

# Watson, Fronhofer Capture Titles in State Tournament

By BILL PALMER  
Gazette Sports Writer

SYRACUSE — The crowning achievement in David Watson's high school wrestling career will be something the Burnt Hills seniors treasures for a long time -- once he remembers it.

Watson, knocked senseless on a second-period takedown attempt, recovered enough to pull off a reversal with 15 seconds remaining to defeat Chris Perry of Waverly High School in Section IV and claim the 138-pound championship in the 25th New York State Intersectional Wrestling Championships Saturday night. The championship was one of two nailed down by Section II.

## School Wrestling

which finished a disappointing seventh in the team standings for the fourth consecutive year.

Watson never really got to celebrate his win. While Salem's Frank Fronhofer leaped into the arms of his coaches after winning the 91-pound title. Watson wobbled back to his corner and threw down his maroon headgear in disgust.

"I thought I had lost," said Watson. "I don't remember a thing after the first period. That's a heck of a way to win a state championship, isn't it? I didn't even get to enjoy it."

Watson lay motionless on the mat for a few tense seconds after Perry, leading 4-0, attempted a takedown with 54 seconds left in the middle period. Perry sensed the urgency of the situation, motioning for the referee to halt the bout. The attending physicians went to the mat to check on Watson's condition, and with just eight seconds left in his allotted two minutes of injury time, the Burnt Hills senior was on his feet, shakily, and ready to return to battle.

He got a reversal with 26 seconds left in the middle period, picked up a point on a technical violation after starting the third period in the bottom position, and pulled off his reversal with 15 seconds left in his high school career.

"Don't ask me. I don't have any idea of what happened," said Watson, who was still groggy after his bout. "I can't believe I won. I thought for sure I had lost. Now I wish I had been awake."

Burnt Hills coach Tim Koch was in awe of the effort of his sixth state champion.

"Talk about a cool kid," he remarked. "I don't know how he did it. He doesn't know how he did it. Through the rest of the match we kept giving him the points, time and that information, but I have no idea whatsoever if he registered."

Koch's stomach knotted when he saw Watson lying motionless on the mat.

"I was very concerned for David," he said. "But the doctors came right in and checked him out and told him he could continue. After he got back up and was ready to go, I could still see his chance for a state title going out the window."

But it didn't, and Watson joined Jon Card (a three-time champion) and two-time winner Jason Morris as Burnt Hills champions. Watson's older brother Doug placed second at the State Tournament in 1981, losing in overtime in the finals.

It was a fitting, though bizarre, end to Watson's career at Burnt Hills that saw him rack up a record of 95-20, despite missing one complete year and part of another.

Fronhofer, a sophomore, became the smallest Section II champion and the first one from a Class D school when he handled Lenny Combs of Section III's Madison, 5-1, in the 91 finals.

The 1986 Empire State Games Scholastic Open and Greco-Roman champ had a pin to his credit over Combs in a national tournament, and when he hit his trademark tilt after a second period takedown, he knew he was in control.

"I felt pretty good after I tilted him and was ahead 4-0," smiled Fronhofer. "I had 16 technical falls during the season (thanks to his tilt) and it's something I do pretty well. Now I want to come back and do this again."

Veteran Salem coach Mike Poplaski may have been happier than Fronhofer, as he finally had a wrestler get the ultimate win at Syracuse after 19 years of trying.

"I'm so happy for Frankie and for the school and the people who support us," said Poplaski. "This is for all the other kids we've sent out here, and we've had some good ones. Frankie's a very intelligent boy who works very hard. He's a gifted student and a gifted athlete. He's paid his dues. He belongs where he is. I just can't describe the feelings I have."

Section II had another finalist in Mechanicville junior Curtis Tironi, who battled gamely through the 250-pound brackets virtually on one leg. Tironi, who could have become the lone Section II wrestler to finish the season with an unbeaten record, tore cartilage in his knee during the first week of practice for the tournament.

He got a pin, a second-period technical fall and beat Jeff Way of Peru by a 10-6 margin in the semis before being pinned by Section IV's Rob Cole of Union-Endicott in the finals.

