



# Grapplers defeat Western New England

by Ross Conti

Both Brockport State and Western New England had to be a little weary after competing in the annual RIT Invitational Wrestling Tournament this past weekend.

Ironically, both teams ended up with identical scores, placing sixth, far behind Division I Miami of Ohio.

The RIT Tournament set the stage for the next day's dual meet between Brockport and Western New England. This was supposed to be a close match. It wasn't.

Brockport wrestling opened its home season in a convincing fashion by besting the Bears of New England, 39-4.

"I was extremely pleased by the effort of the team," said head coach Don Murray. "It isn't easy to be as sharp as we were, competing the day after a tough tournament."

Brockport's lopsided victory came on the strength of three major and three superior decisions, worth four and five team points respectively, as opposed to three team points for a regular decision.

The lone pin of the afternoon put icing on Brockport's victory celebration as underdog heavyweight Fran Dougherty put the Bears' Ken Demaria away in 4:18.

Murray was quick to point out perfor-

mances of junior Ed Morales at 118, Rich Romeo at 158 and Dennis Leonard at 190.

"Morales got us going in the right direction; the momentum carried through the lineup," Murray said. Rich Romeo had an outstanding tournament and looked even better on Sunday.

Murray was referring to Romeo's championship at RIT where the unseeded grappler defeated No.1 seed Ken Lynch of Yale, 41, winning the 158 lb. weight class.

Mark Shortsleeve also placed first at RIT. Shortsleeve, undefeated in 10 matches at 134, also defeated the No.1 seed

in the finals, Mark Townsley of Miami of Ohio. The Brockport wrestler, seeded second going onto the tournament, escaped with a 9-8 decision over his Division I opponent.

Another Eagle reached the finals but had to settle for second place as sophomore Dave Recor defaulted to Buffalo's Pete Rao at 150. Recor already has a decision over Rao this season and it was considered likely that he would beat the Buffalo junior again.

The decision not to wrestle Recor was made because of a minor injury that might have hampered him in Sunday's match against WNE.

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Freshman John Leone won three matches against one loss at RIT to place third. Leone defeated All-American Mark Howard of Oswego, 6-4 in overtime enroute to a conciliation finals match against Western New England's Sebby Amato. Leon's 8-2 victory over Amato foreshadowed the freshman's 13-4 dual meet victory over the Bear wrestler the following day.

Other outstanding dual meet performances were turned in by sophomore Paul St. John at 126, and freshman Tim Slade at 177.

Brockport will face archrival Trenton State this Saturday, Dec. 10 home at 2 p.m.

Trenton and Brockport have dominated Division III wrestling in the past several years, Trenton having won three National titles to the Eagles' four. Last season Brockport lost the dual meet against Trenton but succeeded in winning the all important National title, beating out the heavily-favored New Jersey team in Wheaton, Illinois for Brockport's second consecutive National championship.