

Manpower shortage hurts Rockets

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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Tough competition limits May to second place in Rocket Scramble

Host Cedar Grove-Belgium had trouble filling several weight classes in the annual Rocket Scramble last Saturday, leading to a 10th-place finish out of 15 teams.

Senior Alex May had the Rockets' top individual effort, placing second in the 285-pound weight class.



May, who improved his season record to 14-5, won three of four matches after receiving a first-round bye.

He was pinned by Brillion's Silas Petrie, but secured second place with a 14-9 win over Southern Door's Mitchell Overbeck.

"Alex actually wrestled very good against the kid from Brillion, too," Cedar Grove-Belgium coach Trevor Peterson said.

The Rockets scored 415 points despite forfeiting five weights.

Oostburg won the team title with 638 points, well ahead of runner-up Shiocton's 568.

Rounding out the team standings were Sheboygan South (565) in third, followed by Markesan (528), Deerfield (505), Brookfield East (41), Southern Door (489), Marshall (469), Brillion (426), Cedar Grove-Belgium, Valders (413), Dodge Land (404), Milwaukee Vincent/Brown Deer (289), Horicon (281) and St. John's Northwestern (271).

"Missing some guys in a scramble like that hurts," Peterson said. "Each guy can score a lot of points. That's a lot of points we're not getting."

Three Rockets had fourth-place finishes — Adam Gonwa (106), Isaac Brockman (113) and Greg Wenzel (170).

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Gonwa (14-9) went 1-3 after receiving a first-round bye. He pinned Oostburg's Jarret Gassner in 59 seconds.

Brockman (17-8) was also 1-3 after a first-round bye. His win came on a 6-5 decision against Deerfield's Jared Gilbertson.

Wenzel (13-10) won his first two matches before losing the next three. He pinned Markesan's Francis Monsivais in 1:10 and defeated Deerfield's Ben Hildebrandt, 5-0.

"When you lose a close match, it's tough to come back right away and wrestle a close match," Peterson said.

At 132, the Rockets' Devon Villareal placed fifth with a 3-1 match record. He won three times on decisions.

This Thursday, Cedar Grove-Belgium will host Oostburg in a Central Lakeshore Conference meet at 6 p.m.

"Oostburg is tough," Peterson said. "There are a few matches that happened on Saturday we're looking forward to."

Ozaukee 54, Kettle Moraine 21

Some of Ozaukee's young wrestlers got some experience in an easy team win at home last Friday.

Scoring pins for the Warriors were Sam Schuette (182), Grant Klas (195), Colton Kraus (120), Adam Zichitella (145), Logan Smith (152) and Chris Schmidt (160).

"We kind of moved things around a little bit to get greenhorns some varsity matches," Ozaukee coach Luke Gundrum said.

Kettle Moraine won four matches on forfeits, and Ozaukee received two forfeits.

This Thursday, Ozaukee will travel to Random Lake for a Central Lakeshore Conference dual meet at 6 p.m. The winner of the showdown will hold the inside track to the league title.

"I think Random Lake is going to have their full lineup ready to go," Gundrum said.

"We may have to have our complete lineup healthy. We're going to do what we can do. I think it's going to be a little bit uphill."

On Saturday, Ozaukee will participate in the Merrill Invitational.

The Warriors will then host Cedar Grove-Belgium at 6 p.m. Jan. 15.

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Image Information: CEDAR GROVE-BELGIUM junior Taylor Sams had his hands full in a match against a Brillion wrestler during the Rocket Scramble. Photo by Sam Arendt