

Pins power Spencerport over Canandaigua

■ The state's second-ranked team raises its dual-meet streak to 98-0-1.

BY STAFF WRITER

JAMES JOHNSON

HOPEWELL — Matt Legas had the assignment of filling in for a sick teammate in Spencerport's wrestling lineup earlier this season.

Wrestling

The junior 145-pounder's number came up again on Saturday before the non-league dual between Spencerport and Canandaigua.

A drawing determined that Legas and his opponent would wrestle first to open what has been Section V's most anticipated dual meet during the last decade.

"I was emotional, I was so ready," Legas said. "I prepared

for this match for a long time."

It showed. Legas scored the first of four pins during the first six bouts that vaulted the Rangers to a 36-25 victory at Finger Lakes Community College.

Canandaigua coach Rich Romeo anticipated at least five bouts in which the outcomes would be "nip and tuck." Instead, Spencerport (11-1) dominated for the most part, in front of about 1,800 fans.

Legas, Steve Stulpin, Sabastian Baliva and Andy Peters all scored pins that gave the Rangers a 27-3 lead halfway through the meet.

Canandaigua 152-pounder Tom Cuppernell and 140-pounder Trevor Chinn remained

undefeated in the section this season, while Stulpin kept his record clean in the loss column overall at 160.

"We got a good draw," Stulpin said. "Against them, our upper weights were our strong points."

Canandaigua's lightweights won three matches in a row to give the Braves (7-2-1) some hope of winning. Justin Volenweider beat Spencerport's 119-pounder Kris MacBeth 7-5 in overtime, in between pins by eighth-grader Kyle Ingraham at 112 and Greg Gelinas at 125 for the Braves.

The six points earned by Gelinas for his fall over Nick Morbito reduced Spencerport's lead to 30-12 with three matches remaining, but Mike Terenzi won via technical fall in the next bout for the Rangers.

Spencerport's fast start was

too much to overcome.

Legas slapped an arm bar on Josh Parsons, walked around his opponent's shoulders and earned a pin after 1:21.

"It was the best feeling of my life," Legas said.

"I've been in and out of the lineup. It was good to know that I was going to be a part of this."

Cuppernell brushed off a fired-up Joe Morbito early in their bout, to win 9-4.

Stulpin overwhelmed Jim West and earned the first of back-to-back pins for the Rangers.

Baliva pushed Spencerport to a 18-3 lead when he finally trapped Eskei Beech with 1:25 remaining.

Beech fought off a fall during the final minute of the opening period and was badgered in the second.

Spencerport's Alex Baxter was in control of the 189-pound match when Dan Jacobson tied the score, 2-2, in the final 15 seconds of the third period.

Baxter ended up winning on criteria when he broke Jacobson's control just before the 30 seconds he had to work with expired.

Spencerport's lead ballooned to 24 points after Andy Peters pinned Chris Wittlinger in the first period.

"We knew we were going to come in with an advantage after what happened to them against Fulton," Stulpin said of Canandaigua. "They lost to (Fulton), we beat Fulton pretty good."

Spencerport has a record of 98-0-1 in dual meets against Section V teams.

Canandaigua handed the Rangers their last local loss in

1994.

The Rangers beat out the Braves at last season's Class A tournament and hope to finish No. 1 among large schools in the state for the third straight year.

Spencerport is ranked second behind Johnson City of Section IV (Binghamton-area), the only team to beat the Rangers head-to-head this season. □

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Spencerport 36, Canandaigua 25

At Finger Lakes Community College

103 pounds: Josh Fuller (S) decisioned Rocco Catalfamo, 5-1; **112:** Kyle Ingraham (C) pinned Brett Woodward, 1:21. **119:** Justin Volenweider (C) dec. Kris MacBeth, 7-5 overtime; **125:** Greg Gelinas (C) pinned Nick Morbito, 3:06; **130:** Mike Terenzi (S) defeated Merrick Hare, via technical fall, 20-5. **135:** Trevor Chinn (C) def. Mike Brongo, major decision, 13-4; **140:** Kevin Morrice (C) dec. Chuck Zimmerman, 4-1; **145:** Matt Legas (S) pinned Josh Parsons, 1:21. **152:** Tom Cuppernell (C) dec. Joe Morbito, 9-4; **160:** Steve Stulpin (S) pinned Jim West, 1:17; **171:** Sabastian Baliva (S) pinned Eskei Beech, 4:35. **189:** Alex Baxter (S) defeated Dan Jacobson, 3-2 overtime criteria; **215:** Andy Peters (S) pinned Chris Wittlinger, 1:49.

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HOPEWELL — Canandaigua's wrestlers sprinted on to their mat for their biggest dual meet of the season.

Wrestling

The Braves, however, could not keep up with Spencerport.

Four pins in the first six bouts vaulted the Rangers to a 36-25 victory in what is annually Section V's most-anticipated dual meet.

