

# Arena shines at home tournament

## Warriors place 4th among 15-team field



Warriors' Justin Hager (left) duels Clarion's Eric Henry in what Salamanca head Coach Rich Morton called one of his best matches of the season in the semifinals. Hager won 11-4.

(Press photo by David Edstrom)

By **DAVID EDSTROM**  
*Sports Editor*

**SALAMANCA**— For the second time this season, Salamanca's Vic Arena has captured Most Outstanding Wrestler honors in a tournament. The last time Arena won the award was at the Olean Invitational Tournament on Jan. 20.

Arena captured the honor after winning the 152-pound title against Allegany-Limestone's Tony Margeson 19-9. Along the way, Arena nearly tied the Salamanca record for the quickest pin as he defeated Clarion's Marty Fisher with a fall in nine seconds. The school record of eight seconds is still held by Carl Muzi dating back to the early 80s.

After Arena's quick pin, he came back with a 21-5 technical fall over Olean's Bobby Elliott to advance into the semifinal round and then disposed of No. 4 seed John Machamer of Westfield 15-4 to get to the championship round.

See Wrestling, pg. 11



Salamanca's A.J. Young (back) tried to fight through a head injury in his consolation match against Bradford's Ryan Cannon but fell to his opponent in 4:45.

(Press photo by David Edstrom)

"Vic didn't have too much of a problem during the weekend, but what was good for him was to get in four matches along the way," said Salamanca Head Coach Rich Morton. "Earning the Most Outstanding Wrestler award is something that will hopefully build back his confidence after his overtime loss last weekend at the Sweet Home Tournament. This is the time of year where he needs to really come alive."

As a team, the Warriors placed a very respectable 4th out of 15 teams entered with 132 points. Salamanca had one first, two seconds, two thirds, one fourth, one fifth, and one sixth-place finish during the tournament. Clarion, Pa. knocked off defending champion Fredonia, as they finished in first with 192 team points. Fredonia placed second with 183, while Olean grabbed third with 145 points.

"For us to take fourth with the few number of kids we have is a really good showing for us," said the Salamanca mentor. "There were a total of eight teams who went over 100 points as it was a close race."

"Clarion did not surprise me by beating out Fredonia for the team title because they have a lot of talented kids on the mat," said Morton.

Clarion had two champions, two second-place finishers and two third-place finishers to help earn them the title, while Fredonia had one champion, three second-place finishers, and three third-place finishers.

Salamanca got a solid second-place showing from 112-pound Corey O'Neil as the warrior grappler continues to make a strong comeback from a serious elbow injury suffered earlier in the season. The fourth-seeded O'Neil defeated Pine Valley's Eric Weaver 12-5 in his tournament opener and advanced to the championship match after earning a hard-fought 3-2 decision over Clarion's Toby Ocha in the semifinals. In the championship match O'Neil fell to Albion's Mike Sanders in overtime 6-4.

"You got to give Corey a lot of credit for his efforts on Saturday," stated Morton. "He wrestled against some very tough kids along the way and he gave the top-seeded Sanders a real tough match in the finals."

The Warriors also picked up second-place points in the 103-pound class, as Justin Hager went 2-1 on Saturday. Hager defeated Allegany-Limestone's Kyle Crisafulli with a pin in 4:25 in the tournament opener and then followed that up with a big win over Clarion's Eric Henry 11-4 to advance to the finals. In the finals however, it was Olean's Shea Anzvine who downed Hager 7-3. Hager had defeated Anzvine three times previously to Saturday's tournament. "Despite his loss to Anzvine,

Justin had another real solid tournament," said Morton. "I was especially pleased with his win over Clarion's Henry which was one of his best efforts of the season."

Salamanca's Joe Conlan battled his way to a solid third-place effort in the 119-pound class as he defeated Fredonia's Matt Strandburg by a sudden-death rideout in the consolation finals. Conlan opened up the tournament with a 17-1 technical fall over Bolivar-Richburg's Tyler Taylor, before falling to No. 2 seeded Lyle Milliman of Pine Valley 8-5. In the consolation bracket, Conlan defeated Bradford's Casey Neely 6-4 before winning his match against Strandburg.

"Joe continues to wrestle well against quality kids," said Morton. "He lost to Milliman who went on to win the tournament and then had a big win over Strandburg to take third."

Warriors' Jaymee Minner also added a third-place finish in the 130-pound class as he defeated Panama's Chris McCool 8-1 in the consolation finals. Minner opened up Saturday's tournament with a 12-0 decision over Bolivar-Richburg's Craig Adams and followed that win with a 10-0 shutout against Randolph's Herb Brown. Fredonia's Justin Perry sent Minner to the consolation round after he defeated the

Salamanca grappler in a close 5-0 decision. Minner also picked up a 6-0 win against Silver Creek's Andy Dutcher in his first consolation match.

"Earlier in the season Jaymee lost to McCool," stated Morton. "It was nice to see him get a little revenge with a 8-1 victory."

