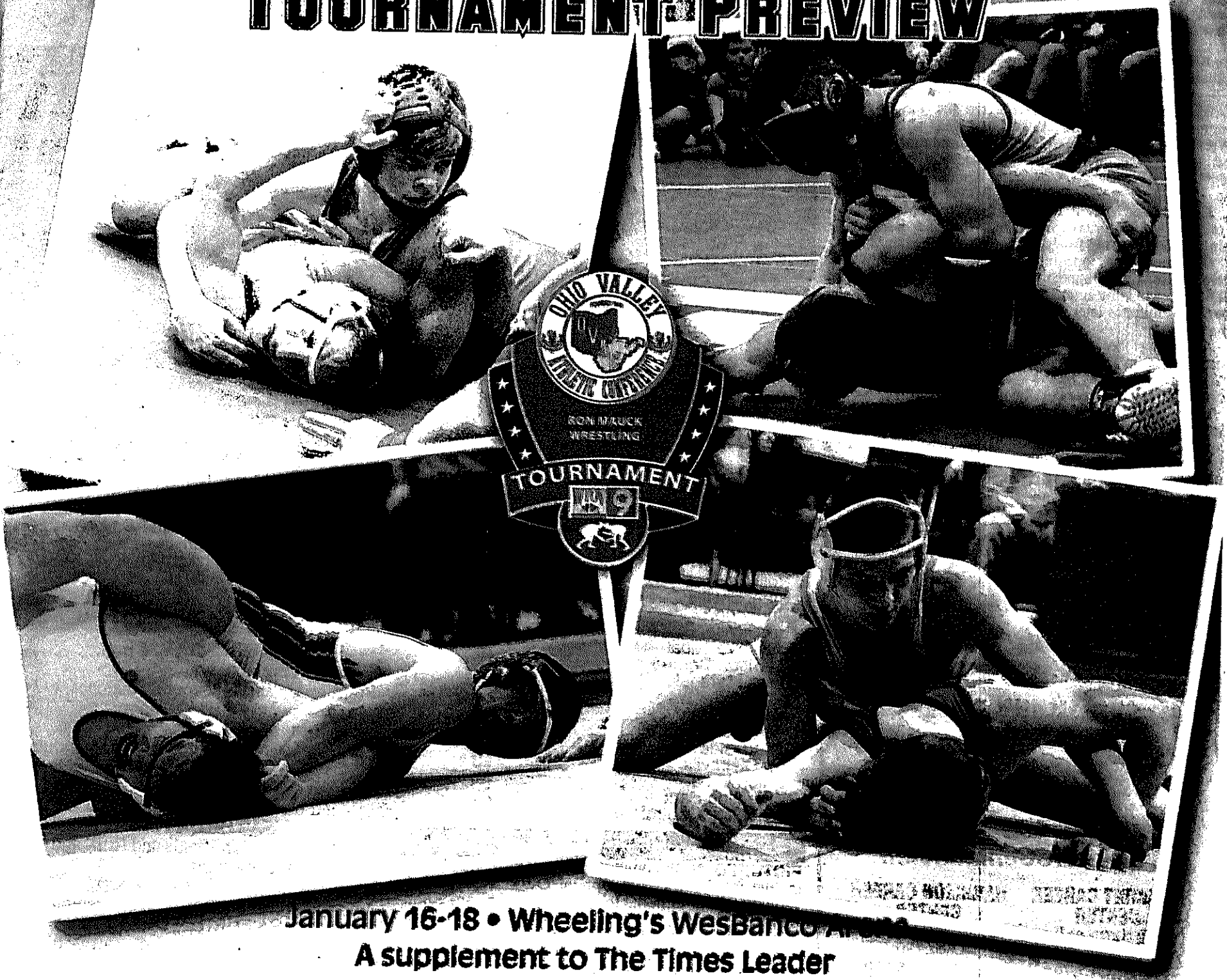


67TH ANNUAL OVAC

RON MAUCK WRESTLING TOURNAMENT PREVIEW



January 16-18 • Wheeling's Wesbanc Arena
A supplement to The Times Leader

67th annual tournament promises excitement during its three days

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — The 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament will get under way Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena.

The three-day event will conclude with Saturday evening's championship finals.

Olympic-style opening ceremonies kick things off at 6, with wrestling action to begin 30 minutes later on 8 mats.

According to Tournament Director Dan Doyle, this year's event may be the most wide-open in years.

Ever since Parkersburg South joined the bi-state conference 10 years ago, the Wood County Patriots have won the team title eight times, including the five of

the last seven years.

The only times they didn't prevail was when Steubenville led the way in 2013 and last year when Beaver Local cruised to the crown.

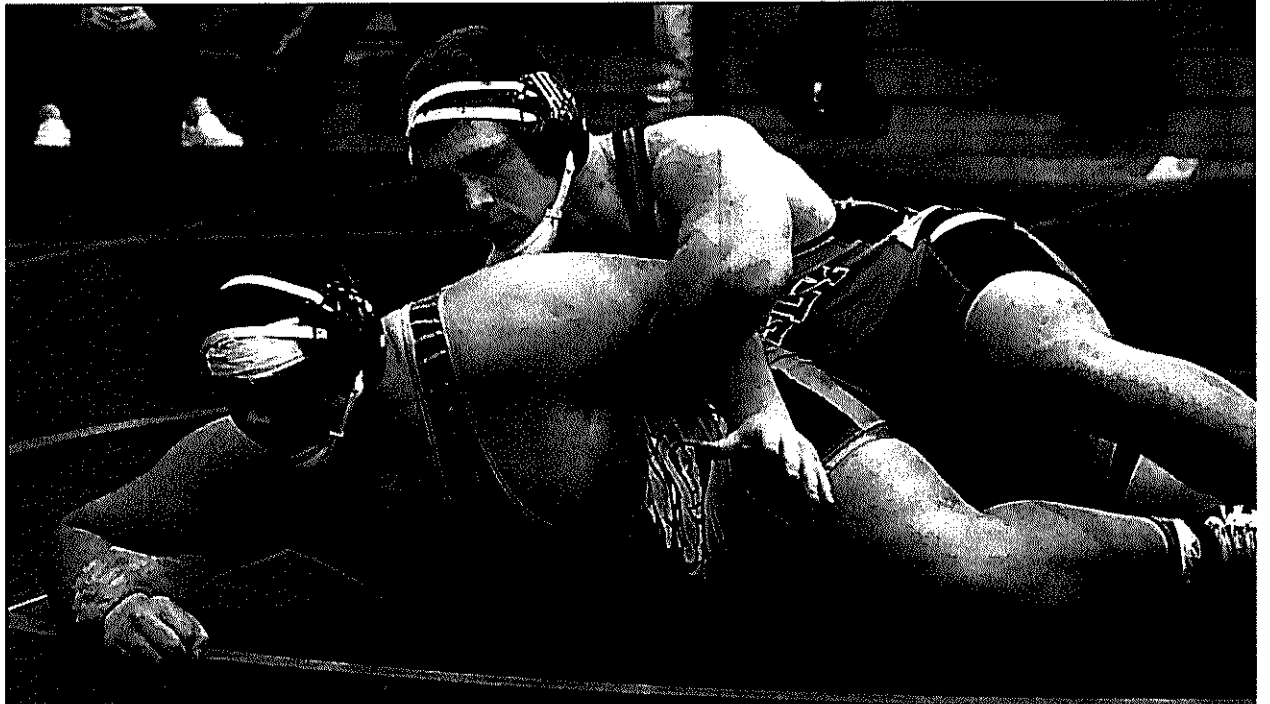
In addition to Parkersburg South, Steubenville and Beaver Local, Wheeling Park, John Marshall, St. Clairsville and Barnesville should be in the hunt.

"It will all come down to which team wrestles its best over the three days," Doyle noted. "It should be an outstanding weekend of wrestling for fans in the Ohio Valley."

Approximately 850 bouts will be run off before the last buzzer on Saturday night is sounded.

The tournament will bring to the WesBanco Arena some 500 matmen from 46

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On the Cover

PICTURED ON the cover are four of the top entrants in this weekend's 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. Top row, from left, are Koen Kish (St. Clairsville) and Brian Palmer Jr. (Buckeye Local). Bottom, from left, are Braxton Amos (Parkersburg South) and Peyton Hall (Oak Glen).

Cover Design/JESSE KOVALSKI; Tab Design/KIM NORTH
Amos Photo/AYW BENNETT; Kish, Palmer Jr., Hall Photos/KIM NORTH

T-L File PHOTO/KIM NORTH

LINSLY'S CHANCE Knight and Bridgeport's Zac Kuneff wrestle during a tournament earlier this month in Shadyside. Both will take part in the 67th OVA Tournament, starting Thursday.

OVAC Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, 6 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies
Preliminary and first-round matches, 6:30

FRIDAY, noon

Second round championship matches, as well as first- and second-round consolation bouts

FRIDAY, 6 p.m.

Quarterfinal championship matches, as well as third- and fourth-round consolation bouts

SATURDAY, 11 a.m.

Championship semifinals and fifth- and semifinal rounds of consolations.

SATURDAY, 4 p.m.

Introduction and special awards ceremony

SATURDAY, 4:30 p.m.

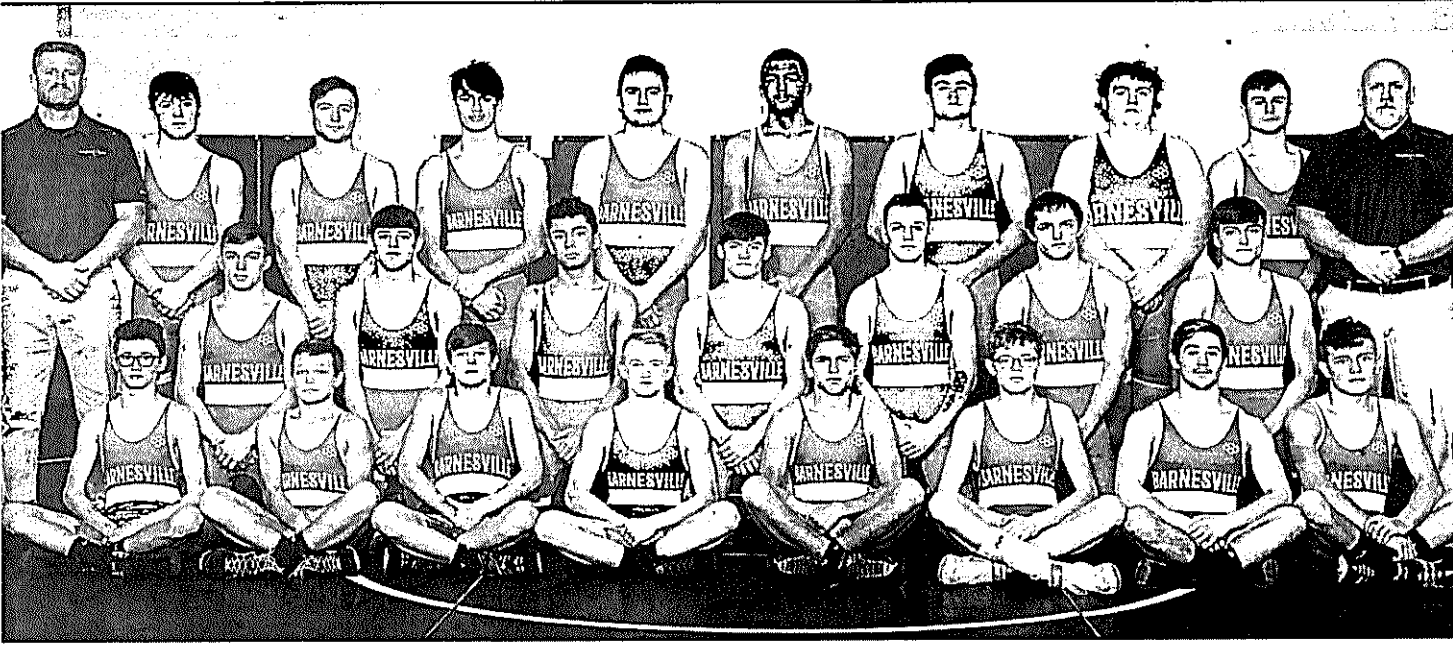
Championship finals, third-, fifth- and seventh-place bouts

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PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Barnesville wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Silas May, Kellen Dornon, Easton Little, Griffen Stephen, Carter Wells, Kane Wells, George Hoover and Bryce Hall. Middle row, from left, are Caiden Thornton, A.J. Francis, Jordan Smith, Robby Nixon, Cody Szabo, Austin Frame and Jacob Boulet. Back row, from left, are head coach Jayson Stephen, Brad Hall, Owen Oliver, Cameron Woods, Avery Clouse, Orion Smith, Drew Holskey, Jaydin Lucas, Trey Warner and Assistant Coach Rick Milhoan.

Photo/PSK INNOVATIONS

Barnesville aiming to defend 3A title

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BARNESVILLE — The 2019-2020 season has been very good to Barnesville so far. The Shamrocks would like nothing more than to make it better with a second consecutive Class 3A championship when the 57th OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament begins Thursday night inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

The three-day event continues all day Friday and Saturday, with the championship semifinals set for 11 a.m. Saturday. The Parade of Champions is set for 3:30 p.m., with the championship finals to follow.

Barnesville amassed 80 points last year to easily outdistance second-place Shenandoah by 25 markers. Those two are primed to battle once again this weekend. The 80 points were also good enough for 10th place overall.

"This team is a great team

with a lot of talent and hard workers. They have done a lot of things this year and are on pace to have a great season," veteran Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "The OVAC tournament is a great tournament to be part of and what a better way to have a lot of goals met as a team and individuals."

The Shamrocks have won the season-opening Union Local Rick Link Invitational and the America's Best Value Inn Tournament at St. Clairsville, while placing fourth behind OVAC Class 5A powers Wheeling Park and Indian Creek, and Mountain View High School from Virginia. They also captured a dual recently over Class 4A Martins Ferry.

"I think we'll be alright in our division as long as the boys show up and wrestle," Stephen admitted. "We seem to struggle at the OVACs every year, and I don't know why. We always seem to lose 4-5 kids in that

blood round every year for some reason.

"With this year going to the seeding committee, I'm just hoping, like every other coach, that we get the kids in the right places on the brackets."

Barnesville only has one returning placewinner, that being standout sophomore Griffen Stephen (113). He took the bronze medal last year, but is looking for gold this season. The returning Ohio Division III state qualifier was a sectional and district champion. He is a spotless 19-0 this season. He was the Most Outstanding Wrestler at Union Local and has also prevailed at Barnesville and St. Clairsville.

"Griffen is a young and talented wrestler with a bright future in the sport," Stephen, who doubles as his father, said. "He is a very hard worker and a great young man."

As Coach Stephen mentioned before, the Shamrocks are a young team with

See, **ROCKS**, Page 14

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GOOD LUCK SHAMROCKS

Young Steubenville squads ready for three-day grind

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE — Mike Blackburn has competed in the OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament both as a wrestler and as a head coach. He knows all too well that the three-day event is a grind from Thursday to Saturday.

Big Red, which finished third overall and second in Class 5A to Parkersburg South, last year will enter a full squad when the 67th annual event gets started at 6 p.m. Thursday with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. First-round bouts in all 14 weight classes will complete the night.

"We have a very young team lead by our two seniors David Tuttle (182) and Keith Bodnar (195)," Blackburn said. "When you're a young team you're going to take some lumps, but the kids are battling and keep improving with each match."

"I think this will be a fun OVAC Tournament with good competition."

Tuttle is a three-time OVAC placer.

He was a runner-up last year, and is a three-time Ohio state placer. He is currently ranked fourth in state.

Bodnar, a two-time OVAC placer currently ranked fifth in the state. He was fifth in the OVAC a year ago.

Junior Ethan Pappas (160) was an OVAC runner-up a season ago as the favorite. He is a two-time OVAC placer and was a sixth in the state last year. He is currently ranked No. 3 in the state.

Classmate Tyler Muldrew (138) was a two-time state qualifier and finished fifth last season at 132. He was also fourth in the OVAC.

Freshman Ethan Waggoner (132) was fourth in the junior high state tournament last year. He was a champion at the Gettstown Invitational this season.

Rounding out the Big Red lineups are juniors Rydge Hale (120), Aaron Fyson (145) and Collin Abbott (152), with sophomores Anthony Shevlin (Brandon Kinney (170) and Peyton Tuttle (285); and freshmen Kaiden Mott (126) and Spencer Ostovich (220).

As always, South will be among the challengers

By JOE ALBRIGHT
For The Times Leader

PARKERSBURG — Brayden Roberts hasn't done much talking outside of Parkersburg South's wrestling room this off-season. Where he proclaimed on Twitter the Patriots would have ten wrestlers in the state finals last season, he is taking a wait-and-see approach in 2019.

He noted this is going to be a different kind of year for the Patriots. The goals though stay the same for the program. He likes what he sees.

"As you can see, we have an excessive amount of freshman on the team," said Roberts with a chuckle of the 19-person class. "We have some very tough freshmen who have a lot of talent

and a lot of potential to be great wrestlers. The more I wrestle them and the more I am around them I can see that they are slowly starting to build on everything they have. They are wondering how to get better and constantly chasing that goal. They have a great attitude about it and that great attitude is going to push them to be the best they can possibly be which is all you can ask from those kids."

Head coach Shaun Smith has instilled in the young men and Samantha Miller they don't want to be the team that ends the streak. The Patriots are going for a record-breaking sixth straight Class AAA state title. Smith isn't worried the program's expectations are too high. Though the

pressure on the freshmen is immense as they represent several state championship qualifiers.

His returning wrestlers provide a solid base for the impressive youth. Roberts and ton Amos are both Division I wrestlers. They are nationally ranked in their weight classes. Quiocho and Brady son alongside the defending state champion.

Devin Easton took a state runner-up title. Jude Childers, Mille Noah Buckalew all qualified for the state tournament.

Gabe Hendershot, an invaluable experience season. His regular partners were Amos

See, SOUTH, Page

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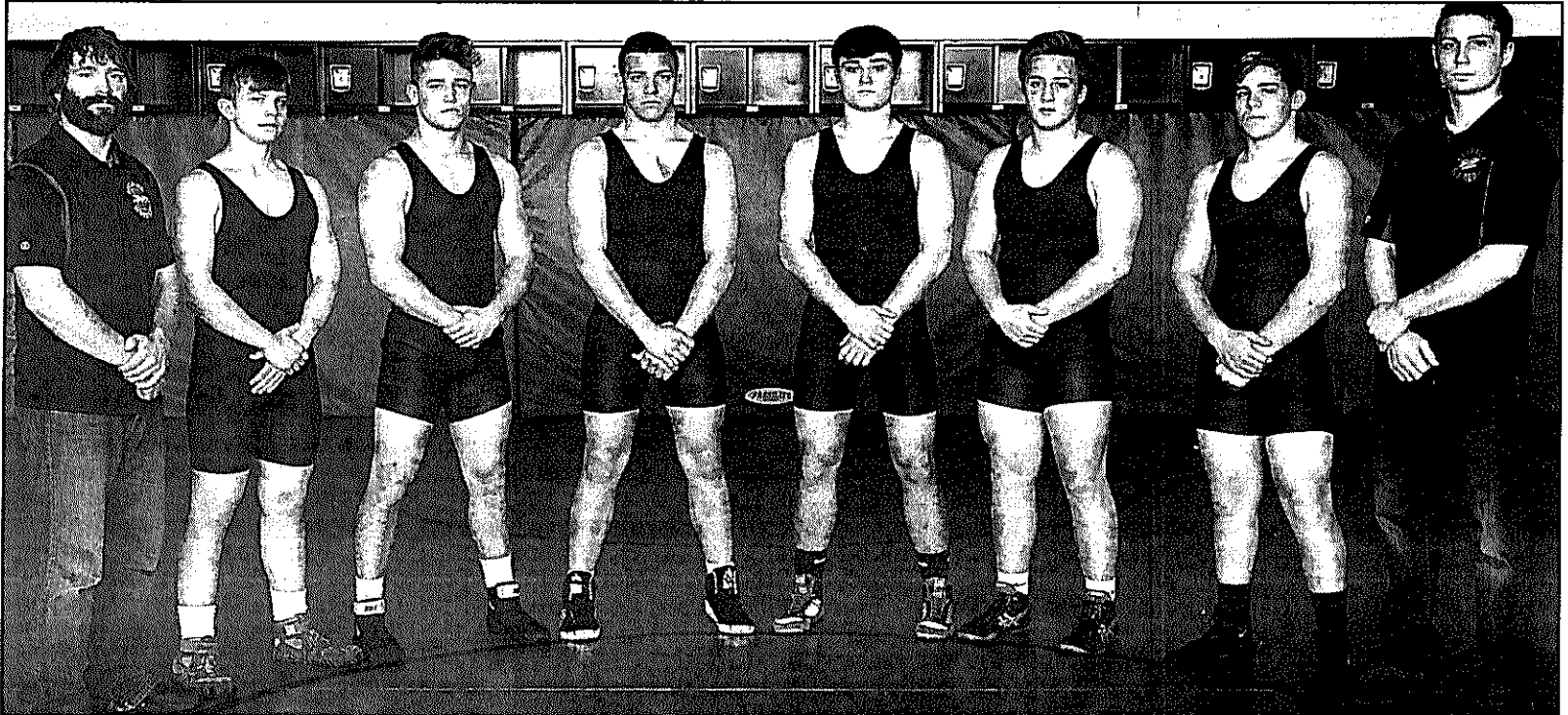
By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BELLAIRE — Bellaire has a small team this season. But it's one that head coach Mike Rose Jr. said has been working hard to improve match by match.

And as the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships approach this week at Wheeling's WesBanco Arena, Rose is eager to see how his Big Reds team stack up against some of the finest wrestlers in the bi-state area.

"The boys really want to do well at this event," he said, referencing the annual showcase, which begins Thursday evening. "It's the second-biggest event we have this year, and the boys want to have a good memory of it."


"We expect the boys to go out and wrestle hard."




Photo/PSK INNOVATIONS

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Bellaire wrestling team. From left are head coach Mike Rose, Caleb Rehnfelt, Codey Albaugh, TJ Bell, Brandon Mamie, Vince Patrone and assistant coach Zach Smalley.

See, **BELLAIRE**, Page 13



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67th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament First-Round Pairings

106
 Stillion (Mead) vs. Little (Barn); Zambotti (Mag) vs. bye; Simms (Wells) vs. Eltringham (Brk); Kuhns (Weir) vs. Kazmirski (STC); Cook (JM) vs. Stallworth (CV); Spahlinger (SL) vs. bye; Bobby (Beav) vs. bye; Bryan (Cam) vs. Roberts (PS); Overly (Shen) vs. Angelozzi (Univ); bye vs. Spohn (Morg); Lanzer (Dov) vs. bye; White (NP) vs. Shevlin (Steub); Barr (OG) vs. Ward (MF); Snyder (WL) vs. Sampson (HC); Akers (UL) vs. bye; Dentz (BL) vs. Velas (WP)

113
 Salsberry (Beav) vs. Sipes (IC); bye vs. Osborn (Dov); Yost (Brk) vs. Baker (Camb); McClelland (NP) vs. Bucheit (EL); Ford (PS) vs. Githii (Lin); bye vs. Herbert (BL); McKeever (STC) vs. bye; Adams (Mead) vs. Taggart (WP); Stephen (Barn) vs. Emery (Morg); by Campbell (PC); Coleman (WL) vs. bye; Regis (MF) vs. Hill (Steub); Dlugopolski (OG) vs. Greenwood (UL); Loot (SCC) vs. Heavner (Riv); Crow (Well) vs. bye; Harmon (Shen) vs. Cochran (JM)

120
 Shelek (WP) vs. Thomas (Riv); bye vs. Garcia (Dov); Wells (Barn) vs. Tedeschi (MF); Pattera (IC) vs. Beisel (Mag); Kanyuch (Shen) vs. Lopez (HC); Wolfe (CV) vs. Whitman (Tor); Demaria (Brk) vs. Gardner (WL); St. Clair (Mead) vs. Easton (PS); Gray (JM) vs. Harris (Shad); bye vs. Pierce (NP); Cargill (Univ) vs. Sean (Cam); Wilson (Weir) vs. Denoble (STC); Reed (Camb) vs. Spragg (PC); Joy-Hughes (Well) vs. Lamb (OG); White (Bpt) vs. bye; Hall (Steub) vs. Emerling Jr. (Beav)

126
 Kish (STC) vs. Lucas (WP); bye vs. Light (BL); Tague (Mead) vs. Crum (UL); Minnella (Steub) vs. Wooley (SL); Tice (Well) vs. Rossano (MF); Hildreth (Weir) vs. Lawrence (Morg); Giesey (Shen) vs. Roth (NP); Landaker (Camb) vs. Woodburn (Beav); Stockett (Univ) vs. Chimley (Steub); Waterman (Bpt) vs. Coppersmith (CV); Marbais (HC) vs. Cattrell (Tor); Mitchell (Riv) vs. Hoover (Barn); Lundy (OG) vs. Wiggins (WL); Tschapat (JM) vs. Neely (Cam); Davis (Mag) vs. Ross (IC); Cline (ED) vs. Jones (PS)

132
 Ours (Beav) vs. Tait/Nolte winner; Brown (Shady) vs. DiFazio (Dov); Elerick (STC) vs. Walton (MF); Fisher (Well) vs. Waggoner (Steub); Parker (Univ) vs. Lyons (Cam); Thompson (Morg) vs. Gametsfelder (NP); Aberts (Bpt) vs. Close (Tor); Neil (Camb) vs. Conley (Weir); Johnson (PS) vs. Kinney (ED); Collins (Mag) vs. Toyserkani (Lin); Bruer (Shen) vs. McManes (Mead); Lively (OG) vs. Carman (JM); Spencer (IC) vs. Kuhn (Hund); Music (Brk) vs. Francis (Barn); Gibson (UL) vs. Howard (HC); Langley (Cald) vs. Williams (EL)

138
 McComas (Beav) vs. Schmidle/Felton winner; Robinson (Shady) vs. Kernik (Lin); Williams (EL) vs. Thornton (Barn); Long (WP) vs. Dozier (Tor); Muldrow (Steub) vs. Bowyer (Dov); Larkins (ED) vs. Thatcher (JM); O'Connor (OG) vs. Cunningham (Well); McFarland (MF) vs. Shelek (WP); Pattera (IC) vs. Neiswonger (Mead); Rogers (Cam) vs. Pauley (Univ); Guy (Shen) vs. Pyle (Bpt); Schilling (FF) vs. Stout (STC); Wiley

(Cald) vs. George (Brk); Ice (UL) vs. Irizarry (PS); Zombotti (Mag) vs. Johnson (WL); Bernardes/Peters winner vs. Palmer Jr. (BL)

145
 Quicho (PS) vs. Washington/Palmer winner; Sayre (Cald) vs. Flynn (Lin); Boulet (Barn) vs. Richmond (Bpt); Reardon (Brk) vs. Johnson (ED); Mitchell (WP) vs. Myers (UL); Harmon (Dov) vs. Blackburn (Shen); Gidley (Shen) vs. Bailey (EL); Macheca (Riv) vs. Salsberry (Beav); Milhoan (SL) vs. LaPlante/Lude winner; Gibbs (NP) vs. Smith (Tor); VanDyne (Beal) vs. Wonner (CV); Stillwagoner (Mag) vs. Creese (OG); Ferguson (Steub) vs. McCardle (JM); Wills (Weir) vs. Brown (IC); McCort (STC) vs. Schrader (Shady); McManaway/Rambo winner vs. Kellar (WL)

152
 Hall (OG) vs. Beltis/Swauger winner; Wade (HC) vs. Smith (Brk); Woods (Barnes) vs. Johnson (FF); Baker (Weir) vs. DaRe (StC); Sarge (Wells) vs. Simmons/Orndorff winner; Hulseay (MF) vs. Bowen (Warren); Leembrune (Morg) vs. Werkau (Mag); Clay/Dadario winner vs. Potts (Beav); Gooch (WP) vs. Rush/Abbott winner; Greathouse (CV) vs. Keys (EL); Romschak (UL) vs. Krupinski (BL); Roche (Tor) vs. Hagedorn (U); Kenworthy (Camb) vs. Ackley (Cald); Thompson (Dov) vs. Moore (Shen); Dickey (South) vs. Franke (IC); Perez/Bumba winner vs. Roberts (PS)

160
 Pappas (Steub) vs. Hocutt/Francis winner; Knight (Lins) vs. Hatten (Bpt); Oberdier (Warren) vs. Totten (Weir); McNemar (Wells) vs. Childers (PS); Porter (Camb) vs. Hender-

son (Cam); Harmon (Morg) vs. Kiser (Dov); Goff (MF) vs. Childers (OG); Delgado/Dusky winner vs. Crum (UL); Welker (WP) vs. winner of Espen/Campbell; Vincent (Shen) vs. Mitchell (Mag); Wellings-Osha (U) vs. Shriner (JM); McEvoy (Brk) vs. Albaugh (Bell); Oliver (Barnes) vs. Harrison (CV); Donahue (BL) vs. Parker (Tor); Crute (South) vs. Spencer (IC); Croucher/Vich winner vs. Lasure (Beav).

170
 Krulick (Beav) vs. Latshaw/Sharp winner; Tower (U) vs. Wallace (HC); Somerville (South) vs. Aubrey-Big (Tor); Thomas (JM) vs. Hughes (MF); Heinrich (OG) vs. Gale (Morg); Clark (UL) vs. Frame (Barnes); Portman (Shen) vs. Klug (Shady); Schrock (Ed) vs. Starr (IC); Camilletti (Brk) vs. Walters (Mag); Hawkins (Weir) vs. Morris (South); Moore (Camb) vs. Cunningham (Wells); Mamie (Bell) vs. Kinney (Steub); Nixon (WP) vs. Clark (PC); Worwa (Bpt) vs. Daniels (Mad); Baker (FF) vs. Weaver (Dov); Osborne/Escarcega winner vs. Bush (Cam).

182
 Tuttle (Steub) vs. Brown (Shady); Bye vs. Bell (Bell); Solansky (Beav) vs. DeVold (Shen); Striker (Ed) vs. Hall (South); Smith (BL) vs. Wagner (HC); Shoup (War) vs. Murray (U); Dondzila (IC) vs. Naylor (StC); Hartley (EL) vs. Bartlett (Camb); Brothers (WP) vs. Cook (CV); Wotring (Morg) vs. Duck (MF); Walters (Weir) vs. Haines (Tor); Debnar (Brk) vs. O'Connor (OG); Williams (NP) vs. Smith (Mad); Cybulski (Lins) vs. Carmichael (Cam); Holskey (Barnes) vs. Bye; Jones (JM) vs. Morris (South).

195

Bodnar (Steub) vs. Klopp (Shady); Bye vs. Felton (Linsly); Carpenter (Warren) vs. Ellis (HC); Parsons (WP) vs. Buckalew (South); Lowe (Southern) vs. Blake (Cam); Patrone (Bell) vs. Williams (Brk); Lurie (Dov) vs. Ortt (NP); Perkins (UL) vs. McFarland (MF); Liewelyn (IC) vs. Johnson (Hundred); Bye vs. Morales (BL); Adams (OG) vs. Sanders (Meadow); Warner (Barnes) vs. Stillwagoner (Mag); Wukelich (Beav) vs. Childers (Riv); Griffith (Ed) vs. Warner (Shen); O'Connor (Morg) vs. Bye; Pence (JM) vs. Skaggs (StC).

220
 Amos (PS) vs. Tristano (NP); Bye vs. Tuttle (Steub); Danhart (Bpt) vs. Lively (Riv); Clouse (Barnes) vs. Yost (Morg); Tamburin (WP) vs. Wright (JM); Egger (Lins) vs. Alleb (Beav); Scott (Mag) vs. Bye; Drapp (HC) vs. Saunders (U); Witsberger (StC) vs. Trenner (Shen); Bye vs. Hanlin (Ed); Lenhart (FF) vs. Smarella (IC); Lathan (Camb) vs. Cesario (BL); Dobson (MF) vs. Honeywell (Shady); Cochran (Dov) vs. Weckely (Wells); Tait (Warren) vs. Bye; Cottrell (Whg CC) vs. Wooley (EL).

285
 Wirth (Beav) vs. winner of Wehr/Doty; Hunter (Brk) vs. Rose (Whg CC); Brueck (Weir) vs. Fry (StC); Huff (Steub) vs. Bier (Riv); Knight (Lins) vs. Bryan (Cam); Ice (Wells) vs. Turney (U); Lucas (Barnes) vs. Lewis (MF); Clark (JM) vs. Stevens (FF); Haselou (Morg) vs. Welch (Warren); Babik (CV) vs. Beach (NP); Miakla (Dov) vs. Hamrick (Mag); Kuneff (Bpt) vs. Stiles (Ed); Merryman (IC) vs. Fancher (Tor); Blake (OG) vs. Reinacher (WP); Schafer (Bealls) vs. Hitchens (Shen).

Bridgeport looking to defend 1A/2A title

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BRIDGEPORT — For the first time in several decades, Bridgeport enters the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Ron Mauck wrestling tournament with a target on its back.

When the 67th annual three-day event unfolds Thursday night inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena, the Bulldogs will be cast in the role of Class 1A/2A defending champions. A role head coach David Nelson is excited about.

"We are the defending 1A/2A team champs, and we are looking to defend our title," he said matter-of-factly.

"However, we are going to need contributions from everybody in order to win."

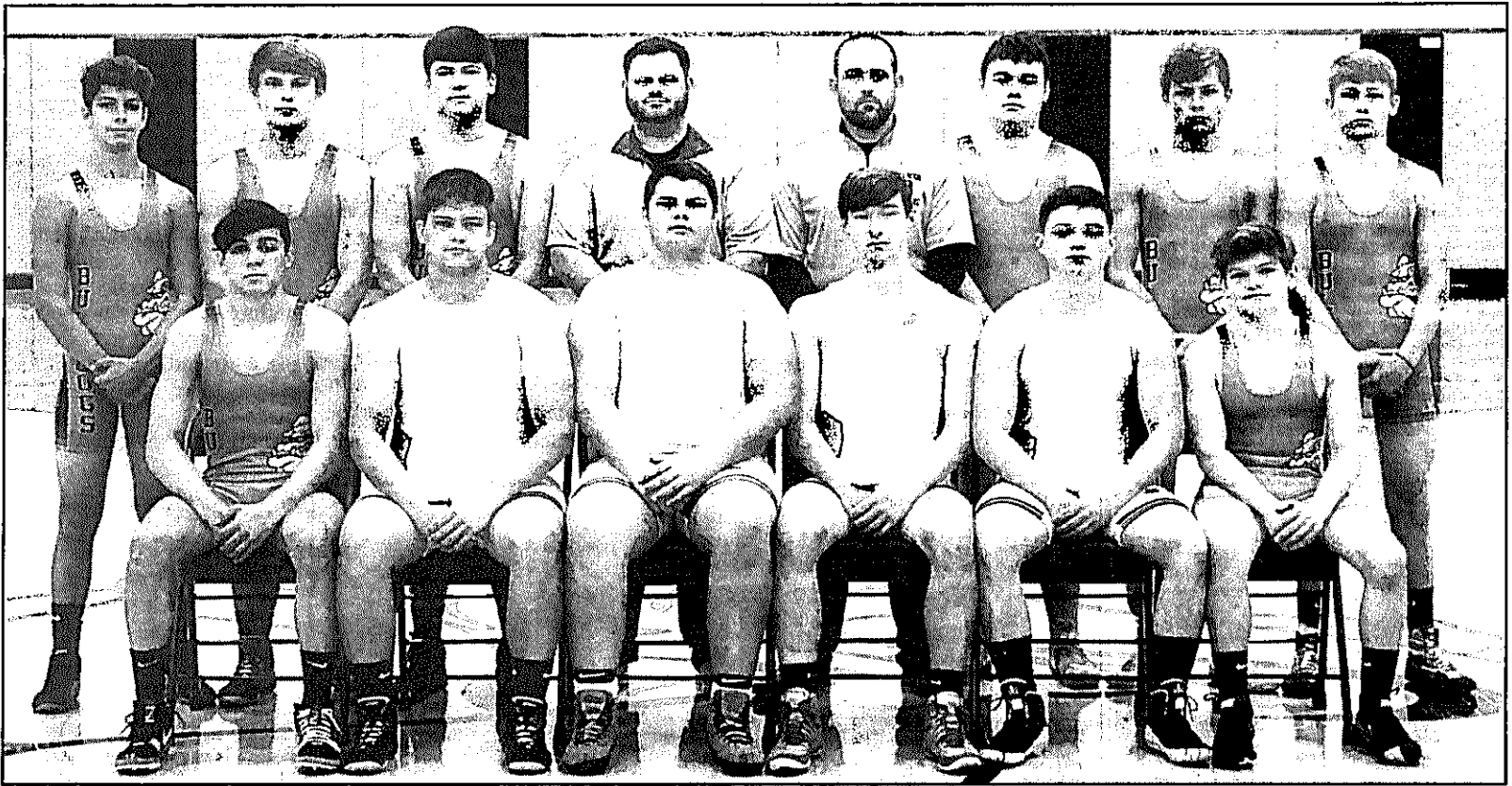
Bridgeport, which nosed out Caldwell 62-58 for the title, will enter 10 participants this year, but none of those reached the podium last year as the majority of the Bulldogs points were accumulated by graduated seniors Mason Kuneff and Tino Kusic.

Kuneff placed fourth at 160 while Kusic advanced to the final before losing 7-5 in sudden-victory to Beaver Local's Beau Smith. Kusic, who became the Bulldogs all-time win leader, was a four-time state qualifier and placed 4th at 160 as a junior.

Kuneff was a three-time state qualifier.

Of the 10 Bulldogs entered, there are four seniors, two juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. And the head coach has confidence in every one of them.

Sophomore Sean White (120), freshman Mason Aberts (132) and senior Devin Danhart (220) all claimed championships at the recent



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Bridgeport wrestling team. Front row, from left, are D'Zayveon Richmond, Devin Danhart, Zachary Kuneff, Skyler Hatten, David Worwa Jr and Christian Waterman. Second row, from left, are Sean White, Anthony Jaworski, Cody Swauger, Assistant Coach Dom Vinci, Head Coach David Nelson, Michael Stiles, Mason Aberts and Peyton Pyle.

Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament. It was the first title for each.

"This is only Sean's second year of wrestling," Nelson said of his 15-12 lightweight. "He's held his own so far this season."

Aberts, a junior high state qualifier a year ago, is 22-8 thus far and placed sixth at the Union Local Rick Link Invitational to start this year.

"Mason has been performing well for us. He is coming off a title at Shadyside this past weekend," Nelson noted.

"I think he has a chance to win a few matches and even place if he comes in and wrestles hard."

Danhart was a Division III district qualifier last season and is 22-6 this year. He was runnerup at St. Clairsville's America's Best Value Inn Tournament and placed third at Union Local.

"Devin has been wrestling well all year. He should be seeded and have a good shot at sneaking into a low place," Nelson allowed. "He needs to continue to wrestle well and go out and battle every match."

Nelson feels several others have a shot of reaching the podium late Saturday. They include seniors Skyler Hatten (160) and Zachary Kuneff (285), along with junior D'Zayveon Richmond

(145). Hatten was one win away from placing in last year's event.

He is 21-8 so far this season and has placed second at the D3 Classic in Waterloo, St. Clairsville and Shadyside. He was fourth at Union Local.

"Skyler has been wrestling really well this year and has a good shot at placing if he continues to do so," Nelson said.

Kuneff, 21-5, was a district qualifier a season ago. He has been runnerup at the D3 Classic, Union Local and Shadyside.

See, **BRIDGEPORT**, Page 8

**Good Luck
Bridgeport
Wrestlers!**



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- 1975--Mike Kovalick, Bellaire
- 1976--Randy Davis, Cadiz, and Ed Covey, Bridgeport
- 1977--Rich Davis, Jefferson Union
- 1978--Carl Stanley, Wheeling Park
- 1979--Randy Pryor, Weir
- 1980--Trent Iachini, Steubenville
- 1981--Mike Tluchowski, Steubenville
- 1982--Larry Isleman, Toronto
- 1983--Brian Miller, Barnesville
- 1984--Neath Beadmore, Cambridge
- 1985--Tim Moxley, Barnesville
- 1986--Sean Murray, Oak Glen
- 1987--Mark Mylnak, Bellaire
- 1988--Rick Burlinski, Bridgeport
- 1989--Mark Emmerling, East Liverpool
- 1990--Babe Sidon, Martins Ferry
- 1991--Douglas Knight, Steubenville
- 1992--R.C. Abderson, Cameron
- 1993--Kelly Shields, Edison South
- 1994--Justin Harris, Beaver Local
- 1995--Justin Ewing, St. Clairsville
- 1996--Eric Anderson, St. John Can-

- tral
- 1997--Ryan Muldrew, John Marshall
- 1998--Chad Pratz, Linsly
- 1999--Jose Smith, Cambridge
- 2000--Scott Roth, Martins Ferry
- 2001--Cole Bowersock, Beaver Local
- 2002--Derek George, John Marshall
- 2003--David Bertolino, Buckeye Local
- 2004--Adam Hoppel, Beaver Local
- 2005--Clay Tucker, Martins Ferry
- 2006--Zach Shuler, St. Clairsville
- 2007--James Myers, Indian Creek
- 2008--Jimmy Reisz, Beallsville
- 2009--Dirk Bauer, Wheeling Park
- 2010--Dylan Ice, Beaver Local
- 2011--Kyle Bauer, Wheeling Park
- 2012--David Jeffrey, Parkersburg South
- 2013--Cody Amos, Wheeling Park
- 2014--Jonny Davis, Wheeling Park
- 2015--Alex Fotta, East Liverpool
- 2016--Tariq Wilson, Steubenville
- 2017--Payton Hall, Oak Glen
- 2018--Josh Humphreys, Parkersburg South
- 2019--Peyton Blasko, Steubenville
- 2020--????

• Bridgeport

Continued from Page 7

He finished fourth at St. Clairsville.

"Zach has been wrestling well all year. He has had some close matches with top level guys," Nelson recalled. "He should be seeded fairly well and has a good chance of placing as long as he keeps wrestling well."

Richmond is 10-9 and a two-time district qualifier. He was third at both Waterloo and Shadyside.

"Zay has been wrestling well of late after a slow start to the season with some injuries and illness," Nelson



added.

"He placed fourth at Waterloo upsetting some seeded kids. If he can put together a good tournament,

he might have a chance of placing.

Another Bulldog that has surprised Nelson and his staff so far is senior David Worwa (170).

"David came out this year as a senior, not having wrestled since his freshman year," Nelson said. "He has looked good at times and has surprised some people, pulling off some upsets. He has a chance to get a couple wins and, maybe with a couple more upsets, even a place."

Junior Christian Water-

man (126), freshman Peyton Pyle (138) and sophomore Cody Swauger (152) round out the roster.

Waterman, who is 11-10 on the season, placed second at Shadyside. Pyle, another junior high state qualifier, is 17-11 and was sixth at the St. Clairsville tourney.

Nelson is aided by Dom Vinci at the high school level. Dennis Kasper and Greg Honecker coach the Jr. High.

• South

Continued from Page 6

plus.

"He is more athletic right now than he was last year and I think just four- or five-months wrestling helped tremendously. He seems more agile and not as heavy coming into the season. He seems to be embracing wrestling a little more and has become a better athlete. He has the potential to end up being a really good wrestler."

Each experienced grappler will have their own work to do, as well. Everyone but Amos and Hendershot are projected to go up in weight. In fact, no weight class is set in stone.

"Before the season started going, I had a talk with the upperclassmen on how important it was to be doing the right things to show the freshman what I expect from them and to guide them in a good way," said Smith.

No class has more of a challenge now than 106. Miller's spot has five athletes vying for the starting position. Smith can envision a scenario where Miller retains her varsity role, but he said it won't be easy. Newcomers Brady Roberts and Brent Bosley "accomplished a lot" at the middle school level.

Nathan Ford is pushing for the top role in 113 after a dominant run in the years leading up to high school. "He is a tough wrestler and has won pretty much every tournament in the state as a middle schooler and has been a junior state champion," said Smith.

Trent Jones "the stud" from Edison could slot it at 126. Ryan Martin and Parker Field are determined to not be left out of the mix, as well.

The biggest task for the freshman Smith noted is becoming more efficient in their craft. "It is hard to get them out of their middle school ways, but it is going to make everyone a lot better," said Smith.

"I am trying to get them to understand it is not going to be easy and it is not going to be handed to us," said Smith. "There were a couple of teams through this run there was no doubt we were going to win. We are going to do this the right way. We are going to bust our butts and no one is going to out work us."

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River boasts young lineup; Beallsville relies on 2 entrants

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

HANNIBAL — River boasts a young, but eager, group of competitors who'll make their way to Wheeling this week for the OVAC on Mauck Wrestling Tournament.

Veteran head coach Chuck Baker has more wrestlers this year, but it's a young group that's still learning the ropes.

"I have a good group of kids," he said. "It's probably the best group of kids I've had in a long time."

Leading the way for the Pilots is junior Chris Eavner.

Boosted by a by a pin of leadowbrook's Jarrett Stilson at the Rick Link Tournament, the 113-pounder has caught the eye of area coaches.

"He's a very knowledgeable

able wrestler, very strong," Baker said. "He's a good leader and one of our captains."

"He's our bread and butter, between he and our heavyweight."

That is freshman Marshall Bier, who made waves as a junior high grappler.

"He's a big boy, not tall," Baker said of Bier, who boasts 12 victories. "He has to rely on his moves."

Rounding out the Pilots' lineup are — freshman Noah Lively (22), sophomore Hunter Neavin (195), sophomore Zach Hocutt (160), freshman Alexis Felton (152), sophomore Nick Macheca (145) and freshman Clee Mitchell (126).

Baker hopes this season is a building block to what should be a better season next winter.

"We have all of them back

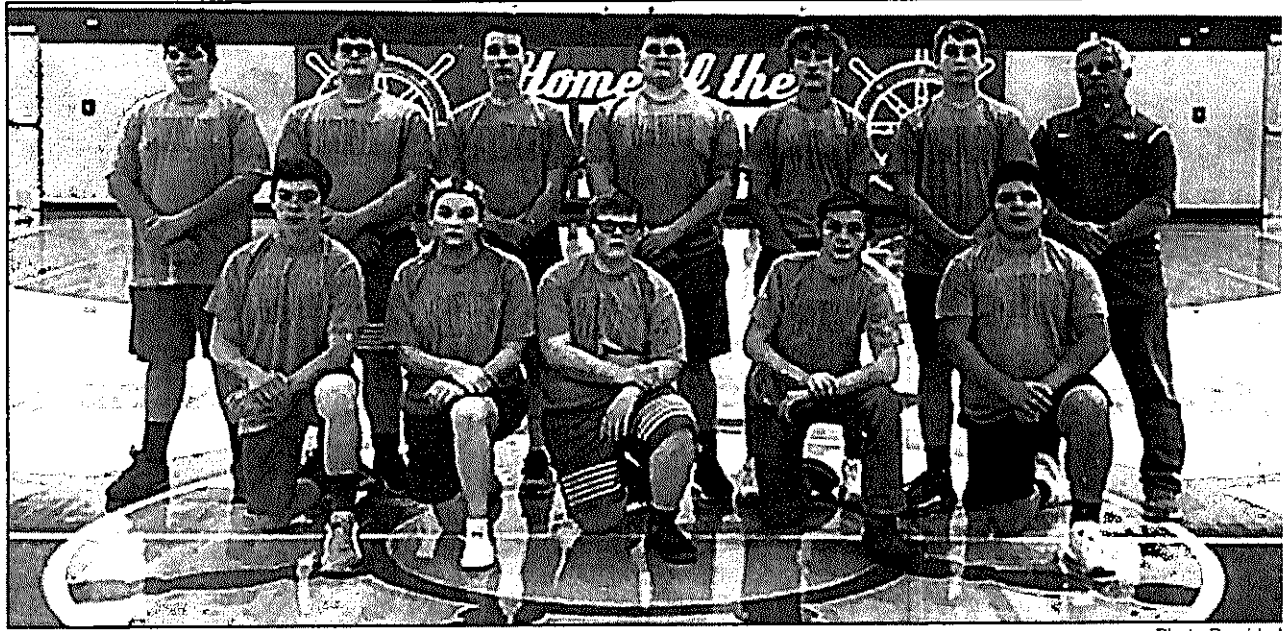


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 River wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Nick Macheca, Lexi Perine, Hunter Neavins, Chris Heavener and Brayden Strawn. Back row, from left, are Travis Childress, Noah Lively, Chattum Lively, Marshall Bier, Clee Mitchell and Zach Hocutt.

next year, and we should add a few more," he said.

"We oughta be very good next year. This year, we're gonna take our lumps. We'll do fine, we just don't want to be last. That's the main thing."

BEALLSVILLE has just

two wrestlers competing this, but one could be a factor when all is said and done.

Wyatt VanDyne sports a 19-2 record at 145 pounds for coach, Ernie VanDyne.

"Wyatt is very dedicated to wrestling and I expect great things from him,"

Coach VanDyne said.

The Blue Devils' other competitor will be junior Garrett Schafer (1-14). He'll compete at heavyweight.

Kasen Kinzy, a 138-pound freshman, is out injured.

"The OVAC tournament

is one of the biggest and most-prestigious tournaments in the nation," Coach VanDyne noted. "Beallsville High was once strong there. I'm hoping, with our large youth program, we can be successful again there in the future."

