

Coming to grips with state's best

Big weight on local wrestlers

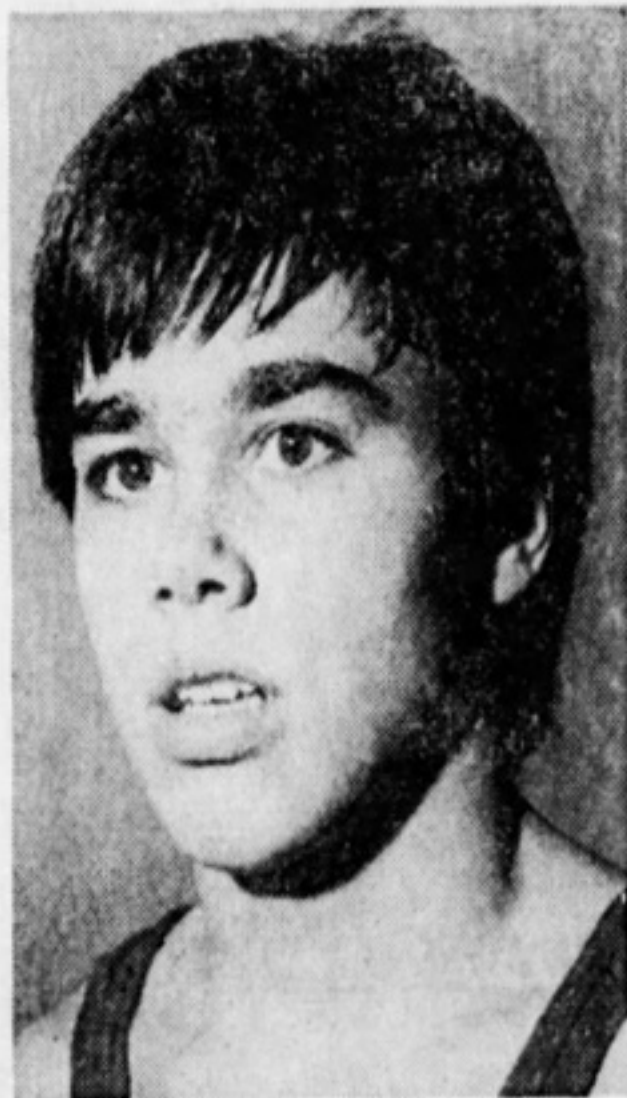
By **TOM FITZGERALD**
D&C Sportswriter

As Section 5's representatives in next weekend's state wrestling tournament worked out together yesterday at Rochester Institute of Technology, they might have pondered the question:

Can they avoid a repeat of last year's blitz in Syracuse?

Last year 12 of the 14 local entries were eliminated in the first or second round. The only one to reach the finals was Don St. James of Rush-Henrietta Sperry, who lost a 7-2 decision at 105 pounds to Bob DeStefanis of Locust Valley, L.I.

Section 5 finished eighth out of 11 sections.



Rory Legacy

"We're going down there to win it," said Coach Walt Teike of Spencerport, who will bring three of his own wrestlers.

The qualifying round at the Onondaga County War Memorial begins Friday at 4:30 p.m., followed by the quarterfinals. On Saturday, the semifinals are at 11 a.m., the consolations at 6:30 p.m. and the finals at 8.

"We're practicing together so that hopefully it will take some of the nervousness off when we get down there," said Teike. "We want the kids to think like a team."

Here is a class-by-class rundown:

91 pounds — Another member of the DeStefanis wrestling clan from Locust Valley, L.I. is a top contender. This one is Carl. Last year his brother Bob eliminated St. James and brother Al ousted Rory Legacy, then of Bishop Kearney. Spencerport freshman **Trevor Graham** (22-3) meets Dennis Voltz of Sidney in the first round. If Graham wins that one, he'll run up against Lee Friend of Pioneer, who beat him in overtime in the Spencerport Tournament.

98 — Dave Parisi of Ithaca, who won the 91-pound title last year, is back. But **Legacy** (26-1) of Spencerport has a strong shot, too. Rochester's big hope meets Steve Forsythe of Gouverneur in the first round. Other toughies are Al DeStefanis, Matt Coolican of Syracuse Christian Brothers Academy and Todd Cummings of Smithtown East. Legacy could face old nemesis DeStefanis in the second round.

