

# New York Wrestling News

Covering All Aspects of Amateur Wrestling in New York State

Published Eight Times Per Year for \$16.00  
Volume 1, Number 6 March/April 1990

## Special State Tournament Issue!

### A Big Surprise from Section Five

Unheralded Section Five takes  
the NYS Team Title

A funny thing happened when all of us journalists were predicting which section would dominate at this year's state tournament. We forgot about Section Five. We thought a lot about the perennial favorite, Section Eleven, and about always-tough Section Two, and about the new kid on the block, Section One. But somewhere along the way, we forgot about good old Section Five. Covering about 81 schools, Section Five has always been good. Not always great, but good.

Last year was supposed to belong to Five. Led by several experienced seniors, Five took third place in the 1989 tournament, just missing second place by half a point. So, it was a big surprise when Five came out from the first round and led the whole way in racking up 181.5 points. In second place was Section Four, also a surprise. In third was Section Eleven with 158, followed by Three (157.5), and One (153.5).

The three-punch combination for Section Five came in the middleweights, where the purple won at 138, 145, and 155, with Kenny Porter, Steve Taylor, and Brian Gray respectively. Everyone expected the win at 145. The wins at 138 and 155 were shocking.

**Kenny Porter**, 138 pounds; a junior from Alfred Almond, had a great tournament.

continued on page 18

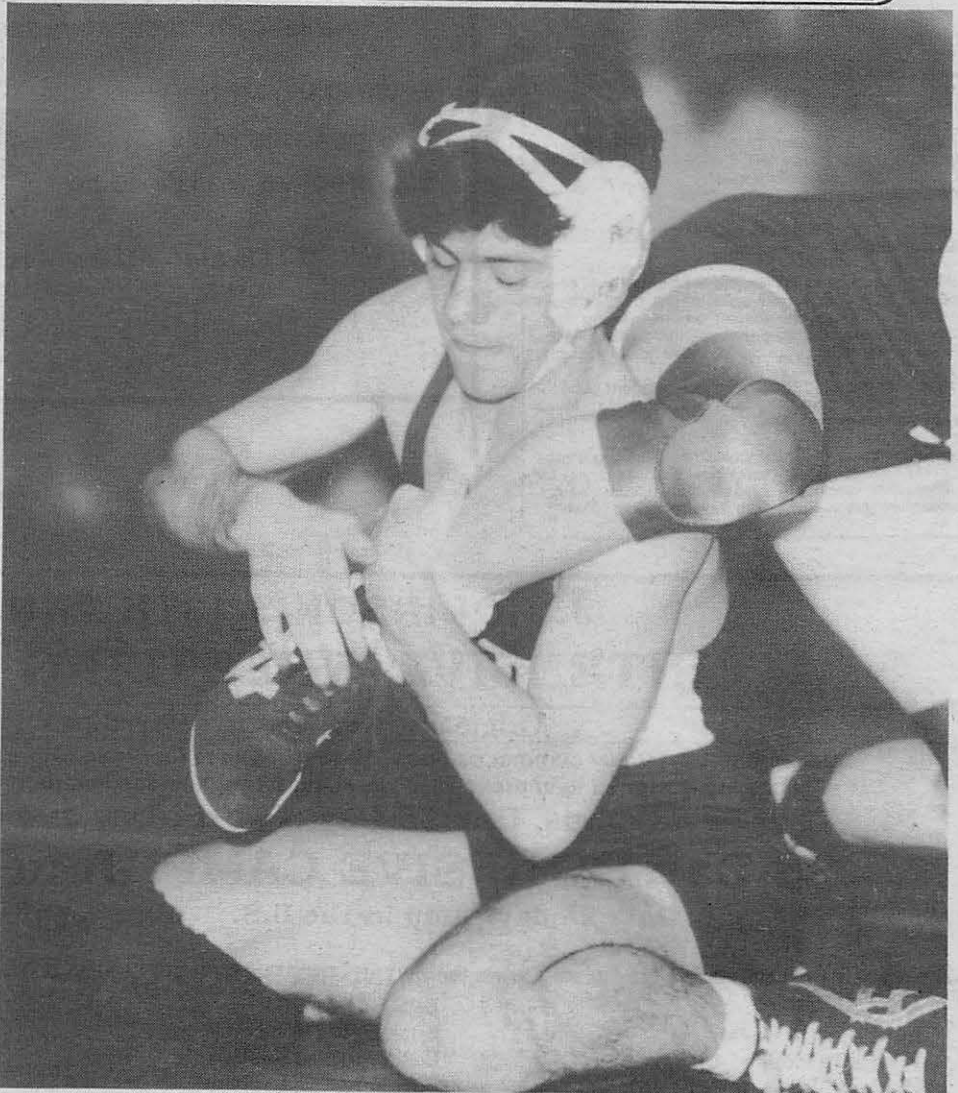
### Troy Bouzakis No 1 in New York 100 Rankings

Pine Bush-9 Senior Takes State  
Tournament "Champion of Champions"  
Award for the Second Time

Troy Bouzakis, Pine Bush-9 senior, was recently named the number one ranked high school wrestler in New York State by New York Wrestling News. Bouzakis, fresh from his third state title, was clearly the number one pick for the First Annual New York 100 Rankings.

Using New York Wrestling News' unique computer ranking system, Troy totaled 897 points. The system used assigned the following points:

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**SINGLE LEG CRAIG:** Craig Vitaglano, 98 pound state champ from Plainedge-8, showed off his version of the John Smith single leg takedown. He used it to perfection in winning his title over Roy Frey of East Rochester-5. Photo by Pete Venier, Sports Action Photos.

Inside: Victory Stand Photos of every weight class from this year's New York State Championships. These photos have been graciously donated by Steven C. Parker, official photographer of the NYS Tournament.

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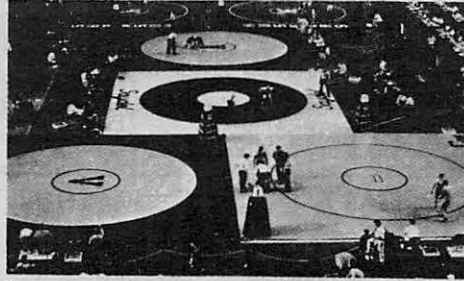
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Steve's fantastic action shots have also graced the pages of the State Tournament Program for years.

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### 1990 NYS Place finishers by Section

Section One	8
Section Two	7
Section Three	11
Section Four	10
Section Five	10
Section Six	8
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# 91 Lbs - Anthony Alberti, Sr. Hendrik-Hudson-1



**91 Pound State Finalists:** From left to right - Clarence Hunt, 5th; James Douglas, 3rd; Anthony Alberti, Champion; David Bracero, 2nd; Mike Merry, 4th; John Tyler, 6th

**The Champ:** Anthony Alberti has been unbeatable for the past two years. He's gone undefeated and has won back-to-back state titles. As a junior last year, he walked away with the 91 pound state championship title based on a one-point semifinal win, and a 17-3 superior decision.

This year, he spent a lot of time up at 98 pounds, yet dropped to 91 at season's end. In Syracuse, he first tech falled Corey Bushey of North Adirondack-1, 15-0. Then he shut down tough Cadet National Champ Clarence Hunt of Niagara Falls-6, 3-0. Alberti next scored a fall in 3:44 over James "Buster" Douglas of Bethpage-8. In the semifinals to set up his finals showdown with David Bracero, a senior from Newfield-11.

**The Finals:** Both wrestlers seemed to be a little hesitant as the match started. After one minute, Alberti shot a fireman's carry, then followed up with a dump that scored before going out of bounds. Alberti threw a leg ride in that kept Bracero down for awhile. With about five seconds to go, Bracero escaped to make it 2-1 going into period two.

With Bracero up, Alberti scored a reversal on a switch that led into an ankle trip. Getting aggressive, he tried to score on a tilt, but was reversed by Bracero to make the score 4-3. With Bracero attempting a leg ride of his own, Alberti secured another reversal for a 6-3 lead. From that point, the match was all Alberti. He scooped up the near leg, threw in a turk ride, and cranked up a power half. Bracero went over for a near fall, and was nearly pinned when the period ended. Score: 9-3 Alberti.

In period three, Alberti did a lot of riding.

He was warned for stalling, then scored three more on a freestyle tilt near the end of the period. At the end, Bracero almost reversed, but could not escape Alberti's grasp. The high scoring match was pleasing to the crowd, and the match seemed a little closer than the score indicated. The two three-point near falls by Anthony sealed the victory. Final score: 12-3 for Anthony Alberti, his second state title.

**The Best of the Rest:** Douglas, a sophomore, came back after being pinned to take third. In doing so, he pinned John Tyler, Canastota-3 in 28 seconds, and beat Mike Merry of Union Endicott, 13-5. Merry took fourth. Niagara Fall's Clarence Hunt dropped a 5-1 decision to Merry and would up in fifth. In sixth place was Tyler, only a freshman.

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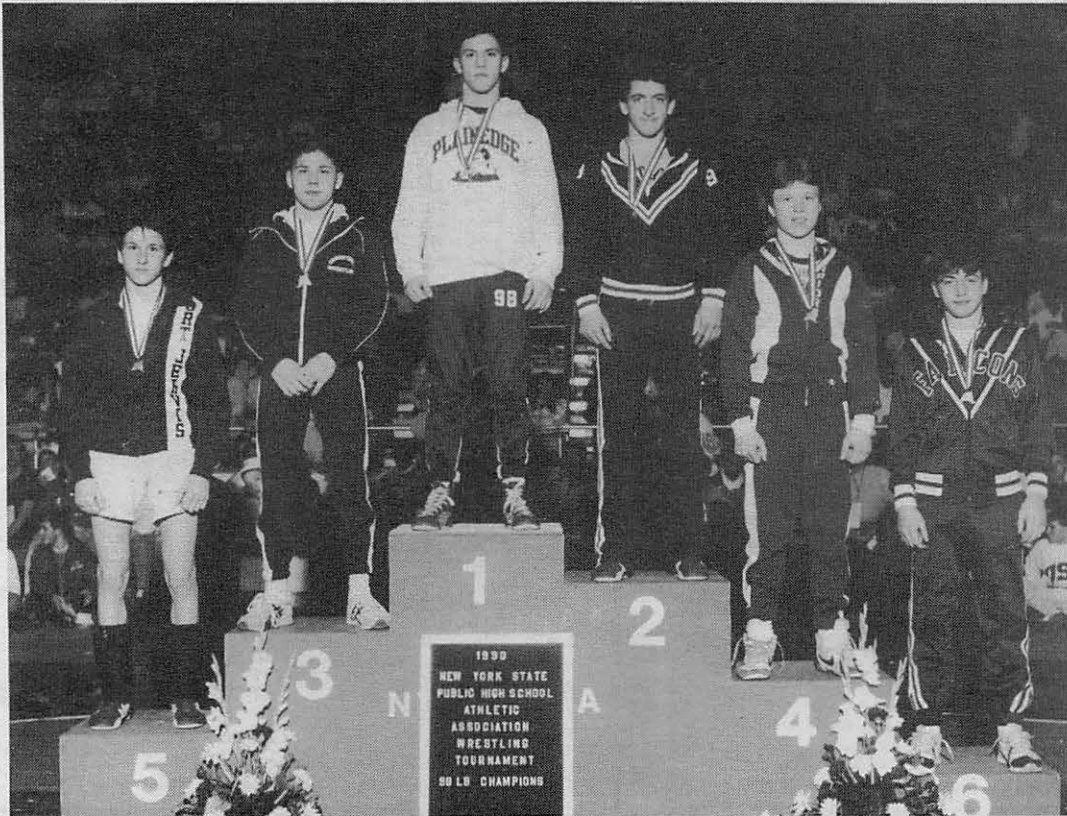
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# 98 - Craig Vitagliano, Jr, Plainedge-8



98 Pound State Finalists from left to right - Jeff Tufano, 5th; Mike Buonagurio, 3rd; Craig Vitagliano, Champion; Roy Frey, 2nd; Terry Showalter, 4th; Bill Dixon, 6th

**The Champ:** Craig Vitagliano, Plainedge-8, is only a junior. His career record so far is 92-12, and for the year, he went 38-0. In his career, he has won the NYS Cadet States in freestyle and Greco, Eastern Regional Kids Champ in Greco, and sixth in the National freestyle Cadet Championships. He also was a freestyle bronze medalist at 105.5 pounds.

Craig made it to the states last year, but did not place. The experience he gained showed this year, as he did exactly what was needed to win. In the first round, he beat Peter Smith of St Anthony's, 6-3. Next he pulled off two 4-3 victories over Pat Borja, a senior from Elmira Notre Dame-4, and Terry Showalter, an eighth grader from Whitesboro-3. The win against Showalter was in the semis, with Craig scoring a takedown in the closing seconds to advance to the finals (Remember the name Showalter - he could be the next three time state champ, possibly even the first ever four timer). Vitagliano's finals opponent, Roy Frey, a senior from East Rochester-5, made it to the finals based on three decisions - 8-1, 5-2, and 15-0. Frey himself has lost only one match all year - a disqualification based on an illegal slam in a match that he was clearly superior.

**The Finals:** Vitagliano started off by showing off his version of the John Smith single leg takedown. Using awesome speed, he shot in between Frey's legs, giving him no chance to react defensively. Taking an ankle, he secured the takedown as they went out of bounds for the two points. Frey then escaped right away. With Frey being defensive, Vitagliano again singled.

This time, though, Frey worked out of it and slapped on a cradle to take the lead at 3-2. Vitagliano ripped out of the cradle and escaped to knot the score at 3. A shrug by Frey had Craig all but taken down as the buzzer for period one sounded.

In the second period, Vitagliano was on bottom, but quickly escaped as Frey attempted another cradle. As he was turning to face him, Vitagliano smoothly dropped in for a duck-under. Frey fought his way out of bounds to avoid the TD, but was penalized one point. On their feet, Vitagliano was strangely cautioned for stalling. He responded with a speedy duck under to extend his lead to 7-3, then rode out the rest of the period with a leg ride.

In the third period, Frey quickly escaped to bring him within three points (7-4). With Frey attempting upper body lockups, Vitagliano dropped in again on a low single to the ankle. Again, it was just too quick for Frey, as he was unable to even sprawl. They scrambled, then Vitagliano sucked in the other ankle and scored his third takedown. With a minute to go, the score was 9-4. Soon afterwards, Frey escaped, but also gave up a stalling point for a 10-5 Vitagliano lead. As the period ended, Frey charged in, yet Vitagliano again dropped in for a slick single leg TD that would have scored if the period didn't end. Final score: 10-5 for Craig Vitagliano.

**The Best of the Rest:** Showalter, only an eighth grader, shocked the War Memorial fans in the quarterfinals when he dropped favored Mike Buonagurio of Connetquot-11, 6-2. He then nearly beat Vitagliano in the semifinals. A takedown with about two

seconds left won it for Vitagliano, 4-3. Buonagurio, who was third last year, then beat Craig Bushey, North Adirondack-7, Pat Borja, Elmira Notre Dame-4 (9-0), and Jeff Tufano of Port Jervis to set up a re-match against Showalter. The result was different this time, as Buonagurio managed a 4-3 victory. For his career, he would up 92-8-1, and 35-1-1 for the year. With two bronze state medals, he had a fine career.

Showalter started wrestling over ten years ago, and already has over 1500 matches under his belt. With a varsity record of 64-5, he stands a great shot of reaching 200 career wins by the time he's finished. Already, he's won Junior Olympic gold medals in freestyle and Greco, as well as NYS freestyle and Greco Cadet golds. He's beaten some highly-regarded wrestlers, and his two losses at the states were very close, controversial matches against the toughest kids in the state. Look for him to excel in future state competitions.

