

Mid Mon Valley Hall of Fame announces 23rd class

By BILL HUGHES
For the Herald-Standard

The induction class for the 23rd annual Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame has been announced, and it will be honored on Friday, June 17.

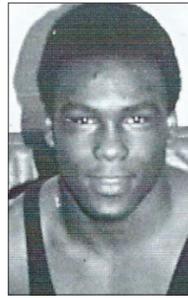
The ceremony will once again be held at the Willow Room in Rostraver Township, and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

"This class is filled with people from the Mon Valley who put a mark on sports," Hall of Fame General Chairman Steve Russell said. "It is exciting to add them into our folklore."

Eight new members will be inducted, bringing the total number of inductees to 236.

The Class of 2016 consists of John Ballein, Keith Bassi, Bobby Burns, Jim Edwards, Dr. Joseph Fedorchik, Ken Kulak, Brigadier General Dave Papak, and the late Wilbert Otto "Barney" Wolfe.

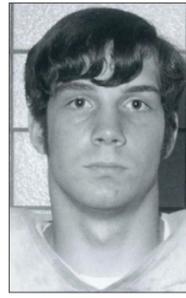
Ballein graduated from Bentworth High School in 1979 and made a name for himself in football, baseball, and wrestling before becoming a standout linebacker at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Jim Edwards



Bobby Burns



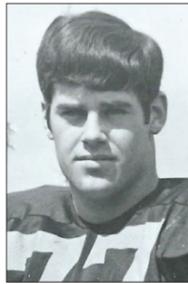
Keith Bassi



John Ballein



Wilbert Otto Wolfe



Dave Papak



Ken Kulak



Joseph Fedorchik

He began his coaching career, which led to multiple head coaching stints, as a graduate assistant in 1987

on Frank Beamer's first Virginia Tech staff.

He is still employed by the university and is currently the

Associate Athletic Director for football operations.

A 1974 graduate from Ringgold High School, Bassi was a starting fullback in the same backfield that saw Joe Montana under center and also received the school's top academic athlete award.

Bassi moved on to Yale, where he helped the Bulldogs win two Ivy League titles and was selected as Most Valuable Player in 1977.

Burns was a 1957 graduate of Monessen High School and earned nine letters, three each in football, basketball, and in track before becoming an NAIA All-American in 1962.

He started his 17-year college football coaching career in 1964 at Michigan State and had stops at Holy Cross, Colgate, Cincinnati University, Boston University, and Boston College.

Burns spent the remainder of his career with the BLESTO scouting combine along with doing work for the Patriots, Browns, and Redskins.

MON HALL, Page B3

In the hunt

Mustangs earn key win at Belle Vernon

By ROB BURCHIANTI
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ROSTRAVER TWP. — Laurel Highlands built a big lead, then watched Belle Vernon whittle it down in the second half of their Section 4-AAA boys basketball game on Tuesday night.

But, unlike the first time the two teams met when the Leopards stormed back to win on LH's floor, the Mustangs staved off the Leopards in their rematch to earn a key 68-59 victory.

Bryce Laskey hit three 3-pointers in pouring in a game-high 22 points and Jake Swartz added 20 as Laurel Highlands (12-9, 7-6) remained one game ahead of Uniontown as the two battle for the fourth and final WPIAL playoff spot in the section.

The Red Raiders and Mustangs meet at LH on Friday.

"We needed this win badly," LH coach Rick Hauger said.

Laurel Highlands had a 13-point lead over Belle Vernon (7-13, 4-9) after Laskey hit three free throws when he was fouled attempting a 3-pointer with 3:45 left in the third period.

The Leopards closed the frame with an 11-2 run, capped by 3-pointers by Tommy Rodriguez and Griffin Lacarte, with the latter shot banking in with three seconds left, to make it 52-48.

Lacarte then hit a trey at the start of the fourth period to pull Belle Vernon within one.



JOEL BREWTON

Laurel Highlands' Hudson Novak (24) goes in for the layup against Belle Vernon's Brennan Morgan (0) during Tuesday's Section 4-AAA game at Belle Vernon Area High School.

LH-BVA, Page B3

Cal Trojans hope to shock the world

Frazier hosts Charleroi in top girls game

By MIKE CIAROCHI
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California hopes to shock the world Friday night, while bringing boys basketball coach Bruno Pappasergi a bit closer to his good friend in coaching wins.

