

Bishop king of county mats at 119

Athena wrestler 4-time champion

By Gary Fallesen ★

Democrat and Chronicle

Curt Gordon follows the migratory flight of the high school wrestling coach each winter by traveling east from Illinois to the front door of Greece Athena's Kevin Bishop.

"I watched him in junior high and I thought he'd be a heck of a wrestler," Gordon said of Bishop last night.

Gordon helped make the Athena senior the wrestler he is today — a four-time Monroe County League tournament champion and the winner of 112 high school bouts. He lives with the Bishop family each winter and works as Athena's assistant wrestling coach.

"That's 80 percent of the reason for Kevin's success," said head Coach Frank Vito. "I coach him in the (school's wrestling) room. Curt teaches him extra at home. Because of that it gives him an edge."

Bishop had the edge on each of his 119-pound opponents at the two-day county tournament at Monroe Community College.

He won his first two matches by pins — in :44 and 2:29 — and then scored an 18-4 superior decision in the semifinals. Bishop became only the third individual ever to win four county tournament titles when he defeated Penfield's Marcus Barnes in the final, 15-5.

As a result, Bishop was awarded the Most Outstanding Wrestler award.

Brockport's Phil St. George (167 pounds), and ER's Sean Rucker (91) and Chris Schojan (215) also repeated as individual champions.

ER had five titlists in all — Rucker, Steve Marcoccia (98), Mike Condello (132), Frank Rossi (155) and Schojan — on its way to a second straight team crown. The Bombers amassed 238 points. Brockport finished second with 212, Brighton was third (157), Spencerport fourth (140), and Webster fifth (137½).

"This is a pretty good test of what will happen in some of the sectionals (in two weeks)," said ER Coach Don Quinn of

the 18-team event. "It's one of the better tournaments involving local people."

Six county tournament champions went on to sectional titles last year. One of those was Bishop, who credits that success to his live-in, 153-pound coach.

"We've got a little mat downstairs at home," he said. "Curt and I go down there and wrestle and work out all the time. It makes a big difference when you get to wrestle kids your own size."

"We've had some wars in the basement," said Gordon, a former high school wrestler in Illinois who works construction in his home state in the summer. "He has a great deal of dedication. He has school practices and then he's working out for three hours afterward at home. During the summer he works out four hours a day. That's hard, hard work."

Bishop, who is 24-0 this season and 112-9-1 as a varsity wrestler, placed fourth at the Empire State Games last summer in the 123-pound freestyle competition.

"It's so important wrestling in the summer," he said. "It's like another season if

you want it to be. You can get 30 matches in."

Bishop twice was the county tournament's 91-pound champion. He won at 112 pounds last year.

A solid "B" student, he is interested in studying computers and wrestling at St. Lawrence next year. But first, he said, "I want to make it to the states real bad."

Bishop, a third-place sectional finisher as a freshman and a runner-up as a sophomore, advanced from last year's sectional championships to the state qualifier. There he was defeated in the final by Canandaigua's Joe Hibbard. This year he is likely to meet Joe's brother, Butch, a three-time state place-winner.

"If he doesn't run scared from the red color (of Canandaigua's uniforms) he could go a long way," said Quinn. "He's slick. He's good on his feet. He's got the potential of doing it all."

He could do no more at the county tournament. He was one of 14 champions. Here's a look at each championship bout:

91 — Rucker, a freshman, pinned Athena sophomore Ilias Diakomihalis at 1:04.

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98 — Marcoccia, also a freshman, defeated Fairport junior Neal Hoffman, 7-5.

105 — Hilton junior Dave Pitioni pinned Spencerport sophomore Tom Billone at 3:56.

112 — Webster senior Todd Jenner scored a 9-2 decision over Spencerport sophomore Ray Le-Chase.

119 — Bishop said he did not feel any pressure going for a fourth straight title. "I've been in so many finals," he said. "After a while you get used to it. I just give it my all out there."

126 — Webster's Tony LaDuca decisioned Jim Lupisella, 4-1, to keep the Brockport junior from repeating as a county champion.

132 — Condello, a junior, scored a 17-4 superior decision over Greece Olympia senior Bob Rawleigh.

138 — Brockport senior Nate Van Duzer avenged a recent loss

to Mike Lopresti by defeating the Spencerport junior, 8-3. Lopresti upset Van Duzer in Spencerport's 27-24 victory over the Blue Devils last Saturday.

145 — Sean Yengo, a senior, became Webster's third individual champion with a 4-0 decision over Brockport junior Jeff Davis.

155 — Rossi, a senior, defeated Fairport junior Jacques Monte in overtime, 7-2. The bout was stopped twice as Monte's nose was bloodied and his forehead cut.

