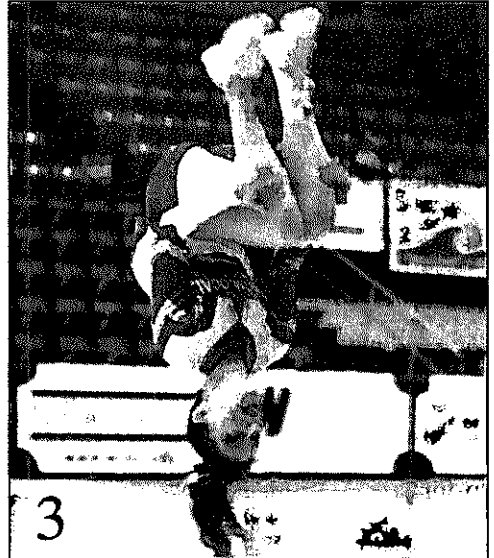


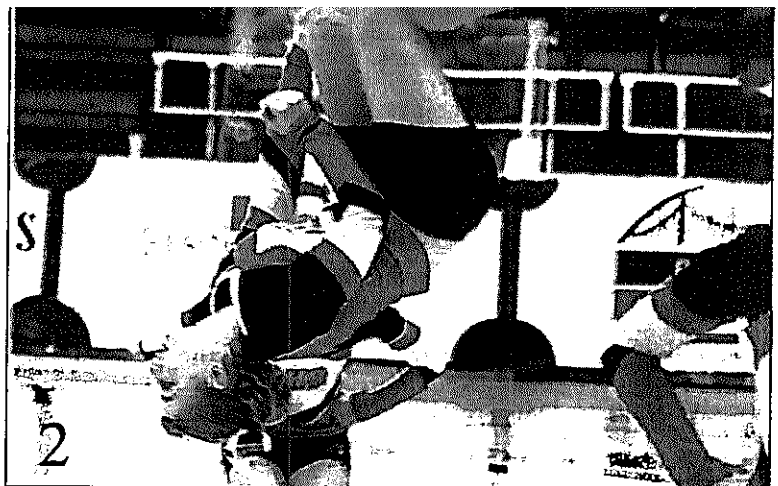
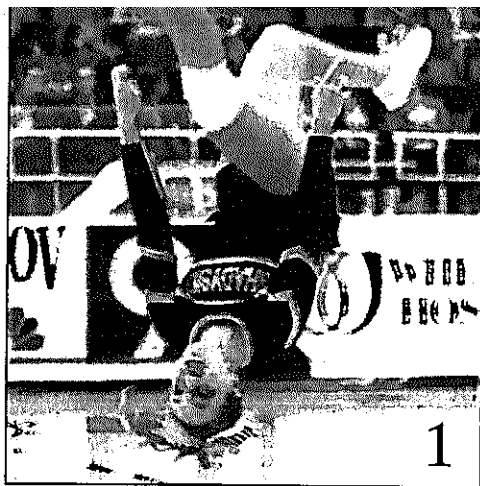
Sunday, February 3, 2012

OVAC Cheering Championships

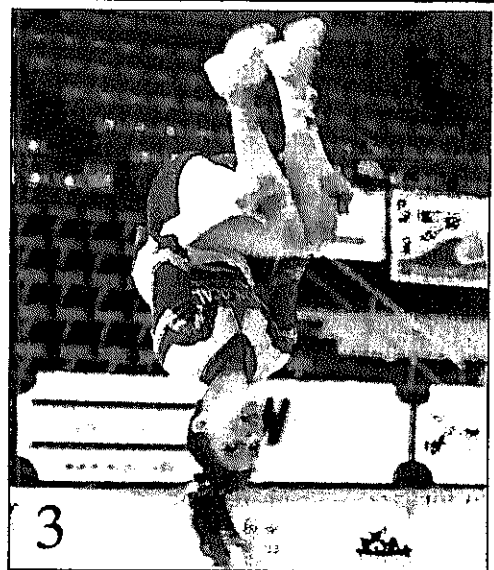


1: Shadyside Tigers Alysha Darrach catches some upside down air. 2: The River Pilots' Becka Stewart is over the top. 3: The Jets' Abigale Latham soars for the Union Local cheer squad. 4: St. John Central's Ashlyn Callarik cheers for the Irish. 5: Monroe Central's Anna Turner is here to cheer for the Seminolees. 6: Kamryn Miller of Woodsdale Elementary checks the floor for any left over Bobby pins after each routine. 7: Barnesville Shamrocks Abbey McMillen strikes a pose. 8: Buckeye Local Panthers





