

**R** EYNOLDS  
**W** RESTLING  
**M** AG

Preview Edition

# Hills Eyes Another Prize

Raiders Begin  
50th Season  
Ranked No. 31  
in the Country

50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

# 50 Years of Reynolds Wrestling

## Alumni Recognized at Home Matches

The Reynolds Area School District is commemorating its 50th Anniversary this year and the RHS wrestling program is celebrating right along with it.

Special events are planned, T-shirts will be given away and old friends will get the opportunity to meet and greet. And, oh yeah, the Raiders will put another outstanding team on the mats.

Each of the five home matches this season will highlight one of the five decades of Reynolds wrestling. The first home match, versus McDowell on Wednesday, Dec. 16 will welcome wrestling and cheerleading alumni from the 1960's. The

second home match will welcome 1970's alumni, and so on.

**TO INFINITY AND BEYOND:** The Raiders begin the season riding a 90-match regular season win streak.

The overall win streak is at 24. Entering his 24th season as head coach, Brian Hills sports a mark of 332-33-1, and as a team, the Raiders are 644-71-2 through 49 seasons of wrestling.

**CENTURY MARK:** As the season begins, junior Mason Beckman needs just two wins to safely reach the century mark. He is expected to accomplish

the feat at the season-opening Ironman Tournament and will become the fastest Raider ever to 100 wins in terms of time. The RHS record for most wins, currently held by Cody Kelly (179) is in serious jeopardy.

**REMEMBERING KAINE:** On Aug. 29th, the Reynolds wrestling family was rocked by the sudden and tragic death of 2009 graduate Kaine Kulka. Now, three months later, we're still not over it.

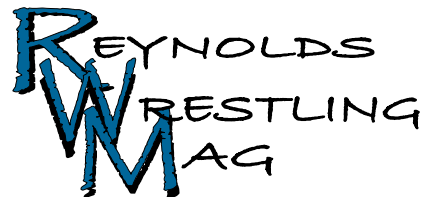
Kaine was a member of three of Reynolds state championship dual match teams.

There is a special page dedicated to his memory in this issue. Please continue to keep the Kulka family in your prayers.

### A View from Matside

By Don Shaffer

## Reynolds Wrestling Mag Now Available on Facebook



*Published monthly during the Pennsylvania high school wrestling season and periodically in the off-season*

**Editor**  
Don Shaffer

**Contributors**  
Art Williams  
Dave Rose





In Memory of  
**Kaine Kulka**  
1991-2009



# Raiders Ready to Launch Silver Anniversary Season

By **DON SHAFFER**

Reynolds Wrestling Mag Editor

What the Reynolds Raiders have accomplished through their first 49 seasons of wrestling is well documented. It's what is about to happen in season No. 50 that has the team, the coaches and the Reynolds Wrestling community so pumped.

Head Coach Brian Hills is as excited as anyone to get the Silver Anniversary edition of the Raiders on the mats.

"We've had a couple of very good scrimmages and the team is looking really good," Hills said. "I must say I have been pleasantly surprised by what I've seen. We haven't even started the season yet and I think I'm going to have to raise the bar a little bit already. So far, I've been very pleased. We're looking forward to getting out there and mixing it up a little."

It's easy to understand where Hills' excitement is coming from. His team enters the season on a roll. Reynolds has not lost a regular season dual match since 2004 - a span that covers 90 consecu-

RETURNING WRESTLERS WITH MOST WINS IN 2008-09	
Mason Beckman	50
Dylan D'Urso	44
Adam Matthews	39
Luke Taylor	35
Gregg Baptiste	32
Tyler Rhoades	24
Jeremy Fowler	12
Blake Heim	9

tive matches and five straight unbeaten campaigns. The Raiders are the defending PIAA Class AA Dual Match champions and have won three of the last four team titles. In addition, the squad returns three individual wrestlers - juniors Mason



2009-10 Seniors



Beckman and Adam Matthews and sophomore Dylan D'Urso - who placed in the top four at the state tournament.

