

Highlanders win county title

BY DAN STICKRATT
STAFF WRITER

Mission accomplished — most definitely!

After being unable to compete in the Oakland County wrestling tournament due to a scheduling conflict last year, Rochester Adams got its chance to prove it's the premier team in the county.

The Highlanders certainly delivered. Adams had nine individuals place in the top six to medal, sent five wrestlers to the finals and produced a pair of champions as they rolled to the team title with 276 points.

Veteran coach Pat Mikkevich's Highlanders had clinched their first team title after the semifinal round Saturday at South Lyon.

Adams had never finished higher than third place in the 38-year history of the tournament.

"This group of kids is dream team," Mikkevich said. "We like to call them the Golden Boys. We have such tremendous leadership on this team, and I think the captains had everyone pre-

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pared to compete. We were really looking forward to this."

The Highlanders, the top-ranked team in the state in Division I, held a 30-point lead over runner-up Clarkston heading into the finals. The unranked Wolves finished with a meek-high three individual champions and 252 points.

The Observer-Eccentric area was well represented in the finals with 15 individuals, seven of whom were crowned champions.

"No win was sweeter than that of Adams junior Luke Lazzo in the 152-pound weight class. Lazzo, who was a backup at 135 last year and was not seeded in the top four this season, rolled past the field, including an 8-1 decision over Seaholm's Scott Roane in the finals.

"I am pretty surprised; I had a lot of close matches against some great competition," Lazzo said. "It feels great to come here and win this. Last year I wasn't even in the varsity lineup, so a lot of people really didn't know who I was."

Another sweet victory Saturday came from Troy Athens junior Mario Bastianelli, who topped the 130-pound field.

Bastianelli's three older brothers — Kevin, Mike and Brian — competed in the county meet in past years, but Mario became the first of the Bastianelli family to claim a county title.

"I felt really strong going into my final match," said Bastianelli, who placed third at 119 last year. "I was really tired Friday (after the first day of competition), but (Saturday) was a new day and I was confident I could do really well. It was really nice to do this and kind of keep our family tradition alive."

Adams senior Trevor Barkham (135), Troy senior Scott Lemay (145), Walled Lake Western senior Dan Thompson (171), Orchard Lake St. Mary's senior Andy McDonald (215) and Troy senior Marc Bullock (276) were the other individual champions from the area.

Lemay, Holly junior Justin Torres (160) and Clarkston sophomore A.J. Grant (112) were repeat champions, with Grant moving up one weight class and both Lemay and Torres two.

OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING

1997 OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS DEC. 22-26 AT SOUTH LYON

Team standings — 1. Rochester Adams, 276; 2. Clarkston, 252; 3. Troy, 169.5; 4. Royal Oak Kimball, 152.5; 5. Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 147.5; 6. South Lyon, 145; 7. Lake Orion, 138.5; 8. Novi, 135; 9. Birmingham Groves, 133; 10. Hazel Park, 126; 11. Milford, 123; 12. Birmingham Seaholm, 118; 13. Troy Athens, 111; 14. Oxford, 108.5; 15. Holly, 107.5; 16. Rochester, 104; 17. Walled Lake Western, 98; 18. Auburn Hills Avondale, 91.5; 19. West Bloomfield, 91; 20. Walled Lake Central, 89; 21. Ferndale, 88; 22. Waterford Kettering, 88; 23. (tie) Milford Lakeland, Farmington and Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 66; 26. Berkley, 56; 27. (tie) Orionville Brandon and Waterford Matt, 54; 29. Royal Oak Dondero, 52; 30. Farmington Hills Hansen, 45; 31. Pontiac Northern, 34; 32. Madison Heights Madison, 24; 33. (tie) Southfield/Lathrup and Detroit Country Day, 20; 35. North Farmington, 19; 36. Oak Park, 16; 37. Southfield, 15; 38. Bloomfield Hills Lusher, 13; 39. Bloomfield Hills Andover, 10; 40. Clawson, 7; 41. Pontiac Central, 3.

275 — 1. Marc Bullock (Troy) dec. Jon Robinson (Clarkston), 3-0; 3. Anthony Reeves (Ferndale) pinned Andy Tippins (OLSM), 2:57; 5. G. D'Agostino (South Lyon) pinned Matt Fortune (Lakeland),

2:26.

103 — 1. Ryan L'Amoreaux (Clarkston) pinned R. Churella (Novi), 4:45; 3. Brian VanHam (Rochester) dec. Harry Durbin (Kimball), 2:0; 5. Pat McCabe (Brandon) dec. B. Schweizer (WL Western), 0:3.

