

John Marshall, Park Top OVAC 5A Swim Meet

Brooke And
Steubenville
Athletes Also
Find Podium

By **ANDREW GRIMM**
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — It was a good day in the pool for Wheeling-area teams on Saturday.

Wheeling Park edged defending champion Parkersburg South to win the boys Class 5A title and John Marshall out-pointed Morgantown on the girls side of things Saturday afternoon to take home the hardware on the second day of the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championships inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

JM's girls racked up 269 points to win the girls title, besting Morgantown (222) and Parkersburg South (207) to top the podium. The Park boys team netted an impressive 297 points to top South (263) and Morgantown (222).

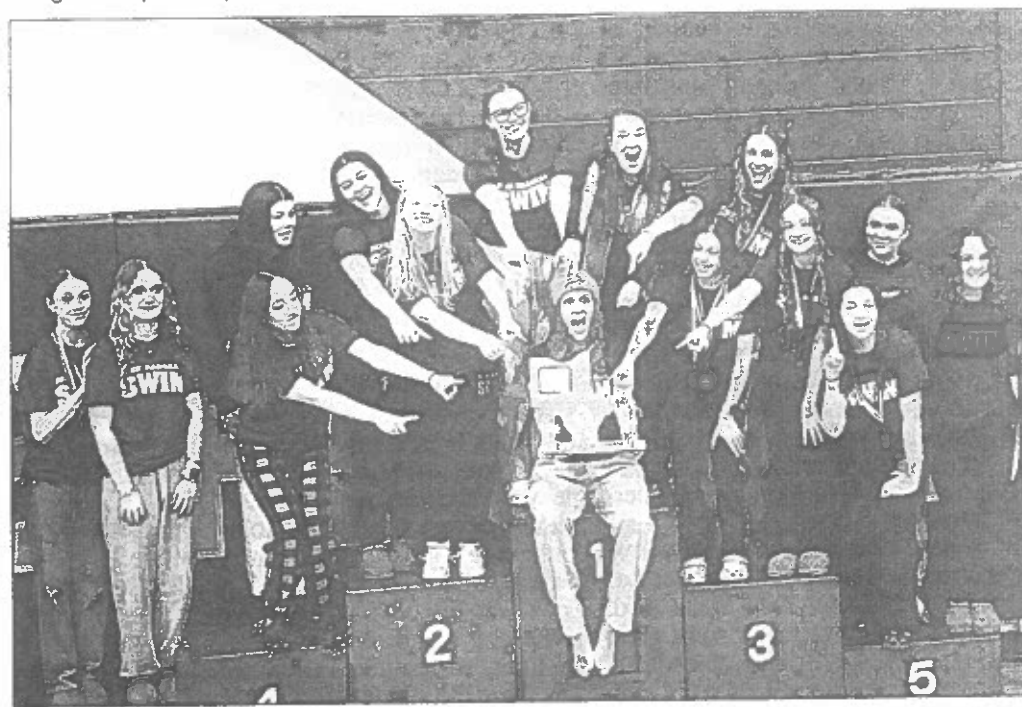
Locally, on the girls side of things, Brooke — the host and defending champion — tied for fourth place on the day, while Big Red placed in eighth. On the boys side, the Bruins were seventh, one place better than Big Red.

In addition to winning the team titles, Park and JM also left with individual honors.

Please see **SWIM**,
Page 10



The Wheeling Park boys swim team, above, and the John Marshall girls swim team, below, celebrate with their first-place trophies Saturday at the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championships inside the Brooke Wellness Center.



Photos by Andrew Grimm

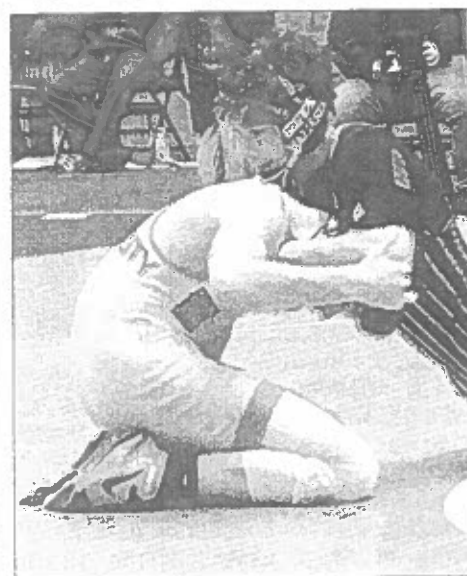


Photo by Kim North

Linsly freshman George Mamakos controls University's Nico Maisel during their 138-pound title tilt at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships Saturday at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Mamakos won, 4-2.

University Wrestlers Earn First OVAC Title

Several Local Competitors
Crowned Individual Champs

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It was a night of firsts for the University High wrestling team as the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships closed out its three-day stand Saturday night inside WesBanco Arena.

The Hawks — despite going just 2-5 in the finals — won both the overall and Class 5A titles with 281 points, which was nearly 100 more than runner up Beaver Local (183). Steubenville was third with 182.5 and Parkersburg South fourth at 177. Defending overall champion Barnesville was fifth with 161.5.

Please see **WRESTLERS**, Page 10

INSIDE

• Former
St. C. coach
named 'Mr
Mat'/10

Prep Roundup: Park's Bordas Scores Team-Record 58

WHEELING — Alexis Bordas continues to re-write the Wheeling Park girls' basketball record books. The senior, who is headed to Duquesne University next fall, scored a school-record 58 points Saturday afternoon as the Patriots rolled past visiting Buckhannon-Upshur, 92-31, inside the "Palace on the Hill."

The lefty made 20 field goals, with 13 of them coming from behind the three-point arc. She also charted eight steals and four rebounds.

Kaylee Hunt added seven rebounds and four steals, while Maggie Hupp had six assists and four steals. Hailey Downer contributed eight points.

**Wheeling Central 66,
Monroe Central 44**

WOODSFIELD — Kaitlyn Blake scored 25 points as the Maroon Knights (11-0) remained undefeated with their 22-point win over the Seminoles (10-6) on Junior Windland Court.

Haley Severns added 14 markers and Bella Fitzsimmons finished with 11. Seneca Heller had nine.

Mayzie Emery led Monroe Central with 24 points. Jacey English chipped in 11.



BORDAS

**Bellaire 61,
East Liverpool 27**

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Big Reds captured third place in the Buckeye 8 with their romp over the Potters inside the ECO Center.

Zara Harveth pumped in 23 points, charted eight steals, grabbed five rebounds and handed out four assists. Eliana Mason added 13 points, six steals and five rebounds.

Rhyan O'Grady netted 12 points with six boards; Tamya Morgan pulled down nine rebounds.

Harrison Central 54, Cambridge 32

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Huskies took fifth-place in the Buckeye 8 with their win over the Bobcats inside the ECO Center. Kennedy Dunlap led four players in double figures with 13 for Harrison Central. Maddie Sedgmer added 12. Kara Blackburn 11 and Mikayla Pelegreen 10.

River 63, Shadyside 43

HANNIBAL — Reese Honns netted 23 points and Zoey Fox chipped in 16 as the Pilots navigated past the visiting Tigers inside the R.L. Potts Gymnasium.

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page 10

WVU Knocks Off No. 2 Iowa State Behind Small's Big Final Stretch

By **JUSTIN JACKSON**
For The Intelligencer

MORGANTOWN — First came the drive. It was followed by the steal.

Then came some foul shots, a 3-pointer when No. 2 Iowa State refused to foul and then the dunk.

All of it came from WVU's Javon Small, who on a day when the school celebrated the life of legendary Jerry



NFL's Final Four Is Set: Bills Vs. Chiefs, Commanders Vs. Eagles

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Josh Allen rushed for two touchdowns. Buffalo's defense forced three turnovers and the Bills advanced to the AFC championship game with a 27-25 win over the Baltimore Ravens in a divisional playoff game on Sunday night.

The Bills hung on when a wide-open Mark Andrews dropped a 2-point conversion pass from Lamar Jackson, also

first half and stretched the lead in the fourth when he blew through a hole and ran untouched 78 yards for the touchdown. Barkley smacked his helmet with his hand on his final snowy steps and flapped his arms once he hit the end zone.

These Philly Snow Birds had cause for celebration — they will host the NFC championship game Sunday against Washington, after the Commanders upset No. 1 seed Detroit on Saturday.

As Nailers Split A Pair In Worcester

WORCESTER, Mass. — The Worcester Nailers battled back with two goals in the final five minutes to force overtime Sunday before Massachusetts native Matt Koopman lifted the Wheeling Nailers into the win column at the 49-second mark of the extra session. Chris Ortiz factored in every Wheeling goal, as the Nailers won 4-3 to finish their best first half in team history at 26-8-2. Taylor Gauthier earned the win for the Nailers, as he turned away 35 of the 38 shots he faced. Hugo Ollas took the overtime loss for Worcester, as he made 28 saves on 32 shots. The Nailers will return home for three games against the Kansas City Mavericks on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. **RAILERS 4, NAILERS 3 (SATURDAY)** The Wheeling Nailers went 13 straight road games without allowing a power play goal. On Saturday night, they ran into one of the top units in the ECHL, and the Nailers

WRESTLERS

(Continued from Page 9)

“It feels good. We knew we were going to be the underdog in a lot of matches this round.” University head coach Ken Maisel of the championship finals. “It wasn’t the best of rounds for us, but at the same time, we had some guys who maybe wrestled beyond where we thought they would place. It was a good tournament.

“The championship is good for our school and good for our program,” Maisel continued. “Hopefully, we can continue this throughout the remainder of the season.”

University’s Brock Kehler captured his third straight OVAC Ron Mauck championship with a first-period pin in the 285-pound finals of Harrison Central’s Landen Thomas in 1-minute, 48-seconds. He also pinned Thomas in last year’s finals.

For his efforts, the West Virginia University recruit was voted the David Bierkorte Award winner as the Most Outstanding Wrestler and he won the Hercules Award for most pins in the championship bracket in the least amount of time. Kehler advanced to the finals with four pins in less than 45 seconds each.

The Hawks had one other champion in Pepper Martin (113) repeated his 2024 crown at 106. He earned a 16-5 major decision over Oak Glen’s Aiden Anderson.

The city of Wheeling finished with four titlists as Linsly freshmen Brock Humphrey (106) and George Mamkos (132) ruled their weight classes. Humphrey opened the final session with an 8-3 nod over Beaver Local’s Justuce Fisher and Mamakos doubled up University’s Nico Maisel, 4-2. It marked the first time in program history that the Cadets had two champions in the same year.

“We’re excited about our future with these two freshmen as champions,” Linsly head coach Brian Valentine beamed. “We look forward to the future.”

Wheeling Park’s Jameson Maynard (190) posted a 16-1 technical fall over Southern Local’s Johnny Bailey to remain undefeated at 18-0. It was Maynard’s second title - he won at 165 as a sophomore - and his fourth time on the podium. He was second last year at 175 and sixth at 170 as a freshman.

“Jameson just goes out on the mat and scores points. It’s really awesome to watch him wrestle,” first-year Wheeling Park head coach Danny Doyle said. “Jameson made sure to give himself enough time to heal from football. I think that he waited the perfect amount of time, enough time to let him heal but early enough to make sure he was properly prepared for this tournament.”

Wheeling Central’s Isaac Martin (215) ran his record to an impressive 32-2 with a workmanlike 15-6 major decision over University’s Jackson Pate. Martin finished second last year. It was the Maroon Knights first champion since Zach Basich.

