

OVAC Banquet Of Champions Expected To Draw Large Crowd

A crowd of 700 or more—including over 450 athletes—will attend the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Banquet of Champions Thursday night at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Team champions from the winter and spring sports seasons will be honored at the fete, which begins with a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. The dinner's only guest speaker will be Gary Williams, former Boston College coach who this spring was selected as the new basketball mentor at Ohio State University.

Jerry Vinci, dinner chairman and a member of the OVAC's executive committee, said a few tickets remain available.

Tickets, priced at \$10 each, will be sold through Tuesday at Zide's Sports Shop in the Ohio Valley Mall; Simon & Duffy Sporting Goods in Wheeling; the Athletic Attic in the Fort Stueben Mall. Reservations also can be accepted over the phone from Vinci at (614) 859-2113; Sam Mumley at (614) 695-5168 and Rudy Mumley at (614) 277-2683.

Dinner music will be provided by the Bellaire High School women's jazz ensemble, directed by Mary

Katherine Allodi. Ken Kadar, of WTOV-TV, Channel 9, will be the master of ceremonies.

The program will be opened by the presentation of several scholarship awards. These include the Wheeling National Bank Scholarship, to be presented by executive vice president Paul Donahie; Pepsi-Cola Scholarship, given by Jim Oviess, president of the Moundsville Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.; Baseball Scholarship, presented by Alan Glitch, director of the OVAC baseball program; Wrestling Scholarships (Daniel M. Burke Wrestling Scholarship and the George Kovalick Memorial Wrestling Scholarship) to be presented by OVAC wrestling director Ronald Mauck.

Also, the winner of the annual Dave Bierkorte Wrestling Award will be announced by John DeLoretta, president of the Wheeling Central Catholic High School Boosters. Tom Vichich, former Shadyside High School track coach and now the school's athletic director, along with serving as director of several major area track meets, will be presented the Cal Giffin Memorial Track Service Award. Making the presentation on

behalf of Josten's, Inc., will be Dave Stucky.

John Howell, secretary of the Ohio Valley District Board of Approved Basketball Officials will then give out the board's boys' basketball sportsmanship awards to Cambridge High School, coached by Gene Ford, the Class AAAA winner; Barnesville High School, coached by Mark Cook, Class AAA; Buckeye Trail High School, coached by Terry Leggett, Class AA, and Woodsfield High School, coached by Bob Cain, Class A.

Ohio State University alumnus Emanuel Mehallis, will then introduce Williams, who will address the gathering.

Members of the winter and spring sports' championship teams and their coaches will be presented with their trophies or OVAC pennants and the last award to be presented will be the News-Register "coach of the year" award, with the winner to be introduced by N-R sports editor Bill Van Horne.

Following is a list of team award winners:

BOYS' BASKETBALL: Class AAAA—Steuben-

ville (Coach Chuck Watt); Class AAA—Wheeling Central (Coach Dino Gaudio); Class AA—Cadiz (Coach Kim Clifford); Class A—Skyvue (Coach Mark Huffman).

DUAL MEET WRESTLING: Class AAAA—East Liverpool (Coach Nick Trombetta); Class AAA—Meadowbrook (Coach Russ Spence); Class AA—Cadiz (Coach John Stephenson); Class A—Weirton Madonna (Coach Paul Duffy).

BOYS' TRACK: Class AAAA—Bellaire (Coach Bruce Stoliz); Class AAA—Martins Ferry (Gordon Downie); Class AA—Linsly (Coach Eudie Joseph); Class A—Stanton (Coach Harry Diehl).

BASEBALL: Class AAAA—Steubenville (Coach Tony D'Aurora); Class AAA—Steubenville Catholic Central (Coach Clyde DiAngelo); Class AA—Linsly (Coach Gary Sprague); Class A—Skyvue (Coach Mark Huffman).

BOYS' TENNIS: Ohio-Side—Wellsville (Coach Jerry Cannon); West Virginia-Side—Linsly (Coach Robert Reeves).

