

J-R Sports

Mike Wertman, Sports Editor

1985 N-O League Wrestling Preview

Undefeated a year ago, the Roy-Hart Rams will begin defense of their Niagara-Orleans League wrestling title next Wednesday at rival Medina.

The Rams, who became the fourth different team in as many years to claim the N-O mat crown last winter, are expected to get good challenges for the title this season from Akron, Albion and Starpoint.

Here's a capsule preview on how the N-O loop's seven wrestling teams are shaping up beginning with the defending champion Rams.

Roy-Hart Rams

The return of four defending N-O champions and two other grapplers who earned second place finishes at the All-League tourney give Roy-Hart a strong nucleus on which to build a title defense.

Seniors Don Quackenbush (138) and Dan Huntington (177) along with sophomores Ken Copella (145) and Willie Cunningham (167) all captured N-O titles last season while freshman Lou Rosselli (98) and junior Jim Johnson (132) both earned runnerup honors.

Johnson, who was 22-7 last year, is already 7-0 in non-league action this season as are Huntington who was 19-5-2 and Rosselli who was 12-5. Both 6-1 to date, Cunningham was 22-4 last season and Quackenbush 19-5-2. Career wise Johnson is now 58-20, Copella 55-25-1, Quackenbush 53-34-3, Cunningham 51-14 and Huntington 32-19-2.

"I'm very pleased with what I've seen so far," said R-H coach Joe Massaro, "but we realize we'll have to work even harder to stay No. 1.

Also back with some varsity experience are sophomore Jeff Yates (119) who is now 3-2 and freshman Dave Edmister (155) while junior Ken Schwab (215) along with freshmen Nelson Colley (98), Dave Lyndaker (105), Mark Baehr (112) and Brian Hale (126) help round out the starting lineup. Baehr is now 4-4 on the young season.

Also vying for starting spots are seniors Chris Peccoraro (155) and Eric Schumacher (215), junior Mark Ackerman (155), sophomore Mark Silsby (119), freshmen Mark Fragale (105) and Dan Gardner (145) as well as eighth graders Todd Fragale (91) and Aaron Schumacher (105).

"We're very young again with only two seniors in the starting lineup but I expect it to be a very exciting season again this year," said Massaro, whose charges have posted a 3-1 record to date against non-league foes. The Rams also garnered a third place finish in the Newfane Tourney.

Medina Mustangs

Bolstered by a good turnout of 40, which is double that of a year ago, the Medina High grapplers look to continue building in 1985.

The Mustangs who were 2-4 in league action and 6-10 overall last season, return a good nucleus of seven regulars including senior tri-captains Tony Lucas (145), Chris Fuller (132) and Jon Rizzo (177) along with juniors Wes Askew (112), Scott Schickling (119), Mike Dunham (132) and E. J. Reese (167).

Lucas, who shared the N-O League

title at 138 last year, is undefeated at 9-0 already this season while Rizzo is at 9-2 and Askew 7-1. Lucas was 24-4-1 overall last season. Askew, who finished second in the league at 112 lb., and Rizzo were both .500 in dual match competition with 8-8 and 7-7 records respectively. Schickling was fourth in the league a year ago at 119 lb.

"We'll pay our dues this year but we've got a good turnout and some good, promising kids for the future," said MHS coach Joe Bujalski whose Mustangs are 2-5 to date including a second place finish to Lyndonville in the second annual MHS Team Tournament.

Helping to round out the MHS lineup are freshman Bill Morgan (98), junior Lawrence Humbert (119), senior Paul Russo (126), junior Herb Oberther (126), freshman Tom Fenton (138), junior Scott Markle (155) and sophomore Kevin Heideman (177). Russo is now 6-4 on the season and Heideman 3-3.

"It's a building year," said Bujalski but we're right about on track and we should be very tough next year."

Albion Purple Eagles

Strength in the lightweights looks to key the fortunes of the Albion High matmen who finished second last season at 4-2 after capturing the N-O crown the year before.

Seniors Mike Conn (105) and Joe Christopher (119) along with juniors Todd Spencer (112), Rawn Mitchell (126) and Jeff Harding (177) provide the nucleus for the Purple Eagles.

