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All-Star Girls and Boys Wrestling Meet

Event scheduled for March 14 at Elyria High School

By Rick Davis

LCWCOA president

The All-Star Wrestling Meet will be March 14 at Elyria High School with boys and girls matches starting at 6 p.m.

For the first time the girls will have their own All-Star Event alongside the boy's event. All of this will be broadcast by WEOL.

The wrestlers involved are from Lorain County High Schools with the addition of Black River, Buckeye, Cloverleaf, Bay Village, Huron and Westlake. The participating boys will be the top four in each weight class and two alternates. The participating girls will be the top two in each weight class and one alternate. Alternates will replace any wrestlers who cannot compete that day.

Last year we had 50 district qualifiers and out of those were 14 state qualifiers.

The first-place winners for the girls

and boys will receive a T-shirt with Lorain County Champion on the front and their name on the back. First- and second-place girls and boys will receive a Defense Soap Kit donated by Defense Soap owned by Guy Sako. Third-place girls and boys will receive a pair of shorts. All wrestlers will receive a pancreatic cancer awareness T-shirt from Valley Chevrolet in Wellington.

Additional awards will be presented to Official of the Year, Coach of the Year and Wrestler of the Year for seniors in each division and Outstanding Wrestler of the Year for both girls and boys. There will be a scholarship presentation to girls or boys who are planning to attend college. We will also present the Jesse Campbell Pin Champion Award for girls and boys. Hall of Fame plaques will be presented to Colin Funk and Barry Jarvis from Cloverleaf High School, Tony Smerk who was voted Official of The

Year last year and Linda Saxton who was a journalist.

There will be Marine recruiters affiliated with USA Wrestling.

A Freestyle Qualifier will be May 4 at Elyria High School. To learn more, go to USAWrestling-Ohio.org.










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For Coach Tom Brands



Tony DeAnna
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winner, 3 Time MAC Place winner



Mike DeAnna
Bay Village High School
3 Time State Champion, University
of Iowa 4 time Big Ten Champion,
4 Time NCAA All American



Jim Fowler
Buckeye High School
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Ohio Univ. 4 year letter
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PIN LEADERS

Boys

Chase Chandler of Amherst, 18
 Adam Schumacher of Avon, 19
 Jack Valerino of Avon Lake, 20
 Clay Broadhurst of Avon Lake, 20
 Anthony Rocco of Bay, 33
 Cooper McKean of Black River, 29
 Jaxon LLado of Brookside, 13
 Tristan Craddock of Cloverleaf, 24
 Andrew Sorensen of Columbia, 26
 Tristin Greene of Keystone, 23
 Caiden Rosario of Lorain, 15
 Austin Dye of Midview, 20
 Ian Rottari of North Ridgeville, 24
 Tommy Boyer of Oberlin, 4
 Logan Peterson of Vermilion, 14
 Chris Wood of Vermilion, 14
 Cohen Mooney of Vermilion, 14
 Brad Cerankosky of Westlake, 21

Girls

Rejan Al-Hashash of Avon Lake, 32
 Taylor Owen of Black River, 30
 Amelia Ryncarz of Cloverleaf, 5
 Berkeley Craddock of Cloverleaf, 5
 Claire Ondrejko of Columbia, 27
 Ravenna Guidicelli of Elyria, 22
 Emily Jirousek of Keystone, 20
 Julianna Ramirez of North Ridgeville, 19
 Lauren Ficker of Vermilion, 32

— Supplied by LCWCOA

HALL OF FAME

TONY SMERK, WRESTLING OFFICIAL

Tony Smerk attended Fairview Park High School where he earned two AAU Championship Titles, two Southwest Conference Championship Titles, two Sectional Championship Titles, and was a District Placer - which earned him a trip to the State Tournament in Columbus his senior year.

He wrestled at Cleveland State University for a year before leaving to start a family and pursue his career in sales.

He coached at Avon Lake High School for several years before leaving to make a career change.

He started officiating wrestling in 2003 and officiated at all levels — from youth to high school.

During that time, he also spent seven years officiating NCAA college events — including two National Duals events for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association.

He has officiated nine Ohio Athletic Committee Grade School State Wrestling Tournaments and nine

Ohio Athletic Committee Junior High School State Wrestling Tournaments. He has officiated 13 OHSAA Sectional Tournaments and eight OHSAA District Tournaments.

For the 2021-2022 season, he won the “trifecta” by being named “Official of the Year” by the three different Wrestling Officials’ organizations where he holds a membership.

He says prior to 2024, the culmination of his officiating achievements came when he was selected to officiate his first OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament in 2022.

Now, being selected to be inducted into the Lorain County Wrestling Hall of Fame has become the pinnacle of his officiating career.

