

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Monday,
February 7, 2022

St. C., Barnesville win OVAC cheer titles

By **CODY NESPOR**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Traditional powerhouses and newcomers alike took home hardware as the OVAC hosted its 30th Cheering Championship Saturday inside WesBanco Arena.

The usual suspects won titles such as St. Clairsville in Class 4A and Wheeling Park in Class 5A but there were also a couple of surprises like non-tumbling division champion Edison and Class 3A champion Barnesville.

Wheeling Park won in Class 5A, the OVAC's largest division, for the 24th time in school history with a team score of 357.60.

"The kids have worked really hard," said Park coach Shawna

Shepherd. "We've tried to get over some injuries, illness and the weather just to get the kids into the gym a little bit extra to work in some more practices...It's been a crazy couple of weeks but in the end, it was worth it."

The Patriots edged out second place Steubenville (316.50), Morgantown (291.60), John Marshall (288.85) and Dover (251.10).

"It's just a good group," Shepherd said. "I've got four great seniors, one who's been with me for four years and one who this is her first year ever cheering. They're just a special group, they love each other and push for each other."

"They're great representatives of Wheeling Park High School."

St. Clairsville, another perennial power, also flexed some muscle, winning their 14th consecutive OVAC championship in Class 4A.

Like every team, the Red Devils fought against some nasty winter weather in the Ohio Valley throughout the last week in preparation for Saturday's championship.

"It just feels really good to have another championship," said coach Shawn Tomlan. "It feels really good, especially given the week that we've had. We had girls going to hotels, we didn't have transportation here and we were off this week from practice. We're just blessed to come out with another championship."

St. Clairsville (342.70)
See, **CHEER**, Page B2



Photo/CODY NESPOR

BARNESVILLE'S BELLE Corder (front), Tate Spangenburg (center) and Ava Sobutka (back) perform their routine during Saturday's OVAC Cheering Championships held at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. The Shamrocks won the 3A title.

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championships

Cameron too much for Blue Devils

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

CADIZ -- There's a cliché in sports that says it's tough to beat a team three times.

It clearly didn't apply to Cameron and Beallsville.

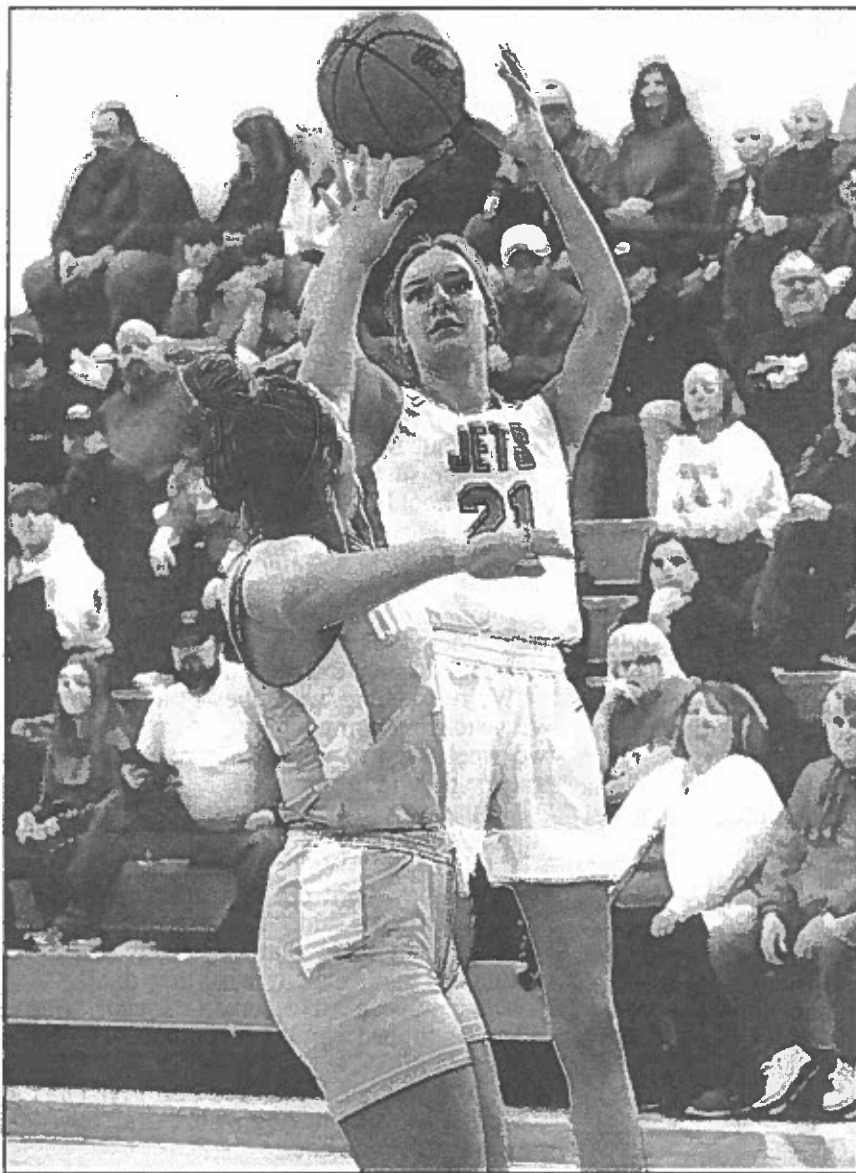
The Dragons made it three wins in as many tries against the Blue Devils -- the latest coming in Saturday night's finale of the WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

Cameron recorded its third OVAC title in school history and second straight by virtue of an impressive 66-32 victory at Harrison Central High School.

