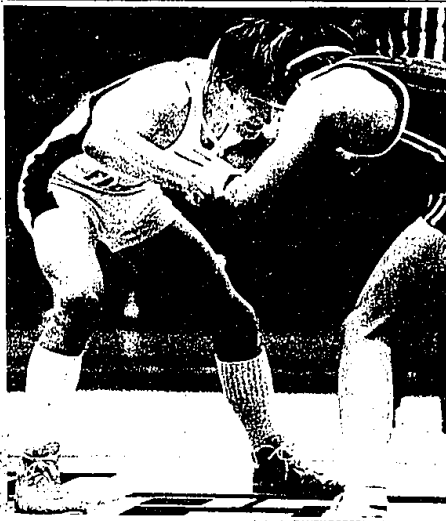


Falcons win city mat title



photos by RANDY BORSY/Staff photographer

North's James Benda took down Farmington's Paul Barranger 5:24 of their 132-pound bout. Farmington won the match over North 47-21 to win its first Farmington city championship in four years.

The Farmington wrestling team has had its share of problems this year, no question. Key wrestlers have been lost to injuries, others have quit the team. But, since last Friday, the Falcons have done nothing but make coach Barry Walsh smile.

On Friday, the Falcons won two legs of a grueling triple-dual meet. They knocked off Redford Catholic Central 42-33 and Ann Arbor Pioneer 45-26. They came up short against Monroe Catholic Central, 39-29.

"Beating CC was the highlight of our season," Walsh said. "We've never beaten them before. With all the trouble we've had, this just kind of makes our season."

If the CC win made Farmington's season, then Tuesday's performance capped it. For the first time in four years, the Falcons are Farmington's city champions.

THEY WON the city tournament with wins over Farmington (44-24) and North Farmington (47-21). North, who had held the city crown for the last four years, won the consolation meet over Harrison, 45-32.

Against Harrison, Farmington got wins from Dave Hovey (105), Mike Papp (112), Mike Cody (145), Mike Merem (155), Ab Hazen (167), Dan Parillo (198) and Bill Critcher (heavyweight). Five of the seven were by pins, the other two by falls.

Farmington's Darrell Tharnish and



Farmington's Ab Hazen looks up after pinning Harrison 167-pounder Pat Dugas in the Falcons' 44-24 win over the Hawks Tuesday.

Harrison's Dennis Romps wrestled to a 4-4 draw.

Harrison's winners were Cliff Alcantara (98), Todd Smiley (119), Buddy Martin (126), Brian Freeman (138) and Pat McFadden (185).

Against North, Farmington's winners were: T.J. Armstrong (98), Mike Sturnick (105), Hovey (112), Mark Fallo (126), Tharnish (138), Cody (145),

Hazen (167), Parillo (198) and Critcher (heavyweight).

North winners were Paul Cook (119), James Benda (132), Kurt Higley (155) and Brian Hood (185).

"Everyone is wrestling good for us right now," said Walsh. "We only gave up two pins all night. When you do that, you're going to be successful."

IN THE TRIPLE dual meet Friday, Falcons' Hazen, Parillo, Critcher and Cody went unbeaten in three matches.

Steve Meech, a first-year senior wrestler, made his initial victory a memorable one. His pin of a CC wrestler provided the margin of victory for the Falcons.

Farmington is now 9-7 in dual meets this season.

Canton and Salem are favored to win WLAA wrestling meet

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

YOU TALK to Plymouth Salem wrestling coach Ron Krueger and you come away not exactly knowing what to think of his team.

On paper, Salem would seem to be the favorites to win Saturday's Western Lakes conference meet — which, by the way, will take place at Salem.

The Rocks have been the only league champs the three-year old league has ever known. The Rocks won the Lakes Division dual meet title with an 8-1 record, the only loss coming to Western Division champion Plymouth Canton. And, the Rocks have earned the reputation as a powerful "big-meet" team — that is, they have a lot of solid individuals who score big at tournaments and other multiple-team gatherings.

So, coach Krueger, who's the favorite to win the league meet?

"Canton," said the veteran coach. "We might have been the favorite, but now I've lost my 119-pounder (Kevin Freeman) to a knee injury and my 198-pounder (Brian Johnson) is ineligible. So I've lost two kids and Canton has gained one (Jeff Condit at 105)."

SO, SCRATCH Salem as the favorites and insert Canton.

Not so fast says Canton coach Rick Menoch.

"We're going into the meet with the

attitude that we can win it, and we'd certainly like to, but we're not the clear-cut favorite," the first-year coach said. "It's going to be a real dogfight. Salem has a nice tournament team. They have five kids that should skate right into the finals. That's a lot of points."

