

Youthful Flames return state qualifiers

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

With another year under its belt, Williamsville East wrestling is ready to have a successful season on the mat.

“Last year was the youngest team I’ve ever had,” said Flames coach Henry Fumerelle. “We’re still young but have a great nucleus coming back. We’re very strong in the low to middle weights. If the younger guys in the upper weight classes can take their wrestling up a notch, we can be a very good team.”

Fumerelle returns four wrestlers who qualified for the Section VI New York State qualifier – senior Max Cohen, junior Matt Calleri and sophomores Ben Mikac and Jacob Beichner.

Cohen finished his junior year 26-5 at 125 where he was a sectional finalist. He won at the Lew-Port and Class AAA tournaments, took second at Williamsville North and third at the Maple Grove Kick-off Classic. In addition, he surpassed 50 career wins and was named team MVP for the second straight year. He moves up to 130.

“Max is as tough as nails,” said Fumerelle. “To give an example, he started for me at middle linebacker, had 90 tackles and was defensive MVP. He never gives up. He has a great approach to everything he does.”

Cohen returns as co-captain with senior Sean Trabert, who eclipsed 75 career wins last year. Trabert also won at last year’s Maple Grove Kick-off Classic and took fifth at ECICs.

Calleri, who had 19 wins at 130, will try to fare well at 135. He took second at Lew-Port.



Jacob Beichner, far left, Matt Calleri, Sean Trabert, Max Cohen and Ben Mikac are five of Williamsville East’s top wrestlers. Cohen and Trabert are the team captains.

Photo by John Rusac
Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

Mikac is coming off a great freshman year at 96 pounds, going 21-9 and taking second at Williamsville North, third at the Class AAAs and fourth at Maple Grove, Lew-Port and ECICs tourneys and the Section VI New York State qualifier. Mikac is penciled in at 112.

Beichner finished 21-10 at 119 pounds. He won at Maple Grove, took third at Williamsville North, fourth at the Class AAAs and Lew-Port and fifth at ECICs.

“He’s done a terrific job in the offseason,” said Fumerelle. “We’re really excited about him this year.”

Other returning wrestlers include senior Ryan Cravatta (fifth in 112 at Class AAAs), junior Brandon Munoz and senior Jayson Dieckman (third at Maple Grove) and sophomores Will Kelly, MP Joseph, Paul Morales and Ryan Tideswell.

Munoz and Dieckman will wrestle at either 145 or 152 pounds. Kelly (171) and Joseph (189), Morales (215) and Tideswell (275) are set to compete in the higher weight classes.

Fumerelle said Dieckman and MP Joseph have vastly improved their technique and strength from last year.

Dieckman, Kelly and Joseph each placed at Maple Grove last year.

Newcomers looking to crack the lineup are freshman Sam Beichner and eighth-grader Dylan Cohen at 96 pounds; Beichner, Cohen or eighth grader Andrew Dieckman at 103; or sophomore Steven Meyer at 160. Meyer was the JV team’s most improved wrestler last year.

East opened its season with a first place finish at the 2007 Maple Grove Kick-off Classic (see attached story). The Flames took second as a team last year at the event. They were also sixth at Williamsville North.

East 2007 Schedule

12-5 at Royalton-Hartland 6 p.m.
12-7 at Sweet Home..... 6 p.m.
12-12 Starpoint..... 6 p.m.
12-14 at Lake Shore 6 p.m.
12-19 W.S. East 5 p.m.
12-28 at Akron Holiday Tourn. (Akron) 9 a.m.
1-3 at Canisius 6 p.m.
1-9 at Iroquois..... 6 p.m.
1-11 at Holley (Section V) 6 p.m.
1-12 at Williamsville North Tourn. (North)..... 9 a.m.
1-16 South..... 6 p.m.
1-18 at ECICs (East Aurora) 4:30

p.m.
1-19 at ECICs (East Aurora) 9 a.m.
1-26 at Lew-Port Tourn. (Lewiston-Porter) 9 a.m.
1-30 at Amherst 7 p.m.
2-1 at Pioneer..... 6 p.m.
2-6 Cheektowaga 6 p.m.
2-15 at Class AAAs (Starpoint) 4:30 p.m.
2-16 at Class AAAs (Starpoint) 4:30 p.m.
2-23 Section VI New York State qualifier (Ken West)..... 10 a.m.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

East wins Maple Grove Kick-off Classic

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Williamsville East couldn’t have started its 2007-08 wrestling season any better, taking home first out of 13 teams at the Maple Grove Kick-off Classic last Saturday at Maple Grove High School.

The Flames won with 193 total points. Newfane (191), Southwestern (185) and Lake Shore (158) rounded out the top four.

The Flames also won the event in 2004.

