

# Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Dual Meet Championships

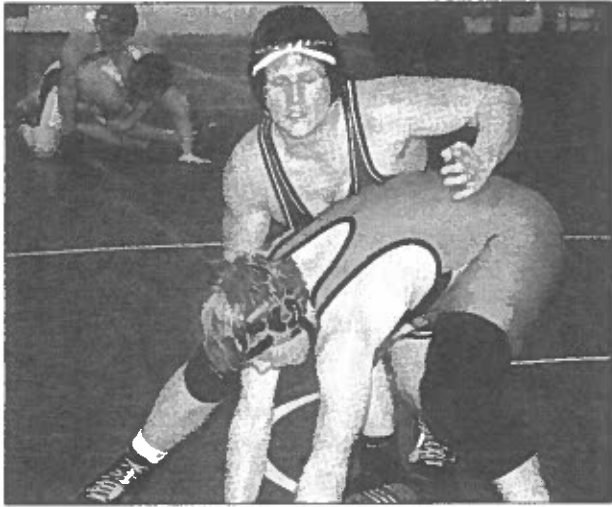


Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry's Zach Coole works for control of Monroe Central's Hunter Conner on Wednesday night.

## Riders Own WesBanco

Ferry finishes OVAC sweep

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry coach Scott Roth came into Wednesday night's inaugural OVAC Dual Meet Championship with a good idea that his Purple Riders could get the job done in Class 3A.

His idea turned into reality in less than two hours as the Purple Riders climbed back to the top of the OVAC wrestling mountain, winning the school's seventh dual-meet crown, but first since 2002 when they captured two victories at WesBanco Arena.

The Riders used their depth to cruise past Monroe Central, 52-12, in the semifinals and then handed Barnesville, which dispatched Shenandoah in the semis, a 51-18 setback.

"If you look at 3A, it's pretty rough all the way around," Roth, a former state and OVAC champion himself at Ferry, said. "We have a pretty full lineup all the way around, so it gives us an advantage right off the bat. It was a

good day, but there was nothing too exciting."

Roth's Riders were the beneficiaries of three forfeits against the Seminoles and then five more against the Shamrocks.

Regardless of how they got to the crown, the Riders proudly accepted their championship trophy without a second thought. Ferry's victory completes the conference sweep as it captured the tournament title in 3A last month.

"If we can somehow get numbers up for wrestling, I think this will become an even more interesting event and evening," Roth said.

The 3A teams didn't have a qualifying round last week because there were only four teams, so they automatically earned the trip to the 'Friendly City.'

"This is a pretty neat event," Roth said. "This being the first year, there are still some little things we need to work out, but it's a great way to showcase wrestling. What's really nice is we're wrestling schools our size. I think it would be neat to

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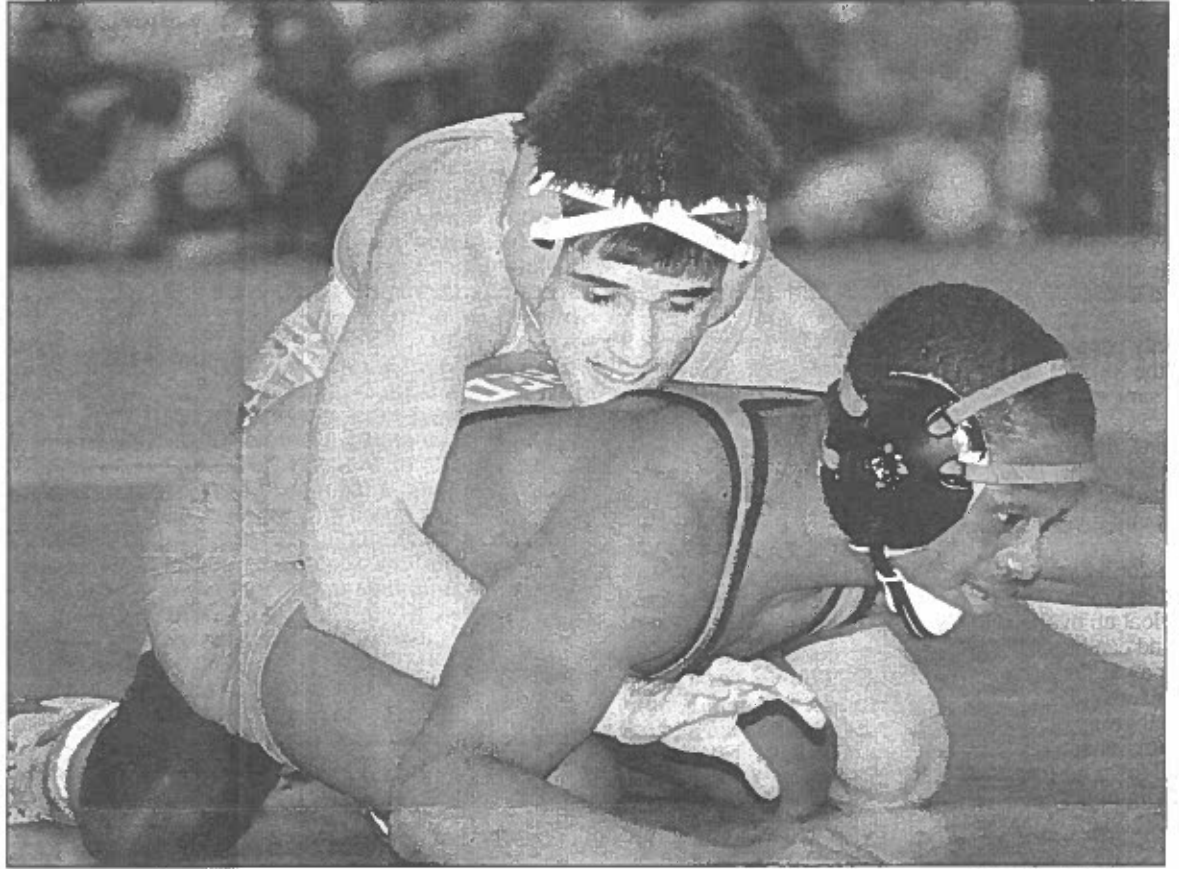


Photo by Rick Thorp

Oak Glen's Kole Koper gets control of Steubenville's Chastin Hobler during action of their 138-pound match Wednesday night at WesBanco Arena. Hobler earned a victory.

