

Our Opinion

Special Night

THE OHIO Valley Athletic Conference closed its athletic year in grand fashion Monday night.

The nation's largest functioning athletic conference dropped the curtain on another successful year of operation when it staged its annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. The conference affair is the cadillac of prep fetes.

Teams claiming conference titles this past academic year were recognized, receiving championship pennants to be displayed in their respective schools.

Along those athletic lines, five coaches were singled out as finalists for the prestigious Bill Van Horne/Wheeling News-Register Coach of The Year Award. St. Clairsville's Brett McLean was selected as the winner, an award of major significance as the conference boasts some 500 head coaches.

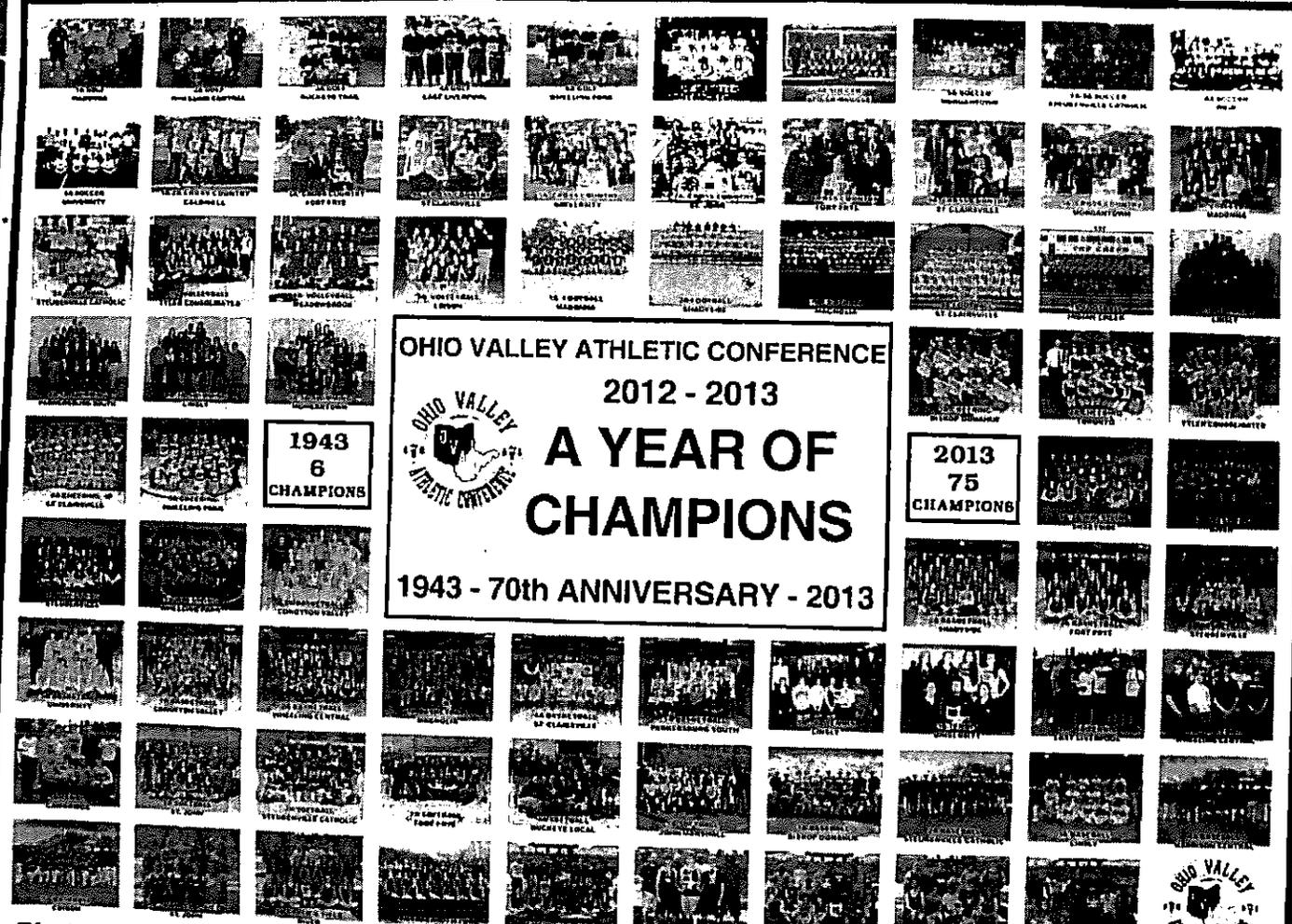
But the OVAC Banquet of Champions is more than just athletic recognition. Far from it.