"It's too bad the way it ended, but that's in no way a reflection of how Curtis wrestled this season," said Mechanicville Gary Lyons, who watched Tironi better his finish from 1986 by three spots and become the school's first state finalist. "I think he did an outstanding job. An injury like that could have prevented him from coming to the tournament, but I think it is a tribute to his drive. He hadn't been on the mat for more than a week."

Another wrestler who fought through an injury to record a school-best finish was Ballston Spa senior Mark Carey, who finished third at 177 despite cartilage damage on the left side of his rib cage. Carey made it to the semis before his bout with eventual champion Dave Grebbenstatter of Section VI was halted.

Carey gutted out two wins in the consolation brackets to finish third, winning the



— (Gazette Photos)

**STATE CHAMPIONS** — David Watson of Burnt Hills, left, and Salem's Frank Fronhofer captured championships at the 25th New York State Intersectional Wrestling Tournament Saturday. Watson finished his varsity career by claiming a state title at 138 pounds, while Fronhofer, a sophomore, became the first Salem wrestler to win a state championship with his victory in the 91-pound finals.

admiration of the Section II coaches on hand to a man.

"I could believe they stopped the semifinals," said Carey. "I thought he was just stopping it for a potentially dangerous hold or something. But Coach (Vince) Johnson told me not to hang my head, to go out with my head high."

And that he did, scoring a 7-6 win in the consolation finals in his only trip to the State Tournament.

"I had high hopes," Carey said, referring to his plans at the beginning of the season. "I had set a goal to make the States, and I worked very hard to get here. I just blocked the pain out. My first match I was so psyched up, I didn't feel it anyway. But in the semis, he kept putting pressure on my lower back, and that contracted my ribs and make it very painful."

Two other wrestlers placed for Section II. Shenendehowa junior Steve Mitola, fifth at 91 last year, settled for sixth this time, losing on criteria in his final match of the season. Averill Park senior Mike McDowell, who admitted he was flat, finished fifth one year after missing a state title by two points.

The remainder of the Section II squad was picked off one-by-one in Saturday's wrestling-back rounds, something which has plagued the local champions in recent years. The team could have been sixth, but had two team points taken away during the day and finished with 127 points, one behind Section V.

"The consolation round again," said Koch, who served as the Section II coach along with Shenendehowa's Dan D'Amboise. "We talked to them about it in practice. You have mixed feelings, because you want everyone to win. But realistically, that's not going to

happen. The wrestling backs make a difference. Maybe next year we'll just have to burn that into people's minds."

Koch refused to blame the three-week span between the sectional finals and the State Tournament for the team's disappointing finish, though he did acknowledge that some of the Section II wrestlers looked sluggish.

"I won't use that as an excuse," he said of the longest break enjoyed by any of the 13 competing areas at the States. "If all 14 kids had fallen flat on their faces, yeah, then there would have been something there."

In addition to Watson, Carey and McDowell, four other seniors closed their high school careers Saturday.

Johnstown's Tom Lombardoni gave a good accounting of himself, winning two bouts after dropping his opening bout by a point. He was eliminated one win shy of qualifying for a place finish. Hoosick Falls' Bobby Pine closed his career with a 126-21-2 record, the most wins ever by a Panther wrestler. Queensbury's Robbie Weeks ended his varsity career with 98 wins, and Jeff Barry finished with 86 victories.

Jeff Prescott of Olean High School (Section VI) became the sixth wrestler in the 25-year history of the tournament to win three titles when took the 112 crown. Prescott, who outpointed four foes by a total of 53-5, closed his stellar schoolboy career with a state record 121 consecutive wins and a total mark of 162-17, 40-0 this year.

Freshman Troy Bouzakis of Pine Bush (Section IX) was named Most Outstanding Wrestler after beating his second former state champion, Section VI's Lou Roselli, to make it two titles in two trips to the States. He is 66-0 in two years of varsity competition.

## State Tournament Summaries

Results of the 25th New York State Intersectional Wrestling Tournament at the Onondaga County War Memorial, Syracuse, N.Y., Saturday, Nov. 15.

