

**WALKING  
THE  
SIDELINES**

The sports staff at the Sun News is "Walking the Sidelines" at area venues. Here's what they've heard...

**GINN-ED UP**

It's safe to say that Ted Ginn Jr. is tired of talking about how he injured his left foot in Ohio State's national championship loss to Florida.

Talking about the game itself is even more useless since "I don't know what went wrong, I didn't play. We prepared like we always did, took the field like we always do."

Ginn was working out for the NFL draft under the tutelage of Speed Strength Systems owner Tim Robertson at the Euclid Sports Plant.

Game photos have Brush grad Roy Hall tacking Ginn from the back in celebration after his opening return for a touchdown, but Ginn is taking the high road.

"The middle of the foot sprained, but I can't blame it on him (Hall)," Ginn said. "It was all in the moment."

"Look, it's over and done with. Time to move on. The injury is not keeping me from being upbeat."

**WORTHY FEAST**

Shaker Heights boys' basketball coach Bob Wanson took six players to lunch on Monday at the Mongolian Barbecue buffet on Coventry Road as a reward for improving their grades.

"Believe me, we did serious damage there," Wanson said.

Seniors Jaren Hill, Nick Winbush, Cameron Thompson, Ryan Hines and Will Warren joined sophomore Anthony Wells in filling their stomachs.

"It's something we started last year to get our players to do well in the classroom," Wanson said. "The seniors beat the juniors with a slightly higher grade-point average at the end of the first semester than they had after the first nine weeks."

**OFF THE RECORD**

Play the game and scratch it from the books. That's how the district hockey tournament is being played at Brooklyn Recreation Center.

Tournament officials keep a scoresheet for each game, but no record is kept beyond that day. Scoresheets are discarded daily, meaning nowhere in Brooklyn is there a written record of games played.

"We call them in down to Columbus and then we throw away the sheets," tournament director Mike Hadl said. "We used to keep them around throughout the tournament, but the people in charge of the rink said it made the office too messy."

"Now, we keep it clean by just throwing them away at the end of the day."

But the officials hope their names aren't discarded. As much as tournament work is an honor, they still want to be

By Paulavigel  
Staff Writer

Villa Angela-St. Joseph wrestling coach Bob Mullin knew his team was going to be heard from during the Richmond Heights Division III Sectional Tournament. After two days on the mats, the Vikings did more than just show up for a good time.

VA-SJ scored 193 points to win the 11-team tournament and qualified 10 grapplers to action at 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday at the Maple Heights Division III District Tournament.

"I was thrilled. Everyone contrib-

uted," Mullin said. "All 14 guys placed. Three guys took fifth and one took sixth. This is the school's first championship since 1991. It's a tribute to the seniors and juniors who worked so hard."

Sectional championships went to John Dubhigg (103) and Prince Foster (135). Matt Grould was second at 115, while thirds went to Tim Triskett (112), Rytas Petratis (119), Joe Georgian (130) and John Pokorny (140).

Grabbing the fourth and final district spots were Max Otasek (160), Darius Petratis (189) and Ray Wert

(heavyweight).

The boys basketball team was 13-5 overall and 10-0 in the North Coast League heading into action at 6 p.m. today at St. Peter Chanel and at 6 p.m. Friday against invading Akron Hoban.

Nate Barnes netted 23 points, Ashen Ward had 17 and Dominick Haynes tossed in 11 in a 74-45 rout of Lake Catholic. VA-SJ had nine of the game's 17 3-pointers.

Randy Greenwood had 20 points and Brian Kampman scored 11 for the Cougars.

VA-SJ spotted Trinity a 12-9 first-

period edge before storming back for a convincing 65-38 win. Maurice Haynes led the way with 20 points and Barnes had 10. Bill Svoboda topped Trinity with 15 points and Matt Novak collected nine.

"It was a good week," coach Dave Wojciechowski said. "Both games were on the road and both games were solid by the first group. We made a statement and everyone got to play. The defense in both games was great. Our goal is 52 points and we did that both nights."

The girls took an 8-12 record into See VIKINGS, page A7

**Pant is full**  
*Speed, Strength Systems attractive to football stars*

By Paulavigel  
Staff Writer

"The numbers don't lie. If you're a potential National Football League player preparing for the combine and the draft, Euclid, Ohio is the place to be. More specifically, the Sports Plant.

Speed Strength Systems, run by trainers Tim Robertson Jr., Matt Burkhardt and Jamie Dubsky have attracted 68 players who have worked out at their facility to enhance their draft status. Thirty of those players consider themselves NFL clients.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel knew where to look when combing the landscape for a Director of Football Performance taking Eric Lichter from his position at the Euclid Avenue facility.

At present time, 10 to 15 players are working out in Euclid between three and five days a week, getting ready for this week's NFL Combine.

"Some of these guys have been working out for six weeks since January," Robertson said. "Their agents send them here because we've been successful. You can't argue with results. We're consistent in the way we prepare these guys."

