

1968 Buckeye Conference –

SATURDAY AT ELYRIA

Ross Bids For Buckeye Mat Title

The 'Great Pumpkin' will be seeking to repeat as individual champion and the rest of the Buckeye Conference will be trying to break the domination of Elyria Saturday in the Conference wrestling meet. Elyria has resigned as champion of the Buckeye Conference tournament since the event was instituted in 1962.

The Pioneers have strength again but teams from Lorain and Sandusky both appear to be in position for a stern challenge. Lorain and Sandusky each have dropped only one match in dual competition. Sandusky is champion of the Worthington Invitational tournament.

The 'Great Pumpkin' is the nickname being associated by

Ross fans with heavyweight Brad Lawrence. The rotund 5-9, 230-pounder, is the defending champion in the unlimited class. To win the title this year he is likely to once more face a familiar rival. A year ago Lawrence pinned Elyria's Pat Kershaw in the Buckeye Conference finals. This year, Kershaw returned the favor by pinning Lawrence in the finals of the Elyria Pioneer Invitational Tournament.

Lawrence and Dick Bowersox, Ross 177-pounder, both are unbeaten in dual meet competition. Their only losses were in the Pioneer Invitational, where each lost in the finals for second place finishes.

Bowersox, Lawrence and Scott

Decker, 138-pounder, are given the best chances of the Little Giants for individual titles. Lawrence and Bowersox are each 6-0 in dual competition. Bowersox has pinned four foes and Lawrence five in dual meets. Decker has a 5-1 dual meet record with one victory by fall.

Dual meet season records of other Little Giants who could represent the purple and white are: Jose Alejandro, 105, 3-2; Joe Beddow, 114, 1-1; Gordon Roach, 114, 1-3; Mike Vargo, 122, 2-4; Mike Lieske, 129, 1-4; Don Palomo, 127, 0-1; Jim Bullinger, 135, 2-4; Mike Dowell, 147, 2-4; Eric Pausey, 156, 1-1; Bud Weiser, 156, 2-2; Al Reiter, 165, 2-2; Mark Weiser, 165, 0-2.

There is little for Ross to

measure its chances, since the Little Giants have faced only two Buckeye Conference foes. Ross defeated Findlay 26-19 and lost to Sandusky, 26-11.

Lawrence and Bruce Hagins of Lorain, 167, are the only defending individual champions back in action. Hagins is one of three Lorain wrestlers with only one loss. The others are Larry Branson, 135, and Rich Sanchez, 140. Unbeaten for the Steelmen are Tom Kane, 129, and Dave Ernst, 122.

Elyria will enter the meet with three unbeaten wrestlers—Lynn Scarborough, 129; Dick Murray, 114, and Kershaw. Leading the Sandusky challenge will be Sam Amison, 177-pounder, who was individual champion in the Worthington tourna-

ment. Amison was beaten by Bowersox in the dual meet. Sandusky's bid will be hampered by absence of Tom Sparks, 122, who is out with the mumps.

Last year Ross finished a surprising third, tied with Sandusky, and behind Elyria and Lorain. All of the Buckeye Conference schools, except Marion, participate in wrestling. Lawrence was the sensation of the tournament with three victories by fall. Alejandro and Bowersox of Ross were second in their weight classes a year ago.

In dual competition so far this season Ross wrestlers have a 3-3 record.

Drawings will be at 9 p.m. with afternoon and evening wrestling sessions Saturday at Elyria high school.

Ross Sophomore Mat Team Wins

ELMORE — Ross sophomore wrestlers notched their second victory and used Elmore varsity as the victim for the second time. The first-year Elmore wrestling team showed improvement, winning four matches as they fell 31-12 against Ross.

SUMMARY

105 — Scott Phillips (E) decisioned Greg Barnell, 6-0; 0-3.

114 — Tom Broderick (E) decisioned Dan Pickens, 10-4; 0-6.

122 — Lupe Moreno (r) pinned Jim Gahn, 5:27; 5-6.

129 — Jerry Sondergold (E) decisioned Jerry Winnes, 4-0; 5-9.

135 — Roger Anstead (E) decisioned Bruno Connor, 4-2; 5-12.

