

# N-O League Wrestling Preview

Over the past two years Roy-Hart has pretty much ruled the Niagara-Orleans wrestling league and with no less than 10 regulars back in the lineup the Rams' domination is expected to continue this season.

Last winter Roy-Hart shared the league crown with Akron at 5-0-1 with Medina, Albion and Starpoint all bunched together in the runnerup spot at 3-3.

Starpoint, which the league coaches expect to give Roy-Hart a good battle for the N-O title, interestingly visits the Rams tomorrow night in the season opener. The other contests will have Akron at Medina and Wilson at Newfane.

Here's a capsule look at how the seven league mat teams are shaping up.

## Medina Mustangs

Last Year: 3-3

The accent is definitely on youth at Medina where Coach Joe Bujalski's Mustang 34 man roster includes 15 freshmen, eight sophomores, six juniors and only five seniors.

"It's a very, very young team," said Bujalski, but our young kids all have a couple of year's experience wrestling on the club level so now it's just a matter of getting varsity experience by knocking heads with the big boys."

Anchoring the MHS squad will be a nucleus of five returning regulars including seniors Wes Askew (119), Scott Schickling (119), and E. J. Reese (167) along with juniors Mike Dunham (132) and Kevin Heideman (177).

Askew finished second in the All-League Tourney last year and posted a 20-3 overall record. Heideman was third in the league as Schickling and Reese both earned fourth place finishes. Schickling and Heideman were both 16-7 on the season while Dunham was 15-8 and Reese 13-9.

Cary Ferguson (126) and Ed Lake (155) are the only other seniors on the squad while Ian Foley (138), Joe Stawicki (155), Scott Markle (155) and Scott Blount (215) make up the rest of the junior contingent.

Promising sophomores Terry Fearby (98), Ron Washak (138) and Tom Fenton (145) all broke into the starting lineup for this past weekend's MHS Team Tournament as did freshmen Brian Southcott (105), Kevin Carpenter (112), Don Lotts (155) and Henry Banks (177). Southcott and Washak joined Askew, Dunham and Reese in posting perfect 3-0 records for the tourney while Fearby, Heideman and Carpenter were all credited with a pair of wins.

Also vying for spots in the lineup are sophomores Allan Showers (112), Bill Ossont (132), William Suazo (145), Matt Albone (145), and Shannon McPherson (167) along with freshmen Chris Wigley (91), Joe Healy (98), Craig Gross (105), Jon Pitts (119), Jeremy McCauley (126), Eric Coon (126), Gordy Luthart (126), Tom Sanders (132), David Lonnen (132), Jeremy Hogan (138), and Matt Harmer (145).

"They are going to have a bit of a rough time this year," said Bujalski, "but they're hard workers and it will be interesting watching them come of age."

The Mustangs posted a 2-1 record in the season opening tournament as they dropped a 39-27 decision to Pavilion in the finals.

## Roy-Hart Rams

Last Year: 5-0-1

Four returning league champions including seniors Jim Johnson (138) and Willie Cunningham (167) along with junior Ken Copella (155) and sophomore Lou Rosselli (105) head Roy-Hart's large delegation of returning starters.

Last year Rosselli became the first R-H wrestler to win a Section VI title and gain a berth in the state meet where he earned a fine third place finish. Posting a 35-2 record on the season he now has a two year varsity record of 49-7.

Cunningham, a three-time N-O league champ and a third place finisher in the Section VI meet last year, brings a 75-17 career mark into his senior season. He was 30-4 last year.

Copella notched a 23-9 record last year as he won a second straight league title and placed second in the Section VI meet. He brings a career record of 76-33-1 into the 1985-86 campaign.

Also coming off a 20 win plus (27-3) season is Johnson who boasts a career record of 78-23 as he looks to repeat as a league champion.

Johnson and Cunningham are already off to 4-0 starts this season while Rosselli is at 3-0 and Copella at 2-1.

The Rams' other returning regulars include seniors Jeff Yates (126) and Kent Schwab (215) along with sophomores Nelson Colley (98), David Lyndaker (112), Mark Baehr (119) and Mark Fragale (132) and freshman Todd Fragle (91). Colley placed second in the league last year and finished with a 19-7 record while Schwab was 16-15 and Lyndaker, a fourth place league finisher, 11-14.

"This is the strongest team we've put on the mat," said R-H Coach Joe Massaro. "The kids know they have a lot to live up to but I've been really pleased with the way things have been going with the program."

Juniors Alden Bailey (250), Clarence Hale (155), Shane Schultz (177) and Pete Scarborough are also looking for mat time as are sophomores Robbie Jaquin (91), Brian Hale (138) and Ross Aston (145).

