

# THS wrestlers stage boycott

By **PAUL MORAN JR.**  
NEWS Sports Writer

In the wake of a personal dispute between a wrestler and a junior varsity coach the members of the highly regarded Tonawanda High School Varsity wrestling team staged an unprecedented boycott of the annual Niagara Frontier League wrestling meet last night at Niagara-Wheatfield High School.

The incident, which involved Steve Marone, a very popular and colorful 167-pound wrestler, and junior varsity coach Tom Guido, was reported to have occurred during a mid-week practice session.

Guido reportedly requested that his brother, varsity coach Jim Guido, hold Marone out of the traditional league meet. The varsity coach announced to his team members Thursday that Marone would not be allowed to wrestle in the meet.

The wrestlers, both varsity and junior varsity, held a meeting late Thursday and another on Friday afternoon before making the announcement that they would boycott the meet.

According to Tonawanda High School Athletic Director Edward Leibinger, school officials were informed of the wrestlers' decision just before the team was to board a bus for Niagara-Wheatfield. According to Leibinger, the wrestlers involved were asked to debark from the bus which several had already boarded.



**Steve Marone**

... Incident sparks boycott

Of the combined varsity and junior varsity teams, numbering near 50, seven wrestlers who chose not to support the boycott appeared for Tonawanda at the meet. Of the seven, only one had varsity experience. The striking wrestlers were present but in the bleachers.

The original incident, according to Leibinger, was the most recent of several clashes between Marone and his coaches. He said also that the team was forewarned of impending disciplinary action

resulting from the boycott. He said also that action will be taken, but refused to comment on its nature or severity.

Jim Guido told The NEWS that the action against Marone was prompted by the youth's insubordination. However, he

declined to elaborate on the subject.

Richard Perry, Superintendent of Tonawanda Schools, told The NEWS late Friday that he was aware of the problem and would support the school's administration and coaching staff in any

disciplinary action taken against the striking wrestlers.

"There will be no action coming directly from me," Perry said. "This matter is being handled at the school level and any action taken will have my complete support."

Paul Fenwick, Tonawanda High School principal, was unavailable for comment.

Jim Guido declined to comment on the effect of the incident on the remainder of the school's league wrestling schedule.

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