

Canandaigua wrestlers buried

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BALDWINVILLE — Canandaigua's drive to the top of the state high school wrestling poll dead-ended last night.

The Braves (9-1), ranked No. 2 in the state, found out early that No. 1 intended to stay No. 1.

The final score in a packed Baker High School gymnasium was Baldwinsville 35, Canandaigua 19.

But for all intents and purposes, Can-

andaigua's first defeat of the year and Baldwinsville's 51st consecutive dual meet victory were assured after three matches.

After a tumultuous pre-match din had died down, the Bees flew out of the starting blocks with two six-point pins and a three-point decision.

Baldwinsville (13-0) was in command, 15-0.

"At that point, we were almost out of it," Canandaigua Coach Weldon Can-

ough said.

That they were. Though Canandaigua's Ron Jones stalled Baldwinsville with a victory at 119 pounds, Steve Gregory came right back with the third of four Baldwinsville pins for a 21-3 lead.

"The coach told us they were going to come out after us," said Matt King, who rang up one of Canandaigua's most convincing victory of the night with a 19-6

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victory at 132 pounds. "They caught us flat."

And, for the most part, it didn't get any better.

After King's superior decision closed the gap to 21-8, Morris White gave Canandaigua its second straight victory to pull the Braves within 10 points, 21-11.

Mike Reho followed with another Canandaigua victory at 145 pounds and the score read Baldwinsville 21, Canandaigua 14.

But just four matches remained. Canandaigua could wait no longer to make its run.

Then, as decisively as Baldwinsville started the match, it ended it.

Jeff Beaver pinned Canandaigua's Mark Henderson at 155 pounds to open the lead to 27-14. Baldwinsville won two of the last three bouts to pull away.

"We had to win the close ones," King said. "It just didn't work out, though."

Maybe it will work out next year, when Canandaigua hosts Baldwinsville in a return match.

The Braves return nine wrestlers from last night's lineup, while Baldwinsville loses nine of its 12.

But for now, at least, the Bees are a clear-cut No. 1.

"I honestly think we're that good," said Mike Conners, Baldwinsville's unbeaten 177-pounder (19-0). "Canandaigua really has a good team, but every time we've been challenged we've really come through."

Conners pointed to earlier victories over Jordan-Elbridge, which went down 49-6 to snap a 29-meet winning streak, and nearby Fulton, which came up on the short end of a 36-14 score that decided the league championship.

Canough pointed to next year.

"This is the best wrestling match these kids have ever been in," he said. "This is part of getting up there — and we'll get there."