

HIGH SCHOOLS

Barbera brothers spark Spencerport to tournament title

By John Smallwood

Staff writer

Sometimes it's hard to tell whether Spencerport wrestling brothers Jason and Joe Barbera expend more energy when they're actually wrestling or cheering each other on.

But while the identical twins, who have been wrestling together since the third grade, admit it can sometimes be grueling to watch the other wrestle, each knows how to take care of business when it's his turn to hit the mat.

Last night, both Barberas improved their season records to 11-0 by winning championships at the Teike/Bernabi Tournament at Spencerport.

"It's harder for me watching Joe," said Jason Barbera, who won at 112 pounds. "You want him to win so badly. It feels like half of me is out there wrestling."

Jason, however, does have one advantage over Joe. He wrestles at a lower weight class, so he gets to wrestle before having to sweat it out while watching his brother perform at 119 pounds.

"Sometimes it's hard to prepare for my match because I want to watch (Jason)," said Joe, whose ca-

reer record is 93-14. "But I get so pumped up watching him, and that helps me in my match."

The Barberas were just part of a big night for Spencerport wrestling.

The host Rangers, fourth in the first New York State Sportswriters Association ratings, won championships in four weight classes and beat third-ranked and defending champion Johnson City (Section 4) for the team title, 178½-157½.

"Our main goal for this tournament is to bring the best competition into the gym," said coach Bill Jacoutot. "Our next goal is to beat that competition. This tournament has a lot of prestige. I don't think I'm wrong in saying that it's the most prestigious Christmas tournament in New York."

Seven past winners of the Teike/Bernabi Tournament went on to be ranked No. 1 in the state. The 1986 champion — Cleveland St. Edwards — finished ranked No. 1 in the country. This year, Athens and Sayre came in from Pennsylvania to compete.

"To say I'm happy about winning is an understatement," Jacoutot said. "Our kids performed very well."

Steve Hovey got Spencerport started by winning at 98 pounds.

Then, Jason Barbera, who won at 98 pounds as a sophomore and 105 as a junior, took his third weight class title by beating Jeff Reese of Elmira Southside, 5-3.

Reese is ranked eighth at 112 pounds in *New York Wrestling News'* early-season top 10. Barbera, who is unranked, broke a 2-2 score in the third period with a two-point takedown.

"I beat him last year at 105," said Barbera (76-18). "It's special to win this tournament because it's in front of the home crowd."

Top-ranked Sirrell Gissendanner gave Spencerport its fourth championship by beating Stan Morley of Athens, 8-3, at 167 pounds.

The Rangers' Sean Dabolt finished second at 250 pounds to Matt Noldy of Sayre.

Also from Section 5, McQuaid's John Pernaselli won at 177 pounds, and David Jarrett of Gates-Chili beat Sayre's Greg Garrity, 11-5.

Athens' Sean Bradley (126 pounds) was named outstanding wrestler for the tournament. □



Melissa Mahan Staff photographer

Spencerport's Joe Barbera maneuvers against grimacing John Alexander of Johnson City in a 119-

pound match won by Barbera. Joe's identical twin, Jason, also won his match at 112 pounds.

TEIKE/BERNABI TOURNAMENT

Team: Spencerport 178 ½, Johnson City 157 ½, Athens, Pa. 129, Sayre, Pa. 123, Niagara-Wheatfield 113 ½, Brockport 80, Elmira Southside 77, Orchard Park 73 ½, Cicero-North Syracuse 73, Hilton 62 ½, Lancaster 51, McQuaid 49, Gates Chili 47 ½, Albion 41, North Rose-Wolcott 37 ½, Greece Arcadia 22.

Individual finals

91 pounds: John Christopher (Johnson City) pinned Mark Spitzer (Hilton) 1:10; **98:** Steve Hovey (Spencerport) dec. Bob Roe (Elmira Southside) 15-1; **105:** Jessie Dugan (Athens, Pa.) dec. Dave Brewer (Niagara-Wheatfield) 5-3 (OT); **112:** Jason Barbera (Spencerport) dec. Jeff Reese (Elmira Southside) 5-3; **119:** Joe Barbera (Spencerport) dec. John Alexander (Johnson City) 4-3; **126:** Shawn Bradley (Athens, Pa.) dec. Joe Russo (Orchard Park) 4-1; **132:** Andy Curinga (Cicero-North Syracuse) dec. Jeremy McVige (Albion) 13-7; **138:** Billy Dixon (Niagara-Wheatfield) dec. Dave Christopher (Cicero-North Syracuse) 14-4; **145:** Dave Colgan (Johnson City) def. Eric Bydairk (Athens, Pa.) 5:10 (technical fall); **155:** Chris Webster (Sayre, Pa.) def. Ricky Case (Brockport) 3:30 (technical fall); **167:** Sirrell Gissendanner (Spencerport) dec. Stan Morley (Athens, Pa.), 8-3; **177:** John Parnaselli (McQuaid) dec. Brian Szalay (Orchard Park), 5-4; **215:** Dave Jarrett (Gates-Chili) dec. Greg Garrity (Sayre, Pa.) 11-5; **250:** Matt Noldy (Sayre, Pa.) pinned Shawn Dabolt (Spencerport) 4:19; **Outstanding wrestler:** Shawn Bradley (Athens, Pa.); **Aggregate pins:** Josh Moshier (Elmira Southside) (4, 8:10).