

# NCCC 'struggles' to 89-55 verdict

By BOB LOWE  
NEWS Sports Editor  
Can a junior college basketball team come off a 34-point victory, be a winner of its last 15 games and own a 55-game home court win streak and still not be ready for regional playoff competition? Could be!

Niagara County Community College's highly-regarded Frontiersmen looked anything but impressive and possessor of those proud credentials Saturday night.

Coach Dan Bazzani's cagers walloped Villa Maria 89-55 for its 15th in a row and 55th straight on-campus victory, but there was no "blow-out" of a weaker foe, nor a smooth road to the verdict.

Although their season is 21 games old and their goals are within reach, the 19-2 Frontiersmen appear much in need of work and some old-fashioned glue. They can shoot the eyes out of the basket, but have been strangers to strong defensive and offensive rebounding performances.

Were it not for their far superior fire-power, their one-shot offense might have been a disaster and could have been against a more formidable opponent.

Villa Maria, giving up size and talent, was well-coached and eager for an upset. But, its guards put the ball on the floor too much and not into the hoop enough, losing the ball time and again off endless dribbles. And, they also proved they had troubles passing and shooting straight.

Despite that, however, Villa Maria remained in the game most of the way, until NCCC went on to win almost in spite of itself.

Coach Bazzani had been hopeful the club would be ready for the upcoming games, the two most important ones of the entire campaign.

The Frontiersmen face Monroe Community and Pitt-Bradford, their only conquerors, in upcoming home games and these are keys to seasonal success.

But, coming up the mediocre display of Saturday, they'll have to be much, much improved if they hope to cancel out those early-season losses to Monroe and Pitt.

Despite their size, ninth-rated Louisville Sunday afternoon to give the Cardinals their second loss in two days, an 88-72 decision.

Eugene Banks scored with 23 points and 12 rebounds and Mike Gminski added 22 and nine as Duke boosted its record to 19-5.

Duke jumped to a 12-2 edge and led by 19 at intermission. Louisville, 22-6, never got closer than 14 after that. The Blue Devils hit 57.4 percent of its field goals to 36.4 percent for Louisville.

But, with the NCAA tournament drawing near, the sixth-ranked Blue Devils showed their strength manhandling



TONY HAWKINS of Niagara County Community College tries to get beyond Chris Law of Villa Maria during their junior college basketball game Saturday.

shoot and fall back effort— saw Stacy Robinson contribute 14, Ron Evans 20 and Steve Smith nine.

Bill Stutz had 22 points for Villa Maria, now 8-16 on the year.

NCCC's problems are there, but the could be solved by more work and Coach Bazzani guarantees that will be taken care of in upcoming practice sessions.

Then and tonight when the Frontiersmen are at Alfred Tech.

Pitt-Bradford, the front-running Region III team and one point in front of NCCC in the standings last week, probably dropped from the top spot over the weekend by absorbing its second loss, a two-pointer to Broome.

Corning did the job the previous time. And, Broome couldn't rest on its laurels. Twenty-four hours later Erie Community knocked off the team.

118 — John DeLorenzo (N) pinned Joe Gould 3:35. 119 — Kirk Alexander (N) dec. John Sweredoni 19:15. 120 — Tim Hitchcock (D) pinned Mary flowers 2:08. 121 — Bob Hilliger (D) dec. Nick Simon 17:15. 122 — Tom Genco (N) and Randy Demo (N) tied 17:17. 123 — Gil Benedict (D) pinned Dave Mittelstadt 23:16. 124 — Chris Marhefka (D) dec. Dave Schlichter 8:37. 125 — Dave LeFontaine (D) won by forfeit 1:00. 126 — Jim Trybusiewicz (N) pinned Charlie Watkins 3:45. HWY — Tom Mrva (D) pinned Steve Magyar 1:38.

