

Belaire's Carr wears crown after 0-30 start

By TONY ROMANACH
Advocate Correspondent

Once upon a time there lived in a far away place an ambitious kid whose only wish in life was to be a king, but who lacked the skill to earn the golden crown.

One day, however, this kid met a magician who told him to persevere in his endeavor and things would fall into place. A few more setbacks later, the kid found the hidden skill and eventually got to wear the golden crown.

Oh yes, he went on to live happily ever after.

Sounds familiar? If you've been out of contact with fairy tales lately, then probably you're not aware of the one which climaxed just last weekend.

The setting for the climactic ending wasn't an exotic place in Never Never Land; in fact, it was just a gymnasium at Baker High.

But the story did not begin at Baker on February 7, 1980. Jack Carr's tale goes back to the fall of 1976.

An aspiring freshman at Belaire in 1977, Carr found his magician in Jerry Schletter who encouraged Carr to try out for the wrestling team.

"If it weren't for Jerry, I wouldn't have been in wrestling," Carr said.

But to Carr, Schletter's magic must have appeared to have lost all spark as Carr lost all 26 matches he wrestled in 1977.

Though '77 seemed a lost season, in retrospect it may have

been the kindling Carr's fire needed to explode.

Still, Carr would have to persevere some more before igniting in the right direction.

After putting on 100 pounds and wrestling at 155 for the first four matches of '78, Carr underwent a knee operation and had an 0-30 mark to show for his two years of dedication to the sport he loved.

"Those ('77 and '78) were the sacrifice years in which I just learned," said Carr.

The year 1979 brought Carr two things which blended to foreshadow ultimate success: 12 more pounds to his frame and the arrival at Belaire of former LSU wrestling coach Dale Ketelsen.

Carr quickly made the transition and victories began to fill Carr's left side of the ledger.

Eventually, the Bengal wrestler compiled a 29-5 record in his 167-pound category. But another disappointment was in the makings as Carr made an early bid for the crown.

"I was seeded first in the city, but I got sick and wound up third," explained Carr. Frustration followed Carr the next week as his sickness prevented him from competing in the regionals — his one-way ticket to the coronation ceremonies.

Once again, Carr came back.

"(Inability to wrestle in the regionals) made me try harder," said Carr.

And that he did in 1980.

In typical Carr style, Jack approached his 1980 matches with a strategy centering on intensity.

"I just tell myself I'm not going to get tired," noted Carr. "Then I just work on technique and try to have fun like Coach

Ketelsen says. The rest just happens."

In the 1980 regular season the rest were 18 victories, including five second places and one third place, against just five defeats, while splitting time at 167 and at 185.

Though he wrestled nine times in the heavier division, Carr remained unbeaten locally at 167. That is, of course, with the exception of his wrestle-offs against teammate Richard Larkin for the opportunity to wrestle. The road looked bleak for "Foot," a nicknamed Carr acquired during his punting heroics in the past football season, when he lost 11-10 to Larkin the wrestle-offs prior to the City Meet.

Not one to be discouraged easily, Carr kept his dream on line as he improvised in capturing second place at 185 while weighing just 168.

A few days later, Carr came back and pinned Larkin in overtime and took a 9-3 decision over his teammate in the wrestle-offs to compete at 167 in the Regional tournament.

"If I'd lost (to Larkin), all my work would have been for nothing."

But his efforts showed.

"Jack's the best technician we have getting his body back in place," noted Ketelsen.

The back-breaking hours of past disappointments seemed to be well behind Carr as he captured his first tournament of 1980 in the Regional Meet. His victory, which qualified him to earn the elusive crown at the State tournament, was all the more significant since it helped Belaire come from behind to defeat Baker.

And it was in Baker where we had left our story before the quick flashback.

Carr's first match in the state tournament was against Tara's Kevin Taylor. Taylor proved to be no problem for Carr as he won, 10-2.

However, in the quarterfinals, Carr went against whom he calls his toughest opponent, Catholic Hig's Mike Leggio. Leggio nearly became the Wicked Witch of the West before Carr used a third-period reversal to send the match into overtime.

Carr prevailed 4-2 in the extra session. "I just rode him and countered his moves," Carr said.

Carr had another tough match in the semifinals before he defeated Parkway's Kevin Wilson, 5-4.

"I tried to get my mind off the match (finals) until 30 minutes before it," said Carr. "Then I meditated and had a flashback from my earlier years. This really motivated me most because this match was all that I'd worked for."

As in all fairy tales, the behind-the-scenes good guy returns for the tear-jerking finale.

As Carr looked for support in his final high school match, he received it from the two coaches in his corner: Ketelsen and Schletter.

"I called Jerry (Schletter) before the finals and asked him to sit in my corner," recalled Carr.

