

SPORTS

OG wins '04 OVAC wrestling crown

• Beaver's Hoppel earns Bierkorte Award

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Larry Shaw added a bit more metal to his mantle.

Opening up a big lead on Thursday, a bigger lead on Friday and an even bigger lead by the time the finals got under way Saturday, Shaw and his Oak Glen Golden Bears added another OVAC championship trophy to the school's trophy case.

Racking up 220.5 points in three days of wrestling, the Golden Bears notched their second OVAC wrestling championship in three years at the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the WesBanco Arena in Wheeling Saturday night.

Before a large and very enthusiastic crowd, Oak Glen captured the overall and Class 3-A crown, topping runner-up Buckeye Local, which finished with 182.5 points. Brooke finished in third with 179.5 and Beaver Local was fourth with 161.

In Class 1-A, St. John Central ended Cameron's 13-year winning streak by taking the team title with 116 points. Shadyside was second with 107.5 and Cameron was third with 90 points.

Shenandoah won its first ever OVAC division wrestling crown in winning the 2-A title with 116.5 points, ahead of Monroe Central with 92 and Barnesville with 91.5.

Indian Creek finished second in 3-A behind Oak Glen with 137 points and Martins Ferry was third with 114.5.

Buckeye Local took the Class 4-A crown with 182.5 points ahead of Brooke's 179.5 and Beaver Local's 161.

It was a much-awaited bout at 275 and the crowd did not go home without getting their money's worth. For the first time in 19 years, two defending Ohio state champions met at center mat with Union Local's Koel Davia and Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel battling for the OVAC crown.

Hoppel was looking to be one of only four four-time OVAC champions and Davia was looking to win his second conference crown.

In the opening period, Hoppel shocked Davia by catching the leg of the Jet wrestling and taking him to the mat for a 2-0 lead. Hoppel continued to push Davia coming just inches away from the pin and picking up three more valuable near-fall points.

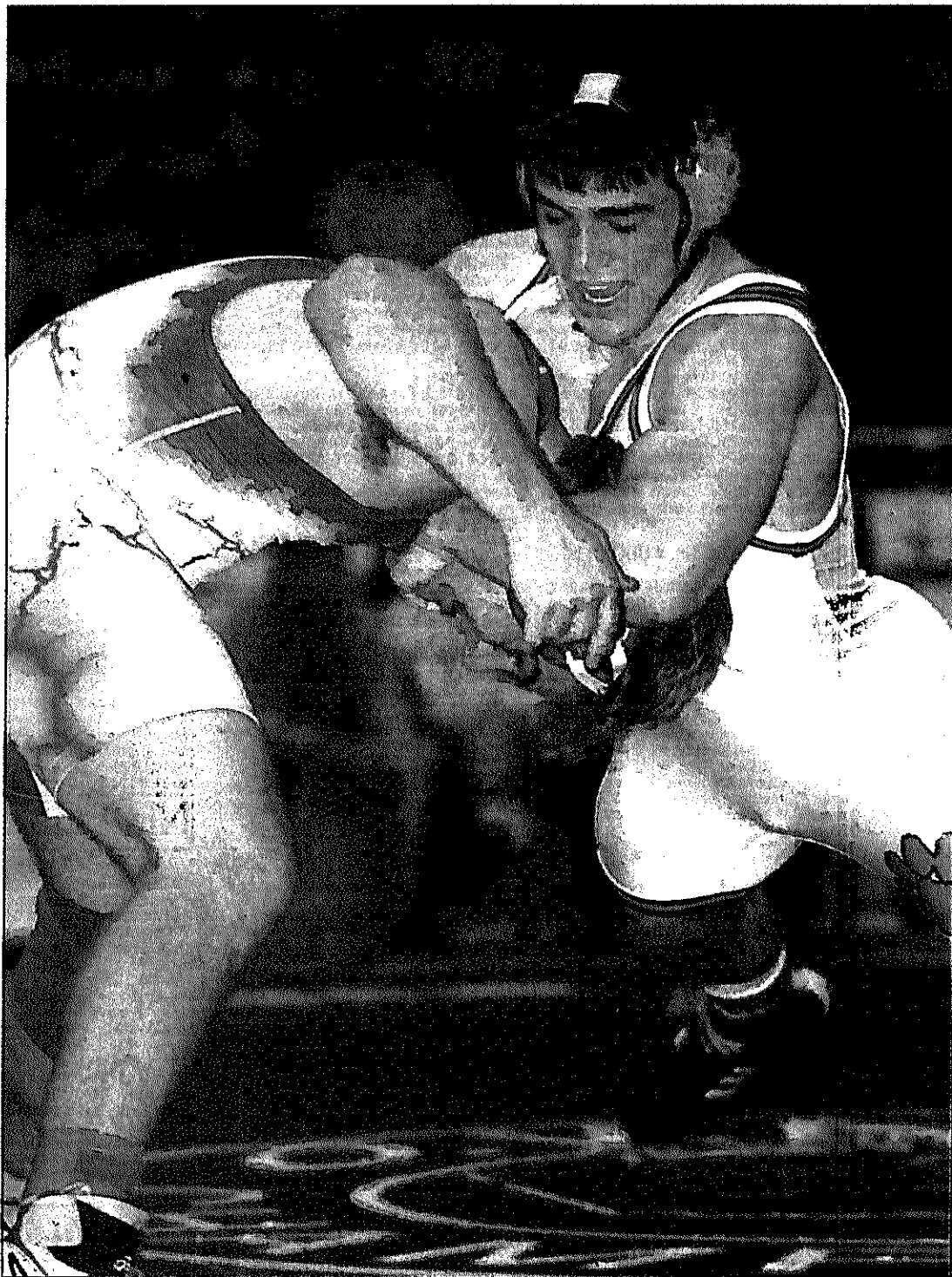
In the second period, Davia turned the tables on the Fighting Beaver, taking Hoppel down near the line, getting two points back at 1:35. Davia brought the crowd to its feet as he nearly pinned Hoppel. Hoppel eventually escaped to stretch his lead to 6-2.

In the third, Hoppel added another point at 1:37 before giving back a point with 25 seconds remaining on stalling.

Hoppel's 7-2 win made him the fourth four-time champ along with Bobby Douglas of Bridgeport, Mark Emmerling of East Liverpool and Kelly Shields of Edison. Hoppel, a three-time champ at 215, finished at 27-1 while Davia, a two-time Ohio champ at 275, is now 30-1.

Hoppel's win was capped off by being named the Bierkorte Award winner as the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

Indian Creek's James Myers and Wheeling Park's top-seeded Ron Green needed just six minutes in their 103-pound title match to get the tournament off to a



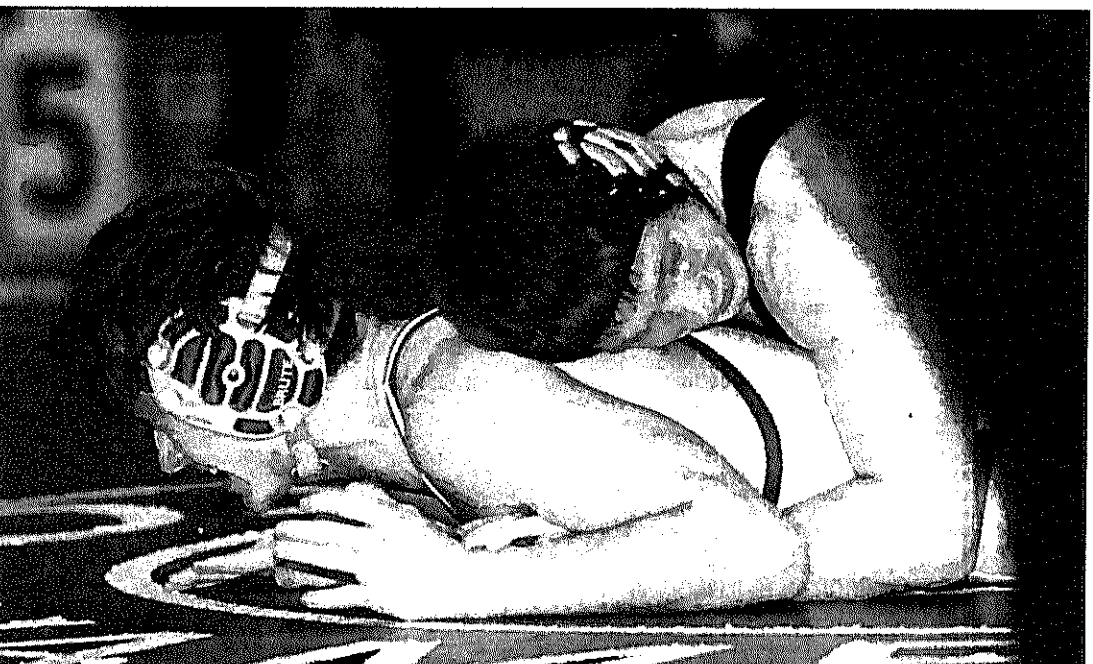
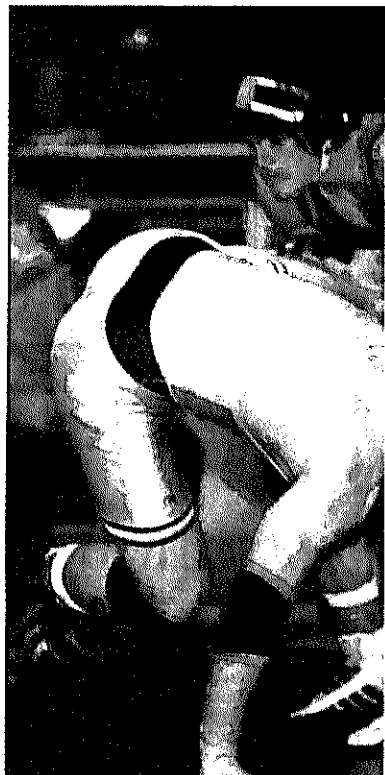
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MIDDLE RIGHT: Buckeye Local's Zach Schuller (left) and Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson do battle in the 140-pound title match.

BELOW RIGHT: Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker (top) is in control of Brooke's Mike Durbin during their 130-pound title match.

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See, **OVAC**, Page C2

Martins Ferry's Oberdick chosen as 2004 Mr. Mat

By **GREG HARKNESS**
Times Leader Sports Writer

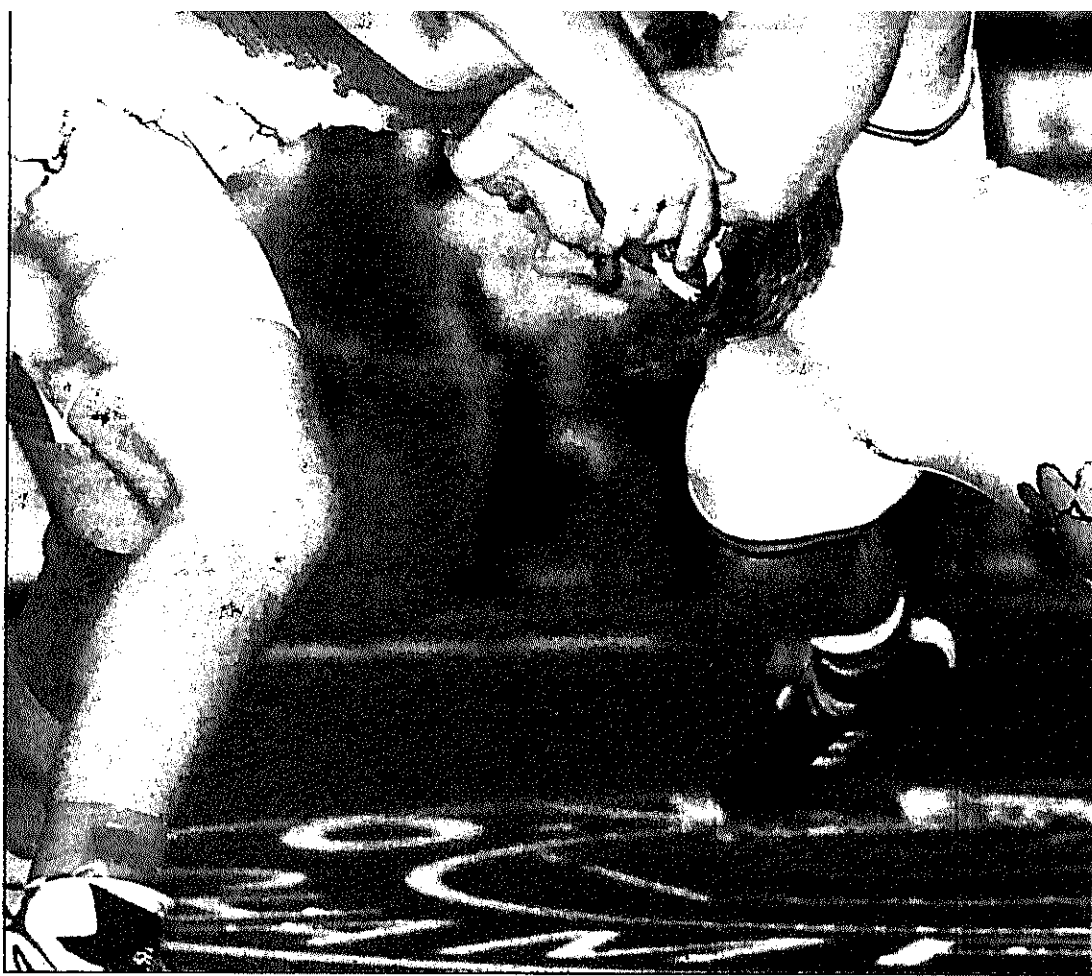
Martins Ferry has a rich wrestling history. Jeff Oberdick, a big reason for the Purple's continued success on the mats, has been selected as the 2004 Mr. Mat. The award was presented at the giant OVAC Wrestling Tournament this weekend.

Oberdick, who was head coach at Martins Ferry for 15 years, is still an assistant to current Purple Rider head coach Babe Sidon. Oberdick also serves as principal at Martins Ferry High School.

Oberdick left on the heels of one of the most successful seasons ever for Purple grapplers in 1999. The Riders won the overall OVAC Championship and concluded the season with an impressive third-place finish in the Ohio state tournament.

The 1999 OVAC Championship was the second consecutive for the Purple Riders and served as the largest

See, **OBERDICK**, Page C2



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

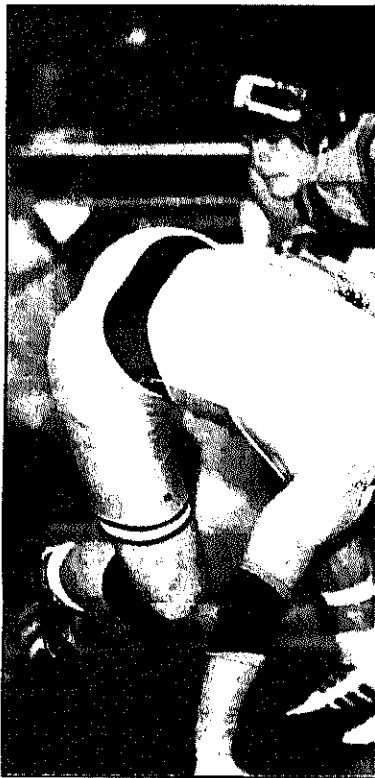
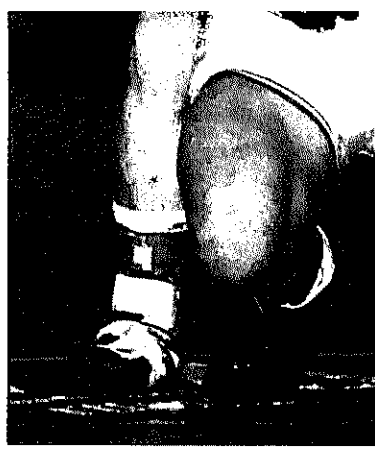
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OVAC NOTEBOOK

Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker wins third OVAC title

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Clay Tucker has been down this year. And if things go his way, he has to be down again next year.

Tucker -- the Martins Ferry junior -- won three consecutive OVAC Wrestling Championships in an easy fashion.

Scoring a decisive 17-1 technical fall, Mike Durbin gave Tucker his 25th consecutive win against zero losses.

"I didn't have to wrestle who I had to have to," Tucker said following the match. "This is a pretty tough weight class. Hard work is paying off."

During the three-day spectacle at the arena, Tucker not only won all of his matches but also allowed a take down during the competition.

"Clay just had an outstanding tournament. He was a successful Rider mentor Babe Sidon. He was down in the entire tournament real

See, **TUCKER**, Page C2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

THE 2004 Mr. Mat Award was presented to Martins Ferry's Jeff Oberdick (middle) at Saturday night's event. Pictured, from left are Ron Mauck, Oberdick and legendary Martins Ferry head coach John Vrotsos.

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By Sports Writer

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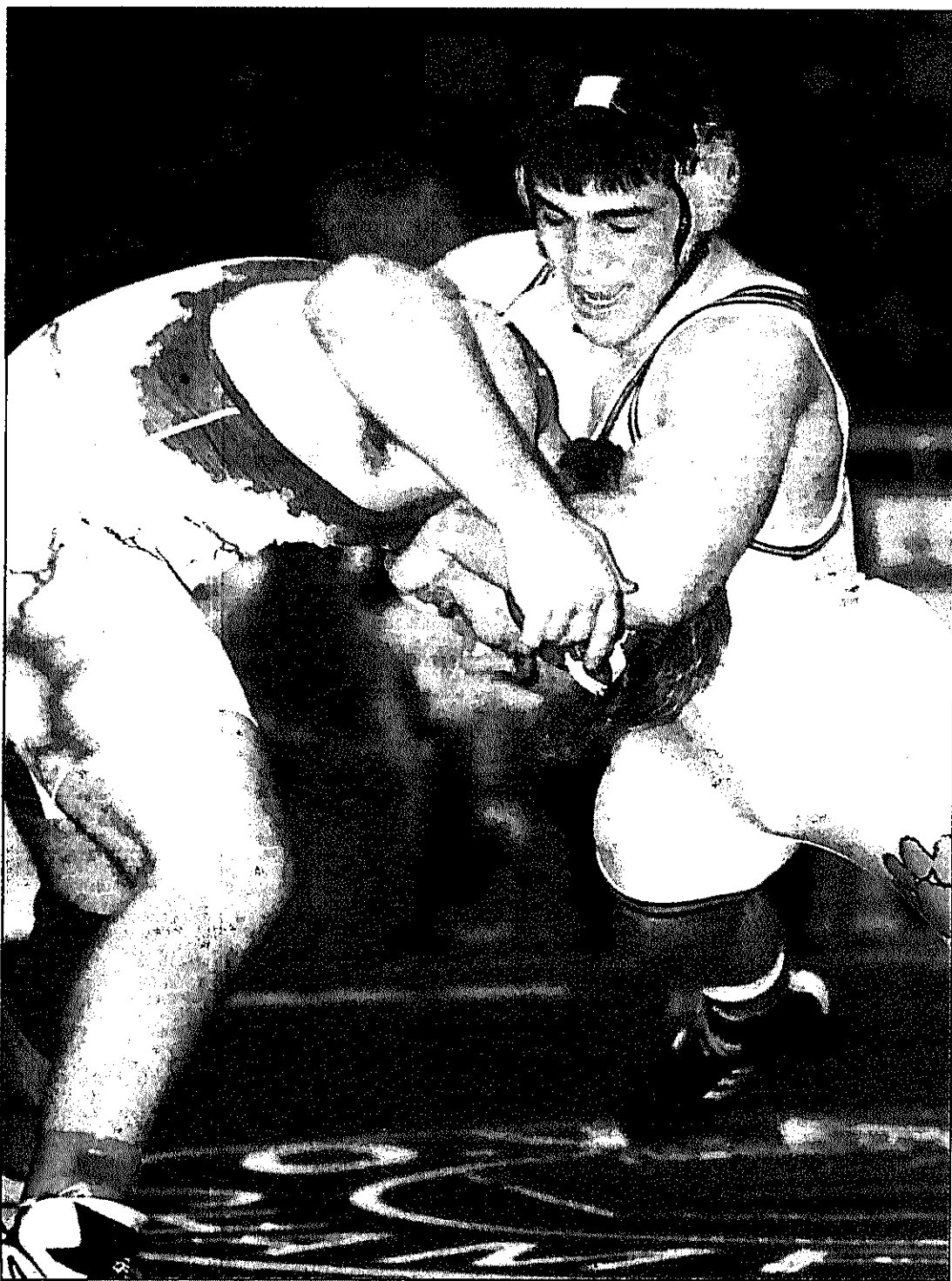
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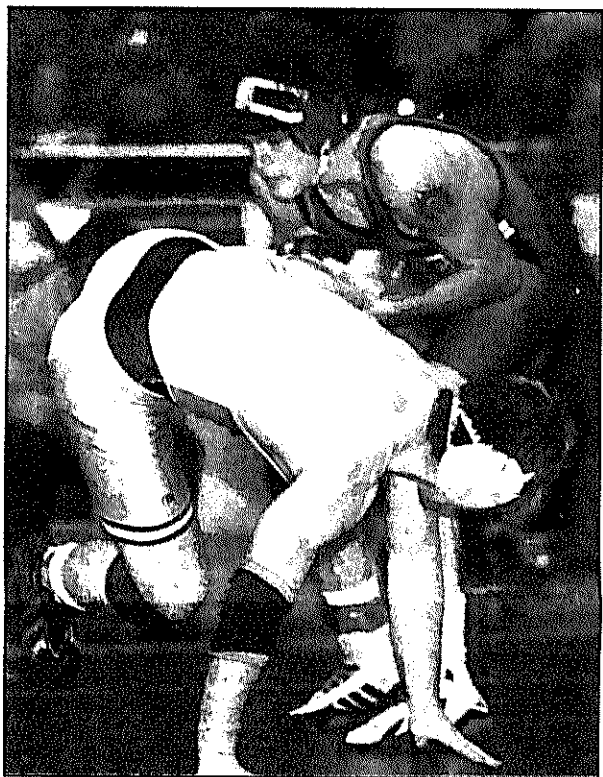
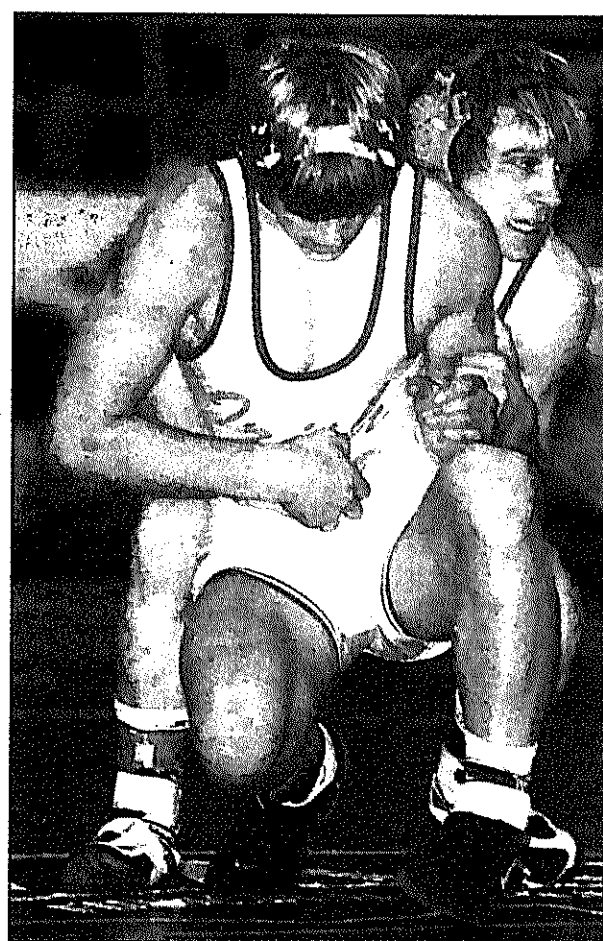
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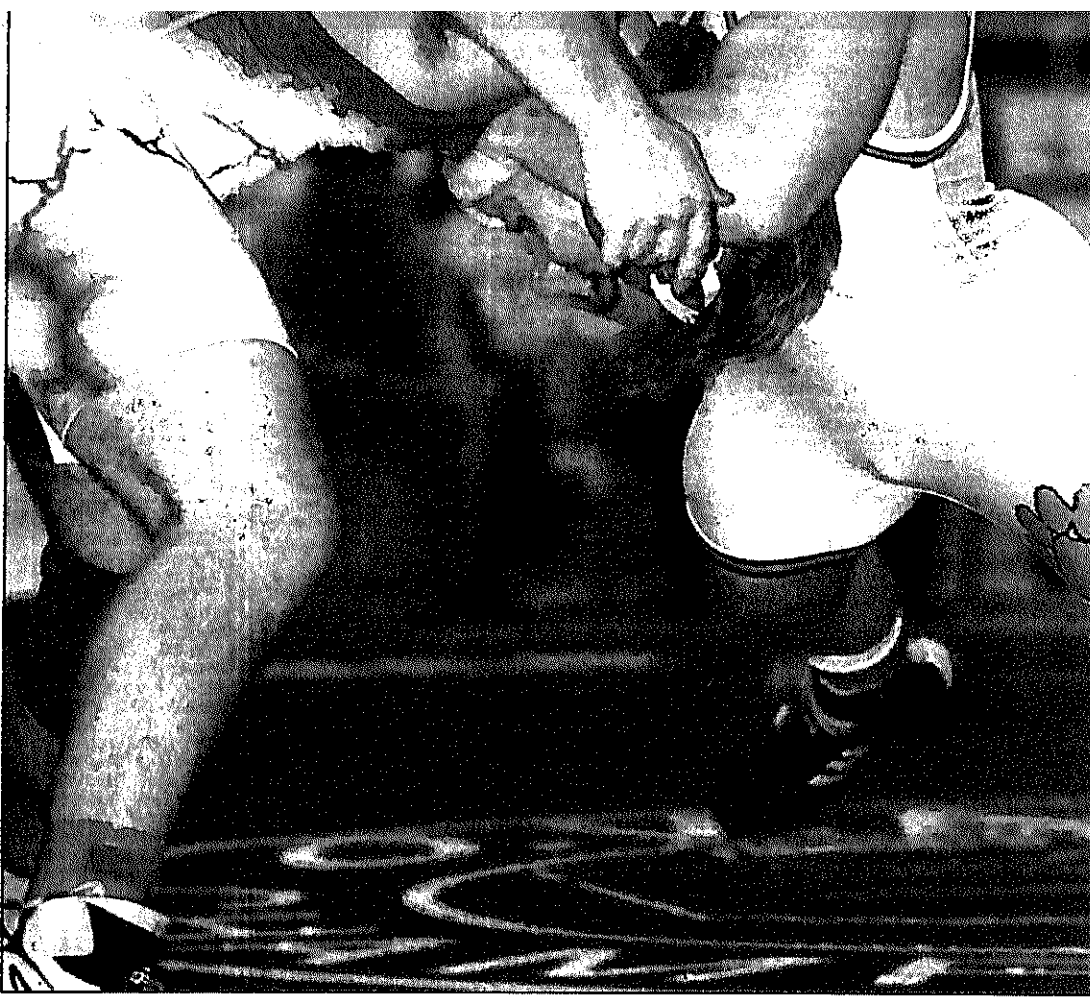
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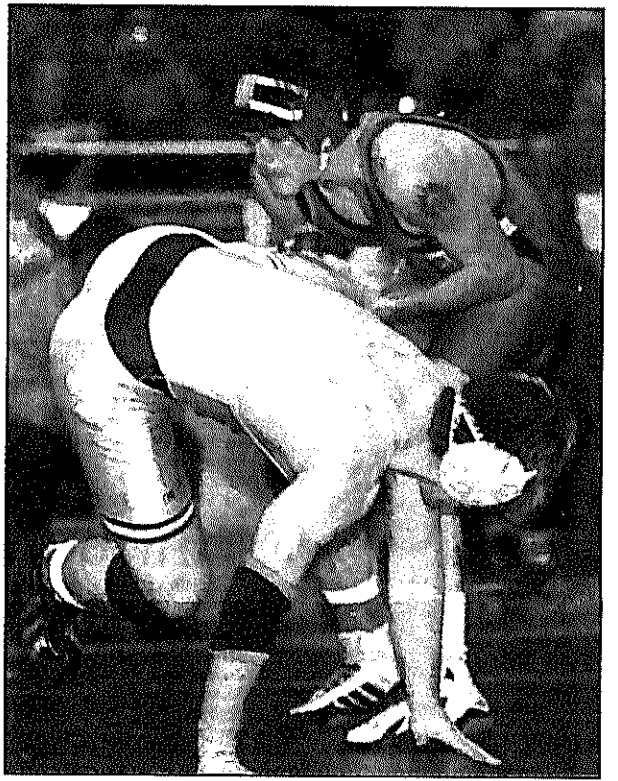
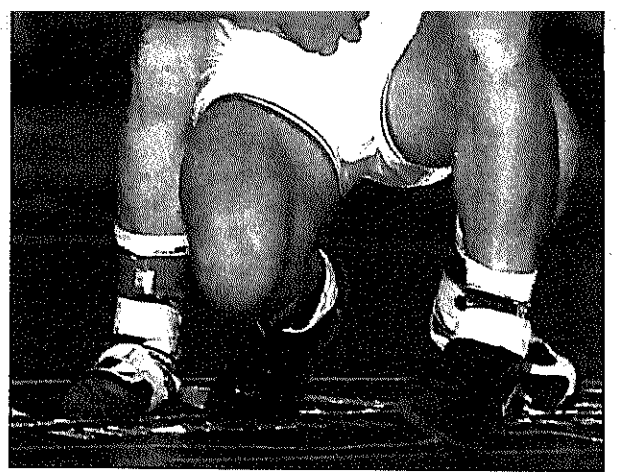
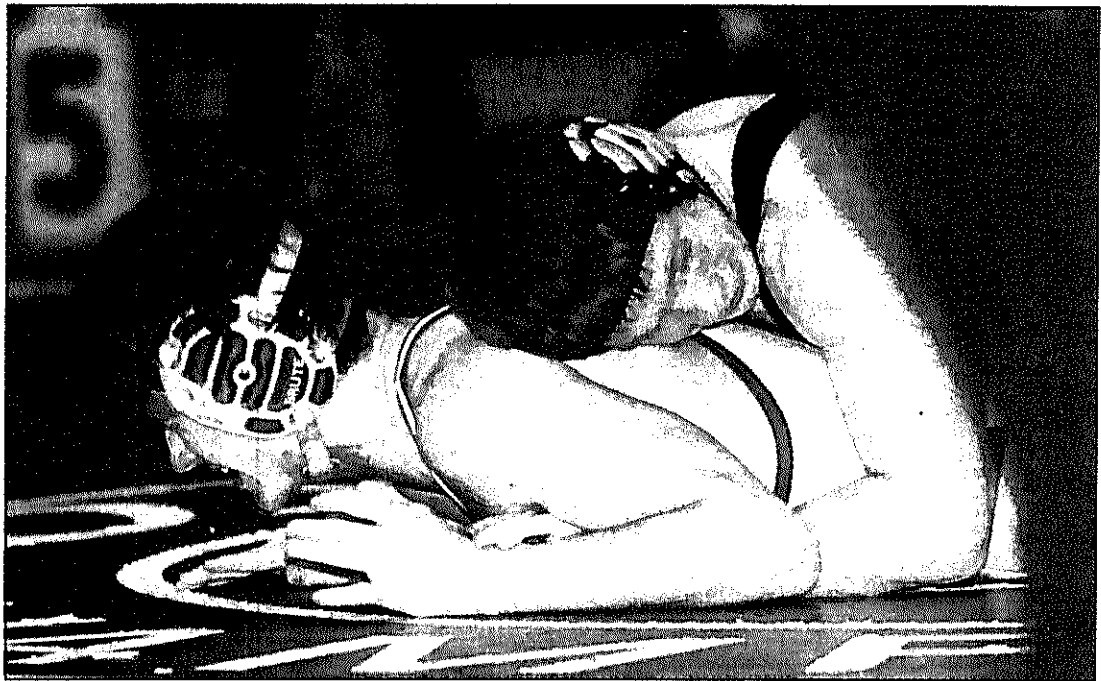
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OVAC NOTEBOOK

Martins Ferry's Tucker wins third OVAC title

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Writer

Clay Tucker has been down this road before. And if things go his way, he hopes to go down it again next year.

Tucker -- the Martins Ferry junior -- picked up his third consecutive OVAC Wrestling title in impressive and easy fashion.

Scoring a decisive 17-1 technical fall over Brooke's Mike Durbin gave Tucker his 25th win of the season against zero losses.

"I didn't have to wrestle who I thought I was going to have to," Tucker said following the awards presentation. "This is a pretty tough weight class, but all of the hard work is paying off."

During the three-day spectacle at WesBanco Arena, Tucker not only won all of his matches, but he didn't allow a take down during the competition.

"Clay just had an outstanding tournament," said successful Rider mentor Babe Sidon. "Not allowing a take down in the entire tournament really says something

See, TUCKER, Page C2



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OVAC Wrestling Tournament Results

OVERALL TOP TEN: 1. Oak Glen, 220.5; 2. Buckeye Local, 182.5; 3. Brooke, 179.5; 4. Beaver Local, 161; 5. Wheeling Park, 150; 6. Indian Creek, 137; 7. John Marshall, 120; 8. Shenandoah, 116.5; 9. St. John Central, 116; 10. Martins Ferry, 114.5.

4-A: 1. Buckeye Local, 182.5; 2. Brooke, 179.5; 3. Beaver Local, 161; 4. Wheeling Park, 150; 5. John Marshall, 120; 6. Steubenville, 71; 7. Cambridge, 63.5; 8. East Liverpool, 34.5; 9. Edison, 33; 10. Weir, 21.

3-A: 1. Oak Glen, 220.5; 2. Indian Creek, 137; 3. Martins Ferry, 114.5; 4. Harrison Central, 102.5; 5. Union Local, 76.5; 6. St. Clairsville, 62.5; 7. Bellaire, 53; 8. Meadowbrook, 53; 9. Tyler Consolidated, 21; 10. Magnolia, 12.

2-A: 1. Shenandoah, 116.5; 2. Monroe Central, 92; 3. Barnesville, 91.5; 4. Caldwell, 79; 5. Wellsville, 38.5; 6. River, 32; 7. Steubenville Central, 30.5.

1-A: 1. St. John Central, 116; 2. Shadyside, 107.5; 3. Cameron, 90; 4. Beallsville, 17.5; 5. Weirton Madonna, 17; 6. Linsly, 12; Conotton Valley, 10.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 - James Myers (IC) dec. Ronnie Green (WP), 1-0.

112 - Abbie Rush (WP) dec. Anthony Duffield (EL), 3-1.

119 - Brian Humphrey (WP) dec. Joe Skoff (SJC), 3-1.

125 - Willie Saxton (BL) dec. Jonathan McFarland (Brk), 6-4.

130 - Clay Tucker (MF) tech falled Mike Durbin (Brk), 17-1.

135 - Braden Shaw (Brk) dec. Aaron Brown (MC), 6-5.

140 - Zach Schuller (BL) dec. Ryan Ferguson (MC), 6-3.

145 - Casey Hughes (Cam) dec. Dustin Richey (JM), 10-5.

152 - Brock Bowman (BL) dec. Rhett Northcraft (OG), 7-4.

160 - Dana Davis (Brk) dec. Chris Case (SJC), OT Criteria.

171 - Chas Yoder (MF) dec. Luke Burkhardt (Shady), 7-2.

189 - Cody Tominack (WP) dec. Bobby Samsa (SHAD), 3-1 (OT).

215 - Cody Potts (OG) dec. Codey Leach (SHEN), 4-3.

275 - Adam Hoppel (BEAV) dec. Koel Davia (UL), 7-3.

CONSOLATION FINALS

103 - Mike Lehotay (Meadow) dec. Dustin Daugherty (Camb), 6-2.

112 - Brandon Miller (OG) dec. Corey LeMaster (Cald), 1-0.

119 - Luke Hoppel (Beaver) dec. Anthony Valles (WM), 3-2.

125 - Mickey Nicola (SJC) dec. Shane Wright (OG), 9-3.

130 - Jesse Emery (HC) dec. Jessie Mahan (OG), 5-3.

135 - Shawn Dunn (Beaver) dec. Matt Saxton (BL), 2-1.

140 - Alex Lee (JM) dec. Luke Warren (MF), 2-1.

145 - Todd Hunkler (SJC) dec. David Babel (BL), 5-4.

152 - Jesse Irwin (Shady) dec. Thad Crosier (Steub), 7-4.

160 - Jason Bahmer (Barnes) dec. Kellen Hughes (IC), 2-1.

171 - David Ross (Steub) dec. Chris Stevens (OG), 2-1, OT.

189 - John Horn (SHEN) won by injury default, Daniel Howard (STC).

215 - Brandon Bovina (IC) dec. Brad Hannahs (BARN), 8-3.

275 - Maurice Hines (IC) dec. Scott Neuenschwander (STC), 2-1 (2OT).

Cumpston (Cameron). 145 - Billy Frollini (Shady) dec. Joe Bellanca (Beaver), 9-1.

152 - Clayton Benedict (MC) dec. Bud Hines (Barnes), 6-3.

160 - Garrett Railing (OG) dec. Mitch Costa (Ed), 4-2.

171 - Jacob Zerkle (Shen) pinned Shawn Simmons (JM), 4:20.

189 - Josh Ewing (JM) dec. David Foltz (OG), 6-0.

215 - Cole Bowersock (BEAV) dec. Andrew Corder (HC), 2-1 (OT).

275 - Lucas Michel (SHEN) dec. Eric Wagner (BL), 3-2 (2OT).

SEVENTH-EIGHTH PLACE

103 - Derik Caudill (Beaver) dec. Brian Scammel (St.C), 4-1.

112 - Logan Hartle (JM) dec. Robbie Martin (IC), 4-2.

119 - Torey Prickett (MC) dec. Daniel Magers (Barnes), 8-7.

125 - David Blawut (HC) dec. Kelly Hughes (Cam), 9-3.

130 - Kayne Melko (SJC) pinned Shane Nickerson (BL), 1:51.

135 - Josh Wheeler (Steub) maj. dec. Brandon Ritchie (JM), 13-3.

140 - Tom Carpenter (SJC) pinned Brandon McCort (Bell), 1:27.

145 - Luke Bumbico (MF) dec. Alan Buzzard (Wells), 8-4.

152 - Matt Hannas (Shen) won by default over Corey Adkins (JM).

160 - Josh Cologie (BL) dec. Mike Hepburn (Bell), 6-5.

171 - Nathan Loughman (Brk) pinned Dusty McVay (UL), 28.

189 - James Beech (STEUB) dec. Mike Pratt (HC), 4-2.

215 - Dirk Soland (BELL) won by injury default, Jim Compston (UL).

275 - Andrew Fegal (WEIR) dec. Wesley Haslam (RIV), 10-6.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

103 - Ronnie Green (WP) dec. Dustin Daugherty (Camb), 10-4; James Myers (IC) pinned Mike Lehotay (Meadow), 1:30.

112 - Abbie Rush (WP) dec. Corey LeMaster (Cald), 4-3; Anthony Duffield (EL) dec. Brandon Miller (OG), 3-2.

119 - Brian Humphrey (WP) dec. Anthony Valles (WM), 3-2; Joe Skoff (SJC) dec. Matt Smith (Brk), 8-6.

125 - Jonathan McFarland (Brk) dec. Mickey Nicola (SJC), 3-1, OT; Willie Saxton (BL) dec. Shane Wright (OG), 8-2.

130 - Clay Tucker (MF) dec. Jessie Mahan (OG), 7-1; Mike Durbin (Brk) dec. Jesse Emery (HC), 5-2.

135 - Braden Shaw (Brk) pinned Ben Phillips (HC), 1:40; Aaron Brown (MC) dec. Shawn Dunn (Beaver), 12-6.

140 - Zach Schuller (BL) won by default over Jeff Cumpston (Cameron), 12-7; Ryan Ferguson (MC) dec. Grant Hoppel (Beaver), 13-8.

145 - Dustin Richey (JM) dec. Todd Hunkler (SJC), 8-1; Casey Hughes (Cam) dec. David Babel (BL), 3-1.

