

Williams garners individual title at Oakland County meet

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THE RESULTS of the championship matches didn't matter as far as the standings were concerned. Clarkston had the trophy wrapped up regardless of what happened. But the disappointing conclusion did indicate to the Highlanders that knowing how to win the big matches is something they'll have to learn sometime before February.

"It's kind of bittersweet," said Adams coach Pat Milkovich. "We didn't have any finalists in last year's Oakland County Meet, so we've improved. But this just wasn't indicative of how we can wrestle. If we expect to compete with the best in February, we'll have to do better."

Under Milkovich, the squad has improved steadily. When he took the reigns three years ago, the Highlanders were coming off a 2-12 MSAA campaign. Last year, Adams went 11-1 to win its first league title since 1989.

"The kids are willing to do whatever it takes to win here," said Milkovich, himself a two-time NCAA grappling champ at Michigan State University. "They're really working hard and improving. But I want to peak in February (when the state tournament is held), not now."

Tom Fenosoff (119) won four of five matches, and Matt Olson (125) and Anthony Sabar (135) each went 3-1 in the tourney as the trio earned runner-up trophies for the Highlanders. Fenosoff (10-1) and Olson (10-1) suffered their first losses of the year, while Sabar now stands at 9-2.

OTHER ADAMS placers included: Greg White (152), who finished fifth and moved his record to 12-3 with a 4-2 tourney slate, and Doug Lacombe (145), who took a fourth-place

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TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Clarkston (CL), 210; 2. Lake Orion (LO), 183; 3. Rochester Adams (RA), 176; 4. Waterford Kettering (WK), 167; 5. Novi (NO), 156; 6. Lathrup (LH), 149; 7. Troy (TR), 136; 8. South Lyon (SL), 135; 9. Troy Adams (TA), 129; 10. Pontiac Northern (PN), 126; 11. Holly (HO), 123; 12. Farmington (FA), 112; 13. West Park (WP), 105; 14. Walled Lake Central (WLC), 106; 15. Milford (MI), 107; 16. Walled Lake Western (WLW), 101; 17. Farmdale (FD), 96; 18. Brandon (BR), 80; 19. West Bloomfield (WB), 78; 20. Royal Oak Dorado (ROD), 72; 21. Farmington Hills (FH), 66; 22. Rochester (RO), 67; 23. Southfield-Lathrup (SL), 67; 24. Pontiac Central (PC), 64; 25. Southfield (SO), 58; 26. Oak Park (OP), 55; 27. Avondale (AV), 53; 28. Bloomfield Hills Lathrup (BL), 52; 29. (d), Birmingham Swallow (BS) (Westford Mori (WM), 45; 31. Royal Oak Kimball (ROK), 44; 32. Berkley (BE), 43; 33. Bloomfield Hills Andover (AN), 42; 34. Orchard Lake (OL), 41; 35. North Farmington (NF), 37; 36. Grosse Pointe (GP), 36; 37. Clinton (CT), 33; 38. Detroit Country Day

(CD), 26; 39. Bishop Foley (BF), 25; 40. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (RLNW), 19; 41. Oakland Catholic (OC), 11; 42. Waterford Oak Lady of Lakes (WOLL), 10; 43. Birmingham Grapes (BG), 4.

Individual results:

275 POUNDS: 1. Frank Crane (WQ), major; 2. Karlos Brown (PC); 12-6; 3. Joe Webb (CL), dec. Steve Gray (CL), 9-2; 4. Pat Mac (SL), pinned Pete Christopher (SL), 2:22.

103 POUNDS: 1. Jeff Dorcaso (CL), dec. Walker Hamilton (WQ); 7-2; 2. David Morgan (FE), dec. Andy Fox (WLW), 3:05; 3. Jerry Smith (SO), dec. Jay Cheyne (MI), 9-4.

112 POUNDS: 1. Bryan Perkins (MI), major; 2. Pat Mac (SL), 11-2; 3. Nick McKnight (PH), dec. Chris Valz (TR), 7-3; 4. Brian Votry (LH), dec. Dan Winchinsky (NO), 6-3.

119 POUNDS: 1. Steve Pelt (LH), major; 2. Tom Fenosoff (RA), 11-2; 3. Eric Bowler (WLC), dec. Louis Ortiz (SL), 3-1; 4. Cam Clark (WY), pinned Tim McLasters (TA), 2:34.

125 POUNDS: 1. Jerry Anderson (CL), major; 2. Matt Olson (RA), 15-4; 3. Ralph Hale

(WLC), dec. Steve Gray (CL), 9-2; 4. Chris Gasky (WQ), dec. Steve Gasky (CL), 6-6.

130 POUNDS: 1. Kael Williams (SL), pinned Sean Rock (WLC); 2:38; 2. Andy Winchinsky (NO), dec. Steve Gray (CL), 9-2; 3. Joe Christopher (LH), dec. Fred Barton (PN), 17-14.

135 POUNDS: 1. Dan Deschick (MI), dec. Anthony Sabar (RA), 6-7; 2. Ryan Sabar (LH), dec. Pat Mac (SL), 9-2; 3. Neil Hens (TR), major; dec. Chris McKeown (PH), 15-7.

