

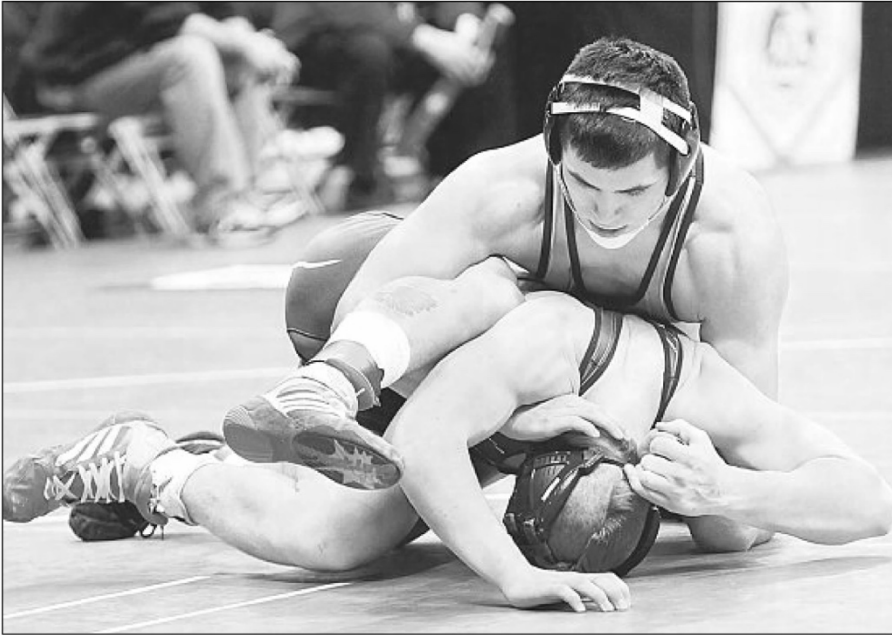
2011 State...

DIVISION I

Trautwein at state

Fremont Ross's Tylor Trautwein (47-3) wrestles Logan's Malachi Bluhm (42-7) at 189 in the first round.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING ■ 74TH STATE TOURNAMENT



LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Fremont Ross senior Tylor Trautwein controls Logan's Malachi Bruhm in their Division I opening round match at 189 pounds in the state wrestling tournament. Trautwein collected a major decision with a 20-11 victory. See more photos at TheNews-Messenger.com.

Oak Harbor starts strong

Rockets set for second-day challenges at state tournament

BY DAN GILLES
News-Messenger correspondent

COLUMBUS — Oak Harbor knows it has some stiff competition if it wants to repeat as the Division II state runners-up.

But the Rockets had a good first day to help make sure that happens again.

Out of the six wrestlers Oak Harbor brought down to the 74th annual Ohio State Wrestling Tournament at Ohio State's Value City Arena, four of them won their first-round matches Thursday and one other stayed alive in the consolation round.

Oak Harbor is in fifth after the first day with 15 points. The Rockets trail Walsh Jesuit by three, Mantua Crestwood by 2.5 and Parma Padua by one.

"I'm real happy with that," Oak Harbor coach George Bergman said. "We may not be in second now, but we're still within striking distance and we've got some big matchups tomorrow with Mantua Crestwood that will be huge for us. It would have been nice to have all six stay alive, but having five, and four in the quarterfinals, is not bad."

"Five of our six have been down here before two times or more, and Alex (Bergman) was a two-time alternate who, while he didn't get on the mat, was down here with the team so he shared in that experience. That really helps. I think our guys get comfortable when they're out there, and that shows in the results."

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GEORGE BERGMAN
Oak Harbor coach

First-round winners for Oak Harbor included 2010 state champion and Kent State recruit Ian Miller (152), 2010 state runner-up Konnor Witt (160), Tyler Hackworth (125) and Jake Cramer (171). Both Miller and Witt will face off with wrestlers from Crestwood in the quarterfinals this morning.

Hackworth (35-2), a senior who made his second appearance at the state tournament, got the ball rolling for the Rockets with a pinfall in 44 seconds over Mantua Crestwood's Dylan Kager.

"I was just ready to go and I knew I had to get it done," Hackworth said. "Everything fell into place, and it was good to get this one off on the right foot."

Miller (49-0) began defense of his state championship with a pinfall in 3:49 over Dover's Brogan Endres.

"I was real nervous for this first match, and I didn't come out the way I wanted to," said Miller, who had a 20-7 lead before he scored the pin. "I came out a little slow, but I finished strong. This one is a load off my shoulders. Now, I can

focus on winning two more tomorrow."

"We have five seniors and a junior down here, so we know we have a great chance to take second again. We treat it as if this was our state championship, so we're focused on achieving it."

Witt (41-2) pinned Lewis Center Orlentangy's Joe Gadd in just 17 seconds.

"I wasn't really trying to one-up (Hackworth), but I was trying to get the pin," said Witt, who will wrestle at the Air Force Academy next season. "The previous years, I didn't wrestle the best first match that I could, so I wanted to come out here this year and get it done with."

Cramer (40-5) scored a 9-2 decision over Gallia Academy's Brandon Taylor.

"We want to repeat as runners-up, but want more than that," Cramer said. "We want to, hopefully, get a trio of individual state champions."

