

Irondequoit in command with 8 wrestlers in semis

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Coach Art Connorton thinks his Irondequoit wrestling team could end the year ranked No. 1 in the state. Yesterday, after the Indians' romped through the first segment of the two-day Monroe County League tournament at Rush-Henrietta Sperry, few could argue.

Irondequoit, currently ranked 13th in the New York State Sportswriters Association Poll, placed eight wrestlers in today's semifinals and opened a commanding 18-point lead over surprise runner-up Penfield, 94-76.

Meanwhile, defending county champion East Rochester also slipped eight athletes into the semis and, despite its misleading 2-2 dual meet record, loomed boldly in third place with 70 points.

The day's only major upset was a disappointing showing by unbeaten and much-heralded Brockport. The Blue Devils, 5-0 in dual meets and ranked 20th in the state, advanced only four wrestlers to the semis and currently stands eighth in the 18-team field.

Today's semifinals begin at 10 a.m. Finals are scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. But by then, Ironde-

quoit may be long gone on its way to the team title.

"I've had teams that have killed other teams in tournaments," Connorton said. "But if you would have put them against a well-balanced team in dual meets, we'd have lost three or four a year.

"This year, it looks like we've got both."

Connorton has seen some pretty good wrestling teams in his 20 years at Irondequoit, but calls this group his best ever.

"The only kid on this team who wasn't All-County last year was (Dallhart) Payne," Connorton said. "And he made it today. When everyone you have is All-County, you can't have a bad team."

Connorton doesn't have a bad team. Awesome is more like it.

Start with defending county and Section 5 Class AAA 105-pound champion Tony Cotroneo. He finished fourth in the state meet at 105 last year, and will record his 100th varsity wrestling victory if he wins two matches to capture the county 112-pound title today. Cotroneo, a four-year varsity veteran as a junior, is 98-9 in his career and 10-0 this season to date.

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D&C photo by Talis Bergmanis

Irondequoit's Chris Cotroneo has a tight hold on Bill Toomey's head in 105-pound match, which he won, 8-2.

IRONDEQUOIT

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His brother, eighth-grader Chris, is 7-0, but faces unbeaten Larry Kane of Penfield in today's 105-pound semifinals. Kane, the defending county and Sec. 5 Class AAA 98-pound champ and a third-place finisher in last year's state meet, heads unbeaten Penfield's (4-0) six-man assault into the semifinals.

"Last week we didn't have that many in the semifinals of our own tournament," said Penfield's Chris Kane, who lost a 4-3 decision at 119 pounds when Irondequoit's Tim Lehmann was awarded a two-point takedown in the final seconds.

Joining the Cotroneos and Lehmann in Irondequoit's semifinals lineup are Glen Locke (126), Bret Simpson (132), captain Jim Brault (138), Scott Simpson (155) and Dallhart Payne (177). Lehmann, Brault and Brett Simpson, who cracked the starting lineup when Preston Stahl came down with tonsillitis and pneumonia, all are undefeated.

PIN POINTS: The semis may well render the finals anticlimatic from a team scoring standpoint. Whereas individual victories in the quarterfinals are worth between five and seven team points, and victories in the finals worth from four to six, semifinal triumphs are worth 12 (a decision), 13 (a superior decision) and 14 (pin) points apiece . . .

East Rochester would appear to have three solid shots to close ground on **Irondequoit** — defending county champion Mike Kuhn (126); defending county and Sec. 5 Class A 119-pound titlist Romeo Battazzi (132), the outstanding wrestler of last year's tournament, and improving Bill Condon (177) . . . It was one of those days for **Brockport**. Previously unbeaten Todd Buenting lost a 145-pound decision to **Churchville-Chili's** Scott Trainor, 6-1. Ralph Matsko was blown out by **Rush-Henrietta Sperry's** Tom Rosa at 155 pounds, 12-3. "We'll come out and do our best in the wrestlebacks (a second-chance for one-time losers to work back to as high as third place) and do the best we can, but it's pretty much over with teamwise," Coach Jeff Brown admitted . . . Previously unbeaten Rich Kase (155) of **Pittsford Mendon** dropped out after he suffered a broken rib in his preliminary match. He came back to wrestle in the quarterfinals, but withdrew.



D&C photo by Talis Bergmanis

119-pounder Chris Kane tries to upend Tim Lehmann.

**Monroe County Tournament
at Rush-Henrietta Sperry**

Through quarterfinals

Team scoring: Irondequoit 94, Penfield 76, East Rochester 70, Gates-Chili 63½, Pittsford Mendon 62, Rush-Henrietta Sperry 59½, Greece Athena 59, Brockport 58, Brighton 43½, Rush-Henrietta Roth 40, Fairport 37½, Greece Arcadia 37, Webster Schroeder 37, Churchville-Chili 35, Batavia 27, Greece Olympia 21, Pittsford Sutherland 15, Webster Thomas 14, Eastridge 3.

Semifinal pairings

91 pounds — Dave Merkel (Athena) vs. Brian Young (Mendon); Nick Rosati (ER) vs. Phil Connor (Roth).

98 — John Clark (Sperry) vs. Mike Kase (Mendon); Nick Connor (Roth) vs. Mike Bauer (Gates-Chili).

105 — Jeff Schmeer (Olympia) vs. John Lupisella (Brockport); Larry Kane (Penfield) vs. Chris Cotroneo (Irondequoit).

112 — Scott Cirman (Mendon) vs. Scott McIntosh (ER); Dave Schickler (Brockport) vs. Tony Cotroneo (Irondequoit).

119 — Dan Piensak (Athena) vs. Frank Argento (ER); Rich Mantsi (Gates-Chili) vs. Tim Lehmann (Irondequoit).

126 — Mike Kuhn (ER) vs. Dave Fay (Roth); Scott Spicer (Gates-Chili) vs. Glen Locke (Irondequoit).

132 — Romeo Battazzi (ER) vs. Brad Bishop (Athena); Bret Simpson (Irondequoit) vs. Rich Battaglia (Penfield).

138 — Joe Walczyk (ER) vs. John McCart (Athena); Jim Brault (Irondequoit) vs. Tim Blaakman (Penfield).

145 — Carl Assini (Gates-Chili) vs. Kevin Woods (Mendon); Jim Quinn (Sperry) vs. Scott Trainor (Churchville-Chili).

155 — Dave Silipini (Gates-Chili) vs. Scott Simpson (Irondequoit); Paul Bardanis (Penfield) vs. Tom Rosa (Sperry).

167 — Craig Kester (Roth) vs. Steve Good (Fairport); Bill Hermance (Brockport) vs. Terry Kent (Brighton).

177 — Dallhart Payne (Irondequoit) vs. Bill Condon (ER); John Brigandi (Arcadia) vs. Joe Prestigiaco (Athena).

215 — Eric Seeber (Schroeder) vs. Jon Kaiser (Penfield); Charlie Graves (Brockport) vs. John Interlicchia (Athena).

250 — Wade Sheldon (Penfield) vs. Steve Mosher (ER); Terry Brown (Churchville-Chili) vs. Phil D'Aiutolo (Olympia).