

Large stands alone among Warriors' wrestling winners

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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Cole Large did more than win the 132-pound weight class at the Pirate Invitational in Pewaukee last Saturday.

The senior became Ozaukee High School's all-time leader in career wrestling wins with 147.



Large, who improved his season record to 28-4, secured the tournament title by defeating Pewaukee's Trevor Greene, 9-4.

After a first-round bye, Large pinned Waupun's Brett Roecker in 3 minutes, 15 seconds in the semifinals.

"That was a big deal," Ozaukee coach Luke Gundrum said of Large's record-setting achievement.

"I'm happy for Cole. He's a great kid."

Large topped the previous school mark held by Greg Lapinski, a 2005 graduate who was a four-time state qualifier and weighed about what Large does.

Large has reached the state level three times and will go for a fourth trip in a matter of weeks. He has 133 takedowns this season, nearing the Warriors' season record of 165.

Gundrum said Large may also get close to the team's 306 career takedown record.

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Ozaukee placed fifth with 167.5 points in the eight-team tournament. Pewaukee won the championship with 263 points, well ahead of runner-up Muskego's 184.

Gundrum was hoping for a higher place, citing several close matches that didn't go the Warriors' way, as well as the absence of regulars Jacob Wagner and Chase Kraus.

Colton Kraus (126 pounds) was the only other champion among five Ozaukee wrestlers who reached title matches.

After a first-round bye, Kraus (25-4) pinned Muskego's Jack Sarnowski in 3:14 and defeated Pewaukee's Isaac Lodise, 8-4.

Placing second for the Warriors were Daniel Watry (14-3) at 106 pounds, Kevin Beckmann (29-6) at 160 and Taz Gottsacker (20-9) at 170.

Ozaukee 65, Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 9

The Warriors won 12 of 14 weight classes in an easy Central Lakeshore Conference road victory Jan. 30.

Mike Burmesch (220) had Ozaukee's lone pin. Winning by technical falls were Large (132) and Hughes (138).

The Warriors received seven forfeits.

At 145 pounds, Ozaukee's Chase Brouillette led state-ranked Brock Bonebrake, 3-2, after two periods before being pinned.

"I thought Chase wrestled really tough against a state qualifier," Gundrum said.

This week, the Warriors will host Oostburg at 6 p.m. Thursday in a Senior Night meet and participate in the conference tournament Saturday at Random Lake.

Wenzel leads Rockets in Deerfield

All eyes were on Cedar Grove-Belgium's Greg Wenzel in his 182-pound match against Maurice Lowe of Milwaukee Bradley Tech/Carmen at the Deerfield Scramble last Saturday.

It happened to be the only mat action in the entire gym, drawing crowds cheering for both wrestlers.

The championship-bracket match didn't disappoint, as Wenzel pulled out a 7-6 win in an ultimate tiebreaker.

"I think Greg showed a lot of heart," Rockets coach Trevor Peterson said.

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Wenzel scored first in the match, which gave him the choice in the tie-breaker. He chose down and scored an escape to win.

Wenzel (24-5) placed second in his weight class, the finish by a Rocket.

Cedar Grove-Belgium was fourth out of 17 teams with 546 points. Champion Random Lake had 877 points, well ahead of runner-up Brodhead/Juda's 614.

Placing third for the Rockets were Daniel Gjertson (23-12) at 285 pounds, Adam Gonwa (19-15) at 113, Isaac Brockman (23-11) at 120 and Devon Villareal (23-11) at 138.

Sheboygan South 43, CG-Belgium 24

Three wins on forfeits helped South spoil the Rockets' Senior Night in a nonconference meet Jan. 30.

Cedar Grove-Belgium's wins included major decisions from Gonwa (120 pounds), Isaac Brockman (132) and Villareal (138) and decisions from Wenzel (195) and Abel Brockman (106).

This Saturday, the Rockets will travel to Random Lake for the Central Lakeshore Conference tournament.