

Rockland Wrestlers Sweep 9 Section Titles

Sullivan Upsets Giles, Named Outstanding

By SAM BASSON

Rockland County wrestlers, as far as Section 9 competition is concerned, are the Greatest! History repeated itself in the Section 9 tourney at New City, Saturday, when the Rockland grapplers again dominated by sweeping nine titles in the meet.

In 1963, the first year of the wrestling sectional, Rockland gathered ten crowns in twelve classes. This year, another weight category, the unlimited (for wrestlers weighing 235 lbs. or over) was added to the competition.

Saturday's meet was the first sectional held in Rockland County. Richie Sullivan of Haverstraw, who defeated Nyack's sturdy Arnie Giles in the 168 lb. class, was voted the Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Two Rocklanders, Howie McMillan, Suffern, 130, and John Harvey Nyack, 157, retained their sectional titles won a year ago. Erich Watts, Suffern, who had taken the 98 lb. crown last year, and has since moved into the 106 lb. bracket, successfully earned the heavier class top honor.

In the finals, Rockland annexed the first six weight titles before stepping out of the picture. Both the 141 and 148 lb. crowns went upstate but the Rocklands re-entered the limelight by copping the remaining titles except for the 183 lb. and unlimited. The unlimited title went to Tom Meyers, Liberty who pinned Clarence Decker, Monticello, in 3:23. These two were the only entries in the unlimited class.

Liberty captured the 141, 183 lb. and unlimited finals. Port Jervis' Charles Bayer won the 148 lb. title.

Three For Raiders

Haverstraw mentor, Don Daniels, had several lightweights in action and, at times, had to guide three performers on the mats at once. He came up with three champions, Roman Rodriguez, 115, Craig Ketchum, 123, and Rich Sullivan, 168.

Coach Guy Guccione, whose Mounties secured five titles in the same tourney last season, entered two competitors this year and won with both. Eric Watts, the cleverest and most successful entrant, won the 106, Howie McMillan again took the 130 title.

Pearl River, Spring Valley, Nyack and Nanuet acquired one county titleholder in the competition, Keith Jones, 183, who was eliminated in the semi finals by the subsequent title winner, Tom Reed, Liberty. It was the first time Clarkstown had failed to take a Sectional crown.

In the 98, 106 and 123 lb. classes, the finalists were all Rocklanders. Ray Ahrens, Pearl River's 98 lb. champ, began with a pin over Kevin Mullally, Liberty, in 2:58 and had little trouble with Rick Woschowski, Cornwall, in gaining a 9-2 decision. Rick gained third place by winning in overtime, 2-0, over Richard Santiago, Port Jervis.

Ahrens struggled with Mike Rodriguez, Haverstraw, in the final and obtained the winning 6-4 edge in the last nine seconds. Mike started his trek with a pin, and then decided Santiago, 2-0, in overtime, before reaching Ahrens for the title shot.

Delights Fans

Fans were amazed and delighted with the finesse of Eric Watts, Suffern, 106, who pinned his first opponent, Dennis George, Rondout Valley, in 1:50 and Mike Grossman, Liberty, in 59 seconds. Watts, unbeaten

this year, faced Bill Funcheon, Haverstraw in the final. It was their twelfth meeting. Eric had pinned Funcheon for the first time in a dual meet at Haverstraw but, prior to that, had never beaten Funcheon by more than a two point margin.

His arm swathed in tape and bandage, Eric decided Funcheon, 4-0, to gain the section title. Funcheon eased Charles Timburger, Valley Central, out of the competition, 2-0, and pinned Gary Holgate, Onteora, in 5 minutes to gain the finals. Watts' showing was by far the most talented display of the meet. He will probably move into the 115 lb. class in his next, and last school year.

Bill Oliver, Port Jervis, 115, ousted John Ackerson, Suffern, out of the tourney as the first Rockland casualty. Oliver met Roman Rodriguez for the 115 lb. title. Roman eliminated Larry Grossman, Liberty, and Steve Koldish, Rondout Valley, on decisions.

In a thriller, Rodriguez tallied three points in the third period to take the winners' plaque.

Craig Ketchum, Haverstraw, took all three of his bouts in decisions to win the 123 lb. championship. He bested Jerry Rickard, Pearl River, in the final.

Gaining the semi final without a struggle, Howie McMillan, Suffern, had a rough time subduing Harry Martine, Middletown, in the 130 lb. matches. Howie engaged Mike Drapala, Port Jervis, in a rousing contest to win the crown in the last 47 seconds, 8-4.

Overtime Bout

One Rockland entrant, Jerry Leo, Nanuet, reached the top in the 136 lb. bouts. John Eng-Suffern, lost in the quarter finals to Jim Wentink, Cornwall, who gained second ranking. Leo pinned Gene Rose, Middletown, in 3:35 and downed Mike Purvis, Cornwall, 6-3. In overtime, Leo won 1-0, and the crowd greeted the bout's ending with applause. Wentink's showed strong desire and considerable skill.