105 — The best are supposed to be Joe Labbate of East Syracuse-Minoa, Clar Anderson of Olean and last year's 98 champ, Paul Wideman of Huntington, L.I. **Rob Starkweather** of McQuaid (29-0) will face Anderson (31-0) in the first round. East Roches-

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STATE WRESTLERS

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ter Coach Don Quinn isn't counting out Starkweather. "You don't score a lot of points on him," Quinn said.

112 — National junior freestyle champ Mark Palzer of Walt Whitman is in the field, but he shares the favorite's role with Ken Wadsworth of Vestal. **Kevin Richard**, the oldest of three brothers on the Geneseo team (all won sectional titles) is 33-0. He'll wrestle Mike Macchia of Island Trees (26-0) in the first round.

119 — St. James is in the opposite bracket from Bob Bury, a two-time defending champion from Calhoun. Bury has won his last 83 matches. St. James (27-0), in his third trip to the states, won't have to meet him until the finals. St. James, who is considering Syracuse as a possible college choice, would love to impress the Orange scouts.

126 — **Ron Winnie** has a Pidgeon in his first match. But it's favorite Ed Pidgeon of Locust Valley, and he's in a fine feather with a 29-0 record. Winnie, the 29-0 Spencerport senior, is making the trip many people thought he would make last year until he lost to Fairport's Dave Halladay in the qualifier. He finally reached the states but he's in an exceptionally strong division.

132 — Livingston County has two entries in the state meet, **Richard** at 112 and Avon's **Marcus Phillips** (30-0) at 132. Phillips, who has great balance, was impressive in the state qualifier. He goes against Ron Schenk of West Seneca East (33-1) first. Mark DeMeo of Mount Pleasant is the favorite although Mike St. Amour of New Hartford hasn't given up a take-down this year.

138 — Canandaigua's **Dave Lynn** (27-5-1) has one of the toughest first-round foes of all, Jeff Iacovelli of Ithaca (29-1). Iacovelli's brother Mark was a 3-time state champ. Jeff might add another trophy to the family mantle, but he'll have to get past favorite Mike Thomas of Huntington, L.I., in the semifinals.

145 — Both Paul Meyers of Baldwin and Tom Pickard of Baldwinsville are defending state champions. So **Tony Bruno** of Brockport (28-1) is a long shot. In his first match, he will face the winner of a match between Pat Malay of Iroquois and Brian Parice of Westlake.

155 — The only loss that East's **Len Barber** has suffered in 32 bouts was to Chris Leichtweis of Olean by a 3-2 score. And Leichtweis is the favorite, so Barber has to be considered a threat. Barber wrestles Tab Winner of Oxford for the right to meet Leichtweis.

167 — This is a great class, and **John Zito** of ER (31-0), is rated as one of the best. The others are Mike Varmette of Glens Falls (a returning champion), Ed Banach of Port Jervis, Tim Hyer of Ilion and Tim Dean of Elmira Southside. Zito competed at 177 last year as a sophomore, but now he's with people his own size. He goes against the winner of a first-round match between Varmette and Kirk Stephen of Olean.

177 — Defending champion Lou Banach of Port Jervis is back. John Dougherty of Tioga, who has beaten Banach this year, is another contender. So is Charbel Karrat of New Hartford, a runnerup last year. In other words, it's a loaded field for Gates-Chili's **Bob Dunlap** (27-3-1). He'll meet Cedric Hinton of Buffalo Sweet Home in the first round.

215 — **Charlie Hill** of Edison pulled the surprise of the qualifier finals by beating brawny Ed Mitchell of Lyons. But Hill (22-1) really is only a 177-pounder. The experts are figuring the title will go to Dan George of Glens Falls or Dick Meyer of Beaver River. Hill will face Dana Stermer of Elmira Free Academy for the right to wrestle all-state football player Bill Swertfager of Horace Greeley.

250 — ER's **Joe Baldo** (27-2), with 22 pins, is a strong possibility. First, he'll have to beat the division's aptly named sleeper, Jim Sleeper of West Genesee.





Section 5's entries in the state: (front row, from left) Marcus Phillips, Avon; Ron Winnie, Spencerport; Don St. James, Rush-Henrietta Sperry; Kevin Richard, Geneseo; Rob Starkweather, McQuaid; Trevor Graham, Spencerport; (back row) Tony Bruno, Brockport; Len Barber, East; John Zito, East Rochester; Bob Dunlap, Gates-Chili; Charlie Hill, Edison; and Joe Baldo, East Rochester. (Missing: Rory Legacy, Spencerport, and Dave Lynn, Canandaigua.)