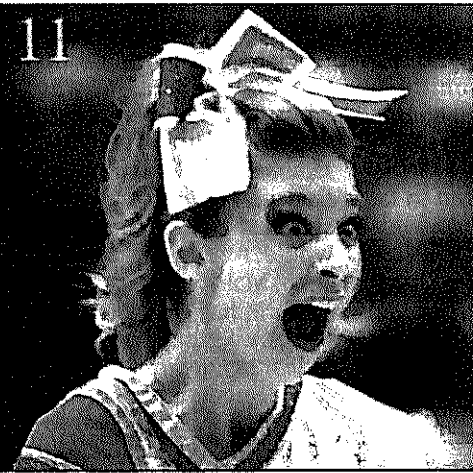
1: Shadyside Tigers Alysha Darrah catches some upside down air. 2: The River Pilots' Becka Stewart is over the top. 3: The Jets' Abigale Latham soars for the Union Local cheer squad. 4: St. John Central's Ashlyn Callarik cheers for the Irish. 5: Monroe Central's Anna Turner is here to cheer for the Seminloes. 6: Kamryn Miller of Woodsdale Elementary checks the floor for any left over Bobby pins after each routine. 7: Barnesville Shamrocks Abbey McMillen strikes a pose. 8: Buckeye Local Panthers Marlena Roush sets for a back flip. 9: Little Tigers roar as Alexa Coggins, Kelsey Chimley and Sidney Wolgemuth perform as Small Middle School champions. 10: Early morning preparations are the start of a long day of competition as Martins Ferry cheerleader gets her hair done by her Gaga Loreen at 5 a.m. Saturday morning. 11: St. Clairsville's Kylee Lauren's expression during the Red Devils winning routine. 12: Bulldogs cheerleader Hannah Lewis during the pom-pon routine as Bridgeport finished third in Single A. 13: Big Reds Kaitlyn Callarik with a winning smile as Bellaire claimed a trophy for finishing fourth in the



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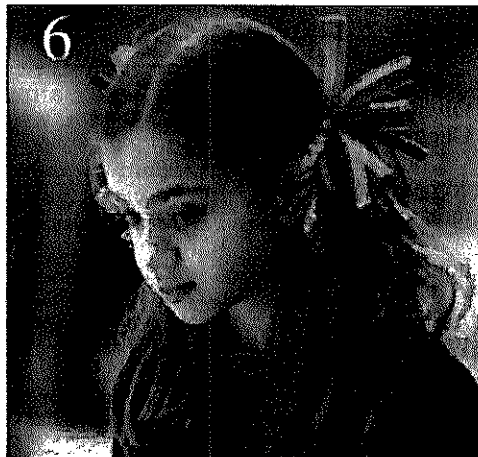
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Coggins, Keisey Chimley and Sidney Wolgemuth perform as Small Middle School champions. 10: Early morning preparations are the start of a long day of competition as Martins Ferry cheerleader gets her hair done by her Gaga Loreen at 5 a.m. Saturday morning. 11: St. Clairsville's Kylee Lauren's expression during the Red Devils winning routine. 12: Bulldogs cheerleader Hannah Lewis during the pom-pom routine as Bridgeport finished third in Single A. 13: Big Reds Kaitlyn Callarik with a winning smile as Bellaire claimed a trophy for finishing fourth in the 3A competition. 14: Blue Devils' Madison Neiswonger executes a bucket jump as Beallsville returned to the floor of the OVAC Cheerleading Championships after a few years absent from the competition.

CW

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OVAC Champions



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER.

MAKE IT a six-peat for the Red Devils as they won a sixth straight 4-A title during the 22nd Annual OVAC Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena Saturday in Wheeling. Pictured here holding up one more finger on the right hand are St. Clairsville competition squad members (Front) Dakota Woodford, Matti Young, Ayla Stewart, Claire Slavik, Kaylee Laurine, Dana Bernard and Sarah Zink. (Back) Coach Shawn Tomlan, Savannah Woodford, Kaylie Kindler, Caitlyn Wolfe, Abigail Earliwine, Samantha Collins, Alli Greenwood, Laura Bernard and Dallas DeLong.

