

# Gadjev, Lema eye state-meet honors

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Hopes for a Farmington Public Schools medal winner in the state wrestling championships rest with seniors Chris Gadjev and Jerry Lema.

They will compete in the Division II tournament Friday and Saturday at Kallag Arena in Battle Creek. The action starts at 3:30 p.m. each day.

Both are first-time state qualifiers, earning the trip with third-place finishes in the Monroe Jefferson regional tournament Feb. 28.

to regional champ Andy McDonald of Orchard Lake St. Mary's. He has never wrestled regional runner-up Kurt Kleinfow of Jefferson.

"It's all out, whatever you can do," Gadjev said. "It's any person's game now."

The 135-pound Lema (85-10) will wrestle against Lowell senior Brad Lyons (40-10) in the first round Friday.

"All I know is this season he lost to a guy I defeated last year at districts," Lema said.

"It's a lot of mental preparation now more than physical. You practice your moves, what works for you, but overall you have to clear your mind. You have to concentrate and take it one period at a time."

"If you lose the first match, you have to brush that one off. You have to look at the second match and know you're still in the tournament."

Lema won his first regional match but lost his second when a knee injury recurred. He rebounded to win his last two, pinning (3:18) Mason's Jon Van Dammelen in the consolation final.

"I got down a little bit (after the loss), but coach (Barry) Walsh, my brother (Tony) and the rest of my teammates were there to help me get my head straight and focus for my third match, which was a do-or-die match," Lema said.

Farmington coach Al Beyer believes Lema has what it takes to do well in the state meet.

"Jerry has a style of wrestling that could surprise a lot of people," he said. "He has a good head-lock, and he uses his hips real well. He's very deceiving with it. He can throw anybody on his back."

"What makes me unique is that I'm never counted out of a match," Lema said. "Coach says I could be down 14-0 and still come back."

"You never know what to expect. One minute I might be trying for a throw, and the next I'll be shooting at your legs."

| ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS (Through March 8) |    |    |    |      |
|---|----|----|----|------|
| East Division                                     | W  | L  | T  | Pts. |
| Ottawa 67's                                       | 39 | 17 | 9  | 87   |
| Belleville Bulls                                  | 40 | 22 | 3  | 83   |
| Kingston Frontenacs                               | 35 | 28 | 4  | 74   |
| Oshawa Generals                                   | 34 | 31 | 5  | 68   |
| Peterborough Petes                                | 19 | 35 | 10 | 48   |
| Toronto St. M. Majors                             | 24 | 40 | 9  | 37   |
| Central Division                                  | W  | L  | T  | Pts. |
| Quebec Storm                                      | 41 | 18 | 6  | 88   |
| Barrie Colts                                      | 38 | 21 | 5  | 81   |
| Niagara Rangers                                   | 27 | 28 | 9  | 63   |
| Oran Sound Flyers                                 | 25 | 34 | 5  | 57   |
| Sudbury Wolves                                    | 24 | 34 | 7  | 55   |
| North Bay Centennials                             | 15 | 43 | 6  | 36   |
| West Division                                     | W  | L  | T  | Pts. |
| London Knights                                    | 38 | 21 | 5  | 81   |
| Plymouth Whalers                                  | 34 | 24 | 7  | 75   |
| Sarnia Sting                                      | 31 | 20 | 13 | 75   |
| Erin Otters                                       | 33 | 28 | 4  | 70   |
| Windsor Spitfires                                 | 19 | 40 | 6  | 43   |
| S.S.M. Greyhounds                                 | 18 | 38 | 7  | 43   |

# Greyhounds edge Whalers in OT

## HOCKEY

Win the games you're supposed to. That's been Plymouth Whalers coach Pote DeBoer's sermon since the season's start.

But the Whalers let another slip away Sunday, and their chances for an Ontario Hockey League West Division title got slimmer.

A win over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, the last-place team in the division, at Compuware Arena would have allowed the Whalers to force a tie with the London Knights for first in the division.

It was easily within their grasp. Plymouth had a 2-0 lead after two periods; when David Legwand poked in a power-play goal (his 53rd score of the season) at 4:57 of the third, the Whaler lead was at 3-0.

