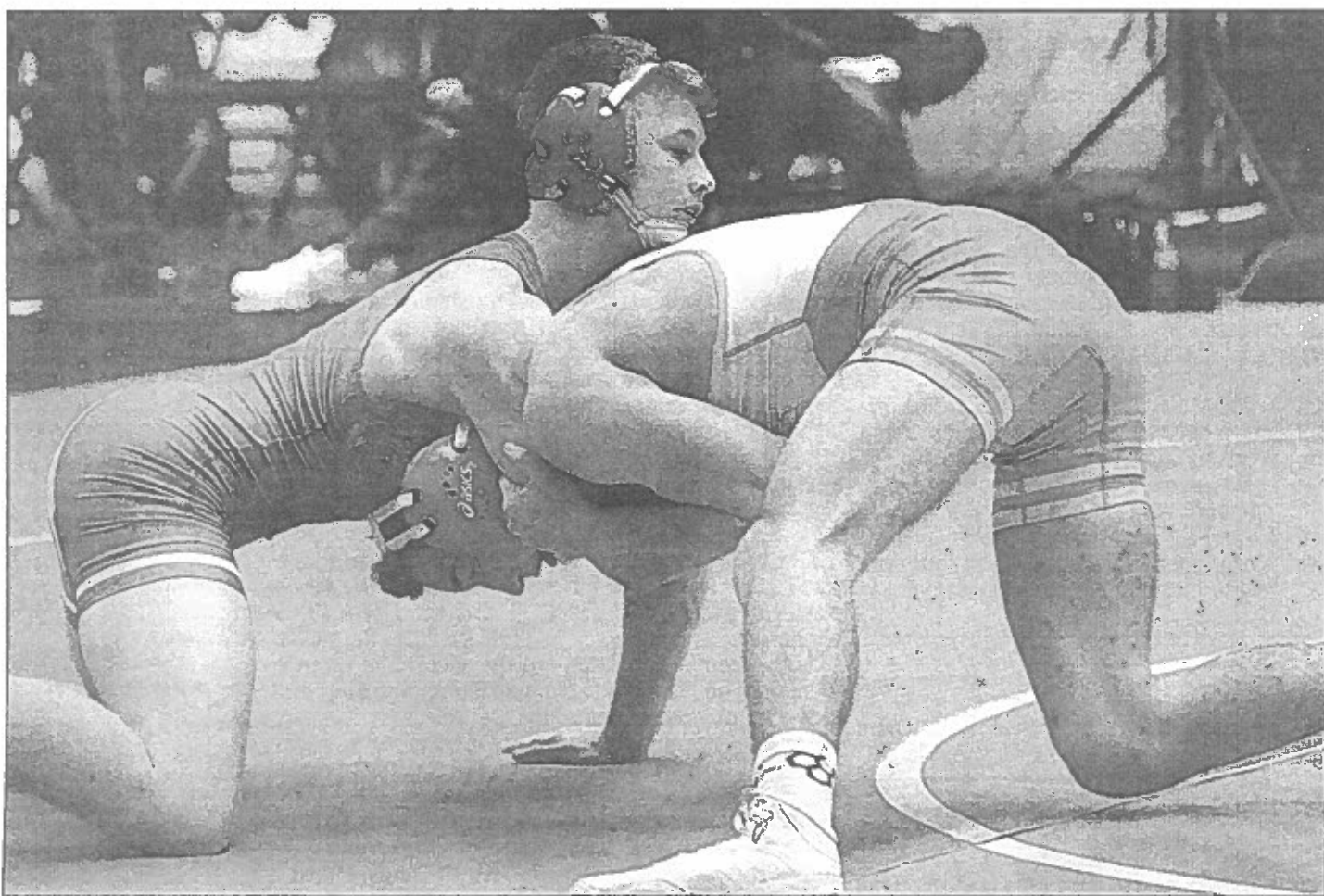


SPORTS

Monday,
January 23, 2023



Photo/KIM NORTH

BARNESVILLE'S REESE Stephen works for control against Indian Creek's C.J. Spencer during their 150-pound title bout during Saturday evening's OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championship finals. Stephen went on to post a 9-3 decision.

Shamrocks shine at OVAC

• Barnesville wins 3A team title with four individual champs; D. King wins Bierkortte

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - The championship finals of the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament started with a Barnesville win Saturday night and ended with a Barnesville win. In between, two other Shamrocks had their hands raised as they repeated as Class 3A champions with a program-record four titlists.

Barnesville did so in run-away fashion with 200.5 points - which was good enough for fourth place overall. Martins Ferry was a distant second with 125.5 in 3A.

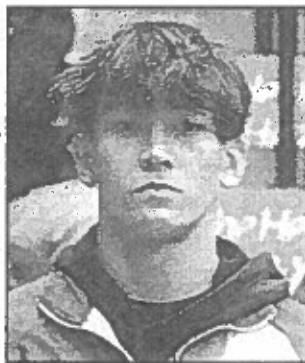
"It was a good weekend. I can't complain. The kids wrestled tough," said Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen, who barely had a voice after the three-day event. "They wrestled really well."

With the featured match of the tournament being at 132, the championship finals started at 138 and junior Skyler King got things going for the Green Machine with a 6-3 nod over Parkersburg South's Ryan Martin. All the points were scored in the first period, with King using a reversal that he turned into back points to rally from a 3-2 deficit. He is now 25-4.

Two matches later, classmate Reese Stephen (150) recorded four takedowns and an escape in a 9-3 decision over Indian Creek's C.J. Spencer. Stephen, son of the Shamrocks head coach, is now



JOHNATHAN HUNTSMAN
106



SKYLER KING
138



DAKOTA KING
132

24-2.

At 106, fourth-seeded Johnathan Huntsman capped his improbable run with an 11-6 victory over University's No. 2 Pepper Martin. The junior is now 26-5. He had pinned top-seeded Mason Simms of Wellsville in the semis.

"Johnathan Huntsman really stepped up this weekend. He wrestled incredible," Coach Stephen said. "He is going to be a wrestler to watch from now on."

In that aforementioned feature match, Barnesville's Dakota King held off Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia, 6-5, in a battle of highly ranked Buckeye State matmen, to capture his second consecutive OVAC Ron Mauck crown. King is ranked No. 1 in D-III and Saccoccia second in D-II.

"I knew I was going to win that match," King admitted, noting that the delay didn't faze him. "I'm on a mission ... a mission to win a (Division III) state title."

For his hard-earned triumph, King received the David Bierkortte Award, which is symbolic of being the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, as voted on by tournament coaches.

"This means a lot to me," King said. "I want to thank all of my teammates and coaches. I love you all."

Parkersburg South's depth brought the Patriots back to the top of the podium after three grueling days of action inside WesBanco Arena.

The Wood County Patriots, who bat-

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

Bengals rout Bills in AFC

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) - Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals threw a big wrench into the highly anticipated travel plans of the Buffalo Bills, their fans and perhaps even the NFL offices.

Burrow threw two touchdown passes and Cincinnati's defense swarmed Josh Allen on a snow-slicked field in a 27-10 win Sunday to send the Bengals to the AFC championship game for the second straight year.

And it'll be in Kansas City again - instead of in Atlanta, the neutral site where the game would've been played if Buffalo had beaten Cincinnati.

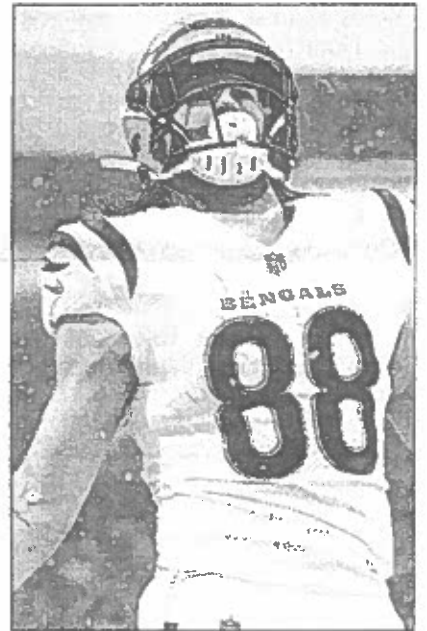
"Better send those refunds," Burrow said, referring to the 50,000 or so tickets already sold for a game that will never be played.

"See y'all in Atlanta," one Bengals player was heard yelling sarcastically while the team made its way to the locker room, where cornerback Eli Apple and a couple of teammates conducted interviews smoking cigars.

The Bengals entered the game already feeling disrespected when the NFL began selling tickets for a would-be game at Atlanta, that was dependent on the Bills and Chiefs winning this weekend.

The league decided on the first of its kind conference championship neutral site setting because the Bills (13-3) finished the season a

See, **BENGALS**, Page B2



AP PHOTO

CINCINNATI BENGALS tight end Hayden Hurst (88) reacts after scoring a touchdown against the Buffalo Bills during the first quarter of an NFL division round football game, Sunday in Orchard Park, N.Y.

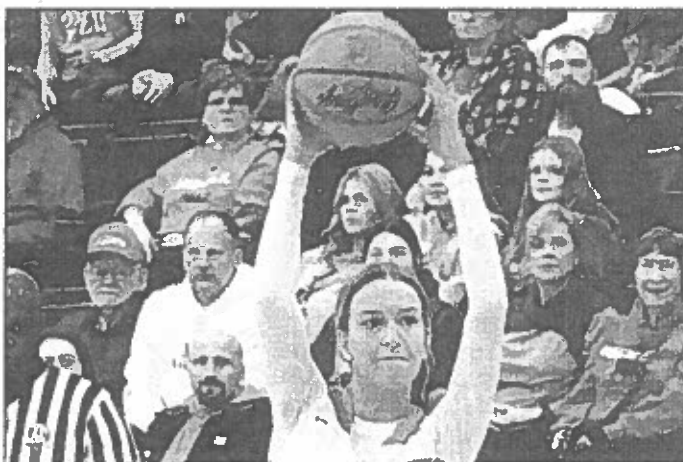
Union Local tops IC to win fourth straight Buckeye 8 girls title

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY - Indian Creek felt it had enough skill to elongate possessions and shorten the game. It also felt it

ed was extremely toxic for the Redskins (13-4). Creek found itself with a 14-12 lead in the latter stages of the first half.

Junior Lauren Miller, who finished with 10 points for the Jets, buried a trey, Kildow fol-



49ers fend off Dallas to advance

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) - Christian McCaffrey scored on a go-ahead 2-yard run in the fourth quarter and San Francisco's defense did the rest, sending the 49ers to their second straight NFC title game with a 10-12 victory over the

game-high 26 points. No other Seminole player scored more than six.

River 51, Steubenville 34

STEUBENVILLE -- River put together an impressive showing inside the Crimson Center to score the victory against Big Red Saturday night.

The win was the 350th of head coach Mark Romick's career with the Pilots.

River was led by junior Kabel Isaly, who scored 24 points. Senior Ty Long added 15.

Steubenville was led by Kyjjuan Hopkins' 11. Cole Bowers added eight.

Shadyside 67, Buckeye Local 26

• 49ers

Continued from Page B1

incompletions and was sacked on third down. Coach Mike McCarthy opted to punt on fourth-and-10 with all three timeouts left.

Rookie Brock Purdy started the next drive with a 16-yard completion to George Kittle and San Francisco didn't give the ball back to Dallas until there were 45 seconds left at the 6. Dallas never got close from there.

Purdy, the last pick in the draft last April, improved to 7-0 as a starter since replacing an injured Jimmy Garoppolo early in Week 13.

He went 18 for 28 for 215 yards with no turnovers against the Cowboys, joining Joe Flacco (2008) and Mark Sanchez (2009) as the only rookie QBs to win two playoff starts.

The 49ers took the lead on the first play of the fourth quarter when McCaffrey capped a 91-yard drive with a 2-yard run.

The drive featured a juggling 30-yard catch by Kittle and a pair of defensive holds against Dallas -- including one on Donovan Wilson near the goal line that negated a third-down sack.

Maher made his second field goal of the game when he converted from 43 yards out to cut San Francisco's lead to

• Bengals

Continued from Page B1

game behind the Chiefs (14-3) after their game at Cincinnati was canceled on Jan. 2 when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field.

Hamlin's inspirational presence while watching the game from an end-zone suite was not enough to spark the Bills.

Instead, it was "Joe Cool" showing poise while playing in a persistent snowfall.

Burrow completed his first nine passes for 105 yards as Cincinnati raced to a 14-0 lead after its first two possessions. Ja'Marr Chase opened the scoring with a 28-yard TD catch 3:20 into the game, followed by Burrow's 15-yard TD throw to Hayden Hurst eight minutes later. Joe Mixon scored on a 1-yard run, and Evan McPherson made field goals from 20 and 28 yards in a game the Bengals never trailed.

"The bigger the moment gets, the calmer he gets," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said of Burrow, who improved his playoff record to 5-1. "Our guys believe. They walk on the field ready to attack."

Cincinnati advanced to consecutive AFC championship games for the first time in franchise history and will prepare for a rematch of last year's title game. The Bengals defeated Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs 27-24 to advance to last year's Super Bowl, which they lost to the Los Angeles Rams.

"It's going to be a fun one," said Burrow, who went 23 of 36 for 242 yards Sunday. "Two of the top guys in the league, two of the top teams in the league, great defenses, great overall teams, great coaches."

Cincinnati has won the past three meetings against Kansas City, including a 27-24 victory last month. The Chiefs are making their fifth straight appearance in the AFC championship game following a 27-20 win over Jacksonville on Saturday.

The Bills' playoff run ended in the divisional round for a second straight season, including a 42-36 overtime loss to Kansas City last year.

Bills receiver Stefon Diggs was so upset, he was spotted leaving the locker room with much of his gear on shortly after the game ended before being coaxed by a teammate to return.

"He's a competitive guy. What makes him good is what you saw," coach Sean McDermott said of Diggs. "It hurts. I

missburg.

Gavin Jackson led the way for the Cadets with 26 points. Senior Carter Anderson posted 18 points and senior Nathan Coleman added 12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

River 57, Magnolia 24

NEW MARTINSVILLE -- The Pilots picked up another convincing win Saturday afternoon, cruising past Magnolia.

River (16-1) was led by Zoey Fox's 17 and Kelsey Harlan's 16.

Magnolia received seven points from Makia Litton and Sienna McKeever.

16-12.

The NFL's top two scoring teams over the past 13 weeks had trouble getting going as the defenses led by All-Pro Nick Bosa of San Francisco and Micah Parsons of Dallas controlled the play.

The Niners turned two interceptions in the first half by Prescott into field goals by Robbie Gould and led 9-6 at the half.

The Cowboys scored the only TD of the first half with Prescott connecting with tight end Dalton Schultz for the third time this postseason. Maher got some redemption when he made a 25-yard field goal that tied the game at 9 early in the third quarter after Ray-Ray McCloud fumbled a punt return at the San Francisco 21.

JUST FOR KICKS

The Cowboys' decision to stick with Maher after his four missed extra points last week looked questionable when he missed the early extra point.

There had been a dustup pregame when Maher was warming up. Trent Williams and other 49ers players tried to interfere with his attempts from San Francisco's side of the field, leading to a brief argument.

aspirations, and eventually ran out of emotional and physical gas. Aside from the stunning sight of Hamlin's collapse, the Bills had their schedule twice disrupted by severe winter storms.

Injuries also played an issue. The Bills' pass rush, missing Von Miller since he sustained a season-ending knee injury in November, generated very little pressure against a Bengals offensive line missing three starters due to injuries.

"We were expecting their best punch and they came out and punched us," said Allen, who finished 25 of 42 for 265 yards, and scored on a 1-yard plunge. "We just didn't have it today."

The Bengals mixed in their running attack to keep the Bills off balance in a first half during which Cincinnati outgained Buffalo in total yards by a margin of 274-135, and 412-325 overall. Mixon's 105 yards rushing alone were 1 short of how many the Bengals combined in their past two games, both against Baltimore.

"Domination from start to finish," Burrow added. "That's what we expected. Job's not finished."

The Bengals held one of the NFL's top offenses to season-low 10 points. And the unit got a chance to celebrate by making snow angels in the end zone after Cam Taylor-Britt intercepted Allen's attempt at the goal line to essentially end the game with 62 seconds remaining.

Hamlin was whisked into the stadium in a security vehicle, and led directly into the Bills' locker room about an hour before kickoff. He was later joined by his mother, Nina, and younger brother, Damir. He watched the game from a suite in one end zone and was pictured on the videoboard at the 2-minute warning in the first half, with Cincinnati facing second-and-goal at Buffalo's 5.

Hamlin raised his arms in his suite to a roar of cheers, before making a heart sign with his hands. The Bills limited the Bengals to a field goal, and trailed 17-7 at the half.

"We'll be back," Hamlin tweeted a few hours after the game. "Don't even trip."

STREAKS AND STATS

The Bengals extended their franchise-best streak to 10 straight wins. They haven't lost since a 32-13 defeat at Cleveland on Halloween. The Bengals' 30 first downs were a franchise postseason record.

Elit said. They know how to win. Scooter does a great job (coaching) them and they played a really good second half."

Indian Creek was led by Kylie Anderson and Camryn Ketron's eight. Gabby Taylor and Abby Starkey each had seven in top support.

Indian Creek held a 19-18 edge on the glass, but the Redskins were charted for 19 turnovers, which was 12 more than the winners.

Both teams are back in action on Monday as they begin to shift gears toward preparation for next week's OVAC Tournament. The Jets (18-0) welcome John Marshall, while Indian Creek welcomes Brooke.

In other Buckeye 8 placement games:

Third-Fourth Place Martins Ferry 59, Harrison Central 36 Martins Ferry contin-

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

led adversity before the tournament even started with the loss of nationally ranked and returning champion Gage Wright, piled up 242.5 points despite having just one individual champion - that being 190-pound Robert Shockey who outlasted East Liverpool's Eric Williams, 2-1, in sudden-victory. However, South did have 11 of 14 wrestlers earn a spot on the podium.

Not only did the Wood County Patriots unseat Wheeling Park as the overall titleist, they also captured the Class 5A crown.

"Even though we were down a kid, the kids all pulled together and got the job done. I'm proud of them," Parkersburg South head coach Shawn Smith said. "Overall, it wasn't the best night, but it doesn't negate the fact that we wrestled well Thursday night, Friday and earlier today."

Indian Creek and Oak Glen tied for the Class 4A title with 145.5 points each, with Beaver Local third.

"A co-championship is better than no championship," Indian Creek head coach Brandon Pendleton said.

Both schools had one champ as the Redskins' Elijah Llewellyn (285) made his jump from 215 earlier in the season work to his best. He pinned top-seeded Marshall Bier, of River, in one minute.

"That was kind of a risk we took there," Pendleton said of the bump up in weight. "Either I was going to look like a genius or a moron. I'm glad it worked out."

The Golden Bears' Logan Davis (113) repeated as a champ after winning last year at 106. The junior remained unbeaten in 33 bouts with a pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Rossiter. It was his fifth fall of the tournament and earned him the Hercules Award for most pins in the championship bracket in the least amount of time.

"The kids came out and wrestled well up and down our lineup," said first-year Oak Glen head coach Josh Cornell. "I'm happy with our effort."

In Class 1A/2A, Cameron defended its title with 83.5 points. Southern Local was next with 69.5 and Wheeling Central, in its first year back after a few years off, was third with 53.5.

"The kids kind of wanted to show that we were more than just (graduated) Ian Bush, and they did," Cameron head coach Tim Jones said. "We wrestled pretty well. We fell short in a few weight classes, but I couldn't be any more proud of them."

Half-a-dozen other schools had at least one champion, with University, which finished second to South with 214 points, having three. They were Dom Parker (150), Luca Felix (175) and Brock Kehler (215). Parker is 35-0, Felix 35-1 and Kehler 37-0. Felix was a champ at 145 last year and Kehler at 190.

Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (165) got a late escape in slipping past John Marshall's Klypsan Wallace, 4-3, in a battle of talented sophomores. Maynard improved to 32-3.

John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126) scored two points on a second-period reversal and made them stand in a 2-1 decision over Shenandoah's Drake Kanyuch. Cook is now 27-4.

Beaver Local's Bobby Buchheit (120) blanked Wheeling Park's Noah White, 4-0, and Dover's Edigio DiFazio (144) pinned Wheeling Park defending champ, Bradyn Lucas, to become the Tornadoes first-ever champion.

OSU men snap skid

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) -- Freshman standout Brice Sensabaugh scored a season-high 27 points on 10-of-12 shooting, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range, and Ohio State ended a five-game losing streak with a 93-77 win over Iowa on Saturday.

The Hawkeyes overcame a 12-0 Ohio State run in the first half but a 9-0 run early in the second half provided the room the Buckeyes needed to end a skid of single-digit losses.

Denarie 37,

East Liverpool 33

The Lady Reds got to the finish line with their 10th victory in 18 tries.

Sophomore Zara Harveth and senior Lizzie McAninch each had 12 points to pace Bellaire, while Eliana Mason added 11.

The Potters were paced by Kenzie Hendley's 15.

Seventh-Eighth Place St. Clairsville 50, Beaver Local 19

The Red Devils picked up the victory in impressive fashion, cruising past the Beavers.

St. C. was led by Makenna Moran's 13 points. Megan Malin added 10 Peyton Roberts led the Beavers with seven.

Ninth-Tenth Place Cambridge 41, Edison 30

The Bobcats picked up the win in the opening game of the day, toppling the Wildcats.

69th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament (at WestBanco Arena, Wheeling) TEAM SCORING

Overall
1. Parkersburg South 242.5, 2. University 214, 3. Wheeling Park 201.5, 4. Barnesville 200.5, 5. John Marshall 160, 6. (tie) Indian Creek, Oak Glen 145.5, 8. Steubenville 138, 9. Beaver Local 129.5, 10. Martins Ferry 125.5, 11. Dover 106, 12. Shenandoah 91, 13. Cameron 83.5, 14. Edison 81, 15. Warren Local 76, 16. Harrison Central 73, 17. Southern Local 69.5, 18. St. Clairsville 62, 19. Caldwell 61, 20. East Liverpool 57, 21. Linsly 56.5, 22. Wheeling Central 53.5, 23. Union Local 53, 24. Wellsville 46.5, 25. Buckeye Local 46, 26. River 45, 27. (tie) Brooke, Weir 41, 28. Cambridge 39, 30. Magnolia 38, 31. Bridgeport 30, 32. Morgantown 26, 33. Fort Frye 25, 34. Steubenville Catholic 23, 35. Bellaire 19, 36. Shadyside 18, 37. Beallsville 10, 38. Marietta 8, 39. Monroe Central 6, 40. Madonna 5, 41. Paden City 4, 42. Toronto 1, 43. Hundred 0

Class 5A
1. Parkersburg South 242.5, 2. University 214, 3. Wheeling Park 201.5, 4. John Marshall 160, 5. Steubenville 138, 6. Dover 106, 7. Warren Local 76, 8. Brooke 41, 9. Morgantown 26, 10. Marietta 8

Class 4A
(tie) Indian Creek, Oak Glen 145.5, 3. Beaver Local 129.5, 4. Edison 81, 5. Harrison Central 73, 6. St. Clairsville 62, 7. East Liverpool 57, 8. Buckeye Local 46, 9. Weir 41, 10. Cambridge 39

Class 3A
1. Barnesville 200.5, 2. Martins Ferry 125.5, 3. Shenandoah 91, 4. Caldwell 61, 5. Linsly 56.5, 6. Union Local 53, 7. Magnolia 38, 8. Fort Frye 25, 9. Bellaire 19

Class 1A/2A
Cameron 83.5, 2. Southern Local 69.5, 3. Wheeling Central 53.5, 4. Wellsville 46.5, 5. River 45, 6. Bridgeport 30, 7. Shadyside 18, 8. Beallsville 10, 9. Monroe Central 6, 10. Madonna 5, 11. Paden City 4, 12. Toronto 1, 13. Hundred 0

Championship Finals

105-Jonathan Hunstman (Barn) d. Pepper Maran (U), 11-6; 113-Logan Davis (OG) p. Tristen Rossiter (Shen), 2-54; 120-Booby Buchheit (BVL) d. Noah White (WPI), 4-0; 126-Ethan Cook (JM) d. Drake Kanyuch (Shen), 2-1; 132-Daivata King (Barn) d. Brody Saocooa (Steub), 6-5; 138-Syler King (Barn) d. Ryan Martin (PS), 6-3; 144-Egidio DiFazio (DJ) p. Bradyn Lucas (WPI), 4-32; 150-Freese Stephen (B) d. C.J. Spencer (IC), 9-3; 157-Dom Parker (U) d. Dom Palerra (IC), 7-3; 165-Jameson Maynard (WPI) d. Klypsan Wallace (JM), 4-3; 175-Luca Felix (U) d. Adam Angel (Cam), 4-2; 190-Robert Shockey (PS) d. Eric Williams (EL), 2-1; SV: 215-Brock Kehler (U) d. Lucas Thomas (HC), 4-2; 265-Elijah Llewellyn (IC) p. Marshall Bier, 1:00

Sports on TV

Monday, January 23
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MENS)
7 p.m.
CBSN -- Colgate at Boston U.
ESPN -- Duke at Virginia Tech
7:30 p.m.
ESPN -- Norfolk St. at Morgan St.
9 p.m.
CBSN -- New Mexico at Nevada
ESPN -- Kansas at Baylor
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMENS)
7 p.m.
ESPN2 -- Iowa at Ohio St.
SECN -- LSU at Alabama
8 p.m.
BTN -- Indiana at Michigan
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
NBATV -- Atlanta at Chicago
10:30 p.m.
NBATV -- Memphis at Sacramento
SOCCER (MENS)
2:35 p.m.
FS2 -- The French Cup Pays de Cassel vs. Paris Saint-Germain. Round of 32. Lens, France
3 p.m.
USA -- Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur at Fulham
TENNIS
2 p.m.
ESPN2 -- ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
9 p.m.
ESPN2 -- ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia ...

Wheeling stuns WL

WHEELING -- The last time that the Wheeling University Men's Basketball team had beaten West Liberty entering play Saturday was on February 24th, 2018. On Saturday night, the Cardinals (4-14, 2-10) broke the 10-game losing streak as they took down the Hilltoppers 114-107. It was the first time that the Cardinals have gone over the 100 point mark this season.

Leading the way for the Cardinals was senior John Korte, who finished with 40 points and was just eight points away from breaking the program single-game scoring record. He shot an impressive 72% from the floor and helped will the Cardinals to what was their biggest victory of the season.

The Cardinals had two other players finish with more than 20 points in the game and another finish in double digits for the night. Wheeling Central grad Brent Price finished with 24 points on the night while Marcus Johnson picked up his second double-double with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Another former Maroon Knight, Ryan Reasbeck, rounded out the double digit scorers, having a big day from three-point

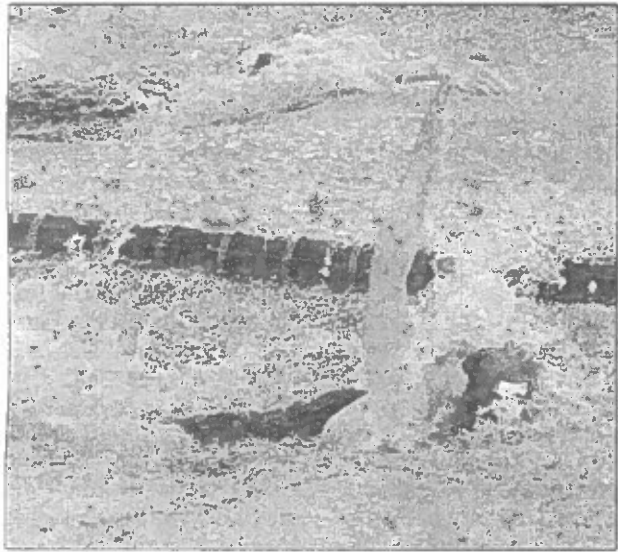


Photo by Andrew Grimm
Wheeling Park's Daelyn Crum competes in the 100 backstroke Saturday during the OVAC Swim Championships at Brooke High School.

JM's Kidney Sets 2 Records To Cap Her OVAC Career

By ANDREW GRIMM
Mason Frances of Warren High School in the Wellsburg — Victoria Kidney saved her best for last, as the John Marshall High School senior not only won two individual titles at Saturday's OVAC Class 5A Swim Championships at Brooke High School, but she also set two pool records and a meet record in her events.



KIDNEY

In the 200 individual medley, Kidney, who has signed to swim next season at West Virginia University, had a time of 2:09.25 for a pool record. In the 100 backstroke, her winning time of 57.64 was both a pool and a meet record.

Her two records were among seven that fell Saturday as the region's big schools battled it out for pool supremacy. Dover High's Lucas Lane also set two pool records in the 100 back (51.75) and the 500 free (4:38.77), while other records were set by

ren High School in the 50 free (21.01), Caroline Riggs of Morgantown High School in the 500 free (5:02.79), and Dover's 400 freestyle relay team (3:19.49).

Overall, Dover's girls dominated in the team competition, more than doubling the points total of Morgantown in second and Parkersburg South, third. On the boys side, Parkersburg South edged Dover for the team title while Morgantown finished third.

Wheeling Park's boys and girls swimmers finished fourth in their respective divisions.

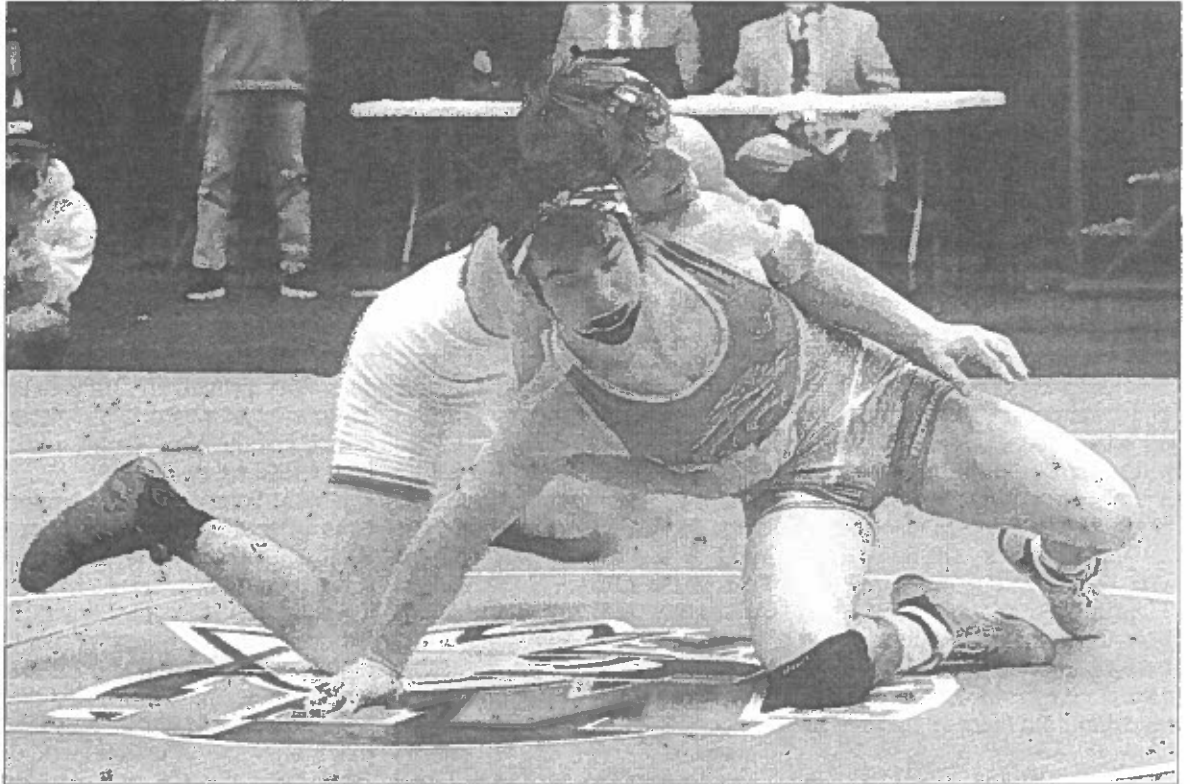
GIRLS

Dover swimmers won four of 11 events on the girls side and placed 14 individuals or relay units on the podium. It claimed the top spot by over 200 points.

Please see RECORDS, Page 10

69TH-ANNUAL OVAC RON MAUCK WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Barnesville Runs Away With OVAC 3A Title



Photos by Kim North
Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard has control of John Marshall's Klypsan Wallace during their 165-pound OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament championship match Saturday night inside WesBanco Arena. Maynard held on for a 4-3 win.

Cameron Takes 1A/2A; IC, Oak Glen Share 4A Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The championship finals of the 69th-annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament started with a Barnesville win Saturday night and ended with a Barnesville win. In between, two other Shamrocks had their hands raised as they repeated as Class 3A champions with a program-record four titlists.

Barnesville did so in runaway fashion with 200.5 points — which was good enough for fourth place overall. Martins Ferry was a distant second with 125.5 in 3A.

"It was a good weekend. I can't complain. The kids wrestled tough," said Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen, who barely had a voice after the three-



Barnesville's Dakota King was voted the David Bierkorte Award winner after his 6-5 nod over Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia in the 132-pound finals.

day event. "They wrestled really well."

With the featured match of the tournament being at 132, the

championship finals started at 138 and junior Skyler King got things going for the Green Machine with a 6-3 nod over Parkersburg South's Ryan Martin. All the points were scored in the first period, with King using a reversal that he turned into back points to rally from a 3-2 deficit. He is now 25-4.

Two matches later, classmate Reese Stephen (150) recorded four takedowns and an escape in a 9-3 decision over Indian Creek's C.J. Spencer. Stephen, son of the Shamrocks head coach, is now 24-2.

At 106, fourth-seeded Johnathan Huntsman capped his improbable run with an 11-6 victory over University's No. 2 Pepper Martin.

Please see RUNS, Page 10



Photo by Seth Staskey
Union Local's Torre Kildow drives to the basket as Indian Creek's Abby Starkey defends during Saturday evening's Buckeye 8 girls basketball championship game at Martins Ferry. The Jets picked up the victory for their fourth straight league title.

Union Local Captures Buckeye 8 Crown

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — Indian Creek felt it had enough skill to elongate possessions and shorten the game. It also felt it had enough size and physicality on the interior to at least limit and bother Union Local senior standout Reagan Vinskovich.

The Redskins were able to do both of those. But, the one issue that remained — Torre Kildow — proved to be the difference. Kildow poured in 20 points, grabbed four rebounds, blocked three shots, collected three steals and had two assists to help lead the Jets to their fourth consecutive Buckeye 8 Athletic League championship, 50-36, Saturday evening inside the Tolbert Gymnasium at Martins Ferry High School.

"I thought the girls stuck to the game plan and executed it very well, especially early," Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft said. "I am really proud of our effort and how the girls competed their tails off, but Union Local has two of the best players in the state of Ohio, in my opinion and you have to kind of pick your poison."

The poison Kildow contributed was extremely toxic for the Redskins (13-4). Creek found itself with a 14-12 lead in the latter stages of the first half.

Junior Lauren Miller, who finished with 10 points for the Jets, buried a trey, Kildow followed with a bucket going to the basket and then just before the buzzer sounded, Kildow found Teegan Day, who buried a 3-pointer from the corner, giving the Jets a 20-14 lead at half and a lot of

momentum.

"We had to hang in there a while and give Creek and Coach Eft credit," Union Local head coach Scooter Tolzda said. "We were able to get the ball to the right place at the right time. There are a million things we need to continue to improve on, but there are also a million things that we do pretty well, too."

The momentum stayed with the Jets in the third quarter.

Kildow opened what turned out to be a 22-point onslaught with a short jumper off a set play and then Vinskovich, who battled her way to 13 points and eight rebounds, got a bucket on the interior, making it a 24-14 reading.

Please see BUCKEYE 8, Page 11

Bengals And
49ers Join The



Linette Upsets
Garcia To Reach



Tournay Receives 'Mr. Mat.' Award

By BILL WELKER
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — A four-year varsity performer and two-year captain under the tutelage of West Liberty University's iconic OVAC hall of famer, Coach Vince Monseau, Merle Tournay also made his mark as an outstanding mat coach and nationally renowned wrestling official was awarded the coveted 'Mr. Mat Award' prior to Saturday evening's wrestling finals at the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament.

Also a three-year soccer letterman on the Hilltop, Tournay won a WVIAC wrestling championship in 1976 and was voted Mr. Hilltopper in recognition of his athletic achievements.

He immediately entered the coaching profession and had successful runs at Brooke and Montour (Pa.) high schools. Originally attracted to the valley because of the West Liberty mat program, Tournay went on to spread his wrestling knowledge at Brooke High School for 12 years. The veteran wrestler and rookie coach quickly built a Bruins' powerhouse capturing the school's only West Virginia state title in 1980, and was also named the 1980 West Virginia AAA Wrestling Coach of the year.

During his coaching career at Brooke, Tournay produced four state champions: Chuck Taylor (1980), Larry Mazzella (1981), Phil Milantoni (1982), and Sal Jafarce (1988).

Leaving Brooke, Tournay restarted the wrestling program at Montour in 1988. He was head coach at Montour for 16 years. After that, Tournay served as assistant coach for 17 seasons, helping both the varsity and junior high programs. He now assists his son, Zachary, who is the current head wrestling coach at Montour High School.

At Brooke, Tournay taught Physical Education and Driver's



Photo by Kim North

From left, Rick Link, Mr. Mat award-winner Merle Tournay and Dr. Vince Monseau pose prior to Saturday evening's finals at the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament.

Education. He always respected the teaching and coaching advice of the late OVAC Hall of Famer, Ron Mauck. As a teacher at Montour, Tournay served the students as a physical education and health educator.

Tournay also loved officiating wrestling. He quickly ascended to the top of the profession. The 2002 Wrestling Official of the Year in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was voted the 2004 National Wrestling Official of the Year by Wrestling USA magazine and was selected as the top official at the 2005 NCAA Division II Nationals.

A nationally acclaimed mat official, Tournay worked seven NCAA Division II Nationals, two NCAA Division I Nationals and numerous NCAA Division I and NCAA Division II national qualifying tournaments.

Like most officials, Tournay didn't start off doing large high school tournaments or even the OVAC. It was a long process which started as he put on the stripes to officiate the Cameron Open.

Since his initial seasons as a referee, Tournay's reputation as a mat official has gone far beyond the Ohio Valley over the years. This was proven in 2003 when Tournay was awarded the NCAA Official of the Year across all college wrestling divisions.

Merle Tournay is now retired from officiating, but he still stays deeply involved in the tri-state wrestling community. Most recently, Tournay serves as the liaison for the Pennsylvania Midwestern Athletic Conference (MAC) All-Star wrestling team. The OVAC vs. MAC All-Star Meet annually takes place after the completion of the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia state wrestling tournaments.

Tournay is a member of three halls of fame: West Liberty University Hall of Fame (2007), MAC Hall of Fame (2009) and Southwestern Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame (2018).

Merle Tournay and his wife, Dee, reside in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. They have three children: Zachary, Danielle and Lucas — and grandson Austin.

Martins Ferry Picks Up Victory No. 14 At Monroe Central

WOODSFIELD — Martins Ferry's trip to Monroe Central was well worth the drive Saturday as the Purple Riders picked up victory number 14 on the season by a 67-47 score.

The Riders were balanced in the scoring column with four players in double figures. Sophomore Alex Reese led the way with 18, while senior guard Denali Jackson added 14. Gaige O'Connell and Anthony Booth added 13 and 10, respectively.

The Seminoles were paced by sophomore Tucker Howell, who went for a game-high 26 points. No other Seminole player scored more than six.

River 51, Steubenville 34
STEUBENVILLE — River put together an impressive showing inside the Crimson Center to score the victory against Big Red Saturday night.

The win was the 350th of head coach Mark Romick's career with the Pilots.

River was led by junior Kabel Isaly, who scored 24 points. Senior Ty Long added 15.

Steubenville was led by Kyjjuan Hopkins' 11. Cole Bowers added eight.

