



AP Photo
West Virginia guard RaeQuan Battle (21) and forward Quinn Slazinski (11) celebrate during the second half against Kansas on Saturday in Morgantown. West Virginia won 91-85.

Mountaineers Deliver Moment To Remember

You could sense what was coming as Kerr Kriisa stood at the free throw line shooting two free throws with 2 seconds to play on Saturday night. free throws would guarantee that there were no "Hail Marys", and no miracles left that could beat the West Virginia basketball team on this Saturday night.



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

This was one of those games that seem to come along whenever Kansas comes to town. This year, it was with them holding the No. 3 spot in the Associated Press poll while WVU was trying to put pieces of its team back together again after what had been a 6-11 start.

The setting was wild. More than 12,000 had ventured out on a night made for brandy or hot chocolate in front of the fireplace, not to trudge to the most well-known building in Morgantown — the Coliseum — to watch what most expected to be another Mountaineer loss.

It's kind of funny that WVU had been saying for a month that it would become a better team when their center and best player, Jesse Edwards, came back from an injured wrist to play, making them a complete team for the first time all season.

Please see MOUNTAINEERS, Page 12

Shamrocks Shine At OVAC Tournament

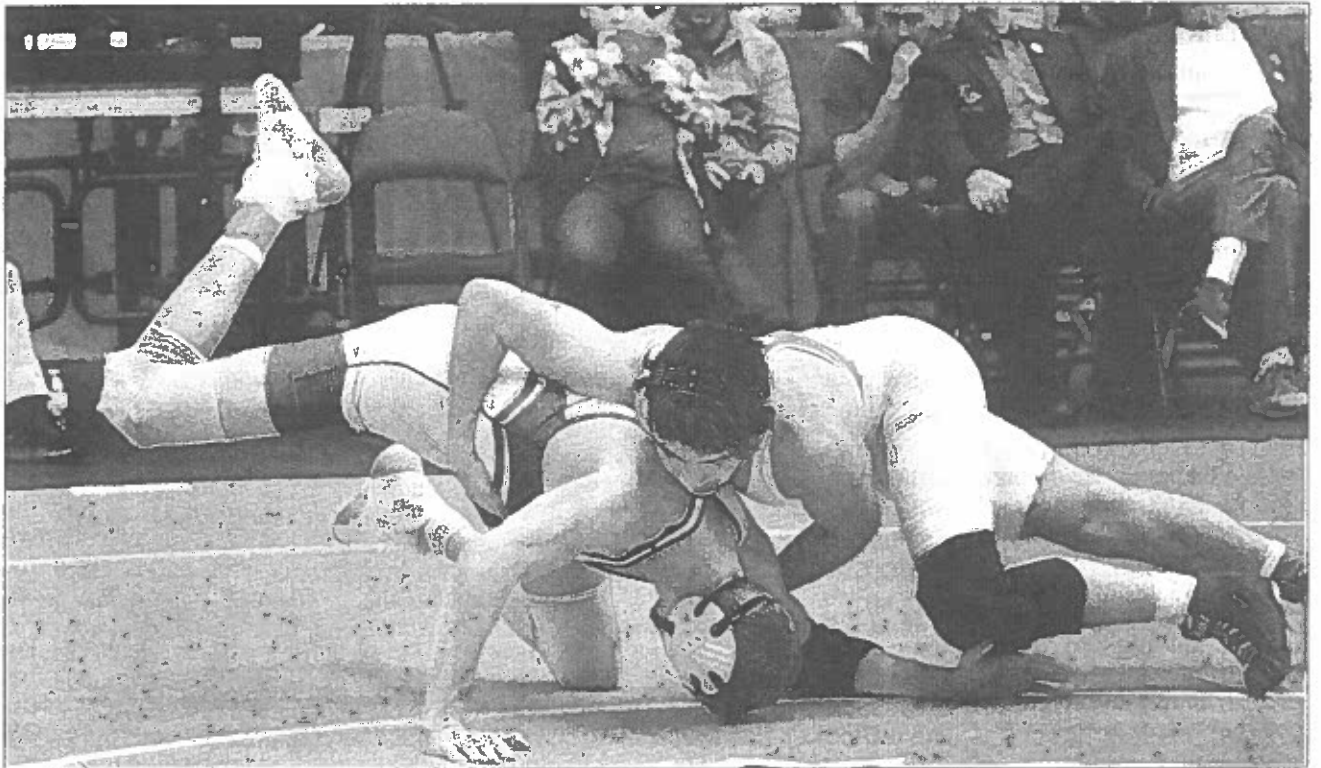


Photo by Kim North
Barnesville's Dakota King works for one of his 11 takedowns against Cameron's Slaton Pettit during the 138-pound finals at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament Saturday night inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. King became a three-time champion with a 23-8 technical fall. The Shamrocks also won their first overall team title since 1985 and their fifth consecutive Class 3A championship.

Barnesville Wrestlers Win First Conference Title Since 1985

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — For the first time in nearly four decades, Barnesville finished as the overall team champion as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament came to a close Saturday night inside WesBanco arena.

The talented Shamrocks piled up 259 points to slip past University which tallied 251.5. It's the first overall championship since 1985. Barnesville also collected its fifth straight Class 3A crown and now has 13 total OVAC Tournament titles.

"The kids battled and battled. We had some kids that stepped up and got higher places on the podium that they were projected," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "This is a big deal. It's an awesome feeling but this team had a lot of bigger goals for down the road."

Please see SHAMROCKS, Page 10

West Named 2024 Mr. Mat

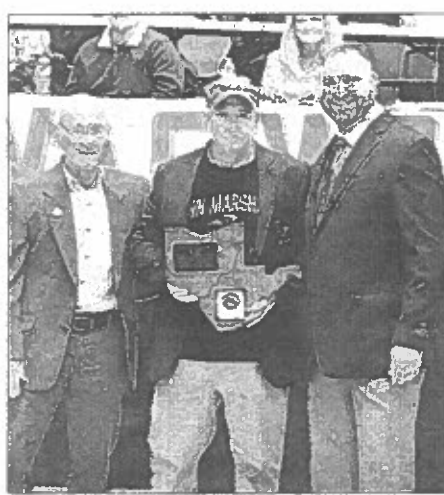


Photo by Kim North
Ed West, center, is presented the Mr. Mat Award by OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, right, and former Mr. Mat, Dr. Vince Monseau, right, Saturday prior to the championship finals. West is a former W.Va. state champion as a wrestler and longtime coach at John Marshall.

WHEELING — Ed West is a graduate of John Marshall High School, where he was a 1973 West Virginia state wrestling champion, compiling a career record of 58-11-1. He was a member of two state championship teams (1972 & 1973).

West earned his BA degree at West Liberty State College (now West Liberty University), and later acquired an masters degree from West Virginia University.

While coaching five years at Moundsville Junior High School (1978-1982) with Larry Chambers. West produced four undefeated teams.

Please see MAT, Page 10



Photo by Andrew Grimm
Wheeling Park senior Abby Heilman competes in the 100 breaststroke during Saturday's Bill Brubaker OVAC Swimming Championships. Heilman won the event, one of three Park swimmers to capture an individual title.

Brooke Girls Win OVAC Swimming Title; Park Boys Finish In Second

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — Thanks to a winning effort, the last member of the Brooke swimming team to hit the pool Saturday was one of its coaches.

Bruins coach Kelsie Blumette made a deal with her team that if they delivered a strong performance in the OVAC Championships, she would go in the water.

Not only did the Bruins girls team top the OVAC Class 5A field to claim the conference ti-

tle for the seventh-year coach, but the Brooke boys also tied for fourth and Blumette was named the OVAC female coach of the year prior to her own swim — assisted by an encouraging shove from celebrating Bruin swimmers.

"It was a great day for Brooke swimming," Blumette said. "Every kid swam out of their minds. We only had two days of practice we were allowed in the pool this past week and the kids showed up in a big way (Saturday)."

The Bruins girls racked up 241 points to beat out perennial contenders Morgantown (203) and Parkersburg South (200) to stand atop the podium inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

That performance was led by an event win from the 200 free relay unit of Ella Dietrich, Ella McCullough, Lyla Horvath and Faith Farrell who turned in a 1:48.22, more than four seconds better than their seed time.

Please see SWIMMING, Page 10

WLU Cruises Past Glenville



Kelce Scores Twice, Chiefs Beat Bills For Spot In AFC Title Game

high four medals on the day.

"We had a runner-up on the girls side in 2019 and now a title this year ... it shows how our program keeps growing," Blumette said. "It's just awesome to see. The boys tying for fourth is big, too. They're a small, but mighty group and they shocked me today. They saw the seed sheet and wanted to be better, and they were."

Blumette's coach of the year award was a new award added this year. It was voted on by the coaches.

"It's pretty cool to be recognized by my peers," she said.

Also on the girls side, John Marshall came in fifth, Wheeling Park sixth and Big Red ninth.

The Patriots' Molly George topped the 100 backstroke in 1:05.10 and was runner-up in the 100 butterfly, while Abby Heilman won the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.25 and finished the day with four medals (third place 200 free relay unit, second in the 200 IM, fifth in the 400 free).

Big Red's Kinsey Tucker finished sixth in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly to give Steubenville a multi-event medalist.

Parkersburg South's Jordan Claypool was the female swimmer of the year recipient after capturing

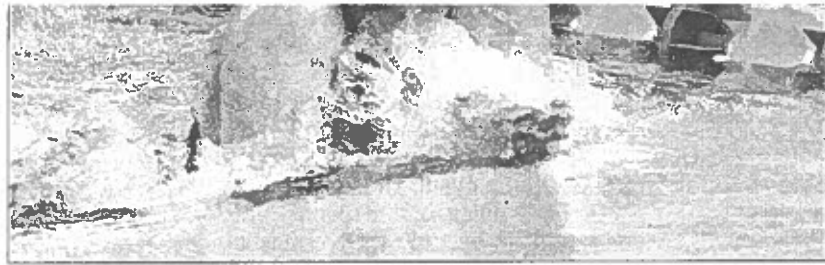


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Brooke's Ella McCullough competes in the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday during the OVAC 5A Swim Meet. McCullough tied for an event-high four medals on the day.

three golds and a bronze.

BOYS

Parkersburg South, whose coach, Ryan Radcliff, was named the conference's boys coach of the year, racked up 354 points to claim the title, topping Wheeling Park's 254 and Dover's 151.

Brooke tied Morgantown for fourth and JM came home in eighth.

South swimmers were on the podium in a total of nine of 22 events on the way to earning the crown.

Park's runner-up effort was led by Levi Parker winning the 200 free in 1:50.84 on the way to earning four medals (second place 200 medley relay team, second in the 500 free, second place 400 free relay team).

Jackson Kiziminski also had four medals for Park (second place 200

medley relay team, second place 200 IM, fourth place 100 breaststroke, second place 400 free relay team).

The Bruins didn't put anyone atop the podium on the boys side but earned their place as a team with medals in eight different events by 10 individuals/relay teams.

Warren's Mason Francis was named the male swimmer of the year after winning two golds, a bronze and a fourth-place medal on the day.

MORE TO COME

Due to being postponed Friday because of the winter storm that came through the area, the titles in Class 1A-3A and 4A will be decided today, also at the Brooke Wellness Center. The meet is set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

SHAMROCKS

(Continued from Page 9)

Barnesville led the 42-team field with 10 placers, including three champions, a trio of runners up, a third, a fifth and two sixths. Winning his third title, which clinched the team championship, was senior Dakota King (138).

The Ohio State University recruit put on a takedown clinic in his 23-8 technical fall of Cameron's Slaton Pettitt in the finals. He had four of his 11 two-pointers in the first period and coasted from there. All of Pettitt's points came on escapes.

"This one feels better than the first two because I finally passed my dad," Dakota said. "He won two and now I'm one up on him. That feels good."

As much pleasure as he took in passing his father, assistant Barnesville coach T.J. King, he was equally proud to be part of a championship team.

"It's been a long, long time since Barnesville won the OVAC Tournament, so this is an exciting time right now," Dakota added. "It was a total team effort and I'm glad to have been a part of it."

Other Shamrocks claiming titles were senior Skyler King (157), no relation to Dakota, and surprising freshman Colt Carpenter (126). It was Skyler King's second consecutive title as he blanked Steubenville's Savier Faulks 6-0. Carpenter, the No. 5 seed, took down University's second-seeded Colton Gillespie, 8-6. That put the Shamrocks ahead by three points and Dakota King's subsequent win sealed the deal.

"The kids did what they had to do," Coach Stephen said. "We had some kids step up, like Colt, and some others. It took an entire team effort."

University head coach Ken Maisel praised the Shamrocks.

"They have a really, really good team," he said. "For a small school

they are doing big things. We made a run at them, but just could get over the top."

The Hawks won the Class 5A team title and also had a trio of titlists in three-time champ Luca Felix (165), two-time titlist Brock Kehler (285) and Pepper Martin (106). Felix defeated Barnesville's Ayden King, 8-2, while Kehler pinned Harrison Central's Landen Thomas and Martin decisioned Beaver Local's Justus Fisher, 9-1. Parkersburg South, which finished as the Class 5A runner up with 203 points, had two champions, as did Steubenville, which finished third in Class 5A with 181.

The Wood County Patriots winners were Gage Wright (175) and Cole Smith (113). The No. 1 nationally ranked Wright posted a 12-2 major decision over Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard, who was a defending OVAC champion. Smith edged East Liverpool's Tristen Eckles, 3-2.

Big Red winners were sophomore Cooper Smith (144) and senior Brody Saccoccia (150). Smith topped Barnesville senior Karson Milhoan, 5-1, while Saccoccia outlasted the Shamrocks' Reese Stephen, 2-1, in an ultimate tiebreaker.

Wheeling Central was the Class 3A runner up with 101.5 points.

Wheeling Park had a champion in Malaki Washington (190). The sophomore, also a No. 5 seed, won by medical default over Beaver Local's Kane Curran who suffered an ankle injury and couldn't continue.

"I said before that Malaki was adjusting to that weight class and this weekend I think he made the final adjustment and showed that he is here to stay," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said.

Washington credited his victory to his training partner.

"I work every day with Jameson Maynard and he really pushes me.

Going to camps also helped me further my skills," he said.

Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120) became a three-time champ with a pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Rossiter in 3:49. The win helped the Golden Bears to the Class 4 team title in head coach Josh Cornell's second year. They tied with Indian Creek last year.

"Our depth really came through this weekend," Cornell said. "We had some guys step up and get on the podium. Sure we would've liked to have had more, but we had enough to get the job done."

When asked about Davis, Cornell really didn't know what to say that he already hasn't about his senior stud.

"He just goes out and takes care of business."

Other champions were Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215) and Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (132). Both won their second titles, but Thomas's first came two years ago. He was runner up last year.

Thomas pinned Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin in 5:37.

"This championship feels a lot better than the first because I felt I was more dominant and in control tonight," Thomas said.

Buccheit earned a 3-1 decision over University's Carter Pauley with a late escape.

Wright was voted the Bierkorte Ward winner by tournament coaches as the Most Outstanding Wrestler. Kehler earned the Hercules Award for most pins in the shortest amount of time in the championship bracket.

Cameron won its third straight Class 1A/2A title, but the first under first-year head coach Derek Martin.

"The kids had a goal coming in here and they accomplished it," Martin noted.

Reds once again forced numerous turnovers with their pressure defense which ultimately led to their 54-51 triumph on John Jenkins Court.

The win also snapped Union Local's streak of four-straight conference titles, dating back to the 2019-20 season. Prior to that, it was head coach John Farrier's Big Reds who won the previous three, making Saturday's Buckeye 8 title the team's fourth in conference history.

While the outcome came down to the wire, Indian Creek head coach Steve Eft believes the game was lost in the first quarter.

It was there Creek turned the ball over nine times in the first quarter and at one point trailed 10-2 before battling back to trail by two at 15-13 by quarter's end.

A couple steals and lay-ins from McKenna Scott helped Creek cut back into the lead as Scott scored 12 of her game-high 23 points in the first half.

Bellaire, meanwhile, featured a balanced scoring effort, led early by Rhyann O'Grady.

The Big Reds' guard also scored 12 in the first quarter plus a couple easy buckets off turnovers. She was backed by eight from Zara Harveth and nine from Eliana Mason, but it was O'Grady leading the charge early.

Bellaire took the lead for good on a pair of Harveth free throws with 39 seconds remaining to break a 51-51 tie.

Trailing by two and after a miss, Creek fouled Harveth again with nine seconds. She missed the first but made the second, putting the Reds up by three.

Creek worked the ball down the floor, but a player fed the ball inside to Kylie Anderson, who had to shoot with only a second to go. The shot rimmed out and the game ended.

Anderson, who finished with nine points, had only two after the break as Creek opted to either attack off the dribble or to put up 3-pointers.

Camryn Ketrone backed Scott and Anderson with eight and Anderson led all players with 15 rebounds for the double-double.

Harveth caught fire in the second half, hitting runners and mid-range jump shots while also going 5-of-6 at the line, finishing with 22 points.

(12-4) took command early behind their full-court pressure and held a 46-17 advantage at the half.

The 44-point margin of victory was Martins Ferry's fourth straight win by at least 20 points.

Lindsey Best had a team-best 22 points, followed by Lindse Sidon with 15. Maddie Lucas chipped in 10.

The Beavers (5-11) were led by Karsyn Bowyer with 11 points.

Union Local 72, St. Clairsville 15

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – The Jets wasted little time early in putting any upset thoughts from the Red Devils to bed, taking a 19-4 lead after one.

Defensively, Union Local forced numerous turnovers and never allowed St. Clairsville to score more than five points in a quarter. Anna Kain led the Red Devils with seven points.

The Jets, meanwhile, got a balanced effort, led by 15 apiece from Lauren Miller and Delaney Butler while Laken Vinskovich went for 10.

Teagan Day added nine off the bench for Union Local.

Harrison Central 63, Cambridge 35

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – Maddie Sedgmer had a game-high 20 points as the Huskies rolled past the Bobcats.

Danica Rensi added 19 and Lauren Doane finished with 10.

River 67, Shenandoah 32

SARASVILLE – Senior Kelsey Harlan led River High with 23 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in a win over Shenandoah on Saturday.

Freshman Maci Isaly (14) and junior Kaylee Hagan (11) backed Harlan in scoring.

River led 28-5, 41-14 and 57-25 at the breaks.

Coach Rick Isaly's 12-2 Lady Pilots visit Monroe Central (13-3) tonight in a huge OVAC 2-A clash.

BOYS BASKETBALL Barnesville 43, Caldwell 39

CALDWELL – Asa Geilinger led three Shamrocks in double figures with 16 points as they stunned the lost Redskins. Duker Castello added 12 and Casey Carpenter had 10.

Shadyside 59, River 39

SHADYSIDE – Ben Wach poured in 31 points as the Tigers tamed the Pilots.

Kaden Johnson and Kabel Isaly evenly divided 30 markers for River.

MAT

(Continued from Page 9)

In 1982, he started his scholastic coaching career as assistant coach under Ed Dugas at John Marshall High School. In 2001, West took over the reins of the Monarchs, continuing the legacy of the school's outstanding mat program.

During Coach West's tenure, his squads compiled a 136-57-1 dual meet record. His 2002 team was the OVAC 4A Dual Meet cChampions and placed

third at the state tournament. Under West, three of his squads placed in the "Top-Six" at the state tournament. West coached five OVAC champions and five West Virginia state titlists. Furthermore, he coached the school's only three-time state champion (Dustin Richey), two OVAC Outstanding Wrestlers (Ryan Muldrew & Derek George), and one Dutton Award winner (Ryan Muldrew).

In 2008, Coach West was inducted into the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his Lifetime Service to Wrestling.

After coaching wrestling at John Marshall High School, he coached the Monarchs' girls softball team to state prominence and was named the softball coach of the year on a number of occasions. They won the 2023 W.V. Class AAA state championship.

He then came back to the mats to coach wrestling at Moundsville Junior High School and his "Trojans" wrestlers won the PAC-8 Championship in 2021.

West resides in Moundsville with his wife, Colleen. They have three daughters: Shilo, Shannon, and Abby. They are also the proud grandparents of four grandchildren: Brock, Blake, Breyden, and Ethan.

LOCAL CARD

Monday, Jan. 22 BASKETBALL (GIRLS) Linsly at Steubenville, 5:30 p.m. Union Local at John Marshall, 5:45 p.m. Martins Ferry at Shadyside Edison at Harrison Central Brooke at Indian Creek Barnesville at Bridgeport Buckeye Local at Caldwell St. Clairsville at Claymont River at Monroe Central Steubenville Catholic at East Liverpool Clay-Battelle at Valley, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

70th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling Class 1A/2A 1. Cameron 80; 2. Southern Local 74; 3. Caldwell 48; 4. Bridgeport 22.5; 5. Steubenville Catholic 22.5; 6. Toronto 17; 7 (tie) River, Shadyside 10; 9. Bealsville 7; 10. (tie) Frontier, Madonna 3; 12. Wellsville 2; 13. (tie) Monroe Central, Paden City 0; 15. Conotton Valley -2 Class 3A 1. Barnesville 259; 2. Wheeling Central 101.5; 3. Linsly 89; 4. Union Local 81.5; 5. Martins Ferry 56; 6. Shenandoah 38.5; 7. Bellaire 31; 8. Fort Frye 22; 9. Magnolia 14 Class 4A 1. Oak Glen 168; 2. Beaver Local 136.5; 3. Indian Creek 97; 4. Harrison Central 93.5; 5. East Liverpool 79.5; 6. Weir 68; 7. Cambridge 58; 8. Edison 58; 9. Buckeye Local 56; 10. St. Clairsville 21 Class 5A 1. University 251.5; 2. Parkersburg South 203.5; 3. Steubenville 181; 4. Wheeling Park 152.5; 5. John Marshall 96; 6. Brooke 84; 7. Warren Local 51; 8. Morgantown 30 Overall (Top 10) 1. Barnesville 259; 2. University 251.5; 3. Parkersburg South 203.5; 4. Steubenville 181; 5. Oak Glen 168; 6. Wheeling Park 152.5; 7. Beaver Local 136.5; 8. Wheeling Central 101.5; 9. Indian Creek 97; 10. John Marshall 96

SPORTS ON TV

Monday, Jan. 22 COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 7 p.m. CBSN - Lehigh at Colgate ESPN - Wake Forest at North Carolina ESPNU - McNeese St. at Texas A&M-CC 9 p.m. CBSN - Hofstra at Stony Brook ESPN - Cincinnati at Kansas ESPNU - Texas Southern at Jackson St. COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 4 p.m. CBSN - Lehigh at Colgate 6:30 p.m. FS1 - St. John's at Seton Hall 7 p.m. ESPN2 - UCLA at Utah SECN - Mississippi St. at Florida 8:30 p.m. FS1 - Kansas St. at Baylor COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S) 8 p.m. BTN - Iowa at Minnesota NBA BASKETBALL 7 p.m. NBATV - San Antonio at Philadelphia 10 p.m. NBATV - Atlanta at Sacramento NHL HOCKEY 7 p.m. NHLN - Vegas at New Jersey SOCCER (MEN'S) 2:45 p.m. USA - Premier League: Wolverhampton at Brighton & Hove Albion TENNIS 12 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 3 a.m. (Tuesday) ESPN2 - ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

NFL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 20 Baltimore 34, Houston 10 San Francisco 24, Green Bay 21 Sunday, Jan. 21 Detroit 31, Tampa Bay 23 Kansas City 27, Buffalo 24 Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 28 AFC Kansas City at Baltimore, 3 p.m. (CBS) NFC Detroit at San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (FOX) Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11 At Las Vegas TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

ECHL

Saturday's Games Adirondack 5, Trois-Rivieres 2 Reading 5, Maine 1 Norfolk 2, Newfoundland 1 Cincinnati 4, Kalamazoo 3 Florida 7, Savannah 4 Indy 4, Toledo 1 South Carolina 5, Atlanta 4 Jacksonville 5, Greenville 2 Utah 4, Kansas City 3 Wheeling 3, Iowa 1 Worcester 4, Fort Wayne 3 Idaho 6, Rapid City 1 Sunday's Games Florida 5, Savannah 2 Maine 4, Reading 3 Greenville 3, Jacksonville 1 Norfolk 5, Newfoundland 2 South Carolina 4, Orlando 2 Fort Wayne 5, Worcester 3 Wednesday's Games Wheeling at Reading, 7 p.m. Newfoundland at Norfolk, 7:05 p.m. Atlanta at Florida, 7:30 p.m. Iowa at Cincinnati, 7:35 p.m. Allen at Kansas City, 8:05 p.m. Rapid City at Utah, 9:10 p.m.

NBA

Saturday's Games Milwaukee 141, Detroit 135 Philadelphia 97, Charlotte 89 San Antonio 131, Washington 127 Cleveland 116, Atlanta 95 New York 126, Toronto 100 Chicago 125, Memphis 96 Oklahoma City 102, Minnesota 97 Houston 127, Utah 126, OT Sunday's Games L.A. Clippers 125, Brooklyn 114 Denver 113, Washington 104 Orlando 105, Miami 87 Boston 116, Houston 107 Phoenix 117, Indiana 110 Portland at L.A. Lakers, late. Monday's Games Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m. Milwaukee at Detroit, 7 p.m. San Antonio at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Memphis at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Charlotte at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Chicago at Phoenix, 9 p.m. Atlanta at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Tuesday's Games Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m. New York at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m. L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

GOLF SCORES

The American Express Scores Sunday, La Quinta, Calif. (Note: Tournament is played on three courses.) a-La Quinta Country Club (Host Course): 7,060 yards; Par 72 b-PGA WEST Nicklaus Tournament Course: 7,147 yards; Par 72 c-Pete Dye Stadium Course: 7,187 yards; Par 72 Purse: \$8.4 million Final Round Nick Dunlap 64b-65c-60a-70c-259 C. Beuzidenhout (300), \$1,512,000 Xander Schauffele (145), \$635,600 Justin Thomas (145), \$635,600 Kevin Yu (145), \$635,600 Sam Burns (92), \$310,800 Adam Hadwin (92), \$310,800 Michael Kim (92), \$310,800 Ben Griffin (78), \$254,100 Keith Mitchell (78), \$254,100 Alexander Bjork (65), \$212,100 Ryo Hisatsune (65), \$212,100 J.T. Poston (65), \$212,100 Bronson Burgoon (55), \$164,500 Chan Kim (55), \$164,500 Jimmy Stanger (55), \$164,500 Tom Hoge (48), \$132,300 Scottie Scheffler (48), \$132,300 Greysen Sigg (48), \$132,300 Carson Young (48), \$132,300 Eric Cole (40), \$99,120 Min Woo Lee (40), \$99,120 Alex Smalley (40), \$99,120 Davis Thompson (40), \$99,120 Austin Eckroat (30), \$63,980 Tony Finau (30), \$63,980 Sungjae Im (30), \$63,980 Zach Johnson (30), \$63,980 Si Woo Kim (30), \$63,980 Kyoung-Hoon Lee (30), \$63,980 Alex Noren (30), \$63,980 Chandler Phillips (30), \$63,980

NHL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Division, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Eastern Conference: Atlantic Division (Boston, Florida, Toronto, Detroit, Tampa, Mont., Buffalo, Ottawa), Metropolitan Division (NYR, Phila., Car., NYI, Wash., NJ, Pitts., Colu.), Western Conference: Central Division (Winn., Colo., Dallas, Nash., Ariz., St. L., Minn., Chi.), Pacific Division (Vanc., Vegas, Edm., LA, Calg., Seattle, Ana., S. Jose).

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.

Table with columns: Conference, Division, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Eastern Conference: Atlantic Division (Tampa Bay, Buffalo, Colorado, Philadelphia, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Arizona, Nashville, Vancouver, Toronto, Boston, Montreal, Dallas, New Jersey, St. Louis, Washington, Edmonton, Calgary, Vegas, Pittsburgh, San Jose, Anaheim, Los Angeles, N.Y. Rangers), Western Conference: Central Division (Ottawa, Philadelphia, Minnesota, Carolina, Detroit, Tampa Bay, N.Y. Islanders, Dallas, OT, N.Y. Rangers, Anaheim, Toronto, Seattle), Monday's Games (Vegas at New Jersey, Winnipeg at Boston, Florida at Nashville, Pittsburgh at Arizona, Chicago at Vancouver, San Jose at Los Angeles), Tuesday's Games (Dallas at Detroit, Ottawa at Montreal, Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, Vegas at N.Y. Islanders, Washington at Minnesota, Columbus at Edmonton, St. Louis at Calgary, Buffalo at Anaheim, N.Y. Rangers at San Jose).

CHIEFS

(Continued from Page 9) Mahomes went 17 of 23 for 215 yards, and Pacheco rushed for 97 yards. LIONS 31, BUCCANEERS 23 DETROIT (AP) - Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes and Detroit beat Tampa Bay, lifting the long-suffering franchise into the NFC championship for the first time in 32 years and just the second time in franchise history. The Lions (14-5) won two playoff games in a season for the first time since 1957, the last year they won the NFL title. They will play at San Francisco, the NFC's top seed, next Sunday for a spot in the Super Bowl - a game they have never played in. Jahmyr Gibbs ran through a huge hole for a tiebreaking, 31-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter, and Goff made it a two-TD lead when he connected with Amon-Ra St. Brown for a 9-yard score with 6:22 left. Baker Mayfield threw three TD passes for Tampa Bay (10-9), including a 16-yard toss to Mike Evans that got the Bucs within one score with 4:37 left. Detroit couldn't run out the clock on offense, giving Tampa Bay one last chance, but Mayfield's pass over the middle was intercepted by linebacker Derrick Barnes, the QB's second pick of the day. Goff finished 30 of 43 for 287 yards and directed an efficient second-half

MOUNTAINEERS

(Continued from Page 9) Funny? Yeah, because Edwards dressed for the game, practiced for the first time the day before and was available but not yet ready to go. He was on the bench, twice conversing with coach Josh Eilert about maybe getting in and volunteering to do so if needed. But his teammates saw they didn't need him in a game that went to the wire, right until Kriisa canned those two free throws that screamed it's over. And, when the clock ticked off that final second after Kerr made his second of the two shots, sealing a 91-85 victory, the joint erupted. Students flowed out of the student section like water from a failed dam, pouring onto the court, getting there where the team was in full celebration mode, hugging each other, reaching for the heavens and jumping up and down. The love fest of fans enveloped them, but there was no need for security. They encircled the now packed court, "Take Me, Country Roads" blaring out of the loudspeakers as a deafening pitch that not a soul was complaining about. Everyone was singing and bouncing up and down as if they were on a pogo stick or trampoline. I'd seen such a sight many times before, including the greatest of them all at Notre Dame when the Fighting Irish, a little more than 50 years ago, ended UCLA's record 88-game win streak on a corner jumper as the clock expired. You could not top that, but this celebration was a good one. The players were willing to joyously join in with their fans. "It was like a blessing," forward Quinn Slazinski said of the moment. "We are going on the road and seeing like 200 [West Virginia] people in the stands against ranked teams. To see how much support we have. We love West Virginia so much. This is for the fans, the ones who scream at the TV when they watch." "It's all love. The love you feel in that moment for your teammates and the fans, just getting there, then fans

WLU

(Continued from Page 9) Hilltoppers guard Christian Montague scored a career-high 23 points in just 20 minutes of play, West Liberty made 20 3-pointers at a 44.4% clip and pressured Glenville State into 31 turnovers for a lopsided outcome at WLU's Academic Sports & Recreation Complex on Saturday. Montague led the way for West Liberty's 3-point barrage, knocking down seven long balls on nine attempts. "[Howlett] challenged the guards to

offense for the Lions, who had long touchdown drives on three consecutive possessions. Mayfield was 26 of 41 for 349 yards. 49ERS 24, PACKERS 21 (SATURDAY) SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) - Christian McCaffrey scored his second touchdown on a 6-yard run with 1:07 to play, and the San Francisco 49ers mounted their first second-half comeback of the season to beat the Green Bay Packers 24-21 in a divisional-round playoff game on Saturday night. The Niners will host Detroit next weekend for a spot in the Super Bowl. RAVENS 34, TEXANS 10 (SATURDAY) BALTIMORE (AP) - Lamar Jackson threw two touchdown passes and ran for two scores, and Baltimore beat Houston to advance to the AFC championship game. Jackson helped the Ravens (14-4) take control in the third quarter after the teams entered the half tied at 10. His 15-yard scoring run put Baltimore ahead to stay, and he connected with Isaiah Likely from 15 yards to make it 24-10. A punt return in the second quarter by Steven Sims was the only TD for the Texans. Baltimore will host the AFC title game against Kansas City on Sunday.

arrive," said Pat Suemnick, who scored 20 points in the game. For a moment, they said, the defeats, the hard days, the cold mornings, the 7 a.m. workouts are all worth it. And as it transpired, coach Josh Eilert was off in his own little world. This year has been a tornado for him, spinning out of control. Bob Huggins was fired, him named interim coach, players defected through the portal, putting the team back together, then NCAA and court battles, an injury to Jesse Edwards and bad losses. All of a sudden, his team had won two or three games against ranked teams, and he'd beaten Hall of Fame coach Bill Self. What possibly could be spinning through his mind when the fans breached the court? "I grew up in Kansas," he began. "I was a Kansas State grad, 95% of people in my family go to Kansas State. So, I've watched Big 8 basketball to Big 12 basketball, and KU has always been a dominant program. "I always respected them year in and year out. They were winning big, and the first thing that came to mind was my dad," he continued. "My dad (Jim) was a K-State grad, and he didn't have much of a love affair for Kansas by any means. "I lost him 6.5 years ago, I started thinking about him to be honest with you, how proud he'd been. I didn't think about what the students were doing, and I have a lot of respect for coach Self, a Hall of Fame coach, their staff, their program and what they've done and been able to accomplish over the years consistently. For me, that was the first thought that went through my head, and it still hasn't probably sunk in yet." By now, it probably has sunk in, the magnitude of such an upset, the ability to release such a reaction of joy in a victory-starved fan base. But as Eilert knows, you are only as good as your next game, and the hill to post-season play is steep.

SPORTS

Monday,
January 22, 2024



Photo by LEANNA MILHOAN

PICTURED ARE members of the Barnesville wrestling team which captured the Overall Team championship and the Class 3A Team title during Saturday's 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament inside WesBanco Arena. It's the Shamrocks first championship since 1985.

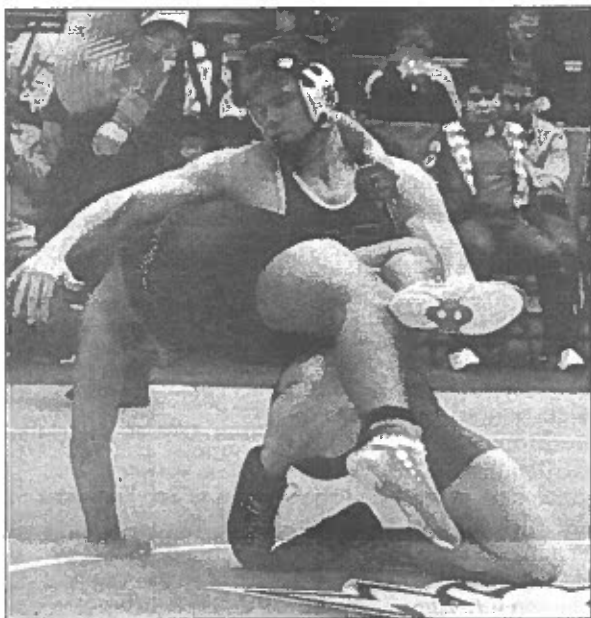
Barnesville wrestlers win OVAC Ron Mauck overall 3 title

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

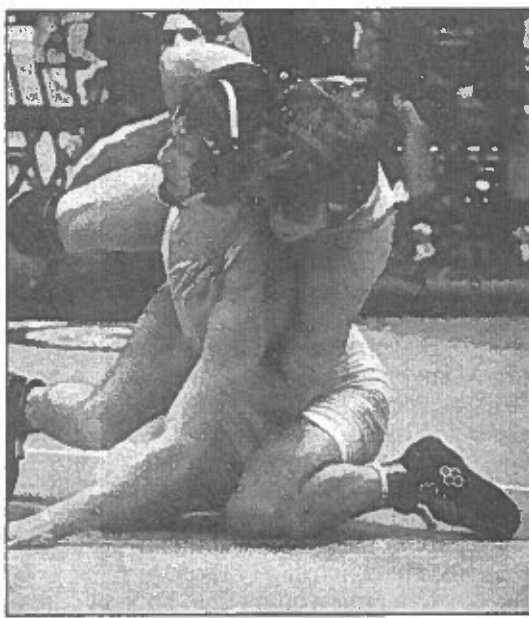
WHEELING — For the first time in nearly four decades, Barnesville finished as the overall team champion as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament came to a close late Saturday night inside WesBanco arena.

The talented Shamrocks piled up 259 points to slip past University which tallied 251.5. It's the first overall championship since 1985.

