

# Observerland from page C1

"I didn't want to give up any takedowns; I wanted to wrestle my offensive style. I gave them all escapes and then took them down. It was a fun tournament; I enjoyed it."

In the last three Observerland finals, Hancock faced future college wrestlers in Stevenson's Katsuhiko Sueda and Dan Seder, both at Michigan now, and Churchill's Brandon LaPointe.

Hancock, who was a state runner-up last year, hasn't made a college commitment yet. "I'm wide open right now," he said. "I still have a state championship to win, and that's what is on my mind right now."

Stevenson had the other two MVPs for the second year in a row. Senior Josh Gunterman won that honor again in the lower weights (103-130), and junior Imad Kharbush was recognized by area coaches in the middle weights (135-152).

"It was nice to do it again," said Gunterman, who repeated as the 112-pound champ. "I was fairly confident I was going to win it. I wasn't sure I'd get MVP; that was an added bonus."

A year made a big difference for Gunterman, who came out of nowhere to win last year but was the obvious No. 1 seed this year. "Last year it was a surprise," he said. "Last year I beat a few

kids I wasn't supposed to beat and won it. This year (CC) Chris O'Hara was the only one I hadn't wrestled."

Gunterman faced O'Hara, who knocked out No. 2-seeded Dan Tondreau of Clarenceville, in the final and won a 10-4 decision over the taller wrestler.

"It's hard to turn a kid like that, because you can't really get leverage on him," Gunterman said. "That's why it was tough riding him. I pinned the other two, but the final match was pretty tough."

Gunterman is 26-0 and hoping to repeat his state-meet success of a year ago. His Observerland victory was a springboard to an eventual state championship in 1999.

"I'd love to be an undefeated state champion," he said. "That's my plan, my goal. Last year, after I won (at Observerland), my confidence was way up. It really got me going. This was pretty much the spark last year."

The 162-pound final pitted defending champ Kharbush (29-2) and Churchill's Mike Carter (27-2) against each other, with Kharbush winning decisively on a 9-3 decision.

Kharbush, who won at 135 last year, had been anticipating the matchup ever since he learned he and Carter, who was the champion at 146 a year ago,

would likely meet sometime.

"I'd been waiting for that match since the start of the season; I wanted to prove everybody wrong," said Kharbush, who was ranked and seeded second behind Carter.

"I was so pumped up for that match, because I've been waiting to wrestle him so long. I couldn't sleep last night. Even in my other matches I wasn't that focused. It was all geared toward my final match."

Kharbush, who pinned his first two opponents, was in control of the championship bout all the way and used his upper-body strength to his advantage.

"When I took a shot, I wanted to make sure I finished it solid and quick, because he has a nice defense," Kharbush said. "When he took a shot, I wanted to kick my legs out as fast as I could and get out as soon as I could, because I knew he could finish it."

"The key to beating him was to score off his shots and make sure he didn't."

Kharbush qualified for state last year but didn't place. His goal is to place as high as he can this year.

"This is definitely motivation," he said. "Whether I go 62 or 60, this definitely makes me feel closer and closer to that goal."

**"I'd been waiting for that match since the start of the season."**

**Imad Kharbush**  
—Observerland champion

Stevenson and Salem had three champions apiece. Chris Cooperider also won for the Spartans at 145. The Salem winners were Ron Thompson (119), Rob Ash (125) and Josh Henderson (140).

Canton's Kyle Pitt (103) and Phil Rutwell (88) won titles as did Westland John Glenn's Jeff Albrecht (130) and Wayne Memorial's Nick Smith (215). Pitt improved his record to 30-0.

Henderson had a close match with Canton's John Pocock in the final. A winning point for Pocock put him within a point of Henderson, 5-4. The Chiefs thought Pocock should have been given takedown points, but the official ruled time had expired.

"I thought (CC) wrestled great and deserved to win. So did Stevenson, in finishing second," Canton coach John Demick said. "I don't think we got seeded up to our ability, but we didn't wrestle to our ability, either. But having 10 guys who placed is still a solid performance."

## OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

### 9TH ANNUAL OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Jan. 29 at Livonia Churchill

Team standings: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 231; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 199; 3. Plymouth Canton, 105; 4. Plymouth Salem, 161; 5. Livonia Churchill, 124; 6. Farmington, 115; 7. Garden City, 106; 8. Clarenceville, 94; 9. Wayne Memorial, 90; 10. Redford Union, 66; 11. Livonia Franklin, 56; 12. Westland John Glenn, 51; 13. North Farmington, 48; 14. Lutheran High Westland, 41; 15. Redford Thurston, 27; 16. Farmington Harrison, 12.

