

# ★ advance in Sec. 6 meet

## Pioneer's Torrico pulls biggest surprise

By TOM ROOF

□ The Times Herald

AMHERST — The Big 30 has picked a big time to step forward.

Of the 23 area wrestlers who qualified for this weekend's Section 6 Championships here at Sweet Home High School, 16 made it through the first round Friday night to advance to this morning's quarterfinals.

Few of them, though, took as big a step as unheralded and unseeded Billy Torrico of Pioneer.

Wrestling in the 105-pound class along with three other Big 30 wrestlers, all of whom advanced, Torrico stunned third-seeded Conor Gallagher of Williamsville South with an impressive six take-down, 15-7, rout.

Not a bad opening for a sophomore who had wrestled most of the season on Pioneer's junior varsity.

"BILLY HAS never lacked in talent," explained Pioneer coach Ron Brunner, "it was just that he was sort of stuck in the same weight classes as Caleb (Brittain) and Ryan McGuire."

Last weekend, however, Brunner decided to enter Torrico in the Eric County Division I-II qualifier, taking advantage of a rule which allows a team to enter 14 wrestlers, including two at the same weight class.

And though he had wrestled just five matches during the regular season, losing three, it was a move that turned out big for Torrico — who went on to the finals before losing to teammate Brittain.

"Billy had done well the team, so we thought he was ready for another level of competition," said Brunner. "And he didn't prove us wrong."

**MEANWHILE,** Brittain topped Akron's Rich Files, 12-2, in his 105-pound opener to run his record to 34-0. Also advancing at 105 were Portville eighth-grader John DeBarbieri and Olean High sophomore Anthony Mariani (bye), who meets Brittain this morning.

DeBarbieri, whose 26-12 record is the winningest ever for a Portville eighth-grader, dominated Eden's Dave Woodworth, 14-0, in the first round.

It gets tougher today for DeBarbieri, who earned a match against second-seeded and Southern Tier League champ Jason Burch (29-4). Only a week ago Burch pinned DeBarbieri in the second period.

"John's done well, but the problem he has with Burch is the size difference," said his father and coach Mike DeBarbieri. "He can't get balled up and get caught in the cradle like he did last week. But

he's so much smaller than Burch that's a hazard ... Burch is so much taller and has those long arms to quickly lock the cradle on his opponents."

Of Portville's six qualifiers, the only other Panther to survive was 138-pound junior Ryan Jordan.

Now 35-5, Jordan scored a take-down and a reversal to edge Newfane's Jeremy Wilson, 4-0.

**ALSO ADVANCING** were McGuire (98), Franklinville's Kyle Sweet (98), Chad Caros (112) and Louis Szabo (132), Olean High's Matt Lindamer (119) and Jeff Reisner (250), Allegany's Matt Amore (132), Frank Anastasia (145) and Erich Crisafulli (155), and Salamanca's Chauncey Brace (177) and Bob Breazeale (215).

Brace had to work hard to defend his No. 1 ranking against Pine Valley's Rich Chase, not putting the match away until the final minute with a three-point nearfall in a 6-2 win.

"I really wasn't in the groove," said the Warriors' senior. "It was too long of a wait today and I couldn't get warmed up ... I just didn't feel as good as I should out there."

Brace (30-5) meets Jamestown's Andy Benson in the quarterfinals.

Lindamer, meanwhile, had little problem with Pine Valley's 25-match winner Dennis Stein.

The Olean senior, 32-0 and



seeded second, recorded five takedowns and a nearfall en route to a 15-3 decision to set up a quarterfinal-round bout with Royalton-Hartland's Jason Trumbley.

Crisafulli also had an easy time, picking up his 30th win with a 19-3 technical fall in 4:05 over Panama's Billy O'Dell (18-10).

Caros (21-3) won the only matchup of two Big 30 wrestlers, ousting Portville senior Alan St. Clair (31-9), 9-2, on the strength of four takedowns.

Caros is one of only two returning champions, the other being Falconer's two-time titlist Jacob Schaus, last week's Southern Tier Most Outstanding Wrestler, who pinned Williamsville's Adam Falcone in 1:51. Schaus meets Anastasia this evening, while Caros goes against Southwestern's Lee Lindstrom (23-1).

Among the other Big 30 qualifiers, Olean 98-pounder Shane Simpson took top-seeded Brad Rowe (27-1), of Ripley, to the limit. Simpson (24-13), trailed just 4-3 with 16 seconds left before Rowe pulled out a five-point move off a desperation takedown attempt by the Huskie freshman.

Olean's Jeff Henning breezed to

a 17-2 pigtail win over East Aurora's Todd Evans before falling to Newfane's third-seeded and Niagara-Orleans League champ, Keith Jones, in 3:17.

Results of the Big 30 and Southern Tier League qualifiers:

#### First Round

- 91: Judah Hein (Sweet Home) 2-0 Joe Sweet (Franklinville).
- 98: Brad Rowe (Ripley) 9-3 Shane Simpson (Olean); Craig Waldeck (Niagara-Wheatfield) 10-4 Jason Hoffmire (Portville); Kyle Sweet (Franklinville) 8-4 Nick Schmitt (Eden); Ryan McGuire (Pioneer) 2:48 John Molly (Frewsburg).
- 105: Caleb Brittain (Pioneer) 12-2 Rich Files (Akron); Anthony Mariani (Olean) bye; Bill Torrico (Pioneer) 15-7 Conor Gallagher (Will. South); John DeBarbieri (Portville) 14-0 Dave Woodworth (Eden).
- 112: Chad Caros (Franklinville) 9-2 Alan St. Clair (Portville).
- 119: Matt Lindamer (Olean) 15-3 Dennis Stein (Gene Valley).
- 121: Keith Jones (Newfane) 3:17 Jeff Henning (Olean).
- 122: Matt A. (Allegany) bye; Louis Szabo (Franklinville) bye; Anthony Cusimone (Jamestown) 11-6 Devon Callahan (Portville).
- 138: Ryan Jordan (Portville) 4-0 Jermei Wilson (Newfane).
- 145: Frank Anastasia (Allegany) bye.
- 155: Erich Crisafulli (Allegany) 19-3 Billy O'Dell (Panama).
- 177: Chauncey Brace (Salamanca) 6-2 Rich Chase (Panama).
- 215: Bob Breazeale (Salamanca) 8-4 Fred Huff (Niagara Falls); Keith Hansen (Cheektowaga) 7-1 Jess McFall (Portville).
- 250: Jeff Reisner (Olean) bye.