

2006 State...

Estrada state bound...ain't that a kick in the head?

Ross qualifies two; Clyde sends fourth-most in state with seven

By RYAN AUTULLO

News-Messenger correspondent

Alex Estrada expected to feel an overwhelming sensation. Instead, he felt a stiff kick to his face.

The St. Joseph Central Catholic senior qualified to this week's state wrestling tournament, but it certainly wasn't even close to the way he envisioned it happening.

Leading 3-1 with about 30 seconds remaining in his 135-pound consolation semifinal bout Saturday during the district tournament at Toledo Waite, Estrada was knocked unconscious by the foot of Otsego's Jason Asmus. Estrada got a bruised jaw, cloudy memory and two stitches in his lower lip, along with his first trip to the state tournament when Asmus, who was attempting to break free from Estrada's grip, was disqualified.

"That's not the way I'd like to win," Estrada said. "I'd like to win by points, I'd like to win in a legitimate match. I don't want to win by someone getting DQ'd."

Estrada was not able to wrestle in Saturday's consolation final round and fell to fourth place. He'll wrestle Corey Pfister of Sullivan Black River in today's opening round at the Schottenstein Center at Ohio State University in Columbus.

A championship round will begin with Division III at 3 p.m. today, followed by one consolation round. Wrestling will resume at 10 a.m. Friday with the championship finals scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday.



News-Messenger/Kathy Williams

A BED SHEET in the front yard of the Zucker family on Fifth Street in Fremont announces that Fremont Ross wrestlers Jorge Perez and Robert Zucker have qualified for the state wrestling tournament. Robert's mother, Jeanne, and brother, Nathan, made the sign. The state tournament starts today.

Estrada, who will be joined in Columbus by teammate Juni Arreola (140), was not informed that he advanced to state until about three minutes after the match was over. But after last year's district meet, when he twice was a win away from qualifying for state, Estrada is happy to move on — even if it means he'll be forced to wear a protective mask over his face.

"He never really got to enjoy it because they had him over on the trainer's table, and I still think he was groggy then," said SJCC coach Mike Naufel. "It would have been nice to see if that never would have happened, but there's not too much you can do about it."

Still, Naufel is completely confident Estrada would have won the match anyway.

"He never would have lost," he said. "I think the kid he was wrestling realized that and that's why he [kicked Alex]."

SJCC is matched by Ross in number of state qualifiers, as the Little Giants will be sending seniors Jorge Perez (215) and Robert Zucker (275) to Columbus. Bellevue qualified returning state runner-up Jeffrey Pelton (119), Dawson Riedy (119), Kyle

Baker (171) and Ed Bizarik (189).

Oak Harbor advanced four sophomores, including three returning qualifiers, Kirk Tank (145), Keith Witt (152) and Cody Magrum (171), who finished seventh last year. Tommy Baker (160) will be making his first trip after wrestling a brilliant district tournament at Ontario. Baker, who finished just fourth

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—Clyde wrestling coach Matt Merrill

at sectionals, won three matches in overtime at districts to advance to the championship before falling to Willard's Tyler Thornton.

"I was talking to my two older boys that if we took four to state my pick was Tommy," said Oak Harbor coach George Bergman. "He had a favorable draw at districts and he's wrestled everybody closely. Nobody has really blown him out, so I knew he was right there."

With seven qualifiers, Clyde has the fourth-most participants in Division II behind forces St. Paris Graham, Eastwood and Columbus St. Francis DeSales. The Fliers' Matt Guhn (275) will look to defend his state title, while Robbie Michaels (145) and Eric Schwartz (215) wouldn't need miracles to join Guhn in Saturday's final.

Clyde will also be bringing Brent Aona (140), Thomas Schwartz (152), Arie Thurn (160) and Derek Dencer (171). First-year Flier coach Matt Merrill believes a top-5 team finish is attainable.