5 local wrestlers advance

Five Section 5 wrestlers advanced to the semifinals in the state Wrestling Tournament last night at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse.

Rob Starkweather of McQuaid (105), Don St. James of Rush-Henrietta Sperry (119), John Zito of East Rochester (167), Bob Dunlap of Gates-Chili (177) and Joe Baldo of East Rochester (250) won preliminary matches. They have a chance to reach tonight's finals.

Three of last year's state champions were beaten in first-round action. Mike Varmette of Glens Falls dropped a 167-pound match to Kirk Stephen of Olean. Zito then defeated Stephen.

Mike Parisi, who won last year at 91, was defeated at 98 by Todd Cummings of Smithtown East, Section 11. Parisi is from Ithaca in Section 4.

Lou Banach of Port Jervis, Section 9, lost to Mark Davis of Shenendehowa, Section 2, at 177.

SWIMMING: Defending state diving champion Mark Russell of Spencerport was in fifth place with 295.08 points entering the finals of the state meet at Cortland State.

5 alive in state wrestling

Special to the D&C

Five of the 14 Section 5 wrestlers entered in the New York State Championships advanced to today's semifinal rounds at the Syracuse War Memorial.

Rob Starkweather (McQuaid), Don St. James (Rush-Henrietta Sperry), John Zito (East Rochester), Bob Dunlap (Gates-Chili), and Joe Baldo (East Rochester) survived the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds yesterday.

Spencerport's Rory Legacy, a finalist last year and one of the pre-tournament favorites in the 98-pound class, lost a quarterfinal match to Al DeStefano from Locust Valley, Long Island, 5-0. Legacy was also eliminated from the tournament last year by DeStefano.

St. James turned in a dominating performance at 119. He pinned his preliminary opponent, Jim Nelson, in 1:58, and breezed past John Kelly of Ogdensburg in the quarterfinals, 24-3.

Starkweather downed Clar Anderson of Olean, at 105 pounds, 6-2, then squeaked by Joe Rabin of Elmont, 3-1.

Section 5 wrestlers blanked in state meet

St. James, Zito lose in finals

By JOHN KOLOMIC
D&C Sportswriter

SYRACUSE — By the time Rush-Henrietta's Don St. James and East Rochester's John Zito had made it to the quarterfinals in the New York State Wrestling Tournament, they knew who their final opponents would be. However, in this case, knowing the enemy didn't help. Both lost in the finals last night of the 16th annual tournament at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

St. James ran into 3-time state champion Bob Bury of Calhoun (Sec. 9) in his 119-pound final. Bury came into the meet with previous championships at 105 and 112, and 86 straight wins. St. James, a senior with a 34-0 record himself this year, met his match.

Bury won 8-2, and St. James was frustrated in the state tournament for the third straight year. He was third at 98-pounds two years ago, and runner-up at 105 last year. Last night's loss was a tough one for St. James to accept.

"He didn't do anything out there," St. James said later. "He just kept stalling. He just kept stalling. I don't know how he won all those matches if that's the way he wrestles."

East Rochester Coach Don Quinn commented that Bury did not attack, as St. James likes his opponents to do.

"When Bury didn't come at him, Donny didn't know what to do. He was a little confused."

Zito was actually in control for most of two periods of his 167-pound final with last year's 155-pound runner-up Ed Banach of Port Jervis. Then he made what Quinn later described as a fatal mistake.

"He outwrestled the kid", Quinn said. "But he made one bad move, and lost the match. John went to get the kid's toe and force him down, but he stumbled and the kid came on top of him. All of a sudden, instead of leading, (2-0, as he did after the first period) Johnny's behind 5-2. When you wrestle better and one mistake costs you the match, then, well . . ."

Only St. James and Zito represented Section 5 in the finals.

Rob Starkweather of McQuaid (105), Bob Dunlap of Gates-Chili (177), and Joe Baldo of East Rochester (250) were beaten in the semifinals. Baldo finished with a flair, taking third consolation with a pin over Thomas Wyld of Guilderland in 3:29. Starkweather and Dunlap each finished fifth.

