

Parent falls in mat regional

By TOM BAER

Southfield-Lathrup's Rob Parent was facing a problem which most high school athletes wouldn't mind having—proficiency in two sports.

Unfortunately, the two sports—wrestling and hockey—conflicted with each other and that caused the problem for the Lathrup sophomore.

As a wrestler, Parent had won 32-straight matches going into last Saturday's Class A regional tournament at Flint Northwestern High. Had he finished in the top four in his 119-pound weight class, he would have advanced to the Class A state finals next Saturday at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

As a hockey player, Parent is a member of the Southfield Indians, a Midget travel team, which left this week for a playing tour in Borås, Sweden. The trip to Sweden would have conflicted with the wrestling finals.

As of last Saturday morning before the regional, Parent was opting for the overseas trip, no matter what happened in the tournament. But finally, Lake Orion's Tony Uhlmann, another 119-pound wrestler, solved Parent's problem for him.

Uhlmann, who also entered the regional with an unbeaten record, eliminated Parent, 3-4. Earlier in the journey, Parent had dropped a 3-4 decision to Flint Central's Dudley Mays before coming back to whip Romeo's Deans Heathfield, 10-3.

PARENT'S DECISION about which trip to take wasn't an easy one to make—and it may have affected his wrestling performance at the regional, according to Lathrup coach Ray Toohy.

"He just didn't seem to have the motivation you need when you get this far down the road," Toohy said. "Once you get to this level (the regionals), everybody's pretty comparable. It's just a matter of who wants to win the most."

Toohy said he made it plain to Parent before the regional: either go to the state finals, or don't wrestle in the regional.

"I told him that if he wasn't going to wrestle for me in the state meet, I wasn't going to let him wrestle in the regional," the coach said. "He thought about it for about 10 minutes and decided not to wrestle."

"But we had a couple of hours between then and the time he was supposed to wrestle. He was pretty upset about things. Finally, I told the athletic director that I was going to let him wrestle."

The turnaround decision to allow Parent to compete in the regional sparked protests from the coaches from Flushing and Flint Central, who both had contenders in the 119-pound class, according to Toohy.

"They didn't want Rob to wrestle because Rob would have knocked out their kids," Toohy said. "But we did nothing illegal. You don't forfeit a match until you fail to show up at the appointed time."

The coaches took their protest to a tournament grievance committee, which telephoned the Michigan High School Athletic Association for a final decision. The MHSAA decided to allow Parent to wrestle, according to Toohy.

Parent finished his sophomore season with an excellent 33-2 record. Uhlmann, who entered the regional with a 35-0 mark, lost two tournament matches and ended up in third place in the 119-pound competition.

Toohy hopes this situation won't be repeated next season when Parent is again expected to be one of the state's best wrestlers.

"Rob has assured me that there'll be no more hockey—only wrestling for the next two years," Toohy said.

FLINT NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL
TEAM FINISHES—Flint Northwestern, 123;

points: 3. South Creek 70; 4. Farmington High 61; 5. Flint Northwestern 42; 6. Farmington Hills 31; 7. Grand Blanc 28; 8. Flint Central 21; 9. Flint Central 20; 10. West Bloomfield 19; 11. West Bloomfield 18; 12. Flint Central 17; 13. Farmington Hills 16; 14. Farmington Hills 15; 15. Flint Central 14; 16. Farmington Hills 13; 17. Flint Central 12; 18. Farmington Hills 11; 19. Flint Central 10; 20. Farmington Hills 9; 21. Flint Central 8; 22. Farmington Hills 7; 23. Flint Central 6; 24. Farmington Hills 5; 25. Flint Central 4; 26. Farmington Hills 3; 27. Flint Central 2; 28. Farmington Hills 1; 29. Flint Central 0; 30. Farmington Hills 0.

119 POUNDS—Lacey Wilson (Flint Northwestern), Ray Stern (Farmington Hills), C.J. Heron (Flint Northwestern), Dan Stern (Flint Central), 102 POUNDS—Ronald Mithouse (Flint Northwestern), Pat Williams (West Bloomfield), Dennis Gustafson (Flushing), Clarence Wilson (Flint Northwestern), 115 POUNDS—Greg Martin (Flint Northwestern), Anthony Sullivan (Flint Northwestern), Healy Stern (Farmington Hills), Steve Miller (Flushing), 118 POUNDS—Brian Johnson (Flint Northwestern), Chris Kasper (Flint Central), Tom Lin

Court House netters win

COURT HOUSE TENNIS & RACQUETS CLUB retained its first place standing in the Metro Tennis League with an overpowering 241-114 victory over the Farmington Racquet Club, Feb. 20 at Court House.

Players from Court House won all but two matches in the Farmington meet, losing only one women's singles and one women's doubles match.

Court House, the defending league champion, now leads the Metro Tennis League with 1,326 points. Square Lake Racquet Club is second with 1,289 points.

The balance of the Metro Tennis League standings is: 3. Centaur, 1,258 points; 4. Oak Park 1,237; 5. Franklin 1,144; 6. Farmington 1,029; 7. Rochester 960; 8. Royal Oak 801.

Centaur's men's team proved the margin of victory as they swept all 12 matches from Square Lake opponents. Centaur women players split their matches at six aces against Square Lake opponents.

Despite the victory, Centaur still trails Square Lake in the Metro Tennis League standings. Square Lake holds second place in the league, 31 points ahead of Centaur.

Centaur returns to action March 5 when it hosts league leading Court House Tennis & Racquets Club.

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION**

A special election will be held in Farmington Public School District on the 5th day of April, 1977.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the last day upon which unregistered persons may register in order to be able to vote at said election is:

Monday, March 7, 1977
up to 5:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time

Application for registration should be made to the clerk of the city or township in which the elector resides. Registration will be received during regular office hours Monday through Friday of each week. Farmington City residents may register at City Hall, 2860 Liberty Street. Farmington Hills residents may register at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 3155 Eleven Mile Road. West Bloomfield Township residents may register at the West Bloomfield Township Hall, 440 Orchard Lake Road.

Persons already registered upon the registration books of such city or township need not re-register.

Absentee ballots will be available at the Board of Education Offices, 3250 Shawwassee, until 2:00 P.M. Saturday, April 2, 1977.

MICHAEL R. SPIECHE
Secretary of the Board of Education

Published February 24, 1977

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