



Pearl River's Conway beaten in state mat prelims

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SYRACUSE

Lou Conway of Pearl River High School, considered the top contender for a state wrestling title on the Section 9 team, was bounced in the preliminary round of the Intersectionals Friday night here at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

Conway, third-place finisher in the state meet here last year and unbeaten this season in 25 bouts, lost a 14-9 decision to Rory Houlihan of Niskayuna (Section 2) in the 138-pound class.

However, Clarkstown 98-pounder Don Brenner staved off elimination from the two-day tournament when he pinned previously-unbeaten Rich Hanakovic of Union-Endicott (Section 4) in 5:00.

Hanakovic was 22-0 and held an 11-6 lead over Brenner late in the second period. Brenner reversed

Hanakovic early in the third and pinned him with a cradel. The victory moved Brenner into today's quarter-finals, which begin at noon, against Matt Smith of Calhoun (Section 8).

Smith, 26-2 on the season, drew a bye Friday.

The big surprise of the preliminaries was the fact that Section 4 (Southern Tier), which won the tournament two years ago in Rochester and finished fourth last year, lost 7 out of 10 wrestlers. Section 4 advanced wrestlers only in the 112, 215 and 250-pound (unlimited) weight classes, along with 145, 155 and 177, where it drew byes.

Besides Conway and Brenner, only three others on the 13-member Section 9 team wrestled Friday night, the rest drawing byes into today's quarter-finals. Among the quarter-finalists on byes are 119-pounder Ruben Solero of Middletown along with 112-pounder Rich Saul and heavyweight (215) Dan Simmons, both of Port Jervis.

Ramapo 105-pounder Joe Goldsmith, who upset defending Section 9 champ Jim Tisco of Newburgh Free Academy last Saturday in the finals, blanked Rich Castiglione of Niagara-Wheatfield (Section 6), 8-0. Goldsmith goes against Dave Noble of Section 10 today and is considered a good bet to reach the semi-finals.

However, Todd Farrison of Suffern lost a 15-4 decision to Vince Lince of Linton (Section 2).

Farrison's loss gave Section 9 a .500 batting average (2 advancements, 2 eliminations) going into the 177-pound preliminary, where Pearl River's Jim Hohman pinned Arnie Goldstein of Carey (Section 8) in 2:27. Goldstein had reversed Hohman early in the second period and nearly had him in pinning position when Hohman rolled through and got the fall instead.

Hohman wrestles Sleepy Hollow's Brian Tompkins (Section 1) in the quarter-finals today. Tompkins, 24-1-1 drew a bye.