"We've ran into that cliché several times, but fortunately this season it went our way," smiled Cameron head coach Holly Pettit. "The last time we faced Beallsville three times (in a season), they got the three wins. They're a phenomenal basketball team, and I am just glad we were able to come out on top."

Cameron used a similar recipe against the Blue Devils this time around. However, according to Blue Devils head coach Tori Lang, the Dragons shot it much better. She was talking about the nine bonus goals Cameron knocked down.

The open shooters on the perimeter were a result of Beallsville having to pick its poison.
See, **CAMERON**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL junior Torre Kildow goes up for a shot during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A championship game against Oak Glen. Defending for the Golden Bears is Maddie McKay. The Jets soared to the title, 77-36.

Union Local cruises to 4A crown, 77-36

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

CADIZ -- The 4A game of the OVAC WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital girls was decided quickly.

Union Local erupted for 36 points in the first quarter and was never challenged en route to claiming the school's eighth girls basketball championship at Harrison Central Saturday afternoon by a 77-36 score against Oak Glen.

The Jets (18-3) wasted no time in asserting itself with its size and length. They had built a 12-0 lead before the Golden Bears attempted their first shot.

"Winning is never easy and sometimes it looks easy," Union Local head coach Scooter Tolzda said. "Winning an OVAC championship takes a lot of hard work and it's a result of these girls and what they've done."

Because of the winter weather, which has paralyzed the Ohio Valley the last couple of days, the Jets' players took it upon themselves to get some work in even though their gymnasium at Morristown was shutdown due to the weather.

"A parent volunteered to take our players up to the Highlands Sports Complex, so the girls started texting each other and every girl went up there without any coaches," Tolzda pointed out. "They went up there and walked through some things, got shots up, so that tells you how important this (game) was to them."

Clearly it paid dividends. Union Local's three-quarter-court pressure forced the Golden Bears into upwards of 20 turnovers, many of which led

See, **UL**, Page B2

Monroe Central comes up short in 2A final to SCC

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ -- Sometimes the ball bounces your way and sometimes it doesn't. Monroe Central experienced both ends of the spectrum on Saturday.

The Seminoles cashed in five of eight bonus goals in rolling to a 25-13 lead after the first quarter, but the rim wasn't as kind over the next three panels as top-seeded Steubenville Catholic stormed back for a 47-

from beyond the arc in scoring just 12 points during the next 24 minutes, while the Crusaders would use a sterling effort from Player of the Game Katie Zatta and a near-perfect performance from the free throw line down the stretch in earning their first OVAC title since 1989.

"It's been 33 years since we've won an OVAC girls basketball championship," an elated Steubenville Catholic (15-3) head coach Jess Looman said after his team was awarded the



Liddell shines as No. 16 Ohio State beats Maryland, 82-67

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — E.J. Liddell had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and No. 16 Ohio State beat Maryland 82-67 on Sunday.

Ohio State (14-5, 7-3 Big Ten) led by as much as 22 points in the second half of its fourth victory in five games. It shot 51% from the field, including an 11-for-26 performance from 3-point range.

Justin Ahrens and Zed Key scored 14 points apiece for the Buckeyes.

Donta Scott scored 25 points for Maryland (11-12, 3-9), which dropped its third straight game. Fatts Russell had 12 points, and Qudus Wahab finished with 10.

Scott went 5 for 8 from 3-point range. The rest of the Terrapins went 5 for 21

from deep.

Ohio State led 42-29 at the break. Maryland shot 32% from the field in the first half.

The Terrapins got just six points from their reserves for the game, compared to 21 for the Buckeyes.

BIG PICTURE

Maryland: Unable to overcome their slow start, the Terrapins lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes played their first Big Ten home game in three weeks. They moved to a perfect 10-0 on their home court.

UP NEXT

Maryland: Hosts Iowa on Thursday.

Ohio State: Travels to Rutgers on Wednesday.

US women tune up for Canada with 8-0 rout of Switzerland

BEIJING (AP) — Having avoided questions about their heated cross-border rivalry all week because the focus has been on the next opponent, United States women's hockey coach Joel Johnson and his players could finally address what's been on everyone's minds since the Beijing Winter Games opened.

Bring on Canada.

The defending Olympic champions worked out their remaining kinks with a dominating 8-0 win over Switzerland on Sunday to prepare for their Group A finale against Canada on Tuesday.

"I think both teams think there's no doubt that we can win, and both teams respect their opponent, but they have all the confidence in the world," Johnson said.

"I know that's how we're approaching it. I know that's how Canada is approaching it. And that's why it's going to be fun to watch."

Hilary Knight scored two first-period goals, Alex Cavallini stopped 12 shots, and the Americans (3-0) produced their most complete performance so far.

Kelly Pannek and Jesse Compher also scored twice on a night 13 of 19 U.S. skaters earned at least a point.

