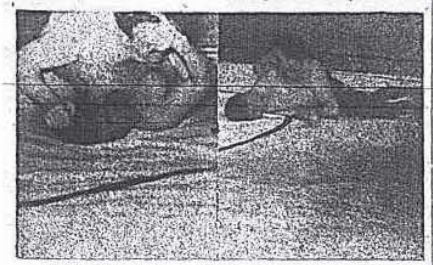
Webster, Spencerport Matmen Tie County Championship Card

by Cory Clark

Six Webster grapplers, six Rangers, and one Rush-Henrietta matman carried off the Monroe County Championships in their weight classes after the meet finished Friday, March 9. Held at WCS, it drew the largest crowd of the season and marked the end of the mat season for the Ridgemen, except for the Sectionals.

The MCC was open to every rural school in Monroe County that sponsored a mat team during the season, with Rush-Henrietta making its first appearance in the Tournament. Since the MCC takes in all classifications of schools, it has nothing to do with the Sectionals. (The Sectional semi-finals will be held at RIT Wednesday, March 14, against the city school champs. The finals will be held at Brockport.)



(Left), Ernie Tack of Webster (bottom) pinned by Chuck Spierdowis of Albion in recent match. At right, on bottom is John Halles of Albion who was pinned by Louie Buiso of Webster. Webster won the match.

Since there were three schools in the tournament, there were two parts to the meet. Rush-Henrietta entered only three wrestlers, and it was decided by lot who would wrestle in the Semi-Finals and who would get a bye till the final round. Weights in which there were three grapplers were the 127-pound class, the 133-pound class and the 154-pound division. In the 127-pounder, Webster's Richie Hogan drew a bye, while Spencerport's Filbert Spade drew the 133 pound bye and the Comet's Harry Bowerman the 154. So the wrestlers who met in the Semi-Finals would be rested for their decisive match, the weights in which there were three men were run off first, then the Finals were held at the close of the meet.

The Comet's Lee Olek and Spencerport's Eugene Wittman clashed first in the 127-pound Semi-Final bout, and when the wild scoring finally settled down and the match was over Olek took off a 14-8 decision, thanks to a six-point last period splurge. Webster's Phil LaBorie and Rush-Henrietta's Ed Knitter were tied at 4-4 going into the final period, but LaBorie reversed and nearly pinned his man before Knitter squeezed out of the combination. Phil went on to a 9-4 triumph and a Finals position. Wrestling next in the 154- pound class, Webster's Ron Holtz took charge of Spencerport's Al Grandby with a takedown, a reversal and a predicament, plus a point for time advantage. It is interesting to note that during the regular season Ron whipped the Ranger by the same score, 6-0.

In regular team meets there are only 10 weight classes which are required, while in tournaments two additional weights are added. In team meets these may or may not be wrestled, and usually when one team has a good 175-pounder the other team doesn't, and visa versa, so these weights are rarely wrestled during the regular mat season. Only once this year did the Ridgemen wrestle in the 175-pound class, this at Medina when Webster was hopelessly far ahead by 33-3. The 195-pound class was never wrestled. In the Finals, therefore, there were 12 matches.

Billy Kehrig, WCS's regular 103-pounder with the best record on the team coupled with seven straight wins, took on Bernard Wittman in the 95-pound class and walked off with the County Championship and a 6-0 victory, sparked with four points in the final period. The Ridgemen had no 103-pounder to take Kehrig's place, so that spot was left open to the Comet's Pat Farrari and the Ranger's Dana Spencer. Ferrari recorded the only title for Rush-Henrietta by pinning Spencer late in the third period after taking a 6-0 lead.

Webster's Roy Hiler had met the Ranger's Sectional Champ Davio Spaziano in the 112-pound division during the regular season, and hadn't lasted quite three minutes. He was determined not to get pinned this time, however, and the Spencerport grappler had to settle for a 5-0 decision as he never had Roy in much trouble. Pete Lansing too had had experience with the Ranger's captain. Dave Egan, and he managed to lose by the same score he lost by in the team meet, 5-0. he lost by in the team meet, 5-0 Egan made the takedown in near-record time, reversed in the second period and scored a point for time advantage in the third for all his scoring. Spaziano made all his points in the same manner.