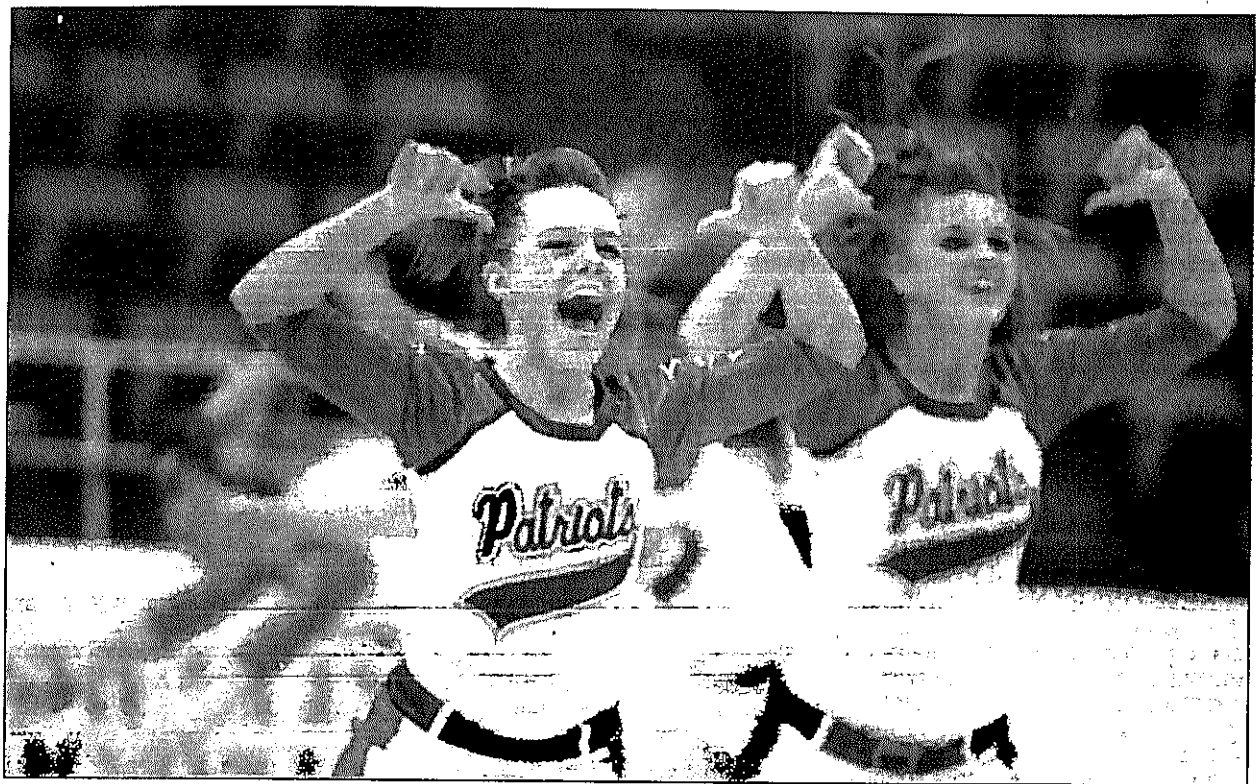


Photo by Mike Palmer
 Jordan Stahl, Kayley Miller and the rest of the Wheeling Park cheerleaders took home OVAC Class 5A gold during Saturday's conference championships at WesBanco Arena.

OVAC Cheerleading: St. Clairsville Wins 6th Straight

Park, Tyler Consolidated, Bishop Donahue, Toronto also claim crowns

By MIKE PALMER
 For the News-Register
 WHEELING — The 22nd Annual OVAC Cheering Championships were held Saturday at WesBanco Arena and St. Clairsville made it a six-pack, as it earned a sixth straight title in Class 4A.

After a tight race last season and a routine that had some major deductions, the Red Devils received no deductions as they outscored Weir to move to a second hand for counting championships.

St. Clairsville still has a long way to go before it challenges Wheeling Park and Wheeling Central, as both schools boast an 11-year run at the top of their respective divisions.

"You are always worried during the competition and awards ceremony no matter how many championships you win," St. Clairsville cheerleading coach Shawn Tomlan said. "There is more pressure as a defending champion, but that is where we want to be."

Bishop Donahue successfully defended its Class 1A crown, where Madonna placed second and Paden City took third.

Linsly, which won the 2A title last year, moved up to 3A, leaving a very determined Toronto squad to claim the 2A title Saturday.