Shadyside 67, Buckeye Local 26
SHADYSIDE — The Tigers scored a repeat win over the Panthers on Saturday night inside the Tiger Den.

Senior Elijah Brock led the Tigers with 21 points, while Dylan Booth and Ben Wach went for 16 and 11, respectively.

Gavyn Romanyak paced the Panthers with eight points.

Linsly 76, Parkersburg 57
PARKERSBURG — Linsly won its third game of the week against West Virginia Class AAAA competition. This time, the Cadets took down Parkersburg.

Gavin Jackson led the way for the Cadets with 26 points. Senior Carter Anderson posted 18 points and senior Nathan Coleman added 12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
River 57, Magnolia 24

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The Pilots picked up another convincing win Saturday afternoon, cruising past Magnolia.

River (16-1) was led by Zoey Fox's 17 and Kelsey Harlan's 16.

Rahm Outlasts Rookie Thompson To Win AmEx By A Single Stroke

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Jon Rahm took advantage of mistakes by rookie Davis Thompson over the adventuresome final three holes to win The American Express by one stroke. It was his second victory in as many starts.

The Spanish star will move up one spot in the world rankings to No. 3. He pumped his right fist and flashed a look of re-

Magnolia received seven points from Makia Litton and Sienna McKeever.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wheeling 114, West Liberty 107

WHEELING — The last time that the Wheeling University Men's Basketball team had beaten West Liberty entering play Saturday was on February 24th, 2018. On Saturday night, the Cardinals (4-14, 2-10) broke the 10-game losing streak as they took down the Hilltoppers 114-107. It was the first time that the Cardinals have gone over the 100 point mark this season as the offense led the way.

Leading the way for the Cardinals was senior John Korte, who put together the best day of his collegiate career. He finished the night with 40 points and was just eight points away from breaking the program single-game scoring record. He shot an impressive 72% from the floor and helped will the Cardinals to what was their biggest victory of the season.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wheeling 74, West Liberty 68

One of the great college basketball rivalries in the Ohio Valley made it's way to the Alma Grace McDonough Center on Saturday as "The Battle for Wheeling" kicked off this basketball season. The Wheeling University Women's Basketball team (11-7, 9-3) kept Wheeling's unbeaten streak in the rivalry alive at home as they took down West Liberty 74-68. The win moves the Cardinals into a tie for second in the ultra competitive Mountain East Conference (MEC) and has them riding high into the end of January.

This one would be a nail bitter as the Cardinals entered the fourth quarter with just a three-point advantage. West Liberty hit a jumper coming out of the fourth quarter that made it a one-point adsaie and the Cardinals had to fight to hold on.

The Cardinal's offensive leader was once again senior Lauren Calhoun, who was one of three double digit scorers on the night. She finished with 16 points to lead the way for the Cardinals while finishing second on the team with five rebounds.

RUNS

(Continued from Page 9)

The junior is now 26-5. He had pinned top-seeded Mason Simms of Wellsville in the semis.

"Johnathan Huntsman really stepped up this weekend. He wrestled incredible." Coach Stephen said. "He is going to be a wrestler to watch from now on."

In that aforementioned feature match, Barnesville's Dakota King held off Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia, 6-5, in a battle of highly ranked Buckeye State matmen, to capture his second consecutive OVAC Ron Mauck crown. King is ranked No. 1 in D-III and Saccoccia second in D-II.

"I knew I was going to win that match," King admitted, noting that the delay didn't faze him. "I'm on a mission ... a mission to win a (Division III) state title."

For his hard-earned triumph, King received the David Bierkorte Award, which is symbolic of being the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, as voted on by tournament coaches.

"This means a lot to me," King said. "I want to thank all of my teammates and coaches. I love you all."

Parkersburg South's depth brought the Patriots back to the top of the podium after three grueling days of action inside WesBanco Arena.

The Wood County Patriots, who battled adversity before the tournament even started with the loss of nationally ranked and returning champion Gage Wright, piled up 242.5 points despite having just one individual champion - that being 190-pound Robert Shockey who captured East Liberty's title

Williams, 2-1, in sudden-victory. However, South did have 11 of 14 wrestlers earn a spot on the podium.

Not only did the Wood County Patriots unseat Wheeling Park as the overall titleist, they also captured the Class 5A crown.

"Even though we were down a kid, the kids all pulled together and got the job done. I'm proud of them," Parkersburg South head coach Shawn Smith said. "Overall, it wasn't the best night, but it doesn't negate the fact that we wrestled well Thursday night, Friday and earlier today."

Indian Creek and Oak Glen tied for the Class 4A title with 145.5 points each, with Beaver Local third.

"A co-championship is better than no championship," Indian Creek head coach Brandon Pendleton said.

Both schools had one champ as the Redskins' Elijah Llewellyn (285) made his jump from 215 earlier in the season work to his best. He pinned top-seeded Marshall Bier, of River, in one minute.

"That was kind of a risk we took there," Pendleton said of the bump up in weight. "Either I was going to look like a genius or a moron. I'm glad it worked out."

The Golden Bears' Logan Davis (113) repeated as a champ after winning last year at 106. The junior remained unbeaten in 33 bouts with a pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Rossiter. It was his fifth fall of the tournament and earned him the Hercules Award for most pins in the championship bracket in the least amount of time.

"The kids come out and wrestled

well up and down our lineup," said first-year Oak Glen head coach Josh Cornell. "I'm happy with our effort."

In Class 1A/2A, Cameron defended its title with 83.5 points. Southern Local was next with 69.5 and Wheeling Central, in its first year back after a few years off, was third with 53.5.

"The kids kind of wanted to show that we were more than just (graduated) Ian Bush, and they did," Cameron head coach Tim Jones said. "We wrestled pretty well. We fell short in a few weight classes, but I couldn't be any more proud of them."

Half-a-dozen other schools had at least one champion, with University, which finished second to South with 214 points, having three. They were Dom Parker (150), Luca Felix (175) and Brock Kehler (215). Parker is 35-0, Felix 35-1 and Kehler 37-0. Felix was a champ at 145 last year and Kehler at 190.

Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (165) got a late escape in slipping past John Marshall's Klypsan Wallace, 4-3, in a battle of talented sophomores. Maynard improved to 32-3.

John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126) scored two points on a second-period reversal and made them stand in a 2-1 decision over Shenandoah's Drake Kanyuch. Cook is now 27-4.

Beaver Local's Bobby Buchheit (120) blanked Wheeling Park's Noah White, 4-0, and Dover's Edigio DiFazio (144) pinned Wheeling Park defending champ, Bradyn Lucas, to become the Tornadoes first ever champion.

7:30 p.m.
ESPN — Norfolk St. at Morgan St.
 9 p.m.
CBSN — New Mexico at Nevada
ESPN — Kansas at Baylor
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 7 p.m.
ESPN2 — Iowa at Ohio St.
SECN — LSU at Alabama
 8 p.m.
BTN — Indiana at Michigan
NBA BASKETBALL
 8 p.m.
NBATV — Atlanta at Chicago
 10:30 p.m.
NBATV — Memphis at Sacramento
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 2:35 p.m.
FS2 — The French Cup Pays de Cassel vs. Paris Saint-Germain, Round of 32, Lens, France
 3 p.m.
USA — Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur at Fulham
TENNIS
 2 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
 9 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia

OVAC WRESTLING

69th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament (at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling)
TEAM SCORING Overall
 1. Parkersburg South 242.5; 2. University 214; 3. Wheeling Park 201.5; 4. Barnesville 200.5; 5. John Marshall 160; 6. (tie) Indian Creek, Oak Glen 145.5; 8. Steubenville 138; 9. Beaver Local 129.5; 10. Martins Ferry 125.5; 11. Dover 106; 12. Shenandoah 91; 13. Cameron 83.5; 14. Edison 81; 15. Warren Local 76; 16. Harrison Central 73; 17. Southern Local 69.5; 18. St. Clairsville 62; 19. Caldwell 61; 20. East Liverpool 57; 21. Linsly 56.5; 22. Wheeling Central 53.5; 23. Union Local 53; 24. Wellsville 46.5; 25. Buckeye Local 46; 26. River 45; 27. (tie) Brooke, Weir 41; 29. Cambridge 39; 30. Magnolia 38; 31. Bridgeport 30; 32. Morgantown 26; 33. Fort Frye 25; 34. Steubenville Catholic 23; 35. Bellaire 19; 36. Shadyside 18; 37. Beallsville 10; 38. Marietta 8; 39. Monroe Central 6; 40. Madonna 5; 41. Paden City 4; 42. Toronto 1; 43. Hundred 0

Class 5A
 1. Parkersburg South 242.5; 2. University 214; 3. Wheeling Park 201.5; 4. John Marshall 160; 5. Steubenville 138; 6. Dover 106; 7. Warren Local 76; 8. Brooke 41; 9. Morgantown 26; 10. Marietta 8

Class 4A
 (tie) Indian Creek, Oak Glen 145.5; 3. Beaver Local 129.5; 4. Edison 81; 5. Harrison Central 73; 6. St. Clairsville 62; 7. East Liverpool 57; 8. Buckeye Local 46; 9. Weir 41; 9. 10. Cambridge 39

Class 3A
 1. Barnesville 200.5; 2. Martins Ferry 125.5; 3. Shenandoah 91; 4. Caldwell 61; 5. Linsly 56.5; 6. Union Local 53; 7. Magnolia 38; 8. Fort Frye 25; 9. Bellaire 19

Class 1A/2A
 Cameron 83.5; 2. Southern Local 69.5; 3. Wheeling Central 53.5; 4. Wellsville 46.5; 5. River 45; 6. Bridgeport 30; 7. Shadyside 18; 8. Beallsville 10; 9. Monroe Central 6; 10. Madonna 5; 11. Paden City 4; 12. Toronto 1; 13. Hundred 0

Championship Finals
 106—Johnathan Huntsman (Barn) d. Pepper Martin (U), 11-6; 113—Logan Davis (OG) p. Tristen Rossiter (Shen), 2-54; 120—Bobby Buchheit (BvL) d. Noah White (WP), 4-0; 126—Ethan Cook (JM) d. Drake Kanyuch (Shen), 2-1; 132—Dakota King (Barn) d. Brody Saccoccia (Steub), 6-5; 138—Skyler King (Barn) d. Ryan Martin (PS), 6-3; 144—Egidio DiFazio (D) p. Brady Lucas (WP), 4-32; 150—Reese Stephen (B) d. C.J. Spencer (IC), 9-3; 157—Dom Parker (U) d. Dom Paterra (IC), 7-3; 165—Jameson Maynard (WP) d. Klypsan Wallace (JM), 4-3; 175—Luca Felix (U) d. Adam Angel (Cam), 4-2; 190—Robert Shockey (PS) d. Eric Williams (EL), 2-1 SV; 215—Brock Kehler (U) d. Lucas Thomas (HC), 4-2; 285—Elijah Llewellyn (IC) p. Marshall Bier, 1:00

Los Angeles	49	26	17	6	58	159	167
Edmonton	48	27	18	3	57	178	157
Calgary	47	22	16	9	53	150	143
Vancouver	46	18	25	3	39	155	186
San Jose	48	14	25	9	37	145	184
Anaheim	47	13	29	5	31	113	199

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's Games
 Buffalo 6, Anaheim 3
 Calgary 6, Tampa Bay 3
 Florida 5, Minnesota 3
 Columbus 5, San Jose 3
 Winnipeg 5, Ottawa 1
 Philadelphia 2, Detroit 1
 Montreal 3, Toronto 2, OT
 Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
 Dallas 4, Arizona 0
 Chicago 5, St. Louis 3
 Nashville 5, Los Angeles 3
 Vegas 6, Washington 2
 Edmonton 4, Vancouver 2
 Colorado 2, Seattle 1, SO
Sunday's Games
 New Jersey 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT
 Los Angeles 2, Chicago 1
 Winnipeg 5, Philadelphia 3
 Boston 4, San Jose 0
 Arizona 4, Vegas 1
Monday's Games
 Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Buffalo at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Columbus at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
 Boston at Montreal, 7 p.m.
 Florida at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
 San Jose at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 Vegas at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
 Buffalo at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 Anaheim at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 Washington at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
 N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Carolina at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Columbus at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
 Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Okla. City	23	24	.489	10
Portland	21	25	.457	11 1/2

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Sacramento	26	19	.578	—
L.A. Clippers	25	24	.510	3
Phoenix	24	24	.500	3 1/2
Golden St.	23	24	.489	4
L.A. Lakers	22	25	.468	5

Saturday's Games
 Boston 106, Toronto 104
 Washington 138, Orlando 118
 Cleveland 114, Milwaukee 102
 Charlotte 122, Atlanta 118
 Minnesota 113, Houston 104
 Phoenix 112, Indiana 107
 Philadelphia 129, Sacramento 127

AUSSIE OPEN

Monday At Melbourne Park Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD\$35,173,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AP) — Results Monday from Australian Open at Melbourne Park (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles Fourth Round
 Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, def. Belinda Bencic (12), Switzerland, 7-5, 6-2.
 Karolina Pliskova (30), Czech Republic, def. Zhang Shuai (23), China, 6-0, 6-4.
 Donna Vekic, Croatia, def. Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.
 Magda Linette, Poland, def. Caroline Garcia (4), France, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Men's Doubles Third Round
 Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Neal Skupski (1), Britain, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Nikola Pietrangeli (2), Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
 Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (8), Argentina, def. Raven Klaasen and Lloyd Harris, South Africa, 6-1, 7-6 (4).
 Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (3), El Salvador, def. Robin Haase and Matwe Middelkoop (16), Netherlands, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Women's Doubles Third Round
 Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (10), Japan, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, and Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 7-6 (7).
 Zhaoxuan Yang, China, and Hao-Ching Chan (11), Taiwan, def. Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium, and Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-3, 7-5.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 14
 San Francisco 41, Seattle 23
 Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30
Sunday, Jan. 15
 Buffalo 34, Miami 31
 N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
 Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17
Monday, Jan. 16
 Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14
Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 21
 Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20
 Philadelphia 38, N.Y. Giants 7
Sunday, Jan. 22
 Cincinnati 27, Buffalo 10
 San Francisco 19, Dallas 12
Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 29
AFC
 Cincinnati at Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
 San Francisco at Philadelphia, 3 p.m. (FOX)
Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 12 At Glendale, Ariz.
 Conference Championship winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

PREP HOOPS

Buckeye 8 Championship Game (at Martins Ferry) Union Local 50, Indian Creek 36
INDIAN CREEK (36) — Taylor 2, 3-3 7; Starkey 1, 4-4 7; Balato 0, 0-0 0; Anderson 2, 4-4 8; Robertson 3, 0-0 6; Ketrton 3, 0-2 8; Vandeborne 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 11, 11-13 36.
UNION LOCAL (50) — R. Vinskovich 4, 5-6 13; Kildow 8, 2-2 20; Kellaway 0, 0-0 0; Pietranton 1, 0-0 2; Miller 4, 0-0 10; L. Vinskovich 1, 0-0 2; Day 1, 0-2 3; Totals: 19, 7-10 50.
 3-point goals: IC — Starkey, Ketrton (2). UL — Kildow (2), Miller (2), Day.

ECHL

Saturday's Games Reading 5, Norfolk 1
 South Carolina 4, Atlanta 2
 Adirondack 5, Newfoundland 0
 Florida 6, Savannah 2
 Greenville 6, Orlando 3
 Kalamazoo 3, Wheeling 2
 Maine 3, Worcester 1
 Indy 4, Fort Wayne 2
 Toledo 5, Iowa 0
 Tulsa 5, Utah 2
 Wichita 7, Kansas City 1
 Rapid City 5, Idaho 4
Sunday's Games Cincinnati 6, Kalamazoo 2
 Newfoundland 6, Adirondack 4
 Orlando 2, Florida 2
 Wheeling 3, Indy 1
 Jacksonville 5, South Carolina 4
 Toledo 5, Iowa 1
 Worcester 3, Trois-Rivieres 2
 Allen 5, Kansas City 4
 Utah 4, Tulsa 1

COLLEGE HOOPS SCORES

NCAA MEN Sunday, Jan. 22 EAST
 CCSU 58, LIU 42
 Carnegie Mellon 71, Washington (Mo.) 58
 Chicago 85, Case Western 77
 Fairfield 62, Siena 52
 Maine 78, Binghamton 57
 Mass.-Lowell 98, Bryant 79
 Merrimack 63, St. Francis (NY) 55
 Mount St. Mary's 59, Marist 55
 Niagara 59, St. Peter's 57
 Quinniac 87, Canisius 82
 Rider 67, Manhattan 65
 Rochester 72, NYU 55
 Stonehill 70, Fairleigh Dickinson 59
 UConn 86, Butler 56
 Vermont 85, NJIT 69
 Wagner 68, Sacred Heart 58
SOUTH
 Birmingham Southern 94, Centre 89
 Furman 96, Wofford 82
MIDWEST
 Indiana 82, Michigan St. 69
 Memphis 75, Cincinnati 68
 Michigan 60, Minnesota 56
 Purdue 58, Maryland 55
SOUTHWEST
 Temple 56, Houston 55
 Wichita St. 71, SMU 69
FAR WEST
 Colorado 58, Washington St. 55
 Oregon St. 68, California 48
NCAA WOMEN Sunday, Jan. 22 EAST
 Clemson 67, Boston College 57
 Davidson 66, Duquesne 65
 Fordham 71, Saint Joseph's 65
 George Washington 69, VCU 61
 Northeastern 68, Hofstra 48
 Penn St. 74, Wisconsin 69
 Rhode Island 74, St. Bonaventure 57
SOUTHWEST
 Texas 68, Baylor 55
 Texas A&M 75, Georgia 73
FAR WEST
 Arizona 80, Arizona St. 67
 Hawaii 55, UC Riverside 51
 Southern Cal 63, Washington 54, OT
 Stanford 62, Colorado 49
 UCLA 73, Washington St. 66
 Utah 87, California 62
SOUTH
 Auburn 77, Mississippi 76, OT
 Belmont 101, S. Illinois 45
 Duke 62, Syracuse 50
 Florida 73, Vanderbilt 55
 Florida St. 74, Pittsburgh 37
 Mississippi St. 77, Kentucky 76
 Missouri St. 77, Murray St. 61
 N. Kentucky 73, Cleveland St. 69
 NC A&T 75, Hampton 70, OT
 NC State 63, Louisville 51
 North Carolina 70, Georgia Tech 57
 South Carolina 92, Arkansas 46
 South Florida 83, UCF 51
 Virginia Tech 74, Wake Forest 57
 William & Mary 80, Coll. of Charleston 74, OT

hoping to get it and just took a swing at it," Hamilton said of his winning goal. "I'm obviously happy it went in."

The Devils have won two straight at home in overtime, beating the Rangers 4-3 on Jan. 7 in the same manner. New Jersey had a 4-0-1 trip between the overtime victories at Prudential Center.

"Not every game is going to be a Picasso. We found a way to win a hockey game," Devils coach Lindy Ruff said. "We played the game the right way."

New Jersey moved 10 points ahead of Pittsburgh in the Metropolitan Division, and the Devils are two points behind division-leading Carolina. They have three games in four days later this week before the All-Star break.

Hughes opened the scoring 56 seconds into the game, beating Penguins netminder Tristan Jarry (23 saves) on the glove side for his 30th of the season. Hamilton got the lone assist.

The 21-year-old Hughes, in his fourth

FINAL 4

(Continued from Page 9)
 The league decided on the first of its kind conference championship neutral site setting because the Bills (13-3) finished the season a half-game behind the Chiefs (14-3) after their game at Cincinnati was canceled on Jan. 2 when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field.

Hamlin's inspirational presence while watching the game from an end-zone suite was not enough to spark the Bills.

Instead, it was "Joe Cool" showing poise while playing in a persistent snowfall.

Burrow completed his first nine passes for 105 yards as Cincinnati raced to a 14-0 lead after its first two possessions. Ja'Marr Chase opened the scoring with a 28-yard TD catch 3:20 into the game, followed by Burrow's 15-yard TD throw to Hayden Hurst eight minutes later. Joe Mixon scored on a 1-yard run, and Evan McPherson made field goals from 20 and 28 yards in a game the Bengals never trailed.

"The bigger the moment gets, the calmer he gets," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said of Burrow, who improved his playoff record to 5-1. "Our guys believe. They walk on the field ready to attack."

49ERS 19, COWBOYS 12
SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Christian McCaffrey scored on a go-ahead 2-yard run in the fourth quarter and San Francisco's defense did the rest, sending the 49ers to their second straight NFC title game with a 19-12 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

The 49ers (15-4) used back-to-back long scoring drives in the second half to wear down the Cowboys (13-6) and win their 12th straight game. San Francisco advanced to play the Eagles in the

"There was a lot to like about this game. Our team is playing hard, giving us chances to win."

BRUINS 4, SHARKS 0

BOSTON (AP) — Defensemen Hampus Lindholm and Charlie McAvoy scored highlight-reel goals, Linus Ullmark stopped 17 shots and the NHL-leading Boston Bruins beat the San Jose Sharks 4-0 on Sunday night.

KINGS 2, BLACKHAWKS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Jaret Anderson-Dolan scored twice and Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak.

JETS 5, FLYERS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Axel Jonsson-Fjallby, Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele gave Winnipeg an early three-goal lead, and the Jets held on to beat Philadelphia.

COYOTES 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Clayton Keller had his second hat trick of the season and Arizona got its second victory in the last 13 games.

NFC title game next Sunday in Philadelphia after losing in that round to the Rams a year ago.

The Cowboys lost for the record seventh straight time in the divisional round and have failed to make it to the NFC title game since winning their fifth Super Bowl title following the 1995 season.

Dak Prescott threw two interceptions and Brett Maher missed his fifth extra point of the postseason when his attempt was blocked. He later made two field goals.

CHIEFS 27, JAGUARS 20 (SATURDAY)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Hobbling along on an injured ankle, Patrick Mahomes threw for 195 yards and two touchdowns on Saturday, leading the Kansas City Chiefs to a 27-20 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars and a spot in their fifth straight AFC title game.

Mahomes missed most of the second quarter after his ankle was landed on by a Jacksonville defender. But the All-Pro quarterback returned in the second half and led the Chiefs on a 75-yard TD drive in the fourth quarter that helped to ensure a date with the Bengals for a spot in the Super Bowl.

EAGLES 38, GIANTS 7

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jalen Hurts erased lingering doubts about the state of his right shoulder by throwing two touchdown passes and running for a score during a dominant first half, and Philadelphia overwhelmed New York in an NFC divisional playoff game.

Hurts missed two late-season losses with a sprained right shoulder. He's back, and so are the Eagles as a Super Bowl threat. Top-seeded Philadelphia will host the NFC championship game next Sunday against San Francisco.



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

Toronto's Karaffa gearing up for his first pro season in the Phillies system

Nate Karaffa is about to embark on a life that most only dream about.

The Toronto High School and Ohio State University graduate can hardly believe it himself when he takes a step back and thinks that in less than a month he'll be taking part in his first professional baseball spring training camp.

"This whole process has been unreal," Karaffa said. "I've really not had a lot of time to simply slow down and really think about it, but I consider myself extremely blessed to be in this position. Each opportunity you have to keep chasing your dream is a reason to be excited."

Karaffa was drafted in the 20th round of last July's MLB Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies after a strong career with the Buckeyes.

"To be hand-picked and considered one of the very best in your sport is incredible to even think about," Karaffa said during a recent phone interview. "Now, though, it's a matter of putting in the work to make sure you're on top of it, so you don't get passed up."

Karaffa has been in Clearwater -- at the Phillies spring training home -- basically since early this month, continuing his rehab from an elbow injury that didn't require surgery.

"I've just been building up getting ready for spring training," Karaffa said. "I was injured when I got drafted, but I am finally able to really start throwing and we will be ready in a couple of weeks when spring training starts."

The Phillies drafted Karaffa as a pitcher, which was surprising because Karaffa became a pitcher at Ohio State because the Buckeyes needed arms to eat innings.

"Going to Ohio State, I had no plan to pitch," Karaffa said. "It just happened and here we are."

Karaffa finished his Buckeyes career with only 28.1 innings worked. He posted a 3-1 career record with an earned run average north of six. But, he did fan 36 hitters.

Karaffa had met with some MLB clubs in the fall of 2021 and continued conversations going into the summer, but opted not to play summer ball because of the injury. He was able to go through some workouts.

Still, though, he didn't know what was in store until that summer afternoon when he was actually driving back to Toronto from Columbus and saw an alert on his phone.

"I hadn't even gotten a call from the Phillies or anyone when I saw it on my phone that I had been (drafted)," Karaffa recalled. "I honestly didn't know how to react."

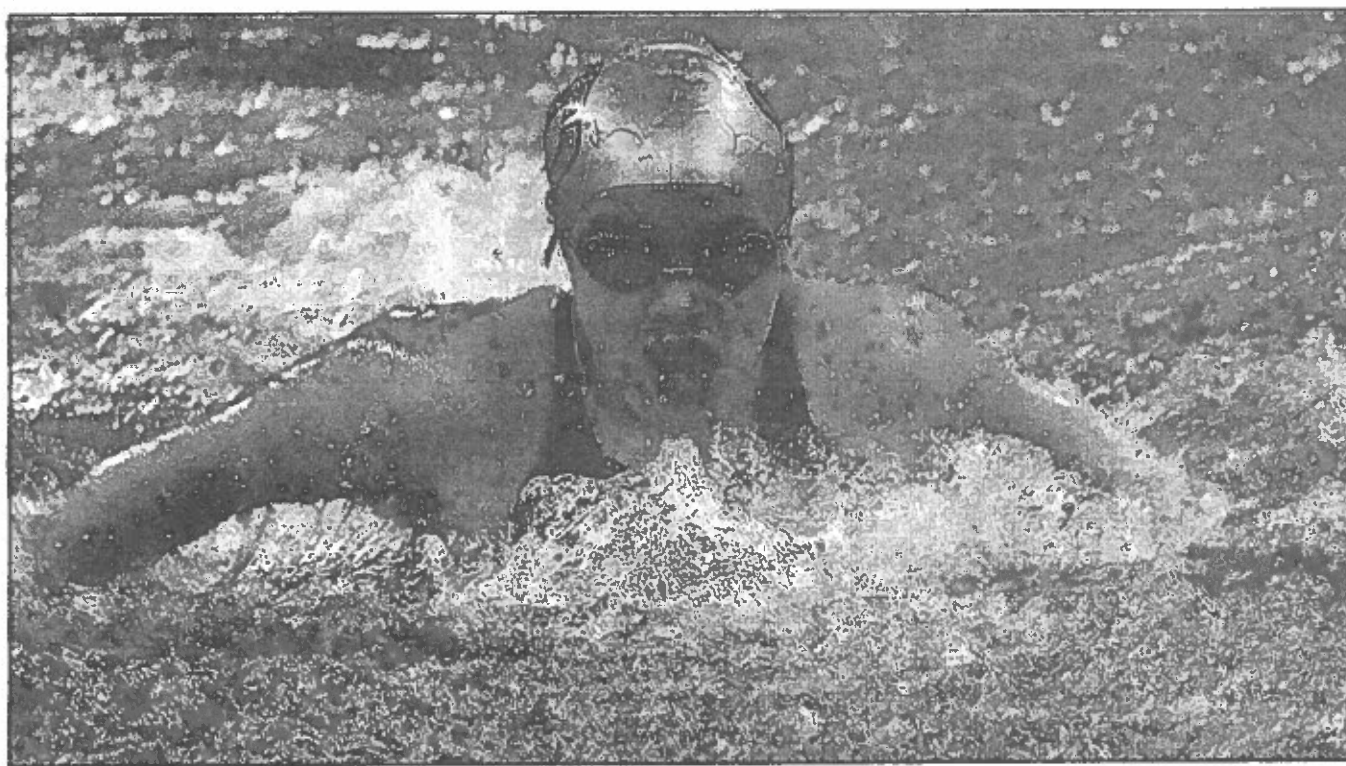
With that part out of the way, Karaffa and his family still had some major decisions to make. Picked 602nd overall, Karaffa debated going back to Ohio State for an additional season. However, in the end, the opportunity to give pro ball a try was simply too much to pass up.

"It's not that I didn't think I was ready for pro ball, but I had some doubts on signing," Karaffa said. "I spent about a week at home (in Toronto) before the deal got done. I feel really good about the decision."

Karaffa, who went to Ohio State following a brilliant prep career with the Red Knights that culminated with a state championship in 2019, thoroughly enjoyed his time with the Buckeyes.

"I've got so many memories and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to have played at Ohio State," Karaffa said. "I was able to build so many relationships and I still talk to those guys all the time. It was simply a dream come true to play there. What a fun thing."

Ultimately, Karaffa -- like every player who heard his name called in the draft -- wants to make it to the big leagues. However, obviously, Karaffa isn't putting a timetable on it. Actually, he's not even really speculating where he may play this



T-L Photo/S/SETH STASKEY

ABOVE: ST. Clairsville's Adrienne Lowe swims toward a silver medal in the 100 butterfly during Friday night's OVAC Bill Brubaker Swim Championship at the Brooke Wellness Center. Lowe won four silver medals in the meet to help fuel the Red Devils to the team title.

BELOW TOP: St. Clairsville's Evan Yost swims toward a championship in the 100 butterfly during the OVAC Swimming Championship held at Brooke.

BELOW BOTTOM: Martins Ferry's John Consort swims toward a win in the 200 IM Friday at the OVAC Swim Meet.

St. C., Linsly win OVAC swim titles

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WELLSBURG — New format. Similar meet results.

Such was the case at Friday's newly added 1A/4A championship meet at the annual OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship held inside the gorgeous Brooke Wellness Center.

Though the meet was broken down differently, the titles went to familiar schools. Linsly swept the 1A/3A titles, while St. Clairsville continued its stranglehold on the 4A division.

Linsly's girls ran away from the field, accumulating 395 points, which was 233 clear of runner-up Martins Ferry.

The Cadets boys, meanwhile, finished with 249 to defeat runner-up Wheeling Central by 133 points.

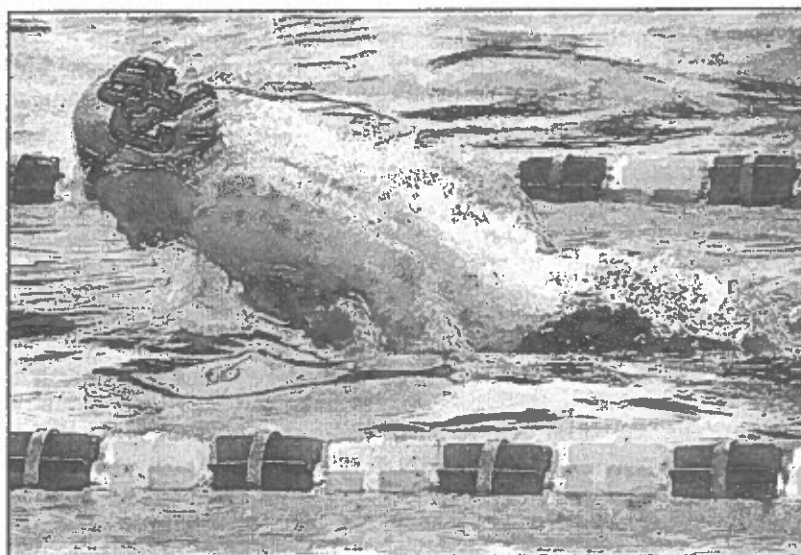
St. Clairsville, meanwhile, finished with 199 points on the girls' side and 220 on the boys' side, fending off Indian Creek for both crowns. The Redskins finished with 101 points in the girls meet and 198 on the boys side.

GIRLS

Linsly's girls came into the meet feeling pretty good about their chances, especially when they saw the psyche sheet and they were the top seed in 10 of the 11 events. And by top seed, that was overall in both classes competing not just in their own division.

Head coach Nick Levi, who is in his first season at the helm of the tradition-rich Cadets program, watched his girls deliver in a big way. Linsly won exactly 10 of the 11 events.

"It was an awesome day in the pool," Levi said. "We came into the meet with high ex-



See, **SWIM**, Page C2



Photo/KIM NORTH

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Lucas Thomas works for control of Steubenville's Spencer Ostovich during their 285-pound championship quarterfinal match held Friday night at the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

Barnesville has six in the championship semifinals

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - The temperatures outside may be cooling down, but the action is heating up inside WesBanco Arena as the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament has completed three sessions.

And after two days of action, Parkersburg South has stretched its lead in Class 5A, while Beaver Local and Oak Glen are waging a two-team race in Class 4A. Barnesville has all but wrapped up another Class 3A title, and Southern Local continues a slim margin over defending champion Cameron in Class 1A/2A.

The Wood County Patriots have piled up 156 points to

also lead the overall standings by 23 over University. Defending overall and Class 5A titlist Wheeling Park is third with 130, while surging John Marshall was fourth with 117, a half-point better than Class 3A frontrunner Barnesville and Steubenville.

"We are wrestling well right now, and even the guys that are losing are giving a good effort. That's what I want," Parkersburg South head coach Shawn Smith said. "If you lose a match you can't hang your head on it, you've got to go out and win the next one. That's what I'm looking for."

Parkersburg South has five semifinalists in 2021 champion Brady Roberts (126), Ryan

See, **WRESTLING**, Page C2

St. Clairsville extends Bellaire's skid

ing. I am so proud of our team. We swam lights out from top to bottom."

They wasted no time in getting their quest started. The team of Bea Fauro, Sarah Coha, Liv Torner and Julia Sales posted a 1:58.12 to win the 200 medley relay.

From there, it was on.

Junior Berta Roca touched the wall in 2:06.46 to win the 200 freestyle for the first individual title of the evening. Her second championship came in the 500 free thanks to a time of 5:44.13.

Torner notched her first individual title in the 200 IM, posting a 2:21.46. Her second victory came a few events later in the 100 fly when she posted a 1:04.89.

Junior Anna Norman got into the gold-medal act in the 50 free thanks to a blazing 25.41 effort. She added the 100 free crown with a time of 56.23, fending off her teammate, Sales for the top prize.

Linsly added the 200 free relay title when the team of Roca, Coha, Sales and Norman joined speed forces for a 1:48.06. Second place in the event, ironically, went to the Cadets' 'B' relay team, which was comprised of Ilayna Murray, Sharon Aristizabal, Taylor Remp and Sophie Funke with a time of 1:58.86.

"To have our 'B' Relay get second to our 'A' team is something that's really special to us," Levi admitted. "There is always pressure to perform and carry on the Linsly tradition at OVAC and that's something we don't take lightly."

Coha fended off Wheeling Central's Abie Riedel by 11 hundredths of a second to claim victory in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:11.87.

The Cadets foursome of Torner, Roca, Fauro and Norman ended the meet with a time of 3:49.56 to win the 400 free relay.

Wheeling Central's Smilee Humpe edged out Linsly's Fauro for the 100 backstroke title with a time of 1:06.16. Humpe was second in the 200 IM earlier in the evening.

St. Clairsville captured the 4A title, but only produced a medal, which is a top three overall place, in eight events. The Red Devils received an impressive performance from sophomore Adrienne Lowe, who registered four silver medals. She was part of the runner-up medley and 400 free relay teams and was second in both the 100 fly and 500 free.

The path to the title was much different this season after the Red Devils lost a lot of top-end points to graduation.

"In November, I didn't think (winning OVAC) was going to be possible because of what we lost, but these girls competed and they proved me wrong," St. C. head coach Ernie Banks said. "I am so proud of them for how well they've competed and worked this season. We got it done a lot differently this year than we have the last several years, but we came with a lot of second places. What Adrienne did was pretty amazing. Our girls knew what they had to do and were steady."

BOYS

Linsly and St. Clairsville flexed their muscle early and often en route to claiming team titles and winning a

course of the 11-event meet.

The Cadets, who claimed their 63rd title in the pool, ignited the title chase when the team of Parker Griffith, John Papadimitriou, Antonio Navarro and Mariano Fonseca posted a 1:46.68 to win the medley relay.

Navarro returned to the pool a few heats later and captured the 200 freestyle in 1:55.62. He made it two individual goals when he swam away from the field to win the 500 freestyle in a time of 5:13.14, which was more than 27 seconds better than his nearest competitor.

Papadimitriou got into the individual winning act when he edged out St. Clairsville's Zach May by two hundredths of a second for the 50 freestyle in what was arguably the best race of the evening. The Cadet touched in 22.80.

Linsly's final victory came in the 200 free relay when the team of Papadimitriou, Colby Gibbons, Fonseca and Navarro swam a 1:36.39 for the title.

"It's special to win both the boys and girls titles in my first season and it's something I'll always cherish," Levi said. "We went into the meet trying to get as many medals as possible. We kids swimming different events for the team to try and accomplish that goal. The boys medaling in all but two events is an awesome accomplishment. We are very proud of our team. We thought, back in September, it could be a special year. Coach Brubaker left the team in great shape and we're very thankful."

St. Clairsville — on the strength of junior Evan Yost and May individually — were simply too much for the Redskins with the top-end points.

The Devils got 80 of their points just from their four victories.

"The guys really out-performed themselves," Banks said. "We needed every point we could find in every event just to keep pace with and then pull ahead of Indian Creek, which was very tough and deserves a lot of credit. Without our guys performing the way they did and doing everything they could, we would not have been champions."

Yost, who is just a junior, was a double gold medalist, individually. He won the 100 backstroke in 55.16 and earlier had captured the 100 fly in 52.78.

"Evan is tough and he's getting stronger with every practice and meet," Banks said. "He eats, sleeps and breathes swimming. He's only going to continue to get better."

May wasn't about to allow Papadimitriou to edge him for a second time in the 100 free. May got the job done by touching the wall with an impressive 49.66 clocking.

The Red Devils put the finishing touches on their third boys title in school history when the team of Yost, Luke Stack, Brady Blacker and May swam a 3:35.63.

Martins Ferry senior John Consort — a foreign exchange student from Brazil — will go back home this spring with two OVAC championships on his resume.

Consort claimed the 200 individual medley in 2:04.37 and later added the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:02.78.

final period. Ray Ray Pettigrew (15) and brother Mac Mac (eight) combined for 23 points in the stanza. Meanwhile, Thoburn (16) and Pastor (nine) did all of St. Clairsville's scoring in the period.

Bellaire was able to cut the deficit to eight at 82-74 on a Pook Little free throw with 2:40 remaining. The Big Reds would get no closer, however, as Pastor delivered four straight markers for a 12-point bulge with 1:25 to play.

Schafer, who exhibited nice floor play, ended with 11 counters while Jacob Parsons added eight points.

The Pettigrew brothers combined for 47 points on the night. Ray Ray meshed 25 tallies with Mac Mac adding 22. Junior ace Mayson Sochor chipped in with 18 points, 12 coming in the final quarter, while Jakob Dowling produced nine markers.

"I was really happy with how we attacked their press. We were really aggressive," Clifford said. "We turned it over at times but I can live with aggressive mistakes. We still have a shot at making the OVAC Tournament Final Four."

Along those lines, St. Clairsville has a chance to enhance its OVAC 4A standing Tuesday when it welcomes John Marshall. Bellaire visits Shadyside the same night.

The Red Devils finished with 17 turnovers, five more than Bellaire.



Photo/JOE LOVELL

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Tyson Pastor goes up for a shot over Bellaire's Jakob Dowling during the first half of Friday's game. The Red Devils recorded a 91-81 victory over the Big Reds.

• Wrestling

Continued from Page C1

Martin (138), Nathan Murphy (144), Kyle Wheeler (157) and Robert Shockley (190).

Smith said his team has rallied around the loss of returning champion Gage Wright to a foot injury.

"I talked to the kids earlier in the week and told them everyone has to step up and that will go a long way towards Saturday night. So far, they're showing it."

University, which lost No. 6 seed at 113, Brodie Emery, to weight issues before Friday's action began, have six in the semis. They are Pepper Martin (106), Carter Pauley (132), Dom Parker (157), Luca Felix (175), Brock Kehler (215) and Ryder Hastings (285). Felix is a defending champion.

Defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) leads half-a-dozen Wheeling Park wrestlers into the semis. Others include Noah White (120), Adam Carman (138), Quinton Velas (150), Jameson Maynard (165) and Erick Brothers Jr. (215).

