

EL defends OVAC mat tourney title

By **GREGG MONTGOMERY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Perhaps the most prestigious night of sport in the Ohio Valley.

This year's OVAC finals was once again a clash of champions that left everyone with that once a year feeling that only this event can offer.

East Liverpool defended their OVAC Crown in close style over runnerup Oak Glen. The Potters did it with depth with 10 wrestlers placing in the event.

The Potters took the 4-A crown in addition to their overall title. Coach Larry Shaw's Oak Glen's Golden Bears grabbed the 3-A crown. In 2-A Barnesville took top honors, while Cameron again claimed the single A title.

The 103 final pitted sophomore Josh Hoover of Beaver Local versus East Liverpool's Jake Bates who was seeded eighth. Bates hopped out to an early 5-0 advantage after one period. Following a frenzied second period comeback by Hoover that saw him inch to within four points, the scrappy Bates would hold on to post the 8-4 victory.

The stage was set for the 112 war between two former

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T-L Photos/PAULA GINTHER



TOP PHOTO: Buckeye Local senior standout Nathan Kendjorsky (bottom) shoots for the leg of Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter during the 112-pound championship match of Saturday's OVAC Wrestling Tourney. Kendjorsky claimed his second-straight OVAC title with an 11-3 major decision.

LEFT PHOTO: Cameron's Tyler Hughes is in control of Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock during their championship match at 125 pounds. Bowersock won his third-straight OVAC title with the 5-1 decision. See related story and photos on page 4C and 8C

OVAC

Continued from page 1C

OVAC champions Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky and Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter. Rossiter was looking to avenge an earlier loss to Kendjorsky. Kendjorsky the Panther senior grappler jumped out to a 7-0 lead and would hold a 7-1 advantage after the second period. Rossiter would mount a furious comeback, but the crafty Kendjorsky was just too much posting an 11-3 win.

Adam Kennedy of Wheeling Park and Derek Maple of Edison squared off in the 119 pound final, and didn't disappoint Maple who finished last season in the sixth position in the state of Ohio grabbed a 4-3 advantage over Kennedy who was a fifth-place winner last year in West Virginia. With two seconds remaining in the match Kennedy was able to record a takedown to give the Patriot junior the exciting 6-5 victory.

The much anticipated 125 final resembled a chess game, both wrestlers feeling each other out in an attempt to gain an opening. Beaver Local senior Cole Bowersock attempted to dent the perfect 30-0 record of Cameron's Tyler Hughes.

Bowersock who already had two OVAC crowns, one at 103 and another at 119 became a three-time champion with a 5-1 win over Hughes.

A matchup of top seeds in the 130 pound weight class featured Wheeling Park's Derek Kennedy who came in red-hot pinning all four of his previous opponents and East Liverpool's John Varner.

The trend continued as the Patriot senior made quick work of Varner posting a 1:23 pin to gain his first title.

The 135 pound final featured Oak Glen senior Eric Noel versus Cambridge's Jeremy Furbee. Noel who has never finished lower than third at the OVAC's looked to grab his second career title.

The Oak Gen senior struck first recording a takedown to jump out to an early 2-0 lead. The relentless Noel went on an all-out offensive attacking Furbee using a variety of shoots and takedown maneuvers. The Golden Bear grappler would turn in an impressive performance posting a 7-1 decision to grab his second career title.

Monroe Central sophomore Christopher Wilson and Martins Ferry junior Derek Roth squared off in an action packed 140 pound final.

The two standout matmen had never met before this championship match. Wilson enjoyed an early 2-0 lead, and then had to defend himself from Roth's onslaught.

The Rider junior blasted out in the second and took the lead 5-2 with a dominating period.

Wilson battled from the bottom position the rest of the match and couldn't hold off the hard charging Roth who earned the Purple a

championship with a 10-4 victory.

The Cinderella story of the night featured unseeded Buckeye Local sophomore David Bertolino who broke through the field to face Martins Ferry standout Bob Mayhugh. Both wrestlers traded attacks and with just :20 left in the second period the match was tied at 3 apiece. Mayhugh stormed back to grab a dramatic 5-4 win in what was possibly the most exciting match of the evening. Overall the 145 pound weight class was a fine show of quality wrestling, and Martins Ferry was able to get its second champion in Mayhugh.

The 152 final featured Shady-side senior Kurt Glasser who entered the match at 24-0 versus John Marshall's Derek Geroge. Glasser and George battled in a classic, and thanks to a beautiful shot late in the match the John Marshall junior was able to break up a 2-2 tie to grab the 152 pound title giving the Monarchs their first champion of the night.

West Virginia State champion Dustin Stickles of Oak Glen squared off with Barnesville standout Justin Jefferis in the 160 pound final.

The contest this year going into the contest. This contest was a stalemate for the first two periods until Jefferis posted 5 quick points early on in the third period. Jefferis held on from there to post a 5-2 win in what was a fantastic all-around match.

Top-seeded Jake Sowers of Cambridge continued his strong run through the OVAC's 171 pound weight class in the finals.

Sowers received a tough test from second-seeded Zach Powell. Sowers, who registered an escape to take a 1-0 lead added on a take down for the 3-0 decision.

At 189 pounds, Oak Glen's Phillip Bellville captured a point due to a stalling penalty on Weir's Vince Magnone.

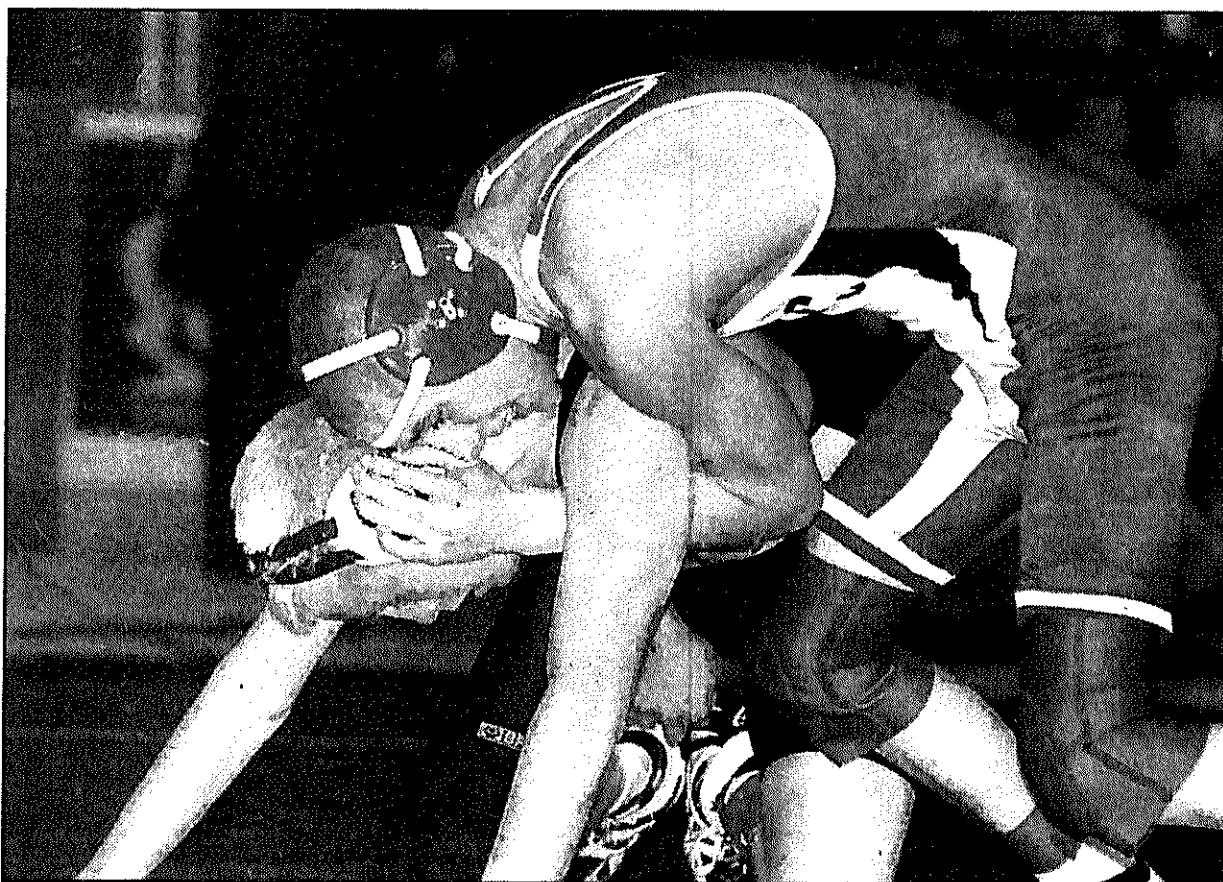
The point gave Bellville, the top seed, a 2-1 decision over the conference's second seed at 189.

At 215 pounds, Beaver Local freshman Adam Hoppel won his first OVAC title as he handed Shenandoah's William Wade an 11-1 setback.

Hoppel was in control from start to finish.

The final match of the evening saw Shenandoah's Jesse Wells earn the conference title as he held down the shoulders of Cambridge's Michael Pryce. The pin came at the 4:15 mark of the match.

Also in 275, East Liverpool clinched the title despite Joe Beebout's loss in the third-fourth place match to Oak Glen's Joey Caughey. Beebout only had to avoid the pin which he did for the Potters to take the title.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

WHEELING PARK'S Adam Kennedy looks to maintain control of Edison's Derek Maple during the 119-pound championship match of Saturday's OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Kennedy captured the victory to claim his first OVAC title.

OVAC Wrestling Tourney Results

TEAM SCORING:

OVERALL: 1. East Liverpool, 186; 2. Oak Glen, 184; 3. Martins Ferry, 161.5; 4. Beaver Local, 161.

CLASS 4-A: 1. East Liverpool, 186; 2. Wheeling Park, 148; 3. Buckeye Local, 140; 4. John Marshall, 138.5; 5. Cambridge, 94.5

CLASS 3-A: 1. Oak Glen, 184; 2. Martins Ferry, 161.5; 3. Beaver Local, 161; 4. St. Clairsville, 103.5; 5. Harrison Central, 99.5;

CLASS 2-A: 1. Barnesville, 134.5; 2. Shadyside, 86; 3. Shenandoah; 4. Wellsville, 68; 5. Monroe Central, 54.

CLASS 1-A: 1. Cameron, 142.5; 2. Beallsville, 57; 3. St. John Central, 37; 4. Bridgeport, 32.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

103 - Jake Bates (EL) dec. over Jesse Emery (HC) 9-6

112 - Nathan Kendjorsky (BL) dec. over Nic Rossiter (HC) 11-3

119 - Adam Kennedy (WP) dec. over Derek Maple (ED) 6-5

125 - Cole Bowersock (BVL) dec. Tyler Hughes (CAM) 5-1

130 - Derek Kennedy (WP) pinned John Varner (EL) 1:23

135 - Eric Noel (OG) dec. over Jeremy Furbee (CMB) 7-1

140 - Derek Roth (MF) dec. over Christopher Wilson (MC) 10-4

145 - Bob Mayhugh (MF) dec. over David Bertolino (BL) 5-4

152 - Derek George (JM) dec. over Kurt Glasser (SH) 3-2

160 - Justin Jefferis (Barnes) dec. Jacob Stickles (OG) 5-2

171 - Jake Sowers (Camb) dec. Zach Powell (Barnes), 3-0.

189 - Phillip Bellville (OG) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir), 2-1.

215 - Adam Hoppel (BL) dec. William Wade (Shen), 11-1.

275 - Jesse Wells (Shen) pinned Michael Pryce (Camb), 4:15.

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE MATCH

103 - Josh Gorayeb (WP) pinned Ben Cain (Mead), 2:33.

112 - Mike Jones (MF) dec. David Jack (Shady), 11-2.

119 - John Tierney (MF) dec. Chas Patton (BL) 3-1

125 - David Tierney (MF) pinned Scott Conrath (ST.C) 3:39

130 - Gaalen Lewis (OG) dec. Billy Barath (SC), 3-2.

135 - Jim Crumbley (EL) dec. Mike Muldrew (JM), 1-0.

140 - Nate Smith (Beaver) dec. Ryan Kinzy (Beall), 13-3.

145 - Roger Kupfer (Cam.) dec. Jeremy Ghrist (EL), 7-5, OT.

152 - Tucker Brown (Cameron) dec. Derek Sefick (HC), 3-0.

160 - Chris Taylor (JM) dec. Trevor Cooper (IC), 3-0.

171 - Ronnie Hebrock (OG) def. Roger Richardson (Steub.)

189 - Wyatt O'Neil (Cam) def. Kyle Jones (EL).

215 - Matt DuVall (UL) def. Joe Weaver (Mag).

275 - Joey Caughey (OG) def. Joe Beebout (EL).

FIFTH-SIXTH PLACE

103 - Jesse Emery (HC) dec. Jon Howard (JM), 6-5.

112 - Lucas Huffman (River) dec. Brian Humphrey (WP), 5-4.

119 - Jarrod Anderson (BAR) dec. Mark Wheatley (CMB) 4-3

125 - Chris Case (SJC) dec. over Garrett Six (OG) 2-1 OT

130 - Tom Snyder (UL) dec. Jason Lucas (Barn.), 9-5.

135 - Joel O'Neil (Cam) dec. Jason Peddicord (Barn.), 12-5.

140 - Adam Yudaz (St. C.) dec.

Kyle Eckleberry (OG), 5-2.

145 - John Propakis (Edison) pinned Brad Nicka (WM), 2:26.

152 - Dan Moore (Beaver) dec. Ryan Tasocik (UL), 7-6.

160 - Guy Nestor (Buckeye) dec. Jordan Williams (EL), 9-3.

171 - Matt Schoolcraft (EL) def. Justin Hepe (SJC).

189 - Dennis Nardo (UL) def. Jared Williams (Beaver)

215 - John Wells (JM) def. B.J. Cook (WP).

275 - Tom Brown (Cald) def. Tony Carothers (HC).

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE

103 - Tony Mayle (IC) dec. Todd Schmelbach (Shen), 1-0.

112 - Griffin Stipetich (JM) dec. Ryan Gallagher (Barn), 2-0.

119 - Bubba Larew (BEALL) dec. Scott Campbell (HC) 13-5

125 - Jeremy Cowan (EL) pinned Kyle Glaser (SHADY) 2:42

130 - Casey Hughes (Cam) dec. Jared Hoppel (Beaver), 3-2.

135 - Jack Schott (St. C.) dec. Josh Reitter (UL), 5-2.

140 - Johnny Jefferis (Barn.) dec. Billy Watson (Well.), 5-1.

145 - Paul Sweeney (Steub.) won by default over Luke Burkhardt (Shady).

152 - Chad Barker (Barn) dec. Rashad Terry (IC), 5-2.

160 - Josh West (Steub) dec. Chris Green (EL), 5-0.

171 - Jack Otto (Buckeye) def. Jake Pyle (Weir).

189 - James Lyan (Steub) def. Josh Boyd (WP).

215 - John Eden (MF) def. Pat McMillan (OG).

275 - Jimmy Snyder (Steub) def. Koel Davia (UL).

OVAC Mat Tourney Appears Wide Open

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

"Wide open."

That's how veteran Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament director Ron Mauck describes this year's event, the 48th overall.

"This is the most balanced tournament in recent years," Mauck said Wednesday night while making final preparations for the tournament, which kicks off its three-day stand on night at 6 p.m. at the Wheeling Civic Center.

"There's no clear cut favorite," Mauck added. "What ever team that comes in here Thursday mentally prepared and focused will win this thing. However, that might not happen until late Saturday night during the championship matches, or even one of the three consolation bouts."

More than 500 matmen from 36 schools will take to the mats — eight of them — tonight following the

Olympic-style opening ceremonies, in which the East Liverpool banner will be raised, symbolic of the defending overall team champion.

The Potters of head coach Scott Heimstra ended Martins Ferry's two-year reign last year. Buckeye Local had won the event the two years prior to the Purple Riders' back-to-back titles.

Oak Glen, which has been the pre-tournament favorite for the past several years, is once again thrust into that role this year as the Golden Bears of head coach Larry Shaw lead the pack with nine seeded wrestlers, including a tournament-high two No. 1 seeds in seniors Eric Noel (135) and Philip Bellville (189).

The four-time defending West Virginia Class A-AA champions haven't won the OVAC championship in 10 years. The Golden Bears could've had 10 seeded wrestlers if it had not been for an injury to senior Greg Six, who would have assuredly been awarded one of

the top seeds at 215 pounds. It was reported that Six broke his leg last Friday in a freak — non-wrestling — incident.

Beaver Local, under head coach Rich Wright, checks in with eight seeded wrestlers, while East Liverpool, John Marshall, Shadyside and Union Local all have seven. Barnesville and Steubenville both have six and Cambridge, Martins Ferry and Wheeling Park each have five seeded matmen.

All but six of the schools entered received at least one seed. Those which didn't include Bellaire, Bridgeport, Conotton Valley, Linsly, Tyler Consolidated and Wheeling Central.

In addition to claiming the overall team title, East Liverpool also won the Class AAAA crown. Other defending team champions are Martins Ferry (AAA), Barnesville (AA) and Cameron (A).

Fifty-four matmen will be seeking to repeat as place-winners from a

year ago.

Of that number, one is trying to become a three-time champion, while three others will be looking to take home the top hardware in their respective weight classes for the second straight year. The other 50 will attempt to improve upon their performances from last year.

Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock, Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky, Nic Rossiter of Harrison Central and Cameron's Roger Kupfer are the four defending titlists that return. However, all four are at different weights this year.

"We have no one back to defend their title at the same weight," noted Mauck. "That's quite remarkable."

Only three of those individuals will come away with championships as Kendjorsky and Rossiter are both entered at 112. Kendjorsky has handed Rossiter his lone loss this season.

