

SPORTS

Sunday,
January 3, 2021

OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tourney canceled

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — Due to the recent announcement by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice that delayed the start of the high school winter sports season in the state until March 1, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has been forced to cancel one of its 'jewel' events.

"With this start date for our West Virginia

schools and our Ohio schools into their state tournament run we will be unable to hold the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships this season," Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle said Thursday afternoon via telephone. "We knew that if either state association made a move it would affect our tournament. That's what happened. It left us with no window of opportunity."

The 68th annual three-day event was originally scheduled for mid-January, 2021,

inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena, but due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, it was reduced to two sessions each on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the John Marshall Fieldhouse and then on Saturday, Jan. 16 at WesBanco Arena. However, those plans were scrapped when the Justice and members of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission agreed to delay winter sports in the Mountain State to at least Jan. 11.

Plans were then made to have an event at two sites on Saturday, Feb. 13, but that date has also been canceled.

"If we know one thing, it is that plans will change," Doyle told those in attendance at the preseason meeting in November.

Doyle did commend members of the OVAC Wrestling Committee for their time and diligence in working with this matter.

"I do want to extend my thanks to the

See, OVAC, Page D2



OHIO STATE running back Trey Sermon runs past Clemson safety Lannden Zanders during the first half of the Sugar Bowl NCAA college football game Friday in New Orleans.

No. 1 Alabama cruises past Notre Dame to CFP title game

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — A truly untraditional Rose Bowl setting, a very common result for Alabama in the College Football Playoff.

With Heisman Trophy finalists DeVonta Smith and Mac Jones, the top-ranked Crimson Tide rolled into its fifth CFP championship game in six seasons.

Smith caught three of Jones' four touchdown passes and Najee Harris ran for 125 yards with a high-hurdling highlight in a 31-14 victory over No. 4 Notre Dame in a CFP semifinal Rose Bowl played inside about 1,400 miles from Pasadena, California.

"I don't think there's anything quite like the Rose Bowl, the tradition, the setting, the mountains. It's just a phenomenal experience ... wish our players had gotten that opportunity," coach Nick Saban said.

But Saban and the Tide (12-0, No. 1 CFP) will take yet another win in the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, which the coach called one of college football's finest venues, and advancing again in the playoff.

The Tide earned a spot in the Jan. 11 championship game in suburban Miami, against No. 5 Cincinnati.

See, BAMA, Page D2

Buckeyes headed to Miami

• Fields, Sermon shine as Ohio State takes down Clemson

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Justin Fields threw six touchdown passes to outshine Trevor Lawrence and No. 3 Ohio State avenged last season's painful College Football Playoff loss to Clemson with a 49-28 victory in the Sugar Bowl semifinal Saturday night.

The Buckeyes (7-0) head to the CFP title game for the first time since the inaugural playoff to face No. 1 Alabama on Jan. 11 at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida. Ohio State beat the Crimson Tide in the semifinals on the way to the 2014 national championship.

In a matchup of quarterback prodigies from Georgia, Fields might have given the Jacksonville Jaguars something to think about what do to with that first

pick in the NFL draft. Lawrence is the presumptive No. 1, but Fields outplayed him on this night, going 22 for 28 for 385 yards. He set a Sugar Bowl record for TD passes and did it playing more than half the game after taking a vicious shot the side that forced him to miss a play and spend time in the medical tent.

Lawrence was 33 for 48 for 400 yards and three total touchdowns in what is expected to be the junior's final college game. His final pass was intercepted, but Clemson (10-2) went 34-2 in his starts and won a national title when he was a freshman.

The third meeting between Clemson and Ohio State in the playoff, and fourth bowl matchup since the 2013 season,

was a game the Buckeyes had been pointing toward ever since a 29-23 loss to Tigers in the Fiesta Bowl last year.

That score was everywhere the Buckeyes turned in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center in Columbus this year.

A chance for revenge was nearly derailed when the Big Ten canceled fall football in August because of the pandemic. An abbreviated Big Ten season caused more headaches, with the Buckeyes having three games canceled because of COVID-19 issues, including their own outbreak.

The playoff committee still liked Ohio State enough to put the Buckeyes in the final four, despite much griping from

See, OSU, Page D2



NOTRE DAME safety Shaun Crawford (20) and others attempt to stop Alabama running back Najee Harris (22).



CINCINNATI wide receiver Alec Pierce gets past Georgia defenders for a touchdown during the first half of the Peach Bowl Friday in Atlanta.

Cincinnati falls short in Peach Bowl

ATLANTA (AP) — Jack Podlesny kicked a 53-yard field goal with three seconds remaining, and No. 11 Georgia handed No. 6 Cincinnati its only loss of the season with a dramatic 24-21 victory in the Peach Bowl on Friday.

Georgia trailed 21-10 in the fourth quarter, but its defense clamped down on Desmond Ridder and Cincinnati and JT Daniels helped rally the Bulldogs with his arm. Daniels finished with 392 yards passing.

Podlesny's third field goal was his longest of the season and gave Georgia a 22-21 lead. Azeez Ojulari sacked Ridder for a safety on the final play. It was Ojulari's third sack. Georgia tied a school record with eight sacks.

Ridder completed 24 of 37 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns. Jerome

Ford added a career-long 79-yard touchdown run early in the second half but it wasn't enough for the Bearcats.

Cincinnati (9-1, No. 8 CFP) was motivated to use the Peach Bowl to gain national respect. Coach Luke Fickell wanted the Bearcats to be included in this season's playoff and he said it was an opportunity to be judged evenly with Power 5 teams in the future.

Georgia (8-2, No. 9 CFP) won despite running for only 45 yards.

Ridder threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce in the first quarter and added an 11-yard scoring pass to Josh Wyle late in the first half.

Daniels, who energized the Bulldogs' offense when he took over at quarterback for the final three regular-season games, overcame an interception and a lost fumble

to lead the comeback.

Georgia's defense helped fuel the rally. Ridder fumbled on a sack by Ojulari, and Adam Anderson recovered at the Bearcats 25. Zamir White's 9-yard TD run trimmed Cincinnati's lead to 21-16, but Daniels' pass on the 2-point attempt was incomplete.

Podlesny kicked a 32-yard field goal with 6:43 remaining. On its next possession, Georgia coach Kirby Smart elected to punt on a fourth-and-3 play from the Georgia 43 with 3:07 remaining.

Ridder ran for one first down before the Bearcats punted with 1:28 remaining, giving Georgia possession at its 20.

Daniels, who threw only one interception while starting Georgia's last three games, had turnover woes against the

See PEACH Page D2

said. Finding catchers can be difficult. I would say when I started playing baseball, catching was kind of an afterthought. It's a position that's gone from not very athletic to maybe the most athletic player on the field."

Proceeds of the event will go right back into Foundations Baseball, which also sponsors weekly youth camps during the fall at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

"We're not running this as a fundraiser for anyone," Costain said. "We're going to invest everything back into the kids. We're just trying to provide a service."

Foundations Baseball has partnered with the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and will present a \$250 scholarship to an individual, who attended the camp, at the Banquet of Champions in May.

"Partnering with the OVAC brings credibility to the program," Costain said. "We have the players - present and future - of the OVAC in mind with this type of event."

Not all of the details of the scholarship have been finalized.

"There will be an application process, but more details will be coming on that in the coming weeks and months," Costain said.

Along with the camp and t-shirt, there

According to Costain, the camp is open to baseball and softball players because the "skillsets and drills transcend to both (baseball and softball)."

"When you talk about things like blocking balls and throwing technique, they all work hand in hand," Costain said. "So far, we do have some females signed up, so we're excited about that."

Costain also has offered an open invitation to area high school and youth coaches to come to the camp. And depending upon demand, he is thinking about offering a question and answer for area coaches along with the clinicians.

Obviously, in the current health climate the world is in, Costain stresses that the camp will be held safely under the guidelines and protocols established by Ohio County Health Department and the Highlands Sports Complex.

"We're at the mercy of the facility and the facility is OK with hosting the event," Costain said. "Kids will have to wear a mask into the facility and the coaches will have to wear one, but when kids are participating in drills and whatnot, they will not have to wear a mask."

More information on the camp can be found at wheelingbaseball.com

Notre Dame (10-2, No. 4 CFP), in football's final four for only the second time, has lost seven consecutive New Year's Six games since 2000.

Alabama scored TDs on its first three possessions, including an 97-yard drive on which Harris leaped over 6-foot cornerback Nick McCloud just after crossing the line of scrimmage, landed on both feet and then sprinted for a 53-yard gain before getting run out of bounds.

"I don't know why I'm surprised every time he does it. I've seen it for three years, but still, 'Geez!'" tight end Miller Forristall said.

"I actually try to teach him not to do it, and it didn't work," Saban said, laughing. "Anyway, for a big guy, it's pretty amazing that he can do that. He's kind of got a great feel when a guy's going to try to cut him. ... When he sees that head go down, he'll go over the top of them in a heart-beat."

