



The Times Leader

SPORTS EXTRA

SECTION
C8

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OVAC Volleyball All-Stars



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER
PICTURED is the 2002 Ohio All-Star Volleyball team which will compete in tonight's OVAC All-Star Game at Ohio University-Eastern. Front row, from left, are Sarah McCoy (Beaver Local), Danielle Holt (Union Local), Kristina Tomlan (Bellaire), Stephanie Suriano (Martins Ferry), Lindsay Coyne (Martins Ferry), Natalee Regal (Martins Ferry), Shana Keenan (Edison) and Saessa Phsarce. Back row, from left, are Coach and game director Tom Suriano (Martins Ferry), Bob Theis (East Liverpool), Cody Baker (Monroe Central), Amanda Bradshaw (Buckeye Trail), Kaci Hlad (Meadowbrook), Michelle Starr (Caldwell), Stephanie Arthur (East Liverpool), Kristen Bond (Shenandoah), Coach Colleen Kasper (Shenandoah) and Coach Cindy Frederickson (Caldwell). Absent was Jamie Gullen (Steubenville) and Dena Barber (Wellsville).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
PICTURED is the 2002 West Virginia All-Star Volleyball team which will compete in tonight's OVAC All-Star Game at Ohio University-Eastern. Front row, from left, are Carrie Cecil (Linsly), Mallory Zearott (Bishop Donahue), Ashley



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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
PICTURED is the 2002 West Virginia All-Star Volleyball team which will compete in tonight's OVAC All-Star Game at Ohio University-Eastern. Front row, from left, are Carrie Cecil (Linsly), Mallory Zearott (Bishop Donahue), Ashley Cain (Paden City), Ashley Edgehouse (Wheeling Park); Christina Committee (Wheeling Central); Jessica Howell (Magnolia) and Brittany Haggerty (Tyler). Back row, from left, are Coach Tracy Summer (Tyler), Ashley Corcoran (Brooke), Neely Lantz (John Marshall), Ashley Porter (Cameron), Anna Meckley (Tyler); Tiffany Board (Weir), Ashley Ferguson (Tyler), Nikki Flora (Weir) and Coach Willie Paul (Weir). In back is Coach Rich Summer (Tyler). Absent from photo were Linzy Turner (Weir), Annie Chaney (Oak Glen) and Coach Amy James (Wheeling Central).

OVAC volleyball tilt set Nov. 17

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

On both sides of the river, the 2002 volleyball season is coming to an end and there is no better way to bring an exciting season to a close than to put together some of the area's best senior players for one last time.

For the second straight year, the top senior players from Ohio and West Virginia will pair off for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Girls' Volleyball All-star game at the spacious Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in Belmont.

Under the guidance of tournament director Tom Suriano, the second annual all-star extravaganza will take place at the Ney Center with an exciting pre-game and halftime performance while showcasing some of the best volleyball players from both states.

Game time is set for 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, but pre-game festivities will get underway at 2:30 p.m. with warm-ups. After a brief break, the players will make a patriotic entrance with introductions at 4 p.m.

Members of the Union Local Choir will perform some patriotic songs, while the Martins Ferry Color Guard will present the colors and the National Anthem will be sung by a group from John Marshall.

This year's lineup of all-stars will be of the strongest fields ever assembled on an Ohio Valley court.

Ohio's all-star lineup includes Shana Keenan from Edison, Sarah McCoy from Beaver Local, Jamie Gullen from Steubenville, Stephanie Arthur from East Liverpool, Lindsay Coyne, Stephanie Suriano and Natalee Regel from Martins Ferry, Saressa Phsarce from Indian Creek

and Kristen Bond from Shenandoah.

Also lining for the Ohio stars are Kristina Tomlan from Bellaire, Kaci Hlad from Meadowbrook, Danielle Holt from Union Local, Michelle Starr from Caldwell, Amanda Bradshaw from Buckeye Trail, Cody Baker from Monroe Central and Dena Barber from Wellsville.

Ohio will be coached by Suriano, whose Martins Ferry team finished the regular season unbeaten at 20-0, Colleen Kasper, whose Shenandoah club downed the Lady Riders in capturing the OVAC Class 3-A title, Cindy Frederickson of Caldwell and Bob Theis of Class 4-A champion Beaver Local.

