

Matt King, Joe Kuras Win Titles; Marty King Battles Back from Loss

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By JOE SEIL

SYRACUSE — Mere words couldn't describe the feeling.

"It's just super, really super," said Canandaigua wrestling coach Larry Reynolds after his Braves finally reached their impossible dream by winning the team title at the New York State Wrestling tournament at the Onondaga County War Memorial last Saturday.

The Braves, who had two individual champions — Matt King at 132 and Joe Kuras at 250 — and one third place finisher — Marty King at 91 — totaled 63 points to outdistance Burnt Hill of Section 2 for the school team title. Section 5 also pulled off a first by winning the section team title with 222½ points. Thirteen of Section 5's 14 entrants placed at least sixth or better.

Actually, the tournament got off to a disappointing start for the Braves, when Marty King, who was favored to win, was upset by Section 11's Pete Fusco in the first round. Fusco then lost his next two matches and was eliminated from the tournament. Marty, meanwhile, rallied to win his next four matches — the last one by a pin over Section 6's Rob Waddington — to finish a strong third.

"I took him (Fusco) a little too lightly," Marty said. "I just couldn't wrestle worth beans the first match."

"It was a tough break," Reynolds said. "He made some freshman mistakes and it

cost him. That loss will make him that much tougher in the long run."

For Matt King and Kuras there is no long run. Being seniors, it was their final try at the state title.

Matt, who was also favored at 132, was making his third attempt at the state title after finishing fourth and third respectively the last two trips to Syracuse.

Matt won his first two matches (7-3 and 5-1) before meeting Ted DiPasquale of Section 11 in the finals. After a scoreless first period, Matt scored an escape and a pair of takedowns in the second period to take a 5-3 lead. He then held off DiPasquale in the last period for the title.

"I really felt in control all the way," Matt said afterward. "I just stuck to my basic moves. I just took it like another tournament."

For Kuras, it almost didn't work out like all the other tournaments this season. Kuras had to come from behind in both the semifinals and the finals to become state champ. After a slim 3-2 decision in his opening round match, Kuras trailed 6-0 in his semifinal bout before rallying to pin Dan Dischavo of New Hartford in Section 3 in 5:50. In the finals, Scott Nichols of Arlington in Section 1, Kuras fell behind 7-4, before rallying to score a takedown and back points late in the bout to pull out a 10-7 victory.

"I got a little worried when I fell

behind," Kuras admitted, "but I kept my head and listened to Reynolds. When you get in that situation, you have to think you can do it."

Section 5 had one other winner in Irondequoit's Tony Cotroneo at 112. Cotroneo defeated Sachem's Ed Morales of Section 11, 7-3 in the finals to increase his state record-breaking career win total to 164. Like Matt King, this was Cotroneo's third try at the title.

"I wanted it so bad," said Cotroneo, who will probably attend Syracuse University in the fall. "I've wrestled five years just for this. I wasn't even nervous. I was ready. I didn't even know who I had to wrestle in the finals until they introduced him."

Other place-winners for Section 5 were Spencerport's Rick LaPaglia (sixth at 105), Irondequoit's Tim Lehmann (fifth at 119), Penfield's Chris Kane (fifth at 126), Spencerport's Trevor Graham (second at 138), Brockport's Todd Buenting (second at 145), Fairport's Scott Kay (second at 155), Brighton's Terry Kent (fourth at 167), Newark's Scott Eberhardt (sixth at 177) and Newark's Bob Button (third at 215).

Probably the most disappointing loss was Button's. He was favored to win, but like Marty King, was upset in the first round. It was also Button's third try at the title.



MARTY KING
... a four-time champ? *NO*



MATT KING
... the favorite



JOE KURAS
... 19 pins