

Our Opinion

Night of Stars

THE OHIO Valley Athletic Conference puts on the Ritz tonight as it holds its 22nd annual Banquet of Champions.

The gala affair will unfold at 6:30 p.m. at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. The special guests all earned their respective invitations by one common denominator -- that being success. Be it in the athletic realm or the academic setting, tonight's guests are in attendance because they truly are champions.

The OVAC -- the largest functioning conference in the nation -- will pay tribute to 63 team champions from the 2006-07 school year. Each of the pennant-winning squads will be represented by their school's administration, coaches, seniors and captains. That translates into a hefty total, a number which all of us can look on with great pride.

The banquet -- once again under the meticulous scrutiny of Ron White -- goes beyond the athletic fields. Some 36 college scholarships will be awarded, totaling some \$27,000.

The list of scholarships continue to grow each year, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses caring for the betterment of our youth.

It is also a reflection the OVAC is a conference which stands for much more than athletics.

Tonight's topper will be the presentation of the OVAC Coach of the Year. Five finalists have been chosen -- Magnolia's Dave Cisar, Oak Glen's Larry Shaw, Wheeling Central's Mike Young, Tom Wise of Bishop Donahue and Steubenville's Reno Saccoccia, who won the award last year.

One will leave with the brass ring, but all five have demonstrated what truly coaching is all about.

High school athletics are one of the major players in the makeup of the Ohio Valley. We offer our praise to OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and all the other conference officials who properly honor our student-athletes and reinforce the values gleaned from athletics.

Editor's Note: A page designer's error led to the wrong picture being published with the Wheeling Central cheerleaders on page 20 of the OVAC Championship Yearbook. The correct picture and roster are below.

Wheeling Central

Head Coach: Arica Holt



CLASS
AA

Ashley Alig
Jane Allen
Jessica Assaro
Alex Cornelia
Alexa Cross
Erica Cross
Gabrielle Dean
Meghan DeLorenzo
Alyssa Grubler
Lindsey Harden
Chelsea Kohler

Emily Leonard
Taylor Lucas
Shalynn Marvin
Chelsea Mills
Brittany Olejasz
Nicole Peklinsky
Stephanie Pockl
Courtney Schrebe
Marissa Schrebe
Timorie Underwood



OVAC Banquet set for May 14

It's been a long and winding road for Ohio Valley prep athletes.

Now that all of the conference titles have been decided for the 2006-07 school year, it's time for the athletes to be applauded for their efforts that warranted them an OVAC Championship.

The 22nd annual OVAC Banquet of Champions is set for Monday, May 14 at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

Champions in every sport will be recognized along with the presentation of 36 scholarships, totaling more than \$27,000.

The event is open to the public at a cost of \$18 per person and the deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, May 9 and no tickets will be sold at the door. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets should contact Ron White at 1-304-277-3599.

The scholarships to be presented include: Kroger (2), Pepsi-Cola (2), Bodkin Wilson & Kozicki (Soccer), Douglas Pilney Memorial (Golf); OVAC Softball; Ohio Valley Football Officials; Samuel A. Mumley, WesBanco (2), OVAC Boosters (8), Scholastic Sports Marketing, Clare Kapral (Track), Henry Lazasz Basketball (2), Richard Potts Basketball (2), Stephen Hannig Memorial, OVAC Cheerleader (2), Wrestling (5), OVAC Baseball and OVAC Basketball Coaches Clinic.

Along with those awards the Dave Bierkorette Award will be presented to the Most Outstanding Wrestler from this past year's conference tournament. The annual presentation of the News Register Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach of the Year Award will also be made.

From the Press Box

OVAC Championship Week is always one for the memory bank



By
Seth
Staskey
Times Leader
Sports Editor

The spring time is most people's favorite time of the year because it's warm and outdoor activities can go on without much interruption.

While those are nice events and are somewhat involved in the spring being this writer's favorite time of the year, the biggest reason is because of the championship week the OVAC presents.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowns champions in four spring sports. The tennis champions were crowned this week and this week the softball, baseball and track champions are set to be decided.

The thing that makes the spring season so great for crowning champions is the fact that all are settled on the field, court or track. None are decided through a points system and the athletes come to play with nothing short of a title on their mind.

While the OVAC has its detractors – needless to say I am not one of those – the athletes and coaches who are taking part in the spring sports want to hoist the conference title and later collect a conference banner more than they want their next breath in a lot of instances.