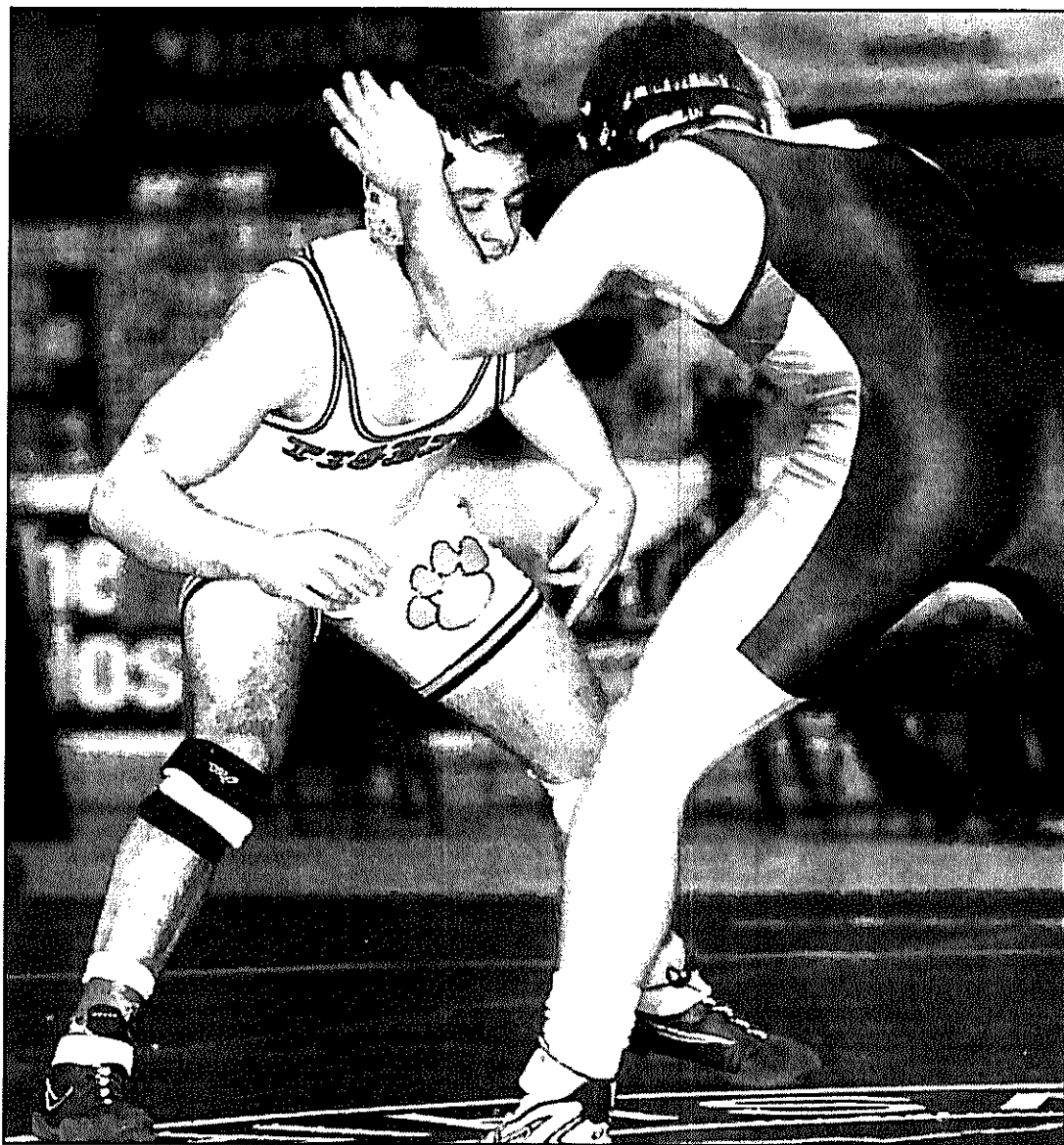
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160 - Dana Davis (Brk) dec. Kellen Hughes (IC), 6-4; Chris Case (SJC) dec. Jason Bahmer (Barnes), 4-2.

171 - Chas Yoder (MF) maj. dec. David Ross (Steub), 15-6; Luke Burkhardt (Shady) tech falled Shawn Simmons (JM), 3:14.

189 - Bobby Samsa (Shady) dec. Josh Ewing (JM), 3-2; Cody Tominack (WP) dec. David Foltz (OG), 7-4.

215 - Cody Leach (Shen) dec. Jim Bowersock (Beaver), 11-1; Cody Potts (OG) dec. Brad Hannahs (Barnes), 3-2;



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

SHADYSIDE'S Luke Burkhardt battles Martins Ferry junior Chas Yoder (right) during the 171-pound championship match Saturday night at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Yoder scored a convincing 7-2 win.

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

rousing start battling to a 1-0 decision with Myers registering the only point in the match with an escape at the 35 second mark of the second period.

Myers, who worked his way to the finals by pinning each of his opponents within the first period, boosted his season mark to 18-1 while Green, unbeaten heading into the finals, finished at 28-1.

In the third period, Myers held onto the elusive Green until the final seconds as Green just missed pulling off an escape to tie it.

Wheeling Park's Abbie Rush became a two-time champion as a sophomore by adding the 112-pound title to his 103-pound championship from 2003. Rush was taken to the wire by East Liverpool's Anthony Duffield before scoring a 3-1 win over the Potter junior.

Rush took a 2-0 lead early in the first period with an escape before Duffield scored one in the second. With 45 seconds left in the third, Rush added a point to open his 3-1 lead.

Rush finished out the three-day event with a 33-0 record and Duffield closed at 27-3.

Wheeling Park's Brian Humphrey, a place finisher in each of his first three OVAC tourneys, captured his first title by taking the 119-pound title match with a 3-1 decision over St. John Central's talented sophomore Joe Skoff.

Humphrey opened with a 2-0 lead in the first period scoring a takedown early in the session. The two wrestlers traded escape points in the second and third to close the scoring.

Humphrey, who recorded three decisions and a 59-second pin to move into the finals, finished the toumey with a perfect 33-0 mark. Humphrey was a runner-up at 119 last season. Skoff, closing out the weekend at 27-3 record, placed second to another Park wrestler, Abbie Rush, last season at 103.

Buckeye Local's Willie Saxton and Brooke's Jonathan McFarland had met twice during the season, each winning once, setting the stage for Saturday's exciting final.

In the third match-up between the two, it was Saxton who jumped out to the early lead then went onto to capture a thrilling 6-4 decision over the Bruin senior.

Saxton took a 2-0 lead at the 1:20 mark in the first period, catching McFarland for the takedown. McFarland battled back to knot the score at 2-2 with a pair of escapes in the first and second periods.

In the third, Saxton's escape at 1:40 gave him the lead at 3-2 and then a quick takedown extended it to 5-2. McFarland closed to within 5-4 with a reversal at the 15 second mark.

With the win, Saxton boosted his season record to 23-3 while McFarland fell to 26-5.

Martins Ferry junior Clay Tucker put on a clinic in his title match with Brooke's Mike Durbin using his superior technical abilities to

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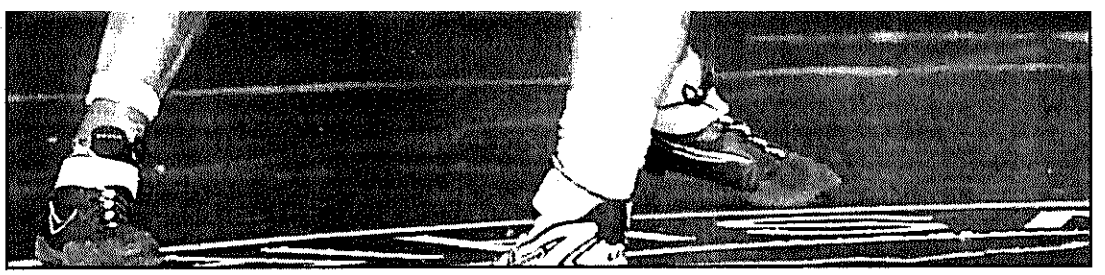
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32; 7. Steubenville Central, 30.5.
 1-A: 1. St. John Central, 116; 2. Shadyside, 107.5; 3. Cameron, 90; 4. Beallsville, 17.5; 5. Weirton Madonna, 17; 6. Linsly, 12; Conotton Valley, 10.
CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
 103 - James Myers (IC) dec. Ronnie Green (WP), 1-0.
 112 - Abbie Rush (WP) dec. Anthony Duffield (EL), 3-1.
 119 - Brian Humphrey (WP) dec. Joe Skoff (SJC), 3-1.
 125 - Willie Saxton (BL) dec. Jonathan McFarland (Brk), 6-4.
 130 - Clay Tucker (MF) tech falled Mike Durbin (Brk), 17-1.
 135 - Braden Shaw (Brk) dec. Aaron Brown (MC), 6-5.
 140 - Zach Schuller (BL) dec. Ryan Ferguson (MC), 6-3.
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 152 - Brock Bowman (BL) dec. Rhett Northcraft (OG), 7-4.
 160 - Dana Davis (Brk) dec. Chris Case (SJC), OT Criteria.
 171 - Chas Yoder (MF) dec. Luke Burkhardt (Shady), 7-2.
 189 - Cody Tominack (WP) dec. Bobby Samsa (SHAD), 3-1 (OT).
 215 - Cody Potts (OG) dec. Codey Leach (SHEN), 4-3.
 275 - Adam Hoppel (BEAV) dec. Koel Davia (UL), 7-3.
CONSOLATION FINALS
 103 - Mike Lehotay (Meadow) dec. Dustin Daugherty (Camb), 6-2.
 112 - Brandon Miller (OG) dec. Corey LeMaster (Cald), 1-0.
 119 - Luke Hoppel (Beaver) dec. Anthony Valles (WM), 3-2.
 125 - Mickey Nicola (SJC) dec. Shane Wright (OG), 9-3.
 130 - Jesse Emery (HC) dec. Jessie Mahan (OG), 5-3.
 135 - Shawn Dunn (Beaver) dec. Matt Saxton (BL), 2-1.
 140 - Alex Lee (JM) dec. Luke Warren (MF), 2-1.
 145 - Todd Hunkler (SJC) dec. David Babel (BL), 5-4.
 152 - Jesse Irwin (Shady) dec. Thad Crosier (Steub), 7-4.
 160 - Jason Bahmer (Barnes) dec. Kellen Hughes (IC), 2-1.
 171 - David Ross (Steub) dec. Chris Stevens (OG), 2-1, OT.
 189 - John Horn (SHEN) won by injury default, Daniel Howard (STC).
 215 - Brandon Bovina (IC) dec. Brad Hannahs (BARN), 8-3.
 275 - Maurice Hines (IC) dec. Scott Neuenschwander (STC), 2-1 (2OT).
FIFTH-SIXTH PLACE
 103 - Brandon Davis (OG) dec. Daniel Felton (Bke), 11-5.
 112 - Sean Mahley (Camb) dec. Jared Shaw (Brk), 3-2.
 119 - Matt Smith (Brk) won by default over Nathan Gossett (UL).
 125 - Justin Seebach (Cald) pinned Tony Carosiello (Wells), 3:53.
 130 - Todd Schmelzenbach (Shen) dec. Chris Bond (Cald), 3-0.
 135 - Ben Phillips (HC) dec. Brennon Chambers (OG), 14-6.
 140 - Grant Hoppel (Beaver) won by default over Jeff

130 - Kayne Melko (SJC) pinned Shane Nickerson (BL), 1:51.
 135 - Josh Wheeler (Steub) maj. dec. Brandon Ritchie (JM), 13-3.
 140 - Tom Carpenter (SJC) pinned Brandon McCort (Bell), 1:27.
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En route to the finals, Tucker registered two first period pins, a technical fall in the quarterfinals and a 7-1 decision in the semi-finals. In the title match, Tucker held an 11-1 lead after two periods. The loss in the finals moved Durbin's impressive record to 29-3.

Brooke's Braden Shaw registered four straight pins en route to his championship bout with Monroe Central's Aaron Brown, but was taken to the limit before scoring a 6-5 decision over the Seminole grappler to take the 135-pound title.

With the match still in the balance and the score knotted at 4-4, Shaw scored a big takedown with just 35 seconds remaining to grab a 6-4 lead. Brown's escape with 23 seconds closed the gap to 6-5.

Shaw's win boosted his season mark to 28-1 while Brown closed at 19-1. Shaw was the 130-pound champ in 2003.

Buckeye Local's Zach Schuller was dominating as a freshman winning his first OVAC at 135 pounds and was impressive in added a second at 140 on Saturday as the Panther sophomore decided Ryan Ferguson of Monroe Central in the title match.

Schuller scored three takedowns in the first period in taking a 6-2 lead and allowed only an early escape in the third in grabbing the crown.

Schuller moved through the top bracket with a technical fall in the first round and pins in the second and quarterfinal rounds. In the semis, the Panther grappler was leading Cameron's Jeff Cumpston before winning by injury default. Schuller's record improved to 21-4 while Ferguson finished at 19-3.

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Yoder's impressive win stretched his perfect record to 25-0 while Burkhardt closed at 26-2. Yoder was dominant in the earlier rounds, registering two pins, a tech fall and major decision on his way to the finals. Burkhardt had two pins, including a 13-second fall.

Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack made a quick move with just 16 seconds left in overtime to score a takedown and pull out a thrilling 3-2 win over previously-unbeaten Bobby Samsa of Shadyside in the 189-pound championship finals.

After a scoreless first period, Tominack broke loose from Samsa for an escape and a brief 1-0 lead. At the 1:55 mark of the third, Samsa escaped to knot the score at 1-1. In the OT, the two wrestlers battled evenly until Tominack made a quick move to get around Samsa and take the advantage.

Tominack, a second place finisher last year at 189, boosted his record to 26-1 while Samsa, third place at 171 in 2003, lost for the first time and finished at 23-1.

In the 215-pound final, a rash of scoring in the final 13 seconds resulted in a close 4-3 win by Oak Glen's Cody Potts over Shenandoah's Codey Leach.

Potts was leading 3-1 with 13 seconds remaining before Leach's reversal knotted the score at 3-3. Four seconds later, Potts escape the Leach's grasp for the decisive point. Potts' title win pushed his season mark to 25-2 while the Zeps' Leach finished at 17-1

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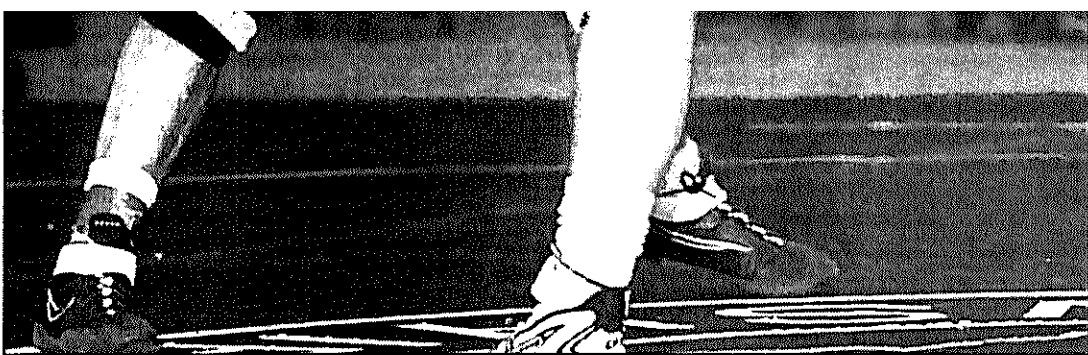
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Tucker is now a three-time winner and becomes one of the rare wrestlers in the OVAC to have the opportunity to be a four-time winner. The Purple Rider grappler extended his perfect record to 25-0 with the win in the finals.

En route to the finals, Tucker registered two first period pins, a technical fall in the quarterfinals and a 7-1 decision in the semi-finals. In the title match, Tucker held an 11-1 lead after two periods. The loss in the finals moved Durbin's impressive record to 29-3.

Brooke's Braden Shaw registered four straight pins en route to his championship bout with Monroe Central's Aaron Brown, but was taken to the limit before scoring a 6-5 decision over the Seminole grappler to take the 135-pound title.

With the match still in the balance and the score knotted at 4-4, Shaw scored a big takedown with just 35 seconds remaining to grab a 6-4 lead. Brown's escape with 23 seconds closed the gap to 6-5.

Shaw's win boosted his season mark to 28-1 while Brown closed at 19-1. Shaw was the 130-pound champ in 2003.

Buckeye Local's Zach Schuller was dominating as a freshman winning his first OVAC at 135 pounds and was impressive in added a second at 140 on Saturday as the Panther sophomore defeated Ryan Ferguson of Monroe Central in the title match.

Schuller scored three takedowns in the first period in taking a 6-2 lead and allowed only an early escape in the third in grabbing the crown.

Schuller moved through the top bracket with a technical fall in the first round and pins in the second and quarterfinal rounds. In the semis, the Panther grappler was leading Cameron's Jeff Cumpston before winning by injury default. Schuller's record improved to 21-4 while Ferguson finished at 19-3.

In the 145-pound title bout, third-seeded and unbeaten Casey Hughes registered a minor upset with a 10-5 decision over John Marshall's Dustin Richey. The Monarch grappler was a runner-up at 140 last season.

Hughes held a 6-2 lead in the second before holding off Richey's late charge in the third. Hughes finished the day with a perfect 23-0 record, Richey finished at 25-4.

Buckeye Local had never had three champions in one OVAC tournament until Brock Bowman prevailed in an exciting 152-pound championship bout with Oak Glen Rhett Northcraft. Bowman held off Northcraft in notching a 7-4 decision.

Bowman fell behind by 2-0 at 1:30 in the first on a Northcraft takedown, but rallied to pull to within 2-1 on an escape late in the first. In the second, Northcraft extended his lead to 3-1 with an escape, bit Bowman tied the match with a takedown at the 1:11 mark.

In the third, a Bowman takedown at 1:44 gave the Panther senior a 5-3 lead and after Northcraft closed to within 5-4 with an escape at 1:14, Bowman battled the Golden Bear wrestler before putting the title on ice with a takedown with just three seconds remaining.

Bowman finished the weekend at 21-2 while Northcraft ended at 25-2. Bowman was a runner-up at 145 last season to OG's Steve Flowers.

Chris Case's hopes for an OVAC title went into sudden death before the St. John Central senior was unable to escape the grasp of Brooke's Dana Davis in dropping a tough 3-2 decision.

After a scoreless first, Case grabbed a point at 1:45 in the second, but fell behind by 2-1 on a Davis takedown at 1:26 in the third. An alert Case managed an escape with 1:11 in the third to knot the score and send it to OT.

Case finished with a 28-2 season record after getting into the finals with a big win over second-seeded Jason Bahmer of Barnesville in the semi-finals. Davis, a sixth seed, improved to 24-7, upsetting top-seeded Kellen Hughes in the semis.

Last season, Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt breezed into the finals before running into eventual state champion David Bertolino. On Saturday, Burkhardt ran smack into Martins Ferry unbeaten Chas Yoder and the Rider junior registered a 7-2 decision for the title at 171.

Scoreless through most of the first period, Yoder took a 2-0 lead in the first at the 18-second mark with a takedown. An escape cut the gap to 2-1, but Yoder stretched the margin to 3-1 with an escape early in the third. The Purple Rider grappler extended his lead to 5-1 with 1:08 in the third on another takedown.

Yoder's impressive win stretched his perfect record to 25-0 while Burkhardt closed at 26-2. Yoder was dominant in the earlier rounds, registering two pins, a tech fall and major decision on his way to the finals. Burkhardt had two pins, including a 13-second fall.

Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack made a quick move with just 16 seconds left in overtime to score a takedown and pull out a thrilling 3-2 win over previously-unbeaten Bobby Samsa of Shadyside in the 189-pound championship finals.

After a scoreless first period, Tominack broke loose from Samsa for an escape and a brief 1-0 lead. At the 1:55 mark of the third, Samsa escaped to knot the score at 1-1. In the OT, the two wrestlers battled evenly until Tominack made a quick move to get around Samsa and take the advantage.

Tominack, a second place finisher last year at 189, boosted his record to 26-1 while Samsa, third place at 171 in 2003, lost for the first time and finished at 23-1.

In the 215-pound final, a rash of scoring in the final 13 seconds resulted in a close 4-3 win by Oak Glen's Cody Potts over Shenandoah's Codey Leach.

Potts was leading 3-1 with 13 seconds remaining before Leach's reversal knotted the score at 3-3. Four seconds later, Potts escape the Leach's grasp for the decisive point. Potts' title win pushed his season mark to 25-2 while the Zeps' Leach finished at 17-1

didn't have to face Emery," Tucker advised. "I had been looking at tapes of him wrestling last year, so I really thought he was going to make the finals."

During the title match, Tucker wasted very little time in seizing control. He scored a take down in the match's first minute and never looked back. He held a 4-0 lead after one and racked up seven points in the second period. He capped the match with two near-fall points in the third period.

As Sidon pointed out, Tucker has a chance to be one of the best ever not only in Purple Rider history, but in Ohio Valley history.

"He just has to continue to take it one match at a time," Sidon said. "He knows what it takes to be successful. He is an extremely hard worker who really just loves the sport."

While Tucker will happily place his OVAC championship trophy in his collection, wrestling in late February is what he is looking forward to the most.

With three OVAC titles already in his collection, Tucker will enter the second season next month looking to etch a state title onto his resume. He was a runnerup last year and finished third as a freshman.

"We try not to get too far ahead of ourselves," Sidon said. "I think if things continue like they have been for Clay, he has an excellent chance to be on top of that podium some day."

While it might be a one-step at a time process, Tucker already knows who some of his stiffest competition could be at the Value City Arena in Columbus.

"There is a kid from Monroeville out there back who is real tough," Tucker pointed out. "I know the competition will get a lot tougher, so I just have to continue to work hard."

As for the chance of joining a selective group of four-time champions at the OVAC, Tucker hasn't given that much thought just yet.

"I am going to enjoy this one now, and continue to concentrate on the rest of the season," the Rider junior offered.

● Oberdick

Continued from Page C1

winning margin by any team. Oberdick also guided his squad to a third team championship in 1993.

The Purple served as the area's dominant team for the decade of the '90s. Martins Ferry won seven OVAC Class 3-A titles: '92, '93, '94, '95, '97, '98, and '99. Ferry also won six sectional titles over the span with championships in '92, '93, '94, '95, '98, and '99.

The Riders also were district champs in 1995 and 1999. Martins Ferry also finished in the top 10 in the state on five occasions.

Oberdick's crowning achievement may be the fact that he coached two state champions - Sidon in 1989 and Lamont Tucker in 1995.

Oberdick has also coached 20 state place-winners and several OVAC champions.

Oberdick's achievements have been noted statewide as he was selected the Division III State Coach of the Year in 1999.

He also has been the East/Southeast District "Coach of the Year" in 1991, '94, '96, and '99. He was also the OVAC "Coach of the Year" six times: '92, '93, '94, '95, '97, and '99.

Prior to taking the head coaching reins, Oberdick served as an assistant to Vince Suriano for four seasons.

Oberdick graduated from Ferry in 1976 and was a standout on the Purple mats. He finished in the top four each year in the OVAC Tournament and was a champion in 1974.

He is the son of the late Richard Oberdick, a longtime OVAC Tournament mainstay.

Oberdick and his wife Jodie have two children, Jeffrey, who is 10-years old and Shaina, who is 8.

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Photos by Scott McCloskey

Steubenville Central's Matt Cavanaugh, top, locks up Indian Creek's Robbie Martin during their 112-pound bout during Thursday's OVAC wrestling tournament at WesBanco Arena. Cavanaugh pulled off a 4-1 upset victory over the seventh-seeded Martin.

A Golden Start

Oak Glen takes lead; Panthers, Pats in second

By **JIM ELLIOTT**
Staff Writer

Oak Glen emerged as the early leader of the 51st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament Thursday at WesBanco Arena.

With 48 points — 16.5 more than anyone else — the Golden Bears, who entered the tournament with a conference-leading 12 seeded wrestlers, hold a significant edge over second-place Wheeling Park and Buckeye Local.

Both the Panthers and the Patriots concluded the first day of action with 31.5 points, just ahead of Harrison Central (31) and Brooke (30).

Bellaire St. John's, Cameron, and defending champion Beaver Local are all tied for sixth with 26.5 points. Indian Creek, with 26, and Shadyside, with 25, round out the top 10.

Action resumes today at 11 a.m. with second-round and consolation bouts, before picking up at 5 p.m. with the quarterfinals.



Buckeye Local's Matt Nolan

Of the Golden Bears' 14 wrestlers, 13 won — 11 by fall.

Brandon Davis, Brandon Miller, Dirk Baker, Shane Wright, Jessie Mahan, Brennon Chambers, Drew Stevens, Rhett Northcraft, Garrett Railing, Chris Stevens, and Cody Potts all won by pin.

David Foltz and Matt Wiseman both won by decisions.

Please See **GOLDEN**, Page 11

Donohew, Trowbridge, Crosier honored for their contributions

JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Follansbee Middle School coach Scott Donohew, Cameron junior varsity coach Ron Trowbridge, and Ohio Valley wrestling official

WRESTLING NOTEBOOK

Rick Crosier were all recognized for outstanding contributions to their sport prior to the start of the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament Thursday at WesBanco Arena.

Donohew, a 1989 graduate of Wheeling Park High School, was recognized as the Junior High Coach of the Year, 22 years after his father Bill earned the same honor. He credits his dad, a former mat coach at Warwood Junior High, with teaching him everything he knows about the sport.

That appears to be plenty. In five years as the coach of the Blue Wave, Donohew has compiled a record of 60-17-2, including a Buckeye Mountain Athletic Conference Tournament title in 2003. He's also had his team in

the top five of the OVAC Junior High Tournament four times in the last five years.

"I was shocked," said Donohew upon learning that he'd been selected as this year's Junior High honoree. "I didn't even know how you would get nominated for it."

The awards are voted on by an OVAC committee that reviews applications it receives.

Donohew says one of his biggest strengths as a coach is that he knows how to get kids interested.

"I enjoy talking kids into wrestling who never thought they'd wrestle," Donohew said. "And then making them realize their full potential."

He's able to do that partly because he knows them.



Donohew

Please See **HONORED**, Page 11

Golden

(Continued from Page 9)

Only Chris Crock of Shenandoah was able to crack the Oak Glen arsenal, as he major decisioned Joel Timmons.

"Of course we're happy to win that many," said Oak Glen coach Larry Shaw, who remains cautiously optimistic. "But the key is to keep on winning."

Leaders of the individual classes are Wheeling Park and Buckeye Local in 4-A, Oak Glen in 3A, Monroe Central (in 11th overall with 22), and Cameron and Bellaire St. John's in Class A.

Wrestlers earning decisions for Wheeling Park were Ron Green, Abbie Rush, Brian Humphrey — all top seeds — Bruce Kennedy, Ron Nelson, Jesse Mestrovic, Adam Gibson, Cody Tominack, and Kevin Staub.

For Buckeye Local, those who earned nods were Willie Saxton, Shain Nickerson, Matt Saxton, top seed Zach Schuller, David Babel, top seed Brock Bowman, Josh Cologie, James Harris, and Eric Wagner.

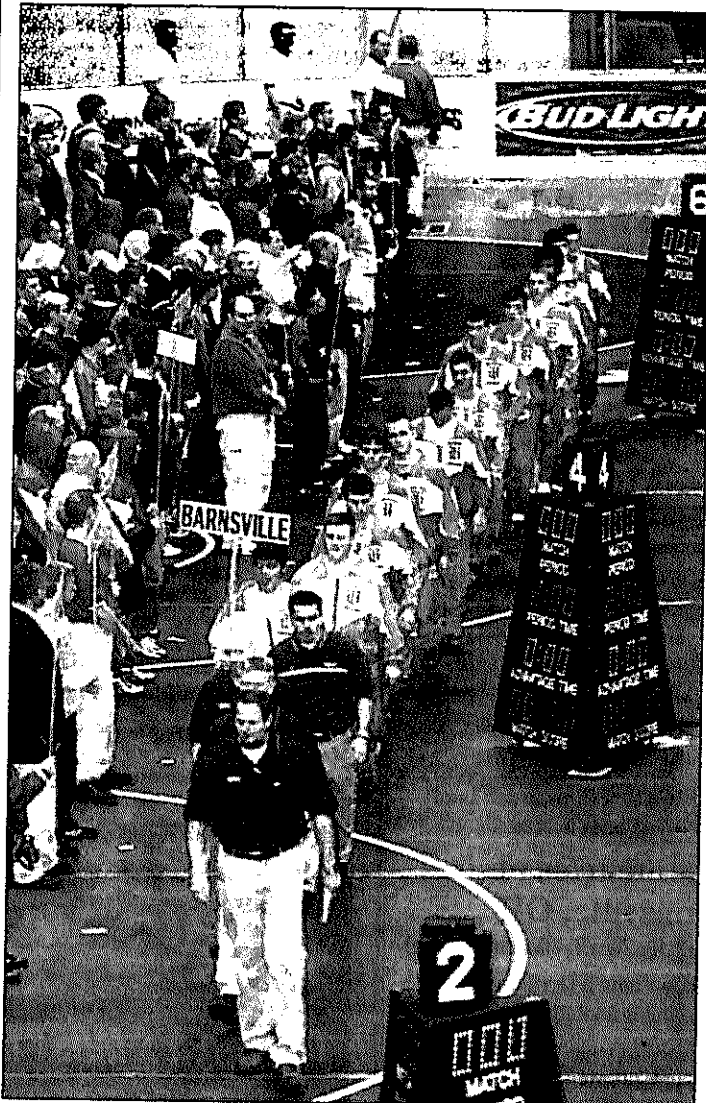
Scoring upsets of seeded wrestlers were Craig Porter, of Harrison Central, who earned a 2-1 decision over Martins Ferry's John Coup — the eighth seed at 103. Steubenville Central's Matt Cavanaugh earned a 4-1 decision over Indian Creek's Robbie Martin — the seventh seed at 112.

Barnesville's Dustin Magers pinned St. Clairsville's Zac Androsko, who was seeded eighth at 119. The Red Devils got that one back at 140 when Zach Walters pinned Cameron's Jeff Cumpston — the fourth seed. That qualified as the evening's biggest upset.

The Huskies' Matt Pratt scored another upset when he pinned Indian Creek's Adam Cowser, the seventh seed at 189. Oak Glen was able to add to its lead when Wiseman decisioned fifth-seeded Michael Golden, of Cambridge, in the heavyweight division.

Scoring the quickest pin was Bellaire's Luke Sulek who topped Tyler Minor of Steubenville Central in 14 seconds at 171 pounds.

OVAC mat tourney



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

PARADING into the WesBanco Arena to help launch the 51st Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament are these wrestlers and coaches from Barnesville High School. See related photos, stories pages B1 and B2.

Honored

(Continued from Page 9)

"Teaching at the school makes all the difference," he said. "It doesn't take long to get to know their strengths and weaknesses."

Trowbridge was a W.Va. state champion at 138 pounds in 1985 for Cameron. He went on to wrestle at West Virginia University before coming home and helping Cameron wrap up 13 consecutive Class-A titles in the OVAC tourney.

Crosier, a longtime official from Steubenville, was named the Wrestling Official of the Year.

Patriot uprising

With three No. 1 seeds — Ron Green, Abbie Rush, and Brian Humphrey — in the first three weight classes and Cody Tominack coming in as a No. 2 seed at

189, the Wheeling Park Patriots look to be on the verge of one of their best finishes at the OVAC tourney since 1994, when they won it all.

Last year, the Patriots wound up seventh overall, and fourth in Class 4-A.

A few years ago, Park couldn't even field a full team.

"So far, the kids have been wrestling well," said coach Gene Monteleone midway through Thursday's first round where two of his three lightweights had already won by falls. "I've always said this. When you have good kids that work hard and they have talent, that can surely make a coach look good."

The three little guys that we have wrestling at 103, 112, and

119 are very good," Monteleone said. "They work hard, they have a lot of pee-wee experience. Their parents have taken them all over the Valley and even farther in order to wrestle. You can't get good unless you've had that experience that they've had."

Home turned inside out

Members of the Wheeling Nailers took the unfamiliar position of looking from the outside of the glass in after a mechanical problem with their bus forced a delay in their trip to Trenton for tonight's game.

While they were obviously disturbed by the delay — nobody wants to ride in a bus well into the night — some of the players seemed awed by the vastness of the tournament.

OVAC WRESTLING

Team Scores

Oak Glen 48, Buckeye Local 31.5, Wheeling Park 31.5, Harrison Central 31, Brooke 28, Bellaire St. John's 26.5, Cameron 26.5, Beaver Local 26.5, Indian Creek 26, Shadyside 25, Monroe Central 22, Martins Ferry 21, Shenandoah 20.5, Barnesville 20, Caldwell 18, John Marshall 17, Union Local 15.5, Steubenville 14, Bellaire 14, Steubenville Central 13.5, Meadowbrook 12, Wellsville 12, Cambridge 10.5, Beallsville 10, River 8, Tyler Consolidated 8, Weir 8, Edison 8, St. Clairsville 7.5, Weirton Madonna 4, Linsly 4, East Liverpool 3.5, Magnolia 2, Conotton Valley 2, Wheeling Central, Bishop Donahue 0.

First Round

103 Pounds

Green (WP) p. Iachini (Steub) 1:46; Heslop (Shad) Bye; Scammell (St.C) Bye; Porter (HC) d. Coup (MF) 2-1, OT; Davis (OG) p. Blake (BD) 2:59; Armann (Riv) Bye; Seebach (Cald) Bye; Daugherty (Camb) p. Dawson (EL) 3:32; Lehotay (Mead) p. Peck (TC) 1:15; Kilburn (MC) Bye; Dodd (Shen) Bye; Felton (Brk) p. Taylor (JM) 1:11; Caudill (BeL) d. Young (BuL) 18-4; Morris (SCe) Bye; Heslop (BeL) Bye; Myers (IC) p. Potkrajac (Ed) :30.

112 Pounds

Rush (WP) d. Widmann (Ed) 17-0; Mack (Shen) Bye; Green (Bell) Bye; Cavanaugh (SCe) d. Martin (IC) 4-1; Cumpston (Cam) p. Williams (Well) 1:09; Stephen (Barn) Bye; Lewis (MC) p. Oberdick (StC) 5:23; Lemaster (Cald) d. Turnbull (BuL) 5-0; Miller (OG) p. Henry (WC) 1:32; Moore (HC) d. Rossiter (Mead) 13-5; Clark (UL) Bye; Shaw (Brk) d. Hartle (JM) 5-4; Hahley (Camb) d. Trigg (Shad) 18-1; Sanders (Steub) Bye; Ware (MF) d. Bock (BeL) 12-2; Duffield (EL) d. Peck (TC) 19-4.

119 Pounds

Humphrey (WP) p. Foose (WC) :59; Prickett (MC) p. Peterson (BuL) 2:48; Kazez (Well) Bye; Magers (Barn) p. Androsko (StC) 5:37; Hoppel (BeL) p. Harless (Mead) 1:27; Reed (EL) Bye; Delguzzi (Ed) d. Dimmerling (Cald) 6-4; Valles (WM) p. Brown (Shen) :35; Skoff (BSJ) p. Howell (HC) 1:29; Emery (IC) d. Ray (Camb) 11-0; Zoc (MF) Bye; Gossott (UL) d. Gust (TC) 18-1; Baker (OG) p. Barcalow (SCe) :53; Byers (Riv) Bye; O'Neil (Cam) p. Kotsen (JM) 4:38; Smith (Brk) p. Fry (Bell) 3:02.

125 Pounds

Nicola (BSJ) p. Cain (ED) 1:26; Heintzman (TC) p. Bertubin (Camb) 2:42; King (Mag) d. Zuzak (StC) 11-9; Hughes (Cam) p. Riggs (Bea) :21; Carosiello (Well) p. Webb (CV) 1:55; Doyle (JM) p. Alloway (Bell) 1:19; Bortz (SCe) p. Lucas (UL) 1:25; Kennedy (WP) p. Riggie (EL) 1:40; McFarland (Brk) p. Hrinko (Shen) :31; Wright (OG) p. Pell (WC) 1:14; Blawut (HC) p. Sparkman (MC) :40; Seebach (Cald) p. Mehaffey (WM) 1:10; McCoy (BeL) p. White (BD) :57; Furbee (Shad) d. Harless (Mead) 10-2; Pendleton (IC) p. Owens (Riv) 1:06; Saxton (BuL) p. Smith (Barn) 5:31.

130 Pounds

Tucker (MF) p. Gillette (SCe) 1:07; Stoneking (Cam) d. Horvath (Shad) 10-1; Bereschik (Well) Bye; Melko (BSJ) p. Wright (TC) :21; Bond (Cald) p. Pasquarella (Steub) 1:35; Webb (CV) d. Yockey (StC) 7-2; Smithberger (MC) d. Gray (UL) 4-0; Mahan (OG) p. Furry (Mead) 3:15; Durbin (Brk) p. Skrypek (JM) 2:40; Nelson (WP) p. Johnston (IC) 3:04; Nickerson (BuL) p. Berardinelli (Ed) :50; Scurlock (Camb) d. Clegg (Riv) 13-4; Schmelzenbach (Shen) p. Messenger (Barn) 5:15; Miller (EL) Bye; Abaregg (Bea) d. Johnson (Bell) 3-2, 2OT; Emery (HC) p. Moore (WM) :25.

135 Pounds

Shaw (Brk) p. Hornbeck (EL) 1:10; Saxton (BuL) Bye; Pettit (Cam) Bye; Workman (Riv) Bye; Waite (Shen) d. Wallace (Shad) 4-3; Cataldo (Well) p. Ingram (Ed) 1:30; Swartzmiller (TC) Bye; Jordan (IC) d. Leifheit (WP) 15-4; Phillips (HC) p. Booth (Bell) 5:38; Dunn (BeL) p. Pappa (WC) 1:21; Warner (Mead) p. Richey (JM) 5:10; Chambers (OG) p. Henthorn (Maj) 1:56; Wheeler (Steub) p. Dater (WM) :28; Huff (BSJ) Bye; Jones (MF) p. Nicholas (CV) 1:33; Brown (MC) p. Smith (Barn) 4:51.

140 Pounds

Schuller (BuL) d. Gray (Brk) 21-6; Bilyeu (Bea) d. Stacy (Well) 7-4; Gilson (WM) Bye; King (Barn) p. Valentine

(Mead) 1:53; Walters (IC) p. Lowary (Camb) 5:50; Gianassi (Weir) p. Mcateer (WC) 3:36; Bayne (SCe) d. Weekley (TC) 15-0; Walters (StC) p. Cumpston (Cam) 1:47; Hoppel (BeL) d. Prokopakis (Ed) 17-0; Smith (Lin) p. Campbell (Riv) 3:43; Crook (Shen) d. Timmons (OG) 10-2; Warren (MF) d. McKittrick (Steub) 5-3; Lee (JM) p. Kneirim (WP) 1:59; Carpenter (BSJ) d. Donley (HC) 16-0; Burkhardt (Shad) p. McCort (Bell) 4:46; Ferguson (MC) p. Atkins (EL) 1:43.

145 Pounds

Richey (JM) d. Ward (MC) 14-2; Stewart (Ed) Bye; Stephens (Bea) Bye; Bambico (MF) p. Marico (Weir) 5:00; Hunkler (BSJ) p. Stephens (Barn) 1:54; Hill (WP) Bye; Blevins (UL) d. Hupp (Cald) 6-4; Frollini (Shad) d. Bellanca (BeL) 12-4; Hughes (Cam) d. Ludewig (IC) 16-0; McCillum (Mead) p. Ware (Steub) 5:31; Perko (Bell) Bye; Buzzard (Well) p. Leasure (TC) :51; Stevens (OG) p. Ford (Camb) 3:17; Rossiter (Shen) Bye; Brooks (HC) Bye; Babel (BuL) p. Turkaly (EL) :45.

152 Pounds

Bowman (BuL) p. Potenzini (StC) :48; Bilyeu (Bea) Bye; Hines (Barn) Bye; Mastrovic (WP) p. Gianassi (Weir) 5:24; Crosier (Steub) p. Crall (Bell) 2:25; Smith (EL) Bye; McCourt (Ed) d. Whipkey (Cam) 9-5; Adkins (JM) d. Jones (MF) 10-4; Irwin (Shad) d. Oliver (IC) 8-0; Henderson (Brk) d. Mason (HC) 9-5; Hirt (Well) Bye; Hannahs (Shen) d. Smith (BeL) 18-3; Benedict (MC) p. Carder (Mead) 3:15; Compston (UL) Bye; Yost (TC) p. Harper (Cald) 4:50; Northcraft (OG) p. Hill (Camb) 1:15.

160 Pounds

Hughes (IC) p. Sprouse (BeL) 4:39; Snyder (Cald) p. Jackson (Well) :50; Perko (SCe) Bye; Hepburn (Bell) p. West (JM) 1:25; Davis (Brk) p. Roberts (TC) 3:24; Johnson (UL) p. McElfresh (Shad) 2:37; Cooper (Cam) p. Vancamp (Riv) 1:12; Railing (OG) p. Yamagata (MC) :59; Case (BSJ) p. Garvin (Camb) :50; Gibson (WP) d. Provenzano (MF) 5-2; Logsdon (HC) p. Burdette (StC) :49; Costa (Ed) p. Vincent (CV) 3:19; Cologie (BuL) p. Rossiter (Mead) 1:09; Henson (Steub) Bye; Kinney (Bea) d. Saling (Shen) 6-4; Bahmer (Barn) p. Adkins (EL) :45.

171 Pounds

Yoder (MF) p. Reeder (BeL) 5:35; Matusik (Riv) Bye; Zerkle (Shen) Bye; Ogle (Cald) Bye; Ross (Steub) p. Paxton (BuL) :52; Kettlewell (WP) Bye; Kinzy (Bea) Bye; Stavens (OG) p. Gunion (Ed) 1:14; Bologna (HC) d. Laughran (Brk) 13-5; Simmons (JM) Bye; McVay (UL) Bye; Smith (Barn) p. Mayfield (Mag) 5:33; Sulek (Bell) p. Minor (SCe) :14; Stevens (TC) Bye; Mankowski (Weir) Bye; Burkhardt (Shad) p. Lyons (Cam) 1:24.

189 Pounds

Samsa (Shad) p. Ady (MC) 1:43; Skinner (Bea) p. Flynn (Weir) 1:52; Grear (Bea) Bye; Beech (Steub) d. Dulaney (Brk) 5-3; Ewing (JM) p. Kidder (EL) :34; Archer (Cald) p. Norris (BeL) 5:55; Rinkes (BSJ) d. Ruskowski (Lin) 14-3; Horn (Shen) p. Wolfe (Mead) :48; Howard (StC) d. Clark (MF) 19-2; Bruce (Bell) d. Scurlock (Camb) 12-6; Myers (Riv) p. Thompson (Ed) 4:16; Foltz (OG) d. Gessler (TC) 13-7; Pratt (HC) p. Cowser (IC) 3:45; Nolan (BuL) d. Blake (Cam) 10-5; Mosti (SCe) p. Thomas (Mag) 2:54; Tomlinack (WP) p. Campbell (CV) 1:25.

215 Pounds

Leach (Shen) p. Lemasters (TC) 1:24; Rickman (JM) Bye; Hercules (WP) Bye; Soland (Bell) p. Habig (BSJ) 1:24; Bowersock (BeL) p. Lewis (MF) :46; Britnell (Camb) Bye; Harris (BuL) p. Sawyers (Riv) 2:59; Corder (HC) d. Rawson (Ed) 11-3; Bovina (IC) p. Dishman (Cam) :17; Wright (Shad) p. Wade (Mag) 3:45; Beagle (BSJ) Bye; Hannahs (Barn) p. Aitken (Brk) :26; Compston (UL) d. Magnone (Steub) 9-7; Skinner (Bea) Bye; Haberfeld (Mead) Bye; Potts (OG) p. Reasbeck (WC) :34.

