

FINAL TEAM SCORES

1st - Holley 149½
2nd - Attica 135½
3rd - BB 99½
4th - Alex 98
5th - Pavilion 83
6th - Pembroke 73
7th - Lyndonville 68½
8th - Notre Dame 55½
9th - Kendall 40

1993-94

Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament

Pavilion Central School

February 12, 1994

Teams

Alexander
Attica

Byron-Bergen

Holley

Kendall

Lyndonville

Pavilion

Pembroke

Notre-Dame

Varsity & Junior Varsity

League Chairman: Mr. Jim Sauberan
Kendall High School

ARMDRAG.COM

PROVIDED BY JOHN J. GRILLO.

Before Finals

- ① 124½ Hol
- ② 114½ Att.
- ③ 75 BB
- ④ 74 Pav
- ⑤ 63½ Alex & Lyn
- ⑥
- ⑦ 56 Pem
- ⑧ 50½ ND
- ⑨ 37 Ken

Before Semi

- 1 149½ Holley
- 2 82½ Att.
- 3 63 BB
- 4 57 Alex
- 5
- 6 46 - Lyn & Pav.
- 7 42 - Pem
- 8 40 - ND
- 9 21 - Kendall

Attica

Hol. 1

Most outstanding wrestler ballot:

Please choose two wrestlers:

Please make any notes regarding our tournament that could help us to provide you with a more successful tournament:

Thank you,

Timm Slade

Timm Slade

FINALS

MVP - Bill Gerhardt
COACH - Eric Romager

- ① 149½ Holley
- ② 135 Attica
- ③ 99½ BB
- ④ 90 Alex
- ⑤ 83 PAU
- ⑥ 73 Fern
- ⑦ 68½ Lyn
- ⑧ 55½ ND
- ⑨ 40 Ken.

THE COURAGE TO WRESTLE

No sport requires of a person the personal courage which wrestling demands.

A wrestler knows when he goes out for the squad that he will have no excuses if he doesn't make the first team. Challenges and wrestle-offs determine the starter. He can blame no one but himself if he doesn't make the grade. In many other sports he could blame discrimination by the coach. It takes a lot of courage to stand up to the threat that he might be proven to be not as tough as people thought.

Once he makes the squad, a wrestler knows that he is going to be alone on the mat in hand to hand combat with someone his own size. He will not be permitted the luxury of the old "He's bigger than I am" excuse. He is aware that no substitute will be in to relieve him if things go bad. He is conscious of the fact that victory or defeat depends on him alone and that he must see the crisis through to its finish. Most of all, he knows that everyone in the stands will be watching the outcome of "His" match...not the "Teams", but "His" match. It takes a special type of courage to put everything on the line the way a wrestler does.

It takes a special kind of fortitude to discipline oneself in diet in order to make weight...to eat just lean meat, vegetables, and vitamin pills while the rest of the family feasts. One must experience this spartan self denial to appreciate the determination it requires.

A different brand of courage yet is required to wrestle in the same weight class as a teammate who is an exceptional wrestler. The average individual would become discouraged if he were aware that in all probability he would be second team all season...especially if he were a senior and could beat out anyone in his weight class in the league except his own teammate. A great deal of loyalty is exhibited by boys who stand up to this type of emotional obstacle. This person shows a special kind of perseverance which is going to take him a long way in life. He will never let anyone down.

Who exhibits any more courage than a boy who wrestles for the varsity but knows he is at best, a mediocre wrestler. This boy realizes that he is going to suffer many defeats during the course of the season. He knows, however, that if he quits, someone else might get pinned when he would only have lost a decision and the team would suffer. A cloth letter isn't his stimulus. No boy would pay that price for a school letter. He possesses a special quality...call it group loyalty, call it determination, perseverance, unselfishness, or whatever you wish, but pray that more individuals had that rare quality.

How much courage does it require to be undefeated and know that tomorrow you are going to wrestle a state champion who will probably defeat you and blemish a record you could keep clean by faking an injury or by not making weight? Does it take a special type of courage to meet this challenge?

The freshmen and sophomores just learning wrestling know that each afternoon at practice they must engage in a rugged contact type activity with older and more experienced boys...this alone is enough to discourage the weak willed.

It is a credit to all of you who have joined our team, becauseIT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF COURAGE TO WRESTLE.

ROBERT STEISLINGER
Iroquois Wrestling Coach
1965-1975

Hornell's Gemmell a quick learner

A state champ in only 3 years

By John Smallwood
Staff writer

When he entered Hornell High School as a ninth-grader, John Gemmell wasn't thinking about becoming a state championship wrestler.

His dreams were more about someday helping the Red Raiders win a state basketball championship. But even at the high school level, there isn't a lot of room on the court for a 5-foot-3½ and 81-pound basketball player.

"I had always played basketball," Gemmell said. "I thought I was going to play for the high school, but I realized I wasn't going to be too tall."

"My dad was a wrestler, but he never pressured me to wrestle. Once I got into the ninth grade, he finally persuaded me to give it a shot."

The results have reinforced the theory that "father knows best."

In three seasons, Gemmell, 17, has gone from novice wrestler to state champion.

Last season, he finished 34-0 and won the state title at 98 pounds.

"I really enjoyed wrestling," said

State champion

- Who: John Gemmell
- Class: Senior
- Sport: Wrestling
- Age: 17 Height: 5-3½ Weight: 105
- Honors: State champion at 98 pounds
- Favorite food: Pizza, Mountain Dew
- Favorite TV show: *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*
- Hobbies: All sports, collecting cards

Gemmell, Section V's only returning state champion, "but I never thought I'd have the success I had."

Despite his heritage — his father John was a Steuben County champion while wrestling for Hornell — Gemmell's rapid ascent to the top of the state wrestling charts has astounded many.

"It's real unusual for a kid to progress that quickly when he's started the sport so late," Webster coach Rick LaPaglia said. "Nowadays for a wrestler to become a state champion, he has usually started wrestling around the fifth grade. For (Gemmell) to win a state championship as a junior is amazing."

"He has quickness and strength. His offensive technique is solid and he makes few mistakes. He's not the most amazing wrestler I've seen, but he makes

GEMMELL on page 11E

GEMMELL from page 9E
fewer mistakes than anyone I've seen."

Gemmell may not have had the size, but from the start he displayed the intangibles that separate championship-caliber athletes from the others.

"John only weighed 81 pounds as a ninth-grader," Hornell wrestling coach Matt Sheldon said, "but right away I could see that he was very athletic and that he hated to lose. He had a strong desire to win."

Gemmell's freshman season was a learning experience. Although he wrestled in the lightest weight class (91 pounds), he still gave up close to 10 pounds to an opponent.

Going against bigger, stronger and more experienced wrestlers, he finished 7-11. However, the seed had been planted.

"After my first year, I realized I was going to stick with wrestling," he said. "I wanted to do well at it, so during the off-season I worked really hard. I did a little bit of weight lifting, but mainly it was just constant drilling to get moves down."

The summer between his freshman and sophomore years, Gem-

mell joined the Southern Tier Wrestling Club, which was run by former Alfred State coach Greg Johnson, who was a three-time NCAA Division I champion at Michigan State.

"Mainly it was learning wrestling techniques and finding the desire to win," Gemmell said of his experiences working with Johnson. "I just gradually improved."

To others it might seem like it happened overnight.

As a sophomore, Gemmell improved to 32-6. He finished fourth at 91 pounds in the Section V Class B tournament but rallied to win the Super Sectionals and qualify for the state tournament.

It quickly became a humbling experience.

Gemmell was pinned in his first match by eventual state champion Brian Fischenech of Huntington. He finished with a 1-2 record and did not place in the tournament.

However, Gemmell had learned again, and that set the stage for last season.

