



January 4, 2010

Little Giants capture 3rd in Mackey

BY MATTHEW HORN

Sports writer

Kent Weaver of Fremont Ross left a special space in the back of his mind for Saturday's wrestling tournament.

Weaver (145 pounds) was one of three individual Little Giants champions as host Ross finished the Mal Mackey Invitational in third place with 116 points.

"It's one I've had my eye on for a while," Weaver said. "It's one I wanted to win. It's in front of the home crowd -- it's just something I've always wanted to win."

Genoa (126.5) won the event while Oak Harbor's B Team was seventh at 34.

Weaver pinned Port Clinton's Chris Salyers in 5 minutes, 16 seconds in his final match in the round-robin format after beating Clay's Jordan Slinker 7-5 in the third round.

"(Salyers) kind of just got caught in a bad spot and I took advantage of it," Weaver said.

Weaver said he maintained his intensity throughout his match with Slinker as he outlasted his opponent.

A title in the home environment was also special for the Little Giants' Tony Rodriguez (125).

"It definitely gave me inspiration to go out and work hard and put on a show," he said. "Being in front of the home crowd gives you better hype for the win."

Rodriguez beat Waite's Tim Enright 4-3 in his final match.

"What helped me win the match was staying in my stance and I kept moving," Rodriguez said. "I went 100 percent with each shot to try to get takedowns and it worked."

Rodriguez won 16-4 and 15-6 before a pin in 1:52 in the fourth round.

"I pretty much controlled my matches," he said. "(The final round) was the toughest match of the day."

Tylor Trautwein had pins at 33 and 25 seconds, respectively, in his first two matches. He pinned Genoa's Jake Winters at 2:49 in his final match.

Trautwein, who was recognized most outstanding wrestler after winning his weight class at the Wendy's Invitational on Wednesday, also beat Winters earlier in the year.

Trautwein was a state alternate last year and intends to qualify to Columbus this season.

"I need to work a little harder," he said. "I need to get more conditioned so I can do better. I don't want to get tired at state."

Miguel Marquez (119), Steven Johnson (130), Jalen Heidelberg (140) and Wyatt Wukie (171) were second for Ross while Matt Christensen (136) was third.

"Our team is looking better and better," Rodriguez said. "We sent five guys to the finals and (three) came out on top. It's looking good for our team."

Jared Chambers (125) and Hunter Gresh (136) were second for the Rockets.



Fremont Ross's Tylor Trautwein pins Genoa's Jake Winters at the Mal Mackey tournament on Saturday. (Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent)