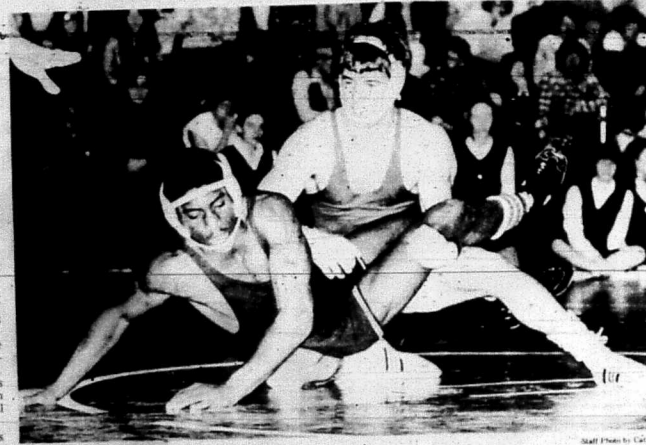


Devils Capture Seventh Consecutive Mat Title



Staff Photo by Cathy Lane

WRESTLING TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS in the H.C.I.W.T. this weekend were (l. to r.) Bob Hunt (HC), Tim Stevens (HC), Larry Sallie (Mad), John Mulligan (HC), Manny Lago (THS), Felix Lago (THS), Darryl Kanach (HC), Mark Matos (EC), Willie Fullmer (THS) and Joe Altvater (HC).



Staff Photo by Cathy Lane

IN CONTROL of the situation in the 158 pound final in the Red Devil Holiday Tourney is senior Daryl Kanach. Toms River South's Jeff Parker gave Kanach a scare later in the bout, but the Central middleweight won, 8-6.

Riegel Likes All-Around Showing In Hunterdon Central Mat Tourney

It was an exciting tournament, one of the best in years, Russ Riegel said after his Red Devils had rolled to their seventh consecutive Hunterdon Central Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday night at the Flemington Fairgrounds.

"My only disappointment is that two of our boys, Jeff Murphy and Dave Gorman, got humiliated by Delaware Valley wrestlers Marty Breithoff and Dennis Flanagan," he continued.

Riegel was very excited, however, by the all-around performance of his boys, who amassed 127 1/2 team points. Toms River South finished second with 110 1/2 points, and Del Val came in a distant third with 75.

If we can stay away from injuries, if things go by, we're going to be tough, Riegel said.

The Red Devils walked away from the tourney with four outright champs and two co-champs.

The co-champs, Bob Hunt and Tim Stevens, wrestled in the 400-pound division. Both of them advanced to the finals. There was no championship bout.

Joe Martino's championship effort was also a pleasant surprise to Red Devils fans.

"I'm delighted with Joe's effort," said Riegel. "It was a very unpredictable weight class. Looking back at it, I don't think that it was one of the strongest weight classes in the tourney."

The 141-pound class wasn't the 138-pound division was.

Kanach, who was dominating the bout, ran into trouble from Parker, who closed with a takedown. The Red Devil state runner-up from last year was in trouble at the buzzer of his 8-6 win.

Murphy made a nice comeback, Riegel said, but that's the good thing about having mat judges. They were on top of the situation. I think that points could have

been argued both ways in the bout.

It was a good match for Kanach, though, Riegel said. "He had an easy time in the Ohio tourney, and he had eased through this tourney. In his first seven bouts of the season, he had six falls. It was good for him to be challenged."

Joe Altvater won the final championship for Hunterdon Central. The Red Devil heavyweight mauler has won a 3-2 decision.

"Give him a little success and he'll be dangerous," Riegel said. "At times he seems to be the same wrestler he was last year. But then there are times when he seems to be 100 percent improved."

The Red Devils travel to Phillipsburg Catholic on Friday night and Millburn on Saturday night.

Millburn was in the top ten last year, Riegel said. "We're really excited about wrestling them."

Del Val Gets Two

Vince Fitz, coach at Del Val, was disappointed despite the fact that two of his boys won individual titles.

"I'm disappointed that more of our boys didn't come back through the consolation," he said. "We didn't wrestle up to our potential. We've got a lot of work to do."

Some of our boys looked good," Fitz added, but others did not. There didn't seem to be any middle ground. Starting right now, we are going to concentrate on the basics."

Fitz was impressed with Hunterdon Central, though. "They're really tough," he said. "They may be one of the best teams in the state."

