

W.Va. Girls, Ohio Boys Win OVAC All-Star Game

Mountain State Tallies a Shut Out, 6-0

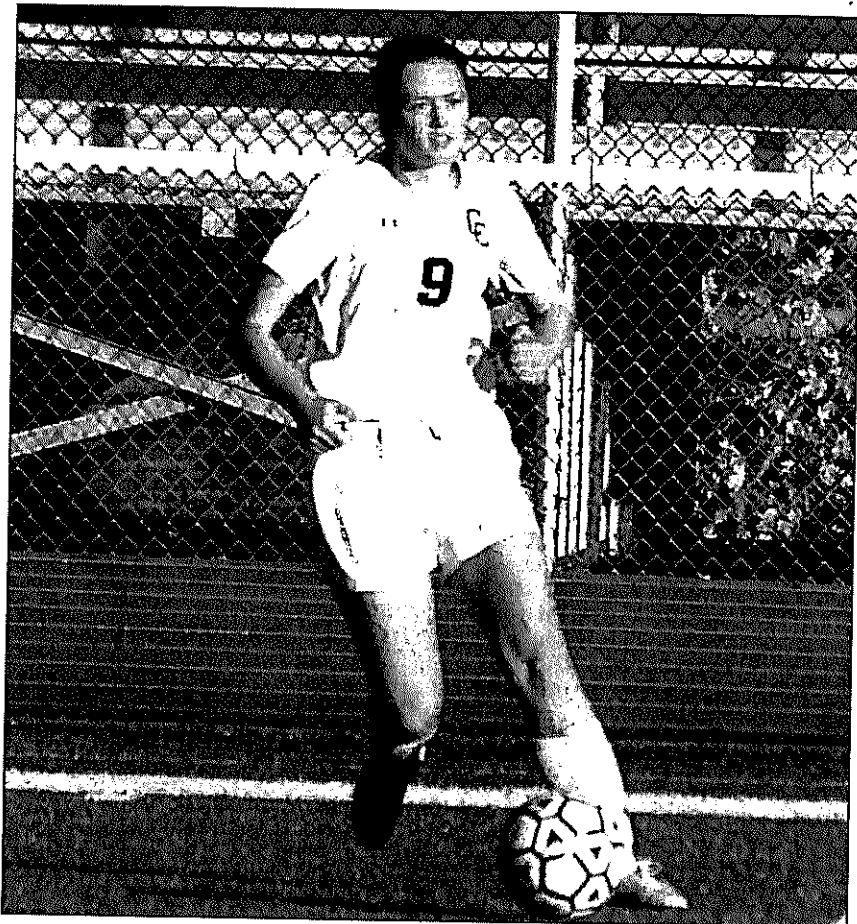


Photo by Cody Tomer
Wheeling Central's Hannah Diffenbauger controls the ball during the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic at Red Devil Stadium.

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – In the girls' half of the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic at Red Devil Stadium on Sunday, West Virginia not only defeated the Ohio all-stars, but delivered a shutout in a 6-0 victory, to earn a split in the double-header.

The Mountaineers pulled off the impressive victory behind two goals from Offensive MVP Leila Hannaoui of Brooke.

"It is really nice to get recognized for my hard work," the West Virginia MVP said. "It is also very nice to represent West Virginia in front of the Ohio Valley."

"I have heard about this game as an underclassman from all of the seniors. I always came to watch and now it is nice being on the field for the game. Its amazing and I love it."

As much as she enjoyed being apart of the event and gathering MVP honors, it was just as special for Hannaoui to be able to share the moment with the best soccer stars in the state of West Virginia.

Please see **GIRLS**, Page 10

Buckeye State Gets First Victory Since 2010

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – The Ohio boys' soccer team delivered a 6-2 win over West Virginia on Sunday at Red Devil Stadium in the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic.

The win gives Ohio its first OVAC All-Star victory since the 2010 event and Ohio coach Steve Kopcha of Steubenville Central could not be happier for his team.

"We challenged our guys before the game and told them that Ohio hasn't won this game very often," Kopcha said. "We knew we had the talent and ability to do it and our kids believed in us and believed in each other and they got the job

done.

"It is an honor to coach and a pleasure to be around this much talent. This is a great group of kids and it is a very enjoyable experience for me and Chuck Bretell of Indian Creek to coach them in this game."