— Submitted

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2024 AREA WRESTLING SECTIONALS CAPSULES

It's a three-week sprint to the finish, with OHSAA sectional wrestling starting Feb. 24 and ending with the state finals the night of March 10 in Columbus. ¶ This winter, I managed to get to all 22 schools in the Morning Journal's coverage area with wrestling teams at least once prior to sectionals. There was a lot more to review and break down compared to years past, as many of the teams split into several more sectional sites. ¶ Without further ado, here's a look at the upcoming sectional tournaments

>> By Sean Fitzgerald

Division I

Division I Sectional — Avon Lake

What: Division I sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Avon Lake High School

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Avon Lake, Midview, North Ridgeville, Westlake

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Perrysburg District Tournament.

Top wrestlers to watch: 106: Mo Aljneed, Westlake, So., Ian Rottari, North Ridgeville, Jr.; 113: Brad Cerankosky, Westlake, Sr., Caleb Grimm, Sr.; 120: Abe Gill, Avon Lake, So., Chase Morgan, Westlake, Jr.; 126: Nate Grieger, Avon Lake, So., Brogan Hartup, Westlake, Sr.; 132: Nate Bober, North Ridgeville, Sr. Kaeden Lademann, Avon Lake, Fr., Tanner Moore, Westlake, Jr.; 138: Jack Valerino, Avon Lake, Jr.; 144: Brayden Patterson, Avon Lake, So.; 150: Hunter Anderson, Midview, Sr., Gavin Andrews, Avon



AIMEE BIELOZER - FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria's Ryan Scott wrestles Avon Lake's Brayden Patt at 144 pounds, Jan. 10.

CAPSULES » PAGE 7

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Capsules

FROM PAGE 5

Lake, Jr.; 157: Will Schnabel, Avon Lake, Jr.; 165: Gabe Borrer, Midview, Sr.; 175: Felipe Covarrubias, Avon Lake, Sr., Ryan Eddy, Westlake, Sr.; 190: Nathaniel Shenberger, Midview, Jr.; 215: Josh Heath, Avon Lake, Sr., Sammy Salem, Westlake, Jr.; 285: Clay Broadhurst, Avon Lake, Sr., Austin Dye, Midview, Sr.

For the record: A new host after Midview gave up its sectional, Avon Lake has a shot at winning a team title, but it's a loaded field. Among some of the contenders the Shoremen have are Jack Valerino (138), Josh Heath (215) and Clay Broadhurst (285), the latter of the three being a 2022 state qualifier at 215 pounds who fell short last season. ... Westlake's lighter weights are the strength of their lineup, led by returning state qualifier Brad Cerankosky (113), Chase Morgan (120), Brogan Hartup (126) and Tanner Moore (132). ... North Ridgeville is still getting its numbers back up, though two Rangers who stand out are the experienced Ian Rottari (106) and Nate Bober (132). Rottari is in his third year at 106, which gives him an edge in experience in what's been a breakout campaign. Bober was district material last year, but a tough

break cost him a spot and he'll look to finish what he started during last year's breakout. ... With Midview, coach Paul Steele beefed up the schedule in hopes of sending more than 2023 state qualifier Hunter Anderson (150) and 2023 state placer and two-time state qualifier and Lake Erie College commit Austin Dye (285) back to Columbus. Dye and Gabe Borrer (165) are potential four-time district qualifiers — as is Westlake's Hartup — in this sectional. Along with Nathaniel Shenberger (190), Midview has shown a lot of promise in the middle and upper weights this season.

Division I Sectionals — Strongsville

What: Division I sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Strongsville High School

When: 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Amherst, Elyria

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Perrysburg District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 106: Chase Chandler, Amherst, So., Bennett Wachter, Elyria, Fr.; 113: Vinnie Bonaminio, Amherst, Sr., Shamus Fogarty, Elyria, Jr.; 120: Isaac Green, Elyria, Sr., Vananthony Trunzo, Amherst, Sr.; 132: Blake Cancel, Elyria, So.;

SECTIONALS » PAGE 8



AIMEE BIELOZER - FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria's Connor Holm wrestles at 165 pounds.

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Sectionals

FROM PAGE 7

138: Charlie Porter, Amherst, Sr.; 144: Ryan Scott, Elyria, Sr., Matthew Vidovich, Amherst, So.; 150: Zavier Stephens, Elyria, Jr.; 157: Connor Holm, Elyria, Sr., Isaac Vazquez, Amherst, Fr.; 165: Logan Banyas, Amherst, Jr.; 175: RJ Chandler, Amherst, Sr., Kemarion Wimberly, Elyria, Jr.; 190: Ryan Auvil, Amherst, Sr.; 215: Ross Auvil, Amherst, Sr., Xaiden Natal, Elyria, So.

For the record: If you're looking for high quality, Elyria and Amherst have it in spades. It's hard to pick out any one Amherst wrestler as a potential state candidate, but Vananthony Trunzo (120) was a state alternate last year and made another leap in his senior campaign. ... On the Elyria side, Isaac Green (120) has been solid all year and Blake Cancel (132) has seen his star rise. Let's not forget that veteran Connor Holm (157) could qualify not just for his fourth district tournament, but his fourth state tournament as well with a Top 4 District finish. A third sectional title would help that cause in another loaded middleweight field at Perrysburg.

