

# Highlanders place 3rd in County Meet

## Parent, Schimon, Petrillo win titles

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

Rochester Adams wrestling coach Kent Ballo had a sly smirk spread across his face Monday as he explained, "We got lucky."

Whether or not luck had anything to do with it really is irrelevant as his Highlander matmen placed third out of 43 teams in the 23rd Oakland County Wrestling Championship Saturday at Hazel Park.

Host Hazel Park — one of the heavy favorites to capture the Class A state championship next March — wrapped up its fifth county title in seven years with a whopping 227 points. Holly was a distant second with 151½ points, while Adams finished third with 131 points.

Other area finishers included Troy High, which finished sixth with 110 points. North Farmington (eighth with 101), Rochester (10th with 95), West Bloomfield (11th with 91½), Southfield-Lathrup (13th with 87), Brother Rice (15th with 77½) and Bloomfield Hills Andover (17th with 75½).

SOUTHFIELD tied South Lyon for 27th place with 37½ points, and was followed consecutively by Birmingham Groves (37 points), Avondale (34½), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (31½) and Birmingham Seaholm (31).

Farmington (22 points) finished 36th, Harrison (15½) was 38th, Troy Athens (13½) finished 39th and Cranbrook (9) was 41st.

Of the local schools, three had individuals finish as champions. Lathrup senior Chris Parent, the defending county champ at 132 pounds, won the 145-pound championship. West Bloomfield senior Bob Petrillo worked his way to the 155-pound crown and Adams senior Ron Schimon garnered the 168-pound title.

Each of the three wrestlers registered three pins en route to their respective titles.

Parent pinned Madison Heights Lathrup's Larry Huddleston in 1:15 of the opening match. He followed with successive pins over Walled Lake Western's Steve Burnham (2:50) and Rochester's Ed Coyle (1:45), before settling for decisions in his last two matches.

Parent defeated Justin Spewock of Milford Lakeland, 6-4, then bested Lake Orion's Eric Carpenter, 10-7, in the finals.

PETRILLO PINNED his first two foes — Jim Horn of Groves in 1:42 and Eric Osborne of Milford in 1:25 — before taking a superior 14-0 decision over Rochester's Andy Slater. Petrillo then pinned Pontiac Central's Hector Quinones in 1:10, and wrapped up the title with a 3-0 victory over Hazel Park's Harold Bremner.

Schimon, who, along with Parent and Petrillo, is expected to challenge for a state championship, finished off his first two opponents in workmanlike fashion. Schimon pinned Madison's John Morrison in 16 seconds, and then put South Lyon's Tom Van-Tossen to the mat in 31 seconds.

Schimon then pinned Rob Reigle of Orionville Brandon in 1:23, before edging Kimball's Ben Castle, 1-0. Schimon won his championship with a 10-4 decision against Steve Spewock from Lakeland.

Steve Brown, Troy's defending champ at 105 pounds, was upended in the finals of the 112-pound championship. Brown lost to John Andrews of Walled Lake Central, 7-6. Todd Horne, Brown's teammate, also finished second as he lost in the finals of the 98-pound match. Horne was an 11-7 loser to Hazel Park's Joe Saferian.

Other wrestlers earning second-place medals were Brian Counts, Tom Kopsch, Jeff Kirkendall and Mike Basso.

Counts, wrestling in the 105-pound class for North Farmington, lost in the championship bout to Greg Ellis of Clarkston, 12-3. Teammate Kirkendall lost a 10-0 decision in his 167-pound match against Walled Lake Western's Aldo Butazzoni.

Kopsch, a 132-pounder from Lathrup, was blanked, 7-0, in the finals against Terry Saylor of Hazel Park.

Basso, a heavyweight from Groves, lost to Holly's Andy Helka, 15-4. Ballo, who has one of his best teams since he took the Adams coaching position six years ago, compared his squad favorably to some of the best in the area.

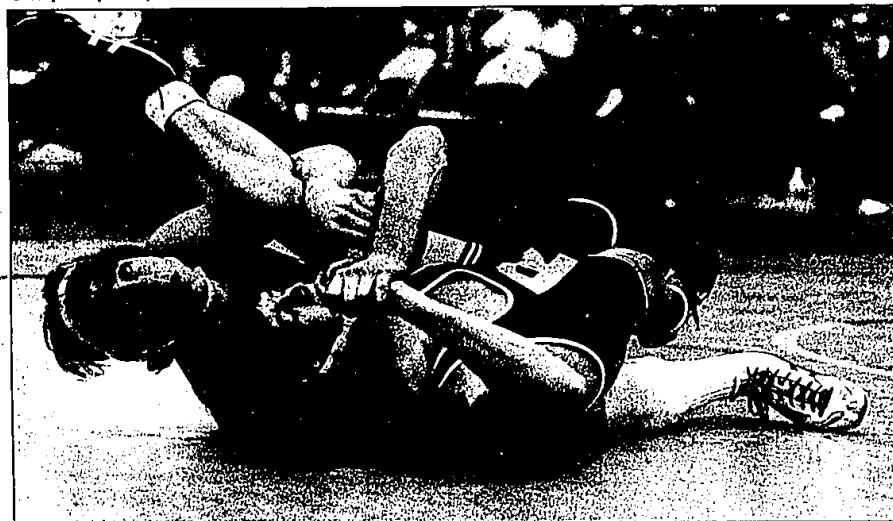
"In a dual meet, if we're healthy, we can go with Hazel Park," he said. "Hazel Park has some tremendous young kids. We're pretty deep in some areas. We have a lot of strength in the upper weight classes."

