

No wrestling with this evidence: Section 5 among the state's best

E. Rochester captures
the No. 1 ranking, again

By Gary Fallesen

Democrat and Chronicle

Rochester-area high school wrestlers don't have to go far to find good competition — just around town and Section 5.

East Rochester Coach Don Quinn said recently of his team's competition, "I can't find any tougher ones."

Quinn, who in his 26th season is one of the nation's winningest coaches, believes "good kids get better when they go against great competition."

The Bombers, last year's top-ranked team in the *Democrat and Chronicle's* coaches poll, start this the season with the same top billing.

ER was a unanimous No. 1 selection by the *Democrat and Chronicle's* panel of seven. Canandaigua is ranked second.

"We did have a phenomenal finale last

year, but if they (ER's wrestlers) are living on that, we're in trouble," warned Quinn.

The Bombers, champions of seven straight sectionals, have won 13 consecutive dual meets, including a 24-23 victory over then No. 1 Canandaigua at the end of last season, and a 37-13 season-opening victory over Webster this week.

That pushed Quinn's record to 295-43-7. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, Keith Williams of Snake River and Sodus Springs, Idaho, has an active record of 327-45-6. Bob Siddens, who coached from 1950-77 at West Waterloo, Iowa, finished 327-26-3.

If the Bombers' winning streak continues, Quinn's 300th victory could come Jan. 21 when ER tries to prove itself against outside competition — Fulton, the No. 1 team in the state the past two years, and New Hartford, another perennial power from the Utica area (Section 3). Fulton and New



Kevin Higley *Democrat and Chronicle*

Tim Quinn (top) and East Rochester will be challenged by schools, wrestlers like Canandaigua and Marty King (bottom) in season-long battle for Sec. 5 supremacy.

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Sec. 5 competition among state's best

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Hartford handed ER its only two losses at the beginning of last season.

The Bombers also have a double-dual meet date with two highly-regarded Section 6 (Buffalo area) teams, Olean and Salamanca, and will participate next weekend in the 32-team Olean tournament.

Locally, ER will have to deal with Canandaigua on Jan. 18.

It also has some tough Monroe County League East Division competition in 10th-ranked Irondequoit (Jan. 7), sixth-ranked Fairport (Feb. 2), and fifth-ranked Brighton (Feb. 8).

Canandaigua, third-ranked Brockport and Brighton also face tough competition.

Canandaigua's toughest meet won't be against ER, but will come Jan. 7 when the Braves visit Cleveland, Ohio, for a dual-meet tournament. It will feature the nation's No. 1 team, St. Edward's of Cleveland, and the Virginia state champion, Red Creek.

The Braves also will meet Fulton on Jan. 5, host one of the state's better tournaments (the Bradshaw) Jan. 13-14, go against Brockport on Jan. 27, and defend their Finger Lakes East title against ninth-ranked Victor and Palmyra-Macedon.

"We don't avoid any competition," Canandaigua Coach Larry Reynolds said.

Brockport has its toughest schedule ever, according to Coach Jeff Brown. The Blue Devils will meet Olean, Falconer and Niagara-Wheatfield of Section 6 in addition to Canandaigua and fourth-ranked Spencerport. They also will compete in the Olean and Bradshaw tournaments.

Brighton, attempting to upgrade its schedule to earn statewide respect, will be at the Tri-Valley Invitational at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill tonight and tomorrow. The Barons also have dual meets scheduled against Fulton, New Hartford, Olean and Falconer.

SECTION 5 WRESTLING

The *Democrat and Chronicle's* ranking of the top 10 teams in the Greater Rochester area:

		W-L	Pts.
1.	(1) East Rochester (7)	12-2	70
2.	(2) Canandaigua	13-5	62
3.	(4) Brockport	13-1	51
4.	(3) Spencerport	12-1	42
5.	(5) Brighton	13-2	40
6.	(5) Fairport	9-2	37
7.	(8) Le Roy	15-0	32
8.	(9) McQuaid	11-3	14 1/2
9.	(10) Victor	12-2	13
10.	(-) Irondequoit	11-3	8 1/2

Also receiving votes: Hilton (10-5), Kendall (12-1), Palmyra-Macedon (13-1).

(The first number in parentheses indicates last year's final rating and the second number indicates first-place votes. Also included are last year's overall record and total points received on the basis of 10 for a first-place vote, nine for second, eight for third, etc.)

