

## OVAC All-STAR SOCCER GAMES

# W.Va. Girls, Ohio Boys Victorious

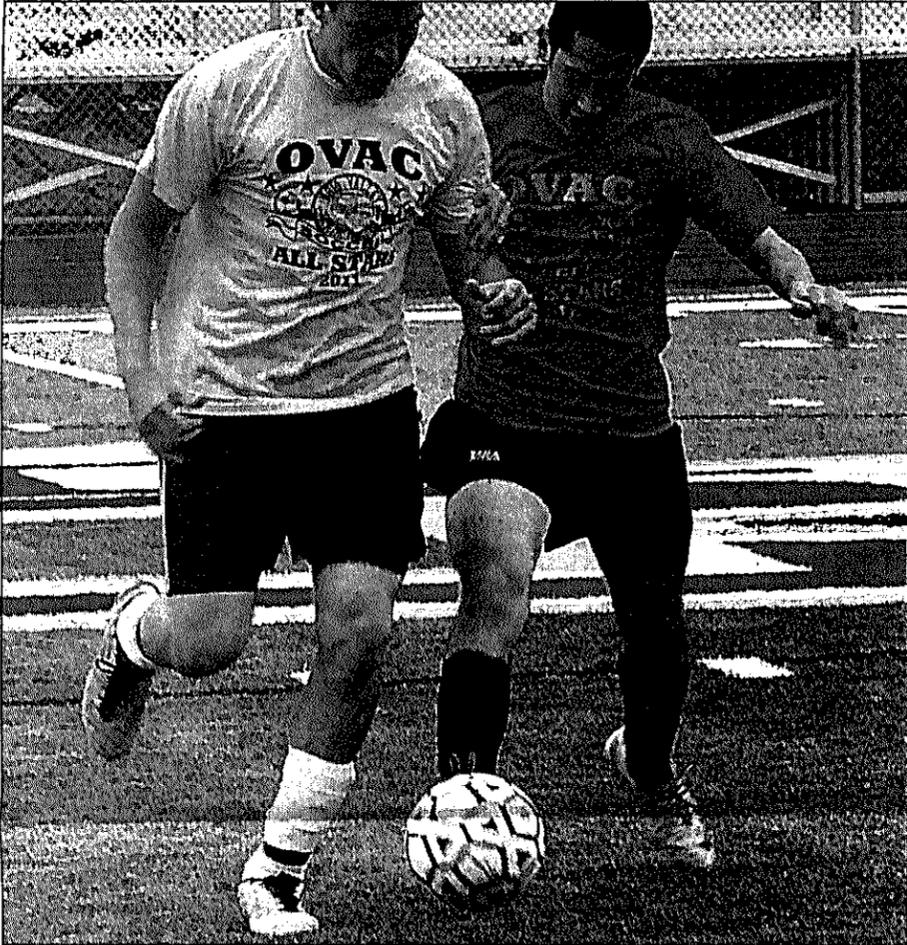


Photo by Josh Strope

West Virginia's Derek Wayne (Brooke), left, and Ohio's Joe Leonard (Steubenville Catholic) battle for possession Sunday.

## Buckeyes finally break through

By JOSH STROPE  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Steubenville coach Greg Bowers had quite the luxury during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game at Red Devil Stadium.

On one hand, he had Indian Creek goalkeeper Eric Price, who had a solid senior season with the Redskins. On the other, he had his netminder, Chris Nehrbas, a two-time All-Valley first-teamer.

Bowers went with Price and it paid all the difference as the Indian Creek stand-out turned aside several key shots in the closing minutes

as Ohio topped West Virginia, 4-3, and the Buckeyes earned their first victory in the 15 years of the annual game.

"We are out of shape," Bowers joked. "The kids played hard, and they wanted to win."

"That is the fun part about this game. It's fun but it's competitive. Both teams played as hard as they could."

"We knew Chris could play defense from previous years, and Price had an excellent season in goal. It was a lot easier using Chris in the field and keeping Price back there."

Price was selected the Ohio Defensive Player of the Game after stopping seven shots, all coming in the second half.

While Bowers couldn't have gone wrong with either choice, Weir coach Joe Pepe would have loved to make that decision.

Pepe, who was filling in as head coach for Wheeling Park's Mario Julian, arrived to the field and found out that Tyler Consolidated's Einar Mellem, the lone goalkeeper on the squad, was injured and unable to play.

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Photo by Josh Strope

West Virginia's Megan Robinson, right, (Wheeling Park) is defended by Ohio's Kelli Milliken (Steubenville) on Sunday.

## Girls' game has Brooke feel

By JOSH STROPE  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The marquee may have said West Virginia versus Ohio, but the Girls' OVAC All-Star Soccer Game belonged to the Brooke Bruins.

Maci Hascak was named the West Virginia Offensive Player of the Game, scoring two goals in the first half as the Mountaineers blanked the Buckeyes, 3-0, on Sunday at Red Devil Stadium.

"It was a great honor and I'm glad I got the chance to play in this game," Hascak said. "It was very exciting to be with everybody that you spent so much time with during the season."

"In the regular season, you are always fighting to get the ball from them, so it was a great experience and a new way to bond."

Hascak was joined in the scoring column by teammate Kara Mezan, while her other teammate, Ashley Wilcox, was a solid contributor on defense.

The West Virginia coaching staff was made up of Linsly coach Erica Hall, Brooke coach Lee Weppler, and Weir coach Jessica Naughton — all graduates of Brooke.

"Jessica and I played together on the same teams so it brought back some memories," said Hall, also a former girls' coach at Brooke.

Hascak and Mezan showed their chemistry early on as Mezan found Hascak at the far post on a corner kick to put West Virginia up 1-0 just 2 minutes in.

