

St. C. cheerleaders prevail

• Red Devils bag seventh straight crown

By MIKE PALMER
Times Leader Staff Writer

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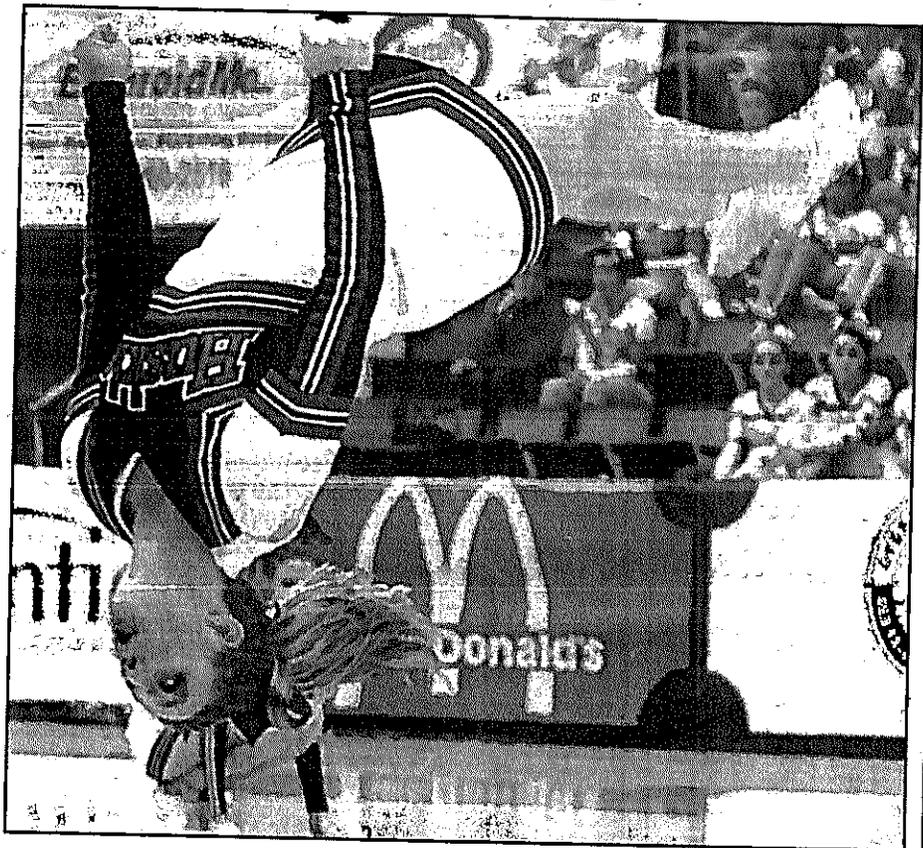
Bishop Donahue successfully defended their single A crown. Two runner-up squads from last year won the trophy this season as Wheeling Central reclaimed the 2A title and Linsly won its first title since moving up into 3A edging out last year's champion Tyler by a single point.

Wheeling Park retained the 5A crown to claim its 17th championship.

In 1A the runner-up and third place teams swapped places as Paden City placed second and Weirton Madonna captured the bronze in the small school competition.

Clay-Battelle earned the runner-up spot in the 2A division this year. Last year's champion Toronto would settle for the third place trophy.

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MAKING IT look easy, Harrison Central cheerleader Cierra Frye lays out to square off her tumbling routine during the 4-A competition at the 23rd Annual OVAC Cheering Championships Saturday. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ing third place honors.

After the break, Weir placed second again this year and Martins Ferry would finish third in the 4-A division.

John Marshall won silver in 5A while Indian Creek celebrated a third place finish.

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 Warwood Middle School, Medium

See St. Clairsville team photo on page A6

Middle school winner Bridge Street, Large Middle school winner Follansbee and Junior Varsity winner Wheeling Park JV.

NOTE: The St. Clairsville squad was late for regional cheering in Minerva and was unavailable for comment.

Palmer may be reached at mpalmer@timesleaderonline.com

OVAC Cheer Competition set Saturday in Wheeling

WHEELING, WV —The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheering Competition is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 1 at WesBanco Arena starting at 9:30 am. There are five divisions with 31 schools vying for titles in their respective classes.