And it was a good thing since Carr needed all the support he could muster, as he fell behind 7-1 to Jesuit's Randy Hubbell through two periods.

But, for the 1,000th time, Carr came back.

Jack Carr became the Bengal's first state wrestling champion as he rallied for an 11-9 triumph. More importantly for Carr, however, was the fact he got to wear the crown.

Carr, with Olympic competition as his new goal, won the crown as a gift for his mother for her birthday.

Deumite's state title was a present for Steve

By RICK WEST
Advocate Sportswriter

Promises are made to be kept. So says and so does Catholic High wrestler Scott Deumite.

What was idle small-talk early last fall between Scott and his older brother Steve turned into a dedicated commitment when Steve was killed in an auto accident in late September.

And Scott delivered by winning the state 155-pound wrestling championship for Catholic High a few days ago.

"Steve was always interested in my wrestling, maybe because he never did it in high school. His game was football," says Scott in recalling one of their last conversations. "I told him my goal for my senior season was to win state and he talked like he thought I could. So when he died, I dedicated the season to him by vowing I'd win that championship."

Now Scott's 39 victims over the past

season know what made the stocky Bruin wrestle like a man possessed. He was. "As the season wore on, word got around how Scott was destroying the competition and his opponents started avoiding him, pulling stalling tactics to catch him off guard. No one seemed to want to take him on head-to-head," adds Catholic's wrestling coach Bobby Navo.

Scott's dedication to his brother wasn't exactly a secret, although only those closest to his family and his team knew of it. When this writer heard about it around Christmas and asked Deumite about doing the story, the youngster declined for the moment, but promised to reveal it if he won state.

"I didn't want anyone feeling sorry for me. I wanted to win anything I got on my own ability. It still hurts to talk about Steve and I don't guess I'll ever really get over his loss, but I did promise to discuss it if you'd wait," Deumite told me.

The 17-year-old son of Norman and Kay Deumite, Scott was particularly close to Steve because the two were only 13 months apart in age. "They had their fights like any brothers will, but they never stayed mad. And as Steve graduated from high school last year and went on to college, they seemed to grow closer," says mother.

The boys played ball around the neighborhood, on CYO teams and in school together. They double-dated at times and once took off on a trip to Florida.

Proudest person in the audience when Steve picked up four awards for outstanding play in football at Catholic's athletic banquet his senior year was teammate/brother Scott.

"When Steve went to LSU we didn't see as much of each other, but our times together seemed to mean more. He was the closest friend I ever had, the person I told my most secret secrets to. Not to say we

couldn't confide in Dad. We've always been able to be pretty open with him, but it was just different, y'know . . ." Scott says.

As wrestling workouts began late last fall, Navo saw that special drive Scott had to his work. "He was good his junior year, which was really his first season in the sport, and he got by mostly on strength. Still, he finished fourth in state in the 145-pound class.

"But this past season, everything seemed to fall together. He learned several new moves, things like how to ride legs and different pinning combinations, things that would make him a more complete wrestler.

"He stayed after practice and put in the extra effort and time. Without a doubt, he's the hardest-working wrestler I ever

coached," adds Navo. And continues the coach, "Along about mid-season, he was unbeaten and was probably feeling a little cocky when he met Belaire's Bobby Sartin in the Lee High Invitational and Bobby handled him pretty good, beating Scott something like 9-3."

A combination of embarrassment and fear of not keeping his word to his brother pushed Scott into another frenzy of work which was culminated by his beating Sartin in the finals of the state tournament at Baker.

"It didn't take much encouragement from me," says Navo. "He knew what he had to do, but I did give him added incentive by challenging him to become only the fifth wrestler in Catholic High history to win state. He did the rest."

JV wrestlers qualify for regional at Lee

Redemptorist, Baker, Lee, Catholic and Belaire were the leading teams qualifying wrestlers Saturday at Lee High for next week's junior varsity state tournament to be held at Lee High next Saturday.

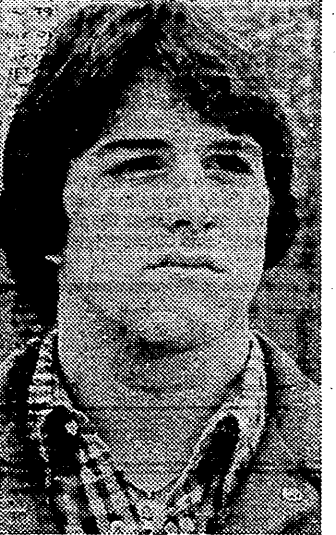
Weigh-in starts at 9 a.m. with wrestling getting under way at 10:30.

In Saturday's regionals at Lee, the top four wrestlers in each of the 16 divisions advanced to the state tournament. Also advancing were the top four finishers in the three other regionals held at New Orleans and at Lafayette.

