



ERIC WATTS

Watts Becomes County's First State Mat Champ

Suffern Star Takes Finale, 2-1, After Romping In Two Earlier Outings

(Special to The Record)

Ithaca — Suffern's 115-pounder Eric Watts completed the wrestling season unbeaten by winning all three of his matches in the New York State Wrestling Tournament at Ithaca College to become Rockland County's first State mat champion.

On the way to the title, Watts beat Don Byrne of Lindenhurst, 14-1, then blanked Jerry Holmes of Southwestern High of James-town, 17-0, and in the final he nipped Bill German of Wantaugh, 2-1. They were the only points scored against him this year.

ROYCE BOWS IN SEMIS

The Mountie senior was named the outstanding wrestler of the Rockland Public School Athletic League Tourney. He was the Section 98-pound champ in 1963, took the 106-pound crown last year, and earned his way to the State event by coping the Sectional 115-pound crown this year.

In the 98-pound class, Bob Johnston of Suffern was handed a first-round defeat by eventual winner Claude Poole of Ithaca. Suffern 106-pounder Burt Royce stopped Tom Lansdown of Groton, 9-4, in the first round but lost to State champ, Ken Melchior of Lindenhurst, 12-0, in the semi-finals.

KETCHUM BOWS

Haverstraw 123-pounder Craig Ketchum was also beaten in the first round by the eventual winner. He lost to John Walter of Calhoun, 9-5. Suffern's 136-pounder Howie MacMillan was decisioned in the first round by Mark Payne of Sidney, 9-2.

At 141 pounds, Suffern's John Eng was knocked out of competition in the first round by

(156), John Todederto of Monroe-Woodbury (168), and Ken Johnson of Newburgh (heavy-weight), all lost in the opening round.

Section 9 finished seventh in the Sectional team scoring with 15 points. The Sectional team title was won by Section 4, which includes the Binghamton-Elmira-Ithaca-Johnson City part of the State.

Rich Maher of Amityville, 5-2. Pearl River freshman Paul Salierno was stopped in his first match, 11-3, by Lyle Johnson of Garden City, in the 148-pound division.

Ken Poulos of Huntington nipped Spring Valley 183-pounder Mark Baretz, 2-0, in the first round. In the unlimited class (over 235 pounds), Ed Girdauskas of Haverstraw lost to the eventual winner, Doug Smith of Drydon, 12-2.

The other Section 9 wrestlers, Mike Drapula of Port Jervis (130), Steve Klein of Liberty

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