Krueger and Menoch went through this just two weeks ago prior to their dual meet, which Canton won dramatically, 31-29 — each calling the other the favorite.

But, there are more variables involved in this meet, more teams and more talent.

The consensus around the league is that it should come down to Salem and Canton with Walled Lake Western and, perhaps, Farmington acting as sleepers or spoilers.

"I don't think we can win the meet," said Farmington coach Barry Walsh. "We don't have the total team strength. But, maybe we can alter it. We have some strong kids."

SALEM, AS Menoch said, should place at least five wrestlers in the finals: Dennis Dameron (98), Dave Dameron (119), Bill Morley (138), Andy Ward (145) and Eric Hettling (155) — all five could be the No. 1 seed at their weight.

Warned: "If Salem or Canton make mistakes they could be right in there. I wouldn't rule Walled Lake Central out

The Rocks will need those five to come through plus help from Kirk Rentz (126), Brian Wieble (132) and Jamie Woodchuck (185) if they are to retain their league championship.

"They all have a job to do," Krueger said. "They have to at least do that job or better for us to win."

Canton, meanwhile, should place Jeff Condit (105), Dave Danford (112), Tim Birley (119), Jim Parks (138), Scott Tuskor (145) and Jim Malsen (heavyweight) in the finals.

Farmington's Dan Parillo (198) and Ab Hazen (167) are safe bets to make it to the finals, while Darrell Tharnish (132) and Bill Critcher (heavyweight) could also sneak in.

Livonia Bentley, as always, has several solid individuals. Salem Yaffai (112), Anwar Yaffai (126), Mark Zenas (185) and Marty Altounian (198 or heavyweight) should all score high in the meet.

LIVONIA STEVENSON could be a factor in two weight classes: John Economou at 187 and Chuck Arakelian at 198.

Then there's Walled Lake Western. The Warriors could score in seven events and are almost certain to score with Dave Zehnder (98), Kevin Fust (105), Chris Kraft (126), Joe Lacqua (132) and Bill Blair (185).

"Western is a good team," Menoch either.

End of line?

GC hopes to stop Glenn's streak

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Westland John Glenn, the Marlina Navratilova of the Northwest Suburban League wrestling scene, will face its stiffest challenge in recent memory Saturday in the NSL conference meet at North Farmington.

Glenn has won 16 consecutive NSL mat titles, most in convincing fashion. But, if Garden City has anything to say about it, the Rockets' streak could be in danger.

"On paper, Glenn is about 10 points ahead of us right now," said Garden City coach Dean Shipman. "They are plunkers. We can score a lot of points through the early rounds if we wrestle."

But, because of a large number of voids throughout the weight classes, both Glenn and Garden City could be facing any number of byes.

"It'll all come down to who gets the most in the finals," Shipman said.

wrestling

outcome was Rob Okurowski's 9-8 decision over GC's Herbie Herge at 112. Shipman believes a reversal in that decision Saturday, could mean the end of Glenn's streak.

OF COURSE, much more would have to go in the Cougars' favor. Like the luck of the draw.

"We hope we get all the matches we can," Shipman said. "We are plunkers. We can score a lot of points through the early rounds if we wrestle."

But, because of a large number of voids throughout the weight classes, both Glenn and Garden City could be facing any number of byes.

"It'll all come down to who gets the most in the finals," Shipman said.

"It's going to be interesting," Menoch continued. "If everyone wrestles to where they'll be seeded, it'll be real close."

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Kovach, McDermott pace Shamrock win

Double victors John Kovach and Sean McDermott spearheaded Redford Catholic Central's 60-23 boys swim victory over Rochester in a meet held Tuesday at Farmington Mercy's five-lane pool.

The win increases the Shamrocks' dual meet record to 9-2.

McDermott swept the 200- and 500-

yard freestyle events with times of 1:55.1 and 5:01.2, respectively. Kovach won the 200 IM (2:04.9) and 100 butterfly (54.5). He also teamed with Jim Surowick, Sean O'Connor and Eric Forton to win the 200 medley relay in 1:46.8.

Other CC individual winners included Forton, 50 freestyle, 23.7; Jim Voorhes,

breaststroke, 1:05.6.

The Shamrocks also won the final event, the 400 freestyle relay, as Jon Teal, Mike Valvona, Larry Petz and Forton combined for a time of 3:42.8.

CC returns to action Friday to face Warren DeLaSalle in a meet at Mercy at 4 p.m.

swimming

diving, 165.85 points; Dan Cetnar, 100 backstroke, 1:03.7; and Surowick, 100

De Mouchelles

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