BEST of Chenango County Winter Sports
2017-2018

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EXERCISE YOUR HEART IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
Ed Fuller
Senior, B-G Bobcats
Boys Bowling

• Bowled 2 perfect 300 games
• Season high game series: 758
• Ranked first in the MAC League with average of 214
• Received the Sportsmanship Award for Section IV at NYSPHSSA Tournament
• Qualified as top bowler for the Section IV NYSPHSAA Tournament composite team

“For my first perfect game of the season, my nerves were really bad towards the end of the game. I was shaking really bad as I was really nervous. For my second perfect game, I was on a mission to be first in the section, so I knew I had to have a couple big games to help me. When I got to the 10th frame, I was probably the calmest I have ever been until I threw the last ball of that perfect game. Although my team didn’t do the greatest this year, I had the most fun with this team because this team may not have been the greatest bunch of bowlers, but they had and still have a team mentality and that’s what I’ve been looking for for my whole high school bowling career.”

-Ed Fuller

If you are a regular reader of The Evening Sun, you are well aware of the dedication pages we produce on a season-by-season basis.

Last winter marked the third edition of The Evening Sun’s “Best of Chenango County’s Winter Sports,” a special edition which featured 28 teams and profiles from around the county who performed exceptionally well.

With the continued success of Chenango County’s high school sports, we have expanded our featured athletes and teams to include 30 dedicated articles in 32 full pages this year.

This year’s publication marks the fourth annual edition, with full color photos of athletes and teams, accompanied by their accomplishments and the athlete or coach’s own words.

As the title indicates, “Best of Chenango County Winter Sports” is not all-inclusive to every athlete or team. Almost all schools in the county are featured due to winning a title or reaching a career or team milestone.

The creation of the section by The Evening Sun was not done by an open-ended selection process. Instead, each of the athletes and teams earned this award themselves during the 2017-2018 winter sports season by earning a league, conference, division, sectional, regional or New York State title, or reaching a milestone in the respective sports.

This special section is not intended to diminish the effort of many athletes who put in countless hours of dedicated work who may not be included. Instead, this is intended to highlight the individuals and teams who accomplished a championship level success.

If we happened to miss an athlete or team, we want to hear about it. We as a newspaper enjoy positive feedback from our readers; so let us know how we may be able to improve for the future.

Please enjoy this keepsake edition as we continue to strive to provide the best local sports coverage for Chenango County.

The Evening Sun Editorial Staff would like to congratulate all teams and athletes featured in this year’s edition of the “Best of Chenango County Winter Sports.”

We would like to thank all of those involved in helping to guide and shape our student-athletes. Thank you.

Meagan Schulz
Evening Sun Sports Editor
mschulz@evesun.com
sports@evesun.com
Megan Palmatier
Bainbridge-Guilford
Bobcats Girls Basketball

• 1,000 career points
• 5th leading scorer in Bainbridge-Guilford Girls Basketball History
• Finished her career with 1,198 points
• Averaged 299.5 points per season over 4 year career
• 690 rebounds, 140 steals, 203 assists

“Scoring 1,000 points was a great feeling as I’m honored to even be on the same list as the other athletes from out school that have reached that milestone. Scoring 1,000 points felt even better though when Abi scored her’s the next night because her and I have been playing together for a really long time. We have always tried to focus on team basketball. It was great to have two 1,000 point scorers on the same team and have us score our 1000th point within a night of each other as it reflects on the team basketball that we put an emphasis on play and the sacrifice our teammates have given to put us in that position. The best part of scoring 1,000 points though was being able to do it wearing my mom’s number (25) as she also scored 1,000 points at B-G. She’s the person I tried to model myself after as a player and to reach the milestone while wearing her number was something I’ve wanted to do ever since I was a little kid.”

-Megan Palmatier

Photo by Dan Gilmore
Abi Selfridge
Bainbridge-Guilford
Bobcats
Girls Basketball

• 1,000 career points
• BCANY’s Section IV Player of the Year
• Chenango County MVP
• Voted to first-team Midstate Athletic Conference All-Stars
• 262 rebounds, 64 assists, 54 steals

“I am incredibly honored to have scored my 1,000th point this past season. It is a milestone in my high school career that I will never forget. Scoring 1,000 points is a goal that I set at a young age, but never really imagined accomplishing. Undoubtedly, my team played a significant role in this achievement. Without the time and energy that Mr. Conway has put into the program over the years, my teammates and I would certainly not be the players or people that we are today. In addition to this, if it wasn’t for my teammates’ hard work and dedication as well as their phenomenal basketball talents, I would have never accomplished this amazing feat.” - Abi Selfridge

Great Season and Best Wishes for Continued Success. Congratulations to all area athletes and teams.

