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Little turn, big pin, league title



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Palmyra-Macedon's bench erupted when Red Raiders heavyweight Pat Krenz turned Wayne's Devrin Bradford onto his back. Krenz won the 285-pound match by pin moments later, giving Pal-Mac its first league title since the 1990s.

Krenz authors amazing finish to lift Pal-Mac over Wayne

PAL-MAC 38, WAYNE 36

By **JOSHUA DeSAIN**

FINGER LAKES TIMES

PALMYRA — The Palmyra-Macedon wrestling team has been on a mission for many years now.

Though it seemed straightforward, their goal of climbing to the top of the Finger Lakes East wasn't going to be easy, not with two of Section V's perennial powerhouses, Wayne and Canandaigua, blocking the way.

The Red Raiders overtook Canandaigua for second place last season. Though it dropped a 45-16 decision to Wayne, Pal-Mac felt it had closed the gap enough to challenge the Eagles for the top spot.

When the two schools met Tuesday night, the league title went down to the very last period of the very last match.

Consider the Red Raiders' mission accomplished.

In spite of a 70-pound disadvantage and a 2-0 deficit heading into the third period, Pat Krenz managed to put Wayne's Devrin

■ See PAL-MAC on Page 15



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Pal-Mac 112-pounder Tyler Marlow (right) turned Wayne's Frankie Affronti onto his back. Marlow recorded a 66-second pin.

PAL-MAC

Red Raiders score maximum 18 points in final three weight classes to beat Wayne

■ Continued from Page 13

victory and the program's first league title since the Red Raiders' heyday in the early 1990s.

"It feels nice. It feels rewarding," Pal-Mac coach Brian Quick said. "We got Canandaigua last year, but we lost to Wayne. To beat them this year, and the way we did it, was kind of cool."

"It feels great," Pal-Mac 152-pounder Cody Williams said. "I mean, our whole team has been working hard together, and we really wanted this one for the team and Coach Quick. He deserves it."

The Red Raiders (23-6, 5-0) faced an unenviable 36-20 deficit with three weight classes to go. A.J. Herrmann (189) kept the home team's chances alive with a 3-minute, 41-second pin of George Konstantinou in the 189-pound bout. Nate Hood received a forfeit at 215, setting up a dramatic finish.

Krenz fell behind 2-0 through two periods and was doing little against his heavier opponent. Then, midway through the third, Krenz

sent the home crowd and bench into a frenzy by working Bradford onto his back. When the referee slapped the mat with 1:19 on the clock, the title belonged to Pal-Mac.

"It was hard for (Krenz) to move (Bradford) around," Quick said. "At the beginning, we were hopeful. As the match went on you're watching and saying, 'I don't know if we can get this guy on his back,' and then that little turn happened and we got him."

"I was nervous. I didn't want to make any mistakes," Krenz remarked. "I just went out there and gave it my all and came out victorious."

Lightweight brothers Alec and Bobby Dierna staked the Eagles (23-3, 4-1), winners of the past three Finger Lakes East crowns, to a 10-0 lead. Alec Dierna won a major decision, while his older brother received a forfeit.

Tyler Marlow, one of the Red Raiders' two 2007 state champions, got Pal-Mac on the scoreboard with a 66-second pin of Frankie Affronti.

Undefeated Sean Walton followed Marlow's performance with a crucial, 6-4 overtime victory over Wayne's Dave LeBerth at 119 pounds. Walton trailed 4-2 in the third period before a take-down forced overtime.

Wayne countered with three straight decisions, good for a 21-9 advantage. Mike Rosselli earned the go-ahead points with 10 seconds remaining in the 125-pound bout and wound up besting Matt Hasbrouck 5-1. Vinny DiGravio and Jeff Marianetti each picked up four team points. DiGravio decisioned Jake Hamilton 16-5, while Marianetti won 9-1 over Billy Youngman.

Wayne 145-pounder Kevin Steinruck canceled out Alex Ekstrom's forfeit at 140 by pinning Mark Banker 39 seconds into the third period. Steinruck led 7-0 before getting the pin.

Williams trimmed the deficit to 27-20 by scoring all 15 points in a technical fall over Wayne's Ryan Elsbree.

Two matches later and the Eagles seemed poised for a

fourth league championship in a row. Chris Marvin first-period pin and Shawn Nagel's 4-0 decision boosted the visitors into a 36-20 advantage.

Herrmann's fall gave Quick the chance to pit Krenz against Bradford.

"They came up huge," Williams said about his heavier teammates. "They really had like a Giants Super Bowl performance. Last drive, they did great."

"It was nice to get," Quick said of the league title. "Sectionals will be bigger, but the league title is awesome, and to beat them is awesome."

"The match couldn't have gone any other way for us to beat them," added Ekstrom, a junior who already owns two state titles. "Everything worked out the way we wanted it to, and those two (Herrmann and Krenz) came up huge at the end."

"We definitely deserve it. We have been working like crazy. It's just really gratifying."

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