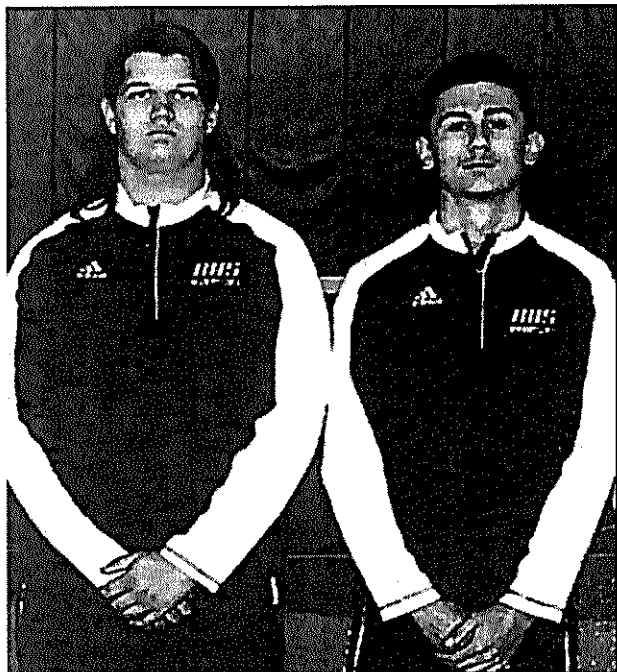


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Beallsville wrestling team. From left are Garrett Schafer and Wyatt Van Dyne.

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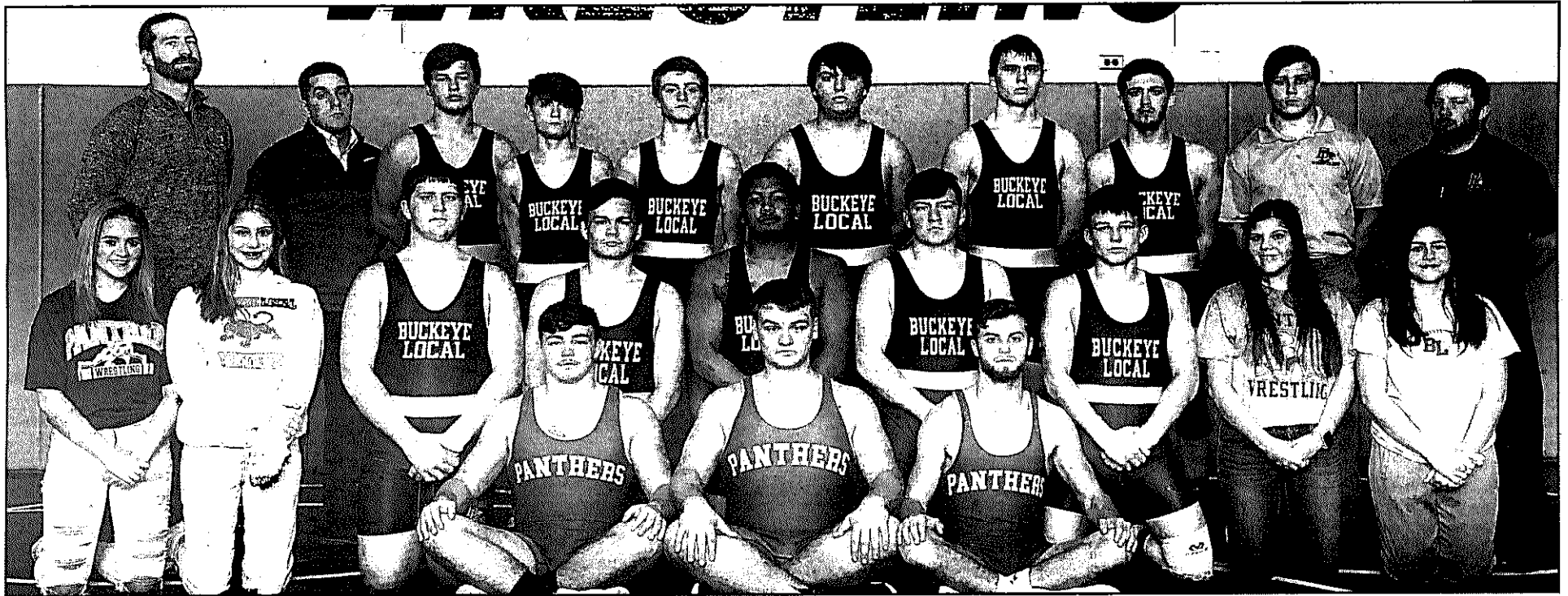


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Photo/ACTION IMAGES

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Buckeye Local wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Charlie Smith, Zak Cesario and Travis Light. Second row, from left, are statistician Kaitlynn Utter, statistician Morgan Richardson, Logan Williams, Danny Nation, Alexio Morales, Tyler Donahue, Brian Palmer, Hannah Badger and statistician Hailee Nelson. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Jack Otto, assistant coach Tony Marques, Dylan Palmer, Logan Dentz, Trevor Herbert, R.J. Stenkowski, Jacob Anderson, assistant coach Mason Kuneff and head coach Willie Saxton.

Buckeye Local eyes consistency at OVAC Tourney

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

CONNORVILLE — Buckeye Local's wrestling team is off to a solid start for the 2019-20 campaign.

But, fifth-year head coach Willie Saxton is well aware that if they're to continue that progress in this weekend's 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling they'll need to continue to step it up.

"We're still a relatively young team with a lot of juniors and freshmen (in the lineup)," Saxton said. "That's a good thing, though. Our guys have wrestled hard and pretty well most of the season. We're finally getting healthy at the right time."

The Panthers are 6-6 in dual-meet, action and have

competed at both the Union Local and Barnesville tournaments.

"We've seen a lot of good teams so far," Saxton said.

Many of the 12 duals came in the Park Duals over the holiday break where the Panthers finished "in the middle of the pack," according to Saxton.

"We battled some illness during the Park Duals and we're definitely glad that's come and gone," Saxton said. "Our kids are finally healthy and ready to go."

At the Union Local tournament, in December, the Panthers had two individual champions and finished inside the overall top five and a few weeks later in Barnesville, they finished with a champion and few placers.

Saxton attributes a lot of the Panthers early-season success to the work that as-

See, **BUCKEYE**, Page 12

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Bryant is confident in Harrison Central

RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ADIZ — As the OVAC Mauck Wrestling Championship gets set to take place Thursday night at the Huntington Wesleyan Center in Harrison Central head coach Bill Bryant is feeling very confident about his team. The Huskies finished second out of 13 teams at the recent Last Man Standing tournament in Shadyside, a clear example of how his team has improved week-over-week this year. "I'm proud of the team we've put together so far into the season," he said. "We have been pretty competitive in the last two tournaments, while only filling half the lineup." Maintaining a healthy lineup has been a challenge for Bryant.

The biggest challenge probably has been getting the numbers out and keeping them out," he said. "That's into the second challenge of getting a full lineup or should I say, getting everyone healthy. I think we only have two or three starters that have wrestled any event this year and haven't had to sit our practices to get healthy." Bryant said the wrestlers have handled adversity well. "I know every team has adversity, but I feel we have handled that very well," he said. "It isn't easy to come to practice and see yourself better every time when your teammates aren't practicing every day. They are becoming more comfortable every week and we have several wrestlers that have dug deep and pushed themselves to get there and compete every week regardless of the injuries." Harrison Central has five wrestlers sporting plus 500 marks entering OVACs

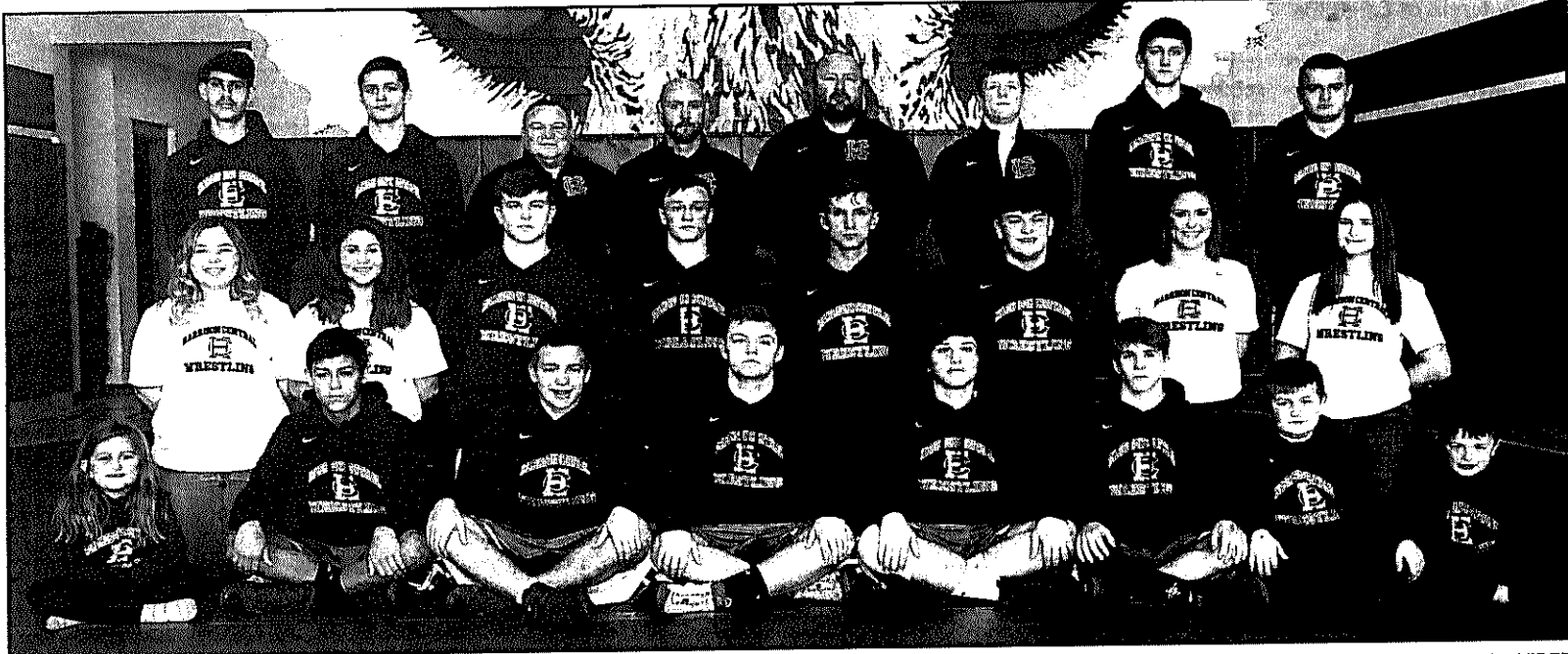


Photo PROVIDED

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Harrison Central wrestling team. Front row, from left, are manager Aubrey Bryant, Leland Lopez, Michael Smith, JT Wagner, Dawson VichJustin Sampson, managers Cael Bryant and Brasen Bryant. Second row, from left, are statistician Kaitlyn Evans, statistician Brooke Heavilin, Logan Ellis, Gabe Marbais, Riley Kubic, Dillon Drapp, statistician Alexis Jenkins and statistician Sicily Wade. Third row, from left, are Guilherme Bernardes, Austin Howard, assistant coach Richard McKinney, assistant coach Anthony Hayes, head coach William Bryant, assistant coach Clayton Crosier, Hayden Wallace, Bryce Wade.

starting with sophomore 126-pounder Gabe Marbais, who stands 16-5.

"He's been one of our consistent wrestlers and is really starting to click," Bryant said.

"Even in the matches he's lost, he's been tough. He could very well be on the top half of the podium come Saturday night."

Another sophomore, Justin Sampson, has crafted a 12-4 mark at 106 pounds.

"He's starting to do things the right way and that could put him in the top half of the podium this weekend," Bryant said.

Also with 12 victories is senior Austin Howard. The Huskies' 132 pounder, Howard is dropping a weight class for OVACs.

"He should be a placer," Bryant believes.

Senior Bryce Wade is 10-6 at 152 pounds.

"He's been a little inconsistent this year, but he has the ability to place every weekend he's on the mat and I don't expect anything different from him this week," Bryant said.

"He is dropping weight this weekend to help strengthen our team lineup and I hope he gets to reap the rewards."

Hayden Wallace, a senior 170-pounder, is dropping back to his "natural" weight this week.

"I think that will help him," Bryant said of Wallace (10-7). "I honestly believe he will take some people by surprise."

Rounding out the Huskies lineup are — freshman Servacio Lopez (120, 3-7), senior Guilherme Bernardes (138, 0-3), junior Dawson Vich (160, 3-10), sophomore JT Wagner (182, 3-5), sophomore Logan Ellis

(195, 5-6) and sophomore Dillon Drapp (220, 4-10).

Bryant believes several schools will be in the running for divisional crowns this week. He believes his squad will be in the mix, too.


"The OVACs mean competing with the best wrestlers in the Ohio Valley and the halfway point of our season," he said.

I always tell our team, we wrestle the season for two major things — the OVAC tournament and the post-season. Everything else is preparation for those events.


"I expect our wrestlers to have a top 15 team finish and to put as many placers as we can on the podium Saturday night."

"I think if we can get four to six on the podium, we will have wrestled well."

**Good Luck
Harrison Central
Wrestlers!**



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• Buckeye

Continued from Page 10

sistant coach Jack Otto has done in terms of conditioning.

"We've had a few guys win matches on conditioning alone," Saxton said. "Jack's come back to the staff and has done an excellent job. The kids love him and it's paying off."

As for what lies ahead this week, the Panthers find themselves in a highly competitive 4A field, which features the likes of defending overall champion Beaver Local as well as St. Clairsville and Martins Ferry, both of which have been solid in the opening portion of this season.

"It's tough," Saxton said. "It's always been tough, but we're hoping we're able to finish up there in the (team) standings. We think we can be in the upper part of our

class.

The OVAC Tournament always seems to be about surprises and a kid who isn't seeded as high or maybe at all that makes a run. We feel like we have a couple of guys who could be that kid this year."

One Panther who certainly won't be sneaking up on anyone is junior standout Brian (Bub) Palmer Jr., who gets the call at 138. He brings a spotless 23-0 mark to the event. He was a champion at both UL and Barnesville and garnered tourney MOW in the Shamrocks' event.

Palmer is a two-time all-Ohioan, including his bronze-medal finish last winter. He was also third in the OVAC last winter.

"Bub's had a really good season, but he's going to



have to wrestle well (at the OVAC) because 138 is filled with talented guys," Saxton said. "I am confident in him because he's been wrestling at a different level and his focus is where it needs to be."

Senior Charlie Smith is enjoying a strong campaign at 182 and owns a 17-3 re-

cord. He was champion at UL and fifth at Barnesville. He's earned two OVAC placements during his career, pocketing seventh twice.

"Charlie is right where he needs to be," Saxton said. "He's a good kid who wrestles hard."

Senior Zac Cesario will enter at 220 pounds for the Panthers and sports a 15-5 record with a runner-up finish at UL to his credit. He was a fifth-place finisher in the district last season, narrowly missing a state berth.

Sophomore Trevor Herbert is another to keep an eye on for the Panthers at 113 pounds.

He's currently 13-6 and was another who just missed

a state berth in 2019. A wrestler, who is known as a "pinner" by his head coach, placed fifth at Union Local.

Junior Alexio Morales is a solid 195 pounder and fashions a 9-5 record.

He was fifth at Union Local.

Senior Travis Light gets the call at 126 and is 6-5 despite missing some time as he battled illness. He, too, was a district qualifier a season ago.

Sophomore Aiden Krupinski is 9-9 at 152 and was fourth at Union Local.

Junior Tyler Donahue enters at 160 and is 4-8. At 145, freshman Dylan Palmer gets the call after spending time at both 160 and 152. He's currently 6-10 with all of his losses coming at the heavier weights.

Freshman Logan Dentz is the 106 pounder for the Panthers and is currently 6-12.

Buckeye Local will not

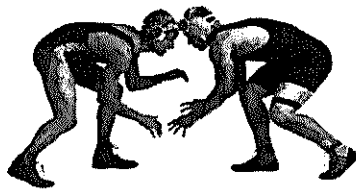
enter in 120, 132, 170 and 285 pounds.

The balance of the roster includes junior Nick Sipes (195), junior Logan Williams (220) and sophomore Richard Stenkowski (220).

Once the OVAC in the rear-view mirror, plenty of season remains for the Panthers. They'll host their annual Panther Classic, take on Newcomerstown and Ridgewood in a triangular at Newcomerstown, participate in the Buckeye 8 for the final time and also the OHSAA Team Tournament on Feb. 8.

Saxton — a former OVAC and state champion during his prep days with the Panthers — has a quality coaching staff. Along with Otto, Bridgeport grad and all-Ohioan Mason Kuneff works with the varsity Panthers, while Ryan Morrow oversees the junior-high program.

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- 1985 — Dennis Bowman, Bellaire
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- 1987 — Eric Carder, Wheeling Park Athletic Director
- 1988 — Dave Kovalick, Barnesville
- 1989 — Steve Kish Principal of Bellaire High
- 1990 — Carl Fodor, Hancock County Schools
- 1991 — Dr. William Welker, Warwood Middle
- 1992 — Larry Deaton, Martins Ferry
- 1993 — John Stephenson, Cadiz High
- 1994 — Joe Bates, Woodsfield High
- 1995 — Bob Bruney, Martins Ferry
- 1996 — Larry Chambers, Moundsville Jr. High
- 1997 — Gary Davis, Beallsville High
- 1998 — Cal Pokas, Sports Editor of The Times Leader
- 1999 — Tom Lackman, Jefferson Union
- 2000 — Ed "Buzzy" Evans —
- 2001 — William McEldowney, Wheeling
- 2002 — John Craig, Indian Creek
- 2003 — Ed Dugas, John Marshall High
- 2004 — Jeff Oberdick, Martins Ferry
- 2005 — Dan Doyle, Super. of Noble Co. Schools
- 2006 — Nolan Van Gilder, Brooke
- 2007 — Rick Link, Union Local
- 2008 — Jim Potts, Cameron
- 2009 — Paul Billiard, Brooke
- 2010 — Jeff Carroll, Cambridge
- 2011 — Rich Gregor, Springfield High
- 2012 — Art Hehr, Bridgeport
- 2013 — Dave LaMotte, Bridgeport
- 2014 — Darrell Davis, Barnesville
- 2015 — Gene Monteleone, Wheeling Park
- 2016 — Jim Crosier, Union Local
- 2017 — Chick LaMotte, St. John Central
- 2018 — Larry Shaw, Oak Glen
- 2019 — John Grinch, Shadyside
- 2020 — ???

Asbury excited about first OVAC Tournament as JM coach

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — Former Oak Glen state champ Ryan Asbury has taken over the reins of the John Marshall wrestling program this season and the Monarchs are looking up for the Monarchs, even though the starting lineup is comprised mainly of sophomores and freshmen.

"We only have three seniors in the varsity lineup, and one of them has never wrestled before," said Asbury, who claimed the 125-pound West Virginia crown in 2008 for the Gold-Bears.

"No juniors are currently in the starting lineup, meaning the vast majority of our varsity team is composed of freshmen and sophomores.

"With the way these guys are performing, it's easy to overlook their young age. They have been able to come from behind in many matches to win in the third period, which is difficult for most experienced guys to achieve, yet they continue to show improvement."

Bellaire

Continued from Page 5

While the Big Reds stand 4-4 heading into OVACs, there have been bright spots, mainly from senior Cody Ibaugh.

Albaugh stands at 15-2 and won the 160-pound division at the Barnesville and Ford Invitational last month.

"Cody is one of our captains and he's having a good year thus far," Rose said. "He is the leader of the team and everyone feeds off his energy."

At 170 pounds, Bellaire is represented by Brandon Lamie, who sports a 4-8 ark.

"Brandon is a tough 10th grader, who gets better every week," Rose said. "Brandon is an extremely hard worker and would do anything for the team."

Senior T.J. Bell is back in the fold for the Big Reds this winter after a brief hiatus. A 182-pounder, Bellaire has crafted an 8-6 record thus far.

"T.J. is another one of our captains," Rose said. "He's starting to improve."

Vincent Patrone rounds out the Bellaire contingent. Also 8-6, Rose said he also continues to improve.

"He's a tough-working

11th grader," he said. "He's coming along, and by the end of the season, will meet his goals."

Rose sees Martins Ferry and Indian Creek as teams to look at for this week on the OVAC mats.

As for his own squad, Rose is optimistic his grapplers can make an impact on the awards' stand.

"We've been improving on creating offense," he said. "And, as a result of that, we've been doing well in the third period when opponents are tired."

"We're a small team that continues to work hard."

Several Monarchs moved down a weight class following the holidays, according to Asbury, and that's boosted confidence for those that did so.

"The team also comes to practice with the mindset of getting better every day."

Asbury added his wrestlers' technique has improved, too.

As a team, we have done a great job of shifting our weight in the top position to allow us to get more turns and pins, and we have improved greatly on our feet by

improving our head position and stringing our shots together. By combining these two areas, we are in more control of the pace of matches and many opponents can't outlast our conditioning."

The Monarchs placed second at their own invitational,

falling to McGuffey (Pa.) in the final. JM also finished second at Cabell Midland and third in Cameron. JM stands at 12-9 in dual meets.

"There has been a positive energy around them, and it makes every kid want to fight to get the major, the

tech fall or the pin when they are winning their matches and go the full 6 minutes if not," Asbury said. "That energy is contagious and has been a driving force to keep the kids positive and improving as the season has

See, JM, Page 15



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 John Marshall Monarchs wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Ryan Ward, Andrew Dorsey, Ethan Gray, Matthew Tschappat, Carl Cochran, Donald Carroll and Ethan Cook. Middle row, from left, are Kendall Thatcher, Audrey Robinson, Pearl Chambers, Matt Lemley, Freddy Hicks, Mason Orndorff, Gabe Carman, Dakoyta Thatcher, Alex Harbert, Ryder Jones and Liz Carman. Back row, from left, are Coach Asbury, Coach Potts, Mathieu Wright, Bradlee Clark, Cody Richard, Kevin Pence, Cameron McClure, Kaden Shriner, Ben McCardle, Alex Thomas and Coach Morris

Good Luck John Marshall!

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• **Barnesville**

Continued from Page 3

rocks are a young team with just three seniors, in the starting 14. Griffen Stephen is one of six talented sophomores, while three juniors and a pair of freshmen complete the lineup.

Senior Owen Oliver (160) is a three-year veteran who qualified for the district tournament last winter and has hopes of reaching the podium Saturday night. He was the champion at St. Clairsville and has a pair of runnerup finishes this year at Union Local and Barnesville and is 19-2.

"Owen is a very talented athlete and is having a great season," Coach Stephen said. "Also a hard worker and a good young man."

Sophomore Carter Wells (120), junior George Hoover (126), sophomore Jacob Boulet (145) and junior Cameron Woods (152) are four other individuals that Coach Stephen thinks can reach the podium.

Wells finished sixth in the Division III districts last year and is currently 14-5. He was first at Union Local, fourth at St. Clairsville and sixth at Barnesville.

"Carter is another young and hard working wrestler with a drive to win," the coach said.

Hoover is 14-3 and qualified for the district a season ago. He won at St. Clairsville and finished third at Union Local and fourth at Barnesville.

"A strong, hard worker in the room and is wrestling better ever week.

Boulet is 17-4 with runnerup finishes at Union Local, St. Clairsville and Barnesville. He was a state alternate last year after placing fifth in the districts.

"Jacob is a hard worker that gives everything he has and leaves it all on the mat," Coach Stephen added. "A great young man."

Woods has compiled a 12-5 mark thus far this season. He runnerup at Union Local, while taking third at St. Clairsville and sixth at Barnesville. He, like, Boulet, was a state alternate last winter.

"Cameron is a very good wrestler and hard worker with a great future ahead of him."

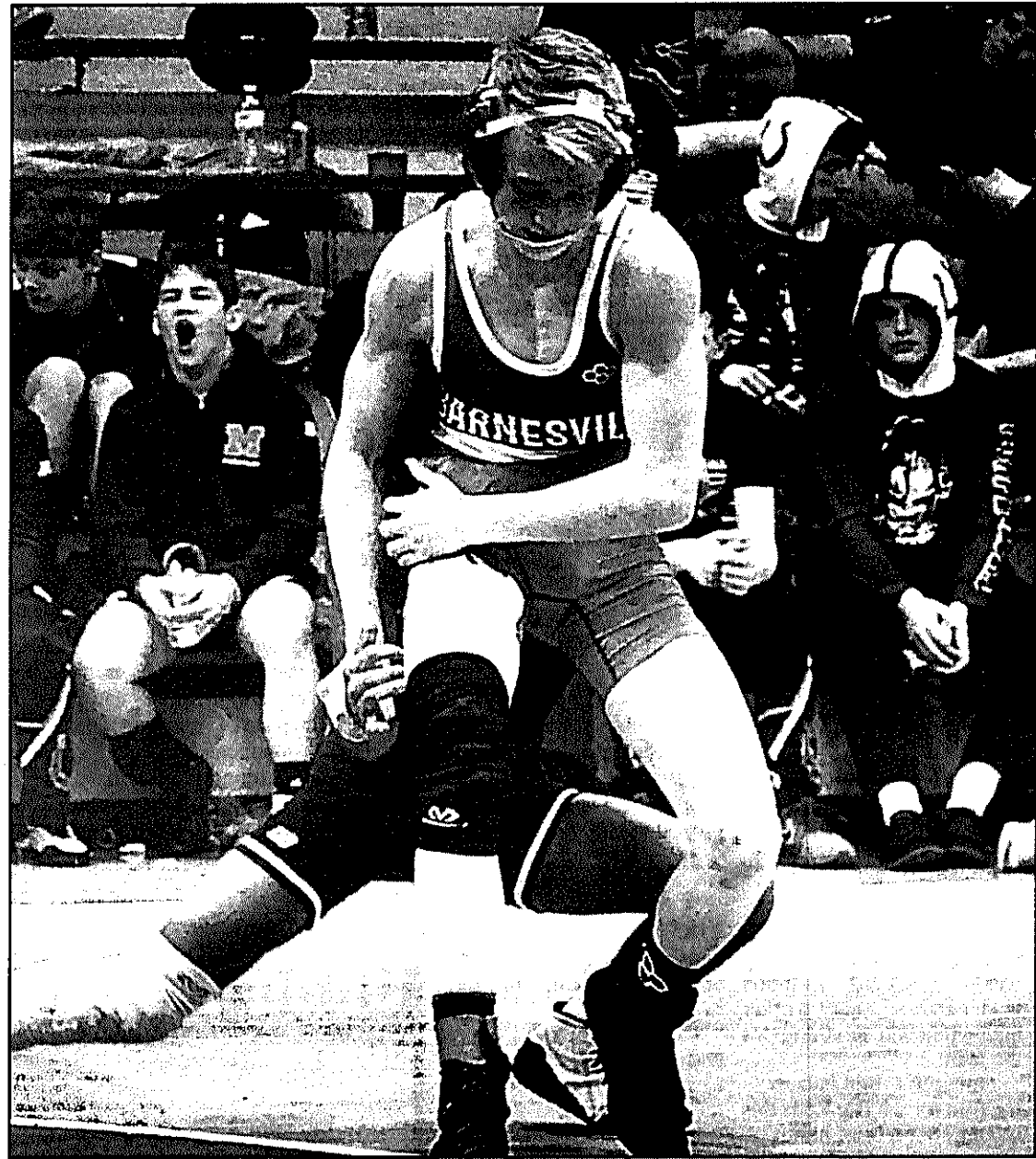
The remainder of the lineup consists of the following:

Freshman Easton Little (106) is entered after Kellen Dornon was injured last week against Martins Ferry.

"Easton is another young wrestler that the more mat time the better he will be. He's great to be around and is willing to get better every day," Stephen noted.

He was second at Shadyside.

Junior A.J. Francis (132) who is 9-7 and was a district qualifier. He took the bronze at UL.



BARNESVILLE SOPHOMORE Griffen Stephen has enjoyed a brilliant season thus far as he tries to build on his bronze-medal finish in the 2019 OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. Stephen is one to watch at 113 pounds this weekend.

T-L File PHOTO/KIM NORTH

"Another talented, good kid. He has a lot to offer the sport of wrestling."

Sophomore Caiden Thornton (138) has fashioned an 8-9 mark.

"A young and talented athlete that has a drive for wrestling. He has great future in the sport."

Senior Austin Frame (170) has compiled a fine 13-5 record in his first year out after not competing for two seasons. He was fifth at Union Local and runnerup at St. Clairsville while competing at 160 and 152, respectively.

"A good kid that wrestles hard and is open to do whatever it takes to help the team," Stephen praised.

Freshman Drew Holskey (182) is 10-6 and the coach likes what he sees. He was third at UL and fourth at St. Clairsville.

"Another great young kid that will have a great wrestling career."

Senior Trey Warner (195) and sophomores Avery Clouse (220) and Jady Lucas (285) are the Shamrocks heavyweights. Warner was fourth at Shadyside.

"Trey is a good worker and a great kid.

He gives you his all every time he steps the mat as a first-year wrestler," the coach noted. "Avery is a good kid and is getting better with the sport. He will be a good wrestler with more mat time. Jady is another good, young man that is only getting better each time he steps on the mat."

The Shamrocks lost senior all-stater Brian Clouse to graduation. He took bronze both the OVAC and state tournaments.

Stephen is assisted by Rick Milhoan and Luke Johnson. The junior high coaches are Kyle King, TJ King and Quentin Castello

Free OVAC wrestling youth clinic slated

WHEELING, WV — As part of the "SUBWAY Sports Clinic Series" the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be hosting its annual free youth wrestling clinic in conjunction with the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, January the 18th.

On Saturday, the free wrestling clinic will be held on the OVAC Championship mats of WesBanco Arena from 8:00-9:30am. Registration will begin at 7:30am

that morning.

The clinic will be led by Mitch Knapp, a two-time All-American wrestler, and graduate of West Liberty University. The clinicians will teach the basic fundamentals of wrestling and help build the kids' self-esteem.

The clinic is free and open to boys and girls ages 5-13.

Parents are required to have insurance

and be present the day of the clinics to sign a waiver form. For more information visit www.OVAC.org, email: Beth.johnson@tealpropertiesgroup.com or phone 304.220.4858.

The free clinic is made possible thanks to Smitty's Sportatorium, and OVAC Corporate Partners: Health Management Solutions and Paramount Preferred Solutions, AM 1600 WKKX, Wheeling Hospital, Bordas & Bordas and the 'Family Talk

About Drinking' initiative.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is the largest functional high school athletic conference in the United States. It is comprised of 51 member schools with over 12,000 athletes and 22,000 students that stretches across two states (Ohio and West Virginia) and 16 counties. The OVAC sponsors 19 sports and recognizes 75 champions. The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is online at www.OVAC.org.

• OVAC

Continued from Page 2

high schools.

However, only 14 of these will be crowned as champions at Saturday evening's final session.

Thursday night's opening ceremony is at 6, followed by wrestling at 6:30. Friday's opening session begins at noon and highlights second-round matches.

Quarterfinals and consolation matches are on tap for Friday night, starting at 6. On Saturday, semifinals and consolations get under way at 11 a.m. with the final ceremonies begin at approximately 4 p.m., which follows suit to last year when the event was altered due to winter weather concerns.

All pre-tournament festivities will begin at 6 on Saturday.

The championship matches along with bouts to determine third-, fifth-, and seventh-places will begin at 6:30 on Saturday. Four mats will be in use Saturday, but eight mats will be utilized at the various earlier sessions to keep the tournament moving at a rapid pace.

An added feature to the standout competition has been a program initiated by the Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches Association to honor past conference champions observing their 25th anniversary.

This year the 1995 tournament champions will be honored.

The 1995 champions and the coach of the 1995 team champions will be recognized before Saturday's finals and will be seated in a special area on the main floor.

Special presentations: the Director's Award and the Mr. Mat Award, annually given to an individual who has made valuable contributions to the sport in the Ohio Valley will be presented Saturday before the championship finals; varsity, varsity assistant, and Junior High Coach of the Year, and the Larry Deaton Official of the Year awards will be presented Thursday evening.

The Syd Stoltz Tournament Worker and the Program Cover Recognition awards will be presented Friday evening.

The Project Best Pear Sadler Team Sportsmanship award will be presented Saturday at noon.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Advanced ticket books, which include tickets to all five sessions are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

Single tickets for the championship finals are: adults \$8, students \$5.

2020 OVAC Dual Wrestling Standings

School	CLASS 5-A				AVE.
	W	L	TG	CP	
Wheeling Park	14	2	16	1175	73.438
University *	12	3	15	940	62.667
Parkersburg South *	10	2	12	740	61.667
Indian Creek	5	1	6	345	57.500
Steubenville	10	4	14	745	53.214
Weir	5	2	7	280	40.000
John Marshall	11	10	21	775	36.905
Morgantown	6	7	13	465	35.769
Warren Local *	1	1	2	70	35.000
Dover	5	7	12	385	32.083
Brooke	5	10	15	345	23.000
New Philadelphia *	4	6	10	230	23.000

School	CLASS 4-A/3-A				AVE.
	W	L	TG	CP	
Beaver Local *	3	0	3	310	103.333
St. Clairsville	10	0	10	670	67.000
Barnesville	3	0	3	165	55.000
Linsly	6	1	7	355	50.714
Oak Glen	8	5	13	655	50.385
Magnolia	11	4	15	560	37.333
Cambridge *	2	1	3	105	35.000
Martins Ferry	3	3	6	190	31.667
Buckeye Local *	5	7	12	310	25.833
Union Local *	2	2	4	90	22.500
Meadowbrook *	1	3	4	70	17.500
River *	3	3	6	95	15.833
Bellaire *	1	4	5	30	6.000
Crestview *	1	8	9	50	5.556
East Liverpool *	0	2	2	0	0.000
Edison *	0	0	0	0	0.000
Fort Frye *	0	2	2	0	0.000
Harrison Central	0	5	5	0	0.000

School	CLASS 2-A/1A				AVE.
	W	L	TG	CP	
Shenandoah	6	1	7	370	52.857
Wellsville *	3	1	4	160	40.000
Toronto	4	3	7	215	30.714
Southern Local	6	6	12	320	26.667
Shadyside	3	4	7	130	18.571
Cameron *	4	10	14	195	13.929
Bridgeport	2	5	7	90	12.857
Hundred	1	4	5	30	6.000
Madonna *	0	2	2	0	0.000
Beallsville *	0	2	2	0	0.000
Caldwell	0	3	3	0	0.000
Paden City *	0	2	2	0	0.000
Steubenville CC	0	3	3	0	0.000
Wheeling Central *	0	2	2	0	0.000

Teams with * are not eligible for the 2020 OVAC "Bill Hinegardner" Wrestling Dual Meet Championships.

• JM

Continued from Page 13

progressed."

Wrestlers in JM's first three weight classes sport a combined 65-8 mark — freshman Ethan Cook (106, 22-4), sophomore Carl Cochran (113, 22-2) and senior Ethan Gray (120, 21-2).

Cochran, coming off a serious injury away from the mat, was second at OVACs last season and third at state. Cook continues to improve each match out, Asbury said, while Gray has emerged as a leader.

"He works hard in practice and finds a way to win close matches when they matter the most," Asbury said of Gray. "I'm excited to see how his last OVAC tournament goes."

Freshman Alex Harbert (7-6) represents the Monarchs at 126 pounds, while sophomore Gabe Carman (23-3) hopes to improve on his eighth-place showing last season in Wheeling.

"Gabe is a tough kid who I have to keep reminding myself is only a sophomore," Asbury said of the 132-pounder. "When he has his mind set properly for a match, I don't count him against anyone who steps in front of him."

Another senior, Dakoyta Thatcher, is having a strong campaign thus far, standing 23-2 at 138 pounds.

"Dakoyta has improved the most on the team since the last OVACs," Asbury pointed out. "Something 'clicked' for him late last year and he was only three points from making the

state semis. He's ready to make a statement."

Ben McCardle (13-12), sophomore, comes in at 145 pounds, while classmate Mason Orndorff follows at 152 (8-13).

Rounding out the JM contingent are: sophomore Kaden Shriner (160, 10-11), freshman Alex Thomas (170, 9-15), sophomore Ryder Jones (182, 3-12), senior Kevin Pence (195, 2-11) and freshman Mathieu Wright (220, 10-16).

JM is without a heavyweight contender at the moment. Bradlee Clark, who finished third at OVACs and state last winter, is still recovering from a football injury, Asbury said.

He's slated to return later this season.

Asbury is eager to see where his team stands at OVACs, which is likely to call "our mid-term exam for the season."

"My idea of a successful weekend for each individual is different, as some guys have their sights set on an OVAC title, while others' max potential at the tournament is winning a match," he said.

"I'm simply looking for everyone to put in their maximum effort into each match and learn from their experience to give themselves the best chance of success in February at the state tournament."

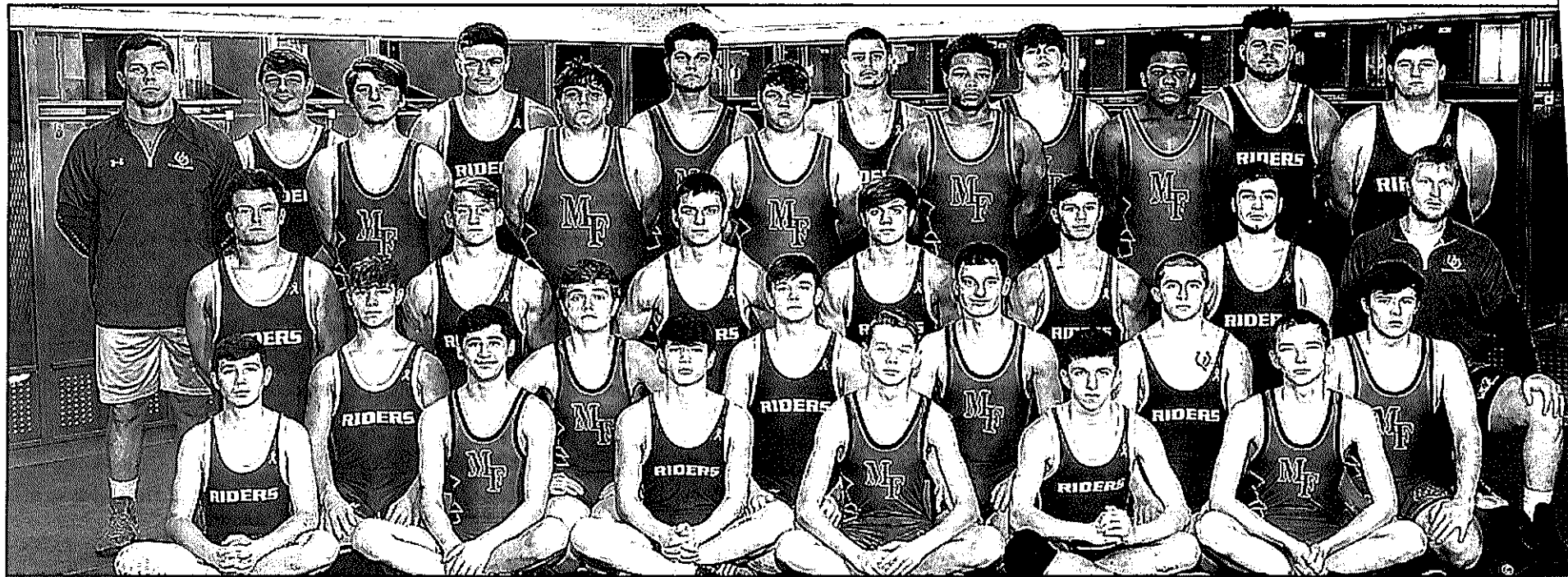


Photo COURTESY/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Martins Ferry wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Dylan Ward, Eliel Surajbally, Trey Regis, Domenick Tedeschi, Jonathan Rossanc and Desmond Gerevics. Second row, from left, are Neil Gilbert, Johnny McFarland, Chase Ward, Tyler Donaher, Mason Walton and Sabin Ward. Third row, from left, are Chase Goff, George Hulse, Kolton Kapiskosky, Hunter Lude, Ethan Bethel, Kameron Hughes and Head Coach Chad Ware. Fourth row, from left, are Assistant Coach Taylor Yoder, Robert Gorshe, Patrick Kinnan, Branden Williams, Frank Smith, Ethan Horvath and Zeke Bruney. Back row, from left, are Noah Duck, Richie McFarland, Pedro Bastos, Zak Dobson, Alex Finsley and Donte Lewis.

Martins Ferry primed to make noise in 4A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MARTINS FERRY — Martins Ferry is a mix of youth and experience as it seeks to improve upon its sixth-place finish in the Class 4A portion of the annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. The Purple Riders has six

sophomores and a pair of seniors in its starting lineup. The three-day event starts Thursday night inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. It continues throughout Saturday's championship finals, which will commence at 3:30 p.m. with the Parade of Champions. "I think our older guys are peaking at the right time,"

second-year head coach Chad Ware said. "Team-wise I think we are at the top of our (Class 4A) division. The guys have to go out and wrestle to their capabilities, however. I think our good guys are going to do well. I think we can get anywhere from 6-8 placers if they all wrestle well. If they don't, then we won't."

Returning placewinners are seniors Richard McFarland (5th-182) and Donte Lewis (8th-285). McFarland (195) has bumped up a weight class in his final season. He is 15-5 so far. "He is a co-captain for our team this season. He is also a returning Ohio state tournament qualifier," Ware said. This season McFarland has placed 4th at the Barnesville Invitational, 4th at the Hoppel-Beaver

Local Tournament and was the champion at St. Clairsville's Americas Best Value Inn Tournament. "If Richie sets his mind to it and wrestles to his potential, we look for him to finish near the top of the podium in this years tournament," Ware added. Lewis (285) is a fine 18-3. "He is the other co-captain for our team this season. This is only Donte's second season in our starting lineup as he has been behind some great heavyweights for us early in his career," Ware noted. Last season Donte finished with 30 wins. He was second in the Division III sectional and sixth in the district. "Donte has grown into a leader on and off the mat for

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See FERRY, Page 17

• **Ferry**

Continued from Page 16
 our team," Ware acknowledged. "We believe he is one of the top heavyweights in this year's OVAC Tournament and we look for him to perform very well."

Martins Ferry will enter a full lineup this weekend.

Dylan Ward (106) is a freshman with a record of 9-6. He has placed 6th at the Barnesville Invitational and 4th at the St. Clairsville Holiday Tournament this year.

"Dylan is currently on a roll and peaking at the right time. If he continues to wrestle the way he has

been, he has great potential to place in the tournament," Ware allowed.

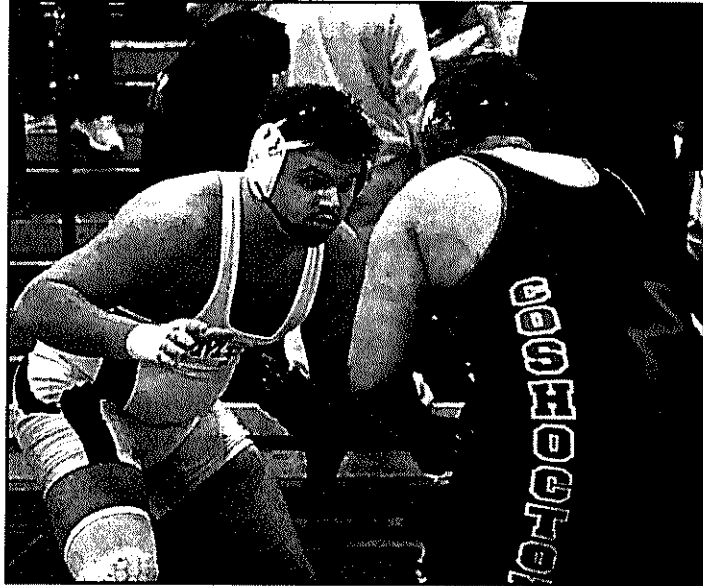
Classmates Trey Regis (113), Domenick Tedeschi (120) and Jonathan Rossano (132) man the next three weight classes.

"Trey is dropping down in weight, wrestling 113 for the first time this season," the head coach said. "This should be a more suitable weight class for him. He has the ability to become a good wrestler for our program. He just needs more mat time to gain experience and confidence.

"This is Domenick's first year wrestling. He is a great listener and takes coaching very well," Ware added. "He continues to improve each and every day."

Jonathan is wrestling up in weight to help our team have a full lineup. He is young with limited experience," Ware explained. "As he gains experience I think he will gain confidence and will begin to win more and more matches."

Junior Mason Walton (132) posts a 7-9 record. "Mason finished last season, FERRY, Page 18



MARTINS FERRY'S Donte Lewis is one to watch this weekend at 285 pounds during the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament

T-L File PHOTO BY THORP

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• **Ferry**

Continued from Page 17

son with 15 wins, placing fifth in the sectional and was a district alternate," the coach continued. "Mason should improve upon those marks this year and continue to win more matches each and every week."

Freshman Johnny McFarland (138) is another one of those frosh that are struggling.

"Johnny is filling in for senior Chase Ward, who was recently injured," Ware said. "Johnny is inexperienced at the varsity level, but steps on the mat ready to battle each and every time."

Sophomore Hunter Lude is back for another season. He is currently 6-8.

"Hunter is getting better every day. He has great work ethic and is a tough



kid," Ware noted. "I believe this will help him become a great wrestler for our program."

Freshman George Hulsey (152) is 8-7.

"Last season George finished his junior high season placing eighth in the Junior High state tournament. He has taken some early season losses and has taken some time to gain his footing at the varsity level," Ware added.

ed. "He has the ability to win multiple matches and finish on the podium at this years OVAC Tournament."

Junior Chase Goff (160) is 10-5 in a tough weight class.

"Chase finished last season with 27 wins and was sixth in the sectional. He was out of the lineup early this season getting down to weight to help our team," Ware advised. "Chase is an explosive and dangerous wrestler. If he wrestles to his ability he can stand on the podium at this years OVAC Tournament."

Junior Kameron Hughes (170) has been the Purple Riders most consistent wrestler with a record of 17-3. He is a returning Ohio state

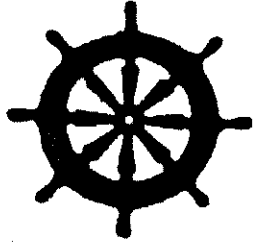
See, FERRY, Page 19

2019 OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Results

(at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling)

- 106**
 7th -- 3 Danny Yost (BRK) def 11 Camden Barr (OG), Fall 0:49
 5th -- 5 Jarrett Stillion (MEAD) def 7 Cody Taggart (WP), Dec 2-0
 3rd -- 6 Griffen Stephen (BARN) def 1 Alex Overly (SHEN), Dec 3-2
 1st -- 2 Jaymin Salsberry (BVL) def 4 Carl Cochran (JM), Fall 1:10
- 113**
 7th -- 6 Devin Easton (PS) def 9 Gabe Carman (JM), Fall 0:42
 5th -- 7 Mark Emmerling Jr. (BVL) def 2 Jace Stockett (UNIV), Dec 5-3 SV
 3rd -- 4 Nate Shelek (WP) def 5 Marshal Niswonger (CALD), Dec 7-2
 1st -- 1 Howard Williams (EL) def 3 Shawn Moore (OG), Dec 6-4 SV
- 120**
 7th -- 5 Matthew Simpson (UNIV) def 8 Joseph Bonfini (BELL), Dec 9-3
 5th -- 1 Maison Richardson (WP) def 7 Ethan Gray (JM), Dec 3-2
 3rd -- 2 Koen Kish (STC) def 4 Brayden Johnson (PS), Dec 3-1
 1st -- 1 Logan Ours (BVL) def 3 Terry Gatrell (MEAD), Fall 5:28
- 126**
 7th -- 7 Wyatt Conley (WEIR) def 10 Jason Tice (WELL), Dec 5-3
 5th -- 6 Derek Houser (CV) def 3 Jake Staud (UNIV) Forf
 3rd -- 4 Tucker Windland (PS) def 9 Aubrey Antill (CAMB), M-Dec 11-2
 1st -- 2 Peyton Blasko (STEUB) def 1 Cole McComas (BVL), Dec 6-5 UT
- 132**
 7th -- 9 Canon Weiker (WP) def 5 Hayden Johnson (ED), Dec 7-3
 5th -- 10 Austin Love (JM) def 8 Caden Stout (STC), Dec 12-10
 3rd -- 4 Brian Palmer Jr. (BL) def 2 Tyler Muldrew (STEUB) Forf
 1st -- 1 Jacob Simpson (UNIV) def 3 Jonathan Potts (BVL), Dec 6-4 SV
- 138**
 7th -- 12 Austin DaRe (STC) def 11 Garrett Dozier (TOR), Dec 5-0
 5th -- 5 Stevie Mitchell (WP) def 6 Collin Wiley (CALD), Dec 5-2
 3rd -- 4 Gavin Quioco (PS) def 3 Jared Wright (BVL), M-Dec 9-1
 1st -- 1 Peyton Hall (OG) def 2 Jacson Muldrew (STEUB), Fall 3:30
- 145**
 7th -- 6 Zane Minella (STEUB) def 11 Justin Sarge (WELL) Forf
 5th -- 5 Jonathan Creese (OG) def 7 Christopher Helms (WEIR), Dec 8-1
 3rd -- 2 Alec Cook (MAD) def 4 Andrew Shelek (WP), Dec 3-2
 1st -- 1 Brayden Roberts (PS) def 3 Skyler Lasure (BVL), Dec 1-0
- 152**
 7th -- 6 Mitch Wukelic (IC) def 11 Cooper Kerns (CAMB), Dec 8-6 SV
 5th -- 7 Braeden Pauley (UNIV) def 3 Billy Gooch (WP), Dec 1-0
 3rd -- 4 Mikey Shamblin (PS) def 5 Dylan Milhoan (SL), Dec 3-0
 1st -- 1 Anthony Rice (STEUB) def 2 Logan Krulik (BVL), Dec 9-4
- 160**
 7th -- 12 Reese Wills (WEIR) def 6 Cody Albaugh (BELL), Dec 8-5
 5th -- 9 Max Camilletti (BRK) def 7 Hunter Nixon (WP), Fall 4:46
 3rd -- 1 Zane Hinzman (PS) def 3 Mason Kuneff (BPT), Dec 5-1
 1st -- 2 Brenden Severs (BVL) def 4 Ethan Pappas (STEUB), Dec 7-5
- 170**
 7th -- 7 Charles Smith (BL) def 4 Brandon Kinney (STEUB), Dec 5-4
 5th -- 9 Reese Skaggs (STC) def 5 Jeremiah Timberlake (WP), Dec 5-3
 3rd -- 6 Jacob Berisford (JM) def 3 Ian Bush (CAM), Dec 3-2 UT
 1st -- 1 Beau Smith (BVL) def 2 Santino Kusic (BPT), Dec 7-5 SV
- 182**
 7th -- 4 James Stillwagoner (MAG) def Shayne Christian (BL), Fall 2:08
 5th -- 11 Richard McFarland (MF) def 12 Blayne Erwin (HC) Forf
 3rd -- 3 Brylan Clouse (BARN) def 6 Hunter Morris (SL), M-Dec 9-1
 1st -- 1 Anthony Carman (JM) def 2 David Tuttle (STEUB), M-Dec 9-1
- 195**
 7th -- 6 Jermain Snodgrass (WP) def 7 Sam Lowe (SL), Dec 7-6
 5th -- 3 Keith Bodnar (STEUB) def 11 Josh Croft (HC), Dec 8-1
 3rd -- 5 Drake Dobson (MF) def 4 Derek Witsberger (STC), Dec 1-0
 1st -- 1 Garrett Cook (MAD) def 2 Donavan Kirby (WEIR), Dec 2-1
- 220**
 7th -- 7 Dalton Rice (SHEN) def 8 Zac Cesario (BL), Dec 7-5 SV
 5th -- 5 Justice McCamick (STC) def 2 Bradlee Clark (JM) Forf
 3rd -- 4 Skylor Wooley (EL) def 6 Garrett Givens (BVL), Dec 2-1
 1st -- 1 Braxton Amos (PS) def 3 Dylan Wood (WP), M-Dec 12-4
- 285**
 7th -- 8 Brady Williams (JM) def 3 Don-te Lewis (MF), Dec 3-2
 5th -- 4 Emanuel Ware (STEUB) def 5 Easton Hitchens (SHEN), Dec 4-1 TB2
 3rd -- 10 Cody Gamble (HC) def 11 Mikey Hamrick (MAG), Fall 4:14
 1st -- 1 Loudon Haga (PS) def 2 Daniel Wirth (BVL), M-Dec 9-1

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PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Wheeling Central wrestling team. From left are Jonah Cottrell, C.J. Rose and Shannon Looney.