And, that's only on the boys side. The Trojans host Monessen in the Herald-Standard boys basketball Game of the Week. California was 13-5 overall going into Tuesday night's non-section matchup at Waynesburg Central.



The Trojans will be 10-1 heading into Friday's home game against the top team in Section 3-A and all of Class A in the WPIAL, if not the state. The Greyhounds are 17-3 overall and were 10-0 prior to last night's section game at Mapletown (0-10, 0-18).

GOTW, Page B4

Centennial Chevrolet Scholar/Athlete Spotlight

Luke Hess, Basketball

Beth-Center High School

By MIKE CIAROCHI
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Luke Hess sees great things ahead for him and his Beth-Center boys basketball teammates.

Of course, off the court, Hess also sees great things in his future as well. He is a 4.0 student and plans to study mechanical engineering at Penn State.

Hess is Beth-Center's winter sports male selection in the Centennial Chevrolet Scholar/Athlete Spotlight program. A son of Scott and Kathy Hess, of Beallsville, Luke has three younger siblings: sisters Hannah, who is a junior at BC, and eighth-grader Sarah. His brother Levi is in seventh grade.

The Bulldogs were tied with Frazier for the fourth and final playoff berth out of Section 4-AA, heading into Tuesday night's game at Brownsville. B-C will qualify for the playoffs if it can stay tied to leap ahead of Frazier.

"I like the new basketball coach a lot," Hess said, referring to Greg Golembiewski. "He is very disciplined and his practices are very structured. Everything is going good. I like banging for rebounds. At least I try to get a lot of rebounds."



Q&A

College plans: The Pennsylvania State University to study mechanical engineering.

Favorite subject, teacher: Calculus, Mr. Rice.

Twitter, Facebook or text messaging: Text messaging.

Most memorable sports moment: Defeating Frazier at home during my sophomore year.

Favorite food: Bacon cheeseburger.

Least favorite cafeteria food: I always pack.

Most recent book read, excluding textbooks: 1945.

All-time favorite movie: Christmas Vacation.

On my iPod: Mostly '80s songs.

Most admired professional athlete: Grayson Allen (Only in college, but destined to be a pro basketball player).

Greatest influence on you as an athlete: My father.

In 10 years, I will be: A mechanical engineer ... and successful.

If I were President of the United States for one day, I would: See that all veterans and soldiers are well taken care of.

HESS, Page B2

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Red Raiders keep playoff hopes alive

Upset Steel Valley, 79-77

BY THE HERALD-STANDARD

Tuesday's game against section-leading Steel Valley was simple for the Uniontown Red Raiders.

Win and have a chance to play Laurel Highlands for a Section 4-AAA playoff spot, or lose and look back at a season gone by.

Well, the Red Raiders came through with the upset, defeating the Ironmen, 79-77, for a final shot at the playoffs against rival Laurel Highlands.

"This was a huge win for us," said Uniontown coach Rob Kezmarsky. "It's great to win your last home game."

The Red Raiders improve to 6-7 in the section and 8-10 overall, while the Ironmen are now 10-3 and 14-4. The Mustangs are 7-6 in the section, so a Uniontown win Friday pulls the Red Raiders into a tie for fourth place.

Steel Valley led early, 20-17, but Uniontown rallied into the lead at halftime, 37-33. The Red Raiders extended their lead to 52-44 after three quarters and were up by 11 with a couple minutes to play, but ...

"They went on a tear in the last two minutes," explained Kezmarsky.

The Red Raiders could have put the game away in the fourth quarter, but shot 15-of-25 from the foul line in the final eight minutes.

But, Lorenzo Oden hit the clutch free throw to secure the 79-77 win.

"I'm so happy for Phillip (Mosley) and Ben (Wilson)," said Kezmarsky. "I want Phillip and Ben to enjoy this, all the seniors."

"I have to give our team credit."

Then, Kezmarsky responded with a rhetorical question.

"If you would've asked me at the beginning of the season if you win your last game of the season to get into the playoffs, would you take it?," said Kezmarsky, not needing to answer his query.

Mosley scored a game-high 29 points. Oden added 22. Wilson (13) and Mike Jones (10) were also in double figures for the Red Raiders.

Ja'Mier Fletcher scored



JOHN F. BROTHERS | Herald-Standard

Uniontown's Lorenzo Oden (3) leaps toward the basket during Thursday's Section 4-AAA game against Steel Valley at Uniontown Area High School.

