

ER, Spencerport to flex muscles again

By TED ROSEN
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They play for the Little Brown Jug in football. Now, they're building up the same kind of rivalry on the wrestling mat.

East Rochester is the perennial powerhouse, and Fairport is the new kid, brash and talented, in the Eastern Division of the Monroe County League.

Defending champion East Rochester is under the guidance of Don Quinn (217-22.3 in 18 years). He has produced two state champions and two runners-up.

John Gueli, Section 5 Class A champion at 126 pounds, league 177-pound champion Andy Brien and Jeff Kier, fourth in the league tourney at 105, head the veterans.

Other starters are Jackie Connors, 112, Mark Morabito, 119, Tom Rosati, 132, John Barber, 138, and John Zito, 167, so Quinn has strength throughout his lineup.

Gueli was 19-2 over all last year, as a junior, his first on the varsity.

"It's definitely an advantage to bring them around slowly," Quinn says. Gueli's record last season speaks for the wisdom of patience. "Not too many wrestlers come up quickly. Few can handle the pressure of varsity competition."

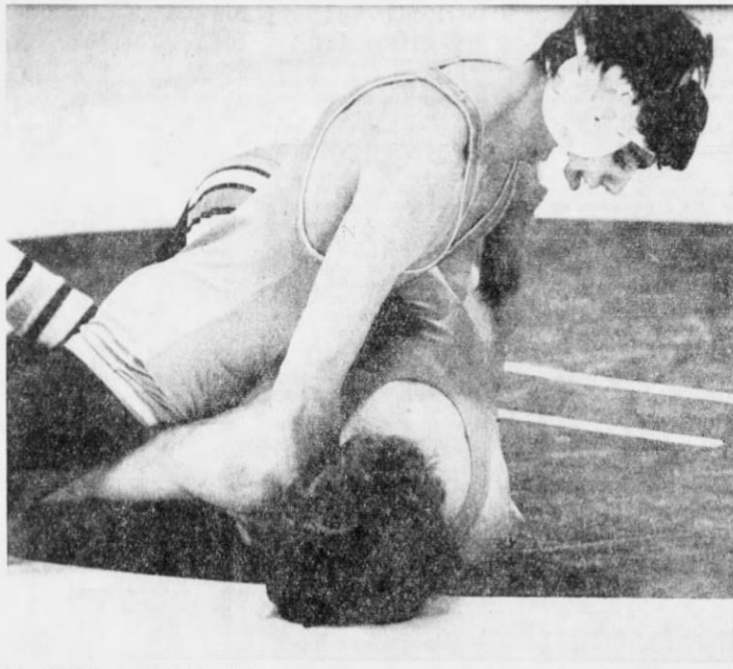
Quinn lost Bob Steirnuck, John Antonelli and Phil Pizzigrilli from last year's squad. Antonelli and Steirnuck lost in the finals of the qualifier for the state tournament. All three were highly ranked in league wrestling.

Fairport comes off its best season, 11-21, and lost only three wrestlers from that team. But coach Pete Logan, a former student teacher under Quinn, is wary.

"One other time I thought I had a nucleus coming back," he said. "I lost six starters to all kinds of situations — injuries, grades — it wiped out the whole team."

"It's such a long season. If someone is injured, it can cause a lot of problems."

Dave Halladay, 68-5-2 in his varsity career, moves up from 112 to 119. He lost in the 116-pound finals of the state qualifier to Mike Fuller of Warsaw,



John Gueli (top) and his East Rochester teammates hope to pin down another Monroe County title.

who went on to be runner-up in the state.

Joe Murrin, 132, lost only to Chuck Partridge of Hilton and Robert Hadsell of Canandaigua, both of whom have been graduated.

Chuck Tortorello, 105, his brother, Scott 126, Mike Ortega, 112, Mike Lennon, possibly 126, Mike Stuver, 155, and Bob Kyff, 167, are seasoned veterans.

Both East Rochester and Fairport will be pushed by Rush-Henrietta Sperry.

The Comets, Don St. James, Section

5 champion at 102, could move up a class. He was third in the state tournament.

St. James was on the U.S. World Junior Freestyle team and won the World Junior Championship in 1975. Wrestling is his life.

"He works hard," said coach Ron Witcomb. "He's a good influence on the team. He's always wrestling."

