# stuns Fort Frye

By KIM NORTH Staff Writer

CADIZ - It's been said time and time before, offense puts points on the scoreboard. but defense wins championships.

Such was the case Saturday morning at Harrison Central High School where the top-seeded Purple Riders (14-4) put up just enough points to take down No. 2 Fort Frye, 37-33, in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Girls Basketball championship game.

The title was the third for Martins Ferry in program history. The others came in 2009 and 2020.

"We got all we wanted from them," Martins Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck said. "That is one great basketball team.

Reasbeck said back in Noed to be playing in the championship game.

"This is where we wanted to be, but it wasn't an easy to beat a team (Union Local) coached by Scooter Tolzda in when you're playing for a 63 ticks left. the semifinals and then beat championship. Fort Frye coached by Dan an accomplishment. Fort in the Eastern District."

very patient on offense.

you.'



Photo by KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY head coach Dave Reasbeck looks at his championship medal Saturday while senior Danielle Lude carries the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A championship trophy after the Purple Riders defeated Fort Frye at Harrison Central High School.

was just that ... at her best. the top of the key for a 34-31 left. The returning all-Ohioan ju- lead her team would never renior scored a game-high 19 linquish. points, grabbed five rebounds and knocked down five of six Reasbeck said. vember that his team expect-"Lindsey

Liedtke in the finals is quite after the first quarter but and Liedtke called time with each had eight. Huffman addwatched the Cadets battle 50.4 showing. Frye might be the best team back to draw even as Ava the Eastern District." Huffman hit a layup just be- seconds on the clock and hit 12 for 26 (46.1 percent). The Purple Riders were fore the halftime buzzer for a the first for a 35-33 lead. grabbed 17 rebounds and 16-all deadlock.

"If you would ve told me Each team tallied nine Fort F we'd score 37 points and points in a back-and-forth court. win against that team. I'm third quarter and were tied not sure I would've believed at 31 midway through the called before Emma Dusfourth quarter before Best de- key let a three-ball go that action Wednesday at Monroe

"That was a huge shot."

own the stretch. Following turnovers by knocked down both as the was tremen- each team, Reasbeck called clock read 7.7. dous," Reasbeck allowed, time with 21.2 seconds re-"But it just wasn't her. Ev- maining. The Purple Riders Martins Ferry starters didn't eryone played well. We had would run a minute off the score, freshman Giana Chirpath." he added. "To be able to against a team like that. clock but missed a layup and It's not supposed to be easy Fort Frye called timeout with nior Danielle Lude had even.

Martins Ferry led 11-7 Cadets to within one, 33-32, ures as Duskey and Dowler

Best was fouled with 27 She missed the second and charted 13 turnovers. The Each team tallied nine Fort Frye brought the ball up Cadets were 14 of 43 (32.5),

Game MVP Lindsey Best livered a three-pointer from splashed the net with 18.9 Central.

Fort Frye worked the ball around but dribbled it out of bounds with 9.7 remaining. Best was fouled again and

Although two of the five pas added nine points and se-

None of Fort Frye's start-Ella Dowler brought the ing five cracked double figed seven.

The Purple Riders shot had 23 boards and were However, a timeout was guilty of just nine turnovers. Martins Ferry returns to

### girls pairings **By MARK DIERKES**

For The Times Leader

COLUMBUS - The OHSAA determined its statewide girls tournament pairings Sunday and several local schools found themselves seeded high for sectional action in Divisions H. III and IV.

OVAC 2-A champion River and runnerup Monroe Central were seeded 2-3 in D-IV behind Union Local and Bellaire 3rd and 4th in D-III, while OVAC titleists Indian Creek (4-A) and Martins Ferry (3-A) were 2-3 in D-II.

Overall top seeds are West Muskingum (II), Fort Frye (III) and Hiland (IV). Seeding is determined by the MaxPreps RPI formula developed by the coaches association and adopted by the OHSAA .

Opening round action begins with a pair of pigtail games Monday, Feb. 19. River's Lady Pilots host #18 Newcomerstown in the lower bracket, while #8 Steubenville Central opposes #12 Bishop Rosecrans in the upper bracket. All tournament weeknight games tipoff at 7. Saturday starts are at 1.

The remainder of the schools debut on the Wednesday, Feb. 21 with the higher seeded schools hosting. Sectional finals are slated for the 24th, while District play begins Feb. 28. Regional play is at Zanesville (11). Logan (III) and Pickerington (IV). DIVISION II EAST-1 UPPER

### BRACKET

Martins Ferry's Lady Riders debut Saturday Feb. 24th versus the #14 Beaver Local/#7 Steubenville winner: Indian Creek hosts #19 Cambridge

(winner faces #20 River View). DIVISION II EAST-1 LOWER BRACKET

Maysville, 16-seed, faces #4 Carrollton/#18 New Philadelphia winner: #12 Indian Valley vs. #6 John Glenn.

**DIVISION II EAST-2 UPPER** BRACKET

Coshocton, seeded 21st, faces West Muskingum/#17 Zanesville winner; #9 East Liverpool vs. #10 Philo.

#5 West Holmes/#15 Minerva winner faces #13 Morgan: Harrison Central's Lady Huskies, seeded 11th. meets #8 Dover on the 24th.

