

# Pin-Fest

Quick endings highlight day one of OVAC Tournament

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

If you like pins, the Wheeling Civic Center was the place to be Thursday night as the 47th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament got underway.

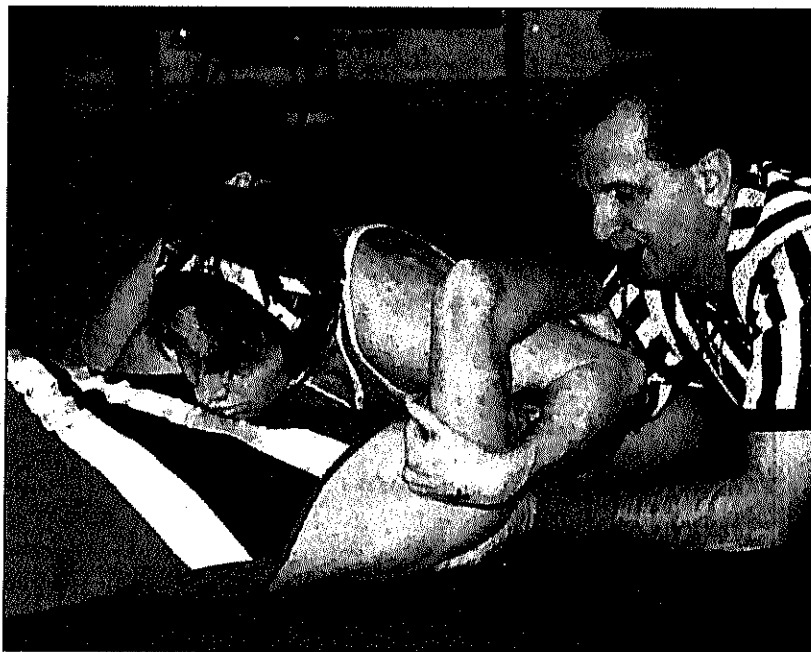
Of the 156 matches contested, 107 ended in pins and 20 of those came in less than one minute.

The event continues today at 11 a.m. with second round championship and first and second round consolation matches being wrestled. The evening session, which begins at 6 p.m., has quarterfinal final championship bouts and third and fourth round consolation matches scheduled.

East Liverpool, with 13 of 14 wrestlers seeded in the top eight of their respective weight classes, is the overall and Class AAAA leader with 50 1/2 points heading into Friday's second day of action.

The Potters have a 2 1/2 -point lead over Oak Glen in the overall standings, while they are a comfortable 22 1/2 tallies ahead of Steubenville and John Marshall in the 4-A division.

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Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Right, Martins Ferry's Kirk Roth, top, gets a handle on Harrison Central's Ken Baker during their 152-pound match at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center on Thursday. Right, Wheeling Park's Mark Evans seeks a pin against Steubenville's Ben Young, while referee Jim Crosier keeps an eye on the wrestlers.

## OVAC Wrestling Tournament

(Continued from Page 19)

The Purple Riders' Greg Ware is also a defending titlist and has a 20-1 record thus far.

Others still perfect include Martins Ferry's Tierney brothers - John (112) and David (119) - who are both 21-0, Cameron's Roger Kupfer (23-0) at 130, and the Steubenville duo of Ethan Birden (23-0) at 160 and John Jones (23-0) at 215.

Something will have to give in the 119 pound class if Bowersock, who prevailed at 103 a year ago, and D. Tierney meet in the finals. However, Tierney could have his hands full with Cameron sophomore Tucker Brown (22-2) whom he meets in the

semis. Brown has yet to wrestle longer than 1-minute, 29-seconds in any of his three bouts, with two lasting less than 45 seconds.

Three unseeded wrestlers have advanced to semifinal action, those being Beaver Local's Nate Smith at 140, Steubenville's Roger Richardson at 171 and Steubenville Central's Pete Polverini at 215.

Of the three, Polverini has been the most impressive as he knocked off third-seeded Robert Busick of Weir in the second round and then defeated Harrison Central's Joe Thomas, the sixth seed, in the quarters. He will face Jones.

Richardson handily defeated second-seeded Matt Schoolcraft of East

Liverpool in the quarters.

### PIN FALLS

■ Several special awards were handed out Friday night. They were OVAC Official of the Year which went to Steubenville native Shawn Crosier; Special Recognition Award which was presented to Denver J. Kaiser; the James "Dead Eye Morris" Scholarship which went to Oak Glen athletic trainer Randy Elliott; the Sidney A. Stolz Memorial Award which was won by Kristen Davia; and the OVAC Assistant Coach of the Year which was presented to Bill Ellsworth.

■ There were a total of 147 pins and 146 decisions recorded during Friday's day-long event.

## **OVAC Mat Champs**



Photo Courtesy of Briggs Photography  
**CELEBRATING** their Class AA championship in the recent OVAC Wrestling Tournament were these Shamrock grapplers from Barnesville High School. The team is coached by Jeff Crosier, back left.

## **Mat Kingpins**



# Some things take time



By  
Rick  
DeLuca  
Times Leader  
Sports Writer

Forty-five OVAC wrestling tournaments came and went and never was there a champion from any of the Buckeye Local schools, past or present included.

It's not that the opportunity wasn't there.

Twice '98 graduate Sean Doyle wrestled his way into the finals, but came up short both times to wrestlers who were selected as the tourney's Bierkorte Award winner, John Marshall's Ryan Muldrew and St. John Central's Eric Anderson.

Buckeye Local's only state champion, Joe Cominsky, lost in the OVAC finals to Steubenville Central's Chinadu Achebe the same year he brought home the gold from state.

Even during Buckeye Local's back-to-back team championship years of '96 and '97, no Panther individual champions were crowned.

Last season, senior Terry Smith finally broke the spell by winning the OVAC title in a wild 160-pound match that nearly saw Smith lose in the final seconds.

With that, southern Jefferson County area's OVAC championship drought finally ended and it appears that Buckeye Local's wrestling program is ready to reap some of the individual fruits of their labors.

Winning titles at 103 and 189 in this weekend's OVAC mat tourney in Wheeling, Buckeye Local was able to double their number of champions in the past 46 years. And, according to Panther coach Jay Michael, his wrestlers did it with class.

Nathan Kendjorsky, one of those young wrestlers who thinks the sport never takes a break between seasons, placed third in last year's tourney, but came into the 2000 OVAC as the top-seed at 103.

With good reason. Kendjorsky has earned all-American honors the past two summers while wrestling in the Junior Nationals. And this year, he entered the OVAC tournament with a 22-2 overall record, 22-0 at his weight class of 103.

Kenjorsky dropped a couple of matches when he moved up to 112 in a dual tournament at Wheeling Park this year, but at 103, he wasn't even scored on.

In winning the OVAC crown at 103 on Saturday, Kendjorsky pinned his way into the finals, then dominated Edison's Derek Maple in the championship bout, 10-3.

"Nathan was 17-15 his first year," Buckeye coach Jay Michael said. "He spent a lot of time wrestling in the summer and that showed last year. We didn't back off after last year. There's no substitute for summer wrestling."

"It makes you think, why doesn't everybody do it," Michael said in referring to Kendjorsky's success the past two years after wrestling-filled summers. "Some are just more serious than others and he is one of them."

"Taking nothing away from (Martins Ferry's) Scott Roth, he is a great wrestler and he wrestled very well in the OVACs, but I think that Nathan was the most dominating wrestler in the tournament."

"I don't know how many champions are thinking about next year's tournament already, but I'm sure Nathan is," the Panther coach added.

But Buckeye didn't just have one champion, the Panthers had two.

"If you would have asked me at the start of the season if I thought Adam (Beranek) would have a chance to win the OVAC, I probably would have said that he wouldn't," Michael said about his 189-pound OVAC champion.

"He wrestled better than ever in the tourney. He was able to move down in weight this year and he was better suited for that," the Buckeye mat coach added. "He holds his position well and makes his opponent make the bad move. That's what he did Saturday. He outwrestled him for six minutes and made him make a bad move."

From a team standpoint, wrestling fans can easily see just how important individual champions mean to team scoring. The pair accounted for 62 of Buckeye's 129 total.

**ON THE OTHER** hand, having champions doesn't always mean as much as having a lot of seeded wrestlers.

East Liverpool came in with 13 out of 14 wrestlers seeded in the top eight in their respective weight classes. None were top seeded, but three wrestled their way into the finals.

It was the Potters success in the opening round, racking up 50.5 of a possible 56 points on that first day that gave them the boost that eventually enabled them to claim another OVAC team title with 226 points, 15 better than second place Martins Ferry.

Liverpool won the title with just one of those three finalists winning in the championship bout.

Micah Jordan, a 125-pounder who recorded the tourney's quickest pin in eight seconds in the first round and closed with the most wins in the least amount of time on the mats, beat the top-seed in the

## OVAC WRESTLING

### TEAM SCORES

**Overall**  
1. East Liverpool 50 1/2; 2. Oak Glen 47; 3. Martins Ferry 36 1/2; 4. Cameron 34; 5. (tie) Buckeye Local, John Marshall 28; 7. Wellsville 27 1/2; 8. Wheeling Park 27; 9. Barnesville 26 1/2; 10. St. Clairsville 25

**Class AAAA**  
1. East Liverpool 50; 2. Buckeye Local 28; 4. Wheeling Park 27; 5. (tie) Brookes, Cambridge, Edison, Steubenville 16; 9. Weir B

**Class AAA**  
1. Oak Glen 47; 2. Martins Ferry 36 1/2; 3. St. Clairsville 25; 4. Beaver Local 24; 5. Harrison Central 20; 6. (tie) Bellaire, Union Local 18; 8. Meadowbrook 10; 9. Indian Creek 8; 10. (tie) Magnolia, Tyler Consolidated 4

**Class AA**  
1. Wellsville 27 1/2; 2. Barnesville 26 1/2; 3. River 13; 4. Monroe Central 12; 5. Caldwell 11; 6. (tie) Steubenville Central, Shenandoah 10

**Class A**  
1. Cameron 34; 2. Shadyside 20; 3. Bellaire St. John's 13 1/2; 4. (tie) Bridgeport, Beallsville 12; 6. (tie) Linsly, Wairton Madonna 6

### 47th OVAC Wrestling Tournament (at Wheeling Civic Center)

**First Round Championships**  
103: Kendjorsky (BL) p. Mullins (Steub) 1:08; Cowan (EL) p. Skiviat (StC) 1:24; Maple (Ed) p. McGhee (Bell) 1:49; Jones (MF) p. Abaregg (Beal) 1:58; Zubay (OG) p. Mayle (IC) 1:41  
112: Tierney (MF) p. Exner (Bell) 0:29; Casey (Mead) d. Bettinazzi (StC) 9-8; Roberts (OG) p. Jones (Steub) 2:29; Jack (SS) p. Troyan (BSJ) 1:32; Francis (Barn) tech. fall Folger (TC) 3:58; Fasouletos (JM) 1-0; Kennedy (WP) p. Loy (Mag) 0:58; Huffman (Riv) d. Koos (IC) 14-4; Rossiter (HC) p. Hixenbaugh (WM) 1:16; Petrozzi (BvL) d. Prendes (Wells) 7-0  
119: Wilson (MC) p. Zahn (Weir) 6:15; Fitch (EL) d. Campbell (HC) 15-3; Anderson (Barn) p. Poole (SC) 1:29; Conrath (StC) d. Licata (Steub) 18-6; Brown (Cam) p. High (Camb) 0:45; Thrasher (Wells) p. Rinehart (Shen) 3:43; Ray (Ed) d. Stan (Bpt) 8-4; Six (OG) d. Casey (Mead) 10-0; Tierney (MF) p. Bresiger (Bell) 0:54  
125: Evans (WP) p. Young (Steub) 1:49; Barcus (HC) p. Felton (Brk) 2:40; Barath (StC) p. Ramsey (SS) 1:40; Eckleberry (OG) p. DeLuca (L) 1:04; Glidden (Cald) p. Harless (Mead) 1:00; Henry (SC) d. Hockenberry (Camb) 7-6; Roth (MF) tech. fall Hoppel (BvL) 20-3; Hughes (Cam) p. Jolly (Ed) 1:05; Myers (Bell) p. Wright (WM) 1:19; Dornon (Beal) p. Leas (IC) 3:31; Patton (BL) d. Snyder (UL) 8-2; Jones (Bpt) p. Garuccio (Mag) 2:56; Hoover (Shen) p. McClelland (Wells) 4:59; Davis (Barn) d. Elliott (JM) 3-1; Jordan (EL) p. Gaiser (TC) 0:08  
130: Kupfer (Cam) p. Speece (Brk) 1:03; Nestor (BL) p. Emmerling (BvL) 1:39; Culp (Wells) p. Smith (Shen) 1:05; Smith (MF) p. Valentine (Camb) 2:19; Muldrew (JM) d. Christian (Steub) 3-0; Rose (HC) p. Polverini (SC) 4:55; Varner (EL) p. White (L) 1:31; O'Grady (SS) p. Quatrochi (WM) 0:35; Kennedy (WP) p. Brewer (Mag) 1:31; Bender (Cald) p. Somerville (Bell) 1:33; Snider (TC) p. Magyar (TC) 0:22; Jefferis (Barn) p. Robinson (Ed) 4:34; Noel (OG) p. Calabrese (IC) 1:56; Schott (StC) d. Robinson (Bpt) 8-2  
135: Westover (BvL) p. Zrinyi (SC) 4:13; Paddicord (Barn) d. Branagan (IC) 8-7; McGhee (Bell) p. Sefstich (HC) 5:58; Smolira (UL) d. Prokakis (Ed) 3-2; Myers (Wells) p. Thomas (Mag) 2:32; Crumbly (EL) p. Durbin (BSJ) 4:38; Sansone (StC) p. Stritz (Shen) 1:57; Bliss (Brk) p. Varner (Weir) 1:04; Wilson (MC) d. Jones (Bpt) 5-1; Lowers (OG) d. Kinzy (Beal) 8-2; Furbee (Camb) p. Robinson (WM) 0:47; Kotsen (Cam) 3:24; Moore (WP) d. Carpenter (L) 9-0; Mayhugh (MF) d. Rager (BL) 12-3  
140: Ware (MF) p. Coen (Brk) 2:32; Arnette (Wells) tech. fall Basham (Mead) 20-4; Yudasz (StC) d. White (WP) 5-4; Straus (BL) p. Irvin (Bpt) 5:58; Smith (BvL) p. Giesake (TC) 3:10; Banovsky (Ed) p. Frollini (SS) 1:11; Ghrist (EL) p. Heimick (Mag) 0:13; Lucy (Cam) d. Rose (HC) 6-1; George (JM) p. Blavins (UL) 5:15; Kopyar (BSJ) p. Cowser (IC) 1:43; Bruce (Bell) p. Whittington (Riv) 0:53; Glass (OG) p. Lucas (Barn) 1:09  
145: Roth (MF) p. Mathess (Brk) 1:15; Poole (OG) d. King (IC) 6-1; Vargo (BL) p. Rogers (HC) 1:52; Keylor (Cald) d. Taylor (JM) 9-1; Earlich (EL) p. Brantner (TC) 1:32; Parr (SS) p. Canella (SC) 2:38; Nicka (WM) d. Banovsky (Ed) 9-2; Boyle (L) p. Kocher (Riv) 3:37; Hughes (Cam) p. Crowson (Mead) 3:00; Wukelich (Shen) p. Wiley (BvL) 3:59; Wheatley (Camb) by default over Barker (Barn); Bartolo (StC) d. Wetzel (Wells) 6-3; Davia (UL) p. Layman (Mag) 1:28; Lemley (Beal) d. Stewart (Bell) 7-0  
152: Koch (BSJ) p. Williams (Barn) 2:27; Roth (MF) p. Baker (HC) 3:58; Terry (IC) p. Jones (Steub) 4:32; Wheatley (Camb) p. Fairchild (Mead) 1:57; Schumacher (MC) d. Androsko (StC) 7-4; Nestor (BL) p. Sloan (Wells) 0:12; Glasser (SS) p. Galluzzo (TC) 1:11; Alloggia (Ed) d. Williams (BvL) 8-4; Tacosik (UL) p. Sandridge (Mag) 3:05; Taylor (JM) p. Hearndon (L) 1:28; Holdsworth (OG) p. Mitchell (Bell) 1:08; Smith (SC) d. McIlvain (Cam) 14-10  
160: Birden (Steub) p. Spitznogle (HC) 1:14; Stickles (OG) p. Hastings (L) 0:47; Jones (EL) tech. fall Cattane (UL) 18-3; O'Neil (Cam) p. Meeks (StC) 2:13; Jefferis (Barn) tech. fall Moore (Ed) 4:39; Hoover (Shen) d. Otto (BL) 9-2; Holt (MF) d. Moore (BvL) 9-3; Kinzy (Beal) d. Grinch (SS) 7-5 ot; Koch (BSJ) tech. fall Pyle (Weir) 16-0  
171: Wood (Cam) p. Chung (L) 0:41; Schaal (BL) p. Pittman (Beal) 1:28; Forrelli (StC) p. Orsini (SC) 0:22; Magnone (Weir) p. Groff (Wells) 3:27; Powell (Barn) tech. fall Vasey (Bell) 3:31; Hepburn (SS) p. Oldfield (Riv) 4:24; Williams (BvL) p. Switzer (WM) 3:20; Hebrock (OG) p. Horn (Shen) 1:56; Richardson (Steub) p. Hepe (BSJ) 5:47; Goodin (Mead) p. Vermillion (HC) 4:14; Schoolcraft (EL) p. Pierce (Cald) 0:59  
189: Bellville (OG) p. Ramage (Cald) 3:13; Cravenor (Camb) p. Tellers (L) 0:49; Yetts (WM) p. Collins (Wells) 2:51; Snider (Steub) p. Blakely (Beal) 1:33; Yeager (IC) d. Dimmerling (MC) 12-10; Meyer (Cam) p. Anderson (Barn) 5:36; Sulek (Bell) d. Nardo (UL) 5-4; Wells (Shen) d. White (JM) 8-2; Stansbury (EL) p. Timko (BSJ) 1:13; Boyd (WP) p. Keiner (StC) 0:44; Wright (Bpt) p. McNeely (Mag) 2:57; Beranek (BL) d. Jones (Mead) 1:40  
215: Meadows (Wells) p. Huml (UL) 5:51; Wells (JM) p. Kim (L) 0:44; Thomas (HC) p. Adams (Beal) 1:29; Polverini (SC) d. Fisher (Bpt) 10-3; Busick (Weir) p. Eddy (BL) 1:30; Six (OG) p. Eden (MF) 1:08; Walters (Riv) d. Exner (Bell) 13-9; King (IC) d. Wade (Shen) 7-0; Brown (BvL) p. Hill (StC) 1:03; Capp (Brk) d. Snyder (Cald) 6-5; Ochap (WP) p. Stoneking (Cam) 1:29  
275: Prescott (BvL) p. Janiszewski (Bpt) 0:50; Higgins (Mag) p. Pittman (Beal) 0:35; Brindley (BSJ) d. Hill (StC) 4-2 ot; Waychoff (L) d. Fankhauser (Ed) 5-1; Carothers (HC) p. Harubin (BL) 5:01; Caughy (OG) p. Potenzini (SC) 0:26; Lucas (Barn) p. Duval (Bell) 1:20; Fisher (Wells) p. Ellis (UL) 1:56; Redman (EL) p. Brown (Cald) 2:16

With good reason. Kendjorsky has earned all-American honors the past two summers while wrestling in the Junior Nationals. And this year, he entered the OVAC tournament with a 22-2 overall record, 22-0 at his weight class of 103.

