

Wrestling

Flames rebound with dual victory over Amherst

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville East's wrestling team dropped back-to-back dual meets but closed out last week with a win.

The Flames lost to Cheektowaga, 43-16, on senior night at East last Wednesday and to Iroquois, 36-19, last Friday at Iroquois. The Flames won at Amherst, 47-15, on Saturday.

East (8-3, 5-3) wrestled Pioneer on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. A win would give the Flames its third best single-season dual record in school history.

Weight classes against Cheektowaga that the Flames recorded victories were came at 130 (senior Max Cohen, beat Jorge Antonetti, 15-2); 140 (senior Sean Trabert, pinned Jacob Petrosky in second period); and 103 (Sam Beichner, pinned Chris Zimmerman in first period). Trabert's win gave him 100 for his career. He is the only East wrestler to have 100 career wins.

East senior 119-pounder Ryan Cravatta was injured and did not compete. Senior Jayson Dieckman lost at 145 to Clay Reeb, 14-4. At 189, East's MP Joseph lost, 8-6, to Adam Piscitello. Jacob Beichner lost to Jared Messina, 9-2. Brandon Munoz fell 17-16, at 152. Matt Callari got injured in his 135-pound match and was pinned.



Williamsville East's Jayson Dieckman, top, tries to get the upper hand against Iroquois' Ralieg Defields in a 145-pound match last Friday at Iroquois. East lost the dual, 36-19.

Photo by John Normile
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Against Iroquois, Cohen did not wrestle because of an ear injury.

Trabert beat Chris Zaporowski, 15-3, at 140. Joseph pinned Brad Bowen in the third period at 189. Sam Beichner beat Nick Roberts, 6-3, at 103. Callari avenged a 7-2 loss in the ECIC quarterfinals to Matt Manganaro with a 9-2 victory at 135.

East winners against Amherst

were Sam Beichner (103, forfeit); Mikac (112, 13-2 over Nick Pantano); Jacob Beichner (125, pinned Pat Donovan in first period); Ben Bermudez (130, pinned James Mullane in second period); Callari (135, beat Sean Cunningham, 12-3); Trabert (140, pinned Josh Kapus in first period); Munoz (145, beat Kreig Roche, 6-2); Jayson Dieckman (152, beat Matt Weber, 4-2); Will Kelly (171,

pinned Mark Tarquini in the third period); and Joseph (189, beat Corey Damon, 5-3, in overtime).

"It was good to get on track on Saturday," said East coach Henry Fumerelle.

Sophomore Steve Graser (119), sophomore Brian Rice (160), and junior Pete Battaglia (215) each recorded wins for Amherst.

East will compete at this weekend's Class AAA Tournament at Starpoint High School. Wrestling starts at 4 p.m. on Friday and at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Fumerelle's goal is to try to send more wrestlers than any other year to the Section VI New York State Qualifier on Feb. 23 at Kenmore West. The record is five.

To do that, they must place in the top four at the Class Tournament.

Mikac, Cohen, Jacob and Sam Beichner, Trabert, Callari, Dieckman, and Joseph already each have 20 wins this season.

Sweet Home

The Panthers' only action last week was a meet they would like to forget.

Sweet Home lost at Jamestown, 54-12, last Wednesday.

Sweet Home coach Jeff Hess had to forfeit five weight classes.

Panther wins came from Zach Fumerelle (130, 7-2 over Scott Johnson), Nic Stella (135, 13-7 over Nick Bennett) and Daiquann Burney (103, pin at 4:54 over Kyle Green).

It was the first time Stella had wrestled at 135 in a dual match in two years.

Sweet Home (3-9) wrestled at West Seneca West last Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press.

They will compete in the Class AAAA Tournament at 4 p.m. on Friday and at 9 a.m. Saturday at Clarence High School. The top four from each weight class advances to the Section VI New York State Qualifier on Feb. 23 at Kenmore West.

Among the Sweet Home wrestlers who will be competing will be Fumerelle (16-14), Burney (17-17), Stella (34-4), Gage Bateman (12-5), Matt Danwin (24-10) and Mike White (7-7).

"Every tournament we have competed in this year has been better than last year," said Hess. "We're hoping to send three or four wrestlers to the state qualifier."

