



Dennis R. Floss Democrat and Chronicle

Steve Mesiti, who lost part of his junior season to an elbow injury, is expected back at either 126 or 132 pounds as one of three seniors who should bolster Brockport.

# On the mat and on the move

Brighton athletes uprooted, but still contending,

By John Moriello  
Democrat and Chronicle

**B**righton wrestling is on the move. Every weekday afternoon . . . from Twelve Corners Middle School, down Winton Road to Pinnacle Road. Hang a turn into the parking lot at what used to be Rush-Henrietta's Carlton Webster Junior High.

Assume the referee's position and get your gray matter jostled for a couple of hours, then do your homework and go to bed.

Oh, if only life were so simple in Brighton. The district's student-athletes suffer through numerous inconveniences on school days this year while the district's high school is renovated.

That, however, hasn't foiled the Barons. Mark Hoyt's team went 13-1 in dual meets last season and won the Section 5 Class A tournament. Three terrific seniors graduated, but there's enough left to make the Barons favorites to finish the season atop the *Democrat and Chronicle's* Section 5 coaches poll.

But not without clearing the biggest hurdle of all: the daily routine.

"Shirley Bowen's been terrific about coordinating the coaches' schedules wherever she can," Hoyt said of the Brighton athletic director, "but it gets really confusing at times . . . buses are shuttling

back and forth for us and the basketball team, and we're shuffling kids and coaches this way and that way. Actually, it's a lot of fun."

*Wait a minute. Does anyone know what they did with my middleweights?*

Matt Barry, a 167-pound senior on the team, listed what he goes through each day, and it's not for the laid-back crowd:

- Up at 6:15 a.m., in classes (including math, English, physics and computers) an hour later.

- Classes end at about 1:15 p.m. (freshmen and sophomores are in school from about 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), so Barry goes home for a couple hours, then returns to Twelve Corners, which currently serves as the high school, by 4 o'clock to be bused to Carlton Webster.

- After a three-hour practice, everyone rides back to Brighton. Barry returns home, has dinner and is in bed by about 9:15.

"I don't see much TV anymore, but that doesn't bother me," Barry said. "What I miss is the sports shows like *Monday Night Football*. I can see the kickoff and that's about it."

"The adjustment wasn't as tough as I thought it would be," Barry said. "You have to learn to utilize your free time wisely. I know I have to do homework before I go to practice."

"I guess things are working out better than I figured they would."

Hoyt should be saying the same thing by season's end.

Here's how the area's powers should shape up by the end of the season, with last night's Canandaigua at Brockport

## WRESTLING PREVIEW

BARONS WIN AT LE ROY 10E

meet adding a touch of intrigue:

**1 Brighton:** State placers Greg Lechner (145 pounds), Ben Weinthal (167) and Todd Mirabella (177) graduated, taking with them 111 of Brighton's 331 individual wins last season. Also, junior heavyweight Todd Levine (24 more wins) won't be back from a football injury until January.

"It's not going to be as easy for us as people think," Hoyt said, but he also admits to having "five seniors who've been around the horn a few times. They're people to build around."

Back are 1986 sectional Class A champ Mitch Stern (now at 98) and 20-plus winners Dan Presberg (112) and Todd Knowles (119). Junior Dan Sobel sprouted from 98 pounds to 126 in a year, and he joins seniors Peter Chou (132) and Pat Keenan (138) in making Brighton solid through the middle.

What worries Hoyt is Levine's injury.

"He'd be like my stopper at the end," the coach said. "Now we have to get out to a roaring start, which is unusual for us . . . I may have a few gray hairs I didn't have before."

**2 Spencerport:** Coach Bill Jacoutot has some major talent back in the form of sectional Class A champions Ray LeChase (33-4 at 119) and Tom Billone (32-5 at 126) and semifinalists Chris LoPresti (25-6 at 132) and Joe

LoPresti (25-4 at 105). Additionally, senior Jeff Hefner took a silver medal at last summer's Empire State Games.

However, it's a huge step up from a sectional title to the state championship, and the Rangers had two of those after a 9-2 regular season. Mike LoPresti (138) and Rick Suhr (155) are gone, leaving Jacoutot with holes to plug.