27 for the Ironmen. Kennedy Smith finished with 23 and Amonte Strothers added 10.

Penn-Trafford 71, Albert Gallatin 44 — Penn-Trafford led 17-8 after the first quarter Tuesday night and cruised from that point for a 71-44 Section 1-AAAA road victory at Albert Gallatin.

The Warriors improve to 9-2 in the section and 14-4 overall, while the Colonials slide to 1-10 in the section and 7-12 overall.

Albert Gallatin closes section competition Friday against Connellsville. David Knox scored 15 for Albert Gallatin and Tanner Kutek added 12.

Monessen 101, Mapletown 25 — Monessen held a 46-0 lead after the first quarter Tuesday night as the Greyhounds coasted to a 101-25 victory in Section 3-A action against visiting Mapletown.

The Greyhounds (11-0, 20-3) led 78-7 at halftime.

Lavalle Rush led Monessen with a game-high 23 points. Dwight Moore (14), Jaden Altmore (13), Jaron Youngblood (11), and Justice Rice (11) were also in double figures.

Cody Dice led the Maples (0-11, 0-19) with 11 points.

Brownsville 75, Beth-Center 53 — Brownsville outscored Beth-Center in each quarter Tuesday night as the Falcons kept rolling

along in Section 4-AA with a 75-53 victory against the visiting Bulldogs.

Brownsville improves to 11-0 in the section and 17-4 overall. Beth-Center is now 4-7 in the section and 7-9 overall.

Noah Brown led the way for the Falcons with 26 points and 10 rebounds. Tryvon Brown scored 17 and James Holcomb added 13.

Luke Hess and Brennan Stanley shared scoring honors for Beth-Center with 14 points apiece. Brady McDonnell added 11.

West Mifflin 75, Ringgold 62 — Ringgold led after the first quarter Tuesday night, but visiting West Mifflin scored at least 20 points in each of the final three quarters to rally for a 75-62 win in Section 4-AAA action.

The Titans (8-5, 11-7) scored 22, 20 and 20 points in the final 24 minutes for the 13-point win.

Karlynn Garner led West Mifflin with 25 points. Ken Rouse-Strothers finished with 23 and Josh Long added 11.

George Martin scored 23 points for the Rams (3-9, 7-10). Dakota Browning finished with 14 and Anthony Pampera added 10.

Avella 59, Geibel Catholic 47 — Avella moved into the lead at halftime and visiting Geibel Catholic was unable to rally in the second half Tuesday night

as the Eagles came away with a 59-47 Section 3-A victory.

Geibel (3-14) closes the section with a record of 2-10. Avella improves to 5-6 in the section and 9-12 overall.

The Eagles led 27-22 at halftime and 42-34 after three quarters.

Kyle Toth scored 15 points for the Gators.

Cody Dobbin finished with a game-high 16 points for the Eagles. Austin Lis added 14.

Frazier 60, Carmichaels 55 — Frazier outscored Carmichaels in every quarter Tuesday night for a 60-55 Section 4-AA road victory.

The Commodores (5-6, 10-9) led 13-12, 27-22 and 45-36 at the quarter breaks.

Bradley Poling led Frazier with 18 points. Josh Cox and Caleb Cox both scored 13, and Damon Lovis added 12.

Liam Shea scored a game-high 19 points for the Mikes (2-9, 9-11). Blake Conard added 12.

Yough 46, Mount Pleasant 30 — Yough rallied from an early 12-8 deficit to defeat visiting Mount Pleasant, 46-30, in Section 3-AAA boys basketball action on Tuesday night.

The victory keeps the Cougars (16-4, 10-1) tied atop the standings with Indian, which won at Greensburg Salem.

Yough out-scored the Vikings (6-13, 5-6) 15-5 in the second period to take a 23-17 halftime lead. The Cougars led 35-27 after three and pulled away in the final frame.

Girls Basketball

Frazier 70, Carmichaels 41 — The Frazier girls remained in contention for at least a share of the Section 4-AA title Tuesday night with a 70-41 victory at Carmichaels.

The Lady Commodores (8-2, 11-7) finish out the season at home against Charleroi (8-2) tonight and Washington (10-1) on Thursday.

The Lady Mikes slip to 1-10 in the section and 4-16 overall.

