

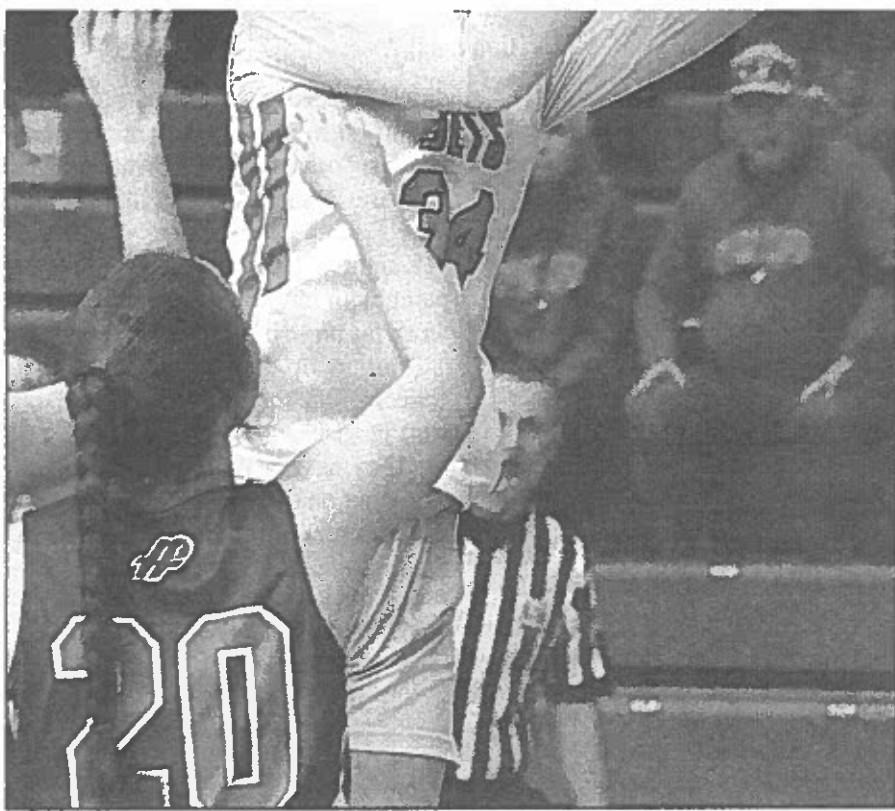
But when the Jets "role players" like Lauren Miller, Emily Kellaway and Ella Pietranton are making shots early in the game, the plan needs revision.

Such was the case Saturday afternoon when the Jets took on Fort Frye for the OVAC Class 3A title at Harrison Central High School. Miller, Kellaway and Pietranton all rained in bonus goals in the opening quarter, allowing the Jets to build a 23-6 lead after one and they never looked back en route to a 49-34 victory and the program's third consecutive conference title.

"We prepared to be in a grind game, but when we were able to get the lead like we did they had to play our game a little bit," UL head coach Scooter Tolzda said. "Fort Frye rolled the dice and left our role players open and we said 'our role players will definitely have to play well (Saturday).'"

They delivered. In the first quarter, which proved to be the decisive chapter, Union Local connected on its first eight shots from the field. It didn't miss any of its five, 3-point shots and simply had their way.

"Lauren (Miller), Laken (Vinskovich), Emmy (Kellaway) and Ella (Pietranton) all did admirable jobs," Tolzda said. See, UL, Page B2



UNION LOCAL senior Reagan Vinskovich goes up for a shot during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A title game against Fort Frye. Vinskovich scored 22 points in the game to fuel the Jets to their third straight conference title. T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Bruce Thornton scored 22 points to lead the Buckeyes (11-12, 3-9), who have lost four straight and 10 of 12. Justice Sueing and Brice Sensabaugh both had 13 with Sensabaugh snaring nine rebounds. Thornton was 10-of-13 shooting and Ohio State made five of its last eight shots but that only raised the shooting percent to 41.

Bufkin, Dickinson and Howard combined for a Michigan 12-3 run for a 24-14 lead midway through the first half. Despite a poor shooting half, the Buckeyes closed it to 41-36 at the half as Sueing hit a last-minute 3-pointer.

The Wolverines hit five 3-pointers and shot 52% (16 of 32) but they also had four more turnovers and the Buckeyes had three more offensive rebounds, which helped off-set Ohio State's 34% shooting (12 of 35). Ohio State had three 3s but was 9 of 12 from the line to Michigan's 4 of 7.

Ohio State shot better after the break (48%) but couldn't put together a run as Dickinson scored 13 points and the Wolverines made 9 of 11 free throws.