Canandaigua wrestling coach Rich Romeo anticipated at least five bouts in which the outcomes would be "nip and tuck." Instead, Spencerport (11-1) dominated for the most part, in front of about 1,800 fans at Finger

Lakes Community College.

Matt Legace, Steve Stulpin, Sabastian Baliva and Andy Peters all scored pins that gave the Rangers a 27-3 lead halfway through the meet.

Canandaigua's lightweights provided the team's best showing. Justin Volenweider beat Spencerport's 119-pounder Kris MacBeth 7-5 in overtime, in-between pins by eighth-grader Kyle Ingraham at 112 and Greg Gelinas at 125 for the Braves (7-2-1).

Gelinas kept Canandaigua's hopes of winning alive with his fall over Nick Morbito. His six points reduced Spencerport's lead to 30-12 with three matches remaining, but Spencerport's Mike Terenzi won via technical



Trevor Chinn

He remains undefeated against Section V competition this season.

fall in the next bout.

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Spencerport's Alex Baxter was in control of the 189-pound match when Dan Jacobson came to life and tied the score, 2-2, in the final 15 seconds of the third period.

Baxter ended up winning on criteria when he broke Jacobson's control just before the 30 seconds he had to work with expired. Spencerport's lead ballooned to 27-3 after Andy Peters pinned Chris Wittlinger in the first period.

Local supremacy belongs to Spencerport but both teams have decorated histories.

Canandaigua has finished at the top of the state rankings twice, and won 12 Section V titles in 34 years, the last in 2001.

The Rangers won sectional titles 12 consecutive years before Canandaigua interrupted their string in 2001.

Spencerport has a record of 98-0-1 in dual meets against Section V teams. It was Canandaigua in 1994 that handed the Rangers their last local loss.

The Rangers beat out the Braves at last season's Class A tournament and hope to finish No. 1 among large schools in the state for the third straight year.

Spencerport is ranked second behind Johnson City of Section IV (Binghamton-area), the only team to beat the Rangers head-

to-head this season.

The Braves, who have won seven consecutive Finger Lakes East Division titles, regroup for their final dual meet before the sectionals. □

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Top 2 teams ready to duel

BY STAFF WRITER

JAMES JOHNSON

No trophy is handed out. The wrestlers walk off the mat champions of nothing.

High School Wrestling

The result of the dual meet between Spencerport and Canandaigua doesn't count in the team's league standings.

Yet, there is a surge of excitement among the participants and others who like to watch the area's top large-school teams go at it.

Spencerport's and Canandaigua's varsities square off again at 7 tonight at Finger Lakes Community College.

Canandaigua coach Rich Romeo anticipates a standing-room-only crowd. About 1,800

admission tickets were available.

"I'm really excited to be wrestling in this," Spencerport senior Mike Brongo said. "You have nothing to do but prove yourself in this type of meet."

Canandaigua senior Tom Cuppernell jokes that the air inside his team's training room smells different in the days before the meet.

Spencerport (10-1) is ranked second among large schools behind Johnson City of Section IV, the only team to beat the Rangers head-to-head this season.

No Section V team has defeated Spencerport in a dual since 1994. The Rangers are 97-0-1 against local teams after losing to Canandaigua that year.

The Braves have built up a good reputation on the mat, too. It was Canandaigua that stopped Spencerport's 12-year string of

sectional titles in 2000.

This year, Wayne (8th) is above Canandaigua (11th, 7-1-1) in the state rankings. Seventh-ranked Fulton (15-3) was the team that beat Canandaigua, which has won three tournaments and finished 21st out of 84 teams at the Beast of the East Tournament in Delaware.

"We only have two seniors," Canandaigua coach Romeo said. "We probably have a better tournament than a dual meet team. I still think we should be competitive."

Potential individual matchups to look for are Spencerport's Josh Fuller vs. Kyle Ingraham at 112. Both made it to the 2002 state meet.

Good matches at 135 and 140 seem all but guaranteed.

Trevor Chinn, a two-time state runner-up, and Kevin Morrice

Area rankings

LARGE SCHOOLS

Rank, team	Pts.	Pv
1. Spencerport (5)	50	1
2. Canandaigua	44	2
3. Wayne	41	3
4. Rush-Henrietta	34	5
5. Brockport	31	4
6. Webster Schroeder	23	7
7. Hilton	18	T9
8. Irondequoit	10	T9
(tie) Geneva	10	8
10. Greece Olympia	8	6

Also received votes: Penfield, Attica.

SMALL SCHOOLS

Rank, team	Pts.	Pv
1. Holley (4)	40	1
2. Byron-Bergen	34	2
3. Kendall	33	3
4. Le Roy	27	5
5. Addison	22	6
6. Canisteo	20	4
7. Caledonia-Mumford	18	7
8. Letchworth	11	8
9. Pavilion	5	9
(tie) East Rochester	5	—

Also received votes: Williamson, Batavia Notre Dame.

wrestle at those weights for Canandaigua. Like Spencerport's Chuck Zimmerman and Brongo, you can find them in the top five of Section V's rankings. □

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