

Hermance victory lifts Brockport

All season long, Brockport Coach Jeff Brown has been saying the same thing: he'll stack his wrestling team up against practically anyone — in a dual meet.

"We don't have the superstars who will score a lot of points in a tournament," Brown said. "But on the other hand, we don't have any real weakness when it comes to a dual meet. It takes eight or nine good wrestlers to beat us and you won't find that very often."

That's why Brown felt confident going into Saturday night's East-West showdown with unbeaten Irondequoit.

"I don't think very many people gave us a shot," Brown said after Brockport's 28-20 upset victory for the overall Monroe County championship. "But my kids believed in themselves."

Two head-to-head confrontations in tournaments pointed to an Irondequoit romp. The Indians, ranked No. 8 in the state, won the Monroe County tournament team title in December and then finished second at the rugged Canandaigua Tournament last month — easily outpointing Brockport both times.

"I knew those tournaments weren't a true indicator of the kind of team we had," Brown said. "Especially at Canandaigua. We had seven of our wrestlers lose in the first round, but every one of them lost to the kid who eventually won it. I didn't think we wrestled that bad, but you wouldn't have known it based on the standings."

The poor fifth place at Canandaigua knocked Brockport out of the state rankings. The Blue Devils only recently regained the No. 23 position in the state poll, despite a dual meet winning streak of more than 20 straight.

"We thought we were kind of shafted in the polls," Brown said. "I felt if they have something like that, it should be based strictly on dual meets. We knew we'd get a chance to prove ourselves, though."

The chance came Saturday night at Penfield. Irondequoit came into the match with a 14-0 record and just one loss in its last 40 dual meets, but Brown knew the Indians could be beaten if his wrestlers could stay close in the lower weights.

The Lupisella brothers got Brockport off to a good start. Rick Lupisella, a sophomore, beat Irondequoit's Bob Lehmann at 98 pounds and brother John, a junior, stopped Chris Cotroneo



**TOM
BATZOLD**



Jeff Brown knew his Brockport wrestlers were better than their showing in two early-season tournaments involving undefeated Irondequoit.

at 105.

"Those two wins were a big key," Brown said. "We knew we had to have one of our best nights and we had to win those first two to get some kind of momentum going. If we had lost them both we would have been hurting."

Irondequoit's Tony Cotroneo and Tim Lehmann, both county champs, won the next two matches as expected, but draws by Brock-

port's Kirk Avery (126 pounds) and Ralph Matsko (155) and a victory by Tom Brawn (132) set the stage for a key bout at 167.

Bill Hermance, who had lost 11 times during the season, decisioned Irondequoit's Bill Morgan 12-7 in a mild upset. Brockport's Evan Wexler won the 177 bout by forfeit and heavy-weight Charlie Graves followed with a pin.

"We expected to win those last two anyway, so we just stressed to Hermance that if he went out and did the job, we'd win the meet," Brown said. "That's what he did and that's the way it's been all year for us — a different guy coming up with the key wins in every meet."

It was the first Monroe County championship for Brockport but the Blue Devils should be in the thick of the title race next year, too, with only four seniors graduating and help from an unbeaten junior varsity team on the way.

□ **MADISON'S BIG DAY:** Up until Saturday, this had been a rough season for Madison's wrestling team. The Wilson Parkers won just 4 of 13 dual meets and finished with the school's first losing season in the last 20 years, according to Coach Frank Marotta.

"We've never had a year like this," said Marotta. "I remember years where our wrestling-offs were as tough as some of our dual meets."

This year's team was very young, however, and the squad was small.

"We had some tough breaks," Marotta said. "We were giving up 6-12 points almost every meet and still losing by a slim margin. But the kids I had were determined. And they liked to listen. I knew they would start to correct some of the errors they made earlier this season."

Everything fell into place Saturday at the City-Catholic Championships at Edison Tech. Madison had five individual champions to nose out East High and Bishop Kearney for the team title.

Freshman John Adams, with just a 12-10-1 overall record, started things off for the Wilson Parkers by pinning defending champ John Bellomo of Kearney for the 112-pound title.

Sophomore Charles Clark (18-5 overall) followed with a 9-7 decision over Franklin's Eli Reed for the 126-pound title and sophomore Charles Phillips (14-11) stopped Kearney's Chris Travato 9-2 at 145.

"Phillips is probably the best example of what I meant by learning from their mistakes," Marotta said. "He beat three guys who had

beaten him during the season. I guess you could say he got even."

Senior stars Jesse Wiggins (21-3) and Henry Hood (8-1) wrapped up the title for Madison. Wiggins had no problem with Edison's Clinton Briggs, taking a 16-0 decision at 177 pounds, while Hood, a 253-pounder who has trouble finding opponents, pinned East's Chris Smith for his third consecutive unlimited title.

□ **NOTEBOOK:** Rochester School for the Deaf, which will play in the Section 5 Class D basketball tournament for the first time this year, tuned up by defeating the Lexington School of New York City in the finals of the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Division 2 tournament this weekend. Senior Arthur Hardy had 18 points and 12 rebounds in the championship game and made the all-tournament team along with teammates Dale Fine and Tom Montemorano. The official Section 5 seedings will be announced Wednesday. Madison (14-2) is expected to be the top seed in Class AAA while Monroe (16-1) should be top-seeded in Class AA, just ahead of Newark (17-0). Madison's Joe Binion has taken over the area scoring lead. The 6-6½ Binion finished the regular season with a 25.5 scoring average while Pavilion guard Mike Higley is at 25.1 with one game to play. Sutherland sophomore Terry Fitzgerald (20.1 average) has all but wrapped up the County East scoring title while Batavia's Greg Thomas (20.1) has the honors in the County West.

□ **RUSH-HENRIETTA SPERRY'S** Gene Monje won Coach of the Year honors a year ago but he may have done a better job with a less-talented squad this season. The Comets are now 9-8 with one game left. Eastridge (9-8), a pre-season pick by many to challenge for the County East title, has quietly won 5 of its last 6 and could be a spoiler in the Sectionals. Webster Schroeder (13-4) set a new school record for season victories by defeating Gates-Chili 69-44 Friday night. Penfield's 15-3 regular season record is the best at the school since the Chiefs went 16-2 in 1969-70. Irondequoit's hockey team, tuning up for a possible shot at unbeaten McQuaid in the Monroe County League playoffs, bombed Webster by 13-0 and R-H Sperry by 12-0 this weekend. Webster goalie Chris Karwas made an amazing 57 saves in a 4-1 loss to Penfield Saturday. Roth surprised Kearney by skating to a 6-6 tie while first-year team Batavia scared Aquinas before bowing 4-3.