## JM Knocks Off Park To Win 5A Championship

Big Red continues dominating 4A

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's not often a school can lay claim to a first.

It happened for John Marshall and Steubenville on Wednesday night.

The Monarchs and Big Red secured the Class 5A and Class 4A crowns, respectively, at the inaugural OVAC Dual Meet Wrestling Championships at WesBanco Arena. Martins Ferry (3A) and Caldwell (2A/1A) were the others winners.

"The kids came out knowing that everyone (in 5A) was pretty even," JM coach Ted Zervos said after the Monarchs won their first conference title since 2002.

"The two teams we wrestled

were as good as we were. We just dug a little deeper and found a way to win those tight matches.

"It was a total team effort. We couldn't have done it without everyone we had in our lineup."

John Marshall bested University, 43-28, in the semifinals before hanging on to defeat Wheeling Park, 36-33, in the final.

The Patriots surged past Brooke, 45-24, in the other semifinal.

The Monarchs got off to a strong start against the Patriots, jumping in front 33-6. All championship matches started at 182 pounds.

"We started with the strength of our lineup," Zervos explained. "Those guys have been consistent for us this year. They seemed to get the ball rolling and then our little guys picked it up after that. They did what they had to do to

build the lead because we knew how strong Wheeling Park was in the middle.

"Park is traditionally a strong team and every time we meet it seems to bring out the best in both of us."

After Park's Luke Braunlich won by forfeit to start the match, the Monarchs won three consecutive matches. Thomas Schwing and Cullen Ebbert posted pins at 195 and 220, respectively, to build the lead.

Following a decision by Shane Stewart at 106, JM rattled off two more pins courtesy of Casey Mowder (113), Quentin Blatt (120).

The Patriots won the next seven matches, but it wasn't enough. Dylan Taylor started the spurt with a pin at 126.

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## JM

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JM and Park will finish off the regular season with a dual against each other Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Park. Then, it's off to the Class AAA Region One event next week at Parkersburg South.

"We started out the sea-

son with a very young team and a lot of new faces," Zervos said.

"Our goal was to get better and we've done that. And we're not done yet. We have the (regional) tournament next week and have to keep getting better until that point.

"Hopefully, we continue to wrestle with this much heart and this much determination."

University earned third place with a 36-33 triumph against the Bruins in the consolation match.

### Class 4A

While Steubenville came up short in its bid to win both the Wheeling Park Duals and the Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament, it wouldn't be denied Wednesday.

Big Red rolled past the competition, blanking Edison, 78-0, in the semifinals, before drubbing Oak Glen, 74-5 in the championship bout.

Steubenville won the 4A crown last year when the champion was determined under the old format.

"It's always good to win a championship in something," Big Red coach Mike Blackburn said. "It's definitely a great idea for the OVAC to do it this way so we don't

get a 'paper champion.'"

All told, Steubenville outscored its OVAC Duals opponents 231-5. Big Red downed Union Local, 79-0, in the first round last week.

Against the Golden Bears, Steubenville posted six pins and took advantage of five Oak Glen forfeits.

The lone bright spot for the Golden Bears was at 113, where OVAC champion Zach Brown tech fallied Michael Pearson, 17-1.

"Overall, as a team, with victories against Claymont, at Watkins Memorial and now this, I definitely think we're wrestling pretty well.

"Hopefully, we'll be ready for sectionals," Blackburn said.

Oak Glen topped Harrison Central, 51-24, in the other semifinal.

The Huskies hung on for a 37-33 triumph against the Wildcats in the consolation match.

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## FERRY

(Continued from Page 15)

pack a high school gymnasium for wrestling in the quarterfinals, too. That doesn't happen very often. I think this is good, but I think we need to get more teams on board."

Ferry was led to the title by senior standout C.J. Williams, who posted a 19-6 major decision in the semifinals and then recorded a pin in 52 seconds against the Shamrocks.

The Riders went without talented junior Damon Outward, who is slightly banged up, and with the sectional tournament just eight days away, Roth wasn't about to risk it.

"Damon and C.J. are both banged

up," Roth said. "My main focus the rest of the week is getting guys healthy. These next two weeks (of practice) aren't what's going to win you a sectional or district title. It's what we've done already working up to this point, and if we're healthy, I think we can compete well."

Monroe Central edged Shenandoah, 30-27 for the third-place finish.

Caldwell flexed its muscle last month at the annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament on the same WesBanco Arena floor, showed its a more than solid dual-meet team as well.

The Redskins won their seventh dual title in program history and sixth in a row by easily dispatching Cameron, 48-21 in the semifinal and River, 61-12, in the title match.

The Noble Countians received another sterling effort from senior standout Jeremy Border. The defending Ohio Division III state runnerup received a forfeit in the semifinals and then won by virtue of a technical fall against River standout Devin Talbott, who is a returning state qualifier, 15-0.

In the consolation match, Cameron earned third place by doubling up Steubenville Catholic, 48-24.

## ■ CONNORVILLE

# Case of MRSA Nixes Wrestling Bid for Buckeye Local

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

Buckeye Local dropped out of the inaugural OVAC Dual Championship Tournament, which got under way Wednesday.

Panthers' officials contacted the OVAC Tuesday afternoon, informing them of the decision and citing one confirmed case of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in a wrestling team member. MRSA is a highly contagious type of staph infection, which doesn't respond to the usual antibiotic treatment.