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OVAC Wrestli

■ More than 500 wrestlers from Conference schools are set to take to the mats — eight of which is the largest of its kind

■ The Oak Glen Golden Bear pack with nine seeded wrestlers followed by Beaver Local (8), East Liverpool, John Marshall, Shadyside and Union Local (all with 7).

■ Last year's champions by class: East Liverpool (AAAA and over), Martins Ferry (AAA); Barnesville (AA); Cameron (A).

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Tourney

(Continued from Page 19)

Bowersock, a senior with a 19-3 record, won at 103 pounds as a sophomore and 119 as a junior. He was seventh in the flyweight division as a freshman, and is the No. 1 seed at 125 this year. He posted a 6-0 victory over Martins Ferry's David Tierney a year ago in their title tilt. Tierney is the top seed at 119 this year.

Bowersock also owns an impressive victory over Oak Glen senior Eric Noel, as the two met in the first match of this season.

Trying to become two-time titlists will be Kendjorsky, Rossiter and Kupfer.

Kenjorsky, who is 21-0 in his senior season, is the top seed at 112. He defeated Edison's Derek Maple 10-3 in the 103 finals a year ago. Kendjorsky gave a verbal commitment to West Virginia University before this season started. He placed third at 103 as a sophomore.

Rossiter, a senior who is the No. 2 seed at 112 with a 11-1 mark, scored a 3-2 nod over Martins Ferry's John

Tierney last January. He was sixth at 112 as a sophomore.

Kupfer, who despite winning all 20 of his matches thus far this season, is the No. 2 seed at 145 behind East Liverpool's Jeremy Ghrist (22-2). Kupfer scored a late takedown to nip Noel in last year's 130 championship match, 6-4.

Ghrist was a runnerup to Martins Ferry's Greg Ware last year.

Of the remaining 50 returning place-winners, six were runnerups a year ago; seven were either third, fourth or eighth; and nine finished either sixth or seventh.

The tournament, which is the largest of its kind in the United States, has expanded to 36 teams this year with the addition of Conotton Valley and the return of Wheeling Central.

Action continues Friday at 11 a.m. through the 6 p.m. session. It then resumes Saturday at noon and continues all day, culminating with the championship bouts which begin at 6:30 p.m. and are to be televised by WTOV-TV9.

TOURNAMENT NOTES

■ After a brief two-year experiment, the championship matches will not be wrestled on a platform. The Saturday night format will revert to old form as four mats will be utilized, with wrestlers vying for first, third, fifth and seventh places at the same time.

■ Todd Hibbs, who injected a lot of wrestling knowledge into last year's tournament with his calling of action on several different mats at the same time, will once again return.

"I thought Todd brought a lot to the tournament with his interpretation of the matches and the information he was giving about the kids," Mauck added. "He educated a lot of the fans as to what was going on."

■ Long-time Parkersburg High School head coach Joe Handlin and his wife will be special guests during Saturday's festivities.

■ According to Steve Kish, only five of the 25-year champions will be returning Saturday. That might be the lowest total since the tournament began honoring its champions from a quarter of a century ago.

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Please See **TOURNEY**, Page 22

OVAC Wrestling Tournament

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■ The Oak Glen Golden Bears lead the pack with nine seeded wrestlers, followed by Beaver Local (8), East Liverpool, John Marshall, Shadyside, and Union Local (all with 7).

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OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Potters Take 1st Day Lead

Close-fought OVAC Tournament resumes today at Civic Center

By JIM COCHRAN
Staff Writer

Defending champion East Liverpool leads the field after Thursday's first round action of the 48th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament, being staged at the Wheeling Civic Center.

When matches resume at 11 a.m. today the Potters, with 40 points, will have only a four-point lead, as John Marshall, Martins Ferry and Oak Glen are all tied for second place.

While JM, MF and OG have 36 points, six other teams are within 10 of the Potters. Beaver Local, Wellsville and Wheeling Park all have 32 points, Cameron has 31, and Barnesville and Buckeye Local both have 30.

While the Potters lead in Class AAAA, (John Marshall is second), Martins Ferry and Oak Glen are tied for the lead in Class AAA. The Class AA leader is Wellsville followed by Barnesville, while Cameron and Shadyside, with 24 points, are 1-2 in Class A.

East Liverpool, Martins Ferry, Barnesville, and Cameron are defending class champions.

Thirty-six schools are competing in the event with all but two registering points during the initial round.

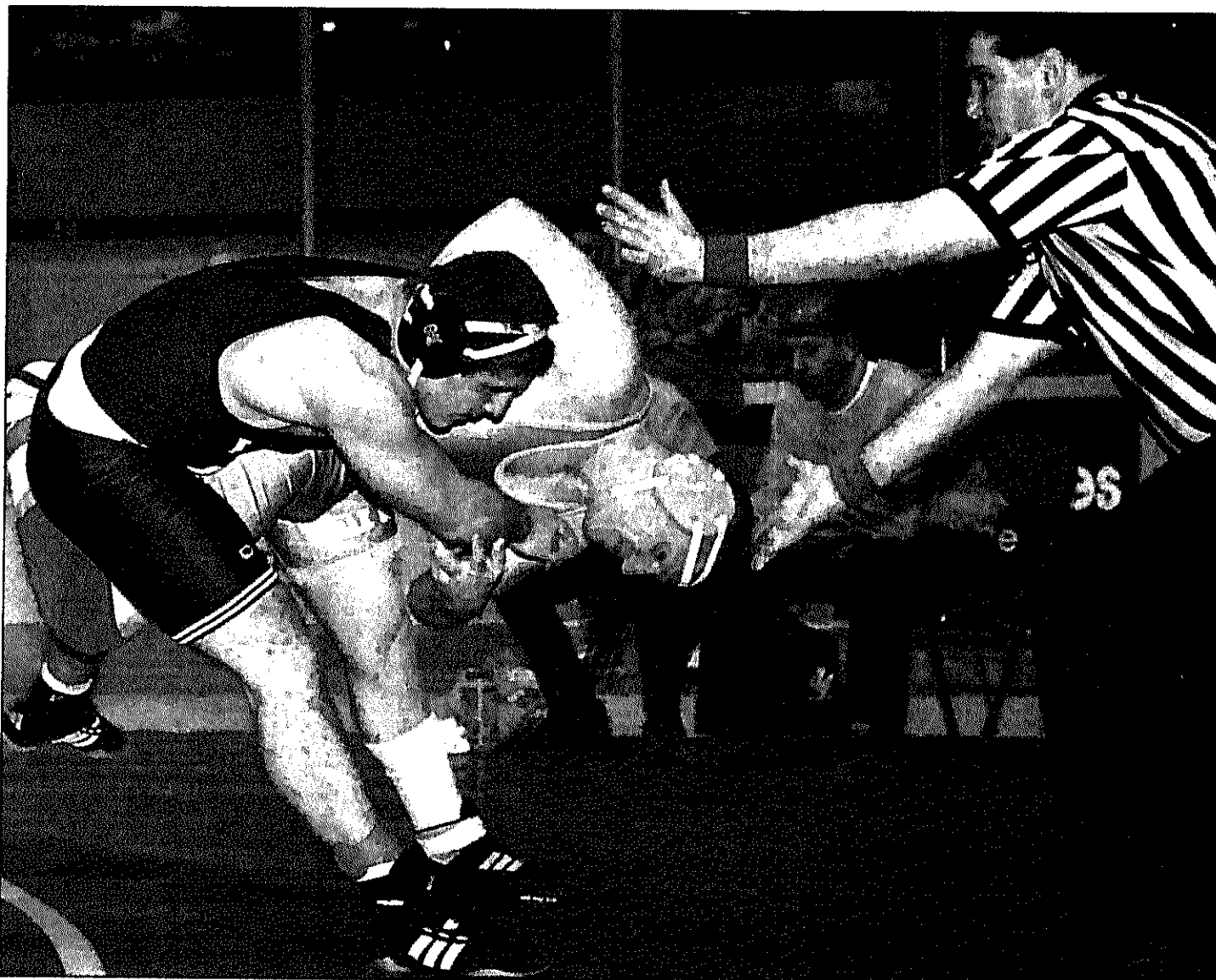
Many of the points came via pins as 133 of the 184 matches didn't go the six-minute limit. The quickest fall was recorded by East Liverpool's Kyle Jones, whose match lasted only nine seconds. Twenty-five other matches were over in less than a minute.

Among other quick "pinners" were Martins Ferry David Tierney in 12 seconds, Jim Crumbley of Edison in 18 seconds and Chas Patton of Buckeye Local in 22 seconds.

In the 171-pound class all 12 matches ended in falls. Among those scoring pins were the four defending champions — Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky, Nic Rossiter of Harrison Center, both are competing this year at 112, two-time champion Cole Bowersock of Buckeye Local and Cameron's Roger Kupfer.

Several other wrestlers will be putting unbeaten records in the line. They include:

Kenjorsky who is now 22-0, River's Lucas Huffman, 9-0, both are in the 112 pound class; Tyler Hughes, 27-1, of Cameron at 125 pounds; Kupfer, 21-0, and MF's



Photos by Scott McCloskey

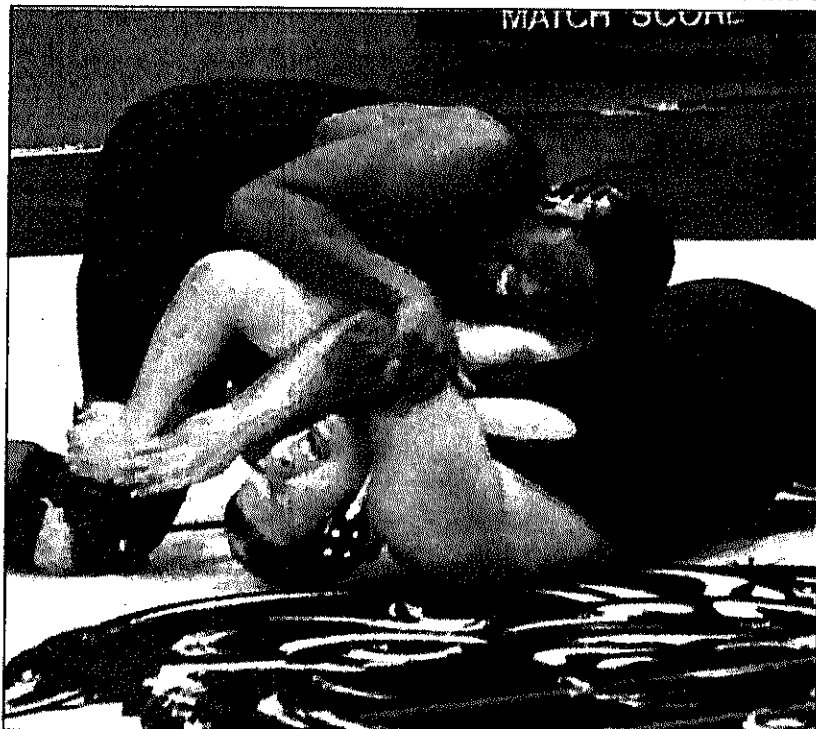
Top, Buckeye Local's Brian Sobota, left, and Oak Glen's Philip Bellville lock up in a 189-pound first round match during the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center on Thursday. Official Rick Crosler watches the match intently. Right, Steubenville's Jimmy Snyder, top, gets a handle on Cameron's C.J. Manning in their heavyweight tussle.

Bob Mayhugh, 17-0, both a 145 pounds; Kurt Glasser, 21-0, of Shadyside at 152 pounds; River's Allan Swegard, 20-0, at 160; Jake Sowers, 11-0, of Cambridge, at 171; Weir's Vince Magnone, 26-0, at 189; and Tyler Consolidated's Randy Tuttle, 4-0, at 275.

There will be two sessions today, the second of which will begin at 6 p.m.

Following the opening ceremonies Thursday, the first of several awards to be made during the tourney, were presented. The honorees were:

Jeff Ray of Harrison Central/Cadiz as assistant coach of the year; Craig Godwin of Beaver Local, the junior high coach of the year; Vicki Sefsick of Cadiz, the table worker award; Dave and Gene Montelone were honored with the James "Dead Eye" Morris award for their support involvement of OVAC wrestling; and officials John Jefferies for 18 years of service, and Bob Bender, a 19 year wrestling referee.



Field Expands to 36 Teams for OVAC Mat Tournament

Wheeling Central, Conotton Valley newest additions to area's wrestling showcase

By NICK BEDWAY
Executive Sports Editor

The field has been expanded to 36 teams for the 48th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament, which continues to be one of the largest and best events of its kind in United States.

This year's championships begin on Thursday night and continue through Saturday evening at the Wheeling Civic Center. More than 500 wrestlers are expected to compete for individual titles in the 14 weight classifications.

"Wheeling Central, which reinstated wrestling as a varsity sport this year, and Conotton Valley are the new additions," points out Ron Mauck, long-time director of the OVAC mat tournament.

Seeking a repeat overall team championship this year is East Liverpool, which ended Martins Ferry's two-year grip of the title last January. Class titlists were East Liverpool (AAAA), Martins Ferry (AAA), Barnesville (AA) and Cameron (A).

Four of last year's individual champions also return in Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky, who won at 103 pounds; Nic Rossiter (112) of Harrison Central; Cole Bowersock (119) of Beaver Local and Roger Kupfer (130) of Cameron.

Kendjorsky gave a verbal commitment before the start of the regular season to West Virginia University's top 25 program. Bowersock will be looking for his third straight OVAC championship medal.

Among the returning runners-up include: Derek Maple of Edison (103); John Tierney (112), Martins Ferry; David Tierney (119), Martins Ferry; Eric Noel (130), Oak Glen; Bobby Mayhugh (135), Martins Ferry; Jeremy Ghrist (140), East Liverpool; Zack Powell (171),



Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy racks up some near-fall points during his 119-pound match with East Liverpool's Luke Davis on the Patriots' mat Saturday afternoon. Both grapplers will be competing in the 48th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament next weekend at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Barnesville; Phillip Bellville (189), Oak Glen; and Tom Redman (275), East Liverpool.

Highlights along with what should be a highly-competitive tournament this week, will be the presentation of

several special awards. The top award presented each year is the Mr. Evans, former head coach at Wheeling Park High School. The late George Kovalick, considered to have been the father of Ohio Valley wrestling, was the initial recipient in

1976. Also given is the Dave Bierk Award, which goes to the tournament's most outstanding wrestler. This award is officially presented during the OVAC's spring Banquet of Champions. There is also an annual award to a junior-high coach.

OVAC individual champions 25 years ago will be honored prior to Saturday night's finals. Members of this prestigious group are Pat Kelly Wallace (105), Union Local; Bruce Ferguson (112), Brooke Covey (119), Bridgeport; Truini (126), Steubenville; Stanley (132), Warwood; E Hicks (138), Martins Ferry; C Martin (145), Oak Glen; Winters (155), Parkersburg; S Gaudreau (167), Weir; Randy C (175), Cadiz; Luke Spencer (175), Parkersburg; Sheldon Grace (heavy weight), Weir.

Tournament seeds and first-round pairings will be released during a press conference at 6:30 Monday at the Wheeling Civic Center. Highlighting Thursday night's opening session will be the Olympic style parade of wrestlers which begins at 6 p.m. Over 300 mat bouts are scheduled that night.

Second-round championship first- and second-round consolation bouts are set to begin at 11 a.m. Friday evening's session, which starts at 6, includes the quarterfinals along with the third- and fourth-round consolation bouts.

On Saturday at noon, the semifinals and fifth-round consolation semifinals will unfold. The consolation finals to determine third, fourth, and seventh place along with championship bouts are slated to start at 6:30 p.m.

The finals will once again be televised live on WTOV-TV9. Single-session tickets are priced at \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Advance ticket book, including five sessions, costs \$10 for students and \$20 for adults.

Tickets for Saturday night's tournament are \$4 for student and \$7 for adults.

East Liverpool takes early lead in OVAC tourney

Defending champion East Liverpool claimed the lead in the first day of the Ohio Valley Athletic Center Wrestling Tournament Thursday night at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The Potters put up 40 points during the opening night, just four points ahead of Martins Ferry and Oak Glen. Beaver Local and Wellsville check in with 32 points, while Cameron has 31 points.

While the Potters lead Class 4-A, the Golden Bears and Purple Riders are tied for 3-A lead. Wellsville has a slim two-point lead over Barnesville in 2-A and Cameron enjoys a seven point margin over Shadyside.

In Class 4-A, Buckeye Local sits in fourth place behind East Liverpool, John Marshall (36 points) and Wheeling Park (32 points).

The Panthers received pins from top-seeded Nathan Kendjorsky (112), Chas Patton (119), John Petrozzi (125), Chris Volk (130), Brock Bowman (152), Guy Nestor (160), Jack Otto (171) and D.J. Eddy (215).

Kendjorsky improved to 22-0 with the victory. Martins Ferry scored all of its points on pins from Mike Jones (112), top-seeded John Tierney (119), David Tierney (125), Derek Roth (140), Bobby Mayhugh (145), Ryan Strauss (152), Steve Yarnevic (160), George Padgelek (189) and John Eden (215).

Mayhugh is now 17-0 this season, while teammate David Tierney scored his fall in just 12 seconds.

Also in 3-A, Beaver Local has 32 points to hold third place. St. Clairsville is next with 26.5 points and Union Local has 16.

Barnesville holds second place in 2-A behind pins from Jarrod Anderson (119), Jason Lucas (130), John Jefferis (140), Chad Barker (152), top-seeded Justin Jefferis (160) and Zack Powell (171).

Also in 2-A, Monroe Central is holding third place with 19 points. River is tied for fourth with Shenandoah. Both schools have 14 points.

Cameron is the leader in Class A with Shadyside sitting in second. The Tigers have 24 points with pins coming from David Jack (112), Kyle Glasser (125), Bobby Samsa (135), Jesse Irwin (140), Luke Burkhardt (145), top-seeded Kurt Glasser (152) and Sean Grinch (189).

