

# SPORTS

## Playoff pairings present rematch opportunities

■ DLS, Utica, looking at pre-regional finals against familiar foes.

By Patrick Walters  
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

This postseason's pairings present the chance for Warren De La Salle to play a third game against a team becoming very familiar to them: Division 2

### High School Hockey

No. 2 Grosse Pointe South. The Pilots (19-4) get underway in the state playoffs tomorrow evening against Berkley. A win then would put them in the pre-regional final Thursday against the Blue Devils (18-4-1), a fellow member of the Michigan Metro Hockey League, and a team the Pilots have placed twice this season. The two schools were generally never more than a few spots away from the other atop the state's Division 2 rankings for much of the season, and split the season series. The Pilots beat GPS 6-5 on Jan. 6, but were

blanked by the Blue Devils 3-0 on Feb. 10.

First and foremost, though, the pre-regional host Pilots need to navigate their way past Berkley (8-12-3) tomorrow evening at Great Lakes Sports City in Fraser.

"No one's looking past Berkley, you can't," said DLS coach Dan Barry. "If you lose, you're done. You have to address every game as if it's the one you could get knocked out."

Looking ahead to later rounds in the Division 2 brackets, the Pilots could get a rematch against fellow Division 2 stalwart Trenton in the state quarterfinal, but the atmosphere could leave something to be desired for DLS.

A possible Trenton-De La Salle quarterfinal would be played at host site Trenton, where the Pilots lost earlier this season 7-0, their worst of the season.

"One of the challenges all of the teams in the area have in Division 2 is there's so many good teams in the early round, and they're all playing each other," Barry added.

### Can't go home again

The only pre-regional site composed entirely of Macomb Area Conference teams gets un-



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek

Dakota's Bob Eastman looks for room against Shelby Township Eisenhower earlier this year. The Cougars face Sterling Heights Henry Ford II in the first round of this season's state playoffs tonight.

derway this evening at Suburban Ice - Macomb.

Sterling Heights Henry Ford II plays the early game against Macomb Township Dakota, and the nightcap pits Clinton Township Chippewa Valley against a high-scoring Utica squad.

Based on recent history, the Chieftains could hold the advantage in their pre-regional. Utica beat the Big Reds twice in the regular season, twice by a score of 8-4.

Should the Cougars handle

their game against the Falcons — Dakota trounced them 9-3 in the teams' only meeting this season — it would present the third meeting between Utica and Dakota this season. History again works to the benefit of Utica, who beat the Cougars by scores of 7-3 and 6-3 during the regular season.

### Game of the Week

This week's most notable first-round match-up comes to you live and direct tonight from St.

Clair Shores Civic Arena, when St. Clair Shores Unified meets Grosse Pointe North.

The Norsemen (9-13-1) don't have a win total to match that of the Lakers (21-2), but have played one of the tougher schedules in the state. The Lakers will be put to the test tonight if they're to take full advantage of the home ice advantage that could help carry them on to the state semifinals next month.

Send comments to [patrick.walters@macombdaily.com](mailto:patrick.walters@macombdaily.com)

## Tournament pairings

### Hockey

#### PRE-REGIONAL PAIRINGS

##### DIVISION 1

Host Eisenhower

At Suburban Macomb Ice

Semifinals

FEB. 27 — Port Huron vs. Port Huron Northern, 4:45 p.m.; Lake Orion vs. Eisenhower, 7 p.m.

Championship

MARCH 1 — TBD, 7:45 p.m.

Host Utica

At Suburban Macomb Ice

Semifinals

FEB. 26 — Ford vs. Dakota, 4:30 p.m.; Chippewa Valley vs. Utica, 5:30 p.m.

Championship

FEB. 28 — TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Host St. Clair Shores Unified

At St. Clair Shores Civic Arena

Semifinals

FEB. 26 — Grosse Pointe North vs. St. Clair Shores Unified, 6:30 p.m.; Warren-Sterling United at Stevenson, 8:30 p.m.