**3 East Rochester:** The Bombers have won sectional titles in 12 straight years, with No. 13 certainly within reach. Don Quinn (331-45-7 coaching record) says he has to replace "seven pretty good seniors," including state fourth-place finisher Mike Condello.

The Bombers (13-0-1) are deep by tradition. This season's leading wrestlers include junior Steve Marcoccia (up one or two weight classes after reaching states last season), "B" sectionals 98-pound champ Sean Rucker and Paul Fioravanti (at 138 or 145).

**4 Brockport:** Coach Woody VanDenBurg sees three seniors as his catalysts in the chase for the Class A title. Charlie Sortino was third at 112 pounds last season and is a leading contender this time. Steve Mesiti will wrestle at 126 or '32 after an elbow injury cut his junior season short. Lee Juby, also a football and baseball standout, will go at 138 pounds. Sophomore Scott Daly also has looked sharp at 112.

**5 Canandaigua:** It seems as though Finger Lakes opponents edge closer to the Braves each season, but this is the year Tobin Tansey's crew can establish some distance. The major tests



# On the mat, on the move

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will come Jan. 15 at Waterloo and Feb. 14 against Victor.

Sophomore Kerry Foster is up a class to 105 after going 30-7-1 and winning a sectional title. Two other high placers at sectionals, Tom Cunningham and Nick Castiglia, graduated, but two tough sophs (Todd LeGrette at 112 and Jon Welch at 167) take their spots.

Seniors Dave DelForte (119) and Joe Boganno (145) join junior Craig Buck as returning veterans.

**6 Hilton:** "Most teams, if they lost five kids who would have been seniors, would feel their season had been wiped out," Hilton Coach Al Krotz said. "I'm fortunate to have people to fill the openings."

Throw in the graduation of 112-pound state champ Dave Pitoni to the problems, but balance that with the return of sophomore Antonucci (98) and junior Rick Sadwick (167), sectional finalists last year. Senior Todd Page returns 20 wins to the 177-pound division, and county JV champions Jason DePrez and Don Potter move up.

**7 Waterloo:** Forget about "One little, two little, three little Indians..."

Seventh-year Coach Abe Meyers has 14 varsity veterans, and three (Bill Brown in '84, Tom Finnerty in '85 and Shawn Knisely in '86) are former 91-pound sectional Class B champs.

Bill Norberg was a sectional finalist during a 25-5 junior season. Another to watch is Tim Spina, who'll be at 167 following a 27-7-1 sophomore season.

**8 Victor:** This is a not-so-hurting young team, with enough people back from an 8-6-1 team that came within a point apiece against Canandaigua and Pal-Mac.

Senior Gary Gilbert, sectional finalist at 145 last season, is back to improve upon a 21-9-1 record. Two juniors, Jeff Knapp (132) and Steve Amyot (138), round out a solid middle-of-the-lineup arrangement for Coach Jeff Kaller.

**9 McQuaid:** The five-time defending City-Catholic champions have their best chance in ages to inflict some serious damage of other Class A schools. Coach John Roselli (213-62-4 in 21 seasons) has his entire lineup back, including two top-four performers in the 1985 tournament (Paul Roselli and Ed Porto) and two from '86 (Rob Wilson and Shannon Costello).

The dual tests come in February: non-leaguers with Pal-Mac, Canandaigua and Waterloo.

**10 Le Roy:** The return of 215-pounder Bill Hixenbaugh after a year in Michigan is a help to Coach Bob Gateley's squad. Also back are Bill

Dempsey (126), the B champ at 119 last year, and Mike Chester (177), the runner-up at 167 as a sophomore.

Senior 132-pounder Todd Capwell also is back from a team that went 10-4 and then finished a distant second to East Rochester in sectionals.

## Around the area

**City-Catholic League:** First-year Cardinal Mooney Coach John Walker inherits three senior leaders: John Bell (145), Mike Briggs (138) and John LeDoux (132). At Edison, Frank Mielnicki is trying to plug gaps in the middle, but has Bill Cronmiller (177), Allan and Andrew Aceto (91 and 98, respectively) and Tony Caldronie (112) back at the extremes.

**Monroe County West:** Class B heavyweight champ Joe Amico returns for Batavia. Another senior to watch is 126-pounder Mark Robinson, who was 25-7 last season. Greece Athena Coach Frank Vito has back 126-pound senior Ilias Diakomihalis, a 30-win wrestler and sectional semifinalist.

