

# ★ Shoulder injury halts Lamson's drive toward 100th victory

## The separation blues

A mere 39 seconds had ticked off the scoreboard clock, but the match was over for Waterloo's Joel Lamson.

The 119-pound junior knows what it's like to end a wrestling match that quickly, but usually he is on the winning — or pinning — end of it.

Just six victories shy of 100 for his career, Lamson took a sparkling 14-0 record into the finals of the Geneva Tournament a couple of weeks ago when he suffered a slight separation of his right shoulder when he was toppled to the mat.

Lamson, whose career record is holding steady at 94-13-1, was injured at his own game. Known as a wrestler who likes to utilize upper-body throws and hip tosses, Lamson was hip-tossed by Jim Crawford of Dubois, Pa. He landed on his shoulder, and the match was over before it ever really got started.

"The first thing he asked me when I went out to check him was 'Does this count as a loss?'" said Waterloo coach Abe Meyers.

Technically, it was a loss for Lamson and the Waterloo wrestling team, as well.

Up until that moment, no one had come close to defeating Lamson this season. The two-time Section Five Class B champion's closest match so far was a 7-1 victory over Dan Smith of Union-Endicott in the finals of the Elmira Tournament.

"I think I've put my mind more on winning this year than before," said

Lamson. "I lost six matches last year and I didn't like it at all. This year I want to make it to the state tournament really bad."

He has come close to that goal in the past, "but I just haven't been aggressive enough," he said.

As a 91-pound eighth-grader, Lamson won the Class B tournament and then lost in the state qualifier to Canandaigua's Marty King, the closest thing to an unbeatable wrestler in the state. He won the Class B tournament again as a freshman, but lost in overtime at the state qualifier.

Last year, after finishing second in the Class B tournament, Lamson lost by one point in the state qualifier. This year, he is hoping for a happier ending at the state qualifier, provided he recovers from his shoulder injury.

Lamson has received permission from the doctor to resume light workouts, but he probably will miss the remainder of Waterloo's dual-meet schedule. He hopes to be back in the lineup for the Section

Five Class B tournament, which is three weeks away.

"Even if the shoulder is better, I don't think I'll take the chance of getting injured again in a dual meet," Lamson said.

"We're just sort of playing it by ear," said Meyers, who already has applied to Section Five officials for an exceptional entry berth to the state qualifier for Lamson if he is unable to compete in the Class B tournament. "If the exceptional entry berth gets approved, we might still hold him out of the sectionals."

In one respect, Meyers looks upon Lamson's injury as a blessing in disguise in that the time spent on the sidelines could make him more determined than ever.

"We go to as many tournaments as we can to see that he goes up against all the best competition," said Meyers. "We don't dodge him from anyone. He's wrestled anywhere from 119 to 132, depending on where the best competition is. But sometimes when you train so hard, you

can peak too soon and get lackadaisical when the sectionals start. Maybe he'll be hungrier now."

Lamson, with some encouragement from his father, started wrestling when he was in third grade. Meyers said that by the time Lamson was an eighth-grader, he had more than 100 matches under his belt. He has attended a variety of camps and clinics during the summer, but he says he doesn't do as much summertime wrestling as he should.

"Last summer, I did a lot more wrestling than I usually do," said Lamson, who said he intends to try out for the 1984 Empire State Games team. "I kind of like the break during the summer. Plus, I play football in the fall and I like to golf in the spring."

Lamson still would like to crack the 100-victory plateau before this season is over. Since he probably will not be back before the sectionals start, he'd probably have to qualify for the state tournament in order to make it. Nothing would please him more.



**JOEL LAMSON**  
Hopes to return for sectionals

