

MHSAA pins Salem heavyweight

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

A unusual set of circumstances has led to the ouster of Plymouth Salem heavyweight, Marty Piper, from the state Class A wrestling tournament.

Piper was banned from competing in Saturday's regional at Ann Arbor/Huron because of a rule violation cited by the state's governing body, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

The decision has ended Piper's stellar career. He placed fourth last year in the state meet and was sporting a glittering 35-2 record this season.

The Salem senior technically finished second in his weight division at the Temperance-Bedford district (Feb. 20), supposedly assuring him a berth in the regional (the top four finishers qualify).

Piper, however, had to forfeit his district championship match against Belleville's Guy Wood because he was involved in an auto accident, causing him to miss his starting time for the final. The match was later ruled a forfeit.

Temperance-Bedford athletic direc-

tor Joe Kennelly filed the state district results Feb. 22 with the MHSAA, stating Piper had finished second.

The MHSAA then received word from an unknown source that Piper, indeed, had forfeited. The error was corrected that day (Feb. 22), but Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Athletic Director John Sandmann and Salem principal Bill Brown were not notified about the violation until last Thursday by Vern Norris, the MHSAA executive director, who rendered the decision on Piper.

Lonnie Lowery, who oversees wrestling as an assistant director on the executive staff of the MHSAA, said Piper had violated Rule 10, Section 2, Article 6 of the National Federation of State High School Association wrestling rule book (followed by the MHSAA).

THE RULE STATES: "A forfeit shall eliminate a contestant from further competition in a tournament except when the forfeit is because of an injury or illness which occurred in a previous round in the same tournament."

Piper was involved in the car accident while riding with his mother. The two were en route to restaurant for a

lunch break. Neither was injured. Lowery, an executive with the MHSAA for 13 years, said the rule could not be bent in Piper's case. "They all know if they don't show, it's a forfeit."

"The school indicated it was not an illness or injury."

"This has happened before. The rule has been enforced several times."

The decision has infuriated Piper's coach, Ron Krueger, who contends the MHSAA violated Rule 663 which, in part, states: "The time limit for any correction is 48 hours. Any error detected after this time period cannot be corrected, even though it may fit the criteria."

"They have me dead-end to a rule," said the Salem coach. "If they correct it (within 48 hours), why weren't we notified until Thursday?"

Krueger said Piper's chances for a college wrestling scholarship will be diminished.

KRUEGER WAS exploring legal action as late as Friday, less than 12 hours before the regional weigh-in at Huron.

Several area coaches are outraged

by the decision.

"We need a better way of communication and review," said one coach. "The sport should be made for the kids, not the rulemakers. I think it's terrible when the law is above the kid."

"You don't need to penalize the kid," said another area coach. "The spirit of the law has not been violated."

"They're taking away what Marty has worked so hard for, for four years," said Krueger.

Salem had qualified eight wrestlers (including Piper) into Saturday's regional at Huron. The Rocks were rated among the top five teams in Class A. They finished second last weekend in the district behind No. 1-ranked Temperance-Bedford.

"It's an unfortunate situation," said Sandmann. "They told us there was no appeal. They (the MHSAA) said they tried but couldn't get ahold of me."

Thursday morning was the first time I heard about it. They called and explained the rule to me. Mr. Norris spoke to Bill Brown and said there would be a follow-up letter."

The state Class A finals will be held this Saturday at Lansing Eastern High School.



bowling
Red Poulin

Youth leagues spawn some brilliant talent

It's unofficial, but word is in that five teams from Plum Hollow in Southfield are on their way to state tournaments. And, what's even better, they're all kids. Yes, the state youth tournaments are under way.

These are important contests for the youth leagues as they provide young bowlers with their first taste of real competition.

In the Peanut Division, it was the Plum Hollow Honey's coming out on top.

The team, consisting of Denise Riehl, Andrea Jakubiak, Ericka Jackson, Jessica Scott and Tracy Yerrick, put together a 2,885 series. Jakubiak really pushed the team forward with a 107 game — five times over her average of 21.

Michael Eastman helped the prep boys to victory. Eastman, who has an 82 average, had a 124 game. Eastman got help from Dan Stanley, Jessie Miles, Dustin Vivier and Jeff Fundukian.

The Junior boys held up their end, too, shooting a 3,034 series. George Roggelin, a 121-average bowler, led his team with a 534 series. But he couldn't have done it without help from Paul Kersey, Marty Schabel, Jamie Grossman and Jerry Brown.

KIM HUDLER, Cheryl Gosman, Tonya and Sandra Marshall and Kim Glover had a 2,800 series to put the Major girls in the competition. The Major boys, including David Knowl, Mike Horwitz, Ivan Katz, John Smith and Ron Dorchen, also advance to the finals. Knowl had a 201 high game and a 557 series.

David More had a good score, but failed to make the cut. More, a 120-average bowler, rolled a 229 game.

In the Bright Spotters Friday Senior Citizens League, Mary Tamer proved she hasn't lost her touch as she rolled a 211 game.

While on the subject of senior citizens leagues, I should tell you about an irate reader who phoned me the other day. She wondered why I reported scores from all over, but failed to mention a series rolled by an 86-year-old man out at North Hills Lanes in Rochester.

IT SEEMS he had a 510 actual, and a 592 with handicap. He outscored all his teammates and helped them take all four points. Yes, it was my grandfather, Ray Poulin, who was hot last Friday.

Wolverine Club hosts skating championships

The Wolverine Sports Club sponsors the Michigan Indoor Speed Skating Championships Sunday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 Lincoln. Races are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with about 30 skaters competing in seven age groups. Winners move on to the nationals in St. Louis next weekend and eventually can qualify for the United States short track team trials March 20-21 in Troy, New York. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. Children younger than 5 are admitted free. For more information, call 645-0732. The event is sanctioned by the Michigan Speedskating Association in cooperation with the Wolverine Sports Club and the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Department.

• HANDICAPPED RIDING

The 1982 Oakland County 4-H Horseback Riding for Handicapped Program offers two riding sessions this spring with English Riding lessons for fun and therapy. The program operates at two sites, the Dennis Farm in Davisburg and the Bloomfield Open Hunt

sport shorts

Club in Bloomfield Hills. Lessons at the hunt club are 7 or 8 p.m. Mondays, April 5 through May 24, July 12 through Aug. 30 or Sept. 13 through Nov. 1. Each runs about 45 minutes. Cost is \$16 per eight weeks. The Davisburg sessions are 5:30, 6:30 or 7:30 p.m. Mondays, March 29 through June 7 or Sept. 19 through Nov. 15. Cost is \$20 per 10-week session. The program is open to handicappers ages 5-95. For registration, call 858-0889.

• SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Bloomfield Hills Schools Recreation Community Education Department hosts the 1982 Oakland County Special Olympics Swimming and Gymnastics Competition Saturday, March 13 at Lahser High School. Activities begin at noon and run until 5 p.m. Swim-

ming will begin with opening ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. with athletes competing in six events. Opening ceremonies for gymnastics begin at 2 p.m. and competition in free exercise, balance beam and tumbling begins at 2:15 p.m.

For more details, call Nancy Moran at 649-6226.

• TIGER GAMES

Ernie Harwell and Paul Cary broadcast the first of 10 Detroit Tiger exhibition games from Marchant Stadium in Lakeland, Fla. Saturday over WR-AM. A five-minute pre-game show begins at 1:25 p.m. The Chicago White Sox provide a match up of Chet Lemon and Steve Kemp, who traded team uniforms during the off-season.

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Events

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