

OVAC's 2nd Annual 'Champions' Banquet Set Wednesday Night

By NICK BEDWAY
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Close to 900 athletes will be honored this Wednesday night during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's second annual "Banquet of Champions" to be held at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Dinner Chairman Jerry Vinci and OVAC Executive Secretary Sam A. Mumley point out that 35 of the 45 schools belonging to the bi-state conference will be presented with either a championship pennant or at least one special award during the affair that is scheduled to begin with a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m.

In all, a crowd of around 1,200 is expected to attend, making it the largest dinner in the 44-year history of the OVAC.

The principal speaker will be Sam Huff, a former West Virginia University football All-American and a six-time all-pro honoree while playing with the New York Giants and Washington Redskins in the National Football League.

Huff, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will be introduced to the crowd by his college teammate Gene "Beef" Lamone, a Wellsburg native who is now a successful businessman in Columbus.

Huff and Lamone, the latter a former All-OVAC gridder at Wellsburg and an All-American himself during his collegiate days, are both members of the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

This will mark the second year for the OVAC to present this type of dinner. Helping to finance the affair is the OVAC Foundation, Inc., which is paying for the cost of the dinners of the honored athletes.

"The dinner program is very unique," Vinci said. "Our main design is to honor all of the OVAC team champions as well as some of the 'special' student-athletes who have excelled in the classroom as well as in athletics.

"Some 60 awards will be presented and will be done so with those recipients seated at their assigned tables. Microphones placed in different areas will be used along with special lighting to single out those award winners. All in all, the dinner moves very rapidly as the only guest speaker for the evening will be Sam Huff," Vinci added.

Among the highlights of the evening will be presentation of the "Wheeling News-Register Award" that will go to the OVAC Coach of the Year as selected by members of the area media. Bill Van Horne, sports editor of the *News-Register*, will introduce the coach of the year.

Tickets for the dinner will remain on sale until Tuesday. Reservations may be made by contacting Rudy Mumley at 277-2683; Vinci at 859-6307 and Sam Mumley at 695-5168. Cost of the tickets is \$10 per person.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the buffet dinner will begin promptly at 6:30. Tammy Craig, a graduate of Martins Ferry High School and a winner of the Stone & Thomas Queen of Queens Pageant at last year's OVAC-sponsored Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Football Classic, will sing the national anthem and also render other musical numbers during dinner.

Master of Ceremonies is Ken Kadar, sports director for WTOV-TV, Channel 9, in Steubenville.

Following is a list of 1986-87 school year OVAC champions and also a list of the special awards to be presented during the dinner:

- Football
- Steubenville (Class AAAA); St. Clairsville (Class AAA); Buckeye North (Class AA) and Sistersville (Class A).
- Boys' Basketball
- Brooke (Class AAAA); Meadowbrook (Class AAA); Wheeling Central (Class AA) and Mingo (Class A).
- W. Va. Girls' Basketball
- Wheeler Park (Class AAAA-AAA).
- Ohio Girls' Basketball
- River (Class AAA); Wellsville (Class AA); Buckeye West (Class A).
- Dual Meet Wrestling
- Steubenville (Class AAAA); Meadowbrook (Class AAA); Cadiz (Class AA); Beallsville (Class A).
- Baseball
- Brooke (Class AAAA); Linsly (Class AAA); Toronto (Class AA); Springfield (Class AA).
- Girls' Softball
- Wintersville (Class AAA); Buckeye South (Class AA); Bishop Donahue (Class A).
- Boys' Track
- Wheeling Park (Class AAAA); Bellaire (Class AA); Stanjon (Class AA); Shadyside (Class A).
- Girls' Track
- Brooke (Class AAAA); Meadowbrook (Class AA); Shadyside (Class AA).
- Boys' Cross-Country
- Wheeling Park (Class AAAA); Meadowbrook (Class AAA); Cadiz (Class AA-A).
- Girls' Cross Country
- John Marshall (Overall).
- Golf
- Wintersville (Class AAAA); St. Clairsville (Class AAA); Cadiz (Class AA); Woodsfield (Class A).
- Ohio Girls' Volleyball
- Union Local (Class AAA); Buckeye Trail (Class AA); Shenandoah (Class A).
- W. Va. Girls' Volleyball
- Oak Glen (Class AAAA-AAA); Paden City (Class AA-A).
- Ohio Boys' Tennis
- Steubenville (Overall).
- W. Va. Boys' Tennis
- Linsly (Overall).