

## Medaille College to host baseball program

Medaille College will host a six-week spring training 2008 baseball program for players in grades 1-12 from Jan. 20 to Feb. 24. Medaille College head coach Ron Nero will direct the program in conjunction with Midwest Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting and pitching at a cost of \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited. For more information, visit [www.baseballacademy.net](http://www.baseballacademy.net), or call toll-free 1-866-MBA-HITS.

## Boys basketball

## North beats South again in Rotary Tournament final

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

For the fourth straight year, the Williamsville North boys basketball team had Williamsville South's number in the Williamsville Rotary Tournament. But what appeared to be an early North blowout turned out to be a close win.

The Spartans, ahead 35-22 late in the first half, held off a very hungry Billies squad, 79-73, before a packed gym last Friday at South.

It was North's sixth straight tournament championship. In addition to the four straight Rotary Tournament trophies, the Spartans won the Dick Harvey Tip-off at Kenmore West and Sports Alumni Tournament at Bennett High School this season.

North trailed South by five with 4:43 remaining when Spartans coach Chuck Swierski called a timeout. By the time a minute was left in the fourth, North had used its game experience to be the ones up by five.

"We had been in situations like that before. That was the difference," said Swierski. "They didn't look rattled, but confident. They seemed to know what they had to do. To be able to keep their composure, execute and finish the way they did makes me happy as a coach."

Senior Alex Ullrich and junior Steve Barth, two returning starters for North, had eight and seven points, respectively, in the fourth including 4 of 4 from the free throw line. North shot 13 of 14 as a team from the line in the fourth.

South went down 9-1 midway through the first quarter and 19-8 by the end of the quarter. North appeared to be heading into the locker room with a comfortable 35-22 halftime lead but the Billies shot three late three-pointers in



Williamsville South's Brian Webb drives past Fredonia's Jon Burlett during the Billies' come from behind 85-82 win in the opening round of the Williamsville Rotary Tournament last Thursday at South. Webb finished with 12 points then poured in a career-high 18 in the Billies' 79-73 loss on Friday to Williamsville North in the tournament final.

Photo by Joe Eberle

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the half to cut the deficit to 35-31.

Junior Tom LiSacchi got the late three flurry going with 45 seconds remaining. After a North miss, freshman Phil Stasiak nailed a three with five seconds to play. South sophomore point guard Mark Coppola then stole the inbounds, took one step back and

launched a three at the halftime buzzer.

"That gave us a lot of confidence going into halftime," said South coach Al Monaco.

The Billies, namely, Brian Webb, carried the momentum late in the first half into the third quarter. Webb, a senior guard, had the quarter of his career,

scoring 15 points in the first five minutes. Nine of his 15 points came off of threes that did not hit the rim. Another three by Stasiak pushed South's lead over North to six.

But the Spartans' experience, as it showed later on, helped them in the third. South was up 57-52 before the Spartans scored a two-point basket and after a timeout, senior point guard and MVP John Piagione (eight points) drained a three at the third quarter buzzer to tie the score at 57-57.

"That was big," said Swierski.

Down by five late in the fourth, South freshman Joey Licata knocked down a three to cut the deficit to 75-73 but the Spartans knocked down four free throws to seal the win.

"I thought we had good looks but missed shots," said Monaco. "I don't know for sure but it seemed like late in the game we were physically wearing down a little bit. They were strong and physical on us the whole game."

North outrebounded South, 39-23. Twelve of the Spartans' rebounds came from Ullrich.

"All of the free throws came on rebounds on fouls that we were committing because they were more physical," said Monaco. "Ullrich, in particular, really hurt

us inside. He was drawing contact."

Ullrich finished with 17 points.

Steve Barth, an all-tournament selection, poured in a career-high 22 points to lead the Spartans' offense. Senior Alex Barth tossed in 12 points and nine rebounds. Senior Josh Barrett added 12 points.

Webb led South with a career-high 18 points. Swierski said Webb fouled out with six minutes left in the fourth.