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Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats Girls Basketball

• Overall record of 21-2
• Section IV Class C Champions
• MAC Conference Tournament Champions
• 2nd in MAC League Regular Season Standings (9-1)
• NYSPHSAA Regional Finalist

“We had an outstanding season. We were a team that competed every night with heart and passion. Next season we will need to fill the void left by Palmatier and Cannistra. If we can do that we will be competitive.” - Bainbridge-Guilford Girls Basketball head coach Bob Conway

Pictured is the 2017-2018 Section IV Class C Champions, the Bainbridge-Guilford Lady Bobcats Basketball team. Kneeling in the front from left to right is Matraca Harmon, Isabelle Decker, Erica Selfridge, Jill Cannistra, and Alli Miller. Standing in the back row from left to right is Manager Drew Dumond, Manager Johanna Henderson, Zamira Caldwell, Bailey Hart, Macie Leizear, Morgan Swartwout, Abi Selfridge, Head Coach Bob Conway, Megan Palmatier, Kori Thornton, Assistant Coach Taylor Palmatier and Assistant Coach Kim Mayo.

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Congratulations Bob Conway and the B-G Girls Basketball Team!

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The Evening Sun
Ben Bivar
138 pound Senior
BGAH Bears
Wrestling

- Overall record of 35-4
- Section IV Class C Champion
- Section IV Division-II Champion
- 6th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament
- 6th at NYSFSSAA Division-II Tournament
- Won 150th match of career in 2017-2018 season

“I had a pretty good season this year. It didn’t turn out the way I wanted it to be since it was my senior year. It was still a good year. I have come along way throughout my career as a wrestler. When I first started, I didn’t win anything. I was in sixth grade when I began and every year after I just kept getting better and better.” - Ben Bivar

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Shane Hoover
152 pound
Senior
BGAH Bears Wrestling

• Overall record of 36-2
• Section IV Class C Champion
• Section IV Division-II Champion
• 6th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament
• Won 100th match of career in 2017-2018 season

“Being a BGAH Wrestler wasn’t something that I thought I was going to be. When I was little, I always thought I was going to be wrestling for just Harpursville. But, one of the best things about having three schools make one team is that you have many wrestling partners that give you different looks to become a good wrestler. Now that I have been wrestling for my coaches Brandon Mcnaught and Tom Kelley for the past five years, I am really happy to call myself a BGAH Wrestler.” - Shane Hoover

Photo by Keith Lanfear
Mike Wilmot
160 pound Senior,
BGAH Bears Wrestling

• Overall record of 35-6
• Section IV Class C Champion
• Section IV Division-II Runner-Up
• Won 100th match of career

“Going into this season I was definitely a little nervous, being that I have not wrestled with this team in the previous years. Walking into the wrestling room the first day, I knew the team had a good bond and I would get the support I would need to be successful. As the season went on, the hard work was beginning to pay off. I fell short at sectionals in 2017 and worked all summer to get better for my senior year. As this season started winding down, the day came that I had been working for: 2018 sectional championships. I unfortunately fell short again but was fortunate enough to get a wildcard to the state tournament. I won my first match then lost the next two but it all was still a great experience. I don’t regret making the move and starting a new experience although it was only a year. I’m proud to say I was part of the BGAH bears wrestling team.” -Mike Wilmot

Photo by Keith Lanfear
BGAH Bears Wrestling

- Overall record of 15-1; MAC Division-I record of 3-0
- MAC Division-I Champions with undefeated record
- Section IV Class C Runner-up
- Finished 3rd at Section IV Division-II Tournament
- Finished season ranked Second in Section IV Division-II

“Season started out well winning the Clyde Cole and Viking Duals as well as placing second at both Burnt Hills Duals and Windsor Christmas tournament. Injuries and weather then derailed what could have been. We finished third in Section IV and sent three to states but it still left an emptiness. Next year we want to attempt to stay healthy, improve each week, and see what we can accomplish. We need to fill some important holes but hopefully we are up to the challenge.”

