

Sports

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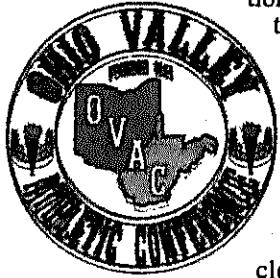
OVAC WRESTLING - DAY ONE

Beavers hold slim edge on Golden Bears

By LARRY CLAYPOOL
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING — If it stays the direction it's headed, two local teams will again be vying for the Ohio Valley Athletic Championship title Saturday night.

Last year East Liverpool pulled off a narrow two-point victory over rival Oak Glen on championship night. This year Oak Glen's in the thick of it again, but this time it's another local rival, Beaver Local, they're battling after the first day of action Thursday at the Wheeling Civic Center.



The Beavers and Golden Bears were one of at least five favorites coming into the 49th annual OVAC tournament. With one day complete, Beaver Local holds a slim lead, 48-46.5, over the Bears in overall team points.

Other contenders, John Marshall is close behind in third with 43 points; Martins Ferry is fourth with 37.5 and Shadyside is fifth with 34. Harrison Central, another favorite coming in, finished the first day with 29 points and sit in eighth place.

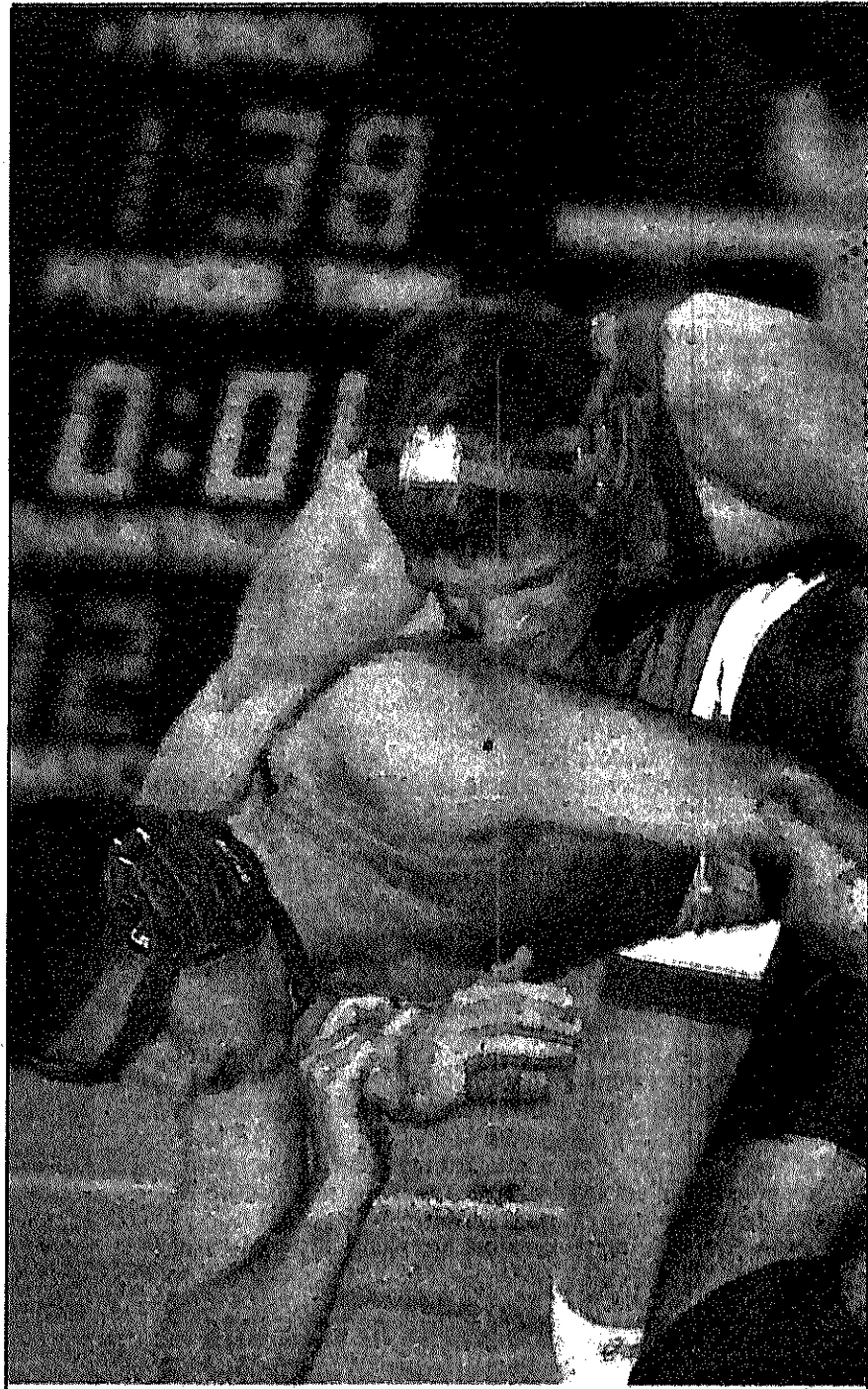
Oak Glen completed the first round with 13 wins (11 of those were by falls). Their other wrestler had a bye. Beaver Local had a successful day too. The Beavers had 11 winners, with every one of those victorious by pinning their opponents. Beaver Local lost only one match, a close 6-5 loss in the 152-pound weight class. The Beavers also had two byes on the night.

East Liverpool won five of its matches on Thursday and have 19 points going into today's second session. Wellsville had a very tough day with only two winners. The Tigers have 12 points.

Beaver coach Rich Wright said his team did well in the first round. "We did what we were supposed to," said Wright. "But, they gave us two byes today at 103 and 146. I don't know how they figured out to get byes today. We didn't have those after the draw."

"Our kids wrestled hard and did what they were supposed to do. Tomorrow is the money round. Tomorrow morning is the big round and tomorrow night is the money round," added Wright. "But, I'm happy with how we wrestled today. We came out hard."

The Bears came out hard too. Oak Glen coach Larry Shaw said his team did their jobs. "We wrestled real well to open the tournament, real aggressive, with a lot of confidence. The kids were physical out there. That's a good start for us," said Shaw.



Dave Kinsey of Beaver Local (top) goes against Frank Triveri of Wheeling Park in an opening-round match in the 152-pound class Thursday in the OVAC championships in Wheeling. (Photo by Larry Claypool)

The Bears, like Beaver Local, added to their team score by scoring extra bonus points for falls, technical falls and major decisions. Shaw said that's important later in the tournament. "We scored a lot of bonus points tonight. That's what we wanted to achieve in early round wrestling. We need as much as we can there, because it's going to be

much tougher as we proceed through," said the Bears' coach.

Wright said the success must continue in rounds two and three for the Beavers to win their first ever OVAC title. "We hope to get a few more pins tomorrow. Get some placers tomorrow

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Potters

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showed no ill affects from the injury.

"We definitely need Josh," Alois said. "This is a game where you need all your strengths. Josh is one of our strong players, and we need his scoring and game ex-

perience. In fact, he played with some Akron players this summer in AAU."

"One thing Alois doesn't think will be a factor is the venue. Akron's James A. Rhodes Area will be the site of the game,

which usually gets over 5,000 people a game for SVSM games.

"We've been on a similar floor," he said. "It's obviously going to give them (SVSM) a home-court advantage. But our kids are anxious to get out there

and play the game. I don't think our team will be in awe of the crowd. I don't think the (large) crowd will be a factor."

So will the game mean anything more to the East Liverpool native?

"Well the approach will always be the same," Joyce said. "But being from East Liverpool, there's definitely a different sentiment to the game. Over the years, I lost touch with a lot of people, but I'm sure that won't take much Joyce is thing. "I've been ing to be fans than A that."

OVAC

FROM PAGE 1B



2002 OVAC WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM STANDINGS

OVERALL	
1. BEAVER LOCAL	48
2. OAK GLEN	48.5
3. JOHN MARSHALL	43
4. MARTINS FERRY	37.5
5. SHADYSIDE	34
5. CAMERON	34
7. BARNESVILLE	30
8. HARRISON CENTRAL	29
9. BUCKEYE LOCAL	27
10. ST. CLAIRSVILLE	24

CLASS AAAA	
1. BEAVER LOCAL	48
2. JOHN MARSHALL	43
3. BUCKEYE LOCAL	27
4. BROOKE	22.5
5. EAST LIVERPOOL	19
6. WHEELING PARK	18
7. STEUBENVILLE	15.5
8. WEIR	11.5
9. EDISON	9.5
10. CAMBRIDGE	8

CLASS AAA	
1. OAK GLEN	48.5
2. MARTINS FERRY	37.5
3. BARNESVILLE	29
4. HARRISON CENTRAL	29
5. ST. CLAIRSVILLE	24
6. UNION LOCAL	17

CLASS AA	
1. SHADYSIDE	34
2. MONROE CENTRAL	22
3. STEUBENVILLE CC	13
4. WELLSVILLE	12
5. RIVER	11

CLASS A	
1. CAMERON	34
2. BELLAIRE ST. JOHN	17
3. WEIRTON MADONNA	8
4. BEALLSVILLE	5.5
5. LINSLEY	4

night and see what happens on Saturday. We've put ourselves in position. So, we'll see what happens," said Wright.

East Liverpool coach Rich Shilling, in his first year at the helm of the Potters, said his team did as well as expected. The Potters have only four returning starters from last year's team and two from the OVAC title lineup. East Liverpool has won the last two OVAC titles, but lost six starters to graduation. Five of those were OVAC placers last year.

The Potters had five wrestlers pick up wins in the first round Thursday. Shilling said his young team (four are freshman, three are sophomores) did well under the circumstances. "We wrestled good. They all did their best and we have five going on. We would like to see better than that, but we're learning and getting better," said Shilling.

Before the wrestling action began, each team was announced and paraded onto the eight mats laid out on the floor of the Civic Center, similar to the parade of athletes in the Olympic games.

Part of OVAC tradition is to bring last year's champion to the floor after all other teams are announced. The Potters were escorted last onto the mats for the second straight year. Shilling said that was special for his team.

"That was kind of nice. We had to wait until everyone else was out there. It was a good experience to be down on the floor. It's pretty amazing, the kids were all looking up in the stands. That's what all the hype is for," said the Potter coach.

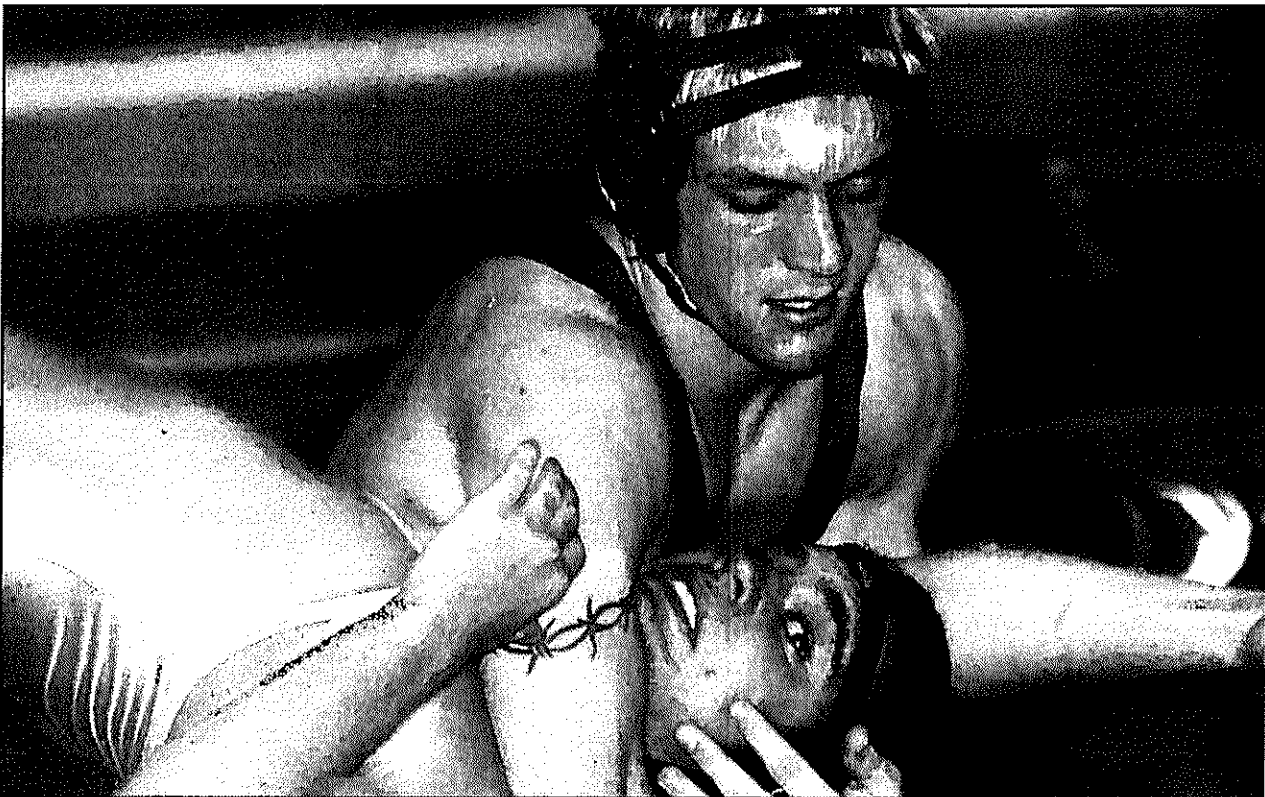
The hype continues today with session two opening at 11 a.m. The third session begins at 5 p.m. Eight mats will be used throughout the day.

Saturday's actions starts at noon with the fourth session. The fifth and final session begins at 6 p.m. with introduction ceremonies. The championship finals in each of 14 weight classes begins at 6:30 p.m., as well as the wrestlers vying for third, fifth and seventh places. The top eight wrestlers will be recognized.

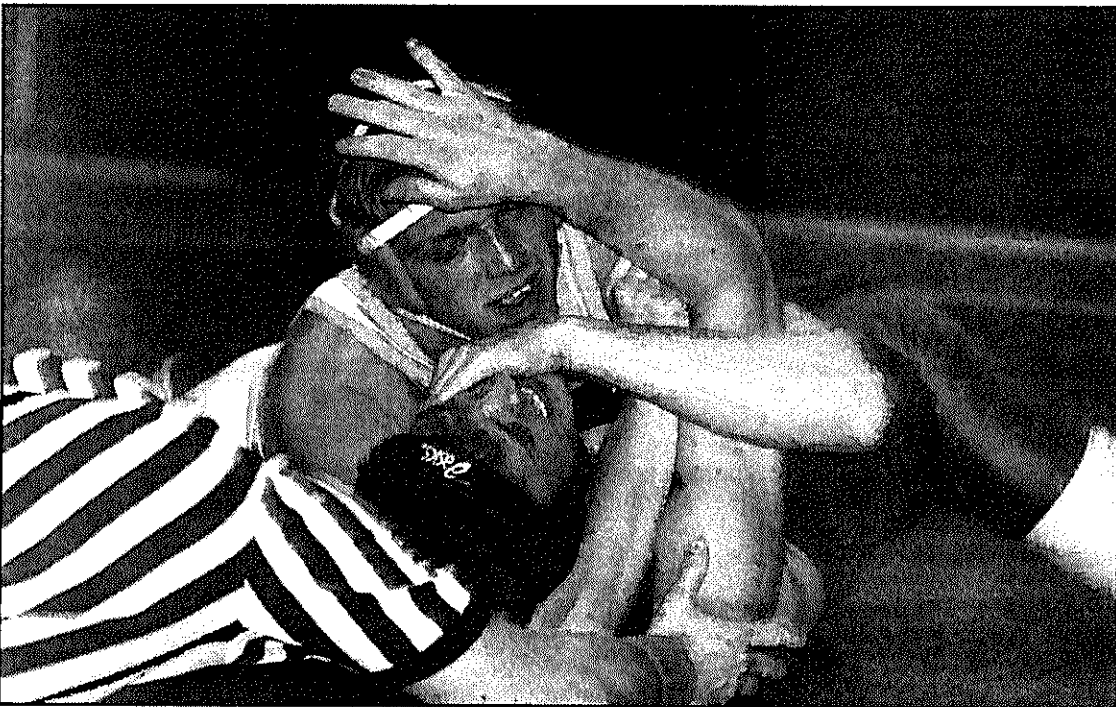
Former OVAC individual champion, Nick Spencer of Edison, was honored before the first round began. Spencer currently is an assistant coach at Edison and is a former Division II national champion wrestler from West Liberty State College. He is believed to be the first collegiate wrestling national champion from the OVAC.



In the 135-pound division, Edison's Chase Jolly (top) controls Wellsville's Justin Cataldo. Jolly went on to win the match. (Photo by Larry Claypool)



Beaver Local's Jeremy Shaw (top) sets up his opponent, Dominic Robin, for a pin during their 145-pound weight class. Shaw was one of 11 Beaver wrestlers to record a fall in the opening round of the OVAC championships. (Photo by Larry Claypool)



Oak Glen's Garrett Six (top) nears a pin on Bryan Varner of Weir in their 135-pound weight class. His pin in 3:02 was one of 11 pins for the Oak Glen team on the opening day of the OVAC Championships Friday in Wheeling. (Photo by Larry Claypool)

Sunday, February

Teams will consist of either 2 or 4 bowlers to seek sponsors. Pledges may be for a dollar or a specific amount for each pin scored. bowling and each team will bowl one game frames will be permitted.

Any bowler collecting \$40 or more will receive a Sisters Bowl For Kids' Sake tee shirt.

Please call no later than February 1, 200 team. Anyone desiring more information listed below.

All Proceeds Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters

Two Locations

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To Sign Up A Team Contact: (330) 424-

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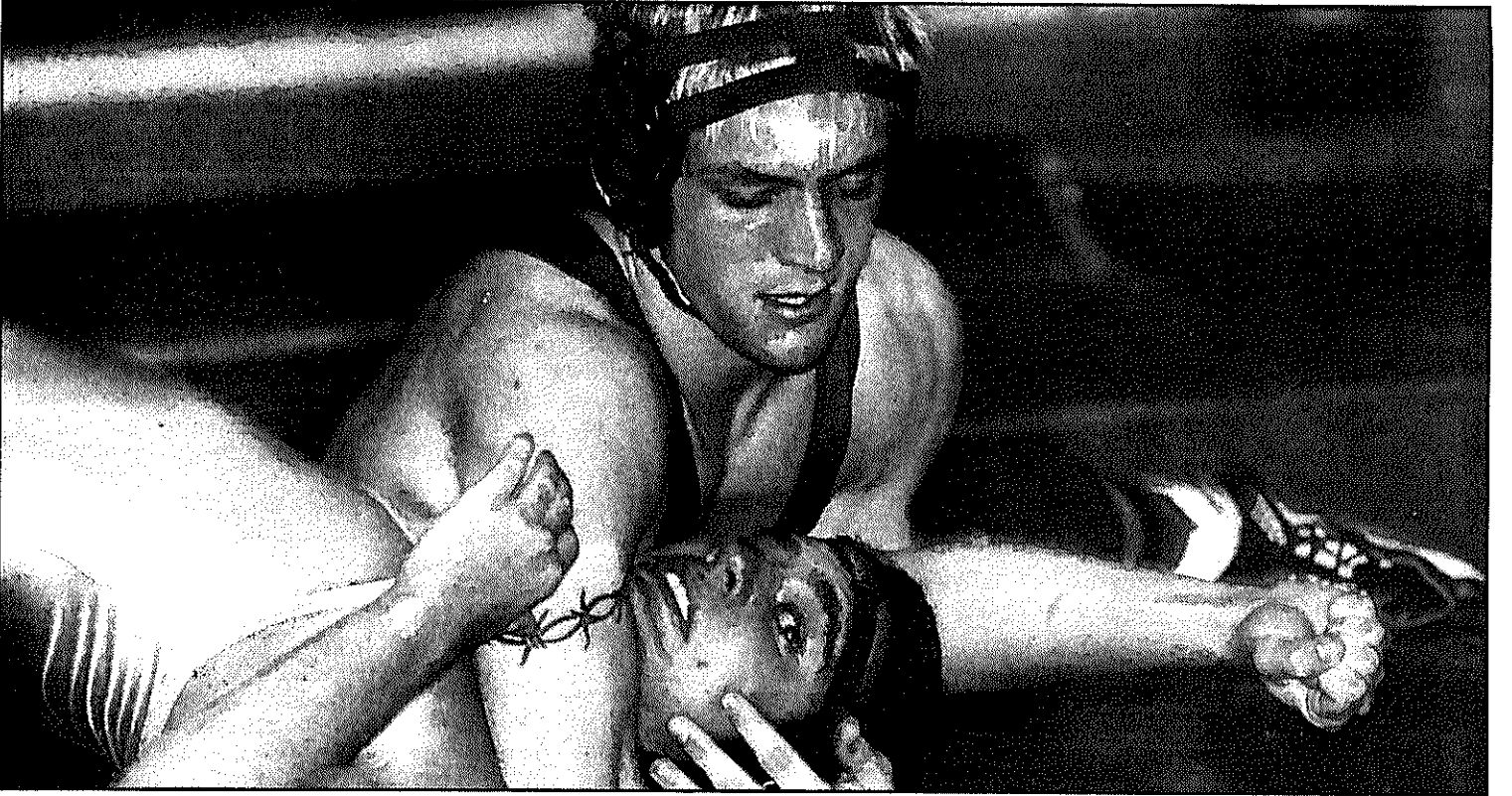
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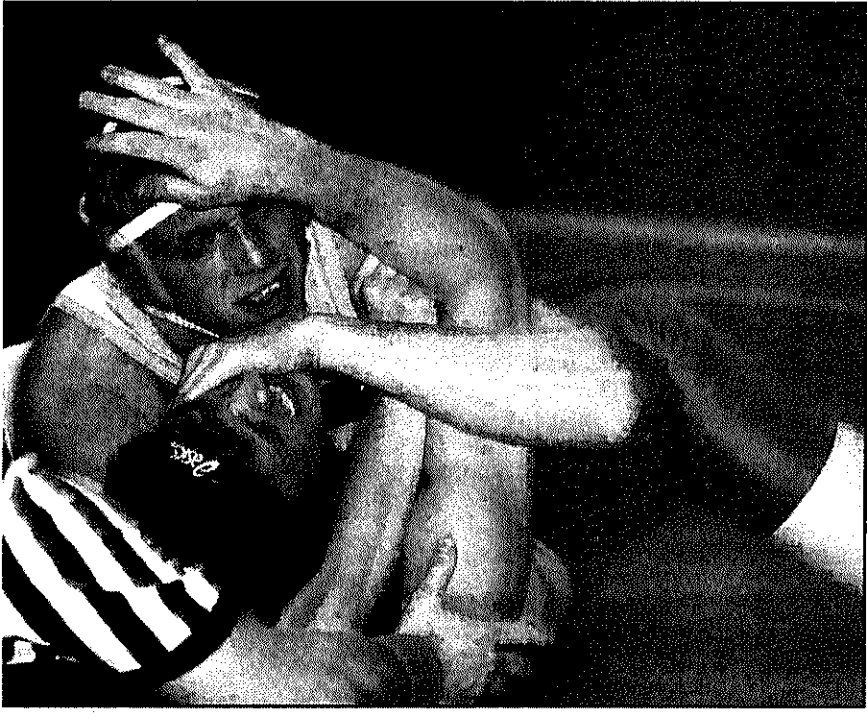
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In the 135-pound division, Edison's Chase Jolly (top) controls Wellsville's Justin Cataldo. Jolly went on to win by a 17-1 technical fall. (Photo by Larry Claypool)



Beaver Local's Jeremy Shaw (top) sets up his opponent, Dominic Robinson of Edison, for a pin during their 145-pound weight class. Shaw was one of 11 Beaver wrestlers on the night to records a fall in the opening round of the OVAC championships. (Photo by Larry Claypool)



Oak Glen's Garrett Six (top) nears a pin on Bryan Varner of Weir in their 135-pound weight class. His pin in 3:02 was one of 11 pins for the Oak Glen team on the opening day of the OVAC Championships Friday in Wheeling. (Photo by Larry Claypool)

Sunday, February 10, 2002

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Teams will consist of either 2 or 4 bowlers. Each participant is asked to seek sponsors. Pledges may be for a dollar amount for the event or a specific amount for each pin scored. There will be no charge for bowling and each team will bowl one game. Bowling a few warm up frames will be permitted.

Any bowler collecting \$40 or more will receive a Pizza Hut® Big Brothers, Big Sisters Bowl For Kids' Sake tee shirt.

Please call no later than February 1, 2002 to schedule your team. Anyone desiring more information should call the number listed below.