The big name is Ted Ginn Jr., projected by draft expert Mel Kiper to go to Minnesota with the seventh overall pick. Ginn is rehabilitating a left foot injury suffered in the national championship game. He won't run at the Combine and might not run at Ohio State's NFL Day next month.

"With Ginn we're working on upper body strength, doing

225 pound reps to add weight, body strength and flexibility," Robertson said.

"It's a little like being recruited again. You don't know where you're going to go," Ginn said. "I've been training here for five or six years and it was no a brainer. You have to work hard at all levels. In the NFL, everybody is fast."

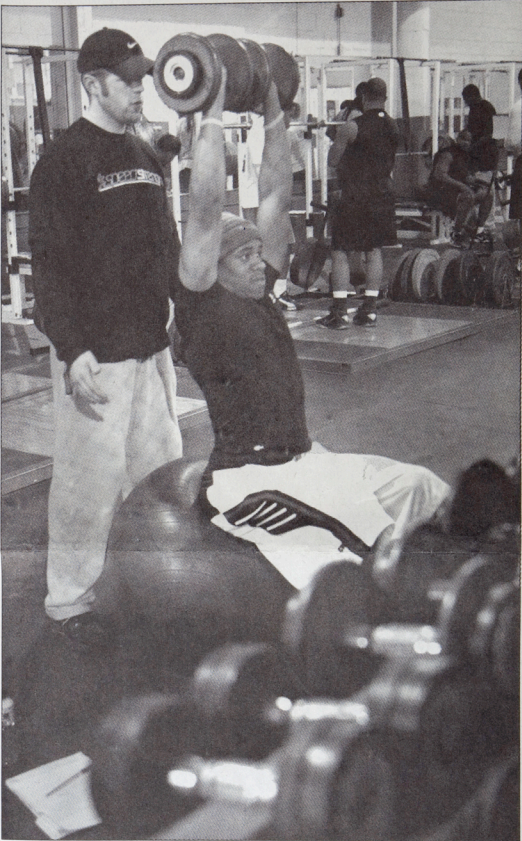
Ginn, who visits Euclid three times a week, is not letting the injury dim his NFL outlook. He'll do interviews and some lifting at the Combine. The ex-Glenville star is working on his strength, but says technique is the key to beating cornerbacks who jam at the line of scrimmage.

Another old-timer at the facility is St. Louis Ram running back Tony Fisher, an Ohio Mr. Football from Euclid. The former Notre Dame player is rehabilitating an ACL-MCL injury suffered returning a kick against Kansas City.

"It was a fluke. I wasn't even touched," Fisher said. "I got the ball, ran ahead, made a cut and ran three steps and it hurt. I just have to stay positive."

A big name on the local scene is trying to make an NFL splash and he certainly has the bloodlines. Shaker Heights grad Greg Pruitt Jr. started his career at Minnesota before settling down at North Carolina Central. All he wants is an NFL opportunity.

"I just want to have a chance in the late rounds or as a free agent," Pruitt said. "The reputation of this place See SPEED, page A7



SUN PHOTO BY DAVID LIAM KYLE

Ted Ginn Jr. does lifting exercises at the Euclid Sports Plant.

**Mentor buzzer beater shocks Euclid**

By Paulavigel  
Staff Writer

MENTOR — Euclid basketball coach Sean O'Toole was beside himself following the 56-53 loss to rival Mentor. A stickler for details, O'Toole watched the Cardinals run two successful plays after timeouts to the baskets needed to win the Lake Erie League Lake Division game.

The last one was the killer. With the score tied at 53 to 7,6 seconds left, Mentor got the ball to Joe Meyer, who penetrated the lane. When Euclid

collapsed on him, Meyer dished the ball to Brett Granger on the left baseline. Granger's 3-pointer at the buzzer was all net.

Granger had a team-high 22 points and Mentor coach Bob Krizanovic had no problem with him taking the final shot. "The first play was Granger and the second was Joe," he said. "We figured they would collapse on him and he would come open. We put ourselves in a position to win."

"They're just a great team running plays after timeouts," O'Toole said. "They got penetration and we didn't

get out on Granger. We have to learn to value the ball more."

Euclid was 10-7 overall and 6-4 in the LEL before meeting Max Hayes earlier this week and will host an LEL crossover game at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Granger's shot spoiled an 11-0 Euclid run that turned a 41-34 third-period deficit into a 45-41 advantage with 4:11 left to play. The game was tied at 45 and 47 before the Panthers took a four-point lead at 51-47. But Mentor fought back to set up Granger's big shot.

Devon Jennings led Euclid with 23

points and Darrell Blanton had 11 to go with five rebounds. Brandon Rollins scored 10 points. Scott Branchick had 10 points and Matt Greene added nine for Mentor.

"Jennings and Blanton had 58 on us the first time (a 71-63 Euclid win)," Krizanovic said. "It's hard to hold them down, but defensively we played a pretty solid game against their athletes. They're a solid team."

Euclid grabbed first-half leads of 18-16 and 28-26, but O'Toole knew See EUCLID, page A7