Conn and Mitchell are both two time defending N-O champions while Spencer, who sat out last season, claimed a league title as a freshman. A gold medalist at last summer's Empire State Games, Conn has won 71 varsity matches while Mitchell has 58 career wins including 28 last year. Christopher finished fourth in the league at 126 lb. last season.

"We've got three guns in the lightweights in Conn, Mitchell and Spencer but we've got a lot of young kids in the upper weights," said Albion coach Keith Piccirilli who is looking for Harding to anchor that end of the Eagles lineup.

Mitchell is 6-0 to date this season and Spencer 5-1 while Christopher and Harding are both at 4-2 and Conn 2-0.

Also returning with some varsity experience are sophomores Brian Strasburger (98) and Mike Salvatore (98) along with juniors Bob Rice (119) who was fourth in the N-O loop at 98 lb. last year, and Carmine Calabria (145).

Also seeing action during the early non-league portion of the schedule, have been seniors Jason Powley (215) and T. J. Hooker (138) along with juniors Dave Coville (132), Dave Slocum (155) and Bernell Moyer (167), sophomore Pat Boland (138) and freshman Mark Farone (98).

"We have a good mixture of returnees and young wrestlers," added Piccirilli who looks for Albion to be among the top three teams in the final N-O standings. The Purple Eagles are now 1-2 against non-league competition.



VETERAN GRAPPLERS—Fresh from a busy non league schedule in December, the Medina High wrestling team will begin Niagara-Orleans competition Wednesday evening with a home match against defending champion

Roy-Hart. Here MHS senior Tony Lucas watches as juniors Wes Askew and Scott Schickling sharpen their skills.

(J-R Photos by Mike Wertman)

Akron Tigers

The return of half a dozen grapplers who placed in the top three at last year's All-League Tourney looks to make Akron a contender for the N-O title if the Tigers can shake off a rash of early season injuries.

Coming off a 5-1 league season, the Tigers who have never won the N-O title, return seniors Ron Smith (126), Randy Sanger (167 or 177), Chuck Yaeger (145), Larry Kopacz (138) and Sean Regan (132 or 138) along with junior Tom Smith (105).

Tom Smith took the N-O title at 91 lb. last year while compiling a 25-3 overall record while Regan was runnerup at 126 lb. with a 22-9-1 overall mark and Yaeger second at 138 lb. with a 23-8 record. Third place finishers at the All-League Tourney Kopacz was 21-8 overall, Ranger 18-10 and Ron Smith 12-8.

"With the injuries we've had it's really hard to predict how we'll do," said Tiger coach Jerry Drayer whose underclassmen dominated squad numbers 42.

Starpoint Spartans

Absent from the N-O title circle since the late 1960's, Starpoint also looks to challenge for top honors as the Spartans return a good nucleus.

Sophomore Joe Finley (112), who took the N-O 98 lb. title last year while compiling a 25-6 overall record heads the Spartans' returning contingent.

Senior Steve Hill (155), who was runnerup at 138 lb. last season also returns as do seniors Dan Bright (215), Mike Sheeler (167) and Eric Maerten (138) along with juniors Jerry Farnham (119), Jim Taber (126) and Mike Barone (145) and sophomores Kevin Groerer (132) and Mark Lutz (215). Hill was runnerup last season at 138 lb. while Taber, who was 22-7, took third place at 112 lb. and Maerten fourth at 119 lb.

"We've got new kids at the very lightweights and at the upper weights so how well they do will be the key for us," said Starpoint coach Roger Gately who noted that the Spartans have also been hampered somewhat by injuries.

Starpoint posted a 3-3 record in N-O duel matches last season.

Newfane Panthers

With freshmen and sophomores filling out the first seven weight classes Newfane looks to be in for a building season.

"We're going to be very, very young as we've got a lot of inexperience," said Newfane coach Ross Livergood whose charges were 1-5 in

N-O duel meets last season.

Returnees to the Panthers' lineup include junior Ron Fedkiw (155), who was second last year at 145 lb. along with seniors Steve Gerhardt (145) and Jeff Roberson (167).

