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"I thought we'd get into (the Observerland tournament) and get ripped up," Rodriguez said. "But I guess the competition is starting to show. I guess we're an outstanding 6-12 team."

The Rocks put seven wrestlers in the finals and took home nearly half of the 14 gold medals.

Sophomores John Mervyn (109) and Josh Henderson (125) and seniors Dan Hamblin (140), James Greene (145), Anwar Crutchfield (160) and Teono Wilson (189) were Salem's winners.

Salem junior Charlie Hamblin pinned defending champion William Laramie of Wayne in the heavyweight semis but lost a 10-3 decision to CC junior Casey Rogowski in the finals.

"(Hamblin) and Laramie are cousins, so I'm sure there was a little extra rivalry there," Krueger said.

Three wrestlers won consecutive titles but not at the same weights. Greene won at 135 last year and Rogowski at 189; Glenn senior John Fedulchak moved up from 140 to win the 152 title.

Stevenson senior Dan Seder, the 135-pound champion, and Fedulchak won the MVP honor. Seder is the most outstanding wrestler by the coaches — Seder in the lower weights (103-140) and Fedulchak in the upper weights (145-275).

Seder, who was named a tournament MVP for the third time this season, repeated an earlier victory over CC sophomore Mitch Hancock in the finals, 8-2.

He also won the Shamrock Invitational 7-0 over Hancock, who was the Observerland champ at 112 pounds last year.

Seder had just a 4-2 lead after two periods, but the suspense was lost when Hancock was penalized twice for false starts and was unable to break down Seder's defense.

"He's a tough kid, a good opponent," Seder said. "I guess I was confident, but I didn't take anything lightly. I just tried to wrestle him, not let up and stay in control of the match."

Fedulchak pinned his first opponent and won his last two bouts by technical fall to push his season record to 25-3.

"I didn't expect it at all," said Fedulchak of the MVP honor. "I thought Crutchfield of Salem might win it. He looked pretty strong."

"Today is the highlight of my high school career in wrestling. I'm going to build on this. I believe, if I work hard, I can go far."

Seder (31-1) and Fedulchak are looking forward to the upcoming tournaments and hoping to contend for state titles.

"I consider this one stop going toward the state championships; I'm focusing on one thing right now," Seder said.

"I'm at the top of my performance right now. I'm peaking at the right time," Fedulchak said. "I think I'm right where I want to be going into the conference and district."

Despite its dominating performance, Salem's team victory was not so easily achieved, according to Krueger.

"You don't know what we went through," he said, adding, two of Salem's champions had to overcome injuries.

Dan Hamblin has a broken hand that was well padded, and Wilson suffered torn cartilage in his chest during a dual meet Thursday.

"We just went for the win with (Wilson), nothing spectacular," Krueger said. "We didn't want him to overextend himself."

"It has a lot when he got into his spiral ride, and that's what he uses to pin most kids. We told him to 'stay out of it and just wrestle. You don't have to pin everybody.'"

"Hamblin wrestled hurt and won the tournament. He's a great senior leader and he did what he had to do."

Stevenson was second with three champions, including seniors Katsuhiko Sueda (112) and Chris Goins (119).

Sueda traded Redford Thurston's Lawrence Haddad 3-2 after two periods in the finals but went ahead in the third with an escape and a takedown before pinning with four seconds left.

"We did as well as we could have done," Stevenson coach Don Berg said, adding the Spartans were pleased to have five in the finals. "We'd like to have been 6-for-5, but that's not going to happen. Our area is no slouch as far as wrestling."

"(The tournament) brings out the best in all of us. It's a good competition to get us ready for February and the state tournament."

Also winning individual titles were Garden City's Ryan Atwood (130), Livonia Churchill's Vinnie Ascone (171) and Catholic Central's Brock Naysmith (215).

Atwood was nearly pinned in the first period by Lutheran Westland's Andy Ebondick and trailed 5-0, but he rallied over the next two periods to win a 13-11 decision.

Ascone won his championship when he escaped from Garden City's Brian Hinzman 18 seconds into the second overtime.

Hinzman was on the verge of an injury default after he hurt his left shoulder driving Ascione out of bounds in the first overtime and then avoided a potential takedown situation.

Naysmith wore a mask to cover a broken nose that caused him to miss a week. Rodriguez was worried about his stamina, but Naysmith managed to pin all three opponents with the final bout lasting the longest.

Rogowski, who is undefeated at 34-0, only started wrestling two years ago as a CC freshman.

"He's a powerful young man and just an outstanding athlete," Rodriguez said.

OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING

SEVENTH ANNUAL OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Jan. 31 at Westland John Glenn

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Plymouth Salem, 201; 2. Redford Catholic Central, 201; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 180; 4. Redford Thurston, 144; 5. Lutheran Westland, 112; 6. Farmington, 110; 7. Garden City, 109; 8. Wayne Memorial, 100; 9. Plymouth Central, 91; 10. Westland John Glenn, 89; 11. Livonia Churchill, 88; 12. Livonia Clarenceville, 69; 13. Livonia Franklin, 53; 14. Farmington Harrison, 50; 15. North Farmington, 25.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

275 pounds: Casey Rogowski (CC) dec. Charlie Hamblin (PS), 10:3; third: Matt Meyer (LW) dec. William Laramie (WM), 3:2; fifth: Andy Garback (RT) pinned A.J. Meoni (PC), 4:53.

152: John Mervyn (PS) dec. Joe Moreau (LS), 9:0; Mike Pate (CC) dec. Paul Goy (WM), 12:5; fifth: Ben Brown (LW) dec. Dan Tondreau (CL), 17:7; seventh: Chris O'Hara (CC) dec. Kyle Pitt (PC), 13:0.

132: Katsuhiko Sueda (LS) pinned Lawrence Haddad (RT), 5:56; third: Vinnie Zoccoli (GC) won by injury default over Rob Ash (PS); fifth: Jon Gress (WM) pinned Mike Parry (F), 4:38; seventh: Jason Fairweather (PC) dec. Brian Kramer (LC), 11:2.

119: Chris Goins (LS) dec. Eric Falkenberg (LW), 4:0; third: Dan Morgan (PS) pinned Jon Taylor (FH), 4:09; fifth: Ed Lendrum (CC) pinned Nate Wensko (WM), 0:55; seventh: Jeff Albrecht (JG) pinned Adam Hughes (LF), 1:34.

112: Josh Henderson (PS) pinned Trevor Clarke (HF), 0:55; third: Andy Lendrum (CC) pinned Justin Beseler (WM), 2:43; fifth: Eric Tondreau (CL) dec. Eric McMichael (JG), 8:3; seventh: Bear Micah (LW) pinned Dave Pakhtchen (F), 1:30.

109: Ryan Atwood (GC) dec. Andy Ebondick (LW), 13:11; third: Tony Lema (F) dec.

Dave Lammon (CL), 7:2; fifth: Jon Pocock (PC) dec. Chris Funk (RT), 3:2; seventh: Jeff Wheeler (CC) dec. Greg Pelotich (PS), 11:3; 135: Dan Seder (LS) dec. Mitch Hancock (CC), 8:2; third: Jerry Lema (F) pinned Jeff Usher (RT), 0:49; fifth: Aaron Haddad (LF) dec. Sam Boyd (PS), 4:1; seventh: Jason Sienko (WM) dec. Chris Wolfgang (JG), 8:4; 140: Dan Hamblin (PS) pinned Brian Musser (PC), 3:20; third: Martin Spinks (F) dec. Imad Khabouh (LS), 3:1; fifth: Mike Taylor (FH) pinned Steve Abler (LC), 3:21; seventh: Nick Powell (GC) dec. Justin Hazzey (RT), 4:2.

145: James Greene (PS) dec. Jeff Brach (LS), 6:3; third: Alex Agius (RT) dec. Ryan Shaplett (LF), 0:40; fifth: Mike Carter (LC) dec. Seven Sahner (F), 3:2; seventh: Ryan Zajack (CC) pinned Eddie Traynor (GC), 0:44.

160: John Fedulchak (JG) won by technical fall over Brandon Lapointe (LC), 18:3; third: Sean Bell (CC) pinned Tony Pikur (RT), 0:34; fifth: Rob Thelens (WM) pinned Jason Hample (LW), 1:39; seventh: Eric Greene (PS) pinned Mark Delich (F), 1:56.

189: Anwar Crutchfield (PS) dec. Matt Biedinger (JG), 3:0; third: Robert Demuck (PC) dec. Brian Baker (LS), 6:1; fifth: Brian Panchaszyn (LC) pinned Jeff Pascoe (CC), 3:45; seventh: Eric Toska (LF) dec. Hazem Longthorn (RT), 9:4.

215: Vinnie Ascone (LC) dec. Brian Hinzman (CC), 2:1 in double overtime; third: Rob Wentworth (LC) dec. Andy Wood (F), 9:7; fifth: Steve Mysinski (LF) dec. Mike Popeney (PS), 4:0; seventh: Pete Langer (JG) pinned Scott Archer (LW), 1:17.

215: Teono Wilson (PS) dec. Tim Baran (RT), 6:6; third: John Abshire (CC) pinned Weehee Haddad (LS), 2:18; fifth: Walter Ragland (CL) pinned Kyle Domagalski (F), 4:20; seventh: Mike Gartha (LC) dec. Josh Meyer, 3:0.

