

Ohio Girls Top West Virginia, 2-0

Goalie Gray named Defensive MVP

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE —
Less than 24 hours removed from OVAC championship softball games, Steubenville's Casey Gentile and Loren Gray, along with Catholic Central's Micca Mirabella, found themselves playing in the conference's all-star game. Only this was a soccer

contest.
"It's pretty easy to switch back from sports," Mirabella said. "I knew this was coming up and I was prepared for it."
Just like their titles on Saturday, the girls were part of another win on Sunday as Ohio topped West Virginia, 2-0, in the 18th annual Senior All-Star Classic at

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OHIO

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Harding Stadium.

"It's been a pretty good weekend," said Gray, the Ohio team's goalie who also won Defensive MVP honors. "I knew the wind was behind us, so the balls were going to be coming in pretty hard. I just focused and did the best I could."

"I really like soccer and the fact that we won and I got the award makes it even better."

Bittersweet, too. Gray,

who made 12 saves, will not be playing soccer in college. She is going to Kent State University. It was also Gentile's last soccer game. She is going to West Virginia University in the fall.

"It was a lot of fun," Gentile said. "I'll definitely miss playing soccer, but this was a good way to go out."

"I'm really proud of what we have done. It's nice to be on two success-

ful teams right now."

With it being the middle of softball season, there were still some adjustments to be made on the fly.

"I haven't touched a soccer ball in six months since the sectional game," Gentile said. "I'm not in soccer shape anymore, so the running was a little bit hard."

Even tougher with the 25-mile per hour winds that blistered through the entire afternoon.

TIE

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"With it being just a recreational game, it's ok that it was a tie," Bennett said. "Both teams were really skilled and it was a lot of fun. I'm not going to get to go on to play soccer in college. I'm just glad I could finish out strong."

Parker, the Ohio offensive MVP, opened the scoring with just 32 seconds left before halftime. Herrmann attempted two shots close to the net

before dishing a quick pass to the left, finding Parker, who tapped it in the net.

"When you put the two of us together there will always be chances, but I got to give a lot of credit to our midfield for getting us the ball especially John-Paul McNamara," Herrmann said.

McNamara was also a soccer player for the Crusaders.

The Ohio team's coach was Steve Kopcha, also

from Catholic.

"I'm real proud of my guys," Kopcha said. "They played a nice game."

"It is weird that the soccer season has been over for a long time for these guys. It's a good chance for them to experience high school soccer one last time. It's an enjoyable day for all of them."

Bennett tied the score at one 46 seconds after halftime. He launched a kick nearly 20 yards out from the far right side.

Ohio, W.Va. Boys Play To 2-2 Tie

Enemies become allies in OVAC game

By MATTHEW
PEASLEE

For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE —

Any other day, John-Paul Duff wouldn't be so enthused walking on the same field as Beaver Local's DeShawn Parker or Steubenville Central's Leo Herrman.

"They're the two that have scored the most goals on me during high school games," said Duff, Big Red's goaltender.

But on Sunday, the trio and 16 others, wore the same red jersey to represent Ohio in the 18th annual OVAC Senior All-Star Classic.

"It was great to have those guys on my team this time around," Duff said.

Herrmann and Parker each scored a goal at Harding Stadium and, coincidentally, assisted on each other's score.

"It was great playing with DeShawn," Herrmann said. "I believe we were both among the top scorers in Ohio this past fall.

"I felt very comfortable playing alongside DeShawn, we work we'll together and I wish we could play together again."

The game ended in a 2-2 tie.

Oak Glen's Cullen Bennett and Brett Watson of Parkersburg South each scored a goal for West Virginia.

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Ferrell tallies in Ohio victory

By MATTHEW PEASLEE
For The Times leader

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In the second half, Eberle Ferrell, of St. Clairsville, added a second at the 20:31 mark.

Ohio, W.Va. deadlocked in boys, 2-2

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