



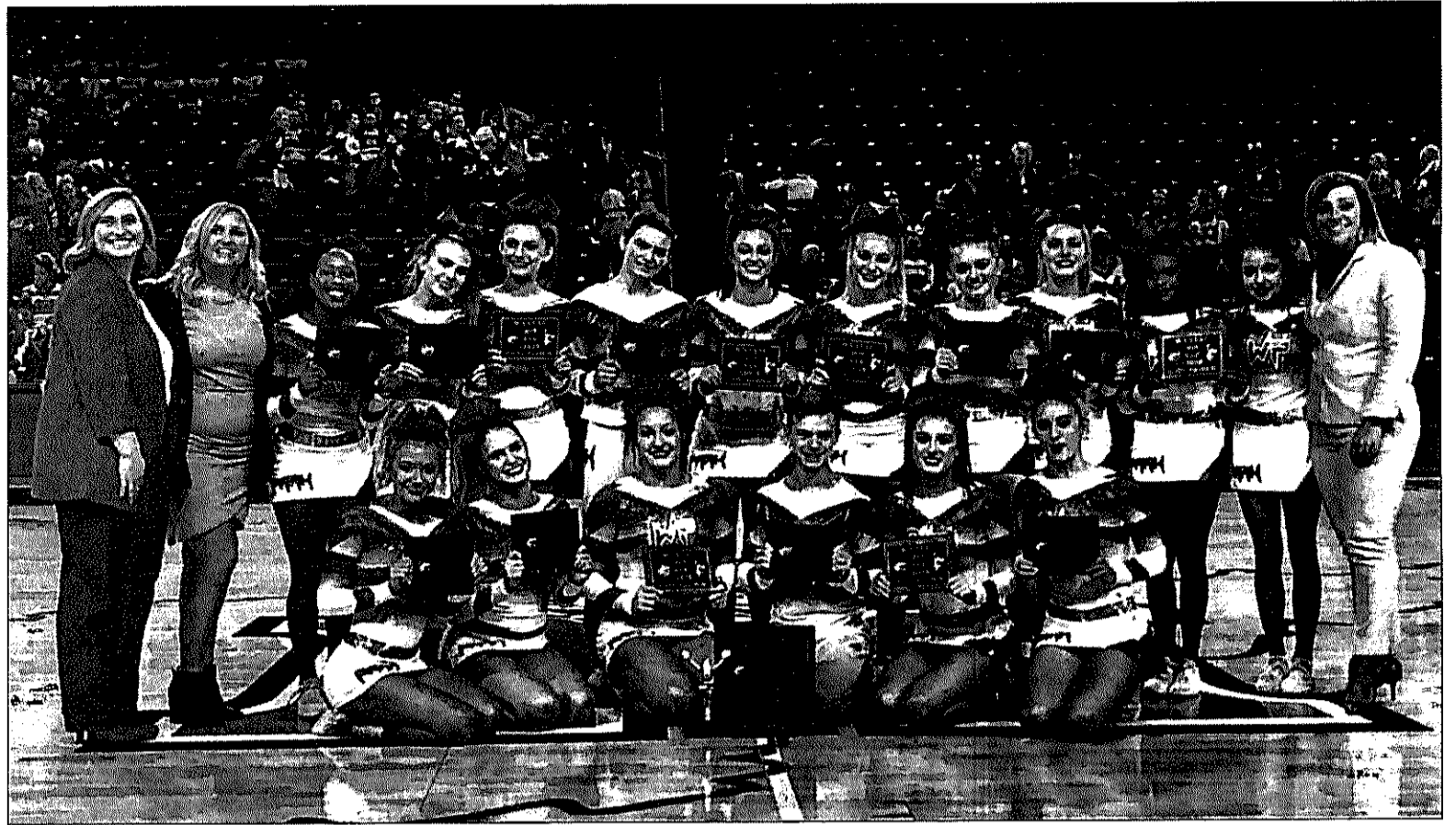
2020 OVAC  
**CHEERLEADING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 at WesBanco Arena

A supplement to The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020

**Wheeling Park Patriots**

**Head coach:  
Shawna Shepherd**



**GOOD LUCK**

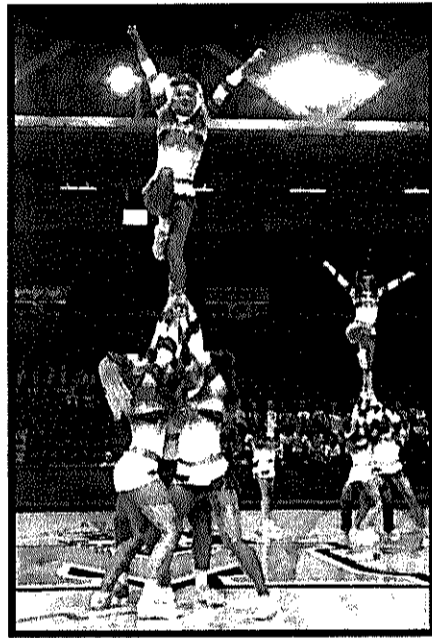
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It is a new decade and Wheeling Park hopes to continue its success it had in the 2010's at the OVAC cheering competitions as the 2020's begin.

It certainly was a decade of dominance as Wheeling Park won nine of the last 10 5A titles including the last seven.

It has already been a successful year for the Patriots as they secured the West Virginia Class AAA state championship.

"Our goal is always to hit a clean, entertaining routine," Wheeling Park coach Shawna Shepherd said. "We hope to impress with crowd with our tumbling while performing an exciting routine."

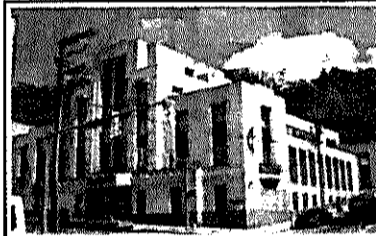
The Patriots squad consists of Ash-

ley Wiethe, Kenedi Pasquale, Jess Angius, Braden Cox, Alex Knight, Aubrey Wiethe, Savannah Turner Davis, Alaina Taylor, Katherine L'ecuyer, Steven Wilson, Kamryn Miller, Jessyca Brady, Olivia Charlton, Rylee Duke, Jermaniq Edmonds and Hannah McKeegan.

"We start with a lot of tumbling then lead into a combination of Ohio crowd style cheer and the West Virginia style cheer," Shepherd said. "We finish up with a variety of dance and Pom section."

Shepherd is assisted by Kailee Shelek and Kristi Taylor while Brian Faulkner is the choreographer.

Wheeling Park also holds the OVAC record for most cheering championships with 22 titles. Ten of those have come in the last 11 years.



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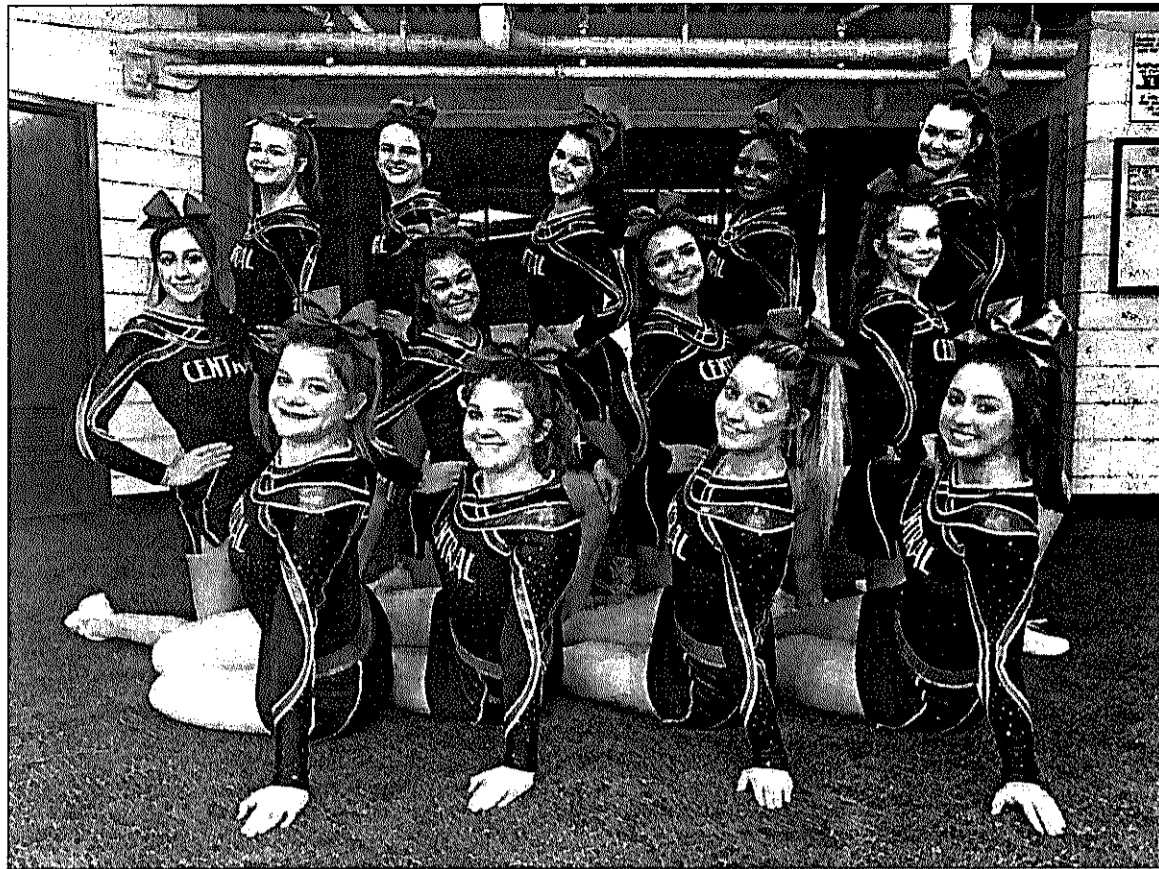
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**Wheeling Central Maroon Knights  
Head coach: Jessica Becker**

It certainly has been a busy year for the Wheeling Central cheerleading squad. Cheering on the football team to a state championship in the first week of December, the Maroon Knights also qualified for the state competition after securing second place in Class A Region I.

"In December we were fortunate to cheer our football team on to a Class A state title," Wheeling Central coach Jessica Becker said. "We competed in our own state competition the following week. While we were disappointed with our placement, it was a wonderful experience to compete in Huntington alongside the very best teams in West Virginia."

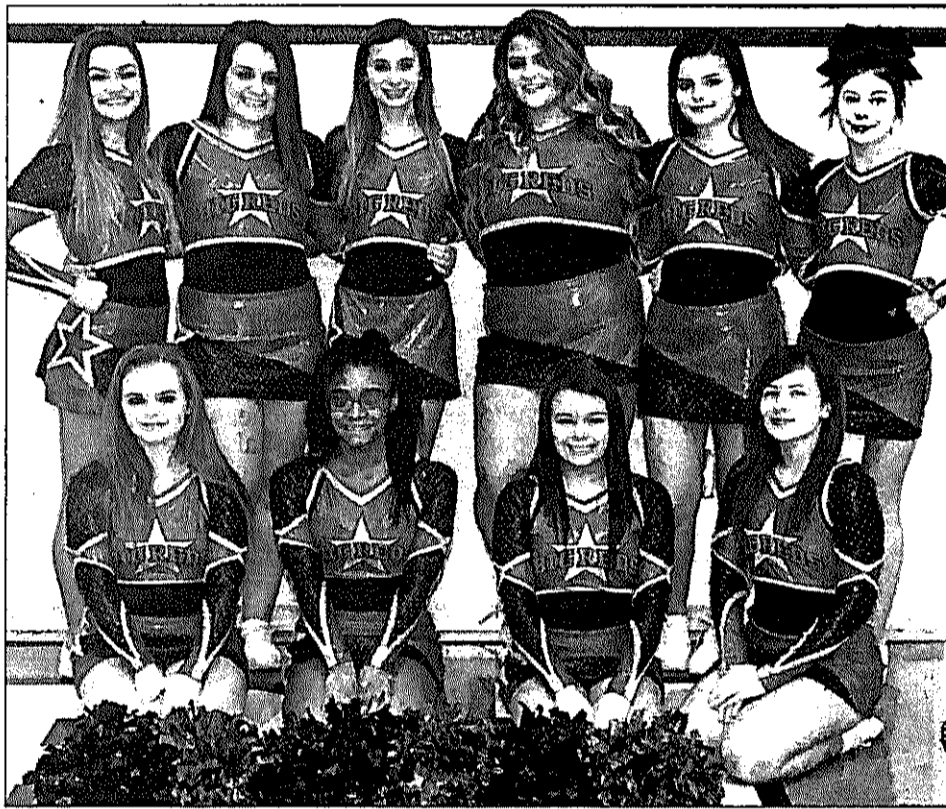
After winning the Class 3A competition in 2018, the Maroon Knights finished second in 2019. Wheeling Central's squad includes

Elizabeth Howard, Aubrey Gossett, Leah Weimer, Christine Smith, Marta Ghigo, Adriana Schellhase, Andrea Figaretti, Katie Ryncarz, Ava Grubler, Alyssa Kaylo, Maria Hunter, Breezie Askew, Anna Hester and Kayla Irwin.

"Due to the format difference between our regional/state routine and the OVAC, it's always a challenge to prepare for the OVAC competition in four to five short weeks," Becker said. "We face some fierce competition with the Ohio teams in our division who have much more time to prepare."

The Maroon Knights' routine will be high-energy packed with tumbling. It will also showcase the talent of the team, especially the four seniors.

Becker is assisted by Corey Pietranton while Joshua Wolfe is the choreographer.



**Bellaire Big Reds  
Head coach: Ann Arno**

The Bellaire Big Reds are excited to hit the WesBanco Arena floor Saturday to show off an "upbeat and entertaining" routine.

"The routine is fast with a lot of formation changes," Bellaire coach Ann Arno said. "It's fun to watch."

Arno has watched it several times in practices leading up to this weekend's annual competition.

"I am looking forward to watching the team put all of their hard work into motion," Arno said. "The preparation for competition is always exhausting, but this group pulls together and works hard."

The Big Reds will execute a routine that was choreographed by Joey Takacs.

"He's given us a fast, energetic routine that allows the girls to showcase their individual talents and have some fun," Arno said.

Set to compete for the Big Reds are senior Ashley Speece, juniors Lexus Monogioudis, Tearyannye Willis, sophomores Jady Dowling, Sydnie Watson, Taylor Menendez, freshmen Torrey Klempa, Anna Steiner, Tyrie Lucien and Adie Teasdale.

Arno, who is in her fifth season as the Big Reds cheer coach, is assisted by Hunter Eden.

*Stories compiled by Cody Tomer, Kyle Lutz and Seth Staskey  
Photos Provided by Cheerleading Coaches*

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**Magnolia Blue Eagles  
Head coach: Kayla Adams**

Magnolia cheer coach Kayla Adams is thrilled with what her team has accomplished to this point in the season.

Now, they will have the opportunity to shine on the brightest stage.

"The girls are balancing football games, then move into boys' and girls' basketball season along with working on their own routine for their competitions throughout the seasons. They are in numerous honor societies and honors/college classes, so they stay busy.

"They work hard and balance their academics and sports, while always giving 110 percent. I am so proud of these young ladies.