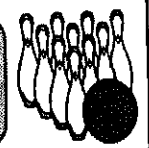
All Proceeds Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Columbiana County.

Two Locations

Holiday Lanes Lisbon, Ohio 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Hunt Club Lanes Salem, Ohio 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
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To Sign Up A Team Contact: (330)424-0653

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Beavers, Bears remain in hunt

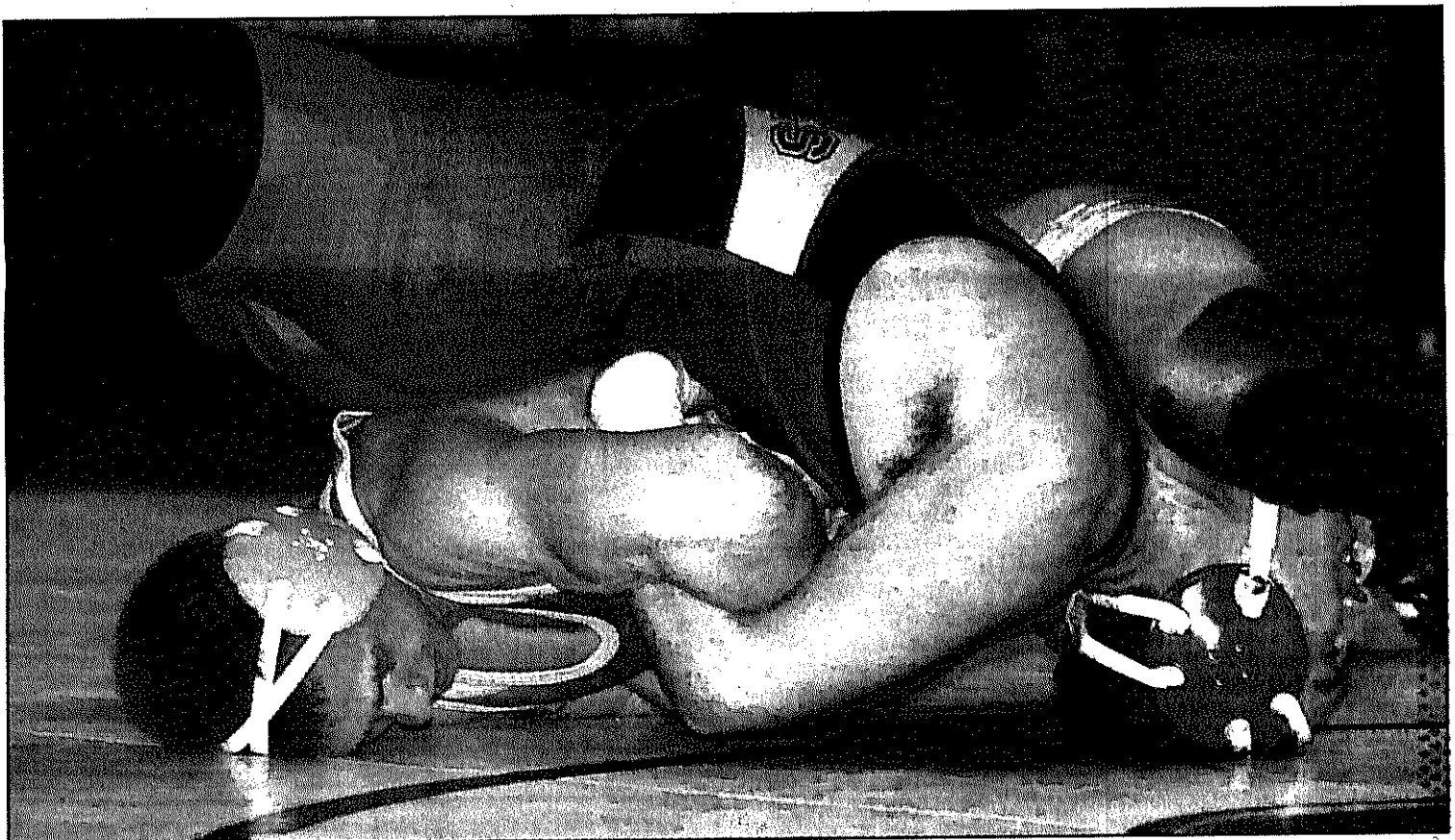
Only five points separate four teams

By LARRY CLAYPOOL
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING — The drama is building. You can hear it up and down the Ohio Valley. When the curtain is drawn today to open the final day of competition at the 49th Annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Championships in Wheeling, no less than four teams are looking to step forward and take a bow when it's all over.

The valley is well represented with two upper and two mid-valley teams atop the standings after two days of wrestling. Beaver Local and Oak Glen (representing the upper valley) are in contention as they are tied for third place with 130.5 points, just behind leaders Martins Ferry (in first with 135 points) and John Marshall (second with 132.5 points). Ferry and John Marshall are representing teams around the Wheeling area. The three-day event is being staged at the Wheeling Civic Center. Thirty-seven teams are competing.

For any of the four teams to take the title, it could come



Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (left) has his way against Tyler Schumacher of Monroe Central in their 171-pound match Friday in Wheeling. Stickles won 13-3 to advance to the semifinals. (Photo by Missy Borders)

down to one match, or one point, for the prestigious overall title. Last year, East Liverpool needed a win in the final round to get by runner-up Oak Glen for the title. The Potters claimed their second title in a row by two points, 186-184.

Championship semi-finals and fifth round semis of the consolation brackets will begin today at noon. Championships for first, third, fifth and seventh places in

all 14 weight classes will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Beaver Local and Oak Glen led after the first night of competition on Thursday. Both teams wrestled well on Friday to stay in contention. The Beavers have the most wrestlers in the championship bracket with seven. Oak Glen and Martins Ferry are close behind with six left in the championship hunt of their respective weight brackets. John Marshall

has four left in the championship semis.

Martins Ferry and John Marshall have the most wrestlers still in the tournament with nine each. The Beavers and Bears each have eight. Wrestlers still in the tournament are assured at least to place in the top eight. Those still in the championship bracket (four in each class) have not lost in the event and can make the finals match with a win early to-

day. Wrestlers in the consolation bracket can finish as high as third place.

East Liverpool will have four wrestlers competing today, all four were seeded entering the tournament. The Potters have 82 points, good enough for 10th place overall.

Wellsville had a pretty tough day Friday and advanced only one wrestler into today's consolation.

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lation semis. The Tigers are in 19th place with 53 points, just ahead of Edison, who is 20th with 52 points.

Beaver Local coach Rich Wright said if all seven of his wrestlers make the championship finals, the team standings will take care of themselves. "I'm more concerned about getting seven guys to the finals. If we do that, I don't care what we finish (in the team standings)," said Wright.

"We wrestled pretty well today (Friday). We had some big wins in the quarterfinals and I'm happy about that. We could have had one or two more guys in there that would help us, but two guys were right there until the end," added the Beaver coach.

"One of our guys was right there as a freshmen, Shawn Dunn. And another at 119, Tyler Smith, is a sophomore. Those two and our senior, Ryan Holden, gave it all he had and that's his first year in the lineup. So, I'm O.K. with everything," said Wright.

Beaver Local's top seven in the finals are Josh Hoover (at 112), Jared Hoppel (130), Jon Varner (135), Jeremy Shaw (145), Jordan Williams (171), Jared Williams (189) and Adam Hoppel (215). Luke Hoppel is in the consolation bracket for the Beavers at 103. Shaw, Varner and Adam Hoppel are number one seeds. Adam Hoppel is a returning OVAC champion at 215.

Oak Glen's semi-final competitors will be Justin Goneau at 103, Garrett Six (135), Steve Flowers (140), Matt Wharton (145), Derrick Stickles (171) and Ron Hebrock (189). In the consolation bracket for Bears' coach Larry Shaw are; Bill Whitehill at 215 and Joe Caughy at 275.

The Potters will have Josh Stansbury in the championship bracket at 215 and Anthony Duffield (103), Jeremy Cowan (145) and Chris Green (160) in the consolation semis. Wellsville will have Jon Arnette in the consolation bracket at 171.

Shaw said he's happy to be in contention going into the final rounds. "We're still in contention with eight wrestlers left in the tournament. The key is, there could be more, but we'll settle for eight," said Shaw. "The semis will be big, big tomorrow."

"We just have to win matches," said Shaw of his team's chances at the overall title. The Bears have claimed one overall OVAC title.

Potter coach Rich Shilling said his team had a big early round Friday, but was disappointed in

the later rounds. "We had 15 pins in the first session Friday. That just gave us a big boost. A lot of our younger kids did well in that round," said Shilling.

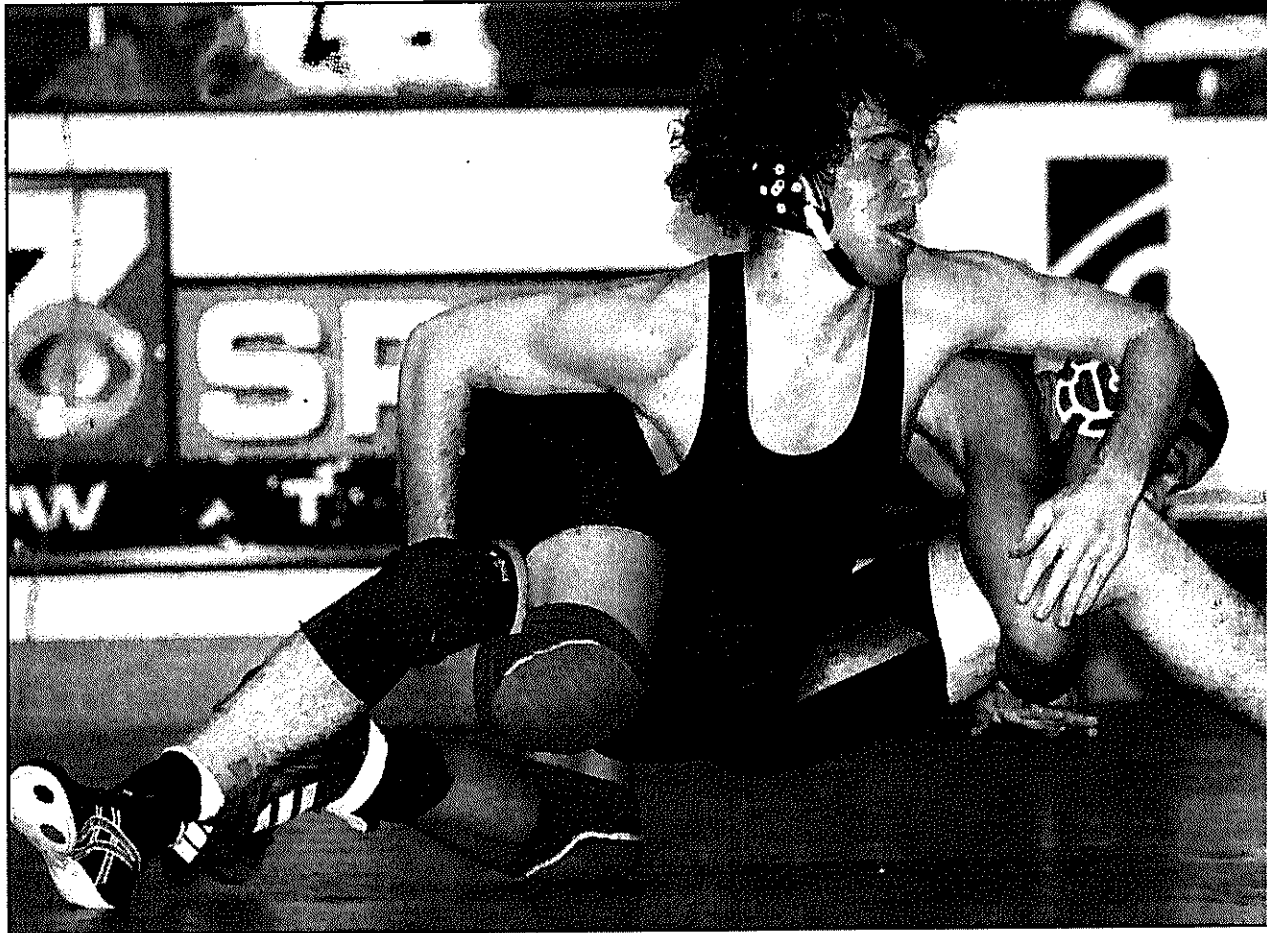
The Potter coach said the tournament trail for one of his seniors, Todd Beebout, was very cruel (at 152) and hard to accept. But Beebout battled throughout a tough bracket, just missing a shot at placing. "Our placers did alright, but I am more disappointed for Todd Beebout. Not disappointed at how he wrestled, just upset he didn't advance. He didn't have an easy match. He worked his butt off and I hate to see him not place. He's one of our leaders and it's heartbreaking to see him one or two points from placing," said Shilling.

Wright said the finals today turn to personal goals, as well as team goals. "Obviously there's still team objectives, but it's personal with individual goals, I think. If our kids take care of individual goals, we'll be right there at the end in the team standings," said Wright.

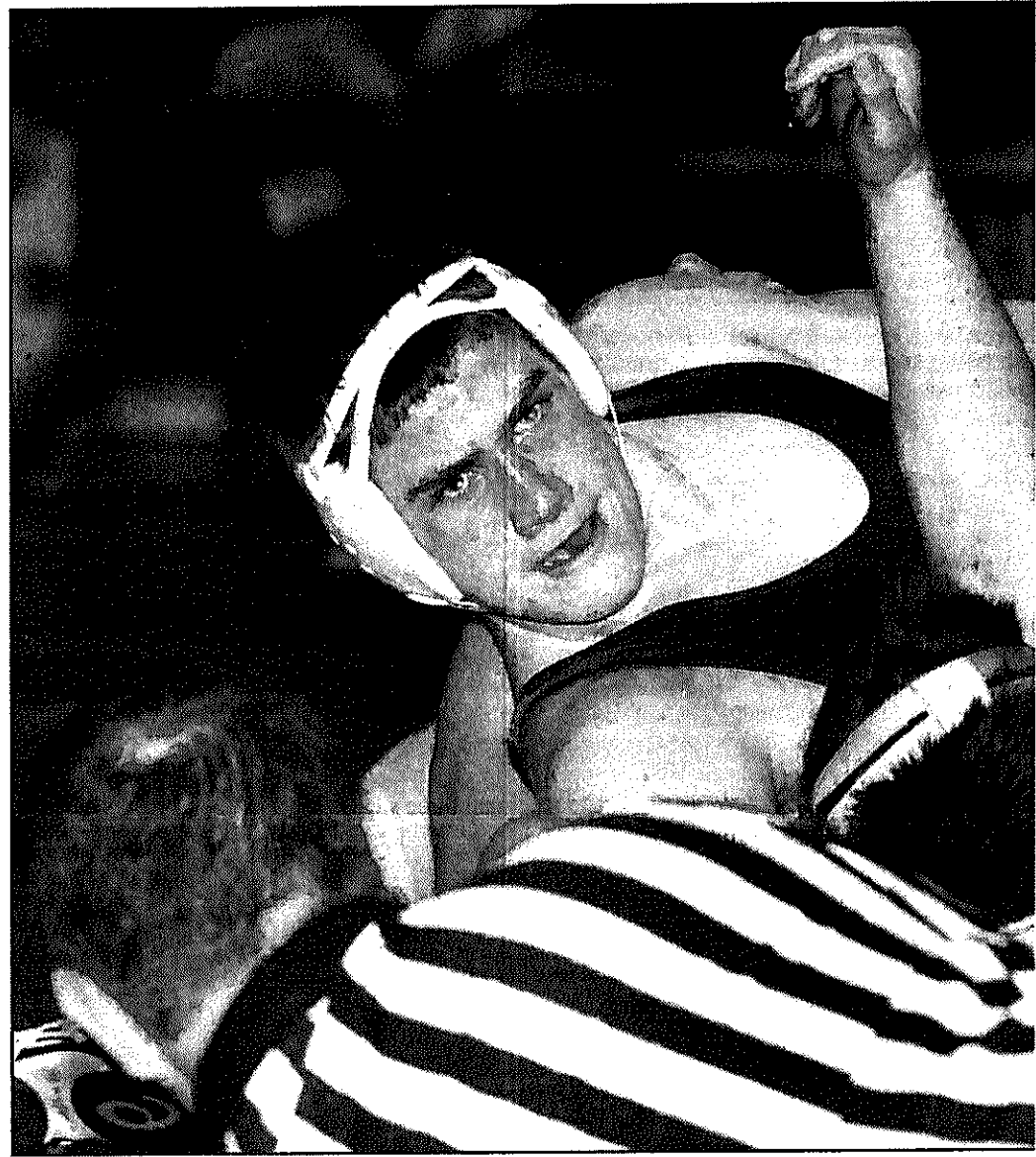
If everything goes well for a pair of upper Ohio Valley schools, one of them could walk off the stage tonight with the crown jewel — an OVAC championship. One point, one match could be the difference.

2002 OVAC Wrestling Championships - Day 2 Overall team scoring

1. Martins Ferry 135
2. John Marshall 132.5
3. Beaver Local 130.5
3. Oak Glen 130.5
5. Harrison Central 105
6. Shadyside 92
7. Cameron 91.5
8. Buckeye Local 86
9. Brooke 84
10. East Liverpool 82
11. Monroe Central 78.5
12. Indian Creek 74
13. Barnesville 69.5
14. Shenendoah 65.5
15. St. Clairsville 62
16. Meadowbrook 61
17. Wheeling Park 57
18. Union Local 53.5
19. Wellsville 53
20. Edison 52
21. Bellaire 49
22. St. John 48
23. Steubenville 47.5
24. River 40
25. Steubenville Central 39.5
26. Tyler Consolidated 32
27. Cambridge 28
28. Magnolia 27
29. Beallsville 25.5
30. Weirton Madonna 21
31. Wheeling Central 21
32. Weir 20.5
33. Wheeling Linsly 10
35. Bishop Donahue 4
36. Caldwell 0



Wellsville's Jon Arnette (top) locks with the James Lyons of Steubenville in the 171-pound class during quarterfinal Friday wrestling championships in Wheeling. Lyons managed a slim 5-4 victory to advance to the championship semis. Arnette is the Tigers' lone participant in today's consolation finals. (Photo by Missy Borders)



East Liverpool's Josh Stansbury (top) controls Magnolia's Joe Weaver in the 215-pound match Friday in the OVAC championships in Wheeling. Stansbury went on to pin Weaver to advance to today's semifinals. (Photo by Missy Borders)



East Liverpool's Anthony Duffield (top) tries to tie up Oak Glen's Justin Goneau in their 103-pound quarterfinal match Friday in the OVAC Championships. Goneau managed a technical fall over Duffield, 19-4. Photo by Missy Borders)



Beaver Local's 189-pounder Jared Williams (top) tries to take down Wheeling Park's Josh Boyd during action Friday in Wheeling. (Photo by Missy Borders)

Inside

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SUNDAY Sports

The JANUAF



OVAC WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

It's 'da Bears

Oak Glen wins OVAC overall title in classic fas

2002 OVAC Wrestling Championships

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3. John Marshall203.5
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6. Brooke127
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8. Buckeye Local119
9. Cameron107.5
10. EAST LIVERPOOL99
10. Indian Creek99
12. Monroe Central90.5
13. Barnesville	.....90
14. St. Clairsville	.....84
15. Shenandoah	.....80.5
16. Wheeling Park	.....75
17. EDISON	.....71
18. Meadowbrook	.....70
19. Union Local	.....58.5
20. St. John	.....58
21. River	.....56
21. WELLSVILLE	.....56
23. Steubenville	.....55.5
24. Bellaire	.....54
25. Steubenville Catholic	.....39.5
26. Tyler Consolidated	.....37
27. Beallsville	.....36.5
28. Weir	.....31.5
29. Cambridge	.....31
30. Magnolia	.....28
30. Weirton Madonna	.....28
32. Wheeling Central	.....21
33. Linsly	.....10
34. Bridgeport	.....6
35. Bishop Donahue	.....4
36. Caldwell	.....0
36. Conotton Valley	.....0



The overall team win was the first since 1991 for the Oak Glen Golden Bears. (Photo by Missy Borders)

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

- 103: Clay Tucker (Martins Ferry) major dec. Jon Howard (John Marshall), 14-3.
- 112: Lucas Huffman (River) dec. Josh Hoover (Beaver Local), 11-8.
- 119: John Tierney (Martins Ferry) dec. Adam Kennedy (Wheeling Park), 1-0.
- 125: Josh Johnston (Indian Creek) dec. Roscoe Larew (Beallsville), 9-3.
- 130: David Tierney (Martins Ferry) dec. Jared Hoppel (Beaver Local), 7-3.
- 135: Bill Barath (St. Clairsville) dec. Garrett Six (Oak Glen), 3-2.
- 140: Phil Bliss (Brooke) dec. Jesse Irwin (Shadyside), 7-5.
- 145: Christopher Wilson (Monroe Central) dec. Matt Wharton (Oak Glen), 5-2.
- 152: Derek George (John Marshall) dec. Derek Roth (Martins Ferry), 2-0.
- 160: David Bertolino (Buckeye Local) def. John Prokapakis (Edison), injury default.
- 171: Derrick Stuckles (Oak Glen) dec. Jordan Williams (Beaver Local), 1-0.
- 189: Chris Taylor (John Marshall) dec. Ron Hebrock (Oak Glen), 3-1.
- 215: Adam Hoppel (Beaver Local) dec. Vince Magnone (Weir), 4-3.
- 275: Jesse Wells (Shenandoah) dec. Tony Carothers (Harrison Central), 2-1.

By LARRY CLAYPOOL
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING — Twelve years is a pretty long wait. The Oak Glen wrestling team have pretty much been in the hunt for an overall team title since their first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Championship title in 1991, but getting that second title has been a real challenge.

With several very good OVAC wrestling programs, finishing atop the standings as the best overall team in a three-day tournament is very difficult. Since Oak Glen won their title in 1991, teams like Steubenville, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Park, Buckeye Local and East Liverpool have laid claim to titles. The Bears have been shut out, until now.

On Saturday, Oak Glen bested a very tough field in the 49th Annual OVAC Wrestling Championships to take the overall team title with 209.5 points. It's the second OVAC title for Larry Shaw's Bears.

In possibly one of the closest OVAC championships with at least four teams having a shot at the title going into the final day, Oak Glen did what they had to do in the final rounds to claim the title.

They also did what was necessary very late in the tournament with heavyweight Joe Caughey needing a win for Oak Glen to seal the win. The 275-pounder is used to the pressure of winning

the final match of the evening, but his teammates put him to the ultimate test on Saturday.

Caughey came up big. And so did the Bears.

Caughey needed a win in his third place match for the Bears to lay claim to the overall title. He did that, and one better. He pinned Matt Duvall of Bellaire in just 26 seconds, sending the Oak Glen faithful at the Wheeling Civic Center to their feet.

"I really didn't know whether I needed a win or a pin. I just know I needed to win," said an excited Caughey after the match. "He (Duvall) left an opening for me, so I took a shot. And it worked."

Caughey's win came just minutes after Beaver Local sophomore Adam Hoppel put the Beavers in the team lead with a big 4-3 decision in the 215 championship match. Hoppel's exciting close victory over previously undefeated Vince Magnone of Weir gave the Beavers a narrow one-half point lead over Oak Glen, 206-205.5. That was Beaver Local's first lead since they led after the first round, 48-46 over the Bears.

Oak Glen battled the Beavers to the end. John Marshall and Martins Ferry was right near the top also. Ferry led after day two with 135 points. John Marshall sat in second with 132.5 and the Bears and Beavers were tied with 130.5 each.

With the team scores so close

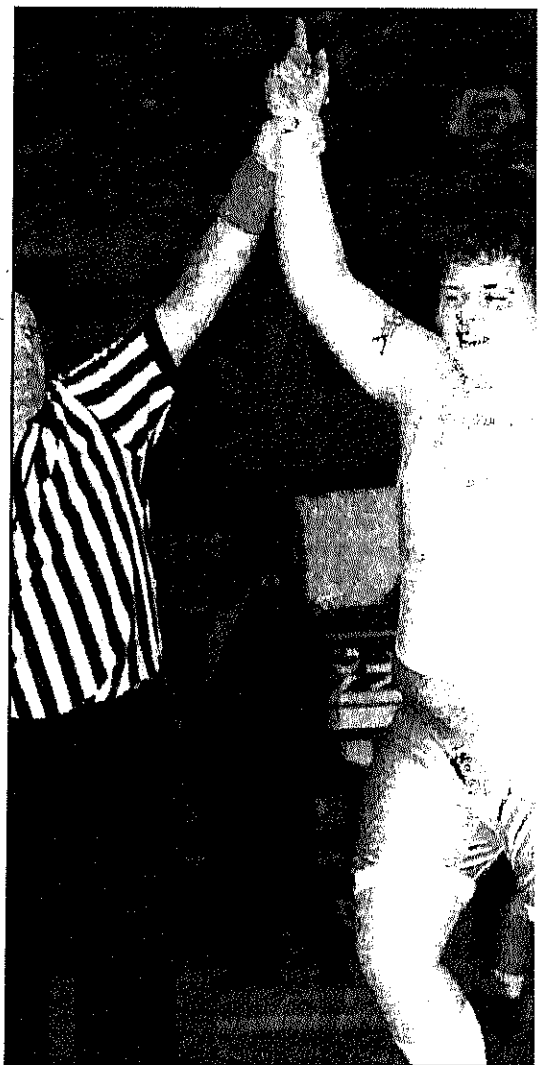
entering the final round (Oak Glen was up by four and one half points on the field), the tournament championship would be decided by wrestlers vying for individual honors. Entering the last round, Oak Glen and Beaver Local had eight wrestlers in contention. Each had four in the championship finals. The Monarchs and Purple Riders had nine wrestlers each in the final round.

