

# Elyria volleyballers capture league title

**BY LINDA CUDLIN**  
C-T Sports Writer  
ELYRIA — Saturday's Buckeye Conference volleyball tournament may go down in history as the "Day of the Underdog."

But, as the old saying goes, every dog has its day — even an underdog. And Saturday totally belonged to Elyria.

The host Pioneers entered the annual Buckeye go-around as the No. 4 seed. But instead of letting the underrated status bother them, Carol Russo's determined group went to work. And, by the time the dust had settled, they had disposed of No. 1-seeded Findlay and No. 3 Admiral King to earn their first-ever tournament title the hard way.

"THERE ARE days when you just are not going to be denied,

and this is one of them," the happy Russo summed up her team's accomplishment. "For two years we were favored to win this tournament and we didn't. Last year we were the No. 1 seed and lost in the first game to Findlay. Maybe coming in as No. 4 this year took the pressure off."

"But no matter, we did the job. And we did it with teamwork."

Teamwork was half of the key which sparked the Pioneers all day — Angie Riggins was the other half.

The hosts came out victorious in the day's opener against No. 5 seeded Marion, winning 15-9, but then fell in the second game, 9-15. But instead of the rubber match being the tooth-and-nail fightout it had shaped up to be, it

turned into a 15-1 cinch for the Pioneers.

Findlay drew a bye in the first round and was fresh as a daisy when it came time to take on the Pioneers. But instead of letting their first match tire them, for Elyria it served only as a warmup as the Pioneers went on to down the Trojans in two games, 15-10, 15-9.

"I THINK the bye hurt Findlay more than it helped them," Russo offered. "We came in warmed up and ready to play. Our kids wanted that game."

That added desire for revenge stemmed not only from last year's Buckeye tourney opener, but also from last Thursday's game when the Pioneers played their hearts out only to fall to the visiting Trojans in three

games, 9-15, 15-12, 13-15.

Though Russo praised the play of Jennifer Bender and Riggins in the Findlay win, she touted the performance of Deanna Meecha and Lora Jones.

"OUR SECOND hitters really came through for us, they were aggressive at the net and added key blocks and key kills," Russo noted. "Findlay was all psyched up for Angie and Jenny, but they weren't expecting the effort from our second hitters."

While Elyria was putting away Marion and Findlay, Admiral King (12-8) was doing the job on second-seeded Lorain. Entering the matchup against King undefeated (7-0), the Steelmen stumbled and fell, 16-14, 15-12 to the third-seeded Admirals to set the stage for the King-Elyria title bout.

Paced by the serving of senior co-captain Lori Walton and the hard spiking of 6-0 Debby Taylor, the Admirals jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead and went on to a 15-9 victory.

A Russo pep talk followed in the break between the first and second games.

"I told them, 'Hey, you've been playing great volleyball all day. You hustled like crazy to get here. You can't just stand around and watch it all slip away,'" she revealed. "Admiral King is a talented team. Maybe we were just feeling a letdown

after playing two great matches."

The second game began to look as bleak as the first, as Walton served the Admirals to a 5-2 advantage. But then things began to happen for the Pioneers.

Bender executed a fine kill to get the serve back for the Elyrians, then stepped to the serving strip to add a point to bring the hosts within two points, 5-3. Elyria lost the serve, only to have a spike by Riggins return the ball to the Pioneers court. With Jones serving, Riggins added a pair of skillful kills to tie the tally at 5-5.

That proved to be just the spark the Pioneer power keg needed as Elyria went on to a 15-6 win.

"Angie started putting the ball down. We needed that spark," Russo said of the comeback. "They blocked her well in the first game. She changed her angle in the second instead of hitting it straight at them, she was coming off the corner and that did the job."

Behind the serving of Rhonda Fleming and Jones, Elyria was able to build a 7-3 advantage against King. Though King narrowed it to three, 10-7, missed service opportunities took their toll. Bender came on to put the game away for the Pioneers with four straight points.

"Our serving went on us. That was our downfall," King coach

Ed Dobanos summed. "Elyria played a good game. Angie Riggins really hurt us. She's such a strong player. We knew when she was in the front row we'd have trouble."

"We controlled things in the first match. Then Elyria forced us into a defensive game. We couldn't get uncorked to get into our offense."

Riggins performance earned her the Buckeye Player of the Year title, voted on by the league's coaches.

"We're so proud of her," Russo said. "She realizes that the team really shares the award. She's the MVP because the team gets her the ball."

Joining Riggins on the Buckeye first team were Walton and Taylor of King, Sarah Edelbrock of Findlay, and Deana Dzambik and Beth Nagy of Lorain. Second teamers included Betty Smith of Admiral King, Bankson and Bender of Elyria, Meladee Hopkins and Suzanne Row of Marion and Lisa Jensen of Findlay.