“I’m really excited about Issac’s improvement over the past two years,” Wheeling Central head coach Rick Welker said. “He was fourth as a freshman and second as a sophomore and lost to a pair of really talented kids that are wrestling at the collegiate level.”

Beaver Local and Steubenville both

had two champions each and three of the titlists were repeat winners. Beavers junior Bobby Buchheit (138) won his third straight with a 21-6 technical fall over John Marshall’s Zander Ward, the No. 4 seed. Buchheit has now won at 120 and 132. Freshman teammate Jake Hughes (150) scored a 2-0 victory over Cameron’s Slaton Pettit.

“It’s been a few years since we’ve won this, so this feels good,” Beaver Local head coach Johnny McComas said. “We’ve got a combination of some great young wrestlers and some great leaders.”

The two champs helped Beaver Local slip past Steubenville, 183-182.5, for second place overall.

Big Red’s Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (157) duplicated their efforts of 2024. Smith blanked University’s Carter Pauley 4-0 for his 100th career win as a junior. Saccoccia, a Purdue University recruit, posted a 19-4 technical fall over Cameron’s Eli Tedrow. It was Saccoccia’s fourth trip to the finals - he won at 120 as a freshman and finished second at 132 as a sophomore. He is now 21-0.

“Both guys won again. We knew (Carter) Pauley was a good wrestler, but Cooper is getting better and better each week,” Steubenville head coach Lucas Huffman said. “We told him to execute his game plan, and he did. Brody was doing Brody things. He was very dominant and is locked in at this point in time.”

Cameron’s Braxton Birch (126) defeated University’s Colton Gillespie 10-3 for the Dragons’ lone title. They had two runner ups and won the Class A/AA title.

“Fast. Exceptional skills,” first-year Cameron head coach Chad Burge said of Birch. “He works hard. The sky is the limit for him.”

“It feels good. This is why we came here,” Burge said. “I thought we could have finished a little better in the overall than we did, but we’re still missing a couple of guys. Not having those guys definitely affected us in the overall standings, but, fortunately, we were good enough on the mats this weekend to get the job done.”

Barnesville’s Ayden King (165) topped Wheeling Park’s Isaac Sands, 2-0, for his first title after placing second last year and third the previous two seasons. The Shamrocks easily defended their Class 3A title.

“Winning the Class 3A title is something we always set out to do, but it’s not our top goal,” Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen admitted. “We’ve got a young team this year and the kids wrestled pretty well. As a coach, you’d always like to see everyone win, but that’s not going to happen all the time.”

Union Local freshman Gamble Gossett (120) knocked off top-seeded Tristan Eckles of East Liverpool, 7-6. It was Eckles first loss and second straight runner up finish. He was second at 113 in 2024. It was the first title for the Jets since Bobby Stewart won in 2016.

“Tough kid. Works really hard,” Union Local head coach Nate Sharkey said of his young champion. “He pushes the pace and he is one of those kids that you can always rely on to get points.”

Warren Local’s Aden Strahler went to 34-0 with a 7-1 decision over University’s Emerson Murphy.

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Maci Isaly had 12 points. Kaci Tsoras scored 20 points for Shadyside. Giovanna Hines added 11.

Martins Ferry 56, Bellaire 53

MARTINS FERRY — Lindsey Best scored 18 points as the Purple Riders avenged an earlier setback to the Big Reds inside Tolbert Gymnasium. Alivia Reese added 11 and SJ Koller 10.

Harveth paced Bellaire with 17. Morgan had 14 and Kayla Edgar 11.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Milford Center Fairbanks 56, Monroe Central 54

COLUMBUS — The Seminoles lost a heart-breaker as the Panthers hit a buzzer-beater at Ohio Dominican University. Tucker Howell netted 19 points and Chance Allen 13 for Monroe Central.

Paden City 66, Van 47

PADEN CITY — Brayden Neff broke loose for 32 points as the Wildcats rolled past the Bulldogs. Jaxon Huggins added 19.

SWIM

(Continued from Page 9)

The Monarchs’ Maitlyn Miller was the named the female swimmer of the year and coach Timmi Snyder was named the conference’s girls coach of the year, while Park’s Mike Cook was the boys coach of the year recipient. Warren Local’s Mason Francis was the male swimmer of the year honoree.

Miller won the 50 free and the 100 free for a pair of golds. JM girls’ other victories came from the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay units, the second of which included Miller.

Park’s wins on the boys side came from the 200 medley relay team that also broke the pool record, the 200 freestyle relay team, both of which included Levi Parker, who won individually in the 200 freestyle. The Patriots’ Molly George also topped the 100 back on the girls side.

BROOKE

While the Bruins did not have an individual champion, several Brooke swimmers did end the day on the podium.

Lyla Horvath was fourth in the 200 freestyle. Lindsay Kettler was fourth in the 200 IM and fifth in the 100 butterfly. Faith Farrell was the runner up in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Kiersten Harvath placed third in the 100 butterfly and runner up in the 100 backstroke. Owen Haught was sixth in the 100 freestyle, Lyla Horvath was fourth in the

WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

In the final seconds, Small — the Big 12’s leading scorer — added two more free throws and a thunderous dunk when Jonathan Powell came up with a loose ball and flipped it ahead to Small.

“Like a lot of great players — and it’s really fun being a coach of one of those — you can tell when they get in that zone,” DeVries said of Small. “You could see it in his eyes. He wanted to take that game over. I’ve seen Javon in practice and in games, when he gets in a zone, he’s really good.”

And then ... bedlam. The Coliseum court was flooded with WVU students. DeVries thumped at his chest and yelled joyfully at the crowd, as Small was hugged by teammate Eduardo Andre.

Iowa State’s 12-game winning streak was over. The feel-good story of the Mountaineers under DeVries just continues to grow stronger.

Absolutely nothing was settled in the first half — WVU held a slim 25-24 edge after trailing by as much as seven points — except for the style of game that was going to be played. Physical defense won out over flashy offense and runs by either team were short-lived and countered by a run by the other.

As Jones began to get hot — he scored 11 of the Cyclones’ first 21 points — WVU fired back with Small scoring an acrobatic lay-up or Amani Hansberry hitting a critical 3-pointer.

Everything else was pure defense, the kind that sometimes had as many collisions as a NASCAR race, and with just as much banging and positioning.

Maybe that’s the way it was supposed to be. Under Otzelberger, the Cyclones (15-2, 5-1 Big 12) have developed into one of the top defensive teams in the Big 12, while the Mountaineers (13-4, 4-2) have quickly taken on a never-back-down persona from DeVries.

And that style of play spilled over into the second half, as the favored Cyclones kept applying pressure, while the Moun-

Steubenville Catholic 41, Harrison Central 39

CADIZ — Tommy Pergi scored 18 points as the Crusaders slipped past the Huskies. Brady Elliott had 24 for Harrison Central.

Union Local 66, Buckeye Local 22

CONNORVILLE — Brandon Meh scored 20 and Brody Kerns chipped in 17 as the Jets topped the Panthers. Isaac Hess had six for Buckeye Local.

Harrison Central 53, Weir 44

CADIZ — Bryson Kamarec netted 22 points and Elliott added 13 as the Huskies downed the Red Riders. Damir Mowder had 19 for Weir.

BOWLING

Brooke Sweeps University

MORGANTOWN — The Bruins slipped past the Hawks 1,388 to 1,352 in girls’ action as Kaylee Tuttle rolled games of 156 and 146 for a 302 series. Seth Schroeder had a 228 game and 429 series for the boys. Brady Yost had a 224 game and 399 series.

500 freestyle.

Brooke also had success in the relays as the girls 200 free team of Harvath, Horvath, Kettler and Farrell was the event runner up, the boys 200 free relay unit of Gunner Yost, Aiden Stock, Haught and Ryan Kettler was sixth and the girls 400 free relay unit of Lindsay Kettler, Horvath, Harvath and Farrell were runners up as well.

STEOBENVILLE

Steubenville had a podium finisher in senior Kinsey Tucker, who found the podium in a pair of events with a fifth place swim in the 200 IM and a sixth place finish in the 100 butterfly. It is the second-straight year Tucker has finished in the medals in multiple events.

taineers never once appeared to be unprepared for the moment.

After a while, it became match play of sorts, as in I’ll see your good play and just wait to see what happens next.

Jones finally took his shooting skills beyond the 3-point line in the second half, canning a 24-footer for the Cyclones first 3-pointer of the game with 13:17 remaining.

Minutes later, Small came up with a dandy, spinning his body between two Iowa State defenders and throwing up a 15-foot prayer as the shot clock was about to expire.

It was answered, cutting the Cyclones’ lead to 41-39 with 8:37 left.

WVU grabbed the lead when Powell nailed a 3-pointer that gave the Mountaineers a 44-43 lead and then Andre came up with a steal and a driving lay-up that turned into a 3-point play for a 47-43 lead.

Back and forth both teams went, setting up the stage for Small to become the hero late.

It came with 1:43 remaining, as Iowa State guard Tamin Lipsey saw his lay-up attempt at one end roll off the rim and Hansberry came up with the rebound.

WVU’s lead was just 51-49 at the time.

He found Small with the outlet pass and the WVU point guard took over the game.

Hansberry finished with 12 points and six rebounds for the Mountaineers, who held the Cyclones to just 1 of 17 from 3-point range for the game.

Jones finished with 18 points for Iowa State.

NOTES

■ At halftime, during a ceremony to honor the life of Jerry West, the school announced the No. 44 will forever be retired in every sport at the school.

■ WVU is now 6-10 all-time against opponents ranked No. 2 in the AP Top 25.

HANNIBAL — A slowly evaporating 21-point River High lead late in the third quarter Saturday night nearly led to an improbable comeback by a Shadyside squad hungry to end a losing streak at the R.L. Potts gym.

Coach Mark Romick evened its record at 5-5, but needed some late heroics after coach Ed Andes' 1-11 record Tigers pulled within four points with :08 to play.

The 57-51 repeat win was a frustrating finish for the Pilots, who travel to unbeaten Caldwell, tonight, while Shadyside returns home to host Bridgeport, Tuesday.

"Give (Shadyside) credit for coming back, but we quit playing when we had the big lead," said Romick. "We were getting beat off the dribble and acted like we didn't have to play defense."

The Pilots never trailed as seniors Derek Smith, Lucas Dennis, and Peyton Blue were active around the glass at both ends.

"(Lucas) Dennis really helps get us extra possessions," mentioned Romick, as the 5-10 Dennis kept the ball alive with his leaping ability as the hosts led 17-7 after one.

Evan Longwell, a 5-11 sophomore who missed last season with an injury, showed what he can do offensively as he led with a game-high 22 points.