-BGAH Wrestling head coach Brandon MacNaught

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Pictured are the 2017-2018 Greene Boys Bowling team members. Standing in the front (from left to right) are Logan Pixley, Cade Niemi, head coach Mary McBride, Jakob Funnell and Jakob Cook. Standing behind them are Mike Willard, assistant coach Debb Krupp and Brandyn Scott.

- Section IV Class C Champions
- 2nd at MAC Championship Tournament
- Finished 3rd during MAC Regular Season standings

“My expectations are always the same every year and that is to always do better than the year before. We had a strong year and will look to defend the Section IV Class C title next season.”

-Mary McBride

Submitted photo
• Section III Class D Champions
• Overall Season Record of 8-6
• 3rd at Hawkeye Duals
• 5th at Center State League Tournament

“The team did very well this season even with the all the unfilled weight classes we had. The individuals that will shine next year are gonna be the ones that have already started working toward it.”
-Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling head coach Bim Palmer

Pictured are the 2017-2018 Sherburne-Earlville Marauders Wrestling team members. In no particular order are Vincent Albertina, Tanner Campbell, Tegan Campbell, Ron Demello, Mike Doeberl, Ethan Eldred, Myrick Elrod, Morgan Lakin, Jessie Lynch, Ben Menard, Jason Price, Keith Rood, Colby Spavin, Corbin Straight, Joe Straight, Alex Thompson, Bailey Walzer, and Hunter Zbydiewski. The coaches are Bim Palmer, Brian Hicks, Dustin Moseley and Tanner Cummings

“Champions are built during the off-season!”
Coach Palmer • Coach Hicks
AND ALL OF THE S-E WRESTLERS!
Alex Thompson
220 pound Sophomore, S-E Marauders Wrestling

“I feel that my season went really well this year for being a sophomore. I was ranked third in my section for the 220 pound weight class and took second at the Section III Championships. Most sophomores don’t even get ranked. For next year, I’m hoping to win my section and go to states.” – Alex Thompson

• Overall record of 28-5
• Centerstate League Champion
• Section III Class D Champion
• Section III Division-II Runner-up

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Bailey Walzer
160 pound Senior
Sherburne-Earlville
Marauders Wrestling

• Overall record of 24-7
• Finished 3rd at Centerstates League Tournament
• Section III Class D Champion
• Wrestled at Section III Division-II Tournament.

“Wrestling for my coaches is an honor and it’s just so different. I’ve traveled to many places and have seen the bond between wrestlers and coaches. It’s just not the same as what we, the kids here at S-E have. We’re a lot closer than any other team. It’s great to wrestle for Bim, Brian, Tanner and Dustin. Our coaches are all great and wonderful people. Just about everyone you can think of likes them. It’s even more of an honor because one of our coaches served our country. The first thing he couldn’t wait to do when he got back was coach our team so to wrestle under him is pretty awesome. We’re such a young team so we definitely have our ups and downs but we’re a family and it’s all about learning and overcoming. As far as winning and winning titles, there’s no secret. It’s all hard work and preparation – both physically and mentally. A positive mind set can take you a long way. ‘Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.’” — Bailey Walzer

Submitted photo

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“A team’s success mainly depends on the perseverance of each player. Each member of our team was an intricate part of each match. I believe the secret in winning as a team is to have a team that works as a unit and displays cooperation, coordination and mental awareness. These traits are evident in our varsity team with Jade Diamond, Jaclyn Root, Brooke Symonds, Dalaney Parker, Jordyn Paul, and Alexis Fowlston. Not only have these ladies proven their athleticism, but they have also shown academic excellence. There is no doubt that our team has reached yet another great level of success.” — Sherburne-Earlville Girls Bowling Coach Dawn Dando

- Completed league and division play with an undefeated season record of 11-0
- Finished in First place in Center State Division 2 League
- Placed 3rd in our Center State Conference tournament.
- Placed 3rd in Section III Small School Division

Caption: Top: Left to right, Coach Dando, Jordyn Paul, Jade Diamond, Sierrah Davis Bottom: Left to right, Brooke Symonds, Jaci Root, Alexis Fowlston, Katie Knapp, Dalaney Parker

Photo courtesy of Sherburne-Earlville School District
• Overall 2017-2018 record: 15-1
• Center State Division 2 League Champions: record of 9-1
• Season high game series: 2752
• Season highest single game bowled: 975
• Awarded the Scholar-Athlete team award by the NYSPHSAA