**Hirsch Basketball - Nichols vs Eldredges, 7 p.m.; Aladdins vs Bainbridges, 8:30 p.m., Eldredge Club**

**Non-league wrestling - Lewiston-Porter at Starpoint (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30)**

**NFL Basketball - Trott, Niagara Falls at Niagara Falls Convention Center, 6 p.m.**

**Niagara University - vs University of Buffalo, Convention Center, 8 p.m.**

**Niagara County Community College at Alfred Tech, 8 p.m.**

**Mgr. Martin Basketball - St. Mary's of Lancaster at Cardinal O'Hara (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30 p.m.)**

**Non-league wrestling - Lewiston-Porter at Starpoint (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30)**

**Hirsch Basketball - Nichols vs Eldredges, 7 p.m.; Aladdins vs Bainbridges, 8:30 p.m., Eldredge Club**

**Non-league wrestling - Lewiston-Porter at Starpoint (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30)**

**NFL Basketball - Trott, Niagara Falls at Niagara Falls Convention Center, 6 p.m.**

**Niagara University - vs University of Buffalo, Convention Center, 8 p.m.**

**Niagara County Community College at Alfred Tech, 8 p.m.**

**Mgr. Martin Basketball - St. Mary's of Lancaster at Cardinal O'Hara (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30 p.m.)**

**Non-league wrestling - Lewiston-Porter at Starpoint (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30)**

**Hirsch Basketball - Nichols vs Eldredges, 7 p.m.; Aladdins vs Bainbridges, 8:30 p.m., Eldredge Club**

**Non-league wrestling - Lewiston-Porter at Starpoint (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30)**



Doug Barr of Southwestern appears to be resting up a little as he battles Kenmore East's Gary Cacciatore in their 98-pound wrestling match over the weekend.

## Falcons, Medina star in Ken-Ton action

By STEVEN SIMMONS  
NEWS Correspondent  
Saturday's inaugural Ken-Ton Varsity-Junior Varsity Wrestling Tournament accomplished what it set out to do, to determine which school entered in the tournament had the greatest overall depth. In the end, the Niagara-Wheatfield Falcons were named overall champions, while host Kenmore East finished second.

While there are many tournaments for varsity squads, and even some for jayvee teams, the Ken-Ton Tourney is the only tournament of its kind in Section VI, and possibly even all of New York State.

Medina, with six varsity finalists, took home the varsity trophy with 106 points. Niagara-Wheatfield was runner-up with 103, and Kenmore East took third with 96.

Niagara-Wheatfield ran away with the Junior Varsity title with 132 points, compared to 98 for Kenmore East. With the totals of both varsity and jayvee added up, NW emerged the overall victor.

Varsity finals were as follows:

**91 POUNDS** — Tim Menz of Medina off on the right foot en route to their Varsity Championship with a 9-5 decision over Kenmore West's Kurt Baron. After falling behind 5-4 midway through the second period, Menz finished up the match with a reversal, escape, and takedown to give him the decision. In the semi-finals, Menz had pinned Joe Kubinec of Canisius in 11 seconds to register the quickest pin of the tournament. Menz is a Niagara-Orleans runner-up in last week's tourney.

**98 POUNDS** — Gary Cacciatore, who is undefeated in the NFL for Kenmore East, used his three-inch height difference to his advantage as he got a quick two-point takedown in his match with Southwestern's Doug Baer. The stronger Baer bounced back, and picked up three near fall points at the end of the second stanza. Baer added a third period takedown, and took the title with a 5-2 decision. Cacciatore had a good tournament, as he rode two second period pins to advance to the finals.

**106 POUNDS** — Niagara-Wheatfield's Don Maggard completely dominated his title match with Dave Proctor of Southwestern as he went on to a 6-0 victory. Maggard raised his season's record to 20-1 with the win.

**112 POUNDS** — Mark Cassidy of Williamsville North took on the role of aggressor in his match against Medina's Mike Morley. The Spartan grappler jumped into the 2-0 lead with a first period takedown, and never looked back, as he went on to post a

7-2 decision. Cassidy had previously demolished Anthony Dux of Amherst 18-3 to reach the finals.

**119 POUNDS** — Kenmore East's Chris Moree breezed to victory in the 119 pound weight class. The Bulldog junior downed Southwestern's Nate Herring, 17-3, in the first round, and Kenmore West's Tim Ochs, 12-2, in the semis. Ochs had been beaten only twice before this season. Then in the finals Moree used a first period takedown to pin Rich Stanton of Canisius after 1:37. The win was Moree's 21st of the season against five losses.

