

Fairport scores big

By TOM FITZGERALD
D&C Sportswriter

It turns out that the race for the Eastern Division title in the Monroe County Wrestling League should be called "Logan's Run."

Coach Pete Logan and his talented club made surprisingly short work of traditional powerhouse East Rochester, 32-16, last night as hundreds of ER fans sat in stunned silence.

"Any time you win in East Rochester, it's a great feeling," said Fairport coach Pete Logan, who never forgets to remind people that he used to be an assistant to ER coach Don Quinn.

It was only the second Fairport victory over ER in 17 years, and it may have been the worst defeat ever for Quinn.

"I don't remember getting beat any worse," he said. "I'd have to go back through the books."

Fairport took a 17-6 lead after the first six matches, and back-to-back pins by Rich Boland at 147 pounds and Mike Stuver at 157 clinched the victory with a 29-9 lead and only two matches left.

Boland wrestled with a mask to protect a bruised nose he had suffered in his previous match. With a 10-4 lead over Dennis Essom, he finally made the pin with 1:17 left.

"I think that was the match that gave us a big lift," said Logan. "I didn't feel safe until after the 157 match."

Fairport juniors Chuck Tortorello and Ken Jamison helped stake the Red Raiders (5-0 league, 7-0 overall) to the early lead.

Tortorello (5-1-1) decisioned Jeff Kier (5-1) at 107 pounds, and Jamison (5-0) scored a four-point major decision over John Gueli (6-1) at 128.

Fairport's two top veterans, Dave Halladay at 121 and Joe Murnin at 134, added major decisions.

"Every time I wrestle him (ER's Mark Morabito) I get hurt," said Halladay after winning, 13-3. He pointed to a false front tooth, saying, "I lost that tooth in a match with him. And this time I got cut on the head by his tooth."

Halladay (6-1) recovered from the wound — after the blood was cleaned off his forehead — and served as his team's loudest cheerleader the rest of the way.

"Sometimes I think I get more psyched up for other people's matches," he said.

The quick Murnin (7-0) barely missed a pin at the end of the second period, but had little trouble in scoring a 12-2 victory over Bob Petrone.

"I spent all week getting psyched up for (Tom) Rosati," said Murnin, "and then I didn't get him."

Rosati was out with a shoulder separation he had suffered in a Christmas tournament in Buffalo.

The Bombers (5-1 league, 6-1 overall) were also without their undefeated 157-pounder, Dave Vella, for disciplinary reasons. But neither Rosati nor Vella would have prevented the Fairport blitz.

Quinn said he's never seen a stronger Fairport team, adding that a Fairport-Spencerport match would be a "tossup. Spencerport is tougher in the light weights and Fairport in the heavier."

The final Fairport victory was 169-pounder Bob Kyff's 5-3 decision over tough sophomore John Zito, who also had been undefeated.

ER's lone victories were a 10-2 decision by Mike Brien over Jeff Popen at 100; a 6-2 decision by John Barber over Mike Lennon at 140; a 5-1 victory by Andy Brien over Dan Enright at 179, and a 12-3 triumph by Joe Baldo over John Sklar at 215.

To: Don Quinn
Wrestling Coach
East Rochester H.S.

