



# THE ROUNDUP

## BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS

# Hills West Wrestling Team Makes School History

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Coming into the 2016-2017 season, all Winter Sports teams put a high amount of pressure on themselves to perform at a very high level. As the regular season comes to its conclusion, one team has already demonstrated how far they have come and how far they can go. This year's wrestling team was the first in Hills West's history to win a league championship unblemished, finishing 6-0 in league play.

The team had to overcome some obstacles early on, the biggest of them being the overall youth of its members. When Eric Cho, one of the five seniors who starts on the varsity lineup, was asked how they dealt with that problem he responded with, "The younger guys worked especially hard, and after being on the precipice of a league title last year, we weren't going to let anything stop us from getting back to that point."

The season opener was against North Babylon in what was an extremely hard fought match. It was neck and neck until Hills West won eight out of the fifteen matches bringing the final score to 40-35. This first win

against an experienced team really built confidence and set

opponent, Smithtown West. Both teams came in with 2-0 records, and the Colts really wanted to keep the zero in the loss column. However, they

track was head coach, Joseph Scholz. He was really able to cultivate and maintain a winning attitude, and did this by stressing their team motto all year long SUFU: *Start Unknown, Finish Unforgettable.*

When asked what type of qualities allowed this team to be successful he said, "We have a very tough bunch of kids who work hard and have continually gotten better as the year has gone on. That type of resiliency allowed them to never get ahead of themselves and kept them on the task at hand."

After that little bump in the road, the team never looked back. The sequential wins against West Babylon and Deer Park had a combined margin of victory of 186-45. It was this type of run that propelled them to be undefeated league IV champs. The team hopes that they will be able to continue the momentum they have built leading up to leagues which start tomorrow, February 4th.

Joe Costa, a senior who wrestles at 145 lbs, and will be competing in leagues, was asked how he has been able to get this far? He re-



the tone for the rest of the season. A crucial time arose midway through the season when Hills West played in a highly anticipated matchup against out of league

ended up on the losing side with a final score of 39-35.

An instrumental part of getting this team over that loss and keeping them on

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sponded with, "I would just go out there and leave everything on the mat whenever I stepped foot on it." Dylan Ryder, a junior at Hills West, made it to states last year where he took second over-

all. When asked about his continued dominance and what he hopes to achieve in front of his home crowd he said, "My goals for this year are to win counties and states, and I am able to maintain my

success because I wrestle all year around in national tournaments and through hard work and dedication. Also, there is always a little extra incentive to play well in front of your home crowd."

Go out and support the team in leagues, which again is this Saturday hosted by Hills West. Counties are February 11th and 12th at Suffolk community college in Brentwood.

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