

THE BEST OF

*CHENANGO
COUNTY*

*WINTER
SPORTS
2023-2024*

THE EVENING
SUN

SECTION 1

April 18, 2024



2024 Best of Chenango County Winter Sports

From the Evening Sun Sports Editor:

Thank you for supporting these outstanding local athletes who went above and beyond for their teams this winter season. A big congratulations goes out to everyone.

As much as we wanted to include every team and every athlete in this special section, each athlete included reached either a major milestone, a state-level achievement, or a conference first team recognition.

'The Best of Chenango County Winter Sports' is not to take away from the efforts of athletes who put in extra hours of dedicated work for their teams, but to recognize this year's successes.

We, at the Evening Sun, share appreciation and gratitude for all athletes and their coaches.

If we missed an athlete or team that achieved a title or milestone, we want to hear about it. At the Evening Sun, we always appreciate the positive feedback from our readers and look for ways to improve for the future.

This would not be possible without the cooperation and dedication of the student-athletes and coaches who helped us put this special section together. We cannot thank you enough!

With the 2023-2024 winter sports season in the books, we wish the student-athletes much success for the rest of the school year and beyond.

– Morgan Golliver, Evening Sun Sports Editor
mgolliver@evesun.com or sports@evesun.com



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Coach Kevin Vibbard Sr. retires after 36 years of coaching Sherburne-Earlville boys basketball. During S-E's final home game of the 2023-24 season, the S-E Central School District honored Vibbard Sr, by naming the upper high school gymnasium after him. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

Sherburne-Earlville boys' basketball coach Kevin Vibbard Sr. finished his basketball coaching career with about 250 wins and seven CSC league titles throughout 36 years. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

A Dedication to Kevin Vibbard Sr: 36 years as S-E boys' basketball coach

The Sherburne-Earlville basketball community celebrated the coaching tenure of Kevin Vibbard Sr at the end of the 2023-2024 basketball season. A valuable man who spent 33 years teaching at the S-E school district and 36 memorable years coaching the boys' basketball team. A man who has seen in all from the home side of the Sherburne-Earlville high school gymnasium.

Vibbard Sr. took the S-E boys to seven Center State Conference championships, the most in school history within a seven year stretch (2011-2017) and won about 250 games in his coaching career, most in S-E school history. He also had one undefeated 2006-07 team that went 21-0 and then lost in the sectional semi-finals. Vibbard will be remembered for a lifetime while his dedication is unmatched at S-E.

Vibbard devoted countless time to basketball, where he established the Dave Dolly Youth Program, the S-E Optimists program, and even runs a summer basketball camp for the future basketball stars of Sherburne-Earlville. He's also had the pleasure of working alongside his son, Kevin Vibbard Jr. for the past few seasons, where the two shared an inseparable bond that will be missed.

"I learned a lot more from my dad than I realized," Kevin Vibbard Jr. said. "The amount of passion, heart, and soul he puts into everything is amazing and the effort to build up a basketball program is everything. It takes a program to support the youth and the community and he did just that. I was glad to be given the opportunity to come home, teach, and to coach with my dad."

Vibbard Sr. grew up on a dairy farm, where when he wasn't doing his chores, he was big into playing sports and put his focus on that. He then started out his coaching career straight out of college. He received a call in April of 1988 from S-E athletic director at the time, Marty Gronwall, who was Vibbard's coach at Edmeston, asking if he could student-teach and had an interest in coaching. From there, Vibbard began in September of 1988 and coached basketball ever since. His first team was a freshman team that went 13-1 with only six players. Over his tenure, the roster numbers grew and the support for Vibbard was evident with joyful kids and a supportive community from his first to his last team.

He enjoyed working with every kid he coached and appreciated how committed his players were and made the effort to show up and work hard. He knew, especially

from his last group, every kid wanted to succeed.

Vibbard Sr. will never forget the 2014 sectional semi-finals game, which was to him one of the best moments in S-E basketball history, which included the girls' team. The boys and girls teams played in a doubleheader where the girls defeated Bishop Luden in overtime and the boys won against Bishop Grimes.

"It was great to see little Sherburne up against the Syracuse schools," Vibbard Sr. said. "The gym was rocking and packed. It was a great atmosphere and a great night for both teams. The community really stood behind us and were great supporters, like they are today. We cannot thank them enough."

These teams went on to the Sectional semi-finals at Onondaga Community College, where Vibbard remembers one side being full of S-E fans. S-E boys have never been to the sectional finals, but had gone to four sectional semi-finals under Vibbard Sr.

Sharing the responsibilities with his son, Kevin Jr. was very special to Vibbard Sr. He became emotional because of how special the opportunity was and how much he loves his son, whom he said he is definitely ready to take over the program.

"He has a very good basketball mindset," Vibbard Sr said about Vibbard Jr. "He gets along great with the kids and had a different perspective that I needed from time to time, so it worked out great. I couldn't ask for a better assistant coach."

Vibbard Sr. knows that the Sherburne-Earlville basketball program will only get stronger from this point forward as the coaching staff are ready to return and the players are working hard in the offseason.

Vibbard Sr. stepped up in many ways for his team and his community that it was only right and well-deserving for him to have the S-E high school gymnasium named after him in his honor.

"It is always nice to be recognized," Vibbard Sr. said. "I was shocked and humbled to have this honor and owe a lot of credit to Brad Perry (Principal and Athletic Director), Superintendent Robert Berson, and my coaching staff for that."

While he steps away from the coaching role, his heart is always with Sherburne-Earlville and you can bet he will be cheering on his players from the stands.

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to Coach Vibbard
and all athletes
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your successful
season!



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have led over the years.
Thank you and good luck!

- The Evening Sun staff



Nick Jenkins

Sherburne-Earlville Bowling Sophomore

- CSC All-Star
- Bowled a 1,148 series in the Section III Division II Championships with games of a 216 and a 214.

"What I liked seeing from Nick this year was a better ability to take direction and apply it. Nick works hard ethic is very good trying hard to get shots down," Sherburne-Earlville bowling coach, John Fontaine said. "Nick leads by his actions. My expectations for Nick next year are to keep improving and learning different delivery methods."

Nick Jenkins, Sherburne-Earlville bowling. (Photo from SECSO)

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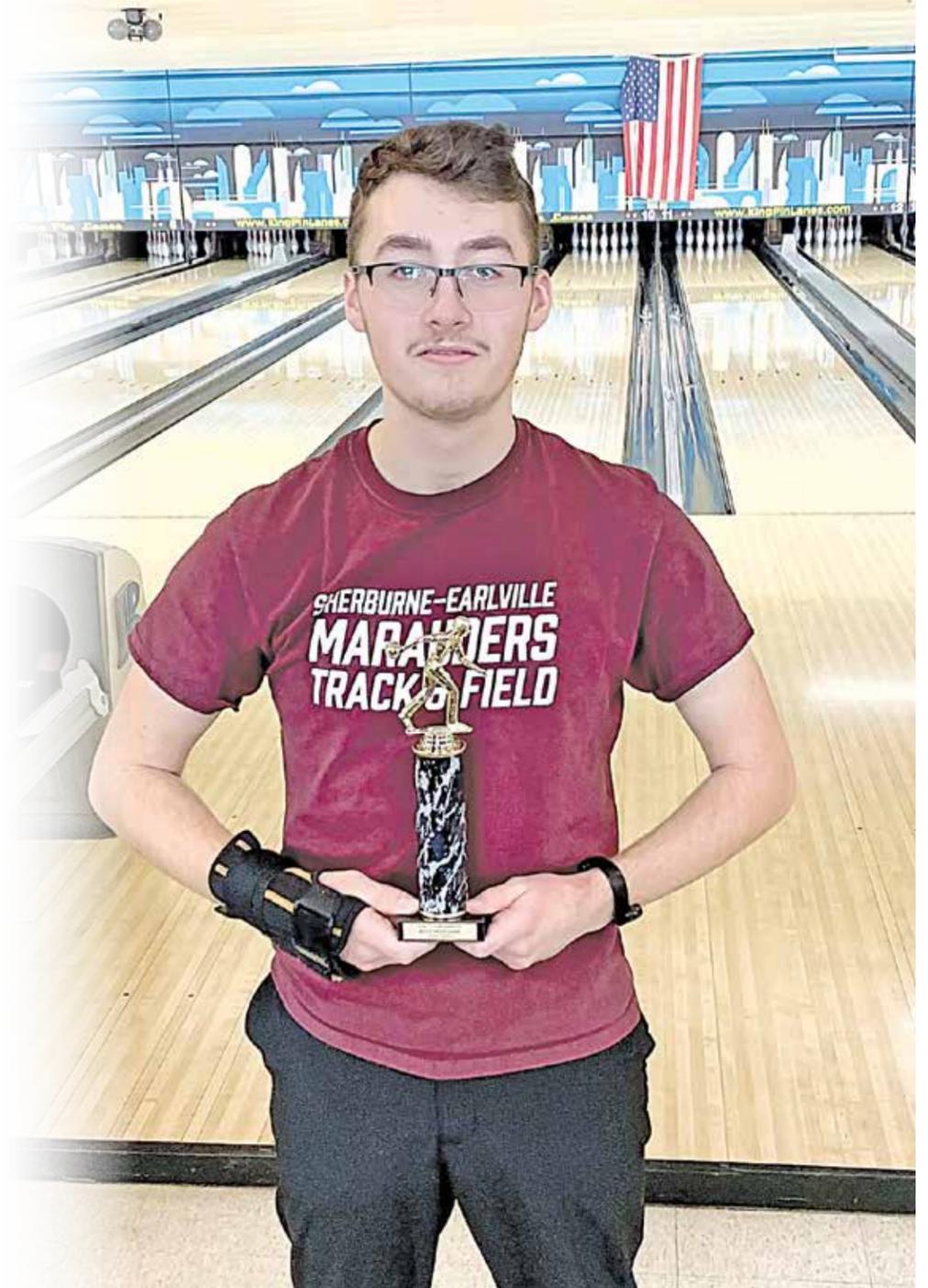
Colton Camenga

Sherburne-Earlville Bowling Junior

- CSC All-Star
- Led S-E to a runner-up finish in CSC Championships with a 584 series and a 246 high game

“Colton has progressed from last year by being more consistent with his ball placement on his shots which lead to a 23 pin increase in his average from last year,” Sherburne-Earlville bowling coach, John Fontaine said. “My expectations for Colton are to keep improving on his consistency and getting better at getting those difficult shots. Colton is working on is to become a more vocal leader as he enters his senior year.”