Photo Provided

Wheeling Central is back for its second season as squad

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — Dave Doyle knows the sport of wrestling.

Quite simply, it's in his blood. Having wrestled at Division I Brunswick High School in Northeast Ohio, then competing at West Liberty and being in a family known throughout the Ohio Valley for its wrestling prowess, Doyle believes he can bring a lot to the Wheeling Central program.

However, as the Maroon Knights work their way back after the program was on hiatus for several years, rebuilding the roster takes time.

"This is only our second year back as a program," Doyle said. "We're just having trouble getting numbers right now, but we're currently working toward gathering individuals who can coach, working on our facilities and trying to get the word out as we want to build a youth program, which will eventually filter into the high school."

Clearly Doyle has a long-term vision, but in the short term, the Maroon Knights will enter this week's Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament with just two entrants.

"We have three kids actually on the roster, but one is hurt right now," Doyle said.

Leading the Maroon Knights is senior C.J. Rose. The start to his season was delayed because of the Knights' football success. He's currently 6-4 on the season, competing at heavy-weight. He does own a fifth-place medal from the Americas Best Value Inn Tournament in St. Clairsville last month.

"C.J. is determined more than ever to walk away (from the OVAC) with some hardware," Doyle said. "He was getting upset a lot last year because he wasn't seeing the success he expected, but it was his first year. The lights are really coming on and dots are connecting for him so far this year."

Rose narrowly missed qualifying for the West Virginia state tournament last winter and Doyle thinks that goal is attainable this time around.

"We have high hopes for him," Doyle explained. "He's doing everything asked of him, so if he keeps that up, it could be an exciting time for him and Central wrestling."

The other entrant this weekend is freshman Jonah Cottrel, who is 3-12 on the season at 220 pounds.

"Jonah is taking his lumps, but he's learning," Doyle said. "He keeps coming back and showing improvement."

With so few competitors, finding matches has been a challenge. Thus far, Central has competed at tournaments in Weirton, St. Clairsville and Shadyside.

After the OVAC, the Maroon Knights will compete in a tournament at Williamstown and Wellsville before setting their sights on the Class A Regional.

Doyle's coaching staff includes former Wheeling Park state runnerup and West Liberty Hilltopper Aaron Majetich and Seth Bengé, who competed for St. Clairsville.

• Ferry

Continued from Page 18

qualifier. Last year he just missed placing in the OVAC Tournament.

"Kameron's three losses this season have been close decisions that he could have won," Ware stressed. "This year he has been second at the Barnesville Invitational, second at the Hoppel Beaver Local Invitational, and was the champion at the St. Clairsville America's Best Value Inn Tournament."

"He is off to a great start this year and we look for him to place high in this year's OVAC Tournament."

Noah Duck (182) is a junior with a record of 16-5.

"Noah has been the most improved wrestler for us thus far this season. Last year he battled for a starting position with Kameron," the head coach added. "Noah has some big wins this year that have put him in a good position to be seeded and

place in this year's OVAC Tournament, which we expect him to do."

Zak Dobson (220) is a sophomore with a record of 17-5.

"Zak has made a huge improvement from last season. He has filled in to this weight class and has really come into his own," Ware praised. "This season Zak has finished third at the Hoppel Beaver Local Tournament and third at the St. Clairsville America's Best Value Inn Tournament."

"Zak gains confidence every time he steps on the mat. I believe this will help him place in this year's OVAC Tournament."

Lost to graduation was Drake Dobson who placed at the OVAC Tournament last year and was an Ohio state qualifier.

Ware is assisted by Taylor Yoder and Chas Yoder.

OVAC Tournament Officials

OVAC Tournament Officials

- Tucker Brown — Cameron
- Andy Case — Wheeling
- Jim Copney — Wheeling
- Ed "Buzz" Evans — Beallsville
- Larry Harding — Cadiz
- Shane Kildow — Belmont
- Jared Leasure — Caldwell
- Harry McDonald — Lewis Center
- Jack Regis — Martins Ferry
- Tom Regis — Martins Ferry
- Derrick Stickles — New Cumberland
- Ken McWilliams — Canonsburg



Young Shadyside squad ready to compete

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE -- Chase Kinemond was an outstanding wrestler at Shadyside High. Now, he is using his vast mat skills and knowledge to direct the Tigers' wrestling program, one steeped in success.

Kinemond is now in his second season at the Orange & Black mat helm. He replaced Sean Grinch who held the post for five seasons.

Kinemond scripted a brilliant career on the mats for the Tigers while competing under the quality tutelage of his father, Scott.

Kinemond was a two-time all-Ohioan, placing fifth as a freshman and seventh as a senior. He pocketed an OVAC title during his senior season and was runnerup as a sophomore and fifth as a freshman.

All told, he finished his prep career with an impres-

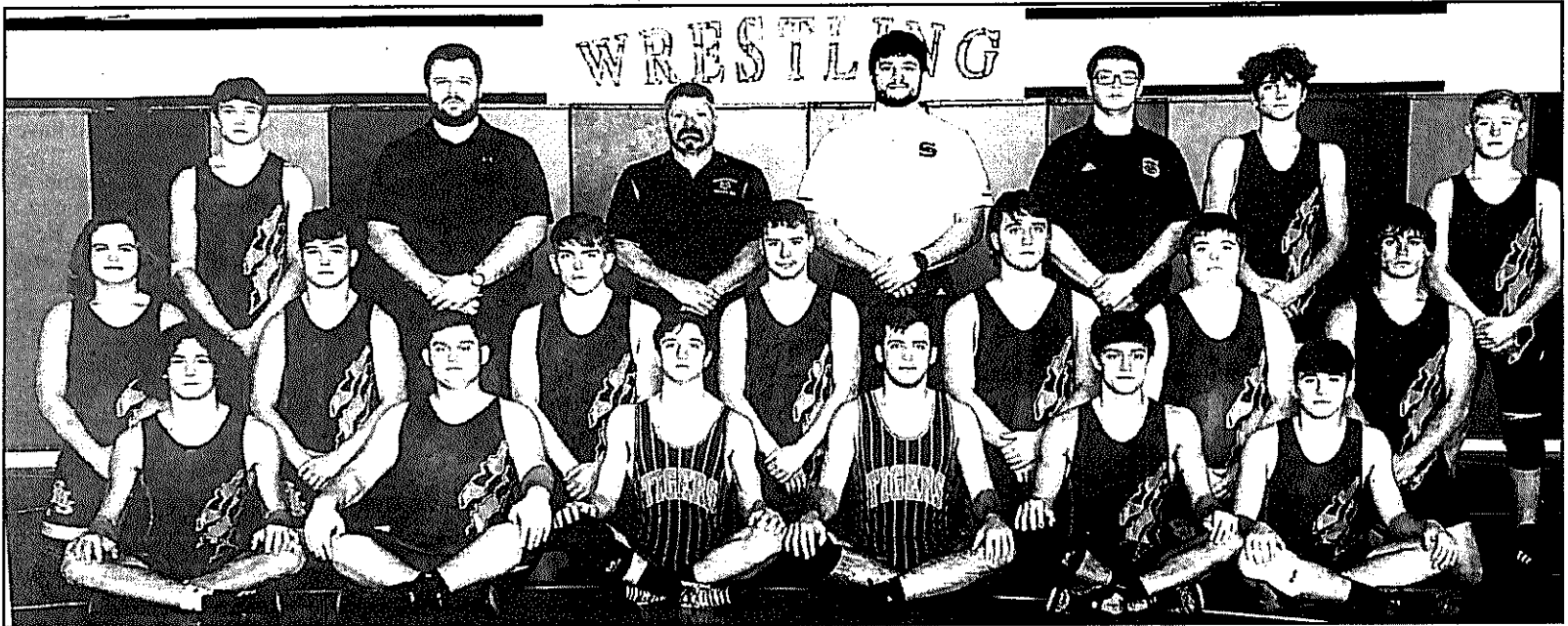


Photo ProVIDED

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Shadyside wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Rhys Francis, Jalob Honeywell, Nico Bumba, Jakob Klug, Brendan Schrader, Andrew Brown. Second row, from left, are Jacob Brown, Devon Robinson, Hunter Minney, Billy Baker, Robert Klopp, Brandon Doty and William Robinson. Top row, from left, are Ashton Jones, assistant coaches Paden Stewart, Scott Kinemond, head coach Chase Kinemond, assistant coach Christian Hancock, Kooper Chimley and Josh Harris.

sive 120-19 record despite

missing his entire junior season after suffering a torn ACL that football season.

He went on to a stellar career as the quarterback for the Bethany College football team.

Kinemond has 15 wrestlers in his program. That is a healthy number.

However, youth is being served with Kinemond's squad. Of that 15, 11 are either freshmen or sophomore. In wrestling, more than in any other sport, experience is invaluable.

Shadyside's pre-OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championship Tournament schedule has predominately featured duals and triangular matches. The Tigers have acquitted themselves nicely in the two invitationals in which they have competed in — at Weir High and their own Last Man Standing tourney.

"The season is going pretty well," Kinemond said. "I am happy with the

numbers we have out this year, but we are an extremely young team.

"We have been in only two tournaments but I am pleased with how we have competed. We have done well in our duals and triangulars as well," he added. "Our younger kids are gaining valuable experience and showing improvement. I am enjoying it."

The Tigers have been perennial major players in the OVAC Tournament Class 2A division. This year, Kinemond's young squad will be again facing a formidable test in a rugged classification, headed by Shenandoah and Bridgeport.

Shadyside's success is hampered by several unfilled weight classes, including the first two at 106 and 113 pounds, respectively.

The next two weight slots are filled by a pair of freshmen. Josh Harris competes at 120 while Kooper Chimley is the Tigers' 126-pounder.

Both have flashed potential but just need more mat time.

The 132-pound class is also an Orange & Black vacancy.

Kinemond has a rising freshman competing at 138 pounds. Andrew Brown is starting to make his presence felt in his first varsity campaign. Brown has compiled an 9-5 mark, including a fourth-place finish in the Shadyside tournament.

"Andrew is off to a fine start for a freshman," Kinemond said. "He is working hard to get better."

The Tigers have a quality 145-pounder. Brendan Schrader is a talented junior, winning nine of 13 matches so far. Schrader was the champion in the Weir event while taking fourth in the Shadyside tourney.

"Brendan has competed very well so far. We hope for even bigger things the rest of the year," Kinemond said.

Schrader is backed at 145

by sophomore Billy Baker.

Ashton Jones is a promising freshman at 152 pounds. He has won five of nine bouts, highlighted by a second place finish in the Weir tournament.

Kinemond has two other grapplers at 152. They are senior Nick Bumba and sophomore Devon Robinson.

Another rising freshman is William Robinson. He has crafted a sparkling 9-4 start to the season at 160 pounds. He was tournament runnerup at Weirton.

"William is doing really well so far. I am pleased with his progress," Kinemond said.

Shadyside standout grid quarterback Rhys Francis is also a capable Tiger 160-pounder.

Another Orange football standout holds down the fort at 170 pounds. Jakob Klug, a battle-tested senior, has split eight matches thus far.

See, SHADYSIDE, Page 21

Good Luck Shadyside Wrestlers!

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2020 OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Seeds

106
1. Jarrett Stillion, Meadowbrook, 11; 2. Quinton Velas, Wheeling Park, 9; 3. Alex Overly, Shenandoah, 11; 4. Brady Roberts, Parkersburg South, 9; 5. Ethan Cook, John Marshall, 9; 6. Anthony Shevlin, Steubenville, 10; 7. Camden Barr, Oak Glen, 12; 8. Gannon Kazmirski, St. Clairsville, 10; 9. Mason Simms, Wellsville, 9; 10. Justin Sampson, Harrison Central, 10; 11. Blake Lanzer, Dover, 9; 12. Spahlinger, Southern, 9.

113
1. Jaymin Salsberry, Beaver Local, 10; 2. Carl DCochrane, John Marshall, 10; 3. Griffen Stephen, Barnesville, 10; 4. Cody Taggart, Wheeling Park, 10; 5. Nathan Ford, Parkersburg South, 9; 6. Anthony Hill, Steubenville, 9; 7. Braxton Dlugopolski, Oak Glen, 9; 8. Justin Bucheit, East Liverpool, 12; 9. Danny Yost, Brooke, 12; 10. Chris Heavner, River, 11; 11. Cole Coleman, Warren, 11; 12. Trevor Herbert, Buckeye Local, 11.

120
1. NBate Shelek, Wheeling Park, 10; 2. Mark Emmerling Jr., Beaver Local, 10; 3. Ethan Gray, John Marshall, 12; 4.

Devin Easton, Parkersburg South, 11; 5. Drake Kanyuch, Shenandoah, 9; 6. Josh Denoble, St. Clairsville, 11; 7. Eric Reed, Cambridge, 11; 8. Jason Beisel, Magnolia, 11; 9. Carter Wells, Barnesville, 10; 10. Clayton Lamb, Oak Glen, 10; 11. Timmy Cargill, University, 11; 12. Doug Whitman, Toronto, 11.

126
1. Koan Kish, St. Clairsville, 11; 2. Trent Jones, Parkersburg South, 9; 3. Jace Stockatt, University, 12; 4. John Woodburn, Beaver Local, 11; 5. Jason Tice, Wellsville, 12; 6. George Hoover, Barnesville, 11; 7. Kaden Lundy, Oak Glen, 11; 8. Chance Woolley, Southern, 10; 9. Logan Tague, Meadowbrook, 9; 10. Payton Neely, Cameron, 9; 11. Gabe Marblas, Harrison Central, 10; 12. Lawrence Morg, 12.

132
1. Logan Ours, Beaver Local, 10; 2. Howard Williams, East Liverpool, 11; 3. Brayden Johnson, Parkersburg South, 11; 4. Wyatt Conley, Weir, 12; 5. Dom Parker, University, 9; 6. Gabe Carman, John Marshall, 10; 7. C.J. Spencer, Indian Creek, 9; 8. Ethan Waggoner, Steubenville, 9; 9. Quintin

Elerick, St. Clairsville, St. Clairsville, 12; 10. A.J. Francis, Barnesville, 11; 11. Tyler Bruber, Shenandoah, 10; 12. Drake Gamertsfelder, NP, 11.

138
1. Cole McComas, Beaver Local, 12; 2. Brian Palmer Jr., Buckeye Local, 11; 3. Dom Paterra, Indian Creek, 9; 4. Andrew Shelek, Wheeling Park, 12; 5. Tyler Muldrew, Steubenville, 11; 6. Caden Stout, St. Clairsville, 10; 7. Collin Wiley, Caldwell, 12; 8. Garrett Dozler, Toronto, 11; 9. Eric Williams, East Liverpool, 9; 10. Ian Irizarry, Parkersburg South, 12; 11. Wesley Guy, Shenandoah, 12; 12. Dakoyta Thatcher, John Marshall, 12.

145
1. Gavin Quicho, Parkersburg South, 11; 2. Peyton Keller, Warren, 11; 3. Dylan Milhoan, Southern, 12; 4. Devon Salsberry, Beaver Local, 11; 5. Stevie Mitchell, Wheeling Park, 11; 6. Jonathan Creese, oak Glen, 12; 7. Aaron Ferguson, Steubenville, 11; 8. Hayden Johnson, Edison, 12; 9. Jacob Boulet, Barnesville, 11; 10. Jeremy Brown, Indian Creek, 11; 11. Wyatt VanDyne, Beallsville, 11; 12. Nick Blackburn, Shenandoah, 11.

152
1. Peyton Hall, Oak Glen, 12; 2. Brayden Roberts, Parkersburg South, 12; 3. Billy Gooch, Wheeling Park, 11; 4. Jonathan Potts, Beaver Local, 11; 5. Justin Sarge, Wellsville, 12; 6. Dakota Hagedorn, University, 9; 7. Caden Kenworthy, Cambridge, 10; 8. Austin DaRe, St. Clairsville, 11; 9. Cameron Woods, Barnesville, 11; 10. William Moore, Shenandoah, 12; 11. Claude Romshak, Union Local, 11; 12. Brock Bowen, Warren 11.

160
1. Ethan Pappas, Steubenville, 11; 2. Skylee Lasure, Beaver Local, 12; 3. Canon Welker, Wheeling Park, 12; 4. Brady Crum, Union Local, 11; 5. Anthony Porter, Cambridge, 12; 6. Cody Albaugh, Bellaire, 12; 7. Owen Oliver, Barnesville, 12; 8. Jude Childers, Parkersburg South, 10; 9. Brady Oberdier, Warren, 12; 10. Chris Parker, Toronto, 11; 11. Elijah Wellings-Osha, University, 10; 12. Brandon Kiser, Dover, 10.

170
1. Logan Krulik, Beaver Local, 11; 2. Ian Bush, Cameron, 10; 3. Max Camilletti, Brooke, 12; 4. Austin Starr, Indian

Creek, 10; 5. Dylan Heinrich, Oak Glen, 11; 6. Brandon Kinney, Steubenville, 10; 7. Hunter Nixon, Wheeling Park, 10; 8. Kameron Hughes, Martins Ferry, 11; 9. Casch Somerville, Parkersburg South, 12; 10. Evan Daniels, Madonna, 11; 11. David Moore, Cambridge, 12; 12. Austin Frame, Barnesville, 12.

182
1. David Tuttle, Steubenville, 11; 2. Hunter Morris, Southern, 11; 3. Erick Brothers, Wheeling Park, 9; 4. Justin Bartlett, Cambridge, 11; 5. Charles Smith, Buckeye Local, 12; 6. Kylan O'Connor, Oak Glen, 11; 7. Marcutio Williams, New Philadelphia, 12; 8. Tyler Hall, Parkersburg South, 9; 9. Alex Soklansky, Beaver Local, 11; 10. Deacon Carmichael, Cameron, 11; 11. Logan Walters, Weir, 11; 12. Sean Murray, University, 12.

195
1. Keith Bodnar, Steubenville, 12; 2. Reese Skaggs, St. Clairsville, 11; 3. Elijah Llewellyn, Indian Creek, 9; 4. Richard McFarland, Martins Ferry, 12; 5. Sam Lowe, Southern, 11; 6. James Stillwagoner, Magnolia, 12; 7. Nicholas Wukotich, Beaver Local, 12; 8. Noah

Buckalew, Parkersburg South, 11; 9. Austin Carpenter, Warren, 11; 10. Chandler Warner, Shenandoah, 11; 11. Caiden Adams, Oak Glen, 12; 12. Austin Williams, Brooke, 12.

220
1. Braxton Amos, Parkersburg South, 12; 2. Skylee Wooley, East Liverpool, 12; 3. Derek Witsberger, St. Clairsville; 4. Josh Sanders, University, 12; 5. Charlie Tamburin, Wheeling Park, 11; 6. Zac Cesario, Buckeye Local, 11; 7. Zakary Dobson, Martins Ferry, 10; 8. Tyler Yost, Morgantown, 12; 9. Devin Danhart, Bridgeport, 12; 10. Caden Weekley, Wellsville, 11; 11. Thomas Lenhart, Fort Frye, 11; 12. Payne Allen, Beaver

285
1. Daniel Wirth, Beaver Local, 12; 2. Easton Hitchens, Shenandoah, 12; 3. Bradlee Clark, John Marshall, 12; 4. Donte Lewis, Martins Ferry, 12; 5. Chance Knight, Linaly, 12; 6. Mikey Hamrick, Magnolia, 12; 7. Zachary Kuffner, Bridgeport, 12; 8. Marshall Bier, River, 9; 9. Jordan Brueck, Weir 11; 10. Josh Fancher, Toronto, 10; 11. Wyatt Babik, Crestview, 11; 12. Corbin Turney, University, 10.

• Shadyside

Continued from Page 20

Sophomore Hunter Minney is Klug's backup.

Freshman Jacob Brown is the Tigers' 182-pounder. Shadyside has no 195-pounder.

Junior Jalon Honeywell has shown potential in the 220-pound class. He is 3-3 with a third place Shadyside tourney finish to his credit.

Freshman Brandon Doty is Honeywell's understudy at 220.

Shadyside does not fill the heavyweight class.

With an extremely young roster, the gigantic OVAC Tournament will prove an acid test for Shadyside. Kinemond, however, is optimistic several of his Tigers will be up to the task.

"The OVAC Tournament is a tough three-day grind. But even though we are so young I feel we have several wrestlers who have a chance to do well this week," Kinemond said. "Our best bets are at 138 (Brown), 145 (Schrader), 160 (Robinson) and 170 (Klug). Hopefully, they wrestle up to their ability and some of our other kids step up as well."

After this week's OVAC extravaganza, Shadyside returns to action Jan. 22, hosting Linsly and Paden City in a triangular. The Tigers will take part in the Wellsville Tournament on Jan. 26; OVAC Duals on Jan. 30; Buckeye Local Panther Classic on Feb. 1; Triangular at Harrison Central with Union Local on Feb. 12. Sectionals begin Feb. 24.

Kinemond is being assisted by his father as well as Christian Hancock.

Paden Stewart guides the Tigers' junior high program.



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Photo/PSK INNOVATIONS

PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Union Local wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Clay Akers, Colin Greenwood, Josh Williams, Landon Crum, Logan Boone and Kohl Clark. Second row, from left, are Aidan Myers, Nathaniel Gibson, Jake Ice, Claude Romshak, Brady Crum and Brody Myers. Third row, from left, are coaches Damon Outward, Zack Powell, Justin Jefferis, Nate Starkey, statisticians Emily Fouts, Hailey Romshak, and Bethany Wright.

Union Local more experienced, but still young

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MORRISTOWN — What a difference a year makes, especially in the sport of wrestling. Just a season removed from taking its fair share of lumps because of youth and inexperience, the Union Local wrestling team is enjoying a much stronger season thus far. “We’re still young, but we’re much more experienced and more mature (physically),” UL head coach Zach Powell said. “We’re seeing some results. We’re finishing higher in tournaments and have some kids placing in events.

We’re just doing better as a team.” The Jets are now shifting their focus to the annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament, which opens Thursday at Wes-Banco Arena in Wheeling. “We’ve seen some pretty good competition already, but in terms of the team race, our biggest issue is we don’t fill enough weight classes,” Powell, who is in his fourth season, said. “We’d fare a little bit better if we could fill more weight classes.” The Jets, so far, have competed at their own invitational, an event in Co-shocton and the Barnesville Invitational, where the Jets

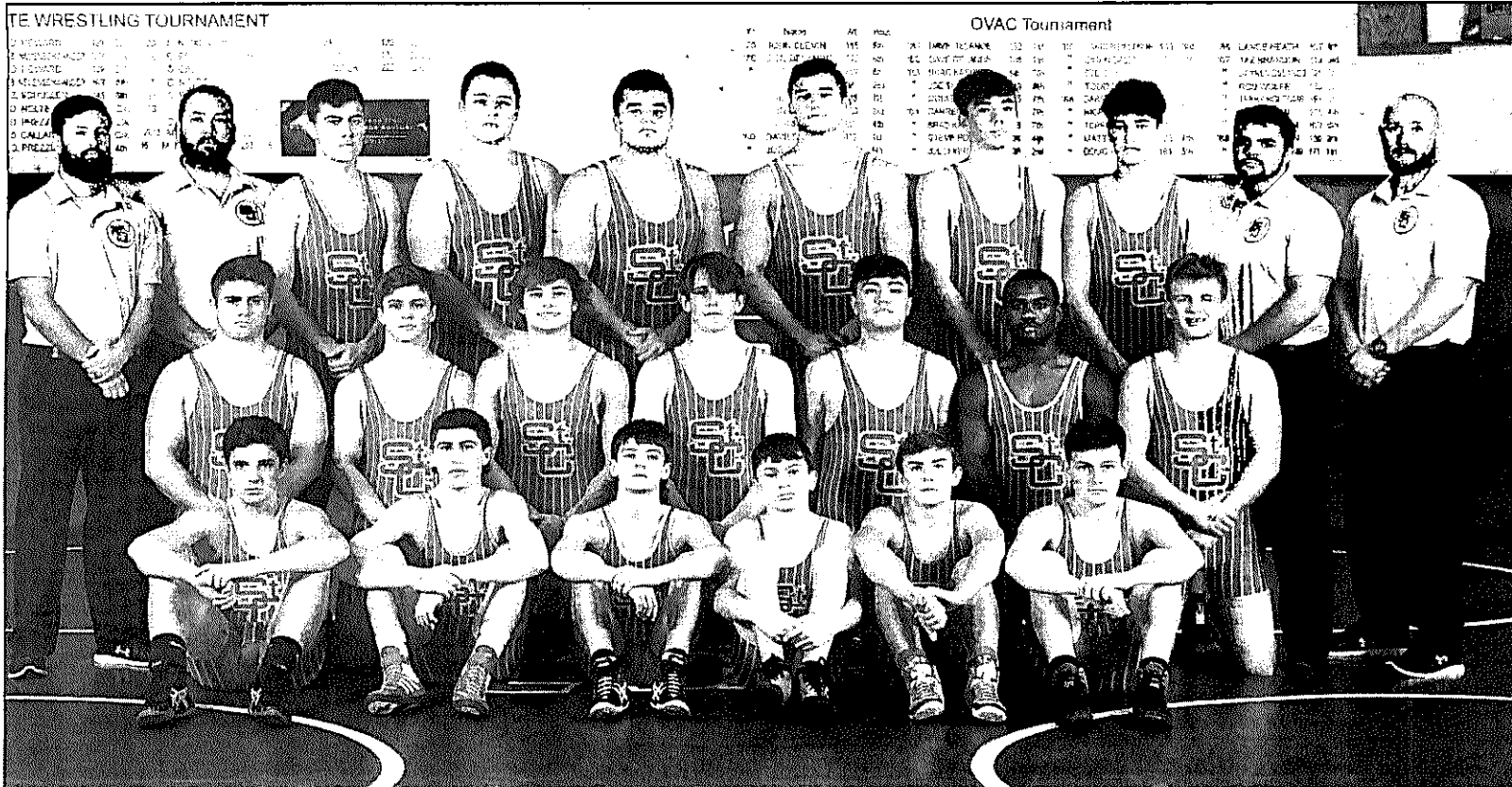


saw their most formidable matches. “There were a lot of good teams at Barnesville,” Powell said. “It’s really kind of an early look at the OVAC. In my eyes, if you can place there, with that type of competition, you have a good chance to place in the OVAC.” The Jets wrestled their first dual meets of the season

last week, taking on River and Beallsville on Wednesday and then New Philadelphia and Newcomerstown on Friday. As for the OVAC Tournament, Union Local will enter 10 of the 14 weight classes. “We have 14 kids total, but a lot of them are bunched up around the same weight,” Powell pointed out. “We’ve had to have some

wrestle offs to determine who was going to be exactly in which weight class for the OVAC.” Powell knows that his squad will have no entrant in 120, 182, 195 and 285 pounds. “We’ll have some guys who will be giving up some weight, but we’re trying to fill weight classes and get the kids in the best position we can to be successful.” Like so many, the way the bracket shakes out will be important to determine just how well some of the Jets are able to fare this week-end. “We have a couple of guys who have the ability to place, but it’s whether or not

they fall into the bracket correctly,” Powell said. “It’ll come down to matchups.” Junior Brady Crum leads the way for the Jets with his 15-2 record and he’ll be entered at 160. He was champion at UL and Co-shocton, but settled for fifth at Barnesville. He missed competing in the conference tourney last winter due to injury. “Brady started the season at 152 and has actually lost all of his matches there,” Powell said. “He’s improved a lot from last year and has the ability to do well, but he’ll need to put three or four good, quality matches together.” See, **UL**, Page 25



PICTURED IS the 2019-2020 St. Clairsville wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Clay Espen, Josh DeNoble, Gannon Kazmirski, Zach McKeever, Alex Wood and James Wolfe. Second row, from left, are Corey Naylor, Koen Kish, Quintin Elerick, Caden Stout, Pablo Escarcega, Josh Cox and Mason McCort. Top row, from left, are Assistant Coach Dillon Nolte, Assistant Coach Rick DaRe, Austin DaRe, Logan Fry, Derek Witsberger, Reese Skaggs, Reece Spomer, Nate Witsberger, assistant coach Bobby Richmond and head coach Joel Sansone.

Photo/NEAL WARREN

St. C. looks to make some noise in Class 4A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When Joel Sansone set up the 2019-20 St. Clairsville wrestling schedule, he had the OVAC, district and state tournaments in mind.

So, the 10th-year head coach set out to find the toughest competition he possibly could for his squad, which has enjoyed a strong start to the season.

“Our kids are battled tested,” Sansone said. “We have a lot of quality matches under our belts already. We’ve not wrestled a lot of matches, but we were going for quality competition over quantity. When we did the schedule, we considered if we wanted our kids to have a good record and not have faced better guys or take a chance of losing some early matches, so we’re ready for the tough, six-minute dog



fighters to win matches like in the OVAC, district or state. We wanted to expose our kids to the best.”

With the annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament set to open Thursday at WesBanco Arena, Sansone believes the Red Devils, who will have an entrant in all 14 weight classes, have a chance to make some noise.

“I think this (OVAC) tournament is going to be more competitive than it’s been in a lot of years,” Sansone said. “Seems like a lot

of programs are getting their numbers up and then you talk about the teams like Beaver Local, (Parkersburg) South, Steubenville, Wheeling Park, Indian Creek and even some other smaller schools like Barnesville and Shenandoah, there are a lot of quality teams out there.”

The Red Devils find themselves in Class 4A, which is also where defending overall champion Beaver Local resides.

“Beaver Local, in my opinion, is the premier program in the Ohio Valley right now,” Sansone said. “We’re competing well with everyone we step on the mat against.”

The Red Devils have competed at a tournament at North Canton Hoover, which brought together some of the premier wrestlers in Ohio and then over the holidays sent part of their lineup to

the prestigious PowerAde event in Western Pennsylvania.

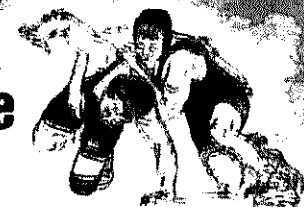
“We have multiple kids who have faced returning state champions, state placers, Ironman placers, PowerAde placers and either beaten them or lost in a close match,” Sansone said. “We know these types of (wrestlers) aren’t out of reach for us. We just have to continue to train hard, compete and good things will come.”

Of the 14 entrants the Red Devils will bring to Wheeling this weekend, only five have a sub .500 mark. But, no entrant has fewer than two losses either.


“Records do not matter,” Sansone said. “It’s a matter of how badly you want it (when you step onto the mat). I’d rather go into the

See, ST. C., Page 24

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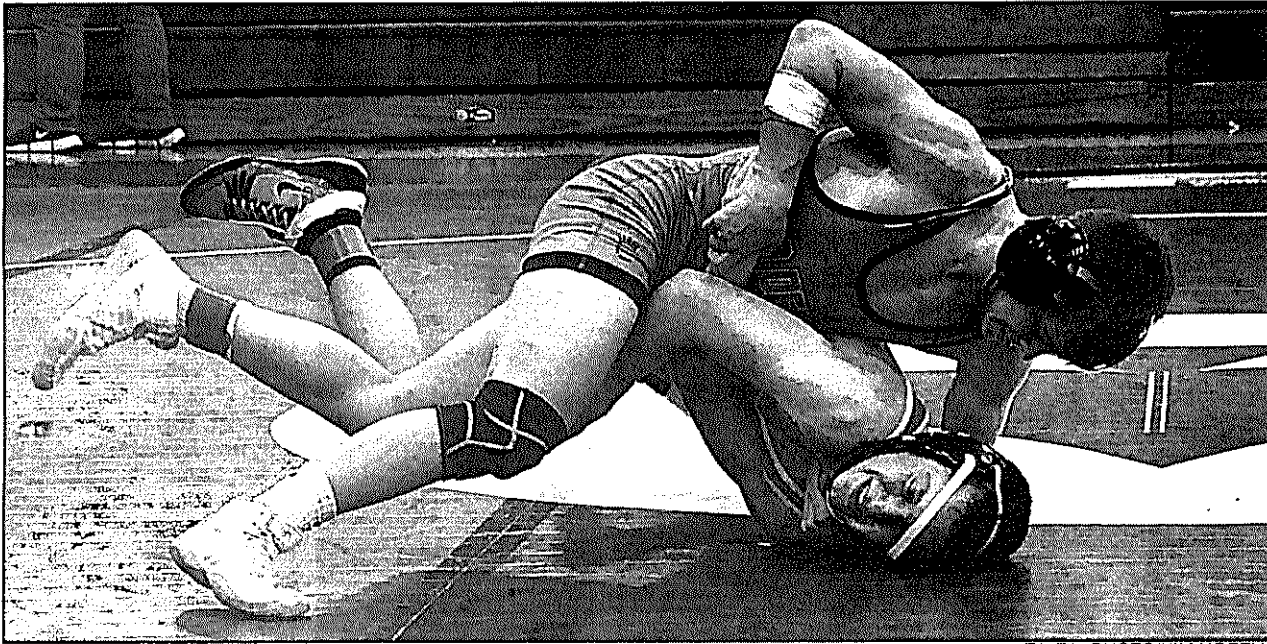


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• St. C.

Continued from Page 23



TL File PHOTO/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE junior Koen Kish works for control during a match last season. Kish is the top seed in the OVAC Tournament, which opens Thursday at WesBanco Arena at 126 pounds. He's a two-time placer in the event, but has settled for third twice.

tournament with our records and beat kids seeded ahead of us because they're not ready for what we're bringing."

The Red Devils will be led by junior Koen Kish, who is a two-time OVAC bronze medalist. He'll enter at 126 and is 9-2 on the season.

He was third at the North Canton event and actually defaulted out of the PowerAde due to injury, but Sansone said he'll be ready to go this week.

"Koen is wrestling pretty solidly," Sansone said. "He's had a goal of winning an OVAC championship since he was a freshman and he's fully capable. When he's wrestling his best, he's lights out."

Senior Derek Witsberger has enjoyed a strong campaign at 220 pounds.

He's currently 9-4 on the season and was fourth at North Canton.

He came up a win shy of placing at PowerAde. He was fourth at the OVAC in 2019 and narrowly missed a state berth.

Junior Reese Skaggs gets the call at 195 pounds. He's currently 11-4 and was fifth at North Canton. He, like Witsberger, was one win from placing at the PowerAde event.

"Watching Reese and Derek go at it in the practice room is one of the best things a coach can see," Sansone said. "Both kids are wrestling very confidently and having good season."

Sophomore Caden Stout is a returning state qualifier for the Red Devils. He finds himself at 7-4 this season, but Sansone said he's lost "four tight matches," including two to opponents who are ranked nationally.

Sophomore Gannon Kazmirski is enjoying an impressive campaign at 106. He's currently 7-4 and owns "some big wins" against quality competition, accord-

ing to his head coach.

Freshman Zach McKeever is wrestling at 113 and sits at 8-3 on the season. He was third at the St. C. Tournament in December. All eight of his wins have come via pinfall or by forfeit.

Junior Josh DeNoble will enter at 120. He's found his way to a 4-2 record despite being slowed by an injury. He was a district qualifier last winter.

At 145 and 152 pounds, it will be a combination of Mason McCort (8-5) and Austin DaRe (3-3). They were scheduled to wrestle off for the 145 line and the loser would drop to 152.

DaRe placed seventh in the OVAC at 138 last season.

Rounding out the Red Devils lineup for the OVAC are senior Quinton Elerick (2-4) at 132; freshman Reese Spomer (2-8) at 160; junior Pablo Escarcega (2-8) at 170; senior Corey Naylor (0-6) at 182 and freshman Logan Fry (4-7) at 285.

Of that group, however, Elerick is a former placer at the OVAC. The balance of the St. C. roster includes: freshman Nate Witsberger (126), who is 8-3 on the season; freshman Alex Wood (132), sophomore Clay Espen (138), freshman Josh Cox (145) and freshman George Harrison (195).

Once the OVAC dust settles this weekend, plenty of season remains for the Red Devils. They'll compete in both the OVAC and OHSAA team tournaments, the Brooke Classic, New Lexington Invitational and the Buckeye 8.

Sansone's coaching staff has remained the same for the bulk of his tenure. Bobby Richmond is the chief assistant, while Rick DaRe works with the high school, junior and youth programs.

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JETS

• **UL**

Continued from Page 22

Union Local's lone senior is Kohl Clark, who holds down the 170-pound class. He's currently 7-7 and his only place of the season was fourth at Union Local.

Freshman Clay Akers gets the call at 106. He's currently 9-6 despite giving up several pounds most times he steps onto the mat. He was third at UL and fifth at Coshocton.

Another Jets who will be giving up sizeable weight is sophomore Collin Greenwood at 113 pounds.

He currently owns a 5-9 record.

"He's no stranger to giving up weight," Powell said of Greenwood, who tips the scales at 98 pounds. "Ten pounds makes a big difference."

Freshmen Landon Crum and Brody Myers wrestled off for the 126-pound spot. Crum is 6-10, while Myers is 3-8. The former has been at 132 for most of the season.

Sophomore Nathaniel Gibson has dropped down to 132 after starting at 138. He narrowly missed placing in the OVAC last season at 120 and is currently 12-5 on the season. He was fifth at UL and sixth at Coshocton.

He's pushed by freshman Logan Boone.

Junior Jake Ice holds down the 138-pound entry line. He's back out for the sport after not competing last season. He's currently 4-6.

Junior Claude Romshak and sophomore Aiden Myers were being juggled between 145 and 152. Romshak has been at 152 most of the season and is 1-1-6 with

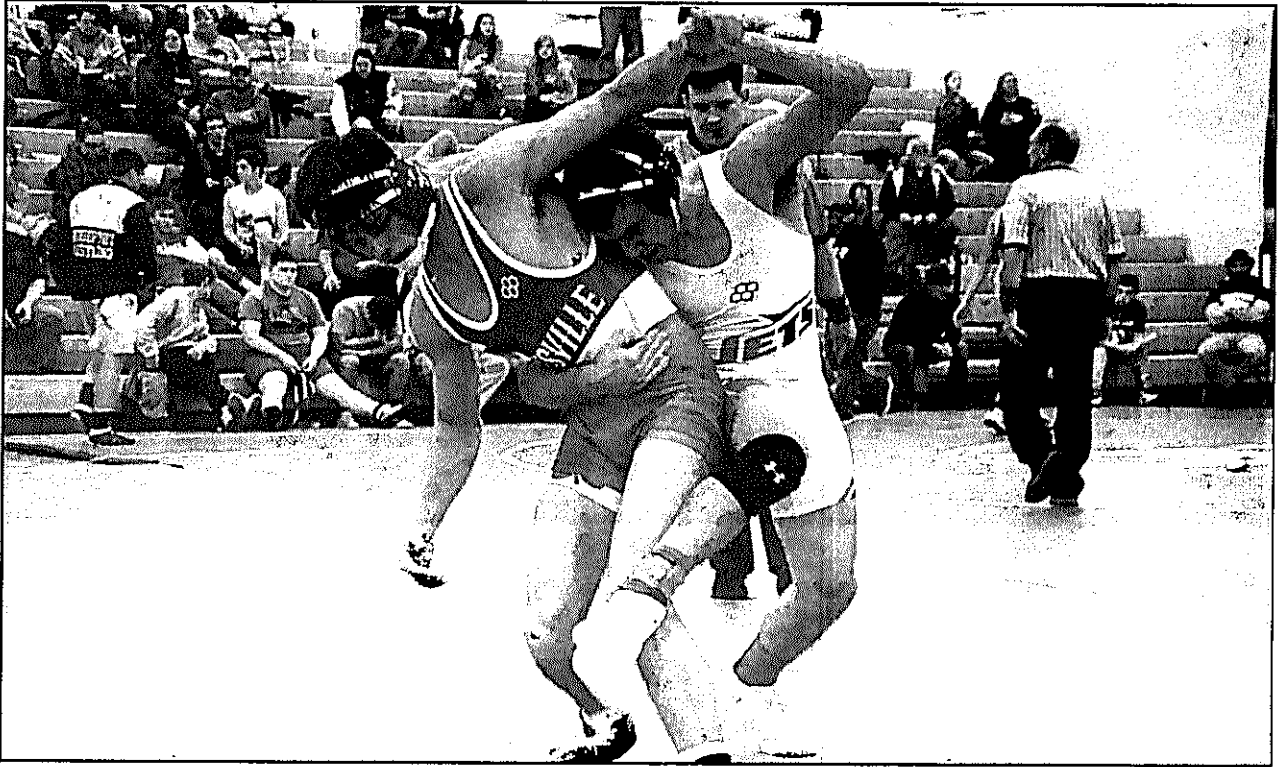
a seventh-place finish at Coshocton and a third-place effort at UL on his resume. Myers is 5-10.

Freshman Logan Perkins will get the call at 220. He's been learning on the fly in a challenging weight for an underclassmen.

Other Jets in the mix are sophomores Josh Williams and Jocelyn Heiney at 132 or 138.

Once the OVAC Tournament is complete, the Jets still have several events on the schedule, including the Buckeye 8, Panther Classic at Buckeye Local and several duals and triangulars.

"We tried to plug in most of our duals and tris later in the season because sometimes there's a lull between the OVAC and the (postseason)," Powell said.



T-L File PHOTO/KIM NORTH
UNION LOCAL'S Brady Crum works for control during a match earlier this season. He and the Jets will take part in this weekend's OVAC Tournament.

Good Luck Union Local Wrestlers!

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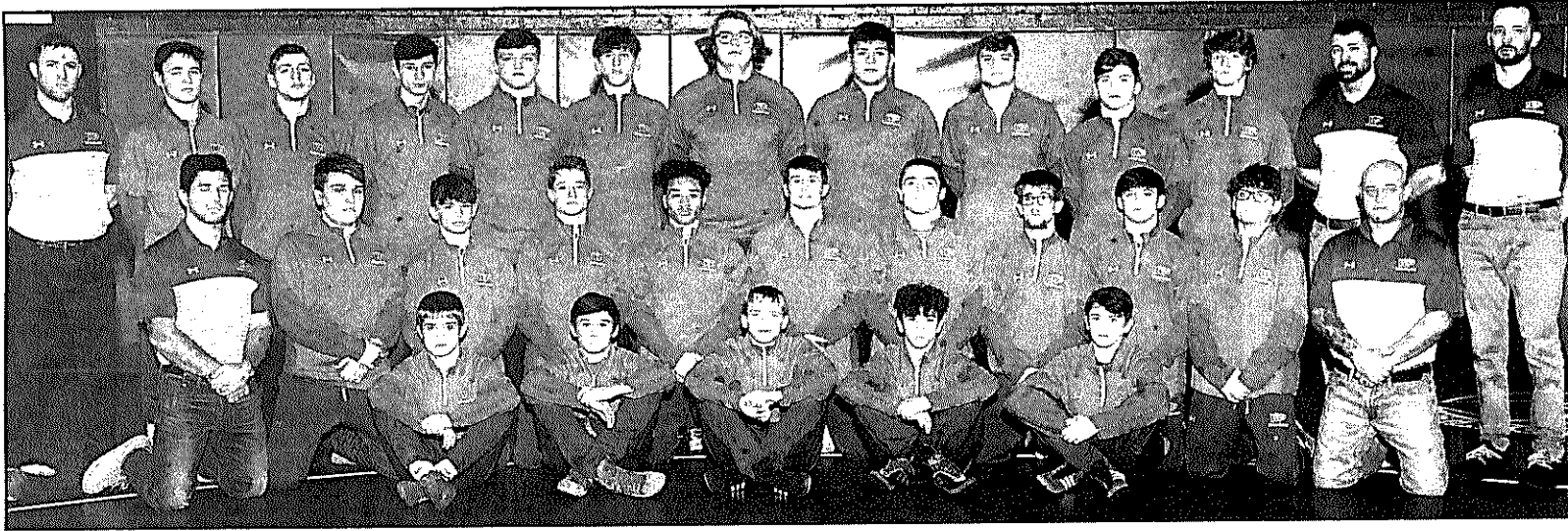
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PICTURED ARE members of the 2019-2020 Wheeling Park wrestling team.

Photo/Action Images

Park among the contenders in Class 5A, overall

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

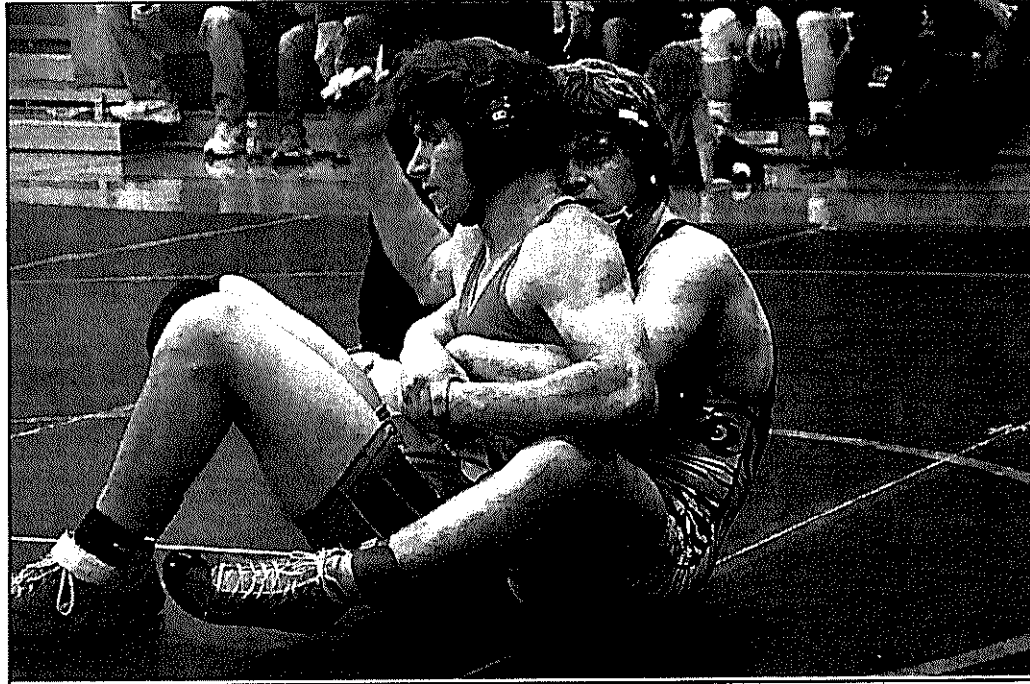
WHEELING — Wheeling Park head wrestling coach Brian Leggett is one of those that believes to become the best you've got to beat the best, or at least compete with them.

The Patriots have been battle-tested this year thus far, something that the second-year head coach thinks will help his squad this week.

The 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament kicks off its three-day stay inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena and Leggett expects his squad to be in the title chase. They finished third in Class 5A last season behind Parkersburg South and Steubenville and fourth overall as Class 4A Beaver Local dethroned the Wood County Patriots.

"I am really excited for his years OVAC tournament. We have a solid team this year that is capable of pushing for the overall title," Leggett allowed.

"We return seven placers from last year that are all capable of making big runs



WHEELING PARK'S Canon Welker works for control of a match at the Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament earlier this month. Welker and the Patriots will take part in the OVAC Tournament this weekend.

T-L File PHOTO/KIM NORTH

"We also have an amazing group of freshmen that are ready to turn some heads and make a name for themselves.

"We look for our lineup to be at full-strength for the first time this season," he continued.

"Our guys have made huge strides in being able to pick up bonus points this year and we look to take advantage of that this week."

Wheeling Park took third in the Wheeling Park Duals and won the Barnesville Doan Ford Tournament. They also competed in a large tournament in Maryland and have defeated Steubenville, John Marshall and Oak Glen in dual meets. However, they fell to Beaver Local last week in a close match.

