

# Salamanca: Big Effort



CHAMPIONS FROM the Southern Tier Division I-I Tournament are (front, from left): 91 pounds, Jarrett Scalise (Southwestern); 98, Dave Brainard (Falconer); 105, Shawn Higbee (Southwestern); 126, Jeff Prescott (Olean High); 119, Joe Pagen (Dunkirk); 126, Billy Young (Randolph); and 132,

Tom Mohr (Salamanca). Back row: 138, Dave Nalbhone (Maple Grove); 145, Farris El-Nasser (Fredonia); 155, Jim Burdic (Falconer); 167, Joe Bierfeldt (Salamanca); 177, Myron Wilson (Salamanca); 215, Jess Wilson (Salamanca); and 250, Phil Kutchke (Southwestern).

(championship finals)  
91: Scalise (Southwestern) 15-4 Lockwood (Randolph)  
98: Brainard (Falconer) 6-4 Carson (Falconer)  
105: Higbee (Southwestern) 9-0 Ruiz (Dunkirk)  
112: Prescott (Olean High) 11-7 Joslyn (Maple Grove)  
119: Pagen (Dunkirk) 18-3 Boardman (Salamanca)  
126: Bi Young (Randolph) 8-4 Printup (Salamanca)  
132: Mohr (Salamanca) 8-4 Printup (Salamanca)  
138: Nalbhone (Maple Grove) 5-2 Strauss (Salamanca)  
145: El-Nasser (Fredonia) 13-8 Stimson (Falconer)  
155: Burdic (Falconer) 2-4 Johnson (Cassadaga Valley)  
167: Bierfeldt (Salamanca) 17-3 Ellis (Pine Valley)  
177: Wilson (Salamanca) 1-52 Wendell (Southwestern)  
215: J. Wilson (Salamanca) 3-19 Meyers (Southwestern)  
250: Kutchke (Southwestern) 3-14 Nolan (Maple Grove)

(consolation finals)  
91: Edwards (Panama) 10-8 Ball (Fredonia)  
98: Irizarry (Dunkirk) 14-4 Kora (Gowanda)  
105: Viscary (Westfield) 1-0 Hughes (Pine Valley)  
112: Mower (Cassadaga Valley) 1-40 Abate (Ripley)  
119: Swiech (Salamanca) 3-0 Spencer (Falconer)  
126: Buckner (Olean High) 9-7 Kuslowski (Gowanda)  
132: Rice (Cassadaga Valley) 12-7 Freeman (Ripley)  
138: Hincley (Maple Grove) 3-2 Higley (Southwestern)  
145: MacTavish (Southwestern) 7-4 Jackson (Panama)  
155: Davis (Southwestern) 12-4 Br. Young (Randolph)  
167: Conley (Southwestern) default win, Penhollow (Cassadaga Valley)  
177: Abbey (Falconer) 5-2 Carney (Frewsburg)  
215: LaBarren (7-0 Hanson (Salamanca))  
250: Musacchio (Gowanda) 1-20 Johnson (Randolph)

By TOM ROOF

Times Herald Sports Writer

**SALAMANCA** — The Southern Tier Division I-II championships proved to be the perfect cure-all for coach Rich Morton's second-place blues.

Depressed after his Salamanca Central School wrestling team failed to defend its Division I title this year, Morton showed symptoms of recovery Saturday as he watched his senior-strong team advance eight wrestlers to this weekend's Section 6 state qualifier.

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"I certainly have to be pleased with the effort we got out of our kids," said Morton. "We got the kids through who I expected, and the ones who didn't make it are all young kids."

While Salamanca wound up with an impressive 12-2 dual record, one loss came against Falconer (33-24) in its league finale, giving Falconer the Division I crown.

Morton admitted his team reacted poorly afterwards.

"Everything we worked for all year hinged on that match, all our goals and our dreams," he said. "Then when we lost, it affected us. Motivation was kind of scarce around here."

But Saturday, with a tourney-high seven finalists, the only thing lacking in this Salamanca win was the team score.

"I guess I can't complain," Morton said. "With so much to shoot for in a tournament like this, these kids came through. Hopefully now we'll be able to move some to states."

Leading Salamanca were senior champions Tom Mohr (28-7) at 132, Joe Bierfeldt (29-3) at 167, Myron Wilson (30-2) at 177 and Jess Wilson (30-1) at 215. Placing second were seniors Travis Boardman (28-4-1) at 126, Chris Printup (26-7) at 132 and Joe Strauss (26-9) at 138.

IN ALL, 57 WRESTLERS qualified for the Section 6 championship, including 16 from four Big 30 schools — eight from Salamanca, three apiece from Randolph and Gowanda, and two from Olean High.

Olean's two-time state titlist Jeff Prescott (33-0) kept his consecutive win string intact by capturing his fourth league championship. Now boasting a streak of 113 straight wins, Prescott walked off with the 112-pound title via a technical fall (17-2) win in 5:05 over Falconer sophomore Chad Waddington (22-6). Senior Bill Buckner (24-10-2) also advanced for Olean with a third at 126.

Also remaining unbeaten was Randolph junior Billy Young (33-0), a runner-up last year who became the school's first Division I-II champ by taking an 18-3 win over Boardman in the 126-pound finals. Young owns a career mark of 114-13-1.

Qualifying for the Section 6 meet, to be held Friday at Saturday at the University of Buffalo, were the top three finishers in each weight class and 15 wild-card selections, which included Gowanda freshman Jamie Kota (22-8) at 98 and senior Dan Kuslowski (21-4) at 126, and Randolph senior Brad Young (23-11) at 155.

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Overall, the 16-team tournament held few surprises with every top seed and 12 of the 14 second-seeded wrestlers advancing to the finals. The two second seeds that failed to make the championship finals — Salamanca's Eric Swiech (119) and Southwestern's Bob Ball (91) — placed third and fourth, respectively.

Swiech (28-5-1), who used a third-period escape and takedown to best Falconer's Brad Spencer in the consolation finals, was knocked out of the championship bracket in the semifinals, 9-8, on a last-second takedown by tournament Most Valuable Wrestler Joe Pagen of Dunkirk.

Pagen (11-1), who missed most of the season with a knee injury, then upended top-seeded Scott Joslyn (28-4) in the finals.

Other wild-card selections were Ripley's Paul Abate (112) and Dave Freeman (132), Randolph's Brad Young (155), Southwestern's Alan Higley (138), Bob Bennett (112) and John Guarnieri (119), Panama's Brent Jackson (145), Cassadaga Valley's John Penhollow (167) and Dennis Brown (119), Dunkirk's Tony Quiles (126) and Falconer's Spencer, Jim Caldwell (132) and Shawn Arrance (138).