

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004



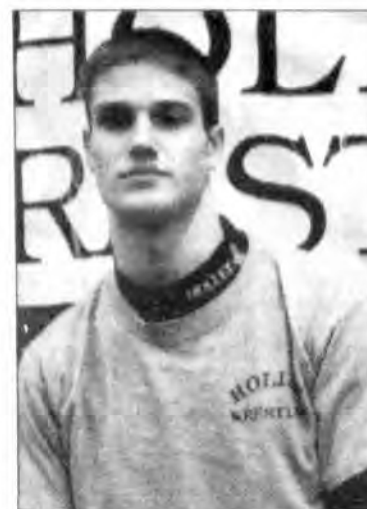
Mike Sanders, Albion



Mike Crane, Medina



Justin Hartway, Medina



Andrew Grillo, Holley



Torry Tooley, Kendall



Donald Williams, Kendall

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Six Orleans matmen capture sectional titles

The fourth time was the charm for Albion High School senior Mike Sanders, who was one of six Orleans County wrestlers to capture sectional titles over the weekend and earn trips to the state championships.

The local contingent also includes Mike Crane and Justin Hartway from Medina, Andrew Grillo from Holley and the Kendall duo of Torry Tooley and Donald Williams, all seniors.

A three-time runnerup at the Section VI state qualifier, Sanders earned top honors this time as he decisioned Starpoint's Errick Cholewa 3-0 in the title match. Ironically, Sanders had defeated Cholewa in the finals of both the Niagara-Orleans League and Section VI Class AAA tournaments the previous two weekends.

Sanders, who is now 38-0 for the season, did not give up a point in the competition held at Jamestown Community College. He blanked Mitch Anderson of Amherst 5-0 in the quarterfinals and Cory Kane of Jamestown 8-0 in the semifinals.

"Mike was well-focused and did a nice job," said Albion coach Keith Piccirilli. "It's tough to beat the same kid in the finals of three tournaments three weeks in a row, but he did a great job."

Crane and Hartway also captured their titles at Jamestown.

"It was a great weekend," said Medina assistant coach Eric Gross. "Mike and Justin have been working real well together as mat partners and they are peaking at the right time together."

Crane rallied for two takedowns in the third period to score a come-from-behind 6-4 victory over Phil Cavanaugh of Silver Creek in his title bout to improve to 33-5. He scored a 21-6 victory over Scott Billyard of Frewsburg in the quarterfinals after nipping Glenn Dickerson of Falconer 4-2 in overtime in the quarterfinals.

"Mike has really gained a lot of confidence this year, and is really on a roll," Gross said.

Coming on strong after an injury-plagued season, Hartway jumped out a 4-1 first period lead en route to scoring a 12-6 victory over Scott Johnson of Ripley in the finals. Now 20-3, he pinned Adam Johnson of Falconer in 3:24 in the quarterfinals and then decisioned Vince Aris of Barker 14-6 in the

semis.

"Justin was pretty much in control of the match," said Gross of the title bout. "Maybe the injuries he's had this season were a bit of a blessing as he is fresh now and is coming on strong."

Grillo blanked Bryan Rodman of Palmyra-Macedon 5-0 in his title bout to improve to 39-0.

He opened with pins in 1:56 over Jim Blakeslee of Pavilion and 4:40 over Nick Siles of Wayland-Cohocton before decisioning Tyler Taylor of Bolivar-Richburg 5-3 in the semis.

"After losing last year in the finals, Andrew really worked hard all summer, put on some size and strength, and was very focused and intense on finishing what he didn't last year," said his coach and father John Grillo.

"He was tentative in the semifinals but he opened it up more in the finals. We're very excited for him as a family and as a program. It's a great feeling both as a father and a coach."

Williams earned his second straight trip to the state championships by decisioning Tyler Sick of Hornell 6-3 in the finals.

Staying perfect at 35-0 on the season, Williams opened with pins in 1:46 over Brian Velez of Letchworth and in 1:31 over Nate Swift of Bath. He then decisioned Evan Schledel of Caledonia-Mumford 8-4 in the semifinals.

"There is a lot of pressure and it's very difficult to repeat, and Donald did very well," Kendall coach Jim Saubaran said.

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Six win titles

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Tooley claimed his first sectional title by decisioning Devan Bertch of Canisteo 5-2 in the finals to improve to 35-1 on the season.

He reached the finals by decisioning John Saxton of Mynderse 7-2, Tyler Lake of Cal-Mum 9-0 and Dan Rudy of Pal-Mac 7-2 in the semis.

"Torry wrestled very well, just excellent," said Sauberan.

The Section V state qualifier was held at SUNY Brockport.

The state championships will be held Friday and Saturday at the University at Buffalo's Alumni Arena.

Also for Albion, Howie Daggs (189) finished second and Kyle Piccirilli (145) fourth. For Holley, Key McPherson (130) and Jordan Hughson (160) both lost in the semifinals as did Wes Snyder (189) for Kendall.