

Salem retains North mat crown

Placing in the top four in all but one weight class, Plymouth Salem retained its title as the top mat team in the annual North Farmington Invitational Wrestling Tournament Saturday.

Salem amassed 192 1/2 points in winning its second straight North title. Milford placed second with 159 1/2 and Wayne Memorial was third (101 1/2). Farmington was close behind with 100 points. (See statistical summary for complete results.)

"The tournament overall was not as balanced as say the Salem Invitational or the Oakland County meet," said North coach Dick Cook, whose team placed seventh. "But the champions from this meet are all class wrestlers and should place in the state."

Salem, who earlier this season won the John Glenn Invitational and has placed no lower than third through five tournaments, sent three grapplers to the victor's stand.

THE DAMERON brothers led the way. Deane Dameron, a junior, was the champion at 121 pounds, besting Plymouth Canton's Dave Dunford, 9-0. Brother Dave Dameron, a senior, won at 132 with a pin over Wayne's Scott Loper.

The Rocks also won at 100. Todd Bourlier defeated Dunbar Edsel Ford's Cheech Alotilo, 11-2, for the medal.

The Rocks placed six others in the finals. Richard Johnson, second at heavyweight; Fred Calma, second at 107; Sean May, second at 114; Kevin Freeman, second at 128; Kirk Rantz, second at 140; and Lem Vye, second at 169.

Also for Salem: Jamie Woodchuck placed fourth at 185. Chris Rye placed third at 157 and Bryan Wheelie fourth at 145.

"Salem walked away with it, just like what was predicted," Cook said. "They did an excellent job."

Farmington produced four champions. Bill Critcher won at heavyweight, John Augustin at 185, Dan Parlo at 200 and Darrell Tharnish at 145.

Wayne produced champions at 114 (Rob Egies) and 128 (Rick Malia). John Kramer (157) and Jack Hughes (169) won titles for Milford.

North's Paul Cook won the title at 140, in a light 12-9 decision over Salem's West Bloomfield's Tony Scagliano won first place at 107.

wrestling

NORTH FARMINGTON WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Saturday, Jan. 12

TEAM RESULTS: 1. Plymouth Salem, 192 1/2; 2. Milford, 159 1/2; 3. Wayne Memorial, 101 1/2; 4. Farmington, 100; 5. West Bloomfield, 80 1/2; 6. Edsel Ford, 60; 7. North Farmington, 56; 8. Plymouth Canton, 45 1/2.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Heavyweight, Bill Critcher (Farm) pinned Richard Johnson (Salem), 3-0
100 pounds: Todd Bourlier (Salem) d. Kevin Freeman (Milford), 11-2
107 pounds: Tony Scagliano (W Bloom) d. Fred Calma (Salem), 1-32
114 pounds: Rob Egies (Wayne) d. Sean May (Salem), 11-4
121 pounds: Deane Dameron (Salem) d. Dave Dunford (Canton), 9-0
128 pounds: Rick Malia (Wayne) d. Kevin Freeman (Salem), 6-1
132 pounds: Dave Dameron (Salem) pinned Scott Loper (Wayne), 1-11
140 pounds: Paul Cook (N Farm) d. Kirk Rantz (Milford), 1-11
145 pounds: Darrell Tharnish (Farm) d. Jim Vaughn (Milford), 1-0
157 pounds: John Kramer (Milford) pinned John Augustin (Wayne), 1-26
169 pounds: Jack Hughes (Milford) pinned Lem Vye (Salem), 1-14
185 pounds: John Augustin (Farm) d. Edsel Ford (Wayne), 12-9
200 pounds: Dan Parlo (Farm) pinned Brian Isaac (N Farm), 1-21

CONSOLATION MATCHES

Heavyweight: Jerry Caputo (Milford) pinned Tony Colaway (Canton), 4-7
100 pounds: Tom Flores (Canton) d. Deane Egies (W Bloom), 7-5
107 pounds: Chris Perkins (Milford) d. Mike Pelt (EF), 14-0
114 pounds: John Holden (W Bloom) d. Mark Lichen (Milford), 2-0
121 pounds: Matt Leonard (Milford) d. Jeff Nelson (W Bloom), 12-0
128 pounds: Jim Olin (Milford) d. Mark Pelt (Farm), 5-4
132 pounds: Brian Pelt (EF) d. Tom Ewright (N Farm), 9-5
140 pounds: Scott Young (Milford) d. Dan Gordie (Wayne), 9-1
145 pounds: John Shaver (Wayne) pinned Jerry Vinchese (Salem), 4-0
157 pounds: Chris Rye (Salem) d. Chris Pison (W Bloom), 10-8
169 pounds: Dave Hach (W Bloom) d. Adam Thekla (Canton), 12-0
185 pounds: Dave Robinson (Milford) d. James Woodchuck (Salem), 4-0
200 pounds: Tony Scagliano (Milford) d. Mark Kates (W Bloom), 5-2

Hawks win 1st dual meet

Farmington Harrison won its first dual wrestling meet of the season Tuesday, defeating Birmingham Groves 48-30.

The Hawks, who give up 18 points per meet on voids, scored five pins. Cliff Aleantara (112), Bruce Heinzman

(118), Buddy Martin (138), Brad Gerard (145) and Pat McFadden (198) all won on falls.

Pat Dugas (165) won on a 17-2 decision. The Hawks are 1-5.

CC stages mat tourney

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Observerland sports people

Wayne's 'Pearl' in record book

By C.J. Rieck staff writer

Is it fair to sum up four years of basketball in the cold, black-and-white type found on a statistical sheet?

