

# Stella, Carbrey win first ECIC wrestling titles

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**  
Reporter

Two wrestlers from the Town of Amherst were crowned ECIC champions last weekend.

Sweet Home's Nic Stella and Williamsville North's Nate Carbrey each won their first ECIC wrestling titles on Saturday. The two-day 27-team varsity tournament was held at East Aurora High School.

Stella and Carbrey went 5-0 at 140 and 135, respectively. Each were seeded first in their weight classes. In the finals, Stella beat Clarence's Matt Cowan, 9-4, but Sweet Home coach Chris Nadeau said it easily could have been 13-4. Meanwhile, Carbrey knocked off another Town of Amherst wrestler, Steve Devlin, by pinfall in 1:58. It was the third straight tournament that Devlin had made the finals.

Stella, ranked No. 1 in Section VI at 140, improved to 24-0. His other victories at the tournament came over Cheektowaga's Clay Reeb, 12-1, in the semifinals and Orchard Park's Andrew Hutchins, 18-1, by technical fall in the quarterfinals. In earlier rounds, he defeated Depew's Brad Barth, 16-7, and Lancaster's Derek Welch, 21-6.

Stella said by beating Reeb, he has pretty much defeated every Section VI wrestler in his weight class.

"Everything is going real good now," said Stella.

"I think he is taking it to another level,"

added Nadeau. "He wrestles year round against the top kids in the state and has beaten them. He's confident in what he can do and is not going to settle for anything less. When he's out there, he's all business. He's like a man possessed. No one in the section has come close to him."

Stella's ultimate goal is to advance to the New York State Championships for the first time in his career and win it.

Carbrey pinned two other opponents at ECICs. He opened with a pinfall in 1:06 over Frontier's Tony Pitt then pinned Williamsville South's Mike Lang in 15 seconds. In the quarterfinals, Carbrey beat Holland's Joe Evans, 13-0, and in the semifinals, knocked off fifth-seed Justin Moore of Tonawanda, 5-0.

The senior improved to 21-2 and is an Honorable Mention in Section VI. It was Carbrey's second straight tournament win. He won at the Williamsville North Tournament on Jan. 13.

## Sweet Home

Unfortunately, Nic Stella was the only Panther to place at ECICs. Matt Danwin, Ryan Murray, and Gage Bateman were each one match from placing and finished 3-2.

Bateman, seeded sixth at 112, had a first round bye, defeated East Aurora's Tanner Kennedy, 10-0 and lost to Maryvale's Alex Bagne, 10-6. In wrestlebacks, he beat Depew's Devin Kramer, 6-3, and fell to Jamestown's Max Murray, 2-0.

Murray, seeded eighth at 152, pinned

Eden's Sam Lewandowski in 4:57 and Holland's Nick Dichairo in 3:38. On Saturday, he was lost by technical fall, 16-1, to East Aurora's Nick Czatla, beat Lake Shore's Tim Meade, 3-1, and fell to Lancaster's Brian Hauser, 5-4.

Danwin, seeded tenth at 130, lost 11-4 to Eden's Eddie Sarcione, beat Clarence's Paul Legowski, 15-0, Lake Shore's Brett Colling, 4-0, and Cheektowaga's Russell Wojtuskiak, 2-0, before falling to West Seneca West's Aaron Crowley, 2-0.

## Williamsville North

Jake Caprow was North's only other wrestler to place in the top six. At 130, Caprow was pinned by Iroquois' Matt Mariacher in the first period. Caprow finished 3-2. He is 20-4 this season.

Ben DesSoye and Matt Aloisio each lost a round before placing. At 275, DesSoye lost to Jamestown's Anthony Nary, 7-1. DesSoye was 2-2. Aloisio, who finished 3-2, fell short at 171.

At 119, Tommy Keller lost to East Aurora's Kevin Ott in the quarterfinals and in wrestlebacks to Lancaster's Derek Welch. Kellner finished 2-2.

P.J. Abbarno, seeded third, battled the flu and finished 2-2 at 160.