"We had a lot of guys wrestle really well and got us some bonus points, so that's going to give us some momentum heading into tomorrow (Saturday)," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "Hopefully, we can punch all six of those guys all the way through."

business at this level have been a couple of the biggest things so far," Karaffa said. "It's been really fun meeting a lot of new guys."

Karaffa got a good start on learning how to handle and take care of his business thanks to his time playing for now Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Famer Brian Perkins.

Though he couldn't attend his coach's induction ceremony this weekend in Columbus, Karaffa said he would reach out to Perkins.

"Coach Perkins was a huge help to me and we still talk all the time," Karaffa said. "He deserves all of the recognition he receives, especially this hall of fame. I know no matter what's going on, I am able to pick up the phone and give him a call for any type of advice and he's always a huge help."

SETH'S SCOOPS

SPEAKING OF baseball, Martins Ferry assistant coach Sean Zeakes, was named the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year.

THE RISE of Esports is continuing. This past week, the OHSAA announced a partnership with Esports Ohio, which will host a state tournament in May. There are currently 250 schools in Ohio with an Esports team. It won't be long before Esports is a full-fledged OHSAA sport.

THE DIVISIONAL round of the NFL Playoffs is the best weekend of the year for the sport. My winners are Philadelphia and San Francisco in the NFC and Cincinnati and Kansas City in the AFC.

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SATURDAY'S BEST MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- 1 p.m. — TCU at Kansas, CBS
- 2 p.m. — UCLA at Arizona, ABC
- 4 p.m. — Iowa at Ohio State, FOX
- 6 p.m. — Texas at West Virginia, ESPN

NFL

- 4:30 p.m. — AFC Divisional Round Playoff: Jacksonville at Kansas City, CBS
- 8 p.m. — NFC Divisional Round Playoff: N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, FOX

TENNIS

- 8 p.m. — ATP/WTA: Australian Open Round of 16, Melbourne, ESPN2

SUNDAY'S BEST MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- Noon — Michigan State at Indiana, CBS
- 3 p.m. — Temple at Houston, ESPN

NFL

- 3 p.m. — AFC Divisional Round Playoff: Cincinnati at Buffalo, CBS
- 6:30 p.m. — NFC Divisional Round Playoff: Dallas at San Francisco, FOX
- 8:15 p.m. — AFC Wild Card Playoff: Baltimore at Cincinnati, NBC

NHL

- 2 p.m. — Pittsburgh at New Jersey, NHLN

PRO GOLF

- 2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, Final Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Florida, NBC
- 3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The American Express, Final Round, PGA WEST Private Clubhouse, La Quinta, Calif.

TENNIS

- 7 p.m. — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, ESPN2

Huggins' Coaching Style Hasn't Changed

MORGANTOWN — Anyone who has played for Bob Huggins has stories and it doesn't take long to compile them. DerMarr Johnson, West Virginia's newest assistant coach, having replaced Larry Harrison just this week, played only one year for Huggins but he comes in ready to offer up stories about what it's like to play for Huggins.

They are stories that offer insight into why Huggins has coached his way into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and why he just may right the ship at West Virginia despite an 0-5 start in the Big 12 Conference this year.



BOB HERTZ
WV News

Johnson met with the media on Friday, a day before a 6 p.m. Big 12 battle at the Coliseum with Texas in which the Mountaineers look to win their second game in a row to begin spreading the news that they aren't packing it in just because things didn't go their way early in the year.

Johnson was asked about his favorite Huggins story and he offered up one not

many know about.

"My freshman year we had a center named B.J. Grove, about 6-11, 280 pounds, and he was really good," Johnson began.

Didn't matter.

"Coach was on him every day. He wanted B.J. to be about 255," Johnson continued, the story beginning to sound a lot like what Huggins did with his current center Jimmy Bell Jr., who came in and lost almost 100 pounds to get into his playing shape.

Only this one takes a twist.

Please see Huggins', Page C5

OVAC SWIMMING, WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Parkersburg South Continues To Lead On Mat; Park Third

Barnesville Nears 3A Title; Beaver Local, Oak Glen Close In 4A; Cameron 2nd In 1A/2A

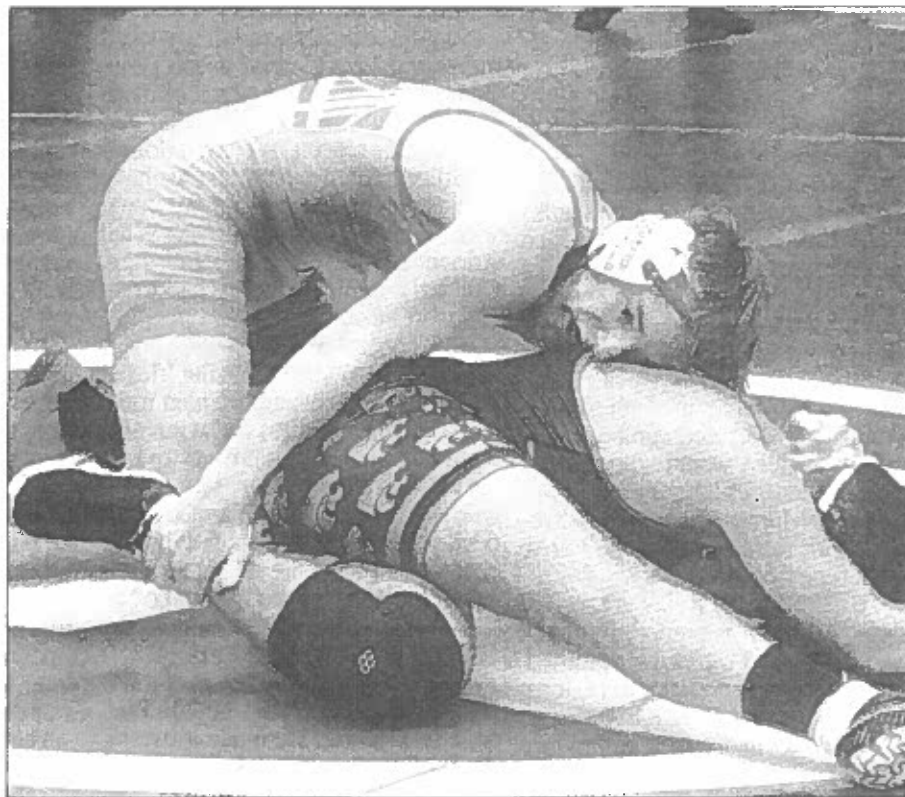
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Please see Mat, Page C2



Wheeling Park's top-seeded Jameson Maynard has control of Edison's Ethan Waggoner during their 165-pound quarterfinal round match Friday night during the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. Maynard was one of six Patriots to advance to today's semifinals.

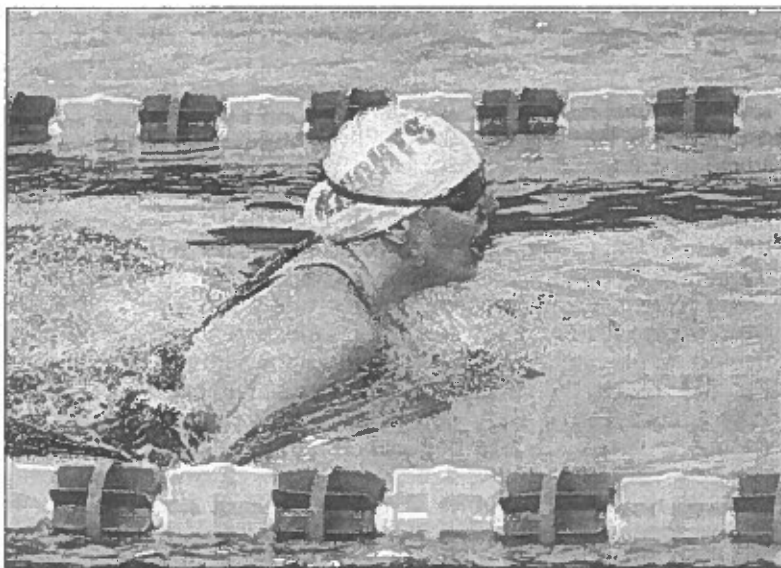
Photo by Kim North

Wheeling, WLU To Clash Saturday In 'Battle of Wheeling'

WHEELING — The Wheeling University men's basketball program was founded on the hard work and dedication of the Cardinals who came before. On Saturday, the team is set to welcome back some of those distinguished alumni when they host West Liberty in "The Battle for Wheeling" with tip-off at 4 p.m. It is the first meeting between the two teams this season as the month of January winds down.

The Cardinals are coming off a hard-fought battle last time out when they fell to Notre Dame College 85-81. After falling behind early, Wheeling showed that resolve that it has been known for to battle back and make it a one-point game with less than five minutes to play in the half. Over the last two weeks, senior John Korte has been a spark plug for the team and continued his success on Wednesday. He put up 29 points in the contest while grabbing 10 rebounds to account for his fourth double-double of the season. He has scored 27 or more points in each of his last three games and is averaging 28.7 points per game during that span. He has also propelled up the conference scoring list, raising his average to 19.3 points per game. He current-

Linsly Splashes To Class 1A/3A Sweep



Wheeling Central's Smilee Humpe won the 100 backstroke and finished second in the 200 IM during the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championships Friday night at the Brooke Wellness Center in Wellsburg.

Photo by Seth Staskey

St. Clairsville Girls Continue Stronghold On Class 4A Field

By SETH STASKEY
For the Sunday News-Register

WELLSBURG — New format. Similar meet results.

Such was the case at Friday's newly added 1A/4A championship meet at the annual OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship held inside the gorgeous Brooke Wellness Center.

Though the meet was broken down differently, the titles went to familiar schools. Linsly swept the 1A/3A titles, while St. Clairsville continued its stronghold on the 4A division.

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The Cadets boys, meanwhile, finished with 249 to defeat runner-up Wheeling Central by 133 points.

St. Clairsville, meanwhile, finished with 199

Please see Linsly, Page C2

Cowboys, 49ers Meet Again In NFC Playoffs

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Dak Prescott shook off some late-season struggles and once again looked in top form in Dallas' playoff opener.

Brock Purdy looked just as good as he has ever since stepping in as the starter



The player picked last in April's draft has played like star since replacing an injured Jimmy Garoppolo in Week 13. Purdy has thrown least two TD passes in sev-

LINSLEY

(Continued from Page C1)

points on the girls' side and 220 on the boys' side, fending off Indian Creek for both crowns. The Redskins finished with 101 points in the girls meet and 198 on the boys side.

GIRLS

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Head coach Nick Levi, who is in his first season at the helm of the tradition-rich Cadets program, watched his girls deliver in a big way. Linsley won exactly 10 of the 11 events.

"It was an awesome day in the pool," Levi said. "We came into the meet with high expectations with the goal of performing. I am so proud of our team. We swam lights out from top to bottom."

They wasted no time in getting their quest started. The team of Bea Fauro, Sarah Coha, Liv Torner and Julia Sales posted a 1:58.12 to win the 200 medley relay.

From there, it was on.

Junior Berta Roca touched the wall in 2:06.46 to win the 200 freestyle for the first individual title of the evening. Her second championship came in the 500 free thanks to a time of 5:44.13.

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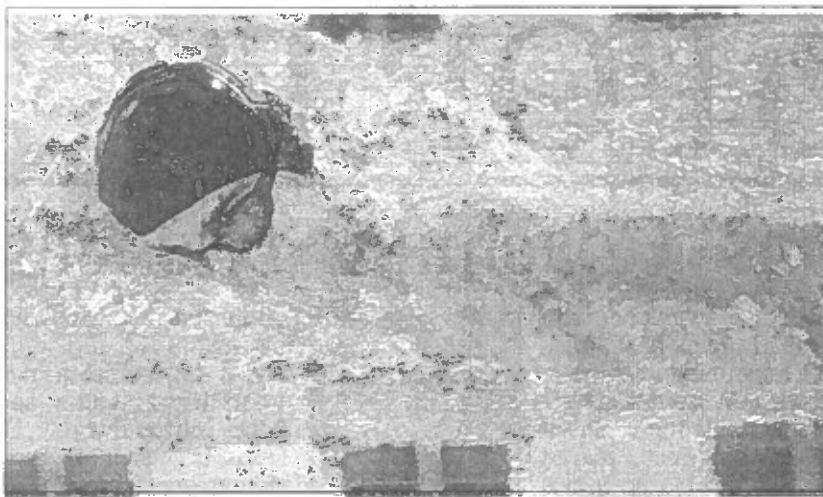


Photo By Seth Staskey

Linsley's Antonio Navarro won the 200 freestyle during Friday night's OVAC Championships.

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BOYS

Linsley and St. Clairsville flexed their muscle early and often en route to claiming team titles and winning a combined nine event crowns during the course of the 11-event meet.

The Cadets, who claimed their 63rd title in the pool, ignited the title chase when the team of Parker Griffith, John Papadimitriou, Antonio Navarro and Mariano Fonseca posted a 1:46.68 to win the medley relay.

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MAT

(Continued from Page C1)

"We are wrestling well right now, and even the guys that are losing are giving a good effort. That's what I want," Parkersburg South head coach Shawn Smith said. "If you lose a match you can't hang your head on it, you've got to go out and win the next one. That's what I'm looking for."

Parkersburg South has five semifinalists in 2021 champion Brady Roberts (126), Ryan Martin (138), Nathan Murphy (144), Kyle Wheeler (157) and Robert Shockey (190).

Smith said his team has rallied around the loss of returning champion Gage Wright to a foot injury.

"I talked to the kids earlier in the week and told them everyone has to step up and that will go a long way towards Saturday night. So far, they're showing it."

University, which lost No. 6 seed at 113, Brodie Emery, to weight issues before Friday's action began, have six in the semis. They are Pepper Martin (106), Carter Pauley (132), Dom Parker (157), Luca Felix (175), Brock Kehler (215) and Ryder Hastings (285). Felix is a defending champion.

Defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) leads half-a-dozen Wheeling Park wrestlers into the semis. Others include Noah White (120), Adam Carman (138), Quinton Velas (150), Jameson Maynard (165) and Erick Brothers Jr. (215).

"We had a lot of guys wrestle really well and got us some bonus points, so that's going to give us some momentum heading into tomorrow (Saturday)," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "Hopefully, we can punch all six of those guys all the way through."

Barnesville also has six semifinalists in Johnathan Huntsman (106), returning champion Dakota King (132), Skyler King (138), Logan Tague (144), Reese Stephen (150) and Ayden King (157). That number is possible the most ever for the Shamrocks, head coach Jayson Stephen said.

"I don't really look at the team scores until the end of the tournament," Stephen noted. "All of our wins have come by pins and we've got a lot of bonus points."

The top seeded wrestler to be eliminated was third-seeded Hayley Snyder (106) who last year became the first female wrestler to make the podium when she finished seventh at 113.

Today's action resumes at 11 a.m. with championship semifinals and third- and fourth-round consolation bouts. The final session begins at 3:30 p.m. with opening ceremonies. The championship finals and matches for third-, fifth- and seventh-places will begin at 4.

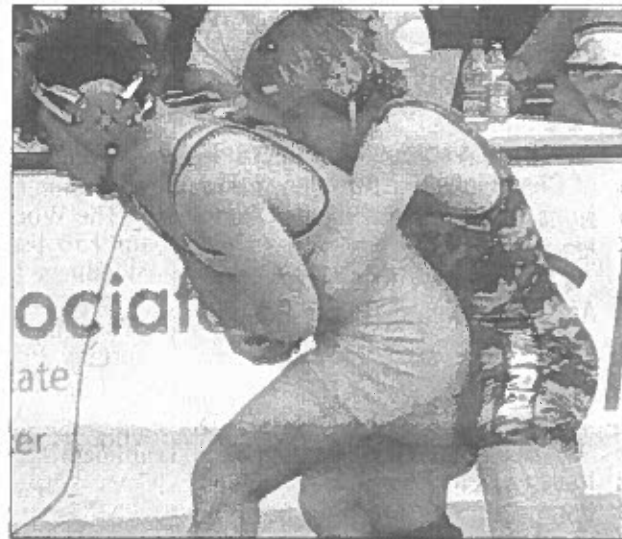


Photo By Kim North

John Marshall's Klypsan Wallace tries to escape from Warren Local's Jason Williams during their 165-pound bout. Wallace prevailed.

NFC

(Continued from Page C1)

This will be the ninth time these franchises have met in the postseason, tied for the most of any matchup in the Super Bowl era with San Francisco against Green Bay and Dallas against the Rams.

Dallas has won five of the previous eight but lost 23-17 to San Francisco in the wild-card round last year, a loss that still stings.

"We get a chance to go back and at their place, do something that we want to do," Prescott said.

OV CONNECTION

Two players with ties to

the Ohio Valley will suit up for Sunday's game. Union Local and WVU product Colton McKivitz is an offensive lineman for the 49ers, while Linsley's C.J. Goodwin is a special teams performer for the Cowboys.

KICKING QUANDARY

Dallas kicker Brett Maher was backed by owner/general manager Jerry Jones, coach Mike McCarthy and special teams coach John Fassel after missing his first four extra points against the Bucs, a first in NFL history. That didn't stop the Cowboys

from signing Tristan Vizcaino to the practice squad as insurance.

The club has until Saturday to decide whether to put Vizcaino on the 53-man roster. It was going to depend on how Maher responded in practice after his meltdown. He did make the fifth PAT against Tampa Bay, ending a streak of five consecutive misses going back to his final attempt of the regular season in Washington.

"I loved for him to step back up and get another shot, to see one go through, which hopefully

will give him some confidence this Sunday," Fassel said. "We'll need it."

KEY DALLAS DEFENDER

Cowboys safety Jayron Kearse, who figures to be an important piece for the Dallas defense against McCaffrey and Samuel, said there was a "100 percent" chance he was playing after injuring a knee against the Bucs. He was held out the rest of the game as a precaution with the Cowboys comfortably in front when the injury happened.

"I've been dealing with a lot of injuries all year,"

said Kearse, who missed three games early in the season with a knee injury. "It's nothing different, and especially playoff time, I'm only guaranteed four more quarters."

RESTING UP

The Niners got a two-day head start after beating Seattle on Saturday, while Dallas didn't play its wild-card game until Monday night.

While the discrepancy seems unfair on the surface, both teams downplayed the impact of the 49ers having the extra rest.

"By this time, I don't

think it is about recovery," Shanahan said.

"It's about detail and it's about executing and it's about playing at a high level. Once you get to games, especially in the playoffs, that recovery, people forget about pretty quickly."

Jones had no complaints, saying it's no different than playing on a short week in the regular season, and his players agreed.

"It's the schedule, what else can we do," receiver T.Y. Hilton said. "When the time comes, we'll be ready."

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Jarry Stars In Return To Net

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins have spent much of the last month fending off injuries and erratic and occasionally uninspired play.

The return of goaltender Tristan Jarry and defenseman Jeff Petry provided a welcome reminder of what the Penguins can be when they're closer to full strength.

Jarry made 46 saves in his return from a lower-body injury and Petry picked up an assist and skated a team-high 25:25 following a 16-game absence due to an upper-body issue as the Penguins raced past Ottawa 4-1 on Friday night.

Jarry wasted little time getting up to speed. The Senators peppered him at times, yet the two-time All-Star hardly looked rusty as Pittsburgh took the back half of a home-and-home series with Ottawa.

CLASH

(Continued from Page C1)

the season as he continues to be a strong overall player. He currently leads the team with 50 assists while sitting second on the team in rebounds (100) and third in scoring (14.9 PPG). He has been a veteran point guard for the team as he helps set up this young team for success down the line. Marcus Johnson rounded out the double digit performers, finishing with 15 points on the night. Johnson has been consistent player for the Cardinals since transferring in and will be a big presence

for the team under the net down the stretch.

The Matchup

The Cardinals and Hilltoppers are meeting for the 64th time in program history with West Liberty holding the all-time record at 42-21. However, when the two teams play in the Alma Grace McDonough Center, the series has been much closer with wheeling going 11-15 in 27 all-time games. The Cardinals are looking to break a 10-game losing streak against West Liberty with their last win coming on Feb. 24, 2018.

HUGGINS'

(Continued from Page C1)

"B.J. would go home for the weekend and come back at like 275," Johnson said. "Coach was always like, 'How can you go home for a weekend and gain 20 pounds?'"

And so it went, until this one day when Huggins decided to physically involve himself in the drills.

"We had this charge drill and coach doesn't think guys are taking charges the right way, so he got up there and he picked B.J. — the guy he makes run every day in practice all around the arena. He tells B.J. run at me from half court," Johnson said.

"Now B.J. takes those 280 pounds and runs hard at him, knocks him clear under the basket," Johnson continued, everyone in the room now picturing Huggins sprawled out under the basket and expecting an explosion.

But no," Johnson said. "Huggs stood there and took it. He got up and his face was red, but we're like, if our coach can take a charge like that we have no excuse not to take that charge."

Talk about making your point the hard way.

The words hard work fit right into Huggins' coaching method, which was really what brought DerMarr Johnson out of the Washington, D.C., area to play at Cincinnati in the first place.

Johnson was a marvelous player. He went to Maine Central Institute, a prep school, where he won National Player of the Year under Max Goode, who was a long-time friend of Huggins.

Now, Johnson had no intention of going to college from his freshman year on. He was a 6-9 guard who could do it all and had planned to jump straight to the NBA, but there were some questions about his strength and whether he played hard enough.

He and his advisers decided to go to one year of college to play on both areas and Cincinnati had one of the nation's top weight programs and, as for the other aspect about playing hard enough, he said, "with Huggs you have no choice but to play hard."

He was prepared for what he got from Huggins by playing for Goode, who was a whole lot like him.

"I knew what I was getting myself into when I went to Cincinnati," Johnson said. "My senior year I played for Max Goode at the Maine Central Institute, and he was a lot like Huggs. Very intense.

"I was the best player in the country, but he didn't care. He still told me I was skinny and soft. He cussed me out every day. That prepared me for Huggs."

Huggins had probably the best team he ever had when he went after Johnson as a recruit because he needed a 2 guard.

"We got Kenyon at center, we got Pete Mackeal at forward, who was the 59th pick in the draft. We had Jermaine Tate, who was a very good player — 6-10. Then we had Kenny Satterfield and Steve Logan, who were our two point guards," Huggins said.

"We didn't really have a 2 guard," and he was going to be the man that filled that void.

"I went up to see DJ, another coach came in from a Big East school who was one of those guys who was kind of forward. I didn't have anywhere to go; my flight wasn't until the next day. He wanted to go first and I said, 'Go ahead,'" Huggins said.

"He goes in and is in there for over an hour. Max gets bored and leaves after about 40 minutes."

PREP SWIMMING

OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship Girls
Class 1A-3A
 Linsly, 395; Martins Ferry, 162; Wheeling Central, 98; Union Local, 41; Steubenville Catholic Central, 27; Barnesville, 19; St. John Central Academy, 18.
Class 4A
 St. Clairsville, 199; Indian Creek, 101; Beaver Local, 89; Edison, 52; Weir, 30; East Liverpool, 27; Cambridge, 25; Oak Glen, 4.

Boys
Class 1A-3A
 Linsly, 249; Wheeling Central, 106; Martins Ferry, 84; Union Local, 65; Steubenville Central, 45; Barnesville, 28.
Class 4A
 St. Clairsville, 220; Indian Creek, 198; Cambridge, 96; Edison, 77; Beaver Local, 55; Oak Glen, 40; East Liverpool, 26; Weir High, 10.

PREP WRESTLING

69th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament (at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling)
TEAM SCORING Overall

1. Parkersburg South 156; 2. University 133; 3. Wheeling Park 130; 4. John Marshall 117; 5. (tie) Barnesville, Steubenville 116.5; 7. Beaver Local 99.5; 8. Oak Glen 97.5; 9. Indian Creek 96.5; 10. Martins Ferry 93.5; 11. Edison 70; 12. Dover 69.5; 13. Shenandoah 66; 14. Southern Local 64.5; 15. Cameron 63; 16. Harrison Central 60; 17. (tie) St. Clairsville, Warren Local 59; 19. Caldwell 57; 20. Linsly 53.5; 21. Union Local 47.5; 22. Buckeye Local 46; 23. East Liverpool 40; 24. Wheeling Central 39.5; 25. Weir 37; 26. Wellsville 35.5; 27. Magnolia 35; 28. (tie) Brooke, River 32; 30. Cambridge 31; 31. (tie) Bridgeport, Morgantown 26; 33. Fort Frye 25; 34. Steubenville Catholic 23; 35. Bellaire 19; 36. Shadyside 18; 37. Beallsville 10; 38. Marietta 8; 39. Monroe Central 6; 40. Madonna 5; 41. Paden City 4; 42. Toronto 1; 43. Hundred 0

Class 5A
 1. Parkersburg South 156; 2. University 133; 3. Wheeling Park 130; 4. John Marshall 117.5; 5. Steubenville 116.5; 6. Dover 69.5; 7. Warren Local 59; 8. Brooke 32; 9. Morgantown 26; 10. Marietta 8

Class 3A
 1. Barnesville 116.5; 2. Martins Ferry 93.5; 3. Shenandoah 66; 4. Caldwell 57; 5. Linsly 53.5; 6. Union Local 47.5; 7. Magnolia 35; 8. Fort Frye 25; 9. Bellaire 19

Class 1A/2A
 1. Southern Local 64.5; 2. Cameron 63; 3. Bridgeport 26; 4. Wheeling Central 39.5; 5. Wellsville 35.5; 6. River 32; 7. Shadyside 18; 8. Beallsville 10; 9. Monroe Central 6; 10. Madonna 5; 11. Paden City 4; 12. Toronto 1; 13. Hundred 0

ECHL

Friday's Games
 Adirondack 6, Trois-Rivieres 3
 Indy 6, Cincinnati 0
 Kalamazoo 3, Fort Wayne 1
 Reading 5, Norfolk 3
 South Carolina 6, Jacksonville 3
 Newfoundland 3, Worcester 2
 Florida 9, Savannah 4
 Toledo 6, Iowa 1
 Utah 1, Tulsa 0
 Wichita 3, Allen 1
 Idaho 7, Rapid City 1

PREP BOXES

BOYS BASKETBALL
St. Clairsville 91, Bellaire 81
ST. CLAIRSVILLE (91) - Thoburn 11, 10-13 35; Porter 3, 0-0 6; Schafer 3, 4-8 11; Pastor 10, 6-7 27; Gasber 2, 0-0 4; Parsons 3, 2-2 8; Wolfe 0, 0-0 0. **Totals 32, 22-30.** **BELLAIRE (81)** - Sochor 7, 2-2 18; Dowling 4, 0-0 9; R. Pettigrew 11, 3-3 25; M. Pettigrew 8, 4-6 22; D'Aquila 0, 2-4 2; Littell 1, 1-3 3; Davis 1, 0-0 2. **Totals 32, 12-17.**

Three-point goals: St. Clairsville (5) - Thoburn (3), Schafer (1), Pastor (1), Bellaire (5) - Sochor (2), M. Pettigrew (2), Dowling (1).

Beallsville 49, Bridgeport 47
BRIDGEPORT (47) - C. Jackson 6, 4-4 19; Threet 1, 0-0 2; Gear 1, 0-2 2; Spurlock 5, 2-2 15; Goff 0, 0-0 0; A. Jackson 4, 0-0 8; Widmor 0, 1-2 1; White 0, 0-0 0; **Totals: 17, 7-10 47.**
BEALLSVILLE (49) - Allen 3, 3-5 9; Hughes 4, 3-3 14; Hagan 2, 0-1 6; Anderson 1, 0-2 2; Perkins 4, 0-0 8; Stoffel 0, 0-0 0; Taylor 5, 0-0 10; **Totals: 19, 6-11 49.**

3-point goals: B - C. Jackson (3), Spurlock (3). Be - Hughes (3), Hagan (2).

Union Local 61, Cambridge 52

UNION LOCAL (61) - Porter 5, 6-9 18; Butts 6, 2-2 14; Moore 6, 0-0 13; Blake 6, 0-3 12; Tomolonis 2, 0-0 4; **Totals: 25, 8-14 61.** **CAMBRIDGE (52)** - Barnett 5, 3-3 17; Rogers 6, 0-0 13; Carpenter 4, 0-0 9; Barr 2, 0-0 4; Gregg 2, 0-0 4; Moore 1, 0-0 2; Mathews 1, 0-0 2; Lacey 0, 0-0 0; **Totals: 21, 3-3 52.**

3-point goals: UL - Porter (2), Moore. C - Barnett (4), Rogers, Carpenter, Moore.

Weir 82, Harrison Central 77
WEIR (82) - Cross 13, 14-18 45; Lyons 3, 0-0 7; Stromile 2, 1-4 6; Prentice 4, 0-0 9; Bruick 4, 0-0 8; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Turner 3, 0-3 6; Jones 0, 1-2 1; **Totals: 29, 16-17 82.** **HARRISON CENTRAL (77)** - Jurosko 1, 1-2 3; Madzia 10, 19-25 39; Cassidy 8, 0-2 19; Elliot 0, 0-0 0; Quito 0, 0-0 0; Vermillion 0, 2-2 2; Ody 1, 1-2 3; Arbaugh 4, 3-6 11; **Totals: 24, 26-39 77.**

3-point goals: W - Cross (5), Lyons, Stromile, Prentice. HC - Cassidy (3).
Clay-Battelle 64, Hundred 31
CLAY-BATTELLE (64) - Spears 1 0-0 3; Shriver 1 3-4 6; Payton 1 0-0 2; St. Clair 8 0-0 21; Kolat 2 0-0 4; Ponceroff 3 2-4 9; Barr 2 2-7 6; Luzader 4 1-2 9; Gaad 2 0-2 4; **Totals: 24 10-17 64.** **HUNDRED (31)** - Morgan 1 1-2 4; Morris 1 0-0 2; Bartrug 4 0-2 8; Parson 1 0-0 2; Sleeth 1 0-0

2; Sandy 5 0-2 12; T. Michael 0 1-2 1; **Totals: 13 2-8 31**

Dover 65, Wheeling Central 40

WHEELING CENTRAL (40) - T. Dean 0 0-0 0; Burlenski 2 6-6 11; Giangeli 0 0-0 0; Ratcliffe 2 0-0 5; E. Dean 2 1-2 6; Billick 1 0-0 3; Olejasz 1 0-0 2; Griffin 0 0-0 0; Anthony 3 2-3 10; Crall 0 0-0 0; Schmitt 1 1-1 3; **Totals: 12 10-11 40.** **DOVER (65)** - Grove 8 0-0 24; Gilyard 3 0-0 6; Stevenson 5 1-1 15; Hamm 1 2-2 4; Coletti 2 0-0 4; Barton 0 2-0 0; DeVault 2 0-0 4; Ridge-way 1 0-0 2; Hanner 2 0-0 4; Conner 0 1-2 1; McKinnon 0 0-0 0; Lurie 1 0-0 2; **Totals: 25 4-7 65**

3-point goals: WC - Burlenski; Ratcliffe; E. Dean; Billick; Anthony (2); D - Grove (8); Stevenson (4)

Parkersburg South 68, Wheeling Park 53

WHEELING PARK (53) - A. Davis 7 0-0 18; Stephens 2 0-0 4; M. Davis 3 2-2 9; Gibson 0 0-0 0; Wilkinson 3 0-2 6; Phillips 6 3-4 16; Demko 0 0-0 0; 21 5-8 53. **PARKERSBURG SOUTH (68)** - Reeves 3 5-7 11; Traugh 3 3-4 9; Walker 1 0-0 2; Jones 1 1-2 3; Smith 6 5-6 20; Joy 2 0-0 4; Ploftner 4 1-3 9; Blake 4 0-0 10; **Totals: 24 15-22 68**

3-point goals: WP - A. Davis (4), M. Davis, Phillips; PS - Smith (3), Blake (2)

Brooke 65, Big Red 53

BROOKE (65) - P. Toepfer 7 4-4 23; L. Toepfer 2 5-6 9; Petrella 3 1-2 7; Cipoletti 1 1-2 4; Kimball 5 0-0 10; Fuscardo 3 1-2 10; Sperringer 1 0-0 2; Shorts 1 0-0 2. **Totals: 23, 12-17; 65.** **BIG RED (53)** - Hill 7 2-2 17; Hopkins 3 1-2 7; Lewis 4 0-0 9; Pierce 4 0-0 9; Vostatek 0 0-0 0; Manning 0 0-2 0; Bowers 4 0-0 9; Kernahan 1 0-2 2. **Totals: 23, 3-6; 53.**

3-point goals: B - L. Toepfer (5), Fuscardo (3), Cipoletti; BR - Hill, Lewis, Pierce, Bowers

Steubenville Catholic 57, Madonna 48

STEOBENVILLE CATHOLIC (57) - Jones 1 0-0 2, Rook 4 0-2 10, Mihalyo 0 0-0 0, Dorsey 4 0-0 10, Bolster 5 9-10 21, Urbanczyk 0 0-0 0, Pergi 3 1-2 7, Rohde 0 0-0 0, Bradley 2 3-3 7. **Totals: 19 13-20 57.** **MADONNA (48)** - Amaismeier 1 0-0 3, Mascio 12 0-0 28, DoBraska 1 1-2 3, Grishkevich 2 3-3 7, Gontas 2 0-0 5, Littleton 1 0-0 2, McAllister 0 0-0 0. **Totals: 19 4-8 48.**

3-point goals: SC - Rook (2), Dorsey (2), Bolster (2); M - Mascio (4), Amaismeier, Gontas

W.VA. SCORES

GIRLS

Belpre, Ohio 56, Moorefield 53
 Bridgeport 42, Philip Barbour 41
 East Fairmont 47, Elkins 42
 Frankfort 60, Trinity 52
 Morgantown 42, University 40
 North Marion 93, Liberty Harrison 53
 PikeView 63, Graham, Va. 45
 Preston 53, Grafton 44
 Ripley 67, Ravenswood 38
 Ritchie County 52, St. Marys 45
 Tolsia 59, Buffalo 35
 Tucker County 75, Pocahontas County 22
 Union Grant 48, Tygarts Valley 39
 Webster County 76, Roane County 39
 Wheeling Park 74, Cabell Midland 61
 Williamstown 48, Tyler Consolidated 25

BOYS

Brooke 65, Steubenville, Ohio 53
 Calhoun County 52, Paden City 41
 Charleston Catholic 74, Notre Dame 44
 Clay-Battelle 64, Hundred 31
 Dover, Ohio 65, Wheeling Central 40
 George Washington 63, Riverside 25
 Greenbrier West 71, Washington 66
 Hampshire 44, Berkeley Springs 39
 Huntington 71, Cabell Midland 52
 Hurricane 65, Winfield 59
 James Monroe 55, Bluefield 50
 Marietta, Ohio 57, Point Pleasant 45
 Martinsburg Christian 48, Odenton Christian School, Md. 38
 Mercer Christian 60, Greater Beckley Christian 45
 Musselman 65, Martinsburg 60
 Parkersburg South 68, Wheeling Park 53
 Scott 68, Logan 59
 Sherman 55, River View 36
 South Charleston 63, Parkersburg 47
 Spring Mills 46, Hedgesville 40
 Spring Valley 72, Capital 66
 St. Albans 57, Nitro 55
 St. Marys 64, Ritchie County 53
 Summers County 61, Midland Trail 55
 Tolsia 64, Prestonsburg, Ky. 55
 Wayne 72, Sissonville 70
 Weir 82, Cadiz Harrison Cent., Ohio 77, 20T

OHIO SCORES

BOYS
 Akr. East 83, Akr. Firestone 64
 Akron Garfield 59, Akr. North 20
 Albany Alexander 58, Vinton County 54
 Anna 47, Sidney Fairlawn 42
 Ansonia 56, New Paris National Trail 32
 Arcanum 52, Pittsburg Franklin-Monroe 21
 Arlington 46, Pandora-Gilboa 45
 Ashland Mapleton 59, New London 41
 Avon 49, Avon Lake 44
 Bainbridge Paint Valley 64, Southeastern 52
 Batavia Clermont NE 61, Felicity-Franklin 49
 Bay Village Bay 62, Fairview 55
 Beaver Creek 59, Springfield 47
 Bellbrook 65, Waynesville 64
 Belmont Union Local 61, Cambridge 52
 Beloit W. Branch 40, Alliance Marlinton 37
 Bluffton 76, Van Wert Lincolnview 43
 Brecksville-Broadview Hts. 63, Wadsworth 59
 Bristol 64, Fairport Harbor Harding 45
 Brooke, W.Va. 65, Steubenville 53
 Brookfield 59, Campbell Memorial 58, OT
 Brooklyn 86, Wickliffe 75
 Brookville 73, Germantown Valley View 65
 Brunswick 52, Strongsville 47
 Caldwell 64, Barnesville 55
 Camden Preble Shawnee 65, Newton Local 36
 Can. Glenoak 64, Massillon Perry 55
 Can. McKinley 53, Uniontown Lake 34
 Canal Fulton Northwest 81, Tuslaw 60
 Canfield 66, Youngs. Chaney High School 58
 Canfield S. Range 58, Niles McKinley 45

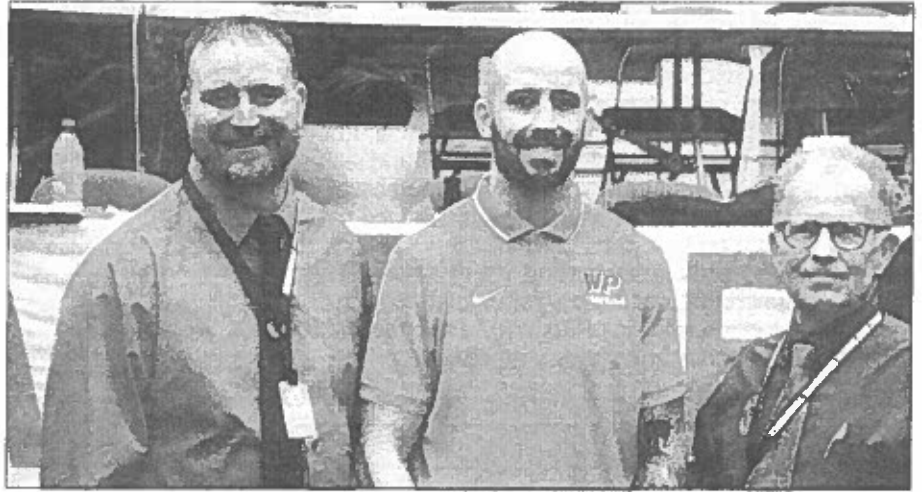
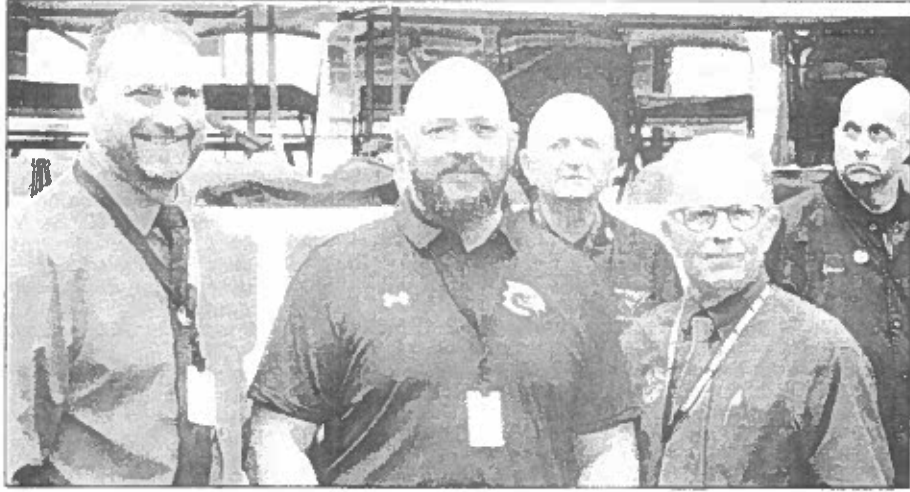
Carlisle 60, Madison Senior 54, OT
 Carrollton 65, Alliance 60
 Casstown Miami E. 46, Sidney Lehman 34
 Celina 44, Lima Bath 40
 Centerburg 57, Howard E. Knox 32
 Centerville 80, Miamisburg 50
 Chagrin Falls 58, Ashtabula Edgewood 43
 Chardon 66, Chagrin Falls Kenston 51
 Chesapeake 56, Portsmouth 41
 Chesterland W. Gauga 61, Perry 33
 Chillicothe 67, Hillsboro 63, OT
 Chillicothe Unioto 65, Piketon 55
 Cin. Madeira 64, Cin. Finneytown 48
 Cin. Mariemont 42, Cin. Indian Hill 37
 Cin. McNicholas 64, Bishop Fenwick 43
 Cin. Moeller 50, Cin. Elder 40
 Cin. Seven Hills 67, Lockland 53
 Cin. St. Xavier 56, Cin. La Salle 48
 Cin. Sycamore 48, Cin. Colerain 38
 Cin. Taft 51, Akr. Hoban 44
 Cin. Withrow 66, Cin. Aiken 21
 Cin. Woodward 71, Cin. Hughes 67
 Cin. Wyoming 67, Reading 37
 Clarksville Clinton-Massie 50, Wilmington 43
 Cle. E. Tech 66, Cle. Collinwood 42
 Cle. Hts. 75, Shaker Hts. 62
 Cle. Hts. Lutheran E. 66, Cle. St. Ignatius 64
 Clyde 65, Vermilion 47
 Coldwater 44, Rockford Parkway 35
 Cols. Africentric 87, Cols. Walnut Ridge 44
 Cols. DeSales 50, Bishop Hartley 38
 Cols. Eastmoor 68, West 45



SENIOR LIFE

MONTANI TOWERS

2022 OVAC Wrestling Coaches Of The Year



Photos By Kim North

TOP LEFT: Tim Jones, Cameron (Class 1A/2A); TOP RIGHT: Brian Leggett, Wheeling Park (Class 5A); BOTTON LEFT: Jayson Stephen, Barnesville, (Class 3A); BOTTOM RIGHT: Brandon Pendleton, Indian Creek, (Class 4A). All are pictured with Shane Shaffer, (left) and Dr. Dan Doyle.