Dobanos, Lynne Hodan Szente of Lorain and Jane Dillon of Findlay shared coaches honors.

**RESULTS**  
BUCKEYE CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT  
at Elyria High School

**FIRST ROUND** — Elyria def. Marion 15-9, 9-15, 15-11; Lorain def. Sandusky 15-7, 15-6; Admiral King def. Fremont 16-14, 15-12; Findlay bye.

**SECOND ROUND** — Elyria def. Findlay 15-10, 15-9; Admiral King def. Lorain 16-14, 15-12.

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME** — Elyria def. Admiral King 9-15, 15-6, 15-7.

**CONSOLATION GAME** — Findlay def. Lorain 15-7, 12-15, 15-9.



**Thoughts on my mind:**  
McCallum, Long, Everett, Mays and McClure. Bo, Bosco and Byars. Sounds like a couple of musical groups or a pair of law firms.

But they're neither. What they are are the top candidates for this year's Heisman Trophy. Who will win it is anybody's guess.

It could be Navy's Nap McCallum, Purdue's Jim Everett, Washington State's Reuben Mayes, Bowling Green's Brian McClure, Auburn's Bo Jackson or Brigham Young's Robbie Bosco. One thing is for sure it won't be Ohio State's Keith Byars.

That foot injury he suffered Labor Day has put a crunch in his Heisman hopes. Byars, the odds-on favorite after finishing runner-up as a junior, just doesn't have enough time to make up lost ground. He's missed all four of the Buckeyes games, didn't play Saturday against Illinois, and is doubtful for next Saturday when Indiana visits the Horseshoe in Columbus.

As phenomenal as Byars is, he cannot do in five or six weeks what his counterparts do in 10 or 11 weeks.

You just might say it's a bad 'break' for Byars.

How about that Jim Chapman at Case Western Reserve University? Has he done one outstanding job of turning that program around the last few years.

The school was all prepared to drop varsity football, but decided to stick with it and boy has it paid dividends. The apathy that was present when the Spartans were born losers has changed. People actually do care about football at Case. That's what winning does.

And Chapman knows all about winning. I remember Jim from his days at Willoughby South High and even then one could sense he was destined for bigger and better things. Keep up the good work, Jim.

Basketball is not too far away, and they're just about ready for what they hope will be a grand and glorious season at Cleveland State.

And the administration did the smartest thing in recent memory over the summer when it got Coach Kevin Mackey's signature on the dotted line for a few more seasons. Mackey had finished two seasons of a four-year pact, had turned the program around 180 degrees and probably could have accepted another job at many schools — had he wanted. But he opted to stay and I'm happy to see that.

Mackey has the Vikings' ship sailing in the right direction. CSU's schedule includes Ohio State, Michigan and DePaul this season and that's good too. Another good year in the Mid-Continent Conference and a victory at Ohio State, Michigan and DePaul could be enough to lift the Vikes into post-season play for the first time in history.

As long as I'm talking about CSU basketball, when is that convocation center ever going to be completed? How about started? It just might be closer than most people realize.

CSU is quietly acquiring downtown land for the arena that hopefully will house a university dream — a major college basketball team that will bring powerhouses like Ohio State, Michigan, DePaul, Marquette to town.



**MEMBERS OF the Buckeye Conference first team are (standing, from left) Deana Dzambik (Lorain), Debby Taylor (Admiral King), Sarah Edelbrock (Findlay) and Beth Nagy (Lorain). Kneeling is Elyria's Angie Riggins, 1985 Buckeye Conference Player of the Year. Missing from the photo is Admiral King's Lori Walton. (C-T photo by Tom Mahl).**

## Falls stopped by Pirates

**By JIM SZALAY**  
C-T Sports Writer

**ROCKY RIVER** — Olmsted Falls failed to answer when opportunity knocked and Rocky River's defense saw to it that an opportunity never presented itself again as the Pirates slugged out a 9-0 win in Southwestern Conference football action Saturday.

The shutout is the third in four games for the Pirates, now 5-1 on the year and 2-1 in league play. The Rats have given up 35 points (23 against Bay) for a 5.8 points per game average.

**AGAINST THE Bulldogs**, a young team trying to find itself, the Pirates found themselves being tested just once when Olmsted Falls marched to the River seven-yard line in the second quarter aided by a 15-yard penalty on the Pirates for questioning the spotting of the ball.

On a third-and-one at the seven, the Bulldogs were whis-

pered for a delay of game penalty. The third down play gained nothing then on fourth down from the 12, a false start moved the ball back to the 17. Doug Haghighi intercepted the Bulldog pass to thwart the threat.