The rest of the Panthers' lineup looks to include freshmen Chris Case (91), Mark Vogt (112), Reed Murphy (119) and Matt Platt (132) along with sophomores Darrin Ethridge (98), Keith Smith (105) and Pat Tarr (126), junior Ted Murphy (138) and seniors Doug Baker (177) and Bob Stabler (215).

Wilson Lakemen

With a total of eight first year

wrestlers in the starting lineup a building season also looks to be in store for Wilson.

"It's definitely going to be a learning year," said Wilson coach Roger Hutchison. "We're very young as our squad is mainly freshmen and sophomores."

Returnees to the Lakemen lineup include seniors Eric Freischlag (132) and Steve Pasquarette (155) along with junior Leo Fournier (145) and sophomore Tony Pulli (112 or 119). Pulli finished third at 105 last year as did Fournier at 126.

The Lakemen were 0-6 in N-O duel matches last season.



READY FOR ACTION—With the N-O season opener against Starpoint just a week away, Albion High varsity wrestling coach Keith Piccirilli meets here with the Purple Eagles two defending league champions Rawn Mitchell, left, and Mike Conn.

Ten Pin Review

By Mark Wengrzycki

COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Medina Jaycees maintained a comfortable lead in the Community League by downing FMC-B 6-2. Stan Dudek fired a 550 series to pace the Jaycees who own a 12 game lead.

Second place Frenchy's lost ground by dropping a 6-2 decision to C&N Video. Jeff Stear was high man for C&N with a 492 while Rusty Caleb led Frenchy's with a 479.

Third place Allis Bros. failed to take advantage of Frenchy's loss as they dropped a similar 6-2 decision to FMC-A which was led by Jerry Colopy's 555. Syd Allis topped Allis Bros. with a 495.

In the other matches Sandy's Cafe blanked Barb's Lyn-D-Lounge 8-0 and Agway Builders downed Marlene's Sub Shop 6-2. For the winners Larry Stockwell had a 479 for Sandy's and John Gaygen had a 212-569 for Agway. Jeff Gonzalez was high man for Marlene's with a 523.

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE

Second half action got underway

in the industrial league last week as Marine Midland shutout O'Brien's 4-0 to take the early lead. Tom Dotts led the balanced Marine attack with a 213-599 while Ken Sylvester added a 214-592, Don Hall a 575, Scott Sylvester a 528 and George Moden a 506. Mike Crowley was high scorer for O'Brien's with a 511.

Whispering Willows grabbed second place by defeating VFW 3-1 as Mal Gardner fired a 545, Bev Edwards a 533, Brad Nudd a 507 and Les Wickham a 503. For VFW Ron Thomas had a 209-562 and Bruce Blanc a 200-550.

In the other matches Erie Inn split 2-2 with No Name and Colonial Tavern defeated Southern Comfort 2½-1½. Bruce Seefeldt was high man for the night with a 216-200-604 series for No Name while Fred Borneman had a 213-511 for Erie Inn. The duo of John Harrington (528) and Frank Callara (525) paced Colonial Tavern as George Allen Jr. had a 220-551 and George Allen Sr. a 509 for Southern Comfort.



ALL-LEAGUERS—These four defending All-League champions provide a good nucleus as the Roy-Hart Rams begin a defense of their Niagara-Orleans title. Kneeling are Dan Huntington, left, and Don Quackenbush while standing are Ken Copella, left, and Willie Cunningham.

Basketball's Top 20

NEW YORK (UPI) — The United Press International Board of Coaches Top 20 college basketball ratings. First-place votes and records through games of Dec. 30.

1. Georgetown (35)(11-0)	525
2. Duke (9-0)	484
3. Memphis State (8-0)	438
4. St. John's (9-1)	330
5. Syracuse (8-0)	321
6. Illinois (11-2)	289
7. Georgia Tech (9-1)	284
8. Southern Methdst(9-1)	278
9. North Carolina (8-1)	218
10. DePaul (9-2)	207
11. Kansas (8-1)	144
12. Indiana (8-2)	134
13. Washington (7-2)	115
14. Oklahoma (9-3)	96
15. Louisiana State (8-1)	79
16. Maryland (9-2)	42
17. Michigan (8-1)	30
18. Louisiana Tech (11-1)	25
19. Virginia Commonwealth (8-1)	24
20. Ohio State (8-1)	20