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Able to rely on youth

Freshman lifts Wisconsin Rapids

By JOE SHINNERS

Posted: Mar. 7, 2009

Madison - Most coaches would shudder at the thought of a freshman's hands holding the fate of his team.

Not Wisconsin Rapids wrestling coach Scott Benitz.

In the most anticipated rematch of the year, Benitz watched 160-pound freshman sensation Devin Peterson deliver a crucial victory that lifted the Red Raiders past Wausau West, 25-23, in the Division 1 final of the state team wrestling tournament Saturday night at the University of Wisconsin Field House.

"We'll put (our fate) in the hands of one of our freshman anytime," Benitz said. "Those guys come up huge."

None more so than Peterson in the final match of the night during a tight and tense dual that began at 171 pounds.

Peterson's 14-5 major decision over Wausau West senior Marcus Casillas carried Rapids in a battle between two nationally ranked teams.

"When we had our team meeting and we knew what the draw was, I started to get a little nervous," Peterson said. "I came out focused and after the beginning, I felt really good."

West (27-5), the defending Division 1 champion with four state individual champions on its roster, was ranked No. 16 by WIN-Magazine.com and Rapids was No. 18 in the publication's national rankings. Rapids (28-2) had two individual state champions and a pair of runners-up on its roster.

The state title gave Rapids its 13th in 15 years and 18th overall as the Red Raiders regained the Division 1 trophy after missing the tournament a year ago. The victory also came against a Wisconsin Valley Conference rival in West and was the closest Division 1 final since Milton edged Rapids, 25-21, in 2002.

Benitz may have remained calm. But Peterson, seeking his fourth major decision over Casillas this year, admitted to some jitters with Rapids trailing, 23-21.

Peterson's shot at glory wouldn't have materialized if it wasn't for Rapids freshman Rylan Lubeck. Lubeck defeated Wausau West senior Sam Umlauf, 4-2, in overtime at 130 in the biggest shock of the dual. Umlauf won the 130 state title a week ago.

Each team won seven of the 14 matches and had one technical fall. Rapids put up a pair of major decisions, and that was the difference.

Ellsworth 35, Lodi 23: Ellsworth sophomore DJ Yarwood pinned Lodi junior Ryan Lehr in 1 minute 59 seconds at 119, and the Panthers (17-7) avenged a loss in the Division 2 final to Lodi (27-2) a year ago.

Mineral Point 58, Random Lake 6: In Division 3, the Pointers (22-2) won 12 of the 14 matches, posted six pins and cruised to their third straight state title.

DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

Wisconsin Rapids Lutheran 25, Wausau West 23. 103: Jon Schuster, WW, def. Jake Jaborek, WRL, 4-1. 112: Ben Westover, WRL, def. Joey Marsh, WW, 7-5. 119: Rickie Pody, WW, def. Jake Raflik, WRL, 6-3. 125: Coltin Brehm, WRL, def. Mitch Barnetzke, WW, 7-2. 130: Rylan Lubeck, WRL, won in OT over Sam Umlauf, WW, 4-3. 135: Ben Best, WRL, maj. dec. over Jason Kyle, WW, 14-4. 140: Steven Monk, WW, def. Zak Benitz, WRL, 7-2. 145: Shawn Perry, WW, tech. fall over Jerad Jaborek, WRL, 23-8. 152: Conner Monk, WW, def. Cole Plowman, WRL, 6-0. 160: Devin Peterson, WRL, maj. dec. over Marcus Casillas, WW, 14-5. 171: Luke Ortscheid, WW, won in OT over Vaughn Grube, WRL, 3-1. 189: Jackson Hein, WW, won in OT over Doug Fuller, 9-6. 215: Vance Grube, WRL, tech. fall over Travis Teske, WW 27-12. 285: Curt Fuller, WRL, won in OT over Evan Knutson, WW, 3-2.

DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP

Ellsworth 35, Lodi 23. 103: Keegan Einerson, LOD, tech. fall over Brent Stocckwell, ELL, 17-2. 112: Sam Huppert, ELL, maj. dec. over Kasey Einerson, LOD, 11-2. 119: DJ Yarwood, ELL, pinned Ryan Lehr, LOD, 1:59. 125: Taylor Boettcher, ELL, maj. dec. over Clint Heimbecker, LOD, 9-0. 130: Spencer Beard, ELL, def. Getaswe Shimshak, LOD, 7-3. 135: Joe Kornmann, ELL, def. Dillon Schutz, LOD, 11-10. 140: Spencer Kuessel, ELL, pinned Justin Miller, LOD, 0:53. 145: Hayden Hauschildt, ELL, def. Tony Zeman, LOD, 5-10. 152: Logan Einerson, LOD, pinned Josh Claflin, ELL, 3:08. 160: Shawn Helmueller, ELL, def. Dakota Cable, LOD, 8-6. 171: Kyle McKearn, LOD, def. Joran Borst, ELL, 2-1. 189: Corey Deiss, ELL, def. Hans Klopp, LOD, 12-8. 215: Cody Endres, LOD, pinned Tyler Hunter, ELL, 1:05. 285: Brock Miller, LOD, def. Alex

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DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONSHIP

Mineral Point 58, Random Lake 8. 103: Cody Bertram, MP, maj. dec. over Mark Meyer, RL, 9-0. **112:** Garrett Smart, MP, pinned Brandin Depies, RL, 1:07. **119:** Justin Mudlaff, RL, def. Todd Tibbits, MP, 10-4. **125:** Nick Mudlaff, RL, won in OT over Dylan Schroeder, MP, 3-1. **130:** Trevor Yager, MP, pinned BJ Decker, RL, 1:03. **135:** Tucker Pittz, MP, def Tyler Lawrenz, RL, 3-0. **140:** Bo Doney, MP, pinned Lucas Schneider, RL, 3:18. **145:** Tyler Tonkin, MP, maj. dec. over Jerome Hanson, RL, 11-3. **152:** Cord Yager, MP, pinned Jared Hildebrand, RL, 3:33. **160:** Alex Johnson, MP, tech. fall over Dan Pieper, RL, 17-2. **171:** Jordan Tibbits, MP, def. Matt Knight, RL, 4-0. **189:** Bradley Tibbits, MP, pinned Jacob Birenbaum, 1:33. **215:** Mike McKinley, MP, def. Mason Anklam, RL, 7-2. **285:** Cody Burke, MP, pinned Joe Schneider, RL, 0:16.

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