

**LEFT:** Union Local's Zac Sowers (in red) has a hold of Ellwood City's Donnie Kerr during their 145-pound bout Tuesday night during the OVAC-MAC "Clash of Champions."  
**BOTTOM:** Barnesville's Austin Singleton (in red) and Hopewell's Travis Sonson are tangled up during their 126-pound match.  
*Additional Images can be found at [cu.timesleader-online.com](http://cu.timesleader-online.com)*

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

# Tough decision

## • MAC holds off OVAC in 'Clash of Champions'

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — It wasn't the decision the OVAC All-Stars were looking for Tuesday night during the 19th annual "Clash of the Champions" inside St. Clairsville High School.

Dropping eight of the 13 matches — seven by decision — the locals came out on the short end of a hotly contested, 28-20, decision to Western Pennsylvania's Midwestern Athletic Conference on John Jenkins Court.

"We were on the other side tonight as far as the last couple of years," OVAC and Steubenville Catholic head coach Aaron Henry said. "We wrestled well. We lost a couple of close matches, but this is a great group of talent."

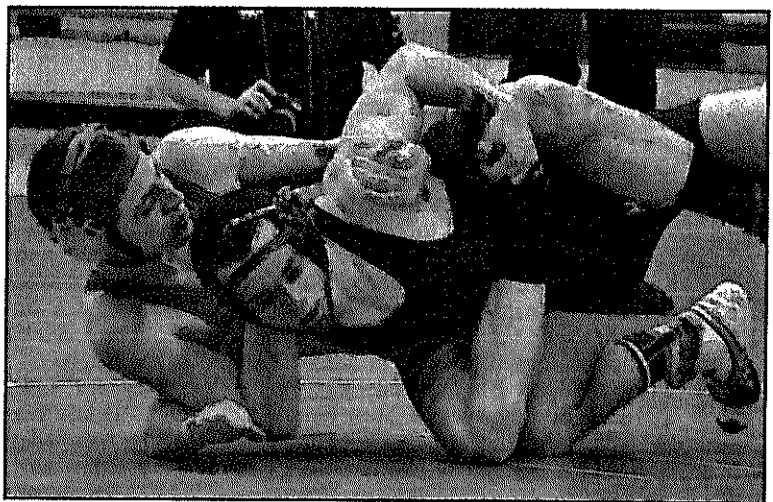
Despite the loss, the OVAC still holds a 13-6 advantage in the all-time series, which dates back to 1988. It was held annually until 1995, and resumed in 2003, according to meet officials.

Trailing 9-0, the OVAC reeled off a trio of victories by University's Isiah Hood (132); Caldwell's Kameron Rayner (138); and Union Local's Zac Sowers (145).

Hood and Rayner, both 2014 Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament champions, scored major decisions to cut the gap to 9-8, and Sowers' 4-0 blanking of Ellwood City's Donnie Kerr gave the hosts the only lead of the night at 11-9.

"I just went out there to have fun," Sowers, who was a Division III state alternate this past season, said. "I wasn't worried about winning and losing, but I did want to score points for the OVAC."

The Keystone Staters ran off victories in four of the next



five weight classes to build a 25-14 lead.

