

TC Sneaks 2 Titles from Ithaca

Mike Agone, Sullivan Win State Berths

By WARREN JONES

The Triple Cities will have two scrappy representatives in the first edition of the state inter-sectional high school wrestling competition at Cornell next Saturday.

Mike Agone of Union-Endicott, defending champion at 149 pounds, and Vestal's Ron Sullivan in the 169-pound class, scored hard-fought decisions in last night's Section 4 championship round at Vestal High to gain state berths.

Coach Harpo Turco's perennial Ithaca powerhouse, after losing one of a 7-man contingent in the afternoon semifinals, escaped the finals with four championships and an overwhelming team total of 84 points which left the rest of the 30-team field in awe.

Sidney finished a distant second with 52 points capturing only one individual championship that came on Gerry Stone's 3:55 pin of Chenango Forks' Jim Root in the 157-pound battle.

Only three local grapplers gained the finals off performances yesterday afternoon and Vestal's 107-pounder, Dick Smith lost a 10-4 decision to "sleeper" Dan Thompson of Horseheads in the second bout of the championship round.

In an opening match that triggered a noisy pace for the entire evening, Ithaca's Jake Benninger got undefeated Dave Rummel of Owego into a predicament in the closing seconds at 99 pounds for a 5-3 decision.

However, the Ithacans paid out a similar sum at 116 pounds as THEIR undefeated man, Jim Chester, was blanked, 6-0, by Dave Bush, the 107-pound champ of last year's meet.

DUE TO ITHACA'S heavy scoring in the afternoon semis, additions to the team score were anticlimatic, leaving only the bids for inter-sectional berths to spur Turco's crew.

Mike Turco scored a blistering 14-4 decision over Bill Adams of Chenango Forks at 124 pounds. Turco, unbeaten this season, was a sectional champion as a sophomore, but lost out in the semifinal round a year ago.

Vestal, with its one win and one defeat in the finals, made the best TC showing with a 42-point output good for fourth place. Union-Endicott's 35 points got eighth place. Binghamton North was 24th in the field with 9.

WIN OR LOSE, Ithaca's scrappy matmen were involved in most of the crowd-pleasing bouts of the night. The 131-pound battle was no exception as Mike Garside battled Owego's Tom Riley to a 1-1 tie in regulation time before losing on a referee's decision in overtime.

Another Ithaca roof-raiser followed at 137 with Richie Leonardo dumping Barry Sutter of Newark Valley, 2-1.

Dale Smith of Horseheads, with only a draw to blemish an unbeaten season record, took the 142-pound championship with a 3-1 decision over Phil Toner of Windsor.

Agone's successful defense of his 1962 crown at 149 came on a 5-2 decision over George Huson of Homer. Agone reached the semifinals with a pin, a forfeit, and a 12-1 decision in the preliminaries last week while Huson's credentials going into the afternoon competition were two preliminary pins and a 12-0 decision.

As one of only two Sidney men to gain the finals, Stone attained an unbeaten record at 157 with his pin of Root in that bout.

WHILE VESTAL'S SMITH hadn't been able to get up a full head of steam at 107, Sullivan had enough to get by in a tough 169-pound 5-3 decision over Waverly's Dave Schweiger.

A heat rematch developed at 184 pounds as Ithaca's Jerry Beach ground out a 3-2 decision over Elmira Southside's Tom Stuart, an opponent he had wrestled to a draw during the regular season.

Don Curtis, whose Bainbridge-Guilford team, was 10th in the field with 30 points, remained undefeated for the season with a 3:40 pin of Sidney's Terry Lambrecht.



ONLY SIDNEY-ITHACA MATCH A WILD ONE—Sidney and Ithaca, two of the most highly-regarded teams going into yesterday's Section 4 wrestling tournament at Vestal, met only once in the course of the semifinals. But this match, between undefeated Jim Chester of Ithaca, top, and Larry Dake of Sidney at 116 pounds was the real crowd pleaser of the afternoon as Chester finally pulled out a 3-0 overtime decision after a 5-5 tie in regulation.



ONLY WAY IS UP—Lonni Warner of Sidney, on his back to Vestal's Dave Smith during the 107-pound semifinals yesterday, is looking for a way out. He never got it and wound up on the short end of a 9-0 decision.

IF IT WASN'T like the old days for Ithaca, at least it was like two years ago at Owego when IHS rid itself of the yelping pursuers during the daylight hours by muscling seven men into the finals.

Ithaca came in with seven yesterday afternoon, and missed with only one in the semis. The closest to a slip came in the day's lone possible confrontation with Sidney: unbeaten Chester's 116-pound go with Larry Dake.

This one turned into something like the old Marigold Gardens TV whingdings before Chester finally quashed Dake in overtime—and with him Sidney's last real hope as a team.

Chester had a 5-1 lead in the third period when the fun began. Dake got an escape and after a few dance numbers, Chester was penalized (by former IHS great John Cracchi) another point for stalling, at which assessment coach Turco went into a windmill.

"The Sidney boy slapped my boy's face, and we get penalized," he explained his stand afterwards. To complete the pandemonium in the Sidney-jammed south stands, Dake got his take-down in the waning seconds to force the overtime, but Chester first escaped and then locked it up with a second-overtime predicament.

THE ONLY ITHACA victim in the semis was Ed Shippas, in a 169-pound overtime after time advantage caught him.

And the easiest advance was by 124-pounder Mike Turco, whose Elmira opponent was injured during the week. The forfeit, following Turco's three preliminary-round pins, sent him to the finals after only 3 minutes and 56 seconds on the mat.

After not a casualty among the 12 top seeds in all nearly-300 preliminaries last week and the first 19 semis, there were two at the close of the afternoon.