In fifth place was Jeff Tufano, followed by Niagara Wheatfield-6's Bill Dixon. Tufano and Dixon are only freshmen, and will be heard from later as well. Pat Borja, a senior from Section 4, did not place, but finished off with a stellar career. His senior record was 33-3, and he has 92 career wins. He went 2-2 in Syracuse. Also Peter Smith, St Anthony's, went 2-2, before bowing out on an overtime referee's decision to Bill Dixon. Smith comes from a long line of wrestlers, and is only a sophomore.

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# 105 - David Hirsch, Sr. Clarkstown South-1



**105 Pound State Finalists:** from left to right - Mike Jamieson, 5th; Jason Chervak, 3rd; David Hirsch, Champion; Keith Strychalsky, 2nd; Rob Bashaw, 4th; Mark Baron, 6th

**The Champ:** David "H-bomb" Hirsch is a nonstop wrestler. He only knows how to move in one direction - forwards. He's probably best in the international styles - freestyle and Greco. He is sharp on his feet, and is always in great condition. He posted a perfect 36-0 season, and had 108 career wins. He won seven tournaments this year, and was MOW in two of them. Most of his matches were at 112 pounds, including his most impressive win, a pin this year over 112 state champ Juan Carlos Garcia. Watching Garcia destroy the competition in Syracuse, you get the feeling how good Hirsch must be. Hirsch has already been accepted into Cornell, where he hopes to study Pre-Medicine. He'll make an excellent 118 pounder in college.

In Syracuse, Hirsch didn't have any close matches. In round one, he stepped on Fowler-3's Mike Jamieson, 16-2. And Jamieson is a tough TD artist himself. Next up was Jason Chervak, a junior from Maine Endwell-4. Hirsch won 11-3. In the semifinals, Hirsch nearly shut out Bob Bashaw of Peru-7, in winning 9-1. This set up his finals match with Keith Strychalsky, a senior from Patchogue-11. Strychalsky is a three-time Empire State Games gold medalist who competed in Syracuse last year. In making it to the finals, he looked impressive in winning 10-6 and 5-1. Strychalsky was also brining in an undefeated record, 32-0.

**The Finals:** Both men exchanged several single leg attempts. Strychalsky picked up a leg several times, but was unable to complete the takedown. Hirsch appeared more aggressive. With about 15 seconds

left in the first period, and near the edge of the mat, Hirsch scored big. With an arm tie-up, he shot in for the opposite leg. With Strychalsky sprawled and on his knees, Hirsch came up and pancaked him to his back. For eleven seconds, Hirsch clamped and Strychalsky squirmed. Then the period ended, with the score at 5-0.

Hirsch started the second period down, but needed only 10 seconds to get out. Both wrestlers again traded takedown attempts. But it was Hirsch's arm-and-opposite-leg single that scored next, to make it 8-0 Hirsch. The period ended as he was working a head lever on Strychalsky.

In the third period, with Hirsch looking for back points, Strychalsky managed to escape. But it was Hirsch again scoring on a single leg TD to increase his lead to 10-1. Another escape made it 10-2. In the match's waning seconds, it was still Hirsch who was the aggressor, with Strychalsky being overly cautious. Final score: 10-2. David Hirsch. Hirsch, who also won a state title in freestyle, as well as an Empire State Games gold medal, provided a great follow-up performance to the 98 pound match. For the tournament, he scored 46 points against only eight for the competition. And for those of you who never heard of him, he was 29-2 last year, losing only to the state runner-up.

**The Best of the Rest:** Jason Chervak of Maine Endwell wound in third. After losing in the first round to Hirsch, he racked up 4 straight victories, 5-2, 15-0, 16-1, and 4-0 (over Bob Bashaw of Peru-7). Bashaw took fourth, with Jamieson of Fowler taking fifth to Mark Baron's (Chaminade-C) sixth.

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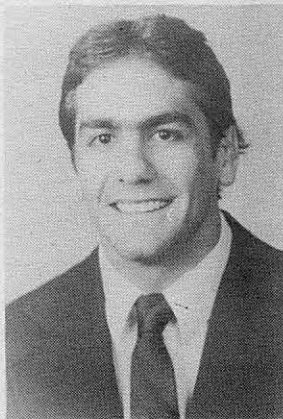
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# Mike DeAnna's Summer 1990 ALL AMERICAN WRESTLING CAMP

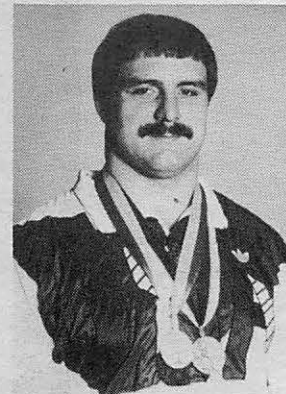


**MIKE DeANNA**  
Head Coach  
Edinboro University

## FOUR GREAT TECHNIQUE CAMPS

June 17 - June 22 Ferris State  
 July 1 - July 6 Edinboro University  
 July 9 - July 13 Edinboro University  
 July 22 - July 27 St Leo, Florida

This camp is a week long wrestling experience centered around the technical skills that have made our staff champions and great coaches. Our staff will give individualized instruction and show what works best for them. Free wrestling is available after every session. Each camper will participate in a minimum of 24 hours of instruction, highlighted by video tapes of NCAA and World Championships in the evening. Every camper will be placed on a team and participate in a takedown tournament, short road run, softball tournament, and other activities. Anyone nine years old or older is eligible. If you are academically eligible to enter college in the fall of 1989, you are not permitted to attend camp. The camp is skill oriented and much of the time will be spent developing moves, balance, and timing.



**BRUCE BAUMGARTNER**  
Assistant Coach  
Edinboro University

## TWO GREAT TRAINING CAMPS

June 17 - June 28 Ferris State  
 July 1 - July 12 Edinboro University

The All American Training Camp is designed to specifically show each wrestler how they can become a better wrestler. Each wrestler will be evaluated on live wrestling, technique, strength, anaerobic and aerobic capacity. They will be shown where they need to improve and how to improve. Emphasis will be placed on gaining confidence through hard work and goal setting. Structured time for technique, running, and weightlifting is an integral part of this 12-day Training camp. Each wrestler will have the opportunity to make significant improvements in their training habits and wrestling skills. The All American Training Camp is limited to ninth through twelfth graders. Each wrestler will be tested in his immediate anaerobic capacity, short term anaerobic capacity, and aerobic capacity. Campers will also receive written feedback on their basic skills, attacks on feet, pinning, escapes, and weight control. The training camp staff will consist of Edinboro University wrestlers and coaches DeAnna, Baumgartner, and the Rowan. The camp and staff will work out together with the camp goals in mind. The camper will receive a notebook with a summary of the camp practices and activities.

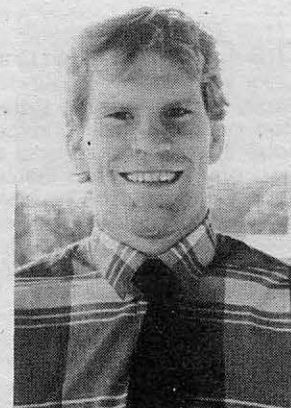


**SEAN O'DAY**  
NCAA Champion  
Edinboro University

## TEAM CONCEPT CAMP

June 11 - June 15 Willoughby, Ohio  
 June 11 - June 15 Westlake, Ohio

The "Team Concept" Camp combines the individualized instruction of a private clinic and the working out with other schools you get at technique camps. Each team will have their own mat and be instructed in a daily private clinic during each 2 hour session. High school coaches are encouraged to attend and work with their teams in areas they feel are most important. Evening sessions will be filled with live wrestling against different teams and individuals each night. We will pair up the wrestlers according to their ability. The "Team Concept" Camp gives the high school coach the ability to guide instruction toward specific areas.



**TERRY KENNEDY**  
Assistant Coach  
Edinboro University

## 2 GREAT COMMUTER CAMPS

June 11 - June 15 Willoughby, Ohio  
 June 11 - June 15 Westlake, Ohio

The commuter camp is limited to wrestlers in elementary and junior high schools. Instructors will be Mike DeAnna, Head Coach at Edinboro University; Dave Rowan, Assistant Coach at Edinboro University; Sean O'Day, NCAA Champion, and Terry Kennedy, two time All American. The purpose of this camp is to develop mat awareness, improve balance, show basic moves, and motivate young wrestlers. The commuter camp is to be fun oriented and not a highly competitive environment. The camp is three hours per day, and enrollment is limited.

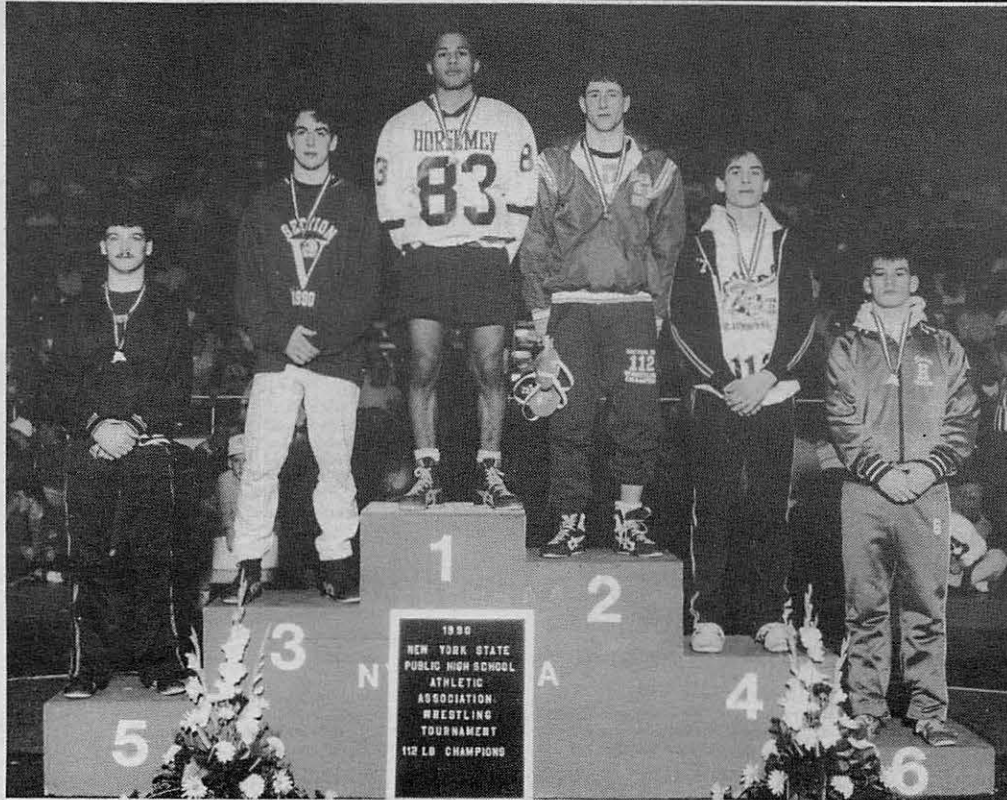
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# 112 - Juan Carlos Garcia, Jr. Sleepy Hollow-1



**112 Pound State Finalists:** from left to right - Bill Rigney, 5th; Bryant Ranger, 3rd; Juan Carlos Garcia, Champion; Keith Sequiera, 2nd; Robert Dinnino, 4th; Shane Lese, 6th

**The Champ:** Juan Carlos Garcia is a junior from Sleepy Hollow-1. Last year, he nearly beat three-time state champ Frank Fronhofer from Salem-2 in the 105 pound finals. It was a last second duck under by Fronhofer that spelled the difference. This year, Garcia put on an awesome display of speed and power that confounded his competitors and dazzled his fans. And although he didn't score any pins and his matches weren't exactly blow-outs, he clearly demonstrated how far ahead of the others he is. His style resembles that of a Division I wrestler. He shoves you around, gets you off-balance, then drives in for a punishing takedown. Giving you the escape means nothing to him, as he'll just take you down soon anyway.

Garcia's style is a good example of why we should adjust the scoring for high school wrestling. Takedowns should be worth three points, not just two. A takedown from neutral position should be worth more than just one point more than a simple escape. In Juan's first match, he used five takedowns to score a 10-5 win. In the semifinals against Section Five's experienced Bryant Ranger, he scored four takedowns, and gave away four escapes for an 8-4 lead. At the end of the match, he gave away a takedown to make the score (8-6) appear closer than the match actuality was.

The other side of the brackets offered Keith Sequiera, a senior from East Meadow-8. Sequiera appeared sharp in scoring a pin in 4:38, and wins of 5-2 and 6-3 over three wrestlers with prior state tournament experience.

**The Finals:** Right off the bat, Juan Carlos Garcia established dominance as he ripped open an underhook leading to a double leg TD for the 2-0 opening lead. He almost scored back points against the dazed Sequiera. Appearing extremely confident, Garcia gave away the escape and added another TD with six seconds left in the period to lead 4-1. Several Garcia takedown attempts were fought off by Sequiera, including a pancake that would have probably ended the match.

The second period started with both men on their feet, at Garcia's choice. Twenty seconds later, near the edge of the mat, Sequiera attempted a double. It was defended by Garcia, who reacted by posting the elbow of a retreating Sequiera and stepping in for a textbook-perfect double leg takedown. Lifting his opponent high, he brought him to the mat for the 6-1 lead. At this point, Sequiera needed some injury time to clear up a nose bleed. Another escape followed. Then Garcia struck for his fourth takedown, a quick arm drag spin with Sequiera on his knees. The score was 8-2 at this point.

In the third period, Garcia escaped within 8 seconds to extend his lead to 9-2. Another Garcia double leg nearly scored, but it went out of bounds. Then another pancake by Garcia again nearly scored, but Sequiera used an almost uncanny sense of balance in scrambling out of danger. With thirteen seconds left, Garcia dazzled the audience even more with another leg takedown. Immediately, he released Sequiera and fired in with a double leg. When Sequiera fought it off, Garcia responded by coming up to a bear hug that

scored as the buzzer went off and as they went out of bounds. Final score: 13-3 for Juan Carlos Garcia, based on six takedowns and an escape versus three escapes.

No other finalist looked as good as Garcia did on his feet. His style seems perfectly suited to freestyle, and we're looking forward to seeing him in off-season events in preparation for next year's encore performance.

