

# Canandaigua wins; Forte sets state record

BY STAFF WRITER

JAMES JOHNSON

After 250 wrestling matches Pittsford Mendon senior Troy Forte can say he's No. 1.

And for the first time in 12 years Spencerport will complete its season without a Section V championship. The Class A title belongs to Canandaigua.

Forte earned his state-record 228th career victory when he pinned Rush-Henrietta's Jason Chase in last night's 125-pound final at Fairport.

It was a night of rare accomplishments as Rush-Henrietta's Dan Chase claimed his fourth sectional title.

Forte was undefeated, and the question seemed to be when, not if, he would pass former Canastota lightweight Terry Showalter. Forte still felt relieved after he pinned Jason Chase in 3:25.

"There was more pressure than usual because people were expecting me to do it," Forte said. "So I felt like I had to do it."

"I started to feel it on Friday. Now I can really focus on states, but I have to get through (the state qualifier) next weekend."

The top four wrestlers in each class advanced to the SuperSectionals — or state qualifier — at Brockport State.

For weeks Forte said all he was concerned about was a return trip to the state meet and not the record. But after Forte improved to 34-0, he skipped around the mat and embraced his teary-eyed coach, Ernie DiBella.

"It shows how close we are," said Forte, one of three champions from Pittsford.

"It's good for him to go out (retire) on top with a lot of good stuff happening with the program."

Canandaigua claimed its first team title since 1985 after it finished with 200.5 points, 12.5 more than runner-up Spencerport.

The Braves embraced in a team hug after they ended Spencerport's grip on the team title.

"I am so happy for the Canandaigua community," Braves coach Rich Romeo said. "It's been a long time since we



**Troy Forte**

becomes the state's all-time wins leader with 228.

won a sectional title, but you have to say what a program Spencerport has, what a coach Bill Jacoutot is.

Spencerport never slips."

Greg Gelinas at 103 pounds, Mike Cuppernell (112), Tom Cuppernell (140) and Trevor Chinn (119) won individual titles for the Braves, who shared the state's large-school No. 1 ranking with Spencerport, going into the weekend.

Gelinas, Chinn and Tom Cuppernell defeated Spencerport wrestlers in their finals to help ensure the Rangers would have to settle for second place.

"After 12 years it's disheartening," Jacoutot said. "But that is a good team (Canandaigua)."

"It was seesaw between us all day. Their kids did what they had to do in the close matches."

Spencerport vaulted to the No. 1 ranking it shared with the Braves after it won a dual meet at Canandaigua 27-17 on Feb. 3.

"It was a reality check," Chinn said. "Today, when someone on our team lost, we all pulled through and got the job done."



## SECTION V CLASS A CHAMPIONSHPS

### At Fairport

**Team scores:** Canandaigua 200.5 points, Spencerport 188, Rush-Henrietta 133.5, Pittsford 97.5, Webster 84, Hilton 78.5, McQuaid 74, Greece Athena 72, Gates Chili 66, Irondequoit 62, Fairport 53.5, Greece Olympia 48, Penfield 48, Brighton 41.5, Brockport 41, Churchville-Chili 35.5, East 20.5, Wilson 16, Marshall 2, Greece Arcadia 1.

### Individual finals

**96 pounds:** Gregor Gillespie (Webster) by major decision over Brett Woodward (Spencerport) 11-2; **103:** Greg Gelinas (Canandaigua) major dec. Blake Woodward (Spencerport) 11-3; **112:** Mike Cuppernell (Canandaigua) dec. J.P. Zengerle (Gates Chili) 5-0.

**119:** Trevor Chinn (Canandaigua) dec. Jared Moreland (Spencerport) 7-2; **125:** Troy Forte (Pittsford) pinned Jason Chase (R-H) 3:25; **130:** Charlie Wu (McQuaid) major dec. Henry Rubright (Irondequoit) 14-5.

**135:** Mark Mancari (R-H) def. T.J. Buonomo (Wilson) overtime criteria; **140:** Tom Cuppernell (Canandaigua) dec. Mike Bourne (Spencerport) 2-1; **145:** Matt Kremens (Pittsford) dec. Steve Stulpin (Spencerport) 9-2.

**152:** Dan Chase (R-H) dec. Don Zimmerman (Spencerport) 3-0; **160:** Matt Champion (R-H) dec. Scott Messare (McQuaid) 3-1; **171:** Mike Lynn (Pittsford) dec. Joe Fingler (Fairport) 12-6; **189:** Dan Glover (Gates Chili) dec. Clayton Mack (Canandaigua) 6-4.

**215:** Jon Leavy (Penfield) major dec. Mike Maliszsky (R-H) 11-0; **275:** Colin Martin (Churchville-Chili) major dec. Marcus Colon (East) 9-0.