Mike Sacchitella at 167 pounds, 20-9 last year, and 145-pounder Dan Rosa are returning veterans.

Because Rush-Henrietta Roth has no varsity, Richard Brosteck, and Bernie

Eckert will wrestle heavyweight for Sperry. Ray Connors, recovering from a broken jaw, also provides depth at heavyweight.

Spencerport is just about in a class by itself in the Western Division, although Greece Olympia looks strong. Wall Teke's newest powerhouse has a mixture of youth and age, transfers and home grown wrestlers.

Ron Winnie, who wrestled at Spencerport two years ago, transferred back from Schenectady's Schalmont High in Section 2, where he was 25-5. He was third in the Section 2 meet.

Winnie won the Monroe County Championship at 119 as a freshman.

Wayne Johnson, a junior, came with Winnie from Schenectady, where he was 31-2. He was fifth in the state tournament at 91 pounds.

Johnson will have competition from eighth-grader Trev Graham, a Niagara District and National Amateur Union champion.

Carl Tandoi, 98 pounds, transferred from Cardinal Mooney. John San Filippo, a sophomore, was the runnerup in the league tournament and third in the Section 5 AAA tournament in this class.

Monroe County 105-pound champion Ray Vincelli moves up to 126. Shane Graham, 132, was state Greco Roman champion this summer and was 20-5 last season.

At 155 pounds, Pat Cosmano, 10-2 overall, lost a tough 8-6 decision to eventual state champion John Martynik of Lancaster. Cosmano was injured much of the season.

Greece Olympia has Mark Siverd, league runner-up at 112. Chuck Giordano, second at 167 and Section 5 Class AAA champion, and Dave Parker, fourth in the league meet.

New coach Gary Freeman is unsure of where Parker or Tom Goule, another veteran, will wrestle.

Hilton, Spencerport's chief competitor for several years, would have been near the top except for two injuries. Steve Peown is recovering from injuries suffered in a July auto accident, and Ken Juergens is in a cast because of a knee injury suffered in football.

"We're at least respectable," said Hilton coach Al Krotz.

Steve O'Shea, 98, Chris Kellman, 105 or 112, Tom Duchyns, 119 or 126, Dan Kasper, 126, George Eblacker, 132, are among last year's veterans.

It's a young team, as only one senior may start. Hilton looks to be year or two away from regaining its former perch.

Bishop Kearney's Kings look like the City-Catholic League Division I kings. Kearney, runner-up last season, was 10-5 and could equal that record because of the addition of several transfers.

The Kings may have trouble bettering that mark because their non-league schedule is backbreaking. It

Wrestling

includes East Rochester, Hilton, and Spencerport.

The two key transfers are Rory Legacy, 98, and Tris Legacy, his brother, 126 pounds. The Legacies transferred last year from Churchville-Chili to Eastridge, where they lived with an assistant coach, but the district vetoed that setup this year, saying it didn't want students who paid tuition and board.

"Rory Legacy has an outstanding reputation," said Kearney coach Brian Chadwick. "He did a lot of wrestling this summer."

Two other transfers are heavyweight John Micca, from Eastridge and Joey Alvarez, 119 pounds, from Jefferson.

League champion John Walsh should wrestle at 145 or 155. And Chadwick is high on 138-pounder Jay Fischer.

Victor Druizako, 177, Scott Hannah, 126, and Ray Bianchi, 112, also return.

Defending champion McQuaid lost eight starters, including John Smallridge and state champion Rich Salamone. Steve Nally, league 94-pound titlist, and Mike Morone, second at 132 are the bulwark of a young team.

East has league 145 runnerup Leonard Barber. Terry Horne, 98, Maverick Franklin, 132, Kevin Lighthouse, and Joe Arena, 167, are rated tough wrestlers by coach John Spencer.

Madison lost several league champions, including Lamont Banks. Darrell Leslie, 119 or 126, returns but the Wilson Packers have a rebuilding year.

In Division 2, Charlotte, the two-time defending champions, lost eight seniors. Four starters are back.

Tim Boor, 11-0 at 145, and Keith Van Velson, 119, are given outstanding reviews by coach Joe Cavallaro.

Byron-Bergen lost only three wrestlers, and three league champions are back to give the Bees a good shot at the Genesee Region Division I title.

Caledonia-Mumford lost state champion Robin Parker, and Tom Buckley, among several lettermen. York looks tops in Livingston County.