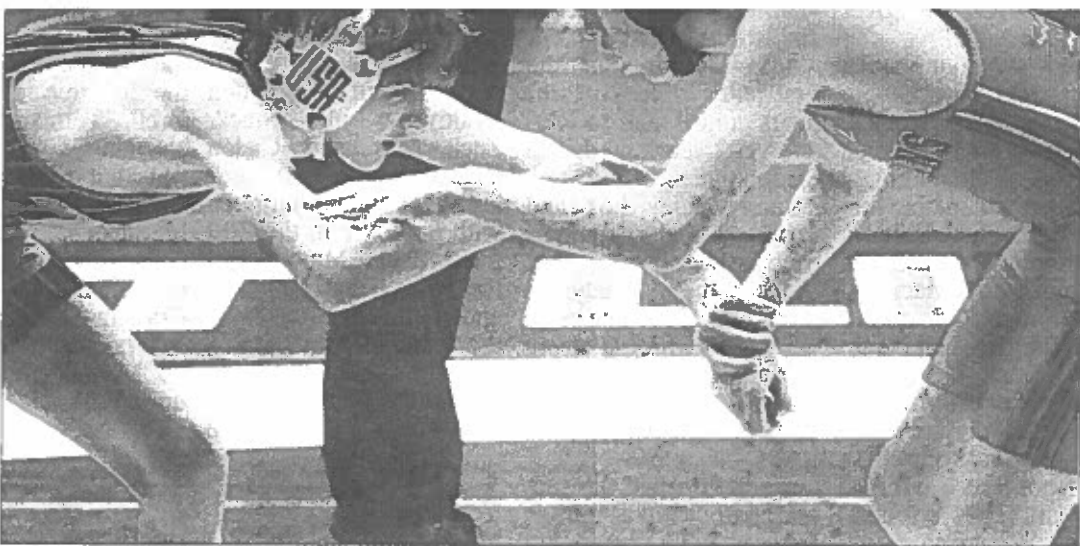
He closed the first quarter with a "trey" at the buzzer and added four more bonus swishes in the second as River's half-time lead grew to 38-22 after nailing eight-of-11 shots in the period.

The Pilots cooled off in the third, hitting four-of-15, but Blue's deuce in the lane and a "3" from Kaden Hunt had River comfortably up, 48-27.

Sophomore Trenton Marling closed the round with a "3" for Shadyside to make it 48-35.

Shadyside sliced it to 48-39 on a Marling drive at 6:24, but Aiden Milhoan, who Romick stated, "made some huge plays down the stretch for us," had a putback, a block, and another hoop, while Longwell turned a steal into a 54-39 spread.

See **RIVER**, Page C2



Photos by NICK HENTHORN

SHADYSIDE'S TREYTON Heitz squares off with Morgantown's Aaron Braun during day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday inside WesBanco Arena.

Semifinals set after day two of OVAC championships

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

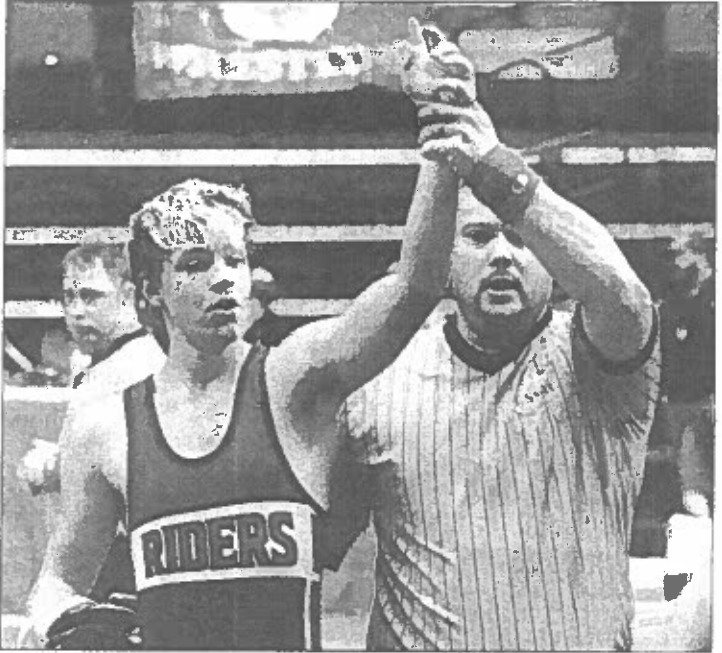
WHEELING — The stage is set for the championship round after an action-packed day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday night inside WesBanco Arena.

After the dust settled on the penultimate day, Cameron led Class 1A/2A with 80 points to second-place Caldwell's 47.5, Barnesville led Class 3A with 113 points to second place Linsly's 68, Beaver Local led Class 4A with 120.5 points to second-place Oak Glen's 90.5, and University led Class 5A with 160.5 points to second-place Parkersburg South's 127.

All the top-seeds in each weight class are set to compete in semi-final bouts on Saturday, though there were a few notable upsets on Friday.

Outside the top five seeds, Buckeye Local six-seed Nathan Dentz defeated Wheeling Park's Bodie Cox via pin at 106. He will face Beaver Local two-seed Justice Fisher of Beaver Local in a semi final Saturday.

Cambridge's Noah Keen, the seven-seed, made it to Saturday's semi-finals at 132 by defeating two-seed Ethan



MARTINS FERRY'S Cole Patterson has his hand raised in victory during day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday inside WesBanco Arena.

Starr from Cambridge by pin. He will face University three-seed Nico Maisel for a spot in the championship.

Cambridge's Owen Hunt, the 12-seed at 150, was the underdog against both John Marshall five-seed Waylong Wyckoff and Indian Creek four-seed Ian Starkey, but managed to advance via pin and 6-1 decision, respectively, to make it to the semifinal

against top-seeded Slaton Pettit from Cameron on Saturday.

Oak Glen's Greg Sauers made it to the 190 semifinals as the sixth-seed, upsetting Wheeling Central three-seed Wyatt Brady in sudden victory in the quarterfinals. He will face Southern Local second-seed Johnny Bailey in one leg of the semis.

See **OVAC**, Page C2

St. C, Beaver Local, Linsly take OVAC swimming titles

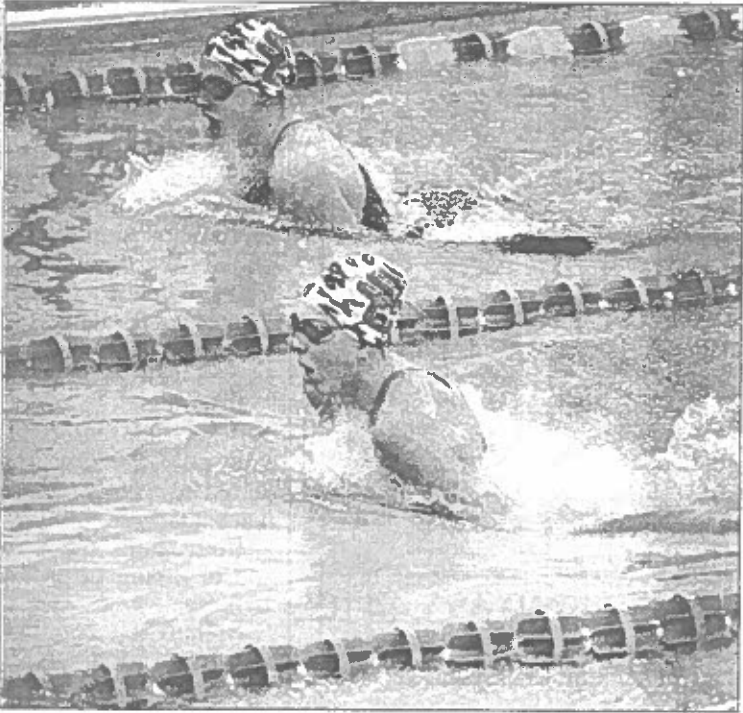


Photo by ANDREW GRIMM

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Claire Daubenmeyer and Abby Brocklehurst compete in the 500 breaststroke Friday in the OVAC Swim Meet inside Brooke High School.

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG — It was another big night in the pool for Linsly.

The Cadets boys and girls swim teams made it three OVAC titles in a row by sweeping the Class 1A-3A titles Friday night inside the Brooke Wellness Center, while St. Clairsville's girls and Beaver Local's boys stood atop the team podium in Class 4A.

Linsly's boys netted 99 points to edge Columbiana (70) and Wheeling Central (54), while the girls won by a much wider margin, racking up 136 points to top Barnesville (48) and Columbiana (44).

St. Clairsville's girls racked up 135 points to top Indian Creek (60) and Beaver Local (55), while Beaver's boys netted 82 team points to narrow-

ly top St. Clairsville (75.5) and East Liverpool (48.5).

Weir High and Edison's girls teams tied for fourth in class 4A, while Catholic Central's boys were fourth in 1A-3A, Edison's boys were fourth in 4A and Creek's boys were right behind in fifth.

BOYS 1A-3A

Linsly's lineup of Pablo Hernandez, Sebastian Jayakumar, Cassio Bendenelli and Rocco D'Aquila topped the 200 medley relay field, Pablo Hernandez won the 200 free, Riccardo Piccini topped the 50 free and 100 free, the 200 free relay unit of Bendenelli, Jayakumar, D'Aquila and Piccini topped the field, and in the 400 free relay Hernandez, Jalen Wong, Carlin Wong and Piccini ended the event with a win in event 22.

See **SWIMMING**, Page C2

arrive in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Ohio State and Notre Dame arrived in Atlanta on charter flights Friday as the teams moved closer to the College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night.

The Buckeyes are big favorites but the Fighting Irish might have an advantage. Coach Marcus Freeman's team has previously played in Atlanta — and in Mercedes-Benz Stadium — this season.

In a game that strengthened Notre Dame's playoff hopes, the Fighting Irish beat Georgia Tech 31-13 on Oct. 19 as quarterback Riley Leonard ran for two touchdowns.

Is the familiarity with the stadium an advantage for Notre Dame?

"We hope so," Freeman said at the Atlanta airport. "Now we are on the other side of the field and in a different locker room, but we have played here. We know what it's like. Each team will have two opportunities to go into the stadium and practice so by the time Monday gets here I think both teams will be comfortable with the environment."

The Buckeyes opened as 9.5-point favorites, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Atlanta is the home of the College Football Hall of Fame and is the self-proclaimed "Capital of College Football." The city hosts the Peach Bowl, Southeastern Conference championship game and such other high-profile games such as the Chick-fil-A Kickoff game.

Atlanta is a short drive from Athens and the University of Georgia, which won the 2021 and 2022 national championships. The South's claim to be the base of power in the game is up for debate as Ohio State could give the Big Ten its second consecutive national champion and Notre Dame also traveled from the Midwest.

Michigan beat Washington in last year's title game to give the Big Ten its first national championship in football since Ohio State's last title in 2014.

Notre Dame (14-1) and Ohio State (13-2) survived the first 12-game playoff to reach the championship game.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day said he believes his team prepared well for the long season.

"We talked about it all year," Day said minutes after exiting the plane. "I think we are. Our energy actually picked up week in and week out. I feel the momentum. You know, when you have momentum, you've got to keep it. I feel like we've continued to get stronger as the season's gone on."



AP Photo

OHIO STATE head coach Ryan Day watches from the sideline during the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 10 in Arlington, Texas.

quarter as a 9-2 spurt enabled the Redskins to race out to a seven-point advantage.

The Red Knights rallied and closed to within two with under two minutes left, however, Indian Creek collected the final two baskets of the game en route to a 47-41 vic-

The visitors closed to within 20-19 before a late basket gave Toronto a 22-19 advantage heading into the locker room at halftime.

The victors regained the lead in the third, however, a free throw by the Red-and-White knotted the score at 32 entering

with eight seconds left to seal the deal.

Toronto outscored Indian Creek in the first two quarters, while the Redskins outscored the Red Knights in the last two.

Four players scored for Indian Creek, and all four produced double digits

Toronto also had four players score in the game. Individually, Brady Fair finished with a team-high 12 points, Landon Grimes tallied 11 and Austin Buchanan netted 10.