See PAIRING, Page B2

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## Barnesville cheerleaders win OVAC 3A championship

By NICK HENTHORN Sports Editor

teams from across the der the OVAC conditions OVAC converged on to end their season with a WesBanco Arena to com- 5A conference title. pete for the conference championships | stop for the season.

teams preparing new routines just for the event. Wheeling Park was

WHEELING - Cheer able to rise to the top un-

ference "It means a lot," Wheel-Satur- ing Park head coach day - and for some OVAC Shawna Shepherd said. teams, the competition "It's a long season. We amounted to their final officially start in August, so to keep kids healthy In a five-tiered affair and motivated through starting bright and early three different routines-Saturday morning, the because this routine is



Madonna Blue Dons took very different from our in 2A, the Barnesville sometimes hard." Shamrocks came out atop 3A, the St. Clairsville Red group, it's probably one of Devils were first in 4A, the best groups I've ever and the Wheeling Park coached, and they're just Patriots were champs in a family. They love each 5A.

More teams competsystem was a hybrid of requirements from both take it." states.

The unorthodox nature of the competition had

the crown at 1A, the To- regional and state routine, ronto Red Knights won there are no stunts- it's

"But this is a great other, they work hard and they push each other. We ed in 2023 than in years had a lot of injuries and prior, and - with the event illnesses all this week, involving cheer squads and we pushed through. from both West Virgin- I'm very happy with the ia and Ohio- the scoring outcome. It wasn't our best performance, but I'll

#### See BARNESVILLE, Page B2

THE BARNESVILLE Shamrocks, pictured with their OVAC 3A Championship on Saturday inside WesBanco Arena:

88

### SPORTS

#### THE TIMES LEADER - Monday, February 5, 2024 - B2

#### Pilots

Continued from Page B1

Enter Tessa Prim. Always a solid reserve off the bench. Prim ignited the ilots with a couple free throws off an offensive rebound, and later. added six points in the third, two of which were a direct result of a putback.

She provided a spark and some muscle, finishing with 10 off the bench.

Riley Bettinger led Monroe with 12 points, with Jacey English chipping in 10 and another eight coming from freshman Jadyn Miller.

Baker didn't feel the moment was too big for his younger lineup - it was a five-point game heading into the final quarter.

But it picked a bad spot to go through a bad stretch, not hitting shots. committing turnovers. and going just 1-of-8 from the line during the game.

Isaly though was glad the majority of his players had been there before in that championship environment. The experience certainly didn't hurt.

The Pilots kept the turnovers to a minimum

#### Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

In addition to the 3A title, Barnesville also finished with the overall high score Saturday. It was their third straight conference championship, something the Shamrocks took great pride in.

"Our team really went in wanting to land our third straight OVAC title in the 3A division." Barnesville head coach Abby McClelland said. "Not only did they do that, but they came out with the overall highest score of the competition. That really was the icing on the cake.

"I'm super proud of them and I think they did an amazing job yesterday. We really focused on all the little things to improve their performance competition after competition, and I think they really nailed if vesterday.

For Barnesville, the OVAC competition was one part of a busy weekend. On Sunday, the 'Rocks qualified for the OASSA Cheer & Dance state competition in March for both Game Day and Traditional.

They are also leaving Friday to compete at ESPN Wide World of Sports 2024 UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Disney

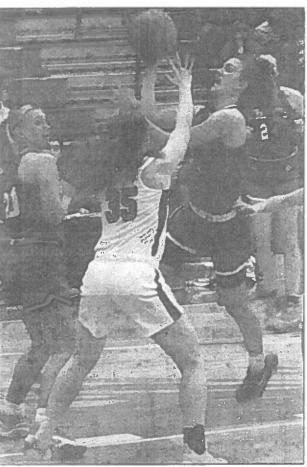


Photo ProVIDED RIVER'S KELSEY Harlan (3) and Monroe Central's Jaysa Henthorn (2) battle for a rebound during Saturdav's OVAC WVU Medicine Class 2A girls basketball championship game at Harrison Central High School in Cadiz. The Pilots repeated with a 55-41 victory.

and didn't rush shots as here before, they've the minutes ticked off been in the championthe fourth-quarter clock. ship and they knew the "All of these girls except for three have been handled it better."

> OVAC will be a big part of this year's graduating class, seniors Belle Corder and Tate Spangenburg.

pressure and I felt we

"They've gone undefeated in their career for OVAC titles," McClelland said. "I think that's really amazing for them to put on their record. Tate and Belle are amazing leaders and they really bring the team together. It was a great way for them to end their OVAC chcer career."

While teams on the Ohio side of the river will continue on, some West Virginia teams like Wheeling Park wrapped up their year Saturday.

For the Patriots, their win at Wes-Banco was the cap on what had been a successful season, and standout careers for seniors Adam Carman, AJ Walters and Civita Cooper.

"This is our fast competition." Shepherd said. "We had regionals in November that we won, we competed in states and won runner-up."

"It's kind of bitter-sweet, especially for my three seniors who have been here four years, and they're great. I really wanted it for them.

River won first place at the competition's small school non-tumbling routine, while Edison won the large school counterpart. Wheeling Central was runner-up in 3A, and John Marshall was runner-up in 5A.

