

Friday,
September 19, 2025

Wheeling Central captures OVAC Class 3A Golf Championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The course conditions weren't the best but a youthful Wheeling Central team made the most of them Thursday in defending its OVAC Class 3A championship.

The Maroon Knights, with four freshmen and one sophomore in the lineup, shot a four-player score of 298 to slip past Barnesville, which finished the 18 holes on the sun-baked Crispin Golf Club layout inside Oglebay Park with 300.

See CHAMPIONSHIP, Page B4



EARNING ALL-OVAC

honors during the Class 3A Tournament Thursday on the sun-baked Crispin Golf Club layout inside Oglebay Park were, from left, Fort Frye's Chatum Coursen; Barnesville's Hayden Treadway; Barnesville's Brady Gallagher; Wheeling Central's Rowen Parker and Wheeling Central's Conner Ball.

Photo by KIM NORTH

Crosby stays committed to the Penguins during a rebuild

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — Sidney Crosby's early days in the NHL, when every Pittsburgh Penguins training camp felt like a proving ground, are never far from his mind, particularly this time of year.

The early days have been gone for a while now. Yet there the Penguins' captain is, a month removed



• Championship — • Coordinators

Continued from Page B1

The title was the 21st overall for Wheeling Central, which is second most to St. Clairsville's 29. It was also head coach Jim Mortakis's ninth crown.

"It wasn't totally unexpected because these boys have been playing golf for a couple of years now," the veteran Maroon Knights head coach said of the title. "I knew they could play, but when you get into a big tournament like this you never know how they are going to play because they are still young.

"I was really pleased with the way we played. The course is in horrible condition," Mortakis added. "There were some good scores, but there were also some bad scores. It's unfortunate."

Mortakis praised the play of his No. 1 and No. 2 players — Rowen Parker and Conner Ball — who shot 70 and 72, respectively, and made all-OVAC, along with his No. 5 player — Dylan Blatt — who shot 75.

"All of those kids played really well," he noted. "It was a good team effort."

Joining Parker and Ball on the five-member all-OVAC squad were Fort Frye's Chatum Coursen and the Barnesville duo of Hayden Treadway and Brady Gallagher. Coursen earned medalist honors with a fine round of 65, while Treadway was medalist runnerup at 67. Gallagher shot 70.

Martins Ferry finished third in the team race with a 311. The Purple Riders were followed by Columbiana (314) and Fort Frye (321) to round out the top 5.

Continued from Page B1

That was still head coach Ryan Day's duty two years ago, and Chip Kelly handled it last season en route to a national title before leaving to become the offensive coordinator for the Las Vegas Raiders.

"I think that every chance you're in that situation or you get an opportunity to call a game, there's an opportunity to learn and grow," Hartline said. "And frankly, I do it daily with coach Day, but to be out there doing it live, there's nothing like those kind of reps."

The Buckeyes (3-0) maintained a conservative game plan for new starting quarterback Julian Sayin in a 14-7 win over then-No. 1 Texas to open the season before opening it up the last two weeks in comfortable wins over Grambling State and Ohio.

With no game this weekend, Hartline and crew and crew have an opportunity to look more closely about what has worked and

• Kershaw

Continued from Page B1

His 2.54 ERA is the lowest of any pitcher in the live-ball era since 1920, and his winning percentage tops all pitchers with at least 200 victories since 1900.

Kershaw's decision was not unexpected. He has struggled with injuries in recent years and began this season on the IL while recovering from offseason surgery. He didn't pitch until May, but proved to be a stalwart when the rotation was hard-hit by injuries.

In 2024, Kershaw was forced to end his season in August because of a toe injury that limited him to seven starts and just 30 innings with a 2-2 record and a 4.50 ERA, all career lows.

Kershaw is one of three active pitchers with 3,000 strikeouts, along with former teammate Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander. Kershaw could be the last pitcher for a while to reach the milestone — often considered a surefire ticket for Hall of Fame enshrinement. Kershaw would be eligible for Cooperstown in 2031.

He missed the entire postseason, including the Dodgers' World Series win over the New York Yankees. That spurred him to return this year for what many had speculated would be his final season.

As great as he's been during the regular season, he's endured his share of heartache in October. He has a 4.22 ERA in the postseason.

what hasn't.

"Let's do a good job of being then come out of the bye ready have," Hartline said.

While Hartline has been backtricia just arrived so he has ha know the players on the roster.

So far, the long-time New Enmer head coach for the Detroit.

"These guys have been unbe room," said Patricia, who last in 2003. "And I think I've said to be around these guys. There walk into the meeting room, t notes. They want to learn what want to learn about the opponer joy of, like, they are young kids

• Crosby

Continued from Page B1

"I have a friend ... they'll often say that shortcuts cut long runs short," Dubas said, who later added, "we can't alter the course that we're on."

And Crosby remains a vital part of that course, though there have been more than a few bends in the road since Dubas took over in the summer of 2023, the latest being the decision to move on from Sullivan after nearly 10 years and a pair of titles.

Enter Muse, a former NCAA Division III grinder whose ability to develop young talent helped him land his first head coaching job. Now the 43-year-old finds himself overseeing a team that's a mixture of franchise icons like Crosby, Malkin and Kris Letang and relative newcomers, some of whom weren't even in elementary school when the trio first shared the ice nearly two decades ago.