Also, Aiden Filby added eight to the Red Knights' cause.

in a varsity-only game at 5 p.m.

Indian Creek will play Weir Tuesday night at home before playing Bellaire in the Buckeye 8 Championships at 12:30 down at the ECO Center.

Monroe Central 65, Cameron 15
WOODSFIELD —

scored 10, each doing all of their damage in the first half.

Logan Powell and Corbin Farnsworth each scored nine while Tucker Howell scored eight. Monroe Central led 48-10 at halftime.

Mason Scott led Cameron with seven points.

• River

Continued from Page C1

Marling scored while Weatherson and junior Ryan Collins hit back-to-back treys with 1:10 to play. Dennis' huge block on a Tiger drive preserved the lead, but a Tiger free throw made it 54-48 at :30.

Milhoan made 1-of-2 foul shots at :22, but Weatherson drilled his sixth "bonus" shot to pull the visitors to 55-51 with eight seconds left.

The Pilots salted it away when Blue cashed in two free throws with six ticks to go.

Longwell led all scorers, while Blue had 12 points, six boards, four assists and three steals for the Pilots. Dennis had 11 rebounds, five steals and four assists.

Weatherson led the Tigers with 21, while Marling and Parr had nine each.

GIRLS

River 60, Shadyside 28
HANNIBAL — It's not often a team can close a first half on a 33-2 run, but River High coach Rick Isaly used his Lady Pilots' sizzling start to

shift gears after intermission at the R.L. Potts gymnasium Saturday.

Isaly's crew, shooting the proverbial lights out while also tenacious around the glass, played an abbreviated second half under OHSAA mercy rules to finish off a 60-28 repeat win over Shadyside.

Senior standout Kaylee Hagan and sophomore Maci Isaly led the winners with 19 and 17 points, respectively, including a combined 30 in the first half when each drilled a trio of bonus bombs.

"Kaylee and Maci had open looks and stayed hot in the first half," said Isaly, whose 8-6 record club remains solid for an OVAC 2A playoff spot. "We had some unselfish play from Reese (Hobbs) and Carleigh (Trifonoff) with their passing to get us started."

The Lady Pilots shot out to an early lead as Isaly, the coach's niece, was all over the floor with seven points, four rebounds and a pair of assists to create a 13-4 advantage.

Addison Melanko's pair at the line cut it to 13-6 at 2:03 for the Lady Tigers, but a Mallory Maddy baseline swish, a Hagan "3" and Isaly's dish to Hagan with one second left made it 20-6 after one.

Coach Serge Gentile's youthful 3-11 record club struggled with three-for-28 shooting in the first half, while 10 turnovers contributed to River's 26-2 scoring edge in the second.

Junior Zoey Fox and Trifonoff had two goals each before Bayden Parr broke the Shadyside drought at 5:01. The hosts went full throttle from that point as Isaly and Hagan had two 'treys' each to help River to a 46-8 intermission lead.

Hobbs opened the second half with a jumper for a 40-point spread, but Kaci Tsoras' six points helped close it to 48-16 after three.

Both clubs meet again tonight at the Tiger den.

River shot 26-of-54, while Shadyside was 11-for-54.

• Swimming

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville got an event win from Levi Geiger in the 100 back.

Wheeling Central's Alex Mihalovich was runner up in the 200 free, Catholic Central's Sante Descalzo was on the podium in the 100 butterfly.

4A

St. C's wins started with the unit of Brayden Kralovic, Luke Stack, Zach May and Caden Blacker in the 200 medley relay and continued with Kralovic in the 200 free, Zach May paced the 50 free and 100 free, and in the 400 free relay the team of May, Stack, Blacker and Kralovic topped the field.

Edison had a champion

in the 100 breaststroke in Micah Larkins.

Indian Creek's Hunter Rusnak was runner up in the 50 free. Weir's Ryan Owen was second in the 200 IM.

GIRLS

1A-3A

Linsly's Mara Batsanal topped the 200 free, Jasmine Lourenco topped the 50 free and 100 free, the 200 free relay unit of Greta Temporin, Grace Norman, Lourenco and Batsanal won the event. Batsanal won the 100 breaststroke,

Barnesville got an event win from Liv McCrate in the 200 IM.

Wheeling Central's Ellie Manning was runner up in the 200 free and 100 butterfly, Martins

Ferry's Myah Shultz was second in the 50 free.

4A

St. C's 200 medley relay unit of Ryah Newell, Claire Daubenmeyer, Adrienne Lowe and Isabelle Morgan topped the field, Abby Brocklehurst topped the 200 IM, Morgan topped the 50 free, Daubenmeyer topped the 100 free, Lowe topped the 500 free, the 200 free relay team of McKenna Miller, Brocklehurst, Karlee Higgins and Morgan topped the field, Newell topped the 100 back, Daubenmeyer won the 100 breaststroke,

Creek's Gabby Boyuck was second in the 200 IM, Weir's Catherine Glodowski was runner up in the 50 free.

• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

University six-seed Jackson Pate and Harrison Central seven-seed Knox McKibben each scored upset victories to meet each other in the semi-finals at 215.

University has the largest contingent of semi-finalists with nine: Pepper Martin (113), Colton Gillespie (126), Nico Maisel (132), Carter Pauley (144), Rider Ludrosky (157), Brody Kehler (165), Emerson Murphy (175), Jackson Pate (215), and Brock Kehler (285).

Oak Glen has five semi-finalists: Aiden Anderson (113), Wyatt

Wolanski (132), Hayden Lamb (144), Greg Sauers (160) and Noah Schmidt (285). Steubenville and Wheeling Park each have four: Cole Harvey (113), Dorian Haddad (126), Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (150) for Steubenville, and Jack Lowe (150), Isaac Sands (165), Noah White (175), and Jameson Maynard (190) for Wheeling Park.

Five wrestlers are making another run at the title after winning gold last year: University's Pepper Martin, Barnesville's Colt Carpenter, Steubenville's Cooper Smith, Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia, and University's Brock

Kehler.

Beaver Local's Justuce Fisher, East Liverpool's Tristan Eckles, University's Colton Gillespie, Cameron's Slaton Pettit, Barnesville's Ayden King, Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard, Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin, and Harrison Central's Landen Thomas are back in the final four after each were runner-ups last year.

Action is set to resume on Saturday at 11 a.m. for the semi-finals and consolation matches, with the championship finals, third, fifth and seventh-place matches kicking off at 4 p.m..

• Bellaire

Continued from Page C1

Any hopes of a Bulldog comeback were dashed

immediately at the outset of the second half. Jewell and Pettigrew each buried

treys on Bellaire's initial two possessions as the hosts methodically pulled away.

Bellaire owned a 66-37 cushion entering the final chapter. Jewell had seven third-quarter points, one more than Pettigrew. Dunn drained a pair of bonus bombs in the frame.

Jewell was also a beast on the boards with 12 rebounds. Pettigrew, meanwhile, stuffed the stat sheet with 10 rebounds, three assists, two steals and a pair of blocks.

Bridgeport was led by sophomore standout Jaleel Vincent. The talented point guard tallied 20 markers for the Bulldogs. Senior Avery Jackson and sophomore Coen Brinker evenly divided 16 counters.

"Bellaire came out and shot the ball really well early," veteran Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash noted. "That really set the tone for the game. We got down big early and never recovered."

"We have to learn to play inside-out rather than outside-in. We relied on too many jump shots," added the former Martins Ferry athletic standout. "But give Bellaire credit. They made shots and played well."

Bridgeport dropped to

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Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard works against Brooke's Gavin Moore during day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday inside WesBanco Arena.

Semifinals Set After Day Two Of OVAC Wrestling Championships

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The stage is set for the championship round after an action-packed day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday night inside WesBanco Arena.

After the dust settled on the penultimate day of the tournament, Cameron led Class 1A/2A with 80 points to second-place Caldwell's 47.5. Barnesville led Class 3A with 113 points to second place Linsly's 68. Beaver Local led Class 4A with 120.5 points to second-place Oak Glen's 90.5, and University led Class 5A with 160.5 points to second-place Parkersburg South's 127.

All the top-seeds in each weight class are set to compete in semi-final bouts on Saturday, though there were a few notable upsets on Fri-

day.

Outside the top five seeds, Buckeye Local six-seed Nathan Dentz defeated Wheeling Park's Bodie Cox via pin at 106. He will face Beaver Local two-seed Justuce Fisher of Beaver Local in a semi final Saturday.

Cambridge's Noah Keen, the seven-seed, made it to Saturday's semi-finals at 132 by defeating two-seed Ethan Starr from Cambridge by pin. He will face University three-seed Nico Maisel for a spot in the championship.

Cambridge's Owen Hunt, the 12-seed at 150, was the underdog against both John Marshall five-seed Waylong Wyckoff and Indian Creek four-seed Ian Starkey, but managed to advance via pin and 6-1 decision, respectively, to make it to the semifinal against top-seeded Slaton Pettit from Cameron on

Saturday.

Oak Glen's Greg Sauers made it to the 190 semifinals as the sixth-seed, upsetting Wheeling Central three-seed Wyatt Brady in sudden victory in the quarterfinals. He will face Southern Local second-seed Johnny Bailey in one leg of the semis.

University six-seed Jackson Pate and Harrison Central seven-seed Knox McKibben each scored upset victories to meet each other in the semi-finals at 215.

University has the largest contingent of semi-finalists with nine- Pepper Martin (113), Colton Gillespie (126), Nico Maisel (132), Carter Pauley (144), Rider Ludrosky (157), Brody Kehler (165), Emerson Murphy (175), Jackson Pate (215), and Brock Kehler (285).

Please see Wrestling, Page C2

with :08 to play.

The 57-51 repeat win was a frustrating finish for the Pilots, who travel to unbeaten Caldwell, tonight, while Shadyside returns home to host Bridgeport, Tuesday.

"Give (Shadyside) credit for coming back, but we quit playing when we had the big lead," said Romick. "We were getting beat off the dribble and acted like we didn't have to play defense."

The Pilots never trailed as seniors Derek Smith, Lucas Dennis, and Peyton Blue were active around the glass at both ends.

"(Lucas) Dennis really helps get us extra possessions," mentioned Romick, as the 5-10 Dennis kept the ball alive with his leaping ability as the hosts led 17-7 after one.

Evan Longwell, a 5-11 sophomore who missed last season with an injury, showed what he can do offensively as he led with a game-high 22 points.

He closed the first quarter with a 'trex' at the buzzer and added four more bonus swishes in the second as River's half-time lead grew to 38-22 after nailing eight-of-11 shots in the period.

The Pilots cooled off

into a 54-39 spread.

Marling scored while Weatherston and junior Ryan Collins hit back-to-back treys with 1:10 to play. Dennis' huge block on a Tiger drive preserved the lead, but a Tiger free throw made it 54-48 at :30.

Milhoan made 1-of-2 foul shots at :22, but Weatherston drilled his sixth 'bonus' shot to pull the visitors to 55-51 with eight seconds left.

The Pilots salted it away when Blue cashed in two free throws with six ticks to go.

Longwell led all scorers, while Blue had 12 points, six boards, four assists and three steals for the Pilots. Dennis had 11 rebounds, five steals and four assists.

Weatherston led the Tiggers with 21, while Marling and Parr had nine each.

GIRLS

River 60, Shadyside 28

HANNIBAL - It's not often a team can close a first half on a 33-2 run, but River High coach Rick Isaly used his Lady Pilots' sizzling start to shift gears after intermission at the R.L. Potts gymnasium Saturday.