"I was really happy with how we played. Just felt like we finally put together a full three periods," defender Lee Stecklein said. "Looking forward to hopefully a practice day tomorrow and then excited for Canada as always."

The goal eruption came against a Swiss team which had been outscored by a combined 17-3 in losing its first two games, including a 12-1 loss to Canada on Thursday. It also provided the Americans some momentum a day after they had 62 shots but struggled finishing in a 5-0 win over the Russian team.

Cavallini, who won an NCAA championship with Wisconsin in 2011, won in her Olympic debut. She had consid-

ered retiring following the 2018 Winter Games.

"It was a long road to get here," Cavallini said. "To be here again is really special and I seriously can't thank my teammates enough for making it that much more special tonight."

The road became even longer when Johnson revealed the goalie had been dealing with "some injury stuff" in recent months, without being specific.

"For her to play as well as she has and to recover and to be in my mind at 100%, it's just fun to see," Johnson said.

"She played great and all the credit goes to her."

Cavallini's best save came 8 1/2 minutes into the second period, in getting across to her left to stop the Swiss on a 2-on-1 break.

Johnson has now rotated in all three of his goalies, with Nicole Hensley getting the shutout against ROC.

Knight opened the scoring by driving to the net and converting her own rebound for a power-play goal 5:40 in. The game was essentially over when Compher, Knight and Pannek scored in a span of 2:11 to put the U.S. up 4-0 by the 16:15 mark of the first period.

Knight now has nine career Olympic goals to tie Monique Lamoureux-Morando for fifth on the U.S. list. And she increased her Olympic point total to 22, one behind Katie King, who ranks third.

Amanda Kessel and Dani Cameranesi also scored.

Switzerland, making its fifth Olympic appearance, is being outclassed at Beijing after finishing fourth at the world championships in August, and eight years after winning the bronze medal at the Sochi Games.

Saskia Maurer, making her Winter Games debut, stopped 17 of 22 shots before being pulled after one period. Andrea Braendli finished with 41 saves over the final two.

• Monroe

Continued from Page B1

we're walking off it. "I think that sat with them and even though we were the top seeds coming in, we felt like the underdog because Monroe has a pretty good tournament seed," Looman added. "We told them as long as they played a complete 32 minutes, that's all I can ask for."

Stuebenville Catholic might not have played a complete 32 minutes, but the final 24 were good enough as they enjoyed a 34-12 scoring advantage.

"We got good looks. We just didn't make them and they did a nice job of not giving us many second-chance opportunities," Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker said. "I told the girls after the game that I'll live with the shots that we took. The shots just weren't falling for us in the second, third and fourth quarters."

Monroe Central, the No. 2 seed, finished an ice-cold 14-for-55 (25 percent) and a mere 6-for-30 (20 percent) from downtown.

rated player," Looman said. "She practices hard and is constantly in the gym working on her game. She was on fire in the first half and that allowed us to stay close."

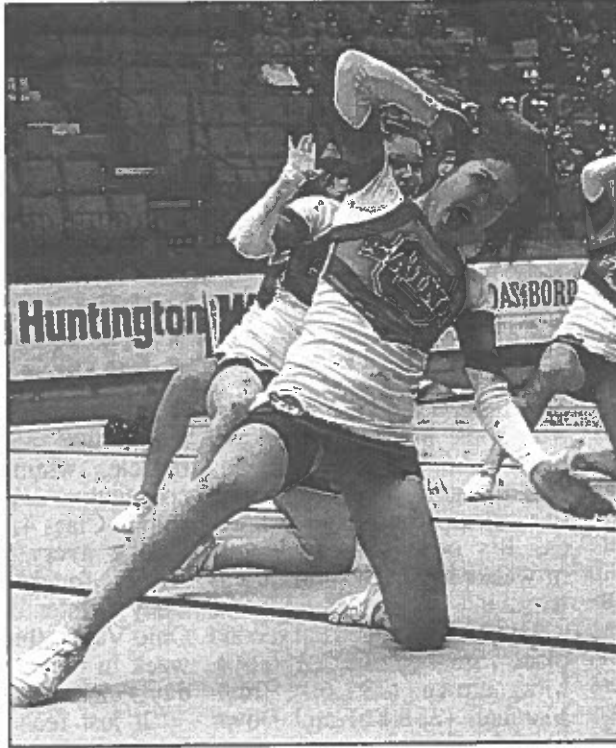
The game was tied twice, the last at 37 five minutes left to play.

Theresa Kerker's three-ball gave the champs the lead for good at 40-37. Zatta went 5-for-6 at the line in the final moments, while Ellen Rohde tickled the twine twice.

Rohde finished with nine points and seven rebounds. Clara Symington grabbed a team-best eight boards and Kerker seven markers.

The Seminoles were led by Haylyn Hiles with 14 points. Kynzi Bishop added 11 and Kalista Friday had eight points and a like number of rebounds before fouling out with 2:12 remaining. Bishop also had eight caroms.

"Defensively, we didn't play with the intensity that I thought we should have regardless of what the score is. You



Photo/CODY NESPOR

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Laili Dombrowski performs during the OVAC Cheering Championship Saturday afternoon at WesBanco Arena.

