

Grappler is blue-collar tough

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Mark Zenas is blue collar, the kind of guy who punches a time clock.

But what separates this Livonia Bentley wrestler from others in the area is the amount of overtime he puts in.

Wrestling is basically "a job" for Zenas, a 165-pound stand-out with a 28-0 record so far this season.

Your basic high school wrestling practice is enough for anybody, but Zenas often trains up and beyond the call of duty. He runs in the cold, the ice and the snow anywhere between six and eight miles a night.

"It (wrestling) is always on your mind," said Zenas, who was third in the state Class A meet last season. "I've spent so much time on it, so I guess you want something out of it."

"I really don't like wrestling. I only like it for a few seconds after I win."

ZENAS' GOAL is to win it all this season. His coaches, Bill Riddle and Larry Fidge, believe he has the potential to be a state champion.

"The most important thing is that he does what he's told," said Riddle, the school's head coach. "That's what

people in sports

makes him successful."

Fidge, who once wrestled for the Indiana University, has been Zenas' mentor during the past four years.

"Larry has worked with him and taken him under his wing," said Riddle. "He's spoon-fed him from the beginning when he came to us as a roly-poly ninth grader."

"Mark's been dedicated to wrestling. That's his only sport."

According to Riddle, Zenas' mother, Carol, saw a notice about Bentley wrestling at a PTA meeting and brought her son to practice.

"She (Carol) told me she didn't want Mark sitting at home watching TV," said the Bentley coach.

FIDGE REMEMBERS when Zenas came into the program as a pudgy 195-pound freshman.

"When he first came here we couldn't get him to talk or express himself," said the Bentley assistant coach. "He's

quiet, but he's become a real leader in the room. He voices his opinion on things."

To be a state champion you've got to be a fanatic. Mark's intensity has been building. He's very motivated. He'll pay whatever it costs.

Technique is something that Zenas emphasizes these days. He's spent time with the (Plymouth) Salem coaching staff perfecting his moves.

Technique is something that Zenas prides himself on because many of his opponents are simply inferior.

"The competition has been spread out," Zenas said. "I've really only had good competition in the finals (of tournaments)."

Last weekend, Zenas roared through five opponents in a series of dual meets at Birmingham Brother Rice. He also has claimed invitational titles at Salem and Wayne Memorial this season.

BECAUSE OF HIS third place finish at the state meet last year and his unbeaten record this year, Zenas team-mates and coaches have high expectations. (His brother Dave, a freshman, also wrestles for the Bulldogs).

"I've worked as hard as I could," he said. "I'm so close (to being a state champion), but I could make a little mistake and be on my back."

"I feel the pressure of winning."

Zenas gets away from wrestling by sailing on his Hobie Cat during the summer. He also forgets about his weight.

"I just like it (wrestling) for the self-satisfaction of pleasing my parents and the coaches," he said. "I guess I'm a byproduct of them."

"And I like to get rid of the fat, too," Zenas, who carries a 2.8 GPA, looks forward to the day when he becomes a college wrestler.

"I THINK it will be more fun," he said. "I'd like to go to Michigan, if my grades are good enough, or some other Big 10 school. I'd like to definitely graduate from college — maybe in engineering — and earn some good money."

Keeping his work habits in mind, the diligent Zenas is a good bet to be a success off the mats as well.

Pioneer women crunch Hillsdale

By C.J. Riskak
staff writer

A team in a streak always seems to find a way to prolong it — whether it's a string of wins or bundles of defeats. It takes great effort (or lack of it) to reverse the trend.

Oakland University's women's basketball team got the right mixture of a string of wins or bundles of defeats. It takes great effort (or lack of it) to reverse the trend.

The final score read OU 63, Hillsdale 45. But the Pioneer women were not dominating. Hillsdale was still within 8 points with eight minutes to play.

This is the same Hillsdale team that had won just three of its first 13 games, with no wins in eight previous Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) contests.

The Pioneer women despite meager .369 percent (27 of 73) shooting from the floor. They won with All-GLIAC forward Brenda McLean, hobbled with the ankle, managing just 5 points, far below her 15.4 per game average.

They won with some great play from bench players Margaret Boyle, Pam Hawkins, Lisa Quinn, Sonja Pearson and Kim McDowell.

BUT, MAINLY, they won, raising their record to 4-5 in the GLIAC and 9-11 overall.

"It just feels so good to win again," agreed OU coach Sue Kruszewski. "Once you get into a losing streak, it's hard to come out of it."

"I think our second team broke it open in the second half. They started fast-breaking and playing aggressive defense."

OU led 25-20 at the half despite 33 percent shooting from both the floor (11 of 33) and the free throw line (3 of 9). But that disappeared quickly in the second half, with the Chargers' Michelle Smith canning a couple of jumpers and Michelle Behrenwald making 1 of 2 foul shots.