If you did, you'd never figure out what kind of player Wayne State's Pearly Cunningham was. Before her final game as a Tartar, she'll be the career record-holder for points scored. But don't categorize her as a shooter — it would be dead wrong, considering she already holds the all-time WSU mark for assists.

Holding both records makes it more difficult to peg her. Perhaps the answer, if adhering only to the statistical facts, is that the offense revolved around Cunningham. She controlled the ball.

WRONG AGAIN. The Plymouth Canton graduate, says WSU coach Gary Bryce, was "always a support player her first three years (at WSU), and she always did a good job. She's a great fundamental player."

No single statistic could reveal Cunningham's style, or reason for success. Her career can be divided into two equal halves, with each boasting significant successes.

As Bryce said, "She has better than average speed, a good outside shot and plays good defense. She's just a good, solid, all-around player."

Cunningham played point guard her first two years at WSU under coach Kim Mayden. Her job was to work the ball inside, where the Tartars' offensive strength was anchored.

"She wasn't really a shooter her first two years," said Bryce, who took over last year when Mayden left to coach at Northern Iowa. "In our system we wanted her to shoot more. We've been pushing her to shoot the ball."

IT HADN'T been an easy adjustment. Cunningham admits she still harbors a tendency to look for the pass before the shot.

"I know I do that," she said, after Saturday's 80-60 victory over Oakland University at WSU's Matthaei Building. "Especially lately. My shot's been off the last few games and my confidence is lower, so I automatically resort to looking to pass off."

The ultimate reasons for Cunningham's success won't be found on a stat sheet listing her total points record, which should come next month, or even the assist mark she set with a pass to Marie Doss with 13:21 left Saturday. Doss' basket gave Cunningham 432 assists for her career.

The OU game, which evened WSU's Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) record at 2-2 (10-5 overall), was typical for the 5-foot-8 wing. She collected 11 points, seven rebounds, four assists and two steals. She's averaging 12.8 points, 6.0 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.2 steals a game.

STEADY, CONSISTENT, strong fundamentally, able to adapt to any style of play — these are the reasons Cunningham will be WSU's career leader in several categories. Those traits are also why she has started every game since coming to WSU, which has helped her establish the records.

WSU keeps Pioneers on the skid

By C.J. Rieck staff writer

What's that about the lasting power of first impressions?

Well, the early-season Impressions Oakland University's women's basketball team made may be the only ones worth remembering, at least for the Lady Pioneers. Those generated lately certainly are forgettable.

OU went into another early lapse Saturday at Wayne State and never did get on track in losing 80-60. It was another disappointing defeat, the Lady Pioneers' third in four Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) contests.

Compounding the frustration is that OU started the GLIAC season such optimists. The team won eight of 10 non-league games and its first conference game.

SUCH A START prompted an explanation from Lady Pioneer coach Sue Kruszewski after Saturday's setback, the team's third-straight loss. "We got off to a 6-0 start and I think that gave some people a false impression of how good we

were," she said. "I never said we'd be a dominant team."

Against WSU they weren't. OU hit just 26 of 72 floor shots (36.1 percent) and eight of 18 free throws (44.4 percent) and committed 27 turnovers. The Lady Pioneers were outrebounded 48-41 and never got closer than eight points in the second half.

Things deteriorated so far that a 10-0 run still left OU down by nine with 10:58 to go. The Tartars ended the Lady Pioneer comeback by scoring eight consecutive points, and OU never got closer than 15 the rest of the way.

Still, it was the early going that doomed the Lady Pioneers. They hit just 11 of 32 first-half shots (34.4 percent) as WSU led from the opening tip. Just 13:30 into the game it was 11-2 in favor of the Tartars; with 11:59 to go in the opening half it was 19-6. OU DIDN'T get its 10th until Pam Hawkins

The statistical achievements don't mean much to her. "I didn't even know about the assist record until lately," she said. "I'd rather go to nationals (NCAA Division II tournament) and win the league title. To me, those are more important."

She doesn't spend much time dwelling on her stats, either. "If you play hard every night, the points will come, the assists will come" was her formula for success.

But Cunningham did allow that she "feels pretty good about the assist record. To do something like that shows unselfishness, and that's the kind of player I think I am. I'd rather make a good pass to a teammate and watch them score than anything else. That makes me feel good."

IT HADN'T been an easy four years for Cunningham. A forward at Canton, she switched to point guard and then back to forward again at WSU. The Tartars, too, have had their ups and downs, playing better than onlookers expected last year but struggling this season, when they were the preseason pick to win the GLIAC title.

Through it all, Cunningham has persisted. When this campaign ends her basketball playing career will be over, with a bundle of records and impressive stats to show for it.

"I'm going to miss it," she said. "But that's OK. I've had enough. I'm just going to hang up my shoes."

But long after her playing days end and others surpass her records, Cunningham's reputation as a model of consistency will endure.

sports shorts

CROSS COUNTRY SKI

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a series of cross country ski clinics at three locations including Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills.

The clinics will take place from 8:30-10 a.m. on the following dates: Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8. The instructional clinics will be held at White Lake Oaks Golf Course in

White Lake Township and Independence Oaks near Clarkston, in addition to Glen Oaks.

The fee is \$10 per person and includes rental equipment, an hour of beginner ski lessons and open skiing. The fee is \$5 if skiers provide their own equipment.

For registration information, call 858-0908.

SOCCER SIGNUP

Boys and girls interested in playing

outdoor soccer with the Farmington Soccer Club this spring should register at one of the following dates: 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16; 4-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17; and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18.

The registration will take place at the Farmington High School cafeteria. A \$30 registration fee will be collected, which covers an eight-game schedule and uniforms.

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