



1981 Wrestling Team
13-2-1 Dual Meet Record - Division II Central Sectional Champs
Division II State Champions

Tournament Team: Tri-captains Perry Cacciola, Bill Gilmore and John Thibeault; Asst. Coach John Brucato, John Zogby, Paul Mastroianni, Coach Nick Zacchilli; Mark Panorese, Bob Marcolini, Rich Gotham; Paul Abbondanza, Rick Litavis and Earl Wagner.

The 1980-81 Milford High School Wrestling Team was a team that the coaches felt had a ton of potential, but one that would have to dig deep for everything they achieved. A 13-2-1 dual meet record, followed by a Central Sectional title, and an MIAA Division II State Championship was a result of that potential and hard work.

Led by senior tri-captains John Thibeault, Perry Cacciola and Bill Gilmore, the team had tremendous physical ability but lacked the tournament experience that previous squads had. The first dual meet, a 30-30 tie versus Masconomet, typified the entire season. There were no easy meets for this team. The Hawks took on perennial powers like Wayland, Quincy, Newton North, Tabor Academy and Nashua, N.H. Although not perfect during the season, they were perfectly prepared for the stiff competition they were sure to see in the tournaments. And as Coach Nick Zacchilli had hoped, they were ready.

Sophomore John Zogby (101 lbs), and seniors John Thibeault (115 lbs), Perry Cacciola (129 lbs), Paul Mastroianni (135 lbs) and Bill Gilmore (188 lbs) all won Sectional Championships. With sophomore Mike D'Errico (4th -108 lbs), and seniors Bob Marcolini (2nd -141 lbs), Mark Panorese (4th - 148 lbs.) and Rick Litavis (3rd - Hvywt) also qualifying for the States, Milford easily outdistanced Nashoba Regional for the sectional title.

The State tournament was a dogfight, but the Hawks edged out Quabbin Regional, 118-109 to capture their second ever state title. Zogby placed fourth at the States, while Thibeault, Cacciola and Mastroianni all ended in second place. Bill Gilmore was crowned State Champion after a thrilling 6-0 overtime win in the finals against Bridgewater-Raynham's Neal Zonfrelli, an opponent he had lost to twice during the season and went on to place second in the New England.

Also contributing to the success of the team during the season were sophomore Rich Gotham, junior Kevin Mohan, and seniors Paul Abbondanza, Mark Trettel and Earl Wagner.