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But Buckeye didn't just have one champion, the Panthers had two.

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Micah Jordan, a 125-pounder who recorded the tourney's quickest pin in eight seconds in the first round and closed with the most wins in the least amount of time on the mats, beat the top-seed in the finals.

East Liverpool built up a nearly-insurmountable lead in the early rounds and needed only a couple Martins Ferry upsets in the finals to seal the win.

**MARTINS FERRY** still has to be regarded as possibly the best group of wrestlers in the Ohio Valley despite finishing second.

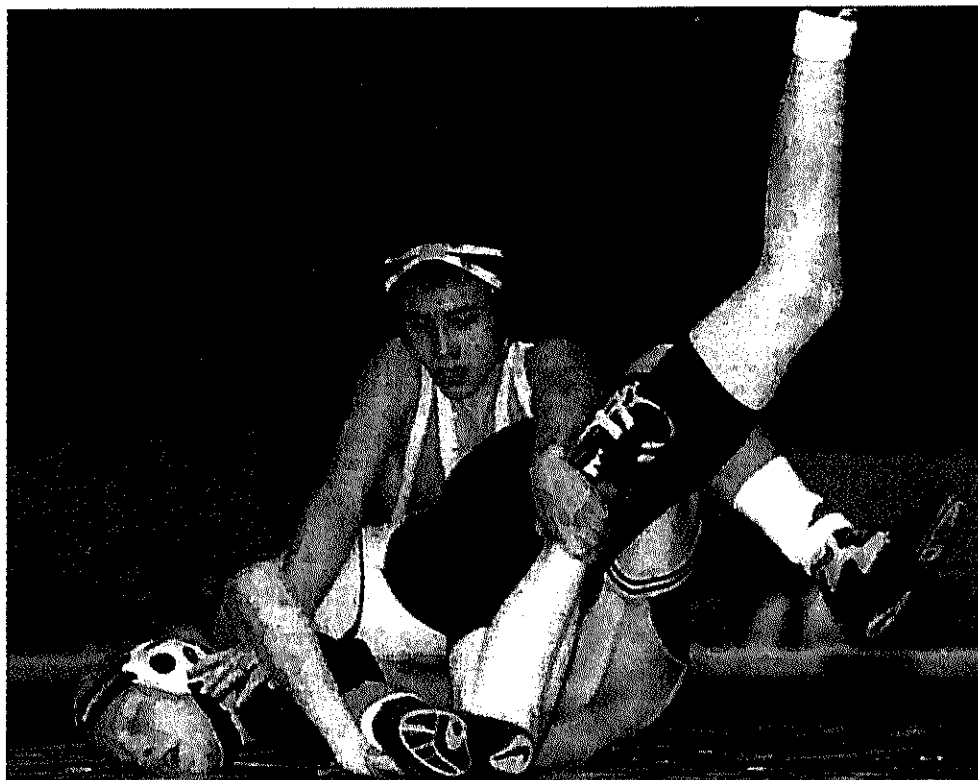
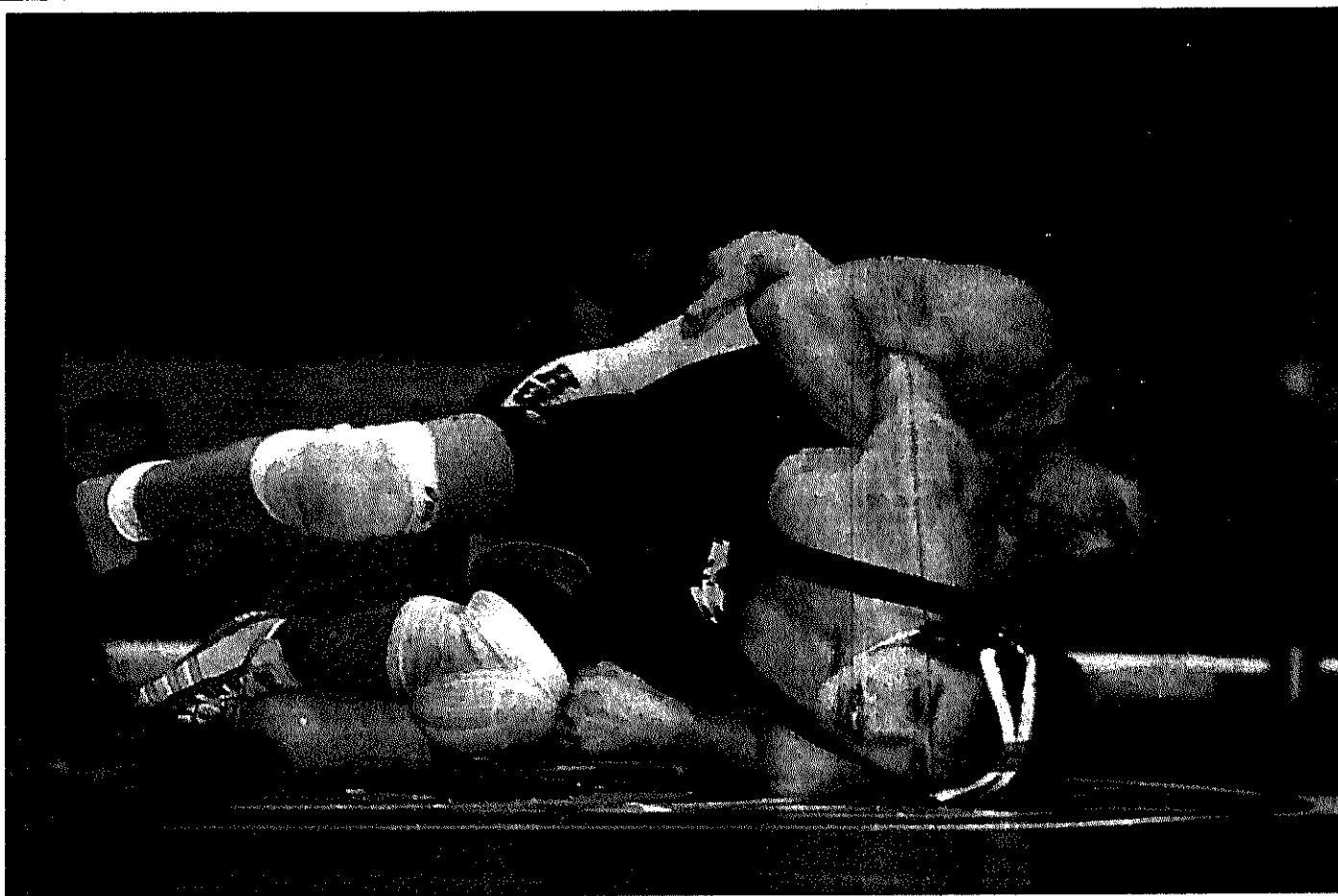
Not as deep as in past years and certainly taking nothing away from the champion Potters, first-year coach Babe Sldon puts a tough group of wrestlers on the mats and had a legitimate shot at crowning five champions on Saturday.

That would have erased that early Potter lead.

It's hard classify either loss suffered by the Tierney brothers an upset, but these are two youngsters that have OVAC titles in their futures.

John Tierney wrestled Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter just two weeks earlier and pulled out a nar-

See, OVAC, Page 10B



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER  
**ABOVE PHOTO:** Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter looks to gain the advantage on Martins Ferry's John Tierney during the 112-pound championship match at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center Saturday evening. Rossiter scored a late reversal to secure a 3-2 victory.

**LEFT PHOTO:** Buckeye Local junior Nathan Kendjorsky is in control of Edison's Derek Maple during the 103-pound championship match at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center Saturday evening. Kendjorsky was a decisive 10-3 winner to claim the title.

## KNOW THE SCORE

## OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

row decision. On Saturday, Rossiter was not to be denied. Rossiter had placed sixth in the tourney last year while wrestling for Buckeye Local and edged Tierney for the title in a 3-2 decision.

David Tierney's loss in his 119-pound final would have been more expected. After all, he was taking on another unbeaten wrestler, Cole Bowersock of Beaver Local, who was a 103-pound champion a year earlier.

Ironically, Bowersock defeated John Tierney in last year's OVAC finals.

Martins Ferry's day with Beaver Local took another bad turn at 135, where the Riders'

Bobby Mayhugh was pinned by the Beavers' Aaron Westover. Mayhugh, another grappler who wrestled at Buckeye Local a year earlier, came into the finals with 20 wins.

Of course, the Riders had two guarantees coming into the OVAC tourney, by the name of Ware and Roth.

Greg Ware, a champion last year at 135, and Scott Roth, the titlist at 140, took home their second crowns in two years. Roth was so impressive in the tourney that he earned the Bierkorte Award as the most outstanding wrestling.

A wrestling school could be in the future for

Ware and Roth. It's evident they teach a lot of opponents a lot of lessons about wrestling ever time they step on a mat.

This year's tournament bid farewell to another set of twins, Derek and Dan Koch of St. John Central. It was good to see them both work their way into the finals. Derek easily took the 152-pound title and Dan suffered a heartbreaking loss at 160.

Although the 47th OVAC tournament is history, fear not wrestling fans, the season isn't over. It's just starting to heat up.

## Wrestling

(Continued from Page 19)

"It's an awful long tournament a lot of matches still have to be wrestled," said East Liverpool head coach Scott Heimstra. "We have to come out tomorrow and do our job again."

Nine Potters won their matches by pin, with second-seeded Micah Jordan recording the fastest fall of the night when he flattened Tyler Consolidated's Justin Gaiser in a mere eight seconds of the 125-pound bout.

Teammate Jeremy Ghrist, a No. 3 seed, also had a lightning-quick pin as he sent Magnolia's Jimmy Helmick to his back in 13 ticks at 140 pounds. Second-seeded Matt Schoolcraft, at 171, needed just 59 seconds to pin Caldwell's Jason Pierce.

"Our 119 pounder got a major decision and our 160 got a technical fall, so were a point-and-a-half down from what I was hoping for," he added with a smile.

Oak Glen, the three-time defending West Virginia Class A-AA titlists, had the most pins of any one as 11 Golden Bears recorded falls, with heavy-weight Joey Caughey, the No. 3 seed, pinning Steubenville Central's Dave Potenzini in 26 seconds.

Derrick Stickles, the fifth seed at 160 pounds, pinned Linsly's Grant Hastings in 47 seconds.

"We wrestled pretty solid tonight," said veteran head coach Larry Shaw, whose Golden Bears head the 3-A field by 9 1/2 points over two-time defending overall champion Martins Ferry. "We advanced all of our guys and that was our goal."

"Obviously, we wanted to pick up as many bonus points as we could," he continued. "We got 11 pins and a major decision, but tomorrow is another day. Every round gets tougher and more difficult, but we just have to respond to the level of competition."

The Purple Riders, of first-year head coach Babe Sidon, had seven pins, a technical fall and two decisions, but only lost one match as two other grapplers received byes.

The Tierney brothers - John (112) and David (119) - neither one worked up a sweat as John won his match in 29 seconds, while David needed 54 seconds.

Unbeaten and top-seeded Scott Roth upped his record to 19-0 with a 1:13 pin in his 145-pound match, while fellow No. 1 seed Greg Ware also won by pin.

Head coach Jim Potts' Dragons lead the single-A field by 14 points over Shadyside, but that is not an unfamiliar position for Cameron.

"It gets tougher and tougher every year, but we did alright tonight," he said. "We won two matches tonight that I wasn't sure about, but we lost one that I thought we would win."

Two Dragons, Chris Wood at 171 and 119-pounder Tucker Brown pinned their opponents in less than one minute. Wood needed just 41 seconds, while Brown's match last four seconds longer.

All 14 top seeds advanced, with 11 winning by pins and three others receiving forfeits.

Only two seeded wrestlers were defeated last night, with both of them being No. 8 nods.

### PIN FALLS

■ In addition to the 107 pins, there were 41 decisions, seven technical falls, one default, 23 forfeits and 38 byes.

■ A moment of silence was held prior to the national anthem for four individuals who passed away since last year's tournament. They included former OVAC Executive Secretary Sam Mumley, former Dapper Dan president Rudy Mumley, retired Times-Leader Sports Editor Cal Pokas and East Liverpool's Matt Salsberry, a two-time champion.



Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Bellaire St. John's 152-pounder Derek Koch, in green, gets a handle on Indian Creek's Rashad Terry at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center on Friday night.

## Potters Take OVAC Lead

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

East Liverpool put some distance between itself and the other 33 teams as the 47th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament heads into the final day of action today at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The Potters, who trailed Oak Glen by one-half point after Thursday's first round, tallied 102 points during Friday's two sessions and now lead the Golden Bears by 152 1/2-137.

"We've got 11 kids in and we're doing alright, but tomorrow (Saturday) is another long day," said East Liverpool head coach Scott Heimstra.

Action gets underway today at 10 a.m. with semifinal matches in the championship bracket, as well as fifth round and semifinal consolation bouts. Matches to determine third, fifth and seventh places will be contested at 4 p.m., with the championship finals starting at 6:30.

The Potters and two-time defending overall champion Martins Ferry each have six semifinalists, but the Purple Riders, who are third overall with 129 markers, only have one other wrestler still alive.

"I think we did pretty much what we expected," said first-year head coach Babe Sidon.

"Maybe with the exception of our 160 pounder. He lost a couple of tough matches, but there's not much you can do."

Barnesville, Buckeye Local, Cameron and Oak Glen each have five semifinalists, but head coach Larry Shaw wasn't at all pleased with his team's per-

formance Friday.

"I think our youth showed today," he explained. "I think our backs are pretty much against the wall right now. If we're going to make a move, we'll have to get some outstanding efforts from the kids that are still alive in the semis."

While the overall and Class AAA titles are still up in the air, the same can't be said about the Class A, AA and AAAA championships.

East Liverpool has run away from the other eight 4-A squads, with Buckeye Local sitting in a very distant second place with 85 points.

In 2-A, Barnesville has a comfortable 26 1/2-point lead over Wellsville, while Cameron is locked at the top in single-A with a 49-point advantage over Shadyside.

Oak Glen maintains an eight-point bulge over Martins Ferry in triple-A, and that championship could be decided in the semifinals.

As far as the top four seeds are concerned in each weight class, they advanced to the semifinals in half of the 14 weight divisions.

Only one No. 2 seed was upset Friday, while four third-seeded wrestlers dropped matches and a trio of No. 4 seeds were beaten.

Seven of the eight unbeaten that entered the three-day tournament still maintain perfect records, with two of those individuals seeking repeat titles. They include Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock (15-0) at 119 and Martins Ferry's Scott Roth (21-0) at 145.

(Continued on Page 21)





# EL wins OVAC mat title

# OVAC

## • Ferry, Barnesville win titles; Roth earns Bierkorte Award

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

East Liverpool came into the 47th annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament without a top-seeded wrestler, but did come in with the 13 seeded wrestlers and went home with the school's third OVAC team title Saturday night.

Capping off a big weekend at the Wheeling Civic Center, the Potters advanced three wrestlers into the championship finals, but had enough points by the fourth championship bout to claim the title.

