



Mike
Cutillo
COLLEGE
NOTES



Mandara will wrestle at Ashland

When selecting a college to continue his education and wrestling career, Carandaigua Academy senior Dan Mandara talked things over with his parents.

Then he chose the same college they both went to — Ash-



MANDARA

land University in Ohio. Mandara, a first-team Daily Messenger all-star in wrestling last winter and in soccer this fall, is one of four recruits

in a class that Ashland coach Ray Kowatch is extremely excited about.

"I think this recruiting class is as good as any class we've brought in," the 13th-year coach said in a press release.

The Eagles are an NCAA Division II school. The Eagles were 9-6 in duals last season and finished 19th in the nationals. A member of the Great Lakers Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in other sports, Ashland wrestles as an independent.

Mandara is in his fifth year wrestling for the CA varsity. He placed third in the state tournament last year after placing fourth his sophomore season. He also placed fifth at the 2005 Cadet Nationals and was the New York state freestyle champion in 2006.

"Dan is the kind of senior captain that any successful team needs," CA athletic director Jim Simmons said. "He leads by example and has extremely high expectations for himself and those around him. I have no doubt that he will be an outstanding collegiate wrestler."

Mandara's father, Tom, also wrestled at Ashland. A Gates Chili grad, he coached wrestling at Victor for 22 years.

"We were very fortunate with Dan," Kowatch said. "His folks are both AU alums. He's familiar with the university."

He'll wrestle at 119 pounds this winter for the Braves and then move up to 125 for Ashland next season, the same weight as fellow recruit Brandon Davis, a former North Carolina state champ.

"If they both stay at 125, that would be a fantastic battle," Kowatch said of his two prize recruits. "They are legitimate Division I recruits at their weights."

