

## Our Opinion

# Banquet of Champions

THE OHIO Valley Athletic Conference is putting on the ritz Monday night.

The nation's largest functioning athletic conference drops the curtain on its 67th year of operation when it stages the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

Monday night's affair is the Cadillac of prep banquets.

Teams claiming conference titles this past academic year will be recognized, receiving championship pennants to be hung in their respective schools. More than 50 teams in all will be honored for capturing coveted conference crowns.

Along those athletic lines, five coaches have been singled out as finalists for the prestigious Bill Van Horn/Wheeling News-Register Coach of The Year Award. The winner will be announced as one of Monday night's highlights, an award of major significance as the conference boasts some 500 head coaches.

The final five includes: Tom Bruney (Brooke); Ed Andes (Shadyside); Heidi Mooney (St. Clairsville), Bob Kramer of (Madonna) and Paul

Jackson (Parkersburg South). Each did a remarkable job this past year.

But the OVAC Banquet of Champions is more than just athletic recognition. Far from it.

Nearly \$30,000 in scholarships, encompassing nearly 40 awards, will be handed out at WesBanco.

That is a most noteworthy and generous statement from individuals and companies who believe in the conference and the youth it serves. It's a refreshing and heartwarming investment in the future of our student-athletes.

While the banquet plays out seamlessly in a few hours, it is a happening which takes a countless amount of time to put together. That is the thankless task of Ron White, one that he does with great expertise.

Athletes and coaches will gain much of Monday night's limelight, but what should not be overlooked is the selfless actions of scholarship donors, OVAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Rataiczak, the conference's executive board and White.

It all adds up to a championship night for a conference filled with champions.

# Scholarships, banners presented at OVAC Banquet of Champions



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Seven local student-athletes were among 44 scholarship recipients at the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions. The group includes, front row l to r, Brandi Bahmer of Barnesville, OVAC Boosters Scholarship; Paige Carpenetti of Cambridge, Kinetic Networking Scholarship; and Carly Kehn of Cambridge, Henry Lazasz Basketball Scholarship; back row, Tyler Cordell of Caldwell, Clare Kapral Memorial OVAC Track and Field Scholarship; Jacob Border of Caldwell, OVAC Boosters Scholarship; Zac Wojciechowski of Cambridge, OVAC Boosters Scholarship; and Doug Burris of Cambridge, OVAC Track Scholarship.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Bringing home championship banners from the OVAC Banquet of Champions were these four head coaches from local schools. Pictured, l to r, are Dustin Robison of Caldwell (Class 2-A wrestling); Rod Johnson of Cambridge (Class 4-A volleyball); Mel Pesuit of Meadowbrook (Class 3-A golf); and Jeff Beros of Buckeye Trail (Class 2-A volleyball). A total of 62 banners in the various sports were presented along with the four overall class championship banners.



# Congratulations!

## OVAC Banquet of Champions

### Scholarship Winners



**Tori Jarrett**  
Beallsville

Bette Ponzo  
Memorial Basketball  
Scholarship

OVAC Basketball  
Coaches Clinic  
Scholarship



**Trevor Bobka**  
Bellaire

Kroger  
Scholarship



**Rylan Pyciak**  
Buckeye Local

Lucas D. Sedgmer  
Memorial  
Scholarship



**Luke Holubeck**  
St. John

Ohio Valley Runners'  
& Walkers' Club  
Scholarship



**Trenton Soukup**  
St. Clairsville

OVAC Boosters  
Scholarship



**Nathan Maleski**  
Bridgeport

OVAC Boosters  
Scholarship



**Brandi Bahmer**  
Barnesville

OVAC Boosters  
Scholarship



**Shelby Bartrug**  
Buckeye Local

OVAC Cheering  
Scholarship



**Kara Bobka**  
Bellaire

OVAC Track  
Scholarship



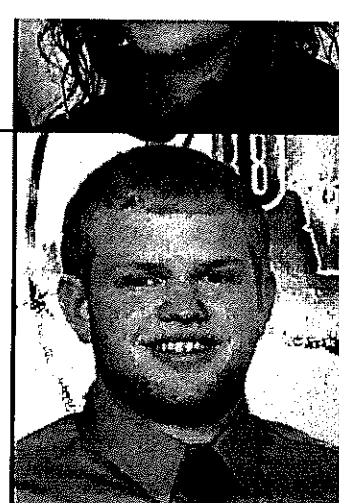
**Justin Andes**  
Shadyside

Ray Ponzio  
Basketball  
Scholarship



**Daniel Slavik**  
St. Clairsville

Richard Potts  
Basketball  
Scholarship



**Dillon Lipperman**  
Bridgeport

Scholastic Sports  
Marketing  
Scholarship

**STOP THE**

**streaking**

**IN YOUR**

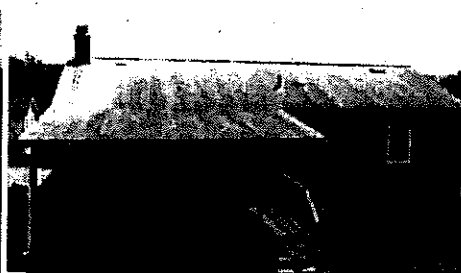
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**JUNE 13TH & JUNE 27TH, 2010**

**Doors Open 12:00 Noon**

**Games Start at 2:00 pm**

**WHEELING ISLAND CASINO**

**1 South Stone St., Wheeling, WV 26003**

**\$70 Entry Pack -18 Cards for All Regular Games & Coveralls!**

**EVERY PAID ADMISSION WILL RECEIVE A:  
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**\$12,000**

**JUNE 13TH  
\$5 OFF  
ONE GAME**

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2	Outside Frame.....	\$300.00
3	Coverall.....	\$1,000.00

### REGULAR GAMES

1	Double Bingo.....	\$400.00
2	Crazy Kite.....	\$400.00
3	Double Bingo.....	\$400.00
4	Six Pack Floating in Corner...	\$400.00
5	Single Bingo Hard Way.....	\$400.00
6	Double Bingo.....	\$400.00