

Trabert achieves wrestling milestone

East senior breaks school record for career wins

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Ever since he started wrestling for Williamsville East in eighth grade, Sean Trabert has had his eyes on the school record for career victories. Now it's all his.

The East senior won the 140-pound weight class at the Pete Rao Memorial Lewiston-Porter Invitational Wrestling Tournament last Saturday at Lewiston-Porter High School to give him 99 career wins. The old record was 98 set in the 1998-99 season by Steve Joyce.

"I've been trying to get it for the past five years," said Trabert, who improved to 21-6 for the season. "All of my workouts, all of my focus has gone towards getting the record."

"I was real happy for him," added East coach Henry Fumerelle. "He's been wrestling really well. I can remember when I brought him up as an eighth grader and he won the East Aurora Tournament before it was the ECICs."

Trabert defeated Eden's Derek Zittel, 7-4, in the finals. Trabert said he was winning 2-0 after the first period and 7-2 with 13.3 seconds when Trabert gave up a reversal. After the match, Trabert said he stayed on the mat with his head down overwhelmed with emotion. He also gave his big brother, Justin, a 2003 East grad, a huge.

"He's been my main motivation for the record," said Trabert. "I've been wrestling him since I was in fifth grade."

Trabert beat St. Joe's Scott Ketcham, 9-0, and Lockport's Jack Green, 4-2, in the first two rounds.

Trabert is 99-29 in his high school career. Another win would make him the only East wrestler in history with 100 wins.

"That would mean a lot," said Trabert, who wants to major in business management in college.

Trabert is deciding between Oswego



Williamsville East's Sean Trabert, back, set the school record for most career victories after winning the 140-pound weight class at the 2008 Pete Rao

Memorial Lewiston-Porter Invitational Wrestling Tournament last weekend at Lewiston-Porter High School. Trabert has 99 victories.

File photo

State College, West Virginia University and Bowling Green State University.

Trabert was the only champion East crowned but the Flames had several wrestlers place to earn 104 team points and take fourth out of 14 teams with 104 points.

Sam Beichner, Max Cohen and Will Kelly each placed second at 96, 130, and 171 pounds, respectively. Jacob Beichner took third at 125. Matt Callari finished fourth at 135.

Beichner pinned Grand Island's Zach Wojnar in 4:38 and beat Franklinville's John Wilcox, 7-2, and was pinned in 2:52 in the finals by Fredonia's Carlene Sluberski.

Cohen pinned Fredonia's Kaleb Puleo in 5:20 and North Tonawanda's Derrek Drass, 9-4, in the semifinals. In the finals, Cohen

was beaten 8-4 by Medina's Dominic Montesante. Fumerelle said Cohen was up 4-2 going into the third period.

Kelly pinned Franklinville's Phil Anderson in 3:16 and doubled up Fredonia's Vinnie Scienza, 4-2, in the quarterfinals and semifinals. In his first appearance in a tournament final, Kelly was pinned in 3:46 by Lockport's Shaun Reynolds.

Beichner defeated North Tonawanda's Tyler Bruce, 4-2, to take third. Beichner opened the tournament with an 8-2 victory over Lockport's Dennis Emke. His only loss came in the semifinals, an 8-2 loss to eventual champion, Eric Velez of Medina. Beichner beat St. Joe's Eric Konwiczka, 8-3, in the consolation semifinals.

Callari won his first round match over Eden's Pat O'Brien, 5-4, but lost in the

semifinals to top seed, Dylan Duncanson of Medina, 11-2. In wrestlebacks, Callari beat Grand Island's Andy Lalonde, 13-3 and was pinned in 30 seconds by Fredonia's Alex Lacen, to take fourth.

Steve Meyer and MP Joseph each went 1-2 at 160 and 189, respectively.

Meyer lost his first match to Jeff Schrecongost of North Tonawanda, 15-3. In wrestlebacks, he pinned Franklinville's Seth Swartz in 4:55 and lost to Lockport's C.J. Ralyea, 4-0, in the consolation semifinals.

Joseph pinned Grand Island's Noah Yanicki in 4:57 and lost 5-2 against Fredonia's Corey King in the semifinals. Joseph was pinned in 1:34 by Niagara Falls' Ken Hamilton in the consolation semifinals.

Ben Mikac went 1-2 at 112. He opened with an 8-6 loss to Evan Wells of Medina. In wrestlebacks, he beat Niagara Falls' Mike Calvello, 3-1 and fell to Lockport's Kyle Burdick, 3-0, in the consolation semifinals.

East (7-1) wrestles at 7 p.m. on Wednesday against Amherst and at 6 p.m. on Friday at Pioneer.

Amherst Central

Matt Weber led the Tigers with a fourth place finish.

Weber pinned Williamsville South's Mike Lang in 2:24 and beat St. Joe's Pat Kraft, 17-1, by technical fall in 5:01 in the first two rounds. He was beaten 18-4 by Niagara Falls' Dan Mitravich, in the semifinals.

