

SPORTS

Monday,

November 18, 2024

OVAC All-Star games



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Ethan Saffell battles for the ball Sunday during the OVAC All-Star boys soccer game at St. Clairsville High School.

Photo by NICK HENTHORN

• West Virginia sweeps soccer

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The best of the Ohio Valley came together for an exhibition of their skills Sunday at St. Clairsville High School in the 2024 OVAC Soccer Senior All-Star games.

In the annual state-vs.-state outing, the West Virginia side of the river took both games Sunday, and in decisive fashion, the boys winning 11-0 and the girls winning 8-0 over their Ohio counterparts.

More important than the final scores though was the opportunity for standout seniors across the OVAC to get the spotlight one more time.

"It's an opportunity for seniors to get together, from different schools,

and play with guys that they know from around the OVAC and just have a lot of fun." Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian, coach of the W.Va. Boys on Sunday, said. "That was the emphasis — score lots of goals and have lots of fun. That's what they tried to do out there."

"We wanted to have an enjoyable experience for the seniors," Steubenville head coach Annie Cutri, coach of the Ohio Girls on Sunday, said. "This is the last time they'll play in their high school jersey. West Virginia is always a solid side, so we were just trying to make it fun and uplifting and empowering for the girls."

In-between games, conference Players and Coaches of the Year

were presented with their plaques. Awardees included, on the girls side, Rylee Wright, Wheeling Central (1A-3A); Gabriella Spickard, Weir (4A); and Adrienne Altizer, Parkersburg South (5A). Cutri was Coach of the Year. On the boys side, Dominic Gianangeli, Wheeling Central (1A-3A); Ethan Wood, Beaver Local (4A); and Tresz McLeod, Wheeling Park (5A) were awarded. Wheeling Central's Brian Komorowski was Coach of the Year.

The W.Va. boys took an 8-0 lead into halftime and cruised to the finish line. It was a victory for the Mountain State after Ohio won in PK's last year.

See SOCCER,
Page B2

• Ohio tops West Virginia in four sets

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Some of the top senior volleyball talent from around the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference took to the court Sunday at the ECO Center in St. Clairsville for one final hurrah.

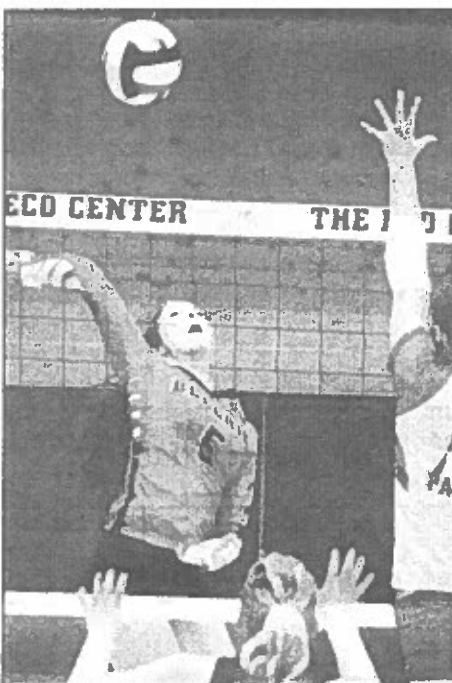
When an attack error sailed over the line for match point, it was the Ohio squad that emerged victorious in four sets, 25-15, 25-21, 21-25, and 15-4.

The Kaye Sechrest-led Buckeyes squad jumped out to a commanding lead in the first set, thanks in large part to the play of Warren's Madyson Long, a 5-foot-11 outside hitter with a penchant for hammering home solid kills.

Long, who averaged five kills per set her senior season, totaled five of six in the first set as Ohio raced out to a 21-9 advantage.

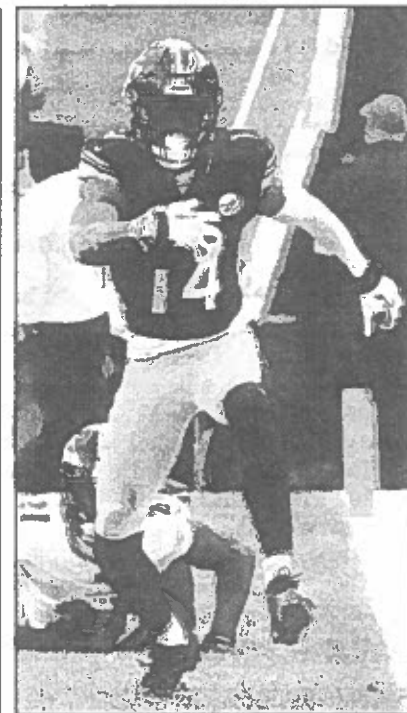
Her fifth scoring strike put Ohio up 24-15 before a block resulted in set point and Ohio taking an early 1-0 advantage.

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B2



BELLAIRE'S ZARA Harveth goes up for a kill during the OVAC All-Star Volleyball match Sunday at the ECO Center in St. Clairsville.

Photo Provided



AP Photo

PITTSBURGH STEELERS wide receiver George Pickens (14) avoids a tackle by Baltimore Ravens cornerback Brandon Stephens (21) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday in Pittsburgh.

Boswell kicks 6 field goals, the Steelers win 18-16 over Ravens

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers insist they have no secret formula when it comes to stopping Lamar Jackson. That there is nothing mystical about their approach to the otherworldly Baltimore Ravens quarterback.

They study film. Just like everybody else. They read their cues. Just like everybody else. They fight. Just like everybody else.

And they win. Like just about no one else.

"Forget the minutiae of what it is you do," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "You better play hard, fast and together or you have no shot."

They almost always do when Jackson is on the other side of the line of scrimmage.

The latest proof came in an 18-16 victory over the Ravens on Sunday that included another 60-minute clinic on slowing down perhaps the most dynamic player in the league.

Pittsburgh (8-2) held Jackson and the rest of the NFL's top-ranked offense to season lows in points and yards (329) and season highs in mistakes, some self-inflicted, some not.

Baltimore (7-4) turned it over three times — each leading to one of Chris Boswell's six field goals — and committed 12 penalties while never really establishing the kind of rhythm that comes so easily when they play someone other than the Steelers.

"I can't call it," Jackson said after falling to 1-4 against Pittsburgh. "I feel like we (were) making strides in the right direction and then something would happen."

The two-time MVP completed just 16 of 33 for 207 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He hit Zay Flowers for a 16-yard score with 1:06 left to get the Ra-

Oregon is the unanimous No. 1 team again; Georgia is back in top 10 and LSU out of Top 25



(AP) — Oregon remained the unanimous No. 1 team in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll Sunday after its close call at Wisconsin, Notre Dame and Alabama each jumped up two spots and Georgia returned to the top 10. LSU is unranked for the first time in two years.

The unbeaten Ducks are atop the AP Top 25 for the fifth straight week, passing Texas as the No. 1 team for the most polls this season. They received all 62 first-place votes for the third week in a row after scoring their fewest points in 37 games in the 16-13 win over Wisconsin.

Oregon also holds the top spot in the College Football Playoff rankings and will at-

The Ducks were followed in the AP poll by No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Texas, No. 4 Penn State and No. 5 Indiana for the second straight week. The top five could be due for a shake-up this week with Indiana visiting Ohio State for one of the most anticipated games of the season.

Notre Dame, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee rounded out the top 10. Georgia got a three-rung promotion to No. 8 with its 31-17 win over Tennessee.

Mississippi, which was idle Saturday, rose one spot and Tennessee dropped four but stayed in the top 10.

The Big Ten again held four of the top five spots, and the Southeastern Conference had

Katelyn Smith was Offensive MVP game.

• Oregon

Continued from Page B1

to Kansas dropped the Cougars from No. 7 to No. 14 and put them in a first-place tie with Deion Sanders' Colorado Buffaloes in the Big 12. The Buffs are No. 16.

A season-high four Group of Five teams are in the Top 25. No. 12 Boise State remains the highest ranked of those programs and first in line for the guaranteed playoff spot. No. 23 UNLV joins Boise State as Top 25 Mountain West teams. No. 18 Army and No. 20 Tulane give the American Athletic Conference two ranked teams as well.

LSU — which dropped to 6-4 following its third straight loss, 27-16 at Florida — is out of the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 16, 2022. The Tigers were ranked in 36 straight polls.

Oregon's win over Wisconsin was its third by three points or fewer this season. The Ducks' 16 points were their fewest since a 49-3 loss to Georgia in their 2022 opener.

Tulane went from No. 25 to No. 20 for the week's biggest promotion. The Green Wave's 35-0 win at Navy marked their first shutout of a conference opponent since 1960 and set up a matchup with No. 18 Army in the AAC championship game on Dec. 6.

No. 16 Colorado has its highest ranking since it was No. 11 on Dec. 4, 2016, and No. 19 South Carolina has its highest since it was No. 13 on Sept. 21, 2014.

No. 21 Arizona State is in the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 10, 2021. The Sun Devils (8-2), who are coming off a win at Kansas State, have their most victories since 2021.