Kurt Glasser is now 21-0 on the season. Action resumed today at 11 a.m. with action with the second round. Today's second session will get underway at 6 p.m.

Highly competitive field set for OVAC mat

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Four defending champions return for the 48th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Only three can do it again.

With one of the smallest groups of defending champions returning and only nine unbeaten entered into the three day affair, this year's OVAC mat tourney could be one of

the most competitive in years. And possibly the most difficult to predict.

Although four champs from the 2000 tourney return only three can emerge as champions again this year.

Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock, the winner last year at 119, returns with a 19-3 record this season, but will wrestling in a heavier class at 125.

Cameron's Roger Kupfer, a champion as a 130-pounder a year

ago as a sophomore, returns as the No. 2 seed with a 20-0 record at 145. East Liverpool's Jeremy Ghrist is that weight class's top seed with a 22-2 mark against a predominantly Division I schedule.

It's at 112 pounds where a defending champion is sure to be dethroned.

Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky, the OVAC champ a year ago at 103 as a junior, has moved up to 112 this year and has put together a perfect 21-0 mark

heading into the conference tourney.

Of Kendjorsky's 21 wins is a verdict over Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter earlier in the season in a dual match. Rossiter, a senior with a near-perfect 11-1 mark, is the No. 2 seed at 112 and is the defending champion in that weight class.

With Kendjorsky moving up to 112, the door opened at 103 for a new top seed and that came in the person of Steubenville Central senior David Skiviat. The Crusader

grappler takes a 15-1 record into the OVAC tourney. Skiviat is one of only two seniors in the light weight class with Wheeling Park second-seeded Josh Gorayeb, the other.

Only three top seeds are underclassmen. One is a junior, one a sophomore and surprisingly, one a freshman.

Remember the last freshmen top seed would be a tough task, but the

See, OVAC, Page 10B

OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

tourney's top-seeded freshmen is not your normal wrestler. The Hoppel name is one of the most respected in Ohio wrestling, but Beaver Local frosh Adam Hoppel wasn't selected as a top-seeded grappler because of his name. Hoppel has posted an amazing 18-3 record as a freshman at 215 pounds.

The sophomore top seed comes from Harrison Central with credentials that include a sixth place finish in the tourney last year at heavyweight. Huskie sophomore Tony Carothers takes a 9-1 mark into the tourney.

Martins Ferry's John Tierney was a runnerup to Rossiter at 112 last year in the tourney and moves up to 119 this year where his 14-1 mark was good enough to garner the Purple Rider junior the top-seed. Cambridge's Mark Wheatley is the second seed with his impressive 22-1 season mark.

No team dominated the list of top seeds with only two schools, Oak Glen and Beaver Local gaining two each. The only 10 top seeds were divided among 10 different schools.

Oak Glen's top-seeded pair include senior Eric Noel at 135 pounds and senior Phillip Bellville at 189. Noel was a runnerup to Kupfer at 130 last year losing a 6-4 overtime decision. Noel has posted a 17-1 mark this year. The second seed at 135 is Cambridge's Jeremy Furbee with a 21-1 record.

Bellville also finished as a runnerup last year losing to Buckeye Local champion Adam Beranek in a 3-2 decision. Bellville brings a 16-1 record to the OVAC tournament,

but will be pushed for the title by second-seeded Vince Magnone of Weir who is unbeaten at 25-0.

Wheeling Park's Derek Kennedy is the top seed at 130 with his 24-2 record this season. Kennedy defeated Beallsville's John Bowers in OT last season to finish third. East Liverpool's John Varner is seeded second this year. St. Clairsville's Adam Yudasz, a third place finisher last year at 140, will enter his final OVAC tourney as the top seed at 140 with a fine 14-3 record. Oak Glen senior Kyle Eckleberry is seeded second at 140 with a 16-2 mark.

At 14-5, Ghrist is the top seed with his 22-2 record. He was a runnerup to Martins Ferry's Greg Ware last year at 140.

Shadyside's Kurt Glasser brings his perfect 20-0 record to the OVAC tourney as the top seeded wrestler at 152. Glasser, a senior, finished third at 152 last year after defeating John Marshall's Chris Taylor in his final match. Ironically, this year's second seed at 152 is another Monarch grappler in junior Derek George with his 24-1 mark.

Last season, Barnesville's Justin Jefferies finished third in the OVAC tourney behind two of the state's best 160-pound wrestlers, Ethan Birden of Steubenville and Daniel Koch of St. John Central. This season, the senior takes his 19-1 mark into the tourney as the top-seed at 160. JM's Taylor is the second seed with his 19-5 mark.

Cambridge's Jake Sowers come into the OVAC tourney as one of the top wrestlers and is the top seed at

171 pounds with his 10-0 mark. The senior did not place in last year's tourney, but had an amazing post-season run. Barnesville's Zack Powell and his 20-1 record is seeded second at 171.

Twelve wrestlers will enter the OVAC tourney without a loss, but only nine have at least 10 wins to their credit this season.

Kendjorsky (21-0) and River's Lucas Huffman (18-0) are unbeaten at 112, Cameron's Tyler Hughes (26-0) is unblemished at 125, Kupfer (20-0), Martins Ferry's Bob Mayhugh (16-0) and Magnolia's Josh Poling (1-0) haven't lost at 145.

Glasser (20-0) at 152, River's Allan Swegard (19-0) at 160, Sowers (10-0) at 171, Magnone (25-0) at 189, Wheeling Central's Dustin Bruno (1-0) at 215 and Tyler Consolidated's Randy Tuttle (3-0) at 275 will looking to stay away from their first losses.

On the other hand, 23 wrestlers will be heading into the OVAC tourney looking for their first win of the season. Five of those wrestlers are in the 145-pound bracket and four other at 215.

Oak Glen, again the pre-tourney favorite to take home the overall OVAC team title, leads the conference in seeded wrestlers with nine. East Liverpool and Beaver Local have eight grapplers each that are seeded while Union Local and John Marshall have seven apiece.

Barnesville, Shadyside and Steubenville enter with six seeded wrestlers each while Cambridge, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Park and Cameron each have five. St. C and Indian Creek have four each while Buckeye Local and Harrison Central have three.

Edison, Meadowbrook, Monroe Central, River, Shenandoah, Weirton Madonna and Wellsville have two seeds each and Brooke, Caldwell, Magnolia, St. John Central and Weir have one.

Conotton Valley and Wheeling Central will field teams this year after not being represented last year.

East Liverpool surprised the field last year by taking the 4-A and overall title. Buckeye Local was a distant runnerup in 4-A while Martins Ferry edged Oak Glen for the 3-A crown, Barnesville ran away with the 2-A title and Cameron topped St. John Central in 1-A.

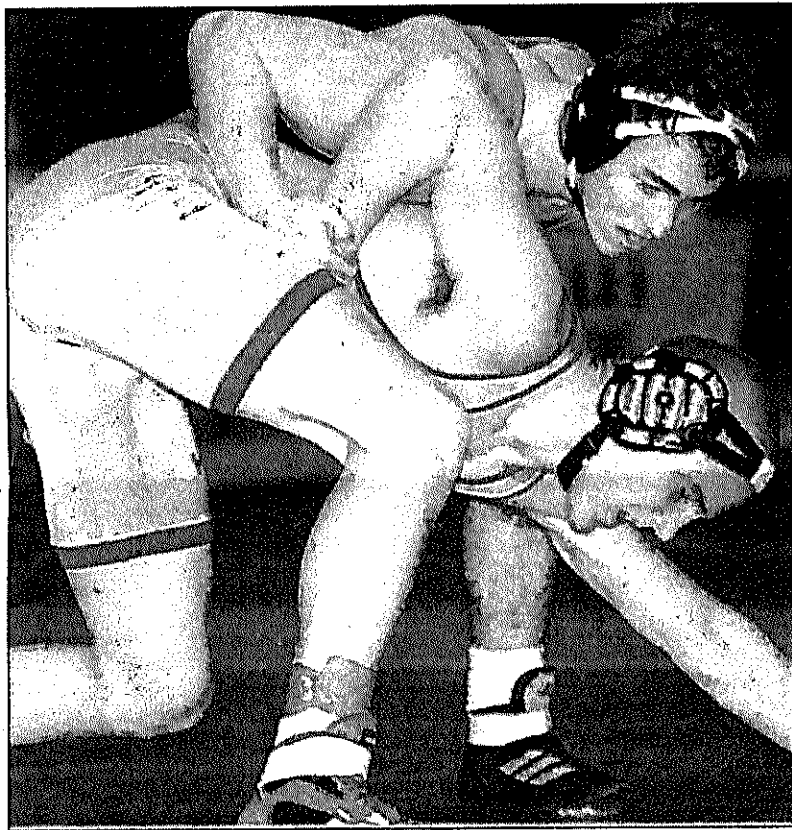
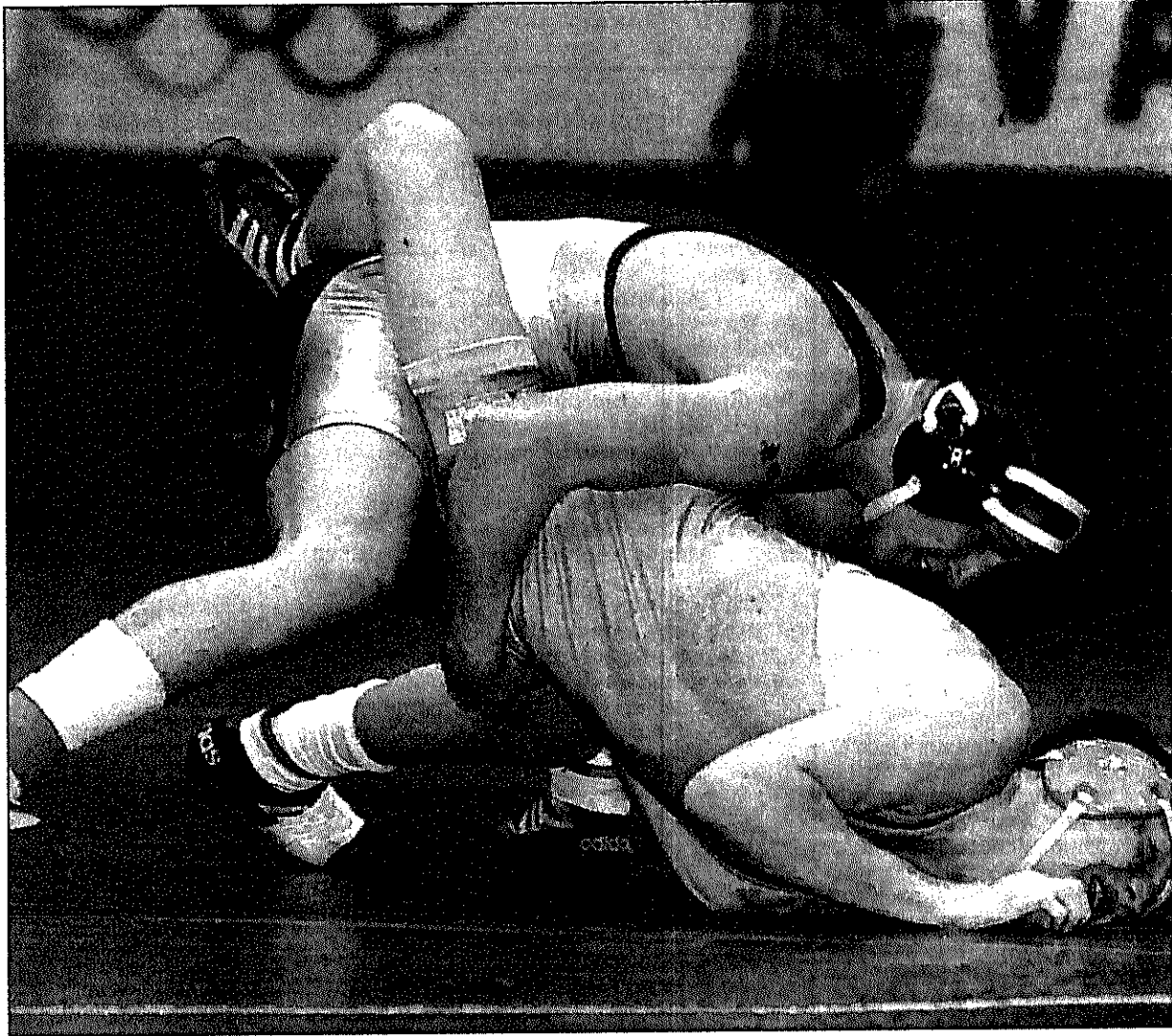
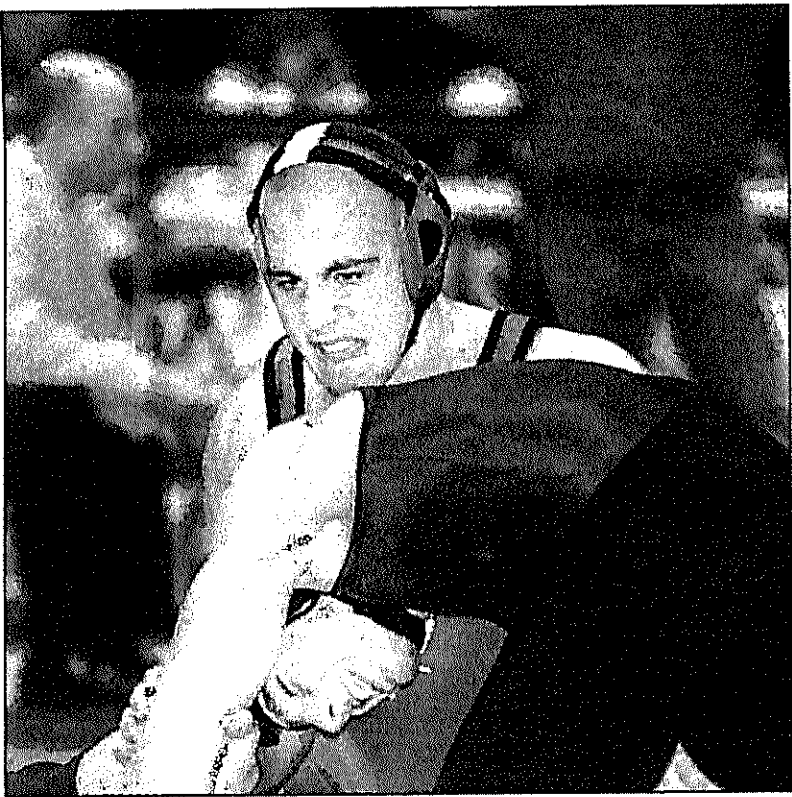
The Potters win in 2000 snapped a two-tourney streak of Martins Ferry in '98 and '99. Buckeye Local was the champion in both '96 and '97.

Action is set to get under way on Thursday at the Wheeling Civic Center with wrestling starting at 6:30 p.m.. The Friday morning session starts at 11 a.m. while the afternoon session starts at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, semi-finals and consolations start at noon with the championship finals at 6:30 p.m.

While the 1976 champions will be honored on their 26th anniversary, the tourney will also feature the awarding of Mr. Mat, assistant and junior high coaches of the year and coaches service awards.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with the championship session tickets priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$4



