

Salem shines in own tourney

By Chris McCoskey
staff writer

One of the goals of the Plymouth Salem wrestling team this season was to regain its place among the state's elite. On Saturday, the Rocks took a step toward that destination.

The Rocks hosted their 11th annual Plymouth Salem Invitational — a gathering of some of the state's best teams and individuals — and emerged as the third best of the 16 teams present.

"We have to be pleased, I guess," said Salem coach Ron Krueger. "I still feel that we could have done better if we did everything we were capable of. But, we said we'd be happy if we placed in the top five and we did."

Eaton Rapids, a powerhouse squad, won the tourney with 169 points. Portage Northern, last year's champion, was second with 155. Salem's 151 beat Montrose (114½) for third. Belleville (106½) and Westland John Glenn (103) placed fifth and sixth.

OF THE OTHER OBSERVER & Eccentric area teams competing, Livonia Bentley (85½) took eighth, Plymouth Canton (68½) placed ninth, Rochester Adams (44½) was 11th, Garden City (41) was 13th and North Farmington (29) placed 15th.

The meet featured many sterling individual performances, but none more brilliant than Salem's Dave Dameron. Dameron, ranked No. 1 in the state at 125 pounds, breezed through the 10-pound weight class Saturday. In the finals, he pinned Scott Bolan of Eaton Rapids in a swift 1:48. Bolan, no slouch, was fourth in the state a year ago.

For his efforts, Dameron was named the meet's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Dameron's championship was the only event the Rocks won, but they scored in eight of 13 events.

Denis Dameron, Dave's younger brother, placed second at 100, losing to Joe Latora of Portage Northern, 6-2. Andy Ward was narrowly defeated at 147, as Portage Northern's Bob Heaps trounced him 4-3.

Others scoring for the Rocks were Jamie Woodchuk, fifth at 187; Eric Reitting, fourth at 155; Bill Morley, fourth at 140; Kevin Freeman, fourth at 125; and, Tim Ott, fifth at 107.

"I think this will start us on our way back up there (into the state rankings)," Krueger said. "We said we wanted to be there, but at the beginning of the year, we just weren't doing it. Now, we almost got our entire lineup back and healthy. We're getting there."

MIKE MURDOCK, the two-time state champion (he's still only a junior) from Montrose, was the class of 155. He won the championship match in a 16-1 rout.

Andy Latora was another victorious defending state champion. The senior from Portage Northern pummeled John Glenn's Dan Schimmyak 17-0 for the championship at 140.

Bentley produced a pair of champions. Salem Yaffai won at 107 and Mark Zenas at 187. The Bulldogs also got a third from Anwar Yaffai (121) and a third from Marty Altounian (108).

Dan Gibson was John Glenn's lone champion winning at 128. Also for the Rocks, Scott Bolan was second at 140, Mark Crop fifth at 147, Scott Lucas third at 155, Daryl Rooley third at 160, and Roger Okurowski third at 107.

wrestling

PLYMOUTH SALEM WRESTLING INVITATIONAL
Jan. 9-10

Team standings: 1. Eaton Rapids, 169 points; 2. Portage Northern, 155; 3. Plymouth Salem, 151; 4. Montrose, 114½; 5. Belleville, 106½; 6. Westland John Glenn, 103; 7. Mount Clemens, 92½; 8. Livonia Bentley, 85½; 9. Plymouth Canton, 68½; 10. Ypsilanti, 51; 11. Rochester Adams, 44½; 12. Fernon, 42; 13. Garden City, 41; 14. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 40; 15. North Farmington, 29; 16. Farmington, 24.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Heavyweight (187 pounds) (Mount Clemens) played last Tynka (Farmington), 2-0.

100 pounds: Joe Latora (Portage Northern) del. Denis Dameron (Salem), 6-2.

107 pounds: Salem Yaffai (Salem) del. Ron Schied (E. Rapids), 18-0.

114 pounds: Doug Heaps (Portage Northern) del. Steve Bost (E. Rapids), 7-2.

121 pounds: Dave Dameron (Salem) pinned Scott Bolan (E. Rapids), 1:48.

128 pounds: Dan Gibson (John Glenn) del. Jamie Woodchuk (Mount Clemens), 6-0.

140 pounds: Paul Costo (E. Rapids) del. Mike Reitting (Belleville), 7-0.

147 pounds: Andy Latora (Portage Northern) del. Dan Schimmyak (John Glenn), 17-0.

155 pounds: Mike Murdock (Montrose) del. Andy Ward (Salem), 16-1.