It can be a tricky balancing act, though Dubas reiterated his belief

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Spirit & Pride

Linsley Cadets and

relationship but it is clear they admire each other's work.

They sat together at last year's Big Ten spring meetings, crisscross one another's recruiting paths and have built budding powers in the Big Ten, Bielema at No. 9 Illinois and Cignetti at No. 19 Indiana. Both have 3-0 marks this season and top 20 teams heading into one of Saturday's featured games.

"There's very few plays where they have mental breakdowns," Bielema said of Cignetti's teams. "We always say more games are lost that won because of penalties, mental errors, turnovers — and they just don't do those things. I think one of the tells is special teams. You can have a group that has a really good offensive unit, defensive unit, but when special teams fall in line with that, that's something that kind of goes ding, ding, ding."

It hasn't been easy reaching this point for either team.

Last year, Cignetti broke the Hoosiers' losing legacy with the school's first College Football Playoff appearance. Illinois has followed a similar trek up the polls.

Please see **COACHES**, Page 13

pened in the past, and then you quickly have to move on to the game ahead.

You can look at stats, box scores and watch some highlights, but you don't get the nitty-gritty details that a full-time beat writer would. So, we reached out to the Kansas football beat writer for the Lawrence Journal-World to get the finer details on the Jayhawks before their match-up with WVU.

Here is what beat writer Henry Greenstein had to say about Kansas.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The Kansas football team features something almost unthinkable in modern college football: a sixth-year senior quarter-



WVU tight end Grayson Barnes (right) runs with during last weekend's game against Pitt.

back who has spent his entire career with one team. It's been a tumultuous few seasons for Jalon Daniels, whose memorable 20 campaign got disrupted a shoulder injury before missed nearly all of 20



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling made it back-to-back OVAC Class 3A golf championships Thursday on the sun-baked Crispin Golf Club layout inside Oglebay Park. The Maroon Knights shot a four-player total of 298, which was two shots better than Barnesville. From left, are assistant coach J.B. Burge, Rowen Parker, Conner Ball, Zack Zende, Isaac Tiu, Dylan Blatt and head coach Jim Mortakis.

Wheeling Central Goes Back-To-Back, Wins OVAC Class 3A Golf Championship For 21st Title

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - The course conditions weren't the best but a youthful Wheeling Central team made the most of them Thursday in defending its OVAC Class 3A championship.

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Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 12

Wheeling Park Back On Claim OVAC 5A Golf Cha



The Wheeling Park Patriots, winners of the OVAC day at Spiedel Golf Club's Jones Course. The P backer, Will Koegler, Owen Abraham, Quinn Mar the gold for Wheeling Park. Their head coach after this season.

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING - While one team walked away with the trophy Thursday at Spiedel Golf Club's Jones Course, Wheeling Park head coach Don Headley had a different notion of the 'winner' after the OVAC 5A Golf Championship wrapped up.

"The Jones course is always the winner up here," Headley said. "It doesn't

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WVU tight end Grayson Barnes (right) runs with the ball following a reception during last weekend's game against Pitt.

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Wheeling Park Back On Top As Patriots Claim OVAC 5A Golf Championship



Photo by Nick Henthorn

The Wheeling Park Patriots, winners of the OVAC 5A Golf Tournament on Thurs-
day at Spiedel Golf Club's Jones Course. The Patriots' team of Andrew Penny-
backer, Will Koegler, Owen Abraham, Quinn Marsh and Seth Weidner took home
the gold for Wheeling Park. Their head coach is Don Headley, who is retiring
after this season.

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"The Jones course is always the win-
ner up here," Headley said. "It doesn't

matter who plays it or how you play
it, the Jones course wins every time.
You just try to survive it, shoot the
best number that you can, and hold on
in the last four holes - because we call
the last four holes up here, 'Amen Cor-
ner. It's hard to get through them and
it's hard to put good numbers on the
board.

Please see PATRIOTS, Page 12

ent company, Texas indicate Group LLC. The Syndicate is bigger a football. It's about lding opportunities, ting the hustle, and wing the world what as talent can do." Vorkman brings 23 rs of military service l an MBA in Project magement to the role, nbining logistical cision with a commu-y-driven mission. In lition to leading the otball organization, he launching the Texas ndicate Foundation, nonprofit focused on ilete mental health, illness, and commu-y development. The

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and his team bring professional-ism, purpose, and a relentless drive that aligns perfectly with the CoFL's vision. Central Texas just became a lot more interesting."

General Manager Ned Herrington will lead

interest from standout athletes across Texas high school and college programs.

Coaching hires will be announced in the coming weeks. Community engagement is built into the team's operat-

time events that embed the team deeply into the Central Texas fabric.

"We don't just play in Central Texas. We play for Central Texas," said Workman.

The Syndicate's join the Ohio Valley Iron-

the United States.

Each team will carry a 40-man roster, provide direct pathways for overlooked talent, and deliver affordable, high-quality football to regions beyond the NFL's reach.

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 11)

"You know, we entered Amen Corner with a big, big lead and we end up winning by two. That's just how tough it is, it's really a tough trek. And for as dry as it's been this summer, the Oglebay crew has done a fantastic job making this place playable."

Indeed, Wheeling Park survived and were crowned OVAC 5A champs Thursday, putting together a team score of 329 to barely peek out ahead of University's 331.

