

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1997

ROCHESTER ROCHESTER HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Tourney Time

Oakland University's most successful men's basketball season ever is over.

The Pioneers suffered a 101-87 setback to second-seeded Northern Kentucky on Saturday in the NCAA Division II tournament's Great Lakes regional final in Indianapolis, Ind.

Oakland finished the 1996-97 campaign at 23-8 — the 23 wins broke the school's single-season record of 21 established three other times — and will now prepare to make the jump from Division II to Division I.

Coach Greg Kampe's team, which earned a fourth consecutive 20-plus win season and a fourth straight NCAA bid, entered the Great Lakes regional as the fifth seed. The Pioneers opened last Thursday with a 79-74 triumph over Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference foe Grand Valley State, avenging a pair of earlier losses to the Lakers.

The following night OU picked up one of the biggest victories in school history. Senior guard Kevin Kovach poured in a career-high 39 points and the Pioneers edged top-seeded and nationally ranked Indianapolis, 75-72, on the Greyhounds' home floor.

The Pioneer women made it as far as the NCAA Great Lakes regional semifinals before falling to second-seeded and Northern Michigan University on Friday, 68-66.

Third-seeded Oakland, which was making its fourth consecutive NCAA Division II appearance, trailed 33-26 at halftime and got as close as 56-52 after Alyson McChesney's basket with 3:12 left.

Senior guard Lori Young (Rochester Adams) scored a game-high 21 points in her last game at OU. Junior forward Tamika Bates added 12 points and junior guard Jamie Pevinski (Adams) had six points and three assists.

Oakland (25-5), which has recorded 10 20-plus win seasons under coach Bob Taylor, opened NCAA tournament play with an 83-72 triumph over Saginaw Valley State on Thursday as Pevinski was one of five Pioneers in double figures with 11 points.

Southern Indiana went on to win Saturday's Great Lakes regional championship, 78-67 over Northern Michigan.

Sting reaches semis

The Troy Sting, a Mite 'A' travel ice hockey team, has gained a berth in the upcoming Little Caesar's playoffs to be held next week in Troy.

The Sting, coached by Bill Clouston and assisted by Mark Wyklis, Tommy Budd, Sr. and Dan Jaroszewicz, earned the spot in the semis on the strength of a recent 2-1 victory over AFI Thunder. James Kowalski and Anton Thornquist scored goals for Troy Sting and Bobby Barlog picked up the win between the pipes.

Others contributing to the team's success included Sean Begley, Nick Kusnet, Michael Peck, Steven Wyklis, Tommy Budd, Robby Elchuk, Joey Jaroszewicz, Kyle Edwards, Kyle McMahon, Adam Novack and Grant VanSienbrouck.

Ring rumble

Troy Baseball Boosters, Troy Athens Baseball Boosters and Troy Fire Explorers Post 911 are sponsoring a night of professional wrestling through the Championship Wrestling Federation on March 22 at Troy Athens High School, 4333 John R.

The main event will feature a 20-man over the top Battle Royal. Other matches will pit The Outlaws against Total Annihilation for the Tag Team titles and Skull Giantz battling Nighthawk for the Championship Wrestling Federation Title.

Tickets are priced at \$12 ringside and \$10 for bleachers.

For ticket information, call (810) 689-7615.

Coaches sought

The Troy School District is looking for coaches to fill the following positions: head coach and assistant coach for the Troy unified hockey team; freshman soccer at Troy; and freshman soccer at Athens.

Also the athletic department is seeking 20 individuals to work track meetings for the spring season.

Those interested in either the coaching positions or working track meets are asked to contact Troy Director of Athletics Jim Feldkamp at (810) 689-0800.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are still needed to work at aid stations and to serve as race marshals for the 21st annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, slated for Sunday, April 20. Volunteers are needed to pass out t-shirts and race numbers at pre-race registration, hand out water along the course, assist runners and walkers as they navigate the half-marathon and the 5K run/walk.

Anyone interested in participating as a volunteer worker should call West Bloomfield supervisor Judy Share-Vine at (810) 788-2500.

Entry forms for the race, which includes a Kids Fun Run and a 5K run/walk are available at West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, the Town Hall, or the library. All are located at the West Bloomfield Civic Center on Walnut Lake Road, east of Farmington Road.

Locals look solid on state mats



■ Rochester's Richard Kuzma and Avondale's Kirt Rushlow grappled their way to runner-up finishes in last weekend's state finals in Battle Creek. Adam Adkins of Troy was the lone area champ.

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't a complete shutout. With more than 90 Eccentric area wrestlers holding high hopes of being the very best at last weekend's MHSAA Individual Championships held at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, only one grappler was able to turn that ultimate dream into reality.

Troy senior Adam Adkins reached individual heights with two perfect days of competition, culminated by his pinning Saturday of Grandville opponent Jason Fritz in the Division I finals of the 275-pound weight class. Adkins grabbed the area's lone gold at 2:16 of his championship tilt with Fritz, a senior who entered the finals sporting a 35-2 overall ledger.

"I was going for the pin the whole way," said Adkins, who was credited with two falls and two

decisions, en route to finishing his senior campaign with a 47-2 record. "This is the greatest feeling. It ranks equal with (Troy) winning a state championship in football."

Adkins wasn't the only area competitor carrying some high credentials into the weekend.

A total of 10 wrestlers from Rochester Adams, six from Walled Lake Central, four apiece from Troy, Troy Athens and Western earned berths in Division I action. Three from Auburn Hills Avondale and two from Birmingham Groves participated in the Division II finals.

Richard Kuzma of Rochester and Kirt Rushlow of Avondale were the only area grapplers to garner runner-up honors.

