

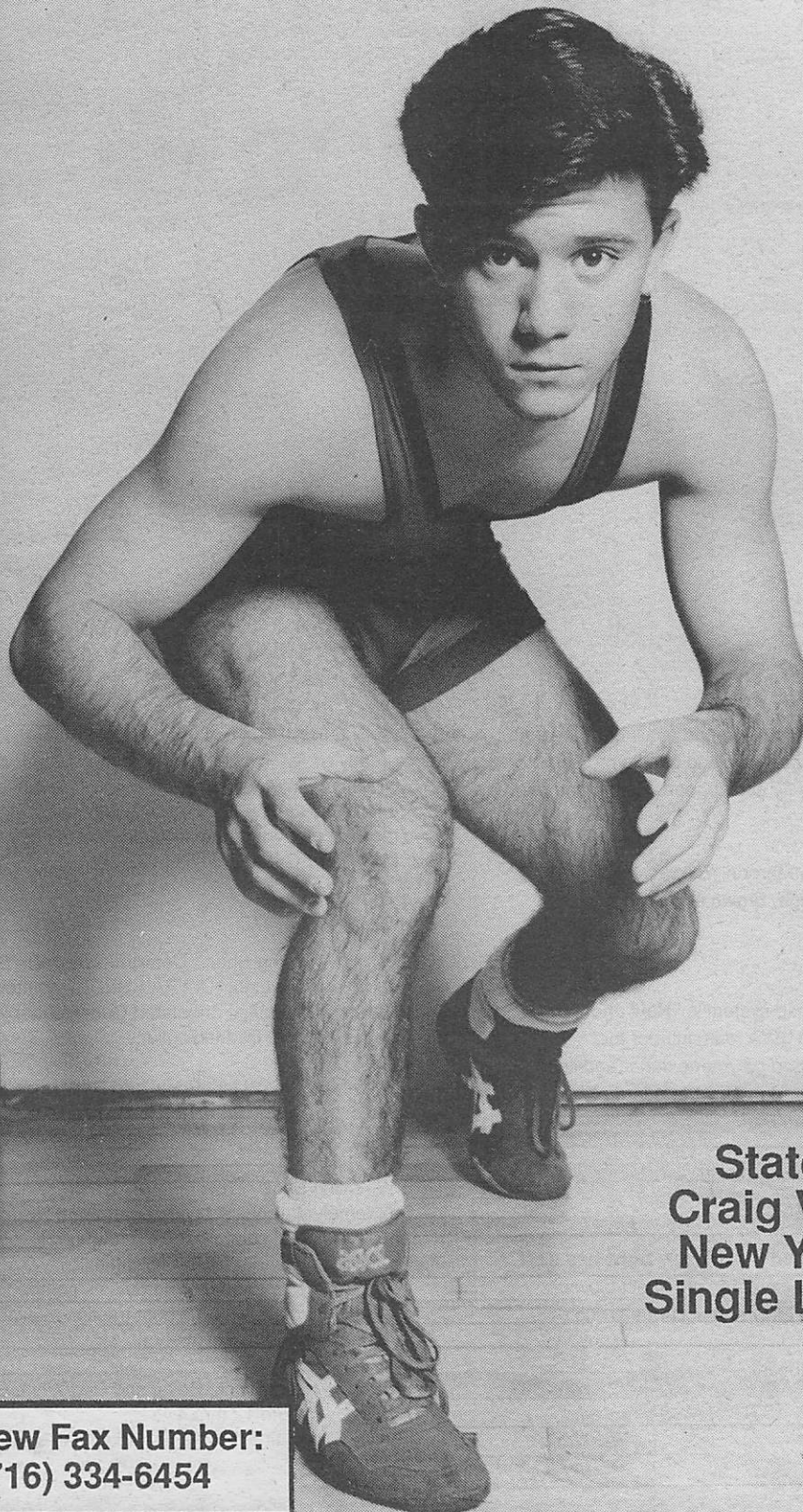
New York Wrestling News

Amateur Wrestling - New York Style!

