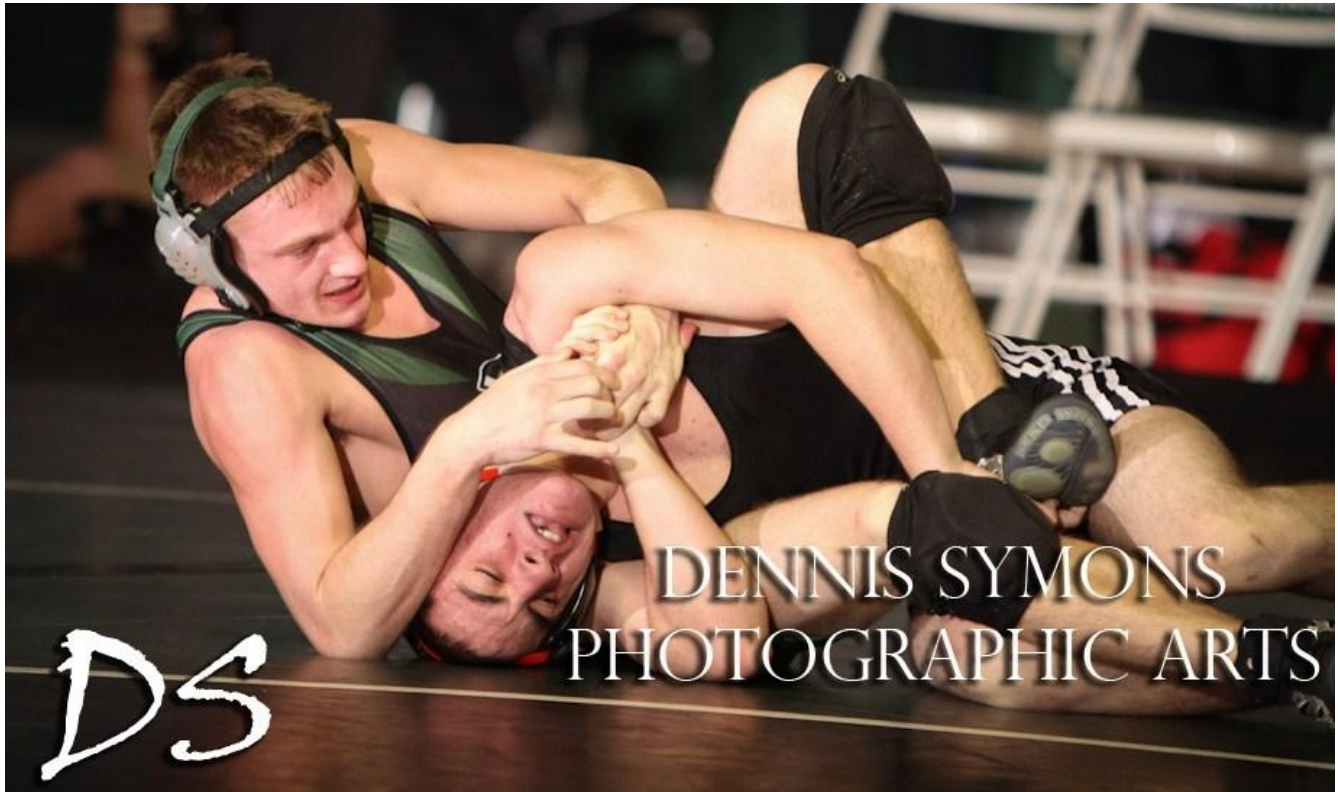


## Feb. 2 Wrestling



*Sean Augustyn, shown earlier in the season against Robbinsville, rallied from an 8-2 deficit to post a big pin at 152 pounds in tonight's Steinert victory (Photo by Dennis Symons/purchase photos at [www.dennissymons.com](http://www.dennissymons.com)).*

### **Augustyn rallies for key pin as banged-up Steinert holds off Lawrence**

**By Rich Fisher**

**Fish4Scores.com**

**Feb. 2:** Every so often during an athletic contest, a moment occurs that verifies to a head coach why he's in the business.

For Steinert's Adam Jankos, that moment came tonight, with 2:58 gone in the 152-pound match between Lawrence's Ben Kraun and Sean Augustyn. That's when the ref's hand hit the mat, signifying Augustyn won by pin after trailing 8-2 during the first period.

It turned out to be a big win during the short-handed Spartans 45-28 victory over the Cardinals.

"That was a huge turn of events in that match," Jankos said. "Down 8-2 and coming back with a pin. God, it makes me want to do this forever.

"When you're losing, you're thinking 'What are we gonna do now?' And coming through with a pin it makes a big difference."

It was one of several big efforts by the Spartans tonight, who were without three starters in 195-pounder Jon Bussi, 170-pounder Sean McDonald and 126-pound county champ Joe Michel.

Bussi missed the counties and the last two matches due to injury but is cleared to practice on Friday, while Michel developed a rash that kept him out tonight. He too is good to go during Saturday's big tri-meet.

But McDonald is out for the year after undergoing surgery for compartment syndrome.

"We thought this was gonna be a close one," Augustyn said. "We came in here, everybody did what they had to do. The guys pinned who had to pin."

Lawrence (5-9) actually took a 19-18 lead when Michael Jennings won a major decision over John Mulryne at 145. But considering Jennings just won a county title and Mulryne was inserted so Jankos could bump up his lineup, the Spartan provided a plus by not getting pinned.

“Mulryne did a great job,” Augustyn said. “I’m proud of him. He really stayed off his back, he worked hard.”

Augustyn followed with his pin, after trailing 8-4 entering the second period.

“I figured if I can’t out-power him, I could out-skill him,” Augustyn said.

Brandon Bernstein, also wrestling up, decisioned Justin Scott at 160, Matt McDonald planted Connor Ilchert in 25 seconds and River Ullrich pinned Alex Kapolka to give Steinert an insurmountable 39-19 lead with just three matches left.

The Spartans also got pins from Nate Benitez (113) and Troy Flood (138), as seven of their eight wins produced six points.

It was the 11<sup>th</sup> straight win for Steinert (11-3), setting up Saturday’s big Klockner Klash with Nottingham.

“The guys are really looking forward to it,” Jankos said. “From what I’ve seen of Nottingham, they’re brawlers. They’re slapping cradles in the third period. I’m hoping we can do the same thing, giving them a dose of their own medicine.”

If anyone is used to medicine, it’s the beat-up Spartans who must learn to live life without Sean McDonald.

The senior captain suffered his compartment syndrome in Friday night’s MCT bout, when pressure began to build up in his leg. He tried to go on Saturday but could put no pressure on it, and had to have both sides of his left leg cut open to relieve the pressure that same day.

It is a huge loss for Steinert and a major disappointment for McDonald, who was 15-3 with 11 pins.

“It hurts the team, it hurts him,” Jankos said. “He’s a senior who wanted to wrestle his final year. He’s never been wrestling better than this year, he was having such a fantastic year, going out, pinning kids, and then to have that happen. It’s such a rare thing and very unfortunate.”

Ullrich has dropped down to 170 to take McDonald’s place, and Kazier John has taken over for Ullrich at 192.