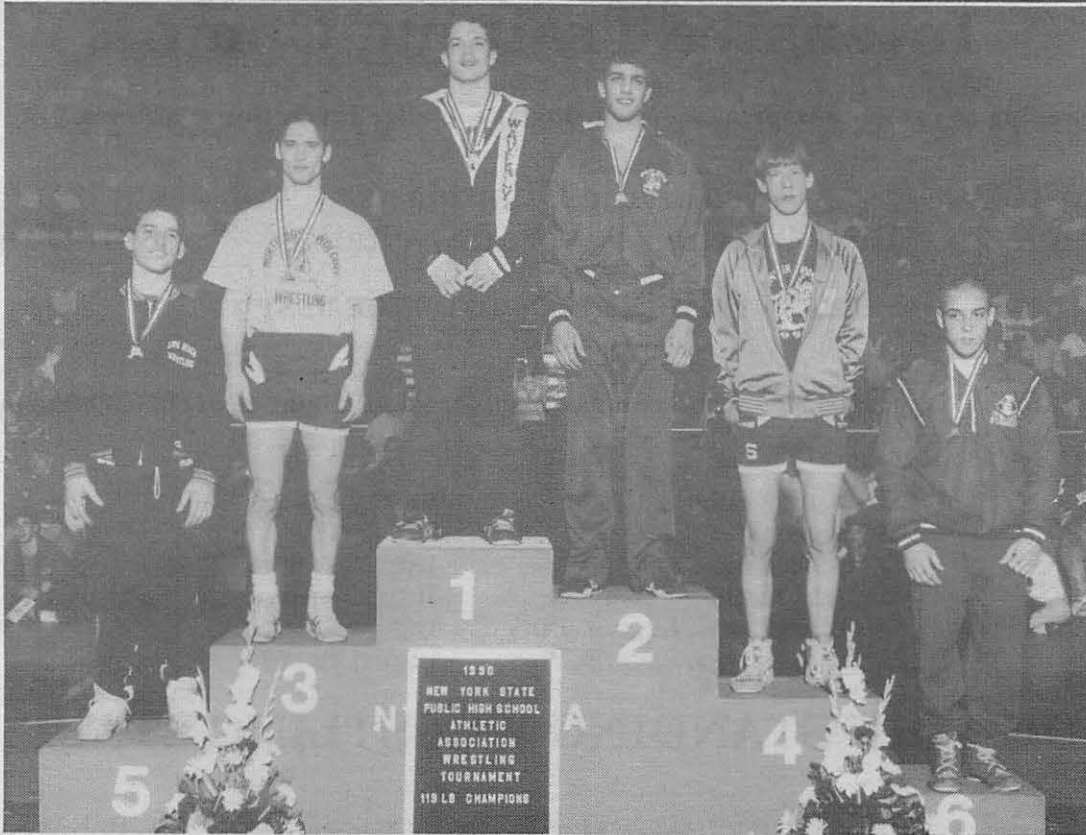
**The Best of the Rest:** To be fair to Keith Sequiera, keep in mind that in making it to the finals, he bested three guys who had previous state tournament experience - Wilfredo Anglero, a senior from Clinton-PSAL, Bill Rigney, a senior from Averill Park-2, and Robert Dinnino, a junior from Chaminate-Cath. Taking third in the 112 weight class was Midlakes-5 senior Bryant Ranger. After losing in the semifinals, he beat Rigney 7-0 and Dinnino 13-2. Dinnino took fourth, with Rigney in fifth. Rounding out the top six was Horsehead-4 senior Shane Lese.

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# 119 - Shawn Welch, Sr. Waverly-4



**119 Pound State Finalists:** from left to right - Ken Garcia, 5th; Gary DeCarr, 3rd; Shawn Welch, Champion; Doug Groncki, 2nd; Brian Roggie, 4th; Phil Donnelly, 6th

**The Champ:** You haven't seen Shawn Welch at the states before, but he was always close to getting there, and his credentials are impressive nonetheless. The Waverly-4 senior is a two-sport star, having been named to the First Team on the All Twin Tiers Football Team for the position of defensive back. In wrestling, he placed third in the Section Four tournament as a freshman. He was in Florida the next year, where he took a fourth in the state tournament down there. And last year, he was runner-up in the Sectionals.

This year, he scored three falls and a 3-2 decision to win the Section Four Tournament and qualify him for the states. In Syracuse, he first beat Willy Dumas of Franklin Academy-10, 9-2. In the quarterfinals, he edged muscular David Brainard of Falconer-6, 3-1. Brainard, a senior, was previously undefeated.

In the semifinals, Welch faced Bryan Roggie of Beaver River-3. Roggie is a junior who actually placed second in the Section Three Tournament. He lost to Chris Lynch of Indian River in the finals, but when Lynch injured his knee, Roggie got the nod. Lynch, a senior, finished the season at 35-1. He would have probably placed had he been able to compete.

Anyway, against Roggie, Welch scored a takedown partway through the first period, then worked in a tight cradle. With five seconds left in period one, Welch scored the fall. Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the bracket, Doug Groncki, a Burnt Hills-2 junior scored a hard-fought 11-5 win over Ken Garcia, a senior from Long Beach-8. Before that, Groncki beat two guys, 11-3 and 7-3. Groncki is a long, strong, tena-

cious wrestler whose twin brother Chad had made it the finals of the 126 pound class.

**The Finals:** Who would have believed that a finals match at the states would go scoreless in regulation? Well, that's what happened here. Both guys nearly scored on takedowns in the first period. In the second, Groncki was down. Despite a lot of near-escapes and stalemates, he was unable to get out. Likewise, Welch was unable to score any back points.

In the third period, Welch was on bottom. Groncki came close to scoring on a cradle and in a leg ride, but Welch defended well. With about a minute left, Welch got out of an arm bar series, made it to his feet, but was taken back down. Then, with 23 seconds left, Groncki put in a turk ride and power half, and nearly turned Welch over. Moments later, Welch almost scored on a switch. The match ended, and these evenly matched wrestlers went to their corners for a breather and some coaching.

In the first period of overtime, Groncki shot in for a double, but Welch countered and spun around to break the tie at 2-0. A stalemate followed, then with 12 seconds left, Groncki got to his feet, but didn't score.

In period two, Welch started on bottom, but quickly jumped to his feet and nearly got out. But Groncki tenaciously clung on and brought him to the mat. Welch next tried a switch, but it was unsuccessful. Next Groncki was awarded one point for Welch stalling. Welch had been warned previously. With about seven seconds left in period

two, Welch finally got out to lead 3-1.

In the ninth and final minute of the match, both men started on their feet. After 18 seconds, Groncki caught Welch off-guard with a double and scored the tying (3-3) takedown. Seconds later, he released Welch with the hopes of doing it again. He shot, and a hard-pressed Welch barely defended against another takedown. Then Welch finally scored a takedown of his own, sealing the victory at 6-3 in overtime. Final score: 6-3 overtime, in favor of Shawn Welch. The match was even closer than the score indicated, and Groncki almost pulled it off with his final takedown attempt. The match really got the crowd excited.

**The Best of the Rest:** Gary DeCarr, North Rose-Wolcott-5 senior, beat Lonnie Rivers of Peru-7, 12-2 in the first round, but lost by third period fall to Bryan Roggie in the quarterfinals. He came back to win by default, 6-6 referee's decision (over Dave Brainard), 8-5, and 3-2. His last win was a rematch against Bryan Roggie, who had previously beaten him. The rangy senior has been a powerful force in Section Five for years, and made an excellent showing for himself. Roggie finished in fourth, with Ken Garcia beating Phil Donnelly, a freshman from Pearl River by default for fifth place. Brainard won two matches, one by fall, and one by 8-0, and his losses were to the champ, 3-1, and to the third placer, 6-6 overtime referee's decision. He couldn't have come any closer to placing. Also, Steven Nikolakakos, a junior from Forham Prep, came with a point of placing when he lost 1-0 to Donnelly in the wrestlebacks.



# 126 - Troy Bouzakis, Sr. Pine Bush-9 "Champion of Champions" Recipient

**The Champ:** Troy Bouzakis is finally a senior. After five years of seeing his name in the state program and on the awards stand, he is finally on his way. And by grabbing state title number three, he established himself as the state's most successful high school wrestler.

Yes, there have been other three-timers, and most of them earned their titles within a four-year career. (The seven others were Dan Hunt, West Genesee-3; Mark Iacovelli, Ithaca-4; Bob Bury, Calhoun-8; Al Palacio, Long Beach-8; Jon Cardi, Burnt Hills-2; Jeff Prescott, Olean-6, and Frank Fronhofer, Salem-2)

And there have been a few wrestlers who finished with more career wins. There have even been some who pinned their way to state crowns. And Randy Payne of Sidney posted a better winning percentage in the late 1960's (107-1, for a 99.07% winning percentage) on the way to his two firsts.

However, when you look at how dominant he has been, and how awful close he came to being a five-time state champ, there's really no argument. He's the best. Over five years, he's won 175 matches and lost only 2. His winning percentage is 98.87%.

Let's look at the wins first. He's faced county, league, sectional, and state champs in his career. He was the only eighth grader ever to win a state title. He's the first wrestler to place in the states five times (three titles, a second, and a third). He's the only wrestler to win the Most Outstanding Wrestler award at the states twice. Of his 175 wins, 151 were by pin, 151 falls!!!

Now a bit about the losses. Two years ago, in the state quarterfinals, Bouzakis met Sachem's Lance Banfi. Banfi was a senior, Bouzakis a sophomore. The match went into overtime. After overtime, the score was knotted at 3 each. However, the decision was given to Banfi based on a warning for stalling on Troy. It was a controversial decision. Afterwards, Banfi went on to win the title, with Bouzakis taking third.

The other loss was in last year's state finals at 119 pounds. Again, it was a match that went into overtime, with Hilton's Andy Antonucci pulling out a 5-4 win. Both matches were about as close as you can come to winning. In fact, the margin of difference in not winning five state titles was only one overtime point!

Just ask any Division One college wrestling coach about Bouzakis. He's gotten hundreds of letters. Phone calls pour in at all hours of the night in his house. And so far, nine colleges have offered him four-year full scholarships. Bouzakis maintains elaborate pros and cons lists to aid him in making a decision. What he really needs is a secretary!

In Syracuse this year, Bouzakis first met up with Fulton-3's Chad Sheldon, a senior. Sheldon, fifth last year at 119, had just won a wild 19-12 overtime win over Salamanca-6's Steve Felt. Troy built up a 7-0 lead with about 30 seconds remaining. Then he



**126 Pound Champions:** left to right - Demond Betts, 5th; Kent Maslin, 3rd; Troy Bouzakis, Champion; Chad Groncki, 2nd; Tom DiTore, 4th; Chad Sheldon, 6th.

tried too hard to turn Sheldon, and Sheldon reversed and locked up a super-tight cradle. He put five points on the board, then the referee gave him another for Bouzakis stalling. At the buzzer, it was 7-6 Bouzakis.

In the wrestlebacks, Sheldon won two matches, then dropped two decisions to take sixth. Bouzakis next roughed up Kent Maslin of Whitney Point-4, 13-2, to make it to the finals. Maslin is the guy who bumped of state champ Doug Shaffer of Waverly to make it to Syracuse.

The opposite side of the bracket offered Chad Groncki of Burnt Hills-2 in the finals. To make it to the finals, Groncki, a junior, first won by default against Rahsaan Langford of Clinton-PSAL. Next, he beat Chris Tucci of St Anthony's-Cath, 9-1. And in the semifinals, he outlasted Suffern-1's tough Tom DiTore, only a junior also.

**The Finals:** These two met in the Suburban Council finals earlier this year, with Bouzakis taking a hard-fought 10-1 decision. In Syracuse, though, it was the evening's quickest match, with Troy putting on an awesome display of speed and power.

From the whistle, he shot in. As Groncki was defending against the shot, he momentarily dropped to one knee. A powerful Bouzakis immediately shrugged Groncki down and spun around for the TD after only 13 seconds.

Groncki next almost scored a reversal, but it went out of bounds. Bouzakis barred up an arm and started working on a half nelson with Groncki still on his knees. After a little while, Chad fought to his feet, but Bouzakis brought him back down and resumed working on bar arms. He appeared

to be taking his time and wearing Groncki down.

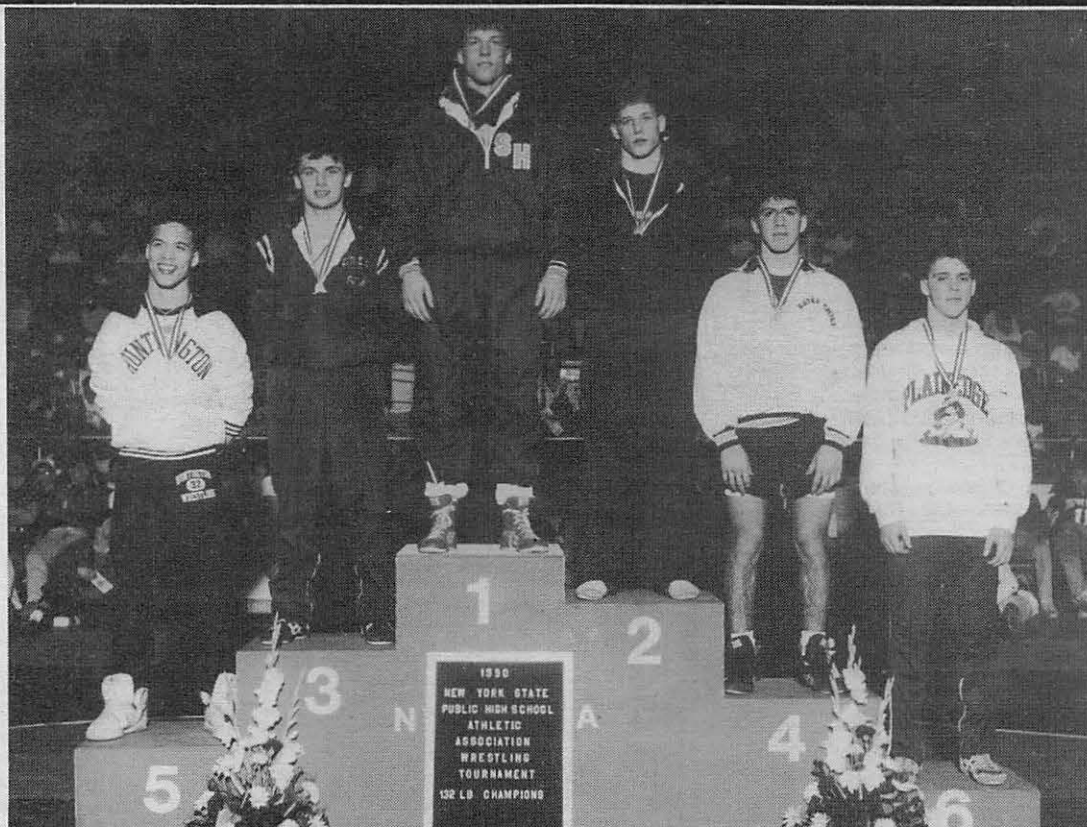
With about 45 seconds left in period one, Bouzakis was on a bar arm and underhook. Near the edge of the mat, he converted the underhook to a half, and cranked Groncki over. A surprised Groncki fought wildly to get off his back, but it was over six seconds later, at 1:21 of the match. He was pinned only inches from the edge of the mat.

With Groncki on his knees agonizing over the loss, Bouzakis stopped to grab him by the wrist and help him up. The two embraced as the crowd cheered. A perfect ending to one career, and a milestone in another career that has one more chapter to go.

**The Best of the Rest:** Kent Maslin, a senior from Section Four, beat state champ Doug Shaffer of Waverly, 7-5 in the sectional finals. In Syracuse, he did as well as Shaffer would have done. He first beat John-Paul Posada of Long Beach-8, 11-0. Next, he pinned TF Sellers, a junior from Clifton Fine-10 in 4:37. His next match was a semifinals loss to Bouzakis. He bounced back by winning twice more in wrestlebacks to take third place. In fourth was Suffern-1's Tom DiTore. Demond Betts, Wait Whitman-11 was fifth, with Chad Sheldon taking sixth.

Of the placewinners, Groncki and DiTore are returning. Both are juniors. Also, Shawn Edwards of Peru went 1-1, and will be back next year, along with Posada, Sellers, and Tucci.

