

H.S. UPDATE

Welch wins twice, leads 6 wrestlers

Democrat and Chronicle

SYRACUSE — **Jon Welch** of Canandaigua survived two close decisions yesterday to lead six Section 5 wrestlers into the semifinals of the state wrestling championships at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

Welch, a senior who placed fifth in the 1988 New York State Public High School Athletic Association meet, won by scores of 4-1 and 5-3 in the 167-pound division.

The latter, in the quarterfinals against **Dean Morrison** of Copiague (Section 11), placed Welch into today's semifinals against **Mark Whitford** of Tottenville (New York City Public Schools Athletic League).

Barry Barklund, Bloomfield's 98-pounder reached the 10 a.m. semifinals with a pin at 2:46 of his first match and then a 7-0 decision over **Tojo Poole** of Baldwinsville (Section 3).

Cousins **Andy Antonucci** (119) of Hilton and **Joe LoPresti** (126) of Spencerport will take the mat one after the other. Antonucci pinned **Lonnie Rivers** of Peru (Section 7) in 5:20 and then scored a 6-1 decision in the quarterfinals. LoPresti handled another Peru wrestler, **Toby**

Prenoveau, by a 7-3 score.

Steve Taylor, a Brockport junior, also won two matches. The 145-pounder broke to a 7-0 lead before finally pinning **John McMorro** of Xaverian in the Catholic High School Athletic Association at the 4:58 mark. Taylor's 5-4 decision over **Brian Sampson** of Yorktown (Section 1) moved him into the semifinals against **Don Duell** of Mexico (Section 3).

Sean Pancoast, Victor's 250-pounder, wrestling in the final match of the night, defeated **Richard Cyriaque** of Kellenberg Memorial (CHSAA) in the semifinals with a pin at 3:43 after building a 9-0 lead.

Pancoast will face **Jeff Way** of Peru in the semifinals.

Antonucci (38-0-1), who placed fifth in Syracuse as a junior, faces the day's greatest challenge. His semifinal opponent will be Waverly (Section 4) junior **Doug Shaffer**, who beat Antonucci by a 6-5 score en route to the 105 title last year.

Barklund's opponent will be **Tom Mangan** of Averill Park in Section 2. Barklund is 37-1-1 as a senior.

LoPresti (39-1) and Williamsville North (Section 6) senior **Rob Kearney** will meet for the third time this season. LoPresti and Kearney have defeated each other once, both in tournaments.

Section 11 of Long Island leads the team scoring with 79.5 points. Section 5 is fourth with 58.

John Hill of Brighton came within seconds of pulling the tournament's first notable upset before losing his 132-pound pre-quarterfinal to **Ryan Den Haese** of Cato-Meridian (Section 3), 11-10.

Swimming

Fairport's **Randy Shepard** won the state diving qualifier yesterday at Edison, compiling 395.50 points for 11 dives.

Teammate **Dave Marsh** finished second with 386.60 points and **Peter Allen** of Honeoye Falls-Lima was third with 383.25. The top three finishers qualified for the state meet next weekend at Nottingham High in Syracuse.

The state qualifiers in swimming are today (1 p.m.) at Brockport State.

Canandaigua's Welch breezes into wrestling final

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SYRACUSE — Canandaigua senior Jon Welch wrestled a flawless semifinal yesterday to reach the 167-pound finals of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships.

Welch raised his season record to 36-0 with a 5-0 decision over Mark Whitford of Tottenville from the New York City Public Schools Athletic League, never allowing his opponent to go on the offensive before an estimated 4,000 fans.

Welch was scheduled to meet Chris Balducci of Irvington (Section 1) in the final late last night at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

Hilton 119-pounder Andy Antonucci and Spencerport 126-pounder Joe LoPresti also made it to the finals with victories, in each case over an old acquaintance.

Antonucci outpointed Doug Shaffer of Waverly (Section 4), 6-5, a year after losing to the same wrestler in the state semifinals. LoPresti, meanwhile, raised his season record against Williamsville North's Rob Kearney to 2-1 with a 5-2 decision over the Section 6 opponent.

Bloomfield's Barry Barklund, hindered by an arm injury suffered early in the match, was pinned 3 minutes, 30 seconds into the 98-pound semifinal by Tom Mangan of Averill Park (Section 2).