**T-L Photos/
PAULA GINTHER**

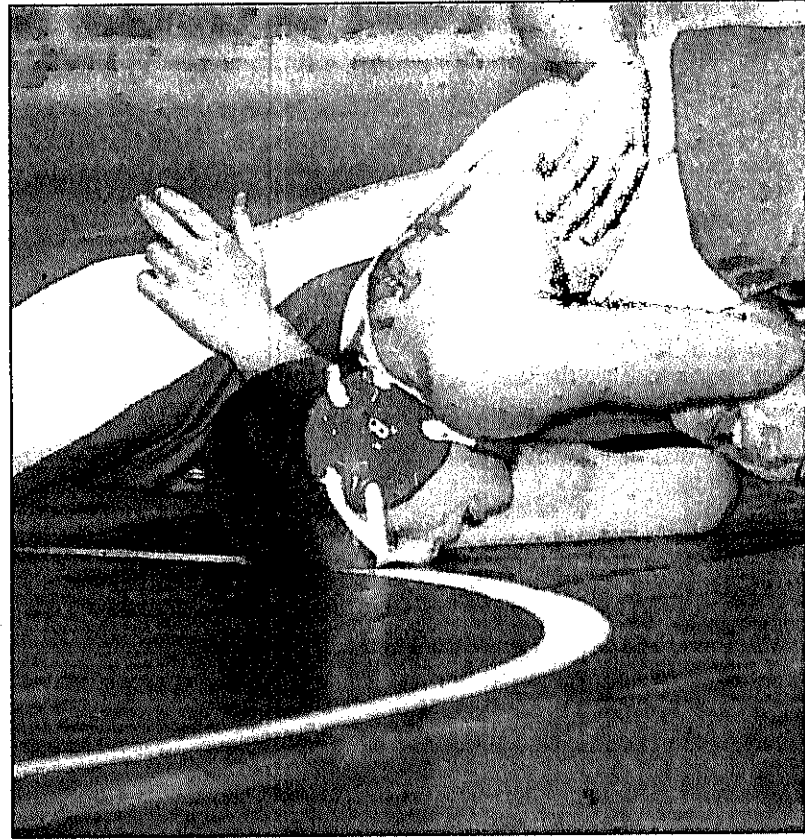
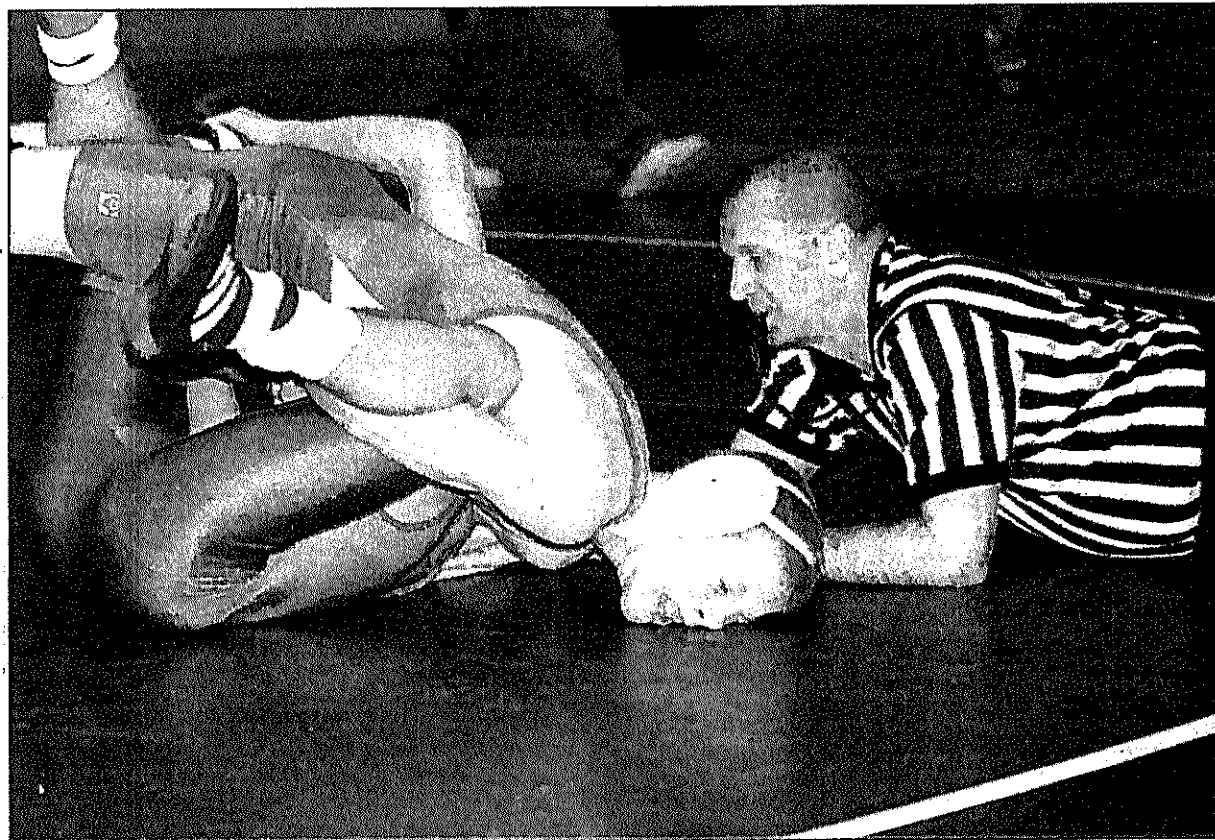
TOP LEFT: St. Clairsville's Adam Yudaz battles Monroe Central's 140-pound semi-final match of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Civic Center.

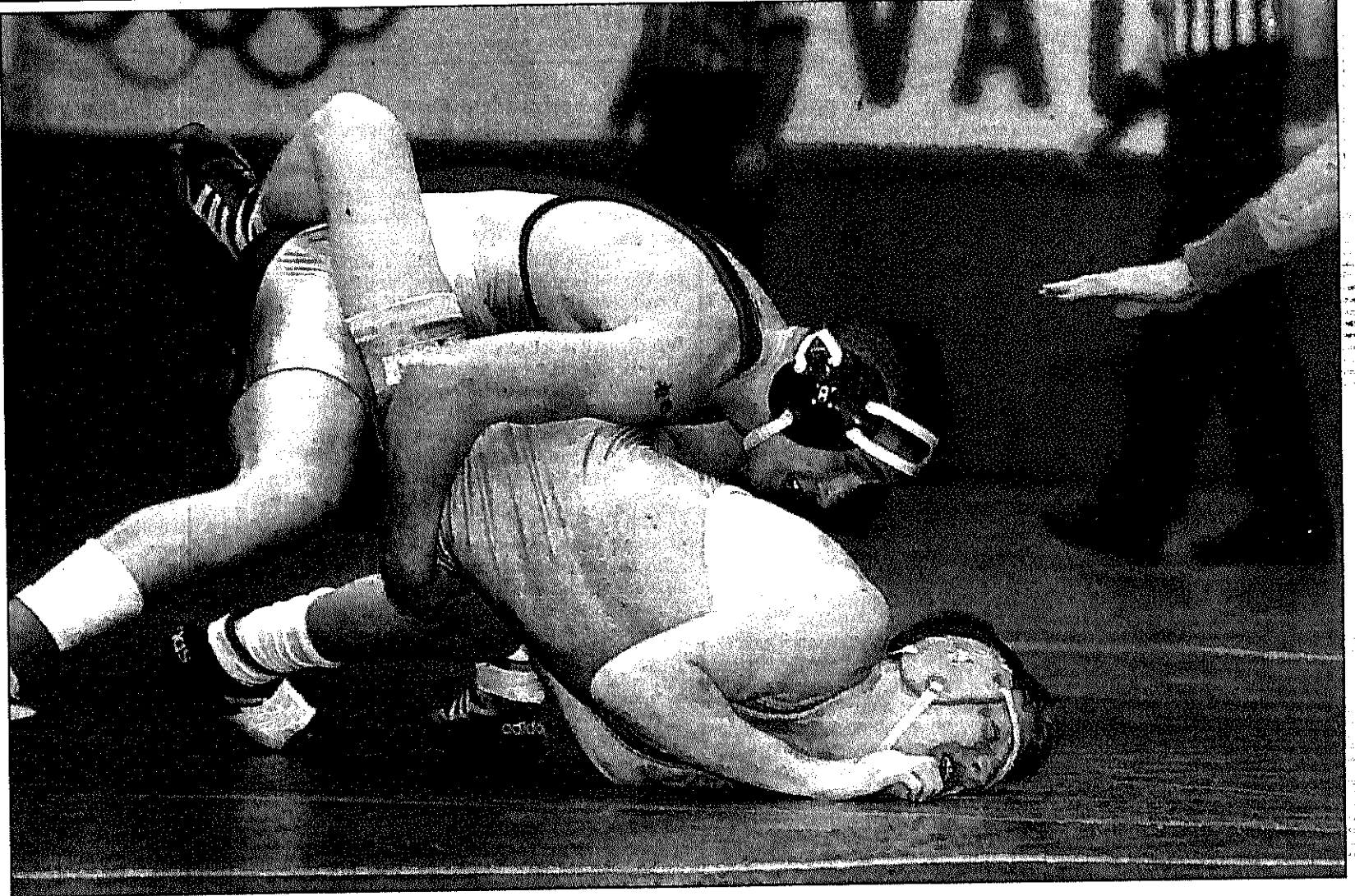
TOP RIGHT: Martins Ferry's Derek Roth is in control of Oak Glen's 140-pound semi-final match. Roth advanced to the finals with the victory.

AT LEFT: Shadyside's Kurt Glasser (top) looks to take Harrison Central's Chris Case during their 152-pound semi-final match. Glasser advanced to the finals with the victory.

BOTTOM LEFT: St. John Central's Chris Case and East Liverpool's Matt Smith in a 125-pound consolation round match as referee John Regis looks on to see if the wrestlers stay alive in the tournament.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Barnesville's Jason Peddicord (top) is in control of Harrison Central's Matt Smith during 135-pound consolation round action.





**T-L Photos/
PAULA GINTHER**

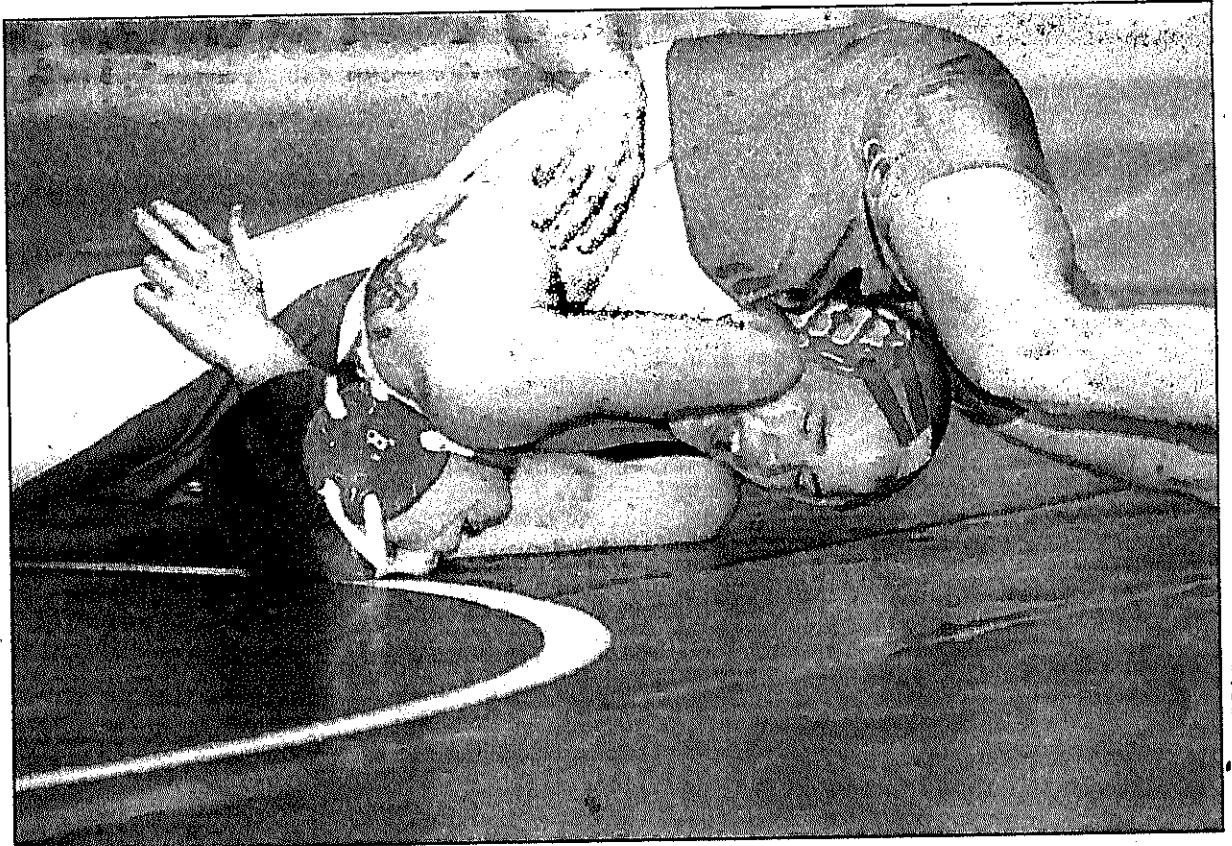
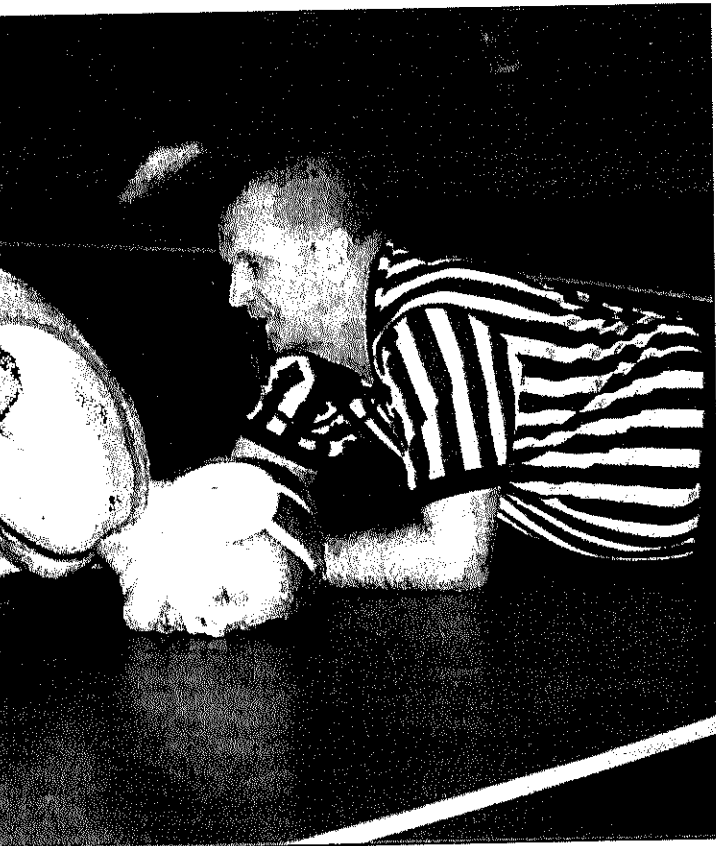
TOP LEFT: St. Clairsville's Adam Yudaz battles Monroe Central's Christopher Wilson during their 140-pound semi-final match of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament Saturday afternoon at the Wheeling Civic Center.

TOP RIGHT: Martins Ferry's Derek Roth is in control of Oak Glen's Kyle Eckleberry during the 140-pound semi-final match. Roth advanced to the finals with the victory.

AT LEFT: Shadyside's Kurt Glasser (top) looks to take Harrison Central's Derek Sefsick to the mat during their 152-pound semi-final match. Glasser advanced to the finals with the victory.

BOTTOM LEFT: St. John Central's Chris Case and East Liverpool's Jeremy Cowan do battle in a 125-pound consolation round match as referee John Regis looks on. Case picked up the victory to stay alive in the tournament.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Barnesville's Jason Peddlcord (top) is in control of St. Clairsville's Jack Schott during 135-pound consolation round action.



Bears Own Nine Seeded OVAC Wrestlers

Nation's largest high school wrestling tournament gets underway Thursday

By SHAWN RINE
Staff Writer

When the 48th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament kicks off Thursday, four-time defending West Virginia Class A-AA state champion Oak Glen will be the odds-on-favorite to take home an OVAC crown.

Coach Larry Shaw's Golden Bears received nine seeds overall and tied Beaver Local with two first-place seeds — the most among the 36-team field that will include Wheeling Central and Conotton Valley for the first time in recent memory.

Eric Noel, a runner-up at 140 at last year's tournament, is the No. 1 seed at 135-pounds this season. Noel currently owns a sparkling 17-1 record, with the only blemish coming at the hands of Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock in the season opener.

Bowersock, a defending champion at 130, is sporting a 19-3 record, is a No. 1 seed and will wrestle out of the 125-pound weight class.

Oak Glen's other No. 1 seed belongs to Philip Bellville at 189. A senior, Bellville is the owner of a 16-1 mark.

Joining Bowersock as a No. 1 seed for the Beavers will be Adam Hoppel at 215-pounds.

Hoppel owns an 18-3 record and will be challenged by 12-8 Josh Stansbury (2nd seed) and Steubenville's Tony Jones who is seeded third and owns a 17-4 record.

Overall, four champions return to defend their titles. Bowersock and Cameron's Roger Kupfer at 145, return. As do

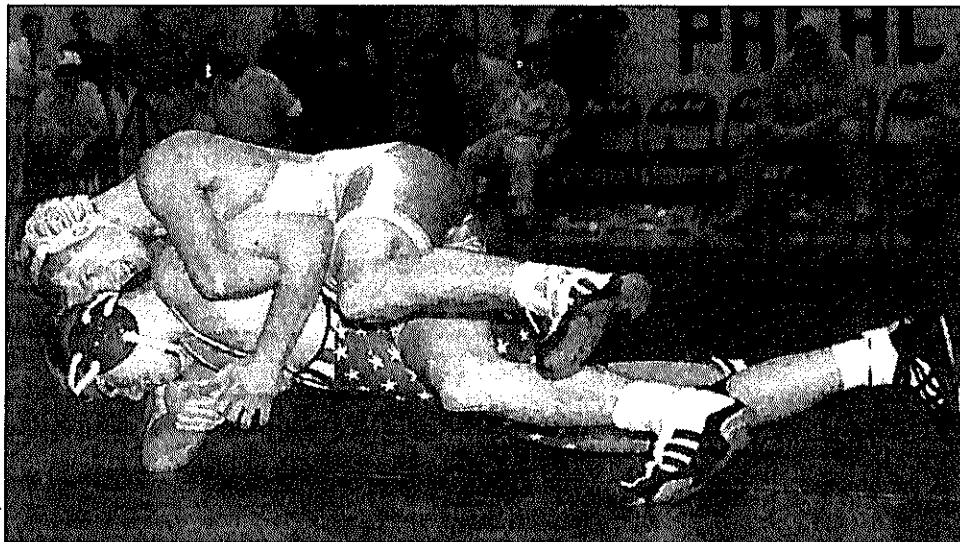


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Oak Glen 135-pounder Eric Noel, top, gets a handle on Wheeling Park's Jess Mestrovic in a match earlier this season. The once-beaten Noel (17-1) enters this week's OVAC Wrestling Tournament as the top seed in his weight class.

Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky — a West Virginia University recruit — and Nic Rossiter of Harrison Central.

Kendjorsky, 21-0 and seeded first at 112, knocked off Edison's Derek Maple in last year's final in the 103-pound weight class. Meanwhile, Rossiter was busy downing Martins Ferry's John Tierney at 112, by a score of 3-2.

However, a new champion will be

crowned in the 140-pound division. That's because Kupfer (20-0) moved up a weight class to 145, meaning Wheeling Park's Derek Kennedy (24-2) was tabbed number one.

Included in this year's field are 20 wrestlers that have already accumulated 20 or more wins, and 11 more that are yet to taste defeat.

Cameron's Tyler Hughes enters the

event as the winningest grappler in the field. However, his 26-0 mark wasn't enough to earn him a No. 1 seed. Bowersock edged him out for that honor.