No. 22 Iowa State, which beat Cincinnati after two straight losses, is back following a one-week absence.

No. 23 UNLV, which was ranked for one week after a 4-0 start, has won four of its last five.

No. 24 Illinois makes its eighth appearance in the Top 25 this season, its most since 2001.

Missouri, Kansas State and Louisville joined LSU as teams knocked out of the rankings following losses.

Conference call

SEC — 7 (Nos. 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 19).

Big Ten — 5 (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 24).

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 14, 16, 21, 22).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 11, 13, 17).

AAC — 2 (Nos. 18, 20).

Mountain West — 2 (Nos. 12, 23).

Pac-12 — 1 (No. 25).

Independent — 1 (No. 6).

SCHOOL

• Steelers

Continued from Page B1

Jackson rolled to his left, tried to run then pulled up and threw a prayer to no one in particular that fell incomplete.

The Steelers — with backup quarterback Justin Fields subbing in for Russell Wilson on a couple of snaps — picked up a first down on the ensuing drive as Pittsburgh ran out the clock to give the Steelers a 1 1/2-game lead over Baltimore.

"To come away with a win, it took everybody, not one guy," Pittsburgh defensive tackle Cam Heyward said. "And we understand how critical these AFC North games are. We understand we got a bit of a gantlet (coming)."

One the Steelers appear to be well-equipped to handle.

The list of contributors to Pittsburgh's eighth win in its last nine meetings against the Ravens included rookie linebacker Payton Wilson — who literally stole the ball from Baltimore running back Justice Hill for a crucial fourth-quarter pick — and newcomers Patrick Queen and DeShon Elliott, former Ravens who have quickly found their footing on the other side of the rivalry.

Elliott pounced on a Derrick Henry fumble on Baltimore's first possession and Queen — who left Baltimore in free agency after the Ravens opted not to make him an offer — stripped former teammate Isaiah Likely at the end of the first half and scooped up the loose ball that led to a Boswell field goal and a 9-7 halftime lead the Steelers never relinquished.

"One man's trash is another man's treasure," Tomlin said of Queen. "I'm glad he is on our team."

Pittsburgh needed every one of Boswell's kicks on a day the offense sputtered while largely avoiding the miscues that cost Baltimore so dearly.

Wilson threw for 205 yards and an ill-advised pick in the end zone midway through the fourth quarter. Najee Harris ran for 63 yards — including a 2-yard churn for the clinching first down — and George Pickens caught eight passes for 89 yards.

Even Fields got in on the act. A month after ceding the starting job back to Wilson after Wilson recovered from a calf injury that forced him to miss six games, Fields was behind center for two of the most important snaps of the game, a 9-yard quarterback run on Pittsburgh's final drive and a handoff to Harris that moved the chains and let the Steelers kill the clock.

"I believe that Justin Fields is a franchise quarterback, a great player, a great teammate, a hard worker," Wilson said. "We just love doing this thing together."

The game marked the second time this season Pittsburgh won without reaching the end zone. Boswell also booted six field goals in the opener in Atlanta. He's the second player in NFL history to make six field goals in a game twice in the same season, joining John Carney, who did it for the San Diego Chargers in 1993.

While Tomlin praised Boswell's production, he admitted it also "reminds us of our warts. It reminds us of the work we need to do."

The Steelers will get a chance to examine those warts while in first place, while the Ravens are left to chase them in the interim while waiting for a rematch the weekend before Christmas. Jackson and company are hoping the missteps that have cropped up in their losses this season will be gone by then.

"We can't keep beating ourselves in these type of games," Jackson said. "We've got to find a way to fix that. That (stuff) is annoying."

• Volleyball

Continued from Page B1

The second set was more nip and tuck, with neither team gaining more than a one or two point advantage midway through the set.

West Virginia recorded a block on a Long kill attempt to cut the deficit to 14-13 before the Buckeyes went on a quick run.

A couple kills and attack errors saw Ohio run its lead to 19-

13 before an Addison Kitsmiller kill shot momentarily stopped the bleeding.

A couple of unforced errors allowed West Virginia to further close the gap, and when Oak Glen's McKenzi Miller split a block attempt for a successful attack, the Mountaineers trailed only 22-18.

Union Local's Olivia Wortman put Ohio ahead 24-19 before two successive blocks

allowed the Mountaineers to narrow the gap again.

The second of those blocks saw Kitsmiller stuff Wellsville's Pressley Stokes at the net.

Stokes got her revenge on the next point, hammering home one of her four kills for set point.

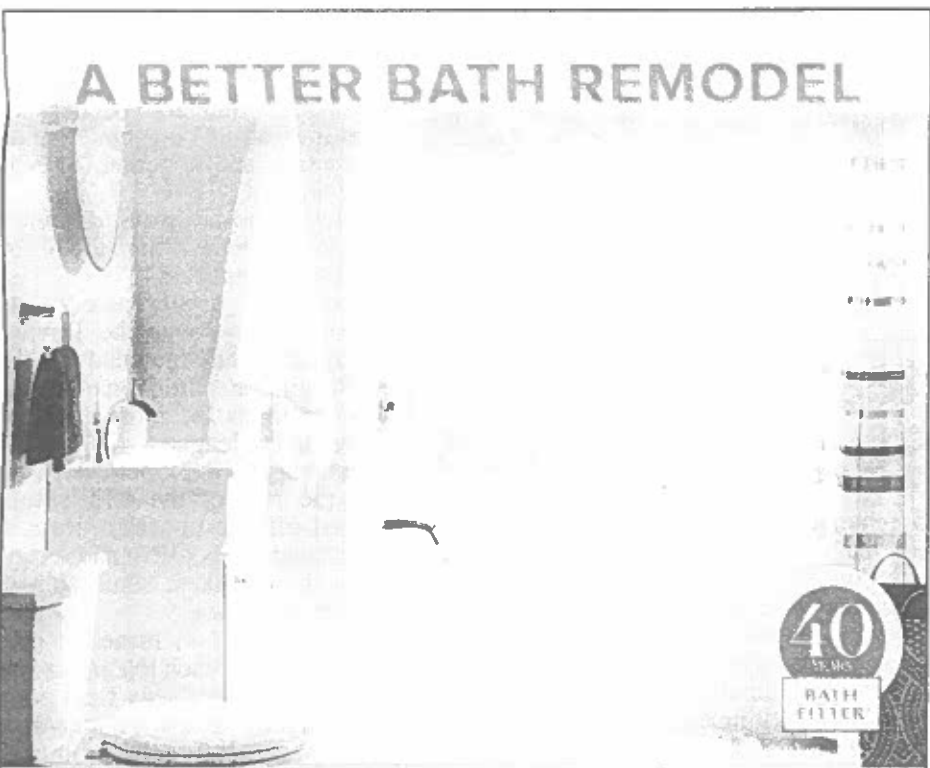
Martin led the charge in the third set, allowing West Virginia to avoid the sweep.

Martin, who finished with a match-high nine kills, really set the tone in the third set as West Virginia won 25-21.

The two teams agreed that the fourth set would be the final, regardless of outcome and that it would be the first to 15 points.

That meant a tie was a possibility, but Ohio came out on point in the final set, with Marietta's Ari Buckley and Long led the final charge in a relatively one-sided 15-4 deciding set.

Between sets 2 and 3 the OVAC announced its players of the year, with Conotton Valley's Ava Williams (Class A), Caldwell's Chesne Long and Wellsville's Stokes (AA), Laura Carbonall of Linsly and Gianna Chirpas of Martins Ferry (AAA), Oak Glen's Martin (AAAA) and Morgantown's Sydney Buck (AAAAA).



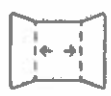
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Photo by Joe Lovell

Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Calvin Austin Jr. attempts to evade the grasp of Baltimore Ravens defensive back Ar'Darius Washington during Sunday's game in Pittsburgh.

Steelers Stymie Lamar Jackson, Defeat Ravens

18-16 Win Puts Pittsburgh In The AFC North Driver's Seat

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers insist they have no secret formula when it comes to stopping Lamar Jackson. That there is nothing mystical about their approach to the otherworldly Baltimore Ravens quarterback. They study film. Just like everybody else. They read their cues. Just like everybody else. They fight. Just like everybody else.

And they win. Like just about no one else.

