

OVAC wrestlers shine vs. Pa. st

By JEREMY MIDEI
Times Leader Sports Writer

The all-stars of Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling shone brightly in the final chapter of the 2004 season, defeating Pennsylvania's Midwestern Athletic Conference's all-stars, 36-12, at the Brooke Fieldhouse Wednesday night.

The OVAC won 10 of 14 matches against its Keystone State counterpart; last season, the team comprised of wrestlers from Ohio and West Virginia won the dual, 45-12.

Buckeye Local's Jimmy Young set the tone in the meet's opening match, dismantling Montour's Mike Smith, 7-2, at 103 pounds. Anthony Valles of Weirton Madonna kept the ball rolling for the OVAC with a six-point win over Southside's Tom Cuneu at 112 pounds.

Valles held a 13-4 lead in the third period, but was on his back for the last 1:30 of the match. He fought off Cuneu's pinfall attempt and won, 13-7. Valles finished with 140 wins in his career and capped his senior season with a fifth-place finish at the West Virginia state tournament at 119.

119-pound OVAC champ and state runner-up Brian Humphrey grabbed an



11-4 win over Hopewell's Chad Jodkinos. The Wheeling Park senior has 130 career wins.

At 125, Brooke's own Jon McFarland needed a takedown in overtime to dispatch Freedom's Joey Rosenberger, 8-6. Rosenberger picked up four back points as the third period wound down to force the extra frame.

Harrison Central's Jesse Emery gave up the first two points in his 130-pound match against Southside's Josh Bable, but recovered for a 13-8 win. Emery finished fifth in the state and third in the OVAC this past season.

Emery was named the OVAC's most

valuable wrestler.

Brooke's 135-pounder Braden Shaw was the OVAC champ in his class and also finished as the runner-up at West Virginia's state tourney. He won 11-9 in a see-saw battle against Mars' Steve Perri. Shaw finished with over 130 career wins.

The OVAC's first loss occurred at 140 pounds. Ronnie Wilson of Ambridge picked up a narrow decision over Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson, 5-3, and the MAC made it two straight as Cameron's state and OVAC champion Casey Hughes fell to West Allegheny's Kirk Campbell, 3-1.

Ferguson had over 120 wins in his Seminole career, while Hughes finished at 41-0 this season and 158-26 over a four-year span.

Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman got the OVAC back on track with a 5-4 win over Southside's Mike Nale. Bowman has 126 wins in his Panther career and was the OVAC champ at 152 this season. He rode out Nale in the final 15 seconds to preserve the win.

Bowman's win was sandwiched by two consecutive MAC victories. At 160, St. John Central's Chris Case dropped an overtime match to Seneca Valley's Blake Rice, and three-time

Pennsylvania state champ Kurt Brenner decimated Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt, 5-1, at 171 pounds.

Case was the runner-up at the OVAC tournament and finished fourth in Ohio this season, while Burkhardt was also the OVAC runner-up in his class. Both had well over 100 wins in their respective careers.

Brenner was the MAC's meet MVP.

Another Shadyside wrestler, Bobby Samsa, won 5-3 over Laural's Pat Turco at 189-pounds. Samsa trailed 3-2, but an escape and takedown in the third period gave him the victory.

Samsa, with over 140 career wins, finished second at the OVAC tournament.

The OVAC finished with a bang, picking up pins in the final two matches.

Shenandoah's Brad Hannahs needed only 2:21 to pin Southside's Shane Checkan at 215 pounds. The Zep senior was leading 2-1 at the time.

Heavyweight Koel Davia needed 4:52 to pin Ambridge's Eric Vanya. Davia built a 9-1 lead before picking up with pinfall.

Davia is a three-time state champion and set the Ohio Valley record for career wins; he has 167.

Oak Glen's OVAC all-stars St. John Central, Buckeye Local, Shenandoah's M

Results
103 - Jimmy Y. Smith (MAC), 7-2.

112 - Anthony V Cuneu (MAC), 13-7

119 - Brian Humphrey (MAC), 9-

125 - Jon McFarland (MAC)

130 - Jesse Emery (MAC), 13-6.

135 - Braden Shaw (MAC), 11-9.

140 - Ronnie Wilson (OVAC), 1-

145 - Kirk Campbell (OVAC), 3-

152 - Brock Bowman (MAC), 5-4.

160 - Blake Rice (OVAC), 4-2 (OT).

171 - Kurt Brenner (OVAC), 5-

189 - Bobby Samsa (MAC), 5-3.

215 - Brad Hannahs (MAC), 2-2

275 - Koel Davia (MAC), 4-34.