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- 3) An illicit discharge
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ing streak that threatened to put an end to their season before it started, but by surviving a late rally by TCU that turned a 17-point second-half lead into a nail biter the Mountaineers enjoyed a rebirth of hope and confidence.

The streak was over, or was a new streak — a winning streak — beginning?



like 14 of 15 left (including the Big 12 Tournament), so we enjoy this tonight. We'll be back to work tomorrow."

Coach Bob Huggins sees it as a

the TCU game to seal the win. "I got them together after the Oklahoma game and said, 'Fellas, we're going home for three of four, let's go win. Let's go win four,'" Huggins added. "All of a sudden, at 4-5, it looks a whole lot different. We'll go from there."

Please see WVU'S, Page 12



Photo Provided
WVU's Tre Mitchell tries to drive past a TCU player during a recent game.

69th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament

Parkersburg South, University Tied For Overall Lead; Barnesville Tops 3A

Beaver Local, Edison, Oak Glen Deadlocked In Class 4A; Southern Local Atop 1A/2A Field

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — There's a logjam atop the team standings after one round of the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside WesBanco Arena.

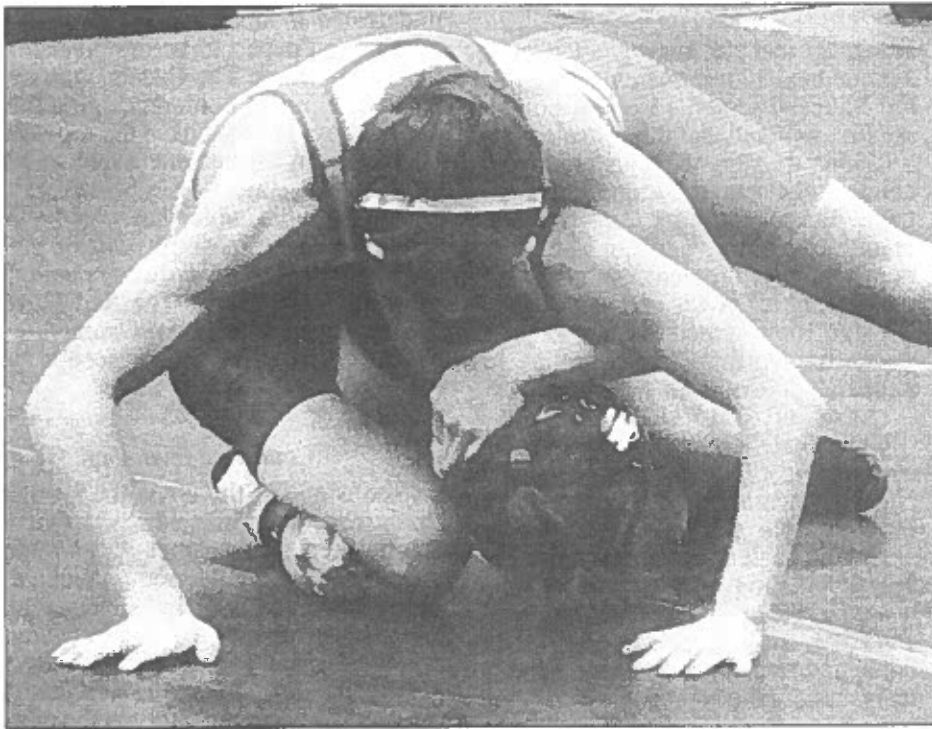
Parkersburg South and University, two of the top pre-tournament favorites, both checked in with 46 points, which is two points ahead of defending overall and Class 5A champion Wheeling Park. Steubenville is four points back of the co-leaders with 42, while Class 3A frontrunner Barnesville rounds out the top 5 with 35.5.

Beaver Local, Edison and Oak Glen all have 30 points and are deadlocked for the Class 4A lead. St. Clairsville (27) and Indian Creek (26) are close behind.

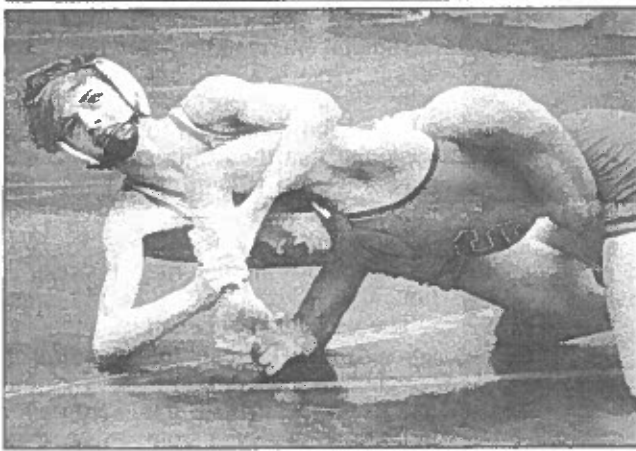
The aforementioned Shamrocks are 9.5 points in front of Martins Ferry in Class 3A, with Linsly third at 23.5 and Shenandoah fourth with 22. Caldwell has 20.

Southern Local holds a 4-point margin (27-23) over defending Class 1A/2A champion Cameron, while Bridgeport is third with 14, two-and-a-half points ahead of Wheeling Central. Wellsville has 11.5.

Please see TIED, Page 12



TOP: Cameron's Gunner Lilley has a half-nelson on Linsly's Caitlin Lewis during their 113-pound bout. Lilley won by pin.



LEFT: Buckeye Local's Aiden Dentz has ahold of the arm of Steubenville's Kasyn Berkey during the 113-pound match. Berkey earned a win by decision.

Photos by Kim North

OVAC Swimming Championships Starting Tonight At Brooke High

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

Gold medals — OVAC style — will be handed out tonight at Brooke High School.

The first conference champions of the winter sports season will be crowned when the Class 1A through 4A swimmers hit the water at the Brooke Aquatic Center to take part in the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship.

This marks the first time in the history of the event that it's a two-day event. The 5A schools will compete on Saturday, crowning separate champions in all 22 events. As for the team awards, there will be three classes for both boys and girls handed out this year. Obviously, 5A has its own. For the first time, in many years, the 4A class will crown its own champions and there will be team winners in the 1A/3A schools.

"It's a new era of the OVAC Swimming Championships," meet director and the man for whom the meet is named, Bill Brubaker, said.

Today's meet will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. and the 5A schools will hit the water at 11 a.m.

The meet underwent a change after an urging of the coaches, who were hoping to see more athletes recognized with awards.

"Small-school coaches felt their kids were being overshadowed by the big schools and been asking for a trial with a split," Brubaker said. "Big-school swimmers were getting over 60% of positions in the meet and when you look at the medalists, only Linsly and St. Clairsville had medalists other than the big schools."

On top of the desire to recognize more athletes with awards, Brubaker acknowledges the separation of the meets will make the event much quicker to complete.

"Last year's meet ran long and with all of the swimmers, some would warm up and it would be two hours, or longer, until their first event," Brubaker stressed. "We're hoping (this change) will attract more athletes to swim as they will see they have a chance to compete."

Brubaker did point out this format change "is a trial to see how it goes."

"There are pros and cons," Brubaker said. "More athletes will get to compete, each meet will run half the time that last year's single meet did. We'll have a good meet and then sit back and evaluate it."

Please see OVAC, Page 12



Photo by Kim North
A picture of Ron Mauck was placed before the head table during pre-tournament ceremonies Thursday night.

Mauck Remembered In Variety Of Ways

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament kicked off its three-day stay inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena, but something — no, make that someone — wasn't in attendance.

The event's long-time director and namesake passed away over the summer.

The tournament's program was dedicated in Ron Mauck's name and his family was presented with a framed picture of the book's cover prior to the tournament.

"Ron was my friend. Ron was my mentor," Dr. Bill Welker said in his pre-tournament speech. "I knew Ron and his late wife for 50 years. I not only had the privilege of teaching their children in school, I also taught their grandchildren."

Lapel pins were also a part of remembering Mauck. There was a moment of silence

held and the Ohio Valley Wrestling Officials graciously donated a \$500 check to the Ron Mauck Memorial Scholarship fund that was recently established.

Going Hi-Tech

For the first time in its existence, the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament has gone paperless. There are no bout sheets to be handed out, it's all done on the computer through Trackwrestling, thanks to Mike Carman.

"I guess we are hi-tech now," Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle said. "We've wanted to do this for a long time, but we needed a strong, reliable internet and the arena's was a little shaky, but they totally re-did all that."

There were some glitches, but like Doyle said, they can be worked out.

"There are going to be some bumps along the way, but, so far, our people have adapted pret-

Please see MAUCK, Page 12

Steubenville Catholic-Weir Girls Game Halted In Fourth Quarter

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — In the grand scheme of things, a score does not really matter all that much.

The score — or whether or not the game would even officially count — did not matter to anyone as they left the gym following the game between Weir High and Catholic Central Thursday night.

It was stopped with 4:13 to go in the fourth quarter when a Crusader appeared to fall unconscious.

Those in attendance at Ron "Fritz" Williams Court fell silent as Central

coach Jess Looman and Red Riders' coach Rick Stead, along with the officials, decided not to resume to the game.

"This is the first time in probably 15 years experiencing something like this coaching basketball," Stead said. "We're all sending our thoughts and prayers to the young lady and hope she doesn't have any serious injuries or ailments and can make a return."

For Stead, who has been the Red Riders' coach for eight years and has two daughters of his own, it was a situation that spurred multiple emotions



Photo by Andrew Grimm

contest would be final since both parties agreed to stop it and not continue at a later date, which would give the Red Riders their third-consecutive victory.

The National Federation of State High School Associations basketball rules, which are cited in the West Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission handbook as the official rules, states, "Whenever a game is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authorities, it shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams agree

see his team continue their trajectory of improvement.

"Our girls' goal from the beginning has been to improve," he said. "We knew we were young and going to take our licks early in the season, but starting with the overtime losses to Oak Glen and Burgettstown, then winning against Madonna, we've started to turn the corner and found the bottom of the net."

"We've changed up defenses and the defense we're playing now seems really well suited to the girls we have. We have continued to make strides



AP Photo

Ohio State guard Hevynne Bristow (3) is fouled by Northwestern guard Sydney Wood, left, during the second half of a game at Value City Arena in Columbus, Thursday.

No. 2 Ohio State Women Roll Past Northwestern

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Taylor Mikesell and Rebeka Mikulasikova each scored 18 points and No. 2 Ohio State beat Northwestern 84-54 on Thursday night to push its program-best, season-opening winning streak to 19 games.

The Buckeyes (19-0, 8-0 Big Ten) led wire to wire and closed the first quarter on a 10-1 run, with eight of the points from Mikesell. Ohio State led by 38 points in the fourth quarter and didn't allow Northwestern (6-12, 0-8) to come closer than nine points after the first two minutes of the second quarter.

"This could have been a real problem for us, had we not shown up with the focus and energy needed to play the game the right way," Ohio State coach Kevin McGuff said.

"I credit our leadership, our upper-classmen, just making sure the team was ready."

Ohio State held a 14-point halftime

advantage and pulled away after scoring a game-best 27 points in the third quarter. Mikesell scored 15 of her points in the first half and had three steals.

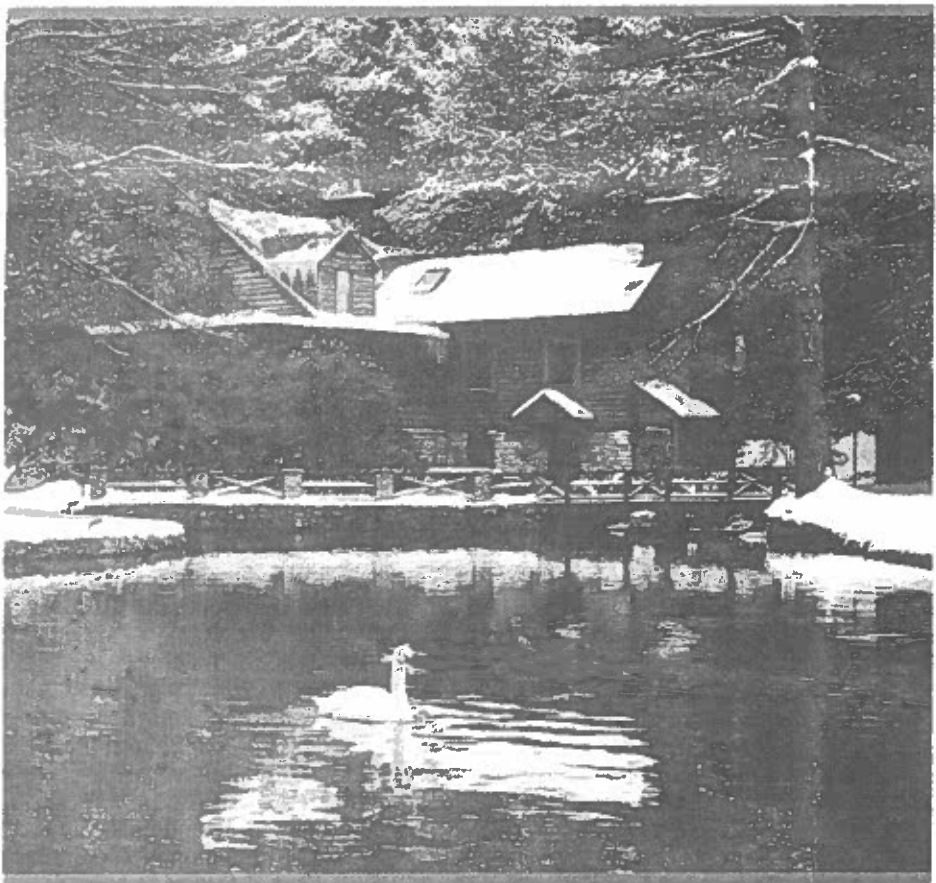
"Third quarter, they just went on a couple runs and we didn't do a very good job of getting back on defense or off a turnover, and our shot selection became a problem," Northwestern coach Joe McKeown said.

Paige Mott scored a career-high 16 points for Northwestern. Caroline Lau added 13 points.

A TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

Ohio State's next two games will come against Top 10 conference foes No. 10 Iowa at home Monday and on the road at No. 6 Indiana next Thursday.

Having beaten four ranked teams this season, starting with then-No. 5 Tennessee in the opener last November, the Buckeyes are taking each day as they come and remain one of three unbeaten teams across the NCAA.



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replaced by John Gibson, who stopped all 18 shots he faced.

"I think it was good resiliency by our group," Fowler said. "Obviously, we

Blankenburg made it 3-0 with 2:17 left in the period, seconds after a hit that buried Lundestrom into the Columbus bench.

GIRLS

(Continued from Page 11)

The Red Riders led 11-10 after one and 22-20 at halftime before taking control with a 17-0 run to start the third quarter.

Olivia Baker tallied 14

points, including a pair of 3-pointers, for the Red Riders. Janai Turner had 10 points and seven assists.

Rohde had six points

and 12 rebounds at the time of the stoppage. Theresa Kerker led Central with 13 points and three 3-pointers.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

CLASS 1A/3A and CLASS 4A As for the athletes, Linsly, which is undefeated in small meets this season, appears, on paper, to be the favorite in the 1A/3A class. The Cadets, who own an astounding 16 conference girls titles and 62 boys crowns, have the top-seeded female in all but one event and in three boys events.

St. Clairsville, which has won the last five girls championships, will be right in the mix for the 4A crowns in both the boys and girls meets. The Red Devils are the top seed in six boys events.

Martins Ferry has the top seed in two

events.

CLASS 5A

Three schools have a top seed in the 5A boys action.

Dover, which has won three straight titles, has six top seeds, while Parkersburg South, which has won five conference titles, has three, and Warren has a pair.

On the girls' side, four schools boast a top seed.

Dover leads the way with the top mark in five events, while Morgantown has the top entrant in four.

Parkersburg South and John Marshall pace one event each.

WVU's

(Continued from Page 11)

"Joe is one of the guys that's made plays all year. Joe has kept us in games we otherwise would not have been in. Joe has never been the problem," Huggins said.

Huggins has preached all year that the chemistry on the team, the character of the players. He knew a loss is a loss is a loss, but other Kansas there was no one who beat them to the point that they didn't have a chance to win the game ... and they were playing one of the toughest schedules in the nation.

The schedule doesn't get any easier but the weight they've been carrying around with them the last couple of weeks from

the losing streak and from how they lost those games has now been lifted.

When things turned bad against TCU, they all decided the time had come to stand up and look what was dragging them down in the eye.

They were aware of what was happening again.

"Of course," Keddy Johnson said when asked about it. "It happened almost every game. But the guys got together and said, 'We're not losing this one.'"

And they didn't. But one game is not a winning streak.

It can become one on Saturday in what looked to be another tough one

— as if any don't in the Big 12 — with Texas coming to town for a 6 p.m. game, but this isn't the Texas they expected to see a couple of weeks back. Oh, it has a No. 6 national ranking, but its coach, Chris Beard, is now its ex-coach, having been fired for what has been termed domestic violence.

Beard was replaced by assistant Rodney Terry.

The game is important to everyone, but it carries a little bit more weight to WVU's Tre Mitchell, who transferred from Texas and knows that beating his former teammates would go a long way to helping right the Mountaineers' situation.

MAUCK

(Continued from Page 11)

ty quickly," he continued. "Some of these people have worked this tournament for 20, 30 and some, even 40, years."

Special Awards

- Junior High Coach of the Year, Seth Fluharty, Steubenville's Harding Middle School.

- Class 1A/2A Coach of the Year,

Tim Jones, Cameron.

- Class 3A Coach of the Year, Jayson Stephen, Barnesville.

- Class 4A Coach of the Year, Brandon Pendleton, Indian Creek.

- Class 5A Coach of the Year, Brian Leggett, Wheeling Park.

- Assistant Coach of the Year, T.J. Miller, Beaver Local.

TIED

(Continued from Page 11)

"We went 13 for 14 and we should've had a win in the one we lost," University head coach Ken Maisel said. "There are a couple of weight classes where we need to get better."

The Hawks lost top-seeded Dakota Hagedorn (150) who didn't suit up due to an illness.

"That hurts. We had the upper hand over (Parkersburg) South and (Wheeling) Park because they both lost quality wrestlers earlier in the week, but I told the guys we need to make up those points. He would've probably scored 25-30 points, so we have to make them up. We need to get pins and not decisions."

The Hawks' Luca Felix (175), one of six returning titlists, picked up his 100th career win with a 44-second pin.

University has 12 of 13 wrestlers still alive for a title, with 11 winning by pins.

The Wood County Patriots lost defending

like to get that momentum rolling on the first day," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "We had a lot of kids pick up bonus points, which are crucial in a tournament like this."

One Patriot that came through big time was Carter Duncil (126) who earned an upset over Brooke's No. 9 Xzander Eltringham.

"We had that match circled when the brackets came out. We thought we could win that one, and we did," Leggett praised.

"We did good. We like to get that momentum rolling on the first day," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "We had a lot of kids pick up bonus points, which are crucial in a tournament like this."

Wheeling Park has 12 matmen alive for championships, with 11 winning by falls.

Parkersburg South has 13 alive and 11 used pins to advance.

Barnesville advanced 10 in the winners bracket

phen said. "We had a couple of guys step up, but I thought we could have won one that we lost."

Two of those that stepped up were Ayden Andrews (120) and Karson Milhoan (165). Andrews knocked off Marietta's No. 8 seed Jack Roe, 6-4, while the 12th-seeded Milhoan posted a technical fall over Marietta's Aaron Vessels.

"Ayden went out and did what he had to do," Stephen said. "Karson did the same."

All of the returning champions -- Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113); Barnesville's Dakota King (132); Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia (132); Wheeling Park's Bradyn Lucas (144); Indian Creek's Dom Pattera (157); Felix; and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215) all prevailed.

Action resumes today at noon with matches in the second round of the championship bracket, as well as first- and second-round consolations.

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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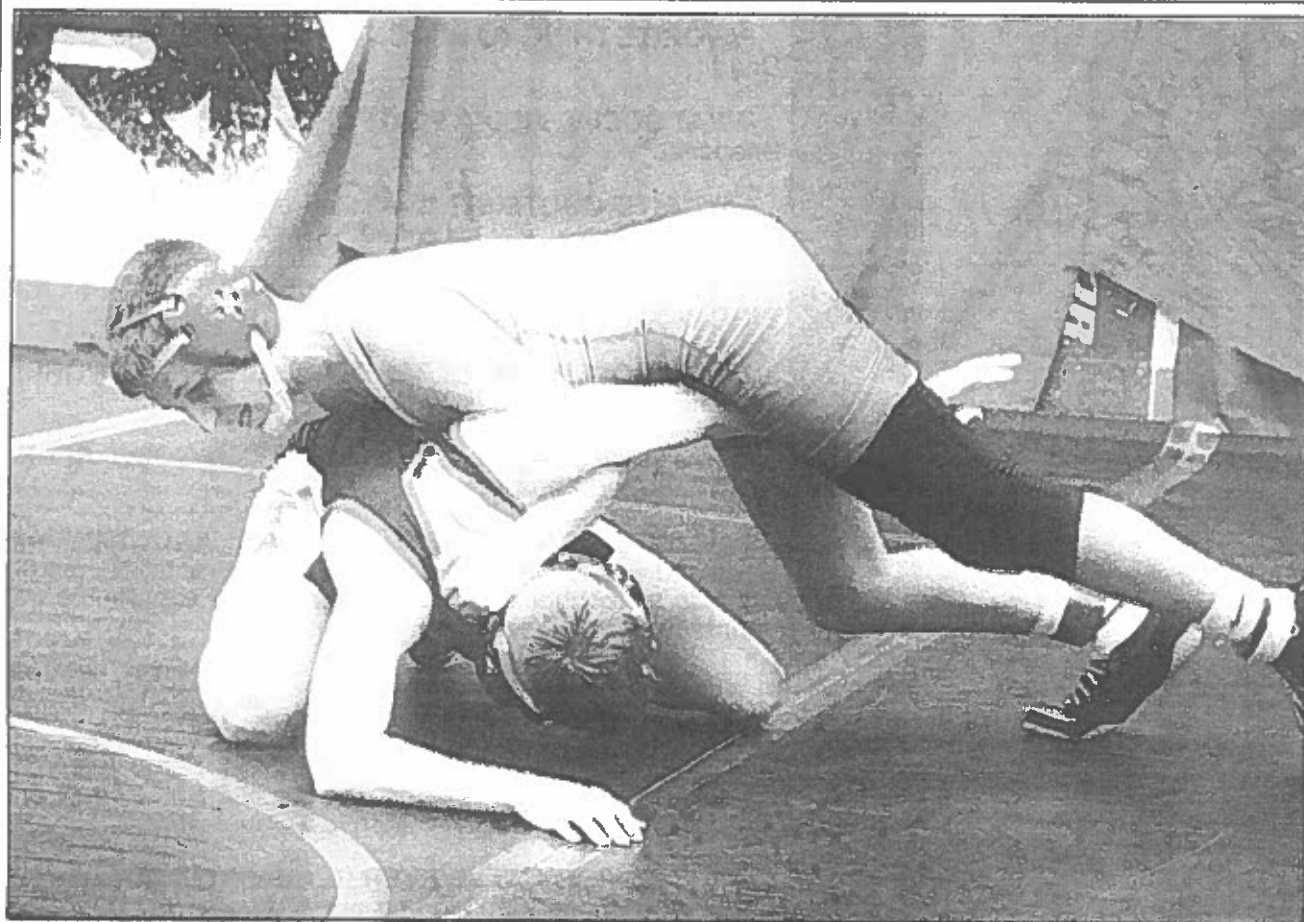
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See, **SWIM**, Page B3



Photos/KIM NORTH

ABOVE: BARNESVILLE'S Ayden Andrews works toward a victory over Marietta's Jack Roe during a 120-pound, opening-round bout at Thursday's 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament.

BELOW: BUCKEYE Local's Seth Driscoll (left) and Martins Ferry's Domenick Tedeschi hooked up in one of the more entertaining matches of the night as Tedeschi claimed an 8-4 decision.

Matmen begin OVAC title chase

• Barnesville off to a strong start; University and South share overall lead

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Times Leader

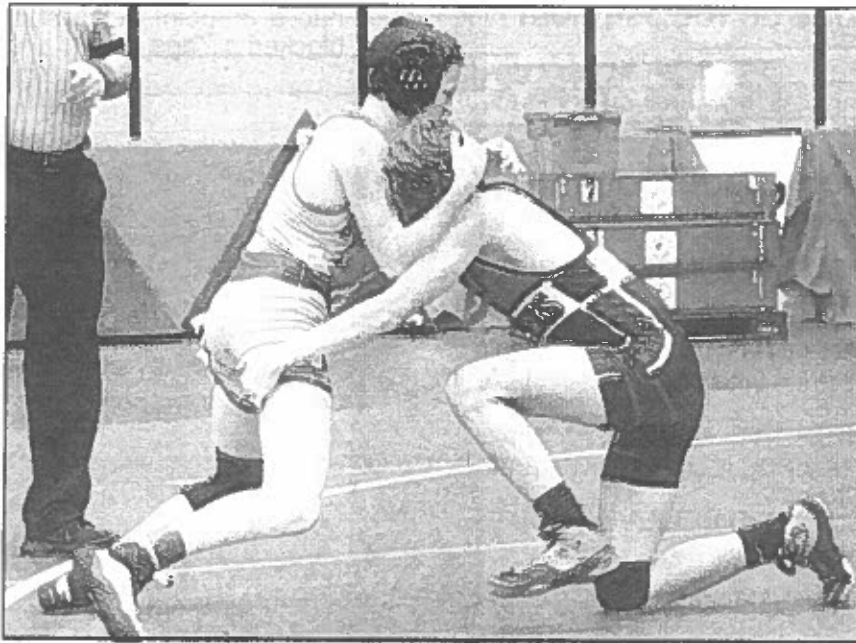
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See, **OVAC**, Page B3

OVAC Wrestling begins with tribute to Ron Mauck

By **KIM NORTH**
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See, **MAUCK**, Page B3

No. 2 Ohio St. women roll by Northwestern

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Ohio State held a 14-point halftime advantage and pulled away after scoring a game-best 27 points in the third quarter. Mikesell scored 15 of her points in the first half and had three steals.

"Third quarter, they just went on a couple runs and we didn't do a very good job of getting back on defense or off a turnover, and our shot selection became a problem," Northwestern coach Joe McKeown said.

SPREADING THE MINUTES AROUND

McGuff and Ohio State turned to its bench without star guards Madison Greene and Jacy Sheldon due to injury and with a comfortable lead throughout the second half.

Hevynne Bristow contributed seven points alongside eight rebounds and three steals during a season-high 27 minutes. Emma Shumate played 16 minutes and added four points and as many boards, while Ebony Walker played 14 minutes and notched eight points with six rebounds which were both season bests.

"I was really trying to get Hevynne, Ebony and Emma some more minutes," McGuff said. "We're still trying to develop our depth, and I thought they all did some really good things. They all made some mistakes, but that's why we're putting them out there just to get more experience."



AP PHOTO

OHIO STATE guard Taylor Mikesell (24) looks to take a 3-point shot during the second half of a game against Northwestern at Value City Arena in Columbus, Thursday.

CINCINNATI
BENGALS
quarterback
Joe Burrow
drops back



Injuries lead to more change on Bengals OL

CINCINNATI (AP) - Right guard Alex Cappa rolled around the Bengals locker room on a scooter on Wednesday. He had his elevated left ankle wrapped tight with white tape.

Left tackle Jonah Williams wore a soft brace on his left leg after dislocating his kneecap last

Hakeem Adeniji, who struggled in pass protection during the postseason last year, has started at right tackle since Collins went down. Max Scharping, who was claimed off waivers from Houston before the season, has slotted in for Cappa at right guard.

Area Sports Card

Friday, Jan. 20
BOYS BASKETBALL
 Wheeling Central at Dover
 Wheeling Park at Parkersburg South
 Barnesville at Caldwell
 St. Clairsville at Bellare
 Weir at Harrison Central
 Shady Side at River
 Union Local at Cambridge
 Indian Creek at East Liverpool
BOWLING
 Union Local at Broome
 Barnesville at Wheeling Park
 Weir at St. Clairsville
 Wheeling Central at Bridgeport
GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Capell Midland at Wheeling Park
WRESTLING
 OVAC Tournament at WestBanco Arena, noon

Prep Boxscores

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Buckeye Local 54, Bridgeport 34
 BUCKEYE LOCAL (54) - McKeever 5, 1-2 12; Short 2 1-1 5; Arvorn 1 0-0 2; Carmali 0 0-0 0; Koran 0 0-0 0; Dailley 1 1-2 3; Kandrach 5, 3-3 14; Rosel 2 0-0 4; Kinyo 1, 0-0 2; Long 5, 0-0 10; Valuka 1 0-0 2; Totals 23, 6-8 54
 BRIDGEPORT (34) - Chambers 0, 0-0 0; Clemens 0, 0-0 0; Sam 1 0-0 2; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Stewart 3, 3-4 11; Summers 1, 0-1 2; Brewer 1, 7-10 9; Barler 0, 4-4 4; McKay 0, 2-2 2; Heiman 0, 2-2 2; Masters 1, 0-0 2; Gonzalez 0, 0-0 0; Allen 0, 0-0 0; Totals 7 15-23 34
 3-point goals: BL - McKeever, Kandrach, 6 - Stewart (2)

Union Local 66, Barnesville 23
UNION LOCAL (66) - A. Kellaway 0, 0-0 0; L. Vinskovich 0, 2-2 2; Miller 5, 0-1 15; Kibow 5, 2-2 14; E. Kellaway 2, 0-0 0; Pheasant 1, 2-2 5; Suter 0, 0-0 0; Day 2, 1-2 6; R. Vinskovich 1, 3-5 15; Totals 23, 10-14 66
BARNESVILLE (23) - Thompson 1, 2-2 4; Yater 0, 0-2 0; Lucas 0, 0-0 0; Tyson 2, 1-3 5; Welch 0, 0-0 0; Carter 3, 0-0 3; Schaffer 1, 0-0 2; Phillips 0, 0-0 0; Leisure 1, 0-0 2; Oliver 0, 0-0 0; Totals 8, 4-9 23
 3-point goals: UL - Miller (3), Kibow (2), E. Kellaway (2), Pheasant, Day, R. Vinskovich, B - Carter (3)

River 63, Shady Side 26
SHADYSIDE (26) - Stewart 0, 0-0 0; T. Fulton 0, 0-0 0; R. Fulton 2, 0-0 6; Boltz 0, 0-0 0; Zolunczyk 0, 0-0 0; Sims 1, 0-0 2; Brown 5, 4-5 15; Hendershot 0, 0-0 0; Weatherston 0, 0-0 0; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Tisoras 1, 0-0 3; Walker 0, 0-0 0; Totals 9, 4-5 26
RIVER (63) - Hobbs 0, 1-2 1; Harlan 7, 0-0 15; Reed 0, 0-0 0; Wolnas 0, 0-0 0; Dotterer 0, 0-0 0; indermuhle 0, 0-0 0; Pam 1 0-0 2; Raper 9, 1-1 19; Fox 3, 4-5 10; Knight 6, 2-6 14; Totals 27, 8-14 63
 3-point goals: S - R. Fulton (2), Brown, Tisoras R - Fox, Harlan

Indian Creek 58, St. Clairsville 46
INDIAN CREEK (58) - Cites 0, 0-0 0; Taylor 4, 7-10 15; Sader 0, 0-0 0; Vandooome 0, 0-0 0; Stanney 2, 0-0 4; Baltas 1, 0-0 2; Ketrion 0, 0-0 0; Anderson 7, 1-2 15; Robertson 8, 4-5 22; Allen 0, 0-0 0; Totals 22 12-17 58
ST. CLAIRSVILLE (46) - Zucco 0, 0-0 0; Main 7, 4-4 19; Tuttle 2, 0-0 5; Moran 1, 3-4 5; Sader 0, 2-2 2; Gray 2, 0-0 4; Powell 0, 0-0 0; Druzon 0, 0-0 0; Kan 3, 0-0 9; Heathenington 0, 0-0 0; Smertkos 0, 0-0 0; Wallace 0, 0-0 0; Barrera 1, 0-0 2; Totals 16, 9-10 46
 3-point goals: IC - Robertson (2), SIC - Main, Kan (2), Tuttle

Monroe Central 50, Shenandoah 36
SHENANDOAH (36) - Leach 7, 5-10 19; Brown 0, 2-2 2; Moll 1, 3-2 3; B. Leach 0, 3-4 3; House 0, 1-2 1; May 1, 2-2 4; Vasham 0, 4-4 4; Weckbacher 0, 0-0 0; Totals 9, 17-26 36
MONROE CENTRAL (50) - Emery 1, 2-2 4; Henthorn 0 0-0 0; Hies 0 0-0 0; Thompson 5, 1-2 11; English 3, 0-3 6; Bishop 1, 1-2 3; Bommer 4, 0-0 8; Powell 0, 0-0 0; Semmer 5, 0-0 0; Totals 23, 4-9 30
 3-point goals: S - Wall, MC - None

UNIVERSITY 44
UNIVERSITY (44) - Formey-Garbart 7, 0-1 17; Barinas 0 0-0 0; Nemeck 4, 1-2 11; Cool 1, 0-0 3; Coleman 0, 0-0 0; Bandv 0, 2-2 2; For 1, 0-0 3; Thomas 1, 0-0 3; Hudson 1, 0-0 2; Jirash-Egnol 1, 0-0 3; Totals 15, 4-7 44
LINSLEY (50) - Taylor 2, 0-0 5; Jackson 5, 2-2 13; Anderson 3, 1-4 9; Goodwin 4, 0-0 12; Coleman 0, 0-0 0; Vaysbach 2, 1-1 6; Jones 1, 0-0 2; Sanchez 4, 1-1 9; Aas 2, 0-1 4; Murav 0, 0-0 0; Gill 0, 0-0 0; Farni 0 0-0 0; Szymusak 0, 0-0 0; Totals 23, 5-9 50
 3-point goals: U - Formey-Garbart (3), Nemeck (2), Cool, For, Thomas, U - Taylor, Jackson, Anderson (2), Goodwin (4), Vaysbach

Valley 48, Beallsville 41
BEALLSVILLE (41) - Allen 4, 3-4 11; Hughes 1, 0-0 3; Hagan 2, 0-0 5; Taylor 5, 3-5 13; Perkins 3, 1-2 7; Loudon 1, 0-0 2; Totals 15, 7-12 41
VALLEY (48) - Hagenboham 3, 0-0 7; Stackpole 4, 2-2 12; Derby 6, 8-11 24; Anderson 1, 1-3 3; Jencho 1, 0-0 2; Totals 15, 11-16 48
 3-point goals: B - Hughes, Hagan, V - Derby (4), T Stackpole (2), Hagenboham

Prep Wrestling

69th Annual OVAC
 Ron Mauck Tournament
 (at WestBanco Arena, Wheeling)
TEAM SCORING
 Overall
 1. (9) Parkersburg South, University 46; 3. Wheeling Park 44; 4. Steubenville 42; 5. Barnesville 36; 5.6. John Marshall 32; 7. (2) Beaver Local, Edison, Oak Glen 30; 10. (1) St. Clairsville, Southern Local 27; 12. (1) Indian Creek, Martins Ferry 26; 14. Linsly 23; 15. Cameron 23; 16. Harrison Central 22; 17. Morgantown 19; 18. East Liverpool 15; 19. (2) Bridgeport, Cambridge 14; 21. (1) Union Local, Weir, Wheeling Central 12; 24. Wellsdale 11; 25. Bellare 10; 26. (1) Brooke, Magnolia, River, Shady Side 8; 30. Marietta 7; 31. (4) Beallsville, Monroe Central, Paden City, Steubenville Catholic 4; 35. Madonia 36 (1)1 Hundred, Toronto 0
 Class 5A
 1. (9) Parkersburg South, University 46; 3. Wheeling Park 44; 4. Steubenville 42; 5. John Marshall 32; 6. Dover 32; 7. Warren Local 20; 8. Morgantown 18; 9. Brooke 8; 10. Marietta 7
 Class 4A
 (1) Beaver Local, Edison, Oak Glen 30; 4. St. Clairsville 27; 5. Indian Creek 26; 6. Harrison Central 22; 7. Buckeye Local 20; 8. East Liverpool 15; 9. Cambridge 14; 10. Weir 12
 Class 3A
 1. Barnesville 35; 2. Martins Ferry 26; 3. Linsly 23; 4. Shenandoah 22; 5. Caldwell 20; 6. Fort Frye 16; 7. Union Local 12; 8. Bellare 10; 9. Magnolia 8
 Class 1A/2A
 Southern Local 27; 2. Cameron 23; 3. Bridgeport 14; 4. Wheeling Central 12; 5. Wellsdale 11; 5. (1) River, Shady Side 8; 8. Beallsville, Monroe Central, Paden City, Steubenville Catholic 4; 12. Madonia 2; 13. (1) Hundred, Toronto 0

Prep Swimming

OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championships
 Top Seeded Times
 (based on times submitted to the OVAC from throughout the 2022-23 season)
Class 1A/4A
Girls
 200 Medley Relay - Linsly, 2:01.07; 200 Free - Beta Roca (Lins), 2:07.83; 200 IM - Lv Tomer (Lins), 2:23.82; 50 Free - Anna Norman (Lins), 25.95; 100 Fly - Lv Tomer (Lins), 1:06.63; 100 Free - Anna Norman (Lins), 56.48; 500 Free - Beta Roca (Lins), 5:51.20; 200 Free Relay - Linsly, 1:48.22; 100 backstroke - Bea Faurio (Lins), 1:26.60; 100 breaststroke - Abe Reeder (WOC), 1:14.19; 400 Free Relay - Linsly, 3:53.14
Boys
 200 Medley Relay - Linsly, 1:50.58; 200 Free - Antonio Navarro (Lins), 1:55.23; 200 IM - John Consort (MF), 2:01.34; 50 Free - Zach May (SIC), 23.09; 100 Fly - Evan Yost (SIC), 54.55; 100 Free - Zach May (SIC), 50.39; 500 Free - Antonio Navarro (Lins), 5:16.55; 200 Free Relay - St. Clairsville 1:40.66; 100 backstroke - Evan Yost (SIC), 56.52

OVAC

Continued from Page B1
 ta Hagedorn (150) who didn't suit up due to an illness.
 The Hawks' Luca Felix (175), one of six returning titlists, picked up his 100th career win with a 44-second pin.
 University has 12 of 13 wrestlers still alive for a title, with 11 winning by pins.
 The Wood County Patriots lost defending champion Gage Wright to a foot injury and the Ohio County Patriots are without Jack Lowe who was third last year.

