

Shamrocks lead way in wrestling

By Brad Emons
staff writer

It was a dream season for the Redford Catholic Central wrestling team. But that's an understatement considering what the Shamrocks accomplished during the 1987-88 campaign.

During the regular season, CC capped the Battle Creek Lakeview Invitational, Medina (Ohio) Invitational, Plymouth Salem Invitational, Grand Rapids Union Invitational, CC Invitational, Mount Clemens Invitational and Catholic League Tournament.

In the post-season, CC won district and regional tournaments, capped off by the state Class A team championship, an inaugural event put on by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

In dual meets the Shamrocks went 20-0.

The Observer/Coach of the Year is Mike Rodriguez, who has won seven state titles in 21 years.

"This is one of the most talented and balanced teams I've coached," he said. "It was a joy, even though I perspired a lot of the time."

Here is the All-Area wrestling team as selected by the coaches:

FIRST TEAM

Toby Heaton, Redford CC, heavyweight: The 5-foot-6, 250-pound senior is a two-time state champion. This season he won 10 of 11 tournaments, losing only once in 67 matches, a one-point decision to an Ohio prep.

During his four years he won 178 matches.

Heaton, an honor roll student, is headed for Michigan State on a football scholarship. He was also an All-State football player (quarterback) who led CC to the state finals.

Tom Flores, Plymouth Canton, 98 pounds: The senior compiled a record of 40-6 this season, the most victories ever by a Canton wrestler in one season. He was 83-33 as a prep.

Flores qualified for the state meet after winning the district and finishing fourth in the regional. He was also Western Lakes Activities Association champ.

"Tom had a great senior season and he will reach his potential in years to come if he joins a good college program," said Canton coach Rick Menoch. "He was our most valuable wrestler and leader."

Brian Hunt, Wayne Memorial, 105: A senior, Hunt finished fifth in the state Class A individual meet. He was 42-5 this season and went 100-23 during his career.

He finished first in four tournaments, including the Wolverine A League and districts. He was also second in the regionals.

Hunt was the first wrestler from Wayne to place at the state meet in four years. "Brian was a great leader that showed an excellent example for the younger wrestlers to follow," said coach Jim Zolnowski.

Mike Gentile, Redford CC, 112: Only a junior, Gentile posted a season

all-area wrestling

1987-88 ALL-AREA WRESTLING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Heavy: Toby Heaton	Redford CC	Heavy: Joe Williams	Wald, Glenn
65: Tom Flores	Ply. Canton	85: Matt Koranski	Ply. Salem
105: Brian Hunt	Wayne	105: Mike Gentile	Wald, Glenn
112: Mike Gentile	Redford CC	112: Jack Beall	N. Farmington
119: Jay Helm	Redford CC	119: Bob Hancock	Garden City
125: Matt Helm	Redford CC	125: Ed Lantry	Ply. Canton
132: Rob Woodbeck	Redford CC	132: Liam Flantz	Ply. Canton
140: Chris Rodriguez	Ply. Salem	(94) Mike Shumala	Ply. Salem
150: Steve Burleson	Redford CC	150: Ed Berlage	Ply. Salem
167: Chris Lemanski	Redford CC	145: Scott Lapere	Wayne
185: Ted Rieple	Redford CC	153: Tony Yala	Garden City
198: Lee Krueger	Redford CC	167: Jarrod Winkler	Liv. Stevenson
		183: Ed Lindberg	Farmington
		198: Abe Zalkman	John Glenn

COACH OF YEAR

Mike Rodriguez	Redford CC
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SECOND TEAM

Heavy: Jeff DeBake	Ply. Canton	Heavy: Scott Conner	Wald, Glenn
95: Steve Burleson	Redford CC	85: Matt Koranski	Ply. Salem
105: Jeff DeBake	Ply. Salem	105: Mike Gentile	Wald, Glenn
112: Dave Mang	Ply. Salem	112: Jack Beall	N. Farmington
119: Mike Schrock	Liv. Stevenson	119: Bob Hancock	Garden City
125: Dave Farnecello	Garden City	125: Ed Lantry	Ply. Canton
132: Rob Woodbeck	Farmington	132: Liam Flantz	Ply. Canton
140: Chris Rodriguez	Redford Union	(94) Mike Shumala	Ply. Salem
150: Kurt Will	Liv. Stevenson	150: Ed Berlage	Ply. Salem
167: Mike Farr	Liv. Stevenson	145: Scott Lapere	Wayne

record of 52-7, winning six tournaments, including the Catholic League and regional. He was second in the districts.

