



SAVING THE BEST TO LAST...Raider Ricky Olsson (135-lbs) defeated Brearley's Joe Mraz, 5-3, in overtime to qualify for AC.



PUTTING ON PRESSURE...Blue Devil John Barnes, left, nearly defeated Brearley's Dan Conroy who placed third at 119-lbs.



COMING SO CLOSE...Blue Devil Colin MacKay, right, lost, 7-5, in overtime to South Plainfield's Bryan Hunt in the 130-lb third-place bout.

Raiders Mineo, Gano Capture Region 3 Wrestling Crowns; Olsson Places Third, MacKay Fourth

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life! At the end, I hit a dump (barrel roll). I cannot believe it worked! At the beginning, I hit a nice high crotch (takedown)," Olsson explained.

Westfield Blue Devil Colin MacKay (130-lbs) used punishing top control in the second period to ride out Union's Bryan Gomes, who had defeated him in the regions last year, then scored an escape and a double leg takedown in the third period to gain a 3-0 decision in the quarterfinals.

"I beat him earlier in the year. I wasn't ready to let him repeat. I have been working too hard. I need to open up a little more, take more shots," said MacKay.

After losing, 11-3, to eventual champion Anthony Priore of Johnson (ALJ), MacKay opened up and slammed Colin Hayes (Del) to the mats in 12 seconds to advance to the third place consolation.

"I was looking for a duck (under).

I ended up getting the arm because he was in a bad position and I threw it," explained MacKay. "Leave it all on the mats! That's what I'm doing!"

MacKay lost his bid for AC when Bryan Hunt (So Pl) scored a takedown in overtime to win, 7-5.

Raider heavyweight Joe Blaes added more credibility when he scored a low single takedown and a nearfall to defeat second-seeded Eric Kaminsky, 5-2, to advance to the semis.

"He was a big guy and wanted to go upper body so I decided to go low. I had to roll him anyway I could. Last week, it worked with the arm bar so I used the arm bar," said Blaes.

After falling to Shelomi Hohn of Morristown (Mo), Blaes was defeated 6-4 by Brad Martin (So Pl) in the wrestlebacks.

Governor Livingston's (GL) Matt Fullowan recorded an 8-1 decision over Ron Landy (HP) then reached deeply to record an escape and a takedown late in the third period to advance to the 171-lb finals with a 6-3 victory over Dan Pompilio (So Pl).

"Everyone from South Plainfield is pretty good. It's a really good program. I beat him in the district finals a week ago but you can't look away from this match. He's a decent wrestler," commented Fullowan. "I made it to Atlantic City. That's what I wanted!"

Fullowan became the victim of a 55-second fall to Kyle Kaufman in the finals but earned his trip to AC.

Although losing, 16-7, in the quarterfinals, Blue Devil John Barnes (119-lbs) nearly pinned Ben McNeil (Par Hills) who eventually placed second. In the wrestlebacks, Barnes had a 7-3 lead over Dan Conroy (Br) but got caught in a spladle. Conroy finished third.

Raider Tristan Bundy (112-lbs) had a pair of victories but lost his bid for AC by dropping a 6-1 decision to Greg Pollock (Mill). Raider Keith Baker (215-lbs) won a 3-1, overtime decision over Trevor Martin (NPr), lost, 6-4, to Sandile Manzini (Rahway) in the quarterfinals then dropped a 9-5 decision to Roselle Park's (RP) Mike Lefano in the wrestlebacks.

Blue Devil Andy Castrorao, who recorded a 7-5 win in the first round, and Raider Trevor Cannon both lost by decision in the first round of the 152-lb wrestlebacks. Blue Devil Mark Boyd (160-lbs), who was defeated in the quarterfinals by top-seeded Brendan Ard (WH), lost, 7-2, in the first round wrestlebacks. GL's Rob Coughlin lost, 3-2, to Jorge Branco (RP) for third place at 145-lbs.

Raiders Mike Ridge (140-lbs), Mike Ferrara (130-lbs), Dave DeNichilo (160-lbs), Joe Bachi (171-lbs) and Billy Jacobs (189-lbs) lost in the first round on February 20.

CHAMPIONSHIP BOUTS:

- 103: - Knapp (Br) d Heilman (So Pl), 5-3
- 112: - Hunter (So Pl) p Terrezza (NPr)
- 119: - Perrelli (Del) tf McNeil (Par Hills), 17-2, 4:22
- 125: - Gano (SPF) p Nobbs (NPr), 1:47
- 130: - Priore (ALJ) d Joe Lospinoso (GL), 4-0
- 135: - Melde (Del) p Ashnault (So Pl), 4:37
- 140: - Nick Bach (Par) d Nick Dorey (So Pl), 9-3
- 145: - Mineo (SPF) d Jakubik (So Pl), 13-8
- 152: - Evans (Br) d Dessino (Mx), 9-7
- 160: - Ard (WH) d Mark Wagner (So Pl), 3-1, OT
- 171: - Kaufman (Mad) p Fullowan (GL), 55
- 189: - Joe Bozzomo (Mx) d Hany Elshiekh (Br), 8-4
- 215: - Boyden (Br) d Preston Johnson (So Pl), 8-3
- Hwt: - Brad McLaren (Columbia) p Hohn (Mo), 4:42

THIRD PLACE BOUTS:

- 103: - Dave Standridge (Par) p Steve Godine (WP), 1:27
- 112: - Ryan Colwell (Mad) d Pollock (Mill), 7-0
- 119: - Conroy (Br) d Chris Mazzocchi (Mad), 8-3
- 125: - Kyle Hussey (Par) p Keith Switzer (Del), 1:41
- 130: - Hunt (So Pl) d MacKay (W), 7-5, OT
- 135: - Olsson (SPF) d Mraz (Br), 5-3, OT
- 140: - Mike Montgomery (RP) d Dan Coppola (SH), 11-10
- 145: - Branco (RP) d Coughlin (GL), 3-2
- 152: - Sam Martin (So Pl) p Larry Peotter (NPr)
- 160: - Dustin Brooks (Boonton) d Eric Bergman (SH), 8-5
- 171: - Umar Tamarov (Br), 12-7
- 189: - Lloyd (Mo) d Jon Conroy (So Pl), 8-3
- 215: - Rich Tabor (Elizabeth) d Mike Hall (Mad), 3-2
- Hwt: - Spencer Williams (Par Hills) d Martin (So Pl), 8-1



125-LB REGION 3 CHAMP...Raider Sal Gano, top, pinned Matt Nobbs of New Providence in 1:42 to win the 125-lb Region 3 title.



PULLING OFF AN UPSET...Raider heavyweight Joe Blaes, right, upset second-seeded Eric Kaminsky of Johnson, 5-2, to advance to the semifinals.

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