

# SPORTS

Thursday,  
January 31, 2019

## PREP WRESTLING



**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Koen Kish looks for back points during a match earlier this season. He and the Red Devils face a busy schedule this weekend.

TL File PHOTO/KIM NORTH

# Mother Nature 'freezes' OVAC Dual Meet events

• Bill Hinegardner championships moved to Friday at Brooke, JM

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The polar vortex Mother Nature delivered to the Ohio Valley early Wednesday has forced postponement of the sixth annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Wrestling Championships.

Instead of competitions being held Wednesday night and tonight at Brooke High School in Wellsburg and the John Marshall Fieldhouse in Moundsville, all four classes will crown champions on Friday at the same sites.

"Due to the wind chill advisory for Wednesday and Thursday, we are re-



start an hour later.

Championship matches will be wrestled 20-30 minutes following the com-

ships for all divisions until Friday," Meet Director Jim Rocchi said in an email.

According to Rocchi, the lone change will have weigh-ins bumped up to 3 p.m., with wrestling to

"We did that, basically, to give the Ohio schools involved in our duals and the OHSAA team duals on Saturday some extra time on Friday," he explained of the time change. "Our policy states that if the OVAC Duals aren't completed by Saturday, then the top seeds in each division would be declared the champion."

"We wanted to give each school a chance at winning the championship on the mats, so we made the changes."

The brackets are the same with Class 1A/2A and Class 4A vying for crowns at Brooke High School.

Class 3A and Class 5A will compete in Moundsville.

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The Times Leader  
**SPORTS**

**SECTION  
B**

Saturday,  
February 2, 2019

# Mother Nature wipes out OVAC Duals for first time

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

For the first time in its six-year history, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships will be decided on paper, and not the mat.

Due to the blanket of snow Mother Nature deposited across the Ohio Valley late Thursday night, the event, which was slated for Brooke High School in Wellsburg (Classes 1A/2A and 4A) and the John Marshall Field House in Moundsville (Classes 3A and 5A),

Friday night was canceled.

"We currently have two counties under a Level 2 (emergency), and five of our teams involved are in those counties," Meet Director Jim Rocchi said by telephone Friday morning.

"We've had (school district) administrators tell us they weren't going to put buses on the roads, so we were forced to cancel the Dual Meet Championships.

"It was a tough decision," he stressed. "We tried everything we could, but safety for everyone involved was our main priority."

The championships were originally scheduled for Wednesday in Wellsburg and Thursday in Moundsville. However, the polar vortex wiped out those days.

With the cancellation, the championships go to the top seed in each classification. Those were Wheeling Park (Class 5A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A), Shenandoah (Class 3A) and Bridgeport (Class 1A/2A).

The Zeps are the lone repeat tit-



lists as they won the 1A/2A crown in 2018 and now have two all-time.

Of those four schools, Bridgeport is the only one that also claimed its division at the recent 66th annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships. St. Clairsville and Shenandoah were each second, while Wheeling Park was third. It is also Bridgeport's first OVAC Dual Meet title. The Red Devils now have three and the Pa-

triotis 11, which ties them for fifth all-time with Barnesville. Cadiz and Cameron (19) lead the way, followed by Oak Glen and Steubenville (15).

Bridgeport, St. Clairsville, Shenandoah are all involved in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Team regional tournaments today at various sites across the Buckeye State.

The winners of each regional advance to the team state tournament inside St. John Arena on the campus of Ohio State University on Sunday, Feb. 10.

# Weather Halts OVAC Dual Championships

Park, St. C., Shenandoah,  
Bridgeport crowned champs

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**For The Intelligencer**  
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## Break from Work...

Jill's A Class Act.com • EXT 11 • DALLAS PIKE



## • OVAC

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### Class 1A/2A

Bridgeport is the top seed and will meet No. 4 Caldwell in the semifinals. Ironically, the same two teams will vie Saturday at Nelsonville-York High School in the Ohio Division III team duals.

The other semi has second-seeded Toronto meeting No. 3 Weirton Madonna.

