

★ N-O League Wrestling Preview

Area mat fans should get a quick indicator as to how this season's Niagara-Orleans wrestling title race will go when four-time defending champion Newfane visits Medina in the league opener on December 21.

Newfane, which has posted perfect 6-0 N-O duel match records in claiming the title each of the past four years, returns a veteran laden squad as does Medina, which is seeking its first wrestling crown since 1981.

"It's a nice team. We have a lot of experience and I'm excited about the season," said Medina Coach Mike Crandall who, in pointing to Newfane as a top contender, terms the N-O League "one of the toughest in Section VI."

Here's a capsule look at the seven N-O teams as they prep for the season,

which will conclude with the league tournament on February 11 at Starpoint followed by the return of team class sectional competition on February 17-18 with the Class B-2 meet slated for Albion and the Class C meet at Newfane.

Medina Mustangs

After posting a 2-4 N-O record last year with an underclassmen dominated squad, Medina has no less than 11 wrestlers back with varsity experience to key the Mustangs' quest for a title.

Senior Eric Vaughn (167), who captured N-O and Section VI 155 lb. titles and went on to place sixth in the state meet, heads the Mustangs veteran contingent. Medina's all-time career leader with 131 wins, Vaughn compiled a 35-4 record a year ago.

The Mustangs also return seniors Jeremy Beatty (145), Moses Bennett (126), Marcus Guy (167), Brennan Kwiatkowski (215), Cortney Sevenski (132) and Brian Wilson (167) along with junior Carey Hyde (145), sophomores Demetrius Bennett (155) and Chris Spearin (138) and freshman Jamie Duffina (119).

Duffina posted a 25-6 record last year and finished second in the N-O tourney while Demetrius Bennett, Wilson, Guy and Kwiatkowski all had third place finishes.

The MHS lineup also includes junior Tim Costich; sophomores Dan Marciniak, Steve Miller, Tim Miller, Van Morgott, Paul Morrow, Quincy Newman and Jared Streiff; freshmen William Ames, Matt Caldwell, Justin Cecchini, Dan Costich, Chris Grimm, Jason Huber, Ryan Nolan, Ernest Ribbeck Jr., Robert Ribbeck, Brennan Riches, James Russo, Joe Sands and Delmus Tanner and eighth graders Jason Hyde, Jason Spearin, Chris Stalker and Brandon Taylor.

Schedule

December: 16-17 at Walton Tournament, 20 Attica, 21 Newfane, 29 MHS Tournament.

January: 4 at Albion, 6-7 at Officials Tournament, 10 Perry, 18 Starpoint, 20 at Sweet Home, 25 at Wilson, 27-28 at Sweet Home Tournament.

February: 1 at Roy-Hart, 4 at Ken-Ton Tournament, 8 Akron.