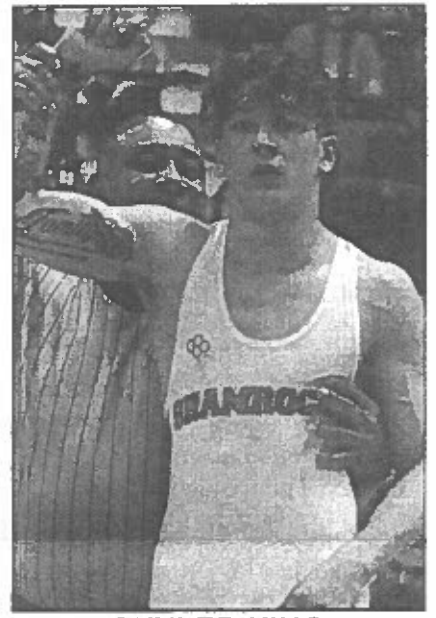
See **BARNESVILLE**,
Page B2



LUCAS THOMAS



COLT CARPENTER



SKYLER KING



Photo by KIM NORTH

ED WEST, center, is presented the Mr. Mat Award by OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, right, and former Mr. Mat, Dr. Vince Monseau, right, Saturday night prior to the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck championship finals inside WesBanco Arena. West is a former W.Va. state champion as a wrestler and long-time coach at John Marshall.

• Ed West presented the Mr. Mat Award

WHEELING — Ed West is a graduate of John Marshall High School, where he was a 1973 West Virginia state wrestling champion, compiling a career record of 58-11-1. He was a member of two state championship teams (1972 & 1973).

West earned his BA degree at West Liberty State College (now West Liberty University), and later acquired an MA degree from West Virginia University.

While coaching five years at Moundsville Junior High School (1978 - 1982) with Larry Chambers, West produced four undefeated teams. In 1982, he started his scholastic coaching career as assistant coach under Ed Dugas at John Marshall High School. In 2001, West took over the reins of the Monarchs, continuing the legacy of the school's outstanding mat program.

During Coach West's tenure, his squads compiled a 136-57-1 dual meet record. His 2002 team was the OVAC 4A Dual Meet cChampions and placed third at the state tournament. Under West, three of his squads placed in the "Top-Six" at the state tournament. West coached five OVAC champions and five West Virginia state titleists. Furthermore, he coached the school's only three-time state champion (Dustin Richey), two OVAC Outstanding Wrestlers (Ryan Muldrew & Derek George), and one Dutton Award winner (Ryan Muldrew).

In 2008, Coach West was inducted into the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his Lifetime Service to Wrestling.

See **MAT**, Page B2

Bellaire Big Reds take down Indian Creek girls

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE
Bellaire just may have



Beaver Local falls to Ferry

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The last time Beaver Local and Martins Ferry squared off, the Purple Riders cruised to a 58-24 win.

That was on Beaver's home floor.

who drained three bonus bombs early en route to a 15-0 point afternoon.

Ferry started to pile up the points, and forced turnovers, in the second quarter, outscoring the designated visitors 25-6 to take a 46-17 lead into the break.

Not bad for a team that, like Beaver, was also playing without its senior leader.

• **Barnesville**

Continued from Page B1

Barnesville also collected its fifth straight Class 3A crown and now has 13 total OVAC Tournament titles.

"The kids battled and battled. We had some kids that stepped up and got higher places on the podium that they were projected," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "This is a big deal. It's an awesome feeling but this team had a lot of bigger goals for down the road."

Barnesville led the 42-team field with 10 placers, including three champions, a trio of runners up, a third, a fifth and two sixths. Winning his third title, which clinched the team championship, was senior Dakota King (138).

The Ohio State University recruit put on a takedown clinic in his 23-8 technical fall of Cameron's Slaton Pettitt in the finals. He had four of his 11 two-pointers in the first period and coasted from there. All of Pettitt's points came on escapes.

"This one feels better than the first two because I finally passed my dad," Dakota said. "He won two and now I'm one up on him. That feels good."

As much pleasure as he took in passing his father, assistant Barnesville coach T.J. King, he was equally proud to be part of a championship team.

"It's been a long, long time since Barnesville won the OVAC Tournament, so this is an exciting time right now," Dakota added. "It was a total team effort and I'm glad to have been a part of it."

Other Shamrocks claiming titles were senior Skyler King (157), no relation to Dakota, and surprising freshman Colt Carpenter (126). It was Skyler King's second consecutive title as he blanked Steubenville's Savier Faulks 6-0. Carpenter, the No. 5 seed, took down University's second-seeded Colton Gillespie, 8-6. That put the Shamrocks ahead by three points and Dakota King's subsequent win sealed the deal.

"The kids did what they had to do," Coach Stephen said. "We had some kids step up, like Colt, and some others. It took an entire team effort."

University head coach Ken Maisel praised the Shamrocks.

"They have a really, really good team," he said. "For a small school they are doing big things. We made a run at them, but just could get over the top."

The Hawks won the Class 5A team title and also had a trio of titlists in three-time champ Luca Felix (165), two-time titlist Brock Kehler (285) and Pepper Martin (106). Felix defeated Barnesville's Ayden King, 8-2, while Kehler pinned Harrison Central's Landen Thomas and Martin decisioned Beaver Local's Justus Fisher, 9-1.

Parkersburg South, which finished as the Class 5A runner up with 203 points, had two champions, as did Steubenville, which finished third in Class 5A with 181.

The Wood County Patriots winners were Gage Wright (175) and Cole Smith (113). The No. 1 nationally

• **Bellaire**

Continued from Page B1

"We lost the game in the first quarter when it came down to the end," Eft said. "They made more plays than we did at the end of the game and deserved to win. They were the better coached team. We didn't deserve to win."

A couple steal and lay-ins from McKenna Scott helped Creek cut back into the lead as Scott scored 12 of her game-high 23 points in the first half.

Bellaire, meanwhile, featured a balanced scoring effort, led early by Rhyann O'Grady.

The Big Reds' guard also scored 12 in the first quarter plus a couple easy buckets off turnovers. She was

parent ankle injury, the Bellaire staff, and faithful in attendance, were concerned.

"There was a point in the third quarter where she looked at me and said 'I need to come out,'" Farrier recalled. "But she went down and made a shot, and then told me never mind. "She battled through it. I know she was hurting but she made big plays, and so many of our girls stepped up."

Creek made the first bucket of the game to lead 2-0. The next time it was out in front came via a Riley Sadler 3-pointer to start the third quarter. From there, the two teams battled back and forth with six lead changes

ranked Wright posted a 12-2 major decision over Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard, who was a defending OVAC champion. Smith edged East Liverpool's Tristen Eckles, 3-2.

Big Red winners were sophomore Cooper Smith (144) and senior Brody Saccoccia (150). Smith topped Barnesville senior Karson Milhoan, 5-1, while Saccoccia outlasted the Shamrocks' Reese Stephen, 2-1, in an ultimate tiebreaker.

Wheeling Central was the Class 3A runner up with 101.5 points.

Wheeling Park had a champion in Malaki Washington (190). The sophomore, also a No. 5 seed, won by medical default over Beaver Local's Kane Curran who suffered an ankle injury and couldn't continue.

"I said before that Malaki was adjusting to that weight class and this weekend I think he made the final adjustment and showed that he is here to stay," Wheeling Park head coach Brian Leggett said.

Wasdington credited his victory to his training partner.

"I work every day with Jameson Maynard and he really pushes me. Going to camps also helped me further my skills," he said.

Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120) became a three-time champ with a pin of Shenandoah's Tristen Rossiter in 3:49. The win helped the Golden Bears to the Class 4 team title in head coach Josh Cornell's second year. They tied with Indian Creek last year.

"Our depth really came through this weekend," Cornell said. "We had some guys step up and get on the podium. Sure we would've liked to have had more, but we had enough to get the job done."

When asked about Davis, Cornell really didn't know what to say that he already hasn't about his senior stud.

"He just goes out and takes care of business."

Other champions were Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215) and Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (132). Both won their second titles, but Thomas's first came two years ago. He was runner up last year.

Thomas pinned Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin in 5:37.

"This championship feels a lot better than the first because I felt I was more dominant and in control tonight," Thomas said.

Buccheit earned a 3-1 decision over University's Carter Pauley with a late escape.

Wright was voted the Bierkorte Ward winner by tournament coaches as the Most Outstanding Wrestler. Kehler earned the Hercules Award for most pins in the shortest amount of time in the championship bracket.

Cameron won his third straight Class 1A/2A title, but the first under first-year head coach Derek Martin.

"The kids had a goal coming in here and they accomplished it," Martin noted.

fouled Harveth again with nine seconds. She missed the first but made the second, putting the Reds up by three.

Creek worked the ball down the floor, but a player fed the ball inside to Kylie Anderson, who had to shoot with only a second to go. The shot rimmed out and the game ended.

Anderson, who finished with nine points, had only two after the break as Creek opted to either attack off the dribble or to put up 3-pointers.

Eft felt his team should have attacked the block more, but in the end, the team's 22 turnovers led to the defeat.

"We weren't discipli-

• **Ferry**

Continued from Page B1

Eventually, that person did in the form of Karsyn Bowyer. The senior led the team with 11 points and accounted for all five second-half points her team scored.

The team, which fell to 5-11, has upcoming games against Oak Glen and East Liverpool next week and Sorge knows it's time to develop some shooting not only for the remainder of this season, but also the future.

"We've talked about that, that we need players to take on a bigger roll. Our last game, I thought we had a better offensive output and our assist numbers were up," Sorge said of the loss to Edison. "They are learning to play more like scorers and looking to help their teammates have the opportunity to score."

Ferry, meanwhile, has a spot in the OVAC 3A tournament locked up and may have secured the top spot with this victory.

Positioning isn't all that important though according to Riesbeck, as the remaining teams likely to qualify have all beaten Ferry this season, including Fort Frye, Bellaire, and Union Local. There's also a tough Wheeling Central team, fresh off a win against 4A Weir, that is trying to sneak into the Top 4.

"I think we'll be the top seed, but it doesn't matter as all four teams are good and the other three have beaten us once," Reasbeck said. "The good part is we'll be at home, where we're comfortable."

• **Mat**

Continued from Page B1

After coaching wrestling at John Marshall High School, he coached the Monarchs' girls softball team to state prominence and was named the softball coach of the year on a number of occasions. They won the 2023 W.V. Class AAA state championship.

He then came back to the mats to coach wrestling at Moundsville Junior High School and his "Trojans" wrestlers won the PAC-8 Championship in 2021.

West resides in Moundsville with his wife, Colleen. They have three daughters: Shilo, Shannon, and Abby. They are also the proud grandparents of four grandchildren: Brock, Blake, Breyden, and Ethan.

LOCAL CARD

Monday, Jan. 22
BASKETBALL (GIRLS)
Linsly at Steubenville, 5:30 p.m.
Union Local at John Marshall, 5:45 p.m.
Martins Ferry at Shadyside
Edison at Harrison Central
Brooke at Indian Creek
Barnesville at Bridgeport
Buckeye Local at Caldwell
St. Clairsville at Claymont
River at Monroe Central
Steubenville Catholic at East Liverpool
Clay-Battelle at Valley, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

70th Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling Class 1A/2A
1. Cameron 80; 2. Southern Local 74; 3. Caldwell 48; 4. Bridgeport 22.5; 5. Steubenville Catholic 22.5; 6. Toronto 17; 7 (tie) River, Shadyside 10; 9. Beallsville 7; 10. (tie) Frontier, Madonna 3; 12. Wellsville 2; 13. (tie) Monroe Central, Paden City 0; 15. Conotton Valley -2
Class 3A
1. Barnesville 259; 2. Wheeling Central 101.5; 3. Linsly 89; 4. Union Local 81.5; 5. Martins Ferry 56; 6. Shenandoah 38.5; 7. Bellaire 31; 8. Fort Frye 22; 9. Magnolia 14
Class 4A
1. Oak Glen 168; 2. Beaver Local 136.5; 3. Indian Creek 97; 4. Harrison Central 93.5; 5. East Liverpool 79.5; 6. Weir 68; 7. Cambridge 58; 8. Edison 58; 9. Buckeye Local 56; 10. St. Clairsville 21
Class 5A
1. University 251.5; 2. Parkersburg South 203.5; 3. Steubenville 181; 4. Wheeling Park 152.5; 5. John Marshall 96; 6. Brooke 84; 7. Warren Local 51; 8. Morgantown 30
Overall (Top 10)
1. Barnesville 259; 2. University 251.5; 3. Parkersburg South 203.5; 4. Steubenville 181; 5. Oak Glen 168; 6. Wheeling Park 152.5; 7. Beaver Local 136.5; 8. Wheeling Central 101.5; 9. Indian Creek 97; 10. John Marshall 96

NFL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 20
Baltimore 34, Houston 10
San Francisco 24, Green Bay 21
Sunday, Jan. 21
Detroit 31, Tampa Bay 23
Kansas City 27, Buffalo 24
Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 28
AFC
Kansas City at Baltimore, 3 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
Detroit at San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)
Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11 At Las Vegas
TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Boston 45 28 8 9 65 158 120
Florida 45 27 14 4 58 142 120
Toronto 45 23 14 8 54 161 148
Detroit 46 24 17 5 53 162 151
Tampa 47 24 18 5 53 157 155
Mont. 46 19 20 7 45 129 165
Buffalo 46 20 22 4 44 134 146
Ottawa 42 17 24 1 35 143 154
Metropolitan Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
NYR 46 29 15 2 60 150 132
Phila. 47 25 16 6 56 142 133
Car. 45 25 15 5 55 154 139
NYI 46 20 15 11 51 136 156
Wash. 44 22 16 6 50 106 130
NJ 44 23 18 3 49 150 154
Pitts. 43 21 16 6 48 131 116
Colu. 45 14 22 9 37 135 169

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Winn. 44 30 10 4 64 145 100
Colo. 47 30 14 3 63 179 150
Dallas 46 27 13 6 60 169 140
Nash. 46 25 20 1 51 143 142
Ariz. 44 22 19 3 47 132 130
St. L. 44 22 20 2 46 125 140
Minn. 46 20 21 5 45 140 157
Chi. 46 14 30 2 30 103 165
Pacific Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Vanc. 46 31 11 4 66 176 119
Vegas 46 27 14 5 59 148 123
Edm. 42 26 15 1 53 149 122
LA 43 22 13 8 52 138 112
Calg. 46 21 20 5 47 143 146
Seattle 46 19 18 9 47 127 137
Ana. 46 15 30 1 31 116 160
S. Jose 46 11 31 4 26 94 186

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
Tampa Bay 3, Buffalo 1
Colorado 7, Philadelphia 4
Winnipeg 2, Ottawa 1, OT
Arizona 3, Nashville 2
Vancouver 6, Toronto 4
Boston 9, Montreal 4
Dallas 6, New Jersey 2
St. Louis 3, Washington 0
Edmonton 3, Calgary 1
Vegas 3, Pittsburgh 2
San Jose 5, Anaheim 3
Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1

Sunday's Games
Ottawa 5, Philadelphia 3
Minnesota 5, Carolina 2
Detroit 2, Tampa Bay 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Dallas 2, OT
N.Y. Rangers 5, Anaheim 2
Toronto 3, Seattle 1

Monday's Games
Vegas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Dallas at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Vegas at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Buffalo at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

GOLF SCORES

The American Express Scores Sunday, La Quinta, Calif.
(Note: Tournament is played on three courses.)
a-La Quinta Country Club (Host Course): 7,060 yards; Par 72
b-PGA WEST Nicklaus Tournament Course: 7,147 yards; Par 72
c-Pete Dye Stadium Course: 7,187 yards; Par 72
Purse: \$8.4 million
Final Round

Nick Dunlap	64b-65c-60a-70c-259
C. Bezuidenhout (300), \$1,512,000	63a-67b-65c-65c-260
Xander Schauffele (145), \$635,600	64a-69b-63c-65c-261
Justin Thomas (145), \$635,600	65a-67b-61c-68c-261
Kevin Yu (145), \$635,600	66b-66c-66a-63c-261
Sam Burns (92), \$310,800	66a-61b-65c-71c-263
Adam Hadwin (92), \$310,800	65b-65c-66a-67c-263
Michael Kim (92), \$310,800	65a-63b-70c-65c-263
Ben Griffin (78), \$254,100	66a-68b-64c-66c-264
Keith Mitchell (78), \$254,100	69b-67c-66a-62c-264
Alexander Bjork (65), \$212,100	64a-67b-67c-67c-265
Ryo Hisatsune (65), \$212,100	65a-67b-68c-65c-265
J.T. Poston (65), \$212,100	67c-65a-64b-69c-265
Bronson Burgoon (55), \$164,500	66c-69a-64b-67c-266
Chan Kim (55), \$164,500	64b-67c-68a-67c-266
Jimmy Stanger (55), \$164,500	65b-66c-66a-69c-266
Tom Hoge (48), \$132,300	69a-68b-65c-65c-267
Scottie Scheffler (48), \$132,300	67a-66b-69c-65c-267
Greyson Sigg (48), \$132,300	70a-69b-63c-65c-267
Carson Young (48), \$132,300	70c-64a-68b-65c-267
Eric Cole (40), \$99,120	66c-64a-66b-72c-268
Min Woo Lee (40), \$99,120	65b-66c-70a-67c-268
Alex Smalley (40), \$99,120	66b-69c-66a-67c-268
Davis Thompson (40), \$99,120	67a-67b-66c-68c-268
Austin Eckroat (30), \$63,980	69b-65c-69a-66c-269
Tony Finau (30), \$63,980	68a-67b-67c-67c-269
Sungjae Im (30), \$63,980	66b-67c-65a-71c-269
Zach Johnson (30), \$63,980	62a-69b-68c-70c-269
Si Woo Kim (30), \$63,980	64a-66b-66c-73c-269
Kyounghoon Lee (30), \$63,980	65a-64b-74c-66c-269
Alex Noren (30), \$63,980	62a-68b-69c-70c-269
Chandler Phillips (30), \$63,980	70c-70a-63b-66c-269
Erik Van Rooyen (30), \$63,980	66a-67b-69c-67c-269



SPORTS

C

Sunday,

January 21, 2024

Miners prep for 2024 debut with new head coach

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Miners are off and running in preparations for their 2024 debut in the American Arena League 2 indoor football.

The fifth indoor franchise to call WesBanco Arena its home this summer, the Miners have hired Josh Resignalo as their

head coach/general manager. 'Coach Res' has 17 years of Indoor and Arena league experience.

Majority owner Chris Duffy said in a release, "We are thrilled to have Coach Res join our team. His wealth of experience will undoubtedly elevate Wheeling to new heights, and we're excited for the journey ahead under his guidance."

"Coach Res' is as eager to get started as Duffy is to have him.

"I've been around indoor football since 2006 as a scout, player, coach and general manager up and down the East Coast," he said in a Friday telephone interview from his home in Mount Airy, NC. "I've known Chris for quite some time and we worked together

with the Atlanta Havoc in 2018 when we won the American Arena League title by beating the Richmond Roughriders which a year later became the West Virginia Roughriders."

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris Duffy and Josh Resignalo to the American Indoor Football League for the 2024 season," said John Morris, AIF Commissioner, in a release.

"Their experience, expertise, and dedication to the sport will undoubtedly bring a new level of excitement and competitiveness to the league. We look forward to their contributions in further solidifying the AIF as one of the premier indoor football leagues in the United States."

See MINERS, Page C2

OVAC postpones several events due to weather

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Due to the forecast of inclement weather, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was forced to postpone its Bill Brubaker Swimming and Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships on Friday as the Ohio Valley was blanketed with a few inches of snow.

Swimming

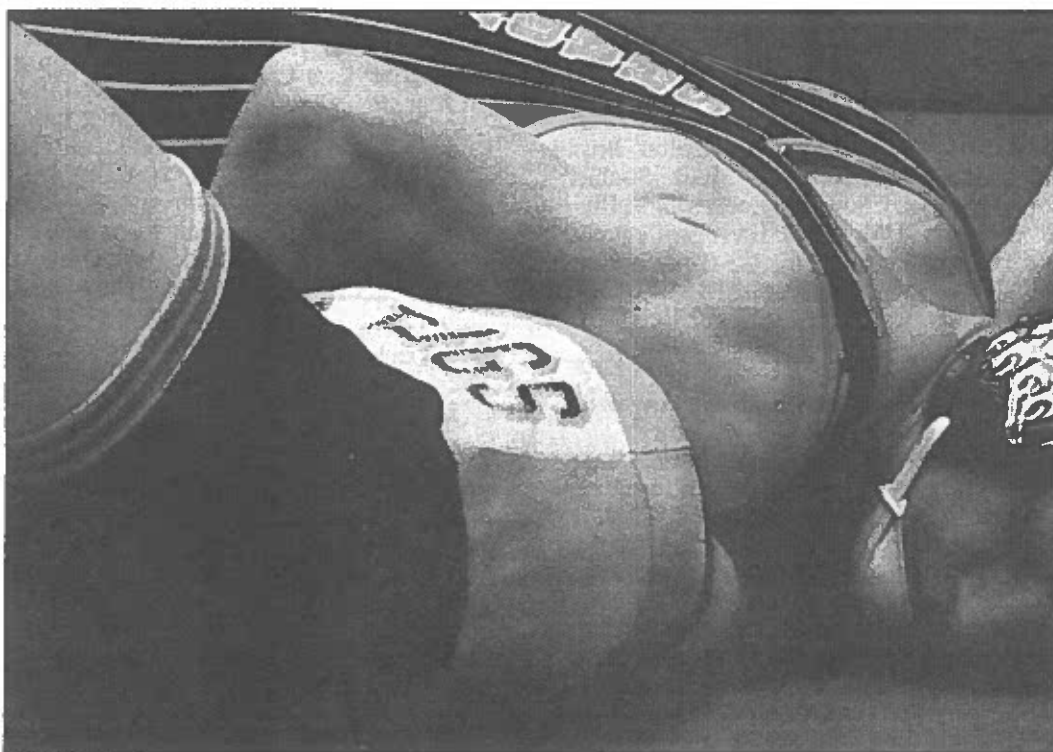
According to a release, the Class 5A portion of the event will be held Saturday, as scheduled, but the start time has been pushed up to 11:30 a.m. inside the Wellness Center at Brooke High School.

However, the Class 1A-3A and Class 4A portions, originally scheduled for Friday, have been pushed back until Monday, still at Brooke High School, with a start time of 5:30 p.m.

Defending champions on the boys side are Linsly (Class 1A/-3A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A) and Parkersburg South (Class 5A). The Cadets have a record 63 titles. On the girls side, Linsly (1A-3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Dover (5A) are defending titlists.

WRESTLING

The 70th annual event began Thursday night and completed three rounds — two in the championship bracket and one in the consolation



SHADYSIDE'S ANDREW Osman pins Bridgeport's Dakota Lashhorn during their 144-pound pigtail match on Thursday night at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

Photo by KIM NORTH

bracket.

Action resumed Saturday at 10 a.m. inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena with quarter final matches in the championship bracket and second-round consolation bouts. Third- and fourth-round consolation matches will also be contested before the championship semifinals at approximately 2 p.m. Semi final consolation matches

will conclude the afternoon session.

At 5:30 p.m., the prestigious Mr. Mat Award will be presented prior to matches for first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-places being contested simultaneously on four mats.

Class 3A Barnesville leads the 42-team field with 89 points and 11 quarter finalists. The Shamrocks are led

by four of the returning nine champions. Leading the way is two-time titlist and Ohio State University recruit Dakota King (138). The other three are defending Ohio Division III state champion Reese Stephen (150), Johnathan Huntsman (113) and Ayden King (157). All four are No. 1 seeds.

See OVAC, Page C2

Ohio State hires Bill O'Brien, ex-Texans coach and Alabama assistant, as offensive coordinator

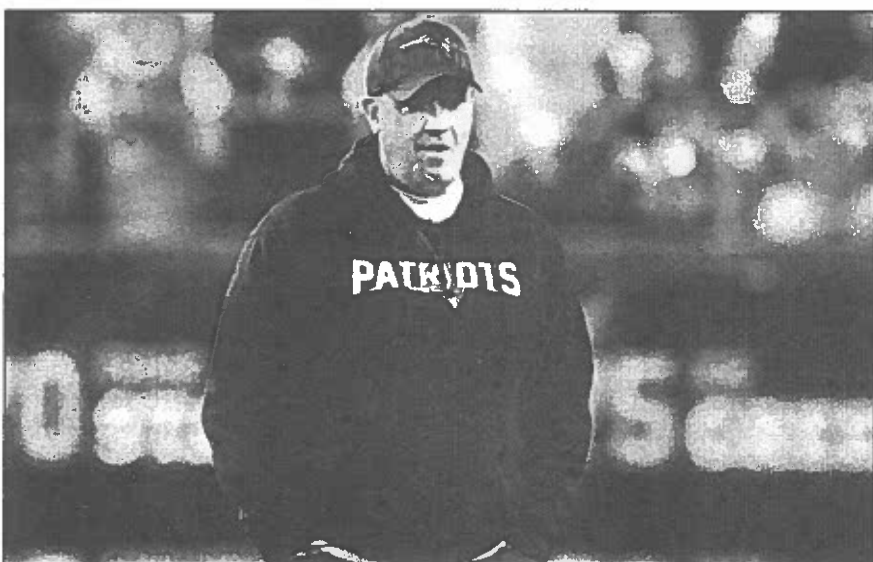
Ohio State has hired former Houston Texans and Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien as its offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, the program confirmed in a statement Friday.

"He is an excellent and experienced offensive coach who has run NFL and Power 5 programs and developed some truly elite players throughout his career," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said in a statement. "He'll be an excellent teacher and recruiter for us, and he absolutely strengthens our staff."

Day has been Ohio State's primary play-caller since being promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach in 2019 to replace Urban Meyer.

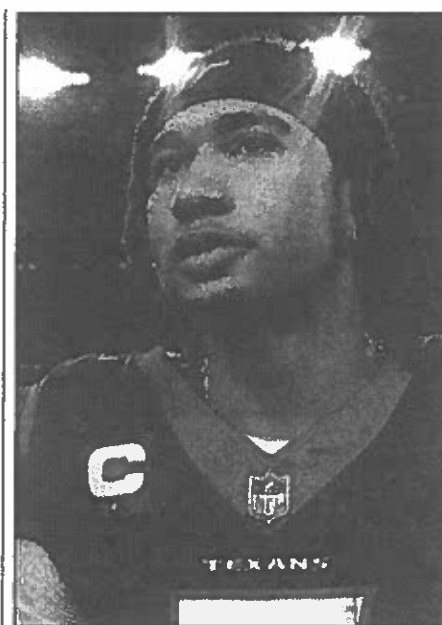
Bringing in an experienced play-caller at both the college and NFL level could allow Day to hand off those responsibilities.

Brian Hartline will remain a co-offensive coordinator as well as wide receivers coach. Quarterbacks coach Corey Dennis, Meyer's son-in-law, "will transition into a still-to-be-determined role with the program," the statement said.



AP Photo

NEW ENGLAND Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien watches warmups for the team's NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Dec. 7, 2023, in Pittsburgh. Ohio State is hiring O'Brien as its offensive coordinator.



AP Photo

HOUSTON TEXANS quarterback C.J. Stroud celebrates after their win against the Cleveland Browns in an NFL wild-card playoff football game in Houston.

Stroud shows poise beyond his years in leading Texans to playoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — Rookie C.J. Stroud impressed fans across the country with his poise and calmness in leading the Houston Texans to a win over Cleveland in his playoff debut.

Though the performance was eye-opening to many, for those in Houston who know him best, it was just what they expected.

"He's proven that big games don't phase him," offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik said. "I wonder if his heart rate drops. He's a special individual in that way."

Stroud even impressed Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson, who he'll square off against Saturday in the divisional round, with his work against the Browns.

"From my experience, he played better than I did from my rookie playoff game, I would say that," said Jackson, who threw for 194 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in a 23-17 loss to the Chargers in his playoff debut in 2019. "He was throwing the ball all over the field, making things happen. He did great."

Stroud, the second overall pick, threw for 274 yards and three touchdowns against Cleveland's top-ranked defense in the 45-14 rout. At just 22, he became the youngest quarterback to win a playoff game.

Stroud was 16 of 21 before sitting down for good with about nine minutes left and the game well in hand. His 157.2 passer rating was the best by a rookie with at least 20 passing attempts in a game in NFL history.

He was asked to explain how he's

• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

LOOKING FOR MORE

The other five returning champions are still alive and include Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120); Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (126); Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (175); and the University tandem of Luca Felix (165) and Brock Kehler (285). Davis, Felix and Kehler are two-time titlists.

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Bierkorte played football for the Marion Knights but it was on the wrestling mat where he gained his stardom.

Bierkorte was struck and killed by an automobile while riding his bicycle.

CLASS LEADERS

In addition to leading the overall team race, Barnesville is also atop and well on its way to a fifth consecutive championship. Two-time defending Class 1A/2A champion Cameron is deadlocked with Southern Local for the lead, while Oak Glen, which tied with Indian Creek last

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Parkersburg South 215-pounder Ayden Morris had a pair of lightning-quick 7-second pins on Thursday. Teammate Gage Wright took down a 175-pound opponent in just eight ticks, with Barnesville's Christien Hannahs, also at 215, needing nine seconds.

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Four individuals made it through to rounds by upsetting their way to the quarterfinals. They are the Wheeling Park duo of Nate Hodge (138) and Chance Funari (157). Hodge took down the No. 8 and 9 seeds, while Funari ousted No. 7 and No. 10. The other two — Indian Creek's Ethan Starr (120) and Oak Glen's Waylon Courtwright (215). Starr took out a third seed while Courtwright knocked out the No. 5 and No. 12 seeds.

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48 from 2014-20 and working with quarterback Deshaun Watson.

Before that he coached at Penn State for two seasons, taking over for Joe Paterno and going 15-9 with a program that was dealing with severe NCAA sanctions after the Jerry Sandusky scandal.

O'Brien returned to college after being fired by the Texans, joining Nick Saban's staff at Alabama as offensive coordinator for two years. He coached Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young in 2021.

• Miners

Continued from Page C1

Resignalo said he knows the Ohio Valley is a football hotbed, and he hopes to continue that trend by being "community-oriented."

"We are looking to create a good fan base with support from all areas of the Ohio Valley," the head coach/GM added. "The Roughriders were solid in that area, but we think we can bring a little more with our community aspect. I've found out from experience that if you do all the little things right, you'll be successful."

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Wheeling has dipped into the local talent pool by agreeing to terms with a pair of players each from West Liberty and Wheeling universities. They are former Hilltoppers Charles Westbrook (RB) and Isaiah Robinson (WR) and former Cardinals Jayvon Johnson (LB) and Aaron Finch (DB). Other signees are defensive ends Andre Portis from Marshall and Larry Ford, a WVU alum and member of the W.Va. Roughriders National Arena League championship team in 2019 that went 13-0. The team also featured former Mountaineer standouts Jarrett Brown (QB) and Noel Devine (RB), as well as local talents Cole Smelley (LB, Bridgeport) and Connor Arlia (WR, Madonna).

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Ohio Valley Indoor Football fans might also remember the Steubenville Stampede who called St. John Arena home during the 2006-07 seasons when they competed in the American IFL and the CIFL, respectively.

Resignalo said a final tryout for players will be held March 15 at The Highlands Sports Complex for any aspiring players.

Bobby Douglas Campaign Kickoff event postponed

WEST LIBERTY — Due to the declining weather conditions, the Bobby Douglas Campaign Kickoff event originally scheduled for

• O'Brien

Continued from Page C1

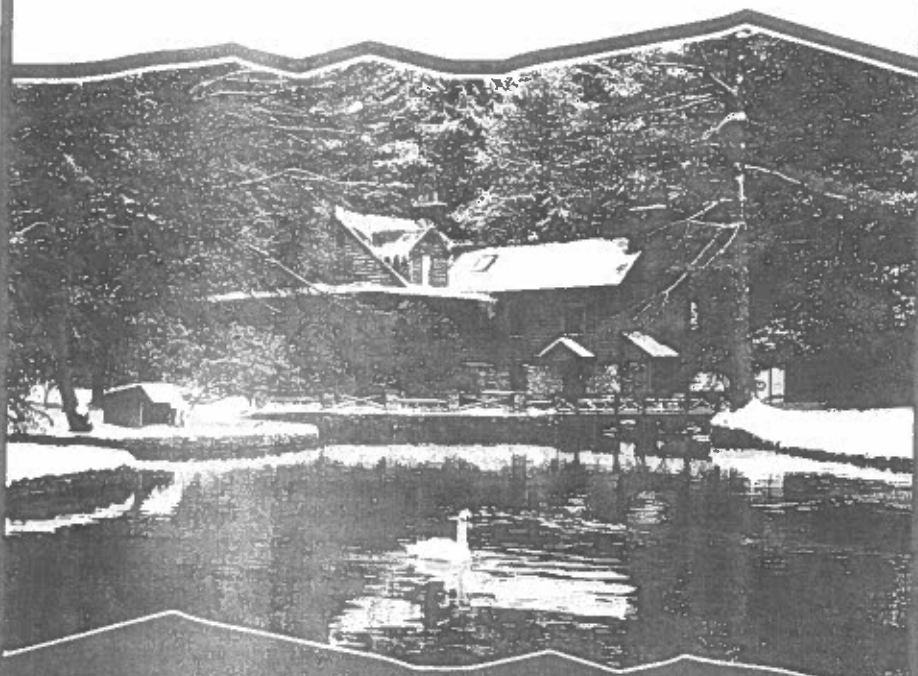
The Buckeyes (11-2) ranked 25th in the country in yards per play (6.38) last season, their worst showing since 2016.

Ohio State lost to Michigan for the third straight year and then dropped its bowl game against Missouri, playing with a third-string quarterback after starter Kyle McCord transferred and backup Devin Brown was injured.

O'Brien, 54, spent seven seasons as coach of the Texans, going 52-

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Temps are Falling...

SPORTS

INSIDE:
 More States Join NCAA Lawsuit/C2
 Gauff, Sabalenka Advance/C3
 Scoreboard/C4
 Bills Look To Avoid Loss vs. Chiefs/C5
 Stroud Showing Poise In Playoffs/C6

SSAC To Determine Winning State Championship Host Bid Soon

By **NICK HENTHORN**
 Sports Editor
WHEELING - The future of the West Virginia State Football Championships is officially in limbo.
 The WVSSAC board of directors heard four competing bids to host the games, including one from Wheeling, the home of the state championships the last 30 years, on Wednesday in their Parkersburg office. A decision on where the championships will be held should come next month.
 Wheeling was represented by Ohio County Schools assistant superintendent Rick Jones, and

Wheeling Park High School Athletic Director and head football coach Chris Daugherty.
 With Wheeling's four-year contract to host the games expiring in December, the pair's presentation Wednesday drew attention to what has kept the event in Wheeling for decades, and what the future of the championships can look like in the Friendly City.
 "We had a great bid presentation that highlighted all the things the people before us have worked so hard on to make this a top-notch event," Jones said. "We also highlighted some things that we will

add to enhance the experience for the teams- added features with the jumbotron, videos for all the players following them through the entire weekend, among other things."
 Members of the board- made up of the WVSSAC executive director David Price along with a number of assistant directors, high school principals and state representatives- will conduct visits to the sites of the different bid locations, and are expected to make a decision in February.
 Aside from Wheeling, the other bids came from Charleston, Bluefield, and a hybrid proposition involving both

West Virginia University and Marshall University in which the two schools would alternate hosting the event.
 Though the SSAC is already well-acquainted with Wheeling, "We know almost everybody [on the board]," Jones said. "I used to serve on that board for three years when I was a principal."
 "I already kind of know what they think- that they really like the event here and they always have, it's just a matter of deciding as a group if this is the time to take it somewhere else or to keep it here, and they know what they're getting here."

With the ball now in the SSAC's court, Jones and Daugherty will have to wait and see what route the state will choose.
 "We've been interviewing for this for 30 years," Jones said. "There was nothing in that 30-minute presentation that was going to make or break what they think of Wheeling. Regardless of what happens, they know Wheeling's done a fantastic job. I've estimated Wheeling has invested over \$2 million over the past 30 years into this event. People have done the best they possibly could, and we hope to continue that."



AP Photo
 West Virginia guard Kerr Kriisa (3) is defended by Oklahoma guard Javian McCollum (2) and others during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Norman, Okla.