Saturday's local qualifiers were:

- 85 — Chris Frey (CHS); Rodi Rispono (Red); Steven Fern (BRHS); Steve Folmar (Baker).
- 90 — Greg Lejeune (Brushy); Ed Bruch (Lee).
- 95 — Derrick Rispono (Red); Alan Pourclau (Brushy);

- Todd Millert (Tara); Andy Browning (Bel).
- 100 — Joe Pittinger (CHS); Casey Folmar (Baker); Jeff Aire (Lee); Brad Chauvin (Tara).
- 105 — Craig Mistretta (Red); George Rova (Red); Clark Welis (Baker); Mike Bruce (BRHS).
- 110 — Kevin Donaldson (CHS); Greg Campagna (Red); Ben Cupit (Baker); Bill Mayer (CHS).
- 115 — Burt Tolle (Lee); Kenneth Minor (Cap); Jeff Archer (Bell); Rob Grenillion (Red).
- 120 — Tommy Chabreck (Lee); Robert Bruce (BRHS); Steve Stringer (Baker); Karl Viziant (Baker).
- 125 — Jonathan Brown (Cap); Craig Melancon (CHS); Robert Hill (Tara); Shane Breux (Bel).
- 130 — Brad Bush (Lee); David Nilville (Cap); Bob Wilson (Bell); Joseph Sabatary (Cap).
- 135 — Jeff Cronan (Tara); Mike Dunigan (Lee); Darrin Broussard (CHS); Mark Scardina (Bel).
- 140 — Ricky Cucullo (Baker); Walter Wilson (Cap); Michael Curry (CHS); Glen Greenblatt (Red).
- 145 — Shawn Crane (Lee); Rate Cupit (Baker); Jay Brown (BRHS); James Shaheen (Bel).
- 150 — George Trozell (Bel); Ricky Hall (BRHS); Brent Maggio (CHS); Bryan Tennison (Tara).
- 155 — Billy Ray (BRHS); Keith David (Bel); Andrew Green (Cap); David Redd (Baker).
- Hwt. — Gary Blades (BRHS); Dale Martin (Bel); Dan Bankhead (CHS); Lynn Gomez (Red).



Scott Deumite

Area teams advance in girls play

By HARLEEN IVEY III
Advocate Correspondent

Local district champions Denham Springs, Zachary and Clinton came away with bi-district wins this past weekend, but favorites Broadmoor and Episcopal weren't as fortunate in girls' prep playoff action this past week.

Denham Springs, champion of 7-AAAA, had little trouble with 9-AAAA runner-up O. Perry Walker, winning 51-32 on Valentine's Day. District 6-AAA tittist Zachary stole 5-AAAA runner-up Crowley blind in fashioning a 68-44 rout Friday, and 9-AA winner Clinton eliminated Ascension Catholic of 10-AA 46-39 Thursday night.

Highly regarded Broadmoor had its hopes for a Sweet Sixteen tournament berth dashed early by a poised Opelousas team, which knocked the 6-AAAA champion Lady Bucs out of the playoffs 35-23 in a regional contest. Both teams had drawn byes in the bi-district round. The Lady-Bucs closed out their 1979-80 campaign with a 17-4 record.

District 4-A champion Episcopal, unbeaten in 14 league games, ran into a tough Greensburg squad, which pinned a 53-50 overtime loss on the Lady Knights in a regional matchup. The Lady Knights finished the season with a 20-5 mark.

In other playoff matches, 7-AAAA

runner-up Baker edged 9-AAAA kingpin Abramson 47-46 in New Orleans Friday night, 5-A champ Kentwood ousted Sunshine 57-42 in a regional clash, and E. D. White stopped 9-AA second-place finisher Upper Pointe Coupee.

Six-Quad A runner-up McKinley, which bested St. Armand in a playoff for second place, drew a bye in the opening round. Redemptorist and Port Allen met Saturday night to determine the runner-up to Zachary in 6-AAA. Port Allen finished second in the first round and Redemptorist beat the Lady Pels Thursday night to create a tie for second in the second round and force a playoff.

Both 7-AAAA representatives will be on the road Monday night for their regional games. Denham Springs will take on 8-AAAA runner-up Terrebonne in Houma and Baker will host South Lafourche, tittist in 8-AAAA, Monday at 7 p.m.

Zachary, 26-1 overall, is one win away from a trip to Alexandria for the Sweet Sixteen tourney, but that one win may be hard to come by. The Lady Broncos' next opponent will be the winner of Monday night's Hammond-Lutcher bi-district contest, which will be played in Hammond.

Should Hammond win that game, Zachary would also have to play the Lady Tors at Hammond.