Oak Glen won three matches in the final round, enough to hold on for the title. Beaver Local had four wins and four losses in the last round. John Marshall made a big push at the end with six wins in nine matches and Ferry won four matches and lost five.

Shaw said his team stayed in contention from day one and battled through each match. "We stayed in contention, that was the key. Yesterday, we hung in there, and today we did what we needed to do," said Shaw.

"In the semifinals, we had four guys get through and two guys that lost came back. That was real important," added Shaw.

Caughey's final match was important too, according to Shaw. Caughey suffered a tough loss Saturday in the quarterfinals that dropped him from contention for the 275 title. "Joey's been there before. He responded. It's hard to imagine the pressure he's under sometimes. He's really helped our team," said Shaw of his se-



Joe Caughey's third-place victory at 275-p OVAC overall team victory for the Oak Gl



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OVAC WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

It's 'da Bears

Oak Glen wins OVAC overall title in classic fashion



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The overall team win was the first since 1991 for the Oak Glen Golden Bears. (Photo by Missy Borders)

By LARRY CLAYPOOL
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING — Twelve years is a pretty long wait. The Oak Glen wrestling team have pretty much been in the hunt for an overall team title since their first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Championship title in 1991, but getting that second title has been a real challenge.

With several very good OVAC wrestling programs, finishing atop the standings as the best overall team in a three-day tournament is very difficult. Since Oak Glen won their title in 1991, teams like Steubenville, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Park, Buckeye Local and East Liverpool have laid claim to titles. The Bears have been shut out, until now.

On Saturday, Oak Glen bested a very tough field in the 49th Annual OVAC Wrestling Championships to take the overall team title with 209.5 points. It's the second OVAC title for Larry Shaw's Bears.

In possibly one of the closest OVAC championships with at least four teams having a shot at the title going into the final day, Oak Glen did what they had to do in the final rounds to claim the title.

They also did what was necessary very late in the tournament with heavyweight Joe Caughey needing a win for Oak Glen to seal the win. The 275-pounder is used to the pressure of winning

the final match of the evening, but his teammates put him to the ultimate test on Saturday.

Caughey came up big. And so did the Bears.

Caughey needed a win in his third place match for the Bears to lay claim to the overall title. He did that, and one better. He pinned Matt Duvall of Bellaire in just 26 seconds, sending the Oak Glen faithful at the Wheeling Civic Center to their feet.

"I really didn't know whether I needed a win or a pin. I just know I needed to win," said an excited Caughey after the match. "He (Duvall) left an opening for me, so I took a shot. And it worked."

Caughey's win came just minutes after Beaver Local sophomore Adam Hoppel put the Beavers in the team lead with a big 4-3 decision in the 215 championship match. Hoppel's exciting close victory over previously undefeated Vince Magnone of Weir gave the Beavers a narrow one-half point lead over Oak Glen, 206-205.5. That was Beaver Local's first lead since they led after the first round, 48-46 over the Bears.

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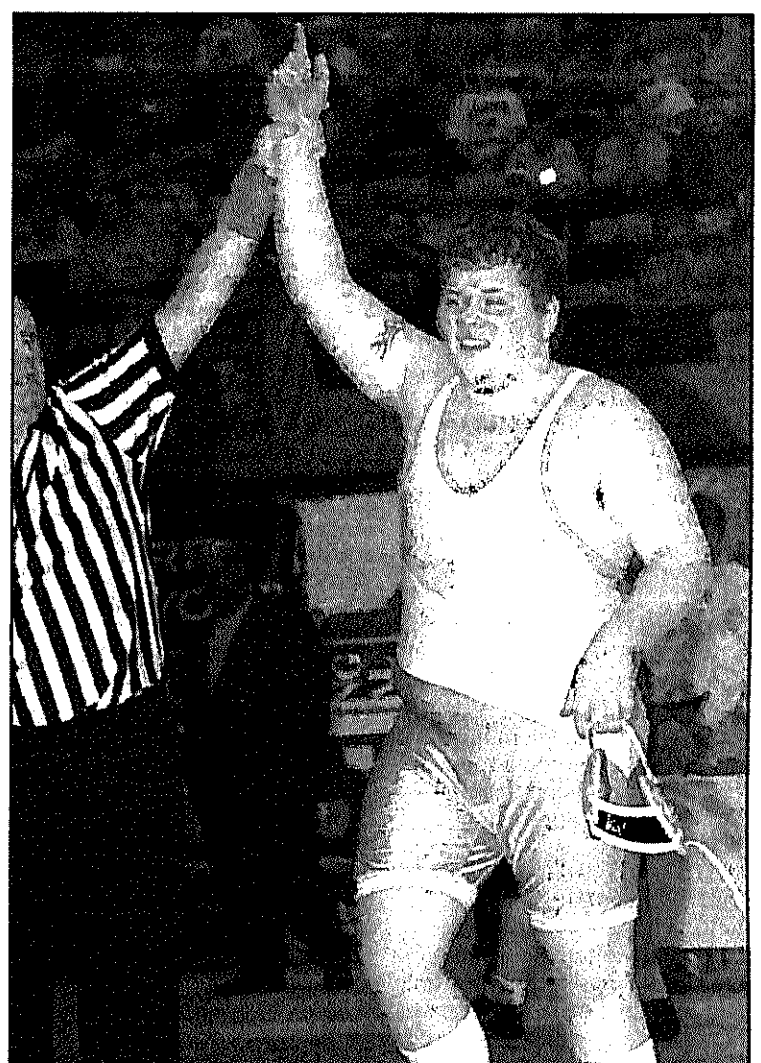
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Joe Caughey's third-place victory at 275-pounds sealed the OVAC overall team victory for the Oak Glen Golden Bears. (Photo by Missy Borders)

See OVAC, Page 3B

OVAC mat tourney draws 37 schools



By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's that time of year again. Time for the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's giant wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Set to get under way on Thursday, this year's tournament's the 49th in the history of the conference and from all indication should be equally entertaining.

Thirty-seven schools and close to 500 wrestlers will take part in this year's tournament along with four defending champions and the overall team champ from a year ago, East Liverpool.

Action gets started on Thursday with opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. and finishes up on Saturday with the championship bouts getting under way at 6:30 p.m.

A quick look at the top seeds heading into Thursday's opening round gives all indication that this year's tourney will be wide open. Ten different schools have placed

top-seeded wrestlers in this year's tournament with only Beaver Local, with three, and John Marshall and Martins Ferry, with two each, getting multiple top spots.

Beaver Local has the most top seeded wrestlers, two of whom are underclassmen. Senior Jon Varner is the top seed at 135 pounds and enters his final OVAC tourney with an 11-2 mark.

Two underclassmen representing the Fighting Beavers as top seeds are sophomore Adam Hoppel, a 215-pound sophomore with a 14-2 record and Jeremy Shaw, a sophomore with a 9-6 record at 145. Hoppel gained the top seed over Weir senior Vince Magnone, who enters the tourney with a perfect 18-0 mark. Magnolia's 15-1 record Joe Weaver is the third seed at 215.

Varner's another Beaver Local grappler who gained a top seed over an unbeaten wrestler as he edged out St. Clairsville's Billy Barath.

See, OVAC, Page 6B

THE INTELLIGENCER - Wheeling, W. Va. - Friday, January 18, 2002

Meet

(Continued from Page 19)

George goes into second round action today against Magnolia's Darrin King, who pinned St. Clairsville's Jake Becker in 3:48.

The road will get tougher for the two stars, but not as tough as their opponents, who have the daunting task of battling one of two wrestlers who are defending champions.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 19)

The Beavers have the most No. 1 seeds entering the event, while Martins Ferry, which won the tournament two years in a row prior to East Liverpool's recent run, has seven seeded wrestlers.

John Marshall, which last won the overall title in 1983 under Coach Ed Dugas, has nine seeded

wrestlers.

Just one top seed comes into the tournament with an unblemished mark. That's Kupfer, who has won all of his 17 matches this winter and is the only single-A wrestler seeded at 160 pounds.

There are other activities planned besides wrestling. Awards honoring the junior varsity and jun-

ior high wrestling coaches of the year will take place on Friday night.

The Mr. Mat Award is also scheduled during Saturday evening's festivities.

Also Saturday night, the OVAC champions from 1977 will be seated in a special area on the main floor.

Jr. High Coach of the Year



Ted Zervos, right, John Marshall High School assistant wrestling coach, was named the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year during the OVAC's annual wrestling tournament last week at the Wheeling Civic Center. Zervos, who is in his seventh year as JMHS assistant wrestling coach, is shown being presented with a plaque by JMHS head wrestling coach Ed West.

Photo by Jim Cochran



Exciting Finish Expected Today

Less than five points separate top four; Cameron locks up Class A championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

It's anybody's tournament to win. Well, not exactly anybody's. But Martins Ferry, John Marshall, Beaver Local and Oak Glen are neck-and-neck heading into the third and final day of the 49th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The Purple Riders, who won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999, lead the four-team pack with 135 points. That's 2 1/2 more than the Monarchs and 4 1/2 ahead of Beavers and Golden Bears.

Harrison Central stands a distant fifth with 105 markers.

Of the top four, Beaver Local, which has never won the prestigious Ohio Valley event, has the most semifinalists with seven. Martins Ferry and Oak Glen have six wrestlers still alive for individual honors, while John Marshall has four.

"All four teams are good quality teams," said the Purple Riders' head coach Babe Sidon. "I thought coming in that Beaver Local probably had the best chance, but I don't think there's been four teams this close entering the final day."

Top-seeded Clay Tucker (103) and David Tierney (130) have led the way for the Purple Riders. Tucker, just a freshman flyweight and cousin of former Ferry standouts Bobby and Lamont, bumped his record to 17-2. Tierney, who finished third at 125 a year ago, is now 19-2.

Others Ferry wrestlers still alive for championships are John Tierney (119), Mike Jones (125), Corey Smith (135) and defending champion Derek Roth (152), who is 18-3 and seeded No. 2 behind John Marshall's Derek George.

"There's some pressure on me," admitted Roth.

"But I've got a couple of losses already under my belt, so that lessens the pressure some. I just take one match at a time."

John Marshall, which hasn't been in the title hunt for some years now, has been led by defending titlist George and top-seeded Chris Taylor (189). In addition to those two, second-seeded Jon Howard (103) and Mike Fasouletos (119) are still alive.

Wheeling Central's Jon Gordon becomes the Maroon Knights' first OVAC placewinner since 1989.



"It's been awhile since we've been here," said JM head coach Ed West. "It's a tribute to a lot of experience with our seniors. They've improved every year."

West said he likes his team's chances despite only having four wrestlers in the semis.

"We've got to come through in the consolations because Beaver Local and Martins Ferry have a lot of kids in the semis."

Beaver Local, under the direction of head coach Rich Wright, is led by top seeds Jon Varner (135), Jeremy Shaw (145) and defending champion Adam Hoppel (215), who is just a sophomore but knows a lot about the sport.

"My dad (Carl) was a three-time Ohio state champion at Lisbon Beaver Local. My one uncle was a two-time Ohio state champion at East Liverpool and I have another uncle who won one Ohio state title at East Liverpool," he noted.

The soft-spoken Hoppel said he feels the pressure of being a defending champion, but that's what he expects. "If I don't win, then I'm not doing very good."

Other Beavers still in the championship bracket include Josh Hoover (112), Hoppel's cousin Jared (130), Jordan Williams (171) and Jared Williams (189).

Oak Glen, which won the event back in 1991, has been paced by top-seed Derek Stickles (171). Other Golden Bears still in search of a title are Justin Goneau (103), Garrett Six (135), Steve Flowers (140), Matt Wharton (145) and Ron Hebrock (189).

Please See OVAC, Page 21



OVAC Mat Tourney Unfolds

There will be six returning champions taking the mats today when the 49th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament unfolds at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The tournament, the largest of its kind in the United States, will get underway with the opening ceremonies tonight at 6 p.m. and the matches beginning at 6:30 p.m. with preliminaries.

Second round championship division and first and second round consolations will take place beginning at 11 a.m. Friday.

The returning champs, several of which will be competing in different weight classes, are East Liverpool's Jake Bates, Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy, Martins Ferry's Derek Roth, John Marshall's Derek George, Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel and Shenandoah's Jesse Wells.

Only two underclassmen are among this group, with Bates being a junior and Hoppel being a sophomore.

They'll kick off a night of wrestling that will feature 304 matches on eight mats.

Perhaps the most interesting of weight classes will be 152 pounds, where there are two defending champions stationed.

The Monarchs' George won this weight class in last year's tournament, while Ferry's Roth claimed the 140-pound crown, but moved up two classes for this year's competition.

Wells, the Zeps' powerful 275-pounder, takes a 15-1 record in search of his second straight OVAC crown, but he'll have to do it out of the No. 2 spot. The top-seeded heavyweight is Cambridge's Michael Price.

Other top seeds are Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker (103), River's Lucas Huffman (112), Park's Kennedy (119), Indian Creek's Josh Johnston (125), Martins Ferry's David Tierney (130), Beaver Local's Jon Varner (135), Shadyside's Jesse Irwin (140), Beaver Local's Jeremy Shaw (145), Cameron's Roger Kupfer (160), Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (171), John Marshall's Chris Taylor (189) and Beaver Local's Hoppel (215).

Please See OVAC, Page 21

OVAC

(Continued from Page 19)

Only one No. 1 seed and a pair of No. 2s didn't survive Friday's action, while three unseeded wrestlers have advanced to the semis.

Cambridge's top-seeded heavyweight Michael Price, a runnerup to Shenandoah's Jesse Wells last year, was stunned by Bellaire's Matt Duvall in 3:06 of their quarterfinal bout.

Duvall, who entered the event seeded seventh with a 11-4 record, avenged a loss to the Bobcat performer.

"He caught me then. I caught him tonight."

He said the difference in the matches was that "I came out with a mindset tonight that nobody was going to stop me," Duvall said.

Wells, who was looking forward to a rematch with Price, said that he knew there would be a lot of pressure directed at him. "I know that there are a lot of people out there

gunning for me, but I just have to go out and wrestle like I have to beat everyone."

The last of the five defending champions looking for as repeat is Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy at 119 pounds. After a pair of lightning-quick pins in his first two matches, the senior found the going a bit tougher in the quarterfinals against Buckeye Local's John Petrozzi.

However, using a first-period takedown, Kennedy pulled out a 2-0 victory.

"I was sick the entire match," he said afterwards.

"I ate before the match, and I shouldn't have."

Is there any pressure on him to defend his title?

"Pressure can go either way," he said.

"There's a lot of pressure to win because you already have before, but then again that takes some of the pressure off because I already

have a title."

He said there was more pressure on him to win last year because his brother Derek was also crowned a champion.

Making a bit of history was Wheeling Central 189-pounder Jonathan Gordon. After a tough 5-4 loss to St. Clairsville's Adam Snyder, the No. 4 seed, in the quarters, the Maroon Knight standout pinned his way to a medal performance, with his fall over Wheeling Park's Josh Boyd making him the first place-winner for Wheeling Central since 1989.

Ironically, his dad Gordon "Charles" Gordon will be honored tonight as a 25-year champion, having won the heavyweight title at John Marshall in 1977.

Today's action gets under way at noon with semifinal bouts. Consolation matches will be run throughout the afternoon, with the championship finals slated to begin at 6:30 p.m.

OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

The Red Devil senior enters with a 12-0 mark. Brooke's David Durbin is seeded third at 19-1.

At 145, Shaw has the top seed while Oak Glen's Matt Wharton is seeded second with a 15-2 record and Shadyside sophomore Bobby Samsa is the third seed at 13-1.

Martins Ferry's top seeds will vie in the 103 and 130 weight classes as freshman Clay Tucker is seeded first in the lighter weight and senior David Tierney at 130.

Tucker, just a freshman, has put together a 12-2 mark in his first year and is seeded ahead of John Marshall's Jon Howard, a senior at 17-2, and third seed Anthony Valles, a sophomore at 20-1.

Tierney, a third place finisher a year ago at 125, jumped up to 130 and gained the top seed with a sparkling 14-2 mark. Barnesville's Jason Lucas is the second seed with his 4-1 record while Beaver Local junior Jared Hoppel is seeded third with a 10-3 mark. Harrison Central's talented freshman Vic Bologna is seeded fourth with a 15-1 record.

John Marshall has a pair of seniors holding onto the top seeds for the Monarchs. Derek George has the top spot at 152 with his 19-1 mark while Martins Ferry senior Derek Roth is settled in at the second spot with a 13-3 record. The third seed at 152 is Cameron senior Tucker Brown with an 11-3 record.

Chris Taylor of John Marshall has the top seed at 189 with his sparkling 19-1 record. Gaining the second seed was Oak Glen's Ron Hebrock, a senior at 14-3. Beaver's Jared Williams is seeded third with a 10-4 mark.

At 112, River's Lucas Huffman gained the top seed by way of his 15-1 season record. The Pilot junior edged out Harrison Central's unbeaten Jesse Emery, a sophomore at 12-0. Beaver has another high seed at 112 with Josh Hoover seeded third with an 11-4 mark.

Wheeling Park's lone top seed comes in at 119 pounds in the person of senior Adam Kennedy with a 13-3 record. Martins Ferry's John Tierney is second with his 14-4 record while Shadyside has the third seed in Kyle Glasser, a senior at 12-1.

Indian Creek will bring the top seeded wrestler at 125 pounds with junior Josh Johnston taking an 18-3 mark. Second seeded at 125 is Brooke's Brandon Shaw, a sophomore at 10-1 and seeded third is Barnesville junior Jarrod Anderson, at 10-2.

Shadyside's Jesse Irwin is the top seed at 140. Just a sophomore, Irwin leads the class with a 13-1 season mark. Brooke junior Phil Bliss is seeded second with an 18-2 record while Oak Glen's defending state champion Steve Flowers is seeded third with a 13-3 record.

At 160, the competition gets tight with Cameron's unbeaten senior Roger Kupfer gaining the top seed with a 14-0 mark. Buckeye Local's David Bertolino is seeded second as a junior with a 20-1 record. Seeded third is Ed'son's

John Prokapak's who's taking a 16-3 record into his final OVAC tourney.

At 171, the tourney's only other unbeaten top seed is Derrick Stickle of Oak Glen. Stickle, a West Virginia state champion, is taking a 16-0 mark into the tourney. Seeded second is Beaver Local's Jordan Williams, a junior at 6-0. Seeded third is Harrison Central's Eric Spitznogle, a senior with a 12-0 mark.

In the tournament's most competitive weight class, Cambridge's Michael Price has garnered the top seed with his 5-0 season mark. Shenandoah's Jesse Wells, another heavyweight standout seeded second at 15-1 and Oak Glen's Joe Caughey's third with his 13-2 record.

East Liverpool comes in as the defending team champion and will be shooting for a third straight overall title having won in 2000 and 2001. The prior two champions, Martins Ferry and Buckeye Local, were also back-to-back champions.

Oak Glen finished second overall with Martins Ferry third and Beaver Local fourth. While the Potters were crowned at Class 4-A champions, Oak Glen swept to the Class 3-A title, Barnesville was the 2-A kingpin and Cameron won yet another Class 1-A title.

Defending champions returning to attempt to make another trip to the top of the winners stand are Park's Kennedy at 119, Martins Ferry's Roth, a champ at 140 now competing at 152 and JM's George, back at 152. Adam Hoppel was a champion last year at 215 as just a freshman and Shenandoah's Wells was the 275 champ.

Runnersup from a year ago that back again are Beaver's Josh Hoover, EL's Varner, Monroe Central's Christopher Wilson, Buckeye's Bertolino, Wier's Magnone, Cambridge's Price and Oak Glen's Stickle.

As part of the tournament festivities will be the announcement of the Dave Bierkorette Award, won last year by Beaver Local's Cole Bowersock, the Mr. Mat Award, given last year to Wheeling's William McEldowney.

Tickets for the event are set at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students per session. Advance tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students for the full five sessions. Single championship match tickets are \$7.00 and \$4.00.

Action gets under way at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday with prelims and first round bouts. On Friday, the 11 a.m. session will include second round and first and second round consolations. At 5 p.m. on Friday, quarterfinals along with fourth and fifth round consolations get under way.

On Saturday, noon will be the start time for semi-finals, and fifth round and semi-final consolations.

Championship finals and consolation matches for third, fifth and seventh places starts on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Beaver Local takes early lead in mat tourney

The nation's largest high school wrestling tournament got under way Thursday evening as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's 49th annual tournament kicked off at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Beaver Local, who entered the tournament with the most top seeded wrestlers, got out to the early lead after the opening session, scoring 48 points. Not far behind the Beavers is defending state West Virginia champion Oak Glen, which closed the first round with 46.5 points.

The Beavers and Golden Bears are also leading 4-A and 3-A, respectively. Shadyside, after a strong opening round, heads 2-A with 34 points. Cameron, a traditional power at the OVAC, leads the conference's smallest class with 34 markers.

Two-time defending champions East Liverpool got out of the gates slowly and tallied just 19 points in the opening round.

All of the top seeds survived their opening round matches and most won without much stress.

The Beavers watched their three top seeds all move into the second round by virtue of pin falls. Sophomore Adam Hoppel, the defending champion at 215 pounds pinned Wellsville's Brian Fisher in 1:03. Jon Varner (135) and Jeremy Shaw (145) both won by pin in impressive fashion.

Martins Ferry, which ended the opening day with 37.5 points, saw both of its two top seeds prevail in the opening round.

Freshman Clay Tucker earned a tech fall at 103 pounds and senior David Tierney was a victor via pin at 130 pounds.

The Riders' two second seeds also enjoyed strong showings. Seniors John Tierney (119) and Derek Roth (152) both won with pinfalls. Roth is the defending champion at 140.

Roth is on a collision course to meet John Marshall's top seed Derek George who won the OVAC title a season ago at 152.

Coach John Haswell's Tigers, who appear to be a team to watch all weekend in 2-A, got off to a good start.

The Orange's top seed prevailed in convincing form when Jesse Irwin recorded a pin at 1:17 in 145 pounds.

River junior Lucas Huffman, who is the top seed at 112 pounds, opened his quest for an OVAC title with an impressive showing. He won via pin in 1:48.

The first round did not produce any major upsets, but three of the eight seeds fell in the opening round at 130 pounds.

The highest seed to fall in the weight class was Monroe Central's Clayton Benedict, who dropped a tough 6-4 decision to Indian Creek's John Lucas.

Beallsville's Mike Aberegg, the number six seed at 130, fell to Buckeye Local's Albert Phillips.

The highest seed of the tournament to drop an opening round decision was John Marshall's John Wells who fell 7-3 to Edison's Chris Fankhauser.

All of the defending champions won easily. The aforementioned Hoppel and Roth were impressive, as was Wheeling Park senior Derek Kennedy.

The opening round did not take as long as some might think thanks in large part to the number of pins recorded.

A total of 123 matches were decided via pins. The most came at 160 pounds where all but one match was decided by a pin. Of those pins, 36 were recorded within the match's opening minute.

Cameron's Josh Whipkey recorded the tourney's fastest pin thus far when he held down the shoulders of Magnolia's John Mayfield in nine seconds.

The tournament continued today at noon with the second round and opening of consolation bracket.

Today's second session gets under way at 7 p.m. with the championship quarterfinals and more consolation action.

Saturday's wrestling is set to begin at 11 a.m. when the championship semifinals begin. The finals will start at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

TEAM SCORING

Overall — Beaver Local, 48; Oak Glen, 46.5; John Marshall, 43; Martins Ferry, 37.5; Shadyside, Cameron, 34; Barnesville, 30; Harrison Central, 29; Buckeye Local, 27; St. Clairsville, 24.