Volume 2, Number 2

November 1990

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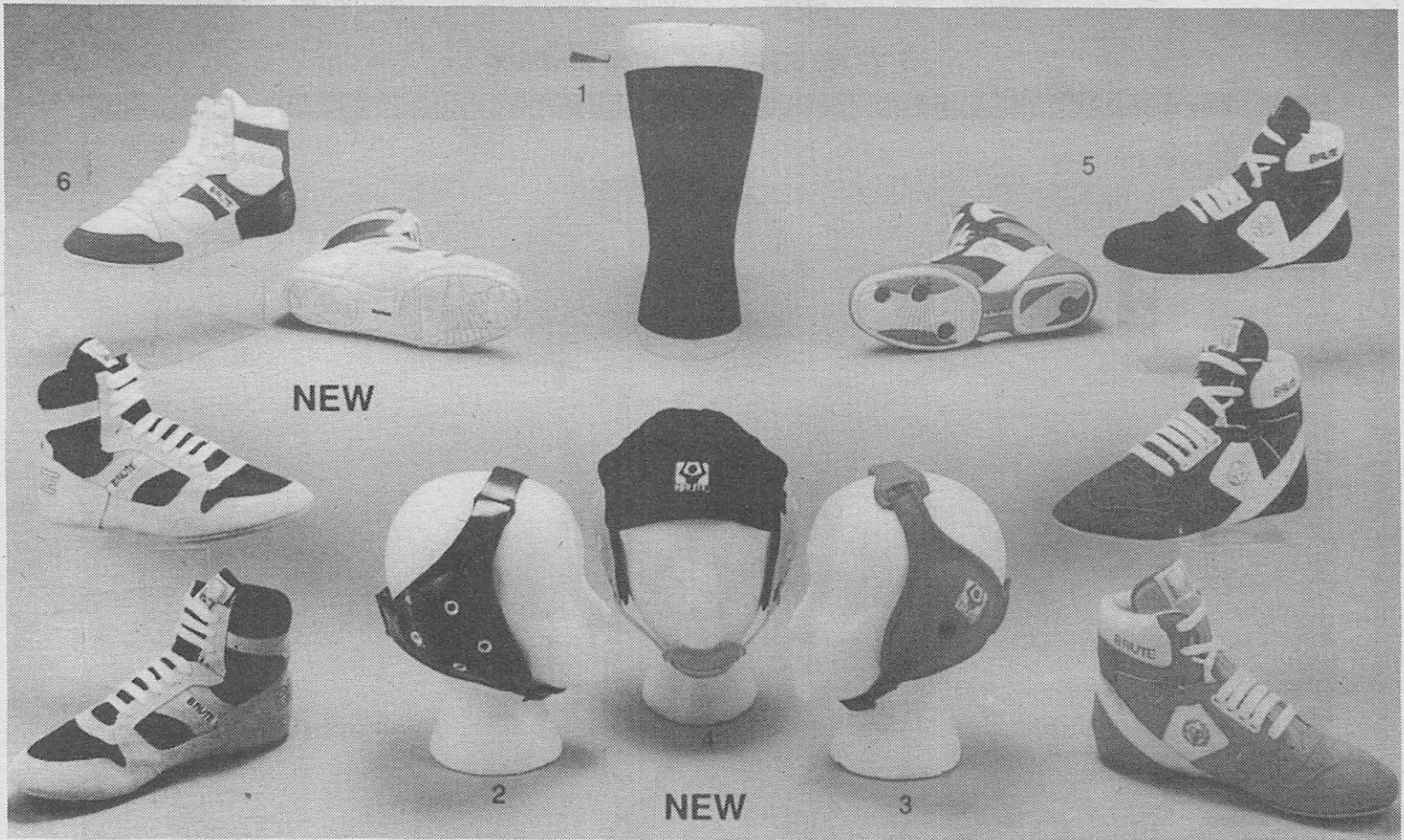
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1990-91 NYS High School Pre-season Preview

Three State Champs (Craig Vitagliano, Juan Carlos Garcia, and Ken Porter) return, plus several state placewinners and many other talented wrestlers

The following is a weight-by-weight preview of some of the top returning wrestling in the state this season. This list is not all-inclusive, nor is it 100% accurate as far as weight classes go. The Top Ten Rankings will start in our December issue. Please send us your nominations. You can fax it to us at (716) 334-6454.