• Cheer

Continued from Page B1

fought off challenges from runner-up Union Local (292.80) as well as Harrison Central (283.05), Weir (264.85), Oak Glen (241.40) and Indian Creek (225.65).

Tomlan said winning for so many years in a row has set the standard high for St. Clairsville's cheer squad. "We have won for so many years that they didn't want to be the first year not to win," Tomlan said. "The pressure is on, (the standard) is just that high right now."

Another streak continued in Class 1A, where the Blue Dons of Madonna won for the fourth year in a row. Their score of 316.80 topped Cameron (245.90) and Wellsville (235.10).

The Maroon Knights (341.00) beat Toronto (324.65) and Shadyside (275.05).

"We're led by a couple of great seniors and that makes a lot of difference," Becker said. "The leadership and the dedication that they have put in over the years is really a testament to how much they care and the other girls look up to them."

"There's not as much tumbling as we've had in years past but I think their commitment and enthusiasm more than makes up for it."

In a true surprise, newcomer Edison won the first title in school history in the non-tumbling division.

The Wildcats won with a score of 302.60, beating out Monroe Central (280.05), Buckeye Trail (227.60) and East Liverpool (217.30).

"I honestly don't know (how we won)," Mazingo said. "These kids put in so much work and they wanted it, they wanted that title and they did it."

"We're teaching them, they're learning as they go. We watched a competition that we just did and from two weeks ago to today, they're even better. Every practice they're improving."

Another surprise came in Class 3A, where Barnesville won in division with the most teams, seven.

"It is amazing. We had one of the smallest squads here and they went out there and nailed it," coach Abby McClelland said. "They have put in a lot of hard work and they knew that they really had to nail the routine and that's exactly what they did."

With only a five-person squad, Barnesville (331.20) topped runner-up Linsly (295.15), Martins Ferry (285.35), Bellaire (279.45), Magnolia (249.20), River (231.30) and Fort Frye (211.40).

McClelland said having so few athletes adds extra pressure onto each one.

"I think it does (add pressure). There's no hiding, everybody's visible," McClelland said. "They put in so much hard work throughout the whole season. They lift each other up, they're a complete squad and that just makes all the difference."

• Cameron

Continued from Page B1

poison. Cameron (14-2) runs its offense through post player Ashlynn VanTassell, who scored 21 points en route to winning the John Howell MVP Award. When she wasn't scoring the ball herself, she was kicking out for seemingly open look after open look from behind the arc.

"They were decent from the outside during the first two games we played them, but not as good as they were this time," Lang said. "They were definitely on fire from the outside, and the inside, which makes them really tough to stop."

Indeed.

More than half of those aforementioned treys came in the third quarter when the Dragons blew the game open. After owning a 37-16 lead at halftime, Cameron proceeded to outscore the Blue Devils, 23-10, in the third. The majority of the fourth quarter was

Prep Schedule

Monday, Feb. 7
BOWLING
St. John at Brooke
Monroe Central at Barnesville
GIRLS BASKETBALL
East Liverpool at Buckeye Local
St. Clairsville at Harrison Central
Shadyside at Clay Battelle
River at Monroe Central, 6 p.m. (V)
Martins Ferry at Bellaire, 7 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 8
BOYS BASKETBALL
OVAC Semifinals, TBA
WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital
OVAC Boys Basketball
Championship Semifinals
Class 5A
University at Dover
Brooke at Morgantown
Class 4A
Beaver Local at East Liverpool
Harrison Central at St. Clairsville
Class 3A
Barnesville at River
Bellaire at Linsly
Class 2A
Monroe Central at Wheeling Central
Shadyside at Caldwell
Class 1A
Paden City at Wellsville
Madonna at Cameron
Consolation Games
Edison at Frontier
Hundred at Bridgeport
Trinity at Clay-Battelle
Stuebenville Catholic at Valley
Shenandoah at Conotton Valley
Buckeye Local at Southern Local
Toronto at Oak Glen
Magnolia at Martins Ferry
Marietta at Steubenville
John Marshall at Fort Frye
Indian Creek at Wheeling Park
Union Local at Weir
Baillsville at Buckeye Trail
BOWLING
Barnesville at Harrison Central
Wheeling Central at St. Clairsville
Wednesday, Feb. 9
BOWLING
Weir at Monroe Central
Buckeye Local at Bridgeport
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wheeling Central at Martins Ferry
Bellaire at River, 6:30 pm
WRESTLING
John Marshall at Barnesville, 5:30 p.m.