Liverpool's title came as somewhat of a surprise as the Potters took the crown away from pre-tourney favorites, Oak Glen, the defending West Virginia state champion, and Martins Ferry, two-time defending titlist.

East Liverpool finished with 226 points in taking the team title, outdistancing the Purple Riders by 15 points.

Oak Glen closed out the tourney in third with 185 followed by Beaver Local, impressive showing at 160.5.

Cameron rounded out the top five with 149 points.

Individual division leaders included East Liverpool which had a sizeable lead over Buckeye Local (129) for the 4-A title.

In Class AAA, Martins Ferry recorded its fourth straight, edging Oak Glen with Beaver Local third.

In Class AA, Barnesville easily took the crown with its 144 points while Wellsville finished with 65.5.

Cameron added another Class A to its long list of championships with 149 points while St. John's was second with 95.5.

In the 103-pound title match, Buckeye Local junior Nathan Kendjorsky followed up a third place finish in the OVAC tourney a year ago by capturing the OVAC crown with a 10-3 decision over Edison's Derek Maple.

Kendjorsky jumped out to a 4-2 lead in the first period with a pair of takedowns.

In the second period he added an escape and a takedown to boost the lead to 7-2. A near-fall added three points in the third and went onto take the title.

Getting into the finals by pinning his way through the tourney, Kendjorsky closed the tourney with a 29-2 record on the season. Maple, who upset Oak Glen's Zack Zubay in the semi-finals, finished at 22-4.

In the 112-pound match, Martins Ferry sophomore John Tierney and Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter met in a rematch of an earlier matchup between the pair. On the OVAC mats, it was Rossiter avenging the earlier loss to Tierney with a thrilling 3-2 decision.

Rossiter fell behind Tierney 2-0 in the second period with a penalty point and an escape. In the third period, Rossiter took control gaining an escape early in the session then scoring a takedown with just over a minute remaining and held on to take the crown.

Rossiter boosted his season mark to 15-2 with the win while improving on his sixth place finish last year while wrestling at Buckeye Local. Tierney, unbeaten coming in, finished the tourney at 22-1.

In the 119-pound title bout, 103-pound defending champion Cole Bowersock of Beaver Local, up two classes this year, and added a second title besting previously-unbeaten David Tierney of Martins Ferry.

Bowersock registered a takedown in the first and a reversal in the second period to open a 4-0 lead heading into the final two-minute session. Despite the valiant efforts of Tierney, Bowersock held on adding a takedown in the final seconds to seal the win.

Bowersock's title win boosted his season mark to 18-0. Tierney finished at 22-1. Bowersock is a junior and Tierney a sophomore.

At 125, East Liverpool's Micah Jordan, who registered the quickest pin in the tourney an eight-second fall in the first round, dominated Wheeling Park's Mark Evans in their title match before scoring an 11-6 decision.

Jordan came out quick and opened a 5-0 lead before taking a 5-3 advantage into the second period. A near-fall and takedown enabled the Potter wrestler to extend his lead to 10-4 before heading into the final session.

Jordan finished the tourney with a 25-2 record while Evans, a four-time place finisher in the OVAC tourney, finished at 26-3.

In the 130-pound title bout, Cameron's unbeaten Roger Kupfer went into overtime to notch an exciting 6-4 decision over Oak Glen's Eric Noel.

The battled evenly through three periods, trading points before finishing dedlocked at 4-4 in regulation. In the OT, Kupfer scored a

takedown with 52 seconds left on the clock to gain the win.

Kupfer improved to 25-0 with the win after finished third last season. Noel a state champ at 103 in 1998 closed the tourney at 15-2.

In the 135-pound championship bout, Beaver Local's Aaron Westover shocked Martins Ferry's second-seeded Bob Mayhugh with a pin in 2:57.

Mayhugh had taken a 1-0 lead in the second period with an escape, but Westover's quick takedown put his ahead by 2-1 and set up the pin opportunity.

Westover a placefinisher the past two years improved to 17-1 with his tourney performance. Mayhugh, a district qualifier last season, closed the tourney at 20-4.

At 140, Martins Ferry's Greg Ware followed up his 1999 championship at 135 with a 3-1 decision over East Liverpool's Jeremy Ghrist and a 140-pound title in 2000.

After a scoreless first period, Ware scored first with an escape at the 1:01 mark in the second and added two with a takedown with just 18 seconds left in the period to take a 3-0 lead. Ghrist pulled to within 3-1 with an escape early in the third, but couldn't pull even with Ware.

Ware, a four-time finisher and three-time state qualifier, finished the tourney at 22-1. Ghrist closed at 23-6.

In the 145-pound bout, Martins Ferry's unbeaten Scott Roth made it look easy against Cameron's Jeff Hughes by scoring an easy 18-3 tech fall win to take his second OVAC title.

Near the end of the first period, Roth broke the scoreless tie with a takedown and near-fall to open a 4-0 lead. In the second, Roth added another point with an escape at the 1:30 mark and gained a takedown and another near-fall to take a 10-0 lead into the third.

Roth got a quick reversal in the third, allowed an escape, picked up two more on another takedown and again allowed an escape and went through the sequence again before gaining the technical fall 5:59.

Roth finished the tourney with a perfect 23-0 mark, his fourth straight year of placing in the tourney. Hughes closed at 27-2.

Roth also received the Bierkorte Award for outstanding wrestler.

In the 152-pound title match, St. John Central's once-beaten Derek

Koch gained an early lead and went on to post an impressive win over Oak Glen's Matt Holdsworth.

Koch jumped out to a quick 4-1 lead in the first period with a pair of takedowns, then extended the margin to 5-1 with an early escape in the second. In the third, Koch added a pair with a takedown in the opening seconds then held on to register his win.

The Fighting Irish grappler, top-seeded coming in, closed out the tourney with a 20-1 record. Koch was a second place finisher last year and place third in 1997. Holdsworth closed at 21-3.

At 160, Steubenville's unbeaten Ethan Birden had to battle St. John Central's Dan Koch to the end before pulling out a thrilling 4-3 decision in the title match.

Birden nearly went through a scoreless first period with Koch before registering a takedown with 18 seconds remaining. The Big Red grappler added another point with an escape to open the second. Koch battled to pull to within one in the final second of the second with a takedown and Birden escaped to lead 4-1. In the third, Koch escaped with 33 seconds remaining, but couldn't pick up the takedown to win.

Birden, a runnerup last year at 152 and third in 98, finished the tourney at 25-0. Koch, a runnerup a year ago, finished at 18-3.

In the 171-pound title match, Union Local's Mike Davis scrapped his way to a big 5-0 decision over Barnesville's Zack Powell. Davis improved over his runnerup finish a year ago.

Davis registered a 2-0 lead in the first period with a takedown late in the session and after a scoreless second escaped for a point in the third and pushed the lead to 5-0 with a takedown at the 1:00 mark.

With the title win, Davis boosted his season mark to 22-2. Davis was a runnerup at 171 a year ago. Powell, a junior, finished the weekend at 22-3.

In the 189-pound championship bout, Buckeye Local's Adam Baranek gave the Panthers their second OVAC champion with a narrow last second 3-2 win over Oak Glen's Phillip Bellville.

Baranek opened the scoring after a scoreless first period with an escape to start the second period. Bellville knotted the score in the third with an escape at the 1:40 mark Baranek went to the final seconds to pull out the win gaining a takedown with 19 seconds on the clock.

With the title, Baranek boosted his record to 21-6 on the season, while Bellville, a third place finisher in the state tourney, closed at 22-3.

At 215, Wheeling Park's Steve Ochap was forced to go into sudden death overtime to pull out a 2-1 decision over previously-unbeaten John Jones of Steubenville.

Jones earned his only point with an escape at 1:18 of the second. Ochap tied the score with an escape at 1:38 in the third. After battling through a scoreless overtime session, Ochap escaped with just 10 seconds gone in the sudden death.

Ochap, a regional champ last year, finished the tourney at 25-4 while Jones fell to 24-1 after bettering his third-place finish from a year ago.

At 275, the title match was almost a mirror image of the 215-pound match with Rick Prescott of Beaver Local edging East Liverpool's Tom Redman, 2-1, in double overtime.

Prescott picked up a point at 1:44 of the second with an escape and Redman sent the match into with an escape late in the third. Again a scoreless overtime was followed by the sudden death with Prescott escaping in the opening seconds.

Prescott is now 17-1 while Redman -- a fourth-place finisher last year, closed at 21-6.

### TEAM SCORING

OVERALL: East Liverpool 226; Martins Ferry 211; Beaver Local 160.5; Cameron 149; Wheeling Park 110; Edison 102.5.  
CLASS 4-A: East Liverpool 226; Buckeye Local 129; Steubenville 113; Wheeling Park 102.5; John Marshall 78.5; Brookfield 43; Cambridge 30.5.  
CLASS 3-A: Martins Ferry 211; Oak Glen 160.5; Harrison Central 78; Bell Indian Creek 61; Meadowbrook 31; Mingo 18; Tyler 15.  
CLASS 2-A: Barnesville 144; Wellsville 82; River 32.5; Monroe 31; Steubenville Central 30; Cakwell 21.  
CLASS 1-A: Cameron 149; St. John 95.5; Shady Side 79; Bealville 54; Braxton 25; Weirton Madonna 18; Linsly 11.

### CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

103 -- Nathan Kendjorsky (Buck) dec. Derek Maple (Ed), 10-3.  
112 -- Nic Rossiter (HC) dec. John Tierney (MF), 3-2.  
119 -- Cole Bowersock (Beav) dec. David Tierney (MF), 6-0.  
125 -- Micah Jordan (EL) dec. Mark Evans (WP), 11-6.  
130 -- Roger Kupfer (Cam) dec. Eric Noel (OG), 6-4 ot.  
135 -- Aaron Westover (Beav) pinned Bob Mayhugh (MF), 2:57.  
140 -- Greg Ware (MF) dec. Jeremy Ghrist (EL), 3-1.  
145 -- Scott Roth (MF) tech fall Jeff Hughes (Cam), 5:59.  
152 -- Derek Koch (SJC) dec. Matt Holdsworth (OG), 7-1.  
160 -- Ethan Birden (Steub) dec. Dan Koch (SJC), 4-3.  
171 -- Mike Davis (UL) dec. Zack Powell (Barn), 5-0.  
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### CONSOLATION FINALS

103 -- Jeremy Cowan (EL) dec. Zach Maple (Ed), 3-0.  
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119 -- Jarrod Anderson (Barn) pinned Fitch (EL), 2:12.  
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140 -- Adam Yudasz (STC) dec. Dan Banovsky (Ed), 5-3.  
145 -- Jonathan Davis (UL) dec. Matt V. Shanley (Shen), 9-4.  
152 -- Kurt Glasser (Shad) dec. Chris Jones (JM), 6-4.  
160 -- Justin Jefferies (Barn) pinned O'Neil (Cam), 4:20.  
171 -- Scott Schaal (Buck) dec. Magnone (Weir), 5-1.  
189 -- Justin Wells (Shen) pinned Josh Berry (EL), 3:48.  
215 -- Nate Brown (Beav) dec. Robert Weir (Weir), 8-5.  
275 -- Justin Lucas (Barn) dec. Mike Fitch (Brk), 6-2.

### FIFTH/SIXTH PLACE

103 -- Mike Jones (MF) pinned Josh Fitch (STC), 2:10.  
112 -- Jared Koss (IC) dec. Lucas Hill (Riv), 8-4.  
119 -- Chad Rogers (Brk) won by forfeit Tucker Brown (Cam).  
125 -- Billy Barath (STC) maj. dec. Connor (Beal), 18-4.  
130 -- Jonathan O'Grady (Shad) dec. Verner (EL), 11-5.  
135 -- Garlen Lewis (OG) dec. Jim Connor (Brk), 8-4.

## SJC grapples for choser

Ed "Buzz" Evans has enjoyed being a coach.

However, none of the honors that he has earned, compare to the 47th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year award.

Evans, a 1971 graduate of Wheeling Park, is a schoolboy who dedicates his life to coaching. "This is great news," said Evans about the award.

"I can never remember him as a relentless worker who made that can-do that, but he did."

"Buzz drove himself to be a coach and that type of student." After graduating from Wheeling Park, Evans was named WVC Defensive Player of the Year. He coached for 15 years in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference with the same excellence that he brought to the job.

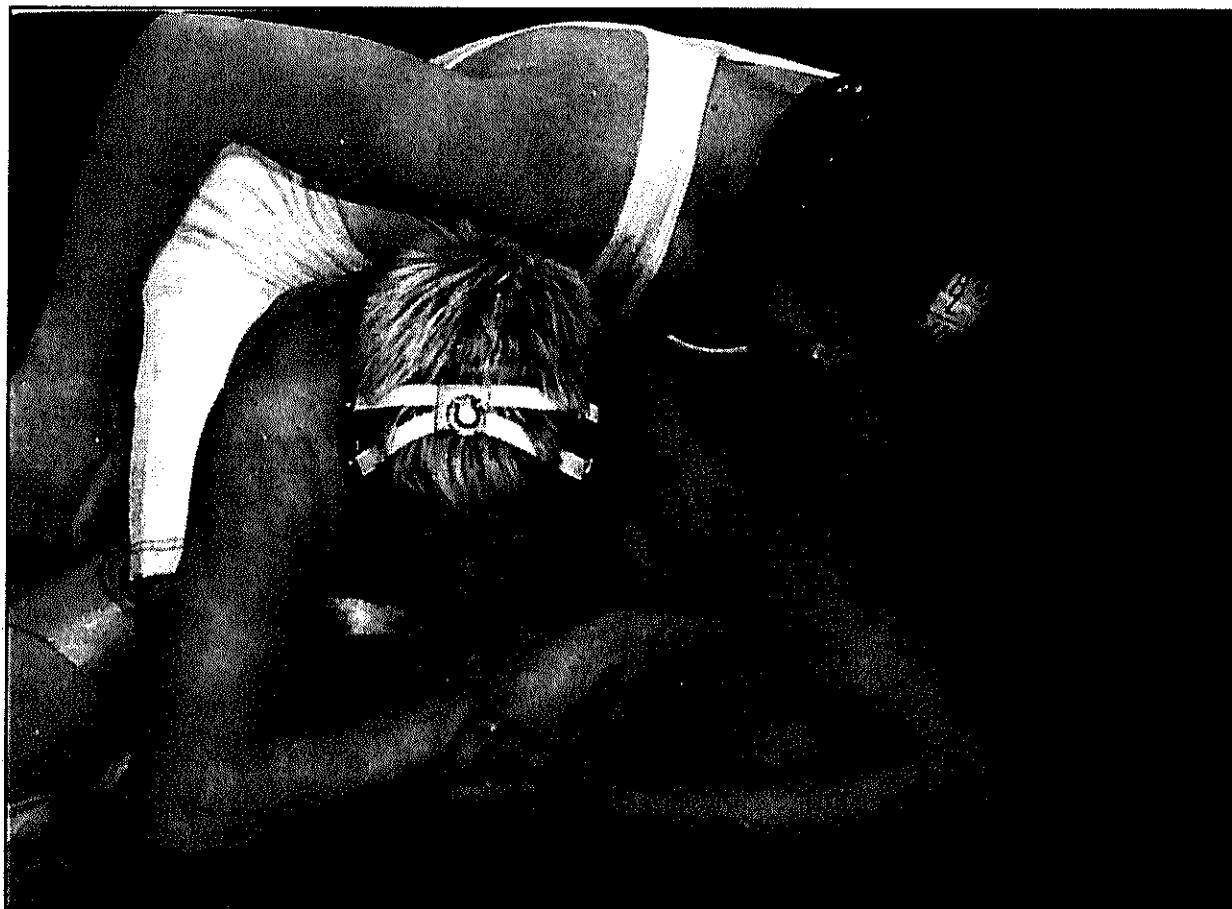
However, he made his mark with a phenomenal 179-61-2 record in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, and was named Coach of the Year, and was inducted into the West Virginia Association and the West Virginia Athletic Hall of Fame.

During his 15 years as he coached, Evans captured back-to-back state tournament titles in 1990 and 1991. He was named National Coach of the Year in 1993. He also won a national championship in 1979.

He also won a national championship in 1979 and followed that up with a national title in Kick Boxing.

In addition to his athletic career, Evans is a professional painter.

Evans is the father of two children and is currently pursuing a degree in education.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

IN CONTROL of Martins Ferry's David Tierney in the 119-pound championship match is Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock during the OVAC Wrestling Tournament Saturday night. Bowersock won the title via a 6-0 triumph.

# is OVAC mat title

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Rossiter fell behind Tierney 2-0 in the second period with a penalty and an escape. In the third period, Rossiter took control gaining an escape early in the session then registering a takedown with just over a minute remaining and held on to the crown.

Rossiter boosted his season mark to 15-2 with the win while improving on his sixth place finish last year while wrestling at Buckeye local. Tierney, unbeaten coming in, finished the tourney at 22-1.

In the 119-pound title bout, Bowersock defended his 3-0 record by pinning Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock in the first period. Bowersock's title win boosted his season mark to 18-0. Tierney shed at 22-1. Bowersock is a junior and Tierney a sophomore.

At 125, East Liverpool's Micah Jordan, who registered the quickest win in the first round, dominated Wheeling Park's Mark Evans in their title match before scoring a 6-0 decision.