112 — 1. A.J. Grant (Clarkston) pinned Adam Cross (Adams), 6:31; 3. A. Vettese (Avondale) pinned Justin Hill (South Lyon), 2:11; 5. Daniel Wilson (Groves) dec. Tom Goshall (Seaholm), 5:1.

119 — 1. Alan Wilfong (Oxford) maj. dec. Bryan Watson (South Lyon), 9-2; 3. Ryan McLeor (Clarkston) pinned Nick Lawrence (Milford), 1:35; 5. Joel Gaylor (Athens) dec. Angelo Vvivo (Kimball), 5:3.

127 — 1. Jason Ameli (Milford) dec. Pat Diaz (Adams), 12:6; 3. Andy Dewey (Lake Orion) won by default over Brett Murphy (West Bloomfield); 5. Steve Stein (Groves) dec. Bill Falls (Seaholm), 8:5.

130 — 1. Mario Bastianelli (Athens) pinned Aaron Curtis (Oxford), 3:08; 3. J.P. Reese (Adams) maj. dec. Trevor Garrison (Kimball), 16:2; 5. Kevin Neundorf (Lakeland) maj. dec. M. Chandler (South Lyon), 17:6.

135 — 1. Trevor Barkham (Adams) pinned Garman Smith (Groves), 3:42; 3. Daniel Goetz (Avondale) dec. Aaron Nagler (Hazel Park), 11:5; 5. Ed Wenzel (Dondero) won by default over Jerry Lema (Farmington).

140 — 1. Mark Churella (Novi) maj. dec. Kevin Turnbull (Clarkston), 11:2; 3.

Matt Fraser (Adams) pinned K. Craddock (Hazel Park), 1:20; 5. Blair Richards (Lak. Orion) maj. dec. Joe Bedgone (Troy), 1:48.

148 — 1. Scott Lemay (Troy) dec. Jacob Chapman (Hazel Park), 5-4; 3. Mark Lazzo (Adams) dec. Eric Swanson (Lazo Foley), 6:2; 5. Seven Sahliner (Farmington) dec. Taylor Lapous (West Bloomfield), 5-2.

152 — 1. Luke Lazzo (Adams) dec. Scott Roane (Seaholm), 8-1; 3. Eugene Korziol (WL Central) dec. Andy Engen (Clarkston), 5:2; Josh King (Athens) won by default over Alan Soave (Hazel Park).

160 — 1. Justin Torres (Holly) won by default over Rico Epps (OLSM); 3. Rick Chalmers (Adams) dec. Jason Ware (Groves), 3:2; 5. Nick High (Kimball) pinned Joe Toth (WL Western), 2:37.

171 — 1. Dan Thompson (WL Western) pinned Jake Slatoff (Holly), 3:29; 3. Ryan Lewin (Groves) dec. Chad Yurich (Kimball), 5-4; 5. B. Hirsman (Avondale) pinned Mike Ruda (Rochester), 2:49.

189 — 1. Pat DeGan (Clarkston) dec. Kevin Boyd (Adams), 3-2; 3. D.J. McCarthy (Troy) dec. Chris Bettridge (Lake Orion), 7:2; 5. Mike Laman (Avondale) won by default over Brian King (Kimball).

215 — 1. Andy McDonald (OLSM) pinned Chris Gagey (Brandon), 4:11; 3. Matt Marion (Clarkston) pinned Ryan Clement (Clarkston), 2:48; 5. Preston Phelps (Oxford) won by default over Justin White (Bishop Foley).

WESTERN LAKES RELAYS

WLASA SWIM RELAYS Dec. 20 at Plymouth Salem

Team finishes: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 242; 2. Plymouth Salem, 224; 3. Plymouth Canton, 212; 4. Northville, 184; 5. Walled Lake, 158; 6. Farmington Harrison, 130; 7. Livonia Franklin, 127; 8. Livonia Churchill, 114; 9. Farmington, 105; 10. Westland John Glenn, 100; 11. North Farmington (did not compete).

RESULTS BY EVENT

400-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia, Mike Malki), 3:52.28; 2. Canton, 3:59.34; 3. Northville, 4:11.49; 4. Farmington, 4:17.42; 5. Churchill, 4:19.34; 6. Walled Lake, 4:30.13; 7. Franklin, 5:06.02.

400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore, Brian Mertens), 3:34.45; 2. Walled Lake, 3:35.88; 3. Canton, 3:38.90; 4. John Glenn, 3:39.07; 5. Stevenson, 3:43.56; 6. Harrison, 3:53.93; 7. Northville, 3:54.58; 8. Churchill, 4:47.35; 9. Franklin, 5:23.71.

