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West Word Web Exclusives



Injury bug fails to daunt grapplers

w Adriana Zalloni
World Editor

Despite suffering through an injury riddled season and a lower-than-expected 9-10 (2-1 in the Central Suburban League South) record, varsity wrestlers and head coach Anthony Genovesi remain optimistic.

“I would rather these injuries happen now than later,” Genovesi said. “The guys that step onto the mat are the ones who deserve to be in the lineup, and I need all the guys to step up when someone is out due to injury.”

In the Lake Park Invite last Saturday, the team placed seventh of 16 teams, with Eric Ronning taking the lone first place at 152 pounds.

The previous day, the Wolves defeated Waukegan 60-17 in a dual meet.

In quad meet action on Dec. 12, the grapplers beat Reavis 32-30 but lost to Mundelein (43-19) and Rolling Meadows (44-23).

The day before, the Wolves recorded a dual meet victory over Evanston Township by a final score of 52-21.

Senior co-captain Mike Bahrmassel (135) expressed pride for his team’s performance against the Wildkits.

“Everyone wrestled very well. We really beat them in every weight class,” Bahrmassel said, “Guys who had not had a win all year got pins that day. It was really cool to see.”

Multiple wins were racked up at the Fenton Invite on Dec. 5 as well. As a team, the Wolves placed seventh of 12 teams. Senior co-captain Ben Rosen (112) and Chris Nguyen (145) finished in second place. Seniors Jimmy Rosati (140) and Eric Ronning (152) finished in fourth place. Senior Kardiae Rucker (215) and junior Elias Shiheiber (135) finished sixth.

On Dec. 4, the Wolves lost to Maine South by a final score of 45-21 and to Grayslake Central by a close margin of 37-32.

The Wolves wrestled at Maine East tournament at Maine East on Nov. 27 and 28. They wrestled in 10 dual matches, coming out with a 6-4 record for the weekend. The Wolves defeated Proviso West, St. Ignatius, Kelly (twice), Maine East and Loyola.

Rosen blames the losses on the injuries the team has faced.

“Everyone is banged up,” Rosen said. “If everyone was healthy and down to weight, we would be phenomenal; we are just falling on some hard times right now.”

Nyguen agrees.

“We are a solid team, but we all know we can do much better,” Nyguen said. “I know as soon as we get through this, we will see improvements.”

Both Rosen and Nyguen have set high expectations for the season.

“Every year it is our goal to win conference,” Nyguen said. “I know we have the potential to do it this year.”

Nyguen has faith in his fellow wrestlers.

“We are hard working and motivated. We are ready and we want to win.” Nyguen said.



The wrestling team has battled injuries thus far. Photo courtesy Niles West athletic department.