Championship

FEB. 28 — TBD, 7:30 p.m.

##### DIVISION 2

Host Anchor Bay

At Glacier Pointe

Semifinal

FEB. 27 — Anchor Bay vs. L'Anse Creuse, 6:15 p.m.

Championship

MARCH 1 — L'Anse Creuse North vs. Anchor Bay/L'Anse Creuse winner, 6:15 p.m.

Host Davison

Perini Arena

Semifinal

FEB. 26 — Davison vs. Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, 6 p.m.

Championship

MARCH 1 — Romeo vs. Davison/Rochester Hills Stoney Creek winner, 7:30 p.m.

Host De La Salle

At Great Lakes Sports City

Semifinal

FEB. 27 — Berkley vs. De La Salle, 8:15 p.m.

Championship

MARCH 1 — Grosse Pointe South vs. Berkley/De La Salle winner, 8:15 p.m.

Winners move on to the Regional Finals Friday and Saturday.

## ROUNDUP: Eleven Macomb County wrestlers take home regional championships at Troy

Continued from Page 1C

The "Gruenberg Express" continues on the track to the Palace with a fall in 3:55 over Dan Martinex of Troy Athens at 171 pounds.

Gruenberg, still undefeated at 50-0, piled up a 10-2 lead before ending the match.

"My biggest improvement this season has been on my feet and all the credit for my improvement there has to go to my coach, Mike Klein," Gruenberg said. "My focus is now on winning the state title."

At 215, revenge became a reality for Correll. He defeated Fisher with a take-down in overtime to earn a 5-3 win. Correll, a junior, had suffered four prior losses to Fisher over the past two years. One key for Correll was his ability to control Fisher for the entire second period while he was in the top position.

"I just wanted to outwork him for six minutes," Correll said after improving his record to 38-2.

In one of the more exciting matches of the final session, Anthony Gibson of Ford hip-tossed and pinned Paul Webb of Royal Oak just 17 seconds in overtime of the final match at the 285-pound class.

Gibson, a senior, is just a second-year wrestler for coach Gary Pettig. The match score was 1-1 in regulation.

"I just felt that it was there," Gibson said. "I felt that my conditioning would be the difference."

Robbie Bidlingmaier of Anchor Bay advances to the state finals with a record of 50-3 by virtue of an 11-1 deci-

sion over Chris Mason of Troy at 112 pounds. Bidlingmaier, a sophomore, is now a two-time state finals qualifier.

"I had lost to him last year in the regionals, I had the lead and got pinned, so revenge was a motivating factor for me," said Bidlingmaier.

Five matches in one season against the same opponent was what Justin Gides had to deal with in his final at 119 pounds.

Gides, a senior at Chippewa Valley and a three-time state qualifier, eeked out a tough 3-2 victory over Cameron Amateis of L'Anse Creuse to become the regional champion.

"I wanted to stay in good position and not give him any easy points," Gides said.

Coach Jim Cali of Romeo, whose team is a state finalist this coming weekend, had a champion in junior Nick Bara at 125 pounds.

Bara will enter the state meet with a record of 48-8 after defeating MAC Red foe Diontay Lacey of Roseville 7-1.

"I wanted to stay aggressive all match," Bara said. "I was a point away from advancing to the placing round in the state meet last year. Staying aggressive in my matches has been my motivation as I get ready for the state finals."

Colonna, a senior and state runner-up last year at 125, now holds nearly all of the Ford wrestling records. His aim is for one more gold medal.

"Being on the podium last year on the second step has been my motivation all year," said Colonna right after his final match win, a fall over Eric Sway-Tin of Troy Athens in 1:48.

Being on the podium last year on the second step has been my motivation all year. I visualize being a state champ every night.

— Vinnie Colonna, Ford senior

"I visualize being a state champ every night."

Colonna enters the state finals with a record of 51-1. He is now a three-time regional champion.

Roseville's Robert Nash, a sophomore, will enter the state meet with a record of 44-10 by virtue of his 11-2 win over Chris Denovchek of Stevenson. Nash was also a state qualifier last season for the Panthers. Nash had lost to his Stevenson foe at the county tournament in December by four points.

