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SPORTS

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WVU Medicine



# 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*

Photos by Andrew Grimm

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.

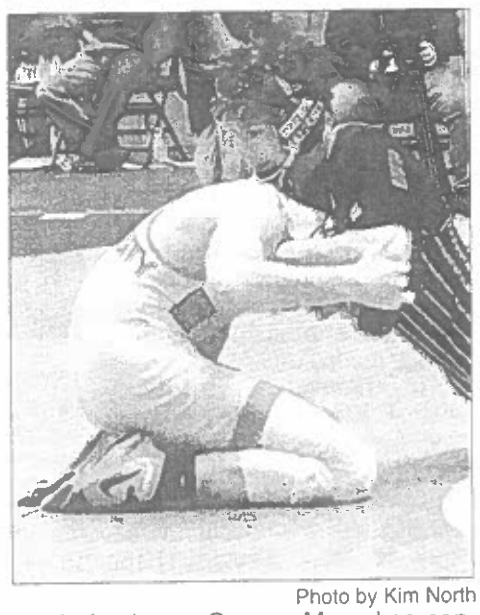

Photo by Kim North

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.

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

*Please see* **WRESTLERS**. *Page 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 Winland 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, al-

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

# Vrotsos, Former St. C. Wrestling Coach, Named 'Mr. Mat'

WHEELING – The 2025 recipient of the prestigious Mr. Mat award is John Vrotsos, a former wrestling coach at St. Clairsville High School.

Vrotsos wrestled scholastically for Bob Bruney and Steve Kish at Martins Ferry High School. As a "purple rider" mat man, Vrotsos was a four-year letterman and team captain as a senior. An OVAC finalist at 119 pounds as a senior, Vrotsos went on to be a Sectional And District Champion, qualifying for the Ohio State Championships with a senior record of 26-4.

He attended West Liberty State College where he wrestled for one year before suffering a career-ending knee injury. After graduating from WLSC, Vrotsos coached wrestling at St. Clairsville High school for 25 years, producing 99 OVAC place winners, 11 OVAC Champions and two Bierkortte Outstanding Wrestler Award recipients – Justin Ewing (1995) and Zac Schuller (2006). Vrotsos also produced 42 Ohio State "Red Devil" qualifiers and 15 state place winners.

Photo by Kim North

John Vrotsos, third from left, was presented with the prestigious Mr. Mat Award prior to the start of the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships final session Saturday inside WesBanco Arena. He is pictured with, from left, Dr. Dan Doyle; Dr. Vince Monseau and John Stephenson.

Vrotsos also served as an assistant football coach for 22 years under the legendary gridiron coach of George Strager, Mike Young, and Brett McClean. He was head track coach for eight years (1998-2006) and assistant track mentor from 2009 until 2013. He teaches Social Studies at St Clairsville Middle School.

After Coach Rick Welker stepped down as a public address announcer at the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling tournament to reinstate wrestling at Wheeling Central Catholic High School in 2022, John Vrotsos immediately accepted and assumed the position for the last two years.

Most rewarding to the Vrotsos family is that Vrotsos joins his father, the late John "Corky" Vrotsos, as a Mr.Mat award recipient. His father was known as one of co-founders of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1954, along with the late George Kovalick and the late Bill Van Horne. John and his dad are the first father-son team to receive the highest accolade in OVAC wrestling.

Vrotsos has been married to his wife, Anne for 35 years. They have three children. John Thomas lives in Columbus where he is a C.T. and X-Ray technologist and recently got married to his wife, Allie this past July. Allie also happens to be an elementary teacher; Audra from Cleveland, where she is a marketing and graphics designer, and Eliza, who is an Intervention Specialist at Mentor Memorial Middle School.

# Koopman Nets Game-Winner In OT As Nailers Split A Pair In Worcester

WORCESTER, Mass. – The Worcester Railers 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 Railers were successful on three of four opportunities.

The final man advantage marker snapped a tied score in the third period and gave Worcester the 4-3 decision at DCU Center. Anthony Callin factored into all four Railers goals with two goals and two assists, and he also scored the game winner.

Michael Bullion got the win for Worcester, as he made 29 saves on 32 shots. Sergei Murashov suffered his first regulation loss in 16 games, as he stopped 19 of 23 shots.

## 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 Bierkortte 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 re- 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.

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"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

## ROUNDUP

(Continued from Page 9)

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

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Milford Center Fairbanks 56, Monroe Central 54**

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Seth Schroeder had a 228 game and 429 series for the boys. Brady Yost had a 224 game and 399 series.

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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 fee 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 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 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 Moun-

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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."

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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 Starkey said of his young champion. "He pushes the pace and he's one of those kids that you can always rely on to get points."

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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 Mountaineers 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.

6:30 p.m.
PEACOCK — Rutgers at Penn St.
7 p.m.
CBSSN — Bucknell at Colgate
9 p.m.
CBSSN — Hampton at NC A&T

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
11 a.m.
CBSSN — Toledo at Ball St.
3 p.m.
FOX — Baylor at UCLA
5:30 p.m.
FOX — Texas at Maryland
8 p.m.
BTN — Wisconsin at Nebraska

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**
7:30 p.m.
ESPN — CFP National Championship: Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame, Atlanta
ESPN2 — CFP National Championship: Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame, Atlanta (Field Pass with The Pat McAfee Show)
ESPNEWS — CFP National Championship: Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame, Atlanta (SkyCast)
ESPNU — CFP National Championship: Ohio St. vs. Notre Dame, Atlanta (Command Center)

**GOLF**
2 p.m.
GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, Second Round, The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, North Abaco, Bahamas

***HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)***
11 a.m.
ESPNU — Roosevelt High School (Calif.) vs. Gonzaga (D.C.)
1 p.m.
ESPNU — Perry (Ariz.) vs. Columbus (Fla.)
3 p.m.
ESPNU — AZ Compass (Ariz.) vs. Montverde Academy (Fla.)
5 p.m.
ESPNU — La Lumiere (Ind.) vs. Long Island Lutheran (N.Y.)

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (GIRLS)**
9 a.m.
ESPNU — Etiwanda (Calif.) vs. Incarnate Word Academy (Mo.)

**HORSE RACING**
3 p.m.
FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

**NBA BASKETBALL**
Noon
NBATV — Dallas at Charlotte
2:30 p.m.
TNT — Minnesota at Memphis
TRUTV — Minnesota at Memphis (DataCast)
5 p.m.
TNT — Boston at Golden State
TRUTV — Boston at Golden State (DataCast)

**NHL HOCKEY**
7:30 p.m.
NHLN — Tampa Bay at Toronto

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**
11:45 a.m.
FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al Ahli SFC at Al Ettifaq
3 p.m.
USA — Premier League: Wolverhampton Wanderers at Chelsea

**TENNIS**
3 a.m.
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
11 a.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
11:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia

## ECHL

**Saturday's Games**
South Carolina 5, Orlando 2
Worcester 4, Wheeling 3
Florida 5, Savannah 3
Greenville 3, Atlanta 2
Indy 4, Cincinnati 3
Kalamazoo 4, Toledo 3
Reading 2, Jacksonville 1
Tahoe 1, Iowa 0
Kansas City 5, Rapid City 1
Trois-Rivieres 3, Norfolk 0
Fort Wayne 5, Maine 2
Bloomington 4, Utah 1
Idaho 3, Tulsa 2

**Sunday's Games**
South Carolina 5, Greenville 2
Trois-Rivieres 4, Norfolk 3
Wheeling 4, Worcester 3
Tahoe 3, Iowa 2
Utah 4, Bloomington 1
Tulsa 4, Idaho 1
Florida at Orlando, ppd

Atlanta 119, Boston 119, OT
Golden State 122, Washington 114
Cleveland 124, Minnesota 117
Houston 125, Portland 103

**Sunday's Games**
Miami 128, San Antonio 107
Denver 113, Orlando 100
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City, late.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, late.
Chicago at Portland, late.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, late.
Washington at Sacramento, late.

**Monday's Games**
Dallas at Charlotte, 12 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 2 p.m.
Minnesota at Memphis, 2:30 p.m.
Atlanta at New York, 3 p.m.
Phoenix at Cleveland, 3:30 p.m.
Boston at Golden State, 5 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**
New York at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

**Atlanta**
No. 8 Ohio St. vs. No. 7 Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

## NHL

**Saturday's Games**
Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 1
Ottawa 6, Boston 5, SO
Colorado 6, Dallas 3
Florida 3, Anaheim 0
Calgary 3, Winnipeg 1
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Rangers 1, Columbus 0, SO
Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 1
Toronto 7, Montreal 3
N.Y. Islanders 4, San Jose 1
Chicago 5, Vegas 3
Nashville 6, Minnesota 2
Utah 4, St. Louis 2
Seattle 4, Los Angeles 2
Vancouver 3, Edmonton 2

**Sunday's Games**
Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal, late.
Detroit at Dallas, late.

**Monday's Games**
San Jose at Boston, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 3 p.m.
Buffalo at Seattle, 4 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 6 p.m.
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Utah, 9:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

## OVAC Wrestling

**71st Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships (at WesBanco Arena)**
**Team Scoring**
**Overall**

1. University 281; 2. Beaver Local 183; 3.Steubenville 182.5; 4. Parkersburg South 177; 5. Barnesville 161.5; 6. Wheeling Park 150; 7. Cameron 132.5; 8. Oak Glen 119.5; 9. John Marshall 112; 10. Linsly 105; 11. Indian Creek 86; 12.Cambridge 82; 13. East Liverpool 80.5; 14. Wheeling Central 59.5; 15. Brooke 57; 16. (tie) Buckeye Local, Caldwell, Weir 54; 19. Martins Ferry 53; 20. Morgantown 50; 21. Harrison Central 47; 22. Edison 44.5; 23. Bridgeport 39; 24. Southern Local 36.5; 25. Bellaire 35.5; 26. St. Clairsville 26; 27. Toronto 25.5; 28. Fort Frye 25; 29. Shadyside 15; 30. Wellsville 10; 31. (tie) Monroe Central, Shenandoah 8; 33. Steubenville Catholic 5.5; 34. River 2; 35. Beallsville 1; 36. Frontier 0

**Class 5A**
1. University 281; 2. Steubenville 182.5; 3. Parkersburg South 177; 4. Wheeling Park 150; 5. John Marshall 112; 7. Brooke 57; 8. Morgantown 50

**Class 4A**
1. Beaver Local 183; 2. Oak Glen 119.5; 3. Indian Creek 86; 4. Cambridge 82; 5. East Liverpool 80.5; 6. (tie) Buckeye Local, Weir 54; 8. Harrison Central 47; 9. Edison 44.5; 10. St. Clairsville 26

**Class 3A**
1. Barnesville 161.5; 2. Linsly 105; 3. Union Local 96.5; 4. Wheeling Central 59.5; 5. Martins Ferry 53; 6. Bellaire 35.5; 7. Fort Frye 25; 8. Shenandoah 8

**Class 1A/2A**
1. Cameron 132.5; 2. Caldwell 54; 3. Bridgeport 39; 4. Southern Local 36.5; 5. Toronto 25.5; 6. Shadyside 15; 7. Wellsville 10; 8. Monroe Central 8; 9. Steubenville Catholic 5.5; 10. River 2; 11. Beallsville 1; 12. Frontier 0

**Championship Finals**
106–Brock Humphrey (Lin) d. Justuce Fisher (BvL), 8-3
113–Pepper Martin (U) md. Aiden Anderson (OG), 16-5
120–Gamble Gossett d. Tristan Eckles (EL), 7-6
126–Braxton Birch (Cam) md. Colton Gillespie (U), 13-3
132–George Mamakos (Lin) d. Nico Maisel (U), 4-2
138–Bobby Buchheit (BvL) tf Zander Ward (JM), 21-6
144–Cooper Smith (Steub) d. Carter Pauley (U), 4-0
150–Jake Hughes (BvL) d. Slaton Pettit (Cam), 2-0
157–Brody Saccoccia (Steub) tf. Eli Tedrow (Cam), 19-4
165–Ayden King (Barn) d. Isaac Sands (WP), 2-0
175–Aden Strahler (WL) d. Emerson Murphy (U), 7-1
190–Jameson Maynard (WP) tf Johnny Bailey (SL), 16-1
215–Isaac Martin (WC) md. Jackson Pate (U), 15-6
285–Brock Kehler (U) p. Landen Thomas, 1:48

**Third-Fourth Place**
106–Kyle Ingram (EL) d. Easton Stephen (Barn), 17-13
113–Cole Harvey (Steub) d. Jackson Scharfenberg (IC), 6-0
120–Robert Weekley (Bpt) md. Grant Vasey (Bell), 18-7
126–Coleton Hill (PS) md. Colton Nixon (MF), 17-7
132–Ethan Starr (IC) d. Axzavior Santana (Bpt), 12-8
138–Colt Carpenter (Barn) d. Marshall Laishley (Camb), 4-2
144–Talen Brown (Cam) d. Gunnar Gossett (UL), 5-3
150–Jack Lowe (WP) md. Max Vitale (U), 11-1
157–Asa Yost (PS) d. Nate Hodge (WP), 5-4
165–Brody Kehler (U) d. Evan Ours (BvL), 1-0
175–Hines Ford (Barn) d. Noah White (WP), 5-3
190–Greg Sauers (OG) d. Luke McMillion (IC), 6-0
215–Brycen Arthur (PS) p. Brody Cottrill (Lin), 3:54
285–Logan Middleton (PS) md. Noah Schmidt (OG), 10-1

**Fifth-Sixth Place**
106–Nathan Dentz (BuL) p. Monte Guntrum (Steub), 3:39
113–Nathan Hughes (JM) p. Conner Wilson (Barn), 2:26
120–Dylan Legleitner (WL) md. Chase Milton (BuL), 12-3
126–Baylon Rose (Camb) md. Dorian Haddad (Steub), 14-4
132–Noah Keen (Camb) d. Wyatt Wolanski (OG), 9-8
138–David DeFelice (Weir) d. Timofey Husk (U), 7-5
144–Hayden Lamb (OG) p. Corbin Phillips (PS), 1:00
150–Owen Hunt (Cald) tf. Caden McGrath (Tor), 20-2
157–Levi Strahler (WL) won by forfeit over Rider Ludrosky (U)
165–Ethan Llewellyn (Steub) inj. def. over Nathan Murphy (PS)
175–Brody Perzanowski (UL) tf. Cole Middleton (PS), 17-1
190–Garrett Moore (Brk) p. Ryder Hastings (U), 0:53
215–Knox McKibben (HC) d. Malaki Washington (WP), 5-2
285–Heath Thomas (Tor) d. Isaac Prescott (BvL), 7-2

**Seventh-Eighth Place**
106–Jordan Tomsic (OG) d. Tylique Marshal (WC), 7-5
113–Joseph Rea (Brk) d. Jeryck Boyd (BvL), 11-4
120–Aydan Andrews (Barn) d. Gage Hennis (Ed), 7-3
126–Gavin Bolock (UL) p. Mikey Logsdon (JM), 1:00
132–Landon Burdine (Brk) d. Carter Adkins (JM), 5-2)
138–Reme Fairbanks (WL) tf Nolan Haught (Ed), 18-2
144–Chris Warrick (BvL) p. Mason Hill (Camb), 2:27
150–Ian Starkey (IC) d. Eli Messenger (Barn), 9-2
157–Adan Bender (Cald) p. Graham Campbell (Bell), 4:52
165–Damon Stansbury (EL) d. Brooks Harrison (JM), 10-8
175–Maverick Lemasters (JM) d. Landon Crosier (Steub), 4-3
190–Nolan Blackburn (Steub) md. Eric Carr (WL), 15-5
215–Kane Curran (BvL) d. Braxton Ross (FF), 4-2
285–Beau Hudson (Steub) d. Jorge Alvarez (BuL), 2-1

starts for Coach Scooter Tolzda's Lady Jets.

"We lost to a quality team. They made the plays down the stretch," Tolzda said. "We made too many mistakes when the game was on the line."

The tightly played contest was steeped with solid and at times stifling defense at both ends.

Creek worked itself into a 25-20 halftime advantage. Senior standout McKenna Scott was key in building the Lady Redskin lead by delivering 10 points in the first two quarters.

UL quickly turned the tables by scoring the first eight points of the third quarter. That spurt enabled the Lady Jets to grab a 39-36 edge entering the final chapter. Senior dandy Ella Pietranton and junior ace Laken Vinskovich sparked UL's third-stanza resurgence by producing nine and eight points, respectively.

The game remained tight the balance of the night with the biggest lead being a UL 46-41 edge with under four minutes to play. The Jets, however, would fail to score again.

"We have played through a lot of adversity this year. Our starting point guard blew her knee out early and one of the girls we were counting on opted not to come out.

"But they have worked hard every day and battled through a tough schedule," he continued. "I think we can do well in the postseason. We are now Division IV."

Things get no easier for UL. The Lady Jets face a formidable test Monday against John Marshall.

"This is not the end. We still have a lot of basketball left to play," Tolzda said. "We still have a lot to play for. But we have a tough schedule left with John Marshall, Monroe Central, Wheeling Park and Zanesville.

"This is the best game Ella has played. I am very proud of her," he offered. "We have some other girls who need to step up and give us more."

UL committed 15 turnovers, to Indian Creek's eight.

Bellaire was last year's Buckeye 8 girls champions.

# Coco Gauff Drops A Set But Reaches Quarterfinals At The Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Coco Gauff's consecutive-set streak ended at the Australian Open. Her bid for a second Grand Slam title continued on Sunday with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 comeback victory over Belinda Bencic in the fourth round.

Afterward, Gauff drew a broken heart on the lens of a courtside TV camera with the message, " RIP TikTok USA," a reference to the ban of the popular app back home.

Until Sunday, Gauff — a 20-year-old from Florida who won the 2023 U.S. Open as a teenager — had collected all 16 sets she'd played this year and 24 of her past 25 dating to the end of last season, which included a title at the WTA Finals.

"In the first set, she played great tennis, and it was tough for me to be on the offense," Gauff said after grabbing the last five games against Bencic. "I just played more aggressively in the second set and then also the third set."

The tournament's No. 3 seed was unable to control her shots well enough at the start against Bencic on a steamy early afternoon in Rod Laver Arena, where the temperature hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the blue playing surface was bathed in sunlight.

Gauff now faces No. 11 Paula Badosa in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. Badosa defeated Olga Danilovic 6-1, 7-6 (2) to get to the final eight in Melbourne for the first time.

The winner of Gauff vs. Badosa will play either No. 1 Sabalenka, who is seeking a third consecutive Australian Open title, or No. 27 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the 2021 French Open runner-up.

# WVU Women Keep Big 12's Leading Scorer In Check In A 82-68 Victory Over Iowa State

**BY JUSTIN JACKSON**
**For The Intelligencer**

MORGANTOWN — West Virginia did a defensive number on Big 12 leading scorer Audi Crooks on Sunday, showing just how far the Mountaineers have come in one year of recruiting under Mark Kellogg.

The box score says the 20th-ranked Mountaineers ran past the Cyclones for an 82-68 win behind the play of J.J. Quinerly and Jordan Harrison, both finishing with 20 points.

Yet the difference was how much better the Mountaineers (15-3, 5-2 Big 12) could match up against Iowa State's powerful 6-foot-3 center, who came into the game leading the Big 12 in scoring at 22.6 points per game.

"They beat the living crap out of her," was the way Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly put it. "That's kind of the way everyone plays her now. She's a big strong and physical kid, which I think allows other teams to be really physical. That's what people do."

In Kellogg's first season last year, WVU simply didn't have the personnel to beat the living crap out of anyone.

A year later, along comes freshman Jordan Thomas and junior-college recruit C.C. Riviere, both of whom have the size and strength to match up with someone like Crooks.

"It's not just Crooks, because when you come into the Big 12, you're going to see these dominant low-post players," Kellogg said. "We didn't quite have as much size last year as we do now. I really thought Jordan did a good job in the minutes she played. C.C. did a good job. That's the beauty of this team is we have more depth."

The difference? A year ago — when Crooks was just a freshman — the Iowa State star averaged 23.5 points and 13.5 rebounds in two games against the Mountaineers. On Sunday, Crooks was held to just 13 points on 4 of 10 shooting with two rebounds.

"Thirteen points, that wasn't the number in my mind," Kellogg admitted. "We exceeded expectations there. As a coaching staff, we talked about that a little bit, and I didn't know we could hold her to 13. It was 13 without giving up a ton of threes, too. I think that's what pleases me the most."

Crooks didn't break into double digits in the scoring column until there was 6:52 remaining in the game. By then, WVU had already built a lead that was once 26 points and was never lower than 13 points in the second half.

"It's nice having a few more post players, obviously we're bigger," said WVU forward Kyah Watson, who finished with a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds. "We could give her different looks. We didn't allow her to just be on the blocks, where she's most efficient."

WVU's offense was efficient early, taking a 30-15 lead heading into the second quarter. Harrison got off to a hot start with 10 points in the first quarter.

"My shot was feeling pretty good," Harrison said. "I had a good feeling coming in."

Quinerly, who passed former standout Meg Bulger for eighth place on the school's all-time scoring list, got going with 11 points in the third quarter.

Iowa State (13-7, 4-3) still shot 50% (24 of 48) from the field, but WVU's defense forced 25 turnovers and the Mountaineers ended up with 23 more shots at the basket.

Addy Brown led Iowa State with 19 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. The Cyclones played without senior point guard Emily Ryan, who was out with an illness.

AP Photo

'O STATE celebrates after their win against Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff national championship game Monday, in nta.

# Ohio State wins first national title since 2014

ATLANTA (AP) – Instead crying over another collapse, io State can celebrate anoth- national title after holding f a Notre Dame comeback d Monday night to walk away vith a nailbiter of a 34-23 vic- ory over the Fighting Irish.

Will Howard hit big-play receiver Jeremiah Smith for 56 yards on a late third-and-11 to lock down a game that had been a laugher, then turned into something else.

Trailing 31-7, Notre Dame scored two touchdowns and two 2-point conversions to make it a one-score game late in the fourth quarter.

The Irish stopped Ohio State on the first two plays of the next drive and used their timeouts. But on third down, Howard found Smith in single coverage on the right sideline and dropped his best pass of the season into the hands of the second-team All-American.

"They were running man coverage and I said, 'Hey, I'm gonna let this loose and let him make a play on it,'" Howard said.

It set up a field goal that started the celebration in earnest (and helped Ohio State cover the 8 1/2-point spread at BetMGM Sportsbook). And it closed out a seven-week climb from the depths of a program-shaking loss to 20-point underdog Michigan to the top of college football after this, the debut of the sport's 12-team playoff.

Ohio State will bring its sixth "natty" and first since the 2014 season back to the Horseshoe in Columbus.

"It's a great story about a bunch of guys who have just overcome some really tough situations, and with the point where there's a lot of people that counted us out (they) just kept swinging and kept fighting," Buckeyes coach Ryan Day said.

Howard, a transfer-portal success story from Kansas State, threw for 231 yards and two scores, but nothing will beat the pass to Smith with everything on the line.

The receiver, who had been bottled up by Texas in the semifinals then fairly quiet for most of this game, finally got loose for the kind of play he's been making all year. He finished with five catches for 88 yards.

Ohio State scored touchdowns on its first four possessions, then added a field goal on its fifth.

See **OHIO** Page A10

sure gave us some trouble late and we weren't getting any backside rebounds," he noted, as the Lady Pilots climbed back from 11 down to force deadlocks on two occasions only to see a 3-point attempt at the final horn misfire.

"We missed some bounces and were a little too aggressive at times, but (River) didn't quit."

The 11-6 record Lady 'Noles, who wrapped up a second straight Mid-Ohio Valley League title, won the first meeting 37-30.

Junior Mayzie Emery swished four-of-five 3's to lead the winners with 14 points, while sophomore Jadyn Miller added 11, including nine in the opening round when Baker's squad took advantage of frigid River shooting (1-of-11) to lead 12-4 at the break.

Sophomore Brylee McFrederick, whose low post hoop with 1:33 to play broke a 40-all deadlock, led all rebounders with 13.

Despite playing without senior standout Reese Hobbs over the final three quarters after a scramble for a loose ball resulted in an ankle injury as the first quarter ended, River coach Rick Isaly saw some positives.

"We hung in there and had two chances to take the lead at the end. It was the hardest we've played all season and Zoey (Fox) and Maci (Isaly) were all over the floor."

See **RIVER**, Page A10

# UL's Gossett, Barnesville's King capture OVAC titles

## • Shamrocks continue Class 3A dominance

**By KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

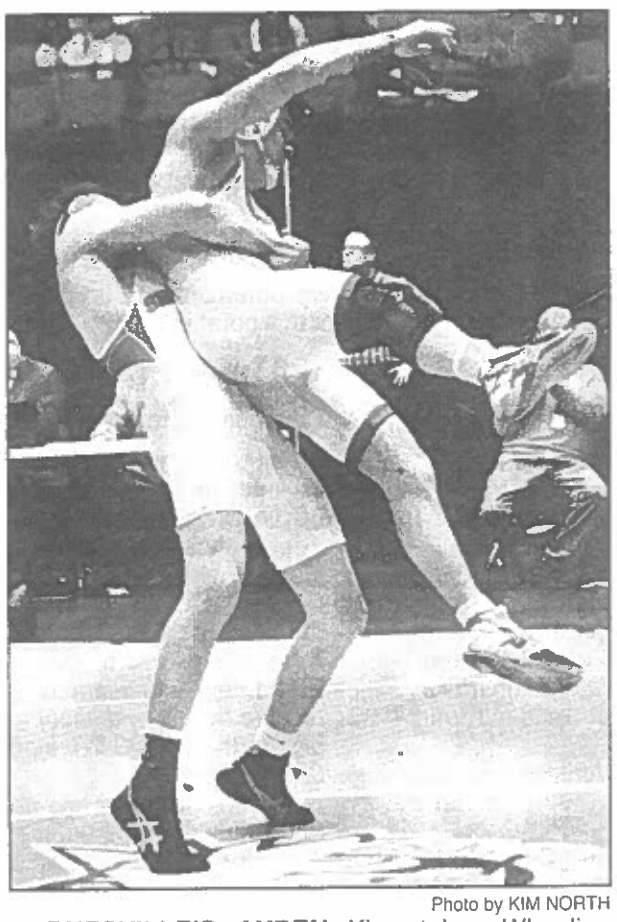

Photo by KIM NORTH

**BARNESVILLE'S AYDEN** King takes Wheeling Park's Isaac Sands to the mat during their 165-pound finals bout at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships Saturday at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. King won, 2-0.

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.

"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.

See **TITLES**, Page A10

Photo by KIM NORTH

**JOHN VROTSOS**, third from left, was presented with the prestigious Mr. Mat Award prior to the start of the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships final session Saturday inside WesBanco Arena. He is pictured with, from left, Dr. Dan Doyle; Dr. Vince Monseau and John Stephenson.

# Vrotsos receives Mr. Mat award

THE 2025 recipient of the prestigious Mr. Mat award is John Vrotsos, a former wrestling coach at St. Clairsville High School.

Vrotsos wrestled scholastically for Bob Bruney and Steve Kish at Martins Ferry High School. As a "purple rider" mat man, Vrotsos was a four-year letterman and team captain as a senior. An OVAC finalist at 119 pounds as a senior, Vrotsos went on to be a Sectional And District Champion, qualifying for the Ohio State Championships with a senior record of 26-4.

He attended West Liberty State College where he wrestled for one year before suffering a career-ending knee injury. After graduating from WLSC, Vrotsos coached wrestling at St. Clairsville High school for 25 years, producing 99 OVAC place winners, 11 OVAC Champions and two Bierkortte Outstanding Wrestler Award recipients – Justin Ewing (1995) and Zac Schuller (2006). Coach Vrotsos also produced 42 Ohio State "Red Devil" qualifiers and 15 state place winners.

Vrotsos also served as an assistant football coach for 22 years under the legendary gridiron coach of George Strager, Mike Young, and Brett McClean. He was head track coach for eight years (1998 – 2006-) and assistant track mentor from 2009 until 2013. He teaches Social Studies at St Clairsville Middle School.

After Coach Rick Welker stepped down as a Public Address Announcer at the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling tournament to reinstate wrestling at Wheeling Central Catholic High School in 2022, John Vrotsos immediately accepted and assumed the position for the last two years.

Most rewarding to the Vrotsos family is that Vrotsos joins his father, the late John "Corky" Vrotsos, as a Mr.Mat award recipient.

See **MR. MAT**, Page A10

eyes outgained Notre Dame 445 yards to 308. Howard completed his first 13 passes and never really got stopped. Ohio State punted a grand total of once.

The Buckeyes rolled through four games in the new, expanded playoff – what great timing for Ohio State, which didn't even play for the Big Ten title – by an average score of 36-21.

Ohio State was seeded eighth in the tournament, but the seedings were pretty much meaningless. The worse seed won every game in the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, and the Buckeyes dominated in this title-game showdown of No. 7 vs. No. 8.

It puts to rest, for now, any angst about that 13-10 Michi- history. This marked the first time the Big Ten has taken back-to-back titles since 1942. Last year's champion was Michigan, which was sitting home watching this one, but still played a special role in a Buckeyes redemption story hardly anyone saw coming.

**NOTRE DAME** linebacker Drayk Bowen forces a fumble by Ohio State wide receiver Emeka Egbuka during second half of the College Football Playoff national championship game Monday, in Atlanta.

## • Titles

Continued from Page A1

He also pinned Thomas in last year's finals.

For his efforts, the West Virginia University recruit was voted the David Bierkortte 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."

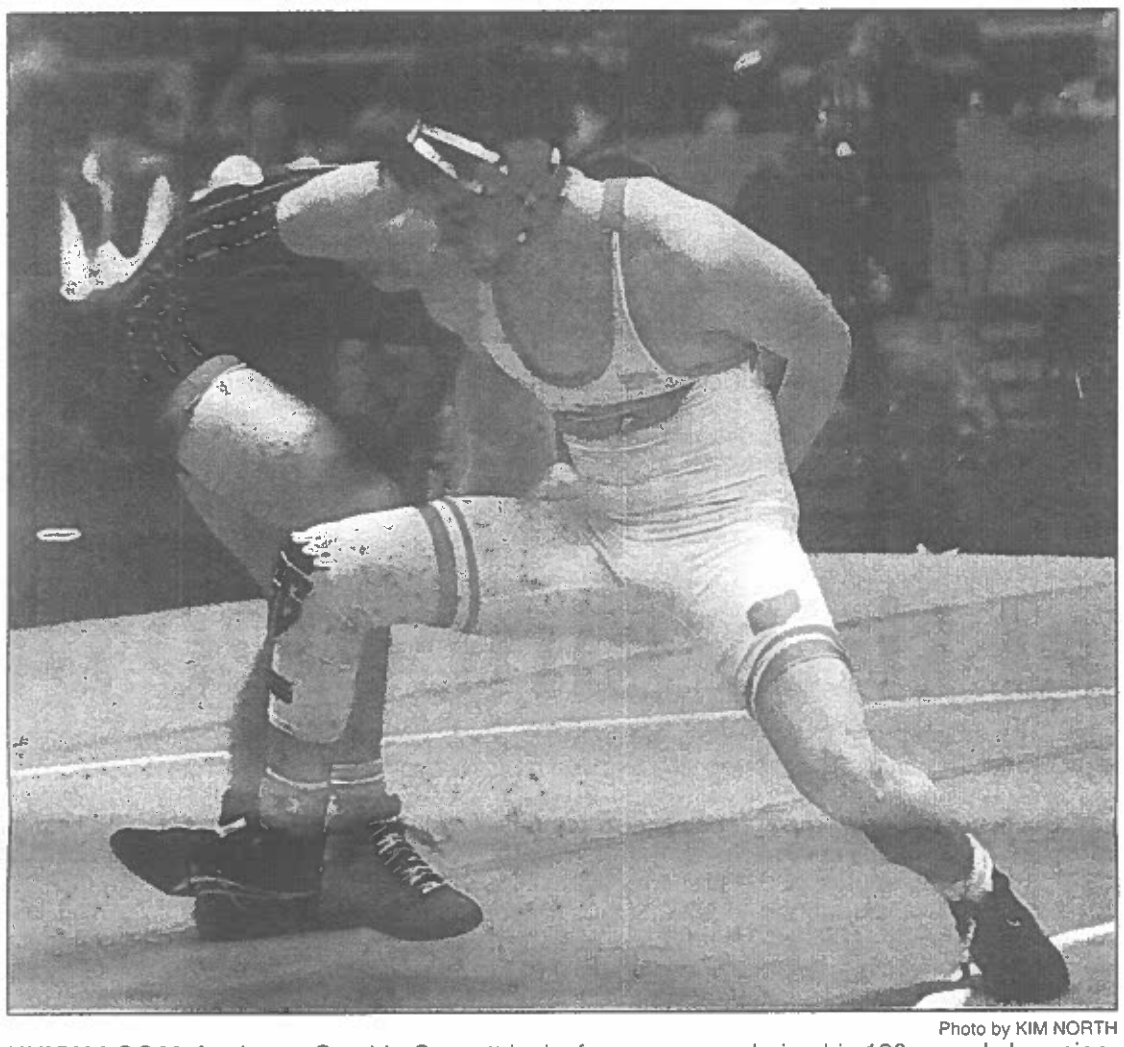

Photo by KIM NORTH

**UNION LOCAL** freshman Gamble Gossett looks for an escape during his 120-pound championship bout at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships Saturday at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Gamble upset East Liverpool's top-seeded Tristan Eckles, 7-6.

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 Starkey said of his young champion. "He pushes the pace and he's 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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## • River

Continued from Page A9

Miller fueled Central's strong start with nine points in round one, converting a steal to give her club a 4-2 lead they wouldn't relinquish. It was 12-4 at the break.

Isaly dished to Fox to open the second and cashed in a steal, but MC would benefit from River's icy four-of-24 shooting to take a 20-11 lead at the half.

The hosts closed to 22-18 on a '3' from Isaly, and later, senior stalwart Kaylee Hagan drove the paint and Fox canned 2-of-2 at the line for a 24-22 count.

The momentum swing was temporarily denied as junior Jacey English sank two fouls and an Emery 'trey' made it a 29-24 cushion after three.

Zoey McGarry's goal started the fourth for MC, but Fox and 5-11 frosh Mallory Maddy added four points each, while Isaly's 'trey' pulled River even at 36 at the 3:54 mark.

Miller and McFrederick scored in the next minute, but Fox drew a foul and canned both chances at 2:31.

A Monroe turnover led to Hagan's shot in the lane for a 40-all tie at 1:37.

Baker's senior-less squad worked the ball inside to the 5-11 McFrederick, whose low post swish put MC up for keeps.

River saw two possessions come up empty and a '3' at the horn was off the rim.

The Noles, with 33 rebounds, return home Thursday against Union Local, while River hosts Barnesville on the same night.

## • Mr. Mat

Continued from Page A1

His father was known as one of co-founders of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 1954, along with the late George Kovalick and the late Bill Van Horne. John and his dad are the first father-son team to receive the highest accolade in the OVAC Wrestling.

Vrotsos has been married to his devoted wife, Anne for 35 years. They have three wonderful children. John Thomas lives in Columbus where he is a C.T. and X-Ray technologist and recently got married to his wife, Allie this past July. Allie also happens to be an elementary teacher; Audra from Cleveland, where she is a marketing and graphics designer, and Eliza, who is an Intervention Specialist at Mentor Memorial Middle School.

# Bellaire takes rematch against Bulldogs

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Times Leader

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

See **BELLAIRE**, Page C2

# River staves off rally from Shadyside

By MARK DIERKES
For The Times Leader

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.

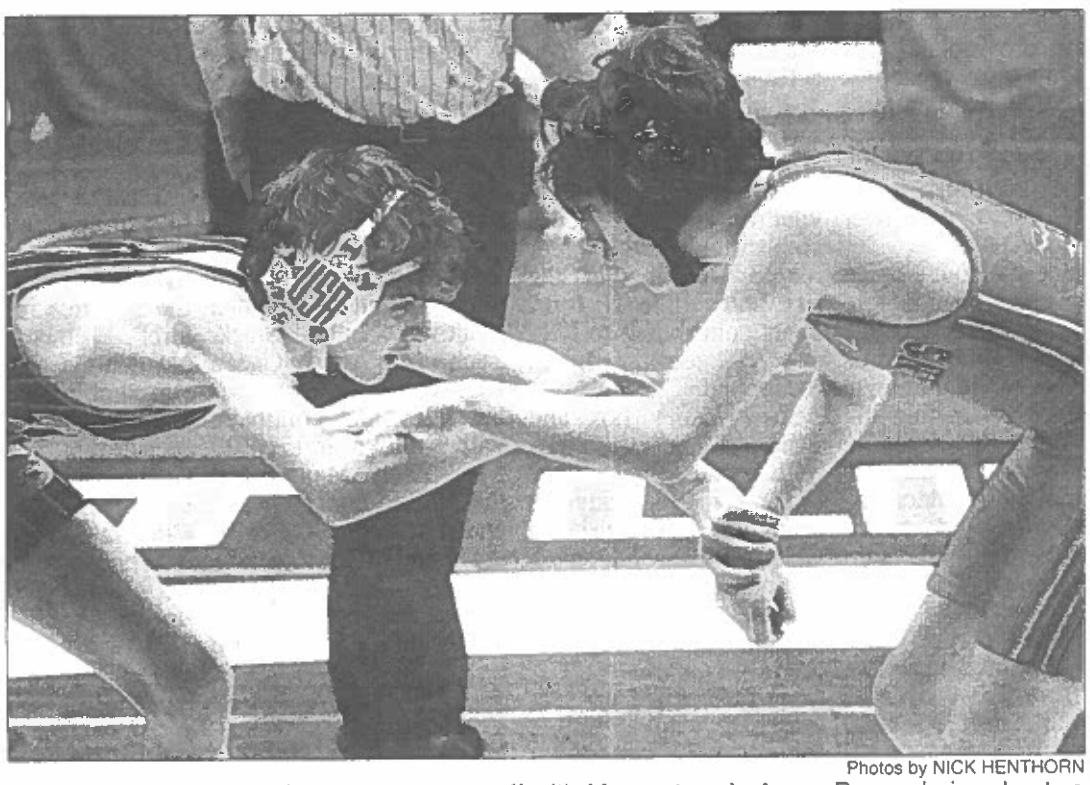
He closed the first quarter with a "trey" at the buzzer and added four more bonus swishes in the second as River's halftime lead grew to 38-22 after nailing eight-of-11 shots in the period.

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

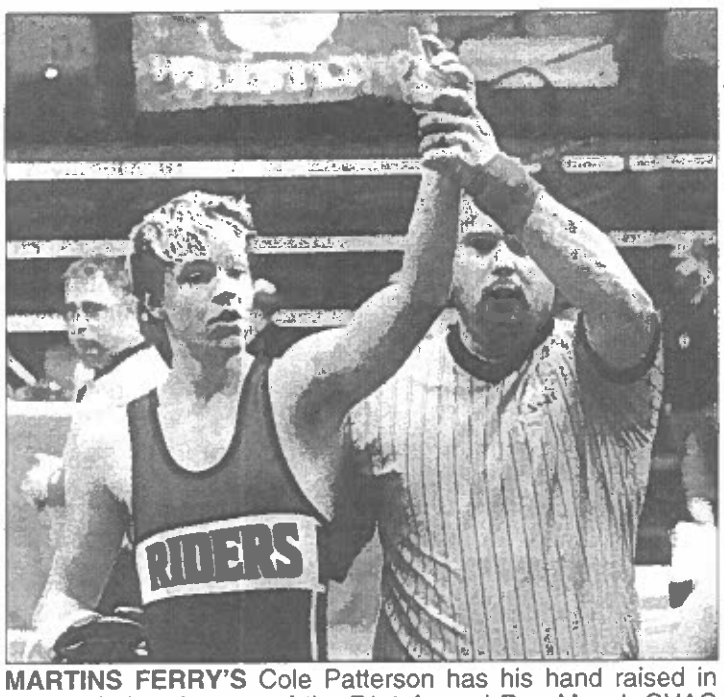
WHEELING – The stage is set for the championship round after an action-packed day two of the 71st Annual Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championships on Friday night inside WesBanco Arena.

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




**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.

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

# CFP title teams 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.

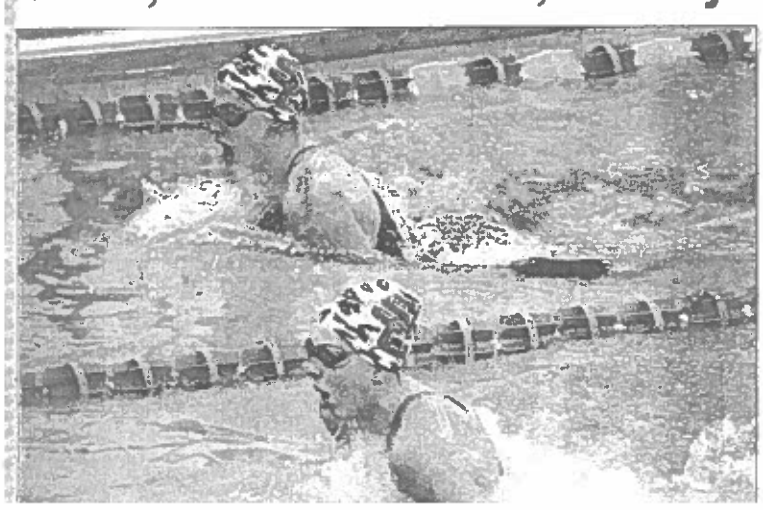
Michigan beat Washington in last year's title game to give the Big Ten its first national championship in football since Ohio State's last title in 2014.

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."

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



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 [illegible] 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 [illegible]

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 victory.

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 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 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 breastroke,

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.

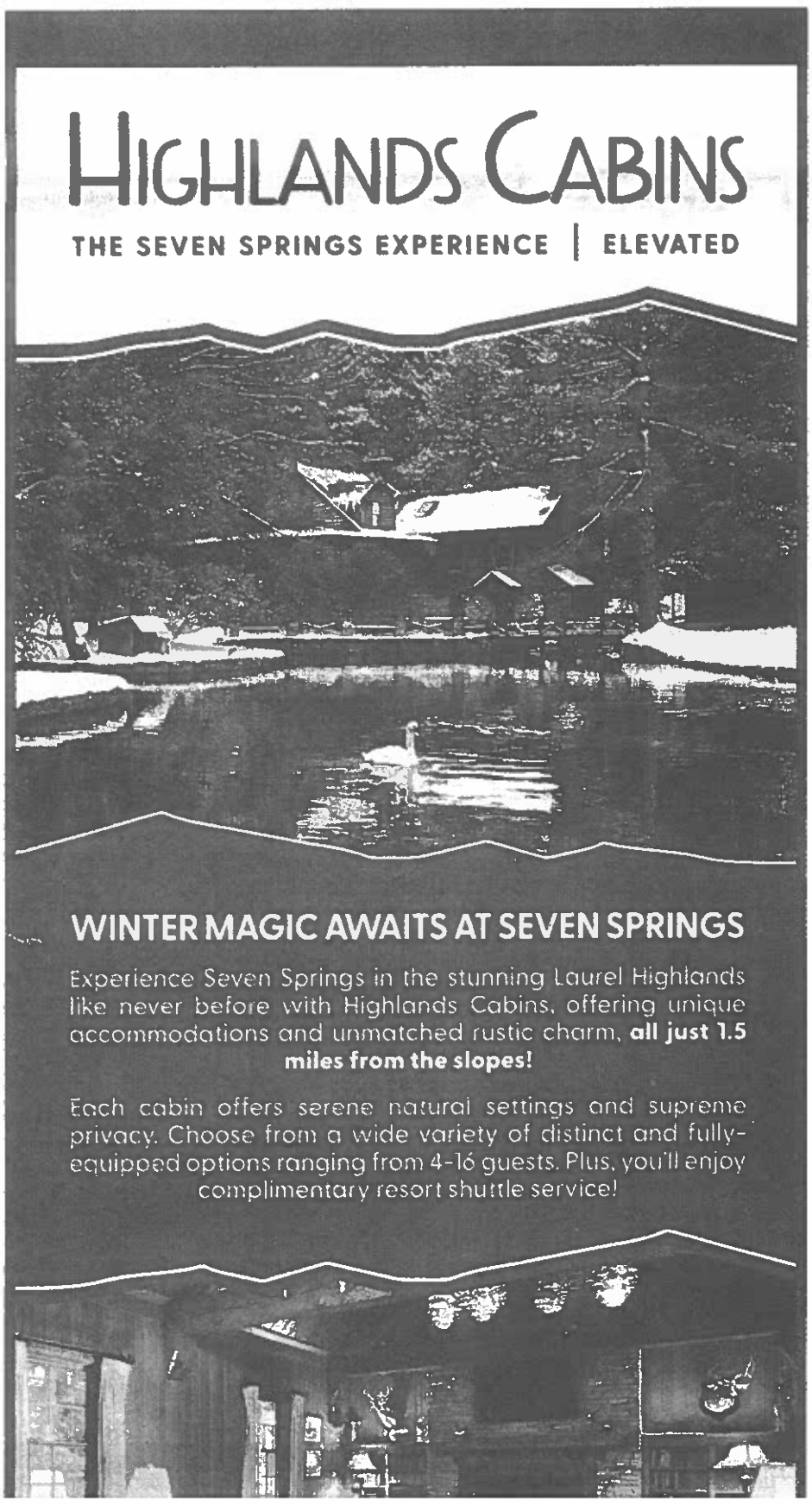
Jewell was also a beast on the boards with 12 rebounds. Pettigrew, meanwhile, stuffed the stat sheet with 10 rebounds, three assists, two steals and a pair of blocks.

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

## SPORTS ON TV

**Saturday, Jan. 18**
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**Noon**
CBSSN — Houston at UCF
CW — Clemson at Pittsburgh
ESPN — Alabama at Kentucky
ESPN2 — Virginia at Louisville
ESPNU — Georgia Tech at Florida St.
FOX — Creighton at UConn
**12:30 p.m.**
USA — George Washington at George Mason
**1 p.m.**
CBS — Kansas St. at Kansas
SECN — Auburn at Georgia
**2 p.m.**
ACCN — Wake Forest at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — Arizona St. at Cincinnati
ESPN2 — Arizona at Texas Tech
ESPNU — SMU at Miami
FOX — Xavier at Marquette
**2:15 p.m.**
CW — Stanford at North Carolina
**2:30 p.m.**
USA — Saint Louis at Richmond
**3 p.m.**
BTN — Wisconsin at Southern Cal
NBC — Purdue at Oregon
PEACOCK — Purdue at Oregon
**3:30 p.m.**
SECN — Tennessee at Vanderbilt
**4 p.m.**
ACCN — Notre Dame at Syracuse
CBSSN — Loyola of Chicago at Dayton
ESPN2 — Texas at Florida
ESPNU — South Carolina at Oklahoma
**6 p.m.**
ACCN — California at NC State
CBSSN — ETSU at Samford
ESPN2 — Mississippi at Mississippi St.
ESPNU — Drake at Indiana St.
SECN — Arkansas at Missouri
**8 p.m.**
CBSSN — UNLV at San Diego St.
ESPN — Duke at Boston College
FS1 — St. John's at Seton Hall
**8:30 p.m.**
SECN — LSU at Texas A&M
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**Noon**
BTN — Rutgers at Michigan
**5 p.m.**
BTN — Purdue at Washington
**MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**
**6 p.m.**
FX — UFC 311 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Los Angeles
**8 p.m.**
ESPNEWS — UFC 311 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Los Angeles
**NFL FOOTBALL**
**4:30 p.m.**
ABC — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Houston at Kansas City
ESPN — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Houston at Kansas City
**8 p.m.**
FOX — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Washington at Detroit
**NHL HOCKEY**
**12:30 p.m.**
NHLN — Philadelphia at New Jersey
**7 p.m.**
NHLN — Toronto at Montreal
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**7 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**8 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia

**Sunday, Jan. 19**
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**Noon**
BTN — Nebraska at Maryland
CBS — Illinois at Michigan St.
NBC — Southern Cal at Indiana
**1 p.m.**
ESPNU — Tulane at Temple
**2 p.m.**
BTN — Northwestern at Michigan
USA — La Salle at UMass
**3 p.m.**
ESPN2 — Memphis at Charlotte
**5 p.m.**
ESPN — TCU at Baylor
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**Noon**
ACCN — Syracuse at Boston College
CBSSN — Rhode Island at Duquesne
NBC — Southern Cal at Indiana
**1 p.m.**
FOX — Iowa St. at West Virginia
ESPN2 — Stanford at Duke
SECN — LSU at Florida
**2 p.m.**
ACCN — North Carolina at Pittsburgh
CBSSN — VCU at Richmond
CW — Virginia at NC State
**3 p.m.**
ESPN — Oklahoma at South Carolina
SECN — Mississippi at Mississippi St.
**4 p.m.**
ACCN — Louisville at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — Wyoming at UNLV
**5 p.m.**
SECN — Alabama at Arkansas
**6 p.m.**
ACCN — SMU at Notre Dame
**NBA BASKETBALL**
**9 p.m.**
NBATV — L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
**NFL FOOTBALL**
**3 p.m.**
NBC — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
PEACOCK — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
**6:30 p.m.**
CBS — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Baltimore at Buffalo
**NHL HOCKEY**
**1 p.m.**
NHLN — Ottawa at New Jersey
**7 p.m.**
NHLN — N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**7 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**8:30 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Monday)**
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia

## OVAC WRESTLING

**A/AA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | CAMERON | 80.0 |
| 2 | CALDWELL | 47.5 |
| 3 | SOUTHERN LOCAL | 24.5 |
| 4 | BRIDGEPORT | 24.0 |
| 5 | TORONTO | 17.5 |
| 6 | SHADYSIDE | 15.0 |
| 7 | WELLSVILLE | 10.0 |
| 8 | MONROE CENTRAL | 8.0 |
| 9 | STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL | 5.5 |
| 10 | RIVER | 2.0 |
| 11 | BEALLSVILLE | 1.0 |
| 12 | CONOTTON VALLEY | 0.0 |
| 12 | FRONTIER 0.0 | |
| 12 | MADONNA | 0.0 |
| 12 | PADEN CITY | 0.0 |

**AAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | BARNESVILLE | 113.0 |
| 2 | LINSLY | 68.0 |
| 3 | UNION LOCAL | 67.5 |
| 4 | MARTINS FERRY | 49.0 |
| 5 | WHEELING CENTRAL | 43.5 |
| 6 | BELLAIRE | 28.5 |
| 7 | FORT FRYE | 25.0 |
| 8 | SHENANDOAH | 8.0 |
| 9 | MAGNOLIA | 0.0 |

**AAAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | BEAVER LOCAL | 120.5 |
| 2 | OAK GLEN | 90.5 |
| 3 | CAMBRIDGE | 66.0 |
| 4 | INDIAN CREEK | 60.0 |
| 5 | EAST LIVERPOOL | 58.0 |
| 6 | WEIR | 49.0 |
| 7 | BUCKEYE LOCAL | 46.0 |
| 8 | EDISON | 44.5 |
| 9 | HARRISON CENTRAL | 32.0 |
| 10 | ST CLAIRSVILLE | 26.0 |

**AAAAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | UNIVERSITY | 160.5 |
| 2 | PARKERSBURG SOUTH | 127.0 |
| 3 | STEUBENVILLE | 124.0 |
| 4 | JOHN MARSHALL | 96.0 |
| 5 | WHEELING PARK | 89.5 |
| 6 | WARREN | 76.0 |
| 7 | MORGANTOWN | 50.0 |
| 8 | BROOKE | 48.0 |

**SEMI-FINAL MATCHES**

**106**
(1)Brock Humphrey, Linsly vs. (4) Kyle Ingram, East Liverpool
(6)Nathan Dentz, Buckeye Local vs. (2)Justuce Fisher, Beaver Local
---
**113**
(1)Pepper Martin, University vs. (5) Cole Harvey, Steubenville
(3)Aiden Anderson, Oak Glen vs. (2) Nathan Hughes, John Marshall
---
**120**
(1)Tristan Eckles, East Liverpool vs. (5)Robert Weekley, Bridgeport
(4)Grant Vasey, Bellaire vs. (3)Gamble Gossett, Union Local
---
**126**
(1)Colton Gillespie, University vs. (5) Dorian Haddad, Steubenville
(3)Colton Nixon, Martins Ferry vs. (2)Braxton Birch, Cameron
---
**132**
(1)George Mamakos, Linsly vs. (5) Wyatt Wolanski, Oak Glen
(3)Nico Maisel, University vs. (7) Noah Keen, Cambridge
---
**138**
(1)Colt Carpenter, Barnesville vs. (4) Zander Ward, John Marshall
(3)Bobby Buchheit, Beaver Local vs. (2)Marshall Laishley, Cambridge
---
**144**
(1)Cooper Smith, Steubenville vs. (4) Gunnar Gossett, Union Local
(3)Hayden Lamb, Oak Glen vs. (2) Carter Pauley, University
---
**150**
(1)Slaton Pettit, Cameron vs. (12) Owen Hunt, Caldwell
(3)Jack Lowe, Wheeling Park vs. (2) Jake Hughes, Beaver Local
---
**157**
(1)Brody Saccoccia, Steubenville vs. (5)Asa Yost, Parkersburg South
(3)Eli Tedrow, Cameron vs. (2)Rider Ludrosky, University
---
**165**
(1)Ayden King, Barnesville vs. (5) Nathan Murphy, Parkersburg South
(3)Isaac Sands, Wheeling Park vs. (2) Brody Kehler, University
---
**175**
(1)Aden Strahler, Warren vs. (5) Noah White, Wheeling Park
(3)Brody Perzanowski, Union Local vs. (2)Emerson Murphy, University
---
**190**
(1)Jameson Maynard, Wheeling Park vs. (4)Luke McMillion, Indian Creek
(6)Greg Sauers, Oak Glen vs. (2) Johnny Bailey, Southern Local
---
**215**
(1)Isaac Martin, Wheeling Central vs. (5)Brody Cottrill, Linsly
(6)Jackson Pate, University vs. (7) Knox McKibben, Harrison Central
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**285**
(1)Brock Kehler, University vs. (5) Noah Schmidt, Oak Glen
(3)Logan Middleton, Parkersburg South vs. (2)Landen Thomas, Harrison Central

## PREP BOXSCORES

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**Bellaire 82, Bridgeport 54**
BRIDGEPORT – Vincent 7, 5-5 20; Jackson 3, 2-2 8; Threet 3, 0-2 6; White 2, 0-0 5; Brinker 3, 1-1 8; Clark 1, 0-0 2; Drake 1, 0-0 3; R. Sauvageot 1, 0-0 2. Totals 21 8-10. BELLAIRE – Pettigrew 11, 2-4 26; Davis 2, 1-2 6; Jewell 7, 3-5 21; Swierkos 2, 0-0 4; Robbins 2, 0-0 4; Dunn 6, 0-0 14 Henthorn 1, 0-0 3; Violet 1, 2-2 4. Totals 32 8-13.
Three-point goals: Bridgeport 4 (Vincent, White, Brinker, Drake). Bellaire 10 (Pettigrew 4, Jewell 4, Davis, Henthorn).
**Tyler 56, Magnolia 36**
Hardbarger 3 0-0 6; Giovinazzo 6 1-7 16; LeMasters 6 1-2 14; B. Strode 4 3-5 11; Bordenkircher 1 3-6 5; Peck 1 0-2 2; Boggs 0 0-4 0; C. Strode 1 0-0 2; Totals 22 8-26 56. MAGNOLIA – Oates 1 0-0 3; Bailey 2 0-0 6; Christen 5 1-2 11; Greathouse 0 2-4 2; Hood 3 2-2 9; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 1 1-2 3; Totals 13 6-8 36.
Three-point goals: Tyler 4 (Giovinazzo 3, LeMasters). Magnolia 4 (Bailey 2, Hood, Oates).
**Indian Creek 47, Toronto 41**
INDIAN CREEK – Bonecutter 6 0-0 13, Bodo 5 0-2 11, Eddy 5 1-2 11, Lester 6 0-0 12, Shultz 0 0-2 0, Totals – 22 1-6 47.
TORONTO – Grimes 4 2-2 11, Buchanan 3 2-3 10, Fair 5 1-3 12, Heckathorn 0 0-2 0. Totals 15 7-12 41.
Three-point goals: Indian Creek 2 (Bonecutter, Bodo); Toronto 4 (Buchanan 2, Grimes, Fair)
**Monroe Central 65, Cameron 15**
CAMERON – McCauley 2 0-0 6; Scott 3 1-3 7; Magers 1 0-2 2; Totals 6 1-5 15. MONROE CENTRAL – C. Howell 4 1-2 10; Whitacre 2 0-2 4; Yontz 1 0-0 3; Powell 3 0-0 9; Allen 5 0-0 10; Silva 3 0-0 7; Fogle 2 0-0 5; T. Howell 4 0-0 8; Farnsworth 4 0-0 9; Totals 28 1-4 65
Three-point goals: Cameron 2 (McCauley 2). Monroe Central 8 (Powell 3, C. Howell, Yontz, Silva, Fogle, Farnsworth).
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
**River 60, Shadyside 28**
RIVER – Hobbs 3 2-6 8; C. Trifonoff 2 0-0 4; Isaly 6 2-2 17; Hagan 8 0-0 18; Fox 4 0-0 8; Maddy 2 0-0 4. Totals 26, 4-8 60. SHADYSIDE – Tsoras 4 2-4 10; Parr 1, 0-0 2; Melanko 1, 2-2 4; Samsa 2, 0-0 6; Parker 2, 0-0 5; G. Hines 1, 1-4 3. Totals 11 5-10 28.
Three-point goals: River 6 (Hagan 3, Isaly 3); Shadyside 3 (Samsa 2, Parker 1).
**Valley 55, Parkersburg Christian 25**
PARKERSBURG CHRISTIAN – Sh. Posey 5 0-0 12; Wood 1 0-0 2; K. Lucas 2 0-0 4; Sa. Posey 0 2-2 2; Gord 1 2-2 3; S. Lucas 1 0-0 2; Totals 10 3-4 25; VALLEY – Dallison 3 3-6 10; Derby 1 0-0 3; Dawson 6 2-2 14; Pittman 4 1-2 12; A. Highley 0 1-2 1; K. Highley 1 0-0 2; Miller 4 5-8 13; Totals 19 12-20 55.
Three-point goals: Parkersburg Christian 2 (Sh. Posey 2). Valley 5 (Pittman 3, Derby, Dallison).

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

**(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)**
**Saturday, Jan. 18**
**BOWLING**
Weirton at Parkersburg South, 10 a.m.
**BOYS BASKETBALL**
Wheeling Central at Clarksburg Notre Dame, noon
Monroe Central vs. Fairbanks at Ohio Dominican University, 2 p.m.
River at Caldwell
Steubenville Catholic at Harrison Central, 7:30 p.m.
Buckhannon-Upshur at Wheeling Park, 4 p.m.
John Marshall at Tyler, 4 p.m.
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Wheeling Central at Monroe Central, 1:30 p.m.
Buckhannon-Upshur at Wheeling Park, 2 p.m.
**Buckeye 8**
**(at ECO Center)**
Beaver Local vs. St. Clairsville, 12:30 p.m.
Harrison Central vs. Cambridge, 1:50 p.m.
Bellaire vs. East Liverpool, 4:10 p.m.
Indian Creek vs. Union Local, 6 p.m.
**WRESTLING**
OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament at WesBanco Arena, 11 a.m.
**ARCHERY**
Wheeling Park at Buckhannon, TBA
**SWIMMING**
OVAC Meet at Brooke, TBA


# Howard Long Wellness Center

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to reevaluate your health and fitness goals. A lot of us have the tendency to indulge a little more during the end of the year, with holiday parties, seasonal baking, and so many occasions to celebrate with delicious food. We get busy with planning, preparing, and celebrating, often putting our health priorities on the back burner.

Losing post-holiday pounds is a big motivator for lots of New Year's resolutions, but losing weight isn't the only reason people should focus of health and fitness in the new year. Committing to any kind of exercise is great for your body and your mind. We're entering the darkest and coldest time of the year, a time of year when a lot of people start to feel sluggish and more prone to depression and low moods. Exercise is proven to be one of the best all-natural treatments for depression and anxiety and may be as effective as antidepressants in some cases, according to Harvard Health.

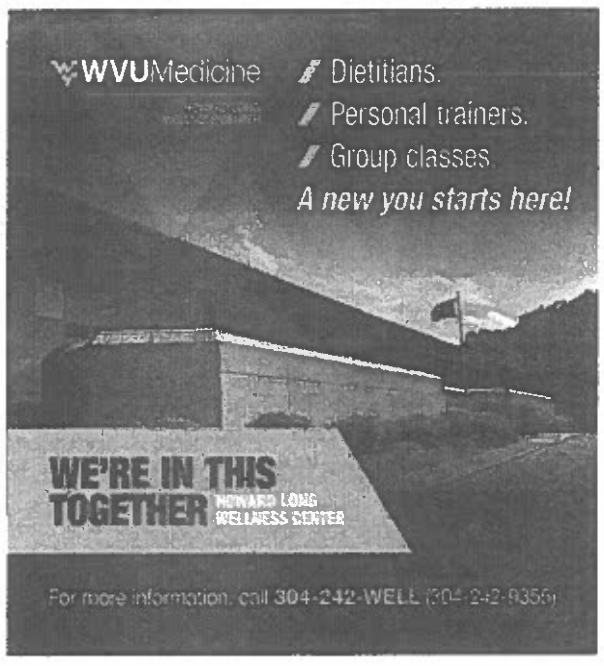
Of course, health is about more than just physical fitness and learning about proper nutrition is essential. Jill Spangler, registered dietitian and Director of Clinical Nutrition for WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital can help you stay on track with your nutrition goals with nutrition counseling.

Memberships to the 65,000 square foot wellness center are available for anyone in the community.

"The center features over 80 pieces of cardio exercise equipment, nearly 70 units of strength training equipment, a full-size basketball court, an Olympic size pool, a jacuzzi, locker rooms with dry saunas, a workout and shower towel service," says Joe Slavik, director of Howard Long Wellness Center. There are also three indoor and two outdoor pickleball courts and outdoor tennis.

The center offers an impressive schedule of over 70 group exercise classes per week.

"Our highly experienced and certified group fitness instructors provide engaging land classes such as Zumba




The center has a drop-in childcare service that busy parents can take advantage of.

A membership to Howard Long Wellness Center can help you achieve your health and wellness goals, but it can do more than that. The center provides a base for a community of people who value a healthy lifestyle and a supportive environment.

"One of the most powerful benefits the wellness center has offered over the years

# SPORTS

Brought to you by WVU Medicine

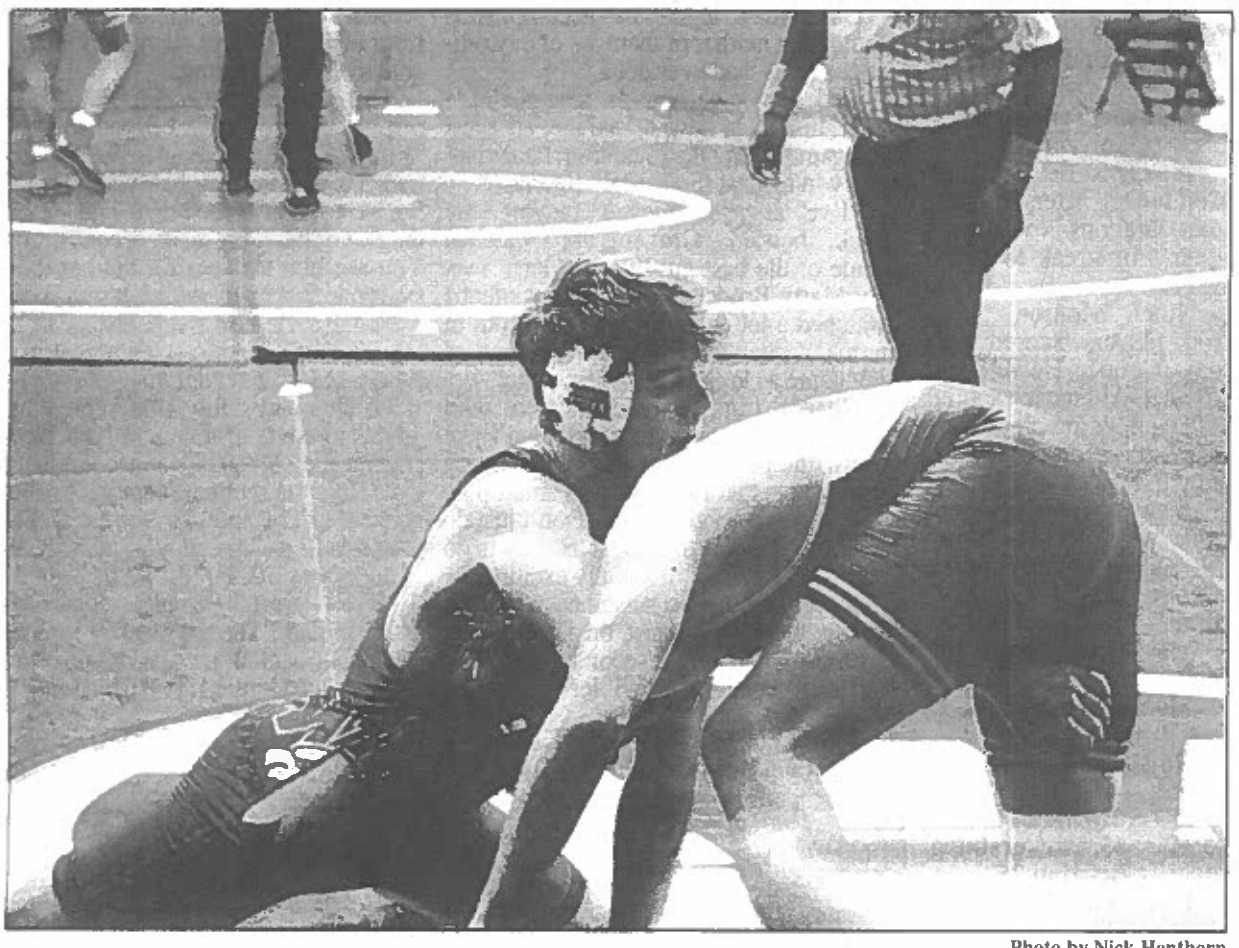


Photo by Nick Henthorn

**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 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 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 Cambride 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*

## River Staves Off Furious Tigers Rally

**By MARK DIERKES**
**For The Sunday News-Register**

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 halftime 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.

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.

*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*

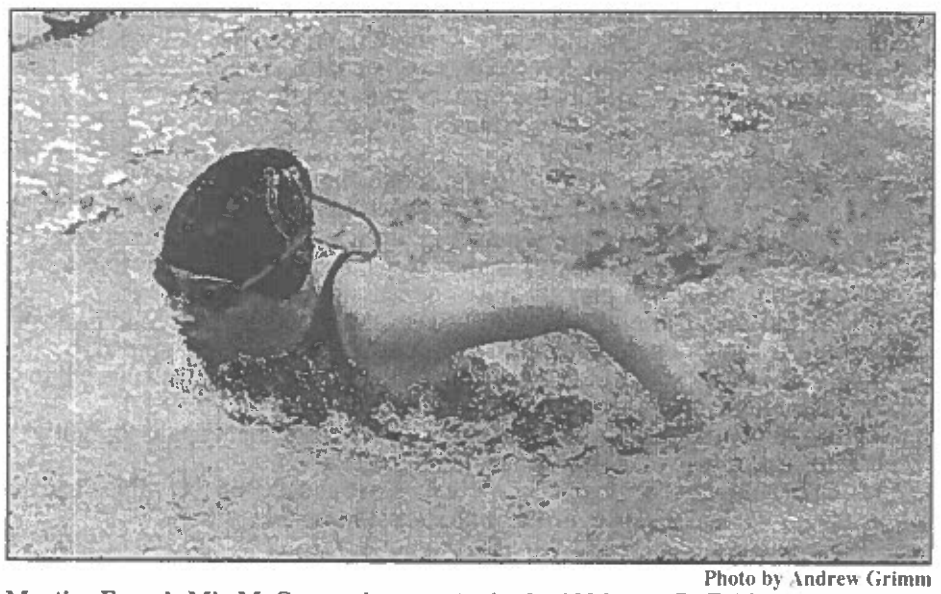


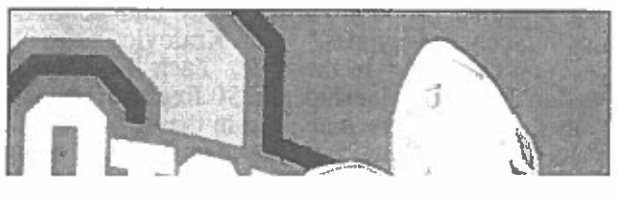
Photo by Andrew Grimm

**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**

airport. "Now we are on



## Big Reds Leave No Doubt In Rematch vs. Bulldogs

**By BUBBA KAPRAL**

14 tallies

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 PIttman 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.

# 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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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

so, I kind of just stood there and watched 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 WesBanco 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 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..

## 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**

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 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 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 breastroke,

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

## Rematch

(Continued from Page C1)

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-

## SPORTS ON TV

**Saturday, Jan. 18**
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**Noon**
CBSSN — Houston at UCF
CW — Clemson at Pittsburgh
ESPN — Alabama at Kentucky
ESPN2 — Virginia at Louisville
ESPNU — Georgia Tech at Florida St.
FOX — Creighton at UConn
**12:30 p.m.**
USA — George Washington at George Mason
**1 p.m.**
CBS — Kansas St. at Kansas
SECN — Auburn at Georgia
**2 p.m.**
ACCN — Wake Forest at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — Arizona St. at Cincinnati
ESPN2 — Arizona at Texas Tech
ESPNU — SMU at Miami
FOX — Xavier at Marquette
**2:15 p.m.**
CW — Stanford at North Carolina
**2:30 p.m.**
USA — Saint Louis at Richmond
**3 p.m.**
BTN — Wisconsin at Southern Cal
NBC — Purdue at Oregon
PEACOCK — Purdue at Oregon
**3:30 p.m.**
SECN — Tennessee at Vanderbilt
**4 p.m.**
ACCN — Notre Dame at Syracuse
CBSSN — Loyola of Chicago at Dayton
ESPN2 — Texas at Florida
ESPNU — South Carolina at Oklahoma
**6 p.m.**
ACCN — California at NC State
CBSSN — ETSU at Samford
ESPN2 — Mississippi at Mississippi St.
ESPNU — Drake at Indiana St.
SECN — Arkansas at Missouri
**8 p.m.**
CBSSN — UNLV at San Diego St.
ESPN — Duke at Boston College
FS1 — St. John's at Seton Hall
**8:30 p.m.**
SECN — LSU at Texas A&M
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**Noon**
BTN — Rutgers at Michigan
**5 p.m.**
BTN — Purdue at Washington
**MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**
**6 p.m.**
FX — UFC 311 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Los Angeles
**8 p.m.**
ESPNEWS — UFC 311 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Los Angeles
**NFL FOOTBALL**
**4:30 p.m.**
ABC — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Houston at Kansas City
ESPN — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Houston at Kansas City
**8 p.m.**
FOX — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Washington at Detroit
**NHL HOCKEY**
**12:30 p.m.**
NHLN — Philadelphia at New Jersey
**7 p.m.**
NHLN — Toronto at Montreal
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**7 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**8 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia

**Sunday, Jan. 19**
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**Noon**
BTN — Nebraska at Maryland
CBS — Illinois at Michigan St.
NBC — Southern Cal at Indiana
**1 p.m.**
ESPNU — Tulane at Temple
**2 p.m.**
BTN — Northwestern at Michigan
USA — La Salle at UMass
**3 p.m.**
ESPN2 — Memphis at Charlotte
**5 p.m.**
ESPN — TCU at Baylor
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**Noon**
ACCN — Syracuse at Boston College
CBSSN — Rhode Island at Duquesne
NBC — Southern Cal at Indiana
**1 p.m.**
FOX — Iowa St. at West Virginia
ESPN2 — Stanford at Duke
SECN — LSU at Florida
**2 p.m.**
ACCN — North Carolina at Pittsburgh
CBSSN — VCU at Richmond
CW — Virginia at NC State
**3 p.m.**
ESPN — Oklahoma at South Carolina
SECN — Mississippi at Mississippi St.
**4 p.m.**
ACCN — Louisville at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — Wyoming at UNLV
**5 p.m.**
SECN — Alabama at Arkansas
**6 p.m.**
ACCN — SMU at Notre Dame
**NBA BASKETBALL**
**9 p.m.**
NBATV — L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
**NFL FOOTBALL**
**3 p.m.**
NBC — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
PEACOCK — NFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
**6:30 p.m.**
CBS — AFC Playoffs - Divisional Round: Baltimore at Buffalo
**NHL HOCKEY**
**1 p.m.**
NHLN — Ottawa at New Jersey
**7 p.m.**
NHLN — N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**7 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**8:30 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Monday)**
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia

## OVAC WRESTLING

**A/AA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | CAMERON | 80.0 |
| 2 | CALDWELL | 47.5 |
| 3 | SOUTHERN LOCAL | 24.5 |
| 4 | BRIDGEPORT | 24.0 |
| 5 | TORONTO | 17.5 |
| 6 | SHADYSIDE | 15.0 |
| 7 | WELLSVILLE | 10.0 |
| 8 | MONROE CENTRAL | 8.0 |
| 9 | STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL | 5.5 |
| 10 | RIVER | 2.0 |
| 11 | BEALLSVILLE | 1.0 |
| 12 | CONOTTON VALLEY | 0.0 |
| 12 | FRONTIER 0.0 | |
| 12 | MADONNA | 0.0 |
| 12 | PADEN CITY | 0.0 |

**AAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | BARNESVILLE | 113.0 |
| 2 | LINSLY | 68.0 |
| 3 | UNION LOCAL | 67.5 |
| 4 | MARTINS FERRY | 49.0 |
| 5 | WHEELING CENTRAL | 43.5 |
| 6 | BELLAIRE | 28.5 |
| 7 | FORT FRYE | 25.0 |
| 8 | SHENANDOAH | 8.0 |
| 9 | MAGNOLIA | 0.0 |

**AAAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | BEAVER LOCAL | 120.5 |
| 2 | OAK GLEN | 90.5 |
| 3 | CAMBRIDGE | 66.0 |
| 4 | INDIAN CREEK | 60.0 |
| 5 | EAST LIVERPOOL | 58.0 |
| 6 | WEIR | 49.0 |
| 7 | BUCKEYE LOCAL | 46.0 |
| 8 | EDISON | 44.5 |
| 9 | HARRISON CENTRAL | 32.0 |
| 10 | ST CLAIRSVILLE | 26.0 |

**AAAAA Team Scores**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | UNIVERSITY | 160.5 |
| 2 | PARKERSBURG SOUTH | 127.0 |
| 3 | STEUBENVILLE | 124.0 |
| 4 | JOHN MARSHALL | 96.0 |
| 5 | WHEELING PARK | 89.5 |
| 6 | WARREN | 76.0 |
| 7 | MORGANTOWN | 50.0 |
| 8 | BROOKE | 48.0 |

**SEMI-FINAL MATCHES**

**106**
(1)Brock Humphrey, Linsly vs. (4) Kyle Ingram, East Liverpool
(6)Nathan Dentz, Buckeye Local vs. (2)Justuce Fisher, Beaver Local
---
**113**
(1)Pepper Martin, University vs. (5) Cole Harvey, Steubenville
(3)Aiden Anderson, Oak Glen vs. (2) Nathan Hughes, John Marshall
---
**120**
(1)Tristan Eckles, East Liverpool vs. (5)Robert Weekley, Bridgeport
(4)Grant Vasey, Bellaire vs. (3)Gamble Gossett, Union Local
---
**126**
(1)Colton Gillespie, University vs. (5) Dorian Haddad, Steubenville
(3)Colton Nixon, Martins Ferry vs. (2)Braxton Birch, Cameron
---
**132**
(1)George Mamakos, Linsly vs. (5) Wyatt Wolanski, Oak Glen
(3)Nico Maisel, University vs. (7) Noah Keen, Cambridge
---
**138**
(1)Colt Carpenter, Barnesville vs. (4) Zander Ward, John Marshall
(3)Bobby Buchheit, Beaver Local vs. (2)Marshall Laishley, Cambridge
---
**144**
(1)Cooper Smith, Steubenville vs. (4) Gunnar Gossett, Union Local
(3)Hayden Lamb, Oak Glen vs. (2) Carter Pauley, University
---
**150**
(1)Slaton Pettit, Cameron vs. (12) Owen Hunt, Caldwell
(3)Jack Lowe, Wheeling Park vs. (2) Jake Hughes, Beaver Local
---
**157**
(1)Brody Saccoccia, Steubenville vs. (5)Asa Yost, Parkersburg South
(3)Eli Tedrow, Cameron vs. (2)Rider Ludrosky, University
---
**165**
(1)Ayden King, Barnesville vs. (5) Nathan Murphy, Parkersburg South
(3)Isaac Sands, Wheeling Park vs. (2) Brody Kehler, University
---
**175**
(1)Aden Strahler, Warren vs. (5) Noah White, Wheeling Park
(3)Brody Perzanowski, Union Local vs. (2)Emerson Murphy, University
---
**190**
(1)Jameson Maynard, Wheeling Park vs. (4)Luke McMillion, Indian Creek
(6)Greg Sauers, Oak Glen vs. (2) Johnny Bailey, Southern Local
---
**215**
(1)Isaac Martin, Wheeling Central vs. (5)Brody Cottrill, Linsly
(6)Jackson Pate, University vs. (7) Knox McKibben, Harrison Central
---
**285**
(1)Brock Kehler, University vs. (5) Noah Schmidt, Oak Glen
(3)Logan Middleton, Parkersburg South vs. (2)Landen Thomas, Harrison Central

## PREP BOXSCORES

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**Bellaire 82, Bridgeport 54**
BRIDGEPORT – Vincent 7, 5-5 20; Jackson 3, 2-2 8; Threet 3, 0-2 6; White 2, 0-0 5; Brinker 3, 1-1 8; Clark 1, 0-0 2; Drake 1, 0-0 3; R. Sauvageot 1, 0-0 2. Totals 21 8-10. BELLAIRE – Pettigrew 11, 2-4 26; Davis 2, 1-2 6; Jewell 7, 3-5 21; Swierkos 2, 0-0 4; Robbins 2, 0-0 4; Dunn 6, 0-0 14 Henthorn 1, 0-0 3; Violet 1, 2-2 4. Totals 32 8-13.
Three-point goals: Bridgeport 4 (Vincent, White, Brinker, Drake). Bellaire 10 (Pettigrew 4, Jewell 4, Davis, Henthorn).
**Tyler 56, Magnolia 36**
Hardbarger 3 0-0 6; Giovinazzo 6 1-7 16; LeMasters 6 1-2 14; B. Strode 4 3-5 11; Bordenkircher 1 3-6 5; Peck 1 0-2 2; Boggs 0 0-4 0; C. Strode 1 0-0 2; Totals 22 8-26 56. MAGNOLIA – Oates 1 0-0 3; Bailey 2 0-0 6; Christen 5 1-2 11; Greathouse 0 2-4 2; Hood 3 2-2 9; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 1 1-2 3; Totals 13 6-8 36.
Three-point goals: Tyler 4 (Giovinazzo 3, LeMasters). Magnolia 4 (Bailey 2, Hood, Oates).
**Indian Creek 47, Toronto 41**
INDIAN CREEK – Bonecutter 6 0-0 13, Bodo 5 0-2 11, Eddy 5 1-2 11, Lester 6 0-0 12, Shultz 0 0-2 0, Totals – 22 1-6 47.
TORONTO – Grimes 4 2-2 11, Buchanan 3 2-3 10, Fair 5 1-3 12, Heckathorn 0 0-2 0. Totals 15 7-12 41.
Three-point goals: Indian Creek 2 (Bonecutter, Bodo); Toronto 4 (Buchanan 2, Grimes, Fair)
**Monroe Central 65, Cameron 15**
CAMERON – McCauley 2 0-0 6; Scott 3 1-3 7; Magers 1 0-2 2; Totals 6 1-5 15. MONROE CENTRAL – C. Howell 4 1-2 10; Whitacre 2 0-2 4; Yontz 1 0-0 3; Powell 3 0-0 9; Allen 5 0-0 10; Silva 3 0-0 7; Fogle 2 0-0 5; T. Howell 4 0-0 8; Farnsworth 4 0-0 9; Totals 28 1-4 65
Three-point goals: Cameron 2 (McCauley 2). Monroe Central 8 (Powell 3, C. Howell, Yontz, Silva, Fogle, Farnsworth).

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
**River 60, Shadyside 28**
RIVER – Hobbs 3 2-6 8; C. Trifonoff 2 0-0 4; Isaly 6 2-2 17; Hagan 8 0-0 18; Fox 4 0-0 8; Maddy 2 0-0 4. Totals 26, 4-8 60. SHADYSIDE – Tsoras 4 2-4 10; Parr 1, 0-0 2; Melanko 1, 2-2 4; Samsa 2, 0-0 6; Parker 2, 0-0 5; G. Hines 1, 1-4 3. Totals 11 5-10 28.
Three-point goals: River 6 (Hagan 3, Isaly 3); Shadyside 3 (Samsa 2, Parker 1).
**Valley 55, Parkersburg Christian 25**
PARKERSBURG CHRISTIAN – Sh. Posey 5 0-0 12; Wood 1 0-0 2; K. Lucas 2 0-0 4; Sa. Posey 0 2-2 2; Gord 1 2-2 3; S. Lucas 1 0-0 2; Totals 10 3-4 25; VALLEY – Dallison 3 3-6 10; Derby 1 0-0 3; Dawson 6 2-2 14; Pittman 4 1-2 12; A. Highley 0 1-2 1; K. Highley 1 0-0 2; Miller 4 5-8 13; Totals 19 12-20 55.
Three-point goals: Parkersburg Christian 2 (Sh. Posey 2). Valley 5 (Pittman 3, Derby, Dallison).

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

**(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)**
**Saturday, Jan. 18**
**BOWLING**
Weirton at Parkersburg South, 10 a.m.
**BOYS BASKETBALL**
Wheeling Central at Clarksburg Notre Dame, noon
Monroe Central vs. Fairbanks at Ohio Dominican University, 2 p.m.
River at Caldwell
Steubenville Catholic at Harrison Central, 7:30 p.m.
Buckhannon-Upshur at Wheeling Park, 4 p.m.
John Marshall at Tyler, 4 p.m.
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Wheeling Central at Monroe Central, 1:30 p.m.
Buckhannon-Upshur at Wheeling Park, 2 p.m.
**Buckeye 8**
**(at ECO Center)**
Beaver Local vs. St. Clairsville, 12:30 p.m.
Harrison Central vs. Cambridge, 1:50 p.m.
Bellaire vs. East Liverpool, 4:10 p.m.
Indian Creek vs. Union Local, 6 p.m.
**WRESTLING**
OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament at WesBanco Arena, 11 a.m.
**ARCHERY**
Wheeling Park at Buckhannon, TBA
**SWIMMING**
OVAC Meet at Brooke, TBA


# Howard Long Wellness Center

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to reevaluate your health and fitness goals. A lot of us have the tendency to indulge a little more during the end of the year, with holiday parties, seasonal baking, and so many occasions to celebrate with delicious food. We get busy with planning, preparing, and celebrating, often putting our health priorities on the back burner.

Losing post-holiday pounds is a big motivator for lots of New Year's resolutions, but losing weight isn't the only reason people should focus of health and fitness in the new year. Committing to any kind of exercise is great for your body and your mind. We're entering the darkest and coldest time of the year, a time of year when a lot of people start to feel sluggish and more prone to depression and low moods. Exercise is proven to be one of the best all-natural treatments for depression and anxiety and may be as effective as antidepressants in some cases, according to Harvard Health.

However, jumping into a fitness routine can be daunting, especially if you're

Of course, health is about more than just physical fitness and learning about proper nutrition is essential. Jill Spangler, registered dietitian and Director of Clinical Nutrition for WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital can help you stay on track with your nutrition goals with nutrition counseling.

Memberships to the 65,000 square foot wellness center are available for anyone in the community.

"The center features over 80 pieces of cardio exercise equipment, nearly 70 units of strength training equipment, a full-size basketball court, an Olympic size pool, a jacuzzi, locker rooms with dry saunas, a workout and shower towel service," says Joe Slavik, director of Howard Long Wellness Center. There are also three indoor and two outdoor pickleball courts and outdoor tennis.

The center offers an impressive schedule of over 70 group exercise classes per week.

"Our highly experienced and certified group fitness instructors provide engaging land classes such as Zumba, Boot Camp, Absolute Abs, Spinning, Interval and HIIT classes, Body Burn,

The center has a drop-in childcare service that busy parents can take advantage of.

A membership to Howard Long Wellness Center can help you achieve your health and wellness goals, but it can do more than that. The center provides a base for a community of people who value a healthy lifestyle and a supportive environment.

"One of the most powerful benefits the wellness center has offered over the years is the priceless opportunity for people to reconnect with acquaintances they have

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TV/ENTERTAINMENT.....17

The Intelligencer.
SPORTS

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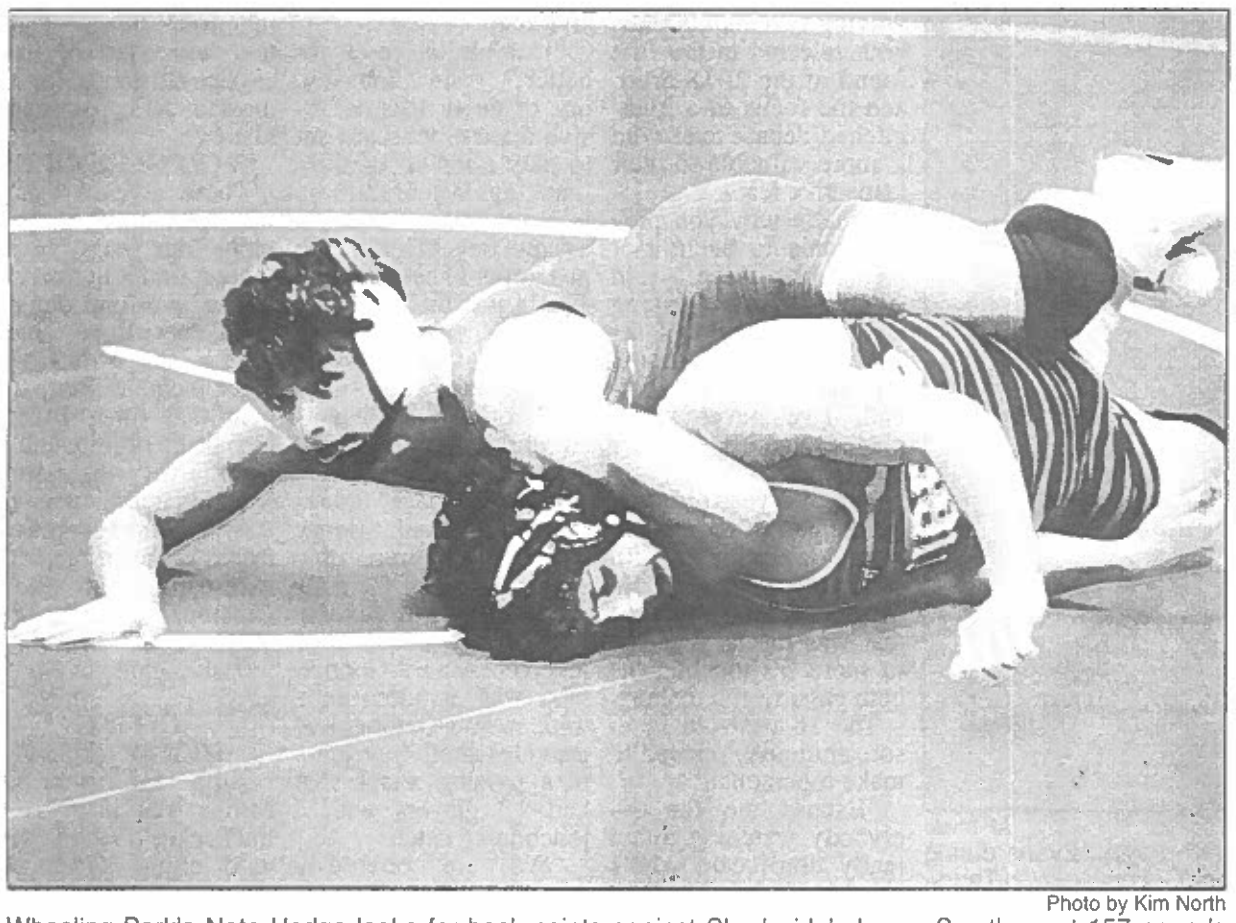


Photo by Kim North

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."

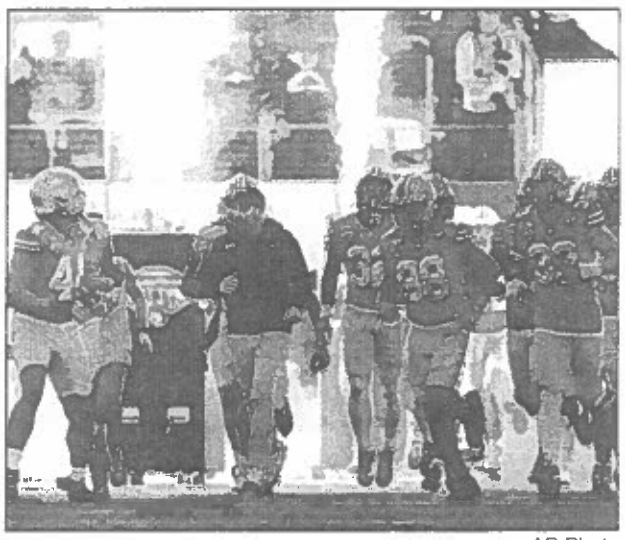
Big Red also won all of its matches, including lightning-quick pins by returning champs Cooper Smith (144) and Brody Saccoccia (157).

"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*

# Ohio State, Notre Dame Each Built Rosters The Old-Fashioned Way With A Modern Twist



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.

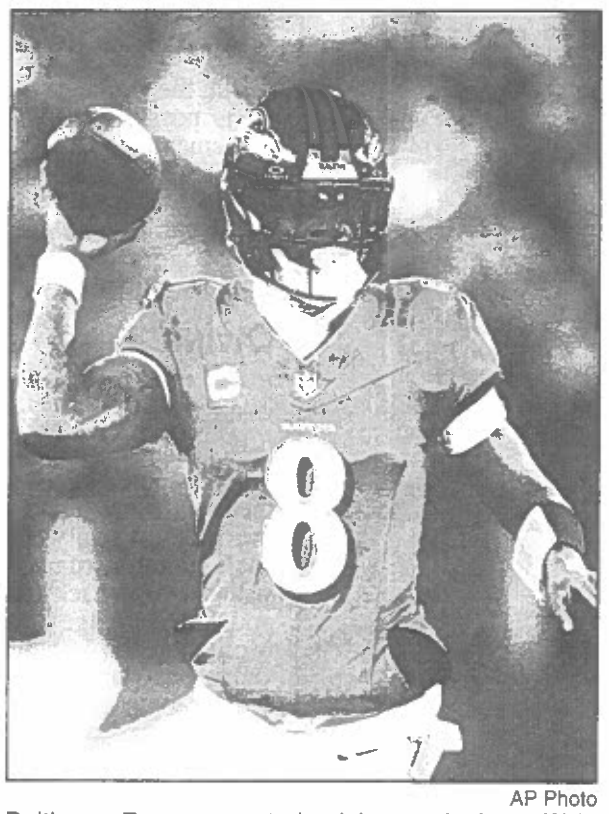
There's the quarterback matchup pitting arguably the NFL's two leading MVP candidates in Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen.

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 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.

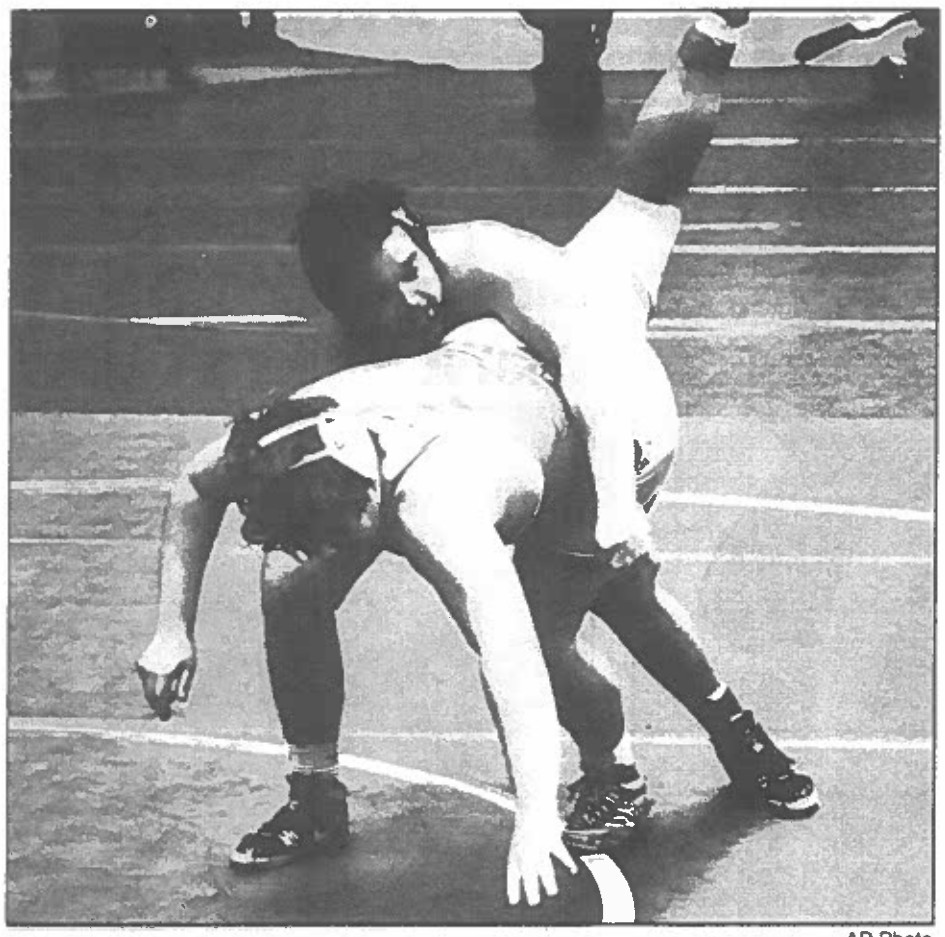
"We have quite a few who can step in and help us out a lot, especially when you put them all together in relays," Brubaker said.

Other top seeds include Victoria Bukingham, 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

## MAUCK

(Continued from Page 11)



AP Photo

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 middleweights."

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.

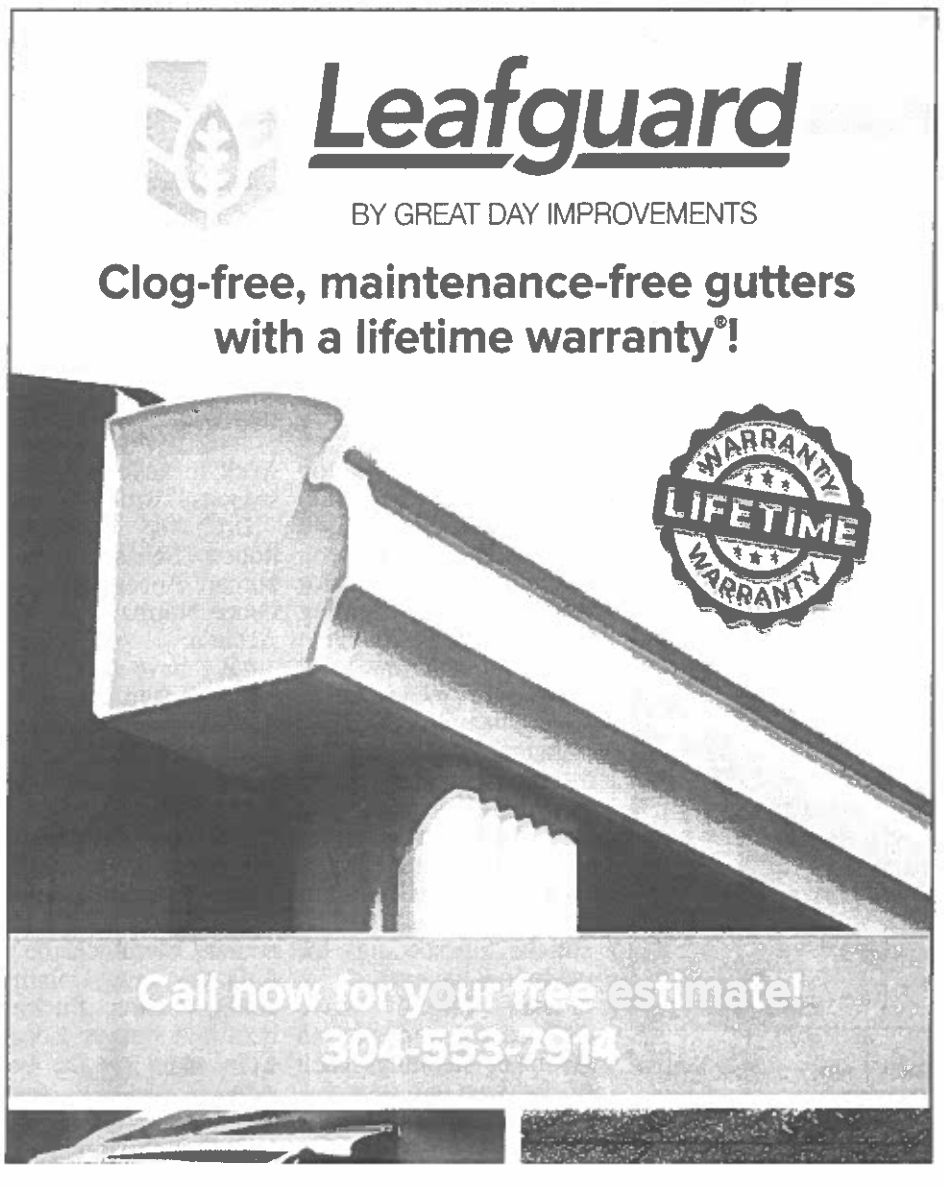
**PIN FALLS**

- 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.




## PLAYOFF

(Continued from Page 11)

The quarterback matchup alone is worthy of the weeklong hype and prime-time setting involving two dual threats, both selected in the first round of the 2018 draft, and the focus of a high-pitched debate over who is more valuable to their respective team.

"That's why you play this game to be in moments like these," said Allen, before playing down the individual aspect of facing Jackson. "In the history of football, I've never really played against another quarterback."

The 28-year-old Allen topped 40 combined touchdowns for a fifth consecutive year while overseeing an offense that was the NFL's first to score 30 touchdowns both passing and rushing.

The 28-year-old Jackson, similarly, refused to make it personal.

"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 against them in September, including an 87-yard touchdown run on the Ravens first offensive snap.

"I think we're a lot better," said Johnson, one of three Bills defensive starters who are set to play after being sidelined against Baltimore in September. "This it's a new day. Things are just going to be different. That's just the way they are."

The Ravens' test is understanding how Buffalo's offense has adapted while gaining a more balanced identity.

Running back James Cook matched Henry with 16 TD runs this season – 13 of them after Week 5. Buffalo also features the addition of receiver Amari Cooper, who was acquired in a trade in mid-October and provides another weapon to a passing attack that had 13 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 bloodbath," 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 averaged 5.74.

In eight career playoff games, Henry has surpassed 150 yards rushing four times. That's tied with Hall of Famer Terrell Davis for the most in NFL postseason history.

**SECOND FIDDLES**

These are two teams who have spent the previous four years playing second fiddle in the AFC to the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs and Cincinnati Bengals.

In that time, Buffalo has been eliminated by Kansas City three times and Cincinnati once. The Ravens' last two playoff losses came in the 2022 wild-card round against Cincinnati, and last year's conference championship game to Kansas City.

**CITING HERACLITUS**

Bills edge rusher Von Miller 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 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 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 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.

## Sports On TV

**Friday, Jan. 17**
**3x3 BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**7 p.m.**
TNT — Unrivaled Basketball League: Mist vs. Lunar Owls, Medley, Fla.
TRUTV — Unrivaled Basketball League: Mist vs. Lunar Owls, Medley, Fla. (DataCast)
**8 p.m.**
TNT — Unrivaled Basketball League: Rose vs. Vinyl, Medley, Fla.
TRUTV — Unrivaled Basketball League: Rose vs. Vinyl, Medley, Fla. (DataCast)
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**6 p.m.**
CBSSN — Ohio at Akron
**7 p.m.**
ESPNU — VCU at Saint Joseph's
FS1 — Providence at Villanova
**8 p.m.**
CBSSN — DePaul at Georgetown
FOX — Indiana at Ohio St.
**9 p.m.**
FS1 — Iowa at UCLA
**11 p.m.**
FS1 — Boise St. at New Mexico
**COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)**
**7 p.m.**
SECN — Arkansas at Auburn
**7:30 p.m.**
ESPN2 — Florida at LSU
**8:30 p.m.**
SECN — Missouri at Oklahoma
**COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)**
**10 p.m.**
CBSSN — Minn.-Duluth at Colorado College
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (MEN'S)**
**5 p.m.**
ESPNU — UCLA at Penn St.
**COLLEGE WRESTLING**
**7 p.m.**
BTN — Illinois at Iowa
**9 p.m.**
BTN — Penn St. at Nebraska
**GOLF**
**1 p.m.**
ESPN2 — Latin America Amateur Championship: Second Round, Pilar Golf Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina
**4 p.m.**
GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, Second Round, PGA WEST Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.
**7 p.m.**
GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Second Round, Hualalai Golf Club, Kaupulehu, Hawaii
**2 a.m. (Saturday)**
GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, Third Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**
**9 p.m.**
NFLN — The 2025 Polynesian Bowl: Team Mauka vs. Team Makai, Honolulu
**HORSE RACING**
**3 p.m.**
FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
**NBA BASKETBALL**
**7:10 p.m.**
ESPN — Orlando at Boston
**9:35 p.m.**
ESPN — Memphis at San Antonio
**NHL HOCKEY**
**7 p.m.**
NHLN — Vegas at Carolina
**SAILING**
**1 a.m. (Saturday)**
CBSSN — SailGP: The ITM New Zealand Grand Prix - Day 1, Auckland, New Zealand
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**
**11:45 a.m.**
FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al-Nassr at Al-Taawoun
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**10 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**9 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Saturday)**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia
**VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**9 p.m.**
ESPNU — League One: LOVB Salt Lake at LOVB Madison

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Utah | 10 | 29 | .256 | 23½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clippers | 22 | 17 | .564 | — |
| Lakers | 21 | 17 | .553 | ½ |
| Sac | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2½ |
| Pho | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2½ |
| Gold. St. | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2½ |

**Thursday's Games**
Indiana 111, Detroit 100
Phoenix 130, Washington 123
Oklahoma City 134, Cleveland 114
Houston at Sacramento, late
L.A. Clippers at Portland, late
**Friday's Games**
Orlando at Boston, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Denver at Miami, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

## American Express

**Thursday**
**La Quinta, Calif.a-Pete Dye Stadium Course (Host Course) 7,210 yards; Par 72b-PGA WEST Nicklaus Tournament Course**
**7,147 yards; Par 72c-La Quinta Country Club**
**7,060 yards; Par 72**
**Purse: $8.8 million**
**First Round**
**Note: Tournament is played on three courses.**

| | |
|---|---|
| J.T. Poston | |
| 30b-32b—62 | -10 |
| Justin Lower | |
| 32c-31c—63 | -9 |
| Joel Dahmen | |
| 33b-31b—64 | -8 |
| Jason Day | |
| 33c-31c—64 | -8 |
| Chris Kirk | |
| 31c-33c—64 | -8 |
| Matti Schmid | |
| 32b-32b—64 | -8 |
| J.J. Spaun | |
| 34c-30c—64 | -8 |
| Harry Higgs | |
| 32b-33b—65 | -7 |
| Rico Hoey | |
| 32c-33c—65 | -7 |
| Charley Hoffman | |
| 31c-34c—65 | -7 |
| Mark Hubbard | |
| 34b-31b—65 | -7 |
| Sepp Straka | |
| 33b-32b—65 | -7 |
| Jackson Suber | |
| 33a-32a—65 | -7 |
| Nick Taylor | |
| 31a-34a—65 | -7 |

## Australian Open

**Friday**
**Melbourne, Australia**
**Purse: AUD43,250,000**
**Surface: Hardcourt outdoor**
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AP): Results Friday from Australian Open at Melbourne Park (seedings in parentheses):
**Women's Singles**
**Third Round**
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (27), Russia, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 6-1, 6-2.
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Clara Tauson, Denmark, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
**Men's Doubles**
**First Round**
Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek, United States, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, and Joran Vliegen (9), Belgium, 6-1, 6-4.
**Men's Doubles**
**Second Round**
Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Adam Pavlasek, Czechia, 6-2, 7-5.
Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (3), Italy, def. Diego Hidalgo, Ecuador, and Luciano Darderi, Italy, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).
**Women's Doubles**
**Second Round**
Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, and Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Viktoriya Tomova, Bulgaria, and Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, 6-1, 7-5.
Taylor Townsend, United States, and Katerina Siniakova (1), Czechia, def. Shuko Aoyama and Eri Hozumi, Japan, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

## Prep Boxscores

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
**John Marshall, 62 University 56**
UNIVERSITY - Maisel 5 2-2 15; Fox 1 0-2 2; Johnson 4 3-6 11; Hall 2 0-0 5; Simpson 2 3-4 7; Stemple 5 5-6 16; Totals 19 13-20 56. JOHN MARSHALL - Reese 4 3-3 12; White 6 0-0 13; Storm 8 9-9 25; Inclan 3 0-0 8; Miller 1 0-0 2; Babiczuk 1 0-0 2; Totals 23 12-12 62.
Three-point goals: University 5 (Maisel 3, Hall, Stemple). John Marshall 4 (Reese, White, Inclan 2).

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 46 | 22 | 19 | 5 | 49 | 122 144 |
| Ott. | 43 | 22 | 18 | 3 | 47 | 124 120 |
| Mont. | 43 | 21 | 18 | 4 | 46 | 131 143 |
| Detroit | 43 | 20 | 19 | 4 | 44 | 124 139 |
| Buffalo | 44 | 17 | 22 | 5 | 39 | 136 148 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 44 | 29 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 159 | 113 |
| Jersey | 46 | 26 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 143 | 116 |
| Caro. | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 149 | 127 |
| Col. | 45 | 22 | 17 | 6 | 50 | 156 | 154 |
| Phila. | 45 | 19 | 20 | 6 | 44 | 138 | 157 |
| Pitt. | 46 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 44 | 137 | 173 |
| Rang. | 43 | 20 | 20 | 3 | 43 | 124 | 134 |
| Island. | 43 | 17 | 19 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 131 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**
**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 45 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 63 | 162 | 109 |
| Minn. | 45 | 27 | 14 | 4 | 58 | 135 | 127 |
| Dallas | 43 | 28 | 14 | 1 | 57 | 140 | 105 |
| Colo. | 45 | 27 | 17 | 1 | 55 | 150 | 140 |
| St. L. | 45 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 46 | 127 | 134 |
| Utah | 43 | 18 | 18 | 7 | 43 | 120 | 130 |
| Nash. | 43 | 14 | 22 | 7 | 35 | 106 | 135 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 151 | 119 |
| Edm. | 44 | 28 | 13 | 3 | 59 | 145 | 120 |
| L.A. | 41 | 24 | 12 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 100 |
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 47 | 14 | 27 | 6 | 34 | 121 | 165 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

## OVAC Wrestling

**71st Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships (at WesBanco Arena)**
**Team Scoring**
**Overall**
1. University 47; 2. Steubenville 42.5; 3. Parkersburg South 39.5; 4. Beaver Local 33.5; 5. John Marshall 30; 6. Barnesville 29.5; 7. (tie) Cameron, Warren Local, Wheeling Park 24; 10. Oak Glen 23; 11. Indian Creek 20; 12. Caldwell 19.5; 13. East Liverpool 18.5; 14.(tie) Brooke, Linsly 16; 16. Union Local 15.5; 17. Weir 13; 18. (tie) Edison, Morgantown, Wheeling Central 12; 21. Martins Ferry 10.5; 22. Cambridge 10; 23. (tie) Bellaire, Harrison Central, Southern Local 8; 26. Toronto 7.5; 27. Fort Frye 7; 28. (tie) Bridgeport, Buckeye Local, St. Clairsville, Shenandoah, Wellsville 4; 33. Shadyside 2; 34. (tie) Beallsville, Frontier, Monroe Central, River, Steubenville Catholic 0
**Class 5A**
1. University 47; 2. Steubenville 42.5; 3. Parkersburg South 39.5; 4. John Marshall 30; 5. (tie) Warren Local, Wheeling Park 24; 7. Brooke 16; 8. Morgantown 12
**Class 4A**
1. Beaver Local 33.5; 2. Oak Glen 23; 3. Indian Creek 20; 4. East Liverpool 18.5; 5. Weir 13; 6. Edison 12; 7. Cambridge 10; 8. Harrison Central 8; 9. (tie) Buckeye Local, St. Clairsville 4
**Class 3A**
1. Barnesville 29.5; 2. Linsly 16; 3. Union Local 15.5; 4. Wheeling Central 12; 5. Martins Ferry 10.5; 6. Bellaire 8; 7. Fort Frye 7; 8. Shenandoah 4
**Class 1A/2A**
1. Cameron 24; 2. Caldwell 19.5; 3. Southern Local 8; 4. Toronto 7.5; 5. (tie) Bridgeport, Wellsville 4; 7. Shadyside 2; 8. (tie) Beallsville, Frontier, Monroe Central, River, Steubenville Catholic 0

## Transactions

**FOOTBALL**
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed WRs Trishton Jackson and Quez Watkins to reserve/futures contract.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Designated DL Larrell Murchison and LB Troy Reeder to return from injured reserve.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Resigned DL Jalen Redmond as an exclusive rights free agent. Signed CB Ambry Thomas to a reserve/futures contract.
**HOCKEY**
DALLAS STARS — Recalled RW Matej Blumel from Texas (AHL). Promoted C Justin Hryckowian from Texas.
MINNESOTA WILD — Reassigned C Devin Shore to Iowa (AHL). Sent C Ben Jones to Iowa. Placed C Marcus Johansson on injured reserve. Recalled Fs Brendan Gaunce and Liam Ohgren from Iowa. Placed LW Kirill Kaprizov on long-term injured reserve.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled F Brian Halonen from Utica (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Called up D Donovan Sebrango from Belleville (AHL). Reassigned C Zack MacEwen to Belleville.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Reassigned G Tristan Jarry to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.

the 11,000-plus football players across all divisions who enter the portal — the terms of some of those life-changing transactions themselves pecked out on cell phones in the middle of the night.