Please see River, Page C2

Cadets Top 1A-3A Field For Three Straight At OVAC Swim Meet

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Sunday
News-Register

WELLSBURG - It was another big night in the pool for Linsly.

The Cadets boys and girls swim teams made it three OVAC titles in a row by sweeping the Class 1A-3A titles Friday night inside the Brooke Wellness Center, while St. Clairsville's girls and Beaver Local's boys stood atop the team podium in Class 4A.

Linsly's boys netted 99 points to edge Columbiana (70) and Wheeling Central (54), while the girls won by

a much wider margin, racking up 136 points to top Barnesville (48) and Columbiana (44).

St. Clairsville's girls racked up 135 points to top Indian Creek (60) and Beaver Local (55), while Beaver's boys netted 82 team points to narrowly top St. Clairsville (75.5) and East Liverpool (48.5).

Weir High and Edison's girls teams tied for fourth in class 4A, while Catholic Central's boys were fourth in 1A-3A, Edison's boys were fourth in 4A and Creek's boys were right behind in fifth.

BOYS 1A-3A

Linsly's unit of Pablo Hernandez, Sebastian Jayakumar, Cassio Bendenelli and Rocco D'Aquila topped the 200 medley relay field, Pablo Hernandez won the 200 free, Riccardo Piccini topped the 50 free and 100 free, the 200 free relay unit of Bendenelli, Jayakumar, D'Aquila and Piccini topped the field, and in the 400 free relay Hernandez, Jalen Wong, Carlin Wong and Piccini ended the event with a win in event 22.

Please see Cadets, Page C2

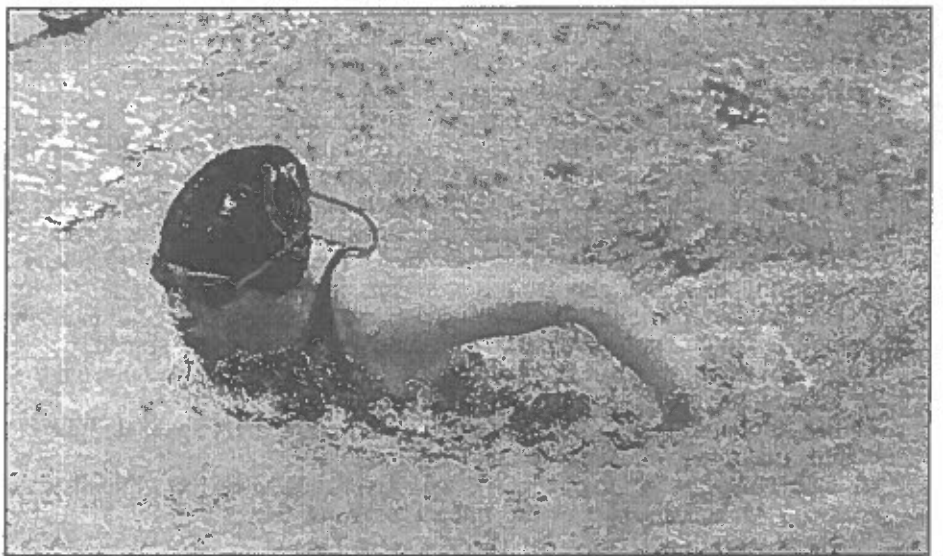


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Martins Ferry's Mia McCormack competes in the 100 butterfly Friday in the OVAC Swim Meet inside Brooke High School.

Notre Dame, Ohio State Touch Down In Atlanta

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA - Ohio State and Notre Dame arrived in Atlanta on charter flights Friday as the teams moved closer to the College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night.

The Buckeyes are big favorites but the Fighting Irish might have an advantage. Coach Marcus Freeman's team has previously played in Atlanta - and in Mercedes-Benz Stadium - this season.

In a game that strengthened Notre Dame's playoff hopes, the Fighting Irish beat Georgia Tech 31-13 on Oct. 19 as quarterback Riley Leonard ran for two touchdowns.

Is the familiarity with the stadium an advantage for Notre Dame?

"We hope so," Freeman said at the Atlanta

airport. "Now we are on the other side of the field and in a different locker room, but we have played here. We know what it's like. Each team will have two opportunities to go into the stadium and practice so by the time Monday gets here I think both teams will be comfortable with the environment."

The Buckeyes opened as 9.5-point favorites, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Atlanta is the home of the College Football Hall of Fame and is the self-proclaimed "Capital of College Football." The city hosts the Peach Bowl, Southeastern Conference championship game and such other high-profile games such as the Chick-fil-A Kick-off game.

Atlanta is a short drive from Athens and the University of Georgia, which



AP Photo

Ohio State head coach Ryan Day celebrates after the Cotton Bowl College Football Playoff semifinal game against Texas, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

won the 2021 and 2022 national championships. The South's claim to be the base of power in the game is up for debate as Ohio State could give the Big Ten its second consecutive national champion and Notre Dame also traveled from the

Midwest.

Michigan beat Washington in last year's title game to give the Big Ten its first national championship in football since Ohio State's last title in 2014.

Please see Down, Page C2

Big Reds Leave No Doubt In Rematch vs. Bulldogs

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Sunday
News-Register

BELLAIRE - In their initial meeting, Bellaire had it hands full with Bridgeport, escaping John Havlicek Gymnasium with a hard-earned 69-67 win. Things came much easier for the Big Reds against the Bulldogs Friday night in the House of Champions.

Coach J.R. Battista received stellar performances from Raekwon Pettigrew, Caleb Jewell and Trey Dunn in rolling to an 82-54 triumph. The win improved Bellaire's record to 6-8, heading into a road clash with John Marshall Tuesday night.

The victory also marked the 101st for Battista in guiding his alma mater.

Pettigrew led all scorers with 26 points. Jewell delivered 21 markers while Dunn was a spark plug off the bench, connecting for

14 tallies.

"We came out with a lot of energy," Battista said. "We made shots and were active defensively. When you make shots, the game is a lot easier."

"We got contributions from about everyone. We played well in all phases," added the former Big Reds' all-stater. "It is a satisfying win and hopefully it is a performance we can build on. We really needed this win."

Bellaire led from start to finish.

The Big Reds sprinted to a 21-10 lead after the opening quarter. Pettigrew (10) and Jewell (9) did almost all the damage.

The hosts didn't skip a beat in the second quarter, pouring in 22 more points, taking a 43-26 upper hand into intermission.

Please see Rematch, Page C2

race out to a seven-point advantage. The Red Knights rallied and closed to within two with under two minutes left, however, Indian Creek collected the final two baskets of the game en route to a 47-41 victory Friday night inside the George J. Kunzler Memorial Gymnasium.

The boys from the Gem City hit a 3 to go up 13-9 in the second before later extending their advantage to 16-11.

The visitors closed to within 20-19 before a late basket gave Toronto a 22-19 advantage heading into the locker room at halftime.

The victors regained the lead in the third, however, a free throw by the Red-and-White knotted the score at 32 entering the fourth.

Trailing by four, Toronto called a timeout with 27.3 seconds left, however, the Red Knights were unable to score, and a run out led to a layup for the Redskins with eight seconds left to seal the deal.

Toronto outscored Indian Creek in the first

the way offensively, Mason Lester netted 12 and Caleb Bodo and Nickey Eddy each delivered 11.

Toronto also had four players score in the game. Individually, Brady Fair finished with a team-high 12 points, Landon Grimes tallied 11 and Austin Buchanan netted 10. Also, Aiden Filby added eight to the Red Knights' cause.

Toronto is scheduled to play Buckeye Local Monday afternoon at home. The JV game is slated to start at 1 p.m. After the varsity game, the Toronto girls will play Bridgeport in a varsity-only game at 5 p.m.

Indian Creek will play Weir Tuesday night at home before playing Bellaire in the Buckeye 8 Championships at 12:30 down at the ECO Center.

Tyler 56, Magnolia 36
SISTERSVILLE - The Knights vanquished the Blue Eagles on Friday night behind a strong defense and a one-two scoring punch of Brody Giovinazzo and Cole LeMasters.

Giovinazzo scored 16 and LeMasters scored 14 for Tyler. Brady Strode

the Dragons to stretch their win streak to seven games.

Nine Monroe Central players scored Friday. Cooper Howell and Chance Allen each scored 10, each doing all of their damage in the first half. Logan Powell and Corbin Farnsworth each scored nine while Tucker Howell scored eight. Monroe Central led 48-10 at halftime.

Mason Scott led Cameron with seven points.

John Marshall 56, Brooke 55

No further details provided.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Valley 55, Parkersburg Christian 25

PINE GROVE - The Lumberjills chopped down their opponents on their home court Friday.

Laken Dawson led Valley with 14 points, closely followed by Michaela Miller with 13 and Carley Plttman with 12. Kynnedi Dallison had 10 to make for four double-digit scorers in the lopsided victory.

Shianna Posey led Parkersburg Christian with a dozen.

"I've always enjoyed playing the puck," he said. "Growing up, I watched some of the best guys do it, Marty Turco, Marty Brodeur were two guys that I watched a lot and really learned from in terms of puck handling. It's been part of my game as long as I can remember."

"Started from just conversations with my dad in the car telling me 'Don't just throw the puck around the boards every time you get it. Try to make a smart play with it, put it on guys' tape. Don't just do it; if you're going to do it, at least try to do something with it.' It's really exciting."

Nedeljkovic, who halso had 40 saves, had a secondary assist on Glass' goal with 8:17 left in the second period that gave the Penguins a 3-1 lead. His goal

the rest of however many seconds it was. You see him take off for the bench and everyone just mauled him. It was cool."

Nedeljkovic also made history by being the first goalie to score a goal in the ECHL, AHL, and NHL.

The goal was the 19th scored by a goalie in NHL history and Nedeljkovic became the 16th goalie to accomplish the feat. He's the second Penguins goalie to score after Tristan Jarry — who was sent to the AHL on Thursday — was the first to do it Nov. 30, 2023.

"It was great," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "The guys were joking with him. They said all he was missing was a fight for the Gordie Howe hat trick."

WRESTLING

(Continued from Page C1)



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin has his hand raised in victory during day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday inside West-Banco Arena.

Oak Glen has five semi-finalists - Aiden Anderson (113), Wyatt Wolanski (132), Hayden Lamb (144), Greg Sauers (160) and Noah Schmidt (285). Steubenville and Wheeling Park each have four - Cole Harvey (113), Dorian Haddad (126), Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (150) for Steubenville, and Jack Lowe (150), Isaac Sands (165), Noah White (175), and Jameson Maynard (190) for Wheeling Park.

Five wrestlers are making another run at the title after winning gold last year - University's Pepper Martin, Barnesville's Colt Carpenter, Steubenville's Cooper Smith, Steubenville's Brody

Saccoccia, and University's Brock Kehler.

Beaver Local's Justice Fisher, East Liverpool's Tristan Eckles, University's Colton Gillespie, Cameron's Slaton Pettit, Barnesville's Ayden King, Wheeling Park's Jameson Maynard, Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin, and Harrison Central's Landen Thomas are back in the final four after each were runner-ups last year.

Action is set to resume on Saturday at 11 a.m. for the semi-finals and consolation matches, with the championship finals, third, fifth and seventh-place matches kicking off at 4 p.m..

CADETS

(Continued from Page C1)

Barnesville got an event win from Levi Geiger in the 100 back.