Colton Camenga, Sherburne-Earlville bowling. (Photo from SECSO)



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Leland Smith

Sherburne-Earlville Bowling Freshman

- CSC All-Star
- Bowled a 1,126 series with games of a 232 and a 208 at the Section III Division II Championships.

"I was most impressed by Leland's ability to bounce back after getting off to a slow start this past season. He ended the season as our top bowler in average and game over 200," Sherburne-Earlville bowling coach, John Fontaine said. "As a second year starter on the team as a freshman, I think the advantage he has gained is experience and being able to handle some of the mental pressures that are part of the game. My expectations for Leland next year are to keep on improving and making the league shootout at the end of the season."

Leland Smith, Sherburne-Earlville bowling. (Photo from SECSD)



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Dilen Maceda

Sherburne-Earlville Boys' Basketball Junior

- Named to the Center State Conference all-league list- First team Division I
- Averaged 10.6 points per game with 23 three-pointers and averaged 6.4 rebounds per game

"Dilen has a very good basketball mind," Kevin Vibbard Sr., S-E boys' basketball coach said. "He can really dominate a game with his ability to drive to the basket as well as shoot the three. He also has become a very good team defender. I am excited to see him continue to grow as a player and a leader."

Dilen Maceda, Sherburne-Earlville Boys' Basketball.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)



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 Our winter season was busy and full of excitement with many of our area teams and competitors achieving significant success. We enjoyed the sports updates, radio broadcasts, and pictures highlighting all of the successes. We are proud of our Chenango County Athletes and we enjoyed cheering for you this past season. Job well done.



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Amon Van Alst

Sherburne-Earlville Swimming Senior

- Broke three school records in high school career:
 - 200 individual medley in 2023 (2:09.43)
 - 100 yard butterfly in 2024 (59.21)
 - 100 yard backstroke in 2024 (1:01.88)
- Received honorable mention recognition on TVL league swim all-stars list

"Amon has been swimming on varsity since the seventh grade, where he progressed into a naturally talented swimmer. Amon went into every meet with a goal to be faster than everyone," Sarah Hill, S-E swim coach said. "He came to almost every practice and even worked out at home to build up his endurance. He was also a great captain and leader to his teammates."

"He's shown great sportsmanship and even shook every opponent's hand at the meets. He would've broken more records, especially the 500 freestyle that we were working on, but we just didn't have enough time," Hill said.

Amon Van Alst, S-E Swimming. (Photo from Sherburne-Earlville CSD)

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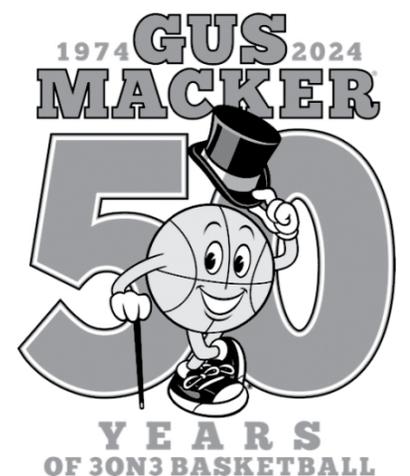
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Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling

Roster: Noah Ackerman, Trenton Anderson, Landon Andrade, Alex Campbell, Cody Clarkson, Jon Conklin, Lilly Cox, Joshuah Evans, Pasley French, Richie Fuller, Manny Collins, Owen Kellogg, Aiden Kiehn, Xavier Kortright, Cameron Mason, Andrew Menard, Nick Miller, Jackson Moore, Selina Moore, Gabriella Naylor, Cody Pierce, Hadden Price, Crispen Prosser, Landen Prosser, Justin Race, Aiden Shreve, Isaac Thompson, and Dylan Winton.

- Coached by Greg DuVall, Paul DuVall, and Dustin Moseley.
- Finished 2023-2024 season with a 16-1 record
- Won Cato-Meridian Duals and Denny Wright Duals
- 2023-24 CSC League Champions
- Section III, Class D Champions

"We had good experience coming back and the team success and good record this year was like icing on the cake," Sherburne-Earlville wrestling coach, Greg DuVall said. "After losing the first duals, it lit a fire in us and woke us up to know we needed to adjust and we responded. It was the first time in my three years of coaching that the kids understood what it meant to wrestle as a team. What you do on the mat affects the team and kids started to catch on from that. From there, we just kept rolling and every dual meet, we were solid from top to bottom."

DuVall on Expectations for next season: "We are only losing two seniors this year, so we are bringing back a lot of starters, so I expect us to be tougher and better," DuVall said. "We put a lot of work in the offseason last year and the results paid off, so we are looking to repeat that. We are very goal-oriented and now on the same page and just need to stick the basics of what got us to this point."

The 2023-2024 Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling team, coached by Greg DuVall. (Photo from Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling)

"It's not the will to win that matters - everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters."

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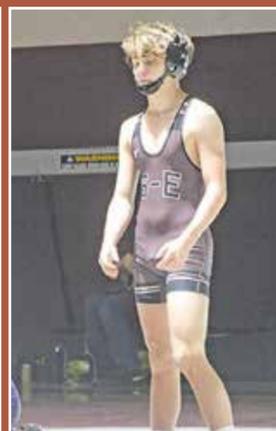
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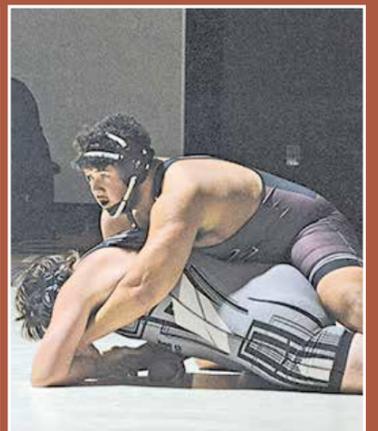
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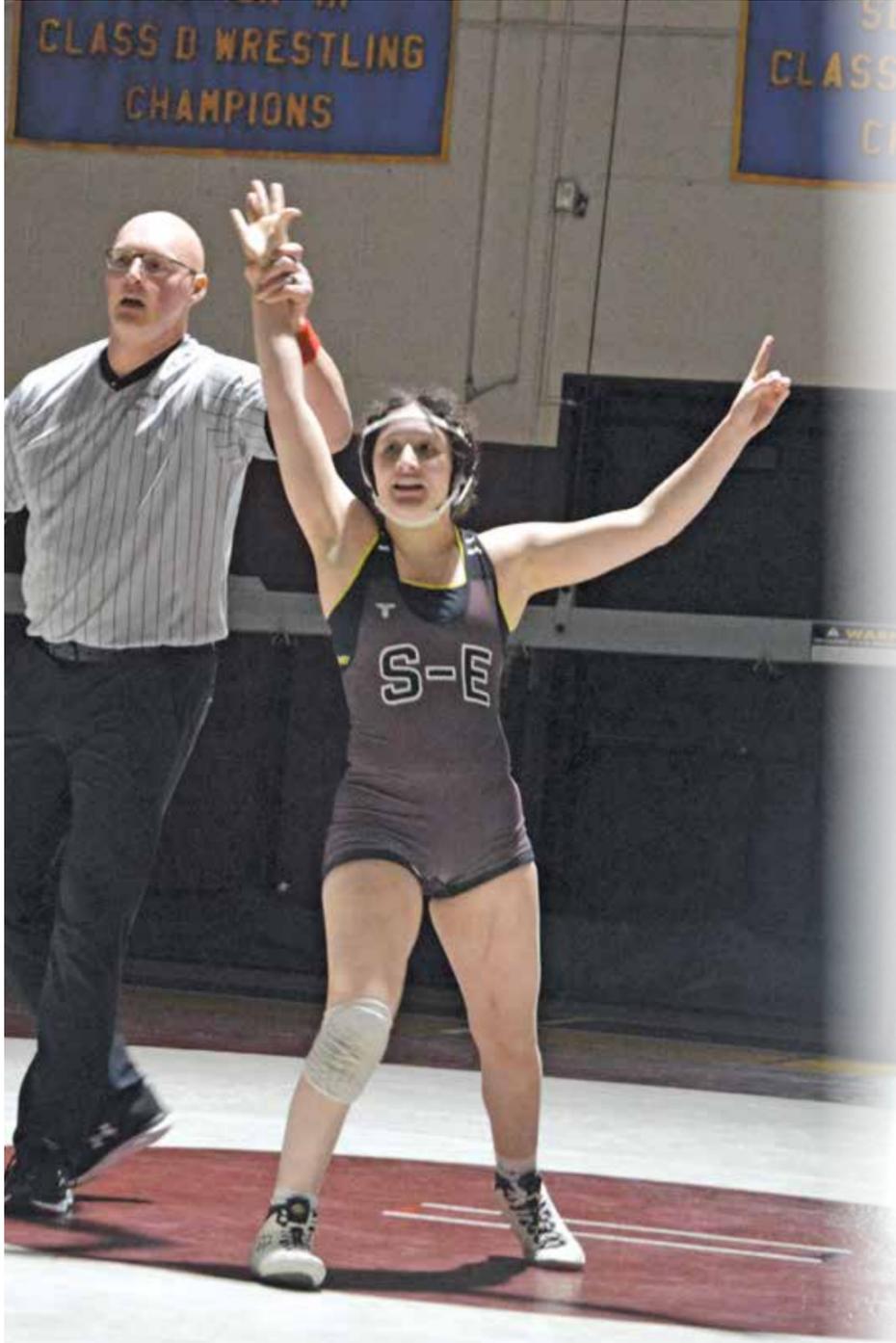
Jackson Moore



Landon Andrade

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Selina Moore

Sherburne-Earlville

Wrestling

Senior

- Finished 2023-24 season with a 23-11 record with 19 pins
- Won the Penfield-Hunter girls Holiday tournament, Eastern States girls classic, Section III girls ranking Invitational.
- Finished third at the second annual NYSPHSAA girls invitational
- Finished fourth at the Section III, Class D tournament
- Finished high school wrestling career with a 45-44 record with 34 pins.

