

## Bombers Cop Class A Mat Crown

When Jefferson High's Mark Sweat tried to uphold his reputation for being one of Section 5's meanest wrestlers, he ran into East Rochester's strong sophomore John Zito in the final match in the 180 pound division and after six gruelling minutes of grappling, Zito was tossing Sweat around like a 10 pound bed pillow.

In one of the feature hassles of the Section 5 Class A tournament staged on the East Rochester court mats last Friday and Saturday and the delight and dismay of many schoolboy mat fans, Zito crumbled Sweat to the tune of a easy 10-1 count.

Zito was furious seconds after the match got under way and Sweat opened with a harassing move. Zito gave Sweat an escape point in the first period that netted Zito two takedowns and an escape for a 5-1 lead and rode Sweat like a Hopalong Cassidy the next two periods to grab the division championship.

It was 7-1 after two periods as Zito used his power to weaken Sweat, winner of three previous matches.

The scraps attracted about 2500 total fans for the two day carnival on the mats and East Rochester paced all entries with a leading 176 points. LeRoy was second with 88.5; Williamson followed with 80.5; Victor had 58, Midlakes 54, Jefferson 51, Mynderse 50, Pembroke 47, Palmyra-Macedon 37.5, Wellsville 34, Honeoye Falls-Lima coached by former Bomber Dave Young, 32; Dansville 26, Sodus 20, Alexander 19, Livonia 17.5 and Bath, former coaching base of East Rochester's highly effective Don Quinn was last with 12.

It wasn't the Zito-Sweat match that tugged the hearts of Bomber fans. A major drama occurred in the opener of the finals when ER's Mike Brien was in an argument with Brian Lafler of Midlakes in the 94 pound division. Brien fell behind 9-3 in the first quarter and twice fought off possible pins. At the end of two chapters, Brien fell back, 11-3, and then rallied for an escape for a point and two points for a reverse to close the gap to 11-6.

Brien wiped the froth from his mouth to start the last period and had a takedown and battled Lafler for a pin where he gained three more points to tie the tiff at 11-11 and then fell into a

predicament to give up two to Lafler with 35 seconds to go. Both warriors received applause from the gallery with Mike's father, Jim Brien leading the hand clapping.

Brien qualified for the inter-division tourney that is set for the Rochester War Memorial mats on all day Saturday. The winners of Division crowns move on to Syracuse for the state tournament the following weekend.

Interdivision scraps may bring clashes with Fairport and Spencerport entries. Those schools copped the East and West Division championships. ER's Brien ousted challenges from Tim Simmons of Marcus-Whitman in the first match; Albert Ashe of Williamson in the second and Mark Passage in the third tilt.

Also qualifying by grabbing the 108 division chips was Jeff Kier. His last match resulted in a pin at the 3:45 mark over Billy Subczak of Pembroke. Quinn gave Kier a warm handshake before the match started and Kier was 2-0 at the end of period one; and had a 9-0 lead when he flattened his rival.

Kier drew a first round bye and then beat Brian Clark of Williamson and then beat Pat Candidario of LeRoy.

Jack Conners won the gold ribbon in the 115 division with a 5-3 decision over Mike Mahoney of Victor. Earlier, Conners had licked Randy VanStern of Williamson; Doug Young of Marcus-Whitman and Mike Jones of Bath. It was 0-0 after a period and 2-1 at the end of two.

Tom Rosati copped a first in the 135 division with a tight 4-3 nod over Terry Holmes of Honeoye Falls-Lima. Rosati was in charge, 4-1 at the end of two chapters and then saw his lead fade to 4-3 with 42 seconds to go. He had to fight off a challenge for two points by the challenging Holmes.

His earlier victims were

Gordon Cummings of Palmyra-Macedon; Steve Kelly of Mynderse and Mike Cisco of Livonia.

ER's pair of heavyweights came through with victories. Joe Baldo at 218 continued to be a tourney surprise by overcoming a 6-2 lead managed by Ed Spink of LeRoy at the finish of the first two periods.

Baldo zipped back to trail 7-6 with 49 seconds to go and his mother in the south stands covering her eyes. With 10 seconds to go, Baldo took Spink for a reverse and held on to be the victor. It was 10:13 on the clock at the time as Baldo raised two hands in victory ala Cassius Clay or Muhammad Ali would show.

Baldo removed his first opponent, Al Rescori of Mynderse, and then pinned Brian Smock of Palmyra Macedon in 4:55; his third prey was Bob Jennejohn of Honeoye Falls-Lima.

In another feature match, Bomber Joe Bock gave up poundage to opponent Tony Paradise of Mynderse but prevailed for an 8-6 win and 253 pound laurels. Bock was behind 6-4 after two periods and out maneuvered Paradise in the last two minutes with a pair of escapes and a takedown.

While Mike Brien copped a second, his brother Andy Brien finished with an inter-division qualifying third. He ended with verdicts over Sam Smith of Jefferson and Glenn Hall of Wellsville, in the 158 class.

Mark Morabito also took a qualifying third place in the 122 division with a pin at the 2:50 mark over John Duffy of Dansville; John Barber had a third in the 148 weights with a 2-1 win over Brian Thayer of Williamson. Three Bombers lost qualifying bids in John Gueli, at 129; Frank Rotunda at 141; and eighth grader Curtis Doreen at 101.