Sophomore Nate Shelek (120) is Wheeling Park's

top returning placewinner. He took third last year at 113 before going on to win the state title in West Virginia. He has been slowed some this season due to Park's successful football season.

Older brother, Andrew (138), finished fourth last year at 145 and is a two-time state runnerup.

Junior Stevie Mitchell (145) was fifth at 138 last

year and third at that weight in the state. Sophomores Cody Taggart (113), junior Billy Gooch (152) and sophomore Hunter Nixon (170) all placed sixth in the OVAC a year ago.

All three also took fifth in the state. Senior Canon Welker (160) was seventh last year at 132 in the OVAC and fifth in the state at 152.

He was voted the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the recent Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament.

Rounding out the Patriots lineup are freshmen Quinton Velas (106), Bradyn Lucas (126), Lucas Nolte (132) and Erick Brothers (182); along with seniors Garret Parsons (195) and Matthew Reinacher (285); and junior Charlie Tamburin (220).

Velas won at Barnesville, as did Brothers. Tamburin was third at Barnesville. Nolte was fourth at Shadyside.

The Patriots lost four placewinners to graduation, including runnerup Dylan Wood (220) who was also a state runnerup. Others were Maison Richardson, Jeremiah Timberlake and Jermain Snodgrass.

Leggett is assisted by Clay Tucker, Todd Shelek, Danny Doyle and Justin Goneau.

Inexperienced, young Linsly ready to battle

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Linsly Cadets wrestling team is — for the most part — relatively young and inexperienced.

But, Coach Brian Valentine's team is showing progress and getting better, which are two aspects the ninth-year mentor are quite pleased with as his team prepares for the annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament, which opens Thursday at West-Banco Arena.

"Most our team is kids who are brand new to the sport of wrestling," Valentine said. "Our kids have exceeded expectations so far and hopefully we can have another strong effort this week."

Thus far, Linsly is 6-0 in duals and Valentine was especially pleased with the fact that his team has had at least one placer in every tournament it's entered.

"We've been to Union Local, Weirton and Shadyside tournaments, so we've faced some good competition," Valentine said.

Competing in Class 3A, the Cadets aren't one of the favorites entering the weekend, but being that this is their biggest tournament of the season, they aren't coming to downtown Wheeling just for fun.

"We're going to give it our best shot," Valentine said. "It'll come down to the brackets and the draws our kids get. We'll have to beat some good kids to score some points for the team."

Valentine believes his team is "even" between being a better dual or tourna-

ment team.

"Our biggest dual win is probably against Magnolia, but we'll find out (at the OVAC) just how good we are," Valentine explained.

The Cadets boast a roster of 14, but they'll fill just 11 weight classes.

Of Linsly's entrants for the OVAC, all but one has at least a .500 record for the season.

Leading the way for Linsly is senior Chance Knight. A four-year mainstay, Knight narrowly missed placing in last year's tournament at 220 and is currently 19-1 on the season with a championship and Weir and Shadyside on his resume. His lone loss came at Union Local where he settled for third.

"Chance has really come a long way," Valentine said. "He really wants to place this year."

Junior Arman Toyserkani gets the call at 132 and is 9-6. He's not placed in any events, but is rounding back into form after not competing as neither freshman nor sophomore.

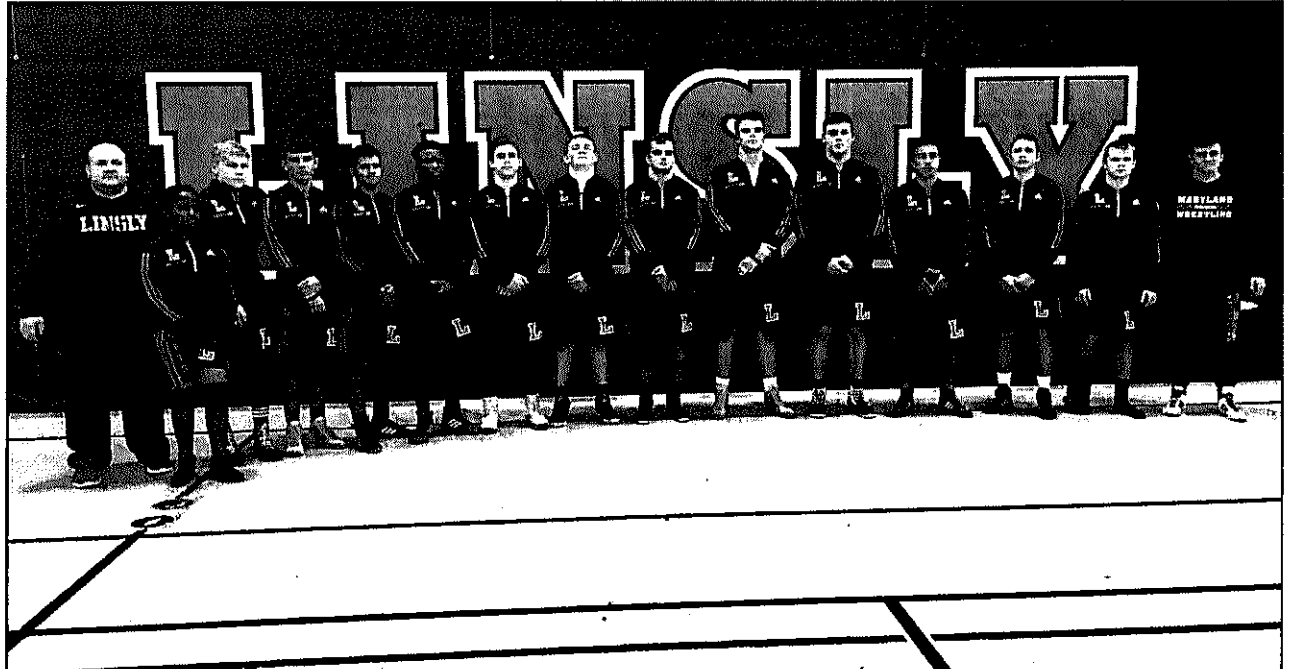
Junior Gunner Kernik is entered at 12-6 and is coming off a fourth-place showing at Shadyside.

"Gunner is the second-most experienced wrestler on our team," Valentine said.

"I think if the draw is right, he could make some noise."

Sophomore Henri Suikki, who won the 152 pound title at Weirton, comes into the tournament at 10-4.

"Henri is a tough kid, who works very hard," Valentine said. "He's a first-year wrestler, but another kid who can make some noise with the right



PICTURED IS the 2019-20 Linsly School wrestling team. From left are head coach Brian Valentine, Shantel Githii, Gunner Kernik, Arman Toyserkani, Michael Flynn, Zachai Simmons, Spencer Knight, Colton Cybulski, Steven Felton, Fabian Egger, Chance Knight, Joao Lima, Artem Savkov, Henri Suikki and assistant coach Nate Brown.

Photo Provided

draw."

Junior Spencer Knight is out for the first time and holds down the 160-pound weight class. He's currently 10-6 and is coming off a third-place finish at Weirton.

Junior Joao Lima is another first-year grappler, but he's found his way to a 10-5 record and owns a bronze medal at Weirton.

Sophomore Colton Cybulski is the 182-pound entrant and is currently 9-8.

Junior Steven Felton, who won the Shadyside tournament, is out for the sport for the first time and is currently 10-7.

Fabian Egger will enter at 220 and actually just made his debut last week after battling back from a football injury.

"At 113, Linsly will go

with sophomore Shantel Githii, who is 2-6 in her first season of wrestling.

The weights in which Linsly will not field an entrant are 106, 120, 126 and 138.

Others on the roster, who have served primarily as backups, are Artem Savkov (145), Marc Kaufman (152), Michael Flynn (145) and Zachai Simmons.

"The coaches and I are very pleased with these kids," Valentine said. "This is a hard-working group and a lot of them have turned the corner. We're losing matches by a few points here and there, so we need to finish matches better. But, we're making a lot of progress."

Valentine is assisted by Joe Giovengo and Nate Brown.

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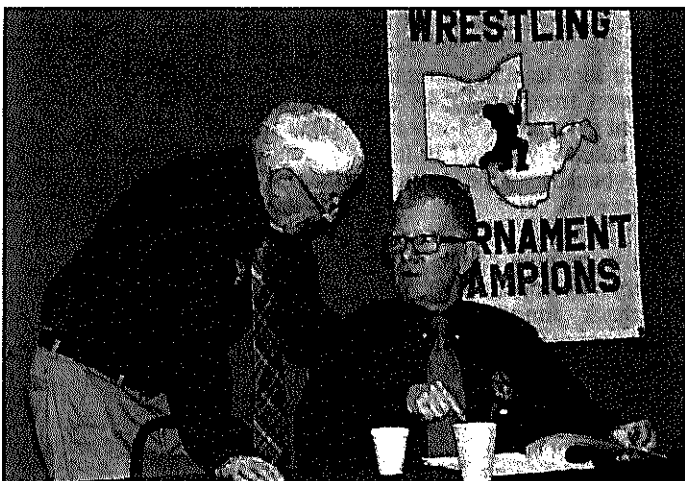
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SPORTS

Thursday,
January 16, 2020

Prep Roundup/B3
Scoreboard/B4
Pens Streaking/B5
Athletes of Week/B6



TL Photo/KIM NORTH

OVAC RON Mauck wrestling tournament organizers, from left, former tournament director and the event's namesake, Ron Mauck, and current tournament director Dr. Dan Doyle talk during Monday night's press conference.

OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament begins 67th year

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — They say change is for the better. As far as the OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament is concerned, we'll just have to wait and see come Saturday. The annual three-day event begins tonight inside WesBanco Arena with wrestlers being seeded by a 7-person committee for the first time in its 67-year history. Tonight starts at 6 with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. Wrestling begins at 6:30 with preliminary- and first-round matches

"Those seven guys that were doing the seeds kind of reminds me of some of those old guys that we had many, many years ago. I would say to you that they

would be very proud of what you did Sunday," tournament namesake and former tournament director Ron Mauck said Monday night during the pre-tournament press conference.

"Those seven members that you coaches selected represented you quite well. They were very sincere and took their time in each weight class," he stressed. There was a lot of dialogue ... good, positive, dialogue. They were all trying to put the best wrestlers where they should be.

"Granted, they're not going to get it perfect, but one thing I think we need to remember since it's all done by a computer, decisions can only be made by the information the committee has."

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Sweet 16 for Jets

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — All Stacey Agnew could do was grin and bear it.

The veteran St. Clairsville girls' basketball head coach knew what his team was up against when unbeaten Union Local came walking onto John Jenkins Court, winners of their first 15 games, including a 19-point victory against his squad a month ago inside "The Hangar."

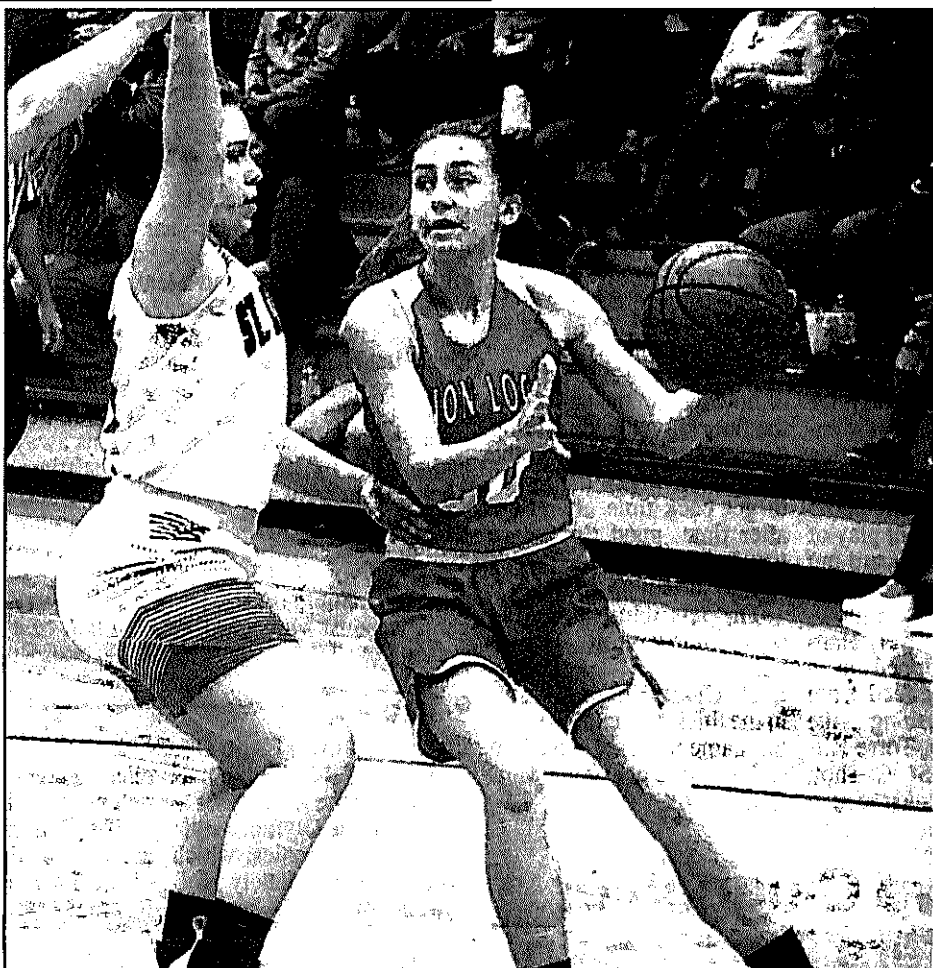
Agnew knew his team had to start strong and keep mistakes to a minimum. That lasted almost a half before the Jets became too much.

Union Local exploded for nine straight points during the last 1:30 of the first half and turned a dwindling 10-point cushion into a commanding 19-point bulge. The run set the stage for a 77-46 triumph that left Agnew shaking his head in awe.

"They're good," he smiled as he excited his office postgame. "They're just too good and too skilled. You just can't leave them open."

And, you can't leave them an opening because, as UL's first 15 opponents have discovered, a crease is just enough to allow the Jets to break things wide open.

See, **SWEET**, Page B2



TL Photo/RICK THORP

UNION LOCAL'S Hannah Merritt (30) drives as St. Clairsville's Macy Malln (5) defends during Wednesday night's Buckeye 8 battle on John Jenkins Court. The Jets improved to 16-0 with a 77-46 victory.

Day won't soon forget OSU playoff stumble

COLUMBUS (AP) — The playoff loss to Clemson that ended Ohio State's season will sting for a long time, coach Ryan Day acknowledged Wednesday. The Buckeyes will move on, and he hopes the terrible taste in their mouths will motivate next season's team.

Ohio State, 13-0 at the time, was beaten 29-23 by Clemson in the College Football Playoff semifinal on Dec. 28, with some calls that went in the Tigers' favor at critical times and quarterback Justin Fields throwing an interception in the end zone on the Buckeyes' final drive. Clemson moved on only to be routed by LSU 42-25 in Monday's championship game.

"ESPECIALLY WHEN the game was played Monday night, right there front and center, it's hard to let go."

— **Ryan Day**
OSU Football Coach

Day, in his first meeting with the media since returning from the Clemson game, joked that was now pondering the loss "every other second as opposed to every second."

"Especially when the game was played Monday night, right there front and center, it's hard to let go," said the first-year coach who was chosen to follow retiring coaching legend Urban Meyer.

"I'm just telling you it's hard to let go, and we're not going to let go," he said. "You have to move on with your life, but at the same time we talked to the team — we're not going to just flush this. This is going to be here for a long time. And that's the way it should be. We felt like we had a chance to go win the whole thing, we didn't do it, so it's going to stay fresh in our minds."

The good news for Day is that Heisman Trophy finalist quarterback Justin Fields will be back for another year, along with the core of the offensive line. Among the bad news: Running back J.K. Dobbins moves on to the NFL along with some key receivers and two All-Americans on defense, lineman Chase Young and cornerback Jeff Okudah.

Competition for the spots will begin in earnest with the start of spring practice on March 2. Fourteen incoming freshmen, including quarterbacks CJ Stroud and Jack Miller, enrolled early and will participate in spring workouts. One of

Shadyside fights off Magnolia

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

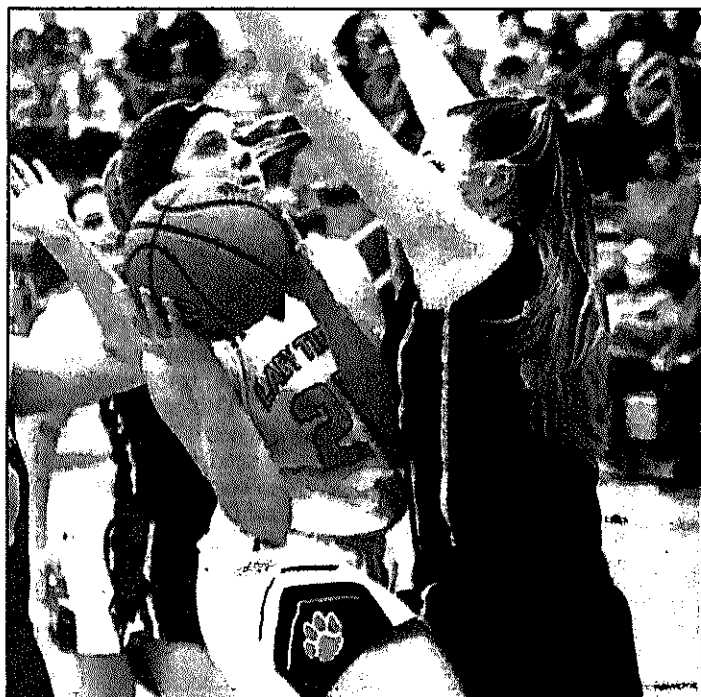
SHADYSIDE — Like so many teams, Shadyside wants to play uptempo and get as many shots and possessions as it can during the course of a game.

Magnolia, meanwhile, is the complete opposite.

In the end Wednesday evening, Shadyside proved it can dance to more than one tune as it fought off a game Blue Eagle squad, 48-40, on senior night inside the toasty Tiger Den.

The Tigers (12-4) simply couldn't make enough shots early in the game to force the issue on the Blue Eagles (5-9).

"(The ball) just wasn't going in for us," Shadyside head coach Serge Gentile said. "Whether it was 3s, layups, it didn't matter. There was a lid on (the bucket) for whatever reason."



stuck with its gameplan, which was to play the game entirely in the halfcourt.

"We know what our strengths are and we know we can't get into a running game with anyone," Magnolia head coach Meredith Pilant said.

"We had a couple of turnovers, which set us back. And then, in the fourth, we had sustained some injuries (earlier in the game) and we just seemed to wear down because we don't have many subs."

The Blue Eagles were able to stay close thanks to the impressive play from senior forward Kyndra Pilant.

She scored nine in both the second and third quarters and finished with a game-high 24. She was also impressive on the glass.

"(Pilant) is going to get her (points), but defensively, I

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Devin Vassell scored 18 points, including a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws in the fi-

WASHINGTON (AP) — Omer Yurtseven had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Mac McClung scored 19 points for Georgetown.

• Sweet

Continued from Page B1

"We threw up three shots and they got nine points out of it," Agnew reviewed. "If you're down 10 at halftime, it's a little different. But that was big. I thought it was a turning point in the game. You battle hard to get it there and in the blink of an eye they score nine."

The Red Devils started strong behind a pair of 3s from Alexis Thoburn, who finished with four on the night en route to a team-high 21 points.

UL quickly recovered, however, behind the inside power of freshman Reagan Vinskovich, who scored 13 of her game-best 24 in the first, including a layup that stretched the Jets' lead to 22-12 midway through the second.

"She's a workhorse," Jets head coach Rob Barr exclaimed.

Still, St. C. hung tough, not allowing the Jets to expand on its lead thanks to Katie Strama (12 points), who's gritty play kept it a 10-point contest.

That was until the first-half clock started to wind down.

Vinskovich's putback with 1:17 left made the score 37-25. Then, the Red Devils shot too quickly for Agnew's liking on their ensuing possession, allowing the Jets to race back down. Keira Gregor was the beneficiary as her 3-point play of her own offensive board put UL up 15.

Seconds later, following a St. C. turnover, Hannah Merritt dropped in a layup off a nifty feed from Vinskovich pushing the lead to 17. Then, Torre Kildow blocked a St. C. shot, grabbed the ball and raced in

for a layup as the half neared its conclusion. She finished with 21 points.

"They're gamers," Jets head coach Rod Barr said. "When the game's on the line they can put a run together. We'll have three or four runs a game where we'll score 14 points or so to put a game away."

"I think that's a product of how we run the ball down the floor. If you keep putting that kind of pressure on the other team where they have to get back time after time after time, good things are going to happen. Things start to loosen up."

The Jets return to action next Thursday at Barnesville.

St. Clairsville (8-6), still in the thick of the OVAC 4A tournament chase, is back in action Monday at John Marshall.

• Day

Continued from Page B1

2019 season as a first-year head coach without a proven quarterback, with a reconstituted offensive line and a leaky defense.

Fields, a Georgia transfer, and the offensive line ended up being terrific, and the defense, behind new coordinators Jeff Hafley and Greg Mattison, developed into one of the best in the nation. The Buckeyes roared through their schedule blowing teams away and playing mostly backups after halftime. Then came Clemson, and a game the Buckeyes had multiple chances to put away but couldn't.

"When you go 13-1, you win your conference championship, you win the rivalry game (against Michigan), that's a hell of a season now," Day said. "I mean that doesn't

matter where you are. That's a hell of a season. But we didn't reach all our goals, so that keeps us wanting more."

He said he's glad the national championship game between Clemson and LSU — led by Ohio State transfer and Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow — is over.

"It was hard to watch, I'm not going to lie," Day said. "It was very difficult. I told the team and the coaches that I wanted everybody to watch that game, as hard it was going to be, from beginning to end and think about things and how badly they want to get back in that game next year, back in that situation, and what are they willing to do, and what are they willing to sacrifice to get there."

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

A total of 441 individuals will take to the arena floor at 6 p.m. for the Olympic-style opening ceremonies, which will be immediately followed by 207 preliminary- and first-round bouts on eight mats. Tournament officials estimate the night lasting a little more than two hours.

"That's 60 more wrestlers than last year," Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle pointed out.

Team-wise, Beaver Local returns as the defending champion after dethroning long-time titlist Parkersburg South last year. The Beavers, who also claimed the Class 4A crown, amassed 303 points to outdistance the Wood County Patriots by 60. Steubenville was third (214.5) and Wheeling Park fifth (171).

Parkersburg South won the Class 5A, with Barnesville taking the 3A title (80 points) and Bridgeport the Class 1A/2A (62).

"Coming back as the defending champion there's that much pressure but our kids come here and expect to win," first-year Beaver Local head coach Jonny McComas said. "Last year we were able to take down South and the kids are ex-

cited to come back here and defend their title."

The Beavers and Patriots each claimed 13 seeds out of the 14 weight classes, so it should be another exciting three days of action. Of those seeds, Beaver Local was awarded five No. 1 slots and a pair of seconds. Parkersburg South got two top seeds and a pair of seconds. Wheeling Park received 10 seeds, with a first and a second, while Steubenville had nine individuals in the top 12 of their respective weight class. Three of those, however, are No. 1s.

"We try to wrestle as tough a schedule as possible before the OVAC Tournament. We try to schedule all the big teams before the tournament," Wheeling Park second-year head coach Brian Leggett offered. "Now with the (seeding) committee, we wanted to leave it up to them."

Steubenville's Mike Blackburn was optimistic about his top seeds.

"You always want to be higher if you're not the No. 1 seed, but the kids just have to come out and wrestle," he said.

Oak Glen checks in with nine seeds in Class 4A, as well, including one top seed.

St. Clairsville, which was the runnerup to Beaver Local in Class 4A last winter, should have a good showing with eight seeds, while Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen saw eight of his individuals receive seeds.

"I thought the seeding worked out well," Oak Glen's Patrick McGillian said. "We'll just have to wait and see."

Individually, there are 63 returning placewinners from last year, including six champions. Several wrestlers will be competing for multiple titles.

Beaver Local freshmen Jaymin Salsberry (113) and Logan Ours (132); East Liverpool junior Howard Williams (113); Oak Glen senior Peyton Hall (152); Parkersburg South seniors Brayden Roberts (152) and Braxton Amos (220) are the returning titlists. Williams will be seeking his third straight after winning at 106 and 113. Hall, a three-time W.Va. state kingpin, will also be looking for his third championship, winning in 2017 and last year, while finishing second in 2018. McComas is a two-time champion as a freshman and sophomore. He lost in last year's finals. Roberts and Amos are both two-time defending titlists. Amos, ranked No. 1 nationally at his weight class by most publications, didn't compete as a freshman.

Doyle made the announcement Monday night that the 152-pound title bout will be the featured match of the night. It will be held last, meaning the championship finals will begin at 160 and continue through.

MAT NOTES

■ There are 18 preliminary-round bouts scheduled tonight.

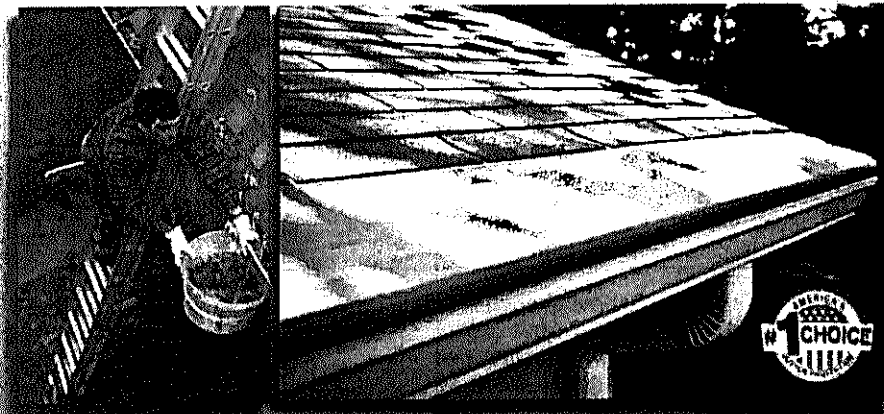
■ The Wheeling Park choir will perform tonight's national anthem. Friday's first session will have Bridgeport wrestler, Skylar Hatten, singing, while Friday night's session is still open.

■ The annual OVAC vs. MAC "Clash of Champions" will tentatively be held at Wheeling Park High School on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. The pre-event banquet will once again be held at Undo's in Weirton the night before the event.



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victory against the Falcons, 105-99.

"It's a really good win for our program. For our young guys," Howlett said. "I try to tell these guys before every game how important each game and each opponent are because a lot of these guys don't know how certain things work with conference play and regional play.

"This was a really big win for us against Fairmont. They got some good quality wins under their belt and this was a pretty serious game for us that we almost needed to win. It puts us in a good position conference-wise. Just the effort these guys showed (Wednesday). It's a typical Fairmont, West Liberty game.

Please see WLU, Page 14



Photo by WLU Athletics
West Liberty's Preston Boswell battles in the paint during Wednesday's game against Fairmont State.

Falcons Down Hilltoppers

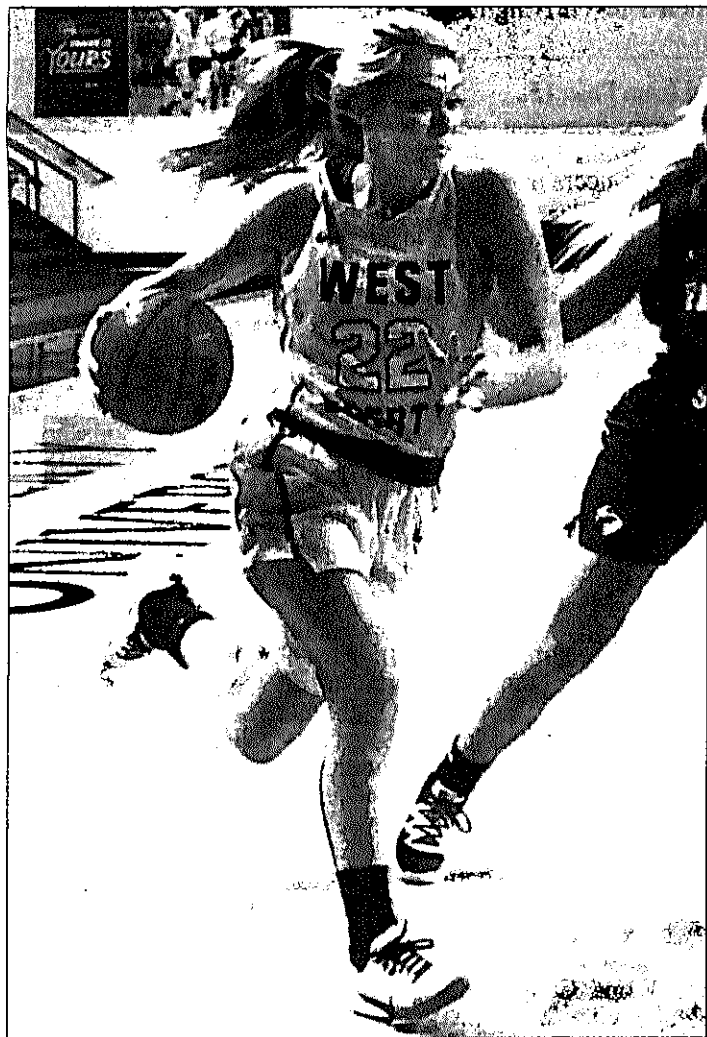


Photo by WLU Athletics
West Liberty's Taylor Johnson looks to make a play during Wednesday's basketball action.

Brunner scores 20 points, Johnson adds 18 in loss

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — It was a rough night shooting during the first three quarters for the West Liberty women's basketball team.

The Hilltoppers went 11 of 47 from the field as Fairmont State was able to grab a significant lead. Although West Liberty shot 64.7 percent (11-for-17) in the fourth quarter, the hole proved to be too big as the Falcons ran away with a 84-67 victory Wednesday night at the ASRC.

"Coming out at halftime, we came to play," West Liberty coach Kyle Cooper said. "We finally woke up, we got outside of ourselves. We started relying on each other a little bit more, had more bounce, had more love to it and you saw a team that executed.

"The thing that's hard about it is that the start of that game, moments of it, it looked like the way it's supposed to, but overall it just didn't. Too many system errors and it's two systems that whichever team executes them better are going to win in this game. It's a lot of shooting. A lot of outside shots, a lot of downhill drives, make reads for both teams.

"I thought they seemed way more bought in to the execution early. That created a first quarter that dug us in a major hole that carried over in the second.

Please see HILLTOPPERS, Page 14

Hold Off Linsly

Reinbeau nets 21 for Knights

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Coaches preach that "turnovers will kill you."

Wheeling Central used its pressure defense early and often Wednesday night on Coach Skip Prosser Court, forcing 15 Linsly turnovers in the first half — four less than the Cadets had points.

Wheeling Central led 31-19 at the break and, despite never fully putting the Cadets away, were able to earn an impressive 62-46 victory against its rival.

"I thought we looked really good in stretches and then some of the things we didn't do well, we did that in stretches of the game, too," Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz said. "We did more good things so I am pleased with that. It was nice to see Elle (Canestraro) hit some shots and any time you have Kaylee (Reinbeau) and Hannah (White) out there, they seem to keep things under control for us.

"We got a few good minutes off the bench so overall I am very happy."

Wheeling Central (8-6) used its pressure defense to its advantage early and often.

Please see CENTRAL, Page 14

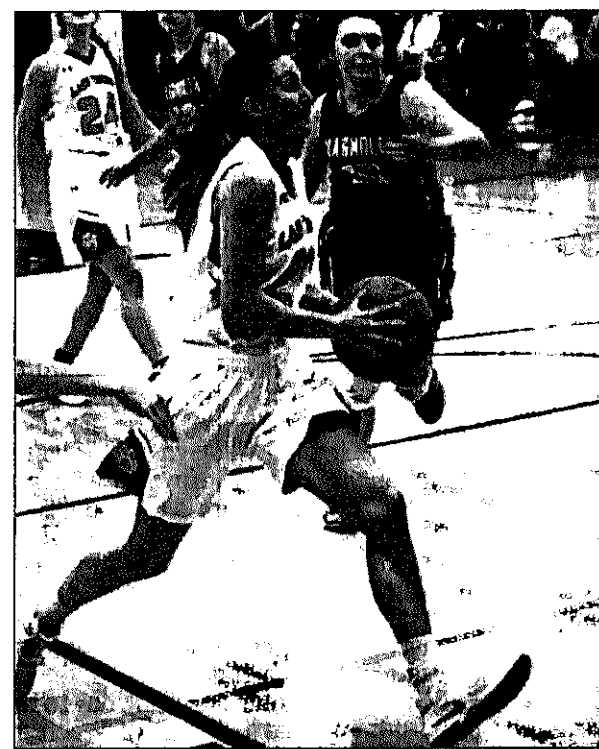


Photo by Seth Staskey
Shadyside senior Brooke Selmon drives to the basket as Magnolia's Lenecia Grimm closes in during Wednesday's game in Shadyside.

Tigers Outlast Blue Eagles

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Like so many teams, Shadyside wants to play up tempo and get as many shots and possessions as it can during the course of a game.

Magnolia, meanwhile, is the complete opposite. In the end Wednesday evening, Shadyside proved it can dance to more than one tune as it fought off a game Blue Eagles squad, 48-40, on Senior Night inside the toasty Tiger Den.

The Tigers (12-4) simply couldn't make enough shots early in the game to force the issue on the Blue Eagles (5-9).

"(The ball) just wasn't going in for us," Shadyside coach Serge Gentile said. "Whether it was 3s, layups, it didn't matter. There was a lid on (the bucket) for whatever reason."

With the game tied at 15-15 at halftime, Gentile and company didn't push any panic buttons. He simply focused on effort.

"We knew we were going to make shots (eventually), but we had to keep playing hard," Gentile said. "We had to be active on the glass, limit their second chances and good looks. In the end, we made enough plays and enough shots when we needed them."

Indeed.

The Tigers started to break out of their offensive

Please see TIGERS, Page 14

OVAC Mat Tourney Starts Tonight

3-day event will see plenty of changes this season

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — They say change is for the better. As far as the OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament is concerned, we'll just have to wait and see come Saturday. The annual three-day event begins tonight inside WesBanco Arena with wrestlers being seeded by a 7-person committee for the first time in its 67-year history. Tonight starts at 6 with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. Wrestling begins at 6:30 with preliminary and first-round matches.

"Those seven guys that were doing the seeds kind of reminds me of some of those old guys that we had many, many years ago. I would say to you that they would be very proud of what you did Sunday," tournament namesake and former tournament director Ron Mauck said Monday night during the pre-tournament press conference.

Please see OVAC, Page 14

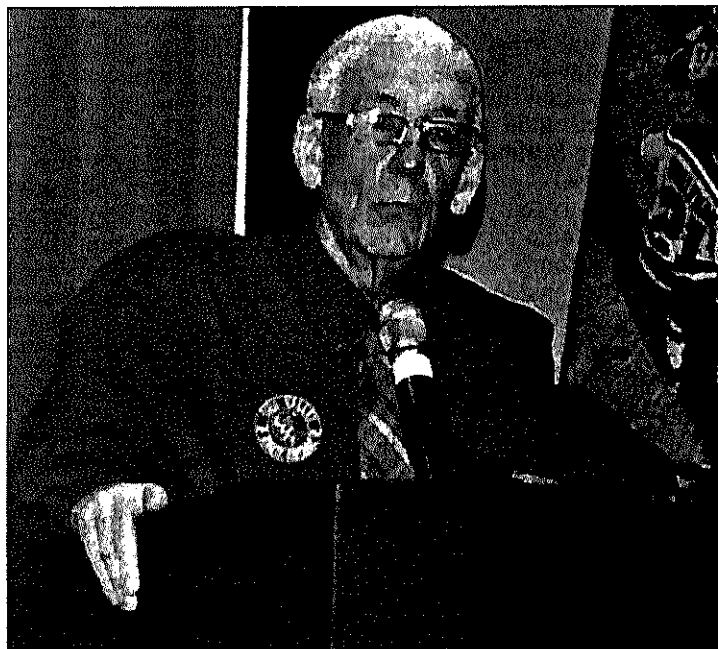


Photo by Kim North
OVAC Wrestling Tournament Director Ron Mauck speaks during Monday's pre-tournament press conference.

ty good defense on him and he made tough shots. But, credit to our guys. Everyone really bought into our game plan."

The Hilltoppers (12-3, 7-2 MEC) never trailed during the contest, but like always, the Falcons also had a spark when the game seemed to be getting away from them. After a Melko bucket, the Hilltoppers ripped off eight straight points sparked by a Luke Dyer 3-pointer. Bryce Butler ended the spurt with a basket to put the score at 83-71 with 7:52 remaining. However, Fairmont State was able to cut the lead to four (97-93) with 1:26 to go. West Liberty, though was able to sink it's free throws to virtually put the game away.

With the game still in hand, Fairmont State was charged with a technical foul with 11.5 seconds remaining because it tried to call a timeout on a loose ball when they had none left.

Dalton Bolon then sunk a pair to make it a three-possession game (104-96).

The victory was also the first of the season where the Hilltoppers won by single digits.

"We do a lot of three-minute games in

day), it actually meant something to play in one of those games. We had a tough, close game against Charleston where we ended up on the losing end. We lost a close game to Wesleyan here at home. So, we were 0-2 in close games, now we are 1-2. Again, we beat a well-coached, with a bunch of good players on this Fairmont team. Hopefully, this will keep propelling us for the next couple games and see if we can get better on Saturday."

The Hilltoppers also had to overcome foul adversity as Will Yoakum, Preston Boswell, Pat Robinson III and Dyer all played the majority of the second half with four fouls. Dyer eventually fouled out with about 7:40 to go.

"It was tough," Howlett said. "The good thing was a lot of our guards were in foul trouble. We've got plenty of guards to put in the game. I thought the officials actually did a really good job. We just got to do a better job defensively."

Robinson led the way for the Hilltoppers with 23 points going 10 of 13 from the floor while Boswell had arguably

"Making shots wise, yeah," Boswell said about it being his best performance at West Liberty. "I've just been getting up extra shots and our guys like Pat and Dalton get in the lane. Everybody dives in on them. I was just spotting up and I was getting wide-open shots. They did a good job finding me. It was just as much them as me making shots."

Melko led the way for the Falcons with 30 points while Isaiah Sanders netted 26. Dale Bonner secured 18 points and Cole VonHandorf supplied 12.

Wheeling 75
Frostburg State 61
WHEELING — Wheeling University used a strong second-half surge to down Frostburg State.

Junior guard Jordan Reid registered his first double-double as a Cardinal with 20 points and a season-high 11 rebounds. Junior guard Jarett Haines led the Cardinals (9-4, 6-3), winners of three straight, with 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, while sophomore forward Emmanuel Ansong finished with 12 points and five boards.

The Cadets (7-6) turned the ball over nine times in the first quarter and despite those miscues, trailed by eight points.

"We have no seniors on this team and we don't go very deep into our bench in pressure moments," Linsly coach Rebecca Upton said. "These girls play their butts off, and you can't fault their effort at all. They kept coming, kept coming, kept coming. We fought and not everything was perfect, but our kids have the heart of a lion and I will take that team every single day, even on the bad days."

Things went from bad to worse for Linsly when 6-foot center Carleigh Grimm went to the bench early in the second quarter with her third foul.

Not the recipe you want when faced with trying to contain an all-stater and Division I re-

sometimes." And Reinbeau made them pay.

She only made one field goal in the quarter, but snatched five rebounds, forcing her way into getting fouled.

She scored five points from the line in the quarter.

"She is amazing and what she has done this year, she has taken it to a whole new level," Kurtz said.

"I can't say enough good things about her."

Reinbeau paced the Maroon Knights with a game-high 21 points and nine rebounds.

Linsly made a small run in the third quarter to cut the deficit to seven as Haley Heitz drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer to bring the Cadets within 47-40.

Much like Reinbeau in the second, White took over in the fourth, driving to the basket and

17 points. Canesuraro hit two 3-pointers in the third quarter and finished with 13 points, providing a spark for the Maroon Knights outside of their two standouts, White and Reinbeau.

"She has been struggling and putting a lot of pressure on herself," Kurtz said of Canesuraro. "She is a really good basketball player and just trying to get her to relax and play and when she does, she is a pretty good player."

"She can hit from the outside, take you to the basket and what I really liked was how she played defense."

"As a freshman, sometimes you forget that part but she was great (Wednesday)."

Grimm paced the Cadets with 13 points and nine rebounds, followed by Molly Heron with 11 points and Nevaeh Cook with 10.

TIGERS

(Continued from Page 13)

funk in the third when they outscored Magnolia, 19-13.

In that period, junior Baylee Wach, who led Shadyside with 14, got going in transition for three buckets.

Seniors Brooke Selmon, Madisyn Stewart and sophomore Paige Gorby all connected from behind the arc as well.

Still, however, Magnolia stuck with its gameplan, which was to play the game entirely in the halfcourt.

"We know what our strengths are and we know we can't get into a running game with anyone," Magnolia coach Meredith Pilant said. "We had a couple of turnovers, which set us back. And then, in the fourth, we had sustained some injuries (earlier in the game) and we just seemed to wear down because we don't have many subs."

The Blue Eagles were able to stay close thanks to the impressive play

from senior forward Kyndra Pilant.

She scored nine in both the second and third quarters and finished with a game-high 24. She was also impressive on the glass.

"(Pilant) is going to get her (points), but defensively, I thought we did a good job," Gentile said.

"We have to control what we can control and one of those is effort, which was there tonight."

"Whether you're making shots or not, you have to guard."

In the fourth, Shadyside stretched it out to an eight-point lead on a pair of Wach foul shots and Magnolia was only able to get as close as four the rest of the way.

Wach was joined in double figures by Gorby, who finished with 10, and talented junior Tory Hendershot, who scored 10 despite being under the weather.

HILLTOPPERS

(Continued from Page 13)

"It's very hard to play uphill in a game like that when you got some premiere players that can really play. They (Fairmont State) are a talented roster."

Morgan Brunner hit a 3-pointer to put the score at 15-13 in favor of Fairmont State with 3:53 to go in the first quarter. That's when the shooting woes began and the Falcons went on a 18-3 run that transitioned into the second quarter. The lead did not fall below double digits for the rest of the game.

The Falcons led by as many as 25 in the third quarter thanks to a conventional 3-point play by Sierra Kotchman as the score read, 54-29 with 4:12 remaining.

The Hilltoppers were able to trim the lead to 14 in the fourth (76-62) thanks to a Destiny

Hutcherson jumper in the paint, but that was as close as the Hilltoppers got.

"It's not to discredit anything Fairmont was doing or not doing, they were playing really hard. They were pressuring the ball," Cooper said. "But unfortunately, we tried to play their game in the first half. This game was going to be dictated by us by pace and passing. We talked about it for the last two days. We fell into the trap of playing their game. We didn't have any pace or any quality passing. We are a team that thrives off each other, we did not play that way in the first half."

Brunner led the way for the Hilltoppers with 20 points while Taylor Johnson supplied 18. Audrey Tingle was a force off the boards as she pulled down 17 rebounds.

For Fairmont State, Kotchman had 25 points while both Brooke Kurucz and Rachel Laskody had 18. Kamrin Weimer netted 12 and Wheeling Central graduate Taylor Duplaga supplied four.

Wheeling 64
Frostburg State 60
WHEELING — Wheeling University (5-10, 4-5) earned a victory against Frostburg State (1-8, 2-13) inside the McDonough Center.

Senior guard Khira Burton finished with 20 points on 7 of 14 shooting to lead the Cardinals. Sophomore forward Lilly Ritz finished with 17 points and seven rebounds, despite playing just four minutes of the first half after picking up two early fouls.

Senior guard Taliah Cashwell also finished in double figures with 11 points.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

"Those seven members that you coaches selected represented you quite well. They were very sincere and took their time in each weight class.

There was a lot of dialogue ... good, positive, dialogue. They were all trying to put the best wrestlers where they should be.

"Granted, they're not going to get it perfect, but one thing I think we need to remember since it's all done by a computer, decisions can only be made by the information the committee has."

A total of 441 individuals will take to the arena floor at 6 p.m. for the Olympic-style opening ceremonies, which will be immediately followed by 207 preliminary- and first-round bouts on eight mats.

Tournament officials estimate the night lasting a little more than two hours.

"That's 60 more wrestlers than last year," Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle pointed out.

Team-wise, Beaver Local returns as the defending champion after dethroning long-time titlist Parkersburg South last year.

The Beavers, who also claimed the Class 4A crown, amassed 303 points to outdistance the Wood County Patriots by 60. Steubenville was third (214.5) and Wheeling Park fifth (171).

Parkersburg South won the Class 5A, with Barnesville taking the 3A title (80 points) and Bridgeport the Class 1A/2A (62).

"Coming back as the defending champion there's that much pressure but our kids come here and expect to win," first-year Beaver Local coach Jonny McComas said. "Last year we were able to take down South and the kids are excited to come back here and defend their title."

The Beavers and Patriots each claimed 13 seeds out of the 14 weight classes, so it should be another exciting three days of action. Of those seeds, Beaver Local was awarded five No. 1 slots and a pair of seconds. Parkersburg South got two top seeds and a pair of seconds. Wheeling Park received 10 seeds, with a first and a second, while Steubenville had nine individuals in the top 12 of their respective weight class. Three of those, however, are No. 1s.

"We try to wrestle as tough a schedule as possible before the OVAC Tournament."

"We try to schedule all the big teams before the tournament," Wheeling Park second-year coach Brian Leggett offered. "Now with the (seeding) committee, we wanted to leave it up to them."

Steubenville's Mike Blackburn was optimistic about his top seeds.

"You always want to be higher if you're not the No. 1 seed, but the kids just have to come out and wrestle," he said.

Oak Glen checks in with nine seeds in Class 4A, as well, including one top seed.

St. Clairsville, which was the runner-up to Beaver Local in Class 4A last winter, should have a good showing with eight seeds, while Barnesville coach Jayson Stephen saw eight of his individuals receive seeds.

"I thought the seeding worked out well," Oak Glen's Patrick McGillian said.

"We'll just have to wait and see."

Individually, there are 63 returning placewinners from last year, including six champions.

Several wrestlers will be competing for multiple titles

Beaver Local freshmen Jaymin Salsberry (113) and Logan Ours (132); East Liverpool junior Howard Williams (113); Oak Glen senior Peyton Hall (152); Parkersburg South seniors Brayden Roberts (152) and Braxton Amos (220) are the returning champions.

Williams will be seeking his third straight after winning at 106 and 113. Hall, a three-time W.Va. state kingpin, will also be looking for his third championship, winning in 2017 and last year, while finishing second in 2018.

McComas is a two-time champion as a freshman and sophomore. He lost in last year's finals.

Roberts and Amos are both two-time defending titlists.

Amos, ranked No. 1 nationally at his weight class by most publications, didn't compete as a freshman.

Doyle made the announcement Monday night that the 152-pound title bout will be the featured match of the night.

It will be held last, meaning the championship finals will begin at 160 and continue through.

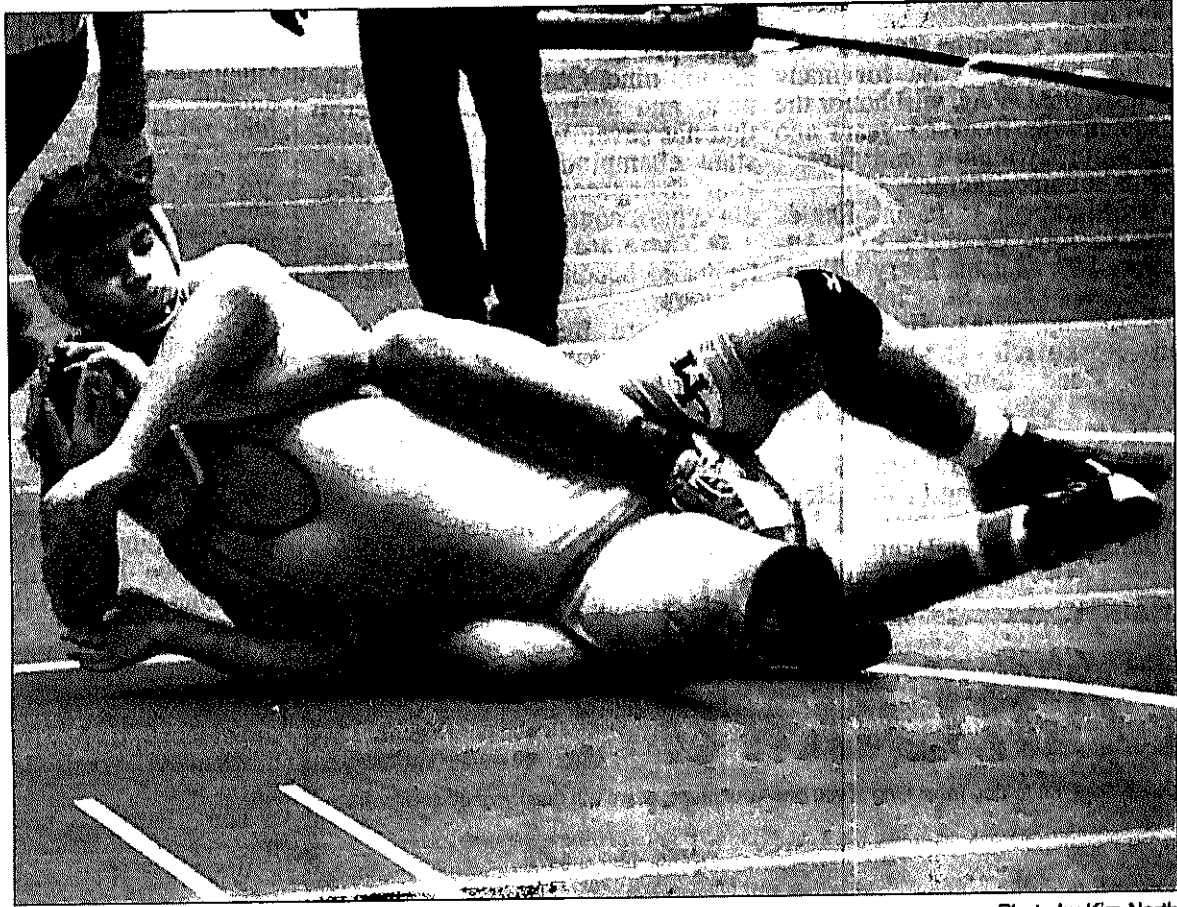
MAT NOTES

■ There are 18 preliminary-round bouts scheduled tonight.

