

Scramble gives Grafton wrestlers a lift

Written by Steve Ostermann

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Modest team finish at Falls tourney doesn't detract from strong individual efforts, including Van Langen title

The final standings showed the Grafton wrestling team in sixth place at last Saturday's Martlett Scramble in Menomonee Falls, but that modest finish didn't tell the whole story.

"Our finish was deceiving," Grafton coach Mike Dodge said. "We had only 14 kids there, but eight of them reached the finals.

"We did a lot better than the score indicated."

The Black Hawks scored 312 points in the eight-team meet, which had a Gold Division for varsity wrestlers and a Silver Division for the junior varsity.

Slinger won the team title with 569 points, nine more than runner-up Oak Creek.

Grafton's best Gold Division finish came from Michael Van Langen, who took first place in the 112-pound weight class.

After receiving a bye, the junior won twice by fall. He pinned Oak Creek's Seth LaBodda in 5 minutes, 38 seconds, in the semifinals and then defeated Westosha Central's Joey Groleau in 6:14 in a final that went into overtime.

"Michael came back and pulled out two big wins," Dodge said. "He had two tough opponents and managed to find a way to beat both of them."

Leading the Hawks' six other Gold Division wrestlers were second-place finishes by Brandon Schweitzer (189) and Matt Sieracki (160).

Schweitzer, a senior, received a first-round bye before pinning Slinger's Jake Zenner in 4:24. He then battled Oak Creek's Kyle Wev before losing, 3-2.

"Schweitzer did a great job," Dodge said. "He hadn't wrestled at 189 for two years, and it was an adjustment for him.

"The Oak Creek guy is a three-time state qualifier, and Brandon went out there gave him all he could handle."

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Sieracki, a junior, lost his first-place match, 2-1, in overtime to Valders' Caynen Klessig. Earlier, Sieracki received a bye and defeated Westosha Central's Kurt Swanson, 3-2.

Among Grafton's other Gold Division wrestlers, Nick Glocke (152) placed fourth and Brad Connell (135) and Nick Goetz (145) both finished sixth.

In the Silver Division, the Hawks received first-place finishes from Jacob Brunnuell (112-118), Justin Rapp (148-152), Alex Studelska (150-154) and Adam Kahmann (174-178).

Josh Weissinger (102-112) placed second, and Billy Depies (119-122) and Max Murray (121-126) both took third.

Grafton 37, Cedarburg 34

The Hawks hung on to pull out a road win in a tight North Shore Conference dual meet that opened their season Dec. 10.

"It was a nice win for us," Dodge said. "We wanted to start the year out strong."

Scoring pins for Grafton were Glocke (152), Schweitzer (215) and Connell (135).

Grafton's other wins came on a major decision by Cody Bobholz (140), regular decision by Van Langen (112) and forfeits to Sieracki (171) and Kahmann (189).

The Hawks will continue their conference schedule with 6:30 p.m. home meets Thursday against Nicolet and Dec. 22 against Homestead.

Port Washington 51, Nicolet 21

The Pirates scored three pins and a technical fall and received four forfeits in a North Shore Conference win on the road Dec. 8.

Jake Maechtle (140), Alex Dieringer (145) and Nate Hilton (215) all had pins for Port, which grabbed an early lead and steadily pulled away.

"We won by a lot, but we weren't that sharp in a lot of our matches," Port coach Angelo LaRosa said.

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“We lost some matches that we probably should have won. It should teach us that we can’t take any conference teams lightly.”

Hilton had the quickest win, pinning Marcus Wanzo in 1:03.

Dieringer defeated Bobby Herrick in just 1:30, and Maechtle needed only 2:23 to pin Matt Dineen.

Adam Dreikosen (125) scored a 19-4 technical fall over Nicolet’s Austin Bay.

The Pirates’ other wins included a major decision by Ryan Wischer at 160 and forfeits to Dylan Coomer (135), Trevor Schumacher (152), Mark Strong (189) and Jermaine Will (103).

This week, Port was scheduled to host Whitefish Bay in a 6:30 p.m. conference meet Wednesday and will wrestle at the Marty Loy Invitational in Fond du Lac at 9 a.m. Saturday.