# 132 - Tom Shifflet, Sr, Sweet Home-6



**132 Pound Champions:** left to right - Ken Johnson, 5th; Jeff LaFlamme, 3rd; Tom Shifflet, Champion; Brandon MacNaught, 2nd; Jim Barbato, 4th; Glen Walter, 6th

**The Champ:** Sweet Home-6's Tom Shifflet had every reason to be over-cautious. Last year, he ripped up the competition on his way to the finals against John Bena of Niskayuna-2. In that match, his aggressive nature proved his undoing, for it was while he was in on a shot that he was caught in a throw and pinned in the first period. So the undefeated senior did not want history to do what it normally does.

Throughout the tournament, he grabbed a lead, then played it safe by holding onto the lead. Said his dad and coach, Joe Shifflet, "He wrestled more cautiously than I've ever seen him. It's a big relief, because there was a lot of pressure on him. He was really tight. Last year, he dominated everyone till he made it to the finals. This year he wanted to make sure he didn't get caught - he was careful."

This was in direct contrast to Tom's performance in the Section Six tournament. There, he shattered three foes in claiming his second sectional patch. He scored two falls, one in 1:10 and the other one in just 13 seconds. In the finals, he tech failed Jim Thurnau 20-5.

Despite his conservatism in Syracuse, he still put on a dazzling display of moves in winning the state title. It was a happy ending for him and for his coach, who just happens to be his father. After this season, Joe Shifflet is retiring as head coach to concentrate on his duties as athletic director.

Shifflet first beat Ken Johnson of Huntington-11 by the score of 9-3. Johnson is a tough senior who had beaten state champ Doug Shaffer of Waverly-4 13-5 in holiday tournament action. Next up for Shifflet was

Jeff LaFlamme of South Jefferson-3. LaFlamme, also a senior, fell by the score of 5-2.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Brandon MacNaught of Walton-4 was busy paving the way to the finals by pinning Mitch Clark, Canton-10, and beating Aaron Frazier of Shenendowah-2, 2-0, and Jim Barbato of Gates-Chili-5, 5-2. MacNaught had placed fourth last year and fifth the year before. He made it out of Section Four by being equally as dominant as Shifflet had been in Section Six (two pins - :58 and 1:04, and shutouts of 4-0 and 5-0).

**The Finals:** Shifflet started by attempting a single leg. MacNaught fought it off and tried his own shot. After a lot of scrapping, MacNaught shot in for a double leg. Shifflet halted the shot with a forearm, then crashed in a powerful pancake that flattened MacNaught. MacNaught then fought off his back and only gave up two back points. With 9 seconds left, he almost escaped. After the first period, it was Shifflet 4-0.

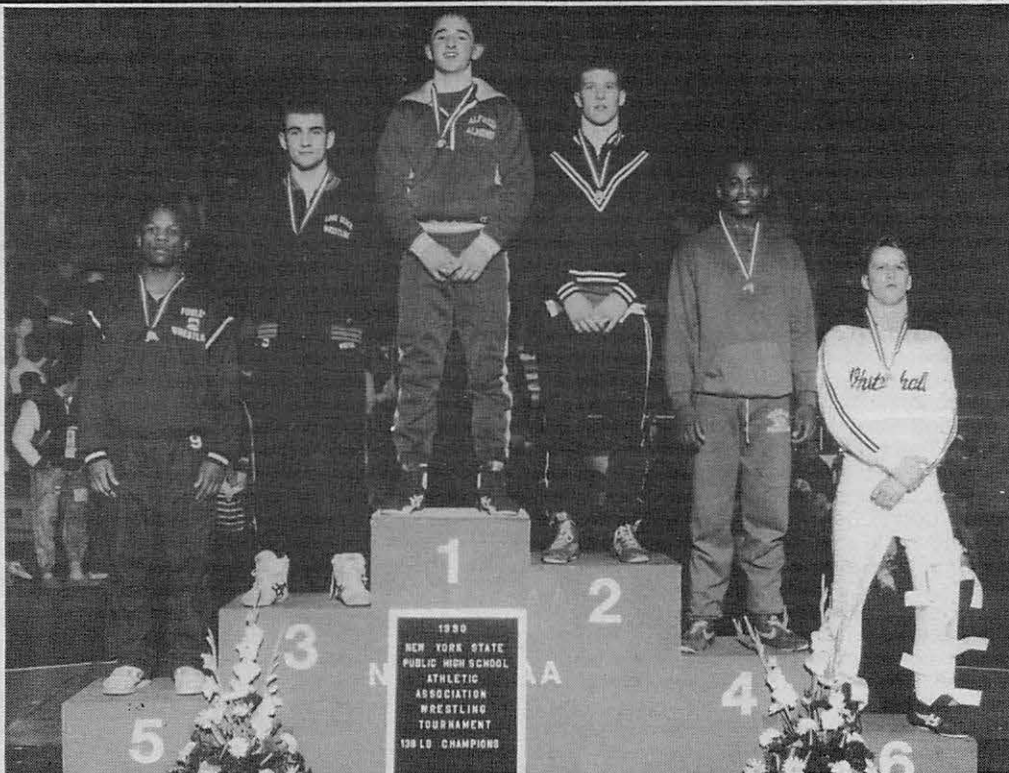
From the bottom, Tom quickly stood up and grabbed MacNaught's leg. He was close to getting a takedown when they went out of bounds. Surprisingly, the official did not award Shifflet an escape point and the crowd voiced their displeasure. However, MacNaught let him out a few seconds later. With about 40 seconds left in the match, Shifflet snapped MacNaught down. When he came up, Shifflet scored a TD on a smooth and fast duck-under. With the score at 7-1, MacNaught came close to escaping, but was held down as the period ended.

MacNaught was down in the final period. He scored a reversal within seconds of the whistle, then nearly scored two more on a tilt. Most of the period elapsed with MacNaught frantically fighting for back points and Shifflet trying not to give up any points. Finally, with 26 to go, Shifflet escaped, making the score 8-3. Then he used his defensive skills to prevent MacNaught from scoring. However, as time was running out, MacNaught was in scoring position. Rather than risk fighting it, Shifflet gave up the TD at the buzzer. It was a half second late, and the points did not count. Final score: 8-3, Shifflet.

**The Best of The Rest:** After his close loss to Shifflet, Jeff LaFlamme beat up Glen Walter of Plainedge-8, 10-2 and Jim Barbato 13-4 to claim third place. Barbato wound up in fourth, with Huntington-11's Johnson in fifth, followed by Walter in sixth. This was an exciting weight class in which all six place-finishers were seniors. There were tons of hard-fought, close matches. Jim Rial of Peekskill-1 came close to placing. His only losses were one-point decisions to LaFlamme and Johnson, and he beat the sixth placer, Glen Walter.

## *The New York 100*

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**138 Pound Champions:** left to right - Kareeb Howard, 5th; Bernard Valentin, 3rd; Ken Porter, Champion; John Spiegelman, 2nd; Lonnie Johnson, 4th; Chris Terry, 6th

**The Champ:** Unless you live in his hometown, you've probably never heard or read about Kenny Porter from Alfred-Almond (Section Five). Only a junior, he shocked Section Five fans by pinning Spencerport's Tom Foes in the sectional finals to make it to the states. Then he shocked the state by taking the crown.

Porter finished the year at 37-1, losing at 145 pounds to Marlon-5's Todd Miller in a holiday tournament. His career record is 113-13. He started in third grade, when he took third in his first two tournaments by using the only move he knew - an illegal headlock. Since then, he's learned a few more moves. And last summer, he started freestyle, where he placed fifth in the freestyle states and fourth in the Empire State Games qualifier. In freestyle and Greco, his only losses were to state champs Shifflet and Taylor.

Kenny is a three-time Alfred-Almond Classic champ, two-time Campbell champ, and member of the Southern Tier Wrestling Club. This club, run by Greg Johnson, Alfred Tech's head coach, also produced another state champ, Brian Gray of Wellsville.

Alfred-Almond is a Class D school. That's the smallest class of all, and class D state champs only happen once in a while. In winning the Class D title, Porter decked all four opponents. In the state qualifiers, he scored two pins and two decisions. In the finals against Foes, he evened the score at 2-2 with a reversal with 40 seconds left in the match. Then he cranked Foes over and scored a pin with only two seconds left.

In the states, Porter decked Chris Fleiger of Port Jervis-9 in 1:17. Then he pulled out a 6-5 win over rugged Bernard Valentin of

Long Beach-8 in the semifinals.

His finals opponent was Suffern's John Spiegelman, also a junior. Spiegelman beat Scott Sullivan of Waverly 1-0, then beat Henry Venne of North Adirondack-7, 14-7 in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, his opponent was supposed to be Chris Terry of Whitehall-2. Terry had wiped up in Section 2, and was the favorite to win the weight class. However, Terry injured his knee in a wild 11-6 win over Fowler-3's Kareeb Howard. He could hardly walk with crutches, let alone wrestle. Thus, Spiegelman advanced to the finals without a semifinal match.

**The Finals:** Wasting no time, Porter immediately snatched a single and amazingly lifted Spiegelman with just the leg. With his opponent struggling, and with him fighting for position, Porter kept Spiegelman in the air for 8 full minutes! Finally, he brought him down for the two, and then threw in a high leg ride. A lot of rolling around ensued, with Spiegelman appearing to come close to reversing on several times. Yet every time, Porter was able to scramble his way out of trouble. In fact, he seemed calm and in control throughout this scrambling. With 22 seconds left in the period, Porter locked up a figure-4 and began working on cranking Spiegelman over. At the 1:55 mark, he did go over, and had there been more time left, Porter would have scored the fall. End of period one: Porter 5-0.

In the second period, Porter escaped within five seconds for a 6-0 lead. Spiegelman locked up both arms and was close to a Greco throw, but Porter was able to work his way out of it. With 40 seconds left, Spiegelman stepped in on a beautiful high-crotch. However, he mis-timed it, and missed Porter's body with his arm. Porter

capitalized and spun around for another two points. With the score at 8-0, Porter was still aggressive. He slapped on a cradle, but had his own leg and head trapped. Instead of bailing out, he recklessly rolled Spiegelman over. Spiegelman grabbed his head, and nearly pinned Porter, but once again, it was Porter's superior scrappiness and scrambleability that allowed him to come out unscathed. For his efforts, he earned another two back points as the period ended. By this point, the fans were going nuts!

In the final period, Spiegelman nearly erased all of Porter's points by sitting out, reversing, and slapping in a cradle of his own.

Both men fought desperately for the longest of times, with Spiegelman nearly scoring the fall. Finally, Porter broke the cradle and stepped over for a two-point reversal. Considering Spiegelman's 27 pins this year, Porter had to be more than a little lucky at this point. With 30 seconds left, the score was 12-5 Porter, with Porter on top. Spiegelman finished strong, nearly winning another reversal as time ran out. Final score: Porter 12, Spiegelman 5.

**The Best of the Rest:** As mentioned, Chris Terry watched most of the tournament on crutches and in bandages. He defaulted to sixth place, the same place he earned here two years ago. Bernard Valentin came back from his one-point loss to claim third based on two two-point wins. In fourth was Truman-PSAL's Lonnie Johnson, a senior. Johnson, who's been to Syracuse before, was New York City's (PSAL) only state placewinner this year. He posted a 3-2 record in taking fourth. Both losses were by only two points. In fifth place was Fowler's Kareeb Howard, a junior. Howard also went 3-2 in taking fifth.

# 145 - Steve Taylor, Sr, Brockport-5

**The Champ:** Brockport-5's Steve Taylor, a senior, went undefeated this year. Since placing third at last year's meet, he's been on a crash course for a state title. He finished the year at 35-0, with a career record of 77-17-2. This year he had 153 takedowns, 19 pins and 9 major decisions. Only seven matches have been by regular decisions. Taylor is relentless. It's hard to detect any favorite moves in his style. He doesn't seem to work any one move on everyone - rather, he uses a variety of moves as he wears down opponents.

In Syracuse, he first beat Jeff Geller of MacArthur-8, 7-1. That match, though one-sided, was extremely hard-fought, with Geller just a little short of preventing Taylor from scoring. Next Taylor decked Dennis Fields of Kellenberg-Cath in 4:38. And in the semi-finals, he beat Guy Peryea of Beekmantown-7, 11-1.

Taylor's opponent in the finals was Niagara Falls-6 junior, Kareem Johnson. Johnson had beaten Taylor in summer competition, and the match was very close. Taylor was winning that match when Johnson scored three points at the very end on a controversial move. To make it to the finals, Johnson first frilled Mark Dacosta of FDR-PSAL, 14-4. Then he beat sophomore Chad MacNaughton of Glens Falls-2, 5-2. In the semi-finals, he beat Phil McCarty, Waverly-4, 7-4. That match was weird. McCarthy was more aggressive, while Johnson was clearly superior in technique. However, Johnson seemed to be injured or tired, as he wrestled only in spurts in earning his victory.

**The Finals:** The match started with a lot of action as both men were not reluctant to shoot. With 1:40 gone, Kareem struck for a duck-under takedown. He immediately let Taylor up, then scored another takedown. Taylor escaped again to make the score 4-2 Johnson. On one shot from Taylor, his head smashed into Johnson's nose, forcing him to take a few seconds of injury time. The period ended with Taylor shooting three or four times.

In the second period, Kareem was on bottom. He managed to get to his feet several times, but each time Taylor either brought him down, or they went out of bounds. Both men were exerting a lot of force, and Johnson started showing some signs of tiredness. Despite this, he still maintained nonstop action. At one point, he got butted in the nose, and had to take some injury time. Finally, Johnson managed to gain hand control and escaped to take a 5-2 lead.

In the third, Taylor was down, but was immediately released by Johnson to cut the lead to 5-3. After Taylor out-shot Johnson by about 3 or 4 to 1, the official warned Johnson for stalling. After a little while, and a lot of shooting, mostly by Taylor, Kareem was penalized for diving out of bounds. With the score now at 5-4, Johnson again needed some injury time. With 20 seconds left in the match, and Johnson out of injury time, Taylor kept relentlessly shooting. And however tired Johnson was, Taylor was unable to score a takedown. Yet he was convincing the official that Johnson was stalling, and as the final buzzer sounded, the



**145 Pound Champions:** left to right - Ron Clinton, 5th; Jeff Geller, 3rd; Steve Taylor, Champion; Kareem Johnson, 2nd; Phil McCarty, 4th; Guy Peryea, 6th

referee awarded Taylor one more point for Johnson stalling. This made it a tie match, 5-5.

In period one of overtime, Taylor resumed his aggressiveness. About midway through the period, he shot, but Johnson used remarkable speed in spinning around for his third TD, making it 7-5. Again, he gave up an escape, then almost scored again as time ran out.

In period two, Kareem was down. Frantically, he lurched to his feet at least six times trying to get out. But each time, Taylor was able to bring him back to the mat in control. At the end of the period, Kareem was again called for stalling. This time, it was a two-point penalty, making it 8-7 Taylor. Despite Section Five's huge fan presence, most spectators seemed to disagree with the call. The period ended with Johnson still on the bottom.

In the third period (and ninth minute of wrestling), Johnson continued his disdain for riding. Knowing he was superior on takedowns, he chose to mix it up on his feet. This gave Taylor a 9-7 lead. Throughout, Taylor appeared even-keeled and in great condition. Johnson seemed fatigued, but kept up with the killer pace set by Taylor.

Both men exchanged shots. Then with about 30 seconds to go, Johnson struck for his fourth takedown to tie the score at 9-9. Taylor again escaped before long to grab a 10-9 lead. He almost lost it when Kareem almost got takedown #5. Johnson shot again a few more times, but the match ended with Johnson shooting and Taylor hanging on to the lead.

