

Girls Varsity Basketball Heading for the Playoffs

by James Weiner

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team has been forced to overcome several obstacles this season. Last year, the Vikings graduated four of five starters and were forced to begin this season with relatively inexperienced personnel. The squad also had to compensate for a considerable height differential, as only one player looms over the 5' 6" mark. Coach Stephanie Joannon also had to cope with a tighter schedule, as league play, which traditionally began in January, started before the holiday recess.

"I knew it would take time," said Coach Joannon, "and half-way through the season, we finally started to gel." The once struggling 3-8 Vikings won four consecutive games in impressive fashion to begin the second half of the season. The triumphs include the team's first victory ever over Malverne 50-39, Hericks 60-35, Mephram 48-34, and a 63-21 rout over Lawrence. "It's really a tribute to our team,"

said Coach Joannon, "we worked through the bad times and now we're reaping in the rewards." The Vikings winning streak ended with a two-point loss to Division. The team's record now stands at 4-5 in league and 7-9 overall.

"One of the keys to our recent success is our boxing out," said Coach Joannon, "we are no longer giving up defensive boards and are starting to get them."

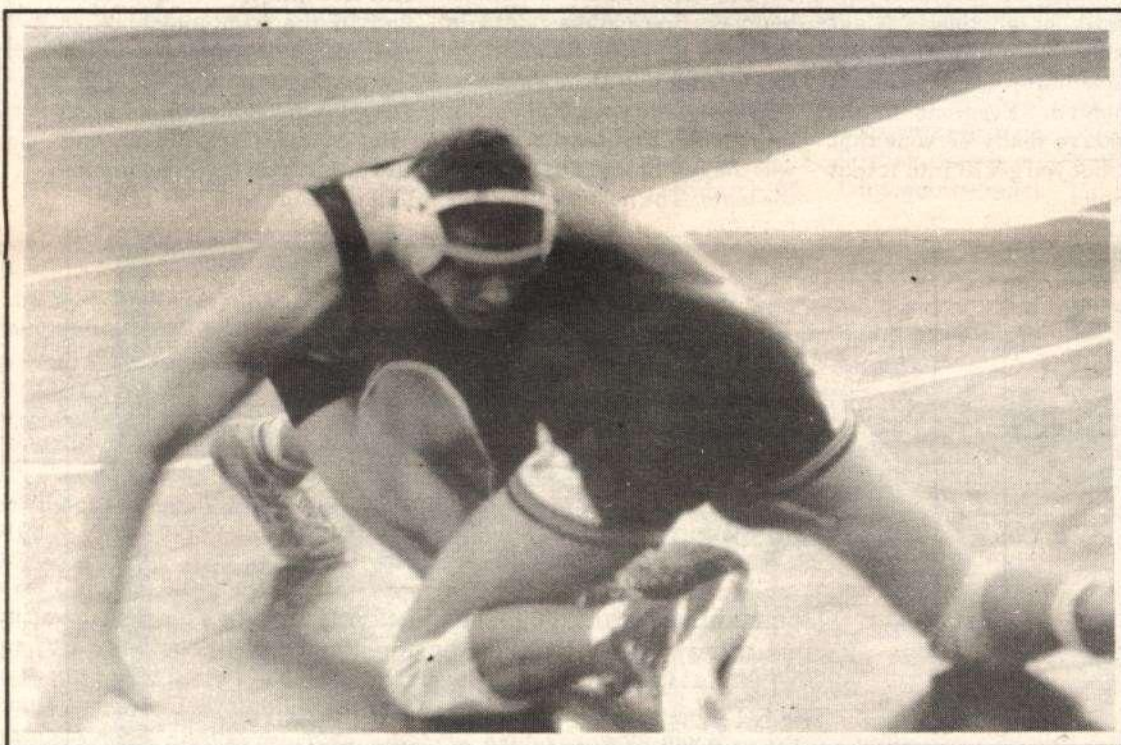
Freshman Christine Kubin has emerged as the team's top rebounder and scorer. Kubin is third in league play with an 18.8 points per game average and she averages 12 rebounds per game. Atsuko Tosaka continues to lead the team at point-guard. In the last two games, Tosaka has totaled 33 points and 14 assists.

The first night game ever for a Girls' Varsity team was held on February 3rd against MacArthur. "I'm glad to see this is the group that is getting the first night game," said Coach Joannon.