Wheeling Central's Alex Mihalovich was runner up in the 200 free, Catholic Central's Sante Descalzo was on the podium in the 100 butterfly.

4A

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Edison had a champion in the 100 breastroke

in Micah Larkins.

Indian Creek's Hunter Rusnak was runner up in the 50 free. Weir's Ryan Owen was second in the 200 IM.

GIRLS

1A-3A

Linsly's Mara Batsanal topped the 200 free, Jasmine Lourenco topped the 50 free and 100 free, the 200 free relay unit of Greta Temporin, Grace Norman, Lourenco and Batsanal won the event, Batsanal won the 100 breastroke,

Barensville got an event win from Liv McCrate in the 200 IM.

Wheeling Central's Ellie Manning was runner up in the 200 free and 100 butterfly, Martins Ferry's Myah Shul-

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St. C's 200 medley relay unit of Ryah Newell, Claire Daubenmeyer, Adrienne Lowe and Isabelle Morgan topped the field, Abby Brocklehurst topped the 200 IM, Morgan topped the 50 free, Daubenmeyer topped the 100 free, Lowe topped the 500 free, the 200 free relay team of McKenna Miller, Brocklehurst, Karlee Higgins and Morgan topped the field, Newell topped the 100 back, Daubenmeyer won the 100 breastroke.

Creek's Gabby Boyuck was second in the 200 IM, Weir's Catherine Glodowski was runner up in the 50 free,

Ohtani Donating \$500,000 To California Wildfire Aid

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani is donating \$500,000 to help firefighters and animals forced to flee the deadly wildfires around the region.

Ohtani announced his intention on Instagram, with LA Strong in white lettering against a black background.

"We'll be donating \$500,000 to help those firefighters and those

forced to live in shelter to help animals in need," he wrote.

The Dodgers and other Los Angeles sports teams are partnering in selling an "LA Strong" collection of T-shirts and sweatshirts, with all proceeds benefiting the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and American Red Cross.

"I hope you all will consider this," Ohtani wrote.

RIVER

(Continued from Page C1)

Isaly's crew, shooting the proverbial lights out while also tenacious around the glass, played an abbreviated second half under OHSAA mercy rules to finish off a 60-28 repeat win over Shadyside.

Senior standout Kaylee Hagan and sophomore Maci Isaly led the winners with 19 and 17 points, respectively, including a combined 30 in the first half when each drilled a trio of bonus bombs.

"Kaylee and Maci had open looks and stayed hot in the first half," said Isaly, whose 8-6 record club remains solid for an OVAC 2A playoff spot. "We had some unselfish play from Reese (Hobbs) and Carleigh (Trifonoff) with their passing to get us started."

The Lady Pilots shot out to an early lead as Isaly, the coach's niece, was all over the floor with seven points, four rebounds and a pair of assists to create a 13-4 advantage.

Addison Melanko's pair at the line

cut it to 13-6 at 2:03 for the Lady Tigers, but a Mallory Maddy baseline swish, a Hagan '3' and Isaly's dish to Hagan with one second left made it 20-6 after one.

Coach Serge Gentile's youthful 3-11 record club struggled with three-for-28 shooting in the first half, while 10 turnovers contributed to River's 26-2 scoring edge in the second.

Junior Zoey Fox and Trifonoff had two goals each before Bayden Parr broke the Shadyside drought at 5:01. The hosts went full throttle from that point as Isaly and Hagan had two 'treys' each to help River to a 46-8 intermission lead.

Hobbs opened the second half with a jumper for a 40-point spread, but Kaci Tsoras' six points helped close it to 48-16 after three.

Both clubs meet again tonight at the Tiger den.

River shot 26-of-54, while Shadyside was 11-for-54.

DOWN

(Continued from Page C1)

Notre Dame (14-1) and Ohio State (13-2) survived the first 12-game playoff to reach the championship game.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day said he believes his team prepared well for the long season.

"We talked about it all year," Day said minutes after exiting the plane. "I think we are. Our energy actually picked up week in and week out. I feel the

momentum. You know, when you have momentum, you've got to keep it. I feel like we've continued to get stronger as the season's gone on.

"We've had a plan on how we are going to do that. And so now again, we have to be at our best. The whole plan has been to get to this point right now. And so we have got more days to get prepared to go do it."

Freeman said the playoff schedule included "a lot of meaningful games."

"You don't play in the national championship every week," Freeman said. "We know that. But we've played in a lot of meaningful games and we understand what the expectations are. Monday will be different. We know the excitement and the lights will be brighter."

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The multi-talented Pettigrew added eight more markers in the frame.

Any hopes of a Bulldog comeback were dashed immediately at the outset of the second half. Jewell and Pettigrew each buried treys on Bellaire's initial two possessions as the hosts methodically pulled away.

Bellaire owned a 66-37 cushion entering the final chapter. Jewell had seven third-quarter points, one more than Pettigrew. Dunn drained a pair of bonus bombs in the frame

ed 16 counters.

"Bellaire came out and shot the ball really well early," veteran Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash noted. "That really set the tone for the game. We got down big early and never recovered."

"We have to learn to play inside-out rather than outside-in. We relied on too many jump shots," added the former Martins Ferry athletic standout. "But give Bellaire credit. They made shots and played well."

Bridgeport dropped to 5-7 on the sea-



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Nate Hodge looks for back points against Shadyside's Lucca Smathers at 157 pounds during the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Thursday inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Hodge won by pin in 1:09.

University, Steubenville Lead 71st OVAC Ron Mauck After Day One

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - If you blinked, you might have missed some of the 144 matches during Day One of the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships inside WesBanco Arena. Of those matches, 117 ended in pins, with most of those coming in under a minute.

Action resumes Friday at noon with second-round action in the championship bracket and first round of consolation action. Quarterfinal championship bouts will be contested at 6 p.m., as will second- and third-round consolation.

There were also 15 technical falls, seven major decisions, four decisions and one injury default.

Of the 168 seeded wrestlers, only four were upset, with the highest being No. 7 Braylon Leiffer at 150 who was knocked off by Barnesville's Eli Messenger

in a major decision. Two seeds fell at 157, those being No. 9 Drake Bouscher of Toronto by injury default and No. 12 Damien Shaw of East Liverpool; and No. 10 Jake Carman of Wheeling Park at 132.

Prior to the three-day event, Cameron's top-seeded Klypsan Wallace at 175 was scratched and University's second-seeded Kaden Nieman at 120 failed to make weight. Also, Conotton Valley, Magnolia and Paden City withdrew from the tournament due to adverse weather conditions.

On the mat, pre-tournament favorite University won all of its matches to pile up 47 points, which was 4.5 better than Steubenville in both the overall and Class 5A standings. Defending champions Pepper Martin (113) and Brock Kehler (285) won by pins.

"Our 106 had a bye but we got a bunch of pins and a couple of technical falls," University head coach

Ken Maisel revealed. "It was a frustrating day to start out with Kaden not making weight. That probably cost us 20 points in the tournament, but like I told the kids, if you do what you're supposed to do and everybody does that and we come up short, then so be it."

Big Red also won all of its matches, including lightning-quick pins by returning champs Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (157).

"We won all of our matches. Coming we knew we had a couple that could go either way, but we were able to pull those out," Steubenville head coach Lucas Huffman noted. "Hopefully, we can keep that going into tomorrow."

Wheeling Park's returning champion, Malaki Washington, won in his season debut by a pin at 215. He is seeded No. 2.

Please see MAUCK, Page 12



AP Photo

Ohio State head coach Ryan Day, middle left, runs onto the field with players before the Cotton Bowl semifinal game against Texas, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

By ERIC OLSON
AP College Football
Writer

Ohio State and Notre Dame have reached the same destination with rosters built much the same way.

The teams set to play in the College Football Playoff championship game in Atlanta on Monday night sign elite high school recruiting classes year after year. That has been and continues to be their foundations.

While many teams relentlessly mine the transfer portal in hopes of finding gems, Ohio State and Notre Dame have used the portal judiciously, equally and with great success while putting together their current teams.

Both are college football royalty and can offer NIL riches to go with the exposure and coaching enhancing a player's chance of winning a championship and getting to the next level.

Notre Dame quarterback Riley Leonard said he had mixed feelings about going into the portal after three years at Duke. But he wouldn't be in the position he's in right now if he hadn't made the move.

"You don't really understand the magnitude of going to a big-time school until you kind of live it, and I tried to prepare myself for every situation possible, but you've just got to go through it to understand what it's like to play quarterback at a blue blood school," he said.

According to Associated Press research using 247Sports data, the Buckeyes and Irish both have signed 26 scholarship players from the portal since 2022. Marcus Freeman's first year as Notre Dame head coach. That's an average of 6.5 per year, among the lowest in the Bowl Subdivision.

Please see ROSTERS,
Page 13

Stage Is Set For Josh Allen vs. Lamar Jackson In Divisional Playoff

By JOHN WAWROW
AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Baltimore coach John Harbaugh has enjoyed the fortune of competing on the NFL's biggest stages to appreciate the setting and magnitude of what's on the line for the Ravens and Bills in Buffalo on Sunday.

There's the quarterback matchup pitting arguably the NFL's two leading MVP candidates in Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen.

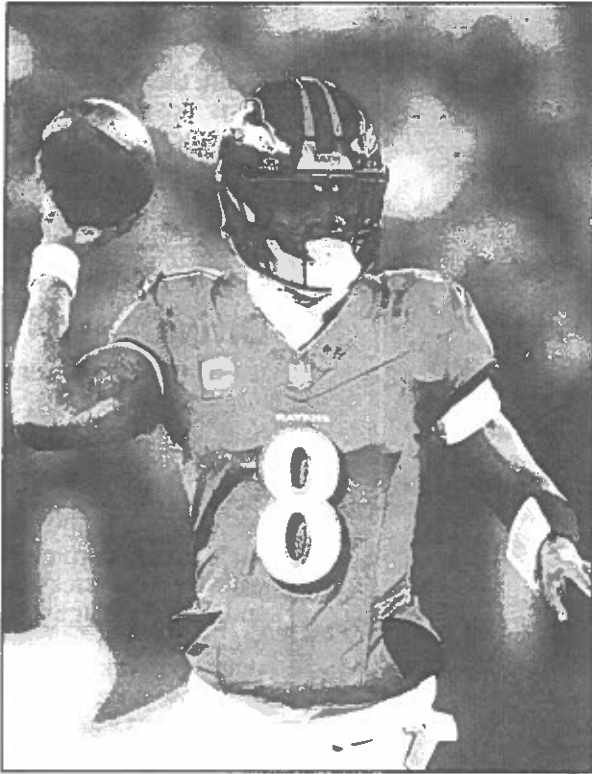
These are two division champions with a combined 27 wins two steps from a Super Bowl berth.

Even the forecast of

frigid conditions — temperatures are expected to dip below 10 Fahrenheit (minus-12 Celsius) — enters the equation as the third-seeded Ravens (13-5) travel to face the Bills (14-4) in the divisional playoff round.

"I can just kind of picture John Facenda coming down from the heavens and narrating the preview to the game," Harbaugh said, referring to the late NFL Films narrator whose deep, resonant voice brought gravitas to the league's classic showdowns. "It's a privilege to be a part of a game like this."

Please see PLAYOFF,
Page 12



AP Photo

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) in action during the first half of a wild card playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, in Baltimore.

OVAC Swimmers Diving In Friday And Saturday

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The top swimmers of the Ohio Valley will descend on Brooke High School on Friday and Saturday for the OVAC Swimming Championships, an event which quite a few local teams are projected to feature heavily in.

