

Talent marks O&E All-Area wrestling squad

By JOHN BOZZO

A state championship team highlights the selections in the second annual Observer & Eccentric all-area wrestling team.

Detroit Country Day School won the Class D Michigan High School Athletic Association championship.

John Campbell, coach of the Country Day School team, won the coach of the year nod in a vote of his fellow coaches.

All of the selections in the 1978 O & E dream wrestling squad are based on a poll of high school coaches. Eleven of 16 coaches responded.

Among the individual wrestlers on the team are two state champions and numerous qualifiers for the post-season state tournament.

Everyone voting for a 98-pound wrestler picked Ron Stern of Farmington for the first team. Stern, a senior, compiled a 37-4 won-loss record this past season.

Stern's record included outstanding performances in many tournaments. He won the Class A regional, North Farmington Invitational, Inter-Lakes League and Class A district tournaments. In addition, Stern was second at the John Glenn Invitational, third in Oakland County Tournament, third at Schoolcraft Invitational and second in the state championships.

OUR 105-POUND selection ran up the best record in the history of wrestling at Farmington Harrison High School. Kevin Suterlin, a senior, won his first 35 matches this season. His lone defeat was in the finals of the Class A state championship tournament, giving him second place.

Among the long list of Suterlin's tournament victories are the Oakland County, Detroit Country Day, Schoolcraft, Western Six League, Class A district and regional tournaments.

For the past two seasons, no one has found a way to beat Detroit Country Day School's talented 112-pounder, senior Larry Webb. He has rolled up a perfect 59-0 record the past two seasons, winning two Class D state championships in the process.

"Larry Webb is a natural talent," said Country Day's Campbell. "He's not particularly strong, but he has a fantastic sense of balance. He knows where his weight is at all times. Wherever you move, he's already there."

Rob Parent of Southfield-Lathrup, a 119-pounder, is the only junior on the first team. In his previous three years, Parent has rung up 110 victories as compared to 11 defeats.

In his senior season next year, Parent will have a shot at the Michigan High School Athletic Association career victory record. The career record of 126 wins was set this past season. Lathrup coaches believe Parent will exceed that total by next Christmas.

PARENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS this season include an awesome 51-2 record. He finished third in the Class

A state finals, losing his semi-final bout in overtime to the eventual champion.

Parent was runner-up in the Oakland County tournament and winner of the Pontiac Northern, Lake Orion, Metro Suburban Activities Association, Class A district and Class A regional tournaments.

West Bloomfield's Jeff Petrillo got the nod in the 126-pound weight class. The senior Petrillo had a 32-10 record, which included second in the Class A regional and third in the Class A district.

Petrillo was champion at the Warren Lincoln, North Farmington and Montrose tournaments.

North Farmington senior Bob Petróff is our first team choice at the 132-pound weight division. Petróff was 33-9 on the season. He placed sixth in the Class A state tournament.

Petróff's teammate and classmate at North Farmington, John Cotter, received the first team nod in the 138-pound weight class. Cotter was second in the Class A state championships. He lost a 9-3 decision to a Temperance Bedford wrestler in the title bout. Cotter had a 27-1 record.

Bob Nicks of Rochester High School is the number one grappler at 145 pounds. Nicks, a senior, was 32-7 on the season. He won the Greater Oakland Activities League tournament and was third in both the Class A district and regional tournaments.

ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL state champion on our all-area team is senior Mike Johnson of Troy High School. Johnson has compiled an impressive 63-3 slate the past two seasons, including 49-1 this year.

Johnson's tournament triumphs, other than the Class B state championship, include the Troy, Algonac, Pontiac and district events. He was a runner-up in the regional. Of Johnson's 40 wins this year, 20 came by pin.

Over his three-year varsity career at Troy, Johnson has an 86-10 won-loss record.

Johnson is an unusual athlete," said Troy coach Don Hill. "In that he is also an excellent Greco-Roman wrestler. (High school wrestling is free style.) Just last March 17, he won the Greco-Roman section of the Junior National Tournament, which is a 20 and under age group."

North Farmington's third representative on the O & E dream mat squad is 165-pound senior Jim Suterlin. He won his first 37 matches of the season before losing in the first round of action at the Class A state finals.

Fred Blackmer of Farmington Harrison holds down the number one 177-pound spot. He finished second in the state finals. Blackmer was also a runner-up in the Schoolcraft Invitational. He won the Detroit Country Day School, Western Six League, Class A district and regional tournaments.

THERE WAS A TIE in the voting for the 194-pound weight class first team wrestler. Paul Cracknell of Rochester Adams and Mark Schulte of North Farmington will share the honor.

Cracknell was 34-6 on the season, including 23 pins. He won the Utica Ford, Metro Suburban Activities Association tournaments and was third in both the Class A district and regionals. Schulte was 35-5 on the year. He was the Class A regional, district, Oakland County and Northwest Suburban League champ.