The schools will perform in the following order: 1A - Conotton Valley, St. John Central, Bishop Donahue, Paden City, Madonna and Beallsville; 2A - River, Toronto, Bridgeport, Wheeling Central, Shadyside, Caldwell, Cameron and Clay-Battelle; 3A - Barnesville, Magnolia, Bellaire, Monroe Central, Tyler Consolidated and Linsly; 4A - Steubenville, Weir, Martins Ferry, Harrison Central, Oak Glen, Union Local and St. Clairsville; 5A - Parkersburg South, Wheeling Park, Indian Creek and John Marshall. Each school will perform a three-minute cheer, 30 seconds of which must be a cheer. The doors open to the public at 8:30 a.m.

The winners of the OVAC Junior High Cheering Competition in October will perform throughout the day. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. The defending champions are 1A - Bishop Donahue; 2A - Toronto; 3A - Tyler; 4A - St. Clairsville and 5A - Wheeling Park.



OVAC Champions



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

COUNT THEM: Seven fingers, representing seven straight OVAC cheerleading titles for the Red Devils. St. Clairsville was one of three teams successfully defending their titles as Bishop Donahue won the 1-A and Wheeling Park took home the 5-A crowns at the 23rd Annual OVAC Cheering Championships Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Wheeling Central reclaimed the 2A title and Linsly won its first title since moving up into 3A, edging out last year's champion Tyler by a single point. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Our Opinion

Cheering Dominance

WINNING OVAC championships is a goal of all 50 conference members.

It is no easy accomplishment, as each of the five classes features 10 schools.

Much to their credit, the St. Clairsville High School cheerleaders have mastered that tough task. So much so, the Red Devils have authored an OVAC dynasty, one with no end in the foreseeable future.

St. Clairsville entered Saturday's OVAC Championships at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling as the team to beat in the 4-A event. The Red Devils once again were up to the challenge, taking home the title trophy.

The theory goes that it is tougher to stay on top than get on top. St. Clairsville's spirit-makers are the exception to that rule. Saturday's crown marked the seventh straight OVAC title for the Red Devils.

Taking home an OVAC championship is a prized commodity,

doing it for seven successive years is nothing short of remarkable.

The Red Devils' recipe for success starts with talented young ladies, but obviously takes much more. Commitment and dedication are vital ingredients as the time demands can be staggering.

Moreover, cheering is more than just leading the crowd, as tumbling and gymnastics play pivotal roles in competitions.

Teamwork and leadership are also necessary commodities in the quest to grab the brass ring. Pulling everything together is quality instruction. St. Clairsville boasts a superb advisor in Shawn Tomlan, whose expertise is reflected by her squad's continuing dominance.

We salute the St. Clairsville High cheerleaders, Tomlan and everyone who had a hand in the Red Devils pocketing their seventh straight OVAC championships. They have raised the bar of cheerleading excellence.



Photos by Mike Palmer

Above, the Wheeling Central cheerleaders perform their Class 3A-winning routine during the OVAC championships at WesBanco Arena. Below, St. John's Halli Richards performs in the Class A division.

St. C. Retains OVAC 4A Title

Bishop Donahue, Linsly, Wheeling Central, Park also crowned

By MIKE PALMER
For the News-Register

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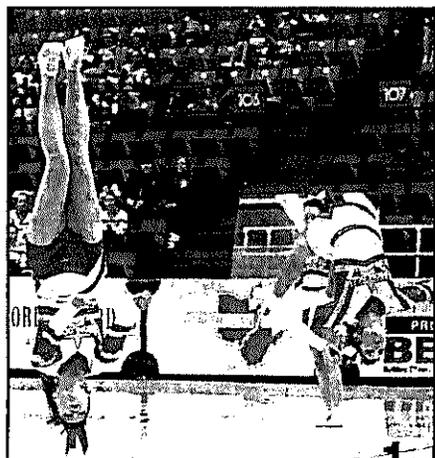
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February 9, 2014