Seniors Alex Bergman (140) and Sean McGee (189) each lost in the first round to defending state placers. Bergman (42-7) stayed alive with a 3-2 win

over Hilliard Bradley's Jake Zoller, but McGee (37-12) was eliminated.

The lone area wrestler in Division I — Fremont Ross' Tylor Trautwein — earned a 20-11 first-round major decision win over Logan's Malachi Bluhm at 189 pounds.

"Last year, I won my first one but lost my next two," said Trautwein, now 48-3. "It felt good to get that first win out of the way ... Now, the goal is to place somewhere on that podium."

Little Giants coach Mike Mezinger was pleased with his senior's performance.

"This week, we went down to Elyria and were working out with them," he said. "Coach (Erik) Burnett (a four-time state champion) told all the guys, 'Just because it's a state match doesn't mean it has to be close.' I think Tylor took that to heart."

Other area first-round winners included Clyde's Beau Minnick (103), Billy Ward (215) and Trevor Strickland (285) in Division II, and Lakota's Ben Timmons (119) in Division III.

Clyde wrestlers went 3-1 in their first round, with freshman 112-pounder Blake Miller being the lone loser. Miller stayed alive with a consolation win later Thursday.

Minnick (37-1), a freshman, edged Vincent Warren's Cory Parsons, 10-9, to advance to the quarterfinals.

Ward (44-5) and Strickland (47-1) opened their state tournaments with one-sided victories

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Meanwhile, the two wrestlers representing the Fremont high schools — seniors Austin Hilty of St. Joseph Central Catholic and Tylor Trautwein of Ross — had mixed results Friday.

Trautwein (48-5), who won his opening Division I match, injured his knee during his 14-7 quarterfinal loss to Cleveland Rhodes' Iryael Williams and then defaulted out of the tournament to Loveland's Gunner Lay. Ross coach Mike Mezinger was not available for comment afterward.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Fremont Ross senior Tylor Trautwein wrestles March 4, the second day of the state wrestling tournament, in Columbus.

Trautwein's efforts will go down in history

BY KEVIN SHIELDS
Sports writer

FREMONT — Mike Mezinger always had a feeling that Tylor Trautwein's name would stick out in the Fremont Ross wrestling annals.

And to no surprise, the Little Giants' coach was right.

"Not many kids that come walking into your wrestling room have that kind of talent," Mezinger said. "He was just a very gifted wrestler. The only downfall was he loved football so much, so I only had him during wrestling season."

Trautwein recently ended his Ross career on the mats with 151 wins, setting a new school-mark at this season's district tournament. Former teammate Yohe Rojas held the old mark at 149.

In his final season donning the purple and white, Trautwein went 48-5 and earned his fourth consecutive Greater Buckeye Conference championship. His 32 pins

"We just didn't get the cherry on top, which was him placing at the state tournament. That's the only that's thing missing out of his career."

MIKE MEZINGER
Fremont Ross wrestling coach

this season were also a Ross first.

"Everything that's happened for him was something I felt was going to happen," Mezinger said. "We just didn't get the cherry on top, which was him placing at the state tournament. That's the only thing that's missing out of his career."

Trautwein made three trips to the state tournament — two in which he competed and one as an alternate.

He finished third at the district tournament in February at 189 pounds as he was the Little Giants' lone representative in Columbus.

He earned a 20-11 first-round major decision win over Logan's Malachi Bluhm.

On day two however, Trautwein felt the effects of a first-day injury in his 14-7 quarterfinal loss to Cleveland Rhodes' Iryael Williams. He defaulted out of the tournament to Loveland's Gunner Lay in the consolation round.

"He bruised his knee in the first match and it bothered him next morning," Mezinger said. "The trainer said it was a strain of one of the ligaments and that it'd be painful for him. But he taped it up and wrestled

his quarterfinal match and the guy cranked on it a bit.

"Afterwards, Tylor just felt he couldn't go anymore."

The two losses at a state and his only loss at districts ended a stretch for Trautwein that saw him win 43 of his first 45 matches. His only two regular season losses came at the hands of Oak Harbor state qualifier, Jake Cramer.

Trautwein's 48 wins bested his 42 as a junior.

In middle school, Trautwein won a state wrestling title at 154 pounds and finished fourth nationally. He went 24-13 as a freshman, 37-4 as a sophomore and 42-4 as a junior.

"Being a bigger kid, he was wrestling juniors and seniors as a freshman and still had over 20 wins," Mezinger said. "It takes a good kid to accumulate that many wins each season and it takes a little bit of luck too. If you get hurt

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and you're out two to three weeks during the season, you can miss 15-20 matches."

As for comparisons between Trautwein and the name he replaced at the top of the Ross wins list, Mezinger said he'd have a tough time distinguishing similarities.

"They were totally different wrestlers," he said.

Rojas set the record in 2009, going 40-6 his final season and qualifying to the state tournament at 135 pounds.

"Yohe was an all-year wrestler," Mezinger said. "He first came out

as a seventh or eighth grader and he just worked all year long. And he just got that much better in four to five years."

Trautwein started wrestling much earlier. And while he had strength and plenty of athleticism to boot, it was his wrestling IQ that made him dangerous.

"He was very technical when he wanted to be," Mezinger said. "And sometimes we had to remind him to use his technique over his strength. But when he brought all those skills together he was an animal."

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