160 pounds: Bob Heaps (Portage Northern) del. Daryl Rooley (Salem), 4-3.

167 pounds: Roger Okurowski (Salem) del. Daniel Bider (Belleville), 10-4.

Plymouth Canton scored in seven events. Jim Malson placed fifth at heavyweight, Dave Dunford took fourth at 114, Tim Bircly was fourth at 121, Jay Pollard was sixth at 134, Scott Tasker was fourth at 147, Mike Graczyk sixth at 187 and Ernie Krumm sixth at 198.

188 pounds: James McWhorter (E. Rapids) del. Scott Olson (Portage Northern), 6-2.

195 pounds: Mark Zenas (Salem) del. Noel Dean (Montrose), 7-3.

198 pounds: Brent Dornhe (Montrose) del. Raymond LaJoye (E. Rapids), 9-5.

CONSOLE FLIGHT

Heavyweight (187 pounds) (Port. Adams) played Don Eastman (Livonia), 4-0.

100 pounds: Daryl Hooley (John Glenn) pinned James Bider (Belleville), 8-0.

107 pounds: Doug Heaps (Port. Adams) del. Dave Brundage (Belleville), 10-2.

114 pounds: Dave Dameron (A.A. Pioneer) del. Dave Dunford (Canton), 2-0.

121 pounds: Anwar Yaffai (Salem) del. Tim Bircly (Canton), 10-0.

128 pounds: Alex Feltz (198) del. Kevin Freeman (Salem), 6-2.

134 pounds: James Benda (N. Farmington) pinned Dan Gibson (John Glenn), 2-0.

140 pounds: Dennis Deland (E. Rapids) del. Dan Schimmyak (John Glenn), 10-0.

147 pounds: Steve Verheul (Farmington) del. Scott Tasker (Canton), 3-2.

155 pounds: Scott Lucas (John Glenn) del. Eric Reitting (Belleville), 5-4.

160 pounds: Scott Tynka (Farmington) del. Tim Bircly (Canton), 10-0.

167 pounds: Doug Chapman (Belleville) del. Brian Hood (N. Farmington), 8-1.

187 pounds: Mark Zenas (Salem) del. Phil Abo (Mount Clemens), 6-5.

JAMES BENDA placed third at 154 and Brian Hood fourth at 187, the only two North Farmington wrestlers to score.

Garden City earned points from Tom Mack (fifth at 134), Todd Bulmer (sixth at 155), Tim Howell (fourth at 169) and Scott Purr (fifth at 198).

A \$3 ticket is good for all day, \$1.50 for students. The cost is \$2 per session. Youths 12 and under will be admitted for free.

'Stupid mistakes' and Rocks rally destroy Falcons

In this case, cliches are simply unavoidable.

The Farmington volleyball team learned the hard way not to count its chickens before they were hatched. The Falcons learned that it is never over until it's over.

The Falcons won the first game of the best-of-three-game match against host Plymouth Salem 15-14, rallying from a 7-0 deficit. Then in the second, they were leading 10-3. The victory seemed to be a cinch.

"Salem called a timeout and the girls came over. They were all kind of giggling," said Farmington coach Kim O'Neill. "They just kind of got too excited. They thought they had the win, no problem. I told them, 'Listen, the game isn't over yet.'"

Indeed it was not. Salem, led by the strong serving of Maggie Miesner and Patty Maslak, stormed back to win game two, 15-11.

The Rocks, under first-year coach Betty Smith, took game three, 15-7, and thus the match. It was the Rocks' first match of the season.

"When we were down 10-3, there was a long, long volley," Smith said. "It was very pretty, but we wound up winning the volley and we kind of took off from there."

THE ROCK offense, led by setters Reggie Rogieski and Lisa Madia, began to take control. Leanne Becker, the recipient of several perfect sets, scored effectively at the net.

Fran Whitaker and Karen Marelinak came off the bench to spark the Rocks in game two.

As Salem strengthened, Farmington deteriorated.

"We just made stupid mistakes," O'Neill said. "We didn't play very good offensively, our passing was terrible and we couldn't hit beads."

But, O'Neill conceded, there were some bright spots. Lisa Edwards

volleyball

served effectively, including 8 straight points in game two. Laura Spence was solid defensively and Mary Ann Kwaniewicz played a strong game both in the back row and at the net.

Game three was marred by controversy. With Salem leading 8-5 and with the ball, Kwaniewicz went down with what appeared to be an ankle injury. It turned out that her shoe was just knocked off the heel. The referee signaled for Salem to serve and the Rocks scored while Kwaniewicz was down.