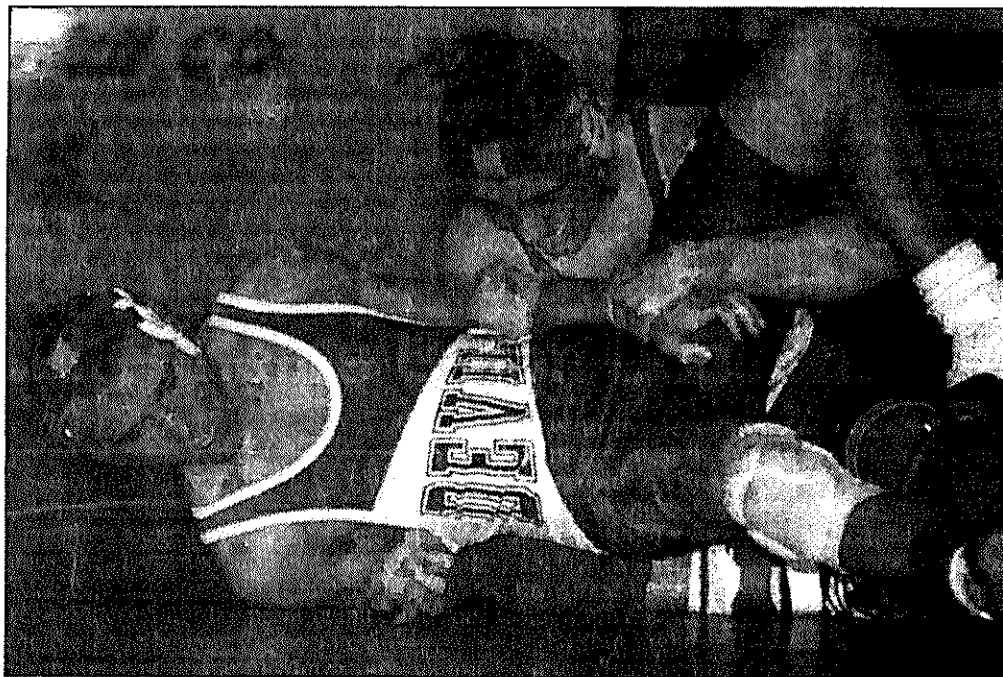
4-A — Beaver Local, 48; John Marshall, 43; Buckeye Local, 27; Brooke, 22.5; East Liverpool, 19; Wheeling Park, 18; Steubenville, 15.5; Weirton, 11.5; Edison, 9.5; Cambridge, 8.

3-A — Oak Glen, 46.5; Martins Ferry, 37.5; Barnesville, 30; Harrison Central, 29; St. Clairsville, 24; Union Local, 17; Shenandoah, 16; Bellaire, 15; Indian Creek, 15; Magnolia, 12; Meadowbrook, 11; Tyler Consolidated, 8.

2-A — Shadyside, 34; Monroe Central, 22; Steubenville Central, 13; Wellsville, 12; River, 11; Wheeling Central, 7.

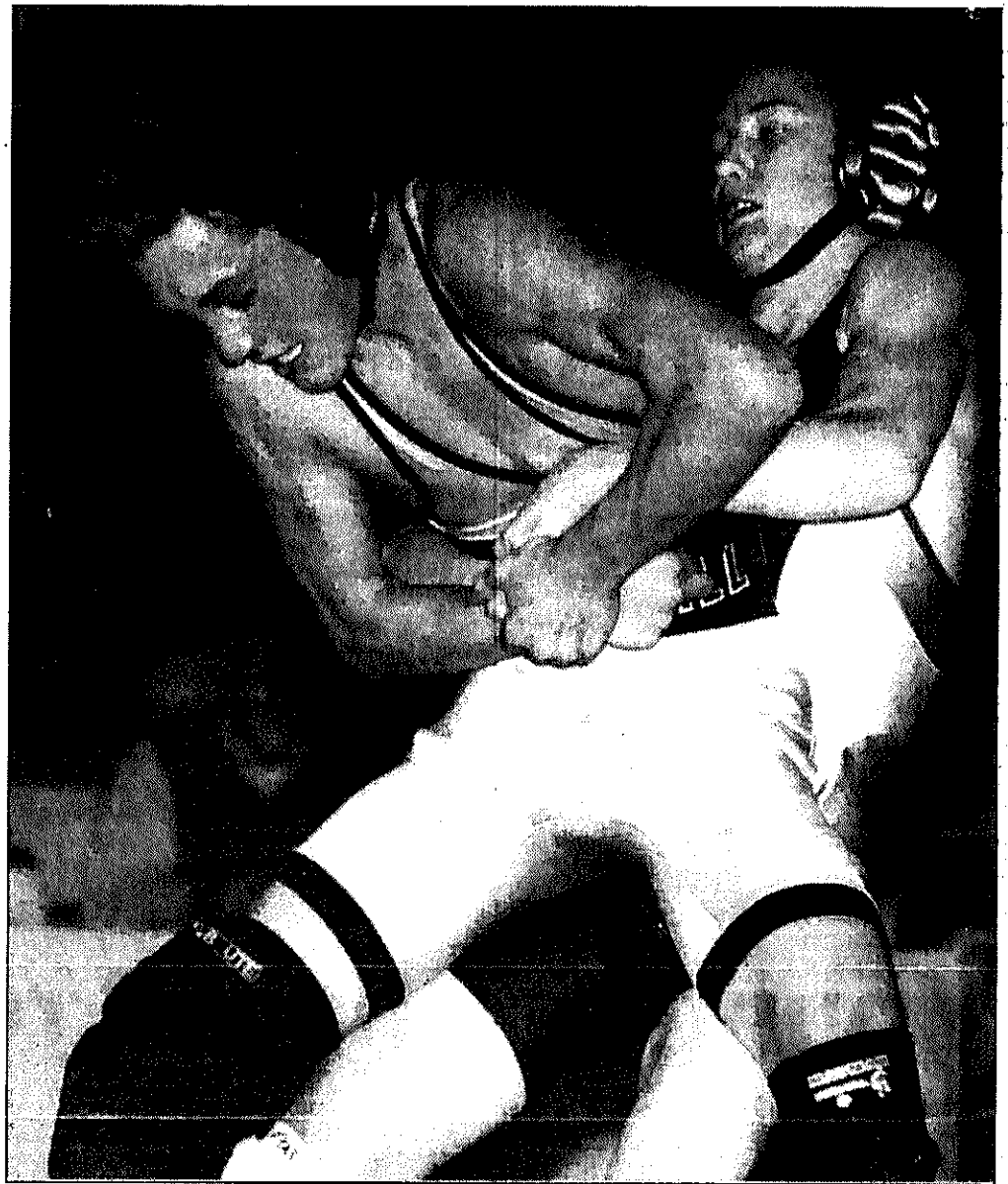
1-A — Cameron, 34; St. John Central, 17; Weir Madonna, 8; Beallsville, 5.5; Linsly, 4.





T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

INDIAN CREEK'S Josh Johnston (top) tries to roll Beallsville's Bubba LaRew to his back during the 125-pound championship match Saturday in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Johnston grabbed the OVAC Crown by decision.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

MARTINS FERRY freshman Clay Tucker (behind) takes John Marshall's Jon Howard to the mat during the 103-pound championship match. Tucker took home the OVAC Crown with a decision.

OVAC

Continued from page 1C

St. John Central finished second with 58 points.

Martins Ferry, which finished fourth overall and second in 3-A, enjoyed a very strong tournament in leading the local contingent.

"This was an outstanding tournament," said Ferry head coach Babe Sidon. "I don't think anyone thought the title would come down to four teams with so little margin between them. We came to wrestle tonight, but we just came up a little short."

The first championship of the tournament came at 103 pounds when Martins Ferry freshman Clay Tucker handed John Marshall's John Howard a decisive 14-3 setback.

The win improved Tucker to 19-2 on the season. This is a repeat decision for Tucker who knocked off Howard earlier in the season.

"The hard practices have paid off. I take beatings in practice every day and all the hard tournaments we go are paying off," Tucker said.

Coach Sidon's Riders racked up another title at 119 pounds when the first of the Tierney terrors took the mat.

Senior standout John Tierney, the tournament's second seed, gained his first OVAC title of his career at 119 pounds.

The three-time state qualifier added the OVAC championship to his resume by virtue of a 1-0 win over Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy.

The win allowed Tierney to improve his record to 21-4.

Tierney scored a neutral position to earn the only point of the match. He was able to hold Kennedy's rally off down the final stretch of the match.

"This is a huge honor. I have gotten second twice and third at this tournament. It was about time I can break through and win this," Tierney said. "We really push each other and are like a big family in this program."

The Purple flexed its muscle once again at 130 pounds when the other half of the Tierney terrors made his number one seed stand up.

Senior ace David Tierney registered a key victory for the Riders' team title hopes when he earned a 6-3 decision over Beaver Local's Jared Hoppel.

Tierney grabbed the early lead and never looked back in the match.

"I knew coming in that 130 pounds is a tough weight class with a lot of competition, but that motivated me to get to the top of the podium," Tierney said. "This is a great feeling to win this tournament. I really don't know what to say."

The Tierneys became just the third set of brothers to win OVAC titles in the same meet.

The fourth Ferry finalist came at 152 pounds when last year's 145 pound cham-

Huffman gained his 100th of his career with his semifinal victory and added 101 in the title match.

"This is the greatest feeling ever," an elated Huffman said. "It is just amazing to win this title. I was confident and I knew he was a good wrestler, but I thought I could pull out the win."

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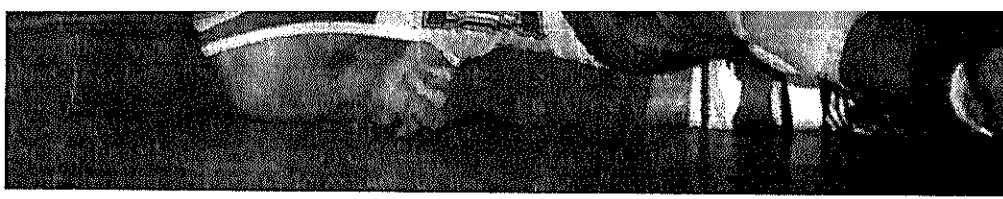
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T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

INDIAN CREEK'S Josh Johnston (top) tries to roll Beallsville's Bubba Larew to his back during the 125-pound championship match Saturday in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Johnston grabbed the OVAC Crown by decision.

OVAC

Continued from page 1C

St. John Central finished second with 58 points.

Martins Ferry, which finished fourth overall and second in 3-A, enjoyed a very strong tournament in leading the local contingent.

"This was an outstanding tournament," said Ferry head coach Babe Sidon. "I don't think anyone thought the title would come down down to four teams with so little margin between them. We came to wrestle tonight, but we just came up a little short."

The first championship of the tournament came at 103 pounds when Martins Ferry freshman Clay Tucker handed John Marshall's John Howard a decisive 14-3 setback.

The win improved Tucker to 19-2 on the season. This is a repeat decision for Tucker who knocked off Howard earlier in the season.

"The hard practices have paid off. I take beatings in practice every day and all the hard tournaments we go are paying off," Tucker said.

Coach Sidon's Riders racked up another title at 119 pounds when the first of the Tierney terrors took the mat.

Senior standout John Tierney, the tournament's second seed, gained his first OVAC title of his career at 119 pounds.

The three-time state qualifier added the OVAC championship to his resume by virtue of a 1-0 win over Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy.

The win allowed Tierney to improve his record to 21-4.

Tierney scored a neutral position to earn the only point of the match. He was able to hold Kennedy's rally off down the final stretch of the match.

"This is a huge honor. I have gotten second twice and third at this tournament. It was about time I can break through and win this," Tierney said. "We really push each other and are like a big family in this program."

The Purple flexed its muscle once again at 130 pounds when the other half of the Tierney terrors made his number one seed stand up.

Senior ace David Tierney registered a key victory for the Riders' team title hopes when he earned a 6-3 decision over Beaver Local's Jared Hoppel.

Tierney grabbed the early lead and never looked back in the match.

"I knew coming in that 130 pounds is a tough weight class with a lot of competition, but that motivated me to get to the top of the podium," Tierney said. "This is a great feeling to win this tournament. I really don't know what to say."

The Tierneys became just the third set of brothers to win OVAC titles in the same meet.

The fourth Ferry finalist came at 152 pounds when last year's 145 pound champion Derek Roth met last season's 152-pound winner Derek George of John Marshall.

The title match lived up to its billing and was a dandy from the outset.

George scored an early takedown and grabbed the 2-0 lead, which held up for the remainder of the match.

Efforts by Roth down the stretch to grab the Monarch's legs for a takedown were fruitless and George was able to hang on for the repeat win.

The rest of the immediate area also had a strong showing at the OVAC tournament.

River gained its only champion of the tournament at 112 pounds when junior dandy Lucas Huffman fought off a strong effort from Beaver Local's Josh Hoover.

Huffman jumped out to an early lead, but saw Hoover rally back and knot the match at eight. The Pilots' 11th grader rattled off the match's final three points for an 11-8 win and the OVAC title.

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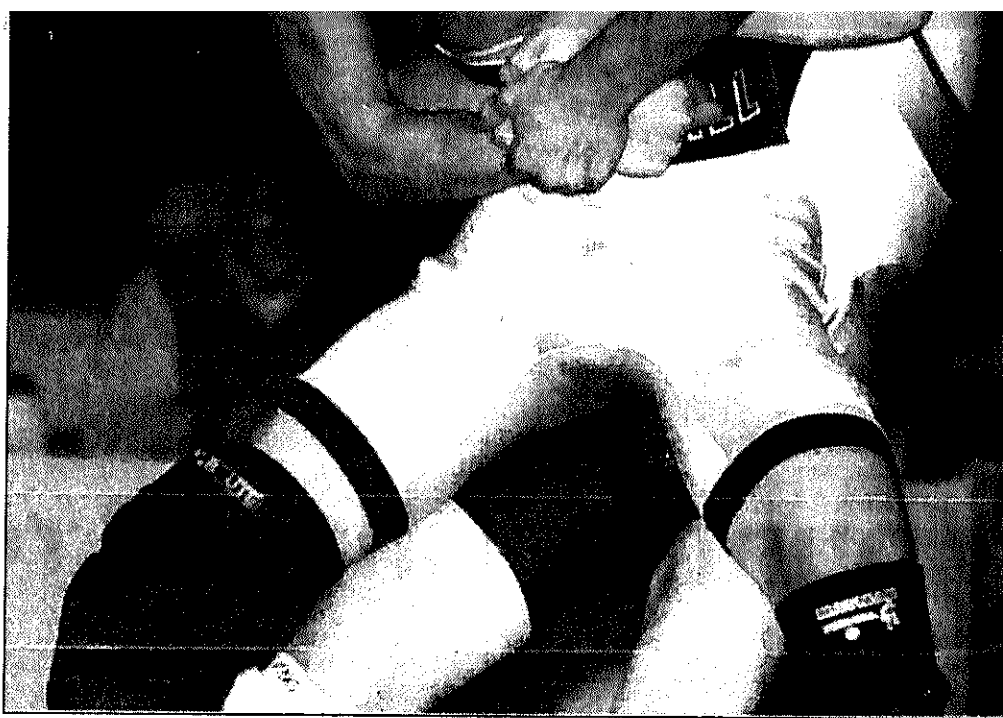
Brooke's Phil Bliss picked up the OVAC title at 140 pounds when he decisioned top-seeded Jesse Irwin of Shadyside.

Irwin got out to an early lead, but Bliss tallied with a flurry and was able to hang on for the title.

A match which went a long way in helping the Golden Bears wrap up the team title was at 171 pounds when senior standout Derrick Stickle handed Beaver Local's Jordan Williams a hard-fought 1-0 setback.

Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel won his second consecutive OVAC title at 215 pounds. He used a late flurry to decision previously unbeaten Vince Magnone of Weirton.

The sophomore standout, whose dad won three state titles in high school, tallied a 4-3 decision.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

MARTINS FERRY freshman Clay Tucker (behind) takes John Marshall's Jon Howard to the mat during the 103-pound championship match. Tucker took home the OVAC Crown with a decision.

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189 -- Jared Williams (Beaver) dec. Adam Snyder (St.C), 5-3.
215 -- Josh Stansbury (EL) pinned Chris Fankhauser (Ed), 3:34.
275 -- Joe Caughney (OG) pinned Matt DuVall (Bell), :26.

FIFTH-SIXTH

103 -- Luke Hoppel (Beav) pinned Jordan Seidler (MC), 2:18.
112 -- Ben Cain (Meadow) pinned Chris Troyan (MF), 2:38.
119 -- Scott Campbell (HC) dec. Jonathan McFarland (Brk), 11-6.
125 -- Jarrod Anderson (Barnes) dec. Mike Jones (MF), 4-0.
130 -- Shawn Fullerton (Cam) dec. Jason Lucas (Barnes), 4-2.
135 -- Ryan Ferguson (MC) dec. Cory Smith (MF), 3-1.
140 -- Chris Case (SJC) dec. Jason Peddicord

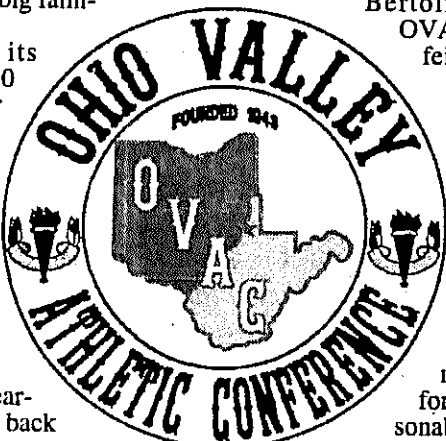
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140 -- Jesse Irwin (Shady) dec. Kellen Hughes (IC), 7-1; Phil Bliss (B) dec. Steve Flowers (OG), 4-1.
145 -- Christopher Wilson (MC) dec. Jeremy Shaw (Beav), 5-4; Matt Wharton (OG) pinned Brock Bowman (BL), 5:10.
152 -- Derek George (JM) dec. Chad Snider (TC), 9-2; Derek Roth (MF) dec. Tucker Brown (C), 7-2.
160 -- John Prokakis (E) won by disqualification over Roger Kupfer (C); David Bertolino (BL) pinned Robbie Dimmerling (MC), 4:51.
171 -- Derrick Stickle (OG) dec. James Lyons (Steub), 7-2; Jordan Williams (Beav) dec. Eric Spitznogle (HC), 5-4.
189 -- Chris Talyor (JM) dec. Adam Snyder (STC), 10-8; Ronnie Hebrock (OG) dec. Jerry Williams (Beav), 3-1.
215 -- Adam Hoppel (Beav) tech fall over Chris Fankhauser (E), 20-5; Vince Magnone (Weir) dec. Josh Stansbury (EL), 3-2.
275 -- Tony Carruthers (HC) pinned Matt DuVall (Bell), 3:46; Jesse Wells (Shen) dec. Koel Davia (UL), 3-2 TB.



Pete Cuffaro - a True Friend to Ohio Valley Wrestling

Peter L. Cuffaro has been a friend of Ohio Valley wrestling for over two decades. The 2002 OVAC souvenir wrestling program was dedicated to Pete Cuffaro and his service to the mat sport.

A Linsly graduate who earned degrees at both West Virginia University and West Liberty State College, Pete Cuffaro has given himself to various programs throughout the Ohio Valley.

This wrestling enthusiast specifically remembers Pete's support of the Bridge Street Middle School (Wheeling) Mat program.

Pete Cuffaro does not know how to say "No."

It is not in his vocabulary when it comes to helping area's young people. There is not enough room on these pages to mention all the youth-oriented organizations Pete is associated with.

Pete Cuffaro is a very familiar face at mat-side during the annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Pete has been a match scorekeeper and timekeeper for as long as yours truly can remember. In this capacity, Cuffaro is highly valued by the tourney's referees. They know when Pete Cuffaro is keeping score, there are

no mistakes.

Pete Cuffaro is also a close friend of the Robert Burke family of Wheeling, and was deeply saddened when young Danny Burke (a wrestler for Wheeling Park High School under then Coach Buzz Evans) was killed in a tragic car accident after a match.

Not only did Pete play a prominent role in helping institute a wrestling scholarship in Burke's name, but he annually presents the Daniel M. Burke Memorial Wrestling Scholarship Award at the OVAC spring banquet.

Pete Cuffaro is also a talented writer. He has penned a number of articles in Sunday News-Register's Mat Talk series as a guest columnist.

His writings are informative, inspirational, and always upbeat. Pete Cuffaro knows how to impact both the young and old with his positive attitude on life.

Over the years, Pete has received numerous accolades and awards for his community service endeavors. Some of the more impressive honors include:

- "Outstanding Young Men of America" Award (1987)
- Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival

"Outstanding Italian American of the Year" Award (1992).

■ Dapper Dan Club "Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Service" (1994).

■ West Virginia Jaycee "Outstanding young West Virginian" Award (1994).

Pete Cuffaro resides in Wheeling with his lovely wife, Erin, and his beautiful stepdaughter, Jessica. When talking about how he approaches life, Pete Cuffaro's philosophy is right on target.

"No matter how bad you think you have it, look around you. You can always find somebody else who has it worse off than you do. Count your blessings!"

OVAC Wrestling Warrior

Coach Joe Thomas's OVAC Wrestling Warrior of the week is St. Clairsville's Billy Barath. A senior grappler for the Red Devils, he is a 3-year varsity letterman for the team.

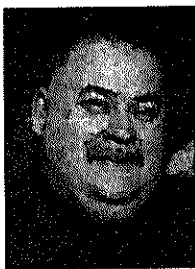
His past accomplishments include: Over 100 Career Wins, 2001 St. John's Invitational and Knights Inn Champion. Billy also placed in the 2001 OVAC Tournament.

His most recent achievement was a third place finish in the annual Shadyside Invitational.

Congratulations are extended to Billy Barath - this week's OVAC Wrestling Warrior!

The Deaton-Regis Weekly Forecast

Larry Deaton and Jac Regis, two of the Valley's finest mat officials are competing with each other this season, picking the winner of selected weekly matches. Let's see who has the best



Pete Cuffaro

Mat Talk

By DR. BILL WELKER

end-of-the-year victory percentages.

Thursday, Jan 24

Triangular at Beallsville

Deaton: Waterford 40, Bridgeport 2; Beallsville 31, Waterford 29; Beallsville 4; Bridgeport 15

Regis: Waterford 39, Bridgeport 11; Waterford 33, Beallsville 27; Beallsville 3; Bridgeport 15

Mat Message

"It is good manners which make the excellence of a neighborhood."

- Confucius

Craig Honored as 'Mr. Mat' for 2002

Indian Creek principal excelled as wrestler and coach

By PAT O'HARA

For The Sunday News-Register

As a coach and as a wrestler, this year's recipient of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's prestigious Mr. Mat Award was a major player on the area wrestling scene for nearly three decades.

Indian Creek High School principal John Craig was honored as this year's Mr. Mat at the Wheeling Civic Center Saturday night during a special ceremony held prior to the finals of the 49th annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

Although he would go on to wrestle for a national collegiate championship and coach six OVAC Tournament championship teams, Craig didn't step onto the mat for the first time until he came out for the Follansbee High wrestling team as a senior.

Current OVAC Wrestling Director Ron Mauck was Craig's first wrestling coach at Follansbee.

Whatever Mauck taught Craig must have made quite an impression because the first-year wrestler proved to be a quick study.

Craig decided to pursue a wrestling career at the collegiate level and headed off to West Liberty.

The Hilltoppers were already a well-established small-college mat power and the youngster from Brooke County youngster fit right in.

Craig was a three-year letterman at WLSC and served as team co-captain his final two seasons.

He was an All-West Virginia Conference selection during all three of his varsity campaigns and was twice honored as the WVC's most valuable wrestler.

Craig capped his collegiate career with an impressive performance at the 1972 National Association of



Intercollegiate Athletics tournament when he advanced all the way to the national championship match in his weight class to attain NAIA All-America status.

Having been bitten hard by the wrestling bug in high school, Craig decided to spread the gospel of wrestling as a coach.

Less than three months after graduating from WLSC, he landed his first head coaching job at Hillsboro (Ohio) High School.

After two successful seasons at Hillsboro, Craig spent the 1974 campaign as head wrestling coach at Oregon Clay in northwest Ohio before returning to the Ohio Valley as head coach at Steubenville in 1975.

Craig guided Big Red's mat fortunes from 1975-93 before moving up the road to Winterville and taking the reins of the Indian Creek Redskins from 1993-98.

Success followed Craig as thunder follows lightning. He wrapped up a sterling 25-year coaching career with a dual-meet record 201-74-3 (.728).

He coached three straight unbeaten teams at Steubenville (1987-88-89) and also turned in an unblemished campaign at Indian Creek in 1996.

