

# Rocks retain WLAA title

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

## wrestling

Ron Krueger must have a crystal ball tucked away somewhere in his office at Plymouth Salem High School.

The veteran wrestling coach knew exactly what it would take to win the Western Lakes Activities Association wrestling championship Saturday at Westland John Glenn.

Prior to the meet, Krueger said he didn't think the winning team would necessarily be the team with the most champions, but the team that placed the most wrestlers.

His prediction came true late Saturday night as the Rocks won the WLAA championship after placing nine wrestlers in the top four of their respective weight classes.

Salem won the title with 182½ points, 4½ points ahead of second-place finisher Westland John Glenn (149½). Walled Lake Central finished third with 139 points followed by Livonia Stevenson with 135, Walled Lake Western with 121½ and North Farmington with 104.

Plymouth Canton placed seventh with 90½ points followed by Northville with 88, Livonia Churchill with 86½, Farmington with 52, Farmington Harrison with 36½ and Livonia Franklin with 33.

The thing is, Salem finished the tournament with three league champions while Western topped the field — in terms of individual championships — with four. But Western placed five wrestlers in the top four while Glenn finished with no champions but placed seven in the top four.

"I'M VERY, very happy," said an

exhausted Krueger after the wrestling had ended last Saturday night. "This is a well-balanced league. In order to win it you've got to place the majority of the team somewhere. We were fortunate enough to have nine wrestlers finish fourth or better."

"At the beginning of the year I said I didn't think we could win the league, and that wasn't a con job. I really didn't think we could pull it off, but the kids pulled together. They worked hard and trained hard."

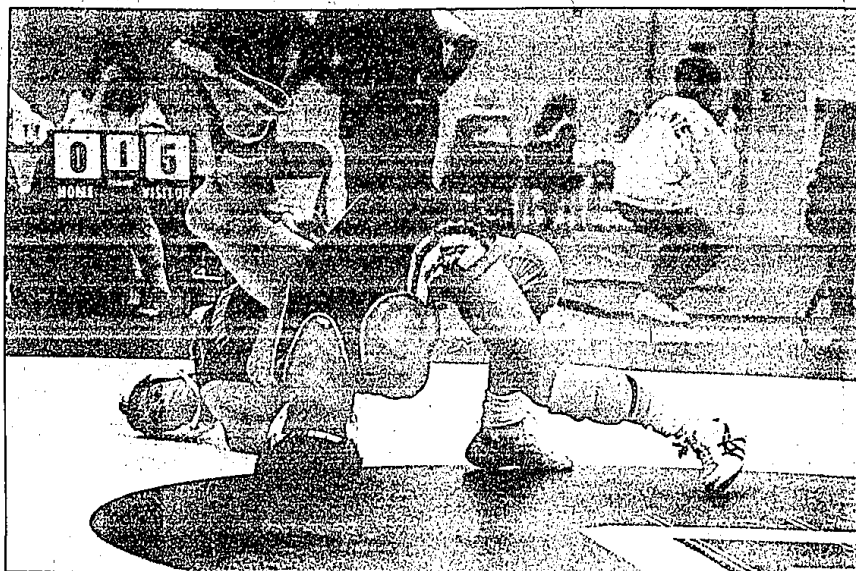
Despite battling injuries and illness the week preceding the tournament (Jeff DeBeke was out with the flu, Tim Ott broke his hand and Dennis Dameron had a back injury), the Rocks captured their fifth straight WLAA title without much of a problem.

Entering the finals the Rocks were leading John Glenn 161½-135. They needed just one win the championship round to clinch the title. They got the victory in the opening match when Richard Johnson defeated Glenn's Chris Zimmerman 7-2 for the heavyweight title.

DeBeke led the cake for Salem in the following match, winning the 98-pound championship with a pin over Plymouth Canton's Tom Flores at the 3:59 mark.

DAMERON PICKED UP Salem's final individual championship with relative ease, winning the 125-pound title with a 15-5 victory over Paul Matkowsky of Northville.

Second-place finishers for the Rocks were Sean May at 112, who lost a 7-5 decision in the finals to Western's Dave Zahndor, and Lem Yeung, who dropped a 7-6 decision to Western's Nick Papadakis in the



Paul Cook of North Farmington battles Northville's Tony Greco in the finals at 145 pounds during Saturday's Western Lakes wrestling championships.

championship match at 155 pounds.

