



Mat marvels

State champs highlight senior-dominated wrestling squad

BY MARTY SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

Three state champions, nine state placers. State qualifiers across the board.

There's no doubting the 2003 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Wrestling Team is loaded. The senior-dominated team, recently selected by a panel of area coaches, includes three repeat first-team all-stars from last year's squad.

The trio of state champions include Clarkston's Tony LaJole (125 pounds) and the Oxford duo of Tim Breyer (171) and Tony Lysyotis (215). The other state placers are Matt Herron (Clarkston), Denny Mason (Troy), John Langdon (Clarkston), Mark Crosthwaite (Athens), Adam Krieger (Seaholm) and Joe Wood (Clarkston).

West Bloomfield's Greg Alessi is Coach of the Year.

regional levels of competition before taking eighth place at the Division I state meet. "His main strength is that he's tenacious - he's always moving in his mat," said DeGan.

ELLIOT MAY (Clarkston, 125): A two-time state qualifier, the Clarkston junior registered a 30th overall record this winter. May placed third at the district and regional levels of the Division I state tournament to qualify for the state finals. May won the Portage Central Invitational, and placed second at the Howell and Oakland County tournaments. "He's a gamer. Once that whistle blew he was all business on the mat and really went after people," said DeGan.

DANNY MASON (Troy, 119): Coach Don Hill has seen a lot of great wrestlers work through the regularity of a program over the years. Danny Mason ranked right up there with the best. "I don't know if he's the best, but he's certainly one of the top five or six wrestlers we've ever had," said Hill, a C-1 assistant coach. "Danny loves wrestling and really has the heart for the sport." A repeat first-team All-Area wrestler, Mason is a three-time state qualifier and a two-time state placer. Mason will leave Troy as the school's career wins leader (164) and career points leader (740). He finished with a 48-9 record this winter. He won the Oakland County title and was second in the Division I state meet. Mason was first at the county, OAA and Troy tournaments.

JOE WOOD (Clarkston, 275): Wood has been solid the past two years for coach Mike DeGan. In his junior and senior seasons, Wood scored a stellar 19-5 record. 71 pins and a pair of fifth-place Division I individual state meet finishes. This past season, Wood recorded a 46-5 overall record with a team-leading 39 pins. He was first at the Oakland County, Oakland Activities Association and Howell tournaments.

MATT HERRON (Clarkston, 133): Herron wrestled to a 43-7 record, including 24 pins. The Clarkston junior won an Oakland County championship and also placed first at the OAA, Howell and Portage Central tournaments. Herron was second at both the district and

and earned his second consecutive trip to the Division I state tournament finals. Lamoreaux won an Oakland County championship and was first of the OAA tournament. "He's a good overall wrestler and he's best when attacking people," said DeGan. "He has a good leg attack and is also well-rounded."

JOE DELLA (Rochester, 135): Della, a four-year starter at Rochester High, finished with 109 career wins. He posted a 38-9 mark this season with 71 pins and was voted most valuable wrestler. Besides claiming an OAA crown, Della also took first at the Wayne City and Rochester Invitational, and was second at the Oakland County, district and regional tournaments and was a first-time state qualifier. "Joe comes from a strong wrestling family and being such an experienced wrestler, he's really comfortable at just every position," said Rochester coach Jed Kramer. "While he's aggressive, he's very hard to beat. He's a confident and skilled wrestler."

JOHN LANGDON (Clarkston, 140): As a freshman he could hardly crack the lineup. As a senior he was a state runner-up. Langdon wrestled four years at Clarkston and advanced to the Division I state finals three straight seasons. Langdon finished with a 29-6 overall record this year with 20 pins. He won the Oakland County title and was second in most every other tournament. "John started wrestling for us in ninth grade and was probably a third stringer. He came along in a big way his second year and really improved by the time he was a senior," said DeGan. "He's got the look that was his trademark move."

MARK CROSTHWAITE (Athens, 145): Crosthwaite concluded his four-year career with 100 career victories, including a 42-4 mark this season. He was a two-time state qualifier who placed fifth at the Division I state meet this year. Crosthwaite was first at the Oakland County and OAA tournaments. The senior was second at the district and regional.