Jordan came out quick and pinned a 5-0 lead before taking an advantage into the second period. A near-fall and takedown ended the Potter wrestler to extend his lead to 10-0 before heading into the final session.

Jordan finished the tourney with a 5-2 record while Evans, a four-time place finisher in the OVAC tourney, finished at 26-3.

In the 130-pound title bout, Cameron's unbeaten Roger Kupfer won it into overtime to notch an exchange 6-4 decision over Oak Glen's Eric Noel.

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Mayhugh had taken a 1-0 lead in the second period with an escape, but Westover's quick takedown put him ahead by 2-1 and set up the pin opportunity.

Westover a placefinisher the past two years improved to 17-1 with his tourney performance. Mayhugh, a district qualifier last season, closed the tourney at 20-4.

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After a scoreless first period, Ware scored first with an escape at the 1:01 mark in the second and added two with a takedown with just 18 seconds left in the period to take a 3-0 lead. Ghreist pulled to within 3-1 with an escape early in the third, but couldn't not pull even with Ware.

Ware, a four-time finisher and three-time state qualifier, finished the tourney at 22-1. Ghreist closed at 23-6.

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With the title win, Davis boosted his season mark to 22-2. Davis was a runnerup at 171 a year ago. Powell, a junior, finished the weekend at 22-3.

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Beranek opened the scoring after a scoreless first period with an escape to start the second period. Bellville knotted the score in the third with an escape at the 1:40 mark. Beranek went to the final seconds to pull out the win gaining a takedown with 19 seconds on the clock.

With the title, Beranek boosted his record to 21-6 on the season, while Bellville, a third place finisher in the state tourney, closed at 22-3.

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Ochap, a regional champ last year, finished the tourney at 25-4 while Jones fell to 24-1 after bettering his third-place finish from a year ago.

At 275, the title match was almost a mirror image of the 215-pound match with Rick Prescott of Beaver Local edging East Liverpool's Tom Redman, 2-1, in double overtime.

Prescott picked up a point at 1:44 of the second with an escape and Redman sent the match into with an escape late in the third. Again a scoreless overtime was followed by the sudden death with Prescott escaping in the opening seconds.

Prescott is now 17-1 while Redman -- a fourth-place finisher last year, closed at 21-6.

# OVAC Mat Results

**TEAM SCORING**  
**OVERALL:** East Liverpool 228; Martins Ferry 211; Beaver Local 180.5; Cameron 149; Barnesville 144; Buckeye Local 129; Steubenville 113; Wheeling Park 110; Edison 102.5.  
**CLASS 4-A:** East Liverpool 228; Buckeye Local 129; Steubenville 113; Wheeling Park 110; Edison 102.5; John Marshall 78.5; Brooks 68; Weir 43; Cambridge 30.5.  
**CLASS 3-A:** Martins Ferry 211; Oak Glen 185; Beaver Local 160.5; St. Clairsville 102; Union Local 95.5; Harrison Central 76; Bellaire 62; Indian Creek 61; Meadowbrook 31; Magnolia 18; Tyler 15.  
**CLASS 2-A:** Barnesville 144; Wellsville 65.5; Shenandoah 62; River 32.5; Monroe Central 31; Steubenville Central 30; Caldwell 28.  
**CLASS 1-A:** Cameron 149; St. John Central 95.5; Shadyside 79; Beaverville 54; Bridgeport 25; Weirton Madonna 18; Linsly 11.

**CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**  
 103 -- Nathan Kendjorsky (Buck) dec. Derek Maple (Ed), 10-3.  
 112 -- Nic Rossiter (HC) dec. John Tierney (MF), 3-2.  
 119 -- Cole Bowersock (Beav) dec. David Tierney (MF), 6-0.  
 125 -- Micah Jordan (EL) dec. Mark Evans (WP), 11-8.  
 130 -- Roger Kupfer (Cam) dec. Eric Noel (OG), 6-4 ot.  
 135 -- Aaron Westover (Beav) pinned Bob Mayhugh (MF), 2:57.  
 140 -- Greg Ware (MF) dec. Jeremy Ghreist (EL), 3-1.  
 145 -- Scott Roth (MF) tech fall Jeff Hughes (Cam), 5:59.  
 152 -- Derek Koch (SJC) dec. Matt Holdsworth (OG), 7-1.  
 160 -- Ethan Birden (Steub) dec. Dan Koch (SJC), 4-3.  
 171 -- Mike Davis (UL) dec. Zack Powell (Barn), 5-0.  
 189 -- Adam Beranek (Buck) dec. Phillip Bellville (OG), 3-2.  
 215 -- Steve Ochap (WP) dec. John Jones (Steub), 2-1 in double OT.  
 275 -- Rick Prescott (BEAV). Dec. Tom Redman (EL), 2-1 in double OT.

**CONSOLATION FINALS**  
 103 -- Jeremy Cowan (EL) dec. Zach Zubay (OG), 3-0.  
 112 -- Josh Francis (Barn) dec. David Jack (Shad), 11-5.  
 119 -- Jarrod Anderson (Barn) pinned Jake Fitch (EL), 2:12.  
 125 -- Tyler Hughes (Cam) dec. Derek Roth (MF), 3-1.  
 130 -- Derek Kennedy (WP) dec. John Bowers (Beav), 8-8 ot.  
 135 -- John Prokapakis (Ed) dec. Joel Sansone (STC), 9-5.  
 140 -- Adam Yudasz (STC) dec. Jeb Banovsky (Ed), 5-3.  
 145 -- Jonathan Davis (UL) dec. Matt Vukelich (Shen), 8-4.  
 152 -- Kurt Glasser (Shad) dec. Chris Taylor (JM), 8-4.  
 160 -- Justin Jefferies (Barn) pinned Wyatt O'Neill (Cam), 4:20.  
 171 -- Scott Schaal (Buck) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir), 5-1.  
 189 -- Justin Wells (Shen) pinned Josh Stansberry (EL), 3:46.  
 215 -- Nate Brown (Beav) dec. Robert Busick (Weir), 8-5.  
 275 -- Justin Lucas (Barn) dec. Mike Friedling (Brk), 6-2.

**FIFTH/SIXTH PLACE**  
 103 -- Mike Jones (MF) pinned Josh Pempke (STC), 2:10.  
 112 -- Jared Koss (IC) dec. Lucas Huffman (Riv), 6-4.  
 119 -- Chad Rogers (Brk) won by forfeit over Tucker Brown (Cam).  
 125 -- Billy Barath (STC) maj. dec. Corey Doran (Beav), 16-4.  
 130 -- Jonathan O Grady (Shad) dec. Jon Varner (Beal), 11-5.  
 135 -- Garion Lewis (OG) dec. Jim Crumbley

(EL), 8-3.  
 140 -- Nate Smith (Beav) won by forfeit over Logan Glass (OG).  
 145 -- Derek Vargo (Buck) dec. James Parr (Shad), 8-6.  
 152 -- Rashad Terry (IC) dec. Guy Nestor (Buck), 4-2.  
 160 -- John Haynes (Bell) dec. Troy Milhoan (Mead), 8-2.  
 171 -- Roger Richardson (Steub) dec. Matt Schoolcraft (EL), 18-7.  
 189 -- Mark Snider (Steub) dec. Nick Sulek (Bell), 6-4 ot.  
 215 -- Chris King (IC) dec. Pat Polverini (SCC), 8-5.  
 275 -- Chad Brindley (SJC) dec. Tony Carothers (HC), 2-1.

**SEVENTH/EIGHTH PLACE**  
 103 -- Ryan Gallagher (Barn) pinned Steve Skiviat (SCC), 2:03.  
 112 -- Adam Kennedy (WP) maj. dec. Todd Casey (Mead), 13-0.  
 119 -- Scott Conrath (STC) won by disq. over Joel Ray (Ed).  
 125 -- Kyle Eckleberry (OG) dec. Jarrod Hoppe (Beav), 6-5.  
 130 -- Josh Jefferies (Barn) dec. Chad Snyder (TC), 5-4.  
 135 -- Josh Moore (WP) maj. dec. Perry McGhee (Bell), 10-1.  
 140 -- Luke Kopyar (SJC) dec. Josh Cleary (Beav), 9-3.  
 145 -- Chris Poole (OG) dec. Joe EArich (EL), 5-2.  
 152 -- Jason Bogart (EL) dec. Mike Wheatley (Camb), 8-2.  
 160 -- Dan Moore (Beav) dec. Trevor Cooper (IC), 5-3.  
 171 -- Ronnie Habrock (OG) dec. Chris Wood (Cam), 5-0.  
 189 -- Brad Dimmerling (MC) dec. George Padgelek (MF), 14-9.  
 215 -- John Wells (JM) dec. Kevin King (Camb), 9-7.  
 275 -- Joe Yanok (Steub) won by default over Charles Fisher (Weir).

**SEMI-FINALS**  
 103 -- Nathan Kendjorsky (Buck) pinned Josh Hoover (Beav) 4:45; Derek Maple (Ed) dec. Zach Zubay (OG), 5-2.  
 112 -- John Tierney (MF) dec. David Jack (Shad), 3-1; Nic Rossiter (HC) dec. Josh Francis (Barn), 4-3.  
 119 -- Cole Bowersock (Beav) dec. Jarrod Anderson (Barn), 11-5; David Tierney (MF) dec. Joel Ray (ED), 13-1.  
 125 -- Mark Evans (WP) dec. Derek Roth (MF), 6-1; Micah Jordan (EL) pinned Tyler Hughes (Cam), 1:48.  
 130 -- Roger Kupfer (Cam) dec. Jon Varner (EL), 7-4; Eric Noel (OG) dec. Jonathan O Grady (Shad), 6-0.  
 135 -- Aaron Westover (Beav) tech fall over Jim Crumbley (EL), 5:33; Bob Mayhugh (MF) dec. Joel Sansone (STC), 5-1.  
 140 -- Greg Ware (MF) pinned Nate Smlutty (Beav), 1:21; Jeremy Ghreist (EL) dec. Logan Glass (OG), 6-2.  
 145 -- Scott Roth (MF) tech fall Derek Vargo (BL), 2:58; Jeff Huhes (Cam) dec. Jonathan Davis (UL), 9-7.  
 152 -- Derek Koch (SJC) dec. Guy Nestor (Buck), 17-5; Matt Holdsworth (OG) pinned Kurt Glasser (Shad), 2:53.  
 160 -- Ethan Biran (Steub) pinned Wyatt O'Neill (Cam), 3:04; Daniel Koch (SJC) dec. Justin Jefferies (Barn), 8-4 ot.  
 171 -- Mike Davis (UL) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir), 8-0; Zack Powell (Barn) pinned Roger Richardson (Steub), 3:01.  
 189 -- Phillip Bellville (OG) dec. Nick Sulek (Bell), 3-2; Adam Beranek (Buck) pinned Justin Wells (Shen), 3:18.  
 215 -- John Jones (Steub) dec. Pete Polverini (SCC), 10-2; Steve Ochap (WP) dec. Nate Brown (Beav), 15-8.  
 275 -- Rick Prescott (Beav) dec. Chad Brindley (SJC), 7-2; Tom Redman (EL) pinned Justin Lucas (Barn), 5:21.

# SJC grad Evans chosen 'Mr. Mat'

Ed "Buzz" Evans has enjoyed a superb wrestling career, both as a competitor and a coach.

However, none of the honors that have been bestowed upon him, or that he has earned, compare to the one he received Saturday night during the 47th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament.

Evans, a 1971 graduate of St. John Central, was named 25th recipient of the prestigious Mr. Mat Award, given annually since 1976 to an individual who dedicates his life to the sport.

"This is great news," said Joe Bates, who coached Evans during his schoolboy days at St. John's. "He is truly deserving of the honor." Bates added that Evans was one person that he didn't have to worry about.

"I can never remember him being late to practice. He was a rare breed. A relentless worker who made the sacrifice. There aren't a lot of people that can do that, but he did.

"Buzz drove himself to be good," Bates added. "He was the type of kids and that type of student."

After graduating from West Liberty State College in 1975 where he was named WVC Defensive Player of the Year as a senior, Evans began a coaching career in the Ohio Valley that spanned 20 years and was marked with the same excellence that was his trademark as a player.

However, he made his mark as a wrestling coach where he compiled a phenomenal 179-61-2 record. He has been honored as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times in 1989, 1990 and 1993. In 1986, he was selected as West Virginia High School Wrestling Coach of the Year, and was honored by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and the West Virginia Coaches Association.

During his 15 years as head wrestling coach at Wheeling Park his teams captured back-to-back state championships in 1986-87, two OVAC Tournament titles in 1990 and 1994 and three OVAC Dual Meet Championships from 1993-95. He also coached Bridgeport to an OVAC Dual Meet title in 1979.

He also won a national championship in 1990 Middle Style Kick Boxing and followed that up with another national title in 1991 in Full Contact Kick Boxing.

In addition to his athletic prowess, which also included an all West Virginia football and wrestling honoree at West Liberty, he is an accomplished painter.

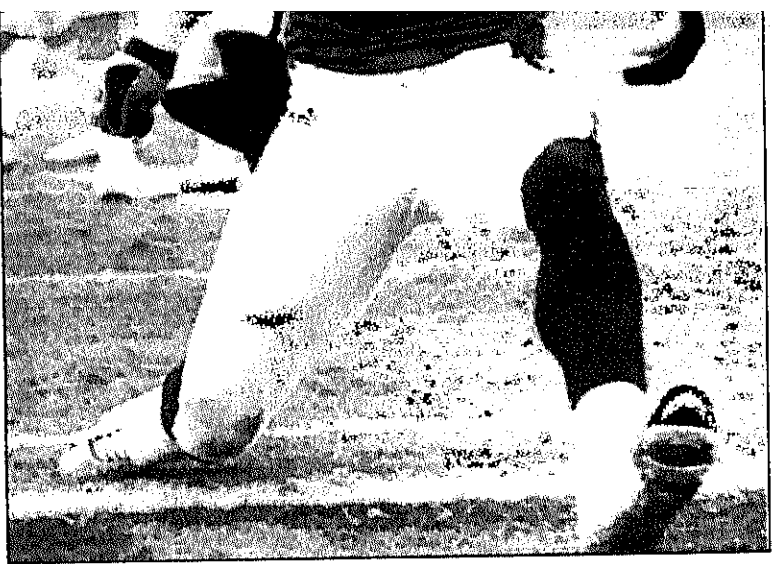
Evans is the father of two daughters -- Jessica and Erica. He resides in Bridgeport and is currently pursuing a master's degree in administration at



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

Tierney in the 119-pound championship match is Beaver Local's stilling Tournament Saturday night. Bowersock won the title via a



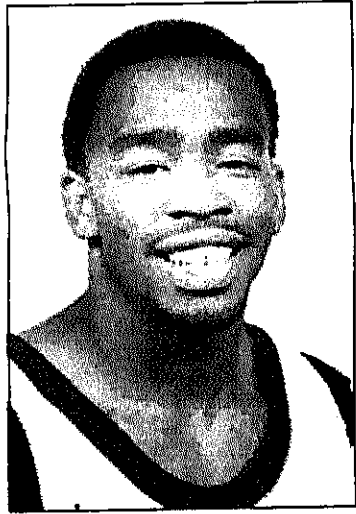


Tennessee Titans rookie defensive end Jevon Kearse celebrates following a sack during an AFC Playoff game against Buffalo earlier this month. Kearse and the Titans visit Jacksonville today to battle for a berth in next week's Super Bowl.

AP Photo

when Tennessee beat Indianapolis 17-10 on Sunday, any complacency disappeared. "It's a motivation for us," says Lonnie Marts, who played for Tennessee last season and is now Jacksonville's middle linebacker. "We're working twice as hard because we know this team beat us twice." The Titans' route here was much longer and harder. Most remarkable was their 22-16 win over Buffalo in a game that will probably be remembered a century from now. Dubbed the "Music City Miracle," it came after the Bills went ahead 16-15 with 16 seconds left and kicked off. Frank Wycheck proceeded to lateral across the field to Kevin Dyson, who ran 75 yards for the winning touchdown. Coach Jeff Fisher called his Titans "a team of destiny," then backed off. "It's not about destiny," he said. "It's about hard working and making plays and winning ball games." There are two reasons the Titans are making plays and winning games this season after going 8-8 for three straight years — as a lame duck in Houston, in Memphis, Tenn., and at Vanderbilt Stadium in Nashville. The first reason is Adelphia Coliseum, their new home in Nashville, where they suddenly have the fan support they once lacked.

played in a division in which they and the Titans were the only teams over .500 — Jacksonville and Tennessee were 15-1 combined against the other four teams in the AFC Central. Running back Fred Taylor, who was set for a huge year, spent most of the season nursing a pulled hamstring and didn't even get to 1,000 yards. James Stewart, back after knee surgery, led the team in rushing with 933 yards. Taylor is healthy again, as shown by his 90-yard touchdown run and 39-yard touchdown catch against Miami. That game put to rest concerns about how the offense would fare with Mark Brunell nursing a sore left knee and All-Pro left tackle Tony Boselli gone for the season with a knee injury. Still, the most important man in this game might be Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair, who threw just 12 TD passes in 11 starts. Five came in a 41-14 win over the Jaguars in Tennessee last month. The Jaguars, meanwhile, figure their luck is bound to turn against the Titans. "God's kind of been on their side," says Leon Searcy, the Jaguars' Pro Bowl offensive right tackle. "We're kind of thinking the Lord is smiling on us, too. So I guess there's going to be a lot of feeling on both teams. We kind of figure it's our turn."