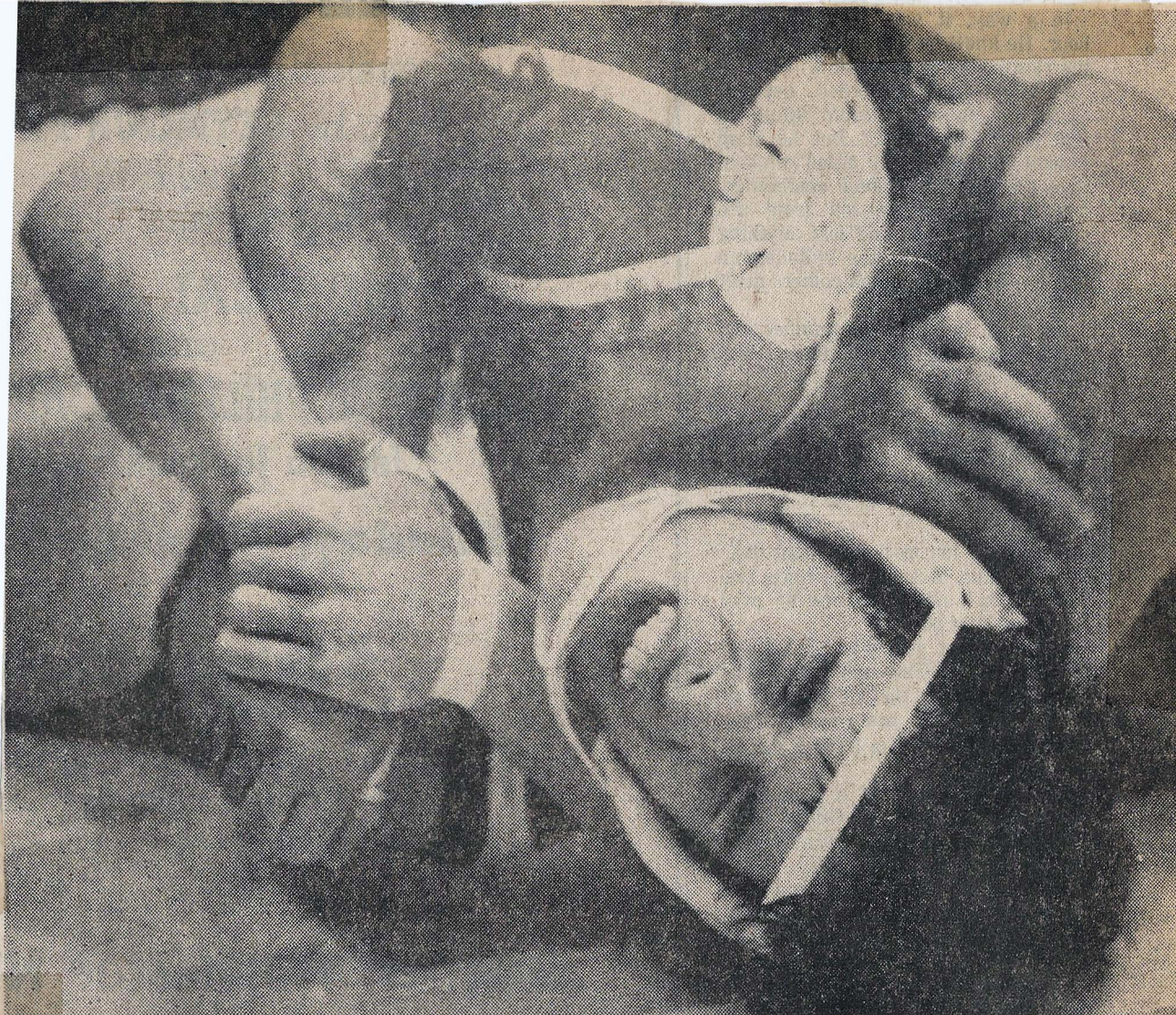
Dear Coach Quinn:

Pete Logan, the Fairport wrestling coach, has so much respect for you he instructed his boys not to give away any secrets. "Be kind to us," Logan pleaded. "Don't give ER anything."

Logan was implying that you utilize all sorts of methods to psych your wrestlers. "He'll pin this story up in the locker room and gain something from it," said Logan. "He's good at that."

Well, Don, you better find your scissors and scotch tape. Logan can smile and beg all he wants. He's loaded and he knows it, plus his team's ready for you. See ya next Thursday.

Sincerely,
John Czarnecki
Times-Union Sports Writer



D&C photo by Brad Bliss

Heading for trouble

Bob Petrone's face reflects his predicament as Fairport's Joe Murnin has him in a near pin. Fairport routed East Rochester, 32-16. Story, 5D.