

Fairbank, Langworthy, Bentley, Rowe Win Titles At Sweet Home Tourney

AMHERST — Four area wrestlers emerged with championships in the 17-team field of the annual Joe Shifflet Wrestling Invitational at Sweet Home High School Saturday.

Chris Fairbank and Tom Langworthy were victorious for Southwestern Central School while Ryan Bentley and Brad Rowe claimed honors for Ripley.

Newfane, the top-ranked small school team in Western New York, captured the team title with 185 points. Falconer, with many grapplers placing among the top six, placed second with 149½ points followed by Ripley with 136½ points and Southwestern with 131 points. Salamanca was 12th with 72 points.

Fairbank, the top seed, took the 112-pound title for Southwestern by knocking off second-seeded Falconer standout Ryan Fralick, 7-1.

Tom Langworthy, Fairbank's teammate, won his first varsity tourney title by pinning Matthew Lingle of Newfane in 3:22 at 171 pounds.

The Ripley duo of Bentley and defending state champ Rowe won crowns with the 125-pound Bentley defeating Mike Foster of Falconer, 12-5, and the 130-pound Rowe gained a 4-0 verdict over Mike Kwiatak of Lancaster.

Mike Thompson of Falconer, the second seed, was upset by unseeded Pat Fitzsimmons of Albion, 7-4, for the 103-pound crown. Fitzsimmons was chosen the most Outstanding Wrestler.

Top-seeded eighth-grader Vic Arena from Salamanca fell in the 96-pound championship bout to Jim Uderitz from Albion, 4-0.

Also finishing as a runner-up was Ed Pawlak (145) of Southwestern via a 4-2 setback to Mike Adinolfi of Newfane. Pawlak was honorable mention and picked up three straight first period pins before meeting up with third-seeded Adinolfi.

Another championship loss was by Steve Duncan of Ripley (189) by a 9-5 score to Ryan Howell of Pioneer.

Third-seeded Chuck Baum also of Ripley was second with a 5-2 setback to Dave Guarino of Lake Shore at 135.

Mike Howard of Falconer (119) gained third place with a 4-3 win over Marc Brown of Newfane while in the same bracket Jamie Noonan of Southwestern took fifth with a 4:06 fall over Justin Stange of Lake Shore.

At 145 pounds, Salamanca's Jim Emborsky placed third as the result of a 5-3 edge over Falconer's Jason Stevens and Ripley's Brian Rowe was fifth thanks to a 14-8 win over Medina's Matt Caldwell.

Russ Conti of Falconer emerged with a medical forfeit third-place finish over Ray Needle of Newfane at 160 pounds. Brad Early of Salamanca was third at 171 after knocking off Brian Tater of Sweet Home, 11-5.

Adam Abers of Falconer was sixth after dropping a 5-1 decision to Jeff Klimowicz of Lake Shore.

Nolan Rheinisch took third for Southwestern at 125 with a 3-1 count over Jamie DeFina of Medina.

The 220-pound bracket saw Greg Tompsett of Falconer wind up fifth as the result of a default win over Lynn Bolelt of Pioneer.

Ripley's Matt Belson came in fifth after defeating 140-pound Nate Baker of Olean, 8-0. Belson's teammate Josh Miller came in the same slot at 152 pounds with a 5-2 edge over Josh Tellinghuisen of Southwestern.

A fifth-place finish was registered by Andy Johnson of Southwestern via a 6-1 verdict over 103-pound Scott Jennings of Newfane. Also placing fifth was Joe Sayers of Southwestern with a close 9-7 win over Marc Babcock of Ripley at 96.