

ER outmuscles Fairport

Baldo decisions Enright to clinch championship

By TOM FITZGERALD
D&C Sportswriter

Two high school athletes might not be in a situation with as much pressure this year in any sport.

Joe Baldo, the 6-foot-4 giant of East Rochester's wrestling team came out to match muscles with Fairport's Dan Enright in the final match of the biggest local meet of the year.

With what seemed like the entire town of East Rochester cheering him on, Baldo beat the previously unbeatable Enright to give ER a 27-23 victory and the Monroe County East Division title.

"I'm shocked I beat him," Baldo said after the heavyweight duel climaxed the final league meet of the season in Fairport. "I had my doubts that I could do it."

The blond Enright, a well-muscled senior who had won all his previous 20 bouts this year, had a 2-1 lead in the second period. But Baldo scored an escape for one point in the final second of the period and followed through by running halfway around the mat.

With 45 seconds to go in the final period, Baldo (20-2) caught Enright in a cradle and, to the delight of the large ER delegation, locked him in it the rest of the way. The final score of the match was 5-2.

"It wasn't a good cradle," Baldo said. "I just held on with my fingers. I never would have pinned him."

But the three-point near-fall decided

the bout, the meet and the division race.

The outcome didn't surprise ER Coach Don Quinn, who has lost to Fairport only twice in his 18 years. "I think Joe's a better wrestler. We have trouble getting anybody to work out with him because he's so big. The only thing he lacks is confidence. He's got all the tools. And inside he's got a heart of gold."

Baldo admitted he was hoping the meet would have been decided by the time he stepped on the mat. But Fairport (7-1 league, 9-1 overall) had rallied from a 16-7 deficit after five matches to take a 23-18 lead with three matches left.

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Then came another episode in the continuing rivalry between ER's John Zito and Fairport's Bob Kyff at 170 pounds. In the county tournament finals, Zito had pulled out an overtime victory over Kyff. It was close again last night, with Zito (22-0) winning, 4-3.

A reversal in the second period did the job for Zito. It gave him a 4-2 lead, and he surrendered an escape in the third period.

His victory cut the Fairport lead to 23-21 and Kevin Maynard put the Bombers in front (24-23) with a 180-pound decision over Bill Guarino. So ER (8-0, 11-2) needed only a draw from Baldo, but got

the whole cake.

Mike Brien of ER (101) opened the night with a 3:26 pin over Dan Bucci, and the Bombers added another pin with Dave Yacona at 129. Fairport's lone pin came from Scott Gillman at 141. County champs Chuck Tortorello (115), Ken Jamison (135) and Rich Boland

East Rochester 27, Fairport 23

101 pounds—Mike Brien (ER) pinned Dan Bucci (F).

(ER 6-0)

108—Bob Arao (F) dec. Curtis Doreen (ER), 6-4.

(ER 6-4)

115—Chuck Tortorello (F) dec. Romeo Battazzi (ER), 7-3.

(F 7-6)

122—Jeff Kier (ER) dec. Ken Catalfamo (F), 14-4.

(ER 10-7)

129—Dave Yacona (ER) pinned Scott Hills (F), 3:14.

(ER 16-7)

135—Ken Jamison (F) dec. Bob Marionetti (ER), 6-3.

(ER 16-10)

(158) triumphed but failed to gain the pins that might have boosted Fairport.

Quinn was especially pleased with Bob Marionetti for holding Jamison to a 6-3 decision. Boland did everything but wrap Dave Prong in the mat for a 20-5 victory.

141—Scott Gillman (F) pinned Bruce Kier (ER), 3:28.

(16-16)

148—Dennis Essom (ER) and Russ Sutley (F) draw.

(18-18)

158—Rich Boland (F) dec. Dave Prong (ER), 20-5.

(F 23-18)

170—John Zito (ER) dec. Bob Kyff (F), 4-3.

(F 23-21)

180—Kevin Maynard (ER) dec. Bill Guarino (F), 4-2.