Coach Rich Wright's Beavers check in just behind Oak Glen with eight seeded wrestlers and defending overall champion East Liverpool, John Marshall, Union Local and Shadyside, all will have seven seeded grapplers.

Scott Heimstra's Potters have the No. 1 seed at 145 in 22-2 senior Jeremy Ghrist, who is ranked just ahead of the aforementioned Kupfer.

Jon Varner at 130 and Josh Stansbury at 215 are both No. 2 seeds for the Potters and have a combined record of 26-12.

Other No. 1 seeds include: Steubenville Central's David Skiviat at 103; John Tierney of Martins Ferry, who will compete at 119; 14-3 Adam Yudasz of St. Clairsville in the 140-pound class; Shadyside's Kurt Glasser (20-0) at 152; Justin Jefferis of Barnesville (160); Jake Sowers (10-0) of Cambridge at 171 and last but not least, Harrison Central heavy-weight Tony Carothers who enters the tournament with a record of 9-1.

For the Monarchs of John Marshall, their highest seeded wrestlers are Derek George (152) and Chris Taylor (160), who each are ranked second in their respective classes.

Union Local's Dennis Nardo received his team's highest seed. He will be the 5th seed at 189, a division that includes the likes of Bellville and Weir High's Vince Magnone (25-0).

OVAC TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

OVAC TOURNAMENT

Class AAAA: Brooke, Buckeye Local, Cambridge, East Liverpool, Edison, John Marshall, Meadowbrook, Steubenville, Weir, Wheeling Park
Class AAA: Beaver Local, Bellaire, Harrison Central, Indian Creek, Magnolia, Martins Ferry, Oak Glen, St. Clairsville, Tyler Consolidated, Union Local
Class AA: Barnesville, Caldwell, Linsly, Monroe Central, River, Shenandoah, Steubenville Central, Wellsville, Wheeling Central
Class A: Beallsville, Bridgeport, Cameron, Conotton Valley, Shadyside, Bellaire St. John's, Weirton Madonna

103
David Skiviat (SCe) vs. Billy Webb (CV); Todd Schmeizenbach (Shen) vs. Jake Bates (EL); Jesse Emery (HC) vs. Ryan Leach (Bpt); Shawn Benson (Bea) vs. Jon Howard (JM); Josh Hoover (BvL) vs. Jordan Seldner (MC); Tony Mayle (IC) vs. Anthony Valles (WM); Ben Cain (Mead) vs. Dan Naughton (St.C)

112
Nathan Kendjorsky (BL) vs. Brad Armstrong (IC); T.J. Glass (OG) vs. Thad Crosier (Steub); Casey Harless (Mead) vs. Brian Humphrey (WP); Griffin Stipetich (JM) vs. Dustin Smith (Wells); Rich Clark (EL) vs. Eric Zuzak (St.C); Jason Beal (Bpt) vs. Mike Jones (MF); Lucas Huffman (Riv) vs. Michael Ray (Camb); Pat Blon (Bell) vs. Tyler Smith (BvL); Jonathan McFarland (Brk) vs. David Jack (Sha); Ryan Gallagher (Bar) vs. Alan Pacifico (SJ); Matt Brown (Beal) vs. Brandon Antill (Cam); Bryan Riechard (Ed) vs. Nic Rossiter (HC)

119
John Tierney (MF) vs. Jimmy Morris (SCe); Jason Sole (Mead) vs. Nick Emmerling (BvL); Sean Haught (Riv) vs. Chas Patton (BvL); Marcus Prendes (Wells) vs. Bubba Larew (Bea); Josh Johnston (IC) vs. Allen Taylor (JM); Luke Davis (EL) vs. Josh Laugher (StC); Chris Carpenter (Lin) vs. Derek Maple (Ed); Jarrad Anderson (Bar) vs. Mattia Bartolini (WC); Ian Whittington (OG) vs. Daniel Crum (Cald); Derek Ramsey (Sha) vs. Ben Young (Steub); Ben McGhee (Bell) vs. Adam Kennedy (WP); Todd Casey (Mead) vs. Mike Durbin (Brk); Larry Lawson (Bpt) vs. Scot Campbell (HC); Jonathan Wilson (Mead) vs. Justin Kotson (Cam); Ryan McNeil (UL) vs. Mark Whistley (Camb)

125
Cole Bowersock (BvL) vs. Jason Harper (Cald); John Petrozzi (BL) vs. Jeff Casey (Mead); Doug Somerville (Bel) vs. Marcus Jones (Bpt); Braden Shaw (Brk) vs. Jared Kooa (IC); Jeremy Cowan (EL) vs. Bryan Varner (Weir); Aaron Brown (MC) vs. Kyle Mull (JM); David Thrasher (Wells) vs. David Madranski (Ed); Josh Hardwick (WM) vs. Scott Conrath (St.C); David Tierney (MF) vs. Todd Plumley (CV); Jeremiah Ingold (Mag) vs. Tyler Brown (Bea); Jason McBride (Bar) vs. Mike Licata (Steub); Jim Vcelka (UL) vs. Garrett Sit (OG); Kyle Glasser (Sha) vs. Joel Ray (St.C); Nathan Smith (Shen) vs. Cory Ross (HC); Chris Case (BSJ) vs. Brandon Johnston (WP); Chris Bond (Camb) vs. Tyler Hughes (Cam)

130
Derek Kannady (WP) vs. Billy Ray (JM); Jeff Felton (Brk) vs. Josh Jenkins (TC); William Payatt (Riv) vs. Corey Smith (MF); Jack Arrango (WM) vs. Tom Snyder (UL); Corey Dornon (Bea) vs. Mike Marich (Weir); Chase Jolly (Ed) vs. Tony Warner (Mead); Ryan Ferguson (MC) vs. Luke Curry (Bpt); Justin Cross (BSJ) vs. Jason Lucas (Bar); Billy Barath (St.C) vs. Shawn Devold (Cald); Aaron Heary (SC) vs. Casey Hughes (Cam); Matt Bercus (HC) vs. David Baber (Steub); Ricky Brewer (Mag) vs. Gaalen Lowers (OG); Jared Hoppel (BvL) vs. Casey Rinehart (Shen); John Leas (IC) vs. Dustin Cull (Wells); Bryan Ramsey (Sha) vs. Chris Volk (BL); Preston Smith (Lin) vs. Jon Varner (EL)

135
Eric Noel (OG) vs. John Polverini (SC)/Bryan Rose (HC); Luke Bumbico (MF) vs. Bob Roush (BvL); Jason Peddicord (Bar) vs. Paul Carpenter (Lin); Jessie Mestrovic (WP) vs. Dave Durbin (Brk); Josh Reitter (UL) vs. Matt Hannahs (Shen); Ryan Robinson (Bpt) vs. Jake Seminara (Steub); Aaron Lee (Riv) vs. Daniel Bender (Cald); Kody McCollum (Mead) vs. Jim Crumbley (EL); Joel O'Neil (Cam) vs. Brandon Varner (Weir); Dustin Klidow (TC) vs. Albert Phillips (BL); Brian McClelland (Wells) vs. Jason Turner (Bea); Eric Moilyneax (WM) vs. Mike Muldrew (JM); Bobby Samsa (Sha) vs. Dominic Robinson (Ed); Jack Schott (St.C) vs. Kevin Costlow (BSJ); Guy Hildebrand (IC) vs. Clayton Benedict (MC); Roger Price (Mag) vs. Jeremy Furbes (Camb)

140
Adam Yudasz (St.C) vs. Bill Korie (Shen)/Jason Belsel (Riv); Tony Zyri (SC) vs. Kellen Hughes (IC); Bryan Bender (Cald) vs. Ryan Rose (HC); Matt Zahn (Weir) vs. Josh Moore (WP); Christopher Wilson (MC) vs. Paul White (Lin); Billy Watson (Wells) vs. Chad Snider (TC); Douglas Irvin (Bpt) vs. Kurt Jones (JM); Bob Diglandomenico (BSJ) vs. Nate Smith (BvL); Derek Roth (MF) vs. Ben Ray (Camb); Neil Rager (BL) vs. Isaac Stewart (Cam); Cy Banovsky (Ed) vs. Percy McGhee (Bell); Darrin King (Mag) vs. Jesse Irwin (Sha); Johnny Jefferis (Bar) vs. Charlie Mossgrove (Brk); Roland Reid (Steub) vs. Ryan Kinzy (Bea); Joe Earich (EL) vs. Nate Snyder (UL); Jared Robinson (WM)/Frankie Zambito (WC) vs. Kyle Eckleberry (OG)

145
Jeremy Ghrist (EL) vs. Pat Zadrozny (WC); Josh Poling (Mag) vs. Keith Kyer (MC); Jason Bahmer (Bar) vs. Brad Nicka (WM); Chris Shrewsbury (Bea) vs. Paul Sweeney (Steub); Steve Flowers (OG) vs. Jon Whittington (Riv); Adam Speece (Brk) vs. David Bertolino (BL); Joel Gramlick (WP) vs. Pat Branagon (IC); Dave Kinsey (BvL) vs. John Prokapskis (Ed); Bob Mayhugh (MF) vs. Justin Snyder (Cald); J.J. Hoover (Shen) vs. Derek Donahue (BSJ); Bobby Wetzal (Wells) vs. Ken Baker (HC); Andy Brasiger (Bell) vs. Luke Burkhardt (Sha); Dan Smolira (UL) vs. Micah Crews (Lin); Scott Bartolo (St.C) vs. Roger Jones (Bpt); Gordan Walker (Camb) vs. Tim Henry (JM); Mike Dickens (Mead) vs. Roger Kupfer (Cam)

152
Kurt Glasser (Sha)/Matt Jividen (Lin) vs. Jake Reese (Ed); Sam Murphy (BSJ) vs. Ryan Strauss (MF); Tim Cashdollar (OG) vs. Steve Haines (Steub); Dan Flatley (WC) vs. Tyler Schumacher (MC); Mike Whately (Camb) vs. Anthony Canella (SC); James Zink (WP) vs. Derek Selsick (HC); Jeremy Shaw (EL) vs. Cole Pryor (Weir); Jordan Crawford (Mead) vs. Tucker Brown (Cam); Dan Moore (BvL) vs. Josh Nalley (Shen)/Brent Bilyeu (Beal); Bruce Brandon (Bell) vs. Brock Bowman (BL); Shane Cecil (Mag) vs. David Stoltey (St.C); Cody Stimpert (Cald) vs. Ryan Tacosik (UL); Rashed Terry (IC) vs. Matt Eckhardt (CV); Chad Barker (Bar) vs. Jimmy Myers (Wells); Sam Gleeske (TC) vs. Kerry Irvin (Bpt)/Anthony Capp (Brk); Teryl Beederson (Riv) vs. Derek George (JM)

160
Justin Jefferis (Bar) vs. Evan Herndon (Lin); Eddie McKinnon (Mag) vs. Jeff Farrell (St.C); Adam Stiglich (WC) vs. Allan Swegard (Riv); Jordan Williams (BvL) vs. John Ingram (Ed); Brock Redman (Bel) vs. Billy McGonigal (Wells); Vince Pittman (Bea) vs. Guy Nestor (BL); Derrick Stuckles (OG) vs. Mike Frollini (Sha); Robby Dimmerling (MC) vs. Cody Tomlinack (WP); Tim Frederick (CV) vs. Trevor Cooper (IV); Josh West (Steub) vs. Justin Wright (UL); Luke Roupe (Cam) vs. Chris Green (EL); Michael Galizzo (TC) vs. Chris Taylor (JM)

171
Jake Sowers (Camb) vs. Dan Hannahs (Shen); Ryan Holden (BvL) vs. Steve Yarnovic (MF); Blake Hobburn (Sha) vs. Charlie Filby (JM); Ronnie Habrock (OG) vs. Ryan Gross (IC); Aaron Groff (Wells) vs. Brandon Long (Mag); Rick Mitchell (Bell) vs. Bruce Fowler (WC); Russell Kocher (Riv) vs. Matt Schoolcraft (EL); Roger Richardson (Steub) vs. John Beamer (CV); Chad Nelson (Lin) vs. Curt Meyer (Cam); Ryan Miller (Cald) vs. John Vermillion (St.C); Scott Bosley (TC) vs. Justin Hops (BSJ); Carlin Yatts (WM) vs. Jon Kinney (Beal); Jack Otto (BL) vs. Ben Love (Mead); Joe Cianni (Brk) vs. Zack Powell (Bar)

189
Philip Bellville (OG) vs. Bryan Soboto (BL)/Aaron Schultz (WC); Chris Jones (Mag) vs. George Padgelak (MF); Chris Link (BSJ) vs. Josh Byrd (WP); Danny Jones (CV) vs. Kyle Jones (EL); James Lyons (Steub) vs. Scott Fankhauser (Ed); Jason Pierce (Cald) vs. Clay Anderson (JM); T.L. Heath (Bel) vs. Derek Conrad (Mead); O.J. Bailey (Camb) vs. Wyatt O'Neil (Cam); Dennis Nardo (UL) vs. John Orain (SC); Adam Snyder (St.C) vs. Robert Oldfield (Riv); Sean Grinch (Sha) vs. Justin Myers (Bpt); Jesse McNeely (TC) vs. Jared Williams (BvL); Sky King (Wells) vs. Bruno Many penny (WM); Anthony Gump (IC) vs. Sam Zerke (Shen); Bill Blakely (Bea) vs. Jeremy Wells (Bar); Alan Cooley (Brk)/Mark Torlone (Lin) vs. Vince Magnone (Weir)

215
Adam Hoppel (BvL) vs. Brandon Wells (Bar); Brandon Huffman (HC) vs. Pierce Waychoff (Lin); Will Collins (Wells) vs. Joe Weaver (Mag); Matt Duval (UL) vs. Chris Fankhauser (Ed); D.J. Eddy (BL) vs. Scott Neuschwander (St.C); Ivan Ramage (Cald) vs. Nick Beagle (SC); Lucas Morgan (Sha) vs. John Wells (JM); Toney Jones (Steub) vs. Derek Molnar (Brk); Art Parnell (Weir) vs. Dustin Bruno (WC); Patrick McGillian (OG) vs. Lance McKeever (TC); Doug Campbell (Bel) vs. Will Wade (Shen); Patrick Hickman (IC) vs. B.J. Cook (WP); Jason Timko (BSJ) vs. Matt Walter (Riv); Justin Beresford (Cam) vs. John Eden (MF); Kent Adams (Bea) vs. Josh Stansbury (EL)

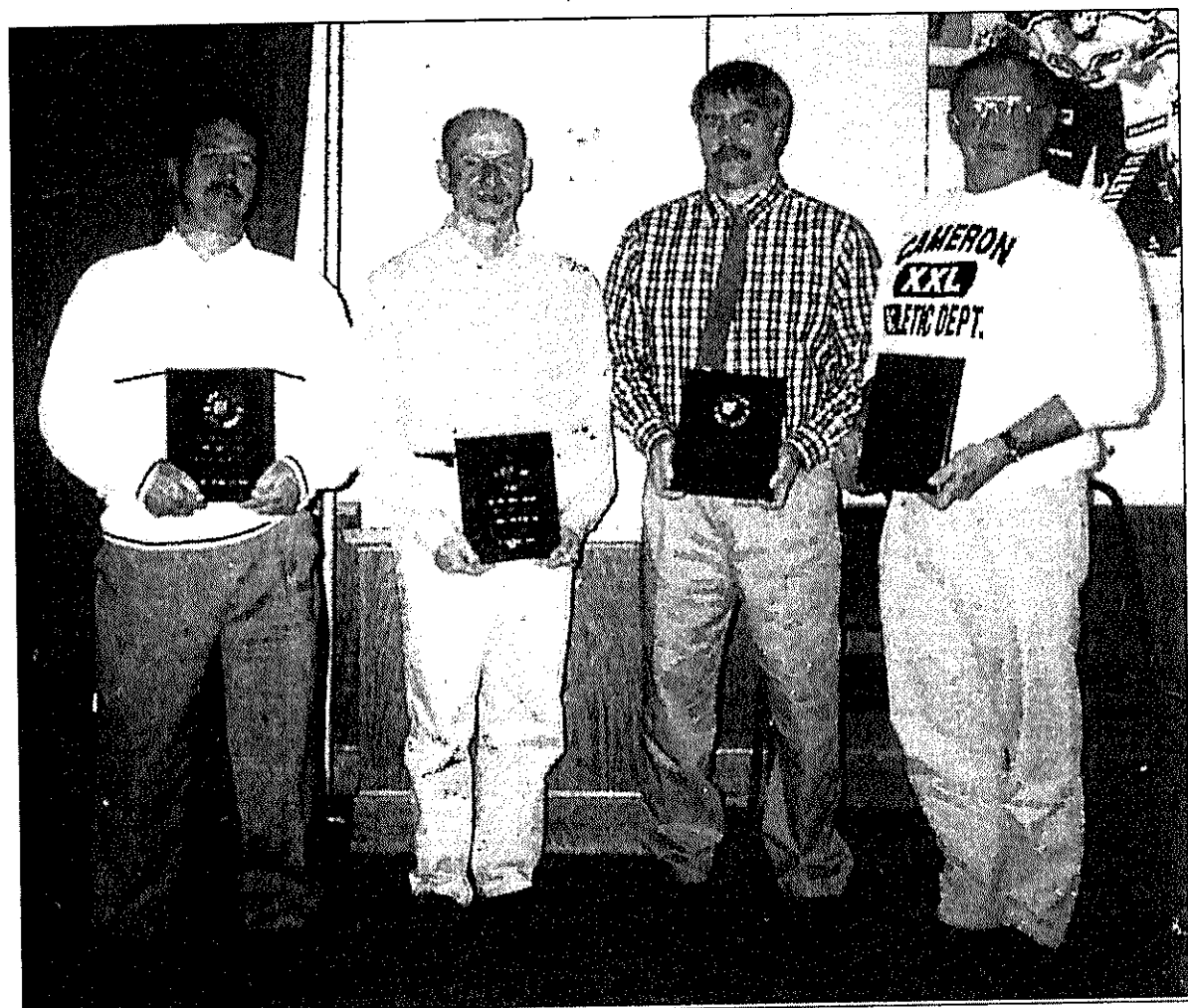
Heavyweight
Tony Caruthers (HC) vs. Chris Wallace (Sha); Terry Kepler (Lin) vs. Eric Rosen (Riv); Randy Tuttle (TC) vs. Tyler Hill (St.C); Michael Price (Camb) vs. Troy Allenby (WP); Greg Honecker (Bpt) vs. Devon Taylor (Ed); C.J. Manning (Cam) vs. Jimmy Snyder (Steub); Joey Caughay (OG) vs. Josh Caprita (MF); Shane Vernon (BL) vs. Steve Davis (Wells); Joe Baebout (EL) vs. Tom Brown (Cald); Koel Davis (UL) vs. Matt Spencer (Mag); Matt Duval (Bell) vs. Josh Coleman (Brk); Steve Deardo (IC) vs. Jesse Wells (Shen)

Wrestling interesting

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... Ferry in 3-A
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Head coaches in Class 4-A are Joe Erlewine at Brooke, Jay Michael at Buckeye Local, Tom Moore at Cambridge, Scott Hiemstra at East Liverpool, Mike Smith at Edison, Ed West at John Marshall, Mark Emerling at Steubenville, Frank Crain at Weir and Anthony Zuchegno at Wheeling Park.
Coaching in the Class 3-A ranks are Rich Wright at Beaver Local, Dwayne Coleman at Bellaire, Jim Rocchi at Harrison Central, John Rocchi at Indian Creek, Brent Hughes at Magnolia, Babe Sidon at Martins Ferry, Troy Keith at Meadowbrook, Larry Shaw at Oak Glen, John Vrotsos at St. Clairsville, Larry Ritchie at Tyler Consolidated and Joel Davia at Union Local.
In Class 2-A, head coaches in the conference are Luke Johnson at Barnesville, Ivan Parrish at Caldwell, Tom Giovengo at Linsly, Paul Robison at Monroe Central, Chuck Baker at River, John Haswell at Shadyside, Mike Castello at Shenandoah, Tom Duffy at Steubenville Central, Sean Smith at Wellsville and Don Bauer at Wheeling Central.
Leading the programs in Class 1-A are Bob Burrow at Beallsville, Art Jones at Bridgeport, Jim Potts at Cameron, James Peoples at Conotton Valley, Andrew Lamotte at St. John Central and Jamie Lasho at Weirton Madonna.

