

Spencerport takes title

5 Rangers champs but Brigandi pin highlight

By TOM FITZGERALD
D&C Sportswriter

The 215-pound match figured to a dragged — out affair. It was over in a twinkling.

That was one of the few surprises in the Monroe County League wrestling finals last night at Webster Schroeder.

As usual, Spencerport was the only team that needed to bring a team bus to the finals. All five of the Rangers' finalists won to give the team its eighth straight league championship.

Most of the 2,000 fans were still around for the final match, but they might have missed it nevertheless. Paul Brigandi of Greece Arcadia took only 14 seconds to pin Lou Brice of Brockport, in what was probably the briefest final match in the tournament's history.

"I did a duck under, and the next thing I knew it was over," said Brigandi (21-2), "I couldn't believe it."

It was his third pin of the tournament. The most-outstanding-wrestler award, however, was split by

Fairport's Joe Murnin and Greece Olympia's Chuck Giordano.

Murnin made his escape in the third period to win a battle of unbeaten 132-pounders from Mark Willson of Churchville-Chili. Murnin is 21-0, Willson 19-1.

"Joe beat him pretty good last year, but Willson worked hard all summer," said Fairport coach Pete Logan. "A one-point lead is never enough on that kid."

Giordano also remained unbeaten (22-0) at 167 by beating sophomore John Zito of East Rochester, 5-2.

Spencerport was the big winner, scoring 174 1/2 points to 148 1/2 for second-place Fairport. East Rochester was a distant third in the 20-team tournament with 98.

Spencerport's champions were Wayne Johnson at 98 pounds, Erminio DeAngelis at 112, Ron Winnie at 119, Rich Benson at 145 and Pat Cosmano at 155.

Johnson was a Section 2 (Albany-Schenectady) champion last year, but coach Walt Teike said, "He had to

earn a spot on our team like everybody else."

Eighteen victories and only two losses later, Johnson is a champion again. He beat Tom Burney of Batavia in the final, 5-0.

DeAngelis, the brother of former two-time state champion Frank DeAngelis, may leave his own mark in the state event this year. He decisioned Tom Elter of Webster Thomas, 7-3. Two years ago, DeAngelis' father, one of area wrestling's most reluctant parents, wouldn't let Erminio compete.

"He didn't like the idea of dieting," said Erminio (20-2-1), who finally got permission to wrestle last year.

Winnie piled up a 12-2 decision over Tom Mastrodonato of Eastridge.

He had been expected to face Dave Hallday, Fairport in the final until Halladay caught the flu this week.

Benson, a high school All-American soccer player, who beat top-seeded Nate Cole of Churchville in the semifinals, recovered from a thumb in his eye to win the final in overtime from Fairport's Rick Boland, 5-2.