

# Rogowski repeats as state champion

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The next championship Detroit Catholic Central's Casey Rogowski and East Lansing's Kyle Croskey vie for will be of the team variety when they become football teammates at Central Michigan University.

But on Saturday, they battled only for themselves in the Division I individual state wrestling tournament at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Rogowski secured his second straight state championship and undefeated season with an 11-6 win over Croskey in the finals of the heavyweight division.

Each finalist has accepted football scholarships to CMU, which gave this match a subplot.

Croskey has a playing weight of about 285 pounds in football, which means he had to cut weight just to be eligible for the 275-pound division.

Rogowski dismissed Croskey in methodical fashion. The two were tied 0-0 after the first period.

Rogowski will be glad to have

## WRESTLING

him as a college teammate.

"He's the biggest guy I've ever wrestled," Rogowski said. "You think 285 pounds and you think fat, but he wasn't. He was about 6-2, 6-3 and really put together."

Rogowski is 91-0 the last two years, 46-0 this year.

He was the prohibitive favorite to defend his championship. He surprised the field in his junior year, winning the state title despite not being ranked No. 1 throughout the season.

"It's just like a great relief that it's over; I accomplished all I wanted, and all my worrying is done," Rogowski said. "It's a lot harder being the favorite."

Rogowski is the Shamrocks' ninth repeat state champion.

"He's an awesome wrestler and so were the other eight before him," said CC coach Mike Rodriguez, who shed tears while hugging Rogowski afterward.

"When you're close to a young man like Casey it's just tearful. Rogowski was teary-eyed but

none of the tears fell.

"I was too tired to cry," he said.

To reach the finals, Rogowski had to beat a familiar opponent, Portage Central's Jim Kilcoyne, in the semifinals. After falling behind early, Rogowski rallied for a 7-3 victory.

"He got ticked because he got taken down on his back," Rodriguez said.

Rogowski beat him earlier in the year, too.

"He was more prepared this time; he knew what was coming, what I had," Rogowski said. "He came out more fired up and used more stuff the second time."

Rogowski's first match was delayed about 4½ hours because Joe Louis Arena had to be cleared due to an asbestos scare.

Rodriguez said the long delay hurt Rogowski more than his opponent.

"If you're a state champion and all I'm thinking about is getting at you, it's the underdog's advantage," Rodriguez said. "It's a head game."

This is the first year the finals were held in Detroit and though

attendance records were set Rodriguez liked the old two-day format at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. He's not alone.

"Three days dragging it out is way too much," Rodriguez said. "Just get it over with."

Rogowski is a three-sport star for the Shamrocks, but he took up wrestling as a freshman for something to do between football and baseball seasons.

Then he started to like it.

"I took it up just to stay in shape," he said. "It helped with my balance. When I got in the room, I decided I wanted to be a three-timer (state champion)."

Rogowski had to settle for being a two-timer after failing to make the state finals as a 189-pounder in his sophomore year.

When asked if he'll ever have another wrestler like Rogowski, Rodriguez said "Yeah, his brother."

Ryan Rogowski is a freshman on the CC wrestling team, and big brother thinks he has a promising future.

"He saw what I did, so I told him it's his turn next year," Casey said.

## STATE WRESTLING RESULTS

### STATE INDIVIDUAL FINALS

#### AREA WRESTLING RESULTS

March 11-12 at Joe Louis Arena

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## Gymnastics from C1

al or state."

In the individual competition Saturday, Rubin finished 13th in the Division II all-around with a 34.60 score.

In her first two events, Rubin tied for 29th on vault (8.5) and 37th on floor (8.4), but she came back to finish 10th on bars (8.7) and second on beam (9.2) in her final two.

"The second day is kinda tough. It's such an emotional meet (Friday) and you're up late because the meet ends late and the adrenaline is still going," Dwyer said.

"Her leg strength was gone, and that hurt her on floor. But

she kept going. As a freshman or sophomore, she would have struggled with a meet like Saturday where she did so-so (on floor and vault).

"She had a good bars set but fell on the dismount. It was a good routine, but if she didn't fall she would've been at least third or second.

"Her last event was beam. By that point, you go out there and say 'Alright, if this is how it's going to go today, I'm just going to do my thing.'"

"Brook was probably the hardest worker in our gym day after day, and persistence and determination will get you there, I

was happy for her; it was a good way to end her career."

Keeshing, the team's only Division I gymnast, tied for ninth on beam (9.1), 10th on floor (9.25) and 11th on vault (9.1).

"She's a level 8 in club gymnastics, and most of those girls are level 9 and 10," Dwyer said. "She averages in the low 9s on each event. She'll get better through the years and be right up there."

Militello tied for 20th on beam (8.6) and Ulewicz 31st (8.36); Ouellette tied for 26th on bars (8.45).

Senior Liz Stoler, who suffered a neck injury that caused her to

miss the last month of the season, competed on bars in the team competition. Freshman Jenny Galbraith was one of five to do vault.

"Bars is not her favorite event," Dwyer said of Stoler, adding Farmington has good depth and he could enter only five girls per event.

"Her better events are floor and beam. I didn't want to risk her getting hurt on floor and, with our depth on beam, it was a difficult decision because she hadn't been competing for a good month. She had a good attitude — 'If this is what I can do to help the team, I'll do it.'"



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