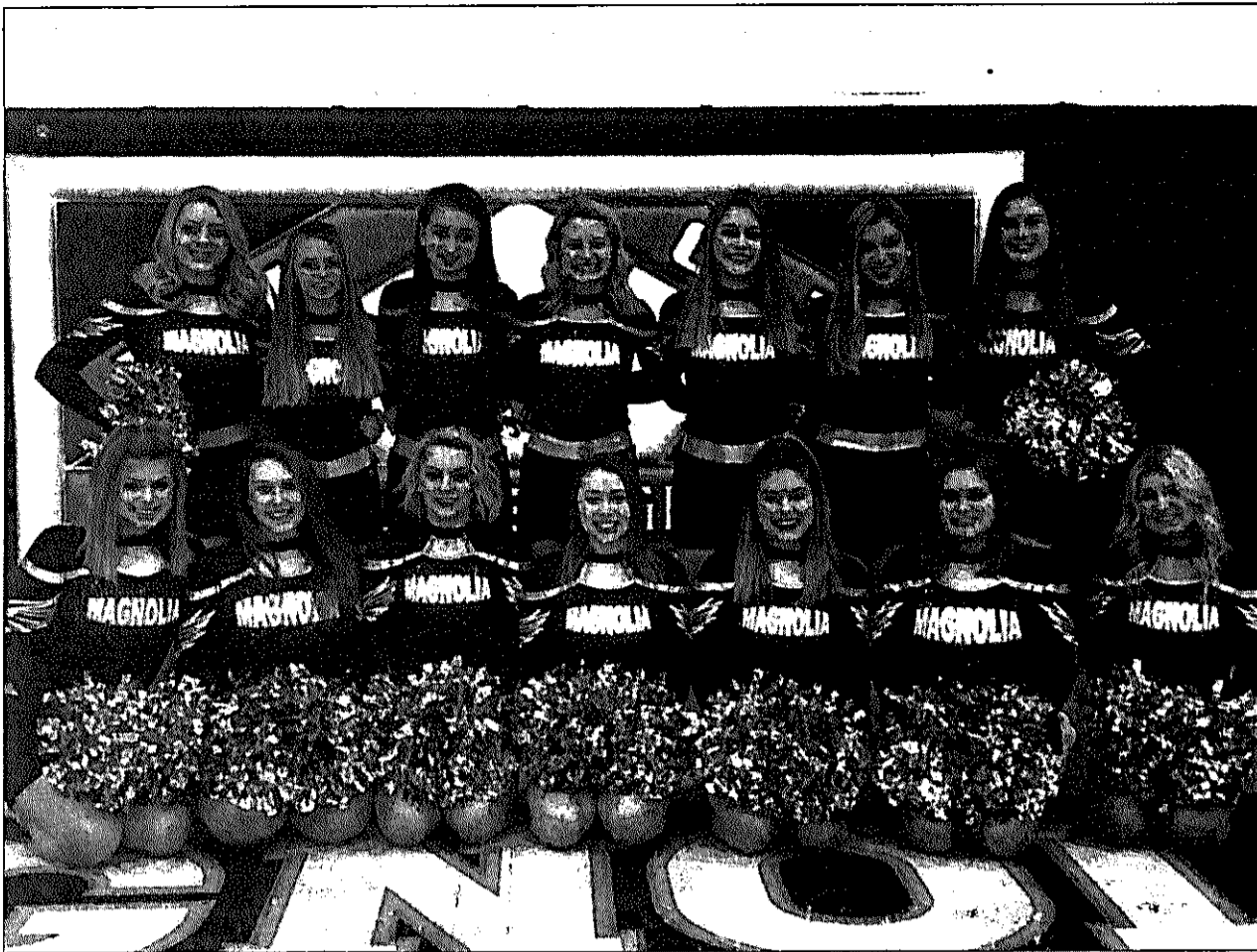
"The girls are so excited to show off all their hard work from this season. We all have one goal in mind. They have a strong motivational drive and I cannot wait to see them give it their all."

After finishing fourth in the event a season ago in Class 3A, the Blue Eagles are bringing a high-tempo and energetic display to this year's competition.

"Magnolia has an upbeat routine with tons of upbeat, fun dancing," Adams said. "The girls have loved working on this routine."

Adams' crew consists of seniors Paige Brill, Liza Clegg, Haley Feldmeier, Piper Gaines, Haleigh King, Allie Litman and Sierra Walker; junior Alyssa Kocher; and sophomores Makayla Cumberlidge, Riley Fletcher, Bre Herrick, Jazlyn Ingold and Sarah Morgan.

Joining Adams is assistant coach Jacque Clegg and choreographer Shane Sanders.



**Madonna Blue Dons  
Head coach: Kylee Bologna**

It certainly has been a memorable couple of years for Madonna cheerleading team. For the past two seasons, the Blue Dons have claimed back-to-back OVAC championships. Coach Kylie Bologna hopes that her squad can make it a threepeat when they take the floor Saturday at WesBanco Arena.

"We look forward to OVACs every year," Bologna said. "It's a different style routine, a little more laid back in a way and gives us a chance to get creative with dances, tumbling and crowd involvement. We have high hopes for OVACs this year, as we have a title to defend."

The Blue Dons' routine will be a little bit different this year according to Bologna.

"It's action-packed with non-stop choreography & more "fierce" than previous years," Bologna said.

Maria Canella is the assistant coach for the Blue Dons while Brian Faulkner is the choreographer. The squad consists of Kelsey Crawford, Lexus Melnyk, Sabrina Sauer, Carly Dowiak, Elizabeth Bain, Miranda Sole, Abby Masick, Kristina Lesho, Olivia Bain and Sydney Crawford.

"This is my third year coaching at Madonna," Bologna said. "When I walked into the program, it was definitely challenging. It was brand new to all of us. They were on a nine-year streak without a single win or state qualifier. They welcomed me with open arms & embraced my coaching style. In the past three years, they've qualified for States twice & won back to back OVAC titles. We've come a long way & have learned a lot from each other. I have a special bond with the girls & I love them all like my own."





**Paden City Wildcats**

**Head coach: Tiffany Palmer**

Paden City coach Tiffany Palmer knows what it's like to compete on the biggest stage as a Wildcats cheerleader.

Now, she is leading a squad of her own on to the floor at WesBanco Arena to compete for the valley's top prize — the OVAC cheering competition.

"As my first year as a coach is coming to an end, there has been ups and downs but I have been enjoying it," Palmer said. "I'm getting back to doing what I love and as an alumni cheerleader I hope to get this program back to its winning days."

Haley Walton, Braelynn Little, Alexis Dennis, Audri Jackson, Emma Brown, Miranda Montgomery and Lexus Clegg will be showcasing their skills in an attempt to bring the top honor back to Paden City.

"The main goal for this cheer season has always been to bring home first place at OVACs," Palmer said. "The best way to describe our routine is packed with personality, energetic motions and strong choreography. We want to leave an impression at competition with our routine and leave it all on the floor."

The Wildcats' cheerleading program has captured nine OVAC titles but have not took home first place since the 2004 contest, under head coach Crissy Bowers.

**Valley Lumberjills  
Head coach:  
Mary Jane Scyoc**



Sometimes change is a good thing.

For Valley and several other schools, there will be a new division in this year's OVAC Cheering Competition at WesBanco Arena.

Along with Class 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A, the addition of a non-tumbling division will also be included.

"In small schools it helps out," Valley coach Mary Jane Scyoc said. "There are so many multi-sport kids and a lot of injuries so this is helpful."

"Our goal is to improve from last year, overall."

Scyoc is in her fifth year as cheering coach and is enjoying the journey.

"It's been really good," Scyoc said. "We have a really good school system, who works really well with us."

Taking the floor for Scyoc this weekend will be Jamey West, Sydney Bucher, Kim Soles, MaKayla Floyd, Kiersten Wade, Olivia Scyoc, Cheyanne Higgins, Madyson Barnett, Bailey Shreve, Miriam Kinzel, Elizabeth Conley, Madyson Derby, McKinlee Yoho, Martha Dorian, Savannah Derico, Bella Wyatt and AnnaMarie Bassett.

The Lumberjills will be energized and ready to put on a show.

"Basically, we have a mixture of dance and cheer with pom poms," Scyoc said. "We have plenty of position changes, we move a lot and will really use the floor."

"We are looking for a nice, clean routine."

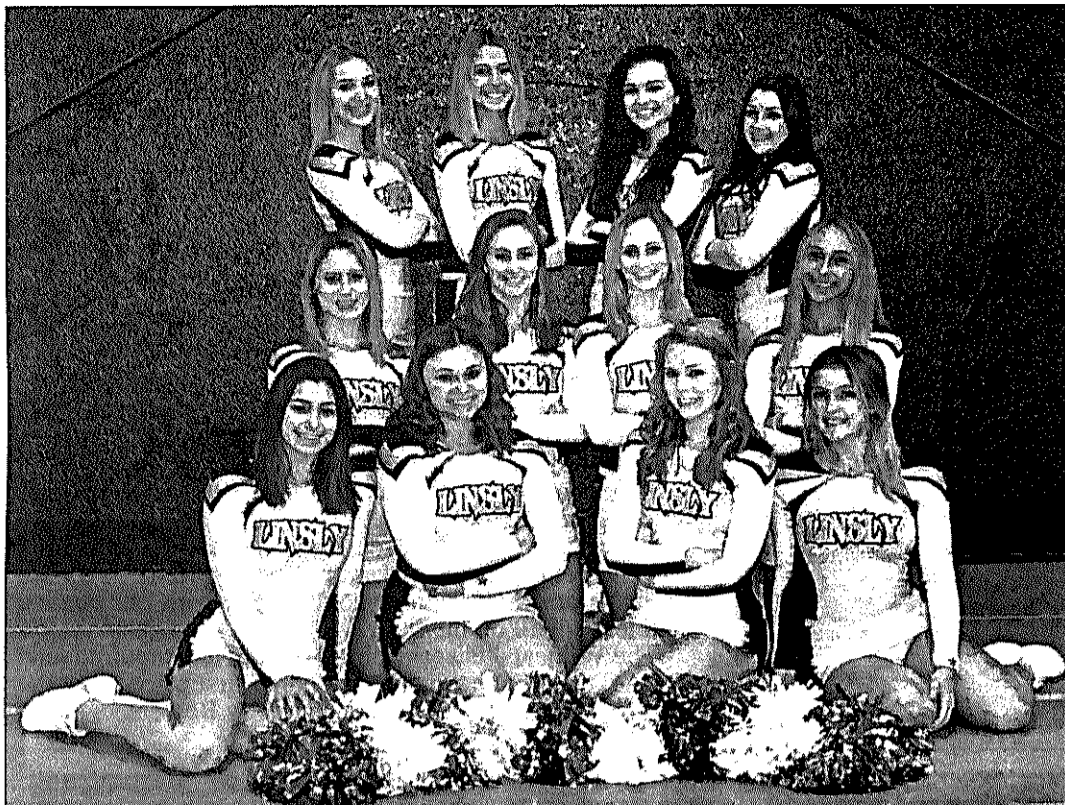
Terri Dallison is Valley's assistant coach and Josh Wolfe is the choreographer.

**Good Luck To  
All Area Teams**



**i'm lovin' it**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
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**Head coach: Jaylenn Keyser**

After winning the Class 3A title at the OVAC cheering competition last year, Linsly is set to defend its title Saturday at WesBanco Arena. For the Cadets, there will be a new coach at the helm as Jaylenn Keyser takes over as head coach.

"While this is my first year as head coach, it is my second year with the Linsly Cheer Team," Keyser said. "I am lucky to coach a group of girls who love cheerleading and are eager to be better than they were the day before. This group of girls works extremely hard and is dedicated to the sport and to their team. Cheerleading is a serious time commitment, but they have continually been working toward performing their best."

The Linsly cheering team consists of Emily Coram, Bristol Bertram, Lindsay Lenz, Bella Giovengo, Tayler Ewart, Mariah Doughty, Madison Doughty, Sydney Glessner, Carly Stewart,

Kelsey Glessner, Sierra Kelley and Jenna Barac.

"So far, we have had a great season. The team has been very determined to improve from last year, and they have worked hard to improve their tumbling skills," Keyser said. "Many of the girls are returning members, and we have a strong group of upperclassman girls. The two captains have been great leaders and role models for the younger girls."

"The team is very excited to compete and have been working hard all season to perform at their best. Our goal is to stay healthy and hit a strong routine."

"The routine is very fun, high energy, and entertaining. The girls will showcase their tumbling and dancing skills while keeping the crowd involved and excited."

Keyser is assisted by Jennifer Hemplemann while Megan Caruso is the choreographer.

**Oak Glen Golden Bears  
Head coach: Debbie Fish**

The Oak Glen cheering squad has been a frequent competitor when it comes to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheering Competition.

As the Golden Bears take the floor Saturday at WesBanco Arena, they will hope they can hoist the hardware for the first time.

And when it comes to goals this year, Golden Bears coach Debbie Fish kept it simple.

"The goals this year is for the girls to hit their routine and place," Fish said.

The Golden Bears squad consists of Mallo-ry Kovalcik, Trent Truex, Stephanie Marshall, Abby Lowther, Kaitlynn Lamp, Marlee Richmond, Chantel Gruber and Maggie Lively.

Fish is assisted by Megan White while the Golden Bears' choreographer is Joey Takacs.



**GOOD LUCK LINSLY CHEERLEADERS**

# The Linsly School

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**Shenandoah Zeps**  
**Head coach: Miranda Dailey**

Unity. That is the perfect word to describe this year's Shenandoah cheerleading squad, which has come together on many different levels to become one under first-year coach Miranda Dailey.

"Our routine is unique due to the fact that our squad came together as a whole and came up with the routine," Dailey said. "I could not have asked for a better squad to have had for my first year. They came together as one and had the most joyful season. This group of girls will make things happen. I'm glad to call them my squad."

Like any first year coach, Dailey has had her ups and downs but the girls have helped her adjust to the new gig.

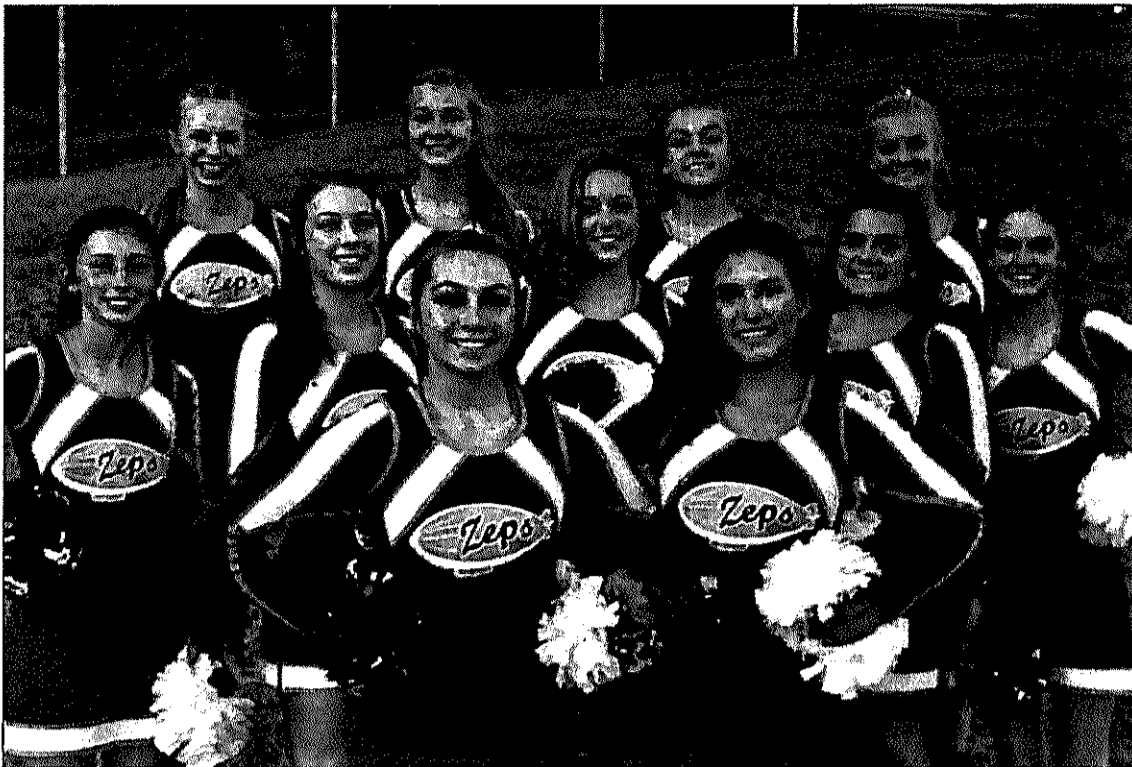
"The Zeps cheer squad has

come a long way from the beginning of the season," Dailey said. "With me being a new head coach, the adjustment was a little different than the past and took some time to get used to."