Kuzma, who finished the season 42-2, settled for second at 189 when undefeated Kyle Williamson

of Roseville proved too much to handle. The Rochester senior dug himself an early hole, falling behind 7-1 after one period.

"I just missed my opportunities," said Kuzma of his final match. "But I'm not ashamed of what I've done. I've done more than a lot of others and am happy with what I've achieved. Maybe I didn't get it done for the people I wanted, but I'm sure they're still happy."

Rushlow, meanwhile, fell 5-1 to Joe Fuller of Mount Pleasant in the finals at 215.

Scott Lemay of Troy and Derek Vos of Walled Lake Central each finished in third place after decision wins in their final matches.

Lemay, finished 4-1 in tournament competition at 135, including a 9-5 victory over Aaron Grifhorst of Grandville. Vos, competing at 171, won two matches before losing 8-7 to Kelly Krepps of Grandville and dropping down to the consolation finals. His day was complete following a 9-0 whitewash of Flint Carman-Ainsworth's Miles Clement.

"I knew I was the third best coming in because that's where I was

ranked," Vos said. "I was hoping to do better than that."

Asked whether it was tough to get mentally prepared for the consolation rounds, Vos responded "No, not at all because you're already so mad you lost, you just want to go and take it out on somebody else."

Anger described Troy coach Sam Amine following Brian Kretschmer's semifinal match at 162 pounds. The Troy senior was disqualified in his get-together with Ben Soils of Adrian after Soils was apparently slammed to the mat by Kretschmer.

The call cost Kretschmer a shot at the 152-pound crown. He eventually settled for fifth place with a 15-10 decision over Corey Vos of Walled Lake Central.

"We came close to having three in the finals, but beggars can't be choosy," Amine said. "I guess if we keep working hard and bring more and more to the finals, we'll have some more champions."

Adams' top finish came from senior Richard Phillips, who placed sixth at 135. Adams also received a sixth from Mario Bastianelli (119).



King Richard: Rochester wrestler Richard Kuzma battled his way into the championship match at 189 pounds before falling to Roseville's Kyle Williamson. The 19-5 loss left Kuzma as the state runner-up in Division I competition.

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORIMZ

Adams gymnasts take 2nd at final

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

Second best would have to be best this time.

With three-time defending champion Holland having first place safely tucked away, the best the rest of the 13-team field at Friday's MHSAA Girls Gymnastics Team Tournament at Rockford High School could hope for was second place.

That honor went to coach Sue Musat's Rochester Adams Highlanders, who tallied a 143.85 team total to place behind Holland's winning 146.025.

"Second place is exactly where we were hoping to be," said Musat, whose squad moved up two places from last year's fourth-place finish. "Holland is a great team. Everybody knew it would take a lot to beat them."

"We didn't graduate anyone from last year's squad, so all felt the disappointment (of finishing fourth) and didn't want to let it happen again," Musat went on. "The girls worked hard all year to get this far."

Senior Erin James spearheaded the Highlanders' finish with a 37.1 all-around score. Included in her total was 9.45 on bars, 9.4 on floor, 9.2 on beam and 9.05 on vault.

Teammate Alaina Scott followed with a 34.95 all-around total, Katie

Luxton compiled a 34.85 and Beth Holmes finished with 35.225.

Coach Natalie Ferguson's Troy Athens Red Hawks grabbed fourth place with a 139.9 team finish. Junior Summer Mitchell's 36.4 all-around — highlighted by a 9.5 on bars and 9.3 on beam — led the way. Janet Herrera followed Mitchell with a 35.1 and teammate Dawn Dunaj totaled 34.4.

"We scored higher this year, but to get the total we did without being at full strength was very pleasing," Athens coach Natalie Ferguson said. "We just kind of plugged along there, had one of our best days on bars, and slipped into fourth place."

The Eccentric area's third team in the tourney, Rochester, finished last with a 126.65 total.

One day later the individual state finals were held at the same site. James was the area's top finisher, winning the Division I beam competition and finishing third all-around. James' 9.625 on beam was a school record and contributed greatly to her 37.075 all-around.

Mitchell's 37.05 all-around placed her behind James in fourth place and Holmes finished sixth with 36.025.

In Division II competition, Adams' Stephanie Breese finished fourth all-around with 35.75 and Scott was sixth with 35.425.

Huskies usher out Highlanders

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

Rochester Adams' roller-coaster season came to a stop over the weekend.

State-ranked Pontiac Northern ushered the Highlanders out of the Class A boys basketball tournament Saturday afternoon, defeating the Highlanders a district championship with a hard-fought 66-56 victory at Waterford Mott High School.

Adams concluded an up-and-down season at 11-11 while Pontiac Northern recorded its 20th win and remains in contention for the Class A state title.

The Highlanders' 1996-97 campaign featured a 6-0 start before a loss at Pontiac Northern. The Highlanders improved 7-1 following a close win over Rochester but then dropped eight of their next nine games and eventually finished the regular season 10-10 and 2-10 in Division I of the Oakland Activities Association.

"We finished 9-1 outside the league, so that was a real positive for us," Adams coach Ken Belote added. "We went into (the Division I) season thinking Troy, Rochester and Adams were all kind of similar in style and play and we thought if we could win those game we'd have a shot to

contend or at least be in the middle of the pack. If we split with those teams we're all probably going to line up down at the bottom somewhere, but Troy got one at our place and we gave one away to Rochester at our place and you would like to have those

■ "I think that's the benefit of our league; you beat each other up all season long in the league and then you get to the tournament and pressure doesn't faze you during the districts."

Ken Belote
—Adams coach

games back.

"The kids know that they are a little better than an 11-11 team, but there's a lot of 11-11 teams that won districts and you never know what's going to happen," Belote added. "I think that's the benefit of our league; you beat each other up all season long in the league and then you get to the tournament and pressure doesn't

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