

Banquet of Champions

THE OHIO Valley Athletic Conference is putting on the ritz tonight.

The nation's largest functioning athletic conference drops the curtain on its 72nd year of operation when it stages the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at Wheeling WesBanco Arena. Tonight's affair is the cadillac of prep fetes.

Teams claiming conference titles this past academic year will be recognized, receiving championship pennants to be hung in their respective schools. Some 75 teams in all will be honored tonight for capturing coveted conference crowns.

Along those athletic lines, five coaches have been singled out as finalists for the prestigious Bill Van Horne/Wheeling News-Register Coach of The Year Award. The winner will be announced as one of tonight's highlights, 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 some three dozen awards, will be handed out tonight.

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 the Banquet of Champions plays 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 great expertise.

Athletes and coaches will gain much of tonight'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.

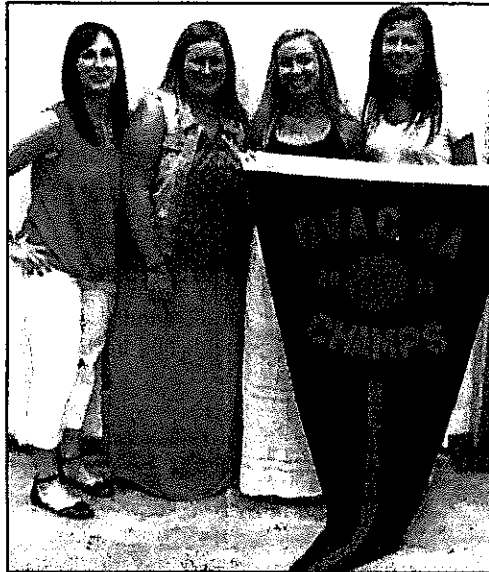
It all adds up to a championship night for a conference filled with champions.



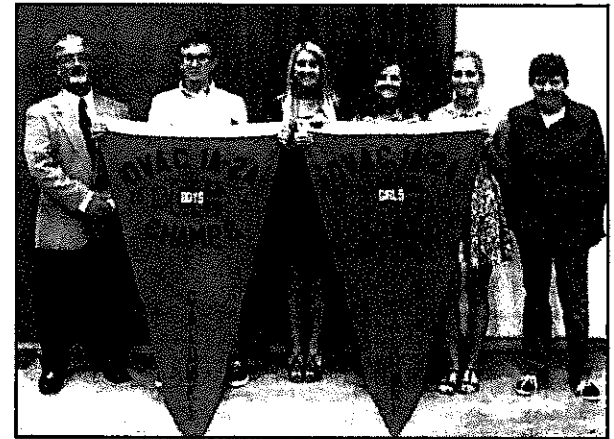
Area teams earn OVAC banners



Caldwell High won the OVAC Class 1A/2A wrestling championship. Pictured, l to r, are captain Chance Rucker, head coach Tom Brown and captain Kolby Rayner.



Meadowbrook High won the OVAC Class 4A volleyball championship. Pictured, l to r, are assistant coaches Rachel Brokaw and Maurie DeLong, senior Baylee Graham and head coach Kelly Zehnder.



Caldwell High won the OVAC Class 1A/2A boys and girls cross country championships. Pictured, l to r, are head coach Dugan Hill, seniors Tanner Harding, Katie Saling, Haylee Saling and Lexi Waller, and team assistant Ashley Hill.



Meadowbrook High won the OVAC Class 4A golf title. Pictured, l to r, are head coach Mel Pesuit and senior Damon Moore.

Buckeye Trail High won the OVAC Class 3A volleyball championship. Pictured, l to r, are senior Josie Hensley, head coach Jeff Beros and senior Miranda Stillion.



The 72nd year of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference came to a close with the 30th annual OVAC Banquet of Champions earlier this week at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Among the highlights were the presentation of the championship banners to all of the team champions throughout the 2014-15 school year; the presentation of the overall class champions based on combined performances in all sports (Madonna won Class 1A for the sixth year in a row; Steubenville Catholic claimed its third Class 2A crown; The Linsly School pocketed its fifth title in a row as the 3A champs; St. Clairsville made it 7-for-7 in Class 4A; and Morgantown won Class 5A for the second time); awarding of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to conference athletes; and the naming of Magnolia High boys' basketball coach Dave Tallman as the Bill Van Horne/OVAC Coach of the Year.