275 Pounds

Davia (UL) p. Hooker (JM) 1:19; Slager (EL) Bye; Michel (Shen) Bye; Haslam (Riv) p. Malone (Well) 1:18; Wiseman (OG) d. Golden (Camb) 3-2; Jenkins (HC) Bye; McKeever (TC) Bye; Neuenschwander (StC) p. Paden (MF) 1:30; Fegat (Weir) p. Grinch (Shad) :46; Hines (IC) Bye; Molnar (Brk) Bye; Crall (Bell) Bye; Wagner (BuL) d. Hinerman (Ed) 3-2; Staub (WP) d. Manning (Cam) 6-4; Petrella (Steub) Bye; O'Hara (Bea) Bye; Hoppel (BeL) p. Hastings (Barn) :30.

On top of the world

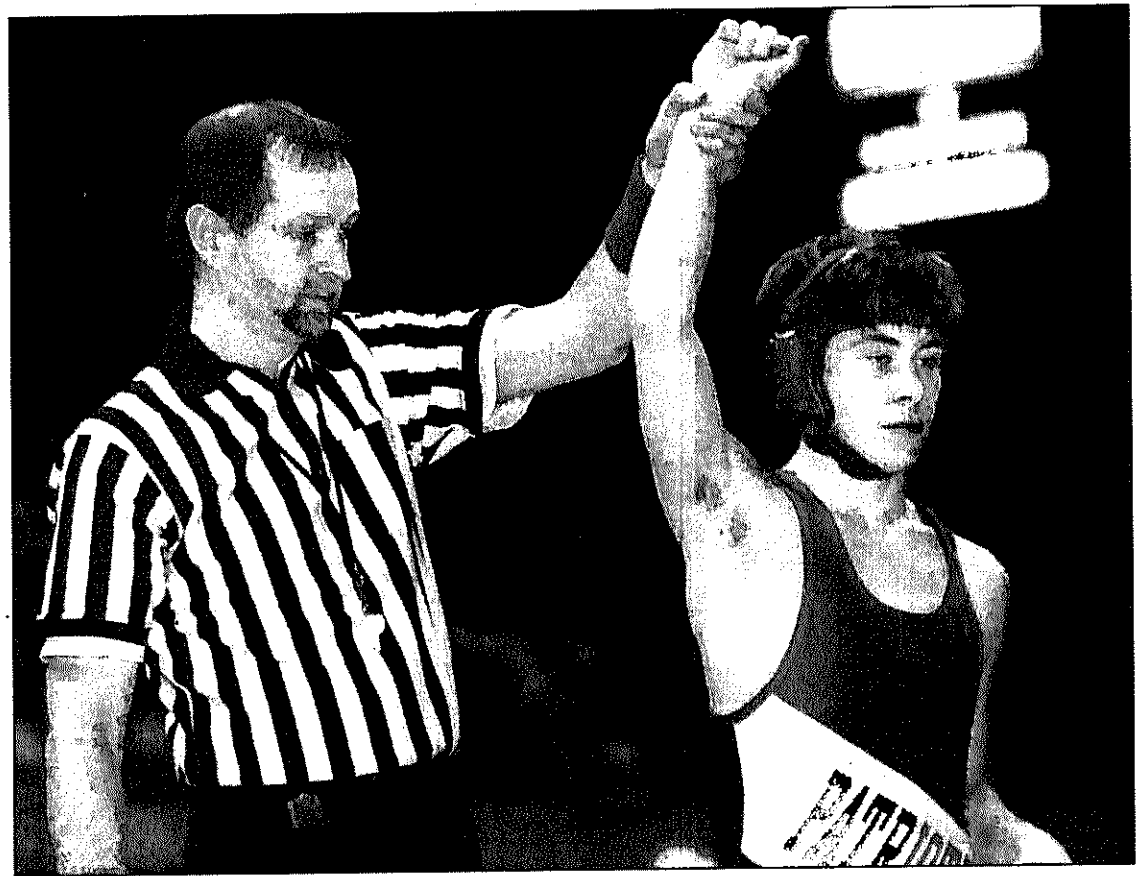


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Referee Lou Coffland of Cadiz raises the arm of Wheeling Park's Abbie Rush after Rush won his 112-pound bout at Thursday's OVAC wrestling tournament at WesBanco Arena.

OVAC WRESTLING RESULTS

Team Scoring

Overall
Oak Glen 220.5; Buckeye Local 182.5; Brooke 179.5; Beaver Local 161; Wheeling Park 150; Indian Creek 137; John Marshall 120; Shenandoah 116.5; Bellaire-St. John 116; Martins Ferry 114.5; Shadyside 107.5; Harrison Central 102.5; Monroe Central 92; Union Local 76.5; Steubenville 71; Cambridge 63.5; St. Clairsville 62.5; Meadowbrook 53; Bellaire 53; Wellsville 38.5; East Liverpool 34.5; Edison 33; River 32; Steub. Central 30.5; Tyler Cons. 21; Weir 21; Beallsville 17.5; Madonna 17; Magnolia 12; Linsly 12; Conotton Valley 10; Wheeling Central 0; Bishop Donahue 0.

Place Matches

Championship
103: Myers (IC) d. Green (WP), 1-0
112: Rush (WP) d. Duffield (EL), 3-1
119: Humphrey (WP) d. Skoff (BSJ), 3-1
125: Saxton (BuL) d. McFarland (Brk), 6-4
130: Tucker (MF) d. Durbin (Brk), 5-2
135: Shaw (Brk) d. Brown (MC), 6-5
140: Schuller (BuL) d. Ferguson (BuL), 6-3
145: Hughes (Cam) d. Richey (JM), 10-5
152: Bowman (BuL) d. Northcraft (OG), 7-4
160: Davis (Brk) d. Case (BSJ), 3-2, OT
171: Yoder (MF) d. Burkhardt (Sha), 7-2
189: Tomlinack (WP) d. Samsa (Sha), 3-1
215: Potts (OG) d. Leach (Shen), 4-3
275: Hoppel (BeL) d. Davia (UL), 7-3.

Third Place

103: Lehotay (Mead) d. Daugherty (Camb), 8-2
112: Miller (OG) d. Lemaster (Cald), 1-0
119: Hoppel (BeL) d. Valles (WM), 3-2
125: Nicola (BSJ) d. Wright (OG), 9-3
130: Emery (HC) d. Mahan (OG), 5-3
135: Dunn (BuL) d. Saxton (BuL), 2-1
140: Lee (JM) d. Warren (MF), 2-1 (2OT)
145: Hunkler (BSJ) d. Babel (BuL), 6-4
152: Irwin (Sha) d. Crosier (Steub), 7-4
160: Bahmer (Barn) d. Hughes (IC), 2-1 (2OT)
171: Ross (Steub) d. Stevens (OG), 5-4 (2OT)
189: Horn (Shen) won by default over Howard (StC)
215: Bovina (IC) d. Hannahs (Barn), 3-1
275: Hines (IC) d. Neuenschwander (StC), 2-1.

Fifth Place

103: Davis (OG) d. Felton (Brk), 11-5
112: Mahley (Camb) d. Shaw (Brk), 3-2
119: Smith (Brk) by default over Gossett (UL)
125: Seebach (Cald) p. Carosiello (Well), 3:53
130: Schmelzenbach (Shen) d. Bond (Cald), 3-0
135: Phillips (HC) d. Chambers (OG), 14-6
140: Hoppel (BeL) by default over Cumpston (Cam)
145: Frollini (Sha) d. Bellanca (BeL), 9-1
152: Benedict (MC) d. Hines (Barn), 6-3
160: Railing (OG) d. Costa (Ed), 4-2
171: Simmons (JM) p. Zerkle (Shen), 4:20
189: Ewing (JM) d. Foltz (OG), 6-0
215: Bowersock (BeL) d. Corder (HC), 3-1 (OT)
275: Michel (Shen) d. Wagner (BuL), 4-2, 2OT.

Seventh Place

103: Caudill (BeL) d. Scammell (StC), 4-1
112: Hartle (JM) d. Martin (IC), 4-2
119: Prickett (MC) d. Magers (Barn), 8-7;

125: Blawut (HC) d. Hughes (Cam), 9-3
130: Melko (BSJ) p. Nickerson (BuL), 1:51
135: Wheeler (Steub) d. Richey (JM), 13-3
140: Carpenter (BSJ) p. McCort (Bell), 3:33
145: Bambico (MF) d. Buzzard (Well), 8-4
152: Hannahs (Shen) by default over Adkins (JM)
160: Cologie (BuL) d. Hepburn (Bell), 6-5
171: Loughran (Brk) p. McVay (UL), :28
189: Beech (Steub) d. Pratt (HC), 4-2
215: Compston (UL) by disqualification over Soland (Bell)
275: Fegat (Weir) d. Haslam (Riv), 10-8.

Championship Semifinals

103: Green (WP) d. Daugherty (Camb), 10-4; Myers (IC) p. Lehotay (Mead), 1-30
112: Rush (WP) d. Lemaster (Cald), 4-3; Duffield (EL) d. Miller (OG), 3-2
119: Humphrey (WP) d. Valles (WM), 3-2; Skoff (BSJ) d. Smith (Brk), 8-6
125: McFarland (Brk) d. Nicola (BSJ), 3-1, OT; Saxton (BuL) d. Wright (OG), 8-2
130: Tucker (MF) d. Mahan (OG), 7-1; Durbin (Brk) d. Emery (HC), 5-2
135: Shaw (Brk) p. Phillips (HC), 1:40; Brown (MC) d. Dunn (BeL), 12-8
140: Schuller (BuL) d. Cumpston (Cam); Ferguson (MC) d. G.Hoppel (BeL), 13-8
145: Richey (JM) d. Hunkler (BSJ), 8-1; Hughes (Cam) d. Babel (BuL), 3-1
152: Bowman (BuL) d. Crosier (Steub), 2-1; Northcraft (OG) d. Irwin (Shad), 12-2
160: Davis (Brk) d. Hughes (IC), 6-4; Case (BSJ) d. Bahmer (Barn), 4-2
171: Yoder (MF) d. Ross (Steub), 15-8; Burkhardt (Shad) tech. fall Simmons (JM), 18-2, 3:14
189: Samsa (Shad) d. Ewing (JM), 3-2; Tomlinack (WP) d. Foltz (OG), 7-4
215: Leach (Shen) maj. d. Bowersock (BeL), 11-1; Potts (OG) d. Hannahs (Barn), 3-2
275: Davia (UL) p. Hines (IC), 3:37; A.Hoppel (BeL) tech. fall Wagner (BuL), 15-0, 4:12

Consolation Semifinals

103: Daugherty (Camb) d. Felton (Brk), 5-3; Lehotay (Mead) p. Davis (OG), 1:28
112: Lemaster (Cald) d. Mahley (Camb), 3-2; Miller (OG) p. Shaw (Brk), 2:44
119: Valles (WM) d. Gossett (UL), 2-0; L.Hoppel (BeL) d. Smith (Brk), 2-1
125: Nicola (BSJ) d. Seebach (Cald), 7-2; Wright (OG) maj. d. Carosiello (Well), 10-1
130: Mahan (OG) p. Schmelzenbach (Shen), 3:42; Emery (HC) maj. d. Bond (Cald), 11-2
135: Saxton (BuL) d. Phillips (HC), 9-4; Dunn (BeL) d. Chambers (OG), 6-0
140: Warren (MF) for. Cumpston (Cam); Lee (JM) d. G.Hoppel (BeL), 10-8
145: Hunkler (BSJ) d. Bellanca (BeL), 8-1; Babel (BuL) d. Frollini (Shad), 9-8
152: Crosier (Steub) d. Benedict (MC), 7-2; Irwin (Shad) maj. d. Hines (Barn), 11-3
160: Hughes (IC) maj. d. Costa (Ed), 11-3; Bahmer (Barn) p. Railing (OG), 1:48
171: Ross (Steub) d. Zerkle (Shen), 10-7; Stevens (OG) p. Simmon (JM), 3:15
189: Howard (StC) d. Ewing (JM), 6-5; Horn (Shen) d. Foltz (OG), 6-3
215: Bovina (IC) p. Bowersock (BeL), 2:08; Hannahs (Barn) d. Corder (HC), 2-1
275: Hines (IC) p. Michel (Shen), 4:44; Neuenschwander (StC) d. Wagner (BuL), 7-0

ling, W.Va. — Tuesday, November 2, 2004

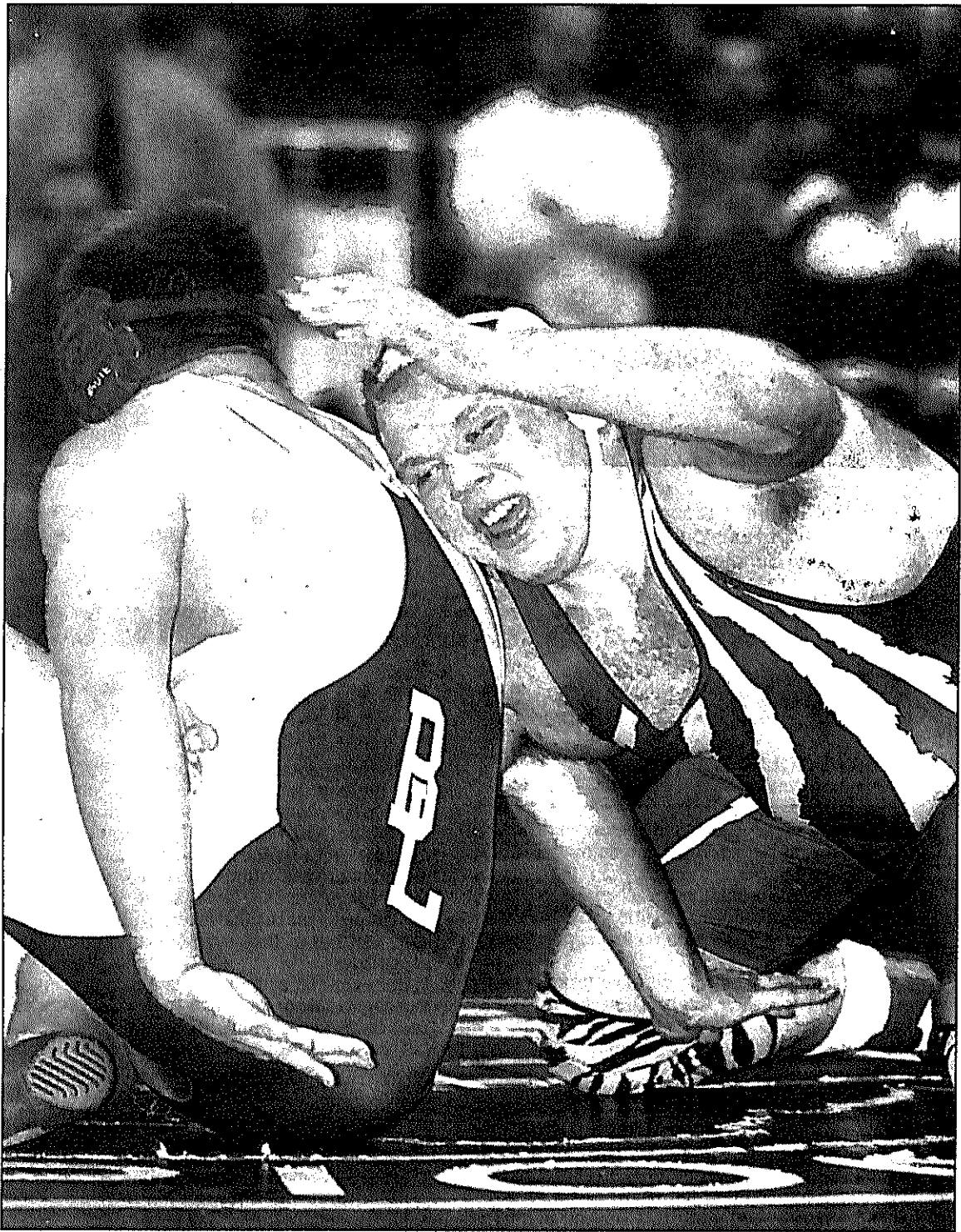
SPORTS

OVAC'S FINEST



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Four coaches were honored at the OVAC wrestling preview Monday at WesBanco Arena. Pictured above are last season's coaches of the year, from left: Brooke's Joe Erlewine, Oak Glen's Larry Shaw, and Monroe Central's Paul Robison. Not pictured: Shadyside's John Haswell.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS. The final match of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament failed to disappoint as defending champions Koel Davia (right) and Adam Hoppel battled for the OVAC title in the heavyweight division. Beaver's Hoppel scored a 7-3 victory in the match.

Another amazing OVAC Wrestling Tournament



By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader
Sports Writer

If there is one job that is performed with near-perfect precision and on a very consistent basis, it is the work that is done on the Sunday before the

OVAC tournament. How all of those coaches and officials can get together in one room, combine all of their thoughts and ideas and come up with the final seeds is just amazing.

It is amazing that year after year, these seeds will mirror the final results on the next Saturday. These guys are good.

Saturday's OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling was another masterpiece. It's like opening a puzzle and half the pieces are already put together. These OVAC coaches and wrestling people are that good.

Only two top seeds didn't reach the championship finals and of the 28 first and second seeded wrestlers, all but seven wrestled in the finals. It was at 160 that the championship final lacked a top or second-seeded wrestler. In that final, St. John Central's Chris Case, the No. 3 seed battled

AROUND THE MATS

Brooke's Dana Davis, the No. 6 seed. Incidentally, Case defeated second-seeded Jason Bahmer of Barnesville in the semi-finals and Davis upset top-seeded Kellen Hughes of Indian Creek. Both winning by just two points.

By the way, add up those seeds and who had the most? Who else, the champion Oak Glen Golden Bears.

This past weekend's OVAC Wrestling Tournament had to be one of the most exciting and most competitive meets that the conference has put on since the whole thing started 51 years back.

Of course, so many people compared the championship at heavyweight with the 1985 brawl between Tom Moxley and Dan Keenan, but the most gratifying thing about the Adam Hoppel-Koel Davia final at 275 on Saturday was simply...it kept everyone in their seats through the entire finals.

So often in the past, some fans and parents and even wrestlers leave once their weight class is wrestled and the awards are handed out, but not so on Saturday.

See, OVAC, Page D2

● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

Think of this. The OVAC has put together its giant wrestling tournament for 51 years. This was the first time in 19 years that a pair of Ohio state champions battled it out in a championship final.

In the 50 years of OVAC wrestling tournaments prior to the 2004 event, there have been only three wrestlers that were champions in four straight years. Bobby Douglas, the Hall of Fame wrestler and coach from Bridgeport High, Mark Emmerling from East Liverpool and Kelly Shields from Edison.

Hoppel's exciting win over Union Local's Davia gave him a fourth title and moved him into some exclusive company. Hoppel, another in a very long line of Hoppel kin to shine on the mats for Beaver Local, was a champion at 215 pounds in the three previous years.

Davia, whose lineage includes one of the great prep wrestlers in his head coach and father Joel, surprisingly had won just one OVAC title at 275, but has won two Ohio state titles in that weight.

Later this wrestling season, Koel Davia will be looking to join exclusive group of wrestlers who have won three straight Ohio titles.

Just in case you missed their exciting final, I don't know if I have ever seen an OVAC match rock the house like their final did on Saturday.

Both wrestlers were absolutely amazing in the match. Despite all the hype, which doesn't usually follow high school wrestlers in the Ohio Valley, the two appeared undaunted by the crowd and took to the mats with just one thought in mind.

Getting back to the seeding process and the results. Possibly one of the easiest seeds for 2005 will be where ever Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker wrestles.

It's ironic that it took 50 years to produce three four-time winners and there is a very good possibility that the two will be produced in the first two years of the second 50.

Tucker is a very skilled wrestler from a very good wrestling family. His performance on Saturday in the 130-pound final was pure textbook wrestling.

Tucker was expecting and, justifiably so, anticipating a matchup in the finals with Harrison Central's defending champ, Jesse Emery.

An upset of Emery in the semi-finals pushed Brooke's Mike Durbin on the center mat and Tucker easily beat him by a 17-1 tech fall.

Tucker will going for his fourth OVAC title next season and don't be surprised if 2006 doesn't produce a couple four-

time winners.

Wheeling Park's Abbie Rush won his second straight OVAC title as a sophomore at 112 on Saturday as did Buckeye Local's Zack Schuller at 140.

Of course, winning four isn't easy and there have been OVAC wrestlers in the past who have won in their first two years and couldn't complete the sweep.

It was also great to see former Martins Ferry head coach and current assistant Jeff Oberdick handed the blue jacket as this year's Mr. Mat Award recipient. Not only is Jeff a class act, but he certainly ranks among some of the great wrestling coaches that the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has produced over the years.

There are so many individuals that have done so much for the OVAC and wrestling and only one Mr. Mat Award presented each year.

That just adds to the prestige of the award.

For years now, the OVAC wrestling coaches have brought back a 25th anniversary team of past champions.

This year only five champs from the 1979 team were able to be at the Wesbanco Arena on Saturday to be honored by the legend of high school fans in attendance.

It is great to see some of the guys back, even if the last time I did see them wrestle was 25 years ago.

This past weekend's tournament also produced the first-ever OVAC title in wrestling for Shenandoah. The Zeps have come on strong and on Saturday gave the school the Class 2-A title.

And St. John Central figured that 13 was enough. That's how many times Cameron had won the Class 1-A title before the Irish snatched the team championship on Saturday.

The Dragons had won 13 straight, before St. John Central's talented squad took the gold this year.

Larry Shaw has produced one of the most consistent wrestling programs in the past decade and his team's win on Saturday just solidified that statement. Oak Glen has won seven straight West Virginia will like win its eighth this season, but Saturday's OVAC title proved that team balance is the key to winning championships.

Oak Glen had just one individual champion, but his wrestlers were very effective in the early rounds allowing the Golden Bears to building a huge lead early.

Finally, hats off to Buckeye Local's Brian Davis on guiding his Panthers to the Class 4-A title in his first year at the Connorville school.



Countdown to OVAC tournament under way



By
Rick
DeLuca
Times Leader
Sports Writer

Start the countdown folks, the OVAC Wrestling Tournament is almost here.

And you thought Christmas was Dec. 25.

For the many Ohio Valley wrestling fans out there, this weekend is like a holiday weekend. The planning process takes a full year, all kinds of visitors gather at one spot, the excitement is riveting and when it is finally over, your drained...but looking ahead to next year.

For the 51st time, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be holding its wrestling tournament and this year approximately

400 wrestlers will taking part in what is considered one of the largest wrestling tournaments in the country.

Here are some important times if you are planning to attending any or al of this year's tournament.

Opening ceremonies will get under way at 6 p.m. on Thursday and it is worth getting to WesBanco Arena a bit early to see the ceremonies.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday wrestling gets underway on eight different mats with preliminary and first round matches being wrestled. Count on about 300 matches in that four hour span. That's a lot of wrestling.

On Friday, the tournament heats up at 11 a.m. with the second round championship matches and first and second round of consolations again on eight different mats. After a brief pause, the second session gets underway at 5 p.m. with quarterfinals and third and fourth round consolations.

On Saturday, the tournament continues at noon with semifinals and fifth round and semifinal consolation matches.

There's more Saturday evening with the a special ceremony starting at 6 p.m. introducing the combatants for the final events and some special presentations.

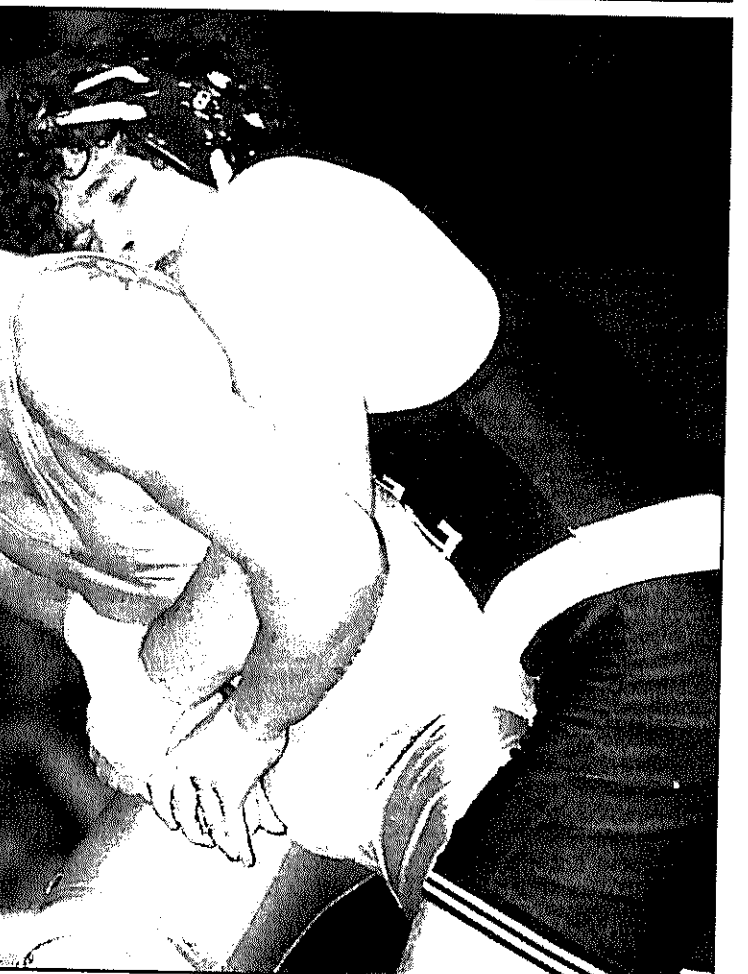
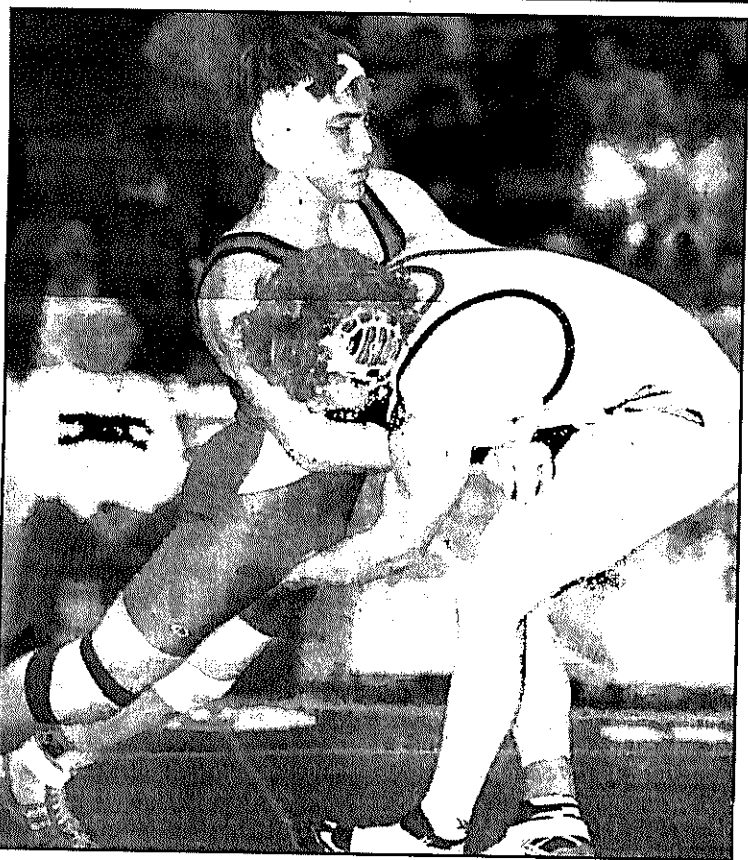
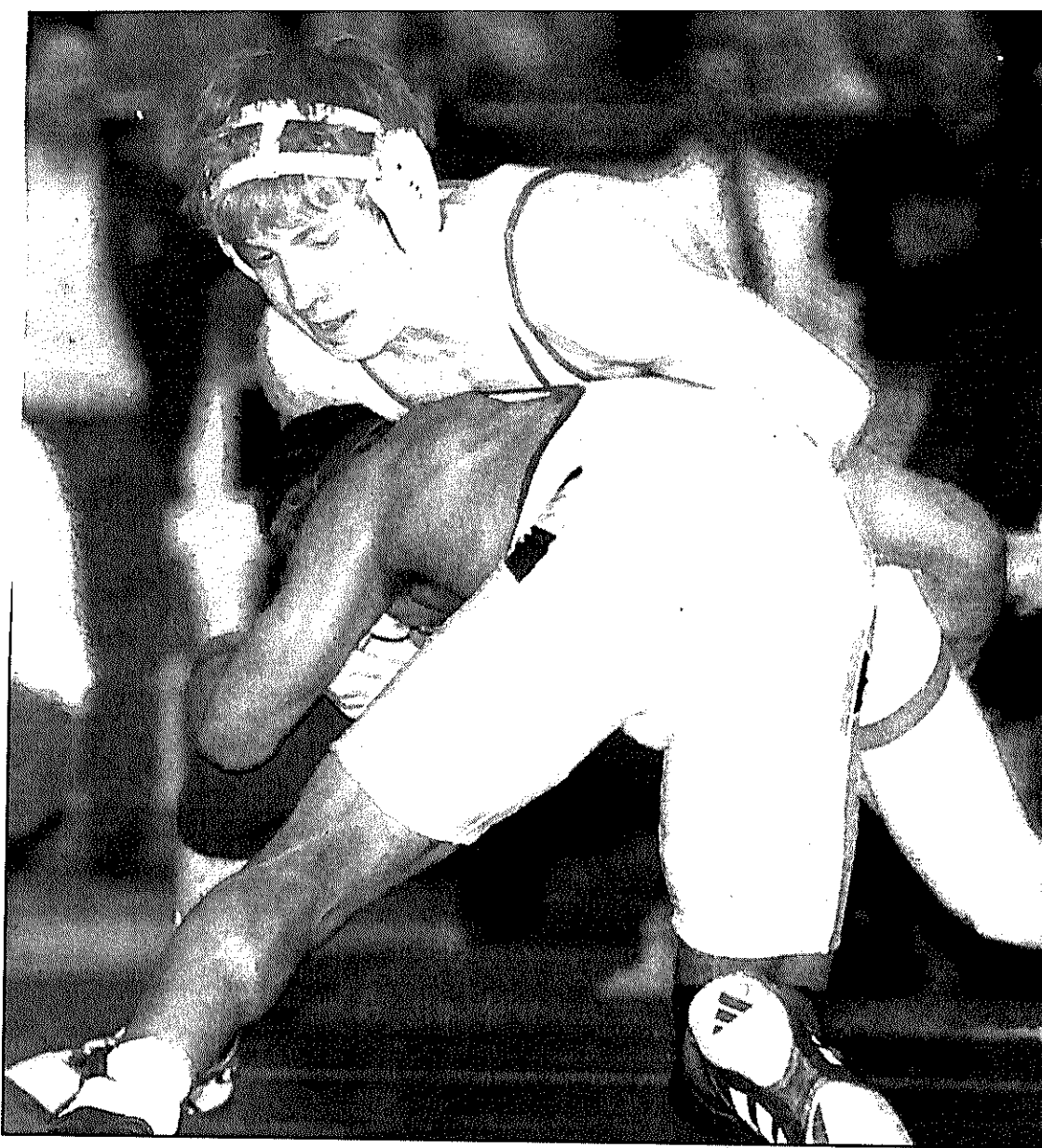
At 6:30 p.m., the championship finals and wrestling for third, fifth and seventh place get underway on four mats.

Recapping last season's exciting tournament, you might remember that coach Rich Wright's Beaver Local squad captured the overall crown. The OVAC title was Wright second last season, he also coached the Fighting Beavers to a football crown earlier that same school year.

Most surprising was the finish of Brooke High who placed second. Oak Glen was expected to be the biggest threat to Beaver Local's chance to win the title and most thought that Larry Shaw's Golden Bears were going to to win a second straight. The Bears finished third, nearly 50 points off the pace and Buckeye Local was fourth.

Champions by class were Cameron in 1-A, Monroe Central in 2-A and Oak Glen in 3-A.

Incidentally, Beaver Local's championship ended a rare streak of schools winning back-to-back titles. Buckeye Local won in '96 and '97, Martins Ferry won in '98 and '99 and East Liverpool



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP: St. John's Chris Case attempts to get control of his 160-pound championship match against Brooke's Dana Davis. Davis won the title by riding out in the second overtime.

AT RIGHT: Monroe Central's Aaron Brown (left) tries to break a hold of Brooke's Braden Shaw during the 135-pound championship match Saturday night at WesBanco Arena.

BELOW: Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman has Oak Glen's Rhett Northcraft wrapped up during the 152-pound championship match Saturday night at the OVAC. Bowman won the OVAC crown.

Looking over last season's list of champions, it is evident that the 2004 tourney is loaded with talent. Nine of last seasons 14 champions were underclassmen, and countless more finished in the top four.

At 103 last season, two freshmen battled in the finals with Wheeling Park's Abbie Rush scoring a 7-1 decision over St. John Central's Joe Skoff.

At 112, Skoff's teammate Mickey Nicola, also just a freshman, decided a very good senior in River's Lucas Huffman by 5-2.

At 119, Harrison Central's Jesse Emery won the title with a 5-3 decision over fellow junior Brian Humphrey of Wheeling Park. Emery will wrestle at 130 this year.

At 125, Martins Ferry sophomore Clay Tucker won his second straight OVAC title by pinning Brooke junior Jonthan McFarland at 3:01. Tucker is also moving up to 130.

At 130, Brooke junior Branden Shaw scored a major decision over Beaver Local sophomore Grant Hoppel in the title match.

At 135, Buckeye Local freshman Zack Schuller decided Martins Ferry senior Mike Mamone, 9-2 to win the crown.

In the next four weight classes, senior prevailed over underclassmen. At 140, Beaver's Justin Hoppel decided John

Marshall sophomore Dustin Richey. At 145, Oak Glen's Steve Flowers decided Buckeye's Brock Bowman, 3-2. At 152, Brooke's Phil Bliss edged Steubenville's (now at Buckeye Local) David Babel, a junior, by 11-2.

At 171, Monroe Central junior edged Buckeye Local senior Jordan Williams, 5-4, with Shadyside junior Bobby Samsa finishing third.

At 189, Beaver's Jared Williams topped Park's Cody Tominack, 2-1, with sophomore's Cody Potts of Oak Glen and Scott Antonik of Bellaire finishing third and fourth.

At 215, Beaver junior Adam Hoppel won his third straight OVAC title with a 4-2 decision over senior Josh Stansbury. Hoppel will be looking for No. 4, a very rare feat in the OVAC tourney, but will move up to 275 to do it.

At 275, two-time Ohio state champion Koel Davia topped Cambridge senior Michael Price, 8-3. In all likelihood, a Hoppel-Davia final in the tournaments would surely bring as much excitement as the Keenan-Moxley matches of old.

With all of that firepower coming back and so much more, this weekend's OVAC tournament could be one of the best ever.

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Champions by class were Cameron in 1-A, Monroe Central in 2-A and Oak Glen in 3-A.

Incidentally, Beaver Local's championship ended a rare streak of schools winning back-to-back titles. Buckeye Local won in '96 and '97, Martins Ferry won in '98 and '99 and East Liverpool had won in 2000 and 2001. Oak Glen was attempting to be the fourth straight school to win back-to-back OVAC titles.

While some wrestlers change weight classes from year to year, there are those that return to defending titles or battle to win a championship that eluded them a year early.

See, MATS, Page D2

OVAC WRESTLING PAIRINGS

Pairings for the first round the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament

103
Green (WP) vs. Iachini (Steub); Haslop (Sha) vs. Bye; Scammell (St.C) vs. Bye; Porter (HC) vs. Coup (MF); Davis (OG) vs. Blake (BD); Armann (Riv) vs. Bye; Seebach (Cald) vs. Bye; Dawson (EL) vs. Daugherty (Camb); Lehotay (Mea) vs. Peck (TC); Kilburn (MC) vs. Bye; Dodd (Shen) vs. Bye; Taylor (JM) vs. Felton (Brk); Caudill (Bel) vs. Young (BuL); Morris (SCe) vs. Bye; Haslop (Bel) vs. Bye; Potkrajac (Ed) vs. Myers (IC).

112
Rush (WP) vs. Widmann (Ed); Mack (Shen) vs. Bye; Green (Bel) vs. Bye; Cavanaugh (SCe) vs. Martin (IC); Cumpston (Cam) vs. Williams (Wel); Stephen (Br) vs. Bye; Oberdick (StC) vs. Lewis (MC); Turnbull (BuL) vs. Lemaster (Cald); Miller (OG) vs. Henry (WC); Moore (HC) vs. Rossiter (Mea); Clark (UL) vs. Bye; Hartle (JM) vs. Shaw (Brk); Hahlay (Camb) vs. Trigg (Sha); Sanders (Steub) vs. Bye; Ware (MF) vs. Bock (Bel); Peck (TC) vs. Duffield (EL).

119
Humphrey (WP) vs. Foose (WC); Peterson (BuL) vs. Prickett (MC); Kazee (Wel) vs. Bye; Magara (Bar) vs. Androsko (StC); Hoppel (Bel) vs. Harless (Mea); Reed (EL) vs. Bye; Dimmerling (Cald) vs. Delguzzi (Ed); Brown (Shen) vs. Valles (WM); Skoff (BSJ) vs. Howell (HC); Ray (Camb) vs. Emery (IC); Zoc (MF) vs. Gust (TC); Webb (CV) vs. Gossett (UL); Baker (OG) vs. Barcalow (SCe); Byers (Riv) vs. Bye; O'Neil (Cam) vs. Kotsen (JM); Fry (Bel) vs. Smlth (Brk).

125
Nicola (BSJ) vs. Cain (ED)/Heintzman (TC); Zuzak (StC) vs. King (Mag); Hughes (Cam) vs. Riggs (Bea); Webb (CV) vs. Carosello (Wel); Doyle (JM) vs. Alloway (Bel); Bortz (SCe) vs. Lucas (UL); Kennedy (WP) vs. Riggle (EL); Hrinko (Shen) vs. McFarland (Brk); Wright (OG) vs. Pell (WC); Bertubin (Camb) vs. Stackhouse (Steub); Blawut (HC) vs. Sparkman (MC); Mehaffey (WM) vs. Seebach (Cald); McCoy (BeL) vs. White (BD); Furbee (Sha) vs. Harless (Mea); Pendleton (IC) vs. Ownens (Riv); Smith (Barn) vs. Saxton (BuL).

130
Tucker (MF) vs. Gillette (SCe); Horvath (Sha) vs. Peterson (Cam); Bereschik (Wel) vs. Bye; Wright (TC) vs. Melko (BSJ); Bond (Cald) vs. Pasquarella (Steub); Yockey (StC); vs. Webb (CV); Smithberger (MC) vs. Gray (UL); Furry (Mea) vs. Mahan (OG); Durbin (Brk) vs. Skrypek (JM); Nelson (WP) vs. Johnston (IC); Nickerson (BuL) vs. Berardinelli (Ed); Clegg (Riv) vs. Scurlock (Camb); Schmelzenbach (Shen) vs. Messenger (Bar); Miller (EL) vs. Campbell (BeL); Aberegg (Bea) vs. Johnson (Bel); Moore (WM) vs. Emery (HC).

135
Shaw (Brk) vs. Hornbeck (EL); Saxton (BuL) vs. Pattif (Cam); Workman (Riv) vs. Bye; Wallace (Sha) vs. Waite (Shen); Cataldo (Wel) vs. Davis (Cald); Swartzmiller (TC) vs. Bye; Jordan (IC) vs. Lelfelt (WP); Booth (Bel) vs. Phillips (HC); Dunn (BeL) vs. Pappa (WC); Warner (Mea) vs. Richey (JM); Jones (Bea) vs. Ingram (Ed); Hanthorn (Mag) vs. Chambers (OG); Wheeler (Steub) vs. Deter (WM); Huff (BSJ) vs. Bye; Jones (MF) vs. Nicholas (CV); Smith (Barn) vs. Brown (MC).

140
Schuller (BuL) vs. Gray (Brk); Stacy (Wel) vs. Bilyeu (Bea); Gilson (WM) vs. Bye; Valentine (Mea) vs. King (Bar); Walters (IC) vs. Lowery (Camb); Gianessi (Weir) vs. Mcateer (WC); Bayne (SCe) vs. Weekley (TC); Walters (StC) vs. Cumpston (Cam); Hoppel (BeL) vs. Prokopakis (Ed); Smith (Lin) vs. Campbell (Riv); Crock (Shen) vs. Timmons (OG); McKirrick (Steub) vs. Warren (MF); Lee (JM) vs. Keirirm (WP); Donley (HC) vs. Car-

pentner (BSJ); Burkhardt (Sha) vs. McCort (Bel); Atkins (EL) vs. Ferguson (MC).

145
Richey (JM) vs. Ward (MC); Stewart (Ed) vs. Bye; Stephens (Bea) vs. Bye; Merico (Weir) vs. Bambico (MF); Hunkler (BSJ) vs. Stephens (Bar); Hill (WP) vs. Bye; Hupp (Cald) vs. Blavins (UL); Bayne (SCe) vs. Frollini (Sha); Hughes (Cam) vs. Ludwig (IC); McClum (Mea) vs. Presley (Steub); Swallie (Bel) vs. Bye; Leasure (TC) vs. Buzzard (Wel); Stevens (OG) vs. Ford (Camb); Rossiter (Shen) vs. Bye; Brooks (HC) vs. Bellanca (BeL); Turkaly (EL) vs. Babs (BuL).