West Virginia's all-stars will include a talented senior group featuring Carrie Cecil of Linsly, Mallory Zearot of Bishop Donahue, Ashley Cain of Paden City, Ashley Edgehouse of Wheeling Park, Linzy Turner of Weir, Christina Commi of Wheeling Central, Jessica Howell of Magnolia and Brittany Hagerty of Tyler Consolidated.

Other stars from the Mountain State are Ashley Corcoran of Brooke, Neely Lantz of John Marshall, Annie Chaney of Oak Glen, Ashley Porter of Cameron, Anna Meckley of Tyler Consolidated, Tiffany Board of Weir, Ashley Ferguson of Tyler Consolidated and Nikki Flora of Weir.

Coaching the West Virginia all-stars will be Tracy and Rich Summer of Tyler Consolidated, Amy James of Wheeling Central and Willie Paul of Weir.

"I'm really excited because it's a great way to end the season," Lady Rider standout Stephanie Suriano said about appearing in the game. "This is a great way to

come back and play with all my friends and with a bunch of girls that we never got to play against all season."

"Before you always watched the guys play in their all-star games and now we've got the opportunity to come out and play. It's really exciting," she added.

"It was good with all his enthusiasm and he has so much energy," she said about her coach and father Tom Suriano. "He was always so excited and that made us more excited and we wanted to win more."

"He might not know all the rules about volleyball," the young Suriano said jokingly. "But he really knows how to coach."

"We had seven seniors and we've all been playing since we were freshmen and now we were all on the varsity together and it was our senior year and that really helped with our success this year," she said.

"It feels great," Bellaire's Tomlan said about her opportunity to play in the OVAC game. "I think it's really awesome that he's (Tom Suriano) is putting this together and it's a good way to end my career in volleyball and it should be fun."

"I'm really honored," Tomlan added.

"Really good," the Lady Big Reds said about her senior season. "We accomplished all three goals we set for the season. We won one tournament game, we bettered our record from last year. We hope we could have done better, but the OVAC (playoffs) was on our homecoming night."

"I'm really excited to play in the all-star game and I'm going to play really hard and try to win," Tomlan said about the upcoming all-star fray.

Coach Suriano, who initiated the all-star game, is just as excited about taking part in the all-star as are the players.

"This is icing on the cake," the elder Suriano said. "Being the tournament director is a great honor, but now I'm getting to coach in the game and that is an honor and my daughter is a senior and it's just good all the way around."

"We have good volleyball in the valley, we have good volleyball in the OVAC and this is going to be a good event for the girls," Suriano added. "It's more than an all-star game. We like to think of it as an event."

"We really try to do it right," the Ohio coach added. "We're real excited about it. The fans come out and everybody has a really good time. People come from all over the valley."

"We're trying to give the game a lot more exposure in the Ohio Valley and we're trying to honor the girls," he said. "So we're killing two birds with one stone with what we are doing."

