

Relay record gets CC a tie at the top

The Catholic League swim championship meet was expected to be a two-team race for first. What wasn't expected was a dead heat.

Redford Catholic Central found itself in a must-win situation as the final event — the 400-yard free-style relay — was about to be started. The Shamrock foursome of Dan Cotnam, Matt Heppner, Jon Teal and John Kovach responded by shattering the league record and winning in 3:16.2.

And yet, the stirring victory earned CC nothing more than a tie for first with Birmingham Brother Rice. Both teams totaled 315 points in the eight-team meet, held Sunday at Oakland University.

Warren DeLaSalle placed a distant third with 194 points, followed by Harper Woods Notre Dame (159), Uniontown (150), Royal Oak Skokie (13), Dearborn St. Alphonsus (28) and Marine City Holy Cross (5).

CC's 400 free relay broke the 1980 record of 3:17.5 set by Rice. It was one of two league records set during the meet, and the Shamrock's Kovach was part of both. He also won the 200 free in 1:45.1, breaking the 1979 record set by Rice's Rob Mackie.

Kovach and Teal were the meet's only double winners in indi-

vidual events. Kovach also captured the 100 butterfly (63.4), while Teal took the 50 (24.4) and 100 (49.3) free.

CC won six of the 11 events. Andy Jacobs finished first for the Shamrocks in the 200 individual medley (2:33.0).

Brother Rice captured three firsts. The Warrior quartet of David Diegel, Mike Pfeiffer, Bob Stuhle and Mike Scanlon won the 200-yard medley relay (3:43.8). Peter Biagini was a winner for Rice in the 500 free (4:55.8) and teammate Tom Callam was first in diving with 424.50 points.

Rice was one of the most exciting meets you'd ever want to see," said Brother Rice coach George O'Brien, whose team finished with a 10-1 dual-meet record. "We lost to (Catholic Central) by 15 points in a dual meet. The fact that we tied for the championship was a great tribute to our kids."

Other league champs were Leon Maletson of Notre Dame in the 100 backstroke (54.5) and Jim Simpson of DeLaSalle in the 100 breaststroke (1:03.5).

As strange as it seemed for two teams to tie for the title, it wasn't the first time it happened. CC and Rice also finished deadlocked for first in the 1979 championships.

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Even with two individual state champions, coach Mike Rodriguez and his Redford Catholic Central wrestling team came up short in their bid for a seventh state Class A team title.

CC sent eight grapplers to the meet, held Friday and Saturday at Lansing Eastern High School, but couldn't come up with enough points for the crown.

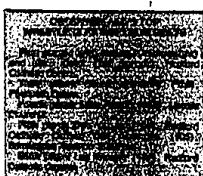
Senior Mitch Quint (138 pounds) and junior Toby Heaton (heavyweight) won individual titles, but Lansing scored 90 points to finish first. The host school, Eastern, tallied 90½ to edge the Shamrocks by a half-point for second place.

"It was never comfortable going in, but you never give up a dream," said Rodriguez. "You still hope and pray for a miracle."

"I'm not surprised Sexton won. I thought they'd lose some (matches), but they didn't lose enough. It's a disappointment because we were still alive in the semifinals, but then we lost matches we shouldn't have lost."

QUINT'S VICTORY march was remarkable in that he defeated two unbeaten wrestlers, Dave Walk of Flint Carmen in the semifinals (a pin in 1:00) and Jim Schlener of Romulus in the finals (6-3 decision). Quint finished the year with a 55-1 record.

Both Walk and Schlener had beaten the CC standout in earlier meets.



"Mitch is very emotional. He can't wait to get at you," said the CC coach. "He's so intense and high strung."

Quint, a Northville native, appears headed toward the University of the Michigan.

"He's got a 4.0 grade-point average and he wants to go into engineering," said the CC coach. "He wants to stay in state and be close to home, and the Michigan coaches are very interested in him."

Heaton is a 6-foot-6, 255-pound gentle giant, until he steps onto the mat.

THE CANTON NATIVE defeated Redford's Gary Brown in the finals with a pin in 1:38 of overtime to finish the year at 55-1. In his semifinal match, Heaton beat Alfonso Martin of Sexton in overtime, 3-1.

"Toby is a patient young man, not overly emotional," said the CC coach. "He's smart, and he doesn't get rattled. He just waits his time. He and Quint are like Dr. Jekyll and

Mr. Hyde."

CC's Bob Yeager, a senior, finished fifth at 125, but he was pinned by Troy's Chris Scott in a second round match, 2:55 in overtime.