“ Selina is one that bought into the program and had a great offseason in the weight room and on the mat, moving up a weight class,” Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling coach, Greg DuVall said. “ She was really strong on the mat and was in the toughest 145 weight class for boys and it was great to watch her take fourth in the boys class to qualify for sectionals. She is a vocal leader who works hard and leads by example and a great role model to the girls on the team.”

DuVall on her legacy at S-E and for girls wrestling:

“ We have a lot of girls on our youth team, so Selina has stopped in to a few pee-wee practices and the girls just look up to her and believe that they can do what she did,” DuVall said.

Selina on her wrestling career at S-E:

“ At Sherburne, my favorite memories were always before the dual meets or tournaments on the bus,” Selina Moore said. “We always feel like one big family and everyone is talking with each other. On the wrestling team, I’ve learned to never give up and to stick with my teammates. Getting through the wrestling season is just mentally preparing me for the real world and its issues that it could throw at me.”

Selina Moore, Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



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Jackson Moore

Sherburne-Earlville

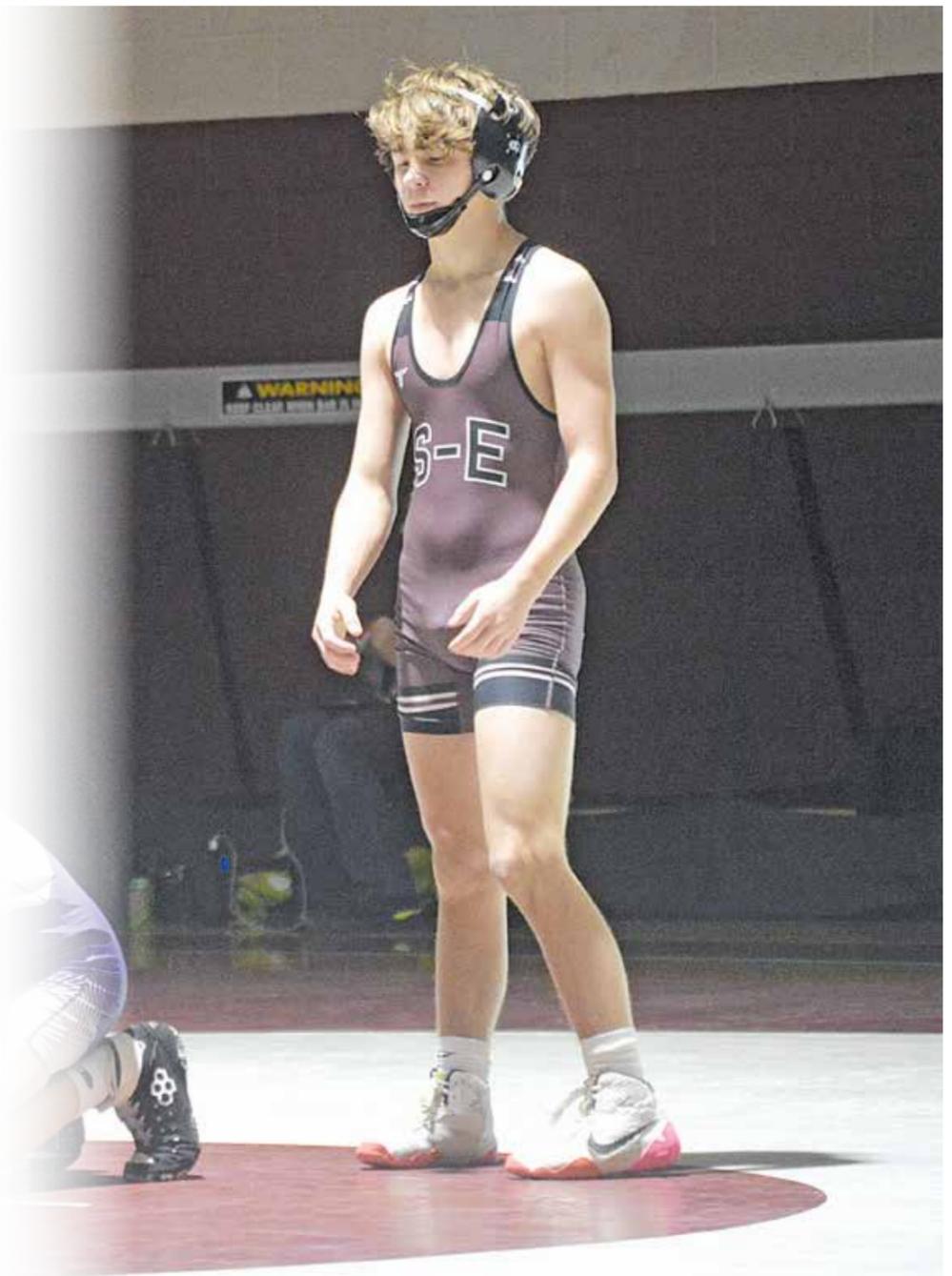
Wrestling

Junior

- Finished 2023-24 season with a 28-8 record with seven pins
- Section III, Class D Champion
- Finished third in Sectionals-qualified for states
- Finished seventh in NYSPHSAA State Championship

“ Jackson had some experience coming in from his time on the Oxford/Greene wrestling team last year. It was remarkable to see him come back from having a losing season to accomplish so much this year,” Sherburne-Earlville wrestling coach, Greg DuVall said. “He’s taken a lot of people by surprise as no one knew him at the seeding meeting and then made it to the finals. He was the only wrestler in Section III to place in the top eight in his weight class. He is an absolute joy to have on the team and is very coachable. I’ll show him detail and different techniques and then he will go out and hit in the next tournament. It is very hard to do that and to find a kid that just has that coachable ability.”

Jackson Moore, Sherburne-Earlville Wrestling. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



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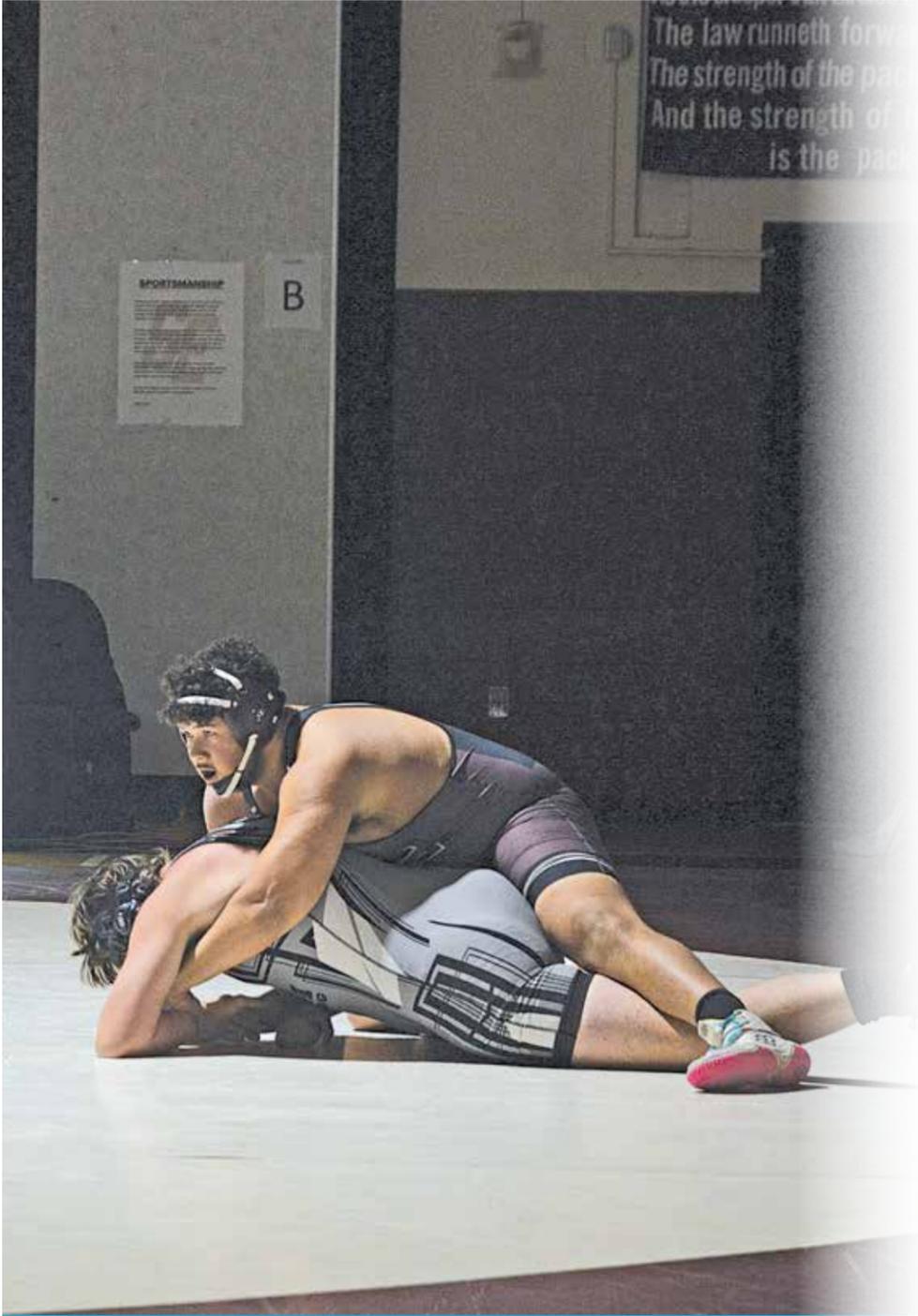
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Landon Andrade

Sherburne-Earlville

Wrestling

Junior

- Finished 2023-24 season with a 39-4 record with 28 pins
- CSC League champion, Section III Class D champion, Section III champion.
- Finished fourth in the NYSPHSAA State Championships

“Landon is more of a silent leader but leads through example,” Sherburne-Earlville wrestling coach, Greg DuVall said. “He’s there every single day. He puts his head down and gets right to work and the kids see that and see his results and it makes them want to buy in to the process.”

