

Wrestling

Stella continues domination on mat

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Nic Stella is on a tear, and no one has come close to stopping him.

The Sweet Home junior won his third wrestling tournament at 140 pounds this season, taking top honors at the 26th Niagara Frontier Wrestling Officials Tournament on Saturday at Niagara County Community College.

Stella, winner at the Akron and Attica tournaments, defeated Lewiston-Porter's Joe McGreevy, 8-2, in the NFWOA finals.

On Friday, Stella opened with a pin in 2:12 over Southwestern's Joe Bennett, then defeated Maryvale's Jim Litz, 10-1. On Saturday, he beat Brian Greenlee of Franklin, Pa., 4-0, in the quarterfinals and Dan Brickner of LaSalle Institute of Section II, 14-5, in the semifinals. Greenlee placed in Pennsylvania's state tournament last year.

Stella, ranked No. 1 in Section VI and fourth in New York State, is 17-0.

"He's getting better every week," said Sweet Home coach Chris Nadeau. "He goes from one thing to another and keeps pressure on other kids. He takes kids down two or three times, kind of breaks them up, then starts pounding on them. He's never in trouble, which is huge."

Stella was the only Panther wrestler who excelled in the tournament. Archie Owrey, 12-2 and seeded fifth, could not participate because of a right ankle injury. His ankle is in a cast, and he will be out two to three weeks.

Gates Bateman went 2-2 at 112. He beat East Aurora's Tanner Kennedy, 14-0, by default, then lost to Eden's Rob Broda, 5-2. The next day, he defeated Greece-Athena's Marcus Crawford, 15-0, by technical fall, but lost to Niagara-Wheatfield's Antonio Ventry, 6-0. Nadeau said Bateman trailed 2-0 against Ventry in the third period but was caught on his back with 40 seconds left.

Freshman Zach Fumerelle lost a tough first-round match at 125 to eventual cham-

pion, Kenmore West's Nathan Skiba, 9-5. In wrestlebacks, Fumerelle beat Albion's Sam Elovaris, 6-2, and lost to Williamsville North's Ansar Khan, 6-4. Fumerelle led Khan, 4-3, with 13 seconds left but gave up a cradle for three points.

Ryan Murray was two matches away from placing at 152, pinning Williamsville South's Bill Truesdell in 1:46 and Albion's Gary Tahura in 2:47. The next day, he was pinned by Salamanca's Trevor Delahoy in the second period and in wrestlebacks, fell to Niagara-Wheatfield's Chad Leadingfox, 10-9.

Earlier in the week, Sweet Home dropped to 1-4 in dual meets with a 46-16 home loss last Wednesday to Clarence.

At 119, Bateman beat John Mergenhagen, 13-2. At 130, Matt Danwin pinned Paul Lagowski in 5:24. Stella won 9-3 over Matt Cowan, who was undefeated, at 140. Murray won 8-6 over Brian Courran at 152. At 171, Paul Fazekas lost 4-2 to Rick Walter.

Sweet Home wrestles at Frontier at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Williamsville East

The Flames improved to 2-2 in dual matches after winning at Canisius on Friday, 45-25.

Ben Mikac (96, pin in 1:11), Ryan Cravatta (112, 15-0 tech pin), Max Cohen (125, second-period pin), Matt Calleri (130, beat ranked wrestler Mike Kelleher, 3-2), Garrett Roetzer (135, first-period pin), Sean Trabert (140, won 18-6), Jason Dieckman (152, won 9-2) and Ernest Jacobs (189, forfeit) picked up victories for the Flames.

It was Cravatta's first action since he suffered a hip injury at the Maple Grove Tournament in early December. Cohen improved to 7-1; six decisions have been decided by pinfall. Trabert, 8-0, is undefeated. Dieckman improved to 7-2; Jacobs is 6-2.

East hosts Iroquois at 6 p.m. Wednesday then competes in the Williamsville North Tournament on Saturday. East took third last year and won the tournament the previous two years.

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Spartan swimmers remain perfect

Coming off an undefeated 2005-06 season that included an ECIC and Section VI team championship, the Williamsville North boys swimming team has begun the 06-07 season unbeaten in ECIC competition.

With convincing victories over Sweet Home, West Seneca West, West Seneca East, Hamburg, Iroquois and Lake Shore, the Spartans appear to be the team to beat once again.

The Spartans, 53-2 versus ECIC competition over the past four years, know that the biggest challenges are still ahead of them.

"There's much more parody in the league this year than it has been in the past," said North coach Flynn Burroughs. "The team that wins the league this year will be the team that is best prepared and wins the match-ups."

The Spartans are led by a solid core of swimmers. Seniors Brandon Beckinghausen, Chris Deputula, and Matt Krupp, as well as junior Michael Lin, have already qualified individually for the New York State Championship meet which will be held March 2-3 at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center. The foursome has also teamed up to post the third fastest 200-yard freestyle relay (1:31.20) and second fastest 400 free relay (3:23.00) times in the state thus far.

