

IHS Section 4 Wrestling Kingpin Again

Ithaca High's wrestlers powered their way to a 15th Section 4 title in 16 years by a 32-point margin at Vestal Saturday and prepared to send four men to next Saturday's Intersectional meet.

Co-Capts. Mike Turco and Richie Leonardo, both seniors, and sophomores Jake Benninger and Jerry Beach, will represent Section 4 in the state-wide tournament at Barton Hall starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Little Red was only a whisker away from having another individual champion, as top-seeded 130-pounder Mike Garside lost an overtime final round match to Tom Riley of Owego by referees' decision.

Riley, the only unseeded man to make the finals, was warned twice for stalling during the match but still took the title on a split decision by the referees.

Ithaca 116-pounder Jim Chester also made the finals but, after a tough overtime match in the

TEAM SCORING		
	Pts	Pts
Ithaca	84	16
Sidney	52	14
Homer	47	14
Vestal	43	13
Elmira SS	41	12
Horseheads	41	12
Owego	40	12
Chen. Forks	37	11
Union-End.	35	11
Windsor	32	11
Bainbridge	30	11
Waverly	22	10
Newark Vall.	20	9
Dryden	17	7
Elmira FA	17	4

semifinals round, fell a 6-0 victim to top-seeded Dale Bush of Homer.

Sidney, only three points behind the Little Red at the beginning of the semi-final round, finished second with 52 points to Ithaca's unreachable 84.

The two squads started the afternoon about even, with Ithaca putting in seven men and Sidney six.

But Ed Shippas was the only Ithaca victim in the semifinals—and Waverly's Dave Schweiger needed overtime to decision Shippas, 1-0, after they had tied at 4-4 in regulation time.

Sidney lost four semifinals—one of them beaten by Ithaca's Chester. Chester, undefeated during the dual meet season, had a 5-1 lead over Sidney's Larry Dake in the 116-pound match going into the third period, but Dake caught up on an escape, a penalty and a takedown.

Chester beat him, 3-0, in overtime with an escape and a predicament.

Gerrie Stone, at 157, was the only Sidney titlist and heavyweight Terry Lambrecht took a second.

Homer was close behind in the team standings, with 47 points, as Bush took a title and George Huson took a second at 149.

Elmira Southside, in third place going into the semis, fell to a fifth-place tie with Horseheads at 41 points. Vestal was fourth with 43.

Dryden, whose Jim Kennedy took fourth at 157 pounds, finished 14th in the 30-team field and Groton finished in a 17th place tie with Deposit. Kennedy lost, 10-3, to Sidney's top-seeded Stone in the semifinal round and then, 5-3, to Homer's second-seeded Chuck Masterpaul in the consolation round.

Benninger, third-seeded at 99 pounds, downed Horseheads' Dale Rundell in the semifinals and then, in an exciting scrap, decisioned Owego's Dave Rummell, 5-3, for the title.

Turco, who spent only 3 minutes 56 seconds on the mat in winning three matches by pins in last week's preliminary round, advanced through the semifinals with a forfeit victory over Elmira Free Academy's Tom Coggin. He had to wrestle all 6 minutes of the final round, but whipped Chenango Fork's Bill Adams, 14-4.

Leonardo, the second seed at 136, pinned Southside's Brian Heisey in 2:43 and then upset top-seeded Barry Sutter of Newark Valley in a narrow 2-1 final bout.

At 184 pounds, the top-seeded Beach ran up a 19-5 score over Owego's Steve Coles in the afternoon and then also had a closer fight in the evening, downing Southside's Tom Stuart, 3-2.

"It was an upward climb," said Coach Orlando Turco, whose squad had a perfect 11-0 dual meet record and won the Windsor Tournament.

A year ago, after 14 straight sectional titles, Ithaca finished fifth as a powerful Chenango Forks outfit took first.

Top seeds failed to win titles in four weight classes—99, 130, 136 and heavyweight.

Ithacans were responsible for two of these cases, with Benninger overturning Rummell at 99 and Leonardo outfighting Sutter at 136.

Ithaca in turn was an upset victim at 130, where top-seeded Mike Garside lost the referees' split decision.

Mark Seliga of Union-Endicott, top-seeded heavyweight, was a semifinal round casualty. He lost to Sidney's Lambrecht, 7-5. Seliga did not appear for the consolation round.

Coach Turco quickly turned his attention back to the intersectionals, a brand new tournament this year and one Turco has been spending a great deal of time on in his role as local chairman.

Besides Ithaca's four titlists, Dan Thompson and Dale Smith of Horseheads, Bush of Homer, Riley of Owego, Mike Agone of U-E, Stone of Sidney, Ron Sullivan of Vestal and Don Curtis of Bainbridge will represent Section 4 at the tourney. Agone is 149-pound champ for the second straight year.