Monday, Feb. 5 BASKETBALL (GIRLS) Edison at Wellsville, 5:30 p.m

LOCAL CARD

Wheeling Central at Cameron Bridgeport at Barnesville

Steubenville Catholic at Harrison Central Brooke at St. Clairsville Bellaire at River

Buckeye Local at Shenandoah Trinity Christian at Toronto

Valley at Frontier, 7 p.m.

#### **OVAC** TOURNEY BOYS

**OVAC CHAMPIONSHIP** SEMIFINALS Tuesday, Feb. 6 CLASS 1A

#4 Madonna at #1 Cameron #3 Wellsville at #2 Trinity Christian

CLASS 2A #4 River at #1 Monroe Central #3 Steubenville Catholic at #2 Toronto

CLASS 3A #4 Buckeye Trail at #1 Union Local

#3 Wheeling Central at #2 Martins Ferry CLASS 4A

#4 Beaver Local at #1 Harrison Central #3 St. Clairsville at #2 East Liv-

erpool CLASS 5A #4 Steubenville at #1 Morgan-

town #3 Brooke at #2 Wheeling Park

**CONSOLATION POOL** 

Tuesday, Feb. 6 Southern at Beallsville Clay Battelle at Magnolia Shadyside at Frontier Bellaire at Shenandoah Wood County at Valley Hundred at Conotton Valley Caldwell at Bridgeport Barnesville at Indian Creek Dover at Fort Frye Linsly at Weir Oak Glen at Edison John Marshall at Buckeye Local

Parkersburg South at Univer-

Wednesday, Feb. 7 Frontier at Paden City

Friday, Feb. 9 Conotton Valley at Southern Weir at Clay Battelle Magnolia at Shadyside Bridgeport at Bellaire Beallsville at Wood County Paden City at Hundred Valley at Caldwell Fort Frye at Barnesville ndian Creek at Dover University at Linsly Buckeye Local at Oak Glen Edison at John Marshall Shenandoah at Parkersburg South

**BOX SCORES** GIRLS OVAC CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS (at Harrison Central)

Class 1A Cameron 86, Trinity 60 TRINITY (60) – Barnet 14 6-9 37; Lynch 5 0-0 11; Moore 0 0-0 0; Williams 1 0-0 3; Kurilko 4 0-0 9; Fisher 0 0-2 0; Hopkins 0 0-0 0; Conn 0 0-0 0; Deal 0 0-0 0; Blake 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-55 6-11 60. CAMERON (86) -Van Tassell 18 2-6 38; Clutter 4 0-0 10; E. Dobbs 5 0-1 11; A. Dobbs 6 0-2 15; Neely 6 0-0 12; Bertram 0 0-0 0; Thomas 0 0-0 0; Littleton 0 0-0 0; Schrack 0 0-0 0; Francis 0 0-0 0; Totals: 39-65 2-9 86.

NHL STANDINGS	SPORTS ON TV
EASTERN CONFERENCE	Monday, Feb. 5
Atlantic Division	AHL HOCKEY
GP W L OTPts GF GA	9 p.m.
Boston 49 31 9 9 71 173 128	NHLN - 2024 AHL AII-St
Florida 49 31 14 4 66 158 127	Classic Challenge, San Jos
Tampa 50 27 18 5 59 175 164	Calif.
Toronto 47 25 14 8 58 166 150	COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Detroit 50 26 18 6 58 176 161	(MEN'S)
Buffalo 49 22 23 4 48 146 155	7 p.m
Mont. 49 20 21 8 48 136 175	ESPN — Miamī at Virgini
Ottawa 47 20 25 2 42 158 170	9 p.m.
Metropolitan Division	ESPN — Kansas at Kans
GPW L OT Pts GF GA	St.
NYR 49 30 16 3 63 161 142	ESPN2 - Southern U.
Car. 48 28 15 5 61 163 144	Jackson St. COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Phila. 50 25 19 6 56 147 148 NYI 49 20 17 12 52 143 166	(WOMEN'S)
Pitts. 46 22 17 7 51 138 126	6 p.m.
NJ 47 24 20 3 51 161 168	BTN — Minnesota at Mi
Wash, 47 22 18 7 51 115 146	igan St.
Colu. 50 16 24 10 42 148 184	7 p.m.
WESTERN CONFERENCE	ESPN2 — Louisville at I
Central Division	State
GP W L OT Pts GF GA	SECN — Alabama at Va
Colo. 49 32 14 3 67 190 153	derbilt
Dallas 49 30 13 6 66 183 151	8 p.m.
Winn. 47 30 12 5 65 148 109	BTN — Illinois at Purdue
St. L. 49 26 21 2 54 141 153	NBA BASKETBALL
Nash. 51 26 23 2 54 153 160	7:30 p.m.
Ariz. 48 23 22 3 49 143 147	NBATV — Golden State
Minn. 49 21 23 5 47 149 166	Brooklyn
Chi. 50 14 34 2 30 105 177	SOCCER (MEN'S)
Pacific Division	2:50 p.m. FS2 CONMEBOL U-
GP W L OTPtsGF GA Vanc. 49 33 11 5 71 186 127	FS2 — CONMEBOL U- Olympic Qualifier 2024 Fit
Vanc. 49 33 11 5 71 186 127 Vegas 50 29 15 6 64 163 138	Stage: Argentina vs. Venezi
Edm. 45 29 15 1 59 160 124	la, Caracas, Venezuela
LA 48 23 15 10 56 152 132	3 p.m.
Seattle 50 21 19 10 52 140 147	USA — Premier Leagu
Calg. 49 22 22 5 49 149 155	Manchester City at Brentfor
Ana. 50 18 30 2 38 129 170	5:45 p.m.
S. Jose 51 14 32 5 33 107 199	FS2 — CONMEBOL U-
NOTE: Two points for a win,	Olympic Qualifier 2024 Fir
one point for overtime loss.	Stage: Brazil vs. Paraguay, C
Top three teams in each divi-	racas, Venezuela
sion and two wild cards per	SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
conference advance to playoffs.	12:55 p.m.
Saturday's Games	FS2 - 2024 CONCAC
Team McDavid 4, Team MacK-	U-17 Championship Gro
innon 3	Stage: Costa Rica vs. El Sal
Team Matthews 6, Team	dor, Group A, Toluca, Mexic

