



Despite setbacks, Brumley proving worth

Close losses not holding back Titans wrestler.

— WARREN

Warren Woods-Tower's Brennan Brumley went through all three days at the state wrestling finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills last year not having an offensive point scored on him.

It wasn't good enough. Despite that remarkable stat, Brumley left the venue on a Saturday night with a second place medal in his hands. "It was the worst feeling I've felt my entire life," recalled Brumley, who took second at 130 pounds in Division 2. "I don't intend on experiencing that again."

Brumley, a sophomore at the time, lost to Plainwell's Jeffrey Steele in double overtime. The score will go down as 0-0, but Steele got the win after riding Brumley out for the 30-second second-overtime period.

"It would have been nice if I got out with that standup in double overtime, but I thought I wrestled (well) that weekend," Brumley said. "I felt a little better after remembering I didn't get scored on."

The only points Brumley gave up that weekend was when he let his opponent escape and penalty points.

Brumley started off the tournament with a 9-0 win over Ryan Dietrich of Coopersville. That was followed by a 10-1 major decision over Hastings' Rusty Burgdorf. In the semifinal, Brumley defeated Coldwater's Thomas Renner, 8-7.

Brumley came very close to escaping twice during the second overtime of the 130-pound championship match. In the first overtime, he got in two good shots.

"He was a fraction of a second away from being a state champ," Warren Woods-Tower co-coach Grey Mayer said. "He wrestled his heart out and left



Chuck Pleiness

ON THE MAT

everything on the mat. There's nothing you can say as a coach that's going to make him feel better."

Mayer just tried to ease the moment with a joke.

"We had joked prior to the match that he had a chance to eclipse what his coach had done when he was a sophomore," recalled Mayer, who also placed second as a sophomore. "Then, when he lost I told him it looks like he's going to have to do better than fifth next year."

Brumley, who has a career record of 112-28, smiled after that. This year Brumley has picked up right where he left off. He's got a record of 20-1, with his only loss coming to the 130-pound Division 1 runner-up from a year ago, Sterling Heights Henry Ford II's Vinnie Colonna.

Brumley, who also lost to Colonna last year, went into the match looking to avoid one thing — a headlock. Brumley, who built a 9-5 lead in the third period, got caught twice in the headlock and eventually got pinned.

"He wrestled a great match up until the third period," Mayer said. "That's wrestling though."

It was Brumley's first match of the season, a quad meet at Davison.

"Every time you lose it takes its toll," Brumley said. "I think (losing to Colonna) this year was more disappointing because I really thought I was going to beat him."

Brumley was hoping to get another shot at Colonna at the county tournament at 135, but Colonna went 130.

"You never remember how many wins, you remember the losses," Mayer

said. "That's the sign of a good wrestler. Those losses stick out. You tend to remember what happens in those matches so you don't let it happen again."

At the county tournament, Brumley went through the 140-pound weight with ease. He pinned three of his first four opponents in the first period. His quarterfinal lasted two periods. In the final, Brumley beat Grosse Pointe North's Arsenio Hall, 5-2.

"I was disappointed to hear (Colonna) wasn't going 135," Brumley said. "It was nice to win the county title, but I would like to see (Colonna) again."

The two aren't scheduled to cross paths again this year.

"He stays in the fight so long that he wins the wars," said Mayer, who won a state title his senior year at Warren Lincoln. "He's not willing to give anything up, but there is still room for improvement."

Brumley has also won first-place medals at Goodrich and the Warren City Tournament this year.

"He's really been a great leader and will continue to be a great leader for us," said Mayer, who wrestled four years at Central Michigan University. "He's just got a winning attitude. Mentally, it's real hard to break him."

"He's a great leader vocally and by example," Mayer added. "He's the kind of guy everyone wants in their program. He's been like that since he's been a freshman. He's the most dedicated and hardest working kids in our room and we've got some pretty hard working kids in our room."

Weekend results

Along with Brumley winning the 135-pound title at the Goodrich Tournament



BRUMLEY

of Champions, John Popham (112) and Kyle Lowry (130) each placed fifth. Chris Hopson (119) was sixth and Eric Manning (125) came in seventh. Kenny Lowry (140) and Sam Coniglio (285) were eighth.

Manning recorded his 100th career win that afternoon.

Tastefest Results

Don't look at the results as a bias to the host site. I just have say, the Anchor Bay moms and dads went out of their way this year to make a high school wrestling writer feel like he didn't have to eat for at least two days.

There are two other special mentions I would like to make. First, to Eastpointe East Detroit's George Fillar for his special invite to the Shamrock table. And secondly, to the table setting provided (real plates, tablecloth, silverware, the works) to the Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse parent.

