

By: Michael Tellier

The Lockport wrestling team is on a mission this year. And that mission is to win the Niagara Frontier League and to be the number one large school in section six.

Last season the team finished tied for first place in NFL with Lewiston Porter, and finished as the number two ranked large school in section six.

“We had a very strong season last year,” said head coach Joe Scapelliti. “Even more importantly we ended the season strong, which is very important.”

The Lions also had three New York State representatives last year, and two of them are returning this season. Senior Marshall Taylor at 220 lbs. will be returning for Lockport, as well as 126-132 lbs. Anthony Orefice. Orefice is a two-time sectional champion, and a three-time state representative.

“Orefice is only a junior but the kid already has over 160 wins,” Scapelliti said. “I have really high expectations for him this season, and I’m excited to see how far the kid can go.”

However, even though Scapelliti has two returning state representatives, he is still looking toward others to provide leadership.

“We have a lot of solid guys towards the middle of our lineup and towards the top that can step up in to that leadership role this season,” he said. “Kirk Feeney, Marcelus Hinton and Vince Eberhart are all on their fourth year as starters for the team and they have all had super careers so far.”

After being the number two team in section six last season, Scapelliti would like to see his team defeat the Clarence Red Devils this year.

“Obviously Clarence is the odds on favorite this year, and all of the guys on the team know how good Clarence is,” he said. “What we need to do is just keep improving every day, and if we can do that and stay focused, I really think we have a chance at upsetting them this year.”

However, as for now Scapelliti really just wants his boys to focus on doing the little things right and focusing on their next match.

“I have a lot of young kids in the lighter weights that came in as freshman last season and it took them a little while to get the hang of things,” he said. “But It’s nice to see that these young guys who are coming in to their second year of varsity are doing the little things right, and helping the kids that are on their first year.”

Lockport’s next tournament will be the Williamsville East Duals on Saturday, December 14 in East Amherst.