Division I Sectionals — St. Edward

What: Division I sectional wrestling tournament

Where: St. Edward High School, 13500 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Lorain, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Perrysburg District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 113: Brandon Aiola, North Olmsted, Fr., Caiden Rosario, Lorain, So.; 120: Brady Hexter, Olmsted Falls, So., Phillip Kennedy, North Olmsted, Sr.; 126: Antonio Rosario, Lorain, Jr.; 144: Andrew Connelly, Olmsted Falls, Sr., Hayden Rios, North Olmsted, Sr.; 150: Gabe Garcia, Lorain, So., Ryan Roberto, Olmsted Falls, Jr.; 165: Matthew Chalkwater, North Olmsted, Jr.; 175: Gavin Range, Olmsted Falls, Jr.; 190: Zach Beeman, North Olmsted, Sr., Cort Zahorchak, Olmsted Falls, Sr.; 285: Jacob Holtz, North Olmsted, Sr.

For the record: While St. Edward will likely take home the team sectional title, there's a few hidden area gems in this sectional. ... Lorain's Caiden Rosario (113) is the best shot to end an over half-decade long state qualifier drought for the Titans, but he will face a tough road with a loaded weight class this year. ... Olmsted Falls' Andrew

Connelly (144) has the pedigree and family wrestling history behind him, but he's also in a similar boat to Rosario. ... North Olmsted's Matthew Chalkwater (165) was a state alternate last year and he should finally be back at full health at sectionals, with some of the wrestlers ahead of him at Districts last year graduated also benefiting his cause. That's not to mention the breakout campaign of the Eagles' Zach Beeman (190) who sits at 31-2 after the Feb. 10 GLC Tournament. He'll face a tough road at Districts, but former teammate Gavin Beasley was a two-time state qualifier at the 190 weight class in both 2022 and 2023 — so it's feasible to see another 190-pound North Olmsted wrestler in Columbus for the third straight year.

Division I Sectionals — Wadsworth

What: Division I Sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Wadsworth High School

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Avon

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Hoover District Tournament.

Top wrestlers to watch: 126: Tony Mrosko, Avon, So.; 138: John Foye, Avon, Sr.; 144: Kane Sparks, Avon, So.; 150: Max Arnold, Avon, Sr.; 157: Tommy Freeman,

Avon, Sr.; 165: Niko Kalamaras, Avon, Sr.; 190: Adam Schumacher, Avon, Sr.; 215: Eian Englehart, Avon, So.

For the record: This was a surprise, as Avon will be the only area Division I team not heading to Perrysburg for districts. From sophomores Tony Mrosko (126) and Eian Englehart (215) to seniors like John Foye (138) and Adam Schumacher (190), there will be several Eagles who should move on to Districts — with Foye looking to become a four-time district qualifier and hopefully bank his first trip to Columbus. Going to Wadsworth will mean facing a Grizzlies program that has nearly its entire lineup state ranked according to Borofan — headlined by projected three-time state champion Jaxon Joy and a very deep field. The main advantage to taking this route is avoiding some of the same teams in this sectional until deeper in the district brackets at Hoover.

Division II

Division II Sectional — Sandusky

What: Division II sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Sandusky High School

When: 9 a.m. Feb. 24.

Area team: Vermilion

On deck: The top four in each weight class

TOURNAMENT » PAGE 10

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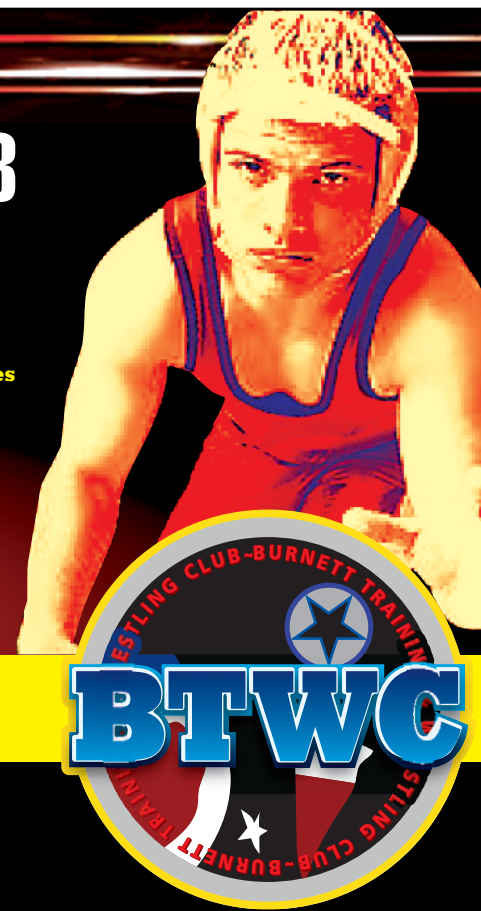
September 6-7-Folkstyle

