

1984 Regional...

This area has 40 wrestlers in regionals

The final step toward the 47th Ohio High School State Wrestling Tournament will begin this weekend for 40 area grapplers in all three Ohio High School Athletic Association school classifications.

The Class AAA Regional will be at Admiral King High School in Lorain, the Class AA at Fostoria High School and the Class A at Bellevue High School.

The Class AAA and AA regionals begin at 4 p.m. Friday, with the second session at 11 a.m. and the championship session at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 3.

In the Class A, the regional will begin at 11 a.m., Saturday, with the finals at 7 p.m.

Wrestling in the AA and AAA tourneys will be on a 16-team bracket while in the A, an eight-team bracket will be used.

The complete list of pairings for area wrestlers appears below.

Class AAA

105-MIKE MEZINGER (19-4), FREMONT ROSS, vs. Gary Rakosy (18-8-3), Berea.

105-STEVE SAUNDERS (22-5), PORT CLINTON, vs. Rick Hartman (25-1), Cleveland St. Ignatius.

138-STEVE SMITH (16-10), PORT CLINTON, vs. Bill Foshee (21-3), Akron Kenmore.

155-BRUCE CELEK (19-3), PORT CLINTON, vs. Jeff King (23-4), Midpark.

175-STEVE GUTKOSKI (25-4), PORT CLINTON, vs. Renardo Managan (23-1) Akron Firestone.

185-KEITH SHOOK (19-3), PORT CLINTON, vs. Mike Struhar, Lakewood.

Mezinger easily wins first match

LORAIN—Mike Mezinger of Fremont Ross won his first round match and two Port Clinton wrestlers advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Class AAA Regional Tournament at Admiral King High School Friday.

The quarterfinal round begins today at 11 a.m.

Mezinger, a junior, easily defeated Gary Rakosy of Berea 12-0 in his first round skirmish. This morning, the Ross 112-pounder will wrestle David Carlin of Lakewood St. Edward.

Carlin was picked in the preseason as the eventual state runnerup at 112 after finishing second the year before at 105.

The Port Clinton winners were Steve Smith, 138 and Keith Shook, 185.

Smith pinned Bill Focher of Akron Kenmore in 1:42 while Shook flattened Mike Struhar of Lakewood High School in 5:44.

Today, Smith will take on Jim Caparuscio of Maple Heights and Shook will go against Ed Vandalio of Parma Normandy in their quarterfinal matches.

Steve Saunders, Bruce Celek and Steve Gutkowski, all of Port Clinton, lost in the first round. Saunders, 105, lost to Rich Hartman of Cleveland St. Ignatius 15-1 while Celek, 155, dropped a 9-2 decision to Jeff King of Midpark. Renardo Managan of Akron Firestone defeated Gutkowski 9-4 in a 175-pound bout.

The championship finals are at 7 p.m. with the top four wrestlers advancing to the state tournament in Columbus next weekend.

Mezinger finishes 5th in Class AAA regional

LORAIN — Al Voggenthaler was tight-lipped about it but he gave off strong hints that the toughest opponents for Mike Mezinger were not the ones he wrestled.

Mezinger, Ross High School's hopeful for the state wrestling tournament, failed in that bid Saturday at the Class AAA Regional Wrestling Tournament at Admiral King High School. The 112-pounder finished fifth, one spot away from a state qualifying berth.

"He got nailed a couple of times by an official," Voggenthaler, the Ross coach said.

The first time that Mezinger came up short in the battle with the man in stripes was in the quarterfinals against David Carlin of Lakewood St. Edward. Carlin officially pinned Mezinger in two minutes.

"I asked the official what the time was on the pin and he said two minutes," Voggenthaler explained. "I asked him how could that be because the period is only two minutes long. I know that the kid who taps the official let him know the period is over made two swipes

at him and missed before the pin was called."

Mezinger came back to defeat Frank Cwiklinski of Parma Valley Forge 3-2 in the consolations but had another brush with the referee in the next match, losing 1-0 in overtime to Jim Juskew of Brunswick.

"Mike was up 3-0 at one point," the Ross coach said, "but it got to be 3-2. With 13 seconds left, he was warned for stalling and with one second left, he was slapped with a penalty to tie it up. He had the kid at the edge of the mat with one leg up trying to get him down when he was penalized. It was ridiculous."

"In the overtime, the other kid was warned for stalling and the referee kept yelling for him to wrestle but he was never penalized."

Juskew scored on an escape to win the match.

Mezinger came back to take fifth, defeating Robert Copp of Lorain Southview 6-1.

Ironically, Jeff McCreery of Maumee who Mezinger beat 7-0 in the district finals, finished second and will be in the state tournament.