

★Wrestlers cop sectional title

Three advance to state meet this weekend

The wrestling season moves into its final weekend on Friday and Saturday with the New York State Championships at the Onondaga War Memorial. 3-2-83

Baldwinsville will send a 3-man contingent as members of the Section 3 team.

The Bees won their seventh overall Section 3 Tournament championship Saturday night at the War Memorial on the strength of five men. Baldwinsville placed the five in the finals

to edge Fulton and Canastota who placed second and third, respectively. The Bees finished with 112½ team points while defending champion Fulton had 98 and Canastota had 94½.

Baldwinsville's finalists were Joe Loffredo at 91 lbs., Brad Johnson at 105, Rob Allen at 112, Kevin Johnson at 119 and Pat Conners at 177. The Bees managed to crown three champions: Conners, Kevin Johnson and Allen.

Conners won four matches on his day-long trek, opening with a 10-2 victory over Steve Hawks of Chittenango. Then in the quarter-finals he pinned Moore of Lowville in 2:48, and he decisioned Wallon of Cicero - North Syracuse, 10-4, in the semi-finals. Pat Marcellus' Brian Sutherland in the finals and won an 11-3 decision in a very tough struggle. Sutherland had only one loss all season and was a very physical wrestler but Conners' quick hands clamped the Marcellus ace twice for the patented Conners Cradle that earned six near-fall points.

Kevin Johnson also won four bouts enroute to his sectional title. He opened with a tight 3-0 decision over Purtell of Oswego, then pinned Annable of Onondaga Central in 3:10. In the semi-finals, Kevin scored a major decision, 9-0, over Dobransky of Carthage. The final match was a wild one with Canastota's Mark Hood.

Johnson took an early 4-point lead on the strength of a takedown and then a 2-point near-fall on a good bar arm series. Hood countered by catching Johnson in a Peterson (reverse cradle) for a reversal and near-fall.

In the second period Johnson was down and struggled to get out, but Hood caught him in a freestyle tilt for two more near-fall points. Then Johnson jumped the gun on a false start and was penalized one point. With the score 7-4, Johnson reversed Hood on some constant moving and a quick turn-in and put the bar arm series back to work. Hood would not go over, with the score 7-6 in his favor. When Johnson went heavy with the bar pressure the referee stopped the match with 18 seconds to go for a potentially dangerous situation.

As the bout resumed, Johnson got the bar arm again and furiously tried to turn Hood to his back. With seconds remaining, Hood went over and the referee started his count and time ran out. Johnson won, 8-7, but the Canastota coaches argued that time had run out before Johnson put Hood on his back. The referee checked with the assistant referee and the timekeeper and decided that the points were there before time ran out. So the score stood.

B'ville fans were cheering wildly and the Canastota fans booed and threw things onto the mat, causing the tournament to be held up for a short while to restore order.

Allen won his title with four victories. He started with a 57-second pin victory over Whedon of Onondaga Central. In the quarter-finals, he decisioned Gratch of Rome, 16-1, and then he pinned Wilcox of Homer in 1:16 to reach the finals. There he once again met West Genesee's John

Morgans and for the third straight weekend. Allen came out on top. The score was 5-2 in a very conservative bout.

The win pushed Allen's record to 32-1 for the season and gave the talented senior the opportunity to reach his goal as a state champion. Last year, Allen lost in overtime in the Section 3 finals to Beaver River's Ken Vuklei who placed second in New York State.

Loffredo had a super day up until the finals, winning three bouts. But in the finals Joe was a little too conservative and lost a close 4-3 match to Morrisville - Eaton's Doug Youngs. Loffredo won, 18-2, over Trew of General Brown, then won by default over Jaynes of Jordan - Elbridge before decisioning Houppert of Beaver River in the semi's, 6-2. Joe ended his season with a great 30-3 record.

Johnson also had a banner day up to the finals. Brad opened with an 8-4 decision over Bush of Beaver River and then pinned Pintup of LaFayette in the quarter-finals in 1:45. Johnson met rival Mark Caza of Fulton in the semi's and scored a great 14-2 victory to reach the finals. There Brad fought hard but was overpowered by New Hartford's former state champion John Pauley. Johnson kept it close (4-0) until the final 20 seconds when he was reversed and dropped to his back when Pauley picked up a near-fall for a final score of 9-0. It marked the second year in a row that Brad reached the sectional finals. Loffredo and Johnson will be alternates this weekend for the section team at 91 lbs. and 105 lbs.

The Bees' other four sectional qualifiers lost before reaching the semi-finals. John Dunham lost his opener, 4-3, to Fulton's Ken Pollack at 250 lbs. and Chip Pettitt lost 12-6 to Homer's

Bob Cowen at 98 lbs. in the opening round.

Todd McArdeU won his first bout at 145 lbs. over Steve Perry of General Brown and then dropped a heartbreaker to Woodruff of Copenhagen, 4-0, in overtime. McArdeU opened with a 7-2 lead and looked sick the rest of the match as it ended in a 9-9 tie. The loss put McArdeU out of the tournament and dashed any hopes for the number two seeded junior.

Shawn Halpin lost a hard-fought battle to eventual champion John Balog of Rome, 9-8. Halpin was winning 8-7 with three seconds to go but Balog popped out of Halpin's grip and came up on top for the reversal and win.

The other champions Saturday who will represent the Central New York team this weekend are:

- 91 -- Doug Youngs, Morrisville-Eaton.
- 98 -- Dave Gleeson, Canastota.
- 105 -- John Pauley, New Hartford.
- 126 -- John Balog, Rome.
- 132 -- Dan Keating, New Hartford.
- 138 -- Brian Akley, Oswego.
- 145 -- Mike Narewski, Fulton.
- 155 -- Jeff Merritt, Fulton.
- 167 -- Mike Relyea, Canastota.
- 215 -- Stan Williams, Fowler.
- 250 -- Randy Morrison, Lowville.

The state tournament starts Friday at 4 p.m., with the first two rounds. Saturday, the semi-finals start at 10 a.m., with the finals slated for 7:30 p.m.