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Notebook: RIT wrestlers look to end title drought

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staff writer

It has been 10 years since an RIT wrestler won a national championship. Senior **Luke Baum** (Wayne Central) and junior **Mike McInally** (Byron-Bergen) aim to change that this weekend.

Both will compete at the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive year. The meet is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Baum is 38-7 at 141 pounds, tying his own school record for wins in a season. He's 142-46 for his career and is the Tigers' all-time leader in wins. He is seeded third at nationals and will face **Corey Paulish** of Williams College on Friday.

McInally is 32-1 at 125 pounds and 100-15 for his stellar career. He is seeded sixth and faces **Jayson Swanson** of Luther College in the opening round Friday.

RIT's last national champion was **Matt Hamill**, who won titles three straight years from 1997-99. **Darrell Leslie** also was a national champion in 1983.

Longtime Division III power SUNY Brockport failed to advance a wrestler to nationals for the first time since 1970.

Downey honored: Siena's **Kyle Downey** (Fairport) has been named to the MAAC All-Rookie men's basketball team.

The 2007 All-Greater Rochester Player of the Year has played in all 30 games for the Saints, averaging 3.8 points and one rebound in 9.4 minutes per contest. He has averaged 8.4 points in the 12 games in which he has played 10-plus minutes. Siena (23-7) is the top seed in the MAAC Tournament.

MCC times two: The Monroe CC men's and women's basketball teams will play in district tournaments this weekend.

The men (27-5) host CC of Rhode Island (20-10) in the District 2 Championship on Saturday at 1. The winner advances to the NJCAA Division II Tournament, March 18-22 in Danville, Ill.

The women (22-5) travel to Vincennes, Ind., to take on Vincennes University (22-8) on Saturday night in the District C title game. The winner advances to the NJCAA Division I Tournament, March 17-21 in Salina, Kan.

The MCC women are seeking their 15th consecutive national tournament appearance.

VanArsdale done: The lacrosse career of former McQuaid star **Max VanArsdale** likely is over.

The fifth-year senior attackman at Penn State will need six months to a year to recover from post-concussion syndrome, which he suffered in an offseason scrimmage. VanArsdale is the son of assistant Penn State coach **Guy VanArsdale**, the former RIT and Rochester Rattlers head coach.

Waiting game: The RIT men's hockey team will be the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Atlantic Hockey Association tournament after splitting last weekend's series with Air Force. RIT will host the highest remaining seed from No. 7 Holy Cross vs. No. 10 American International or No. 8 Sacred Heart vs. No. 9 Connecticut. Those teams meet in a one-game playoff Saturday.

The AHA quarterfinals are March 13-15.

RIT is tied for the Division I lead with 10 short-handed goals, third in scoring (3.71 per game) and third in power-play efficiency (28.7 percent).

Perfection: Nazareth senior **Jeff DeHimer** twice tied a school record for best field-goal percentage in one game during last week's Empire 8 Tournament. DeHimer went 9-for-9 from the field and scored 19 points in Saturday's 82-76 upset of top-seeded Ithaca, then went 9-for-9 with 21 points in Sunday's 76-71 loss to RIT.

His 18 straight field goals were six shy of the NCAA Division III record set by **Todd Richards** of Mount Union over a five-game period in 2000. The Nazareth record of 9-for-9 was set by **Joe Convertino** in 1986.

RIT women hit the ice: The RIT women's hockey team (21-2-2) plays two-time defending national champion Plattsburgh (21-3-2) on Saturday in the ECAC West playoffs. Top-seeded Elmira meets Neumann, and the winners play Sunday at 1 in the conference championship.

The winner earns an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament. RIT needs one win to tie the school mark for victories, set in 2006-07.

Extra points: Receiver **Ernest Jackson** (Gates Chili) is among the University at Buffalo football players who will work out in front of NFL scouts this morning in Buffalo. . . . Sophomore **Ricky Reed** (Rush-Henrietta) is averaging 12.3 points and 3.9 rebounds for Buffalo-based Medaille (21-6). His teammates include Fairport graduates **Kelly Condello** (4.0 ppg) and **Kevin Borden** (2.0 ppg). The Mavericks are coached by **Mike MacDonald**, the former Canisius College head coach. . . . The University of Rochester (22-3) dropped two spots to eighth in this week's D3hoops.com poll. Illinois Wesleyan (27-0) is the unanimous No. 1.

Nazareth senior **Ryan McAdam** (Fairport) finished his basketball career with 1,340 points, 653 rebounds and 143 three-pointers — all good for sixth all-time in the program. He's fourth all-time in free-throw percentage (84.1 percent). . . . Ryan's brother, junior **Corey McAdam** (Fairport), has a school-record 229 career steals and is eighth all-time in points (1,259) and second in assists (636). At his pace, he would move into the top five nationally in assists next year. The all-time Division III leader is **Tennyson Whitted** of Ramapo, who dished out 917 assists from 2000-03. . . . Geneseo moved from 19th to 16th in this week's USILA Coaches poll without playing a lacrosse game. The Blue Knights open today against Union College in Syracuse. . . . Geneseo senior **Scott Morton** was named SUNYAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year in a vote of the league's head coaches. . . . The St. John Fisher men's basketball team went 2-7 after a 14-2 start and failed to reach the NCAA Division III Tournament for the second consecutive season. The last time that happened was 1989-90 and 1990-91. The Fisher women are in a three-year NCAA drought, longest in that program's history.

The Hobart hockey team is fourth in this week's USCHO.com Division III poll. The Statesmen (19-5-2) won 3-1 at Manhattanville last weekend. They were 0-9-1 in their previous 10 trips to face the Valiants. . . The Hobart lacrosse team (3-0) plays its home opener on Saturday against Bucknell. . . .

SUNY Fredonia is one of 16 teams remaining from a pool of 120 who will compete at ESL Sports Centre this week for the American Collegiate Hockey Association D-3 National Club Tournament. Fredonia's roster includes 12 Section V alums. The first game is this morning at 10 against Dordt College of Sioux Center, Iowa. The championship is Saturday.

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Additional Facts

Week's best

Here are the local athletes of the week, as selected by Rochester Area College Athletics:

Courtney Lincoln, Keuka — The sophomore guard from Waterloo averaged 11.7 points and 5.7 assists in three wins as the Storm won the NEAC Tournament and clinched a berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Mark Carson, RIT — The senior from Voorheesville was named MVP of the Empire 8 Tournament after leading the Tigers to the championship. He averaged 20.5 points and 13 rebounds in two wins.
