

State quality

Observerland wrestlers rank with the best

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

PLYMOUTH SALEM wrestling coach Ron Krueger, scanning a list of potential All-Area matmen, made an interesting comment.

"Back seven or eight years ago when we started coming out to these (All-Area) meetings, we'd always be able to put five or six wrestlers on the first team. Now, I'll be lucky to get one or two. And I think that's good. We've taken a good thing and made it special," he said.

His point is well taken. This year's All-Area wrestling team consists of two state champions and seven others who placed in the top four at state. Twelve of the 13 All-Area wrestlers competed at the state meet.

So talent-rich is this team, Salem's Dennis Dameron, third in the state at 112 pounds, couldn't crack the first team.

"You know, I always hear how good Observerland is in swimming and girls basketball," Krueger said. "I'm not sure too many have done as well as we have in wrestling."

The year 1986 was a banner year, not only for Observerland wrestling, but for Krueger, as well. His Salem team, ranked No. 2 in Observerland behind Catholic Central, won the Western Lakes crown for the fourth straight year and placed seventh in the state.

His talented 126-pounder, Dave Dameron, was a state champion. And his son, Catholic Central freshman Lee Krueger, placed fourth in the state.

In his 15 years at Salem, Krueger has amassed a 175-67-5 record and 27 tournament championships. His teams have won two district titles and placed among the top 10 in the state six times.

Without argument from any area coach, Ron Krueger is the 1986 Observerland Coach of the Year.

Here is the 1986 All-Area wrestling team:

Chris Zimmerman, John Glenn, heavyweight;

Only the second sophomore in Rocket history to compete in the state tournament, Zimmerman

compiled a 36-13 record and won the Western Lakes league title. He placed fourth in the district, third at the regional and fourth at the state meet. He is the first sophomore in Glenn history to place at the state meet.

Mike Gentile, Catholic Central, 98 pounds: A freshman, Gentile was the state's runner-up at 98. He compiled a 39-7 record, placing first at the Salem Invitational, the Catholic League meet, the district and the regional.

Brendan Rock, Catholic Central, 105 pounds: Second team All-Area last year, Rock qualified for the state meet by placing third in the regionals. He was a district and Catholic League champion. A sophomore, Rock posted a 38-10 record.

Salem Yaffai, Livonia Churchill, 112 pounds: This senior capped a 42-0 record with a state championship. Thirty-four of his 42 wins came on falls. He was second in the state at 105 a year ago. This year, he placed first in eight tournaments including the district, regional and Western Lakes. He was named outstanding wrestler in three tournaments.

Yaffai has been one of the toughest wrestlers in this area the last three years — this year, he was the toughest in his class.

Jason Wiebeck, Catholic Central, 119 pounds: Only a junior, this is Wiebeck's second All-Area berth. He was 47-4 this year and placed third at state. His career mark at CC is 133-25. He has won the Catholic League title three times and the district twice. He won the regional crown this year.

Dave Dameron, Plymouth Salem, 126 pounds: Simply put, this is the most productive wrestler that ever wore the Rocks uniform. His state championship this year capped off a 148-34 career record. He was 50-1 this year. He owns all but two individual team records at Salem. Of his 50 wins, 41 were via pins. He won 10 tournaments this season and was MVP in four of them. He is a three-time Western Lakes champion.

Chris Lemanski, Catholic Central, 132 pounds: Another talented freshman (there are three on this team, all from CC), Lemanski posted a 30-16 mark. He won the Catholic League title, placed third at districts and fourth at regional.

Mitch Quint, Catholic Central, 138 pounds: Quint won the Catholic League title, won the district, placed second at regional and sixth at state — not bad for a sophomore. He was 39-13 on the season.

Dan Schlamansky, John Glenn, 145 pounds: Schlamansky shrugged off a midseason slump to post championships in the Western Lakes, district and regional tournaments. He placed fourth in the state. He was 39-4-1 this season (the midseason slump was obviously not prolonged). His career mark at Glenn is 104-27-1 — he is only the fourth Glenn wrestler to score 100 wins. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and will graduate in the top 20 of his class.

Brian Clemens, Livonia Churchill, 155 pounds: A junior, Clemens took charge of one of the few wide-open weight classes in the area. He was 30-6 on the season, placing first in the Western Lakes and second at the district tournament.

Lee Krueger, Catholic Central, 167 pounds: Quite a freshman season. He posted a 34-18 record, won the Catholic League meet, was second in the district, second at regionals and fourth at state. He is also an honor roll student at CC.