"I was coming off the state tournament where I didn't do too well," he said. "My confidence was kind of down."

A 3-year

It didn't take long for Gemmell to regain his edge. In his first match last season, he rallied from a near-pin situation to beat James Klem of Bath.

"He had beaten me two times before," Gemmell said. "In the first 10 seconds of the match, he got me in a head lock and turned me on my back. But I fought out of it and beat him in overtime. That brought my confidence back up."

Gemmell rolled through the regular season. The building pressure of remaining undefeated never faded him as the state qualifying time neared.

"The pressure affected me in a positive way because it built my mental toughness up," he said. "You get it in your head that you can't let up now or everything you've worked for all season would be lost."

Gemmell beat Ed Schaefer of Wayne in the Class B sectionals, then in the Super Sectionals to return to the state tournament.

"When I went back to states last year, I was more relaxed," he said. "I wasn't caught up in all the hype. It wasn't new to me because I had

been there before. I was able to just concentrate on my wrestling."

Gemmell dominated Steve Conlon of downstate Kellenburg 12-1 to win the 98-pound title and become Hornell's first state champion.

"It took a while to hit me," said Gemmell, who already has an invitation to the 1994 National High School Wrestling Championships in April at Duquesne. "I think my dad was more excited than I (was) because he realized what I had really accomplished and I didn't."

Away from the mat, Gemmell is quiet and reserved, but once a match starts he leaves little doubt about who is in charge.

"He's extremely aggressive," Sheldon said of Gemmell, who will wrestle at 105 pounds this season. "After winning the state tournament, I wasn't sure how he'd react. They only thing he's doing is working harder. He hasn't lost the hunger."

The experience of the year before served him well. □

journey from rookie wrestler to state champ

Good coaches trade in the priceless

WASHINGTON — Faculty-lounge grumbling at Kansas State University has erupted into tirades.irate professors are saying that the football coach, Bill Snyder, has gone the whole nine yards financially and that his annual salary of \$126,504 is extravagant. In addition — addition as not taught in the math department — Coach Snyder is guaranteed a yearly 7 percent increase, an annual \$10,000 bonus, a \$70,000 radio and TV deal, a \$3,500 country club membership, the use of two cars and performance-based bonuses.

If Snyder has only the conventional talents of a coach — motivational skills, the ability to discipline and inspire — he's worth every dollar and perk he's negotiated. College and high school coaches who take their calling seriously influence the minds of their kids — as well as shape their hearts — in ways that few classroom teachers ever do. Why shouldn't they rake it in?

College athletes, especially those in football and basketball programs, which are the high visibility revenue-producing sports, are often enough academically unmotivated when first coming to campus. They weren't recruited for mastery of



Colman McCarthy

the Bard's tragedies or AP calculus in high school. In college, coaches are usually the only teachers to whom they listen. Coaches often end up saving kids who otherwise wouldn't have made it. That's not the academic ideal, but conscientious coaches are as proud of the graduation rates of their students as they are of won-loss records.

At Georgetown University, John Thompson, the basketball coach for 21 years, had a graduation rate of 98 percent through 1990. Deservedly, he's Georgetown's highest paid employee. Thompson and education-minded coaches like him are more responsible for their kids' well-being than, say, English professors are for English majors. It's full-time mentoring, not a class or two a week, a test, term paper, and see you around.

If an athlete messes up off campus — arrested for drunk

driving, a barroom tiff — the media call the coach for a comment. If it's an English major who's in trouble, does the department chair get a call?

She or he might be hard to find. America's 524,000 professors have work schedules — pros prefer "workloads" — that earn full-time salaries for what is often leisure-time exertion. Gene Maeroff of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reports that the average college teacher spends about 10 hours a week in class with students, with 50 percent saying they devote less than four hours a week either to counseling students or attending meetings. About the same number say they spend less than five hours a week on research or scholarly writing. For the strenuousness of that, plus the severity of a nine-month year, full-time professors at universities average \$66,780.

The difference between the workdays of professors and coaches is the difference between a hammock and treadmill. The easygoing life of the professorate — not including hardworkers and especially not part-timers who get no benefits and are the stoop laborers of academia — affords ample time to

grouse about coaches like Bill Snyder who labor year-round, are with their charges four and five times more than professors, have no tenure, get fired for losing seasons and live under intense media scrutiny. How often do reporters visit classrooms to describe boring lectures?

The philosophy of dedicated coaches is one with Gary Yeatts of Fairfield, Ohio, High School and USA Today's 1991 baseball coach of the year: "We really believe it is important to win but also to lose with dignity and class. I like to feel you can enjoy the kids on both sides. It's still a game we're playing. The real role is handling kids....Coaching is like being a sculptor. You take what you have and turn it into something beautiful."

Not all coaches are like that — some are winning-obsessed fanatics — and many professors are also sculpting the beautiful.

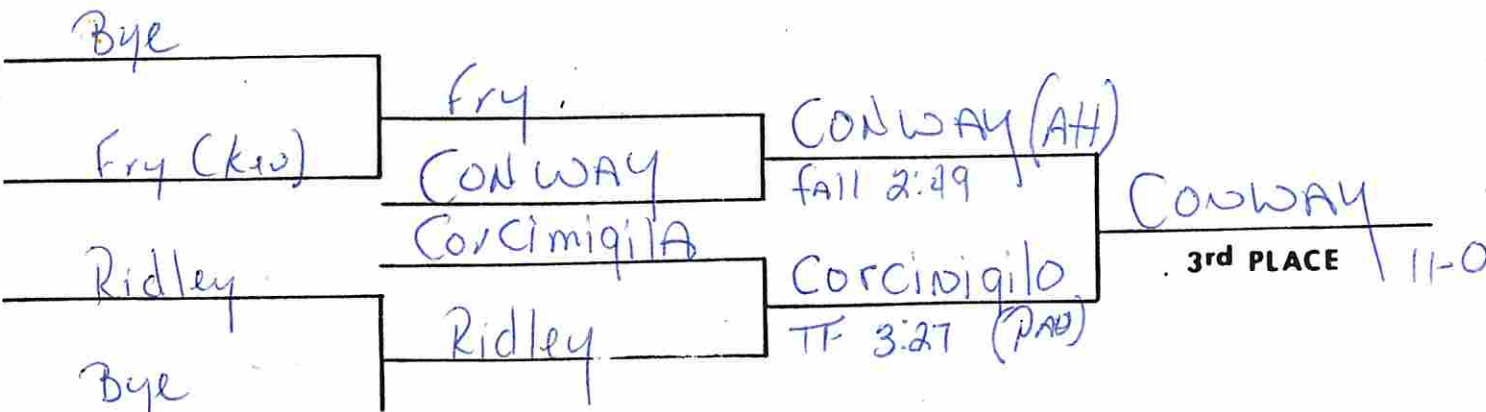
Think, though, of just the quality basketball coaches of recent decades — John Wooden, Frank McGuire, John Thompson — and then imagine the legions of student-athletes whose character they helped shape. For that coaches can't be paid enough.

(Colman McCarthy's syndicated column is published Wednesdays and Saturdays.)

