

Photo by Andrew Grimm

Steubenville's Aiden Davis goes in for a layup against Morgantown during their OVAC 5A championship game Saturday at the ECO Center.

## Mohigans Rally Past Steubenville To Win 5A Title

By ANDREW GRIMM  
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Sometimes, basketball can simply be a game of momentum.

That was the case in Saturday's OVAC Class 5A championship game.

Steubenville Big Red seemed to have all of the momentum for much of the first half, but top-seed Morgantown captured it late in the second quarter and never gave it back, using a big second half to storm back from a double-digit deficit and capture the conference title with a 70-64 victory inside the ECO Center.

"Sometimes it can be hard to get my guys focused to come over here and play ... we came out very sluggish, but I give our guys a lot of credit, they battled back and got

back to playing our style in the second half," Morgantown head coach Dave Tallman said after his team repeated as champions. "We showed a lot of toughness and resilience. We've won a lot of championships, that's not bragging, it's just that these guys know how to win. I thought we were dead in the water there for a while, give a lot of credit to coach Haney and his guys, they really punched us in the mouth but we didn't fold. I'm really proud of my guys for that."

After holding a narrow lead at the end of the first quarter, Steubenville (17-3) led by as many as 17 points after an 8-0 run with just over two minutes to go in the first half.

Please see **RALLY**,  
Page 10

## Central Back On Top Of The OVAC Heap



Photo by Kristin Mazgaj

Wheeling Central's Luke Sancomb drives for a reverse layup during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A Boys Basketball Championship against Monroe Central inside the ECO Center. The Maroon Knights won, 60-56.

## Maroon Knights Win Their 12th Conference Title

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — For the 12th time in program history, Wheeling Central has held the OVAC Boys Basketball championship trophy high in the air.

Saturday night in the Class 3A title tilt against top-seeded Monroe Central, the No. 2 Maroon Knights (15-2) took the season's rubber-match against the Seminoles, 60-56, before a huge gathering inside the refurbished ECO Center.

The championship was their

third in Class 3A, the others coming a decade apart in 2008 and 2018. They have also claimed nine titles in Class 2A and (2009, 2013-17 and 2019-21).

Of the 18 years the OVAC has gone with this format, Wheeling Central has appeared in the event 14 times. They have also been runner up in 2022 and 2024.

"We've had some great kids and my assistant coaches do a great job of getting the kids ready to play," veteran Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens said of the recipe for success. "I've been fortunate to have some good

basketball players who were even better people."

Wheeling Central led by 10 points, 47-37 near the end of the third quarter, only to watch Monroe Central (19-3) close to within two, 58-56, when Cooper Howell buried a three-pointer from the right wing with 24 seconds remaining.

After a timeout by both squads, Wheeling Central's Tyler Dean connected on the back-end of a two-shot foul for a 59-56 reading at the 18.2-second mark.

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 10

## Four Local Residents Proved They Were Tough Enough

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — St. Clairsville resident Duncan "Fighter for Christ" Pagano concluded his Toughman career late Saturday night on a winning note as the 44th Ohio Valley Toughman Contest concluded its two-night stand inside WesBanco Arena.

The 23-year-old Bridgeport High School graduate earned a hard-fought split decision over Cameron's 18-year-old Ashton "The Boss" Hoge in a three-round middleweight slugfest, much to the delight of the large crowd. It was his second title in as many years.

When asked if this title meant

more than last year, the 5-11, 168-pound Pagano said, "I got hit a lot more this year than I did last year. There were a lot of tough guys this year."

Due to Toughman rules, he announced his retirement.

"This is my last Toughman. I'm officially done because I have too many amateur fights," he noted. "I love Toughman and I love boxing. Toughman has helped me out a lot. I found out about it and it really has helped me through life."

"I love Toughman. I love boxing. I love my family. Thanks to the Lord above."

Cameron didn't go home empty handed, however, as 19-year-old "White Tyson" Payton Neely

won the lightweight crown with a razor-thin split decision over 18-year-old Kaiden "The Tank" Baker, a resident of Bridgeport who is a senior at Shadyside High School.

"It feels amazing ... amazing," Neely said. "I finished second last year and I used that to push me to the title this year. I really wanted this jacket."

Weirton's 25-year-old Joshua "The Terminator" Taflan made it three champions from the Ohio Valley with a victory over Cameron "The Baconator" Brown of Dennison in the heavyweight division.

Please see **TOUGH**, Page 10

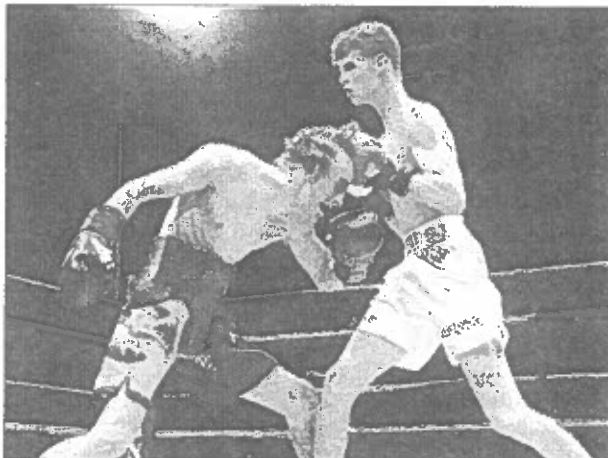


Photo by Joe Lovell

Payton Neely, left, fights Kaiden Baker on Saturday during the Ohio Valley Toughman Contest inside WesBanco Arena.

## Skenes Adding To His Already



## After Blowing An Early Lead, WVU Women Pull Away



## SKENES

(Continued from Page 9)

The first pitch the left-handed hitting Frazier saw was a splinker that darted down and away while catching the outside corner of the strike zone.

Frazier's bat never moved as the ball whizzed by, a pitch "nobody is going to do anything with," as the former All-Star put it.

"If you hit it, you're hitting it straight in the ground," Frazier added. "So it's like, 'All right, strap it on and get ready.'"

Frazier, second baseman Nick Gonzales and first baseman Darick Hall all failed to make solid contact off Skenes during a 25-pitch session in which a few dozen fans surrounded one of the practice fields at Pirates City, many of them with their phones raised to capture the first glimpse of Skenes in 2025.

Skenes called the attention he commands "a privilege." It's also, however, not a priority. The admitted perfectionist is too consumed with his craft to cultivate his celebrity. And for as dominant as he was at times last summer, Skenes knows he's hardly a finished product after 23 major league starts.

Yes, his numbers as a rookie — an 11-3 record with a 1.96 ERA and 170 strikeouts in 133 innings — were dazzling. They were also just the beginning.

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While Skenes stressed he is not looking to get away from his identity as a strikeout pitcher, he is trying to find a way to get to strike three a little more quickly.

"Getting ahead, winning the 0-0, 0-1, 1-1 (pitches), winning those counts, that stuff is important," he said.

That's where adding a couple of more options to a repertoire that already includes six different pitches comes in.

"Anything that looks like a fastball and doesn't end up being a fastball (helps)," pitching coach Oscar Marin said. "I think we all know how special his fastballs are. (More options are) just something that is going to really open up the zone for him as well."

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While Skenes admits that was "frustrating," he understands it was the right call.

"They did a really good job with me last year," he said. "I kind of knew, as much as I didn't want to believe it, that that was how it was going to be when I came into camp."

Not this time. Skenes is a lock to be on the roster when the Pirates break camp. The questions now are whether he'll be the opening day starter — something Skenes thinks would be "really cool" — and if Pittsburgh is ready to take a step forward into contention despite a relatively quiet offseason.

### A DIFFERENT VIBE

Skenes knows his performance at the top of the rotation is a vital part of that equation. He also knows it's hardly only up to him. It's one of the many reasons he plans to take on a more visible leadership role in 2025.

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The 6-3, 227-pound Weir High graduate dominated the fight from the opening bell.

"A month-and-a-half ago I fought in Huntington and lost my first match to a quality opponent, but because of that, I came back stronger and pushed back stronger," Taflan explained. "That's why I am a Toughman champion. It feels great."

Zanesville's "Wild-man" Stevie Allen recorded a TKO of former Toughman champ Trace "The Strawberry Cowboy" Roby, of Quaker City, in the cruiserweight division.

In the women's divisions, Wheeling's 38-year-old Kayla "Honey Bee" Varney made her return to the ring after 15 years, a successful one with a win over Kennedy

"Powerhouse" Walker, a 30-year-old from Parkersburg. Despite standing a mere 5-4 compared to the 6-3 Walker, Varney captured the heavyweight title with ease.

In the welterweight division, Clarksburg's 23-year-old legal secretary "Irish" Iris Kolench earned a split decision over Morgantown's 38-year-old Brandi "The Beast" Field.

## CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 9)

Following another timeout by the Maroon Knights, the Seminoles misfired on a potential game-tying trey and Eli Sancomb was fouled with 5.5 showing. The junior had just missed two free throws 23 ticks earlier and clanked the first off the rim. However, the second tickled the twine and sealed the deal.

The contest was deadlocked three times in the first quarter and the lead changed hands seven times in the first half before the Maroon Knights took control on a Tyler Dean basket that made it 19-18 at the 5:30 mark of the second quarter. The bucket ignited a 14-3 run that bumped the margin to 31-21 just prior to the half.

Leading 41-37 in the waning stages of the second quarter, Luke Sancomb came off the bench and tallied five straight points as the lead increased to 10.

"I thought Luke really gave us a spark there, and so did Braxton Billick," Stephens said. "Max did what he needed to around the rim."

"It was a total team effort for sure" Stephens added.

A pair of free throws by Caedyn Silva pulled the Seminoles to 49-48 with 5:10 showering on the fourth quarter clock,

A bucket from Troy Anthony and a layup by Max Olejasz pushed the count to 55-50, but Monroe Central had one last rally that fell just shy.

"I think we showed that we can play with good teams. We battled," Monroe Central head coach Mason Lang said. "We got into early foul trouble. We've got to play without fouling."

Eli Sancomb led all scorers with 23 points and was voted the John Howell MVP. He also charted eight rebounds and four assists. Olejasz finished with a double-double that featured a dozen points and a game-best 12 rebounds. Dean added 13 points.

Chance Allen delivered 19 points and eight rebounds for the Seminoles. Tucker Howell also recorded a double-double with 17 points and 11 boards.

Both coaches agreed that a game like this will benefit both going forward in their respective state divisions.

"That's the way we try to look at it," Stephens noted. "We try to get here first and then take care of business here. Hopefully, that will pay dividends down the road for us."

Lang said. "I think this game will help us moving ahead. Maybe we're not as good as we think, so we'll get back to work and get ready for the sectionals."

## Ludvig Aberg Rallies Down The Stretch At Torrey Pines To Win Genesis Invitational

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Ludvig Aberg returned to Torrey Pines in far better health and showed it Sunday when he birdied four of the last six holes, including a 7-foot birdie on the 18th, for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot victory over Maverick McNealy in the Genesis Invitational.

Aberg shared the 36-hole lead at Torrey Pines in the Farmers Insurance Open three weeks ago until getting so sick he barely made it through the tournament and had to withdraw the following week.

The Genesis Invitational relocated to Torrey from Riviera because of the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, and Aberg made good on another chance at one of his favorite courses.

The Swede said he turned to caddie Joe Skovron on one of the final holes and said, "This Sunday is a lot more fun than the last one we had."

"It was a great fight," Aberg said. "I'm really proud of the way I finished. It was really cool."

This took all he had. Maverick McNealy birdied eight of his opening 11 holes and led by three shots when he stood on the 17th tee. He finished with a pair of pars for a 64.

Tournament host Tiger Woods withdrew from the tournament on Monday as he coped with the death of his mother, Kultida, last week. Players wore a red button that had the Thai symbol of love to honor her.

Aberg two-putted from 50 feet for birdie on the 13th, attacked a daunting back pin on the 14th to 5 feet for birdie and rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 15th to tied for the lead. From the middle of the fairway on the par-5 18th, he hit 7-wood long, some 70 feet away, rolled that down to just under 7 feet and calmly holed the putt.

## RALLY

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However, the Mohigans (14-1) connected on 3-pointers on each of their final three possessions before the break, including a buzzer-beater to cut the deficit back to single digits at eight (42-34).

"It's definitely a tough one," Big Red head coach Mike Haney said. "We were in a good spot until about the last two minutes of the second quarter. They hit those 3s, the last one at the buzzer cutting it from 11 to single digits and then in the third quarter our shots just stopped falling. We still played good defense, we were tied at the end of the third and had our chances, but we just weren't shooting the ball well at all."

"It was a momentum game and we had it most of the first half, but about that last minute and a half of the second quarter they got it, and once they had it, it's hard to get it back."

"They're a really good team, they're the three-time West Virginia state champs for a reason."

After scoring 19 and 23 in the first and second, Big Red's shots stopped falling as they were held to just 10 and 12 in the third and fourth. Morgantown, meanwhile, scored 18 in both of the final two quarters. After shooting 46.7 percent and 50 percent in the first two quarters, Big Red shot just 28.6 percent in the third and 31.3 percent in the fourth.

After trimming into the margin more early in the second half, the Mohigans went on a 10-0 run in the third quarter to take their first lead since the opening eight minutes on a Marty Johnson 3-pointer.

## WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

"It was senior night; there's maybe some red eyes before the game. It's always (a decision) as a coach do you do it then or do we wait and do it after the game," Kellogg said. "I thought once we got back in the locker room before the game they were settled down and ready to go play."

J.J. Quinerly, the lone senior who has played at WVU all four years through three coaching changes, was emotional before the game.

"I saw my dad wipe his eyes and I was like — oh Lord," Quinerly said. "I think that kind of fired us up a little bit. I mean, you know that it's a big game and you want to go out there and play like it's your last game."

Still, WVU (20-5, 10-4 Big 12) struggled in the first half as it shot just 39.4 percent from the field and managed to hit just one three pointer in the first half.

That cold outside

Big Red knotted the score up at 52-52 going to the fourth, but the Mohigans netted the first four points to pull back ahead. Steubenville led one more time, but the Mohigans pulled back away for good, going 7 of 10 from the foul line in the final minute to put things away.

Johnson was named the game MVP for the Mohigans, netting 21 points, seven rebounds, five assists and two blocks, each of which were team-highs.

Marcus Goins hit four 3s for Morgantown, finishing with 17 points and four boards. Brady Savage tallied 12 points and seven rebounds.

The Mohigans finished with a 43-28 advantage on the glass.

For Big Red, Will Taylor finished with a game-high 22 points, also collecting four rebounds, two assists, two blocks and a steal. Aiden Davis netted 14 points, four rebounds and three assists, while Tre'Von Wiggins finished with 17 points, making a game-high five 3s, to go with five rebounds. Santino Haney netted nine points, five boards and four assists.

**UP NEXT**

Steubenville: Has one more game to go before the OHSAA East District Tournament, hosting International Sports Academy Monday night inside the Crimson Center to conclude the regular season. The opening tip is set for 5 p.m. for a varsity only contest.

Morgantown: Continues its regular season in West Virginia hosting Preston on Tuesday night.

### UP NEXT

see better starts out of his team as they turn around for a tough Big 12 Conference contest. WVU hosts conference-leading Kansas State on Monday for a 2 p.m. matinee contest on President's Day.

"We will get prepared a little differently than we might typically with this quick turn around," Kellogg said. "We will bring them back into our normal prep work tomorrow."

Quinerly led WVU with 29 points on 11-of-22 shooting. Kyah Watson led WVU with nine rebounds, six steals and a team-high four assists.

"She's pretty unique," Kellogg said of Watson. "She's a kid we believe in offensive too, but she's okay deferring and letting others kind of go and just doing her role. She's so elite on the (defensive) end. She's bouncy, athletic and I'm telling you, if we make a mistake, Kyah Watson can cover up a lot of things."

# Steubenville Catholic Captures First OVAC Title Since 1993

**By ANDREW GRIMM For The Intelligencer**  
**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — Coming into the season, Steubenville Catholic was well aware how long it had been since the program's last OVAC championship and set a goal of ending that drought.

Throughout the season, head coach Don Ogden made sure they didn't forget it, either, as they worked their way to the top seed in the Class 2A field.

The reminders and hard work culminated in accomplishing the goal Saturday as the Crusaders captured their first OVAC title since 1993, fending off rival Toronto 43-38 inside the ECO Center.

"Every month I reminded the guys it's been 32 years since the last OVAC championship came to this school," Ogden said. "I'm so happy for Catholic Cen-

tral, all of the players that have played at Central, this is a huge thing. It puts us on the map again and gives us respectability."

"I give a lot of credit to Toronto, it could have gone either way. We're very grateful to win. The kids held their composure throughout the game and didn't give up."

The trophy did not come easy, as the Red Knights led at half-time and went on a couple of scoring runs in the second half to surge back ahead. Central, though had the needed answers.

In the third quarter, after the Crusaders (18-3) had rattled off a 9-0 run to surge in front, Toronto (16-6) went on an 8-2 run. Central, though, countered to lead 28-25 going to the fourth.

The Red Knights then went on a 9-2 run in the fourth and took a three-point lead, forcing a Central timeout.

From there, the Crusaders had their last, most important response, rattling off the next seven points to surge back in front by four.

"That response was huge," Ogden said. "We had been a little inconsistent offensively, when they went back up I thought it was going to be a struggle but the guys dug in and played good defense and made some key shots."

Within three in the final minute, Toronto had a look for 3 to tie the game, but the shot was off line and the rebound went to the Crusaders, Benji Rook connecting on a pair of free throws at the other end to seal the deal.

"We played uncharacteristic, I don't know what it was, but we have to figure it out before Tuesday," Toronto head coach Sean Tucker said. "We thought we had prepared well for this

game, we didn't execute well tonight. We just couldn't get everybody on the same page for some reason and that's on me. We gave up 14 points in transition, that's just not something we do, we did not do a good job of getting back."

"It's upsetting that you work so hard to get here and then that's how you perform. It's heartbreaking for our two seniors. We played a very senior-heavy team that's been playing together for a while. Congratulations to them."

Rook was named game MVP, finishing with 11 points, four assists and three steals. He was one of seven Crusaders to score in a balanced effort.

Camden Bradley finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds, an assist and two blocks for a double-double.

"This victory was truly a team

effort," Ogden said. "That's what you want, you want all the guys contributing as much as they can. Even the guys that didn't score much were playing good defense. Overall it's just a great win for Catholic Central."

For the Red Knights, who had led by six late in the first quarter but not by more than a possession after that, Austin Buchanan tallied a game-high 19 points, eight rebounds, two assists and a steal, while Brady Fair netted 10 points.

**UP NEXT**

Toronto: Will look to bounce back Tuesday when it hosts Buckeye Trail in the opening round of the OHSAA East District Tournament.

Catholic Central: Has one more game before the district tournament, traveling to cross-river rival Madonna on Monday night.

## SKENES

(Continued from Page 9)

The first pitch the left-handed hitting Frazier saw was a splinker that darted down and away while catching the outside corner of the strike zone.

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**UP NEXT**

Steubenville: Has one more game to go before the OHSAA East District Tournament, hosting International Sports Academy Monday night inside the Crimson Center to conclude the regular season. The opening tip is set for 5 p.m. for a varsity only contest.

Morgantown: Continues its regular season in West Virginia hosting Preston on Tuesday night.

## WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

"It was senior night; shooting played right into there's maybe some red eyes before the game. It's always (a decision) as a coach do you do it then or

see better starts out of his team as they turn around for a tough Big 12 Conference contest. WVU hosts conference-leading

WHEELING - Bellaire High School's Rich Mamie and Buckeye Local High School's Chet Pobolish have been chosen to represent the decade of the 1990s at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 induction, which will be held in August at West-Banco Arena in Wheeling.

Previously announced as members of the OVAC Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 were Wheeling Park's Errin Baynes

along with Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker and Beaver Local's Derek Wolfe from the decade of the 2000s. Additional members of this year's class will be announced by the hall of fame committee in the coming weeks.

Here's a look at the athletic careers of the 1990s Hall of Fame inductees:

**RICH MAMIE**  
(Bellaire High School, Class of 1996)

One of the all-time greats in the long and storied history of Bellaire High athletics, Mamie was a force to be reckoned with on the football field



CHET POBOLISH



RICH MAMIE

and baseball diamond during the mid-1990s.

A 3-year football letterman and 2-time All-Ohio,

centered on both sides of the ball for some legendary Big Reds powerhouses. He helped lead Bellaire to three straight OVAC titles and a 30-5 record during his three varsity seasons, highlighted by the Big Reds' first-ever unbeaten (10-0) regular season as a senior in 1995. That 1995 team advanced all the way to the Ohio Division IV state championship game before dropping a heartbreaking 50-44 double-overtime decision to Versailles.

On the record book. Offensively, he set a school record with 282 career points, scoring 36 touchdowns while averaging 6.3 yards a carry from his fullback spot. Defensively, Mamie is the school's all-time tackle leader with 515 career stops - over 100 more than any other Bellaire griddier. He also ranks No. 1 on the school's single-game (29) and single-season (196) tackle lists.

Please see Hall, Page C2

## Jets Claim OVAC 3A Third Place With Win Over Martins Ferry

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN - In what could be a preview of next week's Ohio Division V second round postseason encounter, Union Local and Martins Ferry didn't want to give away any secrets Friday night during the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Championships third-place contest inside 'The Hangar.'

The No. 4 Jets (16-6) built leads of 17 points twice in the third quarter, only to watch the Purple Riders, seeded No. 5 in the Eastern District sectional, pull to within two late in the fourth quarter before Brandon Mehl tickled the twine four times on free throws to seal a 60-52 triumph.

Should both teams win their initial home playoff outings on Feb. 22 against No. 10 Sandy Valley and No. 14 Morgan, respectively, they would match up on Feb. 26 in a District semifinal at a site to be determined by OHSAA officials.

But before all that transpires, the two rivals traded good quarters for bad quarters. Union Local won the first and third quarters, with Martins Ferry (10-11) playing better in the second and fourth. However, the deciding factor was the Jets scored 42 points in their better quarters to only 29 for the Purple Riders.

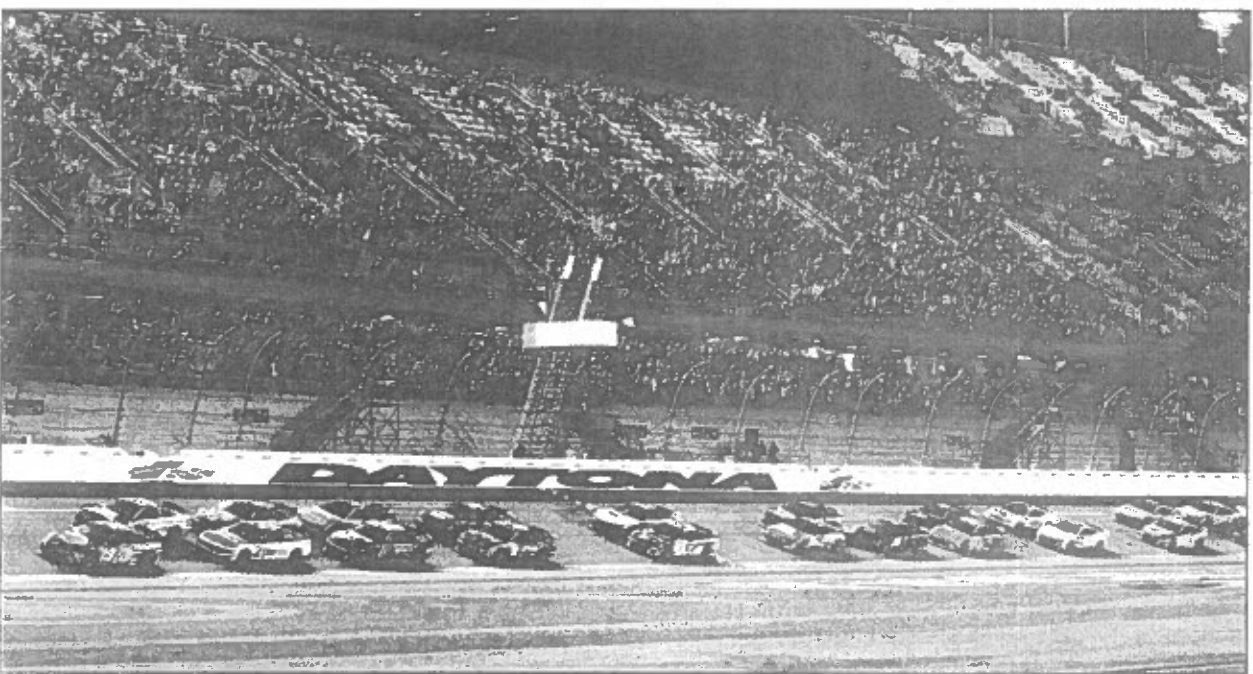
"Truthfully, that was a hard game for me to coach and I'm sure it was a hard game for (Martins Ferry head coach) Derek (Edwards) to coach," Union Local head coach Zach Delman said. "You know you're potentially playing each other again in the (sectional) tournament, but it's not like they don't know us and we don't know them."



Photo by Kim North

Union Local's Dre Saunders goes to the hoop strong Friday night for two of his team-high 24 points as the Jets held off Martins Ferry, 60-52, in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Third-Fourth place game inside 'The Hangar.'

Please see Third, Page C2



AP Photo

Chase Briscoe (19) far left, and Ryan Preece, second from left, lead the field to start the first of two NASCAR Daytona 500 qualifying auto races at Daytona International Speedway, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

## NASCAR Draws Stars To Daytona 500 With Trump, Captain America Expected At 'Great American Race'

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer  
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - It's NASCAR's turn to throw its version of the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500 is trying hard to match the hype. "The Great American Race" is the theme of the event, which is being promoted by President Donald Trump.

do down here for this race." The field is stacked with stars, including four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves, a former "Dancing with the Stars" champion who is making his NASCAR debut Sunday at the age of 45.

sored in the race by the hamburger chain and is wearing a firesuit resembling a chef.

"This is a great exposure. This is one of the biggest races in the world. You want to have as much exposure as possible," Castroneves said.



AP Photo

West Virginia guard Javon Small (7) is double teamed by TCU guard Jace Posey (41) and center Ernest Udeh Jr. (8) in the first half of a game in Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.

## WVU Eyeing Defensive Improvement In Trip To Face Baylor Bears

By JUSTIN JACKSON  
For The Sunday News-Register  
MORGANTOWN

On the surface, it's almost as if Darian DeVries' concerns about West Virginia's defense is focusing on the wrong end of the equation.

The stats scream out about a lack of offense from the Mountaineers (15-9, 6-7 Big 12), who travel to Baylor's Foster Pavilion at 2 p.m. today.

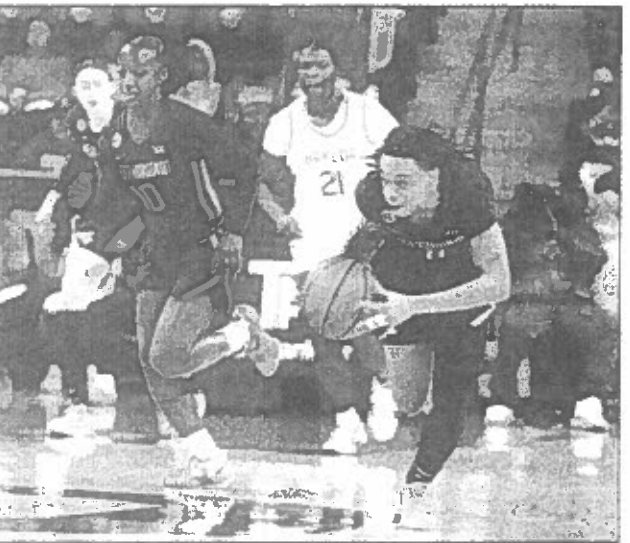
WVU star point guard

Javon Small has attempted just nine shots over the last two games, while the Mountaineers have only reached 70 points two times in the span of a month.

Yet DeVries can circle back to each pivotal loss WVU has suffered - each one of them have chipped away at the Mountaineers' strong NCAA tournament resume - and point out where the defense let them down.

Please see Trip, Page C2

## Mountaineers Look To Continue Home Win Streak vs. Cincinnati



AP Photo

West Virginia guard JJ Quinerly picks up a loose ball while heading up court against Baylor in the first half of a game, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, in Waco, Texas.

By JUSTIN JACKSON  
For The Sunday News-Register  
MORGANTOWN -- It is a story that's been told before, whether it's come from J.J. Quinerly, Kyah Watson or Kylee Blacksten.

Yet it's a story that bears repeating today, as that trio will be celebrated on Senior Day along with three other seniors who have all played a role in the bold pursuit of a WNBA championship.

## HALL

(Continued from Page C1)

A multi-sport athlete, Mamie was also an outstanding pitcher and shortstop for the Big Reds' baseball team. He was a first-team All-OVAC Class AAA honoree as a junior and senior in addition to first-team All-Eastern District honors.

After graduating from Bellaire, Mamie took his talents to Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio where he earned a combined six letters in football and baseball. He played both

sports his first two seasons at Walsh before focusing on baseball for his last two years. He was a two-time All-Conference selection in the diamond sport, where he also served as the Cavaliers' team captain. Mamie was inducted to the Bellaire High School Athletic Wall of Fame in 2006.

**CHET POBOLISH**  
(Buckeye Local High School, Class of 1995)  
Pobolish earned All-Ohio honors as a two-way standout while playing for

his father, Ron Pobolish, at Buckeye Local High School before going on to enjoy an outstanding playing and coaching career at the collegiate level.

A fleet-footed running back and defensive back, Chet Pobolish capped off a stellar high school career in style by helping lead Buckeye Local to an undefeated regular season and deep postseason run as a senior in 1994.

After rolling to OVAC Class AAAA and River

Valley League titles, the Panthers - ranked No. 4 in the state - began carving a path through the Ohio Division II state playoffs. Three big wins set up a meeting of the unbeaten between the Panthers and Chardon. Buckeye Local's dream season came up one win shy as Chardon muscled out a 17-6 win to end a great run.

Pobolish swept nearly every postseason honor, earning All-Ohio Division II, All-Eastern District and All-OVAC Class AAAA honors for the second straight year and being selected as an offensive captain for The Intelligencer's All-Valley Team.

After graduating from Buckeye Local, Pobolish headed west to NCAA Division II Emporia State (Kan.). A 4-year letterman and 3-year captain, Pobolish was a 4-time All-MIAA selection and finished his career ranked among the school's Top 5 in receiving yards (2,595) and all-purpose yards (4,655).

Pobolish stayed at Emporia State as an assistant coach from 1999-2006. He moved to Delta State (Miss.) as an assistant in 2007 and helped lead the Statesmen to four Gulf South titles and NCAA playoff appearances in five seasons.

A successful 5-year run

at Southeastern Louisiana followed with Pobolish serving as offensive coordinator and assistant head coach on back-to-back Southland Conference championship squads. He spent the 2017 season as offensive coordinator at Missouri Western State before a 4-year stint as head coach at Southwestern Oklahoma State.

He spent the 2022 season as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Reinhardt (Ga.) University, helping lead the Eagles to an 8-2 record, before leaving to accept the head coaching position at Arkansas City (Kan.) High School.

## TRIP

(Continued from Page C1)

In Tuesday's 73-69 loss against BYU, the Cougars shot nearly 56% in the second half.

TCU shot exactly 50% in the second half in a five-point win. Kansas State shot 53% in the first half and jumped out to a 19-2 lead.

The most disappointing was Arizona State walking into the Coliseum and knocking down 61.5% of its attempts in the second half for a win in what will be a major blemish against WVU's record this season.

"In the games we've lost, it's been our defense that's let us down," DeVries said by Zoom on Friday. "That's how we are going to win, when our defense is really solid and disciplined."

And that's the thing, the numbers tell you WVU's defense has been both.

Only Houston has given up fewer points among Big 12 teams than the Mountaineers. Kansas is the only Big 12 team to have a better percentage in guarding 3-pointers than WVU.

Is DeVries maybe being a bit nit-picky?

"Every game is going to kind of dictate itself," he replies. "I'd love to say, 'Hey, let's get to 75 points every game,' but

we don't control that as much as we would like.

"For us, the control has to come from the defensive end. Ultimately, we can't make the ball go into the basket. Sometimes we hit them, sometimes we don't. I know what we can control on the other end of the floor."

And so, the Mountaineers will travel to Baylor facing a multitude of challenges that will likely come down to WVU's defense once again in deciding its fate.

For starters, Baylor (15-9, 7-6) has simply owned WVU as of late with a six-game winning streak that dates back to 2021.

The Bears have a projected NBA lottery pick in freshman guard V.J. Edgecombe, who has gone 10 straight games scoring at least 14 points.

"He's playing terrific," DeVries said. "In Big 12 play, I think he's shooting about 46% from three. When you watch the film, his speed just stands out. It's impressive. When you have a guy like that who can put it on the ground and get to the rim and also shoot threes at that high of a clip, that's a tough matchup."

Baylor also has a guard in Jeremy Roach, who

started 108 games at Duke. There is another talented freshman in Robert Wright III, who leads the Bears in assists while averaging 12.6 points per game.

There's also forward Norchad Omier, a transfer from Miami, who was the only player in the ACC last season to average better than 15 points and nine rebounds per game.

So, yeah, WVU's defense has a lot to focus on in this one.

"They're very talented offensively," DeVries said. "They've got so many guys who can shoot it and they put a lot of pressure on the rim from anywhere. They create some challenges from that standpoint."

What the Bears lack is size, as center Josh Ojaniwuna went down with a season-ending knee injury on Feb. 8, and Baylor's bench was just two deep in its 76-65 loss against Houston on Monday.

"The biggest thing is you let them get into the paint and now they're at the rim and kicking it out for threes," DeVries said. "They're so individually gifted at getting by you. That's our challenge. We're going to have to be really connected as a team defense."

## THIRD

(Continued from Page C1)

"You try to not show too much and they don't want to show much, but you've still have a scoreboard and it is plugged in, so we want to win. I know Derek is as competitive as I am and it seemingly was a tale of two quarters each," Delman added. "We had a good first and third and they had a good second and fourth."

Martins Ferry led 9-3 before Union Local went on a 17-2 run for a 20-11 advantage after one quarter. However, the Jets would only score four points in the second period as the Purple Riders pulled to within 24-19 at the half. An 18-4 spurt by the hosts in the third quarter gave them a 15-point, 46-31, margin entering the fourth quarter.

"That's a tough spot to be in," Delman said of the 15-point advantage going into the final eight minutes. "I was disappointed in the way we took care of the ball and shot free throws. We usually shoot better than that. We've got to make sure we focus on the little things come tournament time."

After netting the final three points of the third quarter, Martins Ferry used an 8-2 run to make it a 48-39 Union Local lead with a little under six minutes remaining. After Bill Schumacher gave the Jets a 52-41 lead with 3:45 left, the Purple Riders used a jumper from Tev'n Williams and an offensive putback by Alex Reese before calling timeout with 2:13 trailing 52-45. Following a Union Local miss, Elijah Smith scored in the

paint and then buried a three-pointer from the left corner for a 52-50 reading.

Three free throws from Saunders and one by Logan Hess built the margin back to 56-50, but the Jets also misfired on four others that could have sealed the deal.

Mehl cashed in a pair at the 35.5-second mark and two more with 1.1 remaining after a Reese bucket.

Reese, the 6-6 Youngstown State University football recruit, led all scorers in the game with 25. He also charted 10 rebounds. Smith added 13 points.

"I don't know if we played better tonight," Edwards said of Wednesday night's semi final blowout at Monroe Central. "But we competed better tonight. We are not in rhythm right now, but we've got a week to get ready for Morgan next Saturday."

"That's where our minds are right now."

Saunders stuffed the scorebook and the stat sheet with 24 points, nine rebounds, eight steals and half-a-dozen assists. Mehl chipped in 10 points, while Schumacher added nine. Brody Gregor and Peyton Causby had eight each.

"It's no secret that he is what makes us go," Delman said of the cat-quick Saunders. "Teams know that. He's a special player. I'm glad he's on our team."

Martins Ferry won the battle on the boards, 32-29, but also had two more turnovers at 18-16.

## STREAK

(Continued from Page C1)

In their own words, Quinerly — who has spent her entire career at WVU that included two coaching changes — has said in the past that she wasn't one who liked change.

Watson and Blacksten had both transferred to WVU in 2023 and said they had taken a liking to the college atmosphere and community support provided by the fans.

They could have easily transferred elsewhere, but didn't.

"I've never talked to them about why they didn't, but I was kind of surprised," was the way WVU guard Jordan Harrison approached the topic, herself a transfer from Stephen F. Austin who followed Kellogg to Morgantown. "Transferring is just a thing athletes do."

Prior to Kellogg's arrival, it was Quinerly's emerging talents, the overall game of Watson and the outside shooting of Blacksten who helped WVU reach the 2023 NCAA tournament.

The team was set to return four starters — including guard Jayla Hemingway — from that team. All four stuck

easy. I've said that numerous times," Kellogg said. "They're great kids, who are going to leave a nice legacy here."

That legacy includes 78 victories, and counting, during Quinerly's WVU career. Those 78 wins have told a story of a 15-15 program her freshman season developing into an eventual top 25 team as a junior and again this season.

Her legacy began with former coach Mike Carney, who retired after Quinerly's freshman season and was replaced by Dawn Plitzuweit.

Her tenure lasted just one season, which brought Kellogg to Morgantown. At that time, it was assumed by many from the outside that Quinerly would take her talents to the transfer portal to the highest bidder, as NIL money had taken hold of college athletics.

This is where the word loyalty comes into play. Quinerly remaining at WVU was critical for the program's future, and loyalty is the word used by both Kellogg and Harrison as to why Quinerly remained with the Mountaineers.

to describe the trio of Quinerly, Blacksten and Watson.

"I know they are very loyal people," she said. "I think their commitment to the school was what really kept them here."

And so they will be celebrated today against he Bearcats, with a win marking the second consecutive 20-victory season at WVU for the first time since 2017-19.

For Quinerly, it's another opportunity to continue marching up the school's record book. She needs 20 points today to become the program's fifth-highest career scorer.

In Tuesday's loss against Baylor, Quinerly became just the fourth WVU women's player to have at least 1,800 career points and 300 career assists.

"It certainly helps when that type of player stays and talent draws other talent," Kellogg said. "Good players want to play with other good players. Like, when Jordan came, one of the first things she did was look up J.J. Quinerly."

"Stability and continuity, I think, is huge when you want to sustain

## DAYTONA

(Continued from Page C1)

He joins seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson and 2017 Cup Series champion Martin Truex Jr., who unexpectedly lost his father one day after he announced he was entering the Daytona 500.

There is no clear favorite, but Elliott will try to join his father in winning the exhibition Clash and following it with a Daytona 500 victory. Bill Elliott won the Clash and the 500 in 1987 when both races were run at Daytona.

Toyotas are fast and would be undefeated in the Cup Series at Daytona this week had a late caution flag not flown as Erik Jones raced Austin Cindric to the finish line in Thursday night's second qualifying race. Jones thought he finished first, but NASCAR ruled Cindric was ahead at the time of the yellow.

Bubba Wallace of 23XI Racing won his first race at Daytona in the first Thursday qualifying race, and Justin Allgaier earned an open entry that brought Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. to tears. He owns JR Motorsports alongside his sister, but they run in the second-tier Xfinity Series, where Allgaier is a cornerstone driver for the team. He's the reigning Xfinity champion and ran two Daytona 500s, his last in 2015. He figured he'd never again get the chance.

"I don't think I realized how much I missed this race until you come back to it," Allgaier said.

Allgaier and JR Motorsports got the opportunity to try behind musician-sponsor Chris Stapleton, who

play how badly we want to race in the Cup Series," Earnhardt said. "At least I have. It's one of those things where you're like, if it's meant to be, it's meant to be."

The start of the race has been moved up an hour, to 1:30 p.m. Eastern, with the threat of rain later Sunday. Pitbull is scheduled to perform the pre-race concert after his appearance was canceled last year because of rain. Anthony Mackie, who plays the main character of Marvel's latest "Captain America" movie, is scheduled to give the command to start the engines.

They will be overshadowed if Trump makes his second visit. Trump also came to the Daytona 500 in 2020 and is a week removed from becoming the first sitting president to attend a Super Bowl.

A federal antitrust lawsuit continues to hang over NASCAR as teams 23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports challenge the series' charter system and business model as a monopoly. 23XI runs Wallace's car and is owned by NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin, who is trying to become a four-time Daytona 500 winner.

NASCAR has appealed a ruling that allowed 23XI and Front Row to start the season as chartered teams. For now, they can.

Wallace is now a contender to win the race for Jordan, and so is Hamlin, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing and is looking to become the third driver to win four or more Daytona 500s. Hamlin has a Toyota, and the manufactur-

scout - Ava Hanson's one of the smartest basketball players that we have, she knows the game of basketball very well. This group just goes through a gauntlet with what we do in practice.

"It's bittersweet, they're moving onto the next phase of their lives here shortly, and we're going to miss them certainly. Kaitlyn Blake, she's a superstar, so to watch her move and grow - she's got big goals for herself, she's going to be a physician's assistant, her academics are just as important as sports for her. Losing her is going to be sad, but it's awesome to watch all of them grow into the people they're going to be."

On the court, the Knights fended off an Irish team that refused to go away all the way to the final minute.

Leading 50-41 going into the fourth quarter, strong offensive rebounding and defense by Charleston had them within two, 57-55, after Ali Wilcox was fouled on a putback attempt and

out of bounds, and Wheeling Central played keepaway until the 1:06 mark when Heller was intentionally fouled. The junior made both to make it a five-point game.

Central's Eren Maxwell forced another Irish turnover next, deflecting a pass along the baseline which bounced off a Charleston Catholic player's shoulder and out of bounds.

With 34 seconds left, Blake was fouled and made both free throws to make it desperation time for Charleston, down 65-59.

Heller and Blake each made two more free throws to ice the game.

Wheeling Central was tied for first place in the latest West Virginia Girls Basketball AP Poll, and Charleston Catholic was fourth.

"Wes Hevener is a tremendous coach," Olejasz said. "To have them come in here and to play them at this time of the year is huge for us. They're probably

big plays to cut off Irish possessions on a day where the visitors were thriving on the offensive glass.

"Seneca Heller is huge for us defensively and offensively," Olejasz said. "Not only does she make everything go, she also was getting to the rim and getting buckets for us tonight."

"They did a good job on Kaitlyn, they were double, triple-teaming her, grabbing her arms, it was hard for her to get shots up - and she did, she still had 24 and Sen had 24. These two need to have big nights in games like this in order for us to win. I thought they both were tremendous tonight."

Addie Payton had nine and Bella Fitzsimmons had eight for the Maroon.

Mary Rushworth scored 20 for the Irish, followed by Wilcox's 18 and Aliff's 16.

Wheeling Central next faces Robert C. Byrd on Monday, their second-to-last regular season game before postseason play.

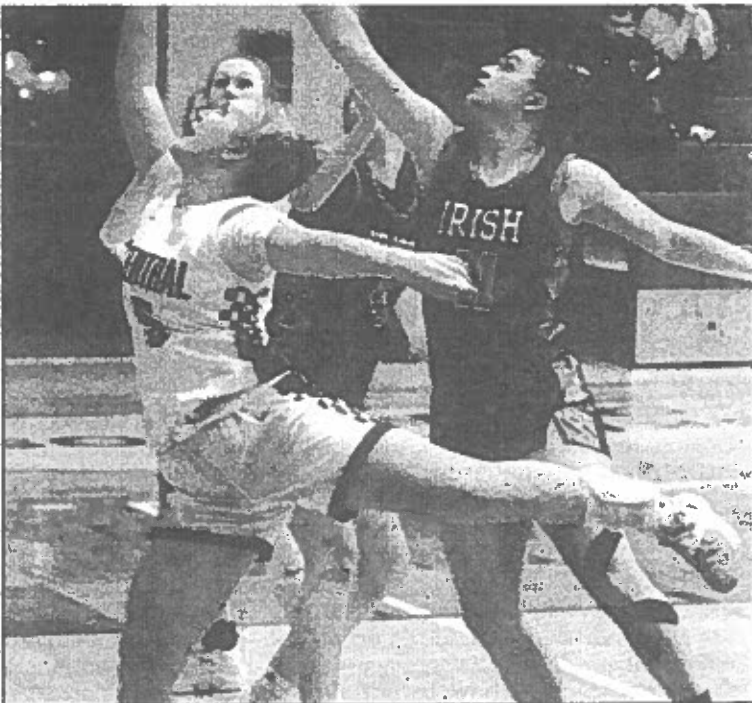


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Seneca Heller drives for a layup against Charleston Catholic during the two teams' clash on Friday on Coach Skip Prosser Court. Heller had 24 points in a Maroon Knights home victory.

## St. Clairsville Wins 4A Third-Place Game; Cameron Edges Out Shadyside

LISBON - St. Clairsville ended a three-game losing streak and gained a measure of revenge at the same time with Friday night's 59-53 victory host Beaver Local in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A Boys Basketball Championships third-place game.

Brady Schafer scored a game-best 25 points as the Red Devils prepared for their Ohio Division V Sectional Tournament game on Feb. 22 against Buckeye Local. Tyson Pastor added 19.

### Consolation Bracket

#### Cameron 51, Shadyside 47

SHADYSIDE - The Dragons (5-10) got back on the winning track with a road win over the Tigers.

Mason Scott's 16 points led four Cameron players in double digits. Colin Magers added 12 while Cuyler McCauley and Camden Frye added 11 each.

Ryan Collins had 13 for Shadyside. Ean Weatherston finished with 10, as did Wyatt Parr.

#### Magnolia 74, Hundred 70

HUNDRED - Kingston Christen netted 26 points and Hunter Oates fired in 19 as the Blue Eagles slipped past the host Hornets. Darin Shimp added 13 and Dubale Greathouse 10.

Colt Sandy lit it up for 24 for Hundred. Jaxon Huggins and Trey Huggins evenly split 30.

The contest was knotted at 53-all heading into the fourth quarter. Christen had 12 of his points in that decisive quarter.

#### Southern 63,

#### Buckeye Local 58 (OT)

SALINEVILLE - Down 37-22, Southern scored 41 points in the final 12 minutes to complete a come from behind victory. Freshman Braxton Sloan made two free throws with 23 seconds remaining to force overtime on his way to a triple double with 33

points, 11 rebounds and 13 steals. Senior Richie Sloan's steal and layup tied the game with 39 seconds in overtime at 58-58, while senior Aaron Keppel's steal led to free throws with 33 seconds to give Southern the lead for good in OT.

#### Brooke 81, Madonna 31

WELLSBURG - Brooke's offense had quite the showing Friday night in OVAC consolation pool action.

The Bruins scored more than 20 points in three of four quarters to cruise to an impressive 81-31 victory over Madonna inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

Brooke led 22-8 after one and 45-14 at halftime, being in control start to finish.

The Bruins had five players finish in double figures. Grant Yost tallied 15 points and eight rebounds, Noah McMahon netted 14 points and four boards, Andrew Murdock recorded 12 points and Jameil McKennen and Pierce Ferrell each tallied 10 points.

For Madonna, Angelo DoBraska netted 10 points.

#### Weir 48, Wheeling Park 41

WEIRTON - For the second time this season, Weir High was able to get a victory over Wheeling Park on its home court.

In a rematch of an early season game that needed overtime to decide a winner, the Red Riders collected a 48-41 victory in the rematch Friday night in OVAC Consolation Pool action.

Weir High got a team-high 17 points from Anthony Jeffers and 15 from Justin Kaczmarek.

Weir erased a 28-22 halftime deficit, out-scoring the Patriots 27-13 in the final 16 minutes.

Park got a game-high 20 points from Josh Huffman and 10 from Jay Bordas.

## Davis Thompson Leads By One Over Scheffler With McIlroy Lurking At Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Davis Thompson capped a roller coaster of a back nine at Torrey Pines with a birdie to take the lead Friday in the Genesis Invitational. Scottie Scheffler had an unusually wild day off the tee and was right on his heels.

It set up for a compelling weekend in this \$20 million signature event with two names leaping off the pages of the leaderboard - Scheffler, playing bogey-free despite hitting only five fairways, and Rory McIlroy showing the form that led him to victory at Pebble Beach.

Thompson made only two pars on the back nine and finished with a wedge to a foot for birdie and a 6-under 66 for a one-shot lead over Scheffler.

"We're halfway through, still a lot of golf left," Thompson said. "Yeah, just trying to stay in my own lane."

Scheffler, whose start to the year was delayed by a freak hand injury, appears to be gaining comfort in his game even if it didn't always look that way in far more agreeable weather along the Pacific bluffs.

He twice hit off the 12th tee, the first one with a 50-yard chip shot back to the 11th green for a remarkable par save. His tee shot on the par-3 11th was so far left it twice bounced on the cart path, and it settled close enough to a water station that he got free relief.

He had a shot right of a bunker that was right of the fourth fairway and had to flex his right leg to keep from falling into the sand. He managed another par there. On the seventh, another miss well to the left, he had to kick his right leg on the follow-through to muscle it out of rough that would even make the U.S. Open blush. That found the green for a simple par.

He also holed a bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 sixth and converted three other birdies for a round of 67 that put him in the final group.

"I love see that," Scheffler said about his ability to score on day when his ball striking wasn't quite up to standard. "I feel like those short little touchy shots are always the ones that are the last to come back after a longer layover. It's nice to get those feels back."

He then headed to the range for a quick session with his driver.

Thompson, who won for the first time

last year at the John Deere Classic, was at 8-under 136 and will play in the final group Saturday with Scheffler.

Denny McCarthy birdied the last hole for a 70 and will be paired with McIlroy.

McIlroy surged up the leaderboard by going 5 under over his opening 10 holes until running into a few issues off the tee on holes where it's hard to recover. He rallied with a pair of birdies, but his lament was playing the par 5s with only one birdie.

Even shot, his 67 left him only three shots behind.

"I hit a lot of really good shots. I played well for the most part. I scrambled well," McIlroy said. "I just didn't take advantage of the par 5s. ... Look, I made up for it in other places, which was nice. But I know going into the weekend I'm going to have to play the par 5s better."

The signature events hosted by a player - Tiger Woods at the Genesis Invitational, though he is not playing this week - have a 36-hole cut of the top 50 and ties. Among those leaving early were Sepp Straka, who won in the California desert and was leading the FedEx Cup, and Jordan Spieth, who was coming off a tie for fourth in the Phoenix Open last week.

Also missing the cut was Max Homa, who has not made it to the weekend in the three events he has played this year with a 36-hole cut.

Scheffler wasn't the only player who leaned hard on his short game. Thompson got up-and-down for par on the 10th hole. He chipped in for birdie on the next two holes, regained the lead with a birdie on the par-5 13th, and then bogeyed the next two holes.

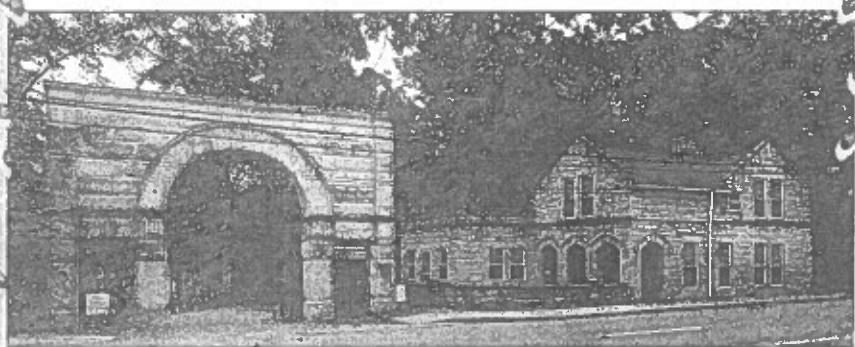
But his 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th got him back on track, and he had the advantage of being in the first cut on the 18th to help take some spin off a wedge he hit to tap-in range.

Among those chasing is Ludvig Aberg, who was eager to get back to Torrey Pines. He shot 66 to get within four shots of the lead on a meaty course that he loves. Aberg got a nasty stomach virus he tried to play through three weeks ago, and it caused him to withdraw at Pebble Beach after the opening round.

Aberg was at 140 with Patrick Rodgers, who had a 71.

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The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION  
C

Sunday,  
February 16, 2025

## U.L. holds off Martins Ferry 60-52

By **KIM NORTH**  
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — In what could be a preview of next week's Ohio Division V second round postseason encounter, Union Local and Martins Ferry didn't want to give away any secrets Friday night during the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Championships third-place contest inside "The Hangar."

The No. 4 Jets (16-6) built leads of 17 points twice in the third quarter, only to watch the Purple Riders, seeded No. 5 in the Eastern District sectional, pull to within two late in the fourth quarter before Brandon Mehl tickled the twine four times on free throws to seal a 60-52 triumph.

Should both teams win their initial home playoff outings on Feb. 22 against No. 10 Sandy Valley and No. 14 Morgan, respectively, they would match up on Feb. 26 in a District semifinal at a site to be determined by OHSAA officials.

But before all that transpires, the two rivals traded good quarters for bad quarters. Union Local won the first and third quarters, with Martins Ferry (10-11) playing better in the second and fourth. However, the deciding factor was the Jets scored 42 points in their better quarters to only 29 for the Purple Riders.

"Truthfully, that was a hard game for me to coach and I'm sure it was a hard game for (Martins Ferry head coach) Derek (Edwards) to coach," Union Local head coach Zach Delman said. "You know you're potentially playing each other again in the (sectional) tournament, but it's not like they don't know us and we don't know them, you try to not show too much and they don't want to show much, but you've still have a scoreboard and it is plugged in, so we want to win."

"I know Derek is as competitive as I am and it seemingly was a tale of two quarters each," Delman added. "We had a good first and third and they had a good second and fourth."

Martins Ferry led 9-3 before Union Local went on a 17-2 run for a 20-11 advantage after one quarter. However, the Jets would only score four points in the second period as the Purple Riders pulled to within 24-19 at the half.

See **FERRY**, Page C3



Photo by KIM NORTH

**MARTINS FERRY'S** Elijah Smith (13) shoots over top of Union Local's Bill Schumacher during their OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Third-Fourth place game Friday night at Union Local High School.

## Two St. C swimmers headed to state meet

By **NICK HENTHORN**  
Sports Editor

ATHENS — The St. Clairsville Red Devils dove into their OHSAA DII District Swim Meet on the campus of Ohio University on Friday, and earned entry to the state meet for a pair of their competitors.

The Red Devils' Zach May and Adrienne Lowe qualified for the state meet, set for Feb. 18-22 in Canton.

May finished fourth in the boys 50 meter freestyle in his district, with a time of 21.75, which has him in 13th across all districts.

May also finished in third in the 100 meter freestyle in his district, eighth across all districts, going the distance in 21.75 seconds.

Adrienne Lowe finished in fourth in the girls 500 meter freestyle with a 5:34.67. The time was good enough for 29th across all districts, as of the latest standing update before printing.

"Zach, we felt like he was in the running, he was going to make it," St. Clairsville head coach Ernie Banks said. "Zach was right there. Adrienne gave it everything she had. Adrienne was a pleasant surprise. She swims with all heart, and she needed every bit of it today to get in."

Red Devils girls Abby Brocklehurst, Claire Daubenmeyer, Karlee Higgins, McKenna Miller, Ryah Newell, Isabelle Morgan, Luci Banks and Lowe, as well as boys Caden Blacker, Brayden Kralovic, Cohen Snyder, Luke Stack and May qualified for the district meet thanks to strong performances at sectionals.

"The girls today followed suit with what they've been doing all year- dropped time where needed, had a lot of podium finishes, the girls did great," Banks said. "The boys, we had one missing because of the flu, but the boys all dropped time and they did all they could."

Banks, Daubenmeyer, Lowe, Miller, Kralovic, May and Stack are all seniors who competed in districts, signalling the end of many of their time with the St. Clairsville swim team.

"I've known most of these seniors since they were under 10 years old, some of them, I've seen them since they were six," Banks said. "I'm going to truly miss them, inside and outside of the pool. I've known them for so many years - hate to see them go, it's bittersweet."

But for May and Lowe, one more meet is ahead.

"They're excited," Banks said.

## Mamie, Pobolish set to enter OVAC Hall of Fame for 2025

By **DON CLEGG**  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Bellaire High School's Rich Mamie and Buckeye Local High School's Chet Pobolish have been chosen to represent the decade of the 1990s at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 induction, which will be held in August at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

Previously announced as members of the OVAC Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 were Wheeling Park's Errin Baynes and Indian Creek's Alex Young, representing the decade



**RICH MAMIE**



**CHET POBOLISH**

of the 2010s, along with Martins Ferry's Clay Tucker and Beaver Local's Derek Wolfe from the decade of the 2000s. Additional members of this year's class will be announced by the hall of fame committee in the coming weeks.

Here's a look at the athletic

careers of the 1990s Hall of Fame inductees:

**RICH MAMIE**  
(Bellaire High School,  
Class of 1996)

One of the all-time greats in the long and storied history of Bellaire High athletics, Mamie was a force to be reckoned with on the football field and baseball diamond during the mid-1990s.

A 3-year football letterman and 2-time All-Ohio, All-OVAC and All-Valley honoree, Mamie excelled on both sides of the ball for some legendary Big Reds powerhouses. He helped lead Bellaire to three straight OVAC titles and a 30-5

record during his three varsity seasons, highlighted by the Big Reds' first-ever unbeaten (10-0) regular season as a senior in 1995. That 1995 team advanced all the way to the Ohio Division IV state championship game before dropping a heart-breaking 50-44 double-overtime decision to Versailles.

Mamie's name is all over the Big Reds' football record book. Offensively, he set a school record with 282 career points, scoring 36 touchdowns while averaging 6.3 yards a carry from his fullback spot. Defensively, Mamie is the school's all-time tackle leader with 515 career stops — over 100 more

than any other Bellaire gridder. He also ranks No. 1 on the school's single-game (29) and single-season (196) tackle lists.

A multi-sport athlete, Mamie was also an outstanding pitcher and shortstop for the Big Reds' baseball team. He was a first-team All-OVAC Class AAA honoree as a junior and senior in addition to first-team All-Eastern District honors.

After graduating from Bellaire, Mamie took his talents to Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio where he earned a combined six letters in football and baseball.

See **OVAC**, Page C2

## Daytona 500 drawing stars



## Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard among

ment game on Feb. 22 against Buckeye Local. Tyson Pastor added 19.

#### Consolation Bracket

**Cameron 51, Shadyside 47**  
SHADYSIDE — The Dragons (5-10) got back on the winning track with a road win over the Tigers.

Mason Scott's 16 points led four Cameron players in double digits. Colin Magers added 12 points while Cuyler McCauley and Camden Frye added 11 each.

Ryan Collins had 13 for Shadyside. Ean Weatherston finished with 10, as did Wyatt Parr.

**Magnolia 74, Hundred 70**  
HUNDRED —

Kingston Christen netted 26 points and Hunter Oates fired in 19 as the Blue Eagles slipped past the host Hornets. Darin Shimp added 13 and Dubale Greathouse 10.

Colt Sandy lit it up for 24 for Hundred. Jaxon Huggins and Trey Huggins evenly split 30.

The contest was knotted at 53-all heading into the fourth quarter. Christen had 12 of his points in that decisive quarter.

**Southern 63, Buckeye Local 58 (OT)**

**SALINEVILLE** — Down 37-22, Southern scored 41 points in the final 12 minutes to complete a come from behind victory.

Freshman Braxton Sloan made two free throws with 23 seconds remaining to force

consolation pool action. The Bruins scored more than 20 points in three of four quarters to cruise to an impressive 81-31 victory over Madonna inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

Brooke led 22-8 after one and 45-14 at halftime, being in control start to finish.

The Bruins had five players finish in double figures. Grant Yost tallied 15 points and eight rebounds. Noah McMahon netted 14 points and four boards. Andrew Murdock recorded 12 points and Jameil McKennen and Pierce Ferrell each tallied 10 points.

For Madonna, Angelo DoBraska netted 10 points.

**Weir 48, Wheeling Park 41**

**WEIRTON** — For the second time this season, Weir High was able to get a victory over Wheeling Park on its home court.

In a rematch of an early season game that needed overtime to decide a winner, the Red Riders collected a 48-41 victory in the rematch Friday night in OVAC Consolation Pool action.

Weir High got a team-high 17 points from Anthony Jeffers and 15 from Justin Kaczmarek.

Weir erased a 28-22 halftime deficit, out-scoring the Patriots 27-13 in the final 16 minutes.

Park got a game-high 20 points from Josh Huffman and 10 from Jay Bordas.

lead over Scheffler.

"We're halfway through, still a lot of golf left," Thompson said. "Yeah, just trying to stay in my own lane."

Scheffler, whose start to the year was delayed by a freak hand injury, appears to be gaining comfort in his game even if it didn't always look that way in far more agreeable weather along the Pacific bluffs.

He twice hit off the 12th tee, the first one with a 50-yard chip shot back to the 11th green for a remarkable par save. His tee shot on the par-3 11th was so far left it twice bounced on the cart path, and it settled close enough to a water station that he got free relief.

He had a shot right of a bunker that was right of the fourth fairway and had to flex his right leg to keep from falling into the sand. He managed another par

other miss well to the left, he had to kick his right leg on the follow-through to muscle it out of rough that would even make the U.S. Open blush. That found the green for a simple par.

He also holed a bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 sixth and converted three other birdies for a round of 67 that put him in the final group.

"I love see that," Scheffler said about his ability to score on day when his ball striking wasn't quite up to standard. "I feel like those short little touchy shots are always the ones that are the last to come back after a longer lay-over. It's nice to get those feels back."

He then headed to the range for a quick session with his driver.

Thompson, who won for the first time last year at the John Deere Classic, was at 8-under 136 and

will play in the final group Saturday with Scheffler.

Denny McCarthy birdied the last hole for a 70 and will be paired with McIlroy.

McIlroy surged up the leaderboard by going 5 under over his opening 10 holes until running into a few issues off the tee on holes where it's hard to recover. He rallied with a pair of birdies, but his lament was playing the par 5s with only one birdie.

Even shot, his 67 left him only three shots behind.

"I hit a lot of really good shots. I played well for the most part. I scrambled well," McIlroy said. "I just didn't take advantage of the par 5s. ... Look, I made up for it in other places, which was nice. But I know going into the weekend I'm going to have to play the par 5s better."

The signature events hosted by a player — Ti-

get 11 holes at the Sentry Invitational, though he is not playing this week — have a 36-hole cut of the top 50 and ties. Among those leaving early were Sepp Straka, who won in the California desert and was leading the FedEx Cup, and Jordan Spieth, who was coming off a tie for fourth in the Phoenix Open last week.

Also missing the cut was Max Homa, who has not made it to the weekend in the three events he has played this year with a 36-hole cut.

Among those chasing is Ludvig Aberg, who was eager to get back to Torrey Pines. He shot 66 to get within four shots of the lead on a meaty course that he loves. Aberg got a nasty stomach virus he tried to play through three weeks ago, and it caused him to withdraw at Pebble Beach after the opening round.

## • Ferry

Continued from Page C1

An 18-4 spurt by the hosts in the third quarter gave them a 15-point, 46-31, margin entering the fourth quarter.

"That's a tough spot to be in," Delman said of the 15-point advantage going into the final eight minutes. "I was disappointed in the way we took care of the ball and shot free throws. We usually shoot better than that. We've got to make sure we focus on the little things come tournament time."

After netting the final three points of the third quarter, Martins Ferry used an 8-2 run to make it a 48-39 Union Local lead with a little under six minutes remaining. After Bill Schumacher gave the Jets a 52-41 lead with 3:45 left, the Purple Riders used a jumper from Tev'n Williams and an offensive putback by Alex Reese before calling timeout with 2:13 trailing 52-45. Following a Union Local miss, Elijah Smith scored in the paint and then buried a three-pointer from the left corner for a 52-50 reading.

Three free throws from Saunders and one by Logan Hess built the margin back to 56-50, but the Jets also misfired on four others that could have sealed the deal.

Mehl cashed in a pair at the 35.5-second mark and two more with 1.1 remaining after a Reese bucket.

Reese, the 6-6 Youngstown State University football recruit, led all scorers in the game with 25. He also charted 10 rebounds. Smith added 13 points.


"I don't know if we played better tonight," Edwards said of Wednesday night's semi final blowout at Monroe Central. "But we competed better tonight. We are not in rhythm right now, but we've got a week to get ready for Morgan next Saturday."

"That's where our minds are right now."

Saunders stuffed the scorebook and the stat sheet with 24 points, nine rebounds, eight steals and half-a-dozen assists. Mehl chipped in 10 points, while Schumacher added nine. Brody Gregor and Peyton Causby had eight each.

"It's no secret that he is what makes us go," Delman said of the cat-quick Saunders. "Teams know that. He's a special player. I'm glad he's on our team."

Martins Ferry won the battle on the boards, 32-29, but also had two more turnovers at 18-16.



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# St. C snaps three-game losing streak

LISBON — St. Clairsville ended a three-game losing streak and gained a measure of revenge at the same time with Friday night's 59-53 victory over host Beaver Local in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A Boys Basketball Championships third-place game.

Brady Schafer scored a game-best 25 points and Tyson Pastor as the Red Devils prepared for their Ohio Division V Sectional Tournament game on Feb. 22 against Buckeye Local. Tyson Pastor added 19.

## Consolation Bracket

**Cameron 51, Shadyside 47**  
SHADYSIDE — The Dragons (5-10) got back on the winning track with a road win over the Tigers.

Mason Scott's 16 points led four Cameron players in double digits. Colin Magers added 12 points while Cuyler McCauley and Camden Frye added 11 each.

Ryan Collins had 13 for Shadyside. Ean Weatheron finished with 10, as did Wyatt Parr.

## Magnolia 74, Hundred 70

HUNDRED — Kingston Christen netted 26 points and Hunter Oates fired in 19 as the Blue Eagles slipped past the host Hornets. Darin Shimp added 13 and Dubale Greathouse 10.

Colt Sandy lit it up for 24 for Hundred. Jaxon Huggins and Trey Huggins evenly split 30.

The contest was knotted at 53-all heading into the fourth quarter. Christen had 12 of his points in that decisive quarter.

## Southern 63, Buckeye Local 58 (OT)

SALINEVILLE — Down 37-22, Southern scored 41 points in the final 12 minutes to complete a come from behind victory.

Freshman Braxton Sloan made two free throws with 23 seconds remaining to force

overtime on his way to a triple double with 33 points, 11 rebounds and 13 steals. Senior Richie Sloan's steal and layup tied the game with 39 seconds in overtime at 58-58, while senior Aaron Keoppel's steal led to free throws with 33 seconds to give Southern the lead for good in OT.

## Brooke 81, Madonna 31

WELLSBURG — Brooke's offense had quite the showing Friday night in OVAC consolation pool action.

The Bruins scored more than 20 points in three of four quarters to cruise to an impressive 81-31 victory over Madonna inside the Brooke Wellness Center.

Brooke led 22-8 after one and 45-14 at halftime, being in control start to finish.

The Bruins had five players finish in double figures. Grant Yost tallied 15 points and eight rebounds, Noah McMahon netted 14 points and four boards, Andrew Murdock recorded 12 points and Jameil McKennen and Pierce Ferrell each tallied 10 points.

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Weir erased a 28-22 halftime deficit, out-scoring the Patriots 27-13 in the final 16 minutes.

Park got a game-high 20 points from Josh Huffman and 10 from Jay Bordas.

# Davis Thompson leads by one over Scottie Scheffler, with McIlroy lurking at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Davis Thompson capped a roller coaster of a back nine at Torrey Pines with a birdie to take the lead Friday in the Genesis Invitational. Scottie Scheffler had an unusually wild day off the tee and was right on his heels.

It set up for a compelling weekend in this \$20 million signature event with two names leaping off the pages of the leaderboard — Scheffler, playing bogey-free despite hitting only five fairways, and Rory McIlroy showing the form that led him to victory at Pebble Beach.

Thompson made only two pars on the back nine and finished with a wedge to a foot for birdie and a 6-under 66 for a one-shot lead over Scheffler.

"We're halfway through, still a lot of golf left," Thompson said. "Yeah, just trying to stay in my own lane."

Scheffler, whose start to the year was delayed by a freak hand injury, appears to be gaining comfort in his game even if it didn't always look that way in far more agreeable weather along the Pacific bluffs.

He twice hit off the 12th tee, the first one with a 50-yard chip shot back to the 11th green for a remarkable par save. His tee shot on the par-3 11th was so far left it twice bounced on the cart path, and it settled close enough to a water station that he got free relief.

He had a shot right of a bunker that was right of the fourth fairway and had to flex his right leg to keep from falling into the sand. He managed another par



DAVIS THOMPSON hits a shot onto the 15th green of the South Course at Torrey Pines at the Genesis Invitational golf tournament Friday in San Diego. AP Photo

there. On the seventh, another miss well to the left, he had to kick his right leg on the follow-through to muscle it out of rough that would even make the U.S. Open blush. That found the green for a simple par.

He also holed a bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 sixth and converted three other birdies for a round of 67 that put him in the final group.

"I love see that," Scheffler said about his ability to score on day when his ball striking wasn't quite up to standard. "I feel like those short little touchy shots are always the ones that are the last to come back after a longer lay-over. It's nice to get those feels back."

He then headed to the range for a quick session with his driver.

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Denny McCarthy birdied the last hole for a 70 and will be paired with McIlroy.

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The signature events hosted by a player — Tiger Woods at the Genesis Invitational, though he is not playing this week — have a 36-hole cut of the top 50 and ties. Among those leaving early were Sepp Straka, who won in the California desert and was leading the FedEx Cup, and Jordan Spieth, who was coming off a tie for fourth in the Phoenix Open last week.

Also missing the cut was Max Homa, who has not made it to the weekend in the three events he has played this year with a 36-hole cut.

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## Ferry

Continued from Page C1

An 18-4 spurt by the hosts in the third quarter gave them a 15-point, 46-31, margin entering the fourth quarter.

"That's a tough spot to be in," Delman said of the 15-point advantage going into the final eight minutes. "I was disappointed in the way we took care of the ball and shot free throws. We usually shoot better than that. We've

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Reese, the 6-6 Youngstown State University football recruit, led all scorers in the game with 25. He also charted 10 rebounds. Smith added 13 points.

"I don't know if we played better tonight," Edwards said of Wednes-

The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION  
**B**

Friday,  
February 14, 2025

## Barnesville rolls past Claymont in Division V Girls Sectional opener

• Shamrocks cruise to commanding 66-20 win

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

BARNESVILLE — For the third consecutive season, Barnesville has advanced to the second round of the Ohio Eastern District Division V Girls East 1 Sectional Tournament.

The No. 8 seeded Shamrocks (11-12) rolled to a convincing, 66-20, decision over mistake-plagued Claymont, the No. 10 seed, thus spoiling the return to western Belmont County for Union Local grad Alli Delaney who finished her first year as the Mustangs head coach with the setback.

"We've struggled with turnovers and we've struggled with our shooting all season," Delaney, a 1,000-point scorer for the Jets, said. "We've emphasized how important the summer is. We can't make up all the skills at once in a matter of weeks. It's definitely been a struggle this season."

Barnesville's full court pressure defense and sloppy ball handling resulted in a whopping 34 turnovers by Claymont (7-16).

"The girls have really worked hard in the offseason to get better and it's starting to show," Barnesville head coach Ty Leach said.

"The past few years we've exited the tournament early, but tonight wasn't the case. For our two seniors to have the games they had tonight in their last game on this floor was tremendous. They've both had good careers" he said of Maddy Tyson and Zoey Fritter.

Tyson outscored the Mustangs herself with 23 tallies. She also charted half-a-dozen steals. Fritter added 11 points and knocked down a trio of treys.

The duo were joined in twin figures by Mallory Kiser with 12 off the bench and Aiva Leasure with 11. Leasure also recorded six steals.

For as good as the final score looked, Leach knows his team will have to play better on Wednesday against No. 3 Tuscarawas Valley at a site to be determined by OHSAA officials. Barnesville had 15 turnovers and missed numerous easy shots, going 24-for-60 from the floor.

"We were sloppy throughout the game," he admitted. "I think we need to pass the ball more. We always challenge ourselves to get better. This program has always had trouble against the press, but we've started to handle it better. We also need to get better at



Photo by KIM NORTH  
**BARNESVILLE'S AIVA Leasure (1) drives to the basket Thursday night during an Ohio Eastern District Division V Girls East 1 Sectional Tournament game at Barnesville High School. She was one of four Shamrocks in double digits with 11 points as they cruised to a 66-20 victory over Claymont.**

finishing on the offensive end."

Barnesville held a slim, 34-32, edge off the glass as Lydia Welch had a game-best 11. Lydia Fuchs and Caydence Stephen each had seven.

Peyton Loudin finished with five.

Ava Edwards led Claymont with 11 points and half-a-dozen rebounds.

See **BARNESVILLE**, Page B2

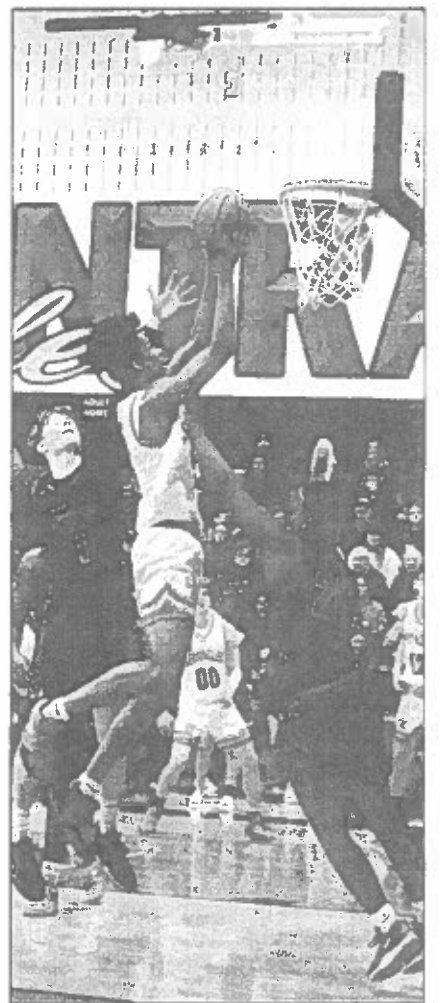


Photo by KIM NORTH

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Chance Allen goes in for a layup during the Seminoles' OVAC Semifinal match-up against Martins Ferry on Tuesday. Allen and top-seeded Monroe Central will take on No. 2 Wheeling Central in the 3A Championship at the ECO Center at 6 p.m.

## No. 1 Monroe Central to face off against No. 2 Wheeling Central

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The season series is tied, 1-1, and the rubber match is for all the marbles.

It's a classic setup for what looks to be a high-velocity matchup on Saturday inside Ohio University Eastern's ECO Center as No. 1 Monroe Central (19-2) takes on No. 2 Wheeling Central (14-2) in the OVAC 3A Championship.

See **MONROE**, Page B2

## New Pirates 1B Spencer Horwitz to miss 6-8 weeks following wrist surgery

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Newly acquired Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Spencer Horwitz is expected to miss most of spring training after undergoing surgery on his right wrist.

Horwitz, acquired in a trade with Cleveland in December, will be out at least 6-8 weeks, though Pirates general manager Ben Cherington said Tuesday the team is not putting an exact timetable on a possible return.

The 27-year-old Horwitz hit .265 with 12 home runs and 40 RBIs in 97 games with Toronto last season. The Blue Jays shipped him to

## Oh, baby! Bubba Wallace celebrates his 1st win at Daytona with his newborn son and a new outlook

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Bubba Wallace vowed to try to "enjoy the little stuff" this season. It showed in victory lane.

"Can I get a Rolex for this one?" Wallace quipped, referring to what winners receive after the Rolex 24 at Daytona sports car race.

Wallace, driving the No. 23 Toyota for 23XI Racing, won the first of two qualifying races Thursday for the uncom-

"Man, what a night," Wallace said. "I've wanted one of these Duel wins for so long."

Wallace will now start third in the Daytona 500 on Sunday, behind pole-sitter Chase Briscoe and Austin Cindric. Wallace's win continued Toyota's early dominance at Daytona International Speedway, where Briscoe won the pole in his new Joe Gibbs Racing ride.

The 31-year-old Wallace

ketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan, and then lifting his newborn high into the air a la "The Lion King." The baby was wearing noise-protective headphones and a checkered-flag bib while sucking on a pacifier.

Wallace and wife Amanda welcomed Becks Hayden Wallace in late September. Wallace said he "lost it walking out on pit road" while carrying his 4-month-old son

"You never know if you're ready. I regret not having one earlier. He's brought so much joy and new perspective. I feel like I'm walking lighter because of him. Four months old, and he's already changed my life."

Wallace has talked openly about past battles with his mental health. And coming to Daytona has provided more stress than success, with Wallace being 0 for 15 in races

Edison will take on No. 6 seed West Muskingum on Wednesday at a site to be announced.

**Ohio Division V East 1  
Sectional Tournament  
Union Local 56, Coshocton 7**  
MORRISTOWN — The top-seeded Jets didn't waste any time in advancing with a rout of the visiting Redskins inside 'The Hangar.'

No details were provided.  
Union Local will now meet No. 11 Buckeye Local Wednesday at a site to be determined by OHSAA officials.

**W.Va. Regular Season  
Cameron 57, Trinity Christian 33**  
MORGANTOWN — The Dragons had little trouble with the Warriors on Thursday, returning to Cameron with a decisive road victory to show.

Senior Maci Neely scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds, making five of Cameron's 10 3-pointers in the game. Kendra Thomas had 10 points and four rebounds, and Macey Bertram had five points and eight rebounds.

Kate Williams led Trinity with 11.  
**BOYS BASKETBALL  
Ritchie County 51, Cameron 47**

games of 181, 170 and 211, while sophomores Cole Eddy (519), Bo Dettling (510) and Jacob Whitacre (490) rounded out the scoring. Sophomore Ronnie Duvall is also a member of the team.

The Seminoles received a 618 series from senior Owen Weckbacher that featured games of 212, 182 and 224. He finished 12th overall.

Freshman Keegan Graham (537) and Ethan Gillespie (527), James Williams (494) and Will Travis (434) completed the scoring. Other team members are sophomores Bryson Burkhardt and Kole Edmund.

Individually, Harrison Central senior Kobie Hennis finished fifth overall with a 668 series. He rolled games of 201, 212 and 255.

Buckeye Local freshman Michael Kovalski secured the sixth — and final — qualifying spot with a 588, which was good enough for 15th overall. He had games of 162, 178 and 248.

The Division II Girls State Tournament will be held on Feb. 28 and the Boys on March 1 at HP Lanes in Columbus.

problem. Sherrington said the team was aware of the issue at the time of the trade but Horwitz began to experience "new symptoms" in late January, which led to the decision to have sur-

## • Wallace

Continued from Page B1

"Tired of talking about it," he joked. "I felt like every time I've strapped into a race car at Daytona 500, I've been able to win and just things haven't worked out like that," said Wallace, who has finished in the top 15 in 12 of his 15 starts at Daytona. "I don't think there's one time that I haven't felt that. You have to show up and have that drive and passion that you're going to win. But you also have to put yourself in the right spot."

It nearly happened in 2018 and

Trionio and Darick Hall, who split time between first base and designated hitter with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2022 and 2023. Hall hit 16 home runs in Triple-A last season.

2022, but Wallace came up just short in both Daytona 500s.

"I think you've got to crawl before you can walk," he said. "Second-place finishes I guess wasn't crawling enough. So maybe the Duel win is. Now we can put ourselves in a little bit better spot."

"I feel like we've done just about everything right. But just about everything isn't good enough to win the 500. It's got to be perfect, and we've just got to really focus on how to do that and when that time comes be in the same spot here Sunday."

## • McCarthy

Continued from Page B1

Rory McIlroy, coming off a victory at Pebble Beach two weeks ago, had two birdies and two bogeys in his steady round of even-par 72. Collin Morikawa, Shane Lowry and Justin Thomas were in the large group at 73.

Scheffler had four birdies in seven holes and played 2 over the rest of the way. He failed to birdie the par 5s on the way in, with no apologies on two of them. He hit 5-iron for his third shot on the ninth from 180 yards — 40 yards shorter than normal.

And on the 13th hole, two of his best shots still left him 130 yards away.

"Driver, 3-wood, 9-iron," he said. "And I smoked all three of them, too. I did — I striped 'em all."

He wore out a lot of 4-irons and

5-irons, even a 5-wood he put in play this week, mainly to help gouge shots out of the rough.

"They definitely get more attention on this course than they do a lot of others, in terms of distance" Scheffler said. "Typically when you step up to a par 5, you feel like you're going to have a good chance to make birdie. But two of the par 5s if you make par you feel like you did a pretty good job."

Those two with a hurting wind — Nos. 9 and 13 — played over par, a rarity on the PGA Tour. The most difficult hold was the 461-yard fifth into the cold wind. It didn't give up a birdie to the 72-man field in this signature event.

"We're hitting 4-iron," Morikawa said. "That's a hole where it still plays tough, but normally you're hitting 8-iron."

## • Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

Barnesville scored the first seven points of the game, 15 of the first 18 and led 20-7 at the end of one quarter. After a Mustangs basket to start the second quarter, the Shamrocks reeled off 14 straight and 16 of 18 in taking a 36-12 lead at the half. Hold-

ing a 39-16 margin early in the third quarter, the hosts went on a 14-0 run to end the quarter and ended the game on a 27-4 spurt.

The OHSAA 35-point mercy rule kicked in with 3:42 left in the third quarter when Tyson tickled the twine with a pair of free throws. It never stopped running.

## • Monroe

Continued from Page B1

"It's a huge matchup for us — we played [Monroe Central] twice already, we beat them once and they beat us once," Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens said. "We're pretty familiar with them and I'm sure they're familiar with us. It's going to come down to who can make the plays when they need to."

Wheeling Central won a neutral-site game at WesBanco Arena on Dec. 13, 53-44, and Monroe Central got their revenge at home on Jan. 3, 63-47. Saturday will make it three straight months with a Maroon Knights-Seminoles matchup.

"I think we learned something from our last loss as far as what they're trying to do and things like that," Stephens said. "They're good. They can get out and run, they've got kids who can really shoot the ball, obviously Tucker Howell is just an exceptional athlete. We'll have our hands full and our guys are looking forward to the challenge."

Howell, a senior, leads the Seminoles with averages of around 16 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Fellow senior Chance Allen also averages in double figures, around 14 a night, while Cooper Howell, Caedyn Silva, Jacob Fogle and Corbin Farnsworth are also steady contributors in the scoring column.

Across the court, junior Eli Sancomb enters the game as the leader in several categories for Wheeling Central, averaging 26 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. 6-7 Max Olejasz is second in scoring, close to double figures, while Tyler Dean, Luke Sancomb and Troy Anthony provide shooting around the outside.

"They're excited to be there," Ste-

phens said. "We got there last year and some of the guys played in that game. When you lose a game like that, you get that little bit of an incentive to get back there and try and win one."

Wheeling Central fell to Union Local in last year's 3A championship game. The Knights rectified the loss by beating the Jets in their semifinals meeting on Tuesday, 73-59. Monroe Central reaches Saturday's game after defeating Martins Ferry, 86-54.

The Seminoles are defending OVAC champs — but in 2A, where Monroe Central defeated Toronto for their first ever piece of conference gold.

The Maroon Knights are hoping they can score a trophy of their own on Saturday.

"It'd be huge for these guys," Stephens said, when asked what an OVAC title would mean to his team. "We've been telling them all year, we think we can be a pretty good team — but none of these guys have been on a team that's won any kind of a championship in basketball."

"They've got that hanging over them a little bit, that gives them a little bit of incentive. They walk into the gym, they look up and they see state championship banners, OVAC championship banners, and they're gotten close but we haven't gotten to the top yet. I think that drives them a little bit."

The game is set for 6 p.m. on Saturday, the final game in a day of championship contests.

"That's kind of what we strive for, to play in these type of games," Stephens said. "The OVAC championship means a lot to us, and it also helps prepare us for down the road when we start playing regional and, hopefully, state tournament games."



# Winter

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## WVU Baseball Begins Play Today



Steve Sabins, pictured, begins his career as WVU's head baseball coach at 6 p.m. Friday when the Mountaineers travel to Jacksonville.

Photo by William Wotring

## All Eyes On Sabins As First-Year Head Coach Leads Mountaineers Against Jacksonville

By JUSTIN JACKSON  
For The Intelligencer

MORGANTOWN — Steve Sabins is well aware of the obvious, which is to say he's about to become the guy after THE guy.

In truth, so many small steps have already been taken for Sabins to replace Randy Mazey as WVU's head baseball coach, whether it was retooling the Mountaineers roster through recruiting or developing chemistry through fall workouts.

The first major step comes at 6 p.m. today, when the Mountaineers travel to John Sessions Stadium for the first game of a four-game series against Jacksonville.

It's Sabins' unveiling as to whether or not he can build on the momentum created by Mazey during his 12 seasons with the Mountaineers.

Those 12 years accounted for a Big 12 regular-season title, four trips to the NCAA tournament and the school's first-ever appearance in a super regional last season.

"Is that sustainable?" Sabins says in asking the obvious question. "I don't know, but we're going to find out."

### A DIFFERENT TYPE OF COACH

Sabins, who enters his 10th season in Morgantown, is not Mazey, and he won't even make an attempt

to fit in Mazey's shoes.

While they spent nine years together building the Mountaineers into a top-25 caliber program, Sabins' approach to running the Mountaineers will have a different feel.

He refers to Mazey as an old-school kind of guy, noting that Mazey was a two-way player in college, who took over the Mountaineers at a time when coaching staffs were about half the size they are now, as well as the overall interest in college baseball piling in comparison to its current state.

Please see **BASEBALL**, Page 14



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Max Olejasz goes up for a layup during the Maroon Knights' OVAC 3A Semifinals matchup against Union Local on Tuesday. Olejasz and the Knights will face Monroe Central for the 3A Championship on Saturday inside the ECO Center.

## Tiebreaker Coming In OVAC 3A Championship For Seminoles And Wheeling Central

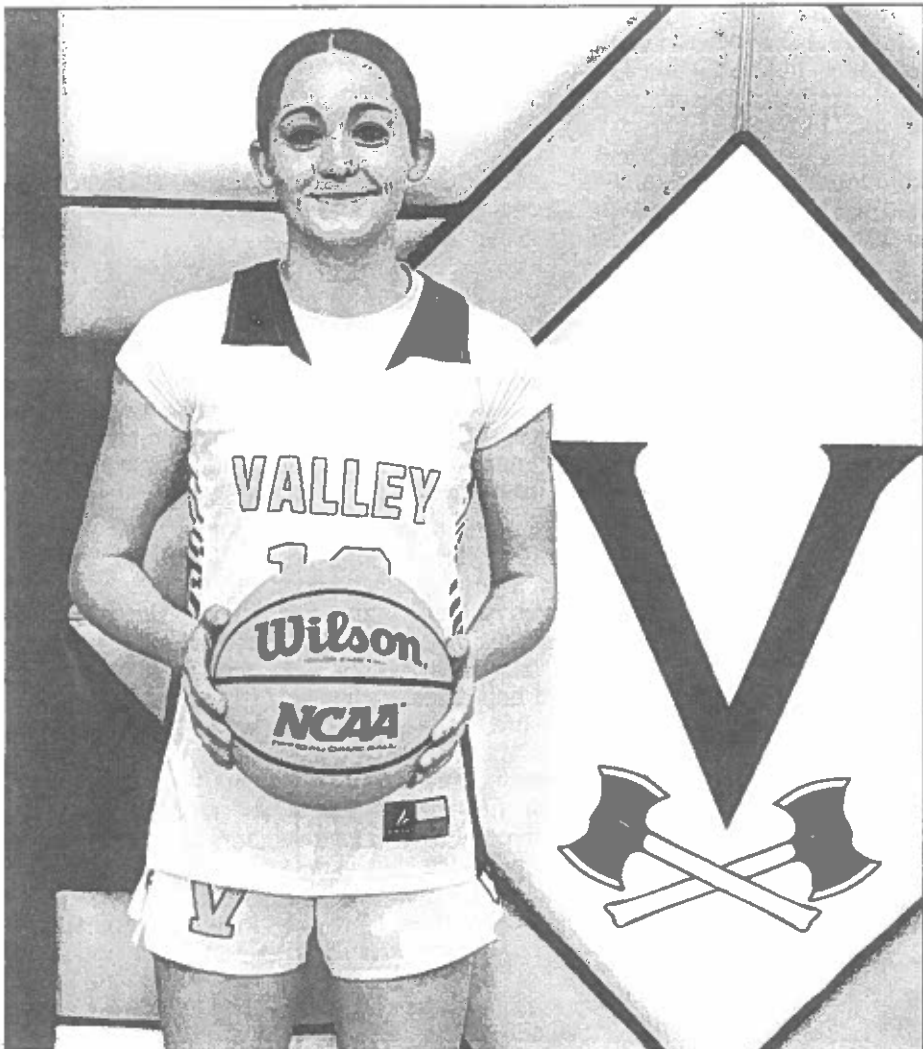
By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

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Please see **OVAC**, Page 14



## Barnesville Rolls Past Claymont In Division V Girls Sectional Opener

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer  
BARNESVILLE

For the third consecutive season, Barnesville has advanced to the second round of the Ohio Eastern District Division V Girls East 1 Sectional Tournament.

The No. 8 seeded Shamrocks (11-12) rolled to a convincing, 66-20, decision over mistake-plagued Claymont, the No. 10 seed, thus spoiling the return to western Belmont County for Union Local grad Alli Delaney who finished her first year as the Mustangs head coach with the setback.

"We've struggled with turnovers and we've struggled with our shooting all season," Delaney, a 1,000-point scorer for the Jets, said. "We've emphasized how important the summer is."

Please see **SECTIONAL**.



Photo by Kim North

Barnesville's Peyton Loudin (20) pursues a rebound during the second half of Thursday night's Ohio Eastern District Division V Girls East 1 Sectional Tournament game at Barnesville High School. She finished with five rebounds as the Shamrocks cruised to a 66-

Ohio Valley youth with U-14 age groups. Teams questions or see the web birth years in 2021 through 2011 can sign up on line site for registration and at SCASA-Capstone.com with the older teams play- organization information: scasa-capstone.com

as well as ticket and fan activity information will be released at a later date.

ing season online at the paper form.

## BASEBALL

(Continued from Page 13)

"He really relied on his own experiences a ton," Sabins said of Mazey. "He called pitches. He ran the offense and made bullpen decisions. He really ran the game."

That is not the approach Sabins will take with the Mountaineers.

He plans to run the offense, but assistant coach Justin Oney will call pitches.

Assistant coaches Jimmy Roesinger and Drew Hefner will position the defense and assistant coach Jacob Garcia will handle the scouting reports.

"It will be more diverse when it comes to the coaching aspect of it," Sabins said. "We'll rely on more people inside the organization. That will be different."

### NO PRESSURE

There is still the question of Sabins continuing to build on the momentum that Mazey created.

Expectations for the Mountaineers, as a new season is about to begin, are at an all-time high.

A program record for season-ticket sales has already been broken and WVU being picked

fourth in the Big 12 is the highest the team has ever been selected in its 13 years in the league.

Sabins calls it "flattering," and handling those expectations is something he's talked about with the players extensively.

"If you fall in love with yourself, you get your butt kicked," he said. "If you look ahead, you get your butt kicked. If you get to worked up in what other people think, you end up getting your butt kicked."

Sabins is the last guy who wants to get his butt kicked, especially in his first season in a growing program in a sport that is growing in popularity.

Any step backwards right now could be a major blow.

Added pressure? Not in Sabins' eyes.

The real pressure comes when the Mountaineers become a program that's expected to win the Big 12 and host super regionals every season.

That seemingly is the next rung on the ladder for WVU, yet it's not there yet.

"This is my 10th year, so I'm more proud to create those expectations by winning and putting a quality product on the field," said Sabins, who has been WVU's recruiting coordinator since 2018. "If you continue to do that, those expectations will rise. Those expectations are really a privilege for us. We're very lucky that people think we can build competitive rosters here and play high-quality baseball."

The first step to maybe one day reaching that next plateau begins today in Jacksonville.

It will be taken, Sabins said, with advice given to him by Mazey fresh in his mind.

"Randy didn't sweat the small stuff. He was more laid back," Sabins said. "I'm a little bit more of the organizer and the planner kind of stuff. I would pull my hair out and he would always say never make a decision until you have to."

"I think about that quite a bit, because there are so many decisions in this seat and you want to let some things unfold."

## DAWSON

(Continued from Page 13)

"The girls played excellent defense again tonight. Offensively Laken had her second big game in the last two nights. As a team we have really come together and keep improving with each outing. They do all that we ask of them and their attitudes are great," said coach Tommy Shannon.

Dawson ended with 11 steals and 10 rebounds for a triple double. Miller grabbed 13 rebounds and Derby had six assists and four steals.

"We hit the boards well tonight and our defense pressure was what we were looking for. Paden

City played hard. They were shorthanded and have been fighting sickness and injuries. They are well coached, and the girls gave their all," added Shannon.

Paden City was led by Aston Wade with nine and Kim Burch with six points.

Valley knocked in 29 field goals including 10 3's and made 6-15 free throws.

Paden City hit eight shots from the floor and made 2-2 free throws.

Valley led in rebounds 36-14 and forced the Wildcats into 21 turnovers.

## WALLACE

(Continued from Page 13)



AP Photo

Bubba Wallace holds up his son Becks Hayden as he celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the first of two NASCAR Daytona 500 qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"I regret not having one earlier. He's brought so much joy and new perspective. I feel like I'm walking lighter because of him. Four months old, and he's already changed my life."

Wallace has talked openly about past battles with his mental health. And coming to Daytona has provided more stress than success, with Wallace being 0 for 15 in races at Daytona - although he's finished second twice in the season-opening 500.

"Tired of talking about it," he joked.

"I felt like every time I've strapped into a race car at Daytona 500, I've been able to win and just things haven't worked out like that," said Wallace, who has finished in the top 15 in 12 of his 15 starts at Daytona. "I don't think there's one time that I haven't felt that. You have to show up and have that drive and passion that you're going to win. But you also have to put yourself in the right spot."

It nearly happened in 2018 and 2022, but Wallace came up just short in both Daytona 500s.

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spot. "I feel like we've done just about everything right. But just about everything isn't good enough to win the 500. It's got to be perfect, and we've just got to really focus on how to do that and when that time comes be in the same spot here Sunday."

Wallace said a day earlier he "couldn't care less" if President Donald Trump attends the Daytona 500. Trump accused the NASCAR Cup Series' only Black full-time driver of perpetrating "a hoax" five years ago when a crewmember found a noose in the team garage stall.

Trump suggested in July 2020 that Wallace should apologize after the sport rallied around him following the discovery of the noose in his assigned stall at Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. Federal authorities ruled that the noose had been hanging since October and was not a hate crime. NASCAR and the FBI have referred exclusively to the rope - which was used to pull the garage door closed - as a noose.

Wallace declined to say much about the possibility that Trump could

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

Wheeling Central won a neutral-site game at WesBanco Arena on Dec. 13, 53-44, and Monroe Central got their revenge at home on Jan. 3, 63-47. Saturday will make it three straight months with a Maroon Knights-Seminoles matchup.

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in double figures, around 14 a night, while Cooper Howell, Caedyn Silva, Jacob Fogle and Corbin Farnsworth are also steady contributors in the scoring column.

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"They've got that hanging over them a little bit, that gives them a little bit of incentive. They walk into the gym, they look up and they see state championship banners, OVAC championship banners, and they're gotten close but we haven't gotten to the top yet. I think that drives them a little bit."

The game is set for 6 p.m. on Saturday, the final game in a day of championship contests.

"That's kind of what we strive for, to play in these type of games," Stephens said. "The OVAC championship means a lot to us, and it also helps prepare us for down the road when we start playing regional and, hopefully, state tournament games."

## SECTIONAL

(Continued from Page 13)

"We can't make up all the skills at once in a matter of weeks. It's definitely been a struggle this season."

Barnesville's full court pressure defense and sloppy ball handling resulted in a whopping 34 turnovers by Claymont (7-16).

"The girls have really worked hard in the offseason to get better and it's starting to show," Barnesville head coach Ty Leach said.

"The past few years we've excited the tournament early, but tonight wasn't the case. For our two seniors to have the games they had tonight in their last game on this floor was tremendous. They've both had good careers" he said of Maddy Tyson and Zoey Fritter.

Tyson outscored the Mustangs herself with 23 tallies. She also charted half-a-dozen steals. Fritter added 11 points and knocked down

a trio of treys.

The duo were joined in twin figures by Mallory Kiser with 12 off the bench and Aiva Leasure with 11. Leisure also recorded six steals.

For as good as the final score looked, Leach knows his team will have to play better on Wednesday against No. 3 Tuscarawas Valley at a site to be determined by OHSAA officials. Barnesville had 15 turnovers and missed numerous easy shots, going 24-for-60 from the floor.

"We were sloppy throughout the game," he admitted. "I think we need to pass the ball more. We always challenge ourselves to get better. This program has always had trouble against the press, but we've started to handle it better. We also need to get better at finishing on the offensive end."

Barnesville held a slim, 34-32,

edge off the glass as Lydia Welch had a game-best 11. Lydia Fuchs and Caydence Stephen each had seven. Peyton Loudin finished with five.

Ava Edwards led Claymont with 11 points and half-a-dozen rebounds.

Barnesville scored the first seven points of the game, 15 of the first 18 and led 20-7 at the end of one quarter. After a Mustangs basket to start the second quarter, the Shamrocks reeled off 14 straight and 16 of 18 in taking a 36-12 lead at the half. Holding a 39-16 margin early in the third quarter, the hosts went on a 14-0 run to end the quarter and ended the game on a 27-4 spurt.

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Thursday,  
February 13, 2025

## Rough N Rowdy hosts 'The Beef on Bourbon' event

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's official. The upcoming April 18 Rough N Rowdy event, sponsored by Barstool Sports, scheduled for WesBanco Arena has an intriguing main event scheduled.

On Wednesday afternoon, Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy announced on social media that both sides had signed the proper paperwork.

"The beef on Bourbon. There's some real bad blood between these two that

goes back to their playing days," Portnoy said on his X account. "They really hate each other."

A video surfaced recently where Rocker and Mahomes Sr. got into a heated verbal altercation on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on Sunday following Super Bowl LIX.

In a social media post by Rocker, he said "Wish I would've laid him out right there and ruined his bull\*&\$# weekend even more."

According to a release, Mahomes Sr. responded. "John Rocker is a menace to

society."

The two eventually went their separate ways, according to a release on Barstool Sports website.

Rocker played six seasons in Major League Baseball, mainly with the Atlanta Braves whom he debuted for in 1998. The 6-4, 50-year-old also played for Cleveland, Texas and Tampa Bay. He recorded a 13-22 won-loss record, struck out 332 batters, had a 3.42 ERA and chalked up 88 saves.

The 6-1, 54-year-old Mahomes Sr. made his MLB debut with Minnesota in

1992. He ended his career in 2003 with Pittsburgh and also played in the Nippon Professional Baseball League. He won 42 games and lost 39. He struck out 452 batters and fashioned a 5.47 ERA.

Mahomes Sr. is the father of Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes Jr.

Calls to WesBanco Arena seeking confirmation were not returned. There is no listing for the event on the Arena's website. There is also no mention of the event on the Barstool Sports website.

Stay tuned as further information is reported.

## Ferry falls to Monroe Central

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

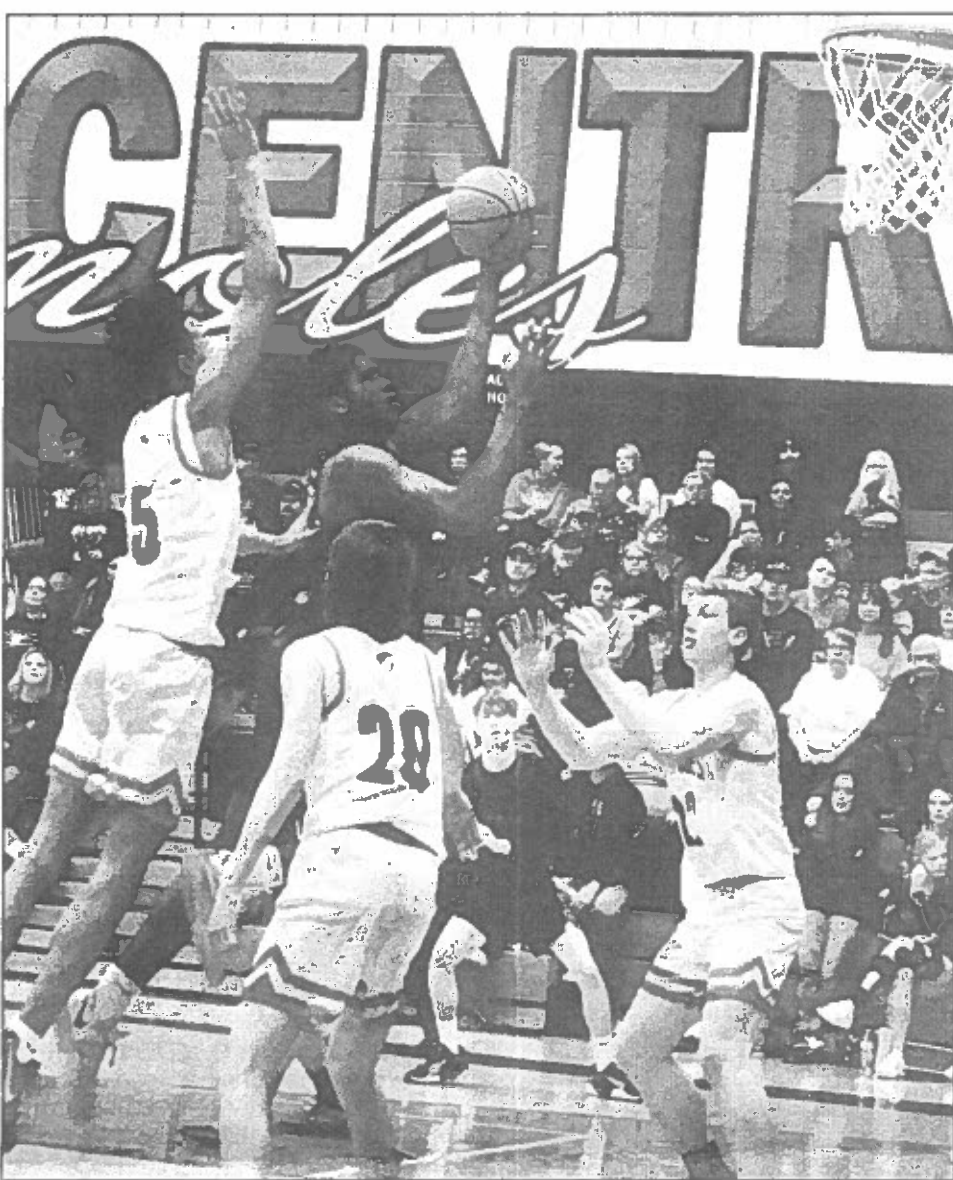
WOODSFIELD — Monroe Central displayed why it earned the No. 1 seed in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Championships Wednesday night.

The red-hot Seminoles (19-2) completed a three-game sweep of visiting Martins Ferry, 86-54, in semifinal action on Junior Winland Court. The game was originally scheduled for Tuesday night, but was postponed due to inclement weather. They had won 82-75 at Martins Ferry to start the season and prevailed 69-54 recently at home.

"I think we are pretty well balanced and we have a lot of good shooters," Monroe Central head coach Mason Lang said. "When teams try to shut down our top two players - Tucker Howell and Case Allen - on the inside, we have some guys capable of stepping up and knocking down some shots from the perimeter. That's what happened tonight."

With the runaway victory — its seventh in a row — Monroe Central will meet No. 2 Wheeling Central for all the marbles Saturday at 6 p.m. inside the ECO Center. It will be the final game of five that day.

See **FERRY**, Page B3



**MARTINS FERRY'S** Alex Reese (5) drives to the basket Wednesday night as Monroe Central's Chance Allen (5) tried to block the shot during action from the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Tournament semifinal on Junior Winland Court in Woodsfield. Reese had 23 points, but the Purple Riders fell, 86-54.

Photo by KIM NORTH

## Ohio State is hiring former Lions coach as defensive coordinator

(AP) — Ohio State is hiring former Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia as defensive coordinator, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the agreement had not been announced.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day, who led the Buckeyes to the national championship, agreed in principle last year to a seven-year contract valued at \$12.5 million per year.

Day is hiring Patricia to fill the void left by defensive coordinator Jim Knowles leaving for the same job at Penn State.

The 50-year-old Patricia, a Super Bowl-winning defensive coordinator in New England under Bill Belichick, is getting another chance to coach after the Philadelphia Eagles let him go a year ago. Patricia became the Eagles' defensive play-caller late in the 2023 season and lost his job after their opening-round playoff loss to Tampa Bay.

The Lions fired Patricia during the 2020 season with a 13-29-1 record in two-plus seasons.

Patricia returned to New England as Belichick's assistant head coach in 2021 and was the offensive line coach and senior advisor for the Patriots in 2022. He was on Belichick's staff for 14 seasons and was defensive coordinator for six seasons, ending with his unit giving up 41 points and 538 yards to the Eagles in a Super Bowl loss seven years ago.

He earned an aeronautical engineering degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he played center and guard. While trying to figure out which career path to follow, the native of Sherrill, New York, was an aeronautical engineer for two years.

Patricia started his coaching career as a graduate assistant at RPI and went on to lead the defensive line at Amherst College and to be a graduate assistant Syracuse before Belichick hired him as an offensive assistant in 2004.



## Harveth helps Bellaire start postseason with win over Tigers

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

BELLAIRE — The OHSAA girls basketball playoffs are kicking off around the state, and inside the 'House of Champions' on Wednesday, the Bellaire Big Reds began their postseason play with a 66-41 victory over familiar foe Shadyside in the Division VII sectionals.

Bellaire led by just two, 28-26, at halftime, but extended the lead to double digits by the end of the third quarter to speed away with the game in the second half.

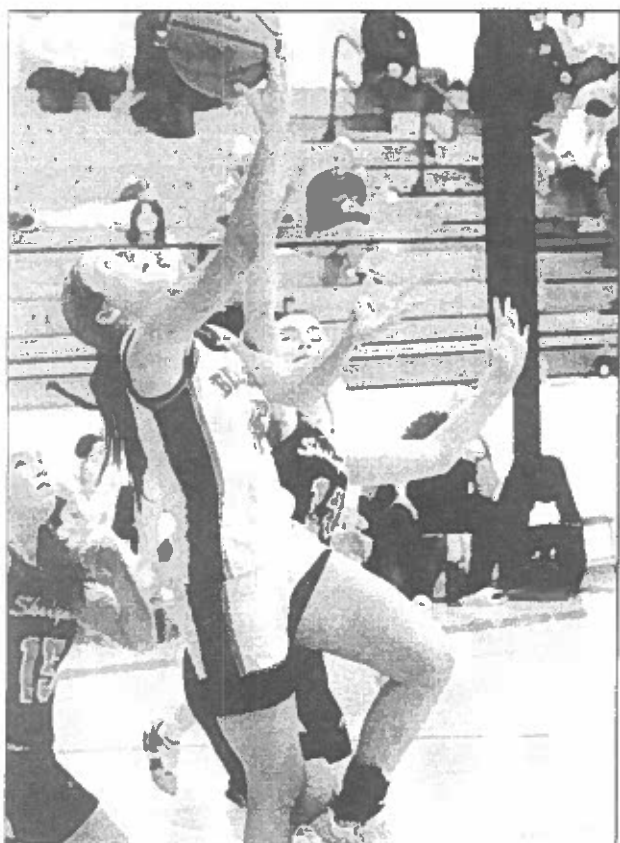
"It's always tough when you're playing a familiar opponent that you've played a couple times in the regular season," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said. "It maybe doesn't feel quite like the tournament, per se, when you're playing a team that you have played

Harveth's driving ability helped spark Bellaire in the second half.

"I think she only shot one or two 3's, she can shoot the 3 really well but today she got it going driving to the hoop," Farrier said of Harveth. "She does a great job getting in there and finding a bucket. She's our leading assist person too, she does a good job of finding some people if she gets doubled or tripled down there, she finds Tamaya [Morgan] on the other block or finds someone else. She does a good job of getting buckets for herself and getting buckets for others."