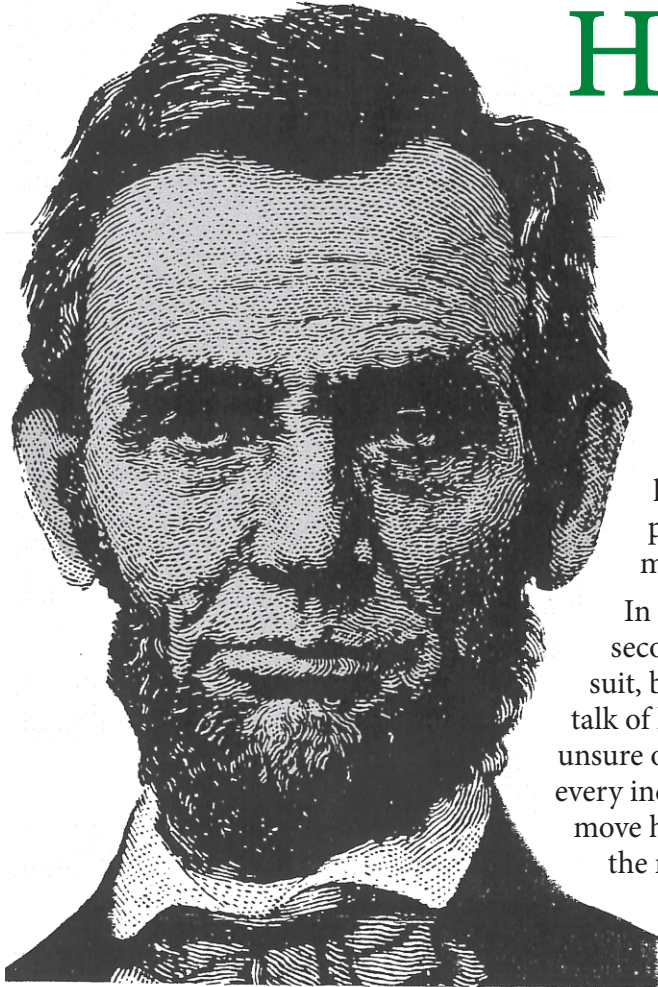
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He lost his home twice...

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LOSING A HOME is a cruel thing, but life can be cruel - even to those destined for greatness.

Abraham Lincoln was born in a meager, one-room cabin on the Big South Fork of Nolin's Creek near Hodgenville, Kentucky. It had a dirt floor, one window and a stick-clay chimney. Lincoln's father, Tom, had paid \$200 for the cabin and 300 acres of discouraging land. It wasn't much, but it was home and the young family's only chance for a decent life.

After four years of fighting mosquitoes, heat and hardscrabble land, the Lincoln family had to pack up and leave. There was a defect in the title. They didn't have the right sort of papers and somebody else had a better claim to the land. With three-year-old Abe in his mother's arms, the family moved eight miles away to Knob Creek.

In less than four years, Tom Lincoln had to go to court to prove his ownership rights to this second farm. Another claimant to the land sued him as a "trespasser." Tom Lincoln won the suit, but was haunted by the fear that he might someday lose another property. There was enough talk of land-titles, landowners, landlords, land-laws, land-lawyers and land-sharks to make him unsure of his title. After all, Daniel Boone, the first pioneer of the Kentucky wilderness, had lost every inch of his once vast landholdings because he had "the wrong kind of papers." Tom decided to move his family to Indiana where there was rich, black land-government land with clear title and the right kind of papers. Thus, Abraham Lincoln lost a second home to title problems.

It was the anxiety and outright losses of the Lincoln family and other hard-working Americans that gave rise to today's title insurance industry. The first land title insurance company was founded in Philadelphia in 1876. Just a few years later, in 1889, the

firm that was to become First American Title Insurance Company was established to protect buyers against the hidden hazards of real estate ownership: forgeries; faulty surveys; hidden liens; conveyances by a minor or mentally incompetent person; the false representation of a married person as being single; and many other title defects. Even the most complete search of records may not reveal them all.

Today, title insurance is just as important as ever. The same potential flaws in title exist. A home is still the largest purchase most of us make in our lifetime. And, with escalating land values, the loss of property can still bring a family to ruin.

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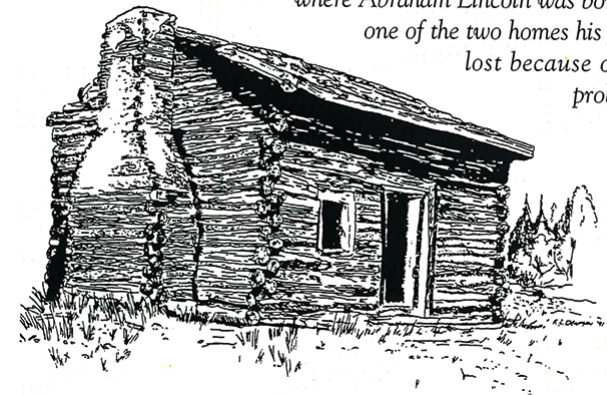


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STATEWIDE CLOSINGS

The one-room cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky, where Abraham Lincoln was born and one of the two homes his family lost because of title problems.





JOE COLON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Bay's Anthony Rocco (120 pounds) puts his opponent on his back during the Westlake Coach Ant Classic, Jan. 13.