DuVall on Landon’s Expectations going into his senior year:

“I’m extremely proud of him for such an incredible year and making it on the podium at states this year,” DuVall said. “He is getting right back into it now and hardly takes any down time, so our goal is to make it back to states and take it all and that will only come with putting in the work over the summer. It’s all about doing the right things on and off the mat.”

Landon Andrade, Sherburne-Earlville wrestling. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

Hannah Todd-Rogers

Sherburne-Earlville

Girls’ Basketball

Senior

- CSC First Team all-star
- Led the team in scoring: 268 pts and 182 rebounds in 2023-24; AVG 12.8 PPG.
- Finished high school career with 596 points and 529 rebounds.

“Hannah is very dedicated to basketball, puts in the time, and continuously got better every year,” Steve Franklin, S-E girls’ basketball coach said. “She did great for us offensively, where she found herself in good positions and was able to get second looks and found success inside.”

Franklin on Hannah’s legacy at S-E:

“We definitely have to feel a big void as Hannah led us in scoring for the last few years,” Franklin said. “She will be playing for Nate Lull’s Amarillo team and then will be continuing on in college in New Hampshire.”

Hannah Todd-Rogers, Sherburne-Earlville girls’ basketball. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Braeden Davis

Otselic Valley

Boys' Basketball

Senior

- Became OV's all-time leading scorer on Feb. 9, 2024
- Achieved 1000 points in Oct. 2023.
- Scored 42 points in win against Stockbridge Valley on Feb 9
- Finished high school basketball career with 1,812 points
- CCL 2024 Player of the Year

"Braeden has been able to set goals for himself and work on achieving said goals with the help of his teammates and a wide range support system," Jacob Preston, OV boys' basketball coach said. "He is not just a great basketball player, but is a responsible and respectful young adult. He is always willing to listen and work hard, even in the offseason."

Preston on Braeden's 42 point game, where he became all-time leading scorer: "He knew going in, as we all did, that we needed to win this game and the last few games to make sectionals," Preston said. "He came to play and was focused and knew he need to carry the load for us and accepted that role."

Braeden's future plans: "Braeden has been looking at Broome Community College and is already under the direction of the BCC basketball coach with playing on his AAU team," Preston said.

Braeden Davis, Otselic Valley boys' basketball. (Photo by Mat White).



Devon Hartwell

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton

Boys' Basketball

Senior

- Achieved 1,000 points on Feb. 15- 15th player in GMU school history
- Finished high school career with 1,008 points
- Broke GMU's single-game record for points (48) on Dec. 15
- Broke GMU's single-game record for three-pointers (10) on Dec. 15
- Averaged 24 points this season

"Devon's love for the game of basketball and leadership grew over the last two years," Cameron Race, GMU boys' basketball coach said. "He was a lone senior on a young team, so he had to step up and lead on all aspects. We knew we needed to put the ball in his hands at all times and he was our go-to for bringing the ball out."

Race on Devon's 1000 point milestone: "We were unsure about reaching it at the start and he really wanted to achieve it. Midway through the season, he had a stretch, where he was only having 15 point games and it looked to be out of the picture. After Christmas, he went on a big tear and was having multiple games in a row with 30 plus points. We knew then it was achievable and most of the kids were more focused on the number than he or I was. We were grateful that he achieved it earlier in the game than expected in our final game of the season against Cherry-Valley Springfield."

Race on the legacy Devon leaves behind: "Devon leaves behind an attitude of working hard and when he wasn't there, we weren't the same. He leaves behind the love of basketball and we want other guys to love it too, so it's going to be tough to fill the void of someone who wants to be there as much as he did."

Devon Hartwell, Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Boys' Basketball. (Photo from GMUCSD)

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Steven Dowdall Norwich Purple Tornado Boys' Basketball Junior

- BCANY (Basketball Coaches Association of New York) first team all-star
- STAC League All-Division
- Averaged 16.6 points per game
- Third on the team in rebounding with 108.

"Steven was exposed last year and more this year to all of Section IV, which is why he got the votes for BCANY. Everyone got a good look at him last year, which allowed him to build on from that this year," Phil Curley, Norwich boys' basketball coach said. "He never takes time off and is always in on every play and "all-in" with his training. He was in double-figures in 15 of 19 games this year, where his defense improved and did a nice job at getting to where he belongs."

Curley on Steven's expectations next year: "I expect Steven to get even better and improve his shooting percentage, where he shot 45 percent from two point range and 31 percent in three-point shooting," Curley said. "When no one can guard him and he's able to get to the basket and find the open man, he's able to a lot of good things."

Steven Dowdall, Norwich Purple Tornado boys' basketball.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)

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Ava Cirigliano

Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track Sophomore

- Broke the 500 meter dash school record-
1:25.77

“Ava did a really nice job this season, where she chipped away a lot of her times. She had tried to break records in both 400 and 500 meter dashes. The 500 meter dash is not commonly raced, so you really only have one opportunity to do it,” Shaun Horan, Norwich indoor track coach said. “Ava is a really tough kid who does hard workouts and focuses well. On race day, she can really focus on the competition and what she needs to get done.”

*Horan on Ava’s expectations for next indoor season:
“I think she needs more experience to break the 400 meters next year and she’s gotten closer every year. She needs to continue what she’s doing, be consistent in her training, and continue to improve. She’s definitely up for the challenge,” Horan said.*

Ava Cirigliano, Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track.
(Photo by Coach Horan)



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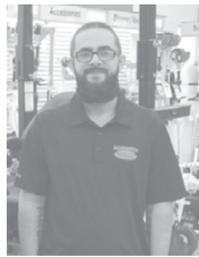


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Richard Fuller

Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track Senior

- Repeat Section IV indoor track champion in the 300 meter dash
- Finished 27th at states with a time of 36.08.

"Richard has been our go-to guy and someone you can rely on," Shaun Horan, Norwich indoor track coach said. "He was on the team for a long time with a lot of experience. He was really chasing the 300 meter record and just missed it by 3/10 of a second and unfortunately, he has no indoor races left. He finished exactly where he was ranked in 27th."

Richard Fuller, Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track.
(Photo by Coach Horan)



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Gabe Decker

Norwich Purple Tornado Indoor Track Junior

- Broke the 500 meter school record-1:10.36
- Finished second at state qualifiers in the 300 meter dash to make states
- Finished 31st at states with new personal best 36.36 seconds

"Gabe is a hard-worker who pushes himself every single day," Shaun Horan, Norwich indoor track coach said. "He drastically improved since last outdoor season and that carried over to indoor. He got really fast and really fit and is always focused on getting faster. He went to his first indoor state championship, where he was ranked 34th and finished 31st, so that was great improvement."

Horan on Gabe's expectations for next year: "Gabe has goals, where he wants to qualify for states again, break records, and podium at the states meet, so he is continuously thinking about that and ramping up efforts," Horan said. "I expect him to keep making steady improvements and keep on staying healthy."

Norwich's Gabe Decker (L) and Richard Fuller (R) pose with their medals at the indoor track State qualifiers. (Photo from NorwichCSD)



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Nate Shtrauch Norwich Purple Tornado Boys' Swim Sophomore

- STAC East All-Star
- Earned the team's 2023-2024 George Echen-tile Award

"Nate is finally a relaxed swimmer," Kevin Diefenbacher, Norwich boys' swim coach said. " He is relaxed and his times are going down for both the Dol-phins and the varsity season. Nate and Kris Deuel are both fast swimmers and were right in line with each other all season. Nate came second on the team to Kris and received the George Echentile award, which used to be the Masonic award for most outstanding swimmer."

Diefenbacher on expectations:
"Nate, as well as the other swimmers on the team, need to see more competi-tion, such as the Dolphins and the swim clinics at the YMCA coming up. It'll only help them more next year," Diefenbacher said.

Nate Shtrauch, Norwich Purple Tornado boys' swim.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)

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Kris Deuel

Norwich Purple Tornado

Boys' Swim

Junior

- STAC East All-Star
- Received team's 2023-2024 MVP award

"As a junior, Kris stepped up and learned the ropes this year," Kevin Diefenbacher, Norwich boys' swim coach said. "He swam well for me two years ago and knows what he has to do to repeat and stay relaxed and swim. He has been thinking about breaking the 500 freestyle too much and getting in his own head, so he needs to be more relaxed."

Diefenbacher on Kris being the team's MVP: "Kris swam the most first place finishes on the team with Nate Shtrauch close," he said. "Kris also earned the most points on the team and swam faster time-wise. Nate and Kris have been swimming together for a while and are right in line with each other and both are within the top 25."

Diefenbacher on Kris' expectations for next year: "We need to get him to relax and swim at practice and during meets, remind him that he is swimming for himself and not to worry about other competitors," he said.

