

Wrestling Team Aims For Top

The East Rochester High School wrestling team just about guaranteed for coach Don Quinn a piece of first place in the Monroe County Eastern League by easily beating a visiting Fairport mat club here last Saturday night, 35-19 before a good size crowd.

The victory clinched a share of the top peg with Irondequoit and Brighton. Oddly, East Rochester had walloped Irondequoit in easy fashion and then fell an upset victim to Brighton by two points. "The Bombers were loafing that night," ER's rabid mat fans said of the Brighton setback.

Quinn's club rebounded from the Brighton debacle by winning the crack Amherst tournament and finishing second to state No. 1 team Olean in the Canandaigua Invitational.

ER has a grand chance to embellish its season record this weekend when the Bombers fly to Olean for a Saturday night tourney. A horde of village fans are planning to make the jaunt to the city known for St. Bonaventure University, where former East Rochester High School All-County basketball player, Larry Weise, is the Bonnies' athletic director and former coach.

Quinn said the Olean gym holds only 900 spectator seats and early fans get in to see four of the outstanding teams in New York State. The roster includes, besides host No. 1 Olean, also No. 4 Canandaigua and Sweet Home of Buffalo. The Bombers are rated No. 12 statewide.

The Saturday night action

for ER is a 6 p.m. clash with Olean and an 8 p.m. scrap with Sweet Home.

On a second mat, Canandaigua will take on Sweet Home at 6:30 and Olean at 8 p.m. Results can shake up New York State standings.

Quinn's club, rated a premier state-rated team when the season opened, suffered at least two vital injuries to players that caused the two point losses to both Brighton and Canandaigua. Mainly, it was Mike Brien's that hurt the most.

The slick 112 pounder was injured in the County Tournament, and took a second place as East Rochester outdistanced the field, Dec. 29-30. The other injury counted out Bruce Kier for part of the season.

Quinn said last Tuesday, "We're going down there (to Olean) to do our work. If the team gives it all it has, we may come back to East Rochester with some real prestige."

A win over Olean could push the Bombers up a number of pegs in the state standings.

East Rochester took the starch out of a visiting Fairport mat team last Saturday night by winning eight and tying one of 12 matches.

Fairport won three and tied one. The stalemate came in the finale, the 215 pound argument between Bomber Rick Sidor and Red Raider Wally Vaughn. Both went into the last scrap undefeated in dual conflicts.

Sidor worked out a takedown for a 2-0 first period lead and then survived a near fall at the end of chapter two to fall back 3-2.

Sidor gained a point on an escape for a 3-3 tie and with 30 seconds to go, made a major mistake by giving Vaughn a point in an effort to try for two.

Quinn wasn't happy with the move. By that time ER had the match in the bag. It was the second of the season for the Raiders.

Prior to the Sidor-Vaughn tangle, ER's 177 pounder Drew McGregor continued to make

his presence on Bomber athletic teams "miserable" for Fairport.

McGregor, who chose to attend ER rather than his hometown district, Fairport, easily beat Mike Talarico, 9-3.

Talarico is the son of former Bomber football player, Dom "Doc" Talarico.

Talarico was listed to face ER's super-athlete, John Zito, in the 167 scrap, but Fairport coach Jeff Logan forfeited and Zito ran his season record to a gaudy 20-0.

Quinn's club opened with an auspicious 6-point pin from freshman Tom Pagano. At the 5:51 mark, Pagano had John Maloney flat on the mat, with a neat "pancake" hold.

The Bomber matman suffered a knee injury in the second period after grabbing a 5-2 lead and the match moved to a 5-4 count before the freshman managed the pin, in the 98 pound class.

Fairport's Jeff Barker put the visitors in the score column with a 105 class 5-0 nod over John Walczyk.

And ER fell back, 8-6, when Fairport's highly rated Bob Arayo pounded Bomber Scott McIntosh for a superior 5 point win in the 112 class, 15-0.

Quinn's steady Romeo Battazzi, aiming for Sectional and state laurels, put ER in the lead to stay, with a pin at the 5:04 mark over Jeff Popin in the 119 division.

Romeo was coasting along at a 9-0 gait when he disposed of Popin.

It was ER 15, Fairport 8, following a high score 18-12 victory by 126 pound Bomber Mike Kuhn over Dan Bucci. It was Kuhn's 19th win of the season. He has lost once.

Joe Walczyk took the 132 class tilt with a 6-2 nod over Ken Catalfamo, but Curtis Doreen had a tough foe in one of the county's best 138 pounders, Scott Gilman. Gilman had a 6-point pin at the 2:59 mark.

Bruce Kier and Raider Scott Kiry waged a 7-7 stalemate in the 145 pound clash and both added two points to their team's point column.

ER's Dennis Essom insured the Bomber victory by posting a pin at the 3:55 mark over Steve Good. Essom had a 7-2 lead at that point. The win pushed the Bombers to a 26-16 front.

By that time, Logan knew the Bomber Express wasn't to be derailed.