Despite the learning and adjusting, Dailey has her team ready for the OVAC competition and has set goals for her squad, as well.

"Our goal is for the squad to have more confidence in themselves and as a team," she said. "I also want them to show more facials and have fun."

Taking the floor for the Zeps will be Mya Stahl, Katie Turner, Maggie Presnell, Ryleigh Sherman, Abby Pfeffer, Raegan Feldner, Brooke Stottsberry, Kylan Biancarelli, Bailey Frye, Izzy Snyder and Denali Waers.



**Toronto Red Knights**  
**Head coach: Natalie Mousourakis**

The pressure is building with every title the Toronto cheerleading squad captures at OVACs but that's just the way coach Natalie Mousourakis and her team likes it.

The Red Knights built their success streak in the OVAC Cheerleading competition last year by winning their fourth consecutive title in Class 2A and they have no plans of slowing down this year.

"Every year we feel we have to up our game from the previous year," Mousourakis said. "It's a lot of pressure being the returning champs. Our main goal is to just have a clean routine and put on a show for everyone to enjoy."

Led by assistant coach and choreographer Joey Takacs, the Knights are prepared to thrill the crowd inside West-Banco Arena with a modern, up-tempo display.

"Our routine is very fast

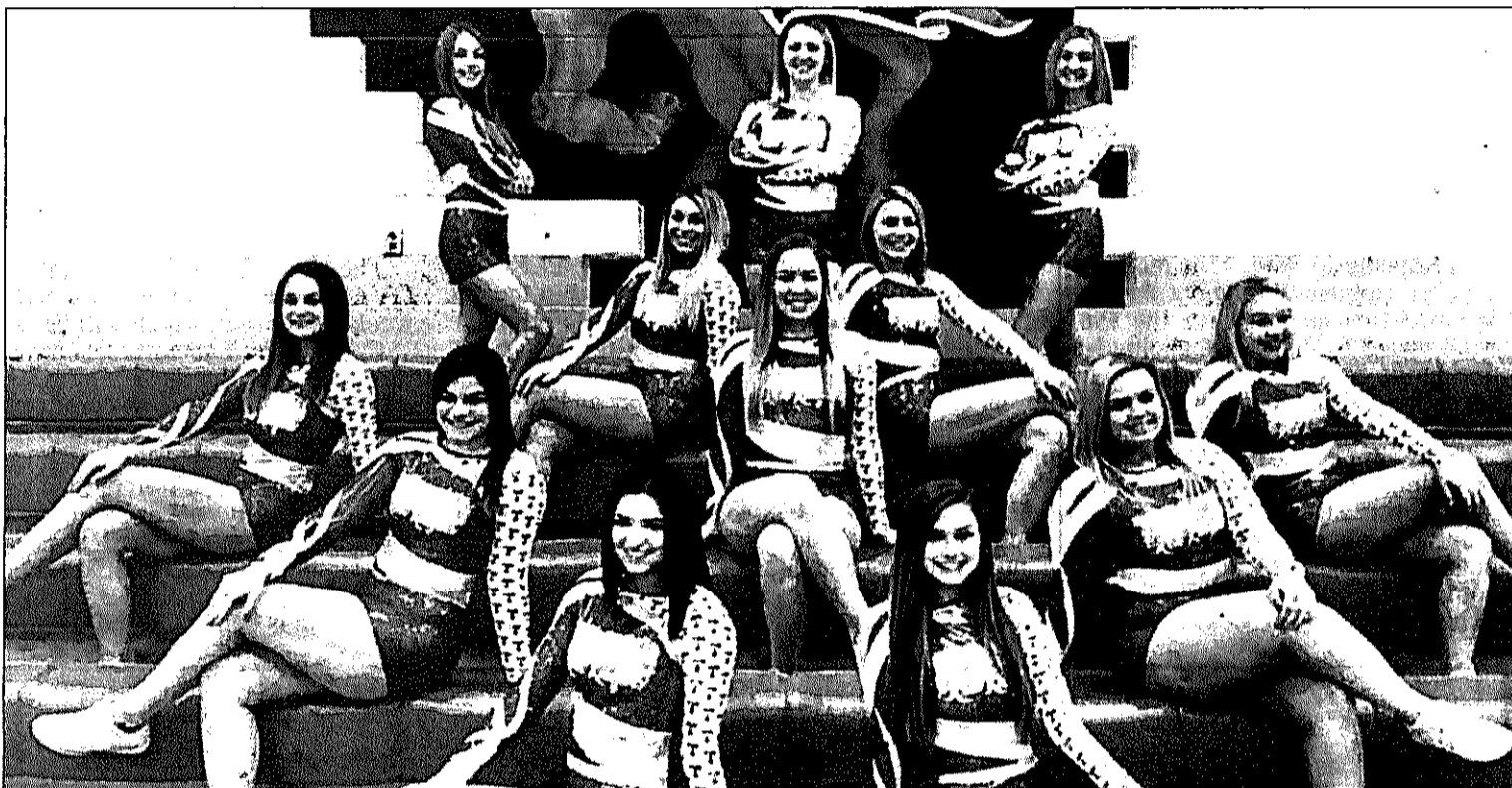
and brother (Takacs), really stepped it up with the signs and pom colors."

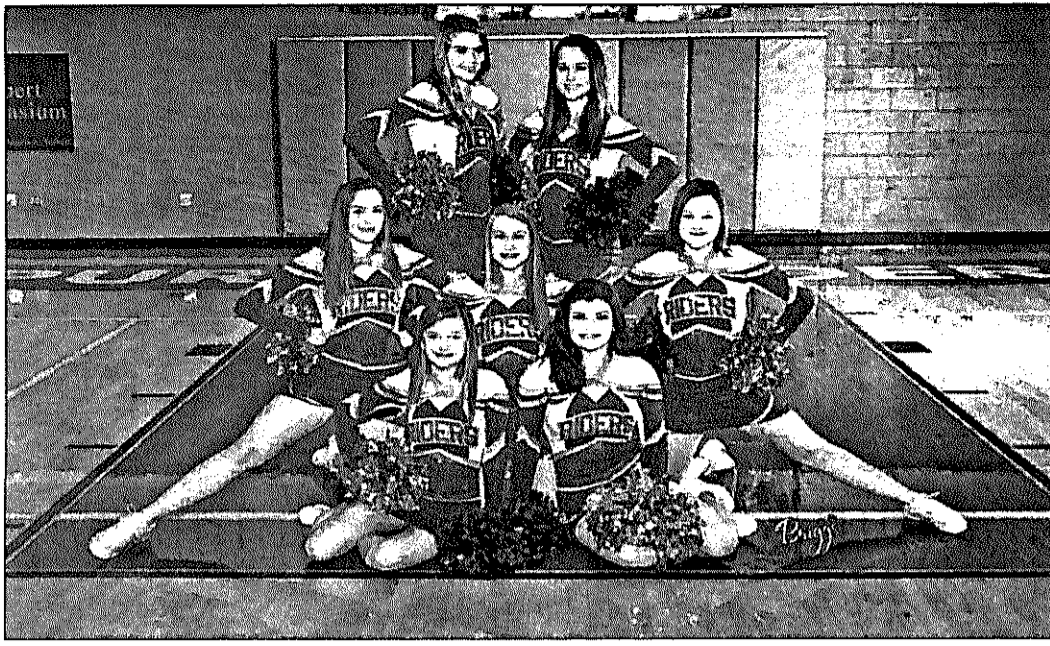
Along with Takacs, JV coach and assistant coach Erica Price has helped the Toronto cheerleaders capture first

place at the Jefferson County Fair cheerleading competition earlier in the campaign.

The Red Knights consist of seniors Isabella Irwin, Madison Zdinak, Madison Sapp and Audrey Wagstaff.

Juniors include Maddie Anderson, Maddy Stewart, Kennedy Cottrell and Riley Kinsey, along with sophomores Leah Price and Jasmine Platko and freshmen Maryn Donnelly and Dalaney Nett.





**Martins Ferry Purple Riders**  
**Head coach: Lisa Kapiskosky**

When a team wants to get better, it has to work in the offseason. And it certainly has been a busy offseason for the Martins Ferry cheerleading team. After all, the Purple Riders attended the National Cheerleading Association summer camp and fared quite well. Martins Ferry also performed in several other events outside of school sporting events.

The cheering squad attended the NCA summer camp in July," Martins Ferry coach Lisa Kapiskosky said. "The received several superior ribbons throughout the three days. We had two girls receive the Pin It Forward award for their outstanding leadership during the camp. We also had 10 nominees for All-American and two were chosen as All-American finalists.

"The squad also participated in the Wheeling Fantasy of Lights parade and the Martins Ferry Christmas parade where they were awarded the mayor's plaque for outstanding excellence. They most recently competed in the first OHSCCA (Ohio High Schools Cheering Coaches Association)

regional competition and qualified for the Best In State championship."

With so much practice and success, the Purple Riders are also going to have to overcome a little bit of adversity when they take the floor during the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday.

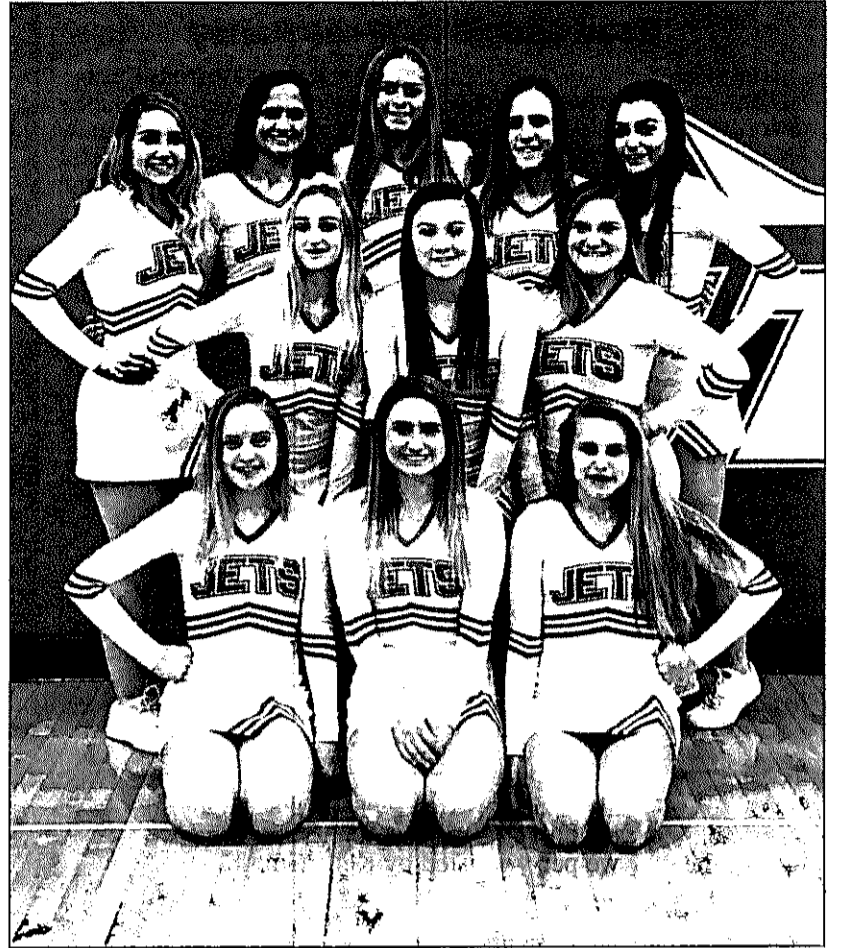
"We have had several injuries this season so it has been more difficult than past years. Our goal is to go out there and give our very best performance," Kapiskosky said.

The Purple Riders placed third in the 4A division last year and are ready to bring the energy when they hear they're name to be called to the floor.

Our routine is high tempo and the girls really enjoy the energy," Kapiskosky said. "The second part is their favorite."

The Purple Riders squad consists of Kara Kapiskosky, Jessica Roberts, Kayla Voytcek, Lacey Dobson, Alissa Hadorn, Valerie Gasmire and Gianna Shane.

Kaylann Yates is the assistant coach while Ayla Stewart is the choreographer.



**Union Local Jets**  
**Head coach: Amy Latham**

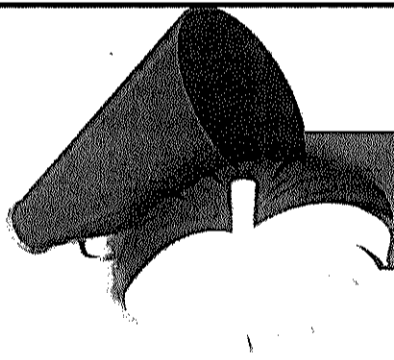
The Union Local Jets are coming off a strong showing in the 2019 OVAC Cheering competition and are hoping to build on that for this weekend's event, which will be held at WesBanco Arena.

Coach Amy Latham's Jets have battled through injuries during the months of practice and training leading up to this weekend's event.

"Our goal is always to come out on top," Latham said. To help them achieve the goal, Union Local had A.J. Blankenship choreograph its routine, which Latham is excited about.

"The routine is different than what we've had in the past," Latham said. "It's really cute and fun."

Set to compete for the Jets are seniors Jordan Watson, Kylee Taylor, juniors Chasadie Harris, Baylee Magnani, Maddi Klayko, Macie Marinelli, freshmen Cali Brudzinski, Emalee Usenick and Ahn Davis. Latham is being assisted by Mady Brown.



# Good Luck PURPLE RIDERS

In the OVAC Cheering Championships on Saturday

From MARTINS FERRY CITY SCHOOLS



**John Marshall Monarchs**  
**Head coach: Marcie Robbins**

When it comes to Class 5A schools in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, one will tend to think they will see a handful of athletes on a squad. That's not the case for John Marshall's cheerleading squad this year. The Monarchs, who are one of the top five schools in terms of enrollment (821) will only sport 10 girls this year at the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday. Even with the small numbers, Monarch coach Marcie Robbins is positive going into the competition.