"We did good. We like to get that momentum rolling on the first day," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "We had a lot of kids pick up bonus points, which are crucial in a tournament like this."
 One Patriot that came through big time was Carter Duncil (126) who earned an upset over Brooke's No. 9 Xzander Eltringham.
 Wheeling Park has 12 matmen alive for championships, with 11 winning by falls.
 Parkersburg South has 13 alive and 11 used pins to advance.
 Barnesville advanced 10 in the winners bracket. Seven of the Shamrocks had pins.
 "We did pretty good. The guys went out and competed," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "We had a couple of guys step up, but I thought we could have won one that we lost."

Two of those that stepped up were Ayden Andrews (120) and Karson Milhoan (165). Andrews knocked off Marietta's No. 8 seed Jack Roe, 6-4, while the 12th-seeded Milhoan posted a technical fall over Marietta's Aaron Vessels.
 "Ayden went out and did what he had to do," Stephen said. "Karson did the same."
 All of the returning champions - Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113); Barnesville's Dakota King (132); Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia (132); Indian Creek's Dom Pattera (157); Felix; and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215) all prevailed.
 Action resumes today at noon with matches in the second round of the championship bracket, as well as first- and second-round consolations. Following a short break, the championship quarterfinals headline the 6 p.m. session which also includes third- and fourth-round consolation bouts.

Mauck
 Continued from Page B1
 done on the computer through Trackwrestling, thanks to Mike Carman.
 "I guess we are hi-tech now," Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle said. "We've wanted to do this for a long time, but we needed a strong, reliable internet and the arena's was a little shaky, but they totally redid all that."
 There were some glitches, but like Doyle said, they can be worked out.
 "There are going to be some bumps along the way, but, so far, our people have adapted pretty quickly," he continued.
Special Awards
 - Junior High Coach of the Year, Seth Fluharty, Steubenville's Harding Middle School.
 - Class 1A/2A Coach of the Year, Tim Jones, Cameron.
 - Class 3A Coach of the Year, Jayson Stephen, Barnesville.
 - Class 4A Coach of the Year, Brandon Pendleton, Indian Creek.
 - Class 5A Coach of the Year, Brian Leggett, Wheeling Park.
 - Assistant Coach of the Year, T.J. Miller, Beaver Local.

Swim
 Continued from Page B1
 to complete.
 "Last year's meet ran long and with all of the swimmers, some would warm up and it would be two hours, or longer, until their first event," Brubaker stressed. "We're hoping (this change) will attract more athletes to swim as they will see they have a chance to compete."
 Brubaker did point out this format change "is a trial to see how it goes."
 "There are pros and cons," Brubaker said. "More athletes will get to compete, each meet will run half the time that last year's single meet did. We'll have a good meet and then sit back and evaluate it."
CLASS 1A/3A and CLASS 4A
 As for the athletes, Linsly, which is undefeated in small meets this season, appears, on paper, to be the favorite in the 1A/3A class. The Cadets, who own an astounding 16 conference girls titles and 62 boys crowns, have the top-seeded female in all but one event and in three boys events.
 St. Clairsville, which has won the last five girls championships, will be right in the mix for the 4A crowns in both the boys and girls meets. The Red Devils are the top seed in six boys events.
 Martins Ferry has the top seed in two events.

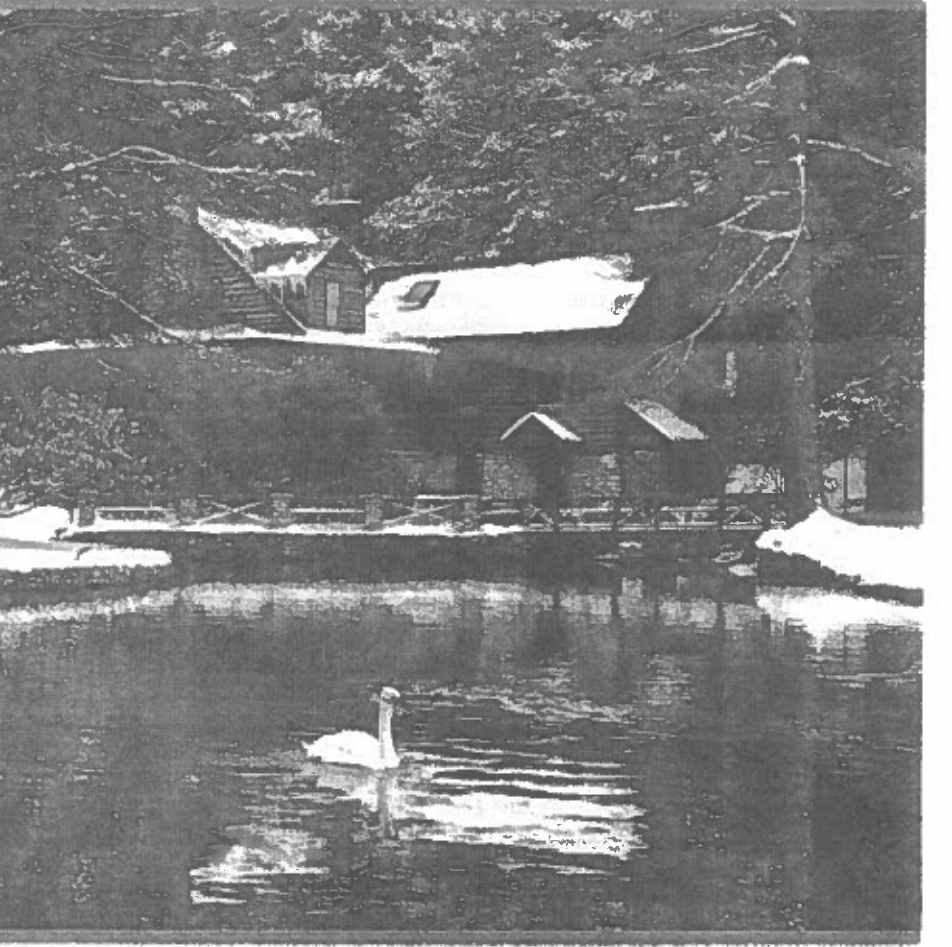
Bengals
 Continued from Page B1

Vinskovich sets rebound record in UL girls' win

BARNESVILLE -- Union Local won the milk trophy and Reagan Vinskovich became the school's all-time leading rebounder during Thursday's convincing 66-23 victory against rival Barnesville.
 Vinskovich came into the game needing seven and surpassed the mark in the first half. She also scored 18 points in the game to lead everyone.
 Her effort was complemented by junior Lauren Miller's 15. Senior Torre Kildow posted 14 points.
 Barnesville received nine points from Alyssa Carter.
Buckeye Local 54, Bridgeport 34
BRIDGEPORT -- Buckeye Local raced to a 19-7 lead after one and never looked back en route to a repeat victory over Bridgeport.
 The Panthers received 14 points from Pam Kandrach, 12 from Brynn McKeever and 10 from Carly Long.
 Bridgeport was led by Brooke Stewart's 11.

River 63, Shady Side 26
HANNIBAL -- River scored a second lopsided victory against Shady Side in just over a week's time Thursday evening.
 The Pilots used a 26-0 run in the second quarter to fuel itself to victory.
 Senior Hannah Raper continued her strong season with 19 points to lead the way. Junior Kelsey Harlan added 15, while Rylee Knight had 14 and Zoey Fox added 10.
 Shady Side was led by senior ace Gentry Brown, who pumped in 15 points.
Indian Creek 58, St. Clairsville 46
ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- The Redskins made the trip to Belmont County a successful one by knocking off the Red Devils Thursday evening.
 The Redskins were led by Tori Robertson's 22 points. Kylie Anderson and Gabby Taylor each had 15 points.
 The Red Devils were led by senior Megan Malin, who scored 19 points.

Monroe 50, Shenandoah 36
WOODSFIELD -- The Seminoles completed the season sweep of the Zeps Thursday evening.
 Monroe Central was led by Abby Thompson's 11 and Riley Bettinger's 10.
 Shenandoah junior Mya Leach was the leading scorer in the game with 19 points.
BOYS BASKETBALL
Linsly 60, University 44
WHEELING -- Linsly picked up another key win for its OVAC Tournament hopes Thursday evening, toppling University.
 The Cadets (8-5) were led by Gavin Jackson's 13 and D'Arrae Goodwin's 12.
 James Fortney-Garbart paced the Hawks with 17.
Valley 48, Beallsville 41
PINE GROVE - Gavin Derby lit it up for 24 points and Trevor Stackpole added a dozen for the Lumberjacks.
 Logan Taylor paced the Blue Devils with 13. Chance Allen had 11.
BOWLING
Buckeye Local, Linsly split
 The Panthers girls, fresh off their MOVL title, knocked off Linsly by a 1546-1251 score. The Cadets boys, however, edged the Panthers, 1751-1738.
 Buckeye Local's girls were led by Cassie Burkhead's 146 single game and Haylee Brown's series of 283.
 Panthers Noah Jock rolled a 216 for the high game and a 385 for the high series.
John Marshall sweeps St. John Central Academy
 The Monarchs posted a victory in both the boys and girls matches Thursday afternoon at St. Clair Lanes.
 John Marshall's girls rolled to a 1221-845 victory, while the boys posted a 1214-1137 victory.
 Reagan Gorby posted a 155 for the high game and a 260 series to lead the Monarchs.
 Tayvon Yeater had a 152 game and 278 series to pace JM and the field on the boys' side.



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Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Thursday,
January 19, 2023

OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tourney opens tonight

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - The seeds have been announced and the brackets have been set. The eight mats and scorer's tables were put in place Wednesday afternoon inside WesBanco Arena. Now, all that is needed is wrestlers.

That will happen tonight at 6 when

the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships begins its three-day stay inside the renovated downtown venue. With no late scratches, a total of 452 wrestlers are set to compete for 14 individual champions, as well as an overall team champion and four class (5A, 4A, 3A, 1A/2A) champions.

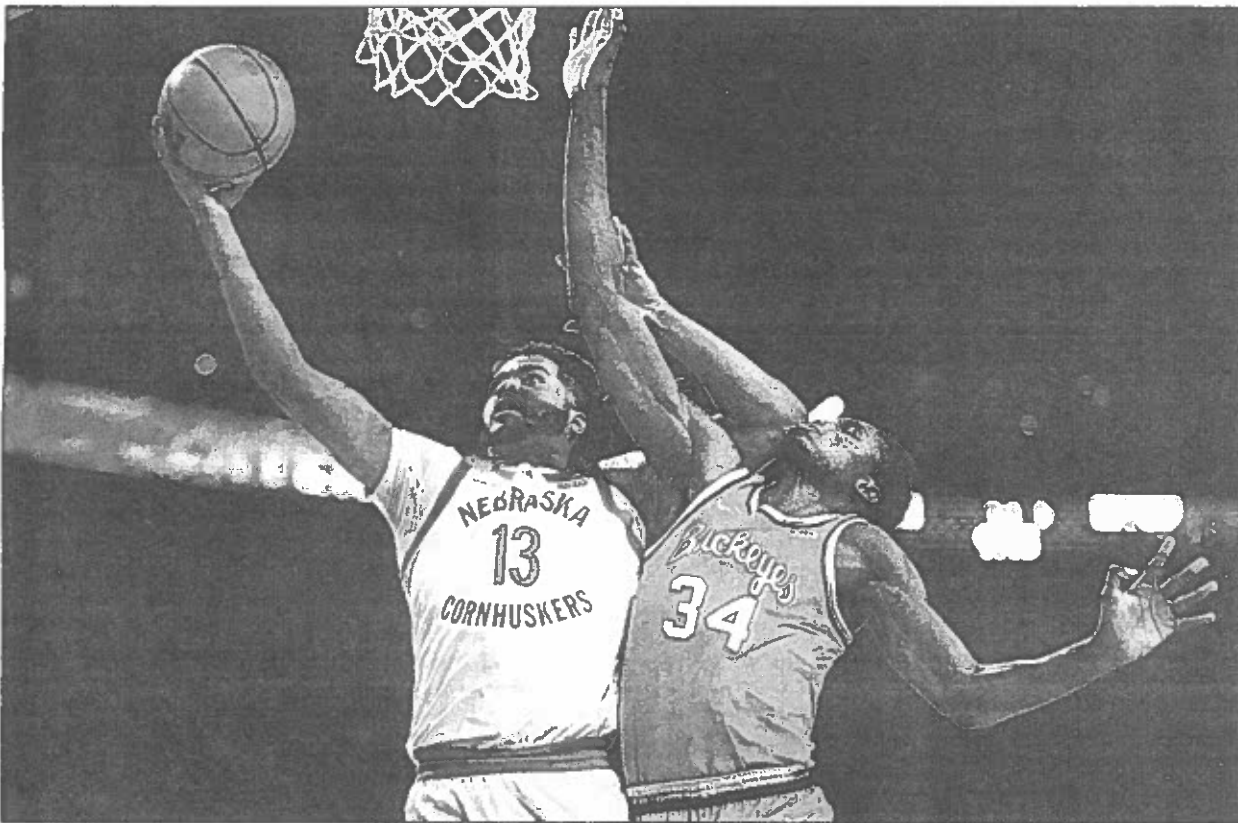
"I think this is another wide-open

year, as far as the team race goes," said Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle, who will be stepping aside after 15 years in that role. "Wheeling Park, University, Parkersburg South and Barnesville all have solid teams. It's anybody's tournament to win."

However, two of the aforementioned teams - defending overall and Class 5A titlist Wheeling Park and Parkersburg

South - each have standout sidelined due to sickness and injury. The Ohio County Patriots have lost sophomore Jack Lowe (132), who placed third last year and was a W.Va. state runner up, to mononucleosis, while the Wood County Patriots nationally ranked and defending champion Gage Wright (175) suffered a foot injury.

See, OVAC, Page B2



AP PHOTO

NEBRASKA'S DERRICK Walker (13) shoots next to Ohio State's Felix Okpara during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday in Lincoln, Neb.

Struggling Buckeyes lose again

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Sam Griesel scored 15 points — including a pair free throws in closing seconds — and grabbed seven rebounds Wednesday night to help Nebraska beat Ohio State 63-60 and extend the Buckeyes' losing streak to five games.

Keisei Tominaga added 11 points for Nebraska (10-9, 3-5 Big Ten). Derrick Walker, Nebraska's leading scorer (14.1 points per game) and rebounder (7.7), fouled out when he was called for a charge with 2:09 left, finished with eight points, 10 rebounds and four as-

sists.

The Cornhuskers improved to 6-20 all-time against Ohio State (10-8, 2-5).

Brice Sensabaugh scored back-to-back buckets to give Ohio State a two-point lead with 8:55 to play but the Buckeyes went without a field goal for the next 6 1/2 minutes. Denim Dawson answered with a layup and Jamarques Lawrence followed with a 3-pointer to make it 52-49 a minute later and the Cornhuskers led the rest of the way.

Sean McNeil missed a clean look

at a potential tying 3-point shot from the left wing as time expired.

Sensabaugh led the Buckeyes with 18 points and 10 rebounds. McNeil scored 13 points and Zed Key added 11 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Nebraska coach Fred Hoiberg was called for a technical foul with 12:33 to play. He appeared upset after a no-call on what he thought was a Buckeyes foul and exploded when Wilhelm Breidenbach was called for an moving screen moments later. McNeil, who went

See, OSU, Page B2

WVU snaps Big 12 losing skid with win over TCU

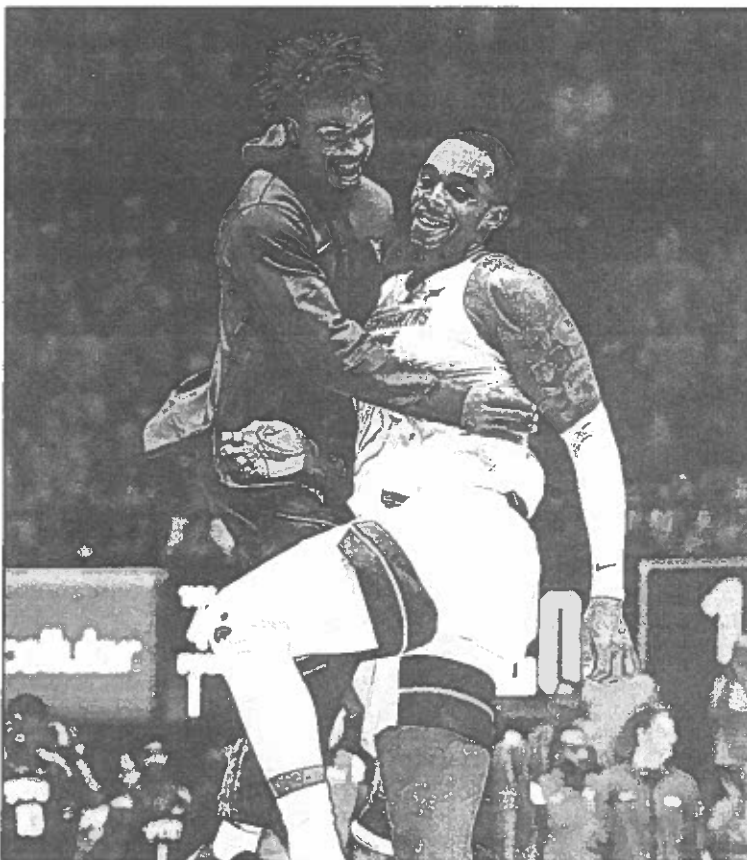
MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Kedrian Johnson scored 20 points and West Virginia built a big early lead and outlasted No. 14 TCU 74-65 on Wednesday night.

Jimmy Bell Jr. added 15 points and 12 rebounds for West Virginia (11-7, 1-5 Big 12), whose players slapped hands with the student section after breaking a five-game losing streak.

Mike Miles Jr. scored 21 points while Emanuel Miller and Damion Baugh had 13 apiece for TCU (14-4, 3-3), which has lost three of its last four after starting the season 13-1.

After a lackluster first half, the Horned Frogs made it interesting toward the end.

Down 17 with 11 minutes remaining



Barnesville boys, Buckeye girls win MOVL bowling

WOODSFIELD -- Barnesville's boys and Buckeye Local's girls claimed the second annual Mid Ohio Valley League Bowling championships Wednesday at the Russell Family Bowling Center.

For the Shamrocks, the win is their second consecutive in the event, while the Panthers won a team title for the first time.

BOYS

Barnesville rolled an 817 in the opening game and never looked back en route to total score of 3262, which was 880 pins better than runner-up Beallsville.

The Shamrocks produced the tournament's top four finishers, all of whom earn a spot on the All-MOVL squad.

Matthew Hall won the individual championship with a total score of 613.

He had the high game, which came in the second, of 256.

Colton Hall (541), Kavin Carpenter (516) and Keegan Martin (497) rounded out the top Shamrocks.

Monroe Central, which finished fifth in the team standings, had the other two All-MOVL performers in Will Travis and James Williams, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

GIRLS

The back-and-forth affair in the team standings wasn't decided until the 'baker games' when the Panthers rolled a 547, which held off runner-up Monroe Central and surged past Barnesville, which led after the individual games.

All told, Buckeye Local rolled a 2523, which was six pins better than the Seminoles and 30 better than the Shamrocks.

Individually, Monroe Central's Shyann Baker prevailed with a 501.

She was 14 pins better than Buckeye Local's Lizzie Frank.

Barnesville's Reagan Campbell finished third with a 441.

Bridgeport's Emma Pittner (419), Buckeye Local's Haylee Brown (417) and Barnesville's Julie Johnson (416) rounded out the All-MOVL performers.

Analysis: Hard to know what's next for Nadal with hip injury

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — This is hardly the first time Rafael Nadal's body has betrayed him. That much we know. What no one — not even the 22-time Grand Slam champion himself — can possibly pinpoint accurately is what comes next.

First things first: How seriously did Nadal injure his hip during a 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 loss to 65th-ranked Mackenzie McDonald in the Australian Open's second round on Wednesday?

Was there damage to a muscle, joint or cartilage? What will recovery entail? When might Nadal return to the ATP Tour?

He will get medical tests done to try to figure out some of the answers. What no MRI or X-ray can reveal,

what no doctor can determine, is perhaps the most



25 points. Ja Morant had 24 and the Memphis Grizzlies won their 11th straight game to match the franchise record, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 115-114 on Wednesday

• Hamlin

Continued from Page B1

"To see Damar getting healthier as time passes and see where it ended up, there is always going to be a strong connection between these two organizations, and that's a good thing," coach Zac Taylor.

Now it's a matter of two teams who bonded on the field and in the locker rooms in a time of crisis by agreeing the Week 17 game could not proceed, essentially picking up where they left off. Rather than having the AFC's top-seed hanging in the balance as it was supposed to be on Jan. 2, the stakes are even higher.

"It means there's a ticket to the AFC championship on the line. That's what this game means, and I don't think there's anything more that needs to be said about that," Bengals center Ted Karras said. "It was shocking circumstances that hap-

• Nadal

Continued from Page B1

produced by his punishing brand of play-each-point-as-if-it-might-be-the-last is undeniable. So, perhaps, is the psychological toll of the work it takes to be able to compete at the level to which he has grown accustomed.

"Sometimes it's frustrating. Sometimes it's difficult to accept," a downcast Nadal said. "Sometimes you feel super tired about all this stuff, in terms of injuries."

Over the past 12 months alone, he has been troubled by damaged rib cartilage ... and by chronic pain in his left foot that was dulled via nerve-numbing injections during his title run at the French Open ... and by a torn abdominal muscle that forced him to pull out of Wimbledon.

"It's a tough moment. It's a tough day," he said. "I can't say that I am not destroyed mentally at this moment, because I would

pened when they were here. I'm glad everything worked out great. ... Now it's a win or go home scenario."

It's a little more personal for the Bills, but center Mitch Morse believes the team can move on.

"Exponentially, yeah, it helps. There's a lot of reprieve from seeing him and carrying conversations," Morse said of Hamlin's interactions with his teammates. "I think a few guys are still coming down emotionally, like catching up on their rest and stuff. For me, personally, I can only speak for myself, it's subsided a bit."

Bills safety Jordan Poyer is looking forward to the challenge.

"I don't think it should be any different than any other game that we've been in," Poyer said. "Two really good teams that want to win. It's the playoffs. And so we're

be lying."

Nadal explained that his left hip was so bad Wednesday, he couldn't hit a backhand or run much at all. He considered quitting but played on because he was the reigning champion.

Nadal also was seeded No. 1 at Melbourne Park, because top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz is out with a leg injury. (As an aside: All of the absences, for various reasons, are staggering: Naomi Osaka, Ash Barty, Simona Halep, Venus Williams, Nick Kyrgios.)

McDonald, a 27-year-old American who won NCAA singles and doubles titles for UCLA in 2016, claimed only four total games during a loss to Nadal the other time they played, nearly 2 1/2 years ago.

McDonald said his emotions Wednesday after the biggest victory of his career were "a little more flat and stale than I thought they would be."

Why? "Because," McDonald said, "of the circumstances."

This was not a Nadal at the height of his powers.

ing what he's been doing all season ... manning the boards," Morant said. "He got us the win."

Darius Garland led Cleveland with 24 points, Caris LeVert had 23.

expecting a really great atmosphere, and we're excited for the opportunity."

The one issue facing both teams involves game-planning, and whether to go with a similar approach as three weeks ago. The Bills only had one possession, which ended with a field goal. The Bengals, who led 7-3 on Joe Burrow's 14-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Boyd, were on their second offensive series and led 7-3 when the game was called off.

"I think you've got to be careful about digging too much, trying to uncover this or that, because we spent a lot of time prior to our last game," Bills defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier said. "You have to be careful of over-thinking it, over-analyzing it giving the players too much, and you end up not playing your best football."

He has won two of his last nine matches, dating to a fourth-round loss to Frances Tiafoe at the U.S. Open in September.

"I definitely thought it was an opportunity. ... He seems a step slow," McDonald said. "Look, he's doing his best. I mean, he's a great champion. He's trying to make the most of what he can do. He's (almost) 37 out here. His body's not what it used to be, I'm sure. I definitely think now is the best time to be playing him."

With so much unknown right now, Nadal offered a bit of insight when he was asked what motivates him to do what's required to keep returning from injury.

"It's a very simple thing: I like what I do. I like playing tennis. I know it's not forever. ... I like to fight for the things that I have been fighting for almost half of my life or even more," Nadal said. "When you do things that you like to do, at the end of the day, it's not a sacrifice. You are doing the things that you want to do."

coach Bob Huggins for defensive lapses and four turnovers. After returning, Stevenson fed Bell for a dunk, then grabbed a defensive rebound that Joe Toussaint turned into a layup for a 68-60 lead with 3:07 left.

West Virginia started with one of its best efforts all season, making 9 of its first 14 shots and racing to a 28-12 lead. The Mountaineers, guilty too often this season of one-pass possessions, made crisp passes on offense and clogged the paint on defense, while TCU was unable to get its transition offense on track until it was too late.

TCU trailed 39-24 at halftime, its lowest first-half scoring output of the season.

BIG PICTURE

TCU: The Horned Frogs fell to 0-11 all-time in Morgantown.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers played like they were fed up with their losing streak, outrebounding TCU 31-18. After shooting 61% from the free-throw line over their last five games, West Virginia went 20 of 26 (77%) on Wednesday.

UP NEXT

TCU plays at No. 2 Kansas on Saturday. West Virginia hosts No. 7 Texas on Saturday.

• OSU

Continued from Page B1

the game 18-for-18 from the free-throw line this season for Ohio State, missed both technical free throws.

Nebraska has played the nation's toughest schedule according to the NCAA's NET rankings and 10 of its 19 games this season have been against Quad 1 opponents.

UP NEXT

Ohio State returns home to play Iowa on Saturday. Nebraska hits the road to take on Penn State on Saturday.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"Losing Jack is a huge blow, but we think we have a kid in Jerome Maynard who will go out and give it everything he has," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "He has wrestled a lot for us this year, so he's capable of stepping in."

Wheeling Park has nine seeded wrestlers - behind only Parkersburg South and University who have 12 each - but is the only school to have three top seeds. They are Noah White (120), defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) and Jameson Maynard (165).

"When planning out our schedule and practices the OVAC Wrestling Tournament is something we always highlight to make sure we peak and are at our best," Leggett noted. "Our (wrestling) room has looked great the last couple of weeks and our guys have a lot of energy ready for WesBanco."

"Noah has grown into 120 from 106 where he had a very successful season last year. He is transitioning to the new weight class very well and I look for him to carry his momentum and have a very successful OVAC Tournament," Leggett said of his sophomore who was third a season ago."

Lucas, currently 28-4, came out of nowhere as the fifth seed last year, defeating three of the top four seeds on his way.

"In last year's tournament Bradyn came in under the radar and surprised a lot of people," Leggett said. "He didn't surprise anyone associated with our program and this year he has stepped into a leadership role on the team and is working to win his second OVAC title."

Maynard has been a pleasant surprise for the Patriots this season.

"Jameson's wrestling speaks for itself. He wrestles at an extreme pace that most wrestlers can't match," Leggett said of his 28-3 sophomore. "His attacks and top wrestling are impressive right now and I am excited to watch him compete."

In addition to Lucas, six other wrestlers will be seeking back-to-back titles. They are Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113, won at 106); Barnesville's Dakota King (132, won at 126); Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia (132, won at 120); Indian Creek's Dom Patera (157, won at 150); and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215, won at 215).

Doyle announced during Monday night's pre-tournament press conference, that if King and Saccoccia advance to the finals, that match would be the featured - and final - bout of the tournament Saturday night and the championship finals would begin at 1:38 and cycle through. If not, then 106 would be the first bout of the finals.

In addition to Wheeling Park's trio of No. 1 seeds, others receiving top billing in their weight classes are Wellsville's Mason Simms (106); Davis (113); John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126); King (132); Barnesville's Skyler King (138); University's Dakota Hagedorn (150); Patera (157); University's Luca Felix (175); Parkersburg South's Robert Shockey (190); Thomas (215) and River's Marshall Bier (285).

0-0; Lowe 2, 0-2 4; Sidwell 2, 0-3 4; Pasco 0, 0-0 0; Haught 1, 1-1 3; Totals: 10, 10-20 32. MONROE CENTRAL (53) -- Emery 0, 0-0 0; Henthorn 1, 1-2 3; Hiles 1, 0-0 3; Thompson 3, 1-2 7; English 3, 1-2 6; Steed 0, 0-0 0; King 1, 1-3 3; Bishop 1, 2-2 4; Hamman 0, 0-0 0; Huntsman 0, 0-0 0; Bommer 4, 0-0 10; McGarry 3, 0-0 6; Swisher 0, 0-0 0; Powell 0, 0-0 0; Bettinger 4, 0-0 9; Totals: 21, 6-11 53.

3-point goals: C -- Franklin (2), MC -- Hiles, English, Bommer (2), Bettinger.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Barnesville 64, Bellaire 63
Bellaire (63) -- M. Pettigrew 5, 4-7 14; R. Pettigrew 3, 0-1 6; Dowling 5, 2-3 17; D'Aquila 1, 2-2 4; Sochor 6, 0-0 13; Littell 4, 1-5 9; Totals: 24, 9-18 63. BARNESVILLE (64) -- Cas. Carpenter 5, 1-1 11; Siarr 1, 2-5 4; Castello 5, 2-4 14; Cam. Carpenter 1, 0-0 2; Willis 5, 2-2 13; Geisinger 3, 3-5 14; Blizzard 3, 0-0 6; Totals: 25, 10-17 64.

3-point goals: Be -- Dowling (5), Sochor. Ba -- Castello (2), Willis, Geisinger.

Harrison Central 68, Cameron 34
CAMERON (34) -- Marling 1, 0-0 3; Angel 1, 0-0 3; Burkett 1, 5-8 7; DeBolt 3, 0-0 7; Frye 0, 0-0 0; Winlers 0, 2-2 2; Scott 0, 0-0 0; Hartley 6, 0-1 12; Magers 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 12, 7-11 34. HARRISON CENTRAL (68) -- Jurosko 1, 0-0 2; Jones 0, 0-2 0; Madzia 2, 3-6 7; Hutton 2, 0-0 5; Cassidy 8, 0-0 19; Elliott 0, 0-0 0; Quito 7, 0-0 14; N. Fluhart 3, 0-0 6; Vermilion 3, 1-2 7; Tanner 0, 0-0 0; Ody 1, 0-0 2; Airbaugh 3, 0-0 6; Totals: 30, 4-10 68.

3-point goals: C -- Marling, Angel, DeBolt, HC -- Hutton, Cassidy (3).

Area Sports Brief

St. C. Area Soccer Association States Spring Signups

All Belmont county or Ohio Valley youth with birth years in 2009 through 2019 can sign up on line at <https://stclairsvillesoccer.demosphere-secure.com/register>

Kiddie kick for children born in 2019, will continue this season and Eighth graders who have turned 15 will be permitted to play

Those having difficulty should contact the Registrar Kristina Scott after 5 p.m. at 740-381-4202 or email kristina4202@gmail.com. Registrations will close March 12 at midnite. This will be a hard closing.

Travel Teams will be formed with the U10 to U15 age groups. Teams will play other recreation teams in the Ohio Valley with the older teams playing within the region. The Kiddie Kick and Pre-Travel U-6 and U-8 will not travel outside of St. Clairsville. Travel Team play will begin after April 11, Kiddie Kick April 15, Pre Travel begins April 17 for U6 and April 18 for U8. Parents are encouraged to join the St. Clairsville Area Youth Soccer Association to support the program. For more information, contact Dave Hahn 695-4207 or Rick Ferrell 695-1995.

Sports on TV

Thursday, January 19

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

6:30 p.m.

FS1 -- Rutgers at Michigan St.

7 p.m.

CBSN -- UNC-Wilmington at Hofstra

ESPN -- Michigan at Maryland

ESPN2 -- Purdue at Minnesota

ESPN -- Wichita St. at Memphis

8:30 p.m.

FS1 -- Indiana at Illinois

9 p.m.

CBSN -- W. Kentucky at Louisiana Tech

ESPN -- Washington at Colorado

PAC-12N -- Southern Cal at Arizona

10:30 p.m.

FS1 -- UCLA at Arizona St.

11 p.m.

CBSN -- BYU at Santa Clara

ESPN -- Saint Mary's (Cal) at Pepperdine

PAC-12N -- Oregon St. at Stanford

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

5 p.m.

ESPN -- St. Francis (NY) at Fairleigh Dickinson

6 p.m.

ACCN -- Miami at NC State

6:30 p.m.

BTN -- Northwestern at Ohio St.

7 p.m.

SECN -- South Carolina at Vanderbilt

8 p.m.

ACCN -- Duke at North Carolina

8:30 p.m.

BTN -- Michigan at Rutgers

9 p.m.

SECN -- Arkansas at LSU

GOLF

12 p.m.

GOLF -- LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament Of Champions, First Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.

3 p.m.

GOLF -- PGA Tour: The American Express, First Round, PGA WEST Private Clubhouse, La Quinta, Calif.

7 p.m.

GOLF -- PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, First Round, Hualalai GC, Kaupulehu, Hawaii

2:30 a.m. (Friday)

GOLF -- DP World Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Second Round, Yas Links, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

NBA BASKETBALL

3 p.m.

NBTV -- Chicago vs. Detroit, Paris

7:30 p.m.

TNT -- Golden State at Boston

10 p.m.

TNT -- Brooklyn at Phoenix

NHL HOCKEY

9 p.m.

ESPN -- Tampa Bay at Edmonton

TENNIS

2 p.m.

ESPN2 -- ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)

9 p.m.

ESPN2 -- ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia

WINTER WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

10 a.m.

ESPN -- FISU World University Games: Speed Skating - 500m Women/Men Mixed Team Relay (Final), Lake Placid, N.Y.

2 p.m.

ESPN -- FISU World University Games: Curling Semifinals Women, Lake Placid, N.Y. ...

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OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament Starts 3-Day Stay At WesBanco Arena

Olympic-Style Opening Ceremonies Begin at 6 p.m., Wrestling at 6:30

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - The seeds have been announced and the brackets have been set. The eight mats and scorer's tables were put in place Wednesday afternoon inside WesBanco Arena. Now, all that is needed is wrestlers.

That will happen tonight at 6 when the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships begins its three-day stay inside the renovated downtown venue. With no late scratches, a total of 452 wrestlers are set to compete for 14 individual champions, as well as an overall team champion and four class (5A, 4A, 3A, 1A/2A) champions.

"I think this is another wide-open year, as far as the team race goes," said Tournament Director Dr. Dan

Doyle, who will be stepping aside after 15 years in that role. "Wheeling Park University, Parkersburg South and Barnesville all have solid teams. It's anybody's tournament to win."

However, two of the aforementioned teams - defending overall and Class 5A titlist Wheeling Park and Parkersburg South - each have standout sidelined due to sickness and injury. The Ohio County Patriots have lost sophomore Jack Lowe (132), who placed third last year and was a W.Va. state runner up, to mononucleosis, while the Wood County Patriots nationally ranked and defending champion Gage Wright (175) suffered a foot injury.

Please see OVAC, Page 10

Photo By Kim North
This is a portion of the cover for the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament that begins tonight at 6 inside WesBanco Arena. The tournament is being dedicated to its namesake who passed away over the summer.

Balanced Scoring Sparks Wheeling Central Victory

Starters Net 33 Points, Bench Adds 26 In Win Over Magnolia, 59-41

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - It's always nice when a basketball team gets balanced scoring. That's what Wheeling Central received Wednesday night, but it wasn't the balance with the starting five, it was the balance between that group and three players off the bench.

The state-ranked Maroon Knights (12-1) got 33 points from its starters while the bench added 26 in a 59-41 girls' basketball win over visiting Magnolia (7-8) on Coach Skip Prosser Court inside the Maroon Knight Athletic Complex in East Wheeling.

Role players Addie Payton, Hailey Severns and Hailey Downer - all promising freshmen - played key parts in the victory over the Region I foe. Payton drained four bonus goals on as many tries for 12 points, while Severns and Downer each had seven points. Severns also grabbed half-a-dozen rebounds. Payton and Downer had two each.

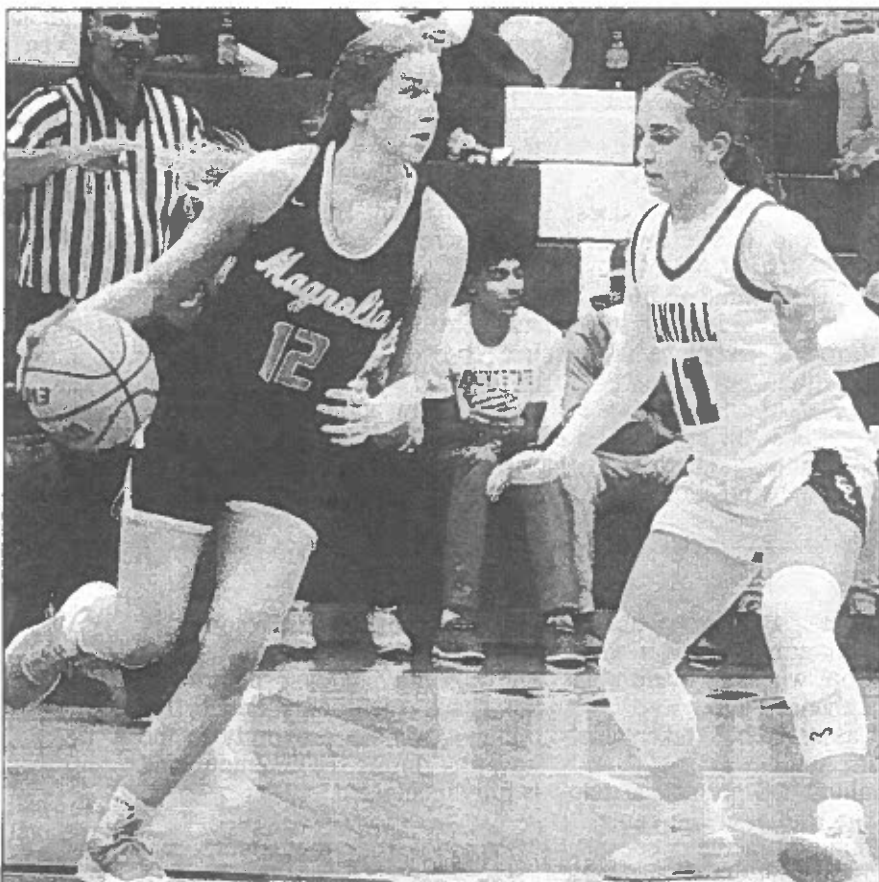
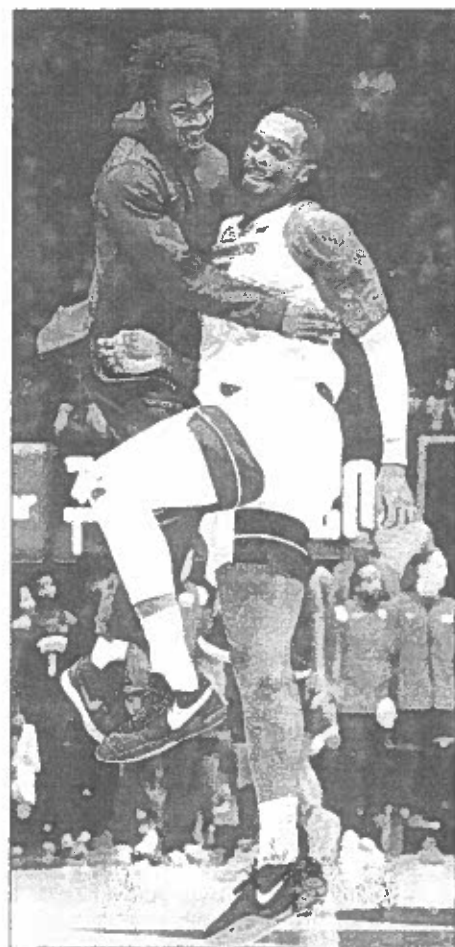


Photo By Kim North
Wheeling Central's Addie Payton (11) guards Magnolia's Lauren Gaiser Wednesday night on Coach Skip Prosser Court in East Wheeling.