### Class 3A

Shenandoah is the top seed and faces fourth-seeded Linsly, while No. 2 Barnesville matches up with third-seeded Magnolia.

### Class 4A

St. Clairsville is the No. 1 seed and will tangle with Buckeye 8 rival Martins Ferry, which was a last-minute replacement for Cambridge. Northern conference rivals Oak Glen (No. 2) and East Liverpool (No. 3) battle in the other half of the bracket.

### Class 5A

Wheeling Park finds itself atop the 'big school' draw and meets No. 4 Indian Creek in a semi. Second-seeded Steubenville and No. 3 John Marshall do battle in the other semifinal.

# SECTION B

Monday,  
January 28, 2019

## OVAC Duals set to take center stage this week

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

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The Class 5A and Class 3A squads will compete on Wednesday. Weigh-ins will be held at 5 p.m. Semifinal action will begin at 6, with the championships immediately following.

The Class 4A and Class 1A/2A divisions will do battle on Thursday with the same time schedule.



### Class 5A

A new champion is assured as Parkersburg South is ineligible for not wrestling enough OVAC opponents.

Wheeling Park (10-1), under first-year head coach Brian Leggett is the top seed and will take on fourth-seeded Indian Creek (6-1). Steubenville (12-1) is second and will face No. 3 John Marshall (16-4).

"We're really excited to be competing in the dual championships," Leggett said. "The kids are ready to go out and compete and try to win a championship."

"We wrestled a few of Indian Creek's guys at the OVACs and we've seen them around at other tournaments, but it will be nice to wrestle someone that we haven't seen in a dual setting."

The Patriots have lost to Steubenville twice this season, but have defeated the

## • OVAC \_\_\_\_\_ Continued from Page B1

### Class 3A

There are two defending champions in this division as Shenandoah, the No. 1 seed, has bumped up from Class 1A/2A where it won last year as the third seed.

"Being the top seed means we've been doing something to be successful," Shenandoah head coach Jesse Wells said. "We are happy being 7-0 and the top seed, but we also know it won't be easy (to repeat) as Barnesville has a really talented team."

The Zebs meet No. 4 Linsly (4-1) in the semifinals.

The second-seeded Shamrocks (4-0) won the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament 3A championship over Shenandoah. They will take on third-seeded Magnolia (9-4).

### Class 1A/2A

Bridgeport, fresh off its first OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament title in nearly 30 years, is the No. 1 with a 5-2 mark. The Bulldogs will meet fourth-seeded Caldwell (2-2) in the semifinals.

"All the guys have wrestled hard this year. It has been a total team effort on everyone's part," Bridgeport head coach David Nelson said. "We wrestled Caldwell in a dual earlier this year and beat them by criteria, so it will be tough. Everyone must go out and wrestle their best."

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"We know Steubenville has a great team and we've lost to them twice, but the kids will be excited to get another shot at them," Leggett added. "On the other hand, we've beaten John Marshall twice."

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Another new titlist will be crowned as Big Red moved up to 5A.

St. Clairsville is the top seed for the first time as Joel Sansone's youthful squad is 9-1 in dual-meet action, losing only to Parkersburg South.

"Obviously when you're talking about seeds you always want to get as high as you can because the first-round matches will be a little easier," Sansone said. "Being the top seed, however, brings some added pressure from the outside."

The Red Devils meet No. 4 Martins Ferry (2-2) in the semifinals. The Purple Riders were a late replacement for Cambridge.

St. Clairsville was runnerup in the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament to overall champion Beaver Local, which is ineligible for the duals.

Second-seeded Oak Glen (9-4) meets No. 3 East Liverpool (2-3) in the other semifinal.

"I think Oak Glen will take care of its end," Sansone said. "They field a full lineup."

# OVAC Dual Championships Now Friday

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## CRUNY SIGNS WITH JACKETS

Brooke standout soccer player Nick Cruny will continue his academic and athletic career at Waynesburg University/12

# The Intelligencer SPORTS

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JANUARY 28, 2019

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## OVAC Dual Meet Championships Set for This Week

5A, 3A squads primed for Wednesday; 4A, 1A/2A square off Thursday

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