

Injury stalls Cubs senior

Gallagher pulls off upset but finishes in fourth place

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INDIANAPOLIS

While Franklin wrestlers Phil Glasser and Cody Johnson were marching toward state championship matches Saturday, one of their Grizzly Cub teammates was also making some noise.

Senior Brad Gallagher's quarterfinal victory against previously unbeaten Ethan Harris of Beech Grove was the highlight among the three other Johnson County wrestlers who took part in the second and final day of the IHSAA state finals at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Gallagher went on to finish fourth at 119 pounds, as he injured his ankle during a semifinal defeat to Norwell's Blake Harner and had to default his third-place match.

Two Whiteland wrestlers also advanced to Saturday's action with wins the previous night. Senior Caleb VanDeman took fifth at 215, and junior Matt Fields was sixth at 112.

Gallagher (42-3) broke a standoff against Harris by scoring a reversal with six seconds left in the second period, then broke it open with a near-fall in the third.

"It was one of the best matches I've ever seen Brad wrestle," Franklin coach Bob Hasseman said. "I was afraid that he would try to keep Ethan from doing his thing instead of Brad doing his."

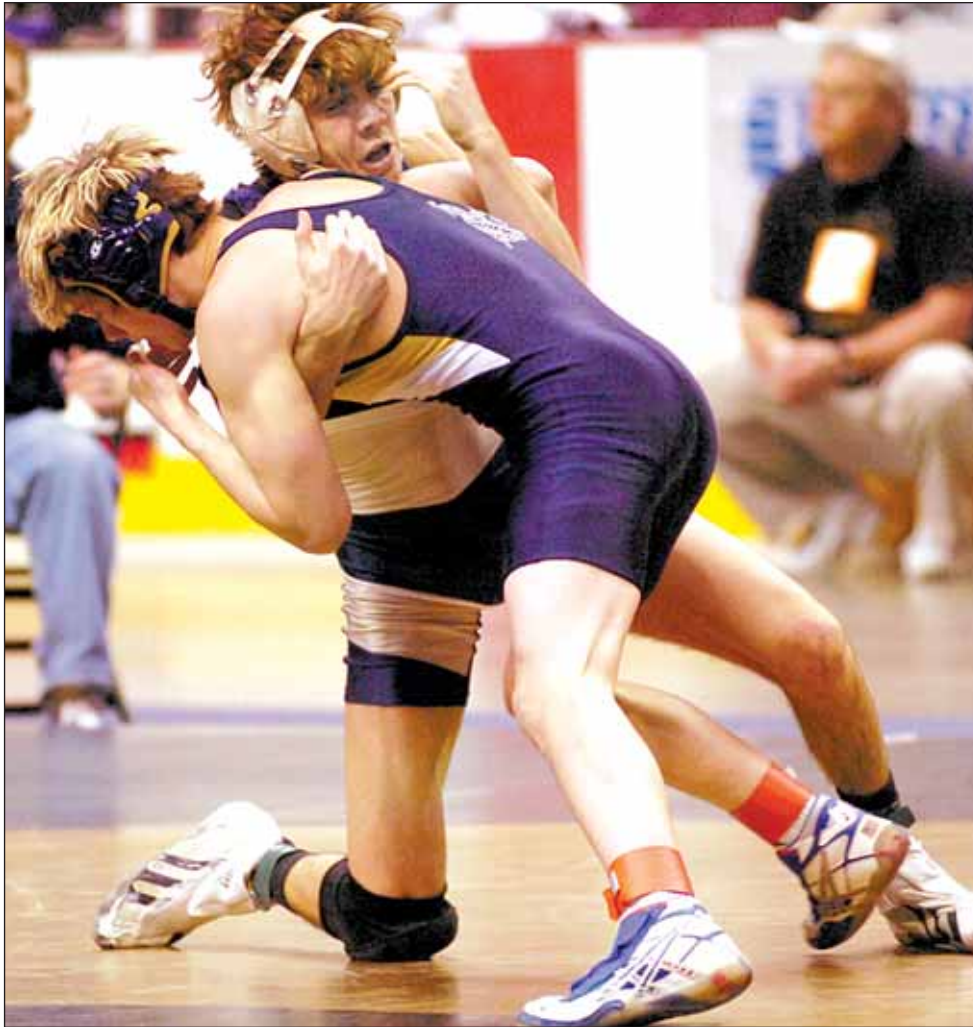
"I told our wrestlers today that they can't wrestle to not lose, and if you wrestle to win and take it to them then good things will happen."

