Three area wrestlers earn state tourney berths

By JOHN BAGSHAW

BROCKPORT—Three area wrestlers—Robert Hadsell of Canandaigua at 132 pounds, Roy Lang of Wayne at 155 pounds and Chris Shaffer of Waterloo at 250 pounds—will carry the Wayne-Finger Lakes League banner to Syracuse this weekend as part of the 14-man contingent representing Section 5 in the State tournament.

A fourth area hopeful, Harrison Allerton of Newark, just missed as he reached the finals at 167 pounds where he suffered his first loss of the season.

Shaffer was the first W-FL winner to be crowned as tournament officials, who confused spectators, coaches and wrestlers all day long, held the 250 pound competition first while running the other weight classes in their normal order.

The Syracuse University bound Waterloo senior defeated Rick Boor of Avon 4-3 in the finals in a match not quite as close as the score might indicate. After a scoreless first period, in which Shaffer stopped Boor's good single-leg attempt with a powerful wizzer counter that nearly netted him a takedown, Shaffer was pretty much in control of the match despite the closeness of the score.

Starting the second period from the bottom position, Shaffer quickly took a 2-0 lead with a switch reversal executed at a speed and style rarely seen in the 250 pound class. He was unable to stop Boor's standup and give up the first of three escapes to the Avon strong-boy. Shaffer then scored a takedown for a 4-1 lead. Boor escaped again to trail 4-2 as the period ended. Starting the final period in the top position, Shaffer controlled his opponent as long as possible, then gave up the third escape rather than risk a match-tying reversal. He successfully defended his one point lead from the standing position.

Shaffer received a win by forfeit in the tournament's opening round when Warsaw's John Pratt failed to appear. In the quarterfinals he decisioned Class AAA champion Mike Wilmart of Spencerport 10-4, then pinned Phil Pizzingrilli of East Rochester in the

Chris Shaffer

semi-finals to advance to the championship bout. His victory in the finals makes Shaffer Waterloo's first over-all sectional champion and thereby the first to compete in the state tournament.

Canandaigua's Hadsell ran his undefeated record to a 35-0 with a tension-filled 19-4 superior decision over the ever-dangerous Chuck Partridge of Hilton. That tension had been building all day as the two wrestlers worked their way through the earlier rounds toward the expected battle.

Partridge cruised through with two pins and a 16-3 decision. Hadsell almost stumbled. After an opening round pin of Jerome Douglas of Williamson, Hadsell, obviously caught looking ahead, scored what even the most avid Canandaigua rooter would have to term a "lucky" 7-6 decision over Joe Murnin of Fairport.

Late in the final period Hadsell escaped to break a 6-6 tie but was immediately ankle-picked and sent tumbling backwards onto the mat with the aggressive Murnin in hot pursuit. Hadsell battled frantically to avoid the completion of the takedown, a battle he was in the process of losing when he was saved by the buzzer! Spared, Hadsell roared to a 14-3 semifinal victory over Sandy Spero of Rush-Henrietta Sperry.

The fan appeal of the 132 pound championship bout was not brought about by an expected equality of skills, but rather the "boxer versus puncher" aspect of the battle. Chuck Partridge has never been accused of possessing the vast wrestling skills of Hadsell. However, he owns perhaps an even more exciting weapon: a knockout punch—the famed "Partridge Cradle." It has done in many a superior wrestler.

Last year, in this same event, Canandaigua's Jim White rolled to an 8-0 lead over Partridge, only to have his title hopes snuffed out in one brief flurry of action. Earlier this year, at the Spencerport tournament, New York runnerup Douge Tingue of Pioneer toyed with Partridge for two periods, building a 10-0 lead. The Hilton boy suffered through the frustrating match with one goal, to survive until the third period, when he would have the "up" position. Twenty seconds into that period it was all over! It is an awesome hold.

The match started to the thunderous chant of "Robert-Robert—" from the Canandaigua rooting section. Hadsell quickly scored a takedown but Partridge came right back with a reversal as the two boys went out of bounds. The crowd buzzed as the wrestlers took their positions in the center of the mat with Partridge "up." The unspoken phrase could nevertheless be heard: "Here it comes!"

Partridge did not disappoint them. He is not a deceptive wrestler. He owns a powerful weapon and wastes no time on frills. He went straight for his gun. The whistle blew, the tight waist and near arm holds were released, his arms fanned out and his head dipped as Partridge drove for his near side cradle.

A very tense Canandaigua coach Weldon Canough slipped unknowingly from the edge of his mat-side chair to the gym floor. Concern was plainly written on his face as he watched Partridge power his star wrestler onto his back. Would the recent hours spent on "cradle-counters" pay off? Would

Robert Hadsell

Robert respond correctly?

