

Letchworth brothers tough on opponents

Hendricksons spark Indians

By Chris Metcalf
For The Daily News

LE ROY — The Hendrickson name is becoming synonymous with Letchworth wrestling.

That's easy when you have four brothers all making a name for themselves on the wrestling circuit.

Dakota, Bucky, Joe and Matt Hendrickson all compete for Letchworth, and all four are getting it done.

Joe, a senior, leads the quartet.

Currently sporting a 27-4 record, Joe captured last year's Livingston Conference and sectional crowns. He has been wrestling at 145 pounds this season. He hopes to get both titles back again this season, but his ultimate goal is to get to the state tournament, a feat he came up six minutes short of last season.

"I want to make it to states this year," Joe Hendrickson said. "Coming up one match short last year (he lost to Attica's Dylan Rusiniak in the finals at SuperSectionals) made me feel like I should have worked harder. But I really worked hard over the summer and did a lot of summer wrestling."

Joe expects plenty of competition when he attempts to repeat his LCAA title. The tournament — hosted by Le Roy — began Friday and concludes

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Michael Johnson/For The Daily News

WRESTLING FAMILY: The Letchworth wrestling team has benefitted from the four Hendrickson brothers, who have put fear in many area teams. The brothers are, from left, Cody, Joe, Matt and Bucky, who are all taking part in this weekend's Livingston Conference Tournament in Le Roy.

Wrestlers

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today.

"I think my toughest competition will be (Hornell's Ryan) Dieter, (HF-L's Jared) Pragle or (Bath's Derrick) Nadjadi," Joe Hendrickson said. "It should be a tough weight class."

Matt, a junior, has compiled a 25-4 mark wrestling mostly at 171 pounds. Matt made a major bump in weight from last year, when he wrestled at 135 pounds. His increase in size is credited to spending a lot of hours in the weight room.

His jump up five weight classes has been much easier than most would expect.

"Everybody is a little bit slower, including me," said Matt, who will wrestle at 189 pounds at the LCAAs this weekend before going down to 171 for sectionals. "It is more of a hip control game now. I use my technique and I feel quicker than most of the guys I wrestle. A lot of the kids at that weight haven't been at 135 pounds like I was."

Like Joe, Matt enjoys wrestling on the same team as his brothers.

"It's pretty neat because it hasn't happened too often when you get three other brothers to root for on the same team," Matt Hendrickson said. "We all support each other — it's cool."

Twins Dakota and Bucky, both eighth-graders, have been enjoying stellar winter campaigns.

Dakota is currently 14-7 grappling at 96 pounds while Bucky has put up a 22-6 record competing in the 103-pound division.

Bucky, who is two minutes older than Dakota, likes having his trio of brothers around.

"We've learned a lot of moves from each other," Bucky Hendrickson said. "At practice I wrestle with Dakota a lot and we both know what the other likes to do."

Bucky also has high aspirations.

"I want to make the states someday," he said.

Dakota, who started wrestling at age 3, enjoys the family affair atmosphere.

"It's really fun because we get hang out together," Dakota Hendrickson said. "My older brothers teach Bucky and I stuff all the time. We have learned a lot from them."

Ironically Bucky, Dakota and Matt started wrestling before oldest brother Joe.

Bucky, Dakota and Matt started 10 years ago, while Joe didn't put his first singlet on until he reached seventh grade.

"I had a lot of conversations with Joe in fifth and sixth grade about getting him involved in wrestling," Letchworth athletic director and former wrestling coach Matt Wilkins said. "Early on, Joe wasn't super-interested in wrestling. But then once seventh grade hit, there he was. And he's been tough ever since."

Although their living room wrestling matches have dwindled over the years, Joe said the bonding has been nice with all four on the squad.

"We bond a lot during wrestling season," he said. "We spend a lot of time together throughout wrestling. It is really nice having them around."

THE TOURNAMENT: The LCAA tournament began Friday with preliminary and quarterfinal rounds. Semifinal rounds will begin at noon today.

Letchworth and Hornell will

tangle for the team title. On Tuesday, Hornell edged host Letchworth 31-30 for the Division I championship.

Last year Hornell won the LCAA team crown with a 20-point win over runner-up LeRoy.

Letchworth, which has never won the team crown, settled for fifth place last year.

The Indians return plenty of firepower besides the Hendricksons.

Freshman Mike Nevinger, last year's 103-pound champ, is 30-2 on the season, competing mainly at 119 pounds. Nevinger finished third at the state tournament last year, losing his semifinal match by a 6-5 count to eventual state champion Nick Kubinski.

Also in the Indians' lineup is junior Weston Weaver, who is 22-8 wrestling mostly at 125 pounds.

Junior Al Fagan is 22-8 on the season at 160 pounds, while classmate Cam Barber is 19-8 at 215 pounds.

Eight defending champions are back in this year's tournament.