Buckeye Local, which was seeded second in the Class 4A tournament, shut down wrestling practice Monday and Tuesday as each team member and coach was examined by the school's training staff.

"As soon as it was brought to our attention, we were concerned," Miller said. "We brought the entire team in and had them looked at. If there was anything to be concerned about, we immediately contacted those kids' parents and urged them to see a doctor."

Miller said any student suspect-

ed of having MRSA wouldn't be permitted to return to class until medically cleared.

Once the problem was discovered, Buckeye Local closed off its wrestling room and weight room so they could both be sanitized. Miller said both rooms have since been re-opened and are cleared for use.

"We jumped on it as quickly as possibly could," Miller said. "We even put additional people on staff to help."

Buckeye Local could have competed with its healthy wrestlers,

but after missing a few days of practice, the Panthers' may have struggled to make weight.

"We discussed this with the OVAC, and we were in agreement that it was probably for the best that we didn't compete," Miller said. "Buckeye Local is always going to err on the side of caution. The safety of our students is the most important thing to us."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak said Buckeye Local would face no repercussions for not competing. Next year, the conference is implementing a

"compete policy," which penalizes teams for not competing in a championship in a sport that they sponsor.

"I think every coach would probably prefer them not to compete when you're dealing with something like MRSA," Rataiczak said. "This would not fall into the penalty because it's something totally unforeseen."

Along with the OVAC event, Buckeye Local is slated to host the annual Panther Invitational on Saturday. It will go on as scheduled, according to Miller.

## Case of MRSA nixes wrestling bid for BL team

• Buckeye Local Panthers dropping out of OVAC Dual Championship Tournament

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

CONNORVILLE - Buckeye Local has decided to drop out of the inaugural OVAC Dual Championship Tournament, which gets under way this evening.

Panthers' brass contacted OVAC officials Tuesday afternoon at approximately 2 p.m., informing them of its decision, citing one confirmed case of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), which is defined by the web site PubMed Health as, "a highly contagious type of staph infection, which doesn't respond to the usual antibiotics, which are used to treat staph infections."

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See, MRSA, Page A2

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## ● MRSA

Continued from Page A1

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of our students is the most important thing to us."

As for the OVAC Duals, director Jim Rocchi was in contact with OVAC Wrestling Tournament Director Dr. Dan Doyle much of the afternoon. They decided that rather than re-bracketing the entire tournament, Harrison Central, which was scheduled to dual with Buckeye Local, would advance to the semifinals, which are slated for Feb. 8 at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

"We felt that at this late date, we'd just keep the brackets as they were," Rocchi said. "At this point, the teams have known who they're wrestling and have been preparing, so we just didn't feel like we could move the teams around."

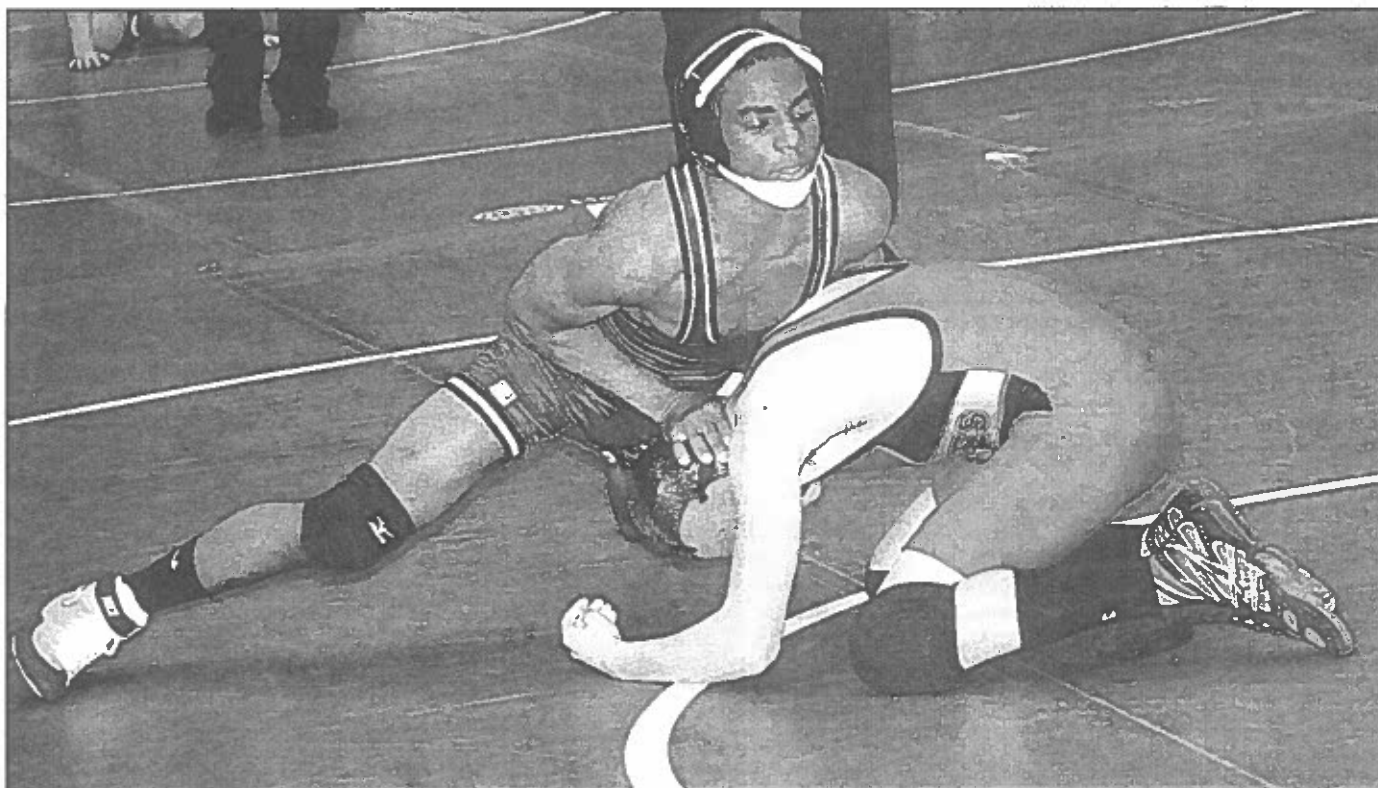
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Staskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)

## OVAC Dual Meet Wrestling Championships



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

**TOP:** Martins Ferry's C.J. Williams works toward an early take down of Monroe Central's Chase Carothers during their 126-pound match in the OVAC Duals semifinals.