Shadyside's Kaci Tsoras scored 24 points, 15 coming in the first half. The Tigers trailed 20-11 after the first quarter but battled back into the game in the second.

"Kaci Tsoras came out and played her butt off, a heck of a game, a heck of a first half,



**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
6 p.m.  
ACCN — Miami at NC State  
6:30 p.m.  
BTN — Nebraska at Maryland  
7 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Texas at Kentucky  
SECN — Florida at South Carolina  
7:30 p.m.  
PEACOCK — Minnesota at Ohio St.  
8 p.m.  
ACCN — Notre Dame at Pittsburgh  
PEACOCK — Saint Joseph's at Richmond  
9 p.m.  
SECN — Mississippi St. at Vanderbilt  
10 p.m.  
ACCN — Syracuse at Stanford  
PEACOCK — UCLA at Southern Cal

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
10 a.m.  
ESPN2 — Shriners Children's Invitational: Florida St. vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.  
11 a.m.  
SECN — Shriners Children's Invitational: Wichita St. vs. Kentucky, Clearwater, Fla.  
1 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.  
2 p.m.  
ACCN — Shriners Children's Invitational: Kentucky vs. Virginia, Clearwater, Fla.  
4 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Auburn, Clearwater, Fla.

**GOLF**  
4:30 a.m.  
GOLF — Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, First Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
4 p.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Open, First Round, Torrey Pines South Course, San Diego

11 p.m.  
FS1 — LIV Golf Adelaide: First Round, The Grange Golf Club, Adelaide, Australia  
5:30 a.m. (Friday)  
GOLF — Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, Second Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
**NBA BASKETBALL**  
8:30 p.m.  
TNT — Oklahoma City at Minnesota  
TRUTV — Oklahoma City at Minnesota (DataCast)

**NHL HOCKEY**  
8 p.m.  
ESPN — 4 Nations Face-Off: U.S. vs. Finland, Round Robin, Montreal  
**RUGBY (MEN'S)**  
3:45 a.m.  
FS2 — NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland at Canberra  
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**  
12:40 p.m.  
CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: Real Sociedad at Midtjylland  
1:50 p.m.  
FS2 — CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Curacao vs. Canada, Group A, Blaine, Minn.

3 p.m.  
CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: AS Roma at FC Porto  
3:50 p.m.  
FS2 — CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Barbados vs. Mexico, Group C, San Nicolas Tolentino, Mexico  
7:55 p.m.  
FS2 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Cavalry FC at Pumas UNAM, First Round - Leg 2  
**TENNIS**  
7:30 a.m.  
TENNIS — Doha-WTA Quarterfinals; Marseille-ATP, Delray Beach-ATP, Buenos Aires-ATP Early Rounds

**MLB MOVES**  
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Michael Taylor on a one-year contract. Placed RHP Jesse Scholtens on the 60-day IL.  
DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP John Brebbia on a one-year contract.  
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP JT Charco on a minor league contract.  
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Cal Quantrill on a one-year contract. Placed LHP Braxton Garrett on the 60-day IL.  
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Tyler Alexander on a one-year contract. Placed LHP Robert Gasser on the 60-day IL.  
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with 1B Pete Alonso on a two-year contract.  
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with RHP Lou Trivino on a minor league contract.

SHADYSIDE — Tsonas 9 1-2 24; Melanko 1 0-0 3; Parker 3 0-0 7; Hines 3 1-6 7; Totals 16 2-8 41. BELLAIRE — Edgar 6 0-0 12; Harveth 8 9-14 25; Mason 4 2-2 11; Morgan 5 2-2 12; Hines 1 3-6 6; Totals 24 16-24 66.  
Three-point goals: Shadyside 7 (Tsonas 5, Melanko, Parker), Bellaire 2 (Mason, Hines).  
Stuebenville Catholic 57, Toronto 39

TORONTO — Derrington 6 1-2 13, Sapp 0 1-4 1, Bailey 0 0-0 0, Piatt 0 0-0 0, Reeves 6 5-8 21, Rebich 2 0-0 4, Yost 0 0-0 0, Dickinson 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 7-14 39. STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC — Rohde 7 1-2 15, Cherepko 1 0-2 3, Dankert 1 0-0 3, Fink 1 0-0 2, Hoover 0 3-4 3, Bolster 1 1-4 3, Delaney 8 0-0 18, Balabin 2 0-0 4, Garcia 1 0-0 2, Rigaud 2 0-2 4. Totals 24 5-14 57.  
Three-point goals: Toronto 4 (Reeves 4); Steubenville Catholic 4 (Delaney 2, Cherepko, Dankert)

**OHSAA Division III Sectionals**  
Steubenville 56, Zanesville 42  
ZANESVILLE — Norman 1 0-0 2; Barnett 2 0-1 5; Morgan 4 0-0 10; Dickinson 0 3-4 3; McCuen 0 0-0 0; Walker 3 2-2 8; Butcher 1 0-0 3; Gladden 2 1-2 5; Newman 2 1-3 5. Totals 15, 6-12; 42. STEUBENVILLE — Saccoccia 4 2-4 11; C. Scurry 1 0-0 3; Fleming 4 0-2 9; Vein 0 0-0 0; McShan 7 12-18; 27; Beall 2 1-5 6; Bickerstaff 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0. Totals 18, 15-29; 56.  
Three-point goals: Zanesville 5 (Morgan 2, Barnett, Butcher, Newman); Steubenville 5 (Saccoccia, C. Scurry, Fleming, McShan, Beall).

**W.Va. Regular Season**  
Valley 72, Hundred 21  
HUNDRED — Burdine 0 1-2 1; Morris 1 1-2 3; Shreve 1 0-0 3; LaRue 2 0-0 6; Yeager 0 2-10 2; Robb 2 0-0 6; Totals 6 4-14 21. VALLEY — Dallison 2 1-2 5; Mason 2 0-0 4; Dawson 12 0-0 32; Pittman 4 0-0 10; Derby 3 2-4 9; Miller 5 3-4 14; Totals 28 6-10 72.  
Three-point goals: Hundred 5 (LaRue 2, Robb 2, Shreve), Valley 12 (Dawson 8, Pittman 2, Derby, Miller).

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Semifinal  
Monroe Central 86, Martins Ferry 54  
MARTINS FERRY — Reese 8 5-6 23; Williams 2 0-0 6; Smith 3 1-2 7; Barnett 2 1-2 5; Little 1 0-0 2; Beery 0 0-0 0; Cost 0 0-0 0; Mayne 0 0-0 0; Thompson 0 0-0 0; Cox 2 0-0 4; Clark 0 0-0 0; Wasemann 1 0-0 2; Robey 2 1-2 5; Totals: 20-45 8-13 54. MONROE CENTRAL — T. Howell 5 0-0 10; Allen 8 3-5 19; C. Howell 3 0-0 6; Silva 1 3-4 6; Farnsworth 5 0-0 13; Whitacre 1 1-2 3; Yontz 0 0-0 0; Demchak 0 0-0 0; Powell 1 0-0 3; Pardon 2 0-0 5; Fogle 6 1-2 19; Rutter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 31-51 8-13 86.  
Three-point goals: Martins Ferry 4 (Reese 2, Williams 2), Monroe Central 14 (Fogle 6, Farnsworth 3, C. Howell 2, Silva, Pardon, Powell)

**Regular Season**  
Cameron 65, Paden City 16  
PADEN CITY — Neff 2 1-4 5; Anderson 1 0-2 3; Wright 1 2-4 4; Higgins 2 0-0 4; Totals 6 3-10 16. CAMERON — McCauley 1 1-1 3; Frye 5 0-0 12; Scott 3 0-0 7; Magers 8 1-1 18; Pazewski 6 0-0 12; Dobbs 2 1-2 5; Davis 2 0-0 4; Dalesio 2 0-0 4; Totals 29 3-5 65.  
Three-point goals: Paden City 1 (Anderson), Cameron 4 (Frye 2, Scott, Magers).

**Steubenville 59, River 19**  
RIVER — Longwell 0 0-0 0; Dennis 0 0-0 0; Hunt 4 0-0 10; Blue 2 1-2 6; Price 0 0-0 0; Islay 0 2-2 2; Thompson 0 0-0 0; Miller 0 1-2 1. Totals 6 4-6 19. STEUBENVILLE — Davis 4 0-0 9; Haney 3 0-0 6; Taylor 9 0-1 19; Boni 1 1-2 3; Gulon 0 1-2 1; Hinton 2 1-2 5; Wiggins 2 1-4 7; C. Bowers 2 0-0 4; L. Bowers 0 0-0 0; Adams 1 0-0 3; Simon 0 0-0 0; Rea 1 0-0 2; Edwards 0 0-0 0. Totals 25; 4-11; 59.  
Three-point goals: River 3 (Hunt 2, Blue); Big Red 5 (Wiggins 2, Davis, Adams, Taylor).  
REBOUNDS: River 18 (Dennis 4); Big Red 30 (Rea 6).

**NBA**  
Wednesday's Games  
Orlando 102, Charlotte 86  
Boston 116, San Antonio 103  
Indiana 134, Washington 130, OT  
Cleveland 131, Toronto 108  
Brooklyn 100, Philadelphia 96  
Milwaukee 103, Minnesota 101  
Oklahoma City 115, Miami 101  
Detroit 128, Chicago 110  
New York 149, Atlanta 148, OT  
Sacramento 119, New Orleans 111

AP Top 25 Poll  
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, 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.

# AP TOP 25 POLL

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, 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 (34)	21-2	1479	1
2. Alabama (23)	20-3	1470	3
3. Florida (3)	20-3	1342	6
3. Duke	20-3	1342	2
5. Tennessee (1)	20-4	1315	4
6. Houston	19-4	1235	5
7. Purdue	19-5	1142	7
8. Texas A&M	18-5	1065	10
9. St. John's	21-3	1058	12
10. Iowa St.	18-5	880	8
11. Michigan St.	19-4	868	9
12. Texas Tech	18-5	778	13
13. Arizona	17-6	701	20
14. Memphis	20-4	676	17
15. Kentucky	16-7	558	14
16. Wisconsin	19-5	488	21
17. Kansas	16-7	469	16
18. Marquette	18-6	442	11
19. Mississippi	18-6	415	25
20. Michigan	18-5	350	24
21. Missouri	17-6	333	15
22. Mississippi St.	17-6	292	22
23. Clemson	19-5	291	-
24. Creighton	18-6	198	-
25. Maryland	18-6	196	18
Others receiving votes: UCLA 123, UConn 106, Illinois 59, Louisville 53, New Mexico 40, Drake 21, Saint Mary's 20, Utah St. 8, George Mason 7, Gonzaga 5.			

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, 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. UCLA (31)	23-0	775	1
2. Notre Dame	21-2	733	3
3. Texas	24-2	713	4
4. South Carolina	22-2	687	2
5. LSU	25-1	646	6
6. Southern Cal	21-2	628	7
7. UConn	22-3	570	5
8. Kentucky	19-2	521	11
9. Ohio St.	20-3	487	8
10. NC State	19-4	480	14
11. TCU	22-3	443	9
12. North Carolina	21-4	429	13
13. Duke	19-5	426	10
14. Kansas St.	22-3	407	12
15. Tennessee	17-6	316	19
16. Oklahoma	17-6	311	15
17. Maryland	19-5	290	16
18. West Virginia	19-4	258	18
19. Georgia Tech	20-4	257	17
20. Oklahoma St.	19-4	156	25
21. Alabama	20-5	146	23
22. Michigan St.	18-5	86	20
23. Florida St.	19-5	78	22
24. Creighton	20-4	61	-
25. Baylor	20-5	48	-
Others receiving votes: California 38, Illinois 22, Vanderbilt 20, Utah 14, South Dakota 5, Michigan 6, Richmond 5, Mississippi 4, Columbia 3, Harvard 2, Louisville 1, Grand Canyon 1.			

## ECHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
North Division									
GP	W	L	OLS	SOL	Pt	GF	GA		
T-R	44	30	9	4	1	65	162	113	
Whg	44	30	12	2	0	62	157	121	
Nor	46	28	15	3	0	59	178	141	
Wor	46	20	20	2	4	46	134	158	
Rea	46	17	21	7	1	42	126	153	
Mai	44	17	24	3	0	37	110	154	
Adir	44	16	25	2	1	35	120	161	
South Division									
GP	W	L	OLS	SOL	Pt	GF	GA		
Fla	46	32	8	5	1	70	154	93	
Orl	51	26	17	8	0	60	144	144	
SC	43	26	12	3	2	57	161	109	
Jack	46	27	16	2	1	57	144	122	
Atl	47	20	21	2	2	46	121	152	
Sav	43	20	21	2	0	42	141	151	
Gre	44	18	21	3	2	41	115	151	
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
GP	W	L	OLS	SOL	Pt	GF	GA		
Toi	47	31	10	6	0	68	157	119	
FW	44	26	16	2	0	54	143	122	
Iowa	46	23	16	4	3	53	130	131	
Blom	44	21	19	2	2	46	114	114	
Indy	42	19	19	2	2	42	100	105	
Cinci	47	17	23	7	0	41	111	135	
Kala	43	17	24	1	1	36	103	132	
Mountain Division									
GP	W	L	OLS	SOL	Pt	GF	GA		
KC	45	29	11	4	1	63	164	117	
Tah	47	28	15	3	1	60	169	150	
Tul	46	25	14	5	2	57	156	140	
Wich	45	26	15	3	1	56	157	124	
Ida	46	23	16	6	1	53	153	150	
Utah	45	16	23	4	2	38	143	185	
RC	45	15	22	5	3	38	123	165	
Allen	46	13	25	7	1	34	117	195	

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss. Top four teams in each division advance to playoffs.

Jaya Reeves recorded a game-high 21 points to lead the way for the Red Knights, while Tatum Derrington tallied 13.

**Valley 72, Hundred 21**  
PINE GROVE — Laken Dawson was on fire from beyond the arc Wednesday as the senior put through eight 3-pointers and the Lumberjills defeated the Hornets at home.

Dawson finished with 32 points to lead all scorers. Michaela Miller scored 14 for Valley.

Addy LaRue and Lizzie Robb each scored six for Hundred.

**Steubenville 56, Zanesville 42**  
STEUBENVILLE — Steubenville advanced with a opening-round victory over Zanesville in the OHSAA sectionals inside the Crimson Center.

Big Red, the No. 3 seed, scored the

## Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

Three other Big Reds scored in double digits, Morgan with 12, Eliana Mason with 11, and Kayla Egar with 12. Playing without senior guard Rhyann O'Grady, Edgar and fellow sophomore Aubree Hines had a bit more responsibility Wednesday.

"Those two are sophomores and they've been growing throughout the year, some really nice moments throughout the year as they've gotten more and more comfortable," Farrier said of the pair. "I've been really proud of them, Aubree and Kayla, they've really grown a lot this year and stepped up when we've needed them to. Hopefully that growth continues because they're definitely going to be more of the focal point next year."

Hines scored six points and grabbed seven rebounds, second-highest on the team.

## Ferry

Continued from Page B1

This game will serve as the season's rubber-match between the two, with the Maroon Knights winning, 53-44, in the Sam Andy Classic at West-Banco Arena and the Seminoles, 63-47, in Woodfield.

"Wheeling Central is always good. It will be a battle," Lang said of Saturday's matchup. "They are well-coached and have one of the best players (Eli Sancomb) in the Ohio Valley."

With the game knotted at 8 midway through the first quarter, the talented Seminoles went on a 20-2 run for a 28-10 margin and then added seven more points for a 35-11 advantage and cruised from there.

"They played extremely well and, obviously, we didn't," Martins Ferry head coach Derek Edwards said. "I have responsibility for that myself. I don't know how good our game plan was tonight on my end. I need to do a better job."

"I should have killed those runs with a couple of timeouts. I didn't coach a good game," Edwards admitted. "Obviously, they were at their darned near best tonight and we knew coming in that's where we had to be to come out here and beat a very good team."

"That's a credit to their poaching staff and their players. They played a fantastic game."

Corbin Farnsworth drilled three consecutive treys to jump-start the Seminoles to a 21-10 lead after eight minutes. Monroe Central would finish the game with 14, including six of the bench's eight from Jacob Fogle.

"He can shoot. He's done that now for three years," Lang praised Fogle's effort. "He's always ready when his number is called. It's always great to

have a player like that. He has that mindset that when he goes into the game, he's going to hit some shots from the outside."

Behind Fogle's long-range accuracy, Monroe Central tickled the twine on half of its three-point attempts.

An ice-cold start from the floor to start the second quarter didn't help the Purple Riders (10-10) as they fell behind 39-17 at the half.

"It's hard to recover from something like that," Edwards said of the second quarter where the Purple Riders scored a mere seven points on 3 of 11 shooting from the floor. "There are lessons in wins and lessons from losses. We're going to take those lessons and practice tomorrow. Hopefully we work some things out."

Monroe Central didn't let up in the third quarter as Chance Allen netted eight of his 19 points which moved him into second place on the all-time Monroe Central scoring list with 1,075 career points. Fogle, who connected for five of his bonus bombs in the second half, tied Allen for team scoring honors. Farnsworth finished with 13 and Tucker Howell had 10 points - which featured three dunks - and a game-best eight rebounds. Cooper Howell, who had eight points, added six boards. The Seminoles held a 64-37 margin after three quarters and the OHSAA 35-point mercy rule kicked in on a triple by Fogle with six minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Alex Reese, Martins Ferry's 6-6 Youngstown State University football signee, had a game-high 23 points, but 17 came in the second half with the game out of reach.

The Purple Riders will travel to Union Local on Friday in the third-place game.

Clayton Pyles-Dugas (120), Mikey Logsdon (126), Kaden Harding (144), Waylon Myckoff (150) and Brooks Harrison (165) all won by falls. Nathan Hughes (113) earned a major decision and Maverick Lemasters (175) and Isaac Swauger (285) won by decisions.

Harlee Young (106), Carter Adkins (132), Zander Ward (138), Gavin Myers (190) and Levi Clegg (215) were awarded forfeits.

O'Grady is expected to be back for Bellaire's next game, the Big Reds set to host Crooksville on Saturday.

"Going forward we've got to make sure we put four good quarters together when we play teams throughout the tournament," Farrier said.

For Shadyside, they finish their season with a 6-17 record, and are optimistic about next year.

"I'm proud of the way the girls showed up," Shadyside head coach Serge Gentile said. "We competed, we were right there - played our butts off, made shots. Couldn't ask for much more."



# Something Happening In Sports?

Tell Us In Our Virtual Newsroom at TimesLeaderONLINE.com



## Rough N' Rowdy Announces Patrick Mahomes Sr. vs. John Rocker As Main Event

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING - It's official. The upcoming April 18 Rough N Rowdy event, sponsored by Barstool Sports, scheduled for WesBanco Arena has an intriguing main event scheduled.

On Wednesday afternoon, Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy announced on social media that both sides had signed the proper paperwork.

"The beef on Bourbon. There's

some real bad blood between these two that goes back to their playing days," Portnoy said on his X account. "They really hate each other."

A video surfaced recently where Rocker and Mahomes Sr. got into a heated verbal altercation on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on Sunday following Super Bowl LIX.

In a social media post by Rocker, he said "Wish I would've laid him out right there and ruined his bull\*#\$ weekend even more."

According to a release, Mahomes Sr. responded, "John Rocker is a menace to society."

The two eventually went their separate ways, according to a release on Barstool Sports website.

Rocker played six seasons in Major League Baseball, mainly with the Atlanta Braves whom he debuted for in 1998. The 6-4, 50-year-old also played for Cleveland, Texas and Tampa Bay. He recorded a 13-22 won-loss record, struck out 332 batters, had a

3.42 ERA and chalked up 88 saves.

The 6-1, 54-year-old Mahomes Sr. made his MLB debut with Minnesota in 1992. He ended his career in 2003 with Pittsburgh and also played in the Nippon Professional Baseball League. He won 42 games and lost 39. He struck out 452 batters and fashioned a 5.47 ERA.

Mahomes Sr. is the father of Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes Jr.

Stay tuned as further information is reported.

## Monroe Central Rolls Past Martins Ferry To 3A Championship Appearance

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WOODSFIELD - Monroe Central displayed why it earned the No. 1 seed in the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Boys Basketball Championships Wednesday night.

The red-hot Seminoles (19-2) completed a three-game sweep of visiting Martins Ferry, 86-54, in semifinal action on Junior Winland Court. The game was originally scheduled for Tuesday night, but was postponed due to inclement weather. They had won 82-75 at Martins Ferry to start the season and prevailed 69-54 recently at home.

"I think we are pretty well balanced and we have a lot of good shooters," Monroe Central head coach Mason Lang said. "When teams try to shut down our top two players - Tucker Howell and Case Allen - on the inside, we have some guys capable of stepping up and knocking down some shots from the perimeter. That's what happened tonight."

With the runaway victory - its seventh in a row - Monroe Central will meet No. 2 Wheeling Central for all the marbles Saturday at 6 p.m. inside the ECO Center. It will be the final game of five that day. This game will serve as the season's rubber-match between the two, with the Maroon Knights winning, 53-44, in the Sam Andy Classic at WesBanco Arena and the Seminoles, 63-47, in Woodsfield.

"Wheeling Central is always good. It will be a battle," Lang said of Saturday's matchup. "They are well-coached and have one of the best players (Eli Sancomb) in the Ohio Valley."

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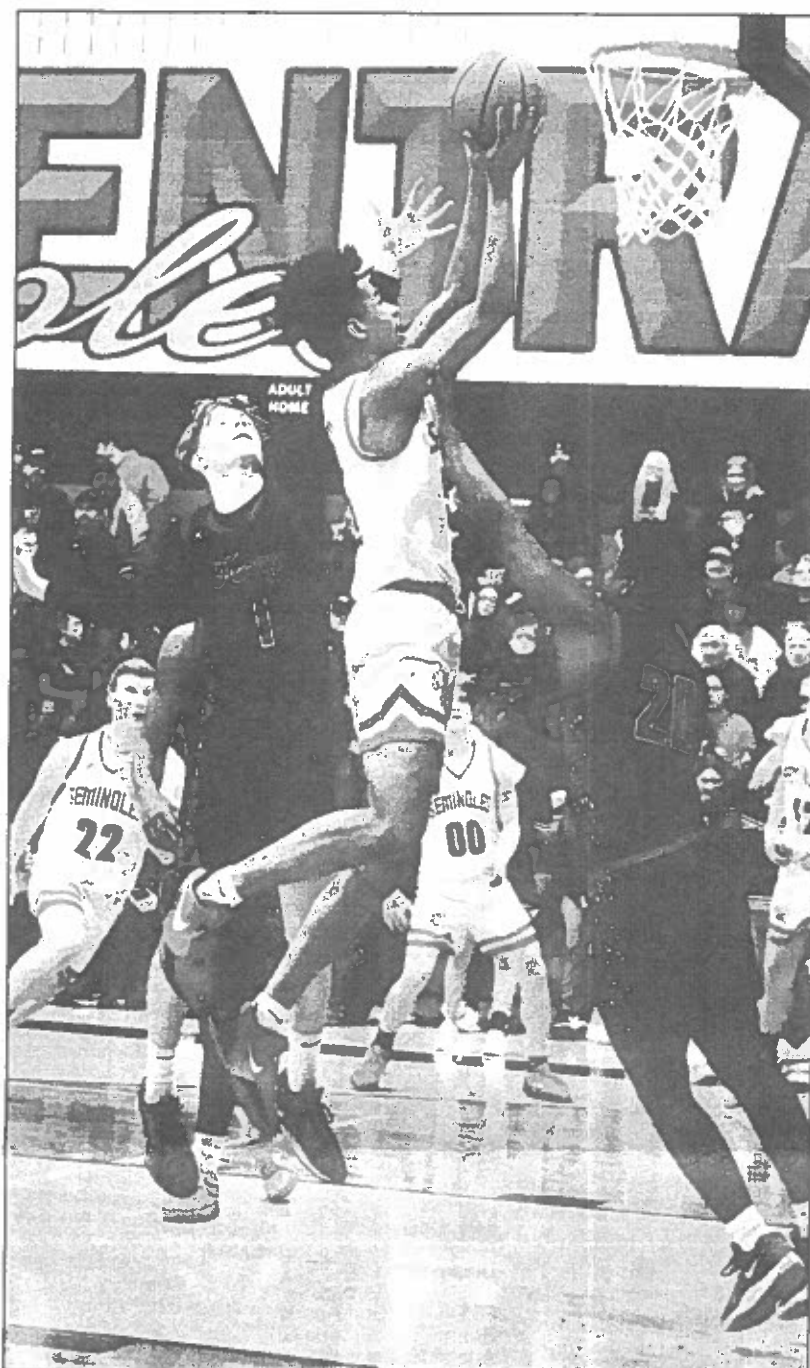


Photo by Kim North

Monroe Central's Chance Allen (5) glides to the basket as Gavin Little (1) and Walkquem Cox (20) defend during action from the OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Tournament semifinal on Junior Winland Court in Woodsfield. Allen scored 19 points in an 86-54 Seminoles victory.

"I should have killed those runs with a couple of timeouts. I didn't coach a good game," Edwards admitted. "Obviously, they were at their darned near best tonight and we knew coming in that's where we had to be to come out here and beat a very good team."

"That's a credit to their poach-

ing staff and their players. They played a fantastic game."

Corbin Farnsworth drilled three consecutive treys to jumpstart the Seminoles to a 21-10 lead after eight minutes. Monroe Central would finish the game with 14, including six of the bench's eight from Jacob Fogle.

Please see **ROLLS**, Page 10

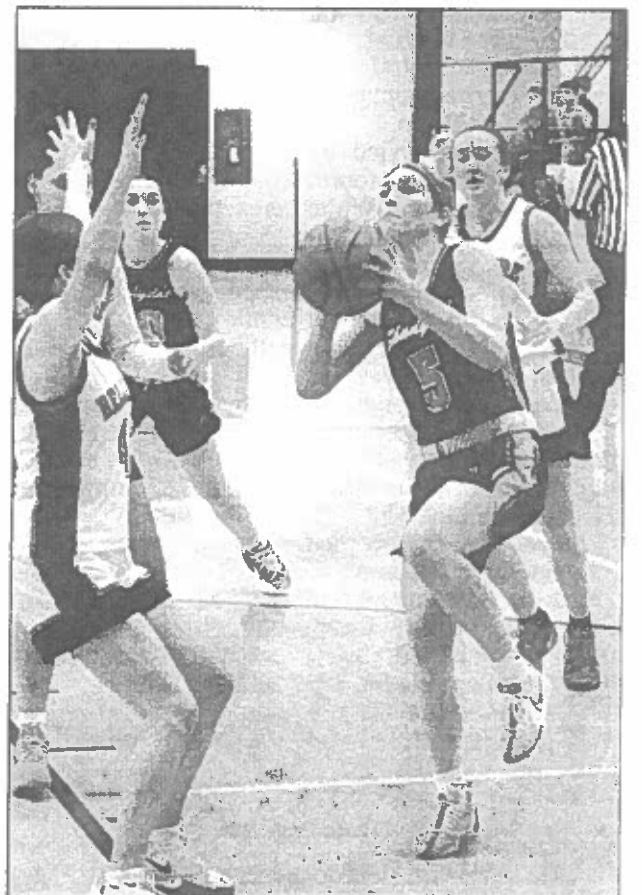


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Shadyside's Kaci Tsoras goes in for a layup during the Tigers' road game against Bellaire in the OHSAA Division VII sectionals.