Ohio Valley wrestlers shine vs. Pa. stars



Ohio Valley Athletic Conference brightly in 2004 season, with Midwestern stars, 36-12, on Wednesday

of 14 matches; counterpart; comprised of West Virginia

Jimmy Young set evening match, Mike Smith, 7-0, Tony Valles of the ball rolling joint win over 112 pounds. David in the third week for the first time fought off David won, 13-7. 11 wins in his senior season with West Virginia

champion and state champion grabbed an

11-4 win over Hopewell's Chad Jodkinos. The Wheeling Park senior has 130 career wins.

At 125, Brooke's own Jon McFarland needed a takedown in overtime to dispatch Freedom's Joey Rosenberger, 8-6. Rosenberger picked up four back points as the third period wound down to force the extra frame.

Harrison Central's Jesse Emery gave up the first two points in his 130-pound match against Southside's Josh Bable, but recovered for a 13-8 win. Emery finished fifth in the state and third in the OVAC this past season.

Emery was named the OVAC's most

valuable wrestler.

Brooke's 135-pounder Braden Shaw was the OVAC champ in his class and also finished as the runner-up at West Virginia's state tourney. He won 11-9 in a see-saw battle against Mars' Steve Perri. Shaw finished with over 130 career wins.

The OVAC's first loss occurred at 140 pounds. Ronnie Wilson of Ambridge picked up a narrow decision over Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson, 5-3, and the MAC made it two straight as Cameron's state and OVAC champion Casey Hughes fell to West Allegheny's Kirk Campbell, 3-1.

Ferguson had over 120 wins in his Seminole career, while Hughes finished at 41-0 this season and 138-26 over a four-year span.

Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman got the OVAC back on track with a 5-4 win over Southside's Mike Nale. Bowman has 120 wins in his Panther career and was the OVAC champ at 152 this season. He rode out Nale in the final 15 seconds to preserve the win.

Bowman's win was sandwiched by two consecutive MAC victories. At 160, St. John Central's Chris Case dropped an overtime match to Seneca Valley's Blake Rice, and three-time

Pennsylvania state champ Kurt Brenner decisioned Shadyside's Luke Burkhardt, 5-1, at 171 pounds.

Case was the runner-up at the OVAC tournament and finished fourth in Ohio this season, while Burkhardt was also the OVAC runner-up in his class. Both had well over 100 wins in their respective careers.

Brenner was the MAC's meet MVP.

Another Shadyside wrestler, Bobby Samsa, won 5-3 over Laural's Pat Turco at 189-pounds. Samsa trailed 3-2, but an escape and takedown in the third period gave him the victory.

Samsa, with over 140 career wins, finished second at the OVAC tournament.

The OVAC finished with a bang, picking up pins in the final two matches.

Shenandoah's Brad Hannahs needed only 2:21 to pin Southside's Shane Checkan at 215 pounds. The Zep senior was leading 2-1 at the time.

Heavyweight Koel Davia needed 4:52 to pin Ambridge's Eric Vanya. Davia built a 9-1 lead before picking up with pinfall.

Davia is a three-time state champion and set the Ohio Valley record for career wins; he has 167.

Oak Glen's Larry Shaw coached the OVAC all-stars, with assistance from St. John Central's Andrew LaMotte, Buckeye Local's Brian Davis and Shenandoah's Mike Waite.

Results:

- 103 - Jimmy Young (OVAC) dec. Mike Smith (MAC), 7-2.
- 112 - Anthony Valles (OVAC) dec. Tom Cuneu (MAC), 13-7.
- 119 - Brian Humphrey (OVAC) dec. Chad Jodkinos (MAC), 9-4.
- 125 - Jon McFarland (OVAC) dec. Joey Rosenberger (MAC), 8-6 (OT).
- 130 - Jesse Emery (OVAC) dec. Josh Bable (MAC), 13-6.
- 135 - Braden Shaw (OVAC) dec. Steve Perri (MAC), 11-9.
- 140 - Ronnie Wilson (MAC) dec. Ryan Ferguson (OVAC), 5-3.
- 145 - Kirk Campbell (MAC) dec. Casey Hughes (OVAC), 3-1.
- 152 - Brock Bowman (OVAC) dec. Mike Nale (MAC), 5-4.
- 160 - Blake Rice (MAC) dec. Chris Case (OVAC), 4-2 (OT).
- 171 - Kurt Brenner (MAC) dec. Luke Burkhardt (OVAC), 5-1.
- 189 - Bobby Samsa (OVAC) dec. Pat Turco (MAC), 5-3.
- 215 - Brad Hannahs (OVAC) pinned Shane Checkan (MAC), 2:21.
- 275 - Koel Davia (OVAC) pinned Eric Vanya (MAC), 4:34.