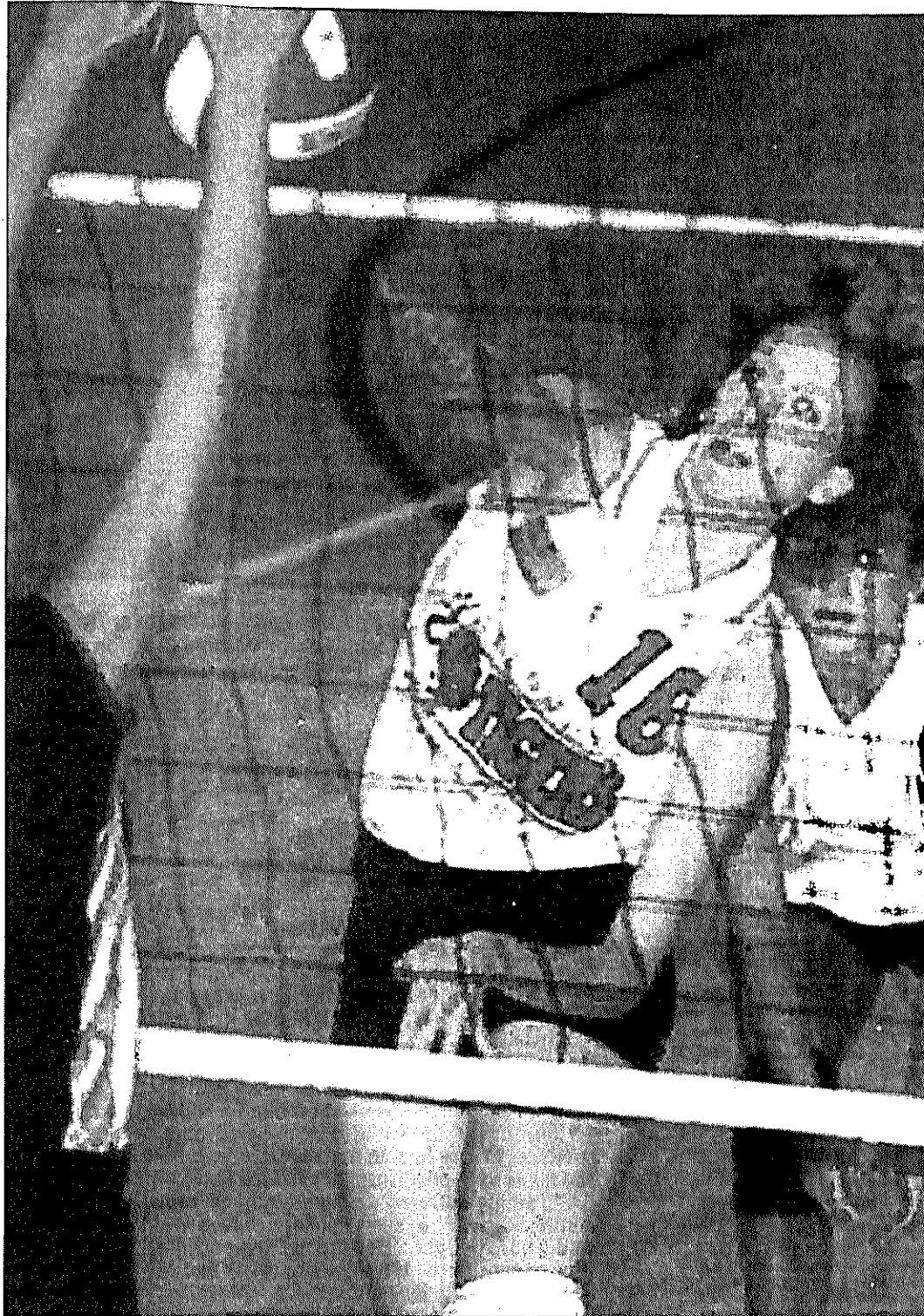
Suriano said that the response to the all-star game and the quality of play in the Ohio Valley on the courts has been steadily increasing over the past few years.

"With this type of exposure I think we are going to see more of our teams getting through the districts and moving into the regionals," he suggested.

"I know Indian Creek and Buckeye Trail have both made it to the state tournament and we would like to see a lot more of that in the future."

Suriano also suggested that fans will see a very competitive game with both the Ohio and West Virginia teams bringing very talented squads to the game.

Tickets for next Sunday's game will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. All tickets will be sold at the door.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

WELLSVILLE'S Dena Barber spikes the ball as a West Virginia defender attempts to block the ball during action in the OVAC All-Star Volleyball game Sunday afternoon at the Ney Center in St. Clairsville.

West Virginia claims OVAC volleyball game

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a short streak, but West Virginia's lady netters put a stop to it just the same.

Needing five sets to accomplish the task, West Virginia captured its first-ever OVAC All-Star Volleyball Game win, rallying from a 2-1 deficit to stop the Ohioans in five sets at the Ney Center at Ohio University Eastern in Belmont Sunday night.

West Virginia split the first four sets with Ohio before taking the fifth and deciding match before a large turnout for the third annual event.

After dropping the opening set, 5-15, the Lady Mounties took the second set by 15-11. West Virginia dropped the third set, 11-15, as the Ohioans took a one-game lead, but the West Virginians rallied to even the match with a 15-13 decision in the fourth. The winners clinched the win with a 15-7 decision in the fifth set.