"I really wanted this one," Nash said.

#### DIVISION 3

Richmond sent eight wrestlers on to the state finals Saturday at Brooklyn Columbia-Central. Justin Jaynes took first place at 160 pounds. Three Blue Devils finished second: Kyle Dupuis (140), Ryan Mack (152) and Ed Henry (215).

Another Richmond trio took third: Lance Pitcel (125), Brian Peterson (140), Bryan Decker (152). Jeff Schweiger rounded out the qualifiers with a fourth place finish at 135.

#### DIVISION 4

New Haven sophomore Eric Matthews advanced to the state finals after finishing fourth at 130 pounds at the regional at New Lothrop. En route, Matthews recorded a major decision and a first-period pinfall.

Memphis had four qualifiers after two Yellowjackets took second and two more placed fourth at New Lothrop. Both Brett Burg (135) and Vayne Vesrosiers (145) were runners-up on the day while Chris Morgan (171) and Billy Franz (285) finished fourth.

### Volleyball

**METRO CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT:** Macomb Township Lutheran North successfully defended its Metro Conference Tournament crown by beating Lutheran Westland in three games, cementing the Mustangs back-to-back overall league titles.

Lutheran North, 22-0 in the past two seasons in Metro Conference competition, defeated Westland 25-13, 25-21, 25-15

in the final.

"It was a whole team effort, everyone had great moments," fourth-year coach Rebekha Reick said.

"It was very nerve-wracking going in today, because you knew everyone was gunning for you," the coach said. "The girls played awesome and rose to the challenge. They were very focused on the task at hand."

The Mustangs dominated their early round opponents, beating Clawson 25-14, 25-13 in the semifinals and Harper Woods 25-13, 25-6 in the quarterfinals.

Lutheran North will look to retain its district title won last year when they begin state tournament postseason action on Saturday at St. Clair Shores South Lake against the host at 9 a.m.

**ALMONT INVITATIONAL:** Memphis fell to Armada in three games in the playoffs of the Almont Invitational after being seeded first in the bronze bracket on Saturday.

The Yellowjackets had earlier beaten the Tigers in pool play in two games before losing to Imlay City and Oakland Christian.

Phoebe McCue led Memphis with 16 kills, while Dana Lang recorded 13 kills, eight digs, four aces and eight blocks. Kiara King added 11 kills and 37 digs, while Sarah Masters chipped in with six kills, 55 digs and three aces.

Kara Ruff tallied 27 assists and 33 digs, Emily LeTarte added 23 assists and Lauren Bishop had 25 digs for Memphis, who are 15-11-2 overall and will travel to Owendale-Getageton on Monday for a NCTL match.

## Stenson delivers match-play championship

■ Played 120 holes in five days, including 35 in tournament final.

The Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — The longest week of his career was behind him. The blue World Golf Championship trophy was at his side.

### Golf Roundup

Henrik Stenson soaked it all in by slowly lowering his head on the table and closing his eyes.

"I'm too tired to be happy," he said.

He played 120 holes in five days in the Accenture Match Play Championship, the last 35 on Sunday against Geoff Ogilvy in the final that featured five lead changes and countless mood shifts until Stenson made back-to-back birdies for a 2-and-1 victory.

Stenson will go to No. 5 in the world, taking his place among the elite, the highest ranking ever by a Swede. He earned \$1.35 million to move atop the PGA European Tour Order of Merit. The last time he felt such a rush of ex-

citement and exhaustion was five months ago when he earned the winning point for Europe in the Ryder Cup.

In a slugfest that came down to survival, Stenson played mistake-free over the final 10 holes and made four birdies to surge past the U.S. Open champion and become only the second European to win this most unpredictable tournament.

"I was struggling big time with my game," Stenson said. "Somehow, I managed to fight my way through the round and not let Geoff run away with it."