Jones, who completed 25 of 30 passes for 297 yards, threw a 12-yard TD to tight end Jahleel Billingsley on the next play.

That came between drives when Smith, with 16 TD catches his last seven games, turned short passes into scores of 26 and 34 yards. Smith finished with seven catches for 130 yards, later adding a nifty toe-tapping 7-yarder in the front corner of the end zone right on the pylon.

CFP officials moved the Rose Bowl because of COVID-19 restrictions in California that would have kept family - or any fans - from attending the game at its normal home. There was a limited capacity crowd of 18,373 at AT&T Stadium, the home of the Dallas Cowboys, just a bit higher than attendance for the Cotton Bowl game there two nights earlier when Oklahoma beat SEC runner-up Florida 55-20.

It was another thud of a finish for the Fighting Irish after winning all 10 regular-season games, including a home victory over Clemson.

But Notre Dame then lost 34-10 in the ACC title game to the Tigers.

"Today was about making the plays. They made them on the perimeter. Their skill players showed up today as they have all year," Irish coach Brian Kelly said. "We battled. I thought we did some of the things that we wanted to today but we simply didn't make enough plays."

Notre Dame lost 30-3 to Clemson in the CFP semifinal Cotton Bowl two years ago at AT&T Stadium. It was the first time the Irish had played Alabama since the Tide beat them 42-14 in the BCS national championship game eight seasons ago.

The Alabama defense kept quarterback Ian Book scrambling.

The winningest starting QB ever for the Irish at 30-5, Book completed 27 of 39 passes for 229 yards and only his third interception in 353 attempts this season.

PERFECT AT COWS HOME
Alabama is 5-0 at AT&T Stadium, with a pair of convincing CFP semifinal wins there. The Tide beat Michigan State 38-0 in the Cotton Bowl five seasons ago.

THE TAKEAWAY
Notre Dame: The Fighting Irish have gone 32 seasons since winning their last national title with a 12-0 record under Lou Holtz in 1988. The Irish were down only 21-7 when they got the ball for the first time in the second half. But any chance to get some momentum evaporated when Book threw an interception when under pressure, and Alabama turned that into another Smith's third TD catch.

Alabama: The outcome wasn't unexpected with the Tide a three-TD favorite, but the 31 points were its fewest since losing to Clemson 41-16 in the CFP title game two years ago - a span of 25 games. The 437 total yards were the lowest since 414 against Missouri in the opener of this pandemic-affected season.

UP NEXT
Notre Dame goes into another offseason still trying to figure out how to close the gap. The Irish play their 2021 season opener Sept. 5 at Florida State.

Bearcats.

Daniels threw a first-quarter interception and committed a key turnover deep in Cincinnati territory in the third quarter. Daniels, scrambling on a second-down play at the Bearcats 11, fumbled when hit by Jarrell White, who also was credited with a sack. Defensive end Ethan Tuckey recovered for Cincinnati.

A shanked 4-yard punt by Georgia's Jake Camarda set up the Bearcats at the Bulldogs 42. Seven plays later, Ridder's 14-yard scoring pass to Pierce gave Cincinnati a 7-0 lead.

After throwing an interception, Daniels regrouped to throw a 16-yard touchdown pass to George Pickens for a 7-7 tie late in the opening quarter.

THE TAKEAWAY

Cincinnati: Led by Ridder, the Bearcats answered any doubts the Group of Five team could match up against Georgia, from the Southeastern Conference. Ridder frustrated Georgia's defense with his mobility. Ford used his power to burst through the line and his speed to outrun the Bulldogs' defense on his 79-yard scoring run early in the second half.

Georgia: White's TD run in the fourth quarter was a rare highlight for a rushing attack that averaged only 1.9 yards on 24 carries. The Bulldogs played without backup running back James Cook, who was with his family following a death.

INJURIES

Cincinnati's secondary lost two AP second-team All-America selections to injuries: cornerback Ahmad Gardner (back) and safety James Wiggins (calf). Cincinnati also was without running back Gerrid Doaks.

• OVAC

Continued from Page D1

members on the committee that put in the time and effort developing a format and a timeline (more than once) in an attempt to have a tournament for our student-athletes," he praised. "We will name our dual meet champions for the 2020-21 season based on the dual rankings at the end of the West Virginia season. "Coaches, good luck to you and your wrestlers this season."

Ohio begins sectional tournament action on February 22-27, with districts on March 5-6 and the state tournament March 12-14.

"This is the first time the tournament has been totally canceled," Doyle said. "It has been postponed or delayed to due to weather and flooding a few times, but never totally canceled until this year."

He said plans are already underway for the 2022.

"It's a shame this had to happen because the OVAC tries our best to give kids the opportunity to prepare themselves for their respective state tournaments," Doyle concluded.

According to reports, this years tournament was expected to be wide-open with 66 placers returning from last year.

Parkersburg South is the defending overall team champion.

COLERAIN

WE HAVE BEEN DOING CARRYOUT SERVICE SINCE 1968...RIGHT TO YOUR CAR!

Home Delivery: Wednesday & Friday Call in By 11:00 AM Delivery in The Afternoon \$10.00 & Up Delivery Fee

STORE HOURS: Monday thru Friday 6am to 8pm Saturday 7am to 8pm • Sunday 9am to 6pm Ohio Lotto Tickets Available!

FOOD & FUEL for Less with Fuel Cents

IGA HOMETOWN PROUD

US Route 250, Colerain, Ohio 43916 • 740-635-3770

Our family taking care of your family. During this critical time, we'd like to thank you for choosing our store, practicing social distancing, and supporting the community.

DELIVERY & DRIVE UP CURB SERVICE AVAILABLE

Happy New Year from our Family to Yours!

Meat			
Fresh Ground Chuck	Boneless Beef Bottom Rump Roast	Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops	Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
\$2.49 lb.	\$2.99 lb.	\$1.79 lb.	\$2.39 lb.
80% Lean, Family Pack			

Deli	Produce		
Troyer Sliced American Cheese	Isaly's Chipped Ham	Iceberg Head Lettuce	Honeycrisp Apples
\$4.99 lb.	\$3.99 lb.	99¢ Each	\$1.99 lb.

Grocery			
Campbell's Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup	Prego Pasta Sauce	Kraft Dressing	Snyder of Berlin Chips
10.75 Oz. 77¢	14.5-24 Oz. 2/\$3	14 Fl. Oz. 2/\$4	2/\$5

Baked Fresh In Store Daily!

8" Apple Pie	Mini Italian Bread	Single Layer Cookies & Cream Cakes	Assorted Sliced Cream Cakes
\$4.99	99¢	\$7.99	\$3.99

CLARK ATM Available inside

We have Diesel!

Colerain IGA

We reserve the right to correct printing errors. None sold to dealers. Quality rights reserved. Items may not be available in all stores.

PRICES EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 10, 2021

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

REPLACEMENT WINDOW COMPANY

"Quality Work since 1983"

Windows • Doors
Sun Rooms • Siding

304.845.3568

www.repwinco.com
repwinco@gmail.com

Heating • Air Conditioning
(740) 769-7709
OH Lic. #24730
WV Lic. #025788

The new degree of comfort.

C

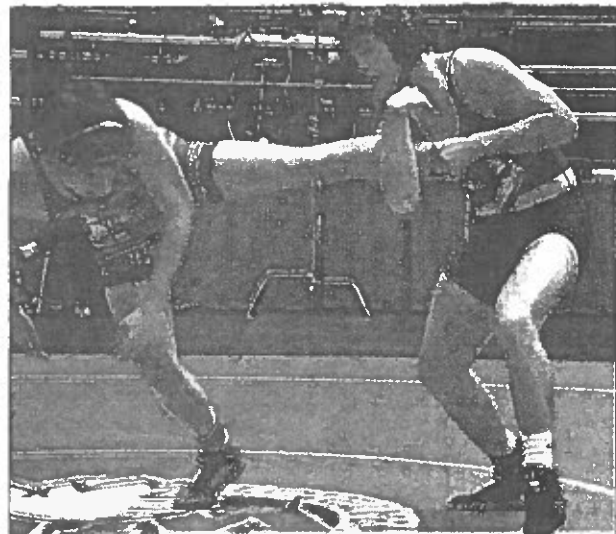
Sunday News-Register
JANUARY 3, 2021

SPORTS

INSIDE:

Steelers-Browns Preview/C2
Peach, Citrus Bowl/C3
NBA/C5
NFL Playoff Race/C7

OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Canceled



File Photo by Kim North

Cameron's Ian Bush, right, wrestles to an individual title at last year's OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships.

Originally Scheduled
For Mid-JanuaryBy KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Due to the recent announcement by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice that delayed the start of the high school winter sports season in the state until March 1, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has been forced to cancel one of its 'jewel' events.