■ The Wheeling Park choir will perform tonight's national anthem. Friday's first session will have Bridgeport wrestler, Skylar Hatten, singing, while Friday night's session is still open.

■ The annual OVAC vs. MAC "Clash of Champions" will tentatively be held at Wheeling Park High School on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. The pre-event banquet will once again be held at Undo's in Weirton the night before the event.

Usual Suspects Leading at OVACs



Wheeling Park's Charlie Tamburin, back, grapples with John Marshall's Mathieu Wright during Thursday's OVAC wrestling action.

Beaver Local's Salsberry withdraws in 113 weight class

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The usual suspects are atop the leaderboard after the opening night of the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament inside WesBanco Arena.

Multiple-time champion Parkersburg South leads the pack with 50 points after winning 13 of 14 matches. Defending overall and Class 4A titlist Beaver Local and cross-river rival Oak Glen are deadlocked for second at 42. University had a half-point edge on Wheeling Park for fourth, 39-38.5, while St. Clairsville and Steubenville have 35.5 each.

The tournament got interesting even before the first match was held when defending overall and Class 4A champion Beaver Local lost one of its top seeds and defending champions when 113-pound Jaymin Salsberry withdrew prior to the event. Tournament organizers said it could possibly cost the Beavers between 20-30 points depending on how far the sophomore would've advanced.

"I hate to see that, honestly. I would like to see the best kids wrestle, especially when he was the top seed and defending champion," Barnesville coach Jayson Stephen said of the 113-pound weight class shakeup that saw

his son, Griffen, go from the No. 3 seed to No. 2. "We don't shy away from competition. We want it, but that stuff happens and we'll work past it and keep going."

Parkersburg South coach Shaun Smith said it's a break his team needs to take advantage of. "Obviously that's a big deal. Hopefully, our guys can capitalize on it," Smith said.

Beaver Local coach Jonny McComas, in his first season, hopes his team can rebound and stay focused.

"I think it will make our kids more determined. I think they will wrestle harder," he said.

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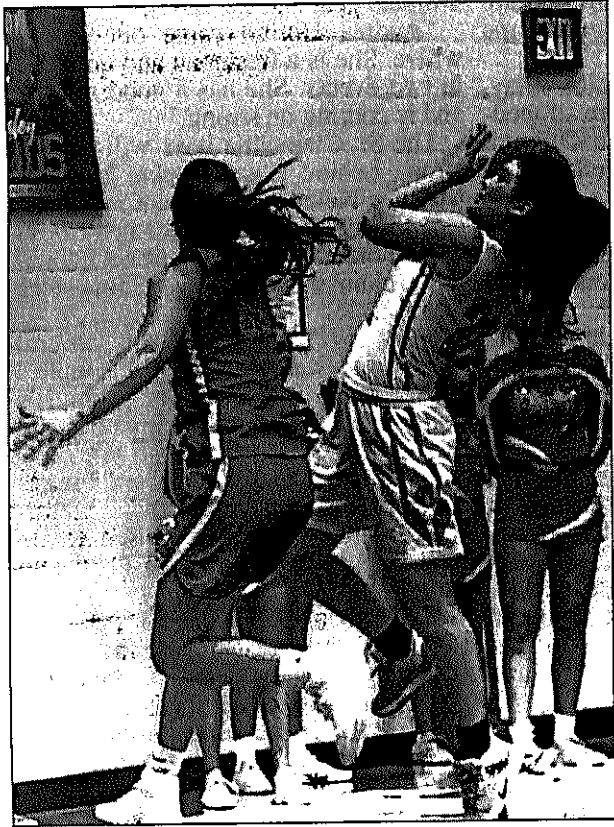


Photo by Josh Strobe
Wheeling Park's Kieran Johnson (21) goes up for a shot against the defense of Morgantown's Catherine Wassick (13) during Thursday's game at the Palace on the Hill. The Patriots won, 47-39.

Park Girls Hold Off Morgantown

Woods goes for 26 points

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor
WHEELING

Wheeling Park is nearing the end of a long stretch — five games in eight days. And after tasting defeat Monday for the first time this season, the Patriots have bounced back nicely.

A 17-0 run to close out the first quarter proved to be just the cushion Wheeling Park needed in holding off Morgantown, 47-39, on Thursday in a battle between regional foes at the Palace on the Hill.

"Monday was a great game for us experience-wise with a great

atmosphere at Indian Creek," Wheeling Park coach Ryan Young said. "To come back the last two games and get back on track, that has been good for us. We still have a lot to clean up and we understand. It is not going to be perfect this time of year, but it should be progressing."

"Some areas we are getting better and some areas we just have to work on."

Morgantown (4-7) scored the first five points, but it was all Wheeling Park (12-1) the rest of the first quarter.

After two Bella Abernathy free throws and a 3-pointer by Asia Roby

Please see PARK
Page 8

Bruins Bring Down Pens, 4-1

BOSTON — Patrice Bergeron scored his 20th goal, Karson Kuhlman and David Pastrnak both had two assists, and the Bruins topped the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 on Thursday night.

Sean Kuraly and Par Lindholm also scored for the Bruins and Brad Marchand added an empty-net goal in the final minute.

Sidney Crosby scored for the Penguins just 24 seconds into the game, but Jaroslav Halak shut out Pittsburgh the rest of the way. Halak made 29 saves as Boston improved to 2-0 against the Penguins and ended Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak. Crosby was playing for the second time since returning Tuesday after missing 28

games following abdominal surgery.

**CAPITALS 5
DEVILS 2**
WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin took a stick to the face and put three pucks in the net for a hat trick to lead the Washington Capitals past the New Jersey Devils 5-2 on Thursday night.

Ovechkin reached 31 goals this season with his 25th career hat trick. He has scored five in his past two games to reach 689 total, one back of Mario Lemieux for 10th on the NHL's all-time list as he approaches 700. Mike Gartner is the only other player to reach the 30-goal mark in each of his first 15 seasons.

Carl Hagelin and Jakub

Please see PENS
Page 9



Photo by Kim North
John Marshall's Carl Cochran, front, tangles with Indian Creek's Tyler Sipes at Thursday's OVAC wrestling tournament.

Cochran Defying All Odds

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Carl Cochran is defying all the odds. Or is he? The John Marshall flyweight was seriously injured in a late April mountain bike accident, a wreck that nearly took the youngster's life way too soon.

However, believing in something the sport has taught him, the 113-pounder returned to practice with his teammates in August. Thus far, he hasn't missed a beat.

"The mental toughness that wrestling has given me," he was quick to point out as his focus during the recovery period, which took nearly four months. "It feels

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COCHRAN

(Continued from Page 7)

great. Glad to be back here for sure," Cochran said after pinning Indian Creek's Tyler Sipes in 1:14.

Cochran was an OVAC Tournament runnerup last winter when he lost to Beaver Local's Jaymin Salsberry at 106 pounds.

Both bumped up a weight this year, but Salsberry couldn't make weight and the bracket had to be re-seeded. Cochran then went from No. 2 to the top line, with Barnesville's Griffen Stephen moving up from No. 3 to No. 2.

"Not really. I'm just going to wrestle and do what I do no matter," Cochran said when asked if that put any more pressure on himself.

First-year John Marshall coach Ryan Asbury, who was a long-time assistant with the Monarchs before being elevated when Ted Zervos retired after last year, raved about Cochran's work ethic.

"Carl has done incredible this year," Asbury said.

"He got cleared to come back and work out with us in August.

"Ever since the day he was allowed to join us he's been 100 percent in with the weight room and in practice where he is one of the hardest working guys in the room.

"It's no accident that he's back to the level he's at now."

When asked if he was surprised of Cochran's success, Asbury didn't hesitate in answering.

"No, it doesn't surprise me at all. He's such a hard-working kid. If there was any chance of him coming back, it was going to happen."

Cochran (25-2) will meet Brooke's eighth-seeded Danny Yost in today's quarterfinals.

25-Year Champs Return

As has been the case for many years now, the OVAC will honor the past champions from 25 years ago during Saturday night's festivities.

Those honorees include:

East Liverpool's Jason Eckles (103); St. John Central's Eric Anderson (112); Martins Ferry's Lamont Tucker (119); St. Clairsville's Justin Ewing (125); Bridgeport's Brian Roskovich (130); Beaver Local's Chad Bowersock (135); Bridgeport's Cory Ellsworth (140); Martins Ferry's Jim Riser (145); Steubenville's Michael Hill (152); Cambridge's T.J. King (160); Steubenville's Aaron Newman (171); St. Clairsville's Cary Heath (189)

and Steubenville Catholic's Chinadu Achebe (HWT).

According to coordinator Steve Kish, only Anderson will not be on hand.

Coaching Awards Handed Out

The OVAC Jr. High Coach of the Year was awarded to Brian Spahlinger of Southern Local, while the Assistant Coach of the Year went to Dave Colley of University.

The Class 1A/2A Coach of the Year was David Nelson of Bridgeport.

The 3A Coach of the Year Jayson Stephen of Barnesville.

The 4A Coach of the Year was Jordan Williams of Beaver Local; and the 5A Coach of the Year was Shaun Smith Parkersburg South.

Moment of Silence

The OVAC wrestling family lost three staunch supporters since last year.

They were Mary Lou Mauck, Ronnie DiLorenzo and Ken Robison.

By The Numbers

■ Of the 441 wrestlers who stepped on the mat Thursday night, 76 of them had placed in the top 8 at least once during the past three years.

■ Ten individuals are nationally ranked, including Oak Glen's Peyton Hall and Brayden Roberts of Parkersburg South who are both in the top 10 at 152 pounds.

Should that finals match materialize, it will be the marquee matchup Saturday afternoon.

That means the championship finals would start at 160 pounds and continue through to 152.

■ There are six West Virginia state champions among this year's field of wrestlers; 21 Mountain State placers; one Ohio state runnerup; nine Ohio state placewinners; and a strong freshman crop that has seven West Virginia junior state champions; a pair of OAC state champions; and 10 OVC middle school conference titlists.

■ There are six seniors who are trying to become four-time placers.

They are Beaver Local's Cole McComas, Skyler Lasure and Daniel Wirth; along with Steubenville's David Tuttle; Hall and Roberts.

■ Dover, New Philadelphia and Warren Local are competing in their first OVAC tournament.

Hundred made its return after a long absence.

Shell Gets Call to the Hall

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Donnie Shell knows what a Hall of Famer looks like.

It helps when you spend your career calling them teammates, as the hard-hitting safety did during 14 seasons dealing out punishment in the Pittsburgh Steelers secondary.

So Shell never panicked as the years passed and the call that he'd been invited to join Joe Greene, Mel Blount and the other members of the Steelers' dynasty of the 1970s already enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame never came. Shell knew one day he would get fitted for a gold jacket and pose for the bust that will stand alongside all of the rest of the all-time greats.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 7)

both the boys and girls events and are in the conversation again to bring home titles.

The St. C. girls 200 medley relay, 200 relay, 400 relay teams are all seeded first, along with Casadie DiBetta, who is the No. 1 seed in the butterfly and the breaststroke.

"I really do believe that if our girls stay true to what they can do, they can be successful," St. C. swim coach Ernie Banks said.

"We have good momentum running into this (after winning the Buckeye 8 Championship).

"But we are in the middle of high-yardage training right now because we can't just focus on OVAC. We can't slow down our training for this meet because we have bigger objectives in mind."

Maggie Marody, DiBetta, Kylie McKeegan and Brenna Planey should each make their presence felt for the Red Devils, while Lyndsee Probst and Andrea Horton will also make a positive impact on the team.

"Maggie Marody, Casadie DiBetta, Kylie McKeegan and Brenna Planey each played a role in all 12 event wins to help lift us to a Buckeye 8 title and all of our kids are really great kids.

"Lyndsee Probst qualified for the first time in the 200 IM. That was her

"I had confidence and faith that they would make the right decision," Shell said.

"I think all the numbers were there. Got to keep praying and trusting and I never lost my confidence."

Shell never has. It's that confidence that helped him make the team as an undrafted rookie in 1974 out of South Carolina State, a self-assuredness that never wavered through four Super Bowl wins, five Pro Bowl selections, 51 interceptions and three decades of waiting. The wait finally ended this week when Shell became part of an expanded Hall of Fame class named in conjunction with the NFL's 100th anniversary.

Shell is the 10th player from the "Super Steelers" that won four championships in six seasons between 1974 and 1979 to make his way to Canton, Ohio, an honor many of those who earned the nod long ago felt was far overdue.

Greene, Blount, Franco Harris, John Stallworth and Tony Dungy were among Shell's outspoken advocates. They watched him morph from raw prospect to one of the league's most feared defenders.

"It's like we were on the field together again," the 67-year-old said. "It was like them saying, 'Hey, I've got your back.'"

Maybe because for many years, Shell had theirs.

ultimate goal and she did it.

"Andrea Horton came out of nowhere. She is a freshman and qualified in two events. She has a good attitude and is coming on strong."

The St. Clairsville boys will also be strong behind Ethan Banks, Matthew Marling, Nathan Yost, Jack Casper and Caleb McKeegan but the Linsly boys will be breathing down their neck looking to claim their first OVAC title since 2017.

"We are seeded well in several events and we are thin in a couple," Linsly coach Bill Brubaker said. "It's going to be close between my boys and the St. C. boys.

"William Yuan (butterfly and breaststroke), Luke Zwicker (100 and breaststroke) are seeded and poised to do well, as is Bernie Suchoza (100 and 200)."

Brubaker also believes Josh Schultz (200 IM and breaststroke), Jack Weir (butterfly) and Frederico Colloca-Bianchi (backstroke) will be key contributors for the Cadets on Saturday.

Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger will also be a threat as he continues his outstanding swim career as the top seed in the breaststroke and the 100, while John Marshall's Victoria Kidney is the No. 1 seed in the girls' backstroke event.

PARK

(Continued from Page 7)

tied it, Wheeling Park took its first lead off a Shanley Woods free throw at 6-5.

The Patriots never trailed again.

Wheeling Park ended the first quarter on a 17-0 run, limiting Morgantown to 2 of 10 shooting and forcing six turnovers.

"Defensively we did a little bit better job than we have the last couple games," Young said.

"Zariah Marling came off the bench and was very active. She got some steals early and kind of jumpstarted things for us defensively. Then Shanley kind of carried the load offensively.

"Some kids who have been scoring for us didn't (Thursday) and that is going to happen. That is why we preach that defensively, you can control that end of the floor a lot more. If we can limit teams like we did (Thursday), you are

going to give your team a chance to win even if it is not your best shooting or scoring night."

Despite the 12-point deficit after one quarter, a young Morgantown team didn't go away.

The Mohigans won Quarters 2 and 4, and tied the third quarter, 14-14.

But the first-quarter hole was almost too much to dig out of against a team such as the top-ranked Patriots.

"I am proud of our kids and proud of our effort," Morgantown coach Jason White said. "We could have given in, but we didn't. We did a nice job opening the third quarter and closed the gap. I told the kids I thought we went on a minute, minute and a half freak out there after we closed the gap where we had some turnovers and gave up some layups on the other end.

"We can't do that and expect to stay in the game. I thought our de-

fense got better as the game went on. Our help side defense got better. But you also can't give up 26 (points) to Woods.

We know how good of a shooter she is. We had a good game plan at home and we tried to stick to that game plan, but she made us pay (Thursday)."

And the Patriots needed Woods to step up and the senior did impressively.

With the rest of the team struggling, Woods took it upon herself to provide the offense. She took half of the Patriots' shots (22 of 44), including draining four 3-pointers. She missed her first foul shot, but connected on her final six.

She was the only Patriot in double figures.

Her final two free throws came with 27 seconds left, sealing a victory after Morgantown had closed it to five points at 44-39 thanks to six straight points from 6-foot-3 standout Kaitlyn Ammons.

The Patriots held Am-

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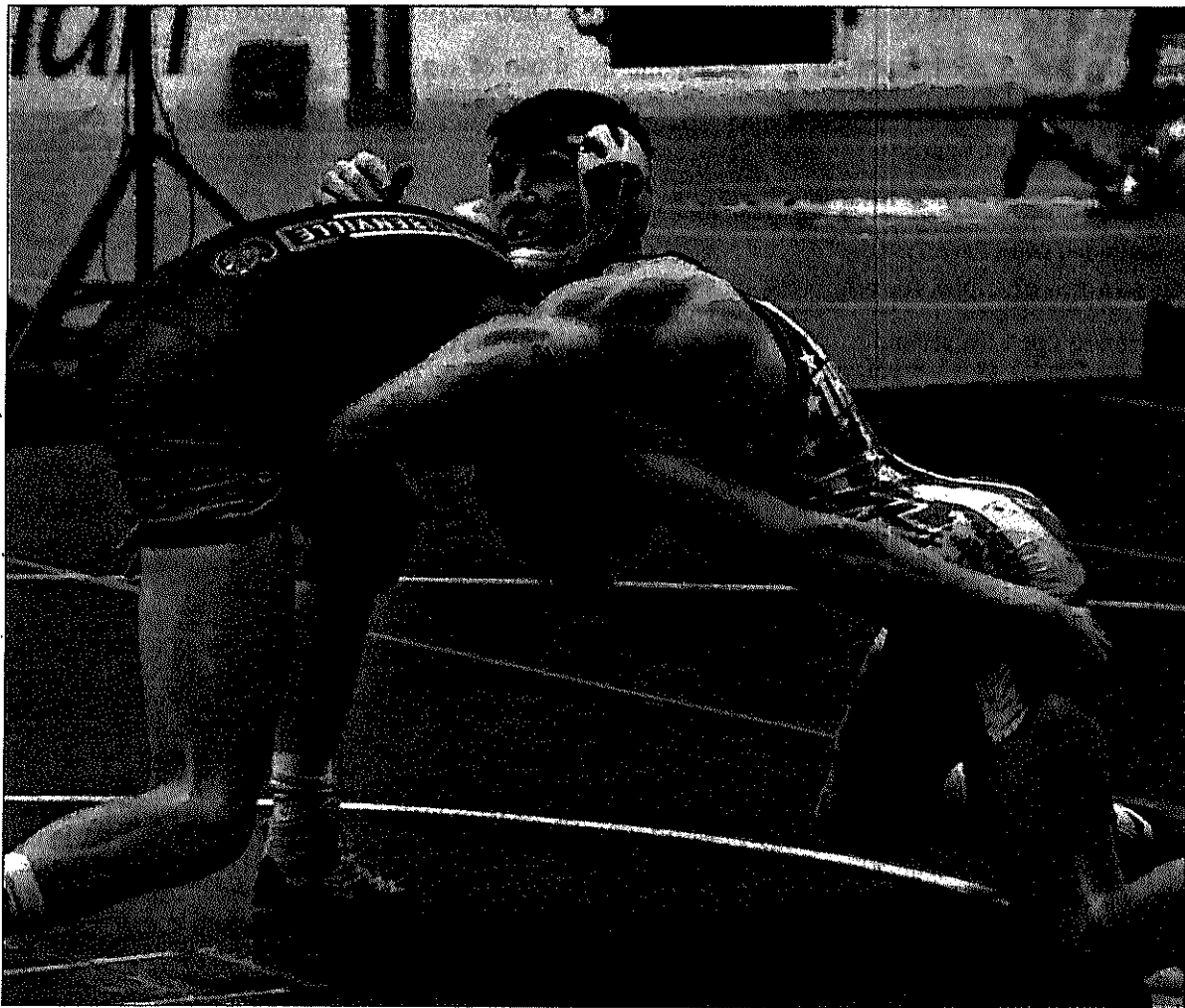
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WADIAS

South, Park In Tight Race After Day 2



Wheeling Park's Andrew Shelek, right, grapples with Steubenville's Tyler Muldrew during Friday's OVAC wrestling action.

Photo by Kim North

Wood County Patriots hold top spot at OVACs

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — It was an unofficial Patriots Day Friday inside WesBanco Arena as both Parkersburg South and Wheeling Park have made the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament a two-team race. The Wood County Patriots hold a slim, 157-151, edge over the Ohio County Patriots.

If that wasn't close enough, both talent-laden squads will have eight entrants in today's semifinals, which begin at 11 a.m. They go head-to-head twice at 120 and 220.

"I told the kids when we were warming up that this was a big

round. This was definitely a make-or-break round," Parkersburg South coach Shaun Smith said. "They really stepped up in the championship bracket. I'm proud of them right now. They just can't let up."

South's semifinalists include Brady Roberts (106); Nathan Ford (113), Devin Easton (120), Trent Jones (126), Brayden Johnson (132), Gavin Quioco (145) and the nationally ranked duo of Brayden Roberts (152) and Braxton Amos (220), both of whom are seeking their third titles.

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"We wrestled to the top of our

potential. I told the guys that if everyone of them came out and did their job, we'd be in a good place," he said. "I'm happy with the way they wrestled and their performance. Hopefully, we can keep that momentum rolling into the semifinals."

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Please see DAY 2, Page 9

Amos Has Mind-Boggling Resume

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WHEELING — Braxton Amos is a beast on the wrestling mat. Off the mat, not so much.

When asked what makes him so dominant on the mat, he is quick — like most of his matches — and to the point with his reply. "I like to work hard and I love wrestling. If you like working hard and you like wrestling, stuff starts clicking when you're younger and you just build on that."

And he has. FloWrestling ranked the 220-pounder as pound-for-pound the No. 1 wrestler in the nation earlier this year.

Heading into Saturday's semifinal round at the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tour-

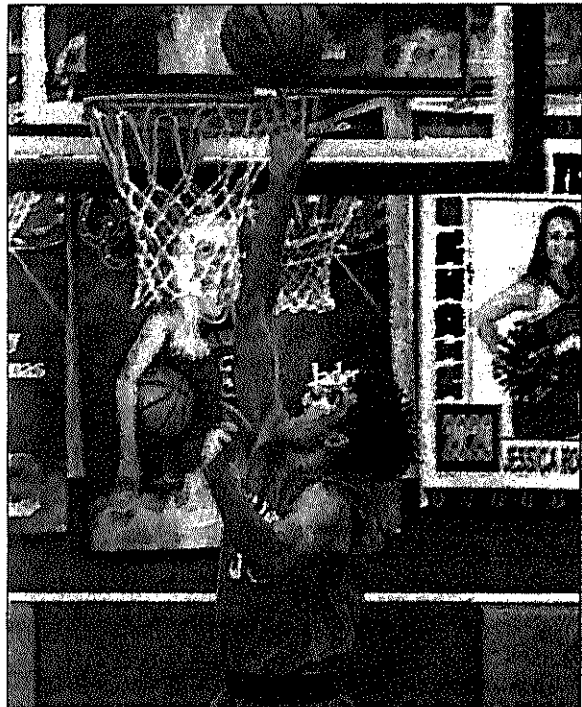
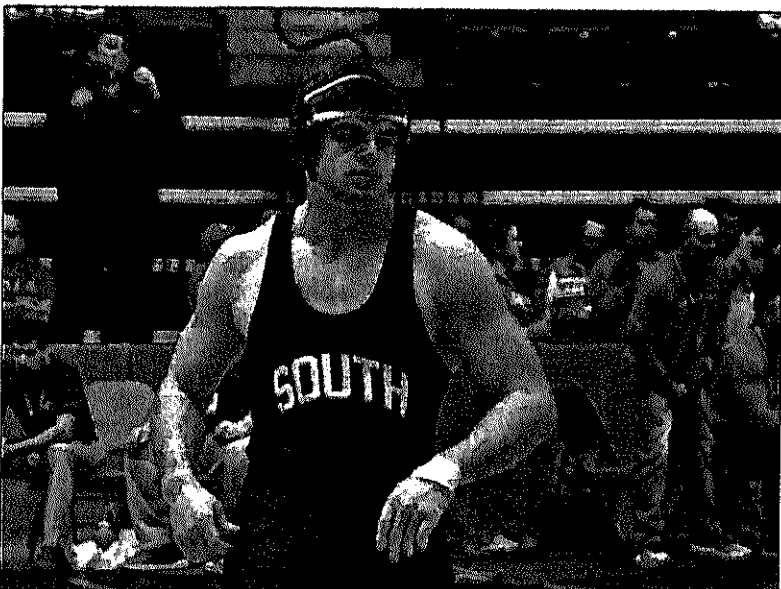


Photo by Kristin Mazgal

Wheeling Park's Travis Zimmerman goes up for a ball during Friday's game against Martins Ferry.

Patriots Down Purple Riders

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — It wasn't perfection, but it was close.

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Coach Michael Jebbia's well-drilled charges dominated in all phases while displaying large doses of athleticism, superb passing and defensive tenacity in winning for the ninth time in 11 starts.

The Patriots' two blemishes this season have come against University (AAA) and Chapmanville (AA), both rated No. 1 in the state in their respective classes.

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Park and Ferry met in last year's Sam Andy Classic at WesBanco Arena with the Patriots prevailing over the Purple, 60-53.

Jebbia could not have asked for a better start from his Patriots. Park scored the game's first 17 points and never looked back.

All five starters scored to fuel the fast getaway. Senior all-stater Alex Vargo led the way with six points.

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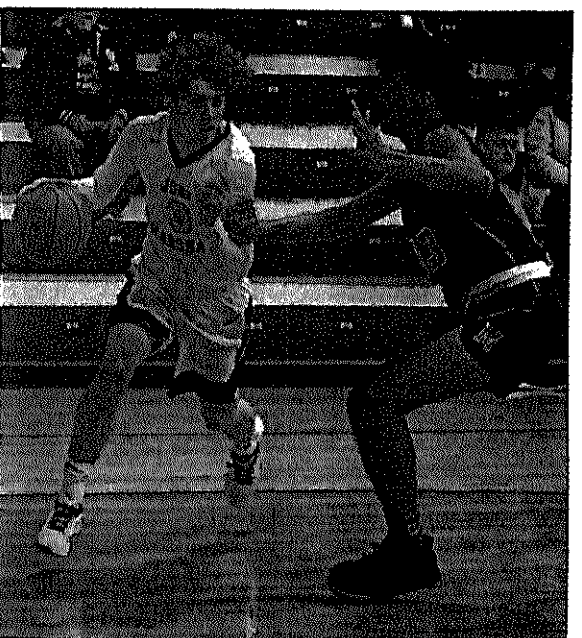


Photo by Kyle Lutz

John Marshall's Wiley Pratt (3) tries to get around Morgantown's Max Washington during Friday's game at the John Marshall Fieldhouse.

Morgantown Crushes JM

DAY 2

(Continued from Page 7)

Six minutes wasn't enough to settle things, so Shelek scored a takedown in sudden-victory to win, 3-1.

"That's the exact same way their match played out in our dual," Leggett said of Shelek's nod over Muldrew. "Andrew was just tougher there and gritted it out."

Leggett said he was pleased with how junior Stevie Mitchell (145) and freshman Erick Brothers, jr. (182) have been wrestling.

"He's staying on his offense and everything is clicking right now for him," Leggett said of Mitchell. "Erick is just peaking at the right time and doing all the right things."

Mitchell, the No. 5 seed, upended Beaver Local's No. 4 Devon Salsberry, while the third-seeded Brothers defeated Oak Glen's Kyler O'Connor.

Beaver Local, the defending overall and Class 4A champs, are third overall and tops its division with 133.5. Steubenville (116.5), St. Clairsville (113) and Oak Glen (106) round out the top 6.

The Beavers have six semifinalists, including top seeds Logan Ours (132), Cole McComas (138), Logan Krulik (170) and Daniel Wirth (285), along with Mark Emmerling Jr. (120) and Skyler Lasure (160). Ours is a defending champion, while McComas, a Rider University recruit, is a two-time champion and three-time finalist, as well as being a three-time Ohio Division II state runnerup.

Steubenville has a trio of semifinalists in top seeds Ethan Pappas (160), David Tuttle (182) and Keith Bodnar (195).

All three are returning placers.

St. Clairsville had four individuals still alive for titles.

"We've been working for this. We scheduled a tough schedule to prepare us this," Red Devils coach Joe Sanone said. "We told the kids if they go out and wrestle like they are capable of they can succeed."

The Red Devils quartet is led by top-seeded Koen Kish (120), Caden Stout (138), Reese Skaggs (195) and Derek Witsberger (220).

Martins Ferry coach Chad Ware couldn't be any happier for his senior Richard McFarland (195).

"We've been telling Richie that we know he can do it if he puts his mind to it. He's capable of winning this thing," Ware said after his fourth-seeded senior pinned Southern Local's No. 5 Sam

Lowe to reach the semis.

"He started off a little slow by allowing the takedown, but he came on and finished strong."

The top four seeds in eight weight classes advanced to the semifinals. One had to work overtime, that being John Marshall sophomore Carl Cochran (113) who outlasted Brooke's Danny Yost, 5-0, in sudden-victory.

In the third sudden-victory nod of the night, Shenandoah's second-seeded Easton Hitchens (285) held off Bridgeport's Zachary Kuneff, 3-1.

Barnesville leads Class 3A and has a semifinalist in sophomore Griffen Stephen (113). Shenandoah tops the 1A/3A field.

The Parade of Champions begins at 3:30 p.m. today, with the championship finals set for 4.

JM

(Continued from Page 7)

dropping in a trio of triples for nine points.

An 8-2 run to open the second extended the lead to 27 at 35-8 before a late 9-1 burst sent the visitors to the lockerroom with a commanding 50-15 advantage.

While Tallman had gone deep into his bench as early as the first quarter, Morgantown ripped off the first eight points of the third stanza and eventually enjoyed a 45-point lead at 66-21 with just eight minutes to play.

The biggest margin of the contest came on a Jaheim Felton steal-and-score with 3:04 to play that pushed the count to 83-30.

"We have a great group that works hard in the weight room and is simply just big and strong and we can go pretty deep," Tallman said.

"And we showed once again (Friday) that we have the ability to rebound the ball, even with our starters out of the game."

I have the utmost respect for John Marshall and all the teams in the Ohio Valley, they are all hard-nosed kids and I always love having the opportunity to come up here and play."

Poffenberger led all scorers with 17 points, while adding seven rebounds, while Rudy chipped in 12 and senior Mac McMillen added 11 as the Mohigans had 12 players dent the scoring column.

Junior Max Washington came off the bench to supply a game-high nine

rebounds.

Sophomore Jacob Korngiver paced the Monarchs with nine points off the bench while Izac Babiczuk, who has been fighting the flu all week and did not start last night, contributed eight points.

In all, John Marshall's starters scored only seven points in the contest.

Morgantown controlled the glass to the tune of 45-23 with the Monarchs committing 19 turnovers, 10 more than their guests. The Mohigans also finished with 13 three-point field goals on the night.

"When the other team comes out and shoots the ball as well as they did in the first quarter and they have that much athleticism you can pretty much just thrown the game plan out the window," John Marshall coach Chad Clutter said.

"Kudos to them for coming out and playing like that after how they won at University. In my mind that team has as good a chance of winning a state championship as anybody."

"Izak (Babiczuk) has missed school most of the week but came off the bench to give us eight points and we have a great little sophomore left-handed shooter in Jacob Korngiver who led us."

"We are going to be on the road for a while now, but we will be ready to keep plugging away."

Wings Defeat Nailers, 5-4

KALAMAZOO - The Wheeling Nailers were attempting to have a game of comebacks on Friday night, as they battled the Kalamazoo Wings at Wings Event Center. Wheeling erased three separate deficits, but were unable to overcome two Kalamazoo goals which were sandwiched around the second intermission, as the Wings prevailed 5-4 on their home ice.

The first period was an explosive one offensively, as both teams lit the lamp twice, while posting double digits in shots. Kalamazoo struck first, when Luke Sandler intercepted a pass in the low slot, before roofing a backhand. The Nailers answered 1:17 later. Blake Siebenaler teed up a slap shot from the right point that was tipped home by Justin Almeida. The Wings briefly regained the lead on Ian Edmondson's stuff shot in front of the net, but Wheeling responded in a matter of 1:39, as Cam Brown smacked in a centering feed from Alec Butcher on a play that was started at the blueline by Aaron Titcomb.

The offenses were a bit quiet in the early stages of the middle frame, but that changed in the closing minutes. Justin Kovacs slammed in Kyle Blaney's pass from behind the net to give Kalamazoo its third lead at the 10:31 mark. Wheeling drew even on the man advantage, as Renars Krastenbergs tipped in Brandon Hawkins' wrist shot from the center point. However, with 6.6 seconds left in the stanza, the Wings got a lucky bounce, as Eric Kattelus had his shot blocked by a Nailers defender, as it rolled into the right side of the cage.

The biggest goal of the night came in the opening minute of the third period. Kalamazoo's Matheson Iacopelli blazed down the right side, then cut to the net to deposit a breakaway strike. The Nailers closed the gap to one with Nick Minerva's extra attacker goal in the closing minutes, but were unable to come up with an equalizer, as they fell, 5-4.

The Nailers will wrap up their pre-All-Star Break schedule on tonight, when they visit the Indy Fuel at 6:05.

AMOS

(Continued from Page 7)

quarterfinals, Amos is a spotless 30-0 this season and is a perfect 124-0 in two-plus seasons.

"He's obviously a once in a generation type wrestler. He's not even a kid. He's a man," Parkersburg South coach Shaun Smith said of his prized matman. "There's nothing kid-like about him, except sometimes he's a little goofy. He's something special. He's been an awesome part of our program and will continue to do even greater things."

"It's bittersweet because you don't want to lose a guy like that, but I'm anxious to see what he does at the upper level in college and internationally. "It's been fun, though. For sure."

Amos missed his freshman season following knee surgery, but through a dedicated recovery process, he seemingly never missed a beat.

"It was tough. Real tough," he said of not being able to compete with his teammates. "There were a lot of guys that were talking a lot about what would've happened if I had wrestled. It was tough to deal with, especially when you can't prove it by results. It was rough, but you take what you're given."

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"It's a good tournament for our team to be at. We get pushed by Beaver Local and Steubenville, so it's a good tournament for us all to bond before the (W.Va.) state tournament," Amos said. "It's good for the team."

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- 3-time PowerAde Champion
- 3-time Super 32 High School Champion (Outstanding Wrestler 2019)
- 3-time WSAZ Mid-

- 2-time OVAC Ron Mauck Champion (2018 Hercules Award)
 - 2-time WV AAA State Champion
 - 2-time WV State Champion (Outstanding Wrestler 2019)
 - 2-time Fargo Cadet Freestyle Champion
 - 2-time Fargo Cadet Greco Champion (Outstanding Wrestler 2017)
 - 1-time Super 32 Middle School Champion
 - 1-time Iron Man Champion
 - Fargo Junior Freestyle Champion (unscored on, all first period tech falls)
 - Fargo Junior Greco Finalist (medical)
 - Junior Pan American Games Silver Medal Greco Guatemala
 - Greatest Number of wins in an undefeated season in Parkersburg South History (48)
 - Most consecutive wins in Parkersburg South History (124 and counting)
 - Highest Winning percentage in Parkersburg South History (100%)*
 - Zero offensive points surrendered in both sophomore and junior seasons
 - Robert Dutton Award (First underclassman)
- With a list that impressive, college coaches were ringing his cell phone off the hook before he finally decided on the University of Wisconsin



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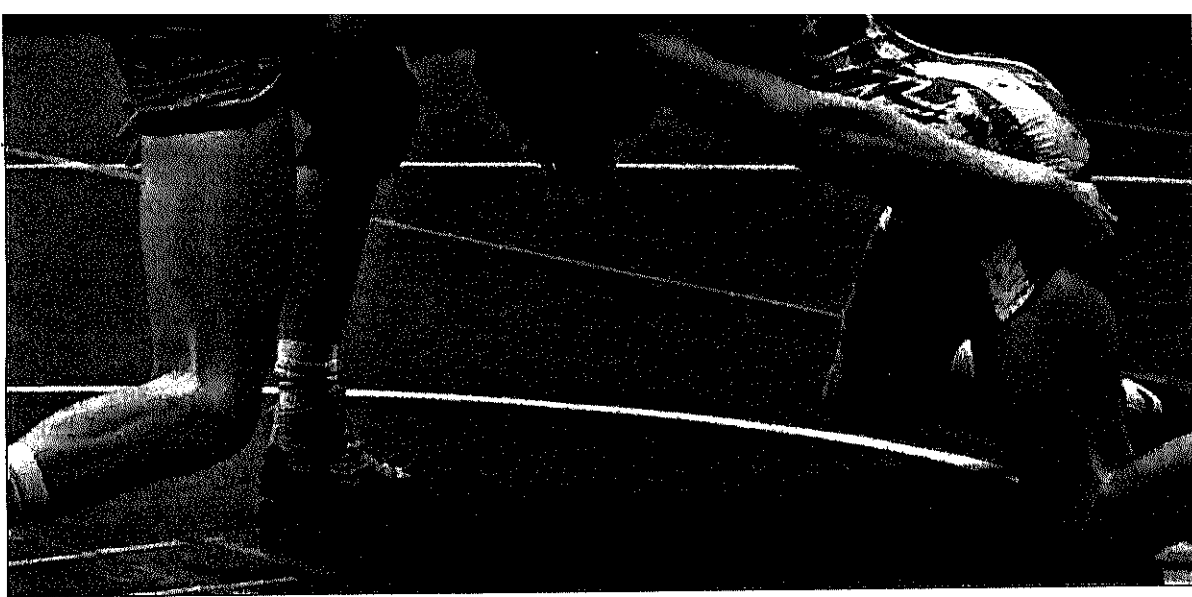


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John Marshall's Wiley Pratt (3) tries to get around Morgantown's Max Washington during Friday's game at the John Marshall Fieldhouse.

Morgantown Crushes JM

By **TRACY WATSON**
For The Intelligencer

MOUNDSVILLE — Coming off a huge revenge victory over arch-rival, and West Virginia Class AAA No. 1 University High, on Wednesday, Morgantown showed that its momentum had not worn out Friday night when it hit the road once again to take on John Marshall.

The Mohigans drained seven three-pointers in the first quarter, including their initial five attempts, in racing to a quick 13-0 lead before putting it into cruise control and rolling to an 85-38 thumping of the Monarchs at the John Marshall Fieldhouse.

Coach Dave Tallman's club, which entered the game ranked No. 3 in the latest big school poll, now sits at 10-1 entering home

games with Martinsburg and Wheeling Park next week.

"Coming off a big win earlier this week I think coming on the road and playing like we did (Friday) validates that we are doing things right," Tallman said. "This is an awesome group of kids to coach and I really like my team and hopefully we can continue the success we have had so far."

That success was on full display last night as 6-foot-7 junior Carson Poffenberger and senior Alex Rudy combined to score the game's first 13 points in the initial 2:32 of the opening quarter.

By the time the dust had cleared the Mohigans had a 27-6 lead at the end of the frame with Poffenberger scoring 12 points and Rudy

Please see **JM**, Page 8

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Heading into Saturday's semifinal round at the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament inside WesBanco Arena, the Parkersburg South senior has compiled a mind-boggling career that had a hiccup during his freshman season. After quickly disposing of Morgantown's eighth-seeded Tylor Yost in Friday night's

Please see **AMOS**, Page 8



Photo by Kim North

Parkersburg South's Braxton Amos is a spotless 30-0 this season and is a perfect 124-0 in two-plus seasons.

Crosby Scores in OT as Pens Beat Red Wings

DETROIT (AP) — Sidney Crosby scored a power-play goal 1:33 into overtime to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins over the Detroit Red Wings 2-1 Friday night.

It was Crosby's third goal in three games since returning from a 28-game absence because of a core muscle injury. Bryan Rust also scored for the Penguins in the third period after Filip Zadina put Detroit ahead in the second.

All three goals came with the man advantage.

Crosby scored by redirecting the puck past goalie Jimmy Howard from in front of the net off a pass from Evgeni Malkin. Pittsburgh was on the power play after De-

troit's Luke Glendening took Jared McCann down away from the play and was called for interference.

Howard made 35 saves but remains winless since Oct. 29.

The Penguins rebounded from a 4-1 loss to Boston on Thursday night. They have not lost back-to-back games since late November.

Zadina opened the scoring with a shot from the right circle that slid along the ice and past goalie Matt Murray, who was screened a bit in front by Detroit forward Givani Smith. Rust evened the score with 16:24 left in the third when he beat Howard with a wrist shot to the glove side.

Howard was pulled after allow-

ing three goals in his team's previous game, an 8-2 loss to the New York Islanders on Tuesday. He was sharper against the Penguins, and Detroit held its own defensively.

DUCKS 2 HURRICANES 1, OT

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Sam Steel scored on a breakaway 1:36 into overtime to lift Anaheim over Carolina.

Erik Gudbranson also had a and Ryan Miller stopped 25 for Anaheim, which enters a day break following consecutive wins.

Please see **PENS**, Page 8

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■ Robert Dutton Award (First underclassman)

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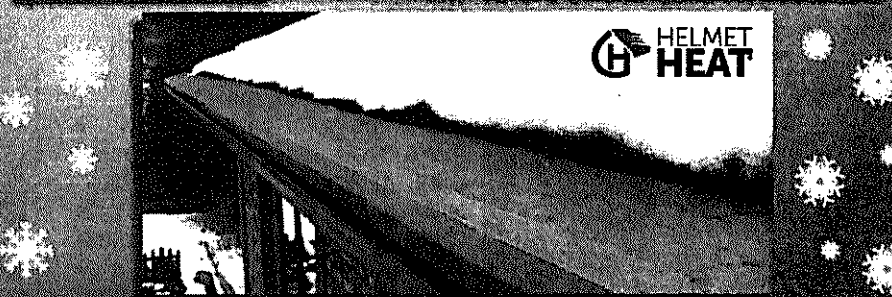
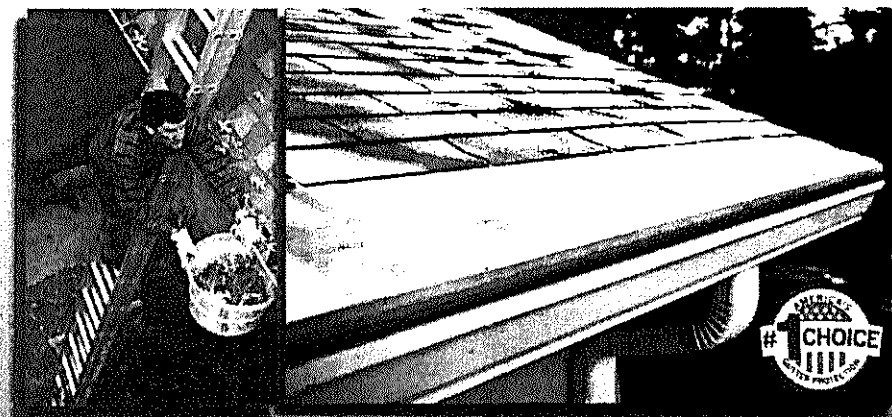
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So what can the Badgers expect?

"My goal, if I can do it, is to be a 4-time NCAA national champion. I want to make the World team and, hopefully, win some international medals some day."

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THE SCORE

Prep Card

Today BOYS BASKETBALL
Brooke at Harrison Central
Cardinal Money at Linsy
East Liverpool at St. Clairsville
Shadydale at Martins Ferry
GIRLS BASKETBALL
River at Bolivar, 11 a.m.
Monroe Central at Bridgeport, 1 p.m.
Linsy at Morgantown, 5:45 p.m.
Shadydale at Martins Ferry
Daymont at Buckeye Trail
WRESTLING
JVAC Tournament at Westbosco Arena, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
SWIMMING
JVAC Swimming at Brooke, 11 a.m.

Local Colleges

Today MEN'S BASKETBALL
Ohio State at Penn State, noon
Frankston at D'Youville, 2 p.m.
Ohio at Eastern Michigan, 2 p.m.
West Virginia at Kansas State, 2 p.m.
Washington & Jefferson at Bethany, 3 p.m.
West Liberty at Frostburg State, 4 p.m.
West Liberty at Frostburg State, 4 p.m.
Wrestling at Farmington State, 4 p.m.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Washington & Jefferson at Bethany, 1 p.m.
Ball State at Ohio, 1 p.m.
West Liberty at Frostburg State, 2 p.m.
Wrestling at Farmington State, 2 p.m.
Frankston at D'Youville, 4 p.m.
West Virginia at Baylor, 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 19
MEN'S BASKETBALL
OU Chikocha at OU Eastern, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
OU Chikocha at OU Eastern, 1 p.m.
Knox at Ohio State, 2 p.m.
WRESTLING
Farmington State at West Liberty, 1 p.m.

Sports on TV

Today AUTO RACING
2:30 p.m.
FS2 - FIA Formula E. Qualifying. Santiago, Chile (reps)
3:30 p.m.
FS2 - FIA Formula E. The Sanjour E-Priz. Santiago, Chile (reps)
3:30 p.m.
NBCSN - Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 3. Anaheim, Calif.
6:30 p.m.
FS1 - F1: Monaco Grand Prix. Monaco
8 p.m.
FOX - PSC Fight Night: Jason Molkas vs. Jason Rosado (Men's Super Wrestling), Philadelphia
10 p.m.
ESPN - Top Rank Main Card: Exotic Alvarez vs. Michael Seak (Men's Light Heavyweight), Verona, N.J.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
ESPN - North Carolina at Wake Forest, 8 p.m.
ESPN2 - Baylor at Oklahoma State, 8 p.m.
ESPN3 - Ohio State at Penn State, 8 p.m.
FOX - Seton Hall at St. John's, 8 p.m.
FS1 - Connecticut at Villanova, 8 p.m.
12:30 p.m.
NBCSN - La Salle at Rhode Island, 1 p.m.
ACCN - Florida State at Miami
SECN - South Carolina at Texas A&M
1:30 p.m.
CBS - Auburn at Florida
2 p.m.
CBSN - St. Bonaventure at Virginia Commonwealth
ESPN - Kansas at Texas
ESPN2 - Purdue at Maryland
ESPN3 - Iowa State at Texas Tech
ESPN - Temple at Southern Methodist
2:30 p.m.
FOX - Colorado at Arizona
NBCSN - Richmond at George Mason
3:30 p.m.
SECN - Missouri at Alabama
2:45 p.m.
CBS - Oregon at Washington
4 p.m.
CBSN - St. Mary's College at Pepperdine
ESPN - Kentucky at Arizona
ESPN2 - Houston at Wichita State
ESPN3 - Iowa State at Texas Tech
PAC-12N - Oregon State at Washington State
4:30 p.m.
FSN - Providence at Creighton
NBCSN - George Washington at Massachusetts
5 p.m.
BTN - Northwestern at Illinois
8 p.m.
CBSN - New Mexico at Nevada (Las Vegas)
ESPN - Louisiana at Duke
ESPN2 - Northern Iowa at Bradley
ESPN3 - South Florida at Central Florida
SECN - Tennessee at Vanderbilt
8:30 p.m.
PAC-12N - Stanford at Southern California
8 p.m.
BTN - Indiana at Nebraska
9 p.m.
ACCN - Virginia at Georgia Tech
CBSN - Nevada (Parr.) at San Diego State
ESPN - Louisiana State at Mississippi
ESPN2 - Temple at Southern Methodist
8:30 p.m.
SECN - Georgia at Mississippi State
9 p.m.
PAC-12N - Utah at Arizona State
10 p.m.
ESPN2 - Brigham Young at Gonzaga
ESPN3 - Utah State at Boise State
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
12 p.m.
CBSN - Duquesne at St. Joseph's
8 p.m.
COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD
11 a.m.
BTN - Big Ten Invitational from Ann Arbor, Mich.
COLLEGE WRESTLING
1:30 p.m.
BTN - Indiana at Northwestern
8 p.m.
BTN - Nebraska at Iowa
9 p.m.
GOLF - EPGA Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Third Round, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
12 p.m.
ESPNNEWS - Latin America Amateur Championship, Third Round, Mazatlan, Mexico
2 p.m.
GOLF - LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Ontario, Pa.
3 p.m.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The American Express, Third Round, Palm Springs, Calif.
4 p.m.
GOLF - LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Ontario, Pa.
7 p.m.
GOLF - Champions Tour: The Mizubuchi Electric Championship, Final Round, Maui, Hawaii
1:30 p.m. (Sunday)
GOLF - Asian Tour: The Singapore Open, Final Round, Singapore
2:30 p.m. (Sunday)
GOLF - EPGA Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Final Round, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)
9 p.m.
CBSN - Tournament of Champions: Teams TBD, Championship, Springfield, Mo.
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
12 a.m. (Sunday)
CBSN - The Polynesian Bowl: Team Maui vs. Team Maui, Hawaii
11 p.m.
MEXED MARTIAL ARTS
8 p.m.
ESPN - UFC 246 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Las Vegas
NBA BASKETBALL

NHL Glance

Table with columns for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Metropolitan, Central, Pacific) and Western Conference (Central, Pacific). Includes team names, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA.

OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling

Table for 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. Lists 67 teams and their scores in various weight classes (115 lbs to 285 lbs).

Prep Basketball Scores

Table listing prep basketball scores for various teams including Colby, Lyndhurst, and others.

Penguins

Table for Pittsburgh 2, Detroit 1. Includes stats for both teams and a list of game notes.

ECHL Glance

Table with columns for Eastern Conference (North, South) and Western Conference (Central, Mountain). Includes team names, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA.

NBA Glance

Table with columns for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Central) and Western Conference (Northwest, Pacific). Includes team names, W, L, Pct, GB.