Please see BALANCED, Page 10



AP Photo

West Virginia guard Josiah Davis, left, and forward Jimmy Bell Jr., right, celebrate after a score against TCU during the first half of a game Wednesday, in Morgantown.

WVU Records Initial Big 12 Win Over TCU

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN -- It was just like the old days, the Coliseum was rocking and rolling, the student section alive, taunting the opposition, which on this night was TCU which was mugged badly by West Virginia.

The five-game losing streak they were riding seemed to be history as just two ticks under 12 minutes remained when big Jimmy Bell brought yet another roar from the crowd with a thundering dunk to make it 54-37. That, for those who have left their abacus at home, is a 17-point lead.

But in college basketball in general and in the Big 12 in particular, no lead is safe, especially if you are on a five-game losing streak and playing a team that has never won on your home court in 10 tries.

You just knew something was going to happen and it did as the Horned Frogs put themselves together, made a run that cut the lead to two points with still 5:14 to go.

Please see WVU, Page 10

Nadal Knocked Out Of Australian Open

Loses In Straight Sets To American

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Rafael Nadal bowed his head during changeovers and rested his elbows on his knees, the very picture of resignation.

What already was a poor start to 2023, following a year marred by all manner of health issues, reached a low point at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed at Melbourne Park, Nadal injured his left hip and lost to Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the second round, abruptly ending his bid for a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam trophy.

"It's a tough moment. It's a tough day," said Nadal, a 36-year-old Spaniard. "I can't say that I am not destroyed mentally at this moment, because I would be lying."

He pulled up awkwardly at the end of a point late in the second set against the 65th-ranked McDonald.

Please see NADAL, Page 10



AP Photo

Rafael Nadal of Spain waves as he leaves Rod Laver Arena following his second round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S. at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday.

Next Man Up: Injuries Lead To

I was in the locker room, McDonald said about the aftermath of the match, "and I was like, 'Hey, that's actually really big for me, because I haven't beaten someone of that caliber.'"

This is Nadal's earliest exit at any Grand Slam tournament since bowing out in the first round in Melbourne in 2016 against No. 45 Fernando Verdasco. That also made Verdasco the lowest-ranked player to

BENGALS

(Continued from Page 9)

"We got to find a way to get it done," he said. "So that's the nice part of it. It's win or go home, so the kid gloves are off to some degree. Those guys got to come to play."

To better protect Burrow, the Bengals committed \$74 million to sign Collins, Cappa and center Ted Karras.

Karras and left guard Cordell Volson — a rookie from North Dakota State who won the job in training camp — have stayed healthy.

At least Cincinnati's offensive line won't have to contend with Von Miller, who was Buffalo's top pass-rusher before being sidelined with a season-end-

BELL

(Continued from Page 9)

and hit 5 of 8 field goals to go with 5 of 6 free throws -- you read that right -- for 15 points.

That's a double-double and it was his physical nature that turned the game into a street fight.

"Certainly they are the most physical team we have played this year," TCU Coach Jamie Dixon said.

"They won that battle, so congratulations to them."

The difference was found on the boards, where WVU grabbed off 31 rebounds, 14 of them offensive while holding TCU to 18 rebounds, only 4 offensive. That led to WVU winning the battle of second-chance points 14-3, enough to take the game.

As tough as Bell was physically, he has to do something about his pregame meal.

In the first half, after one of the

ing forward to that matchup," said Gauff, an 18-year-old American. "I'm glad we got the prime spot. I hope we delivered."

Seeded men who won included No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 7 Daniil Medvedev — the runner-up to Nadal last year and to Novak Djokovic in 2021 — No. 15 Jannik Sinner and No. 16 Frances Tiafoe.

ing knee injury in November.

Burrow doesn't seem worried. But the third-year quarterback never seems worried about much.

"All the guys that are playing have played a lot of football for us," Burrow said. "I think that's why guys are able to step in and make the plays they do, because everyone has trust in everybody in that locker room to put in the work to get their job done. And so whenever one guy goes down, you throw another guy in. Now the expectation is, there's not going to be a drop-off and there really hasn't been at all this year — for any position."

many scrums, Bell came up and wiped his mouth and headed to the locker room where he spent some time and changed his jersey.

It was assumed he'd taken an elbow to the mouth.

"I couldn't tell you what happened," he said after the game. "I was walking down the court and I had some salmon before the game and it came up a little bit."

WVU basketball coach Bob Huggins was in Charleston on Tuesday to receive an honor from Gov. Jim Justice for his induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Wednesday afternoon, the governor suffered Covid-19 symptoms, was tested and the test came back positive. While the symptoms were mild, Gov. Justice is isolating himself at home.

Huggins, however, decided to

coach the game against Wednesday night in the Coliseum against TCU.

According to a team spokesman, the coach spent only about five minutes in close proximity to the governor during the ceremony and is fully inoculated.

People across the country are surprised that Brock Purdy, Mr. Irrelevant from the NFL draft, has become a key factor in the NFL playoffs as San Francisco's quarterback.

No one at WVU is surprised. Purdy quarterbacked Iowa State to three victories over the Mountaineers in four years, scoring 30 or more points in all four games.

In the four games he completed 73 of 105 passes, 69.5%, for 915 yards and 8 TDs and only two interceptions while also rushing for 106 yards on 33 carries with two more TDs.

WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

Would this be another disappointment? Not this time, Huggins called a time out, the team regrouped and the Mountaineers hung on for a 74-65 victory.

What happens in the college game where leads just seem to melt away like a popsicle on a 90-degree summer day?

"If I knew the answer to that I could write a book and sell it to every coach in America," Coach Bob Huggins said. "I think they came out with an edge because we pretty much manhandled them in the first half. We didn't come out with the same kind of edge and got a little careless with the ball I don't know how many times."

"We talked in the huddle throughout about how we were going to get back in this game, chip away, and that's what we did," TCU coach Jamie Dixon said. "We got to two and didn't finish it off."

So how did WVU right the ship?

That came in the timeout that Huggins called when the lead slipped down to two points.

"Stay disciplined. That's what it was with that timeout there," guard Joe Toussaint said. "Basketball is a game of runs. We knew TCU was on their run. That's a tough team. They're not going to back down. We made our run after that."

Had they not this would have been the most crushing defeat of the season, one from which they probably couldn't recover.

But throughout Bell had given the Mountaineer a physical presence that TCU couldn't match, putting together a double-double that included 15 points and 12 rebounds.

And WVU had great success double-teaming ball screens and cutting TCU's wonderful tran-

sition game, the nation's best, down a walk. The box score said that they didn't have any transition points in the first and while they got cranked up in the second as they chipped away behind 85% shooting through the first 15 minutes, WVU re-found the touch down the stretch.

Bell was a big part of that, but so was point guard Keddy Johnson, who was immaculate in scoring a WVU game-high 20 points, one less than his cousin, Mike Miles Jr., who had 21 for TCU.

"We talked yesterday," Johnson reported, "but not today. After the game it was all love, though."

Key in shaking off the TCU challenge was Joe Toussaint, who came off the bench to light a late fire. While he made only 3 of 12 shots and finished with seven points, they all came at just the right moment to engage the Moun-

taineer clutch for the last five minutes.

And he added three important assists, which kept the goblins from eating the team up.

It's hard to find answers when a team is coming at you, scoring when your balls are rimming in and out of the basket, getting calls they didn't get earlier in the game. It can work on the psyche of an entire team., especially one already in a losing streak.

"They were good in the huddle," Huggins said of his players. "They were probably better than I was. Keddy has been great. He is, without question, our leader."

"He's the guy that really runs the show. Joe was good. I thought our bench was good. I think it was those guys, and the other guys get on board when they see those guys are still enthusiastic and talking about winning the game."

played really well as a team. These girls really like each other and they don't care who scores as long as we win.

"Severns hit the boards really hard tonight," the coach continued. "She has a nose for the ball and will go and get it."

"Even when we're tired, and I thought we looked tired tonight, we seem to find a way to win."

The victory was the 12th straight for Wheeling Central after a season-opening loss to Class AAAA Washington. The Maroon Knights checked in a solid No. 2 in the OVAC Class AA standings behind once-beaten River and fifth in the latest W.Va. Class AA poll released on Monday.

The Blue Eagles came in with a good defensive game plan, but a couple of lapses at the end of the second quarter and early in the third quarter allowed the hosts to pull away.

"You don't see many girls basketball teams that make 15 or 17 three-pointers a game, so our game plan was to try and control that, and for the most part we did," Magnolia head coach Kasey Sapp said. "But when

the half on a 5-0 run for a 29-18 advantage. Then, ahead 37-27 late in the third, Payton fueled a 9-0 spurt with a triple and Wilkinson followed with a conventional three and the lead was suddenly, 46-27.

Keiera Wilkinson led Wheeling Central with a game-high 17 points despite being saddled with early foul troubles.

"We have the inside game when we don't shoot well from the outside, and I'm not sure that we shot a lot of three's tonight," Olejasz noted. "Our game plan was to jam it in the post because we knew we had a mismatch in there."

"Then when they (Magnolia) sagged back in, we tried to feature our hidden-gem shooter in Addie," Olejasz noted. "She responded. We finally got her to take the open shots."

The Blue Eagles' Jenna Blain scored 11 points, all coming in the first half. She also pulled down a team-best nine rebounds.

Magnolia charted 26 turnovers to just 10 for Wheeling Central.

The Maroon Knights travel to Frontier on Saturday.

HARRISON

(Continued from Page 9)

"Losing Jack is a huge blow, but we think we have a kid in Jerome Maynard who will go out and give it everything he has," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "He has wrestled a lot for us this year, so he's capable of stepping in."

Wheeling Park has nine seeded wrestlers - behind only Parkersburg South and University who have 12 each - but is the only school to have three top seeds. They are Noah White (120), defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) and Jameson Maynard (165).

"When planning out our schedule and practices the OVAC Wrestling Tournament is something we always highlight to make sure we peak and are at our best," Leggett noted. "Our (wrestling) room has looked great the last couple of weeks and our guys have a lot of energy ready for WesBanco."

"Noah has grown into 120 from 106 where he had a very successful season last year. He is transitioning to the new weight class very well and I look for him to carry his momentum and have a very successful OVAC Tournament," Leggett said of his sophomore who was third a season ago."

Lucas, currently 28-4, came out of nowhere as the fifth seed last year, defeating three of the top four seeds on his way.

"In last year's tournament Bradyn came in under the radar and surprised a lot of people," Leggett said. "He didn't surprise anyone associated with our program and this year he has stepped into a leadership role on the team and is working to win his second OVAC title."

Maynard has been a pleasant surprise for the Patriots this season.

"Jameson's wrestling speaks for itself. He wrestles at an extreme pace that most wrestlers can't match," Leggett said of his 28-3 sophomore. "His attacks and top wrestling are impressive right now and I am excited to watch him compete."

In addition to Lucas, six other wrestlers will be seeking back-to-back titles. They are Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113, won at 106); Barnesville's Dakota King (132, won at 126); Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia (132, won at 120); Indian Creek's Dom Pattera (157, won at 150); and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215, won at 215).

Doyle announced during Monday night's pre-tournament press conference, that if King and Saccoccia advance to the finals, that match would be the featured - and final - bout of the tournament Saturday night and the championship finals would begin at 138 and cycle through. If not, then 106 would be the first bout of the finals.

In addition to Wheeling Park's trio of No. 1 seeds, others receiving top billing in their weight classes are Wellsville's Mason Simms (106); Davis (113); John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126); King (132); Barnesville's Skyler King (138); University's Luca Felix (150); Pattera (157); University's Luca Felix (175); Parkersburg South's Robert Shockey (190); Thomas (215) and River's Marshall Bier (285).

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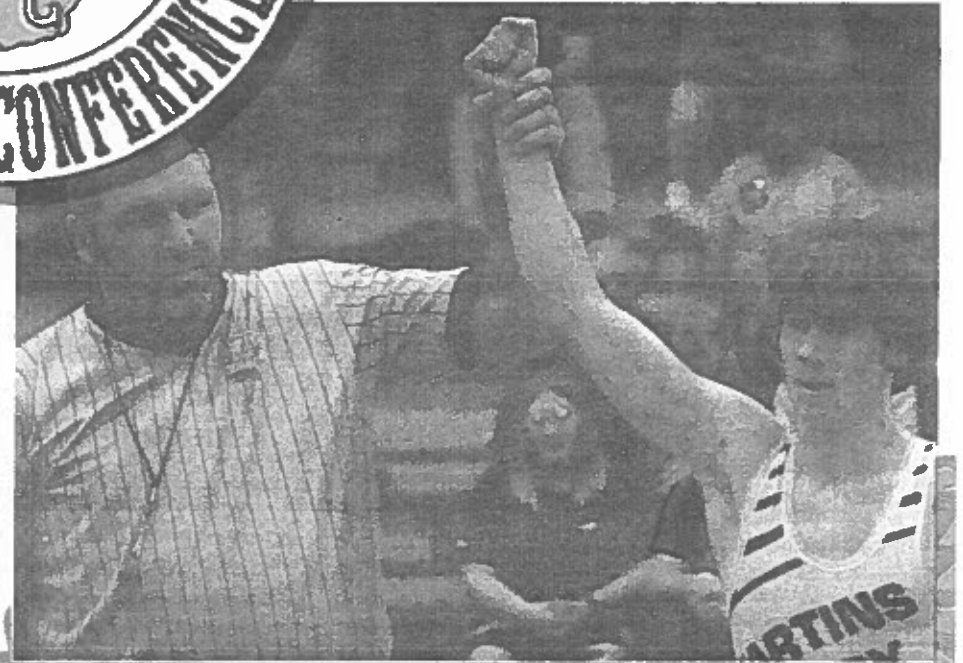
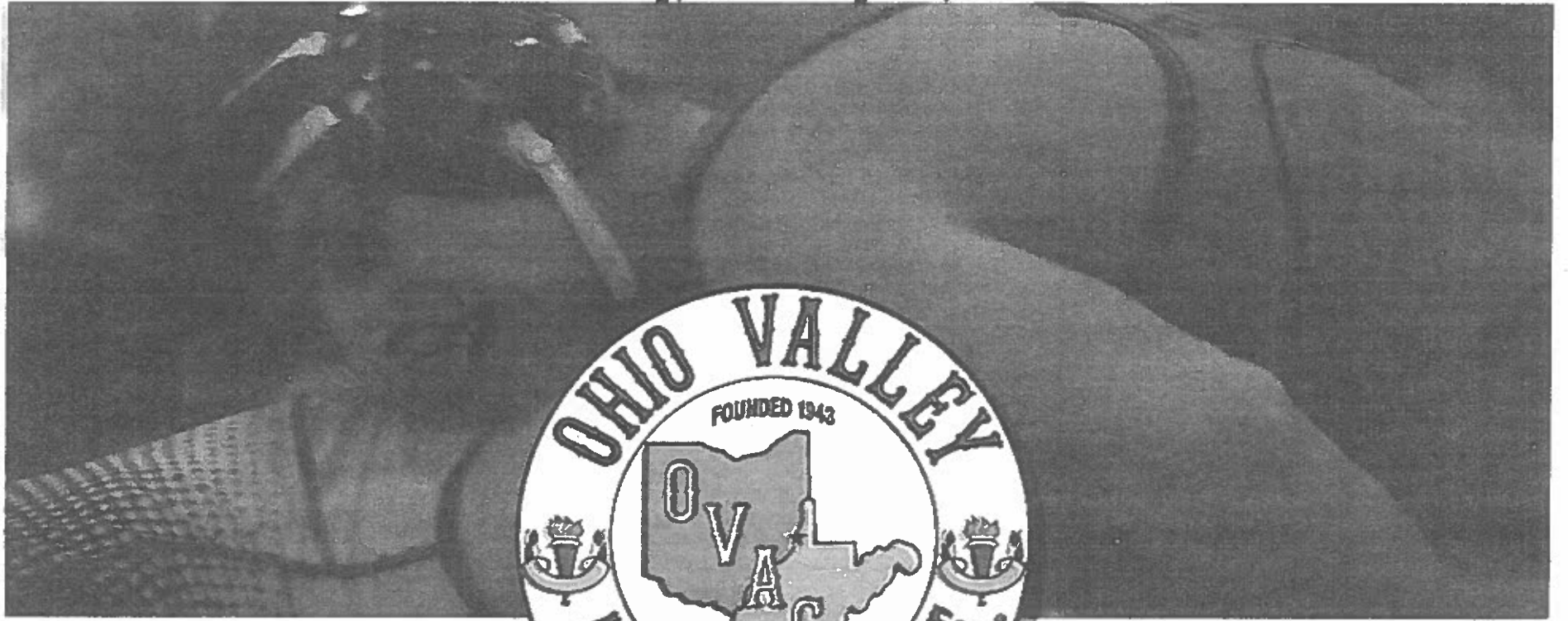
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Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament

A Supplement to The Times Leader
Wednesday, January 18, 2023



What's Inside?

On The Cover

Barnesville	2	PICTURED ARE three of
Beallsville	3	the area's top wrestlers.
Bellaire	3	Top is St. Clairsville's
Bridgeport	5	Zachary McKeever. Bot-
Buckeye Local	6	tom left is Bridgeport's
Harrison Central	13	Peyton Pyle and bottom
Linsly	9	right is Martins Ferry's
Martins Ferry	10	Dylan Ward, who is hav-
Monroe Central	9	ing his arm raised by Tom
River	13	Regis. The OVAC Tourna-
St. Clairsville	15	ment opens on Thursday
Shadyside	14	at WesBanco Arena in
Union Local	16	Wheeling.

Barnesville looks to contend for overall title with strength in middle weights

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

Barnesville is no stranger to OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships. The Shamrocks have a dozen team trophies in their showcase for proof, including the last three Class 3A team titles.

With a champion, runner up and third-place finisher last winter, the Green Machine rolled to the crown with 118.5 points, which was 21.5 better than Martins Ferry. And all three return as the 2023 tournament kicks off Thursday night inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

However, Barnesville competed last year without Reese Stephen after weight issues forced the top seeded sophomore at 132 to drop out. He is back this season which makes the Shamrocks even stronger in the middleweights.

"This is a great team. They are talented, but more importantly, they work hard and have very high goals," veteran head coach Jayson Stephen said. "They have accomplished a lot in the last two



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BARNESVILLE'S JOHNATHAN HUNTSMAN will be one to keep an eye on this weekend in the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament at WesBanco Arena.

seasons and are trying to make this season even better.

"The OVAC Tournament is a great tournament to be involved in and this team is always looking to not just win a (Class) 3A title, but

an overall title."

Leading the charge is junior Dakota King (132). The defending 126-pound titlist is currently 18-4 and ranked No. 1 in Ohio Division III by Borofan. He was third at 126 last year in the state and sixth at 113 the year before. He has more than 100 career wins.

"Dakota is a very hard and physical worker in the wrestling room," Coach Stephen said. "He is focused and wrestling better every week to be the best."

King recorded a technical fall over Steubenville's Cal Beadling in last year's 126-pound finals.

Classmate Skyler King (138) was a runner up last winter, dropping a 12-7 verdict to Wheeling Park's Bradyn Lucas at 138. He finished sixth in the state last year and currently ranked third in Division III with a 14-4 mark.

"Skyler is a hard worker and a great wrestler," Coach Stephen noted. "He gives everything he has and leaves it all on the mat. He is able to adjust to any situation."

Sophomore Ayden King (157) See, ROCKS, Page 3

Good Luck Barnesville Wrestlers!

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Beallsville will enter two at OVAC

• Rocks

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

BEALLSVILLE - Coach Ernie VanDyne's wrestling programs have struggled greatly with numbers over the last five years with just one dual meet victory to the Blue Devils' credit.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest reasons for that is the number of participants on the roster. And the 2022-23 cam-

paign is no different. Beallsville will enter the OVAC Tournament with just two active wrestlers, one of them just recently returning from a concussion. The Devils lost their best wrestler in early January due to grades. He had compiled a 12-3 record up to that point.

Leading the way will be 150-pound senior Kasen Kinsey, who is

back from concussion. The other wrestler is junior Conner Hagan at 190.

"Kasen is a good wrestler who hasn't had the opportunity to show just how good he is," VanDyne said. "He really has some tournament potential."

Even with the limited number of participants he has been saddled with VanDyne remains ex-

cited about the huge upcoming tournament.

"As a kid, if you can't get excited about wrestling in this tournament you aren't going to get excited about anything," VanDyne commented. "For 90% of these kids this is the biggest tournament they will ever wrestle in."

"This is just an exceptional event."

Continued from Page 2

is the third returner for the Shamrocks. He placed third at 145 last year, losing to University's nationally ranked Luca Felix in the semis before earning a 3-1 nod over Indian Creek's C.J. Spencer in the consolation finals. Spencer was a D-II state placer while King went 1-2 at the state tournament.

He is currently 19-5 and ranked fifth in Ohio.

Reese Stephen (150) is back and ready to go this season. He is 14-2 and ranked fourth in Ohio. He placed fifth at 106 as a freshman.

"Reese is a hard-working wrestler. He is very smooth and quick with his skills on the mat," his coach/father said. "He has an unbreakable mindset and will do whatever it takes to accomplish his goals."

Junior Johnathan Huntsman (106) won a couple tournament

matches last season and appeared headed for a state tournament berth until an ankle injury sidelined his bid in the district tournament.

He is currently 18-4 and ranked No. 11 in Ohio.

Senior Logan Tague (144) is another wrestler who has a chance to make the podium. He is currently 19-4. He is a two-time state qualifier and lost in the blood round at last year's OVAC Tournament.

Rounding out the roster are sophomore Conner Wilson (113, 9-8); freshman Jace Winland (120, 5-14); sophomore Aydan Andrews (126, 5-10); junior Karson Milhoan (165, 13-7); senior Robby Nixon (175, 15-7); sophomore Marshall Meade (190, 11-10); freshman Montgomery Evans (215, 5-9); and sophomore Blake Kirk (285, 6-14).

Vasey takes over Bellaire program

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Times Leader

BELLAIRE - Young, but trending upward.

The tradition-rich Bellaire High wrestling program is under new leadership.

Eric Vasey is the new head mat coach at his alma mater. Vasey replaces Mike Rose Jr. in that capacity.

Vasey takes over a program steeped in youth. The eight-grappler roster boasts all frosh and sophomores, save one junior.

The 1998 Bellaire High grad comes well-schooled for his latest coaching task. He served as Rose's top assistant the last two winters. Prior to that, Vasey guided the junior high as well as youth mat programs.

"We have a relatively young and inexperienced squad. We return only two wrestlers from last year," Vasey said. "We are way off from competing for any team titles this year. But this group works hard in the practice room and it is starting to show a bit on

the mat.

"They have continued to improve overall as a team in each tournament and experienced some individual success," he continued. "Any taste of success can lead to a bigger drive to succeed and I see quality in a number of our wrestlers."

Bellaire boasts a rising sophomore in the

113-pound class. Grant Vasey is a returning district qualifier. He has scripted a 10-3 mark thus far with some impressive tournament performances. The talented youngster was the champion in the Rick Link Union Local Invitational while taking fourth in the power-laden Whitesides St. Clairsville Invitational. See, **BELLAIRE**, Page 4

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•Bellaire —
 Continued from Page 3

Gabe Chaplin is a promising freshman, competing in the 120-pound class. Chaplin has won eight of 13 decisions, taking home third place at the Rick Link event and fourth in the St. Clairsville invite.

Another frosh is showing improvement in the 132-pound class. Alex Ney has carved out a 5-5 record this far.

Sophomore Roddee Bruce is the Big Reds' 144-pounder while freshman Graham Campbell is the regular at 150.

A pair of Big Reds have split duty at 157 pounds thus far. They are frosh Noah Pramik and Jake Steiner.

Rounding out the Bellaire lineup is junior Travis Swallie at 165.

"Realistically, I can see three or four wrestling on Saturday of the OVAC Tournament. Grant and Gabe are ready to take the next step," Vasey said. "Both have had some early season success, and if they wrestle to their ability, I look for them to do well."

"Alex and Graham are two guys who struggled a bit early but are now wrestling at the weights they need to be at," he added. "If the bracket falls the right way, I think they could have a chance to stand on the podium as well."

After the OVAC Tournament, Bellaire will compete in the Panther Classic at Buckeye Local and the Buckeye 8.

Vasey's quality varsity staff includes Derek Ault, Andy Case and former St. John Central state-placer Chris Case. Bailey Chaplin is coaching the Big Reds' junior high squad.

Bridgeport looks to compete well with six entrants

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

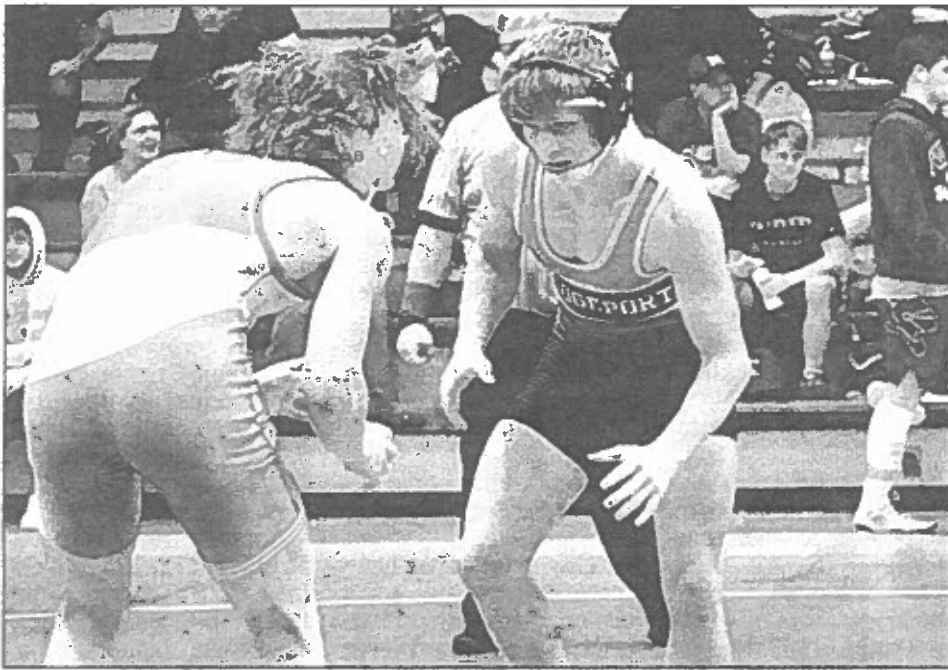
BRIDGEPORT - His team may be small in numbers, but Bridgeport wrestling coach Matt McFarland is hoping his Bulldogs can make some noise at the upcoming OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships.

The three-day event gets under way Thursday at 6:30 p.m. with Olympic-style opening ceremonies and the parade of wrestlers onto the eight mats inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

The championship finals are set for Saturday afternoon.

Bridgeport will have half-a-dozen individuals entered, with a pair looking to return to the podium for a second consecutive year.

Seniors Peyton Pyle



T-L File PHOTO/SETH STASKEY

BRIDGEPORT'S PEYTON Pyle has been one of the keys to the Bulldogs success this season. He placed seventh last season in the OVAC Tournament.

(157) and Mason Aberts (138) placed at last year's tournament. Pyle was seventh at 145 and Aberts eighth at 132.

Pyle will compete at 145 this season, with Aberts at the same weight.

McFarland is happy with the way both have

performed so far this season.

"Peyton is looking to make his way back onto

the podium. He started off the season pretty strong, hit a few bumps in the road over the break, but with a clear mind he is one that I can count on to make a statement at this year's tournament," McFarland said.

Pyle is currently 15-7.

"Mason seems to be picking it up at the right time of the year to make another run for the podium," McFarland noted.

"Coming off a strong tournament finish at West Muskingum is what he needed going into the tournament."

See, DOGS, Page 6

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OVAC Schedule

THURSDAY, 6 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, noon

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

FRIDAY, 6 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, 11 a.m.

Championship semifinals and fifth- and semifinal rounds of consolations.

SATURDAY, 3:30 p.m.

Introduction and special awards ceremony

SATURDAY, 4 p.m.

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

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Nestor has Buckeye Local on the rise

By MIKE HUGHES
For the Times Leader

CONNORVILLE - Head coach Guy Nestor's Buckeye Local Panthers are up-and-coming, but the youth movement throughout the team's roster means that setbacks also come with the successes.

But the team may be again repeating its path from a season ago when it started wrestling it's best as the calendar reached the OVAC Tournament and beyond.

"We have six district qualifiers back from last season and (last year) things really started to take an upward trend at the OVAC and go from

there and we're hoping to repeat that," Nestor said.

Last weekend, the Panthers finished sixth at the Tornado Classic at West Muskingum, finishing with two runner-ups and a top-placer at 113 in Aiden Dentz.

Prior to that, the Panthers finished third as a team at the Logan Wrestling Invite back in early December, competing against a solid lineup of teams.

"I wouldn't say we've been up and down, but we've competed well in waves," Nestor admitted. "There's times we looked good, like when we beat Harrison, and went down to Logan and

finished third as a team.

"We were first heading into the finals and kind of fell apart a bit."

"The Park Duals were a bit of an eye opener."

Facing a number of much larger schools, Buckeye fell in dual action to teams like Wheeling Park, University, and Hurricane while beating Preston, and Buckhanon Upshur.

"University, by far to me, is the most technically sound team and they will do some work on people in this tournament," Nestor said. "They looked really good."

"Truthfully, we are still in transition, but these next two years,

we're on the climb up."

The Panthers' roster is some 15 wrestlers strong.

But of that total, there's only one senior - Logan Dentz - along with three juniors. The remainder is comprised of sophomores and freshmen that, while talented, still need some seasoning and forging in the fires of major tournaments like the OVAC.

That being said, Nestor still has some expectations for his youthful squad.

"Our goal is to have some placers, and get a taste of wrestling on Saturday," Nestor said. "We have a few guys I expect to place, or to get close

to it. They've all wrestled well this year."

"We want to get a win on Thursday, Friday, and Friday night, and then head into Saturday and figure out how high we can finish."

Buckeye isn't entering a wrestler at 106, but Aiden Dentz (15-7) will compete at 113. Freshman Tristan Palmer, younger brother of graduated state champion Bub Palmer, takes his 16-8 record to the 120 class.

Sophomore Seth Driscoll (11-12) slides in at 126, while Logan Dentz, the team's elder statesman, enters the 132 class with his 16-9 record.

Landon Durbin (4-9) will compete at 138, and Nestor is still trying to determine if Gavin Edgell (6-14) or Dallas Sproull (11-13) will rep the Panthers at 145.

Denver Nelson (14-10) comes in at 152, while Chase McFadden (15-8) got down to 160 to compete at a lower weight class.

Rounding out the final three wrestlers at Merrick Hickman at 195, either Ayden Luyster or Bryce Horvath at 215, and heavyweight Brendon Stillion (14-8), who Nestor believes could have a solid run once he starts putting it all together.

• Dogs

Continued from Page 5

hopeful that sophomore Kaleb McCamick

(150) can work his way onto the podium.

"Kaleb is a whole new wrestler than who he was

last year. "He is constant-

ly working hard in the room trying to improve," McFarland stressed.

"I have no complaints about him going into this tournament. He is doing all he can to prepare himself."

Also competing are freshman Owenn Clark (126), sophomore Logan Baker (215) and freshman Will Hunt (285).

"Owenn is always looking for ways to improve."

He worked his way down to 126 after testing out 132 earlier this season, and we are immediately finding more success there," McFarland said.

"As he gains more confidence, he will have more success."


"Logan is also another whom things are starting to click for. He is gaining more confidence in the

moves that he is looking for and he is hitting them more often instead of waiting around," McFarland acknowledged. "He placed at our most recent tournament, beating a wrestler that got the best of us twice last year."


"Will is a kid that always can put a smile on your face. He is a hard worker, and is going to give his best against anyone that he comes across."

Bridgeport has 10 OVAC Tournament titles, the most recent coming in 2019 in the Class A/AA Division. The Bulldogs also won the Class 3A title in 1987 and 1988, and were the overall champs from 1954-60 when it was a one-class tournament.

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Harrison's Lucas Thomas looking to defend title

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

CADIZ - Harrison Central went into the holiday break with some solid performances, but others that head coach Bill Bryant believes could have gone better.

The Huskies lineup has talent, make no mistake there. It features two OVAC placewinners from 2022 in the Thomas brothers - Lucas and Landon.

It was Lucas, then a sophomore, who defeated Wheeling Park's top-seeded Erick Brothers Jr. for the 215-pound championship, via pinfall, 5:22 into the match.

Brothers returned the favor a week later at the Panther Classic, but that earlier victory was the catalyst that sprung Thomas to placing at the Ohio state meet.

Younger brother Landon won his first two matches as a sophomore in the heavyweight division before falling to River's Marshall Bier via pinfall. He worked his way through the bracket before falling to Bier again, this time by pin in the third-fourth place match.

A third Huskies wrestler was seeded and expected to perform well, but a medical issue prevented Hunter Bittinger from competing. Now a junior, Bittinger is amped up for a chance at competing in the 157-pound field. He's 17-1 on the season, and recently won his weight class at the West Jefferson Invitational, defeating McClain's Joshua Breakfield with a 15-1 tech fall in the finals.

"He's always been



LUCAS THOMAS

hungry," Bryant said. "Both he and the Thomas brothers have put in a lot of time to better themselves, not only in wrestling, but also in life."

"They are always there helping out others and putting in the work in the weight room, after practice, coming in on (Sunday)."

Bittinger's lone loss of the season came against Stow's Blake Kaminski in the finals of the Wayne

Invitational Tournament (W.I.T.). The brothers Thomas also sport near identical, one-blemish records - 17-1 and 18-1, respectively, with both losses coming in the finals of W.I.T.

While those three figure to be featured prominently on the podium come Saturday, they aren't the only wrestlers capable of placing for the Huskies.

"We have several others that have the potential to go down, compete and make the podium," Bryant said. "(Class) 4A is a meat grinder. That's the simplest way to say it. But my goal, as a coach, is to be in the Top 10 overall when Saturday is over."

"There's no guarantee we'll make it there, but we have enough potential to be in the Top 10 and maybe go from there. It all comes down to the draws."

Three others certainly have a great shot at making some noise throughout the tournament. Included in that count is another brother tandem, along with a surprising freshman who, while somewhat unorthodox in his technique, has been finding numerous ways to get the job down and stay in the positive in the record column.

Servacio Lopez, one of only two seniors on the team, is 11-3 and will compete at 144. His younger brother Leland is 8-3. The sophomore, late to the game after finally opting to join the team while mulling over focusing on baseball, has done well at 8-3.

Bryant noted the younger Lopez has a lot of potential and ability, and was glad he decided to join the team. The elder Lopez has fought through injury bugs throughout his career,

but is currently healthy and the Huskies' mentor believes he can certainly earn a place in Saturday's key matches.

The surprise comes in the form of 18-4 freshman Andrew Cox, who's already making a name for himself at 132 pounds. Cox finished

fifth at both the W.I.T. and West Jefferson tournaments. Might his first OVAC be his official coming out party?


"He's been a pleasant surprise," Bryant said.

Another who could fight his way to a spot on the podium is the team's

See, HARRISON, Page 6


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2022 OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament Results

• Harrison

Continued from Page 7
other senior in Michael Smith. Smith's record may seem pedestrian at 11-7, but he finished fifth at West Jefferson and his path seems to be mirroring his junior season.

Smith finished 19-17 as a junior but saved his best wrestling for season's end, finishing one match from placing at the district tournament, two from qualifying for state.

"We started to see glimpses of it again at West Jefferson and we're hoping he's starting to peak again," Bryant said.

Three freshman and two juniors round out the Huskies' probable lineup for the tourney. Zane Carson (4-12, 106), Kenny Keffer (6-5, 113) and Matthew Hilbert (3-10, 120) are all competing in their first tournaments.

The two remaining 11th graders include Jaydis Yoho at 126 (1-3) and Bryce Wallace (2-12) at 150.



- Order of Results: 7th, 5th, 3rd, championship order**
- Weight: 106**
5 Mason Simms (WELL) def 8 Justin Sampson (HC), Fall 1:31
7 Zander Ward (JM) def Jase Mahoney (MF), Fall 2:15
3 Noah White (WP) def 4 Tristen Rossiter (SHEN), Dec 4-2
1 Logan Davis (OG) def 2 Slaton Pettit (CAM), Dec 4-0
- Weight: 113**
Hayley Snyder (WL) def 9 Ethan Stimpert (STEUB), Dec 8-7
3 Dylan Ward (MF) def 7 Brodi Bowersock (BVL), M-Dec 12-1
1 Adam Carman (WP) def 6 Hayden Lamb (OG) Dec
4 Gannon Kazmirski (STC) def 2 Ethan Cook (JM), Dec 1-0
- Weight: 120**
12 Xzander Eltringham (BRK) def Damon Stansbury (EL), Dec 5-3
- 5 Garret Spohn (MORG) def Carter Lucas (WP), Fall 2:23
4 Carter Pauley (UNIV) def 7 Tyler Sipes (IC), Fall 2:12
3 Brody Saccoccia (STEUB) def 2 Brent Bosley (PS), Dec 7-3
- Weight: 126**
10 Carter Adkins (JM) def Aiden Spahlinger (SL) Fori
4 Ashton Hoge (CAM) def 5 Zach McKeever (STC), Fall 2:02
3 Jack Lowe (WP) def 12 Nathan Perez (DOV), M-Dec 10-0
1 Dakota King (BARN) def 2 Cal Beadling (STEUB), T-Fall 19-4
- Weight: 132**
3 Drake Kanyuch (SHEN) def 8 Mason Aberts (BPT), Dec 3-1
4 Carl Cochran (JM) def 7 Pedro Garcia (DOV), Dec 4-3
5 Jaymin Salsberry (BVL) def 2 Griffen Stephen (BARN), Dec 10-5
- 1 Nate Shelek (WP) def 6 Ryan Martin (PS), Dec 13-9
- Weight: 138**
9 Cole Antill (STEUB) def 10 Ryan Ward (JM), Dec 2-0
5 Egidio DiFazio (DOV) def 1 Mark Emmerling Jr. (BVL), Dec 5-1
- 2 Trent Jones (PS) def 6 Mason Pauley (UNIV), Dec 1-0

- 5 Bradyn Lucas (WP) def 3 Skyler King (BARN), Dec 12-7
- Weight: 145**
6 Peyton Pyle (BPT) def Kyle Wheeler (PS), Dec 7-1
2 Cody Taggart (WP) def 7 Nathaniel Gibson (UL), Dec 6-2
4 Ayden King (BARN) def 3 C.J. Spencer (IC), Dec 3-1
1 Luca Felix (UNIV) def Dorian Jackson (BVL), Dec 10-3
- Weight: 152**
6 Braxton Dlugopolski (OG) def 11 Mason Orndorff (JM), Dec 9-4
- 8 Savier Faulks (STEUB) def 7 Chance Wooley (SL), Dec 5-4
5 Jude Childers (PS) def 3 Quinton Velas (WP), Dec 9-5
2 Dominic Patera (IC) def 1 Caden Stout (STC), Dec 3-2
- Weight: 160**
6 Camden O'Connor (OG) def 8 Mason McCort (STC), Dec 7-4
5 Reese Spencer (IC) def 7 Brodie Tait (WL), Dec 6-0
4 Robert Shockey (PS) def 2 Gabe Carman (WP), Dec 9-7
1 Logan Ours (BVL) def 3 Dakota Hagedorn (UNIV), Fall 2:53
- Weight: 170**

- 5 Marshal Sayre (CALD) def 6 Johnny Bailey (EL), Fall 0:34
7 Ben McCardle (JM) def 9 Jameson Maynard (WP), M-Dec 10-2
- 2 Brandon Kiser (DOV) def 4 Adam Angel (CAM), Dec 8-6 OT
1 Gage Wright (PS) def 3 Elijah Wellings-Osha (UNIV), Fall 5:34
- Weight: 182**
6 Hezekiah Taylor (UNIV) def 8 Ethan Llewlyn (IC), Dec 6-4
3 Aydan Edwards (PS) def 10 Gabe Morgan (BVL), Dec 8-7
4 Hunter Nixon (WP) def 5 Klypsan Wallace (JM), Dec 1-0
1 Ian Bush (CAM) def 2 Caden Kenworthy (CAMB), Fall 3:03
- Weight: 195**
9 Brody Cottrill (WP) def 6 Jacob Walker (STC), Dec 6-3
5 Tyler Wise (BRK) def 7 Wes Molish (OG), M-Dec 12-2
4 Preston Harman (MORG) def 2 Brandon Kinney (STEUB), Dec 3-2
- 1 Austin Starr (IC) def 3 Brock Kehler (UNIV), Dec 7-0
- Weight: 220**
9 Gavin Dondzila (IC) def 10 Jamison Stiles (ED), Dec 10-5
5 Colin McBee (UNIV) def 11 Brycen Arthur (PS), Dec 7-2
2 Zakary Dobson (MF) def 4 Nate King (STEUB), Dec 11-6
3 Lucas Thomas (HC) def 1 Erick Brothers (WP), Fall 5:22
- Weight: 285**
7 Josh Fancher (TOR) def 4 Dylan Haseleu (MORG), Fall 1:37
6 Tyler Stanley (WELL) def 10 Zane McCoy (BVL), Dec 4-3
1 Marshall Bier (RIV) def 9 Landen Thomas (HC), Fall 4:44
2 Peyton Tuttle (STEUB) def 5 Corbin Turney (UNIV), Fall 3:58

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FROM THE

JOHN MARSHALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Linsly gearing up for its biggest tournament

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - Head Coach Brian Valentine and his Linsly youthful wrestling team are ready to make some noise in the OVAC Class 3A field this weekend.