Sports on TV

WINTER OLYMPICS TV SCHEDULE EDITION FROM BEIJING
Monday, February 7
BIATHLON
9:40 a.m.
USA - Women's Biathlon (Individual: 15km) (Taped)
7 p.m.
USA - Women's Biathlon (Individual: 15km) (Taped)
4:35 a.m. (Tuesday)
USA - Men's Biathlon (Individual: 20km)
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
3 a.m. (Tuesday)
USA - Men's & Women's Cross-Country Skiing (Sprint)
Qualifying
5:30 a.m. (Tuesday)
USA - Cross-Country Skiing (Individual Sprint Finals)
CURLING
5 a.m.
USA - Mixed Doubles Curling (U.S. vs. Great Britain)
(Taped)
12:30 p.m.
USA - Mixed Doubles Curling (Semifinal) (Taped)
5 p.m.
CNBC - Mixed Doubles Curling (Semifinal) (Taped)
NBC - Mixed Doubles Curling (Semifinal) (Taped)
8 p.m.
CNBC - Mixed Doubles Curling (Semifinal) (Taped)
FIGURE SKATING
8:15 p.m.
USA - Men's Figure Skating (Short Program)
HOCKEY
5 p.m.
USA - Hockey (Game Of The Day) (Taped)
11:10 p.m.
USA - Women's Hockey (U.S. Vs. Canada)
LUGE
8:05 a.m.
USA - Women's Luge (First Run) (Taped)
8:30 a.m.
USA - Women's Luge (Second Run)
2:30 p.m.
USA - Women's Luge (First, Second Runs) (Taped)
MULTIPLE EVENTS
2 p.m.
NBC - Ski Jumping: Biathlon (Taped)
3 p.m.
NBC - Alpine Skiing, Figure Skating (Men's)
Speedskating & More
1:05 a.m. (Tuesday)
NBC - Luge: Short Track Speedskating (Taped)
2 a.m. (Tuesday)
NBC - Alpine Skiing, Figure Skating (Men's)
Speedskating & More (Taped)
SKIING
11 a.m.
USA - Ski Jumping (Mixed Team Normal Hill) (Taped)
SNOWBOARDING
1:30 a.m. (Tuesday)
USA - Snowboarding (Parallel Giant Slalom Finals)
SPEEDSKATING
3:30 a.m.
USA - Women's Speedskating (1500m)
6:30 a.m.
USA - Men's Speedskating (1000m), Women's Speedskating (500m)
3:45 p.m.
USA - Women's Speedskating (1500m) (Taped) --
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
5 p.m.
CBSSN - UNC-Wilmington at Holstra
7 p.m.
ACCN - Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech
CBSSN - Lafayette at Navy
ESPN - Virginia at Duke
ESPNJ - Furman at East Tennessee St.
9 p.m.
ESPN - Kansas at Texas
ESPNJ - Alabama A&M at Grambling St.
FS1 - Arizona at Arizona St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.
BTN - Rutgers at Ohio St.
ESPN2 - Georgia Tech at NC State
7 p.m.
SECN - (S) at Mississippi
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
8 p.m.
BTN - Ohio St. at Nebraska
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
5 p.m.
NHLN - Beanpot Tournament: Boston U. vs. Harvard
Semifinal, Boston
8 p.m.
NHLN - Beanpot Tournament: Boston College vs. Northeastern, Semifinal, Boston
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
NBTV - Phoenix at Chicago
NFL FOOTBALL
8 p.m.
ESPN2 - Super Bowl Opening Night
NFLN - Super Bowl Opening Night
TENNIS
5 a.m.
TENNIS - Rotterdam-ATP, Buenos Aires-ATP, Dallas-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA Early Rounds
6 a.m.

OVAC title in school history and second straight by virtue of an impressive 66-32 victory at Harrison Central High School.

"We've ran into that (cliche) several times, but fortunately this season it went our way," smiled Cameron head coach Holly Pettit. "The last time we faced Beallsville three times (in a season), they got the three wins. They're a phenomenal basketball team, and I am just glad we were able to come out on top."

Cameron used a similar recipe against the Blue Devils this time around. However, according to Blue Devils head coach Tori Lang, the Dragons shot it much better. She was talking about the nine bonus goals Cameron knocked down.

The open shooters on the perimeter were a result of Beallsville having to pick its poison. Cameron (14-2) runs its offense through post player Ashlynn VanTassell, who scored 21 points en route to winning the John Howell MVP Award. When she wasn't scoring the ball herself, she was kicking out for seemingly open look after open look from behind the arc.

"They were decent from the outside during the first two games we played them, but not



Photo by Cody Tomer
Cameron's Kenzie Clutter makes a dash for the basket during Saturday's OVAC 1A Championship Game.

as good as they were this time," Lang said. "They were definitely on fire from the outside, and the inside, which makes them really tough to stop."

Indeed.

More than half of those aforementioned treys came in the third quarter when the Dragons blew the game open.

After owning a 37-16 lead at halftime, Cameron proceeded to

outscore the Blue Devils, 23-10, in the third.

The majority of the fourth quarter was played under mercy rule.

"We know teams are going to double Ashlynn inside," Pettit said. "We were just waiting for the girls to start shooting the ball well and (Saturday), we did."

Please see CAMERON, Page 10

Photo by Cody Tomer
Wheeling Park's Natalie Daugherty makes a drive to the bucket during Saturday's championship game.

Park Edged Out By Morgantown

By CODY TOMER
Sports Writer

WHEELING — The third meeting between OVAC and West Virginia girls basketball juggernauts Morgantown and Wheeling Park came down to rebounding on Saturday afternoon.

In the end, it was the Mohigans who won the battle of the boards and walked away with a 49-48 victory over Wheeling Park in the OVAC 5A Championship at Harrison Central.

After defeating Morgantown in triple overtime in their last battle, the Patriots were denied their 15th OVAC title in girls hoops, which would have tied St. Johns for most all-time.

