



★ Bob Rust Holds Plaque
... After Winning State Title

Rust Pins 3 Foes On Way to Crown

Kenmore East High School's first New York State wrestling champion attended classes as usual today, carrying on just as if he hadn't accomplished what may be a record in winning a title in a mere 8 minutes and 45 seconds — out of a possible 18 minutes — of competition.

Bob Rust, the Niagara Frontier League and Section 6 168-pound champion, Saturday did what no other wrestler was able to do in the state tournament at Walt Whitman High School, Huntington Station, Long Island.

He pinned all three of his opponents without having a point scored against him. In fact, Rust gave up but two points in his march from the NFL sectionals to the state championship.

His victory paced Section 6 — the Western New York high schools — to third place in the state tournament with 76 points. Section 8 — Teams from Nassau County, Long Island, won with 144 points. Section 4 — From the south-central part of the state — was second with 142. Eight sections competed.

The only other Section 6 champion was Bert Nagel of Cattaraugus, who took the 136-pound crown. He pinned Douglas Stuart of Pearl River in the preliminary won the semi-final by an injury forfeit, and took the title with a 5-3 decision over Jim Hardy of Mount Vernon.

Greg St. Onge of Niagara Falls, the Section 6 titlist, was third in the 98-pound class. He scored a pin in the preliminary, but came up against Claude Pool of Ithaca in the semi-final. Pool, who was defending his title, defeated St. Onge 15-0 on his way to retaining his crown.

Tom Clarkson of Silver Creek, the Section 6 141-pound champ, took fourth place. Tom Buntich, Section 6 148 titlist, also wound up fourth.

Dan Walgate of Grand Island came within seconds of winning the unlimited title. He wrestled his way into the final with a 10-1 win in the preliminary and a pin of Ward Bennett of Chittenango in the semi-final. Then he and Glen Hemburg, the Section 8 champ, of Valley Stream North, finished their title match tied at 1-all, only to have Hemburg get the crown on riding time.

Niagara - Wheatfield, the Niagara Frontier League champs, sent four to the state tournament — the most from any Section 6 school — and all lost in the preliminaries.

Bob Stokes, the 106-pounder from N-W, lost 9-3 to John Scanlon of Pearl River, the eventual fourth-place holder; Rick Carlson lost 15-9 to Fred Kemp of Carmel, who also finished fourth, in the 115-pound class; Bill Stokes, the N-W 123-pounder, went down, 3-2, to Steve Conner of Dobbs Ferry, who wound up third, and John Bradt, N-W's heavyweight, had the misfortune to open against Jim Davis of Mount Vernon. Davis pinned him in 2:59 and went on to take the state title.

Other Section 6 wrestlers in the state tourney included Frank Gemza of Sweet Home, who lost out, 14-13 on riding time, in the preliminary of the 130-pound class; Mike Crandall of Medina, who lost 3-1 in the preliminaries of the 157-pound class, and Mike Abt of Iroquois, who lost 10-4 in

the first bout of the 183-pound class.

Rust was at his best before the more than 4,000 persons crowding the gym of the high school where he began his wrestling career. In the audience were scores who had known Bob as a freshman and sophomore at Walt Whitman High, including the coach who had started him on his mat career.

But Rust's energies were devoted to Kenmore East and the 40 members of the team he had captained who journeyed to Long Island to cheer him on.

Rust opened against Roman Fediuk of Middletown and pinned him in 2:38. Dan Commella of Massapequa faced Rust in the semi-final — also wrestled Saturday afternoon.

Rust pinned him in 46 seconds, the fastest fall of the tournament.

In the finals, wrestled in the evening, Rust scored a quick takedown in the first period against Rick Schneider of Waretown, who was obviously showing respect for Rust's reputation.

As the buzzer sounded to end the second period, Rust had Schneider in a cradle that was a forecast of things to come. He went after Schneider deliberately in the third period, apparently having decided on the hold he wanted for the pin.

It was a cross-face cradle, and he rocked Schneider back for the pin with 39 seconds remaining in the match.

SIDELIGHTS: Rust, who transferred to Kenmore East from Walt Whitman, had plenty of former neighbors in the crowd to cheer him on ... Bob's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rust, were renewing friendships while accepting the congratulations of Long Island friends ... Kerwin (Skip) Pine, the Kenmore East coach who had brought Rust along to the title, was at his side throughout the tournament, although he wasn't the Section 6 coach ... Skip and Mrs. Pine also supervised the contingent of 40 Ken-East pupils who sold pizzas to pay their way by chartered bus to the tournament ... outside of Walt Whitman High fans, cheering on their lone entrant who took second in the 98-pound class, Ken-East had the largest single group of rooters ... at least six representatives of colleges were trying to get Rust's attention after the matches ... next year's state tournament will be at Niagara University, with Section 6 as host ... Art Rutzen of Herricks High, who won the 130-pound title in an overtime match, formerly attended Amherst schools when his father was employed by Wurlitzer ... tournament officials did a big switch in the finals, putting on the unlimited weight class first, then taking the weights in order beginning with the 98-pounders ... Davis, the superbly - muscled heavyweight champ was named the outstanding wrestler in the tournament, but even unbiased fans wondered how Rust could be passed by. ... Davis had four points scored against him in the semi-finals in which he won a decision, while Rust blanked and pinned one and all ... two of the championship matches were decided after the two one-minute overtime rounds.