

# Rucker helps keep ER No. 1

## Bombers prevail despite four champions from Brighton, Spencerport

By Gary Fallesen

Democrat and Chronicle



Sean Rucker typifies the East Rochester wrestler.

"He's hard working, pretty confident and not afraid to suck it up," Coach Don Quinn said. "He has wrestled some tough competition. He doesn't go out (on the mat) afraid of anything."

Rucker, a 105-pound high school sophomore, also is successful. That's the true trademark of a Bomber wrestler.

He already has 85 career victories (against 16 losses) and three straight Monroe County League tournament titles to his credit.

Rucker's 7-0 decision over previously undefeated Ilias Diakomahalis of Greece Athena in the 105-pound final last night at Webster clinched ER's third team title in as many years. The Bombers, ranked No. 1 in Section 5 and No. 3 in the state, outdistanced the area's second-ranked team, Brighton, 237-231½.

Brighton had four champions — Mitch Stern (91), Greg Lechner (167), Ben Weinthal (177) and Todd Mirabella (215) — to ER's one (Rucker).

Spencerport, which finished third with 181 points, also had four champions and the tournament's most outstanding wrestler, 138-pound senior Mike LoPresti. LoPresti, whose freshman brother Joe (98) triumphed along with teammates Ray Lechase (119) and Rick Suhr (155), was unscored upon in four matches.

Despite having pinned Diakomahalis in last year's final, Rucker said, "I never got too confident. I'm always nervous before my match.

"I was thinking, 'Stay aggressive. Go tough for six minutes.'"

Rucker, whose senior brother Chad placed fifth at 138,

arrived at this tournament with a confidence-boosting 6-5 victory over potential state tournament participant Kurt Miner of Section 3 Fulton.

"Practices are getting tough," he admitted. "It's just getting tiring. But we're coming to an end pretty soon. That keeps you going. And you've always got that goal of reaching states.

"I've missed going two times (last year by a pin to Waterloo's Tom Finnerty in the final of the state qualifier and as an eighth grader by one point in the semifinals to eventual state place winner Mike Lacognato of Canandaigua). It's really disappointing to get that far and lose. But it makes you work harder the next year.

"You're so close," Rucker added, "you can grasp it at anytime."

Rucker will run into what Quinn referred to as "the same stumbling block" this season. He and Finnerty are likely to enter the Section 5 tournament in the same weight class — 98 pounds.

"He's been that close," Quinn said. "He knows he's as

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good as anybody there."

Rucker could be one of the latest Monroe County tournament champions to go on to the state tournament. Four individuals did so last year.

Here's a look at the 14 finals and the champions produced last night:

**91 pounds** — Stern, a junior (11-1) wrestling for the first time in a month due to a knee injury, pinned ER eighth grader Phil Lopez (3-1) in :32.

**98** — Joe LoPresti, a freshman (21-4), scored a 7-2 decision over Quinn's freshman son, Pat (12-5-2).

**105** — Rucker improved his season record to 20-4 with a victory over Diakomahalis (23-1), a junior who previously won titles at three tournaments.

**112** — Hilton senior Dave Pitoni (24-2) became one of three repeat titlists (along with Rucker and Mike LoPresti) with a 6-0 decision over ER sophomore Steve Marcoccia (22-5-1).

**119** — Lechase, a senior (22-3-1), won by a technical fall at 4:33 after he took down Gates-Chili junior Ralph D'Aries (12-10-2) to make the score, 18-3.

**126** — Hilton senior Pat Serafino (22-3) edged Spencerport junior Tom Billone (20-5-1), 5-3, with an escape and takedown in the third period.

**132** — Batavia senior Kelly Boyle (19-0) won by default when he was unable to continue the match after Penfield senior Marcus Barnes (21-2-2) used an illegal move (body slam) with :30 left in the second period. Barnes was leading, 4-0.