"The difference in the game was we got beat on the boards badly in the first half," Park coach Ryan Young said. "We

probably could have widened the gap before half-time if we could have just rebounded a little better.

"They had kids hit shots for them, too. (Lindsay) Bechtel hit a couple of big shots for them, (Mia) Henkins opened the game with a 3 and some others off the bench hurt us. Morgantown played a good game."

Bechtel was named the game's MVP with 17 points, the only Mohigan in double figures.

"I thought we did a better job of rebounding the ball," Morgantown coach Jason White said. "I also thought we did a better job of playing defense early than we did last time against them. They jumped all over us in the last game out of the gates."

Please see PARK
Page 10

Patriots Finish on Podium at Regional Meet

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — While it may have been a cold afternoon in Wellsburg Saturday with snow blowing through the air after the area had been hit with a winter storm days earlier, the action in the pool at the Brooke Wellness Center heated up as scheduled.

Teams from across the area dove in and battled for spots in the state tournament during the WVSSAC Region 1 Championship Swim Meet inside the Brooke Natatorium.

Two teams from the southern portion of the region left with the team hardware, as Morgantown turned in the top team score in the girls portion of the event and Parkersburg South claimed the regional title on

the boys side.

Wheeling Park, which advanced several swimmers through to the state meet, was the only school to place on the podium in both the boys and girls portions, taking second in the girls team scores and third in the boys.

GIRLS

The Mohigans finished with an overall team score of 131.5 to top the podium, while the Patriots finished seven points better than third place John Marshall with a 78.

Host Brooke came in just off the podium with a 64, while Wheeling Central placed seventh, Oak Glen ninth and Weir High 10th.

In the first event of the day, Park's 200-yard medley relay team came up just over seven seconds

off Morgantown's regional record setting effort, turning in a 2:02.81. The Mohigans broke a record set by Park in 2018 with a 1:53.70.

Park's quartet of Ava Sunseri, Abby Heilmen, Maddie Ross and Victoria Anderson advanced from the event with a top-two finish.

Anderson backed up the relay performance with a third-place showing in the 200 freestyle at 2:10.03, while Maddie Ross turned in a 2:21.37 in the 200 individual medley to place a qualifying third.

Brooke's Veronica Mann finished the 50 freestyle in 26.12 to make the top-three and give the hosts a qualifier. Parkersburg South's Jordan Claypool set a new regional record at 24.60.

Please see REGIONAL, Page 10

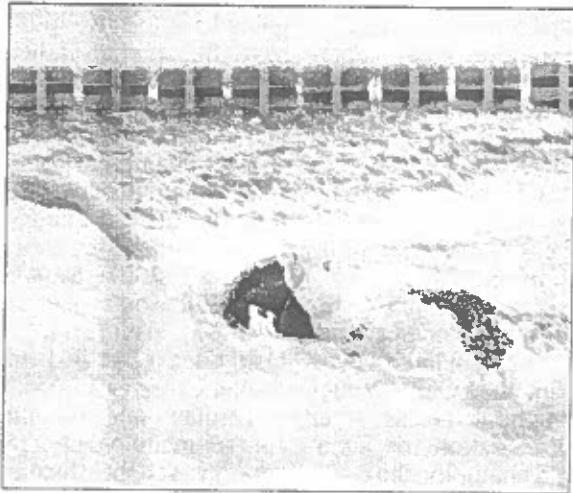


Photo by Andrew Grimm
John Marshall's Victoria Kidney takes part in the backstroke during Saturday's regional meet at Brooke High School.

Central, WP, St.C. Win Gold

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

WHEELING — Traditional powerhouses and newcomers alike took home hardware as the OVAC hosted its 30th Cheering Championship Saturday inside WesBanco Arena.

The usual suspects won titles such as St. Clairsville in Class 4A and Wheeling Park in Class 5A but there were also a couple of surprises like non-tumbling division champion Edison and Class 3A champion Barnesville.

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"The kids have worked

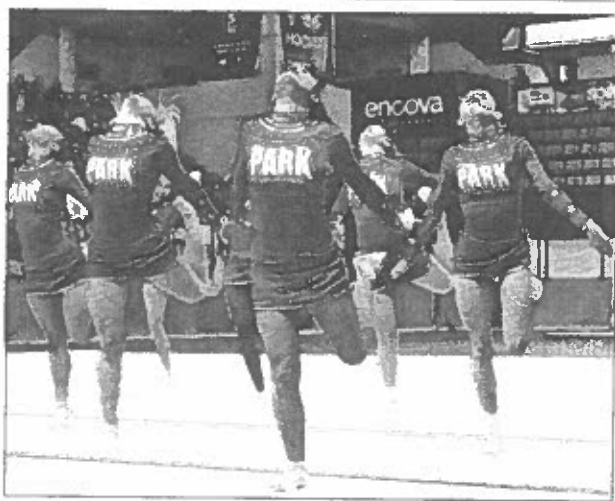


Photo by Cody Nespor
The Wheeling Park cheer squad delivers a championship-winning routine during Saturday's OVAC Cheering Championships at WesBanco Arena.

really hard," said Park coach Shawna Shepherd. "We've tried to get over some injuries, illness and the weather just to get the kids into the gym a little bit extra to work in some more practices...It's been a crazy couple of weeks but in the end, it was worth it."