275 pounds: 1. Aaron Parr (CC) pinned Josh Rose (Clarenceville), 2:26; 2. Derek McWatt (Canton) pinned Dan Hine (Stevenson), 2:13; 3. Tony Martinez (Franklin) pinned Carl LaLonde (Thurston), 0:56.

103: 1. Kyle Pitt (Canton) pinned Kyle Malo (Churchill), 2:41; 3. Adam Stacey (CC) pinned Mike Goethe

(Salem), 2:35; 5. Jason Fischer (Stevenson) dec. Jacob Davis (Garden City), 11:8.

112: 1. Josh Gunterman (Stevenson) dec. Chris O'Hara (CC), 10:4; 3. Dan Tondreau (Clarenceville) pinned Chris Smith (John Glenn), 4:34; 5. Ramis Rajami (North Farmington) by technical fall over Brian Clement (Churchill), 3:00.

119: 1. Ron Thompson (Salem) dec. Jon Simmons (Farmington), 13:6; 3. Pat Seyn (Garden City) dec. Paul Goyt (Wayne), 6:3; 5. Doy Demick (Canton) dec. Tim Mulroy (CC), 9:4.

125: 1. Rob Ash (Salem) pinned Chris Hoxey (Canton), 4:35; 3. Jon Gregg (Wayne) by technical fall over Shannon Simon (Garden City), 4:58; 5. Billy Bullock (Stevenson) dec. Josh Pranschke (Lutheran Westland), 14:10.

130: 1. Jeff Albrecht (John Glenn) dec. Vinnie Zoccol (Garden City), 7:5; 3. Greg Musser (Canton) by disqualification over Jesse Stevens (RU), 5. Bryan

Marsh (Wayne) dec. Nate Rodriguez (CC), 10:6.

135: 1. Jeff Wheeler (CC) dec. Steve Dondrinos (Salem), 8:2; 3. Brandon Templeton (Garden City) dec. Lay Morgan (Churchill), 7:0; 5. Jamie Blair (RU) dec. Mike Siegrist (Canton), 16:5.

140: 1. Josh Henderson (Stevenson) dec. John Pocock (Canton), 5:4; 3. Jay Bailey (CC) dec. Josh Fas (Garden City), 6:2; 5. Trevor Clarke (North Farmington) pinned Matt Redley (Stevenson), 2:39.

146: 1. Chris Cooperider (Stevenson) dec. Steve Abas (Churchill), 5:3; 3. Joe Foracoli (Canton) by injury default over Jeff Usher (Thurston), 5. Mike Werner (CC) dec. James Claranah (Farmington), 11:5.

152: 1. Imad Kharbush (Stevenson) dec. Mike Carter (Churchill), 9:3; 3. Mark Ostach (Farmington) dec. Scott McKee (Canton), 3:0; 5. Andrew Bennett (Salem) dec. Chris Graciele (CC),

6:5.

160: 1. Mitch Hancock (CC) pinned Mike Falzon (Stevenson), 1:35; 3. Erik Toska (Franklin) dec. Mike Murtland (Farmington), 11:1; 5. Eric Kelley (RU) dec. Brian Jones (Churchill), 11:2.

171: 1. Ryan Rogowski (CC) dec. John McFarland (Stevenson), 11:6; 3. Ben Lukas (Farmington) dec. Craig Medos (Garden City), 11:1; 5. Jose Aguilar (Clarenceville) dec. Matt Navarro (Franklin), 11:8.

189: 1. Phil Rothwell (Canton) pinned Mike Popeney (Salem), 3:45; 3. Eric Purniske (Stevenson) pinned Steve Roteneber (Clarenceville), 4:04; 5. Tim Grecki (Wayne) pinned Matt Markowicz (CC), 4:11.

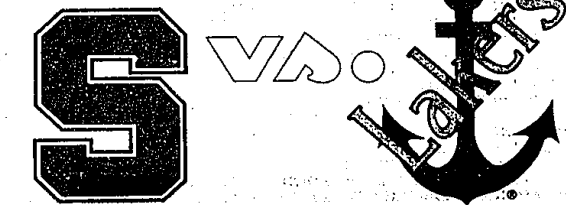
215: 1. Nick Smith (Wayne) dec. Kyle Domagala (Farmington), 14:4; 3. Olie Muscarella (RU) won by forfeit over Kallen McPherson (Clarenceville), 5. Tom Vandembosche (Churchill) pinned Matt Williams (CC).

### CORRECTION

In The Right at Home Sale circular inserted in today's paper, we advertised, "Save on All Towels, Bathmats & Bath Accessories." Royal Velvet towels and bathmats will not be on sale this week. We apologize for this error, and any inconvenience it may have caused.

JCPenney

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