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SPORTS

Thursday,
March 12, 2020

The Baker's Dozen Is Columbus-bound

• Thirteen area wrestlers headed to state tournament beginning Friday afternoon

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer



COLUMBUS — For the 34 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestlers who have qualified for the 83rd annual Ohio state tournament, it promises to be one they won't soon forget.

The local contingent is among nearly 1,000 athletes and coaches — in three divisions — who will converge on Value City Arena inside The Jerome Schottenstein Center on the campus of Ohio State University, starting Friday afternoon and running through Sunday

night's championship finals. That number has been drastically reduced to the coronavirus advisory issued by Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday. According to a release from the Ohio High School

Athletic Association, state-qualifying student-athletes will each be permitted to designate four family members who will be permitted to purchase all-session ticket books. State tournament coaches will each be permitted to designate two family members to purchase tickets. Tickets will only be sold as all-session ticket books.

Of the Eastern Ohio matmen still chasing gold, 13 are in Division III, with the remaining 21 in Division II.

Division III Martins Ferry, which finished sixth at the Heath dis-



KOEN KISH
St. Clairsville



CADEN STOUT
St. Clairsville



REESE SKAGGS
St. Clairsville



DEREK WITSBERGER
St. Clairsville



GRIFFEN STEPHEN
Barnesville



OWEN OLIVER
Barnesville



BRIAN PALMER JR.
Buckeye Local



CHASE GOFF
Martins Ferry



KAMERON HUGHES
Martins Ferry



RICHE MCFARLAND
Martins Ferry



DONTE LEWIS
Martins Ferry



ZACH KUNEFF
Bridgeport

trict last weekend, has four qualifiers, while Barnesville and Shenandoah each have two. Bridgeport, Buckeye Local, Edison, Harrison Central and Southern Local all have one apiece.

The Purple Riders of second-year head coach Chad Ware have one district champion and three fourth-place finishers. Senior

Richie McFarland (195) prevailed at Heath, while junior Chase Goff (160) and seniors Kameron Hughes (170) and Donte Lewis (285) all qualified.

McFarland, a three-time state qualifier, kept the fans on the edge of their seats at Heath as he won in sudden-victory in the semifinals before earning points as

time ran out in the title bout against Columbus Academy's Gynnn Mendenhall.

"Richie has gotten better each and every year up See, BAKER'S, Page B3



JUSTIN SAMPSON
Harr. Central

'Clash of Champions' celebrates Silver Anniversary Tuesday at Brooke

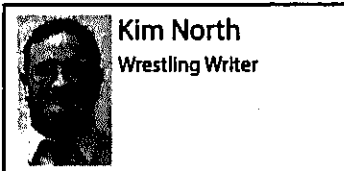
The Silver Anniversary of the "Clash of Champions" will take place Tuesday night at Brooke High School in Wellsburg. The all-star match pits wrestlers from the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference against the best from the Midwest Athletic Conference in western Pennsylvania.

Action starts at 7. Thirteen of the best senior OVAC All Stars will take to the mat for one final high school bout. Included in that number are five

OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament champions and a trio of runnerups.

Standing atop the podium last January were Wheeling Park's Andrew Shelek (138); Oak Glen's Peyton Hall (152), Steubenville's David Tuttle (182), Parkersburg South's Braxton Amos (220) and Shenandoah's Easton Hitchens (285).

Finishing on the second step were University's Jace Stockett (126), Beaver Local's Skyler Lasure (160) and Steubenville's



Kim North
Wrestling Writer

Keith Bodnar (195).

Hall and Amos scripted outstanding prep careers Hall, a WVU recruit, recently captured his fourth W.Va. state championship, thus becoming Oak Glen's first four-timer after five others

had won three. Amos, who went an astounding 162-0 during his career in Wood County, won his third title the same weekend. He is committed to the University of Wisconsin.

The OVAC squad is completed with Brooke's Danny Yost (113) and Max Camilletti (170); Wells-ville's Jason Tice (120); Weir's Wyatt Conley (132); and Southern Local's Dylan Milhoan (145).

The OVAC holds a commanding 17-7 advantage in the series.

The two squads have split the last two matches, with the MAC prevailing 40-22 two years ago at Brooke, while the OVAC won 43-14 last year at West Allegheny High School.

A pre-banquet dinner will be held Monday night at Undo's on Three Springs drive in Weirton. Food will be served at 7.

Wheeling Park assistant coach Danny Doyle is the event's contact person.

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Magnolia advances to state

By CODY TOMER
For The Times Leader

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The Magnolia boys' basketball team left its heart on its home court Wednesday night but took the nets with them.

After watching a 13-point halftime lead dwindle to a deadlocked dual in the fourth quarter, the Blue Eagles showed the grit of a champion and pulled off a 47-42 victory over Cameron in a Class A Region One co-final.

Magnolia (18-7) will make its first trip to the state tournament since winning a state title in 2015. The Eagles will be the No. 7 seed and will face No. 2 Charleston Catholic Thursday, March 19 at 1 p.m.

"We're really excited," Magnolia coach Dave Tallman said.