167 — St. George, a senior, pinned Brighton junior Ben Weinthal at 2:21.

177 — Brighton junior Todd Mirabella decisioned Penfield senior Steve Schaefer, 10-4.

215 — Schojan, a senior, pinned Gates-Chili junior Jeff Wetzel in :31.

250 — Brighton senior Mike Van Horn scored an 8-0 major decision over ER junior Warren Brant.

WRESTLING

Bishop Kearney 31, Edison 31
Canandaigua 35, Wayne 27
Geneseo 26, Letchworth 14
Geneseo 51, Avoca 18
Letchworth 53, Avoca 13

Monroe County League Tournament

At MCC

Team

East Rochester 238, Brockport 212,
Brighton 157, Spencerport 140, Webster
137½, Irondequoit 99, Greece Athena 96,
Fairport 94½, Gates-Chili 89½, Batavia 74,
Hilton 69½, Penfield 69½, Greece Olympia
61½, Pittsford 56, Churchville-Chili 51½,
Greece Arcadia 17½, Eastridge 16, Rush-
Henrietta 12½.

Individual

91 pounds — Sean Rucker (ER) p. Ilias Diakomihalis (Athena) 1:04. **98** — Steve Maccoccia (ER) d. Neal Hoffman (Fairport) 17-5.
105 — Dave Pitoni (Hilton) p. Tom Billone (Spencerport) 3:56. **112** — Todd Jenner (Webster) d. Ray LeChase (Spencerport) 9-2.
119 — Kevin Bishop (Athena) d. Marcus Barnes (Penfield) 15-5. **126** — Tony LaDuca (Webster) d. Jim Lupisella (Brockport) 4-1.
132 — Mike Condello (ER) d. Bob Rawleigh (Olympia) 17-4. **138** — Nate Van Duzer (Brockport) d. Mike Lopresti (Spencerport) 8-3. **145** — Sean Yengo (Webster) d. Jeff Davis (Brockport) 4-0. **155** — Frank Rossi (ER) d. Jacques Monte (Fairport) 7-2 OT. **167** — Phil St. George (Brockport) p. Ben Weinthal (Brighton) 2:21. **177** — Todd Mirabella (Brighton) d. Steve Schaefer (Penfield) 10-4. **215** — Chris Schojan (ER) p. Jeff Wetzel (Gates-Chili) 31. **250** — Mike Van Horn (Brighton) d. Warren Brant (ER) 8-0.

WRESTLING

Avon 59, Keshequa 16
Geneseo 57, Dansville 11
HF-Lima 40, Caledonia-Mumford 30
Le Roy 50, York 10
Letchworth 48, Warsaw 20
Livonia 47, Perry 21
Palmyra-Macedon 44, Newark 17
Victor 45, Monroe 11

Monroe County Tournament At Monroe Community College Team

East Rochester 106½, Brockport 75½,
Brighton 65, Spencerport 59, Greece Athena
49, Webster 48½, Fairport 39, Irondequoit
37½, Penfield 35½, Gates-Chili 34½, Batavia
28, Churchville-Chili 25, Hilton 24½,
Greece Olympia 23½, Pittsford 22, Rush-
Henrietta 11, Eastridge 10, Greece Arcadia
4.



UPDATE

Ten ER wrestlers win, make county semifinals

Democrat and Chronicle

Ten East Rochester wrestlers advanced to the semifinals of the Monroe County League's wrestling tournament after last night's opening rounds at Monroe Community College.

The Bombers amassed 106½ points to 75½ for Brockport and 65 for Brighton after the opening rounds. Spencerport was fourth with 59, Greece Athena fifth with 49 and Webster sixth with 48½.

More wrestling

Livingston County: Honeoye Falls-Lima (5-9) defeated visiting Caledonia-Mumford, 40-30. Wally Sackett (91 pounds), Matt McMullen (98), Paul Buchbinder (105) and Pat Krenzer (148) recorded pins for the Cougars. Doug Carpino (126), Bill Paeth (141) and Scott McAlee had pins for Cal-Mum.

Non-league: Victor (10-1) defeated Monroe at Victor, 45-11. Chris Gallahan (112), Dean Kisielewski (126) and Steve Amyot (132) scored pins for the Blue Devils.

Finger Lakes: Host Palmyra-Macedon (6-4-1) defeated Newark (2-6), 44-17. The Red Raiders are undefeated in their last seven dual matches. Bob Kinslow (155) scored the only pin for Palmyra-Macedon. Don Stager (145) decisioned Jeff Johnson of Newark, 5-4. Jim Allen (138) and Scott Pieters (215) had pins for Newark.