

★ Healthy St. George pins his way to 'states'

Brockport senior wins in 167-pound qualifier

By Gary Fallesen

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There was only one 167-pound wrestler in the area capable of stopping Phil St. George this year.

His name was Phil St. George.

The Brockport senior did lose three bouts earlier this season. But only after he tore a thigh muscle playing a game of backyard football.

Since then he has been one of Section

5's finest. Now he will represent the area in the state tournament.

"We knew he was going to be the best in his weight class this year," Brockport Coach Woody VanDenBurg said last night after St. George pinned Fairport's Todd English in the 167-pound final of the Super Sectionals. "I told him that the only person that was going to stop him was himself."

Spencerport graduate John Suhr played the part of the heavy in previous years. Suhr defeated St. George twice for Section 5 Class A championships.

Two years ago, Suhr decisioned St.

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George in overtime for the right to go to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association tournament.

St. George did make the trip to Syracuse that year. But only as a spectator.

"John took second (in the state)," St. George recalled, "and I sat there watching some of the kids I thought I could beat. I thought to myself, 'It's not fair that we're so close, but I don't get to go . . . and half of these other kids don't deserve to be here.'"

St. George was one of 14 individuals who earned the right to represent defending team champion Section 5 at the intersectionals next weekend in Syracuse.

He pinned three of his four opponents yesterday at Brockport State. Included was English, who fell in 3:29.

St. George will be joined on the Rochester-area's state squad by Brockport teammate Nathan Van Duzer. Van Duzer, a senior, decisioned Spencerport's Mike Lopresti in the 132-pound championship bout, 9-7.

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Both are going to the state tournament for the first time. In fact, only Canandaigua's Mike Lacognato (98 pounds) and Paul Lamphier (112), Edison's Mike Cronmiller (145), East Rochester's Chris Schojan (177), and Avon's Bill Maher (250) have been there before.

Canandaigua placed three individuals — Lacognato, Lamphier and 126-pound Tracy Foster — on the state team. Waterloo also qualified two individuals in 91-pound Tom Finnerty and 119-pound Joel Lamson.

Lamson ended the high school career of three-time state place-winner Butch Hibbard of Canandaigua with a 7-4 decision in the semifinals. He then upset Greece Athena's Kevin Bishop in the final, 7-5.

Also upset was potential state place-winner Rick Suhr of Spencerport. Suhr was shocked by Palmyra-Macedon's Bob Kinslow, 4-3, in the 155-pound semifinals.

"Upsets are great, but not at this point," said one coach. "It's bad for Section 5. These guys may be content just going to the state

where those other guys were hungry to win it."

St. George is one first time state participant not yet satisfied.

"I had four goals," he said. "One of my goals was the Class A championship (which he won last weekend). Another was to go undefeated, but I kind of blew that one. I wanted to make states, and I want to win them.

"There's no sense in quitting now," added St. George, whose record this season is 30-3 and as a four-year varsity wrestler is 114-23-1.

Here's a look at the 14 individuals who will continue wrestling for another week:

91 pounds — Finnerty defeated Sean Rucker for the second successive week when the ER freshman "pinned himself" at 3:20 of the final. Rucker was on top when he attempted to roll Finnerty and was caught beneath the sophomore.

98 — Lacognato, a fifth-place finisher in the state last year, advanced with a 5-0 decision over Penn Yan's Bruce Lafler.

105 — Lyndonville's Mike Siebert pinned Townley Hedrick at 1:13.

112 — Lamphier, a senior whose record is 138-12-1, scored a 5-0 decision over Brian Read of Byron-Bergen. Lamphier was a state run-

ner-up last year.

119 — Lamson, a senior with a 136-15-1 career record, upended Hibbard (134-12-1) and Bishop (121-11-1) in the most hotly contested weight class.

126 — Foster, a senior, decisioned Wayne's Ron Gross, 21-7.

132 — Van Duzer (34-1 on the year and 121-28 in five seasons) defeated Lopresti for the third time this season. His only loss came against the Spencerport junior.

138 — McQuaid senior Mike Scott defeated Sodus' Paul Peterson, 14-8.

145 — Cronmiller, a senior who is 30-0 on the season, pinned Webster's Sean Yengo at 4:21.

155 — Marion's Tim Habecker decisioned Kinslow, 10-0.

167 — St. George said losing in the Super Sectional finals "makes you work harder . . . you're that close to the states and you know it."

177 — Schojan, twice a state runner-up, pinned fellow All-Greater Rochester football player Bert Pangrazio of Le Roy at 5:18.

215 — Brighton senior Mike Van Horn defeated Shawn Wegener of York, 8-0.

250 — Maher repeated as a Section 5 champion with a 7-4 victory over Bishop Kearney's Keith Knight.

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Super Sectionals At Brockport State Finals

91 pounds—Tom Finnerty (Waterloo) p. Sean Rucker (East Rochester) 3:20. **98**—Mike Lacognato (Canandaigua) d. Bruce Lafler (Penn Yan) 5-0. **105**—Mike Siebert (Lyndonville) p. Townley Hedrick (Wellsville) 1:13. **112**—Paul Lamphier (Canandaigua) d. Brian Read (Byron-Bergen) 5-0. **119**—Joel Lamson (Waterloo) d. Kevin Bishop (Greece Athena) 7-5. **126**—Tracy Foster (Canandaigua) d. Ron Gross (Wayne) 21-7. **132**—Nathan Van Duzer (Brockport) d. Mike Lopresti (Spencerport) 9-7. **138**—Mike Scott (McQuaid) d. Paul Peterson (Sodus) 14-8. **145**—Mike Cronmiller (Edison) p. Sean Yengo (Webster) 4:21. **155**—Tim Habecker (Marion) d. Bob Kinslow (Palmyra-Macedon) 10-0. **167**—Phil St. George (Brockport) p. Todd English (Fairport) 3:29. **177**—Chris Schojan (East Rochester) p. Bert Pangrazio (Le Roy) 5:18. **215**—Mike Van Horn (Brighton) d. Shawn Wegener (York) 8-0. **250**—Bill Maher (Avon) d. Keith Knight (Bishop Kearney) 7-3.