152
Bowman (BuL) vs. Potenzini (StC); Crall (Bel) vs. Bilyeu (Bea); Hines (Bar) vs. Bye; Gianessi (Weir) vs. Meastrovic (WP); Crosier (Steub) vs. Woodrum (Riv); Smith (EL) vs. Bye; Whipkey (Cam) vs. McCourt (Ed); Jones (MF) vs. Adkins (JM); Irwin (Sha) vs. Olivar (IC); Mason (HC) vs. Henderson (Brk); Hirt (Wel) vs. Bye; Turner (BeL) vs. Hannahs (Shen); Benedict (MC) vs. Carder (Mead); Compton (UL) vs. Bye; Yost (TC) vs. Harpar (Cald); Hill (Camb) vs. Northcraft (OG).

160
Hughes (IC) vs. Martinez (BeL); Jackson (Wel) vs. Snyder (Cald); Perko (SCe) vs. Bye; West (JM) vs. Hepburn (Bel); Davis (Brk) vs. Roberts (TC); McElfresh (Sha) vs. Johnson (UL); Cooper (Cam) vs. Vancamp (Riv); Yamagata (MC) vs. Railing (OG); Case (BSJ) vs. Garvin (Camb); Provenzano (MF) vs. Gibson (WP); Logsdon (HC) vs. Burdette (StC); Vincent (CV) vs. Costa (Ed); Cologie (BuL) vs. Rossiter (Mea); Hanson (Steub) vs. Bye; Kinney (Bea) vs. Saling (Shen); Adkins (EL) vs. Bahmor (Barn).

171
Yoder (MF) vs. Ruckh (BD); Matusik (Riv) vs. Bye; Zerkle (Shen) vs. Bye; Reeder (BeL) vs. Ogle (Cald); Ross (Steub) vs. Paxton (BuL); Kettlewell (WP) vs. Bye; Kinzy (Bea) vs. Mayfield (Mag); Gunion (Ed) vs. Stevens (OG); Bologna (HC) vs. Monahan (MC); Loughran (Brk) vs. Simmons (JM); McVay (UL) vs. Bye; Beadle (Wel) vs. Smith (Barn); Sulek (Bel) vs. Minor (SCe); Stevens (TC) vs. Bye; Mankowski (Weir) vs. Bye; Lyons (Cam) vs. Burkhardt (Sha).

189
Samsa (Sha) vs. Ady (MC); Flynn (Weir) vs. Skinner (Bea); Gessler (TC) vs. Grear (Bea); Dulaney (Brk) vs. Beach (Steub); Ewing (JM) vs. Kidder (EL); Norris (BeL) vs. Archer (Cald); Rinkas (BSJ) vs. Ruskowski (Lin); Phillipot (Mea) vs. Horn (Shen); Howard (StC) vs. Clark (MF); Scurlock (Camb) vs. Bruce (Bel); Myers (Riv) vs. Thompson (Ed); Littleton (WM) vs. Foltz (OG); Cowser (IC) vs. Pratt (HC); Nolan (BuL) vs. Blake (Cam); Thomas (Mag) vs. Mostl (SCe); Campbell (CV) vs. Tominack (WP).

215
Leach (Shen) vs. Lemasters (TC); Rickman (JM) vs. Bye; Hercules (WP) vs. Bye; Habig (BSJ) vs. Soland (Bel); Bowersock (BeL) vs. Lewis (MF); Britnell (Camb) vs. Bye; Sawyers (Riv) vs. Harris (BuL); Rawson (Ed) vs. Corder (HC); Bowina (IC) vs. Dishman (Cam); Wright (Sha) vs. Wade (Mag); Beagle (BSJ) vs. Bye; Aitken (Brk) vs. Hannahs (Barn); Compton (UL) vs. Magnone (Steub); Skinner (Bea) vs. Bye; Haberfield (Mea) vs. Bye; Reasbeck (WC) vs. Potts (OG).

275
Davia (UL) vs. Hooker (JM); Slager (EL) vs. Bye; Mitchel (Shen) vs. Bye; Malone (Wel) vs. Haslam (Riv); Golden (Camb) vs. Wiseman (OG); Jenkins (HC) vs. Bye; McKeever (TC) vs. Mathews (Mag); Paden (MF) vs. Neuschwander (StC); Fegal (Weir) vs. Grinch (Sha); Hines (IC) vs. Molnar (Brk); Crall (Bel) vs. Bye; Hinerman (Ed) vs. Wagner (BuL); Staub (WP) vs. Manning (Cam); Patrella (Steub) vs. Bye; O'Hara (Bea) vs. Bye; Hastings (Barn) vs. Hoppel (BeL).

145 Pounds
Richey (JM) p. Stewart (Ed) :32; Bumbico (MF) p. Stephens (Bea) 1:55; Hunkler (BSJ) p. Hill (WP) 2:48; Frollini (Shad) p. Blevins (UL) 2:52; Hughes (Cam) p. McCollum (Mead) :32; Buzzard (Well) p. Perko (Bell) 3:17; Rossiter (Shen) p. Stevens (OG) 5:29; Babel (BuL) p. Brooks (HC) 1:02.

152 Pounds
Bowman (BuL) p. Bilyeu (Bea) 1:27; Hines (Barn) d. Mestrovic (WP) 7-0; Crosier (Staub) p. Smith (EL) 3:49; Adkins (JM) d. McCourt (Ed) 6-3; Irwin (Shad) p. Henderson (Brk) 2:31; Hannahs (Shen) p. Hirt (Well) 3:23; Benedict (MC) p. Compston (UL) :47; Northcraft (OG) p. Vost (TC) 2:20.

160 Pounds
Hughes (IC) p. Snyder (Cald) 1:46; Hepburn (Bell) p. Perko (SCe) 3:00; Davis (Brk) p. Johnson (UL) 1:50; Railing (OG) d. Cooper (Cam) 12-3; Case (BSJ) d. Gibson (WP) 11-2; Costa (Ed) d. Logsdon (HC) 6-3; Cologie (BuL) p. Henson (Staub) 4:26; Bahmer (Barn) p. Kinney (Bea) 3:09.

171 Pounds
Yoder (MF) p. Matusik (Riv) :48; Ogle (Cald) d. Zerkle (Shen) 7-3; Ross (Staub) p. Kettlewell (WP) 3:34; Stevens (OG) d. Kinzy (Bea) 12-4; Simmons (JM) d. Bologna (HC) Default; McVay (UL) d. Smith (Barn) 10-3; Sulek (Bell) p. Stevens (TC) 1:39; Burkhardt (Shad) p. Mankowski (Weir) :13.

189 Pounds
Samsa (Shad) p. Skinner (Bea) 1:37; Beach (Staub) p. Grear (Barn) 4:47; Ewing (JM) p. Archer (Cald) 4:59; Horn (Shen) p. Rinkes (BSJ) 2:15; Howard (StC) d. Bruce (Bell) Forfeit; Foltz (OG) d. Myers (Riv) 16-0; Pratt (HC) d. Nolan (BuL); Tominack (WP) p. Mosti (SCe) :12.

215 Pounds
Leach (Shen) p. Rickman (JM) 3:10; Soland (Bell) d. Hercules (WP) 15-1; Bowersock (BeL) p. Britnell (Camb) 1:54; Corder (HC) p. Harris (BuL) 1:52; Bovina (IC) d. Wright (Shad) 6-2; Hannahs (Barn) d. Beagle (SCe) 12-7; Compston (UL) p. Skinner (Bea) 1:43; Potts (OG) p. Haberfield (Mead) :44.

275 Pounds
Davia (UL) p. Slager (EL) :53; Haslam (Riv) p. Michel (Shen) 1:24; Hines (IC) d. Wiseman (OG) 4-1; Neuenschwander (StC) p. McKeever (TC) 1:16; Fegal (Weir) p. Molnar (Brk) 6:33 OT; Wagner (BuL) p. Crall (Bell) 1:36; Petrella (Staub) d. Staub (WP) 3-2 2OT; Hoppel (BeL) p. O'Hara (Bea) 1:02.

QUARTERFINALS

103 Pounds
Green (WP) p. Scammell (StC) 1:53; Daugherty (Camb) p. Davis (OG) 1:45; Lehotay (Mead) d. Felton (Brk) 13-1; Myers (IC) p. Caudill (Bell) 1:49.

112 Pounds
Rush (WP) p. Green (Bell) 3:50; Lemaster (Cald) d. Compston (Cam) 4-0; Miller (OG) p. Clark (UL) :42; Duffield (EL) d. Mahley (Camb) 6-2.

119 Pounds
Humphrey (WP) d. Magers (Barn) 15-2; Valles (WM) d. Hoppel (BeL) 6-4; Skoff (BSJ) d. Gossett (UL) 2-1; Smith (Brk) d. Baker (OG) 15-0.

125 Pounds
Nicola (BSJ) p. Carosiello (Well) 4:58; McFarland (Brk) p. Bortz (SCa) 5:43; Wright (OG) d. Seebach (Cald) 7-5; Saxton (BuL) d. McCoy (BeL) 20-8.

130 Pounds
Tucker (MF) d. Melko (BSJ) 16-0; Mahan (OG) p. Bond (Cald) 1:59; Durbin (Brk) d. Nickerson (BuL) 13-4; Emery (HC) p. Schmelzenbach (Shen) 4:29.

135 Pounds
Shaw (Brk) p. Workman River 2:48; Phillips (HC) p. Cataldo (Well) 3:23; Dunn (BeL) d. Saxton (BuL) 3-2; Brown (MC) d. Wheeler (Staub) 9-5.

140 Pounds
Schuller (BuL) p. King (Barn) 1:30; Compston (Cam) p. Walters (IC) 1:03; Hoppel (BeL) d. Warren (MF) 7-1; Ferguson (MC) p. Carpenter (BSJ) 1:05.

145 Pounds
Richey (JM) p. Bumbico (MF) :25; Hunkler (BSJ) d. Frollini (Shad) 6-0; Hughes (Cam) d. Buzzard (Well) 19-1; Babel (BuL) p. Rossiter (Shen) 2:33.

152 Pounds
Bowman (BuL) d. Hines (Barn) 4-2; Crosier (Staub) d. Adkins (JM) 7-2; Irwin (Shad) d. Hannahs (Shen) 7-4; Northcraft (OG) d. Benedict (MC) 15-10, OT.

160 Pounds
Hughes (IC) d. Hepburn (Bell) 13-0; Davis (Brk) d. Railing (OG) 8-3; Case (BSJ) p. Costa (Ed) 2:52; Bahmer (Barn) p. Cologie (BuL) 2:27.

171 Pounds
Yoder (MF) d. Ogle (Cald) 22-5; Ross (Staub) d. Stevens (OG) 3-2; Simmons (JM) p. McVay (UL) 4:47; Burkhardt (Shad) d. Sulek (Bell) 14-5.

189 Pounds
Samsa (Shad) p. (B) James Beech (Staub) 1:13; Ewing (JM) d. (4) John Horn (Shen) 7-6; Foltz (OG) d. Howard (StC), Default; Tominack (WP) d. Pratt (HC) 16-0.

215 Pounds
Leach (Shen) d. Soland (Bell) 7-2; Bowersock (BeL) p. Corder (HC) 4:35; Hannahs (Barn) d. Bovina (IC) 3-1, 2 OT; Potts (OG) d. Compston (UL) 17-9.

275 Pounds
Davia (UL) p. Haslam (Riv) 1:42; Hines (IC) d. Neuenschwander (StC) 2-1, 2 OT; Wagner (BuL) p. Fegal (Weir) 5:40; Hoppel (BeL) p. Petrella (Staub) 1:01.

CONSOLATION BRACKET

SECOND ROUND

103 Pounds
Iachini (Staub) p. Armann (Riv) 4:40; Coup (MF) d. Seebach (Cald) 14-4; Heslop (Shad) d. Blake (BD) 8-2; Porter (HC) p. Dawson (EL) 2:04; Morris (SCe) p. Peck (TC) :17; Taylor (JM) d. Heslop (Bell) 6-0; Young (BuL) p. Kilburn (MC) :55; Dodd (Shen) d. Potkrajac (Ed) 10-1.

112 Pounds
Stephen (Barn) d. Widmann (Ed) 6-0; Martin (IC) d. Lewis (MC) 11-1; Williams (Well) d. Mack (Shen) 8-5; Turnbull (BuL) d. Cavanaugh (SCe) 5-0; Rossiter (Mead) p. Sanders (Staub) 1:27; Hartle (JM) d. Ware (MF) 8-5; Moore (HC) d. Trigg (Shad) 17-6; Shaw (Brk) d. Bock (BeL) 11-1.

119 Pounds
Reed (EL) d. Kurt Peterson (BuL) 14-2; Androsko (StC) d. Delguzzi (Ed) 4-1; Prickett (MC) p. Harless (Mead) 2:31; Dimmerling (Cald) d. Kazee (Well) 9-2; Ray (Camb) d. Byers (Riv) 15-3; O'Neil (Cam) p. Gust (TC) 2:34; Emery (IC) p. Barcalow (SCe) 1:45; Zoc (MF) d. Kotsen (JM) 10-5.

125 Pounds
Doyle (JM) p. Zuzak (StC) 2:37; Kennedy (WP) p. Webb (CV) :47; King (Mag) p. Lucas (UL) 1:36; Hughes (Cam) p. Riggie (EL) :42; Furbee (Shad) d. Bertubini (Camb) 6-2; Pendleton (IC) p. Sparkman (MC) 1:50; Harless (Mead) d. Heintzman (TC) 7-5; Blawut (HC) d. Smith (Barn) 5-1.

130 Pounds
Webb (CV) p. Horvath (Shad) 3:45; Smithberger (MC) p. Wright (TC) 2:57; Stoneking (Cam) d. Pasquarella (Staub) 5-3;

135 Pounds
Archer (Cald) d. Ady (MC) 16-1; Dulaney (Brk) p. Rinkes (BSJ) 4:19; Norris (BeL) p. Skinner (Bea) 1:26; Ruskowski (Lin) p. Grear (Barn) 1:43; Scurlock (Camb) d. Nolan (BuL) Forfeit; Thompson (Ed) d. Mosti (SCe) 2-0; Cowser (IC) d. Bruce (Bell) Forfeit; Myers (Riv) p. Campbell (CV) 1:22.

215 Pounds
Britnell (Camb) p. Lemasters (TC) :59; Harris (BuL) p. Habig (BSJ) 1:46; Rickman (JM) p. Lewis (MF) 2:48; Rawson (Ed) d. Hercules (WP) 7-5; Wade (Mag) d. Skinner (Bea) 11-7; Haberfield (Mead) d. Aitken (Brk) 6-0; Wright (Shad) d. Magnone (Staub) 9-1; Beagle (SCe) p. Reasbeck (WC) 1:49.

275 Pounds
Wiseman (OG) p. Hooker (JM) :55; McKeever (TC) p. Malone (Well) :50; Slager (EL) p. Golden (Camb) 4:54; Michel (Shen) p. Paden (MF) 1:14; Kevin Staub (WP) p. Grinch (Shad) 1:39; Hinerman (Ed) p. O'Hara (Bea) 1:23; Molnar (Brk) d. Manning (Cam) 5-3; Hastings (Barn) p. Crall (Bell) 1:37.

THIRD ROUND

103 Pounds
Coup (MF) d. Iachini (Staub) 3-1; Heslop (Shad) d. Porter (HC) 5-4; Taylor (JM) d. Morris (SCe) Forfeit; Dodd (Shen) d. Young (BuL) 4-2.

112 Pounds
Martin (IC) d. Stephen (Barn) 4-1; Turnbull (BuL) p. Williams (Well) 1:51; Hartle (JM) d. Rossiter (Mead) 4-1; Shaw (Brk) d. Moore (HC) 5-2.

119 Pounds
Androsko (StC) p. Reed (EL) :48; Prickett (MC) p. Dimmerling (Cald) 2:03; O'Neil (Cam) p. Ray (Camb) 1:49; Emery (IC) p. Zoc (MF) 3:56.

125 Pounds
Kennedy (WP) d. Doyle (JM) 5-3; Hughes (Cam) d. King (Mag) 15-3; Pendleton (IC) p. Furbee (Shad) 1:54; Blawut (HC) p. Harless (Mead) 3:51.

130 Pounds
Smithberger (MC) d. Webb (CV) 11-1; Bereschik (Well) d. Stoneking (Cam) 10-3; Campbell (BeL) d. Skrypek (JM) 11-2; Scurlock (Camb) d. Nelson (WP) Default.

135 Pounds
Jordan (IC) p. Hornbeck (EL) 3:37; Pettit (Cam) d. Waite (Shen) 7-0; Richey (JM) d. Jones (MF) 1-0; Chambers (OG) d. Warner (Mead) 8-6.

140 Pounds
Bayne (SCe) d. Gianessi (Weir) 3-1; Bilyeu (Bea) d. Weekley (TC) 20-12; Lee (JM) d. Burkhardt (Shad) 16-4; McCort (Bell) d. Smith (Lin) 11-0.

145 Pounds
Hill (WP) d. Merico (Weir) 2-1 2OT; Bellanca (BeL) d. Stephens (Barn) 5-2; Stevens (OG) p. Brooks (HC) 1:55; McCollum (Mead) p. Perko (Bell) 1:55.

152 Pounds
Gianessi (Weir) d. Smith (EL) 9-3; Mestrovic (WP) p. Bilyeu (Bea) 2:32; Smith (BeL) p. Compston (UL) 2:51; Henderson (Brk) d. Harper (Cald) 12-5.

160 Pounds
Cooper (Cam) p. Johnson (UL) 1:43; Vancamp (Riv) d. Snyder (Cald) 3-0; Provenzano (MF) d. Burdette (StC) 9-2; Logsdon (HC) d. Gibson (WP) 3-2.

171 Pounds
Reeder (BeL) d. Kinzy (Bea) 6-1; Zerkle (Shen) d. Matusik (Riv) 11-5; Loughran (Brk) p. Mayfield (Mag) 4:15; Smith (Barn) p. Minor (SCe) :27.

FOURTH ROUND

103 Pounds
Felton (Brk) d. Coup (MF) 7-2; Caudill (BeL) p. Heslop (Shad) 2:15; Scammell (StC) d. Taylor (JM) 10-2; Davis (OG) p. Dodd (Shen) 1:57.

112 Pounds
Martin (IC) d. Clark (UL) 5-0; Mahley (Camb) p. Turnbull (BuL) 4:12; Hartle (JM) d. Green (Bell) 10-3; Shaw (Brk) d. Compston (Cam) 8-3.

119 Pounds
Gossett (UL) d. Androsko (StC) 4-0; Prickett (MC) d. Baker (OG) 5-4; Magers (Barn) d. O'Neil (Cam) 4-2; Hoppel (BeL) d. Emery (IC) 9-0.

125 Pounds
Seebach (Cald) p. Kennedy (WP) 1:30; Hughes (Cam) d. McCoy (BeL) 8-4; Carosiello (Well) d. Pendleton (IC) 6-5; Blawut (HC) p. Bortz (SCe) 3:11.

130 Pounds
Nickerson (BuL) p. Smithberger (MC) 2:15; Schmelzenbach (Shen) p. Bereschik (Well) 2:49; Melko (BSJ) d. Campbell (BeL) 8-2; Bond (Cald) p. Scurlock (Camb) 3:31.

135 Pounds
Saxton (BuL) d. Jordan (IC) 4-3; Wheeler (Staub) d. Pettit (Cam) 10-1; Richey (JM) d. Workman (Riv) 8-4; Chambers (OG) d. Cataldo (Well) 6-2.

140 Pounds
Warren (MF) d. Bayne (SCe) 5-4; Carpenter (BSJ) d. Bilyeu (Bea) 7-4; Lee (JM) d. King (Barn) 6-4; McCort (Bell) d. Walters (IC) 8-1.

145 Pounds
Buzzard (Well) d. Hill (WP) 12-3; Bellanca (BeL) p. Rossiter (Shen) 3:44; Bumbico (MF) d. Stevens (OG) 18-2; Frollini (Shad) d. McCollum (Mead) 6-1.

152 Pounds
Hannahs (Shen) p. Gianessi (Weir) 3:46; Benedict (MC) d. Mestrovic (WP) 11-9 2 OT; Hines (Barn) p. Smith (BeL) 3:10; Adkins (JM) p. Henderson (Brk) 1:26.

160 Pounds
Costa (Ed) d. Cooper (Cam) 3-1 2 OT; Cologie (BuL) p. Vancamp (Riv) 2:57; Hepburn (Bell) p. Provenzano (MF) 2:23; Railing (OG) d. Logsdon (HC) 5-1.

171 Pounds
McVay (UL) d. Reeder (BeL) 7-6; Zerkle (Shen) d. Sulek (Bell) 14-7; Loughran (Brk) d. Ogle (Cald) 11-4; Stevens (OG) d. Smith (Barn) 4-2 2 OT.

189 Pounds
Howard (StC) p. Archer (Cald) 2:34; Pratt (HC) p. Norris (BeL) 2:23; Beech (Staub) d. Scurlock (Camb) 3-0; Horn (Shen) d. Cowser (IC) 7-0.

215 Pounds
Bovina (IC) p. Harris (BuL) 1:47; Compston (UL) p. Rawson (Ed) 3:36; Soland (Bell) p. Wade (Mag) :53; Corder (HC) p. Beagle (SCe) 2:18.

275 Pounds
Fegal (Weir) d. McKeever (TC) 2-1; Michel (Shen) d. Petrella (Staub) 8-2; Haslam (Riv) p. Hinerman (Ed) :30; Neuenschwander (StC) p. Molnar (Brk) 1:35.

vs. Young (BuL); Morris (SCe) vs. Bye; Heslop (Bell) vs. Bye; Potkrajac (Ed) vs. Myers (IC).

112
Rush (WP) vs. Widmann (Ed); Mack (Shen) vs. Bye; Green (BeL) vs. Bye; Cavanaugh (SCe) vs. Martin (IC); Compston (Cam) vs. Williams (Well); Stephen (Bar) vs. Bye; Oberdick (StC) vs. Lewis (MC); Turnbull (BuL) vs. Lemaster (Cald); Miller (OG) vs. Henry (WC); Moore (HC) vs. Rossiter (Mead); Clark (UL) vs. Bye; Hartle (JM) vs. Shaw (Brk); Hahley (Camb) vs. Trigg (Shad); Sanders (Staub) vs. Bye; Ware (MF) vs. Bock (BeL); Peck (TC) vs. Duffield (EL).

119
Humphrey (WP) vs. Foose (WC); Peterson (BuL) vs. Prickett (MC); Kazee (Well) vs. Bye; Magers (Bar) vs. Androsko (StC); Hoppel (BeL) vs. Harless (Mead); Reed (EL) vs. Bye; Dimmerling (Cald) vs. Delguzzi (Ed); Brown (Shen) vs. Valles (WM); Skoff (BSJ) vs. Howell (HC); Ray (Camb) vs. Emery (IC); Zoc (MF) vs. Gust (TC); Webb (CV) vs. Gossett (UL); Baker (OG) vs. Barcalow (SCe); Byers (Riv) vs. Bye; O'Neil (Cam) vs. Kotsen (JM); Fry (Bell) vs. Smith (Brk).

125
Nicola (BSJ) vs. Cain (ED); Heintzman (TC); Zuzak (StC) vs. King (Mag); Hughes (Cam) vs. Riggs (Bea); Webb (CV) vs. Carosiello (Well); Doyle (JM) vs. Alloway (Bell); Bortz (SCa) vs. Lucas (UL); Kennedy (WP) vs. Riggie (EL); Hrinko (Shen) vs. McFarland (Brk); Wright (OG) vs. Fell (WC); Bertubini (Camb) vs. Stackhouse (Staub); Blawut (HC) vs. Sparkman (MC); Mehaffey (WM) vs. Seebach (Cald); McCoy (BeL) vs. White (BD); Furbee (Sha) vs. Harless (Mead); Pendleton (IC) vs. Ovnens (Riv); Smith (Barn) vs. Saxton (BuL).

130
Tucker (MF) vs. Gillette (SCe); Horvath (Sha) vs. Peterson (Cam); Bereschik (Well) vs. Bye; Wright (TC) vs. Melko (BSJ); Bond (Cald) vs. Pasquarella (Staub); Yockey (StC) vs. Webb (CV); Smithberger (MC) vs. Gray (UL); Furry (Mead) vs. Mahan (OG); Durbin (Brk) vs. Skrypek (JM); Nelson (WP) vs. Johnston (IC); Nickerson (BuL) vs. Berardinelli (Ed); Clegg (Riv) vs. Scurlock (Camb); Schmelzenbach (Shen) vs. Messinger (Bar); Miller (EL) vs. Campbell (BeL); Aberegg (Bea) vs. Johnson (Brk); Moore (WM) vs. Emery (HC).

135
Shaw (Brk) vs. Hornbeck (EL); Saxton (BuL) vs. Pettit (Cam); Workman (Riv) vs. Bye; Wallace (Sha) vs. Waite (Shen); Cataldo (Well) vs. Davis (Cald); Swartzmiller (TC) vs. Bye; Jordan (IC) vs. Leifheit (WP); Boppa (BeL) vs. Phillips (HC); Dunn (BeL) vs. Pappa (WC); Warner (Mead) vs. Richey (JM); Jones (Bea) vs. Ingram (Ed); Hemthorn (Mag) vs. Deter (WC); Wheeler (Staub) vs. Deter (WM); Huff (BSJ) vs. Bye; Jones (MF) vs. Nicholas (CV); Smith (Barn) vs. Brown (MC).

140
Schuller (BuL) vs. Gray (Brk); Stacy (Well) vs. Bilyeu (Bea); Gilson (WM) vs. Bye; Valentine (Mead) vs. King (Bar); Walters (IC) vs. Lowery (Camb); Gianessi (Weir) vs. Mcatear (WC); Bayne (SCe) vs. Weekley (TC); Walters (StC) vs. Compston (Cam); Hoppel (BeL) vs. Prokopakis (Ed); Smith (Lin) vs. Campbell (Riv); Crook (Shen) vs. Timmons (OG); McKittrick (Staub) vs. Warren (MF); Lee (JM) vs. Kneirim (WP); Donley (HC) vs. Carpenter (BSJ); Burkhardt (Sha) vs. McCort (Bell); Atkins (EL) vs. Ferguson (MC).

145
Richey (JM) vs. Ward (MC); Stewart (Ed) vs. Bye; Stephens (Bea) vs. Bye; Merico (Weir) vs. Bumbico (MF); Hunkler (BSJ) vs. Stephens (Bar); Hill (WP) vs. Bye; Hupp (Cald) vs. Blevins (UL); Bayne (SCa) vs. Frollini (Sha); Hughes (Cam) vs. Ludewig (IC); McCollum (Mead) vs. Presley (Staub); Swallie (BeL) vs. Bye; Leasure (TC) vs. Buzzard (Well); Stevens (OG) vs. Ford (Camb); Rossiter (Shen) vs. Bye; Brooks (HC) vs. Bellanca (BeL); Turkaly (EL) vs. Babel (BuL).

152
Bowman (BuL) vs. Potenzi (StC); Crall (Bell) vs. Bilyeu (Bea); Hines (Barn) vs. Bye; Gianessi (Weir) vs. Mestrovic (WP); Crosier (Staub) vs. Woodrum (JM); Smith (EL) vs. Bye; Whipkey (Cam) vs. McCourt (Ed); Jones (MF) vs. Adkins (JM); Irwin (Sha) vs. Oliver (IC); Mason (HC) vs. Handerson (Brk); Hirt (Well) vs. Bye; Turner (BeL) vs. Hannahs (Shen); Benedict (MC) vs. Corder (Mead); Compston (UL) vs. Bye; Yost (TC) vs. Harper (Cald); Hill (Camb) vs. Northcraft (OG).

160
Hughes (IC) vs. Martinez (BeL); Jackson (Well) vs. Snyder (Cald); Perko (SCe) vs. Bye; West (JM) vs. Hepburn (Bell); Davis (Brk) vs. Roberts (TC); McElfresh (Sha) vs. Johnson (UL); Cooper (Cam) vs. Vancamp (Riv); Yamagata (MC) vs. Railing (OG); Case (BSJ) vs. Garvin (Camb); Provenzano (MF) vs. Gibson (WP); Logsdon (HC) vs. Burdette (StC); Vincent (CV) vs. Costa (Ed); Cologie (BuL) vs. Rossiter (Mead); Henson (Staub) vs. Bye; Kinney (Bea) vs. Saling (Shen); Adkins (EL) vs. Bahmer (Barn).

171
Yoder (MF) vs. Ruckh (BD); Matusik (Riv) vs. Bye; Zerkle (Shen) vs. Bye; Reeder (BeL) vs. Ogle (Cald); Ross (Staub) vs. Paxton (BuL); Kettlewell (WP) vs. Bye; Kinzy (Bea) vs. Mayfield (Mag); Gunion (Ed) vs. Stevens (OG); Bologna (HC) vs. Monahan (MC); Loughran (Brk) vs. Simmons (JM); McVay (UL) vs. Bye; Beadie (Well) vs. Smith (Barn); Sulek (BeL) vs. Minor (SCe); Stevens (TC) vs. Bye; Mankowski (Weir) vs. Bye; Lyons (Cam) vs. Burkhardt (Sha).

189
Samsa (Sha) vs. Ady (MC); Flynn (Weir) vs. Skinner (Bea); Gessler (TC) vs. Grear (Bea); Dulaney (Brk) vs. Beech (Staub); Ewing (JM) vs. Kidder (EL); Norris (BeL) vs. Archer (Cald); Rinkes (BSJ) vs. Ruskowski (Lin); Phillipot (Mead) vs. Horn (Shen); Howard (StC) vs. Clark (MF); Scurlock (Camb) vs. Bruce (Bell); Myers (Riv) vs. Thompson (Ed); Littleton (WM) vs. Foltz (OG); Cowser (IC) vs. Pratt (HC); Nolan (BuL) vs. Blake (Cam); Thomas (Mag) vs. Mosti (SCe); Campbell (CV) vs. Tominack (WP).

215
Leach (Shen) vs. Lemasters (TC); Rickman (JM) vs. Bye; Hercules (WP) vs. Bye; Habig (BSJ) vs. Soland (Bell); Bowersock (BeL) vs. Lewis (MF); Britnell (Camb) vs. Bye; Sawyers (Riv) vs. Harris (BuL); Rawson (Ed) vs. Corder (HC); Bovina (IC) vs. Dishman (Cam); Wright (Sha) vs. Wade (Mag); Beagle (BSJ) vs. Bye; Aitken (Brk) vs. Hannahs (Barn); Compston (UL) vs. Magnone (Staub); Skinner (Bea) vs. Bye; Haberfield (Mead) vs. Bye; Reasbeck (WC) vs. Potts (OG).

275
Davia (UL) vs. Hooker (JM); Slager (EL) vs. Bye; Michel (Shen) vs. Bye; Malone (Well) vs. Haslam (Riv); Golden (Camb) vs. Wiseman (OG); Jenkins (HC) vs. Bye; McKeever (TC) vs. Mathews (Mag); Paden (MF) vs. Neuenschwander (StC); Fegal (Weir) vs. Grinch (Sha); Hines (IC) vs. Molnar (Brk); Crall (Bell) vs. Bye; Hinerman (Ed) vs. Wagner (BuL); Staub (WP) vs. Manning (Cam); Petrella (Staub) vs. Bye; O'Hara (Bea) vs. Bye; Hastings (Barn) vs. Hoppel (BeL).

OVAC Wrestling Tournament Opens Today

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Action at the 51st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament begins today with the opening ceremonies scheduled for 6 p.m. at WesBanco Arena.

The tournament, which features 36 teams, almost 400 participants, about 850 bouts and will bring in more than 10,000 fans, is one the largest wrestling tournaments of its kind in the United States.

After today's first-round matches, the action picks back up at 11 a.m. Friday with second-round bouts.

Quarterfinal and consolation matches are slated to begin at 5 p.m.

Semifinal and consolation matches resume at noon Saturday, with the championship matches, along with bouts to determine third, fifth and seventh places, to begin at 6:30 p.m.

As an added feature this year, tournament officials will honor the 1979 tournament champions, which was the first group to have won OVAC titles in the building now known as WesBanco Arena.

Tournament Director Ron Mauck said the event just keeps getting better.

"We try to give them a good program," he said.

"We've got a unique situation where we've got a lot of people who've been together a long time that make this thing special. It's kind of like a reunion for us."

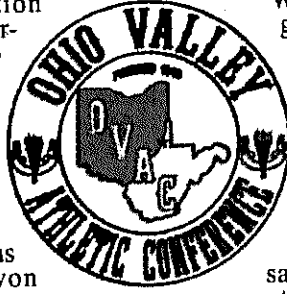
Though it may sound like a simple thing, Mauck said putting together a tournament of this size is a year-round venture. "It's not like we put it together in

two or three days, I'll tell you that," Mauck said.

Not only will 14 wrestlers be crowned champions, but awards will be given to the tournament's top wrestler (the Dave Bierkorette Wrestling Award), a person who has made valuable contributions to the sport (the Mr. Mat award), the top assistant and junior high coaches, and Coaches Services Awards.

There are seven returning champions in this year's field. Beaver Local is the defending champion.

Oak Glen enters the fray as the favorite, as it has a conference-leading 12 seeded wrestlers.



OVAC Mat Tourney - From A to Z

51st annual wrestling spectacular opens tonight at WesBanco Arena

A: Athletes. More than 400 wrestlers will take to the mats in action of what is the largest wrestling tournament of its kind in the United States.

B: Bierkorette. The Dave Bierkorette award, given annually to the tournament's top wrestler.

C: Ceremonies: The Olympic-style opening ceremony is something to remember, no matter how many times you've seen it.

D: Dr. Bill Welker and Dr. Vince Monseau. Two of the area's most respected wrestling figures.

E: Escape. A one-point defensive maneuver that can drastically change the direction of a match.

F: Fans. Wrestling enthusiasts flock from as far north as Calcutta and as far west as Cambridge to cheer on their favorite grapplers.

G: Green, Ron. The top seed at 103. He's one of three No. 1 seeds for Wheeling Park in this year's tournament.

H: Hoppel. A name synonymous with wrestling at Beaver Local, which boasts one of the OVAC's

premier mat programs.

I: Individual. It's a team sport that ultimately comes down to the wrestlers themselves.

J: Junior High/Junior varsity. Each year, an award is given out to the top middle school and/or JV coach. It is these folks who get the kids ready for the big time.

K: Kovalick, George. The first Mr. Mat who also has a wrestling scholarship named for him. The scholarship is for \$1,000, and is one of many to be awarded during the Spring Awards Banquet.

L: Larry Shaw. The coach of Oak Glen, which won the tournament in 2002 and has a conference-leading 12 seeded wrestlers in this year's fray.

M: Mr. Mat. An award given annually to a person who has given a

lot to the sport.

N: Numbers: More than 10,000 fans will pack WesBanco Arena over the next three days to watch 36 teams and more than 400 wrestlers taking part in the tournament.

O: Officials. OVAC directors always manage to nail down the best area officials for the three-day tournament. They also grab a few from outside the area.

P: Pin. Also known as a fall, it's the most coveted result in an

individual bout.

Q: Quit. Some wrestlers are forced to quit a lot of things to make weight.

R: Ron Mauck. The tournament director who was instrumental in making the event what it is today.

S: Salsberry, Matt. A former East Liverpool wrestler for whom an athletic/academic memorial scholarship

is named.

T: Todd Hibbs. The former Jefferson Union wrestler is now one of the premier announcers in the sport. Aside from his work at Michigan State and all of the NCAA finals, Hibbs still makes his way back to the Ohio Valley every year to explain the action in the OVAC tourney.

U: Upsets. It can be exciting to see the underdog come out on top.

V: Volunteers. People come out of the woodwork to help make the tournament the best it can be.

W: Ward, Cliff. Former OVAC champion from John Marshall who went on to become a high school All-American in 1995.

X: The arm signal used by a wrestler who chooses to defer.

Y: Youth. The main beneficiary of the largest tournament in the land is the kids.

Z: Zero. The number of participants who will leave Saturday not knowing they've been a part of something special.

Jim Elliott can be reached via e-mail at elliott@theintelligencer.net.

High School Wrestling



By JIM ELLIOTT

WRESTLING FEVER GRIPS WHEELING

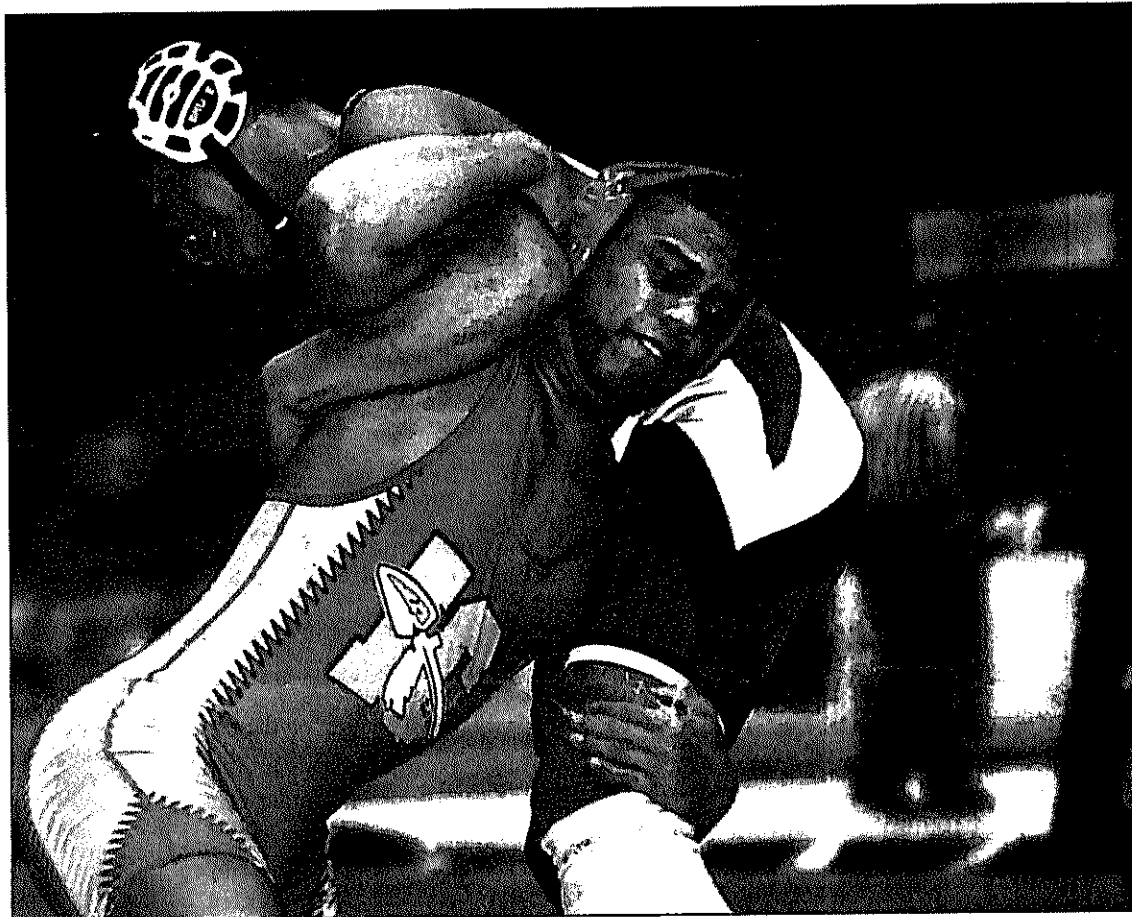


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Indian Creek's Shane Walters tangles up with Jamaal Lowery of Cambridge High School during the 51st Annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament, which got under way Thursday evening at the WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. *Story, Sports.*

OVAC wrestling seeds announced

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's a long, hard process seeding wrestlers for the upcoming OVAC Wrestling Tournament at Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling. Gauging the outcome by those seeding results is just as difficult.

Defending champion Oak Glen has 12 of 14 wrestlers among the top eight seeds in their respective weights. Wheeling Park has the top seed in the first three weight classes. Brooke has seven seeded wrestlers including four in the top

four. Buckeye Local has six seeded wrestlers including four as a first or second seed.

There is no tried and true method of determining the eventual OVAC champions by a seeding process, that's why it is done on the mats.

Coach Larry Shaw's Golden Bears have been dominant over the past years during the seeding process in advance of the annual tournament and this year was no different.

A seven-time defending West Virginia state champion, Oak Glen heads the list of schools with 12 wrestlers seeded, but unlike past years, the

Bears do not have one top-seeded grappler.

Seven of Oak Glen's wrestlers were seeded in the top four spots for this week's 51st annual OVAC mat tourney.

Wheeling Park has the top seeds in the first three weight classes for Thursday's 5 p.m. start.

All three Patriot wrestlers, Ron Green at 103, Abbie Rush at 112 and Brian Humphrey at 119, come into the tournament with unbeaten records. Green enters at 24-0, Rush at 28-0 and Humphrey

See, OVAC, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

at 28-0.

Martins Ferry, with five seeded wrestlers, has a pair of unbeaten top seeds in two-time champion Clay Tucker at 130 and Chas Yoder at 171. Tucker and Yoder will enter the tournament with a perfect 20-0 records.

Buckeye Local, a two-time OVAC champ in the mid-90s, has top seeds at 140 with Zach Schuller owning a 16-4 record and at 160 with Brock Bowman and his 16-2 mark.

Union Local's Koel Davia, a two-time defending Ohio state champion and defending 275-pound OVAC champ, heads into the OVAC tourney at 26-0 and the top seed. Second-seeded at 275 in Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel at 22-1. Hoppel is the defending 215-pound champ.

Shadyside's Bobby Samsa is another unbeaten top seed with

his 19-0 mark at 189. He is seeded ahead of Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack, a defending state champ with a 21-1 mark.

St. John Central's Mick Nicola and his 21-1 record are the top seed at 125 pounds. The second seed at 125 in Buckeye Local's Willie Saxton, at 18-3. Both Nicola and Saxton are sophomores.