Alan Gordon, Nyack, was eliminated in the first round by Dave McKay, Newburgh, in the 141 lb. bouts. Rickie Cole, Nanuet, won by 6-0, and then fell victim to Tom Lewis, Liberty, in a titanic struggle, 9-7. Lewis had a hectic finale with Dick Dickoven, Goshen, before winning, 8-7.

Champion Charles Bayer, Port Jervis, got his title by winning a close 5-4 decision over Bill Styling, Pearl River, in the 148 lb. division.

One of the best attractions was John Harvey's title winning effort over Tom Auringer, Kingston, in the final. Harvey, Nyack's ace, and county 157 lb. champ, had a 2-2 rating in the first period. He went ahead on escapes in the next two rounds but Auringer closed the gap and almost pinned the Nyacker before Harvey's first two opponents failed to sound. Harvey's first two opponents failed to sound.

Richie Sullivan, Haverstraw, 168, blanked his first two victims and then engaged Arnie Giles in the final. Giles, winner of 11 bouts this season, won last week in the county meet. Sullivan scored with a reverse and took a 4-0 lead with six seconds left.

Both Keith Jones, Clarkstown, and Mark Baretz, Spring Valley, reached the semis where both met defeat. Tom Reed, Liberty, decided Jones and then defeated Ken Johnson, Newburgh, 3-0, for the 183 lb. plaque. Johnson pinned Baretz in the consolation.

In the heavyweight class, Rich Schumacher, Suffern, pinned Sherm Kimmeller, Cornwall, in 3:40 and Spring Valley's Ed Cable disposed of Gardner, Port Jervis, by an 8-4 decision. Schumacher lost to Howard Travis, Liberty, who pinned Schumacher in 5:50.

Several athletes were hindered by muscle ailments including losers Arnie Giles and Keith Jones. . . Watts, Cable, McMillan and others appeared with arms and bodies taped. . . Host Joe Tacchino and his fine staff of varsity members were most accommodating and efficient. . . Again, Sectional Chairman Rudy Rejolec and Joe McDowell, clerk of the meet, had matters running smoothly. Ken Brown, Kingston, aided in the successful operation. . .

98 lb.
Quarter finals: Rick Woschowski, Corn, dec. Jerry Johnson, Ell, 12-6. Ray Ahrens, PR, pin Kevin Mullally, Lib, 2:58. Mike Rodriguez, H, pin Fred Albrecht, Mont, 1:06. Rich Santiago, Port, dec. Dennis Giliaries, Gosh, 2-0.
Semi finals: Ahrens, dec. Woschowski, 9-2. Rodriguez dec. Santiago, 2-0, overtime.
Consolation: Woschowski dec. Santiago, 2-0, overtime.
Final: Ahrens dec. Rodriguez, 6-4.

106 lb.
Quarter finals: Eric Watts, S, pin Dennis George, Ron, 1:50. Mike Grossman, Lib, dec. Jim Giliaries, Gosh, 4-0. Gary Holgate, Ont, pin Steve Drapala, Port, Bill Funcheon, H, Charles Timberger, VC, 2-0. Semi finals: Watts pin Grossman, 0:59. Funcheon pin Holgate, 5:00.
Consolation: Grossman pin Holgate.
Final: Watts dec. Funcheon, 4-0.

115 lb.
Quarter finals: Bill Oliver, Port, dec. Andy Masezky, Ell, 4-0. John Ackerson, S, dec. Tom Donnelly, VC, 9-2. Steve Koldish, Ron, dec. Roger Caudy, Corn. Roman Rodriguez, H, dec. Larry Grossman, Lib, 4-0.
Semi finals: Rodriguez dec. Koldish, 2-0. Oliver dec. Ackerson, 4-1.
Consolation: Ackerson dec. Koldish, 2-0.
Final: Rodriguez dec. Oliver, 3-0.

123 lb.
Quarter finals: Ken Larkin, Corn, won by default from John Krieger, Ell, Craig Ketchum, H, dec. Fred Hurd, Newb, 3-0. Jerry Rickard, PR, dec. Charles George, Ron 6-0. Ken Rysinger, Gosh, dec. George Ector, K, 1-0.
Semi finals: Ketchum dec. Larkin, 5-1. Rickard dec. Rysinger, 6-5.
Consolation: Rysinger pin Larkin, 4:57.
Final: Ketchum dec. Rickard, 5-0.

