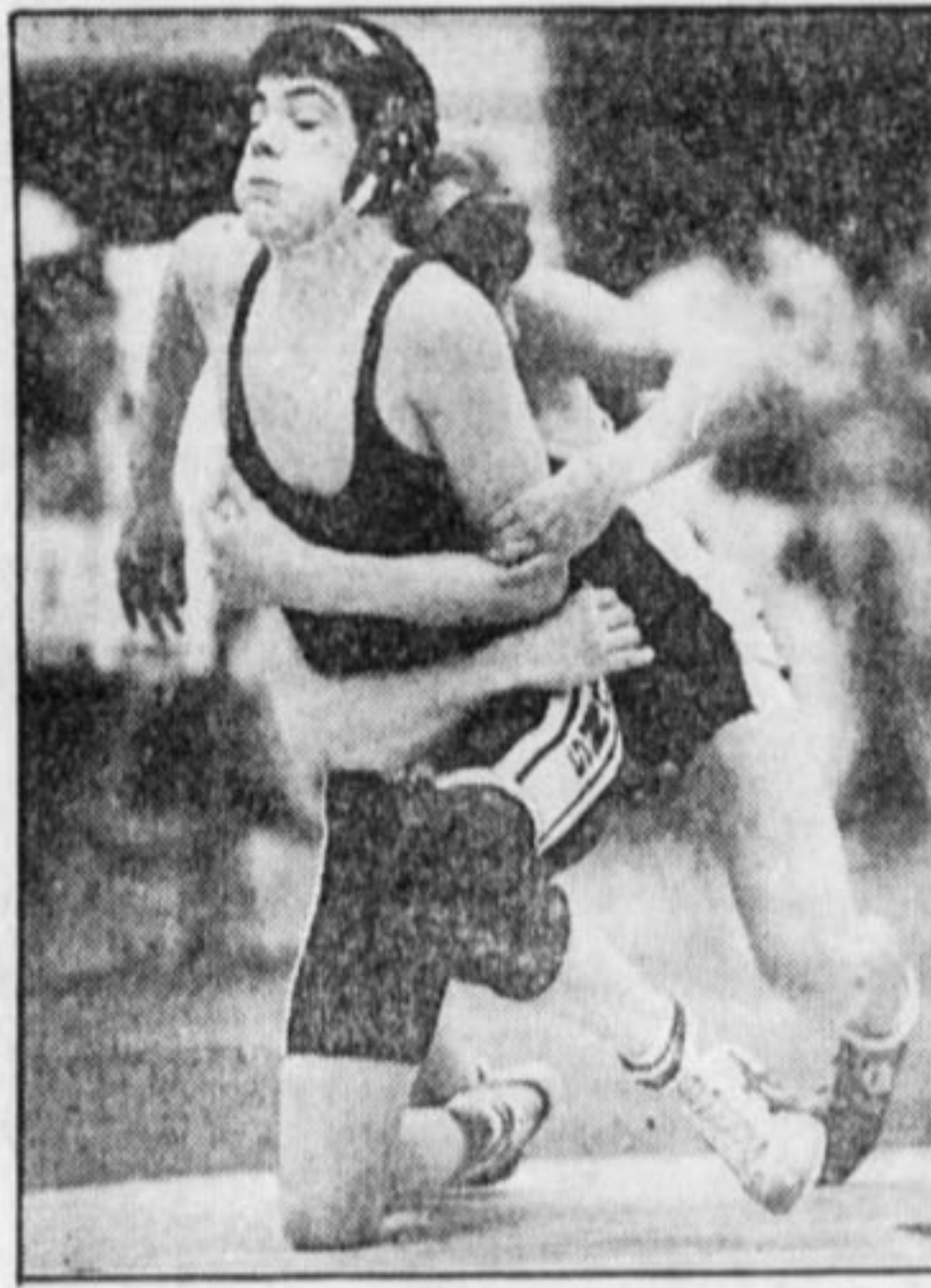
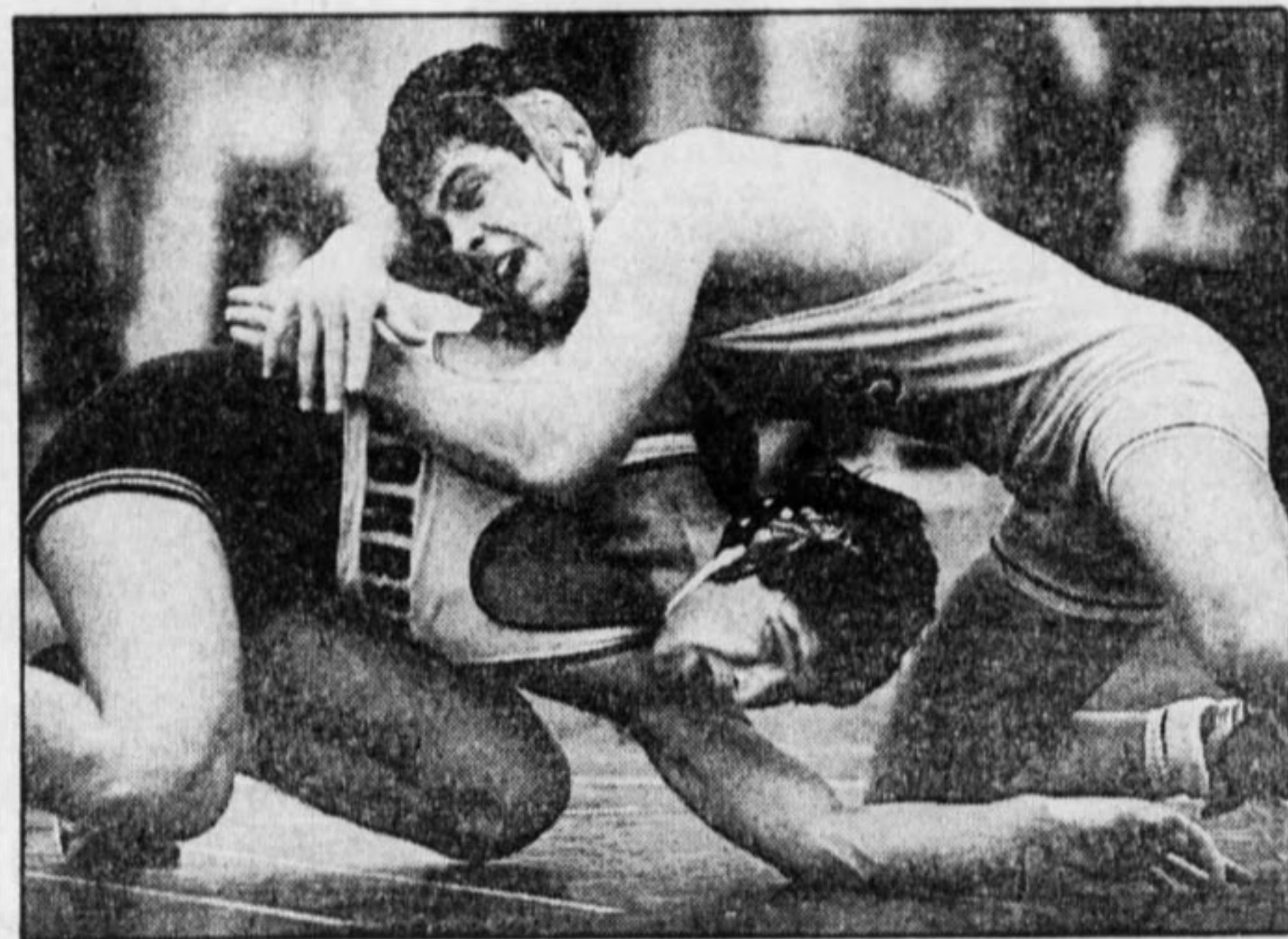




