

FRESNO CITY WINS SECOND WRESTLING TITLE IN THREE YEARS

VICTORVILLE: The biggest cheer of the championship match came at an awkward time during the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Wrestling State Championships, held at Victor Valley College. With the 141-pound match in full swing, the entire Fresno City College team broke out in a loud cheer. It was discovered that after Santa Ana College's Gabe Aguilar had lost his 133-pound match against Sierra College's Todd Wilcox, the Rams had clinched their second title in three years and state-leading 10th championship.

Fresno City also added to their individual state championships, as sophomore 125-pound Angel Olea and 157-pound Alfonso Sanchez became two-time champions, while 184-pound Steven Urquizo also won a title. That gives the Rams 51 individual state champions, followed by Cerritos, who now has 46 after Mike Koehnlein won the championship at 141 pounds.

For complete results, go to <http://www.tmi.150m.com/Results2008-2009/08-JCSt-R3.pdf>

Below is a brief recap of each state championship match.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES (Season records in parenthesis)

125 Pounds

Angel Olea (Fresno City; 31-1) def. Jaime Martinez (Santa Ana; 25-4), 10-1

Sophomore Angel Olea became a 2-time state champion with his 10-1 win over Jaime Martinez of Santa Ana. Olea was dominant from the outset and held a 9-0 lead in the third period. He had Martinez on his back in the first period and posted a three-point near-fall with 1:31 left in the period and earned 2:20 of riding time. It was more of the same for Olea, who was also selected the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

133 Pounds

Todd Wilcox (Sierra; 31-5) def. Gabe Aguilar (Santa Ana; 24-3), 3-2

The team title was secured after Todd Wilcox defeated Gabe Aguilar, as the Dons needed to win all four of their finals matches to pull out the team victory. Wilcox took a 2-0 lead with a take down with 1:38 remaining in the first, but Aguilar escaped with 38 seconds left. Seemingly a step behind, Aguilar didn't make his move until midway through the third period and had Wilcox called for a stall warning. However, Wilcox was able to hold on to earn the championship.

141 Pounds

Mike Koehnlein (Cerritos; 39-4) def. Bobby Scofield (Santa Ana; 30-8), 9-2

Being the aggressor from the outset, Mike Koehnlein avenged his loss to Bobby Scofield in the Southern California Regional Championships with a convincing 9-2 win. Scofield seemed to have Koehnlein in trouble with a possible pinning situation, but Koehnlein escaped out of it before the end of the period and posted a reversal and a 4-0 lead. He carried that into the third period and finished with a 9-2 victory.

149 Pounds

Brad Kummerer (Lassen; 16-3) def. Ian Millan (Rio Hondo; 27-3), 11-4

Jumping out to a 2-0 lead after the first period, Brad Kummerer upped that lead to 4-0 after a takedown with 1:51 remaining in the second period. Millan did get a quick reversal, but Kummerer posted an escape point to end the second and start the third periods, while he added a takedown with a minute left in the match. Millan put a scare into Kummerer with a two-point near-fall, but Kummerer had built up enough of a lead to post the win.

157 Pounds

Alfonso Sanchez (Fresno City; 31-1) def. Robert Carothers (Sacramento City), 14-6

After winning the state championship in 2006, Alfonso Sanchez took a year off. It didn't seem to affect him, as he came back in 2008 and capped off his season with a 14-6 win over upset-minded Robert Carothers. Sanchez was in control from the very beginning and posted three takedowns in the first period. He saw his lead slip to 6-5 after a reversal by Carothers with 58 seconds left in the second period. But Sanchez rebounded and pulled away in the third for the win.

165 Pounds

Zeth St. Clair (Sierra; 29-4) def. Dustin Reid (Shasta; 26-7); 9-3

Zeth St. Clair took a 5-0 first period lead and looked to pin Dustin Reid after he combined a takedown and a near fall in the first period. Although he survived the pinning situation, Reid was only able to collect a third period takedown, while St. Clair rode his 6-0 lead to a 9-3 victory and the second of three state championships for Sierra.

174 Pounds

Cody Vasconcellos (Sacramento City; 34-0) def. Mike Fucci (Sierra; 30-6), 2-0

In a defensive battle, Cody Vasconcellos capped off an undefeated season with a 2-0 win over Mike Fucci. After a scoreless first period, Vasconcellos recorded an escape point nine seconds into the second period and then rode Fucci the entire third period for a riding time point.

184 Pounds

Steven Urquizo (Fresno City; 31-4) vs. Caleb Gerl (Cerritos; 36-4); 5-3

In another close match, Steven Urquizo held off an aggressive attack by Caleb Gerl to record a 5-3 win. Opening up a 3-0 lead after a near-fall in the second period, Gerl responded with a reversal with 1:07 remaining in the second. With Gerl literally riding Urquizo, he saw his opponent torque his body at the buzzer to earn a two-point reversal and a 5-2 lead heading into the third. Gerl once again tried the same attack for the entire third period, but Urquizo held him off and won the match.

197 Pounds

Tyler Garcia (Santa Ana; 34-4) pinned Julian Silva (Mt. San Antonio; 19-8); 1:52

In the only pin during the state championships, Tyler Garcia of Santa Ana gave his team their lone individual state champion out of the four that reached the finals. With a tight 3-3 match in the first period, Garcia made his move and had Silva on his back for several seconds before getting the pin and victory.

285 Pounds

Matt Gibson (Sierra; 34-1) def. Juan Enriquez (Cerritos; 36-5); 9-3

The much taller Matt Gibson finished the championships with a win over Juan Enriquez, who improved on his third place finish from last year. Leading 7-0 in the third period, Gibson withstood a last-ditch attempt by Enriquez, who got his arms wrapped around Gibson and looked to get him on his back. But Gibson was able to get out of bounds and rode out the clock for the championship.

MVP - Angel Olea (Fresno City)

Coach of the Year - Paul Keysaw (Fresno City)

Assistant Coach of the Year - Sal Gonzalez (Fresno City)