## Harveth Helps Bellaire Start Postseason With Win Over Shadyside

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

BELLAIRE - The OHSAA girls basketball playoffs are kicking off around the state, and inside the 'House of Champions' on Wednesday, the Bellaire Big Reds began their postseason play with a 66-41 victory over familiar foe Shadyside in the Division VII sectionals.

Bellaire led by just two, 28-26, at halftime, but extended the lead to double digits by the end of the third quarter to speed away with the game in the second half.

"It's always tough when you're playing a familiar opponent that you've played a couple times in the regular season," Bellaire head coach John Farrier said. "It maybe doesn't feel quite like the tournament, per se, when you're playing a team that you have played several times already. So we came out with not a whole lot of energy, but I thought we picked it up defensively in the second half which leads to better production on the offensive end."

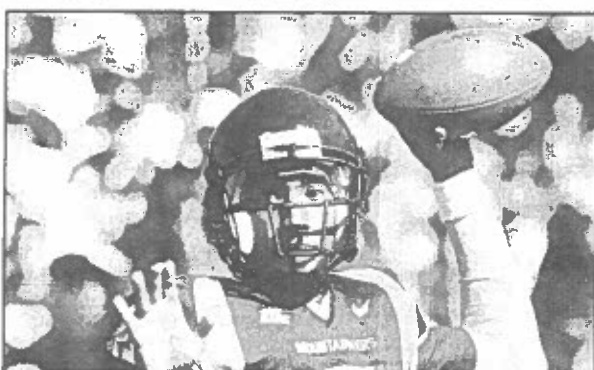
Bellaire's Zara Harveth led all scorers with 25 points to go with 11 rebounds for a double-double. Harveth's driving ability helped spark Bellaire in the second half.

Please see **BELLAIRE**, Page 10

## Pat White Joins WVU Football Coaching Staff

By DEREK REDD  
Managing Editor

The quarterback who on 684 attempts. Only Avon Coburn's 5,164 yards as a Mountaineer led some of the biggest eclipses that. White's total wins of Rich Rodriguez's was the NCAA record for first tenure as West Virginia University football when he graduated. It now coach has been hired to be No. 2 all time



## Ohio State Hiring Matt Patricia As Next Defensive Coordinator

By LARRY LAGE  
AP Sports Writer

Ohio State is hiring former Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia as defensive coordinator, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to

loss to Tampa Bay.

The Lions fired Patricia during the 2020 season with a 13-29-1 record in two-plus seasons.

Patricia returned to New England as Belichick's assistant head coach in 2021 and was

Crusaders, Big Red Scores Playoff Wins

STEUBENVILLE - Steubenville advanced with a opening-round victory over Zanesville in the OHSAA sectionals inside the Crimson Center.

With the win, Catholic Central will play No. 1 seed Hiland in a sectional co-final at 1 p.m. Saturday on the road.

The Crusaders led 14-7 at the end of the first.

Catholic Central extended their advantage to 30-17 at halftime.

The Crusaders led by more than 20 in the fourth before the Red-and-White went on a little run. Toronto ended up outscoring Catholic Central, 13-11, in the fourth to account for the final score.

Mara Delaney delivered a team-high 18 points to lead the way offensively for Catholic Central, while Mary Rohde recorded 15.

Jaya Reeves recorded a game-high 21 points to lead the way for the Red Knights, while Tatum Derrington tallied 13.

Steubenville 56, Zanesville 42

STEUBENVILLE - Dawson finished with

32 points to lead all scorers. Michaela Miller scored 14 for Valley.

Addy LaRue and Lizzie Robb each scored six for Hundred.

Big Red, the No. 3 seed, scored the first 14 points of the game and looked poised to run away with things, but the fifth-seeded Blue Devils started to create turnovers and used a 15-6 run to pull back within five.

Big Red went on a 15-2 run to start the fourth quarter, all but putting things away building the lead to as many 22 points.

Nylah McShan was again the catalyst for Big Red, netting a game-high 27 points in another double-double effort. She went 12 of 18 from the foul line, where Big Red as a team converted on 15 of 28 attempts.

Lucy Saccoccia finished with 11 points, while Phynyx Fleming tallied nine and Bailee Beall six.

Big Red advances to travel to No. 2 seed Dover on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Valley 72, Hundred 21

PINE GROVE - Laken Dawson was on fire from beyond the arc Wednesday as the senior put through eight 3-pointers and the Lumberjills defeated the Hornets at home.

Dawson finished with

32 points to lead all scorers. Michaela Miller scored 14 for Valley.

Addy LaRue and Lizzie Robb each scored six for Hundred.

BOYS BASKETBALL Cameron 65, Paden City 16

CAMERON - The Dragons cruised to a home victory over the Wildcats on Wednesday, getting 18 points from Colin Magers and 12 apiece from Camden Frye and Carter Paczewski.

Paden City was led by five from Brayden Neff.

WRESTLING John Marshall 73, St. Clairsville 0

MOUNDSVILLE - The Monarchs claimed all 14 weight classes - five each by pins and forfeits - in blanking the visiting Red Devils on Senior Night inside the Monarch Field House.

Clayton Pyles-Dugas (120), Mikey Logsdon (126), Kaden Harding (144), Waylon Myckoff (150) and Brooks Harrison (165) all won by falls. Nathan Hughes (113) earned a major decision and Maverick Lemasters (175) and Isaac Swauger (285) won by decisions.

Harlee Young (106), Carter Adkins (132), Zander ward (138), Gavin Myers (190) and Levi Clegg (215) were awarded forfeits.

PEACOCK - Minnesota at Ohio St.

ACCN - Notre Dame at Pittsburgh

PEACOCK - Saint Joseph's at Richmond

SECN - Mississippi St. at Vanderbilt

ACCN - Syracuse at Stanford

PEACOCK - UCLA at Southern Cal

COLLEGE SOFTBALL ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Florida St. vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.

SECN - Shriners Children's Invitational: Wichita St. vs. Kentucky, Clearwater, Fla.

ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.

ACCN - Shriners Children's Invitational: Kentucky vs. Virginia, Clearwater, Fla.

ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Auburn, Clearwater, Fla.

GOLF - Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, First Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

GOLF - PGA Tour: The Genesis Open, First Round, Torrey Pines South Course, San Diego

FS1 - LIV Golf Adelaide: First Round, The Grange Golf Club, Adelaide, Australia

GOLF - Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, Second Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

NBA BASKETBALL TNT - Oklahoma City at Minnesota

TRUTV - Oklahoma City at Minnesota (DataCast)

NHL HOCKEY ESPN - 4 Nations Face-Off: U.S. vs. Finland, Round Robin, Montreal

RUGBY (MEN'S) FS2 - NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland at Canberra

SOCCER (MEN'S) CBSSN - UEFA Europa League: Real Sociedad at Midtjylland

FS2 - CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Curacao vs. Canada, Group A, Blaine, Minn.

FS2 - CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Barbados vs. Mexico, Group C, San Nicolas Tolentino, Mexico

FS2 - CONCACAF Champi-

SPORTS ON TV

Thursday, Feb. 13 AUTO RACING 5 p.m. FS1 - NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Practice, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Fla.

7 p.m. FS1 - NASCAR Cup Series: Duel 1 at DAYTONA, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Fla.

8:45 p.m. FS1 - NASCAR Cup Series: Duel 2 at DAYTONA, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Fla.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 5 p.m. CBSSN - Monmouth at Stony Brook

7 p.m. CBSSN - Charleston at UNC-Wilmington

ESPNU - Longwood at High Point

8:30 p.m. BTN - Maryland at Nebraska

9 p.m. CBSSN - Oral Roberts at N. Dakota St.

ESPN2 - Memphis at South Florida

11 p.m. ESPN - San Francisco at Gonzaga

ESPNU - UC Santa Barbara at UC Irvine

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 6 p.m. ACCN - Miami at NC State

6:30 p.m. BTN - Nebraska at Maryland

7 p.m. ESPN2 - Texas at Kentucky

SECN - Florida at South Carolina

7:30 p.m. PEACOCK - Minnesota at Ohio St.

8 p.m. ACCN - Notre Dame at Pittsburgh

PEACOCK - Saint Joseph's at Richmond

9 p.m. SECN - Mississippi St. at Vanderbilt

10 p.m. ACCN - Syracuse at Stanford

PEACOCK - UCLA at Southern Cal

COLLEGE SOFTBALL 10 a.m. ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Florida St. vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.

11 a.m. SECN - Shriners Children's Invitational: Wichita St. vs. Kentucky, Clearwater, Fla.

1 p.m. ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.

2 p.m. ACCN - Shriners Children's Invitational: Kentucky vs. Virginia, Clearwater, Fla.

4 p.m. ESPN2 - Shriners Children's Invitational: Clemson vs. Auburn, Clearwater, Fla.

GOLF 4:30 a.m. - Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, First Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

4 p.m. GOLF - PGA Tour: The Genesis Open, First Round, Torrey Pines South Course, San Diego

11 p.m. FS1 - LIV Golf Adelaide: First Round, The Grange Golf Club, Adelaide, Australia

5:30 a.m. (Friday) GOLF - Ladies European Tour: The Aramco Series, Second Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

NBA BASKETBALL 8:30 p.m. TNT - Oklahoma City at Minnesota

TRUTV - Oklahoma City at Minnesota (DataCast)

NHL HOCKEY 8 p.m. ESPN - 4 Nations Face-Off: U.S. vs. Finland, Round Robin, Montreal

RUGBY (MEN'S) 3:45 a.m. FS2 - NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland at Canberra

SOCCER (MEN'S) 12:40 p.m. CBSSN - UEFA Europa League: Real Sociedad at Midtjylland

1:50 p.m. FS2 - CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Curacao vs. Canada, Group A, Blaine, Minn.

3 p.m. CBSSN - UEFA Europa League: AS Roma at FC Porto

3:50 p.m. FS2 - CONCACAF U-17 Qualifier Group Stage: Barbados vs. Mexico, Group C, San Nicolas Tolentino, Mexico

7:55 p.m. FS2 - CONCACAF Champi-

Boys OVAC

Consolation Games Friday, February 14 Beallsville at Paden City Magnolia at Hundred River at Buckeye Trail Madonna at Brooke Wheeling Park at Weir Wellsville at Indian Creek Harrison Central at Oak Glen Conotton Valley at Edison Buckeye Local at Southern John Marshall at Fort Frye Bridgeport at Barnesville Bellaire at Shenandoah Cameron at Shadyside

FINALS Sat. Feb. 15 at ECO Center 1A

Hearland Christian/Wood County Christian vs. Valley/Frontier

2A Steubenville Catholic vs. Toronto

3A Wheeling Central vs. Monroe Central

4A Cambridge vs. East Liverpool

5A Steubenville vs. Morgantown

HS BOXSCORES

GIRLS BASKETBALL OHSAA Division VII Sectionals

Bellaire 66, Shadyside 41 SHADYSIDE - Tsoras 9 1-2 24; Melanko 1 0-0 3; Parker 3 0-0 7; Hines 3 1-6 7; Totals 16 2-8

41. BELLAIRE - Edgar 6 0-0 12; Harveth 8 9-14 25; Mason 4 2-2 11; Morgan 5 2-2 12; Hines 1 3-6 6; Totals 24 16-24 66.

Three-point goals: Shadyside 7 (Tsoras 5, Melanko, Parker). Bellaire 2 (Mason, Hines).

Steubenville Catholic 57, Toronto 39

TORONTO - Derrington 6 1-2 13, Sapp 0 1-4 1, Bailey 0 0-0 0, Piatt 0 0-0 0, Reeves 6 5-8 21, Rebich 2 0-0 4, Yost 0 0-0 0, Dickinson 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 7-14 39.

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC - Rohde 7 1-2 15, Cherepko 1 0-2 3, Dankert 1 0-0 3, Fink 1 0-0 2, Hoover 0 3-4 3, Bolster 1 1-4 3, Delaney 8 0-0 18, Balabin 2 0-0 4, Garcia 1 0-0 2, Rigaud 2 0-2 4. Totals 24 5-14 57.

Three-point goals: Toronto 4 (Reeves 4); Steubenville Catholic 4 (Delaney 2, Cherepko, Dankert)

OHSAA Division III Sectionals Steubenville 56, Zanesville 42

ZANESVILLE - Norman 1 0-0 2; Barnett 2 0-1 5; Morgan 4 0-0 10; Dickinson 0 3-4 3; McCuen 0 0-0 0; Walker 3 2-2 8; Butcher 1 0-0 3; Gladden 2 1-2 5; Newman 2 1-3 5. Totals 15, 6-12; 42.

STEUBENVILLE - Saccoccia 4 2-4 11; C. Scurry 1 0-0 3; Fleming 4 0-2 9; Vein 0 0-0 0; McShan 7 12-18; 27; Beall 2 1-5 6; Bickerstaff 0 0-0 0; A. Scurry 0 0-0 0. Totals 18, 15-29; 56.

Three-point goals: Zanesville 5 (Morgan 2, Barnett, Butcher, Newman); Steubenville 5 (Saccoccia, C. Scurry, Fleming, McShan, Beall).

W.Va. Regular Season Valley 72, Hundred 21

HUNDRED - Burdine 0 1-2 1; Morris 1 1-2 3; Shreve 1 0-0 3; LaRue 2 0-0 6; Yeager 0 2-10 2; Robb 2 0-0 6; Totals 6 4-14 21.

VALLEY - Dallison 2 1-2 5; Mason 2 0-0 4; Dawson 12 0-0 32; Pittman 4 0-0 10; Derby 3 2-4 9; Miller 5 3-4 14; Totals 28 6-10 72.

Three-point goals: Hundred 5 (LaRue 2, Robb 2, Shreve). Valley 12 (Dawson 8, Pittman 2, Derby, Miller).

BOYS BASKETBALL OVAC WVU Medicine Class 3A Semifinal

Monroe Central 86, Martins Ferry 54

MARTINS FERRY - Reese 8 5-6 23; Williams 2 0-0 6; Smith 3 1-2 7; Barnett 2 1-2 5; Little 1 0-0 2; Beery 0 0-0 0; Cost 0 0-0 0; Mayne 0 0-0 0; Thompson 0 0-0 0; Cox 2 0-0 4; Clark 0 0-0 0; Wasemann 1 0-0 2; Robey 2 1-2 5; Totals: 20-45 8-13 54.

MONROE CENTRAL - T. Howell 5 0-0 10; Allen 8 3-5 19; C. Howell 3 0-0 6; Silva 1 3-4 6; Farnsworth 5 0-0 13; Whitacre 1 1-2 3; Yontz 0 0-0 0; Demchak 0 0-0 0; Powell 1 0-0 3; Pardon 2 0-0 5; Fogle 6 1-2 19; Rutter 0 0-0 0; Totals: 31-51 8-13 86.

Three-point goals: Martins Ferry 4 (Reese 2, Williams 2). Monroe Central 14 (Fogle 6, Farnsworth 3, C. Howell 2, Silva, Pardon, Powell)

Regular Season Cameron 65, Paden City 16

PADEN CITY - Neff 2 1-4 5; Anderson 1 0-2 3; Wright 1 2-4 4; Higgins 2 0-0 4; Totals 6 3-10 16; CAMERON - McCauley 1 1-3 7; Frye 5 0-0 12; Scott 3 0-0 7; Magers 8 1-1 18; Pazewski 6 0-0 12; Dobbs 2 1-2 5; Davis 2 0-0 4; Dalesio 2 0-0 4; Totals 28 3-5 65.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Florida	57	34	20	3	71	192	165			
Tor.	55	33	20	2	68	169	156			
T. Bay	55	31	20	4	66	197	153			
Ott.	56	29	23	4	62	158	156			
Detroit	55	28	22	5	61	160	171			
Boston	57	27	24	6	60	157	182			
Mont.	56	25	26	5	55	163	194			
Buffalo	54	22	27	5	49	171	185			

Metropolitan Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Wash.	55	36	11	8	80	196	140			
Caro.	56	33	19	4	70	184	154			
Jersey	57	31	20	6	68	175	142			
Col.	56	26	22	8	60	184	186			
Rang.	55	27	24	4	58	165	168			
Island.	55	25	23	7	57	152	162			
Pitt.	57	23	25	9	55	164	201			
Phila.	57	24	26	7	55	162	192			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Central Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Winn.	56	39	14	3	81	202	134			
Dallas	55	35	18	2	72	182	139			
Minn.	56	33	19	4	70	163	159			
Colo.	57	33	22	2	68	186	174			
Utah	56	24	23	9	57	158	170			
St. L.	56	25	26	5	55	154	171			
Nash.	54	19	28	7	45	144	179			
Chi.	55	17	31	7	41	149	191			

Pacific Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Edm.	55	34	17	4	72	182	152			
Vegas	56	33	17	6	72	185	155			
L.A.	53	29	17	7	65	151	136			
Vanc.	55	26	18	11	63	155	166			
Cal.	55	26	21	8	60	148	165			
Ana.	54	24	24	6	54	137	165			
Seattle	57	24	29	4	52	169	183			
San J.	57	15	35	7	37	148	216			

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.

AP Top 25 Poll

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, 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 (34)	21-2	1479	1
2. Alabama (23)	20-3	1470	3
3. Florida (3)	20-3	1342	6
3. Duke	20-3	1342	2
5. Tennessee (1)	20-4	1315	4
6. Houston	19-4	1235	5

## Maroon Knights Advance To 3A Finals In Championship Rematch vs. Jets

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

WHEELING - Tuesday's OVAC 3A semifinals on Coach Skip Prosser Court was a rematch of last year's championship game between the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights and Union Local Jets, with a different outcome at game's end than last year's battle.

The second-seeded Knights are going back to the championship game after a 73-59 victory over No. 3 Union Local.

"That's one of our goals at the beginning of the year," Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens said of getting to the championship game, set for Saturday inside Ohio University Eastern's ECO Center. "No. 1, to get into that top four, get a chance at the semis, and ultimately you want to be able to play for a championship. That's what we were able to do tonight. "Saturday, no matter who it is, Monroe or Ferry, it's going to be another tough one but we're there and we're looking forward to the opportunity."

Eli Sancomb poured in 33 points to go with nine rebounds and four steals to lead Wheeling Central on Tuesday.

He shot 9-14 from the field and 15-16 at the foul line.

"When you've got a kid like [Sancomb] on the other side of the floor, he's a special player—that's what a college basketball player looks like," Union Local head coach Zach Delman said. "We knew if he was going to score that many, it was going to be tough for us to win. We were going to try to cut his average in half, and we weren't able to do that. When he gets 33 and shoots 16 foul shots you're going to be in for a tough night."

Wheeling Central got out to a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes of play, prompting a quick timeout from Union Local. The Knights would not be slowed, leading 22-9 at the end of the opening period.

The Jets meanwhile,



Wheeling Central's Eli Sancomb lofts up a floater in the second quarter against the Union Local Jets on Tuesday during their OVAC 3A semifinals matchup on Coach Skip Prosser Court.

struggled to score, particularly inside. Union Local had as many 3-point field goals as 2-point field goals in the first half—four of each. The Jets shot 21% from inside the arc in the first half, and trailed 38-21 at the half.

"It was a poor start on our part," Delman said. "It's hard to beat a team, almost impossible to beat a team of their caliber when you start that poorly. It wasn't like we were trying to start that poorly—they came out and made shots, we didn't do a very good job. You take the first quarter out of the equation. I thought we did a pretty good job. We got good looks for the most part from things we were trying to do."

Wheeling Central was

able to get multiple on-ball steals at the top of the key, and always seemed to have multiple bodies contesting shots inside.

"Credit to them, I thought they did a good job of taking some things away and making things difficult," Delman said. "I thought their length and athleticism bothered us at times."

In the second half, Union Local got as close as nine points on two separate occasions in the fourth quarter, but no closer.

"We wanted to attack the rim, we just weren't always able to get to where we wanted to be," Delman said. "I thought we shot the ball okay in stretches but it wasn't enough when we were

cutting into the lead to get the game where we wanted it. We got it down to eight or nine at one time and just couldn't make a shot to get within striking distance. Credit to them, they did a good job of doing what they needed to do to win the game."

Union Local's Bill Schumacher started the fourth quarter with a strong take to the rim to get the Jets within nine, 52-43, and a Jets steal in the backcourt and score by Dre Saunders with 1:50 on the clock got the visitors to a 68-59 differential, but each time, the Maroon Knights were able to stave off a true comeback.

Please see **KNIGHTS**,  
Page 10

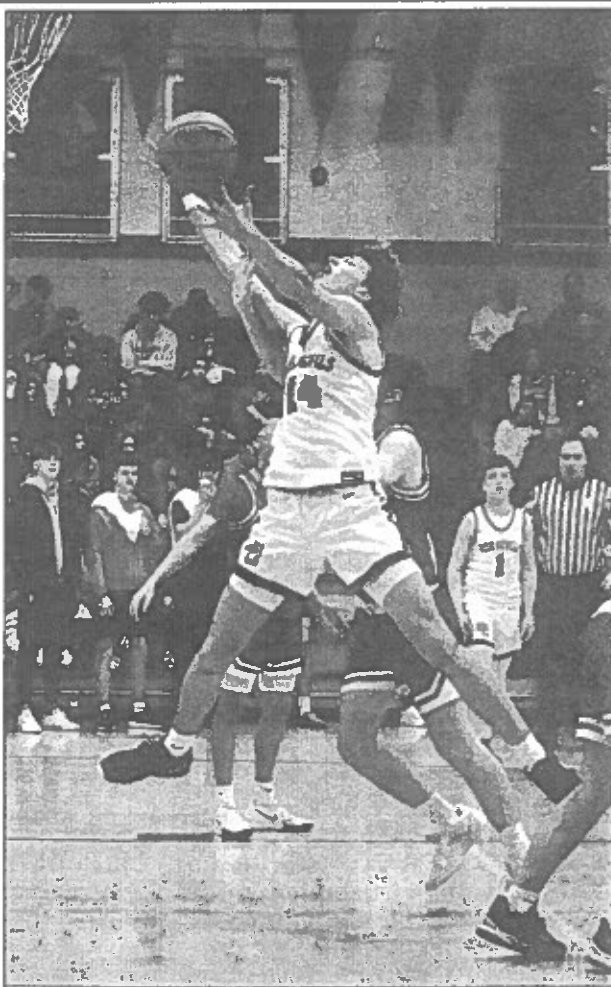


Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Griffin Straub (14) is fouled as he drives down the lane during Tuesday night's OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A semifinal on John Jenkins Court. The No. 1 Red Devils were stunned by No. 4 Cambridge, 55-49.

## Cambridge Shoots Their Way Past Defending 4A Champion Red Devils

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Logan McCort was one of the top three-point shooters in St. Clairsville boys' basketball history. He made a triumphant return to John Jenkins Court Tuesday night.

Now the head coach at Cambridge, McCort's No. 4 seeded Bobcats (15-6) knocked down 10 bonus goals in stunning top-seeded and defending OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A champion St. Clairsville, 55-49, advancing to Saturday's championship tilt at noon inside the ECO Center opposite No. 2 East Liverpool which edged No. 3 Beaver Local, 63-57, inside Potter Fieldhouse.

"This win means everything to this group of kids," McCort, a 2016 graduate of St. Clairsville. "These guys only won six games last year. They have completely bought

into all the kool aid we've been giving them. They bust their butts and play so hard. I love them.

"We're not afraid to tell each other that we love them," he added. "We're a tight-knit group. We (the coaches) tell those kids we love them every day like they are our own. It was a complete team win. I'm so proud of the guys. This puts Cambridge basketball back on the map."

The game was back-and-forth for much of the 40 minutes, with the biggest lead being eight by Cambridge, 51-43, with five minutes left to play as Mason Gregg drilled one of his three treys.

However, the Red Devils' trapping defense forced a turnover as they cut the deficit to 51-47 on a baseline drive by Griffin Straub with three minutes on the clock.

Please see **SHOOTS**,  
Page 10

## WVU Skidding After 73-69 Loss To BYU

By JUSTIN JACKSON  
For The Intelligencer

MORGANTOWN -- Every trick in the book was attempted. Every possibility was exhausted.

Yet WVU point guard Javon Small could not shake free Tuesday, as BYU came into the Coliseum and pulled out an entertaining 73-69 victory.

Entertaining to everyone but maybe Small and the Mountaineers (15-9,



NO. 3 Union Local.

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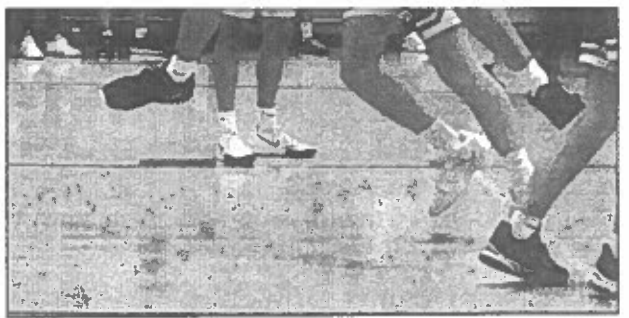


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into all the kool aid we've been giving them. They bust their butts and play so hard. I love them.

"We're not afraid to tell each other that we love them," he added. "We're a tight-knit group. We (the coaches) tell those kids we love them every day like they are our own. It was a complete team win. I'm so proud of the guys. This puts Cambridge basketball back on the map."

The game was back-and-forth for much of the 40 minutes, with the biggest lead being eight by Cambridge, 51-43, with five minutes left to play as Mason Gregg drilled one of his three treys.

However, the Red Devils' trapping defense forced a turnover as they cut the deficit to 51-47 on a baseline drive by Griffin Straub with three minutes on the clock.

Please see **SHOOTS**,  
Page 10

## WVU Skidding After 73-69 Loss To BYU

By **JUSTIN JACKSON**  
For The Intelligencer  
MORGANTOWN

Every trick in the book was attempted. Every possibility was exhausted.

Yet WVU point guard Javon Small could not shake free Tuesday, as BYU came into the Coliseum and pulled out an entertaining 73-69 victory.

Entertaining to everyone but maybe Small and the Mountaineers (15-9, 6-7 Big 12), who have now lost five of their last seven Big 12 matchups and are inching closer to Bubbletown where it concerns the NCAA tournament.

"This was a game we should have put away," was the short end of it from WVU head coach Darian DeVries. "We didn't do that, because our defense wasn't what we needed it to be."

Two things kept that from happening: BYU point guard Egor Demin — a 6-foot-9 monster with ball-handling skills — and how the Cougars (16-8, 7-6) defended Small.

Demin's story came in the second half, where he had 14 of his 16 points, including a 26-foot prayer of a 3-pointer at the end of the shot clock that gave BYU a 68-65 lead with 3:47 left.

He also nailed two free



Photo by Cassidy Roark/The Dominion Post

WVU forward Amani Hansberry (left) looks to pass the ball against BYU on Tuesday.

throws with 57 seconds remaining that gave the Cougars the lead for good, 70-69.

"He's a good player and on a lot of the NBA draft boards," DeVries said. "I thought we did a good job on him in the first half, but in the second half, we got too aggressive. Now he was playing downhill a lot."

