

— HIGH SCHOOLS —

Five semifinalists, one champion

Alexander wrestler only Section V winner at states

STATE WRESTLING FINALS

By Mark Coley

Staff writer

SYRACUSE — Alexander's Brian Schaal didn't need a list of goals or a lot of words to determine his destiny this season.

In fact it took only one sentence.

"To take first at (the) states." He needed six minutes to make it happen.

Schaal, making his second trip to Syracuse, defeated Suffern's Andy Matteotti (Section I) 3-2 to win the 105-pound weight class at the NYSPHSAA wrestling championships at the Onondaga War Memorial.

Schaal, 39-1 this season, 110-9 career, became the school's first male state champion in any sport. He was also Section V's lone winner among five semifinalists.

"This was a big accomplishment because I have been trying to get here so many times," said Schaal, who finished fifth in the same weight class in 1993.

"(Brian) is quite focused within himself," said Alexander coach Paul Santoro. "After last year, his goal was to come here and win it."

"The team realized that if they worked hard with him, they can push him to get back here."

Schaal earned his return trip with two big victories in

last weekend's state qualifier. He pinned Hornell's John Gemmel, last year's 98-pound state champion in the semifinals then followed with a win over Ed Shaffer of Wayne in the finals.

On Friday, after receiving a bye in the first round, Schaal recorded a 5-4 decision over Nathan Haig of Canajoharie (Sec. II). Schaal scored all of his points in the opening period.

His semifinal match followed the same script, scoring five points in the first period in shutting out Huntington's Adrian Bonilla (Sec. XI). In the championship match against Matteotti, who came in with a 35-0 record, Schaal took the safe approach as the first period was scoreless.

In the second period, with Schaal taking the down position, he scored an escape to take a 1-0 lead midway through the period. Schaal went to defense to hold off Matteotti entering the final period.

In the final period, Schaal extended the lead to 3-0 with a two-point near fall. Matteotti's escape cut the lead to 3-1, but Schaal's defense almost got him in trouble. Two stalling calls, the second with :19 remaining, cut the lead to only one, but Schaal held out to get the victory.

As for the rest of Section V, it was a tough day all

around. Although five wrestlers placed among the top six, only one, Irondequoit 126-pounder Arkee Allen, won a consolation final match.

Allen finished in fifth place at his weight, recording a pin over Matt Wyllie of Rocky Point (XI) in 4:58. Allen was down 6-5 with 14 seconds remaining before reversing Wyllie and holding him to his back for the fall.

In his semifinal bout, Allen gave favorite Terry Showalter of Canastota (III) all he could handle before dropping a 1-0 decision. In the wrestleback semifinals, he was pinned by Elmira Southside's (IV) Jeff Reese in 4:51.

Victor's Brian Aparo, who was hoping to win at 132, finished a disappointing fourth, dropping a 5-0 decision to Rob Lawton from South Jefferson (III).

In the semifinals, Aparo lost to Southside's Joel Friedman (Sec. VIII), 3-0. In semifinal wrestlebacks, he defeated Larry Bryant of Southwestern (VI), 10-3.

Brockport's Rob Taylor and Livonia's Steve Swingle also finished fourth. Taylor lost by a fall to Jack Harbold of Greene (IV) in 2:36 at 167, while Swingle, lost 2-0 to North Adirondack's Jason Bushey (VII) at 167. Palmyra-Macedon's Rob Trapp finished sixth at 177, dropping a 5-0 decision to Reece Pate of Clarkstown South (I). □

At Onondaga County War Memorial

How Section V wrestlers fared

91 pounds: Consolation (second round), Pat Nardi (Mohawk-III) dec.

Brian Swedrock (Wayne-V), 11-3 (Swedrock did not place).

98: Consolation (second round), Gregg Cordero (Amsterdam-II) dec.

Chris Lombino (Wayne-V), 4-1 (Lombino DNP).

105: Semifinals, Brian Schaal (Alexander-V) dec. Adrian Bonilla (Huntington-XI), 5-0; Championship, Schaal dec. Andy Matteotti (Suffern-I), 3-2.

112: Consolation (second round), Chris McNulty (Valley Stream South-VIII) won by forfeit over Rodney Frey (East Rochester-V), (Frey DNP).

119: Consolation (second round), Dan New (Canastota-III) dec. Mike Burgess (Canandaigua-V), 5-4 (Burgess DNP).

126: Semifinals, Terry Showalter (Canastota-III) dec. Arkee Allen (Irondequoit-I), 1-0; Consolation bracket, Semifinals: Jeff Reese (Elmira Southside-IV) p. Allen, 4:51; Fifth place: Allen p. Matt Wyllie (Rocky Point-XI), 4:58.

132: Semifinals, Joel Friedman (Southside-VIII) dec. Brian Aparo (Victor-V), 3-0; Consolation Bracket: Semifinals: Aparo dec. Larry Bryant (Southwestern-VI), 10-5; Third place, Rob Lawton (South Jefferson-III) dec. Aparo, 5-0.

138: Consolation bracket, second round, Scott Moshtare (Lowville-III) dec. Jon Myers (Byron-Bergen-V), 6-1 (Myers DNP).

145: Scott Pressman (Farmingdale-VIII) won by injury forfeit over Bill Trigg (Edison/Wilson-V), Trigg DNP.

155: Consolation bracket, second round, Steve Swingle (Livonia-V) dec. Mike Bena (Niskayuna-II), 11-4. Quarterfinal, Swingle dec. Rich Renny (Herrick-VIII), 7-4; Semifinal, Swingle dec. Dan Butler (Canton-Potsdam-X), 11-5; Third place, Jason Bushey (North Adirondack-VII) dec. Swingle, 2-0.

167: Semifinals, Gene Roggie (Beaver River-III) dec. Rob Taylor (Brockport-V), 10-0; Consolation bracket: Semifinals, Taylor dec. Ariel Marine (Valley Stream South-VIII), 6-4; Third place, Jack Harbold (Greene-IV) p. Taylor, 2:36.

177: Consolation bracket, second round, Rob Trapp (Palmyra-Macedon-V) dec. Duane Pinkney (Truman-PSAL), 4-2; Quarterfinals, Trapp dec. Jason Miller (Queensbury-II), 3-1 (ot); Semifinal (Charlie Walseman (Beaver River-III) p. Trapp, 4:31; Fifth place, Reece Pate (Clarkstown North-I) dec. Trapp, 5-0.

250: Consolation bracket, second round, Jeremy Smit (Valley-IX) p. F.A. Estrada (Spencerport-V), :56 (Estrada DNP).