Brooke, one of the pre-tourney favorites has one top-seeded wrestler in 135-pound Braden Shaw at 23-1. Second seeded at 135 in Monroe Central's unbeaten Aaron Brown, at 15-0.

Top-seeded at 145 is John Marshall's Dustin Richey, at 21-3, while the second seed is Buckeye Local's David Babel, at 17-2.

Indian Creek's Kellen Hughes drew the top seed at 160 with his 22-4 mark while Barnesville's Jason Bahmer is seeded second

at 23-1.

Shenandoah's unbeaten Codey Leach is top seeded at 215 while Oak Glen's Cody Potts, 23-1, is seeded second.

Action gets underway on Thursday at 6 p.m. with the opening ceremonies and wrestling starting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday action gets underway at 11 a.m. with the second session Friday getting underway at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, West Liberty State College will get things started with a collegiate match with Indianapolis University at 9:30 a.m. before OVAC action resumes at noon. The finals are slated to start at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to wrestling, presentations will be made with the Mr. Mat Award, Assistant and Junior High Coaches Award and Coaches Service Awards throughout the weekend.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1

Bouts to determine third, fifth and seventh places will begin at 6:30 p.m.

As an added feature this year, tournament officials will honor the 1979 tournament champions, which was the first group to have won OVAC titles in the building now known as WesBanco Arena.

Tournament Director Ron Mauck said the event just keeps getting better.

"We try to give them a good program," he said. "We've got a unique situation where we've got a lot of people who've been together a long time that make this thing special. It's kind of like a reunion for us."

Though it may sound like a

simple thing, Mauck said putting together a tournament of this size is a year-round venture.

"It's not like we put it together in two or three days, I'll tell you that," he said.

Not only will 14 wrestlers be crowned champions, but awards

will be given to the tournament's top wrestler (the Dave Bierkorette Wrestling Award), a person who has made valuable contributions to the sport (the Mr. Mat award), the top assistant and junior high coaches, and Coaches Services Awards.

Wrestling Tourney To Begin Today

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The streets of Wheeling will be teeming with high school wrestlers, their parents and fans as the 51st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament kicks off today with the opening ceremonies scheduled for 6 p.m. at WesBanco Arena.

The tournament, which features 36 teams, more than 400 participants, about 850 bouts and will bring in more than 10,000 fans, is one the largest wrestling tournaments of its kind in the United States.

The tournament runs through Saturday.

After today's first-round matches, the action picks back up at 11 a.m. Friday with second-

THE NUMBERS

- The OVAC Wrestling Tournament will begin today at 6 p.m.
- The competition will feature 36 teams, more than 400 participants, about 850 bouts and is expected to bring more than 10,000 fans to Wheeling.

round bouts. Quarterfinal and consolation matches are slated to begin at 5 p.m.

Semifinal and consolation matches resume at noon Saturday, with the championship matches.

Please see Wrestling, Page 8

OVAC Tourney Seeds Announced

The 51st annual event gets under way Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena

By **JIM ELLIOTT**
Staff Writer

After a bit of an off year, the Oak Glen Golden Bears just may be roaring again at the conclusion of this weekend's 51st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament.

Inside

■ Complete
rundown of all
the seeds.

Page 16

Local last season, have a conference-leading 12 seeded wrestlers in this year's tourney.

The closest team to that is Brooke, with seven. The defending champion Beavers have six, along with Wheeling Park, Indian Creek, and Buckeye Local.

Teams with five seeded wrestlers are Martins Ferry, Bellaire St. John's, John Marshall, and Shenandoah.

Still, Oak Glen coach Larry Shaw refuses to look ahead.

For starters, he doesn't have a

No. 1 seed. But that doesn't necessarily matter because you can win a tournament like this without a single champion.

There's more than just that, however.

The Bears have six sophomores in a very young lineup.

"I didn't know how quickly they were going to mature," Shaw said Monday night at the annual banquet. "I didn't know how quickly they were going to handle the varsity situation, how well they were going to handle the pressure of being Oak Glen wrestlers."

"To this point, the kids have responded wonderfully, but this weekend's another story."

The Bears' seeded wrestlers are: Brandon Davis (fifth at 103), Brandon Miller (third at 112), Dirk Baker (seventh at 119), Shane Wright (fourth at 125), Jessie Mahan (fourth at 130), Brennon Chambers (fifth at 135), Drew Stevens (eighth at 145), Rhett Northcraft (second at 152), Garrett Railing (fourth at 160), Chris Stevens (fourth at 171), David Foltz (sixth at 189),

and Cody Potts (second at 215).

"Those seeds are all legit," Larry Shaw said. "Now will they wrestle up to that level? We hope so. I think we're very capable of doing that and if they do, I think we'll be OK."

Brooke, the runner-up last season, has one No. 1 seed (Braden Shaw). Shaw, one of seven returning champions, was a titlist at 130 last year, but has moved up to 135.

Other seeded Bruins are: Daniel Felton (sixth at 103), Jarrod Shaw (fifth at 112), Matt Smith (second at 119), Jonathan McFarland (third at 125), Mike Durbin (third at 130), and Dana Davis (sixth at 160).

McFarland was a runner-up at 125 after losing in the finals to Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker, the top seed at 130 this year.

Led by three-time OVAC champ Adam Hoppel, who has a chance to make some history if he's able to grab a fourth, the Beavers are one of four teams with six seeded wrestlers.

The ranked Beaver Local wrestlers are: Derik Caudill (sev-

enth at 103), Luke Hoppel (sixth at 119), Paul McCoy (seventh at 125), Shawn Dunn (third at 135), Grant Hoppel (third at 140), Jim Bowersock (sixth at 215), and Adam Hoppel (second at 275).

Wheeling Park has a chance for its best showing in years.

With three top seeds — including defending 103-pound champion Abbie Rush — the top seed at 112 this year.

Sophomore Ron Green and senior Brian Humphrey, a runner-up last year, are the Patriots' other No. 1 seeds. In Cody Tomlinack, Wheeling Park has another runner-up from a year ago, who again drew a No. 2 seed. Jesse Mestrovic (eighth at 152) and Kevin Staub (eighth at 275) are the Patriots' other seeded wrestlers.

"Wheeling Park's got four kids that could win it," Larry Shaw said. "That's a boatload of points. And then they've got some nice kids in their mid-dieweights."

Please See OVAC, Page 16

2004 OVAC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SEEDS

- 103 Pounds**
- Ron Green (WP)
 - James Myers (IC)
 - Mike Lehoty (Mead)
 - Dustin Daugherty (Camb)
 - Brandon Davis (OG)
 - Daniel Felton (Brk)
 - Derik Caudill (BeL)
 - John Coup (MF)
- 112 Pounds**
- Abbie Rush (WP)
 - Anthony Duffield (EL)
 - Brandon Miller (OG)
 - Corey Lemaster (Cald)
 - Jarrod Shaw (Brk)
 - Tim Cumpston (Cam)
 - Robbie Martin (IC)
 - Sean Mahley (Camb)
- 119 Pounds**
- Brian Humphrey (WP)
 - Matt Smith (Brk)
 - Joe Skoff (BSJ)
 - Anthony Valles (WM)
 - Nate Gossett (UL)
 - Luke Hoppel (BeL)
 - Dirk Baker (OG)
 - Zac Androsko (StC)
- 125 Pounds**
- Mick Nicola (BSJ)
 - Willie Saxton (BuL)
 - Jonathon McFarland (Brk)
 - Shane Wright (OG)

- Justin Seebach (Cald)
 - Lee Doyle (JM)
 - Paul McCoy (BeL)
 - Tony Carosiello (Well)
- 130 Pounds**
- Clay Tucker (MF)
 - Jesse Emery (HC)
 - Mike Durbin (Brk)
 - Jessie Mahan (OG)
 - Chris Bond (Cald)
 - Brandon Schurlock (Camb)
 - Todd Schmelzenbach (Shen)
 - Kayne Melko (BSJ)
- 135 Pounds**
- Braden Shaw (Brk)
 - Aaron Brown (MC)
 - Shawn Dunn (BeL)
 - Ben Phillips (HC)
 - Brennon Chambers (OG)
 - Justin Cataldo (Well)
 - Josh Wheeler (Steub)
 - Kory Waite (Shen)
- 140 Pounds**
- Zach Schuller (BuL)
 - Ryan Ferguson (MC)
 - Grant Hoppel (BeL)
 - Jeff Cumpston (Cam)
 - Luke Warren (MF)
 - Shane Walters (IC)
 - Kyle King (Barn)
 - Alex Lee (JM)
- 145 Pounds**

- Dustin Richey (JM)
 - David Babel (BuL)
 - Casey Hughes (Cam)
 - Billy Frollini (Shad)
 - Todd Hunkler (BSJ)
 - Alan Buzzard (Well)
 - Luke Bumbico (MF)
 - Drew Stevens (OG)
- 152 Pounds**
- Brock Bowman (BuL)
 - Rhett Northcraft (OG)
 - Jesse Irwin (Shad)
 - Corey Adkins (JM)
 - Matt Hannahs (Shen)
 - Thad Crosier (Steub)
 - Clayton Benedict (MC)
 - Jesse Mestrovic (WP)
- 160 Pounds**
- Kellen Hughes (IC)
 - Jason Bahmer (Barn)
 - Chris Case (BSJ)
 - Garrett Railing (OG)
 - Mitch Costa (Ed)
 - Dana Davis (Brk)
 - Mike Heppburn (Bell)
 - Josh Cologie (BuL)
- 171 Pounds**
- Chas Yoder (MF)
 - Luke Burkhardt (Shad)
 - Vic Bologna (HC)
 - Chris Stevens (OG)
 - Kyle Smith (Barn)

- David Ross (Steub)
 - Luke Sulek (Bell)
 - Matt Ogle (Cald)
- 189 Pounds**
- Bobby Samsa (Shad)
 - Cody Tomlinack (WP)
 - Dnaiel Howard (StC)
 - John Horn (Shen)
 - Josh Ewing (JM)
 - David Foltz (OG)
 - Adam Cowser (IC)
 - James Beach (Steub)
- 215 Pounds**
- Cody Leach (Shen)
 - Cody Potts (OG)
 - Brandon Bovina (IC)
 - Andrew Corder (HC)
 - Brad Hannahs (Barn)
 - Jim Bowersock (BeL)
 - Jim Cumpston (UL)
 - Dirk Soland (Bell)
- 275 Pounds**
- Koel Davia (UL)
 - Adam Hoppel (BeL)
 - Neuenschwander (StC)
 - Andrew Fegal (Weir)
 - Michael Golden (Camb)
 - Eric Wagner (BuL)
 - Wesley Haslam (Riv)
 - Kevin Staub (WP)

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

"While they might not be finalists, if they can wrestle on Saturday, there's a lot of points there to be earned, too."

Indian Creek, which figured its way into the top 10 last year, also has six seeded wrestlers. They are: James Myers (second at 103), Robbie Martin (seventh at 112), Shane Walters (sixth at 140), Kellen Hughes (first at 160), Adam Cowser (seventh at 189), and Brandon Bovina (third at 215).

"Indian Creek has a nice bunch of kids this year," Larry Shaw said. "We wrestled them in a dual and I think we beat them 40-20, but they've got a good team and a lot of their kids are going to score a bunch of points."

Buckeye Local, which produced a pair of champions last year, including Zack Schuller and graduated David Bertolino, the Dave Bierkorette award winner. Bertolino is currently wrestling under Bobby Douglas' at Iowa State.

Schuller is the top seed at 140.

Willie Saxton (second at 125), David Babel (second at 145), Brock Bowman, a runnerup last year, is the top seed at 152, Josh Cologie (eighth at 160), Dean Paxton (eighth at 171) and Eric Wagner (sixth at 275).

Martins Ferry has Tucker, John Coup (eighth at 103), Luke Warren (fifth at 140), Luke Bumbico (seventh at 145), and Chas Yoder (first at 171).

With Mick Nicola, a returning champ who won at 112 but is the top seed at 125 this year, leading the show, Bellaire St. John's has a chance to make some noise. Other seeds for the Irish are: Joe Skoff (third at 119), Kayne Melko (eighth at 130), Todd Hunkler (fifth at 145), and Chris Case (third at 160).

John Marshall has one No. 1 seed — Dustin Richey at 145. Richey was a runner-up at 140 last year. He'll team with Lee Doyle (sixth at 125), Corey Adkins (fourth at 152), and Josh Ewing (fifth at 189).

Shenandoah has Todd Schmelzenbach (seventh at 130), Kory Waite (eighth at 135), Matt

Hannahs (fifth at 152), John Horn (fourth at 189), and Cody Leach the top seed at 215.

■ Shadyside's Bobby Samsa (the top seed at 189) and Union Local heavyweight Koel Davia, a two-time OVAC and Ohio state champion, round out the top seeds.

■ Harrison Central's Jesse Emery is the final returning champion.

Unbeatens

There are a total of 10 unbeaten wrestlers in this year's field. They are: Wheeling Park's Green (24-0), Rush (28-0), and Humphrey (28-0), Ferry's Tucker (20-0) and Yoder (20-0), Monroe Central's Aaron Brown (15-0), Cameron's Casey Hughes (18-0), Shadyside's Samsa (19-0), Shenandoah's Leach (13-0), and Union Local's Davia (26-0).

The Times Leader

January 24, 2004

Sports Saturday

The No. 1 Sports Report in the Ohio Valley

**The Best
In High
School
Sports**

T-L Photo/JIM JOSEPH
SHADYSIDE senior standout Luke Burkhardt (orange) battles Bellaire's Luke Sulek during their 171-pound quarterfinal match at Friday night's OVAC Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena. Burkhardt scored a 14-5 major decision in the match.



OVAC Action Continues

INSIDE *Sports Saturday*

MF Downs Jets - Page D5



ALSO -

- ◆ St. C. Nips Shadyside
- ◆ Beallsville Tops Caldwell



The No. 1 Sports Report
In The Ohio Valley

WHAT'S INSIDE

6 MF Claims Win

Martins Ferry made 16 three-point field goals en route to a 89-40 victory over Union Local Friday night at Martins Ferry.
By Greg Harkness

4 St. C. Prevails

St. Clairsville senior Jon Perkins' three-point field goal at the buzzer lifted St. Clairsville to a 73-70 victory over Shadyside Friday night.
By Seth Staskey

7 Buckeye Falls

Oak Glen remained unbeaten with an 83-50 victory over invading Buckeye Local Friday night.
By Rich Materkoski

Sports Saturday

STAFF

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Sports Saturday is designed to bring the Ohio Valley the best in local, state and national sports. The publication is part of the normal Times Leader Saturday package.

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OG leads OVAC mat event

Another 'Golden' Day

BY RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Just possibly, this may be the first year that the overall team champion in the OVAC mat tourney is overlooked by the individual match-ups that might just find their way into the championship round tonight.

While the championship finals get all of the attention and top billing, it is that championship semi-finals that often times provide some of the most headed battles in the OVAC tournament and 2004 may be one of times.

In what could be one of the most competitive fields ever, the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament has come down to the final day with some powerhouse match-ups heading right to the center mat.

Heading into Saturday semi-final action, the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds in each of the 14 weight classes remain alive and well and still hoping to clash head-to-head for an OVAC crown.

Of course, the headliner for this year's tournament is the much talked about battle between three-time OVAC champion Adam Hoppel of Beaver Local and two-time Ohio state champion Koel Davia of Union Local.

Hoppel captured OVAC crowns in each of the past three seasons as a 215-pounder, but moved up to the 275 weight class to seek his fourth. Of course, in his way, is Davia, the defending OVAC champ at 275 and twice state champ in the same class.

While everyone is putting Hoppel and Davia's name in the finals, there is matter of the semi-finals where Hoppel will take on Buckeye Local's Eric Wagner, seeded sixth, and Davia must dispose of Indian Creek's Maurice Hines, an unseeded wrestler who stopped No. 3 seed Scott Neuenschwander of St. Clairsville.

Another big match is likely at 125 where top-seeded Mick Nicola of St. John Central is hoping to move into the finals and possibly square off with No. 2 seed Willie Saxton of Buckeye Local. Nicola was the 2003 champ at 112 and Saxton placed third at 119 last season.

Again, the 125 dream match-up could fall by the wayside in the semis as Nicola takes on



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

UNION Local senior standout Koel Davia works for a pin of River's Wesley Halem during their 275-pound match at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Davia is on a collision course with Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel in the finals today.

Brooke's talented Jonathan McFarland and Saxton faces Oak Glen's Shane Wright. McFarland was a runnerup at 125 a year ago.

Wrestlers from Brooke and Oak Glen also stand in the way of a possible match-up of defending champs at 130. Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker, the defending champ at 125 and top seed at 130 this year could find himself in the finals with defending 119-pound champ Jesse Emery of Harrison Central.

Tucker must get by Oak Glen's Jessie Mahan and Emery must stop Brooke's Mike Durbin in the semis.

Another set of semi-final matches that could result in an exciting finals match is at 140 where defending 135-pound champ Zach Schuller takes on Cameron's Jeff Cumpston in one semi-final and Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson, the No. 2 seed and third place finisher behind Schuller last year, takes on Beaver Local's Grant Hoppel.

In the 145-pound semis, two wrestlers that just missed winning titles last season are heading to a possible showdown if they get through a tough semi-final round.

Buckeye Local's David Babel, a runner-up at 152 last season while wrestling at Steubenville, is the second seed and is looking to match-up with top seed Dustin Richey of John Marshall in the finals. Richey was the runner-up at 140 last season.

Babel, who has pinned his way through tournament in a total of 4:20, takes on third-seeded Casey Hughes of Cameron in the semis while Richey, who has had falls in 25 and 32 seconds as well as a major decision, faces St. John Central's Todd Hunkler.

Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman, a runner-up last season at 145, is paired with Steubenville's Thad Crosier in the semi-finals with hopes moving on to the finals. Shadyside's Jesse Irwin, seeded third, faces second-seeded Rhett Northcraft of Oak Glen in the other semi.

Another clash of titans is looming at 171 where Martins Ferry's Chaz Yoder, unbeaten and top seeded at 171, is on a collision course with Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt, the second seed and runner-up to Buckeye's David Bertolino in the 160-

pound last season. Bertolino, now wrestling at Iowa State, went on to win the Bierkorte Award as the tournaments' top wrestler last season.

Burkhardt needs to stop John Marshall's Shawn Simmons in the semi-finals and Yoder must get the better of Steubenville's David Ross.

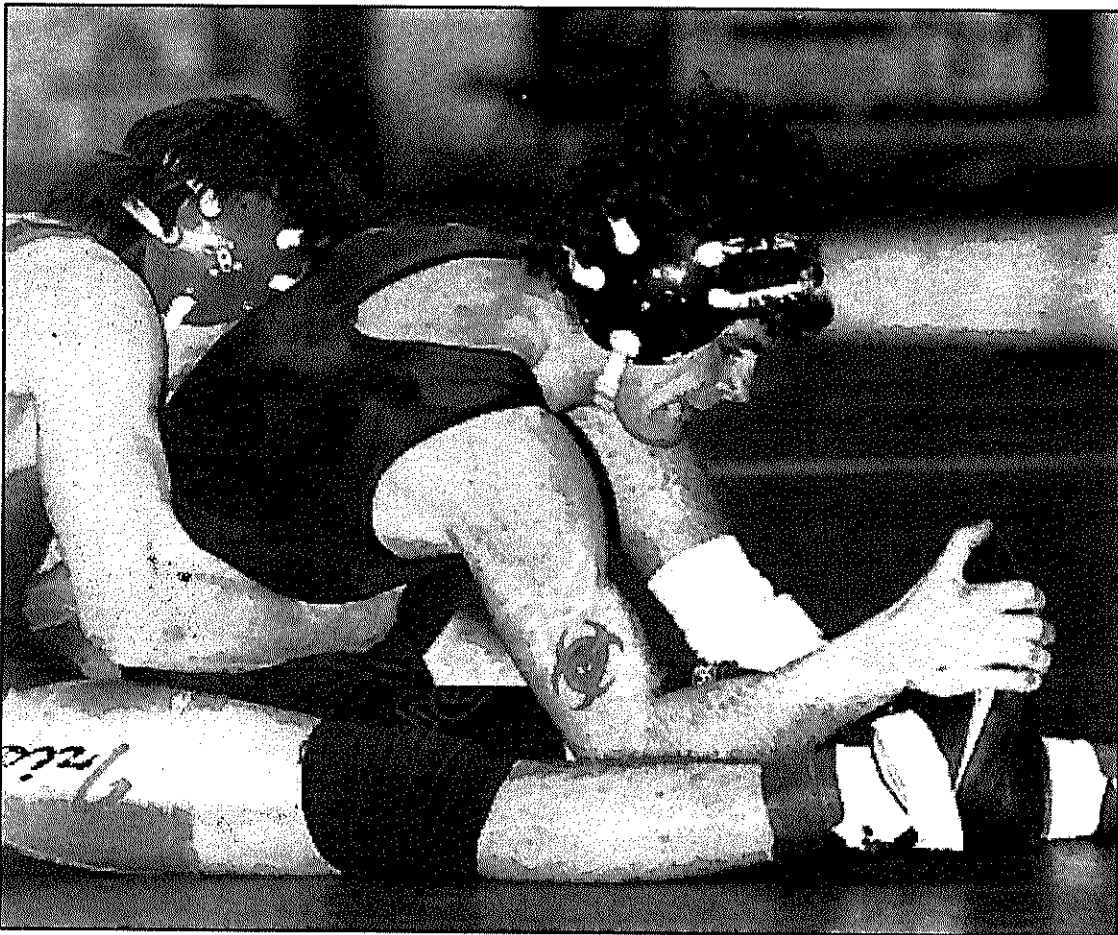
Wheeling Park has four wrestlers in the semi-finals in hopes of moving on. Three of those were top seeds.

Park has top-seeded Ron Green in the semis at 103, defending 103 champ Abbie Rush in the semis at 112 and Brian Humphrey, the defending champ at 119, back in the semis and heading toward a possible match-up with 103-pound 2003 runner-up Joe Skoff, the third seed at 119. Skoff was edged by Rush in the 2003 finals.

At 135, top-seeded Braden Shaw of Brooke faces Harrison Central's Ben Phillips in one semi and Monroe's Aaron Brown battles Beaver's Shawn Dunn in the other semi-final match.

Top-seeded Kellen Hughes of Indian Creek will take on

See, OVAC, Page D3



Oak Glen closing in on crown

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's still a bit early to celebrate, but the Oak Glen's Golden Bears are getting closer to tasting the gold.

Day two end just as day one did, with coach Larry Shaw's pre-tourney favorite Bears holding onto a rather comfortable lead in the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling Friday night.

A long day of wrestling could not change the leader board as Shaw's Golden Bears finished out the day with 146.5 points to grab a 34 point lead over runner-up Buckeye Local and defending champion Beaver Local by 40 points.

Action on Friday also closed the timeframe on some of the most anticipated matches in the 51 years of the giant Ohio-West Virginia mat extravaganza. Saturday's championship finals could present some of the tournament's biggest confrontations, but first wrestlers in the championship bracket must get through semi-final rounds early today.

Shaw's Golden Bears have seen a lot of gold over the past seven years in West Virginia winning state championships in each of those years and adding an OVAC crown to their rafters in 2002.

Oak Glen seems to have a comfortable lead heading into Saturday's round after racking up 146.5 points through three sessions.

Of course, the lead from Friday doesn't have Shaw feeling like he has the OVAC crown in the bag just yet.

"It's a matter of controlling our own destiny now," Shaw said after Friday's action. "We've got 10 kids coming back tomorrow and the important thing is that we have to take care of ourselves."

"That's just what it boils down to and every other team will be wanting their guys to do too," he added. "So we'll see. There are a lot of good kids and I know we're going to have to wrestle a bunch of them tomorrow so we just have to wrestle

hard and stay focused."

Oak Glen entered the tournament with 12 of 14 wrestlers seeded and despite having no top seeds, seven of those seeded wrestlers were in the top four spots in their respective weight classes. The Bears have gone deep into their lineup through two days and could easily pull away from the competition with some big success in the early session today.

"We came in with 12 seeded wrestlers so I expected to be here at this point," Shaw added. "Whether or not you can win it or not, you still need some breaks and we had a couple tough breaks in a couple matches tonight, but then we got breaks on the other end as well."

"It evens out, but every match is a struggle and every opponent is good," he pointed out. "I just hope our kids just take care of themselves and worry about our team. That's all I can ask for."

As for the field in this year's event, Shaw is impressed with the overall talent.

"There are some very good wrestlers in this tournament and they are all wrestling tomorrow, but there were a couple good wrestlers that got dumped, but that's the way it always is. Some of the good wrestlers are going to lose."

"In the consolation matches tonight, we had to wrestle hard. We had to wrestle hard to get those wins."

Buckeye Local, the 1996-97 champion, holds the second overall spot while leading the strong Class 4-A field with 112.5 points. Beaver Local, the defending overall champ from 2003, is just behind the Panthers in third place with 106.5 points while Brooke, hoping to take home its first-ever OVAC mat crown, is next at 105.5.

Wheeling Park, with three top-seeded wrestlers still alive, has fallen from Thursday second-place deadlock with Buckeye to fifth overall with 94 points.

While Oak Glen is breezing to the Class 3-A crown as well, coach John Rocchi's Indian

See, BEARS, Page D4



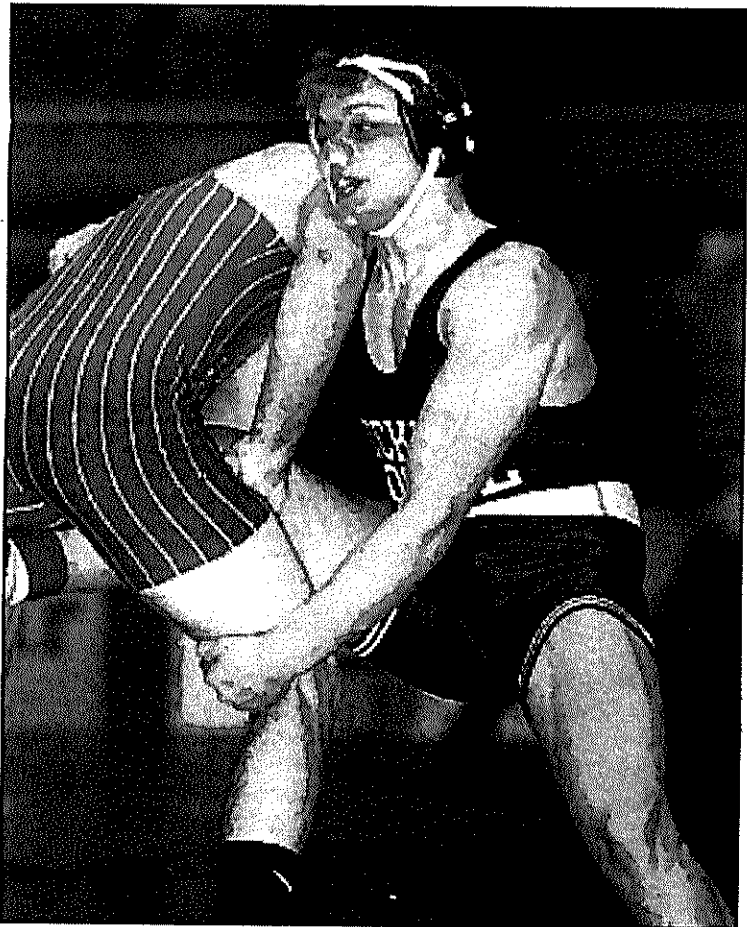
● OVAC

Continued from Page D2

Brooke's Dana Davis in the 160-pound semi-finals with that winner running into the winners of the Jason Bahmer-Chris Case match. Case is a third seed from St. John and Bahmer is second seeded from Barnesville. Bahmer has pinned his way through the tourney thus far.

Shadyside's top-seeded Bobby Samsa is looking to move into the finals by first stopping John Marshall's Josh Ewing in the 189-pound semis. Of course, the finals will get tougher with second-seeded Cody Tominack of Park taking on Harrison Central's Mike Pratt in the other semi.

Shenandoah's Codey Leach, the top seed at 215, faces Beaver's Jim Bowersock in one semi-final and Barnesville Brad Hannahs takes on Oak Glen's Cody Potts in the other. Leach placed third at 215 last year and Hannahs was eighth.



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP PHOTO: Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson works for control of St. John Central's Thomas Carpenter (left) during action in their 140-pound match Saturday at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

ABOVE: Buckeye Local's Josh Cologie (right) tries to keep his feet against Barnesville's Jason Bahmer during their 160-pound match.

● Bears

Continued from Page D3

Creek squad holds on to the second spot in 3-A with 91 points and coach Jim Rocchi's young Harrison Central team is seventh overall and third in Class 3-A. Martins Ferry is next at 69.

Shenandoah and Barnesville are camped atop the Class 2-A ladder with just three points separating them. The Zeps have garnered 77.5 points to lead the Shamrocks who continue to threaten with 74.5 points. Monroe Central is next with 64 points and Caldwell has 60.

Just one point lies between the 1-A leaders, Cameron and St. John Central. The Dragons lead the race with 75 points while the impressive Irish have 74 points heading into Saturday action. Shadyside is just behind with 70 points.

"We've got five alive in the championship and three in the consolation," Panther head coach Brian Davis said after Friday action. "Oak Glen has a pretty big lead, but they had a lot of lower seeds and we're hoping that as the tournament progresses, they are going to start dropping."

"We've got four kids that we feel should at least make finals and could win it," Davis added. "All four of them really have a shot at coming in first. But these other four, we weren't expecting to have four others place."

"Oak Glen has had a lot better tournament than we expected," the Panther coach added. "I think we wrestled as well as we thought we would. I thought Matt Saxton has had the best tournament of anyone for what was expected of him. He almost got into the semi-finals, he lost to the No. 3 seed by one point."

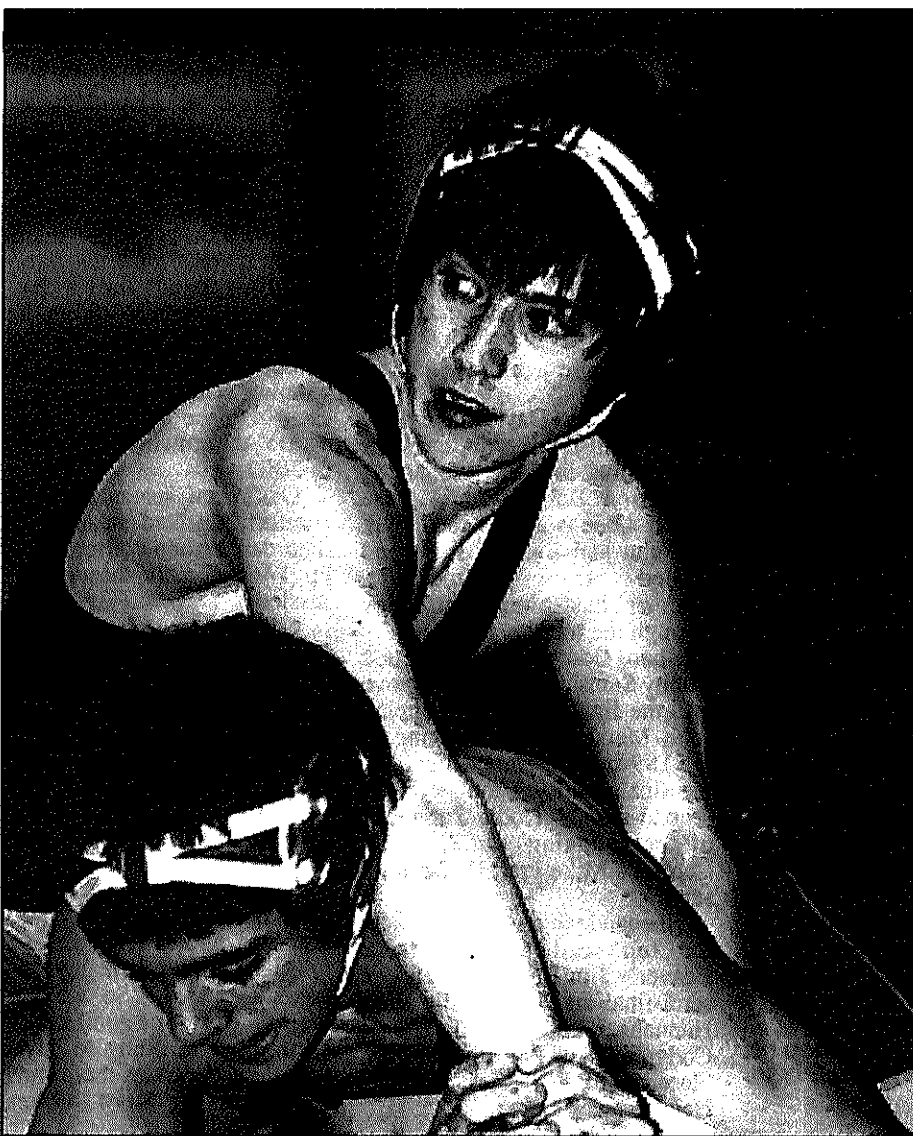
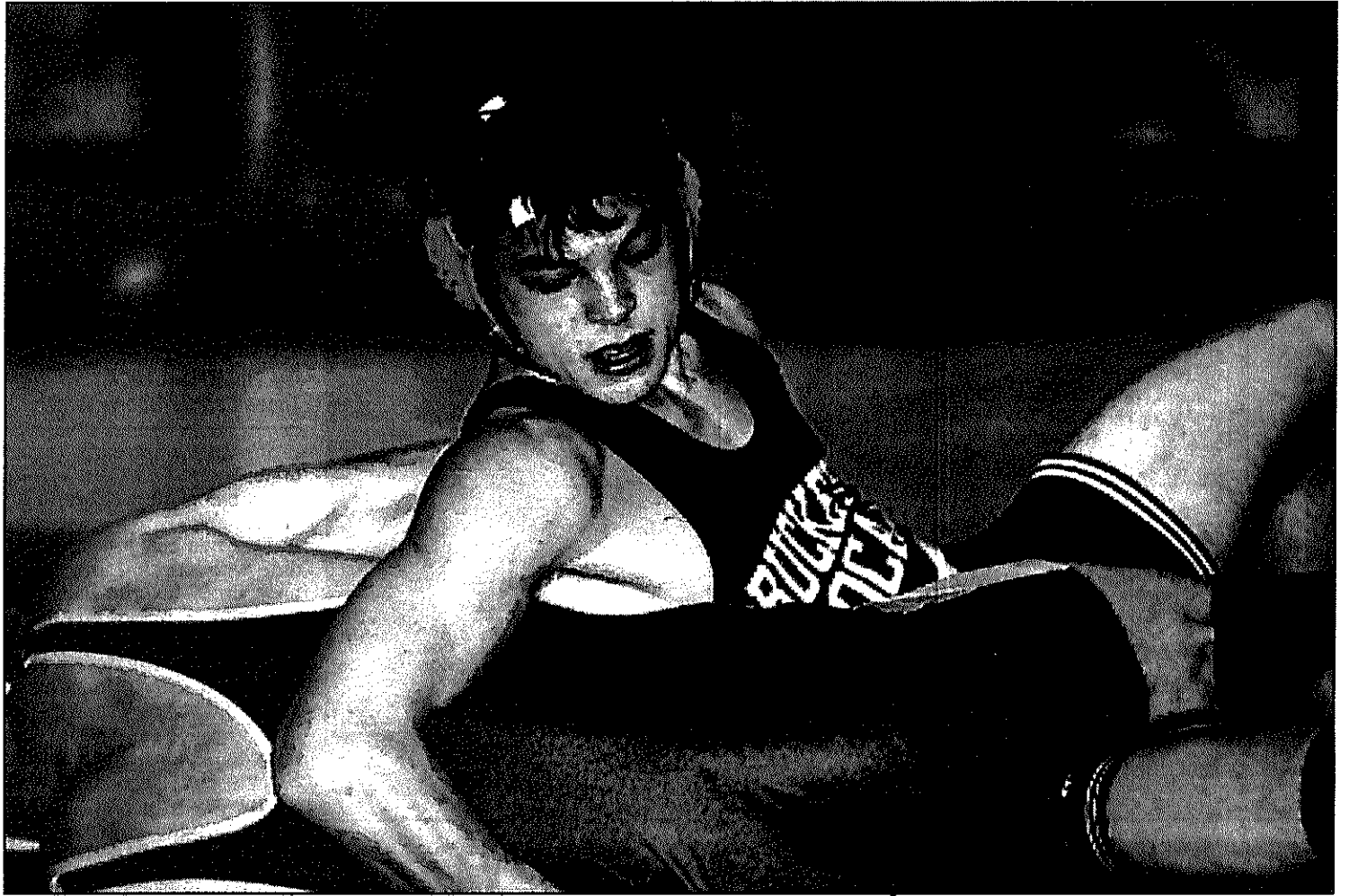
"They (Oak Glen) didn't have a lot of wrestlers in that high seed range so as you progress through the championship rounds, we're hoping that after the semis tomorrow, their kids don't punch through," Davis added. "They've been wrestling well, but we've got to get our kids through."

Action continues today with West Liberty State College's mat squad providing the prelim with a match against national power Indianapolis University in a 9:30 a.m. collegiate match.

At noon, the exciting semi-finals will get underway along with fifth round semi-final consolation matches.

Ceremonies introducing the finalists and honoring numerous dignitaries will get underway at 6 p.m. with the championship finals and consolation finals for third, fifth and seventh place starting at 6:30 p.m.

During the evening, the Mr. Mat Award will be presented along with honoring the 25th anniversary of the 1979 champions.



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP PHOTO: Buckeye Local's Shane Nickerson works to gain control of Brooke's Mike Durbin during action in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

LEFT: Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker (top) is in control of St. John Central's Kayne Melko during their 130-pound match at Saturday's OVAC Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena.

Several locals place in OVAC tourney

OVAC from page B-1

posted a 4-2 tournament record and is now 22-5 on the year.

"Lehotay is a good kid from a good program," said Cambridge coach 'Tank' Moore after Daugherty's loss. "They had a good battle this year and they will the rest of their careers."

Also finishing in fourth place was Caldwell junior Corey Lemaster at 112 pounds. He dropped a tough 1-0 decision to Oak Glen's Brandon Miller to finish 4-2 in the tournament. Now 21-5 overall, Lemaster lost 4-3 to Wheeling Park's Rush in the semifinals, but won a 3-2 decision against Cambridge's Sean Mahley to reach the third-fourth place bout. On Friday, Lemaster scored a 10-2 major decision against Monroe Central's Cole Lewis and a 4-0 win over Cameron's Tim Cumpston.

Another fourth place finisher was Barnesville senior Brad Hannahs at 215 pounds. He lost to Indian Creek's Brandon Bovina in his final bout, 3-1, after falling by a 3-2 count to Oak Glenn's Potts earlier. On Friday, Hannahs beat Steubenville Catholic's Nicholas Beagle, 12-7, and Indian Creek's Bovina, 3-1 in overtime. Hannahs went 4-2 in the tourney and is now 21-8.

Cambridge's Mahley finished fifth at 112 pounds, beating Brooke's Jarrod Shaw by a 3-2 count. After losing to Caldwell's Lemaster, Mahley scored a 7-4 decision over Indian Creek's Robbie Martin to advance. On Friday, Mahley pinned Steubenville's Carlo Sanders in 3:33 and beat East Liverpool's Anthony Duffield, 6-2. After a 4-2 tournament showing, Mahley emerged with a 17-5 record.

"He (Mahley) finished sixth in the state at the junior high level last year, but he didn't get the respect he deserved in the seeding," said Cambridge coach Moore. "I think he earned it (respect) now."

Caldwell sophomore Justin Seebach finished fifth at 125 pounds, pinning Tony Caroliello of Wellsville in his final bout to finish the tournament with a 4-2 mark and improve to 25-3 overall. Earlier Saturday, Seebach lost to St. John Central's Mick Nicola, 7-2, but came back to pin Cameron's Kelly Hughes in 4:59 to stay alive. On Friday, Seebach pinned Harrison Central's David Blawut in 5:21; dropped a 7-5 decision to Oak Glen's Shane Wright and pinned Wheeling Park's Bruce Kennedy in 1:30.

A Noble County matchup determined fifth and sixth place at 130 pounds, with Shenandoah senior Todd Schmelzenbach topping Caldwell senior Chris Bond, 3-0, to take fifth.

Schmelzenbach won his first match on Saturday, beating Buckeye Local's Shain Nickerson, 8-2, but he then was pinned by Oak Glen's Jessie Mahan in 3:42. On Friday, Schmelzenbach pinned East Liverpool's Jamie Miller in 3:04; was pinned by Harrison Central's Jessie Emery in 4:29; and dropped Wellsville's Richard Bereschik in 2:49. The Zep grappler went 4-2 in the tourney and is now 21-10 for the season.

Bond pinned Kayne Melko of St. John Central in 2:46 before falling to Harrison Central's Emery, 11-2. On Friday, Bond won a 16-0 tech fall over Conotton Valley's Jeremiah Webb; was pinned by Oak Glen's Mahan in 1:59 and pinned Cambridge's Brandon Scurlock in 31 seconds. Bond went 4-3 at the OVAC to emerge with a 25-4 record.

"We finished right where we were seeded everywhere except Bond, who was sixth instead of fifth," said Caldwell coach Daulton Summers. "We did about as well as I expected, and this is probably the best we've done (at the OVAC) in our history."

Shenandoah's Lucas Michel captured fifth place in the heavy-

weight division. He earned a 4-2 overtime decision against Buckeye Local's Eric Wagner in his final bout, after earlier beating Weir's Andrew Fegal, 2-1 in overtime. On Friday, Michel pinned Martins Ferry's Jeremy Paden in 1:14; stopped East Liverpool's T.J. Slager in 47 seconds; and downed Steubenville's Ralph Petrella, 8-2. The Zep junior went 5-2, improving to 27-12.

