

Wyllie Seeks Fourth Title

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

Exposure comes with winning. And when you win as much as Rocky Point's Matt Wyllie, the spotlight is always on.

Wyllie, a three-time Suffolk wrestling champion, began his march to a fourth title yesterday with two wins at 145 pounds in the Dr. Robert Falot Memorial county wrestling championships at SUNY-Stony Brook.

It wasn't easy for the wrestler trying to become only the third in Suffolk history to win four titles.

Wyllie (22-0) pinned Huntington freshman Lou Giani in 5:10, but not before he made a critical mistake that almost cost him. Late in the second period, Giani put Wyllie to his back and gave Rocky Point's all-time winningest wrestler a major scare.

"I made a mistake and he almost made me pay for it," Wyllie said. "You can't make mistakes in this tournament."

Wyllie hasn't made many mistakes in his six-year varsity career. He has a 144-14 record, four league titles and hasn't lost to a Suffolk opponent in three years. His only losses in that span have come in the state tournament, where he's placed fifth, third and sixth.

"As a returning county champ I understand that everyone has an added incentive to come out and beat me," Wyllie said.

Wyllie credits his coaching staff and brother Rob Wyllie, who won county titles in 1992, '93 and '94, for his development. But a state title also was elusive for Rob, who placed third, fourth and fifth.

"This is like a family goal now," Wyllie said. "I want to win a state title as much for myself as I do for my brother."

Wyllie met a game Rich Petracca of Sachem in the quarterfinals, winning 6-3.

"He gave me a tough match earlier this year and he's been my toughest opponent," Wyllie said.

Rocky Point also moved top-seeded Mike Wachholder into the semis at 171. Wachholder won the League V title for the second consecutive year and has a 27-0 record with 18 pins. "I lost my focus last year," said Wachholder, who failed to place. "That won't happen again."

Deer Park's Kam Chang suffered a dislocated left elbow in the first period of a 103-pound quarterfinal against Smithtown's Steve Jenkins. Chang, the top seed, trailed Jenkins 4-0 at the time. Tournament physician Frank Segreto relocated the elbow before Chang was taken to University Hospital at Stony Brook.

"It was an uncomplicated elbow dislocation and he'll be out for about eight to 12 weeks," Segreto said. "He was so upset. He felt he had a real shot to win the

tournament."

In the wrestlebacks, Brentwood's Moses Gonzalez suffered a similar injury to Chang's when he fell awkwardly in a 135-pound bout with Bellport's Will Howard. Segreto set the elbow and he also was taken to University Hospital.

Aside from Chang, three other top-seeded wrestlers were knocked out of a title shot. Ron McKeefrey (112) of Half Hollow Hills West, Tim Mullady (130) of Shoreham-Wading River and Steve Calamita (140) of Hampton Bays all lost quarterfinal matches. McKeefrey lost a 3-2 decision to Jason Finnerty of Longwood; Mullady lost an 8-6 decision to Copiague's Lou Inoa and Calamita dropped a 5-3 overtime decision to Smithtown's Lane Chereskin. Amityville's Sheldon Jacobs (96), who took third in the county last year, beat second-seeded Mike Ingenito of North Babylon, 12-7, in overtime.

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Semifinal pairings

96 — Broglio (Mt. Sinai) vs. Ciccio (Floyd); Lewis (Wyandanch) vs. Jacobs (Amityville). 103 — Jenkins (Smithtown) vs. Morrison (Hampton Bays); Restrepo (Brentwood) vs. Felicetta (Bellport). 112 — Finnerty (Longwood) vs. Case (Hampton Bays); Torriero (Rocky Point) vs. Orama (Brentwood). 119 — Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) vs. Bedell (Hampton Bays); Rose (Bayport—Blue Point) vs. Fabian (Longwood). 125 — Weidler (Patchogue-Medford) vs. Paganas (Huntington); Cruz (Sachem) vs. Poloskey (Longwood). 130 — Inoa (Copiague) vs. Mills (Bay Shore); Davis (Longwood) vs. Galvez (Hills East). 135 — Longobardi (Islip) vs. Latessa (Hauppauge); Lule (Huntington) vs. J. Morbillo (Mt. Sinai). 140 — Cheresken (Smithtown) vs. MacDonald (Whitman); Dailey (East Islip) vs. Buechner (Longwood). 145 — Wyllie (Rocky Point) vs. Mousakheel (Smithtown); Crespi (Bay Shore) vs. Sable (Longwood). 152 — Brady (Sachem) vs. Ormelchuck (Bellport); Carlsson (Bayport-Blue Point) vs. Patrovich (Connetquot). 160 — Wavra (Islip) vs. Dmoch (Sachem); Newman (Bellport) vs. Petersen (Sachem). 171 — Wachholder (Rocky Point) vs. Weston (Bellport); Cardenas (Copiague) vs. Kelskey (Deer Park). 189 — Reiter (Smithtown) vs. McLaughlin (Deer Park); Fakhro (Mt. Sinai) vs. Rechul (Huntington). 220 — Ottomanelli (Mt. Sinai) vs. Welsh (Riverhead); Knots (Sayville) vs. Cicero (Floyd). 275 — Marrero (Wyandanch) vs. Kahn (Hills West); Bidegan (Floyd) vs. Clancy (Kings Park). **Team scores** — Longwood 67½, Bellport and Mt. Sinai 57½, Smithtown 55, Sachem and Hauppauge 53½, Huntington 42, Sayville 40, Shoreham-Wading River and Floyd 37½, Hampton Bays 37, Islip 36½, Bay Shore and Brentwood 33½, Rocky Point 32½, Riverhead and Deer Park 32.