

North's Bajrami among champs

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

"Matt Ulrey's situation looked bleak as time ran down on Saturday's 171-pound championship match at the 42nd annual Oakland County Wrestling Championships.

Ulrey, a senior from Orchard Lake St. Mary's, found himself trailing Oxford's Tim Breyer by a 10-2 score midway through the third period at Lake Orion High School. Ulrey made the most of the time remaining, however.

Ulrey sent Breyer to the mat and eventually pinned him with one minute left on the clock. The victory enabled Ulrey to defend his 171-pound Oakland County title and become the first two-time county champion in Orchard Lake St. Mary's history.

"I've been sick lately, but I didn't give up," Ulrey said. "Some people said I was lucky. I was used to that. I had more than my fair share of guys in my career. I was working for it all the whole time and (Breyer) gave me an opening."

The only other individual champion to come from St. Mary's was Aaron McDonald, who won the 215-pound title in 1997.

One of the more intriguing individual finals matched Ferndale's J.P. Morgan against Walled Lake Western's Ryan Beech at 119 pounds. Both were in search of a third consecutive county title.

Morgan held leads of 3-2 after the first period and 6-4 through two periods. Beech scored a reversal late in the final period to get within 8-6, but that's the way the match ended.

Morgan, the tournament's top wrestler for the lower weights (103-140), became the 17th wrestler to earn three county

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you got out to that kind of lead it helps in case you have a few guys that stumble, but nobody really stumbled that bad. We had eight medalists and, usually, eight medalists will win this tournament pretty easily."

Joe Wood and Clint DeGain represented Clarkston's individual champions. Wood, named the tournament's top wrestler for the upper weight classes (145-275), pinned Avondale's Chris Woodley at 49 seconds of the heavyweight championship match; DeGain defeated Troy's Ruben Barale at 7:1 in the 160-pound final. The Wolves had three individual runners-up in Braden L'Amoreaux (125), Tony Lajoie (130) and John Langdon (145).

titles. He won the 103-pound championship in 1999 and the 119-pound title in 2000.

Pontiac Northern's Tyrone Logan (1985-88) is the only wrestler in Oakland County tournament history to win four individual titles.

Saturday was a special day for West Bloomfield's Bryant Kuza. Walled Lake Western's Jacob Pattenaude, Lake Orion's Rick Kallis, Birmingham Seaholm's Pete Bozynski and North Farmington's Ramis Bajrami.

Kuza, a senior, registered a two-point takedown in sudden-death overtime to defeat Novia's Brian Ong in the 135-pound final, 6-4.

Kuza dislocated his kneecap during the first day of practice but has returned to go 8-0.

"It was a lot of guts and a lot of

"I think credit has to go to Braden L'Amoreaux, who is a freshman," Mike DeGain said. "He had a real tough weight class at 125 and taking second here was a great effort."

Novia led all teams with three individual champions - Scott Kortlandt at 189, Craig Hearn at 103 and Josh Churella at 125 - while Walled Lake Western (Jacob Pattenaude, 145), Troy (Nick Best, 130), Lake Orion (Rick Kallis, 140), West Bloomfield (Bryant Kuza, 135), Orchard Lake St. Mary's (Matt Ulrey, 171), Ferndale (J.P. Morgan, 119), Birmingham Seaholm (Pete Bozynski, 215), Oak Park (Robert Love, 162) and North Farmington (Ramis Bajrami, 112) had one apiece.

courage by Bryant," West Bloomfield head coach Greg Aloisi said. "He bent three quality kids to win the title."

Pattenaude won by injury default over Clarkston's John Langdon in the 145-pound championship match for his second county title. Pattenaude first's county crown came back in 1999 when he captured the 135-pound title.

Kallis, meanwhile, scored the only points of the 140-pound final with 31 seconds left in the third period. The 2-0 triumph prevented Holly's Matt Turner from registering a second straight county title.

Bozynski (215) and Bajrami (112) dominated their respective weight classes.

Bozynski recorded pins in the quarterfinal and semifinal

rounds before scoring an 8-3 decision in the final over Ferndale's Steve Berry. It marked the fifth individual county title in Seaholm history.

As for Bajrami, he pinned Milford's Matt Thome in 2:27 in the final after posting a 14-6 major decision in the semifinals and a pin in 3:44 in the quarterfinals.

Clarkston's Mike DeGain coached his fourth county championship team Saturday, moving him into a tie for second place with Pontiac Northern's Bill Wilson and Hazel Park's Chuck Skinner.