In all, it was a heated battle. Fans

seemed split on who they felt deserved the win. Taylor fans felt Johnson was definitely stalling and taking advantage of injury time to get quick rests here and there. Johnson fans point out that while Johnson may have deserved two stalling penalty points, there was no way he was stalling in the second period of overtime. In addition, some felt that Taylor should have been penalized for stalling at the end of the third period of overtime.

To Taylor's credit, he was extremely well-conditioned and aggressive. He came to fight, and that's just what he did. To Johnson's credit, he scored nine actual points (four takedowns and one escape), while Taylor scored five actual points (all escapes) and four penalty points. There was no question about Johnson's superior takedown performance, but the stalling point issue was a heated one.

According to George Rogers, President of the New York State Wrestling Officials Association, there have been no complaints of an official nature about the match. Concerning the match, George comments, "Like a number of other sports, it's a judgement call - an interpretation of the rules on the part of the official. The official is supposed to dictate the tempo of the match, so that the tempo is at an appropriate level, and that the match is kept going. Without that, a restore who chooses to stall would dictate the tempo. And depending on what side of the fence you sit, you'll either agree with the officiating or think the guy was robbed."

Rogers was not present at the match, but did watch it on video tape afterwards, and offers these comments: "Frankly, I felt



## 145 pounds, cont.

the stalling calls were appropriate. I thought he was stalling, but that's only one man's opinion, and I watched it on video, which may have been a distorted view of what actually happened. What I saw were two evenly matched wrestlers, and neither wrestled to win. Both wrestled not to lose. If Johnson would have kept wrestling his match, as he did in the first part of the bout, he wouldn't have had any trouble. But he changed his style. And that just happens in the sport."

In all, it was an extremely entertaining match that featured two excellent, well-matched wrestlers. NYS high school fans look forward to seeing more of Kareem Johnson next March, and college fans are eager to see how Steve Taylor adjusts to the rigors of collegiate wrestling.

**The Best of the Rest:** Taylor's first round victim, Jeff Geller came back from the dead to claim third place. He did it the old fashioned way - he earned it. Translated, this means he won five straight matches. First, he warmed up by tech falling Amityville-11's Bob Chester, 20-4. Then he slid by Chad MacNaughton, 5-4, followed by wins over Mike Quaglio, John Jay-East Fishkill-1, 7-2; and Guy Peryea, 12-4. This set up his consolation finals match against Phil McCarty of Waverly-4. McCarty barely lost to Kareem Johnson, then beat Ron Clinton of Middletown-9 to make it the finals of the consolation. There, it was all Geller, as he scored an 8-1 win for the bronze. For fifth, Clinton beat up Peryea 11-3. Dennis Fields, a senior from Kellenberg-Cath, came close to the top six, as he lost a 5-4 match to Clinton. Had he won that match, he would have taken a medal. You'll see more of MacNaughton and Quaglio. Both are only sophomores. MacNaughton is the brother of Greco ace Darren MacNaughton, and Quaglio has been to Syracuse twice already.

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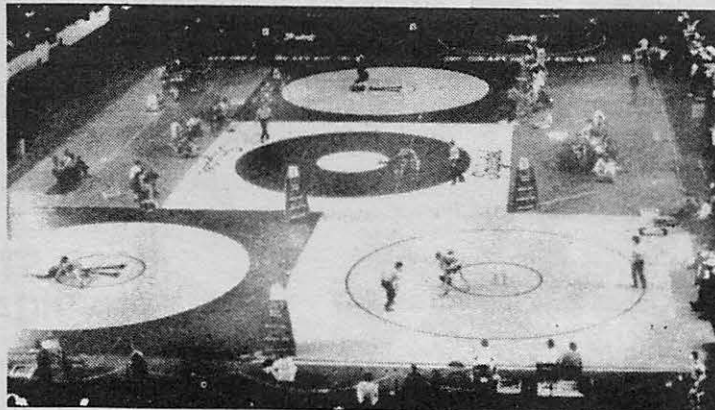
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**Section 5 continued**

In the quarterfinals, he stuck Chris Fieger of Port Jervis-9 in the first period. To make the finals, he squeaked past Bernard Valentin of Long Beach-8, 6-5. That match was tight the whole way; it was ultimately Porter's tenacity and mental toughness that won it for him.

The finals match was a romp for Porter, as he dumped Suffern's John Spiegelman, 12-5. The match almost ended late in the first period, as Porter nearly scored a fall. The only scare for the Alfred Almond junior was early in the third period, when Spiegelman came back from the dead to score a reversal and near-fall.

To say that Porter came out of the woodwork to win his title would be fairly accurate. With 113 career wins, he is certainly no overnight star. But let's talk about obscurity. He wasn't even well-known outside of his hometown of Hornell. Everyone thought the toughest guys in the section were Tom Foes, Spencerport, and Frank Trigg, Eastridge. Both are experienced, tough, well-conditioned athletes who could have medaled in Syracuse.

Trigg had beaten Foes 4-1 during the season, with Foes coming out on top of the rematch. The rematch was in the Section Five State Qualifier semifinals. So when Foes was paired with Ken Porter for the finals, not many people in the section whose name was not Porter thought Foes would have much trouble.

The match was fairly uneventful until the shocking end. Foes secured and maintained a 2-0 lead throughout the match. With about 40 seconds left, Porter pulled off a reversal to even the score. And just about when the fans were thinking about overtime, Kenny turned Foes over and pinned him with only two seconds left in the bout.

Porter finished the season at 37-1. He won titles at Campbell (MOW), Alfred Almond Classic, Olean Bishop Walsh, Section Five Class D Tournament, Section Five, and of course, the New York State Championships. His only loss was a one-point loss to Marion-5's Todd Miller at 145 pounds in the Penfield Christmas Tournament.

At 145, Brockport's **Steve Taylor**, a senior, fulfilled his season-long number one ranking by outlasting Niagara Falls junior Kareem Johnson, 10-9, overtime, in the night's most controversial match. Taylor started his quest in the first round with a hard-fought 7-1 win over Jeff Geller, a senior from MacArthur-8. For his part, Geller then won five straight wins in claiming third place - the hard way.

Next Taylor pinned Dennis Fields from Kellenberg-C. In the semi's, it was all Taylor in an 11-1 thrashing of Guy Peryea of Beekmantown-7. In the finals, it was Taylor's aggressiveness and conditioning that provided the margin of victory over Johnson, who appeared to be a superior technician. Johnson scored four takedowns, yet yielded four stalling points in the match.

Steve Taylor finished the season undefeated (35-0). He won every tournament he was in, including the prestigious Spencerport Bernabi/Teike, and the Canandigua Bradshaw. In the Spencerport finals, he dominated, then pinned two-time state placefinisher, Chris Terry of Whitehall-2. Terry was favored to win the 138 pound title, but injured himself in beating Kareeb Howard of Fowler-3 in the state quarterfinals.

For his part, Taylor is a supreme competitor. Time and again, he has beaten quality opponents by his unrelenting attacks. He

doesn't stop for a moment, he doesn't make mistakes, and follows through with his moves. By doing that, he won the 145 pound state title.

Next up for Section Five was Wellsville senior **Brian Gray**. Last year, Gray was profiled by us (under our old name, Rochester Wrestling News) as being a future state contender. And for all those who criticized us for wasting the ink on him, let's just say we told you so! Brian was runner-up to go to the states last year. He was pinned in the first period by Terry Lucero, Bloomfield. But over the summer, Gray took first place in Empire State Games Greco competition.

There's something about Gray that spells winner. He's not the strongest, and he doesn't have the best moves. He wasn't even undefeated. But he does know how to win. Just ask Matt Marcinjak from Watkins Glen. Marcinjak would most likely be state champ if not for Gray (and with another year to go and 148 career wins under his belt, Matt looks like a sure bet for a title next year!). He beat Brian twice this year (9-6 and 5-2 in earlier tournaments) and once last year before squaring off in this year's state 155 pound semifinals.

But the two wrestled too many times, and it was a last period takedown by Gray that gave him the win. The match was a fan's delight. It was fiercely contested, with a lot of action and strategy. Gray used his mat savvy (like getting out of bounds when necessary without looking like that's what you're doing), defensive skills, and a bit of luck in winning 3-2.

In the finals against Bellport's (Section 11) Mike Murtha, Gray again relied on his mat

experience to take home a lopsided 14-7 win. He repeatedly scored on the edge of the mat, and capitalized on the mistakes of Murtha. In skill level, the two are not that far apart, but it was Gray's superior strategy that won it for him. Gray finished the year at 35-5, and for his career, he was 120-41-2.


In addition to these three main characters, Section Five had some help from a lot of supporting characters -

**Roy Frey**, 98 pounds, East Rochester - the senior scored three solid wins in making it to the finals. There, however, he was outwrestled by a very talented Craig Vitagliano of Plainedge-8. The rugged and aggressive Frey was runner-up to go the states last year, and has countless experience in off-season wrestling.

**Bryant Ranger**, 112 pounds, Midlakes, a senior who also has a ton of experience. He's been a fixture among Section Five lightweights, and took third in Syracuse. His one loss was against Juan Carlos Garcia by a respectable 8-6. Ranger's other victories were 11-2, 12-7, 6-2, and 13-2.


**Gary DeCarr**, 119 pounds, a rangy senior from North Rose-Wolcott. DeCarr started strong in stepping on Lonnie Rivers, Peru, 12-2. Next, he hit a roadblock in Brian Roggie of Beaver River. Roggie pinned him in 5:08. DeCarr then won by default, 6-6 overtime decision, 8-5, and 3-2. That last win, ironically, was over Roggie in a rematch for third place. Like Ranger, DeCarr wound up in third place.

**Jim Barbato**, 132 pounds, Gates Chili senior. Barbato lost a close 5-2 semi match against Brandon MacNaught, then fought back to a fourth place finish.



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Jason Bovenzi, 167 pounds, senior, Greece Athena. Bovenzi beat highly-regarded Terry Lucero of Bloomfield in the Sectional semifinals. Lucero was in Syracuse last year at 155, and was among those favored to win the weight class. In the states, Bovenzi decked Bill Dupre of Peru-7 in 2:44, then tech falled Ante Novakovic of Mt St Michael's-C, 18-1. In the semifinals, he barely lost to defending champ Seamus Lyman of Watertown-3, 4-3. He next won 5-4 before losing 5-2 to Joe Malchuski of Bayshore-11. Bovenzi ended up with a fourth place medal.

Brian Marcinek, 177 pound senior, Webster, provided the big upset of the quarter-finals as he beat returning second placer, Jon Penhollow of Cassadaga Valley-6, by the score of 8-6. In the semifinals, Brian lost 8-7 to Todd Webb, then rebound in winning 6-2 and then 3-2 over Penhollow again. Marcinek, a powerful and rangy wrestler, took a strong third.

David Williams, 250 pounds, East Rochester junior, was one of ER's three state qualifiers. He won his first state match 7-0 over Art Dispenza of Starpoint-6. Then he lost to Cary Huggard of Freeport-8, 10-2. He then won 1-0, and lost 5-3 in taking fourth place.

This year's Section Five team was made up of twelve teams - Alfred Almond, Brighton, Brockport, East Rochester, Gates Chili, Greece Athena, McQuaid, Midlakes, North Rose Wolcott, Rush Henrietta, Webster, and Wellsville. Except for East Rochester's three participants, there was great parity as all schools had one wrestler in the states.

The final teams scores were:

1	Section 5	181.5
2	Four	171
3	Eleven	158
4	Three	157.5
5	One	153.5
6	Eight	145
7	Six	119
8	Nine	102
9	Two	89.5
10	CHSAA	39
11	Seven	28.5
12	PSAL	21.5
13	Ten	5.5

Strictly opinion: A few coaches from the smaller schools are speaking out in favor of Class State Championships. I think this is a bad idea. If you win a state title, you should be the champ for the entire state, not just the small schools or large schools. Let's not dilute the honor of state champion by dividing up the schools.

Also, I always feel that some of the state's best wrestlers never make it to Syracuse. This year there were plenty, like Matt McClennan of Corning, Terry Lucero of Bloomfield, Doug Shaffer of Waverly, and several others. I'm definitely in favor of giving each section five or six wildcard entries to use as state qualifiers. These would be given (by coaches voting) to athletes who meet certain qualifications, yet failed to win their Sectional tournaments.

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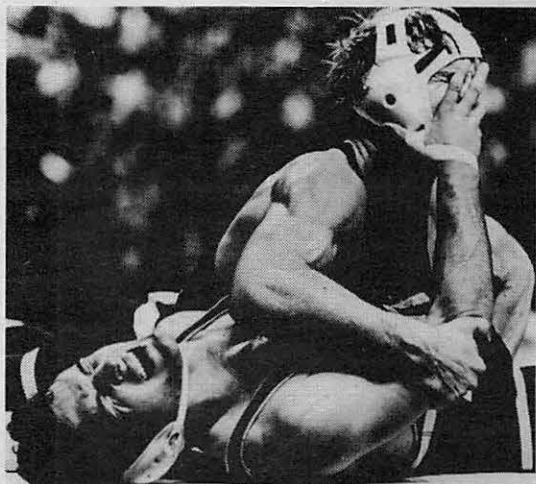
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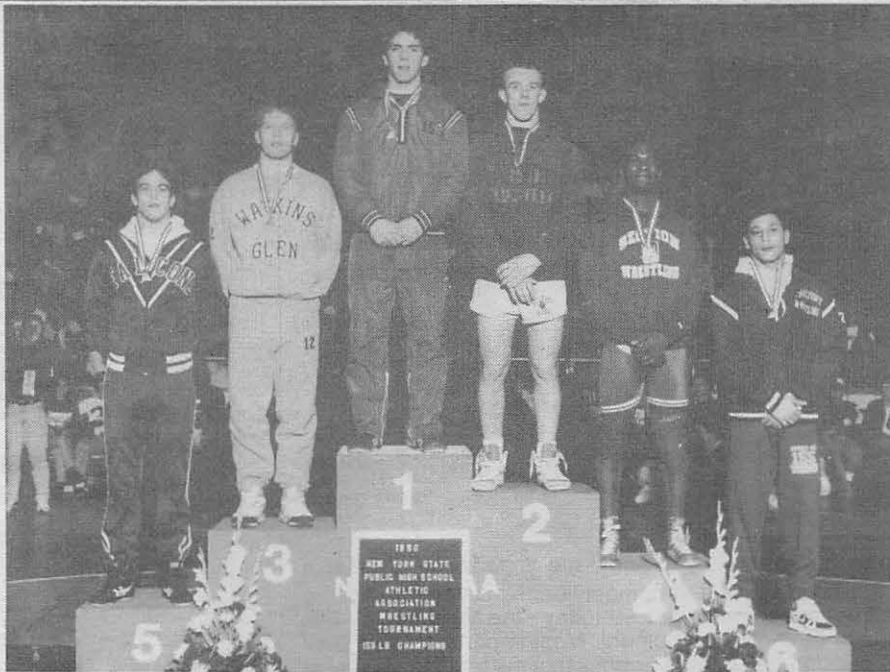
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# 155 - Brian Gray, Sr. Wellsville-5



**155 Pound Champs:** left to right - Mike Luick, 5th; Matt Marciniak, 3rd; Brian Gray, Champion; Mike Murtha, 2nd; Marcus Hutchins, 4th; Israel Medina, 6th

**The Champ:** Brian Gray is a senior from Wellsville-5. He was the third state champ in a row from Section Five. Last year he made it the finals of the sectional tournament, but lost by fall to Terry Lucero of Bloomfield. Since then, he's done a lot of wrestling - and a lot of improving. He won a gold medal in Empire State Game competition and took fifth in freestyle. He worked out with the Southern Tier Wrestling Club (the same club Kenny Porter works out with).

