

FARMINGTON - It was an opportunity to earn redemption and Zoe Dorian was determined not to allow it to slip away, again. The Hyde wrestler cast aside demons to accomplish a goal by winning the 99-pound championship Wednesday at the Girls High School Invitational.

The event provided an opportunity for the competitors to compete against their own gender and the action produced some superb results. Several matches went down to the end of regulation or required an extra session. Four schools had two champions each, including Candle Howard (145) and Joslyn Ribar (155) of Erskine Academy who rallied in the finals to win the team crown with 46 points. Mount Ararat, who won by 1.5 points in 2008, was second with 44.

A foursome also repeated by winning individual championships, including Kayleigh Longley (104) of Noble, Kelly Golek (108) of Mount Ararat, Tierra Williams (127) of Hyde and Ribar.

Hyde finished third with 43.5, followed by Mount Blue 37 and Massabesic 33.

"I like this tournament," Oak Hill coach Shane Bouchard said. "It's about time, because there are some good female wrestlers in the state, so this event is warranted. Hopefully, it attracts more."

Williams pinned Tina Galarneau of Oak Hill and was voted the most outstanding wrestler. In a semi-final match, Williams had a takedown with two seconds left in overtime to decision Jasmine Garceau of Skowhegan. Dorian started the finals off with a bang by pinning Stephanie Hayslip of Lisbon. The Phenix junior had been a finalist in '08, stuck all three opponents, this time.

"After last year I definitely wanted first," Dorian said. "My biggest issue this season has been self-doubting myself, but today I put that all aside and went right after them."

In an interesting rematch, Longley executed a reversal with 51 seconds left for a 4-2 decision against Reaha Goyetche of York at 104. The two wrestlers each placed in the recent co-ed high school state meets. Longley was a finalist in Class A and Goyetche was fourth in Class B.

"It was tougher this year," Longley said. "There is some good competition here, like Reaha who had won last year. Also, our practices haven't been as (intense) and I am not in that good of shape."

Golek pinned Gina Southivon of Ellsworth and Eagles teammate Shelby Vance stuck Kyia Bryant of Mount View. This put MtA. In the lead, but it wasn't enough.

Howard pinned Gina Villacci of Mount Blue and Ribar stuck Deanna Carfagno of Piscataquis in the third period. The extra points for the pin vaulted Erskine, ahead.

Megan Wormwood of Oxford Hills and Lorrin Burnham of Mount Blue each placed third at 118 and 123, respectively.

Logan Rich of Camden Hills was pushed early, but executed two pinning combinations to record a major decision against '07 champion Cheyenne Augustine of Medomak Valley. Rich placed third in the Class B state meet.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Rich said. "There were some good wrestlers here and I was a little nervous on the mat. I tried a firemans (carry) and wanted to break her down."

Other champions were Kim Rodgers 118 of Massabesic and Nikole Robbins 133 of Gardiner.

Bob McPhee