"I switched defenses, from zone to man, to start the second half," said

Kruszewski. After Hillsdale tied it two minutes into the half, Kruszewski called a timeout. "I switched it back to the zone."

The adjustment apparently found favor with the Pioneer women. They responded with 10 straight points, with Toni Gasparovic accounting for 4. Hillsdale stayed within 8 but could forge no closer.

Boyle, a freshman guard from Saginaw, kept the Chargers at bay by scoring 8 of her 12 points in the final 13:30 of the game. She also paced OU with 4 assists.

"I think it's taken her the year to adjust to the college game," Kruszewski said of Boyle.

WITH 4:38 to go, a basket by Smith pulled Hillsdale back to within 9 (47-38), but that was it for the Chargers. OU outscored them 12-2 in the next 3 minutes, with Boyle getting 8, to ice the victory.

Joining Boyle in double figures in scoring were Gasparovic (12) and Sarah Smith (10).

OU's shooting may have been poor, but its defense certainly wasn't. Hillsdale committed 24 turnovers and hit just 19 of 83 field goal attempts (30 percent). Smith's 12 points was best for the Chargers, with Ann Gapa getting 10.

And if you think OU was spiraling downward during its five-game losing streak, consider Hillsdale's 0-9 in the GLIAC, 3-11 overall.

Coach Phyllis Culp remains confident, however. "I can see the improvement," she said. "We've got a young team, with only one senior (Smith) and two juniors."

"Tonight's game was very physical. We had to rely on our guards to hit their jumpers. But they stepped back their shots in the second half, and started trying to force the passes inside."

That proved to be a mistake. And when a team's losing, one mistake seems to lead to another and another ... with the defeats mounting right along with them.

sports roundup

A CAMPERS' DELIGHT

The Southeast Michigan Camper and RV Show will be held Feb. 8-17 at the Michigan State Fairgrounds on the Southeast corner of Woodward and 8 Mile roads.

The show, formerly held at the Detroit Armory, will encompass the fairgrounds' Dairy and Agriculture buildings. It will be sponsored for the first time by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC).

Nearly every major brand and model of recreational vehicle — from \$1,600 campers to \$140,000 deluxe motor homes — will be on display, according to MUCC Executive Director Thomas L. Washington.

On-the-spot financing will be available and visitors may browse booths by campground owners and other recreation-related exhibitors.

The show will be open 6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8; 4-10 p.m. weekdays; noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday, Feb. 10; and noon to 6 p.m. Feb. 17.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 children over 5 years of age.

For more information, call the Michigan Travel Bureau toll free at 1-800-292-2520.

RICE SOCCER OPENING

Brother Rice High School Athletic Director Mike Popson is seeking coaches to head the school's 1985 varsity and junior varsity soccer programs.

All resumes should be sent to the attention of: Michael Popson, A.D., Brother Rice High School, 7101 Lahser Road, Birmingham, Mich. 48018.

HANDICAPPED SKIING

Handicapped skiers may take part in Michigan's 11th annual Regional Bill Stiller Cup/Grace Meyers Memorial Cup Feb. 6-7 at Schuss Mountain Resort.

The two-day event will include slalom and giant slalom races; clinics for beginners, racers and instructors, and an awards banquet.

Skiers from across the United States will have handicaps ranging from visually and mobility, to amputees, post polio, paraplegics, neuromuscular disorders and cerebral palsy.

Clinics and courses will be set up by the Schuss Mountain Ski School. Skiers with qualifying times will attend the national qualifying finals in Breckenridge, Colo., the first week of April.

William Tyndale College's trip last weekend to the west side of the state proved one thing: Experience is a problem.

Or lack thereof. The Farmington school lost a pair, both times when a more experienced team might have succeeded.

Grand Rapids Reformed Bible whipped Tyndale 80-70 Saturday behind Bud Schutte's 39 points. Tyndale trailed 44-29 at the half and fell behind by as many as 26 in the second half before whittling the deficit down to 4 with 7 minutes left. But Reformed Bible kept control and pulled away.

Phil Carr had 32 points, 15 rebounds and 5 assists in a losing effort. Jim Swanson finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds and Mike Sacco collected 9 points and 9 rebounds.

Interested participants may call Betty Lessard (517) 394-5850 or Schuss Mountain Resort 1-800-632-7170.

SOCCER TRYOUTS

Vardar III Soccer Club is holding tryouts at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (8 mile Road, between Merriman and Middlebelt roads).

Any player born in 1972 can register with coach Alex Nikolovitch 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. Players born in 1971 can register 4-8 p.m. Feb. 9 with coach Walter Barrett.

On Friday, Tyndale was within 4 points of Grand Rapids Grace Bible with 2 minutes left but couldn't get closer in losing 58-52. Carr had 19 points, Swanson scored 12 and Sacco 11, while Royal Russell pulled in 10 rebounds.

Bob Dean's 17 points was best for Grace Bible. The defeats dropped Tyndale to 6-7 for the season, with a game at Nazareth Saturday.

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