

Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Lyons 135-pounder Vincent Elmer (top) attempted to turn Marion's McLaine Bridgeman onto his back. Elmer scored a 7-2 victory.

## Marion up to Lyons challenge

Black Knights extend string of FL West mat titles with hard-fought victory

By CHRIS MARQUART

FINGER LAKES TIMES

LYONS — Lyons senior Nathan Bailey had the easiest job Tuesday night when the Lyons hosted Marion in a showdown for the Finger Lakes West title. Bailey, who had the night off on Senior Night, was assigned one task: Operate the match clock and keep the overall scoring straight.

“The bookkeeper’s duties were far more taxing.

Every weight class was delayed, as rosters and lineups were shifted. The teams searched for every possible advantage.

In the end, the school that has owned the league title kept it all to themselves for another season.

With a 42-30 victory, Marion locked up its fourth straight FL West crown and ran its unbeaten streak in league dual matches to 21. Lyons could have created a three-way for the championship between themselves, Marion and South Seneca.

Black Knights 103-pounder Luke Camp pinned Kyle Gravino to give Marion a 36-30 lead. With a forfeit awaiting Marion 112-pounder C.J. Robinson, Camp’s victory sealed the outcome.

“He came up from a lower weight class, but I’m happy with a win,” Camp said of Gravino, who wrestles in the 96-pound class at tournaments.

“I take nothing away from Marion,” Lyons coach John Lawson said. “Nine

### FL wrestling champs

East: Wayne (3rd straight)  
Central: Mynderse (2nd straight)  
West: Marion (4th straight)

times out of ten, Marion will win this match.”

“This has been a great team, both on and off the mat,” Black Knights coach Tim Bantle said of his group. “They wrestle and practice as a team, and, as a team, we did it.”

Some of the lesser-known Black Knights, athletes like Camp, McLaine Bridgeman and Steve Brannan, delivered crucial efforts in Tuesday’s triumph.

“We had a couple young fellas who weren’t even expecting to wrestle tonight and they came in big for us,” Bantle said. “This is a team sport. It shows when one guy doesn’t do his job, another guy is there to pick him up.”

The match opened with a matchup of premier lightweights at 125. Owen Scott battled to a 7-6 overtime win over Marion captain Matt Hasbrouck. Scott was ahead 4-2 after two periods and 6-4 in the third before Hasbrouck’s reversal tied the bout. Hasbrouck had two escape opportunities in the final 10 seconds of overtime, but Scott rode him out for the win.

“Our guys were down a little, especially after one of our captains lost that

first match,” Bantle said.

After Marion’s Brad Casper received a forfeit, Lyons knotted the match at 6-6 when Vincent Elmer outpointed Bridgeman 7-2. However, Bantle thought Bridgeman’s ability to surrender only three team points was crucial.

“He hadn’t wrestled varsity much, and he did well,” Bantle said of his freshman.

Black Knights freshman Austin May needed only 37 second to boost his team into a 12-6 lead, and 145-pound star Josh Mayville made it 18-6 with a forfeit at 145.

“Lyons forfeited a lot of matches to us, but they wrestled strong,” Bantle said. “They did a great job juggling and keeping us on our toes.”

“We were trying to play some mind games and get the maximum number of points,” Lyons heavyweight Josh Wren said. “We won the majority of the matches, but the score doesn’t reflect that.”

Mayville’s forfeit was somewhat unexpected and meant a number of Lyons middleweights would be bumped up a class. It forced Marion (14-6, 5-0) into a number of changes too, making the bookkeepers’ nights tricky.

“We never really had any momentum,” Bantle noted. “One minute, I’m thinking this is great and everything is going well, and the next minute, it wasn’t working out for us.