In wrestlebacks, Weber edged Anthony Gugino of Grand Island, 5-1, and fell 10-9 to Garrett Farrington of Franklinville to take fourth.

Corey Damon went 2-2 at 189. Pete Battaglia finished 1-2 at 215 as did Nick Hernandez at 171.

The Tigers' finished in 13th place with 25.50 team points.

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South likes third at Pete Rao Memorial Tournament

Luke Falzone, Mike Walter, and Elliot Frank each took third place in their weight classes at last weekend's Pete Rao Memorial Tournament held at Lewiston-Porter High School.

At 103, Falzone improved his record to 23-11 by beating

top-seed Ivan Cruz of Lockport, 6-3. Falzone also pinned Joe Amsdill of Grand Island in 3:56 and Andrew Dieckman from Williamsville East in 4:22.

Walter, at 171, was making his return after a sprained anterior cruciate ligament in his shoulder

put him on the injured list for about a week. Walter defeated Mike Hosey from Medina in the first round by pinfall in 4:49 but fell to the No. 1 seed Shaun Reynolds of Lockport, 16-0, in the semifinals.

From there, it was a battle to

place third. Walter had to defeat Nick Hernandez from Amherst, 3-1, to make it to the consolation finals and had to face Hosey in the consolation finals.

Walter had a tougher time with him in this match as it went to overtime tied 3-3.

For the first 20 seconds, Walter and Hosey were battling for position to get a takedown.

All of a sudden, Hosey took a sloppy shot and Walter capitalized by sprawling his legs back and spinning for the two. The referee awarded him the takedown and the win. Walter improved his record to 17-10.

Frank had his eyes set on the finals after winning his first match against fifth-seed Sam Clark from Grand Island by pin in 1:04. But after falling to Brad Eichelberger from Fredonia by pin in 2:47, Frank had to reevaluate his goal.

His first consolation match was against Ethan Stack from Lew-Port in which Frank won 14-6.

As luck would have it, Frank had to face Clark again for third place.

Deadlocked 0-0 after the first period, neither wrestler got a takedown. In the second period, Frank noticed an opportunity and put Clark on his back and pinned

him at 2:58. Frank improved his record to 20-13.

The Billies took ninth with 46 points.

South's JV team wrestled in two tournaments this past weekend. On Friday, they wrestled at Lew-Port in the JV portion of the Pete Rao Memorial and Saturday, went to Kenmore East for a round robin tournament.

Joe Robinson took third place at Lew-Port. Nick Green took fourth at Kenmore East.

"Green is really putting things together on the mat," said South coach John Szymendera. "He is becoming a better all-around wrestler with every match."

Jake Eckenrode also at 125, took fourth at Kenmore East.

The other South wrestlers who went to the tournament but didn't place still wrestled tough. Evan Knoer, Andrew Mohr, James Monroe, Spencer Biondo, Anthony Libatore and Tariq Zahran will have the opportunity to redeem themselves at the upcoming ECIC JV tournament on Saturday at Amherst High School.

Leaderstorf said each of them has a legitimate shot at placing with little improvements on their skills and performance.

"Overall, I'm pleased with their progression thus far," said Leaderstorf.

Ernst

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117-28 with many of the losses occurring in the early years of the program. Enders currently lives in Florida.

"I loved the guy," said Ernst. "He's been the best male role model I've had in my life."

Ernst told the story of how Endres taught him "the greatest lesson he's ever learned in his life."

"I was undefeated as a sopho-

more and ranked very high," said Ernst. "We were wrestling West Seneca and I weighed in at 157. Coach Endres told me I was wrestling at 167 against Ed Anna, who was a senior, a two-time section champ, undefeated and a stud. I lost and I was the only person who lost. So I sat at the back of the bus all the way from West Seneca and I did not want to get off the bus. When I got off the bus, Enders was standing at the bottom of the steps with his pipe. I can still smell the tobacco, and he looked at me and said, 'Nobody leaves me without knowing how to lose.'"

It was the same type of thinking that enabled Ernst to handle the death of one of his sons, Brant, in 1983 from leukemia.

"When my son died I could have folded the tent but the lessons I learned from him kept me going,"

said Ernst.

Enders was also the reason why Ernst got into teaching (34-year teaching career, retired in 1999) and coaching wrestling (224-94-1 record between Buffalo State College, Williamsville North, Cheektowaga and Kenmore East). He also coached JV high school football.

"The kids respect him," said East wrestling coach Henry Fumerelle. "He brings a wealth of knowledge to the sport. His techniques are terrific. Going into the Hall of Fame is well deserved."

Ernst also attributes his success in wrestling to having good workout partners, most notably Williamsville graduate Gary Butt, who went 148-0-1 in high school. Butt was inducted into the WNY-WCA in 2005.

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