

Surprising N. Farmington wins mat tourney

By TOM BAER

There were surprises at the top and bottom of the team-finish standings after the North Farmington Invitational Wrestling Tournament last Saturday.

The first surprise was that host North Farmington won the eight-team

tourney with 137 points. Farmington High, which had been expected to win, finished second with 128½. Southfield-Lathrup finished last, and that was the other surprise.

North Farmington, which has lost key Northwest Suburban League

meets to Westland John Glenn and Thurston, has a young team with only

two seniors. But coach Jim O'Leary's crew came through in their own invitational.

"I was super pleased with our kids," said O'Leary, who had six wrestlers in the finals. "We kind of stunk out the place over at Plymouth the other day (at the Plymouth Invitational), but we had a hard week in

practice and the kids came back and did a great job.

"We put on a big production," O'Leary said. "We had all our mat mats there to escort our wrestlers out. More than 300 spectators came to the finals, and our kids were just super hopped up."

Three North Farmington wrestlers

won titles. In the 132-pound final, Marty Benda defeated Walled Lake Western's Ed McCormick, 15-1. John Cotter, a junior with a 24-4 individual record, won the 135-pound title with a 4-2 decision over Plymouth Salem's Karl McNulty. At 165 pounds, North's Bill Koss whipped Ferndale's Chris Reeves, 4-0, in the finals.

Lathrup's Jim Fish finished third at 105, defeating North Farmington's Bruce Kilmer, 7-4. Another Lathrup wrestler, Dave Settsuda, lost to Ferndale's Jim Aubuchon, 5-3, at 155. Aubuchon ended up with fourth place, losing to Farmington's Marty Bona, 6-3.

NF Invitational meet summary

NORTH FARMINGTON INVITATIONAL

TEAM FINISH — 1. North Farmington 137 points, 2. Farmington High 128½, 3. Plymouth Salem 114, 4. Detroit Country Day School and Ferndale High 84, 5. Walled Lake Western 64, 6. Redford Union 47, 7. Southfield-Lathrup 36.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

82 POUNDS—Ron Stern (Farmington) defeated Randy Vipperman (Salem), 3-0. Mark Weaver (Country Day) defeated Tim Aiken (North Farmington), 2-0.

105 POUNDS—Larry Webb (Country Day) defeated Brian Allan (Farmington), 6-5. Jim Fish (Lathrup) defeated Bruce Kilmer (North Farmington), 7-4.

112 POUNDS—Randy Stern (Farmington) defeated Terry Halling (North Farmington), 6-4. Steve Ernst (Salem) pinned Jim Lucas (Redford Union), 2-45.

118 POUNDS—Bob Parent (Lathrup) defeated Dan Roumy (Western), 6-4. Lou Miani (Farmington) defeated Paul Clark (Country Day), 3-0.

125 POUNDS—Jim Ross (Salem) defeated Karl Giese (North Farmington), 6-1. Mike Voth (Ferndale) defeated Rick Villanova (Country Day), 8-4.

132 POUNDS—Marty Benda (North Farmington) defeated Ed McCormick (Western), 15-1. Mike Mathies (Country Day) defeated Bob Meredith (Ferndale), 16-5.

135 POUNDS—John Cotter (North Farmington) defeated Karl McNulty (Salem), 4-2. Jeff Medall (Country Day) defeated Rick Cooper (Redford Union), 8-4.

145 POUNDS—Jim Simmons (Farmington) pinned Mark Gudagni (Redford Union), 3-35. John Hrab (Ferndale) defeated Tim Halling (North Farmington), 10-25 in overtime.

155 POUNDS—Mark Zabel (Country Day) defeated Jeff Fidge (Salem), 4-3. Marty Bona (Farmington) defeated Jim Aubuchon (Ferndale), 6-3.

165 POUNDS—Bill Ross (North Farmington) defeated Chris Reeves (Ferndale), 4-0. Al Willis (Detroit Union) pinned Roland Frimans (Country Day), 2-45.

175 POUNDS—Brian Davis (Ferndale) pinned Brian Brown (Western), 30-1. Jeff Olsen (Salem) defeated Rick Curtis (North Farmington), 8-6.