Barnesville sophomore Bud Hines took sixth place at 152 pounds. He lost 6-3 to Monroe Central's Clayton Benedict in his final bout of the day after beating John Marshall's Corey Adkins, 3-2, and falling 11-3 to Shadyside's Jesse Irwin. On Friday, Hines was a 7-0 winner over Wheeling Park's Jesse Mestrovic; lost 4-2 to Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman and pinned Beaver Local's Mark Smith in 3:10. Hines had a 3-3 record in the tournament and is now 14-6 on the season.

Shenandoah junior Jacob Zerkle placed sixth at 171 pounds, losing his final bout via pin in 5:20 to John Marshall's Shawn Simmons. Earlier Saturday, Zerkle beat Union Local's Dusty McVey, 6-4 in overtime, and fell to Steubenville's David Ross, 10-7. On Friday, he beat Adam Gunion of Edison, 11-3; topped River's Michael Matusik, 11-5; and downed Bellaire's Luke Sulek, 14-7. Zerkle went 3-3 and is now 16-11.

Shenandoah senior Matt Hannahs finished seventh at 152 pounds, compiling a 4-3 weekend mark. Now 31-7 on the season, Hannahs lost to Monroe Central's Benedict, 5-4, but was awarded seventh place with a forfeit win. On Friday, Hannahs pinned Wellsville's Andrew Hirt in 3:23; fell to Shadyside's Irwin, 7-4; and pinned Weir's Donald Gianessi in 3:46.

Barnesville sophomore Daniel Magers settled for eighth place at 119 pounds. He dropped an 8-7

decision to Torey Prickett of Monroe Central in his final bout, having lost 2-0 in overtime to Beaver Local's Luke Hoppel earlier in the day. On Friday, Magers lost a 15-2 major decision to Wheeling Park's Humphrey before beating Cameron's Noah O'Neil by a 4-2 count. Magers, 3-3 in the tournament, is now 18-11 on the year.

"I'm very proud of my placers," said Barnesville coach Luke Johnson. "All of them did better than last year."

Here's a look at the complete team scoring:

Class 4-A - Buckeye Local, 182.5; Brooke, 179.5; Beaver Local, 161; Wheeling Park, 150; John Marshall, 120; Steubenville, 71; Cambridge, 63.5; East Liverpool, 34.5; Edison, 33; Weir, 21.

Class 3-A - Oak Glen, 220.5; Indian Creek, 137; Martins Ferry, 114.5; Harrison Central, 102.5; Union Local, 76.5; St. Clairsville, 62.5; Bellaire, 53; Meadowbrook, 53; Tyler Consolidated, 21; Magnolia, 12.

Class 2-A - Shenandoah, 116.5; Monroe Central, 92; Barnesville, 91.5; Caldwell, 79; Wellsville, 38.5; River, 32; Steubenville Catholic, 30.5; Wheeling Central, 0.

Class 1-A - St. John Central, 116; Shadyside 107.5; Cameron, 90; Beallsville, 17.5; Weirton Madonna, 17; Linsly, 12; Conotton Valley, 10; Bishop Donahue, 0.

Martins Ferry's Jeff Oberdick, a six-time OVAC "Coach of the Year", four-time East-Southeast District "Coach of the Year" and the 1999 Division III "Coach of the Year", was announced as the 2004 Mr. Mat Award winner.

Top-seeded Brian Humphrey made it two champs in a row for the Patriots when he turned away third-seeded Joe Skoff of Bellaire St. John's in the 119-pound finals.

It was the second time this year the two had met on the mat, with Humphrey coming away with two decisions by a total of three points. Humphrey, a four-time place-winner at the tourney, now has a record of 33-0 on the season.

With his second win in three tries this year over Brooke's, Jonathan McFarland, Buckeye Local's Willie Saxton grabbed the crown at 125.

McFarland fell behind 2-0, and 6-2 before battling back and making things interesting in the final seconds.

With the score at 5-4 in favor of Saxton, McFarland granted Saxton an escape, as he was eyeing a takedown.

The Panther sophomore was able to weather the storm, however, as he improved to 23-3 on the season, and left McFarland, now 26-5, a runner-up finisher for the second consecutive year.

Martins Ferry 130-pounder Clay Tucker sent the Bruins to the silver medal spot for a second consecutive final, when he kept third-seeded Mike Durbin (29-3) on his back for much of their match before settling on a technical fall, 17-1.

It was the third straight OVAC title for Tucker, who came in undefeated (now 25-0), and at the top of the weight class.

Braden Shaw's appearance in 135-pound finals was the third straight on the championship mat for the Bruins.

And it was the one with their best result. In a repeat of last year's finals, Shaw, who recorded pins in every match in which he participated in the tourney prior to Saturday night, continued to get ahead in a back-and-

forth battle against Monroe Central's Aaron Brown. In the end, Shaw was able to hold off the second-seeded Brown, 26-5, giving the Bruins what had been to that point, an elusive individual champion.

Buckeye Local sophomore Zach Schuller joined teammate Saxton as a champion when he worked his way to a 6-3 decision over Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson in the 140-pound title match. Schuller is now a two-time OVAC champion.

Ferguson, who hung close, entered the match with three falls in the tourney, none of them taking more than 1:43.

The 145-pound title was sure to go to a Marshall County athlete as Casey Hughes from Cameron and John Marshall's Dustin Richey, a runner-up from last year, squared off.

Richey, 21-4, worked his way out of danger midway through the second match after Hughes had him in a cradle, and later, trailing 6-2, he added a takedown, but couldn't finish the rally and took the second-place trophy for the second consecutive year.

Hughes, who is now 23-0, improved on his third-place finish in 2003, with a 10-5 decision.

Buckeye Local senior Brock Bowman solidified his title at

152 with a takedown with less than 10 seconds to go as Oak Glen sophomore Rhet Northcraft (25-2) was furiously trying to overcome a one-point deficit.

Bowman, the top seed, closed out a 7-4 victory, as he improved on his runnerup finish from a year ago.

Northcraft, the second seed, is now 50-12 in his career.

The finals in the 160-pound weight class featured the sixth seed, Dana Davis of Brooke, vs. the third seed, Chris Case, of Bellaire St. John's, as top seed Kellen Hughes and No. 2 Jason Bahmer wrestled one mat over for third place.

It was the most highly contested match of the evening to that point, with Davis giving Brooke its second champion when it was all over.

After holding on and preventing an escape from Case in the 30-second rideout after a first overtime period had elapsed with the score tied at two, Davis, who now has a record of 25-6, became the lowest-seeded wrestler to win a title Saturday. Case fell to 28-2.

At 171, top-seed Martins Ferry's Chas Yoder was too strong for Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt, the second seed, as he won his first OVAC title, and defeated the Shadyside standout for the second time this year.

Yoder, now 25-0, scored a trio

of takedowns in the second and third periods while Burkhardt put together just a pair of escapes in a 7-2 loss.

Wheeling Park picked up its third champion, when Cody Tominack locked up with top seeded Bobby Samsa of Shady-side.

Both wrestlers traded escapes throughout regulation before Tominack (26-1) spun for a reversal with 16 seconds to go in sudden-death overtime, earning a 3-1 victory. Samsa dropped his head to the mat after losing his first bout of the season (23-1).

Oak Glen's only individual championship came at the hands of top-seed Codey Leach of Shenandoah in the 215-pound weight class.

Leach tied things up with a takedown with 13 seconds ago that tied things at 3, but Potts retaliated with an escape only four seconds later, pulling out a wild 4-3 win.

"(Potts) is a pretty good wrestler," Shaw said. "I thought he was the best wrestler in the weight class and he proved that tonight."

Oberdick's crowning achievement may be the fact that he coached two state champions — Sidon in 1989 and Lamont Tucker in 1995. He also coached 20 state place-winners and several OVAC champions.

Oberdick's achievements have been noted statewide as he was selected the Division III State Coach of the Year in 1999.

He also has been the East/Southeast District Coach of the Year in 1991, 1994, 1996, and 1999. He was also the OVAC Wrestling Coach of the Year six times: 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1999.

Prior to taking the head coaching reins, Oberdick served as an assistant coach to Vince Suriano for four seasons.

Oberdick graduated from Ferry in 1976 after a stellar career of his own. He finished in the top four each year in the OVAC Tournament and was a champion in 1974.

Jeff is the son of the late Richard Oberdick, a longtime OVAC Tournament mainstay. Oberdick and his wife Jodie have two children, Jeffrey, 9, and Shaina, 8.

Bears

(Continued from Page 17)

"We've been looking at them the whole tournament," Davis said. "We knew after the seeding meeting that they had 12 in, but I think they had only two or three that were higher seeds. So we think the deeper we go into the championship rounds, we have more kids that we feel have a good shot of winning."

He was speaking, of course, about Willie Saxton, Schuller, David Babel, and Bowman.

"We're hoping they can advance, and we're hoping some of the Oak Glen kids get eliminated and drop down into the (consolations)."

Throughout the course of the day, it became obvious that the coaches who spent a grueling afternoon together on Sunday, putting together the seedings for the tournament, had a pretty good idea what they were doing.

While the tournament featured its share of minor upsets over the first three sessions, 11 of the 14 weight classes will feature the top three seeds heading into today's semifinal action; half of them still feature the top four.

"It's a credit to the coaches and their knowledge of the kids," said Dan Doyle, one of the two assistant meet directors who oversaw the nearly five-hour meeting Sunday.

Bill Hinegardner was the other assistant director on hand that day. He was in charge of the draws.

Those numbers of success might have been even higher were it not for an injury to Harrison Central's Vic Bologna, the No. 3 seed at 171. Bologna defaulted during his second-round bout with

Shawn Simmons of John Marshall after dislocating an elbow.

There were those, however, who did their best to make the coaches do a little rethinking.

The Monarchs' Simmons threw a wrench in works in the topsyturvy 171-pound weight class, as he became only one of two unseeded wrestlers in the entire tournament to advance to the championship semifinals.

After his decision over Bologna in the second round, Simmons was trailing 6-0 with under a minute to go in the match and turned Union Local's Dusty McVay on his back for the fall. Simmons will take on Shadyide's Luke Burkhardt in the semifinals today.

Indian Creek heavyweight Maurice Hines was the other unseeded grappler to pull through after he decisioned Oak Glen's Matt Wiseman in the second round and St. Clairsville's Scott Neuenschwander, the third seed, with an escape with less than 10 seconds to go in overtime in the quarterfinals.

Other wrestlers seeded fifth or lower that advanced to today's semifinals are: Bellaire St. John's Nathan Hunkler (the fifth seed at 145), Steubenville's Thad Crosier (the sixth seed at 152), Dana Davis of Brooke (the sixth seed at 160), David Ross of Steubenville (the sixth seed at 171), Josh Ewing of John Marshall (the fifth seed at 189), and Oak Glen's David Foltz (sixth at 189), Brad Hannahs of Barnesville (the fifth seed at 215), Jim Bowersock of Beaver Local (the sixth seed at 215), and Buckeye Local's Eric Wagner (the No. 6 seed at 275).

Notes

Buckeye Local's Babel joined the 100-win club with a second-period fall over Robbie Rossiter of Shenandoah in the quarterfinals. Later in fourth-round consolation action, the Zeps' 130-pounder Todd Schmelzenbach joined him at the century mark with a win over Wellsville's Richard Bereschik. A total of 20 OVAC wrestlers have joined the 100-win club this year.

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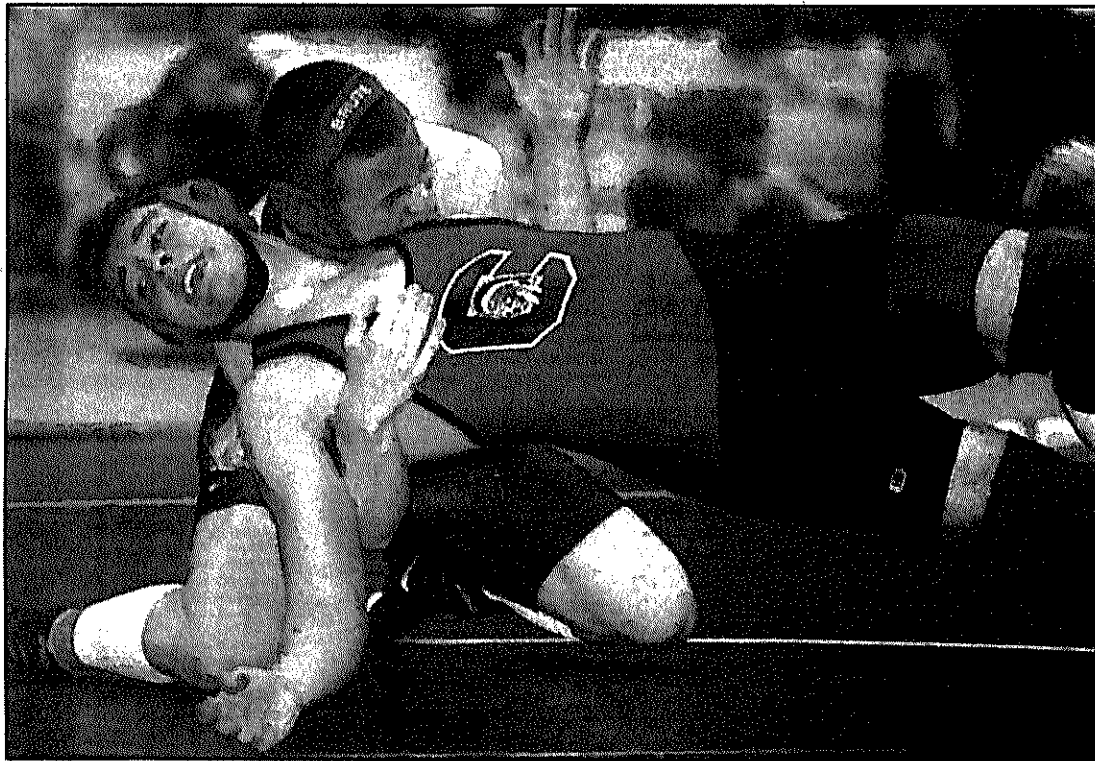
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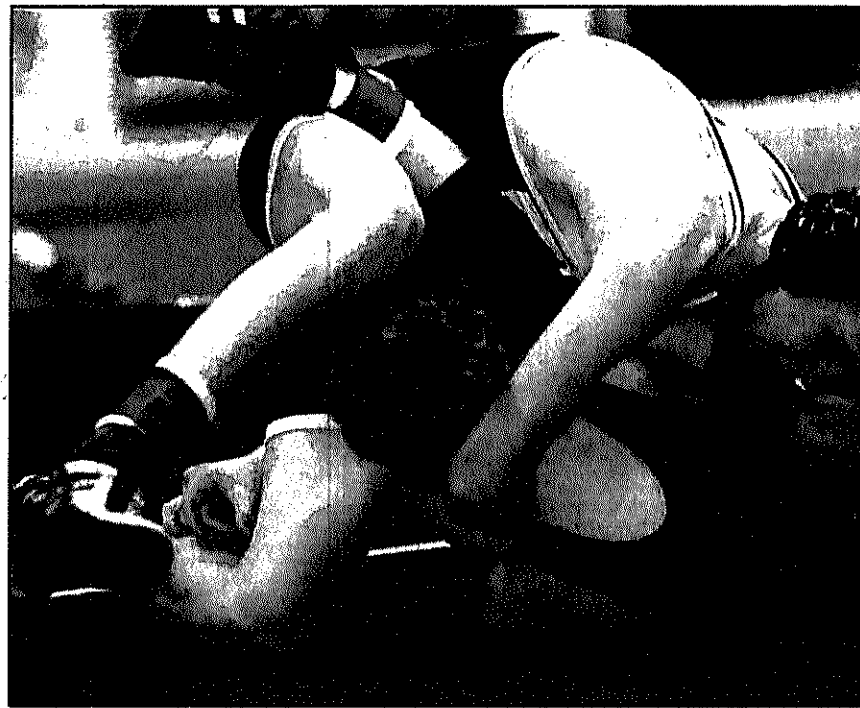


SPORTS

Sunday
January 25, 2003



Shenandoah's Jacob Zerkle, back, and Caldwell's Matt Ogle battle on the mat during 171-pound action of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling.



Cambridge's Dustin Daugherty, top, works at pinning Caldwell's Levi Seebach action during action on Friday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament inside the WesBanco Arena. Daugherty pinned Seebach in 3:14 and advanced to a match against Meadowbrook's Mike Lehotay, where he suffered a 6-2 setback.

Shenandoah claims OVAC 2-A mat

Leach finishes as 215-pound runner-up; Oak Glen is overall champion

DARREN McCULLOCH
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W.Va. — While Oak Glen captured top honors in the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament, the local area can boast of a champion as well after Shenandoah High took the Class 2-A division at the three-day

event which wrapped up Saturday night at WesBanco Arena.

The Golden Bears led from start to finish in the overall team scoring, finishing with 220.5 points to outdistance runner-up Buckeye Local's 182.5-point total. Brooke (179.5), last year's champion Beaver Local (161) and Wheeling Park (150) rounded out the top five.

Oak Glen, of course, claimed the Class 3-A title and Buckeye Local was the 4-A winner. Shenandoah finished with 116.5 points to take the Class 2-A championship and St. John Central won the Class 1-A crown with 116 points.

Shenandoah also had the highest finisher among local grapplers, with senior Codey Leach earning a runner-up finish at 215 pounds. Leach dropped a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to Oak Glen junior Cody Potts. Leach trailed 3-1 late, but scored a takedown with 13 seconds remaining to get even. Potts then gained an escape with nine seconds left to pull out the victory.

Leach advanced to the finals with an 11-1 major decision against Beaver Local's Jim Bowersock in the semifinals earlier Saturday. On Friday, the Zep stalwart pinned John Marshall's Brandon Rickman in 3:10 and scored a 7-2 decision over Bellaire's Dirk Soland.

After a 4-1 tournament, Leach is now 17-1 on the season.

In the other championship bouts, Indian Creek freshman James Myers defeated sophomore Ron Green of Wheeling Park, 1-0, at 103 pounds; Wheeling Park sophomore Abbie Rush topped East Liverpool junior Anthony Duffield, 3-1, at 112 pounds; Wheeling Park senior Brian Humphrey downed St. John Central sophomore Joe Skoff, 3-1, at 119 pounds; Buckeye Local sophomore Willie Saxton beat Brooke senior Jonathan McFarland, 6-4, at 125 pounds; Martins Ferry junior Clay Tucker scored a 17-1 technical fall over Brooke senior Mike Durbin at 130 pounds; Brooke senior Braden Shaw edged Monroe Central senior Aaron Brown, 6-5, at 135 pounds; Buckeye Local sophomore Zack Schuller topped Monroe Central senior Ryan Ferguson,

6-3, to at 140 pounds; Cameron senior Casey Hughes beat John Marshall junior Dustin Richey, 10-5, at 145 pounds; Buckeye Local senior Brock Bowman downed Oak Glen sophomore Rhett Northcraft, 7-4, at 152 pounds; Brooke junior Dana Davis outlasted St. John Central senior Chris Case, 3-2 in overtime, at 160; Martins Ferry junior Chas Yoder beat Shadyside senior Luke Burkhardt, 7-2, at 171; Wheeling Park senior Cody Tominack claimed a 3-1 overtime verdict against Shadyside's Bobby Samisa at 189; and Beaver Local senior Adam Hoppel became a rare four-time OVAC champion by outlasting Union Local senior Koel Davia, 7-3, to close out the action.

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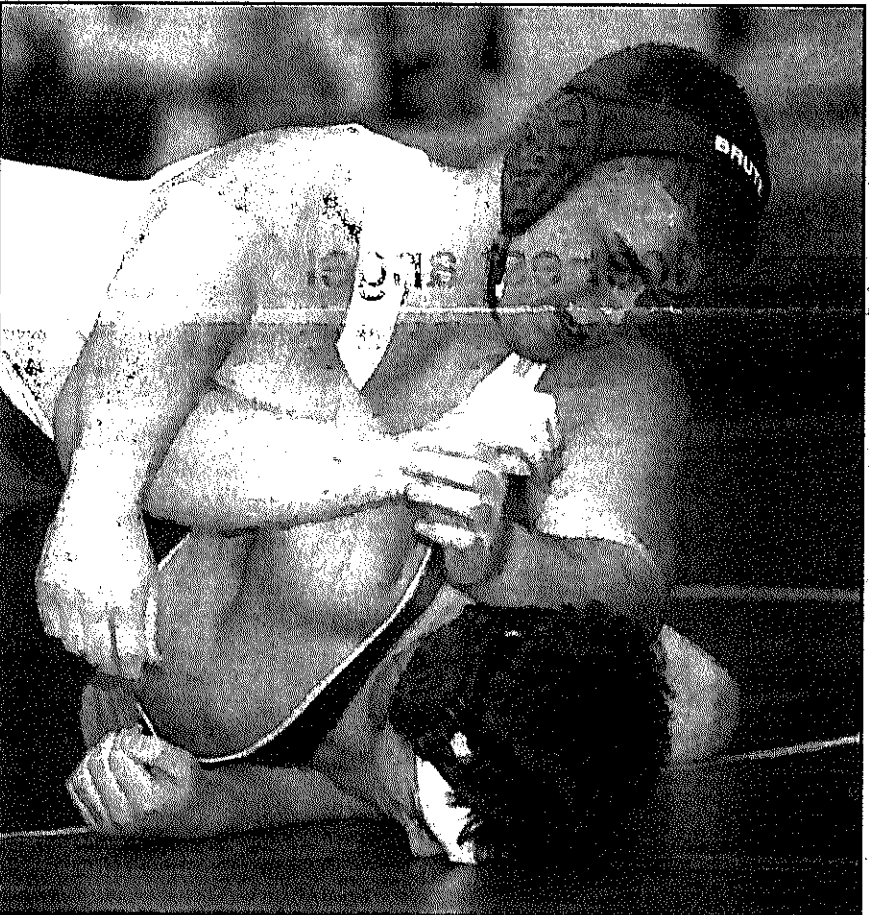
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Shenandoah's Codey Leach locks the arm of John Marshall's Brandon Rickman as he rolls him over onto the mat during 215-pound weight class action on Friday in Wheeling during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament. Leach finished as the runner-up on Saturday, dropping a 4-3 decision to Oak Glen's Cory Potts in the championship bout.

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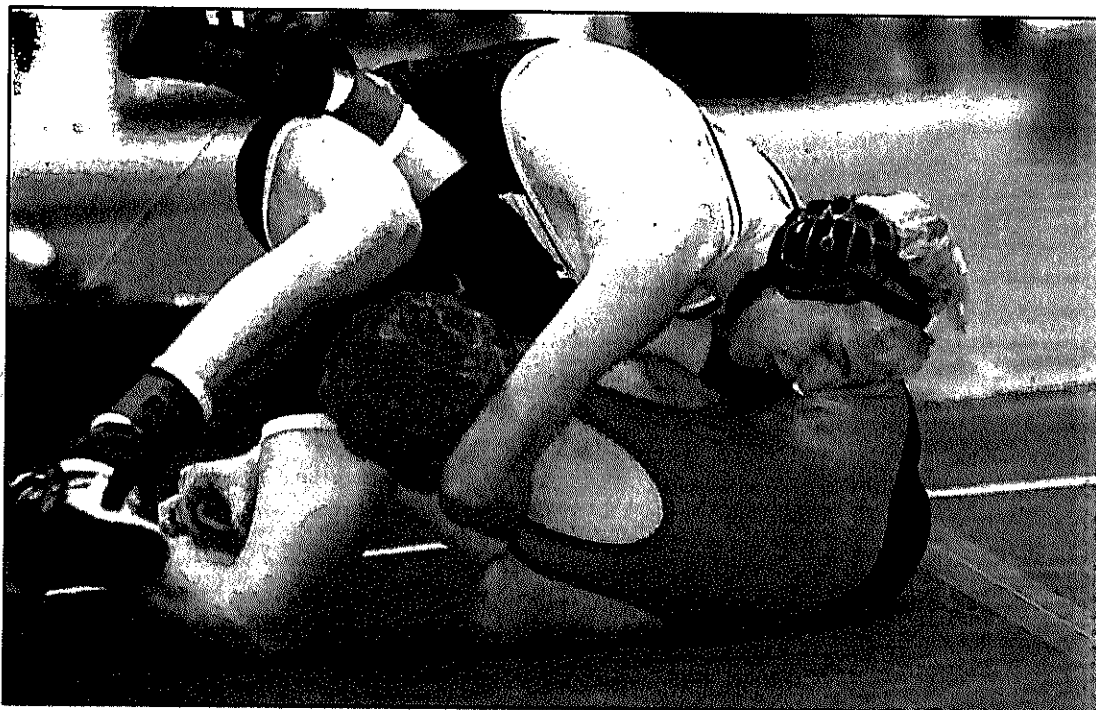


SPORTS



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Zerkle, back, and Caldwell's Matt Ogle battle on the mat during 171-pound Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling.



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Cambridge's Dustin Daugherty, top, works at pinning Caldwell's Levi Seebach during 103-pound action during action on Friday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament inside the WesBanco Arena. Daugherty pinned Seebach in 3:14 and advanced to the third-place match against Meadowbrook's Mike Lehotay, where he suffered a 6-2 setback.

Shenandoah claims OVAC 2-A mat title

Lehotay finishes as 215-pound runner-up; Oak Glen is overall champion

JEFFERSONIAN

— While Oak Glen won the 51st annual wrestling tournament, Shenandoah High took the top spot at the three-day

event which wrapped up Saturday night at WesBanco Arena.

The Golden Bears led from start to finish in the overall team scoring, finishing with 220.5 points to outdistance runner-up Buckeye Local's 182.5-point total. Brooke (179.5), last year's champion Beaver Local (161) and Wheeling Park (150) rounded out the top five.

Oak Glen, of course, claimed the Class 3-A title and Buckeye Local was the 4-A winner. Shenandoah finished with 116.5 points to take the Class 2-A championship and St. John Central won the Class 1-A crown with 116 points.

Shenandoah also had the highest finisher among local grapplers, with senior Codey Leach earning a runner-up finish at 215 pounds. Leach dropped a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to Oak Glen junior Cody Potts. Leach trailed 3-1 late, but scored a takedown with 13 seconds remaining to get even. Potts then gained an escape with nine seconds left to pull out the victory.

Leach advanced to the finals with an 11-1 major decision against Beaver Local's Jim Powersock in the semifinals earlier Saturday. On Friday, the Zep stalwart pinned John Marshall's Brandon Rickman in 3:10 and scored a 7-2 decision over Bellaire's Dirk Soland.

After a 4-1 tournament, Leach is now 17-1 on the season.

In the other championship bouts, Indian Creek freshman James Myers defeated sophomore Ron Green of Wheeling Park, 1-0, at 103 pounds; Wheeling Park sophomore Abbie Rush topped East Liverpool junior Anthony Duffield, 3-1, at 112 pounds; Wheeling Park senior Brian Humphrey downed St. John Central sophomore Joe Skoff, 3-1, at 119 pounds; Buckeye Local sophomore Willie Saxton beat Brooke senior Jonathan McFarland, 6-4, at 125 pounds; Martins Ferry junior Clay Tucker scored a 17-1 technical fall over Brooke senior Mike Durbin at 130 pounds; Brooke senior Braden Shaw edged Monroe Central senior Aaron Brown, 6-5, at 135 pounds; Buckeye Local sophomore Zack Schuller topped Monroe Central senior Ryan Ferguson,

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Brooke's Daniel Felton. Lehotay finished with a 5-1 tournament record, boosting his season mark to 23-4.

"We had our eyes set on bigger things, but it felt good to beat him (Daugherty)," Meadowbrook's Troy Keith said of Lehotay's victory. "We had everything to lose because we had beaten him before."

Barnesville's Bahmer edged Indian Creek's Kellen Hughes by a 2-1 count in overtime to take third at 160 pounds. He lost to St. John's Case, 4-2, in the semifinals, but rebounded with a pin of Oak Glen's Garrett Railing in 1:46. On Friday, Bahmer pinned Beallsville's Jon Kinney in 3:09 and dropped Buckeye Local's Josh Cowgill in 2:27. For the weekend,

Bahmer went 5-1 and now stand 28-2 on the season.

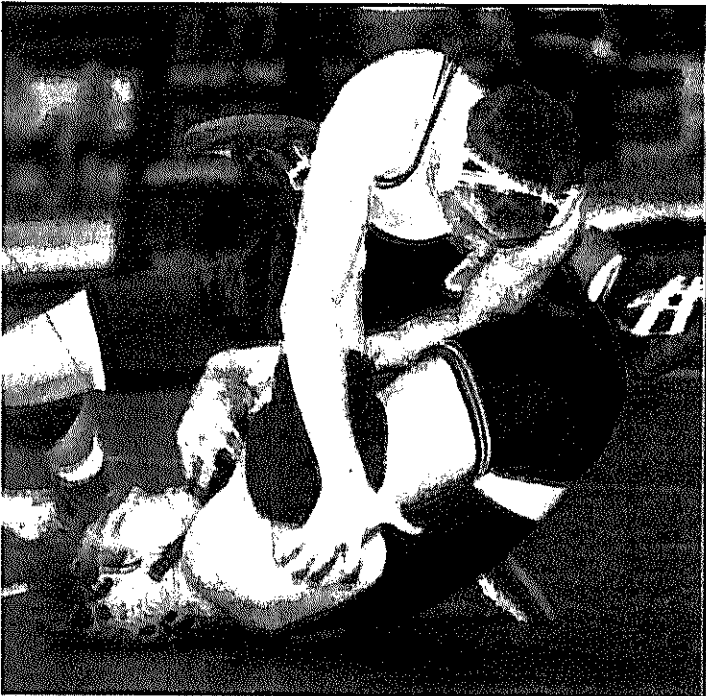
Shenandoah's Horn won by default against St. Clairsville's Daniel Howard in his 189-pound third place match. Earlier Saturday, he beat Steubenville's James Beech, 6-4 and Oak Glen's David Foltz, 5-3. On Friday, Horn pinned Corey Rinkes of St. John Central in 2:15; lost a 7-6 decision to John Marshall's Josh Ewing; and blanked Indian Creek's Adam Cowser, 7-0. He was 6-1 in the tournament and is now 24-7.

In finishing fourth, Cambridge's Daugherty had dropped a 10-4 decision to Wheeling Park's Green in the semifinals, but came back to defeat Brooke's Felton before falling to Lehotay. On Friday, Daugherty pinned Caldwell's Levi Seebach in 3:14 and Oak Glenn's Davis in 1:45. Daugherty

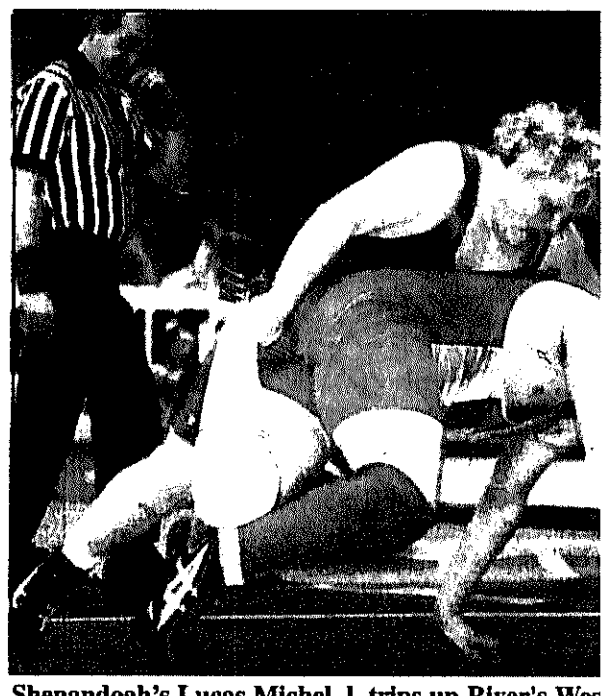


Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

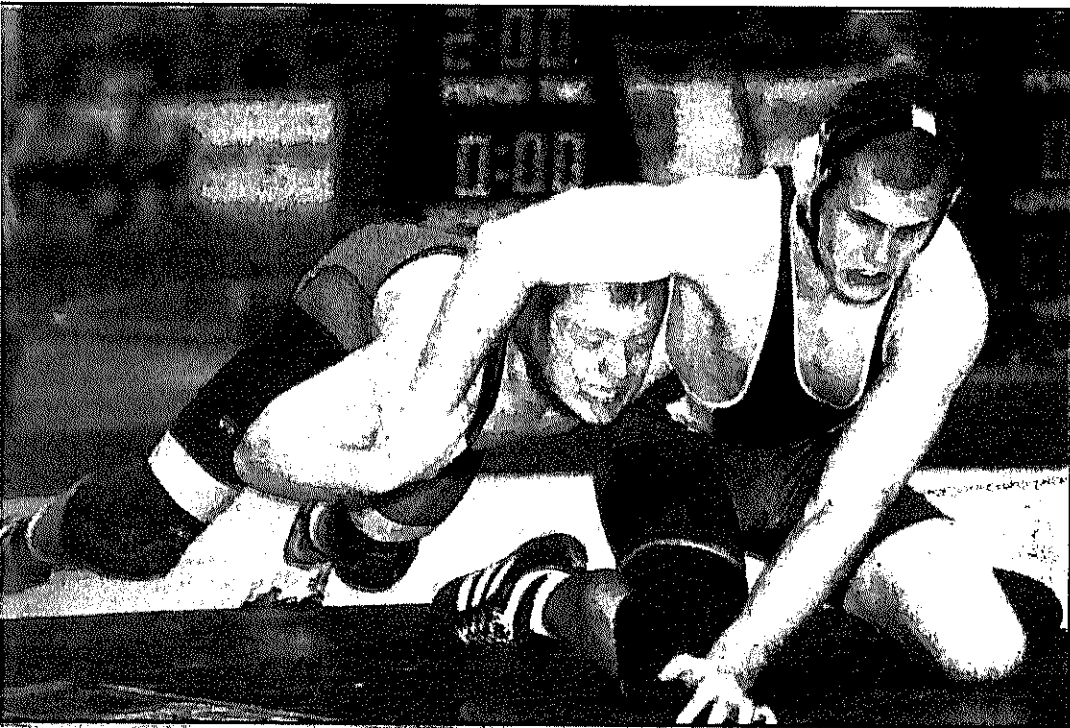
Leach locks the arm of John Marshall's Brandon Rickman over onto the mat during 215-pound weight class action during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling. Leach finished as the runner-up on Saturday, dropping to 16-1. He lost to Oak Glen's Cory Potts in the championship bout.



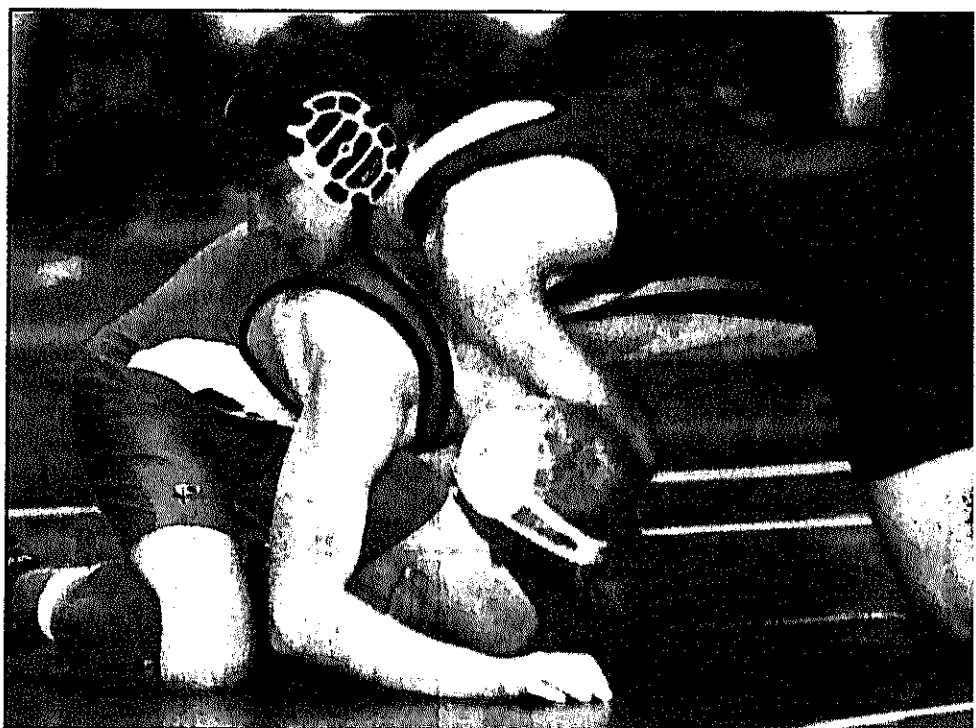
Cambridge's Brandon Scurlock, r, tries to keep Shain Nickerson, of Buckeye Local, on his back during 130-pound action of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament at the WesBanco arena. Nickerson pinned Scurlock at the 3:49 mark.



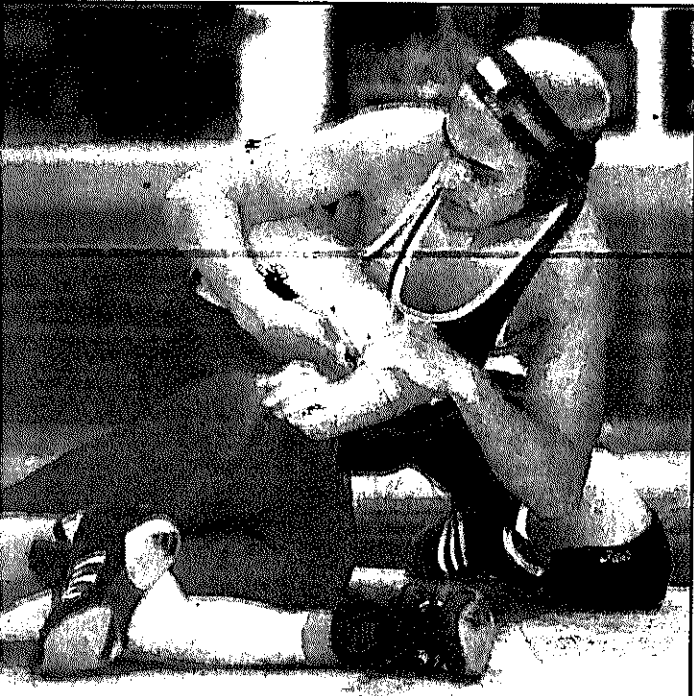
Shenandoah's Lucas Michel, l, trips up River's Wes Haslam during heavyweight action on Friday during Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling. Haslam won the pinfall, but Michel rebounded from the loss and advanced to a fifth-place bout against Buckeye Local's Eric Wagner.



Meadowbrook's Corey Archer, l, drives into John Marshall's Josh Ewing in the 189-pound weight class during action of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament inside the WesBanco Arena on Friday. Ewing won the match by pinfall at 4:59.



Meadowbrook's Nate Furry, r, and Union Local's Allen Gray battle it out during action at the WesBanco Arena on Friday. Furry turned in an impressive match as he pinned Gray in 1:06.



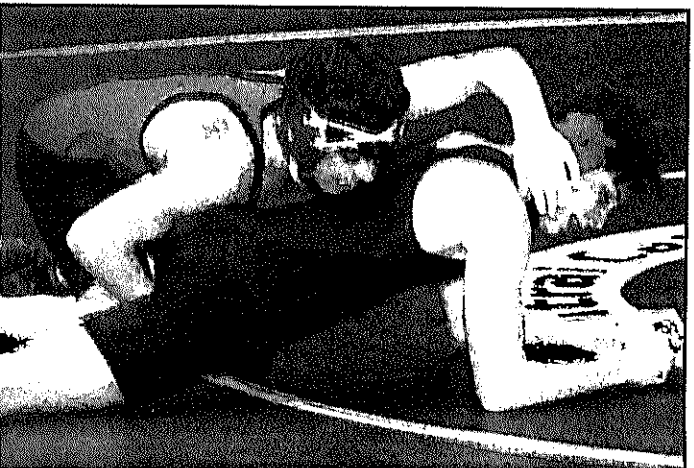
Cambridge's Brad Bertubin, r, uses a hold on the arm of Wheeling Central's Doug Pell during 125-pound action on Friday during OVAC wrestling action. Bertubin won the match by pinfall in 3:40.



Shenandoah's Richie Dodd, r, looks for a weakness in his opponent, Brooke's Daniel Felton, during 103-pound weight class action in Wheeling. Felton won the bout by pinfall in 1:52.

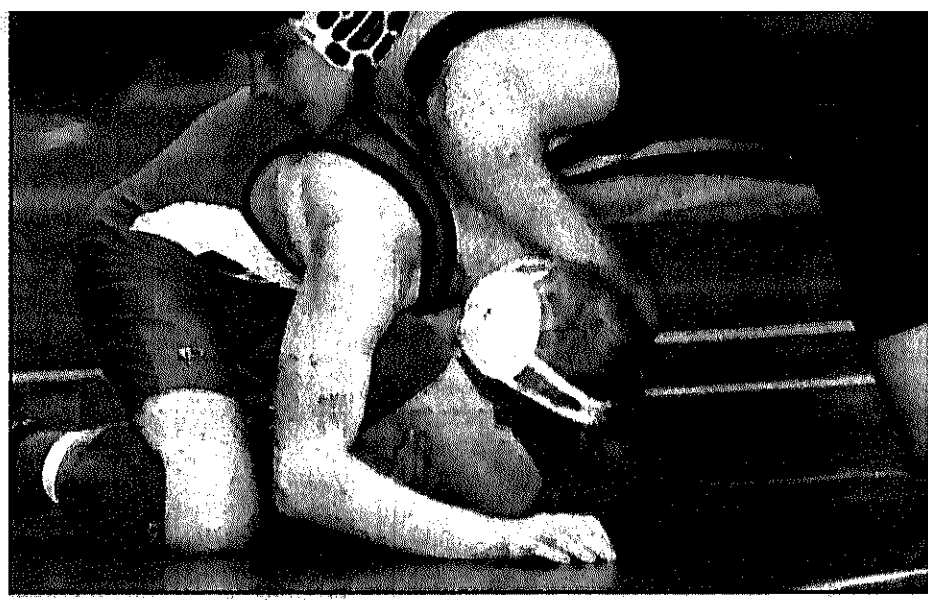


Barnesville's Bud Hines locks the arm of Wheeling Park's Mestrovic during a 152-pound weight class bout. Hines won the match to post a 7-0 decision in the match.





