

# Michalski hopes to cap prep career with state title

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

There's one goal Matt Michalski has yet to achieve in an otherwise outstanding high school wrestling career.



The Farmington High senior wants to win a state championship, and he hopes his final season ends next March with him doing exactly that.

Michalski came close to winning it all last season when he finished as the Class A runner-up to Holland West Ottawa's Karl Nadolsky at 100 pounds.

He made it his objective after that match to strive for another championship opportunity in 1996.

"I know I haven't accomplished everything, and that's something

to drive me for next year," he said after losing a 5-2 decision to Nadolsky.

Michalski, who was 42-3 last season and has a career record of 87-18, won't see Nadolsky, a junior, in the tournament this year.

Instead of having three tournament for Class A, B and C-D schools, the state has divided teams into divisions I through IV.

The three Farmington teams are Division II. West Ottawa, as well as the other members of the Western Lakes Activities Association, are Division I, which is comprised of the largest Class A schools.

"He's working real hard to get back to the state meet and, hopefully, finish first," said Farmington coach Al Beyer of Michalski, who will wrestle at 112 this year.

"I'm sure that's his goal. He's capable of that. I know he's expecting to have an excellent year."

Michalski, who has placed in the state tournament the last two years and improved his final standing each time, is the first Farmington wrestler to place at state since Ab Hazen in 1985.

Michalski also won Oakland County, Observeland and WLAA championships last year, and he will attempt to repeat in the first of those tournaments next week.

The Falcons also return seniors Adam Taniellian at heavyweight, Ryan Terwilliger (160), Mike Lane (125-30), Brian Macias (119), Pete Hutchinson (215) and Brian Willis (189).

Taniellian had a 22-16 record, Terwilliger 18-17 and Lane 17-13. Taniellian was fifth in the WLAA, Terwilliger and Lane seventh and Macias eighth.

Junior Charlie Jaeger missed most of last season after breaking a thumb in early January. Beyer hopes he can stay healthy and

help the team at 130-35 as he expected Jaeger would a year ago.

Seniors Martin Spinks (125), Sevan Sahiner (103) and Cory Perry (140) gained experience last year and should be improved.

Spinks and Sahiner were fourth in the WLAA at 112 and 100, and Sahiner even placed third in the county.

"We're going to fill all the weight classes," Beyer said, adding the Falcons have 21 wrestlers, "but if somebody gets hurt we're in trouble."

"We hope to move up (from fifth place in the WLAA) if we can, but it all depends on the new individuals and staying healthy. The kids need to develop as the season progresses."

Farmington starts tonight with a double dual against Plymouth Canton and Monroe at Plymouth Salem.

The Falcons go to Mount Clemens Clistondale for a quad meet Saturday with the host Dragons, Lakeland and Livonia Franklin.

## North Farmington

Second-year coach Zalm Cunnulaj doesn't have enough people to fill a lineup (only 13 on the team), but he does have some good wrestlers to work with.

The top returnees are seniors Steve Acton and Steve Munro and juniors Dave LaBerge and Mike Spiaz.

Acton was third in the WLAA at 215 pounds and returns to wrestle at that weight again.

"Since he sat out football and trained hard, he's expecting to do well and have a good year," Cunnulaj said. "He should qualify for state and be right up there with the best of them."

This will be only the second

year of wrestling for 189-pound Munro.

"He still learning, but he's a big, strong, tough kid," said Cunnulaj, a former North standout.

LaBerge was 27-10 while rotating between 100 and 105, and he was the team's co-MVP with Nick Grant. He was second in the WLAA and fourth in Observeland at 100 but moves up to 112 this year.

Spiaz (119) got burned out after years of wrestling last season but has come back refreshed and eager to wrestle again, according to Cunnulaj.

"He looks real tough," he said. "There aren't many who can take him down in practice; he's ready to go this year."

A couple of new wrestlers who could help are junior Scott Richmond (103) and freshman Fritz Schultes (126).



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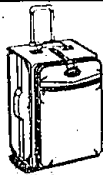
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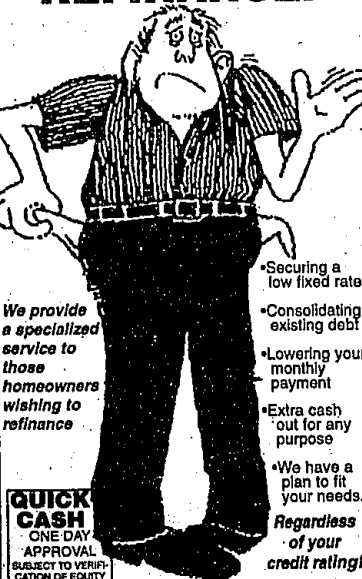
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