**138** — Mike LoPresti improved his season record to 24-2 and career record to 106-26-1 when he pinned Webster junior Chris Yengo (18-5) at 1:58. LoPresti scored three pins after what he called "a sluggish" 9-0 victory in the first round.

**145** — Lechner, an undefeated senior (25-0), won by default when Pittsford senior Todd Thayer (23-3) was unable to finish the last :39 because of an ankle injury. Lechner was leading, 13-0.

**155** — Suhr, a senior (25-1) gained his 91st career victory in 101 matches, with a pin at 1:49 against Penfield junior Rick Jones (15-9).

**167** — Weinthal, a senior (22-1-1), scored a 13-2 major decision over Batavia senior Tom Hancock (14-10).

**177** — Mirabella, a senior (20-1), rallied from a 5-2 deficit to pin Spencerport senior Mark Ventress (15-4) at 4:25.

**215** — Greece Olympia senior David Currie (21-1-1) scored a 13-4 major decision over Irondequoit junior Shawn Cavanaugh (22-6).

**250** — Batavia junior Joe Amico (8-1) won by default when ER senior Warren Brant (12-6) was unable to finish the match because of an ankle injury in the second period. Amico was leading, 5-0.



## WRESTLING

Canandaigua 44, Marion 16

Honeoye Falls-Lima 65, Mount Morris 12

Letchworth 51, Honeoye Falls-Lima 15

Letchworth 44, Wayland 27

### Monroe County League tournament

#### At Webster

#### Team

East Rochester 237 points, Brighton 231½, Spencerport 181, Hilton 130½, Batavia 100, Brockport 88, Penfield 85, Webster 83½, Greece Athena 81½, Gates-Chili 78½, Irondequoit 77, Fairport 60, Greece Olympia 54½, Pittsford 51, Churchville-Chili 47½, Eastridge 34, Rush-Henrietta 20½, Greece Arcadia 12½

#### Finals

**91 pounds**—Mitch Stern (Brighton) p. Phil Lopez (ER) 3-2. **98**—Joe LoPresti (Spencerport) d. Pat Quinn (ER) 7-2. **105**—Sean Rucker (ER) d. Ilias Diakomahalis (Athena) 7-0. **112**—Dave Pitoni (Hilton) d. Steve Mar-coccia (ER) 6-0. **119**—Ray Lechase (Spencerport) d. Ralph D'Aries (G-C) technical fall 4:33. **126**—Pat Serafino (Hilton) d. Tom Bili-lone (Spencerport) 5-3. **132**—Kelly Boyle (Batavia) d. Marcus Barnes (Penfield) by default. **138**—Mike LoPresti (Spencerport) p. Chris Yengo (Webster) 1:58. **145**—Greg Lechner (Brighton) d. Todd Thayer (Pittsford) by default. **155**—Rick Suhr (Spencerport) p. Rick Jones (Penfield) 1:49. **167**—Ben Weinthal (Brighton) d. Tom Hancock (Bata-via) 13-2. **177**—Todd Mirabella (Brighton) p. Mark Ventress (Spencerport) 4:25. **215**—David Currie (GO) d. Shawn Cavanaugh (Irondequoit) 13-4. **250**—Joe Amico (Bata-via) d. Warren Brant (ER) by default.

## WRESTLING

Avon 60, York 15

Campbell 64, Odessa-Montour (Sec. 4) 2

Canandaigua 32, Wayne 25

Le Roy 60, Geneseo 12

Livonia 39, Geneseo 33

McQuaid 29, Waterloo 26

Perry 30, Le Roy 25

Perry 40, Livonia 29

Sodus 37, Newark 20

### Monroe County League Tournament

#### At Webster Schroeder

#### Preliminaries

#### Team

Brighton 94, East Rochester 94, Spencerport 76, Hilton 54, Gates-Chili 51, Greece Athena 48, Irondequoit 46½, Brockport 45, Webster 43, Batavia 41, Penfield 40½, Fairport 35, Greece Olympia 31, Pittsford 26, Rush-Henrietta 20½, Eastridge 19, Greece Arcadia 9.