This year, Gray was not undefeated. He lost twice to Watkins Glen-4's Matt Marciniak, and he had to default in the finals of another tournament due to injury. In the sectionals, he won convincingly in earning his berth to the state tournament. Gray wrestles with a lot of confidence that comes from spending a lot of time on the mat. He's been doing it since third grade, and it shows. He knows how to bring in the best in himself when it counts.

His style shows a lot of diversity - much of it comes from the international styles he devotes his off-seasons to. In Syracuse, he first beat Massena-10's Jim Harvey, 11-2. In the quarterfinals, he decked Israel Medina, Freeport-8, in 3:48. This set up his fourth meeting in two years against Marciniak. Marciniak was here last year, and placed fifth at 145 pounds. And he lost one match because he was called for a questionable slam penalty. Marciniak, despite being from a different section, has beaten Gray three times before. All the matches have been close, including an 8-6 decision at the Geneva Panther Invitational in December.

Utilizing mat strategy against Marciniak (getting the hell out of bounds when you need to without looking like that's what you're doing!), he was able to keep the score low until the end of the match. It was 2-1 Marciniak with only seconds left when Gray struck for a smooth single leg TD that won it 3-2.

On the other side of the bracket, Bellport-11 senior Mike Murtha was looking impressive in making it to the finals opposite Gray.

In round one, Murtha decked Boris Beyaminovich of FDR-PSAL in 4:17. Next he scored a 5-1 win over Mike Urch of Queensbury-2. In the semi's, he edged Marcus Hutchins of Monticello-9, 7-6. Murtha, who started wrestling in third grade, finished with 105 career wins. He was one of five Section 11 finalists. Surprisingly, though, not one was able to pull out a victory.

**The Finals:** Gray started fast by scoring a TD within five seconds of the whistle. Murtha, full of strength, escaped right away, then struck for a takedown of his own to grab a 3-2 lead. While on top, Murtha attempted a cradle, but Gray defended against it and tied up the score by escaping. The period was full of moves, counter-moves, and a good amount of scoring. Neither man appeared reluctant to mix it up.

In the second period, Gray escaped and executed a slick duck-under to claim a 6-3 lead. Again, m escaped soon afterwards. After a lot of action, both wrestlers found themselves near the edge of the mat. Working the boundary line perfectly, Gray scored on a single leg from an underhook. It was extremely close to being out of bounds, and m appeared upset that it wasn't called out of bounds. He later got away to chop Gray's lead to 8-5. At the end of the period, they were again near the boundary. Perhaps Murtha momentarily relaxed. At that time, he was on his knees in on a shot. Gray used a perfect pancake/shrug to gain another takedown near the edge as time was expiring. This gave him a 10-5 lead, and again, Murtha was infuriated.

In the third, Murtha escaped after only 8 seconds. In the wild action that followed, Gray's nose began to bleed, and the match was momentarily stopped. When

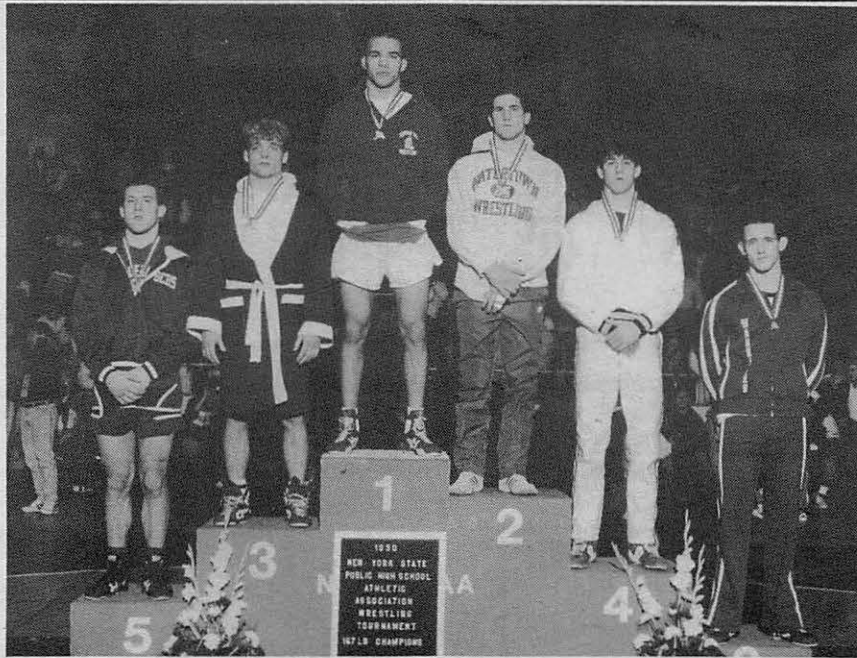
the match resumed, both men continued their super-aggressive wrestling. Both shot several times. Gray managed to secure double underhooks which he used to score another takedown. Again, Murtha escaped easily and quickly. At the 12 second point, Murtha executed a textbook perfect headlock, but it did not beat the whistle halting the action due to being out of bounds. With time waning, Murtha tried a desperation throw. Gray slumped and scored one more takedown to make the final score 14-7.

The difference in ability between these two didn't seem to be great. It was Gray's superior strategy that really spelled the difference.

**The Best of the Rest:** After his disappointing 3-2 loss, Matt Marciniak won two close matches to claim third place. He first beat Mike Luick of Niagara-Wheatfield-6 1-0 overtime, then beat Marcus Hutchins of Monticello-9 6-2. Marciniak is a junior. Having placed twice in the states, he's got an excellent chance of winning it all next year. Luick, a senior, beat Medina for fifth by a score of 4-0. Of the top six, only Marciniak and Hutchins are back next year.

A surprise at this weight is the fact that Chaminade's Dion Visconti did not place. Visconti was fourth last year behind three great wrestlers - Seamus Lyman, JJ Stanbro, and Emilio Collins. This year, Visconti first beat Shawn Favreau from Peru-7. Then he lost to Marciniak 7-1. In wrestlebacks, he beat junior Paul Lyman, Watertown-3, but then dropped a 5-2 match to Israel Medina. If no one grows out of the weight, there will be some heavy duty action next year with Marciniak, Hutchins, Visconti, Lyman, and Mike Buxbaum. Buxbaum is a junior from Clarkstown South-1 who dropped two hard-fought decisions to tough wrestlers.

# 167 - Emilio Collins, Sr. Tappan Zee-1



**167 Pound Champs:** left to right - Chip Foster, 5th; Jo e Malchuski, 3rd; Emilio Collins, Champion; Seamus Lyman, 2nd; Jason Bovenzi, 4th; Heath Macaluso, 6th

**The Champ:** Emilio Collins cuts an imposing figure. Tall and muscular, with a shaven pate, he looks intimidating. You wouldn't even want to meet up with him in a well-lighted alley! From Tappan Zee in powerful Section One, this was his second trip to the states. Last year, he lost a one-point overtime loss to Seamus Lyman of Wafertown-3. Lyman went on to take the title with a win over JJ Stanbro of Johnson City-4. Collins bounced back to take third place.

This year, both wrestlers were undefeated as they dominated their part of the state. Using superior conditioning and awesome strength and length, Collins hardly had any close matches all year. In the sectional finals, he beat up Paul Mazzurco of Mahopac 10-3.

Seamus Lyman was equally dominant as well. He won every dual and tournament he was in. He also beat Todd Webb of Baldwinville. Webb later won the 177 pound title in Syracuse. In making it to Syracuse, Lyman decked or technical failed all four opponents in the Section Three tournament.

At the states, Emilio first drew Joe Malchuski of Bayshore-11, one of Section 11's toughest guys. Collins managed to pull out a 5-4 win. For his reward, he next faced an even more accomplished opponent in Chip Foster of Guilderland-2. Foster took a fifth last year at 155. Collins managed another 5-4 win to set up his semifinals match against Heath Macaluso of Minisink Valley-9. Collins dominated the match, winning 7-1.

Opposite him was Seamus Lyman, four-time Section 3 Champ. Lyman was runner-up to Tom Kingston of Waverly-4 as a sophomore, then won it last year. To make it to the finals, Lyman first blanked Cary Chase of Tonawanda-6. Next he decked Tom Soto of Gouverneur-10 with two seconds left in the first period. In the semifinals, he eeked out a 4-3 win over a surprisingly

tough Jason Bovenzi. Bovenzi had previously beaten two opponents, one by 18-1, and another by fall. Bovenzi also beat undefeated Terry Lucero of Bloomfield-5 in the sectional semifinals.

**The Finals:** Both Lyman and Collins started out cautiously. Lyman maintained a defensive low stance which was preventing Collins from scoring. With 34 seconds left, though, Collins bulled his way in for a single. With Lyman fighting it, he converted it to a double and scored the takedown. Moments later, Seamus escaped to narrow the lead to 2-1.

In the second period, Collins put on a power ride, locking up Lyman's legs in a Navy ride. At different points, he used a tight waist and head lever to keep Lyman down. However, the defending champ sat out, stood up, and finally escaped to knot the score at 2-2. On their feet, Lyman tried a front headlock with Collins on his feet, but Collins proved too strong for it. Collins was warned for stalling. An attempt at a foot sweep by Lyman almost resulting in a TD, but the period expired with the score still at 2 each.

Collins started down in the third period. Twice he tried granby rolls, but was too slow, and almost got stuck on one of them.

A little later, Lyman tried to run a bar and half combination, but Collins was still too powerful, and he escaped. From their feet, Collins attempted a shot, but it was stopped. Lyman then tried a front headlock with Collins on his knees. Collins was able to muscle out of it and get a takedown of his own to take a 5-2 lead with 40 seconds left in the match.

Lyman quickly escaped to make the score 5-3. Frantically, he shot, tried another headlock, and shot a couple more times. Collins was then penalized with stalling, making it a one-point match with 16 seconds to go. The defending champ then snapped the defensive Collins down,

and started to spin around him to get the winning TD. The only thing that prevented him, however, was the muscular left arm of Collins. Almost flat on the mat and off-balance, he still managed to get an arm out and literally catch Lyman in the air as he was spinning around. The takedown counted, giving Collins a 7-4 decision.

It was an extremely exciting match, despite the caution used by both men, especially at the beginning. Both were evenly matched, well-conditioned, powerful athletes. But it was a matter of everything coming down to one move, and that move belonged to Emilio Collins, the new champ.

**The Best of the Rest:** In state tournament competition, going left is sometimes more rigorous and difficult than going to the right. On the bracket sheets, you see, winners advance towards the finals - to the right. Losers go the opposite way - to the left, in the hopes of a redeeming placefinish (third through sixth). And while most champs have either three or four matches over the two days, many of the other placefinishers have five or even six matches.

Such is the story of Bayshore-11 senior Joe Malchuski. Joe never got into the winner's bracket as he lost his first match - a 5-4 decision to Collins. Despite this, he traveled all the way to the left, posting five straight wins - 10-8, pin in 3:46, 13-1, 6-0, and 5-2 in staking claim to third place. And considering he gave the champ his closest match, his third is a strong one.

In fourth was Jason Bovenzi, Greece Athena-5 senior, who barely lost to Lyman in the semis. Bovenzi also posted a one-point win over Guilderland-2's Chip Foster, who placed fifth. Rounding out the winners was Heath Macaluso, a senior from Minisink Valley-9. In addition, Dom Curtola, a senior from Massapequa-8, came within one point of placing. In the medal round, he dropped a 1-0 decision to Foster.

# New York State Team Rankings FINAL POLL

as voted by the NYS  
Sportswriters Association  
Compiled by Neil Kerr

- 1 Fulton-3 17-2
- 2 Longwood-11 8-0
- 3 Huntington-11 13-0
- 4 East Rochester-5 16-0
- 5 Patchogue-11 11-1
- 6 Sachem-11 10-3
- 7 Niskayuna-2 12-0
- 8 South Jefferson-3 17-1
- 9 Burnt Hills-2 19-1
- 10 Waverly-4 15-2
- 11 Queensbury-2 12-1
- 12 Johnson City-4 11-1
- 13 East Meadow-8 15-2
- 14 Brighton-5 12-2
- 15 Suffern-1 12-2
- 16 Ossining-1 14-0
- 17 Long Beach-8 16-1
- 18 Spencerport-5 11-2
- 19 Union-Endicott-4 12-2
- 20 Palmyra-Macedon-5 12-0
- 21 Tonawanda-6 14-0
- 22 Baldwinsville-3 12-3
- 23 Mepham-8 13-1
- 24 Amityville-11 14-0
- 25 Herricks-8 12-2
- 26 Falconer-6 13-0
- 27 Rocky Point-11 14-2
- 28 Spackenkill-1 13-0
- 29 Kings Park-11 13-2
- 30 Vestal-4 12-2

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | JR 2 | JIM SHEER                               | ..... | Headlock Takedown Series                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RH1  | RUSS HELLICKSON                         | ..... | High single and double                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RH2  | RUSS HELLICKSON                         | ..... | Counter Techniques                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WS1  | WADE SCHALLES                           | ..... | Nearside Cradle                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WS2  | WADE SCHALLES                           | ..... | Farside Cradle Series                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WS3  | WADE SCHALLES                           | ..... | Half Nelson, Arm Bar Series                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WS4  | WADE SCHALLES                           | ..... | Load-ups, Clemson Roll Series                      |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | MF1  | MARK FALLER                             | ..... | Whizzer Technique Series                           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | GM2  | GENE MILLS                              | ..... | Half Nelson From The Knees Series                  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | EB1  | ED BANACH                               | ..... | High Percentage Leg Attack Takedown                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EB2  | ED BANACH                               | ..... | Pinning Combination and Wrestling Drill            |
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# 177 - Todd Webb, Sr. Baldwinsville-3



**177 Pound Champs:** left to right - Darrin Vincent, 5th; Brian Marcinek, 3rd; Todd Webb, Champion; Steve Thompson, 2nd; Jon Penhollow, 4th; Matt Whitton, 6th

**The Champ:** Baldwinsville senior Todd Webb eventually wants to get a PhD in Child Psychology and help disadvantaged children. Considering his lofty achievements so far, that goal is definitely within reach for him. He finished with 110 career wins against only 16 losses. For this year, he went 35-1, losing only a one point decision to Seamus Lyman in a holiday tournament.

Over the summer, Webb won a gold medal in Empire State Games Greco competition. He was also a gold medalist in junior olympic competition two years before that.

This season he won titles at Sherburne Earleville, Hilton, and Onondaga. He also won the Class A Sectional tournament before winning the Section Three title. In doing so, he won by scores of 16-6, pin in 1:18, 11-5, and 8-5.

At the states, He first beat Mike Ellerson of Whitney Point-4 by a 10-3 margin. Afterwards, he just got by Webster-5's tough Brian Marcinek, 8-7. That set up his finals match against Steve Thompson of Ward Melville-11.

Thompson was actually second in the Section Eleven tournament to Nick Hall of Longwood. Up to the state finals, he was a cool 34-2, with both losses to Hall. However, Hall was unable to make it due to an illness in his family. The stand-in senior performed admirably in first blanking Aaron Brown of Farmindale-8, 7-0. Brown had placed fifth in last year's tournament. Thompson next whipped Matt Whitton of Fox Lane-1, 8-1 in the semifinals.

**The Finals:** Both men started aggressively,

without any reservations. After a lot of fighting, Webb scored first on a takedown, then converted it to a cradle that scored 2 back points for him. At the end of the first period, it was 4-0 Webb.