Albion Purple Eagles

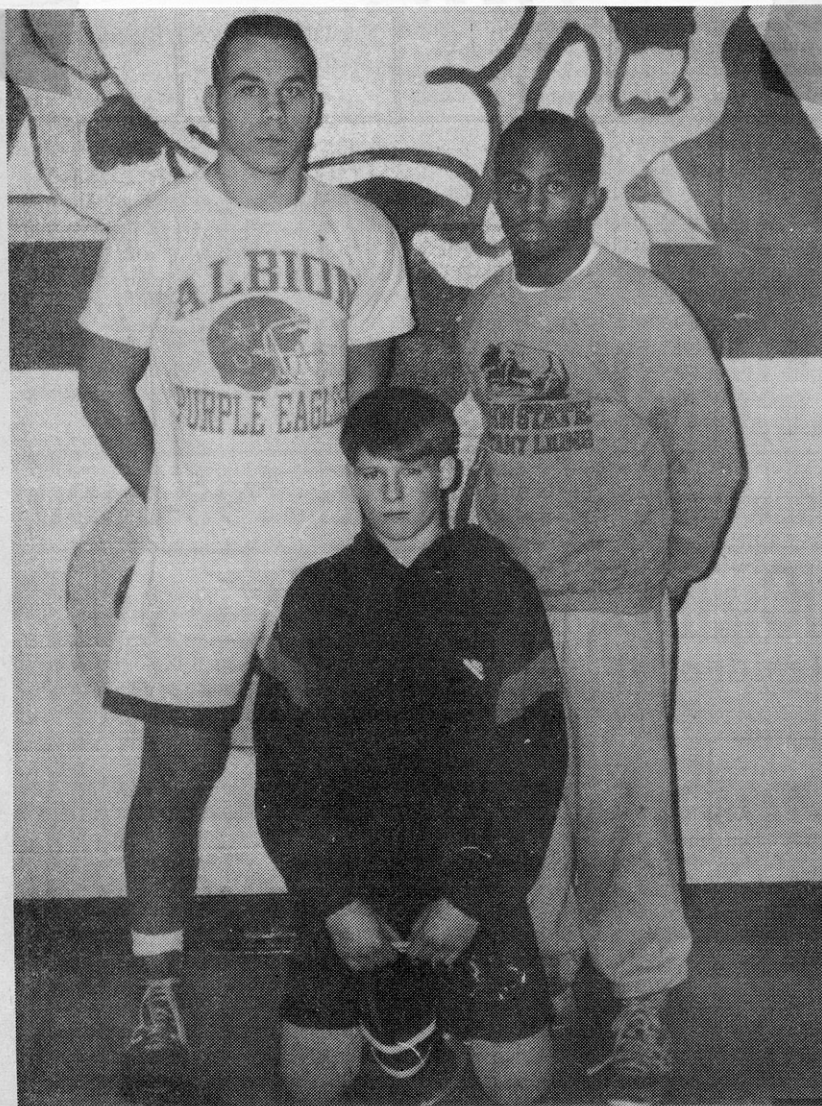
Albion, which has finished second to Newfane in the final N-O standings each of the past four years, compiling 5-1 records the past three seasons, was hit hard by graduation.

The Purple Eagles lineup is anchored by the veteran quartet of seniors Mike Moss (126-132) and Chad Wilson (155-167) along with sophomores Eric Flugel (98-1050 and Eric Bannister (167-177).

Flugel won the N-O 98 lb. title last year while compiling a 29-5 overall record. In earning second place finishes, Moss posted a 23-10 record and Wilson a 25-12 mark.

The Purple Eagles freshman and sophomore dominated squad is also counting on junior Joel Nowatchik (167-177), sophomore Tim Uderitz (91-98) and freshman B.J. Aina (112-119).

"We're a young team," said Coach Keith Piccirilli, whose teams have posted 13 straight winning seasons. "We need some time to rebuild and what we lack now is experience in the practice room," he added.



Anchoring the lineup for Albion is this trio of veterans. In front is Eric Flugel. Standing are Chad Wilson and Mike Moss.

Roy-Hart Rams

Looking to improve on last year's 1-4-1 league record, Roy-Hart's squad is led by two defending N-O champions, sophomore Frank Palisano (119), and freshman Brock Menzel (98), as well as by junior Erik Guild, an N-O champ and an 8th grader and a fresh-

man, who was injured most of last year.

Guild has a career record of 73-15, Palisano 53-16 and Menzel 16-10.

The Rams lineup also includes seniors Jason Trombley (112), Steve Sturtevant (145), Don Sage (250), Mike Morgan (167-177) and Tony Janda (155-167) a transfer student from North Tonawanda, along with junior Mike Reading, sophomore Jared Ander (167-177), freshmen Jeff Massaro (119) and Tom Marchiole (98-105) and eighth grader Bill Bernard (145).

"we've got small numbers but we're pretty solid in the lower weights and we should be very competitive if we can keep everybody healthy," said Coach Joe Massaro.

Schedule

December: 9 West Seneca West, 16-17 at Southern Tiern Tournament, 20 at Tonawanda, 22 Wilson, 30 at Lake Shore.

January: 6-7 at Officials Tournament, 11 at Starpoint, 13-14 at Hilton Tournament, 18 at Akron, 20-21 at Lockport Tournament, 25 Albion, 27 Kenmore East.

February: 1 Medina, 3-4 at Lew-Port Tournament, 8 at Newfane.

Newfane Panthers

A trio of defending N-O champions in junior Keith Jones (132), senior Tom McCabe (155) and junior Dan Rafferty (177) anchor the lineup for Newfane's title defense.