"We've had a lot of great competition in our wrestling room already and I think that competition is going to drive this team to continue to improve as the season progresses," Hills predicted. "I really like this line-up.

Right now we have a good mix of veterans and younger kids ... it's a well-balanced lineup."

The Raiders' opening day lineup includes four seniors, three juniors, four sophomores and three freshmen.

Leading the senior class is team captain Luke Taylor, a two-time Northwest Regional qualifier who begins his final high school campaign with a 74-28 career record after going 35-10 as a junior. Taylor has been rock solid for the Raiders each of the last two seasons and looks to add to his impressive totals.

"Luke looks good ... real good," Hills said. "We look at him and see a potential state medalist. We think he can get to the medal stand."

Co-captain Gregg Baptiste will hold down the

starting spot at 171 pounds and with 72 career wins will have his sights set on the century mark. His presence will give the Raiders the experience they need to solidify the top portion of the lineup.

"It will be a disappointment if Gregg doesn't make it to states," Hills said bluntly. "He got hurt

by what we thought was a bad call at regionals last year and probably deserved to go. He beat several kids throughout the year who placed at the state tournament." Rodney Harnett, who spent much of the 2008-09 season sidelined with an injury, looks to make the most of his senior year and will be the starter at 112. Though his 35-35 career record is modest, coach Hills sees

some big things for his slight senior.

"I think Rodney being able to make 112 pounds could end up being a real difference-maker for this team," Hills said. "He's an experienced kid who looks very strong at 112 pounds. We're glad he's in the line-up. He's worked hard for us throughout his career and overcome some adversity with injuries and such. I believe he's going to

## Reynolds' All-Time Dual Match Record 644-71-2

do a very good job.”

Senior Jeremy Fowler has earned the starting spot at 189 pounds. He gained considerable experience last year and wrestled in the post season while compiling a 12-12 mark. As with the other seniors in the lineup Fowler will be counted on to step up.

“Jeremy came into the season in great shape ... he worked out all summer and came into practice at full speed,” Hills said. “He has really worked hard to improve and is doing very well.”

Other seniors fighting for starting spots are Dillon Babcock (135), Tom Gilson (171), Zac Harrison



**Team Captain  
Luke Taylor**

(215), Tobiah Johnson (215), Steve Mink (152), Charlie Murray (160), Drew Loutzenhiser (285), Matt Smith (112) and Jason Zuppe (215).

Babcock was a starter for the Raiders at the state duals last year and will look to work his way back into the lineup while Murray and Mink, also spot starters last year, are not practicing because of injuries.

Mink hopes to come

back later in the year but Murray is likely miss the entire season after having knee surgery.

Beckman heads up a strong junior class and is halfway through an incredibly successful high school career. The nationally-ranked 119 pounder (WIN Magazine, No. 18) already owns PIAA silver and bronze medals and has 98 chalk marks on his career win ledger.

## Varsity/Junior Varsity & Junior High Coaching Staff

Brian Hills	Head Coach
Casey Taylor	1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Coach
Joe Reichard	Volunteer Coach
Ron Beckman	Volunteer Coach
Michael Hills	2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach
Mark Higbee	Volunteer Coach
Rick Stoyer	Volunteer Coach
John Tofani	3 <sup>rd</sup> Assistant Coach
Ryan Hills	Volunteer Coach
Tyler Middleton	Volunteer Coach



**Brian Hills**

Head Coach, 24th Season  
Career Record: 332-33-1



“I see Mason really starting to mature,” Hills said. “He’s much more of a team guy this year ... he’s turning into more of a leader. At practice he’s been more vocal and active ... he jumps right in there and has been helping out showing some technique.”

Adam Matthews, who showed tremendous improvement as a sophomore, battled all the way to a fourth-place showing at the state tournament and showcases a 68-24 career record. He will start the season at 130 pounds but will likely get used in multiple weight classes - especially in dual matches.

“I think Adam sort of see what’s on the horizon for him,” Hills said. “We’re going to bump him around quite a bit in dual matches and he’s probably going to end up with the tougher guy in most instances. I think he understands that and looks forward to the challenge.”