More than \$30,000 in scholarships, encompassing nearly 40 awards, were handed Monday night. That is a most noteworthy and generous statement from individuals and companies who believe in the conference. It's a refreshing investment in the future of our student-athletes.

While Monday night's banquet played out seamlessly in a few hours, it is a happening which takes countless amounts of time to put together. That is the thankless task of Ron White, one that he does with superb expertise.

Athletes and coaches gained much of Monday night's limelight, as well they should, 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 added up to a championship night for a conference filled with champions.



OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

2012 - 2013



A YEAR OF CHAMPIONS

2013
75
CHAMPIONS

1943 - 70th ANNIVERSARY - 2013

1943
6
CHAMPIONS

Photos By Briggs Photography

www.ovac.org

Banner By Ohio Valley Awards

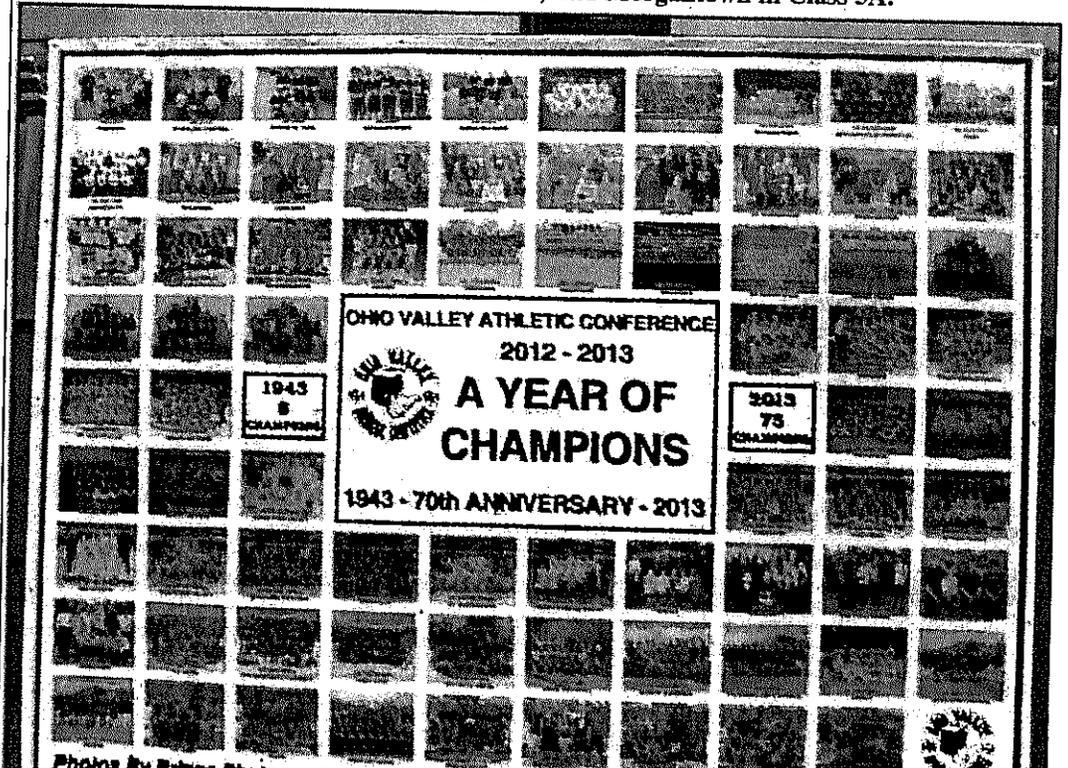


OVAC Banquet of Champions

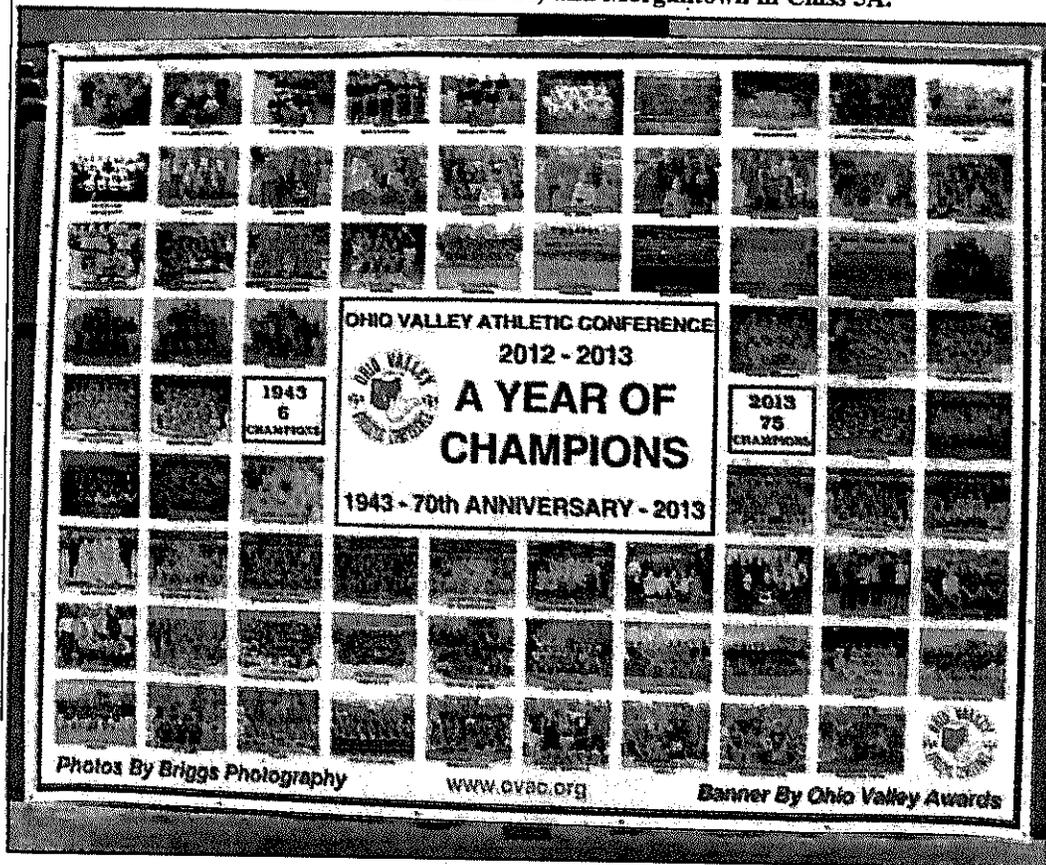


Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian. www.buyjeffphotos.com

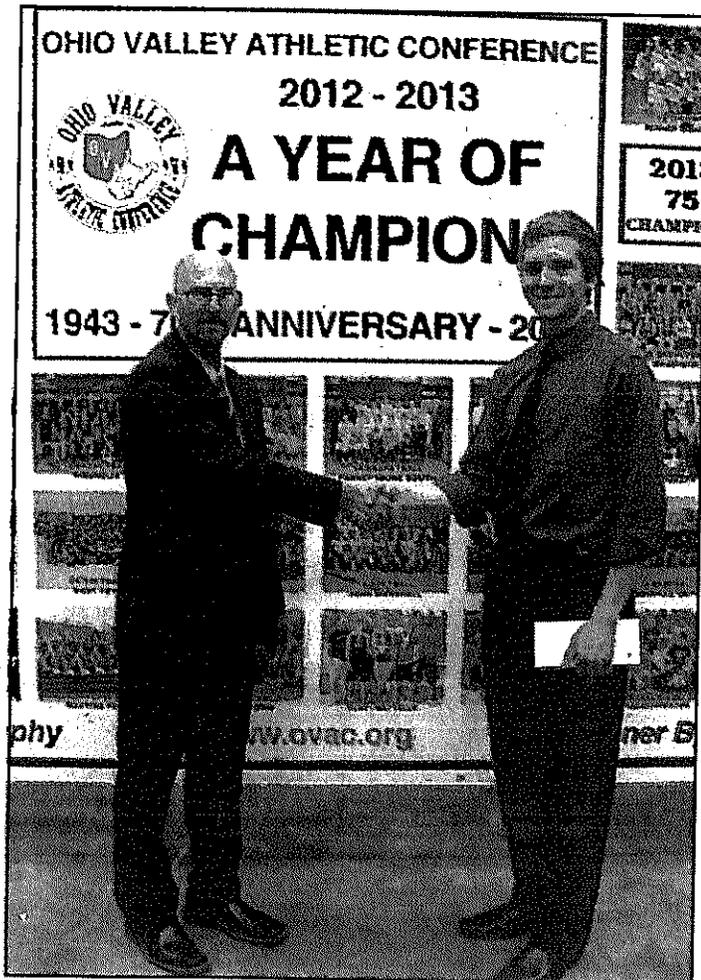
Five area teams received their championship banners at the 28th OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Displaying their banners, l to r, are Dugan Hill, Caldwell boys' Class 1A/2A cross country; Jill Beskid and Kelly Zehnder, Meadowbrook Class 4A volleyball; John Epperson, Meadowbrook Class 4A boys' track; Paul Fields, Cambridge Class 5A boys' tennis; and Mike Castello, Buckeye Trail Class 3A golf. A total of 75 conference championship banners were awarded for the year, the 70th anniversary of the OVAC. Special banners were awarded to the overall champions in each class for the 2012-13 year, including Weirton Madonna in Class 1A; Steubenville Catholic in Class 2A; The Linsly School in Class 3A; St. Clairsville in Class 4A; and Morgantown in Class 5A.



School in Class 3A; St. Clairsville in Class 4A; and Morgantown in Class 5A.



This giant banner featuring team photos of all 75 conference champions marking the end of the 70th year of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was unveiled at the 28th OVAC Banquet of Champions earlier this week at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.



Jeff Harrison/
The Daily Jeffersonian.
www.buyjeffphotos.com
Meadowbrook High's John Janczarek is congratulated by head coach John Epperson after receiving an OVAC Track Scholarship at the 28th OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.





OVAC



CLASS OF 2013

Scholarship Recipients



JONATHAN KREITER of Bridgeport and Katie Albert of East Richland Christian received the Consol Community Scholarship. They were presented by Jessica Johnson.



FALON WEIDMAN of St. Clairsville and Andrew Martin of East Liverpool received the Kinetic Networking Scholarship. They were presented by Jeff Crosier.





JULIANA MADZIA of St. Clairsville received Marti Wood Stephan Memorial Scholarship. It was presented by Denny Stephan and John Bartsch. Juliana is joined in the photo by her parents Marianne and Jeffrey Madzia.



