

Hassle Over Nassau Rassle-Dazzle

Harvey Haddix, meet Jim Chester.

Haddix set the major-league record five years ago when he pitched 12 perfect innings at Milwaukee, but up came Joe Adcock in the 13th and — Pow! The loser and new record-holder: H. Haddix!



CHESTER

Chester is a towsled little Ithaca tiger who went through his six Section 4 Tournament opponents without giving up a point.

That still left him three bouts from the state intersectional championship. So Jim went to Long Island last Saturday, went through FOUR three-rounders without giving up a point — and was handed a third-place ribbon, with the compliments of the house.

It seems no wonder that even a conditioned Ithaca-hater like Sidney coach Tom Robertson says, that when the intersectionals come back our way next March at the 5,000-seat Ithaca College Fieldhouse-to-be, "There must be some changes made."

Actually there was no miscalculation in the unrewarding results of Master Chester's shutout innings, even though IHS coach O. P. (Harpo) Turco still sheds sparks when he



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tells of the referee coming to him Sunday morning and saying, "I want to apologize for giving your boy a hosing." "Maybe you better tell the boy," suggested O. P.

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CHESTER WON HIS first, third and fourth bouts in the regulation nine minutes. The second, against Bill Desario, was 0-0 after regulation. In the first overtime period, Chester quickly registered an escape (1 point) and a takedown (2) for a 3-2 lead. But the bout ended 3-3 and the refs' decision went to the Long Island boy.

He'd escaped before the end of the first extra period to make it 1-1, escaped again in the second period, and was awarded the tying point when Chester was penalized for alleged stalling.

"He was **WRESTLING!**" steams Turco, "Jim was still

on the mat and the other boy went off it. And then the other boy went on his bicycle. Jim had had one of the other boy's legs in the air on an attempted takedown at the end of the first extra period, and he threw three more takedowns at him in the second period. How in the world. . . .!"

Robertson, who is state chairman next year, is sweetness and light compared to site-chairman Turco. He still thinks that his Gerrie Stone has been the state's best 158-pounder for two years although all Gerr has to prove it is a 1963 second-placd ribbon and a 1964 third-placer.

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BUT WHEN THIRD-PLACE 149-pounder Claude Shaw and fourth-place 184-pounder Noel Kobia have another year and next time he hopes our "pore l'il kids" can be sheltered a little better from menaces Wellington C. Mephram, S a n-

ford H. Calhoun and T. Roland Berner.

Whether it's the population of Nassau County (1,300,000) or its longer growing season, Robertson concedes its wrestlers "are beyond any of us," Bellmore's Mephram High and Massapequa's Berner furnishing half the reasons why Section 8 took 10 of the 13 individual championships Saturday. Last year Merrick's Calhoun led the pillaging.

Section 4 again finished fourth, which neither Robertson nor Turco consider a true picture what with all of its blood drained off by semifinal assignment against Nassau. (The top-seeded section meets the fourth-seeded in the semis.)

"Let's seed only two sections next year," suggests Robertson, "we'll let Suffolk County (Sect. 11) be second-seeded even though I question them being stronger than us. But then we'll rotate all of the pairings: some of our kids may have to meet Section 8 kids right off the bat, but some won't have to meet them until the finals."

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THE PROBLEM IS SELLING this to the rest of the state. "The others are happy," says Turco, "why should THEY object to US wrestling Section 8. I don't think Section 8 is happy, though."

This may exaggerate Section 8's concern, since only one of its men succumbed to a Section 4 semifinalist. Meet

summaries, however do bear out what a downhill ride it was for the Long Islanders after subduing our semifinalists.

Chester's Mephram conqueror won his final 10-4. . . . Ray Senecal of Groton was in contention against Freeport's Tom Henry until the closing seconds, while Henry needed less than 80 seconds to show his finals opponent the lights. . . . Matt Vanderhall of Uniondale, who'd needed the full overtime route against Greene's Art Ziegler, scored a fall in the final. . . . Both Shaw and Stone, despite the rigors of first-round overtimers, made closer semis of it than the runnerups could do later on. . . . Kobia blew an early lead and the man who edged him, 6-4, then romped through a 10-0 final.

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WAS CHESTER THE ONLY Section 4 boy "done in" in Turco's opinion: "Oh, BOY no!" Some of the 200 Sidneyites who made the long trip to South Huntington spoke even more harshly, but Robertson, who like Turco does some refereeing himself, tactfully said, "I didn't think the officiating was excellent, but in close competition disagreement is unavoidable."

Which brings up Turco's formula for progress. To close the gap, schools hereabouts must stiffen their schedules, be it within or without the borders of Section 4, he harps.