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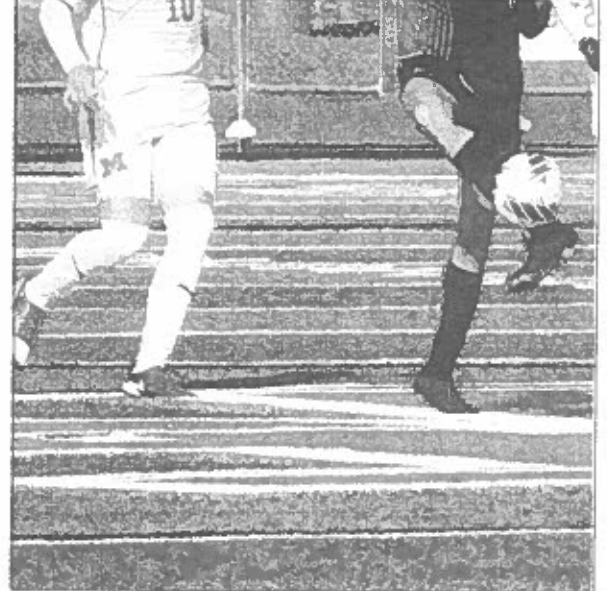
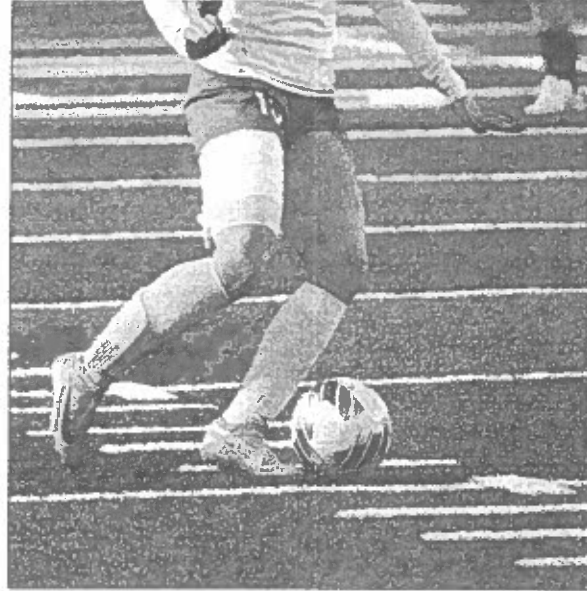
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Please see **STEELERS**, Page 10



Photos by Nick Henthorn

LEFT: Wheeling Park's Katelyn Smith moves in toward the goal Sunday during Sunday during the OVAC All-Star girls soccer game at St. Clairsville High School. RIGHT: Steubenville's Brady Dinovo controls a pass while Morgantown's Aidan Stire moves in to defend during the boys' game.

W.Va. Boys, Girls Both Shut Out Ohio Counterparts

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The best of the Ohio Valley came together for an exhibition of their skills Sunday at St. Clairsville High School in the 2024 OVAC Soccer Senior All-Star games.

In the annual state-vs.-state outing, West Virginia took both games in decisive fashion, the boys winning 11-0 and the girls winning 8-0 over their Ohio counterparts. But more important than the final scores was the opportunity for standout seniors across the OVAC to get the spot-

light one more time.

"It's an opportunity for seniors to get together, from different schools, and play with guys that they know from around the OVAC and just have a lot of fun," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian, coach of the W.Va. Boys on Sunday, said. "That was the emphasis - score lots of goals and have lots of fun. That's what they tried to do out there."

"We wanted to have an enjoyable experience for the seniors," Steubenville head coach Annie Cutri, coach of the Ohio Girls on Sunday, said. "This is the last

time they'll play in their high school jersey. West Virginia is always a solid side, so we were just trying to make it fun and uplifting and empowering for the girls."

In-between games, conference Players and Coaches of the Year were presented with their plaques. Awardees included, on the girls side, Rylee Wright, Wheeling Central (1A-3A); Gabriella Spickard, Weir (4A); and Adrienne Altizer, Parkersburg South (5A). Cutri was Coach of the Year.

Please see **ALL-STAR**, Page 10

JM Girls, Park Boys Take Northern Panhandle First Splash At Bethany

BETHANY — The John Marshall High School girls and Wheeling Park High School boys captured their respective divisions at Saturday's Northern Panhandle First Splash at Bethany College.

The meet showcased a handful of West Virginia's top returning swimmers from the 2023-24 season, and they didn't disappoint.

Brooke High School, Wheeling Central Catholic High School and Oak Glen High School also participated.

GIRLS

Led by senior Maitlyn Miller, who captured individual events

Saturday in the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle, John Marshall's girls posted 429 points, topping Wheeling Park's girls at 395 and Brooke at 266.

Wheeling Central finished fourth with 188 points and Oak Glen had 47.

Miller, a returning state finalist in both events, touched the wall at 26.22 in the 50 and 58.08 in the 100. She also anchored JM's 200 freestyle relay (Ella Finley, Sarah Hess, Adah Aubrey) that finished first in 1:55.2, and the 400 freestyle relay that finished second to Brooke. John Marshall also got an

individual event win in the 100 breaststroke from Hess (1:28.11).

Returning state finalist Molly George from Wheeling Park High School also had a strong meet. She finished first in the 100 backstroke (1:08.3) and second in the 100 fly (1:12.42). Brooke High's Kiersten Harvath out-touched George in the 100 fly (1:12.15) while Lyla Horvath won the 500 free in 6:39.97. Wheeling Central freshman Gracee Humpe also finished first in the 200 freestyle at 2:29.19.

Please see **SPLASH**, Page 12

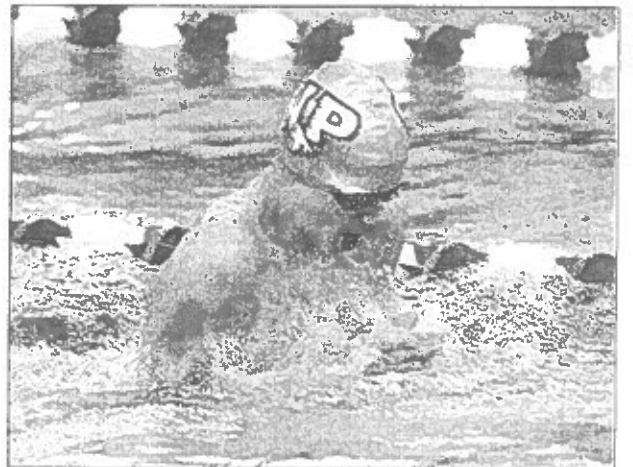


Photo by John McCabe

Wheeling Park High School sophomore Brady Beihl competes in the 100 breaststroke during Saturday's Northern Panhandle First Splash at Bethany College. Beihl finished second in the event to help propel the Wheeling Park boys to a commanding victory in the event.

Ohio All-Stars Get By W.Va. In Four Sets

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Some of the top senior volleyball talent from around the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference took to the court Sunday at the ECO Center in St. Clairsville for one final hurrah.

When an attack error sailed over the line for match point, it was the Ohio squad that emerged victorious in four sets, 25-15, 25-21, 21-25, and 15-4.

The Kaye Sechrest-led Buckeyes squad jumped out to a commanding lead in the first set, thanks in large part to the play of Warren's Madyson Long, a 5-foot-11 outside hitter with a penchant for hammering home solid kills.

Long, who averaged five kills per set her senior season, totaled five of six in the first set as Ohio raced out to a 21-9 advantage. Her fifth scoring strike put Ohio up 24-15 before a block resulted in set point and Ohio taking an early 1-0 advantage.

The second set was more nip and

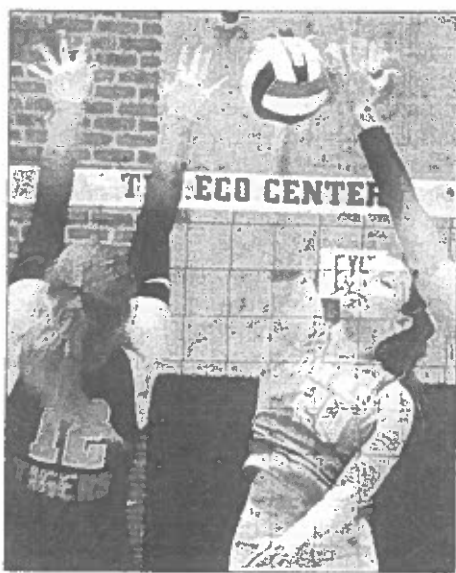


Photo Provided

Oak Glen's McKenzie Martin attacks between block attempts during Sunday's OVAC All-Star volleyball match at the ECO Center in St. Clairsville.

tuck, with neither team gaining more than a one or two point advantage midway through the set.

West Virginia recorded a block on a Long kill attempt to cut the deficit to 14-13 before the Buckeyes went on a quick run.

Please see **OHIO**, Page 11

Baylor Blasts WVU, Dimming Bowl Prospects

By DEREK REDD
Managing Editor

MORGANTOWN — First-half offensive fireworks turned into a second-half slog for the West Virginia University and Baylor University football teams. In the end, the Bears did just enough in the second half to pull safely away from the Mountaineers and run their winning streak to four games with a 49-35 victory Saturday at Milan Puskar Stadium.

The loss snapped a two-game win streak for WVU (5-5, 4-3 Big 12) and dashed the Mountaineers' slim hopes of sneaking into the conference title game. West Virginia has two more games — at home next Saturday against UCF and at Texas Tech on Nov. 30 — to pick up a sixth win needed for bowl eligibility.

