Spencerport Escapes Fairport's Upset Try

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The top two teams in Section V and two of the top five in New York State squared off in a Monroe County dual in Fairport last night. Underdog Fairport came up just short of toppling mighty Spencerport, falling 26-21.

The match began with the 119-pound weight class and Fairport's Jeff Slabe set the tone for Fairport's lower and middle weights by winning an 8-2 decision over J.P. Hayden. Spencerport quickly knotted the score at three apiece when Steve Maier defeated Michael Countryman, 7-5. Zach Haas gave Spencerport a lead by narrowly defeating Nick Treviso, 6-5 at 130 pounds. Fairport's Cory Barriault would tie the score at six when he defeated Roy Daniels, 7-6, with a takedown in the final 15 seconds of regulation. Dean Elvin gave Fairport their second lead of the match when he defeated Tim Campbell 6-3 with a reversal and near fall as time expired.

Paul Morabito, last week's Democrat and Chronicle Athlete of the Week, gave Spencerport the upper hand again when he won by technical fall at 145 pounds over Tucker Gosda, 23-7, in 5:49. With Fairport trailing 11-9 Dave Foley came up large with a pin over Ray Daniels at the 2:33 mark. John Troina kept Spencerport in the match with a narrow 4-2 win over Adam Onderdonk at 160 pounds.

With one point separating the two teams, Spencerport's Nick Baxter had one of the biggest victories of his career, pinning state-ranked Jeff Cowden with a tight cradle towards the end of the second period. A 15-14 Fairport lead became a 20-15 Spencerport lead that the Rangers would not relinquish. Brad Englert won a controversial 6-3 decision over Pat Trabold in the 189-pound class that all but sealed the Raiders' fate.

Defending 215-pound state champion Paul Glover won by decision, 5-2, over Ben Onderdonk for what would be Spencerport's final win of the evening. Kyle Goodrich defeated Scott Barrett at 103 pounds for Fairport and Thomas Davis defeated Mike Piedimonte in overtime 2-0. The final two matches left Fairport five points shy of what would have been the biggest win in their history.

The dual was host to nine different matches featuring ranked wrestlers according to the armdrag.com rankings from Jan. 5.

Top ranked Spencerport had not scored under 30 team points since the 2006-2007 Union-Endicott duals. The five point difference is also the closest anyone has come to beating Spencerport in that time. Spencerport has not lost a Monroe County match since 1989-90 when they lost to Brighton and has not lost to a team in Section V since Wayne knocked them off at the 2005-06 UE duals based on tiebreaker criteria.

Spencerport and Fairport will participate in the Clayton Barnard Memorial Tournament at Hilton High School, Friday January 16th and Saturday January 17th. ❑

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