

Sports

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Falcons place 6th at county meet

Pallo's win at 160 pounds paces Farmington; Raiders place 20th

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By Bill Parker
staff writer

What a difference a week makes. After Troy's wrestling team was unseated as the Eccentric Wrestlers' Tournament title last week (Rochester Adams won the championship) Troy coach Gary Harlan admitted, "Everybody needs a knock-down now and then to help them continue to work hard and improve."

The Colts got up from that knock-down and improved enough over the course of the week to give defending Class A state champion Clarkston a run for its money in the 31st Annual Oakland County Wrestling Tournament Friday and Saturday at Oakwood Community College. The Colts finished with more individual champions (three to Clarkston's two) but won an easy 11-5 decision.

The Raiders, represented as Oakland County champs by edging Troy by three points. The Wolves finished with 211.5 points while Troy was second with 208.5. Hazel Park was third with 189.5 followed by Rochester Adams with 175, Lake Orion with 148 and Farmington with 141.

"I'm estate," Harlan said after the tournament was completed late Saturday night. "The kids did a good job today. I was talking to (Rochester Adams coach) Pat Milkovich and said I had to give him some of the credit because (Adams) gave us a walk-up call last week in the Eccentric tournament."

"I told the kids I just wanted them to wrestle with some intensity and they did. I don't think we had that intensity last week. That's not to take anything away from Adams,"

CHRIS VELUZ, Kat Hara and Jason McMahan paced the Colts as each wrestler won an individual Oakland County championship.

Wrestling in the 119-pound bracket, Veluz improved his personal record to 8-1 and won the championship with an 8-6 decision over Walled Lake Central's Chris Diehl (6-2).

Hara improved to 10-0 on the season in winning the title at 140 pounds. In the championship match, Hara jumped out to a 7-0 lead over Clarkston's Jason Roughton (6-2) and won an easy 11-5 decision.

McMahan improved his personal record to 9-1 by winning the championship at 189 pounds. McMahan took a 5-1 lead over Lake Orion's Jim Frye in the championship match and was leading 8-5 late in the third period when Frye retired from the match with an ankle injury.

Three other Troy wrestlers advanced to the final round of competition. Mike VanPatten (7-3) placed fourth at 112 pounds, Terry Coleman (7-3) placed fourth at 135 pounds, and Jason Witt (8-3) placed fourth at 160 pounds.

ANTHONY SABER was the only Oakland County champ for Rochester Adams, but the Highlander senior won his title in high-style and was selected the tournament's Most

Outstanding Wrestler. Saber (10-0) opened Saturday's final round of competition with a 16-3 major decision over Oak Park's D'Elzon Horne. He stuck Novi's Mike Borashko in 2:25 in the semi-finals then pinned Walled Lake Western's Travis Haqua in 2:41 in the championship match.

Matt Olson and Doug LaCouver each dropped their bid for a county title. Olson (9-1) placed second at 125 pounds and LaCouver (8-1) placed second at 152 pounds.

Adams' Mike Terry (8-2) earned fifth-place honors at 112 pounds while Nathan Cobb (6-4) and Mike Ebinger (4-1) placed fourth at 103 pounds and 140 pounds, respectively.

"I'm a little disappointed," Milkovich said. "I thought we could have done a little better. We made a few changes in the lineup from last week and some of them didn't work out like we had hoped. Overall, we didn't do too bad, but we have some room for improvement."

FARMINGTON'S MIKE PALLO won a county title at 160 pounds and led the Falcons to an impressive sixth-place finish.

"Pallo came through for us. He did a nice job," said Farmington Coach Al Beyar. "He's a senior and he's put in a lot of hard work and effort. He deserved to win it."

Pallo improved to 7-1 on the season after earning a 15-3 decision over West Bloomfield's Max Mancini (7-3) in the championship match.

Three other Farmington wrestlers placed in the finals. Jon Duff (6-5) placed fourth at 125 pounds, Jason Hally (7-3) placed fifth at 145, and Matt Slosky (6-4) placed sixth at



JERRY ZOLYNISKY/staff photographer

Mike Pallo (background) battles West Bloomfield's Max Mancini in the championship of the 160-pound weight class. Pallo dethroned Mancini, 15-3, to win the weight class and help Farmington take sixth place in Saturday's Oakland County Wrestling Tournament.

275 pounds.

"We thought we could finish in the top 10," Beyar said. "It was real close coming into the championship round. No team really dominated it."

TWO OTHER area wrestlers returned home with individual county titles.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser's Luis Ortiz (9-0) emerged victorious from the

125-pound bracket. In the final round, Ortiz stuck Hazel Park's Gary Harrison in 1:50, earned an 11-9 round-death decision over Walled Lake Central's Ralph Hale and out-pointed Adams' Olson, 7-5, in the championship match.

Ortiz's team to an 18th-place finish (62.5 points) by winning the championship at 152 pounds. In the final

round, Wicklund earned a 3-1 decision over South Lyon's Jason Brown, beat Novi's Tony Scappaticci, 7-5, then edged Adams' LaCouver, 7-5, in sudden-death overtime in the title match.

"Darin had a good tournament," said Rochester coach Bob Cheney. "We figured he would place, but we didn't know about winning a championship. He wrestled well."

1st place, at last

Farmington swimmers capture Titan Relays

Farmington High's boys swimming team won its first tournament in Roger Bandy's eight years as coach of the Falcons Friday at Warren Tower High School.

The Falcons won seven events and took second in another to capture the Titan Relays with 295 points. Taking second place in the nine-team tournament was Warren Tower with 256 points, followed by third-place Romeo, 230.

"It's an outstanding achievement, a nice trophy, about three-feet tall and a great one for our boys' morale," Bandy said. "Our league (Western Lakes Activities Association) is a lot stronger than where we swim but it was real nice for the Warren School District to invite us. It was a well-run meet and a lot of fun for everybody."

Falcons might have won by an even bigger margin were it not for

ing combined to win the diving with 286 points.

Mark Scano, Steve Scano, Boyer and Yoder won the 200 butterfly in 1:54.58; Scott Frump, Kandi, Emborg and Reed won the crescendo in 8:53.43.

The winning 200 backstroke team (1:59.14) consisted of Scott Frump, Brown, Chris Frump and Steve Scano. Yoder, Mark Scano, Jim Pollard and Jeff James took the 200 breaststroke championship.

The 400 individual medley team of Boyer, Reed, Steve Scano and Brown finished second to clinch the meet title.

"We don't have as many horses as far as top quality goes, but this is the most well-rounded team I've had," Bandy said. "I have more kids that are able to swim more than one event and it is the hardest working group."

Mercy wins Madonna tourney

Ann Hills Mercy's debut as Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball coach was a success. The Marlins won Saturday's 10-team Madonna Invitational Tournament.

Mercy, playing the comeback role most of the day, swept four pool matches before beating Dearborn Divine Child in the semifinal and Trenton in the championship round.

"They played well," Kolinitsy said. "It took us a while to pull things together but the end it was a total team effort. A lot of games the other team took a big lead, but we got a lot of points in return, which is a good sign because they can come from behind."

"I don't go into any match expecting to lose. I expect them to play hard and whatever happens, happens."

Mercy trashed Divine Child, 12-2, in the first game of the semifinal before tournament. Most Valuable Player Shannon Goff served six aces and recorded 13 digs in a 16-14, 15-12 victory.

The Marlins fell behind 5-0 in the first game of the final against Trenton, but again Goff came through with 15 straight service points for a 15-5 win. The Marlins won the second game, 15-8, to assure the championship.

North Farmington

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