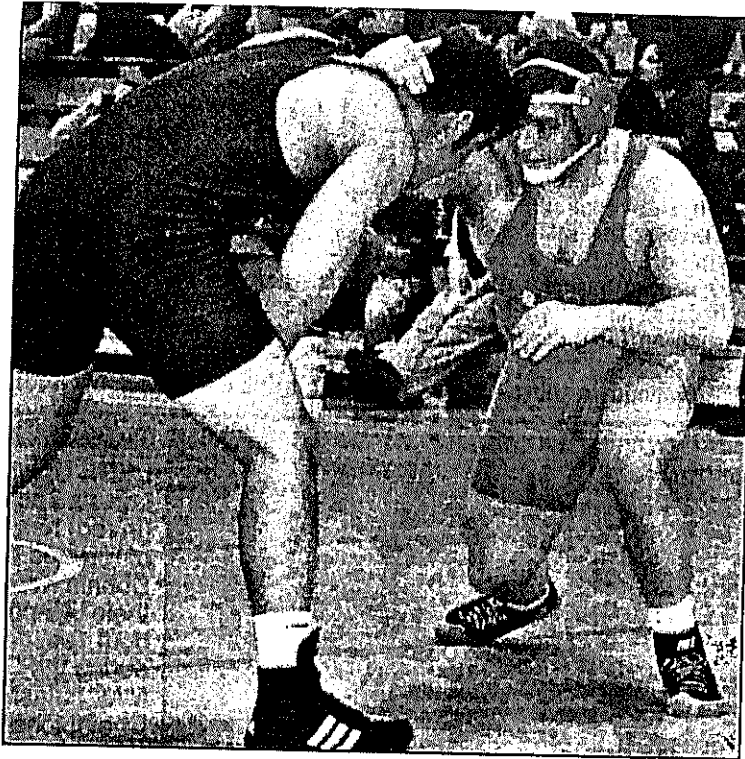
South Fayette's Grant Fetchet and Chartiers-Houston's Derek Hull scored a pair of decisions over the Wheeling Park duo of Johnny Davis (3-1) and Eric Banks (9-2) at 152 and 160, respectively.

Steubenville Catholic's Leon Hermann, also a Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament champion this season, stopped the bleeding when he rallied past Laurel's Dalton Rosta, 6-5. Trailing 5-4 late in the match, the Crusaders' senior, who will play soccer in college, recorded a takedown with 22.2 left and held on for the thrilling victory.

"That was great for Leo," Henry said. "It was good for him to get a win in his last match. He had a really good season."

The MAC regained the momentum as Ellwood City's Brad Grinnen pinned Steubenville Catholic's Lucas Borden in 1:25 at 182 and Montour's Cole Macek, who finished sixth in the PIAA state meet last weekend, posted a 9-1 major decision over River's Brett Rosen at 195.

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**RIVER'S** Brett Rosen, right, is locked up with Montour's Cole Macek during their 195-pound bout Tuesday night in St. Clairsville.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

## ● Tough

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The OVAC pulled to within a pin of winning the match when Wheeling Park's Jeremy Paige pinned Butler's Will Bortas in a quick 1:20 at 220. Paige, another Ron Mauck OVAC Tournament champion, was named the OVAC's Most Outstanding Wrestler for his short performance.

It all came down to the heavyweights, but Beaver Local's Cody Martsof, a last-minute replacement for Brooke's Preston Wise, dropped a 3-1 decision to Ambridge's Calvin Sittig after leading 1-0 after two periods.

The MAC bolted to the 9-0 lead behind decisions by Trinity's Tristan Buxton (113); Canon-MacMillan's Brendan Price (120) and Hopewell's Travis Sonson (126). Buxton beat Caldwell's Tyler Wiley 7-2, while Price nipped Oak Glen's Josh

Cornell, 3-2. Sonson earned a 10-3 nod over Barensville's Austin Singleton.

### MAC 28, OVAC 20

113—Tristan Bruce (Trinity) d. Tyler Wiley (Caldwell), 7-2; 120—Brendan Price (Canon-MacMillan) d. Josh Cornell (Oak Glen), 3-2; 126—Travis Sonson (Hopewell) d. Austin Singleton (Barnesville), 10-3; 132—Isiah Hood (University) md. Jake Braddock (Blackhawk), 14-1; 138—Kameron Rayner (Caldwell) md. Dustin Winkle (Hopewell), 10-0; 145—Zac Sowers (Union Local) d. Donnie Kerr (Ellwood City), 4-0; 152—Grant Fetchet (South Fayette) d. Johnny Davis (Wheeling Park), 3-1; 160—Derek Hull (Chartiers-Houston) d. Eric Banks (Wheeling Park), 9-2; 170—Leo Hermann (Steubenville Catholic) d. Dalton Rosta (Laurel), 6-5; 182—Brad Grinnen (Ellwood City) p. Lucas Borden (Steubenville Catholic), 1-25; 195—Cole Macek (Montour) md. Brett Rosen (River), 9-1; 220—Jeremy Paige (Wheeling Park) p. Will Bortas (Butler), 1:20; 285—Calvin Sittig (Ambridge) d. Cody Martsof (Beaver Local), 3-1