Tournament

FROM PAGE 8

advance to the Norwalk District Tournament

Wrestlers to watch: 132: Ashton Clifton, Vermilion, So.; 144: Aiden Kyser, Vermilion, So.; 150: Logan Peterson, Vermilion, Jr.; 165: Owen Stiner, Vermilion, Fr.; 175: Chris Wood, Vermilion, Sr.; 190: Cohen Mooney, Vermilion, Jr.

For the record: There are a few promising wrestlers for the Sailors, led by sophomore Aiden Kyser (144). The younger brother of 2023 Sailor grad and state qualifier Owen, Aiden has made a big jump and could compete for a state spot like his brother did a year ago.

Division II Sectional — Kenston

What: Division II sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Kenston High School

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Brookside, Bay Village, Rocky River

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Kenston District Tournament

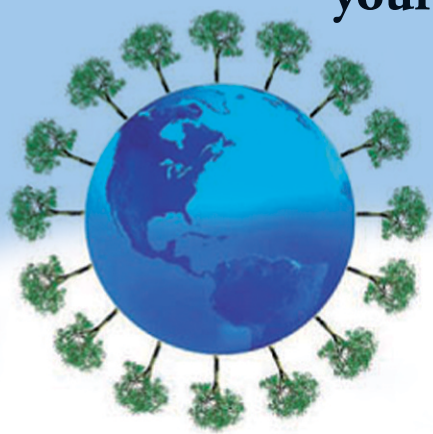
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Wrestlers to watch: 113: Michael Surovi, Bay, So.; 120: Milosh Petkovic, Rocky River, Fr.; Anthony Rocco, Bay, Sr.; 126: Bruce Berger, Bay, Sr.; 132: Aydan Smith, Brookside, So.; 138: Joe Beauchesne, Bay, So.; Shawn Moore, Brookside, Sr.; 144: Dylan Heffron, Rocky River, Jr.; 150: Kadence May, Bay, Sr.; Liam Ries, Rocky River, Fr.; 157: Jackson Kloepper, Bay, Jr.; Lincoln Krish, Rocky River, Jr.; 165: Rocco Ereditario, Bay, So.; Connor Schiefferle, Rocky River, Jr.; 190: Braeden Capretto, Bay, Jr.; 215: Jaxon LLado, Brookside, Fr.

For the record: Just like a year ago, Bay's returning state placer Anthony Rocco (120) has only one loss on the year (prior to a Feb. 15 dual match with Columbia) and picked up his 150th career win at the GLC Conference Tournament Feb. 10. Among the Division II area wrestlers, he's the likeliest to find a spot on the podium if he breaks through to Columbus again. ... Bay has a few other interesting pieces, including rising sophomores Joe Beauchesne (138) and Rocco Ereditario (165), junior Braeden Capretto (190) and veterans such as Kadence May (150). ... Brookside has more depth than a year ago, with Shawn Moore (138) among the more experienced options, but Rocky River has flown under the radar. Look for middleweight wrestlers like Lincoln Kirsh

WRESTLING » PAGE 11

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Wrestling

FROM PAGE 10

(157), and Connor Schiefferle (165) to be potential contenders for the Pirates.

Division II Sectional — West Branch

What: Division II sectional wrestling tournament

Where: West Branch High School, 14277 S Main St, Beloit

When: 9 a.m. Feb. 24

Area team: Firelands

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Kenston District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 113: Collin Eckman, Firelands, Jr.; 126: D'Mari Campbell, Firelands, Fr.; 132: Daren Aslaksen, Firelands, Jr.; 138: Chase Parker, Firelands, Jr.; 150: Kase Rogers, Firelands, So.; 157: Issac Bowsher, Firelands, Jr.

For the record: Firelands has sent a representative to the state tournament every year since 2017. Returning state qualifier Kevin Williams is done for the season, meaning someone new will need to step up to keep the streak going. Among the

promising prospects would be junior Collin Eckman (113) and freshman D'Mari Campbell (126), to name a few.

Division III

Division III Sectional — Beachwood

What: Division III sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Beachwood High School

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Columbia, Oberlin

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Independence District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 106: Michael Frye, Columbia, So.; 113: Rushi Patel, Columbia, Sr.; 120: Andrew Sorensen, Columbia, So.; 132: Tommy Boyer, Oberlin, Jr.; 144: Shea Fuller, Columbia, Sr.; 165: Bryan Jones, Columbia, Sr.; 175: Connor McConeghy, Oberlin, Sr.

For the record: Columbia's Michael Frye (106) has been the projected Division III top-10 finisher since at least early January. Even after losing a wealth of talent, the Raiders have a few intriguing pieces with seniors like Patel (113), Fuller (144) and Jones (165), in addition to the sophomore Sorensen (120) ranking at the top of the

team's pin leaders list.

Division III Sectional — Berkshire

What: Division III sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Berkshire High School

When: 9 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Fairview, Wellington

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Independence District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 106: Ian Sippos-Sutton, Wellington, Fr.; 138: Brandon Clark, Fairview, Sr.; 150: Quinn Bruder, Fairview, Sr.; 175: Finn O'Maley, Fairview, Sr.

