

# Conference Crowns Cheering Champs

Brooke, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Central, Bellaire St. John all earn titles

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

The stands at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling were transformed into a rainbow of colors Saturday as supporters of 29 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference schools took their seats for the 14th OVAC Cheering Competition.

A large throng watched as Brooke, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Central and Bellaire St. John took home trophies for winning their respective classes.

The Bruins once again topped the Class AAAA list. Buckeye Local finished in second place, followed by Weir, Wheeling Park, Edison, East Liverpool and Beaver Local.

Martins Ferry walked away with the Class AAA crown. Indian Creek was second, followed by St. Clairsville, Magnolia, Oak Glen, Tyler Consolidated, Bellaire, Union Local and Harrison Central.

There were just four entrants in Class AA, with the Maroon Knights coming out on top. Steubenville Catholic was runner-up in the division, with Barnesville and River capturing third- and fourth-place, respectively.

Bellaire St. John garnered the crown in Class A. Paden City was second, with Weirton Madonna, Shadyside, Bridgeport, Linsly, Valley, Bishop Donahue and Cameron rounding out the field.

Libby Shepherd, event organizer, said everything went smooth Saturday.

"I thought the event went pretty well," she said. "We were at WesBanco Arena for the first time in a while.

"We had a large number of people attend and we had a large



Members of the Martins Ferry High School cheering team show their excitement after accepting the OVAC Class AAA championship trophy Saturday.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski

amount of girls participate.

"We're really pleased." After taking place at Steubenville's St. John Arena for a few years, the OVAC's made a triumphant return to WesBanco. Shepherd said the 2006 competition will also take place at WesBanco.

The cheerers performed their routines on the arena's basketball court, which was left together following Friday night's boys' basketball tilt between Wheeling Central and Bellaire. The compe-

tion began early in the morning and concluded early in the afternoon. This allowed for arena workers to prepare the venue for the Wheeling Nailers' game against Reading.

The format had each team performing a routine that lasted a maximum of three minutes, according to Shepherd. While one team performed, the next team on the list stood in a staging area just off the arena's main floor.