The gold was Wheeling Park's first championship since 2022. The Patriots had won five of the six OVAC 5A championships between 2022 and 2017.

Leading the way for the first-place Patriots was Andrew Pennybacker, who shot a 76, evenly playing the front nine and back nine with 38's in each. Headley said that his standout senior wanted to perform well in his last OVAC competition.

"He's been working really hard," Headley said. "This is his last go-round, and he was trying to be the medalist today. You know, he came up a wee little bit short. He's been on a grind lately to play this place really well. We played up in Canton on Monday and he played well up there, and it's just been a grind and he's put his mental fortitude toward this to make sure that he has a good remainder of the season. He's not letting himself down, he's not letting his teammates down. He's cashing in on opportunities and he's making this happen by his willpower."

Pennybacker was joined by Will Koegler (80), Seth Weidner (85), and Owen Abraham (88) to make their team total.

Headley said he was retiring after this season, and after Thursday, his players had him going out on top as far as conference competition is concerned.

"This is quite a surprise," Headley said. "We haven't been playing great. We've been playing okay. And we knew that today was our day. We prepared for this. We



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Pictured is the OVAC 5A All-Tournament team. From left, they are Christopher Elliott, Drew Marling, Andrew Pennybacker (runner-up), and Cam Fallon (medalist). Not pictured is Morgantown's Brody Williams.

wanted to have a good showing, whether we won or lost. We wanted to do well today and have the best team win. This was my last go-round, I'm going to retire after this year. So, it's pretty cool."

Medalist from the OVAC 5A tournament was Parkersburg South's Cam Fallon, who played the tough Jones course to Par at a 71.

"Cam is a wonderful kid," Headley said of Parkersburg South's senior. "He's been around for all four years. I know him like I know my own kids. I root for him and he's just a wonderful kid, as are all the kids that went out there today. We have a pretty cool big school environment that we're in, we all root on each other's kids."

"We all want all the kids to do well. We have great relationships between all eight of us. And we just love playing against each other, and the best team comes out on top, and we congratulate them, and we try to get better and beat them if they beat us. But, what a wonderful

conference to be in and a wonderful first-class bunch of schools and coaches that take care of that."

After first-place Park and second-place University, John Marshall came in third place with a 337. Drew Marling led the Monarchs at a 79. There was a tie for fourth place between Steubenville and Morgantown, with Steubenville's Christopher Elliott carding a 79.

Parkersburg South finished in sixth, Warren finished in seventh, and Brooke finished in eighth with a 407. Dustin Engle's 94 was tops among the Bruins.

Making the OVAC 5A All-Tournament team was Fallon, Pennybacker, Marling, Elliott and Morgantown's Brody Williams.

Wheeling Park now looks on to regional play, where for the first time the Patriots will have to travel to Martinsburg under the WVS-SAC's new regional system, the first weekend of October, with states to being shortly after back at Oglebay.

marks a strategic expansion into the Greater Austin area, anchoring the league's presence in one of the most football-obsessed regions in the country. The Texas Syndicate will represent the Pflugerville and Round Rock corridor of Central Texas.

Founded by U.S. military veteran and entrepreneur Quincy Workman, the Texas Syndicate is not just a new team but a deliberate move to create a pipeline for postcollegiate athletes in Texas

and a relentless drive that aligns perfectly with the CoFL's vision. Central Texas just became a lot more interesting."

General Manager Ned Herrington will lead into the team's operation. Workman brings 23 years of military service and an MBA in Project Management to the role, combining logistical precision with a community-driven mission. In addition to leading the football organization, he is launching the Texas Syndicate Foundation, a nonprofit focused on athlete mental health, wellness, and community development. The

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

"I knew they could play, but when you get into a big tournament like this you never know how they are going to play because they are still young. I was really pleased with the way we played. The course is in horrible condition," Mortakis added. "There were some good scores, but there were also some bad scores. It's unfortunate."

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history right out of the

4-0) head coach Blake
day night's matchup as
be Park to meet Monroe

coach Jonathan Calder

len said. "Take a pause,
all that stuff, this week
roe Central. It doesn't
one up to this point."
til we start competing
1 of a rivalry. For a long
d the game seemed like
year. We are working to

NG, Page 13

s Underdog red Him For n Offense



Photo by Benjamin Powell
against Robert Morris.

RIPCHIK lligencer

a quarterback Nicco Mar-
mmediate pressure in his
a high-arching ball to the
running back Clay Ash
ing up the chains, setting
d in the comeback in the

wn drive, Ash caught an-
, making a third and long
he next play, Marchiol hit
34 yards over the middle

gulation, Ash rushed five
yards and had two catches.

DOG, Page 12

Daugherty said during an
interview Wednesday in-
side Wheeling Island Sta-
dium.

"We come off a big win
at Spring Mills, they were
number one or two in the
state, then we come back
and we lose one here, and
we made enough mistakes
that we didn't deserve to
win. So, we've seen that
we can play good football,
but we also have seen that
we can play bad football if
we don't execute and elim-
inate mental mistakes."

After losing against
Musselman last week to
move to 2-1 on the year,
Wheeling Park, ranked
No. 4 in the latest WVS-
SAC Class AAAA foot-
ball ratings, remains at
home this Friday to face
undefeated University,
themselves tied for the top
spot in the WVSSAC's
rankings.

"The upside to football
is now you're on to a new
opponent and a new week.
University is 3-0 and
they provide a challenge
for us," Daugherty said.



