

Bombers Lead the Way In Amherst Mat Tourney



WINNING HUG -- Romeo Battazzi gets a victory hug from best rooter, Nancy D'Angelo.

Coach Don Quinn took his comeback kids to the Town of Amherst Wrestling Tournament last weekend and outdistanced fifteen other school teams to win the tourney and grab two other glittering laurels.

Bouncing back after consecutive two point losses to Brighton and Canandaigua, the local matmen accumulated 215.5 points to beat out a highly rated Sweet Home club that finished with 178.

At the conclusion of the tourney, East Rochester's super athlete of the 1970's, senior John Zito was named the outstanding wrestler, and junior Romeo Battazzi was knighted as the matman who tallied the fastest pin.

Both Zito and Battazzi won all four of their matches. So did 98-pounder John Walczyk, 126-pounder Mike Kuhn and 155-pounder, Dennis Essom.

Quinn's club garnered five individual crowns; a second place in the 250 pound class by junior "Billy" Condon, three third places from 114-pounder Scott McIntosh, 140-pounder Curtis Doreen, and 177-pounder Drew McGregor.

Joe Walczyk finished in fourth place as a 132-pounder and Kevin Maynard was a sixth place winner in the 215 pound class.

Zito continued to stay unbeaten in his journey that he hopes will lead him to the state tournament on March 9 and 10 and a second crack at the 167 pound crown.

A recent winner of the county tournament outstanding matman title, Zito punished

four rivals for three pins and a decision.

He pinned Paul Borkowski of Williamsville East in 1:47 in his first scrap, took a tough 5-0 decision over Dennis McNamara in the second, flattened Mark Ragin of Amherst in 4:40 and disposed of "Chuck" Dillon of Lewiston Porter in 1:46 in the title bash. He was the 167 pound wizard.

Battazzi eliminated the first three foes in the 119 division by pins.

In the initial encounter, he hardly had to flex a muscle to pin Steve Hehn of Williamsville North in a 50 second zip.

It took 3:20 to dispose of Amherst's "Tim" Hook and 1:21 to get "Bob" Sluberski of Iroquois to yield.

In the title finale, Kevin McNulty of Sweet Home succumbed to a 5-1 decision.

Walczyk, John by name and not Joe, put together three decisions and a pin to gain the 98 laurels.

Darron Kurzelius of Lewiston Porter was routed, 11-5; Tom Harrop of Starport was whipped, 9-0; Gary Cacciatore of Kenmore East was cooked at the 3:40 point and Gary Weber of Sweet Home was a loser by a 8-1 tally.

Mike Kuhn, ER's mat terror, ran his undefeated season string in the 126 division to 16-0, as he scored two decisions and a pair of pins on his way to his piece of the Bomber team title.

Kuhn pinned Rich Carter of Newman High in 5:46; nabbed a 7-3 decision over Peter Pao of Sweet Home; pinned Don Bigham of Starport in 4:38 and decisioned Shawn Pine of Kenmore East, 10-4.

Essom tallied two straight pins and then fashioned a pair of decisions to nab the 155 chips.

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He flattened Scott Freichley of Lewiston Porter in 47 seconds and Jamie Kelly of Medina in 1:07.

Bruce Carr of Tonawanda wilted to a 10-4 decision and Nelson Torre of Amherst, 7-1 in the title argument.

Essom gave up the "quickest" tourney pin honors to Battazzi as the latter piled up a trio of victories by that route to Essom's two.

East Rochester had no entries in the 93 and 107 classes, due to injuries suffered by the Bombers in the two previous dual matches.

But Quinn said 11 of 12 ER entries placed in positions that gained Bomber points with only Dave Alongi eliminated in the first round 147 pound division.

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The club was without 112-pounder Mike Brien, who was hospitalized last Friday for knee surgery suffered in the county tourney and 147-pounder Bruce Kier sidelined because of a shoulder injury.

Quinn called the ER performance an indication the team has regained its confidence after the Brighton and Canandaigua losses.

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The Bombers can recuperate from the 25-23 setback from Canandaigua as a participant in the latter's tournament this weekend at the Finger Lakes Community College mats.