Photo by Mike Palmer
 Brooke Kaminski, Emily Barnes, Teresa Pockl and the Wheeling Central cheer team took Second place in Class 2A.

placed second and Union Local stepped up to third in 4A. Martins Ferry finish in fourth place in the division.

Brooke was defending its title in 5A, but Wheeling Park got back into winning form, overcoming some

solid routine.

"Like all of the competition squads here we have been battling injuries, the weather and the flu. These girls have continued to work extremely hard for me, they are great girls, I can honestly say I love them all and all the

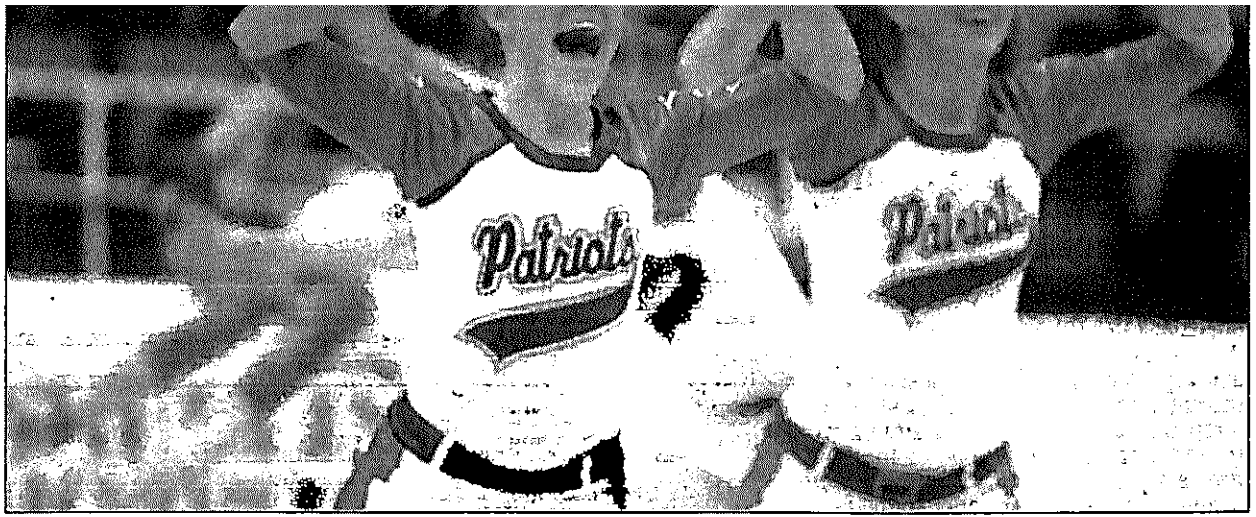


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Bishop Donahue successfully defended its Class 1A crown, where Madonna placed second and Paden City took third.

Linsly, which won the 2A title last year, moved up to 3A, leaving a very determined Toronto squad to claim the 2A title Saturday.

Wheeling Central was second and Bridgeport celebrated a third place trophy.

Class 3A feature a seven-team field and the trophy was successfully defended by Tyler Consolidated. Linsly finished second, Magnolia third and Bellaire took home the fourth-place honors.

After the break, St. Clairsville faced some tough competition as Weir



Photo by Mike Palmer
 Brooke Kaminski, Emily Barnes, Teresa Pockl and the Wheeling Central cheer team took Second place in Class 2A.

placed second and Union Local stepped up to third in 4A. Martins Ferry finish in fourth place in the division.

Brooke was defending its title in 5A, but Wheeling Park got back into winning form, overcoming some deductions in its routine to take home the OVAC title this year — the 16th in school history.