“We have a long standing tradition of excellence with the Sherburne-Earlville Boys bowling program. With that being said, we had another great season. We are losing one senior this year and am expecting another great season next year.”
-Don Philhower, Sherburne-Earlville Boys Bowling head coach

Pictured are the members of the 2017-2018 Sherburne-Earlville Boys Bowling team. Standing in the back row (left to right) are head coach Don Philhower, Dereck Duerthemer, Johnathan Kent, Gabe O’Dell, Jacob Isaacs and Wyatt Youngs; Front Row left to right: Joseph Youngs, Nicholas Fontaine, Trace Kane, Curtis Harvey, Brian Kochman, Hunter Hendrickson, Jacob Jenkins, Wyatt Abbott.

Photo Courtesy of Sherburne-Earlville School District
Caleb Larcher, Junior
Sherburne-Earlville Marauders Boys Swimming

“It was pretty great to win the Section III Butterfly title. I was seeded No. 1, but a little nervous I wouldn’t be able to hold it. Next year, I want to go to states, if not in fly than in breast stroke. The whole team is hoping to do off-season work to prepare for next year.” - Caleb Larcher

- Section III Class C Champion in the 100-yard Butterfly with a time of 1:02.23
- Qualified for eight events for Section III Championship meet
- Placed 5th at sectionals in the 100-yard Breaststroke
- Member of the Center State Conference All-Star team for the Butterfly
- Received the team “Ironman/Eagle Award” for his accomplishments this year

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James McDaniel
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Meagan Schulz: Evening Sun Sports Editor
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Norwich Purple Tornado Boys Bowling

They were a great team. They all got along and supported each other. They had laughed a lot and really gelled as the season went on. They always rose to the occasion. We had a few close matches during the year and the boys always found a way to pull it out. After the first match, they didn’t lose a single game during the regular season.”

- Art Rigas, Norwich Boys Bowling head coach

• Section IV Class B Champions
• Section IV Overall Small School Champions
• STAC East Champions
• 3rd place in NYSFHSAA Championship tournament

Pictured is the 2017-2018 Section IV Class B Champions, the Norwich Purple Tornado Boys Bowling team. From left to right is A.J. Little, Scott Manwarren, Nick Deady, Dylan Gladstone, Griffin Clipston, and Kai Sheer.
Dante Geislinger
99 pound, Sophomore
NYS Champion
Norwich
Purple Tornado
Wrestling

- Overall record of 45-4
- STAC Champion
- Section IV Class C Champion
- Section IV Division-II Champion
- NYSPHSAA Division-II Champion
- NYSFSSAA Division-II Champion

“All of the hard work I have done to get to this point paid off. It’s been a lot of work, like two practices a day during the summer for pretty much my whole life. The goal that I have wanted to achieve since I became a Norwich Purple Tornado wrestler was finally accomplished. I am a New York State Champion and I will be looking to repeat in my last two seasons.” - Dante Geislinger

Photo by Keith Lanfear

Congratulations to all area athletes!

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Ty Rifanburg
170 pound Senior, Norwich Purple Tornado Wrestling

• Overall record of 30-8
• STAC Champion
• Section IV Class C Champion
• Section IV Division-II Tournament Runner-up
• Finished 6th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament
• Finished 6th at NYSFSSAA Division-II Tournament

“The Norwich program is a great program. It has helped me a lot because I wouldn’t be where I am today without this program and this sport. I am very happy to say that I was a Norwich Purple Tornado wrestler.”
- Ty Rifanburg

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Photo by Keith Lanfear
Mikey Squires
126 pound Sophomore
Norwich Purple Tornado
Wrestling

• Overall record of 29-5
• STAC Champion
• Section IV Class C Champion

Section IV Division-II Champion
• 5th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament
• 5th at NYSFSSAA Division-II Tournament

“This year’s sectional title didn’t feel as special because I set expectations for myself and just winning a Section IV championship wasn’t as big as it was last year. It was still very exciting but I want more. Next year, I want to be a state champ. That’s what I train day in and day out for.” -Mikey Squires

Photo by Keith Lanfear

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Tyler Rice
220 pound Freshman, Norwich Purple Tornado Wrestling

- Overall record of 36-5
- STAC Champion
- 2nd at Section IV Class C Tournament
- Section IV Division-II Champion

- Finished 5th at NYSFSSAA Division-II Tournament
- Finished 5th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament

“It is a pretty great feeling winning my first sectional title. I know I have to work harder and work on things to go back and repeat next year.” - Tyler Rice

Photo by Keith Landers

Congratulations to all area athletes & sports teams!

