

OVAC Volleyball Game Coaches



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

COACHING the second annual OVAC All-Star Volleyball game will be, from left, Bob Shansky (East Liverpool), Jeff Beros (Buckeye Trail), OVAC Volleyball game director Tom Suriano, Ethel Riser (Oak Glen) and Willie Paul (Weirton). Shansky and Beros will handle the Ohio side, while Riser and Paul handle the West Virginia spikers.

Beros: a big reason for the valley's volleyball success

• Buckeye Trail coach will help handle Ohio OVAC team

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

NO ONE HAS probably done more to spur on girls volleyball in the Ohio Valley more than Buckeye Trail coach Jeff Beros.

Completing his 11th season as the head coach at Buckeye Trail, Beros has been one of the key reasons that volleyball in the valley has been on the rise in recent years. And the reason is simple, Beros has just set the standards so high, valley volleyball can't help but get better.

In 11 years, the Lady Warrior coach has put together a remarkable 237-46 career coaching mark.

Five times his teams have been OVAC champions, include this past season. Nine times, the Lady Warriors have won Sectional crowns and five times they have captured District titles.

Beros has taken his Lady Warriors to three final four state appearances, more than any other Eastern Ohio coach and came home with state championship.

Five times he was selected as an OVAC coach of the year and eight times a District 12 coach of the year.

His notable accomplishment - 19 all-Ohioans have come from his teams.

Despite all the success, Beros is happy to be coaching the Ohio OVAC all-stars.

"I'm real excited to be coaching the Ohio team," he said. "There is a lot of talent on both sides and I hope that it all falls together. Once they get into it, they are going to have fun."

"It's hard to predict how the girls will perform in an all-star game," he added. "I've learned to expect the unexpected when you coach all-star matches."

"The way that the OVAC treats the girls, that special touch, these girls will remember that for a long time and I guess that's what it is all about. To create a memory that they will remember their whole life."

While Beros' Buckeye Trail teams were long considered head and shoulders above other teams in the OVAC, Beros believes the playing field has leveled off.

"I think that volleyball in the valley, that the coaches are working harder than ever. There was a time when it didn't seem like volleyball east of the Muskingum was taken seriously throughout the state," Beros pointed out.

"But, not only us, but Indian Creek and other OVAC teams are getting some recognition from other coach-

es," he said. "And it's not just a couple of powerhouses, but Eastern Ohio and the OVAC are certainly catching up with the rest of the state."

"And that's attributed to the coaches. And another major factor is that a lot of girls are playing club ball in the off season. If your going to get better, you have to play club ball."

Beros did point out that the area still lacks in the amount of clubs playing the sport, but that club balls where it is at.

"If you want you teams to going far in the tournaments, then you have to get your players involved in club ball," Beros pointed out. "And that's difficult because so many play basketball and softball and track and there just isn't enough time."

LOCAL FANS will get a golden opportunity to see the best of the best in Ohio Valley volleyball on Sunday, November 18 when the OVAC puts on their second annual Ohio-West Virginia All-star game at the Ney Center on the Ohio University Eastern campus starting at 2 p.m.

Beros and Shansky will coach the Ohio stars while Oak Glen's highly-successful Ethel Riser and Weir's Willie Paul will coach the West Virginia squad.

Two groups of sixteen players will represent their respective states in the classic that is being directed by Tom Suriano and Kim Traversa of Martins Ferry.

The Ohio squad includes Holly Cline of Edison, Elizabeth Bottorf of Indian Creek, Bethany Lucas of Buckeye Trail, Lindsay Bowman of St. John Central, Mindy Batton of Indian Creek, Rachael Shansky of East Liverpool, Debbie Story of Fort Frye, Jamie Stafford of Buckeye Trail, Na Na Taylor of Indian Creek, Rachel Yakubik of Meadowbrook, Lynsey Lyle of Wellsville, Erica Christy of Monroe Central, Kacie Vavrek of Bellaire, Sarah Robinson of Beaver Local, Cristen Biggio of Steubenville Central and Jessica Jones of Martins Ferry.

Comprising the West Virginia roster is Oak Glen's Peggy Emmerling, Jade Eckleberry, Emily Kincaid and Calley Williams, Wheeling Park's Emily Duffin, Jamie DeCrease and Ashley Triveri, Cameron's Tori Campbell, Sara Courtright, Chelsea Walton and Allison Butler, Weir's Jamie Russell, Wheeling Central's Brittany Shook, Weirton Madonna's Sara Setcavage and Jana Lamantia and John Marshall's Christen Oliver.