91 pounds

The top returning state place-winner from last season is James Douglas from Bethpage-2. He went 4-1 in the states in claiming third place. His only loss was by fall to the champ Anthony Alberti. Douglas is now a junior. Over the summer, he took a silver medal in Empire State Games freestyle, losing 7-4 in the finals to Todd Rutecki of Fowler-3. Earlier, Douglas had pinned Rutecki in the tournament. Mike Merry of Union-Endicott-4 took a fourth in the states behind Douglas. And in fifth was Clarence Hunt, now a senior. Hunt took a bronze in the Empires behind Rutecki and Douglas. John Tyler of Canastota-3 is only a sophomore now. He's back to improve on his state sixth place finish. Other state participants returning include Pietro Furguiele of East Rochester-5, David Hardwick of Valley Central-9, Corey Bushey of North Adirondack-2, Robert Pavis, Monsignor Farrell-Cath, Patrick Steele, Gouverneur-2, and Karl Ruud, Burnt Hills-2. Jeff Reese of Elmira Southside did not make it to the states, but will be knocking on the door this year as well as several years to come. Some others to look for include David Brewer, Eric Terry, John LaBombard, John Alexander, Matt Duquette, Sam Micah, Rod Frey, Mark Keller, Jason Collins, Jason Sutton, Daryl Lyon, David Rabideau, Shawn Cummings, Craig Dollard, Shane Mack, and Mike Steinbar. Overall, a talented group of wrestlers have the potential to earn a free trip to Syracuse in March, but the odds-on favorites are Rutecki, if he goes this weight, and Douglas.

98 pounds

Defending state champ Craig Vitagliano of Plainville-8 is back as a senior. This will be his third trip to Syracuse if he qualifies this season. Vitagliano is confident and slick. Last March, he combined super-quick takedowns with a stingy defense to pull out four wins in taking his title. Two of his victories were one-pointers, one of them being a last-ditch win over fourth-placer Terry Showalter. Showalter, from Whitesboro-3, is only a freshman now. With a huge amount of experience behind him already, he is a serious threat to a state title as well. Jeff Tufano is also young - a sophomore. From Port Jervis-9, he took a fifth at last year's states. And right behind him is sophomore Bill Dixon of Niagara-Wheatfield, who took sixth based on a 4-2 ot decision. Also competing at the states but not placing were Craig Bushey, North Adirondack-7, Shawn Cummings, Gou-

verneur-10, Larry Fontaine, Queensbury-2, Peter Smith, St Anthony's-Cath, and Brett Adams, White Plains-1. Others you might see in Syracuse are Lenny Fries, Mike McKay, Tim Daly, Sean Oppelt, Brian Fischenich, Matt Mahar, Dan Beckerman, Keith Matias, Dan Mahar, John Alexander, Anthony Ginnoccio, Kelly Paterson, Mat Klucina, Marcus Henderson, and Greg Connell. Fries has not made it to Syracuse yet, but once he gets there, he just may walk away with the title. Also looking for a re-

turn trip is Jason Wartinger. He just missed qualifying for states last year, but placed the year before. Looks like there's a lot of experienced talent that will be vying for medals.

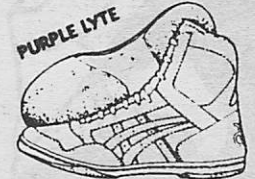
105 pounds

This weight class returns three placefinishers from last year's state tournament. Jason Chervak, a senior from Maine-Endwell-4 took third place the hard way in March. In round one, he was victimized by David Hirsch, 11-3. Chervak then won four in a row, outscoring the opposition 40-3 in taking a strong third place. In fourth place was Rob Bashaw, now a junior from Peru-7. And in fifth place was Mike Jamison, who is now a senior for powerful Fowler-3. Jamison is by far the best in freestyle and Greco, having won both styles in the Empire Games as well as a number of other major competitions. But the top rank goes to Chervak based on his fine showing at the states. Some others who competed at the states include Don Spaulding, Rush-Henrietta-5, Mark Aquilar, Washingtonville-9, and Chris Raiber, Pioneer-6. Others to watch are Tim Daly, Sean Oppelt,

continued on page 8

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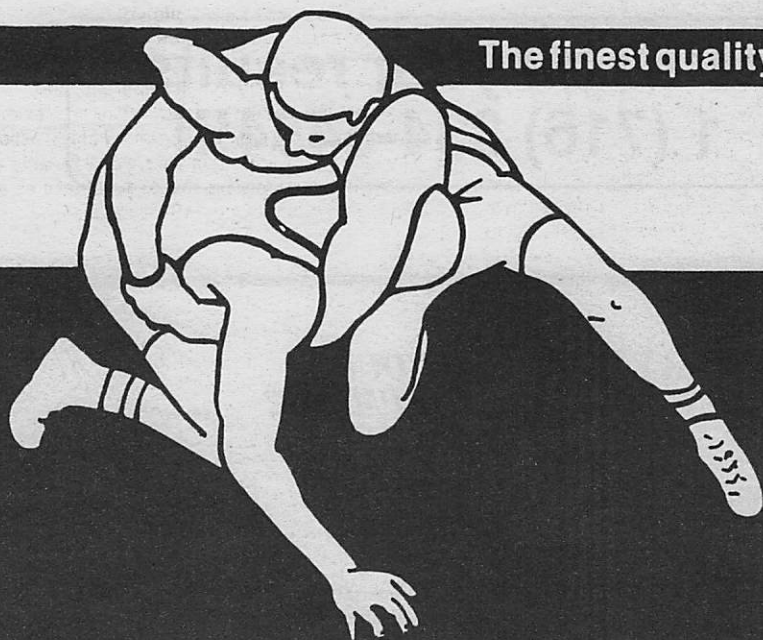