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All Chenango County Teams & Athletes!

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Brennan Slater
182 pounds, Norwich Purple Tornado Wrestling

- Overall record of 44-6
- STAC Champion
- Section IV Class C Champion
- Section IV Division-II Champion
- 4th at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament
- 4th at NYSFSSA Division-II Tournament
- Won 100th match of career in 2017-2018 season

“I was able to accomplish what I did with all my teammates and all my coaches throughout years. I was very lucky to be able to be a part of the program when Tristan [Rifanburg] and Frankie [Garcia] were here. I was able to see what it takes and I tried to reflect that on myself and be that person by trying to work as hard as them and do what they did. It was a just great to be a part of the Norwich program and be able to be around my teammates.”

-Brennan Slater

Photo by Keith Lanfear
The season went very well. The guys worked really hard towards their goals. For next season we will do the same: Set high goals and try to achieve them. It is uber exciting to be able to set the kind of goals that we are achieving. That’s the beauty of it.”
-Norwich Wrestling head coach Bob Hagenbuch
25th Anniversary of the 1992-1993 Undefeated Norwich Purple Tornado Boys Basketball Team

“The 92-93 season was truly a magical season, one that will never be forgotten, nor should it be. The last I knew, only three teams in the history of public school basketball in New York state have gone 29-0 and we are one of them. Coach Branham and I recognized at an early age that this could be a very special group. They were great student-athletes that came from great families, we just tried to guide them the best we knew how. It was the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people, mainly the players, and it was just what the town needed at that time. That team brought a lot of happiness to a lot of people and it was an honor to be a part of it. The memories will last a lifetime.”

-Mark Abbott, former Norwich Boys Basketball coach

Pictured is the 1992-1993 New York State Class B Championship Basketball team, the Norwich Purple Tornado. Kneeling in the front from left to right is Manager Mike Branham, Chris Maynard, Manager Joe Alger, Drew Seiler, Jason James, Kevin Pole, and Charlie Wightman. Standing in the back is Head Coach Mark Abbott, Rob Hamilton, Glenn Van Houten, Pete Burton, Jason Robitelle, Josh Jankowsky, Josh Morris, Bobby Lazor, Jason Lawrence, Paul Mackmer, Jim Boyer and Assistant Coach Bob Branham.

• Overall record of 29-0
• STAC Division-II Regular Season Champions
• STAC Tournament Champions
• Section IV Class B Champions
• NYSPHSAA Region I Champions
• NYSPHSAA Class B State Champions
• NYSFSSAA Class B State Champions

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Eric Conant
Junior,
Norwich Purple Tornado
Indoor Track and Field

- Section IV Champion in the 55m dash
- School record in the 55m dash with a time of 6.67 seconds
- Finished 16th out of 32 runners at the NYSPHSAA Championship track meet
- Was a member of the Section IV Championship 4x200 m and 4x400 m relay teams

“Coming out 16th out of the state was good, it’s nice knowing there’s more competition but I’m making progress. And I just have to keep working harder and harder to make the podium.”
– Eric Conant

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Pictured are both the 4x200m and 4x400m Section IV Championship relay teams of the Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track and Field. From left to right are David Berger, Nik Barber, Eric Conant, Gabe Gawronski, Noah Bufolini, and Scott Tomanocy.

- Section IV Champions
- 4x400m relay team qualified for the Penn Relays
- Broke 4x200m school record with a time of 1:35.3

“Having two relay teams win Section IV titles is obviously great. The biggest thing to say about those boys is that they are very positive kids. They work hard and enjoy challenges. It is very exciting knowing that the four boys on the 4x200 are coming back next year. Having two relays win sectionals in the same year is a huge honor, and has been a goal for these boys since last year.”

- Shaun Horan

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"We peaked at the right time of the season, we played our best team basketball during the sectional run. I am so proud of what this team accomplished and how hard they have worked to get to this point. I expect us to continue to improve on our basketball skills, strength, and mental preparation for the upcoming season. We have a lot of talented players back and hope to have another very successful season."

