

Sports



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal
John Roselli has been offering encouragement to his wrestlers since he came to McQuaid in 1964.



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal
Jeff Knauss, who wrestles at 132 pounds, shows Rush-Henrietta's Don Riorden why the Knights have been able to stay on top of the competition through the years.

Wrestling coach turns raw talent into champions

McQuaid grapplers win despite having little experience

By Richard A. Kiley
Many of those who have wrestled at McQuaid Jesuit High School since John Roselli became head coach 23 years ago had never wrestled a single match before stepping through the private school's doors.
That's OK, their coach hadn't either. In fact, Roselli, who has guided the Knight grapplers since 1964, has never wrestled at all, neither while he attended McQuaid Jesuit High School nor at St. John Fisher College.
Yet his Knights have consistently had one of the best programs year after year.
"Our kids are really, really dedicated," said Roselli, who did play football at McQuaid (Class of '60) and basketball at Fisher ('64). "They come into a winning program and work hard to keep it that way. It's a credit to them that, in two or three years, they can compete

with public high schools that have junior-high programs."
Having little or no experience on the mats hasn't stopped the Knights from pinning an opponent or two along the way. Since 1975, when Catholic schools became eligible to compete in the sectionals, the Knights as a team have finished runner-up three times.
Last year's grapplers, who were 14-0 in dual meets and ended the season ranked No. 13 in the state, were a breed apart. Not one to schedule easy matches, Roselli's Knights saw seven of the section's top 10 teams last year. Rob Wilson was a state qualifier in the 119-pound class after finishing runner-up in the sectionals, and Shawn Costello was the Section 5 champion at 138.
John Lama and Dan Gutkowski are also gone from last year's team. Lama placed third in the sectionals at 167 pounds, and Gutkowski was a 20-match winner at 177 and heavyweight.
And although inexperience has haunted McQuaid (7-4) in several losses this season, Roselli again has some of the best in the section.
Ed Porto (126 pounds), Chris Passero (119 pounds), Jeff Knauss (132 pounds) and Paul

Roselli (145-155 pounds) are all among the top wrestlers in their weight divisions.
Porto is a cinch to win 20 matches and Passero (20-2) was a sectional champ last year. Undeclared in dual matches this season, Passero beat Canandaigua's Kerry Foster, 4-2, on Saturday, Jan. 30, marking the first time Foster (22-1) tasted defeat this season. The host Braves defeated the Knights, 37-21.
Knauss is 18-4 for the season, and Roselli's son, Paul, has compiled an impressive 21-2-1 record despite wrestling in two different weight divisions.
The season has not been free of adversity, either. Shannon Costello went down to an in-


jury during the Hilton Tournament on January 14. He may be able to return for the sectionals, giving the Knights a shot at another individual title.
Winning the Section 5 team championship may be out of reach for the Knights, who must get by the likes of Spencerport and Brighton. The two teams are ranked sixth and seventh in the state, respectively.
"We've lost a couple of close matches and we've had some injuries, but I've been very pleased with these kids," Roselli said. "And if Shannon comes back, we could have two or three sectional champions."

YMCA registration on tap for upcoming program offerings

The Monroe Family YMCA, 797 Monroe Ave., Rochester registration for its upcoming programs, which run from February 29 to April 16.
A wide range of youth sports — including karate, basketball, baseball, t-ball and wrestling — will be offered. Assorted fitness pro-

grams are also conducted. Swimming instruction/orientation is available to those as young as six months. Registration begins February 15 for YMCA members and February 17 for the general public.
For information and a complete list of program offerings, call (716) 271-5320.

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CROSS COUNTRY

High School League

Northwest Division St. Bridget, St. Ambrose (*) Christ the King, Lewis Street (*) Blessed Sacrament 88, Pinnacle Lutheran 64 Holy Trinity 67, St. Margaret Mary 42	Northwest Division Sacred Heart, St. Lawrence (*) St. Charles Borromeo, St. John (Greece) (*) Most Precious Blood, Our Lady of Mercy (*) Mother of Sorrows, Holy Cross (*)	Southeast Division St. Thomas More 78, St. John (Hum.) 50 Assumption 66, St. Joseph (Pen.) 53 Good Shepherd 50, JCC 41 Faith Lutheran, St. Louis (*) St. John (Fpt.) 70, Resurrection 48
Southeast Division St. Pius Tenth 66, Holy Family 48 St. John (Spen.) 63, St. Salome 59	Good Counsel, Holy Ghost (*) St. Theodore 65, Holy Name 54	

Junior High Boys' League

Northwest Division Holy Trinity 46, St. Cecilia 30 Lewis Street 65, St. Margaret Mary 41 St. John (Hum.) 80, St. Salome 65 Good Counsel, St. Ambrose (*) Christ the King 78, St. Joseph 19	Northwest Division St. Lawrence, Holy Cross (*) St. Thomas the Apostle 45, Sacred Heart 30 St. Charles Borromeo 64, Most Precious Blood 39 St. John (Spen.) (W) 69, St. Rita 29 Mother of Sorrows, St. John (Greece) (*)	Southeast Division Seton, St. Pius Tenth (*) Charles House 59, St. Anne/St. Boniface 55 St. Helen 55, St. John (Spen.) (W) 39 St. Monica 88, St. Theodore 11 Holy Ghost, Holy Rosary (*)
	Southeast Division St. Mary (Pen.), Blessed Sacrament #1 (*) Pinnacle Lutheran 76, Ostka 66	CYP (Mendon), St. Louis (*) Good Shepherd 75, St. John (Fpt.) 65

Junior High Girls' League

East Division Seton 15, Blessed Sacrament 14 St. Joseph (Pen.) 48, St. Rita 24 Lewis Street, Good Counsel (*) St. Louis 62, Christ the King 15	West Division Holy Cross, St. John (Spen.) (*) St. Charles, Mother of Sorrows (*) St. Pius Tenth 34, St. Ambrose 19 Sacred Heart/Nazareth Hall, St. Theodore (*)
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(*) No scores reported.

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