Michigan's three-game homestand continues Wednesday with a visit from Nebraska. Northwestern visits Ohio State on Thursday.

River tops Wheeling CC for 2A title

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

CADIZ - River broke open a nip-and-tuck game against Wheeling Central with a big run, then hung on in the fourth as the Pilots defeated the Maroon Knights 57-46 on Saturday in the OVAC Class 2A championship.

Pilots head coach Rick Islay received MVP-worthy performances from both junior point guard Kelsey Harlan and senior post Rylee Knight who combined for 40 points.

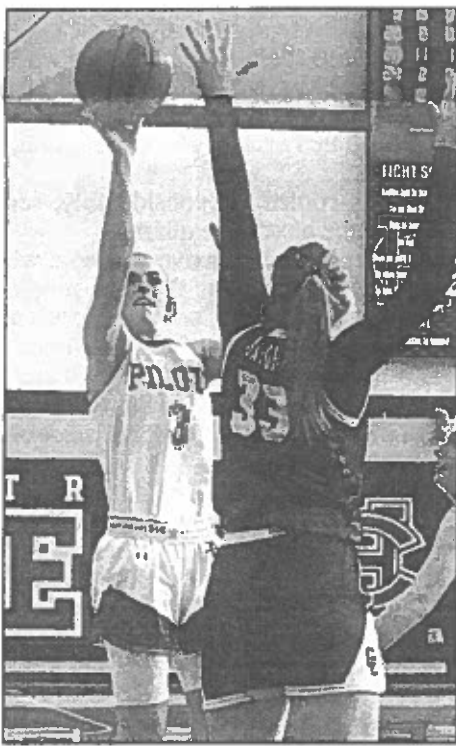
Harlan, who totaled 19 points and had a number of steals and assists, also did an admirable job defending Wheeling Central's leading scorer Brook Edge, who totaled nine points.

Knight, meanwhile, led all scorers with 21 points while snagging an equal number of rebounds in a dominating effort in the paint.

The pair are peaking at the right time, having each scored 23 points in a semifinal win against Southern Local to reach Saturday's finale at Cadiz.

"Hats off to Kelsey, our point guard," Islay said. "She can do it all, drive, shoot, play defense, and Rylee was just a beast on the boards."

Edge's lone 3-pointer of the game came with 5:14 left in the second quarter to cut River's lead to one at 21-20. That was the last time Central scored until senior Reagan Olejasz stuck a



RIVER'S KELSEY Harlan goes up for a shot over Wheeling Central's Valerie Downing during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A championship game. Photo/MIKE HUGHES

putback of a Valerie Downing missed triple attempt in the third quarter.

The preceding span saw the Pilots amass a 19-point lead courtesy of the

18-0 run that began with a Hannah Raper triple in the second quarter and ended with a Knight putback, one of eight second-chance points for the senior.

Central had success beating River's press early, resulting in six first quarter points from Keiera Wilkinson, one of the Knights' 6-footers. Wilkinson was able to get position behind the defense and convert easy buckets off the break.

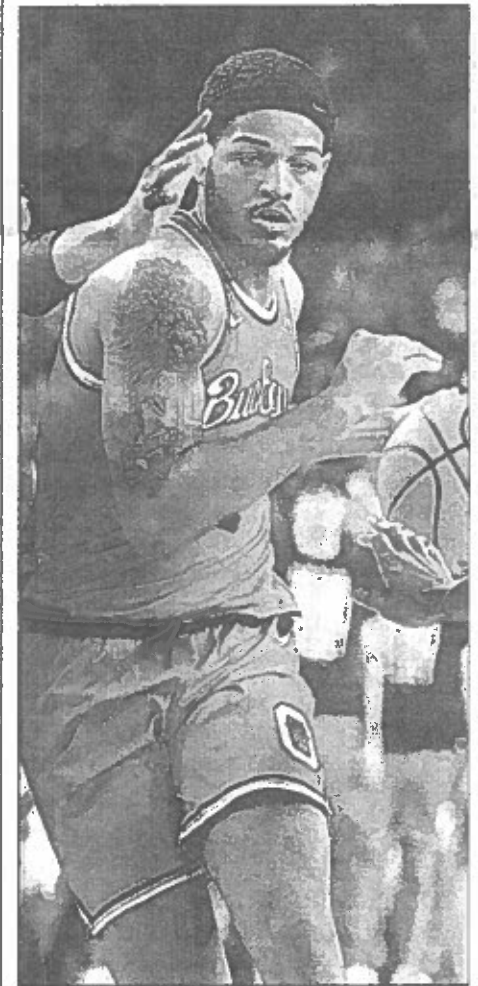
But Wilkinson was forced to sit in the second quarter after picking up her second foul, and things quickly turned south for the designated visitors.

