

Bombers Climb After Weekend Win

That rumble you may have felt last Saturday night wasn't an earthquake. It was the shakeup in the New York State big school wrestling poll.

The biggest tumble was that of Olean. And the second, of a more mild nature, was Canandaigua.

In one of the most prestigious collisions of four schoolboy wrestling teams, East Rochester came back from Olean with victories over tied-for-No. 1 Olean and a sweet triumph over Buffalo Sweet Home.

While ER was the only two match winner, Olean took a bit of solace from their bitter downfall in their opener against Don Quinn's confident Bombers by beating Canandaigua, 26-19 after the Cans crimped Sweet Home 28-24.

Canandaigua, winners over ER by a 25-23 score on January 10, was rated in the No. 4 state position prior to the matches and was sure to drop a notch or more when the standings were announced this week.

Olean, tied with Baldwinsville for No. 1 was sure to slip in notch from their heavenly peg.

ER, rated No. 12 was a cinch to enhance their position and could move within the top 6 or better. The Bombers have lost two dual matches, besides Canandaigua, the other, to Brighton also by a two point margin, 24-22.

Bomber supporters turned out in full force, around 100 of them, who took over the Castle Inn for lodging and meals on Friday night and returned Sunday morning.

"It was a great night for wrestling," Coach Mike Foster of Olean said of the action before a jammed house.

"Most of the matches were out of this world," he added.

After the Bombers had beat Olean, 24-23, Coach Foster lamented the end of a 55-match win string. "All streaks have to come to an end sometime and this ER team right now is just great."

Olean was the team that beat East Rochester by five points in the Canandaigua tournament.

"I saw things there that made me feel confident my team would beat Olean in a head to head match," Quinn said.

Last Friday night, he figured the final score would be ER 21, Olean 19, it ended 24-23.

ER fans gave the Bombers a real salute when they came on to the Olean gym. "When the Bombers come marching in," drew loud "boos" from the Olean gallery.



The "boos" changed to cold as ice surprise as 105 pounder John Walczyk brought the Bombers to a 3-3 score by gaining a hairline 3-2 decision over

Bruce Taylor.

In the opener, freshman Tom Pagano was up against the "Huskies" John Hickey and when the smoke had cleared, Pagano was beat, 13-7. Quinn figured both Pagano and Walczyk would give up three points.

Walczyk's victory bolstered Quinn's pre-match prediction of a Bomber victory.

And Quinn was right again when he figured 112 pounder Scott McIntosh would be a six point pin victim of undefeated Carl Anderson who was riding a 19-0 record.

McIntosh was flat on his shoulders in 1:25.

"He's a real strong kid and a sure comer," Quinn said of McIntosh. Quinn also thought his team would win the 119 and 126 scraps and 132 tussles.

He hit the 119 on the button as Romeo Battazzi nabbed a 8-5 decision over Andy Taylor, and was on the mark in the 126 as Mike Kuhn took the measure of George Pancio, 9-5.

It was 9-9 when 132 pounder John Walczyk faced Olean's Joe Selluzio.

Quinn jotted down in a pre-match note, Walczyk was a sure bet for a 3-point decision.

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Walczyk battled to a 3-3 knot in a grueling fiasco and the team tie continued at 11-11.

Quinn had Curtis Doreen giving up a four-point major decision in the 138 pound tilt.

But Doreen had thoughts of his own and Quinn was elated when Doreen gained a 9-3 decision.

That sped ER ahead, 14-11 but the Bomber lead melted when Olean's Bill Thomas pinned Bomber Bruce Kier in a speedy 1:51. Quinn had figured Kier a loser by a three point verdict.

Olean had a 17-14 lead with four conflicts remaining. Quinn's arithmetic was running pretty true to form.

In the 155 event, the crystal ball said ER's Dennis Essom would put three points in the Bomber scorebook.

Essom did better than that. He tallied four on a easy 11-2 nod over Robbie Parks who came into the match with a 18-2 record.

That gave ER an 18-17 lead.

Three scraps to go and Drew McGregor was in the 167 event. Quinn figured a sound three point win.

