

Titans Rout Trojans, 47-12

By Gary Fallesen

The varsity wrestling team at Arcadia showed why they are title contenders, as they bounced back from a 30-15 loss to Hilton to defeat Athena last week.

The victory, 47-12, gave Arcadia's matmen a 2 win-1 loss record. It was Arcadia's third consecutive victory over Athena, and made its history of confrontations in the Titans favor, five to two. In 1974 the Titans won 42-10, last year they walked off on top 46-12, and this season it was 47-12.

Coach Mike Lopa was happy with the team's showing. He said, "it turned out mostly the way we figured it would, though I didn't expect to lose 105 and 119 (lb. weight classes). They're coming along well getting better."

The Titans, however, didn't have control from start to finish. In fact through the first six weight classes the match was very close. And once Athena led the strong Titans, while holding them to a tie twice. It all started when junior Brian Needler pinned the Trojans Eric Teller in the first period of the 98 lb. class. Needler, who dropped a weight class between the Hilton meeting and the Athena match (less than five days), took total control from the start. After Needler took Teller down he started working his Trojan opponent over on his back, and with 1:04 left in the first period pinned him. It was Needler's first pin of the season, but Brian carries three years experience under his belt and will probably control most of his opponents this season.

Athena freshman Paul Musso battled the Titans, junior, Mike Fitzgibbon in the 105 lb. weight class. Fitzgibbon in his first wrestling match ever for Arcadia started out the first period on top, with an early take down, for a 2-0 lead. Fitzgibbon worked on Musso until late in the period when he escaped

the Titan grasp. In the second period Musso took over and scored on a reversal and a near fall, going on top 6-2. Then the final period started with Musso on top, and in control, until finally with just 13 seconds left in the match a tired Fitzgibbon was pinned. Musso's pin tied the match up 6-6.

Titan Ed Ellis put his team back in front, in team points, with a 4-3 win over Marty Yeager. Yeager took early control, jumping in front with a takedown, that lasted through most of the first period. Ellis then tied the match up with a late period reversal, and forged ahead at the beginning of the second round with another reversal. Yeager then escaped to cut Ellis' lead to 4-3 with 1:41 left in the second period. But for the next three minutes and forty-one seconds the match went scoreless, and Ellis had his decision, and Arcadia owned a 9-6 team lead.

Athena refused to fall behind and assisted by Gary Powers the Trojans tied the match 9-9. The Titans Mark Idler controlled the lead in the 119 lb. weight class for five minutes and fifty-four seconds of the regulation six minutes. But with six seconds left in the match Idler's 3-1 lead was lost, as Powers scored on a near fall, and won 4-3.

If awards were given to the individual who has the most courage every meet, then Derrick Cooper of Athena would be a shoo-in. Cooper wrestled Arcadia's Eric Cosman, in the 126 lb. weight class. Cosman led once, 1-0, in a early second period escape. But after that Cooper went out in front of the closely heated contest. Cooper took a 3-1 lead when he was leveled by calf cramps. They came with :39 left in the match, and after a three minute time-out Cooper attempted to wrestle some more. But the cramps wouldn't ease up and seconds later unable to walk Cooper was off the edge off the mat on his back in pain. Unable to call another time-out Coach Gaudino told Cooper "that's it Derrick." But Cooper refused to quit, and limped back to the center of the mat twice to finish in front of Cosman 5-2. So with Cooper's courage the Trojans were in the lead for the first and only time, on top 12-9 in overall scoring.

The Titans Greg Locke took the mat to wrestle, and that he did, against Athena's Gordon Pearce. Locke literally threw Pearce around the mat, exploding to a 17-5 lead before pinning Pearce mid-way through the third period. Locke led 8-3, and 12-5 at the end of the first and second periods, respectively. Pearce's only points coming on escapes, which Locke seemed to be allowing. Then with 1:01 left in the match Locke ended his "toying" and pinned up Pearce. The pin put Arcadia back in the driver's

seat, with a 15-12 lead, and there they would stay the rest of the way, as the match was at the half way point.

Mark Sullivan of Arcadia captured the 138 lb. weight class by default, over Athena's Jim Cole. Sullivan was in total control, on top 7-1, and going for a pin with :40 left in the first period when his elbow smashed into Cole's nose. It broke Cole's nose, and gave Sullivan a victory, pushing Arcadia's lead to nine at 21-12.

Bob DelDuca had an easy victory over Trojan John Battaglia, 16-3, in the 145 lb. class. DelDuca jumped out in front 10-0 in the middle of the second period, and then coasted to the thirteen point victory. Although DelDuca threatened to pin Battaglia twice in the first period, he spent most of his time attempting to get his Trojan opponent over on his back.

In the 155 lb. weight class Arcadia's Don O'Mara went against Athena's George Vito in the toughest battle of the afternoon. O'Mara jumped out on top 3-0 with points by penalty and take down, in the first period. And Vito made his first point, an escape, with only 13 seconds left in the opening round of action. As the second period began, with O'Mara on top, Vito escaped to cut the margin to one. But O'Mara came back for more, and took Vito back down to the mat, and held a 5-2 advantage. With only one period of action left O'Mara played out his lead, adding points with two escapes, and taking a 7-4 decision.

Athena forfeited the 167 and 177 lb. classes, giving up twelve points. Dave Goodwin and Paul Brigandi took the forfeited victories for the Titans.

Then in the final match-up of the afternoon Mike Palumbo of Arcadia pinned Mike Wholer of Athena in the heavyweight battle. Palumbo tackled Wholer for a early 5-0 lead, with a take down and a near fall. And with 30 seconds remaining in the opening round Palumbo put the final touch on, and with a slap the match was over. The Palumbo pin added yet another six points to the Arcadia rout, as the annual Greece meeting came.

The Titans over came an early Athena attack and with the aid of unbeaten wrestlers like: Don O'Mara (3-0), Dave Goodwin (3-0, with two forfeit wins), Mike Palumbo (2-0), and Paul Brigandi (1-0, by forfeit); they won 47-12 very handily. Coach Mike Lopa commented about individuals following the rout, "the biggest disappointment was Idler, winning like that and losing with thirty seconds left. It was Fitzie's (Mike Fitzgibbon) first match ever, he did a good job, but I thought he'd win. Don (O'Mara) was on top, Eric (Cosman) did a real fine job, and Eddie (Ellis) was good."

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200 yd. IM; Dan Sagneri in the 100 yd. Butterfly; Tim Wallenhorst in the 100 yd. freestyle; Chuck [unclear] in the 100 yd. backstroke; and the 400 yd. freestyle relay team of Steve [unclear], Tim Wallenhorst, [unclear] Walzer, and Dan Sagneri finished in second. [unclear] 400 yd. freestyle team finished just 2-10ths of a second behind the winning B [unclear] devil squad. Chuck [unclear] was also the best for Arcadia in the 50 yd. freestyle, taking a third place

With that victory things were looking [unclear] as the Titans took a [unclear] 8-6 lead. Then every [unclear] was tied up at 15-15 after the second event, the 200 yd. freestyle. And after that [unclear] backport began to spread the gap, eventually winning 102-67.

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