"We wanted them peaking for state, and I think that's what happened," Merrill said. "We just prepare them for the end of the year, we taper down at just the right time, and I think it worked."

Wrestling

First-round state wrestling pairings Division I

215 lbs.: Justin Powell, Youngs. Boardman, Jr., 36-1 vs. Justin Fletcher, Greenville, Jr., 36-10; Cameron Campeau, Kettering Fairmont, Sr., 41-4 vs. Dave Crowley, Wadsworth, Sr., 41-7; **Andrew Tumlin, Harrison, Fr., 25-11 vs. Jorge Perez, Fremont Ross, Sr., 38-8;** Kyle Gantz, Warren Howland, Sr., 33-6 vs. Manju Jabbie, Westerville S., Sr., 45-0; Anthony Watson, Sandusky, Sr., 38-4 vs. Phil Spitznagel, Cin. Glen Este, Sr., 21-10; Zach Stolarsky, Solon, Jr., 39-8 vs. Nick Mernedakis, Pickerington Cent., Sr., 30-5; Tyler Rasho, Uniontown Lake, Soph., 37-7 vs. Ricky Simmons, Dublin Coffman, Sr., 23-7; Ben Rios, Lakewood St. Edward, Jr., 20-12 vs. Sean Jameson, Cin. Elder, Sr., 38-1

275 lbs.: Lance Wagner, Centerville, Sr., 34-4 vs. David Wade, Beavercreek, Sr., 39-2; Ken Smith, Willoughby South, Sr., 36-8 vs. Bryan Dobransky, Brecksville-Broadview Hts., Sr., 34-11; Ben Collins, Maple Hts., Sr., 38-5 vs. Chris Holland, Holland Spring., Jr., 33-6; Scott Neria, Riverside Stebbins, Sr., 39-8 vs. Brendan Barlow, Westerville Cent., Jr., 39-1; **Nick Piccirillo, Mayfield Village Mayfield, Jr., 35-4 vs. Robert Zucker, Fremont Ross, Sr., 38-7;** Caleb Lipsey, Cin. Sycamore, Jr., 34-5 vs. Antonio Jeremiah, Hilliard

Wrestling

High School

2005 OHSAA Championship results

COLUMBUS — Results from the first day of the 2006 Ohio High School Athletics Association, held at Value City Arena.

DIVISION I

CHAMPIONSHIP PRELIMINARIES

215

Justin Powell, Youngs. Boardman pin Justin Fletcher, Greenville 1:39; Dave Crowley, Wadsworth maj. dec. Cameron Campeau, Kettering Fairmont 10-1; **Andrew Tumlin, Harrison dec. Jorge Perez, Fremont Ross 8-2**; Kyle Gantz, Warren Howland dec. Manju Jabbie, Westerville South 10-6; Anthony Watson, Sandusky dec. Phil Spitznagel, Cin. Glen Este 6-3; Nick Mernedakis, Pickerington Central dec. Zach Stolarsky, Solon 7-5; Tyler Rasho, Uniontown Lake dec. Ricky Simmons, Dublin Coffman 6-4; Sean Jameson, Cin. Elder dec. Ben Rios, Lakewood St. Edward 4-3.

275

David Wade, Beavercreek dec. Lance Wagner, Centerville 3-2; Bryan Dobransky, Brecksville-Broadview Hts. dec. Ken Smith, Willoughby South 3-2; Ben Collins, Maple Hts. dec. Chris Holland, Holland Spring. 3-1; Brendan Barlow, Westerville Central dec. Scott Neria, Riverside Stebbins 12-5; **Robert Zucker, Fremont Ross pin Nick Piccirillo, Mayfield Village Mayfield 1:37**; Caleb Lipsey, Cin. Sycamore pin Antonio Jeremiah, Hilliard Darby 2:44; Andy Hartshorn, Reynoldsburg dec. Frank Becker, Cin. Moeller 9-6; Nick Terifaj, Strongsville dec. Steve Weisberg, Hudson 1-0.

