



FIRMING up plans for the sixth OVAC cheering competition are members of the planning committee, from left, Vicky Smith of Tiltonsville, Mary Kay Zitzelberger of Yorkville and Libby Shepherd of Wheeling. The conference's cheering competition will be held Saturday at Wheeling Jesuit University.

OVAC cheering competition Saturday at Wheeling Jesuit

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's cheering competition has returned.

For the first time since September of 1995, competition will be held for cheering squads from throughout the conference with the event planned Saturday, Jan. 18.

"The last competition we had was for the 1995-96 school year, and the upcoming contest will be for the 1996-97 school year," said Sam A. Mumley Sr., OVAC executive secretary.

"The committee decided to hold the competition later in the school year because the September date clashed with too many school activities," Mumley explained. "We have a new committee, and it has worked diligently toward making this year's event one of the best."

This marks the sixth annual event for the conference's cheering squads and all four of the 1995-96 champions are expected to be part of the competition set to begin at 9:30 a.m. at the McDonough Center on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University.

The event will begin with the Class AAA squads competing, followed by the Class AAAA teams. After these two divisions compete, there will be a short break for the

presentation of awards. This will be followed by the Class A squad taking the floor, followed by the Class AA teams. Another brief awards ceremony will conclude the program.

Defending champions are Wheeling Park, Class AAAA; Tyler Consolidated, Class AAA; Barnesville, Class AA; and Paden City,



Class A.

Handling arrangements for this year's event are Libby Shepherd, cheering coach at Wheeling Park High; and two former coaches at Buckeye Local, Mary Kay Zitzelberger and Vicky Smith.

The committee expects upwards of 30 schools to be represented in this year's event. Awards will be presented to the champion, run-

nerup and third-place teams in each division, while the top squads in each division will receive their banners when the OVAC holds its Banquet of Champions at the Wheeling Civic Center in late May.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, good for the entire program which is expected to last around four hours. Proceeds from the event will go toward a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a cheerleader. Each coach will be allowed to nominate a cheerleader for the scholarship, which will also be awarded at the Banquet of Champions.

Each school is allowed to enter a squad not exceeding 15 varsity cheerleaders, including mascots. Each team will be allowed a three-minute performance and the squads may incorporate cheer, dance and sideline routines in any manner they wish.

The committee noted that there will be four judges, two from Ohio and two from West Virginia. Paula Thomas, former cheering coach at Wheeling Central, will serve as rules interpreter. There also will be two timers at the scorers' table.

OVAC Cheering Championships Set

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will hold its cheerleading championship competition Saturday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Wheeling Jesuit University's Alma Grace McDonough Center.

This will mark the first time since September of 1995 that the league will hold a championship event in cheerleading.

"The last competition we had was for the 1995-96 school year, and the upcoming event will be for the 1996-97 school year," pointed out Samuel A. Mumley, executive secretary of the OVAC.

"The (cheering) committee decided to hold the competition later in the school year because the September date clashed with so many school activities. We have a new cheering committee and this group has worked diligently toward making this year's event one of the best," Mumley added.

Saturday's competition will begin with the Class AAA squads performing, followed by the Class AAAA teams. After these two divisions, there will be a short break for presentation of awards, followed by the Class A competition and, finally, the Class AA championships. Another brief awards ceremony will conclude the program.

Defending champions are Wheeling Park, Class AAAA; Tyler Consolidated, Class AAA; Barnesville, Class AA; and Paden City, Class A.

Handling arrangements for this year's cheering competition are Libby Shepherd, cheering coach at Wheeling Park High School; along with Mary Kay Zitzelberger and Vicky Smith, both former cheering coaches at Buckeye Local.

More than 30 schools are expected to take part in the event. Awards will be presented to the champion, runner-up and third-place team in each division. The top squads in each division will receive their banners when the OVAC holds its annual Banquet of Champions at the Wheeling Civic Center in late May.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. The price includes the championship competition in all four divisions. Proceeds from the event will go toward a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a cheerleader.

Each coach will be permitted to nominate one cheerleader for the scholarship, which also will be awarded at the May dinner.

The OVAC competition will include teams of up to 15 varsity cheerleaders, including mascots. Each team will be permitted a three-minute performance and the squads may incorporate cheer, dance and sideline routines in any manner they wish.

Four judges will determine the place-winners, two from Ohio and two from West Virginia. Paula Thomas, former cheering coach at Wheeling Central, will serve as rules interpreter. There will also be two timers at the scorers' table.