Kris Deuel, Norwich Purple Tornado boys' swim.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)



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Norwich Purple Tornado

Wrestling

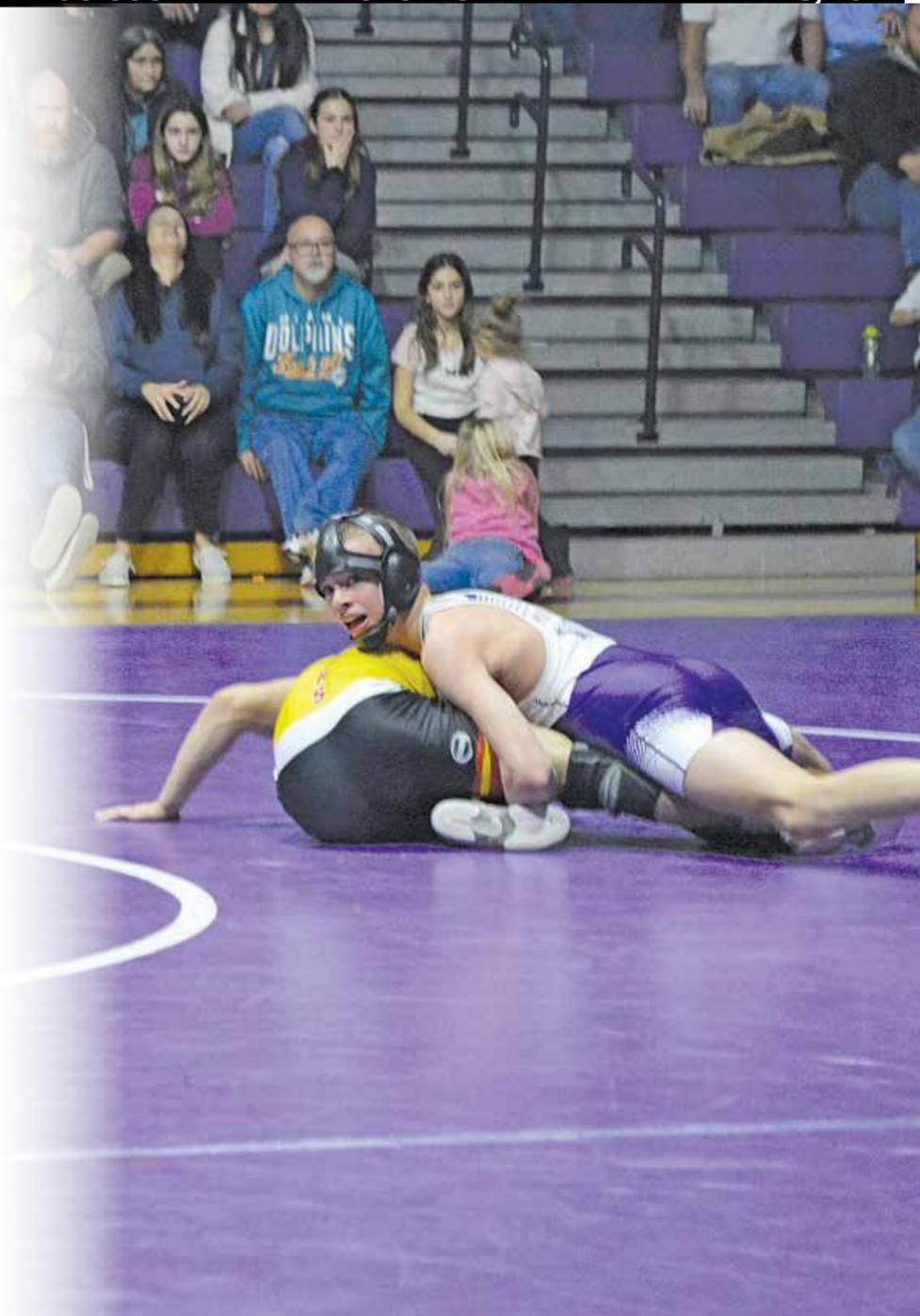
Freshman

- 108 lbs
- 2024 STAC Champion
- 2x Section IV division II Champion
- State Champion
- 2023-24 record of 35-3 with 16 pins

"I enjoyed seeing the success that Maverick had," Garrett Sylstra, Norwich wrestling coach said. "He works extremely hard 12 months a year and for him to reap the benefits of his hard work was special. He is a great kid to be around and enjoys his time with the sport."

Sylstra on Maverick's expectations next season: "My expectations for him next season are to keep improving. I am not necessarily worried about the outcomes, just that he keeps getting better," he said. "We, of course, hope to see him in the post season next year, but we will worry about that later."

Maverick Beckwith, Norwich Purple Tornado Wrestling.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)



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Oxford/Greene Girls' Bowling

- Roster: Lily Baxter, Abby Kimball, Emily Peterson, Harlee Montgomery, Brianna Fowlston, Danica Fowlston, and Cassidy Johns. Coached by Frank Ross.
- Section IV Class C Champions
- Finished fourth at State qualifiers

"It was a big accomplishment for us to win class C this year," Frank Ross, Oxford/Greene girls' bowling coach said. "We finally caught up, where the girls started to figure things out and were consistent and confident prior to sectionals. We also had every girl bowl above their average at sectionals. We were also able to get our younger girls into the game as our seventh and eighth graders got a taste of competition."

Ross on expectations for next year:

"We will be a young team in a rebuild mode, but we should have kids coming back," Ross said. "Our goal every year is to raise our team pin and individual averages up around 10 to 15 pins. We have already seen a lot of improvement from our younger kids and hope to keep the positive vibes going."

The Oxford/Greene Girls' Bowling team, coached by Frank Ross. (Submitted Photo)



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JUST MINUTES FROM OXFORD!

Brianna Fowlston

Oxford/Greene

Girls' Bowling

Senior

- Made states as the sixth Section IV All star
- Won Section IV, Class C as individual
- Finished eighth in states with a final score of a 1266, high game 237
- Finished high school bowling career- 3x MAC League All-star, 2x MAC League Champion competitor, 2x NYS Section IV State individuals qualifier, 2x Section IV Class C Team Champion.

"She is very athletic and committed year round to bowling," Frank Ross, Oxford/Greene girls' bowling coach said. "She bowled incredible at states and was one of the highest placements I've had at states. Even though she did struggle in the first three games, we were able to make adjustments and found something that worked."

Ross on what he will miss about Brianna most: "She was like another coach for me," Ross said. "She helped a lot on the lanes where I could walk away and help the younger kids, so I was definitely able to trust her. She is also in her second full year with the Junior Gold youth, where she will be going to Detroit, Michigan to bowl this summer. She is also going to continue bowling in college for a DIII school in Michigan."

Brianna Fowlston, Oxford/Greene girls' bowling.
(Photo from Oxford Academy CSD)



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Caden Rifanburg

Oxford Blackhawks

Boys' Basketball

Junior

- Second year on varsity
- MAC first-team all-star
- Averaged 14.9 points per game (93-for-213 in field goals) and made 27 three-pointers
- Finished 2023-24 with 128 rebounds (39 o, 89 d), 19 steals, and 15 blocks.

"Caden loves the game of basketball," Tim Davis, Oxford boys basketball coach said. "He is about 6'5" tall and has a good outside shot and got stronger in the past year and more comfortable playing in the post. Caden is becoming more confident in his game and is also starting to take on more of a leadership role on the team."

Davis on Caden's expectations next season: "We have an offseason plan that will continue to develop Caden's inside and outside game as well as his defensive prowess," he said. "Next season, I expect Caden to be one of the most respected players in the league."

Caden Rifanburg, Oxford Blackhawks boys' basketball.
(Photo by Morgan Golliver)

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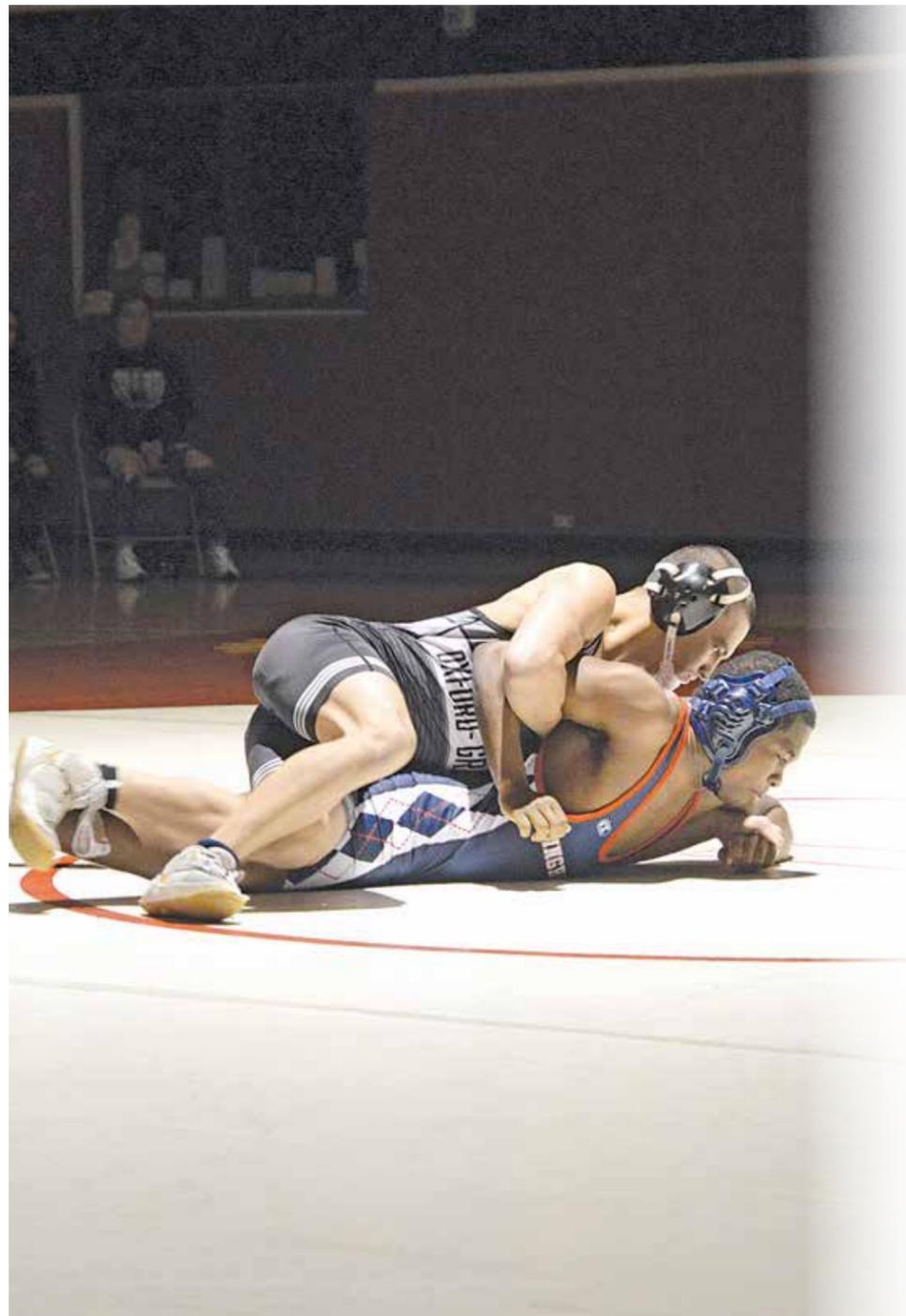
- Finished third in Section IV girls' sectionals
- Record of 7-5 with six pins

“ This was Lily’s first year at the varsity level after wrestling on the modified team last year. She hasn’t stopped wrestling since and has developed a love and passion for the sport of wrestling,” Craig Tefft, Oxford Wrestling coach said. “She’s quickly picked up the sport and has fun with it, which takes a while for other athletes. She constantly asked me if she’d get a match in our dual meets, so she was very excited and eager to wrestle. I’m hoping that next year, we can get more interest in girls’ wrestling and even have a separate schedule.”

