

Becker, Jon Jacobson, Smith garner mat titles



By BRIAN QUINN

Sports Editor

SALAMANCA — The Warriors completed Saturday's Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament with three individual titles, tying them with Oswayo Valley (Pa.) for the most by a school.

Claiming first place for Salamanca were Josh Becker (96 pounds), Jon Jacobson (145) and Kane Smith (215). Matt Metzler (103) placed second. Jared Jacobson (171) made the semifinals as well. He lost his match there by rebounded to take third.

"It was the competition," Morton said in talking about the best thing about the tournament for his team. "I think it gets tough for everyone when they get to the semifinals. The 135-pound class was really strong."

Becker, the No. 2 seed, improved his record to 11-7. He was in a field of just four wrestlers and only had to wrestle twice. He beat Chris Conti of Fredonia 7-5 in the finals.

Becker was ahead 2-0 early on before Conti tied the score. Becker again went ahead and Conti again pulled even at 5-5. Becker got the winning points just before end of the second period and held Conti scoreless in the third.

Jon Jacobson came in as one of three No. 1 seeds for Salamanca. He beat Chad Wright of Randolph 5-1 in the finals to improve to 26-6.

Jon Jacobson was in control throughout, going ahead 5-0 after the second period.

Smith's record climbed to 30-0 after the tournament. The No. 1 seed at 215, he earned the title with a 5-1 decision over Frank Zielinski of Fredonia. Smith took a 2-0 lead and then went ahead 4-1.

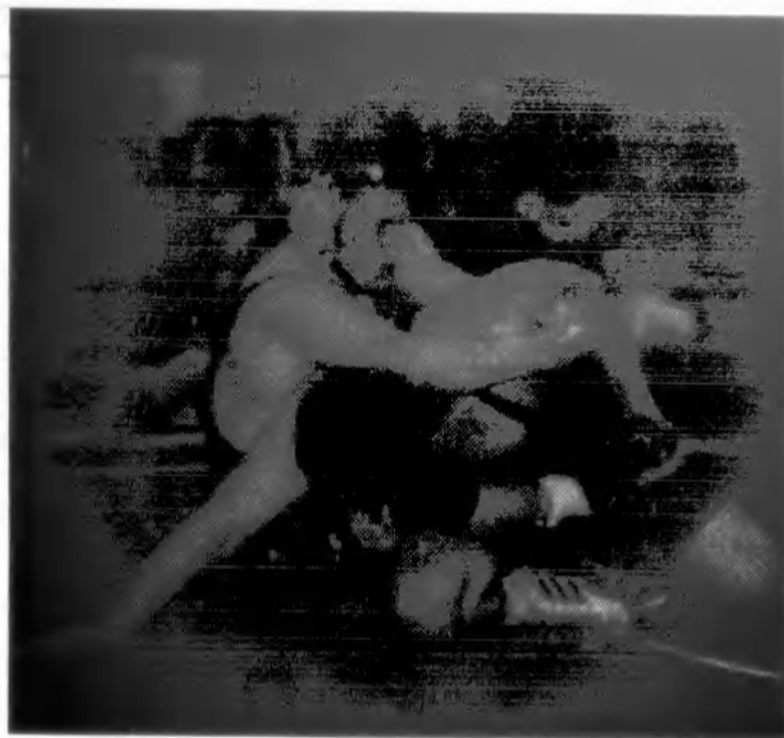
Matt Metzler (23-3) entered the tourney as a No. 1 seed and won his first three matches to reach the finals.

In the finals, Bill Simons of Campbell-Savona took a 4-0 lead into the second period. Metzler fought back to cut the lead to 4-2, but Simons pinned him in 3:10.



(Top photo) Jon Jacobson capped a 3-0 run through the tournament with a 5-1 title win at 145 pounds. (Bottom photo) Kane Smith improved his record to 30-0 with a 7-1 victory for the 215-pound title.

(Press photo by Brian Quinn)



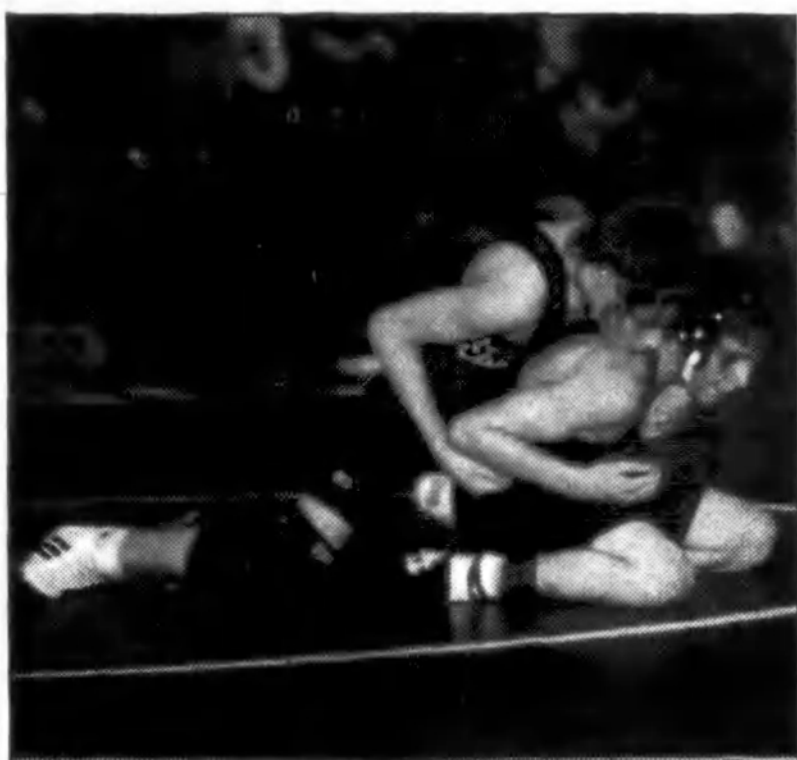
Morton said Metzler was wrestling at 103 in order for him to be challenged. it was apparent that size was a factor," Morton said. "That's the

"He was up a weight class and

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Josh Becker secures a championship in the 96-pound weight class. The win was the third of three Salamanca earned Saturday.

(Press photo by Brian Quinn)

best thing for him — to be wrestling up a weight class."

Jared Jacobson faced a tough opponent in his semifinal — Allegany-Limestone's Matt Miller. Miller (19-3) finished second.

No points were scored in the first period. Jared Jacobson took a 1-0 lead in the second, but Miller came back to tie. The match went into a one-minute overtime period and Miller got the takedown he needed for the 3-1 victory.

"We wrestle Allegany-Limestone tonight," Morton said. "They could see each other again, depending on who's jockeying to win the meet."

Jared Jacobson returned to the mat to pin Brian Wallace of Bradford (Pa.) in 2:36. He took third after pinning Matt Emke-Walker of Pine Valley in 1:55.

Billy Roosa (140) and Tim Ja-

cobson finished fifth for Salamanca.

Perhaps the evening's best match was the 152-pound final, between Canisteo's Devan Bertch and Cobleskill-Richmondville's Neal Martin. Bertch came in with a record of 33-0 and Martin 32-0.

Bertch and Martin were tied 5-5 after regulation before Martin got the decisive points to win 7-5. He went on to win the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.

"Without a doubt, those two kids were the highlight of the tournament," Morton said.

The Warriors finished third in the team standings, with 137 points. The team championship went to the Fredonia Hillbillies, who rolled up 196 and got five wrestlers into the championship finals.