"Not having her inside to help hurt quite a bit (in the second) and that's the quarter they blew up on us," Wheeling Central coach Roberta Olejasz said. "We battled back and got to within six and made it a ball game."

"Kelsey is a heck of a point guard and I hope that (River) goes deep, but I'm also really proud of the way our girls played today."

Robinson admitted while the sting of losing may linger for her Knights, there's still plenty to play for and be proud of, including reaching the finale after not making the OVAC tournament the previous season.

Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz led the second-half resurgence, with Vogrin canning three triples between the third and fourth quarters, and Olejasz scoring. See, RIVER, Page B2



OHIO STATE guard Roddy Gayle Jr. (1) drives next to Michigan guard Kobe Bufkin (2) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Sunday in Ann Arbor, Mich. AP PHOTO

OVAC Cheering Champs



PICTURED IS the Barnesville cheering squad, which won the OVAC Class 3A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are A.J. Empeno, Kaylee Darby, Lillian Ford, Lakyn Abrigg, Ashlyn Spangenburg and Addison Carpenter. Top row, from left, are Addy DeGenova, Belle Corder, Tate Spangenburg, Lilah Lucas and Ava Sobutka. Photo/JOE LOVELL



PICTURED IS the St. Clairsville cheering squad, which won the OVAC Class 4A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Ashlynn Stock, Laili Dombroski, Angelina Applegarthj, Mady Drosieko, Alivia DaRe and Kamryn Orum. Back row, from left, are Coach Shawn Tomlan, Alianna Hawthorne, Avamarie Norris, Alexa Plumby, Ava Borkoski, Gracie Smith, Olivia Perzanowski, Brynlee Newton, Ava Crum, Nya Davis and Coach Cathy Wolfe. Photo/JOE LOVELL

OVAC CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS DECIDED



Photos by Joe Lovell

ABOVE LEFT: Pictured is the Wheeling Park cheering squad, which won the OVAC Class 5A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Mary Darrow, Katherine L'Ecuyer, Jermaniq Edmonds and Hannah McKeegan. Standing, from left, are Coach Kristi Taylor, Head Coach Shawna Shepherd, Shae Marling, Addison Baker, Civita Hooper, Adisyn Gessler, Adam Carman, A.J. Walters, Elle Terek, Amber Yanchak and assistant coach Ashley Darrow. ABOVE RIGHT: The St. Clairsville cheering squad won the OVAC Class 4A cheering championship on Saturday. Front row, from left, are Ashlynn Stock, Laili Dombroski, Angelina Applegarth, Mady Drosieko, Alivia DaRe and Kamryn Orum. Back row, from left, are Coach Shawn Tomlan, Alianna Hawthorne, Avamarie Norris, Alexa Plumby, Ava Borkoski, Gracie Smith, Olivia Perzanowski, Brynlee Newton, Ava Crum, Nya Davis and Coach Cathy Wolfe. BELOW LEFT: The Barnesville cheering squad won the OVAC Class 3A cheering championship on Saturday. Front row, from left, are A.J. Empeno, Kaylee Darby, Lillian Ford, Lakyn Abridg, Ashlyn Spangenburg and Addison Carpenter. Top row, from left, are Addy DeGenova, Belle Corder, Tate Spangenburg, Lilah Lucas and Ava Sobotka. BELOW RIGHT: The Wheeling Central cheering squad won the OVAC Class 2A cheering championship on Saturday at WesBanco Arena. Front row, from left, are Jocelyn Waterhouse, Alysa Kalo, Anna Hester, Hailey Wear and Maddie Potts. Back row, from left, are Isabelle Cox, Bella Contraguerro, Alexa Loy, Fallon O'Connor, Olivia Golein, Mischa McGhee and Kansas Yeager. Not pictured is the Conotton Valley cheerleading squad, which won the Class 1A championship during Saturday's action.



CHARM

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The lead was short lived as Morgantown's Kate Hawkins completed a conventional three-point play before the quarter ended to put the Mohigans in the lead.

They never trailed again as Mia Henkins drained a trio of bonus balls. She finished with 14 points, 11 in the final panel.

"Mia is a shooter. I've been watching her for four years now," Young said of Henkins, who was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game. "Her dad used to coach at Morgantown. She's a coach's kid and she took advantage of her opportunities today."

By not making many shots in the first half, Wheeling Park wasn't able to utilize its full court pressure like it likes. The Patriots were 8-for-26 from the floor in the first half and ended up 16 of 49. They were 4-for-21 from beyond the bonus arc.