**126 POUNDS** — Shawn Pine was another Kenmore East wrestler who had a relatively easy time in taking the championship. Pine lost only one point in three tournament matches. The senior disposed of Kenmore West's Dave Warnick, 9-0, and Amherst's John Trabert 11-1 to reach the finals. The championship bout was a rematch between Pine and Williamsville North's Gerry

point escape, as the two rolled out of bounds. Fippinginger deadlocked the match at 1-1 with an escape off an almost identical play in the third period. The final buzzer sounded, therefore leaving the decision up to the vote of the three referees. The ballots were cast, with Maggard getting the 2-1 edge, and and the title.

**145 POUNDS** — Dave Gruber of Williamsville North flipped Canisius's Joe Nowaczuk with 13 seconds remaining in the first period for a two-point takedown. Gruber added three more takedowns and an escape en route to a decisive 9-3 victory. Gruber now has a 21-1 record, including a pin at 3:15 over Medina's Jesse Balcerzak in the semi-finals.

**155 POUNDS** — Southwestern's Steve Swan carried a 22-0-1 record in the title bout against Kenmore West's Andy Bruce. Swan built up a 5-0 lead after one period, and increased it to 11-0 after two. Then at the 39-second mark of the third,

earlier this season, so Rothen was looking to get even. The Bulldog heavyweight needed a takedown with 10 seconds, remaining in the match to defeat Baischmitter 4-2.

**250 POUNDS** — The only two entrants in the super heavyweight classification squared off for the title. Niagara-Wheatfield bruiser Bill Brown manhandled Rich Harris of Kenmore West throughout, and culminated the effort with a pin at the 37 second mark of the third stanza.

**Tournament head Skip Pine** felt, "The meet was a total success. Great interest has been shown for a second annual next year, and we hope to host it again."

**Varsity Finals**  
91 — Tim Menz, Med. d. Kurt Baron, NW, 9-5  
98 — Doug Baer, SW, d. Gary Cacciatore, KE, 5-2  
106 — Don Maggard, NW, d. Dave Proctor, SW, 6-0  
112 — Mark Cassidy, NW, d. Mike Morley, Med., 7-2  
119 — Chris Moree, KE, pinned Rich Stanton, Can. 1:37  
126 — Shawn Pine, KE, d. Gerry Stirling, NW, 2-0  
145 — Kurt Rosentreter, Med. d. Steve Jenkins, NW, 10-1  
155 — Joe Maggard, NW, referee decision over Eric Fippinginger, Amh. 11-1  
161 — Dave Gruber, NW, d. Joe Nowaczuk, Can. 9:13  
177 — Steve Swan, SW, pinned Andy Bruce, KW, 4:39  
187 — Mike DeMeo, NW, d. Steve Pettine, Med. 3-2  
250 — Mike Rothen, KE, d. Bob Baischmitter, Med. 4-2  
Bill Brown, NW, pinned Rich Harris, KW 4:37

**Jayvee Finals**  
91 — Rich Aquino, NW, pinned Joe Kubinec, Can. 2:25  
98 — Dave Ziemendorf, NW, d. Paul Steek, NW, 7:31  
106 — Dave Proctor, SW, d. Dan Fippenor, NW, 4:12  
112 — Mike Kubinec, Can. won by referee decision over Rick Verano, KE, 1:10  
119 — Tim Hook, Amh. d. Tim Ochs, KW, 9:51  
126 — John Trabert, Amh. won by disqualification over Kevin Mack, NW, 1:00  
145 — Mark Oakey, NW, d. Bill Bona, Can. 10:10  
155 — Al Casey, NW, d. Sean Mallory, SW, 4:24  
161 — Tom Phillips, KE, d. Rory Wendell, NW, 3:10  
177 — Dave McMahon, NW, d. Mark Jackson, NW, 4:17  
187 — Dana Williams, SW, d. Chris Duggan, NW, 7:27  
197 — Doug Denn, SW, d. Sandy Schechter, KW, 7:11  
250 — Brian Mallory, SW, d. Brian Patrick, NW, 2:40

Swan pinned Bruce to take the crown. For his efforts, Swan was named the outstanding varsity wrestler of the tournament.

