



Costello reverses late wrestling start

By John Moriello

Democrat and Chronicle

Shannon Costello was suffering from the same disadvantage as 95 percent of his teammates when he showed up at his first McQuaid wrestling practice.

"I got kind of a late start," he said yesterday. "Kids in the county start wrestling in about the second grade. It takes McQuaid wrestlers until their senior year to be really competitive."

Only four years after taking up the sport alongside his brother Shawn, Costello is dominating most of his opponents.

The 155-pound senior has gone from absolute beginner to one of the best wrestlers in Section 5.

"Ninety-five percent of the kids come

in here with no wrestling background at all," Knights Coach John Roselli said. "It takes them about two years to learn the basics."

Roselli teaches them a step at a time. He teaches a move, has the boys practice it and moves on to the next step when they're ready.

Costello has been following all the steps. After wrestling mostly on the junior varsity in eighth and ninth grades, he has reached the sectional semifinals the past two seasons, losing last year to eventual state champion Rick Sadwick of Hilton in an overtime match decided on referee's criterion. They met again in the state qualifier a week later, and Sadwick won by a 3-2 score.

Incredibly, Costello considers his junior

season to have been a bad one despite the fact he began it by coming off arthroscopic knee surgery and ended it with two losses to the best in the state.

"It wasn't as good as I had hoped," he said. "I took fourth in sectionals again with about the same record."

Said Roselli: "He was making that judgment on the basis of comparing (himself to Sadwick). At the state meet, he said to me, 'Geez, coach. I blew it. Maybe I could have been here.'"

He may get his chance at the mid-March tournament at the Onondaga War Memorial yet.

Costello (15-2 this season) continued on that path last night, reaching the 155-pound final of the Clayton Barnard Memorial Tournament at Hilton. Earlier this

season, he placed first in a tournament at LeRoy and second at Niagara County Community College.

Although Sadwick can possibly enter the sectional tournament at 155 next month, he continued his successful senior season last night by reaching the final of the 167-pound division. Those two, plus the likes of Rush-Henrietta's Todd Burchard, Hilton's Don Potter and some competitors from lower sectional classes, make 155 one of the toughest classes in the area this season.

"It's going to be tough if Sadwick comes down," Costello said. "Whoever comes out of here should be able to win it all."

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If Costello comes through with a sectional title, he'll be maintaining two traditions. For one he'd be another Knight who went from zero experience to hero status. Roselli said 11 of the school's 13 previous champs began their McQuaid careers with little or no experience.

Also, he'd be following Shawn, who was the 145-pound Class A champ as a senior last season. Shawn also qualified for the state meet, but did not place. He's been Shannon's practice partner (the two were in one of those living room wars last year when Shannon hurt his knee) since the boys took up the sport together.

Having a brother around does seem to help, as the Barnard showed last night. Joe (126) and Chris LoPresti (138) of Spencerport were finalists last night, and Edison's Allan (98) and Andy

Aceto (105) reached the semifinals, Justin Raines of Spencerport reached the 98-pound semifinals, but Brian Fox of Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward's knocked off 105-pound Jon Raines in a wild quarterfinal Friday night, 12-11.

Shannon Costello, who earned third place at the 1987 Empire State Games and second at the Junior World Championships (163-pound Greco-Roman division) is planning to wrestle in college. Syracuse, Cornell, Bucknell and Villanova are among the school expressing an interest in having him next season.

Between now and then, he has to tend to one other bit of business. McQuaid has installed a new track around the football field, and Costello plans to run the hurdles this spring.

"It's tough doing hurdles when you don't have a track," he said. "So much of it is steps. Meets were like practices."

Costello hopes he can blast through track meets now as easily as wrestling meets.

Eighth Clayton Barnard Memorial At Hilton

Team

Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward's "B" 177, Brighton 174½, Hilton 152, Spencerport 147, McQuaid 108½, Amherst Sweet Home 99½, Erie (Pa.) Tech 88, Elma Iroquois 78½, Williamsville South 78, Thompson (Ohio) Ledgemont 76, Maple Grove 72, Edison 60, Kendall 49½, Cassadaga Valley 48½, Fairport 35½, Lyndonville 12½.

Individual finals

91 pounds — Dave Gustovitch (SE) d. Chris Kumrow (WS), 10-2; 98 — Bob Jackson (SH) d. Herb Russell (SE), 11-8; 105 — Andy Antonucci (Hil) p. Brian Fox (SE), 2:15; 112 — Dan Presberg (Bri) d. Anthony Calderon (Ed), 4-2; Mark Macek (ET) d. Chris Passaro (McQ), 13-10; 119 — 126 — Joe LoPresti (Spen) d. Jim Mann (Hil), 7-1; 132 — Tom Shiffet (SH) d. Hobby Workman (Lodge), 15-3; 138 — Chris LoPresti (Spen) d. Pat White (Hil), 9-4; 145 — Paul Roselli (McQ) d. Jeremiah Sawyers (SE), 6-3; 155 — Dave Nalbone (MG) d. Shannon Costello (McQ), injury default 1:15; 167 — Rick Sadwick (Hil) d. Ethan Bosch (Iroq), 4-3; 177 — Todd Levine (Bri) d. John Crandall (Spen), 8-0; 215 — Rob Brandish (SH) d. Jerry Pelusio (Fair), 10-5; 250 — Pat Nolan (MG) p. Dave Erite (Iroq), 1:38.