

Big night for Hibbard, Canandaigua

Fourth straight title for Braves' senior in sectional wrestling

By Gary Fallesen

Democrat and Chronicle

Butch Hibbard had a flashback last night, and he did not want history to repeat itself.

"When I was wrestling I was thinking back to my sophomore year to the states," the Canandaigua senior said. "When I lost in overtime (of the 98-pound final). That's all I was thinking."

Hibbard, one of his high school's all-time winningest wrestlers, did not lose in the 119-pound final of the Section 5 Class A tournament at Monroe Community College. He decisioned previously undefeated Kevin Bishop of Greece Athena in overtime, 5-2.

However, history did repeat itself in the race for the team title.

For the 10th time in the past 11 years Canandaigua captured the sectional crown.

The Braves easily outdistanced second-place Brockport, 172½-128. Spencerport was third in the 21-team field with 122½ points. Brighton finished fourth with 121½, Webster was fifth with 97½ and McQuaid sixth with 94½.

"We got more out of our team here than we've had all year," said Canandaigua Coach Larry Reynolds, who had individuals place in the top four in eight of the 14 weight classes. "This team came alive and showed what it had at the end of the year . . . when it needed to. To win in the Section 5 tournament is the ultimate."

Fourteen individuals can attest to that. Four of them — Hibbard, teammate Mike Locagnato (98 pounds), Edison's Mike Cronmiller (145) and Brighton's Mike Van Horn (215) — repeated as titlists.

Hibbard, a three-time state place-winner, won his fourth consecutive sectional title. But this one may have been his most difficult.

"I knew it was going to be tough," said Bishop, 30-1 on the season and 118-10-1 as a varsity wrestler. "We're two completely different kinds of wrestlers. I'm really offensive and he's good at stopping shots."

Neither individual could score a takedown in regulation. The score was tied, 3-3, after six minutes of regulation.

"If I don't get a takedown it's usually a tough match," said Hibbard, 31-1-1 this season and 132-11-2 as a varsity competitor. "I knew I had to get the takedown in overtime. I felt it was going to come down to takedowns. Big matches usually are decided on your feet."

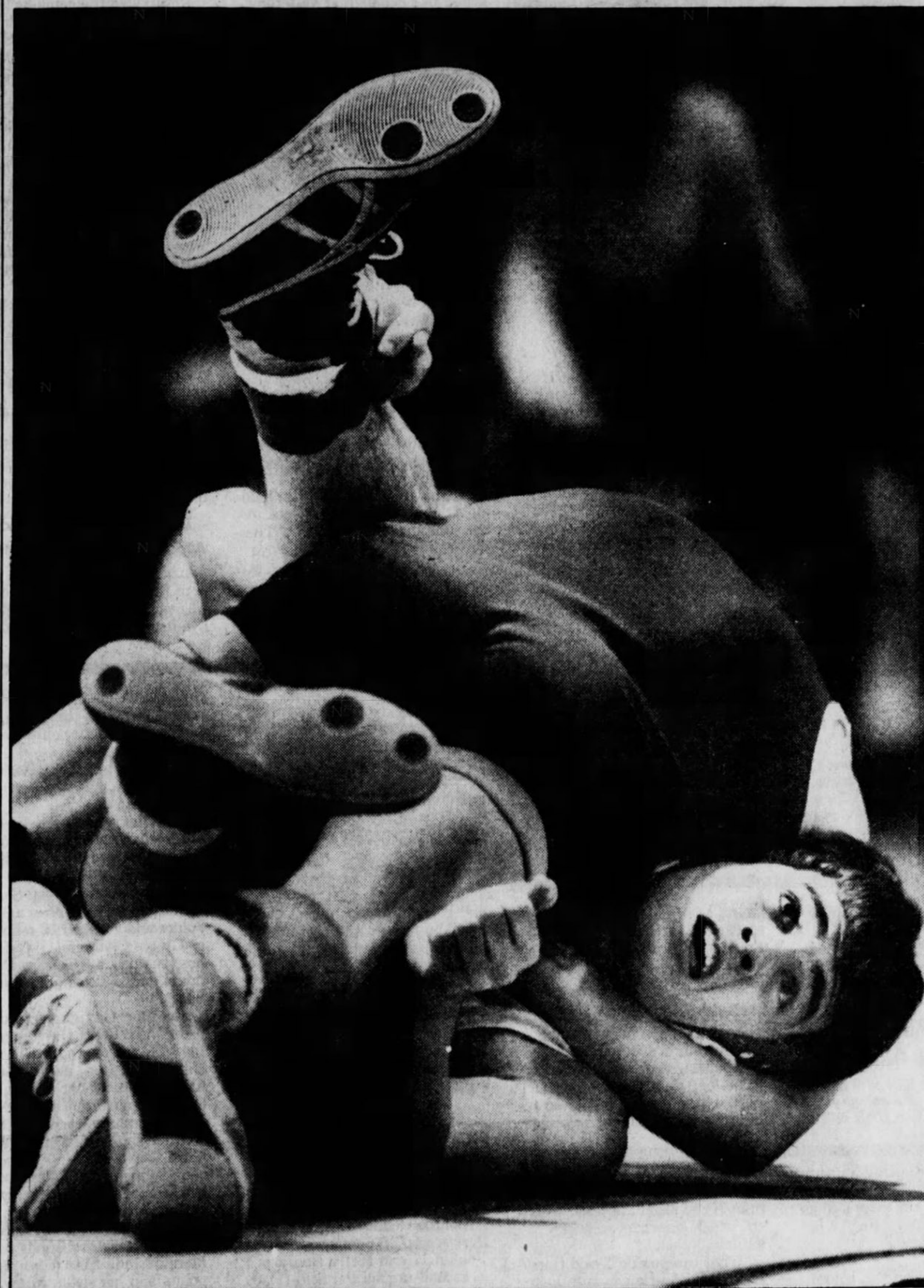
Hibbard scored a takedown with :09 left in the first of three one-minute overtime periods.