Rory Legacy of Spencerport (98), Kevin Richard of Geneseo (112), Ron Winnie of Spencerport (126), Marcus Phillips of Avon (132), Tony Bruno of Brockport (145), and Len Barber of East (:155) all lost quarterfinal matches Friday. Legacy and Richard went on to finish third through the consolations. Phillipq picked up a fifth, while Winnie and Barber finished sixth. Bruno lost a first-round consolation earlier in the day.

Trevor Graham of Spencerport (91), Dave Lynn of Canandaigua (138), and Charles Hill of Edison (215) lost in Friday's preliminaries. None participated in the consolations, as their previous opponents would have to at least made the semifinals for them to stay alive.

Quinn, who got Section 5 involved in the state tournament in 1968, said there appeared to be more spirit on this team than those of other years.

"We had talked in the past about getting one place where we could all work out together," said Quinn. "This year we finally got together, and went to the Rochester Institute of Technology and got in some good practices Monday through Thursday. The kids really got to know each other well there."

From 1963, when the state tournament was begun, until 1968, Section 5 did not participate, much to Quinn's chagrin.

"It was cheating the kids not to come," he said. "Just look around. The college coaches are a dime a dozen here."



Photo special to the D&C
Rush-Henrietta's Don St. James is on top here but Calhoun's Bob Bury went on to win state final.

How they match up for state tourney

And then there were six.

Of Section 5's 123 high school basketball teams that opened the season last December, only Madison, East or Webster Thomas, Newark, Bloomfield, Romulus and Angelica are left.

They'll represent the section in Western Conference play against Section 6 tomorrow and Tuesday at the War Memorial. The winners advance to the state tournament here next Friday and Saturday.

Angelica (20-1) meets Limestone (9-12) in Class D at 6 p.m., Newark (22-0) meets Grover Cleveland (15-3) in Class A at 7:30 p.m. and East (22-1) meets Lewiston-Porter (20-2) in Class AA at 9 p.m. tomorrow.

On Tuesday, Romulus (18-4) meets Franklinville (20-2) in Class C at 6 p.m., Bloomfield (18-4) meets Allegany (21-1) in Class B at 7:30 p.m., and Madison (19-3) meets Kenmore West (20-2) in Class AAA at 9 p.m.

Gymnasts finish second

Special to the D&C

BUFFALO — Nancy Altmann of Irondequoit captured first in vaulting and uneven bars in the state girls gymnastics meet yesterday at Sweet Home High School.

Altmann also was second in all-around performance with 33.90 points. Bonnie Ellis of Section 3 was first with 34.70. Ellis captured uneven bars (18.05) and floor exercise (18.3).

Altmann compiled marks of 9.25 and 9.0 in vaulting and marks of 9.0 and 8.9 on the uneven bars. The finalists had their scores in the morning and evening sessions added together to determine the order of finish.

Kathy Matthews of Brighton finished third in all-around (33.60), second on the uneven bars (17.85) and sixth in vaulting.

Kim Traber of Pittsford Mendon was sixth in floor exercise, scoring 16.70.

High School Update

Section 5 finished second in team scoring with 159.80, while Section 3 (Syracuse) won with 162.85.

In Section 5 basketball:

Bloomfield 66, Red Jacket 61

Next year maybe they'll change the name of the Section 5 Basketball Tournament to the Finger Lakes Invitational.

After watching three other Finger Lakes League teams win sectional titles, Bloomfield (20-2) made it a foursome by beating scrappy Red Jacket (12-10) for the Class B title yesterday before 3,298 at the War Memorial.

The championship was the third straight for Bloomfield, which is 57-8 the last three years. The Bombers move into the Western Conference

final Tuesday night (7:30 p.m.) against Allegany (21-1). The winner earns a berth in the Class B state tournament semifinals here next weekend.

Romulus 52, Mt. Morris 45

In the opener of the doubleheader, Romulus (18-4) joined Newark (AA) and Victor (A) as Finger Lakes League sectional champions by turning back cold-shooting Mt. Morris (17-5) in the Class C title game.

The victory, which gave Romulus its sixth sectional title, sends the Warriors into the Western Conference final against Franklinville (20-2) Tuesday night (6 p.m.) at the War Memorial. The winner advances to the Class C state tournament semifinals.

Tony Davids, the tournament's most valuable player, had 20 points (6-for-8 shooting) and five rebounds to lead Romulus.