Linsly has rolled to a 13-0 dual meet record to start the campaign, with just two seniors in the regular rotation.

"This is a relatively young team, and I am

very happy at how well the season has gone so far," Valentine said.

The Cadets boast six wrestlers with at least 20 wins on the season already and along with the sparking dual meet record Valentine also mentions he has had numerous wrestlers fare well in tournament competition.

Leading the parade of 20-plus win grapplers is 150-pound juniors Nathaniel Berhalter, who

comes in at 24-4. Classmate Landon Taylor (215) is currently sitting at 21-6 with sophomore Griffen Kernik (138) at 20-7. Freshman Lucca Troullos (126) has been impressive as well, piling up a 20-7 mark.

Valentine's final two 20-win performers are the Palian brothers. Junior Fisher Palian comes in at 20-7 at 157 while freshman heavyweight Anderson Palian is spar-

king 25-2 on the campaign.

The remainder of the weight classes will be filled by senior Caitlin Lewis, who is 12-11 at 113; senior Wyatt Haynes (190, 6-4); juniors Mikey Troullos (144, 14-11), Roi Gerson (165, 6-3) and Neri Weiner (175, 10-3).

Along with the six 20-win wrestlers, everyone scheduled to wrestle at the OVAC Tournament

has a current record above .500.

"I like to think we have a few kids with the ability to make some noise at the tournament," Valentine commented. These kids have worked very hard in dual meets and tournaments all season."

For Linsly, as a whole, winning OVAC championships may be a little more special than most with the Cadets not

able to participate for state championships due to not being a member of the WVSSAC.

"This is one of the biggest tournaments in the country," Valentine added. "The kids really look forward to this and winning a title would mean so much. To me the most special part of this tournament is that it is everyone against everyone no matter the size of the school."

Monroe continues to 'plug away' as it gains experience

By MIKE HUGHES
For the Times Leader

WOODSFIELD - It's year two of Monroe Central's full program rebuild following a brief hiatus following the 2018 season.

A season that began with optimism was tempered in the fires of the rigors of the regular season. What started with double digits in kids ended far less as only two Seminoles held on to reach the start of the OVAC tournament.

Two wrestlers, four matches, four losses. The tournament began and ended for Monroe without any points earned, but something important was accomplished that day. The program's long road back had taken its first step.

That next step begins at the 2023 OVAC Tournament, and this time, second-year head coach Ryan Richter has a few more wrestlers.

"We have five this year," Richter said.

"We're still in the rebuilding process after not having a team for a few years. We lost our foundation, our biddy league when it went under and we didn't have it for a handful of years.

"We have kids without a lot of experience, but we've kept plugging

along and we've seen a lot of improvement. Hopefully it carries over to the OVAC."

Five young wrestlers - two sophomores and three freshmen - will take to the mats at WesBanco Arena for the Seminoles.

Only one, sophomore

Drew Miller who is competing in the 132-weight class, has any OVAC tourney experience.


Richter is seeing signs of progress though.

"Our first tournament of the year was kind of

an eye opener for our freshmen," Richter said. "We really showed a

See, MONROE, Page 12

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River High School

Martins Ferry seeks continued success at OVAC

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY - The 2022-23 wrestling season has been very good so far for Martins Ferry, and head coach Chad Ware hopes

that trend continues this weekend during the 68th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships.

After finishing as runner up in the season-opening Rick Link Invitational at Union Local, the Purple Riders

won the Waterloo D-III Classic, the Whitesides Invitational at St. Clairsville and the last Man Standing Tournament at Shadyside. Ware is hopeful his veteran squad can keep up the good work, starting

Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and running through Saturday's championship finals.

"Our team is full of upperclassmen with experience. We have seven seniors and three juniors in the starting lineup,

and we have two returning OVAC placers and numerous others who have come up just short of placing in previous years," Ware said.

"Each tournament that we have competed in this season has been a com-

plete team effort with everyone contributing. That is going to be what it takes for us to have a chance in our division (AAA) - a complete team effort."


Martins Ferry is led by
See, FERRY, Page 11

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Ferry

Continued from Page 10

Senior Dylan Ward (120) who is a spotless 19-0.

He placed fifth in last year's OVAC Tournament at 113.

He is a two-time Ohio state qualifier and has won the Union Local, Waterloo, St. Clairsville, and Shadyside tournaments this year.

"Dylan is one of the leaders of the team. He is on a mission this year and his performances show that," Ware stressed. "If Dylan wrestles to his ability, and with confidence, I look for him to challenge for an OVAC title."

Ward is currently ranked second by OVAeC and eighth in Ohio by Borofan. He went 1-2 at last year's state meet.

The other returning placewinner is sophomore Jase Mahoney (113). He is 15-7 and placed sixth last year.

"Jase steps on the mat each time thinking that he can win, and looks to dominate his opponents," Ware noted. "We look for him to improve upon his placement from last year."

Mahoney is currently ranked seventh by OVAeC and 24th in Ohio.

Ware is expecting big things from his senior class, which includes Dominick Tedeschi (126), Jonathan Rossano (132), Trey Regis (144), Johnny McFarland (165), George Hulsey (175) and Alexander Finsley (190).

Tedeschi is currently 11-6.

"Dominick missed most of last season due



DYLAN WARD

to injury. He came back at the end of the season and was a district qualifier," Ware said. "Dom is very coachable and gets better each day."

Rossano has a 15-8 record thus far.

"Jonathan has improved each year of his wrestling career. He is a key contributor to our team's success," Ware added. "He will help our team contend in our division."

Regis is also 15-8. He is ranked 16th by OVAeC.

"Trey lost in the blood round of last year's OVAC Tournament and that is motivation for him

to get past that point this year," Ware continued. "Trey could surprise people this year."

McFarland has fashioned a superb 21-4 mark this season. He is ranked ninth by OVAeC and 23rd in the Buckeye State.

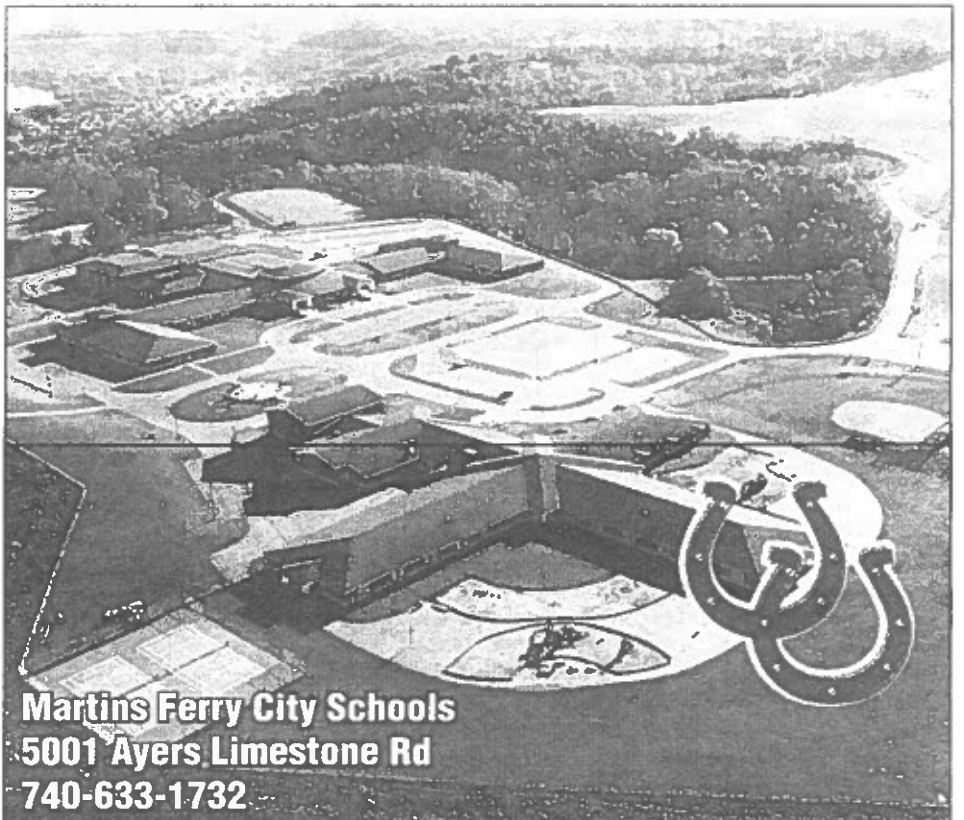
"Johnny is a co-captain of our team. He has been wrestling for a long time and has a lot of experience. He lost in the blood round of last year's tournament, which left a bad taste in his mouth," Ware added. "If he wrestles like we know he can, he should be on the podium this year."

Hulsey has put together a fine 17-4 record thus far.

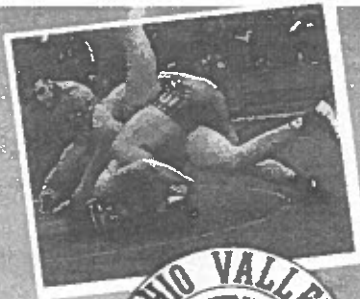
He is ranked fourth by OVAeC and 24th in Ohio.

"George is another co-captain of our team and one of the hardest workers that we have ever had. He also lost in the blood round of last year's tournament, which motivates him every day," Ware said.

"He has the ability to See, FERRY, Page 12



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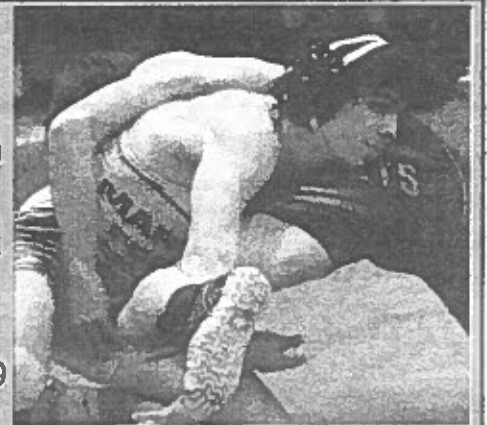
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 1981 -- Bob Hedmon, Steubenville Athletic Director
 1982 -- Paul Crago, Marshall County Schools
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 1984 -- Bill Hingardner, John Marshall
 1985 -- Dennis Bowman, Bellaire
 1986 -- Ronald Mauck, Brooke
 1987 -- Eric Carder, Wheeling Park Athletic Director
 1988 -- Dave Kovalick, Barnesville
 1989 -- Steve Kish Principal of Bellaire High
 1990 -- Carl Fodor, Hancock County Schools
 1991 -- Dr. William Welker, Warwood Middle
 1992 -- Larry Deaton, Martins Ferry
 1993 -- John Stephenson, Cadiz High
 1994 -- Joe Bates, Woodsfield High
 1995 -- Bob Bruney, Martins Ferry
 1996 -- Larry Chambers, Moundsville

Jr. High
 1997 -- Gary Davis, Beallsville High
 1998 -- Cal Pokas, Sports Editor of The Times Leader
 1999 -- Tom Lackman, Jefferson Union
 2000 -- Ed "Buzzy" Evans
 2001 -- William McEldowney, Wheeling
 2002 -- John Craig, Indian Creek
 2003 -- Ed Dugas, John Marshall High
 2004 -- Jeff Oberdick, Martins Ferry
 2005 -- Dan Doyle, Superintendent of Noble County Schools
 2006 -- Nolan Van Gilder, Brooke
 2007 -- Rick Link, Union Local
 2008 -- Jim Potts, Cameron
 2009 -- Paul Billiard, Brooke
 2010 -- Jeff Carroll, Cambridge
 2011 -- Rich Gregor, Springfield High
 2012 -- Art Hehr, Bridgeport
 2013 -- Dave LaMotte, Bridgeport
 2014 -- Darrell Davis, Barnesville
 2015 -- Gene Monteleone, Wheeling Park
 2016 -- Jim Crosier, Union Local
 2017 -- Chick LaMotte, St. John Central
 2018 -- Larry Shaw, Oak Glen
 2019 -- John Grinch, Shadyside
 2020 -- Ken Robinson, Woodsfield
 2021 -- Pete Cuffaro, Wheeling
 2022 -- Jeff Crosier, Barnesville

Ferry

Continued from Page 11

win against anyone he wrestles. If he wrestles with confidence, he will stand on the podium this year."

Finsley is a solid 18-3 on the year.

He is ranked fifth by OVAeC and 27th in the state.

"Alex is also a co-captain. He has been our most improved wrestler over the course of his career. Alex also lost in the blood round of last year's tournament, so he knows what it takes to get past that point," Ware said. "If he wrestles his match each time he steps on the mat, he should place high in this year's tournament."

The remainder of the roster consists of juniors Kaden Archer (138), Shayden Fogle (150), and Andrew Leiffer (157), along with sophomore Braxten Norton (285) and freshmen David Proctor (106) and Tayson Palmer (215).

Archer is an even 10-10.

"Kaden is an explosive wrestler who has all of the physical tools to compete," Ware noted. "If he wrestles with confidence, he has a very high ceiling."

Fogle checks in at a respectable



14-8.

"After having a year layoff, Shayden is having a good start to the season with some good wins under his belt," Ware said. "He has the ability to place in this year's tournament."

Leiffer has also held his own with a 14-7 mark.

"Andrew is back after missing the last two seasons. He is getting better each week as he gets more and more mat time. We are excited to see what he can do as he gains

experience," Ware said.

Norton is just 2-21.

"Braxten is brand new to the sport and learning everyday," Ware noted.

Proctor is 12-10 so far in her first varsity season.

"He recently won the Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament and he is improving every day," Ware said.

Palmer is just below .500 at 10-11.

"Tayson is a freshman and brand new to the sport. He is very coachable and does everything that he is told to the best of his ability," Ware said.

"He has good things to come in the future."

Martins Ferry has won 20 all-time OVAC titles - the last coming in 2017. The Purple has been overall champs thrice (1993, 1998 and 1999).

Monroe

Continued from Page 9

lot of improvement and had two guys place at the Shadyside Last Man Standing tournament."

Those two were Miller, who came in fourth at 132, along with freshman Aiden Aishman, who was the runner-up in the 106 class.

They will be joined by sophomore Trystyn Crisp at 138, plus ninth-graders Shane Moore (215) and Parker Sefert (285) at the OVAC.

Richter is looking to take the OVAC tourney one day at a time, make some steps in a positive direction and keep the program improving.

"We want to continue

to keep showing that improvement, one match at a time, and see where we end up," the coach said.

The bid league has returned for Monroe Central and the junior high program is set to make a comeback. Another positive sign occurred recently, when a couple of potential wrestlers informed the coach that they regret not coming out for the team this season, and are certain to be there Day 1 come late fall 2023's start.

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Good Luck to the 2023 Wrestling Team!

From The Monroe Central Athletic Dept.

River's strength lies in the heavier weights

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

HANNIBAL - River head coach Chuck Baker has an unusual problem this season in which his team can only fill seven weight classes at tournament and duals.

The unusual part is that the Pilots can only use one wrestler per weight class on any given night and Baker has a whopping four heavyweights all with the ability to win big matches.

Leading the way is senior big man Marshall



MARSHALL BIER

Bier, who has a 14-0 record on season and finished third in the OVAC

Tournament a season ago. He recently picked up his 100th career victory.

Unfortunately, Bier tore his ACL midway through picking up a pinfall victory in the third-fourth place match. During the healing process he fell and tore his patella tendon.

Since returning this season Bier has been nothing short of amazing with all 14 of his wins coming by pin in 40 seconds or shorter.

Senior Noah Lively is the first backup and

with Bier taking the day off won the Shadyside Tournament a few weeks ago. Actually, Baker entered all three of his remaining heavyweights at Shadyside with the trio taking first, second and fifth place.

The other two heavyweights are senior Travis Childress, who is a four-year veteran with 16 wins this year, and junior Hunter Nething, who is in his second year and took over after Bier got hurt last year and finished the season with 30 wins.

Senior Brayden Strawn is 15-4 at 215 and Baker believes he is another contender to place at the OVAC meet. Sophomore Hunter Lyman is at 175 and has been coming on strong, placing in the last two tournaments he has completed in.

Also participating will be freshman Hunter Strawn (150), freshman Tyler Winkler (144), freshman Genner Bennett (138) and senior Tori Headley, who will compete at 175 if there are girls.

"The three freshmen were all good junior high wrestlers, but have quickly found out that high school is a little harder," Baker said. "I am expecting big things from our seniors and I am looking to place at least two, hopefully first. I believe we have the chance to make some noise in Class 2A.

"Hopefully we have good weather for the tournament, are able to compete and stay healthy.

69th OVAC Wrestling Tournament ready to roll

The 69th Annual OVAC Wrestling Tournament will begin at 6 p.m.

Starting on Thursday and running through Saturday's finals, approximately 850 bouts will be run off before the last buzzer sounds. The action will be heated on the eight mats.

The tournament will bring to WesBanco Arena some 500 wrestlers from 42 high schools. Only 14 of these will be crowned as champions at Saturday afternoon's final session. Thursday night's opening ceremony is at 6:00 P.M. followed by wrestling at 8:30 P.M. Friday's first session begins at noon, and highlight second round matches. Quarterfinals and consolation matches are on tap for Friday night starting at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, semifinals and consolations get under way at 11:00 a.m. with the final ceremonies

begin at 3:30 p.m.

All pre-final festivities will begin at 3:30 P.M. on Saturday.

The championship matches along with bouts to determine third, fifth, and seventh places will begin at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday. For the championship finals, four mats will be in use, but eight mats will be utilized at the various earlier sessions to keep the tournament moving at a rapid pace.

Included in the activities at 3:30 P.M. we will take time to honor past Conference champions observing their 25th anniversary. This year the 1998 champions and the coach of the 1998 team overall champions will be recognized before Saturday's finals and will be seated in a special area on the main floor.

Special presentations include: the Mr. Mat Award, annually given to an individual who has made valuable contribu-

tions to the sport in the Ohio Valley and the Director's Award and will be presented Saturday before the championship finals; varsity, varsity assistant and junior high

coaches of the year and the "Larry Deaton Officials of the Year awards will be presented Thursday afternoon, the "Syd Stolz Tournament Worker and the program cov-

er recognition awards will be presented Friday evening and the Project Best "Pear Sadler" Team Sportsmanship Award will be presented Saturday at 11:00 A.M..

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Advanced ticket books, which include tickets to all five sessions, are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

Good Luck River Pilots!

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Shadyside features rosters short on numbers

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For the Times Leader

SHADYSIDE - The Shadyside High wrestling program has featured many superb grapplers in its storied mat annals. Chase Kinemond is unquestionably one of the Tigers' best.

Kinemond is now in his fifth year at the Orange & Black wrestling helm.

Kinemond scripted a magnificent 120-19 Orange prep mat record despite suffering a torn ACL in his junior campaign. He was an OVAC champion as a senior.

OVAC runnerup as a sophomore while placing fifth as a frosh.

Moreover, Kinemond captured fifth place in the state tournament as a freshman (125) and seventh during his senior campaign at 160. He missed the postseason as a sophomore and junior

due to injury.

Kinemond suffered a tough blow to this year's mat team during football season when junior standout Andrew Osman incurred a severe injury, causing him to miss this mat season. He was a threat to place well in the OVAC and state tournaments.

As a result, Kinemond is working with a seven-man roster.

"The season so far has been good. We are starting to settle into our weight classes and getting quality matches before OVAC," Kinemond noted. "The dual record doesn't show how we are as a team. We fill seven of the 14 weight classes and that's tough to win against the bigger schools we've gone up against so far."

Shadyside has defeated Bridgeport in dual competition. They have dropped nods to five strong squads: Morgantown, Linsly, Brooke, St. Clairsville and River.

Promising frosh Eli Gallaher opens the Tiger lineup at 126. He is 8-9



on the campaign, showing much improvement from the season's outset.

Junior Nathan Rhoades is the Orange's 132-pounder. He has pocketed two wins.

Senior Josh Harris has carved out a 5-7 record thus far at 157. He, however, may drop to 150 for the OVAC tourney.

Jacob Brown is a quality 165-pounder for Kinemond. The senior is 10-5 on the campaign with third-place finishes in the Coshocton and Shadyside invitationals.

Chris Stillion is another solid performer for Shadyside.

The junior veteran is 7-7 at 190 pounds, including a fifth-place finish at Coshocton. Kinemond notes that Stallion will likely drop to the 175-pound class for the OVAC event.

William Robinson is a force in the 190-pound classification. The senior leader has scripted an 11-6 record with third-place honors in the Coshocton and Shadyside events.

Junior Nick Norris is the Tigers' 215-pounder.

"I hope to see us giving it everything we got in the OVAC Tournament. We have been practicing great and it's really showing on the mat," Kinemond noted.

"For my seniors, I want them not to have any regrets leaving the tournament. I have high hopes for my team to do well and would like to see them making it to the placement round."

After the OVAC Tournament, Shadyside will compete in the Panther Classic at Buckeye Local, take part in triangulars with Harrison Central and Union Local as well as Caldwell and another opponent yet to be determined, and the MOVL Tournament, which will be the lead up into sectional warfare.

"After OVAC I hope for us to finish strong and carry a lot of momentum into the post-season to make a deep run," Kinemond said.

Kinemond, a former Bethany College quarterbacking standout, is being assisted by Paden Stewart, Scott Kinemond, Chase's dad and also a former Orange mat great, Christian Hancock and Nico Bumba.

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Richmond now leading St. Clairsville wrestling

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor



is a tough one with some of the strongest teams in the (conference)."

Thus far, the Red Devils have competed at the Rick Link Invitational at Union Local, their own Whiteside's St. Clairsville Tournament and at the Cameron Invitational along with a handful of duals.

The Red Devils lost three to graduation in the Class of 22 and two were OVAC placers. Caden Stout, who became St. Clairsville's first state wrestling champion, and Gannon Kazmirski, who was also an All-Ohioan, picked up their sheepskin along with Evan Street.

As they prepare for the OVAC Tournament, St. Clairsville will fill 12 of the 14 weight classes and taking it a step far-

ther, eight of their entrants will arrive with a better than .500 record.

Leading the way is senior Zach McKeever at 144 pounds. He's currently 18-4 and was a sixth-place finisher in the OVAC last winter. He was the champion at St. Clairsville, runner-up at Union Local and bronze medalist at Cameron.

Senior Nathan Witsberger gets the call at 165 pounds and sports a 15-7 record. He was sixth at Union Local, fourth at St. Clairsville and fifth at Cameron.

Senior Jacob Walker holds down the fort at 190 pounds for the Devils. He placed eighth in the OVAC a season ago and comes into this year's event with a 15-5 record. His resume includes a runner-up finish at Union Local as well as fourth-place awards at both St. Clairsville and Cameron.

Senior Logan Fry has been solid at 285 pounds after missing his entire junior campaign because of an injury he sustained during football. Fry sits at 12-2 and was third

at both the Union Local and St. C. events.

Fry is backed by freshman Josh Hernandez.

At 215 pounds, junior Cody Stecyk will enter. He's currently 12-7 and owns a fourth and sixth-place finish at Union Local and Cameron, respectively.

Stecyk got the call at this weight class after defeating solid sophomore Ryan Ivey, who is 12-6, in a wrestle off.

Sophomore Braylon Leiffer is 10-4 and will enter the 138-pound bracket. He was fifth at

both Union Local and St. Clairsville.

Sophomore Dameron Brown, who was fourth at Cameron, will enter at 150 pounds. Despite missing some time with an injury, he's currently 9-3 on the season.

Freshman Therron Fillon will be entered at 132 pounds with a 9-8 mark. He was runnerup at St. Clairsville and sixth at Cameron.

The balance of the Red Devils entrants include: Wyatt Cunningham at 106, freshman Dio

See, ST. C., Page 16

ST. CLAIRSVILLE
The prep wrestling season is just under two months old, but already Bobby Richmond has gotten a full dose of what it's like being a head coach.

The first-year St. Clairsville boss has been - according to him - in the midst of a "roller-coaster season" that's had plenty of ups and downs.

"We've been battling sickness and injury for quite some time," Richmond said. "We've had spurts of doing great things on the mat and we've certainly have had to wrestle through some adversity."

The Red Devils enter his weekend's OVAC Tom Mauck Wrestling Tournament with the hope that this will be one of the upward moments of the season.

"I think the OVAC tournament will be our toughest test of the season to really see where we stand," Richmond noted. "The 4A division

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Union Local excited about the future of program

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor



MORRISTOWN - Like all area wrestling teams, the Union Local Jets have been training, practicing and competing to be as prepared as possible for what lies ahead this weekend.

Starting Thursday, the Jets will be taking part in the 68th annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament at West-Banco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

Though they want to do as well as possible, head coach Nate Starkey believes the Jets are laying the groundwork for what could be an even stronger showing in the years to come.

"The future of Union Local wrestling is bright," Starkey said. "I see this group as a 'shake-up group' at the OVAC Tournament (this

weekend)."

The Jets will compete in the 3A classification and will fill only nine of the 14 weight classes, which is going to make contending for a team title quite challenging, but the experience can only help in the long run for the remainder of this season and beyond.

"While our high school numbers are down, I am excited for the future," Starkey revealed. "This group of men is setting a great example of how to

work."

Thus far this season, the Jets have competed at their own Rick Link Tournament as well as the Central Crossing Comet Classic in Grove City.

The Jets will enter only two wrestlers who boast an above .500 record for the season in senior Brody Myers and sophomore Gavin Bollock.

Myers, who will enter at 138, owns a 13-4 mark and has already garnered a championship at both of the Jets' invitationals this season. On top of those places, Myers is ranked in the 'Borofan' Ohio State Rankings at 17th.

"Brody is really having his best season yet," Starkey said.

Bollock, meanwhile, enters with a solid 13-5 record. He was runner-up at Central Crossing and finished fifth at the Rick Link, but has truly turned it on since the season-opening event.

"Gavin is really showing a lot of promise and

he's continuing to grow (both physically and as a wrestler), Starkey said.

Senior Logan Boone will get the call at 144. He's off to an 8-10 start, but has been coming off on "after a rough start," according to his head coach.

Similarly, senior Landon Crum endured a rough start to the season, but has been steadily coming along. He will enter at 150 with a 7-10 record.

Sophomore Kaden Cross will be the Jets representative in the 165-pound bracket. He sports a 7-10 mark, but did place fifth at the Central Classic event.

Sophomore Steven Martin, who is 8-10 on the season, continues to make big strides. Out for the sport for just the second year, Starkey has been impressed with Martin.

"Steven is improving daily and is showing a lot of promise toward the future," Starkey admitted.

Sophomore Caleb

Goodson (175), sophomore Brylor Vogt (190) and senior Logan Perkins (215) complete the Union Local roster and entrants.

The Jets lost a pair of quality wrestlers - Nathaniel Gibson and Colin Greenwood - to graduation. Gibson placed fifth in the OVAC, while Greenwood fell one victory short of a place at the conference tournament.

Following the OVAC Tournament, the Jets have a lot of season left before shifting their focus toward the OHSAA post-season.

They'll battle St. Clairsville in a dual, take part in a triangular with Steubenville and Southern Local before hosting Shadyside and Harrison Central on Feb. 15. The Buckeye 8 Championship will be held at Cambridge on Feb. 18, which will complete the regular season.

Starkey is assisted by Nat Brown and Zach Powell.

• **St. C.** —
Continued from Page 15

Loew at 120, freshman T.J. Harding at 126 and junior Darshan Howard at 157.

As Richmond alluded to, there is still basically half a season to go after the OVAC. The Devils will compete next weekend at the Jimmy Wood Invitational at New Lexington and will take part in the Buckeye 8 with a handful of duals and triangulars sprinkled in.

Richmond is assisted by Dillon Nolte and Chas Snider.

Good Luck Union Local Jets!

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Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Tuesday,
January 17, 2023

Seeds, brackets set for 69th OVAC Ron Mauck Tourney

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - It's only Tuesday but there's big news coming out of the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships, which get underway on Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena.

One returning champion and another wrestler that placed third will not be competing this weekend due to injury and sickness.

Parkersburg South's Gage Wright, who won at 170 last year, would've been one of eight returning champions when the tournament kicks off at 6 p.m. However, he suffered a foot injury recently that has sidelined him.

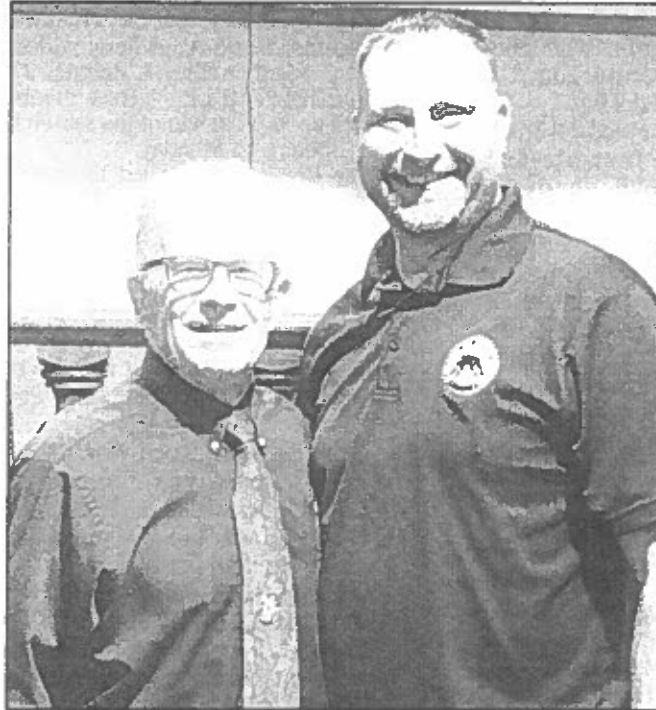
Wheeling Park, the defending over-

all and Class 5A titlists, also sustained a huge blow when 126-pound Jack Lowe, a third-placer last year and a state runnerup, has come down with mononucleosis and is out.

"Losing Jack is a big blow but I feel we have kids capable of stepping in there and competing well," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "We are still confident that we can accomplish what we did last year. We are wrestling really well at this time."

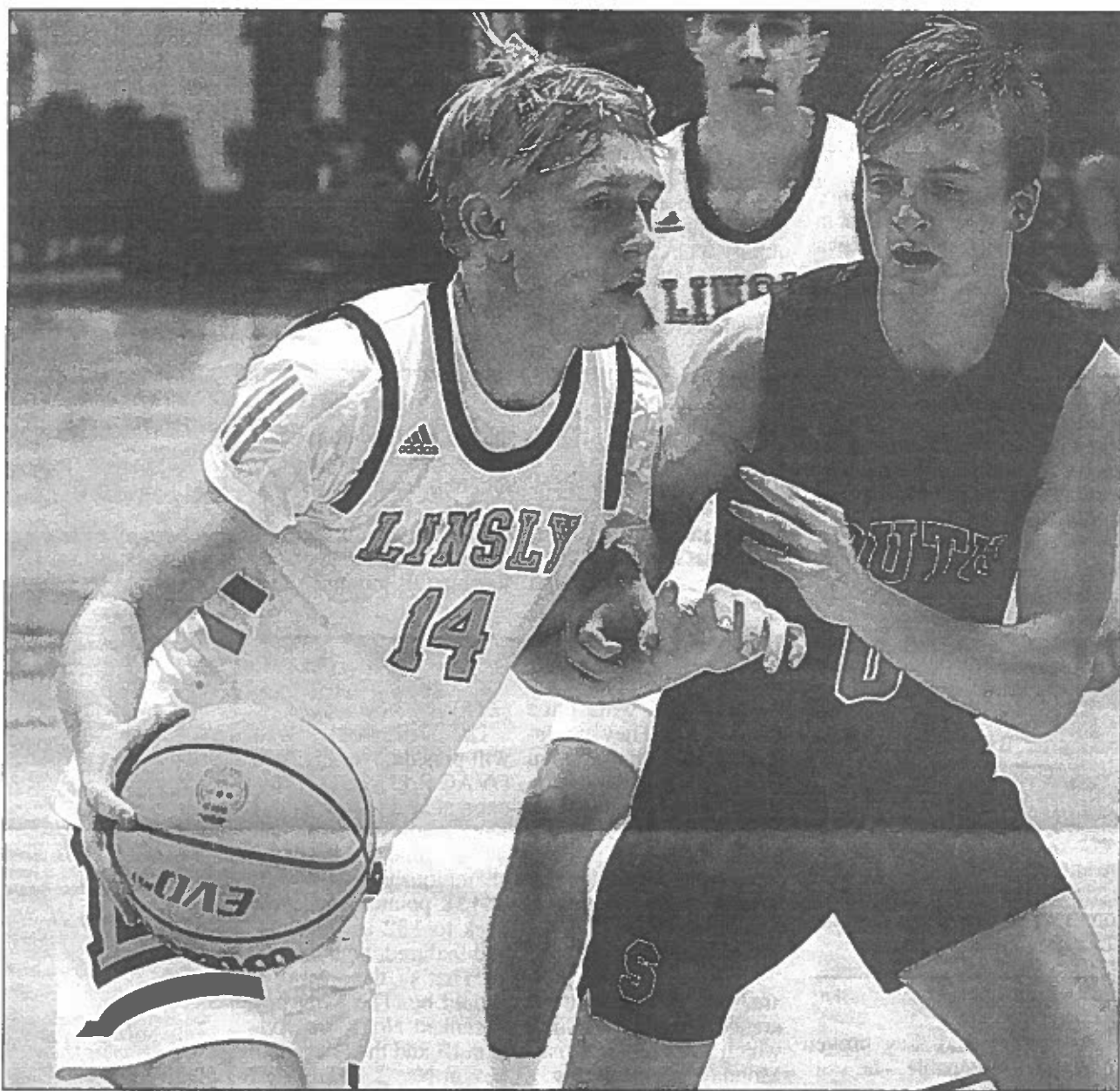
While West Virginia Class AAA powers Parkersburg South and University each have a dozen wrestlers seeded in the top 12 of their respective weight classes, Leggett's Patriots - who have 9 - are the

See, OVAC, Page B2



THERE WILL be a changing of the guard following this year's 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships as Dr. Dan Doyle, left, is stepping down from his role as director and Shane Shaffer, is taking over.

Photo/KIM NORTH



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

LINSLEY SENIOR Carter Anderson looks to drive to the basket against Parkersburg South's Austin Reeves during the first quarter of Monday's game, which was part of the inaugural MLK Classic on the Linsly campus. Anderson scored 26 points to help lead the Cadets to an 84-78 victory

Linsly hangs on for key win

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING - The cutoff date for the annual OVAC Basketball Tournament is quickly approaching and most recently released standings show defending Class 3A champion Linsly sitting in the fifth spot.

The Cadets can expect a boost in the next standings, however.

Seemingly playing with a purpose and fire that Dave Wojcik had hoped to see, Linsly picked up a pivotal conference victory, 84-78, against Parkersburg South Monday evening in the finale of the inaugural MLK Classic held at the Stifel Fieldhouse

wins," Wojcik said. "Our guys did an unbelievable job of trusting each other."

Linsly (7-5) wasted no time in asserting itself. It held a 19-12 lead after one, but the Patriots were within a bucket at halftime, which set the stage for an entertaining second half.

"Linsly's kids were more excited about the game than we were," South head coach Mike Fallon said. "They beat us. I think they wanted it more and it showed."

The third quarter was back and forth as proven by the eight lead changes and four ties.

Linsly's Gavin Jackson caught

Wojcik said "Gave me more on-

ots with 10 in the third, including a six-of-six effort from the foul line. The biggest issue Linsly faced entering the fourth quarter was foul trouble. Jackson found himself with four fouls and firmly planted on the bench.

South was unable to capitalize. Actually, Linsly's Carter Anderson and Nate Coleman along with the help of John Paul Jones and Jonah Vaysbakh, off the bench, the Cadets extended the lead to as many as 13.

"When Gavin had to sit the first four minutes, instead of the lead staying (the same), our bench extended the lead, which was huge," Wojcik said.

Bengals' O-line decimated as they look toward Bills

CINCINNATI (AP) - The Bengals managed to survive and advance.

However, their win over the Ravens may have cost them another starter on the offensive line.

Cincinnati beat Baltimore 24-17 on Sunday night, winning a playoff game in consecutive years for the first time in franchise history.

The Bengals likely lost a third starting offensive lineman in the space of a month when left tackle Jonah Williams departed in the second quarter with a left knee injury.

The Ravens sacked Joe Burrow four times on Sunday, the most since he was sacked five times by the Browns on Halloween in the most recent game Cincinnati lost before its current nine-game win streak.

Now the Bengals (13-4) face Buffalo (14-3) on Sunday possibly with three backups on an offensive line that was retooled with three free agents and a rookie before the season. Jackson Carman, who has played guard since being drafted by the Bengals in 2021, replaced Williams to finish Sunday's game and could start at left tackle against the Bills.

"We'll see who's available and do our best to rep them and get them going," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said.

The second-seeded Bills beat the Dolphins 34-31 in a wild-card game on Sunday.

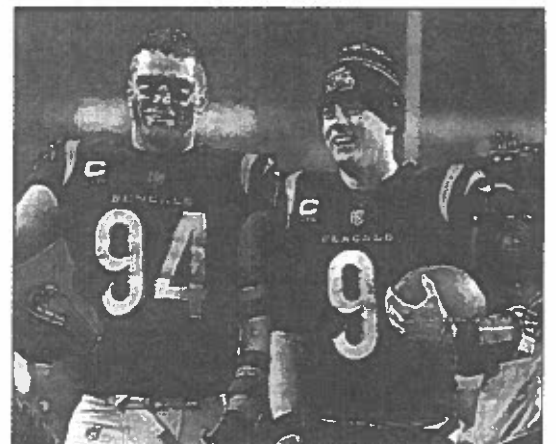
"At this point it doesn't really matter what the seed is. Every game is going to be a dogfight, and we knew that," Taylor said. "You go through all the peaks and valleys with all the people in this room. You're here every step of the way - to get to the playoffs and it can be over in a heartbeat. Our guys didn't want that to happen, so they found a way to move on."

