



Photo by Staff Photographer Bill Tynan

"MOW" at Work

Baldwinsville's Tom Pickard (bottom) struggles to shake Cameron Riggs of Peru Central off his back during the 145-pound title bout at last night's Baldwinsville Invitational wrestling tournament.

Pickard went on to win his 44th straight bout, 5-1, and was later voted "Most Outstanding Wrestler" of the 11-team tourney. B'ville, New York's No. 1-ranked mat power, won handily with 239.5 points.

Pickard Paces Bees' Win ★

State champion Tom Pickard captured the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" award and sparked host Baldwinsville to an impressive team triumph, with 239.5 points, at the 11-school B'ville Tournament last night.

Pickard, last year's New York State 132-pound champion at the War Memorial, extended his winning streak to 44 consecutive bouts as he won the 145-pound class, beating Cameron Riggs of Peru Central, 5-1, in the title match.

Pickard scored a pin and a 10-0 decision en route to the finals, where he faced two-time Section Seven champion Riggs, son of coach Stan Riggs of the powerful Peru team. Riggs had reached the finals with a 5-2 conquest of the highly-touted Long Island wrestler, Tony Damiani of Mepham, who eventually placed third.

Mepham, victor in last week's Spring Gardner Tournament" on Long Island, failed to live up to its advance billing, slipping to third in the team scoring with 129.5 points. New Hartford, downed by the Bees, 29-23, in a dual showdown in December, took second with 147.5 points. Last year's state 177-pound runnerup, Charbel Karrat, triumphed as expected at that weight to lead the Spartans.

Champion B'ville, New York State's No. 1-rated scholastic team, boasted a quartet of champions in 91-pound Jerry Haselmayer, 138-pound Barry Albert, Pickard and 250-pound Ed Krupka.

Pickard and Krupka were repeat champs from last winter's B'ville Christmas tourney, as was Karrat.

B'ville also received runnerup finishes from Mike Allen at 98, Carl Kristeller at 105 and Matt Delawyer at 112. Kristeller was involved in a rough and tumble scrap with defending Section Three champion Joe Labbate of East Syracuse-Minoa when he was injured and had to default the title match.

ES-M finished fifth with 108 points, but boasted individual champions in Labbate, 112-pound Sam Jacopelle and 126-pound Mike Letcher. The Spartans, who will wrestle at B'ville Jan. 11 in an Onondaga League North showdown, also had a tourney runnerup in heavyweight Joe Richer, who dropped an exciting 8-7 match to West Genesee's rugged Jim Sleeper at heavyweight.

Sleeper was the lone champion for West Genesee, the Wildcats finishing last in the field of 11 schools with 49.5 points, although they had won the North Syracuse "Andersen Memorial Tournament" prior to Christmas. That's how strong the field was at B'ville last night.

It might also be noted that East Rochester took the Monroe County League Tournament with 208 ½ points earlier this week, but could only finish seventh at B'ville. Section Five defending champion John Zito led East Rochester by winning the 167-pound class with a 10-4 decision of Liverpool's rugged Rich Plumb.

MAT NOTES — Unbeaten Central New York Cities League power Auburn placed ninth (69 points) despite the efforts of 98-pound champion Andy Giannino...New Hartford had three champions, Joe St. Amour winning at 132 and Chris Inman taking the 155-pound class with a 5-4 conquest of Fulton's Steve Distin...B'ville's Haselmayer had three pins to annex the "aggregate pin" award...A champion from 1976 who failed to repeat was Peru's Kevin Bruno, who last to Mepham's Carbo, 4-1, at 119 pounds... B'ville coach Leo Johnson, who will bid for his 200th dual meet coaching victory vs. winless Jamesville-DeWitt at J-D Jan. 6th, pointed to team balance as the key to the outstanding point total. "All 14 of our kids placed among the top six in their weight classes," he observed... An overflow crowd of more than 2,000 (almost 2400) filled the gymnasium to overflowing.