Salamanca's Kane Smith took fourth place after falling in the consolation finals to Clarion's Nick Niznik 3-1 in sudden-death overtime. Smith began the day with a 11-0 win over Bradford's Adam Weart and then defeated

Niznik 7-6 to advance to the semifinal round. In the semis, Smith fell to the eventual champion of the 160-pound class Kevin Herman of Pine Valley 12-1. In his first consolation match, Smith defeated Brown again by a score of 5-1.

"To go over 20 wins this year as an eighth-grader is something special for Kane," said Morton. "He did another superb job."

Warriors' Jim Holmes added a fifth-place finish in the 135-pound class after he had a 14-8 win over Franklinville's Tom Burke. In his fifth-place match, Holmes got a win over Burke due to a medical forfeit.

Salamanca's Andy Edwards took sixth place in the 189-pound class out of the eight-man field, while Justin Speiss (171-pound) and A.J. Young (125-pound) finished the day 1-2.

Of local interest the Randolph Cardinals placed a respectable 10th place with 83.5 points as they picked up two second-place finishes along the way. Cardinals' Kasey Brown advanced to the championship of the 189-pound class after going 2-1 on the day as he earned wins over Salamanca's Edwards (2:50) and Westfield's Robert Cettell (1:19). Brown fell to Clarion's Kyle Cathcart 16-1 by virtue of a technical fall. Cathcart is a defending state champion from Pennsylvania.

Randolph's Andy Durow also went 2-1 on the weekend after pinning Panama's Tony Boscerino in 3:32 and knocking off top-seeded Brian Nary of Olean with a 7-5 sudden-death overtime win. In the finals, Durow fell to Albion's Brad Watkins.

### Team Scoring

Clarion, Pa. 192, Fredonia 183, Olean 145, Salamanca 132, Panama 117.5, Pine Valley 116, Bradford, Pa. 114.5, Albion 108, Allegany-Limestone 85, Randolph 83.5, Bolivar-Richburg 83, Silver Creek 51, Frank-



Salamanca's Corey O'Neil battles Clarion's Toby Ocha in the semifinals of the 112-pound class. O'Neil went on to a 3-2 win before falling in the finals.

(Press photo by David Edstrom)

linville 34, Westfield 34, Oswayo Valley 30.

### Championship Finals

96: Steve Pancino (Olean) 9-0 Josh McClain (Clarion, Pa.)  
103: Shea Anzvine (Olean) 7-3 Justin Hager (Salamanca)  
112: Mike Sanders (Albion) 6-4 SD Corey O'Neil (Salamanca)  
119: Lyle Milliman (Pine Valley) 7-3 Bryan Kickadden (Clarion, Pa.)

125: Josh Perry (Fredonia) 7-5 Justin Cooper (Albion)  
130: Matt Waterson (Clarion, Pa.) 6-3 Justin Perry (Fredonia)  
135: Bob Russell (Panama) 5-3 Ryan Yerico (Fredonia)  
140: Dan Uderitz (Albion) 6-3 Wil Sidey (Fredonia)  
145: J.R. Tompkins (Bolivar-Richburg) 7-6 Mitch Neely (Bradford, Pa.)

152: Victor Arena (Salamanca) 19-9 Tony Margerson (Allegany-Limestone)

160: Kevin Herman (Pine Valley) 2:50 A.J. Paoletto (Olean)

171: Ed Palchack (Panama) 4-2 Ted Lawrence (Clarion, Pa.)  
189: Kyle Cathcart (Clarion, Pa.) TF 4:10 Kasey Brown (Randolph)  
215: Brad Watkins (Albion) 3:15 Andy Durow (Randolph)  
275: Chris Troskosky (Allegany-Limestone) 7-4 Joe Brown (Clarion, Pa.)

### Consolation Finals

96: Josh Lundy (Oswayo Valley) 2-0 SD Phil Kavanaugh (Silver Creek)  
103: Eric Henry (Clarion, Pa.) 15-4 Mike Wheeler (Bradford, Pa.)  
112: Josh Seward (Fredonia) 4:02 Marty Inkly (Randolph)  
119: Joe Conlan (Salamanca) 3-3 rideout Matt Strandburg (Fredonia)  
125: Brian Smith (Panama) 14-9 Steve Ward (Bolivar-Richburg)

130: Jaymee Minner (Salamanca) 8-1 Chris McCool (Panama)

135: Brandon Guiher (Pine Valley) 12-5 Aaron Shanahan (Silver Creek)  
140: Tracy Bentley (Bolivar-Richburg) forfeit Ryan Ferrell (Bradford, Pa.)  
171: Andrew Sprague (Fredonia) forfeit Nick Mowrey (Olean)

152: John Macneemer (Westfield) 4-2 Bill Bean (Panama)

160: Nick Niznik (Clarion, Pa.) 3-1 SD Kane Smith (Salamanca)  
171: Sean O'Connell (Franklinville) 5-3 Dennis Wilmouth (Bradford, Pa.)  
189: Ben Autieri (Bradford, Pa.) :36 Robert Cettell (Westfield)  
215: Brian Nary (Olean) 2:42 Eric Herman (Pine Valley)  
275: Chris Raymond (Fredonia) 2:52 Clifton Lynch (Pine Valley)

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