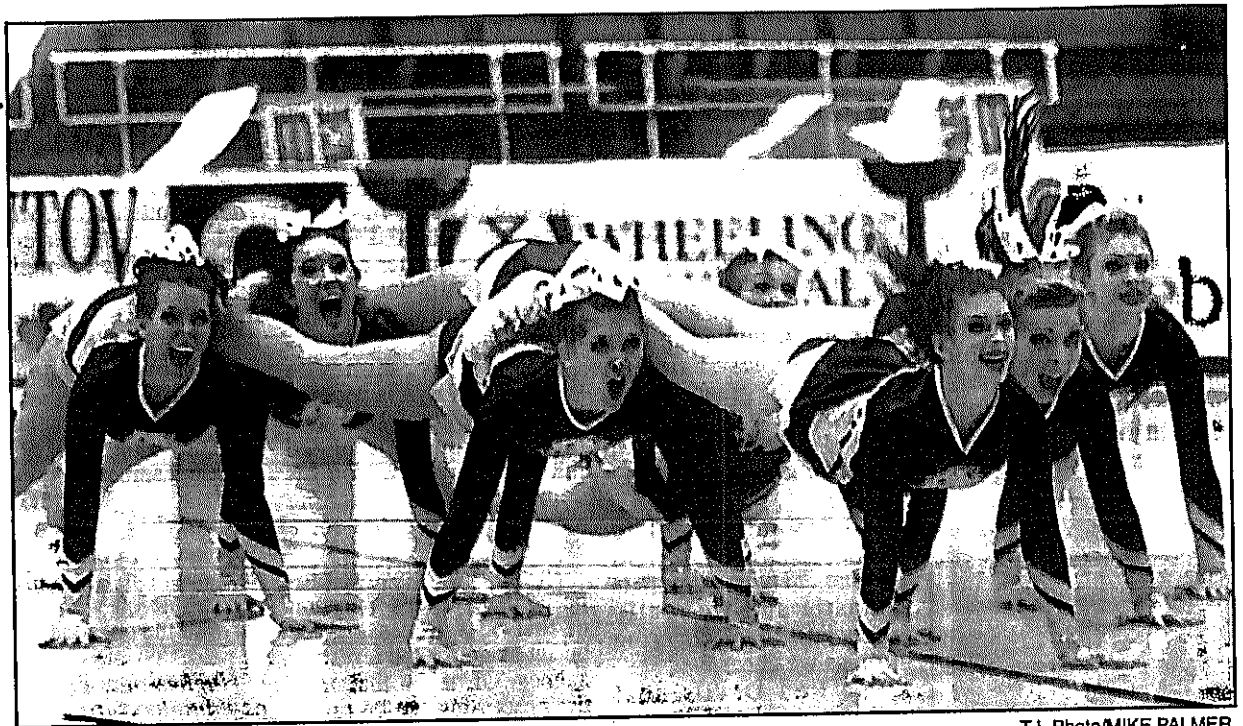
When it was announced that the Red Devils had won, they jumped up to celebrate.

"The squad had been dedicated all year," Tomlan said. "It is always tough coming back as the defending champions, but this year they knew we had some mistakes last year, and they really worked hard to put together a

solid routine.

"Like all of the competition squads here we have been battling injuries, the weather and the flu. These girls have continued to work extremely hard for me, they are great girls, I can honestly say I love them all and all the credit goes to them for winning the title."

In addition to the main competition, the four winning Junior OVAC squads also had an opportunity to take to the new hardwood and perform during the competition, Small middle school winner Shadyside Middle School, Medium Middle school winner Follansbee, Large Middle school winner Sherrard Middle School and Junior Varsity winner Parkersburg South JV.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER.

BUCKEYE LOCAL cheerleaders got a wild reaction from fans during their routine but not high marks from the judges during the 22nd Annual OVAC Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena Saturday in Wheeling. Seen here performing are Panthers competition squad members Alyssa Pugh, Kaylee Schubenski, Marlee Piergallini, Chelsey Strain, Cierra Burch, Abby Freeland, Marlena Roush and Ashley Kropka.

St. C. continues dominance

By **MIKE PALMER**
Times Leader Staff Writer

WHEELING -- The 22nd Annual OVAC Cheering Championships were held Saturday at WesBanco Arena and St. Clairsville made it a 6-pack for the Red Devils as they earned a sixth straight title in Class 4-A.

After a tight race last season and a routine that had some major deduc-

See Related Photo
on Page A7

tions, this year the Red Devils received no deductions as they outscored Weir to move to a second hand for counting championships. St. Clairsville still has a long way to go before they challenge Wheeling

Park and Wheeling Central Catholic as both schools boast an 11-year run at the top of their respective divisions.

"You are always worried during the competition and awards ceremony no matter how many championships you win," said St. Clairsville cheerleading coach Shawn Tomlan. "There is more pressure as a defending champion,

See, **CHEER**, Page A2

Continued from Page A1

but that is where we want to be."

Bishop Donahue successfully defended their Class 1-A crown, Weirton Madonna placed second and Paden City took third place in Class 1-A.

Linsly, which won the AA title last year, moved up to AAA, leaving a very determined Toronto squad to claim the Class 2-A title this year. Wheeling Central was second and Bridgeport celebrated a third-place trophy.