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Craig Vitagliano Seeks Second State Crown

Super-quick Plainedge-8 Senior shoots for third trip to States and second title

Before last year's 98 pound state championship final, Plainedge-8's Craig Vitagliano was feeling no pressure. After all, this was his second trip to the states, and he had survived three close matches in making the finals, 6-3, 4-3, and 4-3. The last two matches were won by Craig in the closing seconds of both matches, with him behind up till then. Going into the finals with a 37-0 record, the toughest part of the season was really behind him.

To be fair, however, his finals opponent, Roy Frey of East Rochester-5 was formidable. An extremely active and aggressive wrestler, Frey had been dominant in paving his way to the finals. There, however, it was all Vitagliano, as he used a series of super-smooth single legs to win a takedown battle against Frey.

"I felt good all through the tournament [the states] because I knew what to expect, and I knew I could win it if I wrestled up to my abilities," says Vitagliano. It wasn't like last year, when a super-tough bracket placement, a dislocated elbow, and a case of pulling too much weight combined to eliminate him from medal contention. Despite the adversity, he dropped tight matches to two placemen (3-2 and 4-2).

Of his finals victory, Vitagliano says, "I was very relaxed, not tense at all. I just wanted to

go in there and do the job. I knew I could win, and I did not want second place. It's a long season, and I didn't want to finish at 37-1. It wasn't my best match, and I made a few mistakes, but it turned out OK."

And this year, he would like to do it all over again. He'll start the season up a couple of weights (112), but will most likely drop to 105 for the Sectionals. Since his state title, he's been active in off-season wrestling. In May he added a second state title by buzz sawing through six opponents in the Freestyle State Championships. There, his closest match was 16-4! He also competed in the ASICS National Junior Olympics, and took fifth place in the Empire Games Greco competition.

After his senior year, Craig plans on competing in college. By then, he should be just about the perfect size for 118 pounds. So far, he's applying to three schools, Harvard, Cornell, and William and Mary. With an average of 94 and a class rank of 19, he stands a good chance of getting into all three. He plans on studying Theatre in college, to go into acting or a related field.

This year he will start the season competing at 112 pounds. By sectional time, he will drop down to 105. As defending state champ, he

would be considered a favorite at either weight. Within Nassau County (Section 8), it's almost a given that Craig will go mostly untested. As far as the whole state is concerned, "there's always someone tough out there that you don't know of. So I always put my heart into every match," says Vitagliano.

Vitagliano put on quite a show last March in Syracuse. His superior speed and textbook-perfect single leg takedowns created a huge amount of interest. Thousands of fans will be looking for an encore performance this year. And considering his vast experience, you'll be watching Part Two starring Craig Vitagliano early in March at a Syracuse War Memorial near you!

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continued from page 3

Gracen Porreca, Mark Voci, Craig Haynes, Barry McShaw, Rudy Hein, Matt Downey, Craig Schlifstein (who's been to the states the year before last), Chris Matteotti, Craig Haynes, Ralph Menechino, Tim Steingass, Jamie Loeffler, Brian Betancourt, Todd Wilday, and Rob Difruscio. Also look for Ken Wojehowski, who placed in the states the year before last, Alex Croog, who also placed the same year, and Craig Conant, who was runner-up to Alberti in 1989.