Fitz was also impressed with Toms River South. "They're very young, they wrestle very aggressively, and they've got a competitive nature," he said. "I really like their team."

He reserved his fiercest plaudits for Breithoff and Flanagan. "They salvaged something for us," he said. "I might

have been a good thing that Breithoff lost in the finals of the Spartans tourney. He might have been too confident. In this tourney, he was hungry. He wrestled very aggressively."

Flanagan was outstanding, he added. He came up with two very impressive wins in the semis and finals against quality wrestlers.

Fitz also complimented the performances of Brad Anderson and Scott Stuckert, who turned in nice jobs in the semis to take thirds at 135 and 158, respectively.

The Terrers open the new year with a home meet against Roundtop on Saturday night.

Defensive tackle Ron Carpenter of the Cincinnati Bengals says a successful goal line stand provides the most fun in the world for a defensive alignment.

Mulligan, Kanach Key Win; Breithoff, Flanagan Shine For Delaware Valley Team

The script of the annual Hunterdon Central Invitational Wrestling Tournament was altered somewhat this year, but the final result was still the same as Russ Riegel's last squad came through to grab still another team trophy.

The Red Devils picked up five individual weight class championships in one respect, compared to three from 1974. River South edged the runner-up team 123 1/2-110 1/2 in the standings.

The other local entry Delaware Valley, had two titles and was securely in third place with 75 points. Other squads in the tourney were Marlboro through Essex Catholic, 42 1/2; Middletown Township, 20 1/2; Marlboro, 18 1/2; and Oakcrest, 15.

In recent years it has been a trend for the Red Devils to run for the crown, but Toms River South, highly ranked statewide in 1974-75, was the threat this season.

However, Central's two state-ranked wrestlers, John Mulligan, 115, and Daryl Kanach, 158, came through with wins over Toms River opponents to give the team trophy for the Devils.

Hunterdon Central's other champions came at 100 where both Hunt and Tim Stevens were named as opponents at 141 with Joe Martino winning and at heavyweight where Joe Altvater topped the evening with a victory.

Riegel decided that if a team got two trophies, they would not succeed for the future. Instead they would be named co-champions.

Central's runners-up included Jeff Murphy, at 115, and Dave Gorman, at 148. Toms River was third at 122 for the Red Devils while team mate, Mike Blanton, was fourth at 141.

Toms River South winners included Manny Lago at 122, Felix Lago and Mark Mullers at 129 and Willie Fullmer at 135. Fullmer was Frank Major at 135, Jeff Parker at 158, and Chris Johnson at 170.

Thirds went to Mike Weidenbush at 101, Mike Martin at 148, and Steve Caruso at 168. Jim Seeling was fourth at 170.

Coach Vince Fitz

Fourth Annual Touch Tourney Set For Sunday

The Hunterdon County Touch Tournament will be held on January 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Glen Gardner Elementary School Field.

There will be eight teams in a single elimination. Milford Wood Glen Gardner, Hunterdon, Review, Lebanon, Leopards, Flemington, Allerton, and Red Bank.

This will be the fourth annual tournament. Milford has twice won Glen Gardner.

Refreshments will be served at the Glen Gardner Pavilion.

There will be no admission charge.

Delaware Valley individual champions were Marty Breithoff at 135 and Dennis Flanagan at 146. Second place went to Jim Traxinger at 108 and George Brindisi at 116. Brad Anderson was third at 135 and Scott Stuckert, 139, third at 141 for the Terrers, while teammate Lomie Johnson took fourth at 115.

Other champions in the tournament were Larry Sallie at Marlboro at 106, and Mark Matos of Essex Catholic at 110.

Eight Finals

The annual four-round tournament is unique in that it allows each of the eight teams entered to have two boys at each weight. The opening round on Friday pitted first teamers against second holders.

This year the team scoring was changed somewhat by the state-wide tournament awarded for a fall, one of the 12-point award and one-half for an eight-point victory. Place points stayed the same with ten for first, seven for second, four for third and two for fourth.

The opening round found central and Toms River South ahead from the start with the Red Devils moving 20 wrestlers through and the South Jersey team advancing 16 boys. Delaware Valley was third with 14.

After the Friday evening quarterfinals, round the first team had 12 Toms River had 11 and Del Val had nine. Essex Catholic had two each and Middletown one.

At 101, the final bout was a both boys' affair. Hunterdon Central's Hunt advanced with three falls in a total time of 7:04 to take the title. Toms River's Stevens had a 4-5 second pin over the third place finisher on his way to the finals.

