

SECTION V CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

Region rules the mat with 10 state titles

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ALBANY — Years back, *Baseball America* proclaimed Rochester was Baseball City, U.S.A. The Rhinos proudly boast their home is Soccertown, U.S.A.

After Saturday night, the area has another title and this one can't be argued: Section V, Wrestling Capital of New York.

Displaying an unprecedented dominance on the mat, Section V wrestlers won 10 individual titles Saturday night at the New York State Wrestling Championships at Times Union Center. Seven others were runners-up.

As a result, Section V completed the state wrestling daily double by winning team titles in Divisions 1 and 2.

"It puts us on the front page in the state," said Chris Bourne, the Section V wrestling chairman. "It proves what a great wrestling area we have."

Appropriately, the 2008 state tournament comes to Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial, where four winners from Saturday may be looking to repeat their titles.

So dominant was Section V on Saturday that even a school not known as a wrestling power, Rush-Henrietta, produced its first champion since 1970. Senior Desi Green won the Division 1



Mandara



Schuth



Hodge



I. Paddock



Ekstrom



Green



P. Paddock



Marlow

gold medal at 140 pounds, earning a two-point takedown with 13 seconds left for a 5-4 decision over Donnie Vinson (Whitney Point-Section IV).

"I've been trying to win this thing for four years," a jubilant Green said.

Green used his favorite move, something he calls the snap-outside-single, to take Vinson to the mat and turn a 4-3 deficit into a championship.

"I've been doing it all year but I hadn't tried it here," said Green, who reached the finals with a 4-3 decision in the semifinals.

In the all-Section V final at 189 pounds in Division 1, Brockport senior Eric Schuth used wrestling's version of hockey's neutral-zone trap to edge year-long rival Ryan Lamagra of Webster Thomas 1-0. Lamagra won the 189 title last year as a junior at Wayne Central.

Schuth scored the escape in the second period, then held off

Lamagra in the third period for the win.

"He's really quick, really explosive offensively and he can score quickly, so I just had to stay in good position," Schuth said. "It's something we practiced all week, staying in good position when the match is really close."

In four matches against Lamagra this year, Schuth was 3-1, winning the last three.

Webster Thomas senior Matthew Hodge capped the night with a 10-4 win over Randy Colling (Pioneer-VI) in the 275-pound match.

In Division 2, the Paddock brothers again brought gold back to Warsaw.

Two years after winning a state title at 96 pounds, Warsaw sophomore Ian Paddock returned to the title podium with a 15-0 technical fall over Nick Wilcox of Greene (Section IV). His brother, senior Paul, white-washed Mike Gresh (Ripley-VI)

11-0 at 160. He was the state champ at 145 in 2005 and runner-up last year at 160.

Ian Paddock lost to Wilcox last year in the semifinals 3-2 and was determined to re-establish his dominance.

"Last year I was supposed to 'tech' everyone but mentally I wasn't there," said Paddock, who won three of his four matches by 15-0 technical falls. "It was probably a good learning experience. I've grown up in the past year and this is where it got me."

Their teammate, senior Billy Romasser, won the title at 215.

Canandaigua senior Dan Mandara earned his first state title by defeating Lancaster (VI) junior Mark Lewandowski 8-4 in the 125 pound finals in Division 1, but he was wrestling for more than just himself.

Mandara said the title was also a tribute to his suspended coach, Rich Romeo, who this past week pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct.

"I was happy to get him that one — he really needed it," said Mandara, who placed fourth in 2005 and third last year. "I really wanted to do it for my coach and myself."

The toughest part of the night for Palmyra-Macedon sophomore Tyler Marlow wasn't what Waverly sophomore Brett Sewalt provided in competition; Marlow romped 14-4. It was getting into the stands to celebrate with his parents.

"I was so fired up to win," Marlow said. "It was one of the easier matches I had all year, I don't know why."

But when he tried to go six rows into the stands, an usher refused to let him leave the floor.

Marlow's Pal-Mac teammate and classmate, Alex Ekstrom, brought his second straight title home, defeating Jared Lemke 9-2 at 125 pounds. Ekstrom was the champ last year at 112.

Letchworth sophomore Mike Nevinger needed last-second

heroics to defeat Nanuet (II) senior Rich Berkowitz 10-6. Tied 6-6 and with overtime looming, Nevinger pulled a reversal with six seconds left, then tacked on a two-point near fall before the buzzer to win the Division 2 title at 130.

"Toward the end I started to get a little worried; I didn't want to go to OT because he was tough on his feet," Nevinger said. □

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State wrestling finals

Results of finals involving Sec. V wrestlers:

Division 1

125: Dan Mandara (Canandaigua) dec. Mark Lewandowski (Lancaster-VI) 8-4.
140: Desi Green (Rush-Henrietta) dec. Donnie Vinson (Whitney Point-IV) 5-4.

160: Michael Chaires (Christian Brothers Academy-II) dec. Bryan Bourne (Spencerport) 5-1 (OT).
189: Eric Schuth (Brockport) dec. Ryan Lamagra (Webster Thomas) 1-0.

215: Maciej Jochym (Herkicks-VIII) dec. Robert Eskander (Webster Thomas) 3-0.
275: Matthew Hodge (Webster Thomas) dec. Randy Colling (Pioneer-VI) 10-4.

Division 2

103: Tyler Marlow (Palmyra-Macedon) major dec. Brett Sewalt (Waverly-IV) 14-4.
119: Ian Paddock (Warsaw) tech. fall Nick Wilcox (Greene-IV) 15-0.

125: Alex Ekstrom (Palmyra-Macedon) dec. Jared Lemke (Alden-VI) 9-2.
130: Mike Nevinger (Letchworth) dec. Rich Berkowitz (Nanuet-I) 10-6.

135: Kenny Betts (Fredonia-VI) dec. Mike Tellier (North Rose-Wolcott) 8-5.
140: David Perigo (Gouverneur-X) dec. Josh Mayville (Marion) 10-2.

160: Paul Paddock (Warsaw) major dec. Mike Gresh (Ripley-VI) 11-0.
189: Anthony Austin (Adirondack-III) dec. Key McPherson (Holley) 9-3.

215: Billy Romasser (Warsaw) dec. Hank Penree (Frankfort-Schuyler-III) 6-5.
275: Dustin Frederick (Ausable Valley-VII) pinned Demetrius Mendes (Holley) 5:1.