

Open tryouts for Defenders this weekend

Open tryouts for the AAU Girls Basketball Buffalo Defenders 13 and under team will be held from noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20 and Sunday, Jan. 21, at Saint Mary's School for the Deaf main gym, 2253 Main Street, Buffalo. Girls must be 13 years old as of Jan. 1, 2007. The AAU will be representing the Buffalo area at a number of tournaments throughout the Northeast. For more information, call Larry Hughes at 688-1183.

North surprises at own tournament

Spartans crown four champions, win overall for first time in school history

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North wrestling coach Brian Swatland was hoping for a top-five finish at his team's own tournament on Saturday and got more than he asked for.

The Spartans crowned four champions and placed first. North had 153½ points, 5½ more than second-place Pioneer.

"From the first round to the last, we led the tournament the whole day," said a surprised Swatland. "The kids were excited, needless to say, and so was I."

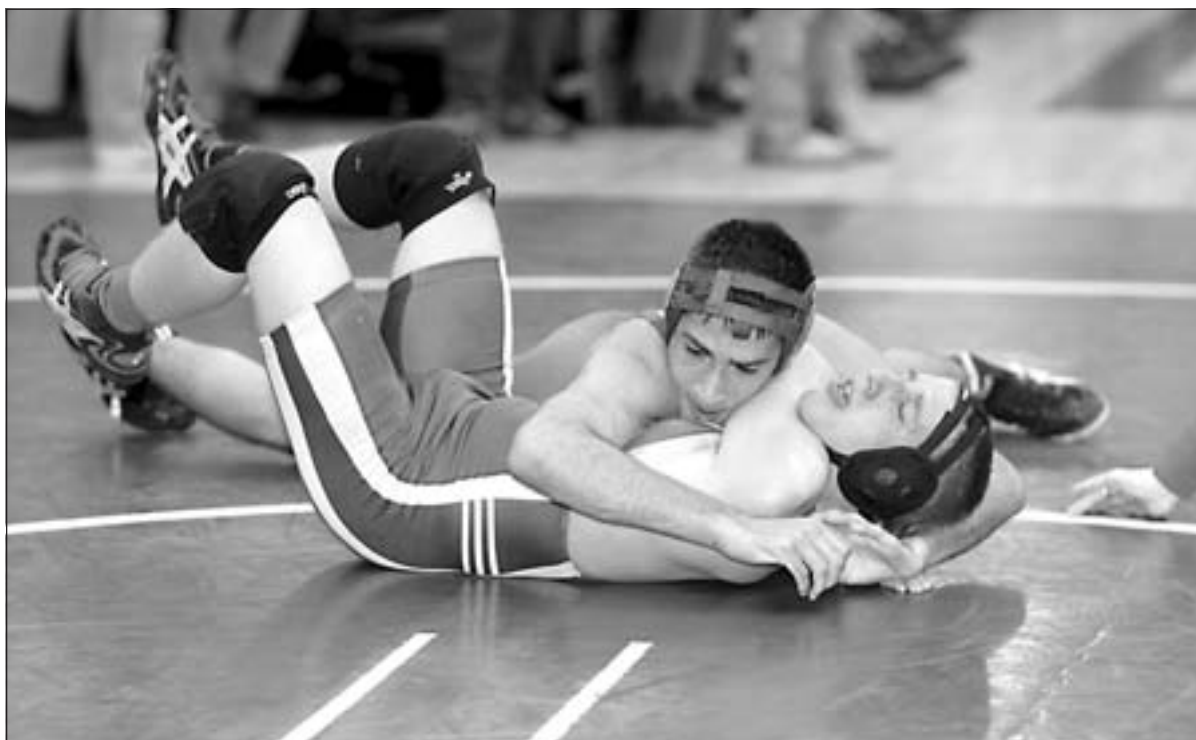
It's the first time North had won its own tournament. They placed third in 2001 when it was held at Williamsville South, finished third in 2002 when it was moved to North and were third in 2005.