"We have a disappointed group

INSIDE

• Old habits reappear for Mountaineer defense in loss/11

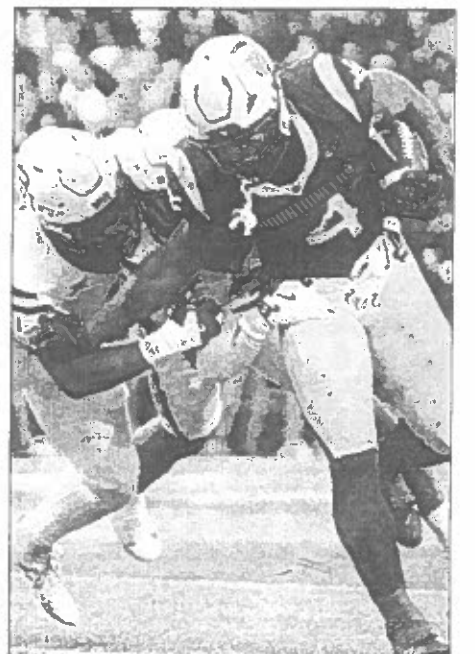


Photo by Benjamin Powell

West Virginia running back C.J. Donaldson fights for yards against Baylor on Saturday.

downstairs," WVU coach Neal Brown said after the game, "staff and players. I told them I love them. That's unconditional. We didn't play good enough."

Please see **WVU**, Page 10

Wheeling Nailers forward Kyle Jackson tries to get the puck past Indy Fuel goaltender Ben Gaudreau during Saturday's game at WesBanco Arena. The Nailers won, 5-2.

Nailers Burn Fuel 5-2, Continue Their Hot Start To The Season

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers are making it clear early that WesBanco Arena will not be a friendly place for opposing teams in 2024-25. On Saturday night, the Nailers closed out a five-game homestand by earning points in their seventh straight contest with a 5-2 victory over the Indy Fuel.

Wheeling rolled out to a 3-0 lead in the first period, then got a pair of insurance tallies in the third to get the win to the finish line. Kyle Jackson led the way offensively with two goals and an assist. Matty De St. Phalle assisted on each of the team's first four goals, and David Jankowski chipped in with three points from the blueline.

The Nailers went 4-0-1 on the homestand, are 6-0-1 in their last seven games, and lead the North Division with an 8-3-1 overall record.

The Nailers were swinging for the fences from the start, as they stormed out to a 3-0 lead in the first period. All three goals were scored from within a couple of feet of the crease. Kyle Jackson opened the scoring at the 5:07

mark, when he crashed in to lift the rebound of Matty De St. Phalle's right circle wrist shot into the top portion of the twine.

Jackson helped to create the second marker as well, as he directed a shot on goal that got kicked out by Ben Gaudreau. However, the loose puck sat in the crease, before it got tapped home by David Jankowski.

Wheeling turned on the red light again with 2:06 remaining. Atley Calvert scooped up the puck in the trapezoid, then wrapped it around on his forehand, which he jammed inside the left post.

Indy pushed back in the middle frame, and the margin became one. Matus Spodniak put the Fuel on the scoreboard at the 2:38 mark, when he spun along the right side of the goal line, and shoveled a shot up and into the top-right corner of the cage.

Colin Bilek followed by spiking in a one-timer from the low slot, as tempers began to boil.

The Nailers maintained their one-goal advantage into the third period, then added two key insurance markers.

Jackson notched his second of the night with 6:03 left on the clock, as he dangled around a defender in the right circle, then danced in alone to score with a forehand shot into the left side of the net. Sam Houde tacked on an empty netter with 2:30 remaining to put the finishing touches on Wheeling's 5-2 triumph.

Jaxon Castor was stellar in goal for the Nailers, as he earned the win by denying 30 of the 32 shots he faced. Ben Gaudreau received the loss for Indy, as he allowed four goals on 18 shots.

The Nailers will play one game next weekend, and that will be on the road against the Fort Wayne Komets on Saturday at 7:35.

Wheeling will play two home games the following week around the Thanksgiving holiday. First up is the annual Thanksgiving Eve game on Nov. 27. On Nov. 30 is Hall of Fame Night. Former players Tomas Vokoun and Steve Gibson will be inducted into the Wheeling Hockey Hall of Fame. That game will also feature the annual Teddy Bear Toss to benefit the Salvation Army.

ing to another dismal outcome.

WVU (5-5, 4-3 Big 12) gave up a season-high 512

yards of total offense against the Bears, the most the Mountaineers have allowed since letting Oklahoma rack up 644 yards last season. Baylor's point total was the most WVU has given up since the Sooners' 59 points in 2023.

"Really, the same issues that have plagued us all year showed up again tonight," WVU coach Neal Brown said.

Among those problems — a porous pass defense, too many big plays and an inability to stop foes on third and fourth down. Baylor quarterback Sawyer Robertson finished with a career-high 329 passing yards, threw for three touchdowns and stayed interception-free. His three touchdown passes spanned 22, 43 and 40 yards, respectively. Another chunk play came with Bryson Washington's 51-yard touchdown run.

WVU's secondary has struggled all season, Brown said, and Saturday was no different.

"There were a couple of big balls in the first half where we just didn't play the ball very well," Brown said. "That's been an issue all year. We've tried a bunch of different things. We have just not played very well back there."

The Mountaineers also allowed Baylor to convert eight of 13 third downs and its lone fourth-down attempt. WVU has now allowed opponents to convert 46.8% of their third downs and 66.7% of their fourth downs, both ranked among the nation's worst.

West Virginia had some defensive success in the third quarter, holding Baylor to 1.4 yards per carry and recording its lone sack of the night. It was WVU's lone scoreless quarter. The Bears missed a 55-yard field goal short.

Brown said tackling was at its best during the third. Linebacker Reid Carrico said defensive coordinator Jeff Koonz — running the unit for the second game after Jordan Lesley was dismissed — brought the group together for a halftime talk.

"He just really hit home on the fact that what we did in the first half wasn't our standard defense," Carrico said. "So we all bought into that and in the third quarter, we played some really good defense."

very well back there."

Coach Neal Brown on WVU secondary

of the Kansas State loss.

Greene finished the Baylor game with 237 yards,

two touchdowns and an interception on 19-of-39 passing, while adding 129 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries.

Despite missing two games with a head injury and watching Nicco Marchiol start in his place, Greene said he didn't enter the Baylor game timidly.

"They just told me to play how I always play," Greene said. "When you try to play scared or skittish or whatever, that's when bad stuff happens. So they just told me to play my game."

Brown said Greene had some great moments during the Baylor game, but there were some decision-making concerns as well. Greene admitted he wanted some of his third-down decisions back.

Brown said that some of Greene's throws didn't need attempted.

"I love the kid because he competes," Brown said. "He's an explosive runner and he threw the ball well at times."

"The interception was a really bad decision," he added. "That ball should have never been thrown."

Brown said that wide receiver Traylon Ray was done for the year after suffering a leg injury in the third quarter Saturday night. Ray got tangled up with Baylor defensive back Caden Jenkins at the Bear 10. Jenkins was flagged for pass interference, and Ray stayed on the ground with a serious leg injury. He was taken off the field on a cart and did not return.

"It wasn't good," Brown said. "It not only hurt us because he was winning a lot, but it hurt us emotionally. We had some guys that really struggled with that, because it was visible on the field what the injury was."

"Our skill group is really close," Brown added, "and emotionally, that was tough to overcome."

Brown said Ray will recover, but he would be out for the rest of the season. He finished the game with 22 yards and a touchdown on three catches, and finished the season with 28 catches for 426 yards and four touchdowns.

Brown said that, in Ray's stead, Justin Robinson will need to step up.

WVU's home finale versus UCF will kickoff at 3:30 p.m. Saturday and be broadcast on ESPNU.

AP Top 25: Oregon Is Unanimous No. 1 Again; Georgia Is Back In Top 10; LSU Out Of Top 25

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon remained the unanimous No. 1 team in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll Sunday after its close call at Wisconsin. Notre Dame and Alabama each jumped up two spots and Georgia returned to the top 10. LSU is unranked for the first time in two years.

The unbeaten Ducks are atop the AP Top 25 for the fifth straight week, passing Texas as the No. 1 team for the most polls this season. They received all 62 first-place votes for the third week in a row after scoring their fewest points in 37 games in the 16-13 win over Wisconsin.

Oregon also holds the top spot in the College Football Playoff rankings and will attempt to complete its first perfect regular season since 2010 when it hosts Washington in two weeks.

The Ducks were followed in the AP poll by No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Texas, No. 4 Penn State and No. 5 Indiana for the second straight week. The top five could be due for a shakeup this week with Indiana visiting Ohio State for one of the most anticipated games of the season.

Notre Dame, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee rounded out the top 10. Georgia got a three-rung promotion to No. 8 with its 31-17 win over Tennessee.

Mississippi, which was idle Saturday, rose one spot and Tennessee dropped four but stayed in the top 10.

