



Three Warriors place in Section VI Tournament

Arena falls in finals while Earley, Emborsky take home awards

by DAVID EDSTROM
Sports Editor

BUFFALO—Salamanca's Victor Arena came within a whisker of entering the New York State Wrestling Tournament on Saturday evening, as the eighth grader took Albion's Tim Uderitz the distance in a 1-0 loss.

With no score going into the final period in the 96-pound class, the senior grappler Uderitz was able to earn one point from an escape and hold the narrow lead the rest of the way. Uderitz earned the right to compete in the State Tournament this weekend as he defeated Arena for the third time this season (Arena defeated Uderitz in the Niagara Community College Tournament on Jan. 11).

"Vic got in deep on him with about seventeen seconds remaining in the match. Uderitz seemed to delay the match by laying down on the mat and the referee wouldn't call him for stalling," exclaimed Salamanca Head Coach Rich Morton.

"It was very disappointing to have the match end this way and very tough for Victor to take the loss. I thought Victor was very aggressive throughout the match."

"Victor has always been able to get away from him (Uderitz) but this time he didn't."

Arena won three close matches before reaching the finals, as he edged Frontier's Brian Gill 3-0 in his opening match and then won a narrow 1-0 decision over Ripley's Aaron Rowe in the second round.

In the semi-finals Arena won a sudden-death overtime match over Niagara Falls' DeMario Crittenden as he was able to hold the senior down on the mat for thirty seconds.

"Victor was down 3-1 with only five seconds remaining in the match, but he came through with a huge takedown to tie the contest at 3-3 and send the match into overtime," said the Warriors' coach.

"There was no takedown in the



VICTOR ARENA

first overtime so the match was pushed into the sudden-death format. A coin was tossed and Crittenden won it. Crittenden chose down and Victor needed to hold him in that position for thirty seconds and he did."

Arena finished his season with an impressive 31-4 record. Three of the four losses came at the hands of Uderitz. Overall, Arena is 64-14 with the Warriors in his two years competing at the varsity level.

Salamanca's Brad Earley (171-pound weight class) had an outstanding effort in the Section VI Tournament after losing his second match 10-1 to undefeated Ben Kelsey of West Seneca West. Early regrouped and went 4-0 the rest of the way, as he took home a third place finish in the Western New York tournament.

"Brad gave an outstanding effort," stated Morton.

"He came back and beat three kids he's lost to before, and that's a great way to end a season and a career at Salamanca."



JIM EMBORSKY

After Earley's second-round loss, he pinned Gowanda's Justin Winfield in 2:24 after giving up almost 15 pounds to the Panthers' wrestler. Earley continued his climb with a 9-4 decision over Sweet Home's Brian Tator and then followed that with a convincing 13-5 victory over Newfane's Matt Lingle.

"Earley lost to Lingle twice this year, and by beating him and placing third overall in the tourney he should be pleased with his accomplishments," stated the Warriors' coach.

Earley (34-7) won the third-place award with a 5-3 overtime win over Royalton-Hartland's Bill Barnard. Barnard defeated Earley in last weekend's Class 'AA' Tournament finals at Fredonia.

Salamanca's Jim Emborsky (145-pound weight class) was also able to fight his way back for a fourth-place finish, as he ended up losing to Silver Creek's Cliff Hallett in the opening round (pinned in 5:46) and in the consolation finals (4-3).

"Jimmy (Emborsky) battled all



BRAD EARLEY

the way back from a tough loss to Hallett in the opener. That was a long road back for him and it's quite an accomplishment for him to take fourth," exclaimed the Salamanca mentor.

Emborsky defeated Lewiston-Porter's Kevin Fura 8-2, as he reeled off three more victories before meeting Hallett again in the consolation finals.

Warriors' Chad Snyder who picked up two straight wins on Friday night finished in sixth place in his first year at the varsity level. Snyder pinned Olean's Eric Chaffee in the opening round at 5:07 and then followed up with a pin in :45 over Jamestown's Chad Gullotti. Snyder was one of four Warriors who finished among the top six in their weight classes.

Snyder (119-pound class) met top-seeded Dan Dixon of Niagara-Wheatfield in the semi-finals and lost a tough 3-1 decision to the eventual champion.

"Snyder's match against Dixon was a great one. He (Snyder) allowed just one takedown by Dixon

on the side of the mat. I felt that this was Dixon's toughest match of the year," said Morton.

Snyder dropped his last two matches of the tournament but finished his freshman year at 27-13.

Senior Al Clute (140-pound weight class) picked up two wins in the tournament after falling to Portville's Joe DeBarberie in the opening round on Friday. Clute came back to defeat Niagara-Wheatfield's John Pittman 8-0 and then Sweet Home's Tony Ballandra 10-4 before falling in his fourth match.

Senior's Andy Arena (152-pound) and Jack Vail (160-pound) each picked up a win apiece, as Vail finished his senior season with a 25-10 record and Arena with a 15-8 record.

Salamanca's Josh Gleason who competed in the 103-pound class dropped his first match to eventual champion Chris Coughenour of Niagara Falls before falling in the wrestlebacks.

"Just to get to the Section VI Tourney was a great accomplishment for Josh," said Morton.

"We had great leadership from our seniors this year, and our younger kids matured quickly."

"We're losing five seniors (Earley, Emborsky, Vail, Clute, Andy Arena) after having an outstanding season. We finished 10-2 overall and had four kids place in the sectionals, so that's an accomplishment."