Tefft on Lily’s expectations next year:

“Lily is already into freestyle wrestling and has a goal of wanting to be a champion in the States’ freestyle and Grecco events. She just needs more mat time to get the work in and she is eager to do that. She has a bright future ahead of her and we are excited to see what she can accomplish.”

Lily Karn, Oxford/Greene Wrestling. (Submitted Photo)



Aiden Marcin

Greene/Oxford

Wrestling

Junior

138 lbs

- Finished third in Sectionals
- Went to States-no placement-2-2
- 2023-24 record: 27-6 with 20 pins

“ Aiden is a three-sport athlete, but when it comes to wrestling, he is all wrestling. He is a natural leader and the kids look up to him as a big influencer in the room,” Jesse Fendryk, Greene Wrestling coach said. “ Aiden is very positive and goes out on the mat smiling as a way to intimidate and a way for him to think clearly.”

Fendryk on Aiden’s prep for States:

“ We focused on conditioning and mental toughness and making those small adjustments. It was his second time at states and he gave us 100 percent. He was proud and did everything that he possibly could and that’s something as a coach that you really want to see is a kid leaving it all on the line.”

Fendryk on Aiden’s expectations next season:

“ While he is a three-sport athlete, he needs to be on the mat in the offseason to develop certain techniques. Mentality, he’s there, but more time on the mat would only help tighten up his technique.”

Aiden Marcin, Greene/Oxford Wrestling (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Greene Trojans Girls Basketball

- Roster: Claire Flanagan, Mia Yahner, Molly Cornell, Lyla Biefeldt, Abby Yahner, Justina Parsons, Cali Knapp, Josie Dutcher, Kenley Jenks, Alexa West, Mya Leggett, Alexis Cloyd. Coached by Dave Gorton, MAC girls' coach of the year.
- 2023-24 MAC League Champions
- Lost to Moravia in Section IV, Class C Semi-finals
- Finished 2023-2024 season with a 18-2 record

The 2023-2024 Greene Trojans girls' basketball team, coached by Dave Gorton. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

"We had another great season. I was worried at the start because we lost our scoring prowess and leadership from our seniors who graduated and who would step up this year," Greene girls' basketball coach, Dave Gorton said. "Collectively, the girls really pulled together and this was one of the most well-balanced team I've coached in the last 15 years. They were fundamentally sound with great hands and feet and took care of one another. When we look back on this season, we're going to have a lot of great memories of things we did together, we had a lot of laughs and a lot of fun, and I hope we can continue that going forward."

Gorton on being named MAC girls' coach of the year: "It was a great honor to be selected by my peers," Gorton said. "It's also a great recognition for the kids, which Bill Case once told me that the good coaches always have the great players and that was the key for us this year."

Gorton with an early outlook to next year: "We have six of eight leading scorers returning next year with a lot of remaining talent," Gorton said. "We're not going to be the group that sits back and says 'well, we accomplished this, so now we're done working'. They are already working this offseason and that will only make them a better player and athlete. We look to continue to be unselfish and put the team first and our stats will follow."

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Joel Vielandi

Greene Trojans

Boys Basketball

Senior

- MAC first team all-star
- Averaged 12.7 points per game
- Scored a team-high 24 points in loss to Chenango Valley on Dec. 6.

"I loved being able to play for a top tier school like Greene, where Jaden (Eroshevich) and I were a duo together in both basketball and football," Joel Vielandi said. "I loved the atmosphere and having everyone cheering for us."

Joel Vielandi, Greene Trojans boys' basketball. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Jaden Eroshevich

Greene Trojans

Boys' Basketball

Senior

- MAC first team all-star
- Averaged 16 points per game
- Scored a team-high 31 points in sectional loss to Chenango Valley

"Playing for Greene was a lot of fun," Jaden Eroshevich said. "I loved being able to score and get all my teammates involved and having fun. It's a great atmosphere, where everyone is there supporting you."

Jaden Eroshevich, Greene Trojans boys' basketball. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

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Unadilla Valley/Norwich Boys' Bowling

- 2024 Section IV class B Champions
- 2024 MAC Champions

Roster: Jacob Prentice, Nate Rumovicz, Dawson Robinson, Tyler Bates, Zayne Dibble, Cameron Franklin, Teagin Eccleston, Phin Rivanburg, Brayden Prentice, David Montgomery, and Tim White. Coaches: Matt Bleyle, Rob Catena, Josh Prentice, James Mucha

"The merger with Norwich this year went better than expected with all hands on deck from the Athletic Director to Jim Mucha of helping transport the kids and has made things much easier for me," Matt Bleyle, UV/Norwich bowling coach said. "Everyone is on track to continue to do this if we can."
 Bleyle on the boys' season:

"The boys improved so much and worked very hard," Bleyle said. "Every boy got to bowl in at least one match in the top five and everyone started to click and feed off each other, it was great."

*Bleyle on the expectations for next season:
 "The sky's the limit for us," Bleyle said. "The MAC is a tough league for the boys and we're good enough to compete and good enough to repeat again next year. We'll have mostly everyone back except our one senior, Nate Rumovicz, so there's still a lot of talent. We are also fortunate enough to have four coaches that are knowledgeable and dedicate their time with the team."*

The Unadilla Valley/Norwich boys bowling team, coached by Matt Bleyle, Rob Catena, Josh Prentice, and Jim Mucha. (Photo from UVCS D)



Unadilla Valley/ Norwich Girls' Bowling

- 2024 MAC Champions- Four consecutive league titles

Roster: Brynn Grant, Phalen Hill, Andie Mucha, Arin Buchanan, Shelby Rose, Shannon Gilbert, Natalie Smith, Layla Stevens, Sarina Bell.

"We had many of our girls return and this group was dedicated and would be at the bowling alley all the time," Matt Bleyle, UV/Norwich bowling coach said. "They knew they wanted to be good and have proven time and time again their success."

*Bleyle on expectations for next season:
 "We are losing four seniors after this year, so we are in rebuilding mode," Bleyle said. "I'm glad to work at the school, so I can recruit and scout kids and see new faces. I always love seeing the kids that are coachable, those are who I want."*

The Unadilla Valley/Norwich girls bowling team, coached by Matt Bleyle, Rob Catena, Josh Prentice, and Jim Mucha. (Photo from UVCS D)

Dawson Robinson

UV/Norwich Boys' Bowling

- Junior
- Section IV All-Star
- Finished states in 14th place

"Dawson would listen to any recommendation given and try out any suggestions I would give him," Matt Bleyle, UV/Norwich bowling coach said. "He is the kid that takes everything in and is always willing to learn. He bowls all year round with club bowling too and is such a smooth bowler."

Bleyle on Dawson's states performance and expectations for next year: "For Dawson to make the top 14 out of 66 bowlers was impressive," Bleyle said. "He bowled great and learned a lot during his first time at states. He has talents and willingness and I hope he will build on that for next year."

Jacob Prentice

UV/Norwich Boys' Bowling

- Junior
- Made Section IV all-star team as an alternate
- Earned Sportsmanship award at States

"Jacob has been our team leader and when we merged with Norwich, he tried to sit in and mesh with the Norwich bowlers and take them under his wing," Matt Bleyle, UV/Norwich bowling coach said. "He has shown his dedication and loves the sport of bowling, even with juggling indoor track and having a lot on his plate."

Bleyle on Prentice's expectations next year: "He's been on the Section IV all-star team two years in a row and three years would be amazing and the sky's the limit for him," Bleyle said. "There's so many good bowlers in Section IV, so it's not easy to make the all-star team."

Phalen Hill

UV/Norwich Girls' Bowling

- Senior
- Made Section IV all-star team as an alternate
- Bowled at states on the pacer team

"Phalen just missed the sixth spot on the all-star team by four pins, but she was asked to join the pacer team," Bleyle said. "Section III hosted the championships and were asked if they had any extra kids that wanted to bowl on the pacer team and had one extra spot and thought of us. When Phalen was asked, her face lit up and she jumped on the opportunity. They even thanked her for doing so."

Bleyle on Phalen's time on the team: "She really came out last year off the bench and it was her breakthrough moment and she threw a great ball," Bleyle said. "I couldn't ask for a better kid because she was coachable and great to work with."

Jacob Prentice, Phalen Hill, and Dawson Robinson represent Unadilla Valley/Norwich at the 2024 State Bowling Championships. (Submitted Photo)





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Gracie Gorrell

Unadilla Valley

Indoor Track

Junior

- Qualified for the intersectional relay after finishing third in the 300 meter dash
- Ran in the intersectional relay at states- finished 12th
- Ran a split time of 26.42 in the second leg of the relay

"Gracie has gotten a lot stronger this year and had success in her 300 and with the relays that she was on," Steven Pelosi, UV track coach said. "She was happy to get back to the indoor state meet and has worked really hard towards the end of the season to get back. Overall, she's happy with how the whole season ended up and we are proud of her accomplishment of going back to states."