Tyler Rhoades drops a weight class and begins his junior year at 160 after carding a 25-14 record last year at 171. “We’ve got a lot of confidence in Tyler,” Hills said. “We know he is going to wrestle the tough guys tough and he’s certainly going to win his share of matches. He’ll be very competitive for us. We think he’ll be even stronger at 160.”

The only other junior on the roster is Eddy Nottingham (130) who earned a letter last season after going 7-3.

Dylan D’Urso won 44 of his 48 matches as a

freshman and has bumped up several weight classes, landing at 125 pounds after wrestling at 103 most of last season. He placed fourth at the PIAA Championships and is considered one of the Raiders' top young wrestlers.

Three other sophomores have also earned starting spots - Justin Rhodes, Matt Tofani and Blake Heim.

Rhodes (140) saw limited action as a freshman and earned a letter with a 5-4 record. He edged senior Babcock to earn the starting position.

Tofani has shown he is ready for prime time after forging an outstanding 15-3 junior varsity record a season ago. He beat back a challenge from talented freshman Cam Cianci to earn his starting spot. Another sophomore - Tyler Miller - is also a serious contender at 140.

Heim showed flashes of brilliance during his freshman campaign which ended with an overall record of 9-5. He will now be asked to step up and nail down the top of the lineup from his spot at 215 pounds.

Other sophomores include Tommy Davis (160), Steve Fisher (145) and Sam Napodano (160).

Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling state champion Austin Matthews heads a talented and deep freshman class which will make an immediate impact.

Matthews will start the season as the regular at 135 pounds but is certified to wrestle lower. He is the latest freshman phenom to come along and joins a growing list of Reynolds wrestlers to seek to make a big splash in their first varsity season.

"When I look at Austin I don't see a freshman," Hills said. "I see a seasoned veteran. He follows in the same molds as some of the better ones we've had come up through our program. He's a talented young man."

Two other freshmen - bookends Neal Engstrom (103) and Jamar Henry (285) - are also in the opening day lineup. Engstrom is the only Raider certified to wrestle at 103 so he will carry the entire load there, while Henry emerged the winner from a group of six wrestlers who auditioned for the heavyweight spot.

Henry is a multiple PJW place-winner and a veteran of the Raiders elementary and junior high programs.

The remainder of the ninth grade class includes Curtis Arnold (112), Cody Kasbee (135), Matt Leise (130), Chris Nottingham (171), Tyler Ohl (171) and Logan Rickert (171).

"We understand that some of our younger guys may struggle a little bit, especially in December when our schedule is so tough. With the schedule we have a .500 record in the month of December is not that bad," Hills said.

**NOTES:** The Raiders open the season on Dec. 11-12 at the Ironman Tournament at Walsh-Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. ... The first dual match is at home on Wednesday, Dec. 16 versus Erie McDowell. ... The Raiders will be able to fill 11 of 14 junior varsity weight classes, all except 103, 125 and 171. ... Napodano continues to recover from a life-threatening motocross accident about 18 months ago. He has received medical clearance to fully participate in wrestling this year and starts the season as the junior varsity 160-pounder.



**Co-Captain  
Gregg Baptiste**

**HAPPY  
50th Anniversary  
RAIDERS!**

# In the National Spotlight

It's the sort of thing a Raider fan could get used to -- another season, another national ranking.

The recently released Amateur Wrestling News Prep 40 Preseason 2009-10 national ranking has the Raiders listed at No. 31. This marks the fourth straight year that the team has been greeted with a national ranking to begin the season.

"It's always nice to be recognized and I think a lot of it has to do with how well we have performed at the Ironman tournament," said coach Brian Hills, primed to begin his 24th season as head coach of the Raiders. "Bob Preusse does these rankings for AWN. We always see Bob over at the Ironman. I think he has a lot of respect for our program. Obviously, the key is that we have

to perform well if we want to continue to appear in these rankings."