Mat Honorees



T-L photo/RICK DELUCA

RECEIVING THEIR awards this past week as OVAC Wrestling Coaches of the Year were, from left, East Liverpool's Scott Heimstra, Class 4-A; Larry Shaw of Oak Glen, 3-A; Jeff Crosier, Barnesville, 2-A; and Jim Potts of Cameron, Class 1-A.



LOCKING horns in a 112-pound opening round match at the OVAC mat tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center Thursday are Barnesville's Ryan Gallagher, top, and St. John Central's Alan Pacifico. Gallagher advanced with a 9-4 decision. The wrestling extravaganza continues today and Saturday. See story on page 2B.

T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

SPORTS

OVAC prep wrestling to again prove interesting

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Think prep wrestling can't get any better in the Ohio Valley. Well, it just did.

The 2000-01 mat season is set to get under way and the Ohio Valley mats certainly won't be without their exciting wrestlers and thrilling matches.

With four defending OVAC champions and four more wrestlers that were runners-up back for another season, a national champion set to start his senior year and a large group of state qualifiers from both Ohio and West Virginia back for another year, things could get interesting in the valley this winter.

Wrestling in the Ohio Valley is geared for two events, the giant Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center in January and the state tournaments in both states.

This year's OVAC tournament will be the conference's 48th. The tournament will welcome more than 400 wrestlers from the 35 schools in the conference that field wrestling teams.

An annual event every mid-January, the tourney will be held over three days, Jan. 18, 19 and 20 at the Civic Center.

Post-season tournaments get under way in mid-February in both states as Ohio sectionals and West Virginia regions open tournament action on the weekend of the February 16-17. Ohio District tournaments and the Mountain State's state tournaments will be wrestled during the weekend of Feb. 22, 23 and 24. The Ohio state tournament will take place the weekend of March 1, 2 and 3.

Of course, the wrestling season in the Ohio Valley pre-empts the post-season tournament season with countless invitational tournaments throughout the area.

While the season officially gets under way on Nov. 29 with Weirton Madonna wrestling at Linsly, Friday, Dec. 8 opens the tournament season in the valley.

The St. John Central Invitational and the Brooke Classic, along with East Liverpool appearing in the Solon Invitational, gets the season off and running with two of the area's longest running tourneys.

While the St. John Central and Brooke mat tourneys are two-day affairs, the weekend also includes one-day tourneys on Saturday at Weir High and Union Local.

On Dec. 15-16, the annual Barnesville Invitational will kick off with another strong field of 14 teams while the Tyler Invitational Tournament will bunch a lot of wrestling into one day as 10 teams compete in Tyler County.

Between the holidays of Christmas and New Years, two more high-profile tournaments will be wrestled in the Ohio Valley with the annual Wheeling Duals hosting 20 teams from throughout Ohio and West Virginia on December 27-28.

The St. Clairsville Knights Inn

Tournament is set for two days, Dec. 29-30.

That tourney continues to grow with 14 teams slated to take part.

With the new year, tournament action heats up on the weekend of January 5-6 with the 14-team Shadyside Invitational, Meadowbrook Tournament, Steubenville Kiwanis, Cameron Tri-State Tournament and St. Marys Tournament filling the weekend.

Barnesville and Martins Ferry are two Ohio Valley squads slated to wrestle in the Ohio Duals on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Prior to the OVAC tourney, Steubenville Central, Beallsville and John Glenn host tournaments the weekend Jan. 12-13.

After the OVAC tournament, invitational tournament will wind down, but good competition will be featured in the Bellaire Dual Tournament on Jan. 27, the River Invitational and Wellsville Invitational on Feb. 3, and the Buckeye Local Panther Classic and River Duals on Feb. 9-10.

Ironically, only one of the OVAC tournament class champions failed to add the regular season dual meet crown to their winnings.

East Liverpool, the Class 4-A and overall OVAC tournament champion, also captured the regular season crown in its division.

Oak Glen, a state champion in West Virginia, but second place finisher behind Martins Ferry in 3-A in the OVAC tourney, notched the regular season dual meet crown.

Barnesville, who captured the OVAC Class 2-A tourney title in coach Jeff Crosier's final year, also added the regular season title to its basket and Cameron, a Class 1-A tourney champ many times over under veteran coach Jim Potts, took the regular season title.

By January the faces may change and so might the weight classes, but four defending OVAC champions are sure to be in the running for another title.

Returning for another season as defending OVAC champs are Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky, the 103 OVAC champ who will wrestling at 112 this season, Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter, the reigning 112-pound champ, Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock, last year's champ at 119 and Cameron's Roger Kupfer, the champ at 130 last season.

Kendjorsky, Rossiter and Bowersock are seniors, Kupfer is just a junior.

A large group of OVAC runners-up will back on the mats this season including Edison's Derek Maple at 103, Martins Ferry's John Tierney at 112, Martins Ferry's David Tierney at 119, Oak Glen's Eric Noel at 130, Martins Ferry Bob Mayhugh at 135, East Liverpool's Jeremy Ghrist at 140, Barnesville's Zack Powell at 171, Oak Glen's Phillip Bellville at 189 and East Liverpool's Tom Redman at heavy-weight.

The new season bring back quite a few veteran coaches, but also adds some new faces to the group.

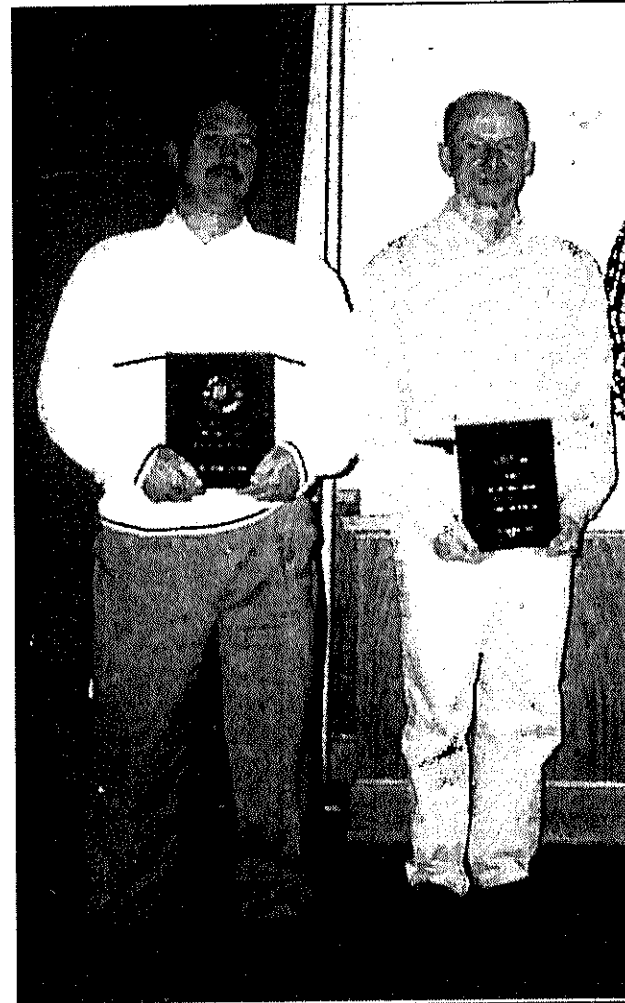
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Mat Honorees



RECEIVING THEIR awards this past week as OVAC East Liverpool's Scott Heimstra, Class 4-A; Larry St 2-A; and Jim Potts of Cameron, Class 1-A.

McEldowney Gets 'Mr. Mat' Award at OVAC Tourney

Founded Wheeling's first 'small-fry' wrestling program during the early 1950s

Mr. William E. "Bill" McEldowney was presented a service award at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1983. Although well deserved, it was not enough to publicly express his genuine devotion to the sport of wrestling in the Ohio Valley for over 30 years.

A graduate of Elkins High School and Davis & Elkins College, McEldowney joined the Wheeling YMCA in 1952. As physical director, he immediately opened the gym doors to initiate wrestling instruction for boys of all ages. In fact, he's credited for founding the first "small-fry" wrestling program in the Wheeling area during the early 1950s.

McEldowney met George Kovalick, the initial recipient of the Mr. Mat award in 1976, and together they sponsored many wrestling clinics for local valley youngsters. They even

persuaded legendary West Virginia wrestling and baseball coach, Steve Harrick, to conduct a clinic in 1954 at the Wheeling YMCA's Maxwell Hall.

The sport began to blossom in the area, but there was a void in the officiating ranks. Thus in 1956, Bill McEldowney and George Kovalick created the first school to train mat officiating legend Joe Stora, who certified hundreds of novice officials over the next few years.

Interest in wrestling grew immensely throughout those years. The youth mat program was expanding. Furthermore, some of the area's most famous wrestling personalities assisted McEldowney in his quest to champion the mat sport: Bobby Douglas, Dick Leightner, Bill Floyd, John "Corky" Vrotsos, and Steve Kish.

Since that time, Bill McEldowney has gone out of his way to help many wrestling coaches who didn't have a facility in which to train their matmen.

Believe me, I speak from first-hand experience.

During my tenure as head wrestling coach for the old Wheeling High School Wildcats (1970-1972), McEldowney saw to it that room was made available for my wrestlers to practice at the Wheeling YMCA. In fact, what-



Photo by Art Limann

Bill McEldowney of Wheeling, center, was presented with the 2001 Mr. Mat Award Saturday night at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Making the presentation at the Wheeling Civic Center were Steve Kish, right, and Ron Mauck, left.

ever I needed for my teams that was in Bill's power to get, we got.

On a more personal note, when there was a teaching "Reduction-In-Force" (RIF) in the Ohio County School system, as a new teacher, I lost my instructional position as of June 1972.

When I found myself out of a job, it was Mr. McEldowney who came to my rescue.

He contacted Wheeling Central Catholic High School, and the next school year I was teaching reading/english and coaching wrestling at the parochial school.

My family and I will always be deeply indebted to him.

Because of his undaunted drive to promote the mat sport in the greater Wheeling area, we can think of no one more deserving of the Mr. Mat "Blue Coat" than Bill McEldowney.

Bill loves the sport of wrestling, he loves its coaches and officials, and he definitely loves the boys who have dedicated themselves to the sport.

McEldowney is married to the former Wanda Phillips of Elkins and they have four children: Debbie, Sharon, Pam, and Jim. Bill's grandchildren include Sharon's Lisa and Billy, Pam's Bryce and Courtney, and Jim's Jake and Luke.

Presently, McEldowney enjoys his retirement years with traveling, working in the garden and watching his spirited grandchildren participate in activities.

An Ohio Valley wrestling pioneer in the truest sense, we congratulate our 2001 Mr. Mat — Bill McEldowney.

The Near-Fall

Only the offensive (or top) wrestler can

score a near-fall. He may do so by causing the defensive wrestler (1) to spring into a high bridge, (2) to lean back on his elbows, (3) to expose his shoulders four inches or less to the mat, and (4) to have one shoulder on the mat and the other 45 degrees or less above the mat.

The top wrestler can score two points by holding (for two seconds) the bottom wrestler in any of the above noted positions. Furthermore, if the offensive wrestler can secure a near-fall for a continuous five-second period, he would then be awarded three match points for the maneuver.

The official usually indicates a near-fall situation with an angular sweep of the arm, each sweep designating a second, but he will not signal any points until the near-fall hold is terminated.

In reference to the out-of-bounds line, if both shoulders are partially in-bounds or one shoulder is completely in-bounds, a near-fall can be scored.

The half-nelson, cradle, three-quarter nelson, and armbar series are near-fall maneuvers that can ultimately lead to a "fall," which is next week's topic.

Mini-Mat Quiz

Q: Wrestler A, using a half-nelson, forced Wrestler B to bridge high on his head for four seconds. Then Wrestler B turned to his stomach, only to be placed in another near-fall situation when Wrestler A cradled him. He had been held there for another five seconds when the period ended. How many near-fall points did Wrestler A receive, altogether?

A: Wrestler A would receive a total of five match points: two points for the first near-fall situation and three points for the second.

OVAC Wrestling Warrior

Coach Joe Thomas' OVAC Wrestling Warrior of the week is Adam Yudasz, a senior letterman on St. Clairsville High School mat squad. Yudasz's accomplishments include placing at the 2000 OVAC Tournament at 140 pounds.

His most recent achievement is winning at River View High School with a record of 15-3.

The Deaton-Regis Match Picks

Saturday, Jan. 27

John Marshall at Oak Glen

Winner: Oak Glen 38-24

Mat Message

"I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers."

-Khalil Gibran

Mat Talk



By DR. BILL WELKER

East Liverpool Defends Title in Thrilli

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

It was billed as the most evenly-matched tournament in the history of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling extravaganza, and it certainly lived up to the advance billing.

East Liverpool defended its overall and Class AAAA team titles Saturday night, but had to go the distance in doing so.

The Potters led Ohio River rival Oak Glen by just four points heading into the third-place match at 275 pounds. Ironically enough, East Liverpool and the Golden Bears were matched up.

All Oak Glen needed was a pin from Joey Caughey to create the first-ever tie for the team championship, however, all Larry Shaw's highly-regarded squad could receive was a 6-5 decision, thus giving the Potters a two-point advantage, 186-184.

A bit of history was established early on in last night's championship round, as a pair of Wheeling Park brothers became the first set of siblings to win titles in the same year since 1970 when Matt and Mike Doyle accomplished the feat for Wheeling Central.

Ever since they were youngsters, the Kennedy's — Adam and Derek — have been wrestling with each other.

The two grapplers wrestled their way to OVAC tournament titles as the three-day event came to a conclusion.

And both did it in exciting fashion. Adam, a junior, ran his mark to 19-2 at 119 pounds with a 6-5 decision over Edison's Derek Maple.

Kennedy found himself on the wrong end of a 5-4 score with time winding down, but a reversal with two seconds remaining gave him his title.

"This is great," he said. "I've worked so hard in the wrestling room with my brother. Now that I've accomplished this, I can set my sights on states."

While it was exciting, the elder Kennedy didn't waste much time in his 130-pound title tilt as he caught East Liverpool's Jon Varner in a roll and claimed a pin in just 1-minute, 23-seconds.



Photo by Art Limnann

Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky goes for back points on Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter during their 112-pound championship match Saturday night. Kendjorsky, a WVU recruit, easily won the match 11-3. Both wrestlers were defending champions.

"There was a little pressure on me after Adam won, but I just had to go out and show him I could do it too," said Kennedy, who improved to 29-2.

"There's not that much competition between us as brothers, but we make each other work hard."

That's exactly what first-year head coach Chad Frick said is their biggest attribute. "They work out together all the time. Sometimes it even gets heated, but it's good competition between brothers."

The pin in the finals was Derek's fifth in as many tournament matches. "That's something special," he said.

Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock became a three-time champion when he posted a 5-1 nod over Cameron's Tyler Hughes, who entered their 125-pound bout with a spotless 30-0 mark.

The Beavers' senior grabbed a 3-1 lead in the second period, and then

sealed the deal with a late third-period takedown.

"This title definitely feels better than the previous two," said Bowersock, who had already won titles at 103 (1999) and 119 (2000). He was seventh as a freshman fly-weight.

"This was also my toughest finals match," he noted.