STATE WRESTLING

126—Mike Giustizia, Walt Whitman (Sec. 11) dec. Ed Pidgeon, Locust Valley (Sec. 8). 6-3. Consolation—Neal Zendle, Miskayuns (Section 2).

132—Mark DeMoo, Mt. Pleasant (Sec. 2) dec. Bill Swezey, West Islip (Sec. 11), 9-1.

138—Mike Thomas, Huntington, L.I. (Sec. 11) dec. Kevin Trochs, Port Jervis (Sec. 9), 10-7. Consolation—Jeff Iacovetti, Ithaca (Sec. 4)

145—Tom Pickard, Baldwinsville (Sec. 3) dec. Paul Meyres, Baldwin (Sec. 8) 14-0. Consolation—Cam Riggs, Peru (Sec. 7)

155—Chris Leichtweis, Olean (Sec. 6) dec. Steve Distin, Fulton (Sec. 3), 5-0. Consolation—Tony Damiani, Mepham (Sec. 8).

167—Ed Banach, Port Jervis (Sec. 9) dec. John Zito, East Rochester (Sec. 5), 7-4. Consolation—Tim Dean, Elmira Southside (Sec. 4)

177—Charbel Karrat, New Hartford (Sec. 3) dec. Mark Davis Shenedchova, (Sec. 2), 9-7. Consolation—Lou Banach, Port Jervic (Sec. 9).

Team scoring: Section 3, 198; Section 11, 174; Section 8, 164½; Section 4, 150½; Section 5, 146½; Section 2, 117; Section 9, 91; Section 1, 86; Section 6, 66½; Section 7, 48; Section 10, 15.

**NEW YORK STATE
INTERSECTIONAL WRESTLING
TOURNAMENT**
in Syracuse
Section 5 results
Friday-Saturday

91 pounds — Trevor Graham, Spencerport lost in preliminaries to Dennis Voltz, Sidney (Sec. 4), 9-2.

98—Rory Legacy, Spencerport lost in quarterfinals to Al DeStefanis, Locust Valley (Sec. 8), 5-0; won third place consolation over Dave Parisi, Ithaca (Sec. 4), 8-2.

105 — Rob Starkweather, McQuaid lost in semifinals to Paul Widerman, Huntington, (Sec. 11), 7-1; won fifth consolation over Brian Bell, Peru (Sec. 7), 9-6.

112 — Kevin Richard, Geneseo, lost in quarterfinals to Mark Macchia, Island Trees (Sec. 8), 8-1; won third consolation over Mark Palzer, Walt Whitman (Sec. 11), 7-2.

119 — Don St. James, Rush-Henrietta Sperry lost in finals to Bob Bury, Calhoun (Sec. 8), 6-1.

126 — Ron Winnie, Spencerport lost in quarterfinals to Ed Pidgeon, Locust Valley (Sec. 8) 5-1; finished fourth consolation after loss to Neil Zendle, Niskayuna (Sec. 2), 7-1.

132 — Marcus Phillips, Avon lost in quarterfinals to Mark DeMeo, Mt. Pleasant (Sec. 2), 8-1; won fifth consolation over Kevin Murphy, Lynbrook (Sec. 8), 5-1.

138 — Dave Lynn, Canandaigua lost in preliminaries to Jeff Iacovelli, Ithaca (Sec. 4), 9-0.

145—Tony Bruno, Brockport lost in quarterfinals to Pat Malay, Iroquois (Sec. 6) 8-6.

155 — Len Barber, East lost in quarterfinals to Chris Leichtweis, Olean (Sec. 6), 5-2; finished fourth consolation after loss to Jim Oliver, Niskayuna (Sec. 2), pin in 3:05.

167 — John Zito, East Rochester, lost in finals to Ed Banach, Port Jervis (Sec. 9), 9-4.

177 — Bob Dunlap, Gates-Chili lost in semifinals to Mark Davis, Shenendahowa (Sec. 2), 10-2; won fifth consolation over Nat Boyle, Amityville (Sec. 11), 5-1.

215—Charles Hill, Edison lost in preliminaries to Dana Stemmer, Elmira Free Academy (Sec. 4), 9-1.

250—Joe Baldo, East Rochester lost in semifinals to Jim Sleeper, West Genesee (Sec. 3) pin in 3:50; won third consolation over Thomas Wyld, Guilderland (Sec. 2), pin in 3:10.