Mezan notched her own goal in the 16th minutes as a shot from 25 yards out sailed over the defense and off the fingertips of East Liverpool's Sarah Boley, the Ohio goalkeeper, for the 2-0 lead.

Hascak earned her second goal in similar fashion, scoring off a corner kick, this time with an assist from Linsly standout Alex Frawley.

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## GIRLS'

(Continued from Page 11)

"Coach Erica Hall was explaining to me where to go and it just happened I was right there."

"I love soccer and I am always an intense player. That is how I play. I am always going after it, no matter where I am."

The three goals were more than enough to hold up. Ohio managed just one shot, an attempt from St. Clairsville's Chelsea Wamsley in the second half.

"We knew coming in that we

had a really, really solid team," Hall said. "Our roster from top to bottom, I don't think you could have asked for a better all-star team."

"A lot of girls were talking and that is the cool part. There was a lot of experience on the field for West Virginia and having players like Alex and Ashley (Ramsey from University) talking in the center, Aliya (Kureishy from Linsly) up top, it was really fun to watch these girls work."

Ohio didn't back down and kept

West Virginia off the scoreboard in the second half.

"We played the best we could and a few of them haven't played in a long, long time," Edison coach Jeremy Angelo said. "We changed defenses in the second half, went to more of a 4-4-2, putting an extra person back. I thought the first part of the second half, we dominated. They never gave up, but they just got tired."

Game Notes

Weir's Bobbie Jo Julian was

named the W.Va. Defensive Player of the Game. Indian Creek's Ashley Ruttencutter (offensive) and Edison's Carissa Myler (defensive) were the Ohio winners. ... Ohio had just 11 players, so Hall sent two players each half to join the Buckeyes. Tyler Consolidated's Emily Wildman and Linsly's Anna Geismann were Buckeyes in the first half, while Parkersburg South's Sarah Hesson and Oak Glen's Brit-tany Loveland joined in the second half.

## BUCKEYES

(Continued from Page 11)

The veteran coach turned to Wheeling Park's Cody Winiesdorffer and Brooke's Joey DiBartolomeo, neither of whom had ever played the position.

"This is about the 10th, 11th time and I've always been on the winning part of these things," Pepe said. "The kids played well, played strong, we just couldn't find the back of the net. We had pressure on Ohio the whole time."

"You couldn't ask for any two kids to step up like Joey and Cody did. They did the work between

the pipes and did an excellent job for us."

Early on, the game looked like it would be a rout as Steubenville Central's Peter Herman and Cambridge's Chris Pearson scored in the opening 11 minutes.

West Virginia battled back as Linsly's Tyler Davis hooked up with Cadets teammate Senai Tesfagorgis on a direct kick. Davis' shot curled around the Ohio wall and Tesfagorgis headed the ball off the post and past Price to cut the lead in half.

Steubenville's Hunter Naylor

took advantage of a West Virginia miscue and found himself with a wide-open shot that he buried past DiBartolomeo to put the Buckeyes back up two minutes before half-time.

West Virginia clamped down on defense and was aggressive on offense in the second half, controlling the tempo.

Linsly's Kevin Langue made the score 3-2, just getting a foot on ball after a corner kick from Weir's Matt Kopp and it trickled past Price.

Again, Naylor put the Buckeyes

back up two after a through ball from Pearson at the 74th minute, Ohio's only shot of the final 40 minutes.

Tesfagorgis added his second in the 76th minute but Price made save after save, denying Langue, Tesfagorgis, DiBartolomeo, and Weir's Tyler Salko to earn Ohio's first victory in the final minutes.

Pearson was named the Ohio Offensive Player of the Game with a goal and two assists. Tesfagorgis (offensive) and Langue (defense) were the West Virginia winners.



Photo/JOSH STROPE

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Dallas Young executes a corner kick during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Soccer Game at Red Devil Stadium. The Ohio boys' squad prevailed.

## ● Boys

Continued from Page B1

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# Ohio, W.Va. all-stars split OVAC soccer

• Buckeye boys prevail, 4-3

By JOSH STROPE  
For The Times Leader

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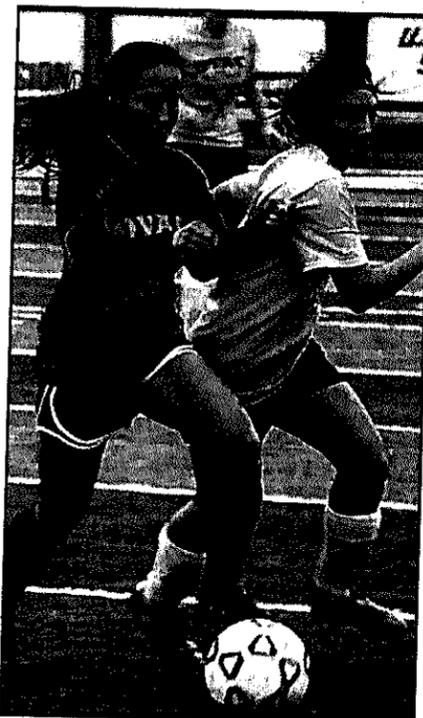
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"We knew Chris could play defense from previous years, and Price had an excellent season in goal. It was a lot easier using Chris in the field and keeping Price back there."

Price was selected the Ohio Defensive Player of the Game after

See, BOYS, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Christina Prezgia works against Weir's Bobbi Jo Julian for possession of the ball during Sunday's OVAC All-Star soccer game at Red Devil Stadium.

• Buckeye girls blanked

By JOSH STROPE  
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The marquee at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville may have said West Virginia versus Ohio, but the Girls' OVAC All-Star Soccer Game belonged to the Brooke Bruins.

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