### Wadkins wins The ACE Group Classic

NAPLES, Fla. — Bobby Wadkins won The ACE Group Classic on Sunday, holing a 13-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 4-under 68 and a one-stroke victory over Allen Doyle in the Champions Tour event.

Wadkins, the brother of 2000 champion Lanny Wadkins, finished with a 15-under 201 total and earned \$240,000 for his fourth Champions Tour title. Doyle shot a 70.

"I've been lucky," Wadkins said. "I've made some nice putts on the last hole to win some tournaments and I did it again today, so it's pretty sweet."



AP photo

Geoff Ogilvy follows the flight of his tee shot on the 21st hole of his finals match against Henrik Stenson at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play in Marana, Ariz. Stenson beat Ogilvy, 2-and-1.

Wadkins and Doyle, the 1999 champion, came into the final hole tied at 14 under. Doyle, who had led all day, hit a solid tee shot and put a layup shot in good position, 90 yards short of the green. Wadkins hit a 3-wood to try to get on the green, but was short and just right of the greenside bunker in the rough.

After laying up, Doyle didn't hit a good pitch shot, pushing it to the right. He was 25 feet away. Doyle hit a good putt, but left it short.

"I was trying to hit plenty of

club to get it back there, and the grip kind of slipped in my hand and I left it way right," Doyle said. "It was not a very good shot. That, for me, is the bread and butter shot and I didn't get it."

Wadkins had to stand in the bunker with a sidehill lie for his third shot. He pitched out and the ball released and got up on the plateau.

Wadkins, winless on the PGA Tour, won in his first year on the 50-and-over tour in 2001, but didn't win until last year, when he was victorious at the Boeing

Championship at Sandestin and then had the biggest win of his career at the Ford Senior Players Championship. He made a 13-footer on the final hole to win that one, too.

Eduardo Romero (68) and Mike Reid (69) each birdied the final hole to tie for third at 13 under. Mark O'Meara, who started the day one shot behind Doyle and tied with Wadkins, closed with a 71 in his second senior start to tie for fourth with defending champion Loren Roberts (66) at 12 under.

## Prep Schedule

#### MONDAY, FEB. 26

- Basketball**
  - South Lake at Lake Shore
- Volleyball**
  - St. Clair at Eisenhower
  - Ford at Cousino
  - South Lake at Lincoln
  - Yale at Armada
  - Clintondale at Fitzgerald
  - Chippewa Valley at Anchor Bay
  - New Haven at Center Line
  - Dakota at Romeo
  - L'Anse Creuse at Fraser
  - Lakeview at Marine City
  - Lamphere at Mount Clemens
  - L'Anse Creuse North at Utica
  - East Detroit at Roseville
  - Stevenson at Warren Woods-Tower

#### TUESDAY, FEB. 27

- Basketball**
  - Fraser at Cousino
  - L'Anse Creuse North at Marine City
  - Lincoln at Roseville
  - East Detroit at Madison
  - Flint Powers at Dakota
  - South Lake at Lake Shore
  - Notre Dame Preparatory at Clintondale
  - Grosse Pointe South at Anchor Bay
  - Fitzgerald at Warren Woods-Tower
  - Lakeview at Richmond
  - Romeo at Stevenson
  - Warren-Mott at Sterling Heights
  - Southfield Christian at Parkway Christian
  - Ford at Chippewa Valley
  - Lutheran North at Mount Clemens
  - Eisenhower at Flint Caman-Ainsworth
  - Waterford Christian at Macomb Christian
  - TBD at New Haven
- Hockey**
  - MHSAA Districts
- Volleyball**
  - MHSAA Districts

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

- Basketball**
  - Center Line at Lake Shore
  - Eaton Academy at Summit Academy
  - Mount Clemens at Algonac
  - Dakota at Clarkston
- Hockey**
  - MHSAA Regionals
- Volleyball**
  - MHSAA Districts
  - Warren Woods-Tower at Eisenhower
  - Cardinal Mooney at New Haven
  - Lamphere at Fitzgerald
  - Warren Woods-Tower at Eisenhower