Jamie Wooschuk, Plymouth Salem, 185 pounds: If there was such a thing as a most improved wrestler award in Observerland, Wooschuk might win it. The senior was 49-18 this year, winning the district and placing fourth in the state. Prior to this season, he had won only 27 matches. He was a valuable member of Salem's team, wrestling in three different weight classes.

Dan Parillo, Farmington, 198 pounds: Wrestlers in this area will not be sad to see this senior graduate. Parillo, an aggressive and punishing wrestler, ruled the 198-pound class in this region the past two years. He won the Western Lakes title, won the district and regional titles and placed fourth at the state tournament. His senior season record was 37-2.

SECOND TEAM

Heavyweight: Tony Heaton, Catholic Central
98 pounds: Todd Doulter, Plymouth Salem
105 pounds: Mike Palazzola, Garden City
112 pounds: Dennis Dameron, Plymouth Salem
119 pounds: Tim Brey, Plymouth Canton
126 pounds: Mike Kraso, Livonia Churchill
132 pounds: Glen Cernaz, John Glenn
138 pounds: Paul Cook, North Farmington
145 pounds: Daniel Thomas, Farmington
155 pounds: Bob Yeager, Catholic Central
167 pounds: Tom Howell, Garden City
185 pounds: John Augustin, Farmington
198 pounds: Judd Snyder, Catholic Central

THIRD TEAM

Heavyweight: Bob Shumaker, Redford Union
98 pounds: Mike Fishback, Garden City
105 pounds: Fred Gelma, Plymouth Salem
112 pounds: Dave Dufford, Plymouth Canton
119 pounds: Tim Ott, Plymouth Salem
126 pounds: Rich Marz, Wayne Memorial
132 pounds: Kevin Freeman, Plymouth Salem
138 pounds: Kirk Rantz, Plymouth Salem
145 pounds: Jeff Shultz, Wayne Memorial
155 pounds: Jason Schwartz, Redford Union
167 pounds: Mark Kropp, John Glenn
185 pounds: Tim Gies, Garden City
198 pounds: Don Giese, Garden City

HONORABLE MENTION: Farmington Harrison: Cliff Alicandrea, Pat McFadden, Pat Dugas, Buddy Martin; Farmington: Bill Cretcher, Mike Coody; North Farmington: Zim Cummins, Brian Haack, Corey Barick, Adam Kehr; Plymouth Salem: Bryan White, Chris Rye, Richard Johnson, Rod Golovsky, Lem Young; Plymouth Canton: Jay Pollard, Tom Flores, Wayne Rob Eves, Scott Lepore, Joey Casanova, John Glenn: Bryan Kozel, Craig Noonan; Mike Jancze; Catholic Central: Matt Helm, Chris Rodriguez; Garden City: Bob Hancock, Bill Pajot, Jeff Gies; Livonia Stevenson: Dave Wooschuk; Livonia Franklin: Doug Stebbins; Livonia Churchill: Jeff Rothley, Dave Zenas, Tracy Scott; Clarenceville: Dave Berg, Wes Schwaner, Gil Coback; Redford Union: Bill Vanderneer, Dean Lowmy; Redford Thurston: Jeff Ferguson, Mark Salazar, Jim Main.



Photos by Steve Fecht



all-area wrestling



Salem Yaffai (left) of Livonia Churchill had a grip on all of his opponents this season on route to a perfect 42-0 record and a state championship title at 112 pounds.

More All-Observer teams coming

Attention Observerland winter season varsity sports coaches: The following is the schedule for All-Area meetings. The meetings will be held in the lower-level meeting room of the Observer building, 36251 Schoolcraft (at Levant).

• HOCKEY: Publication date is Thursday, March 20.

• BOYS SWIMMING: 4 p.m. Thursday, March 13. Publication date, Thursday, March 20 (tentative).

• VOLLEYBALL: 4 p.m. Monday, March 17. Publication date, Monday, March 20 (tentative).

• BASKETBALL: 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 17. Publication date, Monday, March 24.

• GYMNASICS: 4 p.m. Thursday, March 20. Publication date, Thursday, March 27.

Basketball coaches, please bring a copy of statistics; leaders in scoring, assists and rebounds; also, team scoring average per game and points allowed per game.

Schools eligible for All-Area consideration must be located in Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Redford, Wayne, Plymouth, Canton, Farmington or Farmington Hills.

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