The Big Ten again held four of



AP Photo

Oregon's Dillon Gabriel (8) looks to throw during the second half against Wisconsin on Saturday in Madison, Wis.

the top five spots, and the Southeastern Conference had five of the top 10.

BYU's 17-13 home loss to Kansas dropped the Cougars from No. 7 to No. 14 and put them in a first-place tie with Deion Sanders' Colorado Buffaloes in the Big 12. The Buffs are No. 16.

A season-high four Group of Five teams are in the Top 25. No. 12 Boise State remains the highest ranked of those programs and first in line for the guaranteed playoff spot. No. 23 UNLV joins Boise State as Top 25 Mountain West teams. No. 18 Army and No. 20 Tulane give the American Athletic Conference two ranked teams as well.

LSU — which dropped to 6-4 following its third straight loss, 27-

16 at Florida — is out of the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 16, 2022. The Tigers were ranked in 36 straight polls.

POLL POINTS

Oregon's win over Wisconsin was its third by three points or fewer this season. The Ducks' 16 points were their fewest since a 49-3 loss to Georgia in their 2022 opener.

Tulane went from No. 25 to No. 20 for the week's biggest promotion. The Green Wave's 35-0 win at Navy marked their first shutout of a conference opponent since 1960 and set up a matchup with No. 18 Army in the AAC championship game on Dec. 6.

No. 16 Colorado has its highest ranking since it was No. 11 on Dec. 4, 2016, and No. 19 South Carolina has its highest since it was No. 13 on Sept. 21, 2014.

IN AND OUT

No. 21 Arizona State is in the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 10, 2021. The Sun Devils (8-2), who are coming off a win at Kansas State, have their most victories since 2021.

No. 22 Iowa State, which beat Cincinnati after two straight losses, is back following a one-week absence.

No. 23 UNLV, which was ranked for one week after a 4-0 start, has won four of its last five.

No. 24 Illinois makes its eighth appearance in the Top 25 this season, its most since 2001.

Missouri, Kansas State and Louisville joined LSU as teams knocked out of the rankings following losses.

OHIO

(Continued from Page 9)

A couple kills and attack errors saw Ohio run its lead to 19-13 before an Addison Kitsmiller kill shot momentarily stopped the bleeding.

A couple of unforced errors allowed West Virginia to further close the gap, and when Oak Glen's McKenzi Miller split a block attempt for a successful attack, the Mountaineers trailed only 22-18.

Union Local's Olivia Wortman put

Ohio ahead 24-19 before two successive blocks allowed the Mountaineers to narrow the gap again.

The second of those blocks saw Kitsmiller stuff Wellsville's Pressley Stokes at the net.

Stokes got her revenge on the next point, hammering home one of her four kills for set point.

Martin led the charge in the third set, allowing West Virginia to avoid

the sweep. Martin, who finished with a match-high nine kills, really set the tone in the third set as West Virginia won 25-21.

The two teams agreed that the fourth set would be the final, regardless of outcome and that it would be the first to 15 points.

That meant a tie was a possibility, but Ohio came out on point in the final set, with Marietta's Ari Buckley and

Long led the final charge in a relatively one-sided 15-4 deciding set.

Between sets 2 and 3 the OVAC announced its players of the year, with Conotton Valley's Ava Williams (Class A), Caldwell's Chesne Long and Wellsville's Stokes (AA), Laura Carbonall of Einsly and Gianna Chirpas of Martins Ferry (AAA), Oak Glen's Martin (AAAA) and Morgantown's Sydney Buck (AAAAA).

All District and OVAC all-star volleyball rosters announced

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The 2024 OVAC Volleyball All-Star match will be played on Sunday, Nov. 17 at the ECO Center. The match will start at 5 p.m., as a celebration of the 30 young ladies who will be playing in their last high school volleyball match.

The OVAC will be recognizing all five classes for POY between sets played, as well as the Ohio COY and W.Va. COY. Also being recognized between sets are two retired officials and three retired coaches for their many years serving the student athletes in the OVAC. The retired officials are Pegi Bannan and Maria Shipley. The retired coaches include Jeff Beros, Rod Johnson and Erin DeSantis.

Rosters follow:

WEST VIRGINIA

Ruby Owens — Clay Battelle; Paxton King — Clay Battelle; Andrea Moreno — Linsly;

Jules Tomshack — Madonna; Sienna McKeever — Magnolia; Audrey Buck — Morgantown — inj.; Giatta Iquinto — Morgantown; McKenzi Martin — Oak Glen; Addison Smith — Oak Glen; Rylan Sharp — Trinity; Arlie Humphrey — Trinity; Addison Kitzmiller — University; Natalie Voithofer — University; Janai Turner — Weir; Lily Brinker — Wheeling Park and Lexi Irwin — Wheeling Park

OHIO

Aleia Evanko — Beaver Local; Adison Ketchum — Beaver Local; Chesne Long — Warren; Payge Cornell — Warren; Emmie Duskey — Fort Frye; Lauren Doane — Harrison Central; Camryn Ketron — Indian Creek; Arianna Buckley — Marietta; Anna Ritter — Marietta; LLindsey Best — Martins Ferry; Natalie Cherpko — Steubenville Catholic; Olivia Wortman — Union Local; Emma Yager — Union Local; Madyson Long — Caldwell and Presley Stokes — Wellsville

ALL-DISTRICT 12

Nine local girls were named to the first team, with Union Local and River each receiving two. In Division V, the Jets were represented by seniors Olivia Wortman and Emma Yager. In Division VII, the Pilots pair were senior Kaylee Hagan and sophomore Aubrey Fetty.

In Division IV, St. Clairsville senior Ella Carpenter was on the first team.

In Division V, Barnesville junior Aubrey Johnson and Martins Ferry sophomore Gianna Chirpas were unanimous first-team selections.

In Division VI, Bellaire senior Zara Harveth and Monroe Central sophomore Jacey English were also on the first team.

Earning second-team honors were:

■ D-IV — St. Clairsville sophomore Ava Saunders.

■ D-V — Martins Ferry senior Lindsey Best and sophomore Savannah Koller; and Union Local senior Ella Pietranton and junior Laken Vinskovich.

■ D-VI — Bellaire sophomore Aubree Hines; and Monroe Central senior Karlie Haslam and junior Olivia Bettinger.

■ D-VII — Beallsville senior Brooke Wells; Bridgeport senior Josalyn Cantor; Shadyside junior Aubrey Nipper; and River sophomores Hallie Hammel and Maci Isaly.

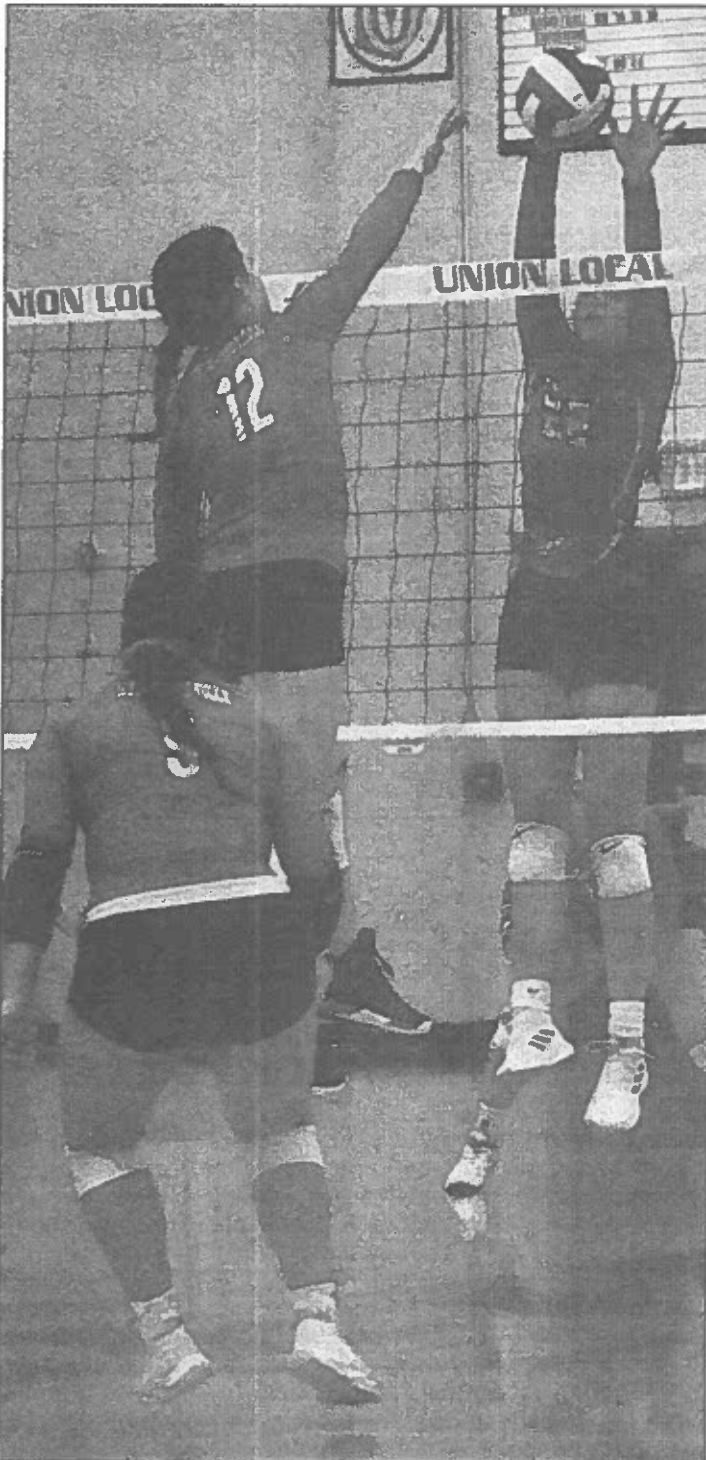
Honorable mention honorees were:

■ D-IV — St. Clairsville junior Helene Landon and freshman Vivian Harris.

