

# East Rochester Defeats Fulton Grapplers, 23-20

By JIM TERRAMIGGI

P-T Bureau  
**ROCHESTER** — Fourth-ranked East Rochester (6-0) was everything they were cracked up to be. Tough, competitive and solid through their weights. They had to be to stop Fulton's 52-meet win streak and derail the two-time state champs 23-20 Saturday night.

"They were a good one, no doubt about it," applauded Wayne Bleau in a solemn aftermath. And Bleau's teams are used to sparring with good teams. In their 98-week reign, Fulton has beaten 16 state-ranked clubs.

"You know, when you're always winning, everybody starts to think you can't be beat, but I've got to give (ER coach Don Quinn) credit. He had his team prepared."

The Bombers will move up to share Number One with Long Island's Huntington (5-0) when the new poll is released tomorrow. At least they should.

Huntington has yet to wrestle anyone ranked among the state poll and even pulled out of the

Sherburne Tournament when Baldwinsville and Canandaigua entered.

"ER deserves to be ranked right there," agreed Bleau. "At least I'm hoping they're going to be." He displayed a sample of his vote when he presented Quinn with a gold tie clasp of a Number One after the match, before Quinn was carried off by his emotion-choked team to celebrate Quinn's 300th triumph.

Fulton is expected to remain in the top five, but behind third-ranked Baldwinsville (9-0) who they will oppose Saturday at the War Memorial. The Bees crunched Union-Endicott 39-14 on Saturday.

Fulton has won 99 of its last 104 and will be looking to give Bleau his 100th coaching victory since turning around the program in 1978. He has a career log of 133-27-1 that started in Whitesboro in 1974.

Bleau thought his team was cool and relaxed for the Bombers Saturday and the crowd of almost 2000 had little effect on the team. But the one-sided mayhem was

jacked up for what they called "Super Saturday."

"We love big crowds," assured Bleau. "They didn't bother us." Fulton has wrestled in front of three throngs this year already and will probably see a gate turnout of almost 4000 this Saturday for Baldwinsville.

And Bleau felt the win streak was the furthest thing from the kids' mind.

There was a school of thought immediately following the match that turned to near riot. Many wanted to lynch the Section Five referee for what they believed was far too many stalling points assessed the Raiders (7), including two against Chris Sorell that turned a potential 3-1 decision into a 3-3 draw. But Bleau denounced any notion of poor officiating, saying "when you go to a different Section like this, they don't always wrestle the same. And they don't always officiate the same."

Still, there were those who were irked over what they termed an inconsistency in the stalling rule. In other

words, the ref was calling it rapidly on Fulton, and didn't see it as far as the Bombers were concerned, even though at one point three straight Bombers were using the sideline to break a disadvantage.

The match itself was a dogfight. It was tied at 3-3, 8-8 and 11-11 before Chuck Atkinson scored the only pin

of the day +2-42 vs Fornotaro at 145) to give Fulton a 17-11 advantage. But the Bombers came back in a shocking turnaround, both Mike Atkinson and Mike Maxam were manhandled 16-3 and 13-5 to give ER a 20-17 edge getting to 177.

"I was hoping Jeff (Merritt) could get the pin. He did everything he could,"

said Bleau as Merritt (18-0) ended a 16 consecutive pin streak with a 9-3 decision over Kevin Conden. That made it 20-20, the fourth tie as heavyweights Randy Cotton and sectional runner-up Chris Schojan took the mat.

"Randy did an excellent job against a tough kid," praised Bleau. But it was

their animal and a wild crowd that finished it as Schojan survived a 2-0 decision ending Cotton's 17-bout win streak.

The sophomore, who is responsible for two major victories in his young career during Fulton's reign, did not disgrace himself.

Credit E.R. though. When it came down to it, it was

strength against strength. Their Bombers against our Minute Men. Now let's see what B. ville can do.

## FULTON (20)

- F. ROCH. (23)
- 94 Jay (F) dec Rucker, 4-2
- 105 Herko (ER) dec Bough, 2-0
- 112 Rucker (ER) dec Williams, 16-10
- 119 Labeef (F) dec Tabernite, 4-3
- 126 Sorell drew Hanselman, 3-3
- 132 Burnidge (F) dec Condello, 12-9
- 138 Quinn (ER) dec Angelen, 8-6
- 145 Atkinson (F) pin Fornotaro, 2-42
- 155 Maroccia (ER) dec Atkinson, 16-3
- 167 LaPietra (ER) dec Maxam, 13-5
- 177 Merritt (F) dec Conden, 9-3
- 215 Schojan (ER) dec Cotton, 2-0

JV Fulton 39, E.R. 14.