"With this start date for our West Virginia schools and our Ohio schools into their state tournament run we will be unable to hold the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships this season," Tournament Director

Dr. Dan Doyle said Thursday afternoon via telephone. "We knew that if either state association made a move it would affect our tournament. That's what happened. It left us with no window of opportunity."

The 68th annual three-day event was originally scheduled for mid-January, 2021, inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena, but due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, it was reduced to two sessions each on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the John Marshall Fieldhouse and then on Saturday, Jan. 16 at WesBanco Arena. However, those plans were scrapped when the Justice and members of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission agreed to delay win-

ter sports in the Mountain State to at least Jan. 11.

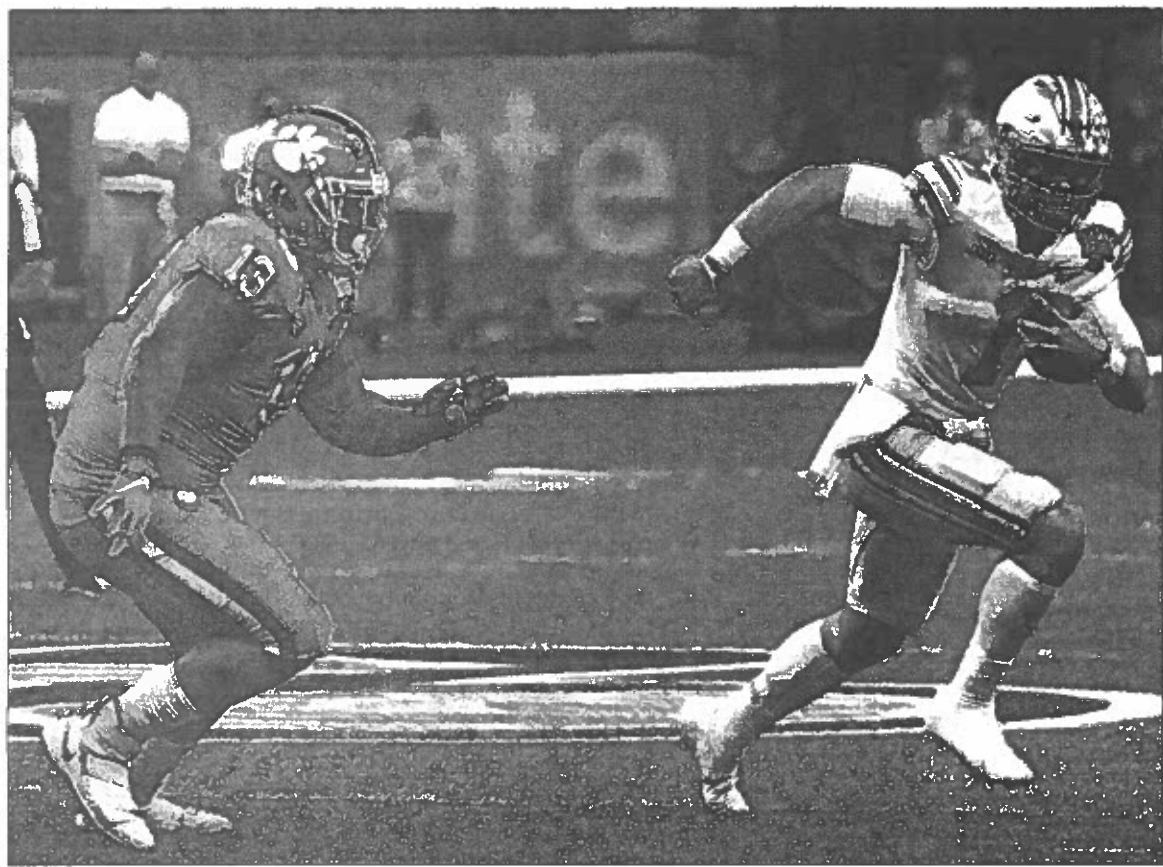
Plans were then made to have an event at two sites on Saturday, Feb. 13, but that date has also been canceled.

"If we know one thing, it is that plans will change," Doyle told those in attendance at the preseason meeting in November.

Doyle did commend members of the OVAC Wrestling Committee for their time and diligence in working with this matter.

"I do want to extend my thanks to the members on the committee that put in the time and effort developing a format and a timeline (more than once) in an attempt to have a tournament for our student-athletes," he praised.

Please see Mauck, Page C2

Ohio State Advances
To CFP Title Game

AP Photo

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields runs past Clemson defensive tackle Tyler Davis during the first half of the Sugar Bowl. The Buckeyes advanced to the CFP title game for the first time since the inaugural playoff.

Buckeyes Make Statement, Crush Clemson in Sugar Bowl

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Justin Fields threw six touchdown passes to outshine Trevor Lawrence and No. 3 Ohio State avenged last season's painful College Football Playoff loss to Clemson with a 49-28 victory in the Sugar Bowl semifinal Friday night.

The Buckeyes (7-0) head to the CFP title game for the first time since the inaugural playoff to face No. 1 Alabama on Jan. 11 at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida. Ohio State beat the Crimson Tide in the semifinals on the way to the 2014 national championship.

"Now we've got an opportunity to win the whole thing, and then you've got an opportunity to write one of the best stories in college football history," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said.

In a matchup of quarterback prodigies from Georgia, Fields might have given the Jacksonville Jaguars something to think about what do to with that first pick in the NFL draft. Lawrence is the presumptive No. 1, but Fields outplayed him on this night, going 22 for 28 for 385 yards. He set a Sugar Bowl record for TD passes and did it playing more than half the game after taking a vicious shot the side that forced him to miss a play and spend time in the medical tent.

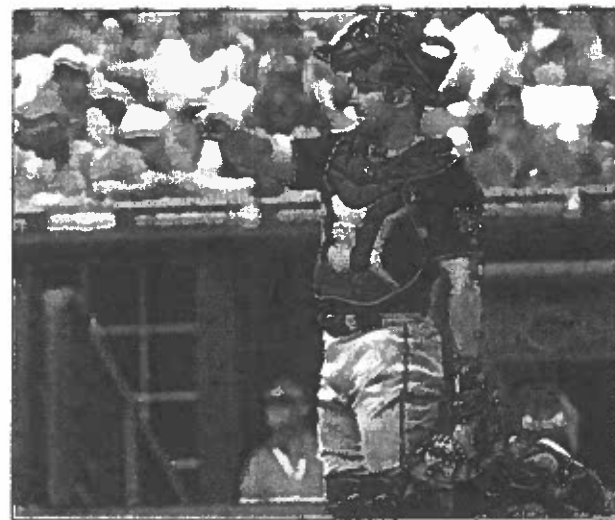
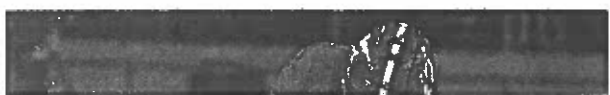
Lawrence was 33 for 48 for 400 yards and three total touchdowns in what is expected to be the junior's final college game. His final pass was intercepted, but Clemson (10-2) went 34-2 in his starts and won a national title when he was a freshman.

Please see Ohio State, Page C4

'Bama Rolls to Rose Bowl Win

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — A truly untraditional



AP File Photo

Michael McKenry is coming to the Ohio Valley to host a catcher's camp at the Highlands Sports Complex.

McKenry To Host
Camp at HighlandsBy SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

Michael McKenry spent seven seasons as a catcher in the Major Leagues.

Suffice to say, he knows a thing or two about playing the position.

The former Colorado Rockies, Pittsburgh Pirate and St. Louis Cardinal is actually coming to the Ohio Valley to host a catcher's camp through 'Foundations Baseball' on Sunday, Jan. 24 at the Highlands Sports Complex.

The camp will be held in two sessions. Kids aged 9-12 will run from 9 a.m. until noon and the 13 year olds through high school-aged players will run from noon until 3.

The cost of the camp is \$100 per athlete and it includes a t-shirt.

"When you put on a camp like this, you assume you're going to get something for your money and we're bringing in a guy with several years of Major League experience," Foundations Baseball founder and camp director Doug Costain said.

Along with McKenry, eight-year Major League player Alex Presley will be on hand as well as former

Please see McKenry, Page C4



AP Photo

West Virginia forward Oscar Tshiebwe has left the team for personal reasons and with no plans

Week 17 Is a Tough Chore For Picking Wins and Covers

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

One of the worst chores in Week 17 in the NFL is figuring out who will go full-out for victory.

A few teams have little incentive to play their stars as they prepare for the postseason. Others just want to get home, especially after this pandemic-impacted year, and forget about the disappointment that has been 2020.

That said, Pro Picks will push what some term as "meaningless" contests to the side — except for the top upset — while concentrating on the games that don't fall into those troublesome categories. We'll still make a choice for every matchup; it's our obligation. Even if it's an exercise in futility in some cases.