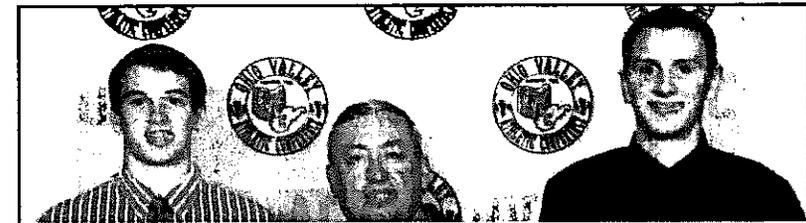
JAYDE GLASSER of Shadyside and Zac Coole of Martins Ferry received the OVAC Boosters Scholarships. They were presented by Rick DeLuca.

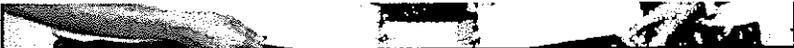


BRENNA BECCA of Martins Ferry (left) and Claudia Palmer of Linsly received the OVAC Cheering Scholarships. They were presented by Libby Shepherd.



TARA TOLLETT of Shadyside and John Janczarek of Meadowbrook received the OVAC Track Scholarships. They were presented by Donna Joseph.





BRENNA BECCA of Martins Ferry (left) and Claudia Palmer of Linsly received the OVAC Cheering Scholarships. They were presented by Libby Shepherd.



TARA TOLLETT of Shadyside and John Janczarek of Meadowbrook received the OVAC Track Scholarships. They were presented by Donna Joseph.



COREY LEASURE of St. John Central and Emily Ebert of Hundred received the Pepsi Cola Scholarships. They were presented by Debbie Porter-Dremak.



TERYN JARRETT of Beallsville (left) and Anthony Ghiardi of Trinity Christian received the Richard Potts Scholarships. They were presented by Tom Bechtel.

Photos Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

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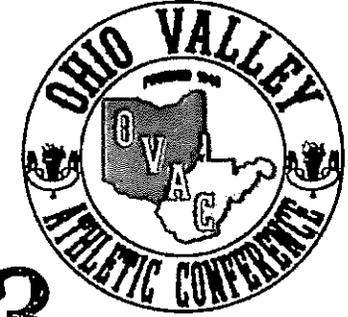
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OVAC

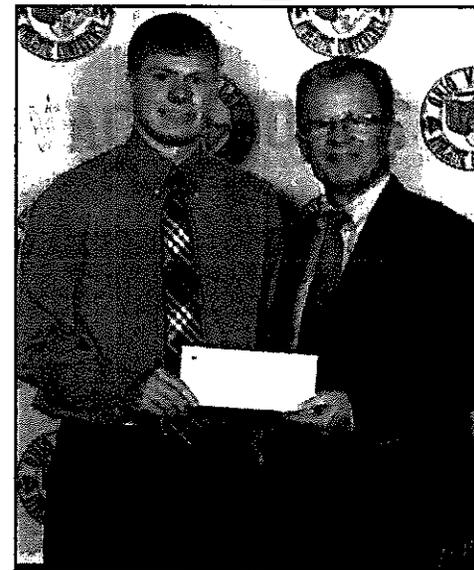


CLASS OF 2013

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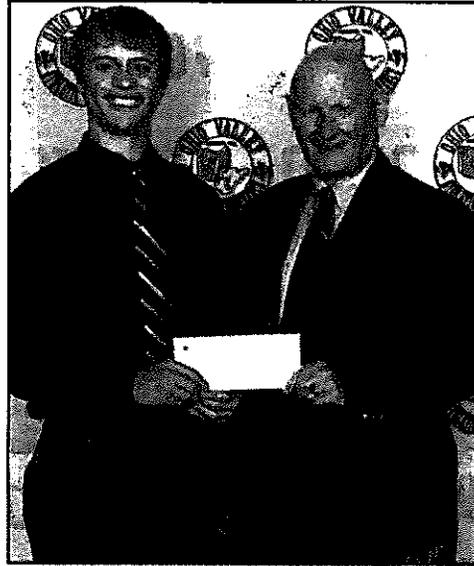
NATHAN KIRK of Buckeye Local received the Bordas & Bordas Law Firm Football Scholarship. It was presented by Jamie Bordas.