Zucker, Arreola advance at state meet

Continued From B1

he downed Cleveland Benedictine's Tyler Heil, 12-1, improving to 44-1.

"I have a pretty good draw and if I can wrestle to my potential I should be doing pretty good," he said.

Clyde's Matt Guhn, the defending heavyweight state champion, also won Thursday, pinning St. Paris Graham's Adam Walls in 5:38.

Ross heavyweight Robert Zucker advanced by pinning Mentor district champion Nick Piccirillo of Mayfield in 1:37. Zucker was trailing 2-1 when he executed a pancake throw to put Piccirillo on his back. With about 275 pounds lying on top of him, Piccirillo had no chance.

"I always look for them throws," Zucker said. "It's like a signature move, I guess."

Juni Arreola's signature move is a barrel roll and the SJCC senior worked it over and over in his 20-4 win over Blanchester's Damon Barr. Arreola (51-2) built a 14-point lead after two periods, almost primarily with two-point take-downs.

"Most guys know it's coming, but I've done it so long it's pretty much natural," Arreola said. It's what I do, and I usually score."

Bellevue qualified four wrestlers but only returning state runner-up Jeffery Pelton (119) will be around for day two.

Oak Harbor sophomores Kirk Tank (145), Keith Witt (152) and Cody Magrum (171) all advanced in the championship bracket during their second trip to the state tournament. Tommy Baker (160) was eliminated after losing in the first consolation round.

"I feel a lot better than I did last year, a lot more confident," Tank said.

Consolation Quarterfinals

DIVISION I

215

Tyler Rasho, Uniontown Lake dec. **Jorge Perez, Fremont Ross** 6-1; Justin Powell, Youngs. Boardman pin Andrew Tumlin, Harrison 1:36.

275

Lance Wagner, Centerville pin **Robert Zucker, Fremont Ross** 2:29; Antonio Jeremiah, Hilliard Darby pin Frank Becker, Cin. Moeller 3:43.

DIVISION II

140

Thomas Windom, Cuyahoga Falls CV-CA dec. **Brent Aona, Clyde** 8-3; Lawrence Cavello, Willard pin Jon Zofkie, Wapakoneta 2:41.

152

Bret Terry, New Albany dec. Zach Clark, Louisville 2-1; Will Gilson, Napoleon dec. **Keith Witt, Oak Harbor** 1-0.

DIVISION III

140

Juni Arreola, Fremont St. Joseph dec. Kayne Melko, Bellaire St. John 4-3; Jake Fose, Middletown Madison pin Nick Huffman, Lewisburg Tri-County N. 3:22.