Lionel Armstead

## WVU Visits Providence

By DON CLEGG

News-Register Sports Editor Hoping to ride whatever momentum it gleaned from Tuesday's victory over cross-state rival Marshall in Charleston, the West Virginia University basketball team steps back into Big East competition this afternoon when the Mountaineers visit Providence.

Tipoff is set for 2 p.m. at the Providence Civic Center and the game will be televised live back to the Wheeling area by FOX Sports Net Pittsburgh.



Ohio Valley fans needn't worry about missing today's telecast, however, as the same two teams will be throwing it up a week from today here in Wheeling Civic Center.

By then, both squads should have a pretty good idea whether they're playing for a possible postseason bid or merely playing out the string.

Providence (8-9, 1-3) desperately needs something to turn around a season that is teetering on the brink of the abyss.

The Friars have dropped four of their past five games and are coming off a 66-57 home loss to Villanova Thursday night that may have established a new low-water mark for the year.

Coach Tim Welsh's full-court pressing defense created lots of problems for Nova. The athletic Friars hounded the Wildcats into 29 turnovers and pretty much took 6-10 Malik Allen out of the game, holding him to just six points.

So how did Providence find itself trailing by 15 points with less than four minutes showing on the clock in a rapidly-emptying Providence Civic Center?

Rebounds. The Friars lead the Big East by forcing nearly 21 turnovers a game but are the only team in the league with fewer rebounds than its foes.

See, West Virginia, Page 5

# Dungy Says Buccaneers Aren't Intimidated

By BARRY WILNER  
AP Football Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tony Dungy roared with laughter. Instead of being insulted by the question, he was entertained.

"Unstoppable?" the Tampa Bay coach repeated about the St. Louis Rams offense his team's staunch defense must stop in Sunday's NFC championship game. "It has looked that way sometimes, but I have taken the position in football that nothing is that way."

"Marshall Faulk has won some league honors, Kurt Warner is having a fantastic year. Isaac Bruce, Az-Zahir Hakim, they are playing fantastic. But every game is a new game."

"Everyone thought Minnesota was unstoppable last year, playing at home, and Atlanta beat them."

"We are not coming to be a foil for an unstoppable team."

Instead, they're coming to be the proverbial immovable object. Unless the Bucs, who had the third-ranked defense in the NFL, set up a sturdy roadblock, they probably won't get to their first Super Bowl.

The Rams scored 526 points in going 13-3 during the regular season.

Their trademark is the big play, with quarterback Warner, the league's most valuable player, taking deep drops and picking out the right target.

"We look at each other in the huddle and say, 'Whoever gets open first gets the ball,'" said Marshall Faulk, the NFL Offensive Player of the Year who set a record with 2,429 yards of total offense.

"My friends on other teams tell me, 'That offense looks like fun. It's



Tampa Bay fullback Mike Alstott (40) may have a hard time finding running room against a staunch Ram defense in today's NFC championship game at St. Louis.

AP Photo

looking like you guys are having a blast out there.' It is fun to be part of this."

It certainly had to be fun piling up

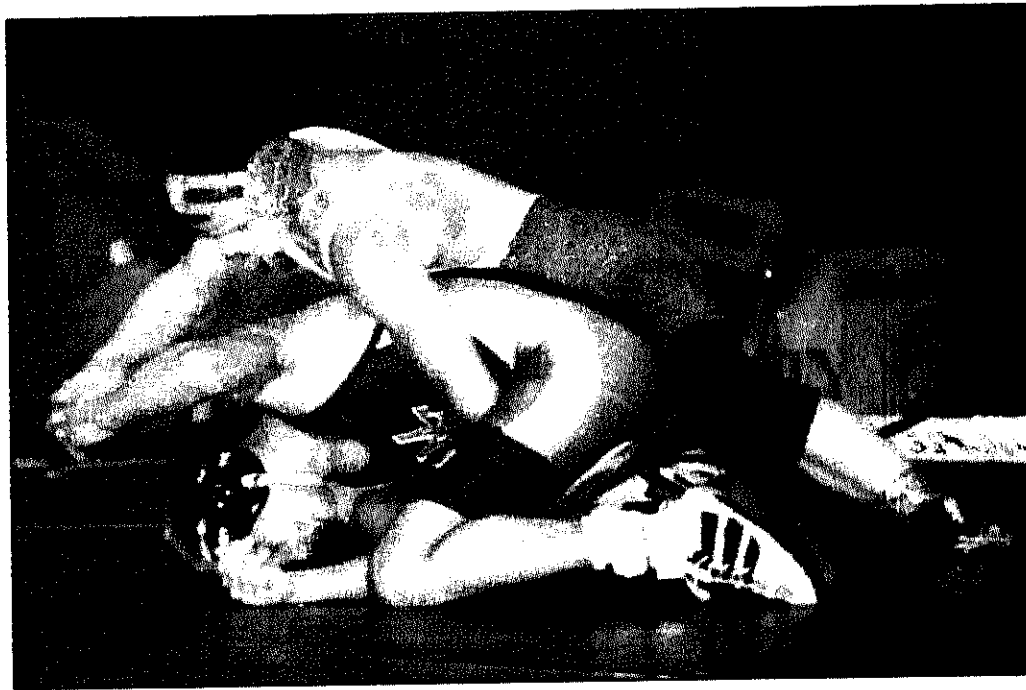
49 points, a team record, in beating the Vikings last Sunday.

See, NFC Championship, Page 5

# Potters Foil Ferry's Bid for OVAC 'Three-Peat'

Beaver Local's (top) rides Martins Ferry's David Tierney during their 119-pound championship match at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling Saturday night.

N-R Photo/Art Llamana



East Liverpool wins 47th annual mat tourney

By KIM NORTH

News-Register Sports Writer Even before the high school wrestling season had gotten underway, East Liverpool set a goal winning the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament in memory of former teammate Matt Salsberry.

That mission came full circle Sunday night at the Wheeling Civic Center as the Potters piled up 2 points in the 47th annual event outlast two-time defending overall champion Martins Ferry by 15-10.

Salsberry, a two-time OVAC champion, was tragically killed late last summer along with two friends attending freshman orientation Ohio Northern University, where three were going to attend.

"This was our goal," explained East Liverpool head coach Scott Heimstra.

"For a lot of these kids, that's what they've been thinking about. They wanted to win this tournament. Matt, and they did."

East Liverpool held a 15 1/2-point lead entering today's final three sessions, but the Purple Riders momentarily took over the top spot with a strong showing in the semifinals where five of their six entrants advanced to the finals.

However, before the championship finals were even contested, it was going to take a miracle for Martins Ferry to three-peat. And as the Tierney brothers — John and David — both suffered their first setbacks of the season, it was official: The Purple Riders' reign as overall titlists came to an end.

"We had 11 kids place, but even though we didn't do too well in the finals, we still didn't back into championship. We won it fair and square."

See, OVAC Wrestling, Page 5

## Mountaineer Matchup

### WEST VIRGINIA AT PROVIDENCE

#### West Virginia (9-6, 1-3)

Probable Starters			
G Lionel Armstead	5-11	170	So. 11.3 ppg., 2.3 rpg.
G Jason D'Alesio	6-1	175	Sr. 4.3 ppg., 1.1 rpg.
F Brooks Berry	6-6	210	Jr. 6.3 ppg., 2.8 rpg.
F Marcus Goree	6-8	230	Sr. 14.1 ppg., 8.9 rpg.
F Calvin Bowman	6-9	220	Jr. 10.9 ppg., 5.7 rpg.
Key Reserves			
G Tim Lyles	5-11	185	Fr. 8.2 ppg., 3.2 rpg.
F Chris Moss	6-8	220	So. 9.8 ppg., 6.8 rpg.
G Keith Kincade	6-5	195	Fr. 4.4 ppg., 1.4 rpg.

#### Providence (8-9, 1-3)

Probable Starters			
G Donta Wade	6-2	195	Jr. 8.4 ppg., 2.0 rpg.
G Chris Rogers	6-4	180	Jr. 2.8 ppg., 2.0 rpg.
F Erron Maxey	6-6	195	Jr. 15.4 ppg., 8.2 rpg.
F Romeo Augustin	6-7	190	Fr. 6.2 ppg., 3.1 rpg.
C Karim Shabazz	7-2	230	Jr. 15.0 ppg., 9.8 rpg.
Key Reserves			
F David Murray	6-9	225	Jr. 8.0 ppg., 4.6 rpg.
G Abdul Mills	6-3	190	Fr. 7.4 ppg., 2.6 rpg.
F Marcus Jefferson	6-5	185	Fr. 6.1 ppg., 3.9 rpg.

#### GAME NOTES

Providence is coming off a 66-57 home loss to Villanova Thursday night. ... It was the fourth loss in the last five games for the Friars, and dropped them below the .500 mark for the first time all season. ... Providence is the only Big East team with a losing record overall. ... Providence head coach Tim Welsh has been struggling to find a consistent rotation. No less than 10 Friars have started at least three games this season. ... Huntington native

Donta Wade appears to have won the shooting guard spot. Wade, who transferred to Providence from Southeast Illinois JC over the summer, had three 3-pointers and scored 12 points in the Villanova loss. ... Today's game will be televised locally by FOX Sports Net Pittsburgh. Tipoff at the Providence Civic Center (12,993) is set for 2 p.m.

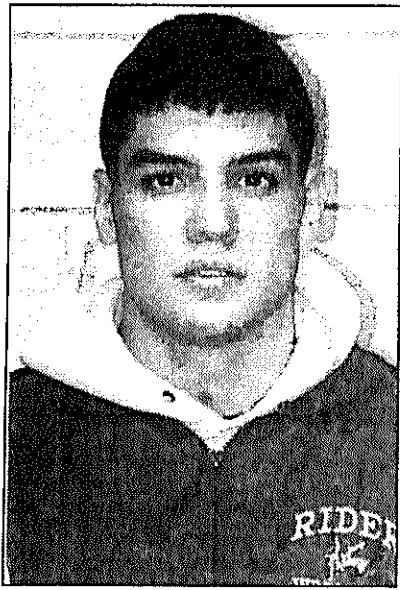
- Compiled by Don Clegg



145 Pounds

'Buzz' Evans Named Mr. Mat

OVAC W



Scott Roth  
Bierkortte Award Winner

103

112



Nathan  
Kendjorsky

119



Nic  
Rossiter

125



Cole Bowersock

130



Micah Jordan

135



Roger Kupfer

140



Aaron Westover

152



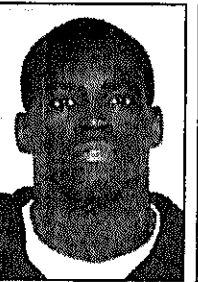
Greg Ware

160



Derek Koch

171



Ethan Birden

189



Mike Davis

215



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News-Register Sports Writer  
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However, none of the honors that have been bestowed upon him, or that he has earned, compare to the one he received Saturday night during the 47th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament.

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He coached wrestling, football and track at Bridgeport, Martins Ferry and Wheeling Park, however, he made his mark as a wrestling coach where he compiled a phenomenal 179-61-2 record.

He was honored as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times in 1989, 1990 and 1993. In 1986, he was selected



N-R Photo/Art Limann

Former Wheeling Park head wrestling coach Ed 'Buzz' Evans, center, was presented with the prestigious Mr. Mat Award during Saturday night's festivities at the 47th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center. Flanking him are Gene Monteleone, left, and West Liberty head coach Dr. Vince Monseau.

as the West Virginia High School Wrestling Coach of the Year, and was honored by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and the West Virginia Coaches Association.

During his 15 years as head wrestling coach at Wheeling Park his teams captured back-to-back state championships in 1986 and 1987; two OVAC Tournament titles in 1990 and 1994; and three OVAC Dual Meet Championships from 1993-95. He also coached Bridgeport to an OVAC Dual Meet title in 1979.

In his free time, Evans won a national championship in 1990 in Middle Style Kick Boxing and followed that up with another national

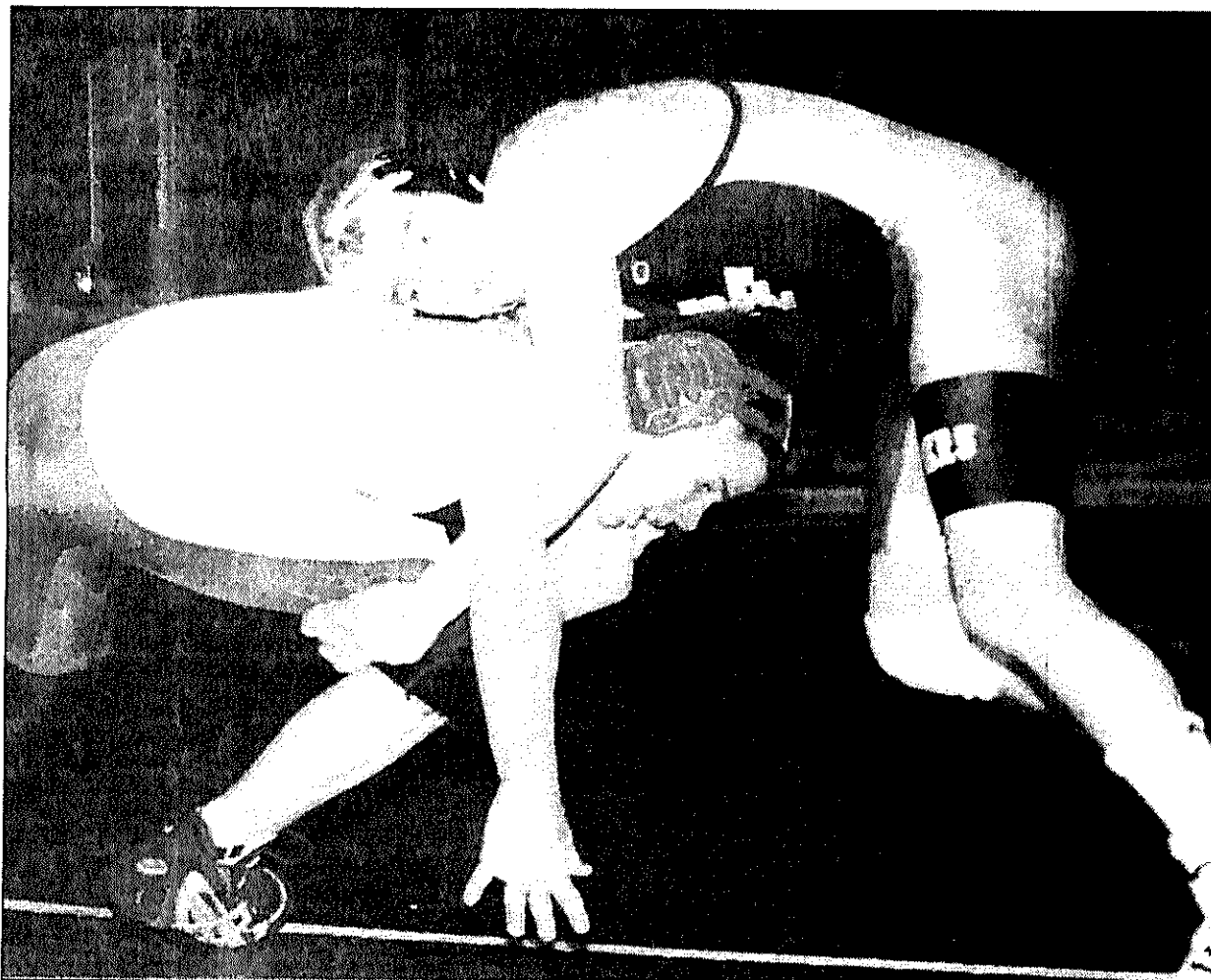
title in 1991 in Full Contact Kick Boxing.

In addition to his athletic prowess, he is an accomplished painter.

"I taught him in art class," Bates recalled. "He was a three-year student and a natural."

He served as a Trustee of the Ohio Valley Arts Council from 1983-85, as a Substance Abuse Group Counselor for Project Target in 1993 and was named to the Outstanding Men of America in 1986.

The father of two daughters, Jessica and Erica, he resides in Bridgeport and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Administration at Franciscan University in Steubenville.



N-R Photo/Art Limann

Martins Ferry's David Tierney, right, and Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock are locked up as they battle in the 119 pound finals Saturday night at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament. Bowersock earned a decision.

OVAC Wrestling

Continued from page 1

First-year Martins Ferry head coach Babe Sidon was pleased with his team's effort. "They (East Liverpool) had 11 guys place and we only had 11 guys entered," he said. "It was tough, but we gave it a shot. I'm proud of all the kids for what they did."

In addition to winning the overall crown, East Liverpool also topped the 4-A field by a whopping 97 markers over second-place Buckeye

Beaver Local, improved his mark to 18-0 with a 6-0 blanking of D.Tierney in their 119-pound bout. It was his win that clinched the title for East Liverpool.

"I'm glad," he said when informed of that. "I'd rather see anyone but Martins Ferry win."