In the second period of overtime he escaped and had another takedown for a 5-0 lead.

"Hibbard's a warrior," said Brighton Coach Mark Hoyt, "and he has been here so many times. When it comes down to a brawler versus a technician, a brawler will win almost every time at this level."

Hibbard and Bishop could meet again Saturday at Section 5's state qualifier at Brockport State. The top four individuals from each weight class advanced to those Super Sectionals.

"It's too bad they have to be in the same weight class," said Reynolds, who remembers how his own Paul Lamphier had to defeat Bob



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Canandaigua's Butch Hibbard (right) takes Athena's Kevin Bishop to mat in 119-pound match that Hibbard won in overtime, 5-2.

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Zoeke of McQuaid last year to reach the state tournament. Each was a state-tournament caliber individual.

Lamphier, who won the 112-pound sectional title last night, went on to place second at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association tournament. Hibbard also was a runner-up. He has finished second the past two years, and was fourth as a freshman.

Here's a look at how the other sectional titles were decided last night:

91 pounds — Hilton's Dan Goodwin decisioned Dave Delforte of Canandaigua, 3-0.

98 — Locagnato, a fifth-place finisher in the state tournament last year, repeated as a sectional champion with a 5-2 decision over Neal Hoffman of Fairport.

105 — Hilton's Dave Pitoni decisioned Tom Billone of Spencerport, 7-2.

112 — Lamphier, who has won 134 bouts in his career at Canandaigua, pinned Spencerport's Ray LeChase at 5:47. He led at the time, 18-6.

119 — Hibbard and Bishop squared off for the first time since their

freshman year, when Hibbard won by a pin. Bishop was the sectional champion last year at 112 pounds, while Hibbard won the title at 98.

126 — Tony LaDuca of Webster decisioned Canandaigua's Tracy Foster, 4-3.

132 — Nathan Van Duzer of Brockport pinned Monroe County League West Division rival Mike Lopresti of Spencerport in 3:03. It was the third meeting of the season between the pair. Van Duzer leads the series, 2-1.

138 — Mike Scott of McQuaid pinned Greg Lechner of Brighton at 1:51.

145 — Cronmiller, a Section 5 representative to the state tournament last year, repeated as a Class A champion with a 4-3 decision over Sean Yengo of Webster.

155 — Spencerport's Rick Suhr, who two weeks ago underwent arthroscopic knee surgery, defeated Ben Weinthal of Brighton in overtime, 5-1.

167 — Brockport's Phil St. George scored a 20-4 superior decision over Todd Mirabella of Brighton.

177 — Edison's Darryl Madison joined teammate Cronmiller on the winner's platform with a 15-3 victory over Tim Soudan of Fairport.

215 — Van Horn, a champion last year in the unlimited weight class, won the heavyweight title bout by pinning Athena's Tom Dear at 4:48.

250 — Keith Knight of Bishop Kearney decisioned Joe Loverdi of McQuaid, 5-3.