Frazier scored over 20 points in both the second and fourth quarters for a 43-23 scoring advantage. The Lady Commodores also controlled the odd quarters with a 27-18 advantage.

Brooke Poling scored

a game-high 27 points to lead Frazier. Jovanna Isaac added 14.

Megan Walker led the Lady Mikes with nine points.

Monessen 48, Mapletown 41 — Monessen pulled away in the second quarter and then held off a second-half rally by visiting Mapletown for a 48-41 Section 3-A home victory, its first of the season.

The game was tied at 11 after the first quarter, but the Lady Greyhounds pulled away for a 28-15 halftime lead. The Lady Maples held a slight 26-20 advantage in the final 16 minutes.

Lashaundra Gillaspie scored a game-high 24 points for Monessen (1-12, 3-17).

Abby Antill led the Lady Maples (2-10, 4-15) with 16 points. Kayla Smith had a double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Madison Kuis pulled down 13 rebounds.

Swimming

Baldwin (girls) 95, Uniontown 83; Baldwin (boys) 88, Uniontown 74 — The Uniontown swim team had a rough road trip to Baldwin up Route 51 Tuesday night with the boys losing 88-74 and the girls dropping a 95-83 non-section decision.

Rylee Levander, Alexandra Meadows, Elizabeth Klingensmith and Rachel VanNosdeln won the 200 medley relay in 2:06.81. Valerie Grimes, VanNosdeln, Levander and Klingensmith finished first in the 400 freestyle relay.

Klingensmith (100 butterfly, 1:01.67), Molly Rabon (100 breaststroke, 1:27.81), and Levander (100 backstroke, 1:10.81) won individual events.

Jonathan Sharp had a strong meet for the Red Raiders, winning the 50 freestyle (23.04) and 100 breaststroke (1:10.06).

The Red Raiders' Evan Klatt, Bailey Kalivoda, Riley Gilleland and Sharp won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:43.32.

Jonathan DesVarro won the diving with 103.85 points.

Canon-McMillan (girls) 94, Laurel Highlands 86; Laurel Highlands (boys) 94, Canon-McMillan 84 — The Laurel Highlands swim team took a break from Section 1-AAA action Tuesday night, with the visiting Canon-McMillan girls winning, 94-86, and

the Mustangs earning a 94-84 victory.

The Fillies' 200 medley relay team of Gwyneth Hamilton, Kristen Bane, Miranda Yauger and Rachel Roscoe won in 2:00.12.

Bane (200 IM, 2:20.33), Roscoe (50 freestyle, 26.46; 100 freestyle, 58.33), Hamilton (100 butterfly, 1:05.73), Lexi Kostelnik (500 freestyle, 5:19.68),

All but Roscoe's first-place finishes were in WPIAL qualifying times.

The Mustangs' 200 medley relay quartet of Cameron Lizza, Brandon Thomas, Cole Dorobish and Logan Knoyer finished first in 1:46.44. Thomas, Jonathan Lewis, Jacob Johnson and Luke Edmonds won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:34.51. The 400 freestyle relay of Knoyer, Edmonds, Lewis and Dorobish won in 3:36.18.

Lizza (200 IM, 2:16.17), John Ek (diving, 229.65), Thomas (100 butterfly, 53.96; 100 breaststroke, 1:06.63), Lewis (500 freestyle, 5:18.42), and Knoyer (100 backstroke, 57.57) all had individual first-place finishes. All of the Mustangs' winning times qualified for the WPIAL meet.

Also hitting the WPIAL qualifying times were the boys 200 medley relay (Johnson, Jamey Siebart, Logan Kordich, Jonathan Arnold), Kostelnik (200 freestyle), Edmonds (200 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Knoyer (50 freestyle), Johnson (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Dylan Rice (diving), Hunter Sloboda (diving), Dorobish (100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke), Hamilton (100 backstroke), Lizza (100 backstroke), Bane (100 breaststroke), and Siebart (100 breaststroke).

Rifle

Waynesburg Central 797-59x, McGuffey 793-62x — The Section 1 match at the Waynesburg Sportsman's Club was tight Tuesday afternoon, but Waynesburg Central prevailed against visiting McGuffey, 797-59x-793-62x.

Camryn Dugan and Emily Ozohonish led the way for the Raiders with a score of 100-8x. Selena Phillips (100-7x), Dylan Crockard (100-6x), Cameron McIe (100-6x), Cameron Cernuska (99-9x), Emilee Tuttle (99-9x), and Dylan Henkins (99-6x) also counted in the final score for Waynesburg.