KNOCKOUT POOL: The Saints carried us through Christmas weekend, and we head into 2021 taking, gulp, DALLAS to finish off the schedule.

No. 20 Dallas (minus 3) at No. 24 New York Giants

The Cowboys might fall short of winning the NFC East, but they've been presentable recently.

BEST BET: COWBOYS, 27-16
No. 31 New York Jets (plus 3) at No. 21 (tie) New England

A fitting way to conclude the Tom Brady-less season in Patriots Land.

UPSET SPECIAL: JETS, 16-12
No. 11 Miami (plus 1) at No. 3 Buffalo

What a memorable turnaround for Miami as it seeks a playoff spot. But ...

BILLS, 26-19
No. 2 Green Bay (minus 5) at No. 14 Chicago

Almost as good as winning the Super Bowl for Packers would be sending the Bears home.

PACKERS, 23-14
No. 9 Tennessee (minus 7) at No. 29 Houston

Some say Derrick Henry reminds them of Earl Campbell. He'll run wild in Campbell's old stomping grounds.

TITANS, 30-16
No. 32 Jacksonville (plus 14) at No. 10 Indianapolis

Trevor Lawrence hasn't arrived yet in North Florida. All Colts here.

COLTS, 41-15
No. 17 (tie) Washington (plus 1 1-2) at No. 26 Philadelphia

Double selection here, depending on Washington's QB situation.

WASHINGTON, 22-16 (with Alex

Smith)
PHILADELPHIA, 16-13 (without Alex Smith)

No. 4 New Orleans (minus 6 1-2) at No. 23 Carolina

With a slight chance at the NFC's top seed and lone bye, New Orleans stays serious.

SAINTS, 26-20
No. 5 Seattle (minus 5) vs. No. 19 San Francisco at Glendale, Arizona

With a slight chance at the NFC's top seed and lone bye, Seattle stays serious.

SEAHAWKS, 27-16
No. 15 Arizona (OFF) at No. 13 Los Angeles Rams

No Jared Goff for LA, maybe no Kyler Murray for Arizona. The winner advances.

CARDINALS, 18-16
No. 6 Pittsburgh (plus 10) at No. 12 Cleveland

Mike Tomlin chooses rest for his guys rather than extending Cleveland's playoff drought.

BROWNS, 26-19
No. 7 (tie) Baltimore (minus 12) at No. 28 Cincinnati

The Ravens have begun to look dangerous again, clinch a wild card.

RAVENS, 28-17
No. 27 Atlanta (plus 6 1-2) at No. 7 (tie) Tampa Bay

Brady and the Bucs also are looking dangerous at the right time.

BUCCANEERS, 30-20
No. 21 (tie) Minnesota (minus 7) at No. 30 Detroit

This would have been the Best Bet if the game meant anything.

VIKINGS, 31-17
No. 16 Las Vegas (plus 2) at No. 25 Denver

We're still trying to figure out how the Raiders lost to the Dolphins.

BRONCOS, 24-21
No. 17 (tie) Los Angeles Chargers (plus 3) at No. 1 Kansas City

The NFL's best team and reigning champion can go through the motions here.

CHIEFS, 21-20
2020 RECORD

Last Week: Straight up: 10-6.
Against spread: 9-6-1

Season: Straight up: 157-81-1.
Against spread: 118-104-8

Best Bet: Straight up: 12-4. Against spread: 8-8

Upset Special: Straight up: 7-9.
Against spread: 7-7-2

TSHIEBWE

Continued from Page C1

"I had a really good conversation with coach Huggins. He said, you don't need to think. Make a play. Now I know what I got to do to dominate. You just need to play hard. That's the game I always need to play."

Tshiebwe, named to the preseason all-Big 12

team, was averaging 8.5 points and 7.8 rebounds in 10 games. He's the second West Virginia forward lost in the past week. Backup freshman Isaiah Cottrell sustained a season-ending Achilles tendon injury against Northeastern.

Huggins eventually cut

off questions concerning Tshiebwe and set his attention on his other players and the Big 12 schedule, starting with Saturday when West Virginia (8-2, 1-1 Big 12) plays at Oklahoma (5-2, 1-1).

"Personally, I'm excited for what those guys can do," Huggins said.

MAUCK

Continued from Page C1

"We will name our dual meet champions for the 2020-21 season based on the dual rankings at the end of the West Virginia season.

"Coaches, good luck to you and your wrestlers this season."

Ohio begins sectional tournament action on February 22-27, with districts on March 5-6 and the state tournament March 12-14.

"This is the first time the tournament has been totally canceled," Doyle said. "It has been postponed or delayed due to weather and flooding a few times, but

never totally canceled until this year."

He said plans are already underway for the 2022.

"It's a shame this had to happen because the OVAC tries our best to give kids the opportunity to prepare themselves for their respective state tournaments," Doyle concluded.

According to reports, this year's tournament was expected to be wide-open with 66 placers returning from last year.

Parkersburg South is the defending overall team champion.

Browns Can Cap Turnaround With Victory vs. Rival Steelers

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer
CLEVELAND

One win separates the Browns from completing their turnaround.

All it's going to take for them to make the playoffs for the first time since 2002 and end the NFL's longest postseason drought, return to relevance, and post their most wins in the regular season since 1994, is a victory over Pittsburgh.

That rarely happens. Anyway, they've got to deal with COVID-19 first.

Cleveland's topsy-turvy regular season can reach a stirring — and maybe cathartic — crescendo Sunday as the Browns face their dreaded rival. The Steelers have spent the past 20-plus years bullying them while flaunting all those Vince Lombardi trophies and Super Bowl rings.

It's right there for the Browns (10-5), who can end nearly two decades of failure and frustration by beating the Steelers for just the eighth time in 44 games since 1999.

Three seasons removed from 0-16, Cleveland can exorcise demons for players and fans.

"I know guys who have been here and just hearing from how they talked about it," said Pro Bowl running back Nick Chubb.

"We have never been in this position before so we are playing for those guys, playing for everyone in this city and playing for each other."

Pittsburgh would like to inflict even more pain. "It's a lot of motivation," said Steelers wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster, who has vowed to discontinue his pregame logo dancing routine. "For a lot of us, it's more so being an AFC North division team and knocking them out of the playoffs."

The Steelers, who clinched the AFC North last week and clobbered Cleveland 38-7 in October, are helping the Browns' cause by resting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and several other prominent starters.

Pittsburgh will start backup QB Mason Rudolph, who has a history with Cleveland's Myles Garrett after their ugly helmet-swinging scuffle a year ago.

Garrett was suspended six games by

the league for striking Rudolph and has spent the past year rehabilitating his image.

Same for Rudolph, who was fined \$50,000, accused by Garrett of making a racial slur, and hasn't played well when called upon.

Under normal circumstances, this Rudolph-Garrett reunion in Cleveland, would be top billing.

But 2020's many twists have changed that.

"That is so far in our rearview mirror that we can't see it," said Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, also expected to give league sacks leader T.J. Watt the day off.

For Browns coach Kevin Stefanski, Sunday's game will cap another turbulent week in his first season on the job.

After putting together a game plan, he dealt with numerous disruptions and delays due to his team in the throes of a COVID-19 flare-up.

The Browns will be without five regulars at least, including top cornerback Denzel Ward.

But they are expected to have back Jarvis Landry and three other receivers, whose absence last week as high-risk contacts deprived quarterback Baker Mayfield of playmakers in a shocking loss to the New York Jets.

True to his nature, Stefanski remained stoic amid the COVID chaos.

"We will be prepared," he said.

UP AND RUNNING

The Browns didn't have Chubb in their first meeting with the Steelers, who held Cleveland to 75 yards rushing. Chubb's back and starting right guard Wyatt Teller return after missing the past two games with a sprained ankle.

Cleveland gained only 45 yards last week against the Jets, but Teller and rookie left tackle Jedrick Wills, who was held out with COVID-19 symptoms, should reignite the Browns' running attack.

"Jedrick and Wyatt are special players for us," Mayfield said. "They are vital parts of our offense."

T.J.'S TIME

Watt finished third in the NFL Defensive Player of the Year voting last season.

His teammates and his coach are cam-

paigned for him to reach the top spot in 2020.

Watt's 15 sacks lead the league and he's been disruptive weekly even with good friend and fellow outside linebacker Bud Dupree being lost for the season with a torn ACL. Watt has at least a half-sack in 11 of 15 games, including two last week against Indianapolis.

"T.J. is visiting from another planet, to be quite honest with you," Tomlin said. "He has freakishly unique talent coupled with freakishly unique work habits and mindset."

BAKER'S BLUNDERS

Mayfield's three fumbles last week were costly.

He was twice stripped in the pocket and he coughed up the ball on a late fourth-down sneak, clinching the Jets' second win.

Mayfield was critical of himself following the game, saying he "failed" the Browns.

His mood wasn't much better by midweek, but he was motivated to come out swinging against the Steelers.