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Brennan Wack runs through a tackler last week at home against Musselman. Wack will look to continue his torrid senior season against rival University on Friday.

"They're very different
from what we dealt with
last week."

After facing ground-
bound Musselman, who
rushed more than 40 times
last week, University will
be a sharp turn for the Pa-
triot's defense, who will
now have to shift to sup-
pressing a pass-centric of-

fense.

Last week vs. Buck-
hannon-Upshur, Univer-
sity quarterback Harrison
Helbig led the Hawks
with 250 passing yards
and three touchdowns on
16-of-21 passing. Talen-
ted receivers like Hayden
George (six catches, 115
yards, one touchdown) and

Kyle Weaver (three catch-
es, 52 yards, two touch-
downs) had big days as the
Hawks rolled to a 62-12
victory. Against Mussel-
man, Wheeling Park only
had to defend 10 passes all
game.

Please see **DIFFERENT**,
Page 12

Red Devils' Baker Wins Third Annual OVAC Girls Golf Crown

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - A record field
of 108 golfers took to the sun-
scorched 18-hole Crispin Golf
Club layout inside Oglebay Park
on Wednesday morning, but it was
the same names at the top of the
leaderboard nearly eight hours later.

St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker
won for the second time in the
three-year existence of the event.
She won the inaugural tournament
in 2023 and placed second last
year, losing by one shot.

"Losing like I did last year really
motivated me to practice harder
than I've ever worked. Thankfully,
it worked out for me today," Baker
said.

The Red Devils senior carded
rounds of 33 and 36 on the front
and back nine, respectively, for a
2-under-par 69 to win by six shots
over Fort Frye's Kohen Coursen,
who finished fifth last season.
Morgantown's Angela Yao, last
year's winner, was third at 77.
University's Abby Kingora was
fourth at 79, followed by Barnes-



Photo by Kim North

Earning all-OVAC honors during Wednesday's third annual conference
tournament at the sun-scorched Crispin Golf Club were, from left, St.
Clairsville's Olivia Baker; Fort Frye's Kohen Coursen; University's Abby
Kingora; Barnesville's Kennedy Little and John Marshall's Kianna Gar-
rison. Not pictured is Morgantown's Angela Yao.

ville's Kennedy Little and John Marshall's Kianna Garrison who
both shot 80.

Baker credits a lot of her success

to playing with a really good St.
Clairsville boys day-in and day-
out.

Please see **BAKER**, Page 12

2011, and the hold a slight edge in the all-time head-to-head record, 9-7.

"I think it's a friendly rival," Daugherty said. "You know, we have mutual respect for each other. We were friends with John Kelley, their former head coach, long, long-time head coach. And we became friends with Eric."

"We're good friends with Jeff Bailey, their athletic director. We've always had a really good relationship with University. But, they've beaten us and we've beaten them, and it's a good, healthy high school rivalry, in my opinion. It's what it should be. Both schools and both teams and both coaching staffs understand this is always a big game for Wheeling Park and this is a big game for University. It's always a fun match-up."

Since their 2020 match-up, the two teams have traded wins, neither scoring consecutive victories. Wheeling Park won last year's game, 35-22 on the road.

This year, senior Brennan Wack, who took home the Curt Warner Award as

addition to scoring 10 touchdowns after breaking the plane 31 times on the ground as a junior.

"Well, I thought he was bigger and faster and stronger," Daugherty said of Wack. "And usually that works to having an even better year. My worry was — everyone's going to start with using their defense to stop Brennan. And they have, for the most part. And so, we've made some plays in the air, but Brennan has made a lot of plays with his feet already. There's no doubt about it that we're going to give Brennan the ball."

"We got to do a better job offensively of protecting our running game with different plays, however we decide, and kind of protect that. And I think we're evolving right now. But Brennan's had a, I don't want to jinx him, he's had a great first half. We're not quite at the halfway mark, but I don't know if you could have a better three game-start than what he's done in three games."

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

BAKER

(Continued from Page 11)

"Playing with the boys has really taught me a lot, especially how to manage the courses and shoot better scores," she explained.

"She camps on the course. She had to have a lot of grit today and she defines grit," St. Clairsville coach Heidi Mooney said. "When she plays against the boys, she holds her own."

It also helps that her father, Ron, is the head professional at Belmont Hills Country Club.

"He has helped me so much from telling me how to hit different shots,

to getting me whatever equipment I need and pushing me to work harder and harder every day."

In addition to winning, Baker said the funnest part of golf is meeting new friends. She is still undecided where she will play golf collegiately.

Fort Frye won its second team title in three years, topping last year's winner - Morgantown - by nine shots, 343-352. Columbiana (354) was third, with Marietta (355) and Wheeling Park (375) rounding out the top five.

for another coach.

"I wasted all my time coaching this guy, getting him ready, and then he's getting a paycheck to go somewhere else," Rodriguez said back in March.

Rodriguez wasn't the only Big 12 coach who didn't like the two

much," Rodriguez said. "Most of the coaches would say it's just a crazy time."

Rodriguez said most coaches agreed with the proposal, but not all. The Big Ten coaches don't like the position of the portal play window. Jan. 2 would open the any

LIBERTY

(Continued from Page 11)

"We played very hard," Depew said. "We felt like that game was a real toss up, but they made more plays than we did down the stretch. We made our fair share of mistakes, so we feel that it was a game we could've won. It was a kick in the pants for us and opened our eyes in a lot of ways that will strengthen our resolve a little bit."