The Purple Riders did have a pair of champions in Greg Ware and Scott Roth, both of which successful-ly defended their titles. Ware, the top

TEAM SCORING

Overall  
1. East Liverpool 226; 2. Martins Ferry 185; 3. Oak Glen 185; 4. Beaver Local 149; 5. Cameron 149; 6. Barnesville 144; 7. Union Local 129; 8. Steubenville 113; 9. W Park 110; 10. Edison 102 1/2

Class AAAA  
1. East Liverpool 226; 2. Buckeye Local 113; 3. Steubenville 113; 4. Wheeling Park 102 1/2; 5. John Marshall 78; 6. Brooke 66; 7. Weir 43; 8. Cambridge 31

Class AAA  
1. Martins Ferry 226; 2. Oak Glen 160 1/2; 3. Beaver Local 160 1/2; 4. St. Clairsville 102 1/2; 5. Harrison Centre 82; 6. Indian Creek 78; 7. Meadowbrook 31; 8. Magnolia 18; 9. Consolidated 15

Class AA  
1. Barnesville 144; 2. Wellsville 102; 3. Shenandoah 82; 4. River 32 1/2; 5. Central 31; 6. Steubenville Central 28

Class A  
1. Cameron 149; 2. Bellaire St. John 79; 3. Shadydale 79; 4. Beallsville 25; 5. Bridgeport 25; 6. Weirton Madonna 11; 7. Linsly 11

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

103: Nathan Kendjorsky (Buckeye Local) d. Derek Maple (Edison) 10-3

112: Nic Rossiter (Harrison Centre) d. John Tierney (Martins Ferry) 3-2

119: Cole Bowersock (Beaver Local) d. David Tierney (Martins Ferry) 6-0

125: Micah Jordan (East Liverpool) d. Evans (Wheeling Park) 11-6

130: Roger Kupfer (Cameron) d. Ethan Birden (Oak Glen) 6-4

135: Aaron Westover (Beaver Local) d. Mayhugh (Martins Ferry) 2-57

140: Greg Ware (Martins Ferry) d. Ghrist (East Liverpool) 3-1

145: Scott Roth (Martins Ferry) d. Jeff Hughes (Cameron) 5-59

152: Derek Koch (Bellaire St. John) d. Matt Holdsworth (Oak Glen) 7-1

160: Ethan Birden (Steubenville) d. Koch (Bellaire St. John's) 4-3

171: Mike Davis (Union Local) d. Powell (Barnesville) 5-0

189: Adam Beranek (Buckeye Local) d. Phillip Bellville (Oak Glen) 3-2

215: Steve Oshap (Wheeling Park) d. Jones (Steubenville) 2-1 ot

275: Rick Prescott (Beaver Local) d. Redman (East Liverpool) 2-1 ot

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE

103: Zack Zubay (OG) d. Jeremy (EL) 3-0

112: Josh Francis (Barn) d. David Ja 11-5

119: Jarrod Anderson (Barn) p. Jak (EL) 2:12

125: Tyler Hughes (Cam) d. Dere (MF) 3-1

130: Derek Kennedy (WP) d. John I (Beal) 8-6 ot

135: John Prokopoulos (Ed) d. Joel S (StC) 8-5

140: Adam Yudas (StC) d. Jeb Ba (Ed) 5-3

145: Jonathan Davia (UL) d. Matt W (Shen) 9-4

152: Kurt Glasser (SS) d. Chris Tayl (Weir) 8-4

160: Justin Jefferis (Barn) p. Wyatt (Cam) 4:20

171: Scott Schaal (BL) d. Vince Me (Weir) 5-1

189: Justin Wells (Shen) p. Stansberry (EL) 3:46

215: Nate Brown (BvLd) d. Robert (Weir) 8-5

275: Justin Lucas (Barn) d. Mike F (Brk) 6-2

Canadiens

MONTREAL (AP) — Despite being in last place in the North Division, the Montreal Canadiens are a team to be reckoned with.

Dainius Zubrus had two play goals and added an assist in Montreal Canadiens' 4-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins Saturday night.

"We're on a little streak now," Canadiens coach Jacques Lemaire said. "We're becoming a pain to play against 5-on-5. We're not giving away much, playing on our reads and aren't getting caught in odd-man rushes."

Patrick Poulin and Arron Ashby also scored for Montreal, who are unbeaten in a season-high straight (4-0-1). Shayne Corcoran added two assists for the Canadiens who have scored on the power in 10 of their last 12.

"If you're able to skate, when chances are created," Ziegler said. "Arron is skating well and getting to the net and Shayne is feeling a little better physically."

Rob Brown and Jan Hrdina scored for the Penguins, who dropped to 17-1 on the road.

"We have to start winning. I care if it is home or away," Penguins defenseman Jiri Slegr said. "We had a bad road team and we have to perform."

"It was special last year because we won the team title with a record score, but this one is just as special because this is my senior year."

"It's disappointing that we didn't win the overall title, but we gave a good run," he added. "We had 211 points and that's a great record. We won this tournament most of the time but not tonight. East Liverpool had a great tournament."





Cole Bowersock  
130



Micah Jordan  
135



Roger Kupfer  
140



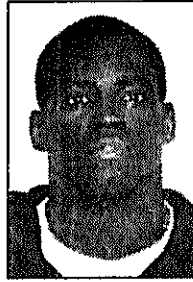
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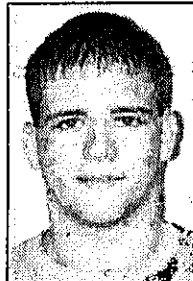
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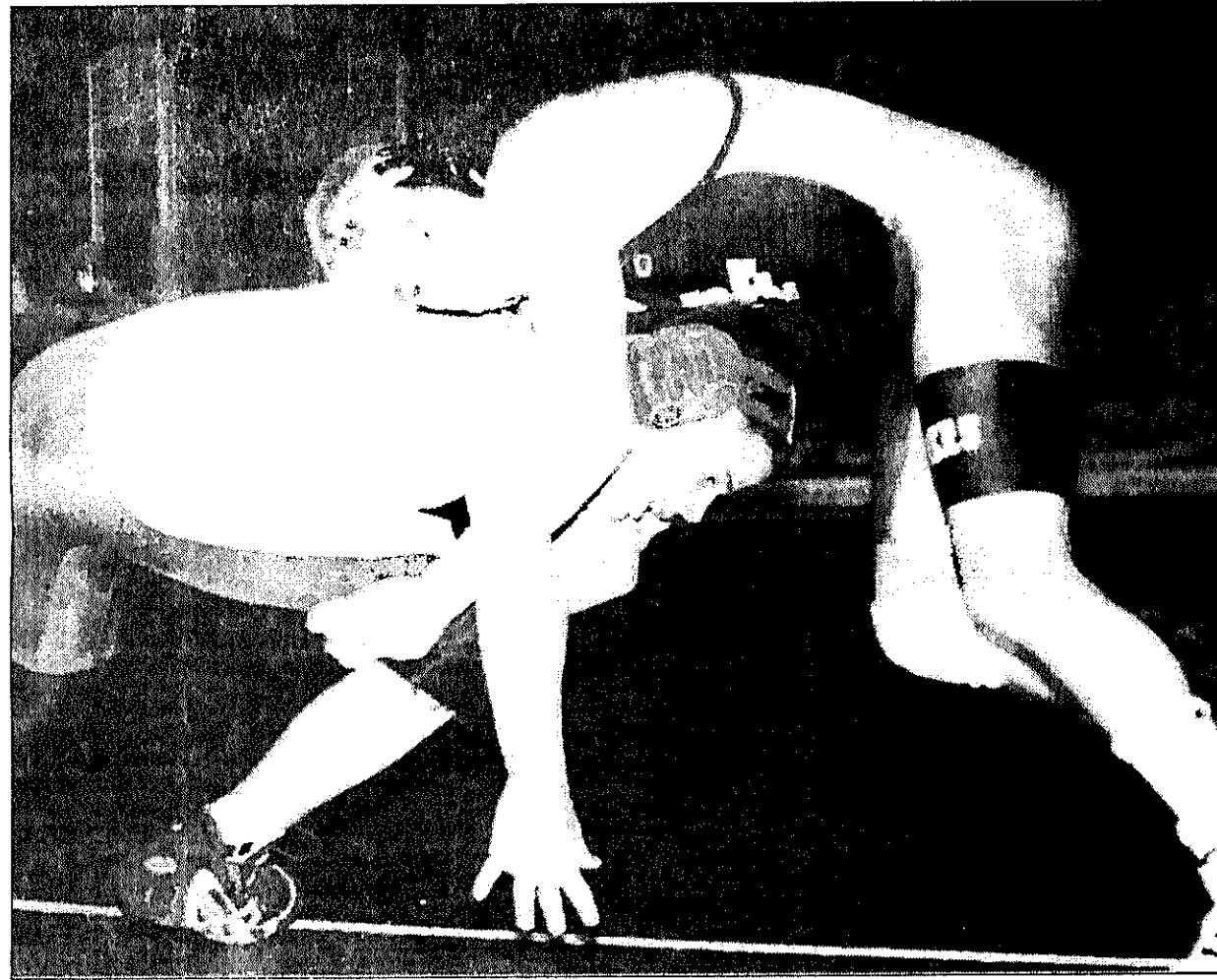
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N-R Photo/Art Lilmann

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## OVAC Wrestling

Continued from page 1

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In addition to winning the overall crown, East Liverpool also topped the 4-A field by a whopping 97 markers over second-place Buckeye Local. Martins Ferry was the Class AAA titlist by 26 points over Oak Glen, while Barnesville and Cameron ran away from the packs in Class AA and A, respectively.

Both head coaches, Jeff Crosier of Barnesville and Jim Potts of Cameron were pleased with their team's performances.

"This was very good," Crosier noted. "The kids wrestled very well. When we came down here, all I told them was to go out and do their best."

Potts said, "These kids wrestled their tails off this weekend. For a school of our size to finish fifth over-

all out of 34 teams really says something about them."

Wellsville was a distant second behind Barnesville, while Bellaire St. John's finished 53 1/2 points behind the Dragons.

All three wrestlers who entered the three-day extravaganza as defending champions turned the trick once again last night.

Cole Bowersock, a junior from

Beaver Local, improved his mark to 18-0 with a 6-0 blanking of D.Tierney in their 119-pound bout. It was his win that clinched the title for East Liverpool.

"I'm glad," he said when informed of that. "I'd rather see anyone but Martins Ferry win."

The Purple Riders did have a pair of champions in Greg Ware and Scott Roth, both of which successfully defended their titles. Ware, the top seed, held off East Liverpool's Jeremy Christ by a 3-1 count, while Roth ran roughshod over Cameron's Jeff Hughes by the tune of an 18-3 technical fall.

Both said that winning two individual titles felt good, but they sure would've liked to have a third team championship.

"They feel about the same," Ware said. "There was a little pressure on me to defend, but a team title would've been nice."

Roth, who was voted the Bierkorte Award winner for his performance, echoed his teammates thoughts.

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Rob Brown and Jan Hrdina scored for the Penguins, who dropped 17-1 on the road.

"We have to start winning. I care if it is home or away," Penguins defenseman Jiri Slegr said. "We had a bad road team and we have to

"It was special last year because we won the team title with a record, but this one is just as special because this is my senior year."

"It's disappointing that we didn't win the overall title, but we gave a good run," he added.

"We had 211 points and we won this tournament most of the time but not tonight. East Liverpool was a great tournament."

Beaver Local, which finished fourth overall and third in 3-A, had the most individual champions with three.

In addition to Bowersock, claiming his weight division, Aaron Westover at 135 and Prescott at 275.

In addition to Martins Ferry winning two titlists, so did Buckeye as Nathan Kendjorsky prevailed 103 and Adam Bernack at 189.

Wheeling Park, which placed ninth overall, had one champion Steve Ochap at 215. He outperformed top-seeded John Jones of Steubenville by a narrow, 2-1, margin in overtime.



## Suns Welcome Hardaway Back With Vic

By BOB BAUM  
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns welcomed Penny Hardaway back to the lineup Saturday night with a 101-88 victory over the road-weary Cleveland Cavaliers, who lost their fifth in a row.

Jason Kidd had 16 points and 12 assists, Rodney Rogers scored 16 off the bench and Tom Gugliotta had 15 points and nine rebounds as the Suns improved to 13-1 against Eastern Conference teams.

Shawn Kemp had 20 points and nine rebounds but missed four consecutive free throws when the Cavs, on the last stop of a seven-game road trip, had a chance to stay close in the fourth quarter. Bob Sura had 12 points and 10 assists for Cleveland.

Hardaway had missed 21 games since going on the injured list Dec. 21 with what was eventually diagnosed as a partial tear in the plantar

fascia on the bottom of his right foot.

In his first game back, he shot 3-for-10 from the field and 6-for-6 at the foul line for 12 points. He also had three assists and six rebounds in 28 minutes.

The Suns led throughout after the opening 4 1/2 minutes of a sloppy game that featured 24 turnovers by Phoenix and 23 by Cleveland.

Phoenix led 45-32 at the break and stretched it to 47-32 on Luc Longley's stuff to start the second half. Sura capped a 14-4 Cleveland run with a 3-pointer that cut the lead to 59-56 with 4:38 left in the third quarter.

After Kemp missed two free throws, the Suns scored the next 10

points, six on a pair of 3-pointers by Todd Day, to boost the lead to 69-56 on Cliff Robinson's inside 1 with 1:56 left in the third.

The Suns scored 18 of the last nine minutes of the first half on two 3-pointers by Rogers and Kidd to lead Phoenix a 47-32 lead at the break.

The Cavs shot 37.5 percent from the field in the first half (11-29) and committed 16 turnovers.

Suns weren't much better, shooting 39 percent (16-for-41) with 16 turnovers.

In a wild incident with 7 1/2 minutes left in the game, Cleveland's Andre Miller was knocked out of the court and hollered angrily at the



## Correction

Wheeling Park's Mark Evans finishes off a pin in his first-round match against Steubenville's Ben Young during Thursday night's action at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament. The wrestlers were incorrectly identified in Friday's News-Register.



# 'Buzz' Evans Named Mr. Mat

By KIM NORTH

News-Register Sports Writer

Ed "Buzz" Evans has enjoyed a superb wrestling career, both as a competitor and as a coach.

However, none of the honors that have been bestowed upon him, or that he has earned, compare to the one he received Saturday night during the 47th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament.

Evans, a 1971 graduate of Bellaire St. John's, was named the 5th recipient of the prestigious Mr. Mat Award, given annually since 1976 to an individual who dedicates his life to the sport.

"This is great news," said Joe Bates, who coached Evans during his schoolboy days at Bellaire St. John's. "He is truly deserving of the honor."

Bates added that Evans was one person that he didn't have to worry about.

"I can never remember him being late to practice. He was a rare breed. A relentless worker who made the sacrifice. There aren't a lot of people that can do that, but he did."

"Buzz drove himself to be good. He was that type of kid and that type of student."

After graduating from West Liberty State College in 1975 where he was named West Virginia Conference Defensive Player of the Year in football as a senior, Evans began a coaching career in the Ohio Valley that spanned 20 years and was marked with the same excellence that was his trademark as a player.

He coached wrestling, football and track at Bridgeport, Martins Ferry and Wheeling Park, however, he made his mark as a wrestling coach where he compiled a phenomenal 179-61-2 record.

He was honored as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times in 1989, 1990 and 1993. In 1986, he was selected



N-R Photo/Art Limann

Former Wheeling Park head wrestling coach Ed 'Buzz' Evans, center, was presented with the prestigious Mr. Mat Award during Saturday night's festivities at the 47th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center. Flanking him are Gene Monteleone, left, and West Liberty head coach Dr. Vince Monseau.

as the West Virginia High School Wrestling Coach of the Year, and was honored by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and the West Virginia Coaches Association.

During his 15 years as head wrestling coach at Wheeling Park his teams captured back-to-back state championships in 1986 and 1987; two OVAC Tournament titles in 1990 and 1994; and three OVAC Dual Meet Championships from 1993-95. He also coached Bridgeport to an OVAC Dual Meet title in 1979.

In his free time, Evans won a national championship in 1990 in Middle Style Kick Boxing and followed that up with another national

title in 1991 in Full Contact Kick Boxing.

In addition to his athletic prowess, he is an accomplished painter.

"I taught him in art class," Bates recalled. "He was a three-year student and a natural."

He served as a Trustee of the Ohio Valley Arts Council from 1983-85, as a Substance Abuse Group Counselor for Project Target in 1993 and was named to the Outstanding Men of America in 1986.

The father of two daughters, Jessica and Erica, he resides in Bridgeport and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Administration at Franciscan University in Steubenville.