Now onto the results from the seventh annual Tastefest:

Appetizers

- (Anchor Bay) Chicken Noodle Soup — Mr. Morissette
- (L'Anse Creuse) Crunchy Cabbage Salad — Sue Amateis
- (Anchor Bay) Taco Salad — Kris Yost
- (Anchor Bay) Cheesy Potatoes — Gina Galloway
- (East Detroit) Cheesy Bacon Bread Bowl — Mr. & Mrs. Orzechowski
- (L'Anse Creuse) Broccoli Salad — Sue Amateis
- (Anchor Bay) Tuna Salad — Mrs. Craft
- (Anchor Bay) Taco Dip — Sue Bidlingmaier
- (Anchor Bay) Potato Salad — Kim Green

Main course

- (East Detroit) Beef Stew — Mr. Gru-

enberg
2. (Fraser) Spicy Italian Sausage w/ green peppers and onions — Mr. Ikeda

3. (Anchor Bay) Sauerkraut & Sausage — Kristin Scaodowski
4. (L'Anse Creuse) Roast Beef — Jenelle Batkins

5. (East Detroit) BBQ Pulled Pork — Mr. Gruenberg
6. (Anchor Bay) Baked Beans — Kim Green

7. (Anchor Bay) Sloppy Joes — Michelle Hartfield
8. (Anchor Bay) Meatballs — Mrs. Poole

9. (L'Anse Creuse) Mac & Cheese Surprise — Deb Mysenberg

Desserts

1. (L'Anse Creuse North) Assortment of homemade cookies — chocolate chip, eyeball, shortbread, chocolate crinkles, gingerbread, baklava, peanut butter kisses, walnut brownies, thumbprint, fudge, cranberry, oatmeal — Mrs. MacKenzie

2. (Anchor Bay) Banana Upside Down Cake — Gina Galloway
3. (Chippewa Valley) Cherry Nut Brownies — Mrs. Fisher

4. (L'Anse Creuse) Snicker Salad — Loreen DeRush
5. (East Detroit) Gingerbread Cookies — Mr. & Mrs. Orzechowski

6. (L'Anse Creuse) Fruit Tree — Lori Gerstenberg
7. (Anchor Bay) Puppy Chow — Jessica Stevenson

8. (Anchor Bay) Brownies — Mrs. Craft
9. (L'Anse Creuse) Carmel Dip w/ cream cheese, chocolate and fudge sauce and peanuts — Jenelle Batkins

Send comments and or story ideas to chuck.pleiness@macombdaily.com

Prep Schedule

THURSDAY, JAN. 4

- Basketball**
Cintondale at Lake Shore
Melvindale at Stevenson
- Hockey**
L'Anse Creuse at Port Huron (@ McMorrin Ice Arena)
St. Clair Shores Unified at St. Clair (@ McMorrin Ice Arena)
- Swimming**
Cousino at Utica
Lake Shore at East Detroit
Fraser at Grosse Pointe South
- Volleyball**
Armada at Richmond
Lutheran South at Macomb Christian
Peck at Memphis
- Wrestling**
Anchor Bay, Grosse Pointe North, Stevenson at Utica
Romeo, Ford at Chippewa Valley
Cousino, Marysville, Fitzgerald at L'Anse Creuse North
East Detroit, Lincoln, Woods-Tower at Lakeview
Warren-Mott, Dakota, Sterling Heights at Fraser
Madison, New Haven, Center Line at Mount Clemens
Roseville at Eisenhower

FRIDAY, JAN. 5

- Basketball**
Roseville at Anchor Bay
Armada at Richmond
Winans Academy at Conner Creek West
Cousino at Port Huron
UD Jesuit at De La Salle
Sterling Heights at Ford
Woods-Tower at Fraser
Immaculate Conception at Cardinal Mooney
Allen Academy at Lutheran North
Faith Christian at Macomb Christian
Memphis at Caseville
Country Day at Mount Clemens
Warren-Mott at New Haven
Lutheran Northwest at Parkway Christian
Romeo at Adams
- Hockey**
Warren-Sterling Unified at L'Anse Creuse (@ Mount Clemens Ice Arena)
Stevenson at Utica (@ Suburban Ice - Macomb)
Romeo at Lamphere (@ Hazel Park Ice Rink)
Bloomfield Hills at Ford (@ Great Lakes Sports City)
Utica at Lake Orion (@ Detroit Skating Club)
- Volleyball**
Faith Christian at Macomb Christian