■ D-V — Martins Ferry sophomore Maddie Lucas and freshman Olivia Harkness.

■ D-VI — Bellaire senior Ava Marinacci and junior Mya Marinacci; Monroe Central senior Grace Swisher and junior Maclarn Craft; and Shadyside senior Josey Greenwood and junior Ali Weatherston.

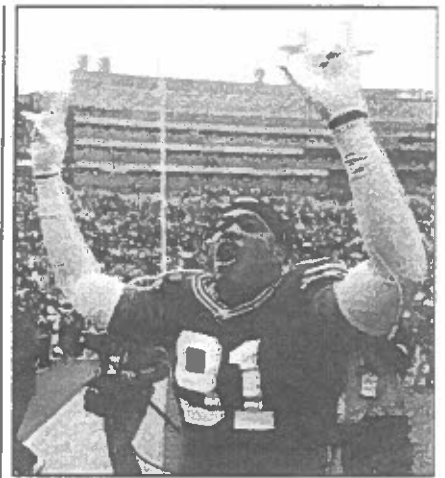
■ D-VII — Beallsville senior Taylor Decker and sophomore Raegan Lucas; Bridgeport senior Chloe Cuiska and freshman Jayde Carmen; and



UNION LOCAL'S Laken Vinskovich (22) blocks a kill attempt by St. Clairsville's Ella Carpenter (12) during action from a September match inside 'The Hangar' at Union Local High School. On Tuesday, Carpenter was selected to the All-District 12 first team and Vinskovich was selected to the second team.

River senior Reese Hobbs and John Glenn High School in New Concord.

Ten local girls were selected to play in the District 12 Volleyball All-Star Match on November 10 at 2 p.m. at



AP Photo

GREEN BAY Packers defensive end Preston Smith walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024, in Green Bay.

The Steelers acquire WR Mike Williams, LB Preston Smith

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers might be in first place in the AFC North.

They're hardly coasting.

Pittsburgh added wide receiver Mike Williams and outside linebacker Preston Smith at the trade deadline on Tuesday, giving the club veteran depth at two positions of need as the stretch run looms.

The Steelers sent a fifth-round pick to the New York Jets for Williams and a seventh-round selection to Green Bay for Smith.

Pittsburgh (6-2) is coming off its bye week atop the AFC North, but begins a difficult second half of the season on Sunday at surprising NFC East-leading Washington (7-2).

See **STEELERS**, Page B2

Trade deadline: Commanders take Lattimore; Lions get Za'Darius Smith

MARSHON LATTIMORE, Za'Darius Smith, Mike Williams, Preston Smith and Tre'Davious White were sent to winning teams. Jonathan Mingo and Khalil Herbert are going to a place where they'll play more.

NFL teams, especially contenders, were active before Tuesday's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EST.

The NFC East-leading Commanders made a move to help them try to stay in first place, acquiring Lattimore from the struggling Saints (2-7). The four-time Pro Bowl cornerback bolsters a defense that's already No. 5 against the pass.

The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-rounder and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring Smith from the Cleveland Browns (2-7).

The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of star Aidan Hutchinson, who suffered a leg injury on Oct. 13 and still leads Detroit with 7 1/2 sacks.

See **TRADE**, Page B2

Local athletes named to all-district soccer squads

TEN LOCAL girls and six local boys were named to the All-Eastern District soccer teams.

On the girls side, St. Clairsville sophomore's Ashlynn Lednik, Kiya Kyer and Emma Gasber earned top honors, as did Steubenville juniors Bailee Beall and Sagan Smarella, along with sophomore Gianna Thomas.

Other first-teamers were Edison senior Ava Reed; Harrison Central senior Lily Gibbons; Indian Creek sophomore Kaydence Walker; and Steubenville Catholic senior Sofia Walsh.

Second team selections were Edison senior Mazzy Speedy; Harrison Central junior Grace Miller; Indian Creek sophomore McKenna Puskarich; St. Clairsville junior Ava Borkoski and freshman Elizabeth Morgan; Steubenville sophomore Kenzy Petrelle and freshman Lucy Saccoccia; and Steubenville Catholic junior Mary Bohde and Isabella Lee.

Earning honorable mention were Edison senior Ronaleigh Crawford and sophomore Alison Kireta; Harrison Central senior Zoe Williamson; Indian Creek sophomore Tonya Campbell; St. Clairsville junior Mazim Luaaier and sophomores Kaylee Shafer and Isabella Cunningham; Steubenville senior Amelia Collopy and freshman Gabby Rea; and Steubenville Catholic senior Maisy Symington, junior Sophia Hoover and sophomore Aurelia Hoover.

St. Clairsville's Alyssa Otto was named the D-IV Assistant Coach of the Year. Steubenville (D-III) and Harrison Central (D-IV) were named Sportsmanship winners.

On the boys side, the first-teamers were Harrison Central senior Kayden Dunkle; St. Clairsville sophomore Camden Judge; Steubenville seniors Ethan Llewellyn and Hayden Hicks and junior Cole Dawson; and Steubenville Catholic

senior Andrew Rohde.

Earning second team mention were Harrison Central seniors Brady Elliott and Austin Fulton; St. Clairsville senior Carson Hendershot and junior Tyler Harris; Steubenville seniors Brady DiNovo and Luke DiNovo; and Steubenville Catholic senior Gus Zaleski and junior Brendan Kuebler.

Honorable mention selections were Harrison Central senior Ocean Rogers, junior Brady McAfee and sophomore Noah Thaxton; St. Clairsville juniors Brenna Rice, Talan Rice and Ridge Reven; Steubenville junior Josiah Rea and freshman Landon Bowers; and Steubenville Catholic seniors Miguel Jauregui, Jack Leonard and Luke Kenzelberger.

Steubenville Catholic head coach Steve Kopcha was the D-IV Coach of the Year. Steubenville Catholic (D-V)



Photo by Nick Henthorn

The Wheeling Park Patriots celebrate a goal during a match vs. Morgantown earlier in the season. The Patriots will face Woodrow Wilson in a state semifinal game at noon Thursday at the YMCA Paul Cline Memorial Youth Sports Complex in Beckley.

Patriots "Champing At The Bit" For Another Shot At State Title

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - Multiple players on this year's Wheeling Park boys soccer squad have experienced the stakes of state tournament play, with the Patriots making a trip to Beckley the season before last. But none of the Park boys had been alive for the last Patriots state championship, which came in 2001.

This Thursday is a chance to revisit the state tournament stage at Beckley's YMCA Paul Cline Memorial Youth Sports Complex, and a chance to reset the clock in their trophy hunt.

Wheeling Park, seeded No. 3 in the final four of Class AAA, will face No. 2 Woodrow Wilson on Thursday at noon in a state semifinal match that can't come soon enough for the Patriots.

"Last time we were the fourth seed, and we played Greenbrier East who were the one seed," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian said in an interview Tuesday. "That game was tied all the way until three minutes and 44 seconds remaining in regulation where we conceded a second goal to lose the game. The kids have been champing at the bit for another opportunity since."

Players like Tresz McLeod and Gavin Border were sophomores, while Wilson Hanna and Sam Rocky were freshmen on the field in that game.

The Wheeling Park faithful have gotten more familiar with those names by now, the quartet composing parts of a talented Patriots team that had been ranked as the top AAA team in the state at points in the season. On their way to the

state tournament, Park defeated Morgantown for the sectional championship and University for the regional championship.

Those victories bring them into conflict with Woodrow Wilson on Thursday. The Patriots and Flying Eagles have met once before, a regular season match on Oct. 19 which Park won 2-1.

The Flying Eagles attack is led by junior Coby Dillon and sophomore Ali Farghaly, while their defense has suffocated opponents - Bridgeport, Huntington, Hurricane and Park are the only teams to score two goals against Woodrow Wilson this season. The Flying Eagles are 2-2 in those games. In all other contests, Woodrow Wilson has allowed one or none in the scoring column.

