

CC's Rogowski eyes 'A' title

There is a tradition going strong in the heavyweight division at the Division I state wrestling tournament.

Each year the champion of the heavyweight division hands off a shirt to who he thinks is the favorite to win next year.

More and more it's looking to Detroit Catholic Central coach Mike Rodriguez like the wrong guy is wearing the shirt this year.

Rodriguez thinks it should belong on his junior heavyweight Casey Rogowski, who is enjoying an undefeated season, adding a regional championship last Saturday at Temperance Bedford.

Rogowski ran his record to 42-0 by pinning Plymouth Salem's Charlie Hamblin in the regional final. Rogowski, who has size and quickness at 6-foot-3 and 230-pounds, pinned all three of his opponents.

"I don't think he's going to hang onto it," Rodriguez said of the wrestler who has the shirt this year. "I pity him. I know Casey doesn't have it."

Rogowski is considered one of the top major college football prospects in the state in the junior class, playing linebacker on the Shamrocks' Class AA state champion last fall.

Rodriguez said his lateral quickness helps immensely in wrestling. "Casey's just awesome on his feet," Rodriguez said. "He takes everyone down. He's a single leg

WRESTLING

man, and there aren't as many heavyweights who shoot single legs. That's what makes him so unique."

Rogowski now has 39 pins, most coming against wrestlers much heavier.

"When you only weigh 230 and you're going against guys 275, you can't pin everybody," Rodriguez said. "He spots a little bit of weight on people."

Joining Rogowski as state qualifiers were his teammates Mitch Hancock and John Abshire. Hancock was second at 135 pounds and Abshire fourth at 185.

The top four advance to the state tournament.

Broce Nayasmith, CC's 216-pounder, failed to place after losing consecutive matches by one point. Monroe's Leroy Johnson, the eventual champion, beat him 3-2. He was eliminated from contention by another one-point loss to Northville's Bryan Grider, who placed fourth.

Hancock pinned two opponents before losing for the third time this year to Livonia Stevenson's Dan Sedor in the finals, 5-3 in overtime.

Hancock is 37-4 overall, his other loss coming to Temperance Bedford. Rodriguez believes there's a good chance Hancock will place

at the state meet, especially knowing Sedor is in the opposite bracket.

"Sedor's got to carry his own destiny and so do we," Rodriguez said. "Mitch is doing fine."

Abshire advanced to the state meet despite still owning a sub .500 record at 17-19. He earned a berth in the consolation round after surprising a wrestler from Saline with a pin.

Abshire lost to Charles Thompson of Romulus, 4-2, to settle for fourth place.

"The kid from Saline was a key match," Rodriguez said. "John just caught fire, got lucky. He put a cradle on him, pinned him. He was a big, strong kid, and that got John excited to get him on through."

Rodriguez might have been especially emotional watching Nayasmith slip out of contention for the state meet. Nayasmith is Rodriguez's grandchild.

"The only disappointment is because he's disappointed himself," Rodriguez said. "It doesn't stop my love for him. Fortunately he's got another year. He's a super young man."

Rodriguez said Nayasmith fell behind early and started his comeback too late against Johnson. "He got taken down, came back, and time ran out when he got into him," Rodriguez said. "When you're behind, you should (throw earlier)." Nayasmith finishes 36-3.

REGIONAL WRESTLING RESULTS

DIVISION II INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT Feb. 28 at Temperance Bedford

270 pounds: 1. Richard Paylor (Ypsilanti), 2. Levi Rice (Mason), 3. Andrew Tipkins (Orchard Lake St. Mary's), 4. Dewayne Reed (Battle Creek Harper Creek).
240: 1. George Castro (Birmingham Groves), 2. Chris Edwards (Jackson North-west), 3. Matt Zimmer (Birmingham Seaholm), 4. Evan Major (Monroe Jefferson).

132: 1. Lawrence Haddad (Redford Thurston), 2. Phil Bowers (Battle Creek Lakeview), 3. Tom Givhan (Livonia Stevenson), 4. Tom Gray (Mason).
120: 1. Joe Ray Barry (Mason), 2. Ted Piskornos (Monroe Jefferson), 3. Ken Dalley (Ypsilanti), 4. Bryan Rusk (Allen Park).
108: 1. Andy Gibson (Carlton Airport), 2. Doran East (Birmingham Groves), 3. Andrew Hanson (Mason), 4. Tim McParlin (Allen Park).

130: 1. Keith Scott (Trenton), 2. Tad Deck (Jackson Northwest), 3. Terry Goodman (Marshall), 4. Brett Brooks (Birmingham Seaholm).
120: 1. Tim Carlisle (Battle Creek Harper Creek), 2. Jacob Short (Allen Park), 3. Jerry Lema (Farmington), 4. Jon Van Dornellen (Mason).
108: 1. Brian Hatt (1. Nick Northwell), 2. Jason Sainegi (Trenton), 3. Jack Derivich (Marshall), 4. Mike Alvarado (Dearborn).
90: 1. Greg Cooley (Trenton), 2. Brent Youn (Detroit), 3. Kurt Sayers (Jackson Northwest), 4. Brian Nadeau (Monroe Jefferson).