130 lb.
Quarter finals: Howie McMillan, S, won by default from Abe Pantel, Falls, Harry Martine, Mid, dec. Rich Celly, Corn, 6-0. Mike Drapala, Port, dec. Myron Baker, Ron, 4-2. Barry Gelman, H, dec. Al Scarth, Gosh, 6-2.
Semi finals: McMillan dec. Martine, 6-5. Drapala pin Gelman, 5:10.
Consolation: Gelman pin Martine, 4-0.
Final: McMillan dec. Drapala, 8-4.

136 lb.
Quarter finals: Richie Kavan, K, pin John Young, Ell, pin 0:33. Jim Wentink, Corn, dec. John Eng, S, 4-2. Mike Purvis, Corn, dec. Chris Downs, Ron, 6-3. Jerry Leo, Na, pin Gene Rose, Mid, 3:35.
Semi finals: Wentink pin Kavan, 2:35. Leo dec. Purvis, 5-1.
Consolation: Kavan dec. Purvis, 7-4.
Final: Leo dec. Wentink, 1-0, overtime.

141 lb.
Quarter finals: Dick Dickoven, Gosh, default. Dave McKay, Newb, dec. Alan Gordon, Ny, 7-4. Rickie Cole, Na, dec. Wes Kissen, Ont, 6-0. Tom Lewis, Lib, dec. Paul Cook, VC, 6-0.
Semi finals: Dickoven pin McKay, 5:45. Lewis dec. Cole, 6-2.
Consolation: McKay pin Cole.
Final: Lewis dec. Dickoven, 8-7.

148 lb.
Quarter finals: Bill Styling, PR, dec. Rick Doran, Ont, 5-4. Charles Bayer, Port, dec. Mike Connolly, Corn, 3-0. Harry Craig, Ron, dec. Tom Bechfield, King, 6-0. Ken Simons, S, dec. Pat Tursi, MW, 14-0.
Semi finals: Bayer dec. Styling, 5-2. Simons dec. Craig, 11-9.
Consolation: Styling dec. Craig, 8-7.
Final: Bayer dec. Simons, 4-1.

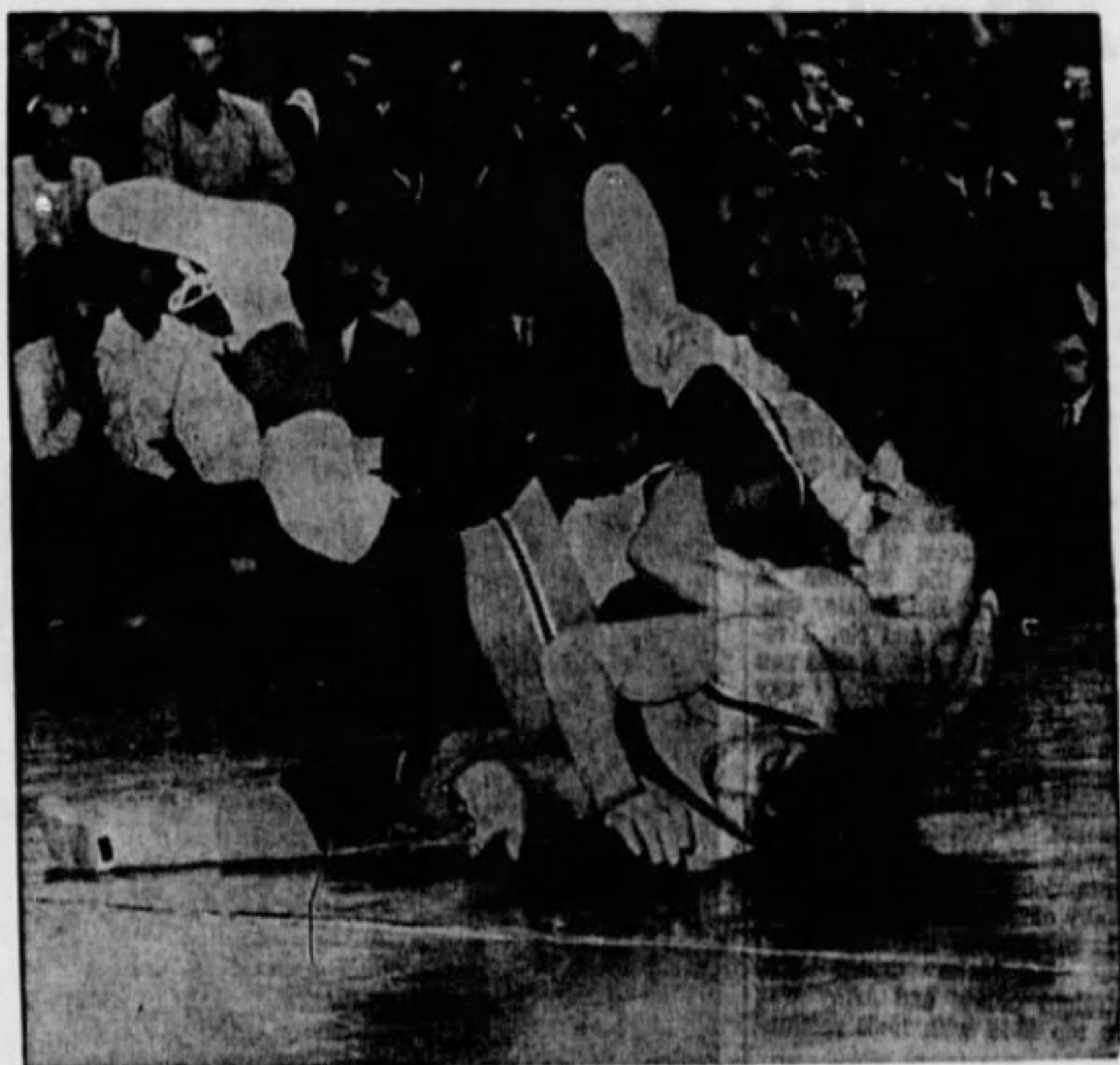
157 lb.
Quarter finals: Tom Auringer, K, dec. Mark Haas, Ont, 11-8. Wayne Frahn, PR, dec. Harmon Mansburger, MW, 19-0. Bob Anderson, Ron, pin Mike Sillings, Corn, 4:37. John Harvey, Ny, dec. John Meyers, Lib, 6-0.
Semi finals: Auringer dec. Frahn, 7-1. Harvey dec. Anderson, 7-0.
Consolation: Anderson dec. Frahn, 5-2.
Final: Harvey dec. Auringer, 8-4.

