



SPORTS PAGE



Tigers edged out by Eagles

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

ROMULUS -- The Belleville Tigers watched Romulus upset the high-flying Braves earlier in the week and knew they would have their hands full against the host Eagles in the district semifinals, played March 7, at Romulus High School.

The Tigers came up one point shy in a 66-65 loss to the Eagles who went on to defeat Ann Arbor Huron last Saturday in the district finals. The Eagles advance to this week's regional games at Ypsilanti Lincoln.

Despite trailing 20-13 after one period, the Tigers closed the gap to 35-30 at the half and trailed by two after three periods, 43-41. The two teams nearly matched shot for shot in the final eight minutes with the edge going to Romulus, who improved to 14-8 with the victory.

Caral Dial scored a game-high 29-points, followed by Marius Williams with 12, Kourea Hayes with 11, and Anthony Wafer with six.



Photo courtesy of Phil Hecksel

The South and North Middle Schools brought home first and second place honors respectively at last Saturday's Romulus Invitational Volleyball Tournament. Fifteen teams took part in the day-long event. The championship finals were especially exciting because the fans got what they wanted as the tournament went along -- an all Belleville finale!

Belleville's Fleeson places second at state wrestling finals

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

Belleville's Justin Fleeson nearly brought home an individual state title at last weekend's individual wrestling state finals, held March 8-10 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Fleeson won his first three bouts, but lost to Zach Jones of Hartland in the championship match in a 16-4 decision in the 112-pound weight class. Fleeson opened his draw with a 21-6 victory over Jon Chow of Grosse Pointe North by technical fall. In the second round, Fleeson defeated Jake Byers of Rockford by an 11-1 score. Fleeson advanced to the semifinals and disposed of Robbie Bidlingmaier of New Baltimore Bay in an 8-6 margin. Fleeson closed out the season with a record of 44-8.

Belleville also had five other wrestlers make it to the Palace, including Dustin Zak (125-pounds), Brain Augsburg (130), Anthony Simons (171), Wassim El Awadi (160), and Steve Coak (140).

Zak placed 6th overall with a 4-3 opening bout victory over Bryan Sears

of Holly, before going down to Grant Antony of Holt by a 7-2 score. From there, Zak defeated Nick Bara of Romeo in a 5-1 decision and came up a point shy in a 3-2 loss to Christian Cullinan of Wyandotte Roosevelt. From there, Zak lost in a 4-2 decision to Mike Cushing of Howell in the match for fifth place. Zak closed out his season with a 40-16 record.

Brian Augsburger opened up his bracket with a technical fall victory over Joey Yost of New Baltimore Bay, before defeating Justin McDermitt in an 8-6 decision. Augsburger then dropped a match against Greg Roberts of Livonia Churchill in an 11-6 decision. Augsburger went on to defeat Ryan Feeley of Howell by default and Vinnie Coloma of Utica Ford by default. Augsburger closed out his record at 43-11.

Belleville's Anthony Simons lost by a technical fall to Chris Gruenberg of Eastpointe East Detroit in his opening bout, before losing to Matt Skrzypak of Bay City Central in a 15-0 technical fall. Simons closed out his record at 28-21.

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