

# **Local Area Sports – Track**

Compiled from:  
The Burgettstown  
Enterprise

Fort Vance Historical Society

# Waynesburg's Hilverding, Burgettstown's Devecchio win medals

OBSERVER-REPORTER

HERSHEY - Sean Hilverding of Waynesburg and Burgettstown's Cody Devecchio both recorded top-10 finishes and won medals in their respective classifications Saturday at the PIAA Cross Country Championships in Hershey.

Hilverding, competing in the boys Class AA race, fin-

ished in 16:28 for a sixth-place finish, just 27 seconds behind winner Dominic Hockenbury of Lake-Lehman.

DeVecchio, competing in the boys Class A event, matched Hilverding, finishing in 16:28 for an eighth-place finish.

The Canon-McMillan boys, who qualified as a team for the event, finished in 17th place out of 21 teams, led by

Ethan Linderman, who finished 32nd overall in a time of 16:35. North Allegheny won the team championship.

Other finishers for the Big Macs were Michael Strosko was 53rd, Matt Mansfield 79th, Michael Cappelli 103rd, Jonas Wudkwyck 105th, James Zukowski 109th and Jonathan Klan 139th.

Nick Wolk of Peters Township finished 46th in the Class AAA

boys race in a time of 16:47.

The South Fayette boys finished 10th in Class AA out of 19 teams, led by Aaron Pfeil's 14th-place finish in 17:08.

Devan Sandala (38th), Sam Snodgrass (57th), Alex Fraser (74th), Michael Cusick (75th), Mitchell Downs (119th) and Michael Hasis (122nd) also competed for the Lions.

In the Class AAA girls race, Chloe Grzyb of Peters Town-

ship finished 57th in 19:48, while Morgan Grudi of Canon-McMillan was 67th in 19:52.

In Class AA girls action, the South Fayette girls finished 15th out of 18 teams.

Maria DeCello (61st), Hannah Kenawell (62nd), Natalie Hilton (69th), Sydney Lerda (84th), Morgan Gimigliano (88th), Jenne Harasin (104th) and Grace Orecchio (118th) ran for the Lions.

**Cody Devecchio Wins Medals**  
**Observer-Reporter-November 2, 2014 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Ovolio gets hall of fame call from La Roche

Phil Ovolio, an Eighty Four native, was recently inducted into the La Roche College Athletic Hall of Fame.

A former standout baseball player at Canon-McMillan before attending La Roche, Ovolio was one of six inductees in the Red Hawks' 2016 hall of fame class. Induction ceremonies were held in late January.

A 2009 La Roche graduate, Ovolio had a distinguished baseball career with the Red Hawks. He ranked second on the school's all-time pitching wins list when he graduated and is currently ranked fourth. In addition to his 15 career victories, Ovolio threw 11 complete games and struck out 108 batters.

He was on the La Roche team that won the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference regular-season championship in 2007 and helped the Red Hawks to the AMCC championship game in 2006 and 2007. Ovolio threw one no-hitter during the 2007 season, which sparked a winning streak as La Roche won 11 of its next 12 games en route to the AMCC regular-season championship. Ovolio received the 2009

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AMCC Faculty Representative Award given to the top academic student-athlete in the conference.

"La Roche and the baseball field always feels welcoming. It never feels like you were gone for very long," Ovolio said of his induction.

A Facilities Management major at La Roche, Ovolio currently works as the Facilities and Parks Coordinator for Mt. Lebanon Municipality. He and wife, Meredith, have two children, Sienna and Rowan. They reside in Allison Park.

### In wrestling



**Nelson**

**Derick Nelson** of Spaggs is having a spectacular senior season at Coker, an NCAA Division II school in Hartsville,

S.C.

Nelson, who had a 131-30 record and was a three-time state tournament qualifier in high school at Waynesburg, has a 25-3 record at 133 pounds and

is ranked No. 2 in NCAA Division II's Super Region II.

A Pitt transfer, Nelson has 39 wins in two seasons at Coker. He was ranked as high as No. 4 regionally as a junior.

• Virginia Tech's **Solomon Chishko**, a former PIAA champion at Canon-McMillan is ranked No. 8 in the country at 141 pounds by Internat.com.

Chishko, a redshirt freshman, has a 23-2 record and is unbeaten (15-0) in dual meets. His 37 dual-meet points ranks third on the team.