Caldwell's Corey Archer, l, drives into John Marshall's Josh Ewing in the 189-pound weight class of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament inside the WesBanco Arena on Friday. Ewing won the match by pinfall at 4:59.



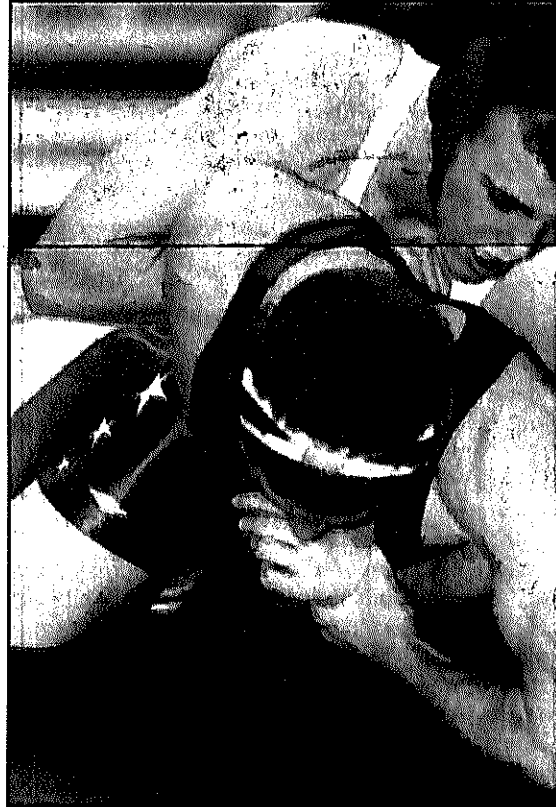
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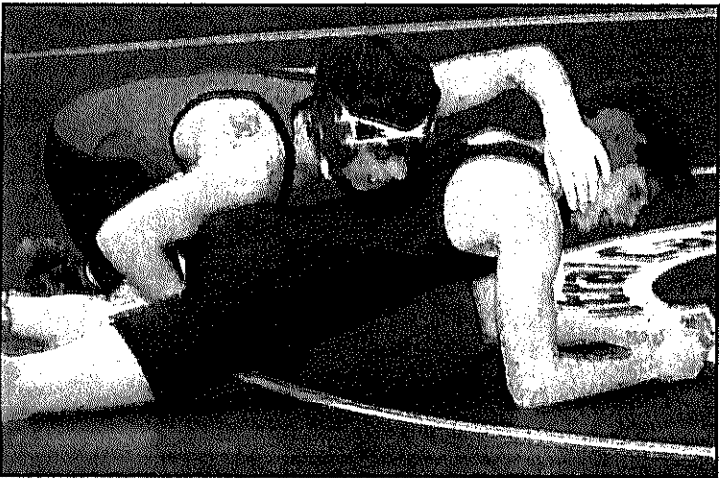
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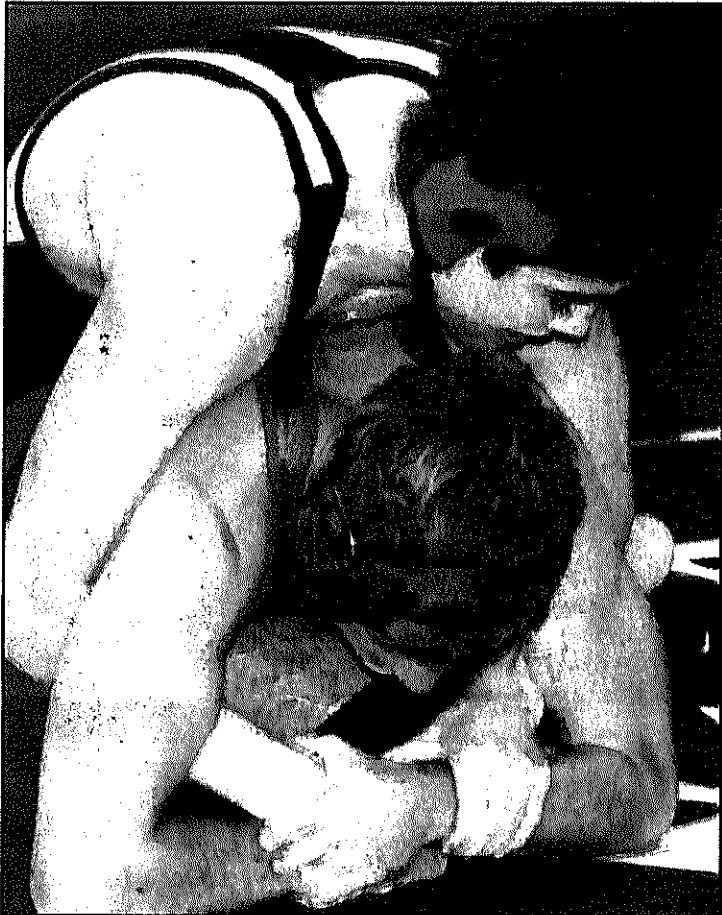
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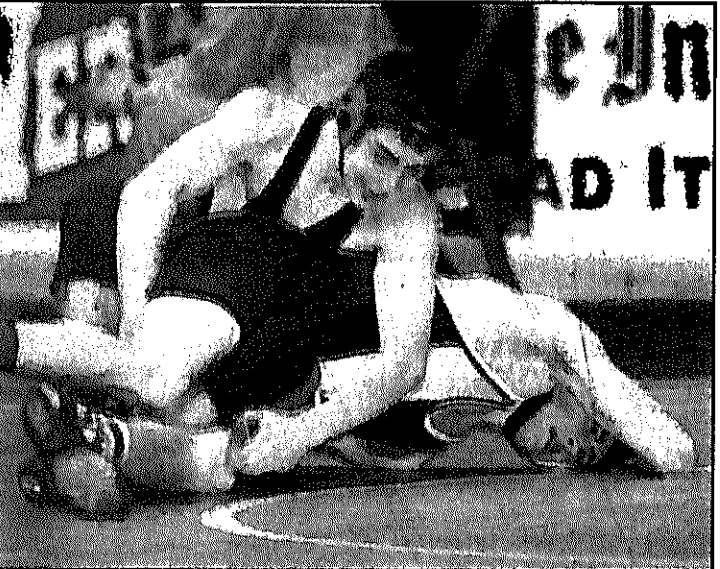
Caldwell's Corey Lemaster, l, tries to get Monroe Central's Cole Lewis onto his back during wrestling action in Wheeling on Friday. Lemaster won the 112 match by a 10-2 major decision. Lemaster finished fourth overall, losing to Oak Glen's Brandon Miller by a 1-0 count.



Caldwell's Chris Bond forces Conotton Valley's Jeremiah Webb down to the mat during their 130-pound bout in Wheeling on Friday. Bond won by technical fall, 16-0.



Meadowbrook's Christian Wolfe, l, attempts to take down Linsly's John Ruskowski on Friday in the 189-pound class of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament. Ruskowski won by a major decision.



Caldwell's Jason Harper, l, fights with Cambridge's Bo Hill in the 152-pound weight class on Friday during the Ohio Valley Athletic Association Wrestling Tournament in Wheeling. Harper won the match by pinfall at the 3:32 juncture.



Bobby Scurlock, top, the younger of Cambridge's Scurlock brothers, forces Martins Ferry's Shane Clark onto his back in 189-pound action. Scurlock won by a technical fall, 15-0.

ALL PHOTOS
SEAN SCOTT

SPORTS

Oak Glen takes first day lead

• Buckeye, Park tied for second place

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

On a night that produced a 14-second pin, only a handful of seeded wrestlers that were upset and a sweep by the Hoppel clan, Oak Glen's perennial West Virginia mat powerhouse Golden Bears jumped out to a big lead as the 51st annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament got underway at the Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling Thursday night.

Oak Glen, a seven-time defending West Virginia state champion and 2002 OVAC overall champ, took advantage of its depth and 12 seeded wrestlers to bolt to a 16.5-point lead over Buckeye Local and Wheeling Park in day one.

Coach Larry Shaw's Golden Bears, an easy pre-tourney favorite with its deep lineup of quality wrestlers and recent success in the West Virginia state tournament, had 13 of 14 wrestlers advance in the winners bracket during the first round.

Buckeye Local, who entered the tournament with a pair of top-seeds and two No. 2 seeds, are tied with Wheeling Park after racking up 31.5 points to the Bears 48. Park started the event with the top seeds in the first three weight classes.

Harrison Central proved to be the real surprise in the first day of action as coach Jim Rocchi's young Huskies finished the day with 31 points and provided a couple of the days upsets.

At 103, Huskies' grappler Craig Porter upset Martins Ferry No. 8 seed John Coup with a 3-2 double overtime win. Also at 189, HC's Mike Pratt pinned Indian Creek's No. 7 seed Adam Cowser at 3:45.

Brooke, another major contender for the over crown after a very impressive pre-OVAC campaign, closed out Friday action in fifth place with 28 points while St. John Central, Cameron and Beaver Local were deadlocked in sixth place with 26.5 points.

"I think at this point in time, I don't think there are any surprises," former Buckeye Local coach and current Shenandoah superintendent Dan Doyle said after the first night of OVAC wrestling action. "I think the teams that were expected to do well came out and finished up doing well. But you know how this is, the deeper it goes, the tighter it gets. I think it's going to be a good one."

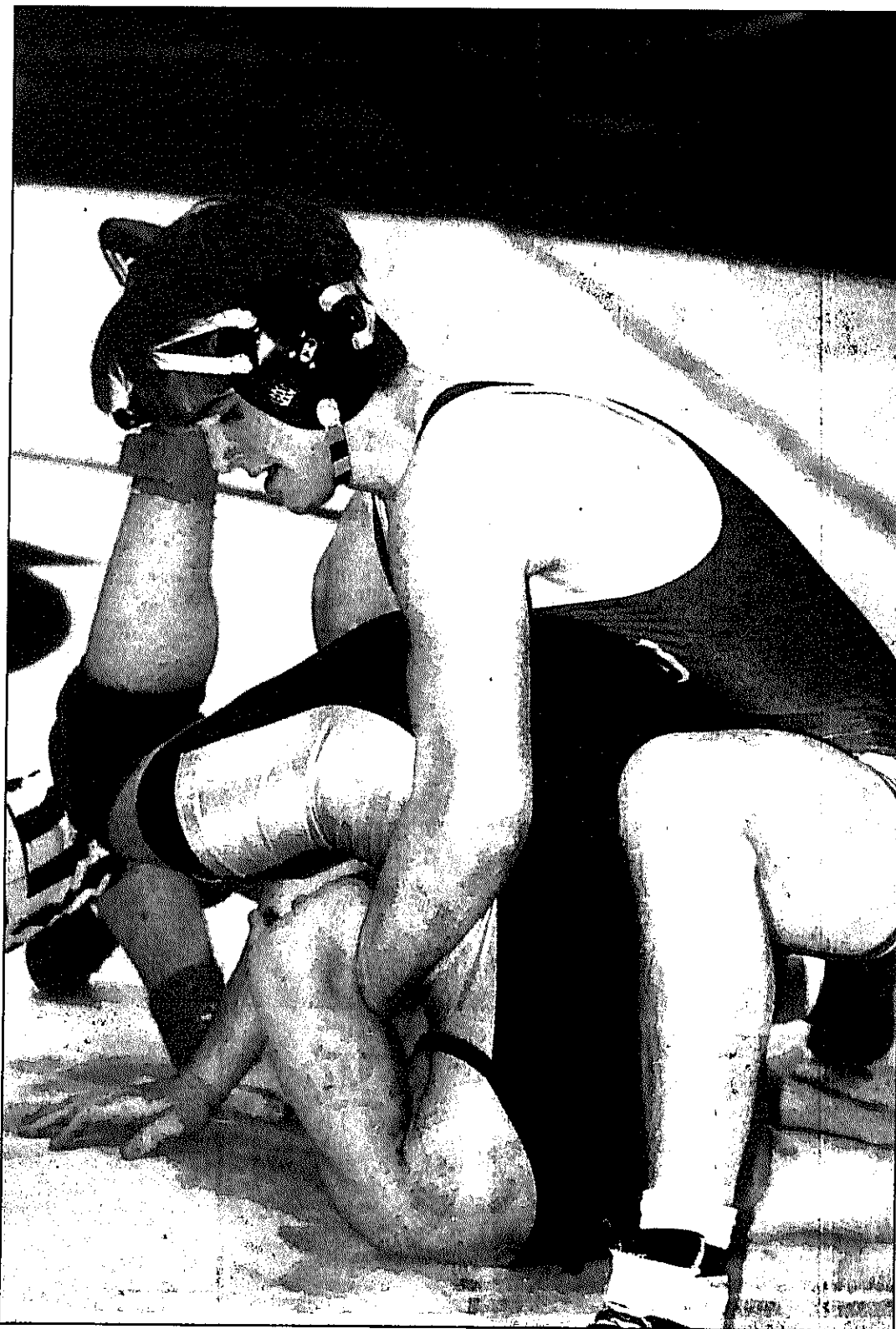
Doyle coached two Buckeye Local teams to OVAC titles in 1996 and '97 and accomplished the feat both years without the luxury of have an individual tournament champion.

"I think quarters are going to be good and semis are going to be fantastic," Doyle added. "There are some weight classes, like 125 with (Willie) Saxton and (Jonathan) McFarland and the top seed (Mick Nicola), that's just quality there."

"The heavyweight match, everyone wants to see, Hoppel and Davia. That could be a good closer there," Doyle added.

Koel Davia, a two-time Ohio state champion and defending OVAC 275-pound champ from Union Local pinned John Marshall's Nelson Hooker in 1:19 in his first round match. Beaver's Adam Hoppel, a three-time OVAC champ at 215 who has moved up to 275 this year, pinned Barnesville's Corey Hastings in 30

See, OVAC, Page B2



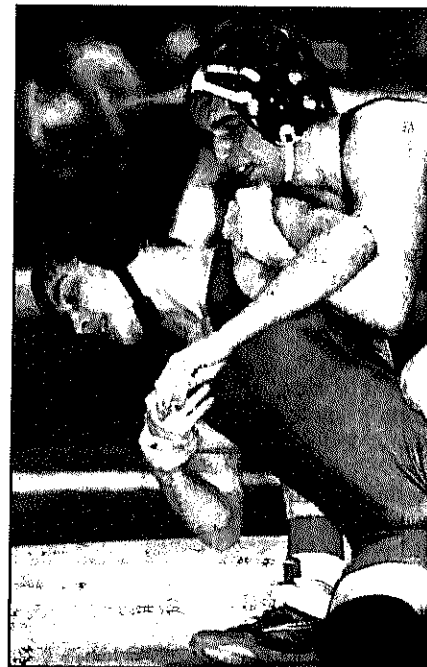
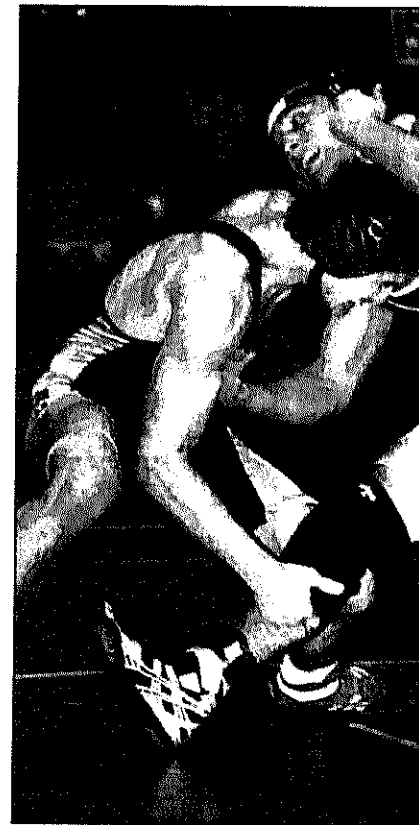
T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

ABOVE: St. John Central's Mickey Nicola (right) works for a pin of Edison's Taylor Cain during opening round action of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament Thursday night at the WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

RIGHT TOP: Harrison Central's Ryan Logsdon (left) battles St. Clairsville's Nathan Burdette during their 160-pound match. Logsdon won via a :49 pin.

RIGHT MIDDLE: Monroe Central's Aaron Brown is in control of Barnesville's Josh Smith during their 135-pound match. Brown pinned Smith in 4:51.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker (top) pins Steubenville Central's Shawn Gillette during their 125-pound match.



Eight wrestlers back to defend OVAC

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

For eight wrestlers in this year's tournament the challenge is even greater. Eight wrestlers enter this year's tournament cast in the role of defending champion, placing a bulls-eye directly on their back.

All but two of the defending champions have earned themselves a top seed for this year's event, which makes the pressure even greater.

For Martins Ferry junior Clay Tucker and St. John Central sophomore Mickey Nicola they both seem

to enjoy getting everyone's best shot.

"I take every match like it's going to be my last," Nicola said following his first-round pin. "I feel confident in this tournament, but I know I will have to wrestle well each time out."

Nicola captured the OVAC gold as a freshman, downing defending champion and top seed Lucas Huffman from River in the final a year ago.

The Irish sophomore definitely wrestled well during his round match which saw him pin Edison's Taylor Cain in just 1:26.

When Nicola goes on the mat, he enters with the same goal each time.

OVAC WRESTLING NOTEBOOK

"I want to score as many points as I can in the first period," Nicola offered. "I want to try to wear down my opponent by the time the third period comes."

Nicola had a second-round match against Magnolia's Alex King this morning and a win would put him in the quarterfinals tonight.

Tucker, meanwhile, has been in the position of defending champion

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SPORTS

Friday, January 23, 2004

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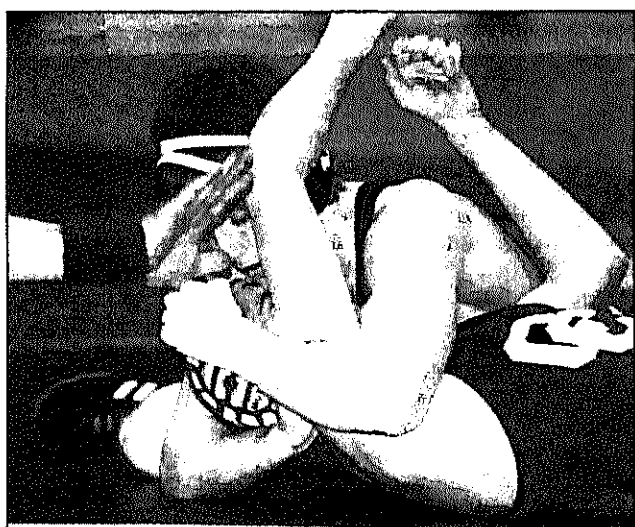
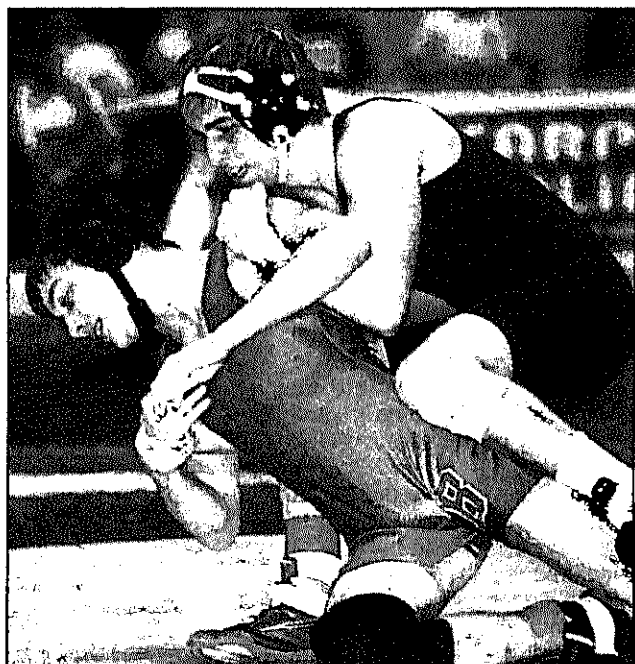
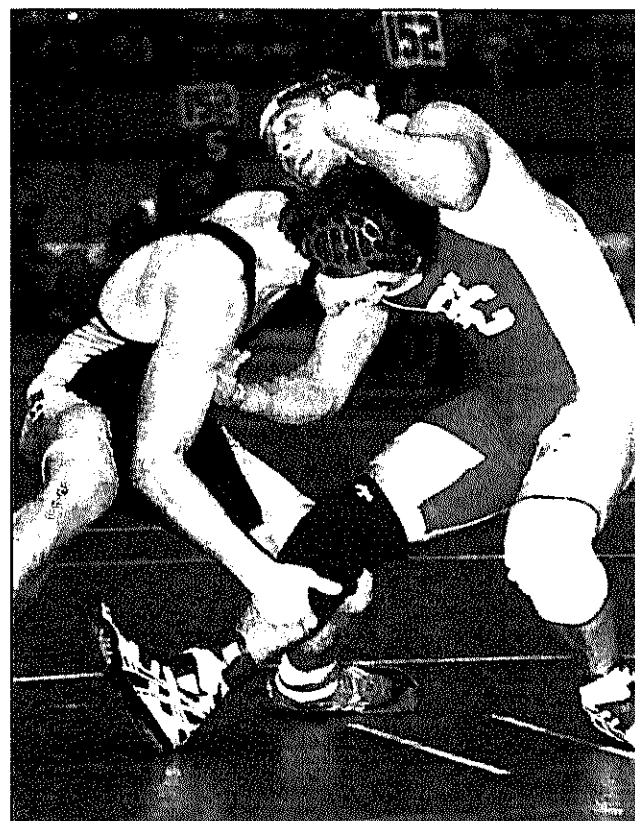
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By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

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Tucker, meanwhile, has been in the position of defending champion

before. He won the 103-pound title as a freshman and captured the 125-pound crown a year ago.

"There is a lot of pressure because everyone is gunning for you," Tucker said after his match.

In the first round, Tucker barely broke a sweat in pinning Steubenville Central's Shawn Gillette in just 67 ticks.

"I know the matches are going to get tougher as the tournament goes along," Tucker said.

The Riders' junior battled

See, **NOTEBOOK**, Page B2

side runs record to 11-2

Stojakovic

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

seconds to advance to the second round.

"I think that is going to be an interesting one," Doyle said referring to the prospect of Hoppel and Davia advancing into the Saturday night finals. "Hoppel is more at 215 and is a bit of a technique and Koel is an excellent heavyweight wrestler and heavyweight wrestlers tend to have a little different style than other wrestlers. That's going to be worth being here to see, something like the Moxley-Keenan match a few years ago."

A glance at the success of wrestlers on Friday night shows a strong pattern of good high-placing 2003 wrestlers looking for rematches. With numerous defending champs and 2003 runners-up back in 2004, Friday and Saturday could present some very interesting match ups.

"I think in every weight class, especially after the seeding meeting, you usually see a dominating wrestler, but this year I don't think you see that any where," Doyle pointed out. "Oak Glen has got to be the favorite with 12 seeds and seven in the top four," he said referring to the team competition. "You look at the Brooke, Buckeye, Beaver Local. They have the seeds and the depth in their teams that if any one of those do exceptionally well and there is any slip by Oak Glen at the top, there is going to come on their heels."

Wheeling Park's trio of top seeds at 103, 112 and 119 all came through on Thursday along with second-seeded Cody Tominack, at 189, give the Patriots a good start out of the gates as well. Park, currently second, could end the tourney with as many as four champions.

"Park could see four finalists which is a lot of points," Doyle pointed out. "But I would be really surprised if it didn't come right down to that group (Oak Glen)."

"The two years we did win it (at Buckeye Local), after this round we were ahead by 21, 22 points and we won it by 22, 23 points. The other year, I think we started out about 16, 17 points ahead and won it by 16 or 17 points," Doyle said. "So how important is this round."

"That's why I think that if Larry's (Shaw) kids do just as they are expected to do, I just don't see how these other teams can beat them. They have a very nice squad."

While the first saw numerous sub-1:00 pins, the quickest on the night was recorded by Bellaire's Luke Sulek, a No. 7 seed at 171 who pinned his opponent in 14 seconds. Indian Creek's Brandon Brovina, a No. 3 seed at 215, stopped his opponent in 17 seconds.

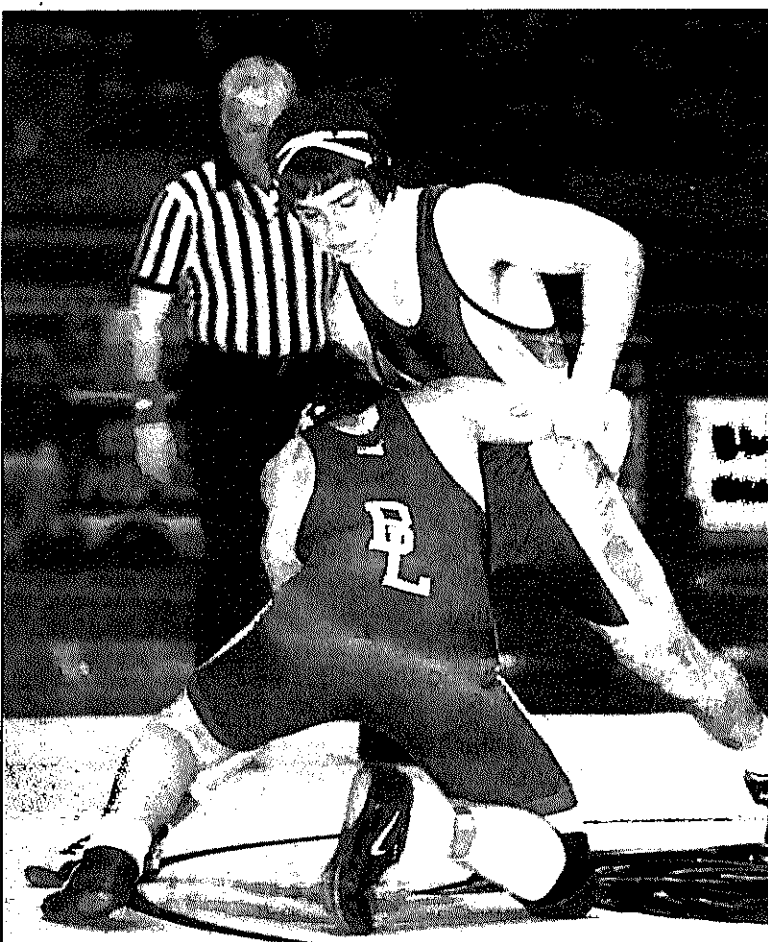
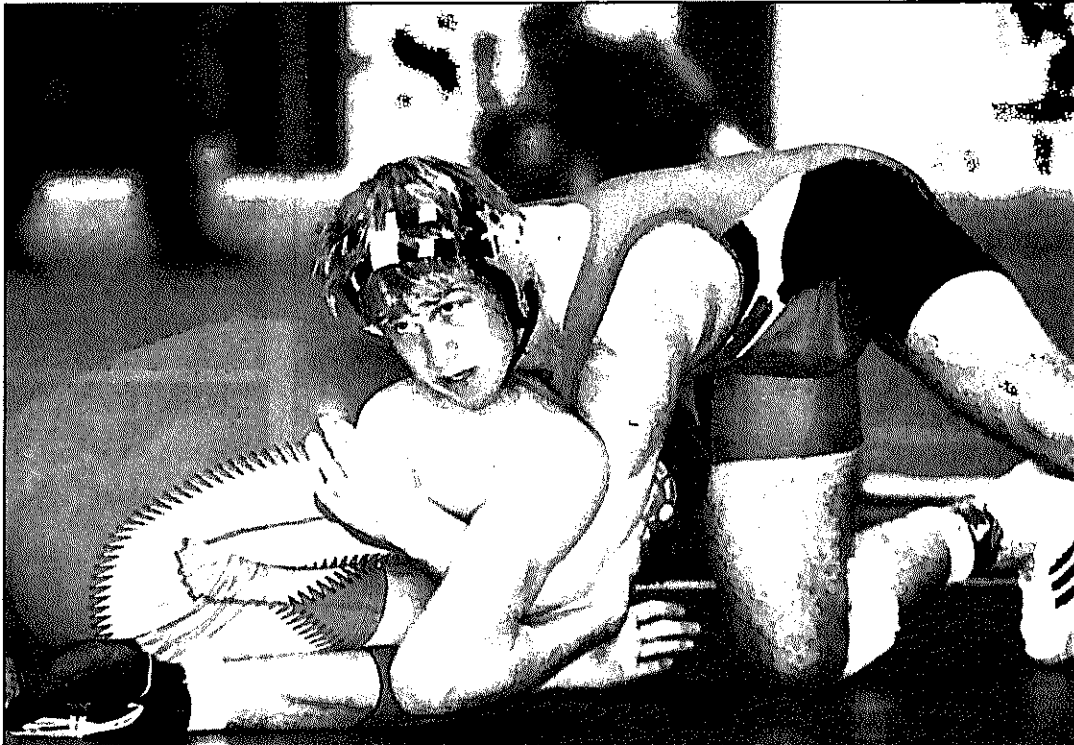
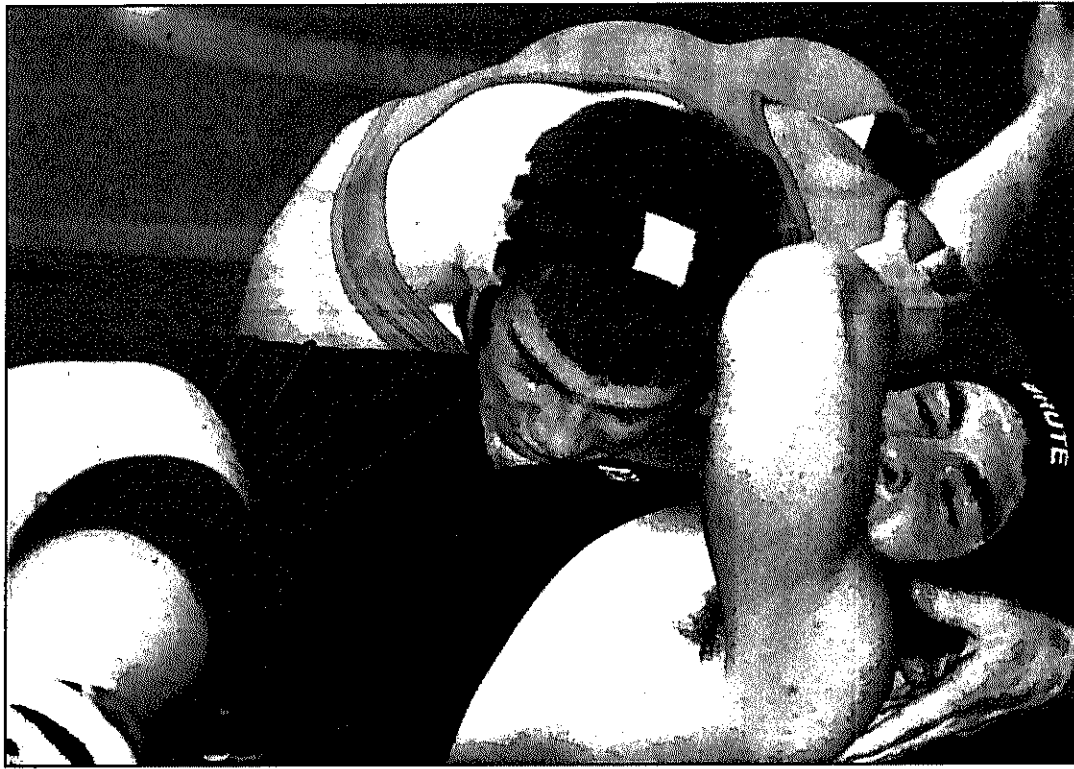
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● Notebook

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OVAC Mat Res

OVAC RESULTS

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ing, you usually see a dominating wrestler, but this year I don't think you see that any where," Doyle pointed out. "Oak Glen has got to be the favorite with 12 seeds and seven in the top four," he said referring to the team competition. "You look at the Brooke, Buckeye, Beaver Local. They have the seeds and the depth in their teams that if any one of those do exceptionally well and there is any slip by Oak Glen at the top, there is going to some on their heels."

Wheeling Park's trio of top seeds at 103, 112 and 119 all came through on Thursday along with second-seeded Cody Tominack, at 189, give the Patriots a good start out of the gates as well. Park, currently second, could end the tourney with as many as four champions.

"Park could see four finalists which is a lot of points," Doyle pointed out. "But I would be really surprised if it didn't come right down to that group (Oak Glen)."

"The two years we did win it (at Buckeye Local), after this round we were ahead by 21, 22 points and we won it by 22, 23 points. The other year, I think we started out about 16, 17 points ahead and won it by 16 or 17 points," Doyle said. "So how important is this round."

"That's why I think that if Larry's (Shaw) kids do just as they are expected to do, I just don't see how these other teams can beat them. They have a very nice squad."

While the first saw numerous sub-1:00 pins, the quickest on the night was recorded by Bellaire's Luke Sulek, a No. 7 seed at 171 who pinned his opponent in 14 seconds. Indian Creek's Brandon Brovina, a No. 3 seed at 215, stopped his opponent in 17 seconds.

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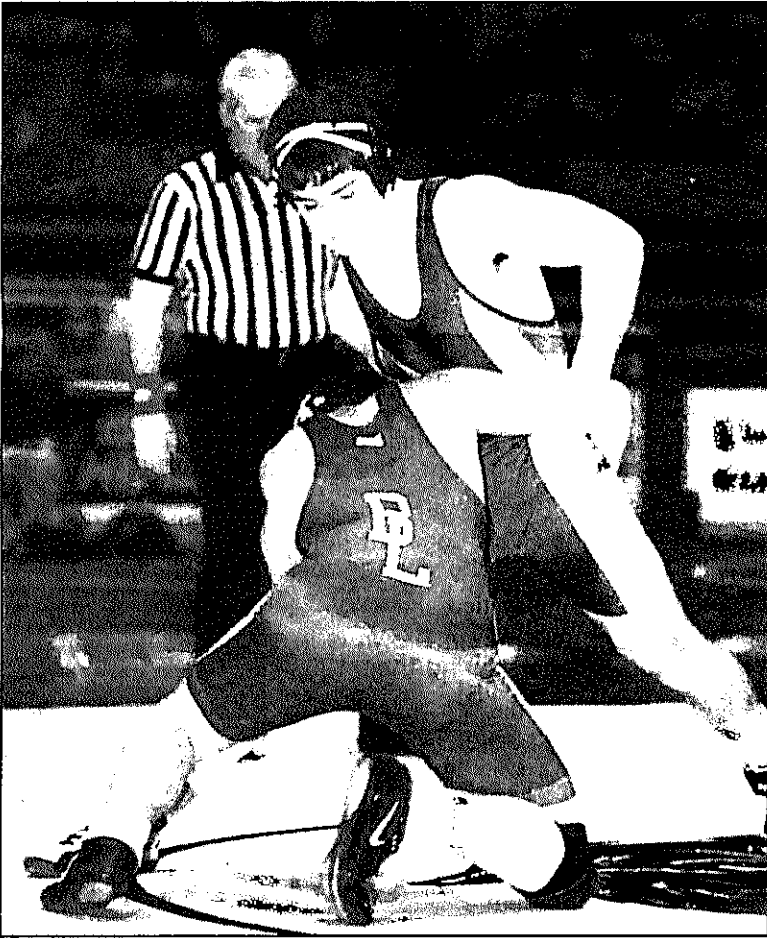
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At 12 noon on Saturday, semi-finals and fifth round semi-final consolations will be wrestled on four mats. The introduction and ceremony prior to the finals will begin at 6 p.m. with consolation finals for third, fifth and seventh places and the championship finals starting at 6:30 p.m..

In addition, the coaches service awards will be presented Friday evening while on Saturday, the prestigious Mr. Mat Award will be presented and the 25th anniversary team from 1979 will be honored.



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The quest for the third OVAC title for Tucker could be one of the toughest of any in the tournament seeing that he could possibly face another defending champion for the title. Harrison Central senior Jesse Emery took the top prize a year ago and is seeded second.

The other defending champions include: Wheeling Park's Abbie Rush, Brooke's Braden Shaw, Buckeye Local's Zach Schuller, Union Local's Koel Davia and Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel.

CAMERON: The Dragons' string of domination at the OVAC tournament has seen them capture 13 straight Class 1-A titles. One of the main reasons for that success has been junior varsity coach Ron Trowbridge.

He was honored as OVAC Junior Varsity Coach of the Year prior to the matches getting

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UNBLEMISHED: Entering Thursday's opening round of the OVAC Tournament there were nine undefeated wrestlers in the field. Included were Wheeling Park's Ronnie Green, Rush and Brian Humphrey; Ferry's Tucker, and Chas Yoder; Davia, Shadyside's Bobby Samsa and Cameron's Casey Hughes.

OFFICIAL - Regulating the action on the mats is a very important aspect of the tournament, so Steubenville's Rick Crosier was named Wrestling Official of the Year.

JR. HIGH - The key to most wrestling and any prep sport is the junior high program and Follansbee Middle School's Scott Donahue was recognized as the top junior high coach.

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The Kings, who will play their next five away from Arco Arena, are a league-best 21-3 at home and now want to make their out-of-town record (9-7) just as impressive.

"It's time for us to go on the road and find out if we're as good as we think we are," Miller said before the game. "And you find that out on the road when things aren't under your control

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Gritty senior Katelyn Falbo added 13 points, while sophomore Brea Burkhart donated a dozen counters. Lindsay Jovicic and Whitney Sketel scored six points each.

Barnesville's lone double-figure scorer was Anderson with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Barnesville owned a slim 29-25 edge on the boards with Ramsey Miller landing seven caroms and Brianna Cook grabbing six. Samantha Powell added five rebounds off the bench for the Orange.

Barnesville did pick up a victory in the reserve tilt.

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Stojakov scored 20 in the Kings h played the game with LeBron Jan from a nine final minute

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125 - Mickey Nicola (SJC) pinned Taylor Cain (Ed), 1:26; Paul McCoy (Beaver) pinned Grant White (BD), :57; David Brooks (SCC) pinned Andy Lucas (UL), 1:25; David Blawitt (HC) pinned Patrick Sparkman (MC), :40; Kelly Hughes (Cameron) pinned Lerod Riggs (Bealls), :21; Bruce Kennedy (WP) pinned Kevin Riggle (EL), 1:40; Dylan Pendleton (IC) pinned Michael Owens (River), 1:06; Willie Saxton (BL) pinned Terry Smith (Barnes), 5:31; Alex King (Mag) dec. Eric Zuzak (St.C), 11-9; Shane Wright (OG) pinned Doug Pell (WC), 1:14; K.J. Furbee (Shady) dec. Travis Harless (Meadow), 10-2.

130 - Clay Tucker (MF) pinned Shawn Gillette (SCC), 1:07; Jessie Stoneking (Cameron) dec. Luke Horvath (Shady), 10-1; Jeremiah Webb (CV) dec. Sam Yockey (St.C), 7-2; Kayne Melko (SJC) pinned Brian Wright (TC), :21; Jesse Emery (HC) pinned Shane Moore (WM), :25; Ronnie Nelson (WP) pinned Craig Johnson (IC), 3:04; Jessie Mahan (OG) pinned Nate Furry (Meadow), 3:45; Shaln Nickerson (BL) pinned Frank Rogers (Edison), 50; Justin Smithberger (MC) dec. Allen Gray (UL), 4-0; Chris Bond (Cald) pinned Nick Pasquarek (Steub), 1:35; Brandon Scurlock (Camb) dec. Brian Campbell (Beaver), 13-4; Matt Aberegg (Bealls) dec. Ross Johnson (Bell), OT Criteria.

135 - Braden Shaw (Brooke) pinned Dean Hornbeck (EL), 1:10; Justin Cataldo (Wells) pinned Kevin Ingram (Edison), 1:30; Ben Phillips (HC) pinned Jared Booth (Bell), 5:38; Kory Waite (Shen) dec. Kyle Wallace (Shady), 4-3; Josh Wheeler (Steub) pinned Mike Deter (WM), :28; Tony Warner (Meadow) pinned Brandon Richey (JM), 5:10; Shawn Dunn (Beaver) pinned Vinny Pappa (WC), 1:21; Brandon Chambers (OG) pinned Billy Henthorn (Mag), 1:52; Jason Jones (MF) pinned Anthony Nicholas (CV), 1:33; Aaron Brown (MC) pinned Josh Smith (Barnes), 4:51; Clyde Jordan (IC) maj. dec. Evan Lelferi (WP), 15-4.