A five-time OVAC Coach of the Year, Craig's teams won three OVAC dual meet championships, six OVAC overall tournament titles; eight Ohio sectional tournaments, nine Ohio district events and 42 regular-season invitationals.

Craig had 87 wrestlers qualify to compete in the Ohio state tournament and 23 of them placed to earn All-Ohio laurels.

There were five individual state champions and a staggering 31 OVAC individual titlists.

His squads weren't lacking for team accomplishments. Craig led four teams to top five finishes at the Ohio state tournament and his 1988 Steubenville team was the Ohio Division II runnerup. The following year, Big Red finished the regular season as Ohio's No. 1-ranked Division II mat squad.

Craig's success did not go unnoticed by his peers.

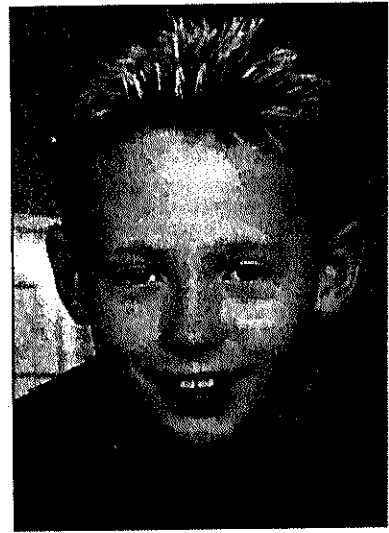
Along with the five OVAC Coach of the Year awards, he was named Ohio Division II wrestling coach of the year and Ohio East-Southeast Division II coach of the year in 1989.

He is a member of the West Liberty State College Athletic Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Ohio Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1999.

John and his wife, Cathy, are the proud parents of Michelle, a 21-year-old senior at Miami (Ohio) University.



Caitlyn Rodocker



Josh Henderson

Bound for Nationals

Wheeling youngsters starring in indoor soccer

A pair of Wheeling youngsters will be competing for the Fieldhouse Soccer Club of Zanesville in national indoor soccer championship tournaments.

Caitlyn Rodocker and Josh Henderson helped their respective FSC age-group squads qualify out of the North American National Indoor East Regional held in Dublin, Ohio earlier this month.

Rodocker's under-11 girls' team breezed to the regional title, blasting Hilliard 8-1 in the championship match.

Rodocker had five goals in the tournament, including a hat trick in

Game Two.

The national indoor under-11 girls championship tournament will be played at the Cleveland Crunch's indoor facility in March.

Henderson's under-9 boys' team lost to defending champion Ohio SC, 4-1, in the regional final but qualified for nationals as a regional runnerup.

Henderson scored three goals and added a pair of assists during the tournament.

The FSC under-9 team will play in the national under-9 indoor championships next month in Baltimore, Md.

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- 1978: John Vrotsos
- 1979: Richard Edge
- 1980: George Walley
- 1981: Bob Hedmond
- 1982: Paul Crago
- 1983: Dr. Vincent Monseau
- 1984: Bill Hinegardner
- 1985: Dennis Bowman
- 1986: Ron Mauck

- 1987: Eric Carder
- 1988: Dave Kovalick
- 1989: Steve Kish
- 1990: Carl Fodor
- 1991: Dr. William Welker
- 1992: Larry Deaton
- 1993: John Stephenson
- 1994: Joe Bates
- 1995: Bob Bruney
- 1996: Larry Chambers
- 1997: Gary Davis
- 1998: Cal Pokas
- 1999: Tom Lackman
- 2000: Ed "Buzz" Evans
- 2001: Bill McEldowney
- 2002: John Craig

Oak Glen Takes OVAC Wrestling Tournament Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

Joey Caughey had been in this situation before.

One year ago to the day, the Oak Glen heavyweight found himself needing a pin in the third-place match of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament to secure the overall championship for his squad.

Instead, he won by a decision and the Golden Bears settled for second place behind East Liverpool.

Late Saturday night, the Oak Glen senior only needed a decision in the third-place bout to lift his team past Beaver Local and to the overall title, and this time he didn't disappoint as he pinned Bellaire's Matt Duvall in a mere 26 seconds to give Oak Glen the overall title by 3 1/2 points (209 1/2-206) over Beaver Local at the Wheeling Civic Center.

"I'm just glad the team is taking the OVAC title home," he said while being congratulated by his teammates and other wrestlers. "We've worked very hard for this."

In one of the most balanced tournaments in the 49-year history, John Marshall finished third with 203 1/2 and Martins Ferry fourth with 201.

While the 'big boys' were battling for the overall, Class AAA and AAAA titles, Cameron claimed its 14th consecutive Class A championship by outdistancing second-place Bellaire St. John's 107 1/2-58.

In double-A, Shadyside prevailed over Monroe Central 124-90 1/2.

Beaver Local won 4-A 206-203 1/2 over John Marshall.

Oak Glen had led throughout the final session, but watched Beaver Local take the lead after sophomore Adam Hoppel defeated Weir's Vince Magnone 4-3 in the 215-pound finals.

However, this year Caughey was up to the task.

"I kind of let the team down last year and I wasn't about to let that happen again," he said. "This year was our year."

It had been 10 years since Oak Glen topped the OVAC tournament, but to veteran head coach Larry Shaw the wait was worth it.

"This was a very exciting tournament, especially the way it ended up for us," said an exuberant Shaw. "I'm real proud of our kids. They wrestled very consistent all weekend. Our seniors performed great down here."

He said the semifinals and consolation rounds were the key rounds.



Tucker



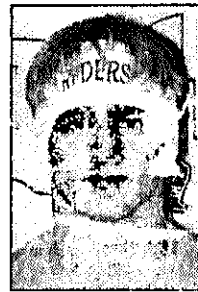
Huffman



J.Tierney



Johnston



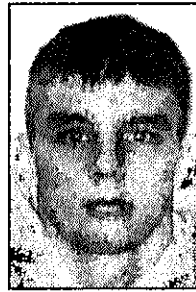
D.Tierney



Barath



Bliss



Wilson

"We had some kids really step up in the semis and consolations. That's what you need."

Eleven schools walked away with individual champions, but only two — Martins Ferry and John Marshall — had more than one.

The Purple Riders, who finished second behind Oak Glen in AAA, had a trio of titlists in freshman fly-weight Clay Tucker (103) and the Tierney brothers — John (119) and David (130).

Tucker got things started with a 14-3 major decision over John Marshall's Jon Howard, and the Tierney's followed as John defeated Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy 1-0 and David doubled up Beaver Local's Jared Hoppel 6-3.

In winning championships, the duo became only the third set of siblings to win titles in the same year.

"That's pretty good," said David, who had the pressure applied to him after John won two weight classes ahead of him.

"I was trying not to pay attention to his match because it makes me a little nervous," David added.

For John, who had been a runner-up the past two years, this title was special because he defeated a defending champion in Kennedy for the honor.

"It's about time that I come out on top," said John.

John Marshall was the only other school with more than one champion as Derek George repeated his title performance at 152 and Chris Taylor, now 29-1, ruled the 189 class with a 3-1 victory over Oak Glen's Ron Hebrock.

George, who was voted the David Bierkorte Award winner by the coaches, edged out Martins Ferry's Derek Roth, another defending champion, was a 2-0 margin.

"I thought that if I could get the first takedown that the match was

mine," noted George, who improved to 28-1 on the season. "I just played it smart after that."

He said that this title means a lot more than last year because of the pressure that was on him to win, and the fact that he defeated another defending champion.

"I knew going into the match that it would be a close one, but I wish I would've come up the victor," said Roth, who dropped to 19-4.

Oak Glen's only champion came at 171 pounds when top-seeded Derrick Stickle used a second-period escape to nip Beaver Local's Jordan Williams 1-0.

"This win was real good for the team," Stickle, who is now 22-1, said. "I've always said that wrestling is an individual sport and that if you worry about yourself the team will take care of itself. I think that was proven today."

Other champions included River's Lucas Huffman (112), Indian Creek's Josh Johnston (125), St. Clairsville's Billy Barath (135), Phil Bliss (140) of Brooke; Monroe Central's Chris Wilson (145), Buckeye Local's David Bertolino (160) and Shenandoah's Jesse Wells (275).

Of that group, only Wells defended his title as he outlasted Harrison Central's Tony Carothers 2-1 in the finals.

Huffman, who is now 25-1, defeated Beaver Local's Josh



George



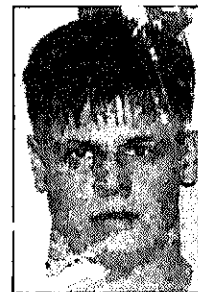
Bertolino



Stickle



Hoppel



Magnone



Carothers

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

49th OVAC Wrestling Tournament

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

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125—Johnston (IC) (MF) 5-0
130—Tierney (MF) (Barn) 5-1
135—Six (OG) d. V. 140—Irwin (SS) d. I 145—Wilson (MC) (BuL) 5:10
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(MC)

171—Justin Hepe (189—Anthony Gur 215—John Wells (275—Koei Davia (L

103—Anthony Duff 112—Allen Taylor (119—John Petrozzi

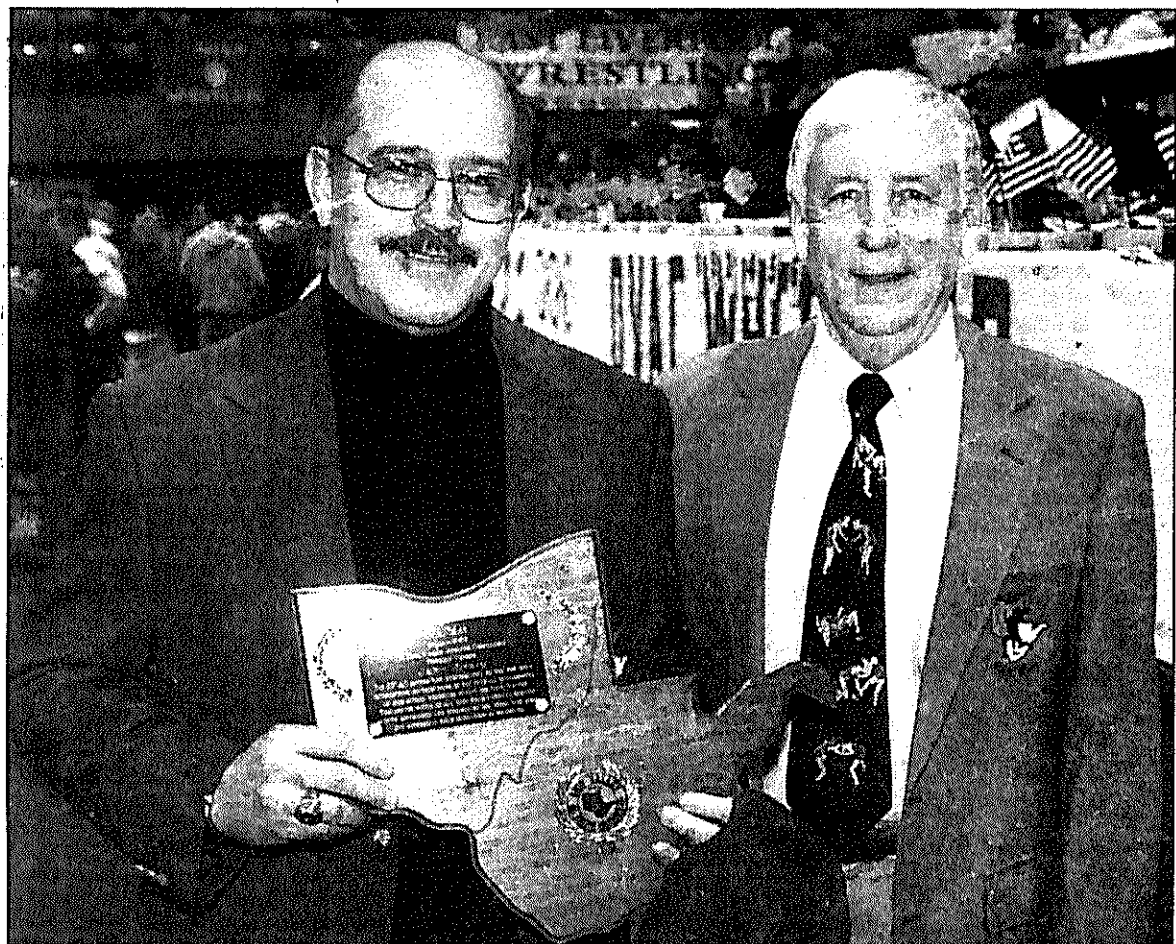


Photo by Scott McCloskey

'Mr. Mat'

John Craig, left — Indian Creek High School's principal — was named "Mr. Mat" on Saturday at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center. Craig is pictured with OVAC Wrestling Tournament Director Ron Mauck. Full coverage of the announcement can be found on page B7.

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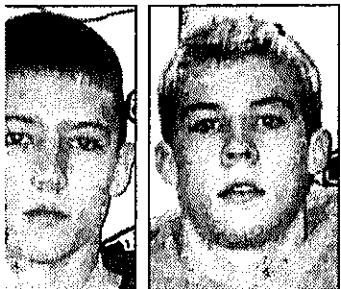
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Takes OVAC Wrestling Tournament Team Title



Tucker



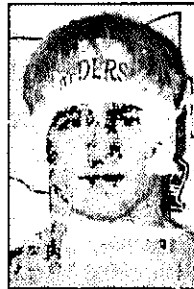
Huffman



J. Tierney



Johnston



D. Tierney



Barath



Bliss



Wilson

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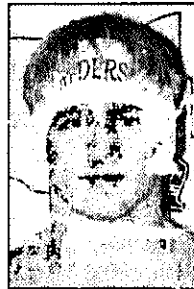
Stickles

Taylor

Hoppel

Wells

Stickles



Stickles



Taylor



Hoppel



Wells



Stickles



Taylor



Hoppel



Wells

Hoover 11-8. He won his 100th career bout in the semis.

Johnston, now 24-3, became the Redskins' third OVAC champ when he scored a 9-3 decision over Beallsville's Roscoe Larew, who entered the event seeded eighth.

Barath, now 17-0, was the only wrestler to finish the tournament with a still unblemished record. He nipped Oak Glen's Garrett Six 3-2.

Bliss, now 26-3, held off top-seeded Jesse Irwin of Shadyside by a 7-5 count.

Wilson, who was a runnerup last year, ran his record to 24-2 with a 5-2 verdict over Oak Glen's Matt Wharton, who reached the finals after pinning Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman in the semis while trailing 13-4.

Bertolino had the easiest of times as he was awarded a forfeit win over Edison's John Prokapakis, who was injured in the semifinals but awarded the victory because of an illegal hold.

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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215—Josh Stansbury (EL) p. Chris Fankhauser (Ed) 3:34

275—Joe Caughy (OG) p. Matt Duvall (Bell) 0:26

FIFTH-SIXTH PLACE

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125—Jared Anderson (Barn) d. Mike Jones (MF) 6-0

130—Shawn Fullerton (Cam) d. Jason Lucas (Barn) 4-2

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145—Jeremy Cowan (EL) d. Bobby Samsa (SS), ot criteria

152—Luke Burkhardt (SS) d. Ryan Tecosik (UL) 3-1

160—Roger Kupfer (Cam) won by disq. over Robble Dimmerling

(MC) 171—Justin Hepe (BSJ) d. Jon Arnette (Wells) 5-2

189—Anthony Gump (IC) d. Derek Conrad (M) 4-2

215—John Wells (JM) d. Bill Whitehill (OG) 6-2

275—Koel Davia (UL) d. Eugene Henry (JM) 3-1

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE

103—Anthony Duffield (EL) d. Scott Bumpardner (WP) 10-5

112—Allen Taylor (JM) d. Matt Smith (Brk) 2-0

119—John Petrozzi (BuL) d. Ben Young (Steub) 7-3

125—Jason Koontz (JM) d. Aaron Brown (MC) 5-1

130—Clayton Benedict (MC) d. John Leas (IC) 3-1

135—Chase Jolly (Ed) d. Thad Crosier (Steub) 7-0

140—David Babel (Steub) d. Brandon Bruce (Bell) 12-5

145—Jason Bahmer (Barn) p. Jeff Casey (M) 2:33

152—Johnny Jefferis (Barn) tech. fall over Luke High (Camb) 15-0

160—Chris Green (EL) d. Chris Yoder (MF) 5-1

171—Tyler Schumacher (MC) d. Sean Grinch (SS) 5-4

189—Dustin Holt (MF) p. Jon Gordon (WC) 0:23

215—Joe Weaver (Mag) d. Codey Leach (Shen) 3-2

275—Troy Allenby (WP) p. Michael Price (Camb) 4:13

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

103—Tucker (MF) won by inj. default over Gonsou (OG); Howard (JM) d. Valles (WM) 6-2

112—Huffman (R) maj. d. Humphrey (WP) 15-4; Hoover (BvL) d. Cain (M) 7-1

119—Kennedy (WP) maj. d. Fasouletos (JM) 12-2; Tierney (MF) d. Campbell (HC) 5-0

125—Johnston (IC) d. Anderson (Barn) 3-0; Larew (Beal) d. Jones (MF) 5-0

130—Tierney (MF) maj. d. Bologna (HC) 13-4; Hoppel (BvL) d. Lucas (Barn) 5-1

135—Six (OG) d. Varner (BvL) 7-5; Barath (StC) d. Smith (MF) 7-6

140—Irwin (SS) d. Hughes (IC) 7-1; Bliss (Brk) d. Flowers (OG) 4-1

145—Wilson (MC) d. Shaw (BvL) 5-4; Wharton (OG) p. Bowman (BuL) 5:10

152—George (JM) d. Snider (TC) 9-2; Roth (MF) d. Brown (Cam) 7-2

160—Prokapakis (Ed) won by disq. over Kupfer (Cam)

171—Stickles (OG) d. Lyons (Steub) 7-2; Williams (BvL) d. Spitznogle (HC) 5-4

189—Taylor (JM) d. Snyder (StC) 10-8; Hebrock (OG) d. Williams (BvL) 3-1

215—Hoppel (BvL) tech. fall over Fankhauser (Ed) 20-5; Magnone (Weir) d. Stansbury (EL) 3-2

275—Carothers (HC) p. Duvall (Bell) 3:46; Wells (Shen) d. Davia (UL) 3-2 2ot



Photo by Scott McCloskey

School's principal - was named "Mr. Mat" on Saturday at the Wheeling Civic Center. Craig is pictured with OVAC Wrestling coverage of the announcement can be found on page B7.

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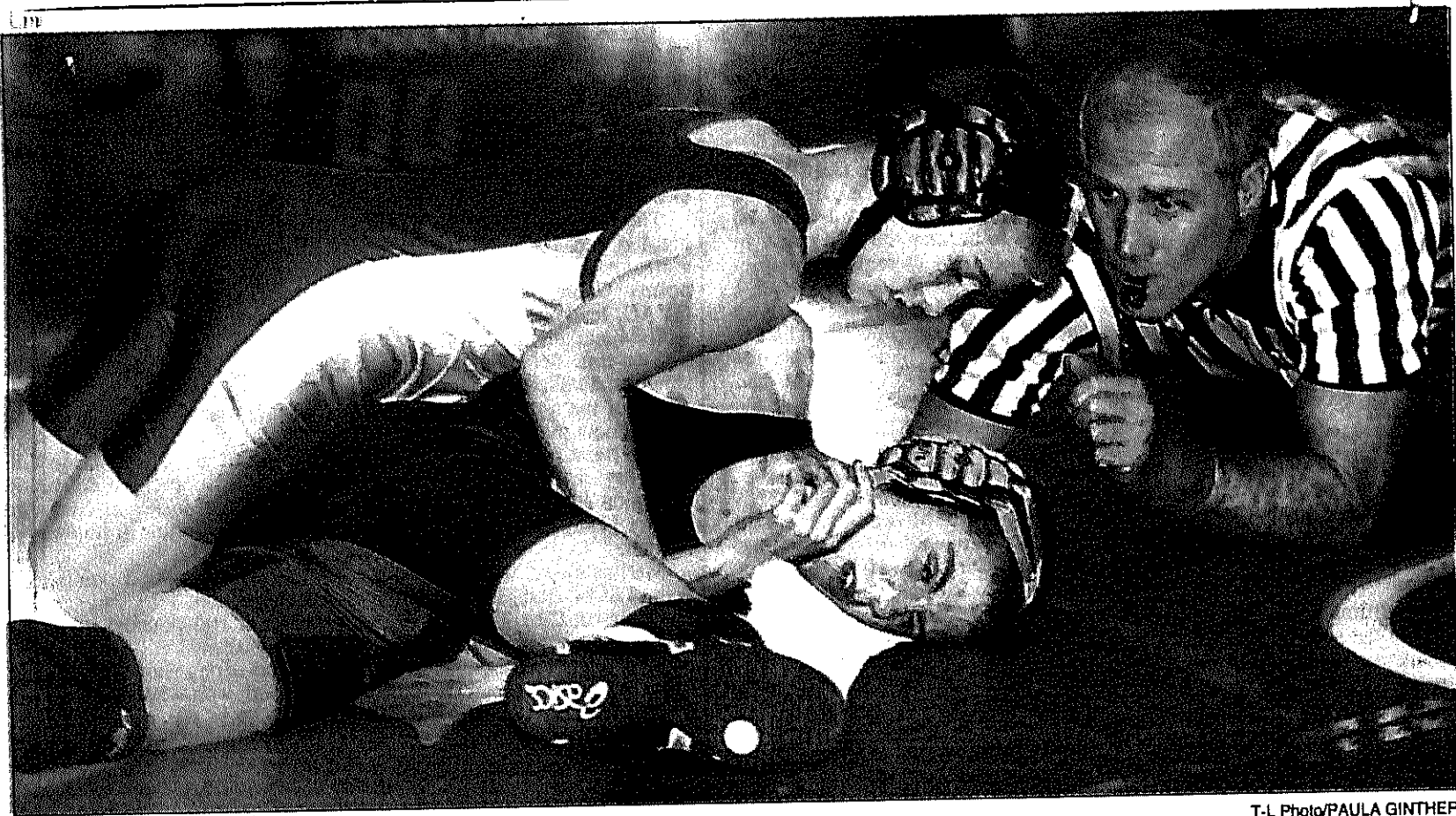
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T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

MARTINS FERRY'S Clay Tucker gains the upperhand in his 103-pound match against Magnolia's Austin Haley in the OVAC mat tournament Thursday at the Wheeling Civic Center. Tucker prevailed by a technical fall. See story on page 2B.

Former OVAC champ keeping the faith



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

TWO-TIME OVAC Wrestling Champion Warren Lallathin displays a pair of plaques he was presented as Barnesville High's 175-pound champ in 1957-58. Lallathin, now confined to a wheelchair, has received numerous visits and correspondence from a number of ex-teammates and opponents during his ongoing recovery.

As a 16-year old member of the Barnesville High wrestling team, Warren Lallathin worked hard to achieve his goal of becoming an OVAC champion.

That was in 1957.

As it turns out, all he needed was a little faith. That was the easy part.

Lallathin captured OVAC titles — both his junior and senior years — with the Shamrocks.

A young man who went undefeated in his weight class (175), Lallathin was passionate about the sport. He possessed a great desire to compete...among other things.

"It was while I was in high school, I suddenly got this great urge to go into the ministry. I decided then and there I wanted to dedicate my life to (spreading the word)," he revealed.

"It came to be, I got just as excited about pinning an opponent as I did about preaching the gospel."

Following graduation, Lallathin aggressively pursued his dream. He was accepted at highly-regarded David Lipscomb University in Nashville where he went on to earn his degree.

Lallathin's career in ministry included a one-year working stint at Ohio Valley College in Parkersburg before he returned to his eastern Ohio roots.



By Rich Gibson
Times Leader
Sports Editor

REALITY CHECK

His much heralded local tenure included four years as Minister of the St. Clairsville Church of Christ. He served in a similar capacity eight years in both Jerusalem and Quaker City.

While fully acknowledging the hardships one encounters along the way, life has dealt Lallathin a particularly harsh blow the past few months.

"The day I was diagnosed with cancer...that was so difficult to get through," he said the other day at his home in Bethesda.

Many frustrating, painful months followed as Lallathin faced uncertainty. To be sure, there were setbacks — both physically and mentally.

Lallathin endured surgery, but also went into an extended coma. When he awoke after seven days, he was no longer able to walk without assistance.

Good news arrived, however, when Lallathin was informed (the cancer) appeared to be going into remission.

Last spring, while recovering at the Barnesville Health Care Center, Lallathin's faith was once again renewed.

"I started receiving frequent visits from some of my old wrestling buddies," he said. "I can't express through words how this lifted my spirits."

There were Shamrock wrestlers and ex-teammates from the 50s, Wayne Farrabee and Carl Lewis.

