

Sport Facts

By Bill Boyle

Last Saturday in Rochester the Canandaigua Academy wrestlers put the finishing touches on their Sectional season by winning four Section 5 championships and then going on to take three championships in the A-B wrestleoffs to put three wrestlers in the State finals this week at Utica.

This didn't happen by chance—it took a lot of work and long hours on the part of the wrestlers and a lot of savvy by their Coach. DEDICATION is the proper word for it.

The wrestlers are Robert and Bruce Hadsell, Ron Langdon and Steve Coats.

The Coach is Weldon Canough of the Canandaigua Academy teaching staff.

All four wrestlers won Section 5 crowns. The Hadsell brothers and Langdon went on to win their right to participate this week at Utica in the State finals. Steve Coats lost his A-B wrestleoff but nevertheless reached his goal, a Section 5 crown.

Let's take a look at Coach Weldon Canough.

He came to Canandaigua in the Fall of 1965 and took over his job as Driver Education teacher and head wrestling coach. It was supposed to be a building year following two Finger Lakes championships.

That year Canough and his wrestlers finished second behind powerhouse Mynderse with a 7-5-0 record overall. Richard Hadsell became Section 5 champion at 98 pounds.

In 1966-67 CA and Coach Canough finished with a 12-1-1 record and tied Mynderse for the Finger Lakes Championship. That year there were no sectional champs.

In 1967-68 the Braves won the championship with a 12-1 record and had three Sectional champs, Dick Hadsell, Bob Bradshaw and Gary Gustin. Hadsell and Gustin went to the states but failed to place.

In 1968-69 CA again tied with Mynderse for the Finger Lakes crown with an 11-2-1 record. Don Jones and Gerry Case were Sectional champs and Case finished second in the state.

In 1969-70 CA won the championship and Don Jones was Section 5 champ. Most Outstanding wrestler and finished fourth in the state. The Braves were 10-2 in the records.

In 1970-71 Geneva beat CA for the crown, CA had a 9-3 record. Jim Hartwell was Section 5 champ and fourth in the state.

1971-72 the Braves won with an 11-2 record with Mike Chappelle, Sectional champ and second in the state.

The past season saw the Braves taking the crown with a perfect 16-0 record. They had their four champions and are hoping for a state champion or two this weekend.

Put all this together and it comes out 93-16-2, 13 sectional champions and eight A-B champions. Add to this impressive string four championships at Dansville and seven more Section 5 champs with an overall record of 183-21-5 in 11 years of coaching for Weldon Canough.

Canough's records have been established by intense love of the sport and dedication to youth. He is a taskmaster and a perfectionist. The hardest word for him is 'LOSE' and it doesn't happen too often.

He works with the boys from fifth grade through high school and one time I overheard a spectator from another school remark, "How does a freshman get to be a starter on the varsity?"

Because he has been wrestling for several years under Canough's guidance in the lower grades, at the Y, the Salvation Army, St. Mary's or anywhere Canough can get

someone interested in taking up the sport and two boys to go against each other.

As Canough says, "If you want wrestlers you've got to work at it and start them young. You can't wait until they get them in high school."

Let's look at this year's state finalists.

Take the Hadsells and you have a wrestling family. Before Bruce and Robert came Dave, Dick and Mike. Dave started wrestling and was a good prospect but tore a cartilage forcing him to leave the sport.

Dick was a two time Section 5 champion and is a Junior at Oswego State. Mike unfortunately was in the same weight class with Gary Gustin and played second fiddle to Gustin. He is a senior at Lockhaven State.

Bruce has the enviable record, 71-7-1 in four years of wrestling. It is a CA record. He was 2-0 as a freshman; 16-4-1 as a sophomore; 24-3 as a junior and this year achieved his goal as Section 5 champion, A-B champ with a 29-0 record to date. He stands a fine chance at State level.

Robert Hadsell is only a freshman but has the enviable record of 23-0, a Section 5 and A-B championship and also an excellent chance of winning the state crown.

And to give future CA foes something to think about there are twin Hadsell boys, John and Bill in the wings—yes they are wrestlers.

Then comes Ron Langdon with a fine 64-13 overall record. Ron follows his brother Don who piled up a 58-10 record finishing second in Section 5.

As a freshman Ron had a 2-1 record; as a sophomore he was 14-6; as a Junior he was 20-5, second in Section 5 at 112 pounds and this year was 28-1, Section 5 champ at 105 and also has a good chance at Utica this weekend.

Yes, there's another Langdon coming along, brother Larry, only in the third grade, but wrestling.

Wrestling seems to attract families. Brother follows brother in the sport and each seems to try a little harder to beat the one that went ahead.

Yes, CA wrestling has come a long way since Clarence Aikey enlisted the help of Al Gentile in the Fall of 1958 to help CA get started in the wrestling world.

Many fine athletes have competed for the Cherry and Gray and the Braves have set a record down through the years and capped it this year with its finest performance.

Clarence Aikey, Pat Augustine, John Palmer and now Weldon Canough have molded the wrestlers of Canandaigua Academy and the fame of the Braves is well known throughout New York State.

Congratulations to Coach Canough, this year's championship Braves and good luck to Robert and Bruce Hadsell and Ron Langdon as they try for more honors for CA this weekend.

Roseland Bowl

LAKER'S
Mar. 7, 1973

High single — Chuck Walker, 249; high triple — Skip Hoose, 616; high team single — Ruby's Sporting Goods, 1041; high team triple — Ruby's Sporting Goods, 3011.

STANDINGS	Points
Miller's Nursery	65 1/2
Fellows Mobil	67
Rocky's Cafe	67
Denby Vendors	61 1/2
Sam's Cozy Corner	59
Ruby's Sporting Goods	55
Winship Drugs	53
Winged Pheasant	51 1/2
Utica Club	45 1/2
Wayne Drugs	43
West Avenue Diner	43
Mutual Hook & Ladder	40 1/2
LeGrell Barbers	33
American Legion	25 1/2



A WINNING COMBINATION — CA wrestling Coach Weldon Canough and Section 5 champions Robert Hadsell, Ron Langdon and Bruce Hadsell have been a winning combination for Canandaigua Academy all season. The three wrestlers have compiled a record of 80 wins and one loss this season and will be going for State Titles at Utica this weekend. (Messenger photo)