"The girls have been working really hard on their tumbling. This year's squad is made up of three seniors, three juniors, and four freshmen," Robbins said. "We have only 10 girls, so it's a small team for a 5A school, but we won't let that affect the way we per-

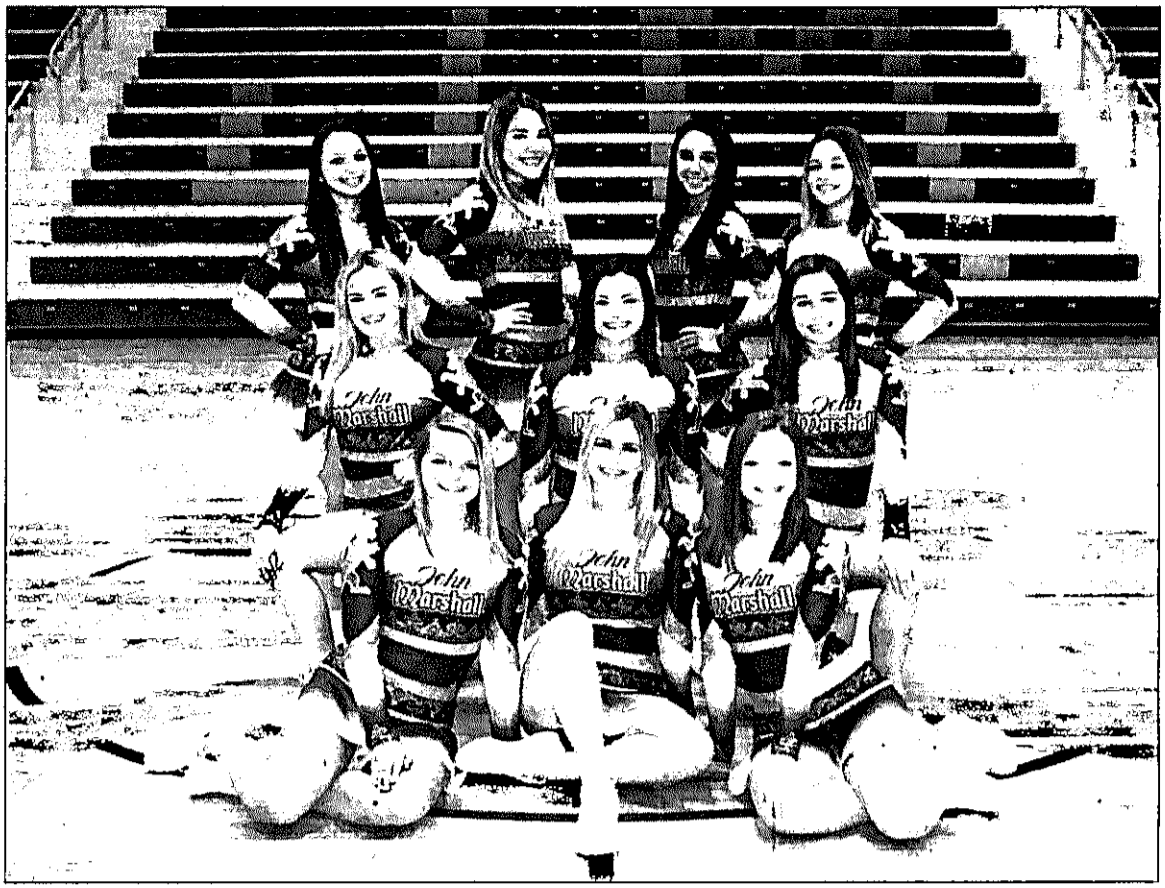
form. We're really excited for this year's competition."

The Monarchs squad consists of Brooklyn Bell, Emilee Kettler, Sadie Neuman, Avery James, Haleigh Henderson, Kiley Ward, Kallie Moses, Reagan Warner, Kaylee Linabarger and Emma Felton.

John Marshall took third place in the 5A competition last year and hope they will place higher this year.

"Our OVAC routine this year is fast-paced, fun, and flashy. Our choreographer, Joey Takacs, really created a great routine," Robbins said. "We start with music and a lot of tumbling; the cheer is in the middle, and the last music section has a little tumbling and a lot of dance. Last year at OVACs, we got third place, so this year we're determined to beat that."

Along with Takacs being the choreographer, Robbins is assisted by Kelly Smith.



**University Hawks**  
**Head coach: Lisa Burtner**

There will be a new team competing in the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships this year as University will make the trip to WesBanco arena Saturday to compete.

What also is unique about the University cheerleading program is the Hawk have a mother-daughter coaching duo. Together Coaches Lisa and Sophia Burtner bring over 50 years of cheerleading experience. Now in their third year coaching together at UHS, they absolutely have loved watching the journey of their athletes and seeing them push for new skills.

While the Hawks were runners-up and Technical Grand Champion at the GWHS competition and third at regionals, both coaches feel the biggest accomplishment has been the athletes passion as they have shown hard work and dedication.

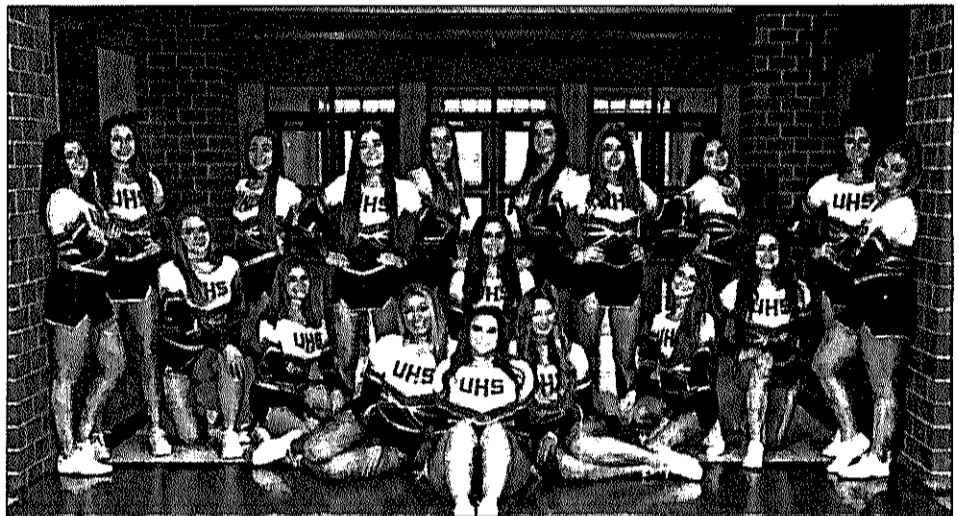
"The UHS cheerleading program celebrates all the teams at OVACs and wishes them good luck," Lisa Burtner said. "It takes a lot of dedication to compete and become a champion. This is University High

Schools first year attending OVACs. Our goal is to give our amazing and talented athletes the opportunity to refine and work on skills needed to compete against the best in our cheerleading industry. Win or lose, the University High School team is already winning just by doing what they love."

Joey Takacs is the Hawks' choreographer. The cheerleaders will also bring their classic bright red pom-poms for their debut at OVACs.

"The UHS routine is about stealing your heart. Prepare to fall in love the University High School Lady Hawk cheerleaders," Burtner said. "You will find that your new found love for these talented and sweet athletes will never go away."

The University squad includes Sydney Graham, Katya Gaujot, Rachel Santrock, Sarah Santrock, Lexi Starcher, Mary Ritchie, Karleigh Tipton, Gwyn Parow, Sydney Beal, Belle Nichols, Teia Rice, Ariel Stern, Olivia Quarrick, Sophie Valachovic, Alexa Mascaro, Cecily Groves and Alena Arbogast.



*Good Luck & Happy Be A Good Sportsman!*

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**Hundred Hornets**

**Head coach: Elizabeth Bragg**

After an over 20 year hiatus, the Hundred girls cheerleading team is back to compete at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday.

This will be new territory for Coach Elizabeth Bragg's squad, however, the Hornets have a very determined mindset and have put in the hard work over the year.

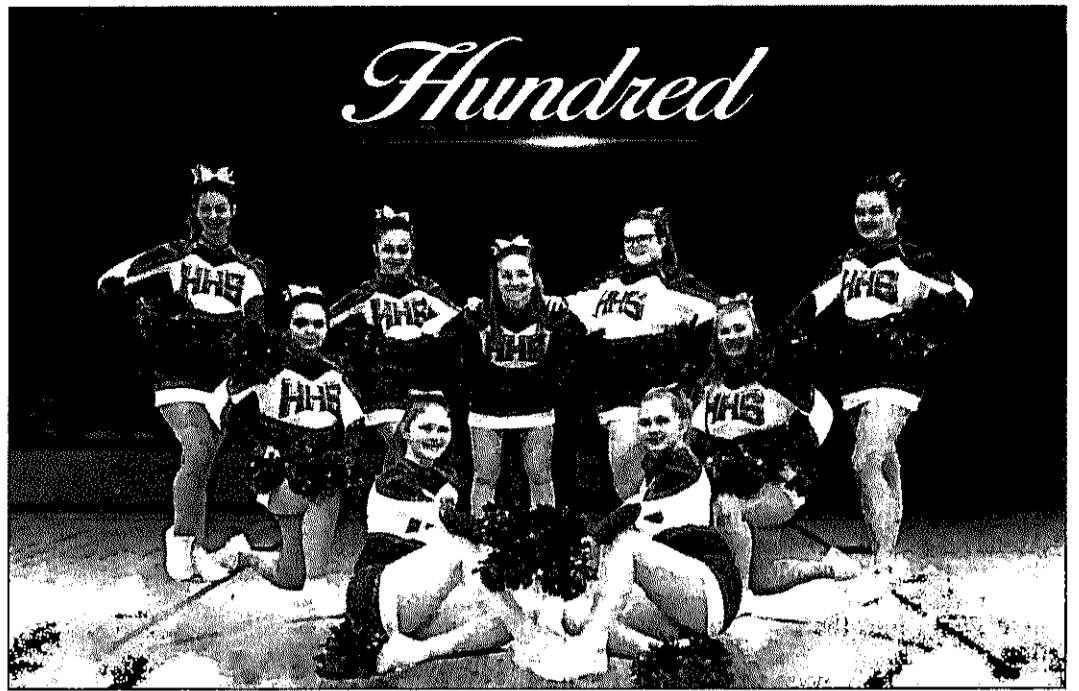
"As a group we set our expectations to just do 100 percent," Bragg said. "None of our girls have competed at the high school level as a cheerleader at OVACs so we as a group are just excited to showcase what they have been working on for the past several months hoping to shock everyone."

The Hornets will take part in

the non-tumble class on Saturday. Hundred sports a young squad and as it has no seniors. Juniors Destiny Patterson and Kayla Matthews are the captains of the Hornets while Mackenzie Burley, Aubrie Hawkins, Allie Hawkins, Addie Tuttle and Adalyn Conaway complete the sophomore class. Madison Sleeth and Shelby White are the freshmen.

"This is my third year coaching at Hundred but first time going into OVAC competition. It has been a trial and error year learning how far I can push the girls individually but they have all come together and shocked both myself and my assistant," Bragg said.

Bragg is assisted by Thelma Zirkle while Shane Sanders is the choreographer.



**Morgantown Mohigans**

**Head coach: Cindy Colasante**

As the country's largest high school conference continues to expand, the OVAC cheering competition will also see a new team at this year's competition as Morgantown will make the trip to WesBanco Arena.

"This is Morgantown High School's first time competing in the OVAC competition," Mohigans coach Cindy Colasante said. "We are excited to represent MHS. We think the competition is a great way to showcase our skills and gain more experience for our younger team members, while representing our school within our conference."

The Mohigans have plenty of seniority to

lead a rather young team. With the five seniors, there are also five sophomores and five freshmen. The seniors include Ali Berry, Alyssa Dalton, Jady Davis, Ashlin Riggleman and Kristen Thompson.

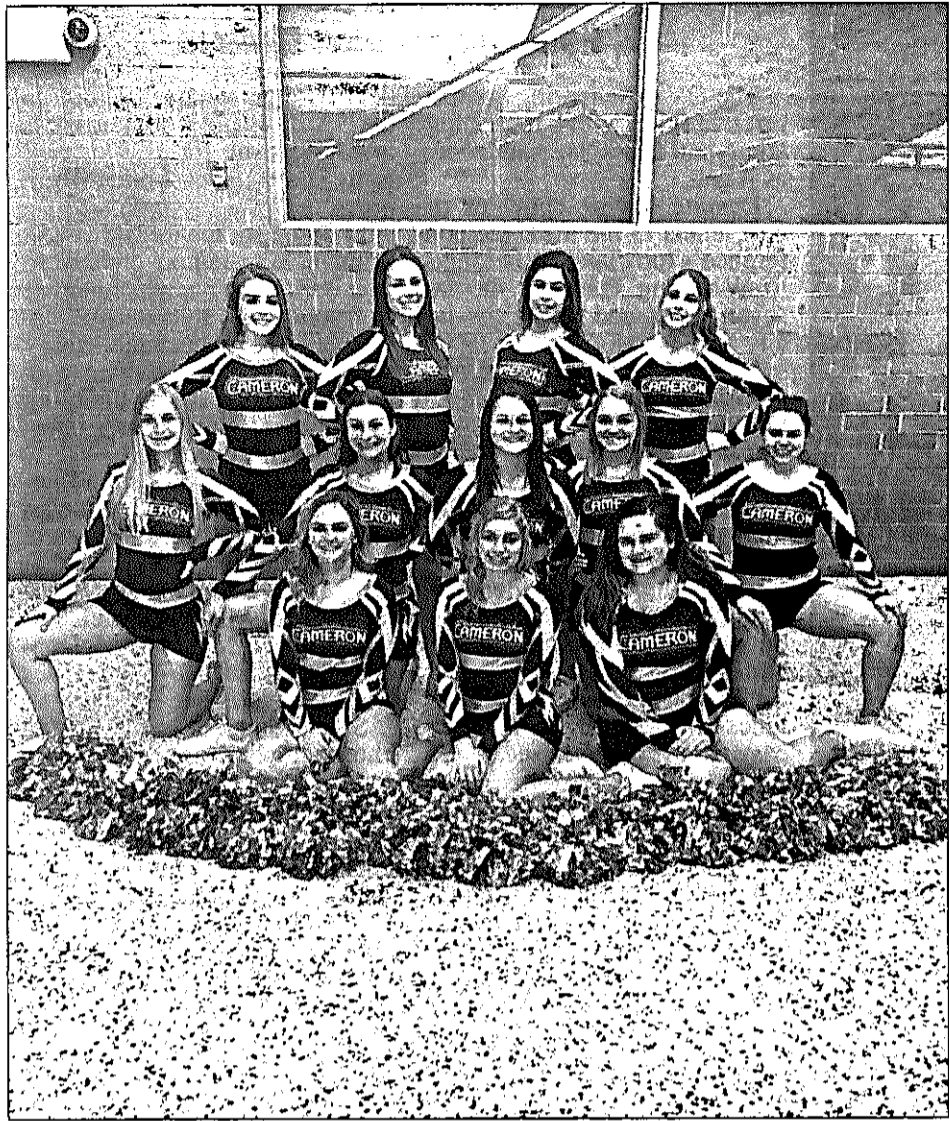
Paige Cain, Kamryn Geisel, Olivia Greskevitch, Jennette Kleeb and Alivia Mcie are the sophomores while the freshmen class includes Macy Muckleroy, Diego Jara-Oporto, Breonna

Carter, Izayah Everett and Lakin Lawhun.

"Our routine has several tumbling passes that highlight the talent we have in this category," Colasante said. "Our cheer portion will combine our West Virginia cheer style and a little crowd cheer to compliment both forms of cheer."

Kelli Teets is the assistant coach while Ryan DeMary is the choreographer.

**GOOD LUCK**  
**STEUBENVILLE**  
**BIG REDS**  
**FROM STEUBENVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**



**Cameron Dragons**  
**Head coach: Bethany Scott**

Just two months removed from a third place finish at the regional tournament; the Cameron Dragons are starting their routine from scratch.

After finishing second at the OVAC cheering competition last year, coach Bethany Scott is hoping the change will bring the school its first OVAC title in school history.

"We have worked very hard this year to hopefully come home with our first OVAC win," Scott said. "We have really tough competition as always but I'm hoping our girls have enough to get it done this year."

"Our routine this year is completely new from our regional routine, so the girls have had only two months to not only learn a new cheer but a new dance routine, also. We have a lot of strong tumblers this year that have worked so hard to be able to pull harder passes than they did at regionals."