The Spartans' tournament win was not against cream puff competition. Fifth-ranked Western New York Small School Eden and tenth-ranked Lackawanna were among the schools who competed. North also accomplished the first place feat with only 12 wrestlers. There were 15 weight classes at the tournament.

"Going in with only 12 wrestlers, I didn't expect to do as well as we did," said Swatland. "We had some great individual performances."

Tommy Kellner, Jake Caprow, Nate Carbrey and P.J. Abbarno all won their weight classes. Ben DesSoye placed second at 275.

Kellner went 4-0 at 119 but his toughest match was his 6-5 semifinal win over Williamsville East's Jacob Beichner. Swatland said Kellner gave up a point for an



Williamsville North's Phil Constantinou pins Grand Island's Dustin Langer at 152 pounds during the Spartans' own tournament on Saturday. Constantinou finished third. As a team, North finished first overall for the first time in school history.

Photo by John Rusac

illegal move and Beichner allowed two points for illegal moves. Beichner was ahead 3-1 with 33 seconds left.

Kellner went on to defeat Gowanda's Joe Stearns, 9-3, in the finals.

"Tommy controlled most of the action and was very aggressive the whole match," said Swatland. "Stearns was trying to defend a lot of stuff that he was doing."

In earlier matches, Kellner pinned Springville's Dave Butzar in 1:28 and Grand Island's Joe Giambelluca in 3:14.

Caprow dominated the competition at 130. The senior recorded

a 17-2 technical pin over Lake Shore's Brett Colling in the first round then pinned East's Matt Calleri in 1:45 and Eden's Eddie Sarcione in 1:58 in the semifinals and finals, respectively.

At 135, Carbrey pinned Pioneer's Ryan Johnson in 1:18 and Hamburg's Brett Phillips in 2:36 before beating Maryvale's Nick Smith, 14-0, in the finals. Smith only had one loss going into the tournament, Swatland said.

Carbrey was most valuable wrestler at 130 at the tournament last year.

At 160, Abbarno, seeded third, knocked off Lake Shore's Pat Ma-

han, 5-1, Springville's Eric Zielan-Ersing and Williamsville South's Logan Struebing, each by technical fall, 16-0 and 16-1, and top-seed Eden's Tom Caldwell, 6-1, in the finals for his first varsity championship.

"He's one of those kids who goes to tournaments all summer," said Swatland. "He even went to a tournament in the fall... He works very hard to get where he is."

DesSoye pinned second-seed Williamsville East's Ryan Tideswell in 34 seconds in the first round and third-seed Dom Fraterrigo from Kenmore East in

5:25 in the semifinals but was pinned by Pioneer's Randy Colling in 1:45. Colling is ranked No. 1 at 275 in Section VI.

Many other Spartans contributed to the victory. Phil Constantinou took third at 152 and Matt Aloisio and Matt Proven were one win away from placing at 171 and 145, respectively.

Constantinou pinned Grand Island's Dustin Langer in 3:57 and was pinned by Gowanda's Dave Richter in 3:49. He later pinned Springville's Matt Zielan-Ersing in 3:39 then beat Kenmore East's Steve Jenison, 4-1, for third.

Aloisio lost to Grand Island's Alex Webb, 3-1, pinned Eden's Zach Braunscheidel in 2:36, beat South's Mike Walter in 1:27 but fell to eventual third place finisher, James Maybee of Gowanda, 6-1.

Proven pinned Gowanda's Mike Eshole and East's Garrett Roetzer but was pinned by Pioneer's Joe Gottstine in the semifinals. In wrestlebacks, Proven was pinned by Grand Island's Anthony Gunion in 4:47.

Eighth grader Steven Liebler picked up points for the Spartans with a pin over Kenmore East's Sam Coho in 36 seconds and a 7-0 victory over Springville's Josh Zielan-Ersing. Liebler finished 2-2.

Swatland thanks all parents who volunteered their time for the tournament.

Prior to the tournament, North defeated Frontier, 54-15, at home on Friday to improve to 5-3 in dual matches.