#### Today's semifinals

**91 pounds** — Mitch Stern (Bri) vs. Bryan Quigley (Pen); Andy Antonucci (Hil) vs. Phil Lopez (ER); **98** — Dan Sabol (Bri) vs. Pat Quinn (ER); Joe LoPresti (Spen) vs. Matt Deutshel (Oly); **105** — Ken Compertone (G-C) vs. Sean Rucker (ER); Dan Presberg (Bri) vs. Ilias Diakomaholis (Ath); **112** — Todd Knowles (Bri) vs. Steve Marcoccia (ER); Dave Pitoni (Hil) vs. Charlie Sortino (Bro); **119** — Ralph D'Aries (G-C) vs. John Izzo (IQ); Ray LeChase (Spen) vs. Bob Toner (Oly); **126** — Tom Billone (Spen) vs. Mark Herberle (Ath); Pat Serafino (Hil) vs. Bill Herko (ER); **132** — Chris LoPresti (Spen) vs. Kelly Boyle (Bat); Marcus Barnes (Pen) vs. Mike Condello (ER); **138** — Mike LoPresti (Spen) vs. John Fisher (Ath); Greg Parker (Bri) vs. Chris Yengo (Web); **145** — Todd Thayer (Pitt) vs. Jason Hulett (R-H); Greg Lechner (Bri) vs. Rob Fuller (Bro); **155** — Jacques Monte (Fair) vs. Rich Suhr (Spen); Rick Jones (Pen) vs. Ed Anna (Bat); **167** — Tim Soudan (Fair) vs. Ben Weinthal (Bri); Tom Hancock (Bat) vs. Steve Malachowski (Web); **177** — Mark Ventores (Spen) vs. Bill Barker (IQ); Mike Rossi (ER) vs. Todd Mirabella (Bri); **215** — Shawn Cavanaugh (IQ) vs. Doug Sehroth (G-C); Joe Lanzzone (ER) vs. Dave Currie (Olympia); **250** — Rich Newton (Church.-Chili) vs. Dave Brennan (Pitt); Chris Mohr (G-C) vs. Warren Brant (ER).



## H.S. UPDATE

# ER, Brighton tied for wrestling lead entering semifinals

Democrat and Chronicle

East Rochester and Brighton were tied in team standings with 94 points after the first day of the Monroe County League wrestling tournament yesterday at Webster Schroeder Junior High.

East Rochester, No. 1 in the *Democrat and Chronicle* poll, placed nine wrestlers in the semifinals and Brighton, ranked second, had seven. No. 4 Spencerport was third in overall standings with 76 points and also had seven wrestlers advance.

No. 3 Hilton (54) was fourth in team scoring and Gates-Chili (51) was fifth.

Consolations are today at 10 a.m., with the semifinals at 11 o'clock and the finals at 7 p.m.

## More wrestling

Non-league: **Chuck Webster** scored an 11-10 decision at heavyweight to give host McQuaid (7-4) a 29-26 victory over Waterloo (5-5). The two schools were tied at 26 going into the 215-pound bout. **Chris Passero** (112) and **Shawn Costello** (145) had pins for McQuaid, which wrapped up the City-Catholic League title Thursday night by defeating Edison.

Finger Lakes East: **Nick Castiglia's** pin at 177 and **Chuck Bell's** decision at heavyweight gave No. 6 Canandaigua (9-3 overall) a 32-25 victory over host Wayne Central (4-2-1, 7-4-1), ranked ninth. Wayne led, 25-23, after **Elias Konstantinou** scored a pin at 167. Castiglia gave the Braves a 29-25 lead with a pin in 1:48 and Bell scored a 12-8 decision to clinch the victory.

**Kerry Foster** (98) and **Craig Buck** (126) also had pins for Canandaigua and **Ron Gross** of Wayne (138) recorded a technical fall. Both teams won six matches.