He is a two-time state qualifier and league champion.

For his career, Gentile is 130-22-1.

"He is an exceptionally talented young man," said coach Mike Rodriguez.

Jay Helm, Redford CC, 119: The sophomore is one-half of the talented brother act (see below). He compiled a record of 51-0 this season en route to six tournament titles including the district, regional and Catholic League.

He is a two-time league and district champion.

With two years to go, Helm is only four wins away from 100. He is 96-23 overall.

Matt Helm, Redford CC, 126: A junior, the three-year varsity performer won nine of 11 tournaments this season en route to a 53-2 record.

He finished second in Class A after winning the Catholic League, district and regional tournaments.

The future appears bright for Helm, who will probably wrestle at 138 or 145 pounds next season.

Rob Matigian, Westland John Glenn, 132: A junior, Matigian won 46 of 51 matches. He finished sixth in Class A and was first in both the regional and W.L.A.A. meets. His career record is 81-18.

Matigian also captured the Big Red and Rockwell Invitational. He was second at Southgate.

Said Glenn coach Tom Bucklew of the two-time state qualifier: "Rob has always exhibited a special dedication to the sport."

Brendan Rock, Redford CC, 138: A senior, Rock won 178 matches and lost only 31 during his four-year stint with the Shamrocks. This season he went 39-6 and took a second place in Class A.

He finished first in four big tournaments: Plymouth Salem Invitational, Catholic League, districts and regionals.

"The highlight of my career was being on a state championship team," Rock said. "That will never be forgotten."

Chris Rodriguez, Redford CC, 145: The junior finished fourth in the state after winning the districts and regionals. He also captured the Catholic League crown for the third straight year.

His season record was 51-7. His career mark is 117-33-1.

The son of the CC coach also won tournaments at Plymouth Salem and Mount Clemens. He was third at the tough Medina (Ohio) Invitational.

Steve Burleson, Plymouth Salem, 155: Just a sophomore, Burleson finished the year with a 32-18 record, including 12 falls. He has 50 wins in two years.

Burleson was a state qualifier and member of Salem's team district champions.

He was also first at the North Farmington Invitational and third at the John Glenn tournament. He finished fourth at both the districts and regionals.

Chris Lemanski, Redford CC, 167: A senior with a 3.5 grade-point average, Lemanski enjoyed a banner season, compiling a 41-6-1 record.

He finished fifth in Class A after winning the districts and regionals. He also took first at the Plymouth Salem and Battle Creek Lakeview tournaments.

During his career, the CC standout amassed 126 wins.

He also plays on the CC football and lacrosse squads.

Ted Rieple, Redford CC, 185: The most improved wrestler on the team, Rieple finished his senior year with a 48-12-1 record.

Although he did not place at the state meet, Rieple finished third at both the regionals and district tournaments.

Rieple was also a member of CC's football team.

Lee Krueger, Redford CC, 198: Krueger won the state individual championship as a junior, compiling an impressive season record of 62-3-1.

He finished first in nine of 11 tournaments including the districts and Catholic League. Krueger also won the prestigious Medina (Ohio) tournament.

During his three years he has compiled an overall record of 134-24-1. He was sixth in the state in 1987 and fourth in Class A in 1988.

Also a member of CC's football team as a starting fullback.



Toby Heaton
Redford CC



Tom Flores
Canton



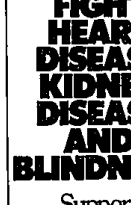
Mike Gentile
Redford CC



Rob Matigian
John Glenn



Steve Burleson
Salem



Brendan Rock
Redford CC



Chris Rodriguez
Redford CC

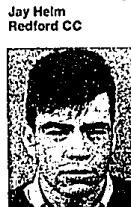


Chris Lemanski
Redford CC



Ted Rieple
Redford CC

Lee Krueger
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Jay Helm
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Rob Matigian
John Glenn



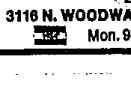
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