Rounding out the all-area selections is Birmingham Groves heavyweight Stu Hixon. The burly Falcon matman pinned 27 of his opponents while posting a 30-10 record.

Hixon set a Groves High School record for the fastest pin. He nailed one of his opponents this season in 10 seconds. Hixon was champion of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Utica Eisenhower and Metro Suburban Activities Association tournaments. He was also third in the Class A district and fourth in the Class A regional, earning him a berth in the state finals.



ROB PARENT

MIKE JOHNSON

LARRY WEBB



PAUL CRACKNELL

BOB NIX

MARK SCHULTE



RON STERN

FRED BLACKMER

JOHN COTTER



COACH JOHN CAMPBELL

All-Area wrestlers

88 POUNDS: 1. Ron Stern (Farmington High School); 2. John Fisher (Rochester High School); Honorable Mention, Paul Canera (Rochester High School), Mike Cunningham (Birmingham Seaholm), Mark Riley (Detroit Country Day School).

105 POUNDS: 1. Kevin Suterlin (Farmington Harrison); 2. John Segala (Bloomfield Hills Lahser); Honorable Mention, Mark Weiser (Detroit Country Day School), John Murphy (Farmington High School), Nick McKinney (Avondale High School), John Prew (Birmingham Groves).

112 POUNDS: 1. Larry Webb (Detroit Country Day School); 2. Pat Williams (West Bloomfield); Honorable Mention, Keith Masters (Rochester Adams), David Mather (Avondale), Ed Souly (North Farmington).

119 POUNDS: 1. Rob Parent (Southfield-Lathrup); 2. Randy Stern (Farmington High School); Honorable Mention, Mike Williams (West Bloomfield), Juan Arellano (Avondale), Barry Caldwell (Birmingham Groves), Randy Sterns (Farmington High School).

126 POUNDS: 1. Jeff Petrillo (West Bloomfield); 2. Randy Allain (Farmington High School); Honorable Mention, Paul Clark (Detroit Country Day School), Edgar Casab (Southfield-Lathrup), Birmingham Seaholm, Jeff Bernes (Farmington Harrison), Stan Cross (Bloomfield Hills Lahser).

132 POUNDS: 1. Bob Petróff (North Farmington); 2. Rod Gadoua (Rochester High School); Honorable Mention, Lou Milani (Farmington High School), Dave Fagan (Rochester Adams), Dave Jefferson (Farmington Harrison).

138 POUNDS: 1. John Cotter (North Farmington); 2. Jeff Fagan (F); Honorable Mention, Mark Marley (Birmingham Seaholm), Larry Korman (Avondale), Dave Walsh (Rochester Adams).

145 POUNDS: 1. Bob Nicks (Rochester High School); 2. Roland Frohman (Detroit Country Day School); Honorable Mention, Rick Thompson (Rochester Adams), Ed Hofseas (Farmington).

155 POUNDS: 1. Mike Johnson (Troy); 2. Dave Setsuda (Southfield-Lathrup); Honorable Mention, Chris Rentz (North Farmington), Mark Zobl (Detroit Country Day School), Gary Allen (Avondale), Dan Greco (Rochester Adams), Tom Kennedy (Birmingham Groves), Steve Mackey (Birmingham Seaholm).

165 POUNDS: 1. Jim Suterlin (North Farmington); 2. Dave Lemaster (Walled Lake Central); Honorable Mention, Drew Wilson (Birmingham Seaholm), Gary Chapman (Avondale), Steve Hill (Bloomfield Hills Lahser), Eric Vaughn (Rochester High School), Chris Whitfield (Rochester Adams).

175 POUNDS: 1. Fred Blackmer (Farmington Harrison); 2. Brady Buckley (Bloomfield Hills Lahser); Honorable Mention, Tony Franklin (Cranbrook), Dan Burgess (Rochester Adams).

191 POUNDS: 1. Tie between Paul Cracknell (Rochester Adams) and Mark Schulte (North Farmington); 2. Lee Okster (Cranbrook); Honorable Mention, Kevin Denzler (Rochester High School), Rob Fawcett (Farmington Harrison), Lee Okster (Cranbrook), Larry Parker (Avondale), Mark Eggenberger (Bloomfield Hills Lahser).


HEAVYWEIGHT: 1. Stu Hixon (Birmingham Groves); 2. Scott Hazen (Farmington High School); Honorable Mention, Marty Stubbins (Troy Athens), Mark Greenbury (North Farmington), Steve Swann (Rochester).

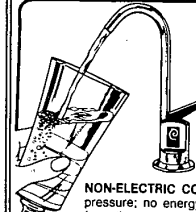


Detroit Country Day School's Larry Webb, a member of the Observer & Eccentric's All Area wrestling team, struggles with an opponent during the regular season.

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