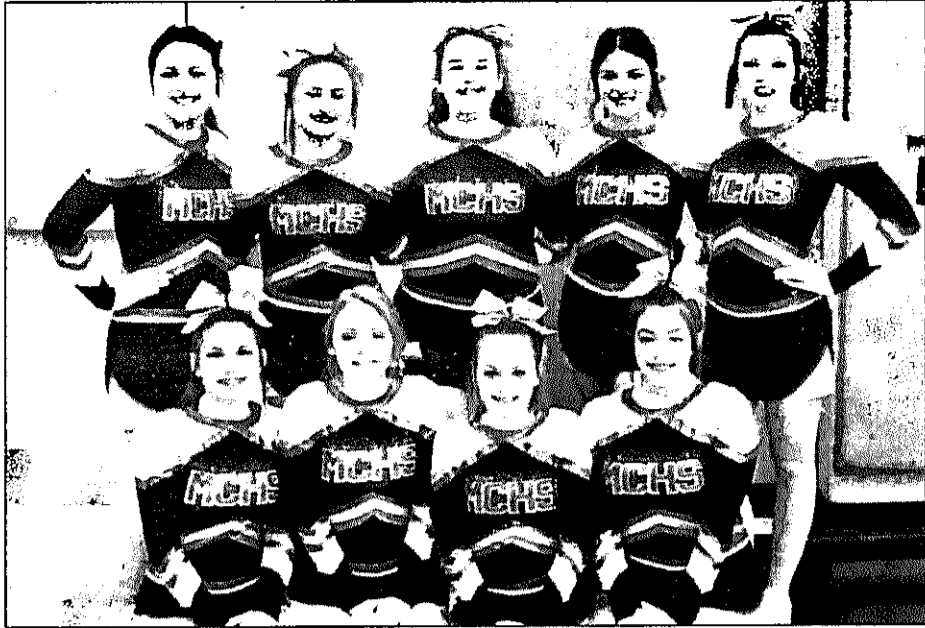
"As long as the girls bring the energy I know they can. I really think they will kill it."

Along with the third place finish at regionals this year, the Dragons also captured first overall at a cheer competition in Lincoln County.

Showcasing their skills for Cameron will be Cassidy Butler, Carson Howard, Stephanie Startcher, Kiersten Wendt, Leah Hart, Lili Neely, Micaela Magers, Darbi Pyles, Josie Cumpston, Audrey Chambers, Josie Ayers and Carlie O'Neil.

"We have a little bit of a smaller squad this year but they have definitely been one of my hardest working squads," Scott said. "We have multiple girls who not only cheer but played volleyball and are currently playing basketball."

Morgan Miller is Scott's assistant coach.



**Monroe Central Seminoles**  
**Head coach: Vicki Lohr**

After every competition, there are talks about possible changes that can be made for the future. For the Monroe Central cheerleading team, the Seminoles will look to take advantage of one of those options during the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday.

"I am very excited this year to see how the addition of the non-tumbling option goes," Monroe Central coach Vicki Lohr said. "There was a lot of conversation going back and forth about even having this be an option. We are competing in this division this year and the girls are super excited and pumped up."

Placing third place in the 2019 competition, the Seminoles looked at ways they could improve from last year's performance to improve. Lohr also said that they will be going down a more difficult rout.

"Our routine is high energy and more difficult than last years ,We used the

feed back from last years score and implemented them to this years routine," Lohr said.

The Monroe Central girls cheerleading team consists of Kristen King, Bryleigh Holden, Hailie Hoyt, Alexis Vargo, Melody Chambers, Shelby Brewer, Stephanie Olgden, Whitney Young and Kylie Ward.

"We have four returning squad members that have had experience in competing at OVACs," Lohr said. "Some of our squad members this year have never competed before. Which can be a challenge because of the amount of practice that is involved. The squad routinely participates in various community events through out the year . The squad went to a UCA camp over the summer where their were able to polish their skill set including jumps, motions and technique. Two of our girls walked away with leadership pins."

Lohr is assisted by Victoria Frontz while Shane Sanders is Monroe Central's choreographer.

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**Indian Creek Redskins  
Head coach: Gina Giuliani**

The OVAC cheering competition is filled with outstanding talent and Class 5A is as good as it gets.

Despite having some of the best teams in the area, the conference's top class has belonged to Wheeling Park for the last seven years and 10 of the last 11.

Indian Creek comes in with a positive attitude this year and will do its best to try to make a run at the title.

"This is one of the most talented squads I have ever had the pleasure of coaching," Indian Creek coach Gina Giuliani said. "These students are not only excellent cheerleaders but also are all-around amazing athletes."

"Their hard-working attitudes and love of the sport are easy for everyone to see."

"Being a smaller school in the 5A division — our work is always cut out for us. Our goal is to show up and outperform ourselves."

In doing so, the Redskins will bring a high-tempo display to WesBanco Arena, while getting everyone in the stands involved.

"We have a very high energy routine this year," Giuliani said. "There is some strong tumbling in the opening and a very interactive crowd cheer."

The Creek cheer squad includes Tori Redmond, Haleigh Marcino, Madison Swickard, Tremar Jackson, Olivia Wukelic, Malaina McDonald, Rylee Merryman, Allison Pethel, Tiffany Taylor, Madolyn McDonald, Bella Pitts, Jordan Hiles and Sydni Skender.

Shane Sanders is the team's choreographer.

**St. Clairsville Red Devils  
Head coach: Shawn Tomlan**

Back for more! Such is the case for the St. Clairsville Red Devils cheering squad, which will be in search of an astounding 13th consecutive conference title.

Head coach Shawn Tomlan is actually excited to be taking the floor at WesBanco Arena with a full complement of cheerleaders after battling injuries and sickness during most of this month.

"Our goal is to always bring home another OVAC title, but a few

weeks ago, our goal was to get healthy enough to compete," Tomlan said. "It was tough to prepare for competitions with only 40 percent of our team able to participate in practices, but we now have most of our teams healthy and are ready to defend our title."

The Red Devils have been busy this winter, cheering at basketball games, taking part in the 'Best in the State' Ohio competition cheering series, which is new for

this year and now getting ready for this weekend.

"Our team is no different than any other competitive cheering team out there," Tomlan said. "We're all trying to juggle practices with cheering at basketball games."

The Red Devils plan to utilize an "action-packed routine," according to Tomlan. It was choreographed by A.J. Blankenship.

"We will be doing a crowd cheer, involving a sign cheer with tumbling,

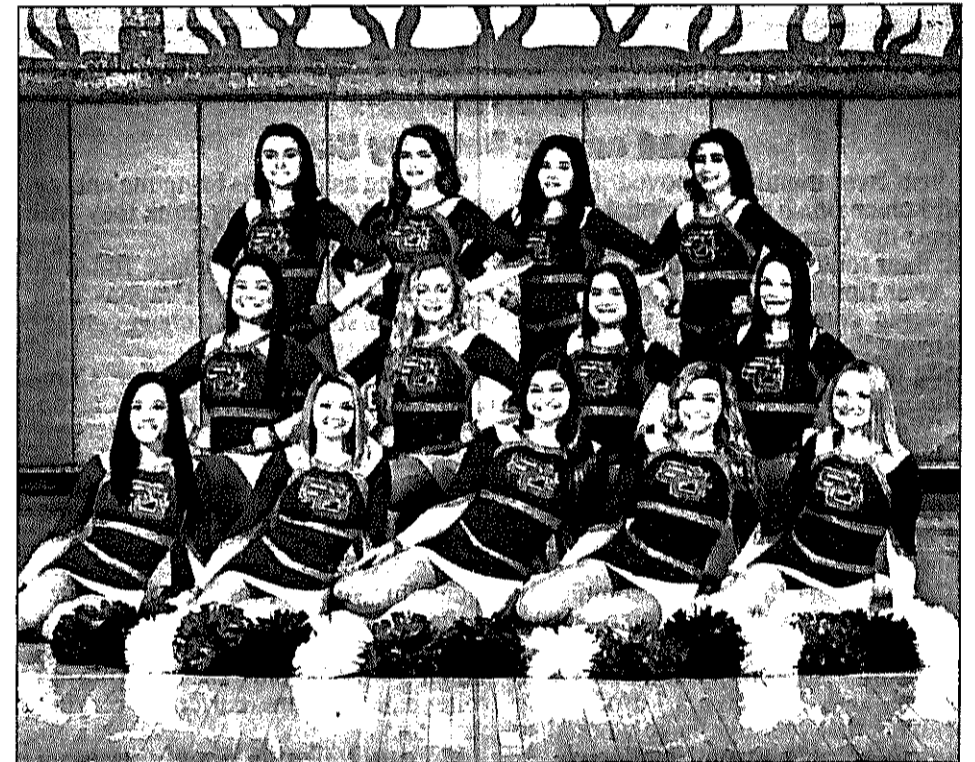
jumps and a dance that we hope entertains the audience and judges," Tomlan said.

Set to compete on Saturday are seniors Elaina

Baker, Alexi Kindler, Mallory Marconi, Jade Myers, Rachel Sorge, juniors Alyssa Baire, Marissa Fellin, Rachel Francis, Abbey Perzanowski,

sophomores Lindsay Baker, Casadie DiBetta and Madie Stock.

Tomlan is once again being assisted by Cathy Wolfe.



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**Shadyside Tigers**  
**Head coach: Michele Burkhart**

Shadyside cheer coach Michele Burkhart has enjoyed the trials and triumphs of her first season at the helm.

She would love to cap off her rookie campaign by watching her talented team raise the trophy at the OVAC competition.

"During my first year of coaching this varsity squad, I have encountered some difficult moments, lessons learned and some growing pains," Burkhart said. "Myself and my squad have overcome many injuries, illnesses and differing personalities."

"These girls are resilient, hard-working, extremely talented, fun, young ladies and I'm very proud to be their coach."

"I look forward to seeing what the girls will bring to the OVACs in the upcoming years."

Taking the floor for the Tigers this year will be senior captain Olivia Carpenter and classmate Christa Berry; juniors Deanna Archer and Abbie Brown; and freshmen Shae Burkhart, Kenzy Beckett, Kira Nardo, Lexi Goodman, Aivreigh Holmes and Payton Bommer.

"The Shadyside varsity cheerleaders

are an extremely talented group of young ladies," Coach Burkhart said. "At the beginning of the year, the squad made several individual and team goals, many of which they have already achieved."

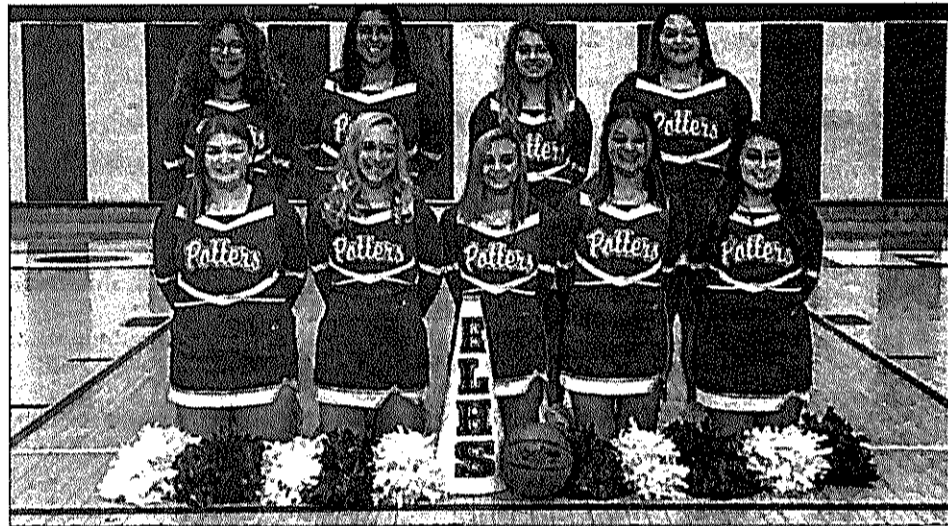
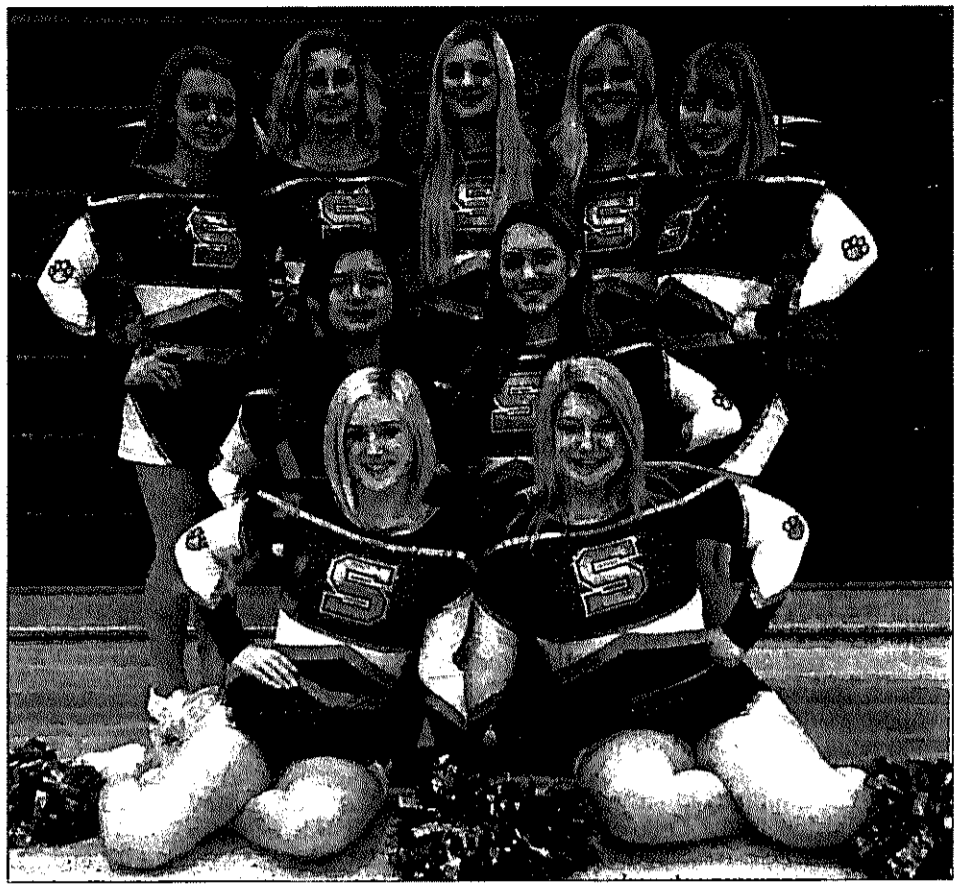
"The squad's goal this year at OVACs is to improve from last year's third place finish and to strive to win. These girls are true athletes and this is the time for the school/community to support the cheerleaders since they regularly cheer for other sports."

"These girls work very hard together to be successful."

The Tigers' choreographer, Brian Faulkner, has put together a solid routine for the competition.

"This year's routine is full of fun and excitement," Coach Burkhart said. "We have incorporated tumbling and energetic dancing and cheer moves."

"Our squad introduces themselves by first showing off their talents in a cheer/dance routine packed full of difficult tumbling. Our squad then engages the fans with a game day fan participation cheer. Our routine is then ended with a short pom routine and some more exciting dancing."



**East Liverpool Potters**  
**Head coach: Dana Vulgamore**

When you have a handful of upperclassmen on your team, it is almost expected to have your goals set to a high standard. For the East Liverpool cheerleading team, the Potters look to take their skillset to the next level when they compete at the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday.

The Potters are led by five seniors in a 10-girl squad. Those seniors include Leanne Wells, Jenna Rose, Sierra Arter, Madelyn DeLong and Sydney Latimer.