WEST VIRGINIA GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL: Class AAAA-AAA—Weir (Coach Dee Bailey); Class AA-A—Bishop Donahue (Coach Susan Smith).

OHIO GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Class AAA—Martins Ferry (Coach Larry Duck); Class AA—Wellsville (Coach Randy Young); Class A—Buckeye West (Coach Frank Savarese).

GIRLS' TRACK: Class AAAA—Steubenville (Coach Roger Micker); Class AAA—River (Coach Tina Jones); Class AA-A—Stanton (Coach Karen Lundquist).

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: Class AAA—John Marshall (Coach Pancho Flores); Class AA—Barnesville (Coach Paul Burkhardt); Class A—Bishop Donahue (Coach Tom Tribett).

OVERALL GIRLS' TENNIS: Tie—Brooke (Coach Nolan Van Gilder) and Wheeling Park (Coach Larry Lamb).

Vichich to receive Giffin Track Award

Awards, scholarships to feature OVAC 'Banquet of Champions'

Presentation of special and team awards and the awarding of several scholarships will share the spotlight at the first OVAC "Banquet of Champions" set for Thursday evening at the Wheeling Civic Center.

More than 700 athletes, coaches, sports figures and fans are expected to attend the event which replaces the Spring Awards Banquet held annually in early May at Oglebay Park.

Guest speaker for the 6:30 p.m. buffet-style dinner event is Gary Williams, new head basketball coach at Ohio State University.

Toastmaster will be long-time Ohio Valley news and sportscaster Ken Kadar of Martins Ferry, reporter and co-anchor of the evening news on WTOV-TV.

One of the special awards to be presented is the Cal Giffin Memorial Track Service Award. This year's recipient is Shadyside High athletic director Tom Vichich, former long-time track coach who has also directed many meets during the last two decades.

Vichich, a product of old Powhatan High, produced a number of OVAC track championship teams at Shadyside, with the highlight of his career coming in 1976 when he directed the Tiger thinclads to the Ohio Class A title, the first time that a school from the eastern part of Ohio reigned as state track titlist. In 1979, Vichich's Tiger thinclads were state runnersup, losing to Lorain Clearview by one point.

Vichich-coached Shadyside teams won numerous league titles and were perennial powers in Eastern District circles for many years. Another honor which Vichich won was the coach of the year award presented by the Eastern District Track and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Vichich is generally regarded as originating the popular Shadyside Relays which

last April observed its 15th anniversary.

Paul Donahie, executive vice president of Wheeling National Bank, will present that firm's scholarship. The Pepsi-Cola Scholarship will be presented by Jim Ovies, president of the Moundsville firm, while Al Glitch, OVAC baseball director, will present the baseball scholarship.

Ron Mauck, OVAC wrestling director, will present the George Kovalick Memorial Wrestling Scholarship and the Daniel M. Burke Memorial Wrestling Scholarship.

John DeLoretta of the Wheeling Central Booster Club will present the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award to Shawn Murray of Oak Glen, voted the top performer in this year's conference wrestling tournament.

Basketball sportsmanship awards will be presented by John Howell of the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials to Cambridge, Class 4-A, coach Gene Ford; Barnesville, Class 3-A, coach Mark Cook; Buckeye Trail, Class 2-A, coach Terry Leggett; and Woodsfield, Class 1-A, coach Bob Cain.

E. G. Mehallis of St. Clairsville, long-time Ohio State University booster, will introduce Williams, who took over the Buckeye post two months ago.

After Williams' talk will be the presentation of conference team championship awards, followed by the announcement of the OVAC's 1985-86 coach of the year, with the presentation to be made by Bill Van Horne of the Wheeling News-Register.

Dinner entertainment will be provided by the Bellaire High School Women's Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Mary Katherine Alodi.

Sam A. Mumley Sr., executive secretary of the OVAC, said tickets, which are \$10, are still available and may be obtained by calling Rudy Mumley (277-2683) or himself (695-5168); and banquet director Jerry

Vinci of the Buckeye Local School District (859-6307). Tickets are also on sale at Kelly Mike's Sport Center and Bernhardt's in Wheeling, Zide's Sports Shop at the Ohio Valley Mall; and the Athletic Attic at the Fort Steuben Mall.