## OVAC WRESTLING RESULTS

### TEAM SCORING

Overall  
1. East Liverpool 226; 2. Martins Ferry 211; 3. Oak Glen 185; 4. Beaver Local 160 1/2; 5. Cameron 149; 6. Barnesville 144; 7. Buckeye Local 129; 8. Steubenville 113; 9. Wheeling Park 110; 10. Edison 102 1/2

Class AAAA  
1. East Liverpool 226; 2. Buckeye Local 129; 3. Steubenville 113; 4. Wheeling Park 110; 5. Edison 102 1/2; 6. John Marshall 78 1/2; 7. Brooke 66; 8. Weir 43; 9. Cambridge 30 1/2

Class AAA  
1. Martins Ferry 226; 2. Oak Glen 185; 3. Beaver Local 160 1/2; 4. St. Clairsville 102; 5. Union Local 95 1/2; 6. Harrison Central 76; 7. Bellaire 62; 8. Indian Creek 61; 9. Meadowbrook 31; 10. Magnolia 18; 11. Tyler Consolidated 15

Class AA  
1. Barnesville 144; 2. Wellsville 65 1/2; 3. Shenandoah 62; 4. River 32 1/2; 5. Monroe Central 31; 6. Steubenville Central 30; 7. Caldwell 28

Class A  
1. Cameron 149; 2. Bellaire St. John's 91 1/2; 3. Shadyside 79; 4. Beallsville 54; 5. Bridgeport 25; 6. Weirton Madonna 18; 7. Linsly 11

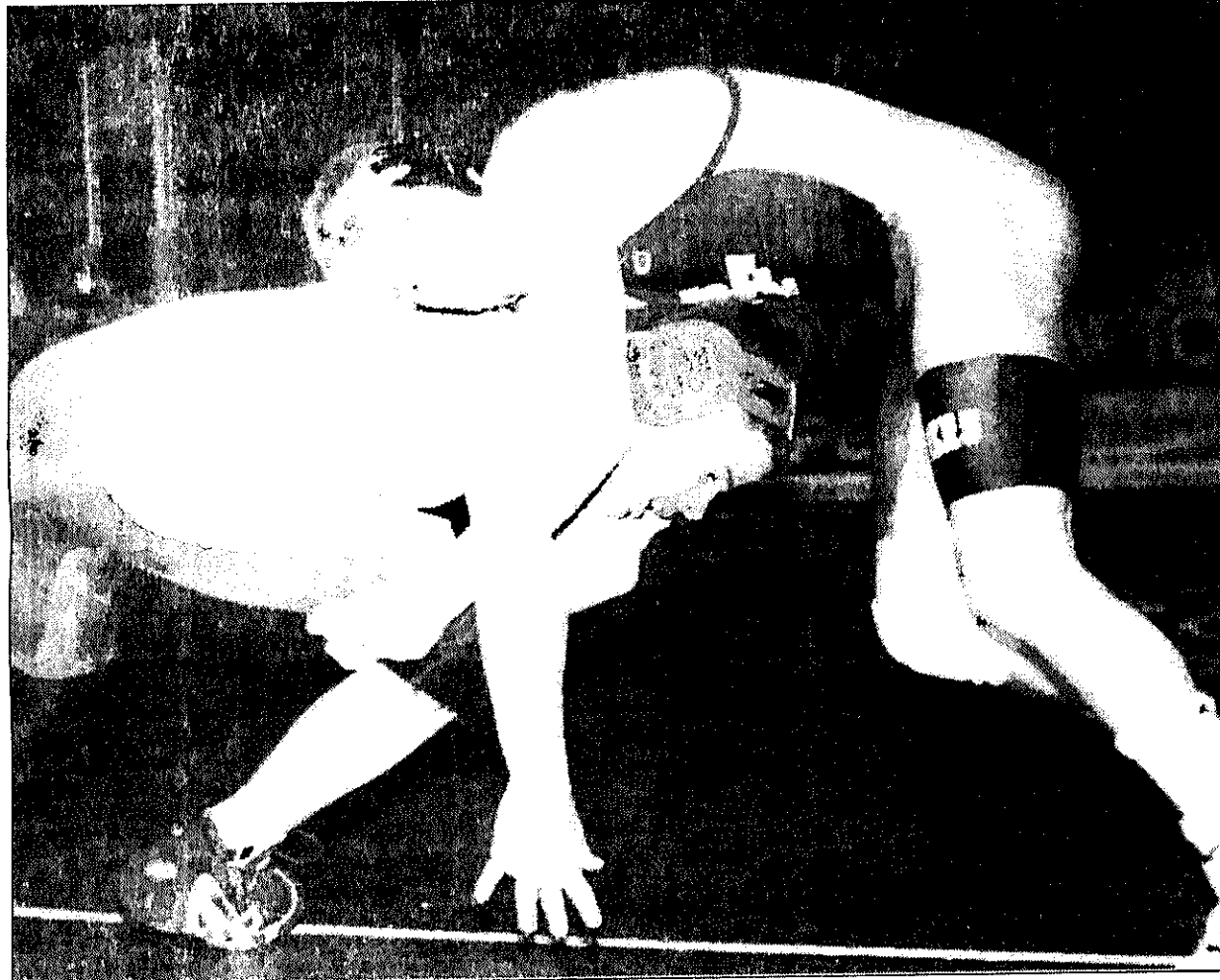
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS  
103: Nathan Kandjorsky (Buckeye Local) d. Derek Maple (Edison) 10-3  
112: Nic Rossiter (Harrison Central) d. John Tierney (Martins Ferry) 3-2  
119: Cole Bowersock (Beaver Local) d. David Tierney (Martins Ferry) 6-0  
125: Micah Jordan (East Liverpool) d. Mark Evans (Wheeling Park) 11-6  
130: Roger Kupfer (Cameron) d. Eric Noel (Oak Glen) 6-4  
135: Aaron Westover (Beaver Local) p. Bob Mayhugh (Martins Ferry) 2:57  
140: Greg Ware (Martins Ferry) d. Jeremy Ghrist (East Liverpool) 3-1  
145: Scott Roth (Martins Ferry) tech. fall Jeff Hughes (Cameron) 5:59  
152: Derek Koch (Bellaire St. John's) d. Matt Holdsworth (Oak Glen) 7-1  
160: Ethan Birdan (Steubenville) d. Daniel Koch (Bellaire St. John's) 4-3  
171: Mike Davis (Union Local) d. Zach Powell (Barnesville) 5-0  
189: Adam Beranek (Buckeye Local) d. Phillip Bellville (Oak Glen) 3-2  
215: Steve Ochap (Wheeling Park) d. John Jones (Steubenville) 2-1 ot  
275: Rick Prescott (Beaver Local) d. Tom Redman (East Liverpool) 2-1 ot

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE  
103: Zack Zubay (OG) d. Jeremy Cowan (EL) 3-0  
112: Josh Francis (Barn) d. David Jack (SS) 11-5  
119: Jarrod Anderson (Barn) p. Jake Fitch (EL) 2:12  
125: Tyler Hughes (Cam) d. Derek Roth (MF) 3-1  
130: Derek Kennedy (WP) d. John Bowers (Beal) 8-6 ot  
135: John Prokopoulos (Ed) d. Joel Sansone (StC) 9-5  
140: Adam Yudasz (StC) d. Jeb Banovsky (Ed) 5-3  
145: Jonathan Davis (UL) d. Matt Wukelich (Shen) 9-4  
152: Kurt Glasser (SS) d. Chris Taylor (JM) 8-4  
160: Justin Jefferis (Barn) p. Wyatt O'Neil (Cam) 4:20  
171: Scott Schaal (BL) d. Vince Magnone (Weir) 5-1  
189: Justin Wells (Shen) p. Josh Stansberry (EL) 3:46  
215: Nate Brown (BvLo) d. Robert Busick (Weir) 8-5  
275: Justin Lucas (Barn) d. Mike Findling (Brk) 6-2

FIFTH-SIXTH PLACE  
103: Mike Jones (MF) p. Josh Pempke (StC) 2:10  
112: Jared Koos (IC) d. Lucas Huffman (Riv) 6-4 ot  
119: Chad Rogers (Brk) by forfeit over Tucker Brown (Cam)  
125: Billy Barath (StC) d. Corey Dornan (Beal) 16-4  
130: Jonathan O'Grady (SS) d. John Varner 11-5  
135: Gaelen Lowars (OG) d. Jim Crumbley (EL) 8-3  
140: Logan Glass (OG) by forfeit over Nate Smith (BvL)  
145: Derek Vargo (BL) d. James Parr (SS) 8-6  
152: Rashad Terry (IC) d. Guy Nestor (BL) 4-2  
160: John Haynes (Bell) d. Troy Milhoan (BvL) 8-2  
171: Roger Richardson (Steub) d. Matt Schoolcraft (EL) 16-7  
189: Mark Snider (Steub) d. Nick Sulek (Bell) 6-4 ot  
215: Chris King (IC) d. Pete Polverini (SC) 8-5

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE  
103: Ryan Gallagher (Barn) p. Dave Skivjat (SC) 2:03  
112: Adam Kennedy (WP) d. Todd Casey (Mead) 13-0  
119: Scott Conrath (StC) by disq. over Jeff Ray (Ed)  
125: Kyle Eckleberry (OG) d. Jared Hoppel (BvL) 8-5  
130: John Jefferis (Barn) d. Chad Snider (TC) 5-4  
135: Josh Moore (WP) d. Percy McGhee (Bell) 10-1  
140: Luke Kopyar (BSJ) d. Jason Clery (Beal) 9-3  
145: Chris Poole (OG) d. Joe Earich (EL) 5-2

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS  
103: Kandjorsky (BL) p. Cowan (EL) 4:45  
Maple (Ed) d. Zubay (OG) 5-2  
112: Tierney (MF) d. Jack (SS) 3-1; Rossiter (HC) d. Francis (Barn) 4-3  
119: Bowersock (BvL) d. Anderson (Barn) 11-5; Tierney (MF) d. Brown (Cam) 3-2  
125: Evans (WP) d. Roth (MF) 6-1; Jordan (EL) p. Hughes (Cam) 1:48  
130: Kupfer (Cam) d. Varner (EL) 7-4; Noel (OG) d. O'Grady (SS) 6-0  
135: Westover (BvL) tech. fall Crumbley (EL) 5:33; Mayhugh (MF) d. Sansone (StC) 5-1  
140: Ware (MF) p. Smith (BvL) 1:21; Chapp (EL) d. Glass (OG) 9-2  
145: Roth (MF) tech. fall Vargo (BL) 2:59  
Hughes (Cam) d. Davis (UL) 9-7  
152: Koch (BSJ) d. Nestor (BL) 17-5  
Holdsworth (OG) p. Glasser (SS) 2:53  
160: Birdan (Steub) p. O'Neil (Cam) 3:04  
Koch (BSJ) d. Jefferis (Barn) 6-4 ot  
171: Davis (UL) d. Magnone (Weir) 6-0  
Powell (Barn) p. Richardson (Steub) 3:01  
189: Bellville (OG) d. Sulek (Bell) 3-2  
Beranek (BL) p. Wells (Shen) 3:18  
215: Jones (Steub) d. Polverini (SC) 10-4  
Ochap (WP) d. Brown (BvL) 15-8  
275: Prescott (BvL) d. Brindley (BSJ) 7-2  
Redman (EL) p. Lucas (Barn) 5:21



N-R Photo/Art Limann

Martins Ferry's David Tierney, right, and Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock are locked up as they battle in the 119 pound finals Saturday night at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament. Bowersock earned a decision.

## OVAC Wrestling

Continued from page 1

First-year Martins Ferry head coach Babe Sidon was pleased with his team's effort. "They (East Liverpool) had 11 guys place and we only had 11 guys entered," he said. "It was tough, but we gave it a shot. I'm proud of all the kids for what they did."



Beaver Local, improved his mark to 18-0 with a 6-0 blanking of D.Tierney in their 119-pound bout. It was his win that clinched the title for East Liverpool.

"I'm glad," he said when informed of that. "I'd rather see anyone but Martins Ferry win."

"It was special last year because we won the team title with a record score, but this one is just as special because this is my senior year.

"It's disappointing that we didn't win the overall title, but we gave it a good run," he added.

"We had 211 points and that will

up or else we won't make the playoffs. I'm not going to make any excuses. We just have to play better."

Jose Theodore needed to make just 13 saves against the Penguins who were without Jaromir Jagr. Jagr is out with an abdominal injury.

"That was a big plus for us that he wasn't playing," Theodore said. "They can still put the puck in the net quickly. They have a talented offensive team. But the guys played so well in front of me tonight."

Zubrus opened the scoring early in the second period when he took a loose puck at the side of the net, spun around and beat Tom Barrasso with a low shot between the legs at 2:42.

The Penguins responded three minutes later as Theodore stopped Hans Jonsson's shot from the point but couldn't cover up the puck. Brown, in front of the net, put the puck between Theodore's legs for the goal.

Montreal made it 2-1 when Piqui scored on a quick wrist shot off the faceoff.

Zubrus scored his 11th of the season at 18:31 of the second to make it 3-1. While sprawled on the ice, he fired a low shot that deflected off Pittsburgh forward Tom Chorske on a past Barrasso.

"It all came down to the flip of the disc," he explained. "It ended in my favor and I chose down because it's hard to keep big guys like us down. If it would've been reversed, then he would've probably won."

Other champions include Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter



was marked with the same excellence that was his trademark as a player.

He coached wrestling, football and track at Bridgeport, Martins Ferry and Wheeling Park, however, he made his mark as a wrestling coach where he compiled a phenomenal 179-61-2 record.

He was honored as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times in 1989, 1990 and 1993. In 1986, he was selected

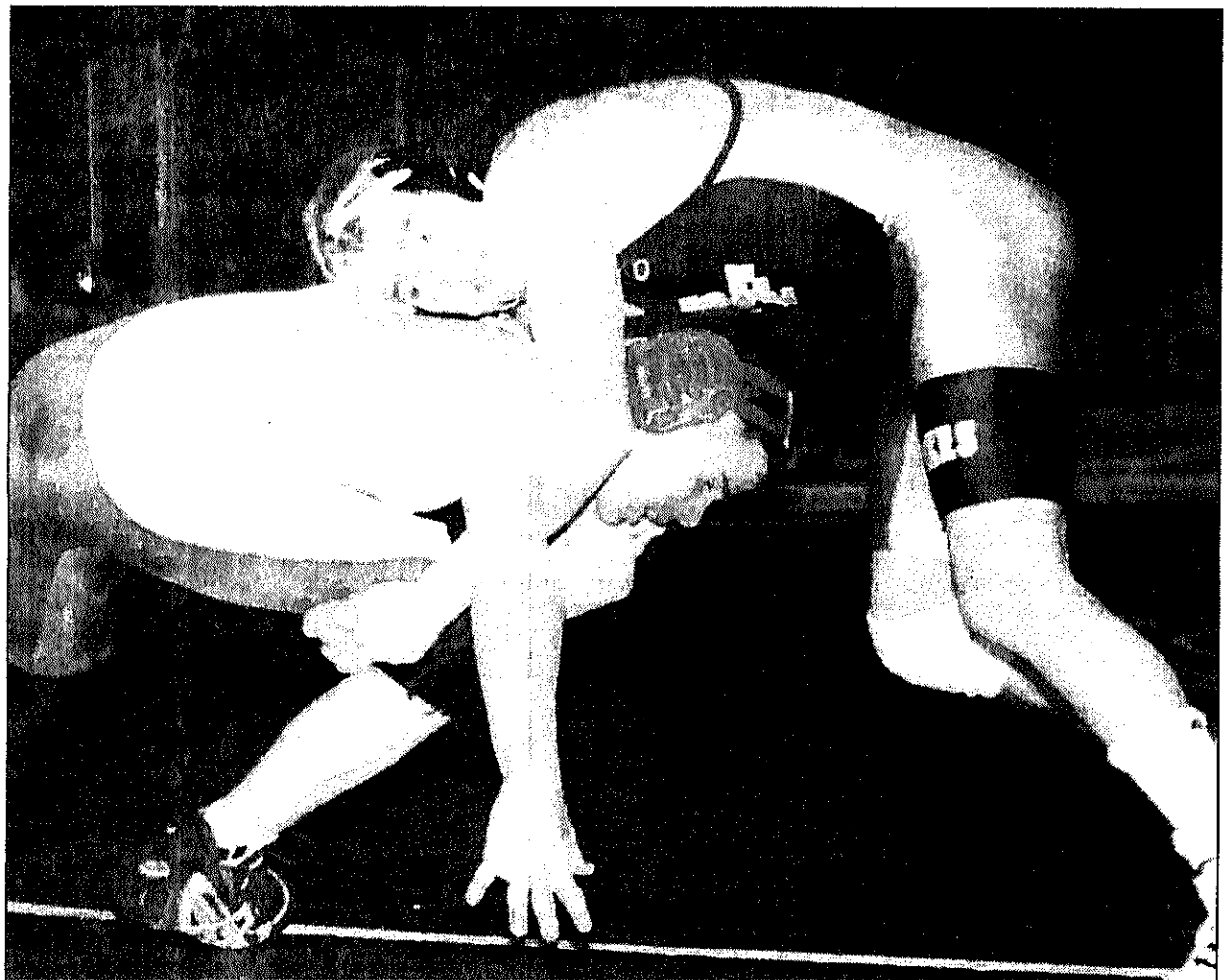
wrestling coach at Wheeling Park his teams captured back-to-back state championships in 1986 and 1987; two OVAC Tournament titles in 1990 and 1994; and three OVAC Dual Meet Championships from 1993-95. He also coached Bridgeport to an OVAC Dual Meet title in 1979.

In his free time, Evans won a national championship in 1990 in Middle Style Kick Boxing and followed that up with another national

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He served as a Trustee of the Ohio Valley Arts Council from 1983-85, as a Substance Abuse Group Counselor for Project Target in 1993 and was named to the Outstanding Men of America in 1986.

The father of two daughters, Jessica and Erica, he resides in Bridgeport and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Administration at Franciscan University in Steubenville.



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## OVAC Wrestling

Continued from page 1

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In addition to winning the overall crown, East Liverpool also topped the 4-A field by a whopping 97 markers over second-place Buckeye Local. Martins Ferry was the Class AAA titlist by 26 points over Oak Glen, while Barnesville and Cameron ran away from the packs in Class AA and A, respectively.