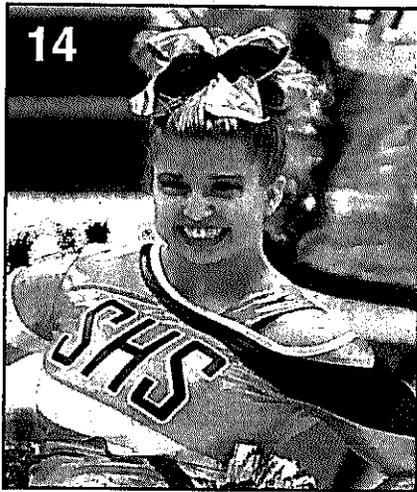
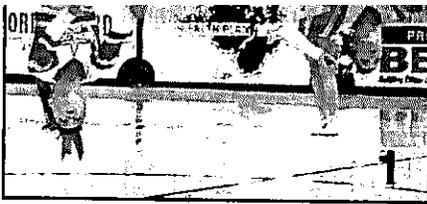


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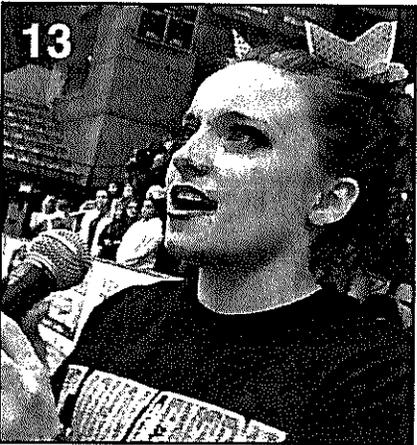
OVAC CHEERLEADING competition took place last Saturday at WesBanco Arena, and squads from around the valley participated. The day is full of activity for fans, cheerleaders, their families, coaches and OVAC officials. We feature some of the sights from the 23rd annual event including one of the highlights of the day when teams take to the floor and circle around to share some camaraderie and, of course, to cheer with other squads. Seen here is the Martins Ferry squad awaiting the announcement that it had finished third in the 4-A division. Starting front center and rotating clockwise are Makayla Jamison, Mackenzie Reeb, Jennifer Reuther, Rikki Allen, Sunnie Ruble, Kayce Neely, Jessica Elmer, Nikki Allen, Carly McKeegan, Megan Edwards, Kaitlen Hood, and Krissy Hotlosz. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com.

OVAC Cheerleading Championships

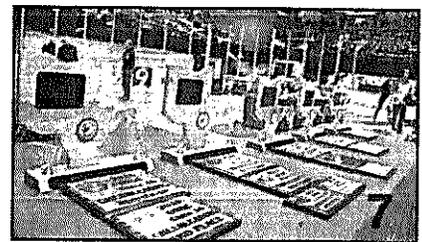




1. Union Local freshman Alyssa Morris (left) and Gauge Costello (right) doing their whip tumbling pass. 2. Monroe Central cheerleaders strike a pose (L to R): Rachel Yoho, Victoria Price. Middle: Kaitlin Clark, Savannah Yoho, Anna Turner. Back: Alli Wilcox, Leslie Lohr. 3. Linsly senior captain Shelby Boehm celebrates with the 3-A trophy. 4. Bellaire seniors Mackenzie Conroy and Jodi Klempa hug teammate Devon Johnson after their routine. 5. Owner Kathy Flowers and Gina Hedrick at their 'I Do' kiosk selling flowers to cheerleading fans. 6. Beallsville cheerleader Madison Nelswonger gets ready to toss her pompom. 7. The coveted OVAC cheering trophies. 8. Harrison Central cheerleaders Paige Dunlap, Megan Barcroft, Abby Dodds, Alexis Heavlin and Alexis Devernoe, back, during their routine. 9. Barnesville's Sydney Baum pointing out her choice for the top 3-A squad. 10. Bridgeport cheerleaders Bethany Barker (left) and Mikaya Green are airborne during their tumbling routine. 11. St. Clairsville tumbler, senior Sarah Zink, lays out for her landing. 12. Selling souvenir programs for the event are Triadelphia twins Aubrey and Ashley Wiethie. 13. Singing the national anthem is St. John Central cheerleader Halli Richards. 14. Shadyside's Karly Klug mugs for the judges.



T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER



CONGRATULATIONS St. Clairsville Red Devils



Front Row (L to R)
Ayla Stewart, Matti Young,
Kylie Laurine, Dana Bernard,
Sarah Zink
Back Row (L to R)
Coach Shawn Tomlin,
Cassidy Wolfe, Kaylie Kinder,
Alli Greenwood, Sam Collins,
Abby Earlwine, Caitlin Wolfe,
Savanna Woodford,
Gaitlyn Debrugge,
Dallas DeLong

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