**Buckiso**

• **Ty Buckiso**, a sophomore from Venetia, has a 17-11 record wrestling at 141 pounds for The Citadel. A Peters Town-

ship graduate, Buckiso is 5-0 in Southern Conference dual meets and has three wins by fall and two by technical fall.

As a freshman, Buckiso had a 22-14 record that included seven wins in dual meets.

### In basketball

Penn State Beaver senior guard **Morgan Kurtz** was named



**Kurtz**

both the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week and

the United States Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Division II Player of the Week for Jan. 24-30.

Kurtz, a Trinity graduate, surpassed the 1,500-point mark for her career when she scored 23 points against Penn State-Wilkes-Barre Jan. 29. One day later, she set the school's single-game scoring record with a 36-point performance in a 98-56 win over Penn State Worthington-Scranton. Kurtz made 12 of 17 shots, including six of nine three-pointers, and converted six of seven free throws during the record-setting game. Kurtz also had 10 rebounds, 10 steals and four assists for the week.

Kurtz has scored at least 18 points in five consecutive games. For the season, she is the second-leading scorer for Penn State Beaver, averaging 17.0 points per game. The Li-

ons are 11-1 in conference play and 14-9 overall.

• **Mike Lamberti**, a South Fayette graduate and former *Observer-Reporter* Boys Basketball Player of the Year, has been a key player for West Liberty, which is ranked No. 3 in NCAA Division II.

A senior forward, Lamberti is averaging 9.0 points and 4.1 rebounds per game for the Hilltoppers (20-2) and is shooting 61 percent from the field. In an 84-77 win Feb. 4 over 8th-ranked Fairmont State, Lamberti scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

### In track & field



**Kalsey**

**Marissa Kalsey**, a senior from Waynesburg, is the Westminster College Titan Athlete of the Week.

One of the top women's pole vaulters in NCAA Division III, Kalsey won the event last week at the Jim Wuske Invitational hosted by Mount Union College. Kalsey cleared a season-best 12-9½, equaling

the second-best height in the country this season.

Kalsey also placed second out of 44 competitors from Division I, II, III and NAIA schools at the SPIRE Midwest Open Jan. 30 in Geneva, Ohio. She cleared 12-0½.

At the season-opening Youngstown State University Icebreaker, Kalsey proved that she was already in mid-season form by clearing 12-0¾ for a first-place finish.

• **Zak Dysert**, a sophomore from McDonald, is a member of the Baldwin Wallace men's indoor track & field team.

A Fort Cherry graduate, Dysert is competing in the weight throw. Last weekend at the Bob Shannon Invitational, which was hosted by Denison University, Dysert helped 20th-ranked Baldwin Wallace to a second-place finish in the team standings. He finished second in the weight throw with a toss of 51-7 ½.

Dysert also had a second-place finish at the Mid-January Meet in Berea, Ohio. His throw of 53-3 was a career best and helped Baldwin Wallace win the team title.

# NEW ATHLETIC RECORD MADE BY SCHOOL GIRL

Frances Kanzius, Union High School  
Student, Sets up New Record  
at Association Meet

Miss Frances Kanzius, Union high school student and athlete extraordinary, won new laurels for herself and her associates of the Burgettstown Athletic Club at Pittsburgh on Saturday, contesting in the annual meet of the Allegheny Mountain Association. While others of the local team gave excellent accounts of themselves, the prowess of Miss Kanzius was shown conspicuously. Miss Kanzius is 17 years old and has been a champion in athletic sports for several years.

The young lady, who is perhaps better known by her nick-name, "Fritzie," was the winner of four first places in the Saturday meet, and established one new record, taking altogether 44 points for her team. No other team competing were able to match this record. "Fritzie" won the broad jump, the discus throw, the baseball and javelin throws. In the next to the last discus throw she hurled the disc a distance of 104 feet, five inches, a new record; her broad jump was 12 feet, eight inches; she threw the baseball 228 feet 10 inches, and the javelin 89 feet, two inches.

The Burgettstown team scored points in every event except the running broad jump. The 400 metre relay race was won by Burgettstown with Loretta Clark, Mary Dugas, Mary Karnechnik and Pearl Allen making up the team. The event was won in 1:04.8 time.

