

Attica Ruins Longest Mat Streak, Need Only 138 More for Record

ATTICA — Attica Central School's wrestling team is only 138 victories away from the alltime national high school record for consecutive wins.

The record is 150 and Attica has won 12 of its last 12. But great achievements have been built on more infirm footing, so don't bet against Ray Southard's wrestlers. The team they beat Tuesday at Elma, a Buffalo suburb, was the very squad that held that 150-match streak. Attica stopped it.

"We certainly were very thrilled with the win," exalted Southard yesterday on behalf of

his schoolboys. "And it was easy."

Attica's fine band of grunt 'n' groaners arrived at Iroquois Central School, Elma, Tuesday to find 1,200 screaming fans packed in the gym to watch their own gang make it victory No. 151 over a 10-year package. The streak was a national record, besting the 141 wrestling wins in a row accomplished by a North Carolina team years ago. The Iroquois wrestlers were local heroes. Now they have only a one-match losing streak.

"We're better this year than last" reported Southard, "and

they are only equal." In 1965-66's match, Iroquois held only a 21-14 lead with two duels to go, both of them ticketed for Attica victories. The Iroquois streak was in jeopardy.

"Our 180-pounder was ahead, 5-4, with 30 seconds to go," Southard recalled, "but suddenly got pinned. Our heavy-weight lost by only 2-1." Iroquois marched on.

Remembering last year's heartbreaking defeat came easily to Southard and his Prison Towners. It had been their last setback before finishing the season with four straight wins. Going into Tuesday

match, Attica was 7-0 for the 1966-67 campaign.

Ending the 150-match win streak came too easily to be true. Attica's John Gerhardt made his personal season record 13-0 with a decision at 95 pounds. Then 103-pounder Tim Embt got his 37th straight triumph and 13th of this season (11 by pins). Iroquois got three points back at 112, but the Prison Towners were ready.

Keith Kersch, a so-so 5-5 for the year, pulled the big upset at 120 pounds for Attica, taking a 6-2 decision, and suddenly the visitors were six points ahead. Twelve hundred fans stirred restlessly.

After eight matches, Attica was in front by 18-6. The ninth match was a draw. Attica was home free with its 12th straight victory over two years and Iroquois had lost its first in 151.

Before the day was over, Attica's 145-pound Larry Fugle had made it 13 straight this winter, 133-pounder Chris Brunner had won his 10th of 11 matches and heavyweight Howie Bird was 12-1. Attica had a 25-16 victory.

Southard admitted Iroquois is a very fine wrestling team, but its league is not as strong as Attica's Wyoming County circuit. "They beat Grand Island

last Friday, 26-18," Southard offered. "Their league is actually pretty easy except for Grand Island, but you can't take anything away from them (Iroquois). They're a fine team."

Attica is Class B in wrestling and Iroquois would probably rate Class A in this section, so perhaps Southard was being too modest about his boys' accomplishment. The Elma school is twice the size of Attica Central.

This is easily Southard's best team in 12 years at Attica. He has a 114-52 record now, but that's 20-3 since the start of the 1965-66 season and going strong.

Next for the Prison Towners is tough league rival Arcade Wednesday at Attica. Maybe Ray Southard's club can be within 137 wins of the record after that one.

Attica Snaps Record Skein at 150

Iroquois Mat Streak Halted

By JIM BAKER

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

Attica, Wyoming County League champion four of the last five years and 8-0 this season, gained



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