

For Bruno, Staying Step Ahead Pays

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

It was as good as any heavyweight boxing title fight. One could almost hear the announcement, "Let's get ready to rumble."

The intensity was high as Glenn's Jason Bruno and Longwood's Elrich Bolay-Williams readied for their 177-pound semifinal bout last night at the Suffolk County wrestling championships.

Bolay-Williams, the tournament's most physically imposing wrestler at 6-2, glared at Bruno, who said, "All I could think of was, 'Take a deep breath and don't, don't, let this guy lock me up.'"

That makes sense, given that Bolay-Williams bench-presses more than 400 pounds and already had pinned two opponents in 28 and 52 seconds.

The crowd stood for the next six minutes as Bruno and Bolay-Williams hit each other with everything they had in their repertoires. And Bruno outlasted Bolay-Williams, 16-11, to enter the final round of the Suffolk County Dr. Robert Fallot Wrestling Championships at SUNY-Stony Brook.

"I kept working for the next move and stayed away from the tie-up," said Bruno, who met East Islip's Jeff Canfora (26-4) in the final. "It was a hard road into the finals."

Bruno (25-1), the Greco-Roman champion at 192 pounds in July's Empire State Games, had the chance to become Glenn's first county champion since 1975, when 250-pounder Eric Creagen won.

The 126-pound final was a rematch of the League V final, in which Amityville's top-seeded Brett Chester beat Mount Sinai's Willie Morgan, 3-2.

The unseeded Morgan charged into the final by breezing past his opponents. He posted lopsided vic-

tories of 15-2, 16-1 and 19-6, the latter over sixth-seeded Mike Uccellini of Hills East.

The semifinal round offered other surprises. Newfield sophomore Frank Ganter dropped top-seeded Vin Mulhare of Longwood for a pin in 4:44 in a 250-pound match.

And defending state champion Keith Matias of Centereach lost a 3-1 decision to Longwood's Jim Missale at 112 pounds.

Matias was matter-of-fact about the loss and vowed to come back through the wrestlebacks and place third.

"I froze up out there and I let the pressure get to me," he said. "I lost my focus and he [Missale] wrestled a smart match. So now third becomes first, and because I'm a winner, I feel I can come back from the disappointment and take third."

Missale met teammate Rason Phifer in the final, only the third time teammates have met in a county final.

SUFFOLK DR. ROBERT FALLOT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

At SUNY-Stony Brook

Semifinals: 91 — Tom Longobardi (Islip) dec. Brian Haise (Babylon), 4-0; Angelo Zegarelli (Deer Park) dec. John Cortes (Amityville), 8-0. 98 — Shawn Lewis (Longwood) dec. Luis Bonilla (Huntington), 7-6; Jim Giugliano (Smithtown) dec. Rocky Bracero (Newfield), 6-5. 105 — John Carnevali (Sachem) pinned Matt Hickey (Half Hollow Hills East), 5:44; Lenny Jacobs (Amityville) dec. Tim Puskas (Huntington), 10-5. 112 — Jim Missale (Longwood) dec. Keith Matias (Centereach), 3-1; Rason Phifer (Longwood) def. Tom Decker (Deer Park), by tech. fall, 5:26. 119 — Liston Brown (Copiague) dec. Jon Kagan (Sachem), 5-4; Joe Rossa (Centereach) dec. Jack Magnani (Deer Park), 4-2 OT. 126 — Brett Chester (Amityville) dec. Mike Fields (Copiague), 2-1; Willie Morgan (Mount Sinai) dec. Mike Uccellini (Half Hollow Hills East), 19-6. 132 — Matt Simonton (Longwood) dec. Ryan Walker (Babylon), 4-3; Dan Bergin (Brentwood) def. Jeff Berzolla (Shoreham-Wading River), by tech. fall, 4:27. 138 — Russell Jones (Wyandanch) dec. Mike Attanasio (Sachem), 5-3, OT; Lenny Fries (Lindenhurst) dec. Chris Dollard (Shoreham-Wading River), 5-3. 145 — John Lange (Longwood) dec. Derek Correa (Half Hollow Hills East), 20-9; Joe Nemeth (Floyd) dec. Lenny Fanelli (North Babylon), 7-5. 155 — Jason Pulido (Sachem) dec. Tom Peers (Whitman), 6-3; K.C. Armstrong (Port Jefferson) dec. Jim Melchionna (Connetquot), 11-2. 167 — Rob Wyllie (Rocky Point) pinned Jason Schoerlin (Hampton Bays), 1:42; Chris Asaro (Sachem) dec. Dwayne Dorsett (Bay Shore), 2-0. 177 — Jeff Canfora (East Islip) dec. Marc Bujnicki (Shoreham-Wading River), 4-0; Jason Bruno (Glenn) dec. Elrich Bolay-Williams (Longwood), 16-11. **Hvy** — Frank Servidio (North Babylon) dec. Jason Majestic (Patchogue-Medford), 4-3, OT; Mike Lampasso (Bellport) dec. Jose Henriquez (Whitman), 3-2. 250 — Frank Ganter (Newfield) pinned Vin Mulhare (Longwood), 4:44; Keith Williams (East Islip) dec. Mike Villalta (Sachem), 7-4.