

OPINION

No surprise: Braves, Reds tough again

On the top of Canandaigua's 1992-93 wrestling schedule it says "The Tradition Continues."

The Braves have always been good in wrestling, but were the surprise team last year in the Section 5 Class A championships.

Canandaigua, ranked fourth in the *Democrat and Chronicle* large school poll that came out before the tournament, finished second with 146 points behind top-ranked Spencerport's 181.5 points and ahead of highly regarded Fairport and Greece Athena.

The Braves emerged from the tournament with two champions — freshman Andy Guastafarro at 98 pounds and senior Rob Hoy at 126 pounds. Canandaigua also had four third-place finishers and a fourth-place finisher.



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UNFORTUNATELY, none of Canandaigua's wrestlers made it to the state tournament. The Braves, however, finished the season ranked 28th in the state.

This year's Braves return Guastafarro and senior Todd Allen, the third-place finisher at 112 pounds in sectionals last year. Canandaigua has 33 wrestlers on the roster, 21 of them freshmen or sophomores.

"The team is pretty good," said coach Rich Romeo. "We're looking for some very good matches."

One match in particular will be special for Romeo as Canandaigua will hold an "Alumni Night" on Dec. 21 for its former wrestlers and coaches.

The Braves will take on Cicero-North Syracuse, ranked 30th in the state last year, in a 7:30 p.m. non-league match at Canandaigua's new high school, off East Street in the town of Canandaigua.

"The match should be great," Romeo said. "And, it will be a night when old teammates and coaches can get together and reminisce. We look forward to as many former wrestlers and coaches coming as possible."



THERE ARE many perennially tough opponents on Canandaigua's schedule this year, including Brighton, Palmyra-Macedon, Spencerport, Waterloo and East Rochester.

Another power in Finger Lakes wrestling is Newark.

The Reds, who finished 12-2 last year and second in the Section 5 Class B championships with 141 points, have produced an incredible 26 sectional champions and have over 160 dual meet victories. Newark had eight wrestlers with 20-plus wins last year.

The team's hopes for this season start with returning senior Jack Fisher Jr. at 250 pounds. Fisher was the Section 5 Class B champion in that weight class last year, but was defeated in the state's consolation quarterfinals by Dan Jennings of Section 4 Norwich. Fisher's career record so far is 88-8.

NEWARK also has sophomore Terry Hasseler, who had 27 wins last year at 112 pounds, junior Jack Farnsworth with 26 wins at 167 pounds, junior Tim Dallos with 21 wins at 138 pounds and senior Teddy Rice with 20 wins at 119 pounds. Two other wrestlers — juniors Josh Van Lare at 155 pounds and Keith Thomas at 215 pounds — had 17 and 16 wins respectively last year.

The Reds also have a tough schedule with Webster, Waterloo, Palmyra-Macedon, McQuaid and Greece Arcadia.

But, as the saying goes on Newark's wrestling schedule:

"Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man; but sooner or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can."

Here's a wish for an outstanding wrestling season for all participants in the Finger Lakes area. □

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