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"We've been pretty successful against Morgantown by playing them in the half-court, but they dictated right from the start what they were going to do offensively. ... Our defensive focus didn't start until the third quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Morgantown."

Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young

dictated right from the start what they were going to do offensively," Young said of the Mohigans game plan. "We didn't talk on defense and work through their screens. Our defensive focus didn't start until the third quarter, and you can't do that against a good team like Morgantown."

Sophomore Lala Woods kept the Patriots, also the No. 1 ranked team in West Virginia Class AAAA, in the game in the first half with 16 of her game-best 22

points. She also finished with a team-leading seven rebounds.

"Lala played an excellent first half but she kind of lost her emotions there a little bit in the third quarter," Young noted of an intentional foul called on Woods while wrestling for a loose ball with a Morgantown player. "I get it, though. She's a competitor."

Bordas added 11 points and six rebounds and Seneca Heller also had six boards. Sophie Abraham had eight points.

Lily Jordan led Morgantown with 15 points, 11 of those coming in the first half. Jordan also pulled down 14 rebounds. Sofie Wassick added 11 points and Hawkins had nine points and eight boards.

"We just told the girls, sure it would have been nice to win the OVAC title, but we've got another title that we are striving for and that goal is still ahead of us," Young stressed. "Sometimes these things can wake you up a little bit. It's similar to what happened at University early in the year. It's been a long time since we've lost so we need to re-focus in practice. We understand that we can get a lot better than we are right now. I think today was a combination of us not coming to play and Morgantown played a good basketball game."

The two teams could likely see each other a fourth time in Region 1 tournament, and then again, possibly for a fifth time, at the state tournament.

CAMERON

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Van Tassell netted eight of her game-high 22 points in the final quarter, including a 6-for-8 performance from the free-throw line. Emilee Dobbs had a key basket and Frontier could get no closer than six.

"With teams doubling and triple-teaming Ashlynn, we've got to have some other players step up, and she does a good job of looking for them when she gets the ball in the post with defenders on her," Pettit added.

Emilee Dobbs supported Van Tassell's scoring with eight, while Clutter had six points, seven rebounds and half-a-dozen assists. Neely also had six boards while Van Tassell completed a double-double with a game best 16.

For her performance, She was named the John Howell Memorial MVP of the game.

Ramsey was the lone twin-figure scorer for the Cougars with 14. Grace Knowlton added eight points and four rebounds, while Morgan Haught had six points and a like number of boards.

Frontier charted 15 turnovers, with eight coming in the third quarter. Cameron had 14.

SUPER BOWL

(Continued from Page 9)

Odds makers are expecting a good game, though they are giving the Eagles a slight edge. Philadelphia opened as a 1 1/2-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

The Chiefs advanced to their third Super Bowl in four seasons when Harrison Butker made a 45-yard field goal with 3 seconds left to push Kansas City past the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in the AFC championship game last weekend.

The Eagles routed the San Francisco 49ers 31-7 in the NFC title game. They've looked dominant in the playoffs, also beating the New York Giants 38-7 in the divisional round.

Philadelphia is back in the Super Bowl five years after beating the New England Patriots 41-33.

Now a mostly new generation of Eagles — led by Hurts and Sirianni — will come to Arizona to try and win another title.

The teams will both take part in the "Super Bowl LVII Opening Night" today in downtown Phoenix, where players and coaches from both teams are available for the annual media extravaganza.

Then it's down to business. The Chiefs will practice throughout the week at Arizona State's football facilities while the Eagles will do their preparation at the Arizona Cardinals' practice facility.

There is no shortage of storylines: Kansas City coach Andy Reid goes against his former team in a game that's also the first matchup of Black starting quarterbacks in the Super Bowl with Mahomes and Hurts.

There's also a brother-against-brother show-

RIVER

(Continued from Page 9)

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making the OVAC tournament the previous season.

Vogrin and Reagan Olejasz led the second-half resurgence, with Vogrin canning three triples between the third and fourth quarters, and Olejasz scoring all 10 of her points in the half.

With Central's inside game requiring a bit more attention, the Knights' were able to work the ball around and get better looks from the perimeter that weren't there early.

"We decided not to press (in the second half) as we didn't want to give up any transition buckets, but if I had to do it over again, I might go back and press

Knight noted the Knights' size advantage in the paint, with multiple 6-footers, adding that it made her work far more difficult in grabbing boards.

Prior to tip-off, Central's perimeter game was a concern, but the early success inside necessitated a shift in focus.

"They have good 3-point shooters and we wanted to get out on them a little more, but we got beat on the inside a few times and we needed to close that off," Knight said.

Harlan won the MVP award for the game. Raper backed her and Knight with 12 points, including eight in the first half.