Consolation Round Two

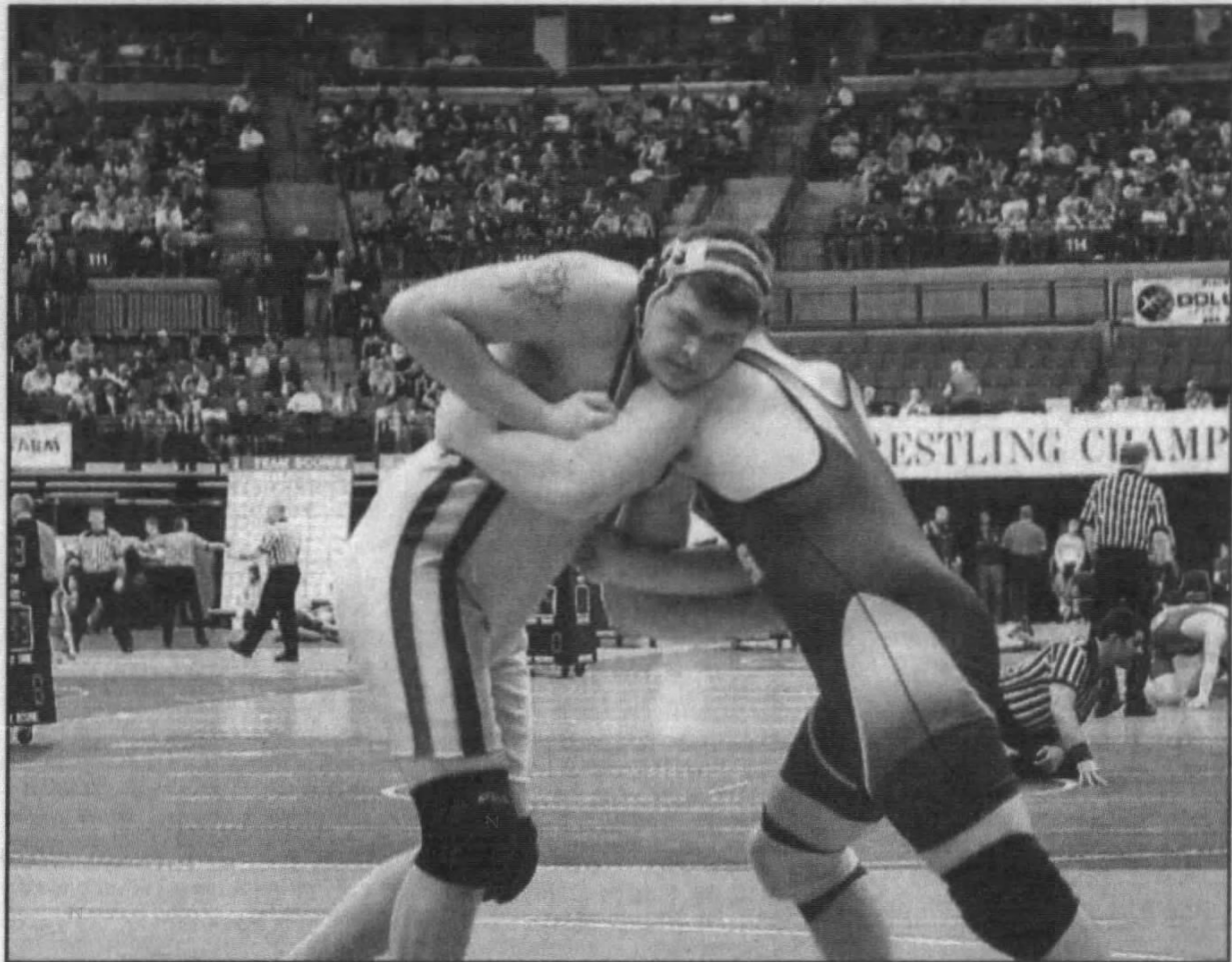
DIVISION I

215

Tyler Rasho, Uniontown Lake dec. Cameron Campeau, Kettering Fairmont 11-6; **Jorge Perez, Fremont Ross** pin Nick Mernedakis, Pickerington Central 0:27; Andrew Tumlin, Harrison dec. Zach Stolarsky, Solon 7-6; Justin Powell, Youngs. Boardman maj. dec. Ben Rios, Lakewood St. Edward 10-2.

275

Lance Wagner, Centerville maj. dec. Nick Terifaj, Strongsville 10-0; **Robert Zucker, Fremont Ross** pin Scott Neria, Riverside Stebbins 2:56; Antonio Jeremiah, Hilliard Darby pin Ben Collins, Maple Hts. 3:38; Frank Becker, Cin. Moeller pin Bryan Dobransky, Brecksville-Broad. Hts. 1:27.



News-Messenger/Lee Welch

FREMONT ROSS WRESTLER Robert Zucker wrestles during second-day matchups at the state wrestling tournament Friday. Zucker, a heavyweight, lost.

Ross' Jorge Perez (215) and Robert Zucker (275), the team's lone state qualifiers, both finished eighth, and St. Joseph Central Catholic's Juni Arreola took sixth at 140.