

Sports

Waverly wins IAC, beats no. 2 team in New York

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By the Review

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It was a big weekend for the Waverly Wolverines as they won the IAC tournament on Saturday then defeated the number two team in the state Pal Mac in a dual meet Sunday morning.

On Saturday, Waverly took first in the IAC tournament with 286.5 points. Five Wolverines had first place finishes.

At 112 pounds, Trevor Nocchi defeated Dustin Cummings of Watkins Glen 7-3 to win it. Brett Sewalt won the 135-pound weight class with an 8-3 decision over Ryan Shelley of Newark Valley while his brother Brian Sewalt won the 145-pound weight class with a 3-0 decision over Tioga's Josh Manuel.

At 152 pounds, Logan Walker defeated Jesse Payne of Newark Valley 5-0 while Dillon Fiske won the 285-pound weight class with a 1:07 fall of Candor's Paul Jantz.

Waverly also had five second place finishers. Ryan Wolcott took second at 103 pounds, losing to Newark Valley's Ryan Darcy 8-2. At 130 pounds, Devin Soper lost a 10-4 decision to Tioga's Derek Haymon to take second while Zach McCutcheon was forced to forfeit the final match to Paul Stodder of Newark Valley for medical reasons.

Chris Nocchi lost a 6-5 decision to John Glennan of Lansing to take second while teammate Henry Petry lost a 15-2 major decision to Tioga's Ryan Tolcott in the final at 215 pounds.

Taking third place on the day for Waverly were Austin Bostwick at 96 pounds, and Dillon Burns at 119 pounds, while Zack Cooney took fourth at 125 pounds. At 171 pounds, Jared Alexander was fifth, and at 140 pounds, Dylan Gutierrez didn't place.

"We wrestled very well," Waverly Coach Charlie Hughes said. "Obviously, we had a medical forfeit that hurt the team score, but with a big match on Sunday, I didn't want to take a chance."

Hughes alluded to his team earning points in 14 of 15 weight categories. "We have a lot of depth and quality with the team."

Hughes, though, saw room for improvement.

"We lost five in the finals," he said. "I'm not real thrilled about that but that means we had a lot of people in there. It was a good solid day of wrestling."

Waverly, which is ranked number one in the state in their class, then turned around and faced the number two team in the state, Pal-Mac, on Sunday with the Wolverines coming out on top 34-33. "It was really exciting." Coach Hughes said. "A battle all the way through, an outstanding match to watch; as the coach and team involved it was stressful but exciting."

The match began with Pal-Mac's Tyler Marlow earning a major decision over Waverly's Dylan Burns, 15-7, at 119 pounds to take an early lead. Ben Mowry added to that lead by earning a 6-1 decision over Waverly's Zack Cooney at 125 pounds. Pal-Mac added to the lead with Sean Walton forfeit at 130 pounds.

The tide turned towards Waverly at the 135-pound weight class as Devin Soper earned an exciting 1-0 decision victory over Matt Hasbrock of Pal-Mac. Neither wrestler scored in the first three periods nor in overtime. Finally, in sudden death, Hasbrock won the flip and decided to be on top. With four seconds left, Soper managed to escape, earning the one point he needed to win.

"It was the most exciting match of the day," Coach Hughes said. "They rode each other out the whole time."

The Sewalt brothers then won the next two matches for Waverly. Brett Sewalt pinned Ted Cortney of Pal-Mac in 1:42 at 140 pounds while Brian Sewalt earned a 13-1 major decision over Mitch Schreiber of Pal-Mac at 145 pounds.

Pal-Mac earned their next points at 152 pounds as Alex Ekstrom pinned Waverly's Kyle Polumbo in 27 seconds but Wolverine Logan Walker earned a fall over Pal-Mac's Chris Argus in 52 seconds at 160 pounds.

At 171, Zach McCutcheon of Waverly earned a 10-3 decision over Mark Banker of Pal-Mac, but at 189 pounds, Pal-Mac's Tyler Lawrence earned a 2-1 decision over Henry Petry of Waverly. Lawrence earned the deciding point on a Petry stalling call with one second left.

"That was a tough one to take," Hughes remarked.

Waverly's Chris Nocchi righted the ship by pinning Pat Krenz of Pal-Mac in 4:34 at 215 pounds while teammate Dillon Fiske pinned Mason Judd in 1:24 at 285 pounds.

Pal-Mac won the next three matches but didn't get enough points for the win.

At 96 pounds, Jeff Olena earned a 17-0 technical fall of Waverly's Austin Bostwick while Dustin Jones recorded a 5-2 decision of Wolverine Ryan Wolcott in the 103 pound match. Finally, Pal-Mac's Dylan Rifenburg earned a 6-3 decision over Trevor Nocchi of Waverly.

"The match came down to us getting more bonus points," Hughes said. "Everybody on the team did their part, whether it was not getting pinned or trying to pick up those bonus points."

"They were very happy," Hughes said of his team's win. "It really helps us for the post season, but we can't have a let down."

"We'll enjoy this for a day or two and then get back to work," he said.

Waverly will be at the Section Duals next Saturday at Chenango Forks.

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