"At the end of the day, the kid deserves the compensation and support," Frazier said in an interview with The Associated Press at the NCAA convention this week. "But the institution, to keep the cycle going, they deserve something as well. We're not in the situation to continue to do that if we keep losing our best and brightest."

### EVEN WITH SUCCESS, CHALLENGES COME FOR MID-SIZED SCHOOLS LIKE NIU

Buoyed by that win over Notre Dame, and a steady string of success over the years, Frazier's school recently announced it was moving its football program from the Mid-American into the Mountain West Conference starting in 2026.

The Mountain West, with champion Boise State in the College Football Playoff this season, is arguably the most formidable of the so-called Group of Five conferences. There are also 129 schools in the FCS — the Football Championship Subdivision that is the latest iteration of what used to be called Division I-AA.

With the House Settlement set to reshape college sports, allowing institutions to pay players directly while also reshaping roster sizes across all sports, smaller schools like NIU have decisions to make. Namely, will they opt into the revenue-sharing agreements that allow the schools to directly pay the players for their name, image, likeness deals? Or will they stick with the model of having third-party collectives broker those deals?

The schools have until March 1 to decide. Neither choice avoids the stark realities of the new college football: It's more expensive than it used to be, and big schools will always have the resources to draw in promising players who honed their skills at small schools.

Frazier used the example of 285-pound defensive tackle Skyler Gill-Howard, who came to NIU as a walk-on, got better each year, had five sacks for the Huskies this season, then entered the transfer portal and will play his last year of eligibility at Texas Tech.

"He did a wonderful job. Our coaching staff did a great job developing him," Frazier said. "The heartache of it is, he's gone. From the G5 perspective, Rozelle Rule," a rule named after the late commissioner, Pete Rozelle. The rule is similar to Frazier's idea in that it allowed the league to award draft picks (and sometimes players) from teams that signed players with expired contracts to the teams those players left.

In soccer, transfer fees have been the norm in Europe — teams essentially pay other teams for players instead of trading for them. It's an estimated $10 billion market, though a recent court ruling there could lead to anything from tweaks to a full-scale overhaul of that system.

### LEADERS LOOKING FOR INNOVATIVE PLANS TO CALM DOWN THE TRANSFER PORTAL

Though the House Settlement brings college sports closer to a solution on how to pay players, the transfer portal remains a moving target.

The leadup to this year's national title game between Ohio State and Notre Dame brought with it stories of massive movement of players, including from the 12 teams that made the College Football Playoff.

Among this season's biggest headline grabbers were the early season departure from UNLV of quarterback Matthew Sluka, who said promises to pay him $100,000 were not kept. Last year, former Florida QB signee Jaden Rashada sued Gators coach Billy Napier over an unpaid $13 million NIL deal. Rashada now plays at Georgia.

More common are accusations of tampering that leads to programs standing by helplessly as players leave without much, if any, warning.

"I can't believe we live in a world where people are making decisions and issuing offers in text messages," NCAA President Charlie Baker said. "The number of kids who have told me terrible stories about misrepresentation — there's no process, accountability, no transparency."

Frazier, always in search of resources to recruit, develop and, now more frequently, replace players, doesn't necessarily see his "talent acquisition" fee as a cure-all. But maybe, he says, it's a start.

He points to the NFL, NBA and other pro leagues that have collective bargaining and drafts that set the framework for their sports.

"We don't have that," he said. "This is one of the guardrails that could get us to the point of acknowledging that, yes, you still can buy your team, but it shouldn't be the wild, wild west."

# Hilltoppers See Wrestling Rankings Boost

WEST LIBERTY - The West Liberty University men's wrestling team continues its impressive season, climbing to No. 9 in the Open Mat tournament rankings while also holding the No. 16 spot in dual rankings. Six individual Hilltopper wrestlers earned national recognition, solidifying the team's reputation as a powerhouse.

Leading the pack is Ty McGeary, who remains at the top of the rankings at 184 lbs. Logan Davis secured the No. 7 spot at 125 lbs., and Parker Bentley is ranked No. 8 at 285 lbs.

Carter Winegardner makes his debut in the rankings, tying at No. 8 at 174 lbs. Alec Cook comes in at No. 14 at 165 lbs., and Jordan Watters rounds out the ranked individuals at No. 15 at 157 lbs.

The Hilltoppers will look to continue their strong performance as they return to the mat this Sunday for the Mount Union Open. The action begins at 9 a.m.

## Rosters

(Continued from Page 11)

The Buckeyes and Irish can be selective when dipping into the portal, and they've predictably had a high success rate with the few players they've taken.

Five of the 22 Ohio State starters in its semifinal win over Texas were transfers, and all have played major roles.

Will Howard (Kansas State) has completed 73.8% of his passes for 919 yards and six touchdowns over the three playoff games. Quinshon Judkins (Mississippi) ran for two touchdowns in the semifinal win over Texas. Will Kacmarek (Ohio) has come back from an upper-body injury to start all three playoff games at tight end.

Caleb Downs (Alabama) had a late interception to finish off Texas. Davison Igbinosun (Mississippi) has a combined 11 tackles and two pass breakups in the three games.

For Notre Dame, four starters in the semifinal against Penn State were transfers. Leonard is one of two Power Four quarterbacks to throw for 2,600 yards and run for 700 this season. Beaux Collins (Clemson) is the team's season receiving leader. Kris Mitchell (Florida International) has been steady at receiver and a big-play threat. RJ Oben (Duke) made a strip sack to set up Notre Dame's only offensive touchdown in its second-round win over Georgia.

The transfers for both teams complement the bevy of high school talent that joins the programs each year.

Nineteen players who signed with Ohio State out of high school have combined for 513 starts, and Ryan Day's classes have landed in the top five in the 247Sports Composite Rankings six straight years. Notre Dame's Freeman has had recruiting classes ranked from seventh to 12th.

The distribution of experience on the rosters is fairly even.

Ohio State leans older, with 13 of its starters in their fourth or fifth years. Ohio State's only first-year starter is star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith.

Notre Dame has nine starters who are either first- or second-year players and five who are fifth- or sixth-year players. The Irish's only freshman starters are offensive lineman Anthonie Knapp, who will miss the championship game because of injury, and cornerback Leonard Moore.

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

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. Brubak-

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.

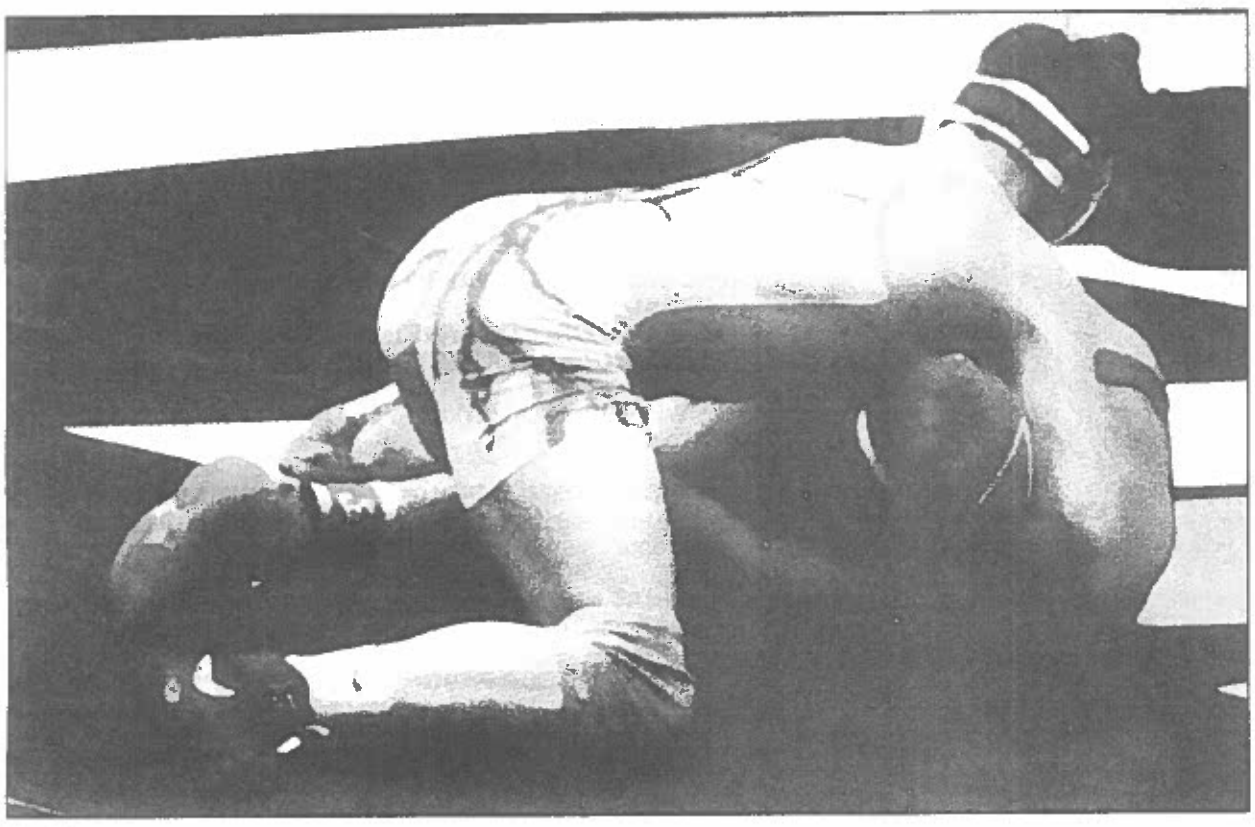
"All have put in the work to have very good seasons," Brubaker said.

Brubaker also mentioned Sebastian

you put them all together in relays," Brubaker said.

Other top seeds include Victoria Bukingham, 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.

See **SWIMMERS**, Page B3



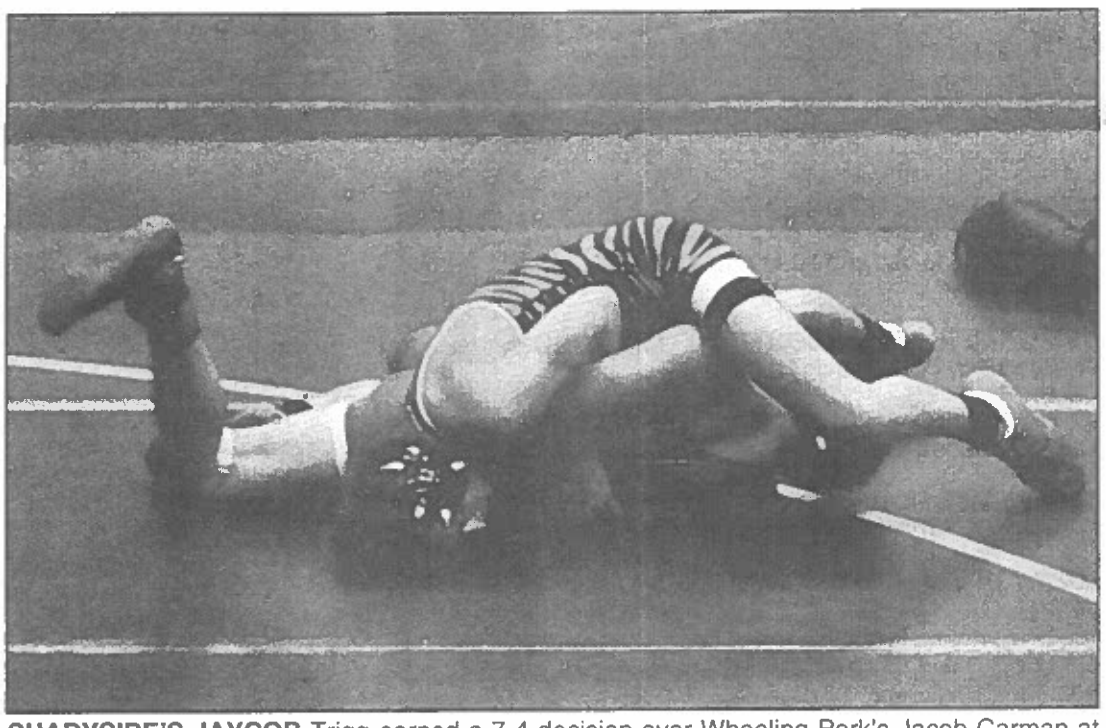
**MARTINS FERRY'S** RJ Welshans has control of Barnesville's Johnathon Foster during their 157-pound bout at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships Thursday inside WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. Welshans won by major decision, 16-8.

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



**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.

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. 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 middleweights."

See **MAUCK**, Page B3

## 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 halftime, 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 may have been hard for many younger players to stay engaged in a game where his impact was limited. But Smith, 19, knew Texas' focus on his play would help the rest of the offense.

"It's frustrating but it's part of being a teammate," Smith said. "You got to open things up."

## Ohio State and Notre Dame built rosters by mixing in a few high-impact transfers

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.

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

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 av-

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For Notre Dame, four starters in the semifinal against Penn State were transfers. Leonard is one of two Power Four quarterbacks to throw for 2,600 yards and run for 700 this season. Beaux Collins (Clemson) is the team's season receiving leader,

## • 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.

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. "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.

"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."

Cook also highlighted Malachi Smith, Brady Bowie, Ronan Maxwell, Mallory Parks, Ella Landini, Elliana McCabe, Makyia Smith and El Green as swimmers to look out for.

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't give them enough compliments," Snyder said. "John Marshall hasn't had this many kids seeded so high in years. We've had some stellar swimmers but we haven't had the depth that we've had this year."

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

That could change on Saturday, especially when it comes to the 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's boys won last year.

## • Mauck

Continued from Page B1

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.

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## Local Schedule

**(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)**

**Thursday, Jan. 16**

**BOWLING**

Linsly at Monroe Central/Beallsville, 3 p.m.

Linsly at River, 3 p.m.

Harrison Central vs. Martins Ferry, 3:30 p.m.

Barnesville at Union Local, 3:30 p.m.

John Marshall at Weirton, 3:30 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Wheeling Central at Weir

Bellaire at Martins Ferry

Shadyside at River

Buckeye Local at Harrison Central

University at John Marshall, 7:30 p.m.

**WRESTLING**

OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament at WesBanco Arena, 6 p.m.

## Sports On TV

**Thursday, Jan. 16**

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

**7 p.m.**

CBSSN — Hofstra at Towson

ESPN2 — Memphis at Temple

ESPNU — High Point at Longwood

FS1 — Michigan at Minnesota

**9 p.m.**

BTN — Maryland at Northwestern

CBSSN — UTEP at Liberty

FS1 — Rutgers at Nebraska

**11 p.m.**

CBSSN — Gonzaga at Oregon St.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

**6 p.m.**

ACCN — Georgia Tech at Notre Dame

**7 p.m.**

BTN — Nebraska at Iowa

PEACOCK — Illinois at Indiana

SECN — Mississippi St. at Tennessee

**8 p.m.**

ACCN — California at Duke

**9 p.m.**

PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Wisconsin

SECN — Florida at Mississippi

**GOLF**

**1 p.m.**

ESPN2 — Latin America Amateur Championship: First Round, Pilar Golf Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**4 p.m.**

GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, First Round, PGA WEST Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.

**7 p.m.**

GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, First Round, Hualalai Golf Club, Kaupulehu, Hawaii

**2:30 a.m. (Friday)**

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, Second Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**NBA BASKETBALL**

**7:30 p.m.**

TNT — Cleveland at Oklahoma City

TRUTV — Cleveland at Oklahoma City (DataCast)

**10 p.m.**

TNT — Houston at Sacramento

TRUTV — Houston at Sacramento (DataCast)

**NHL HOCKEY**

**7 p.m.**

ESPN — Detroit at Florida

**9:30 p.m.**

ESPN — Edmonton at Colorado

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

**9:50 a.m.**

FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al Fateh at Al Hilal

**11:45 a.m.**

FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al Raed at Al Ittihad

**3 p.m.**

USA — Premier League: Southampton at Manchester United

**SOCCER (WOMEN'S)**

**2:45 p.m.**

CBSSN — The Italian Cup: Sassuolo at Inter Milan, Quarterfinal

**TENNIS**

**3 a.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**10 a.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**9 p.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia

**3 a.m. (Friday)**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia

**USHL HOCKEY**

**7 p.m.**

NHLN — 2025 All-Ameri-

## OVAC Seeding

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC); 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Logan Middleton (PS); 4. Dominic Asbury (WC); 5. Noah Schmidt (OG); 6. Heath Thomas (Tor); 7. Zuvan Shipman (Morg); 8. Beau Hudson (Steub); 9. Isaac

## NFL Playoffs

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

Houston at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

L.A. Rams or Minnesota at Philadelphia, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Baltimore at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**Conference Championships**

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

**AFC**

AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**NFC**

NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, **3 p.m. (FOX)**

**Super Bowl LIX**

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**At New Orleans**

Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## NHL Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 45 | 27 | 16 | 2 | 56 | 136 | 128 |
| Florida | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 148 | 137 |
| T. Bay | 42 | 23 | 16 | 3 | 49 | 153 | 119 |
| Boston | 46 | 22 | 19 | 5 | 49 | 122 | 144 |
| Ott. | 43 | 22 | 18 | 3 | 47 | 124 | 120 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Detroit | 43 | 20 | 19 | 4 | 44 | 124 | 139 |
| Buffalo | 44 | 17 | 22 | 5 | 39 | 136 | 148 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 44 | 29 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 159 | 113 |
| Jersey | 46 | 26 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 143 | 116 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 44 | 21 | 17 | 6 | 48 | 152 | 153 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Pitt. | 46 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 44 | 137 | 173 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 43 | 17 | 19 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 131 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 45 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 63 | 162 | 109 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 43 | 28 | 14 | 1 | 57 | 140 | 105 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 45 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 46 | 127 | 134 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 43 | 14 | 22 | 7 | 35 | 106 | 135 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 151 | 119 |
| Edm. | 43 | 27 | 13 | 3 | 57 | 140 | 117 |
| L.A. | 41 | 24 | 12 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 100 |
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 46 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 34 | 120 | 161 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

## Prep Boxscores

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

University 53, Wheeling Park 37

UNIVERSITY – Demidovich 5 3-3 13; Brown 4 2-2 10; Adams 3 0-0 9; Lewis 2 0-0 4; L. Byrer 5 2-2 12; Karpinski 1 0-0 3; J. Byrer 0 0-0 0; Barnes 1 0-0 2; Weaver 0 0-0 0; Helbig 0 0-0 0; Toler 0 0-0 0; Totals: 21-41 7-7 53. WHEELING PARK – Whitmire 2 2-4 7; Bordas 2 0-0 5; Williams 3 0-0 9; Huffman 1 2-4 4; Creighton 3 2-2 8; Simon 1 0-0 2; Beck-James 1 0-0 2; Saunders-Paige 0 0-0 0; Byrd 0 0-0 0; Campbell 0 0-0 0; Totals: 13-39 8-12 37

Three-point goals: University 4 (Adams 3, Karpinski). Wheeling Park 3 (Williams 3)

Weir 85, Madonna 50

WEIR – Mowder 6 0-0 12; Jeffers 8 0-0 17; Horstman 5 0-0 10; Lyons 6 2-2 17; J. Kaczmarek 5 3-6 15; Stevenson 4 0-0 10; E. Kaczmarek 1 0-0 2; Grays 1 0-0 2. Totals 36, 5-8; 85.

MADONNA – Grishkevich 4 3-4 13; DoBraska 1 1-2 3; Miller 4 2-2 11; Crossland 5 1-2 11; Wilharm 1 1-2 3; Carte 1 2-2 4; Fuscardo 2 1-2 5; Totals: 18, 11-16; 50.

Three-point goals: Weir 8 (Lyons 3, J. Kaczmarek 2, Stevenson 2, Jeffers); Madonna 3 (Grishkevich 2, Miller).

St. Clairsville 62, Indian Creek 30

ST. CLAIRSVILLE – Wolfe 1 0-0 3; Muhly 3 0-0 8; B. Schafer 7 0-0 14; Clifford 1 0-0 3; T. Pastor 4 7-8 16; Master 0 4-4 4; Straub 3 4-4 11; L. Schafer 1 0-0 2; King 0 1-2 1; Totals: 19 16-18 60. INDIAN CREEK – Bonecutter 2 0-0 4; Bodo 1 0-0 3; Eddy 2 0-0 4; Pietro 0 1-2 1; Lester 1 1-4 3; Schultz 1 5-7 7; Johnson 2 1-2 5; Nickell 0 2-2 2; Haines 0 1-2 1; Totals: 9 11-18 30

Three-point goals: St. Clairsville 6 (Muhly 2, Wolfe, Clifford, T. Pastor, Straub). Indian Creek 1 (Bodo)

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Monroe Central 50, Caldwell 45

CALDWELL – Arick 2 0-2 5; Franklin 1 5-6 8; Morocco 3 4-5 10; Marshall 1 0-0 2; Sidwell 0 2-4 2; Lowe 2 3-4 8; Mumaw 1 0-0 3; Crock 2 0-0 4; McConnell 1 1-2 3; Totals 13 15-23 45. MONROE CENTRAL – Emery 4 2-4 12; English 3 4-7 11; Miller 4 3-5 11;

# Monroe Central Defeats Caldwell; Weir Offense Erupts vs. Madonna

WOODSFIELD - The Seminoles' girls basketball squad built an early lead and rode it to a hard-fought 50-45 victory over Caldwell on Wednesday on Junior Winland Court.

Monroe Central had four hoopsters reach double-figures. Mayzie Emery and Brylee McFredrick each scored 12, while Jadyn Miller and Jacey English each scored 11. English grabbed 10 rebounds for a double-double, along with six assists. McFrederick had eight rebounds and three steals of her own.

The Seminoles got out to a 17-10 lead after the first quarter, and a 30-24 lead at halftime. Caldwell cut it to 40-38 going into the fourth quarter, but couldn't complete a comeback.

Monroe Central's next outing will be against Wheeling Central Catholic at home on Jan. 18.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Weir 85, Madonna 50**

WEIRTON - Anthony Santagelo finally got to see what his team can look like when it puts four quarters together.

His Red Riders did exactly that on Wednesday night, putting up a new season-high point total to pull away from city rival Madonna on the road Wednesday night inside a packed Dube Dome.

The Red Riders (3-6) scored 23 and 25 in the first two quarters and more than 18 in all four, putting six players into double figures in the process. It is the first time they have scored more than 70 since the third game of the season, and came as a big bounce back from a tough loss to Linsly the night prior.

Ryant Lyons knocked down three of the Red Riders' eight triples and finished tied for a game-high with 17 points, Anthony Jefferson also netted 17, while Justin Kaczmarek tallied 15 off the bench with a pair of 3s, Sincere Stevenson also reached double digits off the bench with 10 and two 3s, Damir Mowder tallied 12 and Jonathan Horstman also netted 10.

For Madonna, the Red Riders' pressure was just too much to handle. The Dons (2-6) were able to hang within striking distance through one, trailing 23-16, but the Red Riders opened a 48-24 lead at halftime and Madonna was not able to claw back into it.

Madonna got 13 and a pair of treys from Koleton Grishkevich and 11 from Andre Crossland.

**(Late Tuesday)**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**Linsly 53, Cameron 38**

CAMERON - The Cadets got 20 points from Haylen Cook on their way to a road victory over the Dragons on Tuesday.

Jade Purpura followed with 12 for Linsly, who led 15-8 after the first quarter and 29-20 at halftime.

Maci Neely had eight points and seven rebounds for the Dragons. Kendra Thomas matched her point total.

# West Liberty Drops Doubleheader vs. Concord

WEST LIBERTY - The No. 10-ranked West Liberty University men's basketball team suffered a tough 85-77 loss to Concord University on Wednesday night at the ASRC, marking their third defeat in the last four games.

Concord set the tone early, building a double-digit lead in the first half. Although the Hilltoppers clawed their way back, the Mountain Lions maintained a slim 39-36 edge heading into halftime.

West Liberty battled hard in the second half and briefly took their only lead of the game at 65-64 on a hook shot by Finley Woodward with 7:47 left on the clock. However, Concord responded immediately with a 6-0 run, reclaiming the advantage at 70-65. Despite several attempts to close the gap, the Hilltoppers were unable to get closer than three points down the stretch.

Five Hilltoppers scored in double figures, with JJ Harper leading the way with 14 points. Dante Spadafora contributed 11, while Vadim Clanet, Daniel Autrey, and Lanyc Shuler each added 10 points.

The loss drops West Liberty to 12-3 overall and 6-2 in the Mountain East Conference (MEC), while Concord improves to 6-6 overall and 5-3 in MEC play.

The Hilltoppers will look to bounce back on Saturday when they travel to Glenville State. Tipoff is set for 4 p.m.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Concord 68, West Liberty 65**

WEST LIBERTY - The West Liberty University women's basketball team

Photo provided

West Liberty's Lanyc Shuler scores a layup Thursday during the Hilltoppers' home game against Concord.

came up just short in a tightly contested game against Concord University, falling Wednesday night at the ASRC.

Both teams struggled to find offensive rhythm in the opening quarter, with the score knotted at 10-10 after 10 minutes. The visiting Mountain Lions seized momentum early in the second quarter with an 8-2 run, building an 18-12 lead midway through the period. The Hilltoppers shot just 25 percent from the field in the first half and entered the locker room trailing 29-24.

West Liberty regrouped in the third quarter, focusing on attacking the basket. The shift in strategy paid off, as the Hilltoppers shot an impressive 50 percent from the floor and limited themselves to just two three-point attempts in the frame. The effort trimmed Concord's lead to one point, 48-47, heading into the final quarter.

Bailee Smith's three-pointer to open the fourth gave West Liberty its first lead since early in the first quarter at 10-8. The Hilltoppers pushed ahead 57-54 with 4:14 remaining, but Concord responded with a decisive 10-0 run over the next 1:40, reclaiming control at 64-57.

Despite a late push by West Liberty, highlighted by a pair of free throws from Smith with 46 seconds left to close the gap to 67-65, the Hilltoppers were unable to complete the comeback.

Smith paced West Liberty with 17 points, while Jenna Riccardo delivered a standout performance with a double-double, tallying 16 points and 13 rebounds. Anna Lucarelli also chipped in with 11 points.

The Hilltoppers, now 5-10 overall and 3-5 in the Mountain East Conference (MEC), will look to bounce back on Saturday when they travel to Glenville State for a 2 p.m. tipoff.

## Park

**(Continued from Page 9)**

University went on a 10-0 run sparked by Luke Byrer's five points for a 26-19 advantage. The surge increased to 17-1 before Wheeling Park made a pair of late free throws for a 33-22 lead for the visitors.

cluding 5-for-12 in the first quarter with all seven misses coming on close-range shots, something that Schmidle said is the norm for the basket at the east end of the gym.

"I've been coming here for 20 years

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

**BOWLING**

Monroe Central/Beallsville at Wheeling Central, 3 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

St. Clairsville at Indian Creek

University at Wheeling Park, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

St. Clairsville at Barnesville

Brooke at Buckeye Local

Union Local at Buckeye Trail

## SPORTS ON TV

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

**AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE**

7 p.m.

NHLN — Belleville at Lehigh Valley

**CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE**

2:30 p.m.

NHLN — Playoffs: ZSC Lions Zurich at Geneve-Servette, Semifinal - First Game

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

6 p.m.

SECN — South Carolina at Vandebilt

7 p.m.

ACCN — California at North Carolina

CBSSN — George Mason at Dayton

ESPN2 — Kansas at Iowa St.

ESPNU — NC State at Virginia Tech

FS1 — Seton Hall at Butler

7:30 p.m.

BTN — Penn St. at Michigan St.

8 p.m.

SECN — Georgia at Tennessee

9 p.m.

ACCN — SMU at Virginia

CBSSN — Rhode Island at Loyola of Chicago

ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Florida St.

9:30 p.m.

BTN — Purdue at Washington

10 p.m.

SECN — Texas at Oklahoma

11 p.m.

CBSSN — Utah St. at UNLV

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

9 p.m.

FS1 — Seton Hall at Marquette

9:30 p.m.

PEACOCK — Penn St. at UCLA

10 p.m.

PEACOCK — Northwestern at Southern Cal

**GOLF**

1 p.m.

GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Final Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

**2:30 a.m. (Thursday)**

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, First Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**NBA BASKETBALL**

7:10 p.m

ESPN — New York at Philadelphia

9:35 p.m

ESPN — Golden State at Minnesota

**NHL HOCKEY**

6 p.m.

TNT — Carolina at Buffalo

TRUTV — Carolina at Buffalo (DataCast)

8:30 p.m.

TNT — Edmonton at Minnesota

TRUTV — Edmonton at Minnesota (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

12:20 p.m.

FS2 — The French Cup: FC Nantes at Stade Brestois 29, Round of 32

2:30 p.m.

USA — Premier League: Aston Villa at Everton

2:50 p.m.

FS2 — The French Cup: Paris Saint-Germain FC at FC Espaly, Round of 32

**TENNIS**

3 a.m.

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

Noon

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

9 p.m.

ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**3 a.m. (Thursday)**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## MBB TOP 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college bas

## NFL PLAYOFFS

**Wild-card Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Houston 32, L.A. Chargers 12

Baltimore 28, Pittsburgh 14

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Buffalo 31, Denver 7

Philadelphia 22, Green Bay 10

Washington 23, Tampa Bay 20

**Monday, Jan. 13**

L.A. Rams 27, Minnesota 9

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

Houston at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

L.A. Rams or Minnesota at Philadelphia, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Baltimore at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**Conference Championships**

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

**AFC**

AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**NFC**

NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, 3 p.m. (FOX)

**Super Bowl LIX**

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**At New Orleans**

Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## PREP BOXSCORES

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Union Local 65, John Marshall 52**

JOHN MARSHALL – Haught 1 3-5 5; Martin 1 0-0 2; Knapp 4 0-0 9; Snyder 2 0-0 4; Helms 4 0-2 10; Gaiser 8 0-0 18; Watkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 22-49 3-8 52. UNION LOCAL – Saunders 8 3-4 21; Mehl 9 2-2 26; Gregor 0 0-0 0; Schumacher 4 0-0 10; Causby 1 1-2 3; Stroud 0 0-0 0; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Carpenter 0 0-0 0; Verbeek 0 0-0 0; Hess 0 0-0 0; Kerns 2 1-2 5; Boone 0 0-0 0; Porter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-41 7-10 65

Three-point goals: John Marshall 5 (Helms 2, Gaiser 2, Knapp). Union Local 10 (Mehl 6, Saunders 2, Schumacher 2)

**Harrison Central 53, Toronto 39**

TORONTO – Filby 1 2-2 4; Grimes 1 2-2 5; Buchanan 3 2-2 8; Fair 6 3-4 17; Houry 1 3-4 5; Heckathorn 0 0-2 0; Totaled: 12 12-16 39. HARRISON CENTRAL – Tanner 2 0-0 6; Pelegreen 3 0-0 6; Kamarec 1 0-2 3; J. Quito 2 0-0 5; Elliott 4 2-2 10; Keener 3 3-4 9; Arbaugh 4 6-8 14; Totals: 19 12-16 53

Three-point goals: Toronto 3 (Fair 2, Grimes). Harrison Central 3 (Tanner 2, J. Quito)

**Linsly 80, Weir 48**

LINSLY – Murray 1 0-0 2, Upton 1 0-0 2, Rea 1 0-0 2, Gill 6 0-0 16, Goodwin 7 0-0 14, Bonar 1 2-2 5, Ndiaye 2 0-0 5, Ristovic 2 0-0 4, Petrusic 4 2-4 10, Smith 1 0-0 2, Salazar 7 4-5 18. Totals 33 8-11 80. WEIR – J. Kaczmarek 6 5-6 18, Mowder 1 3-6 5, Stevenson 3 0-0 6, Jeffers 3 0-1 6, Horstman 1 0-0 2, E. Kaczmarek 1 0-0 3, Lyons 2 0-0 5, Totals 17 8-13 48.

Three-point goals: Linsly 6 (Gill 4, Bonar, Ndiaye) Weir 4 (J. Kaczmarek, Glyptis, E. Kaczmarek, Lyons)

**River 50, Magnolia 40**

RIVER – Dennis 7 0-1 14; Longwell 5 2-3 15; Milhoan 3 2-2 8; Peyton Blue 3 3-4 9; Price 1 0-0 2; Smith 1 0-0 2; Totals 20 7-10 50. MAGNOLIA – Oates 0 5-8 5; Bailey 0 4-4 4; Christen 5 0-0 13; Greathouse 1 0-0 2; Hood 2 1-4 8; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 3 0-0 6; Totals 12 10-16 40.

Three-point goals: River 3 (Longwell 3). Magnolia 4 (Christen 3, Hood).

**Wheeling Central 80, Oak Glen 35**

WHEELING CENTRAL – L. Sancomb 2 4-4 9; Dean 2 0-0 5; E. SAncomb 6 1-2 13; Gianangeli 2 0-0 7; Anthony 1 0-0 2; Kusic 3 0-0 6; Estep 2 0-0 5; Billick 3 0-0 8; Olejasz 7 3-4 17; Brodegard 4 0-0 8; Totals 33 8-10 80. OAK GLEN – Hartung 1 0-0 2; Kell 3 0-0 7; Knisely 1 1-2 3; Weerley 1 0-2 2; Dawson 1 0-0 3; Willey 1 0-0 2; Hissam 2 0-0 5; Geisse 4 0-0 8; Evans 1 0-0 3; Totals 15 1-4 35.

Three-point goals: 6 (L. Sancomb, Dean, Gianangeli, Estep, Billick 2). Oak Glen 4 (Kell, Dawson, Hissam, Evans).

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**University 60, Wheeling Park 45**

UNIVERSITY – Maisel 4 8-9 18; Fox 8 1-2 19; Johnson 3 0-0 8; Simpson 3 0-2 6; Stemple 3 3-6 12; Totals 21 12-19 60. WHEELING PARK – Miller 4 0-2 11; Hupp 2 0-0 4; Downer 0 1-2 1; Daugherty 2 0-0 5;

## NHL STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 45 | 27 | 16 | 2 | 56 | 136 | 128 |
| Florida | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 148 | 137 |
| T. Bay | 42 | 23 | 16 | 3 | 49 | 153 | 119 |
| Boston | 46 | 22 | 19 | 5 | 49 | 122 | 144 |
| Ott. | 43 | 22 | 18 | 3 | 47 | 124 | 120 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Detroit | 43 | 20 | 19 | 4 | 44 | 124 | 139 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 44 | 29 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 159 | 113 |
| Jersey | 46 | 26 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 143 | 116 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 44 | 21 | 17 | 6 | 48 | 152 | 153 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Pitt. | 46 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 44 | 137 | 173 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 43 | 17 | 19 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 131 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 45 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 63 | 162 | 109 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 43 | 28 | 14 | 1 | 57 | 140 | 105 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 45 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 46 | 127 | 134 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 43 | 14 | 22 | 7 | 35 | 106 | 135 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 151 | 119 |
| Edm. | 43 | 27 | 13 | 3 | 57 | 140 | 117 |
| L.A. | 41 | 24 | 12 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 100 |
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 46 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 34 | 120 | 161 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

Tuesday's Games

Washington 3, Anaheim 0

San Jose 6, Detroit 3

Dallas 4, Toronto 1

Seattle 4, Pittsburgh 2

Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2, SO

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2

Ottawa 2, N.Y. Islanders 0

Florida 2, New Jersey 1, SO

St. Louis 2, Calgary 1

Winnipeg 6, Vancouver 1

Nashville 5, Vegas 3

Montreal at Utah, late

N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, late

**Wednesday's Games**

Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.

Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

## NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 28 | 11 | .718 | — |
| NY | 26 | 15 | .634 | 3 |
| Phila | 15 | 23 | .395 | 12½ |
| Brook | 13 | 26 | .333 | 15 |
| Toronto | 9 | 31 | .225 | 19½ |

**Southeast 250**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orl | 23 | 18 | .561 | — |
| Miami | 20 | 18 | .526 | 1½ |
| Atl | 20 | 19 | .513 | 2 |
| Char | 8 | 28 | .222 | 12½ |
| Wash | 6 | 32 | .158 | 15½ |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleve | 34 | 5 | .872 | — |
| Milw | 21 | 17 | .553 | 12½ |
| Ind | 22 | 19 | .537 | 13 |
| Det | 21 | 19 | .525 | 13½ |
| Chi | 18 | 22 | .450 | 16½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hou | 26 | 12 | .684 | — |
| Mem | 25 | 15 | .625 | 2 |
| Dallas | 22 | 17 | .564 | 4½ |
| SA | 19 | 19 | .500 | 7 |
| NO | 9 | 32 | .220 | 18½ |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City | 33 | 6 | .846 | — |
| Den | 23 | 15 | .605 | 9½ |
| Minne | 21 | 18 | .538 | 12 |
| Port | 13 | 25 | .342 | 19½ |
| Utah | 10 | 28 | .263 | 22½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clippers | 21 | 17 | .553 | — |
| Lakers | 20 | 17 | .541 | ½ |
| Sac | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2 |
| Pho | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |
| Gold. St. | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |

**Tuesday's Games**

Oklahoma City 118, Philadelphia 102

Cleveland 127, Indiana 117

Atlanta 122, Phoenix 117

Milwaukee 130, Sacramento 115

New Orleans 119, Chicago 113

Denver at Dallas, late

Brooklyn at Portland, late

**Wednesday's Games**

New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.

Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.

Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.

Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers

## OVAC SEEDING

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

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165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill

# Cadets Start Off Strong vs. Weir; Huskies Win In The Middle vs. Toronto

WEIRTON - The Weir boys' basketball team was looking to get off to a good start against Linsly.

Unfortunately for the Red Riders, that didn't happen as the Cadets scored the first nine points of the game en route to a 80-48 victory Tuesday night on Ron "Fritz" Williams Court inside the Carl Hamill Fieldhouse.

Justin Kaczmarek recorded a team-high 18 points to lead the way offensively for Weir. Syncere Stevenson and Anthony Jeffers each finished with six.

Four players scored in double digits for Linsly. Individually, Ruben Salazar scored a team-high 18 points to lead the way. Also, Adam Gill tallied 16 points, D'arrae Goodwin collected 14 and Uros Petrusic produced 10.

Weir is scheduled to play city-rival Madonna at 6 p.m. tonight inside the Dube Dome. Madonna's scheduled game against Edison Tuesday at home was postponed.

Linsly is slated to hit the road Saturday to play Westerville Central.

**Harrison Central 53, Toronto 39**

CADIZ - The Huskies outscored visiting Red Knights 24-11 in the middle two periods and that proved to be the recipe for a victory.

Harrison Central received 14 points from Reed Arbaugh and 10 from Brady Elliott. EJ Keener added nine.

Toronto's Brady Fair led all scorers with 17. Austin Buchanan finished with eight.

**River 50, Magnolia 40**

NEW MARTINSVILLE - The Pilots made a big fourth-quarter push and tallied a road win against the Blue Eagles on Tuesday.

Magnolia led 38-35 through three quarters but River won the crucial fourth frame 15-2 to walk out with a victory.

River's Evan Longwell led all scorers with 15 points, making three 3-pointers. Lucas Dennis scored 14 and Peyton Blue had nine.

Kingston Christen finished with 13 points for Magnolia. Noah Hood was next-highest with eight points.

River made 20 field goals to Magnolia's 12, but Magnolia won the free throw margin, 10-16 vs. 7-10.

**Wheeling Central 80, Oak Glen 35**

NEW CUMBERLAND - The Maroon Knights breezed by the Golden Bears on the road Tuesday, getting scoring contributions from everyone on their bench in a decisive victory.

Max Olejasz led all scorers with 17. Eli Sancomb scored 13, and Luke Sancomb scored nine.

Oak Glen's Gavin Geisse led his team with eight points.

Wheeling Central improves to 7-1 with the win. Oak Glen falls to 4-7.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**John Marshall 71, Weir 45**

MOUNDSVILLE - Rilee Storm had 24 points and 12 rebounds as the Monarchs (6-5) pulled away from the Red Riders.

John Marshall led 15-10 after one quarter; 32-25 at the half and 46-37 at the end of three quarters before outscoring Weir, 25-8, in the pivotal fourth quarter.

Kalyn Reese also posted a double-double for the Monarchs with 18 points and 10 boards.

Reyna Hoover had 20 points for the Red Riders.

The Monarchs host University on Thursday. The Hawks defeated Wheeling Park Tuesday night.

**BOWLING**

**Patriots Roll Past Monarchs**

**Boys**

Wheeling Park posted a 1,967 to 1,170 victory over John Marshall as Kaden Miller rolled games of 248 and 201 for a nifty 449. Sam Metzner had a 202 game and a 378 series.

**Girls**

Wheeling Park slipped by John Marshall 1,632 to 1,628.

Emma Wear led the way with a 194 game and a 351 series. Erin Elswick with a 168 game.

The Monarchs were led by Mylie Scott with a 306 series and Shelby Crow with a 166 game.

**(Late Monday)**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**Bellaire 61, Shadyside 26**

BELLAIRE - Zara Harveth exploded for 30 points as the Big Reds romped past the visiting Tigers inside the 'House of Champions.' She was 11-for-26 from the floor, including 7-for-20 from three-point land. She also grabbed seven rebounds.

Rhyan O'Grady added 10 points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists for Bellaire. Aubree Hines had six points and five boards.

Kaci Tsoras led Shadyside with 17 points.

**Harrison Central 42, Edison 38**

The Huskies (9-5) slipped past the Wildcats as Kara Blackburn buried four treys for 12 points. Lauren Doane added eight points and 14 rebounds, while Maddie Sedgmer had six points and 10 rebounds. Kennedy Dunlap chipped in 11 rebounds.

Abigail Boka led Edison with 18 points.

# Tonje Scores 17, No. 24 Badgers Hold Off Ohio State 70-68

ACCN — California at North Carolina
CBSSN — George Mason at Dayton
ESPN2 — Kansas at Iowa St.
ESPNU — NC State at Virginia Tech
FS1 — Seton Hall at Butler
**7:30 p.m.**
BTN — Penn St. at Michigan St.
**8 p.m.**
SECN — Georgia at Tennessee
**9 p.m.**
ACCN — SMU at Virginia
CBSSN — Rhode Island at Loyola of Chicago
ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Florida St.
**9:30 p.m.**
BTN — Purdue at Washington
**10 p.m.**
SECN — Texas at Oklahoma
**11 p.m.**
CBSSN — Utah St. at UNLV

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

**9 p.m.**
FS1 — Seton Hall at Marquette
**9:30 p.m.**
PEACOCK — Penn St. at UCLA
**10 p.m.**
PEACOCK — Northwestern at Southern Cal

**GOLF**

**1 p.m.**
GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Final Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas
**2:30 a.m. (Thursday)**
GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, First Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**NBA BASKETBALL**

**7:10 p.m.**
ESPN — New York at Philadelphia
**9:35 p.m.**
ESPN — Golden State at Minnesota

**NHL HOCKEY**

**6 p.m.**
TNT — Carolina at Buffalo
TRUTV — Carolina at Buffalo (DataCast)
**8:30 p.m.**
TNT — Edmonton at Minnesota
TRUTV — Edmonton at Minnesota (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

**12:20 p.m.**
FS2 — The French Cup: FC Nantes at Stade Brestois 29, Round of 32
**2:30 p.m.**
USA — Premier League: Aston Villa at Everton
**2:50 p.m.**
FS2 — The French Cup: Paris Saint-Germain FC at FC Espaly, Round of 32

**TENNIS**

**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
**Noon**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
**9 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Thursday)**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## MBB Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll as of Jan. 13, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

| | Record | Pts | Prv |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Auburn (60) | 15-1 | 1548 | 2 |
| 2. Iowa St. | 14-1 | 1469 | 3 |
| 3. Duke (1) | 14-2 | 1403 | 4 |
| 4. Alabama | 14-2 | 1338 | 5 |
| 5. Florida (1) | 15-1 | 1326 | 8 |
| 6. Tennessee | 15-1 | 1251 | 1 |
| 7. Marquette | 14-2 | 1184 | 7 |
| 8. Kentucky | 13-3 | 1039 | 6 |
| 9. Kansas | 12-3 | 983 | 11 |
| 10. Houston | 12-3 | 935 | 12 |
| 11. Texas A&M | 13-3 | 883 | 10 |
| 12. Michigan St. | 14-2 | 797 | 16 |
| 13. Oregon | 15-2 | 781 | 15 |
| 14. UConn | 13-4 | 665 | 9 |
| 15. Miss. St. | 14-2 | 624 | 14 |
| 16. Gonzaga | 14-4 | 569 | 18 |
| 17. Purdue | 13-4 | 553 | 20 |
| 18. Memphis | 13-3 | 511 | 19 |
| 19. Illinois | 12-4 | 496 | 13 |
| 20. Michigan | 13-3 | 418 | 24 |
| 21. Mississippi | 14-2 | 351 | 23 |
| 22. Utah St. | 16-1 | 250 | 25 |
| 23. Georgia | 14-2 | 221 | - |
| 24. Wisconsin | 13-3 | 132 | - |
| 25. Baylor | 11-4 | 119 | - |

Others receiving votes: St. John's 83, Oklahoma 63, West Virginia 61, Arizona 26, Louisville 17, Texas Tech 12, Maryland 11, Clemson 8, Missouri 8, Cincinnati 4, San Diego St. 4, Saint Mary's 3, UC Irvine 2, New Mexico 2.

## Prep Boxscores

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**Union Local 65, John Marshall 52**

JOHN MARSHALL – Haught 1 3-5 5; Martin 1 0-0 2; Knapp 4 0-0 9; Snyder 2 0-0 4; Helms 4 0-2 10; Gaiser 8 0-0 18; Watkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 22-49 3-8 52. UNION LOCAL – Saunders 8 3-4 21; Mehl 9 2-2 26; Gregor 0 0-0 0; Schumacher 4 0-0 10; Causby 1 1-2 3; Stroud 0 0-0 0; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Carpenter 0 0-0 0; Verbeek 0 0-0 0; Hess 0 0-0 0; Kerns 2 1-2 5; Boone 0 0-0 0; Porter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-41 7-10 65

Three-point goals: John Marshall 5 (Helms 2, Gaiser 2, Knapp). Union Local 10 (Mehl 6, Saunders 2, Schumacher 2)

**Harrison Central 53, Toronto 39**

TORONTO – Filby 1 2-2 4; Grimes 1 2-2 5; Buchanan 3 2-2 8; Fair 6 3-4 17; Houry 1 3-4 5; Heckathorn 0 0-2 0; Totaled: 12 12-16 39. HARRISON CENTRAL – Tanner 2 0-0 6; Pelegreen 3 0-0 6; Kamarec 1 0-2 3; J. Quito 2 0-0 5; Elliott 4 2-2 10; Keener 3 3-4 9; Arbaugh 4 6-8 14; Totals: 19 12-16 53

Three-point goals: Toronto 3 (Fair 2, Grimes). Harrison Central 3 (Tanner 2, J. Quito)

**Linsly 80, Weir 48**

LINSLY – Murray 1 0-0 2, Upton 1 0-0 2, Rea 1 0-0 2, Gill 6 0-0 16, Goodwin 7 0-0 14, Bonar 1 2-2 5, Ndiaye 2 0-0 5, Ristovic 2 0-0 4, Petrusic 4 2-4 10, Smith 1 0-0 2, Salazar 7 4-5 18. Totals 33 8-11 80. WEIR – J. Kaczmarek 6 5-6 18, Mowder 1 3-6 5, Stevenson 3 0-0 6, Jeffers 3 0-1 6, Horstman 1 0-0 2, E. Kaczmarek 1 0-0 3, Lyons 2 0-0 5, Totals 17 8-13 48.

Three-point goals: Linsly 6 (Gill 4, Bonar, Ndiaye) Weir 4 (J. Kaczmarek, Glyptis, E. Kaczmarek, Lyons)

**River 50, Magnolia 40**

RIVER – Dennis 7 0-1 14; Longwell 5 2-3 15; Milhoan 3 2-2 8; Peyton Blue 3 3-4 9; Price 1 0-0 2; Smith 1 0-0 2; Totals 20 7-10 50. MAGNOLIA – Oates 0 5-8 5; Bailey 0 4-4 4; Christen 5 0-0 13; Greathouse 1 0-0 2; Hood 2 1-4 8; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 3 0-0 6; Totals 12 10-16 40.

Three-point goals: River 3 (Longwell 3). Magnolia 4 (Christen 3, Hood).

**Wheeling Central 80, Oak Glen 35**

WHEELING CENTRAL – L. Sancomb 2 4-4 9; Dean 2 0-0 5; E. SAncomb 6 1-2 13; Gianangeli 2 0-0 7; Anthony 1 0-0 2; Kusic 3 0-0 6; Estep 2 0-0 5; Billick 3 0-0 8; Olejasz 7 3-4 17; Brodegard 4 0-0 8; Totals 33 8-10 80. OAK GLEN – Hartung 1 0-0 2; Kell 3 0-0 7; Knisely 1 1-2 3; Weerley 1 0-2 2; Dawson 1 0-0 3; Willey 1 0-0 2; Hissam 2 0-0 5; Geisse 4 0-0 8; Evans 1 0-0 3; Totals 15 1-4 35.

Three-point goals: 6 (L. Sancomb, Dean, Gianangeli, Estep, Billick 2). Oak Glen 4 (Kell, Dawson, Hissam, Evans).

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
**University 60, Wheeling Park 45**

UNIVERSITY – Maisel 4 8-9 18; Fox 8 1-2 19; Johnson 3 0-0 8; Simpson 3 0-2 6; Stemple 3 3-6 12; Totals 21 12-19 60. WHEELING PARK – Miller 4 0-2 11; Hupp 2 0-0 4; Downer 0 1-2 1; Daugherty 2 0-0 5; Bordas 10 0-0 24; Totals 18 1-4 45.

Three-point goals: University 6 (Maisel 2, Fox 2, Johnson 2). Wheeling Park 8 (Miller 3, Daugherty, Bordas 4).

**John Marshall 71, Weir 45**

WEIR – Turner 1 2-2 4; Faulks 3 0-0 6; Hoover 7 5-8 20; Weber 2 0-0 4; Utt 5 1-4 11; Totals: 18 8-14 45. JOHN MARSHALL – Finley 1 0-0 2; Reese 7 1-1 17; White 1 4-6 6; Schwing 1 0-0 2; Storm 8 5-5 24; Inclan 3 0-0 8; Miller 1 1-2 3; Ebert 1 0-0 2; Wells 0 0-0 0; Farmer 0 0-0 0; Shock 1 0-0 3; Zuk 0 0-0 0; Babiczuk 2 0-2 4; Whitlatch 0 0-0 0, Totals: 26 11-16 71

Three-point goals: Weir 1 (Hoover); John Marshall 7 (Storm 3, Reese 2, Inclan 2)

**(Late Monday)**
**GIRLS**
**Bellaire 61, Shadyside 26**

SHADYSIDE – Zeroski 0 0-0 0; Tsoras 5 6-8 17; Parr 0 0-0 0; Melanko 1 0-0 2; Samsa 2 0-0 6; A. Hines 0 0-0 0; Parker 0 0-0 0; G. Hines 0 1-2 1; Totals: 8 7-10 26. BELLAIRE – Kendle 0 0-0 0; Edgar 1 0-0 2; Horvath 11 1-3 30; Mason 4 0-0 8; Morgan 2 1-2 5; O'Grady 4 1-5 10; Mayer 0 0-0 0; Hines 2 0-0 6; Kanyuch 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-52 3-10 61

Three-point goals: Shadyside 3 (Samsa 2, Tsoras). Bellaire 10 (Harveth 7, O'Grady, Hines 2)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 46 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 34 | 120 | 161 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

Tuesday's Games
Washington 3, Anaheim 0
San Jose 6, Detroit 3
Dallas 4, Toronto 1
Seattle 4, Pittsburgh 2
Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2, SO
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Ottawa 2, N.Y. Islanders 0
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, SO
St. Louis 2, Calgary 1
Winnipeg 6, Vancouver 1
Nashville 5, Vegas 3
Montreal at Utah, late
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, late

**Wednesday's Games**
Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

## NBA Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 28 | 11 | .718 | — |
| NY | 26 | 15 | .634 | 3 |
| Phila | 15 | 23 | .395 | 12½ |
| Brook | 13 | 26 | .333 | 15 |
| Toronto | 9 | 31 | .225 | 19½ |

| Southeast 250 | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orl | 23 | 18 | .561 | — |
| Miami | 20 | 18 | .526 | 1½ |
| Atl | 20 | 19 | .513 | 2 |
| Char | 8 | 28 | .222 | 12½ |
| Wash | 6 | 32 | .158 | 15½ |

| Central Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleve | 34 | 5 | .872 | — |
| Milw | 21 | 17 | .553 | 12½ |
| Ind | 22 | 19 | .537 | 13 |
| Det | 21 | 19 | .525 | 13½ |
| Chi | 18 | 22 | .450 | 16½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| Southwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hou | 26 | 12 | .684 | — |
| Mem | 25 | 15 | .625 | 2 |
| Dallas | 22 | 17 | .564 | 4½ |
| SA | 19 | 19 | .500 | 7 |
| NO | 9 | 32 | .220 | 18½ |

| Northwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City | 33 | 6 | .846 | — |
| Den | 23 | 15 | .605 | 9½ |
| Minne | 21 | 18 | .538 | 12 |
| Port | 13 | 25 | .342 | 19½ |
| Utah | 10 | 28 | .263 | 22½ |

| Pacific Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clippers | 21 | 17 | .553 | — |
| Lakers | 20 | 17 | .541 | ½ |
| Sac | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2 |
| Pho | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |
| Gold. St. | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |

**Tuesday's Games**
Oklahoma City 118, Philadelphia 102
Cleveland 127, Indiana 117
Atlanta 122, Phoenix 117
Milwaukee 130, Sacramento 115
New Orleans 119, Chicago 113
Denver at Dallas, late
Brooklyn at Portland, late

**Wednesday's Games**
New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

## NHL Moves

BOSTON BRUINS — Moved D Hampus Lindholm to long-term injured reserve. Promoted D Michael Callahan from Providence (AHL). Recalled C Matthew Poitras from Providence. Placed C Mark Kastelic and D Charlie McAvoy on injured reserve.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Ty Smith from Chicago (AHL). Placed G Frederik Andersen on injured reserve.

EDMONTON OILERS — Recalled C Noah Philip from Bakersfield (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Activated LW Chris Kreider from injured reserve.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Activated C Evgeni Malkin from injured reserve.

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Activated LW Igor Chernyshov from the injured non-roster list and assigned to San Jose (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Jack Finley from Syracuse (AHL). Sent F Gage Goncalves to Syracuse.

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB — Placed RW Dylan Guenther on injured reserve.

tutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC); 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Logan Middleton (PS); 4. Dominic Asbury (WC); 5. Noah Schmidt (OG); 6. Heath Thomas (Tor); 7. Zuvan Shipman (Morg); 8. Beau Hudson (Steub); 9. Isaac Prescott (BvL); 10. Steven Lenhart (FF); 11. Gabe Glenn (ED); 12. Jorge Alvarez (BuL)

## ECHL

**Tuesday's Games**
Orlando 2, Jacksonville 0
Tulsa 4, Allen 3

**Wednesday's Games**
Maine at Indy, 7 p.m.
Savannah at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Cincinnati, 7:35 p.m.
Allen at Wichita, 8:05 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**
No games scheduled

**Friday's Games**
Jacksonville at Reading, 7 p.m.
Kalamazoo at Indy, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Worcester, 7:05 p.m.
South Carolina at Greenville, 7:05 p.m.
Trois-Rivieres at Norfolk, 7:05 p.m.

zar scored a team-high 18 points to lead the way. Also, Adam Gill tallied 16 points. D'arrae Goodwin collected 14 and Uros Petrusic produced 10.

Weir is scheduled to play city-rival Madonna at 6 p.m. tonight inside the Dube Dome. Madonna's scheduled game against Edison Tuesday at home was postponed.