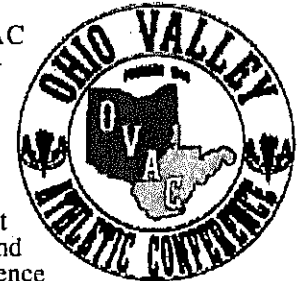
If they tell you they don't care or worry about the OVAC, don't believe them. There's no competitive person – in athletics – who doesn't want to win as many championships as they possibly can.

That shows me what it's all about. I also understand the significance of going deep in the state-sanctioned events, but winning the OVAC title is something that athletes and coaches never forget.

I know everytime I walk into a local gymnasium, the OVAC banners are one of the first things I look for. Sounds strange, but it's true. Those banners mean something. They not only mean that respective team was the best in its sport for that year, but it has more meaning for the people who helped reach that goal.

While the athletes and coaches take center stage once the events get started – and rightfully so – the conference has committees and people making the decisions who deserve to be commended.

The softball committee deserves major kudos for the headaches it's endured this week. Monday's quarterfinal round went off without a hitch – as far I know at least. The semi-final round got washed out Wednesday, meaning six



tion.

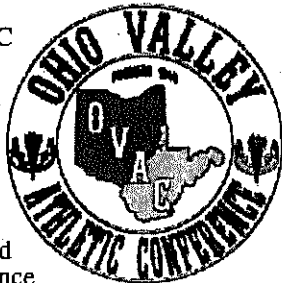
While those are nice events

and are somewhat involved in the spring being this writer's favorite time of the year, the biggest reason is because of the championship week the OVAC presents.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowns champions in four spring sports. The tennis champions were crowned this week and this week the softball, baseball and track champions are set to be decided.

The thing that makes the spring season so great for crowning champions is the fact that all are settled on the field, court or track. None are decided through a points system and the athletes come to play with nothing short of a title on their mind.

While the OVAC has its detractors – needless to say I am not one of those – the athletes and coaches who are taking part in the spring sports want to hoist the conference title and later collect a conference banner more than they want their next breath in a lot of instances.



If they tell you they don't care or worry about the OVAC, don't believe them. There's no competitive person – in athletics – who doesn't want to win as many championships as they possibly can.

That shows me what it's all about. I also understand the significance of going deep in the state-sanctioned events, but winning the OVAC title is something that athletes and coaches never forget.

I know everytime I walk into a local gymnasium, the OVAC banners are one of the first things I look for. Sounds strange, but it's true. Those banners mean something. They not only mean that respective team was the best in its sport for that year, but it has more meaning for the people who helped reach that goal.

While the athletes and coaches take center stage once the events get started – and rightfully so – the conference has committees and people making the decisions who deserve to be commended.

The softball committee deserves major kudos for the headaches it's endured this week. Monday's quarterfinal round went off without a hitch – as far I know at least. The semi-final round got washed out Wednesday, meaning six games were played Thursday. No sweat right?

Well it appeared so until the St. John game went 16 innings, forcing everything to be pushed back. The third game on Lisa's Field didn't see its first pitch until late in the evening.

Then came the final two semi-final games, which went off without a hitch Friday. However, Saturday's championship schedule had to be revised due to prom issues amongst several schools.

Needless to say it's been a hectic week at Chambers, but again, it's for the kids, making it a little easier to deal with.

This week is the annual Cal Giffin Track and Field Championships at Shadyside and Bellaire, respectively. Let's hope the weather doesn't fool around with the greatest four days in Ohio Valley prep track and field.

SUNDAY NEWS-REGISTER – Wheeling, W.Va. – Sunday, May 6,

Plans Being Finalized For OVAC Banquet

Annual fete set for May 14 in Wheeling

Plans are being finalized for the 22nd annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Banquet of Champions, scheduled for May 14 at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the festivities getting under way at 6:30 p.m.

The banquet honors the players and coaches from every OVAC championship team in the 2006-07 school year.

All 62 of the bi-state conference's championship teams will be presented with their OVAC championship pennants.

In addition to honoring this year's champions, a total of 36 college scholarships worth more than \$27,000 will be awarded.

Several major awards are also scheduled to be presented, highlighted by the announcement of the Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year Award.

