



Spencerport Wins Annual Teike/Bernabi Tournament

By **Tim Schneider**

The Spencerport Rangers wrestling program is synonymous with excellence. Spencerport is New York State's two-time defending state team champion for large schools and they have won their Teike/Bernabi tournament for three consecutive years. Spencerport sent six individuals to the finals, and while only 215-pound Paul Glover won his championship match, five second place finishers, one third place finisher, and five fourth place finishers was more than enough to stake claim of first place with 206.5 points, 59.5 ahead of Shenendehowa (Section III). Centennial (Georgia) placed third with 123 points. Lancaster (Section VI) placed fourth with 104 and Amsterdam (Section II) outscored Wayne by one point for fifth place.

Shenendehowa is ranked second in the state behind Spencerport and is home to 189-pound Austin Meys, the only six time champion of the Teike/Bernabi tournament. Meys is a two-time NYSPHSAA champion and has committed to Lehigh University next fall. Meys spent less than two full periods on the mat, winning four matches, all by pin, in a combined 3:16.

Meys' accomplishment was outshone by Brian St. James of Centennial. St. James defeated both 96-pound finalists from last year's NYS Division I championships, Bob Dierna of Wayne 8-3, in the semi-finals, and Sean McCormick of Johnson City (Section IV) by pin at the 5:18 mark to take home most outstanding wrestler honors.

Carlene Sluberski, Fredonia's 96-pounder, won her weight class in dominating fashion. Sluberski collected three pins, including a fall at 3:26 in the finals over Spencerport's Jeff Brown. Sluberski is a female national champion.

Section V's all time wins leader Ian Paddock of Warsaw collected his fourth Teike/Bernabi championship in convincing fashion over Rush-Henrietta's Jon Roberts. Both wrestlers are expected to reach the state tournament this season where Paddock will be shooting to become Section V's first four-time state champion. During the tournament Paddock became Section V's all-time wins leader. He will likely become the New York State's all time leader before the season is complete.

La Salle Institute's (Section II) Zach Clemente

won the 145-pound class over Spencerport's Paul Morabito, 7-3. Morabito led with less than one minute to go but Clemente received credit for a five-point move after taking down Morabito and putting him to his back. Clemente has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the University of Virginia next year. He is the defending state champion at 140-pounds.

Morrisville-Eaton's (Section III) Ryan LeBlanc, the Division II state champion at 160-pounds won the 160 pound weight class with ease over Cheektowaga's (Section VI) Clay Reeb. LeBlanc won a 9-3 decision over Reeb and collected two pins and a tech fall before reaching the final.

Even though Wayne's state representatives from last year, 96-pound champion Dierna and 130-pound representative Vinny Digravio, did not reach the final round, Wayne 171-pounder Chris Marvin did. Marvin defeated top seed Zak Griffith of Warsaw by a 12-0 major decision. Griffith placed 6th in the state at 171-pounds last year.

Spencerport senior Paul Glover won his second consecutive Teike/Bernabi championship at 215 pounds. Glover defeated Shenendehowa's freshman national champion Mike Almaviva by fall in 1:01. Glover is the defending state champion at 215 pounds and is a favorite to repeat this season.

La Salle's Ken Altarac is the top ranked 285-pounder in the nation according to WIN-Magazine. He won the 285-pound class by a narrow 4-3 decision over Spencerport's Enzo Zagari.

Spencerport hopes its consistent success will carry over to next weekend's Union-Endicott (Section IV) duals. The duals serve as an unofficial state tournament and are a major factor in determining the state champion at the end of the year. Spencerport has a chance to square off against Fairport in the U-E finals if both reach that far. Spencerport is the top seed and has a bye. They will wrestle against the winner of Sayville (Section XI) and eighth-seeded Wantagh (Section 8). Fairport is the seventh-seed and wrestles Johnson City in the first round. Should they win, they will wrestle Phoenix (Section III). Phoenix is the second seed and is currently the top-ranked small school in the state.