



JUDD SMERGLIA / GAZETTE PHOTOS

Wadsworth's Kagan Squire takes down Highland's James Kunzler during the 132-pound championship of the Suburban League Tournament. Below, Highland's Adam Kluk battles Grizzlies 170-pounder Tim Knipl.

SLT

From B1

What happened before the 2011-12 season might have readied the team just as much, as Aaron Warstler (2nd, 138), CJ Edwards (2nd, 160), Tim Knipl (2nd, 170), Hayden Frisby (2nd, 195), Cody Gordon (3rd, 152) and Brett Spinelli (3rd, 220) joined their teammates on the podium as well.

As Jones put it best, the ghosts of champions past propelled the spirits of titlists present.

"Tradition is huge," Jones said. "You think back about how good the program was with so many champs and it pushes you. It's the fear of being 'that team.' You don't want to lose."

There wasn't much losing from Highland, either.

While the Hornets tied Green for third overall in the league and at the tournament, they showed just how close they are to that next step.

While Nordonia, which out-pointed the Hornets and Bulldogs by two at the SLT, was the official runner-up, Highland added Colin Rininger (152), Lazar Vilimonovic (160) and Adam Kluk (170) to its list of champions.

James Kunzler (2nd, 132), Thomas Gabyak (2nd, 145), Logan Brant (3rd, 126), Marko Vilimonovic (4th, 113) and Joe



Crowder (4th, 285) also placed for the Hornets.

With division realignment happening before the season, Highland has jumped from the Division II ranks to D-I and will take on the likes of Wadsworth, Brecksville and Medina next week in what is always a strong sectional.

Kluk's pin of Knipl in the finals was the junior's 100th career win, while Rininger's pin of Edwards was redemption for a 7-5 loss to the Wadsworth senior earlier in the season at the North Canton Hoover Holiday Tournament.

"Wrestling isn't a sprint, it's a mountain," Rininger said. "You have to peak at the right time. This not only gives me confidence next week, but helps the team as we move up to Division I."

Cloverleaf finished eighth at the SL. Kyle Jenkin (2nd, 220) was its only placer.

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Results

BATH TWP. — Results Saturday from the 51st annual Suburban League Tournament at Revere High School.

Team standings: 1. Wadsworth 224; 2. Nordonia 160.5; 3. Green, Highland 158.5; 5. Revere 100; 6. Copley 90; 7. Tallmadge 59; 8. Cloverleaf 16.

Individual results

106: Gray (W) d. Schaub (G), 6-4; Third: Collica (N) by inj. def. Testa (T); **113:** Schleigh (W) d. Doyle (G), 2-0; Third: Juskiw (N) d. M. Vilimonovic (H), 8-7; **120:** Zollinger (W) d. Kaminski (G), 6-2, OT; Third: Flynn (R) d. Midock (T), 11-6; **128:** Jones (W) d. DeCesare (N), 7-5; Third: Brant (H) p. Ramey (G), 2-15; **132:** Squire (W) d. Kunzler (H), 7-1; Third: Tomayko (Cop) d. Peterson (R), 2-0; **138:** Walker (Cop) by inj. def. Warstler (W); Third: Codnor (N) m.d. Smith (R), 10-2; **145:** Nedolast (Cop) m.d. Gabyak (H), 9-0; Third: Roose (R) m.d. Taylor (N), 9-1; **152:** Rininger (H) p. Fitzgerald (G), 3-17; Third: Gordon (W) t.f. Paonessa (T), 16-1; **160:** L. Vilimonovic (H) d. Edwards (W), 3-0; Third: Khatib (R) p. McCann (N), 5-9; **170:** Kluk (H) p. Knipl (W), 3-01; Third: Gladwell (G) d. Fetzler (R), 7-0; **182:** Wheeler (Cop) d. Suglio (R), 11-6; Third: Mahaney (G) p. Williams (T), 3-50; **195:** Claren (N) m.d. Frisby (W), 13-4; Third: Lewarchick (Cop) d. Zawahri (G), 3-1; **220:** Woicovich (N) p. Jenkin (Clo), 5-16; Third: Spinelli (W) d. Dahlman (G), 6-3; **285:** Tavanello (W) p. Kreinbrink (G), 2-55; Third: Rem (N) p. Crowder (H), 3-28.