

Nassau Wrestling Meet Runs Almost to Form

By Neil S. Cohen

STAFF WRITER

On a day in which there were few upsets at the Nassau County Wrestling Championships at Nassau CC, the 105-pound weight class was the only one with any surprising possibilities.

None of the top seeds and only two second seeds in the 14 weight classes failed to qualify for today's semifinal round. Only 12 non-ranked wrestlers made it to the semis, but top-ranked James Hieronymus of Freeport, last year's county champ at 98, was the only seed to make the final four at 105.

Herricks' Justin McLoughlin, Valley Stream Central's Jason Klein and Plainview JFK's Rob Eisbruck each made the semifinals out of the "B" bracket, which was comprised of county tournament runner-up wrestlers. For McLoughlin, it looks to be a last hurrah.

"I was thinking, this is my last season and the end of my wrestling life," said McLoughlin, a senior who does not plan to wrestle in college. "I was disappointed I didn't make the qualifier [losing in the finals of the Conference IV tournament], and I thought I'd make it up this week."

McLoughlin was tied at 2 with East Meadow's Mike DiChiara after the first period of their quarterfinal match. His escape at the end of the second held up for a 3-2 victory and a shot at Hieronymus today.

"Justin's been a steady performer all year," Herricks coach Cliff Forziat said. "He doesn't do anything flashy, but it doesn't have to be pretty."

Another senior who took his qualifying tournament loss hard was Eisbruck.

"I woke up Sunday [the day after the Conference II meet] and ran five miles," Eisbruck said after beating second-seeded Nelson Henao of Long Beach, 4-2, in the quarterfinals. "I didn't want to lose again; it's a horrible feeling. I wasn't losing no matter what."

Eisbruck trailed 2-1 after the first period but used an escape and a front-head takedown to earn the go-ahead points. Eisbruck was able to ride Henao the fi-

nal two minutes to seal the match.

"I had him frustrated," Eisbruck said. "He had a quick takedown, but at the end he went nuts, whaling at the mat. I've been watching the semis the past two years and always dreamed of going there."

Eisbruck will face Klein, who beat third-seeded Brian Owens of Massapequa, 14-5. Klein was sent to the "B" bracket when he lost to Hieronymus, 5-0, in the Conference III tournament. The key for Klein yesterday was his pin of sixth-seeded Mike Wilber of South Side in the second round. He barely beat Wilber, 10-9, during the regular season.

"I'd look past my matches before," Klein said. "Now, I don't want to underestimate anyone."

The only other bracket with two unseeded semifinalists was the 112-pound class: Oceanside's John Gerardi and Garden City's James Davenport. Manhasset's Steve Guidi, who lost to Uniondale's Paul Rouse, 5-2, at 177, was the only other second-seeded wrestler to lose.

The team results offered few surprises as well. Massapequa leads defending county champion Long Beach, 93-67, but the Marines have seven semifinals to the Chiefs' five, so Long Beach can make a comeback.

NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS At Nassau CC Semifinal Pairings

91: Mike Giugliani (Mass) vs. Akil Coad (LB); Rob Greenberg (Beth) vs. Jamie Brodsky (LB). 98: Willie Ferris (Mep) vs. Jason Konigsberg (Bald); Doug Nick (Mac) vs. Rick Carranza (Herr). 105: James Hieronymus (Free) vs. Justin McLoughlin (Herr); Jason Klein (VSC) vs. Rob Eisbruck (Plainview). 112: Joe Catalanotto (EM) vs. John Gerardi (Ocean); James Davenport (GC) vs. Brian Mulada (CSH). 119: Craig Walter (Plainedge) vs. Phil Klein (LB); Menford Casseus (West) vs. Joe Martinez (EM). 126: Mike Mundo (Cal) vs. Jason Gershon (Lyn); Nick Bevilacqua (Mep) vs. Tarick Taylor (Free). 132: Sergio Nicolosi (EM) vs. Rob Keller (Mep); Joel Friedman (SS) vs. Kurt Blaubeck (Mass). 138: Miguel Pires (Carey) vs. Brian Heggerty (LB); Darren Gramlich (Mass) vs. Dan Bell (IT). 145: Scott Pressman (Farm) vs. Brian Alesius (IT); Kevin McCarthy (Herr) vs. Phil Baroni (Mass). 155: Aldy Teran (LB) vs. John Fraser (Mep); Karl (VSS) vs. McKeen (Bald). 167: Nick Gallii (Herr) vs. Ariel Marine (VSS); Carmine Apuzzo (IT) vs. Alvin Virgo (Hemp). 177: Dusty Amodio (Farm) vs. Dan Larkin (Mac); Gerry Papadatos (IT) vs. Paul Rouse (Un). Hvy: Josh Margolis (LB) vs. Tim Moran (CP); Hal Hsu (Plainview) vs. Dan Hansen (Bald). 250: Barry Weed (LB) vs. Mike Duggan (IT); Paul Linehan (Min) vs. Ari Minnestyan (Syro). Team Scores: Massapequa 93, Long Beach 67, E. Meadow 59, Mepharn 52, Island Trees 49½, Herricks 46, Freeport 42, Baldwin 41, MacArthur 30, V.S. North 30.