Jayhawks Travel To Face WVU In Old Rivalry Without Old Dynamic

By **BOB HERTZEL**
 WV News
MORGANTOWN - Let's understand one thing right now, it just won't be the same when No. 3 Kansas comes to the Coliseum to face West Virginia at 4 p.m. in a game shown on what is fast becoming known as WVU-TV: ESPN+.
 With apologies to Mountaineer coach Josh Eilert, what has made West Virginia vs. Kansas special since the Mountaineers jumped from the Big East to the Big 12 in 2013 is that it matched up two Hall of Fame coaches in Bill Self at Kansas and Bob Huggins at WVU.
 They had coached against each other in all 27 meetings, with Self winning 21 of them. but then again Self's Kansas team was nationally ranked in each and every game while Huggins' only 14 times. What's more, Self was playing his home games in the venerable Allen Fieldhouse, where

Kansas almost never loses. And against WVU, you remove the qualifier "never" for Kansas is 11 in "The Phog" and 5-0 on neutral courts, if playing in the Big 12 Tournament held in KANSAS City can really be considered neutral.
 The rivalry has been spirited the way it is supposed to be between two great coaches, and so it was only fair that Self be asked whether he'll miss seeing Huggins on this trip.
 "Maybe I will see Huggs," Self said, certainly aware that Huggins has been among the crowd at a number of Mountaineer home games.
 It was obvious that Self had prepared for such a question, for he added this:
 "I guarantee Josh will be better dressed, no doubt. And he'd look better if they wore the same thing."
 Huggins, deposed as Mountaineer coach this year after a pair of off-season indiscretions, of course, is responsible

for the coaching fraternity disposing with wearing coats and ties to coach games, starting a "fashion" trend with pullovers.
 Self paid homage to Huggins and his situation without being asked to.
 "I want him to be remembered and thought of in a way as a guy who brought a great legacy to our profession. I wish the best for him, but I'm not saying that at the expense of anyone else," he said.
 That was the perfect transition from Memory Lane to Saturday night's game.
 WVU may be 6-11, but Self would not point any fingers at Eilert being responsible for such.
 "I think Josh has done a good job in a hard situation. That's not easy," Self said.
 Think about what it's like replacing a legend. It's hard to fill a pair of size 14 shoes when you only have a size 8 foot.
 Please see WVU, Page C2

OVAC Events Put On Hold With Weather Postponements

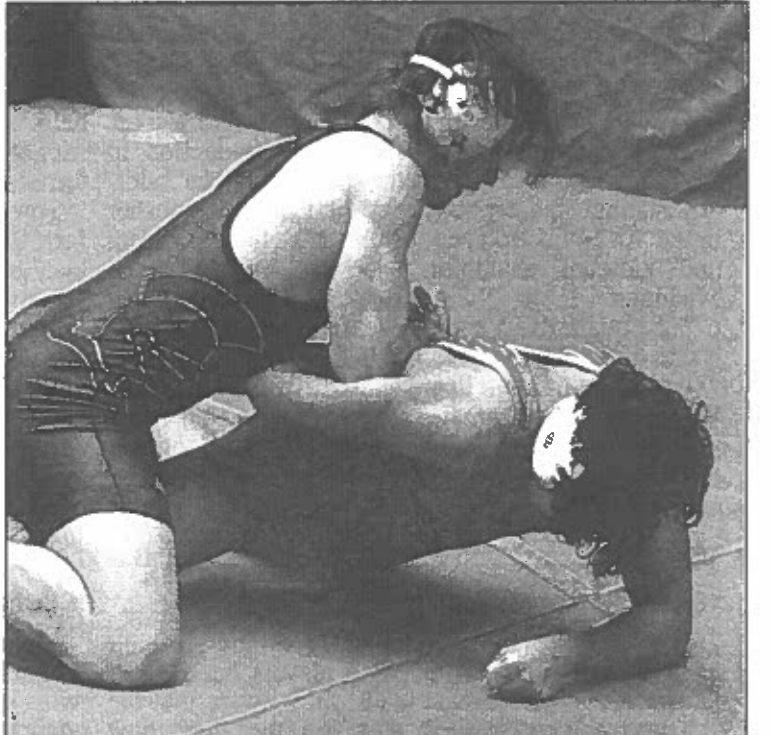


Photo by Kim North
 Martins Ferry's Andrew Leiffer supplies an arm bar to St. Clairsville's Daelyn Harris during their 165-pound first round match Thursday night at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. Leiffer won the bout.

By **KIM NORTH**
 Staff Writer
WHEELING - Due to the forecast of inclement weather, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was forced to postpone its Bill Brubaker Swimming and Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships on Friday as the Ohio Valley was blanketed with a few inches of snow.
Swimming
 According to a release, the Class 5A portion of the event will be held Saturday, as scheduled, but the start time has been pushed up to 11:30 a.m. inside the Wellness Center at Brooke High School.
 However, the Class 1A-3A and Class 4A portions, originally scheduled for Friday, have been pushed back until Monday, still at Brooke High School, with a start time of 5:30 p.m.
 Defending champions on the boys side are Linsly (Class 1A/3A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A) and Parkersburg South (Class 5A). The Cadets have a record

63 titles. On the girls side, Linsly (1A-3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Dover (5A) are defending titlists.
Wrestling
 The 70th annual event began Thursday night and completed three rounds - two in the championship bracket and one in the consolation bracket.
 Action resumed Saturday at 10 a.m. inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena with quarter final matches in the championship bracket and second-round consolation bouts. Third- and fourth-round consolation matches will also be contested before the championship semifinals at approximately 2 p.m. Semi final consolation matches will conclude the afternoon session.
 At 5:30 p.m., the prestigious Mr. Mat Award will be presented prior to matches for first, third, fifth and seventh-places being contested simultaneously on four mats.
 Please see OVAC, Page C2



Braced For Tough Sledding, Offseason Seems "So Far, So Good" For Buckeyes

By **MITCH STACY**
 AP Sports Writer
 key contributors eligible mitigated by blue chip wideout Emeka Egbuka's for the NFL draft decid-

Virginia.

An email from the NCAA to The Associated Press on Friday

has since been extended to a preliminary injunction that prohibits the NCAA from enforcing the

ing Battle and Farrakhan, to play through the remainder of the academic year.

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OFFSEASON

(Continued from Page C1)

"Bottom line - we didn't reach our goals this year. And that's everybody," Day said, refusing to single out the departed McCord, who threw two devastating interceptions in the 30-24 loss to eventual national champion Michigan.

"The quarterback room is one of them," Day said. "That's the bottom line. When you look at the whole, we didn't get our job done."

No. 1 running back

TreVeyon Henderson put off the NFL draft to play at Ohio Stadium another season after injuries affected his production in the last two. The addition of 1,000-yard rusher Quinshon Judkins from Ole Miss should give the Buckeyes one of the best backfield tandems in college football.

The offensive line, which returns four starters, took much of the blame for Ohio State finishing 87th in the

nation in rushing yards (138.8 per game). The Buckeyes will get some help in new center Seth McLaughlin, who transferred from Alabama.

Top defensive linemen Jack Sawyer, J.T. Tuimolau and Tyleik Williams all stayed.

The Buckeyes have to replace excellent starting linebackers Tommy Eichenberg and Steele Chambers but will return three top cornerbacks and two safeties.

Besides O'Brien being added, other coaching changes have been made and more could be coming.

Day fired safeties coach Perry Eliano and replaced him with Matt Guerrieri from the Indiana staff. Special teams coordinator Parker Fleming also was fired.

"Everything's going to get looked at," Day said. "And if it helps Ohio State go reach our goals and win these games, we'll make those changes."

WVU

(Continued from Page C1)

Eilert, who had never been a head coach; who had been a bench assistant just one year, was asked to fill in for a man who was had more wins than any active coach: a man who had been inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame: a man who was a legend coaching in his own home town and at his alma mater.

What's more, he was a man who always seemed to have controversy swirling around him, who was always in the spotlight. You can dare argue he was more famous than even Bill Self himself on a national level and he had carried WVU on his back in terms of creating a national image.

Then you come and ask an unknown in Josh Eilert to not only take over the team, but to do so with an interim title and a one-year contract.

"And then you throw in that he hasn't had two or three starters for this whole season, at least," Self said.

Because of that, Self has limited his scouting of the team to just the games since the first of the year when Eilert got RaeQuan Battle, Noah Farrakhan and Kerr Kriisa onto his active roster.

"I've only looked at

them since they got their three players back," Self said, fully aware that the team on the floor now resembles nothing of the cast that started the season.

"I didn't want to gauge it on them not having their full complement of guys ... and they still haven't had it because Jesse Edwards has been hurt. If Edwards is ready to go, he's a legitimate Top 5 big man in the country."

"Certainly, when they do have all their players, they will be very formidable for anyone. But if you are playing without guys who are capable of getting you a combined 40 points a game, it obviously looks a lot different."

Kansas, which garnered probably the top transfer in the country when it gathered in Michigan's Hunter Dickerson over the off-season, is expected to be a contender, along with Houston from the Big 12, for the national championship.

Dickerson is averaging 19.3 points and 11.7 rebounds a game while guard Kevin McCullar averages 19.0 and 5.7 per game, leading the Jayhawks to a 15-2 record, 3-1 in the Big 12 after suffering a stunning loss to Central Florida.

OVAC

(Continued from Page C1)

Class 3A Barnesville leads the 42-team field with 89 points and 11 quarter finalists. The Shamrocks are led by four of the returning nine champions. Leading the way is two-time titlist and Ohio State University recruit Dakota King (138). The other three are defending Ohio Division III state champion Reese Stephen (150), Johnathan Huntsman (113) and Ayden King (157). All four are No. 1 seeds.

LOOKING FOR MORE

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UNBEATEN, UNCHALLENGED

Davis (now 35-0) leads eight undefeated wrestlers into the quarters. The others are Wheeling Central's Braxton Birch (120, 32-0); Cameron's Slaton Pettit (138, 31-0); Warren's Aden Strahler (175, 31-0); Southern Local's Gabe Blissenbach (190, 12-0); Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215, 22-0); Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin, 215, 34-0) and University's Brock Kehler (285, 35-0).



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OVACs Underway

Barnesville On Top After Day One Of Conference Tourney

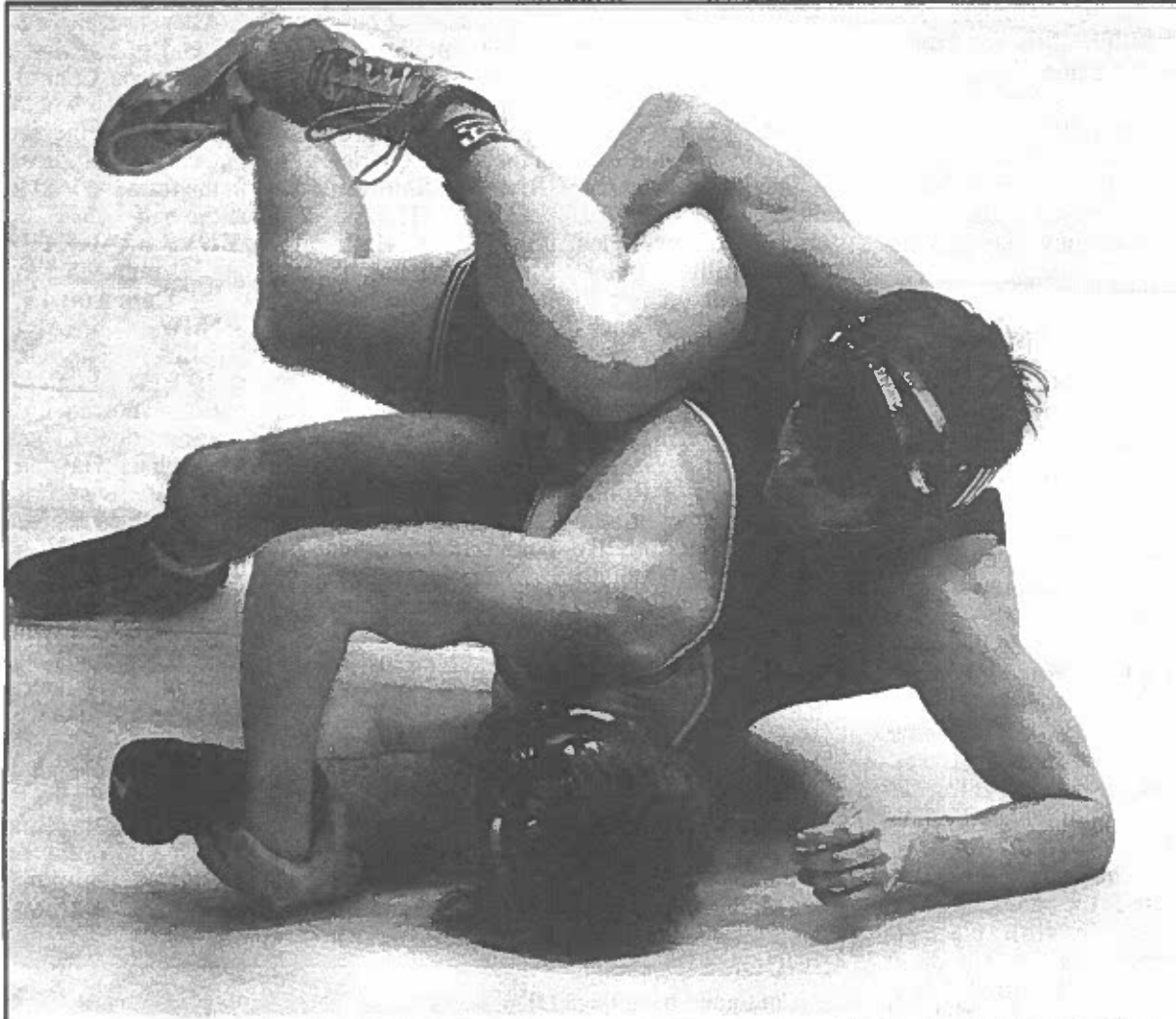


Photo by Kim North
Wheeling Central's Joey Hall and Magnolia's Gage Scott roll around during the 150-pound bout Thursday night as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament concluded one day of action. Hall prevailed by pin in 5:58.

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Barnesville sits atop a crowded field after one day and three rounds of action as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships began with an amended schedule Thursday night inside a chilly West-Banco Arena.

Due to impending weather, the first night saw two rounds in the championship bracket completed, as well as one round of consolation bouts. Today's action begins at 5 p.m. with second round matches in the consolation bracket and the championship quarterfinals. Third- and fourth-round consolation matches will close out the second day.

The Class 3A Shamrocks advanced 11 wrestlers into tonight's quarterfinals to accumulate 89 points, which was 6.5 better than second-place University (82.5) which heads the Class 5A field. Steubenville sits in third with 71 while defending champion Parkersburg South is fourth with 69.5.

"It's a start," Barnesville head

coach Jayson Stephen said. "The kids still have to go out and wrestle but we'll take it. The kids wrestled really well and we got some bonus points which is always good."

Among Barnesville's advanced are four defending champions - Johnathan Huntsman (113), two-time champ Dakota King (138), Reese Stephen (150) and Skyler King (157). Others collecting two victories include Easton Stephen (106), Aydan Andrews (120), Colt Carpenter (126), Karson Milhoan (144), Ayden King (165), Hines Ford (175) and Marshall Meade (285).

"Marshall winning with a pin to end the night kind of punctuated things for us," Stephen said. "The kids know it is still a long way from being over, but it feels good to be on top right now."

University moved 10 wrestlers into the quarters, including defending champions Luca Felix (165) and Brock Kehler (285).

All 14 top seeds cruised into the quarterfinals, as did all nine

returning champions.

Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120); Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (126) and Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (175) all took steps in winning another crown. Maynard, who is seeded No. 2, had a pair of pins.

The Wood County Patriots have nine quarter finalists, including Gage Wright (175) who is ranked No. 2 nationally.

However, Parkersburg South did have the highest seed eliminated when No. 3 Mackiah Claudio was edged 4-2 by Indian Creek's Ethan Starr and then ejected from the tournament for flagrant misconduct. The unseeded Starr then advanced to the quarters with a 51-second pin.

Three other unseeded wrestlers made the quarters, with two of them hailing from Wheeling Park in Nate Hodge (138) and Chance Funari (157). The other was Oak Glen's Waylon Courtwright (215) who knocked off the No. 5 and No. 12 seeds.

Please see OVACS, Page 12



Photo by Nick Henthorn
Wheeling Park's Mykel Davis corrals an alley-oop pass after a backdoor cut Thursday against John Marshall.

Davis Breaks Park 3-Point Record; Patriots Down Rival Monarchs

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

GLEN DALE - Aiden Davis broke his school's 3-point record and the Wheeling Park Patriots continued their stretch of dominance over rival John Marshall on Thursday, the Patriots taking a 70-38 road victory.

Davis, a junior, made five 3-pointers in scoring a game-high 17 points, and with his fifth and final long ball in the fourth quarter, Davis reached 203 on his career. That number topped Bubby Goodwin, a three-time all-state player for Park from 2009-2011, who had held the record with 202.

With at least 10 more games to be played this year, and a whole senior season ahead of him, Davis has time to add to his new record.

"Any time you're going up against a team like Wheeling Park, who've got one of the better players in the whole state, Aiden Davis, he does a lot on the basketball court

and he's hard to defend." John Marshall head coach Neil McCormick said. "He makes a lot of tough shots, he's a smart player. Knows what to do with the basketball in his hands, knows how to get himself open.

Park's victory over the Monarchs kept in-tact a winning streak that goes back years; John Marshall last beat Park in 2007."

After dropping their previous game to Morgantown just the night before, Park head coach Michael Jebbia felt good about his team's performance.

"We had a tough road loss last Saturday afternoon, of course last night expended a lot of energy against Morgantown. I just wanted us to go out and play hard, use some of our bench, which we did."

A slow pace led to a low-scoring first quarter, Park ahead 13-7 after one, and the deficit was cut to four after a basket by John Marshall's Jackson Helms inside early in the second.

Please see RECORD, Page 12

Mountaineers Thrash Big 12 Newcomer Houston, 80-39

By **BOB HERTZEL**
WV News

MORGANTOWN - On February 23, 2001, West Virginia's women's basketball team suffered the indignation of having to endure a 100-28 defeat to a No. 1 Connecticut team that included Sue Bird and Swin Cash in a game played at Morgantown High due to the asbestos removal project at the Coliseum.

On Wednesday night, 22 years later, WVU finally got to

But this is a new WVU women's team, a ball-hawking, aggressive team playing under new coach Mark Kellogg, and instead of being the victim of Big East bullies, it is a bully in the ultra-tough Big 12 conference.

In fact, in that Houston game, Kellogg's team went to half-time knowing they had held a major conference team averaging 74.9 points a game to just 8 points.

The dominance even amazed

Maroon Knights Save Best For Last In Road Win Against Red Riders

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON - The Wheeling Central girls' basketball team ran past Weir.

The Maroon Knights turned a four-point advantage into a 22-point lead in the fourth en route to defeating the Red Riders, 64-46, Thursday night on Ron "Fritz" Williams Court inside the Carl Hamill Fieldhouse.

"They out-hustled us," Weir (7-7) head coach Rick Stead



3-pointers in the quarter on their way to breaking the game open.

The victors built a 57-35 lead in the fourth. The hosts cut their deficit down to 59-46, but they were unable to get any closer.

"We tried different defenses tonight," Stead said. "We played man, and then we switched to a 1-3-1. They were able to get the ball out and score in transition.

"We forced things. We play our best when we move the ball around and we get other people involved."

Rayna Hoover recorded a team-high 16 points to lead the way for the Red-and-Black, while Olivia Baker and Janai Turner each contributed nine.

Led by Blake, Wheeling Central led 16-10 at the end of the first. The

the ball, we did not get back, and they had two on ones, three on ones and three on twos.

"We worked on pressure. We wanted to pressure their young ballhandler, but we had some miscommunications in our diamond press.

"We did not get back. They would get the ball and throw it to an open player, and they were able to score."

Wheeling Central was able to turn defensive rebounds and turnovers into easy baskets at the other end of the court.

"Rebounding killed us," Stead said. "We did not put a body on anyone. When the ball is released, you have to find someone in a different color and get on them. You have to put your body on them, and you have to box them out. We did not rebound.

Monday is the cutoff date for team's to qualify for the annual OVAC Tournament. The top four in each class qualify for the annual tournament.

Weir entered the game against Wheeling Central in second place in the Class 4A standings behind Indian Creek. Buckeye Local is third in the standings, while East Liverpool is fourth.

Wheeling Central entered the game against Weir in fifth place in the Class 3A standings behind Martins Ferry, Union Local, Bellaire and Fort Frye.

Weir is scheduled to play Dover Saturday afternoon at home. The JV game is slated to start at 11:30 a.m.

Wheeling Central is scheduled to play St. Marys Thursday night at home.

benville.

When Mary Rohde received the ball in the high post and alertly dumped off the ball to Anna Arai to start the fourth, it completed the Crusaders' monumental comeback.

That came with 7:25 showing in the fourth.

Roughly two minutes later, McKeever accounted for nine of her game-high total as Buckeye raced out on a 14-0 run.

Ella Maragos led Cath-

15 points in limited duty.

Reese Hobbs led the Lady Pilots with seven rebounds and five steals.

Maci Hendershot led Shadyside with nine.

Coach Rick Isaly's Lady Pilots led 12-7, 41-10, and 60-18 at the breaks.

Monroe Central 55, Shenandoah 36.

SARAHSVILLE - The Seminoles got 20 points from Mayzie Emery and to help themselves to a road win over the Zeps.

Magnolia's Hayden Pyles eventually securing the game high as his team secured a home victory.

Pyles dropped 30 in the contest, making four 3-pointers. Close behind was Cameron's Lance Hartley, who poured in 29 points for the visiting Dragons.

After a close first half that saw Magnolia hold a 24-23 lead, the Blue Eagles soared in the second half to an eight-point lead by the final buzzer.

NEWCOMER

(Continued from Page 11)

But this was not a bragadocious "squash; simply an honest description of what had transpired before a crowd of 2,251 while against a men's game between WVU and Oklahoma on ESPN+ at the same time.

"Protect your own court, then steal those wins on the road to do something special," Kellogg said.

The Mountaineers have protected their court to the tune of nine victories in 10 games, the only loss being to No. 10 Texas, the first of two losses in a row they carried into the Houston game after they followed the Texas defeat by losing at Iowa State, blowing a 19-point lead.

How did that first-quarter shutout come about,

though?

"Because they missed some shots and we played hard and turned them over a little bit. And we rebounded pretty well tonight, something we hadn't been doing, so when they missed we limited them to one shot and out. We wanted them to be one and done," Kellogg said.

It helped that Houston's best player, Laila Blair, got into early foul trouble.

"That probably impacted what happened quite a bit," Kellogg admitted. "You know, she's the go-to scorer and she's a super, super talented offensive player. You look at a box score and she's the first name on the list, averaging 15 of 16 a game. We put some attention on

her for sure.

"We wanted to go at her a little bit on the offensive end, too, try to see if we could tire her out, make her have to defend a little bit."

They couldn't tire her out. She wound up sitting by fouling out with 3 points and having only 15 minutes on the floor.

"She had what, 30 or 33 the night before, so she had our attention," Kellogg said.

Once the momentum got rolling, there was no stopping it for Houston.

"Once we get going, we're not really worried about the score," WVU's Jayla Hemingway said. "We just know that once we go out there, if we play to our standard, the scoreboard won't matter in the end."

OVACS

(Continued from Page 11)

Steubenville sends eight into the quarters. They are Cole Harvey (113), Dorian Haddad (126), Charlie Abbott (132), Cal Beadling (138), Cooper Smith (144), Brody Saccoccia (150), Savier Faulks (157) and Landon Crosier (165).

"Everyone we thought could get to the quarters did," Steubenville's Lucas Huffman said. "The Crosier kid really came through."

There were eight undefeated wrestlers that entered the tournament

and all eight are still unscathed. They include Oak Glen's Davis and Wheeling Central's Braxton Birch at 120; Cameron's Slaton Pettit (138); Warren's Aden Strahler (175); Southern Local's Gabe Blisenbach (190); Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas and Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin at 215; and Kehler (285).

Several wrestlers picked up individual milestones as Thomas recorded his 100th career pin; his brother Landen (285) earned his 100th win, as

did Oak Glen's Michael Heath. Davis notched his 100th pin.

Cameron and Southern Local are tied for the Class 1A/2A with 35 points each. Oak Glen (64) leads the Class 4A field with 64 points, a dozen better than Beaver Local. Indian Creek is a distant third but still with-in striking distance.

The championship semifinals begins Saturday's action at 11 a.m., with matches for first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-places beginning at 3:30 p.m.

RECORD

(Continued from Page 11)

"You've got to give John Marshall credit, they came out with a pretty good game plan to run some patient offense and keep that score a little bit lower," Jebbia said. "And they hit some shots there in the late first, early second quarter."

Thing started to slip out of control for John Marshall as the game wore on though, with Wheeling Park's Mykel Davis the catalyst for what ended up as a 20-point halftime lead, 34-14.

A steal-and-slam, an alley-oop lay-in, and a hard drive to the hoop on consecutive possessions ignited the Patriots, who were extending their rotation beyond their usual band Thursday.

"I thought some guys off the bench gave us a lift in JD Williams and Andrew Hays and Ryan Linder, both seniors, they really came in and did a

nice job. Our guys shared the ball, 17 assists on 29 made baskets."

Linder scored two points, grabbed a rebound and a steal, while Hays recorded a rebound, two steals and an assist.

Mykel Davis finished with 13 points, three steals and six assists. Amare Johnson also scored 13 points, Landon Lewis scored 11, Williams scored eight, and Jacob Hays and Dante Strothers each scored three.

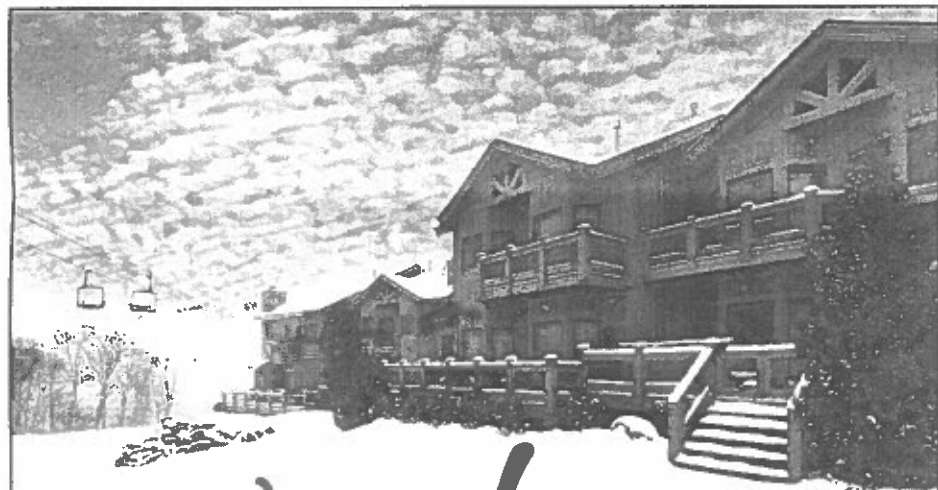
For John Marshall, Brody Williams scored 13 to lead the Monarchs, Kayden Knapp scored nine, and Hayden Gaiser, Conor Fitzpatrick, Jackson Helms and Scott Schenerlein each scored four points.

"I thought our guys competed, and I'm proud of their effort," McCormick said. "Unfortunately we didn't come out on the side we wanted to, but go-

ing against Aiden Davis and Mykel Davis and the rest of their team, coach Jebbia does a great job. Not the result we wanted but I'm proud of the effort our guys gave."

John Marshall next plays East Liverpool on Saturday, Jan. 20. Wheeling Park's originally scheduled Saturday game against Parkersburg South was rescheduled to Feb. 13, meaning the Patriots will be off their feet for over a week.

"Our schedules' very hard; we've only won a few games by double figures out of 13," Jebbia said. "We've won a lot of single digit games, our losses are all single digits, we've been in a lot of tight games. So it was good to get back on the winning track after a couple tough losses and we have a big game next Friday night at East Liverpool."



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LOCAL CARD

Friday, Jan. 19
BASKETBALL (BOYS)
 Brooke at Steubenville, 5:30 p.m.
 Indian Creek at Beaver Local, 5:30 p.m.
 Cameron at Magnolia
 Bellaire at Cambridge
 St. Clairsville at Harrison Central
 Martins Ferry at Union Local
 Bridgeport at Beallsville
 Barnesville at Caldwell
 Hundred at Valley.
BASKETBALL (GIRLS)
 Hundred at Valley, 5:30 p.m.
WRESTLING
 OVAC Tournament at West-Banco Arena, 11 a.m.
SWIMMING
 OVAC Meet at Brooke, 2 p.m.
 Classes 1A-4A

COLLEGE CARD

Saturday, Jan. 20
MEN'S BASKETBALL
 Glenville State at West Liberty, 4 p.m.
 Concord at Wheeling, 4 p.m.
 Kansas at West Virginia, 4 p.m.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 Glenville State at West Liberty, 2 p.m.
 Concord at Wheeling, 2 p.m.
WRESTLING
 Wheeling at Glenville State, 7 p.m.
 Wheeling vs. Garrett College at Glenville, 8:30 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Friday, Jan. 19
AUTO RACING
 8 p.m.
 PEACOCK — NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
 7 p.m.
 NHLN — Saginaw at Ottawa
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
 5 p.m.
 CBSN — Fairleigh Dickinson at Stonehill
 6:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Georgetown at Xavier
 7 p.m.
 CBSN — Toledo at Cent. Michigan
 ESPN2 — Saint Louis at VCU
 ESPNU — Akron at Kent St.
 8:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Indiana at Wisconsin
 10:30 p.m.
 FS1 — UNLV at Colorado St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 8 p.m.
 PAC-12N — UCLA at Colorado
 10 p.m.
 PAC-12N — Oregon at Stanford
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
 6 p.m.
 SECN — Florida at Auburn
 7:30 p.m.
 SECN — Arkansas at Alabama
 9 p.m.
 SECN — Kentucky at LSU
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
 9 p.m.
 CBSN — Miami (Ohio) at Colorado College
COLLEGE WRESTLING
 6 p.m.
 BTN — Penn St. at Michigan
 8 p.m.
 BTN — Purdue at Iowa
FIELD HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)
 9 a.m.
 CBSN — Olympic Qualifier: U.S. vs. Germany, Gold-Medal Match, Ranchi, India
GOLF
 1 p.m.
 GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, Second Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.
 2 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Latin America Amateur Championship: Second Round, Santa Mar a Golf Club, Panama City
 4 p.m.
 GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, Second Round, Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.
 7 p.m.
 GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Second Round, Hualalai GC, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
 9 p.m.
 NFLN — The Polynesian Bowl: Team Mauka vs. Team Makai, Honolulu
NBA BASKETBALL
 7:40 p.m.
 ESPN — Denver at Boston
 10:30 p.m.
 ESPN — Brooklyn at LA Lakers
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 10 p.m.
 FS2 — Liga MX: Cruz Azul at Juarez
TENNIS

W.VA. POLLS

West Virginia Schools Athletic Association has released the weekly boys and girls basketball coaches polls:

BOYS
Class A
 1. Tucker County (12) 132
 2. Tug Valley (2) 116
 3. East Hardy 112
 4. James Monroe 100
 5. Webster County 94
 6. Clay-Battelle 68
 7. Wahama 52
 8. Cameron 42
 9. Greater Beckley 42
 10. River View 24

Class AA
 1. Charleston Catholic (8) 98
 2. Chapmanville (2) 86
 3. Williamstown 78
 4. Bluefield 72
 5. (tie) Wheeling Central 72
 6. Ravenswood 48
 7. Poca 32
 8. Wyoming East 28
 9. Trinity 26
 10. Petersburg 18

Class AAA
 1. Fairmont Senior (13) 139
 2. Nitro 119
 3. Shady Spring (1) 108
 4. East Fairmont 80
 5. Herbert Hoover 71
 6. Lewis County 55
 7. Logan 47
 8. Sissonville 41
 9. Midland Trail 37
 10. Ripley 29

Class AAAA
 1. Spring Mills (10) 116
 2. Morgantown (2) 110
 3. George Washington 76
 4. Huntington 67
 5. Bridgeport 62
 6. (tie) Martinsburg 62
 7. Wheeling Park 34
 8. Woosrow Wilson 28
 9. Jefferson 27
 10. South Charleston 23

GIRLS
Class A
 1. Cameron (6) 132
 2. James Monroe (1) 116
 3. Gilmer County (1) 112
 4. Greenbrier West 100
 5. Tucker County 94
 6. River View 68
 7. Doddridge County 52
 8. St. Joseph Central 42
 9. Tyler Consolidated 42
 10. Webster County 24

Class AA
 1. Wyoming East (8) 98
 2. Williamstown 78
 3. St. Marys 72
 4. Wheeling Central 72
 5. Chapmanville 48
 6. Ravenswood 32
 7. Summers County 28
 8. Parkersburg Catholic 28
 9. Mingo Central 28
 10. Pqetersburg 24

Class 3A
 1. Wayne (8) 132
 2. East Fairmont 116
 3. Lewis County 112
 4. Philip-Barbour 100
 5. Nitro 94
 6. Ripley 68
 7. Robert C. Byrd 52
 8. Sissonville 42
 9. North Marion 42
 10. Greenbrier East 24

Class 4A
 1. Morgantown (7) 132
 2. Wheeling Park (6) 116
 3. Spring Valley (1) 112
 4. George Washington (1) 100
 5. Parkersburg 94
 6. Parkersburg South 68
 7. St. Albans 52
 8. Cabell Midland 42
 9. University 42
 10. Greenbrier East 24

OVAC WRESTLING

Team Scoring Overall (Top 10)
 1. Barnesville 89; 2. University 82.5; 3. Steubenville 71; 4. Parkersburg South 69.6; 5. Oak Glen 64; 6. Wheeling Park 56.5; 7. Beaver Local 52; 8. Linsly 47; 9. Wheeling Central 46; 10. John Marshall 45

Class 5A
 1. University 82.5; 2. Steubenville 71; 3. Parkersburg South 69.5; 4. Wheeling Park 56.5; 5. John Marshall 45; 6. Brooke 39; 7. Warren 26; 8. Morgantown 16

Class 4A
 1. Oak Glen 64; 2. Beaver Local 52; 3. Indian Creek 43; 4. Weir 42; 5. East Liverpool 36.5; 6. Harrison Central 32; 7. Cambridge 31; 8. Buckeye Local 30; 9. Edison 27; 10. St. Clairsville 11

Class 3A
 1. Barnesville 89; 2. Linsly 47; 3. Wheeling Central 46; 4. Union Local 30; 5. Martins Ferry 28; 6. Bellaire 21; 7. Shenandoah 11.5; 8. Magnolia 10; 9. Fort Frye 6

Class 1A/2A
 1. (tie) Cameron, Southern Local 35; 3. Caldwell 19; 4. (tie) River, Toronto 10; 6. Steubenville Catholic 9; 7. Bridgeport 8.5; 8. (tie) Beallsville, Shadyside 4; 10. (tie) Frontier, Madonna 3; 12. Wellsville; 13. (tie) Monroe Central, Paden City 0; 15. Conotton Valley -2

PREP BOXSCORES

GIRLS
Buckeye Local 60, Steubenville Catholic 48
 BUCKEYE LOCAL (60) - McKeever 10 5-8 27; Ankrum 2 0-0 4; Dailey 1 0-0 2; Kandrach 3 5-8 12; Roset 1 0-0 3; Hornyak 1 0-0 2; Stock 5 0-0 10; Totals: 23 10-16 60. STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC (48) - Rohde 5 2-2 12; Cherepko 1 1-2 3; Marages 5 0-0 15; O'Karma 3 0-2 7; Arai 5 1-2 11; Marcino 0 0-0 0; Delaney 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19 5-8 48. Three-point goals: Buckeye Local 5 (McKeever 2, Kandrach, Rosset). Steubenville Catholic 6 (Marages 5, O'Karma).

River 60, Shadyside 20
 RIVER (60) - Huffman 1 0-0 3; Hobbs 1 1-2 3; Harlan 6 1-1 15; Reed 0 2-2 2; Isaly 9 2-2 26; Hagan 2 0-0 4; Fox 3 0-1 7; Jones 0 0-0; Prim 0 0-0 0; Kilburn 0 0-0 0. Totals 22 6-8 60. SHADYSIDE (20) - Fulton 1 0-0 2; Tsoras 1 0-0 3; Hendershot 3 0-0 9; Faulkner 2 2-4 7; Zduńczyk 0 0-0 0. Totals 7, 2-4 20. Three-point goals: River 9 (Isaly 6, Harlan 2, Fox 1). Shadyside 4 (Hendershot 3, Faulkner 1).

Monroe Central 55, Shenandoah 36
 MONROE CENTRAL (55) - Emery 8 0-0 20; Henthorn 2 0-2 4; English 2 2-2 12; Miller 1 0-0 2; McFederick 2 0-0 4; McGarry 2 0-0 4; Bettinger 3 3-4 9; Smitley 0 0-0 0; Totals 22 5-8 55. SHENANDOAH (36) - Moore 5 6-8 17; Brown 0 0-0 0; House 1 0-0 2; Noll 2 0-0 4; Snyder 1 0-0 2; McVicker 1 0-0 2; May 4 3-3 11; Irvin 0 0-0 0; Totals 13 9-11 36.

Wheeling Central 64, Weir 46
 WHEELING CENTRAL (64) - Seaverns 4 0-0 8; Fitzsimmons 11 1-1 25; Ratcliffe 1 0-0 3; Hanson 0 0-0 0; Schmitt 0 0-0 0; Miehle 1 0-0 3; Robrecht 1 0-0 2; Ondrejko 0 0-0 0; Blake 11 1-1 23; Totals 29 2-2 64. WEIR (46) - Baker 4 0-1 9; Kaufman 2 0-0 5; Turner 4 1-2 9; Lash 3 1-1 7; Faulks 0 0-0 0; Hoover 6 3-3 16; Weber 0 0-0 0; Utt 0 0-0 0; Spencer 0 0-0 0; Baltimore 0 0-0 0; Totals 19 5-7 46. Three-point goals: Wheeling Central 4 (Fitzsimmons 2, Ratcliffe, Miehle). Weir 3 (Baker, Kaufman, Hoover).