OVAC to face MAC on mats

- OVAC team has eight local seniors

The best senior wrestlers of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will take to the mats Wednesday night at Brooke High School, grappling with the best of MAC of western Pennsylvania.

The meet will get under way at 7 p.m. with one match in all 14 weight classes.

The OVAC will be coached by Oak Glen's Larry Shaw, Buckeye Local's Brian Davis, Shenandoah's Mike Waite and St. John Central's Chic LaMotte.

The 103-pound match pits Buckeye Local's Jimmy Young against Montour High School's Mike Smith.

Weirton Madonna's Anthony Valles will represent the area at 112 pounds. He will meet South Side's Tom Cuneo.

Wheeling Park's Brian Humphrey is the entrant at 119 pounds. He put together a career record of 130-37 and won the OVAC title this past winter. He will meet Hopewell's Chad Jodikinos.

Brooke's John McFarland and his 125-42 career record will meet Joey Rosenberger in the 125-pound match.

Harrison Central's Jesse Emery will be the OVAC representative at 130 pounds. He will meet South Side's Josh Bable.

Brooke's Braden Shaw will wrestle at 135 pounds. He put together a career record of 134-21 and won two OVAC titles and a state title this past winter.

At 140 pounds, Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson will meet Ronnie Wilson of Ambridge. Ferguson -- who qualified to the state tournament this past winter -- owns a career record of 122-37.

Cameron's Casey Hughes -- who won a state title this season -- will meet West Allegheny's Kirk Campbell. Hughes has a career record of 138-26.

Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman will represent the OVAC at 160 pounds. He put together a strong 124-56 mark

All-Star Mat Event Slated

Brooke High School will play host to the 2004 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference/Mountain Athletic Conference All-Star Wrestling Match Wednesday starting at 7 p.m.

Larry Shaw, who recently led his Golden Bears to their eighth-straight state title, will be the head coach of the OVAC All-Stars.

Representing the OVAC will be Buckeye Local's Jimmy Young (103) and Brock Bowman (152), Madonna's Anthony Valles (112), Wheeling Park's Brian Humphrey (119), Brooke's Jon McFarland (125) and Braden Shaw (135), Harrison Central's Jesse Emery (130), Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson (140), Cameron's Casey Hughes (145), Bellaire St. John's Chris Case (160), Shady-side's Luke Burkhardt (171) and Bobby Samsa (189), Barnesville's Brad Hannahs (215) and Union Local's Koel Davia (275).

against Montour High School's Mike Smith.

Weirton Madonna's Anthony Valles will represent the area at 112 pounds. He will meet South Side's Tom Cuneo.

Wheeling Park's Brian Humphrey is the entrant at 119 pounds. He put together a career record of 130-37 and won the OVAC title this past winter. He will meet Hopewell's Chad Jodikinos.

Brooke's John McFarland and his 125-42 career record will meet Joey Rosenberger in the 125-pound match.

Harrison Central's Jesse Emery will be the OVAC representative at 130 pounds. He will meet South Side's Josh Bable.

Brooke's Braden Shaw will wrestle at 135 pounds. He put together a career record of 134-21 and won two OVAC titles and a state title this past winter.

At 140 pounds, Monroe Central's Ryan Ferguson will meet Ronnie Wilson of Ambridge. Ferguson -- who qualified to the state tournament this past winter -- owns a career record of 122-37.

Cameron's Casey Hughes -- who won a state title this season -- will meet West Allegheny's Kirk Campbell. Hughes has a career record of 138-26.

Buckeye Local's Brock Bowman will represent the OVAC at 160 pounds. He put together a strong 124-56 mark over his four years. He will meet Mike Nale of South Side.

St. John Central's Chris Case -- who placed fourth in the state meet -- will put his 108-40 mark on the line against Seneca Valley's Blake Rice.

Shadyside is the only Ohio school to have two representatives on the squad. Luke Burkhardt will grapple at 171 pounds against Freedom's Kurt Brenner. Burkhardt -- who was twice an OVAC runner-up -- owns a career record of 110-20.

Bobby Samsa will grapple at 189 pounds. Samsa -- who is also a two-time OVAC runner-up -- will meet Loyal Highland's Pat Turco. Samsa owns a 142-26 mark during his four years with the Tigers.

Barnesville's Brad Hannahs will grapple at 215 pounds. Hannahs -- who has a 60-34 record -- will meet South Side's Shane Checkan.

Union Local's Koel Davia will represent the area at 275. Davia -- a three-time Ohio state champion -- put together a career record of 167-27.