Gates-Chili Coach Jim Hosenfeld used a lot of young wrestlers during a 4-9 season, so freshman Shawn Bauer (98) and sophomore Jim Giglio (105) should be prepared to contribute. Senior Tom Reina will wrestle at 138. Greece Olympia will be OK after the lower weight classes as Bill Baird (167) and senior Pete Bray (138) return. And let's not forget Chuchville-Chili. Any team that holds a midnight practice has to have determination, and 215-pounder Mike Michelson should be watched.

**Monroe County East:** Webster should be an early candidate as a top

10 replacement behind 138-pound "A" runner-up Chris Yengo. Irondequoit senior Shawn Cavanaugh (now at 215) came within a victory of going to states at 177 last season. He's joined by Bill Barker (177) and fifth-year vet Tom Izzo (138). Juniors Todd Burchar (145), Jason Hulett (138) and Jim Quattrociochi (132) make Rush-Henrietta rough through the middle.

Fifteen seniors make this the most experienced Pittsford team in memory. Dave Nicoll (112) and Chris Miller (145) were second-team all league last season. Twenty-second year Fairport Coach Pete Logan will season his youngsters with non-leaguers against Hilton, Brockport, McQuaid and Pal-Mac. Seniors Dan Macca (132) and Marc Rosone (145) are the leading veterans.

Senior Fritz Zagorski is coming off a 30-3 season and leads John Yengo's Eastridge team. No one on the Penfield roster jumps out at you, but the Chiefs are solid up and down the line. Dave Brooks (126), Mike Maina (145) and Rich Jones (167) are the leading seniors.

**Finger Lakes East:** Palmyra-Macedon's program remains in an up cycle, with 52 participants in grades 9-12 after a 14-1 season. Coach Fred Ciaburri's varsity team features sectional "B" finalist Darwin Michielsen at 112, and senior Tim McDonald at 215. Bob Elmer (167) and Don Craig (119) are other leading seniors.

**Big dual meets on the schedule** ... Wednesday: Spencerport at Canandaigua; Webster vs. Brighton (at St. John Fisher) ... Thursday: Canandaigua at Pal-Mac ... Friday: McQuaid at Hilton ... Saturday: Hilton at Brockport.

Jan. 3 Brighton and Brockport each take on Olean and Falconer (at Fal-

coner) ... Jan. 15: Canandaigua at Waterloo ... Jan. 13: Le Roy at East Rochester ... Jan. 17 East Rochester and Webster each take on Olean and Salamanca (at Webster) ... Jan. 22: Webster at East Rochester ... Jan. 23: Livonia at Le Roy ... Jan. 24: Spencerport and Hilton each take on Royalton-Hartland and Baldwinsville (at Hilton) ... Jan. 28: East Rochester at Fulton ... Jan. 31: Le Roy at Victor.

Feb. 3: Waterloo at Victor ... Feb. 5: Brighton at East Rochester. Feb. 6 Victor at Pal-Mac ... Feb. 7: Hilton at Spencerport; Fairport and McQuaid each take on Waterloo and Brockport ... Feb. 10 McQuaid at Pal-Mac ... Feb. 11: Canandaigua at East Rochester; Brockport at Spencerport ... Feb. 14: Monroe County crossovers at West Division schools; Victor at Canandaigua.

## Last season's sectional results:

Class A: Brighton 223, Spencerport 174, Brockport 128, Hilton 118, Canandaigua 111, Webster 90, Fairport 82½, Penfield 69, Gates-Chili 67½, McQuaid 66.

Class B: East Rochester 207, Le Roy 111, Penn Yan 103½, Wayne 103, Pal-Mac 96, Victor 94½, Bath Haverling 94, Newark 83½, Waterloo 83, Batavia 72½.

Class C: Sodus 150½, Avon 123½, Byron-Bergen 117, Marion 114, Kendall 102, Letchworth 91, Lyons 66, Addison 64, Perry 59½, Bloomfield 55½.

Class D: Canisteo 139, Lyndonville 137½, Campbell 129, Pavilion 117½, Red Creek 92, Geneseo 88½, Avoca 69, South Seneca 69, Hammonsport 66, Elba 62.

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