Linsly is slated to hit the road Saturday to play Westerville Central.

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CADIZ - The Huskies outscored visiting Red Knights 24-11 in the middle two periods and that proved to be the recipe for a victory.

Harrison Central received 14 points from Reed Arbaugh and 10 from Brady Elliott. EJ Keener added nine.

Toronto's Brady Fair led all scorers with 17. Austin Buchanan finished with eight.

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Magnolia led 38-35 through three quarters but River won the crucial fourth frame 15-2 to walk out with a victory.

River's Evan Longwell led all scorers with 15 points, making three 3-pointers. Lucas Dennis scored 14 and Peyton Blue had nine.

Kingston Christen finished with 13 points for Magnolia. Noah Hood was next-highest with eight points.

River made 20 field goals to Magnolia's 12, but Magnolia won the free throw margin, 10-16 vs. 7-10.

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NEW CUMBERLAND - The Maroon Knights breezed by the Golden Bears on the road Tuesday, getting scoring contributions from everyone on their bench in a decisive victory.

Max Olejasz led all scorers with 17. Eli Sanders before outscoring Weir, 25-8, in the pivotal fourth quarter.

Kalyn Reese also posted a double-double for the Monarchs with 18 points and 10 boards.

Reyna Hoover had 20 points for the Red Riders.

The Monarchs host University on Thursday. The Hawks defeated Wheeling Park Tuesday night.

**BOWLING**
**Patriots Roll Past Monarchs**
**Boys**

Wheeling Park posted a 1,967 to 1,170 victory over John Marshall as Kaden Miller rolled games of 248 and 201 for a nifty 449. Sam Metzner had a 202 game and a 378 series.

**Girls**

Wheeling Park slipped by John Marshall 1,632 to 1,628.

Emma Wear led the way with a 194 game and a 351 series. Erin Elswick with a 168 game.

The Monarchs were led by Mylie Scott with a 306 series and Shelby Crow with a 166 game.

**(Late Monday)**
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
**Bellaire 61, Shadyside 26**

BELLAIRE - Zara Harveth exploded for 30 points as the Big Reds romped past the visiting Tigers inside the 'House of Champions.' She was 11-for-26 from the floor, including 7-for-20 from three-point land. She also grabbed seven rebounds.

Rhyan O'Grady added 10 points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists for Bellaire. Aubree Hines had six points and five boards.

Kaci Tsoras led Shadyside with 17 points.

**Harrison Central 42, Edison 38**

The Huskies (9-5) slipped past the Wildcats as Kara Blackburn buried four treys for 12 points. Lauren Doane added eight points and 14 rebounds, while Maddie Sedgmer had six points and 10 rebounds. Kennedy Dunlap chipped in 11 rebounds.

Abigail Boka led Edison with 18 points.

# Tonje Scores 17, No. 24 Badgers Hold Off Ohio State 70-68

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – John Tonje scored 17 points and No. 24 Wisconsin staved off a late rally by Ohio State, extending its winning streak to six with a 70-68 victory Tuesday night.

Ohio State trailed 37-20 at the half but cut it to 65-64 on Micah Parrish's layup with 16 seconds left before Tonje helped the Badgers stay ahead from the foul line.

Tonje's 3-pointer put Wisconsin up 65-57 with just over four minutes remaining.

John Blackwell added 15 points and Steven Crowl 14 for Wisconsin (14-3, 4-2 Big Ten) to give coach Greg Gard his 200th career victory.

Bruce Thornton had 21 points and Devin Royal 12 for Ohio State (10-7, 2-4).

The Badgers hit just one of their first seven shots after the break as Ohio State pulled within 39-30 on consecutive 3-pointers by Thornton and John Mobley Jr.

Royal's 3-pointer capped a 9-0 run that brought the Buckeyes within 48-44 with just over 10 minutes remaining.

**TAKEAWAYS**

Ohio State: The Buckeyes have lost three of their last four by a combined 11 points.

Wisconsin: Guard Max Klesmit returned to the starting lineup after missing Friday's 80-59 victory over Minnesota with an ankle injury.

**UP NEXT**

Ohio State returns home to face Indiana on Friday. Wisconsin opens a two-game West Coast swing at USC on Saturday, then at UCLA on Tuesday.

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

**BOWLING**

Monroe Central/Beallsville at Wheeling Central, 3 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

St. Clairsville at Indian Creek

University at Wheeling Park, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

St. Clairsville at Barnesville

Brooke at Buckeye Local

Union Local at Buckeye Trail

## SPORTS ON TV

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

**AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE**

7 p.m.

NHLN — Belleville at Lehigh Valley

**CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE**

2:30 p.m.

NHLN — Playoffs: ZSC Lions Zurich at Geneve-Servette, Semifinal - First Game

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

6 p.m.

SECN — South Carolina at Vandebilt

7 p.m.

ACCN — California at North Carolina

CBSSN — George Mason at Dayton

ESPN2 — Kansas at Iowa St.

ESPNU — NC State at Virginia Tech

FS1 — Seton Hall at Butler

7:30 p.m.

BTN — Penn St. at Michigan St.

8 p.m.

SECN — Georgia at Tennessee

9 p.m.

ACCN — SMU at Virginia

CBSSN — Rhode Island at Loyola of Chicago

ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Florida St.

9:30 p.m.

BTN — Purdue at Washington

10 p.m.

SECN — Texas at Oklahoma

11 p.m.

CBSSN — Utah St. at UNLV

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

9 p.m.

FS1 — Seton Hall at Marquette

9:30 p.m.

PEACOCK — Penn St. at UCLA

10 p.m.

PEACOCK — Northwestern at Southern Cal

**GOLF**

1 p.m.

GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Final Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

2:30 a.m. (Thursday)

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, First Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**NBA BASKETBALL**

7:10 p.m.

ESPN — New York at Philadelphia

9:35 p.m.

ESPN — Golden State at Minnesota

**NHL HOCKEY**

6 p.m.

TNT — Carolina at Buffalo

TRUTV — Carolina at Buffalo (DataCast)

8:30 p.m.

TNT — Edmonton at Minnesota

TRUTV — Edmonton at Minnesota (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

12:20 p.m.

FS2 — The French Cup: FC Nantes at Stade Brestois 29, Round of 32

2:30 p.m.

USA — Premier League: Aston Villa at Everton

2:50 p.m.

FS2 — The French Cup: Paris Saint-Germain FC at FC Espaly, Round of 32

**TENNIS**

3 a.m.

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

Noon

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

9 p.m.

ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

3 a.m. (Thursday)

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## MBB TOP 25

The top 25 teams in The

## NFL PLAYOFFS

**Wild-card Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Houston 32, L.A. Chargers 12

Baltimore 28, Pittsburgh 14

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Buffalo 31, Denver 7

Philadelphia 22, Green Bay 10

Washington 23, Tampa Bay 20

**Monday, Jan. 13**

L.A. Rams 27, Minnesota 9

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

Houston at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

L.A. Rams or Minnesota at Philadelphia, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Baltimore at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**Conference Championships**

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

**AFC**

AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**NFC**

NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, 3 p.m. (FOX)

**Super Bowl LIX**

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**At New Orleans**

Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## PREP BOXSCORES

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Union Local 65, John Marshall 52**

JOHN MARSHALL – Haught 1 3-5 5; Martin 1 0-0 2; Knapp 4 0-0 9; Snyder 2 0-0 4; Helms 4 0-2 10; Gaiser 8 0-0 18; Watkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 22-49 3-8 52. UNION LOCAL – Saunders 8 3-4 21; Mehl 9 2-2 26; Gregor 0 0-0 0; Schumacher 4 0-0 10; Causby 1 1-2 3; Stroud 0 0-0 0; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Carpenter 0 0-0 0; Verbeek 0 0-0 0; Hess 0 0-0 0; Kerns 2 1-2 5; Boone 0 0-0 0; Porter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-41 7-10 65

Three-point goals: John Marshall 5 (Helms 2, Gaiser 2, Knapp). Union Local 10 (Mehl 6, Saunders 2, Schumacher 2)

**Harrison Central 53, Toronto 39**

TORONTO – Filby 1 2-2 4; Grimes 1 2-2 5; Buchanan 3 2-2 8; Fair 6 3-4 17; Houry 1 3-4 5; Heckathorn 0 0-2 0; Totaled: 12 12-16 39. HARRISON CENTRAL – Tanner 2 0-0 6; Pelegreen 3 0-0 6; Kamarec 1 0-2 3; J. Quito 2 0-0 5; Elliott 4 2-2 10; Keener 3 3-4 9; Arbaugh 4 6-8 14; Totals: 19 12-16 53

Three-point goals: Toronto 3 (Fair 2, Grimes). Harrison Central 3 (Tanner 2, J. Quito)

**Linsly 80, Weir 48**

LINSLY – Murray 1 0-0 2, Upton 1 0-0 2, Rea 1 0-0 2, Gill 6 0-0 16, Goodwin 7 0-0 14, Bonar 1 2-2 5, Ndiaye 2 0-0 5, Ristovic 2 0-0 4, Petrusic 4 2-4 10, Smith 1 0-0 2, Salazar 7 4-5 18. Totals 33 8-11 80. WEIR – J. Kaczmarek 6 5-6 18, Mowder 1 3-6 5, Stevenson 3 0-0 6, Jeffers 3 0-1 6, Horstman 1 0-0 2, E. Kaczmarek 1 0-0 3, Lyons 2 0-0 5, Totals 17 8-13 48.

Three-point goals: Linsly 6 (Gill 4, Bonar, Ndiaye) Weir 4 (J. Kaczmarek, Glyptis, E. Kaczmarek, Lyons)

**River 50, Magnolia 40**

RIVER – Dennis 7 0-1 14; Longwell 5 2-3 15; Milhoan 3 2-2 8; Peyton Blue 3 3-4 9; Price 1 0-0 2; Smith 1 0-0 2; Totals 20 7-10 50. MAGNOLIA – Oates 0 5-8 5; Bailey 0 4-4 4; Christen 5 0-0 13; Greathouse 1 0-0 2; Hood 2 1-4 8; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 3 0-0 6; Totals 12 10-16 40.

Three-point goals: River 3 (Longwell 3). Magnolia 4 (Christen 3, Hood).

**Wheeling Central 80, Oak Glen 35**

WHEELING CENTRAL – L. Sancomb 2 4-4 9; Dean 2 0-0 5; E. SAncomb 6 1-2 13; Gianangeli 2 0-0 7; Anthony 1 0-0 2; Kusic 3 0-0 6; Estep 2 0-0 5; Billick 3 0-0 8; Olejasz 7 3-4 17; Brodegard 4 0-0 8; Totals 33 8-10 80. OAK GLEN – Hartung 1 0-0 2; Kell 3 0-0 7; Knisely 1 1-2 3; Weerley 1 0-2 2; Dawson 1 0-0 3; Willey 1 0-0 2; Hissam 2 0-0 5; Geisse 4 0-0 8; Evans 1 0-0 3; Totals 15 1-4 35.

Three-point goals: 6 (L. Sancomb, Dean, Gianangeli, Estep, Billick 2). Oak Glen 4 (Kell, Dawson, Hissam, Evans).

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**University 60, Wheeling Park 45**

UNIVERSITY – Maisel 4 8-9 18; Fox 8 1-2 19; Johnson 3 0-0 8; Simpson 3 0-2 6; Stemple 3 3-6 12; Totals 21 12-19 60. WHEELING PARK – Miller 4 0-2 11; Hupp 2 0-0 4; Down-

## NHL STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 45 | 27 | 16 | 2 | 56 | 136 | 128 |
| Florida | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 148 | 137 |
| T. Bay | 42 | 23 | 16 | 3 | 49 | 153 | 119 |
| Boston | 46 | 22 | 19 | 5 | 49 | 122 | 144 |
| Ott. | 43 | 22 | 18 | 3 | 47 | 124 | 120 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Detroit | 43 | 20 | 19 | 4 | 44 | 124 | 139 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 44 | 29 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 159 | 113 |
| Jersey | 46 | 26 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 143 | 116 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 44 | 21 | 17 | 6 | 48 | 152 | 153 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Pitt. | 46 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 44 | 137 | 173 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 43 | 17 | 19 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 131 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 45 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 63 | 162 | 109 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 43 | 28 | 14 | 1 | 57 | 140 | 105 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 45 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 46 | 127 | 134 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 43 | 14 | 22 | 7 | 35 | 106 | 135 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 151 | 119 |
| Edm. | 43 | 27 | 13 | 3 | 57 | 140 | 117 |
| L.A. | 41 | 24 | 12 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 100 |
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 46 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 34 | 120 | 161 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

Tuesday's Games

Washington 3, Anaheim 0

San Jose 6, Detroit 3

Dallas 4, Toronto 1

Seattle 4, Pittsburgh 2

Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2, SO

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2

Ottawa 2, N.Y. Islanders 0

Florida 2, New Jersey 1, SO

St. Louis 2, Calgary 1

Winnipeg 6, Vancouver 1

Nashville 5, Vegas 3

Montreal at Utah, late

N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, late

**Wednesday's Games**

Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.

Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

## NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 28 | 11 | .718 | — |
| NY | 26 | 15 | .634 | 3 |
| Phila | 15 | 23 | .395 | 12½ |
| Brook | 13 | 26 | .333 | 15 |
| Toronto | 9 | 31 | .225 | 19½ |

**Southeast 250**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orl | 23 | 18 | .561 | — |
| Miami | 20 | 18 | .526 | 1½ |
| Atl | 20 | 19 | .513 | 2 |
| Char | 8 | 28 | .222 | 12½ |
| Wash | 6 | 32 | .158 | 15½ |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleve | 34 | 5 | .872 | — |
| Milw | 21 | 17 | .553 | 12½ |
| Ind | 22 | 19 | .537 | 13 |
| Det | 21 | 19 | .525 | 13½ |
| Chi | 18 | 22 | .450 | 16½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hou | 26 | 12 | .684 | — |
| Mem | 25 | 15 | .625 | 2 |
| Dallas | 22 | 17 | .564 | 4½ |
| SA | 19 | 19 | .500 | 7 |
| NO | 9 | 32 | .220 | 18½ |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City | 33 | 6 | .846 | — |
| Den | 23 | 15 | .605 | 9½ |
| Minne | 21 | 18 | .538 | 12 |
| Port | 13 | 25 | .342 | 19½ |
| Utah | 10 | 28 | .263 | 22½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clippers | 21 | 17 | .553 | — |
| Lakers | 20 | 17 | .541 | ½ |
| Sac | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2 |
| Pho | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |
| Gold. St. | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |

**Tuesday's Games**

Oklahoma City 118, Philadelphia 102

Cleveland 127, Indiana 117

Atlanta 122, Phoenix 117

Milwaukee 130, Sacramento 115

New Orleans 119, Chicago 113

Denver at Dallas, late

Brooklyn at Portland, late

**Wednesday's Games**

New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.

Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.

Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.

Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

## OVAC SEEDING

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3.

# Brazil's Joao Fonseca is just 18 but he upset the No. 9 seed at the Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Joao Fonseca definitively introduced himself to the world as the latest teen sensation in men's tennis on Tuesday night, upsetting No. 9 seed Andrey Rublev 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the first round of the Australian Open.

It was quite a debut in the main draw of a Grand Slam tournament for the 18-year-old Brazilian, who is currently ranked 112th and made it into the bracket at Melbourne Park by winning three matches in qualifying rounds last week.

The victory over 10-time major quarterfinalist Rublev, who is 27, lasted just under 2 1/2 hours and stretched Fonseca's current unbeaten run to 14 matches. That includes taking the title last month in Saudi Arabia at the Next Gen ATP Finals for top players who are under 21, and another trophy this month at a lower-tier Challenger tournament in Canberra.

Those within tennis have been keeping tabs on 2023 U.S. Open junior boys' champion Fonseca for a bit, intrigued by his big serve, booming groundstrokes and cool demeanor. All of those qualities, and more, were on display against Rublev in Margaret Court Arena, the second-biggest stage in Melbourne.

Fonseca got to match point with a backhand winner that he celebrated by raising his right index finger in a No. 1 gesture and nodding his head. Then he ended it with a down-the-line forehand, spreading his arms wide and tossing his head back.

"I mean, not bad," were Fonseca's first words during his on-court interview afterward.

That drew a smile from him and supportive laughter from the stands, where there were plenty of fans sporting his home country's green-yellow-and-blue flag.

"I just enjoyed every moment in this court, this amazing court," he continued. "My first time playing in a huuuuge stadium" — dragging out the "u" for emphasis.

Hitting serves at up to 133 mph (214 kph), Fonseca delivered 14 aces and had just one double-fault while saving five of the six break points he faced.

He accumulated 51 total winners, 18 more than Rublev, a quarterfinalist in Melbourne three of the past four years and Fonseca's first opponent ranked higher than No. 20.

"I was just focusing (on) my game, trying to put no pressure on myself, playing (against) a top-10 guy," Fonseca said. "I was just playing my game and, well, now we're in the second round."

He'll next face 55th-ranked Lorenzo Sonego, who got past three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka in four sets earlier Tuesday.

Asked the key to his strong play in the tiebreakers against the far-more-experienced Rublev, Fonseca said he tries to employ "all the intensity in the important points," "go for the shots" and show "courage."

He also cited 20-time major champion Roger Federer as an inspiration.

"Like Roger says: 'Talent is not enough.' ... So I put (in) a lot of hard work," Fonseca said. "Just me and my team knows that."

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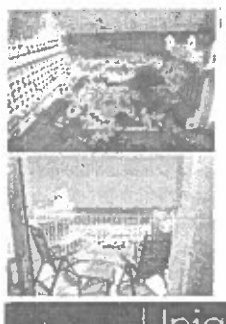
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ACCN — California at North Carolina
CBSSN — George Mason at Dayton
ESPN2 — Kansas at Iowa St.
ESPNU — NC State at Virginia Tech
FS1 — Seton Hall at Butler

**7:30 p.m.**

BTN — Penn St. at Michigan St.

**8 p.m.**

SECN — Georgia at Tennessee

**9 p.m.**

ACCN — SMU at Virginia
CBSSN — Rhode Island at Loyola of Chicago
ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Florida St.

**9:30 p.m.**

BTN — Purdue at Washington

**10 p.m.**

SECN — Texas at Oklahoma

**11 p.m.**

CBSSN — Utah St. at UNLV

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

**9 p.m.**

FS1 — Seton Hall at Marquette

**9:30 p.m.**

PEACOCK — Penn St. at UCLA

**10 p.m.**

PEACOCK — Northwestern at Southern Cal

**GOLF**

**1 p.m.**

GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Final Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

**2:30 a.m. (Thursday)**

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Dubai Desert Classic, First Round, Emirates Golf Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**NBA BASKETBALL**

**7:10 p.m.**

ESPN — New York at Philadelphia

**9:35 p.m.**

ESPN — Golden State at Minnesota

**NHL HOCKEY**

**6 p.m.**

TNT — Carolina at Buffalo
TRUTV — Carolina at Buffalo (DataCast)

**8:30 p.m.**

TNT — Edmonton at Minnesota
TRUTV — Edmonton at Minnesota (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

**12:20 p.m.**

FS2 — The French Cup: FC Nantes at Stade Brestois 29, Round of 32

**2:30 p.m.**

USA — Premier League: Aston Villa at Everton

**2:50 p.m.**

FS2 — The French Cup: Paris Saint-Germain FC at FC Espaly, Round of 32

**TENNIS**

**3 a.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**Noon**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**9 p.m.**

ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**3 a.m. (Thursday)**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## MBB Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll as of Jan. 13, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

| | Record | Pts | Prv |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Auburn (60) | 15-1 | 1548 | 2 |
| 2. Iowa St. | 14-1 | 1469 | 3 |
| 3. Duke (1) | 14-2 | 1403 | 4 |
| 4. Alabama | 14-2 | 1338 | 5 |
| 5. Florida (1) | 15-1 | 1326 | 8 |
| 6. Tennessee | 15-1 | 1251 | 1 |
| 7. Marquette | 14-2 | 1184 | 7 |
| 8. Kentucky | 13-3 | 1039 | 6 |
| 9. Kansas | 12-3 | 983 | 11 |
| 10. Houston | 12-3 | 935 | 12 |
| 11. Texas A&M | 13-3 | 883 | 10 |
| 12. Michigan St. | 14-2 | 797 | 16 |
| 13. Oregon | 15-2 | 781 | 15 |
| 14. UConn | 13-4 | 665 | 9 |
| 15. Miss. St. | 14-2 | 624 | 14 |
| 16. Gonzaga | 14-4 | 569 | 18 |
| 17. Purdue | 13-4 | 553 | 20 |
| 18. Memphis | 13-3 | 511 | 19 |
| 19. Illinois | 12-4 | 496 | 13 |
| 20. Michigan | 13-3 | 418 | 24 |
| 21. Mississippi | 14-2 | 351 | 23 |
| 22. Utah St. | 16-1 | 250 | 25 |
| 23. Georgia | 14-2 | 221 | - |
| 24. Wisconsin | 13-3 | 132 | - |
| 25. Baylor | 11-4 | 119 | - |

Others receiving votes: St. John's 83, Oklahoma 63, West Virginia 61, Arizona 26, Louisville 17, Texas Tech 12, Maryland 11, Clemson 8, Missouri 8, Cincinnati 4, San Diego St. 4, Saint Mary's 3, UC Irvine 2, New Mexico 2

## Prep Boxscores

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Union Local 65, John Marshall 52**

JOHN MARSHALL – Haught 1 3-5 5; Martin 1 0-0 2; Knapp 4 0-0 9; Snyder 2 0-0 4; Helms 4 0-2 10; Gaiser 8 0-0 18; Watkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 22-49 3-8 52. UNION LOCAL – Saunders 8 3-4 21; Mehl 9 2-2 26; Gregor 0 0-0 0; Schumacher 4 0-0 10; Causby 1 1-2 3; Stroud 0 0-0 0; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Carpenter 0 0-0 0; Verbeek 0 0-0 0; Hess 0 0-0 0; Kerns 2 1-2 5; Boone 0 0-0 0; Porter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-41 7-10 65

Three-point goals: John Marshall 5 (Helms 2, Gaiser 2, Knapp). Union Local 10 (Mehl 6, Saunders 2, Schumacher 2)

**Harrison Central 53, Toronto 39**

TORONTO – Filby 1 2-2 4; Grimes 1 2-2 5; Buchanan 3 2-2 8; Fair 6 3-4 17; Houry 1 3-4 5; Heckathorn 0 0-2 0; Totaled: 12 12-16 39. HARRISON CENTRAL – Tanner 2 0-0 6; Pelegreen 3 0-0 6; Kamarec 1 0-2 3; J. Quito 2 0-0 5; Elliott 4 2-2 10; Keener 3 3-4 9; Arbaugh 4 6-8 14; Totals: 19 12-16 53

Three-point goals: Toronto 3 (Fair 2, Grimes). Harrison Central 3 (Tanner 2, J. Quito)

**Linsly 80, Weir 48**

LINSLY – Murray 1 0-0 2, Upton 1 0-0 2, Rea 1 0-0 2, Gill 6 0-0 16, Goodwin 7 0-0 14, Bonar 1 2-2 5, Ndiaye 2 0-0 5, Ristovic 2 0-0 4, Petrusic 4 2-4 10, Smith 1 0-0 2, Salazar 7 4-5 18. Totals 33 8-11 80. WEIR – J. Kaczmarek 6 5-6 18, Mowder 1 3-6 5, Stevenson 3 0-0 6, Jeffers 3 0-1 6, Horstman 1 0-0 2, E. Kaczmarek 1 0-0 3, Lyons 2 0-0 5, Totals 17 8-13 48.

Three-point goals: Linsly 6 (Gill 4, Bonar, Ndiaye) Weir 4 (J. Kaczmarek, Glyptis, E. Kaczmarek, Lyons)

**River 50, Magnolia 40**

RIVER – Dennis 7 0-1 14; Longwell 5 2-3 15; Milhoan 3 2-2 8; Peyton Blue 3 3-4 9; Price 1 0-0 2; Smith 1 0-0 2; Totals 20 7-10 50. MAGNOLIA – Oates 0 5-8 5; Bailey 0 4-4 4; Christen 5 0-0 13; Greathouse 1 0-0 2; Hood 2 1-4 8; Midcap 1 0-0 2; Shimp 3 0-0 6; Totals 12 10-16 40.

Three-point goals: River 3 (Longwell 3). Magnolia 4 (Christen 3, Hood).

**Wheeling Central 80, Oak Glen 35**

WHEELING CENTRAL – L. Sancomb 2 4-4 9; Dean 2 0-0 5; E. SAncomb 6 1-2 13; Gianangeli 2 0-0 7; Anthony 1 0-0 2; Kusic 3 0-0 6; Estep 2 0-0 5; Billick 3 0-0 8; Olejasz 7 3-4 17; Brodegard 4 0-0 8; Totals 33 8-10 80. OAK GLEN – Hartung 1 0-0 2; Kell 3 0-0 7; Knisely 1 1-2 3; Weerley 1 0-2 2; Dawson 1 0-0 3; Willey 1 0-0 2; Hissam 2 0-0 5; Geisse 4 0-0 8; Evans 1 0-0 3; Totals 15 1-4 35.

Three-point goals: 6 (L. Sancomb, Dean, Gianangeli, Estep, Billick 2). Oak Glen 4 (Kell, Dawson, Hissam, Evans).

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**University 60, Wheeling Park 45**

UNIVERSITY – Maisel 4 8-9 18; Fox 8 1-2 19; Johnson 3 0-0 8; Simpson 3 0-2 6; Stemple 3 3-6 12; Totals 21 12-19 60. WHEELING PARK – Miller 4 0-2 11; Hupp 2 0-0 4; Downer 0 1-2 1; Daugherty 2 0-0 5; Bordas 10 0-0 24; Totals 18 1-4 45.

Three-point goals: University 6 (Maisel 2, Fox 2, Johnson 2). Wheeling Park 8 (Miller 3, Daugherty, Bordas 4).

**John Marshall 71, Weir 45**

WEIR – Turner 1 2-2 4; Faulks 3 0-0 6; Hoover 7 5-8 20; Weber 2 0-0 4; Utt 5 1-4 11; Totals: 18 8-14 45. JOHN MARSHALL – Finley 1 0-0 2; Reese 7 1-1 17; White 1 4-6 6; Schwing 1 0-0 2; Storm 8 5-5 24; Inclan 3 0-0 8; Miller 1 1-2 3; Ebert 1 0-0 2; Wells 0 0-0 0; Farmer 0 0-0 0; Shock 1 0-0 3; Zuk 0 0-0 0; Babiczuk 2 0-2 4; Whitlatch 0 0-0 0, Totals: 26 11-16 71

Three-point goals: Weir 1 (Hoover); John Marshall 7 (Storm 3, Reese 2, Inclan 2)

**(Late Monday)**

**GIRLS**

**Bellaire 61, Shadyside 26**

SHADYSIDE – Zeroski 0 0-0 0; Tsoras 5 6-8 17; Parr 0 0-0 0; Melanko 1 0-0 2; Samsa 2 0-0 6; A. Hines 0 0-0 0; Parker 0 0-0 0; G. Hines 0 1-2 1; Totals: 8 7-10 26. BELLAIRE – Kendle 0 0-0 0; Edgar 1 0-0 2; Horvath 11 1-3 30; Mason 4 0-0 8; Morgan 2 1-2 5; O'Grady 4 1-5 10; Mayer 0 0-0 0; Hines 2 0-0 6; Kanyuch 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-52 3-10 61

Three-point goals: Shadyside 3 (Samsa 2, Tsoras). Bellaire 10 (Harveth 7, O'Grady, Hines 2)

## NBA Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 28 | 11 | .718 | — |
| NY | 26 | 15 | .634 | 3 |
| Phila | 15 | 23 | .395 | 12½ |
| Brook | 13 | 26 | .333 | 15 |
| Toronto | 9 | 31 | .225 | 19½ |

**Southeast 250**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orl | 23 | 18 | .561 | — |
| Miami | 20 | 18 | .526 | 1½ |
| Atl | 20 | 19 | .513 | 2 |
| Char | 8 | 28 | .222 | 12½ |
| Wash | 6 | 32 | .158 | 15½ |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleve | 34 | 5 | .872 | — |
| Milw | 21 | 17 | .553 | 12½ |
| Ind | 22 | 19 | .537 | 13 |
| Det | 21 | 19 | .525 | 13½ |
| Chi | 18 | 22 | .450 | 16½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hou | 26 | 12 | .684 | — |
| Mem | 25 | 15 | .625 | 2 |
| Dallas | 22 | 17 | .564 | 4½ |
| SA | 19 | 19 | .500 | 7 |
| NO | 9 | 32 | .220 | 18½ |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City | 33 | 6 | .846 | — |
| Den | 23 | 15 | .605 | 9½ |
| Minne | 21 | 18 | .538 | 12 |
| Port | 13 | 25 | .342 | 19½ |
| Utah | 10 | 28 | .263 | 22½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clippers | 21 | 17 | .553 | — |
| Lakers | 20 | 17 | .541 | ½ |
| Sac | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2 |
| Pho | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |
| Gold. St. | 19 | 20 | .487 | 2½ |

**Tuesday's Games**

Oklahoma City 118, Philadelphia 102
Cleveland 127, Indiana 117
Atlanta 122, Phoenix 117
Milwaukee 130, Sacramento 115
New Orleans 119, Chicago 113
Denver at Dallas, late
Brooklyn at Portland, late

**Wednesday's Games**

New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

## NHL Moves

BOSTON BRUINS — Moved D Hampus Lindholm to long-term injured reserve. Promoted D Michael Callahan from Providence (AHL). Recalled C Matthew Poitras from Providence. Placed C Mark Kastelic and D Charlie McAvoy on injured reserve.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Ty Smith from Chicago (AHL). Placed G Frederik Andersen on injured reserve.

EDMONTON OILERS — Recalled C Noah Philip from Bakersfield (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Activated LW Chris Kreider from injured reserve.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Activated C Evgeni Malkin from injured reserve.

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Activated LW Igor Chernyshov from the injured non-roster list and assigned to San Jose (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Jack Finley from Syracuse (AHL). Sent F Gage Goncalves to Syracuse.

UTAH HOCKEY CLUB — Placed RW Dylan Guenther on injured reserve.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cal. | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 116 | 127 |
| Vanc. | 43 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 125 | 136 |
| Ana. | 44 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 138 |
| Seattle | 45 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 132 | 146 |
| San J. | 46 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 34 | 120 | 161 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

Tuesday's Games

Washington 3, Anaheim 0
San Jose 6, Detroit 3
Dallas 4, Toronto 1
Seattle 4, Pittsburgh 2
Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2, SO
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Ottawa 2, N.Y. Islanders 0
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, SO
St. Louis 2, Calgary 1
Winnipeg 6, Vancouver 1
Nashville 5, Vegas 3
Montreal at Utah, late
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, late

**Wednesday's Games**

Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

## ECHL

**Tuesday's Games**

Orlando 2, Jacksonville 0
Tulsa 4, Allen 3

**Wednesday's Games**

Maine at Indy, 7 p.m.
Savannah at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Cincinnati, 7:35 p.m.
Allen at Wichita, 8:05 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**

No games scheduled

**Friday's Games**

Jacksonville at Reading, 7 p.m.
Kalamazoo at Indy, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Worcester, 7:05 p.m.
South Carolina at Greenville, 7:05 p.m.
Trois-Rivieres at Norfolk,

in a No. 1 gesture and nodding his head. Then he ended it with a down-the-line forehand, spreading his arms wide and tossing his head back.

"I mean, not bad," were Fonseca's first words during his on-court interview afterward.

That drew a smile from him and supportive laughter from the stands, where there were plenty of fans sporting his home country's green-yellow-and-blue flag.

"I just enjoyed every moment in this court, this amazing court," he continued. "My first time playing in a huuuuge stadium" — dragging out the "u" for emphasis.

Hitting serves at up to 133 mph (214 kph), Fonseca delivered 14 aces and had just one double-fault while saving five of the six break points he faced.

He accumulated 51 total winners, 18 more than Rublev, a quarterfinalist in Melbourne three of the past four years and Fonseca's first opponent ranked higher than No. 20.

"I was just focusing (on) my game, trying to put no pressure on myself, playing (against) a top-10 guy," Fonseca said. "I was just playing my game and, well, now we're in the second round."

He'll next face 55th-ranked Lorenzo Sonego, who got past three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka in four sets earlier Tuesday.

Asked the key to his strong play in the tiebreakers against the far-more-experienced Rublev, Fonseca said he tries to employ "all the intensity in the important points," "go for the shots" and show "courage."

He also cited 20-time major champion Roger Federer as an inspiration.

"Like Roger says: 'Talent is not enough.' ... So I put (in) a lot of hard work," Fonseca said. "Just me and my team knows that."


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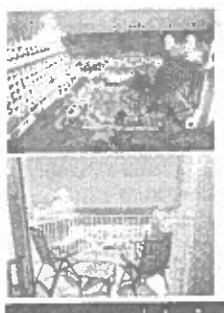
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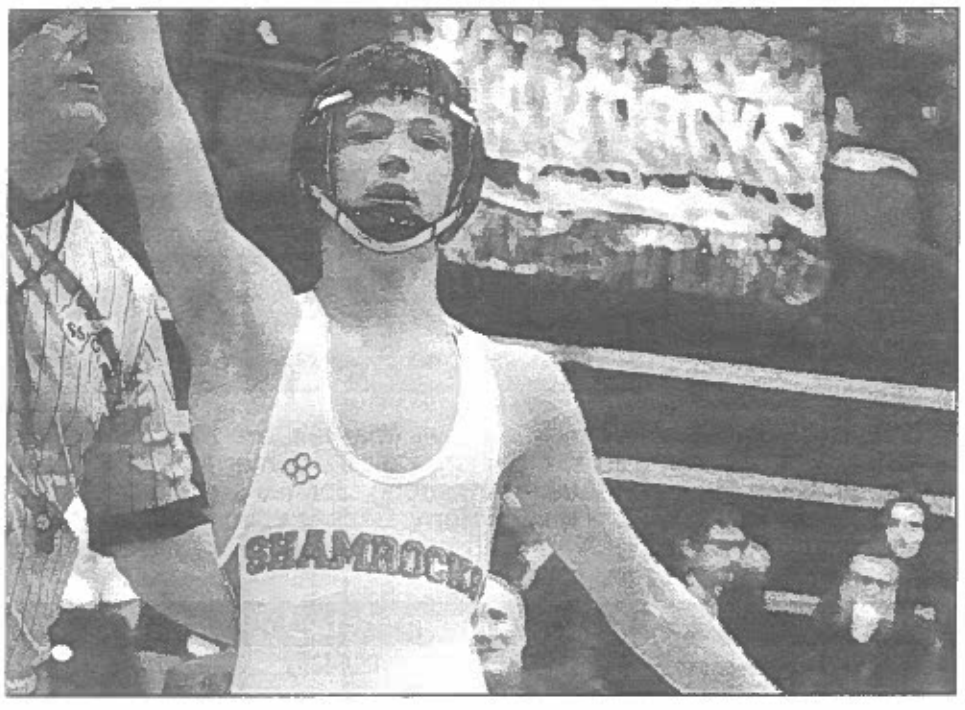
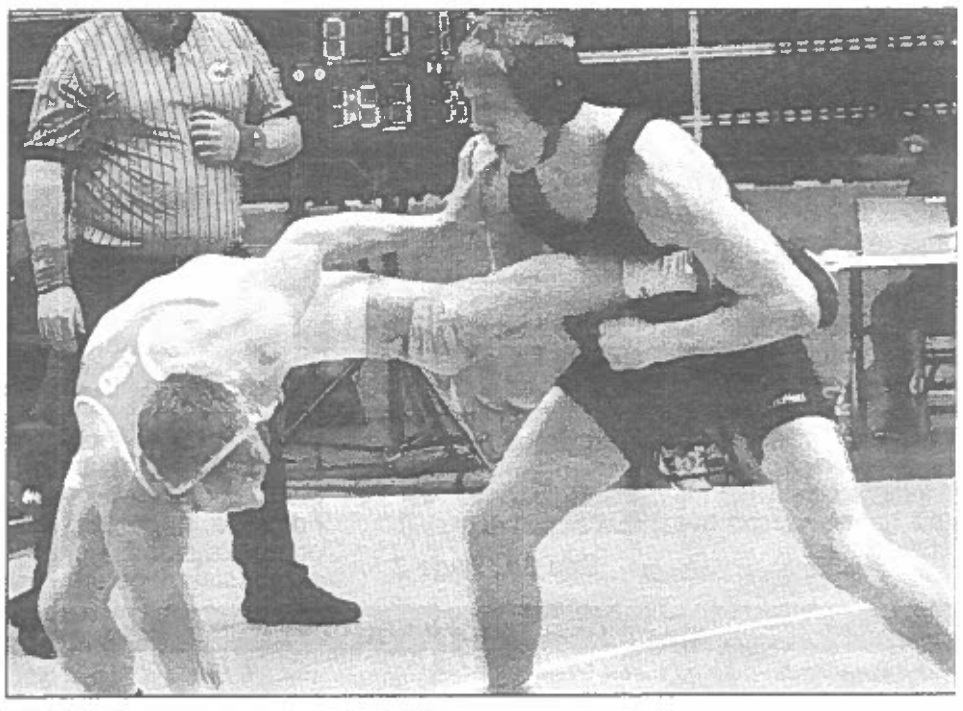
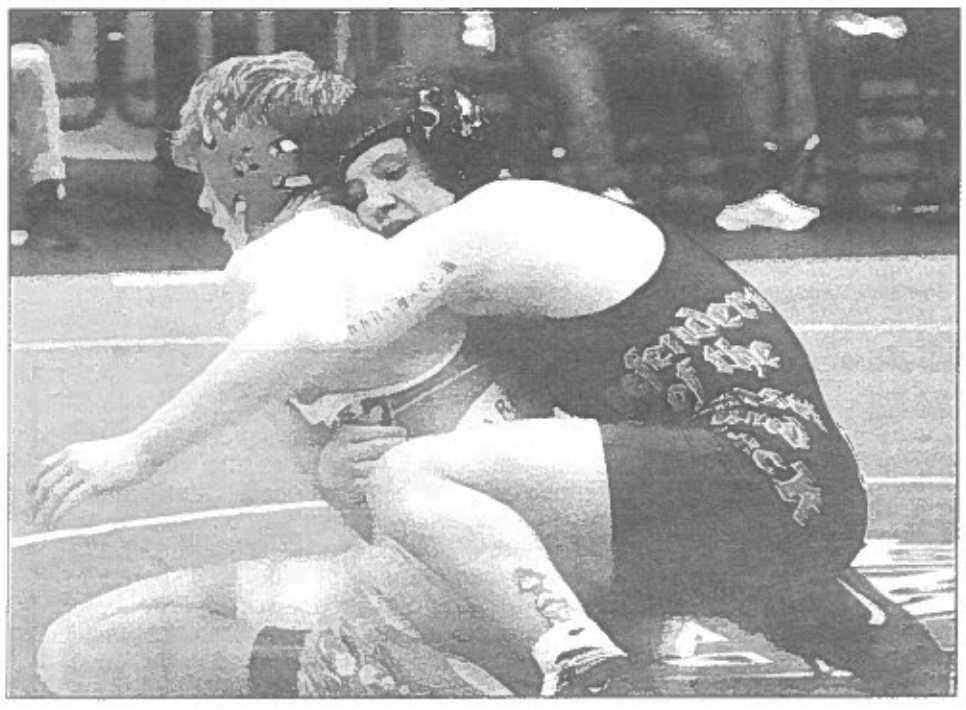
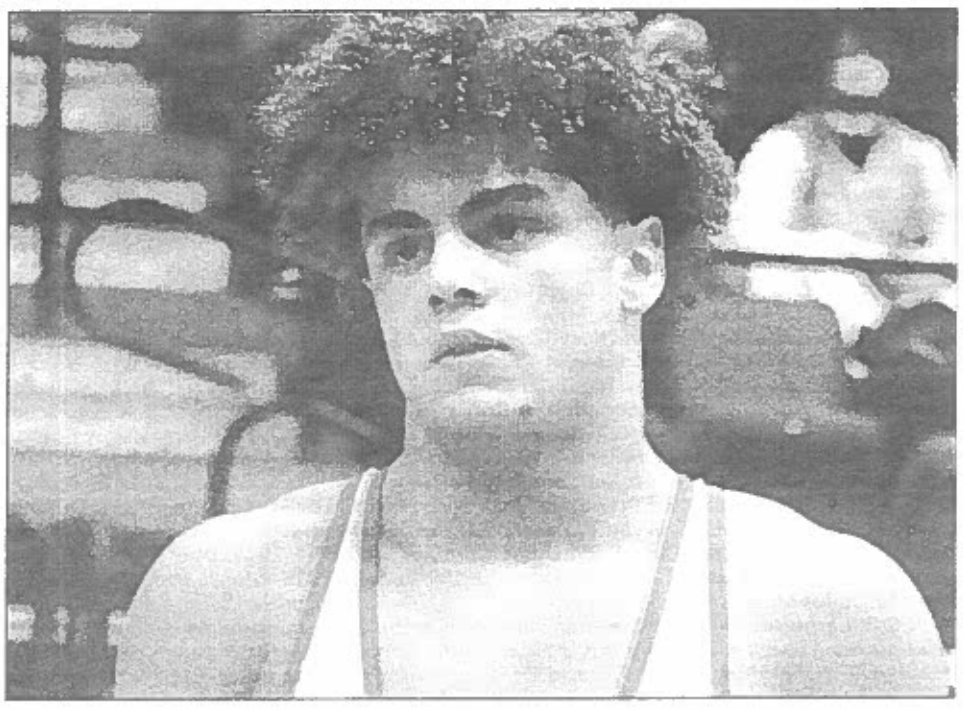
# 71st Annual OVAC
## Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships







A Supplement to The Times Leader

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

# Barnesville is defending overall, Class 3A champs

## • Shamrocks lost talented senior class to graduation

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

BARNESVILLE - For the first time in nearly four decades, Barnesville emerged victorious in the 70th annual OVAC Ron Mauck wrestling tournament last winter inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. The Shamrocks piled up 259 points to slip past runner up University (251.5)

It marked the first time since 1985 that the western Belmont County school had stood atop the podium. The Green Machine had three champions, three runner ups and 10 total placers in the top eight of their respective weight classes.

As the overall champions, the Shamrocks will carry that banner onto the main floor during the Olympic-style opening ceremonies as the 71st annual three-day event begins on Thursday, Jan. 16.

"I think the kids put too much pressure on themselves as it is, so thinking about defending champions is nothing I bring up as a coach," veteran Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen said. "The boys know the culture that's been created and expectations that go with Barnesville wrestling. So, to me, that's enough.

See **3A**, Page 3

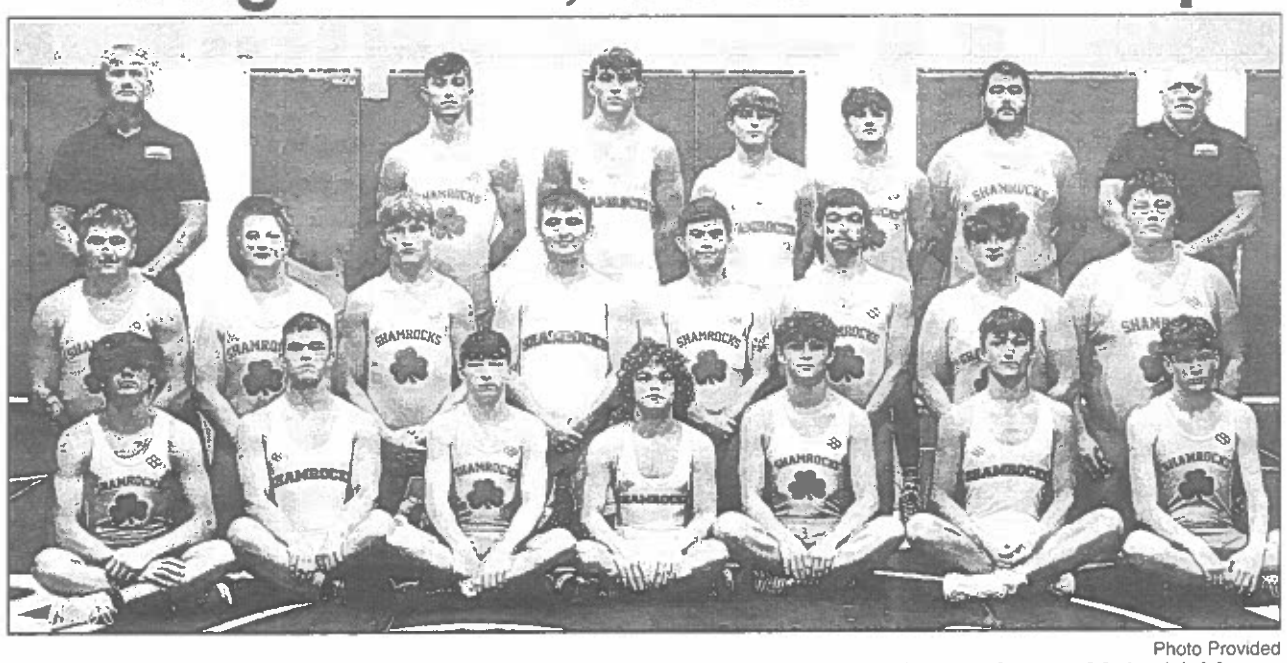


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Barnesville wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Malachi Mann, Brayden Trigg, Haden Bowman, Layden Loring, Easton Stephen, Colt Carpenter and Jack Morgan . Middle row, from left, are Christien Hannahs, Austin Armstrong, Johnathan Foster, Hines Ford, Kevin Phillips, Ridge Holiday, Braxton Loring and Kaiden Berry. Back row, from left, are head coach Jayson Stephen, Eli Messenger, Ayden King, Aydan Andrews, Conner Wilson, Blake Kirk and assistant coach Rick Milhoan.

## 2025 Top Seeds

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC); 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Logan Middleton (PS); 4. Dominic Asbury (WC); 5. Noah Schmidt (OG); 6. Heath Thomas (Tor); 7. Zuvan Shipman (Morg); 8. Beau Hudson (Steub); 9. Isaac Prescott (BvL); 10. Steven Lenhart (FF); 11. Gabe Glenn (ED); 12. Jorge Alvarez (BuL)

## Tournament Schedule/Tickets

**THURSDAY**

Opening Ceremonies, 6 p.m.
Preliminary matches, first round championships, 8 mats, 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

Second round championships and first round consolations, 8 mats, noon
Quarterfinal round championships, third and fourth round consolations, 8 mats, 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

Championship semifinal round, semifinal consolations, 4 mats, 11 a.m.
Introduction of finalists and special awards ceremony, 3:30 p.m.
Championship matxches, along with matches for third-, fifth- and seventh-places, 4 mats, 4 p.m.

**TICKETS**

Single session: Adult $6. Advance ticket book: $25 (5 tickets)
ALL student tickets $1.

## On The Cover

Pictured are four of the seven defending champions. Clockwise, from top right are: Steubenville's Brody Saccoccia, right, won at 150 pounds last year and has bumped up to 157 where is seeded No. 1; Wheeling Park's Malaki Washington prevailed at 190 but is at 215 this year and seeded second; Steubenville's Cooper Smith (in black) was crowned at 144 last year and is top seeded at the same weight this year; and Barnesville's Colt Carpenter who won at 126 as a freshman but has jumped to 138 this year where he is the top seed.

Continued from Page 2

"Walking out last as champions honestly was something I didn't think about until now, so it will be nice to do for the boys and the Barnesville fans."

A repeat will be hard to duplicate as the Shamrocks lost two of their three champions (Dakota King and Skyler King) and all but one of their runner ups. Sophomore Colt Carpenter who won at 126 returns at 138.

Barnesville has won five straight Class 3A team titles and has 13 titles overall.

"This is a young team. They should be a top contender in 3-A," Stephen pointed out. "They know if everyone shows up and competes to their ability they will have a great individual and team showing. It's about believing in themselves."

The Shamrocks do have five returning placewinners, with Carpenter leading the way. He is currently 9-2 and ranked No.1 by the OVAeC. He is 17th in Ohio Division III according to Borofan. He was also a sectional and district champion last year.

The others are sophomore Easton Stephen (106); senior Ayden Andrews (120); senior Ayden King (165) and junior Hines Ford (175).

Stephen placed sixth last year and is currently 13-6. He was an alternate state qualifier last season. He is ranked fifth by OVAeC and 22nd by Borofan.

Andrews (10-8) finished fifth last year and was a district qualifier. He is ranked ninth by OVAeC and 20th by Borofan.

Ayden King, at 22-2, is the most decorated Shamrock. He has finished third as a freshman at the OVACs and has been runner up the past two seasons. He is a two-time state placer (3rd, 5th and a three-time sectional and district champion.

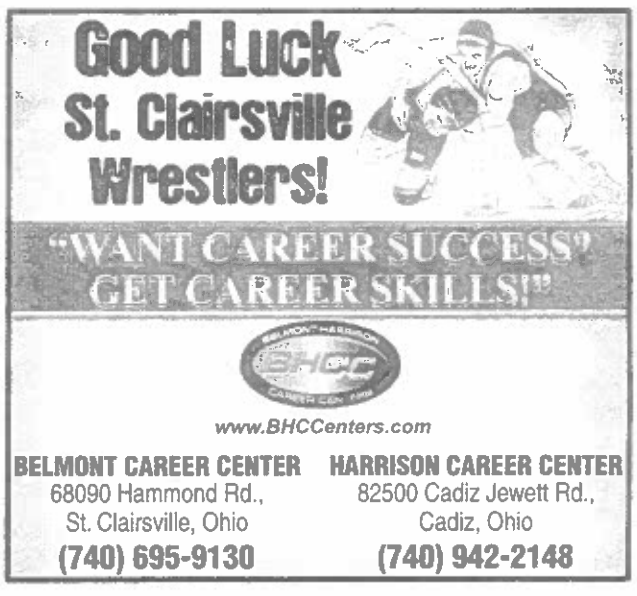
His career record is 168-30, which includes a championship at the Brecksville Holiday Invitational and a fifth-place at the prestigious Ironman event. He is ranked No. 1 by both the OVAeC and Borofan.

Ford (19-5) is four wins away from securing his 100th career triumph. He is a returning state qualifier and finished as a sectional and district runner up. He was sixth at the OVAC Tournament a year ago and is currently ranked fourth in the OVAeC and No. 6 by Borofan.

Rounding out the Shamrocks roster are senior Conner Wilson (13-6) at 113; freshman Haden Bowman (9-7) at 126; sophomore Layden Loring (10-9) at 132; sophomore Brayden Trigg (12-7) at 144; senior Eli Messenger (7-11) at 150; junior Johnathan Foster (3-8) at 157; either sophomore Austin Armstrong (8-12) or classmate Braxton Loring (6-3) at 190; sophomore Christien Hannahs (10-10) at 215; and senior Blake Kirk (11-8) at 285.

Bowman was a Junior High state qualifier last season, while Trigg finished third at sectionals to qualify for the district tournament.

Stephen is assisted by Rick Milhoan and Kyle King.

# Numbers continuing to rise at Bellaire

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Times Leader

BELLAIRE - Eric Vasey is entering his third year as head coach of the Bellaire High mat program, and he is excited with the upward trend his program has shown over the last few years.

Vasey has 11 Big Red matmen competing at the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament this year inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

"Our numbers continue to grow each year. I'm very excited about this year's OVAC Tournament where we will have 10 wrestlers competing," Vasey said. "It has been nice being able to compete in duals this year. Filling 11 of the 14 weight classes has given us a chance to really compete.

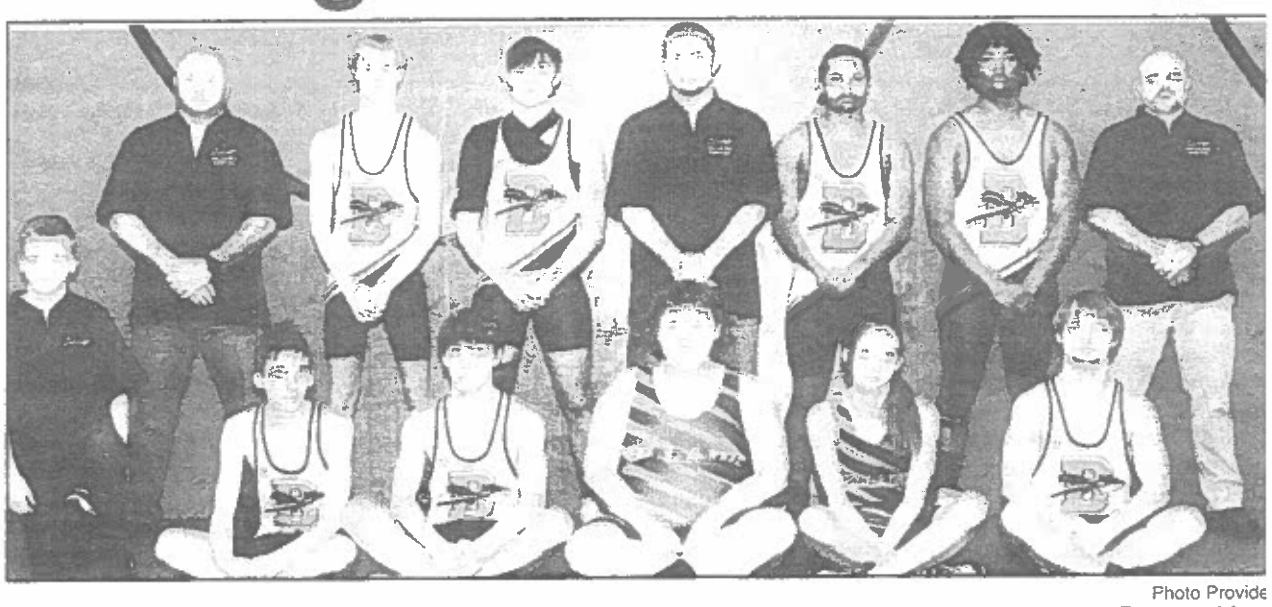


Photo Provide

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Bellaire wrestling team. Front row, from left, are manager Bowen Hon eywell, Kaelen Greathouse, James Porco, Jacob Posey, Isabella McCue and Alex Ney. Back row from left, are assistant coach Joe Honeywell, Grant Vasey, Graham Campbell, head coach Eri Vasey, Joe Turner, Trelle Otto and assistant coach Derek Ault. Not pictured are Braylen Leiffe and Mason Palenicek.

"Team-wise we may not have the numbers or experience to compete for a top finish in the OVAC Tournament, but I do believe we have a few wrestlers who can do well this year and wrestle into Saturday of the tournament."

Sophomore Kaden Greathouse is the Big Reds' 113-pounder. He is gaining much-needed experience.

Grant Vasey gives Bellaire a top-flight 120-pounder. The talented senior currently holds a 15-2 record and is returning after taking seventh place at last year's OVAC Tournament. He is a three-time district qualifier and is coming off back-to-back years where he has placed sixth at the district tournament. Vasey has been on the podium at both the Rick Link and St. Clairsville tournaments as well as the champion of the Shadyside Last Man Standing this year.

Sophomore James Porco will man the 126-pound class. He recently placed fourth at the Shadyside tournament.

Junior Alex Ney holds down the 138-pound class. He is a returning district qualifier. Ney is currently holding a 10-5 record and is coming off a runner-up finish at the Shadyside tournament.

Senior Braylon Leiffer will be the 150-pound representative. Leiffer, also a returning district qualifier, is currently 10-2 for the season, including a runner-up finish at the St. Clairsville tournament and a third-place finish at the Union Local Rick Link Tournament.