**BELOW:** Martins Ferry's Mike Wear pins Barnesville's Bradley Steadman during their 152-pound match during the OVAC Duals Championship Round. The Purple Riders prevailed in the dual and won the OVAC title.

Additional images can be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

# PURPLE POWER

## • Martins Ferry captures Class 3A championship

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Martins Ferry head coach Scott Roth came into Wednesday evening's inaugural OVAC Dual Meet Championship with a good idea that his Purple Riders could get the job done in Class 3A.

His idea turned into reality in less than two hours as the Purple Riders climbed back to the top of the OVAC wrestling mountain, winning the school's seventh dual-meet crown, but first since 2002 when they captured two victories at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

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"If you look at 3A, it's pretty rough all the way around," Roth, a former state and OVAC champion himself at Ferry, said. "We have a pretty full lineup all the way around, so it gives us an advantage right off the bat. It was a good day, but there was nothing too exciting."

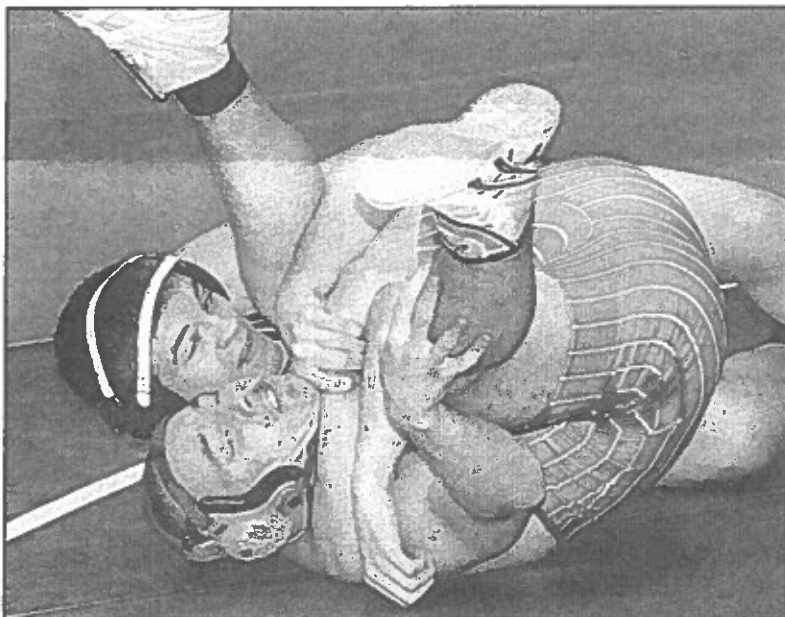
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it's a great way to showcase wrestling. What's really nice is we're wrestling schools our size. I think it would be neat to pack a high school gymnasium for wrestling in the quarterfinals, too. That doesn't happen very often. I think this is good, but I think we need to get more teams on board."

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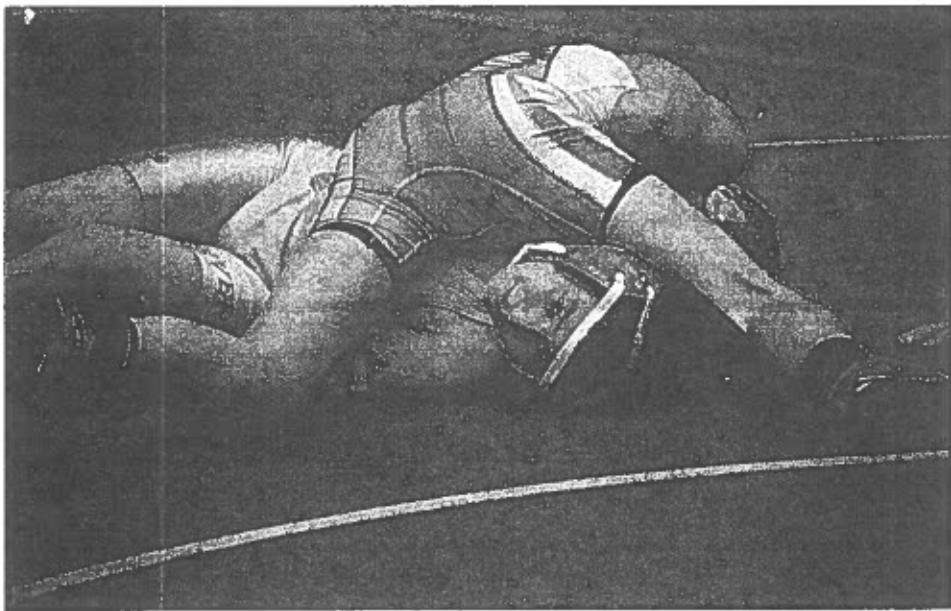
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See, **PURPLE**, Page B2





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**CALDWELL'S JEREMY** Border controls River's Devin Talbott during their match in the Class 1A/2A OVAC Duals Final. Border won by technical fall.

## ● Purple

Continued from Page B1

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In the consolation match, Cameron earned third place by doubling up Steubenville Central, 48-24.

