

# East Rochester's perfect season ends with No. 1 wrestling ranking

## Bombers defend title in final coaches poll

By Gary Fallesen

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It was one of Don Quinn's "most thrilling years as a wrestling coach."

East Rochester, a high school with a student enrollment of 379, dominated the wrestling scene this season from its pre-season No. 1 ranking to take *Democrat and Chronicle* Team of the Year honors for the second straight season.

The Bombers were unanimous No. 1 choices in the final Section 5 coaches poll.

"Before the season started I thought we had all the tools," said Quinn, who finished his 26th season with a career coaching record of 306 victories, 43 losses and seven ties. "But with the limited numbers, if you get hurt you can have a disastrous season.

"You've got to get a few breaks along the way."

With at least one starter missing from its lineup in each of the four tournaments ER entered, the Bombers won the 32-team Olean, the Monroe County League, Canandaigua's Robert Bradshaw Memorial and the Section 5 Class C championship. The Bombers' Class C title, which they won Saturday at ER, was their eighth straight sectional crown.

ER also won 12 dual meets and boosted its two-year unbeaten streak to 23.

Included in this year's string of victories was the Monroe County League's East-West Day championship and a streak-stopping 23-20 victory over two-time defending state poll champion Fulton, which had won 52 straight before visiting ER Jan. 21.

"In my 26 years, I don't think I've seen a more exciting match than that Fulton match," said Quinn, who became only the third coach in the nation to win 300 with that victory over the Section 3 (Syracuse area) power. "Not only was that match good for East Rochester, it was also good for Section 5 wrestling.

"It was a super season. We had our goals

set high. We were shooting for No. 1 (in the state), and in my mind we are No. 1."

ER is ranked No. 1 in the state sports writers poll along with Huntington of Section 11 (Long Island). But the victory over Fulton and the fact that Huntington has not wrestled any of the state's top five teams convinces Quinn his team is the state's best.

ER will graduate six starters, including Tim Quinn, the coach's son, who is the school's all-time winningest wrestler with a 111-33-1 career record. John Hanselman, Joe Taverrite, Tony Marcoccia, Nick LaPietra and Kevin Condon also are seniors.

"Those guys have been wrestling varsity for three, four and five years," said Quinn, "and they were all pretty consistent winners."

Another consistent winner is Canandaigua's Marty King, a defending state champion who is three victories from the state record for career victories (164).

King's fifth straight sectional title Saturday helped the Braves rally for the Class A team title at Hilton. Canandaigua, which trailed Brockport by 10½ points going into the finals, outscored the Blue Devils in the final round, 15½-0.

Canandaigua finished with 119 points to capture its ninth sectional championship in the past 10 years. Brockport finished with 114 points.

Canandaigua, which finishes the year ranked No. 2 in the coaches poll, had three individual champions in King (126 pounds), Butch Hibbard (98) and Mike Locagnato (91).

"It's hard to beat his lighter weights," said Brockport Coach Jeff Brown, whose team finishes No. 3 in the rankings. "What better kid to send out than a state champ when you want to win a tournament?"

King, whose 30-0 senior season leaves him with a career record of 161-11-1 going into Saturday's Super Sectionals, is used to lifting his team to victory.

"Our lower weights are so dominant," he said, "we have to pull the slack for the rest of the team."