140 — Chuck Gottfried (R) decisioned Tom Paule, 10-0; 8-12.

147 — Dennis Below (R) pinned Bob Verbryke, 5:04; 13-12.

156 — Tom Smith (R) decisioned Tom Wodrick, 13-0; 16-12.

167 — Robin Young (R) pinned Darrell Gross, 4:22; 21-12.

177 — Ed Palmer (R) pinned Ken Overmyer, 4:47; 26-12.

Heavyweight — Mike Maddox (R) won by forfeit, 31-12.

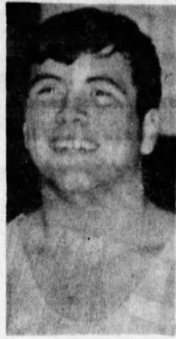


ROSS LITTLE GIANT WRESTLERS who will compete in the Buckeye Conference championships tomorrow at Elyria include the following boys: Kneeling, Jose Alejandro, 105; Gordon Roach, 114; Mike Vargo, 122; Don Palomo, 129;

Jim Bullinger, 135; and Scott Decker, 138. Standing, Brad Lawrence, heavyweight; Dick Bowersox, 175; Al Reiter, 165; Bud Weiser, 154, and Mike Dowell, 145. (News-Messenger Photo)

St. Joseph, Clyde Grapplers Clash

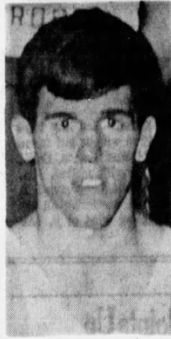
'Murderer's Row' will get its first severe test and ability of the four-man wrecking crew to of one of the toughest wrestling schedules in the area with Harbor, 37-8. Clyde downed Bellevue, 22-21; Margaretta, 45-0, and Oak Harbor, 41-1, but took third place. Kramb was second in his division of the CIT event.



BRAD LAWRENCE
Repeater



DICK BOWERSOX
Champion



SCOTT DECKER
Runnerup



MIKE LIESKE
Second Place

ROSS THIRD IN BUCKEYE MAT TOURNEY

Lawrence, Bowersox Win Crowns

ELYRIA—The Great Pumpkin and 'Socks' stood on the highest pedestal Saturday night, carrying the fame of the Little Giant to the heights wrestling success. In the Buckeye Conference wrestling championship the Pumpkin, Brad Lawrence, repeated as conference heavy-weight champion, and Socks, Dick Bowersox, completed the Fremont Ross domination of tournament heavy weights with a 177-pound title.

Three other Little Giants placed in their weight divisions as

Ross finished third with 51 points. Elyria continued its domination winning its seventh Buckeye Conference wrestling championship. There has never been any other champion since the Tournament was instigated. Elyria won the title with 71 points and three individual champions. Also finishing ahead of Ross were Lorain and Sandusky, 65 each. Team totals of other teams in the tournament were Findlay, 43; Mansfield, 31; and Admiral King, 25.

In addition to Elyria's three

champions and two by Ross, number of individual champions for the competing teams were: Lorain and Findlay, two each; Sandusky and Mansfield, one each. Admiral King was the only team without an individual champ.

For Ross Mike Lieske, 129, and Scott Decker, 140, reached the finals and placed second, while Jose Alejandro lost in the consolation finals for fourth in the 105-pound division.

It was the second consecutive heavyweight championship for

Lawrence and he won it the same way. In a repeat of last year Lawrence pinned Elyria's Pat Kershaw in the finals. Lawrence needed 5:11 to put Kershaw's shoulders to the mat. Lawrence gained revenge for an earlier loss by pin to Kershaw in the finals of the Elyria Pioneer Invitational tournament. Enroute to the finals Lawrence defeated Glass of Sandusky and Jenkins of Lorain.

Bowersox posted his second decision win of the season over Sandusky's Sam Amison in the 177-pound finals. Bowersox decided the Worthington Invitational Tournament champion 9-2 in the Buckeye title decider. Earlier Bowersox had moved to the finals with victories over Elyria's Harvey and Potlask of Admiral King.