Linsly debuted with a 32-7 defeat at the hands of Westinghouse High from Pittsburgh, which

is currently 4-0, before blanking Brooke (42-0) on the road.

"Every team has certain areas they really work on and Linsly is no different," Saccoccia added. "They protect their quarterback pretty well and the quarterback is a pretty good player. They also emphasize taking away the run on defense, and we like to run the ball, and they are well-prepared and well-coached."

Linsly quarterback Braden Wade has completed

47 of 86 passes for 5 yards, two touchdowns and five interceptions. has a trio of top targets Chris Upton (14-12), Lucca Troullos (13-1) and Justin Heckman (196-yd). George Makos is the leading receiver with 18 carries for 67 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

First-year Steelville quarterback Sar Haney has passed for 100 yards and three touchdowns on 39 of 61 attempts. He also has a pair of interceptions.

UNDERDOG

(Continued from Page 11)

Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi compared Ash to former Arizona State do-it-all and current New York Giants running back Cam Skattebo.

"He's a pretty good running back, for sure," Ash said on the comparison.

Ash wasn't as efficient as Tye Edwards running the ball, but he's carved out a crucial role in the passing game. Ash had four catches for 32 yards, including that big 15-yard pickup during the comeback. He said his catching ability came from when he played slot receiver in high school.

"Coach Rod tries to use all of his players to the best of their ability to put them in the best situations," Ash said. "He might put me out there a little bit to catch the ball, and I'm comfortable catching the ball."

Ash didn't have a normal path to become a prominent piece of the offense and one of the two running back options in Rich Rodriguez's offense. Ash started playing in Virginia, where he

grew up, and then headed down to IMG Academy, which is a premier prep school for all sports, but especially football. It's one of the nicest high schools and is a school for the best high school athletes in the country.

Being able to attend IMG, Ash received a boost of confidence.

"Just kind of getting a college feel," Ash said. "How they operate is very college-level, and obviously, the competition is great down in Florida."

Most of the athletes there are expected to receive offers from Power Four schools and to be professional athletes down the road. Ash wasn't highly recruited, though. The only school that really contacted him throughout the whole high school process was WVU, but for a walk-on offer.

Even with all the high-level talent on the roster, Ash didn't feel like he was overshadowed, leading him to receive no offers.

"I'm not really sure that had to do with me being overlooked, necessarily," Ash said. "They have



Photo by KIM NORTH

EARNING ALL-OVAC honors during Wednesday's third annual conference tournament at the sun-scorched Crispin Golf Club were, from left, St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker; Fort Frye's Kohen Coursen; University's Abby Kingora; Barnesville's Kennedy Little and John Marshall's Kianna Garrison. Not pictured is Morgantown's Angela Yao.

St. Clairsville's Baker wins third annual OVAC girls golf crown

• Fort Frye captures second team championship in 3 years

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — A record field of 108 golfers took to the sun-scorched 18-hole Crispin Golf Club layout inside Oglebay Park on Wednesday morning, but it was the same names at the top of the leaderboard nearly eight hours later.

St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker won for the second time in the three-year existence of the event. She won

the inaugural tournament in 2023 and placed second last year, losing by one shot.

"Losing like I did last year really motivated me to practice harder than I've ever worked. Thankfully, it worked out for me today," Baker said.

The Red Devils senior carded rounds of 33 and 36 on the front and back nine, respectively, for a 2-under-par 69 to win by six shots over Fort Frye's Kohen Coursen, who finished fifth last season. Morgantown's Angela Yao, last year's winner, was third at 77. University's Abby Kingora was fourth at 79, followed by Barnesville's Ken-

nedy Little and John Marshall's Kianna Garrison who both shot 80.

Baker credits a lot of her success to playing with a really good St. Clairsville boys day-in and day-out.

"Playing with the boys has really taught me a lot, especially how to manage the courses and shoot better scores," she explained.

"She camps on the course. She had to have a lot of grit today and she defines grit," St. Clairsville coach Heidi Mooney said. "When she plays against the boys, she holds her own."

It also helps that her father, Ron, is the head profession-

al at Belmont Hills Country Club.

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Wheeling Nailers unveil new alternate jersey