STUEBENVILLE, which finished second overall in last month's OVAC event, waltzed to the Class 4A title by scoring a combined 152 points in victories against Edison and Oak Glen, respectively.

Big Red won their ninth OVAC dual title and second in a row and lost only one match in the three rounds they competed. In the quarterfinals, Big Red rolled past Union Local.

Against Edison, Steubenville was a 78-0 victor. Other than allowing a technical fall by Zach Brown, who won the OVAC title last month, Steubenville was perfect against the Golden Bears as well.

Harrison Central defeated Edison, 37-33 for third place.

JOHN MARSHALL, which came into the tournament as the third seed, won its eighth OVAC dual title and, in the process, became the first 5A champion in conference history.

The Monarchs pulled out an exciting 36-33 victory against Wheeling Park in the title match for the crown.

In the semifinals, JM took down University, 43-28.

Brooke, which fell to Park in its semifinal, knocked off the Hawks for third place.

*Staskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)*

## OVAC Duals Championships

### OVAC Dual Wrestling Championship Championship Finals

#### Class 5A

John Marshall 36, Wheeling Park 33  
106 - Stewart (JM) dec. Digiamdomenco, 10-4.  
113 - Mowder (JM) pinned Lira.  
120 - Blatt (JM) pinned Roset.  
126 - Taylor (JM) pinned VanSyoc.  
132 - Davis (WP) dec. Hall, 7-6.  
138 - Banks (WP) dec. Boles, 12-9.  
145 - Simmons (JM) dec. Bowen, 9-6.  
152 - Colby (WP) won by forfeit.  
160 - Garcia (WP) dec. Mason, 10-7.  
170 - Amos (WP) won by forfeit.  
182 - Braunlich (WP) won by forfeit.  
195 - Schwing (JM) pinned Paige.  
220 - Fonner (JM) won by forfeit.  
285 - Ebbert (JM) pinned Hewitt.

#### Class 4A

Stuebenville 74, Oak Glen 5  
106 - Brown (S) pinned Debee, 3:15.  
113 - Z. Brown (OG) tech fall Pearson, 17-1.  
120 - Parada (S) won by forfeit.  
126 - Craig (S) pinned Bebout, 3:21.  
132 - McKinck (S) pinned Flowers, 2:47.  
138 - Hobley (S) dec. Koper, 4-1.  
145 - McGhee (S) pinned Hogan, 4-1.  
152 - Mays (S) won by forfeit.  
160 - Cole (S) won by forfeit.  
170 - Howarth (S) tech fall Adkins, 17-0.  
182 - Wicker (S) pinned Strum, 1:10.  
195 - Keenan (S) won by forfeit.  
220 - Moray (S) won by forfeit.  
285 - Wood (S) pinned Mercer, 1:52.

#### Class 3A

Martins Ferry 51, Barnesville 18  
106 - Double forfeit.  
113 - Zoumpoulidis (MF) dec. Singleton, 12-10.  
120 - Jackson (MF) won by forfeit.  
126 - Crosier (B) won by forfeit.  
132 - Williams (MF) pinned Starr, :52.  
138 - Russell (MF) won by forfeit.  
145 - Singleton (B) pinned Coleman, 2:43.  
152 - Wear (MF) pinned Steadman, 1:17.  
160 - Plumly (B) pinned Neavin, :47.  
170 - Double forfeit.  
182 - Oberdick (MF) won by forfeit.  
195 - Coole (MF) won by forfeit.  
220 - Albert (MF) won by forfeit.  
285 - Bodkin (MF) won by forfeit.

#### Class 1A/2A

Caldwell 61, River 12  
106 - Double forfeit.  
113 - Jad. Border (C) tech fall Stewart, 16-0.  
120 - Binni (R) pinned Wiley, 5:24.  
126 - Ka. Rayner (C) pinned Thomas, 4:20.  
132 - Je. Border (C) tech fall Talbott, 15-0.  
138 - Cline (C) pinned Mundi, 1:17.  
145 - Hardesty (C) won by forfeit.  
152 - Wahn (R) won by forfeit.  
160 - Kal. Rayner (C) pinned Smith, :57.  
170 - VanMeter (C) pinned Reusser, :42.  
182 - Haas (C) pinned Dunn, :39.  
195 - Cartell (C) pinned Alleman, 1:11.  
220 - Stoffel (C) dec. Dotson, 6-2.  
285 - Schenkel (C) pinned Pirtl, :19.

#### Consolation Finals

##### Class 5A

University 36, Brooke 33  
106 - Myers (U) dec. Smith, 10-6.  
113 - Beaman (B) pinned Myers.  
120 - Pattison (B) dec. Hood, 6-4.  
126 - Hamlin (U) maj. dec. Gamble, 19-5.  
132 - Michael (U) pinned Eaton.  
138 - Higgins (B) maj. dec. Bal, 10-2.  
145 - Higgins (B) dec. Voithofer, 4-1.  
152 - Perrotts (U) won by forfeit.  
160 - Lillard (U) tech fall Schwertfeger, 21-4.  
170 - Fisher (U) pinned Hall.  
182 - Constante (U) pinned Campbell.  
195 - Scurry (B) won by forfeit.  
220 - Dawson (B) tech fall Piktet.  
285 - Bennett (B) pinned Howdershell.

##### Class 4A

Harrison Central 37, Edison 33  
106 - Shannon (E) pinned Grimes, :13.  
113 - Bell (E) won by forfeit.  
120 - Shannon (E) maj. dec. Reed, 9-0.  
126 - Forrester (H) dec. Andreozzi, 5-3.  
132 - Riedel (H) pinned Fisher, 5:02.  
138 - Lasure (H) dec. O'Brien, 4-2.  
145 - Arnold (E) tech fall Reed, 25-7.  
152 - Leake (E) won by forfeit.  
160 - Eddy (HC) pinned Fagerstrom, :36.  
170 - Wells (E) won by forfeit.  
182 - Fogle (H) dec. Cline, 5-0.  
195 - Shurina (H) maj. dec. Brockway, 12-0.  
220 - Howes (H) pinned Huggins, 1:37.  
285 - Donato (H) won by forfeit.

