

Wide open race seen for league honors

Rebuilt Hawks open with conference clash

Red Hawk basketball fans will get their first look at the Thumb B Association defending champions Friday when the Sandusky Redskins are scheduled at Cass City High School.

Although pre-season forecasts have the Redskins in an also-ran position this year the team could provide some surprises.

In the districts last season Sandusky used a control ball

defense against the Hawks and stayed in the game until late in the final quarter. A couple of sophomore guards provided the spark in the latter part of the season for Sandusky. One of them,

Steve Weiler, led the team in assists and is a key man in Coach John Gutowsky's rebuilding plans. The Hawks will be rebuilding this season also. In contrast to last year when

Cass City was everyone's odds-on favorite to win it all, this year the Hawks are one of several teams that could take the coveted league title. The key to Cass City's success will be how the green forward wall performs and how the talent blends with the two returning veterans, Craig Tonti and Todd Comment.

Coach Ron Nurnberger has Scott Hobart, Mark Goslin and Rick Pobanz to fill gaps left by the graduation of Ken Martin, Tim Fahrner, Steve Richards and Rob Clarke.

How well they respond to the challenge may well decide how well Cass City does this season.

There's speed in the back court with Phil Zawilinski and Joe Decker to go with Craig Tonti who must produce in every game if Cass

City is going to win this year. Comment at 6-3 will need to take over some heavy offensive and defensive rebounding chores in addition to his superlative shooting this season.

For the first time in five years Cass City will not have a big rugged center to help control the boards.

How well the Hawks do against teams that do may well decide the championship. Caro and Lakers are big and rugged. Vassar has good over-all height and a talented, veteran squad. A dark horse this season is North Branch.

The green Hawk squad will not have any early season non-conference games to tune-up the new troops. After the Sandusky clash the Lakers come to town Tuesday in a game that will give fans of both clubs an insight

on what to expect in the 1980-81 cage season.

In a continuation of a practice started last year, freshman, junior varsity and varsity games will be played on the same night. The freshman games start at 5:15 this year.

The schedule:

- Dec. 5 Sandusky, home
- 9 Lakers, home
- 12 Caro, away
- 16 USA, away
- 19 North Branch, home
- Jan. 6 Mayville, home (No Frosh)
- 9 Marlette, away
- 13 Vassar, home
- 16 Bad Axe, home
- 23 Sandusky, away
- 27 Mayville, away (No Frosh)
- 30 Lakers, away
- Feb. 3 Harbor Beach, away

- 6 Caro, home
- 10 North Branch, away
- 13 Marlette, home
- 17 Muth, home (No Frosh)
- 20 Vassar, away
- 24 USA, home
- 27 Bad Axe, away

Season ticket

available now

Winter sports season tickets are on sale in the Cass City High School principal's office. Adult cost is \$15 and student cost is \$10. The ticket is good for all regularly scheduled home events.



CASS CITY RED HAWK basketball squad poses for a pre-season team photo. Front row, from left: Manager Ron Kilbourn, Willard Burdon, Phil Zawilinski, Joe Decker, Gary Robinson and Manager Dave Lockwood. Back row: Coach Ron Nurnberger, Mark Mozden, Scott Hobart, Tim Sontag, Mark Goslin, Todd Comment, Craig Tonti, Rick Pobanz and Ray Ferris.

Hawks one of 4 teams in race for wrestling crown

There are some big shoes to fill on the Cass City wrestling team this season but Coach Russ Biefer still

feels that the Hawks will be one of four teams in contention for the Thumb B Association crown.

Gone are three of the eight grapplers that qualified for the regional tournament last year and helped Cass City finish third in the league. They are Bob Warju, 145 pounds; Jim Nicol, 185 pounds; and Guy Nanney, heavyweight.

One of the qualifiers, Mark Dolecki, has moved up from 119 pounds to 126 pounds. Also back is Phil Harmer who will wrestle at 112-119 pounds this season. Last year he checked in at 105 pounds.

Bob Sawdon at 155 pounds finished third in the districts to qualify for the regionals last year and should be better this year with experience. Shawn Papp finished fourth in the districts last year wrestling at 167 pounds.

Clayton Harmer missed last year with an injury but the coaches are counting on him in the 132-pound class this season. Biefer says that the key to

the season for Cass City will be avoiding injuries and finding wrestlers for all the weight classes so that valuable points won't be lost through forfeit.

In the conference race, Biefer sees Marlette, Caro and Sandusky as the chief challengers for the title.

The schedule:

- Dec. 6 Birch Run Tourney
- 8 Bad Axe, here
- 10 Laker, away
- 17 Caro, here
- Jan. 7 Bad Axe, away
- 10 Cass City Tourney
- 14 Rochester Adams JV's, here
- 17 Marysville tourney
- 19 Laker-Capac, here
- 21 Sandusky, here
- 28 Marlette, away
- Feb. 4 Vassar, here
- 7 League Meet, Bad Axe
- 11 Capac, here



THE HAWK WRESTLING team figures to be one of four schools to be in the thick of the race for the conference title this year. From left, first row: Steve Smith, Phil Harmer, Dave Dorland, Paul Brown, Mark Dolecki. Second row: Clayton Harmer, Bob Sawdon, Shawn Papp, Doug Sowden, Rob Lawrence. Back row: Blake Fisher, Sam Kaplan, Ken Steely, John Warju, Jim Jensen.

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Tuesdays, Dec. 30 and Feb. 17
And At

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Tuesdays, Dec. 23 and Feb. 10

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HAWK CHEERLEADERS strike a familiar pose. Front: Karen Nurnberger.

Second row, Alesia Hoag and Martha VanCamp. Third row, Brenda Langenburg and Karla Wischmeyer. Fourth row, Dawn Herron and Sharon Wells.

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