Both head coaches, Jeff Crosier of Barnesville and Jim Potts of Cameron were pleased with their team's performances.

"This was very good," Crosier noted. "The kids wrestled very well. When we came down here, all I told them was to go out and do their best."

Potts said, "These kids wrestled their tails off this weekend. For a school of our size to finish fifth over-



all out of 34 teams really says something about them."

Wellsville was a distant second behind Barnesville, while Bellaire St. John's finished 53 1/2 points behind the Dragons.

All three wrestlers who entered the three-day extravaganza as defending champions turned the trick once again last night.

Cole Bowersock, a junior from

Beaver Local, improved his mark to 18-0 with a 6-0 blanking of D.Tierney in their 119-pound bout. It was his win that clinched the title for East Liverpool.

"I'm glad," he said when informed of that. "I'd rather see anyone but Martins Ferry win."

The Purple Riders did have a pair of champions in Greg Ware and Scott Roth, both of which successfully defended their titles. Ware, the top seed, held off East Liverpool's Jeremy Ghrist by a 3-1 count, while Roth ran roughshod over Cameron's Jeff Hughes by the tune of an 18-3 technical fall.

Both said that winning two individual titles felt good, but they sure would've liked to have a third team championship.

"They feel about the same," Ware said. "There was a little pressure on me to defend, but a team title would've been nice."

Roth, who was voted the Bierkorte Award winner for his performance, echoed his teammates thoughts.

- 103: Zack Zubay (OG) d. Jeremy Cowan (EL) 3-0
- 112: Josh Francia (Barn) d. David Jack (SS) 11-5
- 119: Jarrod Anderson (Barn) p. Jake Fitch (EL) 2:12
- 125: Tyler Hughes (Cam) d. Derek Roth (MF) 3-1
- 130: Derek Kennedy (WP) d. John Bowers (Beal) 8-6 ot
- 135: John Prokapakis (Ed) d. Joel Sansone (StC) 9-5
- 140: Adam Yudasz (StC) d. Jab Banovsky (Ed) 5-3
- 145: Jonathan Davia (UL) d. Matt Wukelich (Shen) 9-4
- 152: Kurt Glasser (SS) d. Chris Taylor (JM) 8-4
- 160: Justin Jefferis (Barn) p. Wyatt O'Neil (Cam) 4:20
- 171: Scott Schaal (BL) d. Vince Magnone (Weir) 5-1
- 189: Justin Wells (Shen) p. Josh Stansberry (EL) 3:48
- 215: Nate Brown (BvL) d. Robert Busick (Weir) 8-5
- 275: Justin Lucas (Barn) d. Mike Findling (Brk) 6-2
- Maple (Ed) d. Zubay (OG) 5-2
- 112: Tierney (MF) d. Jack (SS) 3-1; Rossiter (HC) d. Francis (Barn) 4-3
- 119: Bowersock (BvL) d. Anderson (Barn) 11-5; Tierney (MF) d. Brown (Cam) 3-2
- 125: Evans (WP) d. Roth (MF) 6-1; Jorga (EL) p. Hughes (Cam) 1:48
- 130: Kupfer (Cam) d. Varner (EL) 7-4; Ne (OG) d. O'Grady (SS) 6-0
- 135: Westover (BvL) tech. fall Crum (EL) 5:33; Mayhugh (MF) d. Sansone (StC) 1:40
- 140: Ware (MF) p. Smith (BvL) 1:21; Ch (EL) d. Glas (OG) 8-2
- 145: Roth (MF) tech. fall Vargo (BL) 2:57
- 152: Koch (BSJ) d. Nestor (BL) 7-1
- 160: Birden (Steub) p. Glasser (SS) 2:53
- 160: Birden (Steub) p. O'Neil (Cam) 8:00
- 171: Davis (UL) d. Magnone (Weir) 8:00
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- 215: Jones (Steub) d. Polverini (SC) 10:00
- Ochap (WP) d. Brown (BvL) 15-8
- 275: Prescott (BvL) d. Brindley (BSJ) 7-1
- Redman (EL) p. Lucas (Barn) 5:21

## Canadiens Down Penguins

MONTREAL (AP) — Despite being in last place in the Northeast Division, the Montreal Canadiens are a team to be reckoned with.

Dainius Zubrus had two power-play goals and added an assist in the Montreal Canadiens' 4-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday night.

"We're on a little streak right now," Canadiens coach Alain Vigneault said. "We're becoming a pain to play against 5-on-5. We're not giving away much, playing well on our reads and aren't getting caught in odd-man rushes."

Patrick Poulin and Arron Asham also scored for Montreal, which is unbeaten in a season-high five straight (4-0-1). Shayne Corson added two assists for the Canadiens, who have scored on the power play in 10 of their last 12.

"If you're able to skate, that's when chances are created," Zubrus said. "Arron is skating well and driving to the net and Shayne is feeling a little better physically."

Rob Brown and Jan Hrdina scored for the Penguins, who dropped to 6-17-1 on the road.

"We have to start winning. I don't care if it is home or away," Penguins defenseman Jiri Slegr said. "We're a bad road team and we have to pick it

up or else we won't make the playoffs. I'm not going to make any excuses. We just have to play better."

Jose Theodore needed to make just 13 saves against the Penguins, who were without Jaromir Jagr. Jagr is out with an abdominal injury.

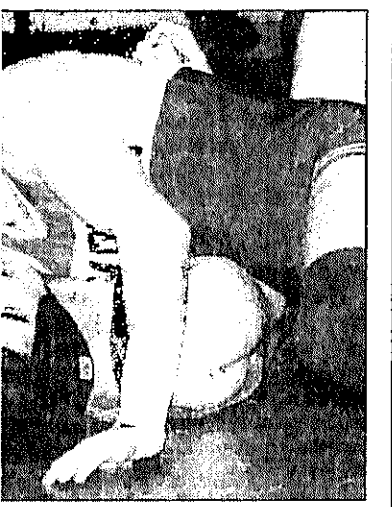
"That was a big plus for us that he wasn't playing," Theodore said. "They can still put the puck in the net quickly. They have a talented offensive team. But the guys play so well in front of me tonight."

Zubrus opened the scoring early in the second period when he took a loose puck at the side of the net, spun around and beat Tom Barrasso with a low shot between the legs at 2:42.

The Penguins responded three minutes later as Theodore stopped Hans Jonsson's shot from the point but couldn't cover up the puck. Brown, in front of the net, put the puck between Theodore's legs into goal.

Montreal made it 2-1 when Poulin scored on a quick wrist shot off a faceoff.

Zubrus scored his 11th of the season at 18:31 of the second to make it 3-1. While sprawled on the ice, he fired a low shot that deflected off Pittsburgh forward Tom Chorske, past Barrasso.



Shes off a pin in his first-round Young during Thursday night's tournament. The wrestlers were news-Register.

## Suns Welcome Hardaway Back With Victory Over Cavs

By BOB BAUM  
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns welcomed Penny Hardaway back to the lineup Saturday night with a 101-88 victory over the road-weary Cleveland Cavaliers, who lost their fifth in a row.

Jason Kidd had 16 points and 12 assists, Rodney Rogers scored 16 off the bench and Tom Gugliotta had 15 points and nine rebounds as the Suns improved to 13-1 against Eastern Conference teams.

Shawn Kemp had 20 points and nine rebounds but missed four consecutive free throws when the Cavs, on the last stop of a seven-game road trip, had a chance to stay close in the fourth quarter. Bob Sura had 12 points and 10 assists for Cleveland.

Hardaway had missed 21 games since going on the injured list Dec. 21 with what was eventually diagnosed as a partial tear in the plantar

fascia on the bottom of his right foot.

In his first game back, he shot 3-for-10 from the field and 6-for-6 at the foul line for 12 points. He also had three assists and six rebounds in 28 minutes.

The Suns led throughout after the opening 4 1/2 minutes of a sloppy game that featured 24 turnovers by Phoenix and 23 by Cleveland.

Phoenix led 45-32 at the break and stretched it to 47-32 on Luc Longley's stuff to start the second half. Sura capped a 14-4 Cleveland run with a 3-pointer that cut the lead to 59-56 with 4:38 left in the third quarter.

After Kemp missed two free throws, the Suns scored the next 10

points, six on a pair of 3-pointers by Todd Day, to boost the lead to 69-56 on Cliff Robinson's inside basket with 1:56 left in the third.

The Suns scored the last nine points of the first half on two 3-pointers by Rogers and one by Kidd to give Phoenix a 45-32 lead at the break.

The Cavaliers shot 37.5 percent from the field in the first half (12-for-32) and committed 16 turnovers. The Suns weren't much better, shooting 39 percent (16-for-41) with 11 turnovers.

In a wild incident with 7 1/2 minutes left in the game, Cleveland's Andre Miller was knocked off the court and hollered angrily at the Suns

players as he was helped to the sidelines. He was called for a technical foul on the play.

The next time down the court Miller collided with Hardaway, and initially Hardaway was called for a foul. But after Suns coach Scott Skiles was called for a technical foul running down the court to complain the referees called Miller for a flagrant foul for elbowing Hardaway.

NOTES: The Cavs finished their longest road trip of the season 1-6. ... The Suns are 12-4 when Hardaway plays. ... To make room for Hardaway, the Suns placed Mark West on the injured list with back spasms. ... One night after scoring a career-high 38 against Golden State, Cleveland's Lamond Murray got into early foul trouble and didn't score in the first three quarters, but got nine in the fourth. ... The Suns leave Monday on a five-game road trip to the East.





# Ferry cast in favorite role in OVAC mat tourney

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

When action kicks off this afternoon in the 47th annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center, two-time defending champion Martins Ferry and defending West Virginia state champion Oak Glen will be clear-cut favorites to take home the overall title.

Of course, there are quite a few other schools in the giant mat extravaganza that will leaning another direction. Past two-time champion East Liverpool, a winner in 1986 and '88, enters the tourney with the most seeded wrestlers.

Thirteen Potter grapplers earned one of the top eight seeds in their respective weight classes, but none were accorded No. 1 seeds. Three Potters were seeded second.

Oak Glen, one of the two most high-profile teams in the tourney, enters with 12 seeded wrestlers and only one top-seed. Phillip Bellville, at 189, is the Golden Bears only top seeded wrestler. Even defending Mountain State champion Logan Glass had to settle for second before Martins Ferry's Greg Ware at 140.

The Golden Bears' only OVAC overall title came in 1991. They finished second to Martins Ferry in last year's conference tourney.

Buckeye Local, back-to-back OVAC champions in '96 and '97 under then-coach Dan Doyle, was third in total seeded wrestlers with eight Panthers earning spots.

The Panthers had one top-seed in junior Nathan Kendjorsky, unscored-upon at 103 this season. Martins Ferry, champions in '93 and the past two seasons, at one time put together a string of eight straight titles from '61 to '68 and from indications could be looking



at No. 12.

First-year coach Babe Sidon surprisingly has just seven seeded wrestlers coming into today's action, but three are top seeded, the most in the tourney. Purple Rider defending individual champions Ware and Scott Roth are again top-seeded.

Ware won the 135-pound title last year and moves up to 140 while Roth, the champ at 140, moves to 145. Ferry's other top seed is sophomore John Tierney at 112. Tierney and brother David Tierney nearly pulled off the feat of having two brothers seeded first in the same tourney. David is seeded second at 119 behind Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock, the '99 champ at 103. Of course, the Tierneys aren't alone.

St. John Central's Derek and Daniel Koch nearly picked up two top seeds. Both seniors, Derek is top seeded at 152 while Daniel is second seeded at 162 behind unbeaten defending champion Ethan Birden of Steubenville. Beaver Local matched Ferry's trio of top seeds with three of its own.

With only four seeds, three hold top spots with Bowersock at 119, Aaron Westover ahead of Martins Ferry's Bobby Mayhugh at 135 and Rick Prescott seeded first ahead of

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Liverpool's Tom Redman at 275.

With Birden holding one of the top seeds, Big Red garnered a second top seed with John Jones seeded first at 215 with a 20-0 record. Steubenville has five seeded wrestlers.

Cameron, Wheeling Park and Union Local hold the other top seeds. Dragon 130-pounder Roger Kupfer is top seeded with his perfect 20-0 record. Senior Mike Davis of Union Local is seeded first at 171 with a 17-2 mark and Wheeling Park senior Mark Evans is top seeded at 125 with a 22-2 record.

Four teams had five seeded wrestlers, five others had four, two had three, seven came in with two seeds and six others had one. Five schools failed to get any of their wrestlers seeded for this weekend's tourney. Only eight wrestlers come into the tournament with unblemished records including two, Bowersock and David Tierney who could eventually meet in the finals if not upset beforehand. Both Tierneys come in at 18-0, Bowersock holds a 12-0 mark, Kupfer is 20-0, Roth is unbeaten at 18-0, Birden and Jones are 20-0 each and St. Clairsville's Jeff Forrelli is sixth seeded with a 4-0 mark.

Today's first match features Buckeye Local's Kendjorsky opposing Steubenville's Josh Mullins and the tourney will conclude on Saturday with the heavy-weight title bout.

Action starts today with preliminary and first round beginning at 5 p.m. and concluding at approximately 9 p.m.

Friday wrestling starts with an 11-a.m. to 4 p.m. session that includes second round championship and two rounds of consolation. The third and fourth rounds of consolation and championship quarterfinals will be wrestled off from 6-8 p.m.

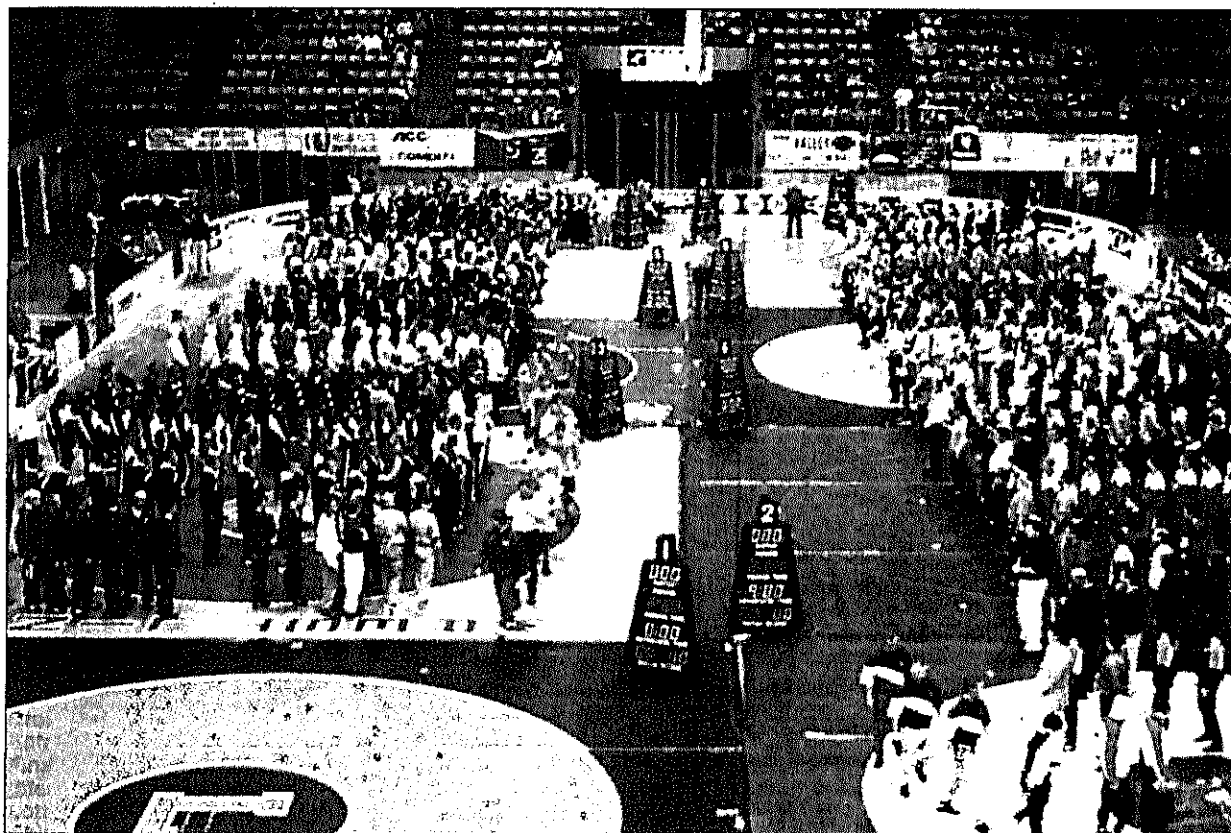
On Saturday, action gets under way at 10 a.m. with championship semi-finals, fifth round consolation and consolation semi-finals and finishing at approximately 2 p.m. Consolation finals for third through eighth places will wrestle at 4 p.m.

The championship finals are slated to get under way at 6:30 p.m.

Single session tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with advance ticket books for all five sessions priced at \$20 and \$10. Tickets for the finals are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students.

Mid-tourney festivities will include the awarding of Mr. Mat, junior high and reserve coach of the year awards and honoring the 1975 returning OVAC champions.

## Ceremonial matters



Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Area student-athletes take part in opening ceremonies for the 47th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference high school wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center Thursday. The event continues beginning at 11 a.m. today and concludes Saturday evening with the finals. Additional photos, story/19