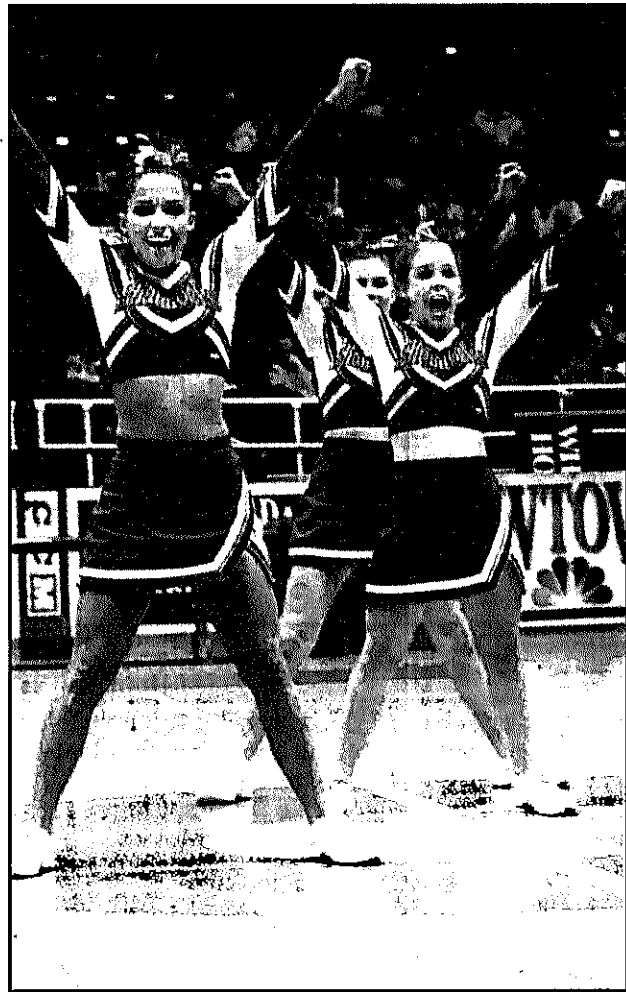
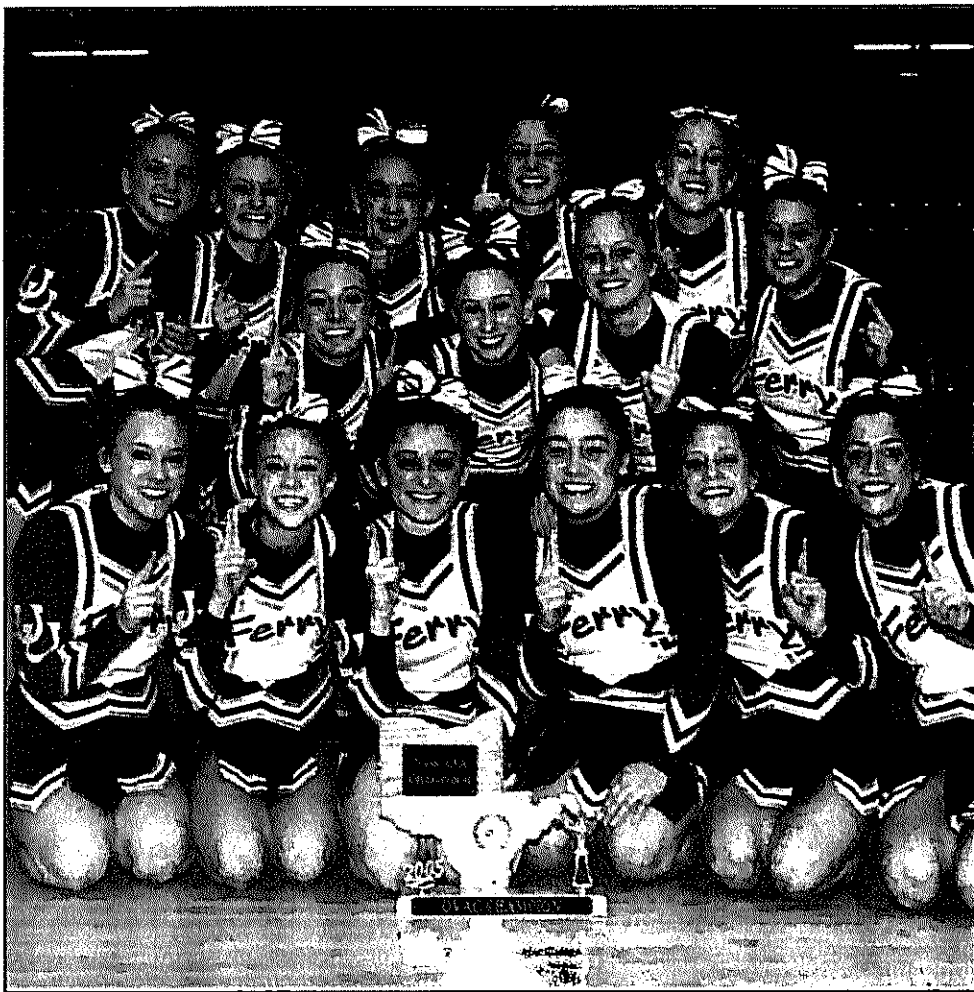
Four judges - two from West

Virginia and two from outside the Mountain State - surveyed the action. Each team was allowed a maximum of 15 girls on the floor at one time.

Teams were judged on a variety of facets.

