

# Bombers Climb to No. 3 in State Wrestling

East Rochester High School's crack wrestling team is rated the third strongest in New York State, according to a poll released last Monday. As was reckoned, the victory scored by the Bomber matmen over Olean Saturday night, Feb. 3, sped the locals to their high perch.

The win knocked Olean off the first place peg, where it had shared a tie with Baldwinsville, and nabbed the No. 2 spot for Huntington.

ER was rated a state powerhouse when the season opened. When Coach Don Quinn's club had a midseason No. 4 rating, the Bombers suffered a pair of two-point setbacks to Brighton in a Monroe County East Division scrap and the other to Finger Lakes' perennial kingpin of the mat wars, Canandaigua.

After ER knocked off Olean and snapped the state's record consecutive win string at 55; the downstaters easily defeated Canandaigua and that flushed the Cans out of a state No. 4 tribute.

Quinn has his team in Penfield tonight (Thursday) in the East Division finale. The only importance of the match is how big the score will be.

The Bombers had bigger aims after the last clash. Quinn's "gruff gruners" were to head for Hilton on Saturday night to mix takedowns and reversals with the champs of the Monroe County West, who were upset last week by Gates-Chili. Prior to the match, Hilton had a No. 7 state ranking.

Actually, East Rochester is to finish in a tie with Irondequoit in the County East with both flashing a 8-1 mark.

Just before the Christmas holidays, Quinn's team crushed the Baysiders for the latter's only loss. ER then stumbled against Brighton and that created the knot.

Last season, ER battled Hilton to a tie in the feature East-West match so both clubs were declared co-champions.

The first match at 8 p.m. will have freshman Tom Pagano on the mats for the Bombers. He is ER's best 98 pounder.

Hilton's crack Matt Kellman and ER's Larry Battazzi put on the initial feature conflict in the 119 pound event. Kellman is 20-3 while Battazzi is a bit better at 22-2.

And ER's Joe Walczyk faces his toughest rival of the season when he goes up against Hilton's undefeated Al Rossner who's riding a 24-0 record while Walczyk is 19-3-2. And the heat should be hot in the 167 collision between ER's "superman" unblemished John Zito (25-0) and Hilton's Terry Brown, who is 19-3.

It's a tossup in the 177 match when Bomber Drew McGregor, who's 20-4, matches moves with Hilton's Billy West, who is 17-6.

ER has to keep the score close at least halfway through the 12 matches to add Hilton to its nifty season record and then point to the major mat acts that follow in the drama that begins in the Sectionals for Class A laurels, Feb. 21 and 24. That leads to the inter-class

sectionals March 2 and 3 and ends up in the schoolboys' "World Series" in Syracuse, March 9 and 10, for New York State championships.

Bomber matmen make their bid for Section "A" weight class title Feb. 21 at Mid-Lakes High School, where qualifying and preliminary rounds are scheduled. The winners move into the quarter- and semifinal and championship rounds at East Rochester High School, Saturday, Feb. 24.

Quinn announced a 10:30 a.m. start for the quarterfinal round; 1 p.m. for the semifinals and the championship matches starting at 7:30.

ER had an easy time last Friday night at Sperry, winning 33-15.

Quinn's matmen were trailing 10-3 after the first four tilts after Tom Pagano opened with a 9-0 victory over Tony Vigiani.

It was 3-3 after ER's John Walczyk lost the 105 tussle, 6-

2, to Billy Howard.

And the score found the Bombers faltering at 6-3 when Frank Argento, up from the Jayvees, was a 6-2 loser to A.J. Camp in the 112 event.

Scott McIntosh, a soph who Quinn says is a real "comer" both on the mats and in football for Bomber teams, dropped a 9-0 verdict in the 112 scrap to Chris Nakes.

ER took command after 126 pounder Mike Kuhn counted Tim Vesser his 21st victim of the season with a five-point stock market figure score of 26-11. Kuhn has lost only twice.

Joe Walczyk edged ER ahead, 14-10 with a six-point pin at the 3:37 mark in the 132 tiff with Mike Gilfillan.

Dave Alongi lost a "tough" 6-4 nod in the 138 class to Sperry's Greg Madison.

ER's Bruce Kier got back on the winning track for the Bombers with a 3-1 decision over Tom Rose in the 145 division.

It was a 2-2 stalemate in the 155 argument between ER's Dennis Essom and R-H's Jim Quinn.

Quinn's club then put the "Big 3" on the mats and McGregor (167) tamed Tom Tompkins, 14-3; Zito at 177 bagged a easy 7-1 win over Roger Hopkins and and Rick Sidor ran his 215 pound record to 17-2 without a bead of sweat, a forfeit victory.