

Raiders Try To Avert Blast From Bombers

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FULTON — The state's top-ranked wrestling team, who've repeated once and was good enough to be ranked third in the country by a competent amateur wrestling magazine, will be pulling into Rochester with their chin up tomorrow, even if sports writers and "experts" coast-to-coast are calling for an East Rochester upset.

The fourth-ranked Bombers (6-0) have just become only the second team next to Fulton to defeat Canandaigua at home in the last 12 years when they raked the Braves 34-20 Wednesday night.

At the same time Fulton (11-0) didn't break a sweat in a 66-0 romp over Cicero-North Syracuse who did the worst thing that could happen to Fulton: They left seven holes in their lineup and wrestled only five kids, meaning the Raiders actually had more than a week off since last being put to the test.

And if you disregard a 41-15 walk over East Syracuse-Minoa, and a 63-0 waltz over Central Square, both last week, Fulton hasn't really broke a sweat since last dualing with Union Endicott two weeks ago to the day.

When asked what it was going to take to win, Wayne Bleau responded simply,

"our very best effort" — The kind of gutwork that champion wrestlers are made of.

The most successful coach in Raider history (121-23-1), and central New York's most respected mentor, viewed the Bombers' win on Wednesday.

"We could get pinned the first three weights and their last five guys are just super wrestlers," said Bleau in the early morning hours late Wednesday.

East Rochester has risen to popularity with the return of 11 people from last year's 11-2 dual team which was ranked 10th in the final poll.

"They just don't have a hole anywhere," added Bleau, whose team isn't all

that shabby at most weights. But, if sports every newspaper this side of Niagara Falls is playing up the fact Bomber coach Don Quin is shooting for his 300th career win.

That incentive will have the house packed to the rafters, especially since the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle is billing the match "Super Saturday" and calling it the biggest dual in the history of Kodak City.

Why its reporter, Gary Fallasen, has even started his own poll, choosing East Rochester over Huntington and Fulton.

If one wasn't totally sure, East Rochester has already marked this one down in the

books.

The Bombers' last loss was 39-11 at Fulton last year. And you can add a 43-45 blower at home last year to the Raiders.

But while Quin is searching for his 300th, Fulton can play the numbers game, too.

A win Saturday will give Fulton warlord Bleau his 100th coaching victory since turning around the Raider program in 1978. He's 99-4.

That year the Raiders reaped the benefit of its first pee-wee program installed in 1973 and ever since Fulton has lost just four times to Kaldwasselville.

Saturday the Raiders shoot for 100.

