

Sayre, Waverly & EFA Tourney Kings

By GLENN ROLFE
SAYRE — One out of two ain't bad.

And with a break here or there, the Valley dominance in the Sullivan Trail Conference wrestling tournament could have been even more noticeable.

But as it was, Sayre and Waverly linked up to crown

seven of the 14 weight class titles in Saturday's nine-team STC league tourney held Saturday at the Sayre High School.

The Redskins sent six wrestlers into the finals and emerged with a quartet of champions. Sayre's Bucky Place defended his title he won last year at 98-pounds

with a second period fall over EFA's Jack Cheney, while junior Tom Burns (105), Lou Mastracchio (112) and junior Alan Hoyt (126) also captured crowns.

The Wolverines sported eight grapplers in the finals, finishing with a trio of crown winners.

Junior Frank Lupin scored

an escape with only seconds remaining, and a takedown at the buzzer to upset EFA's Jay Horton for the 119-pound title.

Steve Ripley, Waverly's 155-pound senior, defeated Greg Strawser of Horseheads to take that weight class while unbeaten junior Tod Northrup defended his STC crown with his title win at 167.

Although no actual team title is presented, Waverly would have captured the overall crown having placed a dozen wrestlers in the top four finishes.

Twelve out of the 13 Wolverine wrestlers that suited up placed.

After Place garnered the first Redskin title, Burns locked horns with Waverly's Bob Simmons at 105 — one of four Waverly-Sayre finals confrontations.

The two grapplers battled through two scoreless periods before Burns reversed Simmons and put the Wolverine sophomore on his back to take a 5-0 decision.

And the match that followed again pitted a Redskin versus a Wolverine — a match that proved to be the upset of the tournament.

Waverly's John Palumbo, unbeaten in both duals and tournament competition this season, met Mastracchio, a freshman who has lost but once in dual meets, at 112.

Mastracchio and Palumbo banged together following the opening whistle and when they landed, it was Mastracchio who had outmuscled his Wolverine foe to the mat, scoring a quick 4-0 advantage.

Palumbo rallied for a reversal and then evened the score early in the second period with another reversal, but Mastracchio showed his youthful poise and countered with a reversal of his own and scored two more back points in the process, mounting an 8-4 lead after two periods.

In the final two minutes, Palumbo was unable to turn the gritty Sayre freshman over with Mastracchio then upping the final score to 10-4 with a late reversal.

"Not bad for a freshman," smiled Sayre Coach Bill Perry, who indicated prior to the match that he hadn't ruled out the chances of a possible upset. "Lou's a smart wrestler for a freshman and he's able to go with just about anybody. I felt he could win, but he definitely was the underdog."

Hoyt, a junior, then scored Sayre's third straight mastery over Wolverine finalists with a controlled 4-0 decision of Rodney Geiger at 126.

Northrup's win was by default when Sayre's Shawn Rogers was unable to continue after having suffered an injury in the second period of the title bout.

Ripley fell behind 1-0 in the second period, but rallied for a takedown and two back points to beat Strawser.

And the other pair of Wolverine runnersup could easily have been titlists as well, but fell victims to two EFA Blue Devils.

At 145, senior Greg Vargo lost on a criteria decision after he and EFA's Rich Barnes had battled to a 2-2 overtime draw after having ended in a 6-6 regular time deadlock.

Officials ruled Barnes the

victor on the basis that he recorded the first back points of the match.

And at 138, senior Paul Emerson built a 6-3 lead early in the third period, but lost a 7-6 heartbreaker to EFA's Dave Near.

Other titlists were EFA's Lee Cheney (91) (who defeated Sayre's Jim Lee, 5-3) and Steve Turner (177), Horseheads' Todd Palmer (132), and Southside's Heavyweight Andy Schwab and unlimited hulk Garrett Keith.

Waverly's third place winners were Joe Depumpo (98), Bob Mann (132) and Robin Doane (177) while heavyweight Phil Smith took fourth.

For Sayre, Jim Hugo won third place at 119 while freshman Frank Duricz finished fourth at 132.

CONSOLATIONS:

91 — Jim Bacon (HHD) dec. Loren Smith (HOR), 7-6.
98 — Joe DePumpo (W) dec. Dave Ely (CW), 5-2.
105 — Joe Awad (ND) dec. Brett

Crosby (CW), 5-1.
112 — Pete Day (HHD) dec. Steve Lee (HHD), 1-0.
119 — Jim Hugo (SA) dec. Randy Dunn (CE), 8-7.
126 — Jeff Updyke (HHD) won by forfeit over Chris Darcangelo (CW).
132 — Bobby Mann (W) dec. Frank Duricz (SA), 4-0.
138 — Charlie Haupt (CW) dec. Louis Nasea (HOR), 2-4.
145 — Steve Cardier (HHD) dec. Rich
Bottone (HOR), 5-1.
155 — Ron Jennings (SA) dec. Mike Wilsey (CE), 5-0.
167 — Mike Galloway (CW) dec. Jeff Pelech (HHD), 12-11.
177 — Robin Doane (W) dec. Chris Cox (HHD), 5-2.
HWT — John Von Hagen (ND) dec. Phil Smith (W), 14-2.
UNL — Tom Cherepanosky (HOR) won by forfeit over Kevin McLaughlin (EFA).

LEGEND: Elmira Free Academy (EFA), Horseheads (HHD), Elmira Southside (ESS), Corning East (CE), Corning West (CW), Notre Dame (ND), Waverly (W), Sayre (SA), Hornell (HOR).

FINALS:

91 — Lee Cheney (EFA) dec. Jim Lee (SA), 5-3.
98 — Bucky Place (SA) pinned Jack Cheney (EFA), 3:36.
105 — Tom Burns (SA) dec. Bob Simmons (W), 5-0.
112 — Lou Mastracchio (SA) dec. John Palumbo (W), 10-4.
119 — Frank Lupin (W) dec. Jay Horton (EFA), 8-7.
126 — Alan Hoyt (SA) dec. Rodney Geiger (W), 4-0.
132 — Todd Palmer (HHD) dec. Dick Teets (CE), 11-1.
138 — Dave Near (EFA) dec. Paul Emerson (W), 7-6.
145 — Rich Barnes (EFA) dec. Greg Vargo (W), (criteria decision in overtime, 6-6 regulation, 2-2 overtime).
155 — Steve Ripley (W) dec. Greg Strawser (HHD), 5-1.
167 — Tod Northrup (W) won by default over Shawn Rogers (SA).
177 — Steve Turner (EFA) dec. Marshall Easling (CE), 8-3.
HWT — Andy Schwab (ESS) pinned Tim Matthews (CW), 1:43.
UNL — Garrett Keith (ESS) dec. Doug Wright (ND), 5-3.



Upset in the Making

In one of the most exciting matches of the tournament, Sayre freshman Lou Mastracchio unseated Waverly's John Palumbo with a gutsy performance in the finals of the 112-pound weight class. The Redskin freshman is shown here applying a hold that earned him two back points en route to his 10-4 victory. Mastracchio was one of four Sayre grapplers to win titles while a trio of Wolverines were crowned in the Sullivan Trail Conference wrestling tourney.

Evening Times Photo — Rolfe



One of Valley Champs

Wolverine junior Frank Lupin, shown here on the bottom during second period action, rallied for an escape and takedown late in the third period to upend EFA's Jay Horton to capture the 119-pound crown.

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