Third-place finishes went to Todd Bourlier at 105 pounds and Bill

Atwell at 138. Atwell and North's Adam Kahn wrestled to an 8-8 tie in regulation time of their match for third place before Atwell gutted out an 8-0 overtime victory.

Scott Conlini (119) and Chuck Graczyk (198) picked up fourth place finishes for the Rocks.

Although John Glenn had no individual champions, it finished second by placing 12 wrestlers in sixth place or above.

Zimmerman finished second in the heavyweight division and teammate Bryan Krazel placed second at 119

pounds, dropping a 6-4 decision to Western's Pat Conway in the title match.

THIRD-PLACE finishes went to Mike Daniels at 98 pounds, Rob Matignon at 125, and Charlie Lauber at 167. Mark Sablin finished fourth at 145, as did Abe Zakheim at 185.

"I thought we had a chance at winning the title but we didn't wrestle as well as we could have, and Salem wrestled very well," said Glenn coach Tom Buckalew. "We didn't have any champions but we had a very balanced performance. That's the kind of thing we've been doing all year. We don't have any outstanding wrestlers but everyone on the 155-pound Dan Dewyer and 198-pound Jim Crews each grabbed third place honors for the Chiefs and Matt Keeler finished fourth at 105.

Livonia Stevenson's fifth-place

finish was due, in part, to the outstanding wrestling of WLAA champion Tom Tokarz.

The 138-pounder stormed through his weight class, winning all three of his matches by pin. Tokarz took out Farmington's Mark Pallo in 1:45. He stuck North's Kahn in 2:34 and won the title with a pin at 2:34 over Central's Brendan Kolb.

Second-place finishes for the Spartans went to David Wojciechowski at 105, Kurt Will at 132, and John Economou at 185. Jarod Wilkerson finished in third place for Stevenson at 145 pounds.

NORTH WAS led by second-place finishers Paul Cook (145) and Zalm Cummulaj (198). Dave Appel (112), Kahn (138), and Mark Cassar (155) each finished fourth for the Raiders.

Flores' second-place finish at 98 pounds was tops for Plymouth Canton. Heavyweight Tony Callaway,

Mike Krause was Churchill's champion. At 132 pounds, he took the title with a 9-2 victory over Stevenson's Will. Brian Clemens finished second for the Chargers at 167 while Dave Zenas placed third at 155 pounds and Casey Krause placed fourth at 98.

Farmington's Rob Woodbeck was the Falcons' top scorer with a third-place finish in the 132-pound weight class. Bill Lindbert added a fourth place finish at 167.

Cliff Alcantara swept through the 105-pound weight class to capture Harrison's only individual title. Alcantara won by pin over Churchill's Brian Dudek (28 seconds) and Canton's Keeler (40 seconds) before earning a 14-3 decision in the finals over Wojciechowski.

Frank Johnson was the top scorer for the Franklin as he captured fourth place in the heavyweight division.

## Confusion at St. Mary's

Continued from Page 1

In Monday's game at WSU, Davis was the only point guard on the team. Spraggins was suspended for disciplinary reasons and it was decided to redshirt Jones. At shooting guard, Brington, Morison, Lake and Bulcher have had a chance to start. So did Spraggins, who played there with Davis at the point.

Next year, the team will bring in three other guards: Jones, Anthony Strickland, another redshirt; and freshman Andre Sasser from Detroit Cody. What does Zalenski say about them? "All three are better than anyone we have now."

Let me say this. Both coaches have always been open and honest. But with new stars brought in every year, designated as replacements for last year's saviors — it just seems players will begin to lose faith in themselves, their coaches, their team.

## sports shorts

### ● SKIERS 2ND

Farmington Hills Mercy came up four points short Monday in a seven-team giant slalom ski race at Mount Brighton.

Brighton won the race with 21 points; Mercy was second with 25.

Lexi Davis won individual honors for the Marlinis with a combined time of 39:78.

Other Mercy placers were Beth McIntosh (fourth in 42:55), Kelly Garbin (seventh in 43:58) and Leigh Clancy (11th in 44:03).

### ● KOZICKI TO FLORIDA

Pat Kozicki, a North Farmington graduate and captain of the nationally-ranked Schoolcraft College women's volleyball team the past two seasons, is expected to sign a letter of intent to accept a scholarship from the University of Florida today.

### ● COACH NEEDED

Farmington Hills Mercy is seeking an assistant football coach for the spring season. Those interested in this non-teaching position should call Mickey athletic director Ellen Sekerak at 475-2836.

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