Lieske, after two victories, was pinned in 2:40 of the final by Findlay's Shimeall. Lieske victories had been over Kane of Lorain and Admiral King's Patton. Kane then went on to win the consolation bracket for third place in the 129-pound weight class.

Decker's bid for the 140-pound championship was a near miss as he fell by a narrow 2-0 count in the finals to Findlay's Delancy. Decker's victims were Elyria's Robertson and Lorain's Sanchez.

There were three defending individual champions in the tournament and all repeated their titles. In addition to Lawrence, the repeaters were Al Hagins, Lorain, 167, and Ron Feltner, Sandusky, 114.

Other individual champions were Parker, Elyria, 105; Ernst, Lorain, 122; Kieth, Elyria, 135; Johnson, Elyria, 147; Drye, Mansfield, 156.

Results of matches involving Ross wrestlers other than the two who won titles two seconds: 103—Alejandro, bye; Parker, Elyria, beat Alejandro; Alejandro defeated Warmer, Mansfield; Sopko, Lorain, decisioned Alejandro, 2-1.

114—Feltner, Sandusky, over Gordon Roach; Salsbury, Findlay, over Roach.

122—Aerni, Findlay, over Mike Vargo.

135—Phaler, Mansfield, over Jim Bullinger.

147—Johnson, Elyria, over Mike Dowell; Brinkman, Findlay, over Dowell.

156—Harris, Admiral King, over Bud Weiser.

167—Baker, Elyria, over Al Retter.

PRO GRID ALL-STAR ROUNDUP:

Bob Hayes Both Hero, Goat Of Pro Bowl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the voting for Back of the Game in the Pro Bowl, one ballot went to Bob Hayes of the Dallas Cowboys.

The voter said the explanation was simple: Hayes starred for both teams.

It was hard to argue against the theory. Playing for the East in Sunday's National Football League All-Star affair, Bullet Bob caught six passes for 84 yards, the longest for 45 which set up an East touchdown.

Hayes also punted for the East which proved invaluable for the West. His first boot was high enough but it only traveled six yards.

Bob improved on the next one. It sailed up and out 14 yards.

Each time the West cashed in for touchdowns.

Hayes, it must be hastily noted, can't be faulted. He hadn't booted a football since he played in high school until he was pressed into punting service in practice for the Pro Bowl.

The West defeated the East, 38-20, in what must be described as a fun game, at least for the 53,289 who saw it in person,

along with a national television audience.

As often happens in all-star games' with squads by necessity hastily assembled and coached, there was something less than perfection.

There was an 80-yard East march to a touchdown that had its oddities. On a fourth and four in midfield, Hayes punted into the end zone.

But officials said the West had 12 guys on the field, it was penalized and the drive continued.

The West coaches even today have not figured who, if there was one, the 12th man was.

Moments later Meredith passed and Green Bay's Willie Wood stepped in for an interception. Instead, he tipped it up in the air and it dropped into the hands of the surprised Hayes on the seven.

Things like this make All-Star things entertaining. After a long season, who needs perfection?

—**AFL STARS**
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — George Blanda and all his teammates on the American

football League's West team are \$400 poorer today than they think they should be. It's all because Blanda's old Kentucky windage deserted him.

When Joe Namath of the New York Jets risked his fragile legs on a one-yard touchdown smash and put the East All-Stars ahead 25-24 in Sunday's season finale, there were 58 seconds left.

As any pro football fan knows: this is not necessarily decisive. And Len Dawson of the Kansas City Chiefs used only 32 seconds to move the West to the East's 28.

This was the time to call on Blanda, 18 years a pro and the AFL's leading scorer of 1967 on his educated placekicking toe.

Back before his pro career Blanda had played at the University of Kentucky and he knew all about windage. He had missed a 29-yard field goal attempt early in the fourth quarter and took note of how the wind was blowing in the Gator Bowl.

Blanda allowed for it and booted from the 35 what could have been the winning points and the \$1,000 winners' share to each West player instead of the \$600 loser's share.

"It just missed by a fraction," Blanda noted as time ran out. "Actually the ball went right where I aimed it. The earlier kick I missed was carried to the right by the wind. I thought that the same thing would happen again—but it didn't."

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