Steven Purcell Democrat and Chronicle

Hilton's Andy Antonucci tightening his hold on Brockport's Craig Tensley in semifinals. Antonucci later won 91-pound title bout.



Brighton wrestlers champs

Stern wins at 98 for No. 1 Barons

By John Moriello

Democrat and Chronicle

There might not be a more demanding sport for high school athletes than wrestling.

They spend endless hours of working in the weight room and practicing on the mats. They frequently struggle to make weight. No matter how much ability a wrestler possesses, injuries are a fact of life.

It was that aspect of wrestling that showed up several times last night in the finals of the Monroe County League Wrestling Championships at Webster Schroeder Junior High School.

Brighton, top-ranked in the *Democrat and Chronicle* coaches poll, captured the team championship with 193½ points. The only individual champ produced by the Barons was 98-pound Mitch Stern.

Spencerport (181), East Rochester 155½, Brockport (128) and Gates-Chili (127½) completed the top five in team scoring.

Although there was no significant effect on the top teams, injuries were a factor in several matches. It was most obvious late in the night.

In the final match, Mike Mickelson of Churchville-Chili suffered an injury to his right arm 46 seconds into the first period against Irondequoit's Shawn Cavanaugh. The 215-pound match was awarded to Cavanaugh :47 later when Saints Coach Rufus Maxfield saw that his wrestler was in pain. Maxfield threw a towel on to the mat to signify the end.

Twenty minutes earlier, Webster's Chris Yengo never made it into his

Chris LoPresti of Spencerport (photo left), riding Paul Fiorvanti of East Rochester, advanced to the finals of the Monroe County League wrestling tournament after winning this 138-pound semifinal match, which went into overtime. In the finals, LoPresti won by a 7-1 decision over Tom Reina of Gates-Chili. Brighton's John Hill (right) attempts an escape against Penfield's John Plant during their 105-pound semifinal match. Plant advanced to finals, where he defeated East Rochester's Pat Quinn, 9-4.