"I have had my back against the wall many a time in my life," he said.

"I think I handle that type of stuff correctly."

RUST PROOF?

The last time the Steelers gave Roethlisberger the week off heading into the playoffs, things didn't go so well. Roethlisberger sat out the 2017 finale — an overtime victory versus Cleveland — with the second seed in the AFC and a first-round bye already assured.

The siesta seemed to blunt Pittsburgh's momentum. The Steelers sputtered out of the gate against Jacksonville in the divisional round, falling behind by three touchdowns in a stunning 45-42 loss.

Roethlisberger isn't concerned about history repeating itself, pointing out this layoff won't be as long.

"Having two weeks off is good," he said. "It makes your body feel good, but you can get a little bit rusty. Only having one week will be just fine. I don't foresee that being an issue."

"If anything it will actually be good to physically get myself kind of recovered and back at it."

Classified/B5

SPORTS

Tuesday,
November 3, 2020

OVAC Wrestling format changed announced

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING -- The global COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things locally, regionally, nationally and across the world. The 68th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships is the latest to fall victim to the virus.

For the first time in quite some time, the three-day event has been reduced to a pair of Saturdays in January, 2021. The announcement came during Monday night's preseason press conference

inside WesBanco Arena.

"The committees met and looked over the modifications from each state association and come up with a plan that, No. 1, I think is a safe one for our wrestlers, coaches, fans and workers," Director Dr. Dan Doyle explained. "No. 2, I think it is fair to all the 41 schools that have wrestling. I also think our champions will be true champions and they will get their due recognition that an OVAC champ earns."

The event schedule is broken down into two sessions each on Saturday, Jan. 9 inside the John Marshall Fieldhouse

and Saturday, Jan. 16 inside WesBanco Arena.

Only the top 12 wrestlers in each weight class will be entered with the seed/selection committee meeting on Sunday, Jan. 3 for the seedings, plus one alternate in each weight division. The final top 4 seeds will receive automatic bids to the conference championships, with the seeds 5-12 competing on the first weekend.

"Only the top 8 wrestlers in each weight class will receive berths to the

See, OVAC, Page B2



OVAC WRESTLING Commissioner Dr. Dan Doyle speaks at the coaches meeting to announce the format for the 2021 Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament.

T.L. Photo/KIM NORTH

Browns show flaws in bad loss, reach their bye week

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Huge waves on Lake Erie smashed onto the rock jetties just outside FirstEnergy Stadium, where the conditions on Nov. 1 were perfectly imperfect: howling wind, rain, snow, teeth-chattering temperatures.

Hardly ideal football weather, but the kind the Browns are supposedly built to thrive in. And, the kind they hope to have for future home playoff games.

On Sunday, they shivered and shriveled in the cold.

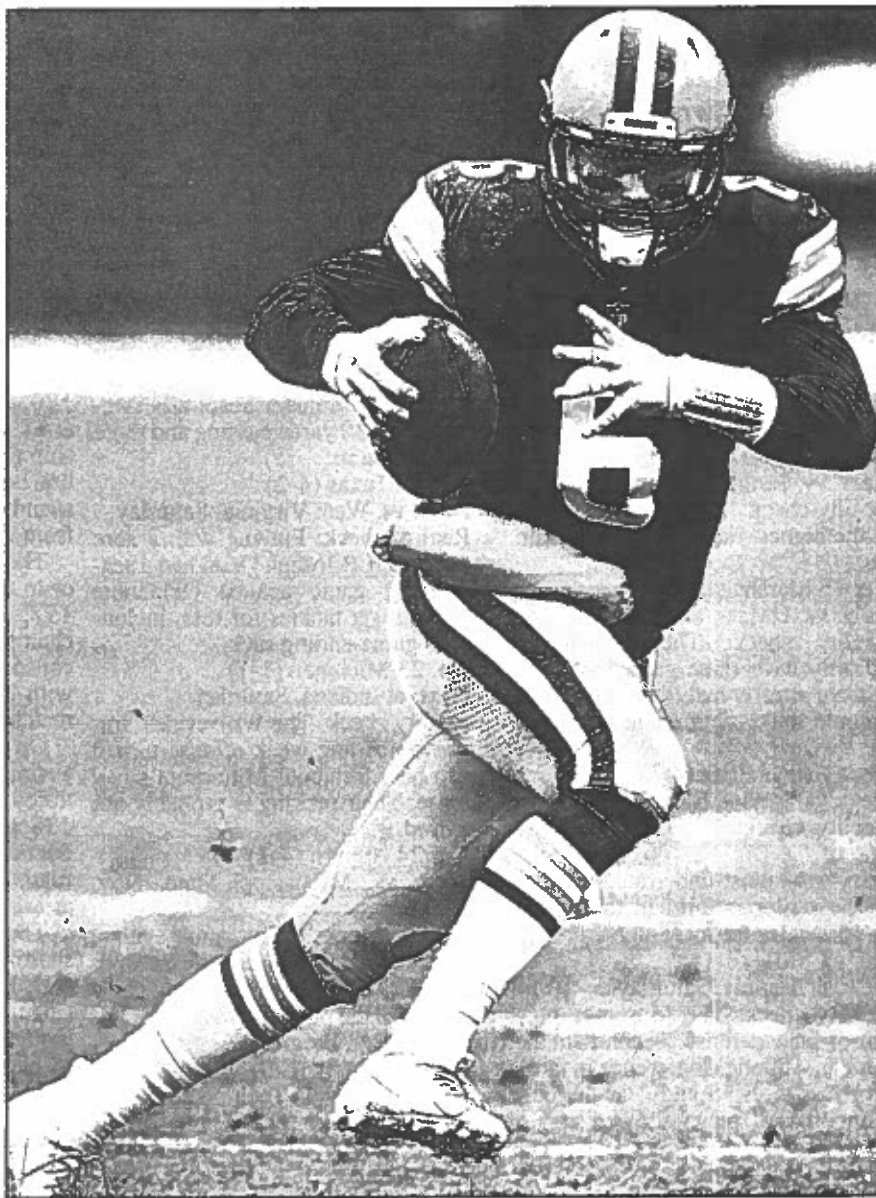
Instead, the Las Vegas Raiders, who play inside a toasty dome in the desert, came to chilly Northeast Ohio and manhandled Cleveland throughout a 16-6 win, raising more questions about whether the Browns have turned the corner or remain a major work in progress.

The Browns (5-3) began their bye week Monday feeling bruised and maybe a little bewildered.

They didn't take advantage of their supposed home-field advantage as the Raiders (3-3) controlled the clock and line of scrimmage from start to finish. Las Vegas rolled up 208 yards rushing and had the ball for nearly 38 minutes.

"We were just getting knocked back," coach Kevin Stefanski said, candidly describing his defensive front's feeble performance.

But even in the messy clean up, the Browns got some good news as star defensive end Myles Garrett's knee injury isn't serious. An MRI showed no structural damage for Garrett, who hurt his knee early against the Raiders and was



CLEVELAND BROWNS quarterback Baker Mayfield scrambles during the second half of a game against the Las Vegas Raiders, Sunday in Cleveland.

AP PHOTO

See, BROWNS, Page B2

Moving way up: Williamson goes from Jets to Steelers

NEW YORK (AP) -- Avery Williamson is going from winless to undefeated.

The New York Jets agreed Sunday night to trade the veteran linebacker to the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Jets also are sending a 2022 seventh-round draft pick to the Steelers for Pittsburgh's 2022 fifth-rounder.

The deal, announced by both teams Monday, moves Williamson from the Jets, who are 0-8 after a 35-9 loss at Kansas City, to the 7-0 Steelers, the league's only undefeated team after a 28-24 win at Baltimore.

The 28-year-old Williamson should immediately help the Steelers, who were in need of an experienced inside linebacker after Devin Bush was lost for the season on Oct. 18 with a torn ACL. Pittsburgh has survived without Bush but the run defense was gashed by the Ravens, who piled up 265 yards rushing but were undone by four turnovers by quarterback Lamar Jackson.

Williamson had been the subject of trade rumors during the offseason because of his



NEW YORK Jets inside linebacker Avery Williamson (54) during an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday in Kansas City, Mo. He was traded to the Steelers on Monday.

AP PHOTO

hefty salary. He was set to make \$6 million in base salary this season, but agreed to restructure his deal for this season. Williamson was making \$3.5 million with \$1 million in guaranteed money, and was scheduled to be a free agent after this season.

It's the latest cost-cutting, draft-pick-gathering move by the Jets and general manager Joe Douglas -- with the struggling franchise setting its sights on the future ahead of the NFL's trade deadline on Tuesday.

New York released running back Le'Veon Bell on Oct. 13 after it couldn't find a trade partner. Bell signed a few days later with Kansas City and ran for 7 yards on six carries against his former team Sunday. He also caught three passes for 31 yards.

