

# East Rochester Wins 24-23 Decision

## OHS Mat Skein Stopped At 55!

The victory swath is ended — that is Olean High School's string on the wrestling mat is ended at 55-0 — but there are few remaining doubts that coach Mike Foster's squad has "Class" written all over it.

With an SRO turnout of some 1,000 in the OHS gym Saturday — a crowd that included coaches from Wisconsin and Nebraska — Olean's four-year winning sweep was ended by one point, East Rochester winning 24-23, in the opener of the double dual meet.

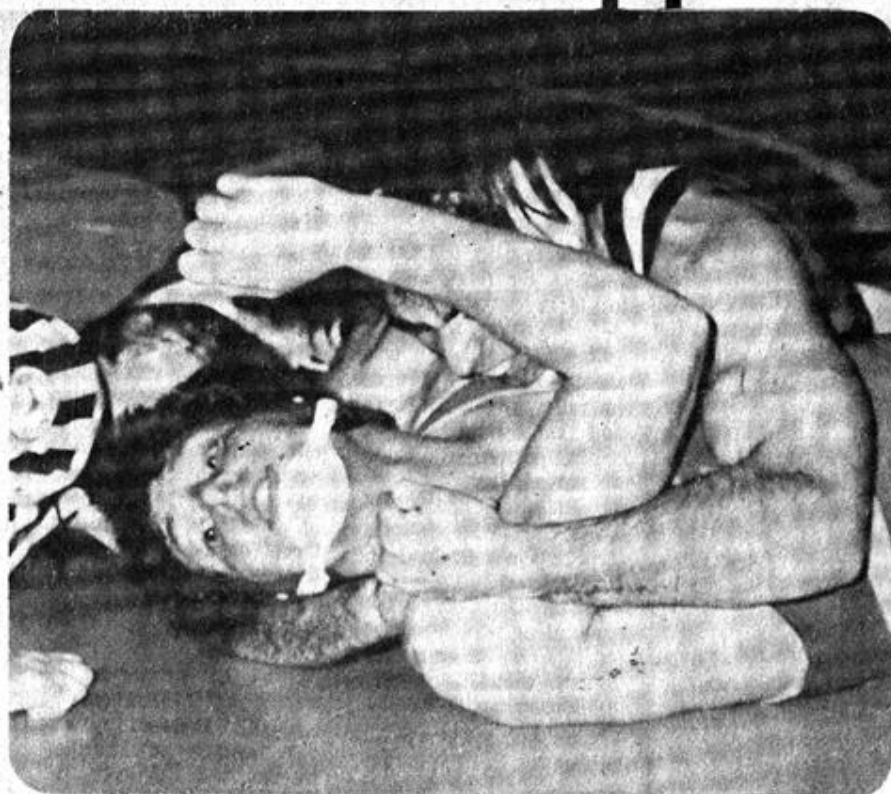
Foster's grapplers — after a 20-minute intermission rest and obviously a "pick-me-up" talk by the coach — came back to hand Canandaigua High its first loss in 11 matches, OHS winning 26-19. Canandaigua came into the match ranked fourth in the latest weekly poll of the New York State Sportswriter Association while East Rochester was 12th ranked.

Olean was tied with Baldwinsville at the top of the ranking and it is believed Olean will remain in the first-place tie in this week's poll.

Saddened as he was that the skein came to an end, Foster, realistically explained, "Hey, it had to end sometime. This was a great night for wrestling and for us it was like being in the frying pan and I'm proud of the way we responded, especially, after losing that one-point decision and the way we came back against Canandaigua.

"You won't find too many dual-meet matches like this and I'm mighty proud that we were the ones to do it."

AMONG THE onlookers was assistant coach at University of Wisconsin, Russ Hellickson, as well as an assistant coach from



**STREAK STOPPED.** Olean High School's unbeaten wrestling streak of dual meets was snapped at 55 here Saturday night as East Rochester scored a 24-23 win over the Huskies of coach Mike Foster. One of the

key bouts is shown here as Olean's Kirk Stephen's face reflects the problems he had with ER's John Zito in the 177-pound bout. Zito (20-0) scored an 11-4 win over Stephen (18-2).

(Times Herald photo by John Hebrock)

Nebraska. "Hellickson's primary concern was the boy (John Zito) from East Rochester," Foster explained, "but he was scheduled this type of wrestling program, giving high school wrestling the type of exposure that is major-league, all the way."

Foster talked about the caliber of grapplers who were on display. "There will be eight or 10 who were on the card who

will be in the New York State championships in Syracuse, when March rolls around," he explained. Zito, the East Rochester star who was a finalist in the state last year, defeated Kirk Stephen, making his record 20-0 while Stephen now is 18-2.

Foster wouldn't finger out any one area where Olean lost

that 24-23 decision. In the 155 bout, Olean's Robbie Parks was the 11-2 loser to Dennis Esson who is now 19-1. Parks at the outset dropped behind 5-0 and almost came back to make it a

three-point loss instead of the four-point loss.

Olean's Clar Anderson collected a pair of victories to make his record 21-0 and his victories were over opponents with 12-3 and 14-3 records. Teammates Bill Thomas and Mark Darrow also were double victors.

Sweet Home High of the Buffalo area was the 28-24 loser to Canandaigua and 30-16 loser to East Rochester. Canandaigua, last month, was the victor over East Rochester.

Wednesday, Olean hosts once-beaten Wellsville and next Saturday hosts Eisenhower High with the Southern Tier League's title as the prize. Olean will be after its fifth straight Tier title.

The summaries:

(East Rochester 24, Olean 23)

98: Hickey (O) dec. 13-7 Pagano

105: J. Walczyk (ER) dec. 3-2 B.

Taylor

112: Anderson (O) pin 1:25

McIntyre

119: Battasi (ER) dec. 8-5 A.

Taylor

126: Kuhn (ER) dec. 9-5 Pancio

132: Silluzio (O) draw 3-3 Je.

Walczyk

138: Doreen (ER) dec. 9-3 Branch

145: Thomas (O) pin 1:51 Kier

155: Esson (ER) dec. 11-2 Parks

167: McGregor (ER) dec. 13-6 File

177: Zito (ER) dec. 11-4 Stephen

Hvy: Darrow (O) pin 2:52 Condon

(Olean 26, Canandaigua 19)

98: T. Mincer (C) dec. 4-0 Hickey

105: Jones (C) pin 3:01 B. Taylor

112: Anderson (O) dec. 16-2 Jones

119: King (C) dec. 4-3 A. Taylor

126: Pancio (O) dec. 11-4 Wild

132: Reho (C) dec. 3-2 Silluzio

138: King (C) dec. 14-3 Branch

145: Thomas (O) dec. 6-0 G.

Mincer

155: Parks (O) dec. 10-8 Hadsell

167: File (O) dec. 5-2 Condon

177: Stephen (O) pin 3:36 Housel

Hvy: Darrow (O) dec. 3-1 Parker