It was. McGregor tamed Richtie Fie, 13-6.

The Bomber lead edged to four points and John Zito was coming on in the feature scrap of the card. His opponent was highly regarded Kirk Stephen, a pride of the Olean mat crowd.

Stephen was showing a 17-1 record and Quinn would be happy with three points for his undefeated mat wizard.

Zito ran his record to a gaudy 24-0 as he battered his rival for a 11-4 decision, in a 177 pound clash.

Zito fell behind 2-0 on a first period takedown. Then the roof caved in on Stephen. Late in the second period, Zito had what Quinn screamed was a pin. The referee said, "No." The decision moved ER in front by seven points and clinched the match.

In the finale, Quinn passed up Rick Sidor to give Billy Condon a crack at Olean's Mark Darrow. Condon lasted only 2:53 of the 6-minute tilt, featuring 215 pounders.

In the evening's second dual match, ER had a 17-3 lead over Sweet Home after five matches.

Pagano (98) took care of Scott Burellotto, 7-3 and it was a tie after John Walczyk (105), lost to Craig Weber, 4-0.

ER counted four-points when Scott McIntosh (112) wrinkled Dwayne Ruffin, 11-1 and Battazzi (119) muscled out Peter Rao when the time clock showed an early 1:11 for a six-point victory.

Mike Kuhn kept the Bomber spree going in the 126 tussle as he fashioned a four-point major win over Dave Tolnry, 14-5. Sweet Home posted 13 points in a row to get within a 17-16 Bomber lead as Curtis Doreen (132) was pinned by Ed Ruffin in 5:36; Joe Walczyk bowed to Doug Gallon, 9-1 in the 138 match and Bruce Kier (145) fell to Mike Reed, 3-0.

ER moved into its prime last four matches with its major matmen.

Dennis Essom (155) decided Denis McNamara, 7-3; Drew McGregor, (167) took a major win over Fred Fumelle, 12-3; John Zito, (177) pinned Brian Banas at the 5:09 time and Rick Sidor (215) was 7-1 better than Brian Adler.

ER fans included former East Rochesterians Larry and Julie Weise, He's St. Bonaventure University's athletic director and for 12 years, coach of the Bona basketball team.

Bombers climb After Weekend Win

ER ENDS THE STREAK: East Rochester coach Don Quinn chalked up another memorable coaching victory when his wrestling team stunned Olean Saturday night. The loss ended a 5-year, 55-meet win streak (longest in the state) for Olean, which also had been tied with Baldwinsville for No. 1 in the state rankings.

"To me, it wasn't quite as electrifying as some of the big matches we've had against Fairport or the teams up here, but it's quite a challenge for anyone to win at that place," Quinn said after ER's 24-23 win.

High school wrestling is a full-scale production in Olean. The match, part of a double-dual, was broadcast live on a local radio station and fans were standing in line at 2:30 to purchase tickets for the 6

... match between ER and Olean.

"When we rolled into town, all you heard every five minutes on the radio was 'Eat Em Up Huskies, Eat Em Up Huskies,'" Quinn said.

ER had the last word, however. Key wins by John Walczyk (105 pounds), Romeo Battazzi (119), Curtis Doreen (138), Dennis Essom (155) and Drew McGregor (167) set the stage for John Zito's 11-3 win over Kurt Stephans at 177. Zito was second in the state and Stephans was fourth last year at 167 pounds.

ER, ranked 12th in the state prior to the double dual, also defeated Buffalo's Sweet Home by a 33-16 score. Canandaigua, No. 4 in the state rankings, beat Sweet Home by 28-24 but lost to Olean by 26-19. ER (10-2), which lost back-to-back meets to Brighton and Canandaigua at midseason, is probably as good as any team in the state right now.

"We had two starters out of the lineup when we lost those two meets but I hate to cry and say that's the only reason we lost," Quinn says. "I'm sure we were comparing scores and wound up learning the hard way. You're going to lose some

when you wrestle the Canandaiguas and the Oleans but in the long run, it's only going to make your program better."