Gallagher was ahead 3-1 in his next match when his ankle gave way. He was in a position to score a takedown in the final seconds, but that was not awarded to him.

"It was a bad time to get hurt," Hasseman said. "But it was a great match, and he had a great tournament."

VanDeman felt the wrath of Mishawaka's Pat Day in his opening match, as Day pinned VanDeman in just 42 seconds. Day followed that with an 11-second fall in his semifinal, which set a state meet record for quickest pin and earned him a spot in the title match with Johnson.

"Pat's a solid, fundamental wrestler who



Franklin's Brad Gallagher, left, battles Norwell's Blake Hamer during their IHSAA semifinal match Saturday.

doesn't make any mistakes," Whiteland coach Dave Thompson said. "(VanDeman) wrestled his as well as he could, but came up a little short."

VanDeman ended his career with a solid win against Beech Grove's Eddie Mobley in the fifth-place match and finished the season 28-7.

Fields (43-3) was on the losing end of shutouts in his first two matches, losing 3-0 to East Noble's Taylor March and then beating

John Urich of Perry Meridian 4-0 in the first wrestleback.

Both VanDeman and Fields appeared in the state finals for the second straight time and each improved from last year. VanDeman from sixth and Fields from eighth.

"We came in with higher hopes than that, but you can't be disappointed when you're one of the top eight wrestlers in the state in your weight class," Thompson said. "We're pretty proud of that."

Sectional

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getting in practice last week before sectionals.

"I wasn't getting the calories, so I felt like I wasn't going to have the energy to pull it off," Mynsberge said. "I was hoping I could overcome my health problems."

Fourth-year Greenwood coach Doug O'Neill was wondering the same thing.

"(Mynsberge) had been swimming great all year," O'Neill said. "And with that health trouble he was dealing with, I was kind of wondering in the back of my mind, 'Will it affect him or not?'"

"He still looked good in practice. But it was tough timing to start dealing with that."

Once in the pool on Saturday, Mynsberge found energy from his swimming. He swam the lead leg of the 200 medley relay, pacing Greenwood to a second-place finish in 1:39.92, which was good enough to qualify for the state finals.

In the 200 IM, he wanted to stay close to Brogan, hoping to draft enough to make the state time standard. But when he saw he was even with Brogan during the final 25 yards, he decided to kick harder.

"I knew that I could pull off ahead, and I watched him as I just kind of zoomed on by," Mynsberge said. "As I touched, I knew I had a good time. But going (1:55.93), I had no idea. It was amazing."

Mynsberge returns to the state finals for the first time since he was a sophomore. But this year was the first time he had won an event at sectionals.

He wasn't the only one with health issues during sectionals.

Center Grove coach Jim Todd said Brogan woke up Saturday with the flu.

But he still competed. "That is the kind of kid he is," Todd said.

Brogan's time in the 200 IM qualified him for the state meet.

Center Grove led the Falcons by just 15 points after seven



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT COLEY/mcoley@thejournalnet.com

Franklin senior Ben Shafer checks his time after the 200-yard freestyle at Saturday's Indian Creek Sectional.

events. But then the Trojans placed first through third in the 500-yard freestyle to take a comfortable lead.

Senior Chris Oleksiak won the 500 free in 4:37.73 with freshmen Noah Pashley and Chad Smith second and third, respectively.

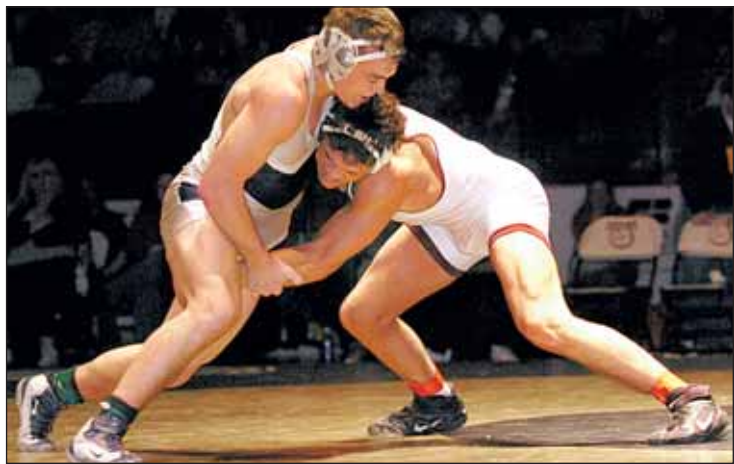
Center Grove won the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle relays. Oleksiak also picked up a win in the 200-yard freestyle. Trojans senior Pete Hewitt won the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke.

