



DREAM TEAM CLASSIC



CLIFF KEEN ATHLETIC

Outfitting passion.

California Makes A Statement Dream Team wins, but not without a struggle

By David White
The Fresno Bee
Photos by Wyatt Schultz

Clovis High wrestler Troy Tirapelle struck a bodybuilder's pose, flexing, his sculpted biceps toward the roaring crowd of 1,700 at Clovis West.

It symbolized the message from the California all-star team to its national all-star counterparts: left-coast wrestling is

stronger than they thought.

"We made a statement," Tirapelle said. "They thought they were a little better before the match than they did after."

Did California win the Dream Team Classic on Saturday? Of course not.

The 38-12 loss was to be expected against a cherry-picked team of 14 seniors

from nine states, including seven national number ones and six others ranked in the top four.

Just don't think much came easy to the Dream Team, which left equally impressed and aggravated by the local uprising.

"I think they caught us off guard," said Matt Fields, the top ranked heavyweight