"Our defense has been playing well although we have given up a few big plays," said River coach John Ference. "When you average 170-pounds like we do you have to play better than hard. We have to fly around and be very aggressive. We did a nice job against Falls and they scared me because they played two fine games against Westlake and North Olmsted back-to-back and lost by a total of two points."

**WITH THEIR** premier quarterback Greg Helms out with a fractured throwing wrist, the Pirates had to insert Tom Miller, their top rusher, at quarterback two weeks ago. Miller, using the option and keeper plays, picked up 79 yards

on 27 carries while throwing for 45 yards on six of 13 in the gusty wind.

"The ball was floating in the wind so we kept the ball pretty much on the ground," said Miller, who said he's adjusted to his new role. "I liked being a running back, but I have played some quarterback (freshman year). In a way, I'm both now. I can still run, but now I can also pass for yardage."

A fumble recovery on the second play of the game by the Pirates' Rob Samanich set up River's first score, a 27-yard field goal by Dave Kysela.

Another break set up the final score of the game when Samanich blocked a Bulldog punt and Mike Hale picked up the ball at the Falls' 17. Six plays later, Miller busted over the goal from one yard out at 10:12 of the second quarter.

"WE DIDN'T always score on our long drives, but we ate up a lot of the clock," Ference said. "The third quarter drive may have been the big one because we ate up a lot of time and we also put them in poor field position. We had the field position throughout the second half."

"We played horrible," said Bulldog coach Jeff Chase. "John's kids came to play and we didn't. We're a young team and we made some stupid mistakes. There is no reason for a delay penalty especially way down there and with only a yard to go."

"We're making the mental mistake and not the physical mistakes. I think the kids are also second guessing themselves after having lost two games by only two points. But you still can't make mental mistakes. We have to be disciplined. There's no excuse for those kinds of penalties."

John Gaba led Olmsted Falls with 72 yards on 17 carries, but the Bulldogs managed just 89 yards rushing and 93 passing (51 on one play).

Team Statistics	O Falls	R River
First downs	9	14
Rushing	4	10
Passing	4	2
Penalty	1	2
Yards rushing	89	148
Yards passing	93	45
Total offense	182	193
Passes att-comp.	15-5	13-6
Intercepted by	0	2
Fumbles-lost	4-2	2-1
Punts-yards	3-93	3-96
Average	31	32
Yards penalized	45	65
Rushing plays	23	49

## Buckeyes beaten

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sneak. Less than seven minutes remained.

Illinois' winning drive began at its 42 with 4:03 left. The series included an 18-yard pass to Pierce, which Buckeye safety Terre White just missed.

"When I let the ball go, I thought, 'Oh my God!'" said Trudeau.

"He (White) didn't come all that close," said Pierce. "Jack lofted it over his head. Anyway, I wouldn't have let him intercept." Wilson ran for a first down at the 24. Trudeau overthrew Wilson in the end zone. Two runs gained but three yards but placed the ball in the middle of the field.

**WHEN CHRIS** White lined up for the kick, the Buckeyes called time.

"Was I nervous? Sure," said White. "But I told myself to do it just like always. So I put down the tee, walked off my steps, looked at the tee and then at the posts."

Said Mike White: "I have lots of faith in that son of mine. His temperament is unbelievable." The son has 205 points, only four from the school record, but this was his first chance to kick

a game-winner. All-American tailback Keith Byars did not play for Ohio State. He remains sidelined with an injury.

(Pete Swanson is a sports-writer for The Sunday Courier & Press in Evansville, Ind., and former sports editor of The Chronicle-Telegram)

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## Rocky River wins tourney

**By BOB MONTGOMERY**  
C-T Sports Writer

**GRAFTON** — Rocky River finished with a flourish to win the Mid-Ohio Cannon Classic Volleyball Tournament at Midview Saturday afternoon.

River jumped off to a fast start with seven straight points in the first game and walked away with a 15-8 win.

Midview bounced back and took the second game, but the Pirates used steady serving to take the finale, 15-3.

After those seven points to open the championship game the Pirates went sluggish and then went five services with scoring a point, but fortunately for them

the Middies could not find the scoring range and it was 7-3 before Rocky River started hitting again and scored on five of their next six services to win the opener.

**THE SECOND** game saw the Middies come from behind after the Pirates had taken a 12-9 lead with six straight points. Midview came right back with six points of their own to win, 15-12.

## Coughlin

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many first downs. Another interesting development would be when your quarterback is sacked on third down, taking you out of field goal range. Now you want to punt, but your field goal kicker is in the game.

On the other hand, you might want to risk keeping your punter or place kicker in the game for the subsequent defensive play from scrimmage. Maybe you could hide your 135-pound Ecuadorian at middle linebacker for one play and watch somebody such as John Riggins visibly salivate. Very soon there would be a decrease in the number of visa applications by foreign soccer players.