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
 Houston 45, Cleveland 14
 Kansas City 26, Miami 7
Sunday, Jan. 14
 Green Bay 48, Dallas 32
 Detroit 24, L.A. Rams 23
Monday, Jan. 15
 Buffalo 31, Pittsburgh 17
 Tampa Bay 32, Philadelphia 9

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 20
 Houston at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
 Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 21
 Tampa Bay at Detroit, 3 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)
 Kansas City at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS/Paramount)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 28
AFC
 AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 3 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
 NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 11
 At Las Vegas
 TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

ECHL

Friday's Games
 Adirondack at Trois-Rivieres, 7 p.m.
 Florida at Orlando, ppd
 Kalamazoo at Indy, 7 p.m.
 Greenville at South Carolina, 7:05 p.m.
 Newfoundland at Norfolk

PREP BASKETBALL

OH GIRL PREP BASKETBALL
 Akr. Ellet 55, Akr. Buchtel 42
 Akr. Firestone 52, Akr. Garfield 43
 Albany Alexander 51, Crooksville 36
 Andover Pymatuning Valley 50, Vienna Mathews 17
 Arcanum 59, Bradford 19
 Arlington 43, Pandora-Gilboa 37
 Batavia 75, Wilmington 67, 20T
 Batavia Clermont NE 55, Lees Creek E. Clinton 34
 Belmont Union Local 67, Barnesville 31
 Bethel-Tate 61, Georgetown 52, OT
 Beverly Ft. Frye 51, Vincent Warren 32
 Bidwell River Valley 47, Athens 43
 Bishop Watterson 51, Bishop Hartley 16
 Brookfield 36, Youngs. Liberty 32
 Bryan 58, Delta 19
 Camden Preble Shawnee 37, W. Alexandria Twin Valley S. 27
 Casstown Miami E. 47, Sidney Lehman 11
 Chagrin Falls 58, Orange 49
 Chardon NDCL 47, Parma Hts. Holy Name 25
 Chesapeake 45, South Point 38
 Cin. Seven Hills 56, Hamilton New Miami 17
 Cin. West Clermont 55, Lebanon 53, OT
 Cin. Winton Woods 62, Milford 47
 Coldwater 52, Ft. Recovery 38
 Columbiana Crestview 64, Campbell Memorial 13
 Cory-Rawson 55, Waynesfield-Goshen 46
 Creston Norwayne 66, Rittman 26
 Crown City S. Gallia 74, Willow Wood Symmes Valley 48
 Day. Christian 57, Spring. Emmanuel Christian 13
 Day. Northridge 32, DeGraff Riverside 27
 Defiance Ayersville 50, Hicksville 20
 Defiance Tinora 37, Haviland Wayne Trace 26
 Delphos Jefferson 52, Ada 20
 Doylestown Chippewa 59, West Salem Northwestern 47
 E. Can. 38, Kidron Cent. Christian 23
 Elida, N.M. 32, Celina 26
 Elmore Woodmore 46, New Riegel 35
 Elyria First Baptist Christian 47, Cle. St. Martin De Porres 40
 Findlay Liberty-Benton 51, McComb 18
 Franklin 61, Clarksville Clinton-Massie 44
 Franklin Middletown Christian 46, Cin. Gamble Montessori 33
 Fremont Ross 62, Napoleon 35
 Ft. Jennings 45, Continental 23
 Genoa Christian 57, Granville Christian 29
 Germantown Valley View 69, Eaton 35
 Gibsonburg 53, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon 27
 Greenwich S. Cent. 55, Ashland Crestview 23
 Grove City 69, Galloway Westland 16
 Hamler Patrick Henry 56, Metamora Evergreen 41
 Hannibal River 60, Shadyside 20
 Hanoverton United 70, Leetonia 15
 Harrod Allen E. 45, Convoy Crestview 40
 Holgate 46, Pioneer N. Central 24
 Holland Springfield 56, Oregon Clay 45
 Hubbard 63, Niles McKinley 21
 Kansas Lakota 41, Lakeside Danbury 36
 Kenton 71, Defiance 41
 Kinsman Badger 61, Cortland Maplewood 43
 Lakewood 57, Cle. Hay 40
 Leavittsburg LaBrae 44, Newton Falls 31
 Leipsic 51, Bluffton 39
 Lexington 46, Mt. Vernon 29
 Liberty Center 47, Archbold 32
 Lima Perry 56, N. Baltimore 35
 Lima Shawnee 50, Wapakoneta 27
 Mansfield 35, Mansfield Madison 22
 Marietta 61, Point Pleasant, W.Va. 10
 Mayfield 60, Chagrin Falls Kenston 37
 McArthur Vinton County 53, Nelsonville-York 43
 McGuffey Upper Scioto Valley 40, Mt. Victory Ridgemont 28
 Medina Christian Academy 54, N. Ridgeville Lake Ridge 11
 Miller City 45, Bloomdale Elmwood 31
 Millersburg W. Holmes 63, Ashland 57
 Milton-Union 64, Troy Christian 38
 Mineral Ridge 71, McDonald

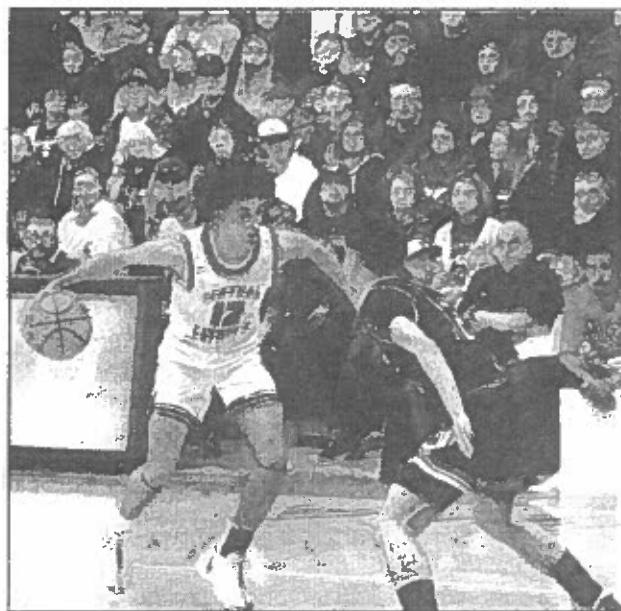


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central Catholic's Quinton Burlenski sizes up his defender during the Maroon Knights' game against the Linsly Cadets on Jan. 2, 2023. Burlenski was recently nominated for a chance to play in the 2024 McDonald's All-American Games on April 2 at Toyota Center in Houston.

Wheeling Central's Burlenski Nominated For McDonald's All-American Basketball Team

By NICK HENTHORN
 Sports Editor

WHEELING - Wheeling Central senior point guard Quinton Burlenski was nominated Tuesday for a chance to play in the 2024 McDonald's All-American Games on April 2 at Toyota Center in Houston.

"It's a big accomplishment for me, having my name in with other guys around the country, and in a small group in the state," Burlenski said.

Burlenski was one of five players from West Virginia nominated, alongside Zion Blevins from Chapmanville, Cole Joy and Jackson Smith from Parkersburg South, and Sharron Young from Morgantown.

Burlenski has captained a 10-2 Maroon Knights team that made a run to the state tournament last season.

The field general on offense and leader in the huddle, Burlenski All-American qualities go beyond his abilities with the basketball.

"It's not just this year," Stephens said of Burlenski. "Ever since he's come here he's worked

Josh Franke Announces Departure From Toronto

By ANDREW GRIMM
 For The Intelligencer

TORONTO - Josh Franke announced on X Thursday evening that he is stepping down as Toronto's head football coach to take over at Westerville Central.

Franke has been the Red Knights head coach for the past six, guiding the program to a mark of 37-26 with five consecutive playoff appearances.

"The past six years have been the most enjoyable of my 13 year career. I wanted to come back to my alma mater, make my mark, and bring pride back to our football program," Franke said in a statement. "I believe we've accomplished that and so much more over the last six seasons. However, I've always encouraged our players to strive to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. To chal-

extremely hard. With no seniors last year, we needed some underclassmen to step up and fill a leadership role and he was one of the guys that did that.

"He's not real vocal, but the kids see him in the gym constantly, he's constantly working on getting better, and that kind of leadership goes a long way."

"Just being consistent mainly, on the court and also off the court, in the classroom," Burlenski said of his success.

Burlenski set goals for this year, for himself and his team, but being nominated for a spot on the All-American team was not something he had considered.

"It really wasn't even in my mind," Burlenski said. "I saw I got tagged in something on Instagram and I found out. I just thought it was pretty cool."

The top 24 girls and 24 boys will be revealed Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024 on ESPN's NBA Today between 3-4 p.m. ET and announced across ESPN's various social and digital platforms.

"I want to thank the community, Toronto City School Board, the Administration, my assistant coaches, and most importantly, the players I've had over the last six years," his statement read. "You all are what has made this such a special stop. I was born a Red Knight. I graduated a Red Knight. I will always be a Red Knight."

Franke is jumping from the smallest division to the largest, as Toronto competes in Division VII and Westerville Central is D-I.

The Warhawks finished 2-9 last season and head coach Ed Miley stepped down in late November after posting a 7-16 mark in two seasons.

"As hard as it is to leave, it's just as exciting to think about the new challenges ahead," Franke's statement

Friday,
January 19, 2024

Wheeling Central senior nominated for All-America Games

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

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WHEELING CENTRAL Catholic's Quinton Burlenski sizes up his defender during the Maroon Knights' game against the Linsly Cadets on Jan. 2, 2023. Burlenski was recently nominated for a chance to play in the 2024 McDonald's All-American Games on April 2 at Toyota Center in Houston.

Barnesville leads after first day of OVAC wrestling championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Barnesville sits atop a crowded field after one day and three rounds of action as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships began with an amended schedule Thursday night inside a chilly WesBanco Arena.

Due to impending weather, the first night saw two rounds in the championship bracket completed, as well as one round of consolation bouts. Today's action begins at 5 p.m. with second round matches in the consolation bracket and the championship quarterfinals. Third- and fourth-round consolation matches will close out the second day.

The Class 3A Shamrocks advanced 11 wrestlers into tonight's quarterfinals to accumulate 89 points, which was 6.5 better than second-place University (82.5) which heads the Class 5A field. Steubenville sits in third with 71 while defending champion Parkersburg South is fourth with 69.5.

"It's a start," Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "The kids still have to go out and wrestle but we'll take it. The kids wrestled really well and we got some bonus points which is always good."

Among Barnesville's advanced are four defending champions — Johnathan Huntsman (113), two-time champ Dakota King (138), Reese Stephen (150) and Skyler King (157). Others collecting two victories include Easton Stephen (106), Aydan Andrews (120), Colt Carpenter (126), Karson Milhoan (144), Ayden King (165), Hines Ford (175) and Marshall Meade (285).



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

BARNESVILLE'S EASTON Stephen works towards a reversal during his 106-pound match Thursday against St. Clairsville's Carson Bishop during the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Stephen is one of 11 quarterfinalists for the tournament-leading Shamrocks.

"Marshall winning with a pin to end the night kind of punctuated things for us," Stephen said. "The kids know it is still a long way from being over, but it feels good to be on top right now."

University moved 10 wrestlers into the quarters, including defending champions Luca Felix (165) and Brock Kehler (285).

All 14 top seeds cruised into the quarterfinals, as did all nine returning champions.

Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120); Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (126) and Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard

(175) all took steps in winning another crown. Maynard, who is seeded No. 2, had a pair of pins.

The Wood County Patriots have nine quarterfinalists, including Gage Wright (175) who is ranked No. 2 nationally.

However, Parkersburg South did have the highest seed eliminated when No. 3 Mackiah Claudio was edged 4-2 by Indian Creek's Ethan Starr and then ejected from the tournament for flagrant misconduct. The unseeded Starr then advanced to the quarters with a 51-second pin.

Three other unseeded wres-

tlers made the quarters, with two of them hailing from Wheeling Park in Nate Hodge (138) and Chance Funari (157). The other was Oak Glen's Waylon Courtwright (215) who knocked off the No. 5 and No. 12 seeds.

Steubenville sends eight into the quarters. They are Cole Harvey (113), Dorian Haddad (126), Charlie Abbott (132), Cal Beadling (138), Cooper Smith (144), Brody Saccoccia (150), Savier Faulks (157) and Landon Crosier (165).

See BARNESVILLE,
Page B2

Mike Tomlin remains 'on go' for the Steelers and likely beyond

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Tomlin remains "on go" in Pittsburgh.

Both in 2024 and likely beyond.

The NFL's longest-tenured head coach said Thursday he plans on returning to the Steelers for an 18th season, brushing aside speculation that he was on the cusp of burning out and considering taking a step back.

Tomlin shook his head and chuckled "no" when asked if he told anyone he needed a break, saying his passion for his job has only intensified the deeper he gets into a career that includes a Super Bowl ring, but also a playoff-win drought that sits at seven years and counting following a 31-17 loss to Buffalo in the opening round on Monday.

The Steelers finished 10-8 in Tomlin's 17 seasons and have never finished below .500 since he took over for Bill Cowher in January 2007.

Yet Pittsburgh has also been stuck on a treadmill of sorts since reaching the AFC title game in 2016, a stretch that includes five seasons of somewhere between 8 to 10 wins and four quick playoff exits.

While Tomlin believes the Steelers have closed the gap on the teams playing in the divisional round this weekend, he also allowed it doesn't matter.

"It all sucks, it does," Tomlin said. "It's not degrees of suck. It all sucks. I'd rather be working."

Instead, Tomlin will spend the coming weeks interviewing for an offensive coordinator — a candidate he said will come from outside the organization — and start prepping for the NFL draft and free agency.

Tomlin is entering the final year of a contract extension he signed in 2021.

He stormed off rather than answer when asked about it moments after the Steelers fell to the Bills. Three days removed, Tomlin admitted "I could have handled the situation better than I did" but added he felt that wasn't the time or the place to discuss his future.

A future that will be in Pittsburgh. He declined to get into specifics on whether he will seek a multi-year deal from team president Art

Ohio State hires Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork to replace the retiring Gene Smith

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork has been hired at Ohio State to replace longtime athletic director Gene Smith, who will retire July 1.

the University of Missouri.

"Few athletics directors have established such an impressive and strong record of success in athletics, in the classroom and throughout the community,"

also oversaw the creation of programs to equip student-athletes with education and resources related to finance, personal branding, networking and media training.

Steubenville Catholic falls to Buckeye Local

STEUBENVILLE — Steubenville Catholic's slow start to senior night saw the Crusaders trail by as many as 17 points at 25-8 early in the second quarter.

The fact that head coach Rocky Bragg's team managed to come all the way back to knot the score at 40-40 to start the fourth quarter was impressive.

Buckeye Local's response to losing said lead was equally as impressive.

Brynn McKeever led all scorers with 27 points and came out on fire to start the fourth as Buckeye pulled away for a cherished 60-48 victory on Thursday at Catholic Central's gym in Steubenville.

When Mary Rohde received the ball in the high post and alertly dumped off the ball to Anna Arai to start the fourth, it completed the Crusaders' monumental comeback.

That came with 7:25 showing in the fourth.

Roughly two minutes later, McKeever accounted for nine of her game-high total as Buckeye raced out on a 14-0 run.

Ella Maragos led Catholic Central with 15 on five 3-pointers, backed by 12 from Rohde. Arai, the team's leading scorer, was limited to 11 and just five after the break.

McKeever and Pam Kandrach both hit for double figures, with Kandrach going for a 12-point, 12-rebound double. Lizzie Stock finished with 10 points for the Panthers including three big buckets in the fourth quarter.

River 60, Shadyside 20

SHADYSIDE — Visiting River High (12-2) rode the hot hand of freshman Maci Isaly's 26 points in a repeat over the Lady Tigers (3-14).

Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

"Everyone we thought could get to the quarters did," Steubenville's Lucas Huffman said. "The Crosier kid really came through."

There were eight undefeated wrestlers that entered the tournament and all eight are still unscathed. They include Oak Glen's Davis and Wheeling Central's Braxton Birch at 120; Cameron's Slaton Pettit (138); Warren's Aden Strahler (175); Southern Local's Gabe Blissenbach (190); Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas and Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin at 215; and Kehler (285).

Several wrestlers picked up individ-

Isaly added six rebounds, while senior stalwart Kelsey Harlan added 15 points in limited duty.

Reese Hobbs led the Lady Pilots with seven rebounds and five steals.

Maci Hendershot led Shadyside with nine.

Coach Rick Isaly's Lady Pilots led 12-7, 41-10, and 60-18 at the breaks.

MONROE CENTRAL 55, Shenandoah 36

SARAHSVILLE — The Seminoles got 20 points from Mayzie Emery and to help themselves to a road win over the Zeps.

Monroe Central also got nine points, eight rebounds and six steals from Riley Bettinger, and 12 points and six assists from Jacey English.

Shenandoah was led by Emily Moore with 17. Brylee May joined her in double figures with 11.

After trailing 12-9 at the end of the first quarter, Monroe Central took a lead they would not relinquish in the second, outscoring the Zeps 19-5 in the frame to lead 28-17 at the half.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Magnolia 57, Cameron 49

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The Dragons and Blue Eagles' top options showed up for a scoring duel Thursday, Magnolia's Hayden Pyles eventually securing the game high as his team secured a home victory.

Pyles dropped 30 in the contest, making four 3-pointers. Close behind was Cameron's Lance Hartley, who poured in 29 points for the visiting Dragons.

After a close first half that saw Magnolia hold a 24-23 lead, the Blue Eagles soared in the second half to an eight-point lead by the final buzzer.

ual milestones as Thomas recorded his 100th career pin; his brother Landen (285) earned his 100th win, as did Oak Glen's Michael Heath. Davis notched his 100th pin.

Cameron and Southern Local are tied for the Class 1A/2A with 35 points each. Oak Glen (64) leads the Class 4A field with 64 points, a dozen better than Beaver Local. Indian Creek is a distant third but still within striking distance.

The championship semifinals begins Saturday's action at 11 a.m., with matches for first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-places beginning at 3:30 p.m.

LOCAL CARD

Friday, Jan. 19

BASKETBALL (BOYS)

Brooke at Steubenville, 5:30 p.m.
Indian Creek at Beaver Local, 5:30 p.m.
Cameron at Magnolia Bellaire at Cambridge
St. Clairsville at Harrison Central
Martins Ferry at Union Local
Bridgeport at Beallsville
Barnesville at Caldwell
Hundred at Valley.

BASKETBALL (GIRLS)

Hundred at Valley, 5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

OVAC Tournament at West-Banco Arena, 11 a.m.

SWIMMING

OVAC Meet at Brooke, 2 p.m.
Classes 1A-4A

COLLEGE CARD

Saturday, Jan. 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Glennville State at West Liberty, 4 p.m.
Concord at Wheeling, 4 p.m.
Kansas at West Virginia, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Glennville State at West Liberty, 2 p.m.
Concord at Wheeling, 2 p.m.

WRESTLING

Wheeling at Glennville State, 7 p.m.
Wheeling vs. Garrett College at Glennville, 8:30 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Friday, Jan. 19

AUTO RACING

8 p.m.
PEACOCK — NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE 7 p.m.

NHLN — Saginaw at Ottawa

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

5 p.m.
CBSN — Fairleigh Dickinson at Stonehill

6:30 p.m.
FS1 — Georgetown at Xavier

7 p.m.
CBSN — Toledo at Cent. Michigan

ESPN2 — Saint Louis at VCU

ESPNU — Akron at Kent St.

8:30 p.m.

FS1 — Indiana at Wisconsin

10:30 p.m.

FS1 — UNLV at Colorado St.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

8 p.m.

PAC-12N — UCLA at Colorado

10 p.m.

PAC-12N — Oregon at Stanford

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)

6 p.m.

SECN — Florida at Auburn

7:30 p.m.

SECN — Arkansas at Alabama

9 p.m.

SECN — Kentucky at LSU

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

9 p.m.

CBSN — Miami (Ohio) at Colorado College

COLLEGE WRESTLING

6 p.m.

BTN — Penn St. at Michigan

8 p.m.

BTN — Purdue at Iowa

FIELD HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

9 a.m.

CBSN — Olympic Qualifier: U.S. vs. Germany, Gold Medal Match, Ranchi, India

GOLF

1 p.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, Second Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.

2 p.m.

ESPN2 — Latin America Amateur Championship: Second Round, Santa Mar a Golf Club, Panama City

4 p.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, Second Round, Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.

7 p.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Second Round, Hualalai GC, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

9 p.m.

NFLN — The Polynesian Bowl: Team Mauka vs. Team Makai, Honolulu

NBA BASKETBALL

7:40 p.m.

ESPN — Denver at Boston

10:30 p.m.

ESPN — Brooklyn at LA Lakers

SOCCER (MEN'S)

10 p.m.

OVAC WRESTLING

Team Scoring

Overall (Top 10)

1. Barnesville 89; 2. University 82.5; 3. Steubenville 71; 4. Parkersburg South 69.6; 5. Oak Glen 64; 6. Wheeling Park 56.5; 7. Beaver Local 52; 8. Linsly 47; 9. Wheeling Central 46; 10. John Marshall 45

Class 5A

1. University 82.5; 2. Steubenville 71; 3. Parkersburg South 69.5; 4. Wheeling Park 56.5; 5. John Marshall 45; 6. Brooke 39; 7. Warren 26; 8. Morgantown 16

Class 4A

1. Oak Glen 64; 2. Beaver Local 52; 3. Indian Creek 43; 4. Weir 42; 5. East Liverpool 36.5; 6. Harrison Central 32; 7. Cambridge 31; 8. Buckeye Local 30; 9. Edison 27; 10. St. Clairsville 11

Class 3A

1. Barnesville 89; 2. Linsly 47; 3. Wheeling Central 46; 4. Union Local 30; 5. Martins Ferry 28; 6. Bellaire 21; 7. Shenandoah 11.5; 8. Magnolia 10; 9. Fort Frye 6

Class 1A/2A

1. (tie) Cameron, Southern Local 35; 3. Caldwell 19; 4. (tie) River, Toronto 10; 6. Steubenville Catholic 9; 7. Bridgeport 8.5; 8. (tie) Beallsville, Shadyside 4; 10. (tie) Frontier, Madonna 3; 12. Wellsville 2; 13. (tie) Monroe Central, Paden City 0; 15. Conotton Valley -2

PREP BOXSCORES

GIRLS

Buckeye Local 60, Steubenville Catholic 48

BUCKEYE LOCAL (60) — McKeever 10 5-8 27; Ankrom 2 0-0 4; Dailey 1 0-0 2; Kandrach 3 5-8 12; Roset 1 0-0 3; Hornyak 1 0-0 2; Stock 5 0-0 10; Totals: 23 10-16 60. STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC (48) — Rohde 5 2-2 12; Cherepko 1 1-2 3; Marages 5 0-0 15; O'Karma 3 0-2 7; Arai 5 1-2 11; Marcino 0 0-0 0; Delaney 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19 5-8 48.

River 60, Shadyside 20

RIVER (60) — Huffman 1 0-0 3; Hobbs 1 1-2 3; Harlan 6 1-1 15; Reed 0 2-2 2; Isaly 9 2-2 26; Hagan 2 0-0 4; Fox 3 0-1 7; Jones 0 0-0 0; Prim 0 0-0 0; Kilburn 0 0-0 0. Totals 22 6-8 60. SHADYSIDE (20) — Fulton 1 0-0 2; Tsoras 1 0-0 3; Hendershot 3 0-0 9; Faulkner 2 2-4 7. Zdunczyk 0 0-0 0. Totals 7, 2-4 20.

Three-point goals: Buckeye Local 5 (McKeever 2, Kandrach, Rosset), Steubenville Catholic 6 (Marages 5, O'Karma).

River 60, Shadyside 20

RIVER (60) — Huffman 1 0-0 3; Hobbs 1 1-2 3; Harlan 6 1-1 15; Reed 0 2-2 2; Isaly 9 2-2 26; Hagan 2 0-0 4; Fox 3 0-1 7; Jones 0 0-0 0; Prim 0 0-0 0; Kilburn 0 0-0 0. Totals 22 6-8 60. SHADYSIDE (20) — Fulton 1 0-0 2; Tsoras 1 0-0 3; Hendershot 3 0-0 9; Faulkner 2 2-4 7. Zdunczyk 0 0-0 0. Totals 7, 2-4 20.

Three-point goals: River 9 (Isaly 6, Harlan 2, Fox 1), Shadyside 4 (Hendershot 3, Faulkner 1).

MONROE CENTRAL 55, Shenandoah 36

MONROE CENTRAL (55) — Emery 8 0-0 20; Henthorn 2 0-2 4; English 2 2-2 12; Miller 1 0-0 2; McFederick 2 0-0 4; McGarry 2 0-0 4; Bettinger 3 3-4 9; Smitley 0 0-0 0; Totals 22 5-8 55. SHENANDOAH (36) — Moore 5 6-8 17; Brown 0 0-0 0; House 1 0-0 2; Noll 2 0-0 4; Snyder 1 0-0 2; McVicker 1 0-0 2; May 4 3-3 11; Irvin 0 0-0 0; Totals 13 9-11 36.

Wheeling Central 64, Weir 46

WHEELING CENTRAL (64) — Severns 4 0-0 8; Fitzsimmons 11 1-1 25; Ratcliffe 1 0-0 3; Hanson 0 0-0 0; Schmitt 0 0-0 0; Miehle 1 0-0 3; Robrecht 1 0-0 2; Ondrejko 0 0-0 0; Blake 11 1-1 23; Totals 29 2-2 64. WEIR (46) — Baker 4 0-1 9; Kaufman 2 0-0 5; Turner 4 1-2 9; Lash 3 1-1 7; Faulks 0 0-0 0; Hoover 6 3-3 16; Weber 0 0-0 0; Utt 0 0-0 0; Spencer 0 0-0 0; Baltimore 0 0-0 0; Totals 19 5-7 46.

Three-point goals: Wheeling Central 4 (Fitzsimmons 2, Ratcliffe, Miehle), Weir 3 (Baker, Kaufman, Hoover).

BOYS

Wheeling Park 70, John Marshall 38

WHEELING PARK — Linder 1 0-0 2; A. Davis 6 0-0 17; Spurlin 0 0-0 0; M. Davis 6 0-0 13; J. Hays 1 0-0 3; Johnson 6 1-3 13; Strothers 1 0-0 3; A. Hays 0 0-0 0; K. Davis 0 0-0 0; Williams 3 0-0 8; Lewis 5 0-0 11; Totals 19 3-7 70. JOHN MARSHALL (38) — Gaiser 2 0-0 4; Fitzpatrick 1 1-2 4; Martin 0 0-0 0; Young 0 0-0 0; Astipilitis 0 0-0 0; Knapp 4 1-3 9; Bungad 0 0-0 0; Helms 1 2-2 4; Ward 0 0-0 0; Williams 6 1-2 13; Schenerlein 2 0-0 4; Totals 16 5-9 38.

Three-point goals: Wheeling Park 11 (A. Davis 5, Williams 2, M. Davis, J. Hays, Strothers, Lewis), John Marshall 1 (Fit-



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Girls take down cadets

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Some teams like to have their coach chew on their ear a little.

The Martins Ferry girls basketball team falls into that category.

The OVAC Class 3A-leading Purple Riders (11-4) didn't play up to their standards in the first half against homestanding Linsly Wednesday night and veteran head coach Dave Reasbeck let them know about it at half-time.

The message came across loud and clear as Martins Ferry broke open a six-point game, 38-32, with five minutes left in the third quarter with a 15-0 run that sealed a 60-39 victory.

"This team likes to get chewed on," Reasbeck acknowledged. "Previous teams I would chew on them and the kids would cry and quit and I would have to sit in meetings, but this team responds to every chewing I give them."

"We didn't shoot very well. We average almost nine made threes a game and we only had two tonight, and we still won by 20-plus," he added. "That says something about this team."

Leading 15-13 after one quarter, the Purple Riders gave themselves a little breathing room before the half



Photo by KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY'S Danielle Lude (2) and Maddie Lucas (12) defend against Linsly's Haylen Cook during Wednesday night's game inside the Stifel Field House on the Linsly campus. The OVAC Class 3A-leading Purple Riders pulled away in the third quarter for a 60-39 victory.

as Lindsey Best netted eight of her game-best 25 points. However, holding a 38-32 margin with a little more than five minutes remaining in the third panel, the visitors tallied the final 15 points of the quarter to lead 53-32 entering the fourth period.

"I challenged the girls to rebound the basketball, especially on the defensive end. I especially challenged Maddie Lucas, a freshman, and what does she do? She goes out and grabs four rebounds in the third quarter."

"This team just responds whenever I challenge them," Reasbeck added. "They are making it (coaching) really fun for me."

While Martins Ferry was putting up 20 points in the third panel, the Cadets could put the ball in the hoop as they went 3-for-14 from the field, including zero of seven from beyond the bonus arc.

"As well as we shot Mon-

day (in a win against Trinity, Pa.) we couldn't do it tonight," Linsly head coach Rebecca Upton said. "I give credit to Martins Ferry, though. They brought a level of physicality that we couldn't matchup with."

"We're young and we are learning," she noted. "Haylen Cook is one of the toughest players and anyone that walks into this gym knows that, but hat's off to Martins Ferry."

Reasbeck likes where his team sits right now with the OVAC cut-off date set for Monday.

"We want to be at home (in the semifinals) and we want to be playing for a championship on that Saturday (January 27) at Harrison Central."

In addition to her game-high point total, Best also pulled down eight rebounds and charted four steals. Senior Danielle Lude recorded 13 points and grabbed six rebounds, while Giana Chirpas had eight points. Lindse

Sidon and Laken Call each had six points, with Call's coming in a reserve role.

"She has been huge for us the last three games," Reasbeck said of Call. "She's really come through."

Linsly was led by Haylen Cook with a double-double of 18 points and 10 rebounds. Jade Purpura added 12 points.

Martins Ferry shot 50 percent (25-50) from the floor but was just 10-for-23 from the free throw stripe. The Purple Riders only turned the ball over five times.

Linsly, meanwhile, was an ice-cold 34.1 percent (15-44) from the floor and had 15 turnovers. The Cadets held a slim, 29-26, edge off the glass.

Martins Ferry plays Beaver Local for fifth-place in the Buckeye 8 Challenge on Saturday at Harrison Central High School. The Cadets travel to Waterford for a 1 p.m. game on Saturday.

Indian Creek boys falls to St. Clairsville Red Devils

WINTERSVILLE — Cole Thoburn scored a game-high 24 points as St. Clairsville (8-4) posted a convincing, 77-59, boys' basketball victory over host Indian Creek Wednesday night on Coach D Court.

Brady Schafer added 16 points for the Red Devils who slowly but surely pulled away from the Redskins (4-8). Tyson Pastor chipped in 15.

Indian Creek had two players in double digits, led by Mason Lester with 14. Bryson Kamarec added 13.

St. Clairsville outscored Indian Creek 39-33 in the second half to record a season sweep. The Red Devils have won four straight.

St. Clairsville heads to Cadiz on Friday to tangle with Harrison Central. The Huskies won handily earlier this

season on John Jenkins Court in St. C.

Bridgeport 54, Frontier 50

BEAVERTON — Jaleel Vincent led three Bulldogs in double figures with 14 points as they secured a big road win over the Cougars. AJ Gear added 13 and Jaki Threat a dozen.

Frontier's Avery Powell led all scorers with 18.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Valley 60, Beallsville 57

PINE GROVE — The Lumberjills received a game-high 22 points from Laken Dawson in their win over the visiting Blue Devils. Winter Higgins added 17 and Harli Rush 10.

Beallsville was paced by Kinley Hughes and Bree Hudson with 16 each. Karly Showalter added 13. Hudson had five triples.

SWIMMING

UL Boys, Steubenville Girls Sweep
STEUBENVILLE — The Jets went 3-0 in the boys portion of a quadrangular meet at the Big Red Natatorium. They defeated Oak Glen, Barnesville and the host Big Red.

Carson Phillips won the 100 Backstroke and anchored the 400 Freestyle Relay to a win. Diego King won the 200 Freestyle and swam a leg on the winning relay team, as did Dominic Surton and Gage Phillips.

Girls

Big Red topped Oak Glen, Barnesville and Union Local as Tucker Kinsey claimed the 100 Freestyle, 200 IM and swam legs on the winning 200 IM and 200 Freestyle relay teams.

Browns coach Stefanski shakes up offensive staff, coordinator Alex Van Pelt, 2 other assistants gone

CLEVELAND (AP) — For the second straight year, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski has made a major offseason change to his staff.

Offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt has parted ways with the team, leaving just days after Cleveland was blown out in the wild-card round by Houston and following a season in which the Browns were ravaged by injuries.

A team spokesman confirmed Wednesday that Van Pelt is no longer with the Browns. Also, Stefanski fired running backs coach Stump Mitchell and tight ends coach T.C. McCartney was not retained after his

contract expired.

The shakeup might not be over as the Browns continue to hold staff evaluations.

They've quickly moved on from Mitchell and are interviewing Duce Staley to be his replacement. The 48-year-old Staley was most recently an assistant head coach and running backs coach with Carolina before being fired.

Following a 7-10 season in 2022, Stefanski fired defensive coordinator Joe Woods and special teams coordinator Mike Priefer. Those moves led to the hiring of Jim Schwartz, who turned Cleveland's defense into one of the NFL's best this season, and Bubba

Ventrone, who dramatically improved special teams.

Van Pelt's departure is a surprise. It was immediately known if he was fired or resigned.

He and Stefanski appeared to have a strong relationship, and just last week Van Pelt praised his boss for the job he did during a challenging season.

"He's awesome," Van Pelt said of Stefanski, who has led the Browns to the playoffs twice in four seasons. "I've enjoyed every second with him. He's coached a lot of football, different schemes. His ability to change on a dime based on who this player, his starter is at

quarterback I thought has been really remarkable."

"But the message, the culture he's built here over the last four years, I'm really proud to be on his staff."

However, while Van Pelt helped in putting game plans together, Stefanski handled all play-calling duties on game day. Van Pelt may have wanted an increased role and wasn't going to get it with the Browns.

It's also possible Stefanski is looking for someone to help him better suit Cleveland's offense to quarterback Deshaun Watson, who made just six starts before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury and undergoing surgery.

Check out our new presence, the Ohio Valley Sports Report. You can find it at <https://www.timesleaderonline.com/>.

Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championship kicks off

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships promises to be as exciting as ever with nine defending champions and a bevy of talented teams battling for the overall title.

Action gets under way tonight at 6 with the must-see Olympic-style opening ceremony as the 42 teams represented by 423 participants parade on to the main floor inside WesBanco Arena. Action in the 14 weight classes begins on eight mats at 6:30.

Only first round matches in the championship bracket will be contested tonight.

Friday's action starts at noon with second-round bouts in the championship bracket and will include first-round consolation matches. The championship quarterfinals highlights Friday night's 6 o'clock session. Semifinals in the championship bracket begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, along with consolation bouts. Matches for first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-places get under way at 4.

Prior to the finals, the prestigious Mr. Mat Award will be presented to a very deserving individual. Also, the 1999 Martins Ferry team, coached by Jeff Oberdick, will be honored as the 25-year champions. The 1999 individual champions will also be honored. They are: Cole Bowersock (Beaver Local); Marshall Brooks (Cadiz); Jose Smith (Cambridge); Josh Hackney (Wellsville); Stan Bittinger (Cadiz); Greg Ware (Martins Ferry); Scott Roth (Martins Ferry); Mitch Wheeler (Steubenville); Lucas Sedgmer (Cadiz, deceased); Terry Smith (Buckeye Local); Joe Nichols (Brooke); Craig Bruney (Martins Ferry); Matt Salsberry (East Liverpool, deceased); and Alex McClung (Oak Glen).

Barnesville returns four individual champions from 2023 when it finished fourth overall and won its fourth straight Class 3A title. The four Shamrocks are also the top seeds in their respective weight classes. They are two-time champion Dakota King (138), Jonathan Huntsman (113), Reese Stephen (150) and Skyler King (157). Dakota King, who is headed to Ohio State University, is the reigning David Bierkorte Award winner, symbolic of the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler as voted by tournament coaches. Stephen is a Cleveland State recruit and won a Division III state title last winter.

Other returning champions are University's Luca Felix (190) and Brock Kehler (285), along with Beaver Local's Bobby Buccheit (126); Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120) and Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (175). All are the top seeds except Maynard who is No. 2 behind Parkersburg South's Gage Wright, who is ranked No. 2 nationally. Felix, Kehler and Davis are all two-time titlists.

There will be no four-year champions this year as the 2021 tournament was canceled due to COVID.

Also receiving top billing in their weight classes were University's Pepper Martin (106); John Marshall's Zander Ward (126); Steubenville's Cooper Smith (144); Parkersburg South's Brycen Arthur (190) and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215).

In addition to Barnesville, Parkersburg South will look to defend its title, with stiff competition coming from Beaver Local, Steubenville and University.

The Hawks led the seeding with all 14 wrestlers receiving a seed. Barnesville and Parkersburg South each had 12, while Steubenville had 10.

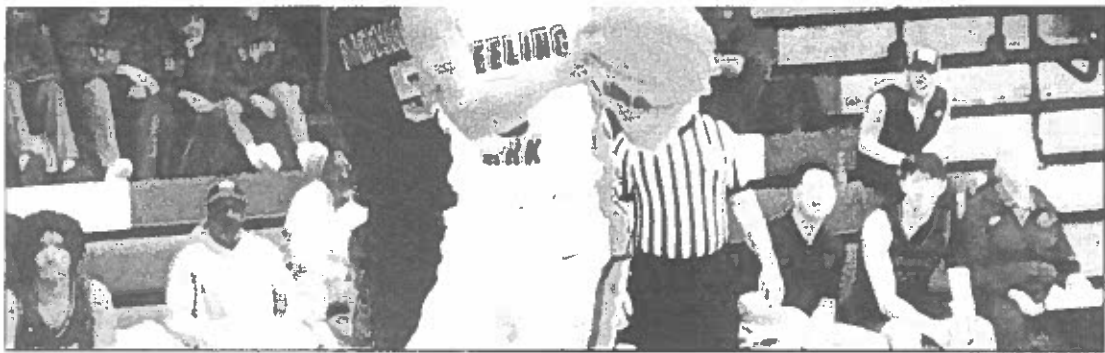


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Amare Johnson drives to the basket, defended by Morgantown's Sharron Young on Wednesday during the Patriots and Mohigan's battle inside the Palace on the Hill.

Patriots Edged Out By Defending Champion Morgantown Mohigans

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The Morgantown Mohigans came out with the final blow in a heavyweight fight against the Wheeling Park Patriots on Wednesday, emerging with a 62-59 road victory inside the Palace on the Hill.

"Heck of a high school game." Wheeling Park head coach Michael Jebbia said.

"Weren't many games played around the state tonight, so I'm grateful both school systems allowed us to play.

Aiden Davis scored a game-high 33 points for Park, making five 3-pointers and also grabbing eight rebounds, while Morgantown's Sharron Young scored 29 points, going 11-12 at the foul line, along with seven rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Young scored 14 in the fourth quarter and went 6-6 at the line to keep Park at a distance late.

"Sharron Young made his free throws," Jebbia said. "There's good players all over West Virginia but I think you watched the two best in this gym tonight, Sharron Young and Aiden Davis going back and forth there."

Please see **EDGED**, Page 10

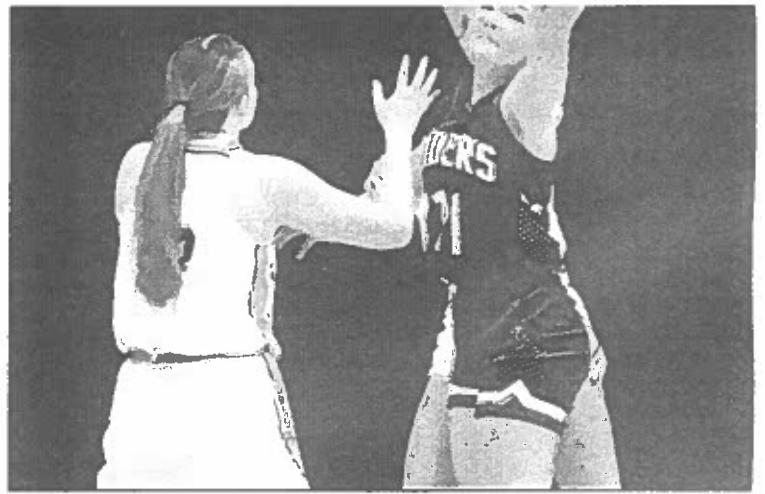


Photo by Kim North

Martins Ferry's Lindsey Best (11) reaches for a rebound during Wednesday night's game inside the Stifel Field House on the Linsly campus.

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Some teams like to have their coach chew on their ear a little.

The Martins Ferry girls basketball team falls into that category.

The OVAC Class 3A-leading Purple Riders (11-4) didn't play up to their standards in the first half against homestanding Linsly Wednesday night and veteran head coach Dave Reasbeck let them know about it at halftime.

The message came across loud and clear as Martins Ferry broke open a six-point game, 38-32, with five minutes left in the third quarter with a 15-0 run that sealed a 60-39 victory.

"This team likes to get chewed on," Reasbeck acknowledged. "Previous teams I would chew on them and the kids would cry and quit and I would have to sit in meetings, but this team responds to every chewing I give them."

Please see **SECOND**, Page 10

OVAC Tournament Arrives Tonight

First Round Of Three-Day Competition Kicks Off At 6 p.m.

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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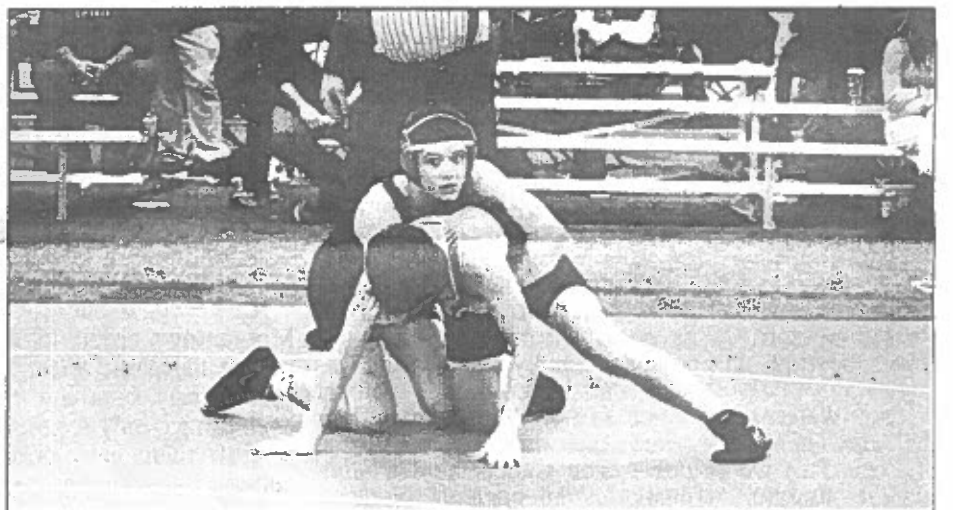


Photo by Kim North

Steubenville's Cooper Smith, top, competes against a Shenandoah wrestler during the Wheeling Park Duals earlier this season. Smith is the top seed at 144 pounds as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships begin tonight and run through Saturday's finals inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

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Please see **OVAC**, Page 10

Big Reds Get Loose vs. Park

Parkersburg Scores 81 In Shootout Win Against Patriots

By KERRY PATRICK
For The Intelligencer

PARKERSBURG - Allowing large point totals is not how Wheeling Park rolls.

On the other hand, the girls basketball team from Parkersburg High School tends to do that to opposing defenses.

The fifth-ranked Big Reds (10-2) eclipsed 80 points for the fourth time this season and exposed the third-ranked Patriots (11-3) for an 81-73 win Wednesday night at Memorial Fieldhouse.

"We didn't show up on the defensive end," Wheeling Park coach Ryan Young said.

Entering the PHS game, the Patriots were limiting opponents to 44 points per

game.

"The Big Reds are a good offensive team - Trinity Balog is unbelievable and their other kids just made shots," Young continued. "You can't take away from what they did, but we could have done a lot more to disrupt it. We give up 25 points in the first quarter. We haven't given up 80 points in a game in years. It's been a long time."

"Parkersburg topped that, so we have to get back to the drawing board on the defensive end."

Two days of being locked in at practice transitioned over to live action during the first quarter for PHS. The Big Reds knocked down 5-of-6 threes and eight of their first nine shots

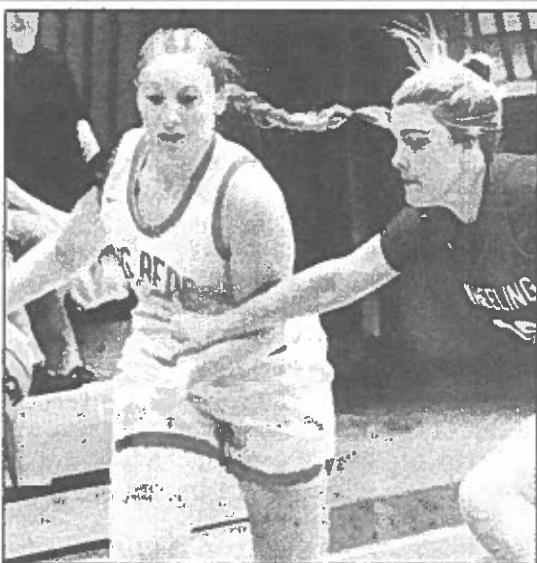


Photo by Kerry Patrick

Wheeling Park's Alexis Bordas, right, defends Parkersburg's Trinity Balog during Wednesday's high school girls basketball game at Memorial Fieldhouse in Parkersburg.

overall while taking the lead for good at 20-14.

Wheeling Park played catchup throughout and fell behind by as many as 13 points on several occasions in the third quarter.

"I thought we had a great two days of practice," PHS coach Chris Murray said. "We were just locked in there in the first quarter.

And you have to be against Wheeling Park. We couldn't come out and play like we did against Parkersburg South in the first quarter when we got down 18-9 last week. If we would have done that tonight, we would have wrote our own funeral for the next 24 minutes.

Please see **LOOSE**, Page 10

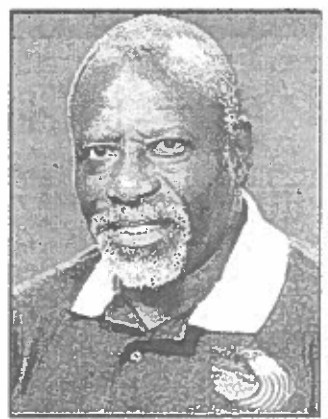
West Liberty Announces Plans For Bobby Douglas Wrestling Complex

WEST LIBERTY - West Liberty University and the WLU Foundation have announced plans to honor international wrestling icon and Ohio Valley native Bobby Douglas with the addition of the Bobby Douglas Wrestling Complex to the Hilltopper campus.

The fundraising campaign officially gets under way on Friday with the Bobby Douglas Wrestling Complex Kickoff Event at the R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center inside the ASRC. Several guest speakers will be on hand along with many of West Liberty's former wrestling All-Americans and national champions. Artists' renderings and graphics will be on display, providing visual images of the finished project.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with light refreshments and photo sessions before the program starts at 6:15. There is no admission charge and the event is open to all alumni and friends of the university but reservations are required.

"West Liberty University is proud to honor Bobby Douglas with the announcement of the Bobby Douglas Wrestling Complex, a facility that will enhance the student-athlete experi-



BOBBY DOUGLAS

ence for our men's wrestling program and our newly-announced women's wrestling program for decades to come." West Liberty interim athletic director Brad Forshey said.

"In the 60-plus years since Bobby Douglas became West Liberty's first national champion, his impact on the sport of wrestling as a trailblazing athlete, coach and mentor - nationally and internationally - has been staggering.

"Coach Douglas has directly touched thousands of lives and inspired millions more as a highly-respected leader and role model on and off the mat. We are incredibly excited to embark on this journey!"

OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

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The Hawks led the seeding with all 14 wrestlers receiving a seed. Barnesville and Parkersburg South each had 12, while Steubenville had 10.

Parkersburg South is the defending overall champ and has won the event all but three times since joining the bi-state conference in

2010. Steubenville (2012), Beaver Local (2019) and Wheeling Park (2022) won those years. The Wood County Patriots have also won the 'Big School' title every year except 2022 as Steubenville and Beaver Local prevailed as Class 4A overall winners.

The tournament went to the current four-division (Class 1A/2A, Class 3A, Class 4A and Class 5A) alignment in 2012.

Student tickets are only \$1.

Mr. Mats Dinner Held

Ten Mr. Mat award recipients were featured during a dinner Tuesday night at Abbey's Restaurant on Wheeling Island. Attending were Dr. Bill Welker (1991), John Stephenson (1993), Ed "Buzzy" Evans (2000), Jeff Oberdick (2004), Dr. Dan Doyle (2005), Gene Monteleone (2015), Jim Crosier (2016), Larry Shaw (2018), Pete Cuffaro (2021) and Merle Tournay (2023).

Thoburn Powers Red Devils To Road Win; Bulldogs Squeeze Past Frontier

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Girls

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SECOND

(Continued from Page 9)

"We didn't shoot very well. We average almost nine made threes a game and we only had two tonight, and we still won by 20-plus," he added. "That says something about this team."

Leading 15-13 after one quarter, the Purple Riders gave themselves a little breathing room before the half as Lindsey Best netted eight of her game-best 25 points. However, holding a 38-32 margin with a little more than five minutes remaining in the third panel, the visitors tallied the final 15 points of the quarter to lead 53-32 entering the fourth period.

"I challenged the girls to rebound the basketball, especially on the defensive end. I especially challenged Maddie Lucas, a freshman, and what does she do? She goes out and grabs four rebounds in the third quarter.

"This team just responds whenever I challenge them," Reasbeck added. "They are making it (coaching) really fun for me."

While Martins Ferry was putting up 20 points in the third panel, the Cadets could put the ball in the hoop as they went 3-for-14 from the field, including zero of seven from beyond the bonus arc.

"As well as we shot Monday (in a win against Trinity, Pa.) we couldn't do it tonight," Linsly head coach Rebecca Upton said. "I give credit to Martins Ferry, though. They brought a level of physicality that we couldn't matchup with."

"We're young and we are learning," she noted.

"Haylen Cook is one of the toughest players and anyone that walks into this gym knows that, but hat's off to Martins Ferry."

Reasbeck likes where his team sits right now with the OVAC cut-off date set for Monday.

"We want to be at home (in the semifinals) and we want to be playing for a championship on that Saturday (January 27) at Harrison Central."

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Martins Ferry plays Beaver Local for fifth-place in the Buckeye 8 Challenge on Saturday at Harrison Central High School. The Cadets travel to Waterford for a 1 p.m. game on Saturday.

EDGED

(Continued from Page 9)

Though there were 11 lead changes through the night, Morgantown managed to hold the advantage at the end of each quarter, 13-10 after the first, 27-26 at half-time, and 40-37 after three.

Despite the victory, Mohigans head coach David Tallman evoked the language you'd expect from the losing side after the game.

"Wheeling Park just wanted it more than us tonight," Tallman said. "They were way tougher than us. Their guys played way harder than us, they were hungrier than us, and I give their kids credit."

Morgantown made a game-defining scoring run to start the fourth quarter, though their pull-away burst was perhaps sparked by a wing 3-pointer from Jacob King-assisted by Young- in the closing seconds of the third quarter.

The shot put Morgantown back ahead after Park had knotted up the score, 37-37, the possession prior.

"Two-time defending state champ, you've got to be able to knock them out," Jebbia said. "And I thought King's 3 at the end of the third quarter was huge, then they got a bucket or two to start the fourth."

"It was right there, tied, up one, down one, then they got a little bit of separation up to six or eight points. To our guys' credit, we fought and got it back to two. Just ran out of steam there."

An 8-2 run to start the fourth put Morgantown ahead 48-39, and the rest of the game went the way of Park nearly breaking through to even things, only for the Mohigans to stuff them back down, largely coming from Young scoring inside or at the free-throw line.

"We played harder," Tallman said of his team's fourth. "But we were still losing guys, we were just kind of running around, doing what we want to do. We're not playing the way that we work everyday in practice as far as team defense, team offense. Last few games we've had 20-plus assists, tonight I would be

surprised if we had more than five. Very individual tonight and if we keep doing that we're going to get beat multiple times."

Aiden Davis made a deep 3-pointer to bring Park within six, 50-44 with 3:00 to play.

Later, Park's point guard forced a live-ball turnover, triggering a double-team at the top of the key and forcing an errant pass which Mykel Davis picked off and dribbled down the court, finishing with a thunderous slam dunk which brought Park within two, 54-52 with 1:20 to play.

With the Palace rocking after the jam, Morgantown did not call a timeout, instead quickly inbounded and moving the ball down the court, fast-breaking after a make and getting an easy basket under the hoop from Brody Savage.

An acrobatic and-one from Aiden Davis moved the pendulum back to Park's side a few possessions later, the ensuing free-throw making it a three-point game, 58-55, but another pair of Young free throws and a basket from Izzy Everett kept Park from ever being in a position to tie the game or take a lead.

Morgantown's defense had Park working for every basket. Beside's Aiden Davis' 33, Mykel Davis scored 17, and the next highest scorer for the Patriots was Josh Huffman with five, both of his baskets coming in the fourth quarter.

"Their ball pressure on defense, getting after you, making every pass tough, that's the biggest thing- and it's no secret, so we tried to spread them out and keep the number of possessions a little bit lower," Jebbia said. "If Morgantown scores their average of 80 points, we're going to be beaten 80-60 or 80-65."

"We had to try and keep it in that realm, we just haven't been able to get over the hump these last few years. I thought Aiden and Mykel carried us there with their offense."

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LOOSE

(Continued from Page 9)

"This win ranks up there with our Huntington win my first year here. It's a great win because Wheeling Park is a great team, but it's just one in the win column. We have to go to the next one. We will celebrate this one tonight. We are really happy about it, but we have to get ready for the next one."

PHS senior Trinity Balog, who secured the win by hitting 6-of-7 free throws in the final 3 1/2 minutes of regulation, led all scorers

was in a state championship last year and on our court," Murray said. "Pressure happens. Our kids were getting sped up."

"We had to break that pressure and get in the half-court because we were flowing in the half-court. Park did a great job of speeding us up. They are a Bordas three from being in it at all times."

Out of a timeout, PHS point guard Lauren Flanagan broke loose on the press breaker for an open

"This is a statement win, 100 percent," Balog said. "We had the best two practices of our lives this past Monday and Tuesday and really wanted this. It meant something to us."

Three Wheeling Park players scored in double figures, including Lala Woods with 15 points and Seneca Heller with 12 points.

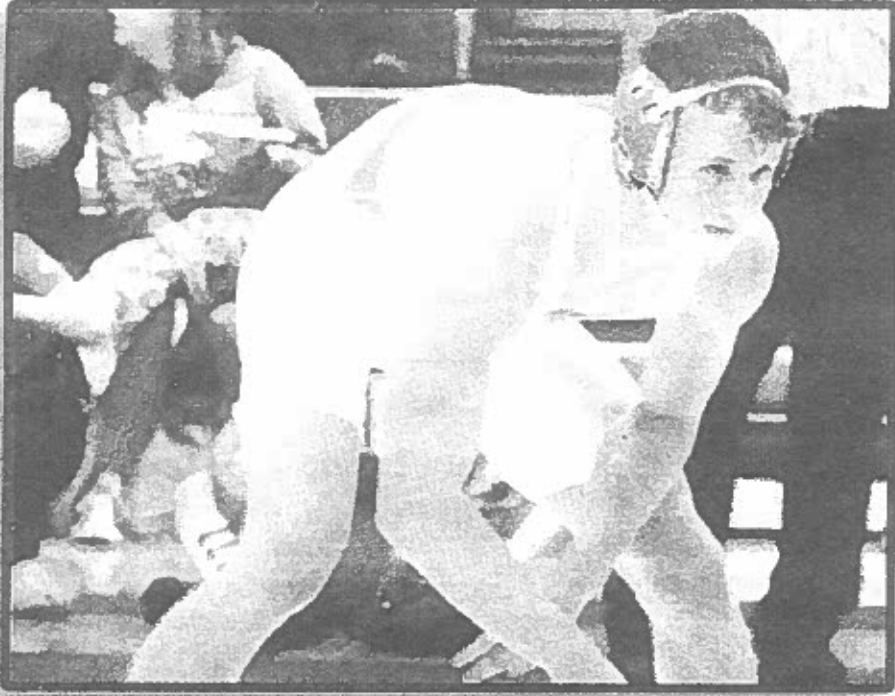
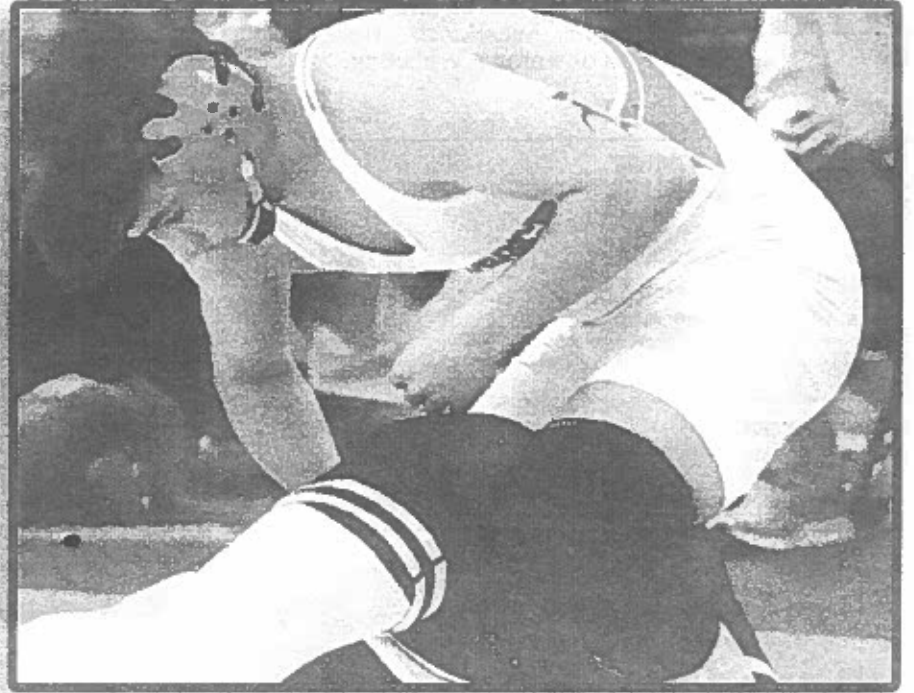
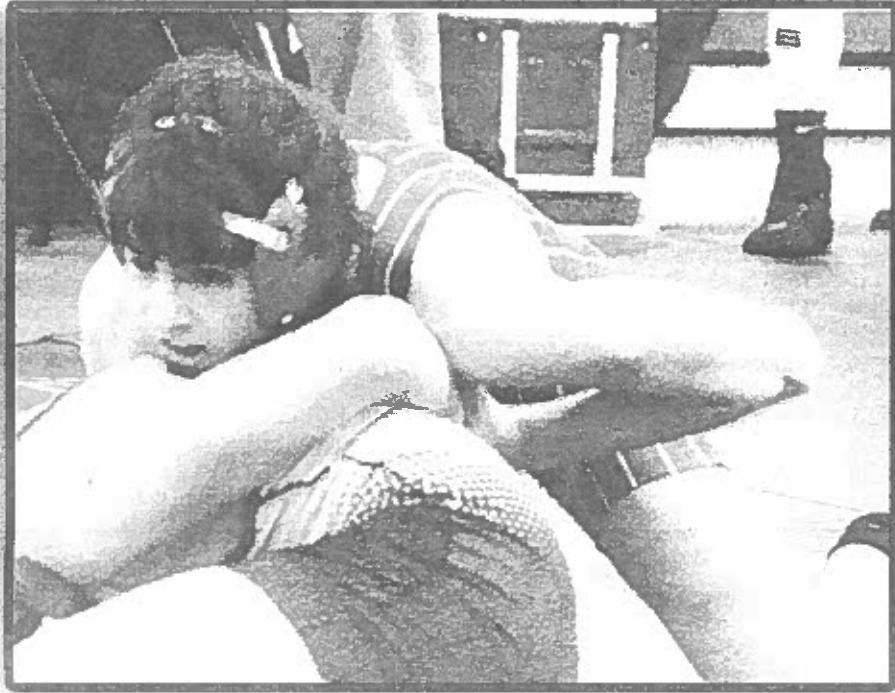
Wheeling Park actually made a statement at the outset while building a 9-7 lead. PHS had an answer



Fighting for Patients

Nursing Home

70TH ANNUAL OVAC RON MAUCK WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



A Supplement to The Times Leader

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

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Bridgeport	5	from top left, are Johna-
Buckeye Local	6	than Huntsman, Dakota
Harrison Central	7	King, Skyler King and
John Marshall	8	Reese Stephen. All four
Martins Ferry	9	were awarded top seeds
Monroe Central	11	in the 70th annual OVAC
River	12	Ron Mauck Tournament
Shadyside	13	that begins on Thursday
St. Clairsville	14	inside WesBanco Arena
Union Local	15	in downtown Wheeling.

Could this be Barnesville's year?

• Talented Shamrocks return four tournament champions

By KIM NORTH

BARNESVILLE - Could this be the year of the Shamrocks?

Barnesville will enter the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships as the No. 1 team in Ohio's Division III. However, will that be enough to overtake a deep bi-state field when the three-day spectacle begins Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

Veteran head coach Jayson Stephen has four returning champions and a third-place finisher among his talented senior-laden squad.

Leading the pack is senior two-time OVAC titlist and Ohio State University recruit Dakota King (138). He is currently 160-17 and won at 132 last year. He is a three-time All-Ohioan (2023, 3rd-132), (2022, 3rd-120, 2021, 6th-113). He is 20-2 this

season and ranked No. 1 in Ohio.

He is also seeking a second consecutive David Bierkorte Award as the tournament's MOW.

"Dakota is a man on a mission and I think we all know what that mission is," Coach Stephen said. "That's a Division III state title."

Claiming OVAC titles last winter were classmates Johnathan Huntsman (113), Reese Stephen (150) and Skyler King (157). Junior Ayden King (165) took third.

Huntsman, who just returned to the mat from an injury and won the Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament, is 83-25 for his career and placed seventh in Ohio Division III last season. He won at 106 last year while defeating the top two seeds along the way.

"Johnny is just coming back from an injury, so we'll see how he responds," Coach Stephen said. Stephen, who recently commit-

ted to Cleveland State, won an Ohio state title last winter at 150 and placed fifth as a freshman at 106. He is currently 144-9 in his career and ranked No. 1 in Ohio.

Skyler King is closing in on 150 career victories. He is a two-time all-Ohoian, placing fifth at 138 last year and sixth at the same weight as a sophomore. He stands at 149-28 (19-3 this season) and is ranked No. 2 in Ohio.

"That group has had outstanding careers," Coach Stephen said. "They have been working towards this year for a long time now. They are focused and determined."

Two other key pieces - senior Karson Milhoan (144) and Ayden King (165) are both ranked No. 4 in Ohio.

Milhoan, a state qualifier at 165 last year, has fit into the middle of the order. He was eighth last year. See **BARNESVILLE'S**, Page 3

Good Luck Barnesville Wrestlers!

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2024 Seeded Wrestlers

The top 12 seeded wrestlers in each weight class for Thursday's 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships are Wes-Banco Arena in downtown Wheeling are as follows:

106-1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Kyle Ingram (EL); 4. Joseph Rea (Brk); 5. Nathan Pasco (OG); 6. Easton Stephen (Barn); 7. Brody Smith (Cam); 8. Cole Rogers (UL); 9. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 10. Taven Mayo (Lin); 11. Carson Bishop (StC); 12. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); alt Andrew Alberts (HC)

113-1 Jonathan Huntsman (Barn); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Tristen Eckles (EL); 5. Gavin Bolock (UL); 6. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 7. Cole Smith (PS); 8. Cole Harvey (Steub); 9. Brock Pendleton (IC); 10. Robert Weckley (Bpt); 11. Silas Simpson (MF); 12. William Jenkins (WL); alt-Hayden Bonar (JM)

120-Logan Davis (OG); 2. Tristen Rossiter (Shen); 3. Mackiah Claudio (PS); 4. Brodie

Emery (University); 5. Jase Mahoney (MF); 6. Braxton Birch (WC); 7. Chris Warrick (BvL); 8. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 9. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 10. Grant Vasey (Bell); 11. Bayton Rose (Camb); 12. Logan Pittman (ED); alt-Prerston Chandler (Cald)

126-1. Zander Ward (JM); 2. Colton Gillespie (Univ); 3. Noah Keen (Camb); 4. Landon Burdine (Brk); 5. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 6. Carter Duncil (WP); 7. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 8. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 9. Ethaniel Harlan (Mag); 10. Reme Fairbanks (WL); 11. Aaydin King (PS); 12. Kayden Danver (EL); alt-Davyn Kunkle (Shen)

132-1. Robert Buccheit (BvL); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Carter Adkins (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Jordan Noble (Lin); 7. Lucca Troullos (MF); 9. Ian Starkey (IC); 10. Andrew Cox (HC); 11. Delbert Van Tassell (Cam); 12. James Palmer (Bealls); alt-Evan Yohman (ED)

See SEEDS, Page 9

Beallsville has 5 individuals entered

By TRACY WATSON

BEALLSVILLE — First-year head coach Dave Wiles is learning first hand about numbers at small-school wrestling programs in his initial season at Beallsville.

After having a couple of kids decide not to continue this season, Wiles has a roster of five wrestlers, but is getting the most out of his young squad.

"It has been a struggle with numbers, especially with a couple of kids walking out, but the guys we have are working hard and are doing a very good job," Wiles said. "We have had a couple of placers at the tournaments that we have wrestled at, and we are hoping to have a couple of kids place at the OVAC tournament."

"We are young and rebuilding, but we have definitely won a few matches and been competing."

Sophomore Matthew Greathouse gets the Blue Devils going at 106 with a pair of freshmen following him at 120 with Dakota Ware and 144 with Carter Tatsch. Junior Anthony Dunn, in his first season, comes in at 175. Senior Connor Hagan was slated to be competing at heavyweight but is currently sidelined with an ACL injury.

"This is going to be a big deal for our kids, but most of them have no idea what to expect and have never been involved in something as big as the OVAC tournament," Wiles added. "This will definitely be the highlight of the season for our guys, but they will be ready to go."

Mr. Mats

1976 — George Kovalick, Bellaire Athletic Director
1977 — Bill Van Horne, Sports Editor of Wheeling News Register
1978 — John Vrotsos, Martins Ferry High School
1979 — Richard Edge, Principal of Springfield High
1980 — George Wally, John Marshall Athletic Director
1981 — Bob Hedmon, Steubenville Athletic Director
1982 — Paul Crago, Marshall County Schools
1983 — Dr. Vincent Monseau, West Liberty State College

1984 — Bill Inegardner, John Marshall Jr. High
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 — Barry Chambers, ndsv
1997 — Gary Davis, Beallsville High
1998 — Cal Pokas, Sports Editor of The Times Leader
1999 — Tom Lacman, Jefferson
2000 — Ed "Buzzy" Evans
2001 — William McEldowney, Wheeling Park
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 — a Biar, Brooke
2010 — Jeff Carro, Cambridge
2011 — Rich Gregor, Springfield High
2012 — Art Hehr, Bridgeport
2013 — Dave LaMotte, Bridgeport
2014 — Darre Davis, Barnesville
2015 — Gene Montecone, Wheeling Park
2016 — Jim Crosier, Union Local
2017 — Chick LaMotte, St. John Central
2018 — Larry Shaw, Oak Glen
2019 — John Gmch, Shadyside
2020 — Ken Robinson, Woodsfield
2021 — None (Cancelled-COVID)
2022 — Pete Cuffaro, Wheeling
2023 — Jeff Crosier, Barnesville

• Barnesville's

Continued from Page 2

at the OVACs. He is 16-4 this season and 84-25 in his career.

Ayden King was third last year in the OVAC and is currently 19-4 this year and 113-26 for his career. He was fifth in Ohio last winter.

Completing the Shamrocks lineup are freshmen Easton Stephen (106), Colt Carpenter (126), Braxton Loring (190) and Christien Hannahs (215); sophomore Hines Ford (175); juniors Ayden Andrews (120, 14-5) and Marshall Meade (285) and freshman Brayden Trigg (132, 0-0).

Stephen, Carpenter and Hannahs were all OVC Junior High champions. Ford and Meade were district qualifiers in 2023.

"Some of these guys are going to have to win a couple of matches if we are going to contend for the overall title," Coach Stephen admitted. "But they are all capable."

Stephen, also a junior high district champion, is the third of four sons of the head coach. He is 9-6.

Carpenter checks in at 15.5 while Hannahs brings a 14.6 mark into action.

Barnesville has won four straight Class 3A team titles. They were fourth last year behind Parkersburg South, University and Wheeling Park.



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Vasey has Bellaire trending upward with 8 matmen

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**

BELLAIRE — Eric Vasey is in his second year as head coach of the Bellaire High mat program, and he has the program trending upward.

Vasey has eight Big Red matmen competing this year.

“Our numbers are up from last year. However, we will only have six competing in this year’s OVAC Tournament,” Vasey said. “Having a relatively young team and lower on numbers we wrestle very few duals. Our best team performance has been the Shadyside Last Man Standing Tournament where we finished eighth out of 16 teams.”

“Team-wise we may not have the numbers to compete for a top finish in the OVAC Tournament, but I do believe we have a few wrestlers who can do well this year and slide onto the podium.”

Freshman Zerek Poplawski is the Big Reds’ 113-pounder. He is gaining much-needed experience.

Grant Vasey gives Bellaire a top-flight 120-pounder. The talented junior currently holds a 14-5 record. He is a two-time district qualifier and is coming off a year where he placed sixth at the district tournament. Vasey has been in the finals in both the Rick Link and St. Clairsville tournaments as well as a fourth-place finish in the Shadyside Last Man Standing this year.

Sophomore Alex Ney holds down the 138-pound class, while junior Rod-dee Bruce is the 144-pounder.

Coach Vasey has a rising talent at 150. Sophomore Graham Campbell has fashioned a fine 13-6 mark this season, including a runnerup finish in the Shadyside Tournament.

Sophomore Mason Palencik rounds out the Bellaire OVAC Tournament lineup at 215.

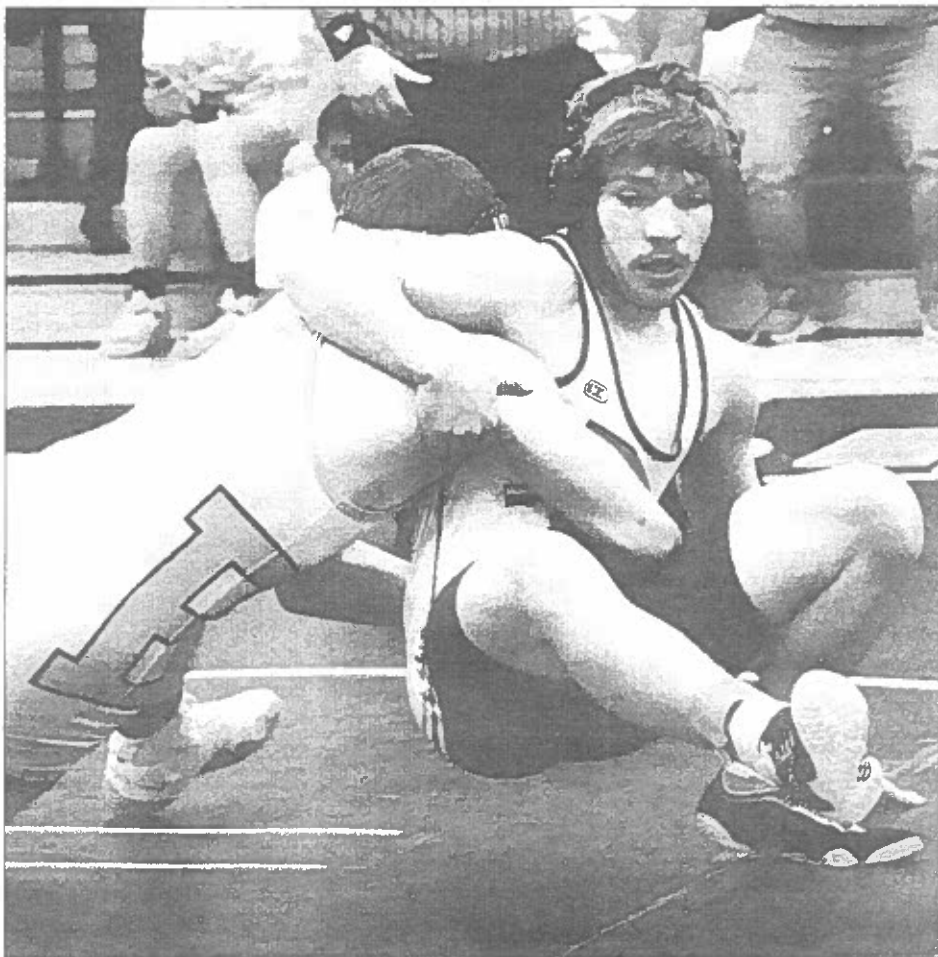
Coach Vasey is minus the services of two grapplers currently sidelined due to injury -- senior heavyweight Joey Nixon, who garnered a host of post-season football honors for Coach Mark Bonar, and freshman 126-pounder James Porco.

“Alex is 4-1 coming off a football injury and had a very impressive showing in his debut this past weekend taking third at the Shadyside tournament,” Coach Vasey said.

“I feel if Alex, Grant and Graham remain healthy and compete at the level they have shown, all three wrestlers will be wrestling come Saturday of the OVAC Tournament.”

Going forward, the Big Reds will be competing in the Panther Classic at Buckeye Local and the Buckeye 8 Championship before heading to sectionals.

Vasey is being assisted by Joe Honeywell and Andy Case.



Photo/Kim North
BELLAIRE'S ALEX Ney works to escape from Bridgeport's Anthony Noble during their 138-pound championship match at the Bobby Douglas Invitational last week at Bridgeport High School.




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Bridgeport has some bite in its youthful lineup

By KIM NORTH

BRIDGEPORT — Former Union Local and Ohio University wrestler Matt McFarland is putting some bite back into the storied Bridgeport mat program.

In his third season at the helm, McFarland said the 2023-24 team is his "best yet."

"The team this year has a different feel to it. We lost two seniors last year, and there was fear on who was going to come in and lead. Right out the gate several people were looking to step up and they are continuing to work hard," he said. "Going down through our lineup we are young, but we aren't going to let that hold us back from making a statement at this year's OVAC tournament."

The Bulldogs have nine individuals entered into the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships which take over WesBanco Arena from Thursday to Saturday in downtown Wheeling. Four are freshmen, with three sophomores and a pair of juniors.

