

Title Must For Shippos

By Gregg Sarra
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syracuse — The painful memory of last year's state final loss still lingers for Baldwin senior Kevin Shippos. It haunts him every time he takes the mat. Forget his 31 wins, including 28 by pin. Those numbers mean nothing.

Shippos has had his sights set on only one thing this year. A return to the state wrestling championships and a crack at the 220-pound title.

"I really never accepted the loss," Shippos said. "I promised myself that I'd make no mistakes this year and finish what I start."

Shippos pounded previously unbeaten Lou Chamoun (31-1) of Cicero-North Syracuse, 19-6, yesterday in the semifinal round at the state tournament in the Onondaga War Memorial. He had the blood-soaked Chamoun on his back for most of the second period. Chamoun avoided the pin when the referee stopped the bout for excessive bleeding from the nose and elbow.

"He's awesome," Chamoun said of Shippos. "He's an aggressive and fast heavyweight. I went after him, but he was too good."

Shippos dropped a heartwrenching, 3-1, overtime decision to Wyandanch's Thomas Marrero in the 250-pound final last year. His inability to score cost him the title. Lack of aggression hasn't been a problem this time around. Shippos also has a pin in 3:43 and a 14-4 decision to his credit in the first round and quarterfinals, respectively.

"There's no looking back," he said. "I have to win it now or never."

And while Shippos went after the 220-pound crown, Marrero moved into the 275-pound final against Brockport's Mike O'Keefe. Marrero (18-0), looking to become the 12th Suffolk wrestler to win two state titles, pinned Massapequa's Ray Tutku in 1:53 of their semifinal match. The score had been 0-0 until Marrero executed the decisive move to win.

"He kept looking for the underhooks," Marrero said of Tutku. "Once I locked him up and got him off balance I knew it was over."

"We told Thomas that Tutku was strong and not to tie up with the underhooks because he likes that," Wyandanch coach Ray Mills said. "Tutku was trying to control inside and countered well. He battled back out of two take-downs because Thomas didn't cover him well."

But the bodylock Marrero used for the pin was perfect. He had inside control and nice leverage.

"Thomas is wrestling better with each match in the tournament," Mills said. "He's finally relaxed and the pressure of reaching the final to defend his title is over. He's six minutes away from a repeat."

Shoreham-Wading River freshman Jesse Jantzen moved into the 119-pound final with a 6-1 victory over Hornell's Tom Hall. Jantzen used three takedowns for the win. He met Packy Burke of Cooperstown, a hometown product from the Syracuse area, for the title.

Jantzen (35-0), the only seventh-grader to place at the state tournament



AP for Newsday

Kevin Shippos had little trouble beating Lou Chamoun in his semifinal match

in 35 years and who has finished third the past two years, could be Shoreham's first state champion.

"Jesse's coming up here with a lot pressure and that's tough as a ninth-grader," Shoreham-Wading River coach Paul Jendrewski said. "He's handled it all well and stayed focused."

Long Beach senior Kevin Haggerty (35-0) made it to the 160-pound final with an 8-4 win over Khyl Farrison of Suffern. Haggerty has three straight decisions in the tournament and met Maine-Endwell's Duane Thomas for the title.

In the team scoring, Suffolk is fourth with 112 points, one point behind Binghamton. The Nassau sectional team was in ninth place with 59 points.

The CHSAA lost 17 of 20 bouts and only Chaminade senior Tim Varian at

220 pounds had a shot to place.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT AT ONONDAGA WAR MEMORIAL, SYRACUSE Semifinal results

96 — R. Mansueto (Middletown, Ill.) p. Uderitz (Albion), 5-41. 103 — Heffernan (Marcellus, Ill.) d. Stenglein (Colonie, Ill.), 5-4; P. Mansueto (Middletown, Ill.) d. Everrett (Attica, N.Y.), 3-1. 112 — Lehman (Ithaca, N.Y.) d. Case (Hampton Bays), 8-0; Avery (Morrisville-Eaton, Ill.) d. Fairbank (Southwestern, N.Y.), 4-0. 119 — Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) d. Hall (Hornell, N.Y.), 6-1; Burke (Cooperstown, Ill.) d. Griffin (Valley Central, Ill.), 7-2. 125 — Lemberg (Greene, N.Y.) d. Tonge (Truman, Pa.), 11-6; Paquin (Camden, Ill.) p. Hathaway (Franklin Academy, N.Y.), 3-19. 130 — Kelley (Camden, Ill.) d. Rowe (Ripley, N.Y.), 6-5; Caros (Suffern, N.Y.) d. Lapi (Burnt Hills, Ill.), 16-5. 135 — Douglas (Peru, N.Y.) d. Morbillo (Mt. Sinai), 5-3. OT: DeBruin (Spencerport, N.Y.) d. Rice (Beaver River, Ill.), 19-7. 140 — Carlo-Claus (Greece-Olympia, N.Y.) d. Prince (Frewsburg, N.Y.), 17-5; Holmes (Cicero-N. Syracuse, Ill.) d. Briggs (Maine-Endwell, Ill.), 4-2. 145 — Fronhofer (Salem, Ill.) d. Wylie (Rocky Point), 7-3; Greene (Vernon-Verona-Sherill, Ill.) p. Ventress (Spencerport, N.Y.), 5-02. 152 — Powell (Suffern, N.Y.) d. Cooper (South Jefferson, Ill.), 10-4; Schneckenberger (Warsaw, N.Y.) d. Farrison (Suffern, N.Y.), 8-4; Thomas (Maine-Endwell, Ill.) d. Newman (Bellport, N.Y.), 8-4. 171 — States (Lockport, N.Y.) d. Downey (Norwich, N.Y.), 1-1. OT criteria: Perry (New Hartford, Ill.) d. Wachholder (Rocky Point), 7-4. 189 — Stine (Queensbury, Ill.) d. Babcock (Portville, N.Y.); Sperandio (Somers, N.Y.) d. Titera (Vestal, N.Y.), 7-3. 220 — Shippos (Baldwin) d. Chamoun (Cicero-North Syracuse, Ill.), 19-6; Eglin (Shaker, Ill.) d. Gray (Frewsburg, N.Y.), 7-5. 275 — Marrero (Wyandanch) p. Tutku (Massapequa), 1:53; O'Keefe (Brockport, N.Y.) d. Tefft (Oxford, N.Y.), 5-4. Team scoring — Syracuse (Ill.) 194, Rochester (N.Y.) 125, Binghamton (N.Y.) 113, Suffolk (N.Y.) 112, Albany-Schenectady (Ill.) 108, Catskills (N.Y.) 92, Westchester (N.Y.) 86, Buffalo (N.Y.) 86, Nassau (N.Y.) 59, Plattsburgh-Champlain (N.Y.) 37, St. Lawrence County (N.Y.) 20. CHSAA 11, PSAL 9.