In the 1A-3A and 4A meets - both to take place at 5:30 p.m. Friday but score separately, similar to the procedures at the conference cross country meet - the Linsly Cadets dot the top seedings for the individual events.

The Cadets have claimed the top spot in the team standings each of the last two seasons, and Linsly head coach Bill Brubaker wants his team in top shape Friday as well.

"I'm hoping we have all of our best performances tomorrow," Brubaker said.

Brubaker highlighted his individual swimmers who are top seeded, of which there were many. On the women's side, Maral Batsanal is seeded first in the 200 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. Brubaker said Batsanal is close to breaking school records this season. Greta Temporin is seeded first in the 500 freestyle, and Jasmine Lourenco is seeded first in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle.

On the men's side, Riccardo Piccini is seeded first in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Cassio Bendenelli is seeded first in the 100 butterfly. Pablo Hernandez is seeded first in the 200 and 500

freestyle.

"All have put in the work to have very good seasons," Brubaker said.

Brubaker also mentioned Sebastian Jayakumar, Rocco D'Aquila, Grace Norman and Sofia Azcutia.

"We have quite a few who can step in and help us out a lot, especially when you put them all together in relays," Brubaker said.

Other top seeds include Victoria Buckingham, Nina Nappo and Elena MacKall for OVAC newcomer Columbiana on the girls side, and Columbiana's Preston Buckingham and Beaver Local's Cole Long on the boys side.

Linsly's boys and girls both took the top spots in the 1A-3A competition last year, while St. Clairsville did the same in 4A.

There will be 241 swimmers from 15 schools competing in the 1A-3A and 4A meet.

In 5A, whose meet is set to take place at 11:10 a.m. Saturday, there will be 186 swimmers representing nine schools.

On the women's side, John Marshall's Maitlyn Miller is seeded first in the 50 and 100 freestyle, while Wheeling Park's Molly George is seeded first in the 100 backstroke.

George, a junior, has the faith of her coach going into Friday.

"Molly's a junior, and she's [team] captain as a junior which we don't do very often," Wheeling Park head coach Mike Cook said.

Please see DIVING,
Page 12

Title IX Memo Throws Wrench In Plans For Schools To Pay NIL Money Directly To Athletes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Plans for colleges to pay athletes directly for their name, image and likeness deals would run afoul of Title IX, the Department of Education said in guidance issued Thursday that adds more confusion to the shifting landscape in college sports.

The nine-page memo from the DOE's Office for Civil Rights said NIL money that goes to athletes should be treated the same as athletic financial aid — i.e., scholarships. It's a position that, if it remains in place after president-elect Donald Trump takes office, could upend plans that many schools are making for next school year.

Under terms of the House settlement, a game-changing legal agreement that's on its way to being approved this spring, universities will be able to pay athletes directly under a revenue-sharing plan that would see the biggest schools distribute around \$20.5 million each to athletes.

Many schools have publicly stated that the majority of that money would go to football and men's basketball players, which, according to the guidance, would be in violation of Title IX.

"When a school provides athletic financial assistance in forms other than scholarships or grants, in-

cluding compensation for the use of a student-athlete's NIL, such assistance also must be made proportionately available to male and female athletes," the memo said.

Passed in 1972, Title IX requires that schools pay out financial assistance in proportion to the number of students of each gender who play sports on campus.

It also calls for schools to provide opportunities to play varsity sports in proportion to the gender distribution on campus.

NCAA board chair Linda Livingstone said the association doesn't give guidance to schools about Title IX compliance.

"We're going to have to get back to our schools and see what the implications are," said Livingstone, who is the president at Baylor.

The guidance was less clear on how money from third-party collectives that are closely affiliated with the schools will be treated. The memo said those payments, which are the norm but were expected to be reduced under the new rules, were not considered financial assistance.

Please see MONEY, Page 12

Wheeling Central's Dominic Asbury takes Indian Creek's Layton Evans during their 285-pound bout at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Thursday inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Asbury prevailed in 32 seconds.

The Patriots' Jameson Maynard (190) was a champion two years ago and finished second last fall. He also won by pin in just eight ticks.

Barnesville, the defending overall and Class 3A titlist, holds down the top spot in Class 3A with 29.5 points as returning champion Colt Carpenter (138) won by pin. Teammate Hines Ford (175) earned the quickest fall of the night, that coming in a mere seven seconds.

Wheeling Central sits in fourth place in Class AAA with 12 points.

"I think we're about where I expected us to be," Wheeling Central head coach Rick Welker said. "Our heavier

weights wrestled really well. We're still young through our middle-weights."

Cameron, the defending Class A champ, piled up 24 points to sit on top after Day One. Top-seeded Slaton Pettit (150) led the way with a quick pin.

In Class 4A, Beaver Local leads Oak Glen 33.5-23 as defending champ Robert Buchheit (138) breezed through his first match.

PIN FALLS

In pre-tournament festivities, the 2024 Coaches of the Year were recognized and presented with a plaque. They were: Class A/AA, Dennis Bowers of Southern Local; Jayson Stephen of Barnesville in Class 3A;

Oak Glen's Josh Cornell in Class 4A and Maisel in Class 5A.

The assistant Coach of the year was Wheeling Park's Justin Goneau, while Brooke Middle School's Stephen Hunter was the Junior High Coach of the Year.

A total of 338 wrestlers were entered in this year's event. Eighty-one have already placed in the event during their careers.

A moment of silence was held for a pair of former Cameron Dragons. Long-time head coach Jim Potts passed away over the summer and R.C. Anderson, who was a four-time W.Va. state champion for the Dragons.

Excuse me for everybody watching, but I really don't care who's watching," Jackson said of facing Allen. "We really don't care how people feel about it. We're trying to go in there and just win."

Jackson combined for a career-best 45 touchdowns, led the league in numerous passing categories while running an offense that was the NFL's first to top 4,000 yards passing and 3,000 yards rushing.

What still sticks with Jackson is how his last visit to Buffalo ended in a 17-3 loss in the 2020 divisional round, with Taron Johnson sealing the win with a 101-yard interception return.

"Hell, yes," Jackson said. "That's all I'm going to say about that."

In Buffalo, there's an underlying theme of redemption, too, after the Ravens trampled the Bills in a 35-10 win in Week 4.

The Bills are challenged in finding a way to slow Derrick Henry, who had a season-best 199 yards rushing

and 15 players with a touchdown catch.

"We are obviously two very different teams than we were whenever that game was," Ravens safety Kyle Hamilton said. "The biggest thing we take away from that is that it can be done, we just have to replicate that success. But I know Buffalo has a sour taste in their mouth about that game."

Sour, indeed.

Defensive tackle DaQuan Jones immediately turned his attention to facing Baltimore after Buffalo's 31-7 wild-card win over Denver on Sunday.

"It's gonna be a blood-bath," Jones said. "It's just a mindset thing. At the end of the day, you just have to have the right mindset to go into any game to be physical in order to dominate."

HISTORIC RUN

The Ravens continue to raise the bar for their running game, which set a regular-season record with 5.76 yards per attempt. The previous mark lasted six decades after the 1963 Browns

runner was inspired by linebacker Terrel Bernard citing Greek philosopher Heraclitus in discussing how the past doesn't repeat itself because the world is ever-changing.

"He was saying that the man gets in the river once and the next time he gets in the river, it's not the same man, and it's not the same river. The past is the past," Miller said. "We have a huge opportunity in front of us to go out there and achieve all of our dreams."

A KICK AWAY?

Both teams' kickers experienced inconsistencies this season.

In his 13th season, Baltimore's Justin Tucker was good on a career-worst 73.3% of his field-goal attempts while going 22 of 30, including 6 of 11 from 50 yards or longer. He also missed two extra-point attempts.

Buffalo's Tyler Bass closed his fifth season going 24 of 29 in field-goal attempts for a second straight year, while missing a career-worst five extra-point tries.

MONEY

(Continued from Page 11)

But, the guidance said, "it is possible that NIL agreements between student-athletes and third parties will create similar disparities and therefore trigger a school's Title IX obligations."

David Ridpath, a former president of the Drake Group, an NCAA watchdog, called the memo "not surprising, and very consistent with the law."

"There was always a

question of how Title IX applies to NIL. Now there is just more guidance," he said. "It's essentially just following the law virtually the way it's always been written."

DIVING

(Continued from Page 11)

"She's the top seed in the backstroke and she's probably one of if not the best backstroke in the valley. I really think she's going to run away with the 100 backstroke and have a huge meet. Molly, for the last three years, has done nothing but show up and deliver in big meets."

As for Miller, the senior has been one of the more prolific swimmers in the area in recent years, and looks to continue collecting medals Saturday.

"She's just had stellar performances throughout the year," John Marshall head coach Timmi Snyder said. "She's carried our 200 free relay, which is undefeated this year, and our 400 free relay also. She's crushing it this year. She's put in a lot of extra hours in the pool to get where she needed to be. I'm super proud of her, she's had a great senior year."

On the men's side, Wheeling Park's Levi Parker is seeded first in the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke, while John Marshall's Wyatt Jefferson is seeded first in the 100 breaststroke.

The Patriots are hoping that Parker, the captain of their boys team, can have a successful senior go-round at the conference meet.

"He's had a pretty

good year, he actually won the 200 a year ago so he's a defending champ," Cook said. "I think he can have a really big meet for us, he's also a huge part of two of our relays."

For Jefferson, expectations are high for him as well.

"My expectations are first and second," Snyder said. "He's going to push whoever's first in the 200 IM, but I don't foresee him getting any lower than first in the 100 breaststroke and second in the 200 IM. Wyatt continues to strive to be the best swimmer he can be. Same with Maitlyn, him and Maitlyn swim in the same lane, they push each other at practice every day. Every year he progressively gets so much better. I'm so proud of both of them because they've both done the same thing."

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Cook thought that his own team, Parkersburg South and Warren were among the contenders in the 5A boys meet, while the Monarchs would go into the girls competition as the favorite.

"I truly believe that

John Marshall's girls are the team to beat," Cook said.

"Our team is full of great swimmers this year," Snyder said. "I'm taking 24 out of 28 kids to OVAC's. A lot of my swimmers are going to be in the top six or top 10. I couldn't be happier."

Snyder mentioned Brodie Baker, Dalton Brown, Adah Aubrey, Zoe Zervos, Avery Etzel, Ella Finley and Sarah Hess among her team's top pieces.

"These kids have come so far this year, I can give them enough compliments," Snyder said. "John Marshall has had this many kids seeded so high in years. We've had some stellar swimmers but we have had the depth that we had this year."

Snyder couldn't call exactly, but she promised that the last time the Monarchs boys won the OVAC meet was in the 1990's, while she couldn't remember year the girls had won.

That could change on Saturday, especially when it comes to Monarchs girls.

"If we aren't at the top, we should be really close, if my kids perform as they're seeded," Snyder said.

Brooke's girls and Parkersburg South boys won last year.



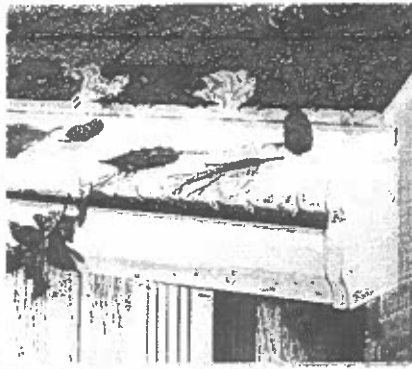
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SPORTS

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Friday,
January 17, 2025

Top area swimmers compete in OVAC championship

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The top swimmers of the Ohio Valley will descend on Brooke High School on Friday and Saturday for the OVAC Swimming Championships, an event where quite a few local teams are projected to feature heavily in.