In the second period, Thompson came close to scoring points on a tilt. Assuming a crab ride, he began working a half nelson. After a lot of mat wrestling, Webb was able to squirm out and secure a reversal to take a 6-0 lead. But Thompson got on the board with a reversal of his own momentarily. Again, he threw in a crab ride, attempting to tilt Webb. With 9 seconds left in the period, a stalemate was called. When action resumed, Webb struck again for a reversal off a switch and then picked an ankle. Using it to score back points, he finished the period with a commanding 10-2 lead.

Webb was up in the third period. Thompson reversed after a little while, then tried to tilt again from the crab ride. Once again, though, Webb was able to score a reversal on a step-over with 40 seconds left in the match. This made it 12-4. Webb tried to score more on a cradle, but Thompson defended it. The match ended at 12-4 Webb.

**The Best of the Rest:** Webster's Brian Marcinek provided one of the biggest upsets of the tournament in the quarterfinals when he beat defending runner-up John Penhollow of Cassadaga Valley-6, 8-6. After losing to Webb, he won twice more, 6-2, and 3-2 (over Penhollow again) to take third place. Penhollow won three times and lost twice to Marcinek in taking third.

In fifth was Albany Academy-2's Darrin

Vincent, a senior. Vincent beat Matt Whitton 7-3 in to take fifth to Whitton's sixth. Aaron Brown, who first won 12-1 over Dean Parkinson, Far Rockaway-PSAL, lost in the quarters to Thompson. In doing so, he injured himself and had to default.

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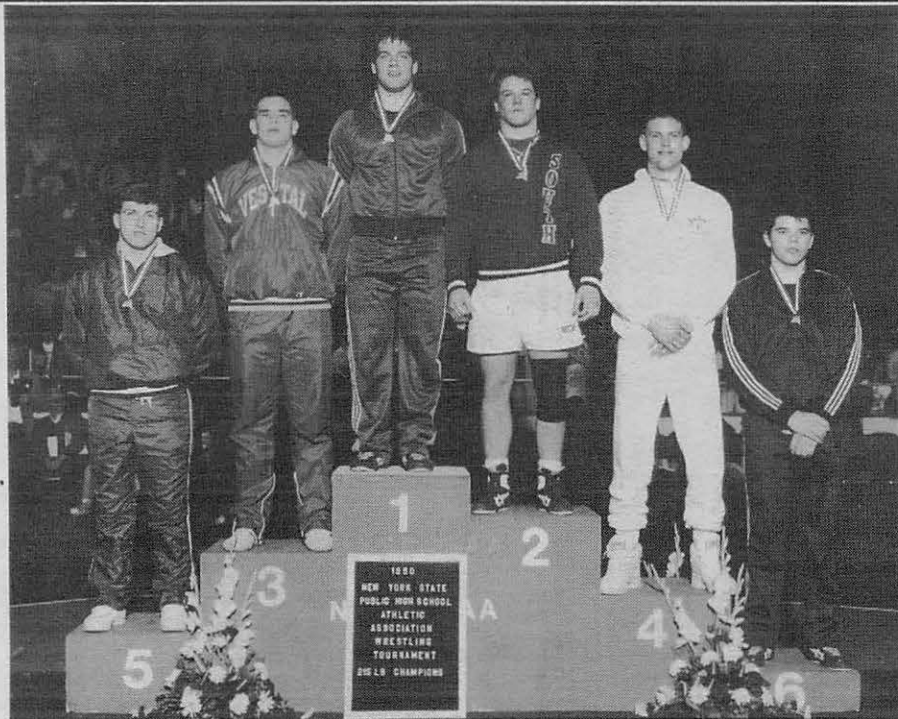
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# 215 - Mike Bucci, Sr. Red Hook-9



**215 Pound Champs:** left to right - Percy Clarke, 5th; Todd Schaffer, 3rd; Mike Bucci, Champion; Kevin Brinkworth, 2nd; Bill Neuss, 4th; Jamie Huntington, 6th

**The Champ:** It was probably about time that Mike Bucci of Red Hook-9 finally won a state title. After all, he had been to Syracuse four times! As a freshman in 1987, he took went 24-4-1 and took sixth place at 177 pounds. The winner of the weight was Dave "The Grabber" Grabbenstatter of Amherst-6. The Grabber was the last high schooler to beat Adam Mariano, who later won the title two times easily.

As a sophomore, Bucci went 32-3-1 and again took a sixth behind a packed weight class - Mariano, TJ Wright, John Franx, Chris Balducci, and Steve Farr. The following year, he took a strong third at the same weight, losing a close semifinal match to runner-up John Penhollow of Cassadaga Valley-6. He finished the year at 36-1, the sole loss being the one to Penhollow.

In Syracuse this year, Bucci knew downtown Syracuse so well, he was giving directions to Reed Hawke! In earning his fourth trip, he went undefeated, and had walked through the Section 9 Tournament, including a finals pin over Tom McHale of Monroe-Woodbury.

At the states, Bucci first blanked Dan Parshley of Gouverneur-10, 13-0. In the quarterfinals, he beat tough Tyrone Davis of Freeport-8 by a 9-4 score. In the semifinals, he got by Percy Clarke of Marcellus-3, 5-1.

On the other side of the bracket, Williams-ville South junior Kevin Brinkworth was attracting a lot of attention making it to the finals. He won by decisions of 10-6, 7-4, and 8-5. Brinkworth was fifth at 215 last year. Over the summer, he took a bronze in the Cadet Nationals, and later won a World Cadet Gold Medal.

By both finalists' styles, fans knew that the match was going to be a barn-burner. They both like to mix it up. They're aggressive, they take chances, they wrestle six full

minutes, and they're not fat at all.

**The Finals:** The match was no disappointment; in fact, it rivaled even the lightweight matches for excitement. Right off the whistle, both went at it. Brinkworth secured a front headlock, but Bucci muscled out of it and almost scored himself. Then Brinkworth tried a snag single, but Bucci blocked it. Later, Brinkworth tried a front headlock to no avail. Bucci shot in on a single with his head on the outside. Brinkworth used excellent freestyle tactics in lifting from the crotch to counter. Finally the period ended, halting the intense action with the score at 0-0.

Bucci was down in the second period, and he managed to get to his feet. Shaking Brinkworth off with a hip toss, he took the lead with an escape. A lot of shots and countershots ensued for the rest of the period, with neither wrestler showing signs of fatigue.

In period three, Kevin jumped to his feet several times before finally managing an escape to tie it at 1-1. After escaping, he shot in, but the move went out of bounds and he hurt his knee. After a short injury timeout, Brinkworth executed a perfect single leg TD and broke the tie. Bucci was up immediately with a whizzer and hip toss, but Brinkworth maintained control. With 48 seconds left, Bucci finally escaped to make it 3-2. Right away, he attempted a knee trip takedown and almost got it plus back points. Brinkworth, though, was able to defend against it.

With 16 left and Bucci down by 1, he again tried a hip toss. Brinkworth blocked and stepped in. Then he snapped Bucci down to his knees and tried to spin around for the "insulation takedown" Then came the match winner for Bucci. As Brinkworth was spinning around, he went along with

the move, snagged a leg, then fell into a Peterson Roll for the winning takedown. With Brinkworth struggling madly to break away and Bucci tenaciously hanging on to his state title, the match ended. Final score: Bucci 4-3.

To be fair, both were about evenly matched. The winning move was purely instinctive for Bucci. Being in that position probably a thousand times, he just knew what to expect, and he knew how to counter it. It happened very fast, and right at the end of the match.

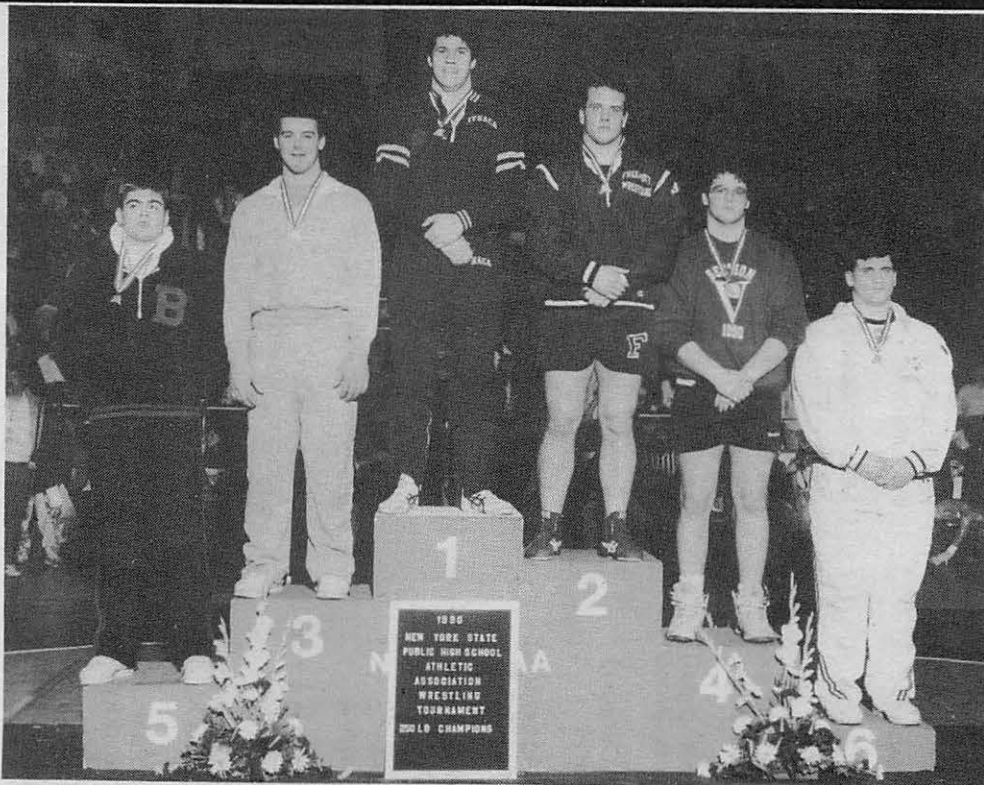
In boxing, the heavyweights are the ones that draw all the attention and excitement.

But in our sport, it's usually the lightweights and middleweights that generate the most interest. They're the ones that use the most moves, action, and strategy. However, this year's 215 pound match was just as exciting and had just as much technique as any other match. It gave the heavyweight class a nice shot in the arm.

**The Best of the Rest:** Todd Shaffer is a junior from Vestal-4. In round one, he dropped a 14-6 match to Jamie Huntington of Whitehall-2. Huntington is only a sophomore. Huntington next beat Bill Neuss of Bellport-11 by a point before succumbing to Brinkworth 8-5. Meanwhile, Shaffer went to the left through the wrestlebacks. There on the consolation mats, he first beat up on Tyrone Davis 14-5. Then he beat Dennis Whitford of Tottenville-PSAL by 7-3. His opponent next was, ironically, Jamie Huntington again. This time, though, it was Shaffer coming out on top, 7-3. After that, he edged Bill Neuss 3-2 to claim third place. In fourth was Neuss, with Clarke beating Huntington 6-3 for fifth.

Otha-Davidson, only a junior, came with in a match of placing. As there were seven underclassmen, next year's weight promises to also be loaded with talent.

# 250 - Bruce Manley, Sr. Ithaca-4



**250 Pound Champs:** left to right - Sean McLaughlin, 5th; Jamee Call, 3rd; Bruce Manley, Champion; Cary Huggard, 2nd; David Williams, 4th; Art Dispenza, 6th

**The Champ:** Bruce Manley is a well-built senior from Ithaca-4. He has never been to the states before, but he does have a lot of experience. In capturing the Section Four title, he pinned his first two opponents, then beat Ron Holcomb of Newark Valley 9-2. In the finals, he faced Johnson City's rugged Todd Haven. Haven also made it to the finals based on two pins and a convincing decision. In the finals, it was a Manley shutout, 4-0, that paved the way for his state title the following week.

Manley posted a 28-4 record this year. He won several tournament, including the prestigious Windsor Tournament. His title came at 215 pounds, while powerful Todd Schaffer of vestal won it at 250 pounds. Later, they both met in the finals of the STAC Championships at 215 pounds. Schaffer won that match with a fall in 3:20 over Manley.

Later, Schaffer chose to stay at 215, with Manley moving up to the 250 class. Schaffer took the Section Four title with three pins and a 10-1 decision. A week later, he placed third in the states, eventually beating the guy who beat him in the first round.

For Manley, though, the move turned out to be excellent strategy. In Syracuse, he first drew John Boulof of Monsignor Farrell-Cath. Manley posted an 8-1 win, then went into overtime to beat Babylon-11's Sean McLaughlin. The score was 10-7 OT. In the semifinals, Manley beat Jamee Call from Indian River-3, 10-5, to set up his finals match with Freeport-8's Cary Huggard.

Huggard was 27-0 prior to the state finals. Despite wrestling only three years, he is already a two-time Section Eight champ. In

addition to several other titles, he won a gold medal in freestyle at the Empire State Games and a silver medal in Greco. Now a senior, he is looking to continue his wrestling at either the US Naval Academy, Cornell, Albany, or Ithaca College.

In Huggard's first match at the states, he pinned Ossining-1 junior Craig Colletti in just 51 seconds. Next, he stepped on Matt Brandt of Red Hook-9, 12-1. In the semifinals, he soundly beat David Williams of East Rochester-5, 10-2

**The Finals:** Both wrestlers surprised the fans by being super-aggressive right from the whistle. Early in the first period, Huggard quickly snagged a single leg, but Manley was able to get out. Next Manley singled, and in the struggle following, took Huggard down to his back. However, Huggard was quick enough to bounce out of it before any back points were scored. The period ended with Huggard nearly escaping and both men showing excellent balance and ability.

In the second, Huggard was down. He rose to his feet a few times, but Manley was able to tie him up from the top position. A little later, Huggard was warned for stalling. Spurred on, he again got to his feet, but Manley knocked him back down with a leg sweep. Manley then locked up an arm bar and tried to run it. When it did not work, he switched to an arm bar and half. Huggard was not about to be turned, but it was wearing him out. With 25 seconds left, Manley was awarded one point for stalling. The period, ended with the score at 3-0, Manley.

Both were up in the final period. After a

lot of action, most of it by Huggard, Manley was warned for stalling. A little while later, Huggard was awarded one point for stalling, making the score 3-1. Later on, with Huggard being aggressive and Manley being defensive, another point was awarded for stalling, making it 3-2, Manley.

Near the end of the match, Huggard secured a single and nearly scored with it. Manley defended and tried to spin behind Huggard, but Huggard was too tenacious. Finally, the match ended with Huggard coming as close as you can to scoring the winning takedown. Both men seemed spent after the match, which happened to be one of the evening's most strategic and interesting bouts. Final score: Manley 3-2.

**The Best of the Rest:** Jamee Call, who lost in the semi's to Manley (10-5), came back to take third place. In doing so, he beat Art Dispenza, Starpoint-6, 4-3, and David Williams, 5-3. Williams took fourth, with Sean McLaughlin, Babylon-11, taking fifth. Dispenza was sixth, losing 5-2 to McLaughlin. Of the top six, there were three juniors - Call, Williams, and Dispenza. Other juniors in the weight were Colletti and Matt Inhelder, Beekmantown-7.

