

CC's Helm repeat state winner

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

After he won the 140-pound state championship as a junior, everyone expected Redford Catholic Central wrestler Jay Helm to do the same this year.

That included Helm, who accomplished his goals Saturday night by winning his second Class A title in the state finals at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

"I knew that if I was going to be looked at as the same kind of wrestler I was last year I had to match what I did last year," Helm said.

"My goal was to go undefeated and, thank God, I am. I had no less intentions of winning it again."

Helm finished the season with a 56-0 record — the topper to winning another individual crown — when he defeated Jeff Wiscombe of Lake Orion in the championship bout, 8-5. He was 50-2 a year ago.

"I BELIEVED I could be undefeated," he said. "I believed, if I could win the state as a junior and keep the attitude I had last year, I would go undefeated."

Helm, who was ranked No. 1 in the state throughout the season, dominated his weight class during the two-day finals session.

Through the decision in the championship was only a three-point margin, he was in control of that bout. There was clearly a difference in his first three matches.

Helm pinned Manny Cervantes of Flint Carman-Almsworth 12:39 in the opener and scored a technical fall (17-1) over Ypsilanti's Assad Nimer in the next round. He whipped Todd Markel of Bay City Western by superior decision (18-5) in the semifinals.

"I wanted to go out there and make the point spread as much as I could right off the bat," Helm said.

"The first kid I caught him on his back right away and, in the second one, I just didn't stop

wrestling

(Saturday) morning I had a takedown and let him up to try and get a technical fall.

"IN THE final match, everyone expected me to do the same to this kid," he added. "I didn't like that, because that's sort of a jinx."

Helm averted the crowd when he used the best move of the day to gain advantage early in his bout with Liscombe, an opponent he hadn't faced in nine years since the two were in youth wrestling programs.

Both wrestlers rose on their knees with arms interlocked when Helm executed a double side roll that put him in a commanding position. The takedown and nearfall gave him a 5-0 lead, and he led 6-2 after the first period.

"Our team is the only one that really knows that move," Helm said. "That move has to be there at the right time. I knew the time was right. I was hoping to get a pin out of it, but I was a little too high and lost him."

Helm got up a two-point reversal in the second period to lead 8-2. At the end, and Liscombe picked up single points for an escape and stalling in the third period.

Of the four CC wrestlers at state, 171-pound Don Kelly was the only other one to win a match. He pinned Keith and John Glenn's Craig Kuban in the first round and beat James Weeks of Rochester before being eliminated. Heavyweight Rob Sylvester and 112-pound Rusty Fowler lost their first two bouts.

PLYMOUTH SALERON'S Steve Burston, Pete Israel and Brian Burston, North Farmington's Matt Thompson and Walled Lake Central's Soren Murphy garnered top-five finishes.

Murphy, who was fifth as a sophomore but didn't place last year, placed third at 110 pounds,

his only loss coming in the semifinals when he faced Ferndale's Chuck Morgan, who took a 43-0 record and the state's No. 1 ranking into the weekend action.

Murphy lost a 4-1 decision to Morgan, who was later beaten by Birmingham Brother Rice sophomore Derek Moscovice, who provided the shocker of the tournament with a 5-4, overtime decision.

"I thought he was the best man of the day, but he got upset," Murphy said.

Murphy, who ended with a 36-3 record, won four bouts to capture third place, and he won all four by comfortable margins, proving he belonged among the best at his weight.

He knew the first match was crucial, and Murphy wanted to start the finals off the right way. In that initial bout, he whipped Rochester's Sean Rizzo 10-2 and needed only 21 seconds to pin Lansing Waverly's Jacob Miller before moving to the semifinals and the match with Morgan.

"THE KID I wrestled in the first match I had beaten in overtime," Murphy said, recalling an earlier meeting with Rizzo. "I knew I had to go out and win right away. I didn't want to be fighting my way back through the consolation bracket."

"My closest match was 9-2. So, other than the one I lost, I didn't have that much trouble."

In the consolation semifinals, Murphy faced Rizzo again and won 9-2. In the contest for third place, he scored a 10-3 decision over Jon Welch of Lapeer West.

"I wanted it real bad," Murphy said. "I didn't want to go out trying to score. I wanted to finish with a win. It's always a drag to lose in the finals."

Walled Lake Western junior Todd Hoffmeyer (152), Livonia Franklin's Jay Wheeler (160), North Farmington's Lucian Van Gleave (135) and Rizzo also competed but failed to place.

In Class B wrestling at Kellogg Arena, Redford Thurston's 160-pound Shane Berns lost his first two bouts as did Dave Prusinski (112) and Gary Devane (140) of Farmington Hills Harrison.

Salem brothers 3rd

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down, because there was a lot of time left and the ref would call me for stalling."

"I haven't been put on my back all year, so I wasn't worried about him hitting me. I was more worried about getting away."

Plymouth Salem brothers, Steve and Brian Burston, also won their final bouts with strong third-period showings. Each one captured consolation titles at his respective weight and needed a come-from-behind victory to accomplish it. Steve took third place at 160 pounds and Brian at 189.

Both wrestlers were 4-1 in the two-day event, advancing to the semifinals before dropping into the consolation bracket where they won two more bouts.

The Burstons had hopes of winning it all, having been ranked among the top five at their weights, but they nonetheless did better than in previous championship tournaments.

Steve finished the year with a 42-2-1 record, Brian 46-1. In addition, teammate Pete Israel placed sixth at 171 pounds, going 3-3 in the finals and ending with a 37-15 mark.

"I'm not disappointed," Steve said. "I wrestled well all year. In the semis, I had a couple breakdowns that cost me the state title. They just came at the wrong time in the wrong match."