Division III Sectional — Northwestern

What: Division III sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Northwestern High School

When: 10 a.m. Feb. 24

Area team: Keystone

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Independence District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 144: Paul Horten, Keystone, Sr.; 157: Tristin Greene, Keystone, Sr.; 175: Dante Ortiz, Keystone, Sr.; 190: Jonathan Gould, Keystone, Jr.; 215: Jordan

Folmer, Keystone, Jr.; 285: Justin Rounds, Keystone, So.

For the record: Keystone's Tristin Greene (157) is the defending Division III 157-pound state champion. As of the Feb. 10 LC8 Tournament, Greene has lost only four total matches the last two years — both coming at the last two Walsh Iron Man tournaments. He's a favorite to repeat in Columbus while still having a shot at 175 career wins to finish his decorated Keystone career. Among Greene's potential teammates who could join him in Columbus, Jordan Folmer (215) is a name to watch.

Division III Sectional — Rootstown

What: Division III sectional wrestling tournament

Where: Rootstown High School

When: 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24

Area teams: Clearview, Elyria Catholic

On deck: The top four in each weight class advance to the Independence District Tournament

Top wrestlers to watch: 113: Sylvester Montanez, Clearview, So.; 126: Isaiah Garcia, Clearview, Jr.; 157: Josiah Longo, Clearview, Jr.; 190: Hector Garcia, Elyria Catholic, Sr.

SCHEDULE » PAGE 13

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Head coach Paul Felton is in his first years a head coach, 13 years of coaching overall.

He previously coached for 12 years on the boys staff. He coached nine state champs, 11 state runner-ups, 70 state placers and 97 state qualifiers including four-time girls state placer Riley Banyas.

Felton has also been involved coaching in the youth programs for both the men's and women's programs.

As an athlete, he was a three-time state qualifier and four-time district qualifier. With over 131 career wins, he ranks 16th on the career wins list. Felton was also a Brecksville Holiday Tournament placer, a four-time district qualifier and a two-time LEL Conference Champion. He competed on the Ohio Cadet and Junior National Dual Teams and wrestled on both of the Cadet and Junior National Teams in Greco-Roman and Freestyle.

Felton continued his wrestling career in college at Heidelberg University (Ohio) and Cleveland State University.

Assistant/volunteer coach Chris Chidlaw is in his 20th year as a coach at Elyria.

In high school, he competed for Elyria High where he was a state alternate at 103 pounds in 1995. He was a Brecksville Holiday tournament placer and was named Elyria Wrestler of the Year in 1995.

Chidlaw earned his bachelor's degree from Ohio University and earned his master's degree in special education from Cleveland State University.

Chidlaw every spring and summer coaches Special Olympics. Chidlaw also coaches Pioneer Wrestling Club summer invasion teams.

In the summer of 2012, Chidlaw took a Freestyle wrestling team to compete in an exchange tour in England during the Summer Olympics. He helped coached the Lorain County Hooligans,

a team comprised of wrestlers from Lorain County, that competed at the 2014 AAU Disney Duals.

In 2016, Chidlaw received the NWCA Assistant Coach of the Year award for the State of Ohio, and NWCA Section 2 Assistant Coach of the Year.

Chidlaw helped start the Lioness Girls youth program in the spring of 2023.

Boys staff

Head Coach Armando Torres is in his second season as head coach, third season coaching overall.

Torres has coached two state placers and three state qualifiers in his short time as head coach. He also is the head youth coach for Elyria Youth Wrestling. Torres coached on the USA-Ohio U16/Junior National Freestyle Team this past summer.

Torres also coaches for Burnett Trained Wrestling and coaches at the BTW Summer Camps.

As an athlete, he was a two-time state qualifier, one-time state runner-up, four-time district qualifier, three-time sectional champion, four-time Brecksville placer, three-time Bill Dies placer, one-time Walsh Jesuit Ironman placer and two-time Fargo FS All-American for Elyria High.

He wrestled and graduated from Eastern Michigan undergrad and Cleveland State University with his master's degree. He was a three-year starter in college.

Assistant. Coach Erik Burnett has 30 years coaching experience on the high school level, two years coaching in college at Clarion University and California-PA University.

He has coached 105 state qualifiers, 65 state placers, 27 state finalists and 12 state champions at Elyria High School.

He coached Elyria High to six times nationally ranked, five state runner-up finishes (three individual and two state duals). His teams had 11 top 10 finishes

at the individual state tournament.

Burnett has coached the USA-Ohio National Freestyle Team since 1998. Burnett served as head coach of the USA-Ohio Junior National Freestyle Team. He has coached the USA-Ohio Junior National Freestyle Dual Team to six national titles. He also coached the USA-Ohio Junior National Greco-Roman Dual Team to four top eight finishes.

He is the head coach of Burnett Trained Wrestling Club.

As an athlete he was NCAA All-American, three-time national qualifier for Clarion University. He earned his bachelor's degree from Clarion University. In high school he was a four-time Ohio state champion for Oberlin High School.