Prep Boxscores

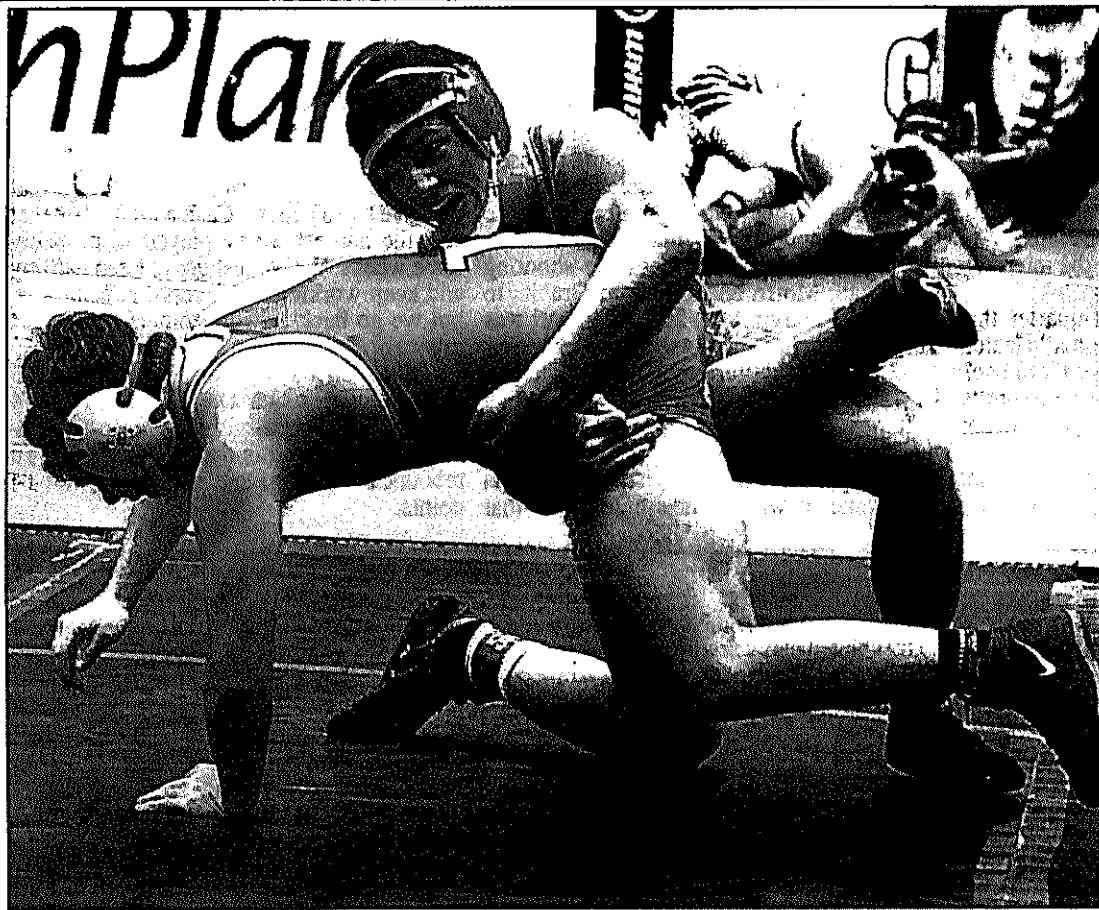
Table listing prep basketball boxscores for various teams.

Cavaliers

Table for Cleveland Cavaliers with columns for W, L, Pct, GB.

SPORTS

Saturday,
January 18, 2020



AT LEFT: Martins Ferry's Richard McFarland takes down Southern Local's Sam Lowe during their 195-pound championship quarterfinal Friday night at the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament inside WesBanco Arena. McFarland won by pin to advance to this morning's semifinals. **BELOW: ST.** Clairsville's Reese Skaggs, rear, has control of Beaver Local's Nicholas Wukotich in the 195-pound quarterfinal Friday night. The Red Devil advanced with a pin.

TL Photo/KIM NORTH

Shadyside steamrolls Seminoles

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE – A couple of weeks ago, Shadyside got all it wanted and then some when it visited Monroe Central before pulling out a 70-67 victory.

There was no drama or suspense involved with the second meeting, which came Friday night inside a toasty Tiger Den.

Shadyside flexed its muscle early and often en route to claiming a decisive 67-41 victory against the Seminoles.

Want More?

Additional photos of the game can be found at timesleaderonline.com

"We kept playing and our defense was a lot better (Friday) than it

was the first time we played," Shadyside head coach Ed Andes said about the differences in the first and second meetings. "Plus, Monroe Central missed a lot of shots that it made when we played before."

On top of the missed shots, the Seminoles – quite simply – gave away a lot of possessions with the upwards of 20 turnovers. Many of those giveaways led to transition chances, which Shadyside converted.

"We had some energy, were out in the passing lane and got a lot more steals," Andes said.

On the other side, meanwhile, Monroe Central head coach Jon Perkins was nearly at a loss for words.

"When you don't take care of the ball, shoot poorly and don't guard very well, it's a recipe for disaster," Perkins said. "We weren't ready to play and we have to find a way to get our guys ready to win. We've laid four eggs on the road, including three decisively. When you lose to a team by three the first time, it shouldn't be

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S BRYCE Amos goes up for a shot during the first quarter of Friday's game against Monroe Central.

South leading 67th OVAC Tourney

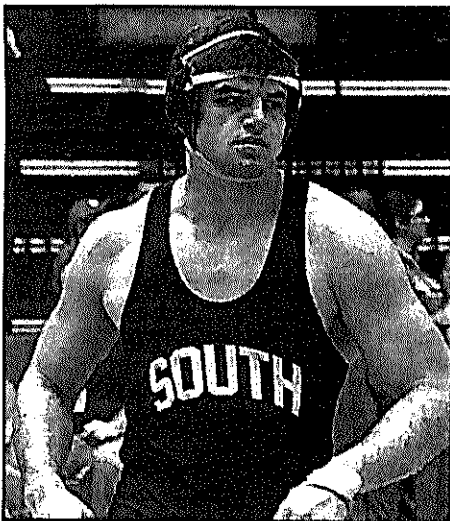
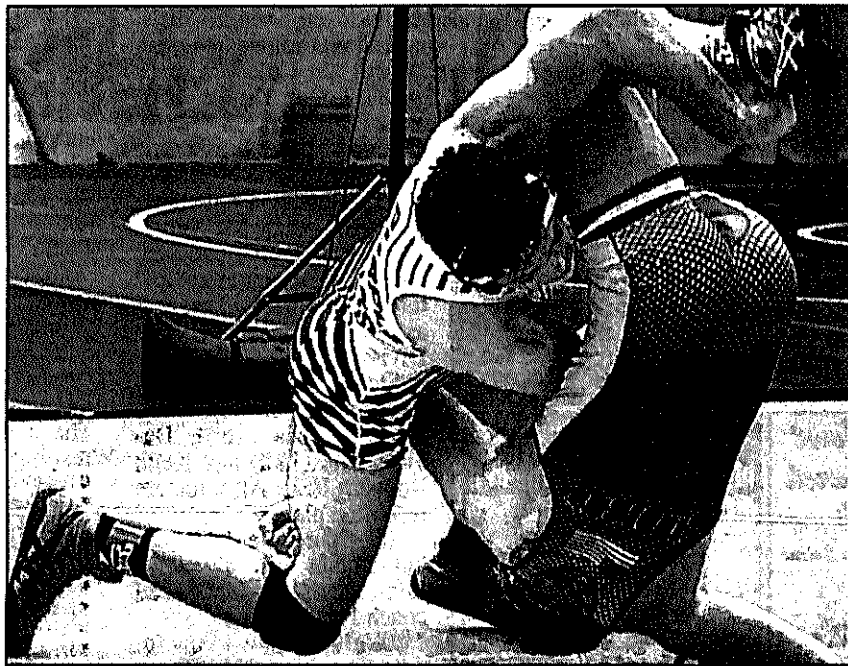
By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING – It was an unofficial Patriots Day Friday inside WesBanco Arena as both Parkersburg South and Wheeling Park have made the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament a two-team race. The Wood County Patriots hold a slim, 157-151, edge over the Ohio County Patriots.



If that wasn't close enough, both talent-laden squads will have eight entrants in today's semifinals, which begin at 11 a.m. They go head-to-head twice at 120 and 220.

"I told the kids when we were warming up that this was a big round. This was definitely a make-or-break round," Parkersburg South head coach Shaun Smith said. "They really stepped up in the championship bracket. I'm proud of



TL Photo/KIM NORTH

Parkersburg South's Amos a man among boys at 220

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING – Braxton Amos is a beast on the wrestling mat. Off the mat, not so much.

When asked what makes him so dominant on the mat, he is quick – like most of his matches – and to the point with his reply. "I like to work hard and I love wrestling. If you like working hard and you like wrestling, stuff starts clicking when you're younger and you just build on that."

And he has. FloWrestling ranked the 220-pounder as pound-for-pound the No. 1 wrestler in the nation earlier this year.

Heading into Saturday's semifinal round at the 67th annual OVAC Ron

Mauck wrestling tournament inside WesBanco Arena, the Parkersburg South senior has compiled a mind-boggling career that had a hiccup during his freshman season. After quickly disposing of Morgantown's eighth-seeded Tyler Yost in Friday night's quarterfinals, Amos is a spotless 30-0 this season and is a perfect 124-0 in two-plus seasons.

"He's obviously a once in a generation type wrestler. He's not even a kid. He's a man," Parkersburg South head coach Shaun Smith said of his prized matman. "There's nothing kid-like about him, except sometimes he's a little goofy. He's something special. He's been an awesome part of our program and will continue to do even greater things."

See, **AMOS**, Page B2

SOUTH SENIOR Braxton Amos takes the mat for his second-round match Friday afternoon at WesBanco Arena. He posted two pins Friday and is now in the semifinals for the third straight year.

Wheeling Park unloads on Ferry

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING – It wasn't perfection, but it was close.

Wheeling Park clicked on all cylinders Friday night in running

classes.

Martins Ferry, meanwhile, dropped to 8-6 and is on the OVAC 4A tournament playoff bubble. The Purple Riders play host to Shadyside tonight, seeking a repeat win over the Tigers.

well. We had 13 assists. So I am happy with that," a pleased Jebbia said. "Travis (Zimmerman) and Alex (Vargo) did a great job of being defensive presences and Xavier (Morris) scored a career high for the second straight

MARTINS FERRY'S Dasyn Hores looks to drive to the basket.



at Martins Ferry.

Bridgeport, still in search of its first win of the season, fell to 0-13. Coach Don Cash's Bulldogs return home for a pair of games next week, hosting Beallsville on Friday and Frontier on Saturday.

Buckeye opened with a 10-0 lead on a pair of buckets each by Hunter Darrah and

"We came out in the third quarter that was the turning point of the game," Heaton said afterwards. "We sort of let them back in the game and they cut into our lead pretty good. We just need to execute a lot better going down the stretch".

"The group we had in the game toward the end with (Cameron) Best and (Ethan)

extend the margin to 43-25. Bridgeport was not ready to quit and outscored Buckeye by 11-2 to close the third trailing the Panthers by 45-36.

It was in the fourth frame that the Panthers seemed able to counter the Bulldogs efforts by answering the visitors rallies as they came. It was in the final minute that

but we go back to work tomorrow and get ready for Tuesday.

Mayle led the Panther scorers with 15 points while Hunter Darrah tacked on 14 and Taylor closed with 10. Moffo contributed eight points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Gregoric led Bridgeport with 14 points.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1
them right now. They just can't let up."

South's semifinalists include Brady Roberts (106); Nathan Ford (113), Devin Easton (120), Trent Jones (126), Brayden Johnson (132), Gavin Quiocho (145) and the nationally ranked duo of Brayden Roberts (152) and Braxton Amos (220), both of whom are seeking their third titles.

Wheeling Park's Brian Leggett couldn't have been any prouder of the way his team competed.

"We wrestled to the top of our potential. I told the guys that if everyone of them came out and did their job, we'd be in a good place," he said. "I'm happy with the way they wrestled and their performance."

Park's championship contenders are Quinton Velas (106), Cody Taggart (113), Nate Shelek (120), Andrew Shelek (138), Stevie Mitchell (145), Canon Welker (160), Erick Brothers Jr. (182) and Charlie Tamburin (220).

Fourth-seeded Andrew Shelek was involved in a very close match with Steubenville's fifth-seeded Tyler Muldew. Six minutes wasn't enough to settle things, so Shelek scored a takedown in sudden-victory to win, 3-1.

"That's the exact same way their match played out in our dual," Leggett said of Shelek's nod over Muldew. "Andrew was just tougher there and gritted it out."

Leggett said he was pleased with how junior Stevie Mitchell (145) and

freshman Erick Brothers, Jr. (182) have been wrestling.

Mitchell, the No. 5 seed, upended Beaver Local's No. 4 Devon Salsberry, while the third-seeded Brothers defeated Oak Glen's Kyler O'Connor.

Beaver Local, the defending overall and Class 4A champs, are third overall and tops its division with 133.5. Steubenville (116.5), St. Clairsville (113) and Oak Glen (106) round out the top 6. The Beavers have half-a-dozen semifinalists, including top seeds Logan Ours (132), Cole McComas (138), Logan Krulik (170) and Daniel Wirth (285), along with Mark Emmerling Jr. (120) and Skyler Lasure (160). Ours is a defending champion, while McComas, a Rider University recruit, is a two-time champion and three-time finalist, as well as being a three-time Ohio Division II state runnerup.

Steubenville has a trio of semifinalists in top seeds Ethan Pappas (160), David Tuttle (182) and Keith Bodnar (195). All three are returning placers.

St. Clairsville had four individuals still alive for titles, that's the most head coach Joel Sansone.

"We've been working for this. We scheduled a tough schedule to prepare us this," he noted. "We told the kids if they go out and wrestle like they are capable of they can succeed."

The Red Devils quartet is led by top-seeded Koen Kish (120), Caden Stout (138), Reese Skaggs (195) and Derek Witsberger (220).

Chad Ware couldn't be any happier for his senior Richard McFarland (195).

"We've been telling Richie that we know he can do it if he puts his mind to it. He's capable of winning this thing," Martins Ferry head coach Chad Ware said after his fourth-seeded senior pinned Southern Local's No. 5 Sam Lowe to reach the semis. "He started off a little slow by allowing the takedown, but he came on and finished strong."

The top four seeds in eight weight classes advanced to the semifinals. One had to work overtime, that being John Marshall sophomore Carl Cochran (113) who outlasted Brooke's Danny Yost, 5-0, in sudden-victory.

In the third sudden-victory nod of the night, Shenandoah's second-seeded Easton Hitchens (285) held off Bridgeport's Zachary Kuneff, 3-1.

Barnesville leads Class 3A and has a semifinalist in sophomore Griffen Stephen (113). Shenandoah tops the 1A/3A field.

The Parade of Champions begins at 3:30 today, with the championship finals set for 4.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

halftime and stretched the advantage to 46-21 after three frames. Jebbia emptied his bench with 5:17 remaining, holding a 57-24 upperhand.

Morris was simply sensational for the Ohio Countians. The 6-1 guard led all scorers with 21 points while grabbing nine rebounds. Jackson was next with 15 counters while Vargo checked in with 12 points and eight rebounds.

Ferry was playing without the services of talented point guard Cody Olson, sidelined with a shoulder injury. Smith, return-

Vargo to 12 points and Zimmerman to two points, respectively, I would have said we would be in the game in the fourth quarter," Ferry head coach Derek Edwards said. "We knew going into the game we were over-matched in a lot of ways. They are a very talented team.

"We had to hold Vargo down and get Zimmerman in transition. We did a pretty good job of that but the guard play for them was tremendous. Hats off to those guys," he added. "Morris did a great job tonight, Saunders controlled the game and we knew

• Amos

Continued from Page B1

"It's bittersweet because you don't want to lose a guy like that, but I'm anxious to see what he does at the upper level in college and internationally.

"It's been fun, though. For sure." Amos missed his freshman season following knee surgery, but through a dedicated recovery process, he seemingly never missed a beat.

"It was tough. Real tough," he admitted of not being able to compete with his teammates. "There were a lot of guys that were talking a lot about what would've happened if I had wrestled. It was tough to deal with, especially when you can't prove it by results. It was rough, but you take what you're given.

"It made me stronger," he admitted. "Physically stronger, probably not, but I had 60 days to get ready to wrestle at Fargo and try to win another national championship when I came back from the injury. Those 60 days were some of the toughest days of my life. It made mentally tougher, though."

Amos said competing in the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament is good for the Patriots of Wood County.

"It's a good tournament for our team to be at. We get pushed by Beaver Local and Steubenville, so it's a good tournament for us all to bond before the (W.Va.) state tournament," he explained. "It's good for the team."

As far as last year when South had its winning streak snapped by Beaver Local, he's just focused on this year.

"I think we should've won last year. It was just the way the brackets and cards fell and we didn't," he noted. "It's going to be fun. Hopefully, knock on wood, we can pull it off and get back on top where we belong."

His list of accomplishments read like Who's Who of Wrestling:

- 11-time WV Jr State Champ (State Record)
- 3-time PowerAde Champion
- 3-time Super 32 High School Champion (Outstanding Wrestler 2019)
- 3-time WSAZ Middle School Champion
- 3-time Wood County Middle School Champ
- 2x OVAC Ron Mauck Champion (2018 Hercules Award)
- 2x WV AAA State Champion
- 2x WV State Champion (Outstanding Wrestler 2019)
- 2x Fargo Cadet Freestyle Champion
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- Robert Dutton Award (First underclassman)

With a list that impressive, college coaches were ringing his cell phone off the hook before he finally decided on the University of Wisconsin. Did signing take some pressure off?

"Actually, it created a different kind of stress for me. It went from 'oh my God if I lose (this match) I could lose scholarship money or this school might drop their interest in me' to, I think, I put a bigger target on my back because Wisconsin's fourth in the country. They are doing well. In a way, I already am a representative of them, so everything I do, say or how I act reflects partially on them.

"Every minute there is something that I have to be aware of."

So what can the Badgers expect?

"My goal, if I can do it, is to be a 4-time NCAA national champion. I want to make the World team and, hopefully, win some international medals some day."

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

a 30-point game on the other side."

Shadyside (9-4) had the lead at greater than 30 for most of the second half before the Seminoles outscored the Tigers 17-11 in the fourth.

The Tigers led 18-9 after one and upped the margin to 34-18 at half, but the third quarter is where the game was fully blown open. Shadyside outscored Monroe, 22-6, and used a 19-2 run in the middle of the quarter.

Fueling the Orange onslaught was talented senior Kelly Hendershot, who poured in 22 points to lead all scorers. Sophomore Korey Beckett continued his strong season with 12 points, all of which came in the middle two quarters.

"We got contributions from a lot of guys, which is what we're always looking for," Andes said. "We have another game (Saturday) at Martins Ferry, so we played a lot of people to try to rest some people."

Monroe Central (7-6) was led by Garret Cramer, who scored 13.

The Seminoles are back in action Tuesday at Barnesville.

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Good Luck Purple Devils!

Scott's Layup Wins it for Cameron, 53-52

CAMERON - Garrett Scott's layup with 3.5 seconds left gave Cameron a 53-52 victory over Tygarts Valley Friday night during prep boys' basketball action.

Scott finished the game with a double-double as he poured in 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, for the Dragons (6-6). Jessop Broughton led the way for Cameron with 18 points as he sunk five 3-pointers.

Hundred 69

East Richland Christian 38

HUNDRED - Three Hundred players scored in double figures in a victory over East Richland Christian. Logan Norris supplied a double-double for the Hornets (7-3) with 17 points and 13 rebounds while Aaron Stevens bucketed 20 points and dished out seven assists. Cody Soles was also solid with 19 points and five blocks.

Brendyn Bischof netted 12 points for the Lions.

Shadyside 67, Monroe Central 41

SHADYSIDE - Kelly Hendershot supplied 22 points to lead Shadyside to a victory over Monroe Central.

For the Seminoles, Garet Cramer had a team-high 13 points.

East Liverpool 79, Indian Creek 39

WINTERSVILLE - Jacob Wright tallied a team-high nine points, but Indian Creek fell to East Liverpool.

Weir 62, Brooke 51

WEIRTON - Tyler Kelly contributed 10 points as Weir took down Brooke.

For the Bruins, Alex Isinghood finished with 16 points to lead all scorers, and he had a double-double with 11 rebounds.

Steubenville Catholic 67

Madonna 60

STEUBENVILLE - Luca Connor tallied a game-high 28 points while Jack Rook netted 14 as Steubenville Catholic defeated Madonna. Charles Miller had 12 points for the Crusaders.

For the Blue Dons, Matt Amaismeier

secured 17 points.

River 45, Barnesville 44

HANNIBAL - Colton Lawrence hit a 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left as River defeated Barnesville. Lawrence finished the game with 20 points and six shots from behind the arc.

Luke Powell led the Shamrocks with a game-high 32 points.

Buckeye Local 63, Bridgeport 47

BRIDGEPORT - Jake Mayle supplied 15 points as Buckeye Local took down Bridgeport.

Dylan Gregoric tallied 14 points to lead the Bulldogs.

Union Local 56, Harrison Central 50

MORRISTOWN - Zach Bateman, Luke Merritt and Nathan Meyer all netted 14 points as Union Local held off Harrison Central.

For the Huskies, Jonathan Vermillion supplied a game-high 15 points.

St. Clairsville 70, Bellaire 62

BELLAIRE - Nate Harris lead the way with 19 points as St. Clairsville

downed Bellaire.

For the Big Reds, Trenton Wilson secured 25 points.

Caldwell 60, Beallsville 47

CALDWELL - Dakota Phillips had 24 points, but Beallsville fell to Caldwell.

Boggs Roundball Tournament

Magnolia 50, Tyler Consolidated 38

SISTERSVILLE - Jacob Gamble scored 14 points as Magnolia defeated Tyler Consolidated.

For the Silver Knights, Gage Hulman and Mark Rucker each supplied 11 points.

GIRLS

Hundred 49

East Richland Christian 26

HUNDRED - Mahalah Britton turned in a double-double as she totaled 18 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to help Hundred (6-6) secure a victory over East Richland Christian.

Halle Hastings led the way for the Lions with 11 points.

LOCAL CARD

Today PREP

BOYS' BASKETBALL
Parkersburg Catholic at Wheeling Central, 2:30 p.m.
Weir at North Marion
Cardinal Mooney at Linsly
Shadyside at Martins Ferry
Brooke at Harrison Central
East Liverpool at St. Clairsville

Boggs Roundball Tournament (at Tyler Consolidated)
Consolation, 3 p.m.
Championship, 20 minutes after

GIRLS' BASKETBALL
Ripley at John Marshall, 1 p.m.
Monroe Central at Bridgeport, 1 p.m.
River at Bellaire, 1 p.m.
Parkersburg South at Wheeling Park, 1:30 p.m.
Madonna at Caldwell, 1:30 p.m.
Philip Barbour at Oak Glen, 2:30 p.m.
Toronto at Leetonia, 2:30 p.m.
Fort Frye at Steubenville, 3:15 p.m.
Shadyside at Martins Ferry, 3 p.m.
Linsly at Morgantown

Battle in the Hawk's Nest (at Bishop Hartley, Columbus)
Wheeling Central vs. Elyria Catholic, 3:15 p.m.

Boggs Roundball Classic (at Tyler Consolidated)
Consolation game
Valley vs. Tyler Consol, 3 p.m.
Championship,
Magnolia vs. Liberty, 5 p.m.
St. Marys Tournament
Cameron vs. TBA, TBA

SWIMMING
OVAC Championships at Brooke, 11 a.m.

WRESTLING
OVAC Championships at WesBanco Arena, noon

ARCHERY
Cameron at Magnolia

COLLEGE
MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wheeling at Fairmont State, 4 p.m.
Frostburg State at West Liberty, 4 p.m.
Washington & Jefferson at Bethany, 3 p.m.
Kansas State at West Virginia, 2 p.m.
Ohio State at Penn State, noon

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Washington & Jefferson at Bethany, 1 p.m.
Wheeling at Fairmont State, 2 p.m.
Frostburg State at West Liberty, 2 p.m.
West Virginia at Baylor, 8 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Today AUTO RACING
2:30 p.m.
FS2 - FIA Formula E: Qualifying, Santiago, Chile (taped)
3:30 p.m.
FS2 - FIA Formula E: The Santiago E-Prix, Santiago, Chile (taped)

10 p.m.
NBCSN - Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 3, Anaheim, Calif.

6:30 p.m.
FS1 - PBC Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Philadelphia

8 p.m.
FOX - PBC Fight Night: Julian Williams vs. Jaison Rosario (Men's Super Welterweight), Philadelphia

10 p.m.
ESPN - Top Rank Main Card: Eleider Alvarez vs. Michael Seals (Men's Light Heavyweight), Veronaa, N.Y.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
12 p.m.
ESPN - North Carolina at Pittsburgh
ESPN2 - Baylor at Oklahoma State
ESPNU - Ohio State at Penn State

FOX - Seton Hall at St. John's
FS1 - Connecticut at Villanova
12:30 p.m.
NBCSN - La Salle at Rhode Island

1 p.m.
ACCN - Florida State at Miami
SECN - South Carolina at Texas A&M

1:30 p.m.
CBS - Auburn at Florida

2 p.m.
CBSN - St. Bonaventure at Virginia Commonwealth
ESPN - Kansas at Texas
ESPN2 - Purdue at Maryland
ESPNU - West Virginia at Kansas State
FS1 - Marquette at Georgetown

2:30 p.m.
FOX - Colorado at Arizona
NBCSN - Richmond at George Mason

3:30 p.m.
SECN - Missouri at Alabama

3:45 p.m.
CBS - Oregon at Washington

4 p.m.
CBSN - St. Mary's College at Pepperdine
ESPN - Kentucky at Arkansas
ESPN2 - Houston at Wichita State
ESPNU - Iowa State at Texas Tech

PAC-12N - Oregon State at Washington State
4:30 p.m.
FS1 - Providence at Creighton
NBCSN - George Washington at Massachusetts

5 p.m.
BTN - Northwestern at Illinois

6 p.m.
CBSN - New Mexico at Nevada (Las Vegas)
ESPN - Louisville at Duke
ESPN2 - Northern Iowa at Bradley
ESPNU - South Florida at Central Florida
SECN - Tennessee at Vanderbilt

6:30 p.m.
PAC-12N - Stanford at Southern California

7 p.m.
BTN - Indiana at Nebraska

8 p.m.
ACCN - Virginia at Georgia Tech
CBSN - Nevada (Reno) at San Diego State
ESPN2 - Louisiana State at Mississippi
ESPNU - Temple at Southern Methodist

8:30 p.m.
SECN - Georgia at Mississippi State

9 p.m.
PAC-12N - Utah at Arizona

State
10 p.m.
ESPN2 - Brigham Young at Gonzaga
ESPNU - Utah State at Boise State

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
12 p.m.
CBSN - Duquesne at St. Joseph's

8 p.m.
FS1 - West Virginia at Baylor

COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD
11 a.m.
BTN - Big Ten Invitational: From Ann Arbor, Mich.

COLLEGE WRESTLING
2:30 p.m.
BTN - Indiana at Northwestern

9 p.m.
BTN - Nebraska at Iowa

GOLF
3:30 a.m.
GOLF - EPGA Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Third Round, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

12 p.m.
ESPNEWS - Latin America Amateur Championship: Third Round, Mayakoba, Mexico

2 p.m.
GOLF - LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Orlando, Fla.

3 p.m.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The American Express, Third Round, Palm Springs, Calif.

NBC - LPGA Tour: LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Orlando, Fla.

7 p.m.
GOLF - Champions Tour: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Final Round, Ka'upulehu-Kona, Hawaii

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS')
9 p.m.
CBSN - Tournament of Champions: Teams TBD, Championship, Springfield, Mo.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
8 p.m.
ESPN - UFC 246 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Las Vegas

NBA BASKETBALL
3:30 p.m.
ABC - LA Clippers at New Orleans

6 p.m.
NBATV - Milwaukee at Brooklyn

8:30 p.m.
ABC - LA Lakers at Houston

NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
NHLN - Chicago at Toronto

SKIING
5 p.m.
NBC - FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Giant Slalom, Sastriere, Italy (taped)

8 p.m.
NBCSN - FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Downhill, Wengen Switzerland (taped)

9 p.m.
NBCSN - FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Giant Slalom, Sastriere, Italy (taped)

SOCCER (MEN'S)
7:25 a.m.
NBCSN - Premier League: Tottenham at Watford

9:30 a.m.
FS1 - Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund at FC Augsburg
FS2 - Bundesliga: Frankfurt at Hoffenheim

9:55 a.m.
NBCSN - Premier League: Sheffield United at Arsenal

12:20 p.m.
FS2 - Bundesliga: Union Berlin at RB Leipzig

12:30 p.m.
NBC - Chelsea at Newcastle United

5:55 p.m.
FS2 - Liga MX: Morelia at Monterrey

OVAC WRESTLING

67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament (at WesBanco, Wheeling)

TEAM SCORING: 1. Parkersburg South 157; 2. Wheeling Park 151; 3. Beaver Local 133.5; 4. Steubenville 118.5; 5. St. Clairsville 113; 6. Oak Glen 106; 7. University 92; 8. Indian Creek 84.5; 9. Shenandoah 77.5; 10. Barnesville 74; 11. John Marshall 67; 12. Southern Local 64.5; 13. Wellsville 61; 14. Martins Ferry 57.5; 15. East Liverpool 56; 16. (tie) Cambridge, Warren Local 50; 18. Brooke 49; 19. Magnolia 47.5; 20. Morgantown 45; 21. (tie) Linsly, Weir 44; 23. New Philadelphia 41; 24. Toronto 38; 25. Union Local 37.5; 26. Bridgeport 36.5; 27. Harrison Central 34; 28. Buckeye Local 33; 29. (tie) Cameron, Dover 29; 31. Crestview 25; 32. Bellaire 23; 33. (tie) Edison, Meadowbrook 20; 35. Caldwell 19.5; 36. Shadyside 19; 37. River 18; 38. Fort Frye 11; 39. Beallsville 9; 40. Madonna 7.5; 41. Steubenville Catholic 3; 42. (tie) Hundred, Paden City, Wheeling Central 0

Class 5A
1. Parkersburg South 157; 2. Wheeling Park 151; 3. Steubenville 35.5; 4. University 92; 5. Indian Creek 84.5; 6. John Marshall 67; 7. Warren Local 50; 8. Brooke 49; 9. Morgantown 45; 10. Weir 44; 11. New Philadelphia 41; 12. Dover 29

Class 4A
1. Beaver Local 133.5; 2. St. Clairsville 113; 3. Oak Glen 106; 4. Martins Ferry 57.5; 5. East Liverpool 56; 6. Cambridge 50; 7. Harrison Central 34; 8. Buckeye Local 33; 9. (tie) Edison, Meadowbrook 20

Class 3A
1. Barnesville 74; 2. Magnolia 47.5; 3. Linsly 44; 4. Union Local 37.5; 5. Crestview 25; 6. Bellaire 23; 7. River 18; 8. Fort Frye 11

Class 1A/2A
1. Shenandoah 77.5; 2. Southern Local 64.5; 3. Wellsville 61; 4. Bridgeport 36.5; 5. Toronto 38; 6. Cameron 29; 7. Caldwell 19.5; 8. Shadyside 19; 9. Beallsville 9; 10. Madonna 7.5; 11. Steubenville Catholic 3; 12. (tie) Hundred, Paden City, Wheeling Central 0
Smith (OG), M-Dec 12-4

Championship Quarterfinals
Weight: 106
1. Jarret Stillion (MEAD) def 8 Gannon Kazmirski (STC), Dec 8-2
4. Brady Roberts (PS) def 5 Ethan Cook (JM), M-Dec 13-0
3. Alex Overly (SHEN) def 6 Anthony Shevlin (STEUB), Dec 8-4
2. Quinton Velas (WP) def 7 Camden Barr (OG), Dec 8-1

Weight: 113
1. Carl Cochran (JM) def 8 Danny Yost (BRK), Dec 5-0 SV
4. Nathan Ford (PS) def 5 Anthony Hill (STEUB), M-Dec 12-3
3. Cody Taggart (WP) def 6 Braxton Dlugopolski (OG), M-Dec 8-0
2. Griffen Stephen (BARN) def 10 Cole Coleman (WL), Fall 2-47

Weight: 120
1. Nate Shetek (WP) def 8 Jason Beisel (MAG), M-Dec 9-0
4. Devin Easton (PS) def 5 Drake Kanyuch (SHEN), Dec 6-5
3. Ethan Gray (JM) def 6 Josh Denoble (STC), M-Dec 12-1
2. Mark Emmerling Jr. (BVL) def 10 Clayton Lamb (OG), Fall 1-23

Weight: 126
1. Koen Kish (STC) def 9 Logan Tague (MEAD), Fall 1-22
5. Jason Tice (WELL) def 4 John Woodburn (BVL), Dec 10-3
3. Jace Stockett (UNIV) def 6 George Hoover (BARN), Fall 1-01
2. Trent Jones (PS) def 7 Kaden Lundy (OG), Dec 13-7

Weight: 132
1. Logan Ours (BVL) def 8 Ethan Waggoner (STEUB), Fall 1-46
4. Wyatt Conley (WEIR) def 5 Dom Parker (UNIV), Dec 12-7
3. Brayden Johnson (PS) def 6 Gabe Carman (JM), Fall 5-17
2. Howard Williams (EL) def 7 C.J. Spencer (IC), Dec 5-3

Weight: 138
1. Cole McComas (BVL) def 9 Eric Williams (EL), Dec 7-3
4. Andrew Shelek (WP) def 5 Tyler Muldraw (STEUB), Dec 3-1 SV
6. Caden Stout (STC) def 3 Dominic Paterra (IC), Dec 12-7
2. Brian Palmer Jr. (BL) def 7 Collin Wiley (CALD), Dec 6-4

Weight: 145
1. Gavin Quioccho (PS) def 8 Hayden Johnson (ED), Fall 2-25
5. Stevia Mitchell (WP) def 4 Devon Salsbery (BVL), Dec 5-0
3. Dylan Milhoan (SL) def 6 Jonathan Creece (OG), Fall 5-04
2. Peyton Kellar (WL) def 7 Aaron Ferguson (STEUB), Dec 6-0

Weight: 152
1. Peyton Hall (OG) def 9 Cameron Woods (BARN), Fall 1-09
5. Justin Sarge (WELL) def 4 Jona-

than Potts (BVL), Dec 3-1 SV
6. Dakota Hagedorn (UNIV) def 3 Billy Gooch (WP), Dec 1-0
2. Brayden Roberts (PS) def 7 Caden Kenworthy (CAMB), Fall 0-55

Weight: 160
1. Ethan Pappas (STEUB) def 8 Jude Childers (PS), T-Fall 10-3
4. Brady Crum (UL) def 5 Anthony Porter (CAMB), Dec 7-3
3. Canon Welker (WP) def 6 Cody Albaugh (BELL), Dec 9-5
2. Skyler Lasure (BVL) def 7 Owen Oliver (BARN), Fall 3-47

Weight: 170
1. Logan Krulik (BVL) def 9 Casch Somerville (PS), M-Dec 15-2
4. Austin Starr (IC) def 5 Dylan Heinrich (OG), M-Dec 9-0
3. Max Camilletti (BRK) def 6 Brandon Kinney (STEUB), Fall 3-33
2. Ian Bush (CAM) def 7 Hunter Nixon (WP), Dec 6-0

Weight: 182
1. David Tuttle (STEUB) def 9 Alex Solansky (BVL), Fall 5-07
4. Justin Bartlett (CAMB) def 5 Charles Smith (BL), Dec 6-1
3. Erick Brothers Jr. (WP) def 6 Kyler O'Connor (OG), Dec 5-0
2. Hunter Morris (SL) def 7 Mercurio Williams (NP), Fall 2-52

Weight: 195
1. Keith Bodnar (STEUB) def 9 Austin Carpenter (WL), Fall 1-18
4. Richard McFarland (MF) def 5 Sam Lowe (SL), Fall 4-58
3. Eijah Llewellyn (IC) def 6 James Stillwagoner (MAG), M-Dec 10-0
2. Reese Skaggs (STC) def 7 Nicholas Wukotich (BVL), Fall 1-16

Weight: 210
1. Braxton Amos (PS) def 8 Tylor Yost (MORG), Fall 1-05
5. Charlie Tamburin (WP) def 4 Josh Sanders (UNIV), Dec 6-4
3. Derek Witsberger (STC) def 6 Zac Cesario (BL) For
2. Skylor Woolley (EL) def 10 Caden Weekley (WELL), M-Dec 15-2

Weight: 285
1. Daniel Wirth (BVL) def 8 Marshall Bier (RIV), Fall 1-39
5. Chance Knight (LIN) def 4 Donte Lewis (MF), Fall 3-15
6. Mikey Hamrick (MAG) def 3 Bradley Clark (JM), Fall 2-54
2. Easton Hitchens (SHEN) def 7 Zachary Kunef (BPT), Dec 3-1 SV

AREA NOTES

Moundsville Girls' Softball Signups
The Moundsville girls' softball association will be holding its annual signups in Room 103 at the Sanford Center. The signups will be Friday, Jan. 24 from 6-8 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Also, Friday, Jan. 31 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$35 per girl, but no more than \$60 a family. For questions, please call Shawn Rine at 304-312-1195.

Softball Umpire Training Class Stated
A training class to become registered as a high school softball umpire in both Ohio and West Virginia will begin on Sunday, Feb. 2 and run seven consecutive weeks. The classes on Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1 and 22 will run from noon until 1:30 p.m., while the class on March 15 will go from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at Wheeling University. For more information, please contact Tom Bechtel at 304-639-6236 or via email at recbear@comcast.net, or Bob Gabel at 304-281-5656 or via email at bobref@gmail.com

PENS

(Continued from Page 7)

Sebastian Aho scored and James Reimer made 35 saves for Carolina, which played its first game without Dougie Hamilton after the All-Star defenseman broke his right leg Thursday at Columbus.

LIGHTNING 7, JETS 1
WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) - Anthony Cirelli got his first career hat trick, Nikita Kucherov scored twice and Tampa Bay routed Winnipeg.

Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy made 30 saves for his 10th straight victory, matching the longest winning streak of his career. He had 10 consecutive wins from Feb. 9 to March 5, 2019.

Carter Verhaeghe and Alex Killorn also scored for Tampa Bay, which was coming off a 3-2 loss to Minnesota on Thursday night.

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 7)

Ferry was unable to reach the scoring column until 10 seconds remained in the opening quarter. Junior ace Logan Smith ended the Purple scoring drought with two free throws.

"We moved the ball really well. We had 13 assists. So I am happy with that," a pleased Jebbia said.

"Travis (Zimmerman) and Alex (Vargo) did a great job of being defensive presences and Xavier (Morris) scored a career high for the second straight game. Shaheed (Jackson) really guarded

without the services of talented point guard Cody Olson, sidelined with a shoulder injury. Smith, returning after a several game injury-induced absence, topped the Purple Riders with seven points, a total matched by Ruben Hilson.

"If you told me before the game we held Vargo to 12 points and Zimmerman to two points, respectively, I would have said we would be in the game in the fourth quarter," Ferry coach Derek Edwards said. "We knew going into the game we were overmatched in a lot

PREP GIRLS

Hundred 49
East Richland Christian 26
E - Bruner 1 0-0 2; Halle Hastings 5 0-0 11; Berka 3 0-1 6; Costain 3 0-2 7; Dixon 0 0-2 0. Totals: 12 0-5 26.
H - Tuttle 4 0-4 8; Snedden 4 0-0 8; Britton 8 2-2 18; Duckworth 2 4-5 9; Davis 2 2-3 6. Totals: 20 8-14 49.
3-Point Goals: Hastings, Costain; Duckworth.
East Richland 6 5 4 11 - 26
Hundred 15 17 13 4 - 49

PREP BOYS

Wheeling Park 62, Martins Ferry 27
W - Vargo 5 2-2 12; Zimmerman 10-0 3; Dietrich 0 0-0 0; Burdine 0 0-0 0
Cameron 53, Tygarts Valley 52
T - Bright 4 1-2 11; R. Taylor 1
U - McCort 1 8-10 10; Meyer 5

OVAC SWIM

Girls
Big School
Dover 548, Wheeling Park 310, Morgantown 213, New Philadelphia 175, John Marshall 181, University 119, Parkersburg South 58, Weir 55, Steubenville 38, Brooke 32
Small School
St. Clairsville 370, Linsly 230, Martins Ferry 144, Beaver Local 142, Wheeling Central 29, Steubenville Catholic 21, Edison 20, East Liverpool 15, Barnesville 4, Oak Glen 4
200 Relay: St. Clairsville A (Moyer, DiBetta, McKeegan, Planey), 1:51.37; Wheeling Park A (Langmyer, Bopp, Turner, Ross), 1:55.92; Dover A (Durbini, Connare, Parkowski, Selinsky), 1:58.72. 200 Free: Riggs (MHS), 1:58.85; Marody (St.C.), 1:58.31; Ridenhour (Linsly), 2:01.33. 200 IM: Bopp (WP), 2:15.51; Moore (MHS), 2:21.47; Wallace (Dover), 2:23.21. 500 Free: Turner (WP), 24.55; McKeegan (St.C.), 25.12; Selinsky (Dover), 25.84. 100 Butterfly: DiBetta (St.C.), 59.91; Kidney (JM), 59.40; Moyer (St.C.), 1:00.27. 100 Free: Turner (WP), 53.57; McKeegan (St.C.), 55.62; Selinsky (Dover), 57.43. 500 Free: Riggs (MHS), 5:08.72; Marody (St.C.), 5:09.89; Langmyer (WP), 5:33.89. 200 Free Relay: Morgantown A (Stanescu, Blosser, Moore, Riggs), 1:45.64; Linsly A (Ridenhour, Nagel, Behm, Buff), 1:48.07; St. Clairsville A (Moyer, Thomas, Rocchi, Marody), 1:49.11. 100 Backstroke: Kidney (JM), 58.49; Moyer (St.C.), 1:01.75; Durbini (Dover), 1:02.01. 100 Breaststroke: DiBetta (St.C.), 1:03.87; Bopp (WP), 1:06.12; Rice (UHS), 1:13.29. 400 Free Relay: St. Clairsville A (Planey, McKeegan, Marody, DiBetta), 3:46.16
Boys
Big School
Dover 432, New Philadelphia 281, Brooke 213, Wheeling Park 204, Morgantown 153, Parkersburg South 139, Weir 132, Steubenville 108, John Marshall 89, Indian Creek 34
Small School
Linsly 315, St. Clairsville 259, Martins Ferry 133, East Liverpool 66, Wheeling Central 36, Beaver Local 28, Meadbrook 25, Barnesville 23, Cambridge 20
200 Relay: Dover A (Sexton, McCrate, Lane, Burriss), 1:41.92; Linsly A (Colloca-Bianchi, Zwicker, Yuan, Suchoza), 1:45.33; Wheeling Park A (Kuttan, McCabe, Kellas, Leary), 1:46.74. 200 Free: Lane (Dover), 1:44.00; Hoover (Weir), 1:54.11; Orti Dolz (NPH), 1:55.47. 200 IM: McCrate (Dover), 2:07.79; Kuttan (WP), 2:11.50; McKeegan (St.C.), 2:13.86. 500 Free: Burriss (Dover), 22.49; Colloca-Bianchi (Linsly), 23.11; Marling (St.C.), 23.32. 100 Butterfly: Sexton (Dover), Yost (St.C.), 58.03; Francis (Brk), 59.32. 100 Free: Bollinger (MF), 50.04; Hoover (Weir), 52.05; Zwicker (Linsly), 52.09. 500 Free: Lane (Dover), 4:48.32; Banks (St.C.), 5:12.31; Robay (Brk), 5:16.03. 200 Free Relay: Dover A (McCrate, Burriss, Wilson, Burriss), 1:34.40; Linsly A (Yuan, Zwicker, Suchoza, Colloca-Bianchi), 1:35.81; St. Clairsville A (Banks, Yost, asber, Marling), 1:36.41. 100 Backstroke: Colloca-Bianchi (Linsly), 53.63; Sexton (Dover), 54.04; Yost (St.C.), 58.60. 100 Breaststroke: Bollinger (MF), 1:01.49; McCrate (Dover), 1:03.85; Zwicker (Linsly), 1:05.76. 400 Free Relay: Dover A (Sexton, Burriss, Wilson, Lane), 3:25.46; St. Clairsville A (Banks, Yost, McKeegan, Marling), 3:29.97; New Philadelphia A (Polka, Billman, Orti Dolz, Cox), 3:34.59

SPORTS ON TV

Today
BIATHLON
7 p.m.
NBCSN - IBU World Cup: Men's 12.5km Pursuit, Ruhpolding, Germany (taped)
BOBSLEDDING/SKELETON
10 p.m.
NBCSN - IBF World Cup: Four-Man Bobsled, Innsbruck, Austria (taped)
BOWLING
1 p.m.
FS1 - PBA: Hall of Fame Classic, Arlington, Texas
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
12 p.m.
CBSN - Davidson at Fordham
4 p.m.
ESPN - Loyola Chicago at Illinois State
6 p.m.
ESPN - East Carolina at Cincinnati
ACCN - Boston College at Wake Forest
8 p.m.
ESPN - California at UCLA
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
12 p.m.
ESPN - Duke at Clemson
1 p.m.
ACCN - Miami at Notre Dame
ESPN2 - Louisville at North Carolina
2 p.m.
CBSN - Saint Louis at Dayton
ESPN - Auburn at Georgia
SECN - Kentucky at Louisiana State
3 p.m.
ACCN - Virginia Tech at Virginia
BTN - Minnesota at Illinois
ESPN2 - Central Florida at South Florida
NBCSN - St. Bonaventure at La Salle
PAC-12N Stanford at Oregon State
4 p.m.
CBSN - Fordham at George Mason
SECN - Florida at Texas A&M
5 p.m.
BTN - Michigan at Nebraska
PAC-12N - California at Oregon
6 p.m.
SECN - Arkansas at Vanderbilt
COLLEGE GYMNASIcs (WOMEN'S)
7 p.m.
PAC-12N - Stanford at California
COLLEGE WRESTLING
3 p.m.
BTN - Maryland at Michigan State
5 p.m.
ESPN2 - Rutgers at Penn State
GOLF
3:30 a.m.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Final Round, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
12 p.m.
ESPNEWS - Latin America Amateur Championship: Final Round, Mayakoba, Mexico
GOLF - Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, First Round, Nassau, Bahamas
2 p.m.
GOLF - LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Final Round, Orlando, Fla.
3 p.m.
NBC - LPGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Final Round, Orlando, Fla.
GOLF - PGA Tour: The American Express, Final Round, Palm Springs, Calif.
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)
7:30 p.m.
ESPN - Gelco ESPN Showcase: IMG Academy (Fla.) vs. Montverde (Fla.) Springfield, Mass.
LUGE
6 p.m.
NBCSN - FIL World Cup: Women's Singles, Lillehammer, Norway (taped)
NBAGL BASKETBALL
3 p.m.
NBATV - Capital City at Westchester
NFL FOOTBALL
3:05 p.m.
CBS - AFC Championship: Tennessee at Kansas City
8:40 p.m.
FOX - NFC Championship: Green Bay at San Francisco
NHL HOCKEY
12:30 p.m.
NBC - Boston at Pittsburgh
7 p.m.
NHLN - Winnipeg at Chicago
RODEO
8 p.m.
CBSN - PBR: The Manchester Invitational, Manchester, N.H. (taped)
RUGBY
11 p.m.
NBCSN - Heineken Cup: Saracens vs. Racing 92 (taped)
SKING
5 p.m.
NBC - FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Downhill, Wengen, Switzerland (taped)
8 p.m.
NBCSN - FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Parallel, Sestriere, Italy (taped)
9 p.m.
NBCSN - FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Slalom, Wengen Switzerland (taped)
SOCCER (MEN'S)
6:25 a.m.
ESPN2 - Serie A: Udinese at AC Milan
8:55 a.m.
NBCSN - Premier League: Leicester City at Burnley
9:30 a.m.
FS1 - Bundesliga: Bayern Munich at Hertha Berlin
11:25 a.m.
NBCSN - Premier League: Manchester United at Liverpool
11:50 a.m.
FS2 - Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen at SC Paderborn
7:30 p.m.
FS2 - Liga MX: Leon at Santos Laguna
TENNIS
7 p.m.
ESPN2 - The Australian Open: First Round, Melbourne, Australia
3 a.m. (Monday)
ESPN2 - The Australian Open: First Round, Melbourne, Australia