St. Clairsville's Bailey Balcar earned Offensive MVP honors on his home turf for Ohio with two goals and an assist in the victory.

"He is a talented player," Ohio coach Steve Kopcha of Steubenville Central said of his MVP.

"He was playing on his home field and we were counting on the St. Clairsville kids to lead us a little bit.

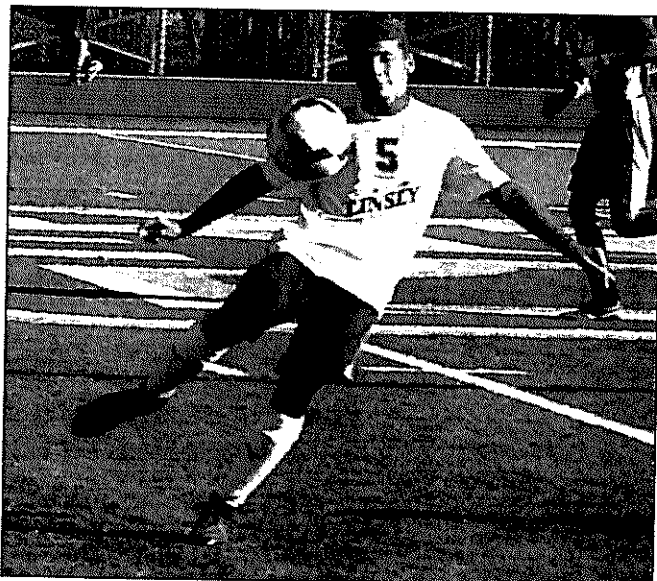


Photo by Cody Tomer
Linsley's Jack Dudich gains possession of the ball during the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic.

Please see **BOYS**, Page 10

BOYS

(Continued from Page 9)

"His two goals were big for us."

Both Balcar goals were scored in the first half to give Ohio a 2-0 advantage going into the intermission.

Ohio continued to roll in the second half with 30:53 on the clock when Union Local's Isiah Meyer beat the West Virginia goalkeeper and slid towards the net while delivering the successful shot to extend the Ohio lead to 3-0.

Moments later at the 28:00 mark, East Liver-

pool's Dylan Kidder found the back of the net for Ohio, after Balcar sent a pass over the defense to set up his teammate to keep the momentum going for the Buckeye state.

Steubenville's Marc Porter, who earned Defensive MVP honors for Ohio did some damage on offense as well with 19:22 on the clock, he collected the rebound after a shot bounced off of the post and he buried it into the back of the net to give his Ohio squad a 4-0 edge.

West Virginia got on the scoreboard with 10:14 left in the match when

John Marshall's Riley Glines beat the Ohio keeper to give the Mountaineers a chance late in the contest.

Any chance of a West Virginia comeback was erased with 6:04 left in the match when Indian Creek's Zack Neeley tallied the final goal for Ohio and that was all his team would need to claim the victory.

West Virginia recorded one more goal coming from Linsly's Stephen Dlesk with 3:27 to go but it was too late for the Mountaineers.

"Everyday is a learning

experience and what I learned today is how great these kids are from other teams," West Virginia coach Eric Fries of Linsly said. "There is some tremendous talent out here from all different schools from the West Virginia side and it is fun to have them on my side since I have been playing against them for so long. It is always an exciting time.

"We also had two of my own players on the team. It is always fun to have another day of coaching my own players as well as getting to know the guys we compete against."

The Offensive MVP for West Virginia was Morgantown's Paul Lawer-Yolar and the Defensive MVP on the Mountaineer club was Weir's Michael Gresko.

"It feels like all of my hard work has paid off in the end," Gresko said. "We had a tough end to our season so it felt good to get recognized. Its an honor.

"I have to give it to my teammates as well. They helped me so much throughout the year. I played forward all season so winning Defensive MVP was a surprise."

GIRLS

(Continued from Page 9)

"These are the best players in West Virginia," Hannaoui said. "It was great playing with them. I am so used to playing against them and it was just nice to be with them for once."

As important as Hannaoui's two goals were, the defense and goalkeepers who pitched the shutout for the Mountaineers were just as big of a factor in the win.

Goalkeepers Bailey Heubi of University, Linsly's Vivian Allison and John Marshall's Asya Carney all combined to keep Ohio off the scoreboard.