Here are the winter and spring team champions and their coaches who'll be honored:

GIRLS SPORTS

Volleyball (W. Va.) — Bishop Donahue A-AA, Susan Smith; Weirton, AAA-AAAA Dee Dailer.

Basketball (Ohio) — Buckeye West, A Frank Savarese; Wellsville, AA, Rand Young; Martins Ferry, AAA, Larry Duck.

Track — Stanton, A-AA, Karen Luncquist; River, AAA, Tina Jones; Steubenville, AAAA, Tom Mitchell.

Softball — Bishop Donahue, A, Tor Tribett; Barnesville, AA, Paul Burkhardt John Marshall, AAA-AAAA, Panch Flores.

Tennis — (co-champs) — Brooke, Nola Van Gilder; and Wheeling Park, Larr Lamb.

BOYS SPORTS

Basketball — Skyvue, A, Mark Huffman Cadiz, AA, Kim Clifford; Wheeling Central, AAA, Dino Gaudio; Steubenville, AAAA Chuck Watt.

Wrestling — Weirton Madonna, A, Pat Duffy; Cadiz, AA, John Stephenson Meadowbrook, AAA, Russ Spence; East Liverpool, AAAA, Nick Trombetta.

Track — Stanton, A, Harry Diehl; Linsly AA, Eudie Joseph; Martins Ferry, AAA Gordon Downie; Bellaire, AAAA, Bruce Stolz.

Baseball — Skyvue, A, Mark Huffman Linsly, AA, Gary Sprague; Steubenville Central, AAA, Clyde DiAngelo; Steubenville, AAAA, Tony D'Aurora.

Tennis (Ohio) — Wellsville, Jerry Cannon; (W. Va.) — Linsly, Bob Reeves.

Ohio State Basketball Coach To Speak At OVAC 'Banquet Of Champions'

Gary Williams, new head coach of Ohio State University's basketball team, will be the guest speaker on Thursday night, May 29, when the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference holds its first *Banquet of Champions* at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The dinner—which replaces the bi-state conference's annual fall, winter and spring banquets—will showcase the OVAC's championship teams and outstanding athletes from the 45-member schools and will be the most ambitious social event in the long history of the conference.

Jerry Vinci, a member of the OVAC's executive board and chairman for the upcoming dinner, explained the reasons for adopting the new format.

"First and foremost, we wanted to honor our kids," said Vinci. "We felt it would renew the enthusiasm that has been missing from our dinners in recent years. This year, we will have guests from the OVAC and the OVAC Foundation, coaches and members of the championship teams from the winter and spring sports. If this venture proves successful—and I'm confident that it will—next year we'll have one large dinner and include all our champions during the 1986-87 school year."

This past fall's OVAC titlists were honored and coaches accepted the awards during the winter dinner held at the Linsly cafeteria.

The sports champions to be honored at the May 29 affair include West Virginia-side volleyball, Ohio State girls' basketball, boys' basketball, wrestling, baseball, track and field, tennis and girls' softball.

More than 500 athletes and coaches are being invited to attend the dinner, with the cost being paid by the OVAC Foundation, which in the past has held several special dinners honoring conference teams that earned state championships.

"This is going to be a great evening for everyone connected with the OVAC," predicted conference executive secretary Sam Mumley. "It could be the biggest conference dinner in Ohio and West Virginia; maybe in the entire country. While we will recognize teams that won state championships during the year, we wanted the emphasis to be on our OVAC champions."

Mumley and Vinci promised that everything will be done to streamline the banquet program. Championship pennants and banners will be hung in display on the wall behind the head



Gary Williams

table at the Civic Center and will be claimed by the winning schools at the conclusion of the affair. The championship teams will be seated together at tables in the audience. Trophies will be on the designated tables and portable microphones will be used allowing the presenters to move from table to table and have each coach get up right at his own seat and accept his or her school's award.

