

# Hornell's Battone avenges a mat defeat

By TOM FITZGERALD

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All the nights of hitchhiking 12 miles home after wrestling practice have paid off for Hornell's John Battone.

He avenged his loss to Chuck Giordano of Greece Olympia last week by handing the previously unbeaten senior a 1-0 overtime defeat yesterday in the finals of the state qualifier at the War Memorial.

"I had to win it for my dad," said Battone, a 167-pounder who will join the other 13 champions from Section 5 at the state meet in Syracuse next week.

"My dad (Tony) was the wrestling coach until the year before I started high school," Battone said. "But he kept on pushing me in sports all the way."

Battone finished only fourth in the Class AA sectionals last year. Since then, however, he has won 25 of his 30 matches.

"I had to hitchhike home (to the small town of Howard) every night," he said. "This sure made it worth while. It wasn't hard hitchhiking. After four years on the varsity, people get to know you on the road."

The Battones live on a small farm. His three sisters are "horse freaks," he said, while his two younger step-brothers have taken up wrestling too. "I cut out the horses when I started in sports," Battone said.

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D&C photo by Talis Bergmanis

Ken Jamison of Fairport has a firm grip on Spencerport's Ray Vincelli in the 126-pound match. Jamison won, 9-8.



*D&C photo by Talis Bergmanis*

**Kevin Richard of Geneseo writhes in pain after suffering a knee injury. He forfeited.**





D&C photo by David Cook

Richard is carried off the mat by his coach, Don DeBadts.

# BATTONE

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Giordano had rolled up 29 straight victories this year, including a tough 3-1 decision over Battone in the Class AA meet. This time, Battone pulled a two-point reversal to tie the score, 5-5, and send the match into overtime. The score reverts to 0-0 at the start of three extra one-minute periods, and Battone made a one-point escape stand up for the victory.

"I knew if I stopped his duck-under I could win," he said. "That's what he beat me with last time. I wasn't ready for it."

The season had started on a less than glorious note for Battone. He was holding a big lead in a match before being disqualified for injuring his opponent's shoulder with a slam to the mat.

Another one-point victory yesterday went to Attica's Wes Audsley, who had a tough time with Mike Compton of Marion before winning the 215-pound match, 3-2. Both entered the match undefeated, Audsley at 23-0 and Compton at 31-0.

In the final match of the day, Avon's burly Rick Boor beat Battone's Hornell teammate, Steve Terry, in the 250-pound class, 5-2.

There were two pins in the finals. Tom Goole of Greece Olympia beat Tom Burgess of Canandaigua at 3:47 of their 138-pound match, and East Rochester sophomore John Zito floored Paul Brigandi of Greece Arcadia at 5:11 of their 177-pound match.

Burgess, the only Canandaigua wrestler to make the finals, had beaten Class AAA champion Dave Dorsey in an overtime semifinal, 4-0.

By far the easiest trip through the tournament was by Don St. James, Rush-Henrietta Sperry's state hope in the 105-pound class. He wrestled a total of four minutes in the tournament, with a bye in the first round, a forfeit, a pin and finally a default in the final when Geneseo's Kevin Richard injured his knee in the second period.

Richard, one of three brothers on the Geneseo team, was trailing the Sperry whiz, 6-1, when he was hurt.

"Kevin was trying a switch, and St. James came down on top of his knee," said Richard's coach, Don DeBadts. "He probably displaced some cartilage."

The other champions were Rory Legacy of Bishop Kearney (91 pounds), Wayne Johnson of Spencerport (98), Erminio DeAngelis of Spen-

cerport (111), Dave Halladay of Fairport (119), Ken Jamison of Fairport (126), Joe Murnin of Fairport (132), Rich Benson of Spencerport (145) and Mike Stuver of Fairport (155).

Halladay was ill during the Monroe County meet and lost to Spencerport's Ron Winnie in the AAA final. Yesterday, though, he scored a 3-1 overtime win.

His Fairport teammates won three of the next five finals, all from Spencerport opponents. Jamison edged Ray Vincelli, 9-8; Murnin beat Shane Graham, 9-6; and Stuver beat Pat Cosmano, 13-4.

Stuver was in the tournament as a "wild card" entry. He was ill during the sectionals but had won more than 90 per cent of his bouts. He is the first "wild card" to win a title since the exceptional cases first were admitted three years ago.