



State Champion

Junior Mark Mysnyk was the only Sec. 4 wrestler to win a state crown, when he took the 98-lb. title in the intersectionals held Friday and Saturday.

He's No. 1

Mark Mysnyk Only Sec. 4 Matman to Win NY Title

by DICK TESTA
Staff Writer

Vestal's Mark Mysnyk and Union-Endicott's Frank Borrelli don't look anything alike, as Borrelli is 5-foot-11, 227 pounds, and Mysnyk 5-foot-5 and 98 pounds, but it was on their varying sized shoulders that the top honors for Section 4 fell in the 11th Annual New York State Intersectional Wrestling Tournament.

Mysnyk, a junior, won the 98-pound first place gold medal, while senior Borrelli took the runnerup silver in the super heavyweight division. They were the only finalists for the Section 4 team which finished in eighth place with 30 points.

Mysnyk's four victories were 3-2, 8-0, and 4-2 decisions prior to a dominating 10-1 licking administered to 30-0 George Medina of Baldwinsville in Saturday evening's opening bout at the Utica War Memorial. He received strong vocal support from the approximately 75 Endicott followers who made the trip primarily to root on U-E's Borrelli and 177 lb. Freddy Felton.

The first place by Mysnyk was the first ever won by a Golden Bear wrestler. The determined little scrapper continued a long series of Section 4 successes in the 98 lb. class. Mysnyk becomes the fourth champion and eighth to place in the top four during the 11 years of the tourney.

Completing an incredible season in which he won 34 out of 35 matches, Mysnyk's lone disappointment was that he was not given the opportunity to avenge that lone defeat, a 3-2 decision by Canadian frosh Bob Hadsell in the prestigious Windsor Christmas tourney. Hadsell was nipped 2-0 in over-time by Medina in the semis.

Mark had two close matches and two whose scores more realistically reflect the superiority demonstrated by the dedicated grappler. Throughout all four matches, he looked like an "easy rider" spending several minutes atop his foes. His ability to keep all four opponents on the bottom was the main ingredient in the impressive sweep.

Friday evening's first-round tussle turned out to be toughest. Hal Vendle of Niskayuna countered Mysnyk's every move in the opening period, then rode him out in the second. Faced with the possibility of losing if Vendle escaped in the final period, Mark put him on his back for a near fall with less than a minute remaining. A late reversal did not alter the 3-2 decision in favor of the tiniest Golden Bear.

Westlake's Gary Petagine never had a chance. Mysnyk rode him for over three minutes, while parlaying a takedown, reverse, and near fall for the 8-0 margin.

In Saturday's semifinal Mysnyk took down Jay Spates of Smithtown after about a minute and rode him out. He controlled Spates the entire second period also to pile up valuable riding time. An escape in the third brought the lead to 3-0. Spates managed to get a leg and bring Mark to the mat, but it was too late. With riding time, Mysnyk prevailed 4-2.

He surprised George Medina by charging out for a single leg takedown only six seconds into the match. Medina escaped a minute later, but was victimized by a Mysnyk head and heel move with only :05 left.

Starting down in the middle period, Mark reversed Medina. The referee was reluctant to make the call, but the two mat judges were in agreement with the 6,000 fans. Mysnyk remained in control for the rest of that stanza and the entire third, finally turning Medina on his back at the buzzer.

Thus, the first champion honored after two days of fierce competition was Mark Mysnyk. Despite his slight stature, Mark looked mighty big in the eyes of all New York State wrestling fans.

His next hurdle is a "free style" wrestling tourney at Sherburne this weekend, then he will set his sights on the U.S. Wrestling Federation's Junior Free-style championships to be held this summer. He hopes to better, by two notches, the third place he won in last year's national tournament.

Dribble and Shoot Contest for Boys

Endicott Optimists Club will sponsor its second annual Tri-Star Basketball Tournament for boys ages 8 through 12, on Saturday, March 17, at the Lewis N. Dieringer Bowl Club.