The Panthers also return senior Jeremy Wilson (138), who finished second in the N-O tourney, along with

WRESTLING

Late Thursday

Newark 4.5, North Rose-Wolcott

15: At Wolcott, pins for Newark (1-0) came from Jason Celestino (105, 3:12), Lance Fisher (145, 4:22) and Peter Harrington (155, 3:49). Gene Houghtaling (98, :40) and Mike Mendat (138, 3:56) had pins for NR-W (1-2).

a trio of third place finishers in sophomore Mike Brown (98), junior Andy Gillings (119) and senior Shawn Cleveley (112).

The Newfane lineup also has seniors Shaun Heschke (105), Nick Adinolfe (132), Zach Williams (167) and John Jennings (126); juniors Eric Olivero (132) and Nathan Dold (250); sophomores Erick Gunio (105), Jay Olivero (112), Mark Brown (119), Mike Adinolfe (126), Mike Jennings (132), Charlie Henderson (155), Jason Swanson (215) and Chris Say (215); freshmen Gary Holtzman (91), Jim Quarantillo (91), Brian Wise (98), Adam Babcock (167), Mark Cocco (250) and 8th grader Ray Needle (119).

"The kids know that to repeat gets harder every time so they can't sit back and be complacent," said Coach Doug Ames. "They have something to prove and they want to win a fifth one."

Starpoint Spartans

Small numbers and injuries are causing woes for Starpoint, which went 0-6 in the league last year.

Senior Travis Gorman (132), who placed third in the league, along with junior Adam Stom (119-126) and senior Jim Leuer (111-119) head the lineup for the Spartans, who also have a promising 8th grader in Eric Coleman.

"It's a young team and I'm looking forward to seeing how well this group can do in a couple of year," said Spar-

tan Coach and Starpoint graduate Joe Finley.

Wilson Lakemen

Mike McAvoy is taking over the Wilson coaching reins on an interim basis this season for Ed Damiani who is recovering from surgery.

The Lakemen, who went 4-2 a year ago, were hit hard by graduation and have a young freshmen dominated team.

Junior Ben Faery (167), who placed third in the league last year, and freshman Matt O'Commor (105) lead the squad.

Akron Tigers

"We have kind of a blend of youth and experience," said Akron Coach Jerry Drayer who declined to single out any members of the Tigers squad.

Akron went 2-3-1 in the league a year ago.

N-O Wrestling Schedule

December 21: Newfane at Medina, Wilson at Roy-Hart, Albion at Akron.

January 4: Newfane at Wilson, Medina at Albion, Akron at Starpoint.

January 11: Akron at Newfane, Roy-Hart at Starpoint, Wilson at Albion.

January 18: Newfane at Albion, Starpoint at Medina, Roy-Hart at Akron.

January 25: Starpoint at Newfane, Albion at Roy-Hart, Medina at Wilson.

February 1: Albion at Starpoint, Wilson at Akron, Medina at Roy-Hart.

February 8: Roy-Hart at Newfane, Akron at Medina, Starpoint at Wilson.

Le Roy 4.5, Livonia 2.4: At Le Roy, the Oakland Knights (1-0) had pins from Kristian Alexander (98 pounds, 59 seconds), Joe Loftus (112, 1:38), Brian Davis (126, 2:52), Steve Saava (132, 53 seconds), Brian Hillman (155, 4:02) and Brandon Shaughnessy (177, 5:01). Livonia (0-1) pins were recorded by Mike Yarnes (105, 2:35), J.D. Henry (119, 1:03), Adam Delventis (138, 3:37) and Corn Fitzgerald (167, 4:55).

Wayne 4.4, North Rose-Wolcott 1.8:

At Wayne, J.C. Montroy (145, 1:48), Brian Harris (155, 1:55) and Dave Pedesche (177, 3:21) had pins for Wayne (1-0). North Rose-Wolcott pins came from Gene Houghtaling (98, 1:07), Mike Kelly (132, 5:31) and Chris Mudge (215, 1:48).

MONROE COUNTY

Penfield 5.4, Pittsford 1.2; Eastridge 3.8, Pittsford 2.0; Penfield 3.7, Eastridge 2.7: At Penfield, Joe Mayer (155) and Galen Swenson (177 pounds) each had two pins for the Chiefs (3-2, 3-0). Other Penfield wrestlers with a pin were: Adamo (98), Sam Stefanides (119) and Loren O'Hara (145). Gordon Leach (132) and Wayne Wayne Brockman (215) each had pins in both of the Lancers (3-2, 2-1) matches. Jay Baker (119, 1:59), Keith Walman and Tyler Collins (138) each had a pin for Pittsford (0-2, 0-2).

