

1988 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT...

Six Little Giants vying for state tourney berth

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Al Voggenthaler would like to look at the positive but the negative keeps getting in the way.

The Ross wrestling coach will take six Little Giants into the Northwest Ohio Division I District Wrestling Tournament today at Toledo Rogers High School. Also today, the Division II district is at Van Buren High School.

Both district tourneys begin at 11 a.m. and the finals are at 7 p.m. The top two finishers in each weight division at both

districts qualify for the state tournament March 10-12 in Columbus.

Voggenthaler is not happy with the numbers advancing to the state tourney. A year ago, following a district-regional tournament format, four Division I wrestlers from Northwest Ohio advanced to the state meet. This season, the various districts advance at least two but not more than four with the bigger number coming from the Northeast and southeast districts.

The reasoning is simple: with

this tournament format, there are more Division I high schools in those areas.

"We will be playing 60s music," Voggenthaler said about the eight-team bracket district tourney, "because we are going back to that era to determine state qualifiers."

"You can look at it positively," he continued, "win twice and you are in the state." And the negative?

"One bad call or one missed call, and a kid who should be in the state tournament could be eliminated," Voggenthaler

said.

Adding salt to Voggenthaler's feeling is that four of his six district qualifiers are injured. One, Jamie Ramirez, 130, is listed as doubtful because of a knee injury.

The other three — Jon Ramirez 145, Troy Williamson, 152, and Rob Beck, 171 — are nursing sore shoulders.

The only healthy Little Giants are Matt Marinis, 135, and Dave Carroll, 189.

Marinis, who qualified for the state tourney as a freshman and sophomore but missed last

season, won the sectional title last weekend. Jon Ramirez was also a sectional champ.

In Division II at Van Buren, Clyde, Port Clinton and Bellevue will be represented.

Tom Lozier, 130, is the lone Clyde wrestler while Tim Kessler, Jeff Gluth, Aaron Meinke and Joe Martinez will represent Port Clinton.

Bellevue will have Brett Adkins, 140, Jim Aslinger, 171, Dan Crump, 145, Tim Layne, 125 and Jason Grant, 160, in the district tourney.

In the Division I tournament, Matt Marinis, 135, and Jon Ramirez, 145, won their first matches at Roger High School, but lost in the semifinals. Marinis defeated Brad Easton of Start 5-4 and Ramirez pinned Keith Drew of Rogers in 2:45 for their victories.

In the semifinals, Marinis lost to Brian Lutz of Whitmer 7-1 and Ramirez was beaten 5-0 in overtime by Mike Hoefflin of Toledo St. Francis. Ramirez led 6-1 in regulation until 20 seconds remained but Hoefflin reversed the Ross senior and put him on his back, completing a 5-point move and tie the match at 6-6, producing the overtime.

The state tournament begins at 2 p.m., Thursday, in St. John Arena on The Ohio State University campus with Division III first round matches. Division II competition begins at 4:20 and Division I at 6:20 p.m.