182: 1. Charles Tate (Battle Creek Harper Creek), 2. Trent Sprague (Jackson North-west), 3. Scott Roone (Birmingham Seaholm), 4. Adam Stevens (Detroit Northwest).
160: 1. Ben Gase (Marshall), 2. Derek Egler (Chelsea), 3. Rodico Epps (Orchard Lake St. Mary's), 4. Jason Wise (Birmingham Groves).
132: 1. Brett Faustman (Mason), 2. Mike Zuck (Trenton), 3. Ryan Lewin (Birmingham Groves), 4. Jacob Zirk (Jackson Northwest).
120: 1. Jake Harris (Mason), 2. Tim Bacon (Redford Thurston), 3. Lonnie Bryant (Ypsilanti), 4. Jeff Mullins (Battle Creek Harper Creek).
108: 1. Andy McDonald (Orchard Lake St. Mary's), 2. Matt Johnson (Marshall), 3. Chris Gader (Farmington Harrison), 4. Tim Williams (Marshall).

DIVISION I INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT Feb. 28 at Walled Lake Western

275 pounds: 1. James Hinton (Port Huron Northstar), 2. Dill McDonald (Ulita Ford), 3. Carl Hamaker (Birmingham Brother Rice), 4. Mario Zito (Fraser).
240: 1. Scott Ditchie (Fraser), 2. Craig Tromby (Anchor Bay), 3. Patet Vikas (Troy), 4. Vito Mendicino (Sterling Heights).
210: 1. Brooks Coart (Howell), 2. Adam Snoger (West Bloomfield), 3. Matt Fowler (Port Huron), 4. Joe Patkus (Livonia).
180: 1. Larry Lewis (Sterling Heights), 2. Leif Olson (Birmingham), 3. David Martiniello (Rochester), 4. Frank Cilluffo (L'Anse au Loup).
150: 1. Nick Trombly (Anchor Bay), 2. Jason Amell (Livonia), 3. Richard Barr (Howell), 4. Pat Wheeler (Livonia).
130: 1. Rocky Palazolo (Chippewa Valley), 2. Paul Bordenkircher (Birmingham), 3. Tony Tamasia (Livonia), 4. Josh Bagley (Walled Lake Western).
108: 1. Curtis Filar (East Detroit), 2. Chris Tronchetti (Howell), 3. Charles Mince (Port Huron), 4. Nick Miles (Ulita Ford).
90: 1. Brian Kelp (Sterling Heights), 2. Scott Lemay (Troy), 3. Scott Lambert (Birmingham), 4. Kevin Harrison (Birmingham Brother Rice).
75: 1. Andy Martin (Royal Oak Kimball), 2. Tom Saad (Fraser), 3. Justin Lambert (Livonia), 4. Andy Daniels (Port Huron Northstar).
60: 1. Don Tavemier (Rochester), 2. Mike Kilo (East Detroit), 3. Nate Meysa (Fraser), 4. Mike Farr (Port Huron).
48: 1. Bill Tavemier (Rochester), 2. Rick Samosa (Birmingham Brother Rice), 3. Nick High (Royal Oak Kimball), 4. Nate Hurla (Port Huron).
36: 1. Brian King (Royal Oak Kimball), 2. Dan Thompson (Livonia), 3. Brian Lewis (Livonia), 4. Tom Aceto (L'Anse au Loup), 4. Dave Fuller (Sterling Heights), 3. Jason Cochran (Warren Mott), 4. T.J. Ciani (Fraser).
24: 1. John Lohr (Warren Mott), 2. Shane Gray (Royal Oak Kimball), 3. Randy Logan (Port Huron), 4. Clark Allen (Anchor Bay).

Hawks rely on team effort to defeat Warriors in WLAA tourney

Very seldom does a basketball team win without at least one player scoring in double figures.

But Farmington Harrison proved again Tuesday night its 1998 team in the exception to that rule.

The Hawks had another balanced scoring attack — six players combined for 41 points — and defeated visiting Walled Lake Western, 47-38.

With fifth place in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament at stake, Harrison will play host to Livonia Churchill tonight in the regular

BASKETBALL

season finale. Junior Andrew Burt was Harrison's leading scorer Tuesday with nine points. Senior Jared Hopkins scored eight, senior Jerard Johnson seven, seniors Matt Derocher and Brian Lewis six each and junior Zach Burton five.

"We did a good job of spreading it around, which is a reason for our 16-3 record," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Most teams set their defense

to stop Derocher, but other players pick up the scoring and we end up spreading it around."