Hughes 5 Team Matthews 7, Team Mc David 4

Sunday's Games No games scheduled Monday's Games Colorado at N.Y. Rangers, 7

p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7

p.m. **Tuesday's Games** 

Calgary at Boston, 7 p.m. Dallas at Buffalo, 7 p.m. Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at Florida, 7 p.m. Vancouver at Carolina, 7 p.m. Winnipeg at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Colorado at New Jersey, 7:30 ).m.

Edmonton at Vegas, 10 p.m. Wednesday's Games

Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.

Minnesota at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.

ECHL

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

Sunday's Games Indy 4, Newfoundiand 3 Maine 3, Rapid City 2 Reading 2, Ådirondack 1 South Carolina 6, Atlanta 0 Greenville 7, Savannah 3 vneeling 4, Orland Kalamazoo 4, Fort Wayne 2 Utah 6, Tulsa 4 Wichita 4, Kansas City 3 Toledo 9, Norfolk 1 Monday's Games No games scheduled Tuesday's Games Wheeling at Reading, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday's Games Orlando at Jacksonville, 7 p.m. Adirondack at Florida, 7:30 p.m Kalamazoo at Iowa, 7:35 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5 AHL HOCKEY 9 p.m. HLN — 2024 AHL All-Star: sic Challenge, San Jose, OLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 7 p.m. SPN — Miami at Virginia 9 p.m. — Kansas at Kansas SPN2 — Southern U. at son St. OLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 6 p.m. FN — Minnesota at Mich-St. 7 p.m. SPN2 — Louisville at NC ECN — Alabama at Vanilt 8 p.m. - Illinois at Purdue **NBA BASKETBALL** 7:30 p.m. BATV — Golden State at klyn SOCCER (MEN'S) 2:50 p.m. CONMEBOL U-23 pic Qualifier 2024 Final e: Argentina vs. Venezuearacas, Venezuela 3 p.m. — Premier League: SA chester City at Brentford 5:45 p.m. – CONMEBOL U-23 pic Qualifier 2024 Final e: Brazil vs. Paraguay, Ca-Venezuela SOCCER (WOMEN'S) 12:55 p.m. --- 2024 CONCACAF Championship Group e: Costa Rica vs. El Salva-Group A, Toluca, Mexico TENNIS 4 a.m. TENNIS — Marseille-ATP, ordoba-ATP, Abu Dha-Cordoba-ATP, Cluj-Napoca-WTA bi-WTA, 6 a.m. TENNIS — Marseille-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Dallas-ATP ba-ATP, Dallas-ATP, Dhabi-WTA, Cluj-Na-Abu poca-WTA Early Rounds 6:30 p.m. TENNIS — Dallas-ATP, Cordoba-ATP Early Rounds 4 a.m. (Tuesday) TENNIS — Marseille-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dha-bi-WTA, Cluj-Napoca-WTA Early Rounds 6 a.m. (Tuesday)

TENNIS — Marseille-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Dallas-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Cluj-Napoca-WTA Early Rounds

#### NBA

Saturday's Games Brooklyn 136, Philadelphia 121 Atlanta 141, Golden State 134,

OT Sacramento 123, Chicago 115 Cleveland 117, San Antonio 101 .A. Lakers 113, New York 105 Milwaukee 129, Dallas 117

Sunday's Games Orlando 111, Detroit 99 Phoenix 140, Washington 112 Boston 131, Memphis 91 Indiana 115, Charlotte 99 L.A. Clippers 103, Miami 95 Minnesota 111, Houston 90 Oklahoma City 135, Toronto 127.20T

Utah 123, Milwaukee 108 Denver 112, Portland 103 **Monday's Games** Dallas at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Sacramento at Cleveland, 7 Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Tuesday's Games Houston at Indiana, 7 p.m. Dallas at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at New York, 7:30 p.m. Orlando at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Minnesota at Chicago, 8 p.m. Oklahoma City at Utah, 9 p.m. Fort Wayne at Kansas City, Milwaukee at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

sity

World.

Even with more to come from Barnesville, their performances at



### We Offer a Huge Variety of Carefully-Selected

 Pairings – Continued from Page B1 **DIVISION III UPPER BRACKET** St. Clairsville's 11seed Lady Red Devils meet the Fort Frye/#13 Claymont winner on 24th; Bellaire's the 4th-seeded Lady Reds take on #9 Sandy Valley with the winner meeting #8 Meadowbrook, which took a bye.