Art Ziegler of Greene, whose only loss had been to a Massena powerhouse in the Windsor Holiday Tournament, sprained an ankle during a slambang match with Vestal soph Sullivan and couldn't make it back within the

3-minute limit despite the taping efforts of coach Bob Bub and trainer Frank Chilletti.

THEN U-E FOOTBALL guard Mark Seliga was nearly pinned, and finally beaten 7-5 by fifth-seeded Terry Lambrecht of Sidney.

Owego's Tom Riley was the only unseeded man to make the finals, but Dave Schweiger of Waverly (who beat Shippas) was seventh-seeded.

Sullivan, a defensive end on last year's unbeaten football team was giving Ziegler a tremendous 4-4 scrap when Art tried to escape 30 seconds from the end of the third period, and had his ankle turn as Ron Sully succeeded in tripping him.

Had Lambrecht not won, Homer would have gone to the finals a point ahead of Sidney.



MIKE AGONE



RON SULLIVAN

SECTIONAL SUMMARIES

TEAM SCORES

Ithaca 84, Sidney 52, Homer 47, Vestal 43, ESS and Horseheads 41, Owego 40, Chenango Forks 37, U-E 35, Windsor 32, Bainbridge-Guilford 30, Waverly 22, Newark Valley 20, Dryden and EFA 17, Greene 16, Deposit and Groton 14, Union Springs 13, Maine-Endwell, Weedsport, and Whitney Point 12, Oxford, Walton, Elmira Heights, and Watkins Glen 11, Chenango Valley 10, Binghamton North 9, Edmeston 7, and Harpersville 4.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

99—Benninger (Ith.) dec. Rummel (Ow.), 5-3.
107—Thompson (HH) dec. Smith (V), 10-4.
116—Bush (Ho.) dec. Chester (Ith.), 6-0.
124—Turco (Ith.) dec. Adams (CF), 14-4.
130—Riley (Ow.) won referee's decision over Garside (Ith.) in double-overtime.
136—Leonardo (Ith.) dec. Sutter (NV), 2-1.
142—Smith (Hhds.) dec. Toner (Winds.) 3-1.
149—Agone (U-E) dec. Huson (Homer), 5-2.
157—Stone (Sid.) pinned Root (Ch. Forks), 3:55.
169—Sullivan (Ves.) dec. Schweiger (Wav.), 5-3.
184—Beach (Ith.) dec. Stuart (ESS), 3-2.
Unlimited—Curtis (Bain.) pinned Lambrecht (Sid.), 3:40.

SEMIFINALS

107-pound class—Dave Rummel (Ow.) dec. Jim Lord (B-G), 5-0; Jake Benninger (Ith.) dec. Dale Rumlund (Hds.), 4-0.
107—Dan Thompson (Hds) dec. Harry Congdon (Wind), 9-3; Dick Smith (V) dec. Lonni Warner (Sid), 9-0.
116—Dan Bush (Hds) pinned Bruce Evans (CF), 5:13, half nelson and crotch; Jim Chester (Ith) dec. Larry Dake (Sid) 3-0 in overtime, 5-5 regulation.
124—Mike Turco (Ith) won by forfeit over Tom Coggin (EFA); Bill Adams (CF) dec. Howard Harvey (ESS), 5-2.
130—Mike Garside (Ith) dec. Scott Coapman (Un Spgs), 7-3; Tom Riley (Ow) dec. John Sorochinsky (V), 8-3.
137—Larry Sutter (NV) dec. Dave Agone (U-E), 5-0; Richie Leonardo (Ith) pinned Brian Heisey (ESS), 2:43.
142—Dale Smith (Hds) dec. Claude Shaw (Sid), 9-3; Phil Toner (Wind) dec. Dick Baldwin (Homer), 4-0.
149—Mike Agone (U-E) dec. Gordon Reed (Sid), 8-4; George Huson (Homer) dec. Gary Camp (CF), 9-7.
158—Gerrie Stone (Sid) dec. Jim Kennedy (Dry), 10-3; Jim Root (CF) dec. Chuck Masterpaul (Homer), 3-2.
169—Ron Sullivan (V) won by default over Art Ziegler (Gr.) Ziegler unable to continue after 3d-period injury with match 4-4; Dave Schweiger (Wav) dec. Ed Shippas (Ith), 1-0 in overtime regulation 4-4.
184—Jerry Beach (Ith) dec. Steve Coles (Ow), 19-5; Tom Stuart (ESS) dec. Joe Konrad (U-E), 8-2.
Unlimited—Terry Lambrecht (Sid) dec. Mark Seliga (U-E), 7-5; Don Curtis (B-G) pinned Norm Baltimore (ESS), 5:43.

CONSOLATIONS

99—Rumlund (HH) won referee's decision over Lord (B-G).
107—Warner (Si.) dec. Congdon (Wi.), 7-0.
116—Evans (CF) dec. Dake (Si.), 4-2.
124—Harvey (ESS) won over Coggin (EFA) by forfeit.
131—Sorochinsky (V) dec. Coapman (U-E), 11-1.
137—Dave Agone (U-E) dec. Heisey (ESS), 11-4.
142—Baldwin (Ho.) dec. Shaw (Si.), 4-3.
149—Reed (Si.) dec. Camp (CF), 8-4.
157—Masterpaul (Ho.) dec. Kennedy (Dry.), 5-3.
169—Shippas (Ith.) won over Ziegler (Gr.) by forfeit.
184—Konrad (U-E) dec. Coles (Ow.), 7-3.
Unlimited—Baltimore (ESS) won over Seliga (U-E) by forfeit.