- The summaries:
- FINALS**
- 99—Jake Benninger, Ithaca, defeated Dave Rummell, Owego, 5-3.
 - 107—Dan Thompson, Horseheads, decisioned Dick Smith, Vestal, 10-4.
 - 116—Dale Bush, Homer, defeated Jim Chester, Ithaca, 6-0.
 - 124—Mike Turco, Ithaca, defeated Bill Adams, Chenango Forks, 14-4.
 - 130—Tom Riley, Owego, defeated Mike Garside, Ithaca, referee's decision after overtime.
 - 136—Richie Leonardo, Ithaca, defeated Barry Sutter, Newark Valley, 2-1.
 - 142—Dale Smith, Horseheads, defeated Phil Toner, Windsor, 3-1.
 - 149—Mike Agone, Union-Endicott, defeated George Huson, Homer, 5-2.
 - 157—Gerrie Stone, Sidney, pinned Jim Root, Chenango Forks in 3:55.
 - 169—Ron Sullivan, Vestal, defeated Dave Schweiger, Waverly, 5-3.
 - 184—Jerry Beach, Ithaca, defeated Tom Stuart, Elmira Southside, 3-2.
 - Heavyweight—Don Curtis, Bainbridge, pinned Terry Lambrecht, Sidney, in 3:40.

- CONSOLATIONS**
- 99—Rundell, Horseheads, defeated Lord, Bainbridge, referee's decision after overtime.
 - 107—Warner, Sidney, defeated Congdon, Windsor, 7-0.
 - 116—Evans, Chenango Forks, defeated Dake, Sidney, 4-2.
 - 124—Harvey, Elmira Southside, defeated Coggin, Elmira Free Academy, won by forfeit.
 - 131—Sorochinsky, Vestal, defeated Coapman, Union Springs, 11-1.
 - 137—Dave Agone, Union-Endicott, defeated Heisey, Elmira Southside, 11-4.
 - 142—Baldwin, Homer, defeated Shaw, Sidney, 4-3.
 - 149—Reed, Sidney, defeated Camp, Chenango Forks, 8-4.
 - 157—Masterpaul, Homer, defeated Kennedy, Dryden, 5-3.
 - 169—Shippas, Ithaca, defeated Zeigler, Greene, by forfeit.
 - 184—Konrad, Union-Endicott, defeated Coles, Owego, 7-3.
 - Heavyweight—Baltimore, Elmira Southside, defeated Seliga, Union-Endicott, by forfeit.

- SEMIFINALS**
- 99—Rummell, Owego, defeated Lord, Bainbridge, 5-0; Benninger, Ithaca, defeated Rundell, Horseheads, 4-0.
 - 107—Thompson, Horsehead, defeated Congdon, Windsor, 16-4; Dick Smith, Vestal, defeated Warnery, Sidney, 9-0.
 - 116—Bush, Horseheads, pinned Evans, Chenango Forks in 5:13; Chester, Ithaca, defeated Dake, Sidney, 3-0, in overtime.
 - 124—Turco, Ithaca, defeated Coggin, Elmira Free Academy, by forfeit; Adams, Chenango Forks, defeated Harvey, Elmira Southside, 5-2.
 - 131—Garside, Ithaca, defeated Coapman, Union Springs, 7-3; Riley, Owego, defeated Sorochinsky, Vestal, 8-3.
 - 136—Sutter, Newark Valley, defeated Agone, Union-Endicott, 5-0; Leonardo, Ithaca, pinned Heisey, Elmira Southside, in 2:43.
 - 142—Smith, Horseheads, defeated Shaw, Sidney, 9-3; Toner, Windsor, defeated Baldwin, Homer, 4-0.
 - 149—Mike Agone, Union-Endicott, defeated Reed, Sidney, 8-4; Huson, Homer, defeated Camp, Chenango Forks, 9-7.
 - 158—Stone, Sidney, defeated Kennedy, Dryden, 10-3; Root, Chenango Forks, defeated Masterpaul, Homer, 3-2.
 - 169—Sullivan, Vestal, won by default over eZigler, Greene; Schweiger, Waverly, defeated Shippas, Ithaca, 1-0, in overtime.
 - 184—Beach, Ithaca, defeated Cole, Owego, 19-5; Stuart, Elmira Southside, defeated Konrad, Union-Endicott, 8-2.
 - Heavyweight—Lambrecht, Sidney, defeated Seliga, Union-Endicott, 7-5; Curtis, Bainbridge, pinned Baltimore, Elmira Southside, in 5:43.

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ITHACA HIGH Section 4 wrestling champions are (from left), first row, Capt. Mike Turco and Jerry Beach; second row, Richie Leonardo and Jake Benninger.

—Ken Jones