181 POUNDS—Dave Champion (Salem) defeated Brian Lange (Ferndale), 6-0. Mark Schulte (North Farmington) defeated Terry Hall (Farmington), 8-6.

HEAVYWEIGHT—Bruce McIntosh (Farmington) pinned Jim Sudkamp (North Farmington), 13-0. Al Green (Western) won on default over Bob Dasher (Salem).



North Farmington's Bruce Kilmer (left) struggles with Lathrup's Jim Fish during the North Farmington Invitational. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



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(F) 1C

Famous net pro exhibits skills

By SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN

Margaret Court showed the people at Franklin Racquet Club in Southfield this past weekend that she's a tiger on the court and a lamb off it.

While more than 50 people watched, the 34-year-old tennis star, who won every tennis tournament in the world by the age of 25, played with club pros Joseph Felice and Brian Marcus, and 16-year-old Wendy Burkhardt of Toledo, who recently won her division in the Canadian Nationals.

Although Court was in town for a short vacation, the tall, lean Australian worked on her forehands, backhands, volleys and serves Saturday and Sunday in preparation for the Virginia Slims tournament held last Monday in Minneapolis.

"I enjoyed hitting with her," said Felice after Saturday's workout. "She was striking the ball nice and solid, as hard as a lot of men hit."

On the tennis court, Court was all work and no play. But off she was responsive to tennis buffs who asked her questions, such as "Aren't you the one who played and lost to Bobby Riggs?"

WHILE SIPPING an orange juice after an hour-and-a-half workout Saturday, Court talked with her soft, lilting accent, about her 16-year tennis career.

"When I was 15, I was given the choice of concentrating on tennis or track. I chose tennis," she explained, "because I showed promise."

She started traveling in tournaments at the age of 18. At 19, she won Wimbledon, the English national tournament.

"I retired at the age of 25 when I had won everything," said the only woman in modern times to win the tennis Grand Slam — meaning she won the Australian National Tournament, the French National, Wimbledon, and Forest Hills in one year. Four other times she won three out of the four.

Court is known for having gone into and out of retirement three times. She first retired in 1966 because, "I was tired," she admitted.

Then in 1971, she went into a two-year respite to have her son, Danny, who will be five in March. "But when I came back, I won the first tournament I entered." That's also the period when I beat Billie Jean King to clinch her Grand Slam title.

AND COURT IS back again. Last season, she played World Team Tennis for Hawaii half the season and now is traveling on the Virginia Slims circuit to Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, at the end of February, and then home to Perth, Australia.

When Court first began her career, there was no money in the sport. "Now there's big money in tennis for women. It's a tremendous living. But the people in it today are different. It's their whole life; they are more dedicated," said the five-foot-nine mother of two.

When the tennis star isn't participating in tournaments, she and her husband Barry, son Danny, and two-year-old daughter Merika, live in a house in Perth where she practices tennis "mostly with male friends," and stays in shape by stretching, running and playing.

The Court family also has an 8,000-acre sheep ranch outside the Perth city limits.

While in town, Court stayed with a Birmingham family. "We met her when she came to Detroit five years ago to play in a Slims tournament," said her host. "And we have been friends ever since."

COURT IMPRESSED many of the spectators, including Alan Schwartz who watched her practice with Felice. "It was a thrill to watch a person who is the best in her activities in the world," Schwartz said. "But," he quickly added, "I learned not to go on the pro circuit."

Another observer, Harold Solomon of Southfield, said Court looked more impressive to him in person than on TV. "TV makes the ball look like it's going slower. She's hitting it hard," he said emphatically.

And one Southfielder, who had just returned from a three-month stay in Florida, said she braved the cold "just to watch Margaret practice."

"I wanted to see what makes a pro a pro," said Jeanna Tauber. "She moves just like they teach us in the clinics. I guess the teaching pros know what they're talking about."

The Virginia Slims tournament, with Court competing, will be in Detroit Feb. 22-27. Tickets can be ordered from the Junior League of Birmingham, Mich., Inc., 123 W. Brown Street, Birmingham, 46009 or can be purchased at Hudson's, Montgomery Wards, and the Cobo box office.

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