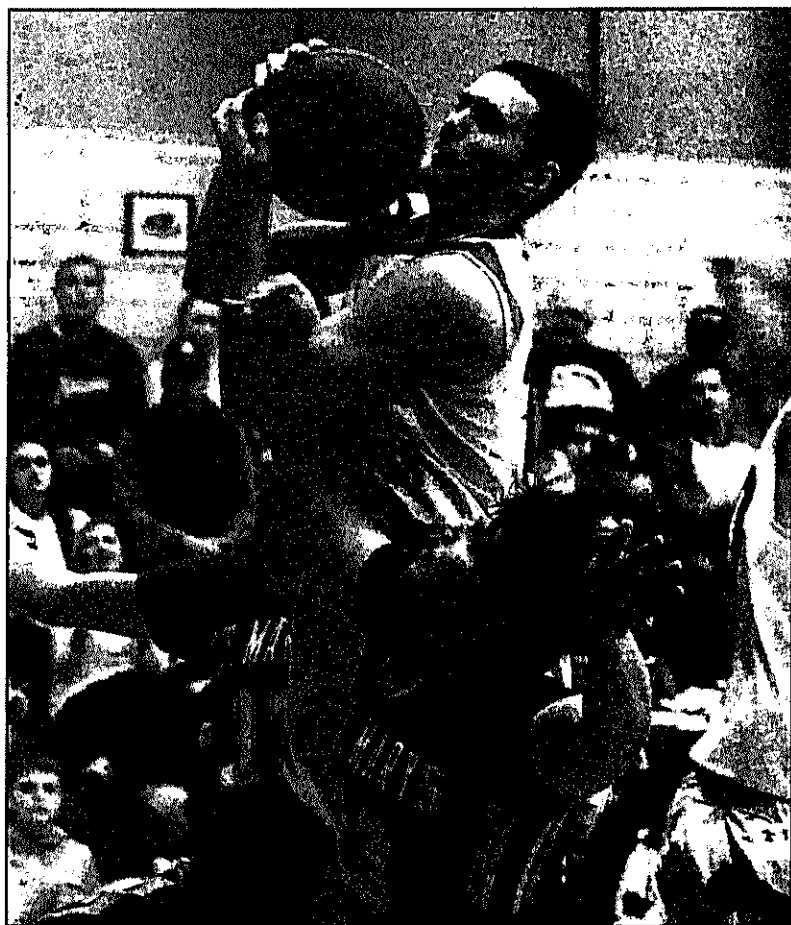
"Everybody had to step up and I'm really proud of our guards. Guards are the guys who get you there. They take you a long way and (Wednesday) that was Trevor Williamson and Levi Cecil."

The Eagles punched their ticket to state in unlikely fashion after losing senior leader Jake Gamble to a knee injury just before halftime.

He showed the heart of a warrior and made an attempt to play in the second half but once again fell to the court in pain.

He watched the remainder of the game from the sidelines.

"I just didn't want to leave my brothers," Gamble said. "I wanted to go out there and do all I could to get to



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

WHEELING CENTRAL'S J.C. Maxwell muscled his way to the basket between a pair of St. Mary's players Wednesday night.

Whg. Central earns W.Va. 'A' state berth

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — Championship teams are able to make the plays when the game is on the line

to within 66-65. St. Marys went into delay mode and ran the clock down to 1:07 with William Steele being fouled. He meshed one-of-two, making it a 67-65 Blue Devil advantage.

NBA suspends rest of season

MIAMI (AP) — The NBA has suspended its season "until further notice" after a Utah Jazz player tested positive Wednesday for the coronavirus, a move that came only hours after the majority of the league's owners were leaning toward playing games without fans in arenas.

Now there will be no games at all, at least for the time being. A person with knowledge of the situation said the Jazz player who tested positive was center Rudy Gobert. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the league nor the team confirmed the test.

"The NBA is suspending game play following the conclusion of tonight's schedule of games until further notice," the league said in a statement sent shortly after 9:30 p.m. EDT. "The NBA will use this hiatus to determine next steps for moving forward in regard to the coronavirus pandemic."

The test result, the NBA said, was reported shortly before the scheduled tip-off time for the Utah at Oklahoma City game on Wednesday night was called off. Players were on the floor for warmups and tip-off was moments away when they were told to return to their locker rooms. About 30 minutes later, fans were told the game was postponed "due to unforeseen circumstances."

Those circumstances were the league's worst-case scenario for now — a player testing positive. A second person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity said the league expects the shutdown to last a minimum of two weeks, but cautioned that timeframe is very fluid.

"It's a very serious time right now," Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I think the league moved appropriately and prudently and we'll all just have to monitor the situation and see where it goes from here."

The Jazz released a statement saying a player — they did not identify Gobert — tested negative earlier Wednesday for flu, strep throat and an upper respiratory infection. That player's symptoms diminished as the day went along, but the decision was made to test for COVID-19 anyway. That test came back with a preliminary positive result.

"The individual is currently in the care of health officials in Oklahoma City," the Jazz said, adding that updates would come as appropriate.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some