David Sheppard (106), freshman — "David has been drastically improving every match. It's his first year but doesn't show any fear about taking on anyone I put in front of him. I am excited to see how his first OVAC goes, but more excited to see how his career goes here at Bridgeport," McFarland said.

Robert Weekley (113), freshman — "Robert has shown a lot of heart since he came into this sport last year. He had to sit out earlier in the season due to an injury, but since he has been back, he has been trying to make a name for himself."

He went 2-2 in his first tournament of the season, but he is never going to let up," McFarland noted.

Ax'zavior Santana (126), freshman — "Ax'zavior will be looking to come out and show what he can do at this year's tournament. He is in his first year of wrestling."

He always keeps his matches interesting, and the kid can move," McFarland allowed.

"His season started slow, but each match we go to he has shown major improvement. I cannot wait for him to show what he is made of."

Jordan Noble (132), sophomore — "Jordan will be looking to make some noise at this year's tournament. The first tournament we went to this year was Rick Link and I think he caught a lot of teams by surprise."

"It's not a secret anymore, the kid loves to wrestle and is always looking to score points."

Anthony Noble (138), sophomore — "Anthony cannot be counted out of any match. The kid has a lot of heart and has put on some very interesting matches this year," McFarland added. "Just like his brother, the kid wants to go out there and score."

"Seeing him wrestle is always fun to watch."

Dakota Lashorn (144), freshman — "Dakota is another first-year guy but is very close to a .500 record. He also is giving up some weight, but that doesn't keep him out of his matches."

the coach said.

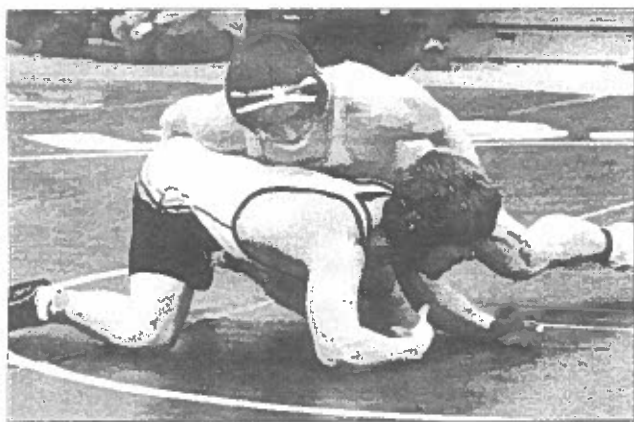
"He is a very likable kid and I'm hoping to see him take out a few guys and score us some points as a team."

Kaleb McCamick (157), junior — "Kaleb has been battling through some injuries and illness this season, but we're hoping to see him get it under control and return to the mat to help us out."

James Weekley (215), sophomore — "James has been working and will be ready to go for this year's OVAC. He never misses practice and wants to be better," the coach continued.

Logan Baker (285), junior — "Things seem to be clicking with Logan this year. His attendance has been at its best, and his attention to detail has drastically improved," McFarland stressed.

"He took some lumps early in the year but has learned from each of them, and he is excited to return to WesBanco."



Photo/Kim North

BRIDGEPORT'S ANTHONY Noble won the Bobby Douglas Invitational 138 pound title last week.

GOOD LUCK BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS!



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Buckeye Local turning the corner this season

By NICK HENTHORN

RAYLAND — Heading into the OVAC tournament, Buckeye Local head coach Guy Nestor sees his team turning a corner.

"We started off a little on the rough side with close losses to Harrison Central and Wheeling Central, which were close dual meets I feel we could have won," Nestor said. "We turned that around with wins at Brooke and [Indian] Creek. We went to West Jefferson and wrestled well there, had a number of guys place. Then we went to West Muskingum, finished third as a team, and we won Bridgeport last week. We're finally coming around and wrestling our best as we come to OVACs."

Nestor's Panthers feature two returning district qualifiers, senior Chase McFadden at 215 and heavyweight junior Brendon Stillion.

"He's probably the most technical guy we've got on the team," Nestor said of McFadden.

Both of those wrestlers will be in the OVAC lineup for a Buckeye Local team both young and old in different places.

At 106, freshman Shawn Jordan continues to improve.

"I think he has a shot at placing this weekend," Nestor said. "He wrestles very well, he's picking it up - this is only his second year wrestling. He's still a little raw."

That same sentiment of potential but relative inexperience is shared by multiple other Panther wrestlers — sophomore Chase Milton at 120, sophomore Tristan Palmer at 132, and freshman Trey McCoy at 138.

Junior Aiden Dentz is the 126-pounder for the Panthers.

"It just matters which Aiden Dentz shows up," Nestor said.

"I hope the good, technical one shows up and he can make a run."

Buckeye has more experience around the middle weights, with junior Gavin Edgell at 150 and junior Landon Durbin at 157. Senior Dallas Sproull enters the tournament at 165, though Nestor said he had battled injuries to begin the year and hasn't wrestled many matches.

Senior Denver Nelson is seeded eighth in the tournament at 175.

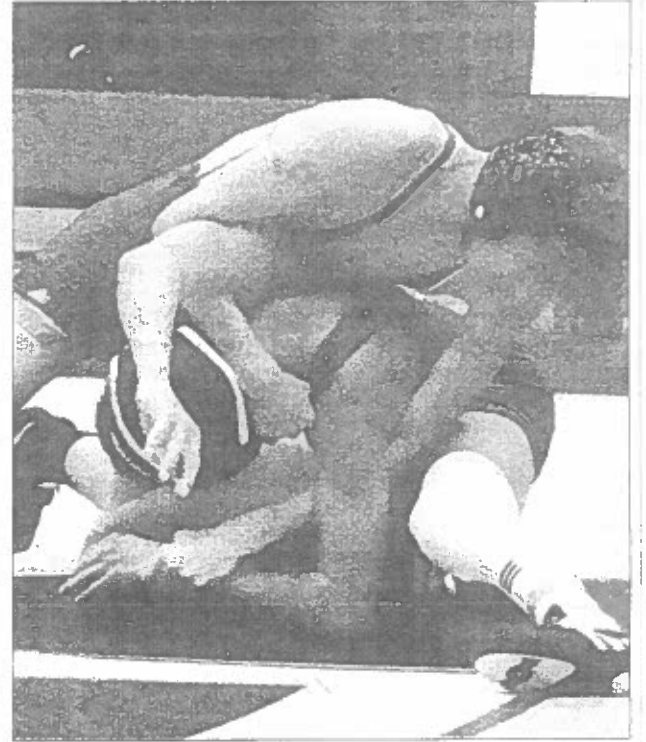
"He's got a ton of potential because he wrestles hard," Nestor said. "He's kept it close with some of the top guys. I look for him to be one of the placers."

Junior Marek Hickman is at 190.

"Most improved from last year," Nestor said. Nestor is in his seventh year as head coach and 11th year total coaching at Buckeye Local. He hopes a good showing at the OVAC tournament can keep his Panthers on the upswing.

"Hopefully we can continue to climb, even after OVACs we have the Panther Classic, the Logan tournament, MOVLS and then we go to sectionals. It doesn't get any easier as we go on," Nestor said.

"OVACs is a nice thing to have guys place at but the ultimate goal is to be at the top of the state podium like we had with [Brian] Palmer a couple of years ago."



Photo/Kim North

BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Denver Nelson is seeded eighth at 190 pounds for this week's 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships.

2023 Team Scores

Class 1A/2A		
1. Cameron		83.5
2. Southern Local		69.5
3. Wheeling Central		53.5
4. Wellsville		46.5
5. River		45.0
6. Bridgeport		30.0
7. Steub. Catholic		23.0
8. Shadyside		18.0
9. Bealsville		10.0
10. Monroe Central		6.0
Class 3A		
1. Barnesville		200.5
2. Martins Ferry		125.5
3. Shenandoah		91.0
4. Caldwell		61.0
5. Linsly		56.5
6. Union Local		53.0
7. Magnolia		38.0
8. Fort Frye		25.0
9. Bellaire		19.0
Class 4A		
1. Indian Creek		145.5
(tie) Oak Glen		145.5
3. Beaver Local		129.5
4. Edison		81.0
5. Harrison Central		73.0
Class 5A		
1. Parkersburg South		242.5
2. University		214.0
3. Wheeling Park		201.5
4. John Marshall		160.0

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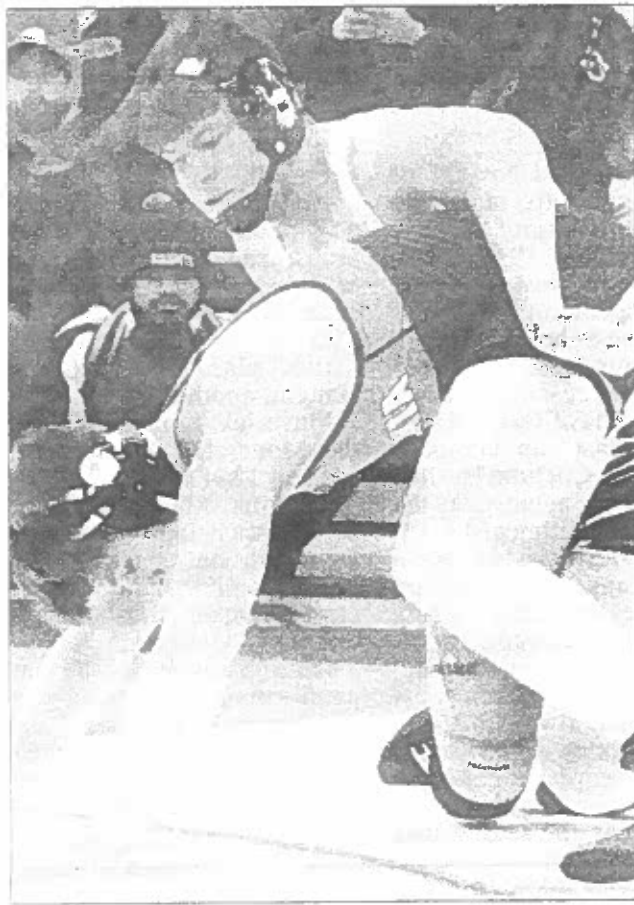
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Photo/Kim North

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Lucas Thomas will be looking to win the 215-pound weight class this week at the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships.

Bryant wants Huskies healthy

• Thomas brothers expected to reach championship finals

By **KIM NORTH**

CADIZ — Harrison Central head wrestling coach Bill Bryant is hoping to get some individuals healthy in time for the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships that get under way Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

The veteran Huskies may boss has 12 of the 14 weight classes filled, but a few could be pending.

"I think the team outlook is the same as in the year's past," he said. "If we can get some guys medically cleared from injury and back into shape, I think we can be a top 10 team."

Bryant is sure of two things — the Brothers Thomas — senior Lucas (215) and junior Landen (285). Lucas, currently 18-0, won an OVAC ti-

tle in 2022 before being runner up last year. He was also a Division III state runner up last winter after placing sixth in 2022. He has 136 career wins and 97 career falls. Landen, meanwhile, is currently 19-2 and finished sixth last year and fourth in 2022. He was fifth in Ohio last winter and stands at 93 career wins.

"Those two are projected to be OVAC finalists and we have four others who are among the top in their respective weight classes in the OVAEC rankings," Bryant added.

He was referring to senior Hunter Bittinger (165-7th), sophomore Andrew Cox (132-8th), freshman Andrew Alberts (106-13th) and junior Austin Fulton (120-16th). Alberts has a 10-5 mark, while Fulton is 4-2.

According to Bryant, Bittinger has 85 career victories. He is currently 19-3.

"Hunter will be dropping from 175 to 165 for the tournament," Bryant advised.

Cox, who finished eighth in last year's OVACs, is currently sidelined with an injury.

Bryant said Fulton returned to action last week.

"In a Division like 4A, which is always tough, maybe 10-15

points is all that separates half the teams," Bryant noted.

Completing the Huskies lineup are sophomores Tyler Garbrandt (138, 6-6), Beau Rinkes (144, 6-6), Vitto Parziale (175) and RJ Hendershot (190); along with junior Marcus Hilbert (150) and senior Bryce Wallace (157).

Harrison Central won the overall championship in 2009 under head coach Todd Dunlap. They are in Class 4A.

**Good Luck
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It's trial by error for John Marshall this week

• Monarchs' Zander Ward is seeded No. 1 at 126-pounds; Klypsan Wallace third at 175

By NICK HENTHORN

GLEN DALE — John Marshall is taking the idea of a "trial by fire" very seriously.

The Monarchs have thrown themselves into a gauntlet of quality opponents which included Wheeling Park, currently No. 9 in W.Va Class-AAA; Parkersburg South, currently No. 5; University, currently No. 2; and Parkersburg; currently No. 1, as well as facing stiff competition at the Barnesville Invitational and Wheeling Park Duals.

All this, Asbury hopes, in pursuit of being at their best when it counts.

"We've had a very tough season so far," John Marshall head coach Ryan Asbury said. "I scheduled a very challenging season for the boys coming into the OVAC and then the state tournament, just

with the goal that they'd be battle-tested once it's time to step up and perform."

"We've wrestled the best competition we've been able to see."

Asbury, in his fifth year as head coach and 10th coaching at John Marshall overall, has wrestlers cut from every cloth on his roster— young underclassmen, experienced veterans, and some upperclassmen coming into the program for the very first time.

That group starts with Zander Ward, the Monarch's 126-pounder who sports a 23-5 record against that aforementioned gauntlet.

"He's currently ranked first in the OVAC, and he's wrestled a couple of those top guys," Asbury said. "I think he's capable of finishing at

the top of the podium next weekend. He's been practicing hard and looking good in the room. He's hit some top talent in the state and I'm excited to see how he performs."

Hayden Bonar is a freshman on the varsity squad at 113 while Gabe Chaplin is just getting back up to speed at 120 after missing much of the year with injuries.

Carter Adkins, who placed at the OVAC tournament as a freshman and sophomore, is back for his junior go-round at 132 with a 15-9 record.

"He always seems to step it up when we're at WesBanco, and I'm expecting to see the same out of him this year," Asbury said of Adkins.

Kaden Harding has posted a 15-10 record at 138, while Waylon Wyckoff sits at 13-6

at 144 as a junior.

"He's wrestled several of the guys currently ranked to be on the podium," Asbury said of Wyckoff. "He's beaten several and lost to a few, so he's capable of placing as well as long as he shows up in the right mindset."

Amidst the rest of Asbury's group who have tested themselves against top competition, Cayden Cochran has had as tough a go as anyone, the 150-pounder sitting at 11-13.

"He's wrestled some guys who are ranked near the top of the state, top of the OVAC, he's wrestled a couple of nationally ranked guys as well," Asbury said. "He's always in the match, always battling and he's gotten significantly better as the year's gone on. There are some matches he lost earlier in the season that

I wouldn't be surprised if he avenged."

Anthony Baldo is the 157-pounder for the Monarchs, and Brooks Harrison is wrestling at 165, having recently moved down from 175.

In his place at 175 is Colten Haught, another freshman.

Maverick Lemasters takes the Monarchs' spot at 190, with an 18-4 record.

"I think Maverick is capable of being just about anywhere on that podium," Asbury said. "He's wrestled close matches with most of that [OVAC] bracket."

Isaac Swauger is an upperclassman, but a first-year wrestler at 215. Kaleb Yates stands as John Marshall's heavyweight, a senior who is also wrestling for the first time.



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FROM THE

JOHN MARSHALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Martins Ferry in youth movement

By KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY — The Purple Riders are undergoing a youth movement this season with seven freshmen and three sophomores in its starting lineup for the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships.

Head coach Chad Ware does, however, have three veteran seniors to rely on in the middle of his lineup.

Those upperclassmen are Kade Archer (144), Shayden Fogle (157) and Andrew Leiffer (165).

Archer is 14-6 this year with second-place finishes at St. Clairsville and West Muskingum. He was also fifth at Waterloo and sixth at the Union Local Rick Link Invitational.

Fogle is currently 10-7 and finished eighth in the OVAC last year. He was second this year at Waterloo and third at St. Clairsville and West Muskingum.

Leiffer stands at 15-5. He has finishes of second at Union Local and third at Waterloo, St. Clairsville and West Muskingum.



Junior Jase Mahoney (120) is a sparkling 18-2 thus far and took fourth in the OVAC last winter after finishing sixth in 2022. He has championships

this year at St. Clairsville and West Muskingum. He was second at Waterloo and third at Union Local.

Another bright spot has been freshman RJ Welshans (150) who has posted a 17-6 mark. He was second at St. Clairsville, third at Waterloo and fifth at Union Local.

Sophomore Tayson Palmer (215) has placed fourth at St. Clairsville and Waterloo, and fifth at West Muskingum. He is 13-8.

Freshman Keenan Lucey (132) placed second at St. Clairsville and brings a 11-8 record.

Freshman Silas Simpson (113) is 12-8 and placed second at West Muskingum and third at St. Clairsville.

Freshman Joey Herring (190) is 5-11 but placed fourth at St. Clairsville.

Completing the roster are freshman Ayden Mercer (106); sophomore Caden Holmes (126); freshman Cole Patterson (138); sophomore Austin Violet (175); and freshman Alex Carpino (285).

• Seeds

Continued from Page 2

138-1. Dakota King (Barn); 2. Cal Beadling (Steub); 3. Slaton Pettit (Cam); 4. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 5. David DeFelice (Weir); 6. Caiden Cooley (ED); 7. Conner Graser (Univ); 8. Coleton Hill (PS); 9. Anthony Noble (Bpt); 10. Kaden Harding (JM); 11. Logan Graham (OG); 12. Alex Ney (Bell); alt-Darshan Howard (StC)

144-1. Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Nathan Murphy (PS); 3. Karson Milhoan (Barn); 4. Clayton Myers (Camb); 5. Jack Lowe (WP); 6. Shawn Young (Weir); 7. Evan Ours (BvL); 8. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 9. Max Vitale (Univ); 10. Marshall Crow (WC); 11. Caden McGrath (Tor); 12. Kaden Archer (MF); alt-Andrew Osman (Shady)

150-1. Reese Stephen (Barn); 2. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 3. Makiya Powell (PS); 4. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 5. Michael Heath (OG); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Josh Gilliam (SL); 8. Gage Scott (Mag); 9. Graham Campbell (Bell); 10. Jaydern Shaw (EL); 11. Richard Welshans (MF); 12. Ricky Sinsel

(ED); alt-Gavin Resor (Camb)

157-1. Skyler King (Barn); 2. Savier Faulks (Steub); 3. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 4. Damon Stansbury (EL); 5. Griffen Kernik (Lin); 6. Anthony Baldo (JM); 7. Jay McKenzie (Univ); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Ryan Chafins (BvL); 10. Shayden Fogle (MF); 11. Eli Tedrow (WC); 12. Keith Doyle (PS); alt-Connor Dyer (Mag)

165-1. Luca Felix (Univ); 2. Ayden King (Barn); 3. Ethan Llewellyn (IC); 4. Justin Cox (BvL); 5. Cole Middleton (PS); 6. Hunter Bittinger (HC); 7. Nathaniel Berhalter (Lin); 8. Andrew Leiffer (MF); 9. Landon Crosier (Steub);

10. Wyatt Brady (WC); 11. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 12. Aaron Lara (EL); alt-Dominick Smith (Mtw)

175-1. Gage Wright (PS); 2. Jameson Maynard (WP); 3. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 4. Aden Strahler (WL); 5. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 6. Hines Ford (Barn); 7. Gavin Moore (Brk); 8. Denver Nelson (BL); 9. Dustin Sanner (WC); 10. Mathias Kesselring (FF); 11. Andyn Babel (Steub); 12. Mason Haney (Mtw); alt-Ben Bryan (Weir)

190-Brycen Arthur (PS); 2. Gabriel Blissenbach (SL); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Greg Sauers (OG); 5. Malaki Washington (WP); 6. Luke McMillion (IC); 7.

Maverick Lemasters (JM); 8. Jackson Pate (Univ); 9. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 10. Ferret Moore (Brk); 11. Devon Legleitner (WL); 12. Peyton Shaw (EL); alt-Marek Hickman (BL)

215-1. Lucas Thomas (HC); 2. Isaac Martin (WC); 3. Tyler Wise (Brk); 4. Ayden Morris (PS); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Jonathan Bailey (SL); 7. Landon Taylor (Lin); 8. Karytr Armstrong (WL); 9. Christien Hannahs (Barn); 10.

Carsdon Cline (Shen); 11. See SEEDS, Page 13

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THURSDAY

Opening Ceremony, 6 p.m.
First round matches, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY


Second Round matches, noon
Championship quarterfinals and first-round consolation matches, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY


Championship semifinals and consolation matches, 11 a.m.
Championship finals, matches for third-, fifth- and seventh-places, 4 p.m.


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| 1997 — Ryan Muldrew, John Marshall High School | 2007 — James Myers, Indian Creek High School | 2016 — Tariq Wilson, Steubenville High School |
| 1998 — Chad Pratz, Linsly High School | 2008 — Jimmy Reisz, Beallsville High School | 2017 — Peyton Hall, Oak Glen High School |
| 1999 — Jose Smith, Cambridge High School | 2009 — Dirk Bauer, Wheeling Park High School | 2018 — Josh Humphreys, Parkersburg South High School |
| 2000 — Scott Roth, Martins Ferry High School | 2010 — Dylan Ice, Beaver Local High School | 2019 — Peyton Blasko, Steubenville High School |
| 2001 — Cole Bowersock, Beaver Local High School | 2011 — Kyle Bauer, Wheeling Park High School | 2020 — Braxton Amos, Parkersburg South High School |
| 2002 — Derek George, John Marshall High School | 2012 — David Jeffrey, Parkersburg South High School | 2021 — None (Cancelled - COVID) |
| 2003 — David Bertolino, Buckeye Local High School | 2013 — Cody Amos, Wheeling Park High School | 2022 — Logan Ours, Beaver Local High School |
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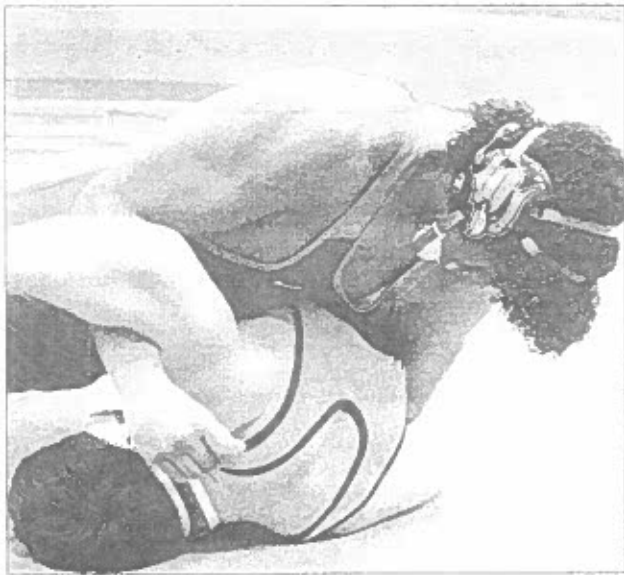


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WHEELING CENTRAL'S Isaac Martin was fourth last year.

Wheeling Central has freshmen, sophomores

By **KIM NORTH**

WHEELING — In its second year back on the mat, Wheeling Central has proved to be a formidable program with team championships at the Ritchie County Duals and the Last Man Standing Tournament in Shadyside.

Head coach Rick Welker will have all but two of the 14 weight classes filled when the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships get started Thursday night inside WesBanco Arena. The three-day event runs through Saturday afternoon's championship finals.

Two Maroon Knights will carry unbeaten records into the tournament, they are Braxton Birch (120, 25-0) and Isaac Martin (215, 28-0). Birch won titles at the Hoppel and Shadyside tournaments. Martin has prevailed at Hoppel, Shadyside and the Max Horz tournaments.

Just a sophomore, Martin is a veteran on the team having placed fourth in last year's OVAC and third in West Virginia last winter.

Tylique Marshall (106) is a sparkling 22-6 and won at Shadyside while taking third at Max Horz.

Marshall Crow (144) brings a 26-3 mark with a championship at Shadyside and a third at Max orz. Eli Tedrow (152) has a 26-2 mark that includes a championship at Shadyside, a runner-up at Hoppel and a third at Max Horz.

Wyatt Brady (165) is 26-3. He won at Hoppel and Shadyside while finishing third at Max Horz. He was third in the W.Va. Class A regional last year.

Isaac Lucious (190) was a champion at Shadyside.

Dominic Asbury (285) is 21-4. He won a title at Shadyside and was second at Hoppel.

The roster is completed with Eli Czapp (113), Paul Stecker (126), Joey Hall (150), Brennan Maloney (285) and Haji Marin (285).

Monroe Central looking to put kids on podium Saturday night

By **TRACY WATSON**

WOODSFIELD — Like most small school wrestling programs Monroe Central's Ryan Richter is dealing with low numbers and youth but will bring the Seminoles to Wheeling for the OVAC tournament looking to put some kids on the podium.

"We have a lot of youth, but we also have kids that have worked the tables at the OVACs and know the atmosphere they are getting into," Richter said. "I feel like we might be young, but we are really coming along and coming of age."

"We only have five wrestlers, but we are still looking to put some kids on the podium."

Freshman Gavin Bennett kicks things off for Mon-

roe Central at 120 with junior Drew Miller coming in at 150.

Freshman Owen Howard is at 157 with classmate Malaki McQuerry at 215. The heavyweight is sophomore Parker Sefert.

"Drew (Miller) is only a freshman, but he is the leader and he has really taken the reins of this team," Richter added.

"Our freshmen are putting in the time, willing to learn and are continuing to grow very quickly."

"While we want to have some kids' places, we also want to use this event as a building block for the future and gain some valuable experience."



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From The
Monroe Central
Athletic Dept.

River rebuilding following strong 2023 season; Pilots fill 5 classes

By TRACY WATSON

HANNIBAL — Veteran head coach Charles Baker has six wrestlers filling five weight classes at River but is going through a little bit of a rebuilding season after a strong campaign a year ago.

However, Baker, who is in his 44th season as the Pilots wrestling boss, has never wavered over his feelings for the OVAC Tournament.

"This is a different team for us this year, and it has been hard filling some of the shoes we lost last year, but all of our kids have some sort of OVAC experience," Baker said. "With the exception of our heavyweights the other kids have all wrestled in this tournament.

"It's something the kids are always up and ready for. These kids are a pretty relaxed group, which has made practices nice, and they are getting better which is evident on a daily basis.

"The OVAC Tournament is a great event, which I can remember all the way back to when it was held at St. John Arena in Steubenville. I love this tournament as much as anything in wrestling and I truly don't understand how there are any teams that don't want to be a part of something like this."

Sophomore Hunter Strawn gets things going for

River at 138 with classmate Tyler Winkler coming in at 150. Junior Hunter Lyman wrestles at 175 with seniors Maddox Mozena at 190 and Hunter Netting at 285. Senior Cooper Corder, in his first year, is also available at heavyweight.

Strawn, Winkler and Lyman all have four to five years experience on the mats while Netting is a three-year regular who has been waiting in the wings behind the graduated Marshall Biers and Mozena is coming off an injury that sidelined him for his junior season.

"We have had a lot of effort and gotten some decent matches out of our lower weights," Baker commented. "But our bread and butter comes with Mozena and Netting at the heavier weights. All of these kids have winning records and have competed well at tournaments so far this season.

"Obviously it's hard to win dual meets with just five wrestlers, so things are different from last year, but these kids are doing well and are willing to learn."

• Results

Continued from Page 12

190
First--Robert Shockey (PS) d. Eric Williams (EL), SV, 3-1
Third--Tyler Wise (Brk) d. Alex Finsley (MF), SV, 3-1
Fifth--Marshal Sayre (Cald) p. Gage Hawkins (Weir), 3:40
Seventh--Jacob Walker (StC) won by injury default over Greg Sauers (OG)

215
First--Brock Kehler (Univ) d. Lucas Thomas (HC), 4-2
Third--Erick Brothers Jr. (WP) p. Isaac Martin (WC), 054
Fifth--Ayden Morris (PS) won by injury default over Jonathan Bailey (EL)
Seventh--Jamison Stiles (ED) won by forfeit

285
First--Elijah Llewellyn (IC) p. Marshal Bier (River), 1:00
Third--Brycen Arthur (PS) d. Rydder Hastings (Univ), 1-0
Fifth--Hunter Means (WP) won by injury default over Landen Thomas (HC)
Seventh--Anderson Palian (Lin) won by injury default over Joe Tristano (Dover)

2023 Results

106
First--Johnathan Huntsman (Barn) d. Pepper Martin (Univ), 11-6
Third--Mason Simms (Wellsville) p. Corbin Phillips (PS), 0:26
Fifth--Aiden Anderson (OG) d. Gavin Bolock (UL), 7-4
Seventh--Justuce Fisher (BvL) d. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir), 5-4

113
First--Logan Davis (OG) p. Tristen Rossiter (Shen), 2:54
Third--Zander Ward (JM) d. Jase Mahoney (MF), 4-3
Fifth--Noah Keen (Camb) p. Chrids Warrick (BvL), 0:57

120
First--Bobby Buchheit (BvL) d. Noah White (WP), 4-0
Third--Dylan Ward (MF) d. Colton Gillespie (Univ), 8-4
Fifth--Blake Lanzer (Dover) md. Ian Starkey (IC), 15-2
Seventh--Wyatt Wolanski (OG) md. Ethan Stimpert (Steub), 15-6

126
First--Ethan Cook (JM) d. Drake Kanyuch (Shen), 2-1
Third--Pedro Garcia (Dover) d. Brady Roberts (PS), 4-1
Fifth--Charlie Abbott (Steubenville) won by injury default over Slaton Pettit (Cam)
Seventh--Aiden Spahlinger (SL) p. Xzander Eltringham (Brk), 2:25

132
First--Dakota King (Barn) d. Brody Saccoccia (Steub), 64-4
Third--Carter Pauley (Univ) p. Hayden Lamb (OG), 3:32
Fifth--Carter Adkins (JM) d. Lucas Zombotti (Mag), 5-2
Seventh--T'Kai Jett (ED)p. Andrew Cox (HC), 1:25

138
First--Skyler King (Barn) d. Ryan Martin (PS), 6-3
Third--Cal Beadling (Steub) won by injury default over Adam Carman (WP)
Fifth--Isaac Sands (WC) d. Mason Abertd (Bpt), 3-1 UTB
Seventh--Clayton Myers(Camb) d. Leland Lopez (HC), 2-1

144
First--Egidio Fazio (Dover) p. Bradyn Lucas (WP), 4:25
Third--Logan Tague (Barn) p. Nathan Murphy (PS), 4:06
Fifth--Ashton Hoge (Cam) d. Justin Cox (BvL), 4-0
Seventh--Jay McKenzie (Univ) d. Gavin Pownall (IC), 2-0

150
First--Reese Stephen (Barn) d. CJ Spencer (IC), 9-3
Third--Quinton Velas (WP) d. Savier Faulks (Steub), 13-6
Fifth--Ryan Ward (JM) d. Makiya Powell (PS), 5-2
Seventh--Landon Crum (UL) p. Shayden Fogle (MF), 1:36

157
First--Dom Parker (Univ) d. Dom Paterra (IC), 7-3
Third--Ayden King (Barn) p. Michael Heath (OG), 4:17
Fifth--Kyle Wheeler (PS) p. Malaki Washington (WP), 3:36
Seventh--Peyton Pyle (Bpt) d. Anthony Baldo (JM), 9-3

165
First--Jameson Maynard (WP) d. Klypsan Wallace (JM), 4-3
Third--Braxton Dlugopolski (OG) p. Jason Williams (WL), 2:58
Fifth--Gabe Blissenbach (SL) d. Ethan Waggoner (ED), 8-3
Seventh--Johnny McFarland (Martins Ferry) d. Karson Milhoan (Barn), 11-4

175
First--Luca Felix (Univ) d. Adam Angel (Cam), 4-2
Third--Gabe Morgan (BvL) d. George Hulseu (Martins Ferry), 4-1
Fifth--Aden Strahler (WL) d. Ethan Llewellyn (IC), 9-7

See RESULTS, Page 12

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Things going well so far for Shadyside

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**

SHADYSIDE — He is one of the best ever to suit up in a Shadyside wrestling singlet. Now Chase Kinemond is in his sixth year of guiding his alma mater's mat program.

Kinemond is a two-time All-Ohioan, placing fifth as a freshman and seventh as a senior. He won an OVAC title during his senior season and was runnerup as a sophomore and fifth as a freshman.

All told, he finished his prep career with an impressive 120-19 record despite missing his entire junior season after suffering a torn ACL that football season.

Kinemond is directing a high school roster of eight grapplers, coming off a cam-

paign in which the Orange captured the OVAC 2A/1A Dual Meet Championship. The Tiger mat great is pleased with how his group has performed heading into the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament at WesBanco Arena which commences Thursday.

"So far, the season is going well. We are sitting with a 4-1 dual record and have done well at our Shadyside tournament this year, placing ninth team-wise while having four wrestlers placing in the top six," the former Bethany College quarterbacking standout said.

"One other tournament we attended this year was the Olentangy Liberty Classic in Columbus, which was a tough



tournament for my young team, but we learned there what we needed to improve on and that has shown since then."

Youth is prevalent with the Shadyside roster.

"I have a young team with three freshmen, two sophomores, one junior and two seniors. My seniors are great

leaders and they have shown that this season," Kinemond noted.

The Tigers' first three weight classes are manned by freshmen: Rylan Jack (106), Treyton Hietz (113) and Jaycob Trigg (120). Sophomore Eli Gallaher is Shadyside's 126-pounder.

Kaden McGuire is a solid 138-pounder for the Tigers.

The junior is 5-5 so far with a runnerup finish in the Shadyside Tournament.

Andrew Osman is a force at 144.

The talented senior, who incurred a severe knee injury in his junior season of football, is still rebounding back into form, winning four of six matches so far.

Landon Simmons is the 175-pounder. The sophomore is currently sidelined due to injury after going 2-0 thus far.

Senior Chris Stillion rounds out the lineup at 215 pounds.

"Andrew Osman is a wrestler I have high hopes of doing well this year at the OVAC," Kinemond said.

"Kaden McGuire is also a wrestler that has come around and is starting to do well. It is his first year wrestling since seventh grade. He just placed second at the Shadyside Tournament. I hope he can carry this momentum going forward."

Kinemond is assisted by Paden Stewart, Scott Kinemond, Christian Hancock and Nico Bumba.

25-Year (1999) Returning Champions

The following wrestlers won OVAC championships in 1999 and will be honored this weekend during the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament. They are:

103--Cole Bowersock, Beaver Local

112-- Marshall Brooks, Cadiz

119--Jose Smith, Cambridge

125--Josh Hackney, Wellsville

130--Stan Bittinger, Cadiz

135--Greg Ware, Martins Ferry

140--Scott Roth, Martins Ferry

145--Mitch Wheeler, Steubenville

152--Lucas Sedgmer, Cadiz (deceased)

160--Terry Smith, Buckeye Local

171--Joe Nichols, Brooke

189--Craig Bruney, Martins Ferry

215--Matt Salsberry, East Liverpool (deceased)

285--Alex McClung, Oak Glen

• Seeds

Continued from Page 9

Isaac Prescott (BvL); 12. Chase McFadden (BL); alt-Ryan Ivey (StC)

285 - 1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Hunter Means (WP); 4. Anderson Palian (Lin); 5. Logan Middleton (PS); 6. Jase Norman (Cald); 7. Noah Schmidt (OG); 8. Dominic Asbury (WC); 9. Marshall Meade (Barn); 10. Brendon Stillion (BL); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Hunter Nething (Riv); alt-Heath Thomas (Tor)
BOLD - Returning champion

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St. C. looking to make up for lost time

By NICK HENTHORN

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — For the St. Clairsville Red Devils, the upcoming OVAC tournament is an opportunity to make up for lost time.

Many of head coach Bobby Richmond's group has pushed through seasons plagued thus far with injury or sickness, but even though many of his wrestlers have missed time, growth in whatever capacity each has had the opportunity for— is still the

goal for the Red Devils.

"We've been performing well," Richmond said.

"We've got a very young team. We've only got one senior and three juniors, the rest of the team is all freshmen and sophomores. We've had some growing pains we've been going through, and like every other team we've had some injury and sickness that's hit us. Gaining experience is one of the keys this year for us."

Richmond has been coaching at St. Clairsville for the past eight years, and is in his second year as head coach of the Red Devils.

In his second go-round at the upcoming OVAC tournament, Richmond is hoping his crew comes out of the conference meet turning a corner in terms of health and ability.

His group starts with freshman Carson Bishop at 106.

"Kind of a surprise for us," Richmond said. "He's currently 13-10.



but he's had some really tough competition. Out of the 10 losses that he's had, nine of them are ranked in the top eight in OVACs."

Heavyweight freshman Mason Wilt is 5-1 on the year and was in-

jured after the first couple weeks of the season. Richmond said the big man is getting back on his feet now.

Sophomore Therron Fillon fills the Devils' 150 pound slot, and Darshan Howard is the team's lone senior at 138 pounds.

Howard is 5-3, having suffered illness and injury throughout December.

Junior 113-pounder Wyatt Cunningham has missed time as well.

"Getting back on the mat for a lot of these

kids, that's the big priority," Richmond said.

