

# Ohio boys claim OVAC A-S soccer

• St. C.'s Banks shines in net

By KYLE LUTZ

For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – When it comes to all-star games, one thing that should be expected is a fun and competitive matchup between some of the best players in the area. Sunday's boys OVAC All-Star soccer game was no exception.

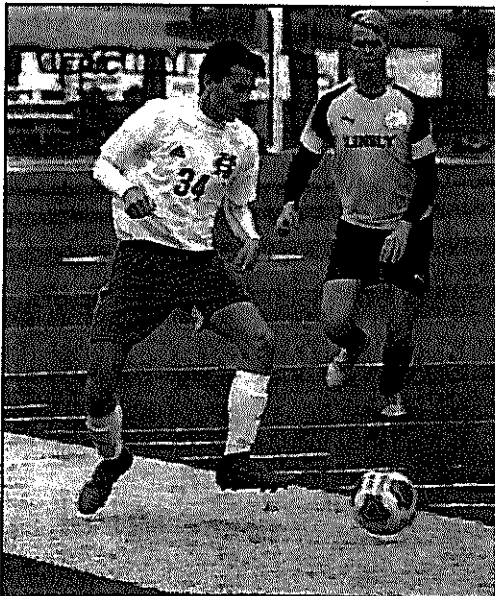
West Virginia had a handful of opportunities to tie the game in the final minutes, but Ohio and St. Clairsville goalkeeper Ethan Banks made a handful of impressive saves to deny it and helped the Buckeye State claim a 2-1 victory at Red Devil Stadium.

"It was a very competitive game," Ohio and Steubenville coach Steve Kopcha said. "They represented themselves well and their schools (Sunday). It was fun to coach this group of talent out there on the field and for everybody involved. The players did a great job. They put on a great show for the fans. Everybody enjoyed the competition and the talent level out there. It was a good afternoon. Very enjoyable."

And an even match it was as both teams played through a 0-0 stalemate for just over 17 minutes. St. Clairsville's Kade Wolfe found the back of the net to put the first point on the board with the assist coming from Beaver Local's Owen Dwyer.

However, West Virginia responded about 10 minutes later as Wheeling Park's Chris Romanek put down a perfect kick that landed right in front of Oak Glen's Lucas Harris as he secured the Mountain State's lone goal of the afternoon to tie the game at 1-1 with 12:51 left

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Photo/KYLE LUTZ

**HARRISON CENTRAL'S Eric Leech** works for control of the ball as Linsly's Luke Zwicker moves into the play during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game at Red Devil Stadium.

## W.Va. girls cruise to OVAC ASG win

By KYLE LUTZ

For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – When it comes to soccer, the Wheeling area has had an embarrassment of riches of the quality of athletes. And players from the 'Friendly City' showed what they were capable of Sunday during the girls OVAC All-Star game at Red Devil Stadium.

Wheeling Park's Emma Delk and Abbey Anderson, Linsly's Faith Paull and Wheeling Central's Maggie Fahey combined for seven goals as West Virginia routed Ohio 9-0.

"They definitely played well together," West Virginia and Linsly coach Darryl Crews said. "It speaks highly of the quality of soccer in this area and it was just a pleasure to get to play with girls that you coached against for a number of years and have them out helping your team."

After only scoring twice in the first half, the Mountain State put on a scoring parade in the second half as it found the back of the net seven times.

Anderson got things going for West Virginia with the first goal of the game about 8:30 in the game. The score remained 1-0 for about 17 minutes before Parkersburg South's Jessica Life gave her team some breathing room scoring off a Megan Cramer corner kick to put the score at 2-0 with 4:33 left in the first half.

"You get as many talented people together like this, they really run themselves," Crews said. "There was a lot of leadership was shown before the game with them getting each other ready. Even those I was listed as head coach (Oak Glen) Coach (Ryan) Wells and (Wheeling Park) coach (Carrie) Hanna, they did everything. I just stood around, watched and made sure things happened. Our goal was to let the girls have a good time and play a lot. We met those goals."

Paull opened the scoring for West Virginia in the second half as she scored two consecutive in a span of about three minutes. The Linsly stand-out received the Chuck Robinson Memorial Offensive MVP Award for West Virginia.

With 22:02 left in the game, Fahey got in on the scoring followed by a Delk goal less than two minutes later to put the score at 6-0 with 20:55 left.

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in the first half where the score remained that at halftime. With a lot of great defense being played, it was Harrison Central's Eric Leech that gave Ohio the lead for good as he scored off a Gunnar Brettell assist as the score read 2-1 with 12:51 left in the game.

"It was fun one," West Virginia and Linsly coach Greg Martin said. "Anytime you can put that many talented kids on the same field, it's always going to be fun game to watch. It was a really even, competitively-played game. I think it really came down to, their keeper (Banks), I don't think he was just Defensive Player of the Game, he was Player of the Game. He really stole the show there towards the end. Well done on his part."

Banks finished with 12 saves with a few of those coming in crunch time. Chris Romanek had an opportunity with a free kick with 5:43 left, but the St. Clairsville goalkeeper denied it.

Banks made another huge save with 1:45 left in the game as he read a shot perfectly from a West Virginia kick and kept the ball out of the net.

"Remarkable," Kopcha said. "Great job for us in goal (Sunday). He made some key saves and he deserved the honors at the end of the game for sure."

With his performance, Banks received the Chuck Robinson Memorial Defensive MVP Award on the Ohio side. Leech received the Offensive MVP for Ohio.

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After an own goal by Ohio, Delk wrapped up the scoring as she found the back of the net for the second time with 33 seconds remaining.