Other individual point winners of the Burgettstown group were Loretta Clark, second in the 50 metre dash, and second in the broad jump; Mary Luckjohn, winner in the eight-pound shot put, and second in the discus throw; Pearl Allen, second in the 100 metre dash and third in the 200 metre dash; Mary Karnechnik, third in the 50 metre dash.

Other teams finishing behind Burgettstown in the meet were the Union A. C. of Turtle Creek, Slippery Rock State Teachers College and Monongahela Turners.

## New Athletic Record Made by School Girl

Frances Kranzius, Union High Student, Sets up New Record at Association Meet  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 6, 1933 Edition

## LOCAL GIRL ATHLETES TO COMPETE AT FAIR

8-31-'33

Young Lady Champions of Union High  
School Preparing to Pull Down  
Further Athletic Fame

The athletic carnival to be held in connection with the South Park County Fair, Pittsburgh, September 2nd, will feature track and field events for both men and women. The men's events include the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,500 and 10,000 meters runs and a 1,500 meters relay.

Field events to be staged are the pole vault, running high jump, running broad jump and shot put. For boys 16 years of age and under, there will be a 50 meters run, 400 meters relay, high jump and broad jump.

Events for girls and women are as follows: Fifty, 100 and 200 meters runs, 400 meter relay, baseball throw, high jump, broad jump and javelin throw.

There promises to be keen competition in the contests staged for the fair sex as entries have already been received from the crack girls' team of Burgettstown. Their relay team will consist of Loretta Clark, Mary Karnicnik, Mary Dugas and Pearle Allen.

These same girls together with Miss Frances Kanzius will compete in the broad jump. Miss Kanzius is the present A. M. A. record holder of this event. The Misses Allen, Dugas, Clark and Karnicnik have entered in the dashes. In the javelin and baseball throws the Burgettstown team will be represented by Frances Kanzius, Mary Karnicnik and Mary Luckjohn.

**Local Girl Athletes to Complete at Fair**  
**Young Lady Champions of Union High School**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 31, 1933 Edition**



Contributed

### **Shimko captures three medals**

Olivia Shimko, a sophomore at Burgettstown High School, captured three individual medals at the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Track and Field Championship held recently at South Side Beaver High School. By placing fourth in the javelin event, Shimko qualified for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championships May 27-28 at Shippensburg University. Shimko placed seventh in the long jump and eighth in the 100m dash at the WPIAL meet. Shimko and her coaches, Kelly Ward, Mark Druga and Bill Rizor, as well as fellow track member Kelsey Bartoletti, attended the two-day track and field event at Shippensburg University. Although Shimko did not medal at states, she said the level of competition and the number of participants she found at the meet made her realize she must set higher goals and standards for future endeavors in track and field. Shimko had the fourth best throw in the javelin among class AA girls with a throw of 110.25, a fifth best leap in the long jump of 16 feet 7 inches and a personal best of 12.7 seconds in the 100m run, which was seventh best in the WPIAL. Shimko lettered in volleyball and basketball this year and plans on participating in three sports in her upcoming years at Burgettstown Middle/High School. She is the daughter of Mike and Mary Shimko of Burgettstown.

**Olivia Shimko Captures Three Medals**  
**PA Focus-June 25, 2005 Edition**

# Varsity Track



Row 1-(l. to r.)-P. Kucher, A. Kokoskie, F. Kokoskie, J. Edwards, G. Bywaters, J. Milnarcik, B. Benick, R. Lochran,  
Row 2-J. Koraido, K. Williams, M. Galish, H. Guzell, P. Mroczkowski, A. Mikula, K. Bable. Row 3-M. Deer, G.

Stevenson, F. Shannon, P. McMahon, N. Riddile, D. Lounder, J. Froats, S. Kophazi, G. Brunelli. Row 4-D. Lonick, D. Armstrong, R. Baileys, R. Asti, A. Readie, M. Revay, L. Shoup, L. Yoho, G. Pensis.

The Union Thinclads, coached by Mr. Kelley and Mr. Conley, enjoyed one of their most successful campaigns by posting a 9-3 record plus placing first in the W.P.I.A.L. District Qualifier at Peters Twp. In Mr. Kelley's estimation, their best performance was the defeat of Chartiers-Houston, which at the time was the top team in the district. The team also captured first place among the "B" schools in the County Coaches Meet. Top performers for this year are expected to be Francis X. Shannon, Gary Bywaters, Ned Riddile, Pete McMahon, and Gary Brunelli.