Please see SHOT, Page 12



AP Photo

West Virginia quarterback Nicco Marchiol (8) against Arizona in the first half during a game Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, in Tucson, Ariz.

By DEREK REDD
Managing Editor

From West Virginia University football coach Neal Brown's assessment Monday, it is not looking good for quarterback Garrett Greene to return to his starting role at noon Saturday at Cincinnati.

Brown said Greene remained "doubtful" to play as he continues to recover from the head injury that knocked him out of the second half of WVU's loss to Kansas State and left him sidelined for the Mountaineers' win over Arizona.

Yet WVU coaches were pleased with how Greene's backup, redshirt sophomore Nicco Marchiol stepped up in Greene's absence against Arizona, and hope he'll be able to keep that up against the Bearcats.

In Marchiol's first start of the season against the Wildcats, he completed 18 of 22 passes for 198 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. His 81.8% completion percentage was the best for a WVU starter since Skyler Howard went 10 for 12 (83.3%) in a win over Texas on Nov. 14, 2015.

Brown wants to see Marchiol carry over his ability to keep the WVU (4-4, 3-2 Big 12) offense out of trouble.

"He was really efficient in the (Arizona) game," Brown said. "He didn't turn it over. So what does he need to sustain? He needs to sustain taking care of the football. He needs to sustain being efficient and moving the chains on third downs."

Beyond the statistics, WVU offensive coordinator Chad Scott said he was most impressed by Marchiol's poise.

Please see MARCHIOL, Page 12

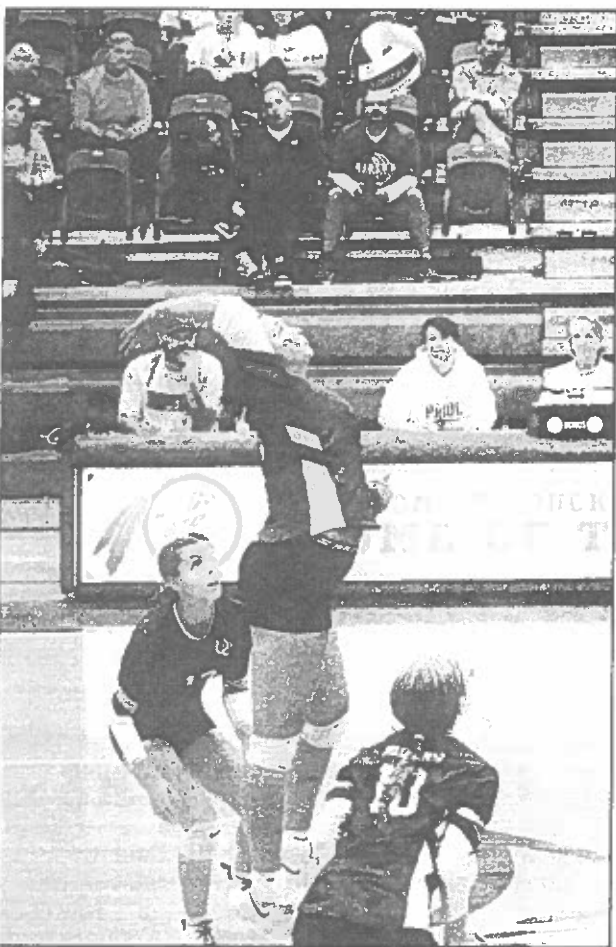


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Martins Ferry's Giana Chirpas winds up for a kill attempt Monday during the Purple Riders' district semifinals game against Coshocton. Chirpas was a unanimous All-District 12 first-team selection Tuesday.

OVAC All-Star, All-District Volleyball Teams Announced

ST. CLAIRSVILLE for POY between sets - The 2024 OVAC Volleyball All-Star match will be played on Sunday, Nov. 17 at the ECO Center. The match will start at 5 p.m., as a celebration of the 30 young ladies who will be playing in their last high school volleyball match.

The OVAC will be recognizing all five classes

Please see VOLLEYBALL, Page 12

Oregon Gets Top Billing In CFP Opening Rankings—What Would First-Round Matchups Look Like?

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

A season full of surprises didn't produce many when the first set of rankings on the road to college football's new 12-team playoff came out Tuesday.

Undefeated Oregon got top billing. The selection committee liked Ohio State just a touch more than Georgia in its top 25 — the first of six weekly polls the committee will put out.

Other than that, the panel's top 12 looked exactly like the top dozen in the most recent AP poll, which has been shaken up almost weekly thanks to a bundle of upsets that left the mighty SEC, of all conferences, without a single undefeated team.

The near mirror image of AP and the College Football Playoff polls meant Alabama, despite its two losses, would be in the bracket at No. 11 if it came out this week, as would Boise State, the leader of the Mountain West Conference, which came in at No. 12 and would earn an automatic spot as the fifth-best conference champion.

"The summary is, Boise State is an impressive team," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, who serves as chair of the selection committee.

Maunel explained Ohio State was ranked No. 2 because its only loss came by one point to Oregon. Both the Buckeyes and third-ranked Bulldogs were rated ahead of undefeated Miami most likely thanks to strength of schedules that were much tougher than that of the 'Canes, who were ranked fourth.

"We're splitting hairs as far as looking at two great teams," Manuel said.

The rankings will come out each week through Dec. 8, when the final list will decide the bracket for the playoffs. Those start Dec. 20-21, with the 5-12 seeds in action at the better seed's home field, and close with the national title game in Atlanta on Jan. 20.

The rankings don't directly correlate to where the teams would fall in the bracket. The four best-ranked conference champions receive first-round byes, which according to this ranking would belong to Oregon (ranked 1), Georgia (3), Miami (4) and BYU (9).

The committee chose Alabama over a handful of one-loss teams, but the Tide's strength of schedule clearly helped them leap over teams like No. 13

Please see RANKINGS, Page 12

Local Athletes Named to All-District Soccer Squads

Ten local girls and six local boys were named to the All-Eastern District soccer teams.

On the girls side, St. Clairsville sophomore's Ashlynn Lednik, Kiya Kyer and Emma Gasber earned top honors, as did Steubenville juniors Bailee Beall and Sagan Smarella, along with sophomore Gianna Thomas.

Other first-teamers were Edison senior Ava Reed; Harrison Central senior Lily Gibbons; Indian Creek sophomore Kaydence Walker; and Steubenville Catholic senior Sofia Walsh.

Second team selections were Edison senior Mazzy Speedy; Harrison Central junior Grace Miller; Indian Creek sophomore McKenna Puskarich; St. Clairsville junior Ava Borkoski and freshman Elizabeth Morgan; Steubenville sophomore Kenzy Petrelle and freshman Lucy Sacoccia; and Steubenville Catholic juniors Mary Rohde and Isabelle

Lee.

Earning honorable mention were Edison senior Ronaleigh Crawford and sophomore Alison Kireta; Harrison Central senior Zoe Williamson; Indian Creek sophomore Tonya Campbell; St. Clairsville junior Mazim Luaier and sophomores Kaylee Shaffer and Isabella Cunningham; Steubenville senior Amelia Collopy and freshman Gabby Rea; and Steubenville Catholic senior Maisy Symington, junior Sophia Hoover and sophomore Aurelia Hoover.

St. Clairsville's Alyssa Otto was named the D-IV assistant Coach of the Year. Steubenville (D-III) and Harrison Central (D-IV) were named Sportsmanship winners.

On the boys side, the first-teamers were Harrison Central senior Kayden Dunkle; St. Clairsville sophomore Camden Judge; Steubenville seniors Ethan Llewellyn and Hayden Hicks and junior Cole

Bowers; and Steubenville Catholic senior Andrew Rohde.

Earning second team mention were Harrison Central seniors Brady Elliott and Austin Fulton; St. Clairsville senior Carson Hendershot and junior Tyler Harris; Steubenville seniors Brady DiNovo and Luke DiNovo; and Steubenville Catholic senior Gus Zaleski and junior Brendan Kuebler.

Honorable mention selections were Harrison Central senior Ocean Rogers, junior Brady McAfee and sophomore Noah Thaxton; St. Clairsville juniors Brenna Rice, Talan Rice and Ridge Reven; Steubenville junior Josiah Rea and freshman Landon Bowers; and Steubenville Catholic seniors Miguel Jauregui, Jack Leonard and Luke Kenzelberger.

Steubenville Catholic head coach Steve Kopcha was the D-IV Coach of the Year. Steubenville Catholic (D-V) won the Sportsmanship award.

min at outside linebacker. T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith are perhaps the best tandem in the league. But backup Nick Herbig has been slowed by a

passes for 4,806 yards and 31 touchdowns. He tore the ACL in his right knee in Week 3 last year and missed the rest of the season. The Jets brought

world those capabilities," he said. "And every time we step into a stadium, they get an opportunity to do so. And you (have)

the club was active in the trade market, calling it prudent for a team that wants to be a "world championship outfit."

Pittsburgh's defense is among the league's best — the Steelers are second in points allowed and ninth in yards allowed — but the pass rush isn't quite as disruptive as it has been in recent years, due in part to opponents making it a point to get the ball out quicker.