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Stern, Brighton wrestlers win County title

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match.

Because of a knee injury, Yengo remained in his warmups as he walked on to the mat to forfeit the 155-pound match to Doug Miller, a senior from Pittsford.

"That's never happened to me before," Miller said after he accepted his trophy. "It's a downer for that to happen."

Miller had spent almost six hours since his semifinal victory over Pat Brown of East Rochester preparing for a match that never came.

All this while Stern prepared for his routine bloodletting.

The senior suffered a split lip during the match while Gates-Chili's Joe Giglio had the Brighton wrestler's face pressed to the mat. At one point, officials stopped the match to wipe blood from the mat.

"It happens all the time," Stern said casually of his injury.

It was ironic in light of what Stern did to Giglio on the way to a 4-2 decision. The defending Section 5 Class A champion in the 91-pound class dominated early by keeping Giglio face down. All the while, he had Giglio's left arm locked behind the Gates-Chili student's back at a severe angle.

"I got a little frustrated," Stern

said. "Whatever I did with it (the arm), the referee would tell me not to force it too hard."

And that's how Stern treats his friends.

"I got to know him traveling to freestyle meets in the spring and summer," said Stern, who is 23-1. "We stayed at a kid's house together once."

But forget about friendship from November to March.

"It's a different story on the mat," Stern said.

Miller and his twin brother Chris, who won the 145-pound title with a 3-2 decision against Frank Henwood of Brighton, are especially aware of injuries. They are friends and former neighbors of Jonathan Young.

Young suffered a broken neck in December during a match in the Washington, D.C., area. Although the Bethesda, Md., high school senior still is partially paralyzed, doctors recently have expressed optimism that he'll be able to walk again some day.

The Young family moved to Washington about 2½ years ago when Jonathan's father, Frank, became commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

"I can remember how sensitive he was here, how he cared about people," Doug Miller said. "He brightened our days in school.

When we were down, he'd be the one trying to cheer us up."

And now he serves as a reminder.

Chris' worst injury was a broken thumb last year in the sectional meet. Doug suffered a minor knee injury last season. Neither injury could come close to the one suffered by Young.

"We did think about (the dangers of wrestling) when it happened to Jon," Chris Miller said, "but it's something you try not to think about anymore."

You couldn't help but think about it last night.

NOTES — Fritz Zagorski of Eastringe was named the most outstanding wrestler of the meet. He scored an escape with :20 left and edged East Rochester's **Steve Marcoccia**, 4-3 . . . Spencerport had three consecutive champions, **Ray LeChase** (126), **Tom Billone** (132) and **Chris LoPresti** (138) all scored decisions. The Rangers' fourth finalist, **John Hefner**, lost the 177-pound final to **Bill Barker** of Irondequoit . . . Hilton was another school with multiple winners. **Andy Antonucci** won a decision at 91 pounds, as did **Rick Sadwick** at 167 . . . The league's East and West divisions split the 14 finals equally . . . There were no pins in the finals.

**Monroe County League tournament
At Webster Schroeder Junior High
Team**

Brighton 193 ½, Spencerport 181, East Rochester 155 ½, Brockport 128, Gates-Chili 127 ½, Batavia 120, Irondequoit 91 ½, Webster 86 ½, Pittsford 86, Hilton 80 ½, Penfield 75, Eastridge 74, Churchville-Chili 64 ½, Greece Athena 55, Fairport 49, Rush-Henrietta 35, Greece Olympia 17 ½.

Individual

91 pounds—Andy Antonucci (Hil) d. Rich O'Lena (ER), 4-2; **98**—Mitch Stern (Bri) d. Joe Giglio (G-C), 4-2; **105**—Brian Plant (Pen) d. Pat Quinn (ER), 9-4; **112**—Charlie Sortino (Brock) d. Kevin Compertore (G-C), 10-5; **119**—Fritz Zagorski (Eastr) d. Steve Marcoccia (ER), 4-3; **126**—Ray LeChase (Span) d. Mark Robinson (Bat), 12-4; **132**—Tom Billone (Span) d. Dan Macca (Fair), 10-3; **138**—Chris LoPresti (Span) d. Tom Reine (G-C), 7-1; **145**—Chris Miller (Pitts) d. Frank Henwood (Bri), 3-2; **155**—Doug Miller (Pit) def. Chris Yengo (Web), injury default; **167**—Rick Sadwick (Hil) d. Matt Barry (Bri), 8-5; **177**—Bill Barker (Iron) d. Jeff Hefner (Span), 5-2; **215**—Shawn Cavanaugh (Iron) def. Mike Mickelson (C-C), injury default at 1:33; **250**—Joe Amico (Bat) d. Steve Hall (C-C), 8-1.