"He's real quick - that's his major attribute," said Athens coach Bob Blake. "His athleticism and ability to get out from underneath are his two biggest assets."

2003 ECCENTRIC ALL-AREA WRESTLING TEAMS

FIRST TEAM		
ATHLETE	SCHOOL	WEIGHT
Joe Wood	Clarkston	275 pounds
Matt Herron	Clarkston	133 pounds
Elliott May	Clarkston	125 pounds
Denny Mason	Troy	119 pounds
Tony LaJole	Clarkston	125 pounds
Braden Lamoreaux	Clarkston	130 pounds
Joe Della	Rochester	135 pounds
John Langdon	Clarkston	140 pounds
Mark Crosthwaite	Troy Athens	145 pounds
James Burnie	Seaholm	152 pounds
Adam Krieger	Seaholm	160 pounds
Tim Breyer	Oxford	171 pounds
Kyle Hester	Clarkston	189 pounds
Tony Lysyotis	Oxford	215 pounds
Greg Alessi	West Bloomfield	Coach

SECOND TEAM		
ATHLETE	SCHOOL	WEIGHT
Luis Gomez	Oxford	275 pounds
John Della	Rochester	133 pounds
Mike Larco	Lahser	112 pounds
Ron Mantel	Oxford	119 pounds
James Campbell	Rochester	125 pounds
Chris Kanaya	West Bloomfield	130 pounds
Mike Menach	Groves	135 pounds
Joe Miller	Rochester	140 pounds
Jesse Smith	Lake Orion	145 pounds
Sean Turner	Clarkston	152 pounds
Kyle Rowley	Oxford	160 pounds
Clint DeVlin	Clarkston	171 pounds
Jeremy Cantor	Ann Arbor	189 pounds
Jonathan Farley	Rochester Adams	215 pounds

HONORABLE MENTIONS

275 pounds: James Boyd (Stoney Creek); Jeff Demarco (Troy); Matt Kanaya (West Bloomfield); Don Scott (Southfield); Nick Toolanian (St. Mary's); Chris Woodley (Avenel); 100 pounds: Rick Aubrey (St. Mary's); Blake Tenkell (Groves); Cory Dyama (Troy); David Pearce (Lahser); 112 pounds: Jared Jackson (West Bloomfield); Paul Lewin (Stoney Creek); Luis Santoro (Avenel); Dave Jensen (St. Mary's); 119 pounds: Jerry (Stoney Creek); Brian Webb (Clarkston); 125 pounds: Adam McTaggart (Lahser); Luke Roemer (Adams); Don Spigno (St. Mary's); 130 pounds: Chris Best (Troy); Nathan Meredith (Seaholm); Kevin Senopole (Rochester); John Schwartz (Farmington); 135 pounds: Vince Licari (Athens); Brian Lumello (Seaholm); Eric Putnam (Lutheran Northwest); Robert Salazar (Troy); 140 pounds: Chris Gitten (Avenel); Robert Grupido (Lake Orion); John Dreyer (Groves); Ian Turk (Seaholm); 145 pounds: Wayne Jacob (Stoney Creek); Matt Saliba (Lahser); Mike Parker (Clarkston); Mike Potter (Oxford); 152 pounds: Dan Hazleton (Lahser); Phil Raquetup (Groves); James Roy (West Bloomfield); Matt Samann (Stoney Creek); 160 pounds: Adam Abbott (Groves); Brian Herrington (Brother Rice); Brenton Pace (Clarkston); Nathaniel Putnam (Lutheran Northwest); 171 pounds: Kasaraz Aquina (Southfield); Dave Baker (Lahser); Courtland Bartlett (Farmington); Tom Colant (Seaholm); Matt Hager (Brother Rice); Rocky Rocheau (Lake Orion); Pat Scanlon (West Bloomfield); Matt Worsvik (Avenel); 189 pounds: Nick Belaky (Farmington); Travis Leonard (Adams); Dan Rietum (Troy); 215 pounds: Paul Jackson (Avenel); Andrew Moulding (Farmington); Jesse Osborne (Lake Orion); Jason Tabol (Clarkston).

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