Reynolds is one of six Pennsylvania squads to show up on the list. The others are Wyoming Seminary (No. 4), Central Mountain (No. 7), Central Dauphin (No. 10), Blue Mountain (No. 16) and Council Rock South (No. 29).

Here is the entire list, compliments of AWN:

## AMATEUR WRESTLING NEWS PREP 40

Preseason 2009-10  
by Bob Preusse

- |                             |                            |                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Blair Academy N.J.       | 14. Park Hill Mo.          | 28. Sunnyside Az.            |
| 2. Apple Valley Minn.       | 15. High Point NJ          | 29. Council Rock South Pa.   |
| 3. St. Paris Graham Ohio    | 16. Blue Mountain Pa.      | 30. Huxley Ballard Iowa      |
| 4. Wyoming Seminary Pa.     | 17. Simley Minn.           | <b>31. Reynolds Pa.</b>      |
| 5. Brandon Fla.             | 18. Wisconsin Rapids Wisc. | 32. Broken Arrow Okla.       |
| 6. Montini Catholic Ill.    | 19. Roseburg Oreg.         | 33. Providence Catholic Ill. |
| 7. Central Mountain Pa.     | 20. Clovis Calif.          | 34. Selma Calif.             |
| 8. St. Edward Ohio          | 21. Collins Hill Ga.       | 35. Smyrna Delaware          |
| 9. St. Mark Del.            | 22. Rockford Mich.         | 36. Payson Utah              |
| 10. Central Dauphin Pa.     | 23. Christiansburg Va.     | 37. Bismarck ND              |
| 11. Waverly-Shell Rock Iowa | 24. Iowa City West Iowa    | 38. Sturgis Brown SD         |
| 12. Bishop Lynch Tx.        | 25. Grand Island Neb.      | 39. Buchanan Calif.          |
| 13. Wadsworth Ohio          | 26. Long Branch NJ         | 40. Lowell Mich.             |
|                             | 27. Minooka Ill.           |                              |



**Mason Beckman  
is Nationally Ranked  
at 119 pounds**

# 2009-10 Varsity Schedule

## December

11-12 at Asics Ironman Tournament  
16 MCDOWELL  
18-19 at King of Mountain Tournament  
22 FORT LEOEUF  
29-30 at Manheim Lions Holiday Tournament

## January

5 SLIPPERY ROCK  
7 @ Lakeview  
9 Region I Duals at Mercer (Mercer, Hickory, Sharpville, West Middlesex & Cambridge Springs)  
13 GROVE CITY  
16 at Brookville Ultimate Duals  
19 at Commodore Perry  
27 SHARON

## February

TBA District 10 Class AA Team Duals  
12-13 PIAA Class AA Team Duals Tournament  
19-20 Section 2 Tournament  
26-27 District 10 Class AA Championships

## March

5-6 Class AA Northwest Regional  
11-13 PIAA Class AA Wrestling Championships



**Returning State  
Place-winner  
Adam Matthews**

**Returning State  
Place-winner  
Dylan D'Urso**



# The Back Page



## 2009-10 Wrestling Cheerleaders

Shelby Griswold 11 Captain  
Kaitlyn Fenton 11 Captain  
Andrea Manko 11 Captain  
Kylea Breese 12 Captain  
Ellie Thompson 12

Audrey Faber 12  
Crystal Artman 12  
Mandy Detullio 12  
Brittanny Higbee 12  
Steven Bobby 12

Kelsey Conelly 11  
Tina Fascetti 11  
Megan Miller 10  
Brittney Hawks 10  
Haylee Gilmore 9



**Mat Maids**  
Shelbi Ross (left) &  
Autumn Babcock

## Reynolds Wrestling



### RAIDER TRIVIA

**New Question:** Entering the 2009-10 season, Reynolds is 644-71-2 all-time in dual matches. Who are the two ties against?

**Previous Question:** Who are the three current Raiders (last season) who were Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling State Champions?

**Answer:** Mason Beckman, Dylan D'Urso & Will Ringer.



Rachel & Casey  
May 2, 2009