140 - Zack Schuller (Buckeye) tech fall over Mark Gray (Brooke), 21-6; Kyle King (Barnes) pinned Tim Valentine (Meadow), 1:53; Kristopher Bayne (SCC) tech falled Adam Weekley (TC), 15-0; Jeff Cumpston (Cameron) pinned Zach Walters (St.C),

1:47; Grant Hoppel (Beaver) tech falled Tyler Prokopakis (Edison), 4:12; Alex Lee (JM) pinned Orion Kneinm (WP), 1:59; Lyle Burkhardt (Shady) pinned Brandon McCort (Bell), 4:46; Ryan Ferguson (MC) pinned Shane Atkins (EL), 1:43; Shane Walters (IC) pinned Jamaal Lowery (Camb), 5:50; Preston Smith (Linsly) pinned Roy Campbell (River), 3:43; David Gianessi (Weir) pinned Marius McAteer (WC), 3:36; Chris Crock (Shen) maj. dec. Joel Timmons (OG), 10-2; Bryan Bilyeu (Bealls) dec. Matt Stacy (Wells), 7-4; Tom Carpenter (SJC) tech falled Jacob Donley (HC), 16-0; Luke Warren (MF) dec. Sean McKirick (Steub), 5-3;

145 - Alan Buzzard (Wells) pinned Zac Leasure (TC), :51; Dustin Richey (JM) dec. Jared Ward (MC), 14-2; Casey Hughes (Camb) tech fall David Ludwig (IC), 16-0; David Babel (BL) pinned Nick Turkyay (EL), :45; Billy Frolini (Shady) dec. Joe Bellanca (Beaver), 12-4; Luke Bumbico (MF) pinned Mike Marico (Weir), 5:00; Drew Stevens (OG) pinned Steven Ford (Camb), 3:17; Todd Hunkler (SJC) pinned Brett Stephens (Barnes), 1:54; Brett Blevins (UL) dec. Zach Hupp (Cald), 6-4; Kody McCollum (Meadow) pinned P.J. Ware (Steub), 5:31;

152 - Brock Bowman (BL) pinned Stephen Potenzini (SCC), :48; Matt McCourt (Edison) dec. Josh Whipkey (Cameron), 9-5; Thad Crosier (Steub) pinned Scott Crall (Bellaire), 2:26; Corey Adkins (JM) dec. Jesse Jones (MF), 10-4; Clayton Benedict (MC) pinned Jared Carder (Meadow), 3:15; Matt Hannahs (Shen) pinned Mark Smith (Beaver), 5:48; Junior Yost (Tyler) pinned Jason Harper (Cald), 4:50; Jesse Irwin (Shady) dec. Kenny Oliver (IC), 8-0; Rhett Northcraft (OG) pinned Bo Hill (Camb), 1:15; Zach Henderson (Brooke) dec. Vic Mason (HC), 9-5.

160 - Derick Snyder (Cald) pinned Ryan Jackson (Wells), :50; Chris Case (SJC) pinned Jake Garvin (Camb), :50; Dana Davis (Brooke) pinned Holden Roberts (TC), 3:24; Jesse Mestrovic (WP) pinned Donald Gianessi (Weir), 5:24; Garrett Railing (OG) pinned Jake Yamagatta (MC), :59; Adam Cooper (Cameron) pinned Kory Vancamp (River), 1:12; Mike Hepburn (Bellaire) pinned Jim West (JM), 1:25; Ryan Logsdon (HC) pinned Nathan Burdette (St.C), :49; Jason Bahmer (Barnes) pinned Andy Adkins (EL), :45; Josh Cologie (BL) pinned Josh Rossler (Meadow), 1:09; Arlis Johnson (UL) pinned Kyle McElfresh (Shady), 2:37; Kellen Hughes (IC) pinned Eddie Sprouse (Beaver), 4:39; Adam Gibson (WP) dec. Justin Provenzano (MF), 5-2; Jon Kinney (Bealls) dec. Brandon Sparling (Shen), 6-4; Mitch Costa (Edison) pinned P.J. Vincent (CV), 3:11.

171 - Chas Yoder (MF) pinned Kyle Reeder (Beaver), 5:35; Luke Sulek (Bellaire) pinned Tyler Minor (SCC), :14; David Ross (Steub) pinned Dean Paxton (BL), :52; Vic Bologna (HC) dec. Nathan Loughan (Brooke), 5-1; Kyle Smith (Barnes) pinned John Mayfield (Mag), 5:33; Luke Burkhardt (Shady) pinned Chris Lyons (Cam), 1:24.

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215 - Dirk Soland (Bell) pinned Wendell Habig (SJC), 1:24; Brad Hannahs (Barnes) pinned Trent Ailken (Brooke), :26; Brandon Bovina (IC) pinned Dan Dishman (Cam), :17; Jason Wright (Shady) pinned Scott Wade (Mag), 3:45; James Harris (BL) pinned Brand Sawyers (River), 2:59; Cody Potts (OG) pinned Pat Roasbeck (WC), :34; Jimmy Bowersock (Beaver) pinned Joe Lewis (MF), :46; Andrew Corder (HC) dec. J.J. Rawson (Edison), 11-3; Jim Compston (UL) dec. Angelo Magnone (Steub), 9-7.

275 - Koal Davla (UL) pinned Nelson Hooker (JM), 1:19; Scott Neuenschwander (St.C) pinned Jeremy Paden (MF), 1:30; Wesley Haslam (River) pinned Jimmy Malone (Wells), 1:18; Matt Wiseman (OG) dec. Michael Golden (Camb), 3-2; Andrew Fagal (Weir) pinned Chase Grinch (Shady), :46; Eric Wagner (BL) dec. Jeremiah Hinerman (Edison), 3-2; Adam Hoppel (Beaver) pinned Corey Hastings (Barnes), :30; Kevin Stobb (WP) dec. C.J. Manning (Cam), 6-4.

● Kings

Continued from Page B1

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Williams said the Cavs should have never let Miller get such an easy basket -- not at that point. "We didn't put a body on him," he said.

"I've seen that play happen a million times. Unfortunately, it happened at a crucial time. Boozer and me were trying to pinch him. He faked like he was going inside and went around. He got the rebound and put it back in."

The Kings, who will play their next five away from Arco Arena, are a league-best 21-3 at home and now want to make

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Divac had 13 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Miller had 15 rebounds for the Kings, who have won 10 of 12 overall and are 13-2 against Eastern Conference teams.

Dajuan Wagner had 20 points, and Boozer 15 with 11 rebounds for the Cavs.

Cleveland only dressed nine players and was again without James, who still hasn't been able to run on his sprained right ankle. The Cavs' No. 1 pick

Page B1

the second

ng to be an Doyle said "aspect of rancing into ht finals. 15 and is a Koel is an ht wrestler tend nt style that 's going to re to see, : Moxley-years ago."

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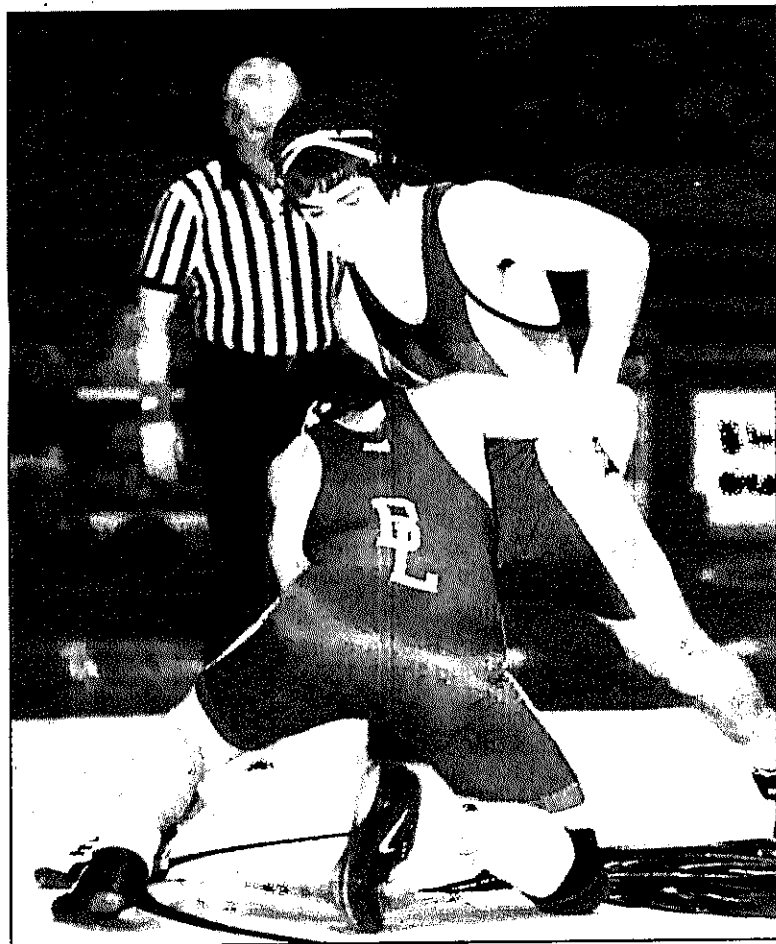
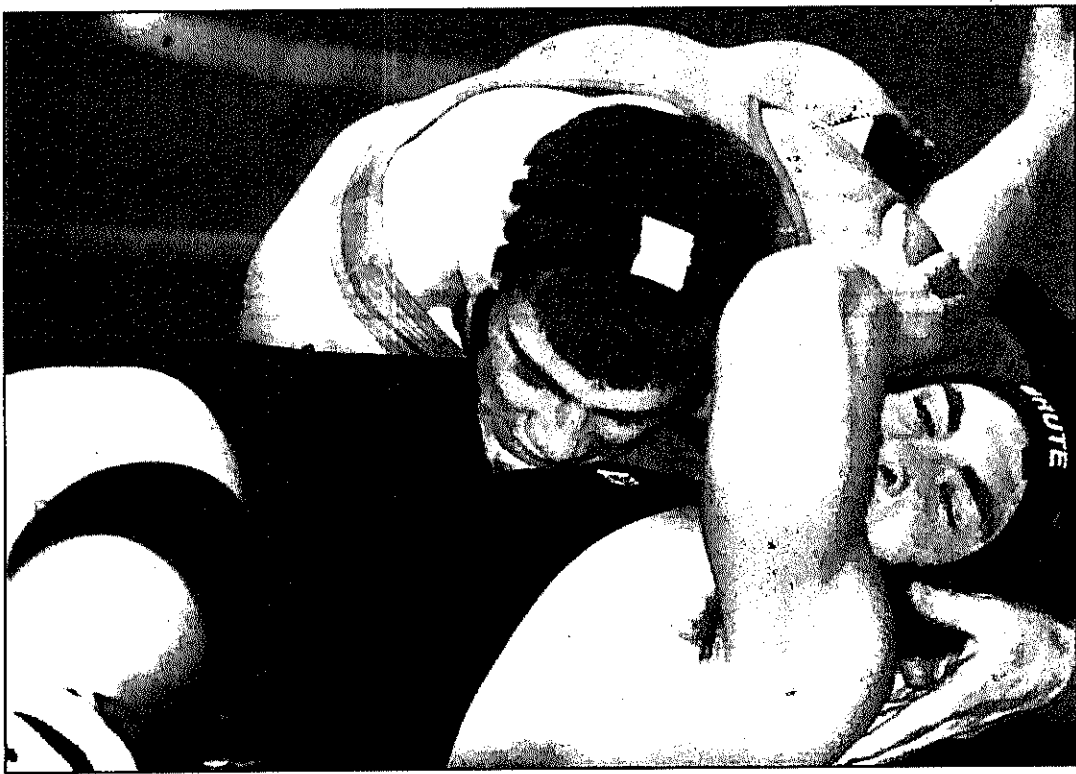
Hoppel and at 275, the other two nd's tourna-ssful open-

oppel pinned ylor Harless 40, Grant -0 technical mark over pakis.

o get under n. with sec-irst and sec-tions. At 5 ond session uarterfinals round con-

day gets off Nest Liberty taking on ity at 9 a.m. stiling heads

Saturday



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP: Shadyside senior Bobby Samsa (top) works for a pin of Monroe Central's Shaun Ady during action Thursday night.

MIDDLE: Shadyside senior Jesse Irwin (top) is in control of Indian Creek's Kenny Oliver during their 152-pound match.

LEFT: Martins Ferry junior Chas Yoder (standing) works for a pin of Beaver Local's Kyle Reeder.

● Notebook

Continued from Page B1

Cameron's Jessie Stoneking this morning in the second round.

Tucker -- who recently earned the 100th win of his career during a dual with Oak Glen -- already has a state bronze and silver in his collection, but he definitely has his eyes on the big prize come late February.

"The state title is my biggest goal," Tucker said. "It was exciting to get that 100th win as a junior. There are a lot of one-point matches at the state level, and I am hoping my hard work will pay off for that."

The quest for the third OVAC title for Tucker could be one of the toughest of any in the tour-

under way.

OLYMPICS: The annual Parade of Teams kicked off the OVAC festivities as 36 schools entered the WesBanco Arena floor each holding a sign with the name of their school. Beaver Local -- the defending champions -- anchored the parade.

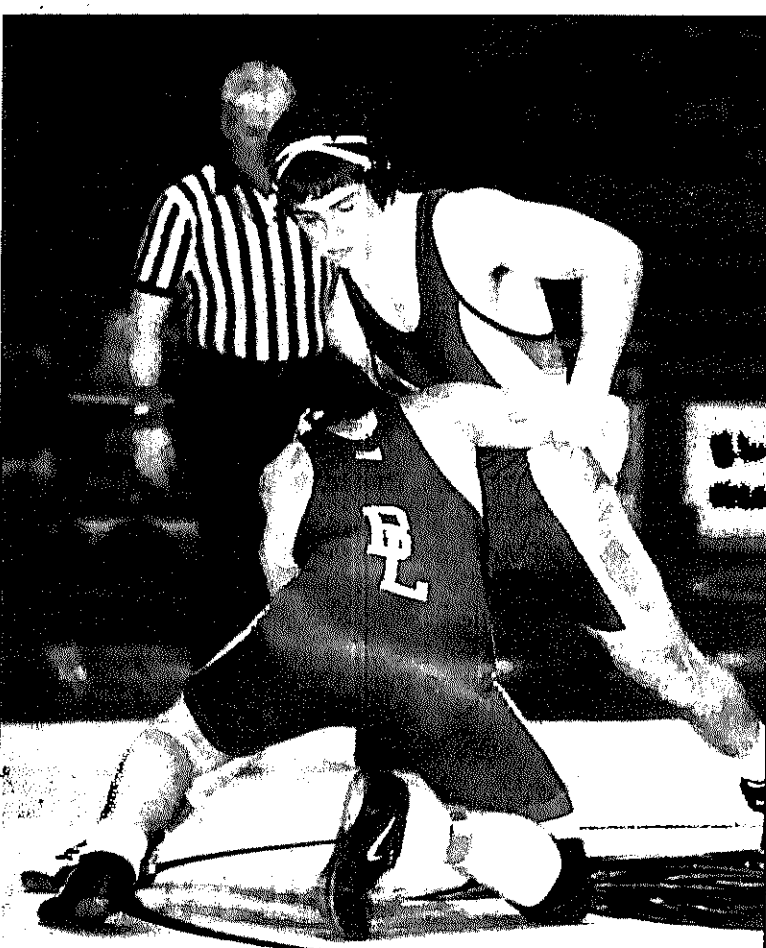
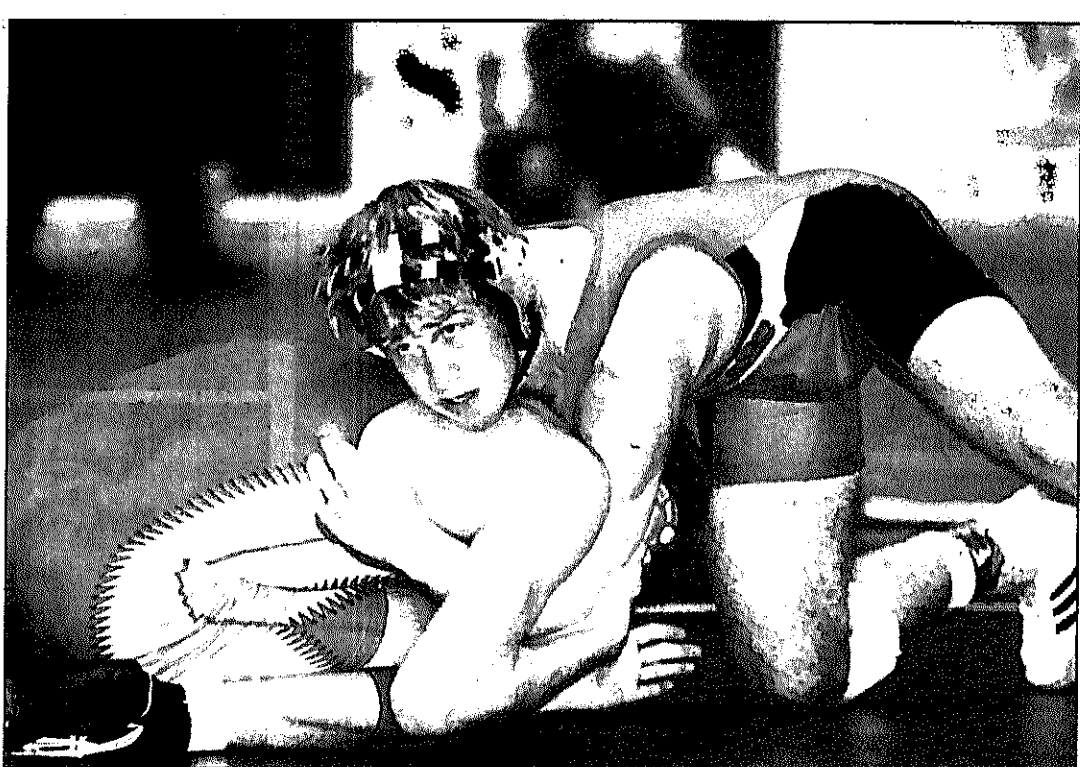
NATIONAL ANTHEM: Ron DiLorenzo -- the dean of students at Wheeling Park High School -- was honored for his years of service to the OVAC wrestling tournament. Each year, DiLorenzo opens the tournament with a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner with his trumpet. DiLorenzo was presented with a picture

y weight class, seeding meet- e a dominating s year I don't t any where." it. "Oak Glen vorite with 12 the top four," ; to the team u look at the Beaver Local. eeds and the ns that if any eceptionally y slip by Oak ere is going to ."

's trio of top 2 and 119 all hursday along eded Cody 39, give the art out of the currently sec- ouny with mpions. four finalists oints," Doyle t I would be it didn't come t group (Oak

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aw numerous e quickest on ecoreded by ilek, a No. 7 , pinned his onds. Indian rovina, a No. ped his oppo- n Hoppel and t at 275, the other two end's tourna- cessful open- Hoppel pinned aylor Harless 140, Grant 7-0 technical mark over opakis. to get under .m. with sec- first and sec- ations. At 5 cond session quarterfinals h round con- day gets off West Liberty taking on sity at 9 a.m. stling heads n Saturday, 1 round semi- will be wres- The introduc- prior to the 6 p.m. with or third, fifth nd the cham- ting at 6:30 coaches serve presented while on stigous Mr. presented and y team from d.



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under way. **OLYMPICS:** The annual Parade of Teams kicked off the OVAC festivities as 36 schools entered the WesBanco Arena floor each holding a sign with the name of their school. Beaver Local -- the defending champions -- anchored the parade. **NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Ron DiLorenzo - the dean of students at Wheeling Park High School - was honored for his years of service to the OVAC wrestling tournament. Each year, DiLorenzo opens the tournament with a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner with his trumpet. DiLorenzo was presented with a picture from meet director Ron Mauck. **UNBLEMISHED:** Entering Thursday's opening round of the OVAC Tournament there were nine undefeated wrestlers in the field. Included were Wheeling Park's Ronnie Green, Rush and Brian Humphrey; Ferry's Tucker, and Chas Yoder; Davia, Shadyside's Bobby Samsa and Cameron's Casey Hughes. **OFFICIAL** - Regulating the action on the mats is a very important aspect of the tournament, so Steubenville's Rick Crosier was named Wrestling Official of the Year. **JR. HIGH** - The key to most wrestling and any prep sport is the junior high program and Follansbee Middle School's Scott Donahue was recognized as the top junior high coach.

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● **Kings**

Continued from Page B1

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and you face adversity." Stojakovic, on a tear of late, scored 20 in the third quarter and the Kings held off the Cavs, who played their second straight game without injured rookie LeBron James but nearly rallied from a nine-point deficit in the final minutes. Divac had 13 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Miller had 15 rebounds for the Kings, who have won 10 of 12 overall and are 13-2 against Eastern Conference teams. Dajuan Wagner had 20 points, and Boozer 15 with 11 rebounds for the Cavs. Cleveland only dressed nine players and was again without James, who still hasn't been able to run on his sprained right ankle. The Cavs' No. 1 pick hopes to play Saturday against Philadelphia. The Cavs were also short-handed because Jeff McInnis and Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, acquired Wednesday in a trade with Portland for Darius Miles, hadn't had their physicals yet.

● **Shadyside**

Continued from Page B1

Gritty senior Katelyn Falbo added 13 points, while sophomore Brea Burkhardt donated a dozen counters. Lindsay Jovicic and Whitney Sketel scored six points each. Barnesville's lone double-figure scorer was Anderson with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Barnesville owned a slim 29-25 edge on the boards with Ramsey Miller landing seven caroms and Brianna Cook grabbing six. Samantha Powell added five rebounds off the bench for the Orange. Barnesville did pick up a victory in the reserve tilt. "We are going to have to play

real well Saturday," Miller said. "Magnolia is solid. They have all of the ingredients for a good team. They have good post play and good guard play. "We are going to have to bring our 'A' game, but it is a great opportunity," Miller added. Varsity scoring: BARNESVILLE (46) -- Hines 2, 0-1, 4; L. Anderson 0, 2-3, 2; N. Anderson 11, 3-5, 25; R. Miller 1, 0-2, 2; Cook 2, 0-3, 4; Pryor 0, 4-4, 4; Baker 2, 1-2, 5. TOTALS: 18, 10-20, 46. SHADYSIDE (63) -- Holenka 9, 4-6, 22; Jovicic 3, 0-0, 6; Burkhardt 5, 2-4, 12; Falbo 5, 2-3, 13; Bonar 0, 0-1, 0; Sketel 3, 0-0, 6; Powell 2, 0-0, 4; Miracle 0, 0-0, 0; Stewart 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS: 27, 8-14, 63. Three-point field goals: B -- None. S -- Falbo (1).

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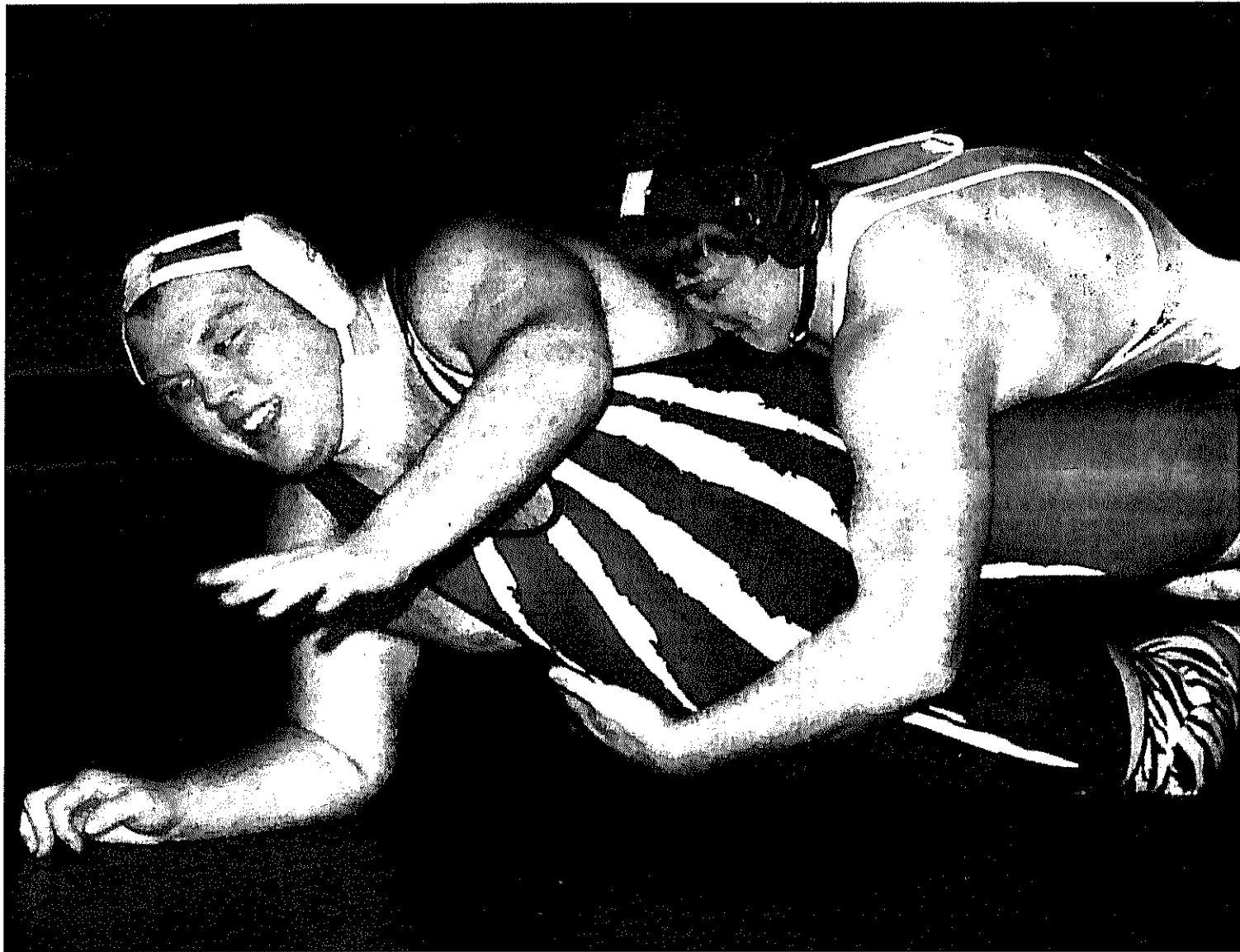
SPORTS

IN
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2004 OVAC Champions

103  Myers	112  Rush
119  Humphrey	125  Saxton
130  Tucker	135  Shaw
140  Schuller	145  Hughes
152  Bowman	160  Davis
171 	180 



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See, Clash, Page B3



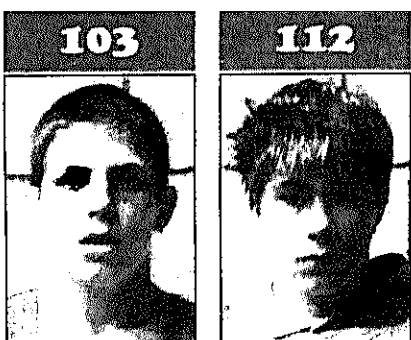
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WVU S Boston

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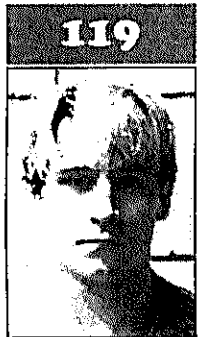
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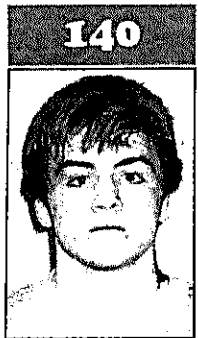
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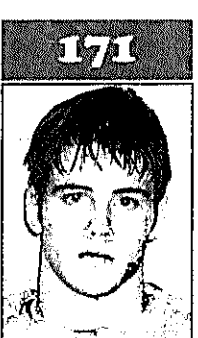
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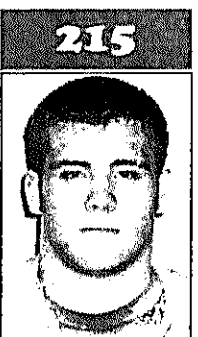
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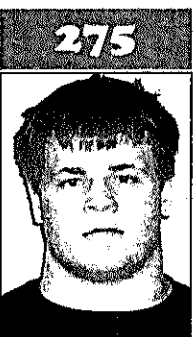
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The Riders won the overall OVAC Championship and concluded that 1999 season with an impressive third-place finish in the Ohio state tournament.

The 1999 OVAC Championship was the second consecutive for the Purple Riders and remains the largest winning margin by any team.

Oberdick picked up his first team championship in 1993.

With Oberdick at the helm, the 1990s was a decade of dominance for Martins Ferry wrestling.

Martins Ferry won seven OVAC Class AAA titles: 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Ferry also won six sectional titles over the span with championships in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998 and 1999.

The Riders also were district champs in 1995 and 1999 and finished in the top 10 in the state on five occasions.

See, Mr. Mat, Page B3

SPORTS

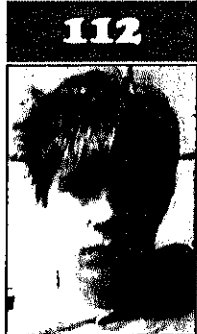
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Register
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**OVAC
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112

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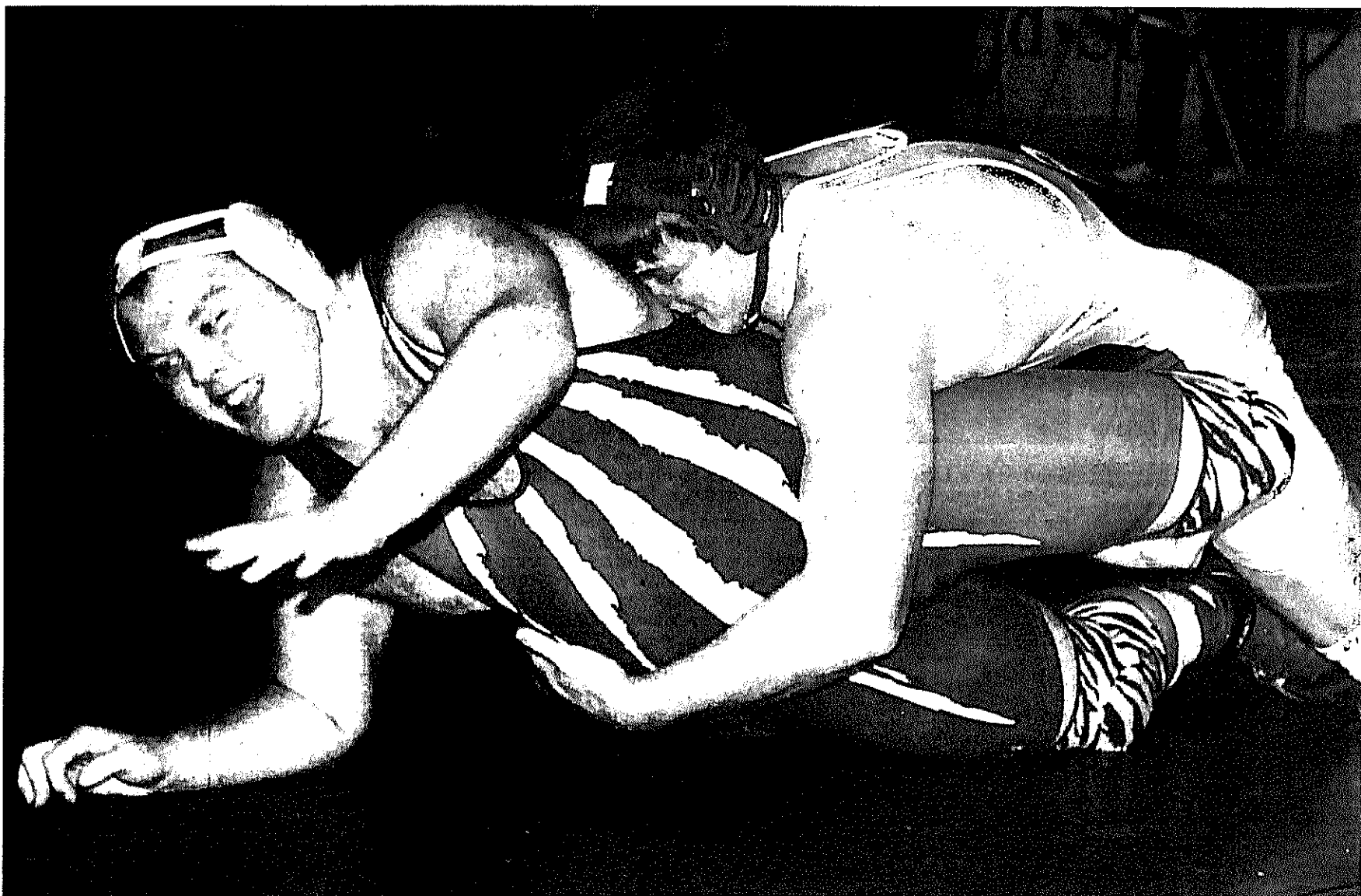


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AP Photo

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WVU Surprises Boston College

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Beilein scored 14 points and made six free throws in the final 25 seconds to help seal the win for the noticeably thinned Mountaineers (10-6, 2-3).

Jerrah Young, who had started three of West Virginia's last four games, didn't play after his cousin was killed earlier this week.

Guard Tyler Relph was limited to just eight minutes after injuring his shoulder in West Virginia's 55-51 win over Marshall on Wednesday.

The remaining six West Virginia players logged more than 20 minutes apiece, and four of them surpassed 30 minutes.

"Our defense is getting better and the kids are working," West Virginia coach John Beilein said. "Not since Tyrone Sally was in high school have we beat a Big East team of this nature — home or away."

Fischer had 12 points and Joe Herber scored 10 for West Virginia, which made eight-of-nine free throws in the final minute.

Sally, a junior who became the Mountaineers' go-to player after leading scorer Drew Schifino's dismissal two weeks ago, tied the season high he established Wednesday against Marshall.

"We've been playing close games all season," Sally said. "We're trying to get used to it and keep pulling it out in the end."

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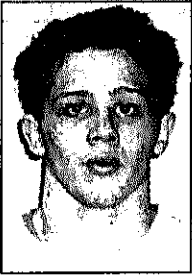
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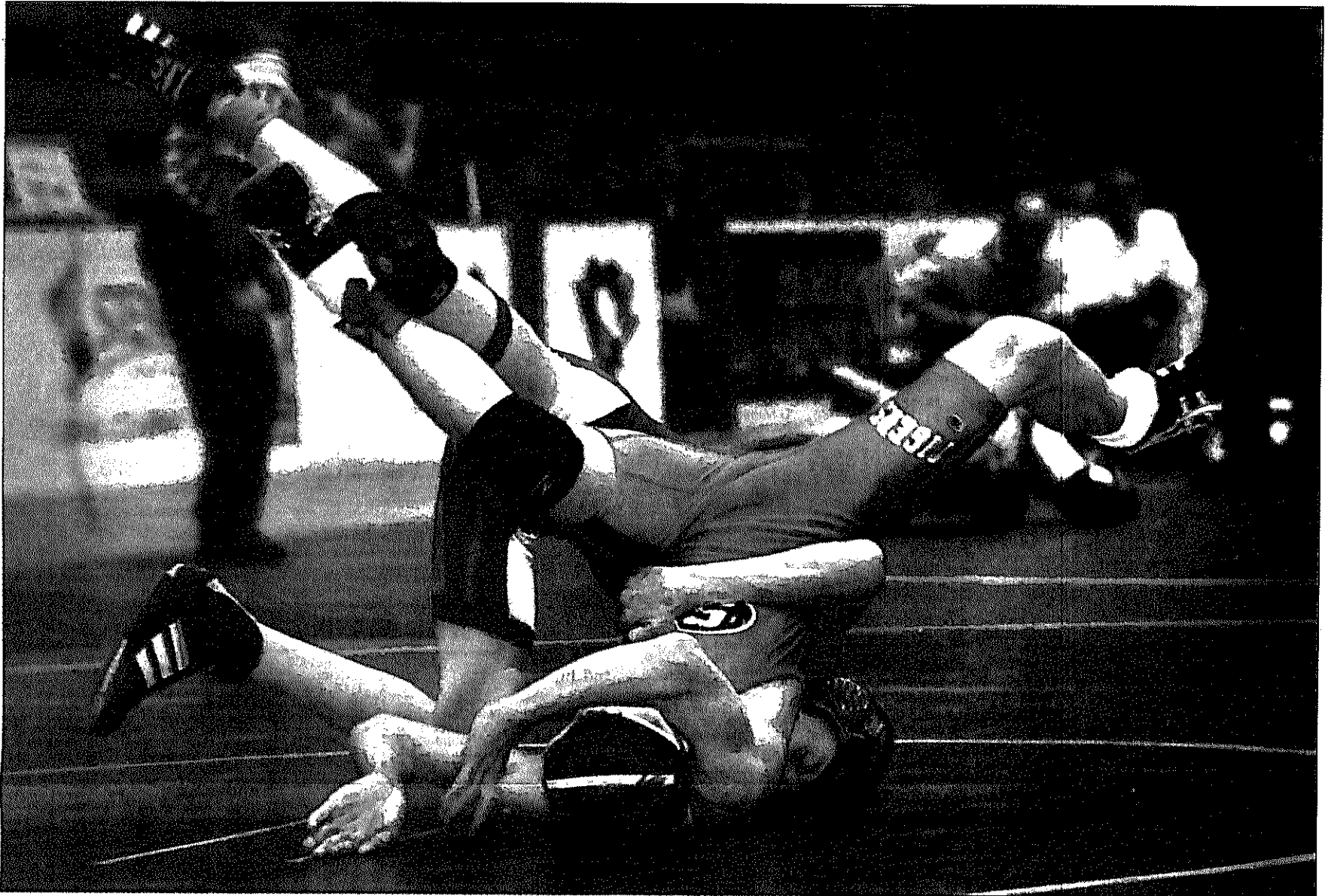
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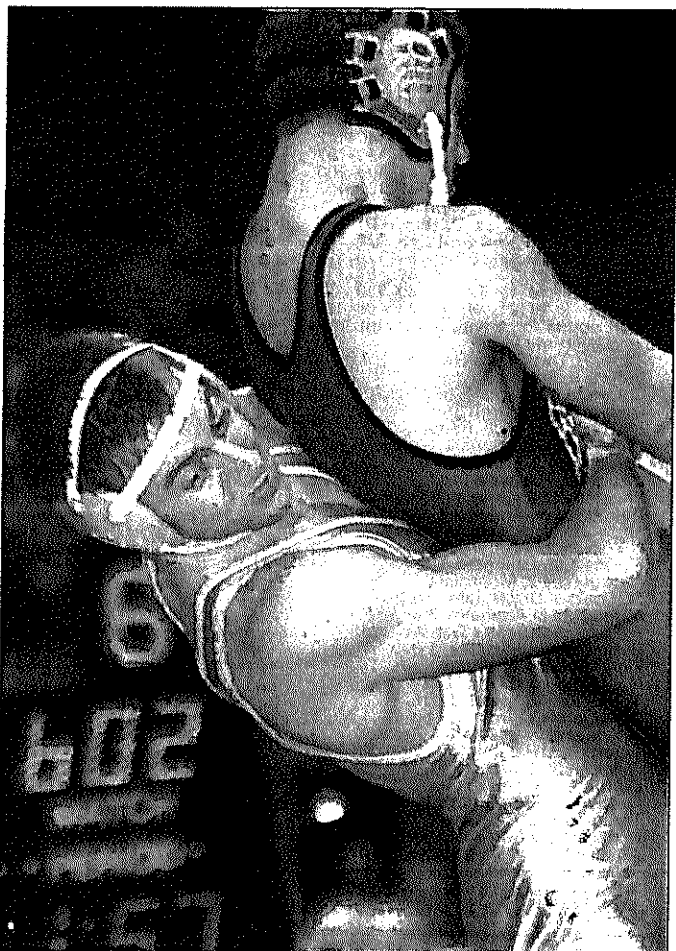


Hoppel

Bears Clawing Field



Above, Beaver Local's Derik Caudill takes down Shadyside's Blake Heslop in their 103-pound consolation bout Friday in the OVAC wrestling tournament. Caudill won by fall in 2:15. Below, Oak Glen's Chris Stevens lifts Steubenville's David Ross in their 171-pound bout. Ross gained a 3-2 decision. Photos by Scott McCloskey



Oak Glen cruises to big second-day lead

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The Oak Glen Golden Bears upped their lead to 33.5 points after Friday's action of the 51st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling tournament, as they've managed to push a tournament-high six wrestlers into the championship semifinals.

The Bears have 146 points while Buckeye Local is in second with 112.5, followed by defending champion Beaver Local (106.5) and Brooke (105.5). Indian Creek rounds out the top 5 with 91.

Leaders of the individual OVAC classes are Buckeye Local in 4A, Oak Glen in 3A, Shenandoah, with 77.5 points in double-A, and Cameron, with 74 points in single-A.

Action resumes today at noon with semifinals and more consolation bouts before the finals get under way at 6:30 p.m.

Both the Panthers and the Bruins have five wrestlers remaining in the championship bracket, while Wheeling Park, Beaver Local and Bellaire St. John's have four.

Indian Creek, John Marshall

and Shadyside have three, while eight different teams have two wrestlers still eyeing OVAC titles.



The Golden Bears are sitting favorably on the consolation side as well, where they have four remaining wrestlers. John Marshall and Shenandoah also have four, while Brooke, Buckeye Local, Beaver Local, St. Clairsville, Union Local, Harrison Central, and Bellaire have three remaining on that side of things.

For Oak Glen coach Larry Shaw, the view at the top is good. It's just still not comfortable.

"We had some nice wins in those semifinals," he said, pointing to guys like Brandon Miller and Shane Wright. "We have to go take care of ourselves. Our kids have goals and we have team goals. Mainly for our kids, they want to do well (today)."

"I'm sure they're coming back to wrestle. They don't want to come down here and

lose matches. Again, we just have to take care of ourselves. If we do that, everything will be OK."

Buckeye Local, among others, is still in striking distance.

With eight remaining wrestlers, including top seeds Brock Bowman and Zach Schuller, the Panthers are certainly not out of it yet.

Coach Brian Davis said second place is a pretty good place to be.

"We're real happy with the way the kids have wrestled," he said. "We've had six of them do as well as expected and we've had two others that have been surprises to us."

One of the surprises he was talking about is 135-pounder Matt Saxton, who had a losing record coming into the tournament, but is still alive in the consolation rounds after losing just a one-point decision in overtime in the championship quarterfinals.

Obviously, the Panthers are looking for a few more surprises on their side, and a few less on the part of Oak Glen.

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