

Undermanned Hawks make most of home mats

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
Wednesday, 05 February 2014 17:42

Marshall, Duran shine at Grafton Duals; Port's Rosado takes Pulaski Invitational title

A short-handed lineup kept Grafton High School wrestlers from contending for high team honors at their annual duals tournament last Saturday.

But that didn't keep the Black Hawks from turning in several solid individual performances.



Senior Alex Marshall (220 pounds) and sophomore Arturo Duran (105) each posted 5-0 match records in the eight-team tournament.

Going 4-1 for the Hawks were Gary Ross (138) and Kevin Taylor (145).

Marshall improved his season mark to 33-4 with four first-period pins and a forfeit. In his quickest win, he pinned Milwaukee Pulaski's Anthony Erdman in 36 seconds.

Duran (27-9) spent little time on mat, scoring two pins and receiving three forfeits. His fastest win was a 32-second fall over Elkhorn's Matt Nelson.

Ross and Taylor each had four first-period pins. Their only losses came against Elkhorn, where Ross was pinned by Konnor Mohr in 3:33, and Taylor lost to John Olsen, 10-4.

"The Grafton Duals was a pretty good day for us," said Hawks coach Mike Dodge, who singled out Ross and Taylor as "some of the highlights on the day."

Among other Grafton wrestlers, Tommy Makela (152) went 3-2, Liam Pflieger (132) was 2-3, and Ian Olivas (195) was 1-3.

In the team standings, the Hawks took seventh with a 1-3-1 record. They defeated Pulaski,

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39-30, in the seventh-place final.

Grafton tied Waukesha North, 42-42; and lost to Elkhorn, 61-12; Catholic Memorial, 48-27; and Racine Case, 33-27.

Ashwaubenon won the tournament with a 5-0 meet record. Elkhorn placed second, followed by West Bend East, Catholic Memorial, Waukesha North and Racine Case in the top six.

Pirates' Rosado wins Pulaski crown

Noah Rosado rose to the occasion for the Port Washington wrestling team at the perennially tough Pulaski Invitational last Saturday.

Scoring three hard-fought decisions, the senior emerged with first-place honors in the 113-pound class.

He capped the day with a 4-0 win over Coleman's Jordan Blanchard in the title match.

"Noah's really wrestling well," Port coach Angelo LaRosa said. "He's won the title there two of the last three years."

On the way to the title match, Rosado (27-4) defeated Bay Port's Henry Prange, 10-2, in the second round and Kaukauna's Ian Gioacchini, 4-1, in the semifinals.

Port had three other top-four finishes among the nine wrestlers it took to the tournament.

Zach Smith (120 pounds) and Quentin Lueck (152) both placed second, and Andy Fidler (heavyweight) was fourth.

Smith, a junior, pinned his first three opponents, including a 2:45 fall over Seymour's Walker Christensen in the semifinals.

In the final, Smith was pinned by Kaukauna's Tres Leon in 5:47.

"It was an exciting match between two guys that felt they were going to win," LaRosa said.

The tournament left Smith with a 35-6 record.

Lueck, a senior, won his first four matches, including a 10-8 decision over Valders' Trevor Wittmus in the semifinals.

In the title match, Lueck (18-7) lost to Coleman's Trevor Seewald, 13-5.

Fidler (17-12) was 3-2 in the tournament with three pins. The senior lost in the quarterfinals to Pulaski's Hunter Micolichek, 6-3, and then battled Kaukauna's Will Russum in the third-place match before losing, 4-2, in double overtime.

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Fidler's wins included a 2:08 pin of top-seeded Andrew Johnston of Peshtigo.

"I was really happy with the way we wrestled," said LaRosa, whose team scored 93 points, good for seventh place in the 16-team tournament.

"It's a really tough tournament. Next to the Cheesehead (in Kaukauna), I think it's the toughest one in the state."

Port Washington 58, Germantown 12

Six pins helped carry the Pirates to an easy home win in a North Shore Conference meet Jan. 30.

Scoring falls were Noah Rosado (120), Manny Rosado (132), Brandon Moeller (138), Lueck (152), Alec Masters (170) and Brandon Willms (220).

Noah Rosado had the fastest win with a 1:05 fall over Jimmy Nguyen.

Port's other wins came on a major decision by Luke Benkley (182), decisions by Preston Makoutz (113), Brannon Bauer (145), Jordan Clark (160) and Cullen Bauer-Trottier (195) and a forfeit to Smith (126).

Grafton 41, Milwaukee Lutheran 32

The host Hawks prevailed in a North Shore Conference meet Jan. 30 in which each team forfeited four weight classes.

Grafton got pins from Duran (106), Taylor (145), Jacob Eichhorn (170) and Olivas (195).

Duran had the quickest win with a 1:09 fall over Kenzel Branch.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, Grafton and Port were scheduled to participate in their final NSC dual meets of the season at 6:30 p.m. The Hawks were to wrestle at Cedarburg, while Port was to be at Whitefish Bay.

The conference tournament will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Milwaukee Lutheran.

Port will go after its 13th straight NSC team title, but Cedarburg is projected as the favorite.

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Image Information: THE PORT WASHINGTON and Grafton wrestling teams had their final home meets of the season last week. Above, Port's Brandon Moeller pinned Germantown's Josh McNall in the 138-pound match of a dual meet Jan. 30. At right, Grafton's Kevin Taylor locked the leg of an opponent on the way to a 4-1 record in the 145-pound class at the Grafton Duals Saturday. Photos by Sam Arendt