Lallathin was especially touched when Betty

See, REALITY, Page 2B

Reality

Continued from Page 1B

Moore stopped by the health center.

"Betty Moore is the widow of Rodney Moore, the 1957 OVAC heavyweight champion from Barnesville who passed away in February, 2000," noted Lallathin who officiated at Moore's funeral.

"What was really surprising is the number of wrestlers from other schools who have kept in touch," Lallathin added, referring to Martins Ferry's Keith Sommer, a former runnerup in the state of Ohio; Don Deland and Steve Lattocha of Bridgeport; and Larry "Moke" Mokros of Shadyside.

"I always look forward to the OVAC Wrestling Tournament ... probably this year more than any other," Lallathin explained.

"I just think it's unique so many area friends from the sport of wrestling went out of their way to keep in touch and wish me well."

In a few weeks, Lallathin will ride his motorized scooter to church where he'll officiate at a wedding ceremony.

"I may be physically weaker, but I'm definitely spiritually stronger," he advised. "My faith is everlasting."

Lallathin and his former wife, Delores, have two daughters — Janet, head pharmacist at Barnesville Hospital and Ruth, who works for the Honda Corporation in Columbus. They also have two grandchildren.

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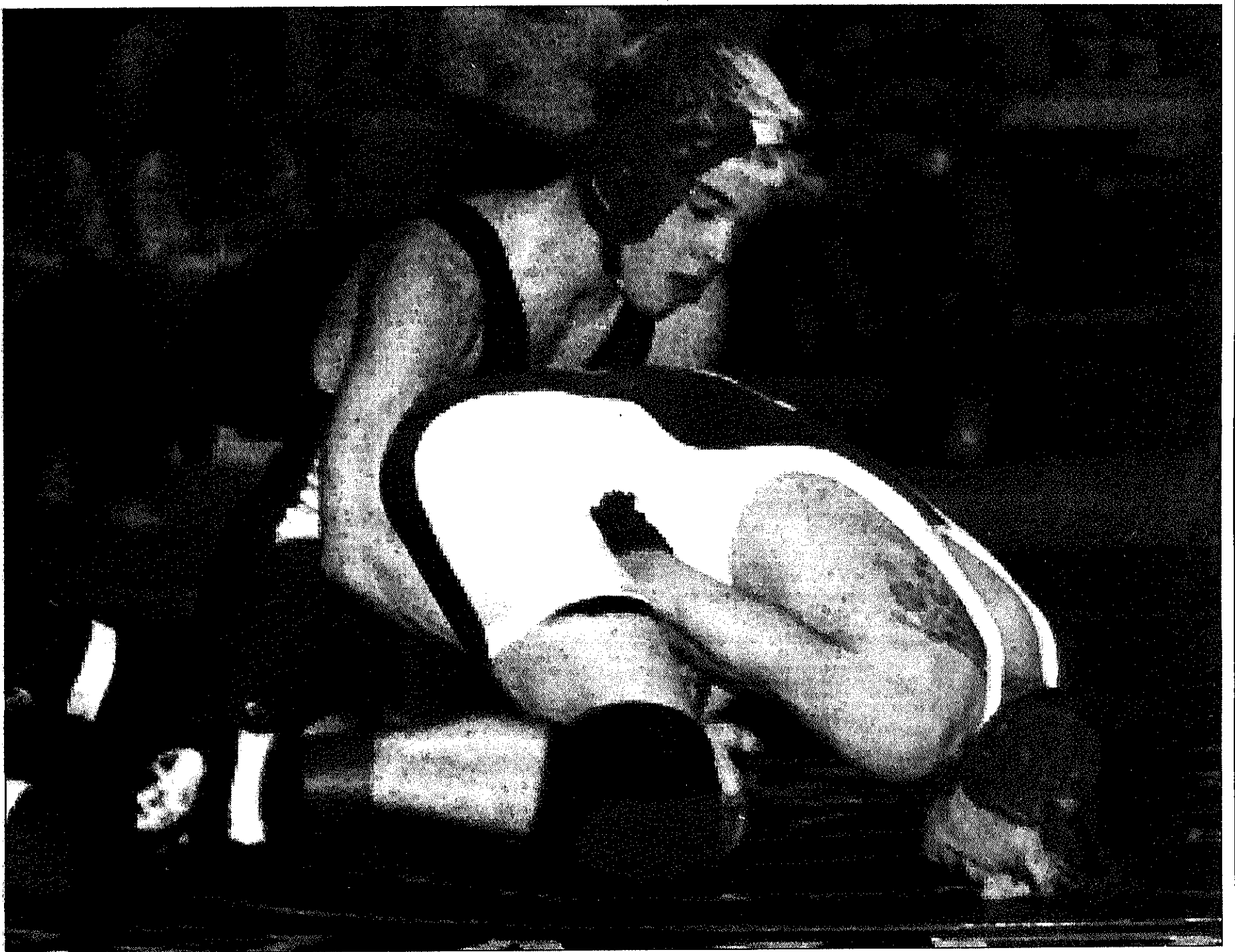
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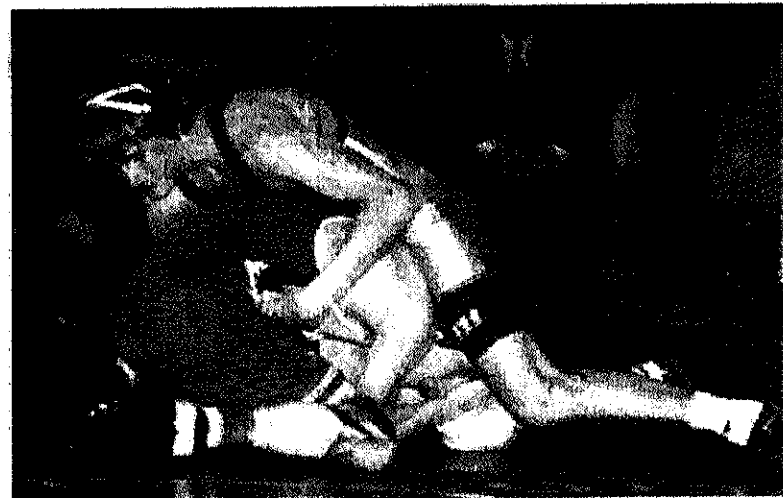
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T-L Photos/PAULA GINTHER



TOP PHOTO: River's Lucas Huffman (top) attempts to keep Beaver Local's Josh Hoover in his grasp during action in the 112-pound title match.

MIDDLE PHOTO: Martins Ferry's David Tierney (top) keeps hold off Beaver Local's Jared Hoppel during the 130-pound championship match.

LEFT PHOTO: Martins Ferry's John Tierney (top) is in control of Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy during the 119-pound title bout.

Oak Glen captures OVAC mat title

By **JEREMY MIDEI**
and **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writers

After three days and more than 800 matches, the Oak Glen Golden Bears stood above the remainder of the OVAC mat field.

The Bears closed the affair with 209.5 points, which narrowly defeated Beaver Local Beavers and the John Marshall Monarchs in what became one of the most closely contested tournaments in the 49-year history.

The Beavers ended with 206 points and the Monarchs tallied 203.5 markers through the event.

Along with the team champions in four classes, 14 individual grapplers also gained a title at one of the nation's most respected and largest wrestling tournaments.

The Golden Bears took the trophy at in 3-A ahead of runner-up Martins Ferry.

Shadyside captured the 2-A title in rather impressive fashion, closing with 124 points, which was 23.5 better than runner-up Monroe Central.

Cameron earned the title in 1-A with 107.5 points.

See, **OVAC**, Page 3C

McNabb too much for



MAGNOLIA STOPS RIVER

The Magnolia girls basketball team picked up its fourth win in five games and stopped River's 11-game winning streak with a 55-47 victory over the Pilots on Thursday/21.

The Intelligencer.

SPORTS

Beaver Local Secures Lead After First Day

By RICHARD STEVENS
Sports Editor

East Liverpool's bid for a three-peat at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Championships, took a hit on Thursday during the first day of the 49th annual event at the Wheeling Civic Center.

The Potters finished the initial day of action with just 19 points, not only leaving them out of the top 10 overall, but fifth in the Class AAAA standings.

Meanwhile, their neighbor to the north in Calcutta — Beaver Local — took the lead with 48 points.

The tournament continues today with action beginning at noon. The second session begins at 6 p.m.

Beaver Local entered the event with three No. 1 seeds, with two, coincidentally, who transferred from East Liverpool. The Beavers finished fourth in last year's even, 26 points behind East Liverpool. Beaver Local has never won the overall title at the OVAC Tournament.

The Beavers' 135-pounder Jon Varner, and 145-pounder Jeremy Shaw, wrestled for the Potters last year, helping them win the OVAC tourney in Coach Scott Hiemstra's last season.

The other top seed, Adam Hoppel (215), also won easily.

Varner pinned River's Mac Caneen in 1:04, Shaw ousted Edison's Dominic Robinson in 3:28 and Adam Hoppel pinned Wellsville's Brian Fisher in 1:03.

Wheeling Park's Adam Kennedy, who returned to defend his 119-pound crown, pinned St. Clairsville's Brian Lepic in only 21 seconds.

Shenandoah's Jesse Wells, who won the heavyweight title on a pin last winter, also won his opening match easily with a 26-second fall of Shadyside's Chris Wallace.

As always, upsets were few and far between during the first day.

That is, until the 130-pound weight class happened.

Three of the eight seeded wrestlers in the class dropped first round decisions and will be forced to battle out of the consolation bracket today.

The highest to fall at 130 pounds was Monroe Central's Clayton Benedict. Indian Creek's John Leas finished off a grueling three periods with a 6-4 decision.

Beallsville's Mike Aberegg, the No. 6 seed at 130, was defeated by Buckeye Local's Albert Phillips 13-5.

Also, Steubenville's Mike Licatta fell to Brooke's Mike Durbin 7-1.

Other upsets included Wellsville 119-pounder Marcus Prendes, wrestling at 119 pounds, falling to

Indian Creek's Brad Armstrong 10-6.

John Marshall's John Wells was the other seed to fall, with the Monarch senior dropping a 7-3 decision to Edison's Chris Fankhauser.

Wells was a No. 4 seed, marking the highest seeded wrestler to fall during the first day of action.

The Monarchs finished the first day with 43 points, just five behind Class AAAA leader Beaver Local but still 3½ points behind overall No. 2 Oak Glen.

Cameron continued its dominance in the Class A ranks, scoring 34 points after the first day to tie Shadyside for fifth in the overall standings. Second place in single-A is Bellaire St. John's with 17 points.

The Tigers are pacing the Class AA standings with 34 points, well ahead of the Seminoles, who garnered 22 markers.

Oak Glen holds a nine-point lead over Martins Ferry in triple-A with Barnesville sitting in third place with 30 points.

There were a total of 123 first-round pins Thursday, with the most coming in the 160-pound weight class, where all but one match was decided by a pin.

The beneficiary of the night's two quickest pins were a pair of Dragons.

Cameron 145-pounder Josh Whipkey dropped Magnolia's John Mayfield to the consolation bracket with a 9-second fall.

Teammate Roger Kupfer, the No. 1 seed at 160 pounds and defending champion in the weight class, pinned Conotton Valley's Tim Frederick in 10 seconds.

Martins Ferry 103-pounder Clay Tucker didn't earn a pin, but the No. 1 seed finished with a technical fall of Magnolia's Austin Haley, 20-5.

The first day of action went quickly, even though the tournament began late.

Much of that was attributed to the many quick pins that are typical of the initial round.

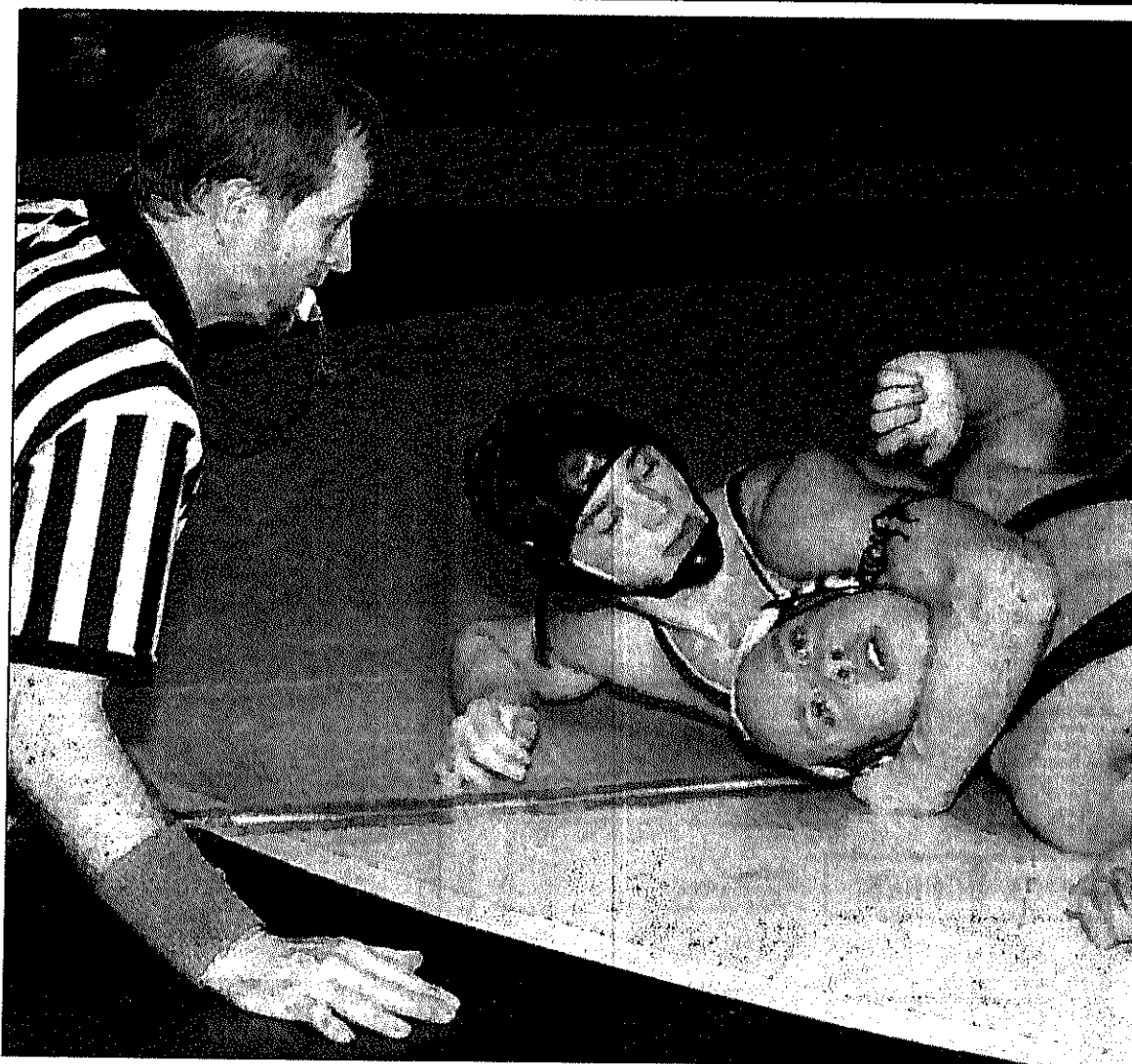
All told, 36 pins finished in under one minute and all the defending champions came away with falls.

The tournament continues today with wrestlers warm-up at 10:30 a.m.

The first matches are set to get underway at noon, which will include the consolation rounds.

The third session begins at 7 p.m.

49TH ANNUAL OVAC WRESTLING TOURNEY



John Marshall 152-pounder Derek George, rear, makes short work of Steubenville Central's John Roth after the 49th annual OVAC Wrestling Championships at the Wheeling Civic Center. George, and Roth (left) vying for the 152-pound crown.

We Meet Again

George, Roth after same crown

By RICHARD STEVENS
Sports Editor

The last time John Marshall's Derek George and Martins Ferry's Derek Roth locked up in a wrestling match, they were both in little league.

George won the match 2-1. That was about six years ago.

Meeting No. 2 may come on Saturday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship finals.

Neither one is interested in looking ahead, but the seeds say they're going to be there.

George, who won the 152-pound weight class last year at the OVAC, enters as the tournament's No. 1 seed.

Last year's 140-pound champion Derek Roth, moved up two classes to wrestle at 152.

Two wrestlers, two defending champions, one crown to be had.

"Me and Derek have been friends for a long time," said George. "It would be a tough match if we both get there."

They made the first step, with the Monarch pinning Steubenville

Central's John Polverini in 2:58, and Roth eliminating Monroe Central's Gerald Peyatt in a quick 35 seconds.

George started last year as a 152-pounder, but dropped to 145 at the end of the season. He finished third at the West Virginia State Tournament last year.

Roth, on the other hand, moved up from 140 last year to 160 at the beginning of this year, and back down to 152.

"I didn't plan on it," explained Roth. "I lifted hard over the summer and got bigger."

His victory on Thursday gave the Purple Rider a 16-3 record, just a shade below George's 25-1 mark.

"There's a little more pressure," Roth admits. "I'm the No. 2 seed and have a couple losses under my belt. But, there's not as much pressure. We have a tough schedule this year."

Roth's next test will come from Wellsville's Jimmy Myers, who pinned Shenandoah's Tyler Wukelich in 1:46.



Martins Ferry 152-pounder Derek Roth in area after winning his first Wrestling Championships at

Please See MEET, Page 23

The Intelligencer

SPORTS

FRIDAY
JANUARY 18, 2002

COMICS22
CLASSIFIED25-30

NINETEEN

Local Lead Day

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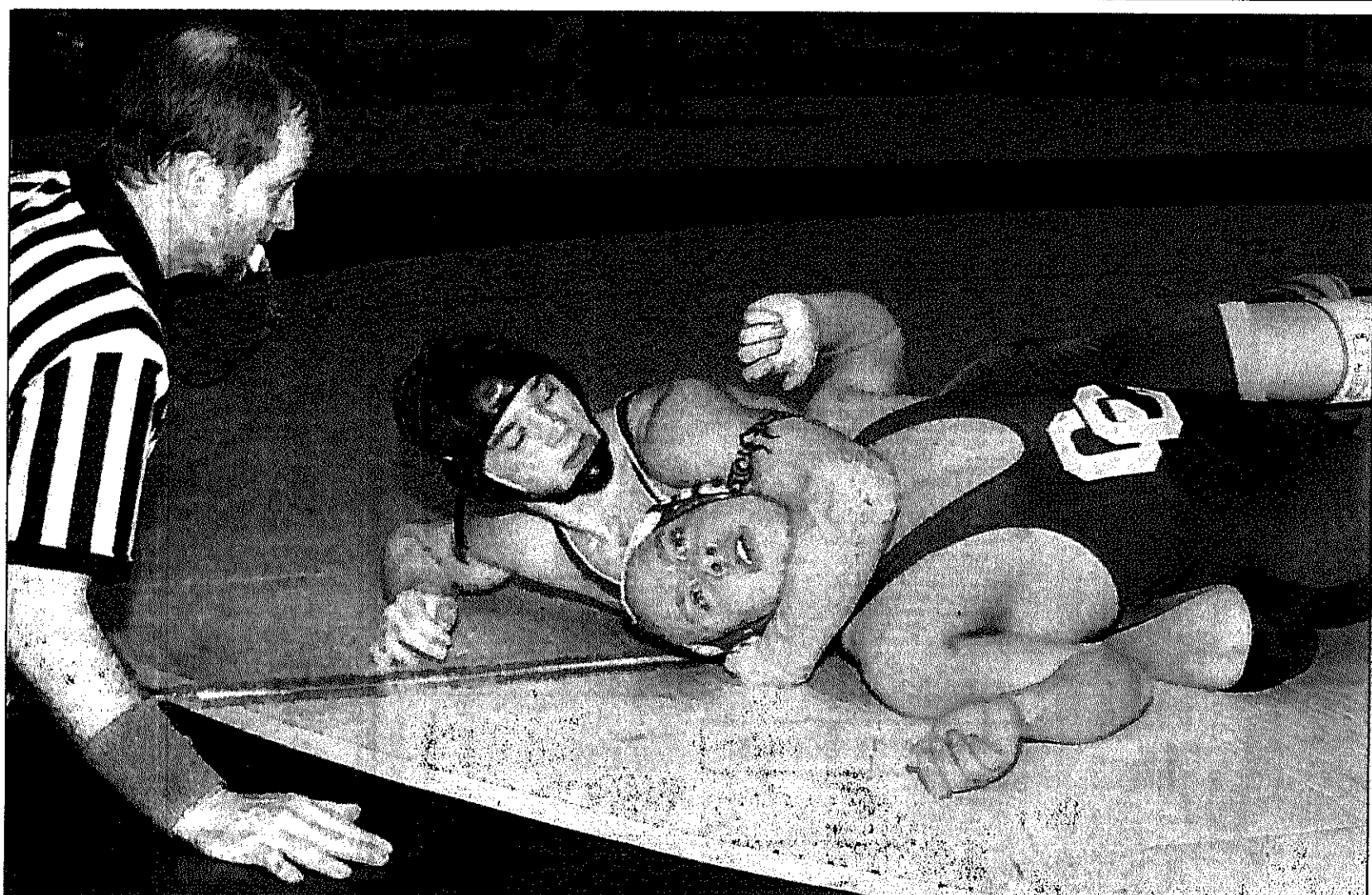


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

John Marshall 152-pounder Derek George, rear, makes short work of Steubenville Central's John Polverini during their first-round match at the 49th annual OVAC Wrestling Championships at the Wheeling Civic Center. George, and Roth (below) are both defending champions and vying for the 152-pound crown.

We Meet Again

George, Roth after same crown

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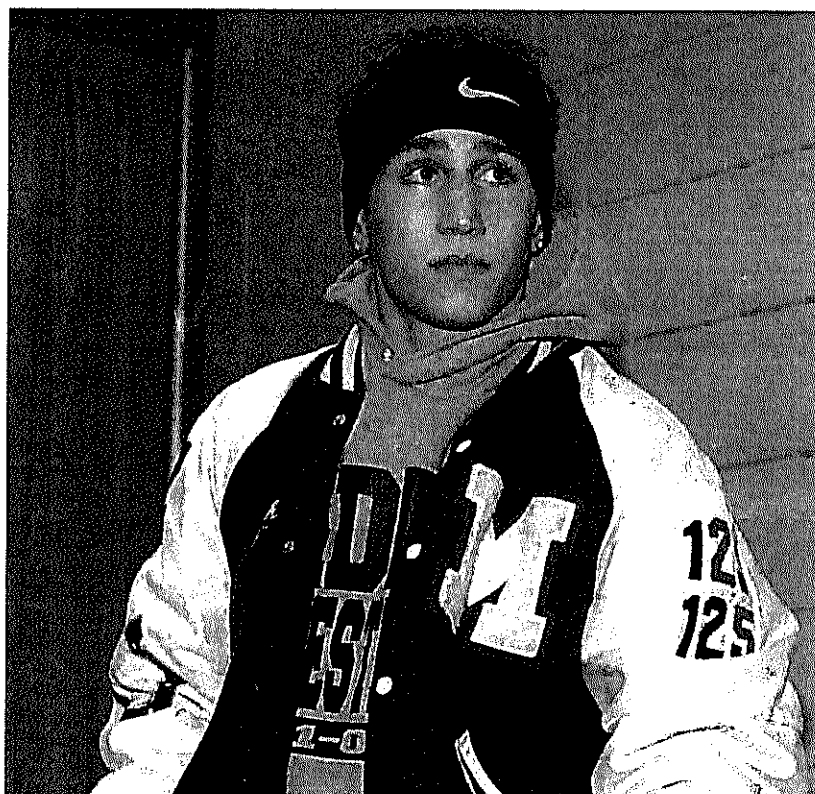


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Martins Ferry 152-pounder Derek Roth prepares to leave the weigh-in area after winning his first-round match at the 49th annual OVAC Wrestling Championships at the Wheeling Civic Center Thursday.

Please See MEET, Page 23



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

A COLOR GUARD helps kick off the festivities Thursday at the Wheeling Civic Center for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's 49th annual wrestling tournament. Finals will be Saturday night.

IRTS

THE INTELLIGENCER - Wheeling, W. Va. - Friday, January 18, 2002

OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

49th OVAC WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Wheeling Civic Center)

Team Scores
Overall: 1. Beaver Local 48, 2. Oak Glen 46 1/2, 3. John Marshall 43, 4. Martins Ferry 37 1/2, 5. (tie) Shadyside 34, Cameron 24, 7. Barnesville 30, 8. Harrison Central 29, 9. Buckeye Local 27, 10. St. Clairsville 24.

