

1998 State...

State wrestling tournament: Area profiles

DIVISION I — ROSS

Name: Aaron Root
Weight class: 215 pounds
Grade: Senior
Record: 31-2
Previous trips to state: 1
Brakeman rank: 6
Opponent: Bob Lehman, Cin. Oak Hills, Senior, 27-5



ROOT

DIVISION II — CLYDE

Name: Doug West
Weight class: 103
Grade: Sophomore
Record: 39-3
Previous trips to state: 0
Brakeman rank: 4
Opponent: Rocky Laughlin, Canton South, Sophomore, 36-5



D. WEST

DIVISION II — CLYDE

Name: Luke Townsley
Weight class: 112
Grade: Junior
Record: 33-8
Previous trips to state: 0
Brakeman rank: 11
Opponent: Levi Spellman, Canfield, Junior, 27-5



TOWNSLEY

Root rebounds to win opener at state meet

By BRIAN SPIESS

Sports editor

FAIRBORN — Fremont Ross senior Aaron Root was both exhausted and elated Thursday after winning his first state wrestling tournament match.

And his coach was equally impressed — for a moment.

"It was probably one of his better matches this year, Ross coach Grover Dowell said after watching Root win an 11-9 decision over Bob Lehman of Cincinnati Oak Harbor in a 215-pound match. "I went over and said, 'Congratulations. Nice match.' Then I went back to my normal self and started telling him what he was doing wrong."

Root, Ross's only representative at the Ervin J. Nutter Center, will face Martin Stachowicz of Garfield Heights in this morn-

■ Clyde wrestlers win, B2

ing's Division I quarterfinals.

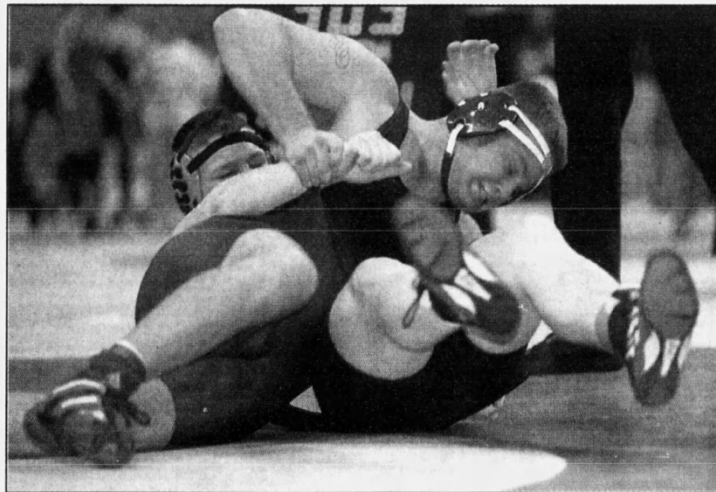
The only other Fremont wrestler, Jamie LeJeune of St. Joseph Central Catholic, lost 9-2 to Scott Roth of Martins Ferry in a 125-pound duel in Division III.

Root's victory avenged his first round loss from a year ago and guarantees him at least two more matches in the tournament.

"It feels great," Root said, his face wet with sweat and red-colored from fatigue. "I am a little exhausted."

Root trailed 2-0, and later 3-2, in the first period before grabbing a 4-3 lead against Lehman. Entering the second period the wrestlers were tied at 4-4, but Root took the lead for good in the second quarter with a 5-0 surge.

See ROOT, B2



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS 215-pounder Aaron Root battles Bob Lehman of Cincinnati Oak Harbor Thursday at state.

Root starts out a winner

Continued from B1

"I wanted to be the aggressor," Root said. "I was able to get a good back switch when he slipped. He put his arm over my one arm and I just rolled him."

Leading 10-6 in the third period, Root kept the pressure on.

"I was still looking for possibilities," Root said, "but I don't like to shoot late in the match. ... Sometimes in the third period I go to my knees a little bit when I shoot."

Root (32-2) will need to wrestle even better against Stachowicz, who is unbeaten in 32 matches.

"It took a lot of pressure off to get that first win," Root said. "I can be

more focused next match."

For LeJeune to have a shot at a victory, he will need Roth to defeat Zach Davis of Loudonville in the quarterfinals to pull him back into the tournament.

"He's pretty disappointed," said St. Joe coach Chuck Lenhart, who said LeJeune did not feel like discussing his loss.

LeJeune trailed 4-2 in the third period and had a chance for a takedown when Roth reversed the move and went on to the 9-2 win.

Championship quarterfinals and semifinals and consolation preliminaries and quarterfinals are today. Championship finals take place Saturday.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS QUARTERFINALS

215: Martin Stachowicz, Garfield Heights dec. Aaron Root, Fremont Ross 7-4.

CONSOLATION MATCHES

David Hudson, Galloway Westland tech. fall Aaron Root, Fremont Ross 20-4.

8 state placers

Eight of the area's 25 wrestlers at the 61st State Wrestling Tournament will place today at the Ervin J. Nutter Center in Fairborn. Here are where the area wrestlers are at this point:

Finalist — Clyde's Tim Anderson.

Consolation semifinalists — Clyde's Rondall Blackburn and Doug West; Bellevue's Russ Kuhns; Lakota's Jared Lowery; Margaretta's Gregg Pressler and Dane Bonnigson; and Oak Harbor's Zeb Miller.

Eliminated — Fremont Ross's Aaron Root; St. Joe's Jamie LeJeune; Clyde's Corey Coe, Rob Jennings, Lance Noftz and Luke Townsley; Bellevue's Anthony Coleman, Courtney DeLuca, Matt DePolo, Chris Sharp, Corey Smith, Laramie Spurlock; Lakota's Adam Thacker and Justin West; and Oak Harbor's Pat Kania, Miles Fabian and Curt Borjas.

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Aaron Root of Fremont Ross wrestled projected state champion Martin Stachowicz to a 7-4 loss in the quarterfinals Friday before being eliminated by David Hudson of Galloway Westland.