The Jets traded nose tackle Steve McLendon to Tampa Bay five days later. New York also sent a 2023 seventh-round draft pick to Tampa Bay in exchange for the

See, STEELERS, Page B2

St. C. girls set for first regional

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- Uncharted waters.

That's what St. Clairsville will be entering when it hosts Dover tonight in a Division II, Region VII girls soccer tournament semifinal. No Red Devils soccer team -- male or female -- has ever reached this level of competition.

The match is set for 7 on the artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium.

Both squads advanced via upsets in their Eastern District 2 and 1 championship contests, respectively, on Saturday. The third-seeded Red Devils (12-5-2) knocked off No. 2 John Glenn, 2-1, in penalty kicks, while the No. 4 Crimson Tornadoes (12-5-3) blanked top-seeded River View, 2-0.

St. Clairsville played its best game of the season against the Muskies, and it had to.

"We're really looking forward to this game. Obviously, we're really excited to make school history, but we don't want our journey to end just yet," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "We're also excited to get to play one more home game, especially for these seniors to get a chance to play there one more time. Our girls are ready to go."

"We're playing a very tough team in Dover that does everything well, and is always very well coached," Stoner added. "They're talented every where and this will be the most difficult challenge yet this postseason. This is their second trip in a row to regionals, so they've got some experience in being here," he continued.

"We've played some really good teams in the regular season to try and prepare for mo-

See, ST. C., Page B2



T.L. Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE goalie Jaeda Nowak smothers a shot during the shootout of Saturday's district final. Nowak and the Red Devils play Dover today in a regional semifinal.

Clemson, Alabama close to rare tie at top of AP Poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer



Reality check: Questions about that shaky first-half performance by the defense

by Machado are the finalists for NL MVP.

Robinson is the only player to win the MVP award in each league, accomplishing

is the heavy favorite and the 25-year-old right-hander went 8-1 with a 1.63 ERA and 122 strikeouts in 77 1/3

who has led by the time Sox after the team made the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

is the Browns' single biggest objective in 2020, and Stefanski has been encouraged by what he's seen from the third-year QB.

"I think Baker is doing a nice job of operating, getting us into the right checks, getting us in and out of the huddle and using his cadence yesterday getting them to jump offside a few times," Stefanski said. "He is progressing, he is making plays and I know he is going to tell you that he thinks there are more plays to be made. I do believe that he is going to continue to improve."

WHAT'S WORKING

Cleveland's offensive line has managed to keep Mayfield mostly out of harm's way despite being down starting right guard Wyatt Teller, who missed his third straight game with a calf injury.

Mayfield wasn't sacked for the second game in a row and has only been sacked 11 times in 2020.

• Poll

Continued from Page B1

No. 6 Cincinnati (5-0)
Next: vs. Houston, Saturday
Reality: How's this for a switch? The Bearcats' defense has overshadowed QB Desmond Ridder, who accounted for nine touchdowns (four passing and five rushing) in blowouts of SMU and Memphis.

No. 7 Texas A&M (4-1)
Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.
Reality check: QB Kellen Mond is on pace for career bests in completion percentage (64.7%), yards per pass (8.0) and interception rate (1.3). That's what you want from your senior starter.

No. 8 Florida (3-1)
Next: vs. Georgia in Jacksonville, Saturday.
Reality check: QB Kyle Trask has thrown at least four touchdown passes in each game. Another performance like that against Georgia and the Heisman Trophy talk can really crank up.

No. 9 BYU (7-0)
Next: at No. 21 Boise State, Friday.
Reality check: The Cougars' are still in need of a victory over a high-quality opponent to validate their dominance. Here you go.

No. 10 Wisconsin (1-0)
Next: vs. Purdue, Saturday.
Reality check: The Badgers hope to be back on the field and preparing for a game by Wednesday. That might be overly optimistic.

No. 11 Miami (5-1)
Next: at North Carolina State, Saturday.
Reality check: The Hurricanes have managed to avoid being dragged into the ACC's mushy middle. Consecutive road games against N.C. State and Virginia Tech will test their ability to stay above the fray.

No. 12 Oregon
Next: at Stanford, Saturday.
Reality check: The expectations for the Ducks seem too high considering

all they lost from 2019 departures and 2020 opt-outs.

No. 13 Indiana (2-0)
Next: vs. No. 23 Michigan, Saturday.

Reality check: The ranking suggests the Hoosiers might be the second-best team in the Big Ten. Reality check is not buying that, but just so you know: Indiana was last ranked in the top 10 in 1969.

No. 14 Oklahoma State (4-1)
Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

Reality check: Offensive line injuries have taken a toll on the Cowboys, who lost left tackle Jake Springfield during the Texas game and couldn't protect QB Spencer Sanders.

No. 15 Coastal Carolina (6-0)
Next: vs. South Alabama, Saturday.
Reality check: The Chanticleers are now the highest ranked Sun Belt team ever.

No. 16 Marshall (5-0)
Next: vs. UMass, Saturday.
Reality check: The Thundering Herd only have three games left, but they have already had three postponed and could make-up a game or two in December.

No. 17 Iowa State (4-2)
Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
Reality check: DE JaQuan Bailey is one of the Big 12's — maybe the country's — most underrated defenders. The senior is third in the nation with 11 tackles for loss.

No. 18 SMU (6-1)
Next: at Temple, Saturday.
Reality check: The Mustangs play boom-or-bust defense, second in the American Athletic Conference in tackles for loss with 55 and near the bottom in 20-yard plays allowed at 5.6 per game.

No. 19 Oklahoma (4-2)
Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.
Reality check: The Sooners welcomed back DE Ronnie Perkins, their best pass rusher, and RB Rhamondre

Stevenson from NCAA suspensions. Perkins had two tackles for loss and Stevenson ran for three score against Texas Tech.

No. 20 USC
Next: vs. Arizona State, Saturday.
Reality check: Can RB Stephen Carr become the Trojans' feature back as a senior? He flashed big potential as a freshman, but not so much since.

No. 21 Boise State (2-0)
Next: vs. 9 BYU, Friday.
Reality check: Boise State wouldn't say why QB Hank Bachmeier did not make the trip to Air Force or whether he could play against BYU, but Southern California transfer Sears was awesome with 280 yards passing and three scores filling in.

No. 22 Texas (4-2)
Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday.
Reality check: Playing with a sore shoulder, OLB Joseph Ossai had a season-saving game against Oklahoma State with six tackles for loss, including the game-ending sack.

No. 23 Michigan (1-1)
Next: at Indiana, Saturday.
Reality check: The Wolverines' impressive opening week offense turned out to be a lot about Minnesota's bad defense. Their ranking is probably not deserved.

No. 24 Auburn (4-2)
Next: vs. Mississippi State, Nov. 14.

Reality check: It has come against two very bad defenses (Mississippi and LSU), but QB Bo Nix has completed 70% the past two weeks and not thrown a pick. Progress.

No. 25 Liberty (6-0)
Next: at Virginia Tech, Saturday.
Reality check: The Flames' soft schedule so far makes BYU's look like a gauntlet, but credit to coach Hugh Freeze for getting the program positioned for a second straight bowl game.

-- --

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

moments like this one. Hopefully it pays off."

After a scoreless first half, Alyssa Bodkin put the Red Devils ahead 1-0 early in the 42nd minute off an assist from Megan Malin. It was the junior's team-best 21st net-finder on the campaign. However, she has been ruled out for the contest after sitting out much of the second half Saturday with an eye injury.

Four minutes later, John Glenn drew even and the teams battled the remaining 34 minutes scoreless.

A pair of 15-minute overtime periods failed to settle anything, setting up the dramatics in the shootout.

Malin, Mikayla Hendershot and Bella Swan found the back of the net for the Red Devils. Ariel Ott's shot traveled over the cage. The Muskies also netted three goals and had one bang off the crossbar.

Gianna Nardo gave the Red Devils a 4-3 advantage in penalty kicks in

the top of the fifth round, and senior goalkeeper Jaeda Nowak did her job by stopping the final offering from the Muskies which touched off a wild celebration as her teammates rushed to her.

St. Clairsville opened the tournament trail with a 2-0 win over Beaver Local and followed that up with a 2-1 triumph over Tri-Valley in double overtime. Dover has blanked West Holmes, 4-0, before outlasting Indian Creek, 2-1, in overtime.

In addition to Bodkin, who also has a trio of assists, Hendershot has scored 15 goals while adding a like number of assists. Malin has seven goals and nine helpers. Ott has six goals and eight assists. Emily Thompson, who was injured in the first half Saturday, has three goals and eight assists.

Nowak has charted 139 saves while giving up 26 goals.

St. Clairsville has played all season without senior Macy Malin who has

60 career goals. She injured a knee in preseason workouts that required surgery.

Lydia Frank tallied Dover's first goal Saturday on a rebound in the 35th minute after the initial shot rang off the crossbar. Jaiden Corley bent in a corner kick four minutes later. Goalkeeper Addie Martin stopped a River View breakaway early in the second half to preserve the shutout.