Sparked by All-America Kim Mulkey, the three-time Quad-A champion Lady Tors, now competing in Class AAA, defeated Zachary 101-80 earlier this season to put the only blemish on the Zachary record.

McKinley will meet 5-AAAA champion New Iberia Monday night at Tara in a 7:30 regional contest.

Denham Springs senior trio of Jackie Brown, Joni Stockton and Renee Mosely helped push the Lady Yellow Jackets to a quick 12-4 lead and "The Family" had little trouble thereafter with the visiting O. Perry Walker Chargettes. Brown led Denham with 12 points, and Stockton and Mosely had 11 each.

"We've played together as a team all season long and knew that we'd have to do so again to win," commented Brown in explaining the togetherness apparent on the Denham squad.

A sticky, switching Opelousas defense gave Broadmoor trouble all evening, holding the Lady Bucs scoreless for a 10-minute stretch, and only allowing six shots by the Lady Bucs in the final quarter.

Susan Conner led Broadmoor with eight points. Opelousas got 10-point scoring from Vanessa Guillory and Paula Rideau in boosting their record to 20-6. The victory will send Opelousas to the quarterfinals against the DeRidder-

Bossier winner and put it a single win away from Alexandria.

Zachary had 28 steals to "rip off" visiting Crowley and advance to the regionals.

"We have to do that — we're so small," said Zachary first-year coach Donna McClain. "I had every confidence we'd do well once we started playing our game."

After a sluggish start which saw it on the backside of a 15-13 first-period score, Zachary bounced back behind the fine play of Denise Sanford and Dede Brown. Brown led all scorers with 18 points and Sanford tallied 16. Jackie Perkins added 12 for Zachary.

Robbie Foster hit a 20-foot jump shot with six seconds left to score the winning points for Baker against Abramson. A steal by Michelle Walton with 15 seconds remaining set up the winning shot.

Baker had been down by six points with three minutes left.

"Our poise when we were six points behind so late in the game was remarkable . . . especially for such a young team playing its first season together," said Baker coach J. W. Green. "Even more remarkable was the way our bench came through when two of our starters (Veda Ferdinand and Mary Ann Rice) fouled out. Sabrina Lemoine and Stacey Shelton came in and played like veterans."

Winning strategy? Ask the players

By AL TIRCUIT
Advocate Sportswriter

You'd think that one team being able to come back and defeat another after trailing almost the entire game would require some sort of special coaching strategy.

Not according to Glen Randow, however, who saw his Catholic High School's Golden Bears capture a 55-52, come-from-behind District 6-AAA second-round basketball victory over Plaquemine's Green Devils at Plaquemine Friday night.

"I don't know what happened, you'll have to talk to them about it," commented a stunned, but happy Randow, following Catholic's comeback victory. "What they did came about because they wanted to make it happen. I didn't have anything to do with it all."

What happened made Randow's Bruins the talk of last Friday night's East Baton Rouge Parish lower classification basketball action.

Friday's other Triple-A results found Redemptorist downing Donaldsonville 71-57, Zachary beating Walker 67-54 and Woodlawn falling to Port Allen 93-75.

Episcopal defeated University High 70-57, Southern Lab beat Sunshine 123-84 in District 4-A and Chaneyville captured a 71-56 District 5-A victory over Pride.

"I told our kids the kids that things looked bad, but I felt that we could come back and win," Randow said. "I just wanted them to settle down and take things one step at a time in the second half."

Catholic, behind for all but the game's final six seconds, trailed 32-12 with 2:34 remaining in the first half. Doug

Hanegan's driving layup put the Bears in front 53-52 for the first time and Ben Beychok's basket, one second before the final buzzer, made it 55-52.

"These kids haven't quit on me all season long and I knew they wouldn't this time either," said Randow. "What they were able to accomplish is something that can't be coached. It comes from courage and desire on their part."

Ben Beychok scored 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, leading Catholic to its 21st victory against 12 setbacks this year. Alvin LeDuff added 14 points and Jeff LeDuff 10 helping the Bruins remain unbeaten at 6-0 in District 6-AAA's second-

round.

Catholic will face archrival and first-round champion Redemptorist in the regular-season finale for both teams at Catholic High Tuesday night. The Bears, bidding for a third straight Triple-A playoff berth, are hoping to advance as 6-AAA champs after two successive runner-up finishes behind Redemptorist.

Zachary will travel to Plaquemine Monday night and Woodlawn will host Donaldsonville Tuesday in the final regular-season games.

District 4-A champion Southern Lab will play 5-A runner-up Chaneyville in regional playoff action.

Snow cancels races

REVERE, Mass. (AP) — Dog racing scheduled for Saturday night at Wonderland Park was cancelled because of a snow storm, a spokesman said.

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