##### Class 3A

Monroe Central 30, Shenandoah 27  
106 - Richter (MC) pinned Fan, 2:41.  
113 - Tomcho (S) pinned Ruble, 1:34.  
120 - Double forfeit.  
126 - Double forfeit.  
132 - Carothers (MC) pinned Edwards, :30.  
138 - Hill (S) won by forfeit.  
145 - Edwards (S) pinned Blackstone, :54.  
152 - Jones (MC) won by forfeit.  
160 - Z. Potts (MC) pinned Wood, 1:15.  
170 - Sils (S) won by forfeit.  
182 - Harman (S) dec. Conner (MC), 6-4.  
195 - Double forfeit.  
220 - Double forfeit.  
285 - Robinson (MC) won by forfeit.

##### Class 1A/2A

Cameron 48, Steubenville Central 24  
106 - Kiedrowski (SCC) won by forfeit.  
113 - Wood (C) tech fall Phillips, 16-0.  
120 - Schlieper (C) won by forfeit.  
126 - Hoff (SCC), won by forfeit.  
132 - Ledyard (SCC) won by forfeit.  
138 - Yoders (C) pinned Anthony, 1:49.  
145 - Blake (C) maj. dec. Beaulieu, 14-2.  
152 - Schwertfeger (C) pinned Hennon, :54.  
160 - Warsinsky (C) pinned Hermann, 3:19.  
170 - Hale (C) dec. Sanford, 10-7.  
182 - Miller (C) pinned Schmiesing, 3:31.  
195 - Neely (C) won by forfeit.

### 220 - Burden (SCC) won by forfeit. 285 - Double forfeit.

#### Semifinals

##### Class 5A

Wheeling Park 45, Brooke 24  
106 - Digiamdomenco (WP) dec. Smith, 6-1.  
113 - Beaman (Brk) dec. Lira, 4-0.  
120 - Roset (WP) dec. Pattison, 2-0.  
126 - Taylor (WP) pinned Gamble.  
132 - Davis (WP) pinned Eaton.  
138 - Banks (WP) dec. Higgins, 2-1.  
145 - J. Higgins (Brk) pinned Bowen.  
152 - Colby (WP) won by forfeit.  
160 - Myers (WP) pinned Schwertfeger.  
170 - Garcia (WP) pinned Hall.  
182 - Amos (WP) pinned Campbell.  
195 - Scurry (Brk) won by injury default.  
220 - Dawson (Brk) dec. Page, 5-3.  
285 - Bennett (Brk) pinned Hewitt.

##### John Marshall 43, University 28

106 - Stewart (JM) dec. Myers, 4-0.  
113 - Mowder (JM) pinned Myers, 1:10.  
120 - Blatt (JM) dec. Hood, 4-0.  
126 - Hamlin (U) dec. VanSyoc, 4-0.  
132 - Hall (JM) dec. Michael, 3-0.  
138 - Boles (JM) tech fall Bal, 15-0.  
145 - Simmons (JM) pinned Voithofer, 5:15.  
152 - Perrotts (U) won by forfeit.  
160 - Lillard (U) won by forfeit.  
170 - Mason (JM) dec. Fisher, 3-0.  
182 - Constante (U) pinned Staniford, 1:16.  
195 - Schwing (JM) pinned Frisco, 2:37.  
220 - Ebbert (JM) pinned Piktet, :32.  
285 - Howdershell (U) pinned Fonner, 1:25.

##### Class 4A

Stuebenville 78, Edison 0  
106 - Brown (S) tech fall Bell, 16-0.  
113 - Pearson (S) dec. Shannon, 10-7.  
120 - Craig (S) pinned Andreozzi, 1:03.  
126 - Parada (S) pinned Fisher, 1:17.  
132 - McKittrick (S) tech fall O'Brien, 15-0.  
138 - Hobley (S) pinned Arnold, :57.  
145 - McGhee (S) won by forfeit.  
152 - Mays (S) pinned Leake, :38.  
160 - Cole (S) pinned Fagerstrom, 1:01.  
170 - Howarth (S) pinned Wells, 2:38.  
182 - Wicker (S) tech fall Cline, 15-0.  
195 - Keenan (S) pinned Brockway, 1:27.  
220 - Moray (S) pinned Huggins, :46.  
285 - Wood (S) won by forfeit.

##### Oak Glen 51, Harrison Central 24

106 - Debee (OG) pinned Grimes, :36.  
113 - Z. Brown (OG) won by forfeit.  
120 - T. Brown (OG) pinned Reed, :35.  
126 - Mack (OG) pinned Forrester, 5:20.  
132 - Flowers (OG) dec. Riedel, 4:3.  
138 - Tice (OG) dec. Lasure, 9-7.  
145 - Hogan (OG) won by forfeit.  
152 - Eddy (HC) won by forfeit.  
160 - Adkins (OG) dec. Warren, 11-6.  
182 - Fogle (HC) pinned Strum, 1:15.  
195 - Shurina (HC) won by forfeit.  
220 - Davis (OG) pinned Donato, :23.  
285 - Hawes (HC) pinned Mercer, 1:57.