The Spartans are also getting significant contributions from juniors Mike Burns (breaststroke), Sean Beckinghausen (breaststroke), Chris Han (IM, back), Robby Novak (500 free) and sophomore Chris Aracara (div-



Williamsville North's Shawn Goldsmith took second place in diving competition in the Spartans' 81-20 home win over Lake Shore on Friday. Chris Aracara took first place. North is 6-0.

Photo by Joe Eberle

ing). "Arcara has been a huge lift for this team," said Burroughs. "Knowing that we can count on him to get the job done on the board has taken a little of the pressure off the swimmers."

Key meets for the Spartans will be Friday against a much improved Williamsville East squad,

Jan. 16 against perennial power Clarence and Jan. 30 against a very strong Orchard Park team.

"We expect that these teams will give us their very best meet of the year," said Burroughs. "Every one wants to be that team that finally knocks us off. Our guys know that and it really fires them up."

Black Watch Premier Soccer Club forming

Black Watch Premier has expanded into Western New York with Black Watch NY-West.

Black Watch Premier is one of 41 clubs sponsored by Nike Soccer as a Nike sports marketing club.

Black Watch NY-West is a new premier level soccer club that will focus on creating a soccer environment that offers professional coaching to develop players' technique and understanding of the game, committed members, both players and parents, talented youth soccer players and a regional/national standard at which to compete. Black Watch will raise the standard of expectations for their youth players and staff on and off the field. Black Watch Soccer will foster

and develop their players into well-rounded, youth athletes who will have the opportunity to compete at a higher level.

Black Watch NY-West will be run by club president and current Canisius College head men's soccer coach, Jim Hesch. The staff will consist of strictly college coaches from the area who are dedicated to developing players capable of playing at the next level.

Black Watch NY-West trains at 7 p.m. every Sunday night at The Epic Center, 2793 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville. Anyone interested in trying out or training in its winter academy should contact Jim Hesch at 818-1661. For more information, visit www.blackwatchsoccer.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Amherst Central

Boys Basketball — lost to Clarence 61-48, def. Iroquois 61-49
Boys Bowling — lost to Depew 6-1, lost to Cheektowaga 6-1
Girls Bowling — lost to Depew 7-0, lost to Cheektowaga 6-1
Hockey — lost to Ken. East 7-2, lost to Bishop Timon-St. Jude 7-0
Boys Swimming — def. Springville 59-39, lost to Cleveland Hill 113-67
Wrestling — lost to St. Joe's 51-12

Sweet Home

Boys Basketball — def. North 68-52
Girls Basketball — def. Lancaster 44-28
Boys Bowling — def. South 4-3, def. East 7-0
Girls Bowling — def. South 5-2, def. East 7-0
Hockey — Oswego Tourn. — def. Oswego 4-1, finals — lost to Lancaster 5-0
Boys Swimming — lost to Hamburg 67-35
Wrestling — lost to Clarence 46-16, 26th at Niagara Frontier Wrestling Officials Tourn., 46

Williamsville East

Boys Basketball — lost to South 84-76
Girls Basketball — def. Lake Shore 58-28
Boys Bowling — lost to W.S. East 7-0, lost to Sweet Home 7-0
Girls Bowling — def. Iroquois 4-3, def. W.S. East 5-2, lost to Sweet Home 7-0
Hockey — tied South 4-4, def. St. Francis 4-0
Boys Swimming — lost to Orchard Park 126-57, lost to Clarence 103-80
Wrestling — def. Canisius 45-25

Williamsville North

Boys Basketball — lost to Sweet Home 68-52
Girls Basketball — lost to Orchard Park 40-38, lost to Maryvale 40-39
Boys Bowling — def. Orchard Park 5-2
Hockey — def. Canisius 3-1, def. Frontier 3-1
Club Hockey — tied Niagara Falls 3-3
Boys Swimming — def. Iroquois 67-35, def. Lake Shore 81-20
Wrestling — 16th at Niagara Frontier Wrestling Officials Tourn., 69

Williamsville South

Boys Basketball — def. East 84-76
Girls Basketball — def. W.S. East 46-20
Boys Bowling — lost to Sweet Home 4-3, def. W.S. East 4-3
Girls Bowling — lost to Sweet Home 5-2, def. W.S. East 6-1
Hockey — tied East 4-4
Boys Swimming — lost to Starpoint 100-56
Wrestling — lost to Lackawanna 55-15, 34th at Niagara Frontier Wrestling Officials Tourn., 4

Sacred Heart

Girls Basketball — def. Mount St. Mary's 54-33, def. Nichols 58-50
Girls Bowling — lost to Mount St. Mary's 3-1, lost to St. Mary's of Lancaster 3-1

Sports brief

Despite a 100-56 loss at Starpoint last Wednesday, Williamsville South senior **Drew Rogers** competed for first place finishes in the 200 IM and 100 freestyle, setting pool records in both events. Sophomore Greg Frank swam a strong 100 fly for another first place finish. The Billies' boys swimming team continues to strive for best individual performances due to a small roster.