

PLYMOUTH STATE DEFEATS RIC WRESTLING IN DRAMATIC FASHION

PANTHERS COME FROM BEHIND TO EDGE ANCHORMEN 18-17

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Plymouth State University won five of the final six bouts to rally from a 14-0 deficit to pull off a dramatic 18-17 victory over the Rhode Island College wrestling team on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

"Overall, I am happy with my team's effort but we need to find a way to win no matter what, and unfortunately we didn't do that tonight," said RIC head coach Jay Jones after the meet.

Competing in their first New England Wrestling Association (NEWA) dual meet of the season, the Anchormen were given a tough task facing Plymouth State, which is currently ranked number five in the NEWA conference.

The match began at the 125 lbs. weight class, where RIC junior captain Brandon Gauthier, who is currently the number five ranked wrestler in New England, took on the number one ranked 125 lbs. wrestler Josh Huber. Gauthier dominated the match from start to finish, winning 6-2.

Both of RIC's 133 lbs. wrestlers were out, so sophomore 125 lbs. wrestler Michael Sugermeyer was bumped up to take on Plymouth State's Mike Trask. Sugermeyer went on to win very one-sidedly 12-2.

RIC junior Michael Trasso and senior captain Kevin Sutherland handled their opponents easily, with Trasso winning 11-4 and Sutherland winning 15-2. With a 14-0 lead, it appeared as though the Anchormen would secure their

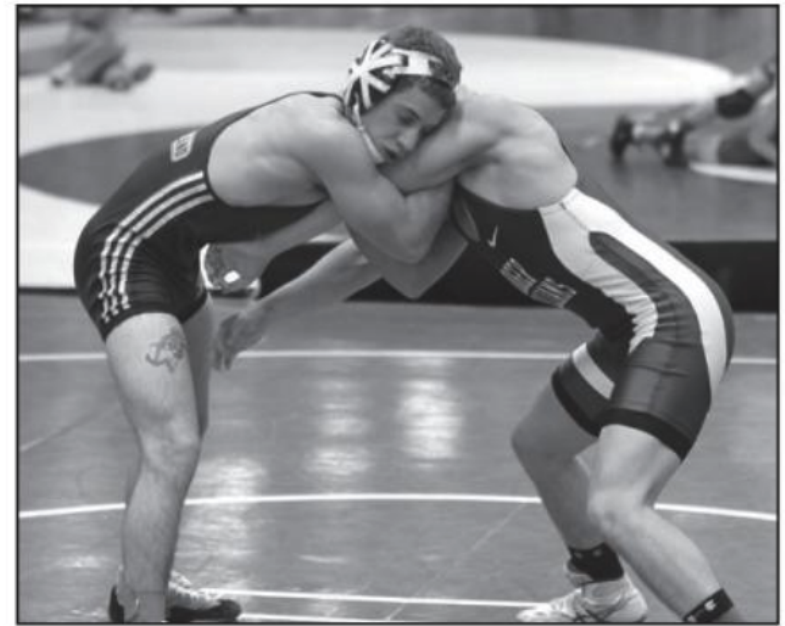
first victory of the season.

However, the tides changed as RIC junior Geoff Riccio fell to New England's number one ranked wrestler at 157 lbs. Mike Willey with a final score of 7-4. Plymouth State went on to win both matches at 165 lbs. and 174 lbs. as well, bringing the score to 14-9.

RIC 184 lbs. senior Christopher Dean brought life back to the Anchormen by beating number five ranked wrestler Rob Phillips to move the score to 17-9. However, the Panthers won the final two matches of the night, one by decision and one by fall, to bring the final score to RIC 17, Plymouth State 18.

Losing by a single point is tough for any team, but the Anchormen left the gym with their heads held high. As the coaching staff predicted, the upper weight classes are young and lacking experience, but several freshmen and new starters stepped into the spot light and gave a great effort.

RIC freshman Adam Lynch competed in his first collegiate match of his career, and lost only by three to the Panthers Chris Rideout, a veteran NEWA ranked wrestler. Freshmen Bro-



COURTESY OF RIC ATHLETICS

RIC JUNIOR CAPTAIN BRANDON GAUTHIER GRAPPLES.

hen Kruslic and Dustin Wilcox also stepped up and fought hard against ranked wrestlers, and lost by small margins.

The Anchormen didn't bring their full starting lineup that night, but Jones feels that that isn't any excuse. "I think it doesn't matter who we have, or who we bring," said Jones.

The first semester is almost over for the Anchormen, but the young wrestlers are continuing to gain experience. Jones always preaches that "wrestling

is a marathon, not a sprint," so matches this time of year don't hold as much importance as matches in January and February. If the young team continues to get better, the Anchormen should definitely have a shot at the NEWA title.

RIC's final match of the semester is Friday, Dec. 10 at the Murray Center where they will take on NEWA opponent Western New England College at 7 p.m.

Rhode Island College 17	Plymouth State 18
125 LBS. BRANDON GAUTHIER (RIC) DEF. JOSH HUBER (PSU), 6-2	165 LBS. DUSTIN RUDY (PSU) DEF. DUSTIN WILCOX (RIC), 3-1
133 LBS. MIKE SUGERMAYER (RIC) DEF. MIKE TRASK (PSU), 12-2	174 LBS. SETH CARTER (PSU) DEF. BROHEN KRSLIC (RIC), 12-7
141 LBS. MIKE TRASSO (RIC) DEF. FEMI WHEELER (PSU), 11-4	184 LBS. CHRIS DEAN (RIC) DEF. ROB PHILLIPS (PSU), 5-4
149 LBS. KEVIN SUTHERLAND (RIC) DEF. CODY OLIVERIO (PSU), 15-2	197 LBS. CHRIS RIDEOUT (PSU) DEF. ADAM LYNCH (RIC), 7-4
157 LBS. MIKE WILLEY (PSU) DEF. GEOFF RICCIO (RIC), 7-4	285 LBS. JAKE GAGNON (PSU) PINNED BRANDON REGNAULT (RIC), 0:22