Tickets for the event are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

EL's Shansky to coach daughter in OVAC contest

• Game set for next Sunday at OUE

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Coaches coaching sons and daughters is not a new thing or a rare thing. What is rare is when the coach has been coaching for over 25 years and finally gets the opportunity to be his daughter's coach in an all-star game.

Bob Shansky's coaching career at East Liverpool High School started over 25 years ago. As a high school volleyball coach in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference he didn't see his first conference all-star game until last November.

Call it perfect timing or just a plain luck, but when Martins Ferry volleyball coach Tom Suriano decided a year ago to push the conference to finally put together an all-star game for girls' volleyball, Shansky would eventually get that rare chance.

Coach Shansky has been his daughter Rachael's varsity coach for the past three seasons. Of course, Rachael is the first to tell you that she has been around Lady Potter volleyball since she was in diapers.

On November 18, Bob Shansky, Rachael and the Ohio all-stars will take on the West Virginia all-stars in the second OVAC volleyball all-star classic at the Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

On that day, Rachael will have completed that trip from diapers to playing the last game of her high school career along side her dad.

"It's a great thrill to be selected," the elder Shansky said of his being chosen to coach the Ohio all-stars. "It's really a great honor to be a part of this. I was there last year and really enjoyed just watching it."

"Of course, it will be a little different this year to be coach it and have my own daughter play in the game as her last high school game will be very moving and exciting for me and for her too," coach Shansky added. "That's probably the greatest thrill I got out of this whole thing."

"I get to coach her. I get to coach the District 1 all-star game in Hubbard and she's on that too, so this has been a year of real ups and downs for me," the Lady Potter coach said.

"It's wonderful to be able to coach your own daughter and then coach her in her senior year and having our team win the OVAC regular season title," Shansky said, but added that he also suffered the loss of his mother during the season.

"Our year really had its ups and downs, but ending it this way really put a good spin on her senior season and my 26th year."

The elder Shansky has been around OVAC volleyball for some time and he has seen its evolution into the popular sport it has become today.

"I was there last year and I saw how much fun it was," coach Shansky said. "The girls had a great time, the coaches had a lot of fun and the fans brought signs and really got into it."

Shansky is the first to point out how exciting it is to have the opportunity to coach his daughter in the all-star game and he is quick to praise Ohio's other all-star coach, Buckeye Trail's Jeff Beros.

"It's great to have the opportunity to coach along side Jeff (Beros)," Shansky pointed out. "He is one of the best coaches in the state of Ohio."

Rachael Shansky wasn't just the coach's daughter, but she was a record-setting volleyball player at East Liverpool.

She earned All-Ohio honors recently after eclipsing the school assist record with 635 with 1400 sets. As a junior she had nearly 1300 sets and over 500 assists.

The younger Shansky is a three-year starter that committed herself to the sport, but putting all of her efforts into volleyball. She is a heady player that has given her father another coach on the floor.

"I pick on her more and unfortunately that sometimes causes a long ride home," coach Shansky added. "But I always did put a lot of pressure on our setters."

Of course, there will be a lot more rides home since there is another Shansky in the 10th grade, the eighth grade and the sixth grade.

"My dad has always been there for me," Rachael Shansky said about her father. "It to coach me in my last game and I like it."

"Having my dad there has been more on the plus side than the down side," the Lady Potter ace added.

"He's always there for you. He's always there to keep you up. If there is a problem, it's easy to talk about it."

"He's also like a dad to all the girls on the team because we're all real good friends and while we were growing up he was like everyone's dad," she pointed.

"When I was little he would put me on the bench and the girls would feed me my bottle and then they would go in and play and then when they came back out they would sit there and hold me," the young Shansky remembered.

"I don't want this to be her last game," the elder Shansky said. "Not as a parent or a coach."

Ohio sweeps OVAC all-star volleyball tilt

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

In a fitting end to one of the most exciting prep volleyball seasons ever in the Ohio Valley, Ohio's hard-hitting all-stars swept the final two sets en route to a three games to one win over the West Virginia all-stars in the second annual OVAC Girls Volleyball All-Star game at the Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern Sunday afternoon.

With a good-size crowd looking on, Ohio notched its second straight win in the brief series by taking two sets after splitting the first pair.

Ohio won the first game, 15-10, then saw the Lady Mountaineers erupt in the second set to notch a 15-5 decision. The Lady Buckeyes came back with 15-6 and 15-7 wins in the next two games to win the match.

Both teams were loaded with talent as three of the four OVAC players of the year played in the match.