(ER 24-23)

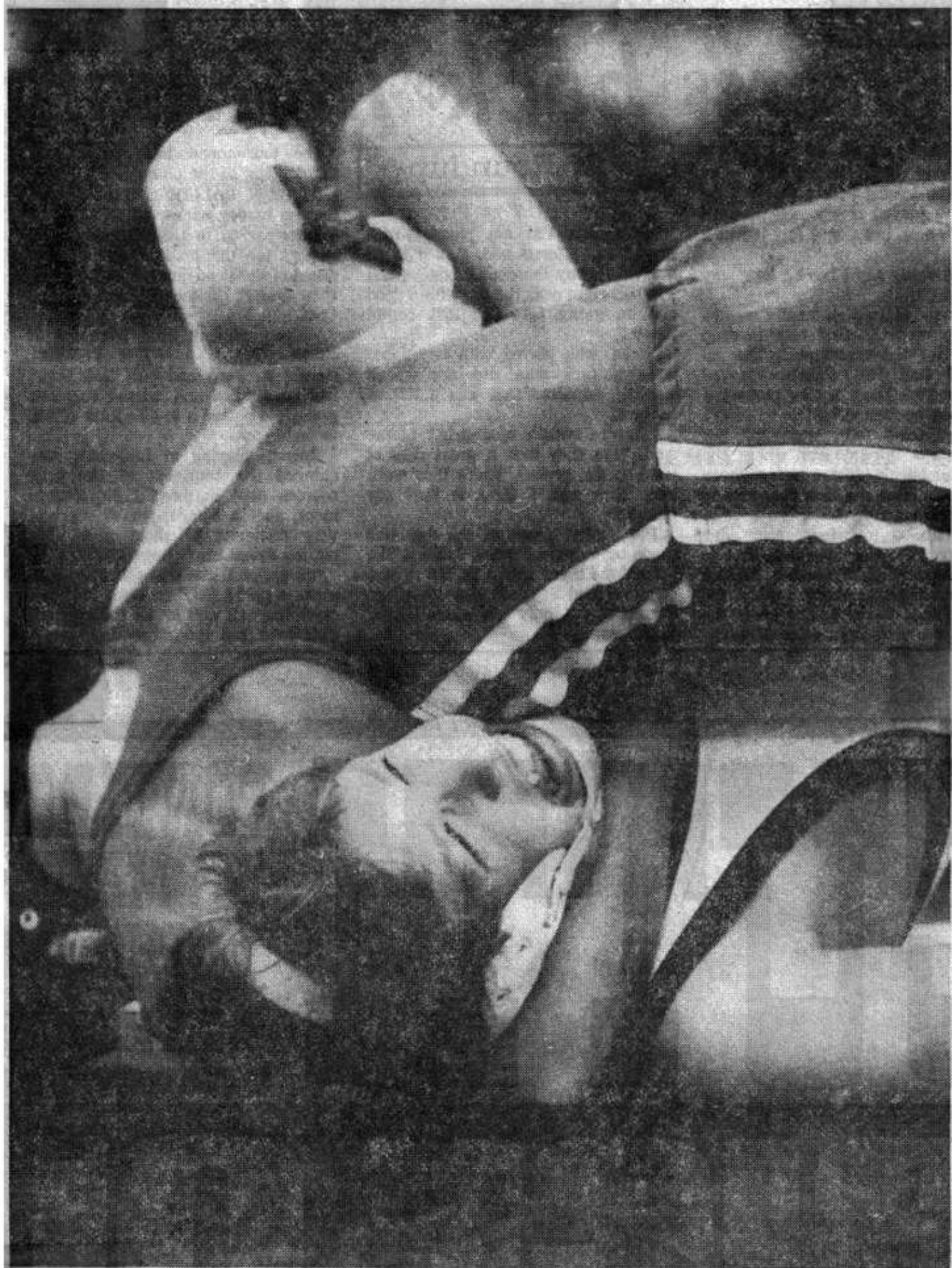
218—Joe Baldo (ER) dec. Dan Enright (F), 5-2.

(ER 27-23)



ER fans flash victory signs when Mike Brien wins by pin in his 101-pound weight class bout.

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D&C photos by Brad Bliss

ER's Curtis Doreen is close to being pinned by Fairport's Bob Arao. Arao won on points.