

Michalski from page 1C

the third period and held the lead. Michalski had to try a desperation move as the match neared its end, and Nadolski added two more points with a near-fall.

"Our styles are real close, and the score showed it," Michalski said.

"He's a little shorter than me and has a real stocky build. It's hard to move guys around like that. Once we locked up, we couldn't do a lot."

"You have to be able to wrestle people of various styles and be able to adjust. They're not all

going to be tall and lanky or short and stocky. That's something for me to work on in the off season."

Michalski defeated Steve Simon of Birmingham Groves 7-0 and Ryan Elliott of Charlotte 9-1 in his first two bouts Friday.

He advanced to the final with a 4-2 win over Jared Martin of Muskegon Roethlis-Puffer early Saturday.

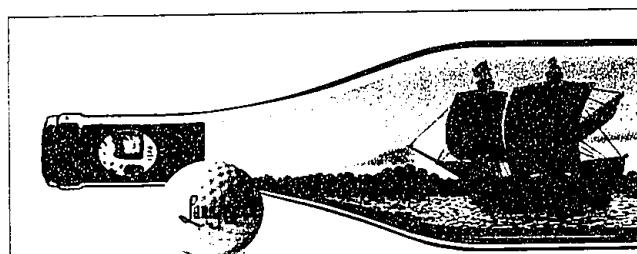
"That made me feel confident," said Michalski about the margins of victory Friday. "You have to make sure you have a

lead in case you get caught. A lead can get small real fast."

Michalski might move up to 106 or 112 pounds next season, but one thing is for sure: at whatever weight he wrestles, he'll be pointing for a different ending in 1996.

"It'll be another long season," he said. "There'll be 45 matches before the state tournament, and I'll concentrate on each one."

"It's disappointing (this year), but everyone keeps reminding me of everything I did and I'll be satisfied with it in a few days."



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CC's Spolsky state runner-up

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

By late Saturday night, Redford Catholic Central junior John Spolsky was looking ahead to next wrestling season.

Spolsky was thinking about winning a state title after finishing second in the heavyweight division of the Class A tournament earlier that same evening.

"My thoughts are on next year," he said. "You have to move on. I'm lucky to have another year."

Spolsky came close to reaching his goal this year, losing a 4-3 decision to Holland West Ottawa's Rod Robes in the championship bout.

"It was a learning experience," Spolsky said. "I know what it's like now. I won't be so naive and young next time."

"I'm happy that I got second, but I'm not content; I'm not finished," Spolsky said.

Spolsky is small by heavyweight standards at 5-foot-10 1/2 and 223 pounds, but he was certainly a match for Renes, a senior who will play football at the University of Michigan.

The 6-2, 275-pound Renes enjoyed a size advantage but couldn't overpower Spolsky. But he did make it difficult for Spolsky to wrestle effectively.

"They're all so much taller and bigger than me at least 50 pounds," Spolsky said.

"They come into me and try to muscle me, and I can use their momentum to snap them down and spin around them. But he controlled me pretty well."

"I'm disappointed I lost. I

WRESTLING

didn't wrestle as well as I usually do, but I guess that happens."

Renes tried repeatedly to throw Spolsky off balance and maneuver for a takedown, but Spolsky kept his footing and thwarted those attempts.

Spolsky even held a 2-0 lead after two periods. Renes got an escape and a stalling point to tie and a takedown in the last half minute to win.

"I tried for a single leg and didn't circle around him enough, and he caught me," Spolsky said, adding it was only the second takedown scored against him this year.

"He kept coming into me, which I can handle and kinda wanted him to do. But he kept getting his arms under mine and kept me from getting under him."

"He did a good job. I wrestled his match instead of mine."

Spolsky won his first match 9-1 and edged Dearborn Fordson's Joe Chmielewski 2-2 in the next round. He defeated Eugene Callaway of state team champion Flint Northern 4-2 in the semifinals.

"I was prepared to work hard and get tired," said Spolsky, adding he beat Callaway in overtime earlier in the year. "Coach Rod (Mike Rodriguez) says that's a problem with a lot of wrestlers; they're not ready to get tired."

Spolsky, who was eighth last year, finished the season with a 60-1 record.

"I can handle losing — it builds character. It's just too bad it had to happen in the finals," he

said. "Overall, I guess it was a good year. It went by fast, but it was fun."

"I wanted to win it for Coach Rod and my family — and myself — but mostly for the people who have helped me."

CC sophomore Bill Lamb (112) finished fifth, senior Andy Shortt (215) and sophomore Darlo Ianni (106) seventh and sophomore Dave O'Hara (100) eighth.

"I would have liked to place higher, but I'm pretty happy with seventh because I came a long way since last year," Shortt (41-10) said, adding he didn't survive the district tournament as a junior.

"I was a weaker wrestler and didn't always believe in myself when I walked on the mat. This year Coach Rod taught me how to believe in myself."

Shortt, who will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and play football for the Black Knights, started the tournament by pinning Flint Northern's Courtney String a second time.

He lost to Bela Bruckner of Niles in the second round, split his next two bouts and defeated Fordson's Easa Hisham 11-5 to earn seventh place.

"I was a little nervous (about facing String again), but my coaches talked me out of that," Shortt said. "I got rid of that Thursday night and went out there and wrestled a way I had most of the season."

"I wanted to end my wrestling career on a win, and that was pretty much my goal."

Lamb finished 42-5, Ianni 37-10 and O'Hara 41-12.

Martin earns 2nd Class A title

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't the way Craig Martin would have preferred to win another state championship.