## Amherst Central

Steve Devlin pinned Pioneer's Ryan Johnson, Hamburg's Bret Phillips, defeated Lancaster's Billy Ellis, 5-1, in the quarterfinals and Maryvale's Nick Smith, 6-4, in the semifinals before facing North's Nate Carbrey.

Senior Andrew McCauley went 3-2 at 130 pounds. McCauley lost to East Aurora's Mike Weir in the consolation quarterfinals, just missing placing.

Earlier in the tournament, he defeated Frontier's Pete Lucido, 4-3, Orchard Park's Mike Hasson, 12-3, and Sarcione by medical default.

## Williamsville East

Flames coach Henry Fumerelle continues to see his wrestling team develop as four of his nine grapplers placed at ECICs.

Freshman Ben Mikac was East's top finisher with a fourth at 96. In the semifinals, Mikac lost to eventual champion Kyle McGregor of Tonawanda, 8-6, in overtime.

Mikac went on to lose in four overtimes for fourth. He finished 3-2.

Jacob Beichner (119, 4-2), Max Cohen (125, 4-2) and Sean Trabert (135, 4-2) each took fifth.

Zach Horton went 2-2 at 103. Brandon Munoz and Ernest Jacobs each went 1-2 at 152 and 160, respectively.

"It was a grueling weekend but they did a great job," said Fumerelle. "That's our toughest tournament besides the Class tournament. I was very pleased and continue to see development. They're exceeding expectations. I'm proud of them."

## Williamsville South

Michael Walter, Elliot Frank, and Billy Truesdell recorded wins at ECICs for the Billies.

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# Sweet Home beats Frontier, loses close dual to North

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**  
Reporter

Sweet Home defeated Frontier, 35-24, on Jan. 10 and lost to Williamsville North, 36-31, last Wednesday, although Sweet Home coach Chris Nadeau feels his wrestling team should have won both.

Nadeau bumped Alex Dennis, Ryan Murray, Dan Balsom and Paul Fazekas up a weight class against Frontier and the gamble seemed to pay off. Dennis, Mur-

ray and Balsom scored pins at 152, 160, and 171, respectively. Dennis pinned Jed Burnhardt in 1:20, Murray beat Matt Hilderbrandt in 1:57 and Balsom defeated Dave Notwora in 3:13.

Fazekas lost 5-4 to Sean Alford. Fazekas was ahead 4-2 but Alford escaped and took him down, Nadeau said.

Gage Bateman (112, tech pin in second period, 15-0), Zach Fumerelle (125, def. Mike Toole, 8-3), Matt Danwin (130, beat Pete Lacido 5-2), and Nic Stella (140,

pinned Jesse Kublas in 29 seconds) picked up victories for the Panthers.

Sweet Home led North, 31-30, heading into the final match of the night. At 145, North's Matt Proven pinned Sweet Home's Andrew Serio in 2:38. The match was tied at 2-2 before Proven reversed Serio and pinned him.

"I don't know if it was a letdown from the North tournament but we didn't wrestle to the best of our ability and it almost cost us in the end," said North coach Brian

Swatland. "Sweet Home outwrestled us at most of the weight classes. We were very fortunate to get out of there with a win."

A Panthers victory looked good early on. Murray opened at 152 with a pinfall over Desmond Little at 4:42 of the third period. Balsom followed with a reversal and pin over Phil Constantinou at 3:17 of the second period at 160. Constantinou was up 4-0 but was rolled through to his back.

Fazekas almost gave Sweet Home an 18-0 lead but lost a 6-4 overtime decision to P.J. Abbarno at 171. Fazekas was ahead 4-0 in the third period when Abbarno reversed and put him on his back to tie it at 4-4.

"That was the match in my mind," said Nadeau. "If Paul pulls that out, we win (overall) by a point."

Daiquann Burney (103, forfeit), Bateman (112, 14-0 over Stephen Liebler), Fumerelle (125, 9-2 over Tommy Kellner) and Stella (pinned Abbas Rizvi in 2:47) earned Sweet Home victories.

Matt Aloisio (189, pinned Dave Rhodes in 1:50), Brad Adkins (215, pinned Nico Fisher in 3:58),

Alex Booth (119, forfeit), Jake Caprow (130, defeated Danwin, 10-6), and Nate Carbrey (135, pinned Corey Mitchum in 53 seconds) picked up wins for the Spartans.

