

# Zito, Battazzi, Kuhn.

## Essom Pace Bomber Win

What Monroe County wrestling coaches were saying about the East Rochester High School team even before the season started, that the Bombers would be the area powerhouse, is turning out to be a true prediction.

Coach Don Quinn, still reeling the fruits of a 10-0 football season that gained for East Rochester laurels unmatched by any other school the past season, has his wrestling team riding a 5-0 record, leading in the County Eastern Division and spicing it with last weekend's Monroe County Tournament title.

The Bombers resume the league season on Saturday night by entertaining a visiting Brighton mat club. First argument on the mats is at 7:30.

Brighton will come to ER with good credentials. It has two of the loop's top grapplers in 126 pounder Steve Levine and 177 pounder Mark Evarts.

Levine was an upset loser to Bomber Mike Kuhn in the county tournament.

Kuhn joined ER's peerless John Zito, king of the area and maybe the state's 167 pounders, 155 pounder Dennis Essom, and 119 pounder Romeo Battazzi as the tourney's weight division champs.

East Rochester piled up 235.5 points in leading a 20-team field on the Athena mats last Friday and Saturday. Irondequoit was second with

181 points, Fairport third with 146, Brockport fourth with 121 and Brighton sixth with 113.

Other schools in the tourney were Churchville-Chili, Gates-Chili, Sperry, Penfield, Athena, Schroeder, Arcadia, Mendon, Olympia, Thomas, Beth, Batavia, Eastridge, and Switzerland.

Kuhn pulled the surprise of the tourney. His first opponent was Levine, last year's Sectional runner-up to New York State finalist, Don St. James of Sperry.

In a nip-and-tuck scrap, Kuhn scrapped hard for a 5-4 triumph. That gave him the incentive to win three more matches.

He followed with Ron Hetzer of Thomas, 12-4; worked for 3 minutes and 37 seconds to pin Mike Bruno of Greece Olympia and won the championship match by beating Curt Bumbarger of Churchville-Chili, 14-8.

ER's Battazzi nabbed the first division title for Quinn's club as he wiped out four opponents in the 119 class, three by way of the pin route.

The crafty junior whom Quinn says always gives him a good match, pinned Bob Moore of Penfield in 2:27 of the first title, pinned Vince Depalo of Gates-Chili in 3:43, had a tough scrap with Chris Nakis of Sperry before winning 5-2 and bagged the title battle with a pin in 4:30 over Glen Locke of Irondequoit.

It was just a week before that Battazzi gave Locke the same treatment when he scored a pin in 3:05 that was one of the features of ER's lopsided 41-12 victory over Irondequoit in a county match.

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Battazzi was selected as the tourney's outstanding wrestler.

Essom gained the 155 laurels by scoring two pins and a pair of decisions. He bowed in with a pin in 2:23 over Bob Annunziata of Eastridge; decisioned Paul Salamone of Irondequoit, 14-8; pinned Bob Wass of Brockport in 1:59 and topped one of County West's highly rated matmen, Greg Silipini of Gates-Chili, 5-4 in the finals.

A week ago, Essom topped Salamone 11-6, making it a



John Zito

pair of straight six-point verdicts.

Zito, who isn't spoiled by all the raves he has been getting this season, was awarded the coveted Leo Bernabi trophy that is the prize of the wrestler who has accumulated the most points in the past four years.

He netted 21 in the past tourney. Three pins gave him 18, and a 5-1 decision over Bob Paternoster of Athena in the semifinal match, three more.

Zito pinned Tom Bellewicz of Brockport in 1:56, flattened Chris Failer of Olympia in 2:23 and disposed of Tom Talerico of Fairport in 5:43 for the prize.

In other matches, ER nabbed a pair of second places. Mike Brien finished No. 2 to titlist Bob Arao of Fairport in the 112 class and Rick Sidor was runner-up to Wally Vaughn of Fairport in the 215 division.

Brien lost a tough 2-0 nod to Arao in the championship

scuffle after decisioning Mike Gervais of Batavia, 9-1 in the curtain-raiser and following with consecutive pins over Rick Giarrantanto of Eastridge in 2:50 and Jim Bumbarger of Churchville-Chili in 5:36.

Sidor took his opener by a forfeit and followed with pins over Tom Koch of Olympia in 1:32 and Paul Gibson of Irondequoit in 4:30 before taking on Vaughn and dropping an 8-3 nod.

Three Bombers finished in third place.

Freshman Tom Pagano netted the opening 91 pound match with an 8-2 decision over Bob Lehman of Irondequoit and then lost to Nick Conner of Roth, who went on to win the division title, 13-4.

Pagano then posted three straight victories. He beat Andy Kneesy of Brighton, 1-0; Bernie Dunham of Schroeder, 4-0 and pinned Rob Lavrick of Sperry in 3:33.

Drew McGregor was third in the 177 class with an opening 3:20 pin over Tom Sherwood of Batavia; a 9-3 nod over Paul Mooney of Sperry and a loss to Jon Campo of Irondequoit by a fast pin in 1:15.

McGregor stayed in the run for third by decisioning John Brigandi of Arcadia 8-3 and Mark Vankerkarr of Brockport, 7-4. He was losing 4-2 with 20 seconds to go when he put his rival down and netted five points.

East Rochester failed to enter a wrestler in the 98 pound class, as John Walczyk had a match with a near-pneumonia that grounded him, but brother Joe Walczyk was win-



ning three and losing two for a fourth in the 132 division.

Walczyk decisioned Ken Catalfamo of Fairport, 5-2 and Tom Madlock of Sperry, 7-2 before losing to Gary Curwin of Brighton, 7-2. He bounced back with a 9-0 win over Chris Asseni of Gates-Chili and had to be content with a fourth place when he bowed to Steve Toth of Mendon, 3-1.

Billy Condon was on the mats in the 250 pound class and gained a third place for the Bombers.

After posting a pin in 3:33 over Rick Stalk of Mendon in the lid-lifter, Condon dropped a 12-8 nod to Eric Seeber of Schroeder.

Condon then wiped out Tom Fuechner of Roth in 2:37 and Joe Burgio of Irondequoit in 3:22.

In the 105 weight, ER's Don Fornataro started with a 9-4 decision over Tony Casarelli of Eastridge and lost to Bill

Tormey of Schroeder, 4-1 and fell a pin victim to Rick Colombo of Gates-Chili, in 23 seconds.

Greg Bonacchi carried ER's 138 pound colors and split four scraps. He won over Tom Kelly of Eastridge, 9-1; lost by a 6-1 count to Tom Madison of Sperry; took a 7-5 decision over Tom Farruggia of Roth and lost to Dave Schneider of Irondequoit, 7-1.

In the 145 class, Bruce Kier won his opener, 6-1 over Don Dowley of Sutherland and an injury to his right shoulder forced him out of the decision in his second match.

The Bombers may have their stiffest competition next Wednesday night when they take on perennial Finger Lakes power, Canandaigua, on the East Rochester mats. The non-loop tussle starts at 7:30.

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