But the bottom line was he did, and that was all that really mattered in Saturday in the finals of the Class A wrestling tournament.

The Livonia Stevenson senior defeated Brighton's Scott Niles 4-3 with the help of a stalling point in overtime to capture the 216-pound title.

"I would have liked to win with a takedown or something else," Martin said. "But he didn't do anything the whole match; he never shot in on me, so I guess it came back to haunt him."

The way Martin's high school career ended was ironic since he is one of the most accomplished wrestlers in Observeland and state history.

Thus, the finals will be remembered for its significance as well as its unusual ending.

WRESTLING

It was Martin's 88th consecutive victory, capping a two-year unbeaten streak, and gave him his second straight Class A title. He was the 189 champion last year.

"When I first started wrestling, it was kind of a far-fetched dream," Martin said. "I had some great coaches and it just worked out."

Martin breezed through his first two bouts Friday with pins. In the semifinal match Saturday morning, Martin routed Bela Bruckner of Niles, 11-2.

The final bout didn't go as easily as the others, because Martin and Niles were familiar opponents.

Martin (47-0) had beaten Niles twice previously, and that made both wrestlers — but especially Niles — very cautious since they

knew the other's style and ability. "Most of these people I had never wrestled," Martin said. "Most of the time it helps you, because they don't know how you wrestle."

"I had wrestled Niles a lot, so it was like practicing with somebody you know."

Leading 3-2 after two periods, Martin rode his opponent for most of the final two minutes. But Niles managed to get an escape with two seconds left and tie the score.

"I knew it was going to go to OT, so I tried not to freeze up or become a head case," Martin said. "I looked at it as another third period."

In the overtime, Martin tried to grab a leg, but Niles spun around and almost had a takedown; however, the referee ruled they were out of bounds.

With nearly a minute gone in the extra period, the bout came to a sudden halt when the referee awarded Martin a stalling point.

No. 1 Cards dump Shamrocks

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Michael Jordan's return to basketball has been rumored all week, but Detroit Cooley wasn't expecting to see him in Redford Catholic Central's lineup Wednesday night.

Just as Cooley started pulling away from CC in a Class A boys regional semifinal at Southfield High, the public address announcer startled Cardinals' coach Ben Kelso and his players.

"I said Michael who?" Cooley senior guard Brian Ponder said. The 6-foot-4 junior forward who goes by the same name as the former Chicago Bulls star took off his warmup and gave the Shamrocks a lift with 10 fourth-quarter points.

But no one could slow down the No. 1-ranked Cardinals, who made an incredible 16 of 19 field goals and 11 of 12 free throws in the second half to coast to a 70-55 victory.

The Cardinals were getting free on the baseline throughout the game, because the CC defense

BASKETBALL

focused on Cooley's senior guard Dawn Hale, who had eight three-pointers in a district final win over Murray-Wright.

Hale finished with two triples and a game-high 25 points. Senior forward Mike Bullock had 16, and Ponder scored nine of his 11 in the second half.

"We were getting the shots we wanted and were pretty patient," Kelso said. "We were ahead, and they had to have the ball back." (Mike for Jordan's appearance, Kelso laughed and said, "That scared the heck out of me.")

With 6-7 junior center Sylvester Dotson on the bench with three fouls, the Cardinals outscored the Shamrocks 11-2 in the last three minutes of the third quarter to take a 46-33 lead into the fourth quarter.

Jordan had four field goals and two free throws, took an offensive charge and blocked a shot in the fourth quarter, but the best the Shamrocks could do was trade

baskets with Cooley.

The Shamrocks finished 12-10 overall, and their only significant loss to graduation will be senior forward Mike Ridley, Cooley limited Ridley to 10 points on 3-of-15 shooting.

Junior point guard Chris Mialak had another strong game, leading the Shamrocks with 18 points.

Sophomore guard Mark McDonald, who made his only three-point basket to pull CC within 30-28 midway through the third quarter, finished with 11.

The Shamrocks made 11 triples in a 74-55 win over Livonia Stevenson Friday but were only 3-of-17 from three-point range against Cooley.

After falling behind 11-2 to start the game, Mialak scored eight points in the second quarter to help the Shamrocks stay close at halftime, 27-19.

Mialak stayed in the game after picking up his third foul with 5:50 remaining in the third quarter.

Oakland CC cagers conclude season

The Oakland Community College men's basketball season ended with an 87-84 loss to Owens Tech in the first round of the regional tournament March 1 at Muskegon Community College.

The Raiders were ahead 64-74 with three minutes left in the game, but three consecutive turnovers proved costly as Owens Tech rallied to win.

OCC finished 12-16 overall and tied with Macomb for second place in the Michigan Junior College Athletic Association Eastern

Conference at 10-4. OCC's Richard Micheaux was named to all conference first team and Day-Dey Smith to the second team.

Smith had a triple double against Owens Tech with 21 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists. Freeman Jones added 17 points and Jones added 15.

Smith was OCC's leading scorer with an average of 18 per game. He also averaged nine rebounds.

Micheaux was the top rebounder in the conference and the

leader in field-goal percentage, averaging 13 rebounds and making 58 percent of his shots.

Tony McNeal averaged 14 points and Jones 12. Hanson made 50 percent of his three-point shots to lead the conference.

Micheaux, Lawrence Simmons, Hanson and Steve Jurawich will return next season. A number of Division II schools are said to be interested in Smith and Jones.

OCC players Will Marcoux and Jason Taylor made the academic honor roll with respective grade points of 3.4 and 3.2.