"Our goalkeepers made some good saves," West Virginia coach Bob Kolanko of Madonna said. "Our defense helped and did a good job of keeping opportunities away from them. I am very pleased with our defensive performance."

Along with Hannaoui's MVP honors, the Defensive MVP for West Virginia was Kaleigh Husk from Parkersburg South, while Steubenville had a pair of MVP's as Emma Cotter earned the offensive award and Gillian

Haught collected the defensive medal.

"It is an honor to coach this group of girls, Kolanko said. "Some of them just met each other before the game and as the game progressed, they got more comfortable and started passing much better. It was fun to watch."

Along with Hannaoui, Cassie Whitlach of Parkersburg South and Hayley Timko of Madonna also scored two goals in the match for West Virginia.

The Mountaineers' first half goals came from Whitlach with 8:59 until halftime, Hannaoui at the 7:00 mark and Timko with 3:28 on the clock.

Timko netted the first goal of the second half with 27:29 remaining, Hannaoui collected her second goal with 26:53 to go and Whitlach recorded her second goal with 18:27 left on the clock.

Ohio was coached by John Madden of Steubenville Central, who was very impressed with the group of girls who represented the Buckeye state.

"There are usually four or five girls on a soccer team who stand out," Madden said. "However, on this team, everybody from goalkeeper to goalkeeper and everyone in between really knows how to play well and they showed it today."

"They make coaching this game easy. They know their positions and they know how to play."

"We are dealing with the best seniors in Ohio and West Virginia so there is not a lot for us to do as coaches. We just assign them to positions, make substitutions and make sure everybody gets an equal amount of playing time to let them all shine."

The all-star game is not just a showcase of the best skills and talents in the game but it is also the start of many new friendships among former opponents.

"This is a great opportunity for girls to play with a group that they usually play against," Kolanko said. "They are bonding and the friendships that they have already formed is a lot of fun to see."

SECTION

B

Monday,
November 14, 2016

Ohio, W.Va. split OVAC AS soccer

• Buckeye boys win, 6-2

By **CODY TOMER**
For The times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – The Ohio boys' soccer team delivered a 6-2 win over West Virginia on Sunday at Red Devil Stadium in the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic.

The win gives Ohio its first OVAC All-Star victory since the 2010 event and Ohio coach Steve Kopcha of Steubenville Central could not be happier for his team.

"We challenged our guys before the game and told them that Ohio hasn't won this game very often," Kopcha said. "We knew we had the talent and ability to do it and our kids believed in us and believed in each other and they got the job done."

"It is an honor to coach and a pleasure to be around this much talent. This is a great group of kids and it is a very enjoyable experience for me and Chuck Bretell of Indian Creek to coach them in this game."

St. Clairsville's Bailey Balcar earned Offensive MVP honors on his home turf for Ohio with two goals and an assist in the victory.

"He is a talented player," Ohio coach Steve Kopcha of Steubenville Central said of his MVP. "He was playing on his home field and we were counting on the St. Clairsville kids to lead us a little bit. His two goals were big for us."

Both Balcar goals were scored in the first half to give Ohio a 2-0 advantage going into the intermission.

Ohio continued to roll in the second half with 30:53 on the clock when Union Local's Isiah Meyer beat the West Virginia goalkeeper and slid towards the net while delivering the successful shot to extend the Ohio lead to 3-0.

Moments later at the 28:00 mark, East Liverpool's Dylan Kidder found the back of

See, **BOYS**, Page B2





Photo/CODY TOMER

INDIAN CREEK'S Bryce Throckmorton heads the ball during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Soccer Match at St. Clairsville, Ohio prevailed, 6-2.

• W.Va. girls prevail, 6-0

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — In the girls' half of the 21st Annual Senior All-Star Classic at Red Devil Stadium on Sunday, West Virginia not only defeated the Ohio all-stars, but delivered a shutout in a 6-0 victory, to earn a split in the double-header.

The Mountaineers pulled off the impressive victory behind two goals from Offensive MVP Leila Hannaoui of Brooke.

"It is really nice to get recognized for my hard work," the West Virginia MVP said. "It is also very nice to represent West Virginia in front of the Ohio Valley. I have heard about this game as an underclassman from all of the seniors. I always came to watch and now it is nice being on the field for the game. Its amazing and I love it."