But in a 2:08 span of that period, the Greyhounds turned the game around, scoring three quick goals — the last two, by Dan Passero and Nick Grady, on the power play to tie, 3-3.

Then came the heartbreaker for Plymouth. With 3:48 elapsed in overtime, Chad Spurr scored a third consecutive power-play goal to give Sault Ste. Marie a 4-3 victory.

The loss kept the Whalers two points behind London in the West (going into a Wednesday game with Windsor). On Friday, Plymouth concludes its regular season with a game at London.

Eric Goolby got the Whalers' first goal against the Grey-

hounds at 9:18 of the opening period. Shaun Fisher made it 2-0 with a power-play score in the second. Jesse Boulerice and Steve Wasylko each assisted on both goals; Fisher picked up an assist on Legwand's score.

Spurr assisted on all three third-period Greyhound goals, before netting the game-winner.

On Saturday, the Whalers didn't have nearly as much trouble with the Greyhounds. Goals by Boulerice and Legwand in the first period put them in front, and third-period scores by Nik Tselios, Kris Purdy and Brian Passmore assured the 6-1 triumph at Compuware.

Robert Esche was in goal for both games for Plymouth. He made 19 saves on Saturday and had 22 Sunday.

# Blue Devils upset Shamrocks in regional contest

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Catholic Central senior goaltender Rick Marnon probably had Grosso Pointe South's Charlie Braun feeling more like the cartoon character Charlie Brown in a Class A regional game at Compuware Arena.

Remember how Lucy used to pick the ball up just as Charlie Brown was going to kick it?

Marnon had the same effect on Braun and his Blue Devils teammates, steering away 23 shots, including several that required spectacular moves.

"We knew his glove hand was awesome and we had to score in the five hole or low," said Braun, a junior forward. "He's great, the best in the (Michigan Metro Hockey League), but we knew what we had to do."

South did just enough to beat CC, 2-1, using a short-handed goal by Braun in the third period to break a 1-1 tie.

Marnon came into the game red-hot, recording consecutive shutouts over Birmingham Brother Rice and sharing another over Redford Union with teammate Tom Monnier.

Marnon's finest save came in the third period when the score was 1-1 and he robbed South's Brad Balesky with a glove save while the Blue Devils enjoyed a

4-on-3 advantage.

"It hurts; I'd rather come out on top," Marnon said. "I don't care if I have to make all the saves at the end or not."

The Blue Devils broke Marnon's scoreless string with a goal by Matt Moran at 6:40 of the first period.

The Shamrocks tied the score when David Moss picked up a rebound off a shot by Keith Rowe and scored with 9:06 left in the second period.

The Blue Devils scored the game-winner with 7:53 left when Braun took a pass from Pat Manion in the slot and scored.

South defenseman Dave Bibeary made a key move leading to the goal, keeping the puck at the point and knocking a CC player down in the same motion.

"I think we were leaning toward getting in the other zone, neglected to take care of responsibilities in our zone and it cost us," CC coach Gordie St. John said.

"Marnon was outstanding. We just couldn't get another one for him. I thought we had some momentum going in the second period, and I thought we'd be stronger in the third. But give them credit; they're a very quick team."

The Shamrocks pulled Marnon for an extra attacker in the final

minute and generated three face-offs in the Blue Devils zone and a couple scoring chances.

South senior goalie J.C. Tibbitts was up to the challenge, finishing with 18 saves.

"Marnon may be the best in the league," Bopp said. "I know we're pretty happy with (Tibbitts). Both were very good."

Bopp advanced to the quarter-

finals for the first time. It's the first time South (24-9) has beaten CC in the state tournament in Bopp's six years as coach.

"Every year we have CC, Rice or Trenton (in the regional) and it's tough to move on," Bopp said. "We've beaten CC (in the regular season) and done pretty well against Rice, but we've never beaten Trenton."

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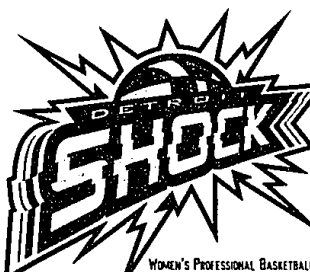
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