Junior Graham Campbell will be competing in the 157-pound weight class. He has battled through injuries this season but could make a run for a spot on the podium as well. Graham is currently 7-3 on the year and has a fourth-place finish at the St. Clairsville tournament under his belt.

Junior Joe Turner (165), senior Trell Otto (190), junior Ma son Palenicek (215) an freshman Jacob Pose (285) round out the line up.

Freshman Isabella Mc Cue has also compete for the Big Reds this yea but will not take part i the OVAC Tournament.

"I feel that we hav a handful of guys wh could push for a spot o the podium this year, Coach Vasey said. " feel if Grant, Alex Braylon and Graham re main healthy and com pete at the level the have shown all seaso all four wrestlers will b wrestling come Satur day of the OVAC Tour nament."

Going forward, th Big Reds will be compet ing in the Panther Classi at Buckeye Local and th Buckeye 8 Champion ship before heading t sectionals.

Vasey is being assiste by Joe Honeywell, Der ek Ault, Andy Case an Matt Saxton.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# Bridgeport has six wrestlers entered in tournament

**By KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

BRIDGEPORT – Although the numbers aren't where he'd like them to be, Bridgeport head wrestling coach Matt McFarland hopes to see a couple of his Bulldogs on the awards podium come Saturday.

Bridgeport has just six wrestlers entered in the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships that begin Thursday at 6 p.m. with the Olympic-style opening ceremonies. Wrestling starts 30 minutes later and continues through Saturday inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

Half of the Bulldogs are sophomores, while another two are seniors and one freshman.

Sophomore Robert Weekley (120) checks in with a fine 14-4 record. McFarland had high praise for his lightweight.

"Robert is picking up at the right time in the season. He had a little bit of a slow start to the year, but after he took a tough loss, he has persevered," McFarland said. "He is placing at every tournament we attend, and he is knocking off some tough guys.

"Robert put in a lot of work over the summer, and it seems to be paying off for him," the coach continued. "He's driven this year, and I'm excited to see how far he can go this year."

Freshman Nathan Newkirk (126) will see his first action of the season.

"Nate has been out for most of the year with injury and sickness," McFarland pointed out. He is still battling to get healthy but we're hoping to get him on the mat for the first time this year."

Sophomore Ax'zavior Santana (132) has had a solid year so far with a 15-5 record.

"Ax'zavior is a completely different wrestler this year. Last year everyone in the room was able to see the ability, it just never made it to the gym," McFarland said. "This year he is focused, and he's constantly looking to put points up on the board. I am extremely happy with his performance so far this season. He's placed at every single tournament we have gone to so far this year.

"Ax'zavior worked all summer long as well and is bought into his new mentality. I am excited to see him compete this weekend and continue what he has started."

Sophomore Dakota Lashhorn (138) is back for his second season and is still trying to find his way at 1-8.

"Dakota is trying to put it all together. He's going into his second season and just needs to find some rhythm in his wrestling," McFarland said. "The kid has ability and shows some flashes. He just needs to eliminate some little mistakes. I'm hoping that after our tournament he gets things moving in his direction a little more to show what we all see at this year's OVAC."

Senior Kaleb McCamick (144) has started to come on strong at the right time, according to his coach. He is currently 6-9.

"Kaleb is by far having his best season, and I couldn't think of a better time for him to figure it all out," McFarland stressed. "He is more focused and just seems more involved than previous seasons. I'm hoping for him to get a decent spot in the bracket and give it his all for his last OVAC."

Senior Logan Baker (215) has really turned it on in his final campaign. He is currently 16-5

"Logan , as of right now, my most improved wrestler not just in his technique, but in every aspect," McFarland said. "I enjoy having a big guy that wants to go in there and brawl, and when your backs are against the wall and it's almost the end, it just makes the whole ride more enjoyable.

"I'm happy to be seeing after the few years I've been there see the guys (Logan and Kaleb) I started out with as freshman find their way through everything that we have been through to be successful," McFarland said.

McFarland was a 4-year standout wrestler at Union Local. He was an OVAC runner up in 2016 and was a member of the Ohio University squad. He was also an Ohio Division III state qualifier.

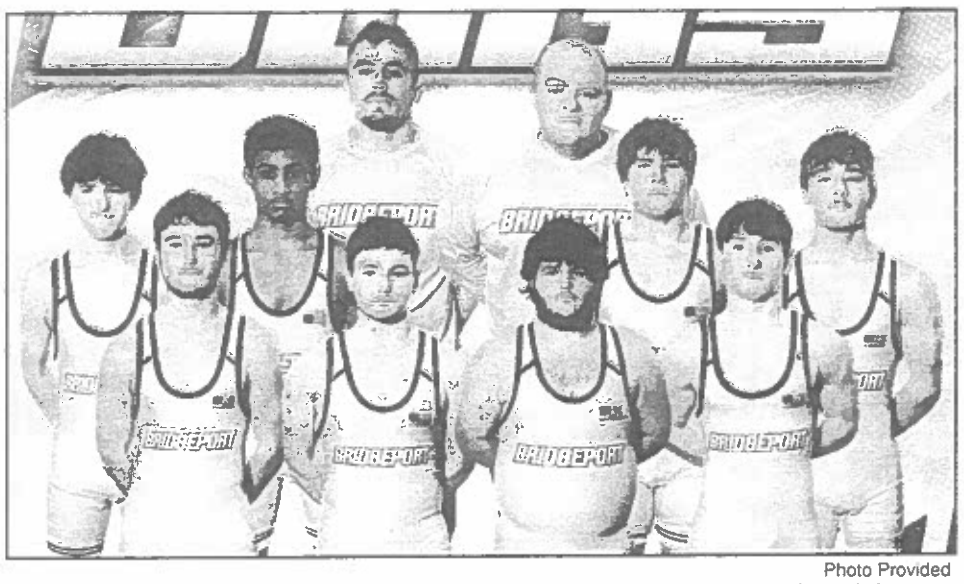

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Bridgeport wrestling team. Front row, left to right, are David Proctor, Kaleb McCamick, James Weekley and Robert Weekley. Back row, from left, are Nathan Newkirk, Ax'zavior Santana, Coach Matt McFarland, Coach Greg Honecker, Logan Baker and Dakota Lashhorn.

**Tournament Officials**

| | |
|---|---|
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| Tucker Brown | Josh Smith |
| Jim Copney | Brian Cunningham |
| Larry Harding | Kevin King |
| Steve Stoffel | James Robson |
| Cornell Birden | Mike Carmen |
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# Monroe County squads looking to get most from teams

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

Beallsville, Monroe Central and River will all be entering WesBanco Arena this week looking to get the most from their groups at the OVAC Wrestling Championships. While their teams are not as big as some other programs, there is still plenty of talent to go around between the schools.

**BEALLSVILLE**

BEALLSVILLE - The Blue Devils of Beallsville are bringing a trio of wrestlers to WesBanco Arena this week, with hopes of making their presence felt all the way to the last day of the OVAC Wrestling Championships.

"The expectation is to get at least one of them wrestling on Saturday," Beallsville head coach David Wiles said. "That's the goal."

Beallsville will be represented by freshman Brendan Morris (175), senior Anthony Dunn (190) and heavyweight sophomore Jayden Billingsley.

The young up-and-comers caught praise from Wiles, speaking Monday at the OVAC Wrestling Championships press conference.

"Right now Jayden Billingsley is wrestling really well," Wiles said. "Brendan Morris is too, but he's young - both of them are young and they make mistakes, but they're coming around. I think this time next year you're going to see two different kids there."

Heading into the supersized tournament, Wiles is trying to keep his team calm and focused.

"We try to treat it like any other tournament," Wiles said. "We try to bring down the hype a little bit, because they're going to be intimidated a little bit walking in here.

"I try to bring it down to a level where they can understand. We try to bring up the past pageantry of the tournament, the past champions we've had here starting with Donny Nippert who was the champion here in 1972. We follow that history all the way, and we make sure the kids know what to expect here and what the expectations are."

Wiles is assisted by Skylar Schuyler and Rusty Bondy.

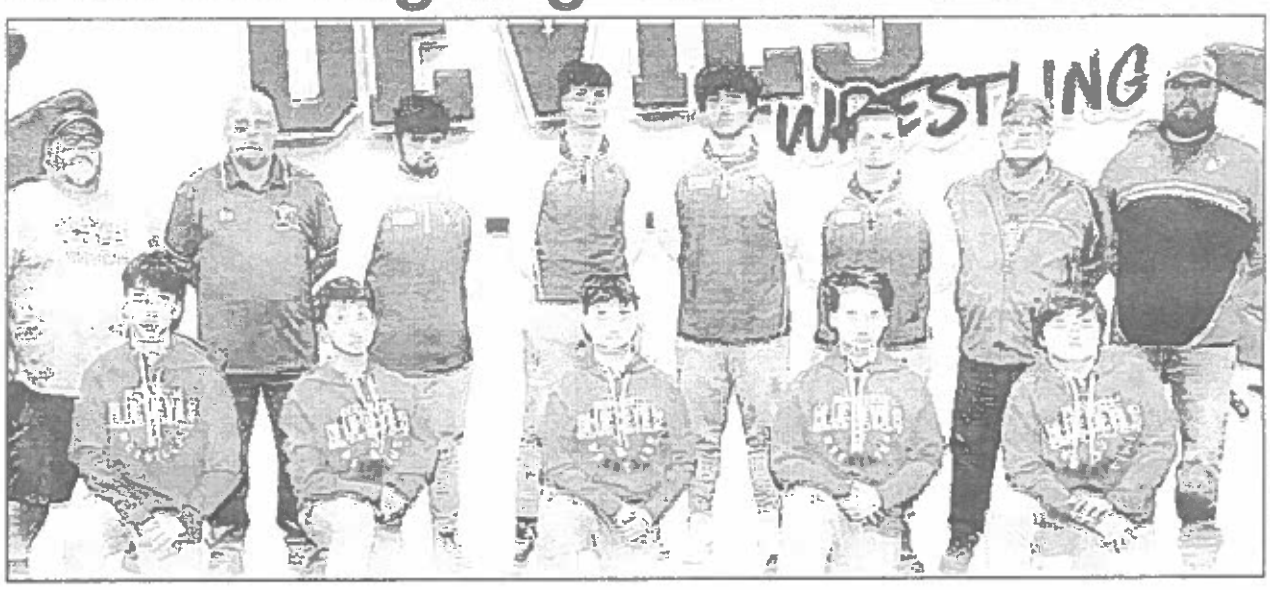


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Beallsville wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Layton Newlan, Deegan Bondy, Chase Morris, Ben Ynsuela and Jacob Riggs. Back row, from left, are Ritchie Hagan, David Wiles, Anthony Dunn, Brendon Morris, Jayden Billingsley, Cody Harley, Rusty Bondy, Schuyler Bondy.

**RIVER**

HANNIBAL - The River Pilots' five-piece crew are aiming to build themselves up against the best the conference has to offer.

"We've only got five kids out right now," River head coach Charles Baker said. "I'm hoping we can get someone to place. The kids work hard, we've got three of them who've been doing it for awhile, and for two of them, it's their first year. First-years, you don't expect too much from them. The three we have at 150 and 175 and 190, they've been wrestling for four or five years now, they're solid. I expect everyone to give me 100% whether they win or not."

Those three are Hunter Strawn (150), who owns a 12-7 record, with Tyler Winkler (175) and Hunter Lyman (190) both sitting with 14-8 marks.

Aralynn Kawasaki (120) and Blake Headley (215) round out the team.

See **COUNTY**, Page 12

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2007 – Rick Link, Union Local
2008 – Jim Potts, Cameron
2009 – Paul Billiard, Brooke
2010 – Jeff Carroll, Cambridge
2011 – Rich Gregor, Springfield High
2012 – Art Hehr, Bridgeport
2013 – Dave LaMotte, Bridgeport
2014 – Darrell Davis, Barnesville
2015 – Gene Monteleone, Wheeling Park
2016 – Jim Crosier, Union Local
2017 – Chick LaMotte, St. John Central
2018 – Larry Shaw, Oak Glen
2019 – John Grinch, Shadyside
2020 – Ken Robinson, Woodsfield
2021 – None (Cancelled-COVID)
2022 – Pete Cuffaro, Wheeling
2023 – Jeff Crosier, Barnesville
2024 – Ed West, John Marshall

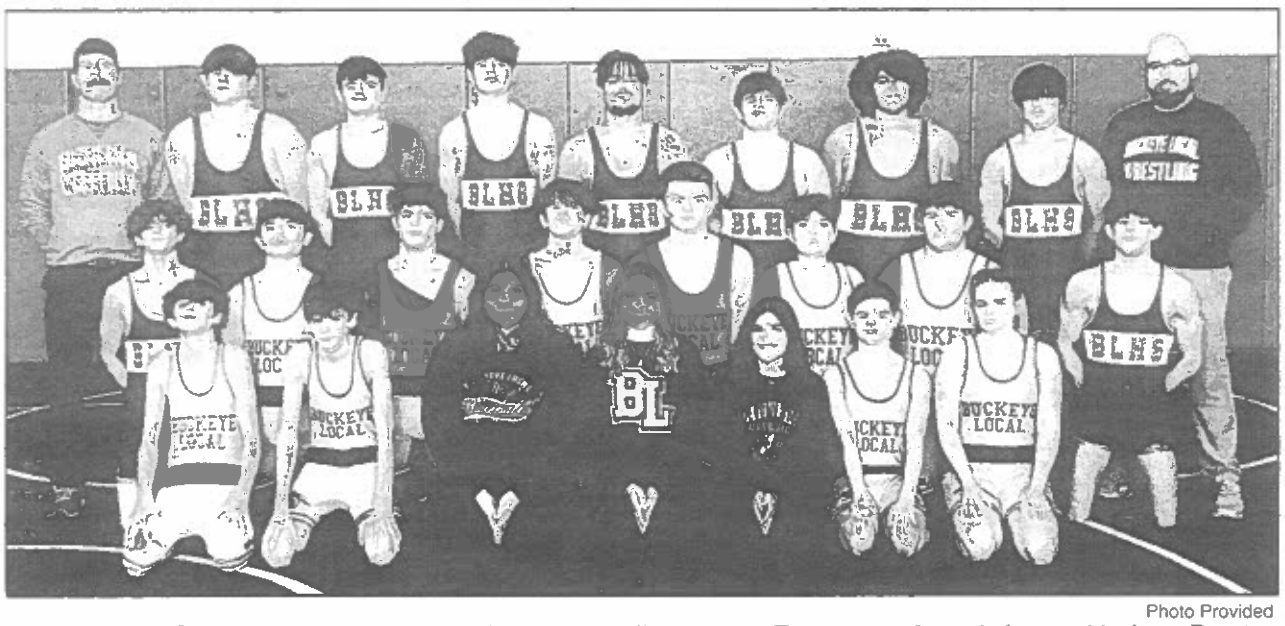

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Buckeye Local wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Nathan Dentz, Collin Lindsay, Addy Bonomo (stats), Keira Panipucci (stats), Addy Muldrew (stats), Drew Milton, and Isabella Hendricks. Middle row, from left, are Shawn Jordan, Sam Salvidar, Geno DelVecchio, Braxton Proctor, Tristin Weldon, Billy Chambers, Tucker Winski, and Chase Milton. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Jack Otto, Ryder Tibbs, Aiden Dentz, Gavin Edgell, Marek Hickman, Landon Durbin, Jorge Alvarez, Trey McCoy, and Head Coach Guy Nestor. Absent is assistant coach Hank Kendjorsky.

# Buckeye Local excited for tournament

**By NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

RAYLAND - Buckeye Local has been celebrating their history at the OVAC Tournament, and hopes to continue that heading into the conference's big stage on Thursday, Friday, and perhaps Saturday.

"The OVAC is always a prized tournament for us at Buckeye Local, we are two-time overall champs and we've had a number of OVAC champs," Buckeye Local head coach Guy Nestor said. "Last year we had our first-ever OVAC champ, Terry Smith, coming back for his 25th anniversary, and this year we'll have Nate Kendjorsky and Adam Beranek coming back for their 25-year anniversary. This is even closer to me because that was the timeframe that I was wrestling for Buckeye Local, it's got a special place in my heart going into this year."

The Panthers are bringing to the OVAC tournament Nathan Dentz (106), Shawn Jordan (113), Chase Milton (120), Aiden Dentz (138), Trey McCoy (144), Gavin Edgell (150), Braxton Proctor (157), Billy Chambers (165), Landon Durbin (175), Tristin Weldon (190), Ryder Tibbs (215) and heavyweight Jorge Alvarez.

"Overall for the team, our lightweights are wrestling really well right now," Nestor said. "Our 106-pounder Nathan Dentz and our 120-pounder Chase Milton both had very good tournaments up at West Muskingum, won some matches that could very well put them in the top-eight seeds. Our goal as a team is to get placers, we've had a drought for the last couple years. Last year, it's a bit heart-breaking when you lose five blood-round matches in a row and not have a kid place. We're going to turn that heartbreak into success this year, the goal is to have two placers at least with this team."

Nestor was interviewed before the OVAC seedings were announced on Monday, Jan. 13.

Seeded in the top 12 for the Panthers is Nathan Dentz at No. 6, Shawn Jordan at No. 11, Chase Milton at No. 6 and Jorge Alvarez at No. 12.

Dentz is 18-4 on the season, Jordan is 9-8, Milton is 7-2 and Alvarez is 13-8.

Aiden Dentz, Ryder Tibbs and Gavin Edgell were also mentioned by Nestor as wrestlers to watch out for at the tournament.

The Panthers are out to improve upon their showing from last year, and not stumble on their path to the postseason.

"It's the next biggest step to the state tournament," Nestor said of the OVAC tourney. "Of course at the end of the year, our goal is to get that state championship. But OVAC, for me, being a two-time placer, I know walking into the arena can be a little overwhelming for the young guys on the team because it's

See **EXCITED**, Page 10


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Good Luck Panthers!

# Bryant seeking consistency from Harrison Central

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

CADIZ - A young group on the rise, the Harrison Central Huskies are aiming to assert themselves during this week's OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament and produce results at their season's midway point.

"The big thing with the team right now is trying to get some consistency," Harrison Central head coach Bill Bryant said. "We're a very young and inexperienced team, we've got a lot of guys in the lineup who are freshmen or they're guys who have never wrestled before. Right now we're trying to just learn how to compete as wrestlers.

The Huskies' squad heading to WesBanco Arena begins with freshman Knox McKibben at 215 pounds and senior heavyweight Landen Thomas.

"We do have a couple guys who we have high expectations for at the OVAC tournament, starting off with Landen Thomas, he's a returning state runner-up in Ohio and an OVAC runner-up at 285," Bryant said. "We expect him to go down and compete for a title. The kid who beat us last year is still there, and we've already seen that kid again this year and he's beat us this year already once. We're hoping we can go down, try and find some ways to attack him a little differently and see if we can get a W there.

"The other individual who we expect to do well down there is a freshman, his name's Knox McKiven. He's wrestled very well this year, his only loss is to a ranked kid in Ohio in Division three and it was a three-to-four match and we kicked him to try and get a takedown to win it and he wasn't able to take him down. He's wrestled very well this weekend as well. Both Landen and Knox both have one loss on the season and have both won two tournaments already.

McKibben is 21-1 and drew the seventh seed in his weight class. Thomas is 19-1 and is the two-seed.

Along with the two seeded Huskies, Harrison Central is bringing Brayden McAfee (113), Zander Stabile (138), Michael Abel (144), Cael Bryant (150), Brennan Engstrom (157), Coltin Locke (175) and Caden Hendricks (190).

"I just want the rest of my guys to go down there and compete, try and make the most of it," Bryant said. "I think we have some guys who could possibly get a placement. But we want to set goals and expectations for our guys that they can be challenged by, and that they can reach. As a coach, our goal is for every kid to go down and at least get a win.

"If we can accomplish that, we go to the next rung on the ladder and go from there. We want to compete and show that win or lose, we're going to give everything we have."

The Huskies are singularly focused on their conference competition this week, a milestone they view as one peak on a roller-coaster season slate.

See **SEEKING**, Page 10

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Harrison Central wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Cael Bryant, Brasen Bryant, Khloe Mader, McKynze Bryant, Ava Huffman, Aubrey Bryant and Michael Able. Second row, from left, are Coach Richard McKinney, Zander Stabile, Brayden McAfee, RJ Hendershot, Derrick Rogers, Jeffrey McAfee, Coltin Locke and Jacob Bodenheimer. Back row, from left, are Head Coach Bill Bryant, Coach Joe Thomas, Landen Walters, Caden Hendricks, Landen Thomas, Knox McKibben, Markus Hilbert and Jaden Harris. Not pictured are Andrew Alberts, Brennan Engstrom, Hayden Bittinger, Mat Stat Advisor Sis Bittinger, Coach Stan Bittinger, Coach Tony Carothers, Coach Zach McKibben, Coach Brad Bryant.

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# John Marshall looking to continue trend

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE - John Marshall has been getting better and better with each match this season and head coach Ryan Asbury is hoping to continue that trend this week when the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships get underway.

"Overall, I really like how the team has been competing this season. I feel each time we've stepped on the mat, we've shown improvement from the previous weekend," Asbury said. "As long as we can continue that trend and keep wrestling with the confidence we've shown the last few weeks, we will have a very successful tournament."

The Monarchs have eight matmen ranked in their respective weight classes, according to OVAeC. They are freshman Nathan Hughes (2nd at 113); senior Carter Adkins (7th at 132); senior Zander Ward (4th at 138); senior Kaden Harding (7th at 144); senior Waylon Wyckoff (7th at 150); freshman Kai Johnson (6th at 157); senior Brooks Harrison (9th at 167) and senior Maverick Lemasters (6th at 175).

Adkins, now 21-4, is a three-time placer, finishing seventh as a junior at 132 and fifth at 132 as a sophomore. He was seventh at 126 as a freshman. Ward, 11-7, is also seeking a fourth time on the podium. He was fourth at 126 last year and third at 113 as a sophomore. As a freshman he took fifth at 106.

He recently won the Bobby Douglas Invitational at Bridgeport over the weekend to

Lemasters placed sixth at 190 last year. He is currently 23-3.

"We'll be looking to our senior leadership to set the tone for the weekend, and now we have some freshmen talent in the lineup who are itching for a chance to prove themselves," Asbury said.

Hughes has a sparkling 21-4 mark.

"Nathan has been a very solid wrestler for us this season. His confidence has grown as the season has progressed," Asbury said. "He's coming off of a first-place finish at the Cameron Invitational last weekend, where he beat the previous No. 2 in the OVAC in the finals. He was a middle school OVAC champion last season, and is poised to have a great weekend.

"Carter is a multiple-time OVAC placer and a returning W. Va. state placer. He's really elevated his wrestling this season, showing why he is one of our team captains," Asbury pointed out. "I think 132 will be an exciting weight class to watch this year at the OVAC and expect Carter to be a big part of that." Adkins is also 21-4.

"Zander is another multiple OVAC placer who is looking to close out what has been a great career. He was battling some injuries to start off the season, but is back to his true self now," Asbury allowed. "He is a returning state finalist on his path to the podium. As another of our team captains and veterans of the OVAC, we're looking to him to lead some of our freshmen this weekend." Ward is now 15-7.

See TREND, Page 13

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FROM THE
JOHN MARSHALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

# Linsly looking to make some noise this weekend

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Despite not fielding an entire 14-member lineup, Linsly still wants to make some noise when the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships begin inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena on Thursday.

The Cadets will have an entrant in 10 of the weight classes, including four individuals who are seeded in the three-day event.

Freshmen Brock Humphrey (106) and George Mamakos (132) received top billing in their respective weight classes. Senior Brody Cottrill (215) is a fifth seed and classmate Griffin Kernik (190) is No. 7.

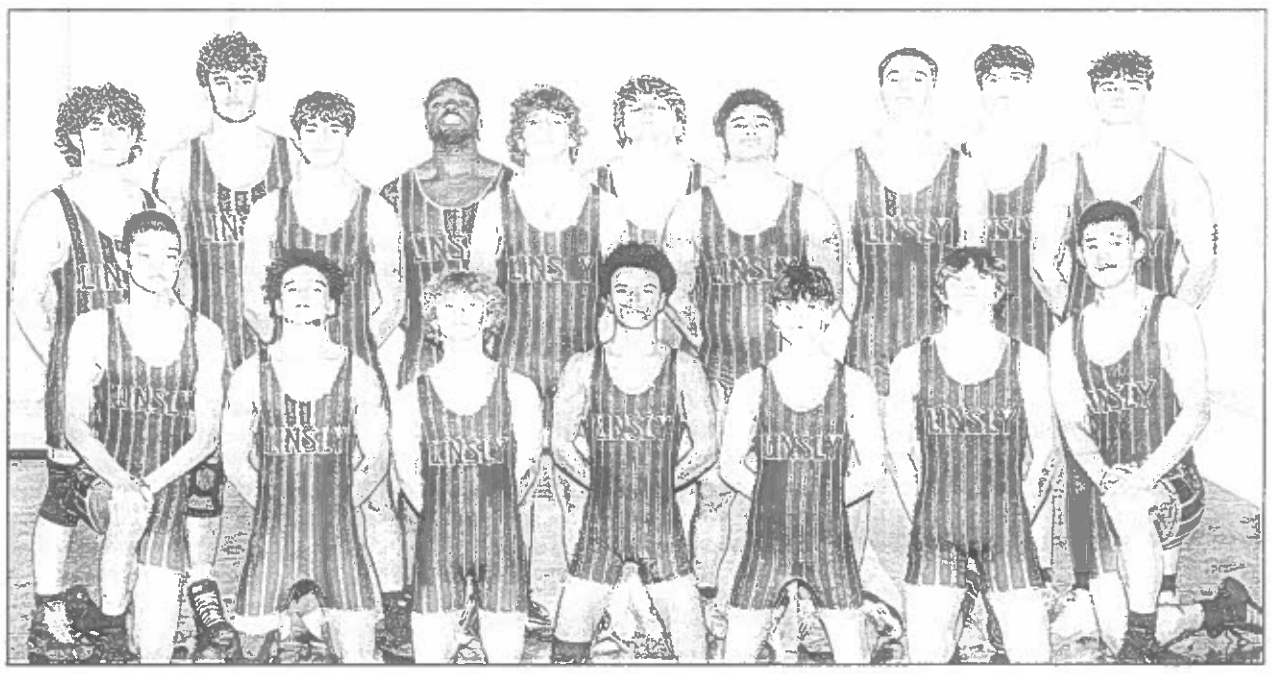

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Linsly wrestling team. Front row, from left, are William Zhang, George Mamakos, John Adamsky, Brock Humphrey, Skyler Hunter and Henry Zhang. Middle row, from left, are Simon Schiebel Lucca Troullos, Rocco Troullos, Joaquin Zarur and Griffen Kernik. Back row, from left, are Brody Cottrill, Nee Boateng, Eliott Wade, Landon Cottrill and Sawyer Palian.

"I expect all those wrestlers and the rest of the team to compete extremely hard," Linsly head coach Brian Valentine said. "The team is looking forward to this competition and to making some noise."

The Cadets roster is also comprised of senior Tavon Mayo (113); sophomores Rocco Troullos (157), Preston Hartley (165) and Landon Cottrill (175); and freshmen Sawyer Palian (138) and Eliott Wade (285).


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## • Seeking

Continued from Page 8

"We view the OVAC as a vital part of our schedule," Bryant began. "There's a lot of tradition there, this is the largest conference in the United States as far as high school goes. You go down there and there's 40-something teams that offer wrestling in our conference.

"If you can end up in the top eight out of 40-plus schools in our conference, that speaks volumes about what your postseason can look like come February and March.

"To me this tournament is our second largest of the season behind the state tournament. We gear our season to focus on going down and winning an OVAC title. When the OVAC is over then we switch gears, dial it back a little and try to get everybody healthy and make sure that everybody is ready to make that run in the postseason for the state tournament."

Bryant is assisted by Joe Thomas, Rich McKinney, Stan Bittinger, Zach McKibben, Tony Crothers, Brad Bryant, Drew Case, Matt Cowser and Carl Hensley.

## • Excited

Continued from Page 7

such a big tournament. Going into it, nerves are common for the team that we got because we're a young team. It's the granddaddy of the valley, there's a lot of history for Buckeye Local in that tournament."

Competing amongst the 4A crowd, Nestor wants his team to adopt the underdog mentality.

"Of course Beaver Local and Steubenville are the tops of 4A," Nestor began. "They have a lot of studs on their teams, they'll be placing a lot of guys. Truthfully, we're a small 4A, we should probably be 3A with how small we are, we're a D-3 school and those are both D-2 schools. Our thing is, we're going to be the underdogs, we're going to walk in there and try to knock-off the Parkersburg Souths, the Beaver Locals, the Steubenvilles and the Universitys. I've got all the respect in the world for University, they're a well-coached team and I wouldn't be shocked if they win it next weekend."

Nestor is assisted by Jack Otto and Hank Kendjorsky.

# Martins Ferry in rebuilding mode with young squad

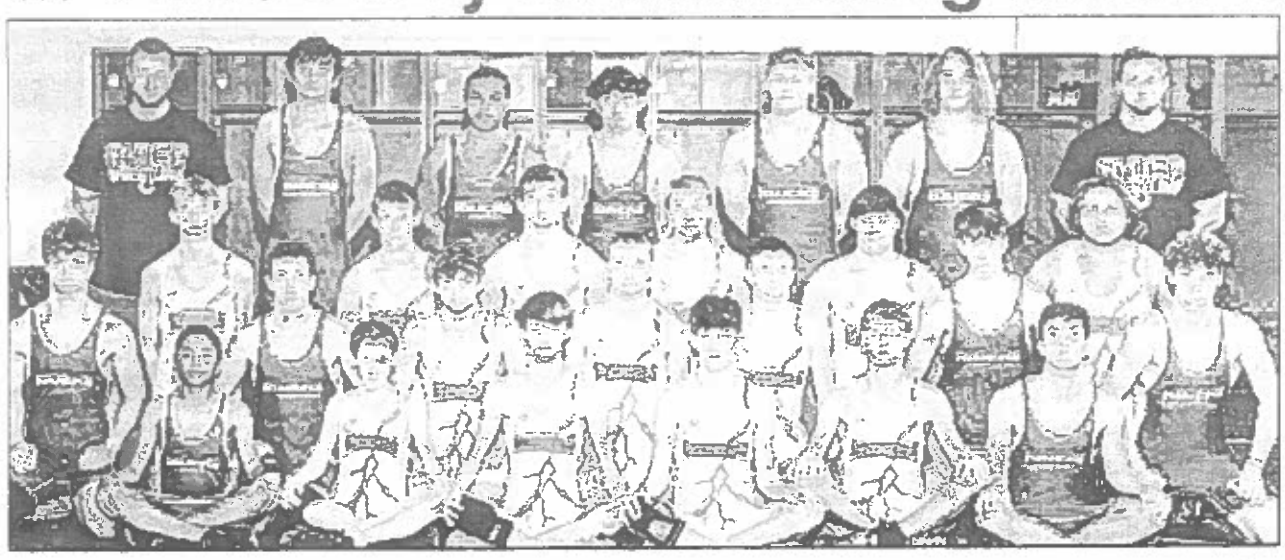

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Martins Ferry wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Dre'Mare Shaw, Braidyn Domyan, Charles Thompson, Maddox Painter, Ayden Mercer and Luis Carneiro. Second row, from left, are Kadence Luckett, Gunner Disher, Jase Mahoney, Keenan Lucey, Caden Holmes, Aidan Giffin and Jacob Ball. Third row, from left, are Colton Nixon, Silas Simpson, RJ Welshans, Cole Patterson, Austin Violet and Tayson Palmer. Basck row, from left, are Coach Chad Ware, Bryden Volan, Saquan Carthen, Levi Plants, Isaac Clark, Zane Archer, Coach Taylor Yoder.

**By KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

MARTINS FERRY - The Purple Riders of head coach Chad Ware are in the midst of a rebuilding year with a very youthful lineup heading into this week's 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

"We are a young team with only one senior and composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores," Ware explained. "I think that our team can finish in the top 3 in Class 3A if we have good performances from our top guys and contributions from everyone else."

Martins Ferry has four individuals ranked in their respective weight classes, according to OVAeC. They are junior Charles Thompson (11th at 106); senior Jase Mahoney (8th at 120); freshman Colton Nixon (3rd at 126) and sophomore RJ Welshans (5th at 157).

Mahoney is striving to reach the podium for the fourth time as he has placed sixth at 106 as a freshman; fourth at 113 as a sophomore and eighth at 12-0 as a junior.

He is currently 13-8.

Welshans placed seventh last year at 150 and is 20-3 this season. He won the Union Local Rick Link Invitational.

"His hard work and dedication should help him improve upon that this year," Ware said.

See **YOUNG**, Page 12

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## • County

Continued from Page 8

Heading into a tournament with hundreds of wrestlers, Baker sees this week as a great experience for his young team.

"The OVAC is probably the best single tournament in the United States right now," he said. "I can hope we do well in there, but it isn't going to make or break us. I just want my kids to feel the experience of being in it, knowing I was in this elite tournament. If they give me 100% I'll be happy for them. I'm sure they want to win the thing but let's be realistic. If you place, I'll be happy, that's a feather in your cap."

Baker is assisted by Eric Stephens.

**MONROE CENTRAL**

WOODSFIELD - The Seminoles are a young squad, but one that head coach Ryan Richter hopes can make their mark at the tournament.

"We're a young team, I've got one senior, one junior and the rest are freshmen and sophomores," Richter said. "I had one district qualifier last year and a couple of my freshmen are doing very well at the start of the season, a potential for a couple placement at the OVAC tournament. My freshmen are looking really good, and the guys who I've had for a handful of years here are getting better and better. The potential is there."

The district qualifier from last year is sophomore Owen Howard (165), who carries a 15-9 mark into the week. Richter also pointed out freshman Micah Aishman (132) as one to watch. Aishman is 12-8 on the year.

Dalton Grubb (215) is injured and will not be wrestling. The rest of Monroe Central's lineup for the tournament consists of Keegan Eldridge (106), Gavin Benett (120) and heavyweight Parker Seifert.

"The OVAC is a big tournament, but especially with having a young team, I don't want to get them too over-eager going into it," Richter said. "In the last week or so, honestly I've been down-playing it a little bit, telling them it's just another tournament, don't get stage fright."

Richter is assisted by Rod Richter and Jesse Howard.

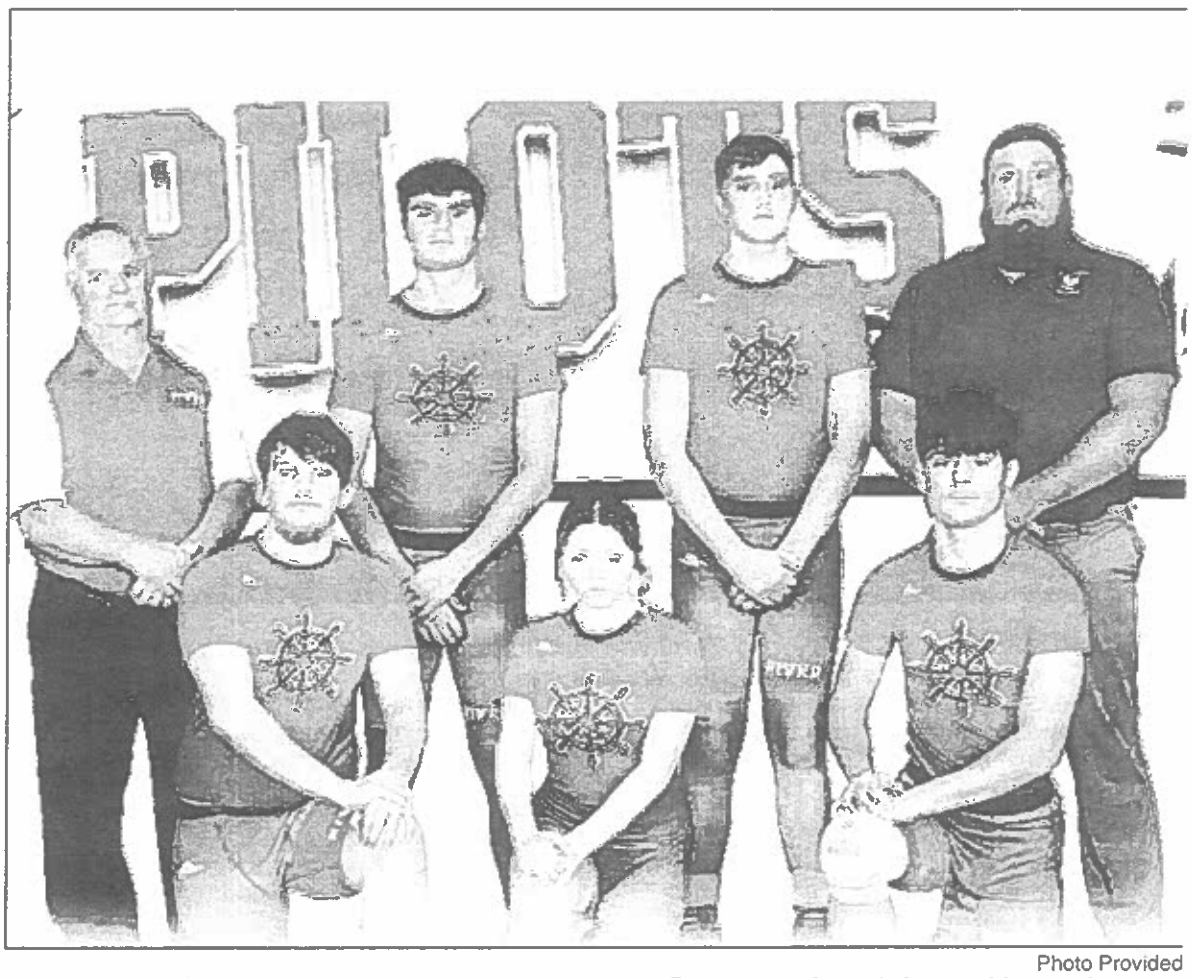


Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 River wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Hunter Lyman, Aralynn Kawasaki and Hunter Strawn. Back row, from left, are Head Coach Chuck Baker, Tyler Winkler, Blake Headley and Assistant Coach Eric Stephens.

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## • Young

Continued from Page 11

Nixon is living up to expectations from his junior high career.

"He should finish near the top," Ware added of Nixon, who is 17-4..

Thompson has shown improvement this season and is currently 14-9.

Rounding out the lineup are juniors Caden Holmes (144), Isaac Clark (190) and Tayson Palmer: sophomores Silas Simpson (132), Keenan Lucey (138) and Cole Patterson (165); and freshmen Maddox Painter (113), Jacob Ball (150), Bryden Volan (175) and Zane Archer (285).

"If Maddox performs well it wouldn't be a surprise if he sneaks on the podium," Ware noted. Painter is 11-9. Lucey is 14-9.

"Cole is getting better and better with each match," Ware assessed.

"If he performs like he can, he could make the podium." Patterson is 12-8.

"Tayson lost in the blood round last year. He should make it past that round this year and be on the podium Saturday night," Ware said.

Palmer is currently 10-6.

## 2024 Tournament Placers

**106**--1. Pepper Martin (University); 2. Justuce Fisher (Beaver Local); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Caldwell); 4. Kyle Ingram (East Liverpool); 5. Austin Harshbarger (Southern Local); 6. Easton Stephen (Barnesville); 7. Joseph Rea (Brooke); 8. Brody Smith (Cameron)

**113**--Cole Smith (Parkersburg South); 2. Tristen Eckles (East Liverpool); 3. Johnathan Huntsman (Barnesville); 4. Aiden Anderson (Oak Glen); 5. Kaden Nieman (University); 6. Gavin Bolock (Union Local); 7. Cole Harvey (Steubenville); 8. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir)

**120**--1. Logan Davis (Oak Glen); 2. Tristen Rossiter (Shenandoah); 3. Braxton Birch (Cameron); 4. Ethan Starr (Indian Creek); 5. Aydan Andrews (Barnesville); 6. Brodie Emery (University); 7. Grant Vasey (Bellaire); 8. Jase Mahoney (Martins Ferry)

**126**--1. Colt Carpenter (Barnesville); 2. Colton Gillespie (University); 3. Noah Keen (Cambridge); 4. Zander Ward (John Marshall); 5. Landon Burdine (Brooke); 6. Aaydin King (Parkersburg South); 7. Wyatt Wolanski (Oak Glen); 8. Leo Wilkes (Beaver Local).

**132**--1. Robert Buchheit (Beaver Local); 2. Carter Pauley (University); 3. Hayden Lamb (Oak Glen); 4. Charlie Abbott (Steubenville); 5. Jordan Noble (Bridgeport); 6. Ian Starkey (Indian Creek); 7. Carter Adkins (John Marshall); 8. Lucca Troullos (Linsly)

**138**--1. Dakota King (Barnesville); 2. Slaton Pettit (Cameron); 3. Cal Beadling (Steubenville); 4. Marshall Laishley (Cambridge); 5. Caiden Cooley (Edison); 6. Logan Graham (Oak Glen); 7. Nate Hodge (Wheeling Park); 8. Anthony Noble (Bridgeport)

**144**--1. Cooper Smith (Steubenville); 2. Karson Milhoan (Barnesville); 3. Gunnar Gossett (Union Locval); 4. Shawn Young (Weir); 5. Nathan Murphy (Parkersburg South); 6. Jack Lowe (Wheeling Park); 7. Evan Ours (Beaver Local); 8. Andrew Osman (Shadyside)

**150**--1. Brody Saccoccia (Steubenville); 2. Reese Stephen (Barnesville); 3. Makiya Powell (Parkersburg South); 4. Noah White (Wheeling Park); 5. Rider Luxdrosky (University); 6. Michael Heath (Oak Glen); 7. Richard Welshans (Martins Ferry); 8. Gus Zaleski (Steubenville Catholic)

**157**--1. Skyler King (Barnesville); 2. Savier Faulks (Steubenville); 3. Brody Perzanowski (Union Local); 4. Gavin Pownall (Indian Creek); 5. Ryan Chafins (Beaver Local); 6. Griffen Kernik (Linsly); 7. Eli Tedrow (Wheeling Central); 8. Damon Stansbury (East Liverpool)

**165**--1. Luca Felix (University); 2. Ayden King (Barnesville); 3. Ethan Llewellyn (Indian Creek); 4. Cole Middleton (Parkersburg South); 5. Hunter Bittinger (Harrison Central); 6. Justin Cox (Beaver Local); 7. Wyatt Brady (Wheeling Central); 8. Landon Crosier (Steubenville)

**175**--1. Gage Wright (Parkersburg South); 2. Jameson Maynard (Wheeling Park); 3. Klypsan Wallace (Cameron); 4. Aden Strahler (Warren); 5. Emerson Murphy (University); 6. Hines Ford (Barnesville); 7. Gavin Moore (Brooke); 8. Mathias Kesselring (Fort Frye)

**190**--1. Malaki Washington (Wheeling Park); 2. Kane Curran (Beaver Local); 3. Gabriel Blissenbach (Southern Local); 4. Brycen Arthur (Parkersburg South); 5. Greg Sauers (Oak Glen); 6. Maverick Lemasters (John Marshall); 7. Brody Cottrill (Linsly); 8. Luke McMillion (INdian Creek)

**215**--1. Lucas Thomas (Harrison Central); 2. Isaac Martin (Wheeling Central); 3. Tyler Wise (Brooke); 4. Ayden Morris (Parkersburg South); 5. Jonathan Bailey (Southern Local); 6. Waylon Courtwright (Oak Glen); 7. Landon Taylor (Linsly); 8. Kartyr Armstrong (Warren)

285--1. Brock Kehler (University); 2. Landen Thomas (Harrison Central); 3. Logan Middleton (Parkersburg South); 4. Hunter Means (Wheeling Park); 5. Anderson Palian (Linsly); 6. Noah Schmidt (Oak Glen); 7. Jase Norman (Caldwell); 8. Caleb Yates (John Marshall)

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OVAC Directors Award William "Doc" Welker
William "Bill" Marling Memorial Scholarship Shadyside
The "Project Best" Bob Sadler Sportsmanship Award Linsly
Sydney "Syd" Stolz Memorial Award Todd Fullerton
OVAC Jr High Coach of the Year Joey Mayle University
OVAC The Man Behind the Scenes Rich McCardle
OVAC Official of the year Tucker Brown
OVAC Assistant Coach of the year David Jeffrey Parkersburg South
OVAC A-AA Coach of the year Tim Jones Cameron
OVAC AAA Coach of the year Jayson Stephen Barnesville
OVAC AAAA Coach of the year Josh Cornell Oak Glen
OVAC AAAAA Coach of the year Shaun Smith Parkersburg South

## 2024 Final Team Scores

**CLASS A/AA**

1. Cameron 80; 2. Southern Local 74; 3. Caldwell 48; 4. Bridgeport 32.5; 5. Steubenville Catholic 22.5; 6. Toronto 17; 7. (tie) River, Shadyside 10; 9. Beallsville 7; 10. (tie) Frontier, Madonna 3; 12. Wellsville 2; 13. (tie) Monroe Central, Paden City 0; 15. Conotton Valley -2.

**CLASS AAA**

1. Barnesville 259; 2. Wheeling Central 101.5; 3. Linsly 89; 4. Union Local 81.5; 5. Martins Ferry 56; 6. Shenandoah 38.5; 7. Bellaire 31; 8. Fort Frye 22; 9. Magnolia 14

**Class AAAA**

1. Oak Glen 168; 2. Beaver Local 136.5; 3. Indian Creek 97; 4. Harrison Central 73.5; 5. East Liverpool 79.5; 6. Weir 69.5; 7. Cambridge 68; 8. Edison 58; 9. Buckeye Local 56; 10. St. Clairsville 21

**CLASS AAAAA**

1. University 251.5; 2. Parkersburg South 203.5; 3. Steubenville 181; 4. Wheeling Park 152.5; 5. John Marshall 96; 6. Brooke 84; 7. Warren Local 51; 8. Morgantown 30

## • Trend

Continued from Page 9

"Kaden is another kid who has stepped up his wrestling level this season. He has been just shy of the podium a few times in the OVACs, and is very capable of bringing home some hardware this season," Asbury said. "With the way he has been competing over the last month, he is certainly capable of having a very good weekend. " Harding is 14-4.

"Waylon is another senior who has been a constant force in our lineup the last several years. He recently went 8-0 at the always competitive Wheeling Park Duals, and helped the team to some close dual meet wins along the way," Asbury praised. "I have high expectations for Waylon at the OVAC, and am excited to see how he goes out and competes." He is now 19-7.

"Kai is a freshman that has also been stepping up and doing very well for us this season, which is not an easy task as a middleweight," Asbury noted. "He has wins this season over returning OVAC placers, and as a middle school OVAC finalist, is certainly familiar with competition in this conference." He stands at 15-12.

"Brooks is another of our team captains this season and has been competing very well," the coach added. "He was a blood-round finisher at both the OVAC and state tournaments last season and is practicing and competing with a chip on his shoulder to make sure there isn't a repeat of this. " Harrison is 19-6.

"The 175 weight class is another very fun weight class for this tournament, and I think this is one where several individuals have the ability to win the weight," Asbury said. "Maverick is a returning OVAC placer who's only OVAC loss was a very close match with the current No. 2, and I feel he is now fully adjusted to his new weight and is poised for a great weekend. " He is 23-3.

The Monarchs lineup also includes freshmen Clayton Pyles-Dugas (120), Mikey Logsdon (126) and Gavin Myers (190) along with seniors Isaac Swauger (215) and Levi Clegg (285).

"Clayton is another freshman who has been wrestling very well for us at a pretty stacked weight class," Asbury said. "He's improved a lot during the season, and I expect him to surprise some individuals at the OVAC this season. He has a very bright future with the Monarchs." He is 16-9 on the season.

# Union Local making strides under head coach Starkey

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN - The Union Local wrestling team has made strides under head coach Nate Starkey. Still a work-in-progress, the youthful Jets are trying to make some noise when the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament unfolds this weekend inside downtown Wheeling's Wes-Banco Arena.

The three-day extravaganza begins Thursday at 6 p.m. with Olympic-style opening ceremonies and will continue until Saturday's championship finals, which are scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Photo Provided

**PICTURED IS** the 20214-25 Union Local wrestling team. From left, are Kolten Clark, Jaxson Lewis, Zander Burley, Max Dubiel, Gavin McVay, Gunnar Gossett, Ryan Howard, Gavin Bolock, Brice Pitner, Kaden Cross, Brady Hunt, Brody Perzanowski, Calvin Robbins, Mason Kocher, Tyson Morris, Gamble Gossett, Dominic Crum and Wyatt Ogilbee. Not pictured is Trent White.

"We are still a young team, with a lot of young talent," Starkey assessed. "I am excited to see what our guys can do. We have some established guys trying to improve on prior placements and others trying to make a name for themselves amongst their peers.

"Our guys work very hard and are trying to improve daily. Overall, I feel confident in the product we can put on the mat."

Three wrestlers will be looking to improve upon finishes from last year's event, those being senior Gavin Bolock (126) and sophomores Gunnar Gossett (150) and Brody Perzanowski (175).

Block has reached the awards podium twice before, placing sixth as a sophomore at 106 and last year at 113. He is also a two-time state qualifier and will enter the tournament with a 9-10 record. He is ranked No. 8 by OVAeC.

Gossett placed third a year ago at 144 and is ranked No. 5 by OVAeC this year with a superb 19-2 record. He was also sixth in the Division III state tournament a year ago.

Perzanowski is 18-3 and ranked No. 3 by OVAeC. He took third last year at 157 where he also placed sixth in the state.

Also seeking a podium appearance is freshman Gamble Gossett (120) who checks in at 17-3. He recently won the Tornado Classic at West Muskingum and is ranked No. 3 by OVAeC.

Seniors Kaden Cross (165) and Brice Pitner (285), along with junior Brady Hunt (215); sophomores Max Dubiel (106), Mason Kocher (132) and Calvin Robbins (144); and freshmen Jaxson Lewis (138), Dominic Crum (157) and Kolten Clark (190) round out the lineup.

Crum is 13-6 and Lewis 10-6.


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**PICTURED IS** the 2024-25 Shadyside wrestling team. Front row, from left, are Rylan Jack, Josiah Green, Chloe Meolovitch, Treyton Heitz and Eli Gallaher. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Paden Stewart, Jaycob Trigg, Lucca Smathers, Myles Moore, Torren Gilbert and head coach Chase Kinemond. Not pictured is Xander Baker.

# Kinemond pleased with performances

**By BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

SHADYSIDE - Chase Kinemond is now in his seventh year of guiding the Shadyside mat program, and the former Tiger wrestling great is pleased with how his ultra-youthful Orange grapplers have competed thus far this year.

"The season has gone well so far. We have a very young team with no seniors, and they are starting to put the wins together," Kinemond said. "Five wrestlers have winning records and they will look to improve their wins with one more tournament before the OVAC Tournament. This team works hard in the practice room and I only see improvement going forward."

Shadyside is 2-0 so far in dual matches. They have also been quite competitive in the Warren Local and Shadyside Last Man Standing tournaments.

Kinemond has guided the Tigers to the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class A/AA Dual Meet championships the past two seasons. They will compete in the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament this weekend inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

See **PLEASED**, Page 16

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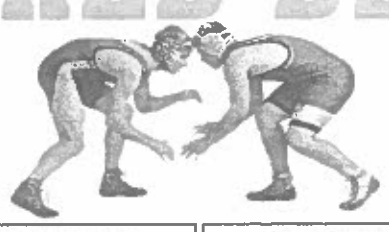

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# Red Devils are full of confidence entering tourney

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The St. Clairsville Red Devils will be brining a squad full of underclassmen to the OVAC tournament this week, but also a squad full of confidence from the message their coach has hammered into them.

"We have a lot of young guys in our lineup right now, we don't have any seniors on the team," St. Clairsville head coach Bobby Richmond said. "We have one junior who's a starter at the moment. The rest of the team is basically made up of sophomores and freshmen, a lot of whom are getting their first high school experiences. That being said, we've wrestled a pretty tough schedule so our record isn't going to indicate how truly good we are. I think with these early tests, we can show up to OVAC's and surprise some people just based on the experience some of our guys have been getting in these tougher tournaments around the area."

Coming to WesBanco Arena to compete for the Red Devils is a full complement of wrestlers which includes Carson Bishop (113), Michael Howard (120), Clarissa Jarrett (126), Jeremy Tharp (132), Brody Bolyard (138), Preston Apostolec (144), Timothy Crain (150), Isaiah Howard (157), Therron Fillon (165), Luke Marling (175), Hugo Sustaita (190), and Bo Donley (285).

Of that group, Apostolec and Marling are seeded in the top 12, with Marling drawing the 10th seed and Apostolec the 12th seed. Marling is 13-6 this season, Apostolec is 13-8.

Bishop, Tharp and Fillon also garnered praise from their coach as wrestlers to watch.

"We've got a lot of kids who are pretty tough," Richmond said. "Those three are guys who I think will surprise a lot of people at the OVAC."

St. Clairsville sees the OVAC tournament as a gut-check for teams to figure out where they can go the rest of the year.

"The OVAC is a really big part, it kind of puts us at the midpoint of our season," Richmond said. "Everyone's going to be battling leading up to that middle part of the season, because it's a check to see where your team stands from the beginning of the year to now. It's another rung on the ladder to sectionals and beyond."

The Red Devils are part of OVAC 4A, and their contemporaries include teams like Beaver Local, Steubenville, University and other high-profile programs.

"4A is a pretty tough division, typically some of those teams are competing for the overall championship, teams like Beaver Local," Richmond said. "You've got a lot of strong teams in 4A. No slack in this division at all."

Richmond is assisted by Dillon Nolte and Chas Snider.

## • Pleased

Continued from Page 15

Shadyside's 10-grappler roster is composed of two freshmen, seven sophomores and one junior. A young squad indeed.

Trenton Heitz opens the Tiger lineup at the 113-pound class. The promising sophomore is 9-7 thus far, with a sixth-place finish in the Warren Local event while taking third in the Shadyside tourney.

The next two weight classes boast rising sophomores.

Rylan Jack is 6-5 at 120-pounds and finished third in the Shadyside tournament. Josiah Green, meanwhile, has pocketed nine wins in the 126-pound class. He placed fifth both at the Warren and Shadyside tournaments.

Sophomore Chloe Meholovitch also sees match time at 126.

Jacob Trigg is another quality sophomore. He has put together a sparkling 10-4 mark in the 132-pound division. Moreover, he took runner up honors in the Warren tournament and fourth at the Shadyside event.

Eli Gallaher is the lone junior on the Orange roster. He is 9-6 at 138 pounds and was fourth in the Shadyside tournament.

Sophomore Xander Baker is Shadyside's regular at 144 pounds.

Lucca Smathers is making great strides as a frosh. The 165-pounder has five triumphs to his credit, including an impressive runner up honor in Shadyside's Last Man Standing extravaganza.

Youth is also being served in Shadyside's final two weight classes.

Sophomore Torren Gilbert holds down the 190-pound class while frosh Myles Moore is the 215-pounder.

"My OVAC Tournament hopes are to see us on the podium," Kinemond offered. "We managed to get one wrestler last year to place and I hope to get more there this year. I would also like us to place well team-wise in our class."

After the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament, Shadyside will host a triangular with Martins Ferry and Buckeye Local while also competing in the Buckeye Local Panther Classic. That will set the stage for the sectionals.

"After OVAC we will have two tournaments and a tri before we have the sectionals. The OVAC Tournament is always a great midway point to see how we are doing before postseason comes around," Kinemond added.

Paden Stewart is Shadyside's varsity assistant while Donnie Van Dyke and Robbie Seszko are guiding the Tigers' junior high squad.

Kinemond is one of the best ever to suit up in a Shadyside High wrestling singlet. Kinemond was a two-time All-Ohioan, placing fifth as a freshman and seventh as a senior. He won an OVAC title during his senior season and was runner up as a sophomore and fifth as a freshman.

All told, he finished his Tigers' prep career with an outstanding 120-19 record despite missing his entire junior season after suffering a torn ACL that football season.

Kinemond went on to script a record-setting career as the Bethany College quarterback.

## Bierkortte Award Winners

1994 — Dustin Harris, Beaver Local High School
1995 — Justin Ewing, St. Clairsville High School
1996 — Eric Anderson, St. John High School
1997 — Ryan Muldrew, John Marshall High School
1998 — Chad Pratz, Linsly
1999 — Jose Smith, Cambridge High School
2000 — Scott Roth, Martins Ferry High School
2001 — Cole Bowersock, Beaver Local High School
2002 — Derek George, John Marshall High School
2003 — David Bertolino, Buckeye Local High School
2004 — Adam Hoppel, Beaver Local High School
2005 — Clay Tucker, Martins Ferry High School
2006 — Zack Schuller, St. Clairsville High School
2007 — James Myers, Indian Creek High School
2008 — Jimmy Reisz, Beallsville High School
2009 — Dirk Bauer, Wheeling Park High School
2010 — Dylan Ice, Beaver Local High School
2011 — Kyle Bauer, Wheeling Park High School
2012 — David Jeffrey, Parkersburg South
2013 — Cody Amos, Wheeling Park High School
2014 — Jonny Davis, Wheeling Park High School
2015 — Alex Potts, East Liverpool High School
2016 — Tariq Wilson, Steubenville High School
2017 — Peyton Hall, Oak Glen High School
2018 — Josh Humphreys, Parkersburg South High School
2019 — Peyton Blasko, Steubenville High School
2020 — Braxton Amos, Parkersburg South High School
2021 — None (Cancelled - COVID)
2022 — Logan Ours, Beaver Local
2023 — Dakota King, Barnesville
2024 — Gage Wright, Parkersburg South

**SCHOOLS WINNING THE DAVID BIERKORTTE WRESTLING AWARD**

Steubenville 5
Wheeling Park 5
Beaver Local 4
Martins Ferry 4
Barnesville 4
Bellaire 3
Parkersburg South 4
Bridgeport 2
Cambridge 2
East Liverpool 2
John Marshall 2
Oak Glen 2
St. Clairsville 2
Weir 2
Beallsville 1
Buckeye Local 1
Cadiz 1
Cameron 1
Edison South 1
Indian Creek 1
Jefferson Union 1
Linsly 1
St. John 1
Toronto 1

# Countdown To OVAC Wrestling Tournament Begins

## 71st Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships Press Conference Held

**By KIM NORTH**
**Staff Writer**

WHEELING - The top 12 seeds in each weight class for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships were revealed Monday night during a press conference inside the east meeting room at WesBanco Arena.

The three-day event kicks off Thursday night with the traditional Olympic-style opening ceremonies, with wrestling beginning 30 minutes later. Action continues Friday at noon and again at 6 p.m., with Saturday's action beginning at 11 a.m. with championship semifinals. Special awards, including the prestigious Mr. Mat, will be presented at 3:30 p.m., with the championship finals starting at 4.

"Last year was a little tough with all the snow that we received on Thursday," Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, in his second year, said. "We had to cancel Friday last year and combine some rounds to get the tournament finished, but the coaches were receptive to everything we did.

"Hopefully, cross your fingers, the weather treats us better this year," Shaffer continued.

Seven defending champions highlight the 2025 event as Steubenville and University have two each. Big Red is represented by junior Cooper Smith (144) and senior Brody Saccoccia (157), while the Hawks' senior tandem Pepper Martin (113) and Brock Kehler (285) return. Barnesville sophomore Colt Carpenter (138); Beaver Local senior Bobby Buchheit (138) and Wheeling Park senior Malaki Washington (215) round out the returning titlists.

Saccoccia, who won at 150 a year ago, is a Purdue University signee and was the Bierkortte Award winner last year, while Kehler will attend West Virginia University. Martin prevailed at 106 a year ago; Carpenter won at 126 last year; Buchheit at 132; and Washington at 190.

All received top billing in their respective weight class, with the exception of Buchheit (No. 3) and Washington (No. 2).

*Please see* **OVAC**, *Page 10*

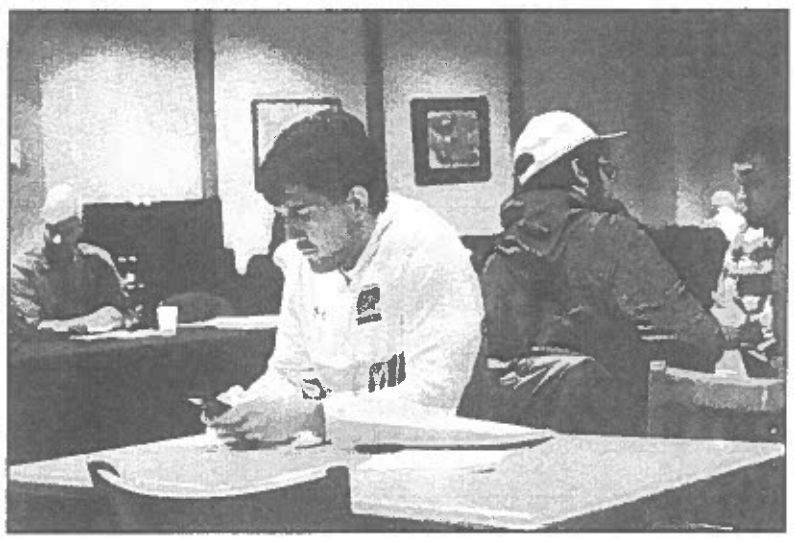
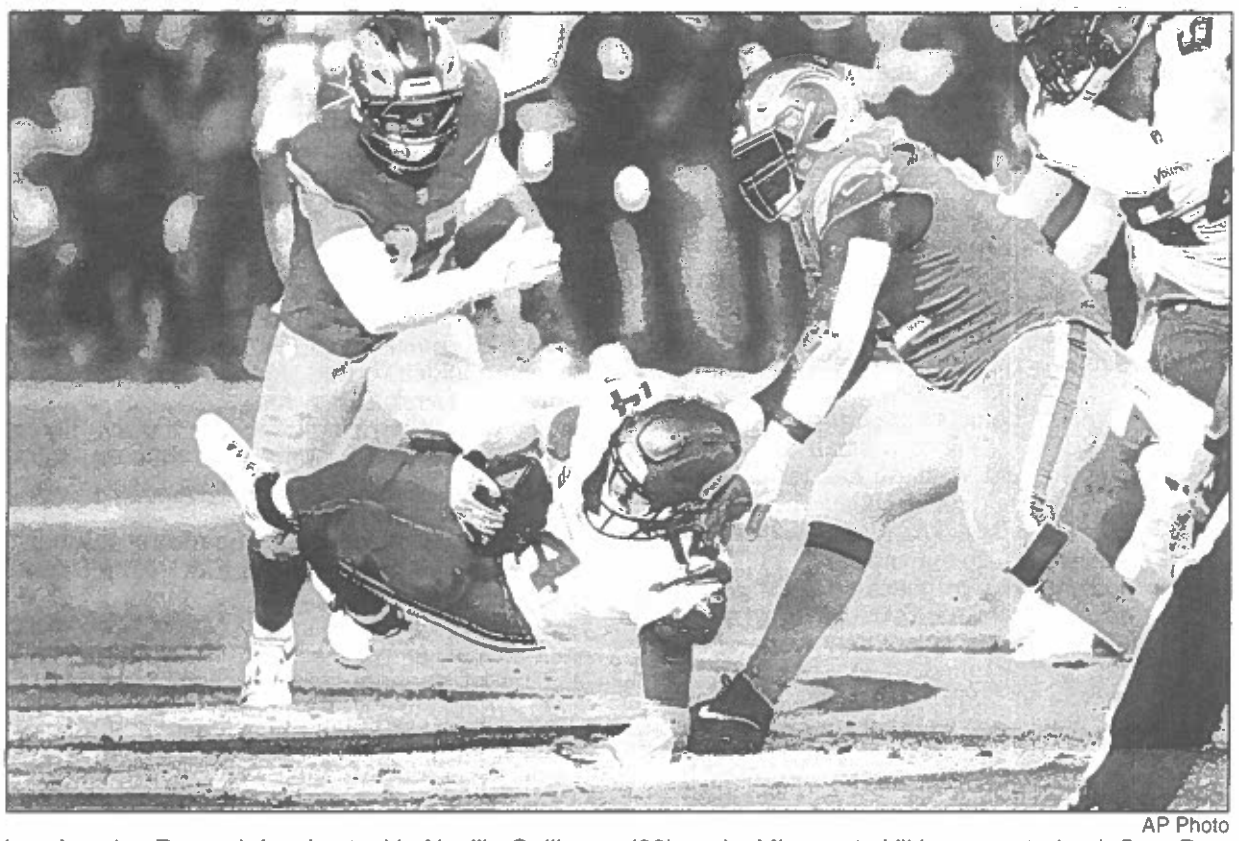


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park head wrestling coach Danny Doyle looks at the pairings for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships on his phone during the press conference Monday night. The three-day event begins Thursday and runs through Saturday.

# Wild Card Playoff Round Ends With Rams' Relocated Victory vs. Vikings



AP Photo

Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Neville Gallimore (92) sacks Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold (14) during the second half of a wild card playoff game, Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, in Glendale, Ariz.

**By DAVID BRANDT**
**AP Sports Writer**

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and the Los Angeles Rams overwhelmed the Minnesota Vikings, sacking Sam Darnold an NFL playoff record-tying nine times to win 27-9 Monday night in an NFC wild-card game that was moved out of Southern California because of devastating wildfires.

Rookie Jared Verse returned a fumble for a 57-yard score for the Rams (11-7), who looked comfortable in their adopted home of State Farm Stadium from the first snap. LA drove for a touchdown on the opening drive and built a 10-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The game was moved to the Phoenix suburbs – nearly 400 miles east of the Rams' home in Inglewood, California – because of the wildfires that continue to burn in the Los Angeles area. LA's next game will be on the East Coast against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

Verse's touchdown with 4:35 left in the second quarter gave the Rams a 17-3 lead. Darnold was under pressure from blitzing cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon when he lost the ball. The 24-year-old Verse scooped it up and ran down the field untouched, somersaulting into the end zone.

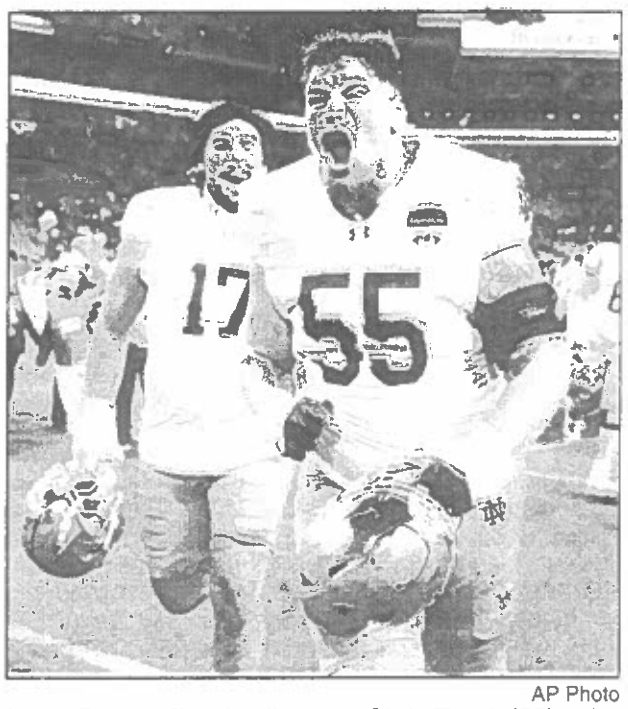
The play sent the Rams' faithful into a frenzy – NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said some 45,000 fans made the trek from California for the game, and the 63,400-seat stadium appeared full.

It was the lowlight of a brutal first half for Darnold, who was making his first NFL playoff appearance. He was sacked five times before the break and threw an interception when Cobie Durant picked off a pass intended for Jordan Addison.

Minnesota (14-4) had a chance to earn the NFC's top seed in the final game of the regular season, but Darnold struggled in a loss at Detroit. His poor finish raises questions about his long-term future with the Vikings after he played this season on a one-year deal.

The Rams took a 24-3 lead when Stafford hit tight end Davis Allen for a 13-yard touchdown with 15 seconds remaining in the first half. Stafford finished with 209 yards passing and completed his first 10 passes, including all six on the opening touchdown drive.

*Please see* **ROUND**, *Page 10*



AP Photo

Notre Dame offensive lineman Chris Terek (55) celebrates at the end of the Orange Bowl College Football Playoff semifinal game against Penn State, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

# Notre Dame, Ohio State In Uncharted Territory: They're Playing First 16-Game CFB Season

**By TIM REYNOLDS**
**AP Sports Writer**

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. – The year was 1894. Yale put together a football schedule that was daunting: Games on Wednesdays and Saturdays, basically every week from late September to late November, 16 contests in all.

No major college football team – what we now call the FBS level – had a 16-game season since.

Until now.

Welcome to yet another new part of this rapidly changing college football world. Seasons, at least for some teams, will be longer than ever. Texas and Penn State just played their 16th and final games of this 2024 season. And on Jan. 20 in the College Football Playoff championship game, Notre Dame and Ohio State will be playing their 16th and final games of this season in a matchup to decide the national title.

"How we got ready for the season, how we're adapting, is you have a plan, you have a team, you have a sports performance team that you listen to, and you talk through some different scenarios and you've got to be adaptable," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said.

*Please see* **TERRITORY**, *Page 10*

# Auburn Rises To No. 1 In AP Top 25 Poll

**By AARON BEARD**
**AP Basketball Writer**

Auburn has climbed to No. 1 in The Associated

might be ready to play after suffering an ankle injury in Saturday's win over South Carolina.

# River Handles Visiting Magnolia

**By MARK DIERKES**
**For The Intelligencer**

HANNIBAL - An explosive 22-point first half by River senior Kaylee

ning clock in the second half limited her playing time. She added seven rebounds, five steals and five assists.

# LOCAL BASKETBALLERS COMPETE IN ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST AT WHEELING U

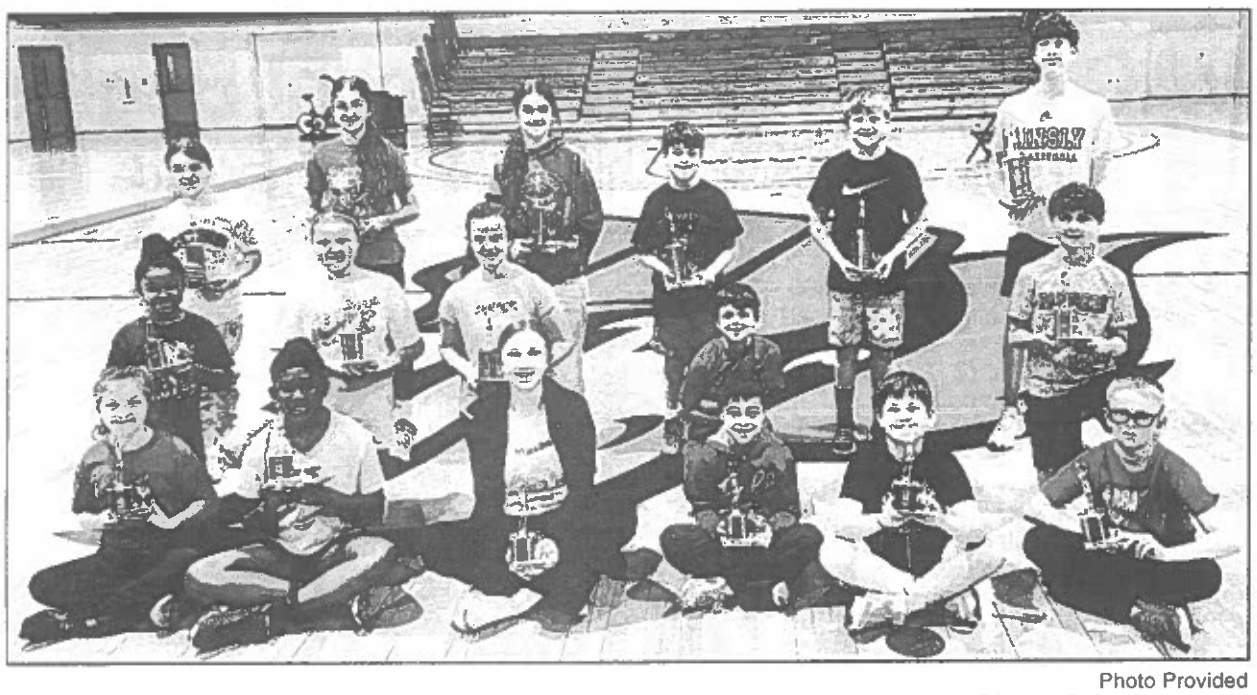


Photo Provided

Eighteen girls and boys were recently awarded trophies in the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest sponsored by Wheeling Elks Lodge No. 28. The contest was held on January 4, 2025 at Wheeling University. The contest included participants from public and private schools in both Marshall County and Ohio County.

In the front row pictured above, third place winners included, from left to right, Nora Whisler, girls 8-9 division; Gia Macon, girls 10-11 division; Claire Phillips, girls 12-13 division; Br'oayx Blake, boys 12-13 division; Camden Kittle, boys 10-11 division; and Marcus Bellen, boys 8-9 division. In the middle row, second place winners included, from left to right, Kyla Dalton, girls 8-9 division; Kate Cronin, girls 10-11 division; Taylor Himmelrick, girls 12-13 division; Cruz Fazio, boys 12-13 division; Ben Phillips, boys 10-11 division (Not Pictured); and Benjamin Wright, boys 8-9 division. In the back row, the first-place champions included, from left to right, Milli Hanson, girls 8-9 division; Nora Thalman, girls 10-11 division; Claire Goddard, girls 12-13 division; Brazen Smith, boys 12-13 division; Pace Pettit, boys 10-11 division; and Levi Smith, boys 8-9 division.

Each of the six overall champions will advance to the Elks Northern District Hoop Shoot Contest to be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at St. Mary's High School in St. Mary's, West Virginia. The Elks Hoop Shoot is a national free-throw shooting contest for girls and boys ages 8-13. This year alone, nearly four million youths are expected to compete nationwide.

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

Pre-tournament favorite University, which finished a close second to Barnesville last winter, had all 13 of its 14 wrestlers receive a seed, with three receiving No. 1 nods. They were Martin, Colton Gillespie (126) and Kehler.

"Everything looks good on paper but we'll see what happens after three days on the mats," University head coach Ken Maisel said. "Paper doesn't mean anything. You've still got to go out and perform. I didn't feel like we competed last weekend against Bethel Park (Pa.), so today at practice we got after it."

Steubenville checked in with 11 seeds, including Smith and Saccoccia being No. 1s. Barnesville, Beaver Local and John Marshall all came away with nine seeds, while Cameron had seven. Of that group, only the Dragons had top seeds in seniors Slaton Pettit (150) and Klypsan Wallace (175).

"Cooper and Brody are both having outstanding seasons," Steubenville head coach Lucas Huffman said. "We look for them to wrestle well this weekend and bring back two more titles."

Huffman said practicing every day together has tremendously helped the pair.

"Those two plus Landon Crosier and Ethan Llewellyn battle every day in practice," he explained. "Iron sharpens iron."

Wheeling Park finished with seven, including No. 1 Jameson Maynard at 190. He was a champion two years ago and runner up last year.

"We're as healthy as we're going to get for the rest of the year. That's awesome," Wheeling Park first-year head coach Danny Doyle said as the Patriots were banged up in the early going. "Malaki will be wrestling for the first time this season, but watching him in practice, you could never tell he was injured. He's ready to defend his title."

Doyle said he is anxious to watch his three senior performers in Jack Lowe (150), Isaac Sands (165) and Maynard. Lowe and sands are both seeded third.

"All of those guys have had steady careers," he noted.

Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen expects his Shamrocks like always, despite losing a ton of points to graduation.

"We're a small school and we did what we had to last year," he said of winning the overall and Class 3A titles. "I expect the kids to go out and battle. I told them today at practice to just go out and wrestle. Take care of what you can control and don't worry about other things.

"We had 10 kids place last year and five of them return," Stephen said. "That's pretty good for a small school."

Senior Ayden King, who was a runner up last year, is the top seed at 165.

The remaining No. 1 seeds are Linsly's Brock Humphrey (106); East Liverpool's Tristan Eckles (120); Linsly's George Mamakos (132); and Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin (215).

## TERRITORY

(Continued from Page 9)

"You've got to be willing to adapt based off the unpredictable things that can happen, and that's what we've been able to do – and I feel like our guys will be physically ready to roll."

The 16-game season didn't come out of nowhere.

Expanding the CFP to 12 teams meant that the teams in the national championship game would have to play either three or four games – depending on whether they got a first-round bye or not. With a 12-game regular season and then a conference championship game for some schools, be considered problematic – it's a lot more wear and tear on bodies – but it's also a wonderful problem to have, since it comes with a chance at a national championship.

"Along the way, we looked at a lot of different things and metrics about playing this many games, playing our 16th game, what that was going to be like," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "We knew it was going to be a little bit of a battle of attrition at times. So, depth was certainly a critical part of roster management and talent acquisition, but also how we practice, how we play. and Yale in 1889. It has happened a handful of times at the FCS and Division II levels as well.

But at the FBS level, it hasn't happened in 130 years.

It has created new challenges for fans and quite possibly their pocketbooks – Notre Dame and Ohio State each had an extra home game, plus now three bowl games, and none of those tickets were exactly low-priced. It surely has created an issue or two on the academic end; Ohio State's spring term started last week, Notre Dame's spring semester started Monday. And in teams are putting together their spring practice schedules.

But in South Bend and Columbus, it still may as well be 2024.

"I've been an advocate that we need to go to an NFL calendar," Duke coach Manny Diaz said. "We need to get rid of spring football and move into early summer OTAs and mini-camps. We don't have to invent this. The league has already figured it out. ... We're a spring sport now. We need to just act like that."

Notre Dame defensive coordinator Al Golden looks at the marathon season as a blessing in

# WVU Football Welcomes More New Players, Coaches

By DEREK REDD
Managing Editor

The West Virginia University football team continues to fill out its coaching offices and roster welcoming several new faces in both areas.

The Mountaineers announced Monday that they have hired former Coastal Carolina and University of South Florida offensive coordinator Travis Trickett as a senior offensive assistant. Trickett, the son of former WVU offensive line coach Rick Trickett, also spent three seasons (2019-21) as an assistant in Morgantown working with inside receivers and tight ends.

Tricket helped Coastal Carolina to an 8-5 record and a bowl win in 2023, a season where the Chanticleers ranked 19th nationally in completion percentage and 23rd in team passing efficiency. He moved to CCU after one season with USF. He also spent time as offensive coordinator at Georgia State, Florida Atlantic and Samford.

The program also announced over the weekend the hiring of Henry Weinreich as nickels/sams coach, Parker Whiteman as assistant head strength coach and director of skill development and Chuck Lillie as general manager.

Weinreich worked with WVU coach Rich Rodriguez at Jacksonville State as a graduate assistant and defensive analyst before moving to Oklahoma as a defensive analyst under current WVU defensive coordinator Zac Alley. Whiteman was head strength coach at Jacksonville State and has worked with Rodriguez at WVU, Michigan and Arizona.

Lillie was assistant general manager at Oklahoma last season, where he worked with Alley and Weinreich, and was Kansas State's director of scouting for four seasons prior to that. At West Virginia, he'll be the lead negotiator on all player acquisition deals, oversee all scouting, recruiting and roster management processes, including high school, junior college and portal recruitment and player retention.

The Mountaineers have been very active in the transfer portal over the last week, grabbing commitments from 16 players. That lineup includes former Colorado State linebacker Chase Wilson, former North Carolina State offensive lineman Robby Martin, former LSU offensive lineman Kimo Makaneole, former Youngstown State offensive lineman Wyatt Minor, former Nevada cornerback Michael Coats Jr., former Washington safety Justin Harrington, former Northern Iowa running back Tye Edwards, former Virginia Union safety William Davis, former Jacksonville State safety Fred Perry, former Tulane kicker Ethan Head, former Akron cornerback Devonte Golden-Nelson, former Jacksonville State cornerback Derek Carter, former Chattanooga safety Jordan Walker, former Arkansas offensive lineman Ty'Kieast Crawford, former Iowa tight end Johnny Pascuzzi and former Wyoming edge Braden Siders.

Of specific note are Wilson, a former All-Mountain West second-team pick who recorded 205 tackles over the last two seasons; Edwards, a 6-foot-4, 230-pound back who rushed for more than 1,000 yards for NIU last season; and Martin, who was the No. 1 recruit in West Virginia in the 2024 signing class out of Huntington High School. Minor also is a West Virginia native, who played at Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg.

## ROUND

(Continued from Page 9)

Joshua Karty's 44-yard field goal made it 27-3 on the opening drive of the second half. Kobie Turner finished with two sacks for the Rams.

LA caught a break early in the second quarter when a potentially game-changing fumble was overturned by replay. Stafford was being pulled to the turf by Minnesota linebacker Jonathan Greenard when the quarterback shoveled the ball forward just before he hit the ground.

Minnesota's Blake Cashman grabbed the ball on the bounce and ran 26 yards to the end zone. Officials called it a fumble on the field, but it was ruled an incomplete pass after a replay review.

The Vikings never threatened again.

Darnold completed 25 of 40 passes for 245 yards, but lost 82 yards on the nine sacks. The Vikings managed 269 total yards and many of those came when the game was already out of hand.

Los Angeles learned on Thursday that its playoff game would be in Glendale, which is home to the division rival Arizona Cardinals. The Rams traveled to Phoenix on Friday and practiced on Saturday at the Cardinals' facility.

**UP NEXT**

The Rams visit the Eagles in a matchup of defenses that dominated in the opening round.

## RISES

(Continued from Page 9)

**FALLING**

While Tennessee's tumble was notable, No. 19 Illinois had the week's biggest slide by falling then-No. 17 Oklahoma for the program's first back-to-back victories against ranked opponents since the 2006-07 sea-

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

**(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)**

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

**BOWLING**

Buckeye 8 Tournament at St. Clair Lanes, 10 a.m.

Wheeling Park at John Marshall, 3:30 p.m.

Morgantown at Parkersburg South, 3:30 p.m.

Linsly at East Richland, 3:30 p.m.

Bridgeport at St. John, 3:30 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Wheeling Central at Oak Glen

Bellaire at Martins Ferry

Bridgeport at Conotton Valley

Barnesville at Monroe Central

St. Clairsville at Indian Valley

Toronto at Harrison Central

Shadyside at Buckeye Local

John Marshall at Union Local

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

University at Wheeling Park, 7 p.m.

## SPORTS ON TV

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

**CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE**

**Noon**

NHLN — Playoffs: Farjestad Karlstad at Sparta Prague, Semifinal - First Game

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

**6:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Villanova at Xavier

**7 p.m.**

ACCN — Louisville at Syracuse

CBSSN — Marquette at DePaul

ESPNU — Mississippi at Alabama

ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Kentucky

PEACOCK — Illinois at Indiana

SECN — Mississippi St. at Auburn

**7:30 p.m.**

PEACOCK — Georgetown at St. John's

**8:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Providence at Creighton

**9 p.m.**

ACCN — Clemson at Georgia Tech

CBSSN — Texas Tech at Kansas St.

ESPN — Miami at Duke

ESPNU — Missouri at Florida

PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Wisconsin

SECN — Arkansas at LSU

**10:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Iowa at Southern Cal

**11 p.m.**

CBSSN — Colorado St. at San Diego St.

ESPN — Baylor at Arizona

ESPNU — UCF at Arizona St.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

**7 p.m.**

BTN — Minnesota at Maryland

**GOLF**

**2 p.m.**

GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Third Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

**7 p.m.**

ESPN — TGL: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links GC

**NBA BASKETBALL**

**7 p.m.**

TNT — Cleveland at Indiana

TRUTV — Cleveland at Indiana (DataCast)

**9:30 p.m.**

TNT — Denver at Dallas

TRUTV — Denver at Dallas (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

**2:30 p.m.**

USA — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Chelsea

**2:55 p.m.**

CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at Dundee

**TENNIS**

**3 a.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia

**Noon**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia

**9 p.m.**

ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**3 a.m. (Wednesday)**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## NBA

**Monday's Games**

## NFL PLAYOFFS

**Wild-card Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Houston 32, L.A. Chargers 12

Baltimore 28, Pittsburgh 14

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Buffalo 31, Denver 7

Philadelphia 22, Green Bay 10

Washington 23, Tampa Bay 20

**Monday, Jan. 13**

Minnesota at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

Houston at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

L.A. Rams or Minnesota at Philadelphia, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Baltimore at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**Conference Championships**

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

**AFC**

AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**NFC**

NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, **3 p.m. (FOX)**

**Super Bowl LIX**

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**At New Orleans**

Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## OVAC BASKETBALL

**(as of 1/12)**

**Girls Basketball**

**CLASS 5A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WP | 7 | 2 | 9 | 528 | 58.67 |
| Morg | 7 | 2 | 9 | 498 | 55.33 |
| Univ | 5 | 2 | 7 | 332 | 47.43 |
| Steub | 7 | 5 | 12 | 494 | 41.17 |
| Warr | 7 | 3 | 10 | 398 | 39.80 |
| JM | 5 | 5 | 10 | 356 | 35.60 |
| PS | 1 | 7 | 8 | 68 | 8.50 |
| Brk | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Mar | 13 | 0 | 13 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 4A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ed | 11 | 2 | 13 | 578 | 44.46 |
| HC | 8 | 5 | 13 | 528 | 40.62 |
| IC | 8 | 6 | 14 | 560 | 40.00 |
| OG | 6 | 4 | 10 | 374 | 37.40 |
| EL | 7 | 8 | 15 | 448 | 29.87 |
| Weir | 4 | 6 | 10 | 232 | 23.20 |
| BeL | 4 | 10 | 14 | 240 | 17.14 |
| Camb | 2 | 9 | 11 | 120 | 10.91 |
| BuL | 1 | 11 | 12 | 52 | 4.33 |
| St.C | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0.00 |

**CLASS 3A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WC | 9 | 0 | 9 | 592 | 65.78 |
| Bell | 11 | 1 | 12 | 702 | 58.50 |
| UL | 11 | 2 | 13 | 716 | 55.08 |
| FF | 10 | 2 | 12 | 624 | 52.00 |
| Ferry | 7 | 4 | 11 | 434 | 39.45 |
| MC | 9 | 4 | 13 | 480 | 36.92 |
| Shen | 8 | 4 | 12 | 394 | 32.83 |
| Barn | 5 | 7 | 12 | 276 | 23.00 |
| BT | 5 | 7 | 12 | 206 | 17.17 |
| Linsly | 1 | 6 | 7 | 42 | 6.00 |
| #Col | 14 | 0 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #United | 7 | 7 | 14 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 2A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCC | 6 | 4 | 10 | 362 | 36.20 |
| South | 10 | 5 | 15 | 456 | 30.40 |
| River | 6 | 6 | 12 | 326 | 27.17 |
| Tor | 5 | 7 | 12 | 254 | 21.17 |
| Wells | 6 | 7 | 13 | 264 | 20.31 |
| Mag | 3 | 4 | 7 | 114 | 16.29 |
| Shady | 3 | 9 | 12 | 168 | 14.00 |
| Cald | 3 | 9 | 12 | 166 | 13.83 |
| CB | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Bpt | 2 | 5 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| #V. Chr | 2 | 8 | 10 | --- | --- |
| #Lisbon | 3 | 11 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #EP | 3 | 10 | 13 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 1A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Front | 7 | 2 | 9 | 292 | 32.44 |
| Cam | 6 | 2 | 8 | 246 | 30.75 |
| HChr | 8 | 6 | 14 | 344 | 24.57 |
| TChr | 1 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 17.00 |
| Mad | 4 | 7 | 11 | 156 | 14.18 |
| C. Vall | 3 | 7 | 10 | 122 | 12.20 |
| WCC | 1 | 3 | 4 | 44 | 11.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 5 | 7 | 64 | 9.12 |
| P. City | 2 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 8.57 |
| Hund | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Lee | 1 | 9 | 10 | --- | --- |

**Boys Basketball**

**CLASS 5A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morg | 5 | 0 | 5 | 298 | 59.60 |
| Steub | 10 | 1 | 11 | 580 | 52.73 |
| Univ | 6 | 1 | 7 | 350 | 50.00 |
| PS | 4 | 3 | 7 | 240 | 34.29 |
| WP | 2 | 3 | 5 | 146 | 29.20 |
| JM | 2 | 5 | 7 | 116 | 16.57 |
| Brk | 1 | 5 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Mar | 8 | 1 | 9 | --- | --- |
| Warre | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 4 | 11 | --- | ---- |

**CLASS 4A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EL | 9 | 2 | 11 | 582 | 52.91 |
| BeL | 8 | 2 | 10 | 510 | 51.00 |
| St.C | 8 | 2 | 10 | 492 | 49.20 |
| Camb | 7 | 4 | 11 | 452 | 41.09 |
| OG | 4 | 6 | 10 | 218 | 21.80 |
| Weir | 2 | 5 | 7 | 148 | 21.14 |
| IC | 3 | 8 | 11 | 192 | 17.45 |
| Ed | 3 | 7 | 10 | 132 | 13.20 |
| HC | 1 | 6 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| BuL | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |

**CLASS 3A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MC | 9 | 1 | 10 | 528 | 52.80 |
| WC | 6 | 1 | 7 | 336 | 48.00 |

## PREP BOXSCORES

**GIRLS**

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

MARTINS FERRY – Chirpas 6 3-3 16; Sidon 6 0-0 15; Koller 4 2-2 12; Best 4 1-4 10; M. Lucas 4 0-0 8; Cole 1 0-0 2; Reese 2 1-2 5; G. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Hammerquist 0 2-2 2; Oberle 1 0-0 2; Wise 0 0-0 0; Hughes 0 0-0 0; Brandon 1 0-0 3; Totals: 30 9-14 75. BUCKEYE LOCAL – Stewart 0 0-0 0; Koran 0 0-0 0; Dombroski 0 0-0 0; Dailey 0 0-0 0; Vanchure 1 0-0 2; Roset 4 8-10 16; Totals: 5 8-10 18

Three-point goals: Martins Ferry 8 (Sidon 3, Koller 2, Chirpas, Best, Brandon). Buckeye Local none

**Wheeling Central 79, Monroe Central 51**

MONROE CENTRAL – Emery 5 0-0 11; Wilson 1 0-0 2; Miller 2 0-0 4; McFrederick 7 1-2 16; Stevens 1 0-0 3; McGarry 2 3-5 8; Muncy 3 1-2 7; Totals: 21 5-9 51. WHEELING CENTRAL – Severns 0 0-0 0; Mo. Miehle 0 0-0 0; Fitzsimmons 5 0-0 13; B. Heller 0 0-0 0; S. Heller 4 3-4 11; Payton 8 0-0 21; Hanson 0 0-0 0; Schmidt 0 0-0 0; Poyser 0 0-0 0; Ma. Miehle 0 0-0 0; Robrecht 0 0-0 0; Blake 7 10-12 24; Maxwell 2 2-2 6; Totals: 28 154-18 79

Three-point goals: Monroe Central 4 (Emery, McFrederick, Stevens, McGarry). Wheeling Central 8 (Payton 5, Fitzsimmons 3)

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Galeoti 2 0-0 4; Andrews 0 0-0 0; Davis 1 3-3 5; Headly 2 2-2 6; Brown 0 5-6 5; Sell 0 0-0 0; Pack 0 0-0 0; Rouke 0 2-2 2; Barker 0 0-0 0. Totals 6 10-15; 22.

STEUBENVILLE – Saccoccia 2 4-4 8; C. Scurry 2 0-0 5; Fleming 1 0-0 3; McShan 8 2-4 18; Beall 2 0-0 6; Casinelli 1 0-1 2; Lewis 0 0-0 0; Vein 1 0-0 3; Young 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0; Green 1 0-0 3; Montgomery 0 0-0 0; Bickerstaff 0 0-2 0. Totals 18 6-11; 48.

Three-point goals: East Liverpool none; Big Red 6 (Beall 2, Scurry, Fleming, Vein, Green).

**BOYS**

**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Frebertz 1 0-0 3; Pease 6 3-6 15; Birch 8 5-5 23; Conrad 3 2-2 8; Akins 3 0-0 6; Wright 1 1-2 3; Fitch 1 0-0 2; Brown 1 0-1 2; Totals: 24 11-16 62. HARRISON CENTRAL – Kamarec 4 2-4 12; J. Quito 1 0-0 2; Elliott 3 6-6 12; Keener 3 2-3 8; Arbaugh 4 1-1 9; Totals: 15 11-4 43

Three-point goals: East Liverpool 3 (Birch 2, Frebertz). Harrison Central 2 (Kamarec 2)

## NHL STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 44 | 27 | 15 | 2 | 56 | 135 | 124 |
| Florida | 44 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 53 | 146 | 136 |
| T. Bay | 41 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 49 | 151 | 113 |
| Boston | 45 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 47 | 116 | 142 |
| Ott. | 42 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 45 | 122 | 120 |
| Detroit | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 121 | 133 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 43 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 61 | 156 | 113 |
| Jersey | 45 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 56 | 142 | 114 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 43 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 46 | 149 | 151 |
| Pitt. | 45 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 44 | 135 | 169 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 42 | 17 | 18 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 129 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 156 | 108 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 42 | 27 | 14 | 1 | 55 | 136 | 104 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 44 | 20 | 20 | 4 | 44 | 125 | 133 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 42 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 33 | 101 | 132 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 43 | 29 | 11 | 3 | 61 | 148 | 114 |
| Edm. | 42 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 55 | 139 | 117 |
| L.A. | 40 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 99 |
| Cal. | 42 | 21 | 14 | 7 | 49 | 115 | 125 |
| Vanc. | 42 | 19 | 13 | 10 | 48 | 124 | 130 |
| Ana. | 43 | 18 | 20 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 135 |
| Seattle | 44 | 18 | 23 | 3 | 39 | 128 | 144 |
| San J. | 45 | 13 | 26 | 6 | 32 | 114 | 158 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

**Monday's Games**

Philadelphia 4, Florida 3

Calgary 5, Chicago 2

Los Angeles at Edmonton, late

**Tuesday's Games**

Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.

## OVAC SEEDING

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7.

# Wheeling Central Defeats Seminoles; Valley Defends Homecourt vs. CeeBees

EAST WHEELING - Wheeling Central (10-0) used 24 points from Kaitlyn Blake and 21 more from Addie Payton in thumping visiting Monroe Central, 79-51, in girls' basketball action Monday inside the Wheeling Central Activities Center.

Seneca Heller had seven of her 11 points in the second quarter when the Maroon Knights went on a 20-7 scoring advantage to break the game open.

Bella Fitzsimmons added 13 markers.

Payton drilled five three-point goals. Fitzsimmons had two.

Brylee McFrederick had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Seminoles (9-6). Mayzie Emery had 11 points, four assists and two steals.

**Valley 48, Clay-Battelle 34**

PINE GROVE - The Lumberjills defended home court Monday against the CeeBees behind a big first quarter that saw Valley get off to a 20-10 start.

Laken Dawson led the way with 15 points for Valley, making two 3-pointers in the Lumberjills' fast first quarter.

Kynnedi Dallison followed with 11, and Michaela Miller scored nine.

Ali Hellyer scored 15 points for Clay-Battelle.

Valley's defense held Clay-Battelle to four points in the third quarter. They led 29-18 at halftime and 40-22 after three quarters.

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

CONNORVILLE - The visiting Purple Riders sprinted to a 33-4 lead after one quarter and coasted past the Panthers.

Giana Chirpas led four players in double figures with 16 for Martins Ferry. Sidne Sidon added 15, SJ Koller 12 and Lindsey Best 10.

Maddy Roset had 16 of Buckeye Local's points.

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

STEUBENVILLE - After dropping a pair of hard-fought games to some stout competition to start January, Steubenville bounced back with a dominant victory over visiting East Liverpool Monday night inside the Crimson Center.

Big Red held the visitors in single digits in all four quarters and used a big first half to take control.

Nylah McShan led the way with 18 points and eight rebounds. Big Red got 12 different players into the game and eight of them added to the scoresheet.

Lucy Saccoccia followed McShan's performance with eight points, while Bailee Beall netted a pair of 3s to finish with six, one more than Cianna Scurry's five. Five of the eight players to score had a 3-pointer.

After opening a 17-8 lead after the first quarter, Big Red out-scored the Potters (7-9) 18-3 in the second quarter to lead 35-11 at the break and were able to cruise from there.

East Liverpool was led by six points from Kenzi Headly and five from Cate Davis.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

CADIZ - The visiting Potters received 23 points from Nate Birch in rolling past the Huskies.

Brycen Kamarec and Brady Elliott each scored 12 points for Harrison Central.

**BOWLING**

**Brooke Splits With Beaver**

CALCUTTA - The Bruins received a 177 game and 347 series from Darion Hilton in defeating the Beavers, 1,893 to 1,681 in boys' action. Seth Schroeder added a 178 game.

In girls action, the Bruins fell 1,402 to 1,330 as Kaylee Tuttle had a 307 series with games of 150 and 157.

# Penn State Runningbacks Kaytron Allen, Nick Singleton Both Returning For 2025

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) – The running backs want to run it back at Penn State.

Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen both announced Monday that they plan to return to the Nittany Lions for the 2025 season. The duo each topped 1,000 yards this season for Penn State, which went 13-3 and lost to Notre Dame in a College Football Playoff semifinal last week.

Allen posted on Instagram that he had "unfinished business" to attend to while Singleton wrote "we still have goals that we want to reach as a team and I want to be alongside those teammates as we reach those goals."

The tandem were vital parts of an offense that helped Penn State reach the Big Ten Conference title game and then advance to the CFP semifinals before falling to the Fighting Irish in a thriller at the Orange Bowl.

Singleton ran for 84 yards and scored three times against Notre Dame to finish his junior season with 1,099 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns. Allen, also a junior, had 82 yards on the ground against the Irish to finish with 1,108 yards rushing and eight scores.

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar also will return next season, though Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Abdul Carter signed with agent Drew Rosenhaus last week and is expected to be among the first players taken in this spring's NFL draft.

# McCarthy Out As Cowboys Coach

**LEAGUE**
**Noon**
NHLN — Playoffs: Farjestad Karlstad at Sparta Prague, Semifinal - First Game

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**6:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Villanova at Xavier
**7 p.m.**
ACCN — Louisville at Syracuse
CBSSN — Marquette at DePaul
ESPNU — Mississippi at Alabama
ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Kentucky
PEACOCK — Illinois at Indiana
SECN — Mississippi St. at Auburn
**7:30 p.m.**
PEACOCK — Georgetown at St. John's
**8:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Providence at Creighton
**9 p.m.**
ACCN — Clemson at Georgia Tech
CBSSN — Texas Tech at Kansas St.
ESPN — Miami at Duke
ESPNU — Missouri at Florida
PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Wisconsin
SECN — Arkansas at LSU
**10:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Iowa at Southern Cal
**11 p.m.**
CBSSN — Colorado St. at San Diego St.
ESPN — Baylor at Arizona
ESPNU — UCF at Arizona St.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**7 p.m.**
BTN — Minnesota at Maryland

**GOLF**
**2 p.m.**
GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Third Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas
**7 p.m.**
ESPN — TGL: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links GC

**NBA BASKETBALL**
**7 p.m.**
TNT — Cleveland at Indiana
TRUTV — Cleveland at Indiana (DataCast)
**9:30 p.m.**
TNT — Denver at Dallas
TRUTV — Denver at Dallas (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**
**2:30 p.m.**
USA — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Chelsea
**2:55 p.m.**
CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at Dundee

**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia
**Noon**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia
**9 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Wednesday)**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## NBA

**Monday's Games**
Minnesota 120, Washington 106
Toronto 104, Golden State 101
Detroit 124, New York 119
Houston 120, Memphis 118
Miami at L.A. Clippers, late
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, late

**Tuesday's Games**
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Portland, 10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**
New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Conference championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## OVAC Basketball

**(as of 1/12)**
**Girls Basketball**

| CLASS 5A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WP | 7 | 2 | 9 | 528 | 58.67 |
| Morg | 7 | 2 | 9 | 498 | 55.33 |
| Univ | 5 | 2 | 7 | 332 | 47.43 |
| Steub | 7 | 5 | 12 | 494 | 41.17 |
| Warr | 7 | 3 | 10 | 398 | 39.80 |
| JM | 5 | 5 | 10 | 356 | 35.60 |
| PS | 1 | 7 | 8 | 68 | 8.50 |
| Brk | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Mar | 13 | 0 | 13 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 4A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ed | 11 | 2 | 13 | 578 | 44.46 |
| HC | 8 | 5 | 13 | 528 | 40.62 |
| IC | 8 | 6 | 14 | 560 | 40.00 |
| OG | 6 | 4 | 10 | 374 | 37.40 |
| EL | 7 | 8 | 15 | 448 | 29.87 |
| Weir | 4 | 6 | 10 | 232 | 23.20 |
| BeL | 4 | 10 | 14 | 240 | 17.14 |
| Camb | 2 | 9 | 11 | 120 | 10.91 |
| BuL | 1 | 11 | 12 | 52 | 4.33 |
| St.C | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0.00 |

| CLASS 3A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WC | 9 | 0 | 9 | 592 | 65.78 |
| Bell | 11 | 1 | 12 | 702 | 58.50 |
| UL | 11 | 2 | 13 | 716 | 55.08 |
| FF | 10 | 2 | 12 | 624 | 52.00 |
| Ferry | 7 | 4 | 11 | 434 | 39.45 |
| MC | 9 | 4 | 13 | 480 | 36.92 |
| Shen | 8 | 4 | 12 | 394 | 32.83 |
| Barn | 5 | 7 | 12 | 276 | 23.00 |
| BT | 5 | 7 | 12 | 206 | 17.17 |
| Linsly | 1 | 6 | 7 | 42 | 6.00 |
| #Col | 14 | 0 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #United | 7 | 7 | 14 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 2A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCC | 6 | 4 | 10 | 362 | 36.20 |
| South | 10 | 5 | 15 | 456 | 30.40 |
| River | 6 | 6 | 12 | 326 | 27.17 |
| Tor | 5 | 7 | 12 | 254 | 21.17 |
| Wells | 6 | 7 | 13 | 264 | 20.31 |
| Mag | 3 | 4 | 7 | 114 | 16.29 |
| Shady | 3 | 9 | 12 | 168 | 14.00 |
| Cald | 3 | 9 | 12 | 166 | 13.83 |
| CB | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Bpt | 2 | 5 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| #V. Chr | 2 | 8 | 10 | --- | --- |
| #Lisbon | 3 | 11 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #EP | 3 | 10 | 13 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 1A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Front | 7 | 2 | 9 | 292 | 32.44 |
| Cam | 6 | 2 | 8 | 246 | 30.75 |
| HChr | 8 | 6 | 14 | 344 | 24.57 |
| TChr | 1 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 17.00 |
| Mad | 4 | 7 | 11 | 156 | 14.18 |
| C. Vall | 3 | 7 | 10 | 122 | 12.20 |
| WCC | 1 | 3 | 4 | 44 | 11.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 5 | 7 | 64 | 9.12 |
| P. City | 2 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 8.57 |
| Hund | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Lee | 1 | 9 | 10 | --- | --- |

**Boys Basketball**

| CLASS 5A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morg | 5 | 0 | 5 | 298 | 59.60 |
| Steub | 10 | 1 | 11 | 580 | 52.73 |
| Univ | 6 | 1 | 7 | 350 | 50.00 |
| PS | 4 | 3 | 7 | 240 | 34.29 |
| WP | 2 | 3 | 5 | 146 | 29.20 |
| JM | 2 | 5 | 7 | 116 | 16.57 |
| Brk | 1 | 5 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Mar | 8 | 1 | 9 | --- | --- |
| Warre | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 4 | 11 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 4A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EL | 9 | 2 | 11 | 582 | 52.91 |
| BeL | 8 | 2 | 10 | 510 | 51.00 |
| St.C | 8 | 2 | 10 | 492 | 49.20 |
| Camb | 7 | 4 | 11 | 452 | 41.09 |
| OG | 4 | 6 | 10 | 218 | 21.80 |
| Weir | 2 | 5 | 7 | 148 | 21.14 |
| IC | 3 | 8 | 11 | 192 | 17.45 |
| Ed | 3 | 7 | 10 | 132 | 13.20 |
| HC | 1 | 6 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| BuL | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |

| CLASS 3A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MC | 9 | 1 | 10 | 528 | 52.80 |
| WC | 6 | 1 | 7 | 336 | 48.00 |
| UL | 7 | 5 | 12 | 456 | 38.00 |
| BT | 8 | 2 | 10 | 344 | 34.40 |
| Bell | 5 | 7 | 12 | 284 | 23.67 |
| Shen | 4 | 5 | 9 | 190 | 21.11 |
| FF | 4 | 7 | 11 | 208 | 18.91 |
| Barn | 4 | 7 | 11 | 196 | 17.82 |
| Ferry | 3 | 8 | 11 | 162 | 14.73 |
| #Col | 10 | 1 | 11 | --- | --- |
| #United | 2 | 9 | 11 | --- | --- |
| #Linsly | 3 | 7 | 10 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 2A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cald | 9 | 0 | 9 | 488 | 54.22 |
| Tor | 9 | 1 | 10 | 502 | 50.20 |
| SCC | 11 | 3 | 14 | 556 | 39.71 |
| CB | 5 | 2 | 7 | 178 | 25.43 |
| Mag | 4 | 2 | 6 | 152 | 25.33 |
| Bpt | 5 | 6 | 11 | 258 | 23.45 |
| Wells | 4 | 6 | 10 | 206 | 20.60 |
| South | 4 | 5 | 9 | 168 | 18.67 |
| River | 3 | 5 | 8 | 136 | 17.00 |
| Shady | 1 | 9 | 10 | 60 | 6.00 |
| VChr | 8 | 2 | 10 | --- | --- |
| Lisbon | 6 | 6 | 12 | --- | --- |
| EP | 5 | 5 | 10 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 1A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HChr | 7 | 4 | 11 | 376 | 34.18 |
| Front | 5 | 2 | 7 | 174 | 24.86 |
| Mad | 2 | 5 | 7 | 102 | 14.57 |
| CVall | 3 | 6 | 9 | 126 | 14.00 |
| WCC | 2 | 3 | 5 | 64 | 12.80 |
| Hund | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| P City | 1 | 4 | 5 | 30 | 6.00 |
| Cam | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0.00 |
| TChr | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Beallsv | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Lee | 3 | 8 | 11 | --- | --- |

*#Not Participaing in OVAC Tournament*

2-2 6, Totals: 28 154-18 79

Three-point goals: Monroe Central 4 (Emery, McFrederick, Stevens, McGarry). Wheeling Central 8 (Payton 5, Fitzsimmons 3)

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Galeoti 2 0-0 4; Andrews 0 0-0 0; Davis 1 3-3 5; Headly 2 2-2 6; Brown 0 5-6 5; Sell 0 0-0 0; Pack 0 0-0 0; Rouke 0 2-2 2; Barker 0 0-0 0. Totals 6 10-15; 22.

STEUBENVILLE – Saccoccia 2 4-4 8; C. Scurry 2 0-0 5; Fleming 1 0-0 3; McShan 8 2-4 18; Beall 2 0-0 6; Casinelli 1 0-1 2; Lewis 0 0-0 0; Vein 1 0-0 3; Young 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0; Green 1 0-0 3; Montgomery 0 0-0 0; Bickerstaff 0 0-2 0. Totals 18 6-11; 48.

Three-point goals: East Liverpool none; Big Red 6 (Beall 2, Scurry, Fleming, Vein, Green).

**BOYS**
**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Frebertz 1 0-0 3; Pease 6 3-6 15; Birch 8 5-5 23; Conrad 3 2-2 8; Akins 3 0-0 6; Wright 1 1-2 3; Fitch 1 0-0 2; Brown 1 0-1 2; Totals: 24 11-16 62. HARRISON CENTRAL – Kamarec 4 2-4 12; J. Quito 1 0-0 2; Elliott 3 6-6 12; Keener 3 2-3 8; Arbaugh 4 1-1 9; Totals: 15 11-4 43

Three-point goals: East Liverpool 3 (Birch 2, Frebertz). Harrison Central 2 (Kamarec 2)

## NHL Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**
**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 44 | 27 | 15 | 2 | 56 | 135 | 124 |
| Florida | 44 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 53 | 146 | 136 |
| T. Bay | 41 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 49 | 151 | 113 |
| Boston | 45 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 47 | 116 | 142 |
| Ott. | 42 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 45 | 122 | 120 |
| Detroit | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 121 | 133 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 43 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 61 | 156 | 113 |
| Jersey | 45 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 56 | 142 | 114 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 43 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 46 | 149 | 151 |
| Pitt. | 45 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 44 | 135 | 169 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 42 | 17 | 18 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 129 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**
**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 156 | 108 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 42 | 27 | 14 | 1 | 55 | 136 | 104 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 44 | 20 | 20 | 4 | 44 | 125 | 133 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 42 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 33 | 101 | 132 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 43 | 29 | 11 | 3 | 61 | 148 | 114 |
| Edm. | 42 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 55 | 139 | 117 |
| L.A. | 40 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 99 |
| Cal. | 42 | 21 | 14 | 7 | 49 | 115 | 125 |
| Vanc. | 42 | 19 | 13 | 10 | 48 | 124 | 130 |
| Ana. | 43 | 18 | 20 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 135 |
| Seattle | 44 | 18 | 23 | 3 | 39 | 128 | 144 |
| San J. | 45 | 13 | 26 | 6 | 32 | 114 | 158 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

**Monday's Games**
Philadelphia 4, Florida 3
Calgary 5, Chicago 2
Los Angeles at Edmonton, late

**Tuesday's Games**
Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Utah, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9 p.m.

## NFL Moves

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed CB Ekow Boye-Doye, LB Elliott Brown and OL McClendon Curtis to reserve/futures contracts.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released head coach Mike McCarthy.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed LB K.J. Cloyd, DLs Andrew Farmer, Matt Henningsen, Jordan Miller, OLs Nick Gargiulo, Will Sherman, Calvin Throckmorton, S Tanner McCalister, CBs Quinton Newsome, Keidron Smith, Reese Taylor, WR A.T. Perry, and TE Thomas Yassmin to reserve/futures contracts.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed DLs Deslin Alexandre, James Ester and Jeremiah Martin, S Omar Brown, CBs Kamal Hadden and Kalen King, K Alex Hale, G Marquis Hayes, WRs Julian Hicks and Cornelius Johnson, G/T Donovan Jennings and TE Messiah Swinson to reserve/futures contracts.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Re-signed LB Cameron McGrone to a one-year contract extension.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed G Karsen Barnhart, TE McCallan Castles, WRs Dez Fitzpatrick and Jaylen Johnson, DL Jeremiah Jean-Baptiste, OLBs Tre'Mon Morris-Brash and Caleb Murphy, RB Jaret Patterson and S Kendall Williamson to reserve/futures contracts.

Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM): 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM): 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP): 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM): 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED): 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS): 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM): 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL): 8. Gavin Pownall (IC): 9. Brooks Harrison (JM): 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM): 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC): 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Logan Middleton (PS); 4. Dominic Asbury (WC); 5. Noah Schmidt (OG); 6. Heath Thomas (Tor); 7. Zuvan Shipman (Morg); 8. Beau Hudson (Steub); 9. Isaac Prescott (BvL); 10. Steven Lenhart (FF); 11. Gabe Glenn (ED); 12. Jorge Alvarez (BuL)

boards for the Seminoles (9-6). Mayzie Emery had 11 points, four assists and two steals.

**Valley 48, Clay-Battelle 34**

PINE GROVE - The Lumberjills defended home court Monday against the CeeBees behind a big first quarter that saw Valley get off to a 20-10 start.

Laken Dawson led the way with 15 points for Valley, making two 3-pointers in the Lumberjills' fast first quarter.

Kynnedi Dallison followed with 11, and Michaela Miller scored nine.

Ali Hellyer scored 15 points for Clay-Battelle.

Valley's defense held Clay-Battelle to four points in the third quarter. They led 29-18 at halftime and 40-22 after three quarters.

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

CONNORVILLE - The visiting Purple Riders sprinted to a 33-4 lead after one quarter and coasted past the Panthers.

Giana Chirpas led four players in double figures with 16 for Martins Ferry. Sidne Sidon added 15, SJ Koller 12 and Lindsey Best 10.

Maddy Roset had 16 of Buckeye Local's points.

**Steubenville 48,**

mance with eight points, while Bailee Beall netted a pair of 3s to finish with six, one more than Cianna Scurry's five. Five of the eight players to score had a 3-pointer.

After opening a 17-8 lead after the first quarter, Big Red out-scored the Potters (7-9) 18-3 in the second quarter to lead 35-11 at the break and were able to cruise from there.

East Liverpool was led by six points from Kenzi Headly and five from Cate Davis.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

CADIZ - The visiting Potters received 23 points from Nate Birch in rolling past the Huskies.

Brycen Kamarec and Brady Elliott each scored 12 points for Harrison Central.

**BOWLING**
**Brooke Splits With Beaver**

CALCUTTA - The Bruins received a 177 game and 347 series from Darion Hilton in defeating the Beavers, 1,893 to 1,681 in boys' action. Seth Schroeder added a 178 game.

In girls action, the Bruins fell 1,402 to 1,330 as Kaylee Tuttle had a 307 series with games of 150 and 157.

## Penn State Runningbacks Kaytron Allen, Nick Singleton Both Returning For 2025

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — The running backs want to run it back at Penn State.

Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen both announced Monday that they plan to return to the Nittany Lions for the 2025 season. The duo each topped 1,000 yards this season for Penn State, which went 13-3 and lost to Notre Dame in a College Football Playoff semifinal last week.

Allen posted on Instagram that he had "unfinished business" to attend to while Singleton wrote "we still have goals that we want to reach as a team and I want to be alongside those teammates as we reach those goals."

The tandem were vital parts of an offense that helped Penn State reach the Big Ten Conference title game and then advance to the CFP semifinals before falling to the Fighting Irish in a thriller at the Orange Bowl.

Singleton ran for 84 yards and scored three times against Notre Dame to finish his junior season with 1,099 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns. Allen, also a junior, had 82 yards on the ground against the Irish to finish with 1,108 yards rushing and eight scores.

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar also will return next season, though Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Abdul Carter signed with agent Drew Rosenhaus last week and is expected to be among the first players taken in this spring's NFL draft.

## McCarthy Out As Cowboys Coach

DALLAS (AP) — Mike McCarthy will not return as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, who are going on three decades since their last Super Bowl title, owner Jerry Jones said Monday.

Jones said the organization and McCarthy mutually agreed to part ways. A search for the team's next coach begins immediately, he said.

"I have great respect for Mike, and he has led the team through some very unique and challenging times during his tenure," Jones said in a statement.

McCarthy's contract expired on Jan. 8 following a 7-10 season. Dallas was 12-5 each of the three years before that under him, but still hasn't been past the divisional round of the NFC playoffs since its last Super Bowl at the end of the 1995 season.

University of Colorado coach Deion Sanders — who played on the last Super Bowl-winning Cowboys team — has a good relationship with Jones and could emerge as a coaching candidate. The two have discussed the job, according to a person with knowledge of the conversation. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because a formal interview hasn't been arranged, said the team was still in the process of gathering candidates.

The Cowboys had an exclusive negotiating window with McCarthy through Tuesday, but the parties decided to split ahead of the deadline.

At least one NFL team asked during that time about talking to the 61-year-old coach, who won a Super Bowl with Green Bay.

The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION B

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

## Senior Kaylee Hagan's 22 propels the Pilots over the Blue Eagles

By MARK DIERKES
For The Times Leader

HANNIBAL – An explosive 22-point first half by River senior Kaylee Hagan and 25 unanswered points by the Lady Pilots in the second quarter made for a combination head coach Rick Isaly would take any night.

Isaly's crew used those numbers along with forcing 19 Magnolia turnovers in a decisive 60-23 repeat win Monday at the R.L. Potts gymnasium.

A third straight win pushed River's record to 7-6, but more importantly, kept the Lady Pilots in the thick of the OVAC 2A race along with Steubenville Central, Southern and Toronto as the top four qualify for the playoffs.

"(Kaylee) has been playing well and she had us off to a pretty good start," said Isaly, who has directed River to back-to-back OVAC 2A titles. Hagan's scoring came prior to halftime, as an OHSAA-mandated running clock in the second half limited her playing time. She added seven rebounds, five steals and five assists.

Another big contributor for River was senior stalwart Reese Hobbs, whom Isaly said, "helps steady us on both ends of the floor." Hobbs had six steals, six assists and five boards.

"We were able to sub early and get everyone in, but as a team we need to execute better offensively. We have a tough remaining schedule."

See **PILOTS**, Page B2

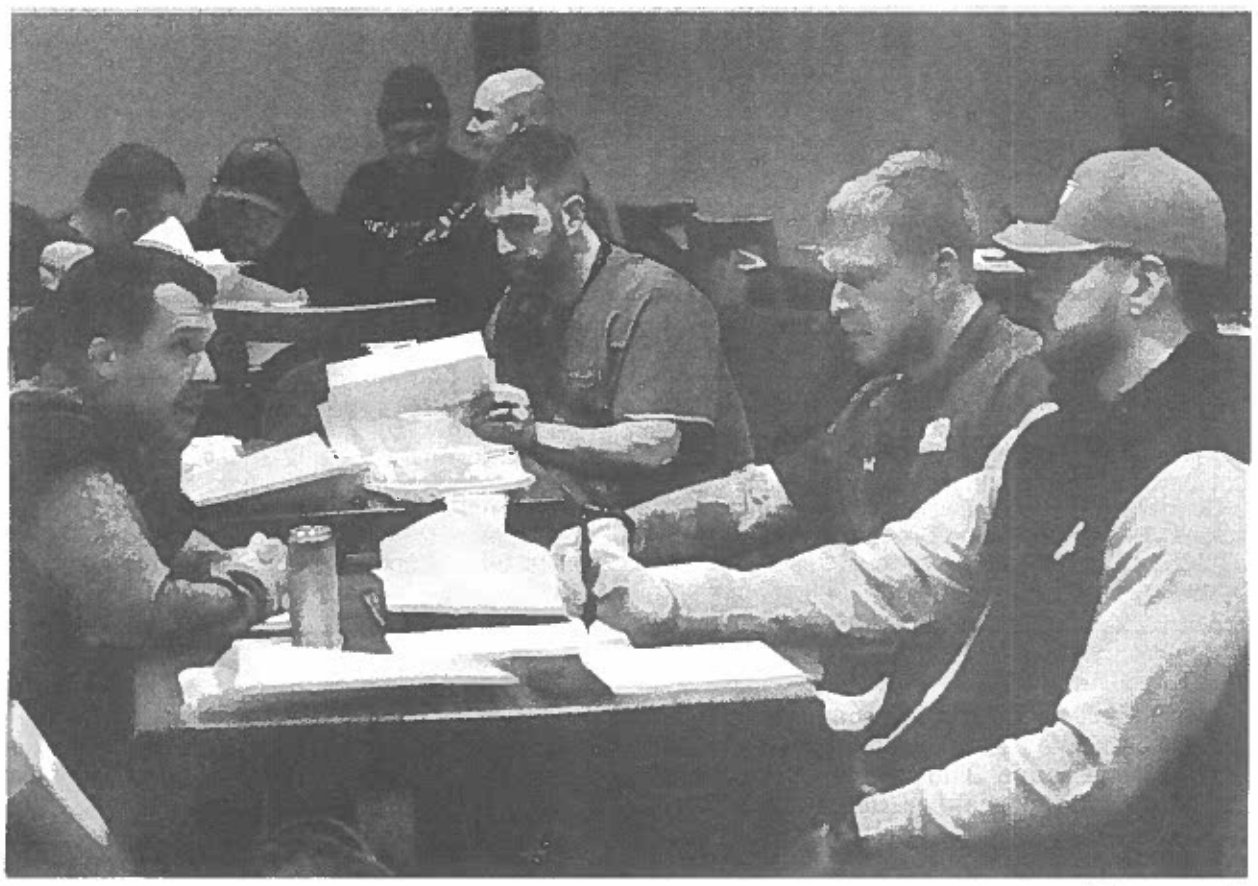


Photo by KIM NORTH

**STEUBENVILLE'S LUCAS** Huffman, left, talks with Martins Ferry's Chad Ware (in purple) and Union Local's Nate Starkey during Monday night's OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships press conference inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena. The three-day event begins Thursday.

## Annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships press conference held

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING – The top 12 seeds in each weight class for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships were revealed Monday night during a press conference inside the east meeting room at WesBanco Arena.

The three-day event kicks off Thursday night with the traditional Olympic-style opening ceremonies, with wrestling beginning 30 minutes later. Action continues Friday at noon and again at 6 p.m., with Saturday's action beginning at 11 a.m. with championship semifinals. Special awards, including the prestigious Mr. Mat, will be presented at 3:30 p.m., with the championship finals starting at 4.

"Last year was a little tough with all the snow that we received on Thursday," Tournament Director Shane Shaffer, in his second year, said. "We had to cancel Friday last year and combine some rounds to get the tournament finished, but the coaches were receptive to everything we did.

"Hopefully, cross your fingers, the weather treats us better this year," Shaffer continued.

Seven defending champions highlight the 2025 event as Steubenville and University have two each. Big Red is represented by junior Cooper Smith (144) and senior Brody Saccoccia (157), while the Hawks' senior tandem Pepper Martin (113) and Brock Kehler (285) return. Barnesville sophomore Colt Carpenter (138); Beaver Local senior Bobby Buchheit (138) and Wheeling Park senior Malaki Washington (215) round out the returning titlists.

Saccoccia, who won at 150 a year ago, is a Purdue University signee and was the Bierkortte Award winner last year, while Kehler will attend West Virginia University. Martin prevailed at 106 a year ago; Carpenter won at 126 last year; Buchheit at 132; and Washington at 190.

All received top billing in their respective weight class, with the exception of Buchheit (No. 3) and Washington (No. 2).

Pre-tournament favorite University, which finished a close second to Barnesville last winter, had all 13 of its 14 wrestlers receive a seed, with three receiving No. 1 nods. They were Martin, Colton Gillespie (126) and Kehler.

"Everything looks good on paper but we'll see what happens after three days on the mats," University head coach Ken Maisel said. "Paper doesn't mean anything. You've still got to go out and perform. I didn't feel like we competed last weekend against Bethel Park (Pa.), so today at practice we got after it."

Steubenville checked in with 11 seeds, including Smith and Saccoccia being No. 1s. Barnesville, Beaver Local and John Marshall all came away with nine seeds, while Cameron had seven. Of that group, only the Dragons had top seeds in seniors Slaton Pettit (150) and Klypsan Wallace (175).

"Cooper and Brody are both having outstanding seasons," Steubenville head coach Lucas Huffman said. "We look for them to wrestle well this weekend and bring back two more titles."

Huffman said practicing every day together has tremendously helped the pair.

"Those two plus Landon Crosier and Ethan Llewellyn battle every day in practice," he explained. "Iron sharpens iron."

Wheeling Park finished with seven, including No. 1 Jameson Maynard at 190. He was a champion two years ago and runner up last year.

"We're as healthy as we're going to get for the rest of the year. That's awesome," Wheeling Park first-year head coach Danny Doyle said as the Patriots were banged up in the early going. "Malaki will be wrestling for the first time this season, but watching him in practice, you could never tell he was injured. He's ready to defend his title."

Doyle said he is anxious to watch his three senior performers in Jack Lowe (150), Isaac Sands (165) and Maynard. Lowe and sands are both seeded third.

"All of those guys have had steady careers," he noted.

See **MAUCK**, Page B2

## OSU favored by 9 1/2 points over Notre Dame, 2nd-largest spread in CFP title game history

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Ohio State ended the regular season with many questions about its program under coach Ryan Day after the Buckeyes were upset by rival Michigan 13-10 on Nov. 30.

Now, the Buckeyes not only are in the College Football Playoff national championship game on Jan. 20 against Notre Dame in Atlanta, they are the second-biggest favorites in the title game since the playoff began 10 years ago.

BetMGM Sportsbook and Caesars Sportsbook each had Ohio State favored by 9 1/2 points on Saturday.

The only larger line for the championship game, according to Vegas Insider, occurred two years ago when Georgia was favored by 13 1/2 over TCU.

The Bulldogs easily covered with a 65-7 victory.

Four years ago, Alabama was favored by nine over Ohio State and won 52-24.

CBS SportsLine handicapper Bruce Marshall said he doesn't see this matchup playing out anywhere close to those games, arguing that the Buckeyes will be pushed by Notre Dame.

"Way too high, way too high, way too high," Marshall said of the point spread. "They're not going to roll over these guys, I don't think, unless something crazy happens."

See **OSU**, Page B2

## Notre Dame, Ohio State in new territory: They're playing 16-game seasons for the 1st time

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) – The year was 1894. Yale put together a football schedule that was daunting: Games on Wednesdays and Saturdays, basically every week from late September to late November. 16 contests in all.

No major college football team – what we now call the FBS level – had a 16-game season since.

Until now.

Welcome to yet another new part of this rapidly changing college football world. Seasons, at least for some teams, will be longer than ever. Texas and Penn State just played their 16th and final games of this 2024 season. And on Jan. 20 in the College Football Playoff championship game, Notre Dame and Ohio State will be playing their 16th and final games of this season in a matchup to decide the national title.

"How we got ready for the season, how we're adapting, is you have a plan, you have a team, you have a sports performance team that you listen to, and you talk through some different scenarios and you've got to be adaptable," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said. "You've got to be willing to adapt based off the unpredictable things that can happen, and that's what we've been able to do – and I feel like our guys will be physically ready to roll."

The 16-game season didn't come out of nowhere.

See **NOTRE DAME**, Page B2

Photo Provided

**EIGHTEEN GIRLS** and boys were recently awarded trophies in the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest sponsored by Wheeling Elks Lodge No. 28. The contest was held on January 4, 2025 at Wheeling University. The contest included participants from public and private schools in both Marshall County and Ohio County. In the front row pictured above, third place winners included, from left to right, Nora Whisler, girls 8-9 division; Gia Macon, girls 10-11 division; Claire Phillips, girls 12-13 division; Br'oayx Blake, boys 12-13 division; Camden Kittle, boys 10-11 division; and Marcus Bellen, boys 8-9 division. In the middle row, second place winners included, from left to right, Kyla Dalton, girls 8-9 division; Kate Cronin, girls 10-11 division; Taylor Himmelrick, girls 12-13 division; Cruz Fazio, boys 12-13 division; Ben Phillips, boys 10-11 division (Not Pictured); and Benjamin Wright, boys 8-9 division. In the back row, the first-place champions included, from left to right, Milli Hanson, girls 8-9 division; Nora Thalman, girls 10-11 division; Claire Goddard, girls 12-13 division; Brazen Smith, boys 12-13 division; Pace Pettit, boys 10-11 division; and Levi Smith, boys 8-9 division. Each of the six overall champions will advance to the Elks Northern District Hoop Shoot Contest to be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at St. Mary's High School in St. Mary's, West Virginia. The Elks Hoop Shoot is a national free-throw shooting contest for girls and boys ages 8-13. This year alone, nearly four million youths are expected to compete nationwide.

## • OSU

Continued from Page B1

Caesars head of football Joey Feazel said most of the early betting has come in on the Fighting Irish, "which is slightly surprising as it has been an onslaught of Ohio State action for the past three weeks. I expect this line to come down slightly towards Notre Dame as we get closer to game time and expect this national championship to be slower-paced."

BetMGM trading manager Seamus Magee called the early action "very balanced, which we expect to continue throughout the week. Slightly higher volume on Ohio State money line, but certainly some interest in Notre Dame as well. We anticipate the book to need an outright Buckeyes win, which is also favorable from a futures perspective."

Ohio State rolled through the first two rounds of the playoffs, beating Tennessee 42-17 and topping previously undefeated and top-ranked Oregon 41-21 in a game that wasn't even that close.

The final score in the Buckeyes' 28-14 victory over Texas in Friday night's semifinal also was deceiving, but for different reasons. The Longhorns had a chance to pull even with first-and-goal at the 1-yard line before Ohio State's defense came up with a dominant goal-line stand, capped by Jack Sawyer's strip-sack that he returned for an 83-yard touchdown.

That play was set up by an outside run on second down that Ohio State stopped for a 7-yard loss.

"Ohio State was very fortunate (Friday) night," Marshall said. "I cannot believe Texas ran that play at second-and-1 at the goal line. They're ready to tie the game. That thing's going to overtime."

Notre Dame got to the title game by beating Indiana 27-17, Georgia 23-10 and Penn State 27-24.

"You really saw this against Penn State, they've got speed," Marshall said. "They're not slow at all. They have almost SEC-type speed on that team."

Marshall pointed out that the Irish have covered the past 11 point spreads and are 22-6 against the line going back to last season.

"I think Notre Dame could win, I really do," Marshall said.

## • Pilots

Continued from Page B1

The Lady Blue Eagles (3-5), one of the youngest teams in OVAC 2A, had trouble handling River's pressure early on which resulted in several off-balance shots. Freshman Bella Sockman scored to slice it to 12-4, but River closed the round on a 3-pointer from junior Zoey Fox, two free throws from frosh Brayleigh Trifonoff, and a converted steal from sophomore Maci Isaly.

Fox's trey upped it to 27-8 and, after a timeout by Magnolia coach Kasey Sapp, the run continued as Hagan knocked down three straight bonus bombs, converted two steals into five points, while Hobbs added two jumpers. It was 46-12 after three.

Junior Jade Carvoo's 3-pointer opened the second half for Magnolia, but after Hobbs swished, Isaly added four straight layups and frosh Carleigh Trifonoff added another for a 58-19 lead after three.

Isaly had 12 points and five steals for the hosts, while Fox and Mallory Maddy each had four rebounds.

River, which hosts Shadyside on Thursday, was 24-of-48 for 50 percent shooting, while Magnolia was nine-for-36 for 25 percent shooting.

## • Notre Dame

Continued from Page B1

Expanding the CFP to 12 teams meant that the teams in the national championship game would have to play either three or four games — depending on whether they got a first-round bye or not. With a 12-game regular season and then a conference championship game for some schools, it's almost certain that the national finalists in this system will have to play at least 16 games along the way.

Notre Dame and Ohio State each played 13-game seasons last year. Playing 16-game seasons this year could obviously be considered problematic — it's a lot more wear and tear on bodies — but it's also a wonderful problem to have, since it comes with a chance at a national championship.

"Along the way, we looked at a lot of different things and metrics about playing this many games, playing our 16th game, what that was going to be like," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "We knew it was going to be a little bit of a battle of attrition at times. So, depth was certainly a critical part of roster management and talent acquisition, but also how we practice, how we play. We've taken all those things into consideration so that we're still really, really fresh going into the end of the season."

Only three teams at the "major college" level played the 16-game season before this year: Yale in 1894, Penn in 1892 and Yale in 1889. It has happened a handful of times at the FCS and Division II levels as well.

But at the FBS level, it hasn't happened in 130 years.

It has created new challenges for fans and quite possibly their pocketbooks — Notre Dame and Ohio State each had an extra home game, plus now three bowl games, and none of those tickets were exactly low-priced. It surely has created an issue or two on the academic end: Ohio State's spring term started last week, Notre Dame's spring semester started Monday. And in many cases, players on both teams have simply logged more plays, hits and miles than ever before.

Oh, and while this season is ending, next season is in full swing. Players have transferred. Recruits have signed. Coaches have been hired and fired at plenty of schools, and teams are putting together their spring practice schedules.

But in South Bend and Columbus, it still may as well be 2024.

"I've been an advocate that we need to go to an NFL calendar," Duke coach Manny Diaz said. "We need to get rid of spring football and move into early summer OTAs and mini-camps. We don't have to invent this. The league has already figured it out. ... We're a spring sport now. We need to just act like that."

Notre Dame defensive coordinator Al Golden looks at the marathon season as a blessing in some ways. On one hand, it's a ton of work. On the other, the Irish are playing for a ring. He's not complaining.

"Most of these guys are navigating it as we go. Nobody's done it before in college," Golden said. "We listen to what the data says and go by it. It's just an interesting time."

## • Mauck

Continued from Page B1

Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen expects his Shamrocks like always, despite losing a ton of points to graduation.

"We're a small school and we did what we had to last year," he said of winning the overall and Class 3A titles. "I expect the kids to go out and battle. I told them today at practice to just go out and wrestle. Take care of what you can control and don't worry about other things.

"We had 10 kids place last year and five of them return," Stephen said. "That's pretty good for a small school."

Senior Ayden King, who was a runner up last year, is the top seed at 165.

The remaining No. 1 seeds are Linsly's Brock Humphrey (106); East Liverpool's Tristan Eckles (120); Linsly's George Mamakos (132); and Wheeling Central's Isaac Martin (215).

## • Auburn

Continued from Page B1

Marquette was next at No. 7 as the only team to stay at the same spot from last week, followed by Kentucky, preseason No. 1 Kansas and Houston to round out the top 10.

No. 12 Michigan State and No. 20 Michigan had the week's biggest jumps, each rising four spots. Florida and No. 17 Purdue were next by climbing three positions.

While Tennessee's tumble was notable, No. 19 Illinois had the week's biggest slide by falling six spots after a weekend home loss to Southern California.

Two-time reigning national champion UConn matched the Volunteers' five-spot decline, checking in at No. 14 after last week's loss at Villanova.

Six teams that were ranked last week moved down in Monday's poll.

No. 23 Georgia, No. 24 Wisconsin and No. 25 Baylor were the week's new additions. And for Georgia, it's been a while.

Mike White's Bulldogs (14-2) have their first AP Top 25 ranking since spending a week at No. 24 in January 2011. That lone appearance had stood as the program's only time being ranked since the 2002-03 season, but the Bulldogs are coming off a week that featured wins against then-No. 6 Kentucky and then-No. 17 Oklahoma for the program's first back-to-back victories against ranked opponents since the 2006-07 season.

## Local Schedule

**(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)**

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

**BOWLING**

Buckeye 8 Tournament at St. Clair Lanes, 10 a.m.

Wheeling Park at John Marshall, 3:30 p.m.

Morgantown at Parkersburg South, 3:30 p.m.

Linsly at East Richland, 3:30 p.m.

Bridgeport at St. John, 3:30 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Wheeling Central at Oak Glen

Bellaire at Martins Ferry

Bridgeport at Conotton Valley

Barnesville at Monroe Central

St. Clairsville at Indian Valley

Toronto at Harrison Central

Shadyside at Buckeye Local

John Marshall at Union Local

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

University at Wheeling Park, 7 p.m.

## Sports On TV

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

**CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE**

**Noon**

NHLN — Playoffs: Farjestad Karlstad at Sparta Prague, Semifinal - First Game

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

**6:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Villanova at Xavier

**7 p.m.**

ACCN — Louisville at Syracuse

CBSSN — Marquette at DePaul

ESPNU — Mississippi at Alabama

ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Kentucky

PEACOCK — Illinois at Indiana

SECN — Mississippi St. at Auburn

**7:30 p.m.**

PEACOCK — Georgetown at St. John's

**8:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Providence at Creighton

**9 p.m.**

ACCN — Clemson at Georgia Tech

CBSSN — Texas Tech at Kansas St.

ESPN — Miami at Duke

ESPNU — Missouri at Florida

PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Wisconsin

SECN — Arkansas at LSU

**10:30 p.m.**

FS1 — Iowa at Southern Cal

**11 p.m.**

CBSSN — Colorado St. at San Diego St.

ESPN — Baylor at Arizona

ESPNU — UCF at Arizona St.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**

**7 p.m.**

BTN — Minnesota at Maryland

**GOLF**

**2 p.m.**

GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Third Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

**7 p.m.**

ESPN — TGL: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links GC

**NBA BASKETBALL**

**7 p.m.**

TNT — Cleveland at Indiana

TRUTV — Cleveland at Indiana (DataCast)

**9:30 p.m.**

TNT — Denver at Dallas

TRUTV — Denver at Dallas (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**

**2:30 p.m.**

USA — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Chelsea

**2:55 p.m.**

CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at Dundee

**TENNIS**

**3 a.m.**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia

**Noon**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia

**9 p.m.**

ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

**3 a.m. (Wednesday)**

ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

## NBA

**Monday's Games**

Minnesota 120, Washington 106

Toronto 104, Golden State 101

Detroit 124, New York 119

Houston 120, Memphis 118

Miami at L.A. Clippers, late

## NFL Playoffs

**Wild-card Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Houston 32, L.A. Chargers 12

Baltimore 28, Pittsburgh 14

**Sunday, Jan. 12**

Buffalo 31, Denver 7

Philadelphia 22, Green Bay 10

Washington 23, Tampa Bay 20

**Monday, Jan. 13**

Minnesota at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

Houston at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Washington at Detroit, 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

L.A. Rams or Minnesota at Philadelphia, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Baltimore at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**Conference Championships**

**Sunday, Jan. 26**

**AFC**

AFC lowest remaining seed at AFC highest remaining seed, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

**NFC**

NFC lowest remaining seed at NFC highest remaining seed, **3 p.m. (FOX)**

**Super Bowl LIX**

**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**At New Orleans**

Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

## OVAC Basketball

**(as of 1/12)**

**Girls Basketball**

**CLASS 5A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WP | 7 | 2 | 9 | 528 | 58.67 |
| Morg | 7 | 2 | 9 | 498 | 55.33 |
| Univ | 5 | 2 | 7 | 332 | 47.43 |
| Steub | 7 | 5 | 12 | 494 | 41.17 |
| Warr | 7 | 3 | 10 | 398 | 39.80 |
| JM | 5 | 5 | 10 | 356 | 35.60 |
| PS | 1 | 7 | 8 | 68 | 8.50 |
| Brk | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Mar | 13 | 0 | 13 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 4A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ed | 11 | 2 | 13 | 578 | 44.46 |
| HC | 8 | 5 | 13 | 528 | 40.62 |
| IC | 8 | 6 | 14 | 560 | 40.00 |
| OG | 6 | 4 | 10 | 374 | 37.40 |
| EL | 7 | 8 | 15 | 448 | 29.87 |
| Weir | 4 | 6 | 10 | 232 | 23.20 |
| BeL | 4 | 10 | 14 | 240 | 17.14 |
| Camb | 2 | 9 | 11 | 120 | 10.91 |
| BuL | 1 | 11 | 12 | 52 | 4.33 |
| St.C | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0.00 |

**CLASS 3A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WC | 9 | 0 | 9 | 592 | 65.78 |
| Bell | 11 | 1 | 12 | 702 | 58.50 |
| UL | 11 | 2 | 13 | 716 | 55.08 |
| FF | 10 | 2 | 12 | 624 | 52.00 |
| Ferry | 7 | 4 | 11 | 434 | 39.45 |
| MC | 9 | 4 | 13 | 480 | 36.92 |
| Shen | 8 | 4 | 12 | 394 | 32.83 |
| Barn | 5 | 7 | 12 | 276 | 23.00 |
| BT | 5 | 7 | 12 | 206 | 17.17 |
| Linsly | 1 | 6 | 7 | 42 | 6.00 |
| #Col | 14 | 0 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #United | 7 | 7 | 14 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 2A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCC | 6 | 4 | 10 | 362 | 36.20 |
| South | 10 | 5 | 15 | 456 | 30.40 |
| River | 6 | 6 | 12 | 326 | 27.17 |
| Tor | 5 | 7 | 12 | 254 | 21.17 |
| Wells | 6 | 7 | 13 | 264 | 20.31 |
| Mag | 3 | 4 | 7 | 114 | 16.29 |
| Shady | 3 | 9 | 12 | 168 | 14.00 |
| Cald | 3 | 9 | 12 | 166 | 13.83 |
| CB | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Bpt | 2 | 5 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| #V. Chr | 2 | 8 | 10 | --- | --- |
| #Lisbon | 3 | 11 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #EP | 3 | 10 | 13 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 1A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Front | 7 | 2 | 9 | 292 | 32.44 |
| Cam | 6 | 2 | 8 | 246 | 30.75 |
| HChr | 8 | 6 | 14 | 344 | 24.57 |
| TChr | 1 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 17.00 |
| Mad | 4 | 7 | 11 | 156 | 14.18 |
| C. Vall | 3 | 7 | 10 | 122 | 12.20 |
| WCC | 1 | 3 | 4 | 44 | 11.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 5 | 7 | 64 | 9.12 |
| P. City | 2 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 8.57 |
| Hund | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Lee | 1 | 9 | 10 | --- | --- |

**Boys Basketball**

**CLASS 5A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morg | 5 | 0 | 5 | 298 | 59.60 |
| Steub | 10 | 1 | 11 | 580 | 52.73 |
| Univ | 6 | 1 | 7 | 350 | 50.00 |
| PS | 4 | 3 | 7 | 240 | 34.29 |
| WP | 2 | 3 | 5 | 146 | 29.20 |
| JM | 2 | 5 | 7 | 116 | 16.57 |
| Brk | 1 | 5 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Mar | 8 | 1 | 9 | --- | --- |
| Warre | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 4 | 11 | --- | --- |

**CLASS 4A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EL | 9 | 2 | 11 | 582 | 52.91 |
| BeL | 8 | 2 | 10 | 510 | 51.00 |
| St.C | 8 | 2 | 10 | 492 | 49.20 |
| Camb | 7 | 4 | 11 | 452 | 41.09 |
| OG | 4 | 6 | 10 | 218 | 21.80 |
| Weir | 2 | 5 | 7 | 148 | 21.14 |
| IC | 3 | 8 | 11 | 192 | 17.45 |
| Ed | 3 | 7 | 10 | 132 | 13.20 |
| HC | 1 | 6 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| BuL | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |

**CLASS 3A**

| | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MC | 9 | 1 | 10 | 528 | 52.80 |
| WC | 6 | 1 | 7 | 336 | 48.00 |
| UL | 7 | 5 | 12 | 456 | 38.00 |
| BT | 8 | 2 | 10 | 344 | 34.40 |
| Bell | 5 | 7 | 12 | 284 | 23.67 |
| Shen | 4 | 5 | 9 | 190 | 21.11 |
| FF | 4 | 7 | 11 | 208 | 18.91 |
| Barn | 4 | 7 | 11 | 196 | 17.82 |
| Ferry | 3 | 8 | 11 | 162 | 14.73 |

## Prep Boxscores

**GIRLS**

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

MARTINS FERRY – Chirpas 6 3-3 16; Sidon 6 0-0 15; Koller 4 2-2 12; Best 4 1-4 10; M. Lucas 4 0-0 8; Cole 1 0-0 2; Reese 2 1-2 5; G. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Hammerquist 0 2-2 2; Oberle 1 0-0 2; Wise 0 0-0 0; Hughes 0 0-0 0; Brandon 1 0-0 3; Totals: 30 9-14 75. BUCKEYE LOCAL – Stewart 0 0-0 0; Koran 0 0-0 0; Dombroski 0 0-0 0; Dailey 0 0-0 0; Vanchure 1 0-0 2; Roset 4 8-10 16; Totals: 5 8-10 18

Three-point goals: Martins Ferry 8 (Sidon 3, Koller 2, Chirpas, Best, Brandon). Buckeye Local none

**Wheeling Central 79, Monroe Central 51**

MONROE CENTRAL – Emery 5 0-0 11; Wilson 1 0-0 2; Miller 2 0-0 4; McFrederick 7 1-2 16; Stevens 1 0-0 3; McGarry 2 3-5 8; Muncy 3 1-2 7; Totals: 21 5-9 51. WHEELING CENTRAL – Severns 0 0-0 0; Mo. Miehle 0 0-0 0; Fitzsimmons 5 0-0 13; B. Heller 0 0-0 0; S. Heller 4 3-4 11; Payton 8 0-0 21; Hanson 0 0-0 0; Schmidt 0 0-0 0; Poyser 0 0-0 0; Ma. Miehle 0 0-0 0; Robrecht 0 0-0 0; Blake 7 10-12 24; Maxwell 2 2-2 6; Totals: 28 154-18 79

Three-point goals: Monroe Central 4 (Emery, McFrederick, Stevens, McGarry). Wheeling Central 8 (Payton 5, Fitzsimmons 3)

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Galeoti 2 0-0 4; Andrews 0 0-0 0; Davis 1 3-3 5; Headly 2 2-2 6; Brown 0 5-6 5; Sell 0 0-0 0; Pack 0 0-0 0; Rouke 0 2-2 2; Barker 0 0-0 0. Totals 6 10-15; 22.

STEUBENVILLE – Saccoccia 2 4-4 8; C. Scurry 2 0-0 5; Fleming 1 0-0 3; McShan 8 2-4 18; Beall 2 0-0 6; Casinelli 1 0-1 2; Lewis 0 0-0 0; Vein 1 0-0 3; Young 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0; Green 1 0-0 3; Montgomery 0 0-0 0; Bickerstaff 0 0-2 0. Totals 18 6-11; 48.

Three-point goals: East Liverpool none; Big Red 6 (Beall 2, Scurry, Fleming, Vein, Green).

**BOYS**

**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Frebertz 1 0-0 3; Pease 6 3-6 15; Birch 8 5-5 23; Conrad 3 2-2 8; Akins 3 0-0 6; Wright 1 1-2 3; Fitch 1 0-0 2; Brown 1 0-1 2; Totals: 24 11-16 62. HARRISON CENTRAL – Kamarec 4 2-4 12; J. Quito 1 0-0 2; Elliott 3 6-6 12; Keener 3 2-3 8; Arbaugh 4 1-1 9; Totals: 15 11-4 43

Three-point goals: East Liverpool 3 (Birch 2, Frebertz). Harrison Central 2 (Kamarec 2)

## NHL Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 44 | 27 | 15 | 2 | 56 | 135 | 124 |
| Florida | 44 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 53 | 146 | 136 |
| T. Bay | 41 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 49 | 151 | 113 |
| Boston | 45 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 47 | 116 | 142 |
| Ott. | 42 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 45 | 122 | 120 |
| Detroit | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 121 | 133 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 43 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 61 | 156 | 113 |
| Jersey | 45 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 56 | 142 | 114 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 43 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 46 | 149 | 151 |
| Pitt. | 45 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 44 | 135 | 169 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 42 | 17 | 18 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 129 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 156 | 108 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 42 | 27 | 14 | 1 | 55 | 136 | 104 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 44 | 20 | 20 | 4 | 44 | 125 | 133 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 42 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 33 | 101 | 132 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 43 | 29 | 11 | 3 | 61 | 148 | 114 |
| Edm. | 42 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 55 | 139 | 117 |
| L.A. | 40 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 99 |
| Cal. | 42 | 21 | 14 | 7 | 49 | 115 | 125 |
| Vanc. | 42 | 19 | 13 | 10 | 48 | 124 | 130 |
| Ana. | 43 | 18 | 20 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 135 |
| Seattle | 44 | 18 | 23 | 3 | 39 | 128 | 144 |
| San J. | 45 | 13 | 26 | 6 | 32 | 114 | 158 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

**Monday's Games**

Philadelphia 4, Florida 3

Calgary 5, Chicago 2

Los Angeles at Edmonton, late

**Tuesday's Games**

Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.

San Jose at Detroit, 7 p.m.

Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.

Florida at New Jersey, 7:30

## OVAC Seeding

Seeded wrestlers for the 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships that begins Thursday and runs through Saturday's championship finals inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.

106–1. Brock Humphrey (Lin); 2. Justice Fisher (BvL); 3. Jesse Pemberton (Cald); 4. Kyle Ingram (EL); 5. Easton Stephen (Barn); 6. Nathan Dentz (BuL); 7. Jordan Tomsic (OG); 8. Tylique Marshall (WC); 9. Maverick Lilley (Cam); 10. Charles Thompson (MF); 11. Brodie Bolen (Warr); 12. Monte Guntrum (Steub)

113–1. Pepper Martin (Univ); 2. Nathan Hughes (JM); 3. Aiden Anderson (OG); 4. Jackson Scharfenber (IC); 5. Cole Harvey (Steub); 6. Joseph Rea (Brk); 7. Conner Wilson (Barn); 8. Jeryck Boyd (BvL); 9. Taven Mayo (Lin); Maddox Painter (MF); 11. Shawn Jordan (BuL); 12. Treyton Heitz (Lin)

120–1. Tristan Eckles (EL); 2. Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM): 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM): 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM): 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED): 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS): 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM): 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL): 8. Gavin Pownall (IC): 9. Brooks Harrison (JM): 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM): 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC): 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ);

# Wheeling Central Maroon Knights charge pass Monroe Central

EAST WHEELING – Wheeling Central (10-0) used 24 points from Kaitlyn Blake and 21 more from Addie Payton in thumping visiting Monroe Central, 79-51, in girls' basketball action Monday inside the Wheeling Central Activities Center.

Seneca Heller had seven of her 11 points in the second quarter when the Maroon Knights went on a 20-7 scoring advantage to break the game open.

Bella Fitzsimmons added 13 markers.

Payton drilled five three-point goals. Fitzsimmons had two.

Brylee McFrederick had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Seminoles (9-6). Mayzie Emery had 11 points, four assists and two steals.

**Valley 48, Clay-Battelle 34**

PINE GROVE – The Lumberjills defended home court Monday against the CeeBees behind a big first quarter that saw Valley get off to a 20-10 start.

Laken Dawson led the way with 15 points for Valley, making two 3-pointers in the Lumberjills' fast first quarter.

Kynnedi Dallison followed with 11, and Michaela Miller scored nine.

Ali Hellyer scored 15 points for Clay-Battelle.

Valley's defense held Clay-Battelle to four points in the third quarter. They led 29-18 at halftime and 40-22 after three quarters.

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

CONNORVILLE – The visiting Purple Riders sprinted to a 33-4 lead after one quarter and coasted past the Panthers.

Giana Chirpas led four players in double figures with 16 for Martins Ferry. Sidne Sidon added 15, SJ Koller 12 and Lindsey Best 10.

Maddy Roset had 16 of Buckeye Local's points.

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

STEUBENVILLE - After dropping a pair of hard-fought games to some stout competition to start January, Steubenville bounced back with a dominant victory over visiting East Liverpool Monday night inside the Crimson Center.

Big Red held the visitors in single digits in all four quarters and used a big first half to take control.

Nylah McShan led the way with 18 points and eight rebounds. Big Red got 12 different players into the game and eight of them added to the scoresheet.

Lucy Saccoccia followed McShan's performance with eight points, while Bailee Beall netted a pair of 3s to finish with six, one more than Cianna Scurry's five. Five of the eight players to score had a 3-pointer.

After opening a 17-8 lead after the first quarter, Big Red out-scored the Potters (7-9) 18-3 in the second quarter to lead 35-11 at the break and were able to cruise from there.

East Liverpool was led by six points from Kenzh Headly and five from Cate Davis.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

CADIZ – The visiting Potters received 23 points from Nate Birch in rolling past the Huskies.

Brycen Kamarec and Brady Elliott each scored 12 points for Harrison Central.

**BOWLING**

**Brooke Splits With Beaver**

CALCUTTA – The Bruins received a 177 gam and 347 series from Darion Hilton in defeating t Beavers, 1,893 to 1,681 in boys' action. Seth Schr eder added a 178 game.

In girls action, the Bruins fell 1,402 to 1,330 Kaylee Tuttle had a 307 series with games of 1 and 157.

# Rams overwhelm Vikings 27-9 in wild-card playoff game moved to Arizona because of LA wildfires

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) – Matthew Stafford thre two touchdown passes and the Los Angeles Rams ove whelmed the Minnesota Vikings, sacking Sam Darno an NFL playoff record-tying nine times to win 27 Monday night in an NFC wild-card game that w moved out of Southern California because of devas ing wildfires.

Rookie Jared Verse returned a fumble for a 57-y score for the Rams (11-7), who looked comfortabl their adopted home of State Farm Stadium from the f snap. LA drove for a touchdown on the opening d and built a 10-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The game was moved to the Phoenix suburbs

# Sports On TV

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**
**CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE**
**Noon**
NHLN — Playoffs: Farjestad Karlstad at Sparta Prague, Semifinal - First Game
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**
**6:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Villanova at Xavier
**7 p.m.**
ACCN — Louisville at Syracuse
CBSSN — Marquette at DePaul
ESPNU — Mississippi at Alabama
ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Kentucky
PEACOCK — Illinois at Indiana
SECN — Mississippi St. at Auburn
**7:30 p.m.**
PEACOCK — Georgetown at St. John's
**8:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Providence at Creighton
**9 p.m.**
ACCN — Clemson at Georgia Tech
CBSSN — Texas Tech at Kansas St.
ESPN — Miami at Duke
ESPNU — Missouri at Florida
PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Wisconsin
SECN — Arkansas at LSU
**10:30 p.m.**
FS1 — Iowa at Southern Cal
**11 p.m.**
CBSSN — Colorado St. at San Diego St.
ESPN — Baylor at Arizona
ESPNU — UCF at Arizona St.
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**
**7 p.m.**
BTN — Minnesota at Maryland
**GOLF**
**2 p.m.**
GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, Third Round, Ocean Club Golf Course at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas
**7 p.m.**
ESPN — TGL: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links GC
**NBA BASKETBALL**
**7 p.m.**
TNT — Cleveland at Indiana
TRUTV — Cleveland at Indiana (DataCast)
**9:30 p.m.**
TNT — Denver at Dallas
TRUTV — Denver at Dallas (DataCast)
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**
**2:30 p.m.**
USA — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Chelsea
**2:55 p.m.**
CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at Dundee
**TENNIS**
**3 a.m.**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia
**Noon**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, First Round, Melbourne, Australia
**9 p.m.**
ESPN2 — ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia
**3 a.m. (Wednesday)**
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Second Round, Melbourne, Australia

# NBA

**Monday's Games**
Minnesota 120, Washington 106
Toronto 104, Golden State 101
Detroit 124, New York 119
Houston 120, Memphis 118
Miami at L.A. Clippers, late
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, late
**Tuesday's Games**
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Portland, 10 p.m.
**Wednesday's Games**
New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

The highest remaining seed,
**3 p.m. (FOX)**
**Super Bowl LIX**
**Sunday, Feb. 9**
**At New Orleans**
Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

# OVAC Basketball

**(as of 1/12)**
**Girls Basketball**

| CLASS 5A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WP | 7 | 2 | 9 | 528 | 58.67 |
| Morg | 7 | 2 | 9 | 498 | 55.33 |
| Univ | 5 | 2 | 7 | 332 | 47.43 |
| Steub | 7 | 5 | 12 | 494 | 41.17 |
| Warr | 7 | 3 | 10 | 398 | 39.80 |
| JM | 5 | 5 | 10 | 356 | 35.60 |
| PS | 1 | 7 | 8 | 68 | 8.50 |
| Brk | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Mar | 13 | 0 | 13 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 4A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ed | 11 | 2 | 13 | 578 | 44.46 |
| HC | 8 | 5 | 13 | 528 | 40.62 |
| IC | 8 | 6 | 14 | 560 | 40.00 |
| OG | 6 | 4 | 10 | 374 | 37.40 |
| EL | 7 | 8 | 15 | 448 | 29.87 |
| Weir | 4 | 6 | 10 | 232 | 23.20 |
| BeL | 4 | 10 | 14 | 240 | 17.14 |
| Camb | 2 | 9 | 11 | 120 | 10.91 |
| BuL | 1 | 11 | 12 | 52 | 4.33 |
| St.C | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0.00 |

| CLASS 3A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WC | 9 | 0 | 9 | 592 | 65.78 |
| Bell | 11 | 1 | 12 | 702 | 58.50 |
| UL | 11 | 2 | 13 | 716 | 55.08 |
| FF | 10 | 2 | 12 | 624 | 52.00 |
| Ferry | 7 | 4 | 11 | 434 | 39.45 |
| MC | 9 | 4 | 13 | 480 | 36.92 |
| Shen | 8 | 4 | 12 | 394 | 32.83 |
| Barn | 5 | 7 | 12 | 276 | 23.00 |
| BT | 5 | 7 | 12 | 206 | 17.17 |
| Linsly | 1 | 6 | 7 | 42 | 6.00 |
| #Col | 14 | 0 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #United | 7 | 7 | 14 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 2A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCC | 6 | 4 | 10 | 362 | 36.20 |
| South | 10 | 5 | 15 | 456 | 30.40 |
| River | 6 | 6 | 12 | 326 | 27.17 |
| Tor | 5 | 7 | 12 | 254 | 21.17 |
| Wells | 6 | 7 | 13 | 264 | 20.31 |
| Mag | 3 | 4 | 7 | 114 | 16.29 |
| Shady | 3 | 9 | 12 | 168 | 14.00 |
| Cald | 3 | 9 | 12 | 166 | 13.83 |
| CB | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Bpt | 2 | 5 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| #V. Chr | 2 | 8 | 10 | --- | --- |
| #Lisbon | 3 | 11 | 14 | --- | --- |
| #EP | 3 | 10 | 13 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 1A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Front | 7 | 2 | 9 | 292 | 32.44 |
| Cam | 6 | 2 | 8 | 246 | 30.75 |
| HChr | 8 | 6 | 14 | 344 | 24.57 |
| TChr | 1 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 17.00 |
| Mad | 4 | 7 | 11 | 156 | 14.18 |
| C. Vall | 3 | 7 | 10 | 122 | 12.20 |
| WCC | 1 | 3 | 4 | 44 | 11.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 5 | 7 | 64 | 9.12 |
| P. City | 2 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 8.57 |
| Hund | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| #Lee | 1 | 9 | 10 | --- | --- |

**Boys Basketball**

| CLASS 5A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morg | 5 | 0 | 5 | 298 | 59.60 |
| Steub | 10 | 1 | 11 | 580 | 52.73 |
| Univ | 6 | 1 | 7 | 350 | 50.00 |
| PS | 4 | 3 | 7 | 240 | 34.29 |
| WP | 2 | 3 | 5 | 146 | 29.20 |
| JM | 2 | 5 | 7 | 116 | 16.57 |
| Brk | 1 | 5 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Mar | 8 | 1 | 9 | --- | --- |
| Warre | 7 | 2 | 9 | --- | --- |
| #Dov | 7 | 4 | 11 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 4A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EL | 9 | 2 | 11 | 582 | 52.91 |
| BeL | 8 | 2 | 10 | 510 | 51.00 |
| St.C | 8 | 2 | 10 | 492 | 49.20 |
| Camb | 7 | 4 | 11 | 452 | 41.09 |
| OG | 4 | 6 | 10 | 218 | 21.80 |
| Weir | 2 | 5 | 7 | 148 | 21.14 |
| IC | 3 | 8 | 11 | 192 | 17.45 |
| Ed | 3 | 7 | 10 | 132 | 13.20 |
| HC | 1 | 6 | 7 | 66 | 9.43 |
| BuL | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |

| CLASS 3A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MC | 9 | 1 | 10 | 528 | 52.80 |
| WC | 6 | 1 | 7 | 336 | 48.00 |
| UL | 7 | 5 | 12 | 456 | 38.00 |
| BT | 8 | 2 | 10 | 344 | 34.40 |
| Bell | 5 | 7 | 12 | 284 | 23.67 |
| Shen | 4 | 5 | 9 | 190 | 21.11 |
| FF | 4 | 7 | 11 | 208 | 18.91 |
| Barn | 4 | 7 | 11 | 196 | 17.82 |
| Ferry | 3 | 8 | 11 | 162 | 14.73 |
| #Col | 10 | 1 | 11 | --- | --- |
| #United | 2 | 9 | 11 | --- | --- |
| #Linsly | 3 | 7 | 10 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 2A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cald | 9 | 0 | 9 | 488 | 54.22 |
| Tor | 9 | 1 | 10 | 502 | 50.20 |
| SCC | 11 | 3 | 14 | 556 | 39.71 |
| CB | 5 | 2 | 7 | 178 | 25.43 |
| Mag | 4 | 2 | 6 | 152 | 25.33 |
| Bpt | 5 | 6 | 11 | 258 | 23.45 |
| Wells | 4 | 6 | 10 | 206 | 20.60 |
| South | 4 | 5 | 9 | 168 | 18.67 |
| River | 3 | 5 | 8 | 136 | 17.00 |
| Shady | 1 | 9 | 10 | 60 | 6.00 |
| VChr | 8 | 2 | 10 | --- | --- |
| Lisbon | 6 | 6 | 12 | --- | --- |
| EP | 5 | 5 | 10 | --- | --- |

| CLASS 1A | W | L | TG | CP | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HChr | 7 | 4 | 11 | 376 | 34.18 |
| Front | 5 | 2 | 7 | 174 | 24.86 |
| Mad | 2 | 5 | 7 | 102 | 14.57 |
| CVall | 3 | 6 | 9 | 126 | 14.00 |
| WCC | 2 | 3 | 5 | 64 | 12.80 |
| Hund | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| Valley | 2 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.00 |
| P City | 1 | 4 | 5 | 30 | 6.00 |
| Cam | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0.00 |
| TChr | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Beallsv | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Lee | 3 | 8 | 11 | --- | --- |

*#Not Participaing in OVAC Tournament*

3. Heller 4 3-4 11; Payton 8 0-0 21; Hanson 0 0-0 0; Schmidt 0 0-0 0; Poyser 0 0-0 0; Ma. Miehle 0 0-0 0; Robrecht 0 0-0 0; Blake 7 10-12 24; Maxwell 2 2-2 6; Totals: 28 154-18 79

Three-point goals: Monroe Central 4 (Emery, McFrederick, Stevens, McGarry). Wheeling Central 8 (Payton 5, Fitzsimmons 3)

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Galeoti 2 0-0 4; Andrews 0 0-0 0; Davis 1 3-3 5; Headly 2 2-2 6; Brown 0 5-6 5; Sell 0 0-0 0; Pack 0 0-0 0; Rouke 0 2-2 2; Barker 0 0-0 0. Totals 6 10-15; 22.

STEUBENVILLE – Saccoccia 2 4-4 8; C. Scurry 2 0-0 5; Fleming 1 0-0 3; McShan 8 2-4 18; Beall 2 0-0 6; Casinelli 1 0-1 2; Lewis 0 0-0 0; Vein 1 0-0 3; Young 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0; Green 1 0-0 3; Montgomery 0 0-0 0; Bickerstaff 0 0-2 0. Totals 18 6-11; 48.

Three-point goals: East Liverpool none; Big Red 6 (Beall 2, Scurry, Fleming, Vein, Green).

**BOYS**
**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

EAST LIVERPOOL – Frebertz 1 0-0 3; Pease 6 3-6 15; Birch 8 5-5 23; Conrad 3 2-2 8; Akins 3 0-0 6; Wright 1 1-2 3; Fitch 1 0-0 2; Brown 1 0-1 2; Totals: 24 11-16 62. HARRISON CENTRAL – Kamarec 4 2-4 12; J. Quito 1 0-0 2; Elliott 3 6-6 12; Keener 3 2-3 8; Arbaugh 4 1-1 9; Totals: 15 11-4 43

Three-point goals: East Liverpool 3 (Birch 2, Frebertz). Harrison Central 2 (Kamarec 2)

# NHL Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**
**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tor. | 44 | 27 | 15 | 2 | 56 | 135 | 124 |
| Florida | 44 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 53 | 146 | 136 |
| T. Bay | 41 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 49 | 151 | 113 |
| Boston | 45 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 47 | 116 | 142 |
| Ott. | 42 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 45 | 122 | 120 |
| Detroit | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 121 | 133 |
| Mont. | 42 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 44 | 126 | 140 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 37 | 132 | 146 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash. | 43 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 61 | 156 | 113 |
| Jersey | 45 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 56 | 142 | 114 |
| Caro. | 44 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 147 | 123 |
| Col. | 43 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 46 | 149 | 151 |
| Pitt. | 45 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 44 | 135 | 169 |
| Phila. | 44 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 43 | 136 | 154 |
| Rang. | 42 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 122 | 131 |
| Island. | 42 | 17 | 18 | 7 | 41 | 114 | 129 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**
**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winn. | 44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 156 | 108 |
| Minn. | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 132 | 122 |
| Dallas | 42 | 27 | 14 | 1 | 55 | 136 | 104 |
| Colo. | 44 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 53 | 147 | 138 |
| St. L. | 44 | 20 | 20 | 4 | 44 | 125 | 133 |
| Utah | 42 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 43 | 117 | 125 |
| Nash. | 42 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 33 | 101 | 132 |
| Chi. | 44 | 14 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 113 | 152 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 43 | 29 | 11 | 3 | 61 | 148 | 114 |
| Edm. | 42 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 55 | 139 | 117 |
| L.A. | 40 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 53 | 121 | 99 |
| Cal. | 42 | 21 | 14 | 7 | 49 | 115 | 125 |
| Vanc. | 42 | 19 | 13 | 10 | 48 | 124 | 130 |
| Ana. | 43 | 18 | 20 | 5 | 41 | 108 | 135 |
| Seattle | 44 | 18 | 23 | 3 | 39 | 128 | 144 |
| San J. | 45 | 13 | 26 | 6 | 32 | 114 | 158 |

*NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.*

**Monday's Games**
Philadelphia 4, Florida 3
Calgary 5, Chicago 2
Los Angeles at Edmonton, late
**Tuesday's Games**
Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Utah, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9 p.m.

# NFL Moves

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed CB Ekow Boye-Doye, LB Elliott Brown and OL McClendon Curtis to reserve/futures contracts.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released head coach Mike McCarthy.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed LB K.J. Cloyd, DLs Andrew Farmer, Matt Henningsen, Jordan Miller, OLs Nick Gargiulo, Will Sherman, Calvin Throckmorton, S Tanner McCalister, CBs Quinton Newsome, Keidron Smith, Reese Taylor, WR A.T. Perry, and TE Thomas Yassmin to reserve/futures contracts.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed DLs Deslin Alexandre, James Ester and Jeremiah Martin, S Omar Brown, CBs Kamal Hadden and Kalen King, K Alex Hale, G Marquis Hayes, WRs Julian Hicks and Cornelius Johnson, G/T Donovan Jennings and TE Messiah Swinson to reserve/futures contracts.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Re-signed LB Cameron McGrone to a one-year contract extension.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed G Karsen Barnhart, TE McCallan Castles, WRs Dez Fitzpatrick and Jaylen Johnson, DL Jeremiah Jean-Baptiste, OLBs Tre'Mon Morris-Brash and Caleb Murphy, RB Jaret Patterson and S Kendall Williamson to reserve/futures contracts.