"We couldn't keep him out of the paint, and once he gets into the paint, he's tall and long, so he can finish or drop it off or kick it out for threes."

The second half of the equation began with BYU's Mawot Mag, who was able to use his quick-

ness and 6-7 frame to hound and follow Small all over the court.

"He's one of the guys I'm really impressed with in this league, so we put a ton of time and energy into studying his game," BYU head coach Kevin Young said of Small. "The credit goes to Mawot Mag, along with the rest of the guys behind him. (Small) is a tough cover one-on-one, so we wanted to try and defend him with more than one guy."

The result was Small attempted a season-low four shots, just one in the second half.

Please see **WVU**, Page 10



Photo by Andrew Grimm

Steubenville's Aiden Davis drives towards the rim, defended by University's Eli Karpinski and Luke Byrer during their OVAC 5A semifinal matchup Tuesday.

## Steubenville Settles In For Semifinal Victory Over Hawks

By **ANDREW GRIMM**  
For The Intelligencer

**STEURBENVILLE** - Big Red did not get off to the best start shooting the ball or rebounding Tuesday night hosting University in the OVAC 5A tournament semifinals.

Once they settled in, however, everything started clicking.

After trailing at the end of the first quarter and having to use a timeout when the visiting Hawks opened a nine-point lead early in the second quarter, Steubenville scored the next 21-straight points, closing the first half on a 24-2

run to lead by 13 at the break and did not look back from there, advancing to Saturday's conference championship with a 82-69 victory.

"We talked about it after the first quarter, they were hurting us on offensive rebounds and putbacks ... we didn't play a very good first quarter but we were only down three," Big Red head coach Mike Haney said. "That second quarter we played better defense, started creating turnovers and hitting shots. Once our shots start falling, we can score in a hurry."

Please see **SETTLES**, Page 10

overlaid with a 300. The junior rolled games of 177, 146 and 182. Harrison Central senior Tylynn Smith finished 12th overall but had the fourth best score (481) of bowlers not on a top 6 team.

The boys Division II sectional tournament will be held today at Boulevard Lanes in Dover.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**OVAC WVU Medicine**  
**Basketball Championships**  
**Steubenville Catholic 63,**  
**Clay Battelle 52**

**STEUBENVILLE** - Top-seeded Catholic Central tallied the first nine points, and the Blue-and-Gold extended their advantage

The Class 3A semifinal between No. 4 Martins Ferry and top-seeded Monroe Central was postponed Tuesday night and will be played tonight on Junior Windland Court in Woodsfield.

The winner will meet No. 2 Wheeling Central in Saturday's 6 p.m. championship game at the ECO Center.

Both legs of the 1A Semifinals, Heartland Christian vs. Wood County Christian and Valley vs. Frontier, were also postponed.

**Consolation Bracket**  
**Bridgeport 63,**  
**Southern Local 56**  
**BRIDGEPORT** - The Bulldogs

points as they defeated the visiting Redskins inside the Monarch Field House.

Bryar Haught added 13 and Jackson Helms finished with 10.

Nickey Eddy led Indian Creek with 14. Mason Lester and Caleb Bodo evenly split 20.

**Buckeye Trail 58,**  
**Wheeling Park 47**  
**OLD WASHINGTON** - The Patriots received double-figure scoring from Josh Huffman (13), Jay Bordas (11) and JD Williams (10) but it wasn't enough against the host Warriors.

Jace Hickman and Austin Hastings had 14 points each for Buckeye Trail.

# Eagles' Super Bowl-Winning Offensive Coordinator Kellen Moore Will Become Saints Head Coach

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kellen Moore, who oversaw the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles' offense this season, has agreed to return to the site of his latest triumph as the next coach of the New Orleans Saints.

The 36-year-old Moore will join an organization that has been floundering since the retirement of quarterback Drew Brees and departure of Super Bowl-winning coach Sean Payton. The Saints haven't made the playoffs since the 2020 season — the last of Brees' career.

Their interest in Moore became increasingly evident as the club waited longer to fill its vacancy than any other NFL team seeking a new coach this year.

Moore was the only assistant coach on either Super Bowl team to be interviewed by New Orle-

ans and thus the only candidate who, under league rules, could not be hired until after Sunday's title game was played. The Saints announced their agreement with Moore on Tuesday.

Their decision mirrors that of several teams that have found success after hiring relatively young offensive coaches. They included the Los Angeles Rams with Sean McVay, Green Bay with Matt LaFleur, Miami with Mike McDaniels and Minnesota with 2024 AP Coach of the Year Kevin O'Connell. All four of those coaches were hired while in their 30s.

"I look forward to embracing the challenges ahead and am eager to get started," Moore, whose formal introduction is scheduled for Thursday, said in a statement released by the club.

A standout college quarterback at Boise State, Moore had a six-year career as a practice squad or reserve QB with Detroit (2012-2014) and Dallas (2015-2017). He played in just three regular-season games, all with the Cowboys in 2015.

He moved into coaching in 2018 as a quarterbacks coach and was promoted to offensive coordinator in 2019. He left Dallas to join the Los Angeles Chargers in 2023 before moving to Philadelphia in 2024.

Moore takes over an offense featuring versatile running back Alvin Kamara and receiver Chris Olave.

Saints quarterback Derek Carr has two years left on his contract, but his future with the Saints is cloudy following a pair of non-playoff seasons with the club.

## KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 9)

"We played a really good half defensively - on both ends, really," Stephens said. "Our goal is to try to put two halves together like that for a game. Saturday would be a great time to do that."

"We still did some of the things we wanted to do in the second half, but we had a few breakdowns a couple times. [Union Local was] able to take advantage of some things, and they made some tough shots in the second half. But when they

made those runs, we were able to answer that pretty much every time."

The Maroon were held to their lowest scoring quarter in the third, with 14 points, as they weren't able to find a groove against Union Local's defense, which jacked up the pressure coming out of halftime. But Wheeling Central made 11 foul shots in the fourth quarter to keep the lead at arm's length.

"We kind of settled down a little bit," Ste-

phens said of his team's fourth quarter. "We talk all year about understanding time and score - what is a good shot, what's not a good shot. Maybe something early in the game is a good shot, but when you're getting down the stretch and looking at time and score, maybe it's not a good shot."

"Give the guys credit, we were able to get to the foul line and make foul shots. The majority of those were Eli's but we had a couple other

guys be able to step up there late and knock some down to keep that lead out there."

Schumacher led Union Local with 20 points while Saunders scored 18. Tyler Dean scored 12 for Wheeling Central, while Max Olejask had nine points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

The Maroon Knights will play the winner of No. 1 Monroe Central vs. No. 4 Martins Ferry. That game is set for Wednesday night.

## WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

Small made it, a 3-pointer right out of the gate to start the second half that gave WVU a 37-32 lead.

The remaining 19 minutes and 38 seconds were a different story.

"That's insane. I didn't even realize it, honestly, until I looked at the state sheet," Young said about Small only getting one shot in the second half.

Make no mistake, Small impacted the game in other ways. He tied a season high with nine assists. He went 4 of 5 from the foul line.

This was not a disappearing act from WVU's star point guard, but rather a superb defensive effort by BYU, which ended a two-game losing streak with the victory.

And DeVries likely emptied out

his playbook trying to find something to get Small open. It even looked like Small was used as a decoy at times, although DeVries said that wasn't the case.

"There were a few possessions where it may have looked like that," DeVries said. "He wasn't able to get the catch, so he went off to the ball. He was tired. That was part of it, too."

The game was close throughout. BYU held a lead for less than six minutes. WVU never held a lead larger than seven points.

Demin won it by deflecting a pass in the final minute thrown by Small and began to race down the court before he was fouled by Toby Okani.

He sank both free throws. BYU

sealed it with a pick-and-roll play with forward Mihailo Boskovic with nine seconds remaining. Boskovic scored and was fouled. His free throw provided the final score.

"We were switching everything and two guys messed up a switch," DeVries said. "Two guys went with the ball and he rolled and there was nobody there."

Okani provided an offensive spark for the Mountaineers. He scored 16, his second time in double figures against a Big 12 team this season.

Small was held to nine points, just his second time below 10 this season. Jonathan Powell and Joseph Yesufu each scored 11.

There are nine drivers — the most since 2015 — vying for those spots: Anthony Alfredo, Justin Allgaier, Helio Castroneves, Jimmie Johnson, Corey LaJoie, B.J. McLeod, Chandler Smith, Martin Truex Jr. and J.J. Yeley.

"It's not just seven whatever," Johnson said. "When you look through the affiliations and how those cars play out, it's going to be a very stressful

only driver NASCAR considered for the provisional spot.

But there's a catch. If Castroneves uses the provisional, his team gets no prize money. So he will try to qualify his way in, and if he does, the Daytona 500 would be a 40-car field — and five open cars would miss the race. If he doesn't qualify, he would get in via the provisional — and the 500 would have 41 cars.

## SHOOTS

(Continued from Page 9)

Cambridge turned the ball over again, but St. Clairsville gave the ball right back to the Bobcats with a turnover of its own. The Bobcats misfired on a shot with 90 seconds left, but the Red Devils turned the ball over 14 ticks later.

Following another miss by Cambridge, Brady Schafer was fouled with 55.6 showing. The senior rattled the first shot home before finding nothing but net on the second as the deficit was 51-49 as the hosts called timeout.

Forced to foul, Cambridge knocked down four free throws - two each by Rylee Homko-Green and Jesiah Barnett - in the final 31.8 to seal the deal.

"We didn't execute very well at either end of the court," St. Clairsville head coach Ryan Clifford admitted. "Especially on the defense end. We let their two really good players score most of their points. You're not going to win when you don't concentrate on the defensive end."

"We made some mistakes down the stretch that a veteran team can't afford to make," Clifford added.

Garrett Carpenter buried half of the Bobcats' 10 treys and finished with a team-best 17 points. He also took game honors with 10 rebounds. Gregg added 13 points and Barnett had a dozen.

"We shoot a lot of three's in practice," McCort said. "We put a big emphasis on getting shots up and it paid off tonight. So did our foul shooting."

Schafer paced the Red Devils with 26 points and five rebounds. Straub added 10 points and four boards.

St. Clairsville was guilty of one more turnover at 11-10. Cambridge had one more rebound at 23-22.

With the hard-earned victory, Cambridge has now won seven straight and avenged a pair of regular-season losses to St. Clairsville, 63-52 on the road and 63-55 at home.

"This win means a lot to me personally," McCort admitted. "But I told the guys they were coming here to win a basketball game for you, this program and the community of Cambridge. They did that tonight."

## SETTLES

(Continued from Page 9)

"It just seems like when we start playing good defense, getting turnovers and making layups, then we hit a 3, all of the sudden we've got our juices flowing."

The 21-0 run in the second turned a nine-point hole into a double-digit lead, Aiden Davis sparking it with a pair of 3s while Tre Wiggins sunk a 3 at the buzzer before the break to extend the lead. The Hawks (11-5) got within eight in the third quarter, but Big Red (16-2) was able to push back away, leading by as many as 17 in the fourth.

After scoring just 12 in the opening quarter, Steubenville racked up 21 or more in each of the final three quarters. While defense was key as is usually is, so was sharing the ball as all five Big Red starters reached double figures and Steubenville had 22 assists as a team.

"We were doing a really good job of sharing the ball," Haney said. "At the end when they were pressing us we were able to get the ball up and get some layups. (The starters) had all 82 of the points, but the guys that came off the bench did a good job getting rebounds and playing defense, it was a total team effort."

Davis, who hit six 3-pointers in the game, racked up a game-high 22 points, also tallying three assists, three rebounds and a steal, while

Santino Haney finished with a double-double with 16 points, 11 assists, four rebounds and three steals. Wiggins netted 17 points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals. Will Taylor scored eight in the fourth quarter to finish with 15 points, five rebounds and three assists and Cole Bowers netted 12 points and three rebounds.

For University, Glenn Brown led the way with 21 points off the bench, including six 3s, while tallying four assists. Zach Demidovich netted 13 points, nine rebounds, three assists and two steals, while Luke Byrer finished with 15 points, which was leading the team when he fouled out early in the fourth quarter.

"University is a great team, they have some players that can shoot it," Haney said. "Inside they are bigger than us. (Brown) was really lighting it up hitting some shots. We just kept playing as a team."

### UP NEXT

University: Will play Parkersburg South in the third-place consolation game on Friday night.

Steubenville: Will take on top seed Morgantown in the Class 5A championship game at noon Saturday at the ECO Center. Before then, however, they host River tonight on senior night in a makeup game following the girls East District tournament opener.



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# Washington visits Ohio State following Parrish's 30-point game

Washington Huskies (12-11, 3-9 Big Ten) at Ohio State Buckeyes (14-10, 6-7 Big Ten)  
Columbus, Ohio: Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. EST  
BOTTOM LINE: Ohio State hosts Washington after Micah Parrish scored 30 points in Ohio State's 79-71 loss to the Nebraska Cornhuskers.  
The Buckeyes have gone 9-4 at home. Ohio State averages 79.3 points and has outscored opponents by 7.6 points per game.  
The Huskies are 3-9 in conference games. Washington is ninth in the Big Ten with 8.8 offensive rebounds per game led by Great Osobor averaging 2.7.  
Ohio State averages 79.3 points, 7.1 more per game than the 72.2 Washington gives up. Washington averages 71.9 points per game, 0.2 more than the 71.7 Ohio State gives up to opponents.  
The Buckeyes and Huskies face off

Wednesday for the first time in conference play this season.  
TOP PERFORMERS: John Mobley Jr. averages 2.4 made 3-pointers per game for the Buckeyes, scoring 13.0 points while shooting 39.7% from beyond the arc. Bruce Thornton is averaging 17.4 points and 4.3 assists over the past 10 games.  
Osobor is averaging 15.6 points, 8.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists and two steals for the Huskies. Zoom Diallo is averaging 11.0 points over the last 10 games.  
LAST 10 GAMES: Buckeyes: 5-5, averaging 76.5 points, 31.1 rebounds, 11.3 assists, 4.9 steals and 3.3 blocks per game while shooting 44.3% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 74.3 points per game.  
• Huskies: 3-7, averaging 68.9 points, 28.5 rebounds, 11.5 assists, 5.4 steals and 2.9 blocks per game while shooting 43.5% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 77.0 points.

# Cambridge shoots their way past defending 4A champion St. C.

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Logan McCort was one of the top three point shooters in St. Clairsville boys' basketball history. He made a triumphant return to John Jenkins Court Tuesday night.

Now the head coach at Cambridge, McCort's No. 4 seeded Bobcats (15-6) knocked down 10 bonus goals in stunning top-seeded and defending OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A champion St. Clairsville, 55-49, advancing to Saturday's championship tilt at noon inside the ECO Center opposite No. 2 East Liverpool which edged No. 3 Beaver Local, 63-57, inside Potter Fieldhouse.

"This win means everything to this group of kids," McCort, a 2016 graduate of St. Clairsville. "These guys only won six games last year. They have completely bought into all the kool aid we've been giving them. They bust their butts and play so hard. I love them."

"We're not afraid to tell each other that we love them," he added. "We're a tight-knit group. We (the coaches) tell those kids we love them every day like they are our own. It was a complete team win. I'm so proud of the guys. This puts Cambridge basketball back on the map."

The game was back-and-forth for much of the 40 minutes, with the biggest lead being eight by Cambridge, 51-43, with five minutes left to play as Mason Gregg drilled one of his three treys.

However, the Red Devils' trapping defense

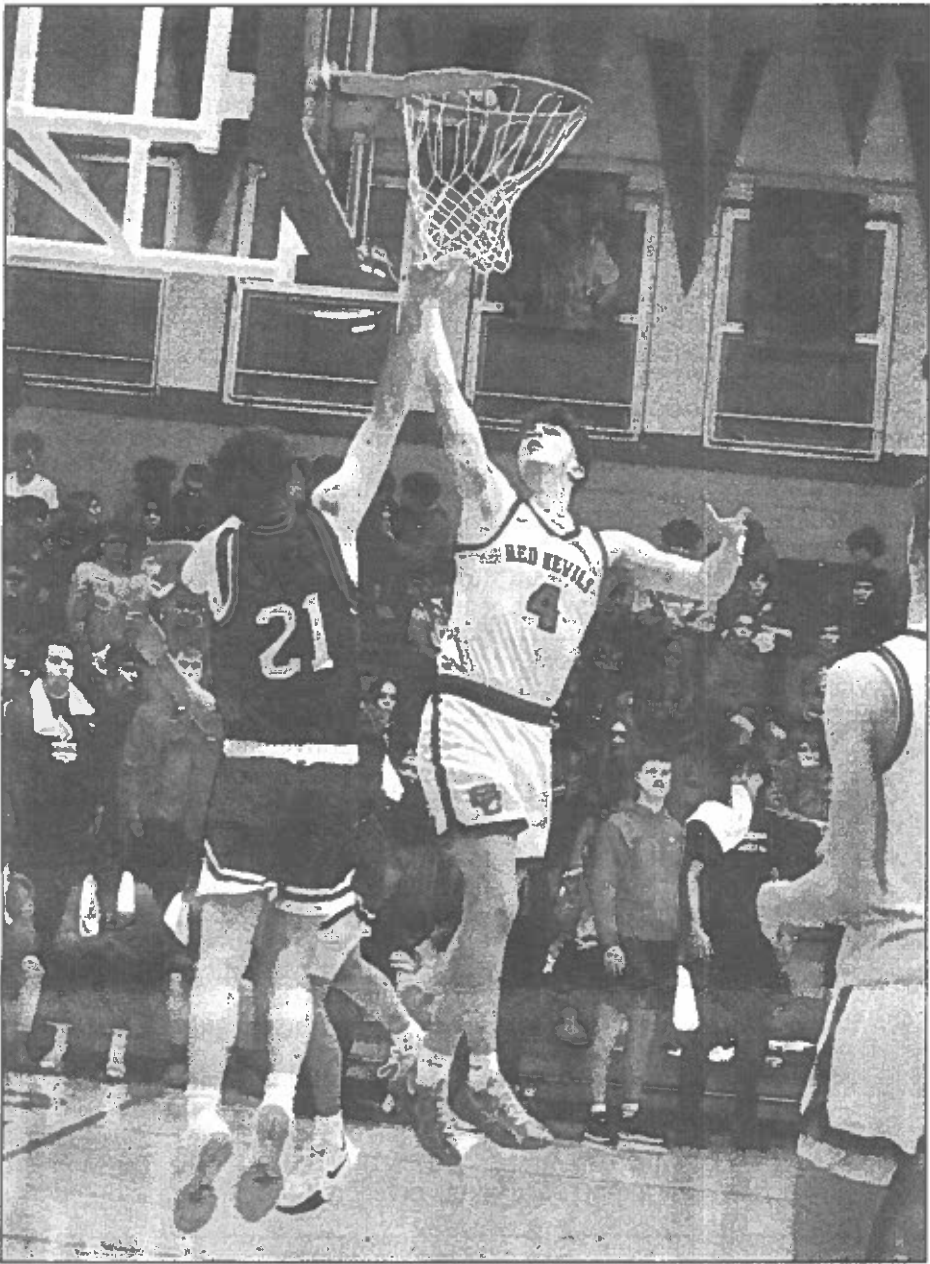


Photo by KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brady Schafer drives to the basket for two of his 26 points Tuesday night as Cambridge's Rylan Mathews (21) tries for the block. However, the No. 4 Bobcats stunned the top-seeded Red Devils, 55-39, in an OVAC WVU Medicine Class 4A semifinal on John Jenkins Court.

forced a turnover as they cut the deficit to 51-47 on a baseline drive by Griffin Straub with three minutes on the clock.

Cambridge turned the ball over again, but St. Clairsville gave the ball right back to the Bobcats with a turnover of its own. The Bobcats mis-

fired on a shot with 90 seconds left, but the Red Devils turned the ball over 14 ticks later.

Following another miss by Cambridge, Brady Schafer was fouled with 55.6 showing. The senior rattled the first shot home before finding nothing but net on the second as

the deficit was 51-49 as the hosts called timeout.

Forced to foul, Cambridge knocked down four free throws — two each by Rylee Homko-Green and Jesiah Barnett — in the final 31.8 to seal the deal.

See ST. C., Page B2



Photo by NICK HENTHORN

UNION LOCAL'S Dre Saunders goes to the rim for a layup in the third quarter against the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights on Tuesday during their OVAC 3A semifinals matchup on Coach Skip Prosser Court.

# Union Local falls in 3A championship rematch versus Wheeling Central

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Tuesday's OVAC 3A semifinals on Coach Skip Prosser Court was a rematch of last year's championship game between the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights and Union Local Jets, with a different outcome at game's end than last year's battle.

The second-seeded Knights are going back to the championship game after a 73-59 victory over No. 3 Union Local.

"That's one of our goals at the beginning of the year," Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens said of getting to the championship game, set for Saturday inside Ohio University Eastern's ECO Center. "No. 1, to get into that top four, get a chance at the semis, and ultimately you want to be able to play for a championship. That's what we were able to do tonight. "Saturday, no matter who it is, Monroe or Ferry, it's going to be another tough one but we're there and we're looking forward to the opportunity."

Eli Sancomb poured in 33 points to go with nine rebounds and four steals to lead Wheeling Central on Tuesday.

He shot 9-14 from the field and 15-16 at the foul line.

"When you've got a kid like [Sancomb] on the other side of the floor, he's a special player — that's what a college basketball player looks like," Union Local head coach Zach Delman said. "We knew if he was going to score that many, it was going to be tough for us to win. We were going to try to cut his average in half, and we weren't able to do that. When he gets 33 and shoots 16 foul shots you're going to be in for a tough night."

See UNION LOCAL, Page B2

# Super Bowl averaged a record 127.7M U.S. viewers

(AP) — Despite the game being a blowout, Sunday night's Super Bowl averaged a record 127.7 million U.S. viewers across television and streaming platforms for Philadelphia's 40-22 victory over Kansas City.

The game was televised by Fox, Fox Deportes and Telemundo and streamed on Tubi as well as the NFL's digital platforms.

Not only is it a 3% increase from last year, it is the second straight year the Super Bowl has reached a record audience. The Chiefs' 25-22 overtime victory over San Francisco in 2024 averaged 123.7 million on CBS, Nickelodeon, Univision and streaming platforms.

According to Nielsen, the audience peaked at 137.7

million in the second quarter (8-8:15 p.m. EST).

Some of the increase can be attributed to a change in the way viewers are counted. This is the first year Nielsen is measuring out-of-home viewers for all states but Hawaii and Alaska.

It was previously the top 44 media markets, which covered 65% of the country.

The ratings also include Nielsen data from smart TVs along with cable and satellite set-top boxes.

After three straight years of Super Bowls that came down to the final minute, Sunday's game was decided in the first half as Philadelphia built a 24-0 lead.

See VIEWERS, Page B2

# U.S. Open and British Open put out the welcome mat for LIV Golf players

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The road tries, to be exact — and while the LIV. The Opens are offering one to Oakmont might have started in USGA put out a welcome mat, the spot at most, and the potential of no

part of the smallest field among majors.

"If we felt that there were a player or players — whether they played on the LIV tour or any other tour — who were deserving of an invitation to the Masters, we would exercise that discretion with regard to special invitations," he said.

Playing in the majors was a central question when LIV Golf launched in June 2022. It hasn't been an issue so far because at least a dozen LIV players have been in every major since then. Some were exempt from their performances in majors, others through qualifying.

How much longer will that last?

Patrick Reed's five-year exemption from winning the 2018 Masters has expired. He has missed out on the last two. Dustin Johnson is in his final year of exemptions for the PGA Championship and British Open.

## Viewers

Continued from Page B1

According to Tubi first party and Adobe Analytics, 14.5 million watched on streaming platforms, including 13.6 million on Tubi, where the game was available for free.

Telemundo and Fox Deportes averaged 1.87 million viewers for the Spanish-language broadcast. The Super Bowl has been televised in Spanish in the United States since 2014.

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime performance averaged 133.5 million — the most-watched Super Bowl halftime on record and a 3% increase from Usher's last year (129.3 million).

This Super Bowl also had Donald Trump and Taylor Swift in attendance.

Trump was the first sitting president to attend a Super Bowl, while

Woods played golf with Trump on Sunday.

The deal is mainly about the Public Investment Fund becoming a minority investor in PGA Tour Enterprises. The tour has been keeping the Justice Department apprised of the negotiations since last summer. And now Trump is involved.

"We are grateful that his leadership has brought us closer to a final deal, paving the way for reunification of men's professional golf," Monahan said.

Most telling was the use of "reunification." Most curious is how that gets solved, and whether two tours with top players can carry on the way they have the last three years.

But a partnership — first broached in June 2023 — would seem to be the first step toward eliminating the need to even keep track of which LIV players get into which majors.

Swift's romance with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce continues to keep the pop superstar's fans interested in the NFL.

It was the third straight year the Super Bowl averaged more than 100 million viewers on television after a period where four of the five games before 2023 had fallen short of that number because of cord-cutting. That included 95.2 million for the 2021 Super Bowl between Tampa Bay and Kansas City, which was the game's lowest TV-only average since 2007.

The NFL playoffs averaged 35.2 million viewers the first three weekends, down 9% from last year's record of 38.5 million.

That followed a regular season that averaged 17.5 million. While that was the sixth-highest average dating to 1995, it was a 2% decline from 2023.

## DIVISION II GIRLS DISTRICT BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — One local team and two individuals punched their tickets to the Ohio Division II Girls District Bowling Tournament in sectional action on Tuesday at St. Clair Lanes.

The district tournament will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at Legacy Lanes in Coshocton.

Barnesville grabbed the sixth — and final qualifying — spot with a team score of 2,892.

The team includes junior Payton Bell, senior Hayley Hoffer, sophomore Natalie Burkhardt, sophomore Megan Bishop, junior Bethany Byler and sophomore Heidi Moore.

Bell cracked the top 10 with a three-game series of 494, which included a 211 in her final game.

Individually, Buckeye Local's Olivia Takach placed seventh overall with a 505. The junior rolled games of 177, 146 and 182. Harrison Central senior Tylynn Smith finished 12th overall but had the fourth best score (481) of bowlers not on a top 6 team.

The boys Division II sectional tournament will be held today at Boulevard Lanes in Dover.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**OVAC WVU Medicine**  
**Basketball Championships**  
**Steubenville Catholic 63,**  
**Clay Battelle 52**  
**STEUBENVILLE** —

Top-seeded Catholic Central tallied the first nine points, and

the Blue-and-Gold extended their advantage to 16 points in the second quarter en route to a victory against the fourth-seeded Cee-Bees in an OVAC Class 2A Tournament semifinal Tuesday night inside the Mickey Barber Gymnasium.

With the win, Catholic Central will take on No. 2 seed Toronto in the tournament final at 4 p.m. down at the ECO Center in St. Clairsville.

Four players produced double figures in scoring for Catholic Central.

Individually, Benji Rook recorded a team-high 19 points, Timmy Mihalyo and Andrew Rohde each delivered 13 points and Tommy Pergi tallied 10 points.

Preston Luzader produced a game-high 23 points to lead the way for the visitors, while Cooper Payton collected 21.

**Game Rescheduled**

The Class 3A semifinal between No. 4 Martins Ferry and top-seeded Monroe Central was postponed Tuesday night and will be played tonight on Junior Winland Court in Woodsfield.