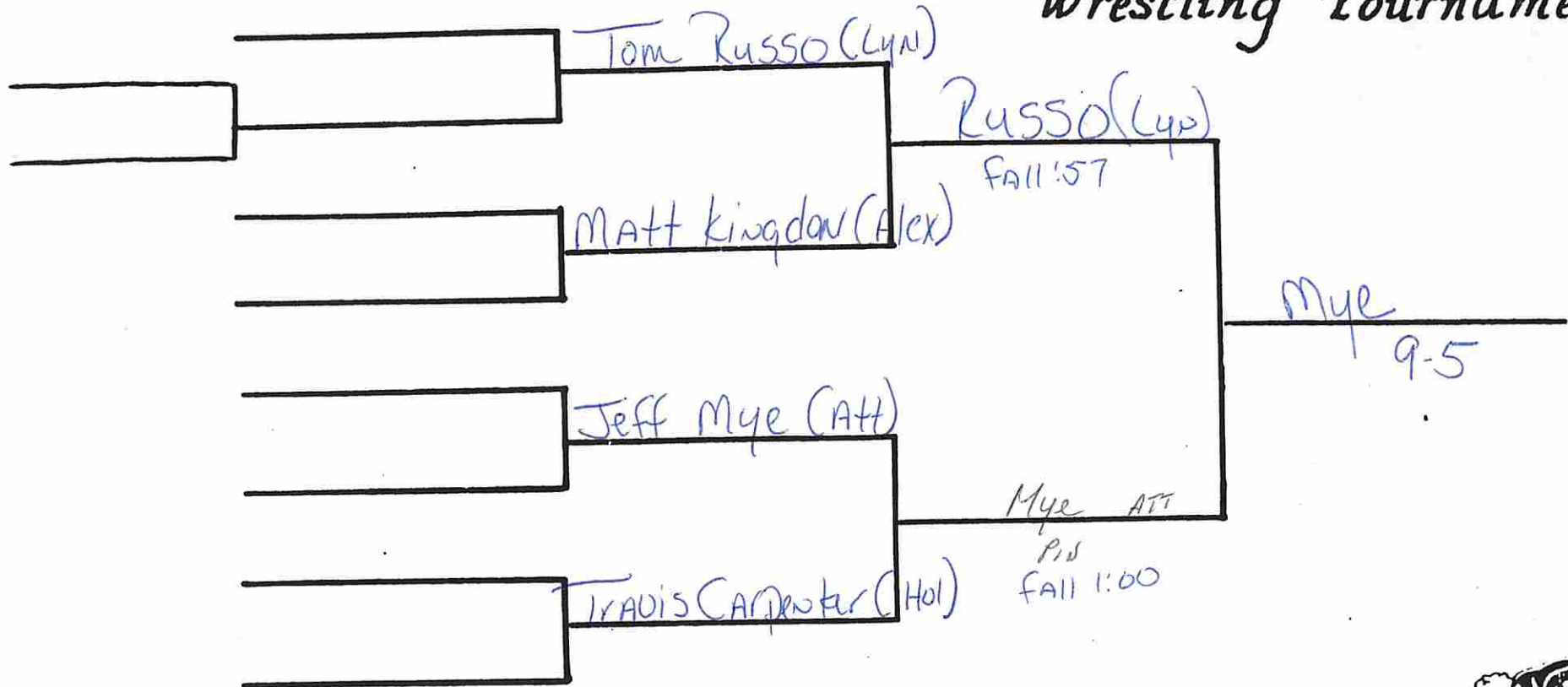
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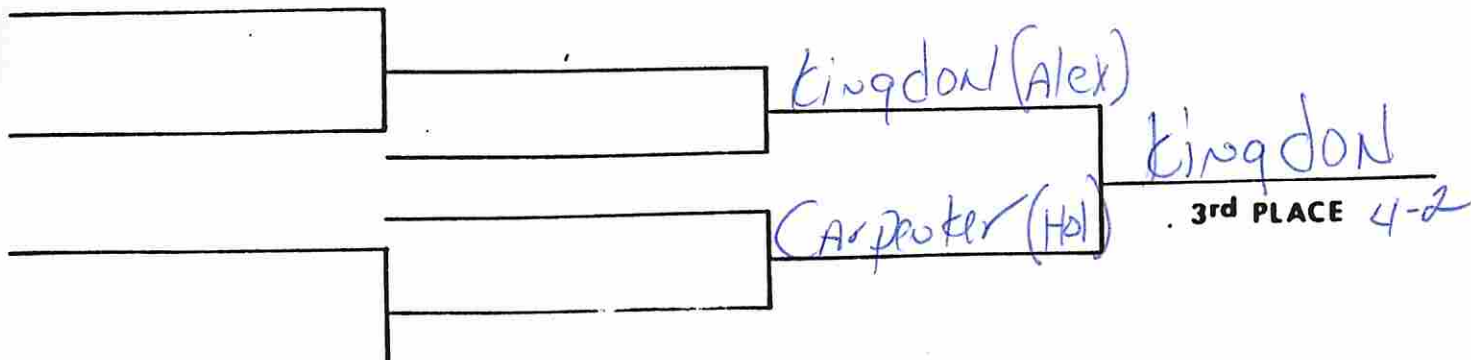
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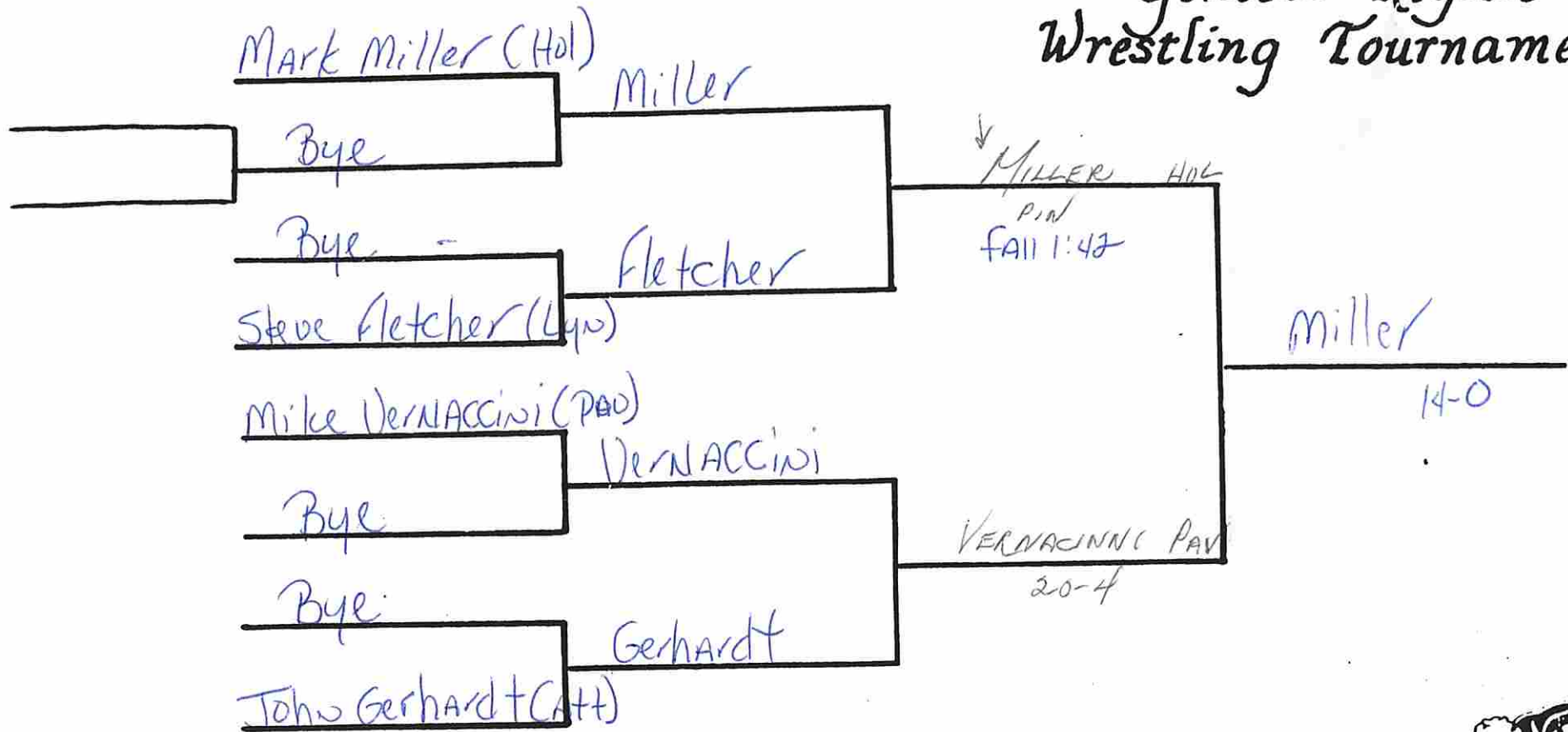
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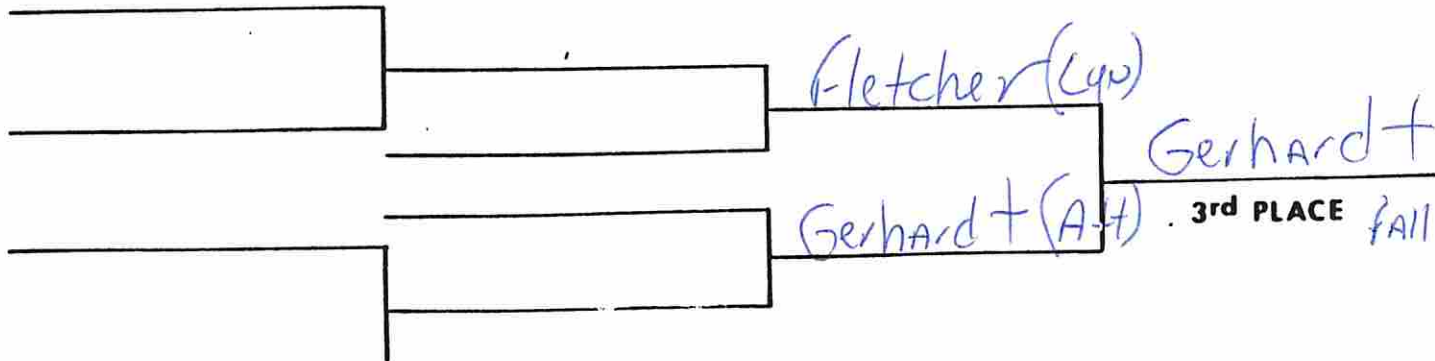
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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament



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Brian Schaal (Alex)



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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament

Shawn Vainio (BB)

Vainio

Joe Cone (PAO)

Fall 3:09

Buckland (LYN)

4-2

Matt Kaus (Alex)

Buckland

Steve Buckland (LYN) 8-1

Gerhardt

2-0

Jeremy Everett (Pen)

Everett

Jacob Burg (ND)

Fall 1:11

Gerhardt (ATH)

5-2

DAO Prest (Hol)

Gerhardt

Bill Gerhardt (ATH)

Fall 3:15

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Cone

Kaus 19-6

Kaus

Vainio

Vainio (BB) 3-0

Vainio

3rd PLACE

Everett

Everett (Pen)

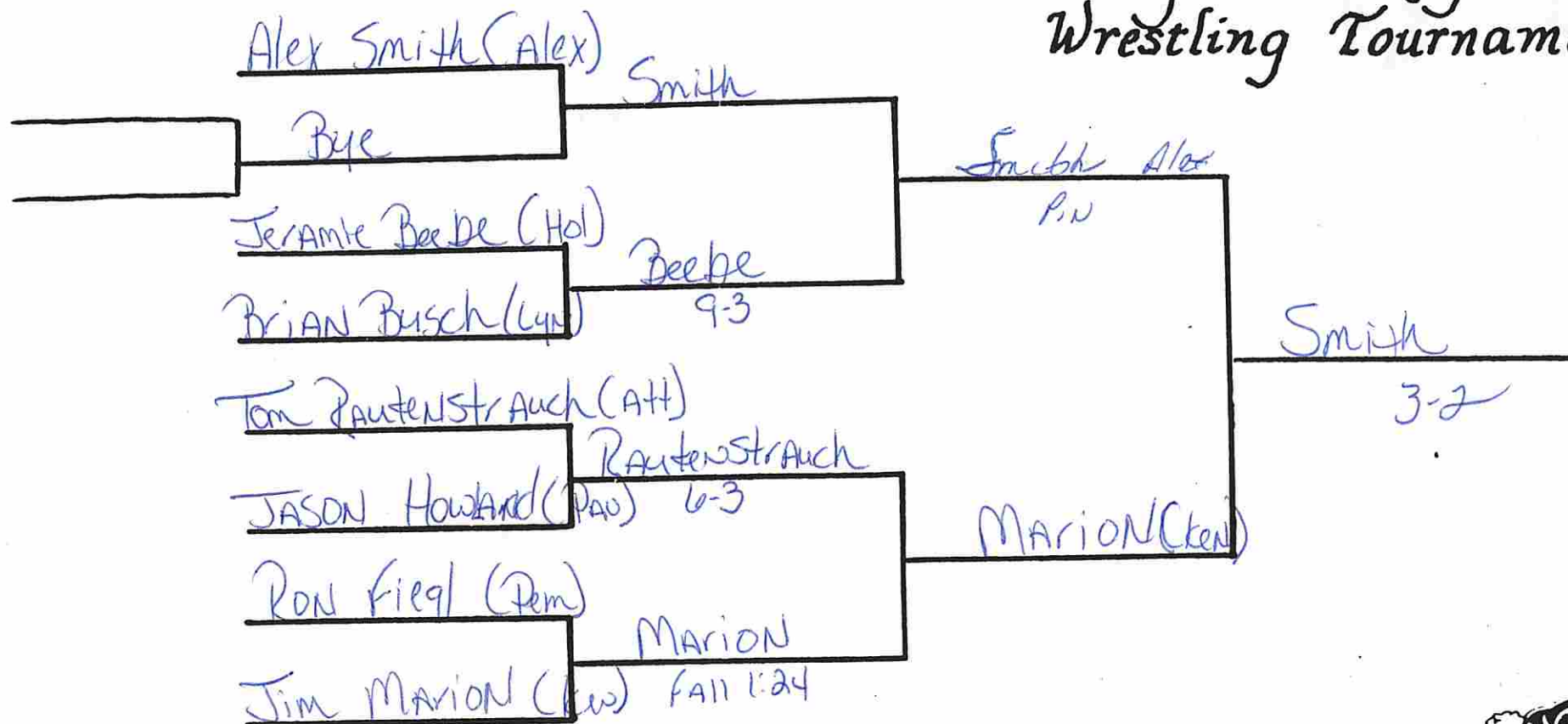
Prest

Fall 4:27

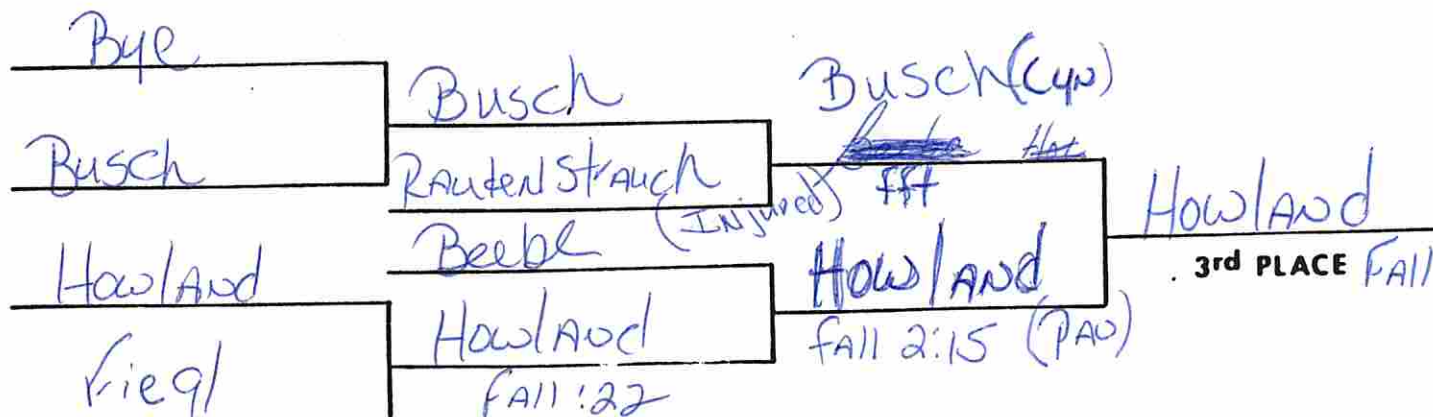
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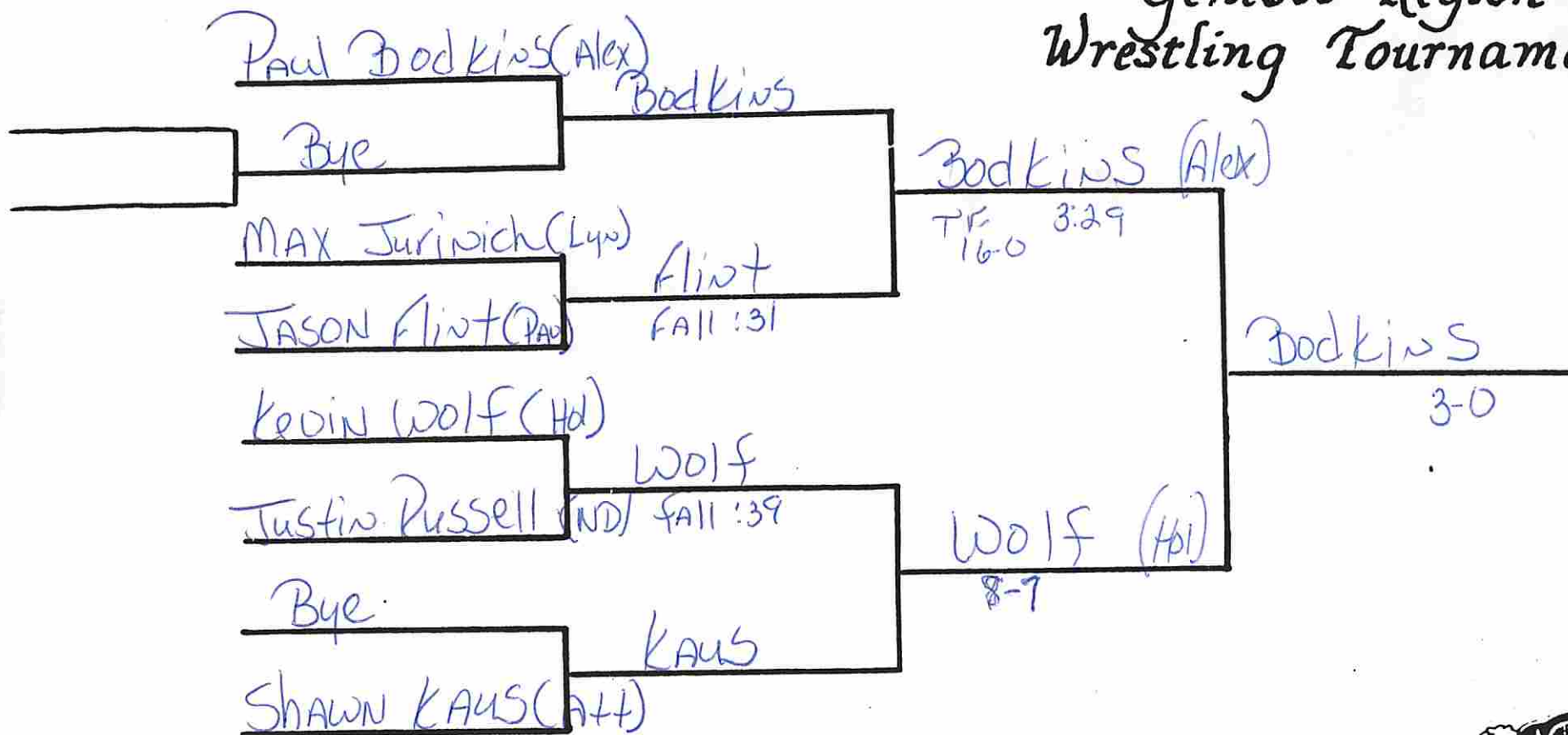


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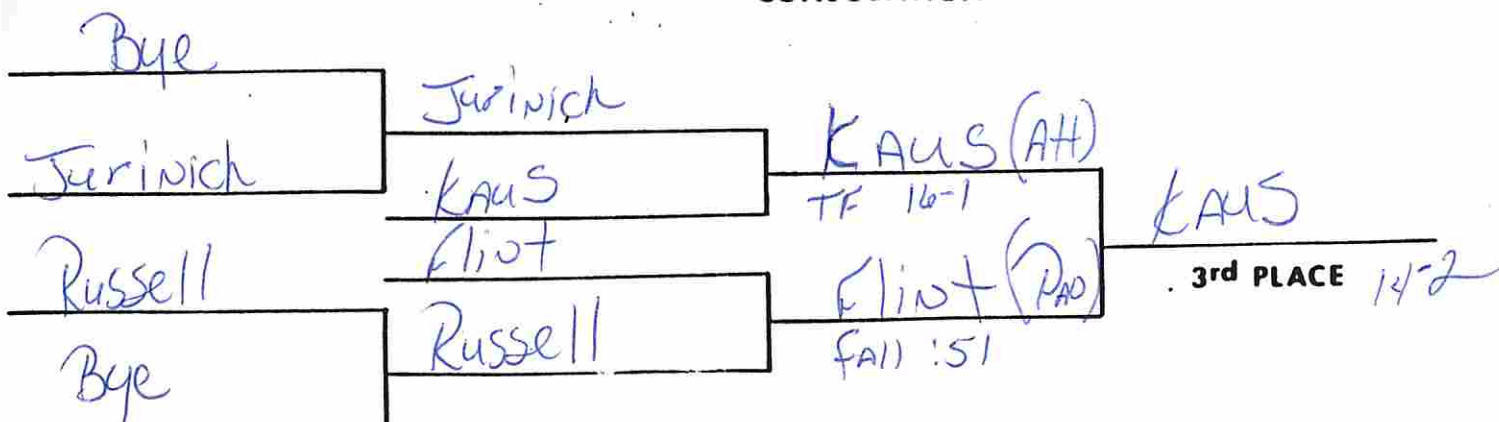