Madison's Sallie copied the 10-minute when Del Val's Traxinger was unable to continue the bout after the initial period. Traxinger twice appeared to have takedowns on Sallie, only to be rolled through by the Madison lightweight.

Traxinger suffered an elbow injury in the bout.

Sallie picked up the fastest fall trophy with a 21-second stick on his way to the finals while Traxinger had a fall and a major decision over third place finisher Hall of Essex Catholic.

Mulligan Sharp

Central's Mulligan, coming off an ankle injury, faced a difficult opponent in Major at 115. The Toms River grappler was a state competitor also last season.

After a scoreless first period, Mulligan rode Major well in the second stanza up 20 seconds remaining.

Behind 10-0 at that point, Mulligan quickly reversed the tide and picked up a nearfall on his way to a 6-1 win.

At 122 Manny Lago jumped Toms to a quick 6-2 lead over Middletown's Ozt and held

on the remainder of the bout for an 11-6 triumph.

Lago wrestled perhaps the best of his life in the semifinals when he edged Central's state quarterfinalist Andrew, 10 in overtime.

Coach Felix Lago and Muller traveled to the finals at 129 to share the tourney crown.

Lago had the closest bout in the semi when he defeated Devil Miller, 8-1.

Delaware Valley senior Breithoff, who posted in the tournament when he handled Central's Murphy in the finals.

Breithoff used three takedowns to build up a nearfall before getting the fall at 5-11. The Terrer had two more wins on his way to the finals.

Murphy picked up a key victory over second seed Oakcrest, 6-2, in the semifinals.

At 141 Martino wrestled a strong tournament for Hunterdon Central and emerged the champion with an 8-3 decision over Essex Catholic's Dave Felt in the finals.

Martino was an excellent wrestler who won the whole way in the last bout.

The Red Devil senior had little trouble moving through the first three rounds, winning 12-0, 9-2 and 11-3.

Flanagan Wins

A rematch occurred in the 148 pound final at last season's Ostrom tourney. Flanagan in a dual meet, 12-6. However, the Del Val middleweight turned tables this time.

Along two key singleleg takedowns, Flanagan topped Toms 9-0 to take the tourney crown. The Terrer had another tough encounter in the semifinals when he defeated second seed Martin of Toms River South, 9-6.

Ostrom advanced easily to the finals with a 1-30 fall, and 8-0 and 8-2 decisions.

Probably the best of the evening took place at 158 when state runner up Kanach, a member of this year's State Federation team.

Kanach pleased the local crowd early in the match when he built up a big 7-2 lead, over the first two periods, but Parker wouldn't quit. Parker just missed a controversial takedown in period two which took the mat judges a minute to decide.

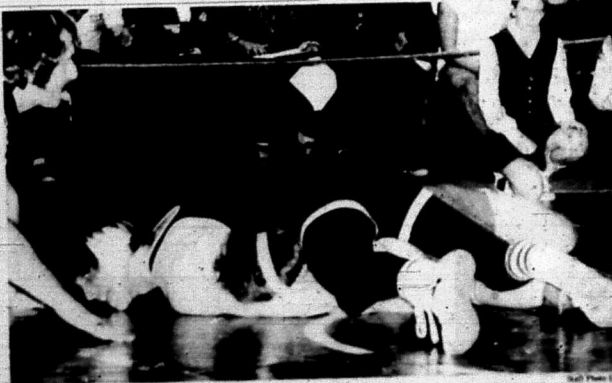
In period three Parker rallied with a takedown to Kanach's back and almost glued the Central star to the mat. However, Kanach rallied to his base and almost reversed as the two rolled off the mat.

With 20 seconds remaining Parker turned Kanach close to a 4-0 edge again, but again the Devil rallied to stay away from a nearfall and squeak out an 8-6 victory.

Kanach had three falls in the first three rounds while Parker had a fall and two decisions, one by 2-6.

At 168 Fullmer of Toms River was just too much for Del Val's Gerasimos as he used a takedown, reversal and time point to key a 5-0 win.

The heavyweight bout proved to be a push and pull struggle with Central's Altvater getting the best of Madison's Lasapo, 5-3.



Staff Photo by Cathy Lane

THE SLAP is applied by referee Herb Stocker as Delaware Valley's Marty Breithoff applies the pressure to Hunterdon Central's 125-pounder Jeff Murphy in the finals of the Red Devil tourney. Central took five individual titles to win the annual event for the seventh consecutive time. Del Val was third.