WHAT'S WORKING

For the second straight week, big plays by the defense turned the game.

In the Bengals' 27-16 win over the Ravens in the regular-season finale, Cincinnati inter-

See, BENGALS, Page B2



AP PHOTO

CINCINNATI BENGALS defensive end Sam Hubbard (94) and quarterback Joe Burrow celebrate following an NFL wild-card playoff

BRIDGEPORT — The Seminoles got out of the gates quickly and never looked back en route to a rout of the homesteading Bulldogs.

Abby Thompson and Kynzi Bishop led the balanced Seminoles with 13 and 11, respectively.

• Bengals

Continued from Page B1

tercepted rookie quarterback Anthony Brown twice and recovered his fumble in the end zone for a touchdown.

In Sunday's win, the defensive score was even more improbable. In the fourth quarter, Ravens quarterback Tyler Huntley tried to sneak in from Bengals 1, but the outstretched ball was knocked loose and into the arms of defensive end Sam Hubbard, who rumbled 98 yards the other way for a TD.

"I was excited. I got up and started running down the sideline," receiver Ja'Marr Chase said. "That was cool to see."

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Cincinnati hasn't played a complete game in more than a month. Dominant quarters or halves have been just enough during its nine-game win streak. The offense bogs down. The running game is ineffective.

On Sunday, the Ravens had a chance to tie the game on the last play when Huntley heaved a desperation pass into the end zone and the tipped ball went off the fingers of James Proche.

Another close call.

STOCK UP

Hubbard was accompanied by a cadre of teammates on his long sprint down the field and needed oxygen when he got to the bench. His 98-yard fumble return was the longest in NFL postsea-

• Cavs

Continued from Page B1

year, for sure."

Evan Mobley added 19 points as Cleveland improved to 19-4 at home.

The Pelicans were once again without stars Zion Williamson (strained hamstring) and Brandon Ingram (bruised toe) due to injuries. New Orleans has managed to stay competitive despite missing 46 points per game from those two.

C.J. McCollum scored 25 and Jonas Valanciunas had 22 and 13 rebounds for the Pelicans, who went 2-3 on a five-game, 10-day trip.

"We've not been lucky with injuries," Valanciunas said. "We're missing really important guys, missing our core. It's been tough, but we can't feel sorry for ourselves. You have to keep pushing and try to play through it."

McCollum has had to carry the scoring load with Williamson and Ingram out. He only had four points at half before scoring 14 in the third quarter to help the Pelicans carry a lead into the fourth.

That's when the Cavs

buckled down on defense and Garland went to work.

"I just tried to be aggressive," Garland said.

Allen has seen Garland take a major step forward in his fourth season.

"He's definitely a lot more confident in his role," Allen said. "He's telling us where to be. Making sure his bigs are in the right spots so we can help him out. He's facilitating the offense. In timeouts he's talking."

"Obviously, he's an amazing player on the court but off the court there are a lot more things that have elevated."

MINUTE BY MINUTE

While guard Ricky Rubio's return from knee surgery is a major positive for the Cavs, it also presents some challenges for Bickerstaff, who must balance getting him playing time at the expense of other reserves.

He's tinkering with rotation combinations, and that may mean someone's going to lose minutes.

"Sometimes it's frustrating, all the guys want

breaststroke and the 200 free. Linsly's John Papadimitrou was the winner in the 100 fly and 200 freestyle. Martins Ferry's John Consort captured two more victories, winning the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM.

son history. The fifth-year veteran is a captain and one of the emotional leaders of the Cincinnati defense.

"You can't even dream that one up," said Hubbard, who grew up in Cincinnati and played at Ohio State. "That was a tough-fought game with a lot of adversity. To be the guy to come through is an amazing feeling."

STOCK DOWN

Kicker Evan McPherson missed his fifth extra point this season.

INJURIES

There has been no word on whether injuries to Williams and right guard Alex Cappa (ankle) will end their seasons. Williams was seen in the locker room after the game with a crutch and soft cast on his leg.

KEY NUMBER

106 — Combined rushing yards by the Bengals in consecutive games against Baltimore.

NEXT STEPS

Cincinnati travels to play the Bills three weeks after Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest on the field at Paycor Stadium on Jan. 2, leading to the cancellation of the teams' regular-season game.

"It'll be another juice game," Bengals safety Jessie Bates III said. "We tend to do well on the road late when it's cold, so we'll be ready."

to play and they proven they're capable," he said. "But sometimes they all can't."

TIP-INS

Pelicans: Williamson has missed the past seven games, and the team hasn't given a firm timetable on his return due to the unpredictable nature of his injury. ... Ingram has only played in 15 games after missing 27 last season. ... G/F Herb Jones (lower back bruise) missed his third game in a row.

Cavaliers: Rubio played 17 minutes in his first home game in 386 days. ... F Kevin Love, whose name will undoubtedly surface in upcoming trade speculation because of his expiring contract, has been in a prolonged shooting slump. He went 0 of 4 on 3-pointers and is 3 of 21 from long range in his past six games. ... F Dean Wade (sprained shoulder) was close to returning after missing more than a month, but recently rolled his ankle when he stepped on someone's foot during a 1-on-1 drill in rehab.

UP NEXT

Pelicans: Host Miami on Wednesday, Cavaliers: At Memphis on Wednesday.

adversity. We've handled some adversity this season, but this is our first big success, beating a really good, well-coached team. We didn't respond well to that at times and we have to do a better job of that moving forward."

Along with the back-court duo of Jackson and Anderson evenly divided 52, Coleman added 15.

"I thought we were aggressive (Monday) and not just defensively, but offensively, too," Wojcik said. "We attacked their pressure. Our motto is 'if someone presses us, we're thinking layups and dunks.'"

Reeves paced a balanced South with 23 points. Aiden Blake chipped in with 16, while Plotner donated 14 and Cyrus Traugh finished with 11, but nine of those came in the first half.

"Playing in an environment like this, against a quality team, is good for us," Fallon said. "In the big scheme of things, it means nothing, but it's a (game) that can pay off for us down the road, if we go back and learn from it."

• Stroud

Continued from Page B1

which Stroud threw four TD passes.

The 21-year-old was a Heisman Trophy finalist in both seasons. He amassed more than 8,000 passing yards and

threw 85 touchdowns. He is the holder of 16 school offensive records.

Kyle McCord and Devin Brown are expected to compete for the starting QB job in 2023.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

only team with three No. 1 seeds. They are defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) who won at 138 last year; Noah White (120) and Jameson Maynard (165). Lucas was also a state titlist last winter, while White was runnerup at 106 in the OVAC and state.

"I like where our guys are," Leggett said in reference to the seedings which were released Monday night during a press conference inside the downtown arena. "You've still got to go out and wrestle, though, no matter where you are seeded."

Several other coaches echoed his thoughts.

"I told our kids that the seeds don't really matter," Indian Creek's Brandon Pendleton said. "The coaches decide the seeds but you have to perform and live up to them or above them."

Barnesville's Jayson Stephen said the same thing.

"It's a tournament where you have to go out and perform to the best of your abilities," he said. "There's no excuses, no regrets."

"We've got a lot of kids that have wrestled here before, so, hopefully that helps," Martins Ferry's Chad Ware noted. "It's definitely a tough three days."

Other returning champions include Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113); Barnesville's Dakota King (132); Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia (132); Indian Creek's Dom Paterra (157); University's Luca Felix (175) and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas

(215). Dr. Dan Doyle, who will preside over his final OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament as director, said if King and Saccoccia are in the finals, Saturday's championships will start at 138 pounds and cycle back to 132 as the final, and featured, bout.

"That's the way it should be. The King boy is ranked No. 1 in Division III and the Saccoccia boy is No. 2 in Division II, which somebody told me is the deepest weight class in the state," Doyle said.

In addition to Wheeling Park's trio of top seeds, others receiving top billing in their weight classes are Wellsville's Mason Simms (106); Davis (113); White (120); John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126); King (132); Barnesville's Skyler King (138); Lucas (144); University's Dakota Hagedorn (150); Indian Creek's Dom Paterra (157); Maynard (165); Felix (175); Parkersburg South's Robert Shockley (190); Thomas (215) and River's Marshall Bier (285).

Defending champion Barnesville (8 seeds) and Martins Ferry (7) should battle back-and-forth for the Class 3A crown, while defending champ Beaver Local (7), Indian Creek (8) and Oak Glen (9) should compete in 4A. The Class 1A/2A race is between defending champ Cameron (6) and Southern Local (3).

Besides Wheeling Park, Parkersburg South and University in Class 5A, John Marshall (7) and Steubenville (8) could make some noise.

PIN FALLS

- Thirty-five of the 43 schools had at least one seeded wrestler.

- There are 452 wrestlers listed on the 14 brackets.

- There are 23 pigtail matches scheduled for Thursday night.

- The three-day event is honoring its late namesake - Ron Mauck - in a variety of ways, according to Doyle.

2. Totals: 18, 8-11-50
3-point goals: MF - Lude (2), Sidon (7), McFarland (2).
S - Brown, R. Fulton (2), Henderson, Smith (2).
Harrison Central 35, Minerva 31
HARRISON CENTRAL (35) - Rens 0-0-0; Fischer 2-0-0-4; Butler 2-7-10-11; Farn 2-4-5-9; Lewis 0-0-0; Harbord 1-4-4-9; Seigmer 0-1-2-1; Leeger 2-0-0-4; Totals: 8, 15-22-35. MINERVA (31) - Lippocott 1, 0-1-2; Sauer 3, 0-2-9; French 0-2-2; Stoltz 3, 2-4-9; Weaver 0-0-0; Kirkpatrick 4, 1-3-9; Totals: 11, 7-15-31
3-point goals: HC - Fern, M - Sauer, Stoltz
Steubenville 41, Bellaire 33
Bellaire (33) - Ault 4-0-0-11; Harveth 5-1-2-11; Mason 3-1-2-7; McArch 1-2-2-4; Rowson 0-0-0-0; Dods 0-0-0-0; Totals: 13, 4-6-33. STEUBENVILLE (41) - Perdue 0-0-0-0; Warner 3-2-3-6; Jones 3-0-2-5; Cross 3-0-0-9; Edwards 2-0-0-5; Matteson 1-0-0-2; McShan 4-3-4-11; Totals: 16, 5-9-41
3-point goals: B - Ault 3, S - Cross 3, Edwards 1
Monroe Central 75, Bridgeport 19
MONROE CENTRAL (75) - Emery 2, 2-2-6; Herzmom 0-0-0-0; Hiles 1, 0-0-3; Thompson 5-3-4-13; English 2, 0-0-4; Stead 1-0-2-2; King 1, 0-0-2; Bishop 5-1-2-11; Huntsman 0-0-0-0; Bommer 3, 0-0-8; McGarry 4, 0-2-8; Swisher 0, 0-0-0; Powell 3, 1-2-9; Bellingar 4-1-2-9; Totals: 31, 8-16-75
BRIDGEPORT (19) - Chambers 0, 0-0-0; Clemens 1, 0-0-2; Bam 1, 0-0-2; Smith 0, 0-0-0; Stewart 1, 2-2-4; Brewer 2, 0-0-4; Baxter 0, 0-0-0; McEroy 0, 0-0-0; Herman 2, 0-0-4; Gonzalez 0, 0-0-0; Allen 1, 0-1-2; Totals: 8, 2-3-19
3-point goals: MC - Hiles, Bommer (2), Powell (2)
B - Clemens

BOYS BASKETBALL
Linsly 84, Parkersburg South 78
PARKERSBURG SOUTH (78) - Reeves 4, 15-18-28; Traugh 5, 0-0-11; Smith 3, 0-0-8; Plotner 5, 4-5-14; Blake 5, 4-6-15; Townsend 1, 2-3-4; Walker 0, 2-2-2; Jones 0, 0-0-0; Totals: 23, 27-34-78. LINSLEY (84) - Jackson 11, 0-0-26; Taylor 1, 0-0-2; Goodwin 2, 1-2-5; Anderson 7, 9-12-26; Coleman 7, 1-12-15; Jones 1, 1-2-3; Vaysbarh 1, 5-6-7; Murray 0, 0-1-0; Gill 0, 0-0-0; Totals: 31, 17-26-84
3-point goals: PS - Traugh, Smith (2), Blake (2), L - Jackson (4), Anderson (3)

OVAC Seeds

The top 12 seeds in each weight class, along with an alternate, for the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships are listed below
106-1: Mason Simms (Well.); 2: Pepper Martn (Univ); 3: Hayley Snyder (WL); 4: Johnathan Huntsman (Barn); 5: Cortan Phillips (PS); 6: Aiden Anderson (OG); 7: Brock Pendleton (IC); 8: Justice Fisher (BL); 9: Tritan Eddes (EL); 10: Wyatt Hostuzler (Wes); 11: Gavin Bolook (UL); 12: Joseph Rae (Br); A-David Proctor (MF)
113-Logan Davis (OG); 2: Tristen Rossler (Shen); 3: Zanoer Ward (JM); 4: Jase Mahoney (MF); 5: Grant Vasey (Be); 6: Brodie Emery (Univ); 7: Chris Warnock (BL); 8: Noah Keen (Camb); 9: Mackiah Claudio (PS); 10: Aiden Dentz (BL); 11: Cody Welch (Cal); 12: Auson Springer (ED); A-Domonic Harper (Mag)
120-1: Noah White (VP); 2: Dylan Ward (MF); 3: Bobby Buchheit (BL); 4: Kaden Harding (JM); 5: Colton Gillespie (Univ); 6: Ethan Stimpert (Steub); 7: Blake Lanzer (Dov); 8: Jack Roe (Mar); 9: Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 10: Tristan Palmer (BL); 11: Logan Pitman (ED); 12: Baylon Rose (Camb); A-Uniah Morns (PS)
126-1: Ethan Cook (JM); 2: Drake Yanyuch (Shen); 3: Slaton Pettit (Cam); 4: Pedro Garcia (Dov); 5: Brady Roberts (PS); 6: Brody Bowersock (BL); 7: Charlie Abbott (Steub); 8: Aiden Spahlinger (SL); 9: Xzander Eltringham (BR); 10: Adan Hendricks (IC); 11: CJ Dury (OG); 12: Luca Tzoullas (Un); A-Conner Graser (Unv)
132-1: Dakota King (Barn); 2: Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 3: Hayden Lamb (OG); 4: Carter Pauley (Univ); 5: Carter Adams (JM); 6: Lucas Zornoth (Mag); 7: Tye Rambo (Well.); 8: Logan Dentz (BL); 9: Jonathan Rossano (MF); 10: Andrew Cox (HC); 11: Derek Sandy (PS); 12: Jacob Berg (WL); A-Tyke Jett (ED)
138-Skyler King (Barn); Ryan Martin (PS); 3: Cal Beading (Steub); 4: Adam Carman (WP); 5: Isaac Sands (WC); 6: Mason Aberts (Bott); 7: Payton Neely (Cam); 8: Clayton Myers (Camb); 9: Will Angelozi (Univ); 10: Brody Myers (UL); 11: Leland Lopez (HC); 12: Griffen Kerni (Ling); A-Austin Powell (FF)
144-Brady Lucas (VP); 1: Edoio DiPazio (Dov); 2: Logan Tague (Barn); 3: Ashton Hoge (Cam); 5: Nathan Murphy (PS); 6: Zach McKeever (STC); 7: Shawn Young (Weri); 5: Garrett Spohn (Mtom); 9: Doman Salsbery (Un); 10: Gavin Pownall (IC); 11: Jay McKenzie (Univ); 12: Servaco Lopez (HC); A-Cabe Bender (Cal)
150-1: Dakota Hagedorn (Univ); 2: Reese Stephen (Barn); 3: Quinton Velas (WP); 4: CJ Spencer (IC); 5: Savier Faulks (Steub); 6: Ryan Ward (JM); 7: McKaya Powell (PS); 8: Braxton Barnett (Shen); 9: Shayden Fogle (MF); 10: Nathan Van Behalter (Un); 11: Dameron Brown (STC); 12: Deibert Van Tassel (Cam); A-Murray Stewart (FF)
157-1: Dominic Prezta (IC); 2: Dom Parker (Univ); 3: Ayden King (Barn); 4: Kyle Wheeler (PS); 5: Hunter Bringer (HC); 6: Michael Heath (OG); 7: Peyton Pyle (Bott); 8: Malia-Washington (WP); 9: Kaid Simmons (Steub); 10: Stone Daxon (FF); 11: Jordan Davis (Mag); 12: Anthony Balco (JM); A-Dylan Ferguson (BL)
165-1: Jameson Maynard (WP); 2: Braxton Dlugopolski (OG); 3: Klypsan Wallace (JM); 4: Gabe Blissenbach (SL); 5: Wyatt Brady (WC); 6: Jason Williams (WL); 7: Johnny McFarland (MF); 8: Ethan Waggoner (ED); 9: Garrett Moore (BR); 10: Colby Langley (Cal); 11: Nathan Witsberger (STC); 12: Karson Milano (Barn); A-Ryan Chafins (BL)
175-1: Luca Felix (Univ); 2: Adam Angel (Cam); 3: George Hursey (MF); 4: Ethan Uwelehm (IC); 5: Gabe Morgan (BL); 6: Aden Strahler (WL); 7: Wyatt Morns (SL); 8: Cole Middleton (PS); 9: Naven Wener (Un); 10: Gavin Moore (BR); 11: Robby Nixon (Barn); 12: Joey Barganski (OG); A-Michael Smith (IC)
190-1: Robert Shockey (PS); 2: Tyler Wise (BR); 3: Eric Williams (EL); 4: Marshal Sayre (Cal); 5: Luke McMillon (IC); 6: Greg Savers (OG); 7: Alex Finsley (MF); 8: Gage Hawkins (Weri); 9: Jacob Walker (STC); 10: Gavin Washington (WP); 11: Kane Curran (BL); 12: Jackson Pale (Univ); A-William Robertson (SS)
215-Lucas Thomas (HC); 2: Brock Kehler (Univ); 3: Enck Brothers Jr. (VP); 4: Jonathan Bailey (EL); 5: Isaac Martin (WC); 6: Jamison Stiles (ED); 7: Ayden Morns (PS); 8: Brayden Strawn (Riv); 9: Spenser Ostovich (Steub); 10: Landon Taylor (Un); 11: Carson Oline (Shen); 12: Karyn Armstrong (WL)
285-1: Marshall Bier (Riv); 2: Landon Thomas (HC); 3: Zane McCoy (BL); 4: Elijah Uwelehm (IC); 5: Javin Harcer (Steub); 6: Ryder Hastings (Univ); 7: Hunter Means (WP); 8: Gunnar Bryan (Cam); 9: Brycen Arthur (PS); 10: Anderson Palkan (Un); 11: Joe Tristano (Dov); 12: Logan Fry (STC); A-Matthew Wright (JM)

Sports on TV

Tuesday, January 17
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
6:30 p.m.
SECN - Mississippi at South Carolina
7 p.m.
ACCN - NC State at Georgia Tech
CBSN - Davidson at Dayton
ESPN - Kansas at Kansas St.
ESPN2 - Tennessee at Mississippi St.
ESPN - Florida St. at Notre Dame
FS1 - Creighton at Butler
8:30 p.m.
BTN - Penn. St. at Wisconsin
SECN - Alabama at Vanderbilt
9 p.m.
CBSN - Murray St. at Belmont
ESPN - Georgia at Kentucky
ESPN - Baylor at Texas Tech
FS1 - San Jose St. at New Mexico
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT - Toronto at Milwaukee
10 p.m.
TNT - Philadelphia at LA Clippers
NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
NBATV - Rio Grande Valley at Birmingham
TENNIS



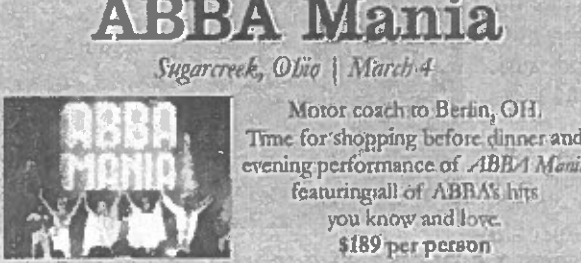
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Two Top Wrestlers Out Of Tournament Already; Event Begins Thursday Night Wheeling Park Is Defending Overall, Class 5A Champion

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's only Tuesday but there's big news already coming from the 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships, which get underway on Thursday night at 6 inside WesBanco Arena with its colorful Olympic-style opening ceremonies.

One returning champion and another wrestler that placed third will not be competing this weekend due to injury and sickness.

Parkersburg South's Gage Wright, who won at 170 last year and is nationally ranked, would've been one of eight returning champions when the tournament kicks off at 6 o'clock. However, he suffered a foot injury recently that has sidelined him.

Wheeling Park, the defending overall and Class 5A titlists, also sustained a huge blow when 132-pound Jack Lowe, a third-placer last year and a state runner up, has come down with mononucleosis and is out.

"Losing Jack is a big blow but I feel we have kids capable of stepping in there and competing well,"

Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said. "We are still confident that we can accomplish what we did last year. We are wrestling really well at this time."

While West Virginia Class AAA powers Parkersburg South and University each have a tournament-best dozen wrestlers seeded in the top 12 of their respective weight classes, Leggett's Patriots — who have 9 — are the only team with three No. 1 seeds. They are defending champion Bradyn Lucas (144) who won at 138 last year; Noah White (120) and Jameson Maynard (165). Lucas was also a state titlist last winter, while White was runner up at 106 in the OVAC and state.

"I like where our guys are," Leggett said in reference to the seedings which were released Monday night during a press conference inside the downtown arena.

"You've still got to go out and wrestle, though, no matter where you are seeded."

Several other coaches echoed his thoughts.

Please see **WRESTLERS**, Page 10

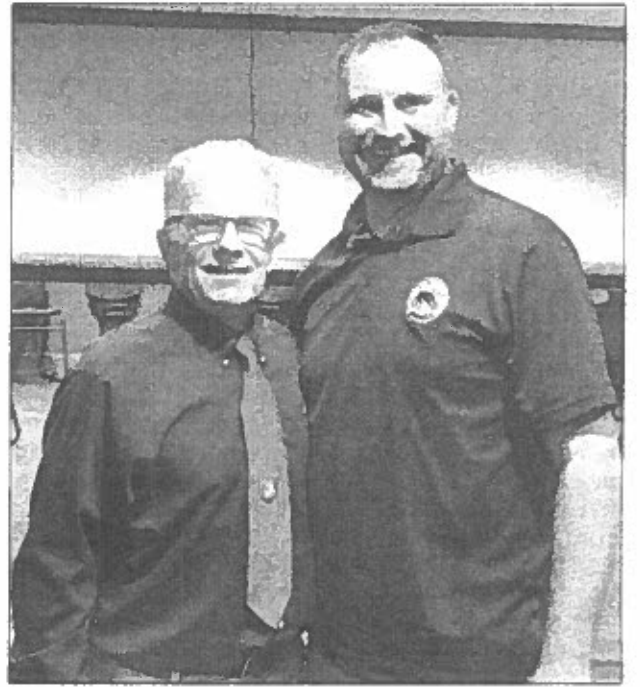


Photo by Kim North

There will be a changing of the guard following this year's 69th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships as Dr. Dan Doyle, left, is stepping down from his role as director and Shane Shaffer, is taking over.

INSIDE

• The Top 12 seeds in each weight class are listed/11

Linsly Wins MLK Classic Game Against South

Victory Could Be Key In OVAC 3A Chase

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The cutoff date for the annual OVAC Basketball Tournament is quickly approaching and most recently released standings show defending Class 3A champion Linsly sitting in the fifth spot.

The Cadets can expect a boost in the next standings, however.

Seemingly playing with a purpose and fire that Dave Wojcik had hoped to see, Linsly picked up a pivotal conference victory, 84-78, against Parkersburg South Monday evening in the finale of the inaugural MLK Classic held at the Stifel Fieldhouse.

"In my short time here (at Linsly), this is probably one of our bigger wins," Wojcik said. "Our guys did an unbelievable job of trusting each other."

Linsly (7-5) wasted no time in asserting itself. It held a 19-12 lead after one, but the Patriots were within a bucket at halftime, which set the stage for an entertaining second half.

"Linsly's kids were more excited about the game than we were," South head coach Mike Fallon said. "They beat us. I think they wanted it more and it showed."

The third quarter was back and forth as proven by the eight lead changes and four ties.

Please see **LINSLY**, Page 10

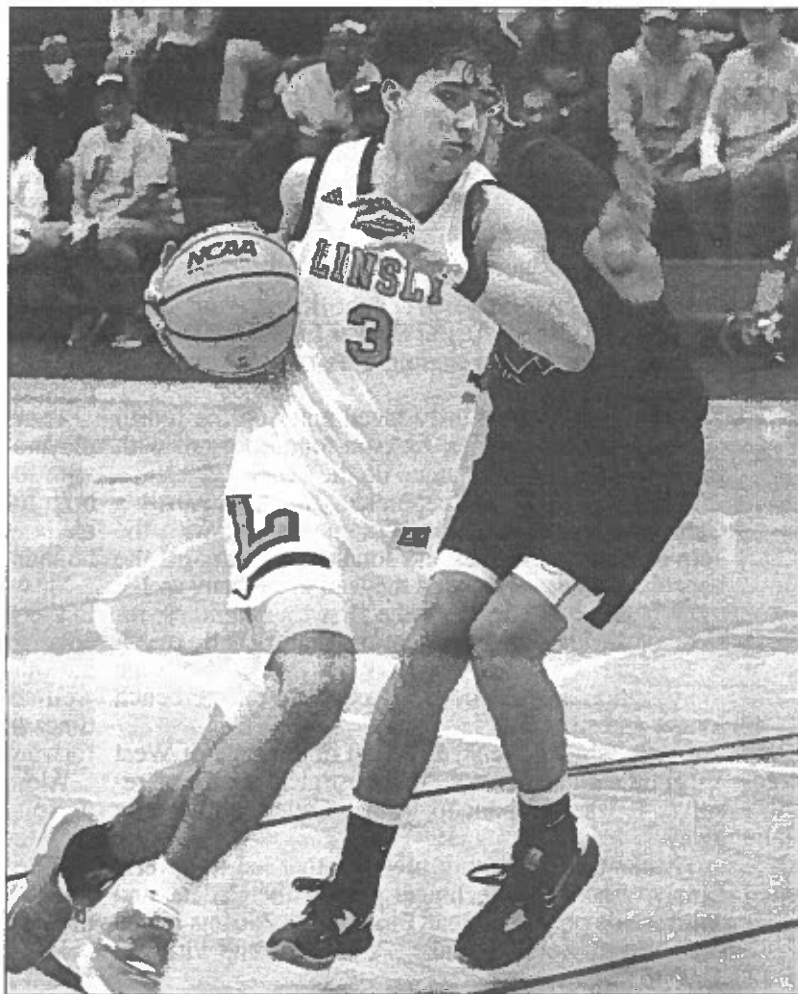


Photo by Seth Staskey

Linsly's Gavin Jackson (3) drives past a Parkersburg South player during Monday night's game during the MLK Classic inside the Stifel Gymnasium on the Linsly campus. The Cadets won, 84-78.

Are We Being Too Hard On West Virginia?

MORGANTOWN — This will probably sound like a strange question to you, so you will have to bear with me.

I am neither crazy nor senile, despite my advanced age.

And yes, I am aware that West Virginia currently is riding a five-game losing streak, all conference games, with a rugged week ahead of it with AP No. 14 TCU and No. 10 Texas coming into the Coliseum this Wednesday and Saturday.



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

But anyway, here goes the question: Are we all being too hard on the Mountaineers?

Hear me out.

According to the Associated Press Top 25 that came out on Monday, WVU has played three of the nation's top 8 teams, four of the top 13 and five of the top 21.

And by the time this week is over and the TCU and Texas games are history, WVU will have played one-third of the nation's top 21 teams — No. 2 Kansas, No. 3 Purdue, No. 7 Texas, No. 8 Xavier, No. 13 Kansas State, No. 14 TCU and No. 21 Baylor.

That's like a boxer having matches with Ali, Frazier, Liston, Foreman, Louis, Dempsey and Rocky (take your pick, Marciano or Balboa).

You are going to come out of it a little punch drunk, and that's where WVU is at it stands at 10-7 and at the bottom of the Big 12 standings.

"It's the hardest league in America, it's the best league in America. Anything you look at has it that way ... and we have the fourth toughest schedule in the country to date," Huggins said in his Monday media session.

It wasn't said as an excuse, not even as an explanation of what's happening.

It was just stating reality.

To win in the Big 12, you have to have everything going for you and WVU hasn't had that. Early on it was turnovers, now it's free throws. Fix one thing, another goes bad.

It's that and the fact that getting a team together almost from scratch in the portal era has been far more difficult than Huggins imagined.

He noted that he got a call from his former player Joe Mazzulla, now coaching the Boston Celtics, on Monday night.

"Joe loves West Virginia. He loves the

Wheeling Park Girls Steamroll Trinity

Patriots Capture Ninth Consecutive Victory While Improving To 12-1

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — It is safe to say that Wheeling Park is on a roll.

The Lady Patriots steamrolled another quality victim Monday afternoon in the inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Classic on the campus of Linsly School, demolishing Washington, Pa.-based Trinity, 74-44.

Coach Ryan Young's potent arsenal was on full display as the well-balanced winners placed four players in double figures while draining 11 treys on the day. Park's high-octane attack had the outcome decided

stretched a 14-point lead at the initial break to a 45-23 halftime advantage. Young's charges were never threatened thereafter.

"We showed nice offensive balance today having four players in double figures. We shot the ball really well and this is not the easiest place to shoot," Young said.

"We beat a good team today. I never expected such a lopsided score."

Park is well known for its relentless full-court pressure. Young altered his defensive strategy against the Hillers, relying rather on a half-court man-to-man matchup.

It was a wise move, paying suffocating



by finishing a 15-play, 80-yard drive by circling left end for a 1-yard TD run on fourth down.

The Dallas quarterback expanded the lead to 18-0 with an 11-yard TD throw to Schultz. Then he threw 2 yards to Michael Gallup for a 24-point lead early in the third quarter. It could have been 28-0 if not for Maher missing all four extra points.

Prescott's last TD pass, an 18-yarder to CeeDee Lamb, put the Cowboys up 31-6 with 10:13 remaining.

Little came easy this season for the Bucs, just the fourth team in NFL history to make the playoffs with a losing record in a non-strike year.

While Brady broke his own league record for completions in a season and ranked third

Cowboys: TE Peyton Hendershot (thigh) left the game in the first quarter. ... T Jason Peters (hip) limped off in the second quarter and did not return.

Buccaneers: C Ryan Jensen was activated from injured reserve to the active roster after missing the entire regular season with a knee injury suffered on the second day of training camp.

He was immediately inserted into the starting lineup.

UP NEXT

Cowboys: At San Francisco next Sunday in the divisional round.

Buccaneers: The wait begins to learn if Brady will retire, return for a fourth season with Tampa Bay or sign with another club in free agency.

PARK

(Continued from Page 9)

"I am quite pleased with our half-court defense today," Young noted. "We have been working on it and I thought today would be a good day to get a good look at it. We also will be playing three games in a span of five days."

Sophomore dynamo Lala Woods paced the Lady Patriot attack with 16 points. Sophomore sharpshooter Alexis Bordas was excellent support with 15 counters while junior Jillian Huffman and classmate Natalie Daugherty delivered 13 and 11 tallies, respectively.

Moreover, senior stalwart Sophie Abraham netted nine points while promising freshman Seneca Heller produced six lightings.

Senior Eden Williamson topped Trinity with 11 points. Junior Maddy Roberts added 10 tallies.

Park's 24-10 first-quarter getaway was fueled by Daugherty (six points), Huffman (five points) and Woods (five points). Abraham and Bordas kept the onslaught going in the second quarter with seven and six points, respectively.

Six more Huffman points and five from Bordas pushed Park's upper hand to 62-33 after three quarters.

"We are playing at a high level right now," Young said. "This is the time of year you want to be playing at your best or close to your best. Hopefully, we can maintain it. If so, we are capable of accomplishing a lot of big things."

"I would also like to thank Linsly for putting on such a nice event, honoring what Martin Luther King Jr. meant to this country," he continued. "I am a history teacher. I appreciate what Dr. King did during his lifetime. He passionately championed a cause and paid the ultimate sacrifice."

turned up the pressure, with Rust getting his first goal since Dec. 22 thanks to a pretty backhand feed from Guentzel in front that gave Rust a wide-open net to shoot at.

"We didn't have any doubt," Rust said. "I think everybody had that mindset. Guys talking on the bench. 'Hey, we're going to get this one. Keep digging. Keep pushing. Let's get this to overtime and then we'll win it there.' And that's exactly what we did."

The Ducks had the first

for Pittsburgh. DeSmith stopped 26 shots to win for just the second time in his last seven starts.

Rickard Rakell had three assists in his first game against the Ducks, for whom he played 550 games to start his career before being traded to Pittsburgh last season.

Adam Henrique scored his 14th of the season for Anaheim. Gibson, a Pittsburgh native, played well in his return to his hometown. He stopped 42 shots but didn't have an answer for Guentzel's

game, where we're at as a team," Anaheim coach Dallas Eakins said. "We played a hell of a game. We were opportunistic when we needed to be. ... Obviously, in overtime, you have your chance at one end. If you don't put it in, you know it's coming back the other way."

Anaheim is destined for the NHL draft lottery. The Penguins have been postseason regulars for the better part of two decades.

Yet Pittsburgh has reached the season's midway point struggling

helped. Their absence has dampened Pittsburgh's firepower and contributed to a sluggish stretch in which goals have been hard to come by.

"We're asking a lot of some guys right now," Sullivan said. "We're putting them in positions where they're probably not comfortable, but it's out of necessity."

UP NEXT

Penguins: Begin a home-and-home series with Ottawa when they visit the Senators on Wednesday.

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 9)

Linsly's Gavin Jackson caught fire, scoring 12 of his 26 in the period. Austin Reeves fueled the Patriots with 10 in the third, including a six-of-six effort from the foul line.

The biggest issue Linsly faced entering the fourth quarter was foul trouble. Jackson found himself with four fouls and firmly planted on the bench.

South was unable to capitalize. Actually, Linsly's Carter Anderson and Nate Coleman along with the help of John Paul Jones and Jonah Vaysbakh, off the bench, the Cadets extended the lead to as many as 13.

"When Gavin had to sit the first four minutes, instead of the lead staying (the same), our bench extended the lead, which was huge," Wojcik said. "Gave me more option and freedom to keep him on the bench longer and save him."

South, which is ranked second in the state of West Virginia's Class AAAA, demonstrated plenty of resolve. It wasn't about to let the Cadets pull totally away.

Thanks to a swarming pressure that led to several Linsly turnovers, a technical foul on the Cadets, and solid inside play of Nathan Plotner, the Patriots reeled off 11 unanswered to make it a 78-76 game with still 1:40 to play.

Senior Nathan Coleman, who caught an impressive lob dunk in transition during the first quarter, turned away a South shot on back-to-back trips in a one-possession game.

"Nate is a really good defender and had two, big blocks that were crucial," Wojcik said.

Linsly was able to control a rebound and stretched

the margin back out by 13 of 19 from the line in the fourth. Vaysbakh was solid at the line, calmly making five of six and Anderson, who also finished with 26 points, scored half of those in the fourth.

Though the Cadets held on to win, the fact that two players were whistled for technicals didn't sit well with their head coach, especially when you consider both followed foul calls when South was in the double bonus, meaning it shot four and got the ball out of bounds.

"It was emotion," Wojcik said. "One thing I talked to the guys about is being able to handle success and adversity. We've handled some adversity this season, but this is our first big success, beating a really good, well-coached team. We didn't respond well to that at times and we have to do a better job of that moving forward."

Along with the back-court duo of Jackson and Anderson evenly divided 52, Coleman added 15.

"I thought we were aggressive (Monday) and not just defensively, but offensively, too," Wojcik said. "We attacked their pressure. Our motto is 'if someone presses us, we're thinking layups and dunks.'"

Reeves paced a balanced South with 23 points. Aiden Blake chipped in with 16, while Plotner donated 14 and Cyrus Traugh finished with 11, but nine of those came in the first half.

"Playing in an environment like this, against a quality team, is good for us," Fallon said. "In the big scheme of things, it means nothing, but it's a (game) that can pay off for us down the road, if we go back and learn from it."

HARD

(Continued from Page 9)

But if anything hit home it was when Mazzulla noted what made the Final Four team special, other than Da'Sean Butler's clutch plays.

"The one thing he said was 'We had the advantage of playing together all those years,'" Huggins said.

"Albeit, John Beilein played one way, we played another, but they all played together. They knew each other."

"With the advent of the portal and freedom of movement, it's a different

game. It's going to take some time for people to adjust. The people who are winning are the ones who have been together."

Huggins truly believes he'll get this fixed and that they aren't far away, something that was echoed by Tre Mitchell after the one-point loss to Oklahoma on Saturday.

"Being a guy that has been in a similar situation as far as being a new guy on a team with a bunch of new transfers (at Texas), I've seen what hap-

pens." Mitchell said. "Off the court, we gel perfectly. We're friends, arm and arm 24/7. On the court, we're so talented that everybody thinks it's their turn."

"We need to start understanding that it could be anybody's night any given night. The reality of the situation is if you are not going offensively that night, you can impact the game in a different way. You can get the ball into the hands of someone who is hot that night."

WRESTLERS

(Continued from Page 9)

"I told our kids that the seeds don't really matter," Indian Creek's Brandon Pendleton said. "The coaches decide the seeds but you have to perform and live up to them or above them."

Barnesville's Jayson Stephen said the same thing.

"It's a tournament where you have to go out and perform to the best of your abilities," he said. "There's no excuses, no regrets."

"We've got a lot of kids that have wrestled here before, so, hopefully that helps," Martins Ferry's Chad Ware noted. "It's definitely a tough three days."

Other returning champions include Oak Glen's Logan Davis (113); Barnesville's Dakota King (132); Steuben-

ville's Brody Saccoccia (132); Indian Creek's Dom Paterra (157); University's Luca Felix (175) and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215).

Dr. Dan Doyle, who will preside over his final OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament as director, said if King and Saccoccia are in the finals, Saturday's championships will start at 138 pounds and cycle back to 132 as the final, and featured, bout.

"That's the way it should be. The King boy is ranked No. 1 in Division III and the Saccoccia boy is No. 2 in Division II, which somebody told me is the deepest weight class in the state," Doyle said.

In addition to Wheeling Park's trio of top seeds, others receiving top billing in their weight

classes are Wellsville's Mason Simms (106); Davis (113); White (120); John Marshall's Ethan Cook (126); King (132); Barnesville's Skyler King (138); Lucas (144); University's Dakota Hagedorn (150); Indian Creek's Dom Paterra (157); Maynard (165); Felix (175); Parkersburg South's Robert Shockley (190); Thomas (215) and River's Marshall Bier (285).

Defending champion Barnesville (8 seeds) and Martins Ferry (7) should battle back-and-forth for the Class 3A crown, while defending champ Beaver Local (7), Indian Creek (8) and Oak Glen (9) should compete in 4A. The Class 1A/2A race is between defending champ Cameron (6) and Southern Local (3).

Besides Wheeling Park, Parkersburg South and University in Class 5A, John Marshall (7) and Steubenville (8) could make some noise.

PIN FALLS

- Thirty-five of the 43 schools had at least one seeded wrestler.

- There are 452 wrestlers listed on the 14 brackets.

- There are 23 pigtail matches scheduled for Thursday night.

- The three-day event is honoring its late namesake - Ron Mauck - in a variety of ways, according to Doyle.

- Saturday's championship finals are once again scheduled for 4 p.m., following the announcement of the prestigious Mr. Mat award, along with several other award presentations.

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