Class 3-A featured a seven-team field and the trophy was successfully defended by Tyler Consolidated.

Linsly won second place, Magnolia third and Bellaire took home the fourth place honors in AAA.

After the break St. Clairsville faced some tough competition as Weir placed second and Union Local stepped up to third in Class 4-A. Martins Ferry finished fourth place in the division.

Brooke was defending its

title in Class 5-A but Wheeling Park got back into winning form, overcoming some deductions in its routine to take home the OVAC title this year.

When it was announced that the Red Devils had six-peated the Red Devil cheerleaders, clinging to their stuffed animals in a circle on the floor of the arena, jumped up to celebrate.

"The squad had been dedicated all year," said Tomlan of her squad. "It is always tough coming back as the defending champions, but this year they knew we had some mistakes last year and this year they really worked hard to put together a solid routine."

"Like all of the competition squads here we have been battling injuries, the weather and the flu," added Tomlan. "These girls have continued to work extremely hard for me, they are great girls, I can honestly say I love them all and all the credit goes to them for winning the title."

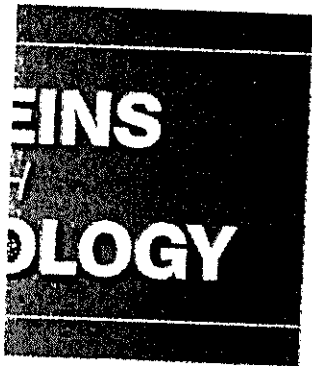
"I especially want to thank our fans," said Tomlan. "Their support is fantastic and we really appreciate them cheering us on as we cheer."

The Red Devils next competition will be the Ohio Cheerleading championships.

In addition to the main competition the four winning Junior OVAC squads also had an opportunity to take to the new hardwood and perform during the competition.

Small middle school winner Shadyside Middle School, Medium Middle school winner Follansbee, Large Middle school winner Sherrard Middle School and Junior Varsity winner Parkersburg South JV.

Palmer may be reached at mpalmer@tiemsleadercnline.com



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OVAC cheering championships set at WesBanco

By MIKE PALMER
Times Leader Staff Writer

WHEELING - The 22nd Annual OVAC Cheering Championships will be held Saturday at WesBanco Arena.

There will be 29 schools competing in five divisions: Class 1A - Beallsville, Bishop Donahue, Madonna, Paden City, St. John Central and Valley; Class 2A - Bridgeport, Shadyside, Steubenville Catholic, Toronto and Wheeling Central; Class 3A - Barnesville, Bellaire, Linsly, Magnolia, Monroe Central, River and Tyler Consolidated; Class 4A - Buckeye Local, Martins Ferry, Oak Glen, St. Clairsville, Steubenville, Union Local and Weir; Class 5A - Brooke, Edison, John Marshall and Wheeling Park.

Bidding to defend their crowns from last season will be Bishop Donahue in Class A, Linsly in AA and Tyler Consolidated in AAA. In addition, the Class 4-A division will again be a battle as St. Clairsville defends its fifth championship in a row. Brooke will defend the first ever Class 5-A crown against Wheeling Park, which will try and reclaim an OVAC title after a three-year run in Class 4-A.

Libby Shepherd, cheering director for the OVAC, expects everything to go smoothly again this season as this is the second year for the five class format. "There are no new schools, there have been no rule changes; so it will be the same competition as always."

"We just hope the weather cooperates," said Shepherd, recalling the past problems with snow and ice on competition Saturday. Her concerns were echoed by Thomas E. Rataiczak, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the OVAC.

All squads will perform a three-minute open routine for the panel of judges which will include cheer and dance. The four winning junior high OVAC squads will also perform during the competition.

The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the competition begins following warm ups for the squads competing in the

See, CHEERING, Page A2

OVAC

WHAT: Annual cheer-leading championships.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 2.

WHERE: WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

TIME: Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Competition begins with Class A at 10:05 a.m.

● Cheering

Continued from Page A1

morning session.

Tentative times for the competition schedule are: 1-A competition 10:05, 2-A competition 10:45, 3-A competition 11:05. Awards for classes A, AA and AAA at noon. The 4-A competition is slated to begin at 1:50 and 5-A competition 2:25 and awards for 4 and 5 A will wrap up the championships at approximately 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students.

Palmer can be reached at mpalmer@timesleaderonline.com.