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benville (316.50), Morgantown (291.60), John Marshall (288.85) and Dover (251.10).

"It's just a good group," Shepherd said. "I've got four great seniors, one who's been with me for four years and one who is in her first year cheering.

Please see GOLD
Page 10

No. 14 Texas Tech Takes Down WVU

By JOHN RABY
AP Sports Writer

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Terrence Shannon yelled after falling to the floor following a first-half dunk and had to be helped off the court, dragging his right leg.

He returned in time to help No. 14 Texas Tech get a rare road win.

Bryson Williams scored 15 points, Shannon sparked a second-half comeback and the Red Raiders beat West Virginia 60-53 on Saturday.

"It was ugly, but I'm certainly excited and proud of our guys," Texas Tech coach Mark Adams said. "These are the type of games that we can build on, build character and toughness



AP Photo
West Virginia forward Gabe Osabuohien (3) looks to dribble past Texas Tech forward Kevin Obanor (0) during the second half of Saturday's game.

from."

Under the first-year coach, the Red Raiders (18-5, 7-3 Big 12) have matched their win total from each of the past two seasons.

And while Texas Tech won for the second time

in six road games, the Red Raiders have won three consecutive games and five of their last six contests, with the lone loss at Kansas in double overtime.

Please see WVU, Page 10

runnerup in West Virginia, received a balanced effort with no fewer than seven players finding the scoring column. Van-Tassel scored 21 points

was responsible for four of the 3-pointers. Sophomore Ashlee Dobbs added seven. The Blue Devils (14-7) were led by Hallie Bom-

"The girls always play hard," Lang said. "People know what they're going to get when they play us, but this just wasn't our night."

through three quarters — 9-9 after one, 26-23 Park at half and 39-37 Park entering the final frame.

The Patriots held a 44-42 edge with 5:30 to play before Bechtel and Revaya Sweeney drained back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Mohigans a 48-44 upper hand with 4:05 remaining. "Those 3s were huge," White said. "In a game like this it seems like it's a single possession either way the entire game and to get two 3s back-to-back is almost like a 10 or 12-point run in any other game."

Park didn't quit, however. Natalie Daugherty put her squad within three points with 1:27 left and a Morgantown turnover allowed Lala Woods to reach the bucket for a layup with only 12 seconds showing on the clock and the Patriots trailing by one.

After a pair of missed free throws by Morgantown and a Park timeout, the Patriots had one shot at the buzzer but it came up short and the Mohigans rushed the court in celebration.

"We were trying to get Alexis Bordas off the ball screen but she got cut off," Young said. "We ended up getting a good look at a 3 with a really good shooter but the shot just didn't fall. To get that good of a look against

"We knew Lex would be keyed on but I still think she played a good game."

Bordas paced Park with 22 points, while Woods turned in 10 points.

Morgantown has now won two of the three contests against Park but the Patriots have outscored the Mohigans 161-159 in the three games.

The two teams may very well face off in the sectional and quite possibly in the state tournament, as well.

"We thought this was big as far as meeting in the sectional (home court advantage)," Young said. "We are two even teams and we've actually outscored them so far in our games. They won this round but we'll just have to try to do a better job next time, especially defensively."

BOYS BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON Wheeling Central 74 Notre Dame 64

WHEELING — Ryan Reasbeck netted 23 points as Wheeling Central upended Notre Dame.

Quinten Burlenski was strong in the victory as he supplied 16 points, while teammates Leyton Toepfer and Caleb Ratcliffe turned in 14 and 12 points, respectively.

REGIONAL

(Continued from Page 9)

The Patriots' Rosalyn Hill placed third in the 100 butterfly with a 1:11.42, while Ross was third in the 100 freestyle in 57.38.

The John Marshall group of Maitlyn Miller, Kaitlyn Cochran, Sierra Taylor and Victoria Kidney topped the 200 freestyle relay to give the Monarchs an event win with a 1:50.82, about a half a second faster than second place Brooke (Haeley Shaffer, Ella McCullough, Lyla Horvath and Mann), which finished in 1:51.49.

Kidney got an individual win for the Monarchs, finishing the 100 backstroke in 1:00.07, more than five seconds quicker than Wheeling Central's JulieAnne Humpe who finished in 1:05.71.

Heilmen was second in the 100 breaststroke with a 1:12.87, while the Maroon Knights' Abie Riedel rounded out the podium with a 1:13.54.

Hill, Anderson, Heilmen and Ross made up the 400 freestyle relay team for the Patriots that placed second in 4:03.86.

BOYS

GOLD

(Continued from Page 9)

"They're just a special group, they love each other and push for each other.

"They're great representatives of Wheeling Park High School."

St. Clairsville, another perennial power, also flexed some muscle, winning their 14th consecutive OVAC championship in Class 4A.

Like every team, the Red Devils fought against some nasty winter weather in the Ohio Valley throughout the last week in preparation for Saturday's championship.

"It just feels really good to have another championship," said coach Shawn Tomlan. "It feels really good, espe-

cially given the week that we've had. We had girls going to hotels, we didn't have transportation here and we were off this week from practice. We're just blessed to come out with another championship."