-Matt Osborne, Unadilla Valley Storm head coach

Unadilla Valley Storm Boys Basketball
Section IV Champions

- Overall record of 17-8
- Section IV Class C Champions
- 2nd in MAC League Season Standings (10-2)
- NYSPHSAA Regional Finalist

Pictured is the 2017-2018 Section IV Class C Champions, the Unadilla Valley Storm Boys Basketball team. Kneeling in the front row from left to right is Danny Anderson, Dante Dye, Payton Strone, Dylan Nichols, Sam Leeffler, Charles Morgan. Stand in the back row is Head Coach Matt Osborne, Caleb Parker, Brady George, Levi Riefenbarger, Wyatt Grey, Andrew Jackson, Teddy Postma, Cameron Osborne, Spencer Meade, Assistant Coach. Missing is Assistant Coach John Jackson.

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Congratulations To All Of Our Chenango County Athletes!
Andrew Jackson
Junior
Unadilla Valley
Storm Basketball

• 1,000 career points
• Voted MAC League MVP and BCANY’s Section IV Player of the Year
• Chenango County MVP
• Currently has 1,221 career points as a Unadilla Valley Storm
• Career-high 40 points
• 250 rebounds, 150 assists, 125 steals

"Reaching the 1,000 point milestone was an exhilarating moment in my career, certainly one I’ll cherish for years to come. It most definitely wouldn’t have been possible without my teammates, this year and in past years, who’s guidance has instilled a confidence in me that allows me to play my game and learn from others. Along with individual accomplishments have come even greater team accomplishments. I am proud to be a part of the first Section 4 Class C Championship team in Unadilla Valley. As a group we have exceeded expectations regardless of being categorized as underdogs, having come through with some clutch upsets in our path to victory. As for myself, I couldn’t be happier with my season and the potential of the team. Having finished the season as regional finalists, I look forward to improving as a player and as a team to extend my senior season as far as it can go." - Andrew Jackson

Photo by Frank Speziale

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Congratulations to the Unadilla Valley Boys Varsity Basketball Team & MVP Andrew Jackson for a phenomenal season and for winning the Section IV Class C Championship!

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Amber Meigs
Senior
Otselic Valley Vikings
Girls Basketball

• All-time leading scorer in Otselic Valley’s Girls Basketball history
• 1,000 points in 2016-2017 season
• Finished career with 1,723 points
• Averaged 344.6 points per season*
• 489 points in the 2017-2018 season
• 201 steals, 49 blocks, 169 assists, 353 rebounds**

It was a big moment in my career because I have put in a lot of time and effort. When I got my 1,000 points it was the momentum that I needed to help me reach the title of the all-time leading scorer in OV history. I did it for the little girl who fell in love with the game and never looked back.”

-Amber Meigs

*Over 5 year career **Stats only provided for last three seasons

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“This was the best single season in Oxford history. We knew we had a special group, one that we thought could make a run at the Section IV State Representative and we almost did. A few unlucky breaks at state qualifiers, Sus Valley was on fire and did us in. We accomplished what we set out to do and it felt great. Jourdan Pinney repeated as the Section IV Champion as she did in 2016. Next year will be a rebuilding year as we lose nine seniors on the girls and boys team.”

-Oxford Blackhawks head coach Lance Thorne

Oxford Blackhawks Girls Bowling

- Section IV Class C Championship
- MAC League Champions
- Overall 2017-2018 record: 52-4
- Season high game series: 2761
- Season highest single game bowled: 951

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Cooper Rice
106 pound
Freshman
Oxford Blackhawks
Wrestling

• Overall record of 26-10
• Section IV Division-II Champion
• Wrestled at NYSFSSAA Division-II Tournament
• Wrestled at NYSPHSAA Division-II Tournament

“Winning the sectional title really didn’t hit home until I arrived at the state tournament. The sectional match was a big win for me because I lost to my opponent, Kyle Willard, in my first match of the year at the Clyde Cole Wrestling Tournament. I had to prepare myself mentally because I received a medical waiver into the sectional tournament, due to an injury, and was only able to practice one day before sectionals. I was able to accomplish my goal because I was focused. My great grandfather, Ed Winner - Oxford wrestling pioneer, had passed away a few days before the sectional tournament so I wanted to win it for him and I did. My win is the sixth sectional wrestling title in my family.”

-Cooper Rice