Junior Ryan Ivey is hoping to continue to build on recent success, sporting a 10-5 record and a fifth-place finish at the recent Cameron Invitational.

Finally, St. Clairsville's lone returning district qualifier, junior Braylon Leiffer, has battled sickness multiple times this year, but got to the OVAC blood round last year, and according to Richmond is keen to reach the podium in his junior season.

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OVAC Officials

The following individuals have been selected to officiate the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships for the 2023-24 season. They are:

- Tom Regis, Martins Ferry
- Tucker Brown, Cameron
- Jim Copney, Wheeling
- James Robson, Dillonvale
- Steve Stoffel, Charleston
- Jack Regis, Martins Ferry
- Chris Case, Wheeling
- Andrew Shelek, Wheeling
- Brian Cunningham, Chester
- Chris DiSerio, Wellsburg
- Tim Collins, Columbus
- Kevin King, Wheeling

Good Luck St. Clairsville Wrestlers!

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Union Local seeks to make a splash with talent

By NICK HENTHORN

BELMONT — The Union Local Jets are approaching this year's OVAC tournament with a crop of first-timers, but ones with the talent to make a splash.

"We are a smaller team than we've had in the past just because of situations of kids quitting," head coach Nate Starkey said. "We're also a really young team."

"I have only a couple juniors, a couple sophomores then essentially my whole team is a freshman team. I have a bunch of kids coming up next year from middle school so it's been a process of building the program back up."

Starkey is in his third year as head coach of the Jets.

Among his youthful crew, junior Gavin Bolock stands as an upperclassman leader, and one with the resume to command respect, having qualified for the state tournament last season.

Bolock qualified at 106 as a sophomore, and is

wrestling at 113 this year.

"He's just a tough wrestler," Starkey said of Bolock.

After Bolock, Starkey also has several standout freshmen in the group that he is taking to OVACs.

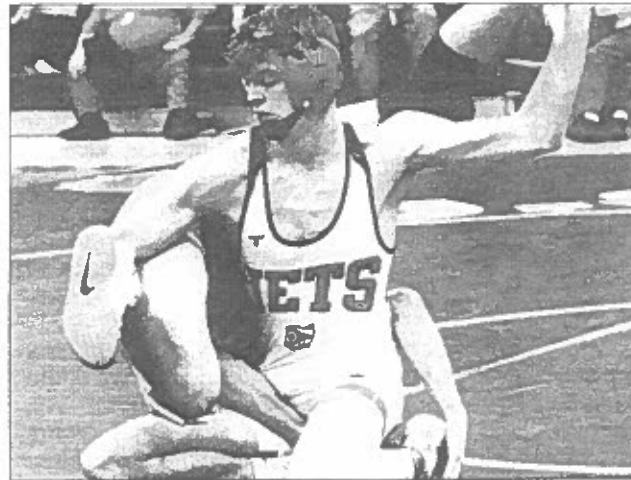
Cole Rogers will be the Jets' 106-pounder, while Diezul Miner will be at 126.

"He's really coming into his own now," Starkey said of Miner. "He's put on some quality wins and he's a really tough kid."

Union Local has a couple of highly-rated first-years too. Starkey reported that his 144-pounder Gunnar Gossett is ranked in the top 15 in Ohio, while fellow freshman Brody Perzanowski is ranked in the top five at 157.

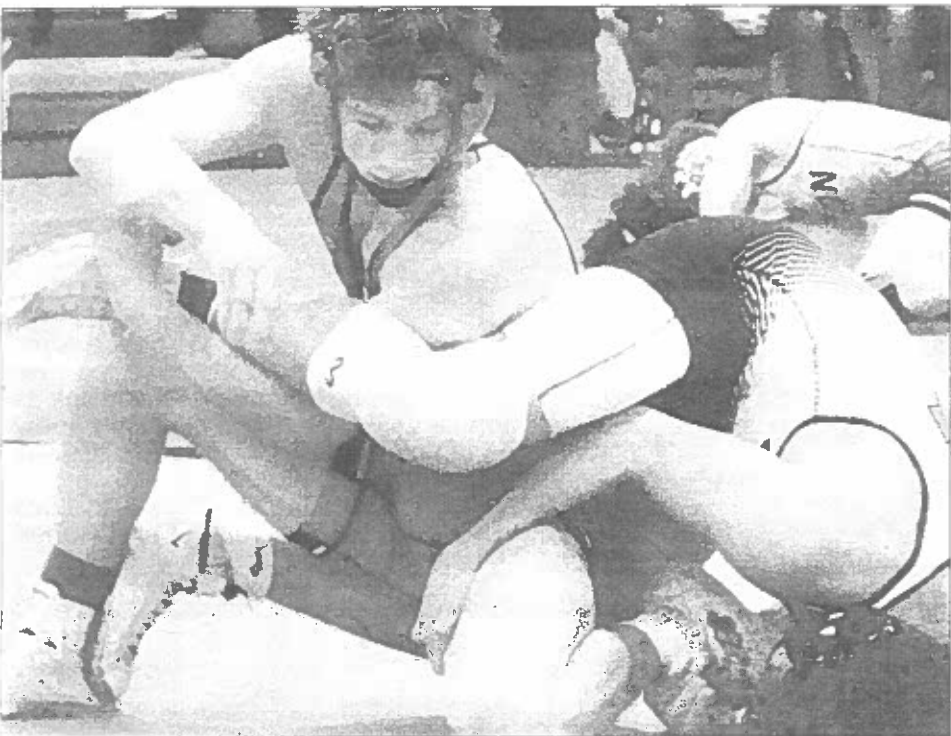
Bolock, Gossett and Perzanowski all placed first in their respective weight classes at last weekend's Bobby Douglas Invitational.

The Jets hope their success can continue in their trip to WesBanco Arena.



Photo/Kim North

UNION LOCAL'S Gunnar Gossett is ranked highly at 144 pounds.



Photo/Kim North

UNION LOCAL'S Brody Perzanowski has been a force as a freshman this year for the Jets. He should make some noise this week at the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament.

Good Luck Union Local Wrestlers!

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Linsly looking for strong showing this week after fine start to season

By NICK HENTHORN

WHEELING — After a fine start to the season, the Linsly Cadets are hoping to punctuate their good work thus far with a strong showing at the upcoming OVAC tournament.

Cadets coach Brian Valentine, in his 12th season leading Linsly, has a slew of competitors seeded in the conference tournament after seeing lots of success in the wrestling year's early-goings.

"We've got a lot of good wrestlers here, right now our dual record is 15-2," Valentine said. "If we could fill a couple more weight classes we could've won the two duals that we lost. Right now our kids are wrestling well. We have two starters who are injured but we still have seven kids ranked in the tournament coming up."

Returning to WesBanco after making it to the podium in the past is 190-pound junior Brody Cottrill and sophomore heavyweight Anderson Palian.

Cottrill placed seventh as a freshman but did not wrestle last year, sidelined with an injury at the time.

Palian likewise placed seventh last year as a freshman, and is seeded fourth this time around.

106-pounder Taven Mayo has wrestled a good season thus far, the junior seeded 10th at OVACs.

"He's racked up 26 wins, he's doing very well," Valentine said. "He's a tough match at 106."

Sophomore Lucca Troullos has compiled 31 wins this year at 132, and made it to the blood round as a freshman.

Rocco Troullos enters at 138 and Landon Cottrill enters at 150, both as freshmen.

After losing in the blood round each of his last two years, 157-pound junior Griffen Kernik looks to be locked-in this time.

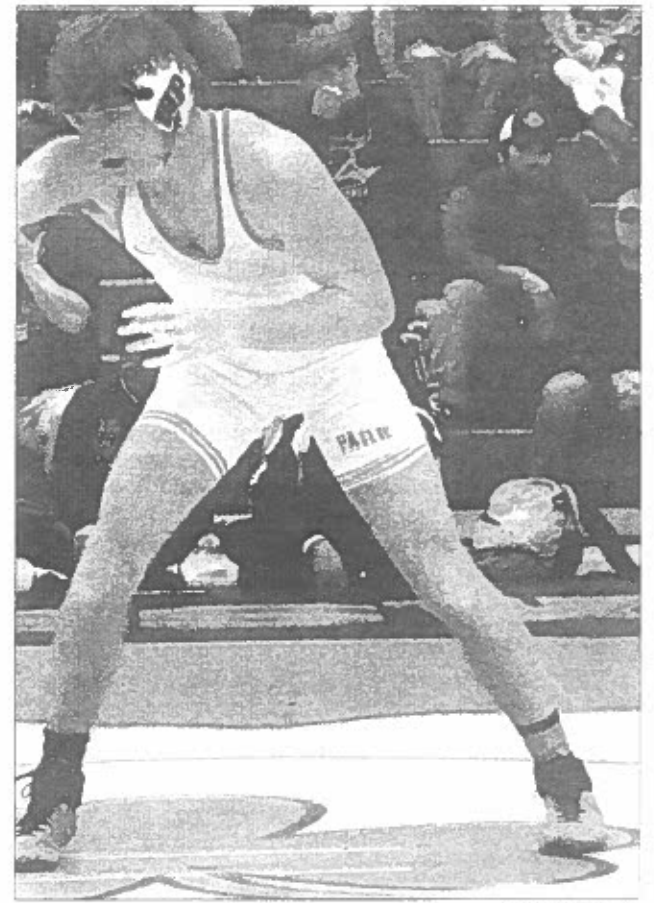
"He's geared and ready to get on that podium," Valentine said of Kernik.

165-pounder Nathaniel Berhalter enters the tournament having recently earned his 100th win, the senior one of two winners at the recent St. Marys tournament for Linsly.

The other is senior Landon Taylor at 215. Valentine said Taylor has stacked up around 30 wins this year too.

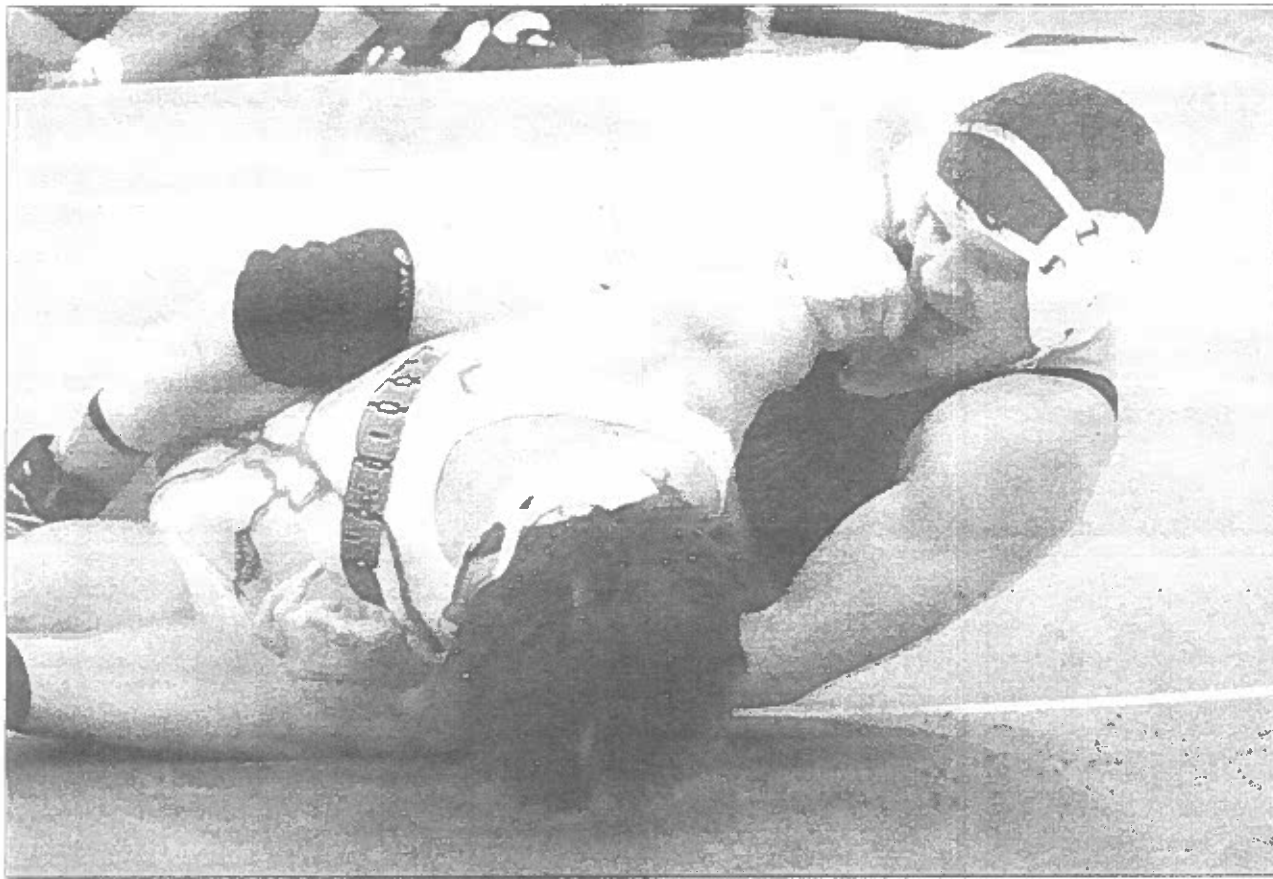
"Our seniors are all stepping up and having good seasons like they're supposed to, and our younger guys are wrestling well," Valentine said. "We like to mix our competition all around in Ohio and see schools of all sizes, and our kids should be well-tested going into this thing."

Defending champion



Photo/Kim North

PICTURED IS Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard who won the 165-pound title last year. He is one of nine defending champions this week as the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament begins. The others are Logan Davis (Oak Glen); Johnathan Huntsman, Dakota King, Reese Stephen and Skyler King (Barnesville) ; and Luca Felix and Brock Kehler (University) and Robert Bucheit (Beaver Local).



Photo/Kim North

LINSLY'S NATHANIEL Berhalter works for back points in the 165-pound finals of the Union Local Rick Link Invitational at Union Local High School earlier this season. Berhalter won the match.

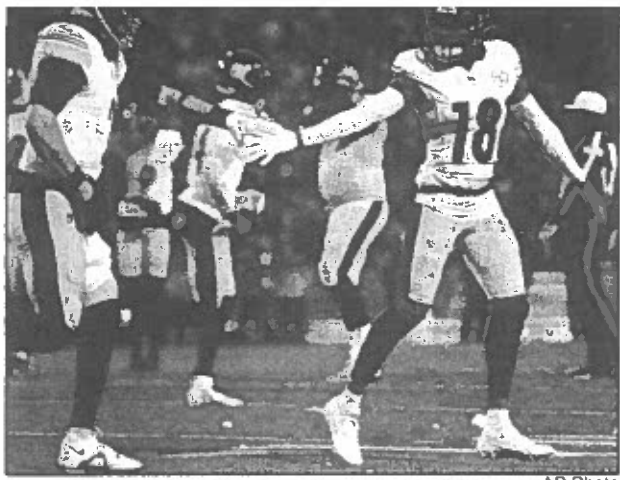
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PITTSBURGH STEELERS wide receiver Diontae Johnson (18) celebrates with quarterback Mason Rudolph (2) after scoring a touchdown during the second quarter of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, in Buffalo, N.Y.

down passes and scored on a franchise playoff-record 52-yard touchdown run, and the Buffalo Bills beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-17 on Monday in an AFC wild-card playoff game that was postponed a day because of a lake-effect blizzard.

The Highmark Stadium stands erupted with snow being tossed into the air like confetti when Allen threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Khalil Shakir with 6:27 remaining that restored a two-touchdown lead for Buffalo. Shakir caught the pass at the 10 over the middle, and then slipped Minkah Fitzpatrick's tackle attempt by spinning around before outracing the rest of the Steelers defenders into the end zone.

with five straight wins, advance to host Patrick Mahomes and the No. 3 seed Kansas City Chiefs in the divisional round on Sunday night.

"We've got a resilient group. The veteran leadership that we have, I really think it's unmatched in the league," Allen said of a team that was 6-6 after an overtime loss to Philadelphia on Nov. 26.

The Bills have longed for a home playoff game against the Chiefs after their 2020 and '21 seasons ended with playoff losses at Kansas City.

"It's going to take a team effort," Allen said. "We know the type of team that they are, obviously the type of quarterback that they have in Pat over there. ... Just thanking God that we get another

yards and ran for 74 yards on eight carries, becoming the first quarterback in NFL playoff history to throw three or more TD passes while rushing for 70 or more yards and a score. He didn't have a turnover for just the fourth time this season.

Mason Rudolph threw two touchdown passes with an interception in his first playoff start for the Steelers (10-8), but Pittsburgh was too inconsistent on either side of the ball to keep up with Allen and the Bills.

The Steelers lost their fifth straight playoff game: the franchise's most recent postseason victory was exactly seven years ago.

See **STEELERS**, Page B2

Officials prep for OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament will take over the main floor inside WesBanco Arena for a three-day stay starting Thursday night. The Olympic-style opening ceremonies kick things off at 6.

According to tournament officials, 423 wrestlers from 42 schools will take to the eight mats and some 850 bouts will be contested before the final buzzer sounds following Saturday afternoon's 14 championship matches, which will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m. Matches for third- and fifth-places will also be held simultaneously.

"The seeding committee did an outstanding job," first-year tournament director Shane Shaffer said during Monday night's press conference where the brackets and top 12 seeds in each weight class were revealed.

"I can't ever remember there being nine returning champions in one year," said Shaffer, who competed in the event during his days at Wheeling Park and coached in it while at Bellaire. "That is an unbelievable number."

Barnesville has four of the defending champions and they all received No. 1 seeds in their respective

weight classes. Leading the way is two-time titlist and Ohio State University signee Dakota King (138). He is joined by one-time champs Johnathan Huntsman (113), Reese Stephen (150) and Ayden King (157).

The Shamrocks have 12 overall seeds.

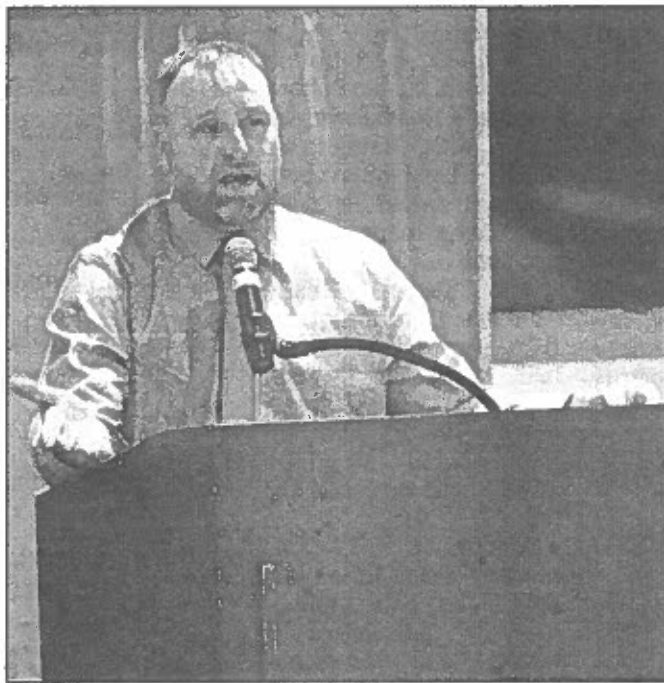
"Everybody knows what type of team we have this year, but seeds aren't everything," veteran Barnesville head coach Jaysdon Stephen allowed. "The guys still have to go out and perform. Just because you're the No. 1 seed doesn't guarantee you're going to make the finals."

"The other guys who are seeded need to win a few matches and the kids that didn't get seeded are just as important because they need to battle through the consolation rounds and pick up points. Last year we had seven placers and four champions and it still wasn't enough to win the overall title."

The Shamrocks (200.5) placed fourth overall a year ago behind W.Va. Class AAA powers Parkersburg South (242.5), University (214) and Wheeling Park (201.5).

The Hawks had all 14 of their wrestlers grab a seed, but head coach Ken Maisel, like Stephen, knows they are just numbers.

"Barnesville, Parkers-



NEW OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament Director Shane Shaffer talks to coaches during Monday night's OVAC Wrestling Press Conference inside WesBanco Arena. The 70th annual begins Thursday night at 6 with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. The championship finals are set for 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

burg South and Steubenville all have good teams," he noted. "It all comes down to the kids going out and performing."

University returns two champions in Luca Felix (175) and Brock Kehler (285). Others are Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120); Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (132) and Wheeling Park's Jasmeson Maynard (175). All received the top seed with the exception of Maynard who is No. 2 behind Parkersburg South's Gage Wright, who is ranked No. 1 nationally.

Wright was a top seed last year but didn't compete due to a foot injury.

Steubenville had 10 total seeds, with one No. 1 in Cooper Smith (144).

"Things went about as we expected," Steubenville head coach Ryan Huffman said. "We've had some success this year, but the kids have to go out and wrestle to the best of their ability."

Also receiving top billing in their weight classes were

University's Pepper Martin (106); John Marshall's Zander Ward (126); Parkersburg South's Brycen Arthur (190); and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215).

Barnesville has claimed four straight Class 3A titles, while Cameron is a two-time Class 1A/2A titlist. Parkersburg South has won 10 overall titles in the 13 years since it joined the conference. Wheeling Park (2022), Beaver Local (2019-4A) and Steubenville (2013-4A). The Wood County Patriots have won the Class 5A crown every year since 20120. Oak Glen and Indian Creek tied for the Class 4A crown last year.

There was no tournament held in 2021 due to COVID. The conference went to five divisions in 2012.

Several distinguished awards will be handed out Thursday through Saturday, including the prestigious Mr. Mat.

Buckeye Local falls to Ferry Purple Riders

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY, Ohio — Martins Ferry started slow offensively for the second game in a row, allowing visiting Buckeye Local to take an early 11-9 lead.

Panthers head coach Bailey McBeth was pleased with the defensive effort early, but a few key fixtures in the second quarter allowed momentum to swing heavily in favor of the Purple Riders.

The result? Ferry outscored rival Buckeye 51-19 on Monday during the middle two periods en route to a 66-42 win, the team's second in a row following Thursday's big win against Union Local.

Buckeye had won two in a row and four of five, but McBeth admitted his team's early defensive efforts began to wane in the second quarter.

"The first quarter was great, our intensity was great, but then we were losing girls (defensively) and lost Lindsey Best a couple of times and when you do that, you are asking for trouble," Beth admitted as his team fell to 8-7. "They got on a roll and were never able to cut into the lead."

Another big factor is senior Brynn McKeever picked up her third foul with 3:26 left in the second quarter. At that point Ferry came back and led 24-15. By the half's end? The Riders held a commanding 35-17 lead.

McKeever picked up her fourth foul with 4:36 in the third and a similar result transpired.

The problem is McKeever's handles and speed allowed Buckeye to get the ball up the floor quickly. Without her steadying presence, Ferry turned up the pressure and turnovers began to mount.

"I don't think we played great tonight, we missed a lot of shots, but when we scored a bucket, it was really like three because we got to press," Martins Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck noted. "Our press was fairly effective."

With McKeever on the floor, Buckeye began the third whittling away at Ferry's lead. She scored five quick points in helping to trim the lead to 15 before she picked up her fourth foul.

Afterward, the Panthers turned it over eight times in the third and trailed 60-30 by quarter's end.

See **RIDERS**, Page B2

River High School Lady Pilots' take down Magnolia Blue Eagles

HANNIBAL — River High rode the hot shooting of Lady Pilots' all-Ohioan Kelsey Harlan and classmate Tessa Prim to earn a 74-26 repeat win over Magnolia at the R.L. Potts gym, Monday night.

Harlan led coach Rick Isaly's 11-2 record crew with 26 points, five assists and four boards, including 14 in the opening quarter and 10 in the third as the Lady Pilots temporarily moved ahead of Monroe Central in the OVAC

2-A race. River led 25-7, 41-13 and 65-19 at the quarter breaks.

Prim backed Harlan with 15 points, frosh Maci Isaly added 11 points with seven steals, while sophomore Zoey Fox had seven points.

Magnolia (0-13) was led by Aubrey Warder and Gabby Hudson with eight and seven points, respectively.

Wheeling Central 62, Monroe Central 57

WOODSFIELD — It was a duel between Wheeling Central's Kaitlyn Blake and Monroe Central's Mayzie Emery on Monday as the Knights won out against the Seminoles.

Blake scored 27 and Emery scored 20 to lead their respective teams.

Blake was joined in double figures by Bella Fitzsimmons with 11 and Haley Severns with 10. Emery was joined in double figures by Jadyn Miller with 12 and Jacey English with 10.

Cameron 68, Hundred 40

HUNDRED — The Dragons came away with a road win over the Hornets on Monday, helped by a double-double from All-State center Ashlynn Van Tassell.

Van Tassell scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the win. Kenzie Clutter scored 12 points, dished four assists and collected four rebounds.

Hundred's Ashlynn Peters led all scorers with 26.

Browns' season crashes in playoffs, but team convinced future bright with Watson

CLEVELAND (AP) — With a wild-card blowout win secured, Houston's rowdy crowd let loose, serenading rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud with "M-V-P!" chants after his stirring playoff debut.

fractured shoulder in November, plugging holes all season because of numerous injuries to key players and rolling behind 38-year-old QB Joe Flacco over the final month, ended with a final rush of pain

disappointment. At some point, the Browns will look back on this season of adversity — four QBs won games — with pride. That's going to take some time. "It definitely is painful."

rehab his right shoulder, coach

Sunday, the present quickly turned to the future.

Such is life in the NFL.

While the timing of Watson's return to the field remains a little unsure as he continues to

completed all 14 passes in the second half to rally the Browns to a 33-31 road win at AFC North champion Baltimore.

There would be no more heroes, but the Browns are convinced more will come from

rehab his right shoulder, coach

Riders

Continued from Page B1

It didn't help that Buckeye began having trouble hitting free throws, and area the Panthers normally hit better than 60 percent as a team.

In the third, the visitors were awarded 18 trips to the line as they attacked the basket off the dribble. The problem is Buckeye converted only nine of those.

"If they are going to give you free opportunities like that, you have to capitalize on them and 50 percent is not a winning formula, for sure," McBeth admitted.

McKeever finished with 14 points and Pam Kandrach added 12 in the loss.

Best, meanwhile, led all scorers

Steelers

Continued from Page B1

Rudolph, a longtime backup, took over for the injured Kenny Pickett and the ineffective Mitch Trubisky to lead the Steelers to three straight wins to close the regular season and was given the playoff start even after Pickett recovered from an ankle injury.

"I'm appreciative of the efforts. But it's not mystical. We didn't do what was required to win tonight," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said, noting that two Steelers turnovers led to the Bills scoring 14 points. "Can't come into an environment like this with a playoff-caliber team and turn the ball over like that and expect to be competitive."

Asked about his future in Pittsburgh after com-

pleting his 17th season — all of them with a record of .500 or better — Tomlin smirked and walked away.

Buffalo had a to wait an extra day to host the Steelers after a dangerous storm that dumped more than 2 feet of snow on the region, leading the NFL to bump the game from its scheduled Sunday afternoon start.

The elements didn't play much of a factor. Though temperatures were in the teens, the skies were clear and there was only a slight breeze blowing in off Lake Erie.

The Steelers came out flat, allowing Buffalo to score touchdowns on three of its first five possessions and build a 21-0 lead on Allen's electrifying touchdown run mid-

with 23 points for the Purple, backed by 13 from Gianna Chirpas, 10 from Lindse Sidon and eight from Lakyn Call.

Despite the slow start offensively in both the first and third quarters, Reasbeck felt positive about the results overall.

"This is our second in a row starting out slow, which was a let down for us because we built up Thursday's game (against UL) pretty big," Reasbeck said. "I saw it coming, but in the second quarter, we scored 26 and that's pretty good."

"We played pretty well. Buckeye is 8-6 and is in second place in 4A in the OVAC, and we were up 35 points before we subbed so I'm not too disappointed."

way through the second quarter.

Rudolph went 22 of 39 for 229 yards with an interception.

Allen's 9-yard touchdown pass to Dawson Knox capped an 80-yard opening drive for the Bills.

After Buffalo linebacker Terrel Bernard recovered receiver George Pickens' fumble at the Pittsburgh 29, Allen threw a TD pass to Dalton Kincaid on the next play.

Allen's touchdown run came after cornerback Kaiir Elam intercepted Rudolph's pass intended for Diontae Johnson in the end zone.

The Steelers finally capitalized on one of the Bills' few errors of the half, when coach Sean McDermott elected to attempt a 49-yard field goal into the wind with a little more than two minutes left.

Montravius Adams blocked Tyler Bass' low kick. The ball squirted some 20 yards into Bills territory and was recovered by Nick Herbig at Buffalo's 33. The Steelers scored five plays later on Rudolph's 10-yard TD pass to Johnson.

LOCAL CARD

Tuesday, Jan. 16
BASKETBALL (BOYS)
Oak Glen at Brooke, 5:45 p.m.
Wheeling Central at Magnolia
Bellaire at Martins Ferry
Cambridge at Union Local
Hundred at Cameron
St. Clairsville at Indian Creek
Monroe Central at Barnesville
Bridgeport at Frontier
Paden City at Valley, 6 p.m.
SWIMMING
Indian Creek at Wheeling Park

SPORTS ON TV

Tuesday, Jan. 16
CHL HOCKEY
11:30 a.m.
NHLN — Geneve-Servette at Lukko Rauma
2 p.m.
NHLN — Vitkovice Ridera at Skelleftea AIK
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
6 p.m.
CBSSN — Samford at Western Carolina
6:30 p.m.
FS1 — Butler at Xavier
7 p.m.
ACCN — Wake Forest at NC State
ESPN — Florida at Tennessee
ESPN2 — Syracuse at Pittsburgh
SECN — Missouri at Alabama
8 p.m.
CBSSN — Saint Louis at Dayton
8:30 p.m.
FS1 — St. John's at Seton Hall
9 p.m.
ACCN — Georgia Tech at Clemson
BTN — Wisconsin at Penn St.
ESPN — Kansas at Oklahoma St.
ESPNU — Georgia at South Carolina
SECN — Texas A&M at Arkansas
10 p.m.
CBSSN — UNLV at Boise St.
10:30 p.m.
FS1 — Utah St. at New Mexico

FIELD HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)
6:30 a.m.
CBSSN — Olympic Qualifier: U.S. vs. New Zealand, Pool B, Ranchi, India

NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT — Denver at Philadelphia
10 p.m.
TNT — Oklahoma City at LA Clippers

TENNIS
3 a.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia
12 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
9 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
3 a.m. (Wednesday)
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
Houston 45, Cleveland 14
Kansas City 26, Miami 7
Sunday, Jan. 14
Green Bay 48, Dallas 32
Detroit 24, L.A. Rams 23
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, ppd. to Jan. 15
Monday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 31, Pittsburgh 17
Tampa Bay 32, Philadelphia 9 (ESPN/ABC)
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 20
Houston at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 21
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 3 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)
Kansas City at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS/Paramount)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 28
AFC
AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 3 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 11
At Las Vegas
TBD, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

NBA

Monday's Games
Philadelphia 124, Houston 115
Dallas 125, New Orleans 120
Detroit 129, Washington 117
Orlando 98, New York 94
Atlanta 109, San Antonio 99
Memphis 116, Golden State 107
Cleveland 109, Chicago 91
Boston 105, Toronto 96
Miami 96, Brooklyn 95, OT
Indiana at Utah, late
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, late
Tuesday's Games
Denver at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

NHL

Monday's Games
Buffalo 3, San Jose 0
Pittsburgh 3, Seattle 0
Columbus 4, Vancouver 3, SO
Boston 3, New Jersey 0
Anaheim 5, Florida 4, OT
Los Angeles 5, Carolina 2
Vegas 4, Nashville 1
Minnesota 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
Montreal 4, Colorado 3
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 2
Tuesday's Games
Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Arizona at Calgary, 9 p.m.

PREP BOXSCORES

GIRLS
Bellaire 50, Shadyside 36
SHADYSIDE (36) — Zdunczyk 0 0-2 0; Tsoras 6 0-0 12; Boltz 0 0-2 0; Hendershot 8 0-0 19; Faulkner 1 0-0 3; 15 0-4 36.
BELLAIRE (50) — Ault 4 0-0 10; Harveth 7 1-3 17; Mason 5 0-1 10; O'Grady 2 7-9 11; Roswon 0 2-2 2; Hines 0 0-2 0; Totals: 18 10-17 50
Three-point goals: Shadyside 6 (Hendershot 5, Faulkner).
Bellaire 4 (Ault 2, Harveth 2)
Wheeling Central 62,
Monroe Central 57
WHEELING CENTRAL (62) — Severns 4 2-4 10; Fitzsimmons 4 1-2 11; Payton 2 4-6 8; Ratcliffe 2 0-0 6; Blake 10 7-9 27; Totals 22 14-21 62.
MONROE CENTRAL (57) — Emery 6 3-4 20; English 3 2-3 10; Miller 5 0-0 12; McFrederick 0 1-2 1; McGarry 1 0-2 2; Bettinger 4 0-0 9; Smitley 1 0-0 3; Totals 20 5-10 57.
Three-point goals: Wheeling Central 4 (Fitzsimmons 2, Ratcliffe 2). Monroe 11 (Emery 5, English 2, Miller 2, Bettinger, Smitley).
River 74 Magnolia 26
RIVER (74) — Hobbs 3 0-0 6; Harlan 11 0-0 26; Reed 1 0-0 2; Isaly 4 2-2 11; Hagan 2 0-0 5; Jones 1 0-0 2; Prim 7 1-1 15; Fox 2 1-3 7; Kilburn 0 0-0 0. Totals 31 4-6 74.
MAGNOLIA (26) — A.Tamborella 0, 0-2 0; Hinkle 0, 1-2 1; M.Tamborella 1, 0-0 2; Nice 0, 0-0 0; Hudson 3, 1-2 7; Warder 3 2-2 8; Renner 0 2-3 2; Delaney 3 0-0 6. Totals 10 6-11 26.
Three-point goals: River 7 (Harlan 4, Fox 2, Isaly 1).
Martins Ferry 66,
Buckeye Local 42

BOYS
Linsly 90, Brooke 60
BROOKE (60) — Yost 0 0-0 0; L. Toepfer 10 12-14 34; P. Toepfer 1 4-5 6; Milam 5 0-0 14; Kimball 0 0-0 0; Urso 0 0-0 0; McKennen 0 0-0 0; Murdock 1 0-0 2; Sagan 1 0-0 2; Provenzano 1 0-0 2; Totals 19 16-19 60.
LINSLY (90) — Petrusic 2 2-2 6; Taylor 6 3-4 15; Kecman 2 0-0 5; Goodwin 9 3-4 25; Lubowa 2 0-0 4; Vaysbakh 4 0-0 11; Murray 3 1-1 8; Salazar 1 0-0 2; Custovic 2 0-0 4; Gill 2 0-0 4; Farin 1 0-0 3; Totals 35 9-11 90

4; Short 2 2-2 6; Carmalt 0 0-0 0; Stock 0 2-2 2; Roset 1 1-2 3; Dombroski 0 0-0 0; Colabelli 0 0-0 0; Westfall 0 0-0 0; Totals: 14 14-25 42.
MARTINS FERRY (66) — Lude 1 1-2 4; Chirpas 5 3-3 13; Sidon 3 2-2 10; Best 7 7-10 23; M. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Koller 1 0-0 2; Call 3 0-0 8; Reese 0 2-2 2; Smith 1 0-0 3; Smith 1 0-0 3; Clark 0 0-0 0; Brandon 0 0-0 0; Shreve 0 0-0 0; Cole 0 0-0 0; G.Lucas 0 1-2 1; Hughes 0 0-0 0; Totals: 21 16-21 66.
Cameron 68, Hundred 40
CAMERON (68) — Clutter 6 0-1 12; Bertram 2 1-2 5; Thomas 1 0-0 2; Schrack 2 0-0 4; Francis 0 0-0 0; E. Dobbs 2 0-0 6; A. Dobbs 0 0-0 0; Neely 5 0-0 10; Littleton 2 0-0 5; Van Tassell 11 0-0 22; Shabdire 1 0-0 2; 32 1-3 68.
HUNDRED (40) — Peters 9 5-6 26; Dean 2 0-0 4; Zarco 0 0-0 0; Goddard 1 0-0 2; Shreve 1 0-0 2; Larue 1 0-0 2; Burdrie 1 0-0 2; Wade 1 0-0 2; Totals 16 5-6 40.
Three-point goals: Cameron 3 (E. Dobbs 2, Littleton). Hundred 3 (Peters 3).