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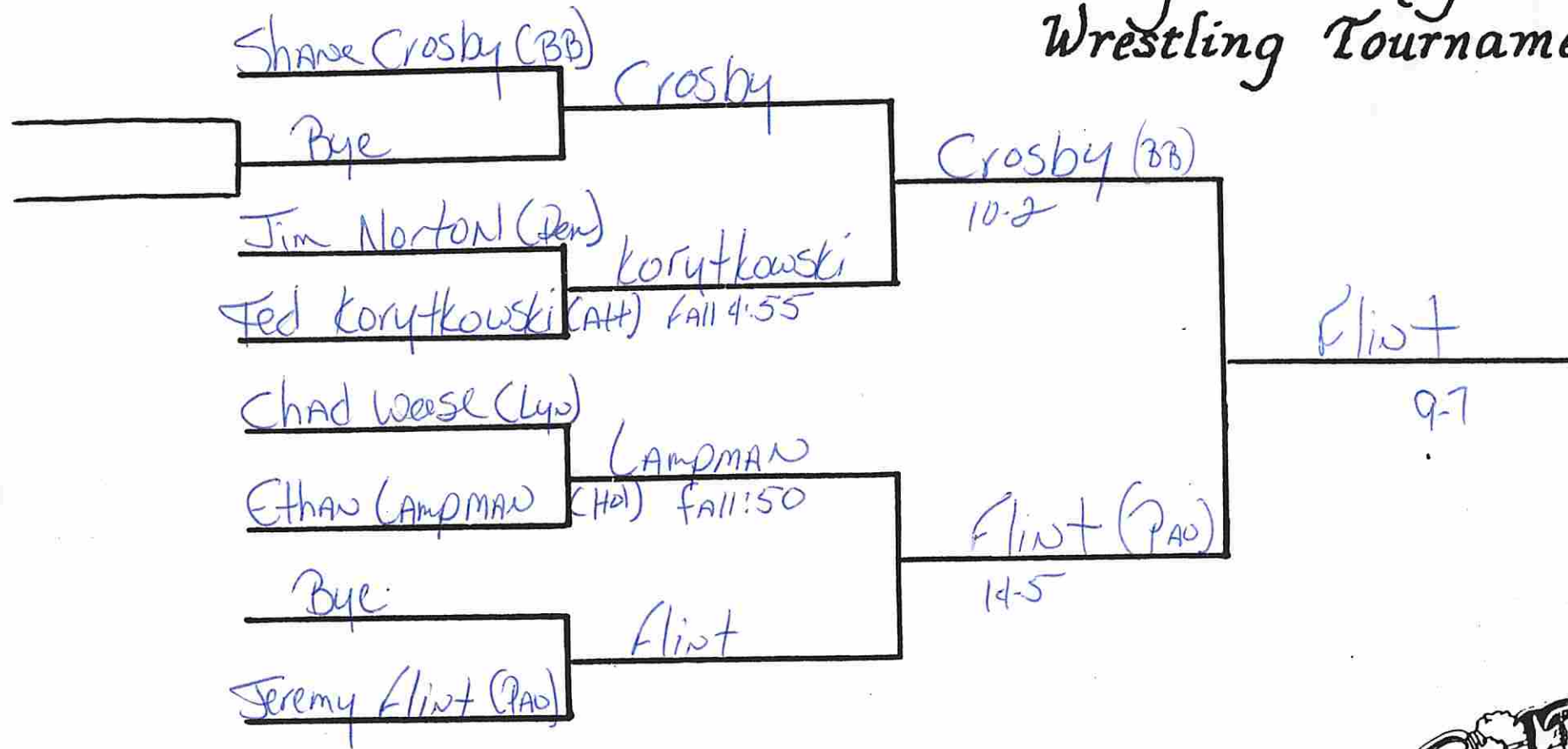


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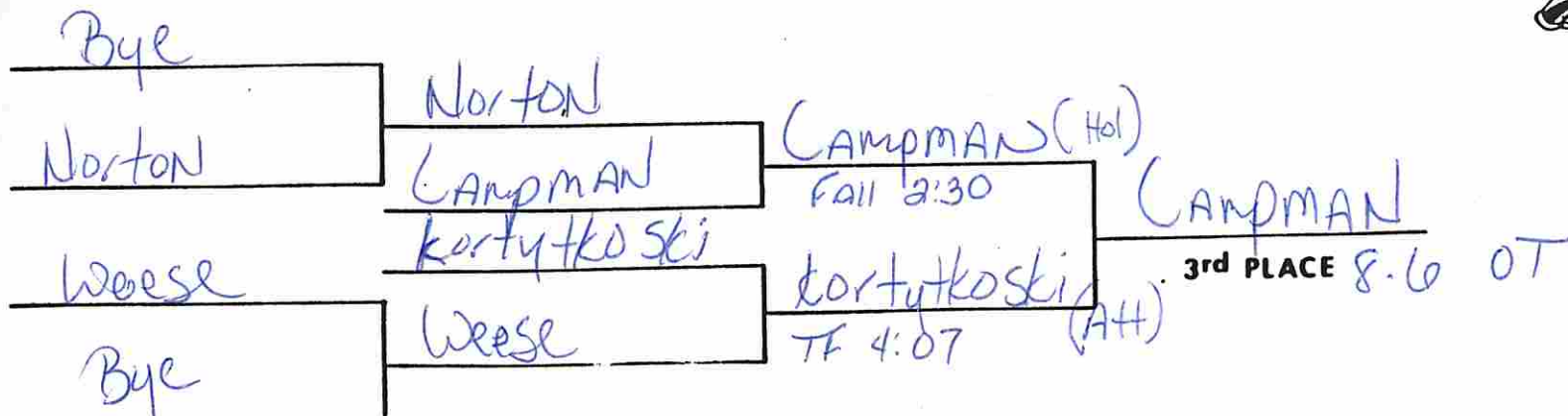