140 POUNDS: 1. Mike Downes (MI), dec. Fernando Moreno (WLC); 2:38; 2. Dan Winchinsky (NO), dec. Alan Martin (CL), 9-2; 3. Joe Christopher (LH), major; dec. Graham Rogers (NO), 10-0.

145 POUNDS: 1. Jeff Wincomb (LO), pinned Tony Baccopakis (NO), 6:47; 2. Darin Westlund (PC), dec. Doug Lacombe (SL), 1-0; 3. Travis Reque (WLW), dec. Bryan Ledin (TA), 5-2.

152 POUNDS: 1. Avo Bire (BR), dec. Louis Kutz (LH); 5-0; 2. Todd Hoffmeyer (WLW), dec. Brad Laper, 10-0.

medal and now stands at 11-3 after winning four of six tournament matches.

Troy placed three wrestlers and earned praise from its 11th-year coach, Gary Harlan.

"We're really happy with our team performance," Harlan said. "We were leading after yesterday (Friday's first round action) but you don't win trophies for that."

Chris Valz (112) took fourth and moved his season record to 18-3 by winning three of five matches; Tim McLasters (119) took sixth and raised his season slate to 9-5 by beating four of his six opponents; and Kael Williams (130) took fifth, going 4-2 in the meet and moving to 16-2 overall.

Each of Troy's 13 grapplers won in the first round.

"Two years ago we started 'live freshmen. This year they're juniors,

so it's no secret why we're doing well," Harlan said. "But I'm also starting three sophomores this year. We don't have a middle-school program so the kids have to learn while they're here."

Whatever Harlan is doing is working. The Colts were co-champs of the SMA last year with Hazel Park, they took the 17-team Marine City Invitational meet in mid-December, and won The Eccentric Tournament in early December. The Colts were a perfect 5-0 in dual meet action through the holidays. But, like Milkovich, Harlan doesn't want his squad to peak too early.

"IT'S GREAT to do well here," Harlan said. "The tournament is a good gauge for us, there are some outstanding teams. But we're looking to the state and SMA league meets. This is only the first third of the season. The most important two-thirds is coming up."

City foe Troy Athens also had a successful journey, placing four of its grapplers. The Red Hawks' Tom Gizoni (160), along with Southfield-Lathrup's Kael Williams (130), were the only Eccentric-area competitors to earn championship trophies. Gizoni breezed into the finals with three lopsided wins before disposing of South Lyon's Mark Addy in the finals via a technical fall at 5:15. Gizoni's dual-meet record remains perfect at 14-0.

Lathrup's Williams, now 17-0, had an even easier time, pinning each of his four opponents, including Walled Lake Central's Sean Rock at 2:38 of the championship match. His efforts earned him one of the tourney's two Most Valuable Player trophies. Lake Orion's Jeff Wiscombe, who gained his 100th prep win, took the other.

"He's really doing outstanding, but he has to continue to improve," said Red Hawks coach Bill Wilde of Gizoni.

Gizoni agrees. "I've gotten stronger and faster since last year, but I need to work on my pinning combinations and moving better on the bottom. I think the state competition

will be harder, and a state title is what I'm aiming for," he said.

THE ATHENS senior also said he likes the looks of this year's Red Hawks squad.

"It's about the best team that's ever come out of Athens," he said. "I think we have a shot at the league title if we can get by (Rochester) Adams."

Other Red Hawks to place included Sam Kaskorkis (189) who finished fifth, and Bryan Ledin (145) and Tim McLasters (119), both taking sixths. Kaskorkis went 4-1 in the tourney to move to 8-3 overall. McLasters posted a 4-2 slate to move to 9-5, and Ledin went 4-2 to up his season record to 9-4.

"This is such a tough tournament," said Wilde. "Outside of the state tournament, the Oakland County Meet is one of the toughest and most impressive events of the season. We've been in the top 10 the past three years."

The Red Hawks were district champs last year at 23-5-1 and they were also regional finalists. This year they're 4-0 so far, but Wilde says Adams is the team to watch.

"Pat (Milkovich) has really done an outstanding job. They should be ranked in the top 10," Wilde said.

One team that is — and everyone agrees should be — is tourney champ Clarkston.

"THIS IS definitely one of the best tournaments of the year," Clarkston coach Scott Strickler said. "Oakland County always puts out a lot of champs."

Other Eccentric-area schools that fared well included Farmington (12th, 112.5 points); Walled Lake Central (14th, 108.5 points); Walled Lake Western (16th, 101.5 points); and West Bloomfield (19th, 76 points).

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JOHN STORMSZAND/staff photographer

Rochester Adams' Matt Olson, right, attempts to take Clarkston's Jerry Anderson to the mat during their title match at 125 pounds. Anderson won the title with a 15-4 decision.



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Sean Rock, of Walled Lake Central, works to reverse Lathrup's Kael Williams during their title match at 130 pounds. Williams won the match by pin at 2:38.

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