

Baldo Pin Nets Bombers

Share of County Mat Crown

The drama was nearly a repeat of a week before for the East Rochester High School wrestling team.

Two matches to go and Coach Don Quinn's grapplers were trailing a visiting Hilton team by a 25-15 score.

Hilton had won the Monroe County West Division laurels and East Rochester was the monarch of the East. The dopesters figured Hilton a better team. Quinn looked for five wins in the 12 matches for sure. He got them but all they yielded was a 25-25 tie.

Trailing by 10 with two scraps left on the 12 match card, Quinn had pulled a ruse. He yielded the 167 class match to Dave Prong and moved his strong man John Zito from that division to the 177.

Prong did his job even in losing. He was up against Hilton's premier matman, Ken Jurgens, who had moved up from his favorite 155 post where he had disposed of 16 rivals during the season; lost twice and tied another tilt.

Prong lost 8-1 and gave Hilton only three more points. Juergens had only a 2-0 lead after the first two periods. In the third, Prong relented for six points while scoring a single count on an escape. Juergens was looking for a six-point pin.

Zito went to work on Hilton's Hugh Forsythe for five points in the first period, and had his opponent in a near fall predicament. The conflict yielded both matmen two counts in the second period.

Zito had a major decision wrapped up for four points when he took a 11-3 lead early in the last period. Forsythe buried himself on the mat preventing Zito's strength from turning him over.

Quinn was yelling himself within "heart attack" range, urging Zito to yield a point to Forsythe and get him back on his feet. Forsythe was stubborn and trailed 13-4. Zito needed a 12-point spread for a superior decision. He only got nine. Final count, 14-5.

Bombers needed a pin from Baldo to manage just a tie. Baldo moved his rival Fred Bedford through a meat-grinder attack in the first period. Three times Baldo had Bedford ready for the cleaners. It was a 16-0-sided 13-0 after the initial two minutes.



LEG TWIST--East Rochester's Kier twists the legs of his Hilton opponent Saturday night at East Rochester.

Baldo suffered a chin laceration early in the second period and some patching by Quinn resumed the action. Baldo added two more points and the pin was his quest. With a minute and a half gone, Baldo brought the match to an end with a pin at the 3:30 mark.

There was delirium in the school gym. Baldo was racing around the mat with fingers raised and claiming he was Number One again.

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East Rochester fell behind 3-0 in the first match as 98 pounder Mike Brien dropped a 5-2 decision to Steve Burton.

Freshman Curtis Doreen zipped the Bombers in front 6-3 with a last second pin in the 105 scrap over Dave Helcock. Doreen trailed all the way through the argument. Helcock commanded 11-8 when Doreen flattened the surprised Hilton matman.

It was a tie 6-6 conflict after ER's 112-pounder, Romeo Battazzi, bowed to Rick Hellman, 8-1.

Jeff Kier put the Bombers ahead 9-6 with a close 4-3 verdict over Steve O'Shea in the 119 class. Kier had a 4-0 lead before O'Shea put one and two points on the scoreboard. The last chapter was scoreless.

Hilton took a 10-9 lead when Al Rossner of Hilton blanked 126-pounder Dave Yocano, 11-0 for a four-point win.

And Hilton's Mark Herman

ran the visitor's edge to 16-9 when ER's Bob Marianetti failed to hold a 8-7 lead in the 132 weight class and was pinned at the 4:38 mark for a six-point setback.

The Bomber hopes were born again in the 138-pound division as Bruce Kier won by a default over Jim Gaden of Hilton. Gaden suffered a leg injury after Kier posted a two-point fall in the first 16 seconds. The win gave the Bombers six counts and whittled Hilton's lead to 16-15.

Dennis Essom and his 145 pounds was being pounded by George Eblacker for a 9-2 defeat and three more points for Hilton.

It was 19-15 in favor of the West champs, into the 155 battle. Bomber Kevin Kronenberger had Bruce Gardner to contend with.

Kronenberger was behind, 8-0 after the first two periods. Anything more than a three-point decision would scuttle any Bomber hopes of winning the county chips. The tussle ended 10-4, and Quinn's look at the scoreboard revealed a 22-15 Hilton lead with three matches to go.

Enter Zito and Baldo.

Quinn called the season a great one.

"A super climax could happen, if two or three of the team matmen win the Class A Sectionals, then the interclass matches, and go on to the New York State tournament," Quinn said elatedly.