## Albion Purple Eagles

Last Year: 3-3

Defending league champions Rawn Mitchell (126) and Todd Spencer (119), both seniors, anchor a very competitive Albion squad, which likewise returns at least 10 grapplers with varsity experience. Mitchell, a three time defending N-O league champion, finished second in the Section VI meet last year while compiling a 24-1 record. Having scored first period victories in all six of his matches to date this season including earning MVP honors at the LeRoy Tournament, his career record now stands at 83-8-1.

Spencer, a two-time league champion, posted a 19-3 record last season as he wound up with an overall 19-3 record. He is also 6-0 to date this year.

The rest of the Purple Eagles veteran contingent includes seniors Jeff Harding (177), David Slocum (167), Carmine Calabria (155) and David Coville (138) along with juniors Pat Boland (155) and Mike Salvatore (112) and sophomores Chuck Nesbitt (215) and Mark

Farone (105). Harding, who is 5-1 so far this season, posted a 14-7 record last year finishing fourth in the league.

Also vying for starting spots are juniors Mike Daniels (155), Dave Pahuta (132); sophomores Kevin Rogers (145), John Davis (145); freshmen Bill Mitchell (145), Willie Moss (132), Paul Bakeman (98), and Cal Share (98) and eighth grader Aaron Conn (91).

"We have our strong points but our younger kids will have to wrestle over their heads for us to challenge for the title," said Purple Eagles Coach Keith Picirilli. "They were successful at the JV level though so I hope that will carry over."

## Starpoint Spartans

Last Year: 3-3

A large contingent of 11 veteran grapplers, including seven who placed in the All-League Tournament, puts Starpoint in good position to challenge for league honors.

"Roy-Hart is the team to beat but I think we'll be in the thick of things," said Starpoint Coach Jim Gately. "I think we'll be decent and will be able to give anybody a good run."

Seniors Jim Tabor (132), Jerry Farnham (119) and Mark Haas (145) head the Spartans' returning group which also includes juniors Joe Finley (126), Kevin Gfroerer (138),



MHS Coach Joe Bujalski with the Mustangs Schickling, Mike Dunham, Kevin Heideman, returning starters who are from left Scott E.J. Reese and Wes Askew.

Tim Kenny (145), Keith Sargent (177), Mark Lubs (215) and Frank

Silvernail (215) as well as sophomore Scott Catlon (112) and freshman Dave Marshall (105).

Key new additions look to be juniors Todd Preisch (177) and Jim McCarski (145) and freshman Bob Bearfield (98).

Silvernail took the N-O 250 lb. title last year while Tabor, who compiled a 20-10 record, took second at 119 lb. as did Gfroerer (19-10) at 126 lb. Earning third places were Marshall at 105 and Catlon (16-11) at 91 while Finley (18-10) and Sargent both posted fourth place finishes.

## Newfane Panthers

Last Year: 1-5

Doug Ames takes over the coaching reins from Ross Livergood as the Panthers look to rebuild around a nucleus of just three returnees — senior Ted Murphy (155) and sophomores Darrin Ethridge (105) and Reed Murphy (138).

Promising newcomers include junior Kirk Kingsbury (167) and sophomore Matt Platt (132) along with sophomore twins Dan (119) and David (112) Winchell, who are transfers from Lockport.

"After those three returnees we're green as grass," said Ames, "but we know we have the potential there with the young kids. It's a new

coach, a new program and the kids are responding well."

## Akron Tigers

Last Year: 5-0-1

It's rebuilding time at defending co-champion Akron as well as veteran Coach Jerry Drayer likewise has only three starters back — seniors Tom Smith (119) and Mike Regan (167) and sophomore Kevin Regan (98).

Smith went 19-4 last year and finished second in the league as did Mike Regan who went 13-10.

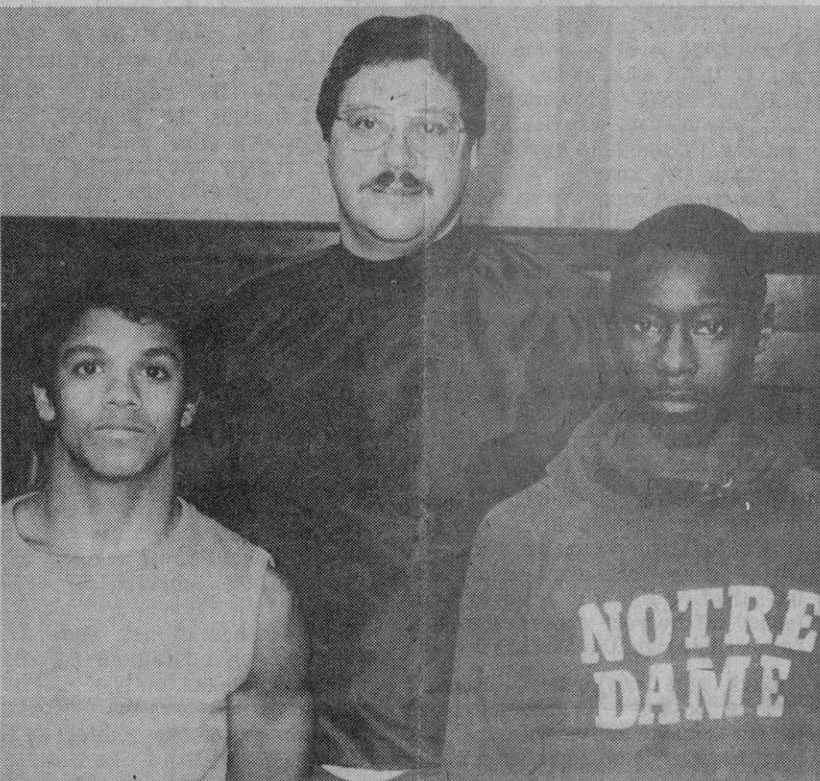
"We graduated nine seniors so we're a very, very young team," said Drayer, whose squad will be mostly sophomores and juniors up from a strong JV team.