Warsaw's Ian Paddock (112), Letchworth's Mike Nevinger (119), Bath's Cody Hutcheson (135), Hornell's Aaron Parks (140), Letchworth's Joe Hendrickson (145), Hornell's Tyler Sick (152), Warsaw's Paul Paddock (160), and Bath's Tony Viselli (171) are all hoping to repeat last year's performance.

Hornell has a solid nucleus and after its recent State Farm Classic Tournament win over runner-up Letchworth, the Red Raiders are slated as the LCAA tourney favorites.

Warsaw, the Division II champions, could produce three to four champions if all goes right.

Ian Paddock is as close to a

sure thing as they come as the freshman will enter the 112-pound class and should cruise to his third county crown. He is currently 30-0 on the season and is on a 70-match winning streak that dates back to seventh grade. He who will bump up from his 103-pound class.

Ian's older brother Paul, a junior, will be seeking his fourth LCAA crown as he enters the 160-pound classification as a heavy favorite.

"Paul has been seeking out the strongest competition all year to prepare himself for the state tournament," Warsaw coach Rob Hirsch said. "He is ready for all comers."

Paul Paddock's only loss came during his first tournament, when he lost a 3-1 decision at 171 pounds to South Jefferson's Darrick Smith, who placed third at the state tournament last year.

Junior Billy Romasser has impressed this season with a stellar 29-3 record at 215 pounds.

Romasser, who has already captured first-place finishes at the Spencerport and Lockport tournaments, should be the top seed as he seeks his first LCAA title.

"Billy is on a mission to take a trip to Long Island this year and the test could be at the LCAA county tournament," Hirsch said.

Seventh-grader Dakota Stackhouse has been a pleasant surprise for the Tigers as the 96-pounder has rolled up an impressive 28-8 record during his first varsity season.

"He has grown with every match and every tournament," Hirsch said. "He has placed in every tournament this year and is coming out of a huge pin in the finals of the Lockport Tournament."

Returning to the lineup for

Warsaw is 189-pounder Jo Russ-Wilkolaski, who sports a respectable 20-10 mark.

Russ-Wilkolaski actually wrestled about half the season with a broken hand after injuring it in the Bath Tournament at the start of the season. He saw a doctor two weeks ago and was put out of commission until recently.

Although it probably doesn't have enough depth to win the team title, Le Roy has several wrestlers who should vie for individual crowns.

The Oatka Knights' best shot comes from junior Chad Conditorio (119), who is 28-1 on the season. In this same tournament last year, Conditorio placed second, losing to Bath's Cody Hutcheson by a 4-0 score. He should be tough to beat at the same weight.

Senior Justin Casper, who has been at 171 pounds for most of the season, will drop to 160 and he brings with him a respectable 26-4 mark. His stiffest competition will come from Paul Paddock.

Other Le Roy wrestlers to watch out for include Don Pangrazio (98, 20-10); Kory Cosimeno (140, 22-8) and Ed Englerth (152, 23-7).

"We are a fairly inexperienced team this year and we're rebuilding our program, but we always wrestle tough," said LeRoy coach Bob Gately, who has guided the Knights' program to three sectional crowns.

Caledonia-Mumford has three capable sophomores that head its lineup, led by Nate Schiedel at 171 pounds.

Schiedel's lone loss on his 29-1 resume was a narrow 2-0 setback to Paul Paddock a month ago. His 7-4 loss in last year's 152-pound final to Hornell's Tyler Sick should help motivate him for his first

LCAA crown.

Schiedel, who is the favorite to make the state meet, already owns 91 career victories and is on pace to break the school record. He has won individual titles in the Byron-Bergen, Le Roy, Genesee Valley, Cal-Mum and Palmyra-Macedon tournaments.

Tim Sullivan, who is 22-8 on the season, should make a run at the 145-pound title. He has placed second in both the Le Roy and Genesee Valley tournaments.

Cal-Mum's Nate Anastasi (18-13) has been coming on at 189 pounds as the season progresses, obvious from his third-place showing two weeks ago at the Pal-Mac tourney.

"A good deal of improvement has been seen in these three guys," Cal-Mum coach John Wilbur said. "I am looking for a solid performance from them as team leaders."

Other wrestlers to watch out for include Warsaw's Phil Moens (103), Pavilion's Mike Hackett (130), Perry's Jon Orban (160) and Perry's Nick Lock (171).

VINCENT, MUOIO TO BE INDUCTED: The LCAA Wrestling Committee will induct two former grapplers to its Hall of Fame at 6 tonight before the finals.

Richard Vincent, a 1954 Letchworth graduate, and 1972 Le Roy grad Carmen Muoio will be inducted into this year's class.

Vincent, who went on to post a 54-7 record at Cornell University, finished his high school career with a 48-6-2 record. He was a two-time Section 5 champion.

Muoio was a two-time LCAA champion (1971, 1972) and was a Section 5 runner-up in both those years.