However, DeGain was quick to deflect any praise. "I've already had my wrestling career," DeGain said. "My wrestling career is long over and the reason you do this is to try and bring these guys along. These are their accomplishments, not mine."

The all-time leader for county team titles by a head coach is Hazel Park's Bob Morill with eight.

Saturday's portion of the tournament ran as smooth as could be, ending at 6:38 p.m. The championship, third-place and fifth-place matches were conducted simultaneously on three different mats beginning around 4 p.m.

Saturday's final round matches began with the 171-pound weight class and concluded with 160.

The National Federation Wrestling Rules require that a random draw is employed to determine the order of competition for each day or session, and the Michigan High School Athletic Association had adopted such a procedure that will be utilized throughout the season.

OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING STATS

42ND OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dec. 22 at Lake Orion High School
TEAM SCORES - 1. Clarkston, 274.5 points; 2. Novi, 215.5; 3. Rochester Adams, 201.5; 4. Walled Lake Western, 196.5; 5. Oxford, 164; 6. Troy, 160; 7. Walled Lake Central, 158; 8. Lake Orion, 154.5; 9. West Bloomfield, 137.5; 10. Waterford Mott, 134.5; 11. Milford, 131; 12. Auburn Hills Avondale, 127.5; 13. Rochester, 117.5; 14. Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 114.5; 15. Ferndale, 113.5; 16. South Lyon, 112; 17. Holly, 109; 18. Birmingham Seaholm, 108; 19. Birmingham Groves, 105.5; 20. Oak Park, 105; 21. Madison Heights Lamphere, 78; 22. Southfield, 75; 23. Orionville Brandon, 71; 24. Hazel Park, 64; 25. North Farmington, 63.5; 26. (tie) Pontiac Northern and Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 52; 28. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 48; 29. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 47.5; 30. Troy Athens, 40.5; 31. Pontiac Central, 35.5; 32. Royal Oak Kimball, 35; 33. Farmington, 33; 34. Royal Oak Dorsey, 29; 35. Berkley, 28; 36. Southfield-Lathrup, 27; 37. Madison Heights Madison, 26; 38. Lakeland, 23; 39. Detroit Country Day, 22; 40. Waterford Ketterling, 18; 41. Bloomfield Hills Addover, 12; 42. Farmington Harrison, 10.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

171 - 1. Matt Ulrey (OLSM) pinned Tim Breyer (Oxford), 5:00; 2. Casey White (WLC) dec. Bob Voss (Milford), 8:4; 3. Kyle Hostler (Clarkston) major dec. over LaBran Oldham (Ferndale), 13:2.
189 - 1. Scott Kortlandt (Novi) major dec. over Korhan Guorack (WB), 8:0; 3. Tony Lysiotis (Oxford) won by default over John Hills (LO); 5. Jeremy Coates (Avondale) pinned Scott Polewack (Troy), 2:49.
215 - 1. Pete Bozynski (Seaholm) dec. Steve Berry (Ferndale), 8:3; 3. Bob Blaski (Brandon) dec. Lee Ferguson (Milford), 3:1; 5. Jon Farley (Adams) dec. Jason Talbot (Clarkston), 6:5.
275 - 1. Joe Wood (Clarkston) pinned Chris Woodley (Avondale), :49; 3. Brandon Burris (WLW) dec. Delano Sanders (Hazel Park), 8:7; 5. Eric Chapman (Mott) pinned Brian Johnson (OLSM), 3:35.

303 - 1. Craig Hearn (Novi) pinned Roy Salsuda (WLC), 1:02; 3. Elliott May (Clarkston) dec. Joey Lopez (Mott), 7:6; 5. Meshawn Biddle (Lamphere) dec. Paul Pichat (South Lyon), 8:3.
132 - 1. Ramis Bajrami (North Farmington) pinned Matt Thome (Milford), 2:27; 3. Jerry Della (Rochester) dec. Ron Mantel (Oxford), 8:7; 5. Josh Gilbert (Lamphere) dec. Adam Kennard (Lake Orion), 6:4.
159 - 1. J.P. Morgan (Ferndale) dec. Ryan Beech (WLW), 8:6; 3. Danny Mason (Troy) dec. Luke Roesser (Adams), 10:5; 5. Jason Rodnick (WB) won by default over James Campbell (Rochester).

128 - 1. Josh Churella (Novi) won by technical fall over Braden L'Amoreaux (Clarkston), 20:5; 3. Harry Leipnitz (North Farmington) pinned Jared Seaman (WLW), 2:32; 5. Jeff Hoffman (OLSM) won by technical fall over Kevin Senopole (Rochester), 16:1.