(Junior) Lemar Wilson was probably the best player in the second half. He had just one bucket, but he played some pretty good defense."

Junior Ben Dewar scored 14 points, which included four three-point baskets, to lead the Warriors (9-10). Junior Jeff Mitchell added nine.

The Hawks led 23-21 at halftime and 34-32 after three periods. Harrison outscored Western in the fourth quarter, 13-6.

Derocher scored all of his points in the third quarter, and Hopkins had six of his eight in the finale.

"We came back all right (from a first-round four-point deficit on Friday)," Teachman said. "I told the team 'What you do after you're disappointed proves your character.'"

"We didn't put the game away until the fourth quarter, but a lot of our games have been close. We figured out a way to win. We've won 16 games, so that puts us in pretty elite company."

CHURCHILL 80, N. FARMINGTON 55: Livonia Churchill's boys' basketball team broke its six-game losing streak Tuesday by holding off North Farmington, 60-55.

The visiting Chargers put the game away when George Kihl made a North inbound pass attempt, dove the length of the court and dunked it off the buzzer.

Churchill took the three-point lead with 30 seconds remaining after Lamar Smith hit a pair of free throws.

Smith, who finishes with nine points, converted all five of his foul shot attempts in the final quarter.

"We played very well defensively and made adjustments to what North was doing in the first half," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "We played out those adjustments and pretty much shut them down in the second half defensively."

Erk Uminger paced Churchill (7-13) with 14 points. Corey Cook added 12.

North (11-8) received a game-high 17 points from Emir Medunjanin and 12 from Al Pennalis.

"We turned the ball over too many times, played with too much intensity and were not sharp," North coach Brian Swinchart said. "We'll have to pick it up and start playing like a team if we want to do anything in districts."

North led at halftime, 30-28, after making five first-half three-pointers. The Chargers took the lead in the fourth quarter as they outscored North, 16-10.

It was the second time Churchill

defeated the Raiders. Earlier in the year, the Chargers used a half-court shot at the buzzer to knock off North.

"There's just something about Churchill that makes us struggle," Swinchart said.

DETROIT CC 88, SOUTHEASTERN 69: Senior center Chris Young scored 21 points, grabbed 20 rebounds and blocked four shots as Detroit Catholic Central won a non-league game on Tuesday against visiting Detroit Southeastern.

Joining the Shamrocks (15-4) in double figures were Joe Jonna with 18 points, Nick Moore with 13 and Don Stanekster with 10. Aaron Bell scored a game-high 33 for Southeastern.

ANNAPOLIS 63, CLARENCEVILLE 57: Dearborn Heights Annapolis (13-6) received 16 points from junior forward Nate Beavers Tuesday to hold off host Livonia Clarenceville (6-3).

The Trojans received 14 points apiece from senior forward Justin Villanueva and junior guard Albert Deljosco. Scott Wion added 10 points. Rick Murphy 10.

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WNBA

Rockets oust Vikings from title chase

BASKETBALL

Plymouth Salem (16-3) for the title 8 p.m. Friday at Livonia Churchill.

The third-seeded Rockets were the only team to hand Salem a WLAA defeat. It will be Glenn's first appearance in the WLAA championship since 1996.

Jones, in his best outing of the season, helped his team erase a 35-33 halftime deficit with 15 second-half points as the Rockets outscored the Vikings 36-24 in the second half.

"He's coming into his own and every game he's played this month he's gotten better," Glenn assistant coach Todd DeLucia said. "He's more disciplined as far as what he's doing on the floor. And it's a pleasure to watch."

Junior forward Ty Haygood added 10 points and Stephen Lawson eight. Jason Crofton and Yaku Moton each contributed seven.

Central (9-10) got a team-high 24 points from senior guard Todd Negoshian. Cory Heitsch contributed 16.

Central, shooting 14-of-24 from the floor in the first half, led by as many as seven before Glenn made a late rush to pull within two on consecutive threes by Crofton, Jones and Bill Foder.

The Vikings took a 41-37 advantage with 4:24 remaining in the third quarter on a free throw by Negoshian.

Glenn, however, took the lead for keeps, 42-41, on a rebound basket by Haygood with 2:24 left remaining in the third.

Midway through the third quarter, Central coach Steve Emert went into a semi-defensive offense.

The Vikings, who were outscored 11-6, took just five field goal attempts during the eight-minute period. And to make matters worse, Negoshian went without a statistically recorded field goal attempt for almost a 10-minute stretch.

"We wanted to make it a short game," Emert said. "We didn't block them out on the boards. That was one thing that hurt us."

Glenn took control in the final quarter, outscoring the Vikings, who had been sitting in a zone, 25-18. The Rockets also made eight of 15 free throws in the final 2:33 to help seal the win.

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