



Anthony DePrez, left, has teamed with his brothers Vincent and Lou to lead Hilton to a 24-3 record. KRIS J. MURANTE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TERRIFIC TRIO

DePrez brothers power Hilton wrestling to historic season

James Johnson

Staff writer



PARMA — There were times when twin brothers Vincent and Anthony DePrez would hold their own at Section V's most competitive wrestling meets.

The talent they displayed made it easy to forget they did that as middle-school students.

"We would look over into the bleachers and they would be eating cookies with their brothers," retired Hilton coach Chuck Partridge said.

Vincent and Anthony DePrez, juniors, are no longer lightweights at Hilton and in Section V wrestling. They form a strong section in the Cadets' lineup, and along with 14-year-old brother Lou, have helped Hilton (24-3) set a school record for dual meet wins in a season.

"It's been a pretty good opportunity wrestling for Hilton," Lou DePrez said.

The record-breaker is historic, a 43-28 win Wednesday at Hilton that ended a Monroe County league dual meet win streak for Spencerport that stretched back

COMBINATION BROTHERS

The Hilton wrestling team, which set a school record for wins in a season on Wednesday with its win over Spencerport, has three brothers in its lineup. They are the sons of Lou and Jennifer DePrez (pronounced De-pray).

MONROE COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

When: 5 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. Saturday, finals 5 p.m.

Where: At Webster Schroeder.

Quality competition: Some of the top wrestlers in the AA and A classifications begin a string of rematches as the season heads toward sectionals, the state tournament qualifier and states.



VINCENT DEPREZ

Class: Junior.

Weight: 138 pounds.

2012-13 record: 37-1.

ANTHONY DEPREZ

Class: Junior.

Weight: 145 pounds.

2012-13 record: 37-1.

LOU DEPREZ

Class: Eighth-grader at Hilton's Merton Williams Middle School.

Weight: 120 pounds.

2012-2013 record: 35-3.

Hilton

Continued from Page 1D

more than 21 years.

A pin by Vincent DePrez at 138 pounds put Hilton ahead of Spencerport on the scoreboard for the first time since the opening match.

Anthony DePrez walked on to the mat and matched his 16-year-old twin brother's pin. Cadet middleweights further up in weight class went on to win their matches by major decision or pin.

"Our team has been working hard trying to beat Spencerport," Anthony DePrez said. "It's been like our main goal, pretty much."

"To finally beat them, it's a cool feeling. It means a lot."

The win for Hilton was the team's first over Spencerport in 27 years, most of which the Cadets and Rangers met at least once a season.

The DePrez brothers have a combined record of 109-5 at this point of the



Eighth-grader Lou DePrez, right, has a 35-3 record for Hilton this season. KRIS J. MURANTE
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

season.

"They bring the same work ethic every day whether they are preparing for SuperSectionals or the state tournament, or getting ready for a dual meet," Hilton coach Craig Gross said.

"You never have to get

on them to get going."

Vincent DePrez, who finished fourth at the state tournament as a freshman, was a runner-up at the 2012 state championships. He won his first 49 matches before Somers' 113-pounder Dylan Realbuto rallied with

two takedowns during the final minute.

"I want to win states this year," Vincent DePrez said. "It's my major goal, to get to states and get into the final again."

"I think I was really nervous. This year, if I make it, I'll try not to be as

nervous and just open up a little bit more. It seemed like I was so nervous, I couldn't really focus that much."

Anthony DePrez also is 37-1. He advanced to the finals during last season's SuperSectionals, Section V's state tournament qualifier. A win or a wild-card berth would have moved him into the state tournament.

Neither came his way after he lost by a point to Pittsford's Brady Baron and received no wild-card berth.

"Each and every day Vincent helps me be a better wrestler," Anthony DePrez said. "He pushes me. Just being with him, since he's a top-notch wrestler, helps me get better."

"He's my drill partner, the one who probably made me do good this year."

Anthony and Vincent joined the Hilton varsity as eighth-graders.

"Obviously, they push each other," Partridge, a history teacher at Hilton, said. "They are equally responsible for the other's

success.

"They are a coach's dream, extremely low-maintenance. Even in school they are quiet guys."

Lou DePrez's matches tend to be the most dramatic among the brothers, which can make for uncomfortable viewing for Anthony and Vincent, but they always watch. Lou DePrez seems to learn quickly, if his 35-3 record is any indication.

"Lou works hard in practice and he's a strong kid," Hilton 99-pounder and Lou DePrez's drills partner Yianni Diakomihalis said. "He pushes the pace. In a match, Lou is the aggressor."

"If we have practice after practice, they are all there, it's not just one of them."

Sometimes, that includes another DePrez brother, "Sammy."

"He's in sixth grade," Lou DePrez said. "He's been wrestling since he was 4."