Team Scoring: Section VIII 174, Section IV 169, Section VI 160, Section III 158, Section XI 155, Section V 128, Section II 127, Section IX 106, Section I 99, Section X 53, Section VII 51, CHSAA 44, PSAL 18.

### Championship Round Results

91 — Frank Fronhofer (Salem-II) dec. Lenny Combs (Madison-III), 5-1  
98 — Jeff Haise (Babylon-XI) dec. Mark Frisicano (East Meadow-VII), 8-3  
105 — Troy Bouzakis (Pine Bush-IX) dec. Lou Roselli (Queensbury-III), 9-5  
112 — Jeff Prescott (Olean-VI) technical fall over Eric Kaufman (East Hampton-XI), 4-58  
119 — Richard Santiana (Long Beach-VII) dec. Jeff Lewis (Randout Valley-IX), 5-3, 3-0 OT  
126 — Tom Billone (Spencerport-V) dec. Glenn Moffatt (Mepham-VIII), 4-2  
132 — Tony Ferrara (Sidney-IV) dec. Brian McGill (Cheektowaga-VI), 7-2  
138 — David Watson (Burnt Hills-II) dec. Chris Perry (Waverly-IV), 5-4  
145 — Doug Reemer (Horseheads-IV) technical fall over Mike Yanoski (New Hyde Park-VIII), 2-36  
155 — Rick Sadwick (Hilltop-V) dec. John Lamar (Peru-VI), 2-2, 2-0 OT, referee's decision  
167 — Wayne Witten (Sachem-XI) dec. Steve Shippis (Baldwinsville-II), 9-5, 3-0 OT  
177 — Dave Grabbenstatter (Amherst-VI) dec. Adam Mariano (Cromwell-XI), 6-3  
215 — James Graham (Long Beach-VIII) dec. Pat Heston (Shenendehowa-II), 9-5, 3-0 OT, criteria  
250 — Rob Cole (Union-Endicott-IV) pinned Curtis Tironi (Mechanicville-II), 4-2

### Consolation Finals

91 — Tim McKee (Bath Haverling-V) pinned Allen Grant (Herman Dekalb-X), 4-7  
98 — Todd Carlson (Falconer-VI) dec. Carlos Jimenez (Sleepy Hollow-I), 8-0  
105 — Darryl Page (Elmira Notre Dame-IV) dec. David Brown (Herman Dekalb-X), 10-6  
112 — Charles Sortino (Brookport-V) pinned Mark Woodworth (Fulton-III), 2-15  
119 — Ray LeChapin (Spencerport-V) dec. Jim Creighton (South Jefferson-III), 7-3  
126 — Joe Smith (St. Anthony's-CHSAA) dec. Mark Baehr (Royalton-Hartland-VII), 6-4  
132 — Shawn Kinsley (Walterloo-V) dec. Steve Mitola (Shenendehowa-II), 9-5, 3-0 OT, criteria  
145 — John Zigrissi (Goshen-I), 5-4  
158 — Lennox Gilton (Lockport-VII) dec. Jon Halloran (St. Anthony's-CHSAA), 7-3  
167 — Scott Wagner (Cannastota-III) dec. Andy Cohen (Nyack-I), 8-2  
155 — Mike New (Cannastota-III) dec. Paul Standwell (Wanagh-VII), 8-0  
167 — Scott Wagner (Waverly-IV) dec. Rory Thorpe (Jordan Elbridge-III), 4-4, 3-1 OT  
177 — Mark Carey (Ballston Spa) dec. Steve Farr (Johnston City-IV), 7-6  
215 — Shawn Kinsley (Baysboro-XI) pinned Steven Drewes (St. John Baptist-CHSAA), 4-31  
250 — Art Bittell (Baldwinsville-II) pinned Bill Schoenle (Williamsville South-VI), 1-46