##### Class 3A

Martins Ferry 52, Monroe Central 12  
106 - Richter (MC) won by forfeit.  
113 - Zoumpoulidis (MF) pinned Ruble, :57.  
120 - Jackson (MF) won by forfeit.  
126 - Williams (MF) maj. dec. Carothers, 19-6.  
138 - Double forfeit.  
145 - Coleman (MF) pinned Blackstone, 3:55.  
152 - Potts (MC) pinned Wear, 3:27.  
160 - Neavin (MF) pinned Jones, 3:42.  
170 - Double forfeit.  
182 - Double forfeit.  
195 - Coole (MF) pinned Canner, 5:45.  
220 - Albert (MF) won by forfeit.  
285 - Bodkin (MF) pinned Robinson, :27.

##### Barnesville 36, Shenandoah 24

106 - Binni (S) pinned Moore.  
113 - Tomcho (S) pinned Moore.  
120 - Double forfeit.  
126 - Starr (B) won by forfeit.  
132 - Crosier (B) won by forfeit.  
138 - Edwards (S) won by forfeit.  
145 - Singleton (B) pinned Edwards.  
152 - Steadman (B) pinned Hill.  
160 - Plumly (B) pinned Wood.  
170 - Sils (S) won by forfeit.  
182 - Harman (S) won by forfeit.  
195 - Double forfeit.  
220 - Double forfeit.  
285 - Double forfeit.

##### Class 1A/2A

Caldwell 48, Cameron 21  
106 - Borden (C) maj. dec. Wood, 11-3.  
113 - Double forfeit.  
120 - Wiley (C) pinned Schlieper, 1:56.  
126 - Rayner (C) won by forfeit.  
132 - Je. Border (C) won by forfeit.  
138 - Yoders (Cam) pinned Cline, 1:08.  
145 - Blake (Cam) won by forfeit.  
152 - Schwertfeger (Cam) won by forfeit.  
160 - Kal. Rayner (C) maj. dec. Walsinsky, 13-0.  
170 - VanMeter (C) pinned Hale, 1:47.  
182 - Haas (C) maj. dec. Miller, 13-2.  
195 - Neely (Cam) dec. Stoffel, 6-1.  
220 - Cartell (C) won by forfeit.  
285 - Schenkel (C) won by forfeit.

##### River 49, Steubenville Central 30

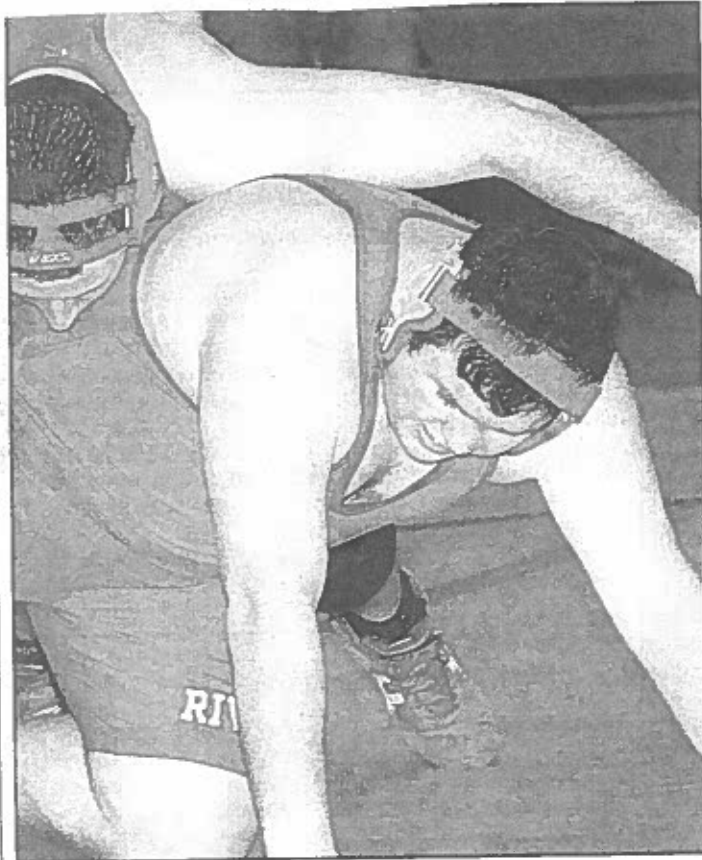
106 - Phillips (SCC) won by forfeit.  
113 - Kiedrowski (SCC) pinned Stewart, 3:11.  
120 - Binni (R) won by forfeit.  
126 - Thomas (R) pinned Happ, 1:17.  
132 - Talbot (R) maj. dec. Ledyard, 15-2.  
138 - Mundi (R) pinned Lee, 5:24.  
145 - Hennon (SCC) won by forfeit.  
152 - Beaulieu (SCC) pinned Wohas, 5:27.  
160 - Hermann (SCC) pinned Smith, 1:07.  
170 - Reusser (R) dec. Sanford, 10-4.  
182 - Dunn (R) pinned Schmiesing, 2:19.  
195 - Alleman (R) won by forfeit.  
220 - Dotson (R) pinned Borden, :54.  
285 - Birt (R) won by forfeit.

## WRESTLERS SQUARE OFF AT ARENA



Photo by Scott McCloskey

John Marshall High School senior Lewis Mason arrives at WesBanco Arena on Wednesday evening prior to the OVAC's Dual Wrestling Meet Championships. Sixteen high schools were represented at the meet. John Marshall's opponent was University High School.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**RIVER'S** Hank Goble works to get free from his opponent from Toronto during their matchup in the OVAC Duals at Shadyside on Wednesday evening. Goble was beaten, but the Pilots still advanced to next Wednesday's semifinals by virtue of a 54-36 victory. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Fabio Cracolici and Edison's Chris Leake battle in a 152-pound match during the OVAC Duals at Harrison Central High School. Cracolici and Leake needed two overtimes before Cracolici posted a 4-3 decision. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

# OVAC Duals under way

• River survives, but Shadyside and Beallsville ousted

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The inaugural OVAC Dual Tournament proved once again why the conference wants as many of its championships decided on the field, court or mats as possible.