## Wilson Lakemen

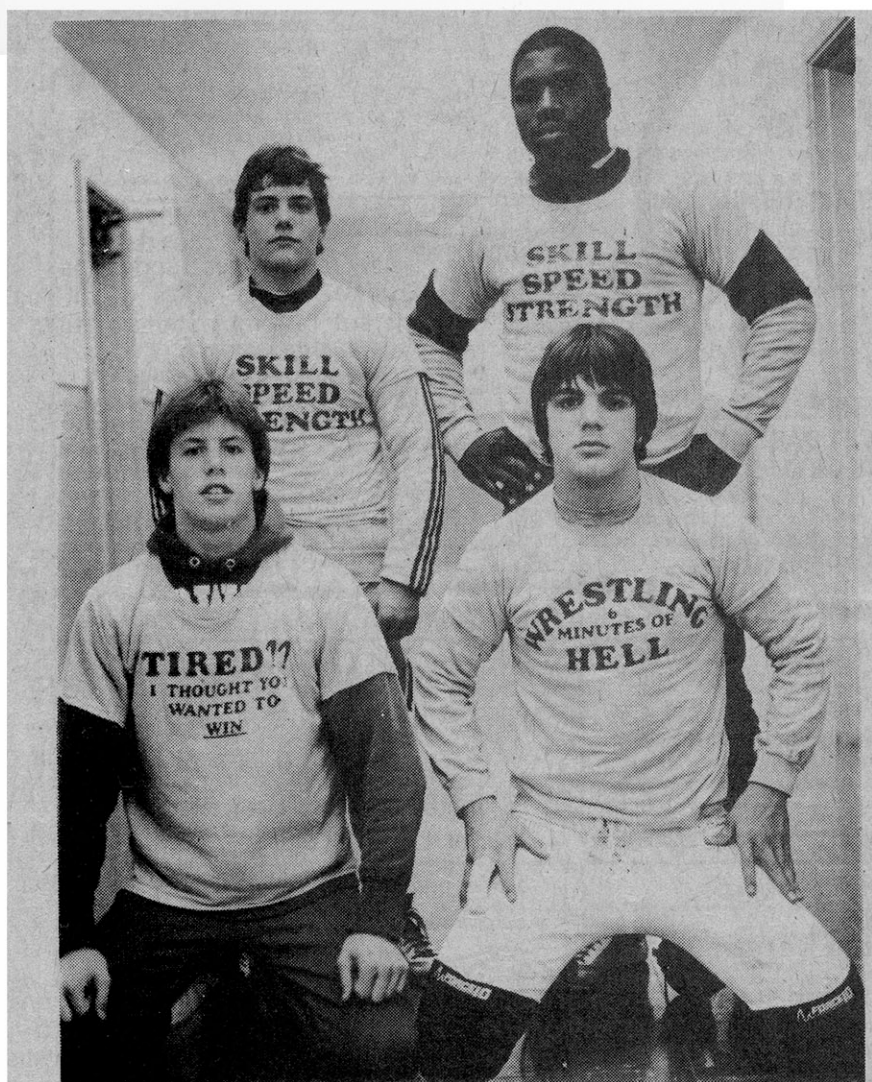
Last Year: 0-6

A 54-16 non league opening thrashing of Holley last week should give Coach Roger Hutchison's Lakemen some encouragement for an improved N-O campaign this season.

Robert Zauner (98), Carl Wollaber (105), Jim Lepsch (126), Dave Branch (138), Richard Harris (155), Bill Faery (167) and Bob Kilmer (177) all registered pins in that match. The Lakemen also return senior Lou Fournier and Tony Pulli while seventh graders Paul Mangan and Eli Shirley also show promise.



Coach Keith Picirilli meets with Albion's two returning league champs Todd Spencer, left, and Rawn Mitchell.



Roy-Hart's returning league champions include Jim Johnson, kneeling left, and Ken Copella along with Lou Rosselli, standing left, and Willie Cunningham.

(J-R Photos by Mike Wertman)