Class 1-A player of the year Sara Setcavage led West Virginia while Buckeye Trail's Brittany Lucas, Class 2-A, and Edison's Holly Cline, Class 4-A, donned the Ohio jerseys. In addition, ECOL player of the year, Rachael Yakubik of Meadowbrook was also in uniform for the Buckeyes.

In the first set, Ohio saw an early 3-1 lead erased by West Virginia as the Mountaineers held leads of 7-4 and 10-6 before Ohio rebounded to go on top 12-10.

West Virginia got a boost by the serving of Cameron's Chelsea Walton, who ran off a string of service aces that helped the Mountaineers go on to take the second set in convincing fashion.

In the third set, Ohio broke out of a 6-6 deadlock with nine straight points to earn the win. The play of Lucas, Trail's Jamie Stafford and Monroe Central's Erica Christy on the nets and the serving of IC's Mindy Batton and Na Na Taylor and Steubenville's Jenna Bryan bolstered the attack in the third set for Ohio.

Bellaire's Kacie Vavrek keyed the Buckeyes' fourth set win with some outstanding play on the nets and her serving that provided a pair of aces. Setter Rachel Shansky of East Liverpool set up several opportunities for the Ohioans to finish off scores.

Ohio jumped out to an 8-1 lead in the fourth set and led 12-3 before the West Virginia stars made one last surge, closing to 12-7 only to see the Buckeyes sealed the win with another run.

"It's nice to win for the Ohio side," Buckeye Trail and Ohio coach Jeff Beros said after the win. "We certainly didn't want to come here and be the first Ohio team to lose."

"Once the girls settled down," he added. "It's difficult when you take 16 girls from 12 different schools and mix them together and they haven't had a whole lot of practice together. It takes a lot of getting used to."

"They kept their composure after they dropped that second game," Beros said. "And the more and longer we played, the better we got. The two different groups

worked well together."

"Once we got in that rhythm, the girls got a lot more comfortable and a lot more confident and things just started to fall into place," Beros added.

"The key was just settling down and gain some composure. It wasn't just one key play or player, but just a great overall effort by the Ohio girls," Beros concluded.

"It's good to see all the kids playing together," Oak Glen and West Virginia coach Ethel Riser said after the game. "It's hard when they've only had two days of practice and trying to get things worked out. They been playing against each other all year."

"We just told them to go out there and have fun. No pressure on them today," Riser added. "I didn't want any pressure on them. I just wanted them to go out and have fun playing the game."

Ohio received a very balanced effort from its squad with Rachel Shansky leading the winners with 48 sets, 14 assists, three spikes and three points, Vavrek adding four spikes, two kills, four points and three sets and Cline closing with six spikes and one kill.

Lucas added 10 spikes, six kills, five blocks, five points and one ace, while Batton had 10 spikes, two kills, four points and one ace and Taylor had six spikes, five points and two aces.

Yakubik closed with nine spikes, three kills and two blocks, Ferry's Jessica Jones had 12 sets, two points and an ace, St. John's Lindsay Bowman had four spikes and one block, Lynsey Lyle had nine spikes, four kills and two points while Christy contributed four sets, three spikes and two kills.

West Virginia was paced by Walton who close with 10 points and five aces, Oak Glen's Emily Kincaid with seven spikes, three kills and two blocks and Setcavage with nine spikes, four kills and five points.

Magnolia's Hanna Heinzman had six spikes, two points and two blocks, Park's Emily Duffin had six spikes and two kills, Park's Ashley Triveri added 19 sets, five points and an ace and Cameron's Allison Butler finished with eight sets, six points and two spikes.