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North enters Class 4As on winning streak

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North's wrestling team is heading into this weekend's Class AAAA Tournament with a ton of momentum.

The Spartans beat West Seneca West, 30-26, last Wednesday at West Seneca West and Orchard Park, 56-13, last Thursday at home to finish up its dual record at 13-4 overall and 5-3 in ECIC Division I, good for fourth place.

"It's been a good season," said North coach Brian Swatland. "Everything played out well. We got some injuries but we had a big enough team where we could move kids in and out of the lineup."

The Class AAAA Tournament is Friday and Saturday at Clarence High School. The top four finishers qualify for the Section VI New York State qualifier at 10 a.m. on Feb. 23 at Kenmore West. Swatland qualified five wrestlers for sectionals last year.

"It's going to be tough," said Swatland. "Most of the ranked large schools will be at the tournament. Most of our lineup is back so we'll have a fairly strong team going in."

North's win over West Seneca West was the Spartans' first over them since 2001.

The Spartans won two of its last three matches (freshman Austin Berube beat Ryan Brown, 4-0, at 125 pounds; junior Tommy Kellner defeated Scott Zawadcki, 21-3, by technical fall at 130 pounds) to seal the team win.

West Seneca West won more matches, 7-6, but North recorded two more pins, 3-1.

"It was a nice win for the program," said Swatland.

Pinfall victories for North came at 145 from junior Matt Proven (pinned Derek Bajdas in second period), 160 from senior PJ Abbarno (pinned Jay Hidy in first period) and 171 from senior Matt Aloisio (pinned Nick Casella in first period).

Junior Scott Herberger beat Matt Augustine by major decision, 9-0, at 189.

Dave Marple lost 6-4 in overtime at 112 to Christian Barrells. Tied at 2-2 going into the third period, Marple got a reversal and Barrells escaped and Marple was charged a point for stalling. In overtime, Barrells scored a takedown to pick up the win.

"Dave had a few takedowns that he was close to getting that went out of bounds," said Swatland. "He wrestled well and just lost in the end."

North only lost three matches against Orchard Park.

Mike Pitz and Berube each won by forfeit at 103 and 125, respectively. At 119, Alex Booth avenged a 12-0 loss at ECICs to Josh Zhang with a second period pin. Kellner pinned James Schroder in the first period to improve to 30-5 on the season. He has 97 career wins. The school record is 102.

Freshman Steven Liebler pinned Kevin Noworwa in the third period. Senior Abbas Rizvi defeated Vince Sisti, 16-4, by major decision, at 140. Proven pinned Connor Hoover in the first period at 145 as did Abbarno over Joe Nelsen at 160 (75th career win) and Herberger over Nick Pollinger at 189. Aloisio beat Chuck Skipper, 17-6, by major decision at 171.

It was senior night and seniors Abbarno, Aloisio, Rizvi and Mohamad Abidi, who have recorded a 35-14 record over the past four years, were honored.

"They've played a huge part in our success," said Swatland. "They're the ones who go to summer camps and become those elite wrestlers."

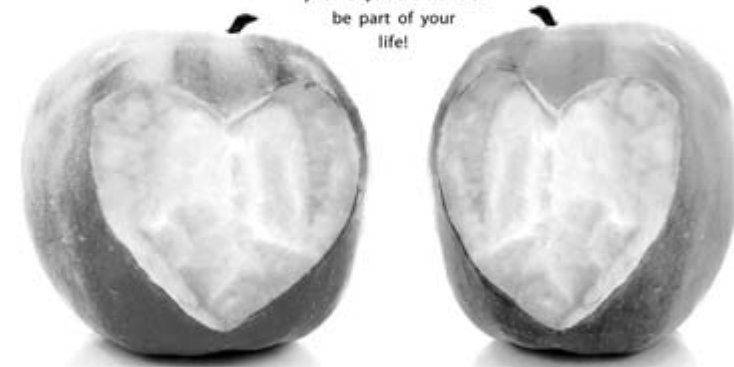
Besides Kellner's 30-5 mark, other Spartans with good records are Aloisio (28-6), Abbarno (27-5), Herberger (23-13), Berube (19-13), Proven (18-13), Rizvi (16-11), Booth (14-13) and Liebler (12-5).

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