There will be a similar setup for the presentation of the annual schol-

arship awards. These include the Pepsi Cola Scholarship, Wheeling National Bank Scholarship, Ohio Valley Board of Approved Umpires Baseball Scholarship, George Kovalick Wrestling Scholarship and the Dan Burke Wrestling Scholarship.

The *Wheeling News-Register* award will go to the OVAC's coach of the year. The winning mentor is selected annually by a vote of the media.

Williams, who was head coach at Boston College the last four years before being selected to succeed Eldon Miller as the Buckeyes' court coach, will be the only speaker.

The 40-year-old native of Collingswood, N.J. is considered to be one of the most dynamic young coaches in the country. His eight-year record as a college coach is 148-87 and includes five post-season tournament appearances and four 20-win seasons.

Williams' record at B.C. was a glittering 76-45 in the rugged Big East Conference. His Golden Eagles made three appearances in post-season play and Williams was selected as the Eastern Coach of the Year in 1983 when Boston College captured the Big East regular-season title and set a school record with 25 wins in 32 games. That team advanced to the final 16 of the NCAA tournament, as did his 1985 squad which upset Duke in second-round play and finished the year with a 20-11 mark.

Prior to taking the BC post, Williams coached for four years at

American University, compiling a 42 record and making two trips to NIT. He was District IV Coach of the Year in 1981, his third year at American.

Williams played his college basketball at the University of Maryland where he served as co-captain of the Terps during his senior season in 1968.

He launched his coaching career in 1969 as an assistant at Wood Wilson High School in Camden, N.J., taking over as head coach the following year and leading his team to a 20-10 record and the state championship. Williams later spent six years as an assistant coach under Dr. Tom Davis at LaFayette College. He then accompanied Davis to Boston College in 1978, but left for American University later for his first opportunity as head coach on the collegiate level.

When Davis left Boston College prior to the 1982-83 season to become head coach at Stanford, Williams was brought out to lead the Eagles. It was an immediate success, directing his team to a 25-7 record.

Tickets for the banquet, which begin at 6:30 p.m., are priced at \$10 each. Boosters groups and families of the honored athletes are reminded that table reservations will be accepted. Cost of a table for eight is \$80. Information concerning table reservations and the sites of the agencies throughout the area for the dinner will be announced shortly by dinner chairman Vinci.

VAN HORNE

on

Sports



By **BILL VAN HORNE**
News-Register Sports Editor

WHILE WE are in the business of passing out congratulations, let's not forget Jerry Vinci and his committee for their efforts in organizing the first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Banquet of Champions.

In former years, the OVAC spring dinner meeting was attended largely by coaches, school administrators, a sprinkling of fans, and a few athletes who were to receive scholarships. Coaches accepted trophies and/or pennants in behalf of their schools but the athletes never saw the awards until the coaches carried them back to their home towns.

However, it was resolved this year that the athletes themselves should be on hand. The OVAC Foundation, fund-raising arm of the conference and headed by Gordon Hennebert, picked up the tab for dinners for the athletes from OVAC championship teams and the banquet was moved to the Wheeling Civic Center, which could accommodate the large crowd comfortably.

Not every detail worked perfectly and some of youngsters had conflicting engagements. St. Clairsville and John Marshall baseball teams had tournament games and Bishop Donahue girls were hosting the state softball tournament. Martins Ferry High was having commencement so senior members of the Riders' boys' track team and girls' basketball team, both OVAC champions, could not attend.

I am certain that the conference will consider alternative dates but it is difficult to find any spring date that there will not be conflicts.

On the whole, Vinci and his aides did a superb job on arrangements. I know that Jerry himself did a ton of work. He wanted so badly to make the project turn out well and it did.

When the idea was broached, many people thought the banquet would last forever. However, the program was streamlined. The Civic Center staff began serving the buffet dinner at 6:30 and before 9 p.m. the program was over and folks were departing for home.

The administrators and coaches now know that they had the satisfaction of honoring the kids themselves and, as executive secretary Sam Mumley, said, "That's what it is all about."