

Ridge Rally Gains Seneca Falls Tie

Christmas Program Given At Grange

by Cory Clark

Fighting back from a seemingly insurmountable 19-8 deficit, Webster's matmen gained a 19-19 tie with the Myanderse Academy grapplers on Seneca Falls mats, Wednesday, December 12. Webster's Ernie Tack, wrestling in the heavyweight division, pinned his man in record time to gain the tie for the Ridgemen.

The Blue and Gold mat squad will have a chance to rest up before the next meet, a home affair with Wayne Central Friday, January 4. This will be the first home meet of the season, and the Ridgemen take a 2-0-1 record into the match. Webster has yet to beat Wayne in wrestling competition, the Wayne County boys holding a 4-0 edge in the series. But the visitors' lost most of their first team last year, while the Ridgemen are stocked with veterans after losing only one man by graduation. If the Blue and Gold can mend into a team again and really gain the spirit necessary to beat these boys, it should go down as a WCS triumph.

Five days later the Ridgemen run into the Geneva squad, two-time winners over Webster like Wayne last year. The Ridgemen lost 24-13 in the first match, then succumbed 21-14 in a tighter rematch a month later. Another home affair, this looks like a rough tussle. The Genevans lost Morocco, their greatest threat, but retain a good deal of their veteran team. Two days later the Ridgemen face Charlotte away, then the last home meet in more than a month will be run off against Medina. These three home meets will be real shows, and it's the sincere wish of the team and coaching staff that there will be real turnouts for these meets. There's sure to be a good deal of fanfare attending the match with Wayne Central, since the visitors have always brought rooters buses with them for the Webster meets. The match will begin at 4:00, so come one, come all! Admission will be free this year; however, in future years there will probably be a set charge to home meets. The very fact that there are only four home meets in a total of 17 this year makes it an occasion.

Going into the Seneca Falls meet, the Ridgemen seemed doomed to defeat from the first. Three of the starting ten grapplers were completely out of the picture: Jerry Heiniger, scheduled to start at 103, was scholastically ineligible; Pete Lansing, 133 or 138 veteran, had been forced to drop wrestling at the time because of difficulties with the WCS math department; and Cory Clark at 165 suffered a wrenched knee in the Batavia match and couldn't wrestle.

Coach Robert Terbush patched the lineup into par form by the time the team started to weigh in, then two grapplers failed to make their weight. Dick Webster, scheduled to wrestle 138, was a pound overweight, and co-captain Ron Holtz, 145 starter, found himself less than a pound over the mark but just as ineligible. That really gummed the works, and since Dave Bleik, second-stringer this week at either 138 or 145, hadn't been able to attend the meet, Mr. Terbush had to dig into his bag of green reserves, and as a result both freshmen were pinned. The irony of the fact was that Ron Holtz had whipped the same man he would have faced this year at the meet last year, and he almost surely would have escaped being pinned, at the very least. That made the difference in the meet, besides the fact that there seemed to be no spirit left in the team after half of their starting lineup had been shifted.

If the hosts had been as strong this year as last year, doubtless Webster's record would now read 2-1 instead of its present unblemished appearance. But they were a decidedly inferior team which the Webster Varsity, at full strength, would have handily defeated. Even with the Ridgemen at partial strength, they should have gone down. But there seemed to be no spirit left in the Webster cause, and it was all the Blue and Gold could do to overcome a huge deficit and tie up the meet.

The first match of the evening was between Webster's John Elter and Myanderse's Jim DeCesarie. Though DeCesarie was much bigger, needless to say twenty pounds heavier than the Webster lad, it was a fast and hard match. At the end it was tied at 5-5. John Elter made the takedown, DeCesarie reversed, Elter reversed, and the Academy boy escaped in the first period, giving Elter a 4-3 advantage. He added a point for an escape in the second period, but DeCesarie quickly reversed and held John down throughout the third period. This looks like a 5-5 tie, but there was just one more factor—time advantage. DeCesarie received one point for riding time, giving the match, and eventually the meet, to Seneca Falls.