Assistant coach TJ Halstead enters his 10th year as assistant coach. Halstead has been instrumental in the continued development of the upper weights at Elyria. Halstead has coached numerous state placers, qualifiers and state champions.

Halstead also helps coach the Elyria Youth Wrestling team.

As an athlete, Halstead was a two-time district qualifier for the Pioneers, as well as a Sectional Champion, NOC Conference champ, and a Brecksville Holiday Tournament Placer.

Halstead helps Pioneer Wrestling Club in the off-season.

Volunteer assistant coach Dan Bottomlee enters his 27th year as a volunteer assistant coach on staff.

Bottomlee has been a major influence on several of Elyria High School's wrestlers and coaches during his tenure. He continues to develop the middle and upper weights.

Bottomlee has coached 105 state qualifiers, 65 state placers, 27 state finalists and 12 state champions.

As an athlete he was a one-year letter winner and starter for Elyria High School.

Assistant coach Jack Gillespie has

coached for 19 years with 97 state qualifiers, 63 state placers, 25 state finalists and 12 state champions while at Elyria High School.

He also coaches the Elyria Youth Wrestling team.

Gillespie has earned Lorain County Wrestling and Officials Association Assistant Coach of the Year and Greater Cleveland Wrestling and Officials Association Assistant Coach of the Year honors. He also coaches Burnett Trained Wrestling and works the summer camps.

Gillespie has coached USA-Ohio U16/Junior National Freestyle Teams every summer. He has also helped coach on the USA-Ohio Greco-Roman National Team staff. Gillespie has also coached both the USA-Ohio U16 and Junior National Freestyle and Greco-Roman National Dual Teams since 2014. He has coached four national championship freestyle dual teams (two-U16 and two Junior). In 2016 Gillespie was named USA-Wrestling Junior National Developmental Coach of the Year.

As an athlete, he was a two-year starter and letter winner at Elyria High. He walked on the University of Iowa wrestling team where he was a four-year letter winner and member of two Big Ten Team Titles and two NCAA National Championship teams.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Iowa.

On the cover

Midview's Austin Dye takes down Ashland's Dylan Wodzisz before pinning him in a comeback dual win Dec. 19.

SHANE PABON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

HALL OF FAME

LINDA SAXTON, JOURNALIST

By Linda Saxton

My love for wrestling began in my high school years when Maple Heights reigned supreme during the Milkovich years. Once I attended the wrestling tournament at Ohio State I was a forever a fan of the sport. I followed my brothers and sons throughout their wrestling careers and was fortunate enough to turn it into a job with the local newspaper in the fall of 1980. I was assigned to covering wrestling once the season began. Working with Judy Asp, we began a quest to promote local schools and their wrestlers.

Judy and I covered approximately 42 schools in greater Lorain County and

the west side of the Cleveland. We worked well together to make sure our local schools were covered weekly and then chose a couple of highlight matches each week in the area. Tournaments allowed us greater coverage as we were able to incorporate several schools in our articles.

After a couple of years went by, I was able to run a small column highlighting events or accomplishments of the wrestlers. Gaining information from coaches, this column helped to promote the hard work of these young athletes.

I also started attending clinics for wrestlers as well as attending the Lorain County Coaches and Refer-

ees meetings. The knowledge shared by coaches in those meetings was of great value as I covered wrestling.

Postseason tournaments were not as prevalent as they are today but whenever I could, I would send in an article with the results of the local wrestlers. Following my son's career gave me the opportunity to get to know a lot of the wrestlers, making it a joy to cover their exploits. This created greater opportunities for promoting wrestling as I could call in results from the YMCA, junior high as well as high school matches and postseason tournaments. Although the space allocated by the paper was not great it was something.

My husband was relocated to another city in 1988 so I had to resign from the Chronicle Telegram, leaving something I loved behind.

What I did in no means can rise to the level of commitment that these athletes maintained. The dedication and hard work they put in each day whether they never won a match or were in the winner's category always inspired me to show people what great kids they were and the values taught by this sport. It also recognized the support of the many families who were with them.

To this day I love wrestling. I am now fortunate enough to follow a grandson in his love of the sport.

Schedule

FROM PAGE 11

For the record: Clearview has a very solid group that did well for itself at the LC8 Tournament. A few guys who could be darkhorse options are Isaiah Garcia (126) and Josiah Longo (157), though the latter would have to compete with Keystone's Greene for one of the four state spots. ... The same goes for a revived and improving Elyria Catholic program, with senior Hector Garcia (190) a dark horse himself for a state bid with a successful campaign after a lengthy layoff from the sport.



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Mike DeAnna makes impact on wrestling

By Alyssa DeAnna

Wrestling is known as an individual sport, but for Mike DeAnna, it's all about community.

DeAnna grew up in Bay Village and during his high school career compiled an impressive 104-5-1 record, going undefeated in his sophomore-senior years.

