

Ripley Dominates Before Home

Crowd

By RICK BOUCH

RIPLEY — Led by the dominance of their lightweights, the Ripley Eagles captured the Ripley Invitational Wrestling Tournament, totaling 154 points, 25 better than their nearest competition, North East High School from Pennsylvania.

"It feels good to do this in your own gym, in front of your own fans," said an elated John Carlton, head coach of the Eagles. "Overall, we are very pleased with tonight's results."

Matt Belson, Ripley's 98-pounder, started the barrage recording a fall in just 44 seconds over John Miller of Cassadaga Valley.

Brad Rowe at 112 took a 6-0 lead early in the first period and pushed it

to 11-0 with near-fall points as he entered the second period with Matt Johnson of Maple Grove. Just 43 seconds into the second frame, Rowe took Johnson to the mat and notched Ripley's second fall of the evening.

Ripley was just getting started. Freshman Ryan Bentley, ranked No. 1 at 119 pounds in Western New York, lived up to his billing in his bout with Greg Kaczmariski of Hamburg.

Bentley, whose record now stands at 16-0, came up with the third Eagle fall, at 2:35 of the match.

Jeremy Zeigler then followed by pinning Matt Sayers of North East in 3:00. "He has been a steady starter for us," said Carlton of his 126-

pounder. "He is dependable, very consistent...we know what to expect from him."

Of the first six championship finals, Ripley had won four, all by falls. Credit Carlton and assistant coach Marty Rowe for preparing their wrestlers for the event. The Eagle dominance then continued.

Darin Rammelt, also ranked No. 1 in Western New York, took on Mike Lombardo of Erie Central High School in the 126-pound final, arguably the most exciting bout of the evening.

"These two have similar styles of wrestling, which really led to the intensity of this match," Carlton said. "Both are excellent athletes, but Darin's experience worked."

Did it ever.

Rammelt slammed Lombardo to the mat hard with 50 seconds left in the first period to take the lead at 4-2. Lombardo scored a takedown six seconds into the second period to tie the score. Then things started to heat up.

Lombardo escaped to grab a 5-4 lead midway through the second period, but Rammelt rallied to once again take Lombardo to the mat and regain the lead at 6-5. Immediately, Lombardo escaped and the score was knotted at 6-6 as the pair readied for the final quarter.

With Lombardo in the top position to start the period, Rammelt scored the winning point on an escape in just 10 seconds.

Rammelt was the final Ripley individual champion, but of the seven remaining weight classes, the Eagles placed in the top four in six of them.

Greg Bentley was defeated for only the second time this season by the tournament's outstanding wrestler Zack Scheirberl of Erie Strong Vincent at 138. Scheirberl took a 4-0 lead with a takedown at the 1:45 mark of the third period. Bentley made it interesting with a reversal late in the period, but fell 4-

Final Team Standings

Ripley 154.0, North East (Pa.) 129.0, Hamburg 88.0, Lewiston-Porter 76.0, Erie Central 65.5, Erie Strong Vincent 52.5, Cassadaga Valley 49.0, Silver Creek 48, Erie East 44, Maple Grove 34.5

Consolation Finals

91: Kevin Schermerhorn (NE) d. Brandon Rhodes (SV), 5-0.

98: Tom Weaver (MG) by default.

105: Scott Manning (SC) d. Tony DiOrio (H), 9-8.

112: Chris Payne (E) p. Brian Young (LP), T—1:58.

119: Brian Gordon (NE) d. Kevin Fura (LP), 4-1.

126: John Pennington (LP) p. Aaron O'Hara (SV), T—2:54.

132: Joe Condino (LP) p. Jeremy Beichner (CV), T—2:00.

138: Brian Keefer (MG) d. Jeremy Yourgers (H), 6-4.

145: Jake Braven (H) d. Chuck Baum (R), 9-1.

155: Michael Neavens (E) d. Randy Ewing (R), 9-4.

167: Peter Dorman (R) p. Bryan Weigasz (CV), T—1:26.

177: Eric Culet (Cen) p. Steven Duncan, T—2:59.

215: Howard McLennan (R) p. Shane Hockenberry (LP), T—1:58.

250: Jeff Brzostowski (Cen) d. Matt Rice (H), 9-0.

Championship Finals

91: Vinnie Higgins (Cen) d. Charles Herman (LP), 11-6.

98: Matt Belson (R) p. John Miller (CV), T—:44.

105: Mike Rizzo (NE) by default.

112: Brad Rowe (R) p. Matt Johnson (MG), T—3:27.

119: Ryan Bentley (R) p. Greg Kaczmariski (H), T—2:35.

126: Jeremy Zeigler (R) p. Matt Sayers (NE), T—3:00.

132: Darin Rammelt (R) d. Mike Lombardo (Cen), 7-6.

138: Zack Scheirberl (SV) d. Greg Bentley (R), 4-2.

145: Derrick Stevens (SV) d. Carlos Alcivar (SC), 14-10.

155: Troy Post (NE) d. Bobby Warsitz (CV), 10-8 (OT).

167: John Politowski (H) d. Jim Mazza (NE), 7-5 (OT).

177: Luke Goble (H) d. John Miles (NE), 6-4.

215: Fred Hallett (SC) p. Dan Riefstahl (NE), T—2:49.

250: Rusty Calanni (CV) d. Harry Watkins (E), 9-2.

2. Chuck Baum (145), Randy Ewing (155), and Steven Duncan (177) each finished in fourth place and Peter Dorman (167) and Howard McLennan (215) each finished third for the Eagles.

Other area wrestlers to fare well included Cassadaga Valley's Rusty Calanni, who recorded a 9-2 decision over Harry Watkins of Erie East to grab the 250-pound championship. It was the second tournament championship in two weeks for the Cougar grappler, a winner at last weekend's Fredonia tourney.

Silver Creek's Fred Hallett needed 2:49 to pin Dan Fiefstahl of North East in the 215-pound final.

Cassadaga Valley's Bobby Warsitz suffered a tough 10-8 loss to Troy Post of North East in the 155-pound championship bout. Warsitz took a 7-4 lead early in the third period, but Post scored on a takedown and received two near-fall points to grab an 8-7 advantage. Warsitz followed with an escape to tie the score and then apparently won with a takedown at the buzzer. However, the match went to overtime where Post scored with a takedown 21 seconds into the extra period.

Silver Creek's Carlos Alcivar battled Derrick Stevens of Erie Strong Vincent, losing 14-10. Alcivar drew to within one in the third period, but Stevens took Alcivar down with 27 seconds left in the match to ice the victory.