The voting panel: Mark Hoyt, Brighton; John Roselli, McQuaid; John Grillo, Pavilion; Lynn Tewksbury, Midlakes; Don DeBads, Section 5 wrestling chairman; Jim Brown, New York State Sports Writers Association member; the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

Here's a scouting report on each of Rochester's top teams:

1 East Rochester: Big things are expected from veterans Chris Schojan (177 pounds), Tim Quinn (132), John Hanselman (119) and Joe Taverite (112). Quinn, the coach's son, and Schojan reached the state tournament last year.

The Bombers have 11 solid wrestlers, however, bringing one coach to the conclusion that the only teams that might have a shot at ER are "from Iowa and Russia."

2 Canandaigua: Don Quinn isn't the only individual nearing a milestone. Marty King, the Braves' 119-pound state champion and four-time sectional titlist, could finish the season as the state's all-time winningest wrestler. The All-America selection has a 134-11-1 career record, including a 3-0 start this year. Irondequoit graduate Tony Cotroneo holds the state record with 164 victories.

Butch Hibbard and Paul Lamphier, sectional champions at 98 and 112, respectively, also return for the Braves. Both were runners-up at last year's state meet.

3 Brockport: Class A runners-up Jim Lupisella, Phil St. George and Jeff Miller are among the returnees for the Blue Devils. Bill Daly, Nathan Van Duzer and Rob Lupisella, three other 20-match winners, also return. Dave Johnson, a 20-match winner who transferred to Brockport from Reading, Pa., will join the lineup at 145.

4 Spencerport: Sectional champion and state runner-up John Suhr is back at 145 pounds. "He's not a high school wrestler," Coach Bill Jacoutot said of Suhr, who was 35-1 last year. "Fundamentally, he's as sound as a college wrestler."

The defending Class A champion Rangers also return sectional heavyweight champ Steve Vigliotti.

"Basically, we're a no-name team," Jacoutot said. "Last year, we had Angelo (DeAngelis, a sectional champion who graduated to Alfred Tech) and everyone rallied around him. We've still got John, but he's kind of the Rodney Dangerfield of wrestling. He doesn't get the respect he deserves."

5 Brighton: "We've decided to let our record go to the wind," Coach Mark Hoyt said. "We've changed our schedule drastically to get experience and, we hope, to get a state ranking."

Brian Kurlander, a sectional champion and state runner-up last year at 155, is one of three standouts returning to the Barons' lineup. Jon Blauvelt and John Wolfe also are back.

6 Fairport: "We may tend to be more of a tournament team than a dual-meet team," Coach Pete Logan said. "We've got four or five guys who'll score high to carry us, but we don't have the overall balance I had the luxury of having last year."

The Red Raiders' top individuals are Ken Hecker at 112, Tom Walters at 138, Nick Whitcombe at 145, Mark Stuver at 167 and Dave Popen at 215.

7 Le Roy: Brothers Bill and Gary Dempsey, two Livingston County League champions who lost a combined total of four matches last year, are back for the Oatkan Knights. Coach Bob Gately also has high expectations for Dave Cecere (91), Matt Call (105) and Bill Grayson (119).

8 McQuaid: The defending City-Catholic League champion Knights feature sectional titlist and state runner-up Bob Zoeke (105), who was 37-3 last year as a junior. Mike Scott also is back.

9 Victor: The Blue Devils' program is rebuilt. Third-year Coach Jeff Kaller took his team to a 12-2 finish last year after posting a 9-6-1 record two years ago. The return of Class B champions Keith Bonalle, Jeff Annesi and Dan Ahonen doesn't hurt, either.

10 Irondequoit: Veteran Coach Art Connorton has numbers (66 varsity and junior varsity and 78 junior high wrestlers) and tradition on his side. But, as he said, summing up area competition, "I don't have to go too far to find tough wrestling."

Matt Perry (98), Darrin Graham (126), Nate Waller (177) and Sam Inclema (215) will help this team be "Irondequoit respectable," he said.

The rest of the best: Kendall and Hilton narrowly missed making the top 10. Kendall, the top Genesee Region team, surprised the Cadets of the Monroe County West in the season-opener, 34-29.

Kendall is especially strong in the upper weight classes with Melvin Artis (155), Jeff Kruger (177) and Tony Knoedl (215). Hilton's top two individuals are Greg Sadwick, an all-league pick at 167, and Class A runner-up Mike O'Shea, who is up to 119 from 105. Both teams have good balance.

Pal-Mac, the Class B champion, was hurt by graduation. The Red Raiders still will be Finger Lakes East and sectional contenders, however.