ER wrestlers grab County wrestling title

By JOHN KOLOMIC
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East Rochester followed Coach Don Quinn's pre-match battle plan and conquered Hilton for the Monroe County high school wrestling championship last night at Hilton 30-13.

The two teams, which finished first in their respective divisions this year to set up the main event on East-West Day, tied for the County championship last year at East Rochester, 25-25. Consequently, ER kept the trophy it won the year before.

"They (Hilton) were mad about it," said Quinn, "so I said the heck with them and we kept it."

Last night the East Division Bombers left no doubt where the trophy would rest this year.

East Rochester, ranked third in the state, finished its regular season at 12-2. Hilton ranked 12th, finished 13-2. Quinn studied the pre-match lineup, placing check marks at 98, 119, 126, 155, 167, 177 and 215.

"These are the ones we have to win," he said.

The Bombers did.

Perhaps the most significant win came at 112, where East Rochester's Romeo Battazzi (23-2) outpointed Hilton's Chris Kellman (22-4), 9-6. Both wrestlers are defending Section 5 champions at 112 pounds — Battazzi in Class A and Kellman in Class AAA.

"I had to wrestle the flu all week," said a tired Battazzi after his mild upset. "Last year he beat me 7-1 in this tournament, so I wanted some revenge."

The loss at 119, then another at 126 when ER's Mike Kuhn (23-2) nipped Hilton's Steve O'Shea (17-8-1) by a 5-4 margin put Hilton in the hole, 10-9. Hilton wrestlers knew they were in trouble because of ER's dominance in the high weights.

Even when Hilton's Al Rossner (26-0) beat ER's Curtis Doreen (8-7) 10-1 at 132 pounds, it was Rossner who wore the long face.

"The team needed a pin" said Rossner, whose win gave the Cadets a temporary 13-10 edge. "We hoped we'd be ahead by a lot more by now."

Rossner proved as good a prophet as a wrestler. Of the six remaining weight classes, East Rochester won five. One match, the 145-pound bout between Hilton's George Eblacker and East Rochester's Bruce Kier, ended with no points awarded for either team. When the two wrestlers exchanged punches while heading out of bounds in the second period, referee Al Gentile stopped the match and disqualified both.

ER drew even when Joe Walczyk (20-6-2) won at 138 pounds, 13-13. From then on Dennis Essom (25-2-1, 155 pounds), John Zito (23-0, 167), Drew McGregor (23-4, 177) and Rick Sidor (16-2, 215) all won easy decisions to complete the romp.

In earlier matches, Irondequoit (13-1) rallied with pins in the final two weight classes to tie Spencerport (10-3) in the battle of regular season runners-up, 25-25. In the matchup of 3rd-place division finishers, Brockport (13-2) defeated Fairport (8-4), 28-23.

Irondequoit trailed the Rangers by a 25-13 margin when Paul Gibson pinned Spencerport's Chris Vigliotti at 177 pounds to close the gap 25-19. Then Irondequoit's Jon Campo brought the crowd to its feet when he completed the furious finish with a pin of Spencerport's Frank Kleinhenz at 215 pounds.

Mike Goetz recorded a pin for the Rangers at 167 pounds.

Mark Vanderkarr's pin at 177 pounds wrapped up Brockport's win over Fairport. Teammate Jim Matsko helped with a pin at 132 pounds for the Blue Devils.

Gates-Chili (13-2-1) edged Brighton (12-3) in other East-West day action at Gates-Chili, 25-23. Joe Scavo decisioned Olney Kent of Brighton at 158 by a 6-5 margin to give Gates-Chili a 22-8 lead. Scavo won the match on a reversal with 20 seconds left.

Greece Athena (8-6) continued the County West's string of successes in East-West matches by defeating visiting Rush-Henrietta Sperry (6-8), 28-22.

Penfield (7-8) defeated Western Division host Greece Arcadia (8-7) by a 29-12 margin and Greece Olympia (6-10) defeated County East foe Pittsford Sutherland (2-14) at Olympia, 41-18. Jeff Schmeer (98), Steve Siverd (132) and Ron Barton (138) scored pins for Olympia.

Frank Bray scored an 18-9 decision at 177 pounds to give Webster Schroeder a 30-26 victory over host Batavia.