Pelosi on Gracie's expectations for next indoor season:

"If she just comes in and keeps getting stronger and does some offseason work in the spring and summer to get faster and stronger, that will just all add up towards advancing and having a lot of success next indoor season."

Gracie Gorrell and Jaiden Schrag at the 2024 NYSPHSAA Winter Track State Championship. (Submitted Photo)

Jaiden Schrag

Unadilla Valley Senior

Indoor Track

- Went to states in the 55 meter hurdles, finished 15th overall
- Set a new personal best time of 8.74 seconds, adding on to her previous broken school record

"Jaiden had a great year and ran her best race of the year at states, where we really worked on fine-tuning her speed, which was already there from soccer and basketball, and putting it into the hurdles," Steven Pelosi, UV track coach said. "She was always fresh and in shape and we made sure she balanced her workouts between basketball and track, so she wasn't over-trained and burned out."

Pelosi on Jaiden's future:

"We will miss her athletic ability and strength and she was a handful of seniors that we had the privilege to work with," he said. "Wherever she ends up, hopefully she'll continue with track, she'll have success in anything she does."

Girls' Basketball

- MAC league First Team all-star
- Finished 2023-2024 with 258 points, 111 rebounds, 55 assists, and 113 steals
- Finished high school basketball career with 641 points, 314 rebounds, 180 assists, and 261 steals

"Jaiden's role changed so much this year. In years past, she just had to show up and do her job. This year, being the only senior and veteran player, she was the sole leader that everyone looked to," Brandi Whitbeck, UV girls' basketball coach said. "She became the leading scorer and also lead the team in steals."

Whitbeck on Jaiden's talent and commitment:

"Jaiden is a very disciplined individual. She is always looking and working to improve her abilities. She is a four-sport athlete and year round competitor," Whitbeck said. "I think her commitment, discipline and drive has given the younger UV athletes something to strive for. She ALWAYS works hard, wants to be challenged and corrected to be as good as possible. She is truly a special and talented kid!"

Jaiden Schrag, Unadilla Valley girls' basketball. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Wyatt Meade

UV/Unatego/Franklin

Wrestling

Junior

- Finished second in class and sectional tournaments
- Won the Dan Wickham Classic
- Went to states- did not place- went 2-2
- Finished 203-24 season with a 34-12 record

"Wyatt had a solid junior season and had a season he should be very proud of," Mike Hamilton, UV/U/F wrestling coach said. " While Wyatt didn't place at states, he lost a match to place that could have gone either way. We always preach to our wrestlers that one match shouldn't define you. What should define you is knowing that you wrestled hard and gave it your best effort and Wyatt did that all season.

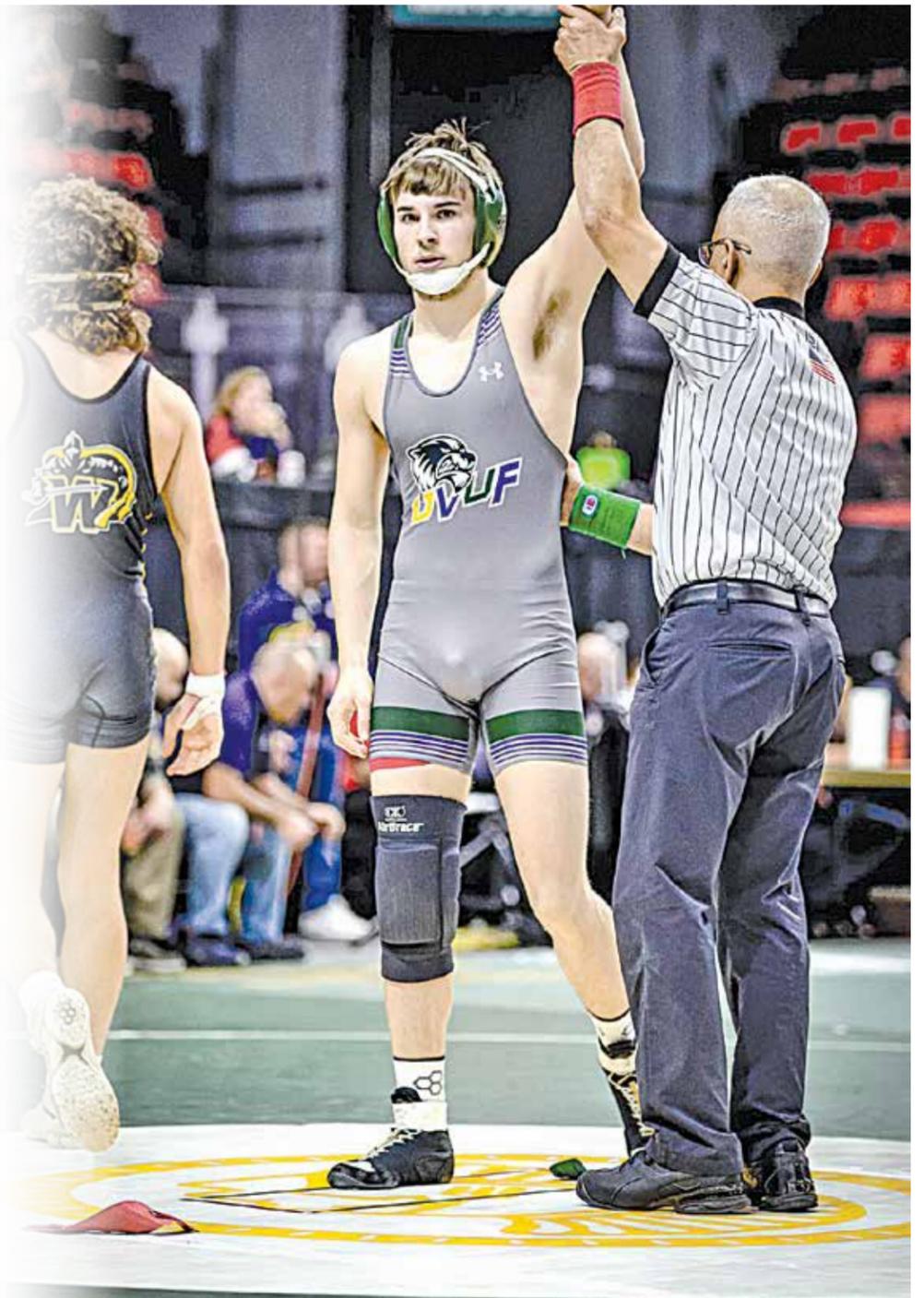
Hamilton on Meade's team leadership:

" Wyatt was more consistent in his effort in practice this season and evolved into more of a team leader. One of the things that our coaching staff likes about Wyatt is that he stays very level-headed in his approach to the season. He understands that taking a loss is not the end of the world, but rather something that he can use and learn from," Hamilton said. " Another thing we like about Wyatt is his attitude. He will wrestle anyone, no matter who they are, even if it is up a weight class, and leave it all out on the mat. He's going to give it his 100% effort each time he takes the mat."

Hamilton on Meade's Expectations going into his senior year:

"Our expectations for Wyatt next season are to continue to work hard and be a leader. We are hoping he puts in the offseason work in the weight room and on the wrestling mat to improve his strength and wrestling technique. If he can do that, he will achieve all the goals he has set for himself," Hamilton said.

Wyatt Meade, Unadilla Valley/Unatego/Franklin Wrestling.
(Photo by June Thayer)



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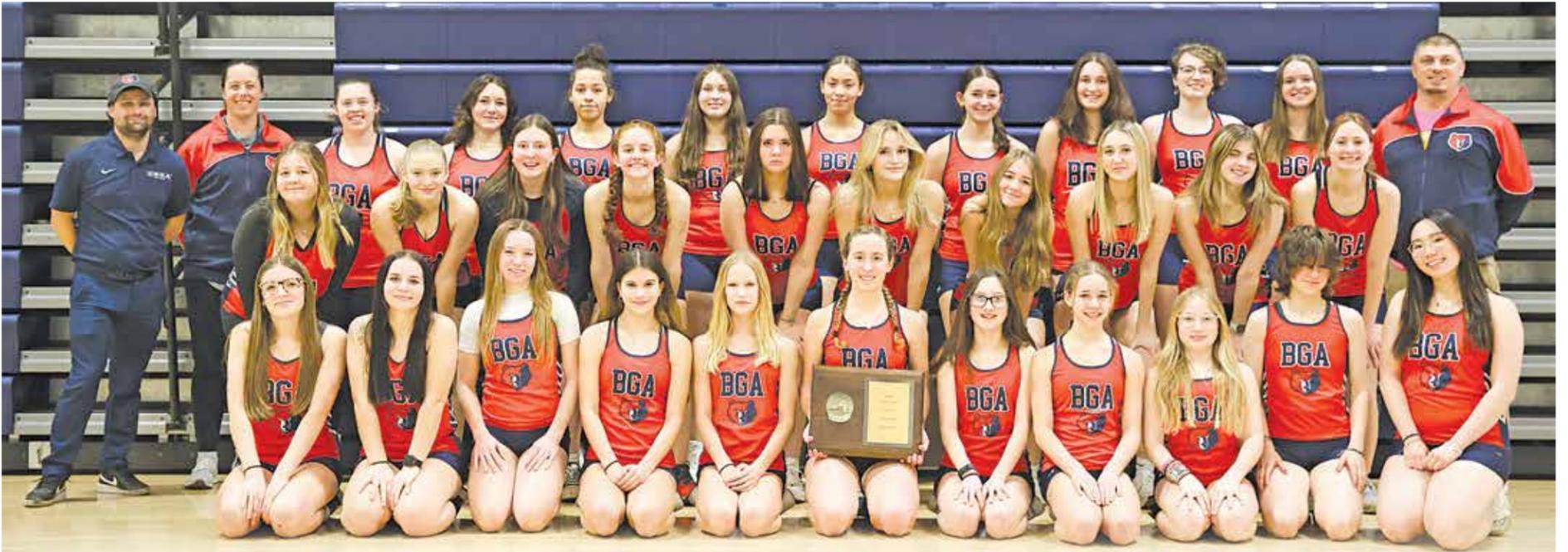
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Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton Girls Indoor Track

Roster: Allison Hauptmann, Annika Armstrong, Aubrey Schinn, Breanna Casey, Brenna George, Brooklin Hall, Chandler Benjamin, Chanel Hsu, Claire Sullivan, Elanor Sprow, Emilie Hopkins, Emily Sprow, Emma Beamer, Emmeline Vroman, Erinne Sullivan, Ethne Degan, Grace Sabel, Kaydence Brimmer, Kaylynn Crandall, Lelania Baldwin, Laila Williams, Loegan Barnard, Lucia Hall, Macaela Burns, Macey LaFever, Maddie Ingham, Makayla McCloud, Morgan Prisco, Olivia Hall, Olivia Nichols, Sage Pruskowski, Shaylynn Fitzgerald, Solara Spinella, Tori Suda, Vanessa Brazee. Coached by Nick Mayo

- Won the 2023-24 Section IV, Class C title
- Ethne Degan- three individual first place finishes (1500, 1000, 3000 events) at Sectionals
- Makayla McCloud- first place in 55 meter dash, third in long jump, seventh in 300 meter dash.
- Girls 4x800 relay-second at sectionals- Maddie Ingham, Lelania Baldwin, Macey LaFever, and Vanessa Brazee.

