

High Schools

By Ray Buck

It Doesn't Pay to Stall

Here they were in the finals of the County Tournament — which is what most wrestlers shoot for from that first workout in November. It's a long wait, but it all seems worth it until zap! You lose on a penalty point.

It happened not only once, but twice Saturday night.

Chris Bourne of East Rochester and Ernie Fullwood of Batavia were tied 3-3 in the 115-pound finals. Fullwood had already been warned for stalling and then, with about 25 seconds left in the match, he was slapped with a penalty point . . . and lost 4-3.

Frank DeAngelis of Spencerport and Pete Kundin of Irondequoit came together for the much-publicized, long-awaited battle for the 141-pound title. Kundin led 1-0, then DeAngelis escaped beginning the third period to even the score. Kundin was warned for stalling . . . then penalized with about 40 seconds left. He pushed for a takedown but couldn't save the match and lost 2-1.

Legitimate calls in both cases. Plus, being the Counties, the referee had the aid of two judges standing on either side of the mat —and how wrong can three men be?

But losing on penalty points in the finals can cut deeply.

"I hate to see a match decided on something like that," admitted Don Quinn, the ER coach and former County chairman. "Both instances, they were good calls . . . but I don't know how timely.

"If a kid's not wrestling, he's not wrestling. But something like this (late assessments) he doesn't have a fighting chance . . . he doesn't take it seriously until the referee hits him with it. Then sometimes it's too late."

Up until three years ago, the stalling rule was that the referee must (1) warn the wrestler and (2) keep a silent count in his head before issuing the penalty.

"The count was something like 10 or 15 seconds," said Quinn, "but a kid would half stand up and the official would have to start counting all over again. Now it's simply up to him

to determine when a kid is stalling and hit him with a point"

The DeAngelis-Kundin decision caused the biggest protest. Irondequoit Coach Art Connorton did his job and questioned it; the fans booted loudly.

"The problem with that match," offered Quinn, "was that it's been building up all year and people were discouraged it wasn't more of a match. Both wrestlers knew one mistake could cost the match. They were playing it cozy . . . and the poor official (Al Feuz) took the brunt of it."

All losers in the finals are given a quick chance to redeem themselves in the Sectionals Friday and Saturday in the War Memorial. The first three finishers in the County advance.

Don Roberts (135) of Brockport was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, pinning Dave Juergens of Hilton at 5:51 of the finals. They could meet again in the finals of the Sectionals.

Brad Roth (218) of Eastridge scored a 10-5 decision over Frank DeStefano of Webster Thomas in the final 15 seconds. DeStefano came back from a 5-0 deficit in the second period to pull even a 5-5, but was taken down and put on his back just before the match ended. Could be a rematch in the finals of the Sectionals, but Roth finds himself in the same bracket as Chester Shellman (21-1) of East.

Spencerport won the team title with 123 points as all five finalists won — Kevin Murray (122), Ken Brongo (129), DeAngelis, Gary Baxter (170) and Wayne Bogue (unlimited). Eastridge (77½) finished second, East Rochester (75½) third and Rush-Henrietta (70) fourth.

NICK STEO of Pittsford Sutherland swam his best time in the breaststroke, 1:02 flat, to win a gold medal in the Easterns at Lawrenceville, N.J., on Saturday. His previous best was 1:02.1 (against Liverpool), which was already within the range of All-American consideration. Automatic is 1:01.5.

Sutherland finished sixth as a team out of 88 schools, ranging from Maine to Florida.

Scoreboard

115—Bourne (East Rochester) dec. Fullwood (Batavia) 4-3. 3rd—Kasper (Hilton). 4th—Brongo (Spencerport).
122—Murray (Spencerport) dec. Battaglia (Penfield) 4-2. 3rd—DeMeco (Churchville-Chili) 4th—Zaff (Thomas).
129—Brongo (Spencerport) dec. Craft (Thomas) 8-5. 3rd—Gager (Brighton). 4th—Sulli (Eastridge).
135—Roberts (Brockport) pinned Juergens (Hilton) 5:51. 3rd—Alvarez (Rush-Henrietta). 4th—Stulpin (Spencerport).
141—Deangelis (Spencerport) dec. Kundin (Irondequoit) 2-1. 3rd—Grubaugh (Rush-Henrietta). 4th—Field (Schroeder).
148—Freedman (Eastridge) dec. Work (Gates-Chili) 8-3. 3rd—Irwin (Mendon). 4th—Bumbarger (Churchville-Chili).
158—Sacchitella (Rush-Henrietta) dec. Arnone (Irondequoit) 10-5. 3rd—Duffy (East Rochester). 4th—Folker (Fairport).
170—Baxter (Spencerport) dec. DeNero (Eastridge) 3-1. 3rd—Clark (Mendon). 4th—Bischopping (Hilton).
180—McPhee (East Rochester) dec. Sweet (Fairport) 5-0. 3rd—Flemming (Brockport). 4th—Beacons (Spencerport).
218—Roth (Eastridge) dec. DeStefano (Thomas) 10-5. 3rd—Benningson (Rush-Henrietta). 4th—Giordano (Olympia).
250—Bogue (Spencerport) dec. Verni (East Rochester) 7-6. 3rd—Schmuck (Eastridge). 4th—Maira (Irondequoit).

Wrestling

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

101—Robling (Rush-Henrietta) dec. Legacy (Churchville-Chili) 9-5. 3rd—Freeman (Brockport). 4th—Halladay (Fairport).
108—Barnard (Hilton) dec. Mulrain (Churchville-Chili) 6-0. 3rd—Stolt (Fairport). 4th—Oliveri (Irondequoit).

TEAM SCORING: Spencerport 123.

Eastridge 77½, East Rochester 75½, Rush-Henrietta 70, Hilton 60, Brockport 58, Churchville-Chili 57½, Irondequoit 57½, Fairport 53, Thomas 51½, Mendon 38½, Arcadia 29½, Gates-Chili 29½, Schroeder 22, Penfield 19, Brighton 15½, Batavia 14, Olympia 12½, Sutherland 3, Athena 3.