The win improved North to 6-3 in duals; Sweet Home fell to 2-5.

North wrestles at Clarence at 6:30 p.m. on Friday before competing in the Depew Varsity Tournament on Saturday. North placed third last year.

Through the North dual, Stella had 43 takedowns, eight escapes, 13 reversals, six pins, eight technical falls and 40 near falls. Murray was 11-5 with six pins and 24 reversals. Bateman was 10-4 with four technical falls. Balsom had six pins.

In other Sweet Home wrestling news, Rhodes (189) and Matt Cobb (145) each went 4-2 at the recent Lockport JV tournament. Dennis and Serio were each 2-2 at 145. Fisher and Sebastian were 1-2 at 215.

Sweet Home is off until they host the Joe Shifflet Sweet Home Invitational Friday and Saturday.

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# Flames even duals record with road victory over South

Williamsville East wrestling improved to 3-3 in duals this season with a 48-27 road win at Williamsville South last Wednesday.

Ben Mikac (96, won 4-0), Jacob Beichner (125, second period pin over first-year wrestler Nicholas Green), Zach Santoro (135, first period pin), Sean Trabert (145, second period pin over Michael Ehrenreich), and Jacobs (189, third period pin) won for East.

South forfeited three weight classes even before the match started.

Down 18-0 after forfeiting 130, South's Mike Lang, another first-year freshman, came out and wrestled one of his best matches of the season, said Billies coach Sean Leaderstorf.

Even though he lost a tough battle, he inspired another first-year wrestler, sophomore John Willet to his first varsity win at 140, which sparked a huge comeback.

Despite losing to Trabert, Ehrenreich had been filling in for an injured Andrew Tevens at 145 pounds and has done tremendously better this year, said Leaderstorf.

South senior captain Logan Struebing stepped out on the mat and pinned his opponent to set the tone for the rest of the heavyweights. Billy Truesdell followed by Michael Walter won back to back matches.

At 189, first-year South freshman James Monroe came out and displayed his gritty wrestling style and had his opponent reevaluate his technique with constant pressure in the first period.

In the second, Monroe fought off his back a couple of times that kept his team hopeful. In the third, he turned the tables and put Jacobs on his

back in a flurry of folkstyle wrestling maneuvers. With a pause in the match due to a scoring discrepancy, both wrestlers regained their composure and caught a much needed breath of air.

When the match continued, Jacobs caught Monroe in an unfamiliar hold and pinned the injured freshman. Monroe had dislocated his shoulder somewhere in the midst of the third period but had enough guts and determination to finish the match.

Junior Elliot Frank got the job done at 215, pinning M.P. Joseph. At 103, Justin St. George wrestled a hard fought match that many thought he'd won in the third with, what many saw as an obvious pin that was overlooked by the official as time ran out, giving the decision to East, Leaderstorf said.

Leaderstorf and coach John Szymendera were so proud of their team and willingness to go hard the entire match that they decided to put every member that wrestled on their Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Week banner in the gym.

"They definitely deserved to be recognized for what they accomplished out on the mat that night," said Leaderstorf.

South's Tyler Kremps and Tom Darling each picked up big wins at JV.

East will find out how good they are when they travel to Holley, the top team in Rochester, at 6 p.m. on Thursday. This weekend, East will compete in the Lew-Port Lancers' Pete Rao Memorial Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

South has upcoming exhibition meets with Canisius and Williamsville North and a dual with Starpoint.

## Sweet Home starting youth wrestling camp

Registration for a youth wrestling camp at Sweet Home High School will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and Thursday, Feb. 1.

The 15-session camp will start on Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 and run Tuesdays and Thursdays through March. The dates are Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and March 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22.

The 6 to 14 age camp will run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by the 14-18 age camp from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The camp will provide a child with the basics of wrestling through advanced instruction.

Sweet Home varsity wrestling coach Chris Nadeau and assistant coach Jeff Hess will facilitate the camp.

The fee is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.

For more information, call Nadeau at 400-9840.

In addition, the fitness center at the high school is open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To register, call 250-1424.