"We have had a really great season so far with our five seniors leading the

way," East Liverpool coach Dana Vulgamore said.

Juniors Destiny Nichols and Ragen Zubay along with sophomores Amara Hosey and Jasmine Jones and freshman Kayla Duffield round out the East Liverpool cheerleading squad.

While the Potters did not place at the championship competition in 2019, Vulgamore and her squad have been putting in a lot of time in order to go out and perform to the best of their ability.

"We have really been working hard this year so our goal going into this competition is to execute our performance using our very best skill set."

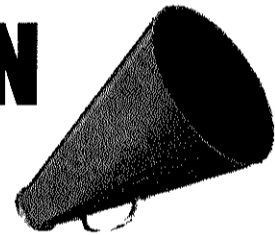
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**Head coach: Tonya Collins**

In 2019, the River cheerleading team traveled to new territory as it was the first time the Pilots competed in a competition. However, when one is new to something, there is always a desire to learn and get better. And that's exactly what the Pilots did last year.

And while they gained some valuable experience, there is another challenge the River cheerleading team will face during the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championships at WesBanco Arena on Saturday as they will make the transition from 2A to 3A.

"Moving up from 2A to 3A this year will definitely be a challenge, but we're ready for it," River coach Tonya Collins said. "Last year was the first time any of these ladies had ever competed. We gained a lot of valuable experience and it created a real competitive desire for the future. We're a young squad with mostly underclassmen, however they all super motivated and excited to back on the competition scene."

The Pilots already qualified to for the championship in the Ohio High School Cheer Coaches Association regionals held at St Clairsville High School. They competed at the championship held at Denison University on Jan. 26.

River's cheerleading squad consists



of senior Riley Rouse; juniors Lindsey Huffman and Jamie Jakob; sophomores Elaina Longwell, Madison King, Rylie Hess and Rachel Talbot and Freshmen Cadie Stalder, Lexy Felton, and Alli Wells.

"As always our goal is to go to OVAC, nail a solid routine, and proudly represent River's Pilot Nation. This year we have

really focused on bringing a solid clean routine. Adding difficulty and keeping every motion sharp while keeping up the energy and smiling through it all. Nobody realizes how hard these ladies really work, unless you've been a part of it. These are student athletes that participate in cheer, clubs, other sports, after school jobs, dance classes, and church activities

just to name a few. They balance all this while keeping up their grades to be eligible. They are real "Student Athletes." Unique to our squad this year is German foreign exchange student Jamie Jakob. Its been a great experience for the squad to have her with us and she has been a real asset. We will miss her." Collins is assisted by Sarah Smith.



**Harrison Central Huskies  
Head coach: Sunni Ruble**

The Harrison Central Huskies find themselves with a bigger and more talented mat squad, but will it be enough to move up the runner-up spot in the OVAC Class 4A cheering competition this Saturday at WesBanco Arena?

That's the question that head coach Sunni Ruble and her squad of 13 will find out this weekend.

"We're excited to have a larger squad with more skill on the mat, so we're also eager to see how that will affect our scores from previous years," Ruble said. "Our goal is to always hit, improve and move forward with confidence in our performance."

The routine, which was choreographed by Shane Sanders, includes a "time theme", according to Ruble.

"That theme will be noticeable in our music and cheer," Ruble said. "We have a lot of quick, sharp motions and level changes match this theme as well."

Set to compete for the Huskies are senior Kenna Mizer, juniors Alex Barcroft, Abbi Jozwiak, Abrielle Soos, Lainy Sedgmer, Kelsi Johnson, freshmen Julena Kovacik, Grace Goudy, Emma Tuttle, Gracie Rogers, Kirsten Hercules, Kaydence Vich and Haley Dunlap.



**Barnesville Shamrocks**  
**Head coach: Lauren King**

The Barnesville cheering squad has had its share of adversity.

Despite the highs and lows of the campaign, the Shamrocks are guaranteed to represent their school very well in the OVAC cheering competition.

"We have had a roller coaster of a season thus far," Barnesville coach Lauren King said. "Our team lost two girls due to injuries before Christmas and one following our regional qualifiers competition in January.

"We have had to modify and adjust our routine several times this year after many illnesses and injuries. We qualified for the Best in the State Competition for Ohio on Jan. 12.

"We wish everyone on the team was able to participate but I know that we will represent Barnesville well in this competition."

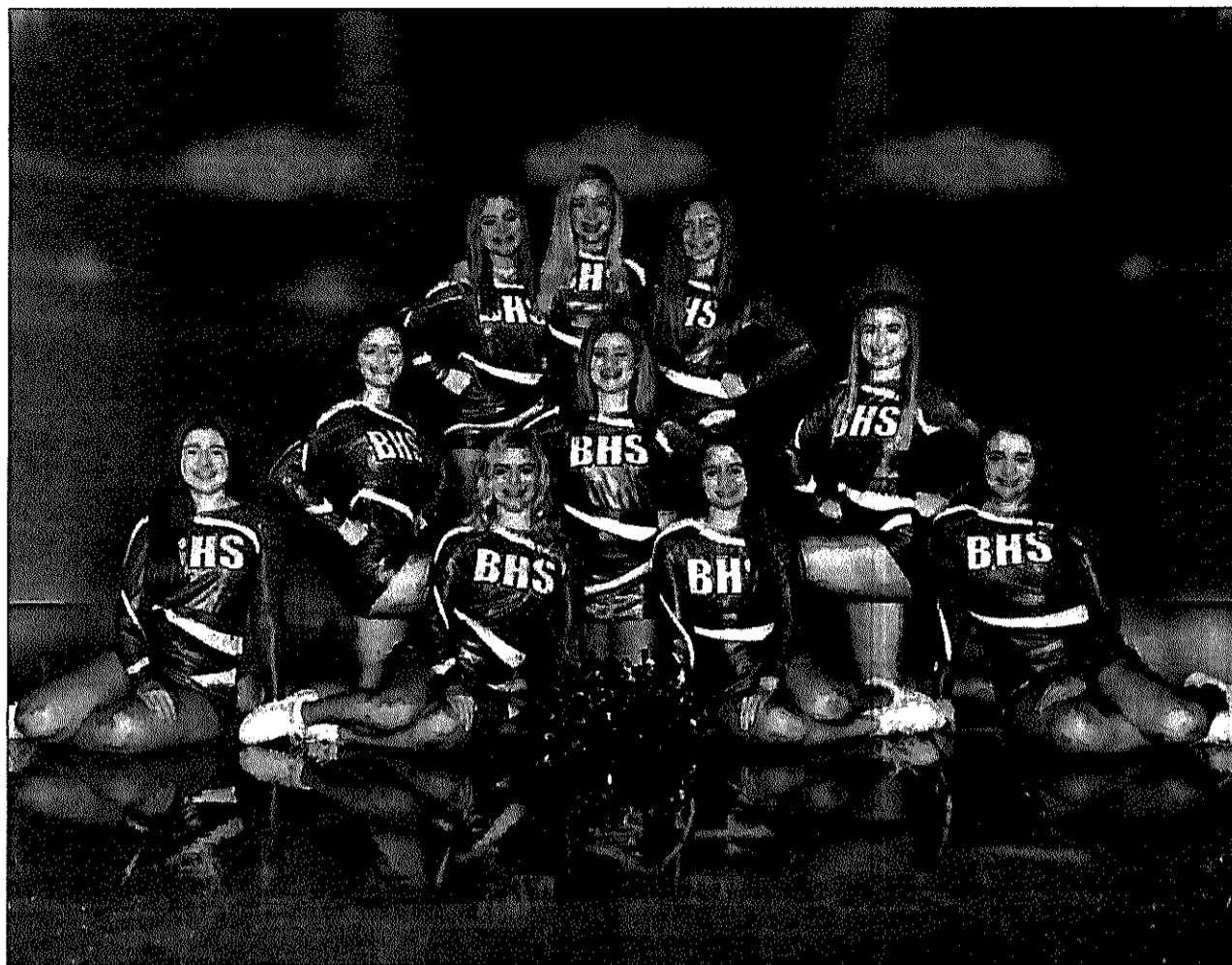
Last season, the Shamrocks picked up second place in their division. This time around, they are setting their sights higher.

"We feel good going into the OVAC competition this year," King said. "Our ultimate goal would be to earn first place in our division or maintain our second place ranking."

The team consists of Tayler Wolford, Alana Trigg, Emma Wharton, Lillian Ford, Katey Rockwell, Sydney Carpenter, Olivia Starr, Ava Hanes, Madelyn Skinner and Lakyn Abridg.

With such talented athletes taking the floor, Barnesville is expected to put on quite a show.

"Our routine is very fast," King said. "We have full squad standing back handsprings or back tucks in the opening. Though we are small, we have a variety of tumbling passes."



# PAST OVAC CHEERING CHAMPIONS

1992: A: Paden City, Linda Alexander AA: Valley, Connie Dakan AAA: Bellaire, Sheri McAninch AAAA: Wheeling Park, Michelle Spence

1993: A: Paden City, Linda Alexander AA: Valley, Connie Dakan AAA: Wheeling Central, Paula Thomas AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Santoro

1994: A: Paden City, Linda Alexander

Madonna AA: Valley, Jill Brown AAA: Wheeling Central, Betsy Queen AAAA: Brooke, Toni Eastham

Wheeling Park, Kim Santoro  
 1995: A: Weirton Madonna, Carrie Gutwald AA: Wheeling Central, Sara Spangler AAA: Martins Ferry, Mary Beth Fitch AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

1996: A: Paden City, Linda Alexander AA: Barnesville, Amy Carvin AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

1997: A: Linsly, Leslie Dawson AA: Wheeling Central, Sara Span-

gler AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

1998: A: Paden City, Linda Alexander AA: Wheeling Central, Cheryl Zambito AAA: St. Clairsville, Bright Basnett AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

1999: A: Paden City, Angie McDonald AA: Wheeling Central, Cheryl Zambito AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

2000: A: Weirton Madonna, Stephanie Galch AA: Wheeling Central, Cheryl Zambito AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

2001: A: Paden City, Angie McDonald AA: Wheeling Central, Rose Palmer AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

2002: A: Paden City, Angie McDonald AA: Wheeling Central, Rose Palmer AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Wheeling Park, Kim Miller

2003: A: Weirton Madonna,

Stephanie Galch AA: Wheeling Central, Rose Palmer AAA: Tyler Consolidated, Diana Stender AAAA: Weir, Terry McAtee

2004: A: Paden City, Crissy Bowers AA: Wheeling Central, Rose Palmer AAA: St. Clairsville, Bonnie Johnson AAAA: Brooke, Chris Stucin

2005: A: St. John, Julie Burkhardt AA: Wheeling Central, Arica Posey AAA: Martins Ferry, Cathie Jones AAAA: Brooke, Chris Stucin

2006: A: Weirton Madonna, Lisa Cusick AA: Wheeling Central, Arica Holt AAA: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan AAAA: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2007: A: The Linsly School, Maureen Kerr AA: Wheeling Central, Arica Holt AAA: Martins Ferry, Cathie Jones AAAA: Brooke, Chris Stucin

2008: A: Toronto, Mary Beth Takacs AA: Monroe Central, Susan Bondy AAA: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan AAAA: Brooke, Chris Stucin

2009: A: Toronto, Mary Beth Takacs AA: River, Angi McDonald AAA:

St. Clairsville, Joanne Verba AAAA: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2010: A: Toronto, Mary Beth Takacs AA: The Linsly School, Megan Stevens AAA: St. Clairsville, Joanne Verba AAAA: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2011: A: Toronto, Joey Takacs AA: The Linsly School, Megan Stevens AAA: St. Clairsville, Joanne Verba AAAA: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2012: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Linsly, Megan Stevens 3A: Tyler Consolidated, Stefanie Suter 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Brooke, Melissa Michaux

2013: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Toronto, Joey Takacs 3A: Tyler Consolidated, Stefanie Suter 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2014: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Wheeling Central, Jessica Becker 3A: Linsly, Megan Stevens 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shaw-

na Shepherd  
 2015: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Wheeling Central, Jessica Becker 3A: Linsly, Megan Stevens 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2016: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Toronto, Marissa Rebich 3A: Linsly, Megan Caruso 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2017: 1A: Bishop Donahue, Dana Mele 2A: Toronto, Marissa Rebich 3A: Magnolia, Jacque Clegg 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2018: 1A: Madonna, Maria Canella 2A: Toronto, Samantha Provenzano 3A: Wheeling Central, Jessica Becker 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd

2019: 1A: Madonna, Maria Canella 2A: Toronto, Natalie Moursourakis 3A: Linsly, Kylie Harris 4A: St. Clairsville, Shawn Tomlan 5A: Wheeling Park, Shawna Shepherd



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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12:00- RUG AM RFL PRED 350 16DDE DE            | 4:45- ARM 1911 ROCK STD FS 45AP PB 8 Cerakote Patriot Brown   |
| 12:15- RUG AR-556 FFH 300BLK 16B 30RD          | 5:00- SAV STV 555 28/24MC OU Turkish Walnut, Checkered  |
| 12:30- WRA SXP FLD CMP SHTGN 20M/26MC          | 5:15- \$450 if present, if not present \$250.   |
| 12:45- WRA XPR HNT STRATA 243 SCP              | 5:30- BERETTA TIKKA T3X HUNTER 30-06  |
| 1:00- \$450 if present, if not present \$250.  | 5:45- RUG PC CARBINE 9MM  |
| 1:15- WRA SXP SHADOW DEF 12M/18MC 3            | 6:00- SW M&P SHIELD W/LASER 9MM   |
| 1:30- HEN STANDARD LVR 22LR                    | 6:15- RUG SP101 .357 MAG STAINLESS  |
| 1:45 GLK 43 9MM PST 6RD FS CK BWDDE            | 6:30- WBY VANGRD CAMILLA BA 7MM-08 B  |
| 2:00- BRN XBLOT HUNTER 30-06 22B               | 6:45- GLK 45 9MM 17R DDE HC STPL BLD Apollo Custom Glock & GLK 43X USA 9MM DDE 10RD Apollo Custom Glock                 |
| 2:15- \$450. if present, if not present \$250. | 7:00- SIG 1911 Emperor Scorpion PST 45 8RD & Aero Precision M5E1 Complete Rifle, 18" .308 Stainless/Dark Earth Cerakote |
| 2:30- SAV AXIS II XP 270 22B SCP FDE           | Guns provided by: Custom Enterprises LLC 304-215-2222   |
| 2:45- MOS 935 TKY 12M/22MC SYN MOBL            | Posters compliments of Green Acres Power Sports 304-845-8789  |
| 3:00- RUG SR1911-CMD 45AP PST RED DE           |   |
| 3:15- HOWA M1500LTNG BA 6.5 SYN 8 USA          |   |
| 3:30- RUG LCR 38SP DAO B HG 5RD                |   |
| 3:45- \$450 if present, if not present \$250.  |   |
| 4:00- CZU CZ 612 TRG PMP 12M/32 WAL            |   |
| 4:15- S&W M&PSPRTII OR 223 16B 30R             |   |
| 4:30- TCA PROHTR-FX MUZ 50CAL WS CAM           |   |

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B

Sunday News-Register  
FEBRUARY 2, 2020

# SPORTS

INSIDE:

Kapral Column/B2  
Saturday's Scoreboard/B5  
Super Bowl Preview/B6  
Australian Open/B7

West Virginia coach Bob Huggins reacts to a call during the first half against Kansas State on Saturday.



AP Photo

## WVU Avenges Loss to K-State

### Huggins Moves Past Rupp On All-Time Wins List

By MATT THORNSBURY  
Associated Press

MORGANTOWN — Derek Culver wanted to do something about West Virginia's worst loss of the season.