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

- Hockey**
Eisenhower at Marysville (@ McMorrin Ice Arena)
L'Anse Creuse at Romeo (@ Suburban Ice - Macomb)
Port Huron at L'Anse Creuse North (@ Mount Clemens Ice Arena)
Ford at Stevenson (@ Troy Sports Center)
Lamphere at Warren-Sterling Unified (@ Viking Arena)
Anchor Bay at Chippewa Valley (@ Great Lakes Sports City)
Dakota at St. Clair Shores Unified (@ St. Clair Shores Civic Arena)
Utica at Lake Orion (@ Detroit Skating Club)
- Volleyball**
Anchor Bay, Cousino, Fraser, Lakeview at Macomb Community College Tournament
Armada at Marysville Invitational
Cintondale, Mount Clemens at New Haven Invitational
East Detroit at New Haven Tournament
L'Anse Creuse North at Stoney Creek
Lincoln at Clawson
Stevenson at Port Huron Tournament
- Wrestling**
Cousino, East Detroit, Eisenhower, Lincoln, Roseville at Troy Invitational
East Detroit at Southgate Anderson Tournament
L'Anse Creuse North, Mount Clemens at Fitzgerald Spartan Classic
Lakeview at Yale Team Invitational
Memphis at North Branch Tournament
New Haven at Lutheran North
Stevenson at Oliver Inlet (@ Mt. Pleasant H.S.)

SUNDAY, JAN. 7

- Wrestling**
Chippewa Valley at New Lothrop Invitational

Results

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3

- Hockey**
Dakota 9, Eisenhower 3
- Volleyball**
Grosse Pointe South 25-25-24-25, Warren-Mott 21-21-26-19
- Wrestling**
Capac 72, Lutheran North 6
Richmond 62, Cross-Lexington 9
Richmond 53, Flint Carmen-Ainsworth 16
Yale 66, Macomb Township Lutheran North 18

Demick, Brooks power past Dakota

Cougars erupt to defeat Eisenhower 9-3.

By John Hetzler
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

MACOMB TOWNSHIP — Macomb Township Dakota gave Shelby Township Eisenhower a glimmer of hope before Stephen Brooks and David Demick turned out the lights on the Eagles in an 18-second span.

Brooks and Demick scored successive goals late in the first period to power Dakota's offensive juggernaut and lead the Cougars to a 9-3 MAC Red Division victory over host Eisenhower

on Wednesday at Suburban Ice — Macomb.

Demick finished with three goals for his second hat trick in the last four games, and Brooks added two goals as Dakota recorded its most goals of the season to remain in first place in the MAC Red with a 6-1-1 mark and a 10-2-1 overall record.

"Unselfishness," Demick said to describe the Cougars' success this season. "We're not all trying to score goals."

On Wednesday, Dakota started slowly as Steve Vavro scored on a two-man advantage with six minutes and 41 seconds left in the first period for Eisenhower (0-6-0, 0-12-0).

Eisenhower's lead, though, proved short-lived.

Brooks evened the game on a blast with 3:47 remaining in the first, and Demick followed 18 seconds later to give Dakota the lead for good.

"It gave us momentum going into the second and third periods knowing that we had the lead," Demick, a junior, said.

Indeed, Dakota dominated the rest of the game.

The Cougars out-shot the Eagles 26-17, and they scored eight straight goals from late in the first period to late in the third period to seize control.

"When they got that first goal, we knew we had to turn something around," said Brooks, a senior defenseman. "After that, everything turned around."

Eddie Lewis, Mike Slifco and Michael Demers scored in the second period as Dakota took a 5-1 lead.

Demick tallied twice, and Bob Eastman and Brooks also netted goals in the third period for the Cougars, who have outscored their opponents 62-37 this season.

"We have a very skilled team," Dakota coach Dave Koons said. "We



Macomb Daily staff photos by Ray J. Skowronek

Dakota's Bob Eastman looks for room in the first period of the Cougars' 9-3 victory.

can move the puck. We're not selfish." Matt Kendziuk and Kevin Wiland scored third-period goals for Eisenhower, and Tom Marchin and Brian Arickx added assists for the Eagles, who have just five seniors on the roster and have been decimated by injuries.

"We have a very young team, and we're taking our lumps right now," Eisenhower coach John Chateau said. "We're learning to become hockey players. It's difficult. We have a lot of injuries right now."

Meanwhile, Dakota continues to roll as it heads into a MAC Red showdown with St. Clair Shores Unified (4-0-1 MAC Red, 6-1-2 overall) on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Clair Shores Civic Arena. The two teams tied in their previous meeting.

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MAC WHITE DIVISION

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH 25-25-24-25, WARREN-MOTT 21-21-26-19: Megan Sax led GPS with 10 kills, Bess Owen added 10 solo blocks and nine assisted blocks, and Kathryn Tietjen played well defensively. GPS coach Steven Coones said. The Blue Devils are 1-0 in the MAC White and 5-8-0 overall.

Eisenhower's Brian Arickx (13) battles Dakota's Aaron Agrusa for the puck in the first period of the Cougars' 9-3 triumph.

