

Wrestling soaring to new heights

By Kelsey B-----

With a roaring start to their 2007 season, Lakeland wrestling proved that they can excel even with several setbacks that deemed them a less than perfect record.

Some of the major losses the team faced this year include graduating senior Kevin G--, Dave Loftus due to a hip injury, and several other players that left the team lacking a heavyweight. Nonetheless, the Lakeland wrestling team has rebounded well with a current record of 8-4, a record which Lakeland has not held in 23 years.

So what does Lakeland attribute to their great successes?

"Since we are a young team, it is tough to get used to the level of wrestling that we are faced with during our season. I think that we have been working really hard during practice and everyone is really stepping up at meets, so Lakeland wrestling is soaring to new heights," said senior captain Joe Lerro, who placed second in the Lakeland tournament held at the opening of this season.

The team is led by senior captains Joe Lerro, Kyle M----, and junior Colton



Photo by Kelsey Bartlett
Joe Lerro fights for the pin against a Manchester wrestler. Lakeland went on to win this meet 51-27.

C----. Returning varsity starters include juniors Casey P---, Louise M---, Greg H-, and sophomore Scott M---. Nick Z---, sophomore, and freshmen Tommy V--- and Matt S--- are also starting on Varsity for the first time this

year. Some new additions to the Lakeland wrestling team include juniors CJ G--- and Steve C---, who was sidelined for two years due to a shoulder injury.

"Nick Z--- and Matt S-- have stepped up as a first year wrestlers with winning records. Working hard, wrestling smart, and pushing ourselves to win big matches for the team has led us to our winning record," said junior captain Colton C---, who is seeking his third county champion title this year.

It seems that there is only one thing on the minds of every Lakeland wrestler; win the enviable counties, districts, and/or regions, and place in the coveted state qualifier match in Atlantic City.

"It's been fun over the years wrestling and for my senior year, I want to go out in a big way," said senior captain Kyle M---, who placed second in the county this past year. A knee operation kept him out of the districts, but this year he plans on winning. "With a record of 8-4 and high expectations for the rest of the season, I can't think of a better way to end my final season here at Lakeland."

The puck drops on a new season

By Alexandra S-----

The puck drops on a new Lakeland Ice Hockey season.

Lakeland Ice Hockey has been off to a great start this year. Lead by Coach Murhurter and Captains Brian T--- and Steve O---, the team has a current season record of 6-3-1, and can only improve from here!

Most players and fans would agree that beating West Milford (twice) has been a definite highlight of the team's season so far. "It's always great to beat those guys, and playing them and winning really helps the team," says Assistant Captain Gray B---, senior. Although it is rewarding to beat the rival, there have been some not so sweet moments for the hockey team this season. A devastating loss in the county tournament and some off-ice grade problems have been obstacles that the team has to overcome as a whole.

"We have gotten it together and are headed in the right direction," says Sophomore Max M---. "We expect to finish

the season, at worst, 16-6-2."

Together, the Lakeland Ice Hockey



Photo by Kerri B-----
The pressure is on as Lancer Steve O--- approaches the goalie of the Nutley Raiders.

team has set goals to keep themselves on track after they lost the county game. These objectives include averaging 4.5 goals and 8 penalty minutes per game.

Getting off to a strong start and

setting achievable goals aren't the only things that have given this season's team more of an upper hand from last year's. The team received a new coaching staff last year, which took them a little while to adjust to; however, this season the boys have become familiar with the systems that the coaches like to run. Also noticeable is the stronger sense of determination within the team. "We are pushing harder this year than we ever have," says M-----.

Fans also serve as an important variable to the team's success. "I want the fans to know that every game they go to we will play our best and work to our full potential," says Captain Brian T---, junior. Just by having students come out to support fellow classmates on the ice drive the team to play harder. The boys' next home game will be on Sunday, January 28, against DePaul Catholic at the Ice Vault at 8:15 p.m., so please come out and support the Lakeland Ice Hockey team!