The sophomore had 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead No. 12 West Virginia to a 66-57 victory over Kansas State on Saturday, giving coach Bob Huggins another milestone win. The Mountaineers (17-4, 5-3 Big 12) bounced

back from a loss at Texas Tech on Wednesday, improved to 11-0 at home and ended a three-game losing streak to Kansas State.

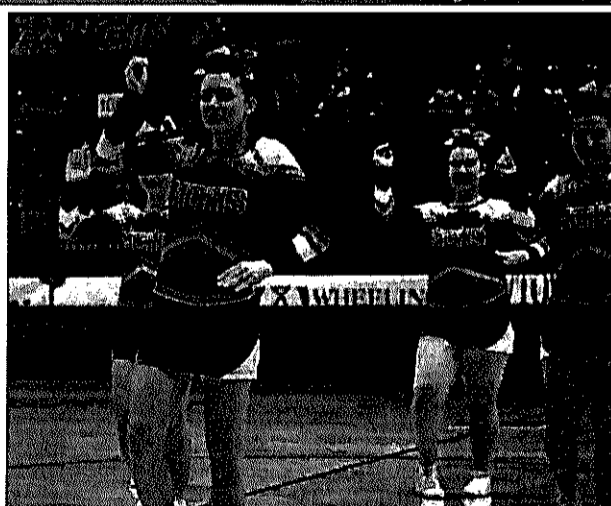
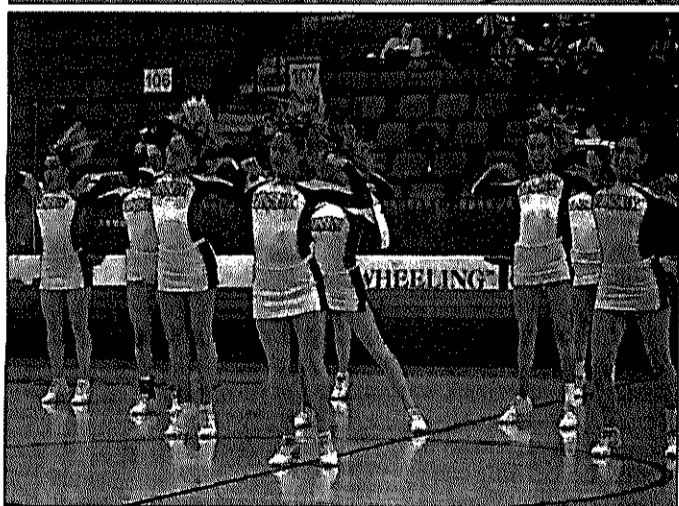
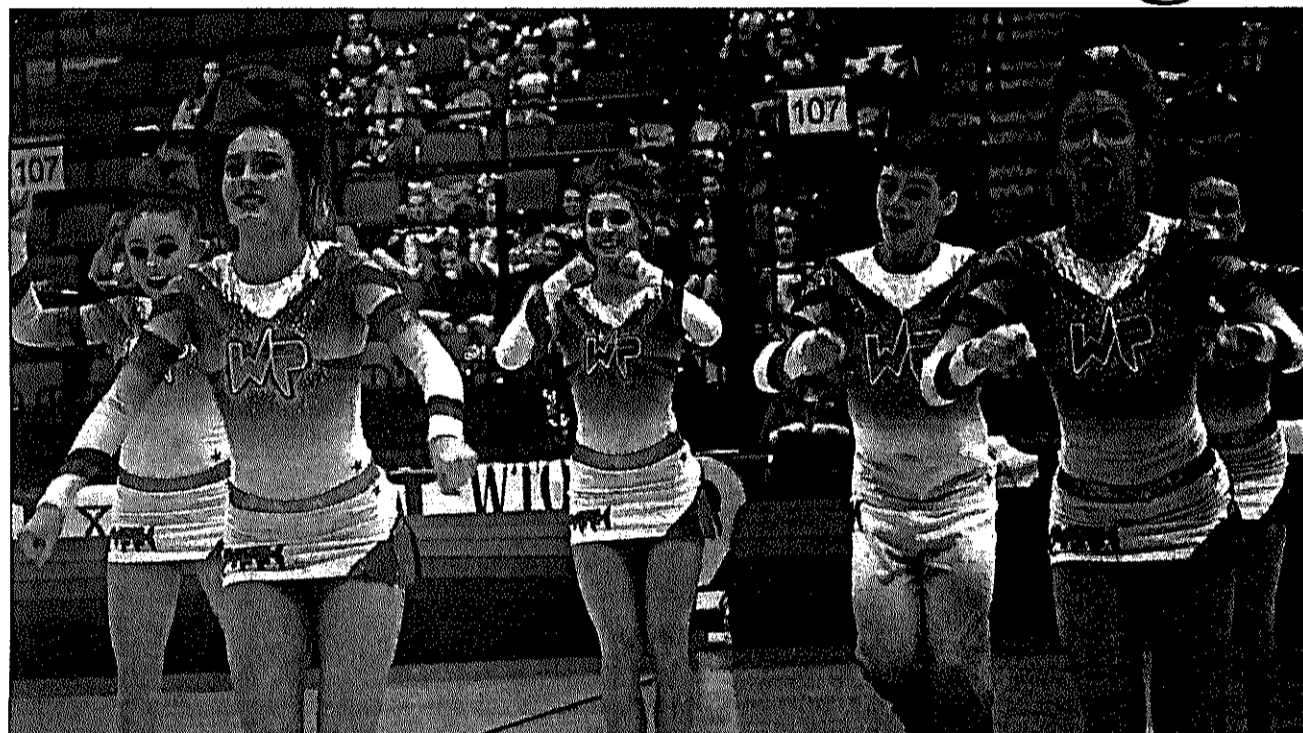
On Jan. 18 the Wildcats drubbed West Virginia 84-68 in which Culver, the Big 12's fourth-leading rebounder, was limited to eight points and three rebounds.

"They did us pretty bad last time at K-State," Culver said. "We don't forget anything."

With no one else on the team making more than three field goals, Culver took it upon himself to preserve the home win streak.

Please see WVU, Page B4

## New Year, Same Results For OVAC Cheering



Photos by Kyle Lutz

Top: Wheeling Park continued its dominating streak as the Patriots won their eighth straight conference title at the OVAC Cheerleading Championships on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Left: Linsly captured the school's 10th overall cheerleading title after winning the 3A division. Right: Monroe Central made history as the Seminoles won the first non-tumbling division title.

Park, Madonna, Toronto, Linsly, St. C. Repeat; Monroe Wins Non-Tumbling Title

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It was a new year, but the results came out almost all the same as last year during the OVAC Cheerleading Championships. While a new division in non-tumbling was added to the annual event, the five teams that won last year defended their title as Madonna (Class IA), Toronto (2A), Linsly (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Wheeling Park (5A)

all took home the top prize in their respective divisions.

Monroe Central took home the first non-tumbling division championship.

It was also a long time coming for the Seminoles as well as them making a little OVAC history. Prior to Saturday, the Seminoles won one OVAC championship (2008).

"They worked so hard. Shane Sanders' first choreography routine we've had. This is like a landmark and new

experience for the squad. One senior and the rest of the girls are new, never competed in their entire cheerleading career," Monroe Central coach Vicki Lohr said. "We're so excited. It's like a historical moment for us. It really is."

The Seminoles also can say they are the first non-tumbling champions in OVAC history.

Please see Cheering, Page B3



Photo by Joe Lovell

Wheeling's Spencer Trapp, center, celebrates his second goal of the season with teammates Marc-Olivier Duquette, left, and Christopher Brown, right, during Saturday's game.

## Nailers See Win Streak Come to End

### Wheeling Goes 0-for-4 On the Power Play

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Country Roads Night was a bit rocky on Saturday for the Wheeling Nailers.

Wheeling went 0-for-4 on the power play, while Orlando collected a pair of goals on the man-advantage to skate away with a 5-2 victory inside WesBanco Arena.

The loss puts an end to Wheeling's three-game winning streak as it falls to fifth place in the Central Division following Indy's victory over Toledo.

"Special teams didn't get it done," Nailers coach Mike Bavis said. "They are fast, they are heavy and they are hard bound on the offensive zone. That's a team that is going to be playing for something somewhere down the line."

"I mentioned to our team that I felt like we've been on a good run and I felt like our game has come up. We've become harder to play against and in a lot of different areas I think we've elevated our game."

Wheeling charted 16 shots in the first period, which included two goals, but then went silent the rest of the way, tallying just 17 shots without another score.

Please see Nailers, Page B3

## Polamalu Headed to Canton

Atwater James spot in the Pro Football Hall thought about the safety po-



Former



Union Local hit 11 first-half treys en route to rolling past Beaver Local.

Zach Bateman hit six bonus goals in the opening half and finished with 18 points, while junior Luke Merritt continued to torch the nets, hitting five 3s and finishing with 20 points.

#### Seventh-Eighth Place

##### Harrison Central 61, Edison 20

Kobe Mitchell became the all-time leading scorer, regardless of gender, in Harrison Central history with his 27-point performance, which led the Huskies to a lopsided win. Mitchell came into the game needing nine to pass Katy Ellzy. He has 1,474 points.

#### Ninth-Tenth Place

##### Indian Creek 65, Bellaire 50

The Redskins posted their first win of the season, leading Bellaire wire-to-wire.

Creek was led by Isaiah Vandine, who scored 19 and Logan Schaffer, who added 15.

Bellaire was led by David Zwack's 18 and Trenton Wilson's 17.

#### Regular Season

##### Hundred 52, Meadow Bridge 38

MEADOW BRIDGE — Cody Soles recorded a triple-double with 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 steals as Hundred took down Meadow Bridge.

Logan Norris turned in 12 points in the win and Bobby Hostutler hauled in 12 rebounds

and Palmer Jr was the champion at 138 pounds and named the MVP.

Other local championships include Edison's Hayden Johnson (145), Martins Ferry's Zakary Dobson (220) and Weir's Jordan Brueck (285).

#### SWIMMING

##### St. Clairsville Sweeps Beaver Invite

LISBON — The St. Clairsville boys' and girls' swim teams were impressive, each claiming victory at the Beaver Local Invitational.

On the girls' side, Olivia Moyer took home three championships, winning the 200 Freestyle (2:08.84), 100 Butterfly (1:02.62) and 100 Backstroke (1:04.75). Teammate Brenna Planey was the winner of the 200 IM (2:29.02).

Martins Ferry's Kayla Fogle swam to victory in the 500 Freestyle (6:03.04) and 100 Breaststroke (1:17.27).

St. Clairsville blew away the competition on the boys' side with four individual victories, two coming from Ethan Banks (200 IM, 2:16.48; 500 Freestyle, 5:16.66). Teammates Caleb McKeegan (200 Freestyle, 2:05.01) and Matthew Marling (100 Breaststroke, 1:14.31).

Jarrett Bolinger of Martins Ferry continued his solid season with victories in the 50 Freestyle (23.49), 100 Freestyle (51.60) and 100 Backstroke (1:03.75).

inside the Orlando zone, cleanly dropped it back to Renars Krastenbergs, who laced a shot from atop the left circle and in for the equalizer.

"When you can win it back that cleanly and if you got a guy who can really shoot it and Krast can really shoot it, he can really lean into it," Bavis said.

Spencer Trapp got in on the action, as well. With 3:41 remaining in the opening stanza, the defenseman garnered his second goal of the year, sending a wristshot from the left of the slot whistling into the net for a 2-1 upper hand.

The Bears quickly regrouped as Rich Boyd sent a wrister from above the right circle near the blue line barreling past Wheeling goalie Alex D'Orio to send the game into the second period deadlocked at 2-2.

D'Orio earned all three wins during the winning streak and gathered 38 saves in his first loss since Jan. 18.

The Orlando defense smoth-

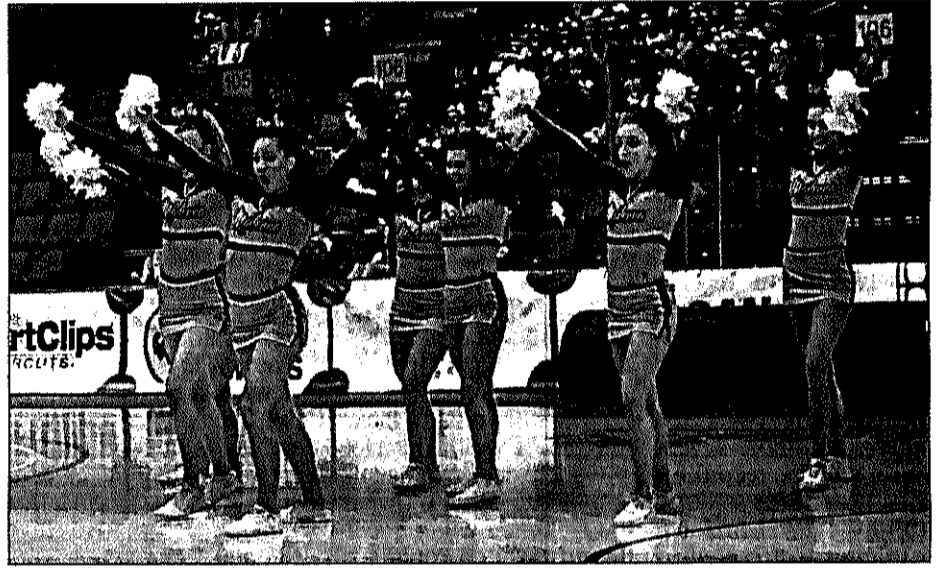
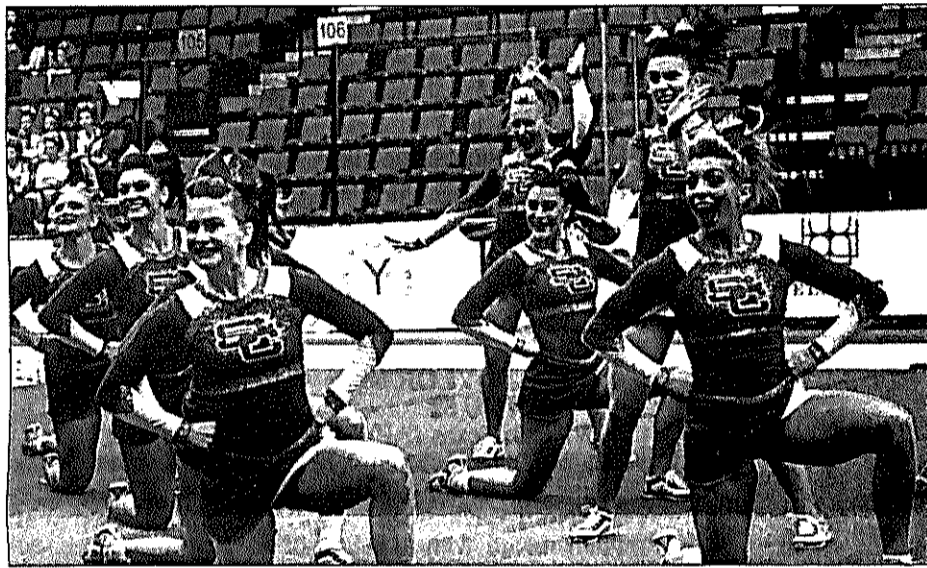
"We went up the ice taking a shot at a shorthanded goal and we were fatigued coming back in our zone, so we really lost all of our structure," Bavis said. "The puck's moving and they found a crossing."

Cody Donaghey netted his second goal of the year on an empty-netter to seal a victory.

Wheeling will host Kansas City on Tuesday in the first meeting in franchise history for both teams.

