

## Boys volleyball

# Unforced errors end Amherst's Class B title hopes

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Amherst dug itself a hole against Eden and it cost them the Section VI Class B boys volleyball title.

The Tigers fell behind 7-2 and 4-1 in the first and second games,

respectively, to the Raiders and lost 23-25, 18-25. Amherst came roaring back in the third game, 25-17, but dropped the fourth game, 21-25.

The best-of-five match was held last Wednesday at Orchard Park High School.

"We had too many unforced

errors early in the first two games," said Amherst coach Jeremy Schwob. "We missed serves and hit other serves into the net. Even with that, we only lost the first game, 25-23. I couldn't have been more proud of them."

The closest Amherst came to leading Eden in the first game was 24-23. The Tigers went up 8-7 in the second game before Eden middle hitter Ryan Meller (17 kills) jump-served five straight points to put the Raiders ahead for good.

After the second game, Schwob told his team, which has five seniors starting, to clean up the unforced errors, and they responded, jumping out to a 13-4 advantage. Junior outside hitter/middle hitter Dan Lawrence closed out the third game with a kill on an assist from senior setter Andrew Hays.

"I told the seniors, 'this is your last chance (if you don't win the third game),' " said Schwob. "They didn't want to get swept in three games. They didn't play up to their potential. In the third game, they came out swinging."

The fourth game was even through the first six points, 3-3. Each team then rallied to take the lead. Eden led at one point, 10-5; Amherst came back and went ahead, 16-13.

Tied at 20-20, senior middle blocker Mark Gardner had a kill to put Eden ahead for the rest of the game. Gardner finished the match with nine kills and six blocks.

Amherst outside hitter Charles Gomez was outstanding, finishing with 17 kills and four aces, unofficially. The 6-foot-five senior had six kills, unofficially, in the fifth game.

"I can't be too mad," said Gomez, who is looking at George Mason University and University at New Paltz among possible college choices. "We played really



Amherst Central's Charles Gomez spikes a ball over Eden's Adam Wightman during the Tigers' four game loss in last Wednesday's Section VI Class B final. Also pictured is Adrian Bylewski (11).

Photo by John Normile

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## McMahon named Player of the Year

Alfred State College sophomore outside hitter Brianne McMahon, a Sweet Home graduate, has been named the Region III Division III Player of the Year for the second year in a row.

McMahon has played in 97 games this year for the Lady Pioneers, which are 35-4 and Region III champions.

She has recorded 389 kills (4.01 per game) in 911 attempts on the season and has a 29.31 percent hitting efficiency.

McMahon also leads the Lady Pioneers with 414 digs (4.268 per game). She has also chipped in 73 service aces and 20.5 blocks.

McMahon recorded double digits in kills and digs in the same match on 12 occasions. She had a season-high 20 kills in a victory over Monroe Community College and a season-high 35 digs in a victory over Jamestown Community College.

During the regular season,

McMahon was named MVP of the Mohawk Valley Community College and Alfred State Tournament. She was also named to the all-tournament team at the Onondaga Community College Tournament.

In the post-season, she has been named First-Team All-Western New York Athletic Conference and MVP of the Region III Division III Tournament.

This follows a freshmen season when she was named an honorable mention National Junior Conference Athletic Association Division III All-American,

the Region III Division III Player of the Year, First Team All-WNY-AC and team MVP.

McMahon and her teammates will look to add to the success of the 2007 season when they travel to the NJCAA Division III National Championships Nov. 16-17 in Rochester, Minn.



Brianne McMahon

## Boys Gymnastics

# Section VI wins one for the thumb

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Section VI continued its dominance over the rest of New York State in boys gymnastics at Saturday's Regional Championships at Brockport State College.

Section VI won regionals for the fifth straight year with 146.85 points. The score was 21.30 points more than Section II (Albany) 125.55 and 26.05 more than Section III (Syracuse) 120.8.

"It wasn't even close," said Williamsville coach and Section VI boys gymnastics chair Joe Buscaglia. "Winning by a couple of points is a lot; winning by 20 points is tremendous."

"I think the level of gymnastics in Section VI is far better than other sections," he continued. "Plus, we were confident because we've won it in previous years. We were head and shoulders above the other teams."

Buscaglia told the Section VI team before the meet to stay consistent and positive outcomes will follow. The team responded by winning every event and placing several gymnasts in the top ten.

Clarence's Michael Morse and John Zirna went 1-2 in all-around competition. Morse, a senior, had a score of 51.05; Zirna, an eighth-grader who led by seven tenths of a point going into the last event, finished with 50.45 points.

Morse won regional titles in floor exercise (9.2), pommel horse (8.1) and vault (9.3). Zirna took home top honors on rings (7.8), parallel bars (8.2) and high bar (8.05).

Clarence, which finished back-to-back 10-0 regular seasons, had three other gymnasts place. Joey Lysen went fifth on vault in 8.6 and sixth on floor (7.8) and rings (4.3). Adam Cole came in fifth on high bar in 5.6. Connor Story was 10th in pommel horse at 5.35.

The Williamsville schools also did well.

Williamsville South Cody Stumpf took second in floor (9.15), vault (9.1) and high bar (7.4). Teammate Nathaniel Roberson came in second on parallel bars (7.8) and pommel horse (7.6) and third on floor (8.85). Stumpf and Roberson are eighth-graders.

Williamsville East's Spencer Kieffer, East's only boy gymnast, finished ninth in pommel horse (6.05) and rings (4.05).

Williamsville North's Brandon O'Brien came in seventh on vault (8.0), ninth on parallel bars (4.4) and 10th on rings (3.9). North's Joey Chearmonte was ninth on high bar (3.6).

Hamburg's Madison Rich was 12th in parallel bars with a score of 3.4.

With only three sections in the state having boys gymnastics, the future of the sport is always a question. But Buscaglia hasn't heard anyone tell him the sport won't continue.

"Every year is a new year so until someone else tells me differently, I think we should be all right for now," said Buscaglia. "Only time will tell. We're set for next year. We've already scheduled next year's regional meet at Brockport State College."

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well. I was happy we took a game off of them."

"In the first couple of games, I didn't think we were ready for them but we started to pick it up in the last couple of games," he added.

"I thought he was by far the best player on the court," said Schwob.

Eden senior Steve Klein, who was playing with an anterior cruciate ligament tear in one knee and a medial collateral ligament strain in the other knee, had 15 digs.

"We probably played our worst match in a month but sometimes, you win ugly," said Eden coach Robert Pierce.

It was Eden's eighth straight section title. They went on to win the Class B intersectional title on Saturday for the fourth straight year.

Amherst ends its season 17-3. They lose Gomez, Hays, as well as outside hitters Brent Doerflein, Adrian Bylewski and Alex Dusenberry; middle hitter Dave Greetham; and right side hitter Zach Willet.

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