

SPORTS II

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NICE ON THE ICE

The modern-day ice fisherman can relax at room temperature awaiting the action. Story on **9E**.

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Victor senior on top at 155 with takedowns

By Walt Slater

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CANANDAIGUA — Victor's Dan Payne prefers to keep things simple when he's on the mat.

"I like to use basic moves," the senior 155-pounder said. "I just go right at them (opponents)."

That approach has served him well. Payne pinned Bloomfield's Tom Tretter and whipped Jim Conrap of Windsor (Sec. 4), 17-3, Friday night, then piled up a 17-2 lead for a technical fall over semi-final foe Eric Timmerman of Canastota (Sec. 3) yesterday afternoon in Canandaigua's 15th annual Bradshaw Tournament at Community College of the Finger Lakes.

The tournament was Payne's first ex-

cursion into wrestling's 155-pound class. He spent December at 167 and competed primarily at 138 last winter. The Victor senior boosted his record to 19-0-1 with those three victories and sent out a notice that he will be a major contender for Section 5's 155-pound berth in March's state tournament. The lone blemish on his record is a 4-4 tie with Dansville's Jim King in which Payne was penalized two points for unnecessary roughness.

His weekend efforts landed him in last night's final against Watkins Glen's Matt Marciniak, one of the state's best middleweights.

Takedowns are Payne's specialty, as Conrap and Timmerman found out, and the fireman's carry and the high crotch — nothing fancy, remember — are among his favorite moves.

WRESTLING

"I'm best when I'm wrestling on my feet," Payne said. "I take them down and let them up. Takedowns are the fun of wrestling. To me they're what it's all about."

"The 17-year-old senior — he won't reach his 18th birthday until next September — placed fourth at 165.5 pounds at last summer's Empire State Games scholastic men's competition in Ithaca.

Payne had a 12-1 record at 138 last winter when he suffered a partial tear of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee. He missed a month of competition, then came back to advance to the sectional Class B semifinals before he reinjured it and was forced to default to Atti-

ca's Rich Thiel.

His opponent last night, Marciniak, finished fourth at 145 at last March's state high school championships.

"Once I knew he (Marcinek) was going to be at '55 I knew he'd be the one to watch," Payne said "I don't know if I'd catch him again if I make states, though, because he might be at '45 then.

"This will tell me a lot. He's the first person I've been up against who's as good on his feet as I am. He might even be a little better."

A summer of training with college wrestlers at twice-weekly, open gym sessions — some of them from Ithaca College's outstanding team — and freestyle training with good friend Terry Lucero of Bloomfield, a 167-pound Bradshaw finalist last night, improved Payne's quickness

and strength and made him a more intense wrestler.

"Intensity is one of the most important aspects of wrestling," he said. "Sometimes I can get lackadaisical but wrestling against those older guys taught me how to raise it a level. If I can get myself to the same intensity level now dropping back down to high school, I know it will carry me through the tough matches."

Payne and Lucero were among 15 Section 5 wrestlers who advanced to last night's championships.

Queensbury (Sec. 2, 128.5 points) was in first place in the team standings entering last night's final two rounds. East Rochester (110.5) and Gates-Chili (104.5), the only viable Section 5 contenders, were second and third. Wayne (85.5) was tied with Windsor (Sec. 4) for sixth place.