



*Scott Riley works to split his DeLaSalle opponent at the Toys For Tots tournament on December 6, 2008. Riley lost this match, but ended up beating this same opponent at Fitzgerald, where he claimed the title by successfully splitting and pinning his LCN opponent.*

*[Jan 10, 2009]*

Senior Captain Scott Riley does not present an imposing figure. Slender of build and quick with a smile, Riley seems friendly enough. But put him on a wrestling mat and a fiery competitor emerges. That tenacious demeanor was on full display this week as Riley claimed the 135 lb championship at Fitzgerald's always tough Spartan Classic.

Riley entered the season with high expectations this year. As a four year starter, many believed that the veteran would emerge as a bonafide star of the team in 2008-09. But after a tepid start, Riley entered the tournament having lost several close matches to wrestlers he knew he could beat. Instead of dwelling on the losses, Riley learned from each match and has steadily been building steam. Perhaps that is why Mott Coach Gary Skop calls him his "cerebral assassin."

To get to the finals, Riley had to go through Tony Primer, a DeLaSalle opponent that he had lost to at Toys For Tots and then beat in overtime at the Warren City Championships. This time, the match was not that close and Riley moved on fairly easily to the finals where his L'Anse Creuse North opponent awaited him. In the finals, Riley took what he had learned from wrestling with his opponents at practice and pinned his opponent in the "banana splits." It was a dramatic conclusion to a well-earned title.

In other action, Senior Captain Dan Salyers dropped his first match of the season in the 145 lb finals match against Sterling Heights rival, Jermaine Williams. "It just seemed like Dan wasn't ready to wrestle when he stepped on the mat. He fell behind early and then lost his composure when things didn't go his way," noted Coach Skop. "He's going to have to take a page out of Riley's book and learn from his loss. Sometimes a loss can be a good thing at the right time."

In addition to Riley's first place finish and Salyers' second place, the Marauders garnered fourth place finishes from Junior Anthony Best and Senior Captain Devon Williams. Best fell to DeLaSalle rival Padraig Berlin in the consolation finals after losing a squeaker in the semi-finals. Although Best had previously beaten Berlin, he fell behind in the second period and could not come back. Likewise, Williams fell behind early in his consolation match and could not rally.

Mott received excellent contributions from Senior Grant Cobb (160) and Sophomore Rafi Razzouq (152). Despite both wrestlers being first year wrestlers at Mott, each claimed a fifth place finish in the field of 15 teams.

Riley was named Marauder of the Week for his efforts, while Cobb received the weekly "Sid Vicious" award and Razzouq claimed the "Charlie Hustle" award.