112 pounds

Juan Carlos Garcia of Sleepy Hollow-1 is the defending champ at this weight. With his technique and speed, he would be favored to repeat no matter what class he entered. Garcia is considered by many to be the best wrestler in the state regardless of weight. Besides Garcia, the only returning wrestler from last year's state tournament is fourth place finisher Rob Donnino of Chaminade-Cath. Now a senior, Donnino looks towards improving on his place finish. Others who have state experience and could grab a medal are Joel Baer, of Gouverneur-10, only a ninth grader this year, Kyle Sibley, Valley Central-9, and Chris Conway, Longwood-11. Other wrestlers you may see in Syracuse include John Morello, Doug Stoddard, Chris Matteotti, Phil Pizzuto, Marc Duquette, Frank Badalucco, Ted Secoolish, Mike Artis, Calvin Whitfield, Max Bracero, John Morello (with 75 career wins), Chapman Manzer, Alex Venditti, Robert Farnsworth, Brian Pintagro, and Ty Geake. Duquette went 1-1 with Mike Jamision in the Empire Games. Morello is in the same calibre as most of these athletes, and Matteotti brings a wealth of experience to the mat. Pizzuto is now a junior, but has been rapidly improving since the end of the regular season last year.

119 pounds

Doug Groncki, a senior from Burnt Hills-2, came within inches of winning the state title last year at 119. He's back this year, but will most likely be up at 126 pounds. He's tall, strong, and tenacious - very difficult to score on. Bryan Roggie, Beaver River-3, had an exciting state tournament last year. First of all, he lost in the Section Three finals to Chris Lynch of Indian River, but got to go because Lynch was injured. In his first match in the states, Roggie decked North Rose-Wolcott's Gary DeCarr. However, he next lost by fall in the semifinals to the eventual champ, Shawn Welch. In wrestlebacks, Roggie won again, but lost a 3-2 rematch with DeCarr. This gave him fourth place. He'll be a strong contender for a title this year. Also back is Phil Donnelly, Pearl River-1. As a freshman in last year's state tournament, he went 3-3 in placing sixth. He will also be in contention for a high medal. Two other state participants return - Steven Nikolakakos of Fordham Prep-Cath and Willy Dumas of Franklin Academy-10. Both are now seniors with the potential to earn medals. You may also see some other people in Syracuse - Joe King, Sean O'Hara, Rudy Hein, Craig Schlifstein, Chris Mordente, Mike Artis, Chris Hopkins, Anthony Demaio, Joe Toner, David Isselbacher, Brett Gould, Ray Fischenich, Mark Sullivan, Alex Kahn, Matt Kramer, Charlie Friscia, Mike Ford, and Joe Smallidge. Schlifstein has been to the states two years ago and has excelled in freestyle and Greco competition. He has the ability to win it all. Another one to take notice of is Valley Central-9's Jeff Duque. Last year, he was well on his way to continued

prominence when he was injured in a car accident. Duque will be hungry this year, his last. He's already won two state medals (sixth and fourth) in addition to owning a victory over Doug Groncki from a few years back. Duque is a fierce competitor who might win a state title.

126 pounds

Chad Groncki, Burnt Hills-2, holds the top spot here, although he may be up a weight class or two. Groncki took second last year, losing only to Troy Bouzakis of Pine Bush-9. Like most Burnt Hills wrestlers, Chad is a tireless worker on the mat, the kind of wrestler capable of beating anyone. Scott DiTore of Suffern-1 returns as the only other state placer from last year (fourth). He only lost to Groncki by one point in the semifinals. Four other athletes from the states return - TJ Sellers from Clifton-Fine-10, John-Paul Posada, Long Beach-8, Chris Tucci, St Anthony's-Cath, and Shawn Edwards, Peru-7. Tucci and Sellers came within one match of placing in the states. Edwards took sixth place in the states two years ago. Some others with medal potential are Joe Toner, Justin Raines, Mike Castro, Ray Lizzol, Eric Katz, Pat Bruce, Nick Grimaldi, Jeff Mohr, Jim Kohlbach, and Andy Klein. Toner took sixth in the states two years ago, narrowly missed going back last year, and has the background to win first place. And coming from Johnson City, he has several state calibre workout partners on which to hone his skills every day. Eric Katz won four matches in the Junior Nationals (Greco) over the summer, then added a gold medal in the Empire Games Greco, pinning Juan Carlos Garcia in the finals. Raines is also highly skilled and rapidly improving.

132 pounds

Surprisingly, all of the medal winners from last year's state tournament have since graduated. Only three wrestlers from this weight class will be back - Andrew Elphic, Truman-PSAL, Andy Dupre, Peru-7, and Mitch Clark, Canton-10. And all three combined only accounted for one win in the tournament. So this weight is wide open for people moving up a weight or for wrestlers who have never made it to the states before. Some of those you may see include Joel Ferrara, Anthony Conte, Mike Castro, Ray Lizzol, Andy Klein, Tom McLoughlin, Rahmi Oklu, and Louis DiMaria. Also look for Shawn Edwards, who has placed sixth in the 1989 states.