LH-BVA

Continued from B1

Asked if he started thinking about his previous meeting with the Leopards at that point, Hauger said, "I don't know if that crossed my mind or not, but if it didn't it probably should've."

There was no panic in Hauger or the Mustangs, however.

"They made a couple shots that I think were kind of fortunate," Hauger said. "I just thought that if we extended our defense a little bit more, got our hands up on the 3-point shooters, we'd be alright. We had a little bit of a size advantage so I wasn't worried if they wanted to go down in there."

Laurel Highlands' answered with consecutive baskets by Chayton

Burchick and a lay-up by Swartz to push the gap up to seven and Belle Vernon never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

Burchick and Hudson Novak each scored 11 points for the Mustangs.

Rodriguez and Lacarte led Belle Vernon with 12 points apiece and Noah Bukowski chipped in with 10.

Leopards coach Kyle DeGregorio was happy

with his players' physical effort but thought they could've played better mentally.

"I've got a bunch of tough kids," Leps coach Kyle DeGregorio said. "They work hard. They're not going to give up. Unfortunately, as hard as we worked, they weren't very productive. They didn't allow me to coach them hard tonight. We've got to get better at

that. You do what you're told, you do it well and you do it hard, and you do it with a high level of concentration."

Belle Vernon jumped out to an 11-2 lead in the first period. An early time out by Hauger seemed to settle the Mustangs down and they responded with an 11-2 run of their own to tie it at 13-13.

Laurel Highlands dominated the second frame,

out-scoring the Leopards 25-13 to take a 38-26 halftime lead. Laskey and Swartz combined for 18 points in the quarter.

Belle Vernon outscored LH 22-14 in the third to get back into the game but couldn't never overtake the Mustangs.

"You never know when you get down to the end of the season," Hauger said. "It's a grind. But I thought our guys responded well."

MON HALL

Continued from B1

■ A 1982 graduate of Charleroi High School, Edwards made a name for himself on the football field, as well as the wrestling mat as he won a WPIAL wrestling title his senior year.

Edwards earned a football scholarship at Indiana State and was a three-year starter for the Sycamores.

■ Fedorchik was a 1966 graduate of Bellmar High School where he won two WPIAL individual gymnastic championships and a 1966 PIAA title.

In 1968, he helped Michigan State University win the Big Ten gymnastic championship before graduating in 1971.

■ A 1958 graduate from California High School,

Kulak won nine letters, three each in football, basketball, and baseball.

He continued his career on the gridiron at California University of Pennsylvania as a quarterback before playing semi-pro football for the Pittsburgh Ironmen and then served as California High School's football coach for five years.

■ Papak was a 1971 graduate of Mon Valley Catholic High School where he was a two-sport letterman in football and basketball before receiving appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

There, he started 33 consecutive games as a defensive tackle and was the Defensive Player of the game in the 1973 Army-Navy game.

■ Wolfe, born on January 9, 1876, in California, is

considered a pioneer among the contingent of Mon Valley baseball players who made it to the Major Leagues.

He began his professional career with the New York Highlanders, now known as the Yankees, and also played for the Washington Senators.

Eighteen senior scholar-athletes will be honored at the banquet, with the students representing Belle Vernon Area, Bentworth, Brownsville, California, Charleroi, Elizabeth Forward, Monessen, Ringgold and Yough.

The Hall dates back to the original Mon Valley Sports Writers Hall of Fame, started in 1951 by newspapermen Floyd France and John Bunnardzya, with the initial class consisting of Stan Musial and Bert Rechichof.

The MMVASHOF selection committee includes Chairman Brian Herman,

Carl Crawley, Jr., Dale Hamer, Bill Hughes, Tom Jenkins, Bill Kubin, Randy Marino, Stan Milchovich, and Russell. Also, the MMVASHOF is one of 28 chapters of The Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame made up of four geographical regions.

There are 20 current members of the MMVASHOF that have been inducted into the State Hall of Fame.

Tickets are \$40 each and seating is limited. To reserve tickets, contact Russell at (724) 258-3823 or via email at stephenrussell1106@comcast.net.

More information can be found at <http://www.mon-valleysportshalloffame.com> and its display can be viewed in the lobby at Bentleyville's Best Western Garden Inn.

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