For his accomplishment, Bowersock was voted the recipient of the David Bierkorte Award which is symbolic of the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

A pair of individuals — Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky (112) and Oak Glen's Eric Noel (135) became two-time titlists.

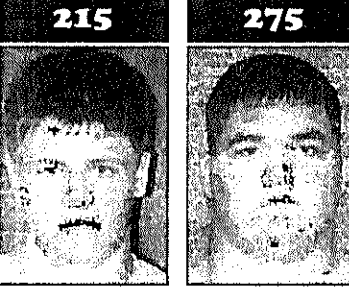
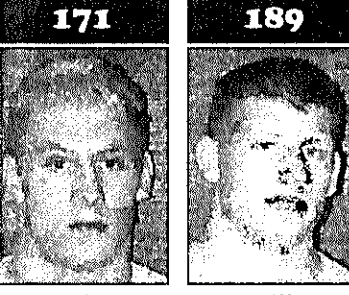
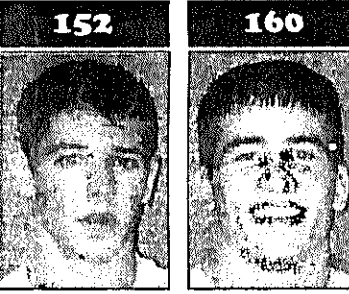
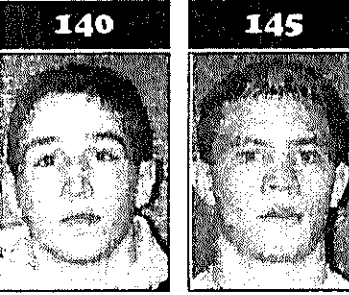
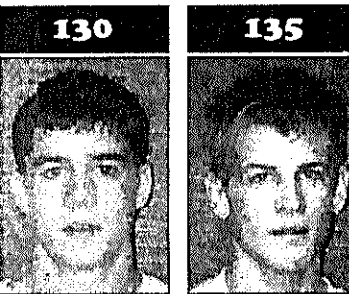
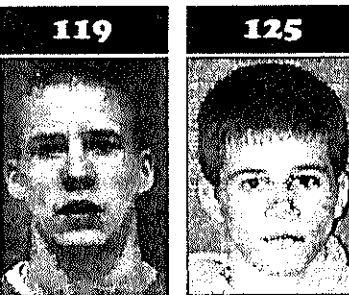
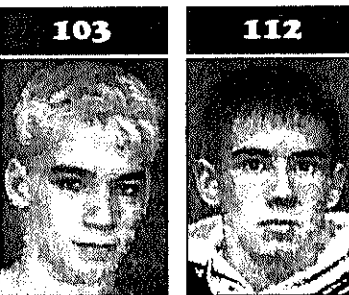
Kenjorsky entered his highly-anticipated bout with Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter as the top seed, and showed why with a convincing 11-3 nod.

The West Virginia University mat recruit improved to 26-0, while Rossiter fell to 15-2 — with both setbacks to his Ohio rival.

"This championship feels a little better because it's my senior year,"



2001 Champions



OVAC TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TEAM SCORING

OVERALL
1. East Liverpool 186; 2. Oak Glen 184; 3. Martins Ferry 161½; 4. Beaver Local 160; 5. Wheeling Park 148; 6. Cameron 142½; 7. Buckeye Local 140; 8. John Marshall 138½; 9. Barnesville 134½; 10. St. Clairsville 103½

CLASS AAAA
1. East Liverpool 186; 2. Wheeling Park 148; 3. Buckeye Local 140; 4. John Marshall 138½; 5. Cambridge 94½; 6. Steubenville 84½; 7. Edison 76½; 8. Weir 47; 9. Meadowbrook 36; 10. Brooke 24½

CLASS AAA
1. Oak Glen 184; 2. Martins Ferry 161½; 3. Beaver Local 161; 4. St. Clairsville 103½; 5. Harrison Central 99½; 6. Union Local 98; 7. Indian Creek 75; 8. Magnolia 30; 9. Bellaire 34; 10. Tyler Consolidated 17

CLASS AA
1. Barnesville 134½; 2. (tie) Shadyside, Shenandoah 86; 4. Wellsville 68; 5. Monroe Central 54; 6. River 40; 7. Steubenville Central 32; 8. Caldwell 28; 9. Linsly 16; 10. Wheeling Central 6

CLASS A
1. Cameron 142½; 2. Beallsville 57; 3. Bellaire St. John's 37; 4. Bridgeport 32; 5. Weirton Madonna 25; 6. Conotton Valley 3

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

103—Jake Bates (EL) dec. Josh Hoover (BvL) 9-6

112—Nathan Kendjorsky (BL) major dec. Nic Rossiter (HC) 11-3

119—Adam Kennedy (WP) dec. Derek Maple (Ed) 6-5

125—Cole Bowersock (BvL) dec. Tyler Hughes (Cam) 5-1

130—Derek Kennedy (WP) pinned Jon Varner (EL) 1:23

135—Eric Noel (OG) dec. Jeremy Furbie (Camb) 7-1

140—Derek Roth (MF) dec. Christopher Wilson (MC) 10-4

145—Bobby Mayhugh (MF) dec. David Bertolino (BL) 5-4

152—Derek George (JM) dec. Kurt Glasser (SS) 3-2

160—Justin Jefferis (Barn) dec. Derrick Stickle (OG) 5-2

171—Jake Sowers (Camb) dec. Zach Powell (Barn) 3-0

189—Phillip Bellville (OG) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir) 2-1

215—Adam Hoppel (BvL) major dec. Will Wade 11-1

275—Jesse Wells (Shen) pinned Michael Price (Camb) 3:57

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE

103—Josh Gorayeb (WP) p. Ben Cain (Mead) 2:33

112—Mike Jones (MF) d. David Jack (SS) 11-2

119—John Tierney (MF) d. Chas Patton (BL) 3-2

125—David Tierney (MF) p. Scott Conrath (StC) 3:39

130—Gaelen Lowers (OG) d. Billy Barath (StC) 3-2

135—Jim Crumbley (EL) d. Mike Muldrew (JM) 1-0

140—Nate Smith (BvL) d. Ryan Kinzy (Beal) 13-3

145—Roger Kupfer (Cam) d. Jeremy Ghrist (EL) 7-5 ot

152—Tucker Brown (Cam) d. Derrick Sefick (HC) 3-0

160—Chris Taylor (JM) d. Trevor Cooper (IC) 3-0

171—Ronnie Hebrock (OG) d. Roger

(Barn) 12-5

140—Adam Yudasz (StC) d. Kyle Eckleberry (OG) 5-2

145—John Prokakis (Ed) p. Nicka (WM) 2:26

152—Dan Moore (BvL) d. Ryan Tacosik (UL) 7-6

160—Guy Nestor (BL) d. Jordan Williams (BvL) 9-3

171—Matt Schoolcraft (EL) d. Justin Hepe (BSJ) 6-5

189—Dennis Nardo (UL) won by inj. def. over Jared Williams (BvL)

215—John Wells (JM) d. B.J. Cook (WP) 5-2

275—Tom Brown (Cald) d. Tony Carothers (HC) 3-2

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE

103—Tony Mayle (IC) d. Todd Schmelzenbach (Shen) 1-0

112—Griffin Stipetich (JM) d. Ryan Gallagher (Barn) 2-0

119—Bubba Larew (Beal) d. Scott Campbell (HC) 13-5

125—Jeremy Cowan (EL) p. Glasser (SS) 2:50

130—Casey Hughes (Cam) d. Jared Hoppel (BvL) 3-2

135—Jack Schott (BL) d. Josh Reitter (UL) 5-2

140—Johnny Jefferis (Barn) d. Billy Watson (Wells) 5-1

145—Paul Swaney (Steub) won by inj. def. over Luke Burkhardt (SS)

152—Chad Barker (Barn) d. Rashad Terry (IC) 5-2

160—Josh West (Steub) d. Chris Green (EL) 5-0

171—Jack Otto (BL) d. Jake Pyle (Weir) 6-0

189—James Lyons (Steub) p. Josh Boyd (WP) 4:09

215—John Eden (MF) p. Patrick McGillian (OG) 4:30

275—Jimmy Snyder (Steub) d. Koel Davis (UL) 4-1

Championship Semifinals

103—Bates (EL) d. Emery (HC) 12-2; Hoover (BvL) d. Cain (Mead) 9-3

112—Kenjorsky (BL) p. Jones (MF) 3:51; Rossiter (BL) d. Jack (SS) 10-6

119—Maple (Ed) d. Tierney (MF) OT tiebreaker; Kennedy (WP) d. Wheatley (Camb) 10-2

125—Bowersock (BvL) by default over Conrath (StC); Hughes (Cam) d. Tierney (MF) 7-2 ot

130—Kennedy (WP) p. Lucas (Barn) 2:33; Varner (EL) d. Lowers (OG) 6-4 ot

135—Noel (OG) d. Crumbley (EL) 11-3; Furbie (Camb) d. Muldrew (JM) 6-2

140—Wilson (MC) d. Yudasz (StC) 5-3; Roth (MF) d. Eckleberry (OG) 1-0

145—Bertolino (BL) d. Ghrist (EL) 7-6; Mayhugh (MF) d. Kupfer (Cam) 4-2

152—Glasser (SS) d. Sefick (HC) 13-1; George (JM) p. Tacosik (UL) 5:30

160—Jefferis (Barn) d. Nestor (BL) 11-6; Stickle (OG) d. Taylor (OG) 2-1

171—Sowers (Camb) d. Hebrock (OG) 5-4; Powell (Barn) d. Richardson (Steub) 8-4

189—Bellville (OG) d. O'Neil (Cam) 7-3; Magnone (Weir) d. Nardo (UL) 5-4 2ot

215—Hoppel (BvL) p. Weaver (Mag) 4:35; Wade (Shen) d. Wells (JM) 4-0

Consolation Semifinals

103—Gorayeb (WP) d. Emery (HC) 12-4; Cain (Mead) d. Howard (JM) 7-6

112—Jones (MF) p. Huffman (R) 1:17; Jack

East Liverpool Defends Title in Thrilling Finish

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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The Potters led Ohio River rival Oak Glen by just four points heading to the third-place match at 275 pounds. Ironically enough, East Liverpool and the Golden Bears were matched up.

All Oak Glen needed was a pin from Joey Caughey to create the first-ever tie for the team championship, however, all Larry Shaw's highly-regarded squad could receive was a 6-5 decision, thus giving the Potters a two-point advantage, 186-84.

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Ever since they were youngsters, the Kennedy's — Adam and Derek — have been wrestling with each other.

The two grapplers wrestled their way to OVAC tournament titles as the three-day event came to a conclusion.

And both did it in exciting fashion. Adam, a junior, ran his mark to 9-2 at 119 pounds with a 6-5 decision over Edison's Derek Maple.

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While it was exciting, the elder Kennedy didn't waste much time in his 130-pound title tilt as he caught East Liverpool's Jon Varner in a roll and claimed a pin in just 1-minute, 3-seconds.

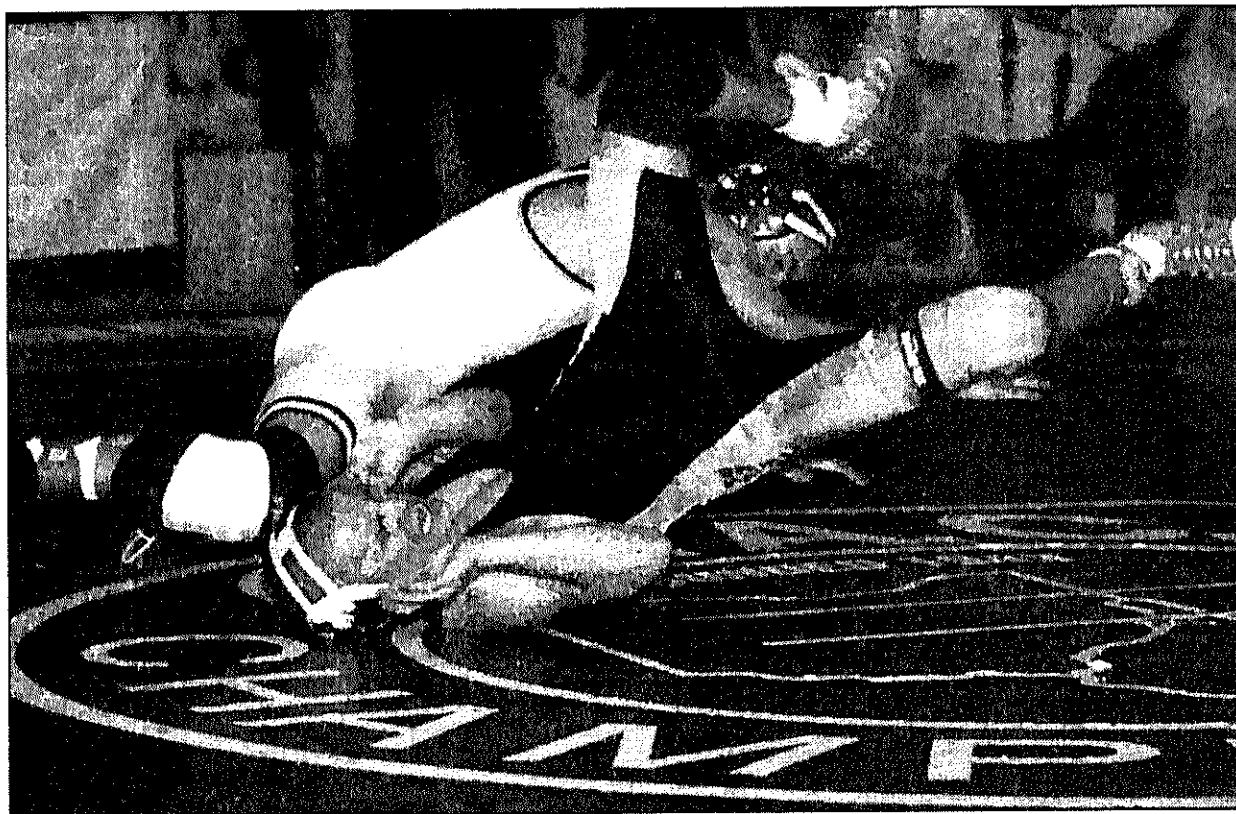


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For his accomplishment, Bowersock was voted the recipient of the David Bierkorte Award which is symbolic of the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

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Kenjorsky entered his highly-anticipated bout with Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter as the top seed, and showed why with a convincing 11-3 nod.

The West Virginia University mat recruit improved to 26-0, while Rossiter fell to 15-2 — with both setbacks to his Ohio rival.

"This championship feels a little better because it's my senior year,"

said Kendjorsky, who was also a fourth-place finisher at 103 in last year's Ohio state tournament.

Noel was making his third straight appearance in the championship finals, as he ruled the 103 pound class in 1998 as a member of the Weir squad. He was a runnerup a year ago.

"It's kind of neat to win OVAC titles for two different schools," said Noel.

Martins Ferry had a pair of champions in senior Bobby Mayhugh (145) and Derek Roth (140).

Mayhugh, who improved to 21-0, needed a third-period takedown to slip past unseeded David Bertolino of Buckeye Local by a 5-4 count.

Mayhugh, a runnerup last year at 135, was the second seed.

Bertolino, just a sophomore, moved into the finals with a thrill-packed 7-6 upset of top-seeded Jeremy Ghrist, of East Liverpool, in the semis.

Roth, now 19-3, used a five-point second period to easily defeat Monroe Central's Christopher Wilson, who entered the finals after a 5-3 upset triumph over No. 1 seeded Adam Yudasz of St. Clairsville.

Derek George, of John Marshall, captured the 160 pound title with a hard-fought 3-2 decision over Shadyside's Kurt Glasser, who was the top seed. George, now an impressive 29-1, was seeded No. 2. Glasser fell to 24-1.

Barnesville's Justin Jefferis held off Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles by a 5-2 margin at 160. Jefferis, who had placed third the past two years, recorded his third straight triumph over the Golden Bear grappler.

Cambridge senior Jake Sowers remained unbeaten at 171 as he blanked Barnesville's Zach Powell by a 3-0 count. Sowers is now 14-0.