### Fifth Place

91 — Keith Rommet (Mepham-VIII) technical fall over Mike Sullivan (Pearl River-I), 4-09  
98 — Shawn Kinsley (Walterloo-V) dec. Steve Mitola (Shenendehowa-II), 9-5, 3-0 OT, criteria  
105 — Shawn Ryan (Baldwin-VIII) dec. Ko Matsui (Shoreham-Wading River-XI), 4-3  
112 — Gil Soto (Alfred E. Smith-PSAL) by disqualification over Joe Amadio (Fox Lane-I)  
119 — Burf Cole (Union-Endicott-IV) by default over Brad Ballista (Pearl River-I)  
126 — Dominic Alfieri (Suffern-I) dec. Joe Morgan (Red Hook-IX), 12-1  
132 — Dave Robin (Arlington-II) dec. Jamie St. John (Port Jefferson-XI), 4-1  
138 — Ken Kaufman (North Rockland-I) by forfeit over Tom Ryan (Wanagh-VIII)  
145 — Kurt Lassen (Connetquot-XI) dec. Kevin Carter (Saranac-VI), 9-0  
155 — John Sorochinsky (Johnston City-IV) dec. Chris Oddo (Mahopac-I), 12-1  
167 — John Montemorra (Peru-VII) by forfeit over Clarence Cleveland (Herman Dekalb-X)  
177 — Hank Herrmann (Malone-Franklin-XI) dec. Mike Bucci (Rhinebeck-Red Hook-IX), 7-3  
215 — Mike McDowell (Averill Park-II) pinned Earl Gardner (Stuyvesant-PSAL), 1-20  
250 — Frank Iacono (Sachem-XI) dec. Jeff Way (Peru-VII), 6-4

### Section II Results

#### 91 Pounds

First Round: dec. Kent Maslin (Whitney Point-IV) 6-0

Quarterfinals: dec. Anthony Arnold (Turner-Carroll-CHSAA), 11-21

Semifinals: dec. Keith Rommet (Mepham-VIII) 4-3

Finals: dec. Lenny Combs (Madison-III), 5-1

#### 98 Pounds

Steve Mitola (Shenendehowa) (Sixth)

First Round: dec. Carlos Jimenez (Sleepy Hollow-II), 8-2

Quarterfinals: dec. Scott Sabella (Peru-VI), 6-5

Semifinals: lost to Mark Frisicano (East Meadow-VIII), 16-7

Consolation Semis: pinned by Jimenez, 2-20

Fifth-Sixth Place: lost to Shawn Kinsley (Walterloo-V) 0-4, 0-4, OT, criteria

#### (Sixth)

#### 105 Pounds

Chris Cuzzo (Saratoga) (Did not place)

First Round: pinned by Darryl Page (Elmira Notre

Dame-IV), 1-52

Wrestlebacks: pinned Mike Velez (Truman-PSAL), 1-43

Wrestlebacks: pinned by James Carty (Suffern-I), 4-49

#### 112 Pounds

J.P. Epifanio (Whitehall) (Did not place)

First Round: lost to Jeff Prescott (Olean-VI), 12-1

Wrestlebacks: dec. Mark Provost (Beekmantown-VIII), 5-3

Wrestlebacks: dec. Mike Reese (Elmira Southside-IV), 10-6

Wrestlebacks: lost to Mark Woodworth (Fulton-III), 4-2

#### 119 Pounds

Robbie Weeks (Queensbury) (Did not place)

First Round: lost to Ray LaChase (Spencerport-V), 12-4

Wrestlebacks: lost to Sean DeRouchie (Massena-XI), 8-1

#### 126 Pounds

Bobby Pine (Hoosick Falls) (Did not place)

First Round: pinned Tom Guarcello (Tottenville-PSAL), 3-35

Quarterfinals: lost to Dominic Alfieri (Suffern-I), 11-2

Wrestlebacks: dec. Rob Casazza (Miller Place-XI) by injury disqualification

Wrestlebacks: lost to Mark Baehr (Royalton-Hartland-VII), 9-3

#### 132 Pounds

Jeff Barry (Queensbury) (Did not place)