"He (Yeager) just turned the wrong way, and the other guy capitalized," said Rodriguez. "He was one of the guys I thought could win it, but it was like a big balloon that burst. But I admired him to come back and get fifth."

At 157, CC sophomore Lee Krueger, despite an injury, finished sixth to finish the year at 25-13. Also in the same weight class, Garden City's Tim Howell was in the top eight, and Churchill's Brian Clemens went 1-2.

AT 125, Plymouth Salem's Dennis Dameron, a senior, duplicated his third-place finish of a year ago. He was ousted in the semifinals by Conn Allison of Grand Lodge, 8-4, before coming back in the consolation round to take third, including a 3-0 win over CC's Matt Helm, to gain a 3-1 edge in their season series. Helm, meanwhile, had eliminated Westland John Glenn sophomore Rob Matigian, 7-4.

Livonia Stevenson's Dave Wojciechowski was eliminated in two straight at 105, as was Salem's Sean May at 112 and Glenn's Bryan Krazel at 119.

Churchill's Mike Krause enjoyed a fine day, placing fourth at 132. He lost a tough match to Hazel Park's Scott Burger in the semifinals, 7-2, in overtime, but got revenge against

season-long nemesis Jason Horowitz of Southfield Lathrup in the consolation round, winning 7-3.

At 145, CC's Chris Rodriguez won his first round match, but lost to Davidson's Roy Hall for the third time this season, a fall in 1:50.

CC's CHRIS LEMANSKI, who won the 155-pound title at the regional a week earlier, won his first-round match, but was sent reeling to the consolation round by John Cody of Pontiac Central, 9-3 in overtime.

Birmingham Brother Rice's Dean Moscovitch beat Lemanski, 13-4.

At 185, Churchill's junior Dave Zenas bumped into third-place finisher E.J. Pastore of Sexton, falling in 32 seconds of his first-round match. Zenas then beat Jason Nichols of Wall Lake Western before losing to Rochester's John Coyne.

The only other Overland qualifier in Class A was Garden City's Don Gleason (108), who was eliminated in two straight by Grandville's Scott Lubbers (4-0 in OT) and Curtis Chapman of Lake Geneva North.

Although CC finished third in the team standings, Rodriguez is optimistic about next season. He loses only Quint and Yeager to graduation.

"You can only pull out so many tournaments," said CC coach, whose team won numerous titles this season. "They're young and they'll learn. You got to have more senior power, and that's what Sexton had. But we'll come back."

Shamrock's surge crushes Southfield

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

It was an embarrassing night of basketball for Southfield High.

The Blue Jays opened Class A district tournament play Monday against host Redford Catholic Central and laid a big egg, 71-35.

The pre-game hype never lived up to its billing as CC took the Southeastern Michigan Association champions completely out of sync.

Immediately after the game, Southfield coach Greg Silwa carried his team onto the bus and had little to say other than: "I feel bad for my kids. They (CC) played too well, and we could have performed better."

The loss was demoralizing in light of the fact that the Blue Jays had high expectations entering the district tourney. They had just finished the regular season with an impressive 17-3 record, two of those losses coming against state-ranked teams (Detroit Western and Highland Park).

But it was not their night and, as Silwa said, CC had plenty to do with their poor play.

CC coach Bernie Holowicki saw his team coming around after an 81-70 victory last week over Northern of the Detroit Public School League. (CC finished the regular season at 1-6.)

"I WAS JUST HOPING we'd play

the way we did against Northern," he said. "That was a good sign. We had hoped to play hard. This game was very similar."

Southfield led 11-8 after a lackluster first quarter before CC took control, using a balanced attack. The Shamrocks opened up a 25-25 half-time lead, saw it whittled to four midway through the third quarter, before running away with it in the final period, leading by as many as 21 points.

The Shamrocks protected the basketball, beat their counterparts down the floor and outshouted the Blue Jays on both ends.

"We played better in our matchup (zone defense)," Holowicki said. "We were contesting the (passing) lanes and we were confident."

"We ran better, and we were more organized. We ran more plays and we were more careful with the basketball. We ran the break well and we didn't give up any easy baskets."

BILL VITTI, a 6-foot-5 junior center, led the Shamrocks with 19 points. Guards Anthony Arrington and Lance Vaccarelli, both seniors, each added 18. CC's two other starters, Brian Dugas and Pat Matheis, added nine and eight, respectively.

Clarence McMurray, a 6-2 senior, was the only Southfield player to score in double figures with 12. Mike Multhead and James Escote each added eight.

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