As much as she enjoyed being apart of the event and gathering MVP honors, it was just as special for Hannaoui to be able to share the moment with the best soccer stars in the state of West Virginia.

"These are the best players in West Virginia," Hannaoui said. "It was great playing with them. I am so used to playing against them and it was just nice to be with them for once."

As important as Hannaoui's two goals were, the defense and goalkeepers who pitched the shutout for the Mountaineers were just as big of a factor in the win.

Goalkeepers Bailey Heubi of University, Linsly's Vivian Allison and John Marshall's Asya Carney all combined to keep Ohio off

See, **GIRLS**, Page B2

• Girls

Continued from Page B1

the scoreboard.

"Our goalkeepers made some good saves," West Virginia coach Bob Kolanko of Madonna said. "Our defense helped and did a good job of keeping opportunities away from them. I am very pleased with our defensive performance."

Along with Hannaoui's MVP honors, the Defensive MVP for West Virginia was Kaileigh Husk from Parkersburg South, while Steubenville had a pair of MVP's as Emma Cotter earned the offensive award and Gillian Haught collected the defensive medal.

"It is an honor to coach this group of girls, Kolanko said. "Some of them just met each other before the game and as the game progressed, they got more comfortable and started passing much better. It was fun to watch."

Along with Hannaoui, Cassie Whitlach of Parkersburg South and Hayley Timko of Madonna also scored two goals in the match for West Virginia.

The Mountaineers' first half goals came from Whitlach with 8:59 until halftime, Hannaoui at the 7:00 mark and Timko with 3:28 on the clock.

Timko netted the first goal of the second half with 27:29 remaining, Hannaoui collected her second goal with 26:53 to go and Whitlach recorded her second goal with 18:27 left on the clock.

Ohio was coached by John Madden of Steubenville Central, who was very impressed with the group of girls who represented the Buckeye state.

"There are usually four or five girls on a soccer team who stand out," Madden said. "However, on this team, everybody from goalkeeper to goalkeeper and everyone in between really knows how to play well and they showed it today.

"They make coaching this game



Photo/CODY TOMER

STEUBENVILLE'S Emma Cotter, who was named the game's MVP, works the ball up the field as Weir's Franiesca Farran plays defense during Sunday's annual OVAC All-Star Soccer Match at Red Devil Stadium.

easy. They know their positions and they know how to play. We are dealing with the best seniors in Ohio and West Virginia so there is not a lot for us to do as coaches. We just assign them to positions, make substitutions and make sure everybody gets an equal amount of playing time to let them all shine."

The all-star game is not just a

showcase of the best skills and talents in the game but it is also the start of many new friendships among former opponents.

"This is a great opportunity for girls to play with a group that they usually play against," Kolanko said. "They are bonding and the friendships that they have already formed is a lot of fun to see."

• Boys

Continued from Page B1

the net for Ohio, after Balcar sent a pass over the defense to set up his teammate to keep the momentum going for the Buckeye state.

Steubenville's Marc Porter, who earned Defensive MVP honors for Ohio did some damage on offense as well with 19:22 on the clock, he collected the rebound after a shot bounced off of the post and he buried it into the back of the net to give his Ohio squad a 4-0 edge.

West Virginia got on the scoreboard with 10:14 left in the match when John Marshall's Riley Glines beat the Ohio keeper to give the Mountaineers a chance late in the contest.

Any chance of a West Virginia

in the match when Indian Creek's Zack Neeley tallied the final goal for Ohio and that was all his team would need to claim the victory.

West Virginia recorded one more goal coming from Linsly's Stephen Dlesk with 3:27 to go but it was too late for the Mountaineers.

"Everyday is a learning experience and what I learned today is how great these kids are from other teams," West Virginia coach Eric Fries of Linsly said. "There is some tremendous talent out here from all different schools from the West Virginia side and it is fun to have them on my side since I have been playing against them for so long. It is always an exciting time.

ers on the team. It is always fun to have another day of coaching my own players as well as getting to know the guys we compete against."

The Offensive MVP for West Virginia was Morgantown's Paul Lawer-Yolar and the Defensive MVP on the Mountaineer club was Weir's Michael Gresko.

"It feels like all of my hard work has paid off in the end," Gresko said. "We had a tough end to our season so it felt good to get recognized. Its an honor.

"I have to give it to my teammates as well. They helped me so much throughout the year. I played forward all season so winning Defensive MVP was a surprise."