

TK opens with two victories at CHS



Caledonia's Ben Moss (top) works to turn over Loy Norrix's Andrew Shear for a pin during their 150-pound match Wednesday night at Caledonia High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Thornapple Kellogg's Collin Mann holds Loy Norrix's Robert Pounds on his back during the Trojans' major decision at 106 pounds Wednesday at Caledonia High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maddie Hayden took her turns in the varsity line-up for OK Red Conference duals as a freshman at Caledonia High School last season.

She went on to win a state championship in the girls' individual state tournament. She was joined at the MHSAA Individual State Finals by Thornapple Kellogg's Emma Gibson. Gibson, in her third season with the TK wrestling program, earned her way into a spot in the varsity line-up on the first night of her junior season.

Gibson went 2-0 and so did the Thornapple Kellogg team as it bested Loy Norrix 57-10 and then Caledonia 56-21. The Caledonia team was 0-2 on the day, falling to the Loy Norrix squad 56-22.

"Coming away with two wins in the varsity line-up is awesome. She made a little cut down to 120 to fill a spot for us. Pretty excited to have her in there," TK head coach Dayne Fletke said.

She scored a quick pin of the Fighting Scots' Jaden Grace in their dual after a back-and-forth battle with Loy Norrix's Jessica White in what

was ultimately a 3-1 win for Gibson in that one.

She was one of six TK varsity wrestlers to go 2-0 on the night. Returning 113-pound state medalists Christien Miller took a technical fall in the dual with Loy Norrix and won by default in the dual with the Scots.

Griffin Grummet at 138 pounds, Hunter Smith at 126, Noah Quintard at 150, Jayce Curtis at 175 and Blake Bossenberger at 165 were all 2-0 on the day for TK too. Bossenberger had two pins on the day.

Collin Mann, Dylan

Pauline, Camden Peter, Jimmy Manne, Brenan Simon, Tanner Buxton and Jackson Smith had one win each on the night for the TK varsity.

"I am excited," Fletke said. "They're young. They want it. There is a lot of change-up in the line-up, but I feel like they're ready to go."

"I've seen them wrestle in practice, and I have seen them wrestle in middle school. I know they have been waiting their turn to get in the varsity line-up. The freshmen did awesome. A lot of them got their first varsity wins today."

Hayden kept her action to the JV mat on the night for the Scots. The varsity had a dual going on while she took on TK's Kayleigh Brown in a match late in the evening, a bout that ended in a pin for the state champ.

Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch was pretty pleased with what went on at the JV mat at the end of the night.

"I am proud of my guys ... at the end when our varsity was done, everybody went over there to our JV mat and was cheering each other on. It was everything we've been talking about. This isn't a sprint. We're not ready to win championships right now. Stick with me. It's a journey. One day at a time. Let's continue to win each day, get a little bit better by putting forth the best effort that we possibly can.



Caledonia's Sergio Munoz works to break away from Loy Norrix's Julius Boza during the second period of their 132-pound bout in which Munoz scored a 20-12 major decision Wednesday at Caledonia High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

"I am proud of my guys. They battled tonight. They're not where they need to be, but it is December. We don't need to peak until February. We're going to keep getting better and I guarantee we're going to be a better team in February than we were today. The bottom line is, my guys have fight, they love each other and we're going to

keep getting better each and every day."

Caledonia's Will Sheely Was 2-0 on the day for the varsity team at 157 pounds. He pinned his foe from Loy Norrix and then pulled out an 8-4 win over TK's Smith in their bout.

"I thought he wrestled very smart, very technically sound and really did a great job of listening as well," Veitch said of Sheely. "I was really proud of him."

Ben Moss and Carter Berends stood out for Veitch for the way they battled. Moss got a pin in the dual with Loy Norrix at 150 pounds and tried to fight off Quintard in what was a 9-5 win for the TK 150-pounder in their match-up.

Moss was bumped up a weight class or two from where he expects to be as the season goes on. Berends was wrestling a littler higher than the Scot coach would ultimately like to have him too.

Sergio Munoz and Connor Sebel had the other varsity wins for the Scots. Sebel pinned TK's Buxton in their 215-pound match.



Thornapple Kellogg 120-pounder Emma Gibson holds down Loy Norrix's Jessica White after a second-period take down Wednesday at Caledonia High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

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