"Not to be cocky or anything, but I feel I'm the best in the state. Today I wasn't able to prove it."

After losing a 7-4 decision to eventual runner-up Todd Garris of Lake Orion in the semifinals, Burston pinned Clarkston's Damon Michelsen at 3:44 in their consolation match and rallied to beat Larry Olson of

South Lyon 8-6 in the final.

Burston scored all of his points in the last period, finding himself behind 4-0 to a wrestler he had previously pinned.

HIS ESCAPE and takedown early in the third period closed the gap, and another takedown tied the score at 5-5. Burston scored a three-point near fall with 15 seconds left to break the stalemate and held on by riding out the time remaining.

"He looked tired; that's when I felt confident," Burston said. "I thought 'OK, I've got to start wrestling now,' and I knew I could start taking him down."

Burston also had an exciting, nailbiting experience in the consolation finals, scoring the points necessary to edge East Lansing's Jim Seaton 4-3 late in the last period.

His opponent scored a pair of single points early in the finale, one for an escape and another when Burston used an illegal scissors move to go ahead 3-2. Facing a predicament more desperate than his bracket, Burston shot a takedown with eight seconds left in the match to win it.

"I knew I was losing, but losing didn't come into my mind," said Burston, who had beaten Seaton 8-3 in the second round. "I knew I was going to pull it off."

Burston, who pinned Troy's Jesse McMahon at 1:42 in his opening bout, beat Seaton a first time to win a semifinal berth where he faced Chio's Ian Hearn.

HE SUFFERED his only loss of the season at that point, 5-6, when a penalty point for locking hands decided a 6-6 tie with 10 seconds left in the bout.

No need for disputes

HARDLY A LEAGUE season goes by without some big argument, but most issues can be easily settled by looking in the rule book.

League officers are provided with the ABC rule book, which is about the size of a Reader's Digest. Team captains also are given the issue of Bowling Magazine that contains a complete section on league rules, general playing rules, resolutions and suggested league rules.

A solution to the arguments and hassles can usually be found within the contents of these materials. Each sanctioned league can enact its own set of rules within the format and guidelines of the ABC.

Quite often disputes will be in regards to the eligibility of a particular bowler coming in as a sub to make a legal lineup or the correct average of a new participant in the league.

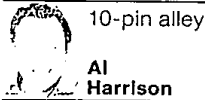
These issues are all covered thoroughly in the rule books, and it's up to the league officers and captains to determine how the issues should be settled.

The league must establish its own rules to decide how many games must be registered to establish the average for league play and which average is to be used if the bowler in question has a yearbook listing in the Greater Detroit Bowling Association yearbook.

The Wayne-Westland Bowling Association also has a listing of the members' averages. Disputes often arise when a sub comes in and the team could forfeit because somebody didn't show up.

The situation should be resolved quickly so the bowling can take place without delay. The issue can be further discussed by calling for a captains' meeting and putting it up to a vote.

There are occasions when a dispute over pinfall count, an inadvertent resetting of the pins or a claim



Al Harrison

that a foul occurred becomes the issue. In a case of this nature, it is best to continue with the game, and discuss the problem afterward.

There could be a "provisional ball" delivered which would count in the game, allowing the game to continue without delay. The officers and captains involved in the dispute would then determine the outcome based on the opinions of those participants who saw what happened. They can determine if the provisional ball is original shot should count.

Some common arguments are: "Did the ball hit the pin before it fell into the channel?" "Did the rack touch the pin before it went down?" These are just a few of the common happenings which can cause a dispute and are easily resolved by referring to the rule book.

If your league has a dispute that is not covered, this should be brought up at the next captains' meeting and a resolution could then be enacted into the league rules or denied by a vote.

Each league should have a rule book handy. If you are in a sanctioned league, contact the local association to obtain a copy of the rules if you do not have one at hand. Every team captain should read the rule book and familiarize himself with the contents.

On another note, my son, Donnie Harrison, is doing great with the new ball. The Cobra worked well again last Sunday with a 278 game in the Wards Bowling King of the Travelling League at Bowl One Lanes in Troy. This followed a 287 the week before.

bowling

BOWLING HONOR ROLL
Country Lanes (Farmington Hills) Men's 1st Team: League — Bob Cullen 231, 244, 249, 254, 259, 264, 269, 274, 279, 284, 289, 294, 299, 304, 309, 314, 319, 324, 329, 334, 339, 344, 349, 354, 359, 364, 369, 374, 379, 384, 389, 394, 399, 404, 409, 414, 419, 424, 429, 434, 439, 444, 449, 454, 459, 464, 469, 474, 479, 484, 489, 494, 499, 504, 509, 514, 519, 524, 529, 534, 539, 544, 549, 554, 559, 564, 569, 574, 579, 584, 589, 594, 599, 604, 609, 614, 619, 624, 629, 634, 639, 644, 649, 654, 659, 664, 669, 674, 679, 684, 689, 694, 699, 704, 709, 714, 719, 724, 729, 734, 739, 744, 749, 754, 759, 764, 769, 774, 779, 784, 789, 794, 799, 804, 809, 814, 819, 824, 829, 834, 839, 844, 849, 854, 859, 864, 869, 874, 879, 884, 889, 894, 899, 904, 909, 914, 919, 924, 929, 934, 939, 944, 949, 954, 959, 964, 969, 974, 979, 984, 989, 994, 999, 1004, 1009, 1014, 1019, 1024, 1029, 1034, 1039, 1044, 1049, 1054, 1059, 1064, 1069, 1074, 1079, 1084, 1089, 1094, 1099, 1104, 1109, 1114, 1119, 1124, 1129, 1134, 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