



February Frenzy: Final Four Determined

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ROCHESTER — Section V's state qualifier concluded its first day of action at RIT on Friday. The marquee finals matchup is still on track, with Pal-Mac's Alex Ekstrom and Warsaw's Ian Paddock both advancing to the semi-finals.

All 15 weight classes in both divisions saw their top seeds advance to the semi-finals.

Division II's 189-pound bracket was impacted by injury and an upset to two of the top seeds. Second seeded Graham Jensen of Pembroke had to injury default to Caledonia-Mumford's Jon Grann with an apparent knee injury. Holley's Kyle Steadman defeated third seeded Zack Simons of Bath, 6-3 to advance to the semi-final.

At 112-pounds in Division I, James Montante will have a chance to avenge a loss to Pittsford's Brady Baron during last week's AA sectionals. Montante entered the Century Club with a 5-2 victory over Webster Thomas' Vince Muscato in the quarterfinals. Wayne's Bob Dierna, last year's 96-pound state champion, will wrestle Mike Piedimonte of Spencerport in the other semi-final.

In the 119-pound weight class Jeff Slabe of Fairport will take on Pittsford's Cam Kelly in a rematch of last week's AA sectional semi-final. Slabe won that meeting by a 1-0 score for his 100th career victory. Kelly defeated third seed Chester Demanchick of Gates-Chili, 7-4, in the quarterfinals. Greece Olympia's Mike Gentilcore has put himself in position to reach the Super Sectional final for the second consecutive season. He will wrestle Spencerport's J.P. Hayden in the semi-final.

Greg Schworm of Churchville-Chili entered the Century Club with a 2-1 victory over Walt Roman of Spencerport. Schworm, the third seed, will wrestle Canandaigua's Skyler Miller in the semi-finals of the 171-pound weight class. The top seed is Nick Baxter of Spencerport. He will wrestle Wayne's Nick Digravio.

Defending 215-pound state champion Paul Glover of Spencerport advanced to the semi-finals with a 9-2 decision over Herb Tyndall of Brockport. Glover will wrestle Richard Bradshaw of Brighton. Bradshaw defeated fourth seeded Jake Barnhart of Penfield in the quarterfinals, 7-6. Bradshaw's teammate James Gilbert also earned a spot in the semi-finals by defeating Fairport's Ben Onderdonk, 5-2. Gilbert will wrestle second seed Ernest Pringle of Churchville-Chili.

On the Division II side, Joe Smaldone of Geneva aimed to put to rest questions of an injured elbow. Smaldone, last year's state runner-up at 112-pounds, collected two pins on his way to advancing to the semi-finals. He will wrestle fifth seeded Troy Colton of Attica after Colton won an overtime decision over Pal-Mac's Dylan Rifenburg. Batavia's Nick Lazarony and Bath's Kyle Conrad will face-off in a rematch of last week's BBB

sectional final. Lazarony won that meeting, 4-3.

The 135-pound class is not the only class where two state champions have a chance to square off. Last year's 103-pound champion Quinton Murphy of Holley is on track to meet Pal-Mac's Tyler Marlow, the 2007 state champion at 103-pounds, in the 119-pound final. Murphy will wrestle Adam Hill of Pembroke in the semifinals. Marlow will wrestle Lance Zerniak of Sodus.

Pal-Mac's Sean Walton, the top seed at 125, spent a combined 34 seconds on the mat while earning two pins. He will wrestle Marion's Luke Camp in the semi-finals. Attica's Lance Compton outscored his two opponents by a combined 34-2 score with matching 16-1 technical falls to reach the semi-finals where he will look to avenge a loss in last week's BBB sectional tournament to North-Rose Wolcott's Greg Shove.

Ekstrom and Paddock both earned a pin and technical fall on their way to the semi-finals. Ekstrom will wrestle Josh Bielemeier of North-Rose Wolcott and Paddock will wrestle Letchworth's Bucky Hendrickson. Paddock and Ekstrom are both aiming to become Section V's first four-time state champion.

Two-time state champ Mike Nevinger of Letchworth collected two pins on his way to the 140-pound semi-final. He will wrestle Geneseo's Clay Phelps who advanced to the semi-finals by earning a 12-0 major decision over Geneva's Brandon Blancke. Livonia's Tim Coughlin and Lyndonville's John Brabon will meet in the other semi-final.

Batavia has two wrestlers in the 160-pound semi-final. Ryan Darch will wrestle Warsaw's Dakota Stackhouse. Troy Ireland avenged a loss to Wellsville's Ethan Lamphier in last week's BBB sectionals with an 8-7 victory in the quarterfinals. Ireland will wrestle top seeded Brandon Mills of Canisteo-Greenwood.

Defending 171-pound state champion Cody Hutcheson of Bath earned two first period pins on his way to the semi-finals. The Cornell recruit will wrestle Byron-Bergen's Zack Green in the semi-final. Anthony D'Aurizio of Batavia will wrestle Attica's Luke Pariso in the other semi-final. Pariso did not wrestle in last week's BBB sectional tournament but received a medical waiver to participate this weekend.

Dundee's Mike Raplee spent little time on the mat while working his way to the semi-finals. In a total of 55 seconds Raplee won two matches. He will wrestle Holley's Kacee Sauer in the semi-finals. While it took a little longer, Red Creek's R.J. Sharp also reached the semi-finals by pinning his two opponents. Sharp won by pin in 2:42 and 3:40, respectively. He will wrestle Canisteo-Greenwood's Zach Rouse in the semi-finals. Rouse needed double overtime to defeat Pal-Mac's Mason Judd, 3-2.

The semi-finals will begin at 11:30 a.m., with a round of consolations preceding the semi-final round. Finals are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m., following the consolation finals. □

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