



photo by Corynne Hogan

The wrestling team will be returning state placer senior Ruben Victoria, and two time state qualifier, senior Kyle McIntyre, as well as six other returning starters.

GOING FOR THE THREE-PEAT

Amidst growing competition in the GMC, the varsity wrestling team hopes for a third GMC title

Katelyn Cain | Sports Editor

The varsity wrestling team is fighting for a third consecutive GMC title, and, according to head coach Craig Murnan, it won't be easy.

"Our schedule is very tough," Murnan said. "This will be the hardest season our program has ever faced."

Over the course of the season, Murnan said that Mason will wrestle several of the top five teams in the city from 2011 in dual meets, and will travel to Medina, Ohio to wrestle in one of the top ranked tournaments in the state and nation. Additionally, the team will also wrestle the preseason number two ranked team in the country, Graham High School.

According to Murnan, in order to compensate for the difficult schedule, the underclassmen will need to step up.

"We will need our underclassmen; especially

our junior class to step up and fill in the holes left from last years graduating class in order to accomplish our team goals," Murnan said. "These kids have trained hard for their opportunity. They will now have to step up at the next level of competition, and believe that they can be successful."

Murnan said that with the combined forces of state placer Ruben Victoria, and other returning seniors, plus the enthusiastic underclassmen will hopefully lead the team to a third consecutive championship.

"We are returning eight starters from last season that had significant varsity time," Murnan said. "We hope that the depth of their program, combined with strong underclassmen can improve on the winning tradition that has been established in their program."

Murnan said that besides having eight returners,

the team has welcomed talented freshmen and two new coaches, coach Lynch and coach Kuykendall.

"Our younger kids are coming in with more experience and a better knowledge of what is expected of them," Murnan said.

According to Murnan, in order to approach their tough schedule, the team has been very focused on their goal--to win the GMC.

"The team this season has as a very focused approach," Murnan said. "The energy level and competition in the room is at the highest level since I have been at Mason. The energy and enthusiasm is coming from the freshman class who are integrating nicely into the culture and tradition of the program."

SPORTS COLUMN

Winning a boys' basketball GMC championship could be in the near future; they just need adjusting time



James Nosek | Staff Writer

It is appropriate to describe the boys' varsity basketball team's four year transition into the GMC as a learning experience.

They still have yet to win a conference title but that's not to say it's been four unsuccessful years. Really if you look at it, Mason has been one of the top GMC teams and that's being inexperienced in the conference. Forty-eight wins since 2008 is the third best among GMC teams, behind only Middletown and Princeton and don't forget they have made the sectional tournament twice in that stretch.

So with this success, why haven't they won a cham-

pionship yet? Well that answer is easy, it's all about adjusting. You have to remember that the GMC is no pansy league, just slightly behind the GCL among the most competitive conferences in Ohio, it takes time to adjust.

Going from the FAVC to the GMC, Mason has done a pretty good job, Head Coach Greg Richards even said they "have held their own," since the conference change. Last year Mason finished the first eight games undefeated until they lost a heartbreaking, overtime game to Princeton. Actually, the first Princeton loss was one of two close overtime games the Comets lost last year, just think about if they won them, they possibly could have brought home a GMC championship because the

other overtime loss came to the eventual conference champions, Lakota East.

The history of this program has been surrounded by the phrase "adjusting." When the Comets transferred in 1999 from the Cardinal, a smaller division of the FAVC, to the Buckeye, it took around five years to win a title.

So if Mason is on the same path as they took when they were adjusting to new leagues in the FAVC then a title could be on the horizon. It's only been four years in the GMC it takes time to change leagues, especially to a very intense league like the GMC. If this program is willing to wait and get accustomed to better competition, then it can be a successful forthcoming.