Looking up at a 3-0 Myanderse lead, Webster's Bill Kehrig went out on the mat determined to take his opponent. Undeclared in his last eight regular starts, Bill started right off by making a costly mistake. Myanderse's Ed Stahlnecker had noticed Bill was coming in high as they sparred from the standing position in the first period, and he suddenly dove for Bill's knees. Bill chose that moment to fake 'up', or bring his arms sweeping upwards in a fake. Stahlnecker took advantage of his clear shot, and just like the movement was planned far ahead of time, Bill was flat on his back. The Blue and Gold grappler proved it was a mistake a second later by reversing his man with a timely switch, then went on to pin Stahlnecker in the second period, giving the Ridgemen a 5-3 advantage.

Wrestling in his first Varsity meet this year, Webster's Dave Robinson went in determined to take his man. Myanderse's Phil McMillan probably thought the same thing, but when the dust had cleared the scorebook showed Robinson on the winning end of a 12-4 advantage. Somewhere along the line McMillan petered out, chiefly because of Robinson's five point first period. Dave added three more in the second and third periods, and when the massacre was over McMillan could hardly get up as Robinson collected a well-earned point for time advantage.

With the Ridgemen riding on an 8-3 advantage, the boys from Myanderse Academy went to work and made shambles of the Blue and Gold wrestlers in the next four matches. Webster's Roy Hiller ran into Myanderse co-captain Bill Turri in the 127-pound class. Turri had failed to make his weight for the last match of the Sectionals the year before and therefore lost a Sectional berth, but he looked every bit a wrestler. How so big a boy could possibly weigh a mere 127 pounds is still a mystery. Hiller and Turri went at it in fine style, with the Seneca Falls boy making the takedown in the first period. Roy managed to escape that period and collected a reversal in both the following two periods, but Turri poured it on with a five-point effort in the second period, held off the Webster boy in the third, and gained a 7-5 triumph.

Webster's Richie Hogan, previously undefeated, ran into Sectional champ Gary Tardelli in the 133-pound tilt. Richie was completely tied up by the Seneca Falls boy, who seemed to read his mind and always got the right position at the right time to eddies thwart Richie's moves. Tardelli collected a takedown in the first period, an escape and a take-

down in the second to rack up a 5-0 win over Hogan.

At this point the Ridgemen trailed 8-9, and here was where Coach Terbush had to throw untried reserves at Seneca Falls' trained murderers. If Myanderse's Ronnie Focht appeared to make short work of Westley Wissick in the 138-pound tilt, that was nothing compared to the massacre in the 145-pound class, where Webster's Jim Butwick was flattened by co-captain Chuck Stahl in 45 seconds. Neither Webster grappler had ever wrestled a match in their lives, and end was in eight seconds after each match started.

Looking up at a rather large 19-8 lead on the part of the hosts, the Ridgemen got down to business. Barry Swift, wrestling in the 154-pound class, knew anything less than a victory, say a tie or a loss, would end Webster's chances in the meet for once and all. Barry faced a big boy in John Bohensky, but the Blue and Gold grappler made shambles of him with a takedown in the first period and a five-point finale. Bohensky collected a point for an escape in the last period, to make the match score 7-1 in favor of Swift.

Webster co-captain Rev. Munson easily outpointed Academy's Bill Crough in the 165-pound clash, but he never could quite pin him. Describing him afterward as a 'big, greasy bum', Rev. allowed that he was strong, too. Nevertheless, Rev. kept his record perfect with a 6-0 triumph, scoring a takedown in the first period, a near-fall in the second after Crough made the mistake of his life by choosing the bottom position, and racking up three points in the third period with an escape and a takedown.

The heavyweight match decided the meet with sudden finality. The Ridgemen needed a pin—five points for team score—to overhaul the Academy team, leading 19-14. The heavyweight man seems to get all the glory this way; very often the heavyweight match decided the meet. Two years ago Ernie made his most memorable contribution to WCS wrestling, pinning his man with seconds remaining to give the Ridgemen a hard-earned 25-24 decision over a favored Edison Tech ten. For the last three years Ernie had been constantly saving meets for Webster, and he saved this one in rather sudden style.

Ernie was wrestling a 14-year-old freshman, the boy's first match, and he looked pretty big and strong. But with the score at its precarious position at the time, Ernie created a marked sensation to the spectators (and needless to say, his opponent also) when he removed his sweat-shirt and stretched out. Taking one look at Ernie, the Myanders coach started sweating and had a conference with his grappler. Whatever he said didn't do much good, because Ernie was determined to make short work of the host grappler. Exactly 20 seconds after the match started the referee ended it with a decisive slap on the mat—Ernie had locked his man up in a vicious double-arm bar pinning combination and flattened him. "He didn't even wiggle," said the Webster matman afterward. The pin eclipsed all Webster pinning records, though Pete Lansing once pinned a man in 28 seconds last year. The pin gave the Ridgemen a 19-19 tie, and it was all over.

