

Vaughan Has Learned To Use His Head, Too

By TOM BATZOLD

Wally Vaughan can scare most opponents just by taking off his warmups and flexing his huge biceps.

But the thing that pleases Fairport wrestling coach Pete Logan the most about Vaughan's undefeated record is that the big guy is finally combining that muscle with some moves instead of entering every match as if it were some kind of weightlifting competition.

"I've never questioned his strength," Logan says. "I'll match him with any heavyweight in the area when it comes to pure strength. But now, he doesn't rely on just pure strength. Instead of trying to muscle everybody, he's got confidence in his moves and he knows he can really wrestle. That's why he's having such a good year."

No local heavyweight is enjoying a better season than Vaughan. The Fairport senior has a perfect 23-0 record, including 13 pins, while winning the Monroe County tournament, the Penfield holiday tournament and the Maryvale tournament in Buffalo.

"At the beginning of the season, I told him he had to fill Danny Enright's shoes in our lineup," Logan says. "Personally, I wasn't sure if he could. He's been a pleasant surprise."

Vaughan also had a tough decision to make at the beginning of the season. He could have stayed at his football playing weight of about 230 pounds and compete at the unlimited weight class or drop down to the heavyweight (215 pound) class.

Competing in the unlimited class, where he was the Section 5 Class AAA champ last year, would limit his competition to strictly tournaments during the regular season. But it would be a heckuva lot easier than the aggravation of cutting weight to get down to 215.

"It's tough making the weight," admits the soft-spoken Vaughan, "but I thought it would make me a better wrestler if I wasn't limited to just tournaments. Besides, I felt I owed it to the team."

Cutting weight had one other effect, too. At least one college football recruiter hinted that his school may lose interest in the 6-foot-3 lineman if his weight fell below 225 pounds.

"The recruiters like you to be around 230 if they're looking at you as a prospective lineman," says Vaughan, a second team all-county selection in football. "I wasn't worried about that, though, and I don't know if it's affected any of the recruiters (by losing the weight) or not."

A probable offensive lineman in college, Wally has narrowed his choice down to five schools — Boston University, Boston College, Miami of Florida, Cornell and Massachusetts. He plans to take courses in either business management or pre-law.

In the next week, he has one more difficult decision. He can either go back to the unlimited class to defend his sectional title or stay at heavyweight, where he's likely to face Newark's highly-regarded Bob Button.



Times-Union photo — Bob Gapsky

Fairport heavyweight Wally Vaughan has a 23-0 record.