OVAC WRESTLING

67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament (at WeirBanco, Wheeling)
TEAM SCORING: 1. Parkersburg South 251; 2. Wheeling Park 236; 3. Beaver Local 209; 4. Steubenville 178.5; 5. St. Clairsville 171; 6. Oak Glen 139.5; 7. University 124; 8. Indian Creek 111.5; 9. Shenandoah 103.5; 10. Barnesville 98; 11. John Marshall 83; 12. Southern Local 82.5; 13. Martins Ferry 79.5; 14. Wellsville 75; 15. East Liverpool 74; 16. Warren Local 70; 17. Brooke 63; 18. Magnolia 58.5; 19. Cambridge 58; 20. Linsly 57; 21. Weir 52; 22. Bridgeport 50.5; 23. Morgantown 48; 24. Buckeye Local 45; 25. (tie) Cameron, New Philadelphia 44; 27. Union Local 39.5; 28. Toronto 38; 29. (tie) Harrison Central, Meadbrook 34; 31. Dover 32; 32. Bellaire 29; 33. Crestview 25; 34. Caldwell 22.5; 35. Edison 21; 36. (tie) River, Shady Side 19; 37. Fort Frye 11; 39. Beallsville 9; 40. Madonna 7.5; 41. Steubenville Catholic 3; 42. (tie) Hundred, Paden City, Wheeling Central 0
Class 5A
1. Parkersburg South 251; 2. Wheeling Park 236; 3. Steubenville 178.5; 4. University 124; 5. Indian Creek 111.5; 6. John Marshall 83; 7. Warren Local 70; 8. Brooke 63; 9. Weir 52; 10. Morgantown 48; 11. New Philadelphia 44; 12. Dover 32
Class 4A
1. Beaver Local 209; 2. St. Clairsville 171; 3. Oak Glen 139.5; 4. Martins Ferry 79.5; 5. East Liverpool 74; 6. Cambridge 58; 7. Buckeye Local 45; 8. (tie) Harrison Central, Meadbrook 34; 10. Edison 21
Class 3A
1. Barnesville 98; 2. Magnolia 58.5; 3. Linsly 57; 4. Union Local 39.5; 5. Bellaire 29; 6. Crestview 25; 7. River 19; 8. Fort Frye 11
Class 1A/2A
1. Shenandoah 103.5; 2. Southern Local 82.5; 3. Wellsville 75; 4. Bridgeport 50.5; 5. Cameron 44; 6. Toronto 38; 7. Caldwell 22.5; 8. Shady Side 19; 9. Beallsville 9; 10. Madonna 7.5; 11. Steubenville Catholic 3; 12. (tie) Hundred, Paden City, Wheeling Central 0
Championship Finals
106-4 Brady Roberts (Parkersburg South) d. 3 Alex Overly (Shenandoah), 5-4 UTB
113-3 Cody Teggart (Wheeling Park) d. 4 Nathan Ford (Parkersburg South), 5-1
120-2 Mark Emmerling Jr. (Beaver Local) p. 1 Nate Shelek (Wheeling Park), 2:55
126-1 Koen Kish (St. Clairsville) d. 3 Jace Stockett (University), 6-0
132-1 Logan Ours (Beaver Local) d. 2 Howard Williams (East Liverpool), 2-0 SV
138-4 Andrew Shelek (Wheeling Park) d. 6 Caden Stout (St. Clairsville), 13-6
145-2 Payton Kellar (Warren Local) d. 1 Gavin Quilcho (Parkersburg South), 8-8 OT
152-1 Payton Hall (Oak Glen) d. 2 Brayden Roberts (Parkersburg South), 3-2
160-1 Ethan Pappas (Steubenville) p. 2 Skyler Lassure (Beaver Local), 4:33
170-2 Ian Bush (Cameron) d. 1 Logan Krulik (Beaver Local), 5-2
182-1 David Tuttle (Steubenville) d. 2 Hunter Morris (Southern Local), 4-2
195-2 Reese Skaggs (St. Clairsville) p. 1 Keith Bodnar (Steubenville), 3:53
220-1 Braxton Amos (Parkersburg South) p. 3 Derek Witsberger (St. Clairsville), 1:31
285-2 Easton Hitchens (Shenandoah) d. 5 Chance Knight (Linsly), 3-2 Third-Fourth Place
106-1 Jarret Stillion (Meadowbrook) d. 2 Quinton Velas (Wheeling Park), 4-3
113-2 Griffen Stephen (Barnesville) p. 1 Carl Cochran (John Marshall), 3:44
120-4 Devin Easton (Parkersburg South) d. 3 Ethan Gray (John Marshall), 3-2
128-5 Jason Tice (Wellsville) d. 2 Trent Jones (Parkersburg South), 9-7
132-3 Brayden Johnson (Parkersburg South) m.d. 4 Wyatt Conley (Weir), 14-3
138-1 Cole McComas (Beaver Local) d. 2 Brian Palmer Jr. (Buckeye Local), 3-2 UTB
145-5 Devon Mitchell (Wheeling Park) d. 4 Devon Salsberry (Beaver Local), 1-0
152-6 Dakota Hagedorn (University) d. 3 Billy Gooch (Wheeling Park), 5-0
160-7 Owen Oliver (Barnesville) d. 3 Canon Welker (Wheeling Park), 6-4
170-3 Max Camilletti (Brooke) p. 4 Austin Starr (Indian Creek), 2:38
182-3 Erick Brothers Jr. (Wheeling Park) d. 4 Justin Bartlett (Cambridge), 7-5
195-3 Elijah Llewellyn (Indian Creek) m.d. 4 Richard McFarland (Martins Ferry), 9-0
220-5 Charlie Tamburin (Wheeling Park) d. 4 Josh Sanders (University), 5-4
285-7 Zachary Kuneff (Bridgeport) d. 4 Donte Lewis (Martins Ferry), 3-2 SV
Staubenville 4 12 12 6 - 34
Elyria Catholic 59, Whg Central 38
E - Jancswea 1 0-0 2; Griffin 2 0-0 4; Hall 1 0-0 2; Allegretto 1 0-0 3; Rapacz 3 1-1 7; Jackson 1 1-2 3; Ab. Winnen 5 1-2 13; Bradel 3 0-0 7; Al. Winnen 9 0-0 18. Totals: 26 3-5 59.
W - Horan 2 0-0 5; H. White 4 0-0 10; Reinbeau 5 7-9 18; T. White 0 2-4 2; Canestro 1 0-0 3. Totals: 12 9-13 38.
3-Point Goals: Allegretto, Ab. Winnen 2, Bradel, Horan, H. White 2, Reinbeau 1, Canestro.
Elyria Cath. 24 7 8 20 - 59
Whg. Central 8 10 7 13 - 38
Boggs Roundball Classic Consolation
Tyler Consolidated 67, Valley 59
V - Solas 8 4-6 21; Yoho 2 0-0 4; West 2 4-4 8; Bates 1 0-0 2; Dallison 1 2-2 4; Ut 0 0-0 0; Moore 3 3-4 10; Barnette 0 0-0 0; Thomas 0 2-2 2; Ervin 0 0-0 0; Brown 3 2-4 8, Totals 20 17-25 59.
T - Smith 0 2-4 2; Phillips 5 9-10 19; Buchannon 3 3-12 9; L. Templeton 7 3-5 17; S. Miller 2 5-8 9; A. Miller 1 0-0 2; Templeton 0 0-0 0; Vandyne 0 0-0 0; Vanderuff 3 3-6 9; Rice 0 0-0 0; Kila 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 25-45 67.
3-Point Goals: Solas, Moore.
Valley 14 14 15 18 - 59
Tyler 18 14 23 - 67
WVHIT
Paden City 57, Meadow Bridge 18
P - McEldowney 8 1-1 18; Stackpole 4 0-0 8; Thomas 9 0-0 19; R. Fuks 2 0-0 4; S. Fuks 3 0-0 8, Totals 26 1-15 7.
M - Gwinn 3 0-0 9; Fox 0 0-0 0; Watson 0 0-0 0; Chester 1 0-0 2; Jannette 2 0-0 4; Price 0 0-2 0, Totals 7 0-2 18.
3-Point Goals: McEldowney, Thomas, S. Fuks 2; Gwinn 3.
Paden City 11 16 28 - 57
Meadow Bridge 8 0 2 8 - 18

PREP BOYS

Wheeling Central 63
Parkersburg Catholic 52
P - Collia 6 0-1 16; Boice 10 0-1 22; Hart 0 0-0 0; Lang 0 0-2 0; Brunny 0 0-0 0; Copan 5 4-4 14. Totals: 21 4-8 52.
W - Lee 2 1-2 5; Reasbeck 2 5-6 11; Toepfer 0 0-0 0; Maxwell 7 5-6 19; Creighton 3 5-6 12; Abate 8 0-1 18. Totals: 22 16-21 63.
3-Point Goals: Collia 4, Boice 2; Reasbeck 2, Creighton.
Pkbap. 12 17 9 14 - 52
Whg. Central 10 14 20 19 - 63
Shady Side 59, Martins Ferry 37
S - Beckett 6, 0-0 15; VanNest 0, 0-0 0; Shepherd 0, 0-0 0; Joseph 1, 0-0 2; Murphy 0, 0-0 0; Parr 5, 0-0 10; Hendershot 9, 0-4 19; Visnic 0, 0-0 0; Amos 5, 1-2 13. Totals: 28, 1-6 59.
M - Miles 4, 0-0 8; Buksa 0, 0-0 0; Ray 0, 0-0 0; Co. Olson 0, 0-0 0; Col. Olson 1, 0-0 2; D. Hores 3, 1-4 7; Skavarke 0, 0-0 0; Hilson 0, 3-4 3; L. Smith 7, 2-6 17; E. Smith 0, 0-0 0. Totals: 15, 6-14 37.
3-Point Goals: Beckett 3, Amos, Hendershot; L. Smith.
Shady Side 11 15 12 21 - 59
Martins Ferry 4 15 7 11 - 37
East Liverpool 73
St. Clairsville 55
E - O'Hara 6 0-0 12; Beal 3 3-5 10; George 2 0-0 6; Irvine 4 0-0 8; Jackson 6 1-2 14; Dalley 4 3-4 12; Toothman 2 0-0 6; Green 1 0-0 2; Beverly 1 0-0 3; Totals: 29 7-11 73.
S - Wolfe 0 0-0 0; Oberdick 0 0-0 0; McCort 2 0-0 4; Crist 0 0-0 0; Vike 5 0-2 13; Sefick 1 0-0 3; Woodford 0 0-0 0; Balgo 1 0-0 2; Harris 6 9-12 24; Henry 4 1-4 9. Totals 19 10-15 55.
3-Point Goals: George 2, Toothman 2, Neal, Jackson, Dalley, Harris 3, Vike 3.
East Liverpool 19 14 16 24 - 73
St. Clairsville 14 10 17 14 - 55
Boggs Roundball Classic (at Tyler Consolidated) Championship
Magnolia 74, Liberty Harrison 54
L - Holden 4 0-0 12; Dodd 5 2-3 12; Jones 8 1-1 20; McKinny 4 0-1 8; Rock 1 0-0 2, Totals 22 3-5 54.
M - Turner 12 1-2 25; Cecil 0 0-0 0; Williamson 5 0-0 15; Gamble 8 0-1 20; Schiebelhood 2 0-0 4; Glover 1 2-2 4; Postlethwait 2 0-1 4; Toman 1 0-0 2, Totals 31 3-6 74.
3-Point Goals: Holden 4, Jones 3; Williamson 5, Gamble 4.
Liberty 17 10 14 13 - 54
Magnolia 16 18 28 14 - 74
Consolation Game
Tyler Consolidated 70, Valley 88.
V - Baker 3 7-10 15; Satterfield 3 4-6 10; Anderson 7 0-2 17; Bassett 0 1-3 11; Shannon 1 6-8 9; Streets 4 3-3 11; L. Bassett 1 3-3 5; Totals 19 24-35 68.
T - Placer 2 0-0 4; Bowman 4 1-2 9; Huffman 8 3-5 25; Strode 1 0-0 2; Throckmorton 3 4-8 11; Rucker 4 2-2 12; Swagger 1 3-4 5; Little 1 0-0 2. Totals 24 13-21 70.
3-Point Goals: Baker 2, Anderson 3, Shannon; Huffman 6, Throckmorton, Rucker 2.
Valley 18 11 17 16 5 - 68
Tyler 22 12 19 10 7 - 70

WVU MEN

Kansas St. 84
No. 12 West Virginia 68
WEST VIRGINIA (14-3)
Harler 4-9 2-3 11, McBride 4-10 2-4 11, Osabuohien 4-5 2-4 10, Tshiebwe 4-5 0-0 8, Culver 2-4 4-9 8, Haley 2-3 0-0 4, McNeil 2-6 0-0 6, Knapper 1-7 0-0 3, Matthews 1-2 2 1 4, McCabe 1-4 0-0 3, Sherman 0-1 0-0 0, Rount 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-56 12-22 68.
KANSAS ST. (8-9)
Diarra 8-14 5-7 25, Sloan 2-7 5-6 9, Murphy 2-4 0-0 4, D. Gordon 6-7 0-0 15, Sneed 4-6 7-10 16, A. Gordon 3-4 0-0 7, Stockard 2-2 0-0 4, Mawien 2-5 0-2 4, McAttee 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-49 17-25 84.
Halftime-Kansas St. 42-25.
3-Point Goals-West Virginia 6-22 (McNeil 2-6, McCabe 1-2, Knapper 1-4, McBride 1-4, Harler 1-5, Sherman 0-1), Kansas St. 9-18 (Diarra 4-6, D. Gordon 3-4, A. Gordon 1-2, Sneed 1-3, Sloan 0-1, Murphy 0-2). Fouled Out-Osabuohien, Mawien. Rebounds-West Virginia 27 (Tshiebwe 7), Kansas St. 24 (Diarra, Mawien 6). Assists-West Virginia 12 (McBride, Culver, Knapper, McCabe 2), Kansas St. 18 (Sloan 5). Total Fouls-West Virginia 24, Kansas St. 24.

OVAC

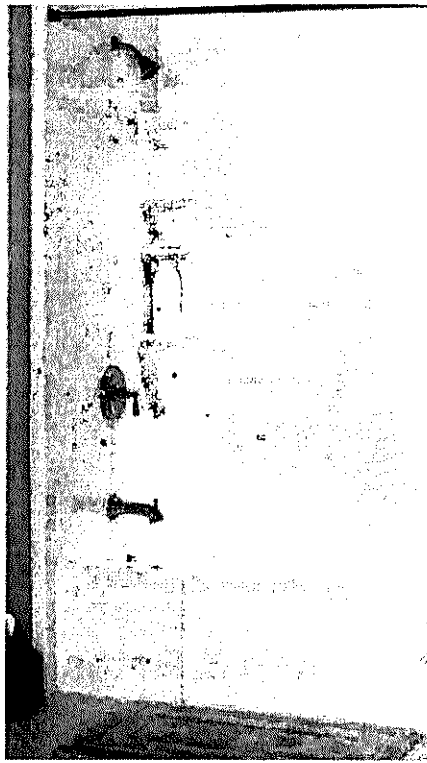
Continued from Page C1

yards and 56 touchdowns. He saved his best for last, too. As a senior, Johnson put forth a highly memorable campaign in which he carried the ball 229 times for 2,062 yards and scored 31 touchdowns.

During that senior season in 1991, Johnson had one of his biggest games against the biggest opponents. Against Morgantown, Johnson carried the ball nine times for 231 yards and four touch-

and Amar'e.
JOSH WATSON, Magnolia (Class of 1999) - Regardless if it was track or cross country, this former Blue Eagle ran. And he ran fast.

Watson is one of the most decorated distance runners in Ohio Valley history, achieving impeccable success in both sports.
In his OVAC and West Virginia State



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South Holds Off Park To Return to Top of OVAC

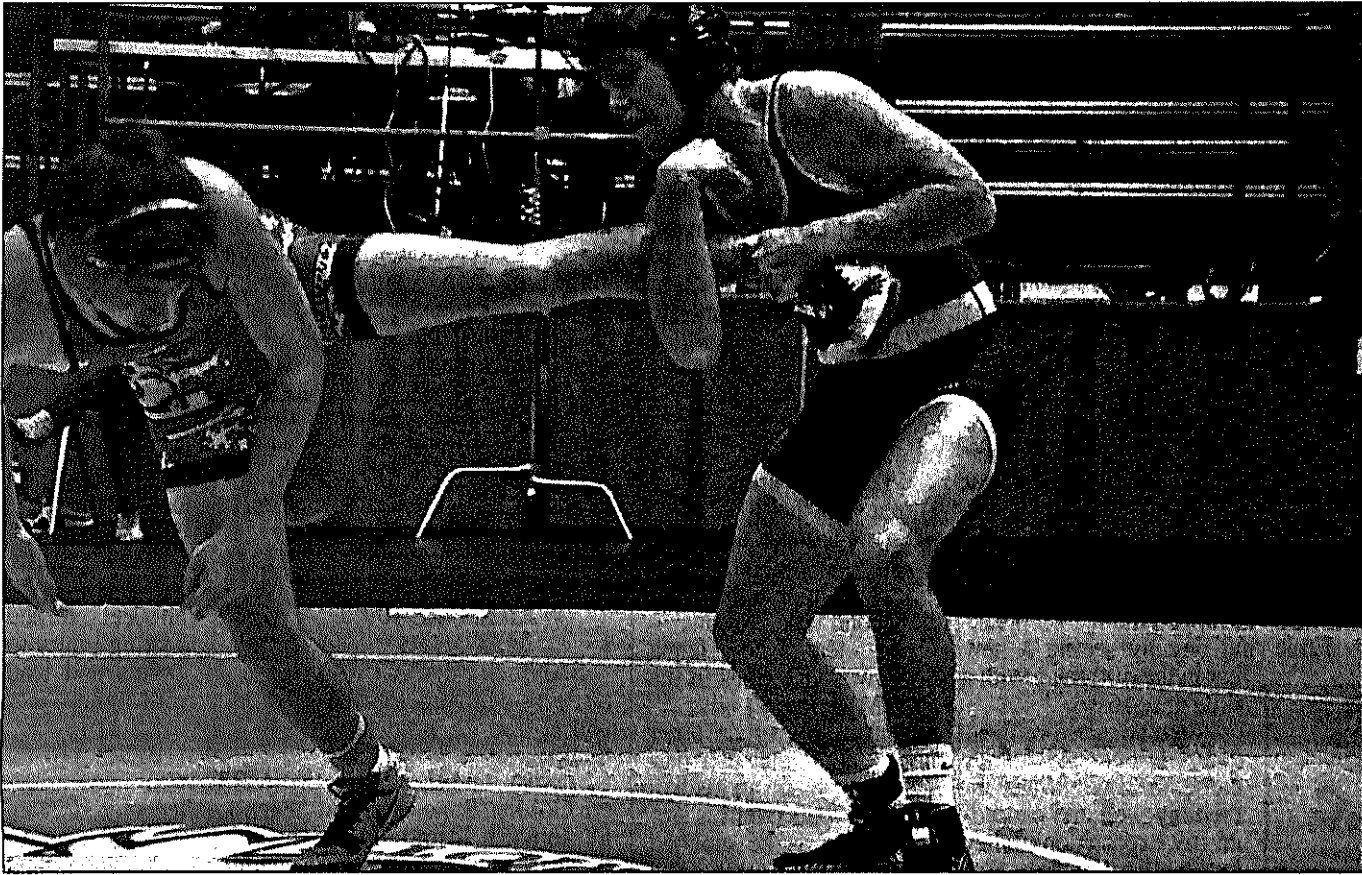


Photo by Kim North

Cameron's Ian Bush tangles with Beaver Local's Logan Krullk in the 170-pound championship of the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. Bush won, 5-2, to be the first Dragon to win since 2011.

Taggart, Shelek Earn Individual Titles for Park; Cameron's Bush Wins at 170

By KIM NORTH

For the News-Register

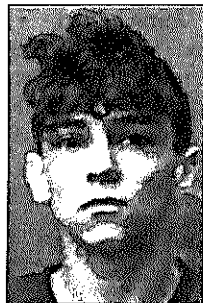
WHEELING — There was elation. There were tears. There was history, both team-wise and individually, and there were memories made that will last forever.

The championship finals of the 67th edition of the annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament had them all Saturday as its three-day stay inside WesBanco Arena came to an end with 14 individuals standing tall high atop the awards podium.

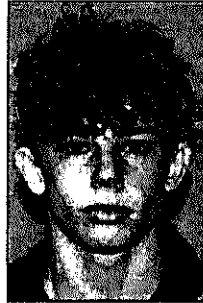
Parkersburg South got back on top of the tournament after a runner-up finish last winter. The Wood County Patriots held off Wheeling Park, 251-236. Beaver Local was third, Steubenville (178.5) fourth and St. Clairsville (171) fifth.

"Obviously, I am very proud of the kids and the team. They really stepped up this weekend," Parkersburg South coach Shaun Smith said. "It was a long, tough battle but they

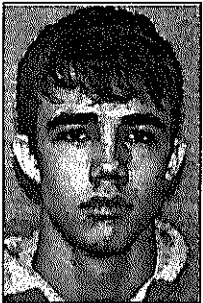
Please see South, Page C4



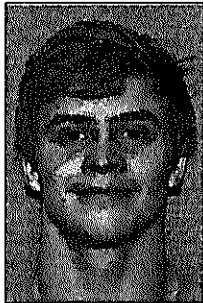
106
ROBERTS



113
TAGGART



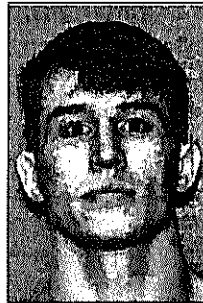
120
EMMERLING



126
KISH



132
OURS



138
SHELEK



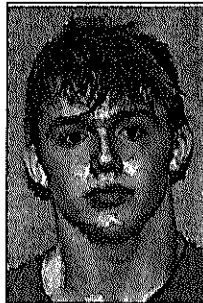
145
KELLAR



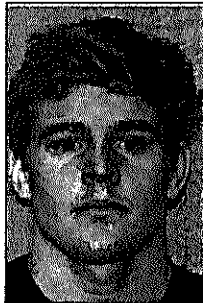
152
HALL



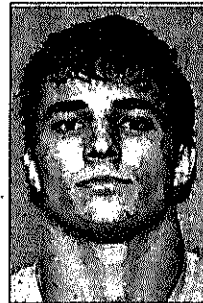
160
PAPPAS



170
BUSH



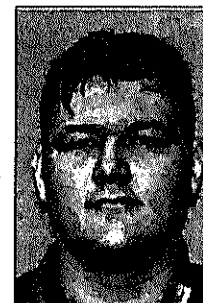
182
TUTTLE



195
SKAGGS



220
AMOS



285
HITCHENS

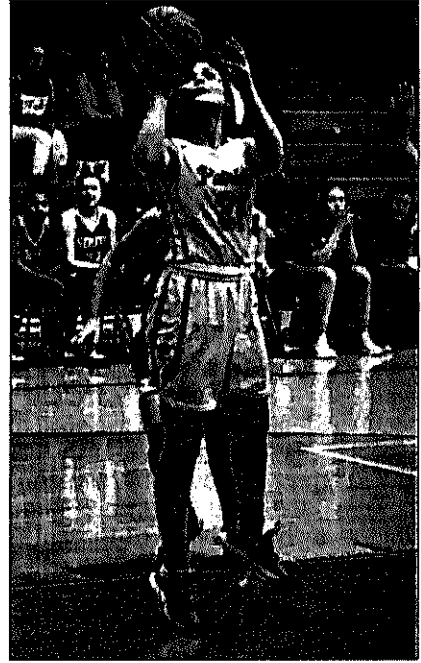


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park's Kieran Johnson goes up for a shot during Saturday's game against Parkersburg South.

Park Girls Rout South

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — A busy week closed in stellar fashion for Wheeling Park as the Patriots topped Parkersburg South, 73-54, Saturday afternoon at The Palace on the Hill.

The wire-to-wire win marked the fourth game in six days for Coach Ryan Young's battle-tested charges. The state's No. 1-ranked Class AAA team is 13-1.

Parkersburg South fell to 2-10. Park put 20 points on the first-quarter scoreboard and were never seriously challenged the balance of the contest, getting scoring from seven different players.

"Offensively we were pretty efficient. We drove the ball well at times instead of settling for the 3. We found Bella (Abernathy) inside when we needed to," Young said.

Please see Park, Page C4

Central Bests Park. Catholic

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

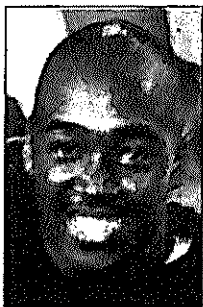
WHEELING — Even though Wheeling Central was down by five at halftime, coach Mel Stephens wasn't too worried. The veteran coach had the right mindset as the Maroon Knights came out and executed the way they needed to.

Clayton Abate opened the second half with a basket that sparked a 10-0 run to give Central a lead where it would eventually hang on and defeat Parkersburg Catholic on Saturday night, 63-52.

"The first half, we really didn't execute the way we wanted to," Stephens said. "They ran and came off the ball screens. The (Patrick) Copen and Jeb (Boice) kid both made some big shots there. (Xavier) Collie made a couple of big 3's.

Please see Central, Page C6

Park's Johnson, Magnolia's Watson Selected to OVAC Hall of Fame



JOHNSON

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register
BELLAIRE — Though in different sports, running was the name of the game for both of the latest selections to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame's Class of 2020.

Wheeling Park graduate Daryl "Boogie" Johnson and Magnolia alumnus Josh Wat-

son are the latest to have their names called to represent the decade of the 1990s during the conference's annual hall of fame induction ceremony, which is slated for Saturday, Aug. 15.

The entire OVAC Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by Robinson Auto Group and housed at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, class will be

announced by the committee every two weeks.

The next release will contain the honorees from the 1980s and it will be announced on Feb. 2.

Here's a capsule look at the honorees from the decade of the 1990s:

DARYL "Boogie" JOHNSON, Wheeling Park (Class of 1992) — It didn't matter

the sport or season for this Patriot, he simply shined.

While earning accolades in multiple sports, it was on the football field where Johnson left his biggest impact.

One of the best running games to ever suit up in the Ohio Valley, Johnson rushed for more than 4,100 career

Please see OVAC, Page C5



WATSON

Hunnell Nets 16 as John Marshall Rolls Past Ripley

MOUNDSVILLE — Catherine Hunnell scored 16 points to lead John Marshall to a 64-41 victory over Ripley Saturday in girls' prep basketball action. Madge Lucey was also solid for the Monarchs as she supplied 11 points.

Bellaire 57, River 37

BELLAIRE — Katrina Davis scored 22 points — 10 in the third quarter — to help Bellaire gain a victory over River.

Four River players scored six points for the Pilots.

Monroe Central 76 Bridgeport 33

BRIDGEPORT — Five Monroe Central players scored in double figures in a victory over Bridgeport. Trista Morris supplied 15 points while both Kalista Friday and Allee Zwick netted 12.

Haven Dick chipped in 11 points and Amy Bettinger had 10 for the Seminoles.

Jaren Tucker scored 21 points to lead the way for the Bulldogs.

Martins Ferry 38 Shadyside 33

MARTINS FERRY — Rachella Spielvogel netted 13 points as Martins Ferry won a victory against Shadyside.

Tory Hendershot (11) and Baylee Wach (10) led the Tigers.

Fort Frye 74, Steubenville 34

STUEBENVILLE — Hannah Archer connected on five 3-pointers as Fort Frye (13-2) hit a season-high 13 as a team in a rout of Steubenville.

Big Red (10-4) was led by freshman Kylie Maxwell with 13 points and seven rebounds.

Elyria Catholic 59 Wheeling Central 38

ELYRIA — Kaylee Reinbeau tallied 18 points, but Wheeling Central fell to Elyria Catholic. Hannah White tallied 10 points for the Maroon Knights.

Boggs Roundball Classic Consolation

Tyler Consolidated 67 Valley 59

SISTERSVILLE — Caleigh Phillips dropped in 19 points and Lauren Templeton generated 17 as Tyler Consolidated (3-10) upended Valley in the Boggs Roundball Classic consolation game.

Kim Soles paced the Lumberjills with 21 points and Shyanne Moore added 10.

PARK

Continued from Page C1

"They all did what they needed to do on the offensive end. Defensively we are getting better but it needs to get even better if we are going to be as good as we want to be.

"I think in the third quarter we got a little complacent. They outscored us in that quarter. But you take that one out, I was pretty happy overall with Quarters 1, 2 and 4."

Park did much of its damage from long range. The hosts drained 11 3-pointers, eight coming in the first half.

Senior dynamo Shanley Woods again paced the Park scoring parade with 24 points, including four bonus bombs. The 5-foot-5 guard is closing in on the coveted 1,000-point mark.

Junior Lindsey Garrison was superb scoring support, tossing in 18. She also knocked down four 3-pointers. Junior guard Asia Roby donated 12 points while Aber-

nathy tossed in eight.

Woods and Garrison each netted a pair of 3s to trigger Park's 20-12 advantage after eight minutes. The hosts stretched their advantage to 41-23 at intermission as Garrison and Woods again enjoyed productive showings with seven and five points, respectively.

South outscored Park, 20-12, in the third quarter to make it a 53-43 issue entering the final period. Senior post Makenna Winans fueled the rally with nine points in the session.

Garrison stemmed the tide by burying a trey to open the fourth for a 13-point Park edge. South was unable to get closer than 10 the remainder of the affair.

Silky smooth senior Erin Williams and sophomore Skylar Bosley each scored 14 points for the Wood Countians. Winans added 12 points before exiting on fouls with 4:05 left in the con-

WVHIT

Paden City 57 Meadow Bridge 18

MEADOW BRIDGE — McKenzie Thomas charted 19 points and Tanley McEldowney collected 18 as Paden City defeated Meadow Bridge in the WVHIT.

BOYS

Shadyside 59 Martins Ferry 37

MARTINS FERRY — Kelly Hendershot dropped in 19 points as Shadyside ran away from Martins Ferry.

Korey Beckett chipped in with 15 points for the Tigers, while Tyler Parr scored 10.

Logan Smith paced the Purple Riders with 17 points.

East Liverpool 73 St. Clairsville 55

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Tresean Jackson netted 14 points to lead a balanced East Liverpool attack in a victory against St. Clairsville.

Nate Harris paced St. Clairsville with 24 points, while Brett Vike chipped in with 13.

Boggs Roundball Classic Championship

Magnolia 74 Liberty Harrison 54

SISTERSVILLE — Qwailei Turner garnered 25 points and Jake Gamble turned in 20 as Magnolia captured the Boggs Roundball championship with a win over Liberty Harrison.

Trevor Williamson also went off for 15 points on five 3-pointers for the Blue Eagles (10-2).

Consolation Tyler Consolidated 70 Valley 68, OT

SISTERSVILLE — David Throckmorton drained a pair of free throws to send the game into overtime and Tyler Consolidated emerged victorious over Valley in the Boggs Roundball Tournament semifinal.

Gage Huffman paced the Silver Knights (3-8) with 25 points, Mark Rucker supplied 12 points and five steals and Throckmorton accounted for 11 points and nine rebounds.

Logan Bassett paced the Lumberjacks (3-9) with 19 points, Levi Anderson and Ryan Baker each amassed 15, Gavin Streets accumulated 11 and Abe Satterfield added 10.

SOUTH

Continued from Page C1

grinded it out and I can't say enough about how proud I am of them."

South's Amos was named the Bierkorte Award winner and also took home the Hercules Award for most pins in the least amount of time, he had five in 4:31.

Eight local wrestlers captured championships, including Wheeling Park's Cody Taggart (106) and Andrew Shelek (138); Cameron's Ian Bush (170); Steubenville's Ethan Pappas (160) and David Tuttle (182); and the St. Clairsville tandem of Koen Kish (126) and Reese Skaggs (195), and Oak Glen's Peyton Hall (152).

Other titlists were Parkersburg South's Brady Roberts (106) and Braxton Amos (220); Beaver Local's Mark Emmerling Jr. (120) and Logan Ours (132); Warren Local's Peyton Kellar (145) and Shenandoah's Easton Hitchens (285). It was the third crown for Hall and Amos. Ours won his second.

For Shelek, winning his title fulfilled a childhood dream.

"I've been dreaming about this my entire life. What a crazy experience this weekend has been," the Patriots' fourth-seeded senior said after defeating St. Clairsville's Caden Stout, who was seeded sixth, by a 13-6 count.

"This was the hardest weight class in the OVAC Tournament. It's all about heart and what you have in here," he said while pounding on his chest. "That's why I'm the OVAC champion at my weight."

Shelek said there was a little more pressure applied to him when his younger brother, Nate, was pinned earlier in the 120-pound finals.

"It was tough to see him lose like that, but part of this is for him," he said of his title.

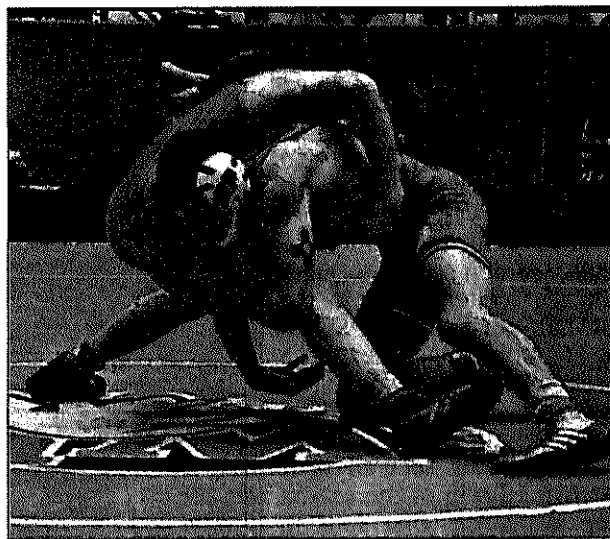
Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett was proud of both of his titlists.

"It's no secret that Andrew hit a slump there last month. He wrestled his way out of it with grit and determination. He got back into the (wrestling) room and worked his butt off to get back where he is," Leggett noted. "That shows a lot about his character. We knew he was capable of knocking off all the kids he did here. Proving it means a lot to him."

To earn his title, Shelek defeated the No. 5 (Steubenville's Tyler Muldrew), the No. 1 (Cole McComas) who was a two-time champion and the No. 6 (Stout).

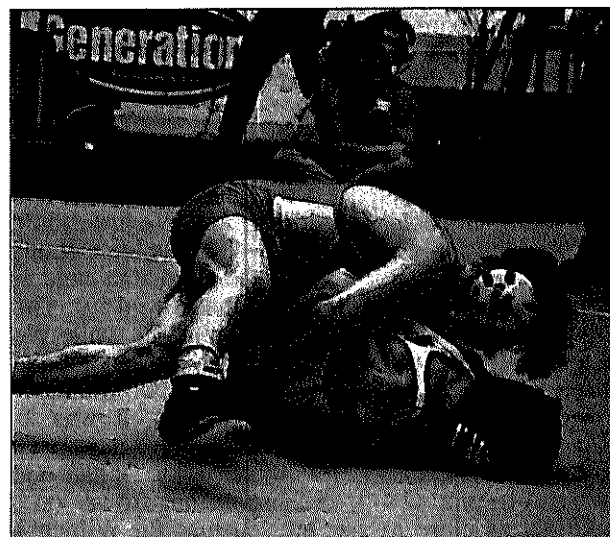
Taggart, the third seed, executed a 4-point move in the waning seconds of the first period and held on for a 5-1 victory over Parkersburg South's Nathan Ford, the fourth seed.

"Cody wrestled a really good tournament," Leggett said. "He came out strong every match and did what



Photos by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Andrew Shelek defeated St. Clairsville's Caden Stout to win at 138.



Wheeling Park's Cody Taggart defeated Parkersburg South's Nathan Ford to win at 113.

he was supposed to." "We didn't quite reach our ultimate goal, but we wrestled to our full potential. We're improving every time we step out on that mat. I couldn't be any prouder of these guys."

Bush, the No. 2 seed, secured the Dragons' first title since David Schleiper prevailed back in 2011 when he posted 5-2 decision over Beaver Local's top-seeded Logan Krulik.

"It's awesome," Bush, an impressive 31-0 as a sophomore, said of being an OVAC champion. "There's a lot of hard work that goes into it."

St. Clairsville capped a good weekend with a pair of titlists.

Skaggs, the No. 2 seed, turned the tables on Steubenville's No. 1 seed Keith Bodnar. Pushing the issue early, the Red Devils junior led 4-1 after one period and was up 5-1 in the second before earning his championship with a pin in 3:53. It was Skaggs' fifth fall of the tournament.

"It's an awesome feeling. My grandparents couldn't be here, so I was a little motivated to get it done on TV for them," Skaggs said. "It was a good weekend for me."

Kish, the top seed, was never threatened in the tournament as he posted a 6-0 shutout of University's Jace Stockett, who was seeded third. Prior to that, he had pinned his first four foes in less than two minutes.

"They're a tough team ... a premiere team," St. Clairsville coach Joel Sansone said of Beaver Local, who won the Class 4A crown, 209-171, over the runnerup Red Devils. "I'm very proud of the way our guys wrestled this weekend.

Win or lose they went out and battled.

"We had a really good semifinal round when we set a school record with four finalists out of four in the semis. The kids have bought into what we've been preaching to them and it's paying off."

Big Red's Pappas and Tuttle took care of business as the top seeds.

Pappas started the championship round with a pin of Beaver Local's Skyler Lasure in 4:33. Tuttle followed, two matches, later with a 4-2 nod over Southern Local's Hunter Morris.

Barnesville defended its Class 3A team championship with 98 points, which was nearly 40 better than Magnolia (58.5).

Shenandoah won the Class 1A/2A with 103.50 points. Southern Local was second with 82.5.

Hall defeated future WVU teammate Brayden Roberts of Parkersburg South, 3-2. It was his third title and fourth finals appearance.

"This tournament has been great to me. This title means a little more than the other two because it allows me to end my OVAC career on top, especially against a world-ranked wrestler like Brayden," Hall said.

Not only are the two standouts both headed to West Virginia University to continue their academic and athletic careers, they will also room together.

"We talked before the match and decided that whoever won would get first choice on beds," Hall said with a slight smile.

East Liverpool's Howard Williams saw his bid for a third title fall by the wayside with a 2-0 sudden-victory loss to Ours.

SPORTS

Sunday,
January 19, 2020



Bubba Kapral
Executive Sports Editor

Wheeling native Harris writing a new chapter in Florida

WHEELING — It was time for a new challenge.

D.P. Harris authored a hall of fame coaching career at St. Vincent College. The Wheeling Park grad served as head men's hoop coach for the Latrobe, Pa.,-based school for the past 16 years with impressive results.

He directed St. Vincent to a sparkling 318-126 record and four Presidents' Athletic Conference championships to go with four NCAA Tournament berths. That success landed Harris into the school's Hall of Fame in 2014.

Harris elevated St. Vincent basketball to the point where the Bearcats were perennial winners. However, the former Ohio University Eastern hoopster harbored bigger dreams, resulting in his decision to leave the Benedictine Monk-run school after last season and head south.

Harris accepted the head men's coaching position at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Fl., in March. St. Thomas is an NAIA D-II institution.

"I have a dream to be a D-I coach like Skip Prosser, Jim O'Brien and the Wojcik brothers for example. The Ohio Valley produces good coaches," Harris said. "I am not in their category but that is my goal. To try and make that happen, I knew I had to go to a different part of the country. This is the right place."

"St. Thomas is the fastest growing university in Florida and one of the fastest in the nation. It is fairly new and has great facilities. It was established in 1963," he added. "We have just started a football program here and we have a law school. St. Thomas is a diamond in the rough."

Harris, age 49, has wasted no time weaving his coaching expertise in the Sunshine State. St. Thomas won just 10 games total last season. The Bobcats head into weekend play with an 11-4 record.

"When I got the job, I had about only 30 days to recruit. I was fortunate that there were some good remaining players," Harris said. "I was also able to attract four D-I transfers, including one from the University of Minnesota. Since we are NAIA D-II we offer scholarships. That wasn't the case at St. Vincent (D-III)."

"The St. Thomas administration and president have been very supportive. We are in one of the top small-college conferences (The Sun Conference) in the country," he continued. "It is like the old West Virginia Conference. It's a grind every night and tough to win on the road."

St. Thomas has 10 more regular-season games in that grind. Harris is confident his charges will come through in fine fashion.

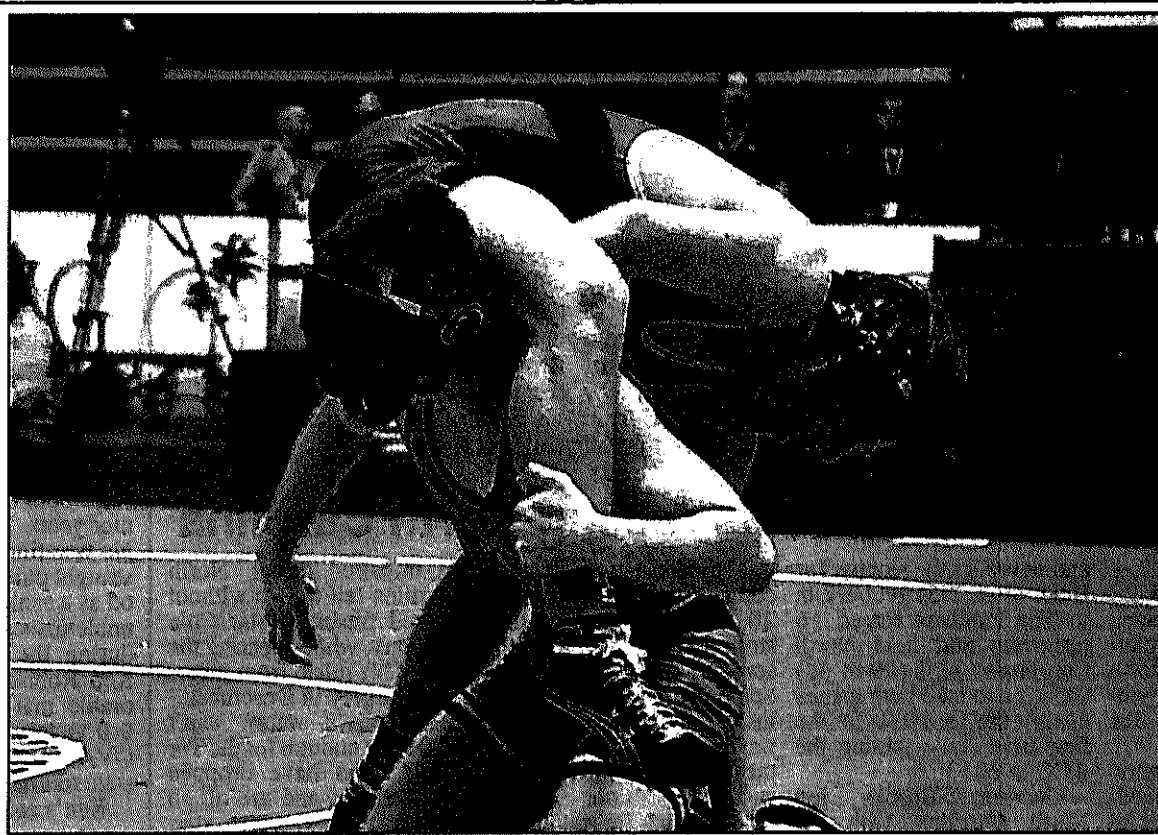
"I think our guys are optimistic. I am not a patient guy. I did not come here to finish second," the 1989 Wheeling Park grad said. "We want to knock on the door of the upper echelon in our conference and make them uncomfortable, and we have. We want to finish in the top three of our conference and make the national tournament."

Harris, who also serves as assistant athletic director at St. Thomas, was twice named the Presidents' Athletic Coach of the Year while at Saint Vincent: 2015 and 2019.

"I spent 23 years in Wheeling and 24 in Latrobe, Pa. I feel the same about both...places where I found myself as a coach and where I found my moral compass," Harris said. "St. Vincent was nothing but wonderful. My relations with the Benedictine Monks was outstanding. I was around so many outstanding people. It was not hard to be successful."

BUBBA'S BITS

THE NFL is down to its final four. I like the Chiefs and 49ers to punch their Super Bowl tickets today. Should the Chiefs and Packers both prevail, it would be a rematch of



BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Brian Palmer Jr. has St. Clairsville's Caden Stout up in the air during their 138-pound semifinal bout Saturday afternoon at the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament inside Wheeling's Wes-Banco Arena. However, the sixth-seeded Stout upset the second seed and advanced to the championship finals late Saturday.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Four St. C. grapplers reach OVAC final

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — Saturday was a good day to be a St. Clairsville Red Devil, especially if you're associated with the wrestling program.

Head coach Joel Sansone's squad reeled off a perfect 4-for-4 semifinal round performance at the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament to make school history as the Red Devils flexed their muscles Saturday afternoon inside WesBanco Arena.

Koen Kish (126), Caden Stout (138), Reese Skaggs (195) and Derek Witsberger (220) all advanced to the championship finals late Saturday after The Times Leader went to press. Complete results can be found in Monday's edition.

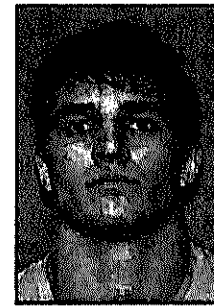
"This is the first time in school history



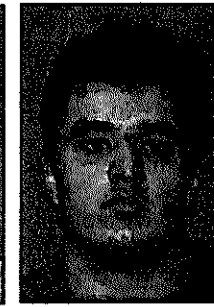
KOEN KISH
126



CADEN STOUT
138



REESE SKAGGS
195



DEREK WITSBERGER
220

that we have had four kids in the championship finals in the same year," Sansone said after taking a deep breath to relax. "These kids bought into what we've told them from the start. When we come to the OVACs it isn't going to be as tough as

what we've done so far. Trust the grind and trust what you've done, the work that you've put in and these four bought into it.

"They believe they are never out of a See, OVAC, Page C2

Monroe routs Bridgeport

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BRIDGEPORT — Monroe Central had an advantage in basically every area that's important to basketball success Saturday afternoon inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium at Bridgeport High School.

It showed, too. The Seminoles assumed a 20-point lead at halftime and didn't slow down in the second half en route to claiming a convincing 76-33 repeat win over the Bulldogs.

"We tried to keep a tempo to work on some things we needed to work on," Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker said. "We created the tempo we wanted and we definitely had a size advantage. We created more shot opportunities for ourselves."

Absolutely. The Seminoles with a front line of multiple 6-foot post players collected 40 rebounds during the course of

the game, many of which came on the offensive end.

"It doesn't matter how high you're able to jump ... 6-1 is going to beat 5-5 every day of the week," Bridgeport head coach Greg Harkness said. "Their size and length hurt us. They're just bigger than us. That's not an excuse. You still have to find a way to get rebounds, but it also hurts (defensively) because you're unable to contest their shots."

On top of the size, the Seminoles showed a pressure defense, which forced the Bulldogs in numerous turnovers and led to run-out opportunities. All told, Monroe Central led 18-9 after one and then used an 11-2 run late in the second and a 10-3 spurt early in the third to fully blow the game open.

"Defensively, we wanted to create an up-tempo game to get as many shots as we could," Baker said. "But, at the same

See, MONROE, Page C2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MONROE'S HAVEN Dick goes up for a shot as Bridgeport's Jaren Tucker defends Saturday afternoon. The Seminoles cruised to a 76-33 victory.

Ohio Valley Unsung Hero

UL's Kildow always on the go for sports

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

MORRISTOWN — A few years ago, Julie Kildow was approached about keeping the scorebook for Union Local's junior varsity basketball team.

too.

"But, don't you want to watch your daughters play?," someone asked her.

"That's the easiest way to watch them," Kildow recalled responding. "You don't get distracted at all. You have to watch the game."

another sport and serves other athletic roles at UL.

In fact, Kildow has been a familiar athletic presence around the school for years, dating back to her days as a Jet in the early 1980s.

Kildow's daughters — Casey, a junior, and Torre, a freshman — are



13 and Pittsburgh completed a season sweep of North Carolina with a 66-52 victory over the reeling Tar Heels on Saturday.

Pitt (12-6, 3-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) needed less than 10 minutes to build a double-digit lead

• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

match." Of the four, Stout has to be the biggest surprise. He was seeded No. 6 in what many observers deemed the most difficult weight class.

"Caden Stout has the heart of a champion. That kid never quits wrestling. In practice he never quits. In matches, he never quits," Sansone praised. "It doesn't matter if he's winning or losing, and he's not afraid to wrestle anybody. When he steps on the mat, no matter what that kid has done in the past, Caden can easily win."

"I just go out there and try to wrestle my match and not get caught being lazy," Stout said after his decision over

turnovers and held North Carolina to 32% (19 of 60) shooting to take both games against the Tar Heels for the first time since joining the ACC in 2013.

Garrison Brooks led North Carolina with 16 points and 13 rebounds, but

previously undefeated Brian Palmer Jr. of Buckeye Local, the No. 2 seed.

The Red Devils' sophomore blew out to a 5-0 lead early and built on it from there.

"I just shot in, kept my hips back and won the scramble," Stout, who is a returning Division III state tournament qualifier and now 15-4, said. He met Wheeling Park's Andrew Shelek, the fourth seed, who knocked off top-seeded and two-time championship Cole McComas of Beaver Local in the other semifinal, for the title.

Kish, who improved to 20-2, had placed third the

last two years and finally got over the hump when he easily disposed of Wellsville's fifth-seeded Jason Tice with his third consecutive first-period fall.

"It feels good. I've been working hard all year and I think I've come in here and proved that I'm the best in my weight," Kish said.

The Red Devils junior is ranked third in Ohio's Division II. He faced off with University's third-seeded Jace Stockett in the finals.

"We just told Koen to go out and do what you're supposed to do," Sansone said. "When you're the No. 1 seed, that's what you have to do. You can't go out and

struggled to develop any sort of offensive rhythm. Senior guard Brandon Robinson started and finished with 12 points in 32 minutes a week removed from sustaining minor injuries when the car he was in was struck by a car operated by

Anthony, who is nearing the end of his rehab from minor knee surgery in December. Anthony's return can't come fast enough for the Tar Heels, who have dropped four straight and are off to the program's worst start since 2001-02 team.

wrestle conservative. You can't go out and worried about being upset, you've just got to go out and hammer it, hammer it. He did just that."

Skaggs, now 21-4 as a junior, is seeded second and moved on by pinning Indian Creek's No. 3 seed Elijah Llewellyn. This is his third time on the podium.

"His biggest thing is gaining confidence in himself," Sansone said of his 195-pounder. "He needed to win a big match and he did. He's been close a couple of times and I told him no more of that. It's time to turn that page and we ended the match tonight."

Skaggs met Steubenville's top-seeded Keith Bodnar in the finals.

"It all starts in the wrestling room. Iron sharpens iron," Skaggs said. "We're all practice partners. They say you're only as good as your practice partners."

The third-seeded Witsberger, a three-sport standout who also excels in football and baseball, is now 20-4 after upsetting No. 2 Skyler Wooley of East Liverpool in a hard-fought match. He was paired with Parkersburg South standout Braxton Amos.