Watt has 6 1/2 of Pittsburgh's 19 sacks, num-

bering 5 against the pass. The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-rounder and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring Smith from the Cleveland Browns (2-7). The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of star Aidan Hutchinson,

coming from Chicago (4-4) for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick. Herbert had just eight carries for 16 yards and one touchdown for the Bears. He'll join leading rusher Chase Brown to give Cincinnati another option in the backfield.

The San Francisco 49ers (4-4) acquired defensive tackle Khalil Davis from Houston for a 2026 seventh-round pick. Davis had one sack and nine tackles in nine games this season.

SHOT

(Continued from Page 11)

They have 13 shutouts. Junior Bryson Doss is the man in-goal for the stingy Eagles.

"Woodrow has a very complete team," Julian said. They have good players at every level—goalie, defense, midfield and forwards. We're very familiar with them, we played them two or three weeks ago and it was a very close game. Either team, I feel, could have won that game. Their style of play is very good soccer. They possess the ball, they've got speed, just high-quality players at every position."

As for the Patriots, their high-powered offense is led by McLeod (38 goals, second in state) and Hanna (27 goals).

"History will tell you that the teams who come out on top, in any sport,

their best players perform at their best," Julian said. "What I mean by that is, they lead by not only playing good soccer but by showing their teammates the proper way to win."

The Patriots are much more than their two top scorers though. McLeod and Ike Aderholt each have 18 assists to lead the team. Gavin Border has snagged 76 saves this season, and the Patriots as a whole have allowed 0.74 goals per game while scoring 4.91 per game.

"Our goalie Gavin Border had 11 shutouts this year, he is very good, one of the better goalies throughout West Virginia," Julian began. "He had

a shutout in the sectional final in a very highly contested match. Made some

key saves. Our defense has two centerbacks who are seniors, who are very high-quality in Max Seibert and Josh Albrecht. Our midfield, we have one of the best midfielders throughout the state of West Virginia. Ike Aderholt is a young man who plays extremely high-level soccer, and some younger guys in there as well like Sam Rockey and Graham Loy, to go along with our offense. It's a very nice mixture because we've got seniors and we've got underclassmen. The seniors are going to lead by example this week and the younger kids are eager and willing to follow."

The Patriots departed from Wheeling High School with a send-off from the community at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

RANKINGS

(Continued from Page 11)

SMU (ACC), No. 17 Iowa State (Big 12) and No. 18 Pitt (ACC), who play in weaker conferences.

The rest of the teams in the fictional first-week bracket and their rankings: No. 5 Texas, No. 6 Penn State, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 8 Indiana and No. 10 Notre Dame.

First team out was No. 13 SMU while Army, with an 8-0 record and leading the American Athletic Conference, barely squeaked into the rankings at No. 25.

What first-round matchups would look like based on this week's rankings

ESPN is paying billions to televise these games, so it got exclusive rights to the bracket reveal, filling the show with analy-

sis and lots of references to "America finally finding out" — a nod to the opening rankings being released on election night. The network chose to fill in the bracket as it went along, which made things a little confusing — a second-ranked team really seeded third, and so-on. But here's what those first-round games would be (with seedings, not rankings):

No. 12 Boise State at No. 5 Ohio State: Would be the Broncos biggest postseason game since beating Oklahoma in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.

No. 11 Alabama at No. 5 Texas: Longhorns win over 'Bama in 2023 punctured myth of Tide invincibility.

No. 10 Notre Dame at No. 7 Penn State: Feels

like we need Keith Jackson for this one. Anyone remember the 1992 Snow Bowl?

No. 9 Indiana at No. 8 Tennessee: Hoosiers entry to the big-time (football) would come in front of 100,000 on Rocky Top.

What will change after this week?

LSU is ranked 15 and hosts Alabama on Saturday in what feels like an elimination game for the loser.

Also this week, Georgia plays at No. 17 Ole Miss; the Rebels two losses have both come by a field goal — to Kentucky and LSU.

Indiana hosts Michigan and is favored by 12 1/2, barreling toward a Nov. 23 matchup against Ohio State.

MARCHIOL

(Continued from Page 11)

"He was relaxed," Scott said. "He was ready. He was prepared. He was confident in what he was seeing, the reactions he was going to get, and where the receivers and running backs were gonna be. And he went out there, played comfortable, played ball. He did a good job, and we've asked him to sustain the readiness he took into that game."

That poise Scott loved shined brightest in the fourth quarter. On third and 9 from WVU's 26 on the Mountaineers' final touchdown drive, Marchiol hit Hudson Clement across the middle for a 17-yard gain. Two plays later, he connected with Traylon Ray for a 54-yard touchdown to make it 31-13.

Then, after Arizona cut WVU's lead to 31-26, Marchiol completed a nine-yard pass to Jaylen Anderson on third and 7

for a first down that allowed West Virginia to run out the clock.

"He did a phenomenal job just managing the game," Scott said. "He has several things I can talk about, but his poise is the biggest, just not panicking."

Ray, who finished the Arizona game with two catches for a season-high 78 yards, said that WVU's receivers have confidence in both Greene and Marchiol to lead the offense. Regardless of who starts under center, he said it's the receivers' job to grab those throws downfield.

"Garrett being out wasn't a big factor because we all knew that if we put (Marchiol) in, he's going to be able to make the same throws Garrett makes," Ray said. "He's going to be able to get out of the pocket like Garrett does."

"We don't want to see (Greene) go down," he

added, "but at the same time, we know (Marchiol) can back him up."

Marchiol, if needed to start Saturday's game, could find a favorable matchup against the Bearcats (5-3, 3-2 Big 12). Cincinnati ranks 107th in the Football Bowl Subdivision in opponents' passer rating at 143.42. The Bearcats defense has given up 12 touchdowns against just three interceptions and allows quarterbacks an average of eight yards per attempt, which ranks 109th nationally.

Brown said it's up to the coaching staff to give Marchiol every opportunity to succeed.

"I think that for us, it's about putting him in the best situation possible from a game planning perspective, and how we're calling it," Brown said. "If we continue to do that, then I believe he'll play well."

VOLLEYBALL

(Continued from Page 11)

The retired officials are Pegi Bannan and Maria Shipley. The retired coaches include Jeff Beros, Rod Johnson and Erin DeSantis.

Rosters follow:

WEST VIRGINIA

Ruby Owens--Clay

Battelle; Paxton King--Clay

Battelle; Andrea Moreno--Linsly;

Jules Tomshack--Madonna; Sienna McKeever--Magnolia;

Audrey Buck--Morgantown--inj.;

Giatta Iquinto--Morgantown;

McKenzi Martin--Oak Glen;

Addison Smith--Oak Glen;

Rylan Sharp--Trinity;

Arlie Humphrey--Trinity;

Addison Kitzmiller--University;

Natalie Voithofer--University;

Janai Turner--Weir;

Lily Brinker--Wheeling Park

and Lexi Irwin--Wheeling Park

OHIO

Aleia Evanko--Beaver

Local; Adison Ketchum--Beaver

Local; Chesne Long--Warren;

Payge Cornell--Warren;

Emmie Duskey--Fort Frye;

Lauren Doane--Harrison

Central; Camryn Keron--Indian

Creek; Arianna Buckley--Marietta;

Anna Ritter--Marietta;

LLindsey Best--Martins

Ferry; Natalie Cherpko--Steubenville

Catholic; Olivia Wortman--Union

Local; Emma Yager--Union

Local;

Madysen Long--Caldwell

and Presley Stokes--Wellsville

ALL-DISTRICT 12

Nine local girls were

named to the first team,

with Union Local and

River each receiving

two. In Division V, the

Jets were represented by

seniors Olivia Wortman

and Emma Yager. In

Division VII, the Pilots

pair were senior Kaylee

Hagan and sophomore

Aubrey Fetty.

In Division IV, St.

Clairsville senior Ella

Carpenter was on the

first team.

In Division V, Barnes-

ville junior Aubrey John-

son and Martins Ferry

sophomore Giana Chir-

pas were unanimous

first-team selections.

In Division VI, Bellaire

senior Zara Harveth and

senior Taylor Decker

and sophomore Raegan

Lucas; Bridgeport senior

Chloe Cuisca and

freshman Jayde Carmen;

and River senior Reese

Hobbs and freshman

Mallarie Maddy.

Ten local girls were

selected to play in the

District 12 Volleyball

All-Star Match on

November 10 at 2 p.m.

at John Glenn High

School in New Concord.

They are Hagan; Can-

tor; Harveth; Haslam;

Pietranton; Wells; Best;

Carpenter; Yager and

Wortman.

ATTENTION:

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GARY "GUNNY"
HOLLINGSHEAD?

Gary "Gunny" Hollingshead worked at **Valley Camp Coal**, and as a concrete finisher at various industrial/commercial sites in the **Ohio Valley** from the late 1960s to 1999.

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Gary "Gunny" Hollingshead

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