"I thought Troy High looked pretty good at the county meet, and so did Rochester. Rochester will not lose a dual meet," said the flamboyant Ballo, "until they meet us."



ANN GRIMES/staff photographer

Southfield-Lathrup wrestler Chris Parent (top) works on his victory over Rochester's Ed Coyle en route to the 145-pound Oakland County championship.



West Bloomfield's Bob Petrillo looks at the referee to see if his hold has Rochester's Andy Slater pinned. Petrillo did not pin Slater, but scored a 14-0 decision.

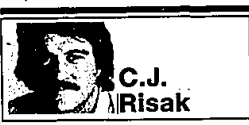
## Santa, take note! Here's the list

**DEAR SANTA.** How's it goin', Claus? Heard you had to lay off some elves. Sorry to hear it, but the economy's nose-divin' everywhere. Also heard demand is up, with people asking you for stuff like jobs. You got more stockings to fill than ever and less help to do it. Believe me, I know how you feel.

So, to make it easier for you on this year's Christmas list I've included gift ideas for everyone that deserve them. And they're all from bargain row. You know the stuff I mean — it only comes out at Christmas. Well, here it is. Do your best, Claus o' buddy. And listen, I don't mean to get personal or anything, but don't you think you should start that aerobic class you got as a present last year? Man, you get a bigger and those reindeer of yours are going to have to push you down the chimney.

**MR. MICROPHONE** — This is one of those "definite need" gifts. After all, if anyone needs to be heard, it's a basketball coach, right? I mean, success breeds deliriously noisy fans. I would say just drop one Mr. Microphone down all the basketball coaches' chimneys, but could you imagine all the abuse they would heap on those poor officials? Instead, let's go with someone really deserving. Mike Pusco, Redford Bishop Burgess' new cage coach, is a softspoken man — so softspoken, you can barely hear him after games. He's bound to be voiceless after a full season in the Catholic League's Central Division.

**VEG-O-MATIC** — Speaking of officials, this hasn't been one of their banner years. As sports reporters, we get a lot of complaints about officiating from losing coaches every basketball season. But this year we got grumbling from the winning girls' cage coaches as well. Many of the officials I saw looked rather vitamin-deficient. Others might call it out of shape, but I'll just blame the officials



C.J. Risak

poor appearances and questionable calls on an improper diet that a veg-o-matic could help cure.

**STRICTER OFFICIATING GUIDELINES** from Vern Norris' MHSAA office might also help curb controversial calls. But, since that would be too much to ask for, just drop a few carrots into the veggie machine, zebra, and watch your always-questioned eyesight improve.

**RECORD DUSTER** — Schoolcraft College basketball coach Rocky Watkins may need this if 6-0 guard Carlos Briggs keeps up his torrid scoring pace. Briggs' scoring average was in the mid-40s after the first month of the season and he twice eclipsed the school's single game scoring record. There are dozens of other prep athletes who also deserve a gift like this — Kim Archer of Livonia Bentley, for one. You don't have to worry about her, though, Santa. I understand a lot of coaches are getting together to buy her something — opposing coaches, all happy that, after four years of superlative play, she won't be making their lives miserable on the basketball court any longer.

**SMOKELESS ASHTRAY** — Better make this one big ashtray and drop it in the middle of Farmington Hills. There are a couple of teams there that have been smokin' any one they've gone up against. Imagine: one loss in 37 prep games before the Farmington Harrison football team and the Farmington Our Lady of Mercy basketball squad. Add to that state Class A championships in both sports and you have an amazing success story.

What worries everyone outside Farmington's boundaries is that both teams kept getting better all year long. Harrison came from behind to clip Dearborn Fordson in overtime for the football title and Mercy, a team consisting of almost entirely underclassmen, staged a fourth-quarter rally that deserves a spot in Ripley's Believe It or Not. And that rally came against the team that had won the Class A crown four straight years.

Now that's smokin'.

**EGG SCRAMBLER** — Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh gets this one for the comments he made prior to his basketball team's Class B quarterfinal contest against St. Joseph, which appeared in the local St. Joseph newspaper.

Kavanaugh said St. Joe had a good shot blocker inside, but should give his team little trouble other than that. Needless to say, the infuriated St. Joseph players upset previously unbeaten Ladywood, 45-37.

So, if you're going to wear egg on your face, you might as well scramble them before you start breaking shells. Right, Ed?

**GLASS ICER** — Put big MSU Spartan logos on the side of the glasses and deliver the whole kit to Al Fracassa, c/o Birmingham Brother Rice High School. The successful prep football coach has twice in three years turned down offers to make it as a big-time assistant coach in Spartanland.

So keep 'em cool, Coach Fracassa. Next time they come a-knockin', the Spartans might offer you the head job.

**POCKET FISHERMAN** — Hey, did any one notice that Bob Lusk is gone? The veteran Westland John Glenn wrestling coach made the Rockets a perennial powerhouse, but he called it quits after last season without much fanfare.

He'll be missed, that's for sure. But give him the old fishin' rod and let him enjoy life away from the mats.

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