The opening round for the A/AA field was held at Shadyside High School and two of the three lower seeds in action posted a victory to advance to next week's OVAC Dual Championship semifinals at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

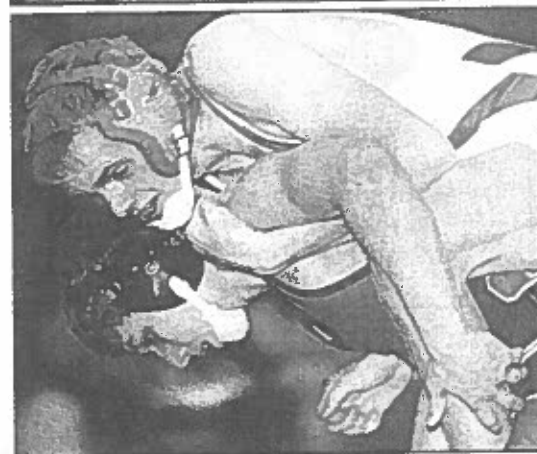
The lone higher seed to survive was second-seeded River, which dispatched Toronto, 54-36. Sixth-seeded Steubenville Central avenged an earlier dual loss when it sent the host Tigers packing, 36-34.

Fifth-seeded Cameron earned the right to take on top-seeded Caldwell, which received a bye to the finals, next week after getting past Beallsville, 45-36.

**RIVER'S** victory was fueled by seven forfeit victories, which gave the Pilots 42 points before the match even began.

"We're obviously pleased to advance, but we realize Toronto was short-handed," said River head coach Dr. Vince Monseau. "We wish there were more competitors to get some

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T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER and SETH STASKEY

**TOP:** Shadyside's Scott Hammond works for control of the leg of his Steubenville Central opponent. He prevailed by decision.

**BOTTOM:** Union Local's James Earliwine (Top) is unable to hang on as Steubenville's Jacou McKittrick scored a third period reversal to win a 7-5 decision.

• St. Clairsville, UL both eliminated in 4A; H.C. in semis

By **MIKE PALMER**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The inaugural OVAC Dual Tournament got under way Wednesday at two sites and the top four teams in each class now advance to the Feb. 8 finals at WesBanco Arena.

Competing at Harrison Central were matches between St. Clairsville and Edison. Steubenville and Union Local then Meadowbrook squared off against Oak Glen.

## OVAC DUALS SEMIFINALS

**When:** Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.  
**Where:** WesBanco Arena.  
**Tickets:** Available at the WesBanco Box office.

Top-seeded Steubenville blanked a short-handed Jets' team 79-0 as Union Local sent just five wrestlers to the mats

against the powerful Big Red.

Trent Mays and Chastin Hogley recorded technical falls for Big Red, while Devin Brown and Anthony Craig both won by fall. Union Local's best performance on the evening came from James Earliwine, who lost a close 7-5 decision to Jacob McKittrick at 132 pounds.

The Red Devils were eliminated by Edison, 59-18. Dalton Nolte recorded a pin for St. Clairsville at 160 pounds. Fabio Cracolici won a tough 4-3 decision over the Wildcats' Chris Leake at 152 pounds in 2 overtimes and Seth

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## ● OVAC

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more matches."

Monseau, who's spoke openly that he's a fan of duals and triangulars, was totally on board with the OVAC's decision to go to this format.

"I like the idea, but I think all of the schools, including us, need to recruit more kids from the school to come out, so we fill our lineups," Monseau said. "This makes the kids who might be under .500 a very key part of the dual match."

**STEBENVILLE CENTRAL** was probably the surprise of the evening after the Crusaders built an early lead and managed to hang on as the hard-charging and short-handed Tigers came up just short.

"This is a great win for our program," said Steubenville Central head coach Aaron Henry. "I never count these kids out. We lost to Shadyside earlier in the season, but we came down here with a different attitude."

The Crusaders got out of the gates quickly thanks to pins by Blake Kierowski and Mike Crosby at 106 and 120, respectively. Figure in Tiger forfeits at 113, 126 and 132 and the Crusaders found themselves in control with a 30-0 lead.

A pin later by Andrew Beaulier in the second period at 145 pounds proved to be the difference.

Shadyside's dynamic junior duo of Ian Baker and Alex Quinn each recorded a pin, but it wasn't enough as

the Tigers recorded only one other pin the entire match at 195 pounds by Donnie Heath.

"To have kids get decisions and not get pinned were critical for us," Henry said. "We wouldn't have been able to win this if those had been pins."

The Tigers wrestled without two starters due to disciplinary reasons.

The Crusaders and Pilots will meet in one of the semifinals next Wednesday.

"I like the new format," Henry said. "It gives another edge to what we need during the season. You go through so many practices and see the same faces at the tournaments in the valley, but to run through the OVAC again and match up with the schools again ... it's nice."

**CAMERON** came into its matchup with Beallsville with a simple objective according to Dragons' head coach Ron Trowbridge.

"We only had eight kids in our lineup, so we knew we had to pin to win," Trowbridge said. "We had some kids out sick and we don't many extra guys, so we knew it was going to be a close match."

The Dragons didn't lose a match during the course of the evening and posted five victories by pin, two by decision and picked up a forfeit from the Blue Devils.

Cameron's Taylor Neely recorded the quickest pin of the evening, holding the Beallsville opponent's shoulders down at the 33-second mark.

As for what lies ahead in the Redskins, Trowbridge knows his team will face a daunting task, but he likes that idea as West Virginia regional action begins the week after the OVAC finishes.

"We only get better by wrestling good kids," Trowbridge said. "I'm not sure about the new format yet. I'm not sure if these preliminaries are the way to go or you just take the top four, but the only problem is how do you schedule?"

Staskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)



Ave., Tiltonsville, OH  
1-859-3180



**LIVE BAIT!**

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