

2007 Greater Buckeye Conference...

Ross fifth at GBC

By KEVIN YANIK
Sports Writer

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross junior Devon Mezinger's eyes darted to and from the scoreboard, watching each passing second flash away along with a Greater Buckeye Conference title.

If only Mezinger had a few seconds more.

He nearly escaped Marion Harding sophomore Callen Vanderhoff's grasp Saturday to force overtime at the GBC Championships, but Mezinger couldn't pry himself free with eight seconds remaining to lose his only match.

"I wanted to win," he said. "I've finished second here ever since my freshman year. He won twice now. Hopefully, next year I can ruin that for him."

Mezinger still came the closest to winning an individual championship among the Little Giants. He finished second at 125 pounds with a 4-1 record, as Ross finished fifth overall behind champion Napoleon.

"I don't think my kids came to wrestle today," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "I don't know why we looked really sluggish. I just don't know."

They didn't have a fire lit under them for some reason.

"I think Devon Mezinger was the only one who came up fired up for the five matches. He lost a tough one, 4-3."

Devon actually led Vanderhoff early in the third period, 3-2, but he was taken down with less a minute to go. An escape would have at least tied the match, and Devon almost made one.

He just ran out of time.

"He had a good match," Mike said. "He had a really nice match. That kid beat him last year worse than that. Devon's been wrestling really tough

the past month, and he knew that kid was going to be tough. Both of them had a really good match. Both of them wrestled six minutes really hard."

Devon agreed. "I (Vanderhoff's) pretty tough on top," he said. "I faced him last year, and he beat me here. That's the only other time I faced him."

Devon wasn't the only Ross wrestler to win four of his five matches and finish second. Marcus Measimer (112) and Derek Flores (119) were runner-ups, too.

Measimer won his first two matches before Napoleon's Josh Lynch, the individual champion, took a 7-0 decision from him. Flores opened the

Championships with a win, earning an 18-1 technical fall victory against Findlay's Dustin Powell. But Flores was pinned in his next match against Sandusky's Cortez McLaughlin in the third period.

Yohe Rojas also struggled

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Ross fifth at GBC wrestling meet

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against his Sandusky opponent, Nick Webb, and lost by a 12-4 decision. Rojas did pin Napoleon's Tim Norden and earn two victories by decision.

At 160, Ross senior Chris Bias took third place with a 3-2 record. Lucas Gates finished 3-2, as well, and placed third among heavyweights.

Still, nobody else finished higher than third individually for Ross.

"We could have wrestled a little bit better in certain matches," Devon said. "But coming from 18 points down sometimes makes it hard. I think we could have done it."

Mike thought 103-pounder Tony Rodriguez could have done better. He lost three of his five matches, including two

that were clearly winnable.

Rodriguez set himself up for a win in his match against Sandusky, but he was pinned in the second period while holding a 5-2 lead. He also had a chance to beat his Napoleon opponent, yet was taken down near the end of his match after tying it at 12.

"For Tony, that's the most mistakes I've seen him make all year combined — and in one day," Mike said.

Rodriguez and the Little Giants have a week to improve before sectionals begin Friday at Oregon Clay. Devon, for one, will be ready.

"[Vanderhoff's] at our sectional next week, so I'll see him then," he said. "And I'll probably see him again next year."

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Wrestling

High School

Greater Buckeye Conference Championships

1, Napoleon	5-0
2, Sandusky	3-2
3, Findlay	3-2
4, Marion Harding	3-2
5, Fremont Ross	1-4
6, Lima Senior	0-5

Ross records

103 — Tony Rodriguez, 2-3
112 — Marcus Measimer, 4-1 (second place)
119 — Derek Flores, 4-1 (second)
125 — Devon Mezinger, 4-1 (second)
130 — Kris Espanza, 2-3
135 — Yohe Rojas, 4-1 (second)
140 — Kent Weaver, 1-4
160 — Chris Blas, 3-2 (third)
171 — Kyle Whitright, 1-4
189 — Brad Biehler, 2-3
275 — Lucas Gates, 3-2 (third)