

# Surprise! Warsaw grapplers are loaded again

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**WARSAW** — To put it simply, Warsaw's wrestling team is loaded.

Topping the list of returners are the Paddock brothers — Paul and Ian — who each won state titles two years ago and will be trying to repeat that feat.

Paul, a senior, lost 3-1 in the state 160-pound finals last year to Eric Decker of Bainbridge in an attempt for his second straight title. It turned out to be Decker's third straight state crown.

Paul is ranked sixth nationally. He has three straight trips to states, having also finished fourth as a freshman. Going into the season, he needed just two wins to break the school mark for career victories of 198.

Ian, a sophomore, was upset in the 103-pound state finals last year by Nick Wilcox of Greene. That broke his amazing streak of 85 straight wins.

Ian, who will wrestle at 119 this season, is ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Senior Billy Romasser, who wrestles at 215, earned a silver medal at the Empire State Games and will also be bidding for a spot at states.

Senior Collin Ewell, who wrestles at 145, is a four-year varsity starter who qualified for nationals last year.

Fellow senior Jo Russ-Wilkolaski, who wrestles at 189, is another four-year varsity starter.

Freshman Zak Griffith, who wrestles at 152, is a three-year varsity starter who qualified for nationals last year.

Sophomore Phil Moens, who will go at 135, placed fifth in sectionals last year.

Eighth-grader Dakota Stackhouse, who wrestles at 96, placed fourth in the state qualifier last year and will be looking for a spot at states.

Sophomore Chris Whiting is a two-time sectional place finisher. He wrestles at 119.

The Tigers host the Section 5 Class B tourney this year.

"We are very excited to have sectionals at home," said coach Rob Hirsch, in his fifth year at the helm. "We are hoping to bring back all the Warsaw alumni heroes of the past to cheer on the wrestlers of the present as they try to win the Class B sectional title."

The Tigers will also be looking to win their third Livingston Conference Division II title.

## Boys Basketball

The Tigers are on the move.

"We move from Division II to Division III this year, which doesn't make the schedule any easier but it does change our focus on who we watch more carefully," eighth-year coach Ed Stores said.

Warsaw is coming off a 1-20 season and a first-round loss to Bloomfield in sectionals.

"We will go as the three returning starters go," Stores said.

Junior Chris Parrott will again man the point guard position.

Senior Chad Dunning starts at the other guard position.

"Chad is our shooter who has good

range and can put it on the floor if he needs to," Stores said.

Senior Drew Dumbleton, a 6-foot-6 center, is a three-year starter.

"He is very smart and can score if we get him the ball," Stores said.

The other probable starters are 6-4 senior forward Nick Murtha and junior forward Ryan Milcarek.

The top newcomers are senior guard Steve Sheer, junior guard Alex VanScoter and junior forward Josh Rowley.

"We have a nice core, so now it's up to the newcomers to develop their role if we plan on being more competitive this season," Stores said.

## Girls Basketball

John Gibson returns as coach after a year away.

Megan Bodekor and Amy Nowak are returning starters for the Tigers, who will also play in Division III this season.

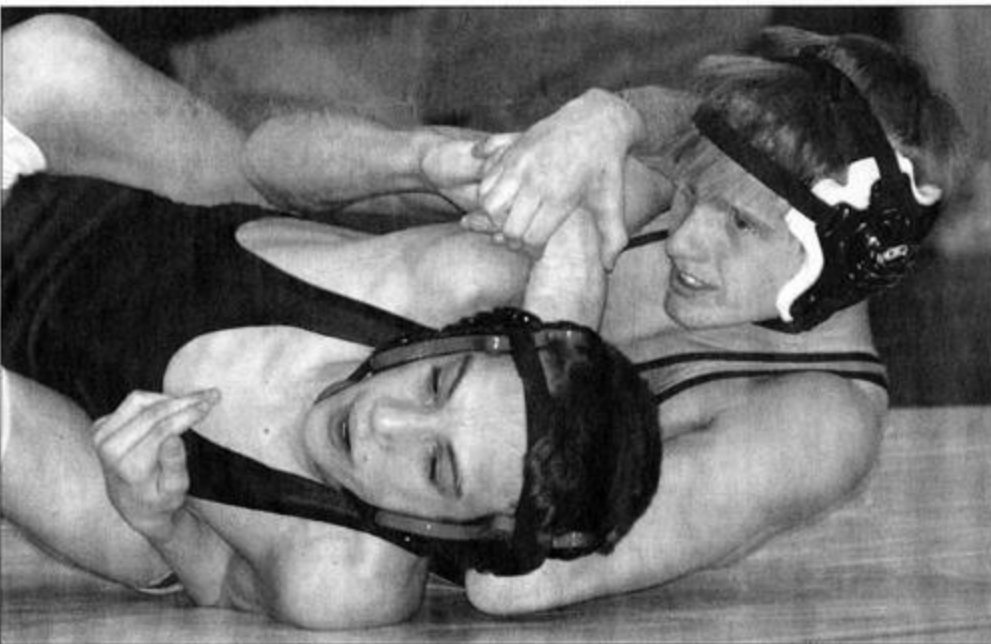
Bodekor, a senior forward, averaged 11.7 points a game last year. Nowak, a junior guard, averaged 8.4 points per contest.