Ohio had won the first two all-star match-ups in 2000 and 2001.

"This was a grand finale for me," Ohio coach Tom Suriano of Martins Ferry said after the game. "I got to coach my daughter. I was one of the coaches selected to coach this game and I was the tournament director. I think the tournament gets better each year.

"It's become routine," he added. "People know what to expect...the girls know what to expect. It just keeps getting better every year. As the tournament director, I can't be happy enough.

"The teams are so much evenly matched. This is the first time we went the full five games," Suriano pointed out. "Each game was a close game and each girl got to play two and a half games. They're all-stars and that's what we planned to do -- let them play.

"To get to coach my daughter in the last game she will ever play in high school, I just couldn't be any happier," he said.

Suriano pointed out that the all-star committee wanted to get the whole conference involved and in doing so, brought in a group from John Marshall for the National Anthem, a choir from Union Local, a color guard from Martins Ferry and cheerleaders from St. Clairsville.

"I truly believe, the more recognition we give these kids and the more we promote the sport, athletes will come out for the sport, we'll get better competition and it will take care of itself," Suriano said.

"I think the Ohio Valley is just a year or two away from competing with anybody statewide," he added. "We try to make this one of the premier all-star games so that the kids will look forward to playing in it. Again, I couldn't be happier."

Both teams used their full rosters during the contest and each player contributed to the teams' efforts.

For the Ohioans, Martins Ferry's Lindsay Coyne finished with 17 spikes, three kills, five

blocks and four digs while fellow Lady Rider Stephanie Suriano closed with eight points, four digs and eight assists and Natalee Regel had six spikes, four kills and two blocks.

Bellaire's Kristina Tomlan added nine points with four aces, 18 digs, eight spikes and three kills, while Union Local's Danielle Holt had six points, five digs, four spikes and one kill and Monroe Central's Cody Baker had three points with one ace and two assists.

Edison's Shana Keenan had four points, seven digs, five spikes, four kills and two blocks. Beaver Local's Sarah McCoy closed with five points, one ace and eight digs. Steubenville's Jamie Gullen added 12 points and nine assists and Indian Creek's Saressa Psharce and one points and four digs.

Kristen Bond of Shenandoah had one point, five digs, one assist and one kill. Meadowbrook's Kaci Hlad had 11 digs, 15 spikes, six kills and nine blocks. Caldwell's Michelle Starr closed with two points, two digs, 16 spikes, two kills and five blocks. Buckeye

Trail's Amanda Bradshaw had two points, 14 spikes and five kills and Wellsville's Dena Barber, the OVAC's Class 2-A player of the year, finished with six points, two aces, eight digs, nine spikes, four kills and 11 blocks.

On the West Virginia side, Weir's Tiffany Board had 10 points, two digs, 14 spikes, six kills and five blocks.

Nikki Flora had seven points, two digs, 15 spikes, seven kills, seven blocks and Linzy Turner had five points, six digs, 15 assists, 10 spikes and three kills.

Tyler Consolidated's trio contributed as Brittany Hagerty had 24 spikes, 12 kills and two blocks, Anna Meckley had eight digs, 25 spikes, 12 kills and Ashley Ferguson had two points, 12 spikes, four kills and three blocks.

Linsly's Carrie Cecil had five points. Bishop Donahue's Mallory Zearot had four points and nine assists. Paden City's Ashley Cain finished with six assists. Wheeling Park's Ashley Edgehouse had two points, four spikes and three kills and Wheeling Central's Christina Committee had two digs.

Magnolia's Jessica Howell finished with 13 spikes and seven kills. Brooke's Ashley Corcoran had three points, two digs, five assists and two spikes. John Marshall's Neely Lantz had two spikes and one kill. Oak Glen's Annie Chaney had nine points, four digs, eight spikes and three kills while Cameron's Ashley Porter had three digs, four assists, two spikes and two kills.

Along with Suriano, the Ohio squad was coached by Shenandoah's Colleen Kasper, Caldwell's Cindy Frederickson and Beaver Local's Bob Theis.

West Virginia coaches were Tracy Summer and Richard Summer of Tyler Consolidated, Amy James of Wheeling Central and Willie Paul of Weir.

