

Moving up class doesn't stop East Rochester

Area wrestlers take 11 individual Class B titles in Geneva match

By MATT DORNEY

Don Quinn figured he had worn out his welcome. So after eight years of beating up on schools its own size, the East Rochester High School wrestling team took its act up the road.

And the only difference was the change in venue. The Bombers, ranked 14th in the state sportswriters' poll, won the Section 5 Class B title Saturday at Geneva High School.

"People said we didn't belong in Class C; we were getting booted out of our own place (formerly the site of the Class C meet). We figure we'd be more accepted here," Quinn said Saturday after his team piled up 184½ points and a 60-point victory.

"We decided it was time for a change."

There was, however, little change. The Bombers easily subdued the 22-team field. LeRoy (124), formerly its top competition in Class C, finished second Saturday, followed by three area teams which had won the last three titles — 1983 champ Palmyra-Macedon (117), '82 champ Wayne (110) and defending champion Victor (100½).

Among other area teams competing, Penn Yan (85½) was seventh, Midlakes (76½) eighth, Geneva (74) ninth, Waterloo (70½) 10th, Marcus Whitman (65½) 11th, North Rose-Wolcott (35½) 14th, Mynderse (35) 15th and Newark (27½) 18th.

East Rochester dominated the tournament up until the simultaneously-held finals and consolation finals. The Bombers had more than enough points to win the event before the final two rounds, which for them was fortunate. They lost four of six finals and two of three consolations.

It really didn't matter much, however, for the top four finishers in each weight class advance to this weekend's state qualifying tournament at Brockport State.

"I felt we wrestled very well up to the finals, but we weren't very becoming in the finals," Quinn said. "I think we might have gotten a little less aggressive after we knew we had the team title won."

Mike Condello (27-5 at 132) and two-time state runner-up Chris

Schojan (30-0 at 177) won titles for the Bombers, but area wrestlers stood out in the finale of the event, taking 11 of 14 titles.

Two area competitors remained unbeaten for the season in winning. John Williams of Geneva (30-0 at 112) beat Ed Carll of Livonia 6-0 and Rich Carmel of Victor (27-0 at 215) decisioned Joe Lanzone of East Rochester 6-2.

Joel Lamson of Waterloo, meanwhile, won his fourth Class B title, pinning Pat Parker of Pal-Mac to raise his record this season to 29-1 and his career mark to 132-15-1.

Pal-Mac finished with three titlists, the most of any team in the event, as Red Raider wrestlers won three bouts in a row. Don Stager (20-9 at 145) decisioned Jack Priebe of Midlakes 14-11, Bob Kinslow (24-8 at 155) nipped Ted Symonds of Victor 3-1 and Jerrod Demeurisse (28-2 at 167) pinned Mike Rossi of East Rochester in 1:59.

Wayne and Waterloo each finished with two titlists. Wayne's Ron Gross (29-2 at 126) decisioned Kelly Boyle of Batavia 12-7 and Rick Wheeler (25-4-1 at 138) beat Eric Burns of Bath-Haverling 17-1, while Tom Finnerty (27-5 at 91) joined Lamson as a Waterloo titlist by beating Sean Rucker of East Rochester 7-6.

Other area titlists included Bruce Lafler of Penn Yan (22-2 at 98), who beat Steve Marcoccia of East Rochester 7-1, and Eric Wolfe of Midlakes (25-2 at 105), who topped Townley Hedrick of Wellsville 7-0.

The titles were the third for Gross and second each for Wolfe and Carmel. Wolfe won at 98 and Gross at 112 last year, while Carmel won at 250.

The other titlist was Joe Amico of Batavia (12-1 at 250), who beat Kirt Harris of Wayne 13-4.

Area third-place finishers were Darwin Michielsen (91) of Pal-Mac, Paul Hyland (23-1 at 105) and Ken Halas (112) of Victor, Jeff Howard (132) of Wayne, Claxton DuVal (138) of NR-W, Jeff Johnson (145) of Newark, Joe Mauro (177) of Geneva and Dan Shoots (215) of Penn Yan.

Placing fourth were Steve Payne (105) and Matt Cramer (119) of Penn Yan, Mike Haines (132) of Victor, Mike Zerniak (145) of NR-W and Ernie Foulkrod (177) and Scott Swenson (215) of Mynderse.



Breakdown

Midlakes' Eric Wolfe has Livonia's Townley Hedrick by the ankle and is driving him to the mat during Saturday's 105-pound final in the Section 5 Class B high school wrestling championships at Geneva High School. Wolfe won the title with a 7-0 decision. East Rochester won the team title. (Times photo by Art Foxall)