130 - 1. Nick Best (Troy) major dec. over Tony Lajoie (Clarkston), 12:2; 3. Brandon Kakes (Groves) dec. J.R. Muldoon (Novi), 4:1; 5. Joe Della (Rochester) dec. Jeff Clara (WLW), 8:6.

138 - 1. Bryant Kuza (WB) dec. Brian Ong (Novi), 6:4 (OT); 3. Jake Williamson (South Lyon) dec. Tom Barkham (Adams), 6:4; 5. Craig Aubrey (WLC) won by default over Keon Perkins (Pontiac Central).

140 - 1. Rick Kallis (Lake Orion) dec. Matt Turner (Holly), 2:0; 3. Dave Edwards (South Lyon) dec. Justin Nazareff (WLW), 7:2; 5. David Santoro (Adams) dec. Curtis Klich (WB), 6:5.

145 - 1. Jacob Pattenaude (WLW) won by injury default over John Langdon (Clarkston); 3. Craig Fraser (Adams) dec. Jesse Smith (Lake Orion), 5:3; 5. Mark Humlecki (Bishop Foley) pinned Gary Lawson (Mott), 2:06.

152 - 1. Robert Love (OP) dec. Nick Burton (Adams), 8:5; 3. Mark Stewart (WLC) dec. Jeff Koenig (WLW), 10:4; 5. Jason Elviriga (Oxford) pinned Adam Krieger (Seaholm), 2:42.

160 - 1. Clint DeGain (Clarkston) dec. Ruben Barale (Troy), 7:1; 3. Drew Michelotti (Adams) pinned Darryl Anderson (Southfield), 1:08; 5. Brian Chapman (Avondale) pinned Mike Adams (Pontiac Northern), 3:49.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 27
Canton vs. Detroit Western at U40 Jesuit, 12:40 p.m.
Rough Tournament, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Wayne vs. Murray Wright at Detroit's Cobo Arena, 8 p.m. (Holly Tournament)
Farmington vs. Holly, 7 p.m. (Grosse Ile Tournament)
Salem vs. Southgate, 6:30 p.m.
Grosse Ile vs. Allen Park, 8 p.m. (Madison Hts. Madison Tournament)
Petersburg vs. Lenexa Christian, 8 p.m.

Ply. Christian vs. Madison, 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28
Holly Tournament, 5 & 7 p.m.
M.H. Madison Tournament, 6 & 8 p.m.
Grosse Ile Tournament, 6:30 & 8 p.m.
Bish. Gallagher at Borgess, 7 p.m. (U40 Jesuit Roundball Classic)
N. Farm. vs. A.A. Pioneer, noon (Trev. City St. Francis Tournament)
Harrison vs. Elk Rapids, 6 p.m.
T.C. St. Francis vs. Suttons Bay, 8 p.m. (Bishop Cusack at Toledo Emmanuel)
Agape vs. Delaware Christian, 5:15 p.m.
Emmanuel vs. Maumee Valley, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29

Roundball Classic, 1:45 & 3:30 p.m.
Traverse City St. Francis Tournament, 6 & 8 p.m.
Warrior Christmas Classic at Toledo Emmanuel, 8 & 9 p.m.
U40 Jesuit Roundball Classic, TBA
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 29 (Schoolcraft Tournament)

Kirkland vs. Wilber Wright (III), 5 p.m.

S'craft vs. John Brown (Ont.), 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 30
Schoolcraft Tournament, 1 & 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 28
S'craft at Panama Beach (Fla.), TBA
Saturday, Dec. 29
S'craft at Panama Beach (Fla.), TBA
PREP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Dec. 27

W. Bloomfield Tournament, 9 a.m.

UM Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
UM Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m.
Portage Northern Inv., TBA
Saturday, Dec. 29
Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.
Trenton Dual Tournament, 9 a.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 27

Whalers vs. Erie Otters

at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
Whalers at London, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
Whalers vs. Quebec
Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.
TBA — time to be announced.

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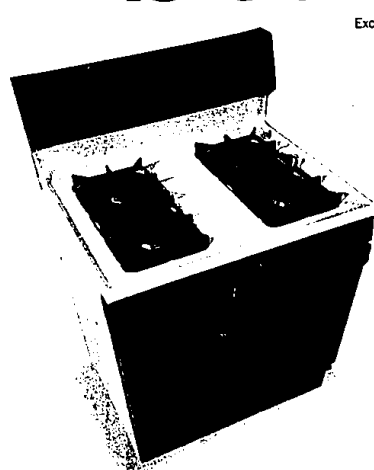
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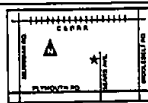
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