Class AAAA: 1. Beaver Local 48, 2. John Marshall 43, 3. Buckeye Local 27, 4. Brooke 22 1/2, 5. East Liverpool 19, Wheeling Park 18, 7. Steubenville 15 1/2, 8. Weir 11 1/2, 9. Edison 9 1/2, 10. Cambridge 8.

Class AAA: 1. Oak Glen 46 1/2, 2. Martins Ferry 37 1/2, 3. Barnesville 30, 4. Harrison Central 29, 5. St. Clairsville 24, 6. Union Local 17, 7. Shenandoah 16, 8. (tie) Bellaire 15, Indian Creek 15, 10. Magnolia 12, 11. Meadowbrook 11, 12. Tyler Consolidated 8.

Class AA: 1. Shadyside 34, 2. Monroe Central 22, 3. Steubenville Central 13, 4. Wellsville 12, 5. River 11, 6. Wheeling Central 7, 7. Caldwell 0.

Class A: 1. Cameron 34, 2. Bellaire St. John 17, 3. Wairton Madonna 8, 4. Beallsville 5 1/2, 5. Linsly 4, 6. (tie) Bishop Donahue 0, Bridgeport 0, Conotton Valley 0.

Preliminary Round
145: Robinson (Ed) p. Walker (Camb) 3:28;
152: Peyatt (MC) p. Gray (Weir) 4:55;
Polverini (SCe) p. Baister (BI) 2:55;
160: Tarlone (Lin) p. Myers (Riv) 3:47;
Frederick (CV) p. Zucker (Mag) 4:29

FIRST ROUND
103
Howard (JM) p. Cavanaugh (SCe) 1:21;
Mazella (Brk) d. Young (BuL) 8:0; Valles (WM) p. Gasser (IC) 1:26; Gouneau (OG) p. Ramsay (Ed) :19; Duffield (EL) p. Lehotay (Mead) 1:12; Tucker (MF) tech. fall Haley (Mag) 20:5

112
Emery (HC) p. Walker (EL) 1:31; Smith (Brk) p. Carosiello (Wells) 1:58; Hoover (BeL) p. Heintzman (TC) 1:46; Humphrey (WP) d. Huff (BSJ) 10:3; A Taylor (JM) p. King (Mag) 1:30; Huffman (Riv) p. Crasia (SCe) 1:48

119
Smith (BeL) p. Tin Carpenter (BSJ) 5:5; Campbell (HC) p. Ferry (Mead) 1:34; Chambers (OG) p. Scullock (Camb) 3:18; Glasser (Sha) p. Ferguson (SCe) 1:6; Young (Steub) p. Haught (Riv) 1:21; Fasouletos (JM) p. Garcia (EL) :59; Petrozzi (BuL) p. White (BD) :21; Stonebreaker (UL) d. Bilyou (Bea) 6:4; Kennedy (WP) p. Lepic (SC) :21; Armstrong (IC) d. Prendes (Wells) 19:6; McFarland (Brk) p. Ward (MC) 2:36; Anfil (Cam) p. Bell (Ed) 3:09; Tierney (MF) p. Bartolini (WC) 3:07; Schmelzenbach (Shen) tech. fall Slanchuk (WM) 16:1

125
Shaw (Brk) p. Reichard (Ed) 2:25; Dunn (BeL) p. Beal (Bp) 4:23; Kotson (Cam) d. McCort (BeL) 8:3; Larew (Bea) tech. fall Harper (Cal) 2:45; Koontz (JM) p. Longwell (Mag) 1:20; Pacifico (BSJ) p. Hornbeck (EL)

:41; Dankovchick (Weir) tech. fall Phillips 19:3; Jones (MF) p. Ray (Camb) 5:2; Anderson (Bar) p. Molesky (SCe) :50; Wheeler (Steub) p. Zurak (SC) 4:43; Whittington (OG) p. Evans (Lin) 2:54; Turnbull (BuL) p. Kyle (UL) :30; Brown (MC) d. Thrasher (Wells) 7:0; Clauss (Mead) p. Gaudet (WC) 1:59; Johnston (IC) d. Workman (Riv) 12:1

130
Lucas (Bar) p. Stritz (Shen) 1:06; Mull (JM) p. Namack (WC) :40; Ramsay (Sha) p. Kemp (SCe) 1:50; Phillips (BuL) maj. d. Aberegg (Bea) 13:5; McIntosh (OG) p. Wilson (UL) 1:36; Perko (BeL) d. Smith (Wells) 11:2; J. Heppel (BeL) p. Hardwick (WM) 1:28; Bologna (HC) tech. fall Butler (EL) 18:2; Fullerton (Cam) p. Villa (Mag) 1:14; Leas (IC) d. Benedict (MC) 6:4; Durbin (Brk) d. Licatta (Steub) 7:1; Carpenter (Lin) p. Campbell (Riv) 2:54; D. Tierney (MF) p. Swiger (Weir) 1:47

135
Barath (SC) p. Ingold (Mag) :44; Walker (EL) p. Williams (TC) :17; Ferguson (MC) p. Vcelka (UL) 2:55; Smith (MF) p. Turner (Bea) 1:06; Ray (JM) p. Dayton (SCe) 5:44; Jolly (Ed) tech. fall Cataldo (Wells) 3:22; Durbin (Brk) tech. fall Crosier (Steub) 5:58; Hughes (Cam) d. Smith (Shen) 5:1; Wright (Sha) d. Fedete (BeL) 5:2; Six (OG) p. Varner (Weir) 3:02; Barcus (HC) d. Irvin (Bpt) 7:5; Warner (Mead) p. Smith (Lin) :40; Varner (BeL) p. Caneen (Riv) 1:04

140
Bliss (Brk) maj. d. Woodby (MC) 11:0; Rinehart (Shen) p. Redd (BD) :35; Case (BSJ) p. Volk (BuL) 1:24; Peddicord (Bar) p. Waite (Lin) 1:24; Ferrell (SC) p. Malone (Wells) 3:23; Flowers (OG) tech. fall Varner (Weir) 2:04; O'Neil (Cam) p. Carrel (UL) 1:11; Bruce (BuL) p. Miller (Riv) :44; Zryini (SCe) d. McCort (Ed) 6:3; Rose (HC) p. Barnhouse (Ed) 3:55; Mamone (MF) p. Weithe (WC) 2:57; Irvin (Sha) n. McCollum (Mead) 1:17

145
Wharton (OG) p. Beiter (BD) :29; Kinzy (Bea) d. Rose (HC) 8:4; Davis (Brk) d. Pendleton (IC) 7:2; Nicka (WM) p. Hickey (Steub) :59; Bowman (BuL) p. Drysdale (Wells) 1:40; Stolley (SC) tech. fall Stephens (Riv) 4:53; Merico (Weir) d. Burstein (WP) by forfeit; Samsa (Sha) p. Morehead (UL) 5:0; Wilson (MC) p. Wadian (CV) :55; Ray (SCe) d. Jones (JM) 11:3; DiGrandomenico (BSJ) d. Hoover (Shen) 9:4; Cowan (EL) d. Bumbico (MF) 14:3; Bahner (Bar) p. Gasser (TC) 1:04; Casey (Mead) d. Sulak (BuL) 14:2; Whipkey (Cam) p. Mayfield (Mag) :09; Shaw (BeL) p. Robinson (Ed) 3:53

152
Roth (MF) p. Peyatt (MC) :35; Myers (Eall) p. Wukelich (Shen) 1:45; Whittington (Riv) d. Speese (Brk) 9:0; Jeffers (Bar) p. Archer (Cal) 1:28; Tappak (UL) p. Costlow (BSJ) 5:13; Hepburn (BeL) p. Lockhart (IC) 3:58; High (Camb) p. Jones (CV) 1:7; Brown (Cam) p. Peyton (Mead) 2:33; Baker (HC) d. Banovsky (Ed) 8:3; Rager (BuL) p. Ruoshack (Bea) 2:5; Cashdollar (OG) p. Zadrozny (WC) 2:33; Sirder (TC) p. Beehout (EL) 4:24;

Burkhardt (Sha) p. Beach (Steub) 2:48; Triveri (WP) d. Kinsey (BeL) 6:5; King (Mag) p. Bucker (SC) 3:48; George (JM) p. Polverini (SCe) 2:58

160
Bertolino (BuL) p. Tordone (Lin) 3:14; Railing (OG) d. Kinney (Bea) 11:3; Kyer (IC) p. Gieseko (TC) 5:40; Filby (JM) p. Dunahay (BSJ) 3:12; Dimmerling (MC) p. Flately (WC) 1:41; Starkey (IC) p. Richards (WM) :13; Holden (BeL) p. Korte (Shen) 2:00; Sefcok (HC) p. Snyder (Steub) :58; Prokapskis (Ed) p. Ogle (Cal) 2:19; Canella (SCe) p. McGinjal (Wells) 1:12; Blivins (UL) p. Bzarth (Camb) :51; Barker (Bar) p. Irvin (Bpt) 5:14; Green (EL) p. Binze (BeL) 3:21; Yoder (MF) p. Hoeker (WP) :53; Frollini (Sha) p. Younciak (Brk) 1:02; Kurler (Cam) p. Frederick (CV) :10

171
Williams (BeL) p. Verhies (Shen) 1:15; Coggs (MF) p. Bauch (Bpt) 4:23; Anderson (JM) p. Bonner (TC) 4:6; Grimb (Sha) p. Nef (Cal) 1:24; Hope (BSJ) d. Loughran (Brk) :0; 5; Schultz (WC) p. King (Bar) 1:46; Johnston (IC) p. Korn (BD) :29; Spitznogle (HC) tech. fall McMahon (Bea) 16:1; Lyons (Steub) tech. fall Pittman (Bea) 17:3; Meyer (Cam) p. Ingram (Ed) 1:06; McGuire (SCe) p. McKinnon (Mag) 3:59; Arnette (Wells) p. Love (Mead) 2:14; Schumacher (MC) p. Beamer (CV) 1:20; McVay (UL) p. Howard (Riv) 3:46; Stickles (OG) p. Green (EL) 1:39

189
Hebrock (OG) p. Pratt (HC) :54; Holt (MF) d. Gump (IC) 5:1; Hepburn (Sha) p. Cunningham (Bpt) 1:09; Bryd (WP) p. Parke (Ed) :50; Ross (Steub) p. Smith (SCe) 2:38; Zerkle (Shen) p. Simms (Cam) :28; Williams (BeL) p. Skinner (Bea) 1:08; Snyder (GC) p. Palmer (CV) :55; Gordon (WC) p. Badgley (EL) 3:7; Groff (Wells) p. Maxwell (Cal) 1:51; Otis (BuL) p. McNulty (TC) 1:05; Stephens (MC) p. Yankovitch (Mag) :41; C Taylor (JM) p. Manypenny (WM) :12

215
Magnone (Weir) p. Drant (BeL) 4:47; Tink (BSJ) p. Morque (Sha) 4:4; Cook (WP) p. Shreve (MF) 11:5; Stanbury (EL) p. Webb (Camb) 1:58; Hannahs (Bar) d. Richie (TC) 10:8; Weaver (Mag) p. Dicke (Steub) 4:52; Fankhauser (Ed) d. Wells (JM) 7:3; Huffman (HC) d. Howard (SC) 10:9; Whitehill (OG) p. Compston (UL) 1:30; Leach (Shen) p. Skrzypek (WC) 3:27; Rosen (Riv) p. Nolan (BuL) 1:35; A. Hoppel (BeL) p. Fisher (Wells) 1:03

Heavyweight
Wells (Shen) p. Wallace (Sha) :26; Spenser (Mag) p. Rohrig (Lin) 1:13; Allenby (WP) p. Wagner (BuL) 3:21; Henry (JM) p. Balkovic (Ed) 1:57; Shepherd (TC) p. Fagan (Weir) 4:25; Zinilo (BeL) p. Dulany (Brk) 1:11; Davis (UL) d. Eder (MF) 11:3; Caughy (OG) p. Potenzini (SCe) :45; Neuenchwander (SC) p. Fetty (BD) :58; Carothers (HC) p. O'Hara (Bea) :07; Duvall (BeL) p. Davis (EL) :26; Manning (Cam) d. Vanvaltenburg (Steub) 9:4; Price (Camb) p. Eubanks (Mead) 2:26

East Liverpool Guns For OVAC 'Three-Peat'

49th annual conference wrestling tournament starts Thursday

By NICK BEDWAY
Executive Sports Editor

With a new head coach at the helm, East Liverpool High School goes gunning for a third straight Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament this weekend at the Wheeling Civic Center.

Rich Shilling has taken over for Scott Heimstra, who guided the Potters to the team title in both the 2000 and 2001.

While East Liverpool also won the the Class AAAA Division title at last year's meet, other division champions include: Oak Glen, Class AAA; Barnesville, Class AA, and Cameron, Class A.

Competition in the 49th annual OVAC mat tournament begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening when the first of some 850 bouts which are scheduled to be wrestled in the event through Saturday night.

The time schedule for the weekend includes:

Thursday, Jan. 17: Opening Ceremonies, 6 p.m.; Preliminaries and first round matches, 6:30 p.m. The opening night will include 304 matches with eight mats in use.

Friday, Jan. 18: Second round

championship division and first and second round consolations, 11 a.m.; Quarter-finals along with third and fourth round consolations, 5 p.m. A total of 168 matches will be wrestled throughout the day with eight mats again to be in use at each session.

Saturday, Jan. 19: Semi-Finals and fifth round semi-final consolations, noon. Eighty-four matches will be wrestled using four mats for this session.

Introduction Ceremonies, 6 p.m.; Championship matches and consolation finals for third, fifth and seventh place, 6:30 p.m. Four mats again will be used.

Single-session tickets for the tournament are priced at \$5 each for adults and \$3 for students. Advanced ticket books for all five sessions can be purchased for \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The cost for Saturday night's session is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for students.

Six of last year's individual champions have returned to the field,

although several of them will be wrestling in different weight classes. Seeking repeats during the weekend will be Jake Bates, East Liverpool junior who won at 103 pounds last year; Adam Kennedy, Wheeling Park senior, 119; Derek Roth, Martins Ferry senior, 140; Derek George, John Marshall senior, 152; Adam Hoppel, Beaver Local, sophomore, 215; and Jesse Wells, Shenandoah senior, 275.

Graduated champions were Nathan Kendjorsky (112), Buckeye Local; Cole Bowersock (125), Beaver Local; Derek Kennedy (130), Wheeling Park; Eric Noel (135), Oak Glen; Bobby Mayhugh (145), Martins Ferry; Justin Jefferis (160), Barnesville; Jake Sowers (171), Cambridge; and Philip Belleville (189), Oak Glen.

Several special ceremonies and presentations are planned. The Olympic-style Parade of Champions takes place prior to Thursday's session. Participants include some 490 matmen, representing 37 high schools. They will march into the

civic center behind the banner of their own schools.

Awards honoring the junior varsity and junior high wrestling coaches of the year will take place on Friday evening.

The Mr. Mat Award, the most prestigious honor handed out each year, is scheduled during Saturday evening's festivities.

Honored as "Mr. Mat" each year is a person who has made valuable contributions to the sport in the Ohio Valley.

Last year's recipient was Bill McEldowney of Wheeling, retired Wheeling YMCA Executive Director.

Another Saturday night highlight includes the introduction of the OVAC mat champions from 25 years ago. The 1977 titlists will be seated in a special area on the main floor that evening.

The Championship Finals once again will be televised live by WTOV-9.

Long-time tournament director Ron Mauck has scheduled the seeding meeting for today at 9 a.m., at the civic center.

A press conference will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday. Those attending both events should use the back door for entrance to the arena.

PAST OVAC MAT CHAMPS

Following is a list of the overall team champions and their head coaches since the inception of the tournament in 1954:

1954: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1955: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1956: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1957: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1958: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1959: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1960: Bridgeport, George Kovalick
1961: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1962: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1963: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1964: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1965: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1966: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1967: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1968: Martins Ferry, John Vrotsos
1969: St. John Central, Joe Bates
1970: Wheeling Central, John Hibbert
1971: St. John Central, Dennis Bowman
1972: John Marshall, Bill Hinegardner
1973: John Marshall, Bill Hinegardner
1974: John Marshall, Bill Hinegardner
1975: Warwood, Eric Carder
1976: Martins Ferry, Art Hehr
1977: John Marshall, Bill Hinegardner
1978: Wheeling Park, Eric Carder
1979: Wheeling Park, Eric Carder
1980: Steubenville, John Craig
1981: Cadiz, John Stephenson
1982: Steubenville, John Craig
1983: John Marshall, Ed Dugas
1984: Steubenville, John Craig
1985: Barnesville, Darrell Davis
1986: East Liverpool, Nick Trombetta
1987: Steubenville, John Craig
1988: East Liverpool, Nick Trombetta
1989: Steubenville, John Craig
1990: Wheeling Park, Buzz Evans
1991: Oak Glen, Larry Shaw
1992: Steubenville, John Craig
1993: Martins Ferry, Jeff Oberdick
1994: Wheeling Park, Buzz Evans
1995: Steubenville, Rick Camilletti
1996: Buckeye Local, Dan Doyle
1997: Buckeye Local, Dan Doyle
1998: Martins Ferry, Jeff Oberdick
1999: Martins Ferry, Jeff Oberdick
2000: East Liverpool, Scott Heimstra
2001: East Liverpool, Scott Heimstra



1977 Champions To Be Honored

Among the highlights of next weekend's 49th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament will be the introduction of the individual champions from 25 years ago.

Following is a list of the 1977 tournament winners who will be introduced to the crowd prior to Saturday night's finals:

1977 Tournament Champions
98 pounds: Carl Stanley, Wheeling Park
105: Mike Thomassell, Brooke
112: Dave Chadwell, Bealsville
119: Mike Gamble, Brooke
126: Greg Jewell, Wheeling Park
132: Jeff Morris, John Marshall
138: Ray Pernell, Weir
145: Rodney Johnson, Bellaire
155: Joel Davis, Cadiz
167: Rich Davis, Jefferson Union
175: John Schuller, Martins Ferry
185: Dave Mitchell, Shenandoah
Hwt: Gordon Gordon, John Marshall

BIERKORTTE AWARD WINNERS

Following is a list of the winners of the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award, presented annually since 1971 to the most outstanding wrestler in the OVAC Tournament:

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 Burienski, Bridgeport

1987: Mark Mlynec, Bellaire
1986: Sean Murray, Oak Glen
1985: Tim Moxley, Barnesville
1984: Heath Beadmore, Cambridge
1983: Brian Miller, Barnesville
1982: Larry Iselman, Toronto
1981: Mike Tuchowski, Steubenville
1980: Trent Iachino, Steubenville
1979: Randy Pryor, Weir
1978: Carl Stanley, Wheeling Park
1977: Rich Davis, Jefferson Union
1976: Randy Davis, Cadiz and Ed Covey, Bridgeport
1975: Mike Kovalick, Bellaire
1974: Sheldon Grace, Weir
1973: Dan Claugus, Barnesville
1972: Art Jonas, Bellaire
1971: Don Blum, Martins Ferry

MR. MAT AWARD WINNERS

1978: George Kovalick
1977: Bill Van Horn
1976: John Vrotsos
1975: Richard Edge
1974: George Walley
1973: Bob Hadmond
1972: Paul Crago
1971: Dr. Vincent Monseau
1970: Bill Hinegardner
1969: Dennis Bowman
1968: Ron Mauck
1967: Eric Carder
1966: Dave Kovalick

1989: Steve Kish
1990: Carl Fodor
1991: Dr. William Walker
1992: Larry Deaton
1993: John Stephenson
1994: Joe Bates
1995: Bob Bruney
1996: Larry Chambers
1997: Gary Davis
1998: Cal Pokas
1999: Tom Lackman
2000: Ed "Buzz" Evans
2001: Bill McEldowney

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Here is a list of officials for the 2002 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament to be held Jan. 17-19 at the Wheeling Civic Center:

Paul Coffland, Lou Coffland, Cadiz;
Jim Crosier, Barnesville;
Rick Crosier, Shawn Crosier, Steubenville
Larry Deaton, Bill Marling, Ray Marling,
ack Regis, Martins Ferry
Fred Feeney, Groveport, Ohio

John Holliday, New Martinsville
Shane Kildow, Bathesda
Steve Kish Jr., Nashport, Ohio
Rick Spencer, Cambridge
Mike Stalaker, Fairmont
Ken McWilliams, Canonsburg, Pa.
West Virginia State Rules Interpreter
Dr. William Walker, Wheeling
Public Relations
Dr. Vincent Mattucci, Lakewood, Ohio

FROM PRESS ROW

Enthusiasm awaits upcoming OVAC wrestling season



By
RICK DELUCA
Times Leader
Sports Writer

Nine new coaches, six defending OVAC tournament champions and a ton of enthusiasm await the opening of the 2001-2002 Ohio Valley high school wrestling season.

Does it get any better? Yes, it does. Ohio Valley wrestling, which keeps getting better and better every year, may be adding a few new wrinkles.

If all goes well, the elite of the OVAC prep wrestlers will compete at the end of the season in an all-star match at the University of Pittsburgh's Fitzgerald Field House opposite the best from the WPIAL. The tournament will be part of the 28th Annual Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic that will also pit some of the best wrestlers in the country against a group representing the entire state of Pennsylvania.

While final plans and arrangements are to be finished, the OVAC coaches have already given their approval for the event.

While the Dapper Dan Classic will give local mat fans plenty to look forward to this season, the OVAC's giant wrestling tournament at the Wheeling Civic Center is set for January 17-18-19, 2002. Over 850 wrestlers get together that weekend for the Ohio Valley most prestigious wrestling tournament.

This year's OVAC tourney will return six defending champions including a sophomore from Beaver Local that has the opportunity to accomplish a rare feat down the road. The number of Ohio Valley wrestlers to win four OVAC titles over the years is very slim and Beaver's 215-pound Adam Hoppel is hoping to join that small list.

While nine new coaches will be on the sidelines with the start of the new season, four coaches return after gaining Coach of the Year accolades for their efforts during the 2000-2001 season.

Garnering Coach of the Year honors in Class 4-A was Jay Michael of Buckeye Local who coached the Panthers to a third place finish in the OVAC tourney and a 15-2 dual meet record a year ago as Buckeye also produced its first two-time OVAC champion in Nathan Kendjorsky.

Awarded Class 2-A Coach of the Year honors was Barnesville's Luke Johnson who led the Shamrocks to a Class 2-A team title and captured the dual meet crown with a 9-2 record.

Gaining top coach honors in 1-A was veteran Jim Potts of Cameron, who coached the Dragons to a 1-A title in the OVAC tourney and finished at 22-3 in dual meets while Larry Shaw of Oak Glen earned the honors in Class 3-A after placing second overall in the tourney and 11-1-1 in dual meet competition. Shaw was also the OVAC's Coach of the Year for the 2000-2001 year.

Nine new coaches will be starting their careers on the bench this season. Four notable departures are Scott Hiemstra, the highly-successful coach at East Liverpool, Frank Crain at Weir, Mike Castello and Shenandoah and Clint Abbott at Beallsville.

Coming on board as coaches in the OVAC this year are Rich Shilling at East Liverpool, David DeFelice at Steubenville, Chuck Varner at Weir, and Chad Frick at Park. Also new in the coaching ranks are Mike Waite at Shenandoah, Dalton Summers at Caldwell, Ron Clark at Steubenville Central, Bob Burrow at Beallsville and John Durdines at Bishop Donahue.

This year's list of returning coaches include Michael at Buckeye Local, Potts at Cameron, Shaw at Oak Glen and Johnson at Barnesville along with Rich Wright at Beaver Local, Joe Erlewine at Brooke, Tom Moore at Cambridge, Mike Smith at Edison, Ed West at John Marshall, Dwayne Coleman at Bellaire, Jim Rocchi at Harrison Central, Brent Hughes at Magnolia, Babe Sidon at Ferry, Troy Keith at Meadowbrook, John Vrotsos at St. Clairsville, Larry Ritchie at Tyler and Joel Davia at Union Local.

Also back to the mats are Paul Robison at Monroe Central, Chuck Baker at River, John Haswell at Shadyside, Sean Smith at Wellsville, Don Bauer at Wheeling Central, Art Jones at Bridgeport, James Peoples at Conotton Valley, Tom Giovengo at Linsly, Andrew Lamotte at St. John Central and Jamie Lesho at Weirton Madonna.

While a majority of last year's OVAC champions are graduated seniors, six 2001 champions return to defend their crowns. Some of the returning champs may move to other weight classes.

At 103, East Liverpool junior Jakes returns after taking that title in a 9-6 decision over Beaver's Josh Hoover while at 119, Wheeling Park senior returns after scoring a 6-5 decision over Edison's talented Derek Maple in the OVAC title match.