Kellner (119), Caprow (130), Carbrey (140), Proven (145),

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Hockey

Marko's late heroics keep Sweet Home perfect in Fed

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Ryan Marko couldn't be stopped this week and neither could the Sweet Home hockey team.

Marko had 11 points in three Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation games, including a short-handed goal with 13 seconds left in regulation, to lift the Panthers over St. Francis, 4-3, on Sunday at Buffalo State College. The win improved Sweet Home to 9-0 in Federation play, 12-2 overall. Wins over Williamsville East on Thursday, Amherst on Saturday and Timon on Sunday ensures the Panthers its first trip in school history to the Division II regionals.

The Panthers were ahead, 3-0, in the second period before St. Francis scored the next three goals, including ones by Eddie Spiesz and Tyler Underhill in a span of 2:16 in the third, to tie it at 3-3.

Seeing the momentum shift, Sweet Home coach Dave Gerspach told his team to get Marko the puck as much as possible, which they did, but Dan Martino took a penalty with 1:10 left.

That's when Marko showed why he's the top scorer in the league. Paul Campise

pinched on a draw in the Sweet Home end, bounced a pass to Anthony Manzella who slid a pass to Marko on a two-on-one to win the game.

"In our eyes, Ryan's the best player in the league so we got him the puck," said Gerspach. "In the last five minutes, he was all over the place. Wherever the puck went, he was there."

Marko's first point of the day came on another short-handed goal, this one from Dominic Puntillo in the first period. Marko then assisted with Manzella on James Cardinale's power-play goal to put the Panthers ahead, 2-0. Cardinale added a second period goal from Paul Campise and Ryan Gutt.

Marko has 99 career points and leads the Federation with 29 points (10 goals, 19 assists). Including non-league games, he has 30 points.

Teammate Alex Esposito has 86 career points and is second in Federation scoring with 23 points (10 goals, 13 assists) and 27 points (12 goals, 15 assists) overall.

Marko was also brilliant in Sweet Home victories at the Amherst Pepsi Center over Timon, 7-2, on Thursday, and Kenmore East, 5-1, on Saturday.

Against Timon, Marko scored a highlight

reel short-handed goal 29 seconds into the second period.

"Ryan tipped the puck past one of their defenders and outraced the other defenseman," said Gerspach. "He went in on net, their goalie came out and he flipped it over him into the net."

He also assisted with Esposito on a Mike Campise first period power-play goal, a Cardinale second period power-play goal and with Mike Campise on a Martino second period goal.

Against Kenmore East, he scored from Martino and assisted with Daryn Cavalier on an Esposito short-handed goal in the first period, helped Esposito on a Martino second period power-play goal and assisted with Manzella on a Cardinale third period power play tally.

Paul Campise also scored in the second against Timon from Martino and Esposito.

"The second period was the best period we've played all year," said Gerspach. "We scored four times but it could have been 10. We hit a number of posts and their goalie made some big saves. We did not let them out of their zone. Our forecheck was working real well."

Mike Campise (Mike Campise) and Ryan

Gutt also tallied for the Panthers.

John Garvin scored both Timon goals. Derek Mohny made 16 saves as Sweet Home outshot Timon, 33-18.

Corey Sykes (Montanez, Mike Campise) also scored for Sweet Home against Kenmore East who jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead.

Kyle Wagner scored for Kenmore East on the power play.

"Derek played well in net (23 saves) but Ken East is a very good team," said Gerspach. "Up 4-0, we expected them to slow it down but they came out stronger. I give Jeff Orłowski (Ken East coach) credit. They played until the final whistle blew."

Sweet Home had 32 shots.

Mohny made 21 saves against St. Francis.

Williamsville East

East geared up for Sweet Home after shutting out Amherst, 4-0, on Thursday on the Feature Rink.

The Flames (8-1-1) scored three first period goals in a span of 1:30 to set the pace. Chris Fabozzi scored at 8:42 from Kyle Smith. A 1:20 later, Colin Lucey made it 2-0 from Eric Bogart and Mike DeSte-

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