and yes, even Babe Ruth, failed to achieve something on their first try but continued to strive until they did indeed achieve it.

Miss Van Derbur has a glowing reputation as a speaker on

motivation, and her speech last night was motivating and inspirational, to say the least.

Four student-athletes were honored with scholarship awards. Bridgeport three-sport star Ed Ducker received the annual Picoma Industries Scholarship Award, while Bishop Donahue All-State basketball player Pat Popic was accorded the Morris Plan Bank Scholarship.

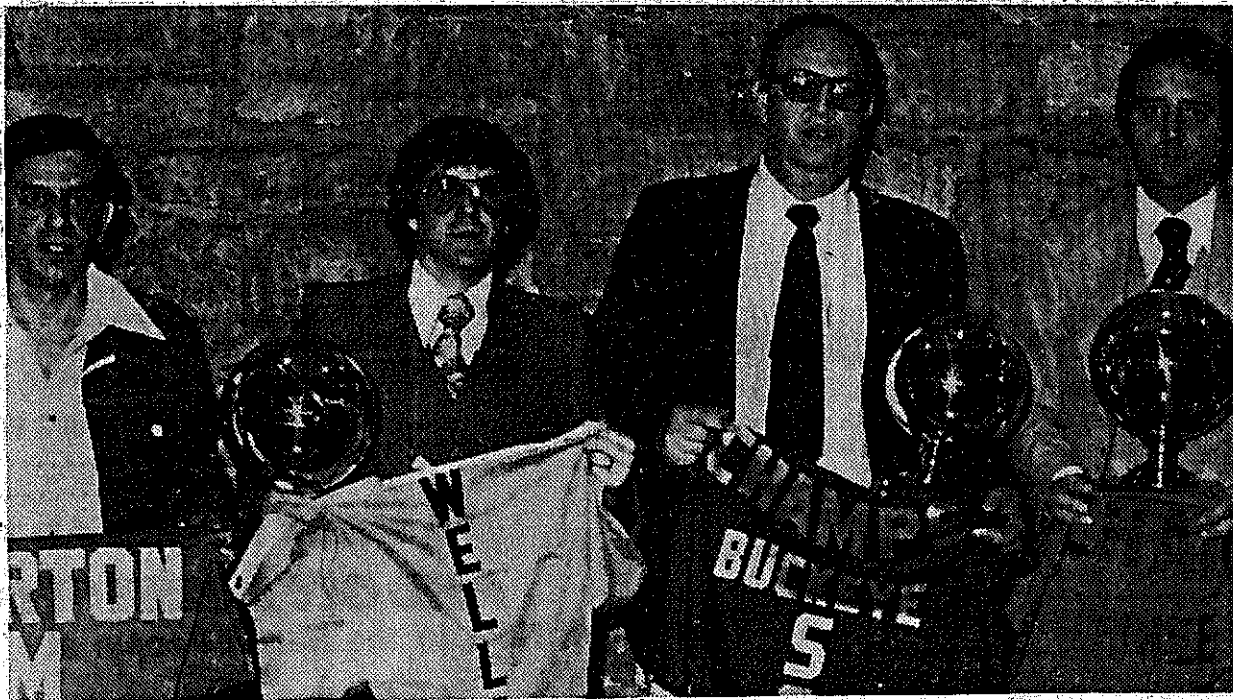
Mark Schneider, St. Clairsville football standout, was the recipient of the Pepsi-Cola Award, and Dave Foltz, a guard-linebacker for Oak Glen, won the first Ohio Valley Board of Approved Football Officials scholarship.

OVAC Sportsmanship Awards went to Parkersburg in Class AAAA, River in Class AAA, Linsly in double-A and Skyvue in Class A. They were presented by the OV Board of Approved Basketball Officials.

Previously announced awards went to former Wheeling High, Warwood High and West Liberty State College coach Bob Roe, winner of the Calvin J.J. Giffin Memorial Award, Jefferson Union wrestler Rich Davis, the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award as the OVAC tournament's most outstanding wrestler, and to the late Charles "Bob" Mumley, veteran Ohio Valley official, Dr. Harold Meyer, retiring commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and out-going OVAC president Father John Lester of Bishop Donahue, each of whom received a special award from the OVAC.

In addition, toastmaster Jerry Schultz, who humored the crowd all evening with his witty anecdotes and introductions, received a plaque from the conference.

OVAC championship trophies and pennants were presented to John Marshall, Jefferson Union, Barnesville and Weirton Madonna for dual wrestling championships; Wheeling Park, Buckeye South, Wellsville and Madonna for boys basketball, Steubenville Catholic Central and Madonna for winter girls' basketball; Martins Ferry for gymnastics and Linsly for swimming.



Trophies and pennants were presented to head coaches of the 1977 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference divisional basketball champions during last night's annual conference spring banquet at Oglebay Park. From left to right are Rich Santilli of Class A champion Weirton Madonna; Bobby Dawson, who piloted Wellsville to its third straight Class AA crown; Henry Larasz, coach of Buckeye South's Class

AAA titlists; and Sam Andy, who directed Wheeling Park to the Four-A championship in the consolidated school's first season. It's also the second straight OVAC crown for Andy, who led Wheeling High to the 1976 Class AAA crown. Wheeling Park and Buckeye South were both undefeated during the regular season in 1977.

(News-Register Photo—Matt Mumley)



Ohio Valley Athletic Conference track champions were honored at the conference dinner meeting at Oglebay's Glessner Auditorium Thursday night. Coaches, from left to right, are Tom Vichich, of

Shadyside's Class AA-Class A champions; John "Dixie" Purtiman, of Bellaire's triple-A titlists; and Pete Nordstrom, of Cambridge's four-A kingpins.

(News-Register Photo—Matt Mumley)



Champions in gymnastics and swimming were recognized at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference spring banquet Thursday night at Glessner Auditorium, Oglebay Park. At left, is Dave McKim, Martins Ferry gymnastics coach, with the trophy awarded his team, along with a banner. At right is Paul Blair, Linsly Institute swimming coach who accepted the Cadets' thirty-first straight swimming trophy, presented by WTRF-TV. The gymnastics award was presented by the Martins Ferry Elks.

(News-Register Photo—Matt Mumlev)