

# Iroquois Mat Streak Halted

By JIM BAKER

The national victory streak record for high school wrestling teams was halted at 150 matches Tuesday at Attica handed Iroquois its first setback in 10 years, 25-16, at Iroquois.

Attica, Wyoming County League champion four of the last five years and 8-0 this season, gained an 18-6 command but did not clinch the decision until junior Howie Bird pinned Bob Valentine in the heavyweight finale.

The loss ended a skein that began with the 1957-58 season inaugural and drew national wire service mention last Feb. 8 when a 26-16 win over Grand Island bettered the longest previous streak on record.

That was the Chiefs' 141st in a row. It erased the mark set by Appalachian High of Boone, N.C. The streak reached 143 last season and 150 Friday night, when the Tribe beat Grand Island again, 26-18.

"Give them all the credit," Iroquois Coach Pat Patterson said. "They deserve it. I was disappointed, but we did our best. We just faced a better team."

Patterson is in his second season as Iroquois pilot. He succeeded Norm Foster, who coached the first mat team there in 1956-57. That was the sport's only team at the Elma school to lose a match (it lost three) before Tuesday.



**Mike Abt**

*... stays unbeaten*

The Chiefs won 129 straight under Foster, now Amherst High coach. His nine-year record at Iroquois was 139-3.

Patterson thought the key to Tuesday's match was Attica's ability to move several boys down a weight class. The home team has to put its representative on the mat first and the visiting coach has the advantage of matching him.

## Trio Unbeaten

Ray Southard, Attica coach the last 12 years, noted "our last loss was to Iroquois about this time last year. In previous matches with them, we always started

poorly. This time, we got in front and stayed there."

Attica retained three unbeaten wrestlers. John Gerhardt handed Fred Schattner his first loss in a 97-pound decision. Tim Embt, last year's Section V 95-pound king, decisioned Fred Marcheson at 105 pounds for his 37th straight win. Larry Fugle outpointed Jim Kemmerer at 147 pounds. It was Kemmerer's first loss.

Mike Abt, who has never lost in a dual match and whose only career setback came in the State quarter-finals on Long Island last year, remained Iroquois' only unbeaten member. He pinned freshman Steve Bird (Howie's brother) Abt, a junior, has a 31-1 career mark.

**Iroquois still is unbeaten in the ECIC's Division III.**

The Chiefs are aiming at their 10th straight division title. They won eight straight sectional crowns before Niagara-Wheatfield dethroned them in Class AA last year.

Niagara-Wheatfield had a 53-meet streak stopped by Kenmore East Friday.

## Attica 25, Iroquois 16

97—John Gerhardt (A) d. Fred Schattner. 105—Tim Embt (A) d. Fred Marcheson. 114—Charley Schneckenberger (I) d. Dennis Kibler. 122—Keith Kersch (A) d. Dennis Blackman. 129—Dick LeForte (A) d. Paul Jones. 135—Ron Guard (I) d. Larry Lindebauer. 140—Chris Brunner (A) d. George Reinard. 147—Larry Fugle (A) d. Jim Kemmerer. 156—Gordie Heineman (A) drew with John Hilton. 167—Ken Hill (I) d. Dick Montford. 182—Mike Abt (I) p. Steve Bird. Heavy—Howie Bird (A) p. Bob Valentine.