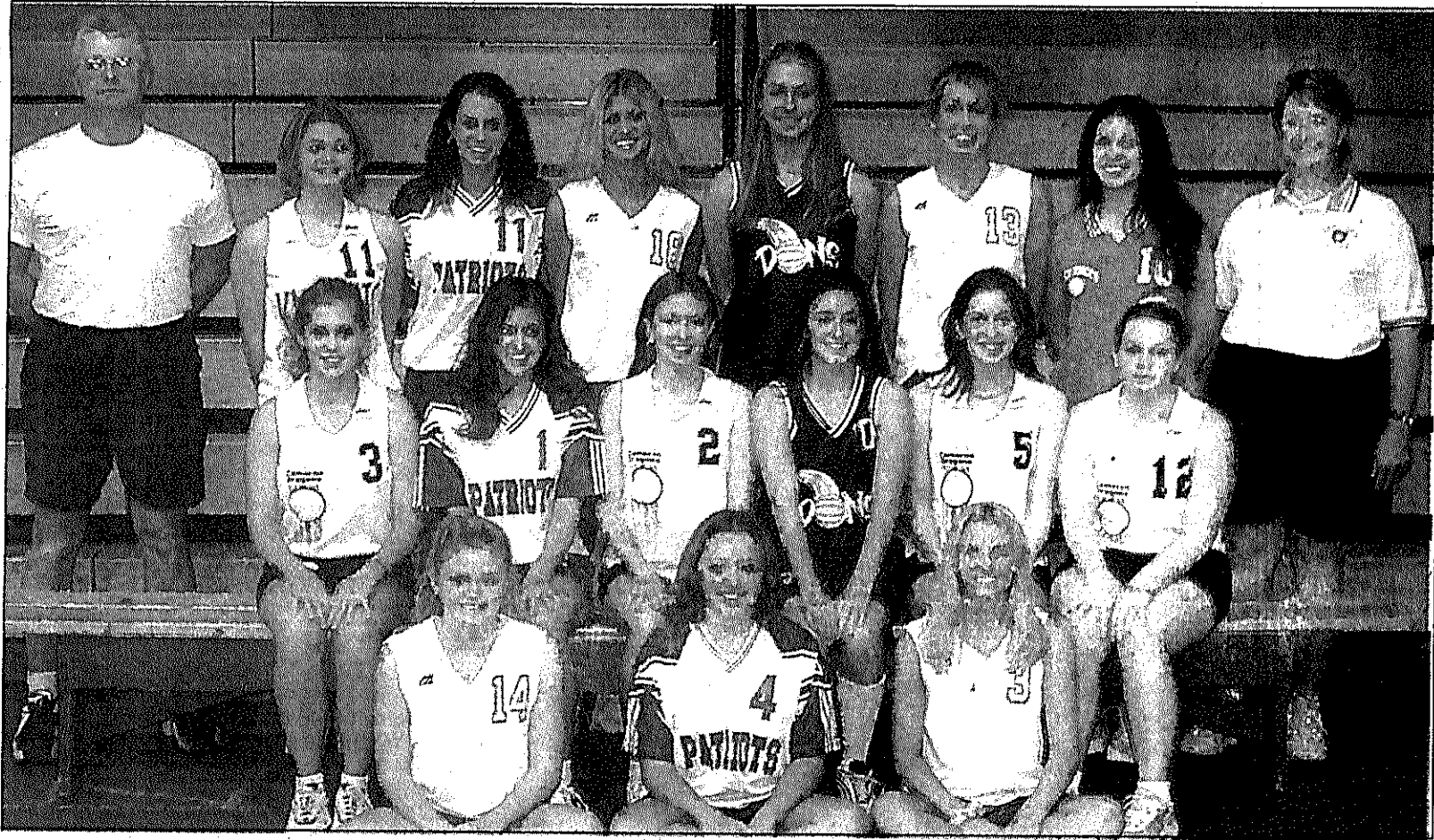
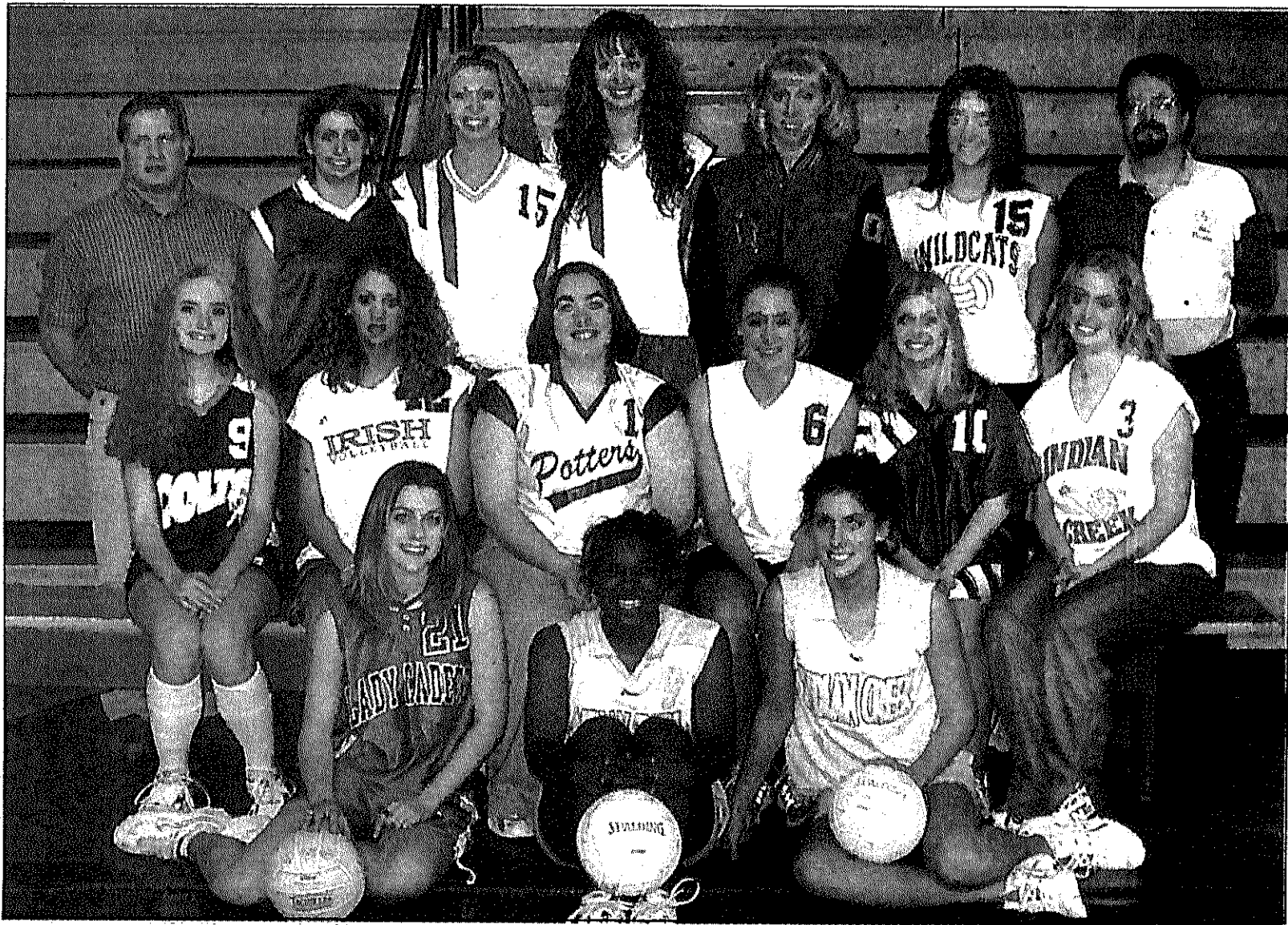
ALL-STAR NOTES