For Webster—better luck next time.

- Lineups**
- 103—Jim DeCesarie (M)....6; John Elter (W)....5.
 - 112—Bill Kehrig (W) pinned Ed Stahlnecker (M), 3:17.
 - 120—Dave Robinson (W)....12; Phil McMillan (M)....4.
 - 127—Bill Turri (M)....7, Roy Hiller (W)....5.
 - 133—Gary Tardelli (M)....5, Richie Hogan (W)....0.
 - 138—Ronnie Focht (M) pinned Westley Wissick (W), 1:25.
 - 145—Chuck Stahl (M) pinned Jim Butwick (W), :45.
 - 154—Barry Swift (W)....7, John Bohensky (M)....1.
 - 165—Rev. Munson (W)....6, Bill Crough (M)....0.
 - Uni.—Ernie Tack (W) pinned Dick Burns (M)....:20.

- Exhibitions**
- 145—Ron Holtz (W) 5, Joe Del-Papa (M)....0.
 - 120—Bob Focht (M) pinned Chris Gibson (W), 5:13.

Webster 5th Graders Donate to CARE

In keeping with the holiday spirit the four fifth grade classes at Webster have sent a gift to CARE that will provide 495 lbs. of food. The teachers that assisted in the collection of the donation are Mrs. Shoemaker, Mrs. Forman, Mr. Daly, and Mrs. Steepee.

Last Saturday night (Dec. 15) approximately 75 members enjoyed the delicious ham dinner preceding the regular meeting of Webster Grange in Grange Hall. Harold Grabb, Master, presided at the business session.

A delightful Christmas program was presented under direction of Miss Jane Werner. There was a lighted Christmas tree and Santa arrived with gifts and candy for all the children.

Two songs were enacted. In "Rudolph, the Red Nose Reindeer," taking part were Carol Utz as Santa Claus; Diane Nagle, Rudolph; and Herbert and Nancy Grabb, Gary and Shirley Nagle and Janet and Judy Walter, reindeers. Sylvia Witmer and Donna Crane led the chorus singing of 20 voices.

The entire group of youngsters participated in "Jingle Bells" using sleigh bells, effectively, as they marched while singing.

Those reported ill were Linn Bowman who is in Northside Hospital, Coe Coykendall, Bertram E. Willis, Mrs. Dewey Welsher, Mrs. Nellie Crandall, Mrs. William Miller, Mrs. Ida Lariker and Mrs. Sophia Oliver.

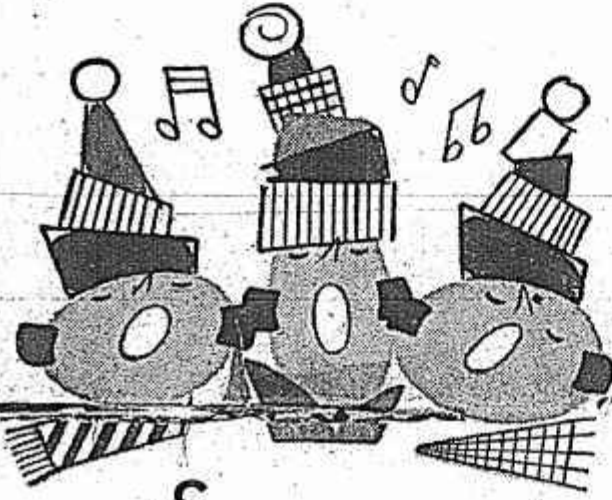
As the meeting closed at 8:45 p.m. the evening was spent in games and relaxation.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Johnson, chairmen of the dinner committee, were assisted by Mrs. Bessie Schlegel, Miss Helen Stadt, Mr. and Mrs. Earl McMann, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. James Giljam and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer V. Smith.

Among those who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Walter in the dining room were their daughter, Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cunningham, Mrs. Elizabeth DePapa and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walter.

The next meeting of Webster Grange will open with a tureen supper for members and their families at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

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