

Defenders hold off Lewisburg rally

Warrior Run 36

Lewisburg 33

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By John Huckaby

LEWISBURG—Lewisburg 195-pounder Nick Bernstein needed a home run Thursday night.

He came close but had to settle for a single.

Bernstein, bumped from his usual 182-pounds, needed a pin in the evening's final bout to send the Lewisburg-Warrior Run dual to criteria.

Bernstein came close to getting the pin with an elevator near the end of the second period. But Warrior Run's Hunter Stroup battled off his back and held off Bernstein in the third period, allowing the Defenders (2-0) to escape with a 36-33 victory in a Heartland Athletic Conference Division II matchup.

Both teams had patchwork lineups with Lewisburg forfeiting three weights and Warrior Run two weights. Lewisburg had several wrestlers out with scholastic woes and Warrior Run Coach Wayne Smythe said his team still doesn't have its weights in order.

Stroup said "I was just thinking of winning for my team. I was fighting as hard as I could to stay off my back." He said Smythe just told him go out and wrestle his match and be physical. "We knew it would be a tough match and we wanted to come out with a W."

Smythe, who collected career win 510, said, "It was a good match, the fans got excited on both sides."

The veteran coach had praise for Stroup. "He went out there to win that match he gave up that four-point takedown he knew that the greater cause was more important and wrestled differently. And that was good.

"He wasn't reacting to it (the elevator). It's not hard to counter but he looked like he was surprised."

Jim Snyder, the Lewisburg coach, said he hoped his team got a lesson from the loss.

"This team has to learn that being a student athlete comes first," he said. "I'm sure there are some teammates are feeling bad this evening as they could have helped out. We have to take care of business in the classroom.

"They have to realize that and also that coming to practice is a priority. To have four starters out, I couldn't be happier with effort."

Of Max Reed's pin at 160, Snyder said, "He really is tough with that cradle. That 13-11 overtime loss really hurt. We win that one and we win don't we."

The Bernstein-Stroup battle was the final decider but several bouts through the dual could be said to be key.

- At 152, Warrior Run's Masen Wagner registered a sudden victory 13-11 win to beat Ray Maurer. Maurer trailed 11-6 before getting a reverse and three near-fall points.
- At 138, Lewisburg's Trey Delbaugh, a freshman, used an escape and takedown in the third period to beat Tyler Hornberger 4-3.
- At 160, Lewisburg's Max Reed, who trailed early 4-1 pinned Elias George.
- At 171, Logan Aikey followed Reed's fall with one of his own to know the dual at 30-3-0.

Lewisburg's fine lightweights, Brian Friery at 106, and Jordan Gessner at 113 collected forfeits. Warrior Run's Eric Hunt (120), Zach LeBarron (126) and Brian LeBarron (132) had two pins and a forfeit.

Lewisburg is 0-1 and entertains Milton Tuesday.