

Big Bob Mathias (35) of Clarkstown battles with Newburgh's George Bucci (22) for a rebound, but player rebounder behind them has two hands on the ball in Saturday's Tourney I finals.--Sunday Record photo by Dave Lewis

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Solero beaten in state final

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SYRACUSE

Ruben Solero didn't win a state wrestling title at the 9th annual Intersectionals here Saturday night, but he'll go into the Middletown High School record book anyway.

Solero, the scrappy 119-pound junior voted most valuable wrestler in the Section 9 Championships a week ago, met his match in the Intersectional finals here before a crowd of 4,400 at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

Solero went head-to-head with Dave Larrache of Brentwood (Section 11) and dropped a 6-1 decision.

But Solero's finish was the best ever by a Middletown High Wrestler in the state tournament. Best previous finishes for the Middies were thirds by Tony Ptak (1966) and Joe Radivoy (1963).

"You can't be happy when you finish second," said Middie coach Art Gage. "But Ruben will be back next year and he'll probably be back in the same class."

Brentwood sent four wrestlers into the finals and, on the strength of record-tying wins by three of them (112 pounds, 119 and 126), Section 11 won the team title for the first time/

Section 11 compiled 82 points to outdistance defending champion Section 3 (Syracuse area) with 72. Others, in order, were: Section 1 with 61, Section 8 with 59, Section 6 with 50, Section 9 with 42, Section 5 with 35, Section 2 with 26, Section 4 with 22, Section 10 with 2 and Section 7 with 1.

Only one defending champion was back, John Cuyler of Elmira (Section 4). Cuyler, winner of the 138-pound title last year, was up a weight this year, but he decided Pete Galea, 4-1, in the finals to win the most

valuable wrestler award. Galea was the lone Brentwood wrestler to lose in the finals, as Cuyler made him his 51st straight victims over a two-year period.

The sixth-place finish by Section 9 was two places higher than last year, but the point total of 42 was far less than the section's best of 60 in 1968 when it finished fourth. That year Section 9 crowned three champs, including Al Favata of Newburgh, the Tri-County area wrestler ever to win a state title.

Saturday night Section 9 crowned only one, 105-pounder Joe Goldsmith of Ramapo.

Goldsmith was never in trouble, outpointing Ivan Casavant of Hoosick Falls (Section 2) in the finals, 15-3. His three earlier matches, two of them Saturday afternoon, were won in similar fashion. The four tourney victories gave Goldsmith a 23-0 record and several ballots in poll for most valuable wrestler.

Jim Hohman of Pearl River, who along with Solero and Goldsmith were the only Section 9 finalists nearly got pinned, but managed to hang on in a lop-sided losing effort. Hohman, unbeaten in 27 bouts at 177 pounds prior to the finals, was decided, 11-3, by Eric Bratt of Westhill (Section 3).

Finals

98-Smith (Calhoun-8) dec. Sloan (Niagara Wheatfield-6), 10-5.
105-Goldsmith (Ramapo-9) dec. Casavant (Hoosick Falls-2), 15-3.
112-Gonzales (Brentwood-11) dec. Hunt (W Genesee-3), 5-2.
119-Larrache (Brentwood-11) dec. Solero (Middletown-9), 6-1.
126-Antonacci (Brentwood-11) dec. Casper (Rye Neck-1), 5-3.
132-Golden (Island Trees-8) dec. Greene (Horace Greeley-1), 5-4.
138-Gillette (Indian River-3) dec. Houlihan (Niagara Falls-2), 14-10.
145-Cuyler (Elmira-4) dec. Galea (Brentwood-11), 4-1.
155-Moulbury (Carey-8) dec. Rust (Kenmore East-6), 7-0.
167-Blank (Irondequoit-8) dec. Hunt (Niagara Falls-6), 3-2.
177-Bratt (Westhill-3) dec. Hohman (Pearl River-9), 11-3.
215-Rosecrans (W. Genesee-3) dec. Puleo (Iroquois-6), 12-2.
250-Hill (Mt. Vernon-1) dec. Rano (North Shore-8), 5-2.

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Brentwood with three champions (no other Section 11 school crowned a champ) equalled the record of three set by Mepham High School of Nassau County (Section 8) in 1964.

And Larrache, who beat Solero, was described by the Middie wrestler as "the best I've ever faced. He's a real winner. I was too slow for him," said Solero.

Solero had said after his afternoon semi-final victory that nobody he faced here in the Intersectionals was tougher than Rich Innella of Port Jervis, who Solero beat in the Section 9 finals. However, after losing to Larrache, Solero had a different idea.

Consolation results

98 POUNDS—Jacobson (Fulton-3) pinned Olizewski (Hauppauge-11), 4:45.

105 POUNDS—Mitchell (Mt. Vernon-1) dec. Marchinek (Whitman-11), 10-5.

112 POUNDS—Labate (Lakeland-1) dec. Dixon (Farmingdale-3), 8-5.

119 POUNDS—Thomas (Rye-1) dec. Laboy (Edison-5), 3-1.

126 POUNDS—Granowitz (Massapequa-8) dec. Killings (Edison-5), 4-2.

132 POUNDS—Hannon (Portville-6) won by forfeit.

138 POUNDS—Carraaquillo (brentwood-11)

dec. Hartwell (Canadaigua-5), 13-3.

145 POUNDS—Porter (S. Jefferson-3) dec. Krysak (Guilderland-2), 8-1.

155 POUNDS—Horvath (Ramapo-9) dec. Jantzi (Lowville-3), 9-8.

167 POUNDS—Remick (Whitsboro-3) dec. Bruns (W. Babylon-11), 7-3.

177 POUNDS—Cartwright +Keshagua-5) dec. Smith (Brentwood-11), 2-1.

215 POUNDS—Schuster (Pembroke-5) dec. Green (Bayport-11), 9-1.

250 POUNDS—Bartlett (Elmira-4) pinned Croce (Lindenhurst-11), 4:27.