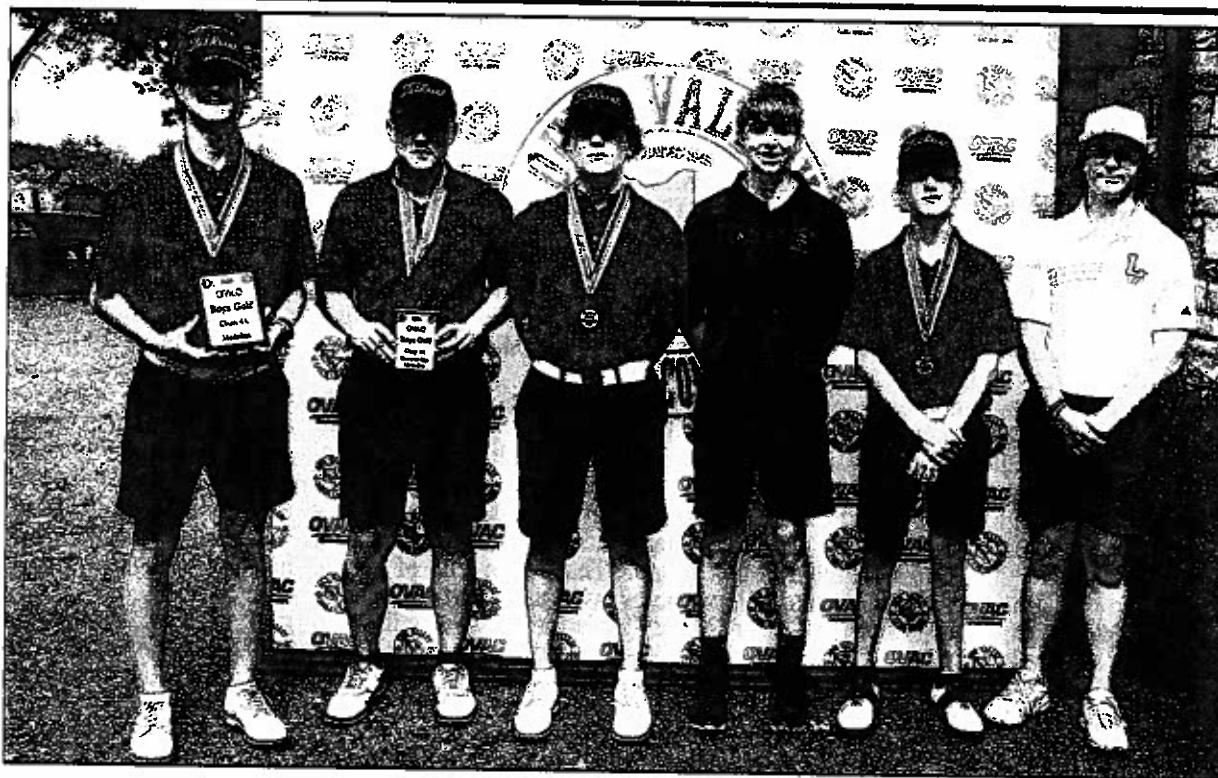


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Earning all-OVAC In Class 4A were, from left, St. Clairsville's Mavrik Malin; St. Clairsville's Mason Conway; St. Clairsville's Beau Mooney; Edison's Xander Haught; St. Clairsville's Ryan Mooney and Linsly's Chase Bacchus.

Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville Rolls To Their 5th Straight OVAC 4A Golf Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Despite significant losses to graduation, the St. Clairsville boys' golf team continues to win.

Tuesday on the sun-soaked Robert Trent Jones-designed course at the Spedel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park, the Red Devils captured their fifth consecutive OVAC Class 4A by a whopping 24 shots over second-place Union Local. St. Clairsville finished with a four-player total of 318.

So dominant were the Red Devils that all four of their scoring players made all-OVAC.

Leading the field of 60 golfers was junior Mavrik Malin who blistered the par-71 course with a 74. He shot 35 on the front 9 and 39 on the back 9. He was also the medalist at last week's OVGL Tournament.

Malin has been near the top the past two years, finishing as runnerup in 2023 and third last year.

"In the past I lost to my teammates but they all graduated, so it was my turn to step up," Malin, who also plays soccer, said.

Please see OVAC, Page 10



Making the all-OVAC Class 1A/2A team were, from left, Caldwell's Cameron Sidwell; River's Kaden Hunt; Shadyside's Bradon O'Grady and Caldwell's Jake Laswell. Not pictured is Conotton Valley's Garrett Reiter.

Photo by Kim North

WVU Shal Hangover To Prepar



WVU receiver Rodney taineers celebrate aft Pittsburgh.

By SPEI
For TI

West Virginia's win of the young season the rest of this year, or Backyard Brawl renew

Rich Rodriguez had of his friends from Ariz there from 2012-17, e gars with them until m "We all realized, 'D told Pat McAfee on E: a.m."

The only thing that v plebee's in Morgantow "Thankfully, the ch said. "We kind of barg at 12 o'clock and had :

Fans were celebratin the tailgate lot a couple there were a couple of an all time high, and ti overs on Sunday morn

However, there's stil starts Big 12 play agai Mountaineers are alrea

Rodriguez has a 24-l the Ohio loss, too. Th hours to reflect on wh flushed and time to loo

"We have 24 hours correct, make correcti moving on," tight end

Please s

Linsly's Yendell Helps Cadets Win In Second Half vs

he people who are piest with the availability of sports events are ones who use multiple forms, according to the about 6 in 10 of U.S. Its who report using ca- and streaming services they are "somewhat" "very" satisfied with availability of sports nts they want to watch, pared with just over who use only sports aming services and and 3 in 10 who just e cable.

ohn So, 45, was a rel-

watch the local NBA and MLB franchises.

"I would say I'm content. I wouldn't say I'm happy (with the availability of sports)," So said. "Even though I'm not an avid watcher of regular-season games, it's sort of a feed-back loop. The lack of availability of local games makes me not an avid watcher. The fact I need to pay an extra \$15 or \$16 a month for the local sports network package is a dis-

likely to be cord-cutters, the AP-NORC poll found. People who follow sports "extremely" or "very" closely are especially likely to say they use cable or satellite TV, with about 6 in 10 saying they use traditional TV options, like cable and satellite. Approximately 40% of people who follow sports "somewhat" closely say the same, as did roughly one-third of people who don't follow sports closely.

a specific show or season. That's also true of people who use sports streaming platforms. According to the poll, about two-thirds of people who currently use sports streaming platforms have subscribed to a streaming service for a specific show or season, compared with about one-third of people who don't use these platforms.