First Round: lost to Jamie St. John (Port Jefferson-XI), 6-3

Wrestlebacks: lost to Rob Graveland (East Syracuse-Minoa-III), 7-1

#### 138 Pounds

David Watson (Burnt Hills) (Champion)

First Round: pinned Robert Bryan (Truman-PSAL), 4-35

Quarterfinals: dec. Jon Halloran (St. Anthony's-CHSAA), 9-3

Semifinals: dec. Tom Ryan (Wanagh-VIII), 2-0

Finals: dec. Chris Perry (Waverly-IV), 5-4

#### 145 Pounds

Jim Hubert (Queensbury) (Did not place)

First Round: lost to Mike Yanoski (New Hyde Park-XI), 3-1

Wrestlebacks: dec. Doug Morse (Randout Valley-IX), 5-1

Wrestlebacks: dec. Ken Coppola (Royalton-Hartland-VII), 7-4

Wrestlebacks: lost to Kent Lassen (Connetquot-XI), 9-2

#### 155 Pounds

T.J. Wright (Burnt Hills) (Did not place)

First Round: pinned John Thomas (Chaminade-CHSAA), 3-40

Quarterfinals: lost to Rick Sadwick (Hilltop-V), 9-6

Wrestlebacks: lost to John Sorochinsky (Johnston City-IV), 2-2, 5-3 OT

#### 167 Pounds

Tom Lombardoni (Johnstown) (Did not place)

First Round: lost to Clarence Cleveland (Herman-Dekalb-X), 7-8

Wrestlebacks: dec. Rod May (Niagara Falls-VI), 8-1

Wrestlebacks: dec. John Reitzel (Minsk Valley-IX), 12-2

Wrestlebacks: lost to Rory Thorpe (Jordan-Elbridge-III), 6-2

#### 177 Pounds

Mark Carey (Ballston Spa)

First Round: pinned Joe Dauphinas (Northern Adirondack-VII), 1-28

Quarterfinals: dec. Mark Whitford (Tottenville-PSAL), 3-40

Semifinals: lost to Dave Grabbenstatter (Amherst-VI) by default

Consolation Semifinals: dec. Hank Herrmann (Malone-Franklin-XI) by default

Consolation Finals: dec. Steve Parr (Johnston City-IV), 7-6

#### 215 Pounds

Mike McDowell (Averill Park-I) (Fifth)

First Round: pinned Alex Porcelli (Bay Shore-XI), 4-8

Quarterfinals: pinned Steve Drewes (St. John Baptist-CHSAA), 1-21

Semifinals: lost to Pat Halpin (Baldwinsville-III), 8-2

Consolation Semifinals: lost to Porcelli, 1-40

Fifth-Sixth Place: pinned Earl Gardner (Stuyvesant-PSAL), 1-20

#### 250 Pounds

Curtis Tironi (Mechanicville) (Second)

First Round: pinned Goutrey Fisher (Mepham-VI), 4-25

Quarterfinals: technical fall over Stefan DuFresne (Massena-X), 7-25

Semifinals: lost to Jeff Way (Peru-VII), 10-6

Finals: pinned by Rob Cole (Union-Endicott-IV), 4-2

## Hudson Valley Lacrosse Team Sweeps Pair

David Brant scored five goals as the Hudson Valley Community College lacrosse team defeated Annarundel Community College, 13-9, yesterday in Arnold, Md.

It was the second victory in as many days for HVCC, which opened its season on Saturday, with a 22-6 victory over Army Prep at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

In yesterday's game, Brant scored the go-ahead goal with 1:52 left in the third period, giving HVCC a 9-8 lead.

Brett Bradley and Bill Person added three goals and one assist each for the Vikings.

John Baldwin led Annarundel with three goals.

Mike Hutchko had 16 saves for Hudson Valley. Randy Halkerston had 21 for Annarundel.

Bradley paced Saturday's victory with six goals and four assists. Person added four goals and five assists, and Steve Yardoh two goals and two assists.

Hutchko and Mark Johnson combined for 13 saves for HVCC. Brian Sulter had 32 saves for Army Prep.

HVCC travels to Essex College in Baltimore tomorrow.