"We're in a stretch right now where we're not traveling, so it's not bad," Bavis said. "I'm not too familiar with Kansas City, so we'll be watching them on tape (today). They've played Indy and Kalamazoo but quite honestly we've got to worry more so about how we play."

"It will be nice to try to get back in the win column. We had some momentum and we like the way we've played. We have to come back Tuesday and re-establish that game."



Photos by Kyle Lutz

Left, members of the St. Clairsville cheerleading squad perform their routine during the OVAC Cheerleading Championships Saturday. Right: Madonna has become a premier program in its respective class as it won its third straight OVAC Class 1A title on Saturday.

## CHEERING

Continued from Page B1

"It's awesome. I hope it does really well and they bring it back again next year because this is just a trial to see if we can get more teams to come out and perform and draw more schools to make this event a good event," Lohr said.

Wheeling Park continued its dominating run as it claimed its eighth straight OVAC championship in Class 5A. The Patriots also won its 23rd overall title, an OVAC record, and their 11th the past 12 years.

"I was very pleased," Wheeling Park coach Shawna Shepherd said. "We only had a couple of weeks to turnover our state routine. So, we had some injuries to deal with and different things like that. Cheering boys' and girls' basketball has

been a time crunch for us too. I'm very happy and couldn't be a happier coach."

Although it was their 13th straight OVAC title, Red Devils coach Shawn Tomlan knows never to take any competition lightly. And during the routine, she and her squad saw that they had a misstep.

"No (Saturday), we came and had a pom on the floor," Tomlan said. "Past cheerleaders and I'm reliving that because we lost 10 points in deductions. When you lose 10 points in deductions, you're afraid maybe it's not going to go our way. It's still nerve-wracking no matter how many we won, it's still really, really nerve-wracking because the talent gets better. We knew we messed up."

However, Tomlan was really pleased with how her squad performed, especially because of all the adversity they faced this year.

"I'm really happy on how we performed," Tomlan said. "It's mainly because of the year that we had. Surgery, a girl performing with a broken hand. We had 15 girls and one had surgery, so we were down to 14. Not too long ago, we had six girls out of 14 because they all tested positive for the flu. We've overcome a whole lot to really be here (Saturday)."

Linsly is also no stranger to the cheerleading spotlight as the Cadets defended its OVAC Class 3A title from a year ago. It is also the Cadets 10th overall championship in cheerleading.

"The girls worked really hard all season," Linsly coach Jalynn Keyser said. "They really wanted to hit a strong routine and I think they did that. We did more tumbling than we ever did before and it just felt really good to go back to back."

For the fifth straight year, Toronto heard its name called last as the squad burst in celebration. The title was also the 10th overall for the Red Knights.

"We went outside of the box this year, my brother (Joey Takacs), is our choreographer," Toronto coach Natalie Moursourakis said. "Lot more entertaining and flashy. We had a lot more dance, a lot more hip hop dance this year and packed with tumbling. It was a big

time win for our seniors."

For Blue Dons coach Kylee Bologna, she knew about the dry spell Madonna has had before the 2018 season.

And from the looks of it, the Blue Dons have become one of the premier programs of Class 1A.

"When I started coaching there three years ago, they were coming out of like a 10-year drought," Bologna said. "I walked into this program and honestly turned their world upside down. They just embraced it, worked really hard and this is now their third year in a row that they won this. They made it to state the last two years and won regional. They've done amazing. They're on top of the world right now."

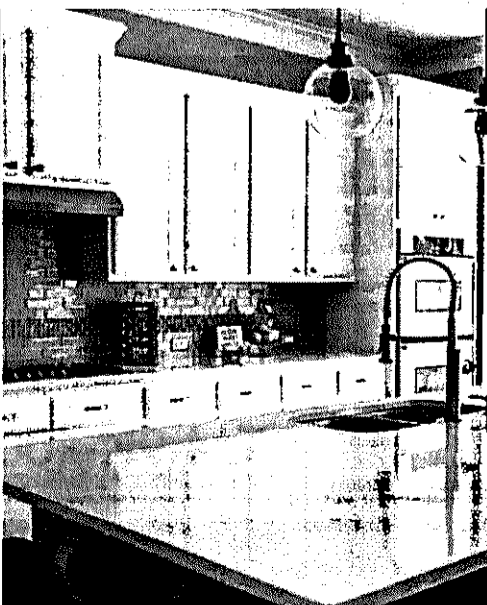
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INDIE

out at the museum late Saturday morning for a number of scheduled activities designed to mark the important occasion and to remind local residents of the legacy left behind by the late John and Rosalind Mattox. The couple founded the museum in 1993 to preserve the past for future generations, according to museum Director Kristina Estle. Their children, John Mattox Jr. and Suzanne Evans, are now working with a board of directors to carry on their legacy. In keeping with its mission, the museum scheduled a number of activities to open Black History Month on Saturday morning and welcomed guests of all ages to participate.

With its extensive collection of publications, books, memorabilia and artifacts, the museum aims to educate and inform people young and old about the history of the slave trade, the treacherous route to freedom and the African-Americans who were held in servitude as

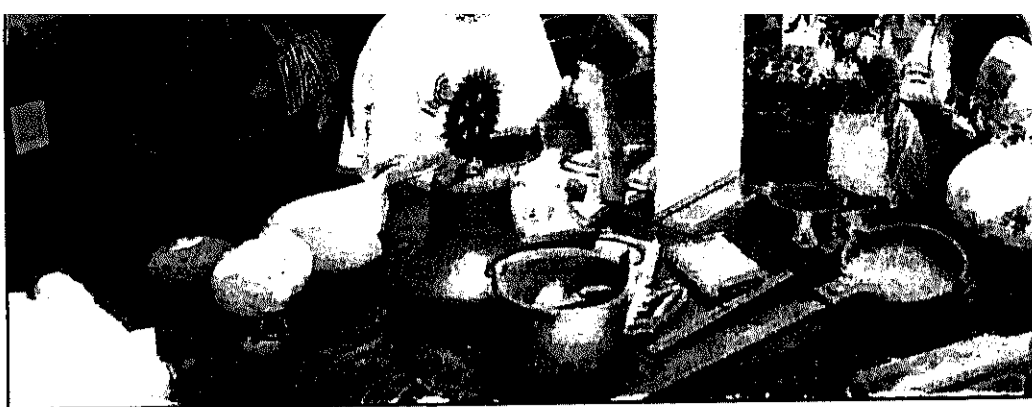


Photo BY SCOTT McCloskey

**KELLY GRADY** of Flushing and her 11-year-old daughter McKayla look over artifacts and displays at the Underground Railroad Museum in the village on Saturday during a Black History Month celebration.

well as their descendants and their fight for true equality. In addition to its portrayal of the bigger, national picture, the facility focuses on the role local individuals have played in that story.

"We wanted to do something for the beginning of Black History Month, which begins today

(Feb. 1), and we wanted to do something to bring the locals into the museum," Estle said.

She noted that after the death of John Mattox Sr. in July, the staff of the museum had become fearful that many area residents would think the museum was closed. Estle said Saturday's events provided a great oppor-

tunity to shine attention back on the museum and its mission.

Saturday's events began at 10 a.m. with a coffee hour, followed by a PowerPoint presentation and lecture by Estle on the history of the museum and the Underground Railroad.

See **MUSEUM**, Page A2

County District Library. Monroe County residents and officials are raising funds to participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, to provide monthly books for children ages birth through 5 years old.

## Monroe County encourages reading

By **ROBERT A. DEFRANK**  
Times Leader Staff Writer

**WOODSFIELD** — Monroe County residents and officials are seeking funding and raising awareness as the county participates in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for all eligible county children.

The first meeting on the plan occurred last week at the Monroe County District Library Children's Reading Room in Woodfield. Librarians, retired teachers and others had expressed an interest in taking part.

"It's been around for awhile," county Commissioner Mick Schumacher said of the program prior to the meeting. "Not only plan to raise funds, but also figure out a plan to identify all of those who are eligible for the program. They are hoping for an outpouring of local support and enthusiasm. We really need some local faces."

Schumacher added that the program meshes with Ohio first lady Fran DeWine's goal of spreading literacy.

He said there are more than 30 county children enrolled in the program. According to census records, there are about 800 eligible children in Monroe County.

"It is for every child, birth to the age of 5," he said. "They get a free book sent to them each month. Income eligibility is not an issue. It's just to try to raise literacy. ... Statistics show that most of the brain of the child is formed, the biggest part of your capabilities are formed, when you reach the age of 5. It is to get these kids stimulated, to get a book in their hand and encourage people to read to them."

See **READING**, Page A2

## New jail facility to benefit Harrison

By **CARRI GRAHAM**  
Times Leader Staff Writer

**CADIZ** — Harrison County officials are looking forward to a new facility that will benefit the entire county once completed.

The Harrison County Sheriff's Office will soon have a new facility to house its staff and the county's offenders. The SSG George J. Conaway U.S. Army Reserve Center, located on East Market Street in Cadiz, was given to the county at no cost. In June, the county officially accepted the property in hopes of converting it into a new jail and law enforcement center.

A feasibility study is underway that will determine the size, location, cost and potential funding sources for the new justice center. The architecture and engineering firm DLZ was hired to perform the study on the jail population. Sheriff Ronald "Joe" Myers said the study should be complete by March.

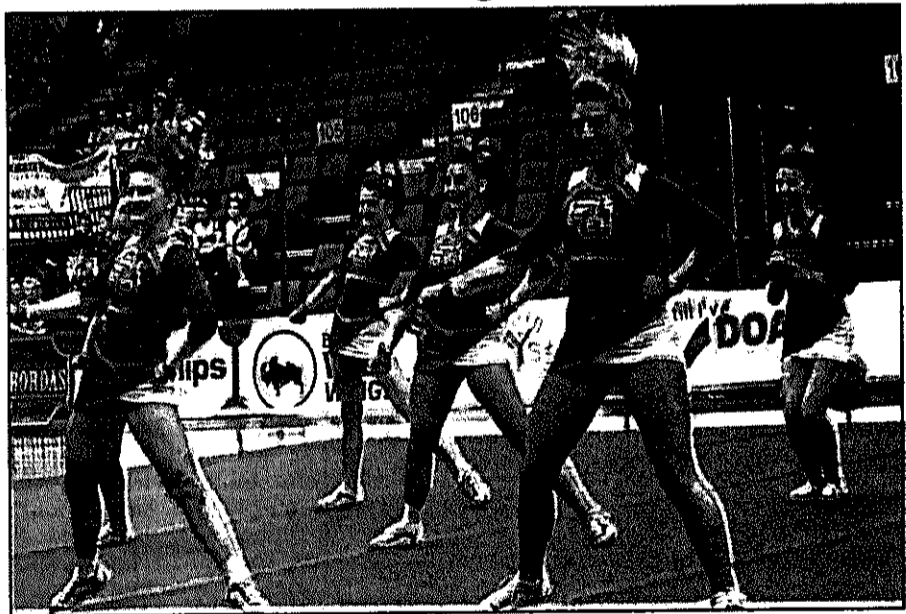
See **FUTURE**, Page A2



T-L Photo/CARRI GRAHAM

**THE FORMER** U.S. Army Reserve building on East Market Street in Cadiz will house the future Harrison County Sheriff's Office and Jail. The new facility will not only save the county money from housing prisoners in adjacent counties, but could also provide the county with an additional source of income by outsourcing space to surrounding counties.

## OVAC Cheerleading Championships



**ABOVE:** FOR THE 13th consecutive year, St. Clairsville wins the OVAC Class 4A title at the cheerleading championships Saturday at WesBanco Arena.

**LEFT:** THE MONROE Central cheerleading team performs the winning routine in the non-tumbling division during the OVAC Cheerleading Championships on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. This was the first year for the non-tumbling division.

Photos by **KYLE LUTZ**

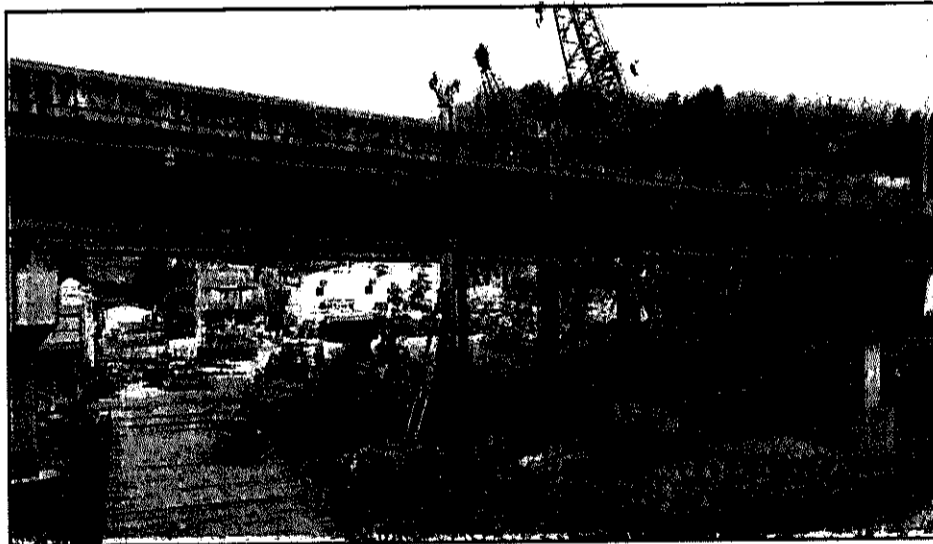
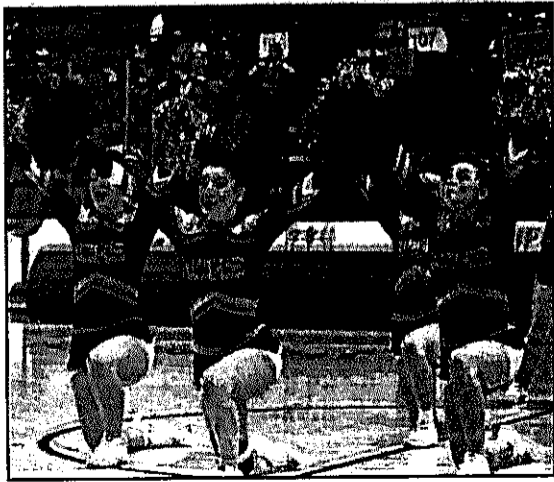


Photo by **MIKE JONES**

**THERE ARE** multiple construction projects happening along Interstate 70.

## WV DOH ready for I-70 closure

By **MIKE JONES**  
For The Times Leader

**WHEELING** — More than 50,000 vehicles travel Interstate 70 through Wheeling every day, making it one of the busiest highways in the country.

Beginning Monday morning, though, the number of cars traveling on the westbound lanes near the Wheeling Tunnel will drop to zero as construction crews close the interstate to begin a nine-month reconstruction project on one of the Fulton Bridges.

That has made the detailed preparation for the \$215 million I-70 Bridges Project over the past two years paramount in order to let motorists know how to get around construction and the closure, according to Tony Clark, manager of West Virginia Division of High-

ways District 6, which is overseeing the work.

"It's exciting, but it's terrifying in a way any time you have to close a major interstate," Clark said Friday during a media tour of the construction site under the Fulton Bridges. "With this project, we've gone above and beyond (informing motorists of the detour)."

That includes consulting with tech and mapping companies, such as Google and Waze, to let them know about the westbound closure in an attempt to send motorists who are bypassing Wheeling to the main detour on Interstate 470 to get around the construction. Local motorists trying to get to Downtown Wheeling will be able to take U.S. 40 by exiting the interstate at the Oglebay Park 2A off-ramp and following the detour signs over Wheeling Hill.

See **CLOSURE**, Page A2