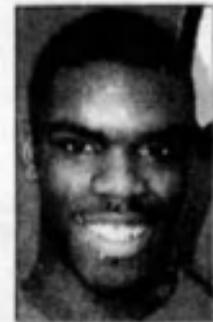


Brown hopes for another stunner at SuperSectionals

■ After surprising win at sectionals, Franklin wrestler sets his sights on the state tournament.

BY STAFF WRITER
JAMES JOHNSON

Winning the Section V Class A 171-pound tournament last week, represents the highlight of Mike Brown's wrestling career.



Brown

The Franklin junior can top that starting today if he can wrestle his way through the Super-Sectionals at Fairport, the qualifying event for next week's state tournament in Syracuse.

"I'm pumped up," said Brown, 18-1 this season. "I have to not only do it

for myself but for the school.

"This is to let the people know that Franklin still has some good kids in it."

This event features the area's best, the top four finishers in each weight class at last week's Section V Class A, B, C and D tournaments. Only the winners in each class advance to the states.

The 171 class includes Monroe County champion Tony Casserino of Eastridge and Class B champ J.C. Montroy of Wayne.

"Whoever wins will truly deserve it," Franklin coach Bob Mosley said. "It'll be tough this weekend, I know that.

"Mike always thinks he can win. He has the skills to do a good job, so



why not be confident?"

Brown will face Victor's Chris Cologgi, the fourth-place finisher in the Class B sectional tournament, in his first match today.

"I have to give it my all every round, every second," Brown said.

Franklin sophomore Dan Gay, Brown's workout partner, says that Brown "never slacks up."

"Even when he's sick he goes hard," said Gay, who is wrestling in the qualifier at 275. "He works with all of us.

"If he doesn't have something down, the next day he's working on it. That's what he has forced us into doing."

Brown is the captain of a young Franklin team that has just eight members, none of whom are seniors. Franklin has begun dual matches trailing 30-0 before the first wrestlers walk on to the mat.

"It's been tough because we haven't had a full team," said the B-plus student who is a volunteer instructor at Franklin's publishing center. "I felt that if we're going to step up as a team, some one had to take on a leadership role.

"I really want those fellas to win as a team."

Brown began wrestling as a seventh-grader at Holley, where he lived with friends of his family to attend middle school. After losing his first match, he won his next 13.

"He had no knowledge of wrestling," Holley coach John Grillo said. "But he was a natural talent, just incredible. He was fast and powerful."

Brown has built a 57-9 varsity career record, after transferring to Franklin as a freshman, including an 18-second pin in last week's Class A final.

State wrestling qualifier

Event Section V wrestlers compete for berths in the state championships (March 6-7 in Syracuse) beginning at 3 p.m. today at Fairport High School. Semifinals are 11 a.m. tomorrow with finals at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Who advances The winner in each of the 15 weight classes, which feature the top four finishers in the Section V Class A, B, C and D tournaments.

"It's a feeling that's hard to explain," Brown said. "I saw my family jumping up and down (after the match). A lot of people congratulated me, half of them I didn't know.

"I wanted to cry I was so happy. I've been working for it and it finally came true." □