Tonights winner meets the survivor of Chillicothe Unioto and Granville on Saturday at noon for the regional crown and a berth in the state tournament. The site has yet to be determined.

Dover has scored 65 goals while giving up 24. It has seven shutouts. St. Clairsville, meanwhile, has netted 54 goals and yielded 26. The Crimson Tornadoes are 4-2-2 on the road. The Red Devils are 8-3-2 at home.

Do you know what's in the air you breathe?

According to the Environmental Health Project, active frack pads, compressor stations, and processing facilities regularly emit various chemical pollutants that we aren't able to see. When ingested, these emissions can cause or exacerbate a host of short- and long-term health problems, including headaches, eye and throat irritation, respiratory complications, chest pain, asthma, and certain types of cancer.

There's a reason why you might not have heard about the health effects associated with fracking. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) grant permits for extractive infrastructure projects on a case-by-case basis, without adequate consideration of spikes in emissions from nearby oil and gas facilities. This means the collective air pollution emitted by Belmont County's 696 shale gas sites is neither monitored nor regulated to the extent necessary to protect our health.

Join us for Making the Invisible Visible, a webinar and Q&A on air pollution and inadequate regulation.

It's time to protect ourselves. The more we know, the more we can mitigate health effects by closing windows, staying indoors, documenting pollution levels, and, when possible, installing air monitoring equipment ourselves. Join us on November 5th or November 19th at 6:30 p.m. to learn about our ongoing efforts to install air monitoring equipment in local communities, enabling residents to view crowdsourced emissions data in real time. Participants of both sessions of our November webinar may be eligible for free air monitoring equipment and installation. For more information, please visit our website.

Register to attend below:

<http://bit.ly/visiblewebinar>



www.concernedohioriverresidents.org
general@concernedohioriverresidents.org

696 PERMITTED WELLS IN BELMONT COUNTY.
110,094,768 GALLONS OF FRACKING WASTE DISPOSED IN BELMONT COUNTY.
MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE
WEBINAR AND Q&A:
11.05 | 6:30 PM
11.19 | 6:30 PM

Williamson Goes From Winless Jets to Unbeaten Steelers

Pittsburgh, N.Y. also swap 2022 picks

NEW YORK (AP) — Avery Williamson is going from winless to undefeated.

The New York Jets agreed Sunday night to trade the veteran linebacker to the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Jets also are sending a 2022 seventh-round draft pick to the Steelers for Pittsburgh's 2022 fifth-rounder.

The deal, announced by both teams Monday, moves Williamson from the Jets, who are 0-8 after a 35-9 loss at Kansas City, to the 7-0 Steelers, the league's only undefeated team after a 28-24 win at Baltimore.

The 28-year-old Williamson

should immediately help the Steelers, who were in need of an experienced inside linebacker after Devin Bush was lost for the season on Oct. 18 with a torn ACL. Pittsburgh has survived without Bush but the run defense was gashed by the Ravens, who piled up 265 yards rushing but were undone by four turnovers by quarterback Lamar Jackson.

Williamson had been the subject of trade rumors during the offseason because of his hefty salary. He was set to make \$6 million in base salary this season, but agreed to restructure his deal for this season. Williamson was making \$3.5 million with \$1 million in guaranteed money, and was scheduled to be a free agent after this season.

It's the latest cost-cutting,

draft-pick-gathering move by the Jets and general manager Joe Douglas — with the struggling franchise setting its sights on the future ahead of the NFL's trade deadline on Tuesday.

New York released running back Le'Veon Bell on Oct. 13 after it couldn't find a trade partner. Bell signed a few days later with Kansas City and ran for 7 yards on six carries against his former team Sunday. He also caught three passes for 31 yards.

The Jets traded nose tackle Steve McLendon to Tampa Bay five days later. New York also sent a 2023 seventh-round draft pick to Tampa Bay in exchange for the Buccaneers' sixth-rounder in 2022.

Please see STEELERS, Page 10



AP Photo
New York Jets inside linebacker Avery Williamson (54) runs after making an interception during the first half of a game.

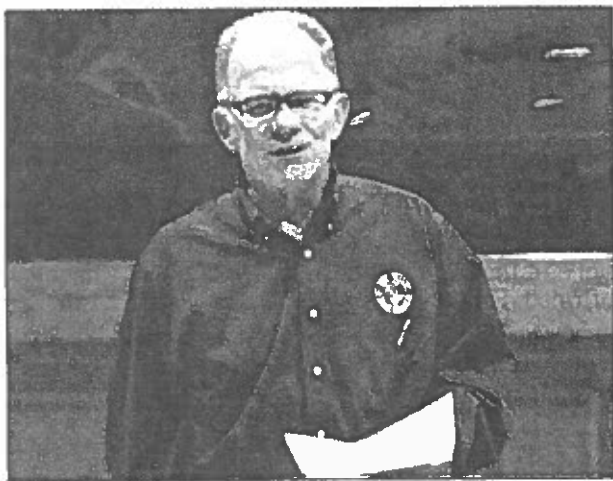


Photo by Kim North

Dr. Dan Doyle, Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships Director, speaks Monday night during the annual preseason press conference inside WesBanco Arena.

OVAC Wrestling Championships To Be Split Up

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The global COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things locally, regionally, nationally and across the world. The 68th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships is the latest to fall victim to the virus.

For the first time in quite some time, the three-day event has been reduced to a pair of Saturdays in January, 2021. The announcement came during Monday night's preseason press conference inside WesBanco Arena.

"The committees met and looked over the modifications from each state association and come up with a plan that, No. 1, I think is a safe one for our wrestlers, coaches, fans and workers," Director Dr. Dan Doyle explained. "No. 2, I think it is fair to all the 41 schools that have wrestling. I also

think our champions will be true champions and they will get their due recognition that an OVAC champ earns."

The event schedule is broken down into two sessions each on Saturday, Jan. 9 inside the John Marshall Fieldhouse and Saturday, Jan. 16 inside WesBanco Arena.

Only the top 12 wrestlers in each weight class will be entered with the seed/selection committee meeting on Sunday, Jan. 3 for the seedings, plus one alternate in each weight division. The final top 4 seeds will receive automatic bids to the conference championships, with the seeds 5-12 competing on the first weekend.

"Only the top 8 wrestlers in each weight class will receive berths to the championships on the 16th," Doyle noted.

On the first day, preliminary round matches

Please see OVAC, Page 10

W.Va. Teams Hoping To Jump Into Playoffs



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Shaheed Jackson and the Patriots are looking to make a playoff appearance this year.

Local schools trying to dodge COVID scares in final week

The final week of the regular season in West Virginia will conclude this weekend. While it has been a stressful few months for athletes, coaches, athletic directors, family members and media alike, the show must go on and the final SSAC ratings will be released at the end of the week.

If the West Virginia color-coded map works in their county's favor, some local teams will earn a playoff spot no matter what, there are also some other teams that are on the outside looking to

squeeze in. Here's a look at the local teams vying for the playoffs.

In Class AAA, Wheeling Park will be in the playoffs as long as Ohio County avoids turning red on the map. Last week, the Patriots sat at No. 6 in the SSAC ratings. With a victory over Parkersburg South last week, it should almost solidify a home playoff game for Wheeling Park. The Patriots were scheduled to face off against rival John Marshall on Friday, but the game was scratched due to Marshall

County going gold on the West Virginia color-coded map. As of Monday night, Wheeling Park has no scheduled game for the weekend.

Speaking of John Marshall, the Monarchs were ranked 13th in last week's ratings. They didn't help themselves, though, as the Monarchs fell to Keyser on Friday.

John Marshall has scheduled a home game for Washington Saturday.

Please see JUMP, Page 10

NFL Reports Positive Tests

By DAVID GINSBURG schedule altered by out-



Brady, Bucs Edge Giants

JUMP

(Continued from Page 9)

A win is a must for the Monarchs.

In Class AA, Oak Glen has built off of its record-breaking season from 2019.

In last week's SSAC ratings, the Golden Bears (5-1) were fourth.

As of the last week's ratings, no local Class A teams are in the Top 16.

Madonna, currently riding a five-game winning streak, sat at 18th in last week's ratings.

Wheeling Central, is the fi-

nal local team to make a push. Wheeling Central saw itself at 20th before Friday's crucial matchup against Williamstown (fourth in Class A).

Wheeling Central is scheduled to travel to Petersburg on Friday.

Offensive Player of the Week

Schaefer ran wild all over Edison's defense at a tune of 282 yards and four touchdowns.

Defensive Player of the Week

The sophomore led Park's defense with 10 tackles and two for a loss.

Ground Gainers

Chase Goff, Martins Ferry: Rushed for 100 yards and a score in a victory over Bellaire.

Wyatt Reiman, Shadyside: Rushed for 129 yards and a score

in a playoff victory over River.