Coppola and Stasiak, each all-tournament selections, scored 11 each. Coppola also dished out nine assists. Senior Zach Murray scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Licata won the sportsmanship award.

South shot 61 percent (17 of 28) from two-point range and 45 percent (9 of 20) from three-point range.

Monaco was real proud of how his team battled throughout the game.

"I don't think many people would have given us a chance and I guarantee that no one in the gym thought we were going to stay within 20 when they dominated us early," said Monaco. "These kids play with such confidence and heart and play so hard. It's a pleasure to coach them."

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— Chuck Swierski, North coach

## East wrestling dominates Akron Tournament

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Williamsville East is ranked 10th among Western New York large schools but they certainly made the Section VI high school wrestling world take notice after winning last Friday's Akron Tournament at Akron High School.

East took home top honors with 184 points. West Seneca East, who defeated Williamsville East in a dual, 33-18, on Dec. 19, was second with a team score of 152.5. West Seneca East is ranked sixth in WNY large schools. Jamestown, ranked fourth in WNY large schools and an honorable mention in the state, finished sixth at Akron with 75 team points.

"The kids wrestled out of their minds," said East coach Henry Fumerelle. "They were brutally aggressive. We're ranked 10th in Western New York and wanted to make sure people knew that we belonged."

Ten Flames grapplers advanced to the

final round and four - Sam Beichner, Ben Mikac, Jayson Dieckman and MP Joseph - earned their first championships.

Beichner, a freshman, beat Lyndonville's Sam Recco, 5-3, at 96 pounds. Recco was 14-2 heading into the match. Beichner finished the tournament 3-0.

Mikac, a sophomore, went 4-0 at 112 and beat Leroy's Tyler Fenstermaker, 8-6, in the final. Dieckman, a senior, defeated Dylan Geertman of Akron, 5-2, at 152. Joseph, another sophomore, beat West Seneca East's Jeremy Gallante, 10-6, for the 189 title. Gallante pinned Joseph in a match last season.

Seniors Max Cohen and Matt Calleri and sophomore Brandon Munoz each took home second place.

Cohen, 2-1 on the day, fell 10-6 to Lyndonville's Mike Green at 130. Calleri avenged a 1-0 loss to Sweet Home's Matt Danwin in a dual earlier this season to win 6-1 in the semifinal only to fall 2-1 to Lyndonville's John Brabon. Danwin went 3-1. Fumerelle said Calleri had an escape

but the referee didn't count it. Munoz improved his record to 11-3 with a 3-1 mark at 140. Munoz was pinned in 3:56 by Maple Grove's Josh Micek in the final.

Sophomore Jacob Beichner and senior Sean Trabert each took home third place trophies with 3-1 records at 125 and 145, respectively. At 285, sophomore Ryan Tideswell avenged a pinfall loss to Steve Greco in a dual meet earlier this season with a 4-2 victory.

Sophomore Steve Meyer earned Williamsville East team points with two pins in wrestlebacks at 160.

It was the Flames' second team tournament victory in a season since 1978. East won the Maple Grove Kick-off Classic on Dec. 1.

## Sweet Home

Sophomore Daiquann Burney was the only Panthers' wrestler to make it to a finals match at Akron.

Burney, in his first tournament final appearance, lost 3-2 at 103 to Leroy's Jesse Brennan.

Sweet Home coach Jeff Hess said Burney took Brennan down as time expired.

"If the match lasted a second later, he would have taken first," said Hess.

Burney was unseeded. He finished 2-1. Sophomore Gage Bateman took fourth at 130. Hess said Bateman injured his shoulder in the first period of the third-fourth match. Bateman lost to Lyndonville's Mike Greene on a two-point takedown in overtime.

"Gage wrestled with a lot of guts," said Hess. "For the whole first period, Gage was fending him off using one arm."

Bateman finished 2-2. Sophomore Zach Fumerelle went 1-2 at 125 but wrestled well, Hess said.

Sweet Home finished 10th overall with 56.5 team points.

Senior Nic Stella, ranked No. 1 at 145 in the latest Section VI rankings, did not compete.

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