

# BHS wrestling looks to retool for another great season in '16

Lauren Suda  
Managing Editor

Wrestling has started again after winning Brighton's first wrestling state championship last year. Losing nine seniors it's going to hit the team hard. This year however, the focus is going to be a little different than last year.

Last year, there was a lot more focus on the team meets compared to the individual meets because the team had a lot of returning varsity wrestlers. For the current season, there will be slightly more focus on the individual meets.

Individuals is just like a tournament, everyone competes by themselves. Results from individual meets don't affect how the team does it only affects the person wrestling. Team matches are the whole team lined up against the other team. How everyone else does affects the team score and whether you win the meet or not. For individual meets it

matters if the wrestler moves on to further matches.

"Brighton lost a lot of starters from last year. We have a lot of freshmen and JV kids stepping into the lineup. We still have a pretty good shot at a state title this year," senior Grant Morrison said.

However, even though the team is focusing more on individual meets, they won't be letting up on the team meets. The team meets will still be important because the team is still a well put together team and they will be able to still succeed together.

Despite losing nine seniors, the team is more than ready and they wrestled their first meet on December 9th at Davison High School. Brighton lost by the last two matches but Davison also has an extremely god line up this year. The team is currently ranked fourth in the state along with six ranked wrestlers according to the Michigan Grappler.

The five returning varsity wrestlers this year are senior Jackson Renicker, senior Luke Ready, senior Eric

Conquest, senior Grant Morrison, and junior Lee Grabowski and all five of them are currently ranked in the state.

"I expect the season to go well even though we lost a lot of seniors last year," Ready said.

This season, Renicker and Ready are both preseason ranked at the top of their weight class. Renicker will be wrestling the 125 weight class and placed fifth at individual states last year. Ready will be wrestling the 215 weight class and he placed at the top of his weight class at individual states last year.

Losing nine wrestlers was a really big deal, but the wrestling team is ready to do well once again. By changing the focus slightly the team will be able to individually make each and every wrestler better than when they walked in the first day of preseason practice.

"You know Brighton wrestling is based off of tradition... and because of that I think that the pace will never graduate," junior Jake Soop said.



Senior Rob Ort swims the 100 fly. Photo by Gillis Benedict/Livingston Daily

# Boys swim makes an entrance for the 15/16 season

Jack Hook  
Staff Reporter

Brighton's boys swim team kicked off its season on December 7th against Lakeland. This was the team's first meet in the new pool and it resulted in a 127-57 Brighton victory.

"The team was surprisingly fast for the limited amount of practice. I was happy with the outcome and the win," head coach Tim McGinnis said.

Coached by McGinnis and Tammy Panzl, the team has high hopes for this season. The team has many swimmers who are state qualifying worthy along with the addition of a good group of experienced and talented freshmen.

The team has been looking forward to this season because of the new pool, with its bigger size, it will help the team to be able to do more at practices.

"I like the new pool because of its larger size which helps the team out and benefits us at practice," senior Mitchell Neelis said.

With the new pool, many of the swimmers feel it could help build up the team's chemistry and swimming abilities.

"The environment of the new pool gives us some good vibes, helping us swim better as a team, building up team chemistry as well," senior

Rob Ort said.

After ten swimmers qualified for states last season, the team high hopes of sending that many or more swimmers to states this year.

Last year, the team finished with a record of 45, but the team has high hopes of having a winning season this year with help from the team's young talent.

"This year, our goal is to get as many swimmers as possible to states, to win most if not all our meets especially against Hartland, Howell and Grand Blanc and to have a fun and successful season," senior captain Danny Keiffer said.

McGinnis was very pleased with his team's performance for their first meet. With the limited time that they had to prepare and practice, he was very pleased with the way the team performed. This is just the beginning and McGinnis has his sights on a bigger picture.

"My goal is to win the division and the conference meet and to send a large contingent of swimmers to states in Holland this year," McGinnis said.

It was a great start to the team's season with the win against Lakeland. It really helped build up the team's confidence and hopefully this momentum will carry on throughout the season, helping the team achieve their goals this season.



Junior Logan Neaton makes a save against Novi.

Photo from brightonhockey.wordpress.com

# Brighton hockey team carve their way back to the top

Ian Magnell  
Patch Editor

The varsity hockey team is currently on a roll. They lost their first three games and it looked as if they were going to have a bad season, but the opposite happened. The hockey team has now won four in a row against ranked teams such as U of D Jesuit, Grand Blanc and Rochester.

The team is led by captains Nick Foran (defenseman), Joey Clifford (forward), and Jay Keranen (defenseman) as well as head coach Paul Moggach and assistant coach Kurt Kivisto.

Currently Lee Pietala is leading the team in points and behind him is Foran, who won the award of player

of the week in Livingston County.

"I was very happy when I won this award because all my hard work from the offseason is finally paying off," Foran said.

The team is now looking to gain another state championship and make it three state championships in the last 5 years, including one runner up. This is going to be difficult for the team knowing that they had seven seniors that left from last year's team. This list includes captain Colin Bilek and also assistant captain C.J. Leclair.

"This puts more pressure on us seniors but I think that we can overcome this and pull out a state championship this year," Clifford said.

Brighton High School is currently ranked at the top of the standings in

their division and doesn't look like are going to let up anytime soon. The team as a unit is playing some of the best hockey in the season. Everybody on the team, including the coach, believes that they have a shot at the state championship this year, and in future years due to the young talent that is currently on the team.

"If we keep this type of play up, I think we can beat anybody," Kivisto said.

The team has a chance to play division rival Detroit Catholic Central, as they sit in first place in the division. Brighton is ready for a rematch after CC handed them a 3-0 loss which the team is trying to put behind them and get ready for the future game between the two teams.



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# Boardercross to take advantage of Mount Brighton

Jake DesRosiers  
Entertainment Editor

The boardercross team has high expectation for the year of 2016. Their new head coach, Patrick Becker, is planning to lead this team to another state championship. Juniors Emma Shinsky and Hailey Harbrecht expect the same as they look to repeat their success of last year.

Last year they were crowned state champions at the end of the year. Besides the fact that they did super well, they had a blast in the meantime. Kennedy Day, who is currently a junior, went to USASA individual nationals and took 2nd. Its great having someone that talented on the team to help them out and help them win another state championship. Kennedy isn't the only talented one on the team, there whole team is full of national competitors and all the girls qualified individually for the season.

"This year should be very fun, but a lot of hard work at the same time," Shinsky said.

The team is taking a trip to Boyne

for a weekend for team bonding and practice on the slopes sometime this winter, but they have not decided an official date yet.

"Our team already has a great bond, so this will be a fun way to practice for the up and coming season," Shinsky said.

Becker is a very talented coach, he races boardercross for USASA and is nationally ranked.

"He's a really nice guy, he connects with our team and it should be a fun year getting coached by him," Harbrecht said.

The team gets good practice in at Mt. Brighton on the weekends.

"Its nice having a hill right in our hometown, It gives us an advantage on other schools," Harbrecht says.

Even when they are not practicing with the team and coaches, they meet at Mt. Brighton and practice as friends on the weekdays. It's a great way for them to connect and get ready for the up and coming season competing against other schools like Novi and U of D Jesuit. Everyone is very excited for the season to start and they hope they have a good fanbase from their fellow students.