

# Winter Sports Previews

## Scots working on big goals and small ones

**Brett Bremer**  
Sports Editor

“We are modeling, affirming and rewarding what we want to see,” Caledonia varsity wrestling coach Shawn Veitch said.

The Fighting Scots are working to model the kind of behavior, effort and enthusiasm their new head coach wants throughout practices, and coach Veitch said that his guys, and girls, end every practice affirming one another on something good that they did at practice.

The rewards, ideally, will come more and more often as wrestlers get their arms raised.

Sophomore Maddie Hayden was one of the last to get her hand raised last season, finishing as the MHSAA Girls 155-pound State Championship at the end of the 2022-23 season. She is back for a second

campaign chasing another state championship.

“She has dreams. She really wants to be an Olympian,” Veitch said. “She is just working hard not only in our practices, but she got invited out to the Olympic training center out there in January. She has a lot of goals and a lot of dreams.”

While Hayden is certainly looking to improve at every opportunity, that is the big goal for most of the rest of the Fighting Scots.

“This is not a sprint,” Veitch said. “This is a marathon. I’m not looking to win championships here on day one and to be honest we’re not ready yet to win championship, but what we are ready for is to win every minute of every day. As long as we win every minute of every day, we’re going to get better and then champion-

ships will be on our horizon.”

It’d be something of a surprise if anyone other than Rockford won an OK Red Conference wrestling championship this fall, but Veitch said he expects Grandville to push the Rams for the conference title and he expects Hudsonville to likely be just a smidgen behind those two teams in terms of talent.

The returning talent for Caledonia along with Hayden includes 170-pounder Kiersten DeHaan on the girls’ side and leading the list of guys back in the program are 138-pounder James Carrow, 115-pounder Will Sheely and 190-pounder Connor Sebel. Coach Veitch said those three guys put in a lot of work in the off-season.

Also back are lightweights Ethan Berends and Carter Berends wrestling



Maddie Hayden

between 120 pounds and 132 pounds. Ethan is a senior who is returning to the program after wrestling as a freshman and Carter is a sophomore who coach Veitch said is picking things up quickly.

Coach Veitch is looking forward to seeing freshman 106-pounder Josh Grace and sophomore Braden Rogers maturing as their high school careers progress.

The Scots expect to be close to filling every weight class this season, with good depth, but not outstanding

depth throughout the lineup. Part of that depth is a group of 19 freshmen and some juniors and seniors who have never wrestled before.

Coach Veitch said fellow coaches Joel Reeder and Matt Erb have done an outstanding job of recruiting new wrestlers into the high school program.

“I am so impressed with our overall team chemistry and just how hard kids are working, but also how hard they’re encouraging one another,” Veitch said. “That

is something we have really tried to make sure it is part of our culture.”

The CHS varsity team is 0-2 so far this season after falling to Loy Norrix and Thornapple Kellogg in a home tri Wednesday night.

The Fighting Scots are at the Greenville Duals today, Dec. 9, and will be back in action Dec. 16 at the Kent County Championships hosted by East Kentwood High School.

The Scots open OK Red Conference duals at home against Jenison Dec. 20.

## Roster up to 20 guys for growing CLS swim team

**Brett Bremer**  
Sports Editor

There was a lot of turnover on the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys’ swimming and diving team in the off-season, but in the end the CLS program has upped its numbers for the upcoming winter season.

Second-year head coach Todd DeJong is pleased to have 20 guys out for the team after having a total of 13 last season and losing five to graduation.

Leading the small return-

ing group are Luke DeJager, Austin Tufts, Sam Jones, Anders Foerch, Coen Crocker, Sam Lusaya and Ruben Baker.

DeJager was an OK Red Conference medalist in the 100-yard butterfly a year ago racing to a seventh place finish at the conference meet. That was the lone individual medal winning performance for the Vikings in the tough OK Red last season. The Vikings were held without a win in the conference duals.

With a short list of returnees there will be a learning curve of sorts.

“Every addition will be key to our success,” coach DeJong said.

The CLS coach said that this group of guys has “grit, which is defined by passion and purpose.”

Coach DeJong said he expects his team to keep trying to build success this season, and hopes the team really takes a jump when the Fighting Scots’ pool is

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### Village of Middleville 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE



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The **MIDDLEVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL** meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 9 & 23	May 14 & 28	Sept. 10 & 24
Feb. 13 & 28 (Wed)	June 11 & 25	Oct. 8 & 22
March 12 & 26	July 9 & 23	Nov. 12 & 26
April 9 & 23	August 13 & 27	Dec. 17 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

The **VILLAGE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 2	May 7	Sept. 3
Feb. 6	June 4	Oct. 1
March 5	July 2	Nov. 6 (Wed)
April 2	August 7 (Wed)	Dec. 3

The **MIDDLEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION** meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 2	May 7	Sept. 3
Feb. 6	June 4	Oct. 1
March 5	July 2	Nov. 6 (Wed)
April 2	August 7 (Wed)	Dec. 3

The **MIDDLEVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** meets regularly on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 16	May 21	Sept. 17
Feb. 20	June 18	Oct. 15
March 19	July 16	Nov. 19
April 16	August 20	Dec. (No meeting)

The **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY** meets quarterly on the third Thursday of that month at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 18	July 18
April 18	Oct. 17

The **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** meets twice a year on the third Thursday of that month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan. 18	July 18
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The **WELLHEAD PROTECTION GROUP** does not have regularly scheduled meeting dates but meets as business requires in the Village Offices.

Notices of all special meetings and meeting changes will be posted at the Village Hall and on the Village Website: [www.villageofmiddleville.org](http://www.villageofmiddleville.org). Minutes will be available for public inspection at the Village Office during regular business hours for each of these bodies in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and other applicable law, and on the Village’s website. The public is welcome to attend and participate in any open session of these bodies. The Middleville Village Hall is located at 100 E. Main Street, Middleville, MI 49333.