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Wednesday's Results Non-League

Attica 42, Albion 19
Batavia 39, Pavilion 27

Wednesday's Summaries

ATTICA 42, ALBION 19

98 — Embt (Attica) dec. Uderitz, 4-2 (OT); 105 — Conway (Attica) dec. Flugl, 6-4; 112 — Mye (Attica), ftt.; 119 — J. Gerhardt (Attica) pin Kelly, 1:50; 126 — Aina (Albion) dec. Smallev, 10-4; 132 — Moss (Albion) dec. Rautenstrauch, 11-2; 138 — Kaus (Attica), ftt.; 145 — B. Gerhardt (Attica) pin Drisdorn, 1:38; 155 — Laude (Attica), ftt.; 167 — Wilson (Albion) pin Prefontaine, 3:32; 177 — Bannister (Albion) pin Counterme, 1:33; 215 — Norcross (Attica) pin Kramer, 2:40.

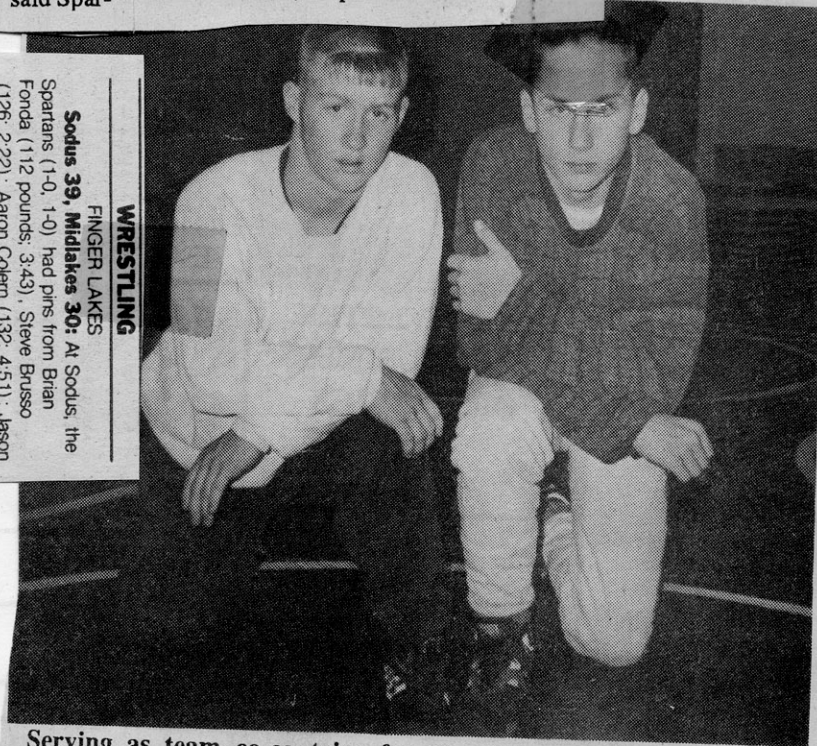
WRESTLING

FINGER LAKES

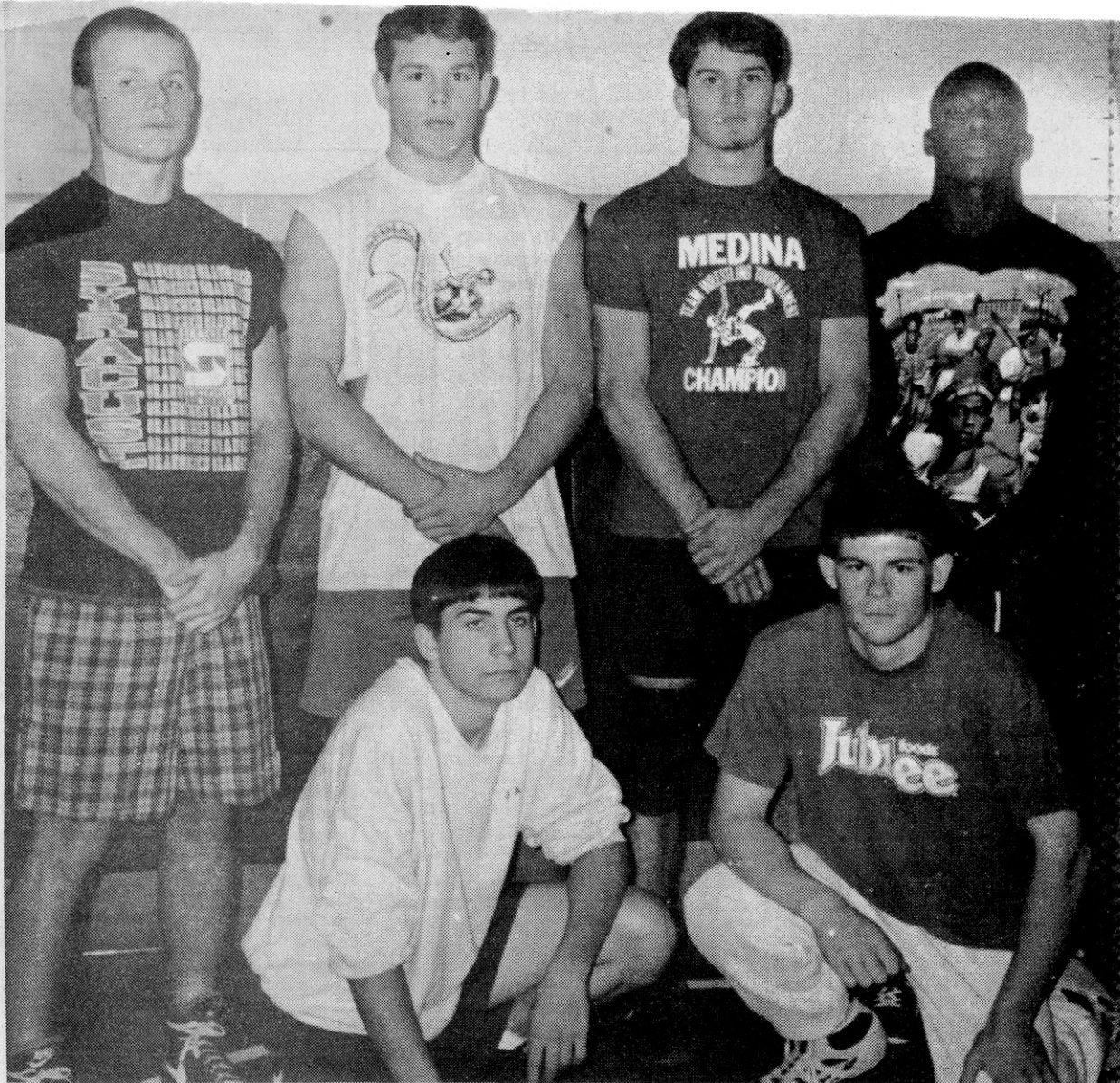
Sodus 3.9, Middlesex 3.0: At Sodas, the Spartans (1-0, 1-0) had pins from Brian Fonda (112 pounds, 3:43), Steve Brusco (126, 2:22), Aaron Cohen (132, 4:51), Jason Van Lare (138, 4:53), Corey Van Lare (155, 4:48). With Sodas forfeiting the final two weight classes, 167 pounder Adam Costich clinched the match with a 2-1 decision over Bryan Daugherty of Middlesex (0-1, 0-1).

South Seneca 3.3, Dundee 2.8:

At Dundee, with South Seneca trailing 28-27, 215-pounder Jon Roorda of South Seneca pinned Richard Blaszeski at 1:40 of the first period to win the match. Ben Swanson (119, 3:44), Will Jennings (145, 1:00) and Dave Martin (155, 4:15) also had pins for the Falcons (1-0). Dundee (0-1) got pins from Luke Pinnero (126, 3:38), Joe Gibson (138, 5:30).



Serving as team co-captains for Roy-Hart this senior are Erik Guild and Frank Palisano.



Getting set to make a strong run at the Niagara-Orleans League title this season, the Medina High varsity wrestling squad returns a strong contingent of veterans. In front are Jamie Duffina and Chris Spearin. In back are Carey Hyde, Eric Vaughn, Jeremy Beatty and Demetrius Bennett. (J-R Photos By Mike Wertman)