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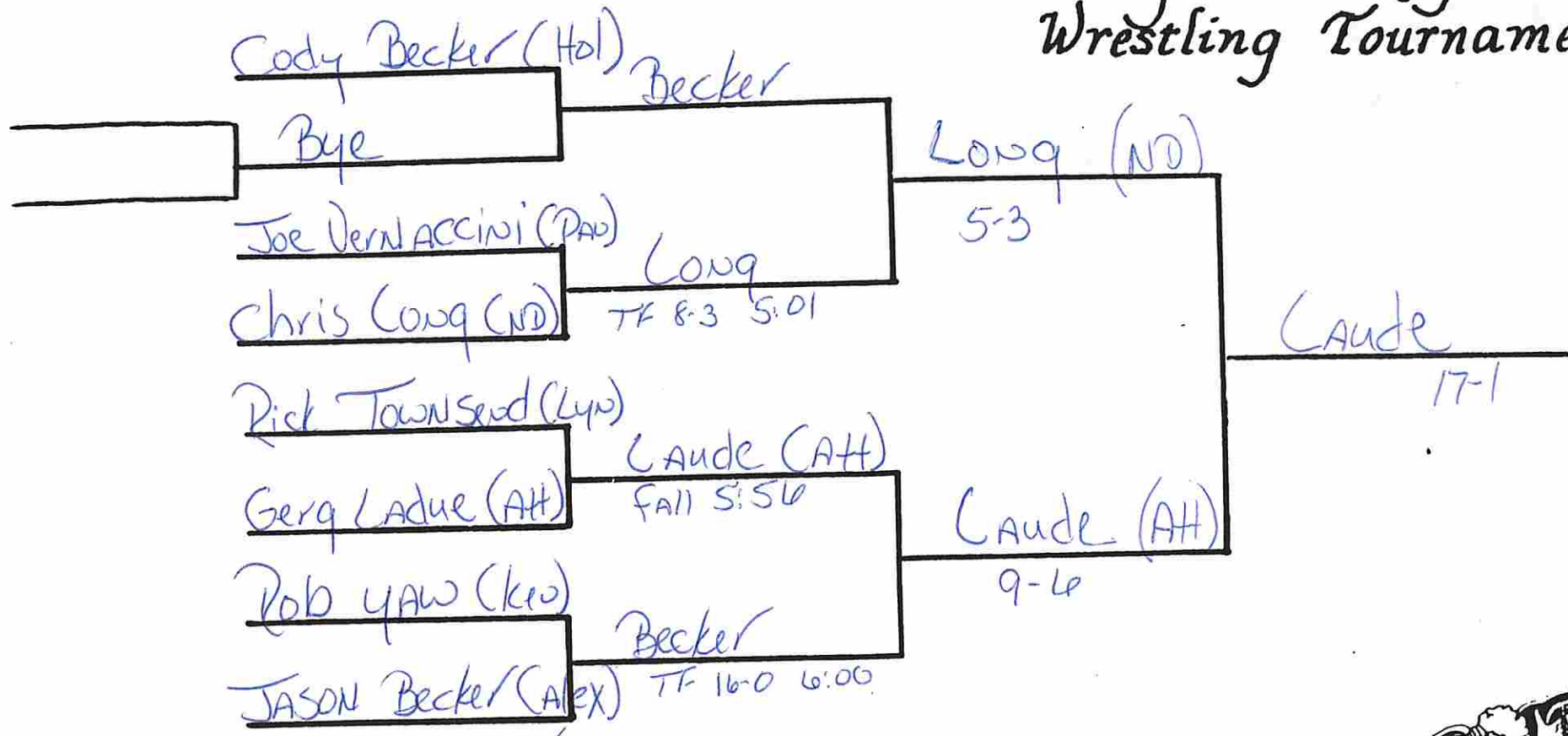
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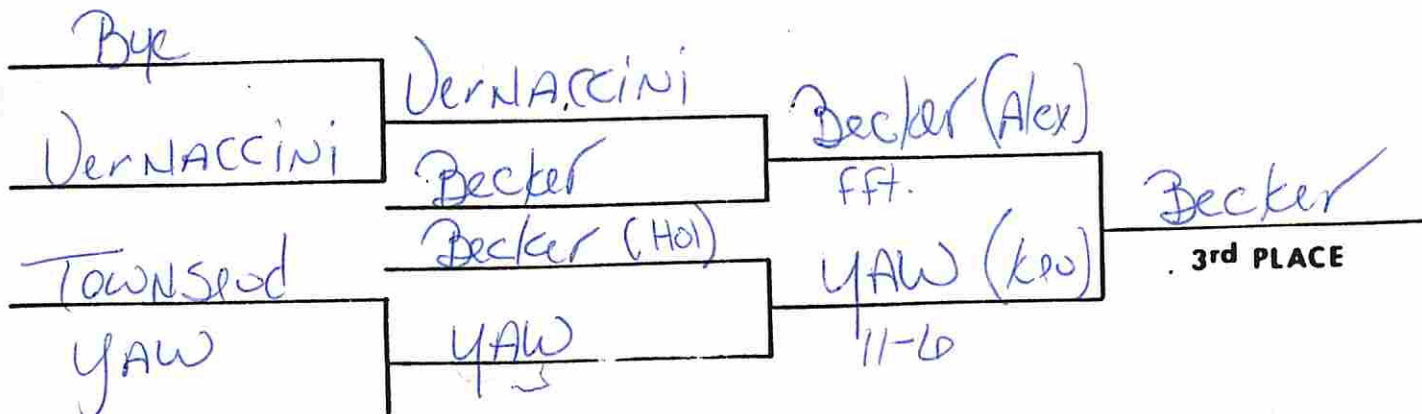
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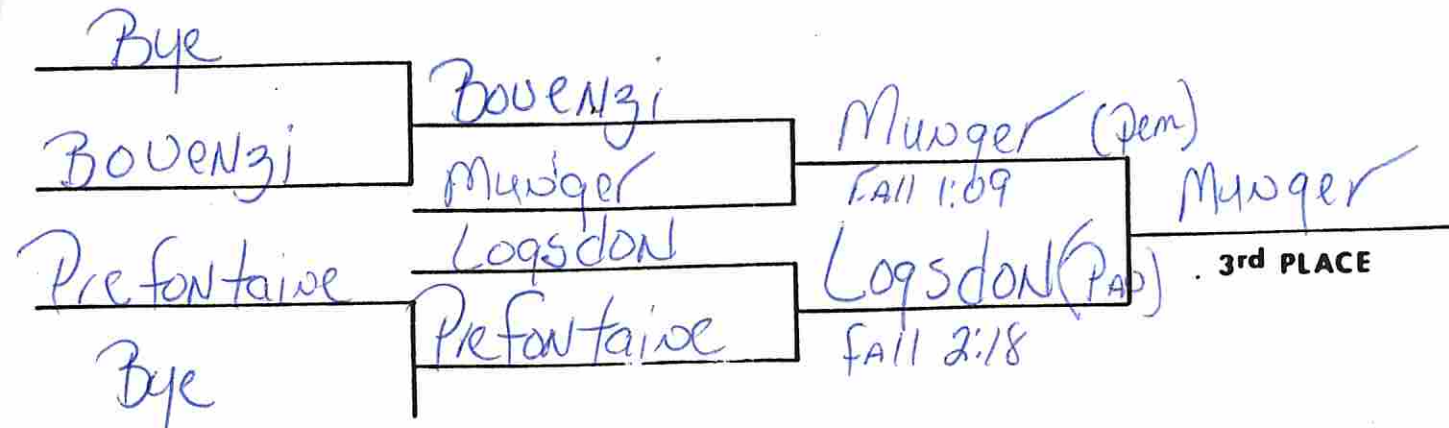
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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament

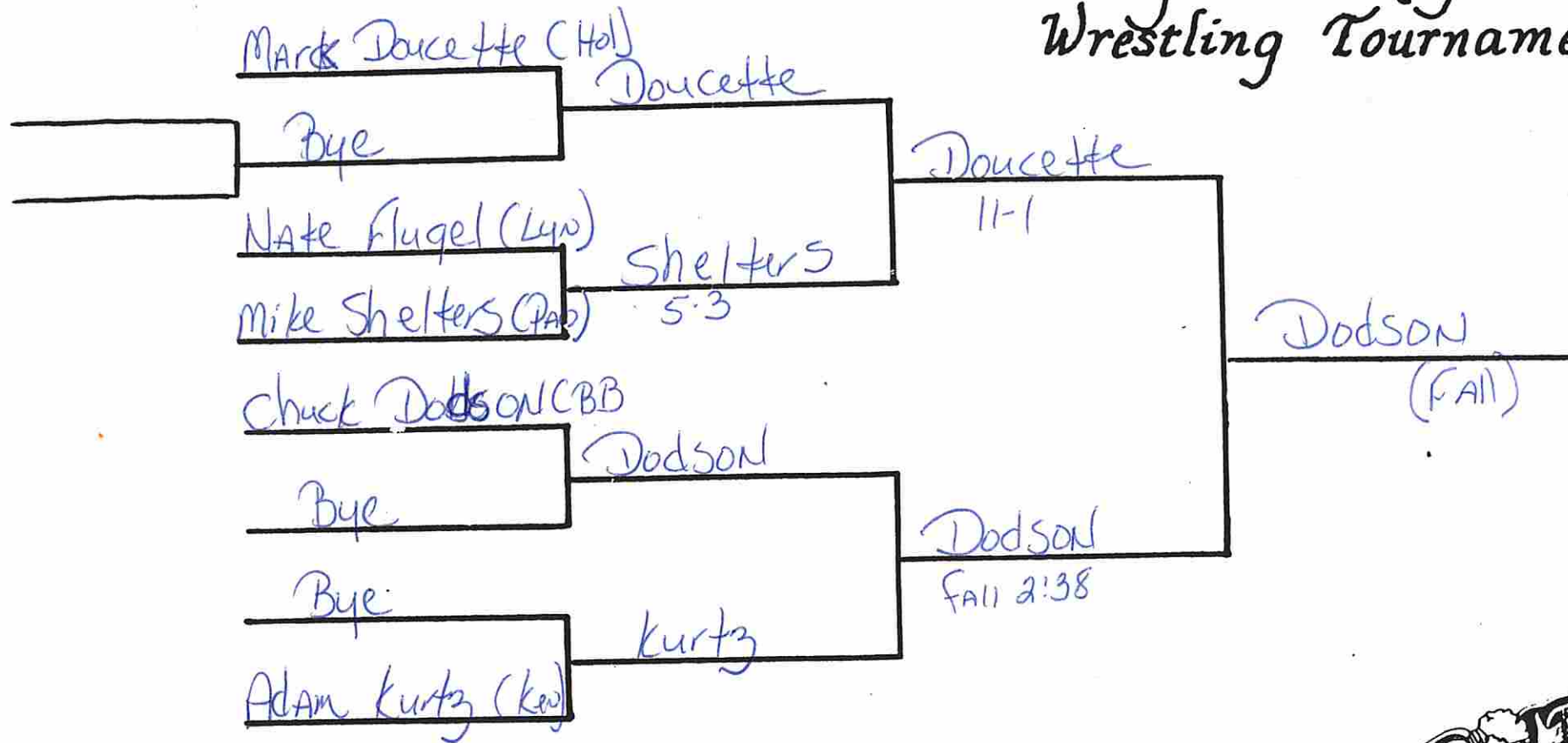


CONSOLATION



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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament



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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament

Gerald Keicher (ATT)

Keicher

Bye

keicher
fall : 23

Tim Calkins (ND)

CALKINS

Adam Doran (Lyo)

fall 2:36

Engert
(fall)

Ben Davis (Alex)

Engert

Chris Engert (Hd)

fall : 48

Engert
fall: 3:28

Bye

Mattle

Adam Mattle (BB)

CONSOLATION

Bye

DORAN

Mattle (BB)

DORAN

MATTLE

Fall:

MATTLE

DAVIS

CALKINS

CALKINS (ND)

3rd PLACE

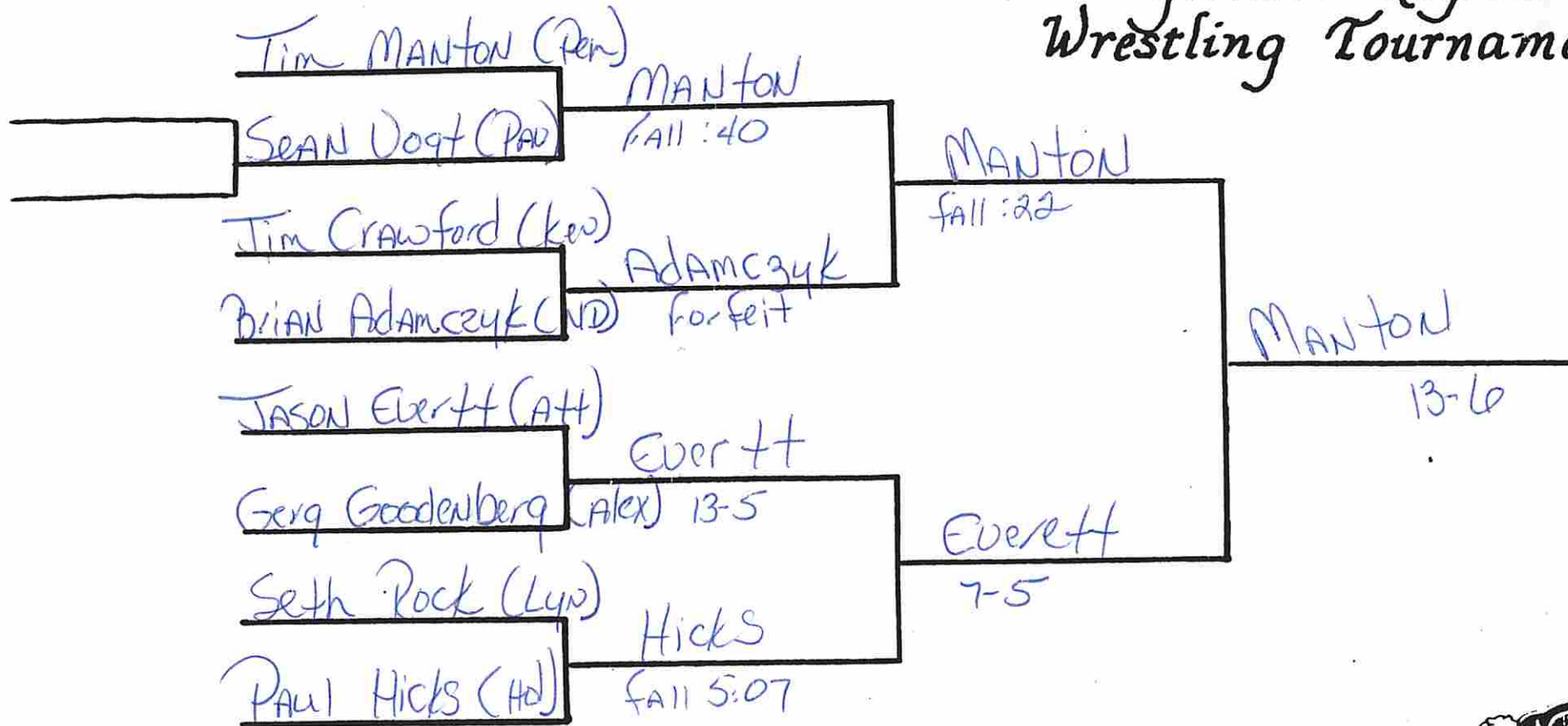
(fall)

Bye

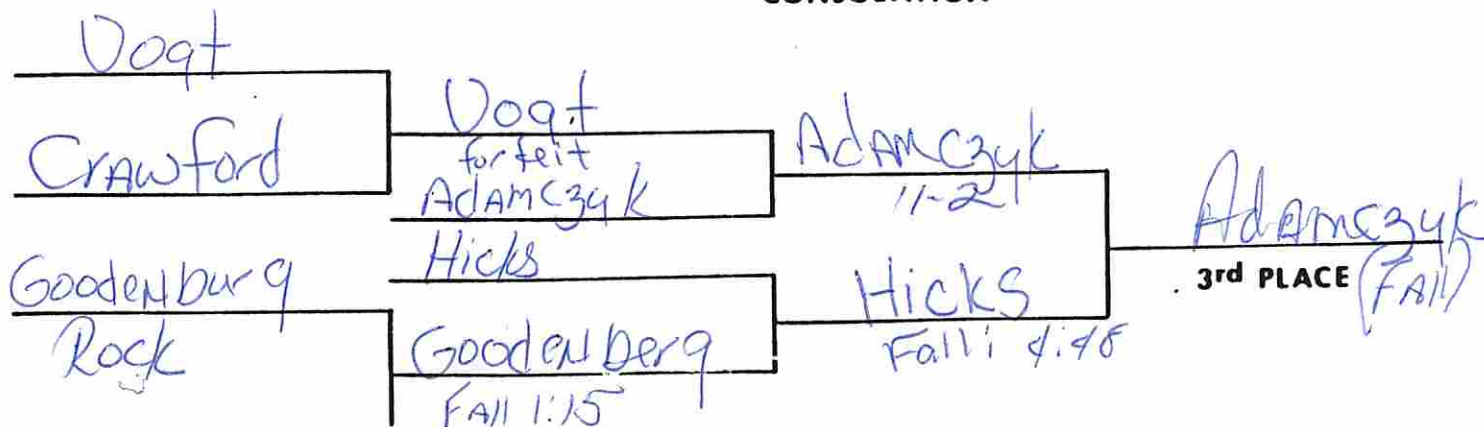
DAVIS



Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament



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Genesee Region Wrestling Tournament

Paul Van Valkenberg (BB)
Van Valkenberg

Bye

Van Valkenberg

Joe Iannello (CND)

Walton

Rob Walton (Red)

Van Valkenberg

Ben Colucci (Hol)

Colucci

Bye

Arena
Fall

Bye

Arena

Joe Arena (Lyn)

CONSOLATION

Bye

Iannello

Iannello
Colucci
Walton

Colucci

Walton

Bye

~~Colucci~~ Bye
Walton

~~Colucci~~ Bye
Walton
Colucci

3rd PLACE (Fall)

Bye

Bye



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