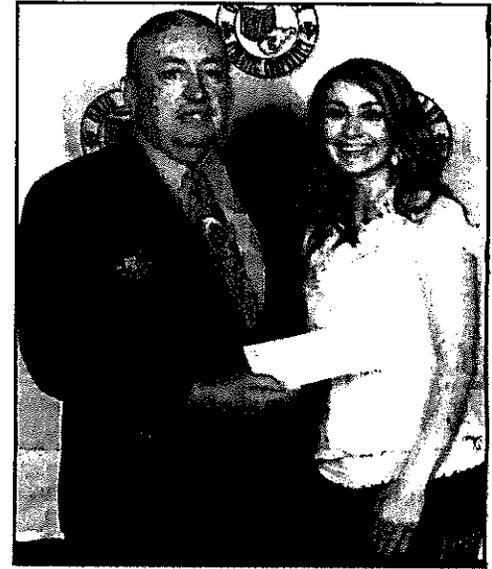
ZACH KEYLOR of St. Clairsville received the Douglas Pilney Memorial Golf Scholarship. It was presented by Dr. Dan Doyle.



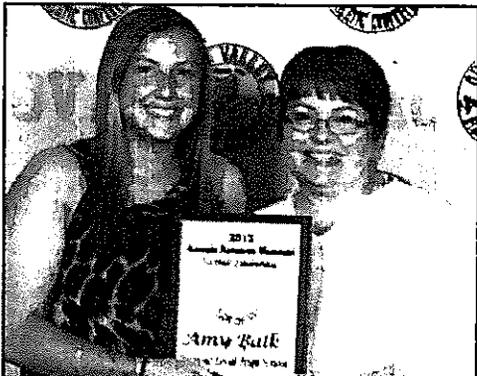
IAN BAKER of Shadyside received the Lucas Sedgmer Memorial Wrestling Scholarship. It was presented by Kay Sedgmer.



DREW HORN of Harrison Central received the OVAC Baseball Scholarship. It was presented by Steve Wojcik.



DALLAS MONTAG of Union Local received the Susan Kay Stanko Memorial Scholarship. It was presented by Tom Bechtel.





AMY BALK of Buckeye Local received the Rosepapa Memorial Softball Scholarship. It was presented by Rosie Rosepapa.



PHILLIP BURDYN of St. Clairsville received the Scholastic Sports Marketing Scholarship. It was presented by Beth Johnson.



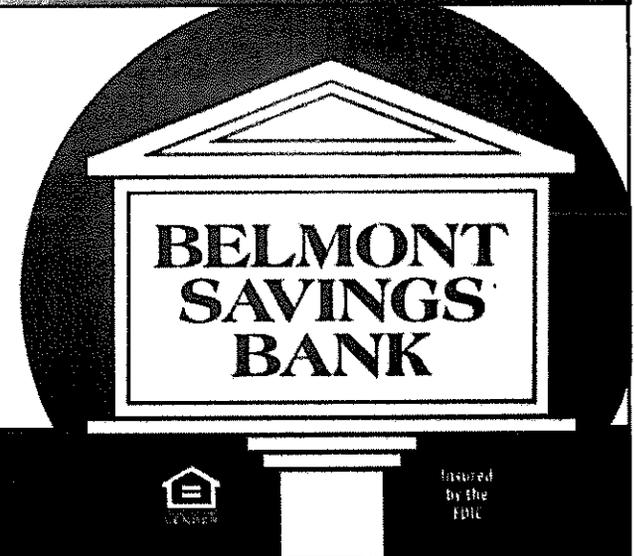
KAGE RUSH of Beallsville received the Todd Peyton Memorial Spirit Award. It was presented by Corey Murphy.

Photos Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations!

OVAC Scholarship Winners.

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