215: Brock Naysmith (CC) pinned Chris Gadev (FH), 2:47; third: Chad Chapman (PC) dec. Scott Genard (RT), 7:2; fifth: Josh Rose (CL) pinned Jeff Sinning (LC), 0:43; seventh: Ryan Vasilovits (PC) dec. George Tsoukour (LS), 6:4.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Mechanical Equipment Purchases (Bid #1A) until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 1998 at the Lewis Schullion Contract Administration Center, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, Michigan 48336-2363, addressed to Paul Hain at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. No oral, telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile proposals will be considered. The Board will not consider or accept a bid received after the time and date specified.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid; to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

Bid documents prepared by URS/Greiner, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, MS/EV, 26001 West Five Mile Road, Redford, MI 48239; the FW/Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit.

Bidders may obtain a set of bidding documents by contacting the Construction Manager (313) 535-1140, Brian Mackesell.

A bid bond for 5% of the bid amount issued by a carrier licensed by the State of Michigan and with an excellent or superior rating from AM Best Company must accompany your bid proposal. No certified checks accepted.

PRISCILLA L. BROUILLETTE, Secretary
Board of Education

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position change will be an adjustment for him on top of adapting to the college game.

"The main adjustment will be how I move around and catch the ball," he said. "I have to work on speed and agility; I have the blocking down from high school."

"It will be a big adjustment playing with college people, period. I'm looking forward to the challenge, though."

There might also be some playing time for Fisher next season if all goes well.

"At first, when they were recruiting me as a lineman, they wanted me to redshirt," he said.

"Then, when they said I'd be playing tight end, if I work hard enough, I might get time in the rotation."

"I think they recruited one other tight end. They already had four, but they're moving one to blocking fullback."

Fisher signed with EMU because the Eagles are willing to let him play baseball, too. Fisher has started at first base for the Hawks since his freshman year and helped Harrison win two of the last three league titles.

"I wanted to play both in college," he said. "I talked to the baseball coach (Roger Coryell).

He knew who I was, but he wants to see me again this spring and evaluate me before I can play or not. So this is like my tryout this spring."

"(The football coaches) said as long as I'm playing and it doesn't interfere with football, it's not a problem."

Fisher, who is actively involved with his church and works with his dad as a home contractor on Saturdays, has other talents beyond the athletic field.

For something to do between sports seasons, he tried out for the all-school play Guys and

Dolls and landed the role of Big Jule.

"He's tough, intimidating, like a gangster," Fisher said. "He's head of a bad guys kinda thing. I didn't really care what part I got, but they said I fit this character well."

Fisher and his fellow cast members spend two hours each school day practicing for the play. The curtain goes up in March and continues into April.

"I have a pretty big part. I think it'll be fun," Fisher said. "I enjoy acting and I wasn't playing a sport this winter, so I wanted to do something different."

We can't stop winning awards.

In addition to the 70 we told you about last year, we've just received 26 more!

This latest batch was won in Suburban Newspapers of America's 1997 Editorial Contest. With all the modesty we can muster, we're going to list them here:

Best Entertainment/Lifestyle Section

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Clarkston Life
- Second Place—Birmingham Eccentric, Suburban Life
- Third Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Lakes Café

Best Editorial Writing

- First Place—Oxford Eccentric, Closed Doors
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Lake Orion Editorial

Best Column Writing

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Carolyn Walker
- Second Place—Rochester Eccentric, Jay Grossman
- Third Place—Birmingham Bloomfield Eccentric, Judith Doner Berne

Best Editorial Page

- First Place—Southfield Eccentric
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Jay Grossman

Best Coverage of Local Business & Economic News

- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric

Best Sports Photo Journalism

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Not Quite Spring Training
- Second Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Riding the Wave

Best Sports Section

- Second Place—Livonia, Westland Observer

Best News Photo

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Watching
- Second Place—Garden City Observer, Clinton Rally
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Ride Me Down Easy

Best Feature Photo Story or Series

- First Place—Livonia Observer, Derek's Day
- Third Place—Westland Observer, Festival
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Handful of Hope

Best Breaking News Story

- First Place—Plymouth Observer, Fire Destroys Courthouse
- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric, Bungled Robbery

Best Local Election Coverage

- Third Place—Farmington Observer

Best Young People's Coverage

- First Place—Plymouth and Livonia Observer, Life in the 6th Grade

Best Coverage of Local Education/School District

- Second Place—Farmington Observer, Back to School series
- Third Place—Southfield Eccentric, Professor who Survived Holocaust

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