"First off it's really nice to be able to coach some players you had at the beginning of the year and throughout the whole season," Ohio and Stebuenville Catholic coach Jonathan Hoover said. "It's also nice to be able to coach some girls that you coached against and work with coaches on the opposite side of sidelines."

# Mountain Girls Rout Buckeyes, 9-0

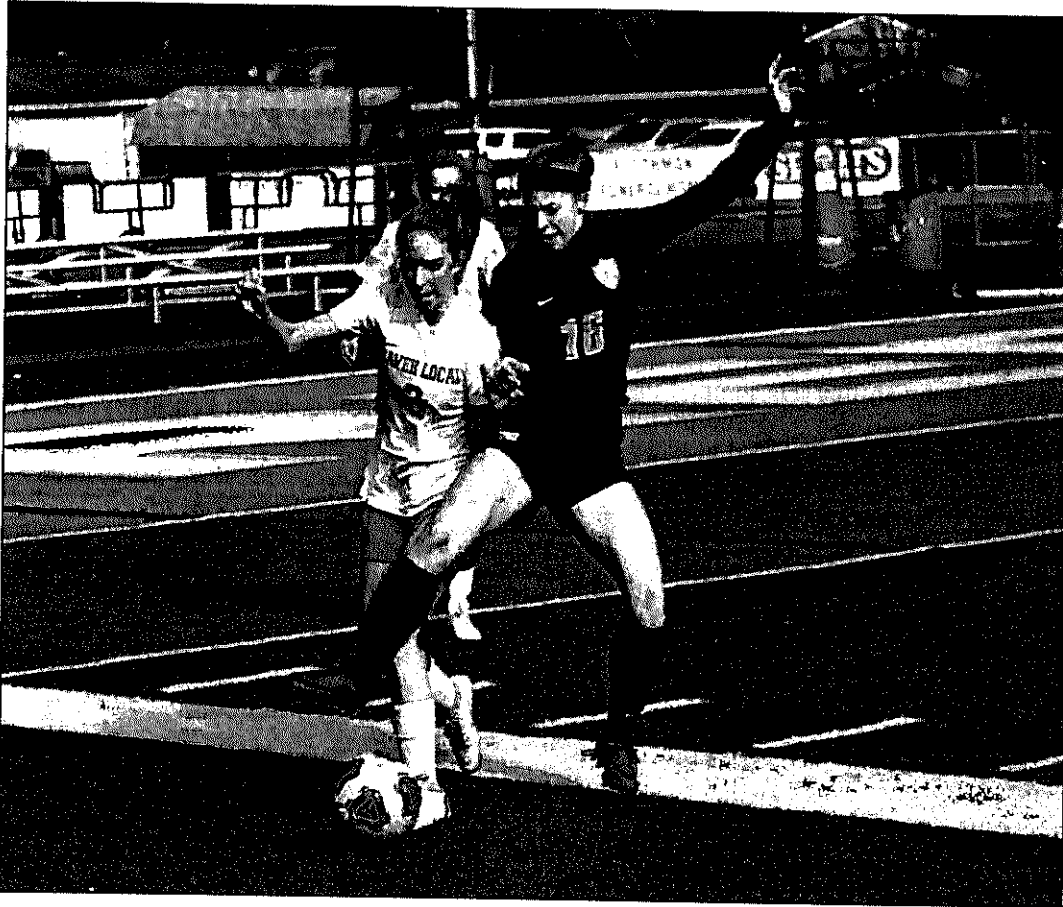


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Linsly's Faith Paull (16) and Beaver Local's Danica Taylor fight for possession during Sunday's OVAC All-Star game at Red Devil Stadium. Paull received the Chuck Robinson Memorial Offensive MVP Award for West Virginia.

## Wheeling players combined for seven goals in victory

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

### ONLINE EXTRA

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*See more photos of the best senior soccer players in the valley in the OVAC showcase at Red Devil Stadium at [www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)*

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Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Central's Thomas Minor (2) controls the ball while Steubenville's Alex Barnhouse comes in to defend during Sunday's OVAC All-Star game at Red Devil Stadium.

## Ohio Boys Edge West Virginia, 2-1

St. Clairsville keeper Banks has huge game

By KYLE LUTZ  
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## OHIO

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With his performance, Banks received the Chuck Robinson Memorial Defensive MVP Award on the Ohio side. Leech received the Offensive MVP for Ohio.

For West Virginia, Brooke's Josh Ferguson won the Chuck Robinson Memorial Offensive MVP award while University's Jacob Collins claimed the defensive accolade.

### NOTES

The OVAC Player and Coach of the Year awards were also handed out before first kick. Kopcha won Coach of the Year while Wheeling Central's Jacob Estep (1A/3A), Oak Glen's Jacob Clark (4A) and Morgantown's Ahmed Mikkey (5A) won the player of the year in their respective classes.

## MOUNTAINEERS

(Continued from Page 11)

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sidelines.

"The score line didn't go the way we would have like it to, but it just shows that West Virginia had a lot talent this year and were able to get things done. Our girls had a great time and had fun playing out there. A lot of them, this is the last time they'll play soccer so, it's a great experience for them to have one more game at the end of their senior year."

Wheeling Park's An-nalese Aderholt won the defensive MVP award for West Virginia while Beaver Local's Riley Britt (offense) and Cambridge's McKenzie Deeks (defense) were honored for Ohio. Deeks had a busy day in goal as she compiled 14 saves for the Buckeye State.

### NOTES

Wheeling Park coach Carrie Hanna was named OVAC Coach of the Year. Linsly's Athena Mariano (1A/3A), St. Clairsville's Macy Malin (4A) and Morgantown's Samantha Brown (5A) all won Player of the Year in their class.