He earned high school All-American recognition, became the first four-time Southwestern Conference Champion, won three Ohio State titles — making him the seventh three-time champion in Ohio — and captured two Junior National Freestyle Championships. He was named the Cleveland Plain Dealer Athlete of the Decade of 1970 for his accomplishments.

DeAnna continued at the University of Iowa, where he wrestled under legendary coach Dan Gable. While at Iowa, he became the fifth four-time Big Ten Conference champion and earned NCAA All-American status all four years with an overall record of 122-18.

Following his collegiate wrestling career, DeAnna was a two-time AAU National Freestyle Champion and was named a second alternate to the 1984 Olympic Team.

DeAnna began his coaching career as the head coach of Assumption High School in Daventry, Iowa, from 1981-83 before becoming the head coach at Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pa., from 1984-90. There he was named the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 1986. He took a last-place, Division II program and turned it into a top-10 Division I squad in just three years. He coached 22 All-Americans, including the first NCAA champion in the history of athletics at Edinboro.

DeAnna has been inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame (2000), the Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2007), the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's Ohio Chapter (2019) and the Glen Brand National Wrestling Hall of Fame (2021).

However, it is his contributions to the sport of wrestling that do not make headlines that have been just as impactful.

DeAnna has been a constant advocate for the sport, always taking every opportunity to be its biggest promoter.

Over the years, local publications have approached DeAnna to take out advertisements for his company, CENTURY 21 DeAnna, and he saw that as a chance to make wrestling more visible in the community. There were prominent basketball and football publications being run for local high schools, but the wrestling coverage was limited. DeAnna agreed to create an entire 16-page ad and help find other companies to purchase ads under one condition — wrestling got its own spotlight. Because of his persistence, there are now multi-page high school wrestling previews in two local newspapers, and a local winter sports magazine now features wrestling on the cover along with the other sports.

DeAnna personally made sure that hundreds of these publications, which featured stories and photos of local wrestlers, made their way into post-season wrestling tournaments around Northeast Ohio.

With the distribution help of local referees and coaches, countless par-

ents and grandparents could sit in the stands at these tournaments and see their children spotlighted in print.

DeAnna has always been a believer that the key to a successful high school wrestling program begins with its youth program. In the early '90s, living in Iowa, DeAnna and other local parents founded the Ankeny Junior Wrestling Club. After 30 years, the program remains successful today, nurturing the love of wrestling in over 250 boys and girls from kindergarten through eighth grade.

DeAnna has now come full circle back to Bay Village, where two of his grandsons are members of the Bay Wrestling Club.

You can find him attending their practices and tournaments, and sometimes even lacing up his own wrestling shoes to teach the kids technique as well.

This past summer, DeAnna hosted a two-day wrestling camp at his private conservation land property in Wellington for about 40 kids aged 6-13.

In a more casual set-

ting, DeAnna can be found on any given day on the wrestling mat in his basement at home taking on any number of his seven grandchildren.

He maintains close relationships with the teammates, coaches and men he coached over the years. DeAnna frequently attends alumni events at both the University of Iowa and Edinboro University.

When one of his former wrestlers passed away in 2020, DeAnna established the Robert "Bobby" Kauffman Memorial Scholarship in his name which provides support to current wrestlers at Edinboro.

DeAnna is always one to downplay his own involvement and support of such things, which is why it is important to bring them to light.

His relentless advocacy and support of wrestling, in all its capacities has been an inspiration to many.

Yes, it would truly be impossible to quantify the positive effect that Mike DeAnna has made on the wrestling community, but the mere fact that you are reading this is just one example.



However, it is his contributions to the sport of wrestling that do not make headlines that have been just as impactful. Mike DeAnna has been a constant advocate for the sport, always taking every opportunity to be its biggest promoter.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

AREA WRESTLING COACHES

Avon: Mark Jayne

Avon Lake: Scott Sedlick (boys), Dennis Copfer (girls)

Amherst: William Walker

Bay: David Brown (boys), Dave Ressler (girls)

Black River: Blake Owen

Brookside: Andrew Smith

Buckeye: Michael Tecco

Clearview: Jason Steadman

Cloverleaf: Mark Mole

Columbia: Dan Juliani (boys), Marty Belfi (girls)

Edison: Davy Hermes, Jason Hermes, Tom Barnett, Jude Michel

Elyria: Armando Torres (boys), Paul Felton (girls)

Elyria Catholic: Michael Cruz

Firelands: Dominic McEwen

Highland: David Habat

Huron: John Wasily

Keystone: Chris Vondruska

Lorain: Dan Findley (boys), Duane Robinson (girls)

Midview: Paul Steele (boys), Corey Perkins (girls)

North Ridgeville: Joel Melvin

Norwalk: Frank Staley

Oberlin: Mason Bremke

Perkins: Travis Crabtree

Sandusky Central Catholic: Jared Opfer

Sandusky: Shanan Aaron (boys), Andre Grant (girls)

Vermilion: Brandon Gilbert

Wellington: Bill Watters

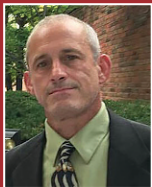
Westlake: Mike Carpenter

— Submitted



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