

Buckeye's Stuart pockets OVAC/DeLuca Realty honor

DeLuca Realty and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has announced that Erica Stuart of Buckeye Local High School has been awarded the third annual DeLuca Realty/OVAC Volleyball Scholarship Award.

Initiated in 2004 through the contribution of DeLuca Realty located on 4030 Sunset Boulevard in Steubenville, the Scholarship Award was established to provide one senior student-athlete from a member school in the 44-school conference with financial assistance at the university, college or school of higher education of their choice.

Erica, a senior at Buckeye Local High School in Connorville is a three-letter winner in volleyball and a four-year letter winner in softball at the school. Erica is listed in the Who's Who Among American Students, is a member of the National Honor Society, is a Merit Scholar and has been accorded a Scholar/Athlete Award. She was selected from among 35 applicants for the award.

"It is always wonderful to see your young people work very hard and succeed as a result of that effort," Rick DeLuca, broker/owner of DeLuca Realty said. "Knowing that Erica has done exactly that throughout her school years, not only on the courts and playing fields, but in the classroom as well. It is indeed an honor to present this year's award to such a fine student-athlete."

OVAC scholarship awards will be presented at the annual Banquet of Champions at the Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling in late May.

OVAC Banquet on tap

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will put the finishing touches on its 2005-06 school year Monday, May 15 when WesBanco Arena hosts the 21st annual OVAC Banquet of Champions.

More than 60 team champions in 18 varsity sports will receive their championship pennants at the event, which will be highlighted by the announcement of the OVAC/Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Award, sponsored by the Wheeling News-Register.

The five finalists for the Coach of the Year Award will be announced in next week's Sunday News-Register.

Several other major awards

will also be presented during the evening.

In addition, a number of the conference's top senior scholar-athletes will receive one of the 37 college scholarships provided by various sponsors.

The total value of this year's scholarships exceeds \$27,000.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the banquet set to begin at 6:30. Pre-dinner music will be provided by the St. Clairsville Chamber Choir.

Cost of the banquet is \$18 per person and the ticket deadline is Wednesday. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets should call Ron White at (304) 277-3599.

The Intelligencer.

H.C. Ogden, Publisher 1904-1943

4

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Congratulations, OVAC Champs!

Top scholar-athletes from Northern Panhandle and East Ohio schools have basked in well-deserved glory for the past few days, as a result of two special events.

First, on Saturday night, was Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Day of Champions at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Members of athletic teams that won OVAC championships during the past year were honored with special activities before the Pittsburgh Pirates game against the Florida Marlins. The event was sponsored by the Pirates, the OVAC, The Times Leader of Martins Ferry, The Intelligencer and the Wheeling News-Register.

Then, on Monday night at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, the OVAC held its 21st annual Banquet of Champions. During that event, members of the more than 60 teams that won OVAC titles during the year were honored. Several other important awards also were presented.

Also during the event, the OVAC handed out 37 college scholarships to deserving young people.

Our congratulations to all athletes, coaches and others honored during the two OVAC activities. As anyone who ever has participated in an extra-curricular activity understands, excellence does not come naturally, without effort. It requires both natural talent and dedication — which means hard work. That teaches young scholar-athletes important lessons, among them self-discipline, that can help them greatly later in life.

In addition to paying tribute to members of OVAC championship teams, we take this opportunity to praise all those who have made the OVAC one of the most successful high school athletic conferences in the nation. They, too, work hard — to do something worthwhile for area young people. In our minds, that makes them champions, too.



Banquet Of Champions Is May 15

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will put the finishing touches on its 2005-06 school year Monday, May 15 when WesBanco Arena hosts the 21st annual OVAC Banquet of Champions.

More than 60 team champions in 18 varsity sports will receive their championship pennants at the event, which will be highlighted by the announcement of the OVAC/Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Award, sponsored by the Wheeling News-Register.

The five finalists for the Coach of the Year Award will be announced in next week's Sunday News-Register.

Several other major awards will also be presented during the evening.

In addition, a number of the conference's top senior scholar-athletes will receive one of the 37 college scholarships provided by various sponsors.

The total value of this year's scholarships exceeds \$27,000.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the banquet set to begin at 6:30. Pre-dinner music will be provided by the St. Clairsville Chamber Choir.

Cost of the banquet is \$18 per person and the ticket deadline is Wednesday. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets should call Ron White at (304) 277-3599.

Our Opinion

Night of Champions

The night the stars come out.
Tonight is just that night.

The 21st Annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Banquet of Champions will play out at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. It is the Cadillac of prep athletic banquets.

All the teams which won OVAC championships this past school year will be recognized and honored. The school's administration, coaches, seniors and captains are invited guests to the classy affair.

Moreover, a slew of scholarships will be doled out. Some 37 scholarships, surpassing \$27,000, will be leaving with worthy student-athletes tonight to use to advance their higher education.

Another highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year Award, encompassing all OVAC-sponsored sports.

The five finalists have been selected with just the eventual winner to be identified. It is an exclamation

point on any coach's resume.

It is a star-studded affair with well-deserving coaches and athletes earning the spotlight, feted for going that extra mile and earning championships in a team environment.

Tonight's banquet is a top-shelf reward for what athletics stand for: dedication, commitment, team play, sacrifice and hard work.

Banquet chairman Ron White spends countless hours making sure each detail falls in place. It is a thankless job, one which he has mastered flawlessly.

The OVAC Banquet of Champions is a night for championship coaches and athletes to reap their just rewards, one last time before the school year comes to a close.

It's also a night the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference should receive its proper recognition for going the extra mile for its student-athletes and coaches. The Banquet of Champions is another reflection why the OVAC is a conference second to none.