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March 2-3, 1990

# New York State High School State Championship Place-finishers

Syracuse  
War Memorial

NY State Champ	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
91 Anthony Alberti-12 Hendrik-Hudson-1	David Bracero-12 Newfield-11	James Douglas--10 Bethpage-8	Mike Merry-10 Union Endicott-4	Clarence Hunt-11 Niagara Falls-6	John Tyler-9 Canastota-3
98 Craig Vitaglano-11 Plainedge-8	Roy Frey-12 East Rochester-5	Mike Buonagurio-12 Connetquot-11	Terry Showalter-8 Whitesboro-3	Jeff Tufano-9 Port Jervis-9	Bill Dixon-9 Niagara-Wheatfield-6
105 David Hirsch-12 Clarkstown South-1	Keith Strychalsky-12 Patchogue-11	Jason Chervak-11 Maline-Endwell-11	Rob Bashaw, 10 Peru-7	Mike Jamleson-11 Fowler-3	Mark Baron-12 Chaminade-C
112 Juan Carlos Garcia-11 Sleepy Hollow-1	Keith Sequera-12 East Meadow-8	Bryant Ranger-12 Midlakes-5	Robert Dinnino-11 Chaminade-Cath	Bill Rigney-12 Averill Park-2	Shane Lese-12 Horseheads-4
119 Shawn Welch-12 Waverly-4	Doug Groncki-11 Burnt Hills-2	Gary DeCarr-12 North Rose-Wolcott-5	Brian Roggie-11 Beaver River-3	Ken Garcia-12 Long Beach-8	Phil Donnelly-9 Pearl River-1
126 Troy Bouzakis-12 Pine Bush-9	Chad Groncki-11 Burnt Hills-2	Kent Maslin-12 Whitney Point-4	Tom DiTore-11 Sufern-1	Demond Betts-12 Walt Whitman-11	Chad Sheldon-12 Fulton-3
132 Tom Shifflet-12 Sweet Home-6	Brandon MacNaught-12 Walton-4	Jeff LaFlamme-12 South Jefferson-3	Jim Barbato-12 Gates-Chill-5	Ken Johnson-12 Huntington-11	Glen Walter-12 Plainedge-8
138 Ken Porter-11 Alfred-Almond-5	John Spiegelman-11 Suffern-1	Bernard Valentin-12 Long Beach-8	Lonnle Johnson-12 Truman-PSAL	Kareeb Howard-11 Fowler-3	Chris Terry-12 Whitehall-2
145 Steve Taylor-12 Brockport-5	Kareem Johnson-11 Niagara Falls-6	Jeff Geller-12 MacArthur-8	Phil McCarty-12 Waverly-4	Ron Clinton-12 Middletown-9	Guy Peryea-12 Beekmantown-7
155 Brian Gray-12 Wellsville-5	Mike Murtha-12 Bellport-11	Matt Marcinlak-11 Watkins Glen-4	Marcus Hutchins-11 Monticello-9	Mike Luick-12 Niagara-Wheatfield-6	Israel Medina-12 Freeport-8
167 Emilio Collins-12 Tappan Zee-1	Seamus Lyman-12 Watertown-3	Joe Malchuski-12 Bayshore-11	Jason Bovenzi-12 Greece Athena-5	Chip Foster-12 Guilderland-2	Heath Macaluso-12 Minisink Valley-9
177 Todd Webb-12 Baldwinsville-3	Steve Thompson-12 Ward Melville-11	Brian Marcinek-12 Webster-5	Jon Penhollow-12 Cassadaga Valley-6	Darrin Vincent-12 Albany Academy-2	Matt Whitton-12 Fox Lane-1
215 Mike Bucci-12 Red Hook-9	Kevin Brinkworth-11 Williamsville South-6	Todd Schaffer-11 Vestal-3	Bill Neuss-12 Bellport-11	Percy Clarke-12 Marcellus-3	Jamie Huntington-10 Whitehall-2
250 Bruce Manley-12 Ithaca-4	Cary Huggard-12 Freeport-8	Jamee Call-11 Indian River-3	David Williams-11 East Rochester-5	Sean McLaughlin-12 Babylon-11	Art Dispenza-11 Starpoint-6

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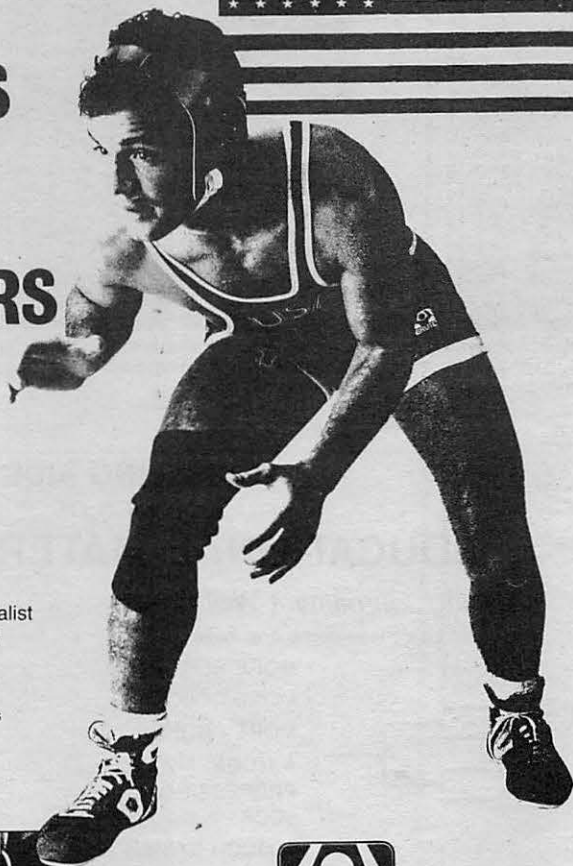
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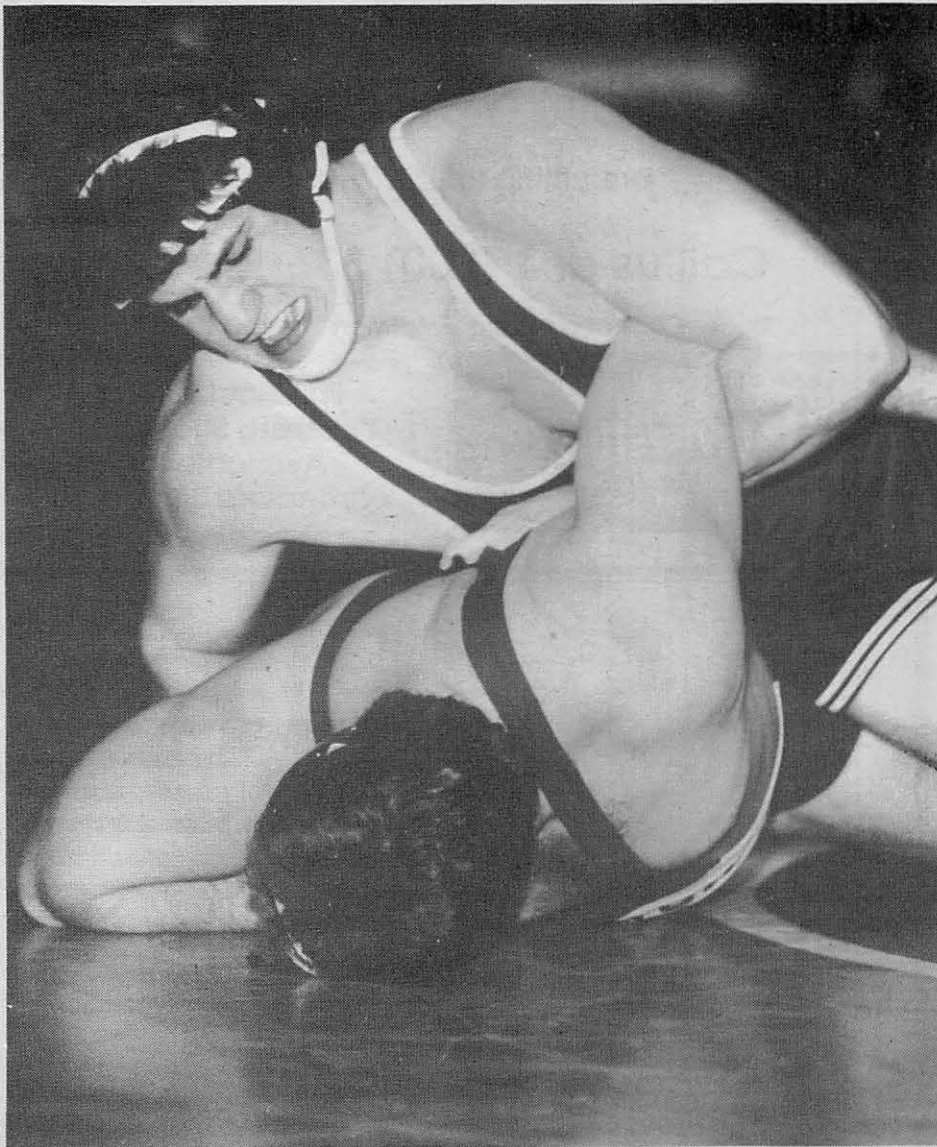


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Bruce Manley, 250 pound state champ, attempts to turn Cary Huggard of Freeport-8 in the finals. Manley, a senior from Ithaca-4, held off a surging Huggard in preserving his 3-2 victory. Photo by Peter Venier, Sports Action Photos.

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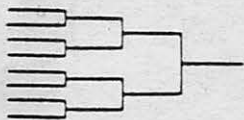
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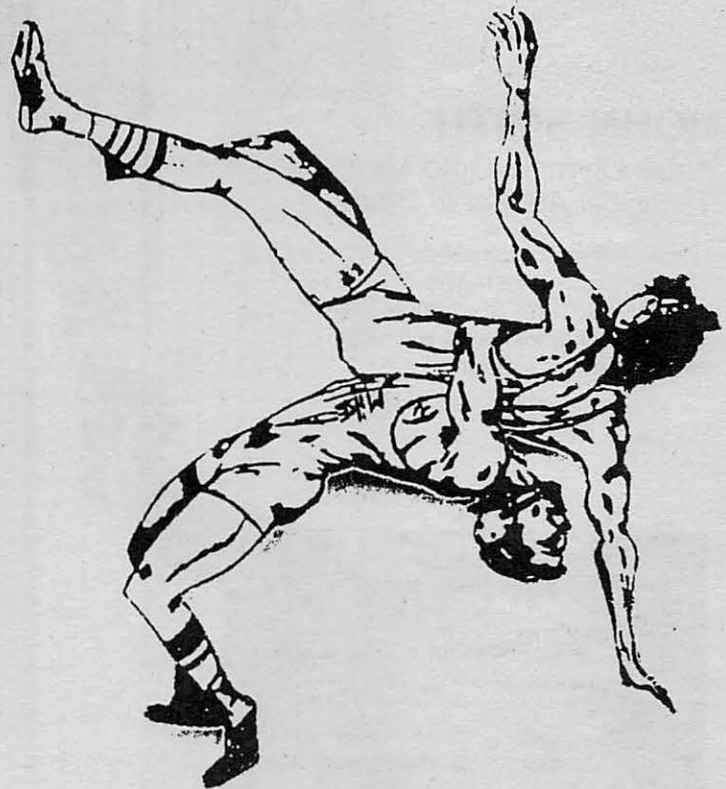
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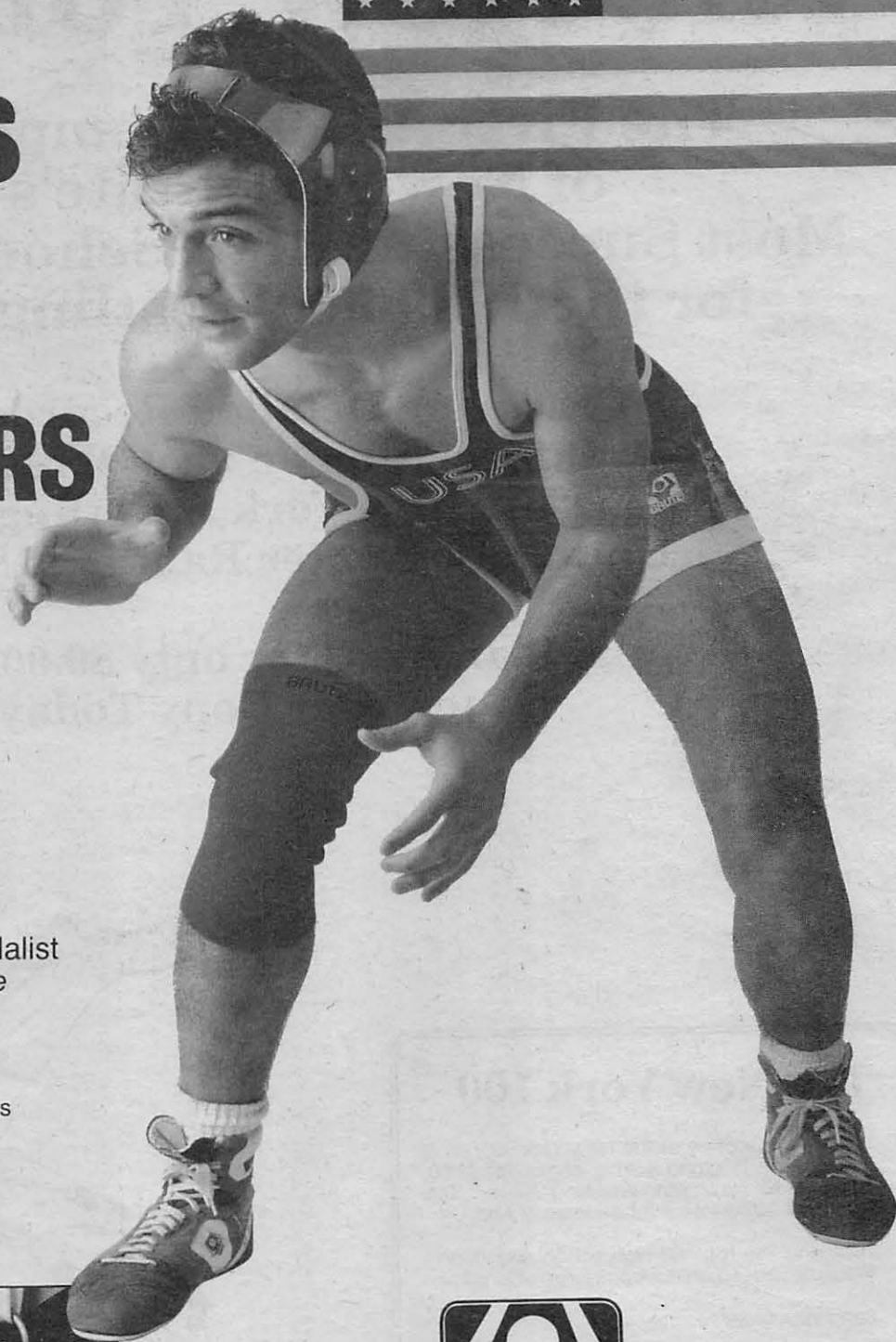
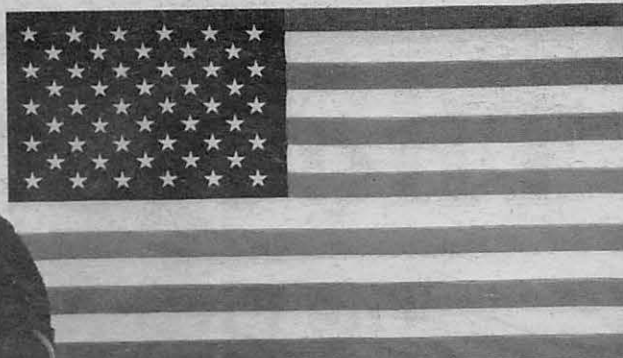
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