

# Tack Wins Sectional Toga; Matmen Close Best Season

by Cory Clark

The best wrestling season in the three-year history of Webster's newest varsity sport closed with a flourish at R.I.T. Saturday, March 2, as Ridge unlimited Ernie Tack edged Pelligrini of East in the final round of the Section V Class A' tourney to gain a Sectional championship, the first in WCS history.

Those who were close enough to Coach Robert Terbush just after the final buzzer heralding

Tack's triumph heard something son Tech wound up on the wrong like, "It took a long time, but I finally got one!" For three years the Ridge school had gone without a Sectional champ, but it was three times and out as Ernie came through with the decision over Pelligrini, who had been beaten only once during the season and who had beaten Gene Costa for the berth in the finals, a wrestler who had beaten Ernie.

Neither wrestler could make the takedown in the first period, but in the second round Ernie instantly escaped, then made the takedown to build up a 3-0 lead. Before the period ended the Oriental grappler escaped, and Pelligrini again escaped in the final period, accounting for his two points. So it was a plaque and certificate for Ernie, and the first taste of glory for the school on the Ridge in the Sectionals.

## Card Looked Tough

In November, when the schedule was released, most of the members of the team took one look at the formidable array of teams ahead of them and felt like turning in their mat right then and there. It certainly looked like a rough, rough season. Known powerhouses like Spencerport, Charlotte, East, Franklin, Monroe, Geneva, Myanderse formed the bulk of the lineup, known toughies like Alexander, Wayne, Jefferson, Edison Tech, Batavia State School for the Blind, and Madison would provide rough competition. The only 'pushovers' were Rush-Henrietta, Brockport, and Medina, green teams the Ridgemen were almost sure to beat. It looked like the Ridge matmen might possibly sink below the .500 mark for the first time in WCS wrestling history.

The Websterites started out well, edging Alexander with a fine comeback in the upper weights, 22-18. Next, the Ridgemen whaloped Batavia State quite unexpectedly, 35-13, but they needed Ernie Tack's pin of Dick Burns in the final match of the Myanderse meet for a 19-19 tie with the Seneca Falls school. The old Wayne jinx halted the Ridgemen their first loss of the season, 21-16, and the visiting Geneva grapplers beat the Ridgemen, 20-16, in the next meet. But the Ridgemen came back with a 25-12 whipping of Charlotte, one of the biggest upsets of the season, then fell to the tremendous Spencerport squad, 28-14. From that point on the Ridgemen won all their matches except one, a truly great finish to a fine season.

## Opened With Win

First the Ridgemen edged Jefferson, 23-20, then whipped Rush-Henrietta, 38-14. For the first time in WCS wrestling history the Ridge squad whipped Wayne Central, 22-14, avenging their earlier loss to the Wayne-men. After East demolished the Ridgemen, 26-11, the Blue and Gold finished with four straight triumphs. Monroe fell, 27-12; Brockport was racked, 41-15; Edi-

son Tech wound up on the wrong

end of a 23-20 score, and Francis

lin found itself sunk beneath a

32-13 powerhouse.

Probably the most important

department of all is 'pins for'

Three wrestlers especially domi-

nated this list, led by Rev Munson,

who flattened nine of his 17 op-

ponents for an all-time record.

Richie Hogan pinned seven of his

17 opponents, while Ernie Tack

held six out of 14 down for the

count. Bill Kehrig flattened five

men, Ron Holtz, Barry Swift, and

Cory Clark each took the measure

of four, John Elter flattened

three, and Roy Hiller and Dave

Robinson pinned two apiece. The

pins were a very important factor

in WCS wrestling success this

season; though the Ridgemen

scored only 349 to opponents' 324

in match scores this season, the

Blue and Gold out-pinned oppo-

nents, 46-20, accounting for 130

extra points for the team. Bill

Kehrig, Roy Hiller, Dick Hogan,

Ron Holtz, Barry Swift, Rev Mun-

son, Cory Clark, and Ernie Tack

finished the season without being

pinned.

The Ridgemen matched last

year's performance and that of

the previous year by placing six

All-County wrestlers. Bill Kehrig

triumphed in 112, Ron Holtz in

145, Barry Swift in 154, Rev

Munson, in 165, Cory Clark in 175,

and Ernie Tack in Unlimited. Keh-

rig, Holtz, Munson, and Tack were

repeat titlists.

## Losing Seniors

Next year the Ridgemen will be without the services of Ron Holtz, Rev Munson, Cory Clark, Bill Toif, and Ernie Tack, all of whom except Tack are graduating; Ernie will be wrestling in California, not in New York.

"a shame, isn't it? We no sooner get a Sectional champ than we lose him. Veterans Bill Kehrig, Roy Hiller, Richie Hogan, Dave Blik, Barry Swift, Alan Henderson, and John Elter will be starters returning to the lineup, and if the Ridgemen can come through with enough power in the upper weights to replace what they lose, the wrestling squad of '57-'58' should do as well, if not better, than this year's team."

Now we get into the statistical revue, which always provides a wealth of information about any team. As a team, the Ridgemen chalked up 364 points against opponents 265, an average of 24.3 against 17.6. This hardly justifies the Ridgemen's 10-4-1 record, but somehow they got it.

## Munson Starred

The individual accomplishments of the WCS grapplers were awesome this year, but no one more thoroughly dominated the success of the team than co-captain Rev Munson, who led in almost every department in his last year at Webster. Rev sported a 15-2 record, the best record compiled by any wrestler in WCS mat history. Ron Holtz, the other co-captain, went undefeated until his ninth match and wound up the season with a 12-2-1 record. Bill Kehrig, who led the team with an 11-2 record last year, improved on this with a 14-3 standing. Richie Hogan posted an 11-6 record, while Barry Swift came up with a 7-1 season. Cory Clark walked off the mats with a 9-5-1 record, while Ernie Tack compiled a 10-4 seasonal record. Roy Hiller ended up with a 7-6-1 record, while the other members of the squad fell below the .500 mark.

Another important department is the match scoring one, based on the number of points a wrestler scores in matches not won or lost by falls. Bill Kehrig led in this department, scoring 46 points in 12 matches not won by falls. Dave Robinson was the most prolific point-getter on an average, scoring 43 in only nine matches not going to falls. Roy Hiller racked up 42 in 12 matches not going to pins, while Ron Holtz managed 40 in 11. Rev. Munson picked up 35 in eight matches not going to falls. In a little more embarrassing department, points against, Dave Blik led with 45, Dave Robinson followed with 43, and John Elter with 40.

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