Randy Alvarez, 35, said he can get some of what he wants to watch on You-

is broadcast nationally.

Sometimes, that means he's out of luck. The four-time NBA champion Warriors, at least, have games on TNT and ABC, Alvarez said. The Raiders? Well, not so much.

Alvarez isn't alone in his approach. Nearly half of sports fans say they've shared a password or had a password shared with them, compared with 30% of people who follow sports "not very" or "not at all" closely.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

"On the front I was making a lot of putts and I hit a lot of greens in regulation. I was even (par) through 14 (holes), but I bogeyed three of the last four."

Finishing five shots behind Malin was teammate Mason Conway, while the Mooney brothers - Beau and Ryan - carded 82 and 83, respectively.

"It was even sweeter that we won as a team," Malin added. "It's nice to have three teammates right behind you, so if I mess up, they are there."

First-year St. Clairsville head coach Heidi Mooney

continued to praise the team on their efforts.

"They earned it. They are dedicated and determined," he offered. "Like I've said before, they spend a ton of time on the (golf) course. Mavrik made the turn at 1-under and the rest of them were in good shape at that point."

"They all played well, and they are still young," she added. "Mavrik is a junior and the rest are sophomores."

The Jets were paced by Lincoln Smith with an 84, but Bam Porter and Liam Roe were both close behind at 85. Landen

Hanasky finished with an 88.

Joining the St. Clairsville quartet on the all-OVAC squad were Ed-ison's Xander Haught and Linsly's Chase Bacchus, who tied with Ryan Mooney at 83.

CALDWELL SECURES CLASS 1A /2A CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE SPEIDEL GOLF CLUB, the Redskins shot a team score of 308, which easily outdistanced second-place Shadyside by 26 strokes. The two also finished 1-2 at the recent MOVL Championships.

Caldwell sophomore Cameron Sidwell earned medalist honors with a 66. Conotton Valley's Garrett Reiter was second at 75.

The Tigers were led by Brandon O'Grady with a 78.

In addition to Sidwell, Reiter and O'Grady, also making the all-OVAC team was River's Kaden Hunt who fired a 77.

The OVAC girls take center stage on Wednesday at the sun-baked Crispin Golf Course layout. The Class 3A and Class 5A boys' events are set for Thursday at Crispin and Speidel, respectively.

PITT

(Continued from Page 9)

Sunday, WVU has a walk-through to correct the mistakes from the previous game, Monday is an off day, and then Tuesday and Wednesday are big practice days.

The team was still excited over the win during the walkthrough, so Barnes said Rodriguez made sure the team geared up for Big 12 play this week.

"Coach Rod said to the team, 'we're entering conference play, we got to buckle it up, dial it up, get back to running things how we know how to run them,' Barnes said. "Just kind of running our place and doing our thing, and just making sure we focus more on ex-

ecution."

Tuesday and Wednesday's practices will be the most crucial. Rodriguez said he can tell right away if the team is still thinking about the Pitt win. He will bring them right back down to earth if that's the case.

"I don't mind yelling anyway," Rodriguez said. "I'll be into today's practice, in their grill a little bit. If I need to, it doesn't bother me at all."

The practice structure won't change, though. It doesn't matter the outcome of each game. Rodriguez said after Pitt, the week of practice was the same as the

week leading up to Ohio. Nothing changed.

"Our practice doesn't change," Rodriguez said. "We're going to practice the same way, with the same type of, I hope, focus and intensity."

Kansas is a good team, and in some cases, better than Pitt. Kansas went toe-to-toe with Missouri its last time out, and the Tigers are now ranked No. 23 in the AP Poll. It'll be another tough game.

Shaking the hangover and getting ready for the Jayhawks is the focus this week.

"This will be the challenge," Rodriguez said.

OFFENSE

(Continued from Page 9)

But it'll all take some getting used to for the Jayhawks, whose own offense is 100th in pace this season as it runs a play every 28.5 seconds. The con-

ing to come back to having a sense of urgency to get lined up, get the call, process, but more importantly communicate to one another that we're all on the

ning their best facsimile of WVU's attack. (They won't be 100% accurate in doing so because they don't have a lefty quarterback to simulate the

a little bit to make sure."

When it comes to Saturday, KU's defense can attempt to compel WVU to slow itself down.

"I think once you kind of

ot of chances just moving the ball forward with passes. The biggest thing I saw was just a lack of concentration, making bad passes and moving the ball forward. St. Clairsville is without last year's leading receiver, Ashlynn Lednik, the season, and senior Adall Sall also sat out Tuesday's contest. Linsly is now primed for a rivalry match at home against Wheeling Central on Thursday. St. Clairsville will try to rebound at home against Liverpool on Thurs-

sburgh's starting running back. The Steelers (1-1) will try to regroup on the road next week at New England (1-1) with a defense that has been hit hard by injuries. Rookie defensive man Derrick Harmon expected to miss his third straight game with a sprained knee. Safety Shon Elliott is likely to miss a second consecutive test with his own knee injury and outside linebacker Alex Highsmith is with an ankle injury. Here's a chance cornerback Joey Porter Jr. could return from sitting out against Tennessee. Darius Slay, a wide receiver and linebacker Nick Queen (oblique)



ST. CLAIRSVILLE won its fifth consecutive OVAC Class 4A golf championship Tuesday at the Robert Trent Jones-designed Speidel Golf inside Oglebay Park. The Red Devils shot a four-player total of 318. The Red Devils are, from left, Mason Conway; Beau Mooney; Ethan Kingery; Ryan Mooney and head coach Heidi Mooney.