**DIVISION III LOW-**ER BRACKET

Valley, Tuscarawas seeded 2nd, host the winner of #6 Buckeye Local/#10 Edison, on the 24th; Third-seed Union Local's Lady Jets oppose #12 Buckeye Trail with the winner faces the Ramesville (#7)/#5

Three-point goals: Trinity 6 (Barnet 3, Lynch, Williams, Kurilko). Cameron 6 (A. Dobbs 3. Clutter 2, E. Dobbs)

Class 2A **River 55, Monroe Central 41** RIVER (55) – Hobbs 3 8-8 14; Harlan 6 4-5 19; Reed 0 0-2 0; Isaly 2 0-0 4; Hagan 3 1-2 8; Fox 0 0-0 0; Prim 3 4-4 10; Totals: 17 17-21 55. MONROE CENTRAL (41) - Emery 3 0-0 7; Henthorn 0 0-0 0; English 4 0-0 10; Miller 3 0-2 8; Bettinger 5 1-2 12; McGarry 2 0-2 4; Mc-Frederick 0 0-2 0; Smitley 0 0-0 8:05 p.m 0; Totals: 17 1-8 41. Tulsa at Allen, 8:10 p.m.

Three-point Goals: River 4 (Harlan 3, Hagan). Monroe Central 6 (English 2, Miller 2, Bettinger, Emery)

Class 3A Martins Ferry 37, Fort Frye 33 FORT FRYE (33) – Huffman 2 3-4 7; E. Duskey 4 0-2 8; A. Duskey 2 0-0 4; Lang 0 0-0 0; O'Brien 2 1-2 6; Dowler 4 0-0 8; Totals: 14-43 4-8 33. MAR-TINS FERRY (37) - Lude 3 0-0 Chirpas 3 2-2 9; Sidon 0 0-0 Best 5 7-8 19; M. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Call 0 0-0 0; Smith 0 0-0 0; Ree3se 1 0-0 2; Totals: 12-26 9-10 37

Three-point goals: Fort Frye 1 (O'Brien). Martins Ferry 4 (Lude, Chirpas, Best 2)

#### GOLF SCORES

AT&T Pebb	le Beach Pro-Am Par Scores	
Saturda	y at Pebble Beach, Calif.	
a-Pebble Be	ach Golf Links (Host Course)	
6	,972 yards; Par 72	
b-Spy	glass Hill Golf Course	
7	,041 yards; Par 72	
F	Purse: \$20 million	
Third Round (fina	al round ppd. to today - weather)	
Note: Tournan	nent is played on two courses.	
Wyndham Clark	72b-67a-60a—199	-17
Ludvig Aberg	68b-65a-67a-200	-16
Matthieu Pavon	65a-70b-66a—201	-15
Thomas Detry	63b-70a-69a202	-14
Mark Hubbard	69a-68b-65a—202	-14
Jason Day	69b-71a-63a—203	-13
Tom Hoge	71b-66a-66a-203	-13
Scottle Scheffler	69b-64a-70a—203	-13
A CARL THE	0.01 0.01 0.00	

Photo by Kim North Cameron's Ashlynn Van Tassell drives the base-line during Saturday's OVAC WVU Medicine Class 1A championship game against Trinity at Harrison Central High School. Van Tassell scored 38 points, pulled down 20 rebounds and blocked five shots as the Dragons won their fourth title in a row, 86-60, over the Warriors.

# CLASS 1A **Cameron Wins** Unprecedented 4th Title In Row

#### **By KIM NORTH Staff Writer**

CADIZ - The seniors on the Cameron girls' basketball team continue to etch their names in the record books.

Following Saturday's 86-60 rout of No. 2 Trin-ity (13-5) in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 1A championship game inside Harrison Central High School, the Dragons (13-5) became the first team male or female do win four consecutive titles, having already prevailed in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

"I think this one is really special because it is our fourth in a row." Cameron Head Coach Holly Pettit said. "That says something about the seniors on my team who have been a part of that success. I can't say enough about them and what they have done for this program.

As has been the norm for the last three-and-a-half seasons, Cameron was led by Youngstown State University recruit Ashlynn Van Tassel.

Please see CAMERON, Page 11



Photo by Kim North

Members of the Wheeling Park girls' basketball team gather around junior Alexis Bordas, holding the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 5A championship trophy, following the Patriots' 68-53 victory over Mor-gantown at Harrison Central High School on Saturday. The win was the 15th overall title, tying St. John Central for the most in OVAC girls basketball history.

### Patriots Win Record-Tying 15th OVAC Championship

#### **By KIM NORTH Staff Writer**

CADIZ - With its workmanlike 68-53 victory over top-seeded and rival Morgantown in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 5A Girls Basketball Champion- They've also captured crowns in es of the opening quarter rallied ship, No. 2 Wheeling Park tied 1976, 1978, 1980, 1986, 1997. the Patriots from a 4-3 deficit to the record for overall titles with 1998, 1999, 2011, 2004, 2011. a 11-4 advantage and they were St. John Central at 15.

"That's nice and everything," Wheeling Park head coach Ryan Young said. "It's good for the was to get off to a good start." girls, but, honestly, we've got Young said. "The last two years bigger goals ahead.

### **MUKE INSIDE**

 River, Indian Creek repeat as OVAC champions in 2A, 4A/10

2012 and 2017. Young is now never seriously threatened by the 2-4 all-time.