Actually, place kicking is one of the easiest accomplishments in sports. Practice and keep your head down. I always thought punting was far more difficult because you've got to kick a moving object. But Gary Collins, an all-pro flanker with the Browns 20 years ago, punted for a 40-yard average in his spare time. He would have had a higher average except he kept putting the ball out of bounds on the 10.

Let's give football back to the football players.

"IT WAS a team effort," claimed coach Gweynn Hampel of the Pirates. "Both Becky (Werling) and Paige (Penny) did great jobs of setting the ball up for Nancy (Winkler) and Beth (Geman). The whole team did the job they were supposed to do. We might have let down a little in the second game, but we almost pulled that one out. We totally controlled the final game. This is a great bunch of kids. They are fun to coach."

## Cavs triumph

**WADSWORTH, Ohio (AP)** — Roy Hinson and Ron Anderson each scored 20 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers dominated the second half to defeat the Indiana Pacers 125-100 in the exhibition season opener for both National Basketball Association teams Saturday night.

Cleveland took a 95-80 lead into the final quarter and maintained at least a 15-point lead the rest of the way. The Cavaliers built the lead to 30 points at 11:88 with 5:32 to go.

Clark Kellogg paced Indiana with 18 points, while Herb Williams added 16 and Steve Stipanovich scored 14.

Hubbard, Mel Turpin and rookie free agent Derrick Rowland each scored 12 points for the Cavaliers.

## Firelands Conference

**Monroeville-New London**  
**MONROEVILLE** — Quarterback Kevin Smith had a hand in four of Monroeville's five touchdowns as the Eagles ripped New London, 32-0, Friday.

Team Statistics	N London	Monroe
First downs	7	11
Rushing	4	4
Passing	3	7
Penalty	0	0
Yards rushing	63	219
Yards passing	61	111
Total offense	124	330
Passes att-comp.	15-6	23-10
Intercepted by	0	2
Fumbles-lost	5-2	3-2
Punts-yards	5-125	3-99
Average	25	33
Yards penalized	11-75	11-80

**Score by Quarters**

Q	1	2	3	4	T
So Central	7	0	0	0	7
St Paul	0	14	0	7	21

**Scoring**  
SC — Brian Fabbugh, 11 pass from John Vogel (Steve Hicks kick)  
SP — Gary Sprague, 3 run (Scott Phillips kick)  
SP — Sprague, 2 run (Phillips kick)  
SP — Jeff Nichols, 3 run (Phillips kick)

**Score by Quarters**

Q	1	2	3	4	T
New London	0	0	0	0	0
Monroeville	13	6	13	0	32

**Scoring**  
M — Jeff Waples, 23 pass from Kevin Smith (Chris Pfeiffer kick)  
M — Brett Collahan, 18 fumble return (kick failed)  
M — Smith, 68 run (pass failed)  
M — Waples, 9 pass from Smith (pass failed)  
M — Smith, 3 run (Pfeiffer kick)

**So Central-Nor. St. Paul**  
**NORWALK** — Aided by Gary Sprague's two touchdowns in the second quarter, Norwalk St. Paul downed South Central, 21-7, Friday.

Team Statistics	S Central	St Paul
First downs	11	14
Rushing	7	12
Passing	3	2
Penalty	1	0
Yards rushing	75	171
Yards passing	98	61
Total offense	16-6	5-2
Passes att-comp	20	1

Intercepted by 3-1  
Fumbles-lost 3-1  
Punts-yards 3-124  
Average 41.3  
Yards penalized 2-10  
Rushing plays 38 48

**Score by Quarters**

Q	1	2	3	4	T
Plymouth	7	0	0	0	7
Crestview	0	6	0	9	15

**Scoring**  
P — Steve Hall, 25 pass from Troy Keene (Randy Myers kick)  
C — Bill Lugas from Keene (Myers kick)  
C — Mark Herberich, 13 pass from Matt Herberich (pass failed)  
C — Safety  
C — Jim Anderson, 27 punt return (Herberich kick)

**ASHLAND** — Crestview scored nine points in the fourth quarter to come from behind and defeat visiting Plymouth, 15-14, Friday.

**Team Statistics**

Team Statistics	Plymouth	Crestview
First downs	6	17
Rushing	2	9
Passing	4	6
Penalty	0	2
Yards rushing	7	161
Yards passing	96	102
Total offense	103	263
Passes att-comp.	18-8	16-9
Intercepted by	2	2
Fumbles-lost	2-1	4-3
Punts-yards	6-111	1-33
Average	18.5	31.0
Yards penalized	5-34	6-50
Rushing plays	25	43

**Score by Quarters**

Q	1	2	3	4	T
Plymouth	7	0	0	0	7
Crestview	0	6	0	9	15