St. Clairsville (342.70) fought off challenges from runner-up Union Local (292.80) as well as Harrison Central (283.05), Weir (264.85), Oak Glen (241.40) and Indian Creek (225.65).

Tomlan said winning for so many years in a row has set the standard high for St. Clairsville's cheer squad.

"We have won for so many years that they didn't want to be the first

year not to win," Tomlan said. "The pressure is on, (the standard) is just that high right now."

Another streak continued in Class 1A, where the Blue Dons of Madonna won for the fourth year in a row. Their score of 316.80 topped Cameron (245.90) and Wellsville (235.10).

"Determination, determination, determination," Madonna coach Maria Canella said of her girls. "I've never seen hearts so big."

Another team that had to battle through hardship recently was Wheeling Central, which won the Class 2A title.

"We're just so excited, so happy with this win," said Central coach Jessi Becker. "I have an amazing group of girls that have worked through a lot this year.

"We had COVID battles, we had to battle the weather, but they just came together, particularly in the last couple of weeks."

The Maroon Knights (341.00) beat Toronto (324.65) and Shadyside (275.05).

In a true surprise, newcomer Edison won the first title in school history in the non-tumbling division.

Another surprise came in Class 3A, where Barnesville won in division with the most teams, seven.

With only a five-person squad, Barnesville (331.20) topped runner-up Linsly (295.15), Martins Ferry (285.35), Bellaire (279.45), Magnolia (249.20), River (231.30) and Fort Frye (211.40).

WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

"We knew that we only had one win on the road, and we wanted to change that tonight," Williams said. "We just came with our hard hats and went to work."

West Virginia couldn't hold onto a six-point halftime lead, making just four field goals in the second half.

"You can't win when you're 4-for-32," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said.

After Shannon's awkward fall, Adams said he didn't expect his second-leading scorer, who had a season-high 23 points in an earlier meeting with West Virginia, to return.

"He was in pain, but he was also, I think, scared at the same time," Adams said.

When Shannon did come back, the Red Raiders took control.

"He went to work and played hard," Adams said.

Shannon gave Texas Tech its first lead of the second half with a layup and free throw, and later made a jumper and a layup to extend the lead to 48-41 with 8:01 remaining.

"He's a warrior. That fall was something serious," Williams said of Shannon. "He just came in and gave us a spark. That's the warrior's mentality that we try to embody here."

Gabe Osabuohien made five free throws over the span of a minute to pull West Virginia within 53-50 with 3:40 left. Despite their shooting woes, the Mountaineers still had a chance to tie it late but couldn't convert.

Williams sank a pair of free throws with 1:46 left and Daniel Batcho dunked on a fast break with 1:27 remaining to

help seal the win.

Davion Warren added 11 points and Kevin McCullar scored 10 for the Red Raiders.

Jalen Bridges scored 16 points and Sean McNeil added 15 for West Virginia (13-9, 2-7), which has lost seven straight, tied for the worst under Huggins.

West Virginia's Taz Sherman, the Big 12's second-leading scorer who is averaging 18.9 points per game, missed the game with a concussion after getting hit in the jaw late in a loss at Baylor on Monday.

Bridges made up for Sherman's absence early with a double-digit performance for just the second time in the past six games, but went scoreless after halftime.

BIG PICTURE

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders trailed at halftime for only the fourth time this season. It was the second time they came back from a half-time deficit to win.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers have plenty of work to do in order to be considered for an at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament.

But the challenge gets tougher with every game Sherman isn't in the lineup.

He missed a January loss at Texas due to COVID-19 protocols and needed several games to get back to full strength.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Texas Tech could inch toward its best ranking of the season in the AP Top 25 poll after reaching No. 13 on Jan. 24.

UP NEXT

Texas Tech: At Oklahoma on Wednesday.

West Virginia: Hosts No. 20 Iowa State on Tuesday, the Moun-

taineers' third straight ranked opponent.

SUNDAY NO. 16

OHIO STATE 82 MARYLAND 67

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — E.J. Liddell had 24 points and 11 rebounds to lead Ohio State.

The Buckeyes (14-5, 7-3 Big Ten) led by as much as 22 points in the second half of its fourth victory in five games. They shot 51% from the field, including an 11-for-26 performance from 3-point range.

Justin Ahrens and Zed Key scored 14 points apiece for the Buckeyes.

Donta Scott scored 25 points for Maryland (11-12, 3-9), which dropped its third straight game. Fatts Russell had 12 points and Qudus Wahab finished with 10.

NO. 6 HOUSTON 80 CINCINNATI 58

CINCINNATI (AP) — Fabian White Jr. scored 22 points, Jamal Shead had 17 points and No. 6 Houston won its 12th straight game by beating Cincinnati.

Taze Moore scored 13 points and Reggie Chaney added 10 for Houston (20-2, 9-0 American Athletic Conference), which hasn't lost since Dec. 2 — a one-point loss at then-No. 9 Alabama.

David DeJulius scored 18 of his 25 points in the first half for the Bearcats (15-7, 5-4 American), who dropped their fourth straight to Houston.

NO. 15

PROVIDENCE 71 GEORGETOWN 52

WASHINGTON (AP) — Georgetown set a school record with its 11th straight loss, while Jared Bynum scored a career-high 32 points to lead Providence to a victory.

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