"One of our keys coming in gger goals ahead." we've come into this game The title was the Patriots first against Morgantown and didn't since the COVID year of 2020, get off to good starts and that

can be attributed to us getting in a hole that we couldn't dig our way out of.'

Such was not the case on Saturday.

An 8-0 run in the latter stag-Mohigans (12-5). It was 14-9 at the end of eight minutes before each team posted a dozen points in the second quarter for a 26-21 margin at the half.

Please see PARK, Page 10



Photo by Kim North Martins Ferry's Alivia Reese (15) scores two points against Fort Frye during Saturday's OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A championship at Harrison Central High School.

### CLASS 3A Ferry Edges Fort Frye For 3A Crown

#### **By KIM NORTH Staff Writer**

and time before, offense puts points ing in the championship game. on the scoreboard, but defense wins championships.

morning at Harrison Central High 2 Fort Frye, 37-33, in the OVAC Basketball championship game.

The title was the third for Martins Ferry in program history. The tient on offense. others came in 2009 and 2020.

great basketball team."

CADIZ - It's been said time that his team expected to be play-

be, but it wasn't an easy path," he of six free throws down the stretch. Such was the case Saturday added. "To be able to beat a team "Lindsey was tremendous." (Union Local) coached by Scooter School where the top-seeded Tolzda in the semifinals and then Purple Riders (14-4) put up just beat Fort Frye coached by Dan to against a team like that. It's not enough points to take down No. Liedtke in the finals is quite an accomplishment. Fort Frye might WVU Medicine Class 3A Girls be the best team in the Eastern District."

The Purple Riders were very pa-

"We got all we wanted from score 37 points and win against all deadlock. them," Martins Ferry head coach that team, I'm not sure I would've Dave Reasbeck said. "That is one believed you."

Game MVP Lindsey Best was Reasbeck said back in November just that ... at her best. The returning all-Ohioan junior scored a in the championship game. game-high 19 points, grabbed five This is where we wanted to rebounds and knocked down five

> Reasbeck said. "But it just wasn't her. Everyone played well. We had supposed to be easy when you're playing for a championship.

Martins Ferry led 11-7 after the first quarter but watched the Cadets battle back to draw even as Ava Huffman hit a layup just be-"If you would've told me we'd fore the halftime buzzer for a 16-

Please see FERRY, Page 11

### Heilman, Parker, Humpe And Miller Capture Region 1 Titles

**By JOHN McCABE** 

WELLSBURG - Area swimmers captured four individual titles and one relay crown during Saturday's West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Region 1 Swim Championships at Brooke High School.

Winning individual honors





Wheeling Park senior Abby Heilman in the 100 breast (1:13.33); Wheeling Park junior Levi Parker in the 200 freestyle (1:50.15); Wheeling Central senior JulieAnne Humpe in the 100 backstroke (1:02.96); and John Marshall junior sprinter Maitlyn Miller in the 100 freestyle (57.28). Brooke High School's 200 freestyle relay team of Ella Dietrich, Ella McCullough, Lyla Horvath and Faith Farrell also captured top honors in a time of 1:46.19. Heilman. Parker and Miller also

picked up runner-up honors in the 200

Individual Medley, the 100 backstroke

and the 50 freestyle, respectively.

Miller and Humpe received All-Re-

gion recognition for points scored on

Humpe finished third in the 200 IM.

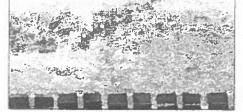


Photo by John McCabe Wheeling Park High School junior Levi Parker swims the 100 backstroke during Saturday's West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Region 1 Swim Championship at Brooke High School. Parker finished second in the event, breaking a Wheeling Park school record in the process.

Overall, Parkersburg South had a For those finishes, Heilman, Parker, strong showing on both the boys and the girls side of the pool.

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The Wheeling Park Patriots pose with their OVAC 5A Championship on Saturday inside WesBanco Arena.

### OVAC Cheering Champs Crowned

#### **By NICK HENTHORN Sports Editor**

across the OVAC converged on Wes- in 2A. the Barnesville Shamrocks Banco Arena to compete for the con- came out atop 3A, the St. Clairsville ference championships Saturday- and Red Devils were first in 4A, and the for some OVAC teams, the competi- Wheeling Park Patriots were champs tion amounted to their final stop for in 5A. the season.

In a five-tiered affair starting bright

and early Saturday morning, the Madonna Blue Dons took the crown at WHEELING - Cheer teams from 1A. the Toronto Red Knights won

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Saturday. 1

Photo Provided

TOTAL AND A AND A 31 midway through the fourth quarter before Best delivered a three-pointer but dribbled it out of bounds with 9.7 from the top of the key for a 34-31 lead her team would never relinquish.

"That was a huge shot," Reasbeck said.

remaining. The Purple Riders would run a minute off the clock but missed a layup and Fort Frve called timeout with 63 ticks left.

Ella Dowler brought the Cadets to seven. within one, 33-32, and Liedtke called time with 50.4 showing.

the clock and hit the first for a 35-33 lead. She missed the second and Fort and were guilty of just nine turnovers. Frye brought the ball up court. However, a timeout was called before Emma Wednesday at Monroe Central.