See, OVAC MAT, Page 6

OVAC TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TEAM SCORING

OVERALL

1. East Liverpool 186; 2. Oak Glen 184; 3. Martins Ferry 161½; 4. Beaver Local 160; 5. Wheeling Park 148; 6. Cameron 142½; 7. Buckeye Local 140; 8. John Marshall 138½; 9. Barnesville 134½; 10. St. Clairsville 103½

CLASS AAAA

1. East Liverpool 186; 2. Wheeling Park 148; 3. Buckeye Local 140; 4. John Marshall 138½; 5. Cambridge 94½; 6. Steubenville 4½; 7. Edison 75½; 8. Weir 47; 9. Leadwoodbrook 38; 10. Brooke 24½

CLASS AAA

1. Oak Glen 184; 2. Martins Ferry 161½; 3. Beaver Local 161; 4. St. Clairsville 103½; 5. Harrison Central 99½; 6. Union Local 98; 7. Indian Creek 75; 8. Magnolia 36; 9. Bellaire 4; 10. Tyler Consolidated 17

CLASS AA

1. Barnesville 134½; 2. (tie) Shadyside, Henandoah 86; 4. Wellsville 68; 5. Monroe Central 54; 6. River 40; 7. Steubenville Central 2; 8. Caldwell 28; 9. Linsly 18; 10. Wheeling Central 6

CLASS A

1. Cameron 142½; 2. Beallsville 57; 3. Bellaire St. John's 37; 4. Bridgeport 32; 5. Veirton Madonna 25; 6. Conotton Valley 3

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

103—Jake Bates (EL) dec. Josh Hoover (Barn) 9-6

112—Nathan Kendjorsky (BL) major dec. Nic Rossiter (HC) 11-3

119—Adam Kennedy (WP) dec. Derek Maple (Ed) 6-5

125—Cole Bowersock (BvL) dec. Tyler Hughes (Cam) 5-1

130—Derek Kennedy (WP) pinned Jon Varner (EL) 1:23

135—Eric Noel (OG) dec. Jeremy Furbas (Camb) 7-1

140—Derek Roth (MF) dec. Christopher Wilson (MC) 10-4

145—Bobby Mayhugh (MF) dec. David Bertolino (BL) 5-4

152—Derek George (JM) dec. Kurt Glasser (SS) 3-2

160—Justin Jefferis (Barn) dec. Derrick Stickles (OG) 5-2

171—Jake Sowers (Camb) dec. Zach Powell (Barn) 3-0

189—Philip Bellville (OG) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir) 2-1

215—Adam Hoppel (BvL) major dec. Will Vade 11-1

275—Jesse Wells (Shan) pinned Michael Trica (Camb) 3:57

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE

103—Josh Gorayeb (WP) p. Ben Cain (Mead) 2:33

112—Mike Jones (MF) d. David Jack (SS) 1-2

135—John Tierney (ME) d. Chad Patton (Barn) 12-5

140—Adam Yudasz (StC) d. Kyle Eckleberry (OG) 5-2

145—John Prokapakis (Ed) p. Nicka (WM) 2:26

152—Dan Moore (BvL) d. Ryan Tacosk (UL) 7-6

160—Guy Nestor (BL) d. Jordan Williams (BvL) 9-3

171—Matt Schoolcraft (EL) d. Justin Hepe (BSSJ) 6-5

189—Dennis Nardo (UL) won by inj. def. over Jared Williams (BvL)

215—John Wells (JM) d. B.J. Cook (WP) 5-2

275—Tom Brown (Cald) d. Tony Carothers (HC) 3-2

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE

103—Tony Mayle (IC) d. Todd Schmalzenbach (Shan) 1-0

112—Griffin Stipetich (JM) d. Ryan Gallagher (Barn) 2-0

119—Bubba Larew (Beal) d. Scott Campbell (HC) 13-5

125—Jeremy Cowan (EL) p. Glasser (SS) 2:50

130—Casey Hughes (Cam) d. Jared Hoppel (BvL) 3-2

135—Jack Schott (BL) d. Josh Reitter (UL) 5-2

140—Johnny Jefferis (Barn) d. Billy Watson (Wells) 5-1

145—Paul Sweeney (Staub) won by inj. def. over Luke Burkhardt (SS)

152—Chad Barker (Barn) d. Rashad Terry (IC) 5-2

160—Josh West (Staub) d. Chris Green (EL) 5-0

171—Jack Otto (BL) d. Jake Pyle (Weir) 6-0

189—James Lyons (Staub) p. Josh Boyd (WP) 4:09

215—John Eden (MF) p. Patrick McGillian (OG) 4:30

275—Jimmy Snyder (Staub) d. Koel Davis (UL) 4-1

Championship Semifinals

103—Bates (EL) d. Emery (HC) 12-2; Hoover (BvL) d. Cain (Mead) 9-3.

112—Kenjorsky (BL) p. Jones (MF) 3:51; Rossiter (BL) d. Jack (SS) 10-6.

119—Maple (Ed) d. Tierney (MF) OT tiebreaker; Kennedy (WP) d. Wheatley (Camb) 10-2.

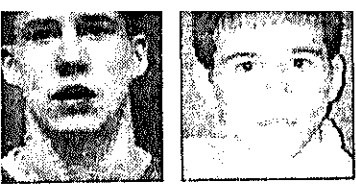
125—Bowersock (BvL) by default over Conrath (StC); Hughes (Cam) d. Tierney (MF) 7-2 ot.

130—Kennedy (WP) p. Lucas (Barn) 2:33; Varner (EL) d. Lowers (OG) 6-4 ot.

135—Noel (OG) d. Crumbley (EL) 11-3; Furbas (Camb) d. Muldrew (JM) 6-2.

140—Wilson (MC) d. Yudasz (StC) 5-3; Roth (MF) d. Eckleberry (OG) 1-0.

145—Bertolino (BL) d. Ghrist (EL) 7-6; Mayhugh (MF) d. Kufner (Cam) 4-2.



Adam Kennedy

130



Derek Kennedy

140



Derek Roth

152



Jake Sowers

171



Adam Hoppel

215



Adam Hoppel



Cole Bowersock

135



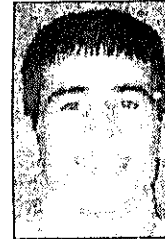
Eric Noel

145



Bobby Mayhugh

160



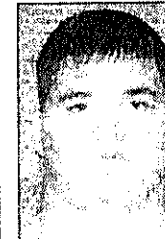
Justin Jefferis

189



Phillip Bellville

275



Jesse Wells

the Kennedy's — Adam and Derek — have been wrestling with each other.

The two grapplers wrestled their way to OVAC tournament titles as the three-day event came to a conclusion.

And both did it in exciting fashion. Adam, a junior, ran his mark to 19-2 at 119 pounds with a 6-5 decision over Edison's Derek Maple.

Kennedy found himself on the wrong end of a 5-4 score with time winding down, but a reversal with two seconds remaining gave him his title.

"This is great," he said. "I've worked so hard in the wrestling room with my brother. Now that I've accomplished this, I can set my sights on states."

While it was exciting, the elder Kennedy didn't waste much time in his 130-pound title tilt as he caught East Liverpool's Jon Varner in a roll and claimed a pin in just 1-minute, 23-seconds.

Both wrestlers were defending champions.

"There was a little pressure on me after Adam won, but I just had to go out and show him I could do it too," said Kennedy, who improved to 29-2.

"There's not that much competition between us as brothers, but we make each other work hard."

That's exactly what first-year head coach Chad Frick said is their biggest attribute. "They work out together all the time. Sometimes it even gets heated, but it's good competition between brothers."

The pin in the finals was Derek's fifth in as many tournament matches. "That's something special," he said.

Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock became a three-time champion when he posted a 5-1 nod over Cameron's Tyler Hughes, who entered their 125-pound bout with a spotless 30-0 mark.

The Beavers' senior grabbed a 3-1 lead in the second period, and then

sealed the deal with a late third-period takedown.

"This title definitely feels better than the previous two," said Bowersock, who had already won titles at 103 (1999) and 119 (2000). He was seventh as a freshman fly-weight.

"This was also my toughest finals match," he noted.

For his accomplishment, Bowersock was voted the recipient of the David Bierkorte Award which is symbolic of the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

A pair of individuals — Buckeye Local's Nathan Kendjorsky (112) and Oak Glen's Eric Noel (135) became two-time titlists.

Kendjorsky entered his highly-anticipated bout with Harrison Central's Nic Rossiter as the top seed, and showed why with a convincing 11-3 nod.

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"This championship feels a little better because it's my senior year,"

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171—Jake Sowers (Camb) dec. Zach Powell (Barn) 3-0

189—Philip Bellville (OG) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir) 2-1

215—Adam Hoppel (BVL) major dec. Will Wade 11-1

275—Jesse Wells (Shen) pinned Michael Price (Camb) 3:57

THIRD-FOURTH PLACE

103—Josh Gorayeb (WP) p. Ben Cain (Mead) 2:33

112—Mike Jones (MF) d. David Jack (SS) 11-2

119—John Tierney (MF) d. Chas Patton (BL) 3-2

125—David Tierney (MF) p. Scott Conrath (StC) 3:39

130—Gaelen Lowers (OG) d. Billy Barath (StC) 3-2

135—Jim Crumbley (EL) d. Mike Muldrew (JM) 1-0

140—Nate Smith (BVL) d. Ryan Kinzy (Beal) 13-3

145—Roger Kupfer (Cam) d. Jeremy Ghrist (EL) 7-5 ot

152—Tucker Brown (Cam) d. Derrick Sefick (HC) 3-0

160—Chris Taylor (JM) d. Trevor Cooper (IC) 3-0

171—Ronnie Hebrock (OG) d. Roger Richardson (Steub) 8-7

189—Wyatt O'Neil (Cam) d. Kyle Jones (EL) 6-2

215—Matt Duval (UL) d. Joe Weaver (Mag) 9-5

275—Joey Caughey (OG) d. Joe Beebout (EL) 6-5

FIFTH-SIXTH PLACE

103—Jesse Emery (HC) d. John Howard (JM) 6-5

112—Lucas Huffman (R) d. Brian Humphrey (WP) 5-4

119—Jared Anderson (Barn) d. Mark Whately (Camb) 4-3

125—Chris Case (BSJ) d. Garrett Six (OG) ot tiebreaker

130—Tom Snyder (UL) d. Jason Lucas (Barn) 3-2

135—Joel O'Neil (Cam) d. Jason Petticord

BIERKORTE AWARD

(Outstanding Wrestler)

- 2001—Cole Bowersock (Beaver Local)
- 2000—Scott Roth (Martins Ferry)
- 1999—Jose Smith (Cambridge)
- 1998—Chad Pratz (Linsly School)
- 1997—Ryan Muldrew (John Marshall)
- 1996—Eric Anderson (St. John's Central)
- 1995—Justin Ewing (St. Clairsville)
- 1994—Dustin Harris (Beaver Local)
- 1993—Kelly Shields (Edison South)
- 1992—R.C. Anderson (Cameron)
- 1991—Douglas Knight (Steubenville)
- 1990—Babe Sidon (Martins Ferry)
- 1989—Mark Emmerling (East Liverpool)
- 1988—Rick Burlenski (Bridgeport)
- 1987—Mark Mlynec (Bellaire)
- 1986—Sean Murray (Oak Glen)
- 1985—Tim Moxley (Barnesville)
- 1984—Heath Beadmore (Cambridge)
- 1983—Brian Miller (Barnesville)
- 1982—Larry Islerman (Toronto)
- 1981—Mike Tuchowski (Steubenville)
- 1980—Trent Iachine (Steubenville)
- 1979—Randy Pryor (Weir)
- 1978—Carl Stanley (Wheeling Park)
- 1977—Rich Davis (Jefferson Union)
- 1976—Randy Davis (Cadiz); Ed Covey (Bridgeport)
- 1975—Mike Kovalick (Bellaire)
- 1974—Shelden Grace (Weir)
- 1973—Dan Claugus (Barnesville)
- 1972—Art Jones (Bellaire)
- 1971—Don Blum (Martins Ferry)

MR. MAT

Meritorious Service

- 2001—William McEldowney (Wheeling)
- 2000—Ed "Buzz" Evans (Wheeling Park)
- 1999—Tom Lackman (Jefferson Union)
- 1998—Cal Pokas (Times-Leader)
- 1997—Gary Davis (Beallsville)
- 1996—Larry Chambers (Moundville Jr. High)
- 1995—Bob Bruney (Martins Ferry)
- 1994—Joe Bates (Woodsville)
- 1993—John Stephenson (Cadiz)
- 1992—Larry Deaton (Martins Ferry)
- 1991—Dr. Bill Welker (Warwood Mid. School)
- 1990—Carl Fodor (Hancock County Schools)
- 1989—Steve Kish (Bellaire High Principal)
- 1988—Dave Kovalick (Barnesville)
- 1987—Eric Carder (Wheeling Park)
- 1986—Ronald Mauck (Brooke)
- 1985—Dennis Bowman (Bellaire)
- 1984—Bill Hinegardner (John Marshall)
- 1983—Dr. Vince Monseau (West Liberty)
- 1982—Paul Crago (Marshall County Schools)
- 1981—Bob Hedmond (Steubenville)
- 1980—George Wally (John Marshall)
- 1979—Richard Edge (Warwood)
- 1978—John Vrotsos (Martins Ferry)
- 1977—Bill Van Horne (Sunday News-Register)
- 1976—George Kovalick (Bellaire)

OVAC CHAMPS

(Head Coach in parentheses)

- 001—East Liverpool (Scott Heimstra)
- 000—East Liverpool (Scott Heimstra)
- 999—Martins Ferry (Jeff Oberdick)
- 998—Martins Ferry (Jeff Oberdick)
- 997—Buckeye Local (Dan Doyle)
- 996—Buckeye Local (Dan Doyle)
- 995—Steubenville (Rick Camilletti)
- 994—Wheeling Park (Buzz Evans)
- 993—Martins Ferry (Jeff Oberdick)
- 992—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 991—Oak Glen (Larry Shaw)
- 990—Wheeling Park (Buzz Evans)
- 989—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 988—East Liverpool (Nick Trombetta)
- 987—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 986—East Liverpool (Nick Trombetta)
- 985—Barnesville (Darrell Davis)
- 984—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 983—John Marshall (Ed Dugas)
- 982—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 981—Cadiz (John Stephenson)
- 980—Steubenville (John Craig)
- 979—Wheeling Park (Eric Carder)
- 978—Wheeling Park (Eric Carder)
- 977—John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
- 976—Weir (Charles Murray)
- 975—Warwood (Eric Carder)
- 974—John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
- 973—John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
- 972—John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
- 971—St. John's Central (Dennis Bowman)
- 970—Wheeling Central (John Hibbert)
- 969—St. John's Central (Dennis Bowman)
- 968—Martins Ferry (Art Hehr)
- 967—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 966—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 965—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 964—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 963—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 962—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 961—Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
- 960—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
- 959—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
- 958—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
- 957—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
- 956—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
- 955—Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
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OVAC MAT TOURNAMENT AT A GLANCE

BIERKORTTE AWARD

- (Outstanding Wrestler)
- 2000-Scott Roth (Martins Ferry)
 - 1999-Jose Smith (Cambridge)
 - 1998-Chad Pratz (Linsly School)
 - 1997-Ryan Muldrew (John Marshall)
 - 1996-Eric Anderson (St. John's Central)
 - 1995-Justin Ewing (St. Clairsville)
 - 1994-Dustin Harris (Beaver Local)
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 - 1986-Sean Murray (Oak Glen)
 - 1985-Tim Moxley (Barnesville)
 - 1984-Heath Beadmere (Cambridge)
 - 1983-Brian Miller (Barnesville)
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 - 1975-Mike Kovalick (Bellaire)
 - 1974-Shelden Grace (Weir)
 - 1973-Dan Claugus (Barnesville)
 - 1972-Art Jones (Bellaire)
 - 1971-Don Blum (Martins Ferry)

MR. MAT AWARD

- Mr. Mat Award Winners
- 2000-Ed "Buzz" Evans (Wheeling Park)
 - 1999-Tom Lackman (Jefferson Union)
 - 1998-Cal Pokas (Times-Leader)
 - 1997-Gary Davis (Beallsville)
 - 1996-Larry Chambers (Moundsville)
 - 1995-Bob Bruney (Martins Ferry)
 - 1994-Joe Bates (Woodfield)
 - 1993-John Stephenson (Cadiz)
 - 1992-Larry Deaton (Martins Ferry)
 - 1991-Dr. William Welker (Warwood)
 - 1990-Carl Fodor (Hancock Co. Schools)
 - 1989-Steve Kish (Bellaire High Principal)
 - 1988-Dave Kovalick (Barnesville)
 - 1987-Eric Carder (Wheeling Park)
 - 1986-Ronald Mauck (Brooke)
 - 1985-Dennis Bowman (Bellaire)
 - 1984-Bill Hinegardner (John Marshall)
 - 1983-Dr. Vince Monseau (West Liberty)
 - 1982-Paul Crago (Marshall Co. Schools)
 - 1981-Bob Hedmond (Steubenville)
 - 1980-George Wally (John Marshall)
 - 1979-Richard Edge (Warwood)
 - 1978-John Vrotsos (Martins Ferry)
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 - 1982-Steubenville (John Craig)
 - 1981-Cadiz (John Stephenson)
 - 1980-Steubenville (John Craig)
 - 1979-Wheeling Park (Eric Carder)
 - 1978-Wheeling Park (Eric Carder)
 - 1977-John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
 - 1976-Weir (Charles Murray)
 - 1975-Warwood (Eric Carder)
 - 1974-John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
 - 1973-John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
 - 1972-John Marshall (Bill Hinegardner)
 - 1971-Bell. St. John's (Dennis Bowman)
 - 1970-Wheeling Central (John Hibbert)
 - 1969-Bell. St. John's (Dennis Bowman)
 - 1968-Martins Ferry (Art Hehr)
 - 1967-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
 - 1966-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
 - 1965-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
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 - 1963-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
 - 1962-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
 - 1961-Martins Ferry (John Vrotsos)
 - 1960-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1959-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1958-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1957-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1956-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1955-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)
 - 1954-Bridgeport (George Kovalick)

OVAC MAT

Continued from page 3B

Philip Bellville joined Noel as Oak Glen titlists as he slipped past Weir's Vince Magnone by a 2-1 margin at 189. It was a matchup between the top two seeds, with Magnone's 29-match winning streak ending.

Adam Hoppel, just a freshman from Beaver Local, showed why the coaches made him the top seed at 215. He raised his mark to 23-3 with a dominating 11-1 major decision over Shenandoah's Will Wade.

The Zeps Jesse Wells claimed the 275 title with a pin of Cambridge's Michael Price in 3:57.

In winning the team title, East Liverpool used a balanced attack as nine wrestlers received medals, but only one was a champion — that being flyweight Jake Bates.

The No. 8 seed knocked off top-

seeded David Skiviat in Friday night's action, and continued his winning ways with a 12-2 decision over Harrison Central's Jesse Eme — the fifth seed — in Saturday semis. he completed his mission with a 9-6 triumph over Beaver Local Josh Hoover, the third seed.

"I can't even begin to express how happy I am for these kids," said East Liverpool head coach Scott Heimstra. "For all that they've been through the past week, this is amazing."

While settling for second place, Oak Glen did top the 3-A field 22 1/2 points over Martins Ferry. Barnesville once again won the A title by a whopping margin over Shadyside and Shenandoah, which tied for second. Cameron, as usual, claimed the A title early Friday night.