Barklund led briefly, 3-2, before twice needing injury time to have his right arm examined.

Brockport's Steve Taylor forced the action in the third period of the 145 semifinals before dropping a 2-1 decision to Don Duell (38-1) of Mexico.

The section's sixth semifinalist, Victor senior Sean Pancoast suffered his first loss of the season, a pin 1:59 into his match against Jeff Way of Peru (Section 7). Way held a 3-0 lead at the time.

By winning his match, Antonucci drew an even tougher opponent. Shaffer was the 105-pound state champion a year ago, but the Hilton senior's opponent in the final was to be Troy Bouzakis of Pine

Bush (Section 9).

Bouzakis, a junior, was state champ at 91 pounds in 1986 and 105 the following season. He suffered his only career loss in early-round action at the 1988 state meet and stood at 133-1 before the Antonucci match.

LoPresti was scheduled to face Ed Moak of Averill Park (Section 2) in the final.

LoPresti is the third brother from his family to reach the state final. Mike LoPresti outpointed Brian Burk of Bethpage (Section 8) in the 138-pound match three years ago. Chris LoPresti suffered an 8-0 loss to Tony Ferrara of Sidney (Section 4) last year at 132 pounds.

Antonucci, LoPresti capture state wrestling titles

By John Moriello

Democrat and Chronicle



SYRACUSE — Andy Antonucci felt like the kid who received his birthday and Christmas gifts on the same day.

These presents came in the form of Troy Bouzakis and 6,000 wrestling fans at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

"It was my dream to wrestle him and to be in the state final," Antonucci said last night. "I got both in one shot."

And in the process, the Hilton senior picked up a 5-4 decision in overtime to win the state 119-pound championship and electrify the crowd.

Minutes later, as literally dozens of Antonucci's friends and relatives poured

onto the floor in their custom-made purple T-shirts, Spencerport senior Joe LoPresti made it back-to-back championships for Section 5 wrestlers, scoring a 5-4 triumph against Ed Moak of Averill Park (Section 2) in 126-pound action.

The other Section 5 finalist, Canandaigua 167-pound senior Jon Welch, suffered a 7-0 loss to Chris Balducci of Irvington (Section 1).

Seven other Section 5 wrestlers placed in the top six, including third-place finishers John Hill of Brighton (132) and Steve Taylor of Brockport (138).

As a result, Section 5 fared well in the team standings, collecting 161.5 points to place third. Section 11 won with 199.5,

followed by Section 1 at 162.

Antonucci, LoPresti and Welch were all making their second consecutive appearance at the Onondaga County War Memorial. Antonucci and Welch each placed fifth as juniors, and LoPresti did not place among the top six.

Despite all the championships, including two sectional titles, Antonucci earned in his years at Hilton, his final one was still stunning because of whom he beat. Bouzakis possesses one of the best-known — and feared — reputations in the state.

The Pine Bush junior won the first 99 matches of his career before losing in the quarterfinals last year when a tie was broken by a stalling call.

Bouzakis won titles at 91 pounds in 1986 and 105 the following season. He placed third at 119 as a sophomore, and brought a 134-1 career record into the Antonucci match.

"He'll capitalize on any mistake you make," Antonucci said. "He finds the littlest thing and he hits it."

But Antonucci gave him nothing, fending off all of Bouzakis' moves in the first period, taking one-point leads in the next two and then handling overtime in a way befitting someone with a 132-15-2 career record. Antonucci received a stalling warning midway through the first min-

Antonucci, LoPresti win wrestling titles

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ute-long overtime, then escaped moments into the second OT.

Bouzakis nearly broke free for an escape to begin the third OT, but Antonucci drove him out of bounds and never let go once action restarted from the referee's position.

The sound of the final buzzer sent Antonucci into a frenzy, leaping into the arms of the Cadets' Al Krotz, who coached Dave Pitoni to a title in 1986 and Rick Sadwick in 1987-88.

"Not taking anything away from Rick, because winning two titles is a great achievement," Krotz said, "but Andy beating a kid with that kind of record and that reputation is beyond all."