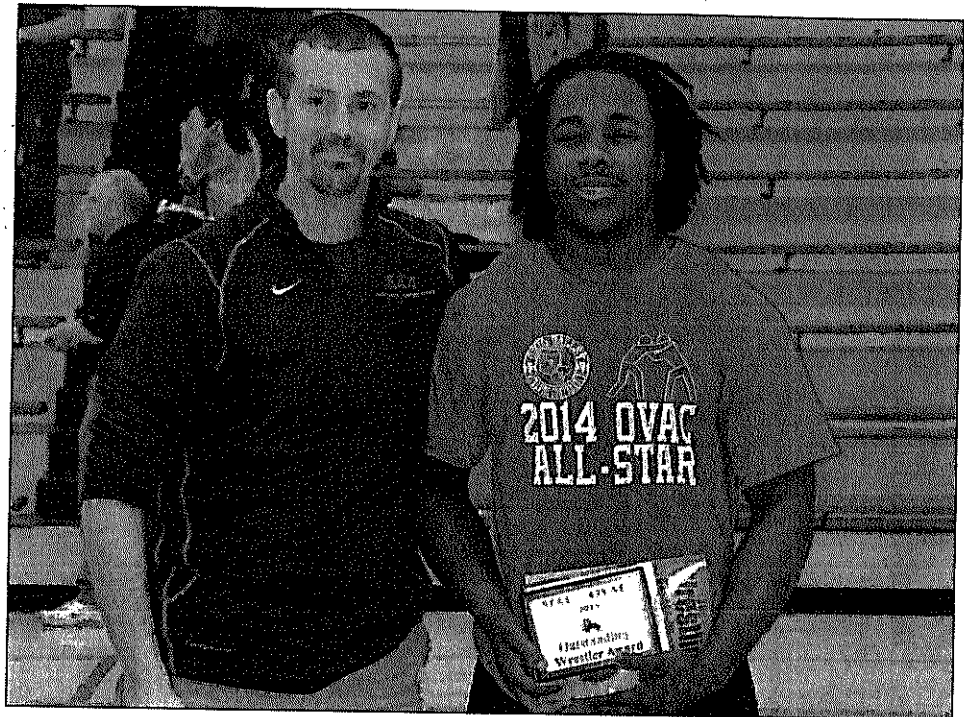


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park 220-pounder Geremy Paige won by pinfall and was named the OVAC's Most Outstanding Wrestler. MAC Coach Mike Johnson gives him his award.

# MAC Tops OVAC In Annual Wrestling Tilt

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

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## Prep Wrestling

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(120, Oak Glen); Austin Singleton (126, Barnesville); Zac Sowers (145, Union Local); Lucas Borden (182, Steubenville Catholic); and Preston Wise (285, Brooke).

The Keystone Staters are led by Montour's Cole Macek who was 35-2 and wrestling for fifth place late Saturday night during the PIAA state meet in Hershey, Pa. He was undefeated going into the state meet. He was the WPIAL champion this year and is a 3-time state qualifier.

Also representing the MAC are Tristan Buxton (113, Trinity); Brendan Price (120, Canon-MacMillan); Travis Sonson (126, Hopewell); Jake Braddock (132, Blackhawk); Dustin Winkle (138, Hopewell); Donnie Kerr (145, Ellwood City); Grant Fetchet (152, South Fayette); Tyler Harris (160, McGuffey); Dalton Rosta (170, Laurel Highlands); Brad Grinnen (185, Ellwood City); Calvin Sitting (220 or 285, Ambridge); and Will Bortmas (220 or 295, Butler).