Hadsell, though losing two near fall points, quickly worked one shoulder out of danger. This required Partridge to "drop down" for another drive at the cradle. As he did that, Hadsell neatly stepped over his lowered body and, though officially remaining in the defensive position, had Partridge trapped beneath him.

It now became a matter of strength. If Partridge could maintain his cradle hold the referee would call a stalemate and give him a fresh start. If Hadsell could break the hold, he would pick up at least four points, (2 reversal and 2 near fall). The hold was broken and the match was all but over. Hadsell was never again in trouble and went on to post the 19-4 win, using as his main point-getter, a pretty good cradle of his own.

Hadsell's efforts for the day, the season, and indeed his wrestling career, were rewarded at the close of the tournament. He was named the recipient of the John Ordway Memorial Award as the outstanding wrestler in Secion 5. His career record stands at 89-4-1 and but for a bus accident three years ago, he would have become the winningest wrestler in New York history. The mishap forced Hadsell to sit out his sophomore year following a third place finish in the state tournament as a 98 pound freshman. A 30 win season (his average) would have put his total at close to 120.

Wayne's Lang game the W-FL its third champion as he lived up to his favorite label in perhaps the toughest weight class of the tournament. Lang left a couple of W-FL opponents in his path as he moved into the finals. He downed a game Fred Linsner of Midlakes 5-1, decisioned Marion's Ralph Hartel 10-4 and scored a tough 4-3 win over John Antonelli of East Rochester in the semi-finals.

In the lower bracket, battling for the right to meet Lang, were Wayne Taft of Webster Schroder, runnerup to Lang in last week's Class AA finals, and Al Barber of East High, who owned a win over both Taft and Lang this season.

A fired up Taft avenged his earlier loss to Barber with a strong 15-6 win and came to the finals intending a like fate for Lang.

It was a case of the irresistible force meeting an immovable object. A tough defensive battle ensued. There were no takedowns and the wrestlers traded a reversal and an escape apiece to force a 3-3 draw and overtime. In the extra periods Lang held his opponent scoreless while gaining an escape to run his record to 34-2. Like Shaffer, he becomes his school's first state competitor.

Allerton headed a list of 14 W-FL sectional champions who failed in their bid for an over-all title. Allerton advanced to the finals with two lopsided decisions and a default win over Vern Price of Warsaw. In the finals, obviously tired from the long day of wrestling, Allerton violated one of wrestling's "don'ts." He stepped over a wizzer—twice. The first time he lost a takedown. The second time he lost the match as Bath's Frank Kiff took full advantage of the mistake and pinned him.

Six of the W-FL's sectional champions made it to the semi-finals before bowing. Included in this group were Canandaigua's Jeff Gelinas (105), Doug Lynn (119), Jim White (126) and Tom Burgess (138). Scott Whittaker (167) of Red Jacket and Ed Mitchell

Roy Lang

(177) of Lyons also dropped semi-final bouts.

Losing quarterfinal bouts were Marion's Al Pulcini (98) and Jeff DiRidder (105), Tom Pedersen (126) of Midlakes and Andy Bills (215) of Pal-Mac. Brian Lafler (91) of Midlakes and Mike Compton (215) of Marion were the only class champions to lose their first bout. Jim Flora (138) of Victor did not compete.

The summary:

Championship Round

91-Rick Salamone (McQuaid) decisioned Kevin Richard (Geneseo), 4-0.

98-Don St. James (Sperry) decisioned Mike Hendrix (East), 6-4.

105-John Smallridge (McQuaid) decisioned Alex Cole (Cuba), 13-2.

112-Mike Fuller (Warsaw) decisioned Dave Halladay (Fairport), 11-6.

119-Robin Parker (Cal-Mum) decisioned Jerry Sacchitella (Spencerport), 10-4.

126-Greg Locke (Arcadia) decisioned Pete Springer (McQuaid), 6-2.

132-Robert Hadsell (Canandaigua) decisioned Chuck Partridge (Hilton), 19-4.

138-Gerry Savoie (Fairport) decisioned Don O'Mara (Arcadia), 7-2.

145-Dave Stulpin Spencerport) decisioned Bob Steinruck (East Rochester), 8-3.

155-Roy Lang (Wayne) decisioned Wayne Taft (Schroeder), 1-0 overtime.

167-Frank Kiff (Bath) pinned Harrison Allerton (Newark), 2:37.

177-Steve Rosa (Sperry) pinned Bob Clark (Hilton).

215-John Kinley (Thomas) pinned Keith Piccarelli (Roth), 3:42.

250-Chris Shaffer (Waterloo) decisioned Rick Boor (Avon), 4-3.