

# Marriott aims for state title

## Kendall wrestler is 26-0 this season

By Allen Wilson

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To most wrestlers, a 29-5 record would be something to remember. But Kendall's Wade Marriott would rather forget it.

Perhaps that says something about Marriott. He believes that no matter how good you are, you can always be better.

"I'm not a perfectionist in everything, but when it comes to wrestling I have to be at my best," he said. "You only get out of something what you put into it."

Marriott, 18, has put a lot into his sport and the results could give him a shot at a state championship.



**Wade Marriott**

It's a goal that he is totally focused on and from the looks of things, he might just pull it off.

A senior in the 145-pound weight class, Marriott has a 26-0 record this season. He increased his school record to 150 career victories this week during matches with Pavilion and Batavia Notre Dame.

Marriott, a three-time champion at the Genesee Valley and Batavia Christmas tournaments, combines quickness with tremendous strength to subdue his opponents. He says the key to his success this season is the change of attitude toward his craft. He is more intense and has a better mental focus on what he wants to do.

"There is the technical aspect of wrestling, but the mental part is more important," he said. "Last year I wasn't as prepared mentally for some matches. Now I'm taking them one at a time, but I'm more focused and prepared for each match."

Marriott's preparation is the last thing Coach Jim Saubaran worries about these days. While his star wrestler has an abundance of physical talent, Saubaran is more impressed with his determination.

"I can't remember when I have seen a harder worker than Wade," Saubaran said. "He puts his heart and soul into every practice and every meet."

Even when Marriott is not wrestling, he puts forth the same work ethic that has made him a premier wrestler. During practice, he helps out with the younger wrestlers and he works as an assistant coach for the town's peewee league team at least twice weekly.

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When he's away from wrestling, Marriott makes paper medals for teachers to give out as a reward to students for their academic achievements. He also likes to draw and hopes to make a career as a graphic artist or art teacher.

"There are not a lot of kids like Wade," Sauberan said. "He's well liked by younger kids and by members of the school's faculty. He voluntarily goes over and works with the weaker kids during practice. Even though he is a successful wrestler, he doesn't tell them, 'You're doing this or that wrong.' Instead he shares ideas and techniques with them. Wade doesn't put his personal successes ahead of others. He has a way of giving people a different perspective on things. That's a part of why he's a winner."

"I just like to give back what has been given to me," Marriott said. "Most of the time I try to give

encouragement to the younger guys. If I can do anything make them better I'm willing to do that."

Marriott, who is being recruited by Brockport and RIT, got plenty of help watching his brother Chuck who also wrestled at Kendall, and his father Charlie, a former wrestler at Lowville Academy. In their own way both of them had an effect on the younger Marriott's career.

"I got interested in wrestling watching my brother, but I learned a lot of what I know my dad," Wade said. "He always gave me an extra push when I needed it."

Wade doesn't need much of a push these days. But if one is needed, all he has to do is look at what is ahead of him.

"This is the time that really counts," he said. "With sectionals coming up, I have to push myself that much harder. The key for me is to go into each match prepared and not underestimate anyone. It will be some tough competition, but I'll be ready."

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