Photos by
Jeff Harrison/
The Daily Jeffersonian

CONGRATULATIONS

2015 OVAC

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

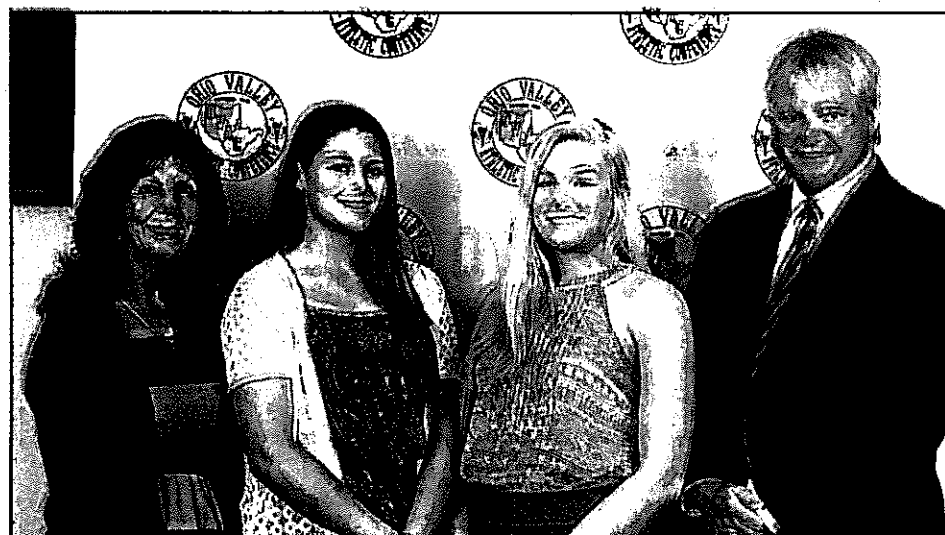




Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENTS of the Ray Ponzio Memorial Basketball Scholarships are Bridgeport's Parker Dyson and Wheeling Park's Toddy Goodwin-Roe. The awards were presented by Melanie and John Haswell.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENTS of the Bette Ponzio Memorial Basketball Scholarships are Wheeling Central's Sydney Bennington and Fort Frye's Megan Liedtke. The awards were presented by Melanie and John Haswell.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Henry Lasasz Memorial Basketball Scholarship was St. Clairsville's Alexis St. Clair (left). It was presented by Lindsay Ammirante.

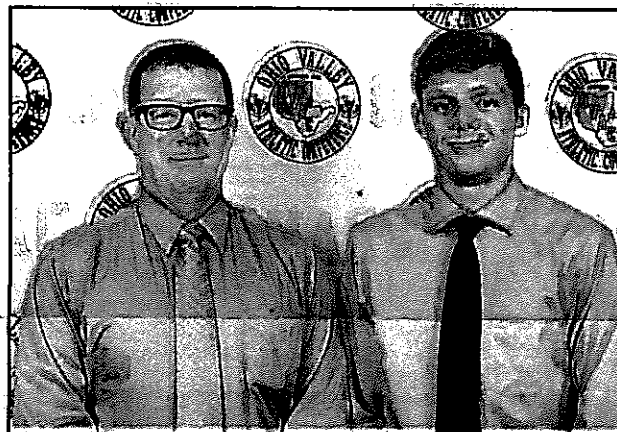


Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Clare Kapral Memorial OVAC Track and Field Scholarship is Martins Fery's Jack Fitch (right). It was presented by Bubba Kapral.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the OVAC Sheila R. DeLuca Memorial Volleyball Scholarship is River's Monica Curtis. It was presented by Rick DeLuca.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Todd Peyton Memorial Spirit Award is Union Local's Jake Boyd. The award was presented by OVAC Executive Board member Dr. Dianna Vargo.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENTS of the Pepsi Scholarships are Buckeye Local's Josh Sokolowski and Hundred's Paige Mackenzie Shriver. The awards were presented by Debbie Porter-Dremak.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

ONE OF the recipients of the OVAC Cheering Scholarship was St. Clairsville's Caitlin Wolfe (center). It was presented by Libby Shepherd (left) and Nadena Cook. Absent was recipient Krissy Hotlosz of Martins Ferry.



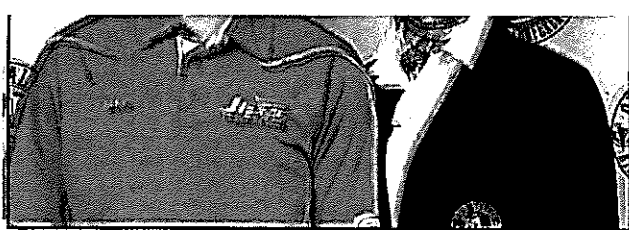


Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Todd Peyton Memorial Spirit Award is Union Local's Jake Boyd. The award was presented by OVAC Executive Board member Dr. Dianna Vargo.

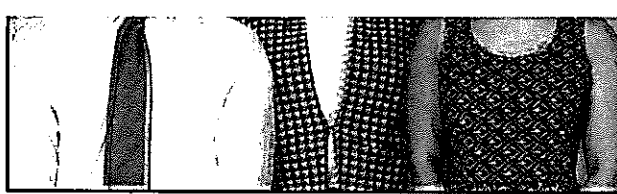


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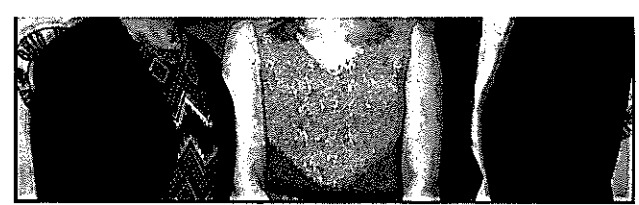


Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Amanda Rosepapa Memorial Softball Scholarship was Bishop Donahue's Theresa Falova. It was presented by Rosie Rosepapa.



Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the Lucas D. Sedgmer Memorial Scholarship was Wheeling Park's Dylan Taylor. It was presented by Bobbie Lee Parkinson and Katie Parkinson.

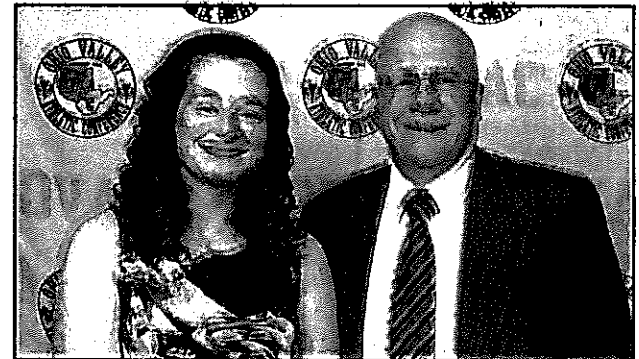


Photo Courtesy/MONICA LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RECIPIENT of the West Virginia-Ohio Volleyball Officials' Scholarship was River's Amanda Bennett. It was presented by Wayne Ogilbee.

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