

Late flurry helps Falcons overtake Kewaskum wrestlers

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Momentum took a roller coaster ride in the Kewaskum High gymnasium last Tuesday as the 6-0 Indians and 6-0 Sheboygan Falls wrestling teams met to determine which of the two would claim the 200607 Eastern Wisconsin Conference wrestling title.

First, it was the Falcons on top after two matches and two quick pins.

Then it was the Indians, behind veterans Eric Ogi, Mason Smith and Jake Turowski, and three of the underclassmen on the team, Cody Seibel, Matt Buker and P.J. Krueger, taking over the point lead, much to the delight of a highly energetic home crowd.

In the end, however, it was the power Sheboygan Falls has on the lighter end of its lineup that was the determining factor in the 42-25 decision in the Falcons' favor.

"We had some good matches, and some not-so-good matches," KHS coach Dennis Aupperle said after his team was denied a three-peat. (The Indians shared the title with Campbellsport and Plymouth in 2004, and held the title outright last year.) "They're tough in the lower weights. From one hundred and three through one thirty five, they are very solid."

No one could argue that fact. Falls polished off the title with a pin by Nathan Brown over Andrew Haugen in 3:50 at 103, an 18-6 major decision by Jordan Williams over Calob Olla at 112, a convincing 10-0 major decision by Josh Hammond over Stephen "Bud" Kattar at 119, and a pin in 1:36 by Tony Johnson over Nathan Seitz at 125.

Those 22 points helped wipe out a 25-15 lead after Krueger won a somewhat controversial match at 215 pounds.

The controversy began because the scoring table missed the second period, going right from the first to the third on the scoreboard on both ends of the gym.

Krueger, who looked like dynamite against Ian Ryan, was leading 11-0 at the end of the second buzzer and the official went to lift his arm in victory.

When the error was discovered, Aupperle said opposing coach Fred Brown argued the match was over. Had that been the case, the Falcons would have given up just four points for a major decision.

Aupperle contended, and rightly so, the error was correctable and the match should go on, and Krueger had a chance for the pin and six points. After a five-minute debate, it did go on, and Krueger added four points to his total but could not pin Ryan.

Still, "P.J. looked good," Aupperle said of the big sophomore, who improved to 25-3 with the victory.

Kewaskum also expected a pin or at least a major decision at 189, but Turowski had trouble budging Collin Conklin and the score ended at 3-1.

"I was thinking he (Turowski) would beat him (Conklin) better," Aupperle said, stopping short of saying Conklin was hugging the mat as most of the Indian fans were convinced he was doing.

No one will have to say much to Turowski next week as he closes in on the 100-win mark, first with a match at West Bend East, then the EWC Tournament where Turowski hopes to end his long drought to Campbellsport's Billy Mayer.

Turowski, currently 22-4, said he now has 98 wins, "So it will be ninety nine probably against East. If I win that, then 100 will be the first match at conference," he said. "Mayer beat me last week, so he'll have the top seed. I should be the second seed, so I should have a winnable match."

Ogi moved to 24-2 after a convincing effort over Travis Meyer in 3:42. The only other Indians to post a pin was Buker, and it drew a thunderous ovation because the match was 2-2 early in the second period when he wiggled out of a precarious position to take Alex Schielke right to his back and got the pin in 2:39.

"He caught him (Schielke) with his head down and threw in a half," Aupperle said about Buker. "He's coming around. He's wrestling well. He's a tough kid."

Smith also looked very solid in a tight match with Dan Justinger. With his 3-2 decision, he moved to 18-9 for the year.

After Tuesday's match against East, the Indians will use a couple days to fine tune their skills in preparation for Saturday's (Feb. 3) EWC Tournament at Manitowoc Roncalli.

Sheboygan Falls 42, Kewaskum 25

130 Cassidy O' Handley was pinned by Ben Chappa, 1:20; 135 Jeremy Parker was pinned by Nick Jens, 2:12; 140 Ogi pinned Travis Meyer, 3:42; 145 Smith decisioned Dan Justinger 3-2; 152 Mike Pfothenauer lost to Kyle Broetzman, 9-11; 160 Seibel dec. Max Fischer 7-1; 171 Buker pinned Alex Schielke, 2:39; 189 Turowski decisioned Conklin 3-1; 215 Krueger won by major decision over Ryan, 15-2; 285 Tyler Swanson lost to Zach Kattner by disqualification; 103 Haugen was pinned by Brown, 3:50; 112 Olla lost by tech fall to Jordan Williams, 6-21; 119 Kattar lost by major decision to Hammond, 0-10; 125 Seitz was pinned by Johnson, 1:46.

All Kewaskum wrestlers are listed first.