The winner will meet No. 2 Wheeling Central in Saturday's 6 p.m. championship game at the ECO Center.

**Consolation Bracket**  
**Bridgeport 63, Southern**  
**Local 56**

**BRIDGEPORT** — The Bulldogs outscored the visiting Indi-

ans 14-7 in the decisive fourth quarter Tuesday night on Frank Baxter Court inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

Avery Jackson scored five of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, with three coming from the foul line where the hosts went 6-for-8 in the quarter.

Coen Brinker fired in a team-best 22 points, which included four triples.

Bridgeport is still without leading scorer Jaleel Vincent who is sidelined with a wrist injury.

Braxton Sloane had a game-high 24 points for Southern Local.

**John Marshall 58, Indian**  
**Creek 45**

**MOUNDSVILLE** — Kayden Knapp led a trio of double figure scorers for the Monarchs with 14 points as they defeated the visiting Redskins inside the Monarch Field House.

Bryar Haught added 13 and Jackson Helms finished with 10.

Nickey Eddy led Indian Creek with 14. Mason Lester and Caleb Bodo evenly split 20.

**Buckeye Trail 58, Wheeling**  
**Park 47**

**OLD WASHINGTON** — The Patriots received double-figure scoring from Josh Huffman (13), Jay Bordas (11) and JD Williams (10) but it wasn't enough against the host Warriors.

Jace Hickman and Austin Hastings had 14 points each for Buckeye Trail.

## Union Local

Continued from Page B1

Wheeling Central got out to a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes of play, prompting a quick timeout from Union Local. The Knights would not be slowed, leading 22-9 at the end of the opening period.

The Jets meanwhile, struggled to score, particularly inside. Union Local had as many 3-point field goals as 2-point field goals in the first half — four of each. The Jets shot 21% from inside the arc in the first half, and trailed 38-21 at the half.

"It was a poor start on our part," Delman said. "It's hard to beat a team, almost impossible to beat a team of their caliber when you start that poorly. It wasn't like we were trying to start that poorly — they came out and made shots, we didn't do a very good job. You take the first quarter out of the equation, I thought we did a pretty good job. We got good looks for the most part from things we were trying to do."

Wheeling Central was able to get multiple on-ball steals at the top of the key, and always seemed to have multiple bodies contesting shots inside.

"Credit to them, I thought they did a good job of taking some things away and making things difficult," Delman said. "I thought their length and athleticism bothered us at times."

In the second half, Union Local got as close as nine points on two separate occasions in the fourth quarter, but no closer.

"We wanted to attack the rim, we just weren't always able to get to where we wanted to be," Delman said. "I thought we shot the ball okay in stretches but it wasn't enough when we were cutting into the lead to get the game where we wanted it. We got it down to eight or nine at one time and just couldn't make a shot to get within striking distance. Credit to them, they did a good job of doing what they needed to do to win the game."

Union Local's Bill Schumacher started the fourth quarter with a strong take to the rim to get the Jets

within nine, 52-43, and a Jets steal in the backcourt and score by Dre Saunders with 1:50 on the clock got the visitors to a 68-59 differential, but each time, the Maroon Knights were able to stave off a true comeback.

"We played a really good half defensively — on both ends, really," Stephens said. "Our goal is to try to put two halves together like that for a game. Saturday would be a great time to do that."

"We still did some of the things we wanted to do in the second half, but we had a few breakdowns a couple times, [Union Local was] able to take advantage of some things, and they made some tough shots in the second half. But when they made those runs, we were able to answer that pretty much every time."

The Maroon were held to their lowest scoring quarter in the third, with 14 points, as they weren't able to find a groove against Union Local's defense, which jacked up the pressure coming out of half-time. But Wheeling Central made 11 foul shots in the fourth quarter to keep the lead at arm's length.

"We kind of settled down a little bit," Stephens said of his team's fourth quarter. "We talk all year about understanding time and score — what is a good shot, what's not a good shot. Maybe something early in the game is a good shot, but when you're getting down the stretch and looking at time and score, maybe it's not a good shot."

"Give the guys credit, we were able to get to the foul line and make foul shots. The majority of those were Eli's but we had a couple other guys be able to step up there late and knock some down to keep that lead out there."

Schumacher led Union Local with 20 points while Saunders scored 18. Tyler Dean scored 12 for Wheeling Central, while Max Olejasz had nine points and 12 rebounds.

The Maroon Knights will play the winner of No. 1 Monroe Central vs. No. 4 Martins Ferry. That game is set for Wednesday night.

## St. C.

Continued from Page B1

"We didn't execute very well at either end of the court," St. Clairsville head coach Ryan Clifford admitted. "Especially on the defense end. We let their two really good players score most of their points. You're not going to win when you don't concentrate on the defensive end."

"We made some mistakes down the stretch that a veteran team can't afford to make," Clifford added.

Garrett Carpenter buried half of the Bobcats' 10 treys and finished with a team-best 17 points. He also took game honors with 10 rebounds. Gregg added 13 points and Barnett had a dozen.

"We shoot a lot of three's in practice," McCort said. "We put a big emphasis on getting shots up and it paid off tonight. So did our foul shooting."

Schafer paced the Red Devils with 26 points and five rebounds. Straub added 10 points and four boards.

St. Clairsville was guilty of

one more turnover at 11-10. Cambridge had one more rebound at 23-22.

With the hard-earned victory, Cambridge has now won seven straight and avenged a pair of regular-season losses to St. Clairsville, 63-52 on the road and 63-55 at home.

"This win means a lot to me personally," McCort admitted. "But I told the guys they were coming here to win a basketball game for you, this program and the community of Cambridge. They did that tonight."



**TOM BRADY**, right, arrives prior to the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, in New Orleans.

### Something Happening In Sports?

Tell Us in Our Virtual Newsroom at [TimesLeaderONLINE.com](https://www.timesleaderonline.com)

Thursday,  
February 6, 2025

## SPORTS

## Semifinal field set for OVAC boys basketball championship

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Four defending champions are among the field of teams that have qualified for the 2024-25 OVAC WVU Medicine Boys Basketball Championships, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 inside the ECO Center.

The tournament committee met Wednesday morning and established the semifinal pairings, along with the consolation bracket games.

The semifinals will be played on Tuesday at the higher seeds home court

Morgantown (Class 5A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A), Monroe Central

(Class 3A), Steubenville Catholic Christian (Class 1A) all received No. 1 seeds in their respective classes.

Morgantown, St. Clairsville and Monroe Central all claimed championships last year, with Monroe Central winning in Class 2A. Union Local, the No. 3 seed in Class 3A, also won a title last year.

The semifinal pairings follow:

## Class 5A

No. 1 Morgantown (12-1) hosts No. 4 Parkersburg South (7-5) and No. 2 Steubenville (14-2) welcomes No. 3 University (11-3) to the Crim-

son Center.

## Class 4A

No. 1 St. Clairsville (14-3) awaits No. 4 Cambridge (13-6) on John Jenkins Court, while No. 2 East Liverpool (14-5) entertains No. 3 Beaver Local (14-5) at the Potter Fieldhouse. Both matchups are repeat affairs.

## Class 3A

No. 1 Monroe Central (16-2) welcomes No. 4 Martins Ferry (9-8) to Junior Winland Court in Woodsfield for their third meeting this season. No. 2 Wheeling Central (12-2) hosts No. 3 Union Local (14-5) on Coach Skip Prosser Court in East Wheeling

in a rematch of last year's final.

## Class 2A

Top-seeded Steubenville Catholic (15-3) entertains No. 4 Clay-Battelle (9-4) at the Mickey Barber Gymnasium, while No. 2 Toronto (14-5) hosts Caldwell (15-3) inside George Kunzler Memorial Gymnasium.

## Class 1A

A new champion is assured as Cameron didn't qualify this year. Newcomer Heartland Christian (12-4) grabbed the top seed and will welcome No. 4 Wood County Christian (8-5) to Columbiana. No. 2 Frontier (9-6) awaits No. 3 Valley (8-5) in Beaverton.

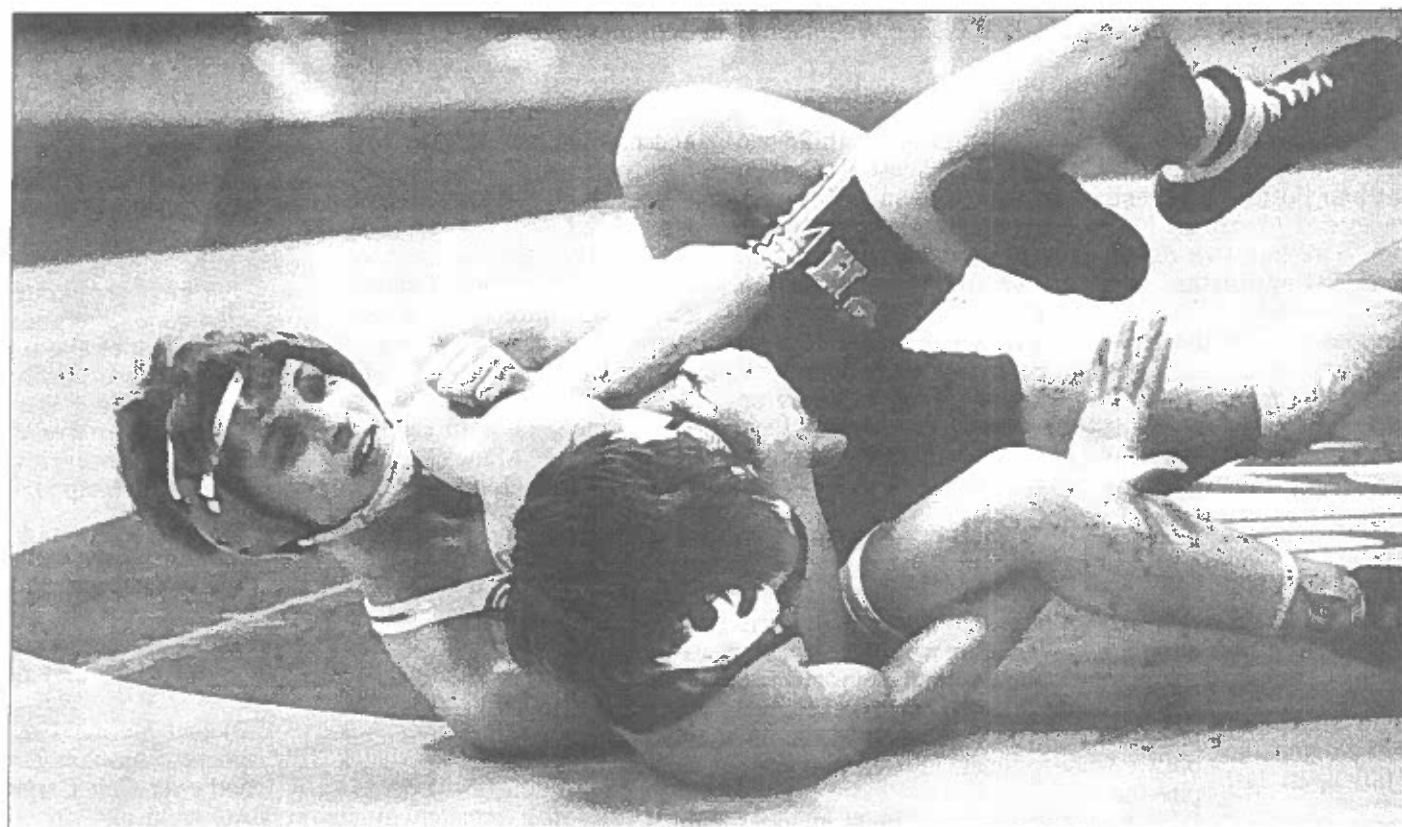


Photo by KIM NORTH

**BARNESVILLE'S AYDAN** Andrews works for back points against John Marshall's Clayton Pyles-Dugas at 120 pounds during their dual meet Wednesday inside Monarch Field House in Moundsville. Andrews won by 19-4 technical fall, but the Shamrocks fell, 37-36.

## John Marshall wins head-to-head meeting with visiting Barnesville

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — Two local wrestling teams prepared for their respective state dual meet tournaments this weekend with an exciting dual of their own Wednesday night.

Barnesville and John Marshall went head-to-head inside the Monarch Field House with the hosts prevailing by the slimmest of margins, 37-36.

The Shamrocks travel to

Marion Elgin High School north of Columbus Saturday for Ohio Division III action, while the Monarchs venture to the W.Va. State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg to take part in the W.Va. Class AAA event.

"We needed a good win like this to give us some momentum going into the state duals this weekend," John Marshall head coach Ryan Asbury said. "Barnesville always has a solid team. We've had a couple close matches (losses) with them in the last

couple years, so it was nice to finally come out on top."

Asbury and his staff made an adjustment in the latter stages of the dual that provided just enough points to win. Leading 31-20 entering the 175-pound bout, John Marshall bumped up senior Maverick Lemasters to 190 and sent Spencer South out to face Hines Ward. Ward won by a 15-0 technical fall to pull the Shamrocks to within 31-25.

Lemasters then recorded a 63-second pin to bump the

margin to 37-25, meaning Barnesville needed back-to-back pins at 215 and 285 to tie.

Christien Hannahs had his opponent on his back in the first and second periods, but couldn't seal the deal before earning a 15-0 technical fall, thus giving the Monarchs an unreachable 37-30. Barnesville's Blake Kirk took a mere 30 seconds to pin his foe for the final margin.

See BARNESVILLE,  
Page B2

## Shamrocks, Steubenville headed to state team dual tournaments

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

BARNESVILLE (D-III) AND Steubenville (D-II) will both be taking part in Saturday's Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association State Team Duals. It will be the fifth straight appearance for the Shamrocks, while Big Red will be making its second trip.

The Division II event is being held at Columbus Bishop Waterson High School, with the Division III tournament at Marion Elgin High School. Both start at



## Chiefs' quest for a three-peat faces its toughest challenge

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the Kansas City Chiefs are pursuing history and a few of Taylor Swift's records.

Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles stand in their way.

The Chiefs (17-2) will try to become the first team to win three straight Super Bowls when they face the Eagles (17-3) on Sunday in the Superdome.

It's a rematch from two years ago when Hurts nearly led the Eagles to a championship only to watch Mahomes snatch it away by rallying Kansas City to a 38-35 win on Harrison Butker's 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left.

Mahomes lifted the Chiefs to an overtime win against San Francisco in another Super Bowl rematch last year.

Now, they're poised for a three-peat, a word coach Andy Reid doesn't use much.

"I think the only time I've heard him say it is to the media whenever y'all ask him about it," Mahomes said. "He's very locked in on just, 'How can we be great with our cadence today at practice?' so that's just the stuff that Coach Reid focuses on."

Reid won more games than any coach in franchise history during his 14 seasons in Philadelphia but couldn't win the big one, going 1-4 in NFC championship games and losing a Super Bowl to the Patriots. He went right to Kansas City after the Eagles fired him following the 2012 season and has built a dynasty thanks to Mahomes, Kelce, Chris Jones and others.

"You don't have time to think about all that," Reid said of the three-peat. "You're focused in on the job at hand here and that's playing against a great Eagles team."

Jones, the three-time All-Pro defensive tackle, echoed his coach's viewpoint.

"We don't talk about no three-peat," Jones said. "I think that's what we're here for. We understand that. We understand there's one more game until the offseason and we can do whatever we want to do. Our main focus is making sure we're prepared for the Eagles."

No matter what the Chiefs say, everyone else is talking about it. No team has done it in the Super Bowl

## Four Defending Champions Among Field Of OVAC Boys Basketball Tournament Teams

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Four defending champions are among the field of teams that have qualified for the 2024-25 OVAC WVU Medicine Boys Basketball Championships, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 inside the ECO Center.

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Morgantown (Class 5A), St. Clairsville (Class 4A), Monroe Central (Class 3A), Steubenville Catholic (Class 2A) and newcomer Heartland Christian (Class 1A) all received No. 1 seeds in their respective classes.

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low:

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Clay-Battelle (9-4 at the Mickey Barber Gymnasium, while No. 2 Toronto (14-5) hosts Caldwell (15-3) inside George Kunzler Memorial Gymnasium.

### CLASS 1A

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## Wheeling Central Defeats St. Clairsville

Thursday, February 6, 2025

SPORTS

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### LOCAL SCHEDULE

(all events begin at 6 p.m. unless noted)  
Thursday, Feb. 6  
**BOWLING**  
Beaver Local at Weirton, 3:30 p.m.  
St. Clairsville vs. Union Local, 3:30 p.m.  
Monroe Central/Beallsville vs. Bridgeport, 3:30 p.m.  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Martins Ferry at Monroe Central

**WRESTLING**  
Beallsville and Caldwell at Frontier

### SPORTS ON TV

Thursday, Feb. 6  
**BASEBALL**  
10 p.m.  
MLBN - Caribbean Series: TBD, Third-Place Game, Mexico, Mexico

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
6 p.m.  
CBSN - NC A&T at Charleston

7 p.m.  
ESPN2 - Temple at South Florida  
ESPN - Marist at Fairfield  
FS1 - Maryland at Ohio St.

8 p.m.  
CBSN - Louisiana Tech at Liberty

9 p.m.  
ESPN2 - Saint Mary's (Cal) at San Francisco  
ESPN - Gardner-Webb at UNC-Asheville

11 p.m.  
ESPN2 - Washington St. at Oregon St.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
6 p.m.  
ACCN - Syracuse at Virginia Tech  
BTN - Rutgers at Indiana

6:30 p.m.  
ESPN - UConn at Tennessee

7 p.m.  
SECN - Alabama at Florida

8 p.m.  
ACCN - California at Louisville  
BTN - Iowa at Minnesota

**PEACOCK** - Michigan at Nebraska  
8:30 p.m.  
ESPN - Stanford at Notre Dame

9 p.m.  
FS1 - Maryland at Oregon  
SECN - Vanderbilt at Texas

**GOLF**  
4 a.m.  
GOLF - DP World Tour: The Qatar Masters, First Round, Doha Golf Club, Doha, Ad Dawhah, Qatar

8 a.m.  
GOLF - PGA Tour Champions: The Hassan II Golf Trophy, First Round, Royal Golf Dar Es Salam, Rabat, Morocco

10 a.m.  
FS2 - LIV Golf League Riyadh: First Round, Riyadh Golf Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

11 a.m.  
GOLF - LPGA Tour: The Cognizant Founders Cup, First Round, Bradenton Country Club, Bradenton, Fla.

4 p.m.  
GOLF - PGA Tour: The Waste Management Phoenix Open, First Round, TPC Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Ariz.

4 a.m. (Friday)

### BOYS OVAC

	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
Morg	12	1	13	848	65.23
Steub	14	2	16	920	57.50
Univ	11	3	14	730	52.14
PS	7	5	12	438	36.50
WP	4	9	13	306	23.54
JM	5	11	16	320	20.00
Brk	3	11	14	196	14.00
#War	17	2	19		
#Mar	13	3	16		
#Dov	9	9	18		

### CLASS 4A

	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
StC	14	3	17	1052	61.88
EL	14	5	19	996	52.42
Beal	14	5	19	966	50.84
Camb	13	6	19	946	49.79
IC	7	11	18	464	25.78
HC	5	13	18	342	19.00
Weir	4	11	15	270	18.00
OG	5	12	17	296	17.41
BucL	3	16	19	186	9.79
Ed	3	15	18	156	8.67

### CLASS 3A

	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
MC	16	2	18	1032	57.33
WC	12	2	14	710	50.71
UL	14	5	19	960	50.53
MF	9	8	17	630	37.06
BT	12	6	18	538	29.89
Bell	9	10	19	558	29.37
Shen	7	12	19	392	20.63
Barn	6	13	19	328	17.26
FF	6	12	18	308	17.11
#Col	16	2	18	836	46.44
#Unit	3	13	16	106	6.63
#Lin	5	10	15		

### CLASS 2A

	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
SCC	15	3	18	836	46.44
Tor	14	5	19	856	45.06
Cald	15	3	18	802	44.56
CB	9	4	13	352	27.08
Mag	7	8	15	350	23.33
Wells	7	11	18	386	21.44
Bpt	7	11	18	372	20.67
SL	8	10	18	372	20.67
Riv	7	10	17	340	20.00
Shad	2	15	17	120	7.06
#VC	15	2	17	794	46.71
#Lis	9	8	17	416	24.47
#EP	8	9	17	332	19.53

### CLASS 1A

	W	L	TG	CP	AVE
HC	12	4	16	630	39.38
Fron	9	6	15	392	26.13
Vall	8	5	13	320	24.62
WCC	8	5	13	266	20.46
Mad	6	8	14	278	19.86
CV	7	10	17	292	17.18
Cam	3	6	9	118	13.11
Hund	4	8	12	130	10.83
PC	3	11	14	92	6.57
TC	1	10	11	66	6.00
Beall	1	16	17	36	2.12
#Lee	4	14	18	140	7.78

#Not Participating in OVAC Tournament

### GIRLS OVAC

Thursday, February 6

Trinity Christian at Magnolia  
Paden City at Hundred  
Conotton Valley at St. Clairsville  
Wood County Christian at Valley  
Shadyside at Wellsville  
Bridgeport at Clay Battelle  
Caldwell at Buckeye Local  
Martins Ferry at Barnesville  
Linsly at Buckeye Trail  
Cambridge at Parkersburg  
South  
Monroe Central at Warren  
John Marshall at Shenandoah  
Weir at East Liverpool  
Brooke at Beaver Local  
**Third-Place Games**  
Class 1A: No. 4 Madonna at No. 3 Heartland Christian  
Class 2A: No. 4 Toronto at No. 3 Southern

### W.VA. GIRLS POLL

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Associated Press high school girls basketball poll as of Tuesday, Feb. 4, with first-place votes in parentheses total points and previous ranking:

#### Class AAAA

1.Morgantown (6) (11-2)78	1
2.Spring Valley (2) (12-2)74	2
3.University (9-5)	56
4.Parkersburg (12-3)	51
5.Whg Park (11-6)	42
6.Hurricane (13-2)	36
7.St. Albans (9-3)	34
8.Washington (9-2)	28
9.Musselman (10-4)	15
10.G Washington (9-6)	13

Others receiving votes:  
Parkersburg South 7, Martinsburg 4, Cabell Midland 1, John Marshall 1.

#### Class AAA

1.Greenbrier E. (6) (16-0)78	1
2.Nitro (1) (10-3)	68
3.Grafton (1) (13-0)	67
4.Wayne (11-4)	55
5.East Fairmont (13-4)	49
6.Sissonville (12-2)	42
7.Keyser (12-3)	29
8.Lewis County (7-6)	20
9.Elkins (8-5)	13
10.Hampshire (8-6)	10

Others receiving votes:  
Princeton 8, Pikeview 1.

#### Class AA

1.St. Marys (1) (13-2)	70
2.Whg Central (6) (13-2)	68
3.Williamstown (12-4)	65
4.J Monroe (1) (13-1)	60
5.Charleston Cath (10-3)	44
6.Wyoming East (9-4)	41
7.Logan (10-5)	30
8.Ritchie City (10-4)	25
9.Summers City (9-5)	13
10.Doddridge City (10-4)	12

Others receiving votes:  
Buffalo 5, Roane County 5, Ravenswood 2.

#### Class A

1.Gilmer City (8) (13-2)	80
2.Tucker City (10-2)	72
3.Tug Valley (16-2)	64
4.Cameron (8-3)	55
5.Tygarts Valley (9-4)	49
6.Pendleton City (8-4)	34
7.Greenbrier West (5-4)	32
8.Pocahontas City (8-4)	25
9.Wahama (9-3)	13
10.River View (8-7)	12

Others receiving votes: Notre Dame 3, Webster County 1.

### W.VA. BOYS POLL

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Associated Press high school boys basketball poll as of Tuesday, Feb. 4, with first-place votes in parentheses total points and previous ranking:

#### Class AAAA

1.Morgantown (5) (11-1)86	2
2.Spring Mills (2) (13-1)	81
3.G Washington (2) (13-0)76	3
4.Martinsburg (8-3)	60
5.Spring Valley (12-1)	55
6.South Charleston (9-3)	40
7.University (11-2)	33
8.Woodrow Wilson (9-3)	30
9.Washington (9-3)	19
10.Parkersburg S. (7-5)	11

Others receiving votes: Huntington 3, Hedgesville 1.

#### Class AAA

1.Shady Spring (8) (9-1)88	1
2.Bridgeport (1) (11-1)	81
3.Nitro (9-3)	74
4.Herbert Hoover (10-1)63	4
5.Fairmont Senior (8-2)	54
6.Ripley (10-3)	40
7.Wayne (9-3)	36
8.Chapmanville (7-5)	29
9.Cornettsville (7-5)	13



Photo by Kim North

Linsly's Brock Kuttie, middle row center, signed his NCAA National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to play football at the University of Findlay. He is flanked by his father, Chad, and mother, Carrie. In the back, from left, are his grandmother, Carol Laposki, his younger brother, Zack Kuttie, and his grandfather, Jerry Laposki.

## Linsly's Brock Kuttie Signs To Play Football At University of Findlay

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Linsly's Brock Kuttie will continue his academic and football careers at Division II University of Findlay. The Oilers are members of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

"It's a great opportunity for me. I'm super pumped," Kuttie said after signing his NCAA National Letter of Intent surrounded by family, classmates and friends Wednesday during ceremonies in the lobby of Banes Hall on the Linsly campus. "I can't wait to get there and start working with the guys. It's just a matter of time now."

The 6-5, 270-pound Kuttie, who will play offensive line for the Oilers, started every game his junior and senior seasons for the Cadets.

He said he had other offers from Mercyhurst University and West Virginia University.

"Findlay just fit. The head coach and the offensive coordinator were great to me and I loved that," Kuttie added. "I'm ready to go."

Other members of the G-MAC are Hillsdale College, Kentucky Wesley-

an, Lake Erie, Ashland, Thomas More, Cedarville, Ohio Dominican, Malone, Walsh, Northwood and Tiffin.

The Oilers will open the 2025 season at home on Saturday, Sept. 6 when the University of Indianapolis visits James C. Donnell Stadium.

"It's always an exciting day to see these guys take their next step in their football journey," Linsly head football coach and athletic director B.J. Depew said. "Brock has had an outstanding career here at Linsly."

Depew called Kuttie a Linsly 'lifer.'

"He's been with us since he was in the fifth grade. I was teaching fifth grade math at the time, so I've seen him grow from that first day here," Depew noted. "He's a great young man and Findlay is getting a good one."

"Absolutely a great fit for him," Depew added. "I think the selling point for him was the head coach and his commitment to offensive line play. The recruiter did an absolutely great job. Brock loved his visit and the place. I think he made the right decision."

Kuttie resides in Wheeling with his parents, Jerry and Carrie Kuttie, and younger brother, Zack.

## Crosby Being Evaluated For Upper-Body Injury

C R A N B E R R Y TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is being evaluated for an upper-body injury.

Crosby did not practice on Wednesday, less

than 24 hours after he got caught between a pair of New Jersey Devils in the third period of what became a 3-2 shootout loss.

The Penguins superstar missed several shifts

in the third period after colliding with New Jersey's Luke Hughes and Erik Haula. Crosby skated to the bench favoring his left arm/hand but returned after being examined in the locker room.