

Holley's Murphy also able to put to rest last year's loss at Tournament

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PARMA — Quinton Murphy wrestled a notch or two better during this year's Clayton Barnard Memorial Tournament.

Murphy, an eighth-grader with the Holley Hawks, still makes a face as if his shoes are too tight when he recalls his 2007 appearance at Hilton. "I got second to Justin Melia," Murphy said during the Barnard finals on Saturday. "I got pinned pretty quick. I was kind of nervous."

Murphy was in control throughout the 2008 103-pound final, as he defeated Greece Olympia's Mike Gentlecore by technical fall in 2:16. No butterflies were visible. "Once I started to tilt him I knew it was about over," Murphy said. "I'm pretty happy. Last year I didn't do so well." "It's a big deal to us (to win at Hilton), almost as important as sectionals. It's a challenge, there are good teams here."

Holley coach John Grillo has a good idea what Murphy can do. Murphy finished sixth in the Division II state tournament last season, his first on varsity.

"Quinton has a funky style," Grillo said. "when you think he's in trouble, he's not."

"I saw him in the sixth grade at the 1000 Islands meet, and he was beating varsity kids. He would get in trouble and then get out of it."

Murphy (30-1), who wore black socks with the Superman emblem, had Gentlecore on his heels, then on his back fairly early. The score was 16-2 when one final tilt of Gentlecore stopped the match. "I just couldn't get taken down in the beginning," Murphy said about his desire to avoid a bad start. "It's good (that I've been to nationals and states). "Just wait until I'm a senior. I'm guessing I'm going to be pretty good. I'm funky, I do a lot of crazy stuff."

Some of which frustrates opponents and led to a 69-8 career varsity record. "I don't try to change his style, I mold with him," Grillo said. "That's him. You'll think that he's stuck, but don't blink your eyes."

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