In the 1A-3A and 4A meets — both to take place at 5:30 p.m. Friday but score separately, similar to the procedures at the conference cross country meet — the Linsly Cadets dot the top

seedings for the individual events.

The Cadets have claimed the top spot in the team standings each of the last two seasons, and Linsly head coach Bill Brubaker wants his team in top shape Friday as well.

"I'm hoping we have all of our best performances tomorrow," Brubaker said.

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On the men's side, Riccardo Piccini is seeded first in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Cassio Bendenelli is seeded first in the 100 butterfly. Pablo Hernandez is seeded first in the 200 and 500 freestyle.

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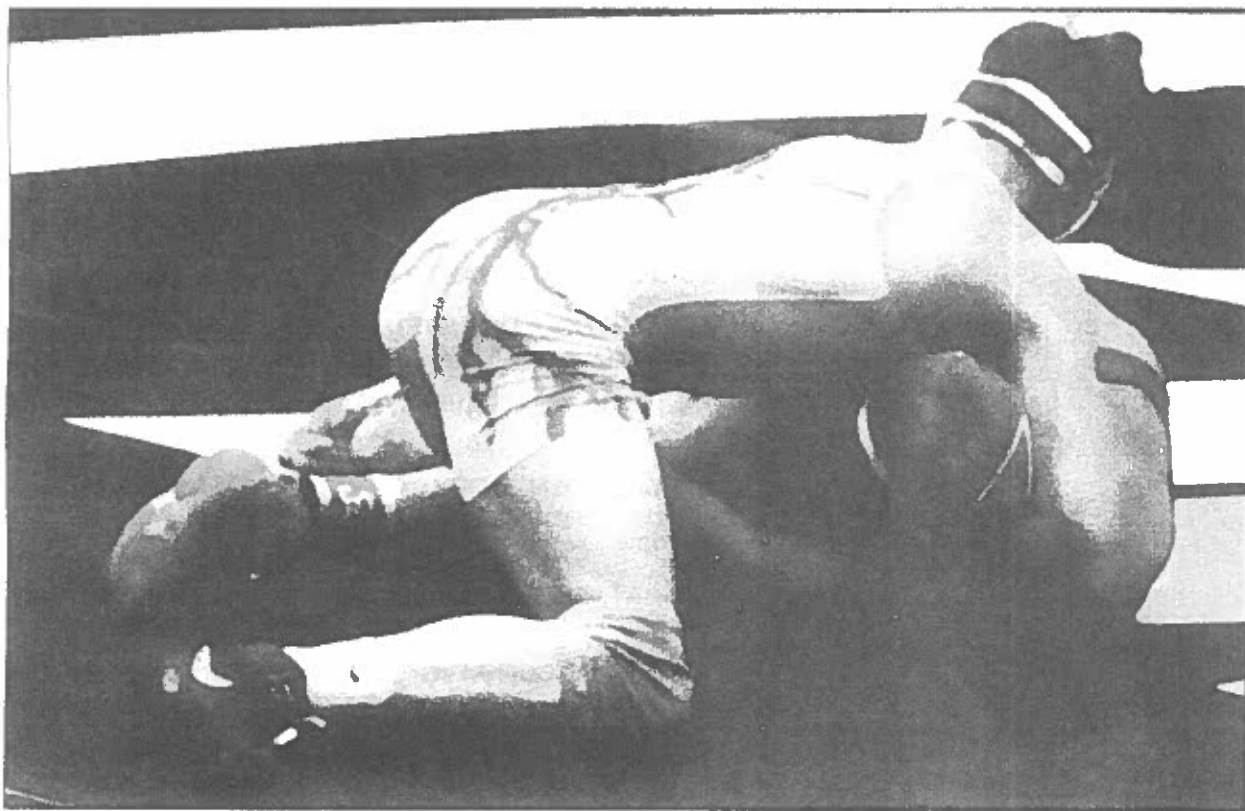
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See **SWIMMERS**, Page B3



MARTINS FERRY'S RJ Welshans has control of Barnesville's Johnathon Foster during their 157-pound bout at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Thursday inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Welshans won by major decision, 16-8.

Photos by KIM NORTH

University, Steubenville lead 71st OVAC Ron Mauck after day one

• There were 117 pins in Thursday's 140 bouts

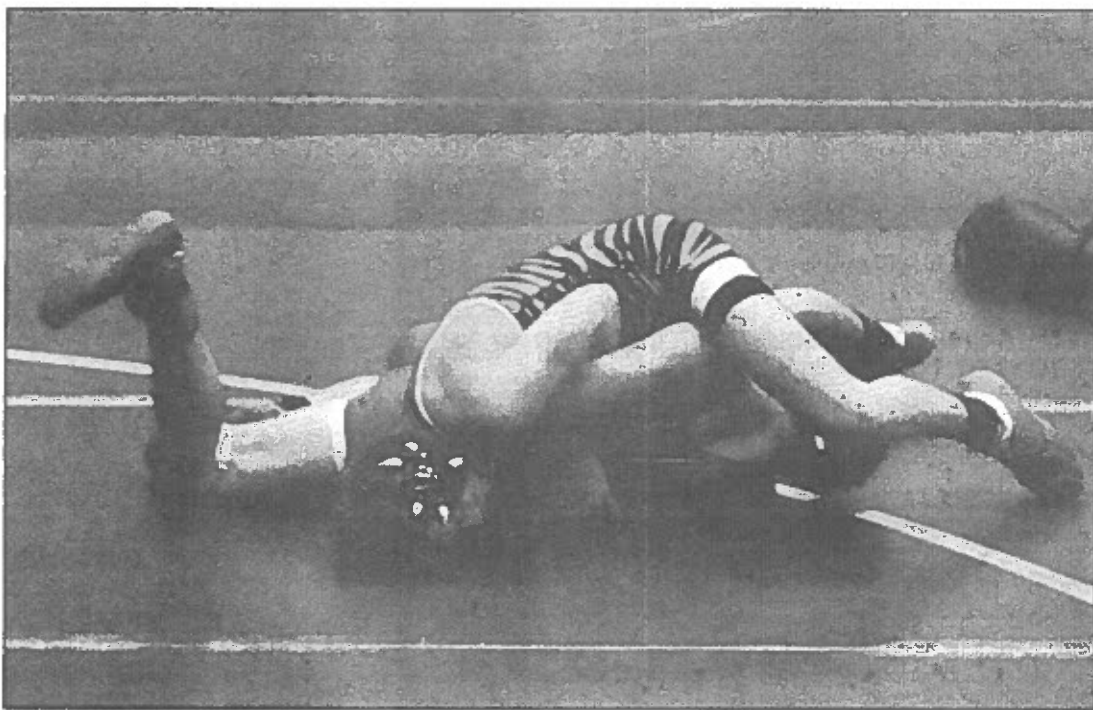
By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — If you blinked, you might have missed some of the 144 matches during Day One of the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships inside WesBanco Arena. Of those matches, 117 ended in pins, with most of those coming in under a minute.

Action resumes Friday at noon with second-round action in the championship bracket and first round of consolation action. Quarterfinal championship bouts will be contested at 6 p.m. as will second- and third-round consolation.

There were also 15 technical falls, seven major decisions, four decisions and one injury default.

Of the 168 seeded wrestlers, only four were upset, with the highest being No. 7 Braylon Leiffer at 150 who was knocked off by Barnesville's Eli Messenger in a major decision. Two seeds fell at 157, those being No. 9 Drake Bouscher of Toronto by injury default and No. 12 Damien Shaw of East Liverpool; and No. 10 Jake Carman of Wheeling Park



SHADYSIDE'S JAYCOB Trigg earned a 7-4 decision over Wheeling Park's Jacob Carman at 132 pounds during the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Thursday inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling.

from the tournament due to adverse weather conditions.

On the mat, pre-tournament favorite University won all of its matches to pile up 47 points, which was 4.5 better than Steubenville in both the overall and Class 5A standings. Defending champions Pepper Martin (113) and Brock Kehler (285) won by pins.

"Our 106 had a bye but we got a bunch of pins and a con-

and we come up short, then so be it."

Big Red also won all of its matches, including lightning-quick pins by returning champs Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (157).

"We won all of our matches. Coming we knew we had a couple that could go either way, but we were able to pull those out," Steubenville head coach Lucas Huffman noted. "Hopefully, we can keep that

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Wheeling Central sits in fourth place in Class AAA with 12 points.

Monarchs take down University

MOUNDSVILLE — The John Marshall Monarchs girls basketball squad scored a big OVAC win over University on Thursday, defeating the Hawks 62-56 behind a 25-point, 11-rebound output from senior Rilee Storm.

Kalyn Reese added 12 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for John Marshall. Hannah Stemple led University with 16.

University led 33-30 at half-time, but John Marshall won the third frame 17-9 to lurch ahead.

The Monarchs are now 7-5 on the season. They face another test Monday, traveling to Union Local.

(Late Thursday)

BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Clairsville 62, Indian Creek 30

WINTERSVILLE — Tyson Pastor led three Red Devils in double figures with 16 points in their win over the Redskins on Coach Joe Dunlevy Court at Indian Creek High School.

Brady Schafer added 14 and Luke Straub 11. Ollie Muhly chipped in eight.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Union Local 60, Buckeye Trail 19

OLD WASHINGTON — The Jets improved to 12-2 and prepped for their Buckeye 8 championship game appearance.

Ameera Saunders paced a balanced scoring attack with 10 points. Alli Kellaway, Delaney Butler and Ella Pietranton each scored nine, while Laken Vinskovich had eight and Teegan Day seven.

Union Local will face Indian Creek at 6 p.m. Saturday at the ECO Center for the Buckeye 8 Championship.

OSU freshman star Jeremiah Smith lands in national game

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — When Ohio State faced Texas in the Cotton Bowl, Jeremiah Smith was expected to shine.

After all, he had piled up 290 yards receiving in two postseason wins and was looking like the star to stop for the rest of the College Football Playoff field.

Instead, he was double-teamed by the Longhorns and limited to a single catch for three yards as Ohio State advanced to Monday's national championship game against Notre Dame with a 28-14 victory.

The 6-foot-3 freshman is a big reason the Buckeyes are here. It

• Swimmers

Continued from Page B1

Linsly's boys and girls both took the top spots in the 1A-3A competition last year, while St. Clairsville did the same in 4A.

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George, a junior, has the faith of her coach going into Friday.

"Molly's a junior, and she's [team] captain as a junior which we don't do very often," Wheeling Park head coach Mike Cook said. "She's the top seed in the backstroke and she's probably one of if not the best backstroker in the valley. I really think she's going to run away with the 100 backstroke and have a huge meet. Molly, for the last three years, has done nothing but show up and deliver in big meets."

As for Miller, the senior has been one of the more prolific swimmers in the area in recent years, and looks to continue collecting medals Saturday.

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• Mauck

Continued from Page B1

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PIN FALLS

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— A moment of silence was held for a pair of former Cameron Dragons. Long-time head coach Jim Potts passed away over the summer and R.C. Anderson, who was a four-time W.Va. state champion for the Dragons.

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