Juniors Courtney Bishop and Kristi Weaver are other returnees.

"Our best chance to be competitive is to play good defense and not allow teams to run up big scores," Gibson said.

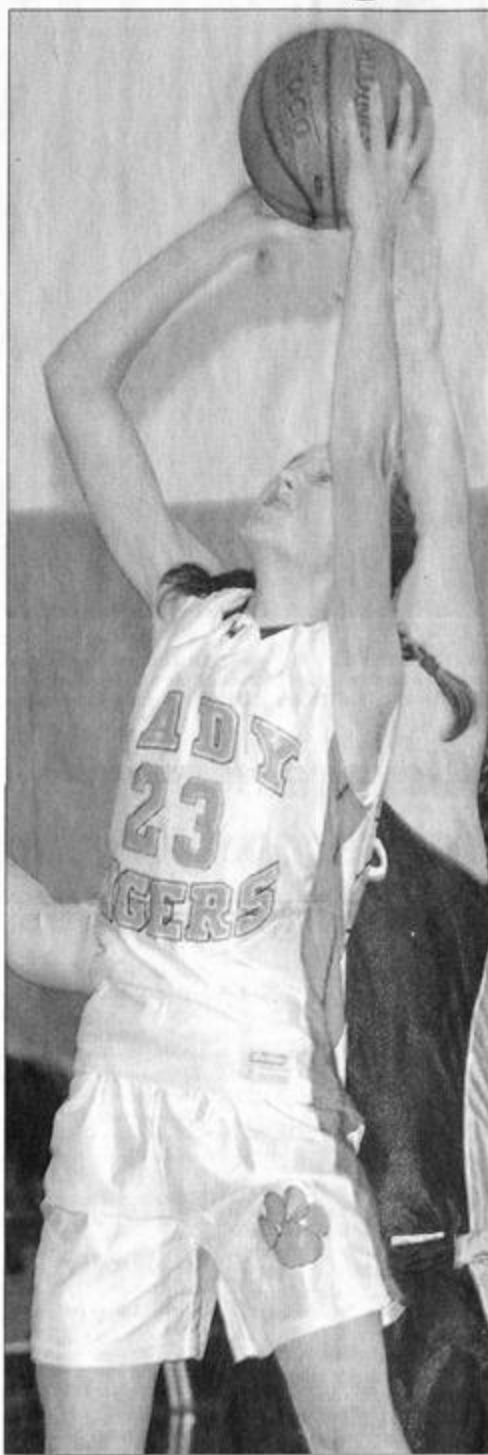
The Tigers were 2-19 a year ago and lost to Letchworth in the first round of sectionals.

"It's going to take time to develop continuity in our defensive scheme," Gibson said. "The sooner we do this, the sooner we will be competitive."



Daily News file photo

**PADDOCK PADLOCK:** Ian Paddock, right, was upset in the 103-pound weight class finals last season in his attempt to win back-to-back state championships. The sophomore is ranked No. 1 in the nation and is expected to be in the hunt for another state crown, this time at 119 pounds.



Mark Gutman/Daily News file photo

**LOOKING UP:** Senior forward Megan Bodekor is one of two returning starters for the Warsaw girls basketball team. She averaged 11.7 points per game last season.

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