



DO IT AGAIN: The Holley wrestling team captured the Section 5 Class BBB championship last season, its sixth consecutive sectional team title and eighth in nine years.

Holley wrestlers hoping to continue the tradition of excellence

By Brian Hillabush

bhillabush@batavianews.com

HOLLEY — "Holley wrestling."

Those words mean something in this area.

The reasons include great community support, dedicated athletes and a great coaching staff.

The Hawks were expected to be down a little last year, but still went 10-0 in dual meets and 24-1 overall.

"I feel that Holley has a very good, consistent coaching staff which makes for good practices," Holley coach John Grillo said. "Good practices make for good success."

It was an easy sectional title win for Holley, crushing second-place finisher Byron-Bergen by more than 35 points. The Hawks had five sectional champions last year.

Three of those champions graduated.

"Holley lost several great wrestlers to graduation and is trying hard to fill in at those weight classes," Grillo said. "What other sport has to have 15 athletes in 15 different weight classes? That

is why wrestling stands alone."

On the bright side, Key McPherson, Tim Banks and Justin Widrig all return with sectional championship memories and state title hopes.

Banks was a SuperSectional finalist, McPherson also went deep into the SuperSectional tournament and wrestled in the Empire State Games and Widrig was a SuperSectional finalist.

Expect others to step up and Holley to again be the class of the Genesee Region League.

The Hawks' regular season is always good preparation for the postseason.

Holley has won six consecutive sectional titles and eight in the last nine seasons.

Boys Basketball

The good news is that Chad DeRock is in his second season as coach and there are nine seniors on the roster.

The bad news is that the Hawks went 7-14 last year and are still working to become competitive in a tough Genesee Region

League.

"We are continuing to build the program at Holley and to do that we focus on two key ingredients: teamwork and hustle," DeRock said. "What we lack in size and skill we will make up for in heart."

DeRock's starting lineup has four seniors and a junior.

Tyler Keys, Nic Wharram and Robbie Taylor are all senior guards, while senior Jason Lutes will also play guard and junior Dave Young will be the big man.

Girls Basketball

Five key seniors graduated and the Hawks have a new coach this year.

Randall Bower takes over for Dan Orbaker, and only has two seniors on his roster.

Those seniors are guard Stacy Swabb and forward Honna Lusk.

Holley went 3-17 last season and chose not to participate in the sectional tournament.

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