At 140, Martins Ferry senior Derek Roth will be a defending champion after clinching the title last season with a 10-4 win over Monroe Central's Christopher Wilson. At 152, John Marshall senior Derek George will be back after winning the conference crown in his weight class over Shadyside's Kurt Glasser by a narrow 3-2 decision.

Hoppel, just a sophomore this year follows a rich family tradition at Beaver Local and returns after taking the 215-pound crown as only a freshman last year. At 275, Shenandoah senior Jesse Wells will be back to defend his title in the heavyweight ranks after winning last year by pinning Cambridge's Michael Price at 3:57.

While the list of returning OVAC champions numbers six, the list of place finishers back for another season on the mats is much larger.

Some of the 2001 place finishers returning are Harrison Central's Jesse Emery at 103, Ferry's Mike Jones, River's Lucas Huffman at 112, Ferry's John Tierney, Barnesville's Jared Anderson, Beallsville's Bubba Larew and Harrison's Scott Campbell at 119 and Ferry's David Tierney, St. John Central's Chris Case and Shadyside's Kyle Glasser at 125.

Others back are St. Clairsville's Billy Barath and Barnesville's Jason Lucas at 130, Barnesville's Jason Petticord at 135, Monroe's Wilson, Beallsville's Ryan Kinzy and Barnesville's Johnny Jefferies at 140 and Buckeye Local's David Bertolino and Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt at 145.

More returning place finishers are Harrison's Derrick Sefick, Union Local's Ryan Tacosik and Barnesville's Chad Baker at 152, St. John's Justin Hepe and Buckeye Local's Jack Otto at 171, Ferry's John Eden at 215 and Harrison's Tony Carothers and Union Local's Koel Davia at 275.

The past six years has produced three back-to-back overall team champions with Buckeye Local winning the 1996-97 titles under coach Dan Doyle, Martins Ferry capturing the 1998-99 crowns under coach Jeff Oberdick and East Liverpool winning the past two years under coach Scott Hiemstra. All three coaches are no longer head coaches in the OVAC.

Individual awards were handed out after last season with Kendjorsky capturing the Daniel Burke Award, Tyler Hughes of Cameron earning the George Kovalick OVAC Scholarship Award, Cole Bowersock of Beaver Local winning the Dave Bierkorte Award while William McEldowney

OVAC WRESTLING SEEDS

The top eight seeds in each weight class for the 49th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament.

103-1, Clay Tucker, Martins Ferry (14-2); 2, Jon Howard, John Marshall (20-2); 3, Anthony Valles, Weirton Madonna (23-1); 4, Justin Goneau, Oak Glen (13-5); 5, Andrew Mazzella, Brooke (18-5); 6, Anthony Duffield, East Liverpool (13-8); 7, Luke Hoppel, Beaver Local (12-5); 8, Jordan Seidler, Monroe Central (13-3)

112-1, Lucas Huffman, River (20-1); 2, Jessie Emery, Harrison Central (13-0); 3, Josh Hoover, Beaver Local (12-4); 4, Brian Humphrey, Wheeling Park (1-1); 5, Matt Smith, Brooke (19-5); 6, Alan Taylor, John Marshall (15-8); 7, Nate Gossett, Union Local (11-2); 8, Chris Troyan, Martins Ferry (11-5)

119-Adam Kennedy, Wheeling Park (13-3); 2, John Tierney, Martins Ferry (16-4); 3, Kyle Glasser, Shadyside (16-1); 4, Brannon Chambers, Oak Glen (14-4); 5, Mike Fasouletos, John Marshall (20-4); 6, Marcus Prendes, Wellsville (16-2); 7, Jonathan McFarland, Brooke (15-3); 8, John Petrozzi, Buckeye Local (15-6)

125-Josh Johnston, Indian Creek (19-3); 2, Braden Shaw, Brooke (10-1); 3, Jarrod Anderson, Barnesville (18-3); 4, Mike Jones, Martins Ferry (10-5); 5, Ryan Turnbull, Buckeye Local (16-5); 6, Jason Koontz, John Marshall (21-5); 7, Aaron Brown, Monroe Central (18-5); 8, Roscoe Larew, Beallsville (16-2)

130-1, David Tierney, Martins Ferry (16-2); 2, Jason Lucas, Barnesville (11-2); 3, Jared Hoppel, Beaver Local (10-3); 4, Vic Bologna, Harrison Central (16-1); 5, Clayton Benedict, Monroe Central (15-5); 6, Mike Abernethy, Beallsville (10-1); 7, Bryan Ramsey, Shadyside (11-4); 8, Mike Licata, Steubenville (16-2)

135-Jon Varner, Beaver Local (12-2); 2, Billy Barath, St. Clairsville (12-0); 3, David Durbin, Brooke (24-1); 4, Casey Hughes, Cameron (16-1); 5, Corey Smith, Martins Ferry (12-3); 6, Garrett Six, Oak Glen (13-6); 7, Ryan Ferguson, Monroe Central (14-2); 8, Matt Barcus, Harrison Central (10-4)

140-Jesse Irwin, Shadyside (17-1); 2, Phil Bliss, Brooke (22-3); 3, Steve Flowers, Oak Glen (15-3); 4, Joel O'Neil, Cameron (7-0); 5, Tony Zrinyi, Steubenville Central (11-1); 6, Jason Peddicord, Barnesville (16-6); 7, Chris Case, Bellaire St. John's (12-4); 8, Bryan

Rose, Harrison Central (11-6)
145-Jeremy Shaw, Beaver Local (12-4); 2, Matt Wharton, Oak Glen (16-3); 3, Bobby Samsa, Shadyside (17-1); 4, Christopher Wilson, Monroe Central (19-2); 5, Brock Bowman, Buckeye Local (16-5); 6, Jeremy Cowan, East Liverpool (10-6); 7, Jason Bahmer, Barnesville (13-5); 8, Brad Nicka, Weirton Madonna (11-3)

152-1, Derek George, John Marshall (24-1); 2, Derek Roth, Martins Ferry (15-3); 3, Tucker Brown, Cameron (14-3); 4, Ken Baker, Harrison Central (11-5); 5, Ryan Tacosik, Union Local (15-3); 6, Chad Snider, Tyler Consolidated (17-3); 7, Luke Burkhardt, Shadyside (12-2); 8, Johnny Jefferis, Barnesville (19-3)

160-1, Roger Kupper, Cameron (17-0); 2, David Bertolino, Buckeye Local (20-1); 3, John Prokapski, Edison (18-3); 4, Derek Sefick, Harrison Central (13-3); 5, Robby Dimmerling, Monroe Central (18-4); 6, Chad Barker, Barnesville (19-3); 7, Chris Green, East Liverpool (10-3); 8, Chuck Filby, John Marshall (18-6)

171-1, Derrick Stickle, Oak Glen (17-1); 2, Jordan Williams, Beaver Local (7-0); 3, Eric Spitznogle, Harrison Central (12-0); 4, James Lyons, Steubenville (13-1); 5, Justin Hepe, Bellaire St. John's (13-2); 6, Jon Arnette, Wellsville (17-1); 7, Sean Grinch, Shadyside (14-4); 8, Tyler Schumacher, Monroe Central (16-4)

189-1, Chris Taylor, John Marshall (24-1); 2, Ron Hebrock, Oak Glen (16-3); 3, Jared Williams, Beaver Local (11-4); 4, Adam Snyder, St. Clairsville (15-1); 5, Josh Boyd, Wheeling Park (17-4); 6, Aaron Groff, Wellsville (15-3); 7, Brian Hepburn, Shadyside (16-2); 8, Jack Otto, Buckeye Local (14-7)

215-1, Adam Hoppel, Beaver Local (15-2); 2, Vince Magnone, Weir (26-0); 3, Joe Weaver, Magnolia (19-1); 4, John Walls, John Marshall (19-4); 5, Josh Stansbury, East Liverpool (14-3); 6, Bill Whitehill, Oak Glen (13-5); 7, Cody Leach, Shenandoah (12-4); 8, B.J. Cook, Wheeling Park (14-9)

275-1, Michael Price, Cambridge (9-1); 2, Jesse Wells, Shenandoah (15-1); 3, Joe Caughay, Oak Glen (14-3); 4, Koel Davia, Union Local (16-2); 5, Tony Carothers, Harrison Central (13-1); 6, Eugene Henry, John Marshall (20-4); 7, Matt Duval, Bellaire (14-4); 8, Troy Allenby, Wheeling Park (17-6)

■ OVAC WRESTLING NOTEBOOK

Beavers' Hoppel wins second-straight OVAC title

By **ROCCO LONGO**
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING - What a road he's traveled. After a life-threatening car accident in late fall, Beaver Local sophomore Adam Hoppel completed his recovery Saturday, by winning his second OVAC title in as many years at the 215-pound weight class.

Hoppel, who received mild head trauma and over 200 stitches in his head and knee after running into a parked truck on Route 11, won a 4-3 decision over Vince Magnone from Weir to win the title.

"Above everything, I'm happy to be alive after what happened," Hoppel said. "It feels good though to win the match against a pretty tough opponent."

So what's next for the comeback kid?

"I want to win state."

● The OVAC announced that the conference will put together a team to wrestle the WPIAL All-Stars at the 28th annual Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic on March 30 at the University of Pittsburgh.

The match between the two state powers will be the warm up contest of the night for the feature event between the Pennsylvania and United States All-Stars.

According to Dan Doyle, the assistant director of the OVAC Tournament, it's a tremendous honor.

"(The Dapper Dan) people had heard of us and figured it would be a pretty nice thing to do since we're right down the road," he said. "It's a very prestigious

event that a lot of college coaches attend."

Doyle said that a committee will hand pick seniors from the OVAC to participate in the event. The committee, which is not complete yet, will be made of OVAC coaches.

"This is a tremendous compliment to our league," Doyle said. "It's going to really help get our conference some exposure."

● While all the fans are busy watching the action in the bleachers, many probably don't realize what's going on underneath their seats.

In what is called the bullpen area, OVAC volunteers are constantly moving wrestlers in different weight classes from one area to another in order to get them on the mats on time.

You can imagine in the process of dealing with so many wrestlers over the three days, how much one might take in.

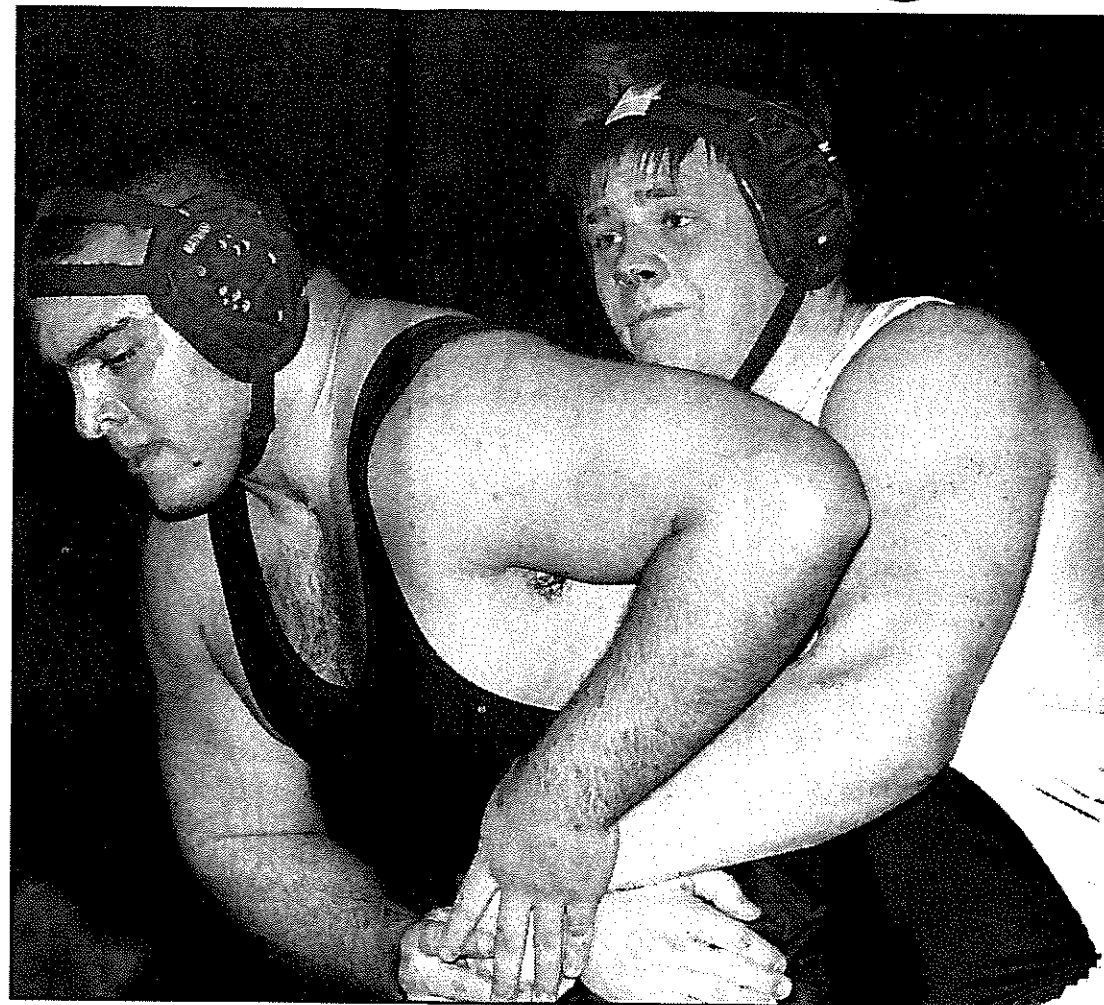
"We see a lot of things in the bullpen," volunteer Jim Noel said during championship action Saturday. "To be honest, this is the first wrestling I've seen. So far, I've been stuck (under the bleachers) getting guys ready."

Noel did say it's a job he doesn't mind doing.

"These wrestlers are really very nice young men," he said. "We even joke around with them a little."

So what's the funniest thing he's seen?

"We were picking on a guy's nickname," Noel said with a laugh. "His teammates were calling him donut and he wouldn't



Beaver Local sophomore Adam Hoppel (right) handed Vince Magnone of Weir his first loss of the season in the 215-pound championship match. (Photo by Missy Borders)

tell us why so we had a good time with it."

Anything strange go on?
"Some guys actually sleep," Noel said. "It's amazing. They have a huge match coming up

and they sleep. I guess it helps them relax."

Noel said they deal with all guys both big and small.

"The room's constantly changing from big to small," he said of

the different size weight classes. "And I'll tell you what, everyone talks about how tough those big guys must be, but I wouldn't want to give those little guys any problems either - they're quick."

● Despite all of the advances in technology, the OVAC continues to use the same leaderboard, made of cardboard. The scorekeeper must then manually reach up and change the score of each team as the tournament progresses.

"That's something we'd like to improve," tournament director Ron Mauck said. "They key word though is money so it'd be nice to get some sponsors to get a new one."

Mauck did say that it's not all bad because it gives someone a job to do.

"It helps break the new (workers) in," he said with a chuckle. "If I didn't have that they wouldn't have anything to do."

● Of the 112 wrestlers who placed in the event, 21 were from either Oak Glen, Beaver Local, East Liverpool, or Wellsville. In total, 37 teams took part in the action with 432 wrestlers hitting the mat.

● When Martins Ferry's John and David Tierney won their respective weight classes of 119 and 130 pounds, it was just the third time in the OVAC 49-year history that brothers won titles in the same year.

● Each year, the tournament honors the champions from 25 years previous. This year, 1977 was recognized, which is something Mauck is very proud of.

"It's like a reunion for a lot of people," he said. "What I find unique about the tournament is it brings a lot of folks together and for three days you see a lot of positive things."

OVAC —

FROM PAGE 1B

nior heavyweight.

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OVAC —

FROM PAGE 1B

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Beaver Local coach Rich Wright said he was pleased with his team's effort, despite not being able to win their first OVAC title. The Beavers were looking for their first title in 11 years since Wright convinced Beaver Local to join the conference. The Beavers did claim the Class AAAA title, edging out John Marshall, 206-203.5.

"We just let too many big matches go by. But, it's still nice to win our division. It was a total team effort," said Wright. "We had a very good tournament, and we'll look forward to next year.

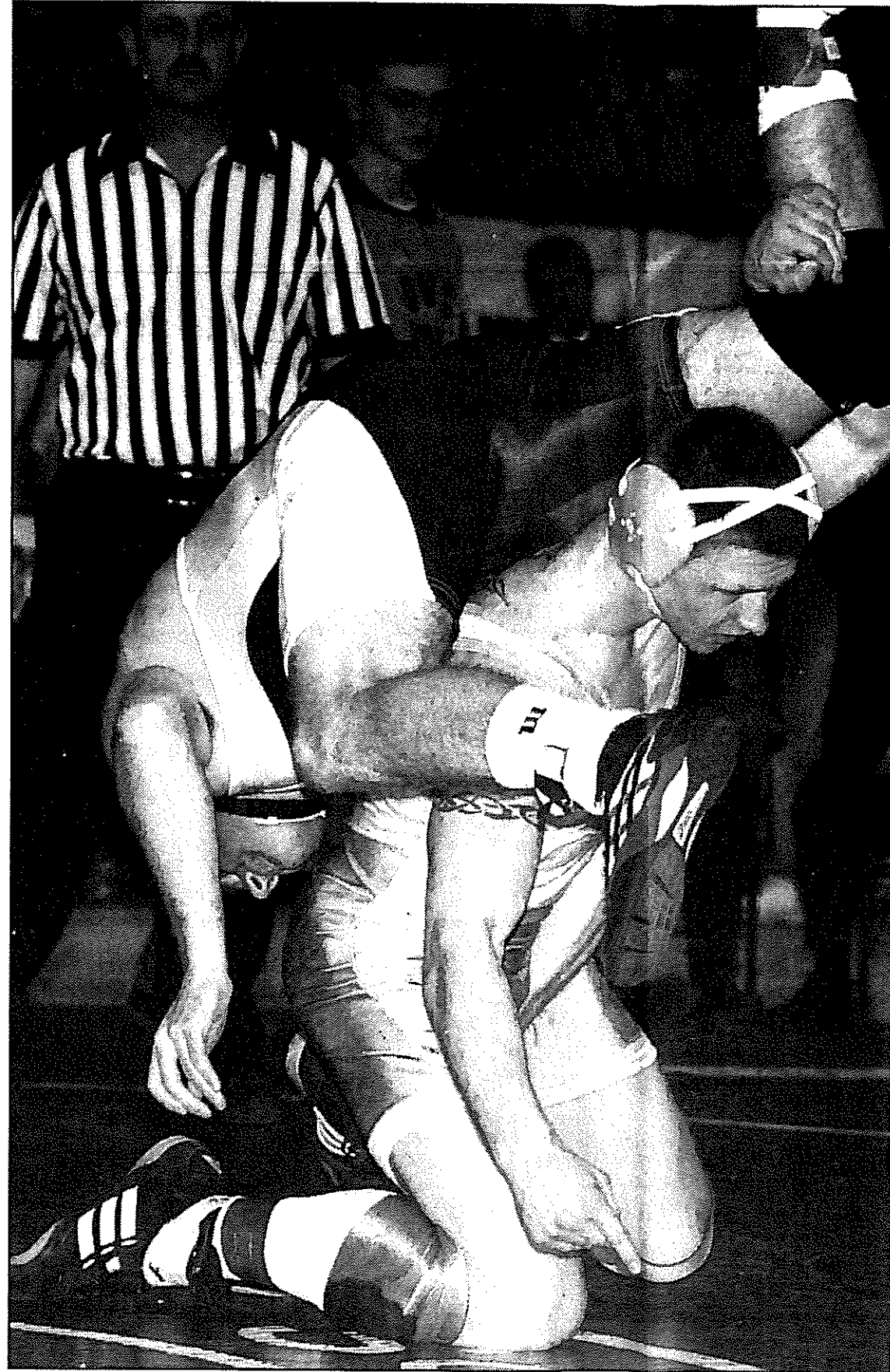
Beaver Local's winner on Saturday were; Luke Hoppel at 103 for fifth place, Jeremy Shaw was third at 145, Jared Williams was third at 189 and Hoppel at 215.

Oak Glen's winners were; Steve Flowers at 140 for third place, Derrick Stickles at 171 for first and Caughey at 275.

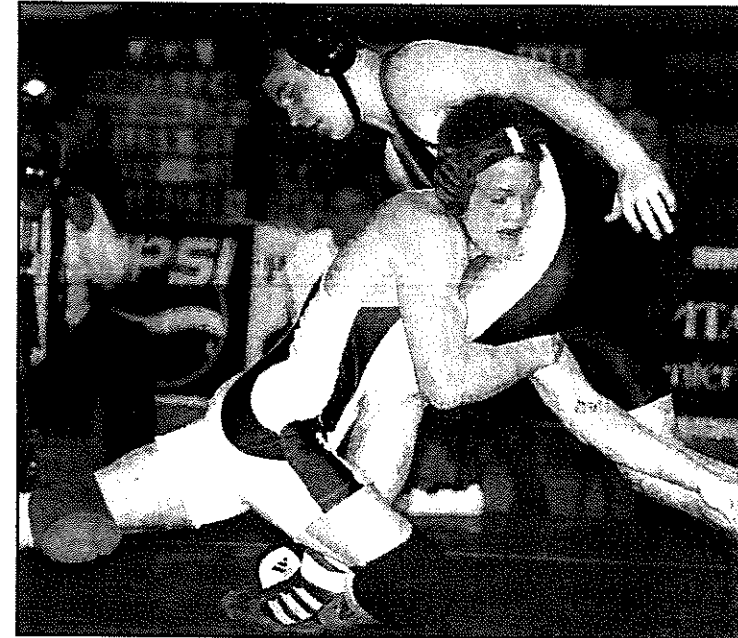
East Liverpool had all four of its wrestlers win Saturday. Anthony Duffield (at 103) took seventh; Jeremy Cowan won his fifth place match in overtime on criteria at 145; Chris Green won his 160-pound match for seventh place and Jake Stansbury finished third with a fall at 215. Wellsville's only competitor on the day was Jon Arnette. He suffered a 5-2 loss and settled for sixth place.

East Liverpool finished the tournament in a tie for 10th place with 99 points. Edison was 17th with 71 points.

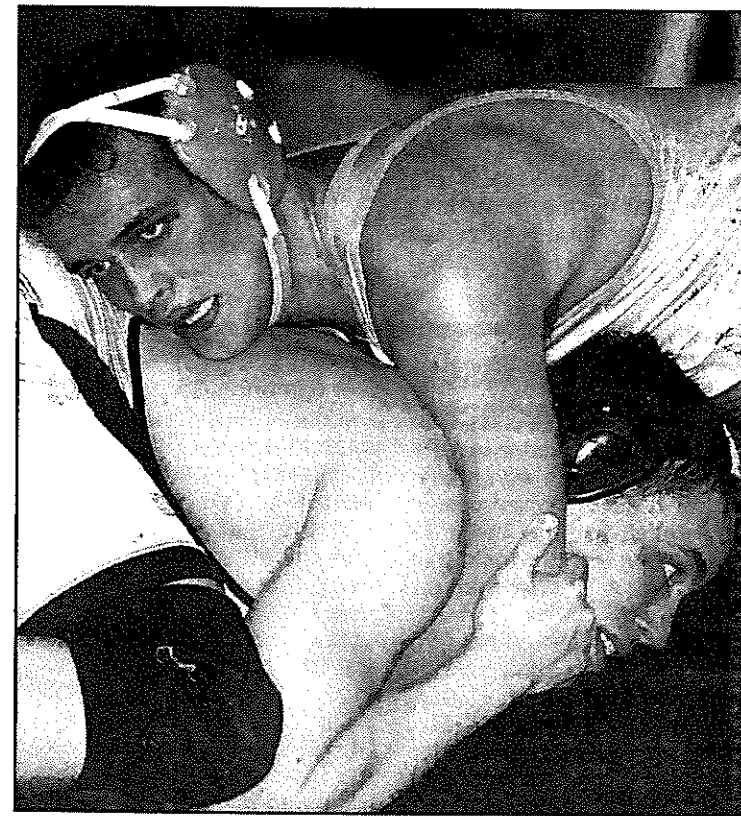
Caughey won the Mr. Hercules award for pinning his opponents in the quickness time. He won five of six matches by falls. Derek George of John Marshall won the best wrestler award. He got by previous champion Derek Roth of Martins Ferry in the 152-pound final.



Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (bottom) won the 171-pound class with a 1-0 decision over Beaver Local's Jordan Williams. (Photo by Missy Borders)



Chris Green of East Liverpool (left) handles his 160-pound opponent in their seventh-place match, which the Potter won. (Photo by Missy Borders)



Ron Hebrock of Oak Glen dropped a 3-1 decision in the 189-pound class to Chris Taylor of John Marshall. (Photo by Missy Borders)