

ER wrestlers continue their dominance on the mats

◇ Bombers roll past Pittsford, McQuaid to improve record to 7-1.

By Dave Winters
Messenger Post Staff

The holiday season has brought some pretty impressive gifts for the East Rochester wrestling team.

Some of their holiday presents include victories over Pittsford and McQuaid and a second-place trophy from the Fredonia Dual Meet Tournament.

But the best gift of them all, a near flawless record that is the direct result of having a full compliment of wrestlers in the lineup this season.

Last season, gaps in the lineup caused the coaching staff to forfeit several matches and handing over valuable points that swayed the majority of the dual meets in favor of the Bombers' opponents.

"Having a full squad is great," ER coach Jason Bovenzi said. "The kids have worked very hard to help build the program back up."

ER (2-0 league, 7-1 overall) helped solidify their goal of "reviving a once formidable and proud tradition" as described in the team's handbook with a 45-21 victory over McQuaid Saturday.

The Bombers grabbed a sizable lead after claiming victories in the first five matches, including three by pin.

Senior Tim Sampsell (112 pounds) won by fall in 5:02, sophomore Josh Pescini (119) needed less than two minutes to win by pin and sophomore Greg Mouso (130) rebounded from an slow start to win by fall in 4:58.

The turning point of the match, according to Bovenzi, came from performances by Mouso and junior Steve Loughlin,

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who struggled through the first period only to bounce back for a 13-6 victory.

"The kids they wrestled were very good," Bovenzi said. "To battle back from slow starts was very important because it helped the team gain some confidence."

Sophomore Pat Van Thof and senior Jeremy Frohm won by technical fall at 171 and 189 pounds, respectively, for the Bombers. In the quickest match of the meet, junior Rick Essom remained undefeated after winning by fall in 1:35 at 145 pounds.

Junior Josh Couture lost a 6-0 decision at 140 pounds while juniors Justin Hart (135) and Mike Wegman (152) each lost their respective matches by fall.

ER, which forfeited the 215-pound weight class, won by forfeit at 103 and 160 pounds.

Last Wednesday, the Bombers secured a 42-25 win over host Pittsford as two straight pins by 160 and 171 pounds propelled ER to the victory.

At 160 pounds, Van Thof recorded a fall over Tyler Swanson in 1:30. Frohm followed that with a pin in 1:28 over Justin Holt. Those two consecutive pins proved to be the difference for ER.

"They help solidify the upper weight classes, especially against a tough Pittsford team," Bovenzi said.

Pescini, who defeated Matt Wukovitz in 3:12 at 119 pounds, garnered the team's first points of the match.

Loughlin followed up at 125 pounds with a victory over Sean Kelly in 1:46.

It was a historic night for Pittsford's Troy Forte, who recorded his 200th career win in the 130-pound match.

Senior Shane Sallerson need just under five minutes to claim the win at 135 pounds, defeating Lonnie Reaves in 4:52. Couture won by forfeit at 140 pounds.

Essom, who simply overwhelmed Pittsford's John Clark in every facet of the match, won by pin in 5:55 in the 145-pound weight class.

Sophomore Steve Cragg (152), senior Louis Andres (215) and Sampsell (112), lost their respective matches.

The opening match provided some tense moments for both sides at 103 pounds as Pittsford's Jason Borshoff executed a five-point move trailing by three points with 20 seconds left in regulation to grab a 9-7 victory over freshman Thien Lee.

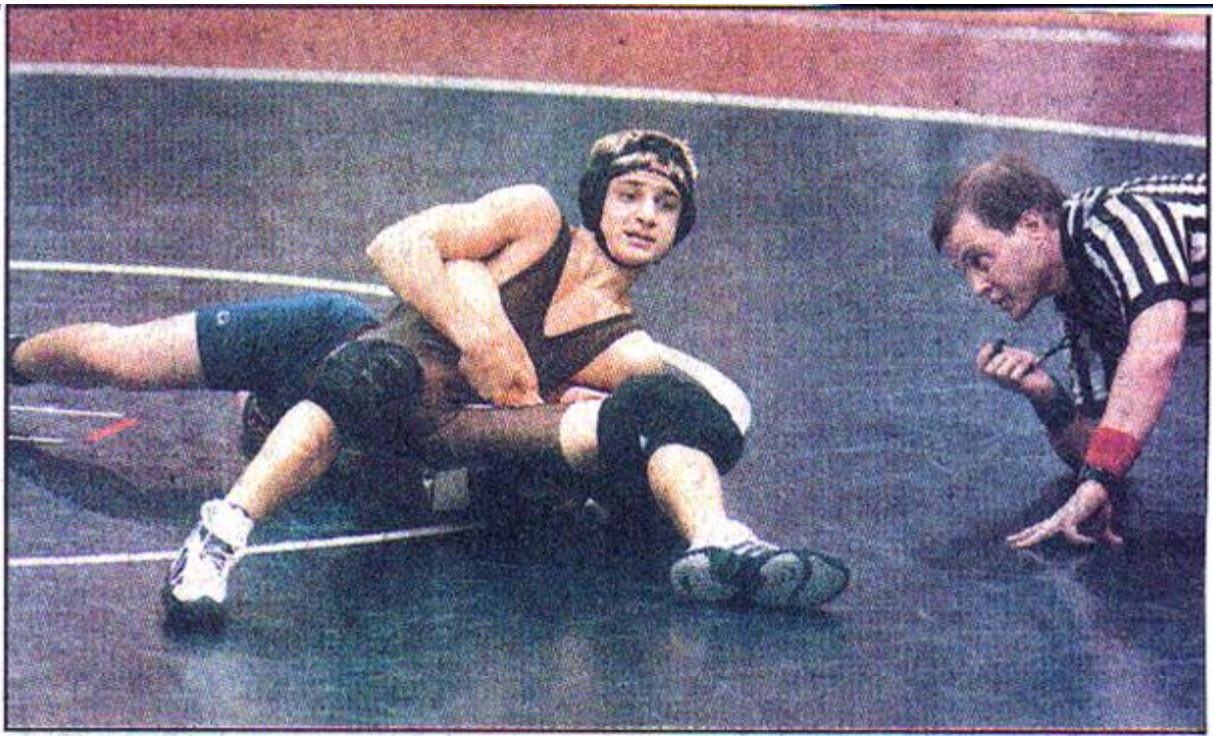
Pittsford's Mike Lynn won by forfeit at 189 pounds.

