

THE NEXT LEVEL

Wrestlers fall short in Elite Eight dual

Kylie McCalmont | Staff Writer

Despite the hard work, Mason's countdown to the championship title stopped at eight.

After earning a spot in the Elite Eight for two consecutive years, the Mason High School wrestling team fought hard in the OHSAA State Wrestling Dual Team Tournament but failed to advance on in the competition as they were defeated by Elyria 36-24 in the quarterfinals. Although they didn't claim first, it was overall a very successful season for not just varsity, but all of Mason's wrestling program, according to head coach Craig Murnan.

"It's been an outstanding year...We had so much success at all levels," Murnan said. "I think the freshman team has won every event that they've been in, our JV team had finished second very early in the season and has won everything since, our Varsity B team has won three varsity level tournaments... The success hasn't just been to our varsity but it's been for all 65 kids in the program."

According to Murnan, the team's overall success could be accredited to two factors; the first being the high intensity and fierce competition exhibited by the Comets at competitions as well as every day practices.

"I think having a competitive practice room has really made our program elevated across the board," Murnan said. "I think a lot of our success has been just because... those kids are every day battling for positions and spots."

According to senior Jordan Collins, the second factor that contributed to Mason's success was the tough out-of-state schedule.

"We've been going out-of-state a lot this year, just so we can get the better competition," Collins said. "We went to West Virginia, and we had a lot of good duals there. We went over to Indianapolis and Chicago for Dvorak, that was one of our hardest tournaments of the year but those are the kind of things that get us better."

Mason won the dual in West Virginia 30-29, beating Indiana Cathedral, the defending state champions in Indiana, and they placed third at Dvorak. Collins said these matches helped elevate his team's performance against teams in Ohio and in the Greater Miami Conference.

"We just make less mistakes," Collins said. "When we do wrestle guys in the GMC, we are able to capitalize on theirs and we don't make as many of our own and it just makes it a lot easier to wrestle in-state."

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The girls bowling team won their second GMC championship, tying with Oak Hills and Middletown for the title. The girls finished with a 16-1 overall record, 7-1 conference record.

311

Junior Lauren Van Kleunen leads the girls basketball team in scoring with a season total of 311 points, followed by junior Jailyn Mason with 217.

455.75

Senior diver Aubrey Rose finished first at Sectionals last weekend, with 455.75 points. Sophomore diver Allen Feng finished third on the boys side.

1:42.23

Senior swimmer Justin Hove was champion of the 200-yard freestyle at sectionals with a time of 1:42.23. Hove will advance and compete at the district meet this weekend.

Results as of February 16.

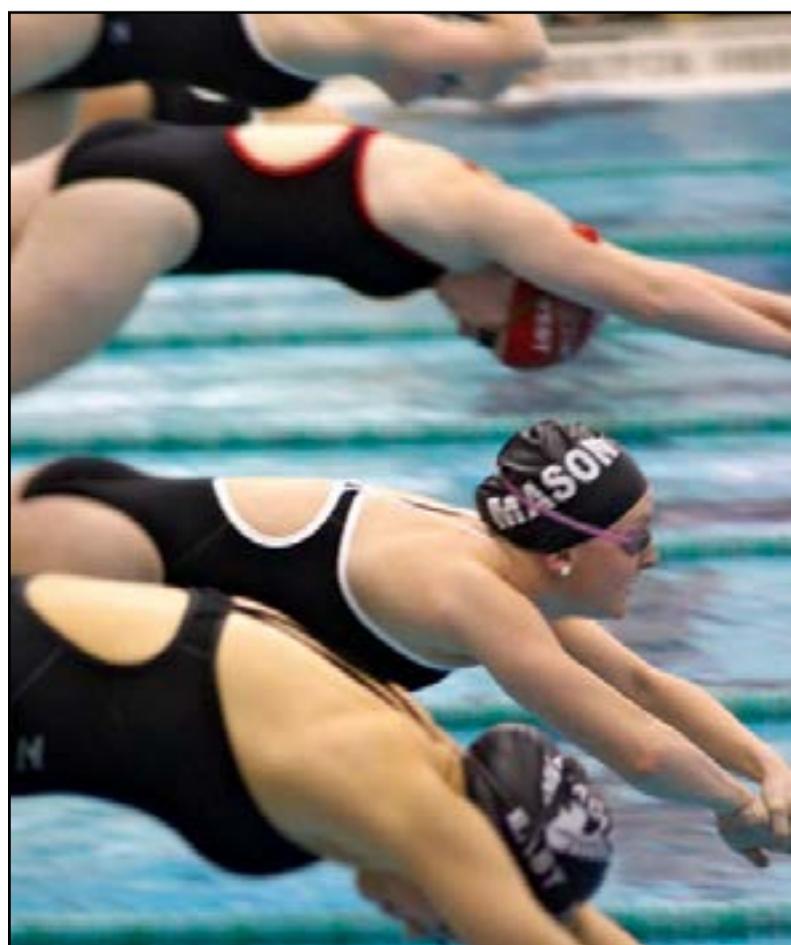


Photo by Erin Brush

The Chronicle Sports

MVP: JULIA VOLPENHEIN

Sport: Swimming

Class: 2015

Claim to Fame: Committed to the University of Virginia on a rowing scholarship

Best thing about swimming: Tapering

Worst thing about swimming: Morning practices and Christmas break

Toughest Opponents: Upper Arlington, Ursuline, Saint Ursula

Motto: Don't count the laps, make the laps count

Celebrity Crush: Zac Efron

Embarrassing Moment: False starting and getting disqualified from relays

Netflix Addiction: One Tree Hill