"They bought into the idea of competing together as a team and creating a positive atmosphere," Nick Mayo, BGA indoor track coach said. "We had a lot of depth on this year's team with senior leadership and the younger girls catching on. They were also very performance driven and willing to make individual sacrifices to achieve success and didn't let their teammates down."

Mayo on an early outlook next year:

"We've gone back-and-forth with Sidney for years and this year we achieved our goal of winning the title," he said. "In order to defend it, we have to maintain the team culture and keep the positive atmosphere. If we do that, winning becomes a by product."

The Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton girls indoor track team. (Photo by Ricky Macpherson)



Collin Dicks Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton Boys' Indoor Track Senior

- 2024 Sectional champion in the long jump
- Earned the top victory in the boys' triple jump at state qualifiers
- Finished 17th overall at states- 42-.50.

"Collin has that competitive fire and always wants to win mindset," Nick Mayo, BGA indoor track coach said. "He always tries his hardest every time. Our boys' team was very senior-heavy this year and they have pushed us into the top five for the past few years, so we will surely miss them."

Mayo on Dicks' states performance:

"Collin was disappointed because he really wanted to hit a new personal record at states and just missed by a few inches (42-5.25). But, his jump was better than 10 others, who didn't hit their best marks either," Mayo said.

Ethne Degan Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton Girls' Indoor Track Senior

- Won three individual events at sectionals (1000, 1500, 3000 meter run)
- Qualified for states after a top finish in the 1000 meter run
- Finished 29th in the finals at states

"Ethne started track as a seventh grader, so she's spent six years overall with the exception of COVID, and has been a huge part of our program," Nick Mayo, BGA indoor track coach said. "She is an advocate on the team and is very encouraging and positive leader. She puts in the effort and time everyday and her work ethic and positivity is contagious to the other girls on the team. The team has really grown because of her."

Mayo on Degan's states performance:

"She was off to a good pace at states, but got tripped up. However, she showed resilience and finished the race," he said. "She still has the spring to make it back to states to finish out her senior year."

BGA's Collin Dicks and Ethne Degan. (Photo by Coach Mayo)

Johnna Henderson

Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats

Girls' Basketball

Senior

- MAC first team all-star
- Named MVP of BG Kazalski Tournament
- Averaged 11.7 points per game
- Finished high school basketball career with 637 points and 665 rebounds

"Johnna is a very good athlete in all sports and progressed as an athlete her teammates counted on, especially in tight games," Bob Conway, BG girls' basketball coach said. "She was an important factor on offense this year and her athleticism allowed her to get to the back board and create opportunities to rebound, just because of her athletic stature and ability to alleviate."

Conway on Johnna's talent:

"Her athleticism allowed her to be one of the premier rebounders in the league. Therefore, she was able to score on the offensive end, because of her ability to rebound on the offensive glass," he said. "She is one of the players the team will miss, but we know we have to move on and fill the void and will start doing that very soon. We have a lot of JV players and underclassmen that will step up and they're already showing competitiveness after finishing 12-6 this year."

Johnna Henderson, Bainbridge-Guilford Lady Bobcats. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



James Hogroian

Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats

Boys' Basketball

Senior

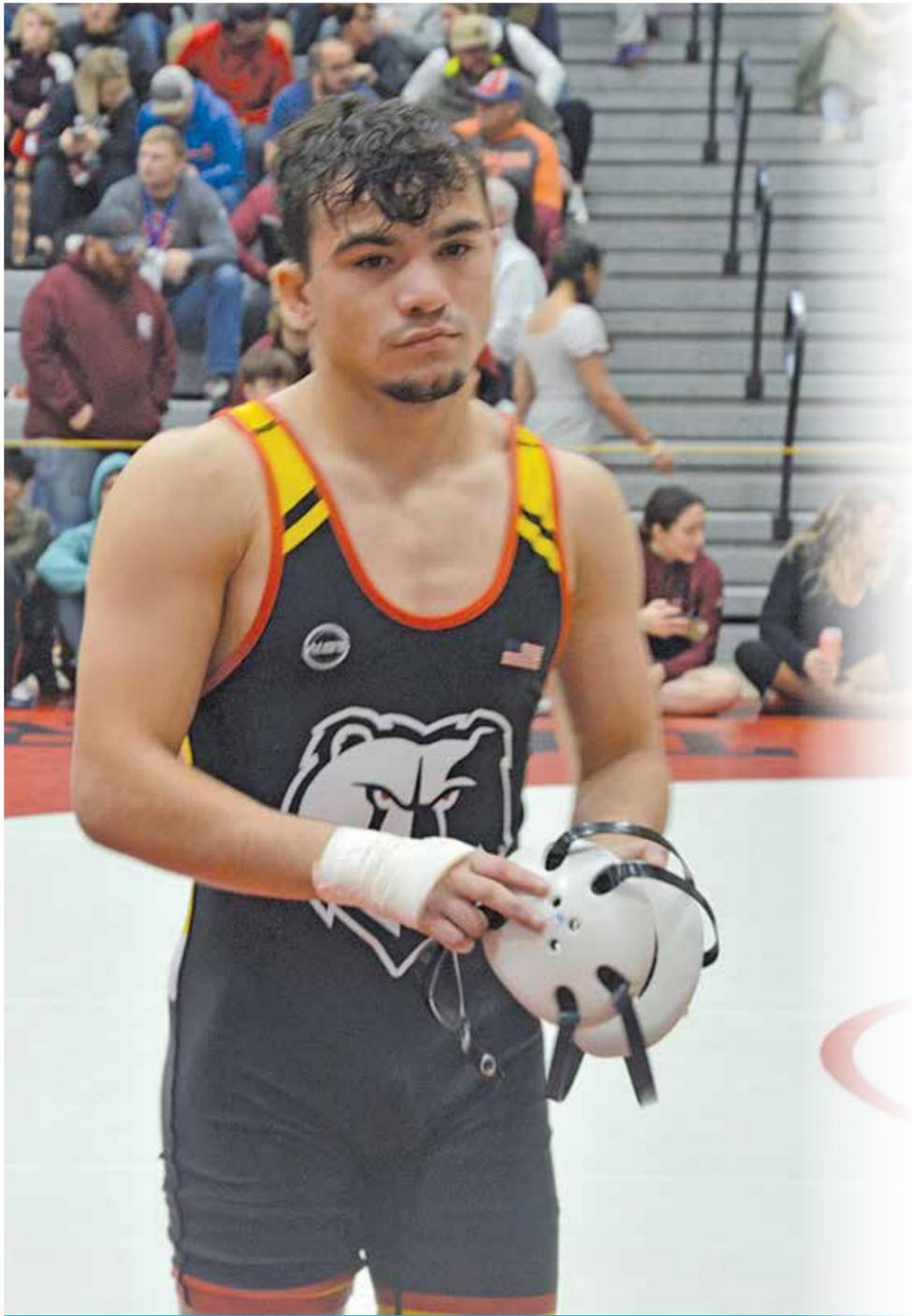
- Averaged 21.1 points per game
- MAC First Team
- Finished with 959 career points

"James improved as a team leader and made it "his team," Kevin Wehrli, B-G boys' basketball coach said. "He encouraged the group and talked to his teammates at practice and led by example. He willed us to win in tight games and give him a lot of credit on and off the court."

Wehrli on James' Legacy:

"He was motivated this year by the fact that he and the rest of the team wanted to get back into the top four and go back to the MAC title game," Wehrli said. "That motivated will move on and shake up the next group of players and they'll want the same thing. James is one of our top three memorable boys' basketball players and will be staying around the basketball scene but more in the official/referee aspect."

James Hogroian, Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats boys' basketball. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Darren Florance

Bainbridge-Guilford/ Afton/Harpursville Bears Wrestling Senior

- Won all 2023-2024 dual tournaments
- 4x Clyde Cole Champion, 3x Section IV Champion, 3x State Champion
- Finished High School career with 133-13 record with 47 pins.

"We knew it was harder the third time around and knew early on he'd be a favorite," Brandon MacNaught, BGAH wrestling coach said. "The only losses in the last two years for Darren came in overtime, but the last three years he's won states. He loves the sport of wrestling and is dedicated to the sport and puts in the extra time and workout and did everything he was supposed to."

MacNaught on Darren's legacy:

"It is hard to do what Darren did and there was a lot of luck involved, especially getting his hand raised 10 times between class and states," he said. "We knew he was going all the way, it was just a matter of how high up the podium he'd finish. Darren is still figuring out future plans, but he will definitely be involved in wrestling in some capacity because he is a life-long wrestler."

Darren Florance, BGAH Wrestling. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)




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