

## Two area grapplers stay alive thanks to consolation win

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By Harold Raker

HERSHEY—Warrior Run's Zack LeBarron won't forget what last year's early exit from the PIAA Class AA tournament taught him.

He found himself in the same position Thursday when he lost 8-6 in overtime to Triston Law of Forest Hills in the preliminary round in the Giant Center.

He recalled that he was not in a good frame after last year's state tournament loss.

"This year, after losing, I am keeping my head," the Defender sophomore 120-pounder said after bouncing back with a 7-0 win over Joe Swank, of Berlinbrothersvalley, in the first consolation round at 120 pounds.

LeBarron joined Upper Dauphin 113-pounder Coy Campbell as wrestlers from the Valley who lost their first bout, but won to stay alive today.

Three Valley wrestlers lost both of their bouts and were eliminated, including returning state place-winner Cameron Newman of Line Mountain.

Campbell, 30-6, lost by technical fall to Brookville's Taylor Ortz, then stayed alive with a 5-1 win over Logan Blackburn, of Westmont-Hilltop.

LeBarron, 37-3 (71-6 career), said he did not allow the heartbreaking preliminary loss hurt his chances of moving on, something he failed to do in his first trip here as a freshman.

Of his win, he simply said, "I got in a rhythm."

Afterward, he was going to get away and clear his mind. "I'm going to relax right now and, (today) I will get in my mindset. You can't think about it now," he said.

But, he added, "I will work harder and hope to come out with a third or fourth."

Newman, a junior, gave up a first-period takedown to lose 2-1 in the opener to Johnathan Gabriel, of Bedford, then saw his season end with a 4-3 loss to Panther Valley's Lenny Ogozalek. Newman finished 36-7 and is 100-34 for his career.

Also bowing out were Lewisburg's Jordan Gessner and Midd-West's Alex Lieberman.

Gessner, a sophomore, lost 9-0 to Austin McDermit, of Burgettstown, then was eliminated by Collin Glorioso, of Huntingdon, 12-3. He finished the year 33-11.

Lieberman fought valiantly to wrestle through a shoulder injury which cost him a chance at the Northeast Regional title last week. The Mustang lost 11-7 to Zane Black, of Bishop McDevitt, then fell in the consolations, 7-0, to Derek Hull, of Chartiers-Houston. He closed out his final season at 33-9 with a career mark of 85-33.