

Raiders Qualify Three Matmen, Blue Devils Qualify One For Trip to NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament in Atlantic City

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LIGHTNING STRIKING TWICE...Blue Devil Andrew Shaffer, right, squares off a second time with New Providence's Larry Peotter in the 145-lb bout for third place. In the quarterfinals, Shaffer pinned him in 5:58. This time he won, 6-4.

In the championship bout with South Plainfield's Nick Dorey, Mineo scored two takedowns, a reversal and an escape to have a 7-5 lead late in the third period but disaster struck when

Dorey caught him with a lateral drop (5-point move) and badly injured his right arm. Mineo still attempted to finish the bout but yielded another three points when he was caught in a cradle to drop a 13-7 decision. Due to

the severity of his injury, he will not be able to compete at AC.

Gano defeated Ben McNeil of Parsippany Hills (PH), 5-0, in the 119-lb quarterfinals then dropped a 6-2 decision to Johnson's (ALJ) Anthony Priore in the semis. In the wrestlebacks, Gano nipped Ryan Stuart of Watchung Hills (WH), 1-0, to earn a showdown with Seton Hall Prep's (SHP) Tom Eidel. Late in the third period, Gano scored a reversal and used a Mallory to a Jimmy John maneuver to pin him in 5:25.

Three-time state champ Mike Grey (125-lbs) of Delbarton (Del) won his fourth Region 3 title and two-time state champ Darrion Caldwell (152-lbs) of Rahway won his third. Alex Caruso (WH - 160-lbs) and Pat Hogan (Cranford - 171-lbs) each claimed their third region crowns. Frank Perelli (Del - 112-lbs) and heavyweight Andre Neblett (R) each claimed their second region crown.

Blue Devils John Barnes (112), Sam Reichback (119), Matt Kamel (130) and Steve Cruikshank (215) and Raiders Mike Ferrara (112), Rob Desiato (135), Dave DeNichilo (152) and Joe Bachi (160) lost in the preliminary round. Raider Trevor Cannon and Blue Devil Colin MacKay dropped their 125-lb quarterfinal bouts then met in the wrestlebacks where MacKay won, 8-4. MacKay then was eliminated by Evan Galipeau (PH).

Raider Ricky Olsson advanced to the quarterfinals where he was defeated by Mike Boccellari (NPr). After receiving a forfeit, Olsson was stopped, 15-3, by Dario Marcelli of Hanover Park (HP). Blue Devil Mark Boyd (160-lbs) wrestled well in a 10-1 defeat to McPaul Ogbonna (HP - ranked fourth in the state) then was edged, 7-6, by Brearley's (Br) Hany ElSheikh in the wrestlebacks.



WAITING FOR THE WHISTLE...Blue Devil Mark Boyd, top, and Brearley's Hany ElSheikh wait for the whistle in their 160-lb bout.



GOOD ON HIS FEET...Raider Pat Mineo, right, prepares to take South Plainfield's Nick Dorey to the mat in the 140-lb final bout.



ON HIS WAY TO AC...Raider Sal Gano, top, puts the finishing touches on Seton Hall Prep's Tom Eidel in the 119-lb third place bout. See picture on page 16





QUITE AN ENTANGLEMENT...Raider Trevor Cannon, front, attempts to free himself from the grasp of Blue Devil Colin MacKay in the 125-lb wrestlebacks.


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