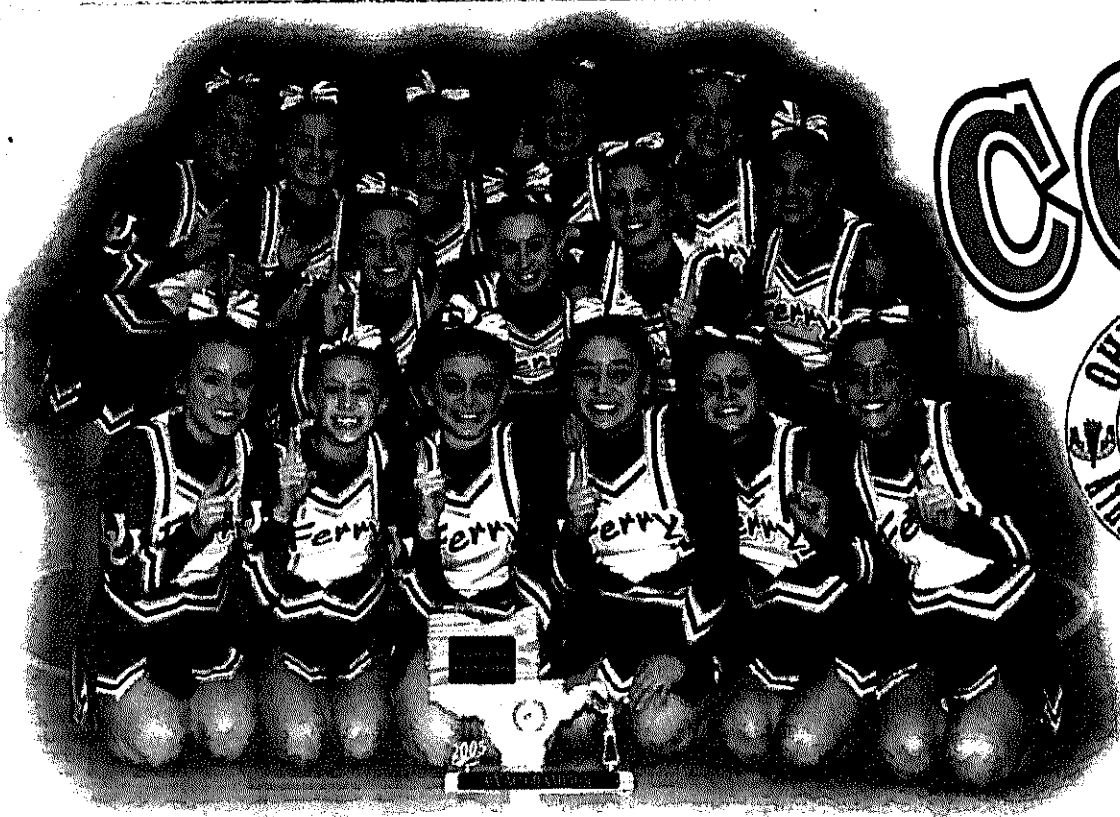
"There is a segment on cheer, there is a segment on dance and there is a segment on choreography," Shepherd explained. "There's also a little bit on tumbling, but basically it has to do with enthusiasm and choreography."

## Ohio Valley filled with cheer



T-L Photos/ MICHAEL HARVILLA

THEY'VE GOT spirit! Crowds of fans watched Saturday as cheerleaders from throughout the Ohio Valley, including squads from Martins Ferry High School, left, and Barnesville High School, right, took the floor at the WesBanco Arena to show their spirit. The Brooke Bruins once again topped the Class AAAA list. Buckeye Local finished in second place. Martins Ferry walked away with the Class AAA crown. Wheeling Central took the AA crown, with Barnesville and River capturing third and fourth place, respectively. Bellaire St. John Central's squad took the Class A honors.



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# OVAC Cheering Event Slated

Brooke, St. Clairsville, Wheeling Central and Paden City will get an opportunity to repeat as champions when the 14th annual OVAC Cheering Competition gets under way Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

Doors will open to squads at 8 a.m. and to the general public at 8:45 a.m.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. Programs will cost \$3.

There will be 32 schools competing. Following is class list in order of performance.

**Class A**  
Cameron, Shadyside, Valley, Bell. St. John,

Bridgeport, Conotton Valley, Linsly, Bishop Donahue, Weirton Madonna, Paden City.

**Class AA**  
Monroe Central, Wheeling Central, Barnesville, Steub. Catholic, River.

**Class AAA**  
Indian Creek, Harrison Central, Magnolia, Oak Glen, Union Local, St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry, Tyler Consolidated, Bellaire.

**Class AAAAA**  
Weir, Beaver Local, Brooke, Buckeye Local, Steubenville, Wheeling Park, East Liverpool, Edison.

## Irish, Riders win OVAC cheer titles

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

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## OVAC cheerleading competition slated

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Doors will open to squads at 8 a.m. and to the general public at 8:45. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students and \$3 for programs. There are 32 schools competing in four divisions and they are as follows:

**Class 1-A** -- Ten schools (In order of Performance) Cameron, Shadyside, Valley, St. Johns, Bridgeport, Conotton Valley, Linsly, Bishop Donahue, Madonna & Paden City.

**Class 2A** -- Five schools (in order of Performance) Monroe Central, Wheeling Central, Barnesville, Catholic Central & River.

**In 3A** -- Nine schools (in order of performance) Indian Creek, Harrison Central, Magnolia, Oak Glen, Union Local, St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry, Tyler Consolidated, & Bellaire.

**In 4A** -- Eight schools (in order of performance) Weir, Beaver Local, Brooke, Buckeye Local, Steubenville, Wheeling Park, East Liverpool & Edison. Schools drew for order of performance at their annual meeting in August. The defending champions are 1A - Paden City, 2A - Wheeling Central, 3A - St. Clairsville & 4A - Brooke.



## ● Cheer

Continued from Page C1

basketball tilt between Wheeling Central and Bellaire. The competition began early in the morning and concluded early in the afternoon. This allowed for arena workers to prepare the venue for the Wheeling Nailers' game against Reading.

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