The Webster steamroller first began to roll when Richie Hogan, having drawn a bye through the Semi-Finals, clashed with Lee Olek in the 127-pound tilt. Possibly Richie was in a hurry or maybe he didn't feel like wrestling very long that day, so he disposed of Olek late in the first period with a vice-like half-nelson pinning combination that he has used to an advantage throughout the season. After a lightning takedown, Olek never had a chance after Hogan turned him over and held him down for the count. The Rangers took their third win of the afternoon when Filbert Spade, after drawing a bye into the Finals, took on Webster's Phil LaBorie and wound up with a 6-0 triumph. Spade beat LaBorie 6-1 during the season.

Wrestling with an injured shoulder, Louie Biuso took on the Comet's Larry Olek and walked off with a 9-0 decision. Louie made the takedown, reversed and collected a near fall in the second period before the two minutes ran out, and held his man a fraction of an inch off the mat all through the last period. Time advantage boosted his score to 9-0 and he took his second tournament championship in two trys. Beaten by Roger Walsh 5-0 during the season, Barry Swift was determined to do better than that and held his own with the Ranger till Walsh made the takedown late in the first period. Barry never overcame that deficit although Walsh was twice forced to take time to bandage [illegible] nose, which he seldom finishes a match without getting. The final score was 3-1, with Barry escaping in the last period for his only point.

Ron Holtz came on next to face the Comet's Harry Bowerman in the 154-pound class. Again Ron made the takedown by being just a little faster than his opponent and he rode out the second period before escaping and making the takedown in the last. A point for time advantage gave him a 6-0 decision over Bowerman, the same score that Grandby fell victim to the Semi-Final round. Rev Munson found that Hank Gardner was no soft foe when the Ranger managed to reverse him after Rev made the takedown in the first period. Rev's points came in the last period with a reversal and time advantage to give him a 5-2 decision over stubborn Gardner.

Wrestling in the optional 175-pound class, Webster's Bill Tolf managed the takedown against Eugene Dini of Spencerport, but Dini reversed before the period was over to go on to a 4-2 decision over Bill. The clinching two points came with a reversal in the second period.

The biggest match of the day took place when Ernie Tack and Caesar DeLorenzo walked onto the mat to face each other. In four matches with Ceasar, Ernie had failed to beat him. He lost 3-0 during the season, and it was about time that DeLorenzo's jinx was put to an end. Ernie lived up to his task by slipping behind the Ranger for the takedown, but before the period was out Ceasar escaped, making the score 2-1 in Ernie's favor. Ceasar's last point came when Ernie clasped his hands when in a position of advantage to prevent the Ranger from switching in the second period. In Ernie's last match with Ceasar he learned that the Ranger always relied on a switch to reverse his opponent, and he put this knowledge to use by thwarting Ceasar with a jump-over before he got started. The Ranger held Ernie down all through the last period, and in the end neither had time advantage and the 2-2 tie produced co-champions in the heavyweight class.

Weight Classes

	127		
Olek-RH	14	vs	8..Wittman-S
	133		
LaBorie-W	9	vs	4..Knitter-RH
	154		
Holtz-W	6	vs	0..Grandby-S
	Finals		
	95		
Kehrig-W	6	vs	0..B. Wittman-S
	103		
Ferrari-RH		vs	Spencer-S
Ferrari won by a pin in 5:25			
	112		
Hiler-W	0	vs	5..Spaziano-S
	120		
Lansing-W	0	vs	5..Egan-S
	127		
Hogan-W		vs	Olek-RH
Hogan won by a pin in 1:43			
	133		
LaBorie-W	0	vs	6..Spade-S
	138		
Biuso-W	9	vs	0..Olek-RH
	145		
Swift-W	1	vs	3..Walsh-S
	154		
Holtz-W	6	vs	0..Bowerman-S
	165		
Munson-W	5	vs	2..Gardner-S
	175		
Tolf-W	2	vs	4..Dini-S
Tack-W	2	vs	2..DeLorenzo-S

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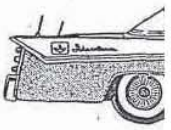

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