

St. Mark's wrestlers have extra incentive for a pin

The wrestler always wants to go for the pin, St. Mark's High coach Jason Bastianelli said. But this season, senior Zach Frederick and the Spartans' wrestling team has a little more incentive.

For each pin this year, Frederick and his teammates are donating money to Pins For Kids, which supports various charities that are dedicated to finding cures for leukemia and Tay-Sachs disease, an affliction of the central nervous system.

Frederick brought the idea to St. Mark's after the charity was started by former Malvern Prep (Pa.) teammate Nick Salvo. Frederick attended Malvern as a ninth- and 10th-grader. At St. Mark's this year, Frederick himself said he has about 50 sponsors, saying more than 80 percent of his sponsors have

pledged at least \$5 per pin.

Half of the money raised will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the other half benefitting The Dylan James Manning Foundation.

The Manning and Frederick families are friends, as Dylan has Tay-Sachs disease.



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"He wasn't supposed to make it to 5 [years old], but he's made it to 5 and he's still going," Frederick said. "The money's going to find a cure."

Frederick hopes other teams and schools adopt the charity next season.

"I hope more people get involved," he said.

"Raising money for people who need it, this is a cool thing to do."

St. Mark's has amassed more than 100 pins this season, including nine by Frederick.

"Zach told me he had this re-

ally great idea," Bastianelli said, "and I told him, whatever you want to do, let's run with it. I'd push it any way I can. He met with the parents after a scrimmage, he talked to the wrestlers and it's really just been a huge success. It's a really great thing for an 18-year-old kid to have that leadership, and all the kids have bought into it. All of the kids want to go for the fall. This does give them some extra motivation."

Those interested in making contributions should contact Bastianelli at jaybast1@comcast.net.

• The 12th annual Polytech Junior Varsity Wrestling Championships are Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. Weight classes range from 98 pounds to heavyweight and teams may enter multiple wrestlers at one weight class in the double-elimination tournament. Cost is \$12 per wrestler with discounts for full teams.

Contact Tom Pavia at 697-3255, ext. 536.

• The Middletown wrestling team went 1-2 at last week's Buckley Duals in Haverford, Pa. They lost to Radnor (Pa.) and Lower Merion (Pa.) before beating Archbishop Wood (Pa.) 40-39, as 160-pounder Jayson Wilson won by pin in the last bout. Three Cavs went 3-0 - Mike Murray, Matt McGinnis and Chris Carey.

• Brandywine senior Grant Firestone, an All-State defender in boys lacrosse in 2005, will attend Harvard University next year.

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