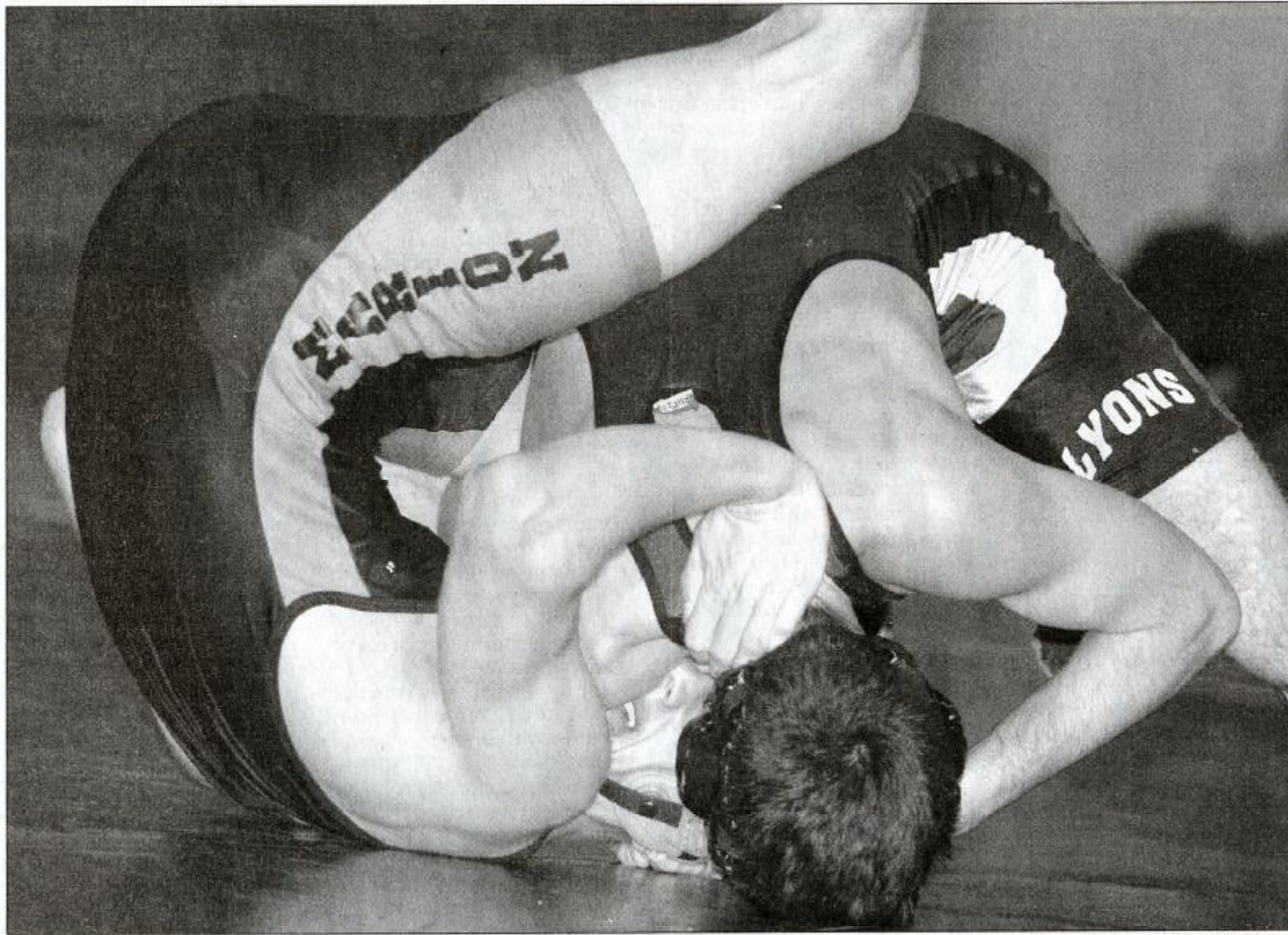
“Tonight is an example of when the

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# MARION

Lyons juggles lineup, wins majority of contested matches, but Black Knights' depth too much to overcome

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Lyons 152-pounder Tony Heid (right) cradled Marion's Peter Sargent late in the third period. Heid registered a pin with 1.6 seconds remaining.

whole team needed to pull together."

Lyons senior Anthony Heid scored a pin at 152, pulling Peter Sargent into a tight cradle with 1.6 seconds left in the third period. Classmate Adam Rogers backed that up with a 9-3 decision over Cyle Gaziano, bringing Lyons (6-3, 3-2) within 18-15.

Another of Marion's stand-outs, Nic Mayville, earned a hard-fought 5-0 win over Lyons senior Asa Hoffman at 171, pushing Marion ahead by six.

At 189, David Murphy scored near-fall points on two separate occasions against Brannan, but settled for a 9-2 decision. Brannan was initially slated to wrestle 171.

Marion heavyweight Tim Casper needed all six minutes to get a 4-2 decision against Wren. After the teams traded forfeits in the 275 and 96 classes, Camp put the match away.

Lyons' Craig Scott wrestled strong in the final match, racing to a 10-0 lead before pinning 119-pound counterpart Cody Shurgot in 3:31.

"It's pretty neat to win the league title in a close one, but for a few moments, I thought I would have a heart attack," Bantle said with a grin.

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