

Zieber leads wrestlers into districts

Rod Zieber of Clyde will lead a host of Fremont area high school wrestlers into district competition Friday and Saturday.

Zieber holds the distinction of being the only unbeaten, untied wrestler in the area. Doug Blay of Oak Harbor has not lost in 29 matches but he has one draw.

The Clyde senior is spotless in 27 matches this season after a junior year of 24-7.

"I just want to make it to the state (tournament)," Zieber said Wednesday afternoon while getting prepared for the Class AA District Tournament at Toledo Waite High School.

"If I get down there, then whatever happens, happens."

Zieber just missed the

state show in Columbus a year ago, finishing fourth in the district test. Only the top three qualified and he must finish that high this year to reach his goal.

In his sixth year of wrestling, Zieber worked this past summer at the Sandusky County YMCA building up his strength. He averaged four miles running a day.

One of only four seniors on the team, Zieber has a philosophy he uses when going on the mat.

"I'm unbeatable," he says, "and my coach (Ken Thrasher) keeps telling me that. It's just that I feel this way, I have to go out and wrestle like it (being unbeatable)."

Zieber will get his chance at using his philosophy Friday at 12:30

p.m. when the AA wrestling begins. The second round will begin at 6 p.m. Friday night with wrestling at noon and 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Class AAA district will be at Toledo Rogers High School. The first round Friday will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the semifinals at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and the finals at 7 p.m.

The Class A is at Bowling Green and will begin at 12 noon with the semifinals Saturday at 1 p.m. The finals begin at 7 p.m.

Following are the area wrestlers who qualified for the district tournaments:

Class AAA

Ross: Mark Walther, 138; Jim Lipstraw, 145; Doug Smith, 167; and Tom Smith, 185.

Class AA

Clyde: Rick Rosen, 98; Hiro Persons, 105; Ruben Rodriguez,

138; Rod Zieber, 155; Kirk Allen, 167; Rick Rowe, 185;

Oak Harbor: Rob Huston, 98; Matt Bodnar, 105; Bryan Behm, 112; Doug Blay, 119; Dan Blay, 126; Steve Weirich, 138; Carlos Mincheff, 145; Chuck Carman, 155; Norm Cook, 167; John Ishmael, 175; Dale Jess, 185; Glenn Fredrick, heavyweight.

Lakota: Steve Fairbanks, 132; Pete Gibson, 112; Tom Veler, 126; Barry Hull, 138.

Port Clinton: Brian Celek, 175; Tom Pope, 126; Mark Apple, 132; Mark Hermes, heavyweight; Terry Dunn, 175.

Margaretta: Bob Avila, 119.

Bellevue: John Didion, 185.

Class A

St. Joe: Dave Foos, heavyweight; Doug Courtney, 185; Barney Cruz, 119; Mike Weickert, 126; Mark Coleman, 155; Tim Cullen, 167; Roger Darr, 175; Victor Flores, 105; Eric Szymanowski, 145; Tom Weickert, 98; Steve Guyer, 138.

Woodmore: Mark Riggle, 98; Jim Hanthorn, 145; Andy Johnson, 112; Mike Damschroder, 132; Bruce Lenox, 167; Bob Dunlap, 175.

Gibsonburg: Paul Sanchez, 185; John Schell, 105; Scott Hart, 112; Jerry Widmer, 167.

Ross wrestlers fail to reach 3rd round

TOLEDO — Sylvania Northview leads the Class AAA District Wrestling Tournament after the first two rounds.

Fremont Ross is 13th with eight points but no Little Giants will be appearing today in the championship semifinals.

Northview has 26 points while Maumee is second with 22½. Southview and Sandusky are tied for third with 22.

"We had three first round winners and a bye," Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler said, "but we had four second round losers."

Mark Walther, Ross's 138-pounder, pinned Gary Ruppert of Waite in his first round match and Doug Smith, 167, decisioned Brian Sicklebaugh of Rogers 11-2 in his match. Tom Smith, 185, defeated Don Whitner of Perrysburg 6-1 to advance to the quarter-final round.

Jim Lipstraw, 145, had a first round bye for Ross.

In the second round, Mike Wilson of Maumee edged Walther 7-5 and Doug Smith fell victim to Gene Strausse of Southview 8-1. Tom Smith lost to Mike Klever of St. John's 5-2 and Lipstraw was beaten 11-4 by Jim Gray of Celina.

The only way for Ross to qualify a wrestler to the state tournament is in a "wrestle-back." The third place finisher can challenge the second place finisher for the trip to the state providing the two have not wrestled before in the tourney.

Only the top two advance to the state show.

"That's our only hope," Voggenthaler said, "and that doesn't look very good."

The Ross coach pointed out that the sectional that his team competed in is not doing well. Sandusky, the sectional champ, had only two winners in the first two rounds.

The semifinals begin at 1 p.m. today and the finals are at 7 p.m.

Ross matmen blanked

TOLEDO — Ross failed to qualify a wrestler to the state meet after the Class AAA District Tournament at Rogers High School.

"Yep," Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler said, "It's been eight years since I have not had a wrestler down there.

"We did not win a match after the first round," the Ross coach said about the district tournament. "We got a couple of kids 'pulled back in' but they lost right away."

Mark Walther, 138, Doug Smith, 167, and Tom Smith, 185, won in the first round Friday night while the fourth

Little Giant in the district, Jim Lipstraw, 145, had a bye. In the second round, all four were blanked.

Only the top two finishers qualified for the state meet this Thursday through Saturday in Columbus.

In other district news, Voggenthaler announced the coaches' selection for Northwestern Ohio "Coach of the Year" for all divisions.

Terry Wilson is the AAA's top coach and Dick Hoover of Holland Springfield won AA honors. Bill Lodermeier of Bluffton was accorded the A honors.