The award is named in honor of Bill Van Horne, a charter member of the OVAC



Hall of Fame who spent more than a half-century chronicling the careers of Ohio Valley coaches and athletes as the sports editor of the Times Leader and Wheeling News-Register.

Tickets to the event are priced at \$18 and must be ordered by Wednesday. No tickets will be sold at the door.

To purchase tickets, call Ron White at (304) 277-3599.

OVAC Scholarships

OVAC Boosters (8); Wrestling (5); Kroger (2); Pepsi-Cola (2); WesBanco (2); OVAC Cheerleaders (2); Henry Laszsz Basketball (2); Richard Potts Basketball (2); Samuel A. Mumley Memorial; Stephen E. Hannig Memorial; Bodkin, Wilson and Kozicki Soccer; Douglas Filney Memorial Golf; OVAC Softball; Ohio Valley Football Officials; Scholastic Sports Marketing; Clare Kapral Track; OVAC Baseball; OVAC Basketball Coaches Clinic; DeLuca Realty Volleyball

DeLuca Realty, OVAC award scholarship

DELUCA REALTY and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has announced that Brandi Nichole Beebe of Edison School has been awarded the fourth annual DeLuca Realty/OVAC Volleyball Scholarship Award.

Initiated in 2004 through the contributions of DeLuca Realty located at 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.

Brandi, a senior at Edison High School in Richmond is a two-year co-captain in volleyball and was a two-year letter winner in track at the school. Brandi is listed in the Who's Who Among American



Students, is a member of the National Honor Society, has been a class president during her junior and senior years and has been accorded a Scholar/Athlete Award. She was selected from among 44 applicants for the award.

"It is always wonderful to see our young people work very hard and succeed as a result of that effort," Rick DeLuca, broker/owner of DeLuca Realty said. "Knowing that Brandi has done exactly that throughout her school years, not only on the courts and in track 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 on May 14.

OVAC Scholarships

- Bodkin, Wilson & Kozicki Soccer Scholarships
- Allison Martinelli, Linsly Cal Giffin Memorial Track Service Award
- Kim Dallison, Valley Clare Kapral Track Scholarship
- Lauren Bauer, Wheeling Central Daniel M. Burke Wrestling Scholarship
- James Myers, Indian Creek Dave Bierkorte Award
- James Myers, Indian Creek DeLuca Realty Volleyball Scholarship
- Brandi Beebe, Edison Douglas S. Pilney Memorial Golf Scholarship
- Dylan Mercer, John Marshall Football Officials' Scholarship
- Kevin Snyder, Magnolia George Kovalick Wrestling Scholarship
- Daniel Felton, Brooke Henry Lazasz Basketball Scholarship
- Kodey Haddox, Zanesville Justin Lowe, Tyler Consolidated James "Dead Eye" Morris Wrestling Scholarship
- Stephen Jewell, Wheeling Park Kroger Food and Drug Scholarship
- Marissa Melanko, Shadyside Jessica Campbell, Cambridge Lucas D. Sedgmer Memorial Scholarship
- Eric Diagosta, East Liverpool Matt Salsberry Wrestling Scholarship
- Tim Osbon, Oak Glen OVAC Baseball Scholarship
- Patrick Ohrman Jr., Linsly OVAC Basketball Coaches Clinic Scholarship
- Brittany King, Paden City OVAC Boosters Scholarship
- Sarah Wickham, Indian Creek Sarah Pryor, Paden City Tiffany Dolan, Wheeling Park Stefan Green, St. Clairsville Jessica Harlan, Steubenville Catholic
- Chad Kinder, Buckeye Trail Richard Hitt, Linsly Michael Lyons, Cambridge OVAC Cheering Scholarship
- Kelsay Jendrusik, Union Local Jessica Criswell, John Marshall OVAC Softball Scholarship
- Shannan Veyon, Paden City OVAC Track Scholarship
- Travis Croxall, East Liverpool Pepsi-Cola Scholarship
- Tiffany Reese, Meadowbrook David Ogden, Buckeye Local Richard Potts Basketball Scholarship
- Megan Gialluco, Brooke Mara Bowman, Buckeye Local Samuel A. Mumley Memorial Scholarship
- Kathryn Jones, Bellaire Scholastic Sports Management Scholarship
- Jill Lytton, Shadyside Stephen E. Hannig Memorial Scholarship
- John Zumpetta, Brooke WesBanco Scholarship
- Sean Eagan, Cameron