Karen Song dribbling in traffic during a Girls' Varsity Basketball game against Central.

photo by Henry Chen



Steve Ducasse taking control during a varsity wrestling match.

Girls Gymnastics Showing Steady Improvement

By Todd Hazelkorn

The Girls' Gymnastics team, after dropping their first two matches, have gone on to win three out of their last five. This includes a two game winning streak in their last two meets at Manhasset and Cold Spring Harbor, respectively. With a victory in their eighth and final match the girls could equal last years record of 4-4.

On February 1, the squad traveled to Cold Spring Harbor. Schreiber performed excellently as they thoroughly defeated C.S.H. by 10.2 points, 121.4 to 111.2. Amanda North and Rachel Shalett tied for first in the vaulting category, gaining much needed points for Port. Shalett,

who had an excellent day, also came in first with her floor exercises.

Just two days earlier, Port trounced Manhasset, defeating them by a score of 123.8 to 109.3. North made her contribution by gaining 8.2 points in an area which she has excelled at all year, vaulting. Joan Traynor also performed well, with both her vaulting and floor routines, adding to Port's already high score. This was probably the best meet of the season for Port, as all of the key elements came together. Port performed almost flawlessly on the vaults, as they have done all year.

Others on the team have contributed largely throughout

the season. Tricia Pepe, Melissa Rendace, and Jennifer MacInnes performed consistently throughout the season in many different categories. They were in a sense "utility players" for the team as they rised to the call of duty when they were needed. Meanwhile, Raquel Wilson has specialized throughout the season on the balance beam and floor routines. Adina Lemkau was a victim of a skiing accident, and her presence is severely missed.

The Varsity Gymnastics team has worked hard all year in practices, and their work has payed off. Coach Keri Rierson deserves much credit for successfully leading the team.

Photo by Joe Cardillo

by Dan Juceam

One of the best things a coach can say about a team is that the team rose above and accomplished more in a season than what was initially expected. In a year when many young, new, and inexperienced wrestlers, mostly under 120 pounds, became an important addition to the Varsity Wrestling team, it was a considerable honor for Coach Robert Busby to bestow this praise upon his squad.

Moving into the final days of the season and the culmination of the playoff rounds, the team has attained a record of 9-3. In the first Farmingdale match of the season, Port emerged victorious by a score of 48-18. In the 98 pound weight division, Adam Savran pinned his opponent in the third period. Mike Tannenbaum (112), Anthony Schettino (119), and Abi Klass (126) all won by forfeit. Next, Steve Soldano (132) and Josh Weissman (138) executed quick pins in the first period. At 145 pounds, Steve Ducasse pinned his opponent in the second period and Jamie Kirmser (155) also pinned his opponent in the third.

In the Freeport match, Port triumphed 33-28. This was mainly due to the high number of forfeit victories that they were able to get. Anthony Schettino pinned his opposition in the second period and Josh Weissman won on points, 3-2. Steve Ducasse, Jamie Kirmser, Tim Mahoney (167), and Alex Moschos (177) all won by forfeit to edge Freeport.

In the second Farmingdale meet, the first round of the home

Dual-Meet playoffs, Port again dominated, 45-22, although many of Schreiber's points could be attributed to forfeit. Adam Savran won on a pin in the second period and Jamie Kirmser won on points. Winners by virtue of forfeit were Mike Tannenbaum, Anthony Schettino, Abi Klass, Kevin Harrington (132), Josh Weissman, and Steve Ducasse.

In the last Dual-Meet playoff competition, Port was handily defeated by Long Beach, 41-9, although Anthony Schettino won, 9-4, and Steve Ducasse triumphed, 16-7. Also, Josh Weissman tied, 4-4, in his match.

Since the Dual-Meet playoffs, Port has defeated Lawrence and looks forward to doing the same in a match against Cold Spring Harbor, and Mineola in the first round of the Conference 2 Playoffs. In the Lawrence victory, Port scored 44 points while yielding only 24. This match proved to be a true preparation for the upcoming competitions. John Lee (98), Steve Ducasse, Jamie Kirmser, and Tim Mahoney pinned their adversaries in the third period, Anthony Schettino pinned his opponent in the second, and Josh Weissman pinned in the first. Abi Klass tied, 7-7, and Ed Savasatano won by forfeit.

Perhaps the most gratifying reward for this season's efforts will be found in the results of the County Championships. Port is seeded an impressive 14 out of 50 competing squads. Team unity, intense training, and an unflinching desire to win will ultimately pay off.