LoPresti also soared beyond a reputation — that of his brothers. Mike was a state champ in 1986. Chris was a finalist last year. Heck, even his cousin, Antonucci, had a huge achievement to his name by the time LoPresti stepped on the mat.

He stepped off it looking more drained than excited.

"In a way it was relief. After what my brothers went through and then realizing

this was the last six-minute match of my life, it was relief."

LoPresti was going against a relative unknown. Moak was unpublicized despite a 29-1 pre-tournament record, and one of only four finalists not rated among the top six in his class by *The Mat Slap*, a Long Island-based wrestling newsletter.

That made no difference to LoPresti.

"When I came down here I didn't know anybody anyway," he said. "You have to be good if you're here."

Antonucci had to go beyond that degree of good. He took an important step en route to the final, defeating Doug Shaffer of Waverly (Section 4) in the 119 semifinals, 6-5. It was Shaffer who eliminated Antonucci last year.

"My mental state was 10 times better this year," Antonucci said.

RESULTS

Team

Section Eleven 199.5, One 162, Five 161.5, Two 156, Nine 138, Three 130.5, Six 130.5, Eight 89, Four 80.5, Ten 54, Seven 51, PSAL 31.5, CHSAA 30.

Individual finals

91 pounds — Anthony Alberti (Hendrick-Hudson-1) d. Craig Conant (Tully-3), 17-4. **98** — Carlos Jimenez (Sleepy Hollow-1) d. Tom Mangan (Averill Park-2), 9-5. **105** — Frank Fronhofer (Salem-2) d. Juan Carlos Garcia (Sleepy Hollow-1), 5-3. **112** — James Canty (Suffern-1) vs. Tom Sinacore (Bethpage-8). **119** — Andy Antonucci (Hilton-5) d. Troy Bouzakis (Pine Bush-9), 5-4 (ot). **126** — Joe LoPresti (Spencerport-5) d. Ed Moak (Averill Park-2), 5-4. **132** — John Bena (Niskayuna-2) p. Tom Shifflet (Amherst Sweet Home-6) 1:48. **138** — Lou Ruggirello (Valley Central-9) d. Bill Terry (Freeport-8), 6-1. **145** — Jamie St. John (Port Jefferson-11) d. Don Duell (Mexico), 8-5. **155**

— Seamus Lyman (Watertown-3) d. J.J. Stanbro (Johnson City-4), 3-1. **167** — Chris Balducci (Irvington-1) d. Jon Welch (Canandaigua-5), 7-0. **177** — Adam Mariano (Comsewogue-11) d. John Penhollow (Cassadaga Valley-6), 14-4. **215** — Ron Vitullo (New Hartford-3) d. Earl Garnder (Stuyvestant-PSAL), 7-0. **250** — William Friburger (William Floyd-11) d. Jeff Way (Peru-7), 7-3.