## 1969 Record

Union		Opponents
78	West Allegheny	64 1/2
78	Bentworth	37 1/2
60	Peters Twp.	63
86	McGuffey	52
86	West Allegheny	42
68 1/2	Waynesburg	76 1/2
105	Jefferson-Morgan	40
74	Chartiers-Houston	63
74	Jefferson-Morgan	44
69 1/2	Beth-Center	75 1/2
97	McGuffey	52
97	Madonna	30
	Record 9-3	

# Fort Cherry freshman runner has a lot on her mind

BY LUKE CAMPBELL  
AND JOE TUSCANO

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In her races, Mara Whalen has to compete against the field ... and herself.

The Fort Cherry freshman is as talented as they come, winning the 200-meter dash and finishing second in the grueling 400 dash at the WPIAL Class AA Track & Field Championships at Baldwin High School Thursday.

Defining which compet-

itor is more dangerous is the easy part for Whalen. But she says she spends too much time worrying about that instead of concentrating on her own performance.

Before winning the 200, Whalen took silver in the 400, finishing with a time of 60.88. She was one second behind another freshman, Emma Pavalek of Beaver, and a few paces ahead of Emily Prasko of Burgettstown (61:01).

"It was one of my worst races," Whalen said. "I was out of my head and I think I

## TRACK AND FIELD NOTEBOOK

was too busy focusing on the other girls. I'm trying to get better mentally. The 400 is more mental than physical. Before every race, I try to think about running the best that I did before. It's not me against the girls next to me. It's me against the clock."

### Mixed emotions

Entering the final stretch of the of the 800 run, South Fayette senior Silas Mays was looking ahead but wor-

rying what was coming up on him.

Battling for second place – the top four automatically qualify for the state meet in Class AAA – Mays was expecting those trailing him were going to steal his last chance at advancing to Shipensburg, where the PIAA Championships will be held next weekend.

Not only did Mays hold on for third place, he broke a personal record with a time

of 1:55.27, nearly two seconds faster than his previous best.

"I think I was still in shock for a long period of time," Mays said. "Coming in, I wasn't even thinking about being in the top 4. It really wasn't even in the equation. I was thinking in that final stretch that there has to be someone passing me soon but it never happened. It's crazy. There were just so many emotions."

Mays finished the 800 in eighth place last year to

medal but not qualify.

"Honestly, (at states) I just want to beat this time," Mays said. "If I could get another (personal record), that would be great. I'm pretty excited."

Joining Mays at the state meet will be senior teammate Sam Snodgrass, who has been a regular at competing at that level in the 1,600 run.

The top-seeded Snodgrass finished outside the automatic top-4 qualifiers, but was

*See Runner, Page C3*

## Runner

*Continued from Page C1*

able to advance by beating the qualifying time with a 4:24.01. Snodgrass finished in fifth place.

"I was really looking to win it," Snodgrass said. "I was a little impatient and started my kick a little ear-

ly. I ended up getting out-kicked in the end. I'm happy to make it to states but not pleased overall with the place. I feel blessed to be able to have the chance of reaching one of my main goals, running under 4:20, because it wasn't going to happen (at the WPIAL Championships)."

Snodgrass made the PIAA

Championships last year but failed to advance to the finals in the 1,600. And with only a few races remaining in his high-school career, he knows what needs to be done to improve on Thursday's fifth-place finish.

"I have to be more patient," Snodgrass said. "What I've learned over my four years of racing the

1,600 is that it's all about patience. You have to wait and time that final kick. That's when you go."

### Selected finishes

Two local placewinners in the Class AA girls javelin are headed to the state tournament. Marissa Bitonti of California took third with a throw of 123-1 and Kennedy Kuhns of Beth-Center was

fourth with a 119-1 effort. ... The Fort Cherry 400 relay team of McKenzie Faure, Morgan Zickefoose, Jady Hartner and Whalen took third place with a time of 51.81. ... Katrina Lepro of Fort Cherry qualified in the long jump with a 16-7 effort. Brenna Cavanaugh of Bentworth won the event with a leap of 18-6.

**Mara Whalen, Fort Cherry Freshman Runner has a lot on her Mind**  
**Observer-Reporter-May 19, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*