

St. James stars; Hill eludes upset

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Ed Mitchell had only one more hill to climb to reach the state high school wrestling tournament. The trouble was, it was Charlie Hill.

Mitchell looked bigger and stronger than Hill and had a 3-year record at Lyons of 73-4, with 73 pins. He never had won a decision.

Hill, the pride and joy of Edison Tech, eluded a pin and scored an 11-7 decision in the state qualifier's 215-pound final last night at Fairport.

A packed house of 2,200 saw Don St. James of Rush-Henrietta Sperry win the outstanding wrestler award, three Spencerport lightweights qualify for the state meet, and three City-Catholic League wrestlers win championships.

St. James (119 pounds) pinned Scott Ella of Canandaigua in 1:28.

He will be joined at the state tournament in Syracuse next weekend by the Spencerport trio of Trevor Graham (91), Rory Legacy (96) and Rod Winnie (126), and by the city's representatives — Rob Starkweather of McQuaid (105), Len Barber of East (155) and Hill.

Hill has a 23-1 record. Mitchell, a fullback and defensive tackle on Lyons' football team, seemed to be having his way in the tournament.

He pinned Marty Schuff of Brockport at 2:18, Kevin DeVuyst of Charlotte at 0:36 and Dan Enright of Fairport at 1:00. Enright, however, had suffered an elbow injury in his previous bout.

Hill was undaunted by Mitchell's credentials. He said, "He never wrestled a full six minutes like that."

Mitchell had Hill in a cradle in the second period, but Hill wriggled free and took a 7-6 lead at the end of the period. Hill's quickness won the third period. Mitchell, scheduled to enter the Army after graduation, seemed to tire.

Wrestling



Don St. James

The expected confrontation of East Rochester's John Zito and Fairport's Bob Kyff never came at 167 pounds. Kyff was injured in practice earlier in the week and did not compete in the qualifier. Zito (30-0) beat Pete Lloyd of Victor in the final, 10-5.

"I thought Lloyd was capable of beating Kyff," Zito said. "The toughest guy I faced was (Grant) Leschander (of Greece Arcadia)." Zito beat Leschander, 5-1.

Zito, St. James and Legacy were the only members of last year's Section 5 contingent who will return to the state meet.

"Last year I was just a scared sophomore when I went to Syracuse," Zito said. "I lost in the first round."

Also making the trip this year will be Zito's unlimited teammate, Joe Baldo, who pinned John Allie of Webster Schroeder just before time ran out in the first period. Baldo is 27-2 with 22 pins.

Probably the most exuberant winner was Bob Dunlap, a 177-pounder from Gates-Chili. After beating Mark Everts of Brighton, 8-7, Dunlap picked up Coach Jim Hosenfelt in a beating.

Dunlap and Everts had split four matches this year. Last night Dunlap took a 6-1 lead.

"We danced a lot last week (when Everts won the Class AAA final), and that's his style," Dunlap said. "I just had to break a date for the dance."

Barber (31-1), probably headed for Monroe Community College next fall, whipped Rich Boland of Fairport, 12-4.

"Going to the states was always a goal for my brother Al and me," Barber said. "Finally one of us made it. I hope I get a chance to wrestle the only guy who beat me (Chris Kieckwies of Olean)."

For Starkweather, (29-0), the state berth was the reward for a year of preparation.

"I got beat last year by Wayne Johnson (of Spencerport) and I've been working ever since," Starkweather said. "I got destroyed last year in the sectionals."

After eking out a 1-0 decision over Irondequoit freshman Tony Cotroneo in the AA finals, Starkweather beat him convincingly last night, 8-1.

Spencerport fans were delighted with the finals. Graham beat Larry Kane of Penfield, 2-1; Legacy blanked Steve Burton of Hilton, 7-0, and Winnie beat sophomore Paul Richard of Geneseo, 7-4.

"It shocked me to see a sophomore beating guys like (Gary) Curwin (a Brighton senior)," said Winnie, also a senior.

Richard's older brother, Kevin (112), scored a 5-2 overtime win over Canandaigua freshman Matt King. Kevin defaulted to St. James in the finals last year because of a knee injury and had to undergo surgery. He came back with a 33-0 record in his senior year.

In other finals, Marcus Phillips of Avon (20-0) beat Mike LaRocca of Gates-Chili, at 132, 6-1; Dave Lynn of Canandaigua beat Tom Collier of Victor at 138, 8-6, and Tony Bruno of Brockport handled previously unbeaten Todd Read of York (32-1), 8-3.