#### REGION 1

#### (Continued from Page 9)

As a team, South broke four Region 1 meet records - two by Jordan Claypoole (50 free in 24.2 and the 100 butterfly in 56.58), one by Quade Harris in the 100 back (53.57), and the boys 200 medley relay team set a new mark at 1:41.55.

Parkersburg South captured the boys' overall title over Wheeling Park. while Morgantown High edged out Brooke by, three points for the girls' crown.

Brooke head coach Kelsie Blumette said her girls gave it their all on Saturday.

"I'm extremely proud. Our girls worked so hard, and the results came ley relay on Saturday. through today. We have a number of girls that received automatic bids to state, and others that will get at-large bids. I couldn't have asked more from them; a lot of personal bests, a lot of great swims. Just a great day for Brooke." she said. Wheeling Central head

coach Jeanie Humpe also said her team gave its all. "Our swimmers are talented and they've really put in the work this year. I'm proud of all of them. The competition each year keeps getting better the 500 free at 5:48.3. and better, and to see our the right path."

pool after a season of ad- 4X100 free relay squad form." Humpe said. "Ev- Morgantown. ery time she swims, she's amazing. She's ready for states.

Fort Frye worked the ball around or, and - with the event remaining. Best was fouled again and knocked down both as the clock read 7.7

Although two of the five Martins Fer-Following turnovers by each team, ry starters didn't score, freshman Giana states. The unorthodox Reasbeck called time with 21.2 seconds Chirpas added nine points and senior nature of the competition Danielle Lude had even.

None of Fort Frye's starting five cracked double figures as Duskey and Dowler each had eight. Huffman added able to rise to the top un-

The Purple Riders shot 12 for 26 (46.1 percent), grabbed 17 rebounds Best was fouled with 27 seconds on and charted 13 turnovers. The Cadets were 14 of 43 (32.5), had 23 boards Martins Ferry returns to action "It's a long season. We

involving cheer squads from both West Virginia and Ohio - the scoring system was a hybrid of requirements from both nature of the competition had teams preparing new routines just for the event. Wheeling Park was der the OVAC conditions to end their season with a 5A conference title.

"It means a lot," Wheeling Park head coach Shawna Shepherd said. officially start in August, so to keep kids healthy and motivated through three different routinesregional and state routine. We really focused on all career. there are no stunts — it's the little things to im- Whil sometimes hard."

the best groups I've ever ally nailed it yesterday." coached, and they're just a family. They love each OVAC take it.

title, Barnesville also fin- 2024 their third straight con- ney World. ference championship. took great pride in.

in wanting to land our of this year's graduating wanted it for them." third straight OVAC ti- class, seniors Belle Cord- River won first place at tle in the 3A division." er and Tate Spangenburg. the competition's small Barnesville head coach That really was the icing Tate and Belle are amaz- ner-up in 5A.

#### CAMERON ---

#### (Continued from Page 9)

The 6-3 senior post had game-highs was all five starters reached double of 38 points, 20 rebounds and five figures. Senior point guard Kenzie straight year.

that we can bring another title back to our small town.

The lop-sided victory also makes **BOYS** with a 23.61, good for eight straight OVAC Tournament wins Wheeling Park had a second. His teammate, and the Dragons have won six consecutive W.Va. Class A state tournament

"Hopefully we can extend the state ways does.



The Barnesville Shamrocks pose with their OVAC 3A Championship trophy on Saturday inside WesBanco Arena.

#### on the cake.

For Barnesville, the up their year Saturday. competition I'm very happy with the in March for both Game outcome. It wasn't our Day and Traditional. perbest performance, but I'll They are also leaving Friday to compete at ESPN In addition to the 3A Wide World of Sports' UCA score Saturday. It was ing Championship at Dis- won runner-up.

Abby McClelland said, feated in their career for tine, while Edison won "Not only did they do OVAC titles." McClel- the large school counter-that, but they came out land said. "I think that's part. Wheeling Central with the overall highest really amazing for them was runner-up in 3A, and score of the competition, to put on their record. John Marshall was run-

ing leaders and they really "I'm super proud of bring the team together. It because this routine is them and I think they did was a great way for them very different from our an amazing job yesterday. to end their OVAC cheer

Photo Provided

While teams on the prove their performance Ohio side of the river "But this is a great competition after compe- will continue on, some group, it's probably one of tition, and I think they re- West Virginia teams like Wheeling Park wrapped

For the Patriots, their other, they work hard and was one part of a busy win at WesBanco was they push each other. We weekend. On Sunday, the cap on what had been had a lot of injuries and the 'Rocks qualified for a successful season, and illnesses all this week, the OASSA Cheer & standout careers for seand we pushed through. Dance state competition niors Adam Carman, AJ Walters and Civita Coo-

"This is our last com-petition." Shepherd said. "We had regionals in No-National vember that we won, we ished with the overall high High School Cheerlead- competed in states and

"It's kind of bitter-Even with more to sweet, especially for my something the Shamrocks come from Barnesville, three seniors who have bk great pride in. their performances at been here four years. Our team really went OVAC will be a big part and they're great. I really

"They've gone unde- school non-tumbling rou-

blocked shots. For her efforts, she Clutter joined Van Tassell with a douwas voted the game MVP for the third ble-double that featured 10 points and 14 assists as she continues to add to the 100 back, while Mc- att Jefferson in fourth at "It feels great," Van Tassell said her all-time school mark. Ashlee Dobbs Cullough finished just be- 2:19.08 and Brooke's of the fourth title. "The first three (ti- chipped in 15 points, with nine coming Her daughter also had hind Heilman in the 100 Henry Anderson placing tles) we played pretty good. Today we on a trio of treys, while Maci Neely had remarkable day in the breast (1:14.79). Brooke fifth at 2:22.76. landed half-a-dozen rebounds as the Dragons, the two-time W.Va. Class A state champs who are currently ranked No. 1 in the latest state AP poll, enjoyed a 34-20 margin off the glass.