Logan Shields, St. Clairsville: Shields couldn't be kept out of the end zone as he scored four TDs and ran for 81 yards in the Red Devils' wild win.

Jaksan Price, Union Local: Price was living rent-free in the end zone as he found it four times and ran for 215 yards in a Jets' win.

Jamari Bass, Weir: On 12 rushes, Bass ran for 107 yards to lead Weir's ground game.

Aerial Attack

Michael Toepfer, Wheeling Central: Signalcaller was nearly perfect as he went 7 of 8 for 159 yards and three touchdowns to keep the Maroon Knights' playoff hopes alive.

Logan Smith, Martins Ferry: Threw for 158 yards and a score for the Riders.

Jake Heatherington, Beallaire: Big Reds QB accounted for 102 yards.

Beau Heller, Wheeling Park: Went 21 of 26 for 273 yards and five touchdowns.

Josh Shorts, Brooke: The Bruins' QB dashed for 161 yards and a touchdowns.

Anthony DeMatteis, Weir: The Red Riders' signal-caller went for 150 yards and a TD in a triumphant fashion.

Good Hands Team

Rhys Francis, Shadyside: Threw for 149 yards and two touchdowns for the Tigers.

Torrence Walker, Shaheed Jackson, Sincere Sinclair, Wheeling Park: Walker delivered seven catches for 69 yards and a touchdown while Jackson caught five balls for 73 and a score.

Carson Yobbagy, Weir: Yobbagy hauled in four passes for 103 yards and a score.

Mr. Everything

Jordan Waterhouse, Wheeling Central: Senior standout rushed for 124 yards and hauled in two receptions for 70 yards with both of them going for TDs.

Stevie Mitchell, Wheeling Park: Ran for 161 yards and a touchdown while also catches five passes with one of them going for a score.

Tyler Tonkovich, St. Clairsville: The Red Devils'

QB led a historic comeback win with 139 rushing yards and a score and 138 passing yards and a TD.

Hunter Kelley, Linsly: Kelley lit up the sky and the tore up the ground with 249 yards and three passing touchdowns, along with 74 yards and a rushing TD for the victorious Cadets.

Jeremy Brown, Indian Creek: The senior tallied 11 tackles, five hurries and two sacks, while rushing for 80 yards and a TD.

Big Boot

Andrew Glass, Wheeling Park: Booted a 47-yard FG while also successfully kicking five extra points for the Patriots.

Wrecking Crew

Reese Skaggs, Carson Woodford, St. Clairsville: Woodford turned in 11 tackles and hurried the QB, while Skaggs provided eight stops, two sacks and a pair of hurries.

Gavin Dondzila, Jonathan Giusto, Indian Creek: Guisto racked up 10 tackles and Dondzila tallied seven stops and two sacks.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

at 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138 and 145 will be contested, beginning at 11 a.m. with first-round bouts.

The fieldhouse will be cleared and deeply sanitized prior to the second session beginning at 4 p.m. with bouts at 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285.

Second round championship matches, along with first- and second-round consolation bouts will be run from noon until 1:30 p.m., with third-round championship and the final consolation matches held from 2-3 p.m.

On the second weekend inside WesBanco Arena, quarterfinal matches in the championship bracket will be contested, starting at 10 a.m., at 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138 and 145.

Semifinals will follow at 11, with the introduction ceremony beginning at 1 p.m. The championship finals and matches for third-, fifth- and seventh-places start at 1:20.

BUCS

(Continued from Page 9)

was pressured into an unwise throw to Tate that Sean Murphy-Bunting picked off at the Tampa 33. That set the stage for the 66-yard drive to the touchdown by Evans.

Jones had two costly picks, helping negate a strong effort by New York's defense.

STATS PACK

Brady finished 28 for 40 for 279 yards, while Jones was 25 for 41 for 256 yards.

Evans led Tampa Bay with five catches for 55 yards, and Gronkowski wound up with four receptions for 41 yards. ... Former Giants DE Jason

ity will once again be cleared deeply sanitized prior to the second session beginning at 4 p.m. with bouts at 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285.

"I commend the committee because they have been getting together the last 4-5 weeks once we received word on what our states were doing," Doyle praised. "To come up with this format is a great thing, but the only thing we do know is it's going to change, and if it does, let's hope it's for the good because we'll go right back to having all 41 schools here on Thursday. Friday and Saturday like in the past, but we have to be flexible this year."

Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett liked what he heard.

"First and foremost, I'm just glad it's happening. A lot of people were fearing the worst, but we (the committee) came together and it's worked out to where we're going to get these kids wrestling. That's the main goal, really."

Barnesville's Jayson Stephen echoed Leggett's thoughts.

"Obviously it's different. Tonight is the third meeting I've been through and it's basically about the kids," he stressed. "I feel bad for some of the other kids being left out, but when it comes down to guidelines and rules it's either play by them and have something, or don't and have nothing at all. Hopefully, it works."

PIN FALLS

All high school schedules must be turned in by Dec. 1 and all results by Jan. 16;

The cut-off for the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships is Jan. 20. Responses if participating are due by Monday;

The duals are tentatively scheduled for Jan. 27 at the John Marshall Fieldhouse for Class 3A and Class 5A, and on Jan. 28 at Brooke for Classes 1-2A and 4A

There will be no reunion of the 25-year champions this year;

There are 11 new officials completing the required certification this year;

Only one new coach, Guy Nestor at Buckeye Local, came aboard this season. He is a former Panthers coach.

NFL

(Continued from Page 9)

then have a Sunday morning test come back positive on Monday.

The Ravens confirmed Monday that a player tested positive for COVID-19, but did not release the name of the individual. Harbaugh confirmed Humphrey was that player.

Humphrey is a key figure on a Baltimore defense that has forced a turnover in 20 straight games. He had four tackles against Pittsburgh.

The Steelers, after being made aware of a Baltimore player testing positive, released a statement that tests on their players all came back negative. The team said it would follow all NFL protocols and take precautionary measures at its training complex.

The Packers on Monday also sent out a release that said a player tested positive.

According to multiple reports, that player is running back AJ Dillon, who was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

Packers officials said all player meetings Monday would be conducted virtually. The player who tested positive has self-quarantined.

This marks the first time a Packers player has tested positive during the season.

Green Bay (5-2) has a short week before playing at San Francisco (4-4) on Thursday night.

After facing Green Bay on Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings moved forward after last week having two players on the COVID-19 list.

"Well, it doesn't affect us because

we're already in intensive protocol," coach Mike Zimmer said. "We'll be there 'til Thursday unless they change the rules on us again."

In Arizona, Cardinals linebacker Devon Kennard says he has tested positive for COVID-19, but feels "completely normal so far." The 29-year-old Kennard signed with the Cardinals in the offseason after playing his first six seasons with the New York Giants and Detroit Lions. He's played in five games this season, starting four, and has two sacks.

The Cardinals did not release the name of the other player who tested positive over the weekend.

The Browns, meanwhile, announced they would conduct their football meetings remotely on Monday.

The team said: "This morning, an active player who has not been in the facility today reported that he is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms. While there have been no positive test results among players, coaches or staff members, the team decided to host meetings remotely to exercise the appropriate level of caution."

The Houston Texans have had no other positive COVID-19 tests since one positive test forced the closure of their facility during last week's bye.

Interim coach Romeo Crennel said the facility underwent a deep cleaning last week and that operations were back to normal on Monday as the Texans returned to work to prepare for Sunday's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

STEELERS

(Continued from Page 9)

Linebacker Jordan Willis was dealt to San Francisco last week along with a 2021 seventh-round draft pick for a sixth-round selection in 2022.

Williamson was signed by the Jets to a three-year, \$22.5 million contract in 2018 and quickly established himself as a key playmaker.

He had a team-leading 120 total tackles while playing middle linebacker in then-coach Todd Bowles' defense.

He was expected to team with free-agent signing C.J. Mosley last season to form one

of the NFL's top inside linebacker duos for new defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. But Williamson tore the ACL in his right knee in the second preseason game against Atlanta and needed season-ending surgery.

Coach Adam Gase took the blame for leaving Williamson in the game late with primarily only backups still playing.

Williamson was inactive for the season opener in September, but played in the last seven games — including starting the past six games.

He had a team-leading nine total tackles in New York's loss at Kansas City.

His 59 total tackles this season were second on the team to Neville Hewitt.

Williamson spent his first four NFL seasons with Tennessee after being drafted in the fifth round out of Kentucky in 2011. He has 556 career total tackles, along with 14 sacks, four interceptions and five forced fumbles. The move reunited him with former Kentucky teammate Bud Dupree, now an outside linebacker for the Steelers.

NFL Standings Table with columns for Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes American and National Conferences.

Football Card section listing Wednesday, Friday, and Ohio Playoffs matchups.

Sports On TV section listing KBO Baseball and MLB Baseball games.

Transactions section listing National League and Milwaukee Brewers news.