**167 POUNDS** — It was a case of resting on a lead in the 167 pound title match. Mark Regin of Amherst used three nearfalls to build up a 15-1 lead midway through the third period. Then Medina's Dave Malorana turned things around with an escape, a reversal, and then a near-fall, which almost resulted in a pin for Malorana. Nevertheless, Regin hung on for a 15-7 decision.

**177 POUNDS** — Medina's Steve Pettine was coming off a big Niagara-Orleans championship, but his momentum didn't carry through, as he was stopped in the finals of the Ken-Ton tourney by Mike DeMeo. The Niagara-Wheatfield scrapper broke a 2-2 deadlock in the third period and went on to win 5-2. To reach the finals, DeMeo demolished Sandy Schechter of Kenmore West, 6-1, and he pinned highly-regarded Frank Skiba of Canisius at the 3:56 mark. Skiba's record going into his semi-final bout with DeMeo was 14-2.

**215 POUNDS** — It was sweet revenge for Kenmore East's Mike Rothen in winning this championship. Rothen had been beaten by Medina's Bob Baischmitter in the Amherst tournament

## Inside Sports Today

- Wrecks, fights in 500, Page 10
- Sabres bow to Canadiens, Page 13
- Reitano, Jankowski star, Page 16

## Costello unhappy

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Saying he was a scapegoat in his dismissal as coach of the Chicago Bulls, Larry Costello claims the real reason the Bulls are losing isn't because of his coaching but because the team doesn't have the players to win.

Asked if he had been a scapegoat for a losing season, Costello told UPI, "That's the way I feel. I would say so."

The Bulls were 20-36 before his dismissal last Friday. He coached the Bulls for nine years, winning the NBA title once and compiling a 410-264 record before being fired three years ago.

Rod Thorn, the Bulls' general manager, said Costello last week asked for a clarification of his future. But the club couldn't give him one

**Reeve's Lindberg PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
693-5994  
by appt. please

**Midas MUFFLER SHOP**  
943 PAYNE AVE.  
MIDCITY PLAZA  
North Tonawanda  
**OPEN MONDAY UNTIL 8 P.M.**  
Phone 694-7611

**WINES**  
Come To...  
**TONAWANDA WINES & LIQUORS**  
61 Broad St., Tonawanda  
Next to M & T Bank

**Washington's Birthday**  
GET YOUR CAR WASHED \$2.00  
**WINDOWS OR VACUUMING 1¢**  
NOW THRU SAT., FEB. 24, 1979  
306 SCHENCK ST.  
NO. TONAWANDA  
694-8166

**38%**  
That's how many MAJOR APPLIANCE buyers shop the Classified Ads before buying\*  
CALL 693-1000  
To Begin A Classified Action Program  
TONAWANDA NEWS

**Sports comin' up**  
Tonight's action  
NFL Basketball - Trott, Niagara Falls at Niagara Falls Convention Center, 6 p.m.  
Niagara University - vs University of Buffalo, Convention Center, 8 p.m.  
Niagara County Community College at Alfred Tech, 8 p.m.  
Mgr. Martin Basketball - St. Mary's of Lancaster at Cardinal O'Hara (Varsity 8 p.m., JV 6:30 p.m.)

**Duke back in form**  
UPI Sports  
Up to now, it just hadn't been the kind of season the Blue Devils were expecting. Predicted to lead the charts throughout by pre-season prognosticators, Duke was humiliated early at the ECAC Holiday tournament, dropped a few key games as the season progressed and fell into a tie for the Atlantic Coast Conference lead Friday when it lost to Maryland, 70-68.

**Midwest**  
MIDWEST CAR DETAIL  
"THE ORIGINAL DETAIL SHOP IN N.Y."  
**N.T. CAR DETAIL**

**Wines**  
Come To...  
**TONAWANDA WINES & LIQUORS**  
61 Broad St., Tonawanda  
Next to M & T Bank

**38%**  
That's how many MAJOR APPLIANCE buyers shop the Classified Ads before buying\*  
CALL 693-1000  
To Begin A Classified Action Program  
TONAWANDA NEWS