Kaden Nieman (Univ); 3. Gamble Gossett (UL); 4. Grant Vasey (Bell); 5. Robert Weekley (Bpt); 6. Chase Milton (BuL); 7. Jase Mahoney (MF); 8. Aydan Andrews (Barn); 9. Wyatt Hostutler (Weir); 10. Kasyn Berkey (Steub); 11. Dylan Legleitner (Warr); 12. Jordan Dearth (PS)

126–Colton Gillespie (Univ); 2. Braxton Birch (Cam); 3. Colton Nixon (MF); 4. Austin Harshbarger (SL); 5. Dorian Haddad (Steub); 6. Gavin Bolock (UL); 7. Coleton Hill (PS); 8. Haden Bowman (Barn); 9. Baylon Rose (Camb); 10. Wyatt McCune (EL); 11. Josiah Green (Shady); 12. Sam Smith (Conn)

132–1. George Mamkos (Lin); 2. Ethan Starr (IC); 3. Nico Maisel (Univ); 4. Leo Wilkes (BvL); 5. Wyatt Wolanski (OG); 6. Carter Adkins (JM); 7. Noah Keen (Camb); 8. Landon Burdine (Brk); 9. Aaydin King (PS); 10. Jake Carman (WP); 11. Layden Loring (Barn); 12. Julius Mullins (Steub)

138–1. Colt Carpenter (Barn); 2. Marshall Laishley (Camb); 3. Bobby Buchheit (BvL); 4. Zander Ward (JM); 5. Charlie Abbott (Steub); 6. Timofey Husk (Univ); 7. David DeFelice (Weir); 8. Logan Graham (OG); 9. Reese Kelley (PS); 10. Reme Fairbanks (Warr); 11. Davyn Kunkle (Shen); 12. Nolan Haught (ED)

144–Cooper Smith (Steub); 2. Carter Pauley (Univ); 3. Hayden Lamb (OG); 4. Gunnar Gossett (UL); 5. Talen Brown (Cam); 6. Kaden Harding (JM); 7. Corbin Phillips (PS); 8. Chris Warrick (BvL); 9. Brayden Trigg (Barn); 10. Brody Chandler (Cald); 11. Carter Jones (Morg); 12. Preston Apostolec (StC)

150–1. Slayton Pettit (Cam); 2. Jake Hughes (BvL); 3. Jack Lowe (WP); 4. Ian Starkey (IC); 5. Waylon Wyckoff (JM); 6. Max Vitale (Univ); 7. Braylon Leiffer (Bell); 8. Caden McGrath (Tor); 9. Ricky Sinsel (ED); 10. Paul Harshberger (Warr); 11. Clayton Myers (Camb); 12. Owen Hunt (Cald)

157–1. Brody Saccoccia (Steub); 2. Rider Ludrosky (Univ); 3. Eli Tedrow (Cam); 4. Richard Welshans (MF); 5. Asa Yost (PS); 6. Jayden Shaw (EL); 7. Kai Johnson (JM); 8. Nate Hodge (WP); 9. Drake Bouscher (Tor); 10. Levi Strahler (Warr); 11. Adan Bender (Cald); 12. Dominic Crum (UL)

165–Ayden King (Barn); 2. Brody Kehler (Univ); 3. Isaac Sands (WP); 4. Ethan Llewellyn (Steub); 5. Nathan Murphy (PS); 6. Evan Ours (BvL); 7. Damon Stansbury (EL); 8. Gavin Pownall (IC); 9. Brooks Harrison (JM); 10. Dominick Smith (Morg); 11. Joshua DeFelice (Weir); 12. Griffen Miller (Cam)

175–1. Klypsan Wallace (Cam); 2. Aden Strahler (Warr); 3. Emerson Murphy (Univ); 4. Brody Perzanowski (UL); 5. Hines Ford (Barn); 6. Noah White (WP); 7. Cole Middleton (PS); 8. Landon Crosier (Steub); 9. Maverick Lemasters (JM); 10. Luke Marling (StC); 11. Mason Haney (Morg); 12. Ben Bryan (Weir)

190–1. Jameson Maynard (WP); 2. Johnny Bailey (SL); 3. Wyatt Brady (WC); 4. Luke McMillion (IC); 5. Ryder Hastings (Univ); 6. Greg sauers (OG); 7. Griffin Kwernik (Lin); 8. Leeland Monte (Wells); 9. Garrett Moore (Brk); 10. Nolan Blackburn (Steub); 11. Eli Wheeler (PS); 12. Eric Carr (Warr)

215–1. Isaac Martin (WC); 2. Malaki Washington (WP); 3. Kane Curran (BvL); 4. Brycen Arthur (PS); 5. Brody Cottrill (Lin); 6. Jackson Pate (Univ); 7. Knox McKibben (HC); 8. Chase Travis (Morg); 9. Braxton Ross (FF); 10. Richie Gudino (OG); 11. Logan Baker (Bpt); 12. Tayson Palmer (MF)

285–1. Brock Kehler (Univ); 2. Landen Thomas (HC); 3. Logan Middleton (PS); 4. Dominic Asbury (WC); 5. Noah Schmidt (OG); 6. Heath Thomas (Tor); 7. Zuvan Shipman (Morg); 8. Beau Hudson (Steub); 9. Isaac Prescott (BvL); 10. Steven Lenhart (FF); 11. Gabe Glenn (ED); 12. Jorge Alvarez (BuL)

**Valley 48, Clay-Battelle 34**

PINE GROVE — The Lumberjills defended home court Monday against the CeeBees behind a big first quarter that saw Valley get off to a 20-10 start.

Laken Dawson led the way with 15 points for Valley, making two 3-pointers in the Lumberjills' fast first quarter.

Kynnedi Dallison followed with 11, and Michaela Miller scored nine.

Ali Hellyer scored 15 points for Clay-Battelle.

Valley's defense held Clay-Battelle to four points in the third quarter. They led 29-18 at halftime and 40-22 after three quarters.

**Martins Ferry 75, Buckeye Local 18**

CONNORVILLE — The visiting Purple Riders sprinted to a 33-4 lead after one quarter and coasted past the Panthers.

Giana Chirpas led four players in double figures with 16 for Martins Ferry. Sidne Sidon added 15, SJ Koller 12 and Lindsey Best 10.

Maddy Roset had 16 of Buckeye Local's points.

**Steubenville 48, East Liverpool 22**

STEUBENVILLE - After dropping a pair of hard-fought games to some stout competition to start January, Steubenville bounced back with a dominant victory over visiting East Liverpool Monday night inside the Crimson Center.

Big Red held the visitors in single digits in all four quarters and used a big first half to take control.

Nylah McShan led the way with 18 points and eight rebounds. Big Red got 12 different players into the game and eight of them added to the scoresheet.

Lucy Saccoccia followed McShan's performance with eight points, while Bailee Beall netted a pair of 3s to finish with six, one more than Cianna Scurry's five. Five of the eight players to score had a 3-pointer.

After opening a 17-8 lead after the first quarter, Big Red out-scored the Potters (7-9) 18-3 in the second quarter to lead 35-11 at the break and were able to cruise from there.

East Liverpool was led by six points from Kenzh Headly and five from Cate Davis.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
**East Liverpool 62, Harrison Central 43**

CADIZ — The visiting Potters received 23 points from Nate Birch in rolling past the Huskies.

Brycen Kamarec and Brady Elliott each scored 12 points for Harrison Central.

**BOWLING**
**Brooke Splits With Beaver**

CALCUTTA — The Bruins received a 177 gam and 347 series from Darion Hilton in defeating t Beavers, 1,893 to 1,681 in boys' action. Seth Schr eder added a 178 game.

In girls action, the Bruins fell 1,402 to 1,330 Kaylee Tuttle had a 307 series with games of 1 and 157.

# Rams overwheln Vikings 27-9 in wild-card playoff game moved to Arizona because of LA wildfires

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Matthew Stafford thre two touchdown passes and the Los Angeles Rams ove whelmed the Minnesota Vikings, sacking Sam Darno an NFL playoff record-tying nine times to win 27 Monday night in an NFC wild-card game that w moved out of Southern California because of devas ing wildfires.

Rookie Jared Verse returned a fumble for a 57-y score for the Rams (11-7), who looked comfortabl their adopted home of State Farm Stadium from the f snap. LA drove for a touchdown on the opening d and built a 10-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The game was moved to the Phoenix suburbs nearly 400 miles east of the Rams' home in Inglew California — because of the wildfires that contin burn in the Los Angeles area. LA's next game wi on the East Coast against the Philadelphia Eagle Sunday.

Verse's touchdown with 4:35 left in the second ter gave the Rams a 17-3 lead. Darnold was under sure from blitzing cornerback Ahkello Wither when he lost the ball. The 24-year-old Verse sc it up and ran down the field untouched, somers into the end zone.

The play sent the Rams' faithful into a fren NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said some 43 fans made the trek from California for the game, a 63,400-seat stadium appeared full.

It was the lowlight of a brutal first half for D who was making his first NFL playoff appearar was sacked five times before the break and th interception when Cobie Durant picked off a p tended for Jordan Addison.

Minnesota (14-4) had a chance to earn the NF seed in the final game of the regular season, b nold struggled in a loss at Detroit. His poor finish questions about his long-term future with the after he played this season on a one-year deal.

The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION B

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

## Soto among 13 free agents to receive $21.05M qualifying offers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) – Juan Soto, Corbin Burnes and Willy Adames were among 13 free agents who received $21.05 million qualifying offers on Monday.

Pete Alonso, Alex Bregman and Max Fried also were given the one-year offer before Monday's deadline. Players have until 4 p.m. EST on Nov. 19 to accept.

If they do, they will be under contract with their 2024 club for another season. If they decline and sign elsewhere, their new team must forfeit draft picks and their previous organization will receive at least one draft pick as compensation.

In other news Monday, ace pitcher Gerrit Cole decided to remain with the New York Yankees rather than become a free agent.

As a 5 p.m. EST deadline approached, both sides agreed to rescind their rights and worked out the language with Major League Baseball and the players' association.

"Maybe the grass isn't always greener," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "I think he's happy where he's at."

Atlanta picked up All-Star designated hitter Marcell Ozuna's $16 million option for 2025 and turned down options on right-hander Luke Jackson and catcher Travis d'Arnaud.

Jackson's option was for $7 million with a $2 million buyout, and d'Arnaud's option was for $8 million with no buyout.

Texas pitcher Nathan Eovaldi became a free agent after declining a $20 million option for next season with the Rangers. Eovaldi will get a $2 million buyout from an option that vested when he threw more than 300 innings over his two years with Texas.

After losing to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series last week, the Yankees made a qualifying offer as expected to Soto – the biggest prize on the free agent market.

Fellow outfielder Teoscar Hernandez received a qualifying offer from the Dodgers.

Perhaps the biggest surprise among the group was Boston pitcher Nick Pivetta, who went 6-12 with a 4.14 ERA in 145 2/3 innings this year.

Coming off a surprising run to the National League Championship Series, the New York Mets made qualifying offers to Alonso and starting pitchers Sean Manaea and Luis Severino.

Baltimore offered Burnes and outfielder Anthony Santander.

No other team made more than one qualifying offer.

Other players given the offer were Arizona first baseman Christian Walker and Cincinnati right-hander Nick Martinez. Adames was offered by Milwaukee, Bregman by Houston, and Fried by Atlanta.

See **AGENTS**, Page B2

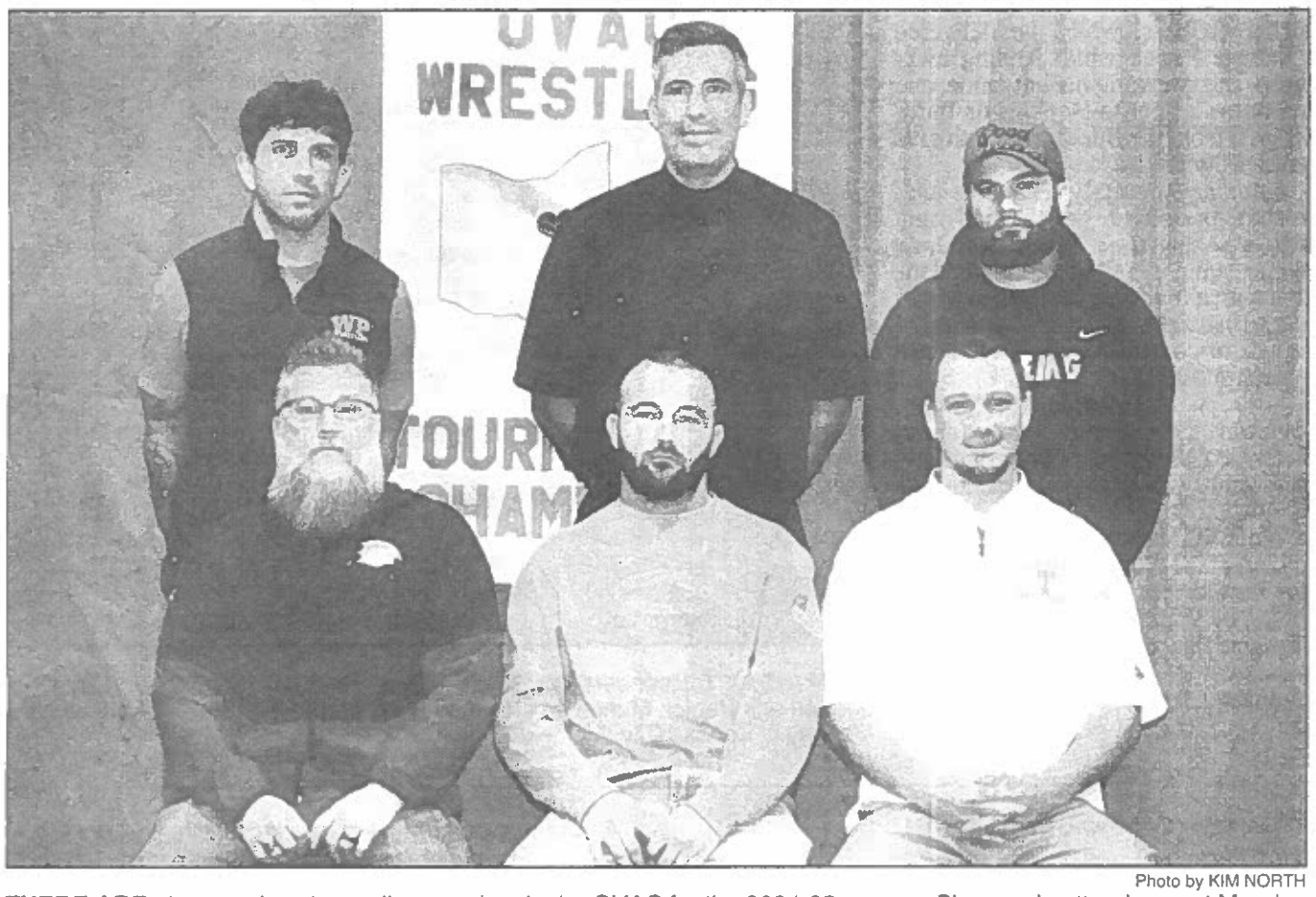



Photo by KIM NORTH

**THERE ARE** nine new head wrestling coaches in the OVAC for the 2024-25 season. Six were in attendance at Monday night's preseason press conference inside WesBanco Arena, the site of the 71st annual OVAC Championships on Jan. 16-18. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Cameron's Chad Burge; Conotton Valley's Jesse Crilley and Toronto's David Blawut. Back row, from left, are Wheeling Park's Danny Doyle; Steubenville Catholic's Fr. Ryan Liebahaber; and Cambridge's Jordan Ball. The new schools are Columbiana, East Palestine and Leetonia.

## OVAC press conference signals start of wrestling season

**By KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING – The 2024-25 OVAC wrestling season officially got underway Monday night with the annual press conference inside WesBanco Arena, the site of the three-day tournament 71st annual OVAC Ron Mauck Championships on January 16-18.

The field for the gigantic tournament has grown to 58 schools this season, with Columbiana, East Palestine and Leetonia joining. In addition to those three, six other schools have new head coaches: those being Jordan Ball (Cambridge); Chad Burge (Cameron); Jesse Crilley (Conotton Valley); Fr. Ryan Liebahaber (Steubenville Catholic); David Blawut (Toronto) and Danny Doyle (Wheeling Park).

"I'm looking forward to another great season and another great tournament," OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director Shane Shaffer said.

OVAC Executive Director Dirk Decoy said, "This is one of the crown jewels that the OVAC puts on. Things are going very well in the conference right now."

Decoy also students can get into any OVAC championship event for $1, this is something the conference started last year.

"We can't do this without all of you," he said while talking to the head coaches at each school. Each one of you is carrying a small piece of the torch that lights the entire flame."

Dr. Dan Doyle, past OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director, announced that fans attending this year's spectacle will be able to view highlights on the marquee board from the 1962 Finals.

"Someone gave us a reel-to-reel of the tournament and we had it made into a CD," Doyle explained. "It will be shown throughout the tournament."

Doyle also said a pair of former OVAC products were inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame West Virginia chapter. They are Cameron product Ron Trowbridge and Brooke graduate and long-time official Chris DiSerio.

For the second consecutive season, the OVAC will send an All-Star team to Dublin Jerome High School in suburban Columbus on November 23 to compete against the Central District in an All-Star Classic. Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen is the contact person.

The 29th annual OVAC-MAC "Clash of Champions" will be Wed., March 12 at an undetermined MAC school in western Pennsylvania. The banquet will be held the night before in Weirton at Undo's Restaurant.

The OVAC Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships will once again be staged by Brooke and John Marshall high schools. The Class 1A/2A and Class 4A duals will be held inside the Wellness Center at Brooke on Jan 29 while the Class 3A and Class 5A will be held inside the John Marshall Fieldhouse in Moundsville on Jan. 30. Both events begin at 6 p.m.

Dr. Doyle also announced that the OVAC Wrestling Family lost a long-time member when former Cameron head coach Jim Potts recently passed away.

The two local college wrestling coaches – West Liberty's Danny Irwin and Wheeling University's Shane Brown took a couple minutes to talk about their respective teams.

See **WRESTING**, Page B2

## Steelers CB Sutton returns from suspension hoping to find a role on elite defense

PITTSBURGH (AP) – Cam Sutton doesn't believe he has to prove anything to anyone as the Pittsburgh Steelers veteran defensive back tries to hit the reset button on his career.

Sitting at his locker on Monday, his first full day back at work in two months after serving an eight-game suspension for violating the league's personal conduct policy, the 29-year-old is more focused on trying to carve out a niche on a team that did just fine without him.

The Steelers enter the second half of the season atop the AFC North at 6-2, with undrafted rookie free agent Beanie Bishop and his three interceptions doing just fine while taking some of the snaps Sutton's absence created.

Sutton hasn't been invisible during the suspension – he said he's been able to sit in on some meetings, for example – but now finds himself, as coach Mike Tomlin likes to put it frequently, trying to hop on a moving train.

"I've been working and doing everything I need to do to stay ready," Sutton said.

And move on from a difficult chapter in both his career and his life.

Sutton spent the first six seasons of his career in Pittsburgh creating a role that relied heavily on his versatility before signing a $33 million deal with Detroit in the spring of 2023. He lasted just one year with the Lions, who released him in March after a warrant was issued for Sutton's arrest in Florida stemming from a domestic incident.

The case ended with Sutton entering a pretrial diversion program in April after the charges were reduced from a felony to misdemeanor battery. His agreement with prosecutors required Sutton to take a mental health evaluation.

The Steelers took a flyer on Sutton, bringing him back on a one-year contract in June well aware that he still faced potential discipline from the league. He filled in at a variety of positions during training camp before serving his suspension.

Sutton is eager to do whatever is asked on a defense ranked second in the NFL in points allowed, fourth in takeaways and ninth in yards.

"I play football man," he said. "I don't care what position it is. I could be on offensive line, I really don't care."

Pittsburgh is relatively set at cornerback, where Joey Porter Jr. has spent his second season showing signs of becoming one of the elite players at the position and Donte Jackson has already picked off three passes.

See **STEELERS**, Page B2

out in overtime to give the unbeaten Kansas City Chiefs a 30-24 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.

DeAndre Hopkins had two TD receptions for the Chiefs (8-0), who drove through the rain for two fourth-quarter scores to take a 24-17 lead with 4:17 left. But then Kansas City watched as Baker Mayfield led the Bucs the other way in the final minute, hitting Ryan Miller in the end zone with 27 seconds to go.

Tampa Bay (4-5) elected to kick the extra point and force overtime, rather than go for a 2-point conversion and the win. And it cost the Buccaneers when Mayfield called tails and the coin flip was heads. Mahomes and the Chiefs took the ball, he was 5-for-5 passing on their drive in overtime, and Hunt finished his 106-yard rushing day with the deciding TD plunge.

Travis Kelce had 14 catches for 100 yards with Taylor Swift watching from a suite, and Hopkins finished with eight catches for 86 yards as the Chiefs ran their winning streak to 14 dating to last season. They became the sixth Super Bowl champion to start 8-0 the following season.

Mayfield finished with 200 yards and two TDs passing for the Bucs, who have lost four of their last five.

It was a memorable first half for two players who'd been waiting to play in Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bucs' Rachaad White grew up about 10 minutes away in a tough part of Kansas City, but his family could never afford a ticket for him to see a game. He wound up on a circuitous path through Division II Nebraska-Kearney and a California junior college to Arizona State, where he eventually became of a third-round pick of Tampa Bay in the 2022 draft.

Two year later, White finally got into Arrowhead – and the end zone. He

Then it was Hopkins' turn in his first home game since arriving in Kansas City from a trade with the Titans.

The three-time All-Pro, who already had caught four passes, reeled in a third-down heave from Mahomes amid triple coverage for a 35-yard gain inside the Tampa Bay 5. Three plays later, Mahomes found him in the back of the end zone, and Hopkins celebrated his first TD with the Chiefs with a dance from "Remember the Titans."

Tampa Bay tried to seize control with consecutive scoring drives to start the second half. The first ended with a TD pass to Cade Otton, the latest tight end to shred the Chiefs, and Chase McLaughlin's 47-yard field goal gave the Bucs a 17-10 lead.

The Chiefs answered in the fourth quarter. Mahomes marched them through the rain 70 yards for a tying touchdown pass, which he delivered to Samaje Perine while landing awkwardly and tweaking his left ankle, and then threw a laser to Hopkins on third-and-goal from the Buccaneers 5 to give Kansas City the lead.

Tampa Bay promptly went three-and-out, but its defense got the ball right back, and this time Mayfield calmly led his team down field. His capped the drive with a touchdown throw to Miller – his first career TD catch – with 27 seconds to go, and Tampa Bay elected to play for overtime.

**Injuries**

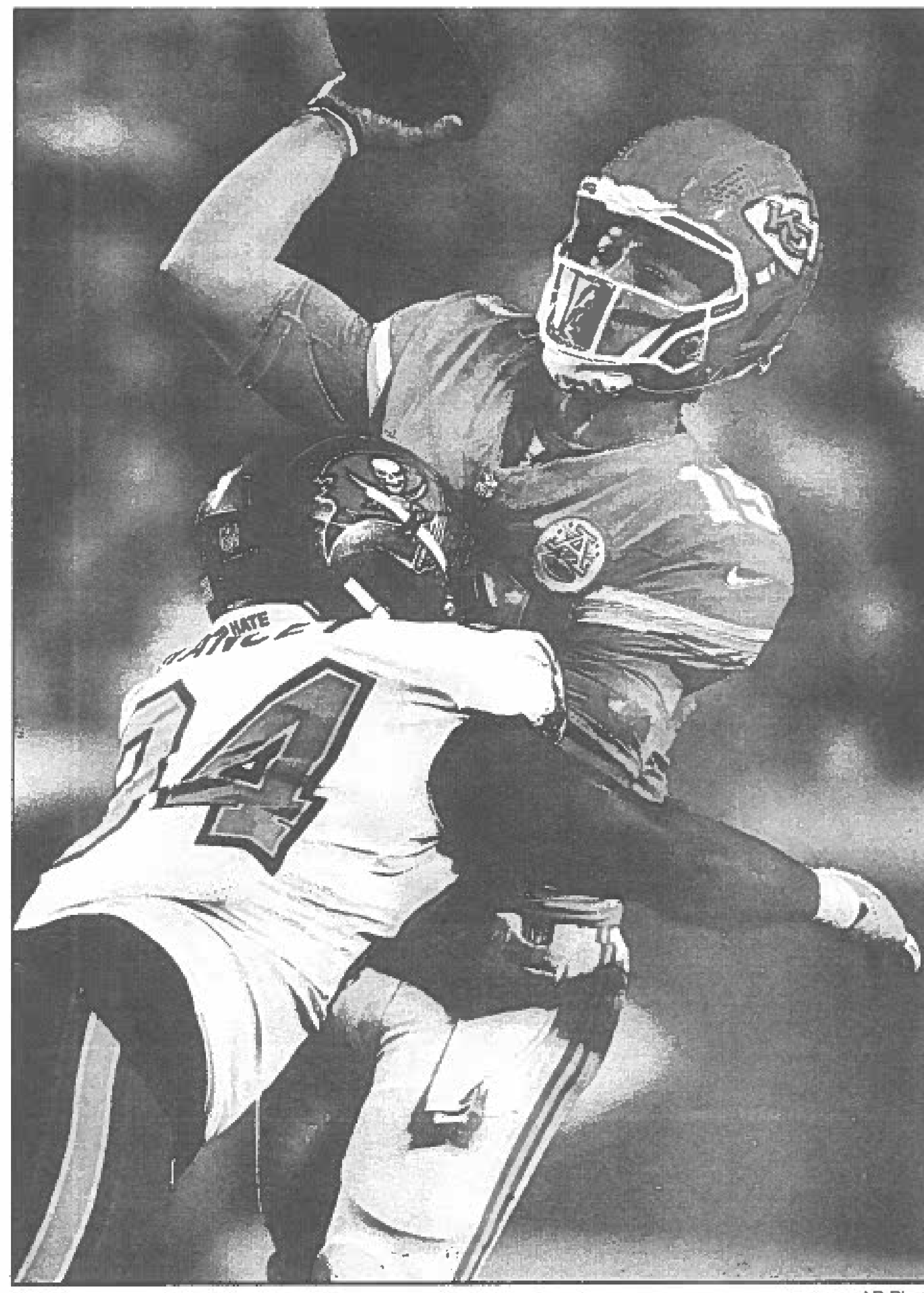
Buccaneers: LB Yaya Diaby (chest) briefly left the game. CB Josh Hayes (calf) dealt with cramps in the second half.

Chiefs: WR Mecole Hardman (shoulder) and DE George Karlaftis (hip) were hurt but returned to the game.

**Up next**

Tampa Bay hosts San Francisco on Sunday.

Kansas City hosts Denver on Sunday.



AP Photo

**TAMPA BAY** Buccaneers cornerback Bryce Hall (34) hits Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday in Kansas City, Mo.

## • Wrestling

Continued from Page B1

"We have five former OVAC wrestlers on our roster this season," Irwin noted. "We also have our home opener on November 21 when Fairmont State visits the ARC."

The five OVAC products are returning All-American Alec Cook (Madonna); and freshmen Logan Davis (Oak Glen), Shawn Young (Weir), Lucas Zambotti (Magnolia) and Gabe Blissenbach (Southern Local).

Irwin also noted the Hilltoppers women's team has 18 members.

Brown is excited about the upcoming season as the Cardinals have a lot of new equipment, including a competition mat and will be getting a new locker room in the 2025-26 season.

"We have the highest roster number in the past five seasons," Brown said. "We are back in the original wrestling room this season, as well."

Locals competing at Wheeling are Zach Kuneff (Bridgeport) and Hunter Bittinger (Harrison Central).

The Cardinals debut at home on Dec. 6 when West Virginia University Institute of Technology visits the McDonough Center.

## • Steelers

Continued from Page B1

Sutton figures to fit more into the nickel position he thrived at during his first stint with the team, though Bishop, an undrafted rookie free agent out of West Virginia, has more than held his own.

"He's just really enjoying ball right now," Sutton said of Bishop. "Just taking every day one day at a time and good things are happening for him."

Linebacker Patrick Queen doesn't see Sutton's return as a threat to Bishop's playing time, but a chance for one of the league's best defenses to get even better.

"(He's) a physical cat, a guy who can cover," Queen said. "Just the utmost confidence that he's going to communicate real well."

The defense Sutton returned to doesn't look much different than the one he left after 2022. Minkah Fitzpatrick is still quarterbacking the defense from his safety spot. T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith are still one of the best edge rush tandems in the league. Cam Heyward is still a problem for opponents at defensive tackle.

If anything, the Steelers have only evolved on that side of the ball, mixing it up with different substitution packages that can create matchup issues.

"We're doing a great job of just giving teams different looks, getting after quarterbacks how we should and obviously winning the field position game, getting off the field and causing turnovers and getting the ball back for our offense," Sutton said.

Sutton has been impressed by what he's seen on film. He's eager to have his viewpoint return to the one he's accustomed to when Pittsburgh visits surprise NFC East leader Washington on Sunday.

'I love our group," Sutton said. "I love the continuity of our guys. I've spent a lot of time with our guys, a group that's just hungry, loves playing together with each other and just excited to be around back with the guys."

Sutton didn't offer much of a glimpse into his evolution off the field, saying only he knows what he has to do for "the bigger picture."

The smaller picture will come into focus next weekend when Sutton's No. 20 could run back onto the field in a game that counts for the first time in 10 months.

"It's difficult being out, not doing what you love to do," he said. "(But) I'm ready to roll. Whatever it is, whatever (they ask of me), I'm ready to roll."

## • Browns

Continued from Page B1

Once he's done with rehab, Watson could return next year as a backup, but what would that do? Anyone who has watched him play the past two seasons can see that even when healthy he's not a long-term answer.

It's pretty clear the Browns are back to square one at quarterback.

And maybe elsewhere.

Jameis Winston provided a one-week spark but reverted to his old ways by throwing three interceptions on Sunday. Stefanski said he intends to stick with Winston going forward for the rest of this season, but the Browns need to get a longer look at second-year QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson.

Beyond the QB mess, there are other major questions with two months left.

Stefanski and general manager Andrew Berry both received contract extensions from the Haslams following last year's playoff run, but the team's putrid performance in 2024 has put everyone on notice.

Stefanski recently handed over play-calling duties to first-year coordinator Ken Dorsey, and it's still not clear if the two-time NFL Coach of the Year made the decision or if it was something forced upon him.

Berry's roster construction has come under renewed scrutiny. Cleveland lacks quality depth at numerous positions and Berry's recent decision to trade Amari Cooper to Buffalo has left the Browns without a No. 1 wide receiver.

There could be other moves ahead of Tuesday's 4 p.m. trade deadline (defensive end Za'Darius Smith and tight end David Njoku have been rumored to be on the block), and Berry will hold his annual bye-week news conference a day later, when he's certain to be hammered with questions about the Browns' fast flop.

Someone is going to take the fall for Cleveland's miserable season. It's not all Watson's fault.

The good news is that Browns have eight more games to sort things out.

That's also the bad news.

**What's working**

It's a short list. The offense hasn't been able to sustain any lasting momentum. There have been flashes of progress, but much longer stretches of ineptitude.

At one point in the third quarter, the Browns had a drive that lasted all of 16 seconds.

**What needs help**

Two communication breakdowns by Cleveland's secondary led to a pair of TD passes by Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert in the first half.

Safety Juan Thornhill and cornerback Denzel Ward were involved in both plays, and each accepted responsibility for the mistakes – a positive in terms of camaraderie but not a good look for them or coordinator Jim Schwartz.

**Stock up**

Myles Garrett ended his four-game sackless drought with a flurry.

The NFL's reigning Defensive Player of the Year brought down Herbert three times in four plays on Sunday, a stretch of dominance that brought little comfort to Garrett, who said he would gladly trade them for a win.

"Stats are what they are," he said. "I'd rather win every time."

**Stock down**

A first-round pick in 2020, Jedrick Wills Jr. is now a second-string tackle.

Wills, who has been slowed the past two seasons by knee injuries, was Cleveland's backup tackle on Sunday as Dawand Jones made his second straight start.

Stefanski said Jones, who started nine games as a rookie on the right side and five this season, will remain a starter.

"He's a young player that's going to continue to get better," Stefanski said. "It's not perfect."

As for Wills, who is in his final year under contract, Stefanski said he'll assume the backup "swing" tackle spot and needs to be ready if called upon.

**Injuries**

The Browns haven't provided much information on linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, who sustained a neck injury last week. The team's leading tackler was placed on injured reserve, meaning he'll be out at least four games.

Owusu-Koramoah's neck got compressed when he took the brunt of a big hit with Ravens running back Derrick Henry.

**Key number**

57 – Cleveland's offensive yardage in the first half Sunday – 29 yards rushing, 28 passing.

**Next steps**

A week of introspection, evaluation and assessment before playing in New Orleans on Nov. 17. Stefanski said there are no major changes "expected" during the bye week.

## • Agents

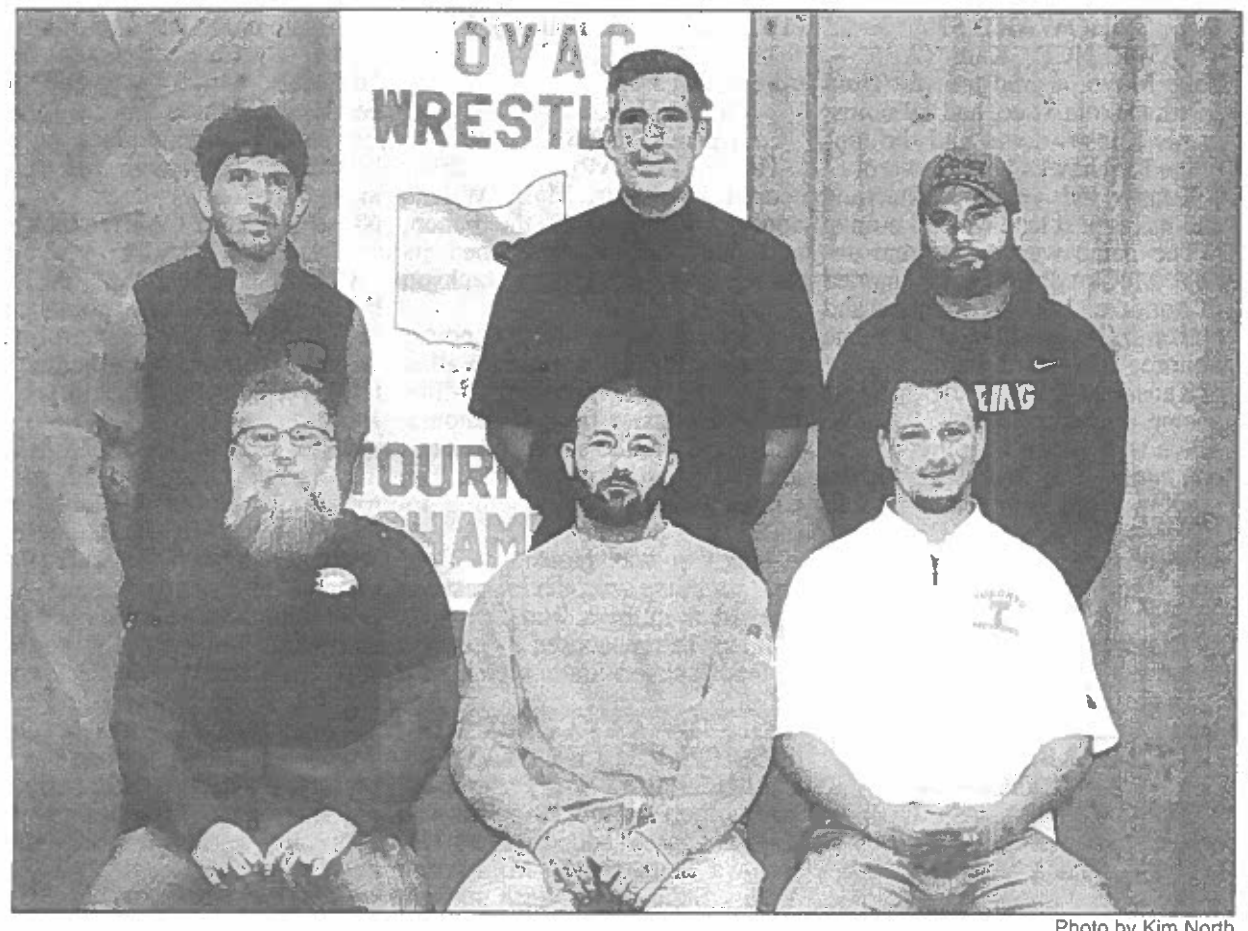



Photo by Kim North

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Decoy also students can get into any OVAC championship event for $1, this is something the conference started last year.

*Please see* **WRESTLING**, *Page 10*

# Koonz Ready To Lead WVU Defense

**By DEREK REDD**
**Managing Editor**

MORGANTOWN - Jeff Koonz doesn't look at his new job on the West Virginia University football coaching staff as a promotion. To him, it's an obligation.

"This is an opportunity right now for us to play really good football in the month of November as a defense and as a team," WVU's new defensive coordinator said Monday. "And that's the objective. That's how I look at it."

WVU head coach Neal Brown named Koonz defensive coordinator for the rest of the season last Tuesday, at the same time he announced the dismissal of former defensive coordinator Jordan Lesley. The WVU defense sits near the bottom of several defensive metrics nationally, part of the reason the Mountaineers (4-4, 3-2 Big 12) haven't enjoyed the success they hoped to have this year.

Now West Virginia enters the home stretch of the regular season, starting with Saturday's noon contest at Cincinnati (FS1). The Mountaineers want to finish the season strong like they did last year, when it won four of its last five regular season games and beat North Carolina in the Duke's Mayo Bowl. To reach that level, both Koonz and Brown know WVU has to play better defense.

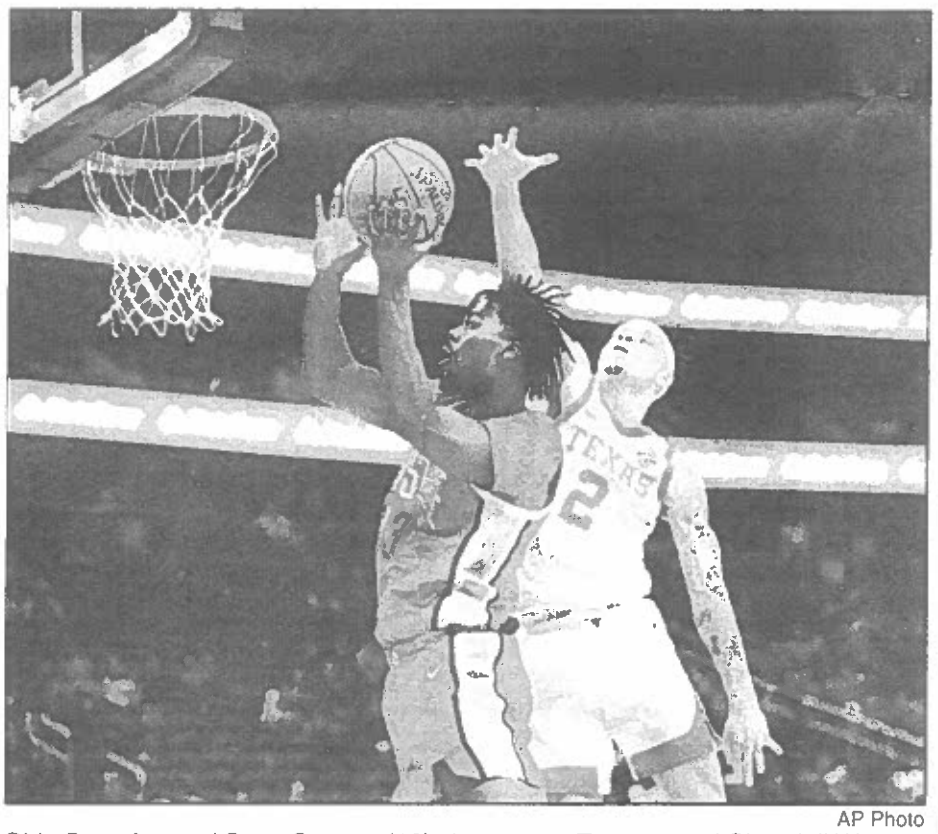
A key part of that process, Koonz said, is for WVU's defense to be better organized and more consistent. Inconsistency is a term that has been used too often to describe the defense's performance, he added, and that must change

"We've got to get lined up as fast as possible," Koonz said. "We've got to make sure that all 11 guys on that field understand what the call is, how to execute the call, and what success they should expect after that call. And I say that the confidence that comes with understanding exactly what we're trying to accomplish with each and every single call that is made is paramount right now. And that's what we've got to make sure of on every play - when you're up by 10, down by 10, doesn't matter."

WVU coaches hope that will help the defense improve in some crucial areas. It currently sits among the nation's worst in categories like third- and fourth-down conversions allowed, plays of 30 yards or more allowed, passing yards allowed per game and passing yards allowed per attempt.

Brown said he's confident Koonz, the Mountaineers' inside linebackers coach, is up to the task. Koonz has succeeded in whatever leadership roles Brown has handed him, including that of WVU's special team's coordinator. Koonz has been a co-defensive coordinator at both Cincinnati and North Texas, calling the defensive plays at Cincinnati.

*Please see* **WVU**, *Page 10*




AP Photo

Ohio State forward Sean Stewart (13) shoots past Texas guard Chendall Weaver (2) during the first half of an NCAA basketball game Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, in Las Vegas.

# Ohio State Leads Wire-To-Wire Over No. 19 Texas In Opening Night Win

**By W.G. RAMIREZ**
**Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Bruce Thornton scored 50% (10 of 20) from the floor, including 9 of 12 from 3-point range.

Texas: The Longhorns

Ohio State hosts Youngstown State on Monday, while Texas opens the home portion

# Mountaineers Waste No Time In Getting DeVries First Win, Beat Robert Morris 87-59

**BY JUSTIN JACKSON**
**For The Intelligencer**

As far as season debuts go, West Virginia needed a jaunt through the history books Monday night to find a fair comparison.

The Mountaineers ran past Robert Morris 87-59 in front of a crowd of 9,229 inside the WVU Coliseum in what stands as victory No. 1 at WVU for head coach Darian DeVries.

"The first win is always kind of special," DeVries said. "I told the guys I hope it's not the last one."

It came with a three-touchdown run to begin the game for WVU (1-0), that saw the Mountaineers make 10 of their first 12 shots for a 21-0 lead.

Things were going so good at the start for WVU, you half expected the giant Coliseum scoreboard to show Taylor Swift drinking a Country Roads Lager from a private suite. It may have been the only thing missing on this night.

"The first 10 minutes were great," said WVU forward Amani Hansberry, who finished with nine points and a game-high 12 rebounds. "I don't think they scored, but we still have a lot of things to clean up over the next few days. For the most part, I thought we did a good job."

To put the Mountaineers' start into context takes a glance at history.

For example, Wilt Chamberlin's first game in the NBA saw him score 43 points and grab 28 rebounds.

Or maybe it was former New York Mets pitcher Steven Matz who holds the all-time sports debut. All he did in his first MLB game was pitch 7 2/3 innings, gave up two runs and also drove in four in a 7-2 win.

None of those guys, we expect, were in the same boat as these Mountaineers, a gathering of 13 scholarship players from all parts of the world who had never played a regular-season game together.

That changed against the Colonials (0-1), as did, possibly, any preseason expectations that had been set for this team.

"I told our guys when they're hooked up the way they were at the start of the game, I'll take them anywhere," DeVries said. "Now, it's just sustaining that, and that's the piece that will ultimately determine – night in and night out – how good we can be. The goal is to win the game, and they certainly came out and did that tonight."

*Please see* **TIME**, *Page 10*

# Steelers CB Cam Sutton Returns From Eight-Game Suspension Hoping

## WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 9)

"We can't do this without all of you," he said while talking to the head coaches at each school. Each one of you is carrying a small piece of the torch that lights the entire flame."

Dr. Dan Doyle, past OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Director, announced that fans attending this year's spectacle will be able to view highlights on the marquee board from the 1962 Finals.

"Someone gave us a reel-to-reel of the tournament and we had it made into a CD," Doyle explained. "It will be shown throughout the tournament."

Doyle also said a pair of former OVAC products were inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame West Virginia chapter.

They are Cameron product Ron Trowbridge and Brooke graduate and long-time official Chris DiSerio.

For the second consecutive season, the OVAC will send an All-Star team to Dublin Jerome High School in suburban Columbus on November 23 to compete against the Central District in an All-Star Classic. Barnesville head coach Jayson Stephen is the contact person.

The 29th annual OVAC-MAC "Clash of Champions" will be Wed., March 12 at an undetermined MAC school in western Pennsylvania. The banquet will be held the night before in Weirton at Undo's Restaurant.

The OVAC Bill Hinegardner Dual Meet Championships will once again be staged by Brooke and John Marshall high schools. The Class 1A/2A and Class 4A duals will be held inside the Wellness Center at Brooke on Jan 29 while the Class 3A and Class 5A will be held inside the John Marshall Fieldhouse in Moundsville on Jan. 30. Both events begin at 6 p.m.

Dr. Doyle also announced that the OVAC Wrestling Family lost a long-time member when former Cameron head coach Jim Potts recently passed away.

The two local college wrestling coaches - West Liberty's Danny Irwin and Wheeling University's Shane Brown took a couple minutes to talk about their respective teams.

"We have five former OVAC wrestlers on our roster this season," Irwin noted. "We also have our home opener on November 21 when Fairmont State visits the ARC."

The five OVAC products are returning All-American Alec Cook (Madonna); and freshmen Logan Davis (Oak Glen), Shawn Young (Weir), Lucas Zambotti (Magnolia) and Gabe Blissenbach (Southern Local).

Irwin also noted the Hilltoppers women's team has 18 members.

Brown is excited about the upcoming season as the Cardinals have a lot of new equipment, including a competition mat and will be getting a new locker room in the 2025-26 season.

"We have the highest roster number in the past five seasons," Brown said. "We are back in the original wrestling room this season, as well."

Locals competing at Wheeling are Zach Kuneff (Bridgeport) and Hunter Bittinger (Harrison Central).

The Cardinals debut at home on Dec. 6 when West Virginia University Institute of Technology visits the McDonough Center.

## TEXAS

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Quion Burns scored 15 points for the Black Bears (0-1), which shot just 6 for 24 (25%) after halftime as Duke pulled away.

**NO. 1 KANSAS 87, HOWARD 57**

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – Zeke Mayo, a grad transfer from South Dakota State, had 19 points in his Kansas debut and the top-ranked Jayhawks beat Howard.

Kansas led 46-19 at halftime and its biggest lead was 38 points.

The game was the second annual McClendon Classic, named in honor of Kansas graduate and Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame honoree John McClendon.

Kansas (1-0) used the game as a tune-up before a top-10 showdown with North Carolina on Friday night. The Jayhawks had 10 players score, with three in double-figures. Hunter Dickinson, who missed Kansas' scrimmage and exhibition games, had 16 points and six rebounds, and Flory Bidunga added 13 points and a game-high eight rebounds.

Blake Harper had 16 points to lead Howard.

**NO. 2 ALABAMA 110, UNC ASHEVILLE 54**

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) – Mark Sears scored 20 points, and No. 2 Alabama beat UNC Asheville.

Sears led the Crimson Tide in scoring on 6-for-8 shooting and was 3 for 4 from 3-point range. Clifford Omoruyi did not miss a shot in his Alabama debut, and the Rutgers transfer scored 16 points on six shots to go along with eight rebounds and two blocks.

Five other players scored in double figures for the Crimson Tide: Latrell Wrightsell Jr. (13), Mouhamed Dioubate (11), Aden Holloway (11), Jarin Stevenson (10) and Labaron Philon (10).

Jordan Marsh led UNC Asheville with 13 points.

**NO. 4 HOUSTON 97, JACKSON STATE 40**

HOUSTON (AP) – L.J. Cryer scored 16 points, Mylik Wilson added 15 points off the bench, and No. 4 Houston opened its season with a win over Jackson State.

J'Wan Roberts had 14 points and six rebounds, Ramon Walker Jr. chipped in 10 points and Milos Uzan, a transfer from Oklahoma, had eight points, seven rebounds and 10 assists for Houston. The Cougars shot 58%, including 12 of 20 on 3-pointers.

The win was Houston's 23rd straight home win, the longest active streak in the nation.

Jalen Tatum scored 14 points to lead Jackson State, which shot 28%.

**NO. 5 IOWA STATE 83, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE 44**

AMES, Iowa (AP) – Keshon Gilbert scored 17 points and Tamin Lipsey added 16 as No. 5 Iowa State routed Mississippi Valley State for its 28th straight home win.

Saint Mary's transfer Joshua Jefferson added 10 points, six rebounds and four steals in his first game with the Cyclones.

Donovan Sanders had 12 points and Greg Moore added 10 for the Delta Devils, who won one game last season and are picked to finish last in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

The Cyclones led 44-21 at half, and the bulge grew to as many as 42 points in the last five minutes.

The Cyclones finished with 16 steals, with Lipsey and Gilbert making three apiece. Lipsey moved into eighth place on the ISU career chart with 172 steals in his 70 games.

**NO. 9 NORTH CAROLINA 90, ELON 76**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) – RJ Davis scored 24 points and keyed No. 9 North Carolina's 11-0 run after falling behind in the second half in a victory over Elon.

Elliot Cadeau added 15 points and Seth Trimble had 12 points for the Tar Heels, who shot only 41.2% from the field. Jae'Lyn Withers had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

TJ Simpkins scored 18 points and Nick Dorn had 17 to lead Elon. Sam Sherry added 15 points and TK Simpkins had 14.

Elon used a 14-0 burst to take a 71-69 lead with less than 7 minutes to play. Davis hit a floater and then worked free for a corner 3-pointer as momentum shifted back to the Tar Heels.

The Tar Heels took a 32-21 lead on Withers' 3-pointer just under the eight-minute mark of the first half. North Carolina scored the final seven points of the first half for a 51-39 lead at the break, holding the Phoenix without a point in the last two minutes

## TIME

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When it was all said and done, the Mountaineers were efficient with their shots, going 33 of 60 (55%), connecting on 14 3-pointers – nine in the first half – and came up with eight blocked shots on defense.

Sencire Harris "is a tremendous defender," WVU point guard Javon Small said. "Him having three blocks didn't surprise me at all. I think guys are just a little more bought in into what we want to do. We just play hard on both ends of the floor."

Tucker DeVries led the way with 18 points and he was the catalyst for the fast start, nailing his first three attempts of the game for a quick 8-0 lead.

Small added 15 points and five assists, including one on an inbounds play that saw him lob the ball at the rim, where Toby Okani caught it and finished the moment with a thunderous dunk.

Okani added 13 points and freshman Jonathan Powell came off the bench to hit three 3-pointers to finish with 11 points.

Robert Morris was held to just 32.4% (22 of 68), but did come up with a 41-37 edge on the glass, with 16 of those being offensive rebounds.

"I thought our start was about as good as we could have scripted it," Darian DeVries said. "I thought we came out and we were super aggressive defensively. Offensively, we were really sharp and were able to get some really clean looks. It was the other 30 minutes that we have to clean up a little bit."

**NOTES**

- DeVries became the 21st WVU men's hoops head coach to win his first game at the school. WVU coaches are now 21-2 in their debuts, with Sonny Moran and George Pyle the only ones who lost their first game.

- WVU is now 100-16 all-time in season openers.

- WVU's 14 3-pointers were the most in a game since hitting 14 last December in a loss against UMass, who the Mountaineers host on Friday.

## WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

The big thing WVU's defense must do, he said, is become less predictable. Predictability has been as much of a problem as inconsistency and disorganization.

"What we've got to do is we can't give them the answers to the test," Brown said. "We've got to do a better job of disguising, and whether it's our movements up front or our coverages in the secondary, we've got to do a better job of that."

Making such a significant change in the coaching staff doesn't allow for wholesale changes to be made in the Mountaineers' defensive system, Koonz and Brown said. The defense's structure is its structure. The mission, Koonz said, is to make improvements within the structure that will allow West Virginia's defense to play up to its potential.

"We have a resume of eight games right now," Koonz said, "some really good, some not as good as we want, some not very tunity to do that?. With that being said, I have full and utter confidence in this system, this system of defense.

"Do I believe in what we're doing and do I believe we have enough defense? One hundred percent," he added.

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Brown said Monday that starting quarterback Garrett Greene would be "doubtful" for Saturday's game against the Bearcats (5-3, 3-2 Big 12). Greene is still recovering from the head injury that knocked him out of the second half of WVU's loss to Kansas State and kept him home for the Mountaineers' win at Arizona. Nicco Marchiol started for WVU at Arizona and would start Saturday if Greene can't play.

Also, Koonz will be missing a couple of starters in his first game as defensive coordinator. Spear Aubrey Burks and corner Ayden Garnes won't be available Saturday. Safety Kekoura

## SUTTON

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He filled in at a variety of positions during training camp before serving his suspension.

Sutton is eager to do whatever is asked on a defense ranked second in the NFL in points allowed, fourth in takeaways and ninth in yards.

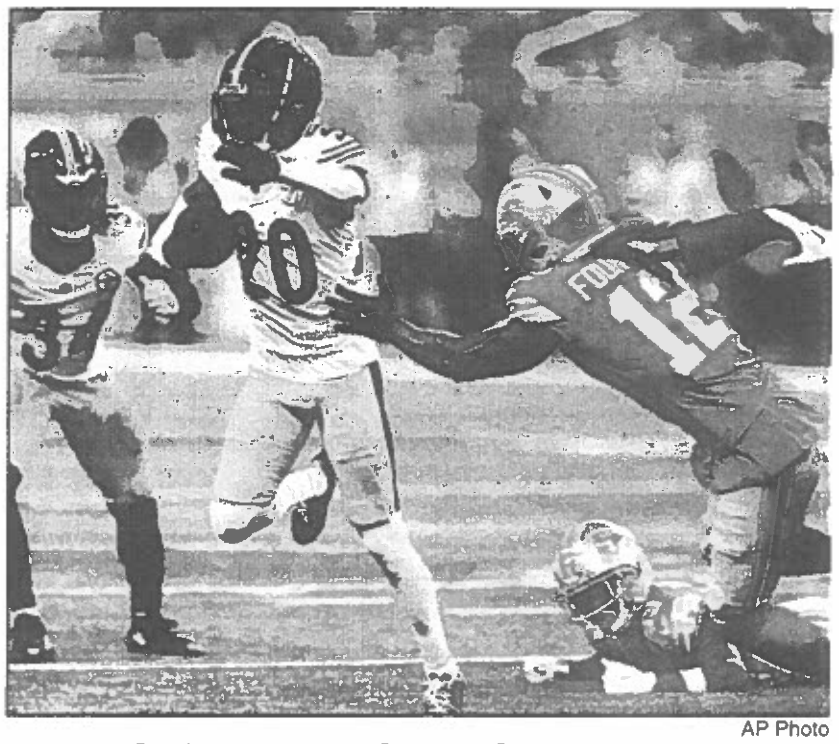
"I play football man," he said. "I don't care what position it is. I could be on offensive line, I really don't care."

Pittsburgh is relatively set at cornerback, where Joey Porter Jr. has spent his second season showing signs of becoming one of the elite players at the position and Donte Jackson has already picked off three passes.

Sutton figures to fit more into the nickel position he thrived at during his first stint with the team, though Bishop, an undrafted rookie free agent out of West Virginia, has more than held his own.

"He's just really enjoying ball right now," Sutton said of Bishop. "Just taking every day one day at a time and good things are happening for him."

Linebacker Patrick Queen doesn't see Sutton's return as a threat to Bishop's playing time, but a chance for one of the league's



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Cameron Sutton (20) runs past Detroit Lions wide receiver Daurice Fountain (12) after an interception during the second half of an NFL preseason football game, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, in Detroit.

only evolved on that side of the ball, mixing it up with different substitution packages that can create matchup issues.

I've spent a lot of time with our guys, a group that's just hungry, loves playing together with each other and just excited to be around