200-yard breaststroke relay: 1. Franklin (Chris Supplee, Erik Koppin, Dave Bosman, Jody Gomez), 2:06.55; 2. Farmington, 2:08.79; 3. Northville, 2:10.26; 4. Canton, 2:11.80; 5. Steven-

son, 2:13.13; 6. Salem, 2:15.40; 7. Walled Lake, 2:15.90; 8. Harrison, 2:34.93; 9. Churchill, 2:44.69.

200-yard backstroke relay: 1. Salem (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas, Nick Corden), 4:48.05; 2. Northville, 1:50.71; 3. Canton, 1:56.24; 4. Franklin, 2:19.02; 5. Stevenson, 2:22.09; 6. Churchill, 2:25.01; 7. Harrison, 2:29.79; 8. Walled Lake, 2:33.72; 9. John Glenn, 2:48.68.

200-yard butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson (Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Mark Sgriccia, Keith Falk), 1:42.94; 2. Walled Lake, 1:50.47; 3. Canton, 2:00.99; 4. Salem, 2:10.70; 5. Northville, 2:20.00; 6. Churchill, 2:23.49.

One-meter diving relay: 1. Salem (Chris Cameron, Mike Belvitch), 344.45 points; 2. Farmington, 319.05; 3. John Glenn, 301.05; 4. Franklin, 283.15; 5. Stevenson, 248.95.

400-yard individual medley relay: 1. Canton (Aaron Reeder, Kurtis Hornick, John Goss, Kevin VanTiem), 4:10.55; 2. Harrison, 4:11.27; 3. Salem, 4:13.09; 4. Franklin, 4:18.80; 5. Stevenson, 4:24.79; 6. John Glenn, 4:48.48; 7. Northville, 4:51.32; 8. Walled Lake.

5:07.94; 9. Churchill, 5:11.21.

500-yard freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Mike Malki, Keith Falk), 4:29.44; 2. Northville, 4:39.33; 3. Walled Lake, 4:39.78; 4. John Glenn, 4:44.77; 5. Salem, 4:44.81; 6. Canton, 4:51.82; 7. Churchill, 4:56.80; 8. Harrison, 5:43.43; 9. Farmington, 5:50.98; 10. Franklin, 6:33.41.

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Steve Domin, Brad Buckler), 1:46.87; 2. Harrison, 1:48.36; 3. Salem, 1:51.19; 4. Farmington, 1:55.08; 5. Canton, 1:55.37; 6. Canton, 1:55.37; 7. Walled Lake, 1:59.63; 8. John Glenn, 2:18.22; 9. Churchill, 2:23.43; 10. Franklin, 2:47.00.

200-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nick Corden, Tim Buchanan, Dan Jones, Andrew Locke), 1:29.70 (new Relays record; old record 1:31.81. Northville, 1991); 2. Harrison, 1:43.00; 3. Farmington, 1:44.08; 4. Canton, 1:46.70; 5. Walled Lake, 1:48.25; 6. Northville, 1:51.42; 7. Farmington, 1:57.31; 8. Churchill, 2:02.08; 9. John Glenn, 2:03.88; 10. Franklin, 2:23.47.

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yard individual medley relay (won by Canton).

There was one other significant occurrence that impacted on the meet and its final results: North Farmington's Raiders, one of the league's top teams, were no-shows, for reasons as yet undetermined.

"This is the first time it's ever happened, so I don't know what the consequences will be," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "That's up to the administrators."

The opening event was the difference in the meet. When Salem was disqualified, the team that took over first place in the 400 medley was Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia and Mike Malki).

"We did our typical relays thing," said Olson, noting that in each of the previous two years the Rocks' disqualifications in the 200 backstroke relay cost

them a meet title. "Only we got DQed in the first relay this time. (Stevenson) swam real well and didn't run into as many problems as we did."

The Spartans' other relay wins came in the 200 butterfly (Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Sgriccia and Keith Falk); the 500 crescendo freestyle (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Malki and Falk) and the 200 medley (Bublitz, VanTiem, Domin and Brad Buckler).

Salem won the 400 free (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore and Brian Mertens); 200 back (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas and Nick Corden); diving (Chris Cameron) and Mike Belvitch); and 200 free (Corden, Tim Buchanan, Jones, Locke).

The Rocks set the only meet record in the 200 free relay, winning in 1:29.70. The old record was 1:31.81, by Northville in 1991.

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