168 lb.
Quarter finals: Pete Orhrlich, Corn, pin Steve Holton, Ell, 4:34. Arnie Giles, Ny, pin Henry Williams, Lib, 1:35. Richie Sullivan, H, dec. Chet Bradhead, Ron, 4-0. Tim McGuire, Mid, dec. Clarence Kennedy, Gosh, 3-3.
Semi finals: Giles pin Gehrich, 1:35. Sullivan dec. McGuire, 5-3.
Consolation: Gehrich dec. McGuire, 6-4.
Final: Sullivan dec. Giles, 4-0.

183 lb.
Quarter finals: Keith Jones, C, pin Terry Bennett, Mont, 3:45. Tom Reed, Lib, dec. Gary Herdman, Corn, 4-0. Ken Johnson, Newb, pin Mike Oza, Ont, 3:25. Mark Baretz, SV, dec. Stan Kagan, NW, 2-0.
Semi finals: Reed dec. Jones, 5-2. Johnson dec. Baretz, 3-0.
Consolation: Jones pin Baretz, 5:00.
Final: Reed dec. Johnson, 4-3.

Heavyweight
Quarter finals: Howard Travis, Lib, dec. Alan Bartlett, Ell, 7-1. Rich Schumacher, S, pin Sherm Kimmeller, Corn, 3:40. Al Shaw, Ron, pin Vin Smalione, Corn, 5:30. Ed Cable, SV, dec. George Gardner, Port, 8-4.
Semi finals: Travis pin Schumacher, 5:50. Cable pin Shaw, 4:29.
Consolation: Schumacher dec. Shaw.
Final: Cable dec. Travis, 5-4.

Unlimited
Final: Tom Meyers, Lib, pin Clarence Decker, Mont, 3:23.
Officials: Revon, Methen, Israel. Abbreviations: Corn, Cornwall; Ell, Ellenville; PR, Pearl River; Lib, Liberty; H, Haverstraw; Mont, Monticello; Gosh, Goshen; Port, Port Jervis; Na, Nanuet; Ny, Nyack; SV, Spring Valley; S, Suffern; Ron, Rondout Valley; Ont, Onteora; VC, Valley Central; Newb, Newburgh; Free Academy, K, Kingston; Falls, Fallsburgh; Mid, Middletown; MW, Monroe Woodbury; C, Clarkstown.



RE-RUN. Suffern's Eric Watts and Billy Funcheon of Haverstraw proved to be the two best 106 pound wrestlers in Section 9 Saturday and had to repeat their bout of a week previous when they grappled for the county title. The results were the same as Watts gained a 4-0 decision over the Red Raider lightweight. — Staff Photo, Dineen



TOPS IN TOURNEY. Haverstraw's Richie Sullivan, center, appears to be taking a much-needed rest as he accepts the outstanding wrestler trophy from Ken Brown of Kingston, right, as Raider Coach Don Daniels, left, looks on approvingly. Sullivan reversed the results of his match with Nyack's Arnie Giles in the county meet a week ago to win the 168 crown in the Section 9 tournament at Clarkstown Saturday. — Staff Photo, Dineen