

Ram tough

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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Random Lake wrestlers use pin power to subdue Ozaukee in CLC showdown

A big wrestling meet against Central Lakeshore Conference rival Random Lake didn't go how Ozaukee coach Luke Gundrum would have liked, but he knew his team faced a formidable challenge.



The Rams beat host Ozaukee, 48-16, on Jan. 23, pulling away with four straight pins in the 182 to 285 weight classes.

The match of the night was the final one, with Ozaukee's Colton Kraus facing Jon Mudlaff at 126 pounds. The two battled into overtime tied at 2-2, and then went to double overtime.

The match was delayed several times as Mudlaff tried to plug his bloody nose.

In the extra time, Kraus scored a two-point reversal and Mudlaff got an escape, leaving Kraus with a gutsy 4-3 win.

The pair will likely see each other at the Central Lakeshore Conference tournament next week, again at a WIAA sectional and maybe once more at the state meet.

"I think Colton and Mudlaff are good enough to beat anyone in Madison. It could be for the whole thing," Gundrum said.

The meet started at 132 pounds, where Ozaukee's Cole Large defeated Zak Stepniewski, 9-4.

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But the Warriors won only two other matches.

At 160, Kevin Beckmann scored a 12-3 major decision over the Rams' Hilton Vandebush.

At 113, Ozaukee's Daniel Watry pinned Chris Mudlaff in 1 minute, 6 seconds.

The closest the Warriors came in their 10 match losses was at 170 pounds. The Rams' Adam Risse outlasted Taz Gottsacker, 4-1.

At 145, Ozaukee's Chase Brouillette lost to Jacob Behn, 5-0.

The Warriors' Chase Kraus battled Josh Depies before losing, 13-7, at 106.

At 152, Ozaukee's Adam Zichitella trailed, 1-0, entering the third period but got turned and pinned with 10 seconds left.

With their four straight pins, the Rams stretched a 16-7 lead to 40-7.

"We got beat up a little. It's one of those things where you've got 14 different performances," Gundrum said.

"Overall, it didn't turn out the way I would have hoped, but I knew it was going to be uphill.

"I think Random Lake can win the whole thing, I really do. They're that balanced and that good."

This week, Ozaukee will travel to Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah on Thursday for a 6 p.m. dual meet and participate in the Pirate Invitational at Pewaukee on Saturday.

The Warriors' Senior Night home meet against Oostburg on Jan. 28 was postponed due to cold weather. It will be made up at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

Rockets fall to Dutchmen

Three close matches cost the Cedar Grove-Belgium wrestling team in a 45-25 loss to host Oostburg in a Central Lakeshore Conference meet last Friday.

The Rockets' near-misses were Abel Brockman's 9-6 loss to Jarrett Gasser (106), Isaac Brockman's 4-2 loss to Brandon Burmesch (126) and Matt Krier's 8-7 loss to Ryan Ebling (170).

"Those are all one-point matches with a couple of seconds left," Cedar Grove-Belgium coach Trevor Peterson said. "If we win those three ..."

The Rockets got pins from Garrett Davies (145), who defeated Connor Gasbarro in 1:45; Adam Gonwa (120) in 3:41 over Wyatt Ecclestone; and Greg Wenzel (192) in 5:45 over Joe Meyer.

Cedar Grove-Belgium's other wins came from Devon Villareal (138), who scored a 16-2 major

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decision over Cody Horswill, and heavyweight Danny Gjertson, who defeated Jesse Rogers, 5-2.

“It was encouraging because we were right there but it was discouraging, too,” Peterson said.

“We’re so young. We have so many freshmen. It’s pretty tough for those guys right now.”

This week, the Rockets will host Sheboygan South in a 7 p.m. meet Thursday and participate in the Deerfield Scramble on Saturday.

Peterson said missing practices due to record-cold weather gives injured wrestlers time to heal but makes it difficult to prepare for the biggest meets of the season.

“It kind of hurts. We’re trying to peak,” he said.

Image Information: OZAUKEE’S COLIN HUGHES appeared to have the upper hand in his match against Random Lake’s Trent Gottsacker, but it was Gottsacker who took control on the way to a 14-0 win. Photo by Sam Arendt