Area competitors

91 — Alex Croog (Brighton, consolation bracket) pinned Richard Ruck (Rondout Valley-9), 2:14; decisioned Peter Smith (St. Anthony's-CHSAA), 2-1; defeated Mike Russell (Deposit-4), default. Third-place match: lost to Mike Buonagurio (Connetquot-11), 5-2. **98** — Bill Barklund (Bloomfield), semifinals, was pinned by Tom Mangan (Averill Park-2), 3:30; (consolation bracket) lost to Ken Wojehowski (Cornwall-9), injury default. Fifth-place match: lost to Tojo Poole (Baldwinsville-3) by injury default. **105** — Shawn Knisely (Waterloo, consolation bracket) decisioned Robert Donnino (Chaminade-CHSAA), 4-0; decisioned Chris Kumrow (Williamsville South-6), 2-1; decisioned Joe Toner (Johnson City-4), 8-2. Third-place match: lost to Jeff Duque (Valley Central-9), 5-3. **112** — Kerry Foster (Canandaigua, consolation bracket) lost to Shawn Edwards (Peru-7), 4-1, did not place. **119** — Andy Antonucci (Hilton), semifinals, decisioned Doug Shaffer (Waverly-4), 6-5. Championship final: d. Troy Bouzakis (Pine Bush-9), 5-4 (ot). **126** — Joe LoPresti (Spencerport), semifinals, decisioned Rob Kearney (Williamsville North-6), 5-2; Championship final: d. Ed Moak (Averill Park-2), 5-4. **132** — John Hill (Brighton, consolation bracket) decisioned Bernard Valentin (Long Beach-8), 13-9 (ot), decisioned Scott Sullivan (Waverly-4), 3-2; decisioned Chris Baker (Saranac-7), 4-1. Third-place match: Won by misconduct disqualification over O'Nefie Reid (Copiague-11). **138** — John Brooks (North Rose-Wolcott, consolation bracket) pinned Travis Nocchi (Waverly-4), 2:02; decisioned Kareem Johnson (Niagara Falls-6), 6-6 (ot, referee's criterion); lost to Corey Schroeder (Averill Park-2), 5-3. Fifth-place match: decisioned Jeff Whitton (Herman-DeKalb-10), 9-1. **145** — Steve Taylor (Brockport), semifinals, lost to Don Duell (Mexico), 2-1; (consolation) decisioned Wayne Morrow (Gouverneur-10), 7-1. Third-place match: defeated Chris Bell (Minisink Valley-9) by forfeit. **155** — Terry Lucero (Bloomfield, consolation bracket) lost to Billy Maisel (Amityville-11), 8-2. Did not place. Will Moss (Albion-6, consolation bracket) lost to Emilio Collins (Tappen Zee-1), 9-2. Did not place. **167** — Jon Welch (Canandaigua), semifinals, decisioned Mark Whitford (Tottenville-PSAL), 5-0. Championship final: lost to Chris Balducci (Irvington-1), 7-0. **177** — Anthony Ricci (Greece Olympia, consolation bracket) lost to Shane Smith (South Glens Falls-2), 12-1. Did not place. **215** — Jerry Pelusio (Fairport, consolation bracket) lost to Alex Bilos (Monroe-Woodbury-9), score NA. Did not place. **250** — Sean Pancoast (Victor), semifinals, was pinned by Jeff Way (Peru-7), 1:59; (consolation); was pinned by Rob Bandish (Amherst Sweet Home-6), 1:12. Fifth-place final: pinned Marvin Garvey (Herman-DeKalb-10), 2:45.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Hilton wrestler avoided decision by the rulebook

By John Moriello



Democrat and Chronicle

Andy Antonucci was wrestling Troy Bouzakis on the mat as Hilton coaches Al Krotz and Chuck Partridge were wrestling the rulebook Saturday at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

Antonucci was ahead of Bouzakis, from Pine Bush (Section 9) by a 5-4 score midway through the second overtime. If it held up, Antonucci would be the state 119-pound champion after about another 90 seconds of action.

But that wasn't good enough. Krotz and Partridge, realizing Antonucci had received a stalling warning in the first OT period, needed to know where their senior stood in case the match ended tied and had to be decided by referee's criterion.

They looked to some fellow coaches and fans sitting at matside. What happened next would have been humorous had it not been at such a critical juncture. The would-be advisors seemed split in their judgment.

"Some guys on the side were telling me we were going to win," Krotz said. "I didn't know. I thought the stalling call was going to cost Andy."

Krotz thought right. Had Bouzakis, the two-time state champ who came in with a 134-1 career record, scored a third-period escape to end the match at five points apiece, the tiebreaker would have come down to stalling warnings and Antonucci would have lost.

Antonucci rode Bouzakis out and capped his career with a state title, as did his cousin, Spencerport 126-pounder Joe LoPresti.

The other drama in the Antonucci match had to do with a Bouzakis escape late in the second period. Antonucci was leading, 2-1, when Bouzakis made a lightning-quick leap out of the referee's position. Rather than fight to save the point, Antonucci backed off.

"I was afraid of giving up two points (for a reversal) instead of one," he said. "He caught my right arm and I decided it wasn't worth it to stick around."

Section 5's other finalist was a victim of another wrestler who didn't stick around. Canandaigua senior Jon Welch brought a season record of 36-0 into the 167 final, where he lost to Chris Balducci of Irvington (Section 1), 7-0.

Balducci was fourth in the state at 177 last season, but came down one class certainly at least in part because of the return of Adam Mariano. The Comsewogue (Section 11) senior entered the 177 division with 71 falls and three decisions in his last 74 matches and had scored a technical fall over Balducci in the 1988 tournament.