Sunday, March 9, 2014

## OVAC WRESTLING

The following are the past Ohio and West Virginia recipients of the prestigious OVAC Wrestlers of the Year Award:

- 1988 — John Crain, Oak Glen  
Rick Burlinski, Bridgeport
- 1989 — Dave Wood, Cameron  
Dunyasha Yatts, Steubenville
- 1990 — Ed Neely, Weirton Madonna  
Babe Sidon, Martins Ferry
- 1991 — Eric Potts, Cameron  
Scott DeYarmon, Buckeye Local
- 1992 — R. C. Anderson, Cameron  
John Gilbaud, Union Local
- 1993 — Ryan Dudas, Cameron  
Kelly Shields, Edison
- 1994 — Chad Burge, Cameron  
Ryan Slack, Shadyside
- 1995 — Jason Taylor, Wheeling Park  
Brian Roskovich, Bridgeport
- 1996 — Josh Giovengo, B. Donahue  
Eric Anderson, Bellaire St. John
- 1997 — Dewitt Stanley, Brooke  
Sean Doyle, Buckeye Local
- 1998 — Chad Pratz, Linsly  
Travis Clark, Union Local
- 1999 — Alex McClung, Oak Glen  
Matt Salsberry, East Liverpool
- 2000 — Steve Ochap, Wheeling Park  
Scott Roth, Martins Ferry
- 2001 — Eric Noel, Oak Glen  
Cole Bowersock, Beaver Local
- 2002 — Derrick Sickles, Oak Glen  
John Tierney, Martins Ferry
- 2003 — Phil Bliss, Brooke  
David Berolino, Buckeye Local
- 2004 — Casey Hughes, Cameron  
Koel Davia, Union Local
- 2005 — Dustin Richey, John Marshall  
Clay Tucker, Martins Ferry
- 2006 — Rhett Northcraft, Oak Glen  
Willia Saxton, Buckeye Local
- 2007 — Ronnell Green, Wheeling Park  
James Myers, Indian Creek
- 2008 — Zach Basich, Wheeling Central  
Bryan Skoff, Bridgeport
- 2009 — Dirk Bauer, Wheeling Park  
Robbie Chilson, Bellaire
- 2010 — Max Nogay, Weirton Madonna  
Dylan Lee, Beaver Local
- 2011 — Kyle Bauer, Wheeling Park  
Dominic Prazzia, St. Clairsville
- 2012 — David Jeffrey, Park. South  
Jeremy Border, Caldwell
- 2013 — Lance Hill, Parkersburg South  
Alex Quinn, Shadyside
- 2014 — Jonny Davis, Wheeling Park  
Kameron Raynor, Caldwell

# OVAC matmen to shine Tuesday

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will look to continue its dominance as the 26th annual "Clash of the Champions" unfolds Tuesday night inside St. Clairsville High School. The OVAC has won four of the last five events, including 43-21 last season at West Allegheny High School.

Tuesday night's match features OVAC All Stars against Midwestern Pennsylvania All Stars. It will be held on John Jenkins Court, starting at 7 p.m.. The event has been held annually since it originated in 1988. It alternates sites between the conferences.

A banquet honoring the wrestlers, parents, coaches and guests will be held Monday night at Undo's in Weirton, starting at 6.



The OVAC All Stars are selected by placement in last January's 61st annual Ron Mauck Tournament held inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. The top senior placer in each weight class gets first shot at the team. If he declines, then the opportunity goes to the next highest senior placer, and so on until someone accepts.

This years OVAC team is comprised of six tournament titlists, a trio of sixth-placers, and one each that finished third, fourth, seventh and eighth. It also includes eight state qualifiers in either Ohio or West Virginia, and seven state placewinners, with half-a-dozen of them from the Mountain State. There will not be a match contested at 106.

OVAC champions on the roster are Isiah Hood (132, University); Kameron Rayner (138, Caldwell); Johnny Davis (152, Wheeling Park); Eric Banks (160, Wheeling Park); Leo Hermann (170, Steubenville Catholic); and Jeremy Paige (220, Wheeling Park).

Rounding out the team are Tyler Wiley (113, Caldwell); Josh Cornell

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