

Mat Champs

Stumpf, Velieri

Ready for State

Warren Stumpf of Rush-Henrietta credits his judo experience as a big help to his wrestling.

Stumpf won the Section 5 wrestling championship in the 138-pound class Saturday at Fairport to earn the right to go to the state championships March 10-11 at Syracuse.

"My father started me in judo when I was four-years-old," said Warren. His father, Warren Stumpf Sr. is an insurance agent and resides at 18 Ivory Way. He holds a black belt and has advanced to the third degree — there are 10 degrees of black belt. Warren holds a brown belt and he's nearing the black belt.

"He's my instructor," said Warren.

Stumpf transferred to Rush-Henrietta from Orchard Park High near Buffalo when his father was transferred to a new office here. "When we moved my father checked the area for a school which had a good wrestling program. We almost moved to Spencerport. We found Gordon Gilfilean to be a good coach so I went to R-H."

Warren has found judo a big help, especially to the take-down phase of wrestling. "You win a lot of matches with takedowns," he said. He has never been taken down in his varsity career.

A takedown in wrestling is a maneuver where one wrestler attacks his opponent and gains control by knocking him off balance. A takedown is worth two points.

Warren. In addition to his two county and section 5 titles,

was third in the Section 6 132-pound class as a sophomore. He also wrestled at 132 last year. "My weight went up this year, so I moved up one class."

He is 16-0 in his weight class and has won eight other matches at 145 and 155. His closest match was a 7-8 win over defending 131-pound champion Jim Hartwell of Canandaigua in the finals of the Class A Sectional tournament at Fairport. Both Stumpf and Hartwell were fourth in the state tournament last year.

Hartwell led, 5-2, in the second period but a third period near-pin and a take down with 18 seconds left enabled Warren to keep his record this year unblemished. Hartwell used a near pin and a penalty point for slamming to build his early lead.

Al Velieri of Spencerport credits Coach Walt Teike for his success in wrestling. "He's helped me with takedowns. He feels that a lot of matches are won with that method."

Vellieri won the 148-pound title Saturday night.

Vellieri was eliminated in last year's state tournament in the quarterfinals. This year he feels Stu Gillette of Indian River, in Section 3, will be his toughest competition in the state meet.

His biggest victory in the sectionals was a 7-4 win over Brad Gillespie of Haverling High. "I figured he'd be my toughest competition in the Sectionals."

AP Selections

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