“The team wrestled terrific,” said East coach Henry Fumerelle. “It was a great way to start our season.”

The Flames crowned three champions – sophomore Jacob Beichner and seniors Max Cohen and Matt Calleri

– and placed six other wrestlers in the top four – freshman Sam Beichner, sophomores Ben Mikac and Will Kelly, junior Brandon Munoz and seniors Sean Trabert and Jayson Dieckman.

At 125, Jacob Beichner won his first two matches by pinfall and defeated Lake Shore’s Randy Weston, 4-0, in the finals.

Cohen pinned all three of his wrestlers in the first period, including Maple Grove’s Brad Carlson in the 130-pound finals.

Calleri won all three of his matches at 135, defeating the top-seed, Southwestern’s Zach Nelson, 4-3, in the finals.

Trabert took second at 140, losing to Maple Grove’s Josh Micek, 9-1, in the final. Fumerelle said Micek is a former

New York State qualifier.

Mikac went 3-1 at 112 for second.

Sam Beichner went 3-1 at 96 and Will Kelly went 4-1 at 171 to each take home third place trophies.

Munoz and Dieckman went 3-2 at 145 and 152, respectively, to each earn fourth place.

MP Joseph went 3-2 at 189 but fell short of placing.

East wrestles non-league dual matches at Roy-Hart and Sweet Home on Wednesday and Friday, respectively. Both matches will start at 6 p.m.

The Sweet Home match will feature Fumerelle coaching against his nephew, Zach, a 125-pounder, in a dual match for the first time.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

Roster numbers aid South’s chance to earn victories

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Roster numbers are up at Williamsville South, which will hopefully translate into victories. South was winless last year, going 0-10.

Billies coach Sean Leaderstorf said there are 27 wrestlers between varsity and JV. Three years ago, only 11 tried out.

“It definitely adds to the competition,” said Leaderstorf.

South also has a modified wrestling program for the first time in seven years, coached by Paul Pignataro.

Leaderstorf is more optimistic of his team’s chances because he feels there’s a lot of talent at several weight classes.

“We’re strong at 103, 112 and 119, new from 125 to 140 and 145 and up we should handle pretty well,” said Leaderstorf.

Leaderstorf’s lineup is comprised of seventh-grader Anthony

Libapore (119); freshmen Luke Falzone (103) and Spencer Biondo (189); sophomores Nick Green (125), Jake Eckenrode (130), Ron Gendrew (140) and Howard Clark (189); juniors Justin St. George (112), Wendell Butler (135), John Willet (145), Andrew Tevens (152); and seniors Ron Green (160), Mike Walter (171) and Elliot Frank (215).

Leaderstorf said Libapore is a transfer from Buffalo who has already won a couple of national championships for his weight class. Falzone went 10-8 between varsity and JV at 96 as a freshman. He took fifth at the Class AAA Tournament.

St. George, Gendrew, Willet, Tevens, Walter and Frank are returning wrestlers. St. George took fifth at 103 at last year’s Class AAA tournament.

Frank has wrestled since eighth grade. Walter enters his fourth year on varsity. Walter, Frank and Tevens are tri-captains. Walter

took fourth at last year’s ECIC tournament.

Butler, Ekenrode, and Biondo are first-year wrestlers.

Senior first-year wrestler Mike Zent could see time at 152. Freshman Joe Robinson has the potential to wrestle varsity at 125 but is wrestling JV right now, Leaderstorf said.

Leaderstorf has liked the work ethic of his team.

“It’s been outstanding,” he said. “They want to learn more and more.”

Leaderstorf said the No. 1 way

for his team to stay out of the losing column is to stay off their backs.

“We can’t give up meaningless pins,” said Leaderstorf. “If we do that, the score can stay tight. They need to wrestle the full six minutes.”

South 2007 Schedule

12-5 North..... 6 p.m.
12-12 at Iroquois..... 6 p.m.
12-14 Cheektowaga 6 p.m.
12-15 at Jon Vesper Duals. 9 a.m.
1-9 at Lake Shore 6 p.m.
1-11 at Pioneer..... 4:30 p.m.
1-12 at Williamsville North Tourn.

South

(Continued from page 22)

him pay by pinning him with his dangerous cradle, said Leaderstorf.

Winning by another forfeit, Walter went 5-0 on the day along with Falzone, who beat a tough Jordan McGregor, 5-3. Biondo and Frank won by forfeits, which counts towards their overall record.

“The rest of the team is feeding off the good buzz

by their success and the first win in a long time,” said Leaderstorf. “Their intensity needs to grow as individuals as well as a team. I’m still waiting to see that ‘wrestler instinct’ in some of my younger guys.”

South hosts Williamsville North at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.