Uniglobe Cruise Night
Thursday, January 25th
1306 Market Street | 6 PM
Come Sail Away and learn more details on our 2024 Group Cruises to Caribbean, Bermuda, New England, West Coast, and Hawaii!
Uniglobe. Ohio Valley Travel
1165 Market Street, Wheeling (304) 232-5171

JEFFERSON COUNTY JVS
1509 Co. Hwy. 22A Bloomingdale, Ohio 43910
ADULT EDUCATION === Winter 2024 TERM

Course	Day	Time	Wks.	Tuition
COMPUTERS iPhone/iPad Basics		Feb. 7th-8th Wed./Thurs. 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1	\$ 20.00 (Pending Instructor)
Android Smartphone/Tablet		Feb. 15th 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1	\$ 10.00
TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL Small Engine Repair		Jan. 25th-Thurs. 6:00-9:00 p.m.	6	\$30.00
Basic Auto Mechanics		Jan. 25th-Thurs. 6:00-9:00 p.m.	8	\$35.00
SPECIAL INTERESTS Handmade Greeting Cards		Jan. 16th-Tues. 6:00-8:30 p.m.	6	FREE (Supplies \$42)
Dance		Jan. 25th-Thurs 5:30-7:30 p.m.	5	Free
Beginner Quilting		Jan. 16th-Tues. 5:00-8:00 p.m.	8	\$ 35.00 (Plus \$10 for Supplies)
Floral Design		Jan. 23rd-Tues. 6:00-8:00 p.m.	5	Free (Blue Supplies)

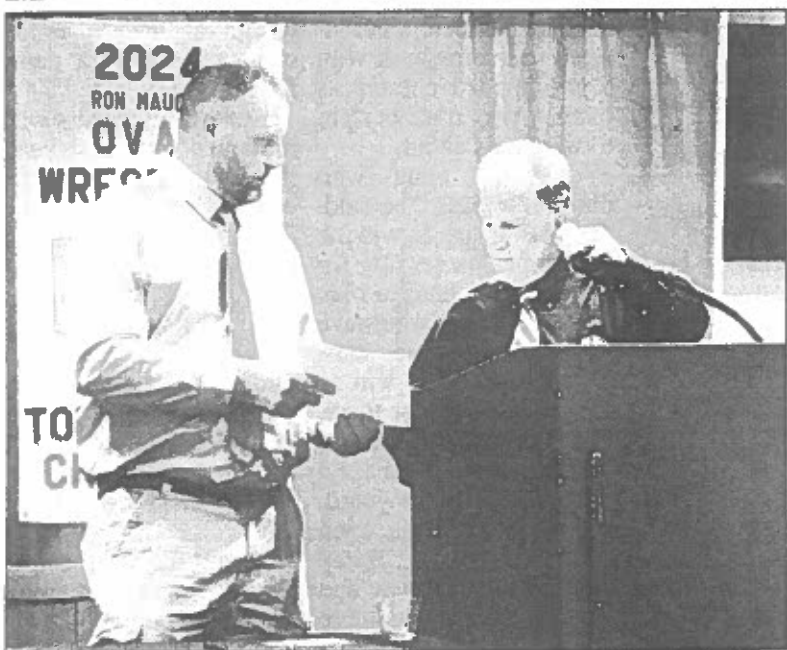


Photo by Kim North

New OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, left, confers with former director Dr. Dan Doyle during Monday night's OVAC Wrestling Press Conference inside WesBanco Arena. The 70th annual begins Thursday night at 6 with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. The championship finals are set for 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Talented Turnout Awaits Packed OVACs 400+ Wrestlers Set To Start Competition Thursday

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - The 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament will take over the main floor inside WesBanco Arena for a three-day stay starting Thursday night. The Olympic-style opening ceremonies kick things off at 6.

According to tournament officials, 423 wrestlers from 42 schools will take to the eight mats and some 850 bouts will be contested before the final buzzer sounds following Saturday afternoon's 14 championship matches, which will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m. Matches for third- and fifth-places will also be held simultaneously.

"The seeding committee did an outstanding job," first-year

tournament director Shane Shaffer said during Monday night's press conference where the brackets and top 12 seeds in each weight class were revealed.

"I can't ever remember there being nine returning champions in one year," said Shaffer, who competed in the event during his days at Wheeling Park and coached in it while at Bellaire. "That is an unbelievable number."

Barnesville has four of the defending champions and they all received No. 1 seeds in their respective weight classes. Leading the way is two-time titlist and Ohio State University signee Dakota King (138). He is joined by one-time champs Johnathan Huntsman (113), Reese Stephen (150)

and Ayden King (157).

The Shamrocks have 12 overall seeds.

"Everybody knows what type of team we have this year, but seeds aren't everything," veteran Barnesville head coach Jaysdon Stephen allowed. "The guys still have to go out and perform. Just because you're the No. 1 seed doesn't guarantee you're going to make the finals."

"The other guys who are seeded need to win a few matches and the kids that didn't get seeded are just as important because they need to battle through the consolation rounds and pick up points. Last year we had seven placers and four champions and it still wasn't enough to win the overall title."

Please see OVACS, Page 10

Linsly Storms Past Bruins In MLK Classic

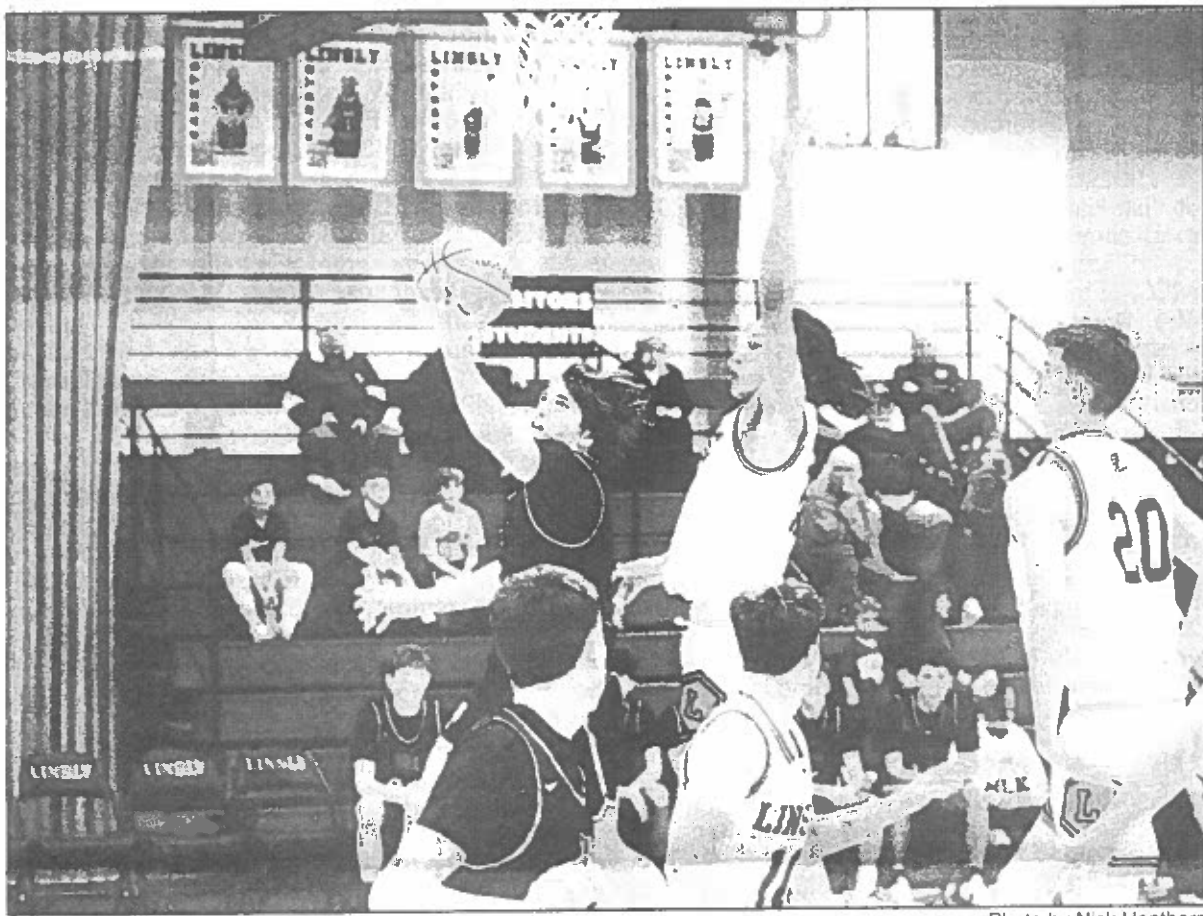


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Brooke's Layton Toepfer soars in for a layup attempt with Linsly's D'arrae Goodwin in hot pursuit Monday during the Bruins' visit to the Cadets in the finale of the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Classic. Toepfer scored 34 points while Goodwin scored 25 in the contest.

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - A day of basketball at the Stifel Field House for Monday's second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Classic capped itself off with the host Linsly Cadets, entering the season undefeated at 12-0, taking on the Brooke Bruins, a team looking to pick up steam after getting pieces back from injury.

While Brooke's Layton Toepfer and Linsly's D'arrae Goodwin duelled for the game-high, Goodwin scoring 25 while Toepfer finished with 34, it was the Cadets' scoring depth which made the difference Monday - a substantial difference - in a 90-60 victory for Linsly.

Toepfer started the game's scoring with a fadeaway jumper from the short corner, and Linsly's Luka Kecman snatched the lead with a 3-pointer not long after.

2-0 turned out to be the only

lead Brooke would hold throughout Monday, with Linsly's white-hot offense shooting 57.1% from the floor and Cadet sharpshooters hitting 11 3-pointers, four off the hands of Goodwin.

"We sort of figured they'd play a zone," Linsly head coach Dave Wojcik said. "They played a zone the whole game, and we're pretty good against a zone. We moved the ball, we can shoot the ball pretty well and you saw that tonight. I just like the way we shared the ball and were able to get open shots for others, that's the big thing."

The Cadets moved the ball around the perimeter against the Bruins' zone defense, dishing 17 assists as a team, nine different Linsly players tallying at least one helper.

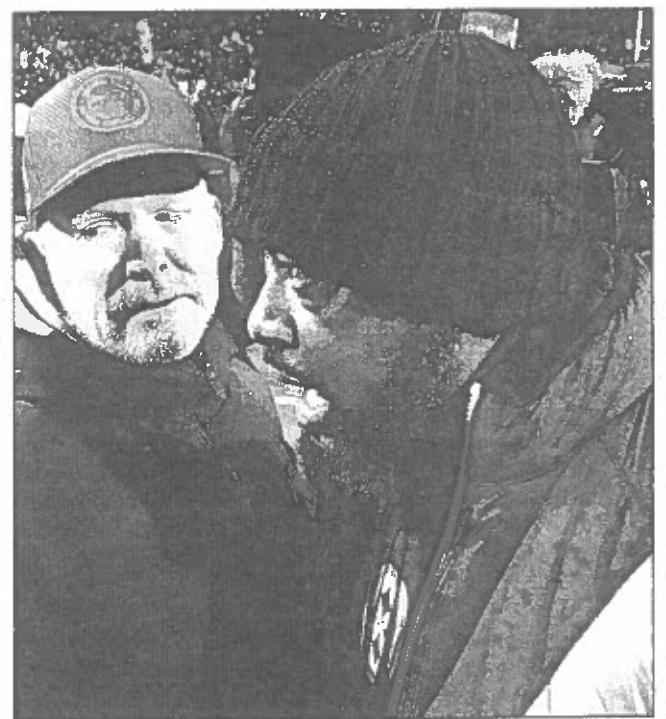
Goodwin's second 3-pointer of the game ended quarter one with Linsly ahead 23-12. The Cadet lead would drop to no more than eight during the sec-

ond half, Brooke moving within single-digits for a spurt in the middle portion of the quarter with Layton Toepfer setting up at the free throw line to chip away at the Linsly lead. Toepfer shot 12-14 from the foul line on the day.

"Layton Toepfer, excellent game, over 30 points," Brooke head coach Adam Shinsky said. "We executed, we kept the floor spread, we scored, but when they're running nine, 10, 11 guys deep who can score, it's a different animal. They're a great team, they're 13-0 for a reason and I think that's the third or fourth undefeated team we've played this season."

Brooke had previously faced Monroe Central, still undefeated, and Wheeling Park, who were undefeated when they played. The Bruins have also faced Morgantown in a grueling slate.

Please see LINSLY, Page 10



AP Photo

Buffalo Bills head coach Sean McDermott, left, and Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin meet at mid field after an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Another Early Playoff Exit For Pittsburgh Steelers In Loss vs. Bills

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) - Mike Tomlin and the Pittsburgh Steelers are in a frustratingly familiar position.

Unable to overcome early mistakes and the absence of star pass rusher T.J. Watt in a 31-17 loss to the Buffalo Bills on Monday night, the Steelers have gone seven years since last winning a playoff game.

The franchise played in its NFL-leading 63rd playoff game since 1970 and is accustomed to contending for Super Bowl championships. But the Steelers (10-8) finished one-and-done for a fourth consecutive postseason appearance.

Not even Mother Nature's role in pushing back the game's start a day after a lake-effect storm dropped more than 2 feet of snow on the Buffalo region could prevent another

early exit.

"I appreciate the efforts of the guys in there," Tomlin said. "But efforts don't get it done."

Mason Rudolph's efforts helped the Steelers win their final three regular-season games and claim the seventh seed in the AFC playoffs. But the backup quarterback struggled in his first postseason appearance in an outing during which the wintry elements hardly played a factor.

Rudolph, who didn't turn the ball over in the regular season, was intercepted in the end zone by Kaiir Elam early in the second quarter. That led to his Bills counterpart Josh Allen scoring on a 52-yard run that put the Steelers in a 21-0 hole.

Please see STEELERS, Page 10

Mountaineers Saving All The Right Things After Snapping Losing Streak

playing with this team in less than two years, completed 22 of 36 passes without an interception. He capped his first playoff appearance since the 2020 season with a 23-yard TD pass to Chris Godwin.

Mayfield said the communication by the offense throughout the week made things feel comfortable during the game.

"Everybody was on the same page, knowing what we were going to do offensively, schematically," Mayfield said. "Came out and attacked. Obviously, got to make a few more plays overall on offense, but we made more than enough to win tonight."

It was a disappointing

TD before being replaced by backup Marcus Mariota in the final minute.

The Bucs, who lost to the Lions 20-6 in Week 6, regrouped following a stretch in which they lost six of seven games to go 5-1 over the last six weeks of the regular season to win their third straight NFC South title and clinch a franchise-record fourth consecutive playoff berth.

The Eagles entered Monday night looking for a solution to what ailed them during a stunning about-face that saw them go 1-5 down the stretch after a 10-1 start to the season that included a dominant 14-point victory over

Chase McLaughlin

kicked field goals of 28, 54 and 48 yards, the latter extending Tampa Bay's lead to 16-3 late in the second quarter. The Eagles cut into their deficit with Hurts using a 55-yard completion to DeVonta Smith to set up a 5-yard scoring pass to Dallas Goedert.

The score remained 16-9, though. Philadelphia coach Nick Sirianni took Jake Elliott's conversion kick off the board after the Bucs were penalized for offsides. The Eagles lined up to go for 2 points from the 1-yard line, but Tampa Bay stopped Hurts for no gain.

Smith finished with eight receptions for 148 yards.

Huffman said. "We've had some success this year, but the kids have to go out and wrestle to the best of their ability."

Also receiving top billing in their weight classes were University's Pepper Martin (106); John Marshall's Zander Ward (126); Parkersburg South's Brycen Arthur (190); and Harrison Central's Lucas Thomas (215).

Barnesville has claimed four straight Class 3A titles, while Cameron is a two-time Class 1A/2A titlist. Parkersburg South has won 10 overall titles in the 13 years since it joined the conference. Wheeling Park (2022), Beaver Local (2019-4A) and Steubenville (2013-4A). The Wood County Patriots have won the Class 5A crown every year since 20120. Oak Glen and Indian Creek tied for the Class 4A crown last year.

There was no tournament held in 2021 due to COVID. The conference went to five divisions in 2012.

Several distinguished awards will be handed out Thursday through Saturday, including the prestigious Mr. Mat.

Hilltopper Football Places Two D-II All-Americans

BROOKFIELD, Ill. - The Don Hansen Football Committee released their 2023 NCAA Division II Football All-America teams on Monday afternoon with Rashawn Harvey and Cam Rice gaining recognition for West Liberty University.

In 2023 Harvey was named to the All-MEC First Team, marking the first all-conference selection of his career. Not only was he one of the top wide outs in the Mountain East Conference, but also in NCAA Division II.

He led the conference in receiving yards per game (971.1) and total receiving yards (971), ranking eighth and 15th nationally in those categories.

He was also second in the league in receptions per game (7.1) and receiving touchdowns (8), ranking eighth and 28th respectively in DII.

Harvey recorded 100 or more receiving yards on five occasions, in-

cluding a career-high of 169 yards in the season-opener at Walsh. He scored touchdowns in the first six games of the season and tallied two in each of the first two contests of the season.

This season Rice was named to the D2Football.com Elite 100, was a Cliff Harris Award finalist, Harlon Hill Trophy nominee, named All-Super Region 1 Second Team (D2CCA) and All-MEC First Team, earned three MEC Defensive Player of the Week accolades, and was once named the D2Football.com National Defensive Player of the Week.

While totaling 58.0 tackles on the year he also made his presence known in the backfield all season long as he notched 23.5 tackles-for-loss and 9.0 sacks.

In addition, he forced four fumbles, blocked two kicks, and intercepted two passes, returning both picks for touchdowns in the season

finale against Wheeling.

Rice ended the year ranked first nationally in tackles-for-loss per game (2.4), third in total tackles-for-loss, tied for fourth in total forced fumbles, tied for fifth in forced fumbles per game (0.40), tied for tenth in sacks per game (0.90), tied for 16th in blocked kicks, and tied for 20th in the country in total sacks.

He posted career-highs of 10.0 tackles, 4.5 tackles-for-loss (three times), and 3.0 sacks during the year.

The Don Hansen team carries out the legacy of long-time small college football advocate Don Hansen, who passed away at age 75 on August 29, 2010.

Hansen, from Brookfield, Illinois, started and published Don Hansen's National Weekly Football Gazette for three decades, selecting NCAA Division II All-America teams for the first time in 1988.

River Blows By Magnolia; Central Picks Up Road Win

HANNIBAL - River High rode the hot shooting of Lady Pilots all-Ohioan Kelsey Harlan and classmate Tessa Prim to earn a 74-26 repeat win over Magnolia at the R.L. Potts gym, Monday night.

Harlan led coach Rick Isaly's 11-2 record crew with 26 points, five assists and four boards, including 14 in the opening quarter and 10 in the third as the Lady Pilots temporarily moved ahead of Monroe Central in the

OVAC 2-A race. River led 25-7, 41-13 and 65-19 at the quarter breaks.

Prim backed Harlan with 15 points, frosh Maci Isaly added 11 points with seven steals, while sophomore Zoey Fox had seven points.

Magnolia (0-13) was led by Aubrey Warder and Gabby Hudson with eight and seven points, respectively.

Wheeling Central 62, Monroe Central 57
WOODSFIELD

It was a duel between Wheeling Central's Kaitlyn Blake and Monroe Central's Mayzie Emery on Monday as the Knights won out against the Seminoles.

Blake scored 27 and Emery scored 20 to lead their respective teams.

Blake was joined in double figures by Bella Fitzsimmons with 11 and Haley Severns with 10. Emery was joined in double figures by Jadyn Miller with 12 and Jacey English with 10.

Cameron 68, Hundred 40

HUNDRED - The Dragons came away with a road win over the Hornets on Monday, helped by a double-double from All-State center Ashlynn Van Tassell.

Van Tassell scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the win. Kenzie Clutter scored 12 points, dished four assists and collected four rebounds.

Hundred's Ashlynn Peters led all scorers with 26.

STEELERS

(Continued from Page 9)

And Buffalo's second touchdown of the first quarter came one play after Steelers receiver George Pickens fumbled in Pittsburgh territory.

"We spotted them early in the football game via the turnovers," Tomlin said. "Can't come into an environment like this with a playoff-caliber team and turn the ball over like that and expect to be competitive."

Meanwhile, Pittsburgh's defense without Watt could not come up with any takeaways in dropping to 1-11 when the three-time All-Pro and the 2021 Defensive Player of the Year is sidelined. The Steelers also had uncharacteristic missed several tackles, including on Allen's scoring run, and a touchdown pass to Khalil Shakir in the fourth quarter.

"In that type of game, you've got to get turnovers, and you've got to hold onto the ball," Steelers defensive tackle Cam-

eron Heyward said.

Pittsburgh mounted a rally after Montravious Adams blocked a 49-yard field goal attempt by Buffalo's Tyler Bass late in the second quarter. Rudolph capped a five-play, 33-yard drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Diontae Johnson with 1:39 left in the half.

Pittsburgh would proceed to score on three straight possessions in cutting Buffalo's lead to 24-17 on Calvin Austin's 7-yard touchdown catch with 10:32 remaining.

But the comeback bid unraveled some four minutes later when Shakir shook off Pittsburgh cornerback Minkah Fitzpatrick and eluded the rest of the Steelers' secondary for a touchdown that eventually sealed the game.

"When we got it down to seven points, I thought we were going to make a run," Heyward said. "It comes back to the defense. We got some pen-

alties that kept the drive alive. And we didn't get off the field, and a missed tackle led to a touchdown."

In their past five playoff losses, beginning with the 2016 AFC championship game, the Steelers have been outscored 202-134 and allowed 31 or more points in each loss.

This season, the Steelers responded from a three-game losing skid to win three in a row and finish with a .500 or better record for the 17th consecutive season under Tomlin.

But having finished a season behind AFC North rivals in Baltimore and Cleveland, and conference rivals such as Buffalo, the Steelers enter an off-season of uncertainty.

Tomlin walked off the podium when asked about his status with one year remaining on his contract.

"Every player in there wouldn't be anything without Mike T," said Heyward, a defensive

captain. "This group would not function to even get to a playoff berth without Mike T. ... I wouldn't want to play for any other coach."

Rudolph could not say whether he will be back with the Steelers after six seasons.

The 34-year-old Heyward said he needs to focus on getting healthy after battling groin injuries in his 13th season. He grew emotional when talking about restoring the Super Bowl standard the Steelers established when Heyward entered the NFL.

"That's the thing that bugs me the most at night, not having an opportunity to have a Super Bowl," Heyward said. "Seeing the culture and the tradition here. Every man should feel that way."

"It stings to be out of the playoffs, to not have a chance to continue to move on and I'm not ready to give that up."

OVACS

(Continued from Page 9)

The Shamrocks (200.5) placed fourth overall a year ago behind W.Va. Class AAA powers Parkersburg South (242.5), University (214) and Wheeling Park (201.5).

The Hawks had all 14 of their wrestlers grab a seed, but head coach Ken Maisel, like Stephen, knows they are just numbers.

"Barnesville, Parkersburg South and Steubenville all have good teams," he noted. "It all comes down to the kids going out and performing."

University returns two champions in Luca Felix (175) and Brock Kehler (285). Others are Oak Glen's Logan Davis (120); Beaver Local's Robert Buccheit (132) and Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard (175). All received the top seed with the exception of Maynard who is No. 2 behind Parkersburg South's Gage Wright, who is ranked No. 1 nationally.

Wright was a top seed last year but didn't compete due to a foot injury.

Steubenville had 10 total seeds, with one No. 1 in Cooper Smith (144).

"Things went about as we expected," Steubenville head coach Ryan

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 9)

"We've played a brutal schedule," Shinsky said. "This was our fourth game with our full starting lineup, we've had some injuries and some sickness, but it's only going to get better for us, that's why we schedule these games, to be prepared for the long haul."

Linsly did their damage with 12 different players working their way into the scoring column. Will Taylor followed Goodwin with 15 points, also tallying three rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block. Jonah Vaysbakh scored 11 points, making three 3's. Jaxon Murray scored eight points and tallied three assists. Uros Petrusic scored six points and grabbed six rebounds and a block.

Goodwin led the team in scoring and rebounding, finishing with seven boards along with two assists and two steals.

For the visiting Bruins, Toepfer's 34 points and five rebounds was complemented by 14 points from Garrett Milam, who

Suemnick paid homage to his former coach.

"I came here under Huggs, that toughness, that physicality. Like I said before the season, that's something I hope to try to inspire our guys with and to keep that defensive mentality up," he said.

He got the word across Saturday and now must take it on the road with him to Oklahoma on Wednesday night to face a Sooner team that was ranked as high as No. 9 but who now owns two straight tough road losses and can't want to get home.

And finally, there was Suemnick, taking a moment to offer up what has been behind his surge when finally getting a

New Coaches, New Program Introduced At OVAC Wrestling Preseason Meeting

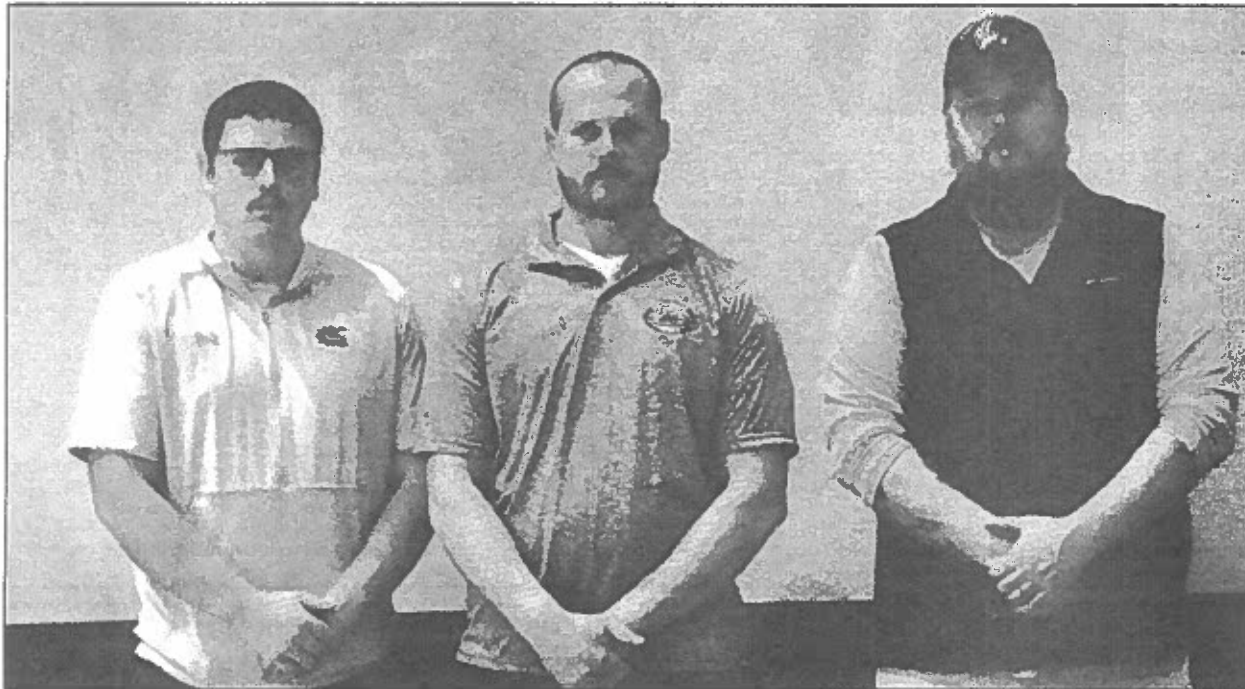


Photo by Kim North

There will be five new coaches and one new program when the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament begins on Jan. 18-20 inside WesBanco Arena. Three of the new coaches are pictured. From left are Derek Martin, Cameron; Justin Rossiter, Shenandoah; and Andrew Jackson, Frontier. The Cougars will be making their OVAC debut. Not pictured are Brian Bullock (Dover) and Garrett Davis (Marietta).

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

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the Olympic-style opening ceremonies and concludes on Sat., Jan. 20 with the championship finals.

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plained. "We've also got about 20 kids in our youth program, as well."

As for his goals, Jackson would like to see the kids have a chance to go to the state tournament," he stressed.

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AP Photo

West Virginia head coach Neal Brown speaks with his team during the second half of their game against BYU on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, in Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia won 37-7.

Brown, Mountaineers On "Quest To Be At Our Best"

By **BOB HERTZEL**
WV News

MORGANTOWN — He came to town five years asking the West Virginia fans to "trust the climb" and they eagerly agreed to do so, neither of them realizing just how difficult it would be as the game of college football changed around them.

At the start it was a catchy motto, "Trust the climb", but with COVID-19 and NIL and a transfer portal and an expanding league that was part of revising the entire college landscape, the hill became a mountain.

That should have pleased a school and team with the nickname "Mountaineers", but that climb

wasn't being made as if on an ATV speeding up the side of that mountain. Instead, it was a snail climbing Mount Everest and the natives got restless.

This seemed as though it would be the final year. picked 14th and last in the new-look Big 12, but Neal Brown turned that preseason media prediction into a fuel for the fire that would glow hot from within the Puskar Center as West Virginia overcame an opening loss to Penn State, a national contender, to a team that was one Hail Mary pass away from heading for Oklahoma this week at 7-2 instead of 6-3 and as a one-loss team in the Big 12.

Please see QUEST, Page 10

MVP, Cy Young Finalists Released

Winners To Be Announced Next Week

NEW YORK (AP) — Two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani is a finalist for the AL MVP award, along with teammates Corey Seager and Marcus Semien of the World Series champion Texas Rangers.

Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. headlines the remaining contenders for the National League prize, joined by Los Angeles Dodgers teammates Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman.

The top three finishers in voting for each of the major individual awards presented annually by the Baseball Writers' Association of America were announced Monday night on MLB Network. All winners will be revealed next week.

New York Yankees ace Gerrit Cole, Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Kevin Gausman and Minnesota Twins right-hander Sonny Gray are finalists for the American League Cy Young Award.

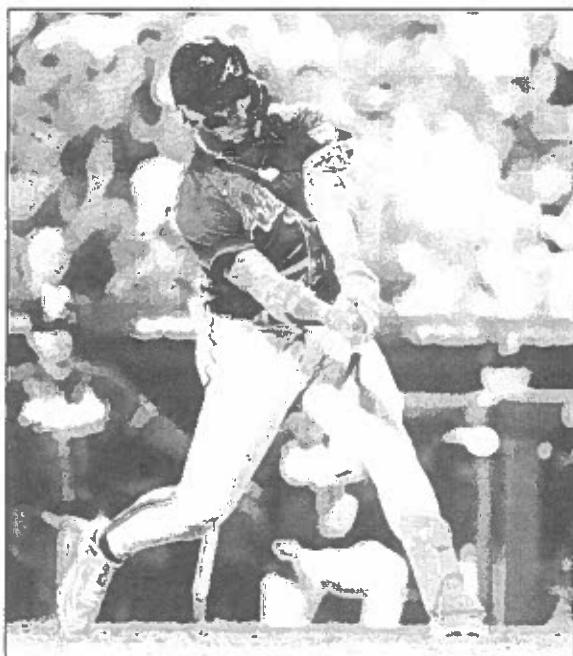
Diego Padres and Logan Webb of the San Francisco Giants.

For AL Rookie of the Year, it's down to Cleveland Guardians pitcher Tanner Bibee, Boston Red Sox first baseman Triston Casas and Baltimore Orioles infielder Gunnar Henderson.

The remaining NL Rookie of the Year candidates are Diamondbacks outfielder Corbin Carroll, Dodgers center fielder James Outman and New York Mets pitcher Kodai Senga.

Still up for AL Manager of the Year are first-year Texas manager Bruce Bochy, Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash and Baltimore's Brandon Hyde.

Finalists in the National League include Milwaukee skipper Craig Counsell, who left his hometown team Monday to manage the rival Chicago Cubs, along with Skip Schumaker of the Miami Marlins and Brian Snitker of the



AP Photo

Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. hits a single during the fourth inning in Game 3 of the NL Division Series against the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Philadelphia.

is a strong front-runner to win his second AL MVP award in three years even though his season with the Los Angeles Angels ended Sept. 3 because of injuries.

At the plate, he batted .304 with an AL-high 44 homers and 95 RBIs, leading the majors in OPS at 1.066. On the mound, he went 10-5 with a 3.14 ERA and 167 strikeouts in

on his right elbow, Ohtani is not expected to pitch next season. But his surgeon has said Ohtani should be able to hit in 2024 before returning to the mound in 2025.

His agent, Nez Ballelo, has said Ohtani is determined to continue his two-way career after recovering from surgery.

Last year, Ohtani finished second to Yankees

Local Runners Finish Season At Ohio State Championship

From **STAFF**
REPORTS

O BETZ - Fortress Obetz was the site of Saturday's OHSAA Cross Country State Championship, with runners from St. Clairsville, River and Shadyside taking part in the final race of the 2023 season.

St. Clairsville's Ben Shields, River's Mara Beard and Shadyside's Chloe Melholovitch finished up their cross country seasons - and in the case of Beard and Shields, their cross country careers - on the state-wide stage, all among a field of over 180 runners from across Ohio.

Shields, a senior for the

Red Devils, finished 25th on Saturday, running a 16:19 in the Division 2 race of 182 competitors.

Marlington placed first in the Division 2 boys team standings, followed by Woodridge and Fairfield Union.

Beard, a senior for the Pilots, placed 45th in the Division 3 race, running a 19:42, while Shadyside Tigers freshman Chloe Melholovitch ran a 19:50 in the same division to place 51st. 185 runners took part in Saturday's girls Division 3 race.

Minster placed first amongst the Division 3 girls teams, followed by Rittman and West Liberty-Salem.

Barnesville And Indian Creek Represented On All-State Teams

From **STAFF**
REPORTS

Two area players were included in the 2023 All-Ohio Volleyball Teams, released on Sunday by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association.

Indian Creek's Tori Robertson was named an honorable mention in Division 2, while Barnesville's Ava McFarland was named an

finished first on her team in serving aces and second in digs.

The Shamrocks have had winning seasons each of the last three years with McFarland.

Robertson, a senior hitter for Indian Creek, finished with over 320 kills and nearly 300 digs this season, helping lead her team to the District Semi-

Counsel/B5
Comics/B6
Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Tuesday,
November 7, 2023

Frontier's Startup Wrestling Program Highlights OVAC Presser

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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See FRONTIER, Page B2



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Photo by KIM NORTH

He drives pickup trucks, lives in a rural area of North Carolina, wears flannel and grew a playoff beard that Penske driver and reigning Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden said made Blaney look "like an 1800's U.S. president. I can't look away. It's magical, it's so not Penske."

Penske wants the beard to go, and Blaney said after the race he will shave it before next season. But he's as blue collar as they come and as relatable to a die-hard NASCAR fan as the late Dale Earnhardt.

"I think his limits are the sky," said Penske, who likened him to four-time Indy 500 winner and Penske stalwart Rick Mears. "He's a soft-spoken guy, really, but when he gets behind the wheel, like Joey, when he puts his hat on, don't get in his way. He's only getting better and better. He's got the confidence. He's a leader. He's a winner and a champion. He's got a long way to go, a long way."

WVU & OSU Basketball

December 30, 2023

Motor coach to Cleveland's Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse to see the WVU Mountaineers and Ohio State Buckeyes face-off.

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Frontier

Continued from Page B1

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part in the final race of the 2023 season.

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Robertson was also named first team All-District in Ohio Division II, District 5.

Freshman JuJu Watkins explodes for 32 in debut to lead USC past Ohio State 83-74

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Freshman JuJu Watkins scored 32 points in her college debut, lifting No. 21 Southern California over No. 7 Ohio State 83-74 Monday in the season opener for both teams.

"I'm lost for words right now. I'm still kind of processing everything," Watkins said. "But at the end of the day, this whole team is a bunch of ballers, so whenever we get the chance to compete against a top 10 team, any team really, we're ready, we prep the right way, we do what we need to do, and we get out on the court and we show the world what we can do."

Watkins, one of the nation's highest regarded incoming freshmen, finished 11 of 18 from the floor with six rebounds and five assists.

Watkins made her first college bucket a little more than a minute into the game and went on to score 16 points in the first half.

Rayah Marshall had 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Trojans while McKenzie Forbes scored 11 points.

"They're just really consistent people, they're consistent players," USC coach Lindsay Gottlieb said. "They don't get easily rattled."

Jacy Sheldon led the Buck-

eyes with 28 points on 10-of-19 shooting, and Taylor Thierry scored 16.

After seeing their 19-point lead disappear when Ohio State outscored them 30-10 in the third quarter, the Trojans opened the fourth on a 13-4 run to seize control and hold off the Buckeyes.

USC shot an impressive 12 of 18 in the second quarter and finished the first half hitting 18 of 35, including 4 of 11 from 3-point range.

After hitting a lukewarm 35.2% from the floor in the first quarter, the Buckeyes went ice cold and shot just 2 of 10 in the second quarter.

Marshall didn't make it easy on the Buckeyes, as she had four steals in the second and converted two of them into breakaway buckets. The Trojans finished with 10 points off turnovers in the first half, and outscored Ohio State in the paint, 26-6. USC also dominated the Buckeyes on the boards, outrebounding them 27-11.

"We didn't come out with energy like we normally do and ready to go, and they did," Sheldon said.

Las Vegas' Aaliyah Gayles, who was shot more than a dozen times in April of 2022, dressed for USC but did not play.

BIG PICTURE

USC: The Trojans' Ivy League transfer trio of Forbes (Harvard), Kayla Padilla (Penn) and Kaitlyn Davis (Columbia) made their presence felt in their USC debuts, too, combining for 23 points on 6-of-19 shooting.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes averaged 35.3 rebounds per game last season and ranked 251st in the nation with a -2.2 rebounding margin. Monday they were outrebounded 43-28 by the Trojans.

UP NEXT

USC: Hosts Florida Gulf Coast on Friday

Ohio State: Hosts IUPUI on Sunday

Guardians hire former catcher Stephen Vogt as their new manager, gets 3-year contract



CLEVELAND (AP) — The Guardians replaced the winningest manager in club history with one

mid-October with the Guardians, who were so impressed that they immediately scheduled a second.

A two-time All-Star, Vogt played