THOSE IN attendance were treated to some great pre-game festivities including a tremendous performance by the Wheeling Park High School choir. The group performed numerous patriotic numbers that were well received by everyone.

GAME DIRECTORS Tom Suriano and Kim Traversa outdid themselves in putting together the 2001 all-star game and festivities. The two presented each participant with a plaque and medal in honor of their selection to their respective all-star teams.

WEST VIRGINIA coach Ethel Riser of Oak Glen told reporters that the Mountain State is putting together its first-ever North-South girls volleyball all-star game. Riser has been chosen to coach the North stars that will include girls from schools north of Parkersburg.

OVAC Volleyball Teams



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY
COMPRISING the Ohio team for the second annual OVAC Volleyball All-Star game are front row, from left, Debbie Story (Fort Frye), Na Na Taylor (Indian Creek) and Mindi Batton (Indian Creek). Second row, from left, Rachel Yakubik (Meadowbrook), Lindsay Bowman (St. John Central), Rachael Shansky (East Liverpool), Kacie Vavrek (Bellaire), Jessica Jones (Martins Ferry) and Elizabeth Bottorf (Indian Creek). Third row, from left, coach Troy Beros (Buckeye Trail), Erica Christy (Monroe Central), Jamie Stafford (Buckeye Trail), Bethany Lucas (Buckeye Trail), Lindsay Lyle (Wellsville), Holly Cline (Edison) and coach Bob Shansky (East Liverpool). Absent were Sarah Robinson, Beaver Local and Cristen Biggio, Steubenville Central.

COMPRISING the West Virginia team for the second annual OVAC Volleyball All-Star game are front row, from left, Calley Williams (Oak Glen), Jami DeCrease (Wheeling Park) and Jade Eckleberry (Oak Glen). Second row, from left, are Tori Campbell (Cameron), Ashley Triveri (Wheeling Park), Chelseas Walton (Cameron), Janna LeMantia (Weirton Madonna), Allison Butler (Cameron) and Sara Courtright (Cameron). Back row, from left, coach Willie Paul (Weir), Brittney Shook (Wheeling Central), Emily Duffin (Wheeling Park), Emily Kincaid (Oak Glen), Sarah Setcavage (Weirton Madonna), Peggy Emmerling (Oak Glen), Jamie Russell (Weir), Ethel Riser (Oak Glen). Absent were Christen Oliver (John Marshall) and Hannah Heinzman (Magnolia).