O'NEILL was enraged.

"I went crazy. The other official saw that she was down, but didn't stop the play. It's just unacceptable. It came at such a crucial time in the game. I'm not saying that's why we lost, but it was a turning point in that game. You could just see our attitude change," said O'Neill.

O'Neill, though, was more disappointed in her team than in the officiating.

"The Christmas break killed us," she said. "We had two practices scheduled and only four girls showed up. When we got back on Wednesday, I couldn't believe it. It was like starting all over again."

Farmington is now 1-5 on the year. For Salem, its first match lit the fires of optimism.

"If we continue to improve, people will be saying, 'I didn't expect Salem to be that good,'" Smith said. "I have a great bunch of kids here. I'm happy to be able to work with them."

North tourney features area's best

On the heels of the successful Plymouth Salem Invitational Wrestling Tournament, comes another of the area's finer grappler gatherings.

The annual North Farmington Invitational is set for this Saturday with

the preliminary bouts beginning at noon. The line-up should commence at approximately 7 p.m.

Of the 10 teams competing, Salem, Wayne Memorial and Milford will be among the favored. Others competing

are last year's champion Plymouth Canton, Farmington, Dearborn Heights Annapolis, West Bloomfield, Walpole Lake Western, Dearborn Edsel Ford and North.

Three of the top five teams in Oberlin, Wayne, Salem and Farm-

ington, should make for an interesting set of matches.

A \$3 ticket is good for all day, \$1.50 for students. The cost is \$2 per session. Youths 12 and under will be admitted for free.

Pioneer men cagers shock Hillsdale

Oakland University's men's basketball team learned a lesson in its double-overtime loss to Northwood Institute Saturday: concentrate more on defense.

The Pioneers allowed 106 points at home against Northwood (82 in regulation). They then faced the unpleasant task of traveling to Hillsdale Monday, a place where they have never been successful.

Until Monday, anyway, Hillsdale shot just 38 percent from the field and missed all 6 of its free throws as OU evened its Great Lakes Intercol-

ate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) record at 1-1 with a 64-56 win.

Chris Howze, with 17 points, and Rob Skinner, with 16, paced the offense. Each sank a pair of free throws in the final 48 seconds to clinch the win after Hillsdale closed to within a point.

The win ruled OU's record to 7-4 overall.

AGAINST NORTHWOOD, OU blew an 11-point lead in the final 3:16 of regulation, eventually losing 108-102. Three turnovers in a 16-second span

gave Northwood 6 points, and Kevin Brown's 2 free throws with a second left tied it at 92.

Skinner's 30-foot desperation shot at the first overtime buzzer knotted the score at 92. But Tony Campbell's 2 free throws with 2:54 to play in the second extra period gave Northwood the lead for good.

Skinner, who scored 16 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and passed off for 6 assists, was the only regular to finish the game. Walt Dixon netted 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for OU, with Howze adding 23 points and 9 rebounds.

OU's women fared better, winning its first two GLIAC games handily. The Lady Pioneers romped over Hillsdale 77-58 behind Brenda McLean's 20 points and Toni Gasparovic's 14 Monday.

On Saturday, OU outplayed visiting Northwood 12-0 in the first six minutes of the second half and cruised to a 70-47 triumph. McLean had 16 points, Gasparovic bagged 15 and Kim Nash scored 11 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

OU's women are 7-6 overall.

Raider swimmers dominate Harrison

The North Farmington swim team remained unbeaten Tuesday after defeating rival Farmington Harrison from the Raiders' pool, 123-49.

The Raiders took first in every event, pushing their record to 3-0-1.

Dave Peterson, Chris Heintzman, Scott Stinson and Mike Buatti won the 200 yard medley relay in 1:50.87. It was a varsity and pool record.

Buatti also won the 50 freestyle (23.22) and 100 freestyle (50.57).

Brian Goins and Mike Tunney were double winners as well. Goins captured

the 200 freestyle (1:47.94) and 100 butterfly (55.53) while Tunney took top honors in the 200 yard individual medley (2:05.66) and the 500 freestyle (4:47.87).

Peterson won the 100 backstroke (1:03.41) and Stinson took the 100 breast stroke (1:06.83).

Craig Arnold recorded his personal best with a first-place total of 213.65 in the diving competition.

Craig Burland, Kevin Lee, Tunney and Goins combined for a victory in the 400 free relay in 3:27.47.

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