



—Times-Union Photo—G. Paul Burnett

East Rochester's Chris Bourne (left) fights off leg lock by Ken McNeil of Eastridge in their 112-pound bout last night at ER. Bourne won a narrow 2-1 decision.

Little Mark, Crazy Bob

Rescue ER Wrestlers

By RAY BUCK

In a way, Tim Duffy felt lucky. Twice he was nearly pinned by an Eastridge tough named Dave DeNero and, in fact, was done when the match ended — the crowd screaming and the referee smacking the mat a split second after the horn sounded.

It was three points East Rochester never dreamed of losing, but a 98-pound freshman named Mark Morabito saved the night for Duffy and the Bombers. "Sure glad Mark made up for me," sighed Duffy.

Coach Don Quinn had conceded 98 pounds. Winning was too much to expect from a kid who was 0-4 and been pinned three times. So, after ER managed to hold on to win 21-20 last night, Morabito was declared the hero.

"Gosh, it was nothing," he blushed. "I really thought I had my best chance of winning here. Chris Bourne (112) told me if I keep moving I can beat this kid (Sam Di-Raimo), so I went out and was aggressive."

Here is a five-foot-one former basketball player who went out for the eighth grade team last year and sat the bench. He played when the games were already decided, not before, and that's when he realized his future was elsewhere.

Don Quinn, the coach's son, was expected to win at 119 but had to settle for a 12-12 draw and it wasn't until Crazy Bob Steinruck (133)

bolted onto the mat that ER could first smell victory. Quinn, the coach, didn't expect Steinruck to win, either.

But Crazy Bob, as they call him, opened up a 5-1 lead, put his opponent, Joe Ruffino, on his back in the first period and had Quinn screaming, "Come on, he's pinned."

Ruffino, who recently drew with defending County champ Pete Kundin of Irondequoit, was instructed by Eastridge Coach Bill Lawler not to let Steinruck get ahead. "That's exactly what he did," groaned Lawler. "He played right into Steinruck's strength."

Crazy Bob won 11-4, making the score ER 14, Eastridge 8. That's when Lawler had to make a decision, whether to put county champ Jeff Freedman on the mat against Skip Farchione at 145 or save him for Jim Van Thof at 155. Either way, Lawler was left with an untested body.

So he put Freedman against Farchione, who did a good job moving, moving, moving — and avoiding a superior decision (11-3). Then Van Thof decisioned Dave Calcagno 6-2 . . . and Eastridge hadn't gained an inch. ER led 17-11.

But at that point all Lawler could hope for was a tie — at best, because anything DeNero might get him, ER's Rich McPhee (177) would cancel out and the best heavyweight Brad Roth could get him would be six points with a pin.

The Duffy DeNero Show

down was a bloody one, DeNero's nose beginning to bleed as the first period ended, nothing-nothing, and the match had to be delayed twice more after that.

Duffy squirmed and fought to keep from getting his shoulders pinned to the mat in the second period, spending almost 20 agonizing seconds on his back, near fall, and DeNero was never to lose his head.

"Duffy kept pushing," said Quinn, "so I can't get mad at him. He just got caught in two reckless moves . . . DeNero pancaked him a couple times and that was the match."

McPhee was next and he had to score a superior decision to assure ER of victory because, quite frankly, Quinn feared that County heavyweight champ Brad Roth might pin his heavyweight, Don Verni.

"Seeing Duffy get beat made me want to do all the better," said McPhee, the bulldog 177-pounder. "That's my's my partner." Four times in the second period McPhee let Mike Cooper escape, scoring five takedowns en route to a 17-4 superior decision.

"McPhee is something," praised Quinn. "He never seems to get tired. I don't think there's anybody who can go six minutes like him — at least not on my team. I hate to keep putting the pressure on him. I'm sure he feels it."

But McPhee wants you believe it ain't nothing you all in a night's work.