"Pete is just one of the best big-meet swimmers that we have ever had," Todd said. "If it's a big meet, we can pretty much count on him."

Whiteland senior Justin Shaw won the 100-yard freestyle.

Franklin senior Josh Blackwell won the diving event. Center Grove senior Nick Swift and Whiteland junior Billy Pennington will join him at the diving regional, which is Tuesday at Bloomington North.

All event winners and swimmers whose times were equal to or better than the state time standard in their event advance to the state finals, which are Friday and Saturday at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Franklin's Phil Glasser, left, and Mishawaka's Ian Hinton battle in overtime during their 171-pound match at the IHSAA wrestling finals Saturday in Indianapolis.

Road

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(40-5) in 1:34 to advance. Glasser had wrestled Hinton three times during his career and lost each match, including a 6-3 decision earlier this season.

He was disappointed but admitted the loss was a wake-up call for his life and career.

"This was my chance to get even for all the marbles. But it didn't happen," said Glasser, a two-time Mid-State Conference champion.

"Maybe God wanted me to lose this match. I don't know what I'm going to do for the rest of my life. Wrestling has been it (for so long). Hopefully, now I'll find something in the future."

At 215 pounds, Mishawaka senior Pat Day (46-2) defeated Johnson 12-10, surviving a furious third-period rally.

Johnson (44-3) scored five points in the final 10 seconds, including four during the final four seconds of the match.

Afterward, Johnson was inconsolable. When the match ended, he walked back to the Cubs coaches and received a brief hug. Then, he picked up his warm-up clothes and headed to the locker room in tears.

Still sniffling, he walked out a few minutes later to have his picture taken and to receive his award with the other top eight finishers.

Day greeted him with a hug before sitting down, but it didn't help.

As the group waited, Johnson sat in a chair, crying with his head buried in his hands. Day patted him on the back as Johnson composed himself before standing on the podium.

Johnson, who had defeated Day earlier this season at Calumet, fought against him much longer than he did his previous opponent.

In his Saturday semifinal match, Day pinned Jasper's Jonathan Seger (46-3) in 11 seconds, setting a state meet record for any weight class.

The previous record was 15 seconds, shared by Wilford Childers (Lowell) in 1929 and Charles

McDaniel (Bloomington) in 1932. Johnson defeated Jennings County's James Edwards (50-4) by a 6-4 decision to advance.

Franklin coach Bob Hasseman said Johnson, a three-time Mid-State Conference champion, has always had a strong desire to win and took the loss hard.

"Cody went at it there at the end," Hasseman said. "He's been a hard worker for us for four years. He wants to win so bad. This sport can be brutal."

Franklin has produced two state champions: Bryce Hasseman at 160 pounds in 1999-2000 and Aaron Clark at 103 pounds in 2000-01.

But Saturday marked the first time the Cubs had two wrestlers competing in championship final matches in the same tournament.

"It was huge," Hasseman said. "I'm real proud of how they wrestled. It was grueling. It's a real accomplishment for them."

"They competed like champions. Wrestling doesn't get any tougher than this."

Glasser and Johnson also kept the Cubs team in mind before each of their matches.

After wrestler introductions, Glasser, Johnson and Franklin wrestling coaches met at the far end of the mat. As other wrestlers and coaches left to the locker room, they stayed and huddled together for a moment to honor their team. The group raised their hands in the air and yelled the word "team" before heading inside the tunnel.

"It's called a breakdown," Glasser said. "Before each dual meet, we get together as a team, put our hands in and yell 'Team!'"

"Wrestling is a team sport. Even though the whole team wasn't here, it was good to get us to feel like they were there. We use it as a driving force. It's also a superstition. We do it every match, so there was no reason to stop it now."

Although disappointed, Glasser knew he and Johnson worked as hard as they could to get the wins.

"I think we wrestled pretty good," Glasser said. "We took advantage of most of our opportunities until our last matches."

"We didn't go out without a fight. We weren't scared. We wrestled not to lose. We tried to go out and compete. We wrestled hard."



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