



# Pal-Mac Defeats Wayne Captures Finger Lakes East Title

By Michael Tellier

For the past two seasons Palmyra-Macedon has powered its way to a Finger Lakes East title. However after the key loses of Sean Walton, Tyler Marlow, Matt Hasbrouck, and Alex Ekstrom, many believed that the Red Raiders would need to take a step back and rebuild. On January 23, the Wayne Central Eagles would face off against the Red Raiders at Palmyra-Macedon High school to see who would remain undefeated in the eastern division and win the league title. The match would come down to the wire, but ultimately it was Palmyra-Macedon who would come out on top, 38-34, over Wayne Central and capture their third-straight league title.

Wayne began the match strong winning the first 3 weight classes and jumping out to a 12-0 lead. Pal-Mac answered with three-straight wins of their own, taking the lead 16-12. From there it was an up and down battle that came down to the 119-pound weight class. Wayne needed to win the match in order to keep their league title hopes alive. However, the Eagles were unsuccessful and Dustin Jones would come away with a 10-0 decision over Cody Herman, and the Raiders would secure the match with two weight classes remaining.

Even with the surprising losses of Ben Mowry (135) and Jeff O'Lena (103), the Raiders were still able to push through and win the match "I figured that the O'Lena match and the Mowry match would both be battles that could go either way, but this team is a lot better than people think. Just because these guys haven't all been starters for the past few years doesn't mean they weren't training with tough guys like Ekstrom and Walton and getting better every day," said Pal-Mac Coach Brian Quick. "I knew at the beginning of the season after I had saw these guys perform at the Thousand Islands Duals that this team had the potential to be great, and I told the guys that they truly had a huge opportunity to be the best team to ever wrestle at Pal-Mac. I'm glad that they have capitalized on that opportunity."

With an overall record of 19-1 and a number one team ranking in the NYS small school division, no one can argue that the Red Raiders haven't gone anywhere. "So far we are 19-1, and we have wrestled 10 teams that are ranked in NYS. So we aren't running from anyone, and these guys are just continuing to progress and get better," said Quick. □