"Derek is always in the match. He's never gonna go out and get blown out," Sansone noted. "He knows what is ahead of him. He got on the opposite side of the bracket from Braxton (Amos). He said he wanted the opportunity to wrestle him."

Amos, a Wisconsin recruit, is 131-0 in his two-plus year career.

"I've never wrestled him, but I know how good he is. I just want to be on the mat with somebody like that."

A true team player, the senior praised everyone's work for what the team has accomplished.

"In our wrestling room we work hard. I think we probably work as hard as anybody, if not harder," Witsberger stressed. "I'm proud of my team. I'm proud of my guys and I'm proud of myself."

"I think we've put together a pretty good run this weekend."

Three other local individuals fell short of their dream as Barnesville Griffen Stephen (113), Union Local's Brady Crum (170) and Martins Ferry's Richard McFarland (195) all dropped semifinal bouts.

Ken Robison will be missed by all Ohio Valley wrestling enthusiasts. The OVAC Wrestling Family honors Ken Robison posthumously as the 43rd Mr. Mat recipient.

• Kildow

Continued from Page C1

and Todd Kildow, made names for themselves as successful football, basketball and baseball players.

Ty and Cal have since graduated, both now attending Waynesburg University, but with the two girls still in school Julie Kildow is as busy as ever.

"Busy ... extremely busy," Kildow described life as a "sports mom" during a conversation prior to Friday night's boys' basketball game between the Jets and Harrison Central at "The Hangar."

"I like it. We've always had our kids around sports. As babies, we bought them tickets to games."

Sports have always been a part of Kildow's life, and she's passed her love on to her children, who've been watching and playing, it seems, forever.

"As soon as we had kids, they started coming," Kildow smiled. "We never missed a football game. Never missed a basketball game. If it was cold, we'd wrap them up and go."

Kildow played basketball, softball and volleyball during her high school days and started coaching right after graduation in 1983.

"I've been doing it a long time, but not steady," she noted.

Currently, Kildow is an assistant volleyball coach and keeps the aforementioned scorebooks. She also serves as girls' basketball treasurer, which includes the job of keeping the concession stand stocked for games. But through the years, she's coached in a variety of roles, both boys and girls.

"I just like being around sports, in general," she said. "I'm a sports junkie, always have been. Playing sports to coaching girls that weren't even my own kids."

Previously, Kildow was a member of the middle school PTO for about six years and was president of the Football Moms for a time.

There have been challenges through the years. Notably, when Casey and Torre were playing at different schools.

"The year Torre was in seventh grade, I was coaching her volleyball team and her basketball team, so I was missing some of Casey's games, not a lot."

Another, and more important, matter came recently when Ty was facing a cancer battle. But Kildow said the folks at UL were great about accommodating her every need.

"He has another scan slated for February 14 and that one's going to show he's cancer free," she said. "That's what we're praying for."

Kildow said she's loads of fun doing everything, and she's looking forward to what the rest of this year, and the next three have in store for the Jets.

"This year has been great for UL," she said. "Girls sports have been very successful so far."

• Monroe

Continued from Page C1

time, we wanted to be able to do as many things as wanted to try to do today defensively."

On the offensive end, the Seminoles were balanced with five double-figure scorers. Trista Morris led the way with 15, while Allee Zwick and slick sophomore point guard Kalista Friday each had 12. Friday also stuffed the stat sheet to a tune of nine assists and six steals.

Haven Dick and Amy Bettinger went for 11 and 10, respectively. Bettinger completed the double-double with a like number of rebounds.

Though disappointed in the second half and overall outcome, Harkness thought his team "did some really good things" in the first half.

"We just have too many self-inflicted wounds," Harkness said. "We were able to keep the game calm enough in the first half, but once it started to get away we just really couldn't recover."

The Bulldogs were led by senior Jaren Tucker's 21. She connected on four bonus goals. No other Bulldog had more than five.

Bridgeport (1-12) visits Buckeye Local on Monday, while the Seminoles (12-4) trek to Shenandoah on Wednesday.

• Harris

Continued from Page C1

DANNY SANCOMB has done a masterful job of

cleaning up the Cal University (Pa.) men's basketball team in his second year at the helm. His Vulcans downed Seton Hill Wednesday, 88-74, to improve to 11-5 on the season.

JIM CRUTCHFIELD'S Nova Southeastern Sharks are now 12-2 on the season. The former West Liberty coaching great has his squad sitting No. 10 in the NCAA D-II national rankings.

WEIR HIGH has added Marietta to its 2020 football card.



OVAC Winter Championships

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JAN. 25: OVAC Bowling Championships *presented by Belmont College*

JAN. 29-30: OVAC Wrestling Duals -Classes 3A & 5A; Classes 1A-2A & 4A

FEB. 1: OVAC Cheering Championships -WesBanco Arena

FEB. 8: OVAC Wheeling Hospital Girls' Basketball Championships -OUE

FEB. 15: OVAC Wheeling Hospital Boys' Basketball Championships -OUE



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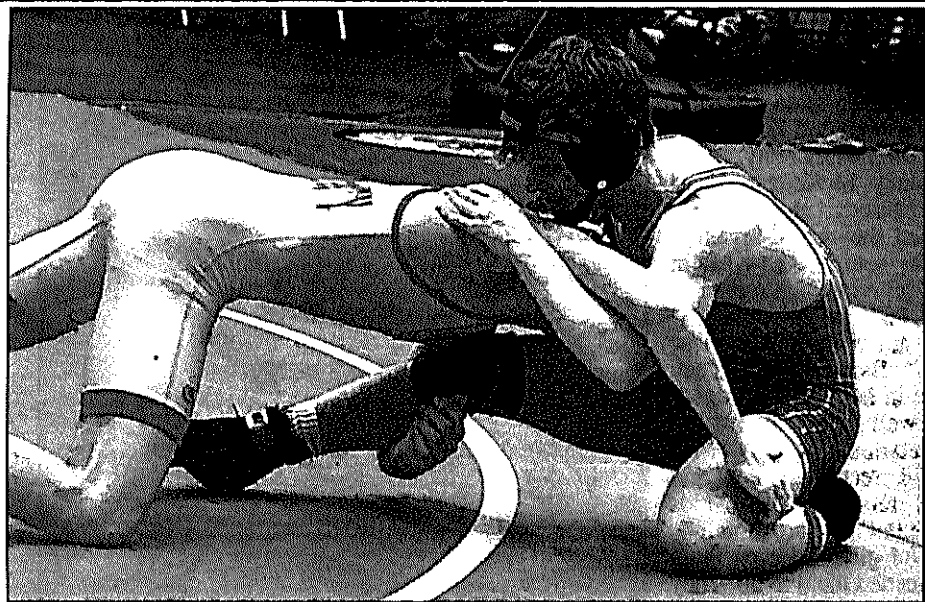
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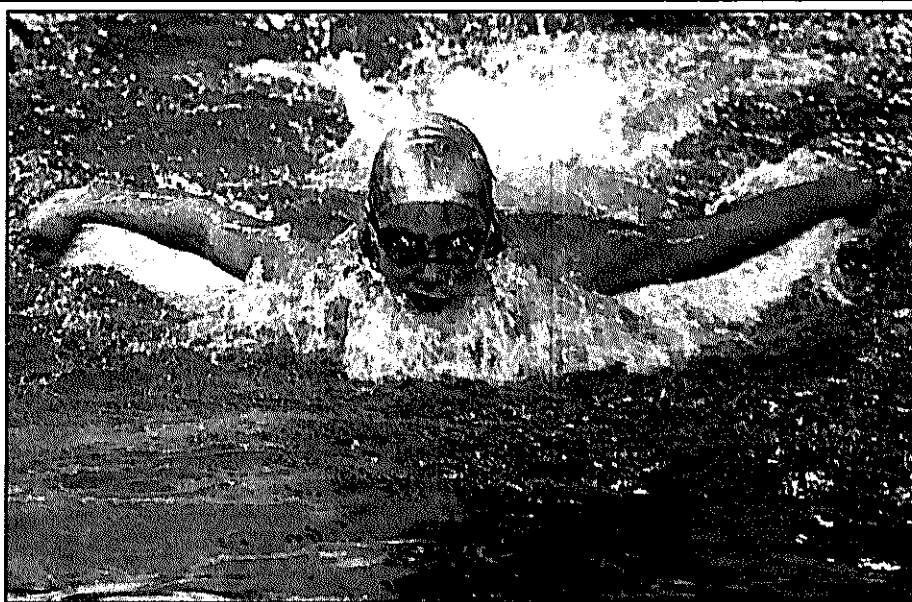
SPORTS

Monday,
January 20, 2020



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Koen Kish, right, battles with University's Jace Stockett during their 126-pound championship final during the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament Saturday inside Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. Kish won his first OVAC title with a 6-0 decision.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Casadia DiBetta, swims in the 100 breaststroke at the annual OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship Saturday at Brooke High School. DiBetta won the event and helped the Red Devils win the Class 1A/4A team race.

St. C. pair wins OVAC wrestling titles

• Parkersburg South claims overall team crown; Barnesville repeats in 3A

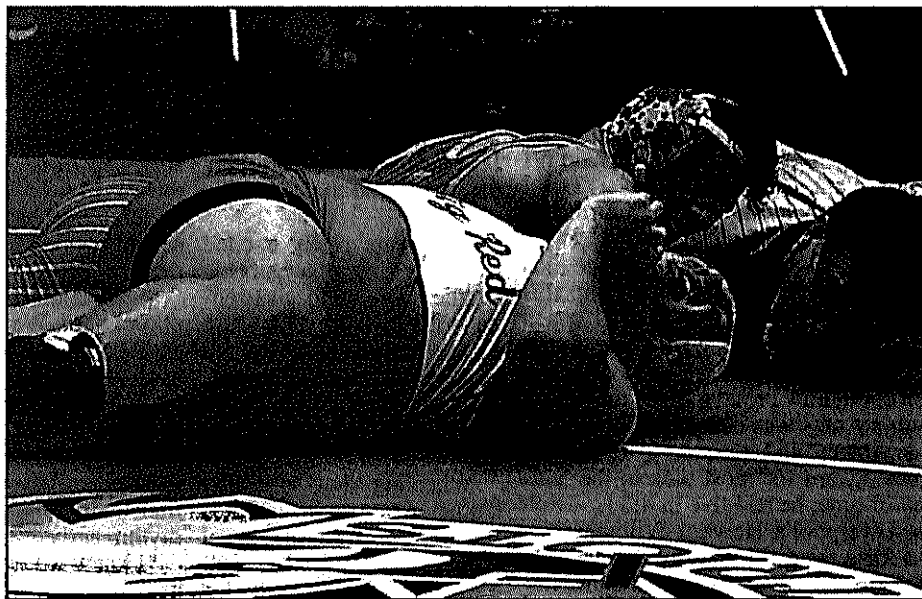
By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — There was elation. There were tears. There was history, both team-wise and individually, and there were memories made that will last forever.

The championship finals of the 67th edition of the annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament had them all Saturday as its three-day stay inside WesBanco Arena came to an end with 14 individuals standing tall high atop the awards podium.

Seven local wrestlers captured championships, including Wheeling Park's Cody Taggart (106) and Andrew Shelek (138); Cameron's Ian Bush (170); Steubenville's Ethan Pappas (160) and David Tuttle (182); and the St. Clairsville tandem of Koen Kish (126) and Reese Skaggs (195).

Other titlists were Oak Glen's Peyton Hall (152); Parkersburg South's Brady Roberts (106) and Braxton Amos (220); Beaver Local's Mark Emmerling Jr. (120) and Logan Ours (132); Warren Local's



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Reese Skaggs looks for the pin call against Steubenville's top-seeded Keith Bodnar Saturday during their 195-pound championship final during the 67th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament Saturday inside Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. Skaggs captured his first OVAC title with a fall in 3:53.

Peyton Kellar (145) and Shenandoah's Easton Hitchens (285). It was the third crown for Hall and Amos. Ours won his second.

St. Clairsville capped a good weekend with a pair of titlists.

Skaggs, the No. 2 seed, turned the tables on Steubenville's No. 1 seed Keith Bodnar.

Pushing the issue early, the Red Devils junior led 4-1 after one period and was up 5-1 in the second before earning his championship with a pin in 3:53. It was Skaggs' fifth fall of the tournament.

"It's an awesome feeling. My grandparents couldn't be here tonight, so I was a little motivated to get it done on TV for them," Skaggs admitted. "It was a good weekend for me."

Kish, the top seed, was never threatened in the tournament as he posted a 6-0 shut-out of University's Jace Stockett, who was seeded third. Prior to that, he had pinned his first four foes in less than two minutes.

"It feels good to attain one of my high school goals. Since I've been a freshman I've wanted to be on top, but I always fell short. Tonight I wasn't going to let that happen," Kish said after moving his record to 21-2.

"They're a tough team ... a premiere team," St. Clairsville head coach Joel Sansone said of Beaver Local, who won the Class 4A crown, 209-171, over the runner-up Red Devils. "I'm very proud of the way our guys wrestled this weekend. Win or lose they went out and battled."

"We had a really good semifinal round when we set a school record with four finalists out of four in the semis," he added.

See, **WRESTLING**, Page B2

Want More?

Additional photos of the tourney can be found at timesleaderonline.com

St. C. girls repeat as OVAC swim champs

• Red Devil boys finish second to Linsly; Dover sweeps big-school titles

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG — The seniors of the Linsly boys' swim team have had their eyes set on their final OVAC meet all season.

After capturing the small school crown as freshmen three years ago, the Cadets have earned back-to-back runner-up accolades.

This year, they wanted to get back to where they began — on top.

They did just that as the Cadets racked up 315 points to secure the small school boys' title at Saturday's OVAC Bill Brubaker Swim Championships at Brooke.

"They talked about it," Linsly coach Bill Brubaker said of his seniors. "This group won as freshmen and wanted to go out as seniors with the title after getting second two years in a row."

"Frederico Colloca-Bianchi in the 50 and the backstroke, Luke Zwicker in the breaststroke and he did really well in the 100. William Yuan in his butterfly. Ben



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Nathan Yost, swims in the 100 breaststroke at the annual OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship Saturday at Brooke High School. Yost placed in the event and helped the Red Devils place second in the Class 1A/4A team race.

overpowered the field to win the boys' event with 548 points and the girls' competition with 432.

The New Philadelphia boys were runner-up with 281 points.

Wheeling Park's girls finished second with 310 points — ending a four-year run as defending champions.

"Our girls swam a pretty good meet," Park coach Pat Durkin said. "Got some PR's and our 400 relay team set a school record with a lot of improvement but Dover has an excellent team and St. C. had a great meet, too."

Linsly was led to victory by a mesmerizing performance from junior Colloca-Bianchi in the 100 backstroke.

Colloca-Bianchi won the event with a time of 53.63 to break Kevin Pietz's meet and pool records of 53.65 set in 2017.

"This is the meet we point to and for a lot of our swimmers, we just have a couple of dual meets left and the season is over, so this is a big meet to end the season," Brubaker said.

• Wrestling

Continued from Page B1

"The kids have bought into what we've been preaching to them and it's paying off."

"Reese pinned his way through the tournament. He's gaining confidence every day. Koen just goes out does what is expected of him," Sansone said of Skaggs and Kish. Big Red's Pappas and Tuttle took care of business as the top seeds.

Pappas started the championship round with a pin of Beaver Local's Skyler Lasure in 4:33. Tuttle followed, two matches, later with a 4-2 nod over Southern Local's Hunter Morris.

Barnesville defended its Class 3A team championship with 98 points, which was nearly 40 better than Magnolia (58.5).

"Winning the (Class) 3A is a big deal," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "I don't go into the tournament looking for stuff like that. I focus on the individuals. We've got four placers this year. That's more than we've had for awhile."

Shenandoah won the Class 1A/2A with 103.50 points. Southern Local was second with 82.5.

For Shelek, winning his title fulfilled a childhood dream.

"I've been dreaming about this my entire life. What a crazy experience this weekend has been," the Patriots fourth-seeded senior said after defeating St. Clairsville's Caden Stout, who was seeded sixth, by a 13-6 count.

"This was the hardest weight class in the OVAC Tournament. It's all about heart and what you have in here," he said while pounding on his chest. "That's why I'm the OVAC champion at my weight."

Shelek said there was a little more pressure applied to him when his younger brother, Nate, was pinned earlier in the 120-pound finals.

"It was tough to see him lose like that, but part of this is for him," he said of his title.

Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett was proud of both of his titlists.

"It's no secret that Andrew hit a slump there last month. He wrestled his way out of it with grit and determination. He got back into the (wrestling) room and worked his butt off to get back where he is," Leggett noted. "That shows a lot about his character. We knew he was capable of knocking off all the kids he did here. Proving it means a lot to him."

To earn his title, Shelek defeated the No. 5 (Steubenville's Tyler Muldrew), the No. 1 (Cole McComas) who was a two-time champion and the No. 6 (Stout).

Taggart, the third seed, executed a 4-point move in the waning seconds of the first period and held on for a 5-1 victory over Parkersburg South's Nathan Ford, the fourth seed.

"Cody wrestled a really good tournament," Leggett noted. "He came out strong

every match and did what he was supposed to."

"We didn't quite reach our ultimate goal, but we wrestled to our full potential," the Patriots second-year coach said. "We're improving every time we step out on that mat. I couldn't be any prouder of these guys."

Bush, the No. 2 seed, secured the Dragons first title since David Schleiper prevailed back in 2011 when he posted 5-2 decision over Beaver Local's top-seeded Logan Krulik.

"It's awesome," Bush, now an impressive 31-0 as a sophomore, said of being an OVAC champion. "There's a lot of hard work that goes into it."

Beaver Local head coach Jonny McComas said he was pleased with his team's effort despite not being able to defend its overall title.

"This sport is all about adversity and ups-and-downs. For the most part, this tournament didn't go the way we thought it would, but we are stepping out of here with some champions, some good wins and some things we can improve upon," he said.

"We're excited for Logan. He had to take a little time off to come back and win this tournament," the Beavers coach added. "That's big for him mentally in moving forward to compete for a state title down the road."

Hall defeated future WVU teammate Brayden Roberts of Parkersburg South, 3-2. It was his third title and fourth finals appearance.

"This tournament has been great to me. This title means a little more than the other two because it allows me to end my OVAC career on top, especially against a world-ranked wrestler like Brayden," Hall allowed.

Not only are the two standouts both headed to West Virginia University to continue their academic and athletic careers, they will also room together.

"We talked before the match and decided that whoever won would get first choice on beds," Hall said with a slight smile.

Parkersburg South got back on top of the tournament after a runnerup finish last winter. The Wood County Patriots held off Wheeling Park, 251-236. Beaver Local was third, Steubenville (178.5) fourth and St. Clairsville (171) fifth.

"Obviously, I am very proud of the kids and the team. They really stepped up this weekend," Parkersburg South head coach Shaun Smith praised. "It was a long, tough battle but they grinded it out and I can't say enough about how proud I am of them."

South's Amos was named the Bierkorte Award winner and also took home the Hercules Award for most pins in the least amount of time. he had five in 4:31.

East Liverpool's Howard Williams saw his bid for a third title fall by the wayside with a 2-0 sudden-victory loss to Ours.

• Swimming

Continued from Page B1

The St. C. girls left their mark and set new marks as Casadie DiBetta broke meet and pool records with a 58.91 in the butterfly, before breaking her own meet and pool records set last year with a 1:03.87 in the breaststroke.

Olivia Moyer, DiBetta, Kylie McKeegan and Brenna Planey also broke their own records from last year with a mark of 1:51.37 in the 200 medley relay.

Planey, McKeegan, Maggie Marody and DiBetta capped the record-breaking day by setting a new bar in the 400 relay with a time of 3:46.16.

"I am so proud of these kids," Banks said. "They came in here, swam incredibly well and exceeded my expectations. They broke school records, PR's and meet records. These kids never fail to impress me."

"Our girls did everything we needed them to do. They dropped huge amounts of time and I'm so proud of them."

Dover's girls didn't get a winner but received Top 10 individual performances all day long en route to the championship.

Lucas Lane won the 200 (1:44.90) and 500 (4:48.32) races, setting new records along the way.

Will McCrate won the 200 IM (2:07.79), Peyton Burris won gold in the 50 (22.49) and Blake Sexton captured the butterfly (57.40) for Dover, which also won the 200 medley relay (1:41.92), the 200 relay (1:34.40) and the 400 relay (3:25.46).

"We were really excited to compete in this fantastic league," Dover coach Brenda Wherley said. "We were really looking forward to some great competition and I'm really proud of the kids. They had an outstanding day and it was fun."

Wheeling Park's Abby Turner won the 50 (24.55) - a new meet and pool record - and the 100 (53.57), winning both for the second year in a row.

Her teammate Jenna Bopp was victorious in the 200 IM (2:15.51).

Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger completed a perfect 8-for-8 in individual OVAC events over his storied career as he grabbed first in the 100 (50.04) and the breaststroke (1:01.49) - his fourth OVAC title in each event.

John Marshall's Victoria Kidney added to a record-shattering day as she delivered a 58.49 in the girls' backstroke to break Sarah Heilman's 2017 meet mark of 59.64 and Maggie Miller's 2014 pool record of 58.73.

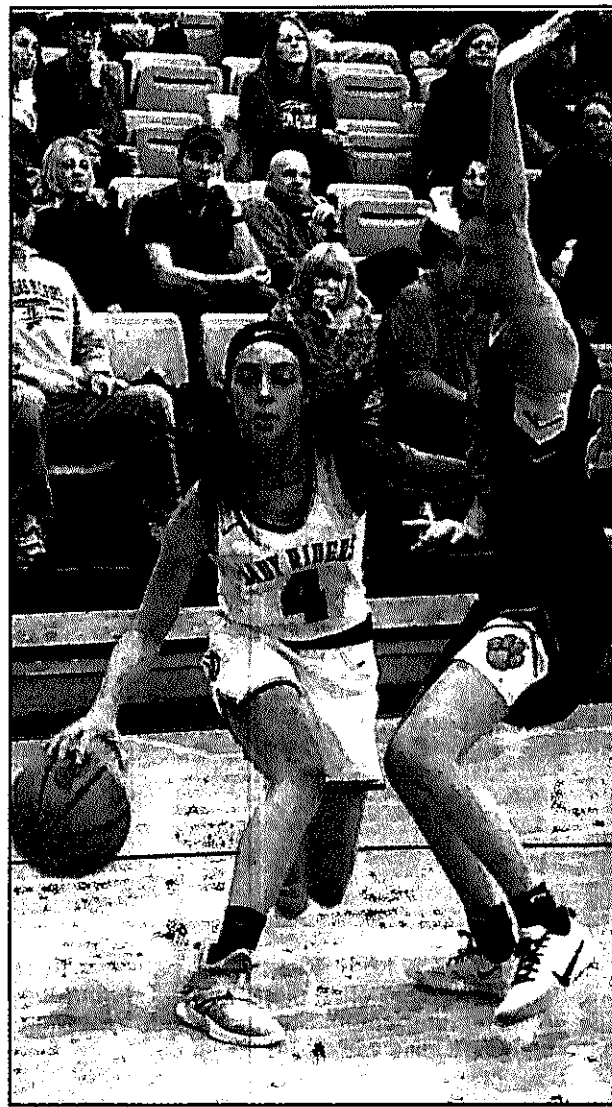
Bellaire girls roll by River

BELLAIRE - Katrina Davis scored 22 points - including 10 in the third quarter - to help Bellaire gain a victory over River, 57-37.

Four River players scored six points for the Pilots.

The Big Reds are back in action today against Steubenville

BOYS
East Liverpool 73, St. Clairsville 55
ST. CLAIRSVILLE -



T.L. Photo/RICK THORP

MARTINS FERRY'S Maddie Ging (4) drives against Shadyside's Kamdyn Elerick (22) during their girls' basketball encounter Saturday afternoon inside the Tolbert Gymnasium.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

"I can't be any happier," Reasbeck said.

Richella Spielvogel muscled her way to a team-high 13 points as the Purple Riders capitalized on a 20-4 run that stretched from the second quarter to midway through the third.

Spielvogel had a big hand in it, as did Allarah Jones, who scored eight points off the bench, with four coming in the second.

"Our defense played very well," Reasbeck noted. "We played hard. We rebounded. It was a total effort."

"Allarah came off the bench when Richella was struggling and she gave us an unbelievable lift. Then, in the third, Richella came out and played well and Shayla (Schuster) handled the ball well and kept their two stars in check. It was a total team effort."

As the third quarter wound down, the Tigers started to find their mojo after struggling to get into an offensive rhythm early.

"I knew we weren't going to lay down," said Shadyside head coach Serge Gentile, who's team ended the period on a 9-3 run to close to within five.

"Those girls are competitors. I knew they'd give the effort that we needed. We did that and were able to claw back and get some opportunities."

Spielvogel started the fourth with three straight points putting Martins Ferry up 30-22. But the Tigers (12-5) answered with back-to-back 3s by Julie Hendershot and Brooke Selmon, making it a 30-28 game with 5 minutes left.

The Purple Riders entered the bonus moments later, and Spielvogel and Ging both went 1 of 2 from the line as the hosts went up 32-28.

Baylee Wach came back with 1 of 2 from the line herself with 2:32 left making the score 32-29.

Wach, a senior, finished with 10 points and surpassed the 1,000-point mark for her career on the second of three first-quarter treys.

Tory Hendershot paced Shadyside, which welcomes River tonight, with 11 points.

The Tigers, however, never got closer as Martins Ferry did what it had to do down the stretch to maintain its lead, whether it was a free throw, defensive stop or shot.

"We knew (Shadyside) would start getting shots to go in," Reasbeck said. "We just had to stick with the program. Once they cut the lead down to three, we rebounded and were able to handle the press."

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

very strong. That's what they wanted to do."

Smith finished with 17 points this time, but no one else was able to get on track for the Purple Riders (7-8) who dropped under .500 after falling for the second time at home in as many

nights. Martins Ferry mustered just 27 points in a loss to Wheeling Park on Friday. "We're struggling right

headed back in the right direction."

Kelly Hendershot scored 19 points and Corey Beckett had 15 as the Tigers used a 10-0 run following Andes' aforementioned stoppage to take command.

"We had four guys (score) in double figures, and that was our goal," said Andes, who also watched Bryce Amos (13) and Tyler

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SPORTS

Thursday,
January 23, 2020



Kim North
Wrestling Writer

Seeding committee knocks it out of the park in first attempt

To say the OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament's seed committee hit a home run in its first at-bat wouldn't be doing the seven members their due justice. They smacked a grand slam well out of WesBanco Arena.

Prior to the 67th annual event that was staged for three days last week inside the downtown Wheeling venue, coaches and tournament organizers got together to see how they could make some changes to the yearly mat extravaganza.

It was decided by a vote of the coaches that this year's tournament would be seeded (1-12) by a committee for the first time. Now, there were certain criteria that each potential member had to possess in order to serve on the committee. Once again, this was voted upon by the coaches.

Well, on the first night of the tournament, the seed committee — which consisted of Shenandoah's Jesse Wells (Class 1A/2A), Barnesville's Jayson Stephen (Class 3A), Oak Glen's Patrick McGillian (Class 4A) and University's Ken Maisel (Class 5A); Steubenville's Mike Blackburn (at-large), former chairman of the seeding meetings, Jim Rocchi, and wrestling aficionado Sean Smith — batted .976, going an astounding 164-of-168 in first-round bouts.

The only seeds that fell in the first round were a No. 11 and three No. 12s. Not bad guys!

Six of the 14 top seeds the group awarded stood atop the podium Saturday night, while eight of the weight classes had the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds meeting in the championship finals, with the underdog emerging in half of those matchups. All told, five second seeds ended up as titlists. Other champions included a third-seed and two fourths.

Half of the weight classes had the top four seeds finish in the top four but not in the correct order.

Overall, I think the committee deserves a much-earned congratulations on a job well done.

Dual Meet Championships

The cut-off date for the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet wrestling championships has come and gone. It was Wednesday. The pairings will be announced today at some point.

However, just like the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament, there are changes occurring here, too.

"There are some switches in the classifications this year due to some teams choosing not to participate," event director Jim Rocchi said. "We had to make some adjustments."

The Class 5A portion of the championships will be held Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the John Marshall Fieldhouse. Weigh-ins begin at 5 p.m., with wrestling to start at 6. The No. 1 team will face the No. 4 team in one semifinal, while the No. 2 and No. 3 teams meet in the other semi. The two winners will tangle approximately 20 minutes following the completion of the semifinals.

On Thursday, the Class 1A/2A and Class 3A/4A semifinals will be held at Brooke High School under the same formats.

Of the 43 schools in the bi-state conference with wrestling programs, less than half (20) were eligible to participate in the dual meet championships! I know there are some small schools that are in dire straits right now with numbers, or a lack of, but it's the bigger schools that must have something "better" to do than compete for a conference crown as the Class 3A and Class 4A divisions have combined.

While overall tournament champion Parkersburg South was ineligible in the largest classification, Rocchio said the class has improved.

"We've got more participation this year out of the (Class) 5A teams than we have had

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



BRIDGEPORT'S JAREN Tucker, left, drives past Buckeye Local's Demetria Christian during Wednesday night's game in Connorville. Tucker scored a career-high 36 points as the Bulldogs won, 50-38.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

Tucker leads Bulldogs' win

• Senior tallies career-best 36 points against Buckeye Local
By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

CONNORVILLE — The journey for the Bridgeport High girls' basketball team this season has, at times, been a bumpy one.

But through it all, Greg Harkness, the team's head coach, has never wavered when lauding his group about its work ethic, tenacity and willingness to stay resilient.

The Bulldogs' penchant of keeping their nose to the grindstone paid off Wednesday night, when a career-high 36 points from Jaren Tucker served as a catalyst for a 50-38 victory against Buckeye Local on Senior Night on the Panthers' home boards.

"We really won the game on the defensive end," Harkness said after his team picked up its second victory of the season.

"In the first half, I thought they got some second-chance points. In the second half, I thought we did a much better job on the boards and I thought we made them earn it on the first trip."

The tone was set, however, in the first half by the Bulldogs' offense. After spotting Buckeye Local a 10-8 lead, Bridgeport hit 3s on its next four made shots, including three straight by Tucker, in producing an 18-5 run that put it up 26-15 early in the second quarter.

See, TUCKER, Page B2

St. Clairsville snaps losing streak; keeps pace in OVAC 4A

• Red Devils best Brooke on Sr. Night
By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — All wins are important. Some, however, mean a little more than others.

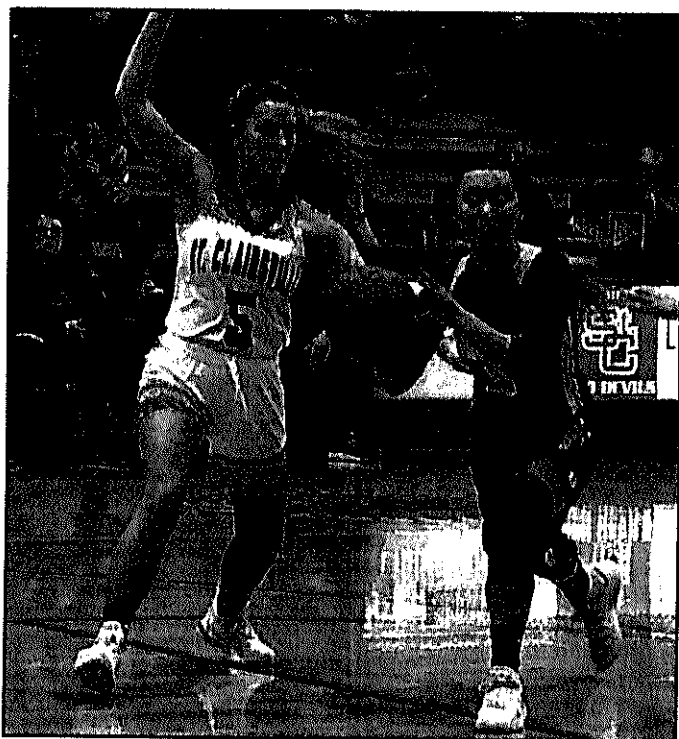
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"Boy did we need that," a relieved Agnew said. "We played well. The best thing is we moved the ball offensively. We haven't been concerned with our offense lately, but it's been our defense we've struggled with. It was better in the second half, but we still have a long way to go.

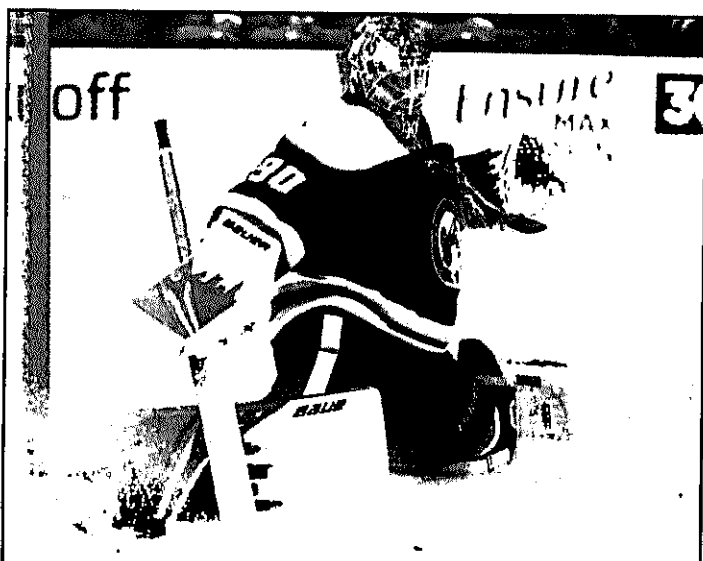
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See, SNAPS, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Macy Malin (5) defends against Brooke's Ashley Arca during Wednesday night's game on John Jenkins Court at St. Clairsville High School. Malin led four Red Devils in double figures with 19 points.



Browns still seeking GM, meet for second time with Vikings aide

CLEVELAND (AP) — New Browns coach Kevin Stefanski isn't campaigning to bring a former close colleague and friend to Cleveland.

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Looking for a general manager to pair with Stefanski, the Browns interviewed Vikings assistant general manager George Paton for the second time Wednesday for the job opening. Paton and Stefanski worked together for 13 seasons in Minnesota and could be reunited in another NFL city.

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Arriving at the Greater Cleveland Sports Authority

staged for three days last week inside the downtown Wheeling venue, coaches and tournament organizers got together to see how they could make some changes to the yearly mat extravaganza.

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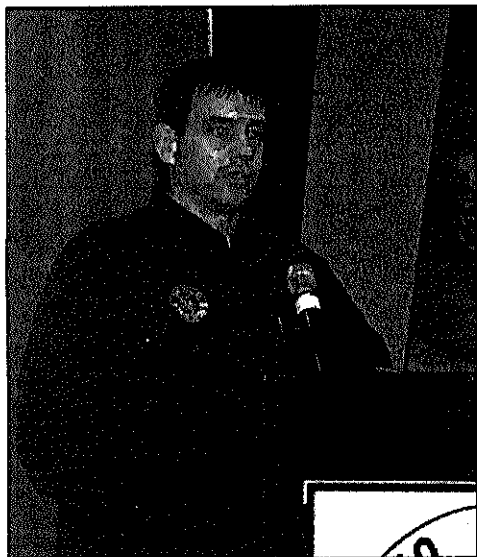
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"We've got more participation this year out of the (Class) 5A teams than we have had for a long time because we've got on them," he added. "Now it looks like we've got to get on everybody else."

The Class 3A and 4A divisions had to be merged as 11 of the 16 teams have that dreaded asterisk besides their name.

See, SEEDING, Page B2



TL Photo/KIM NORTH

OVAC BILL Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships Director Jim Rocchi talks to the coaches and media recently.



TL Photo/RICK THORP

BRIDGEPORT'S JAREN Tucker, left, drives past Buckeye Local's Demetria Christian during Wednesday night's game in Connorville. Tucker scored a career-high 36 points as the Bulldogs won, 50-38.

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See, TUCKER, Page B2

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• Red Devils best Brooke on Sr. Night

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

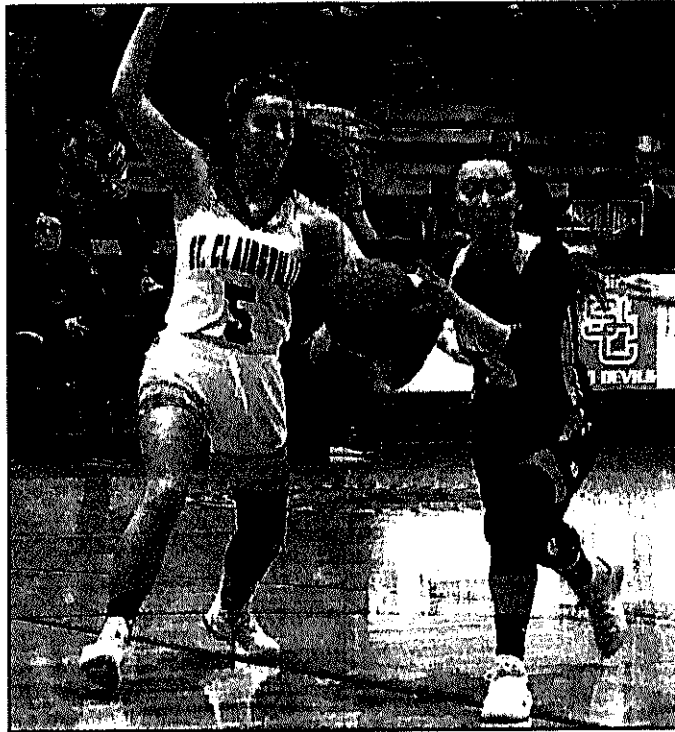
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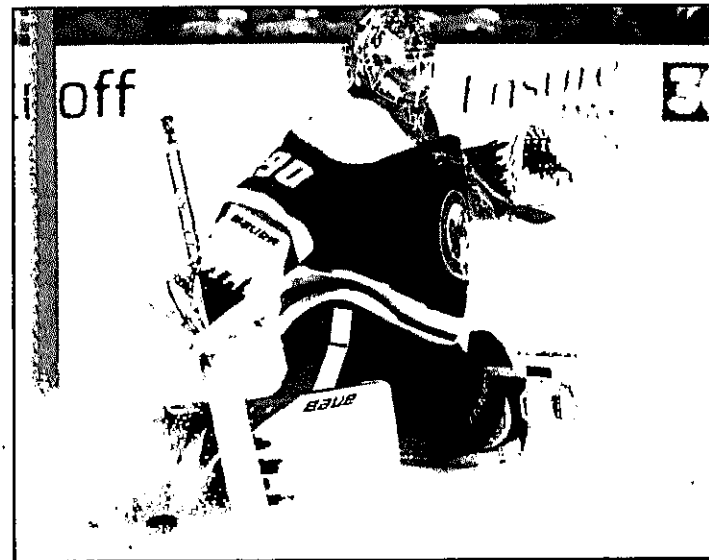
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AP Photo

COLUMBUS BLUE Jackets' Elvis Merzlikins, left, makes a save against the Winnipeg Jets' during the third period Wednesday, in Columbus. The Blue Jackets defeated the Jets, 4-3.

Blue Jackets ground Jets for sixth straight victory

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Columbus Blue Jackets roll into their long winter break after six weeks of solid play and a season-high six-game win streak.

Columbus went back and forth with the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday night before Oliver Bjorkstrand's second goal of the game with 5:38 left gave the Blue Jackets the lead and young goalie Elvis Merzlikins held on the rest of the way to seal the 4-3 win.

It's been quite a turnaround for the Blue Jackets. They are 16-2-4 since Dec. 9 even though as many as 10 players were out with injuries at any one time — including Bjorkstrand, who has had a pair of two-goal games in a row since being sidelined 13 games with a rib/oblique injury.

"They should feel real good about themselves," Columbus coach John Tortorella said as the team breaks for the All-Star Game and then the NHL-required five-day hiatus. They don't play again for 10 days.

After sinking to near the bottom of the Metropolitan Division, the Blue Jackets are now in the second Eastern Division wildcard position.

"You've got to make sure you don't think too much about the break coming after," Bjorkstrand said.

"You've got to finish the job, and I think we did a good job sticking with it tonight. Just found a way to get back in the game every time we got behind and just kept going."

See, BLUE, Page B2

Browns still seeking GM, meet for second time with Vikings aide

CLEVELAND (AP) — New Browns coach Kevin Stefanski isn't campaigning to bring a former close colleague and friend to Cleveland.

At least not publicly.

Looking for a general manager to pair with Stefanski, the Browns interviewed Vikings assistant general manager George Paton for the second time Wednesday for the job opening. Paton and Stefanski worked together for 13 seasons in Minnesota and could be reunited in another NFL city.

Paton spent most of the day at the team's headquarters in Berea, Ohio, but left in the evening for Minnesota without being offered the job.

Appearing at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards a few hours later, Stefanski wouldn't say if he has convinced Paton to join him.

"We're working through that process and we're going to make sure we take our time and are methodical about it," said Stefanski, who received a loud ovation in his first interaction with Cleveland fans before presenting the top professional athlete award to UFC heavyweight champion Stipe Miocic.

Stefanski said it remains to be seen if the team will interview any more candidates. To this point, the Browns have met with three: Paton, Eagles vice president of football operations Andrew Berry and New England college scouting director Monti Ossenfort.

Berry worked in Cleveland's front office from 2016-18 and was well-liked by owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam, who have made a strong alignment between the coach and GM a priority to avoid some of the internal squabbling and power plays that have undermined the franchise's growth.

A Paton-Stefanski connection could ease a seamless transition for the Browns, still putting the pieces together following a 6-10 season, which ended with the firing of coach Freddie Kitchens and GM John Dorsey leaving after declining an offer to take a lesser role in the organization.

Paton has passed on opportunities to leave Minnesota for GM openings in the past. Stefanski wouldn't identify his friend as a favorite.

"We've brought in some really good candidates," he said. "I don't want to single anybody out. I just know that Dee and Jimmy have done their due diligence to make sure that we bring in some really qualified people and again getting to get them in our building and talk to them and understand that shared vision that we all have, I think it's been a good process."

• Blue

Continued from Page B1

Seth Jones and Gustav Nyquist also scored for the Blue Jackets, and Pierre-Luc Dubois tied a career-high with three assists. Merzlikins stopped 27 shots to win his fifth straight start.

Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist, and Mason Appleton and Neal Pionk also scored, and Broissoit had 25 saves for Winnipeg, which limps in to the break after losing both games of a back-to-back. The Jets have lost four straight and are 4-9-2 in their last 15.

Winnipeg coach Paul Maurice said the plan is simple: "Get the hell home and don't expend 10 more minutes thinking about this game. Recuperate."

The Jets scored on their first shot 4:38 into the game when Appleton jumped on a loose puck in the slot and rifled a shot past Merzlikins' glove.

The Blue Jackets tied it quickly when Jones got a drop

pass from Nick Foligno on the left wing, drove in hard and slipped a shot between Brossoit's pads. The goal was the first for the All-Star defenseman in 23 games.

Connor put the Jets up 2-1 late in the first when he deflected in Anthony Bitetto's shot from the blue line.

Bjorkstrand got his first of the game to tie the score again early in the second period after a back and forth exchange with Dubois.

Eight seconds into a power play late in the second, Pionk found the back of the net through traffic from the point to put the Jets up 3-2. Columbus answered with a power-play goal of its own, with Nyquist diving to tap in loose puck in the blue paint.

Bjorkstrand broke the tie late with a top-shelf shot over the Brossoit's shoulder.

"That's about a perfect shot," Maurice acknowledged.

• Tucker

Continued from Page B1

At one point, Tucker, who scored 26 points in the first half, scored 13 straight points for the Bulldogs (2-14). Meleah Tiber bookended the run with a pair of buckets, including a trey.

"She was just unconscious," Harkness said of Tucker.

Behind Tucker, Bridgeport built a 34-20 halftime lead, but Harkness knew the Panthers would come out strong in the second half and key in on his leading scorer.

And that's what happened.

And although Tucker had just one field goal during the third quarter — as did the Bulldogs — Bridgeport's defense stood tall, holding Buckeye Local to three points in the period and increasing its lead to 18 by period's end. Tucker had the lone bucket for the Bulldogs, along with four free throws.

"One of our problems this season

has been if we struggle offensively, after multiple trips, it starts to affect our defense," Harkness explained. "But (Wednesday), our defense wasn't affected when we were struggling some on the offensive end and we stayed engaged on defense the whole time. That's a credit to the kids for, maybe, maturing and learning from when the offense isn't there you still have to bring it on the defensive end."

Harkness also credited the Panthers (3-14) for his team's offensive woes in the second half, which allowed Buckeye Local to climb back as the fourth quarter opened.

Down 18, buckets from Brooke Roski, the team's lone senior, Landyn Walker and Janayah Withers made it an 11-point game.

Following a pair of Tucker free throws, the Panthers trimmed their

deficit to 10, 43-33.

But Tiber answered by going 5 of 6 from the line during the next few minutes to seal things.

"All five of our starters did a tone, and our bench, they didn't get a ton of minutes, but they gave us some good ones."

Walker paced Buckeye Local with 13 points, with Demetria Christian right behind with 11.

"I thought we played better defense in the second half, especially against No. 14," Panthers head coach Tom Figurski said.

"We dug ourselves a hole and, with a young team, it's yard to dig yourself a hole and climb out of it.

"I really like how this group always works hard, they always give their best. Unfortunately, (Wednesday) our best wasn't good enough."

• Snaps

Continued from Page B1

Trailing 6-4 early on, junior Macy Malin sandwiched a pair of three-point goals around one by Shae Brookover on three straight trips down the court. Those bonus baskets jump-started a 14-3 run and the hosts slowly, but surely, pulled away.

"We've been working a lot on our shooting, especially from three-point range," Agnew said. "It's starting to pick up. We've been stressing to the girls to make three, four, five passes on each possession. The more passes the better shot you're going to get and the more points you're going to

score, but it's hard to convince girls of that.

"They're starting to buy into it," he added.

Malin set a season-high with 19 points, including four treys. She was joined in double digits by sophomore Alexis Thoburn, who came off the bench, with 13. Seniors Keri Klinkoski and Katie Strama evenly divided two dozen. Malin also contributed six steals, four assists and three rebounds. Strama charted eight boards and Klinkoski half-a-dozen.

"The balanced scoring was nice. We shared the ball well and found the open person," Agnew praised. "It's

nice when everything works like you practice it."

For Brooke head coach Amy Serevicz, a slow start wasn't what her team needed.

"We came out really flat. I was throwing new kids in and they were as flat as the kids that were on the floor," she said. "We played a tough game the other night against (Indian) Creek, and we just came out flat tonight."

The Bruins were guilty of 21 turnovers, of which 15 came in the middle two quarters.

"Turnovers kill us every game," she noted. "When you don't play your best,

you're not going to win."

Freshman Ava Bolen led Brooke with a double-double. She recorded 13 points and 11 rebounds. Natalie Ryan added 11 markers.

"A couple of our seniors don't start but they work hard every day and they've been in the program for all four years," Agnew said of Emma Haley and Olivia Robinson, both of whom got starts Wednesday night.

"It was nice to win for them. All four of them are nice girls."

St. Clairsville is back in action Saturday at Buckeye Local in the Buckeye 8 Challenge.

• Seeding

Continued from Page B1

"It's a combination of things, I think," Rocchio noted. "Some teams feel like they can't win it, so they aren't participating. Some teams don't think they have enough kids to compete, so they don't want to commit to it, and others just aren't participating because of who knows why."

"I know there are some schools that are involved in other leagues that have to wrestle each other so many times, so it's a combination of things," he stressed. "It's a shame that we have five classes and we will only be giving out three trophies."

More OVAC Tournament Fodder

Congratulations go out to Parkersburg South's Braxton Amos. The Patriots senior standout not only breezed through the 220-pound weight class with five pins in 4-minutes, 31-seconds to win the Hercules Award, but he was also voted the Bierkorte Award, symbolic of the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler, by the tournament's coaches.

But was he? Yes, he dominated his weight class, but he was supposed to. He is, pound-for-pound, the top wrestler in the nation, according to FloWrestling, and is still undefeated in his two-plus year prep career. He is headed to the University of Wisconsin.

However, when a certain championship finals match was pre-determined to be the 'marquee bout' — if it materialized and it did at 152 pounds — you would think the tournament coaches would vote for one of those two individuals, or not.

They didn't. I'm not sure of the final tally, but Amos won out over Oak Glen's Peyton Hall (4th) who defeated Parkersburg South's Brayden Roberts (8th), 3-2, in a matchup of nationally ranked competitors, both of whom are going to attend West Virginia University to continue their academic and athletic careers. In fact, they are going to be roommates and because of his victory, Hall gets first choice on the bed situation.

I just hope the coaches weren't afraid of presenting the coveted award to an individual for a second time. Many of those very same coaches did, however, vote for Hall as a freshman.

Just wondering?

WU Response

According to a text message from Wheeling University President Ginny Favede, the school is reviving its wrestling program. The coaching job has been posted nationally and interviews have been scheduled.

Stay tuned!

Important Mat Dates

- Saturday, Feb. 1, Panther Classic at Buckeye Local
- Saturday, Feb. 8, Ohio Team Duals Regionals, TBA
- Friday, Feb. 14-Saturday, Feb. 15, W.Va. Class A/AA Regional at Fairmont; W.Va. Class AAA Regional at Buckhannon
- Sunday, Feb. 16, Ohio Team Duals State Tournament, Ohio State University's St. John Arena.
- Saturday, Feb. 22, Buckeye 8 Tournament at Indian Creek Middle School
- Thursday, Feb. 27-Saturday, Feb. 29, W. Va. State Tournament at Huntington's Big Sandy SuperStore Arena
- Saturday, Feb. 29, Ohio Division II Sectionals at Claymont, Steubenville; Division III Sectionals at Barnesville, Sandy Valley
- Friday, March 6-Saturday, March 7, Ohio Division II Districts at Claymont; Ohio Division III Districts at Heath High School
- Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15, Ohio State Tourney at Ohio State University's Schottenstein Center.

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