

Wrestlers Spence, Pickett, Stevenson head to OFSSA

Brent Pickett, John Stevenson and Chris Spence will represent E.C. Drury in Windsor on March 5-6 at the 1990 Ontario Federation of Secondary Schools Athletics (OFSSA) wrestling championships.

The three E.C. Drury students are making their OFSSA debuts and will be joined by Bishop Reding's Tat Zanatta, the first ever OFSSA wrestling qualifier from that school. Drury also qualified former

Reding wrestler Trevor Brent but he will not be able to compete at OFSSA.

Several other Milton wrestlers qualified as alternates and could make the provincials should one of the qualifiers withdraw.

As a team Drury again performed beyond expectations falling just short of upsetting White Oakes for second. E.C. Drury captured eight medals over all with 12 finalists.

Reding was a distant fourth with four medalists and seven finalists.

Stevenson and Brent captured their first Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) crowns. While both were in small weight classes they won their titles convincingly.

In the 38 kilo division Pickett pulled off one of the day's biggest upsets. His OFSSA chances looked slim when Bishop Ryan's John Reda dropped a weight class to join team-

mate Mike Buccalon who had already defeated Pickett three times. Pickett responded with the best fight of his career, defeating Buccalon by technical superiority 12-0 in just over a minute. Reda captured the gold but Pickett's silver qualifies him for the provincial championship.

Chris Spence narrowly missed a GHAC title and then narrowly survived a challenge for the OFSSA berth. In Spence's gold medal bout he fell behind 5-0 early in the match. He roared back through and apparently tie it 6-6 with 20 seconds to go but the referee did not award the point giving Bishop Ryan's Angelo Centurami the decision.

Since Spence and third place Dave McLeary of White Oakes both lost to Centurami, McLeary was able to challenge for the OFSSA berth. This time it was White Oakes disputing the scoring though when the dust settled Spence emerged with a 9-7 win.

Another Drury highlight was Don Dundas in the 72 kilogram division who managed only a fourth place in the Halton Championships but improved to Halton's second best at GHAC. Dundas reached the final by defeating Halton champion Andrew

Costley of Nelson in his best career bout.

While E.C. Drury enjoyed considerable success they also had their disappointments. Both Lee Black and Dave Wilson placed second but faced challenges by White Oakes wrestlers who they defeated last week.

Black, who had trouble getting on track all day, was victimized by an early pin against Tarig Sheikh who was second to Black last week at the Halton championships.

Wilson was challenged by James Bongard of White Oakes and lost a controversial decision. The match had a number of calls that could have gone either way. Wilson took a 4-1 lead into the second round but Bongard came back to tie 6-6 when Wilson was given a questionable one point penalty.

GHAC ends the wrestling season though some will continue at OFSSA and in Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association events.

It was expected to be a tough rebuilding year at perennially strong E.C. Drury but the young Spartan team had an outstanding season performing consistently above expectations.



Photo by JON BLACKER

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