On Dec. 9, the Bombers placed second at the Fredonia Dual Meet Tournament.

ER, which lost to Holley 51-30 in the championship, defeated Southwestern 47-30 in the opening round of the tournament. They followed that with a 46-21 victory over Jamestown, a 55-15 win over Lakeshore and 57-24 victory over Fredonia.

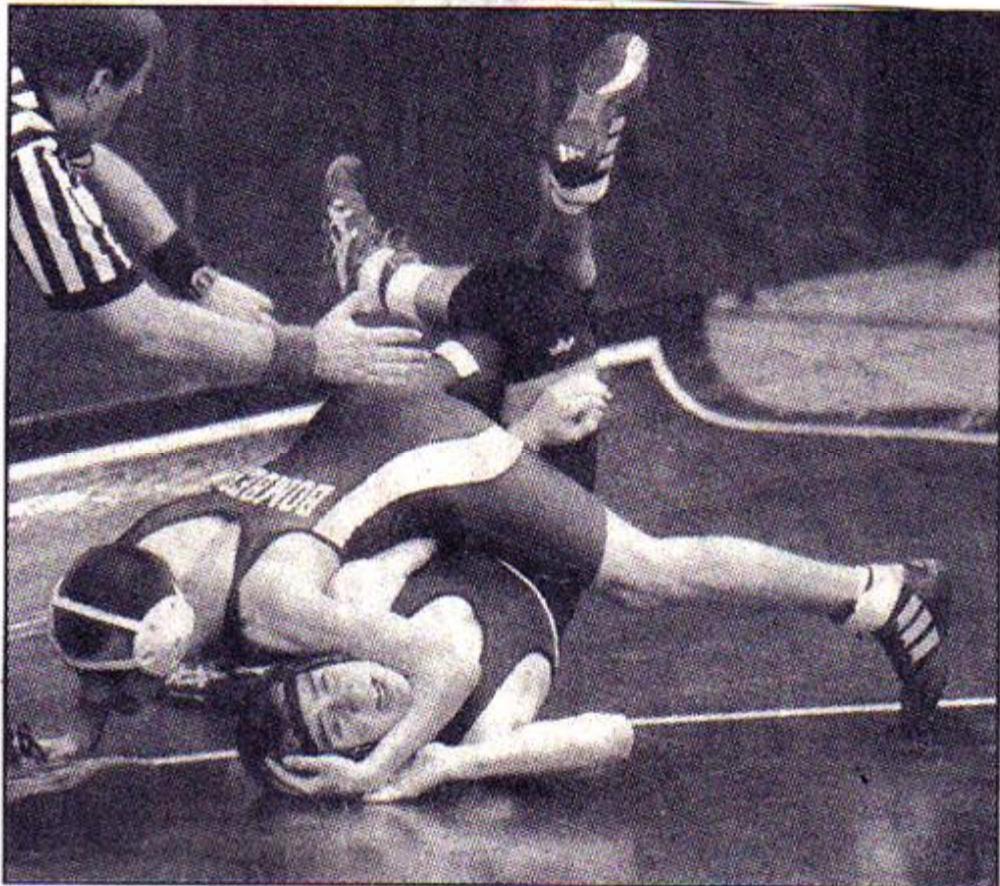
The Bombers will host Brighton in a dual meet beginning at 6:30 tonight in the high school gymnasium then head to Penfield as the junior varsity competes in the Christmas Tournament slated to start at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The varsity team returns to action on Dec. 28-29 for the Genesee Valley Tournament at Genesee High School.



STAFF PHOTO/TOM MURPHY

Junior Steve Loughlin, at 125 pounds, gets Pittsford's Sean Kelly in a headlock as East Rochester claimed a 42-25 victory.



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Josh Pescini ties up Pittsford's Matt Wukovitz at 119 pounds as Rescini won by fall in 3:12.