Photos by KIM NORTH

St. Clairsville rolls to 5th straight OVAC 4A golf title

• Caldwell tops OVAC class 1A/2A field

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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24 shots over second-place Union Local. St. Clairsville finished with a four-player total of 318.

So dominant were the Red Devils that all four of their scoring players made all-OVAC.

See GOLF, Page B2



TOP RIGHT: Earning all-OVAC in Class 4A were, from left, St. Clairsville's Mavrik Malin; St. Clairsville's Mason Conway; St. Clairsville's Beau Mooney; Edison's Xander Haught; St. Clairsville's Ryan Mooney and Linsly's Chase Bacchus. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Making the all-OVAC Class 1A/2A team were, from left, Caldwell's Cameron Sidwell; River's Kaden Hunt; Shadyside's Bradon O'Grady and Caldwell's Jake Laswell. Not pictured is Conotton Valley's Garrett Reiter.

gan the year with lofty expectations has struggled. Pittsburgh is 29th in yards allowed and 10th in sacks through 10 games. "We've got to be better," Tomlin said. "We have to strategize better. We've got a play book. We got to divide the labor up a little better. Some of that's been challenging with some of the rotation, but that's what we're paid to do and I'm excited about addressing his week."

Then, with the score tied 2-2 at the half, it was Yendell who unknotted things in the 54th minute, racing her way behind the Red Devil defense, as she did constantly Tuesday, and finishing in close. "[Linsly] played really well," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "They have a ton of speed that ended up making us pay." The scoring was rapid in the game's early minutes, with four goals in the first 12 minutes of play. After Morgan and Yendell exchanged scores, Linsly took a 2-1 lead in the 11th minute after senior Claire Carson managed to intercept a pass in St. C. territory and launch a 15-yard shot that arced perfectly to barely float over the outstretched hand of Red Devil keeper Kiya Kyer and sneak through the upper corner of the goal posts. Less than a minute later, Elizabeth Morgan put

we had a game yesterday, but I'm super proud of the effort. Every single person that stepped on that field gave it their all, and that was probably one of the best games we've played so far. "We played pretty well in the first half," Stoner said. "I felt like we were missing everything in the second half. We stopped our game, unfortunately missing a couple girls that are injured, but that's not the excuse. [...] We missed a lot of chances just moving the ball forward with bad passes. The biggest thing I saw was just a lack of concentration, making good passes and moving the ball forward." St. Clairsville is without last year's leading scorer, Ashlynn Lednik, for the season, and senior Kendall Sall also sat out of Tuesday's contest. Linsly is now primed for a rivalry match at home against Wheeling Central on Thursday. St. Clairsville will try to rebound at home against East Liverpool on Thursday.

• Golf

Continued from Page B1

Leading the field of 60 golfers was junior Mavrik Malin who blistered the par-71 course with a 74. He shot 35 on the front 9 and 39 on the back 9. He was also the medalist at last week's OVGL Tournament.

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"In the past I lost to my teammates but they all graduated, so it was my turn to step up," Malin, who also plays soccer, said. "On the front I was making a lot of putts and I hit a lot of greens in regulation. I was even (par) through 14 (holes), but I bogeyed three of the last four."

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• Guardians

Continued from Page B1

The Guardians' first four batters in the 10th had extra-base hits off Will Vest (6-4), when Kwan doubled, Mart nez tripled, Jose Ramirez and Kyle Manzardo doubled. Ga-

briel Arias added a one-out RBI single for a 7-3 lead.

Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run homer in bottom of the 10th off Jakub Junis.

C.J. Kayfus hit an RBI single in the second and Gleyber Torres tied the

game in the third with his 16th home run. Arias' homer put Cleveland back ahead in the fourth and Bo Naylor's RBI double in the sixth built a 3-1 lead.

Dillon Dingler drove in a run with a grounder in the bottom half, beating a throw to first to avoid an inning-ending double play.

Key moment
Cleveland had not had

2/3 innings, the shortest start of his career outside of a brief two-inning stint at Yankee Stadium last fall in an appearance that was mostly ceremonial at the end of his breakout rookie season.

The last-place Pirates have dropped 10 of 11.

Key moment

Busch's 385-foot shot on the game's fourth pitch was a sign of things to come. Pete Crow-Armstrong singled home Ian Happ later in the first, just the second and third runs Skenes has allowed in the opening inning all season.

Key stat

Skenes has 209 strikeouts, one short of Mitch Keller's single-season record for most by a right-handed pitcher in the franchise's 137-year history.

Up next

The NL Central rivals meet for the final time this season Wednesday when Chicago's Matthew Boyd (13-8, 3.05 ERA) starts against Johan Oviedo (2-0, 2.81).

and Carl Mosies the Cubs ton (11- ie of the e Pirates 24-year- 92 ERA ninth for some the Year and ough the ork Mets id 1985. at PNC step at a gave up ee walks d after 3

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