"That's great and it was a well-balcontests. They lost to Beallsville in the anced effort." Pettit added. "The Dobbs Outside of strong swims ersburg South. Outside and earns an automat- 2020 OVAC title tilt when the seniors twins shot the ball really well today and Maci Neely ran the floor like she al-

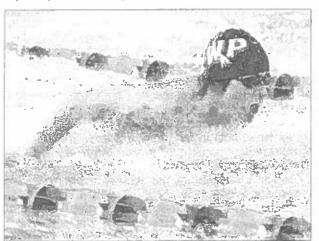
Ashlee Dobbs was perfect on all six of her attempts from the floor, with half of them coming from downtown. Emilee was 5-for-8 as the Dragons shot Kiziminski earned his before the wheels fell off. They chart- a blistering 60 percent (39-65). Van "That's a pretty good number," Pettit said of the marksmanship. "We are ca-Trinity's Jenna Barnet torched the nets for 37 points, but only one other Warriors reached double digits - Ella column. The Warriors shot 44 percent from Farrell finished third to petitor. Wheeling Cen-earn an automatic bid tral's Alex Mihalovich really well. Some things advantage," Petiti praised. "She does re-to states, touching just earned an automatic bid didn't pan out exactly as ally well getting open and Kenzie con-behind Miller at 26.06, to states by finishing third we expected them to, and Brocke's McCullough in the 200 freestyle at we had a late iniver, but there to clean up when we miss a shot off the bench "We'll enjoy this tonight, but the ing Central coming to our place on

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Photos by John McCabe

Kiziminski performs the 100 breaststroke during Sat-urday's West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Region 1 Swim Championship at Brooke High School. BELOW: Wheeling Park High School senior Max Hill swims the fly portion of the 200 med-



Brooke's swimmers continue to ex- Harvath finished third in John Marshall's Wycel lets me know we're on the 100 back, while Mc- att Jefferson in fourth at a remarkable day in the breast (1:14.79). Brooke fifth at 2:22.76. versity. "She's back in finished second behind Park's Malachi Smith

strong showing Saturday Nathan LaMaga, finished to finish second to Park- third in the event at 23.69 from Heilman, Miller and of Parker's first and sec- ic bid to Morgantown. were in eighth grade. Humpe. Wheeling Park ond-place finishes, the Brooke's Dameon Rea sophomore Molly George team saw a number of finished a strong fourth at

an automatic bid to states Kiersten at 2:14.48, followed by In the 50 freestyle,

earned his bid to states

had two solid swims. She strong swims. qualified for states by fin-100 back (1:04.17).

freestyle where she fin- 1:46.99. ished second at 2:09.84.

finished third in the 100 1:59.3. freestyle at 57.68, just In the 200 IM, good day with a couple came off the offensivahead of Farrell (57.96). Kiziminski finished a exceptional individual resulted in putbacks.

ishing second in both the strong with an opening at 53.33. 100 fly (1:06.71) and the second-place finish in the performance in the 200 Nate LaMagna finished in 1:06.33. John Marshall's

a drop of more than 4 the competition in the 1:04.79. seconds from her seed 200 freestyle, posting a time. Wheeling Central 1:50.15, .7 seconds fast- coach Michael Cook said freshman Ellie Manning er than his seed time and his squad is now looking placed fourth at 2:13.2. more than 7 seconds fast- for strong swims at states. In the 50 free. Brooke's er than his nearest com- set for Feb. 15-16 in

Horvath placed fourth in strong third and earned swims," he said.

23.9. Smith also finished said with a smile. Park's boys started fourth in the 100 freestyle

vath put forth a stellar Kiziminski. Max Hill and breast with a time of with 14.

Wheeling Park head

finished a strong fourth at tournament streak this season. Pettit

The Warriors, who had an 8-game win streak snapped, led 2-0 and 4-2 200 medley relay. The second individual event ed five turnovers in the first quarter and Tassell was 16-for-26. Brooke's Lyla Hor- team of Parker. Jackson bid to states in the 100 had a dozen at the half while finishing

> With Van Tassell netting 10 of her pable of shooting like that." Wyatt Jefferson finished points in the first quarter, Cameron ran Parker ran away from second in the event at out to a 24-14 lead and never looked in the rear view mirror. The 86 points were the Dragons' season-high and also an Lynch had 11. Kaylin Kurilko had nine OVAC Tournament record. They held a and Kate Williams had the final three 48-24 advantage at the half and widened as only four players cracked the scoring the gap to 71-45 after three quarters.

"That performance is typical of how Brooke's McCullough in the 200 freestyle at we had a late injury, but there to clean up when we miss a shot off the bench. overall we had a really from the outside. Of her 20 boards, 13 200 IM, good day with a couple came off the offensive glass and many season isn't over yet. We have Wheel-

Another thing that pleased Pettit. Monday."

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