138 pounds

Three of last year's state placewinners are back this year. Defending champ Ken Porter looks to repeat, having had a very active and successful summer. Also successful was John Spiegelman and Kareeb Howard, who have both beaten Porter (and lost to him) in summer competition. Also back from the state tournament are Jason Crosby of Canton-10, Scott Sullivan of Waverly-4, and Jason Burke, Longwood-11. Others you may see in Syracuse include Adam Bell, Jeff Prendergast, Dave Nichols, Tim Godoy, Julius Gradney, Frank Tianga, Rusty Grant, Shawn Nautel, Joe Telesky, Joe Telesky, and Mike Bendett (with 99 career wins). The top three (Porter, Spiegelman, and Howard) may be at 145 pounds. If so, the weight would be wide open for the participants who were there last year as well as state newcomers.

The weight might just be won by someone who's never wrestled at the states before, like Jeff Prendergast or Tim Godoy, who have both

been hugely successful in summer wrestling.

145 pounds

Only one state placemaker returns from last year's tournament - second placer Kareem Johnson of Niagara Falls-6. Johnson came about as close as you can come to winning. In fact, he scored most of the technical points in his finals match with relentless Steve Taylor of Brockport-5. However, he gave up numerous stalling points which made up the difference. As returning runner-up, he has the best chance at taking the title. Others who competed in Syracuse but did not place are Mike Quaglio, of John Jay-1. Only a junior now, he has already been to the states twice. He was one match away from a medal last year. Chad MacNaughton of Glens Falls-2 is also a junior this year. In the states last year, he lost to Kareem Johnson by a 5-2 mark, then dropped a 5-4 match to the bronze medalist, Jeff Geller. Bob Chester of Amityville-11 went 0-2, but added a lot of experience and could place high if he makes it back to the states. The final participant from last year is Jeremy Fillatrault of Canton-10, who went 0-2 as well. Others you may see in Syracuse are Matt Sorochinsky, Ryan Benjamin, John Phillips, Brett Lassen, Ambrose Aston, Tom Arno, Mike Van Buren, Richard Gomez, and Andre Cave. If Kareem Johnson competes at this weight again, he should be the odds-on favorite to win the title convincingly.

155 pounds

The top placemaker from last year is rugged Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen-4. As a junior last year (in his second state appearance), he dropped a last-second 3-2 loss to eventual champ Brian Gray in the semifinals. And Marciniak had beaten Gray before that. Over the summer, Marciniak won a gold medal in Empire State Games Greco competition. He also took silver in freestyle, losing to Marcus Hutchins of Monticello-9. Hutchins took fourth to Marciniak's third in the states, so these two are really the top two in the state. Dion Visconti, Chaminade-Cath, has been to the states twice. He was a match away from a medal, and could suprise both Marciniak and Hutchins. Muscular Mike Buxbaum of Clarkstown South didn't win a match in the states, but wrestled two high-scoring, entertaining matches. Others who might make it to Syracuse include Mark Johnson, Boris Benyaminovich, Jason Kraft, Brian Knapp, James Kane, Larry Burns, Tyrone Davis, Phil Prest, and Ron Boisclair. Paul Lyman, now wrestling for Johnson City-4, also competed in the states at 155. Now at 167, he will be a favorite to take a medal there or at 155 if he drops down.

167 pounds

All the state placemakers have since graduated, so this is another weight class that will be wide open for growing 155 pounders and people who haven't been to the states. Only two state participants return, Bill Dupre of Peru-7 and Tom Soto of Gouverneur-10. Neither won a match in Syracuse, but might improve to a top six place finish this year. Paul Lyman is up from 155. Now at Johnson City, he will have several tough workout partners to hone his skills now that his older brother Seamus has graduated. Dan Majcher has come close to the states, and once he makes it, may just well win it. Some others with potential include Randy Shaw, Kerry McCoy, Nick or Jeremy Szerlip (one will most likely go up to 177),

Ralph Fiorillo, Dan Majcher, John Noel, Jeff Schneider, William Wilson, Arist St-Hilaire, and Tony Valochovic.

177 pounds

All top six medal winners from last year's state tourney are gone. Four participants, though, do return, and could do some damage in this year's tournament. The top returner is probably Aaron Brown of Farmingdale-8. Brown, with nearly 80 career wins, took a fifth place in the 1989 states. Last year, he started strong in drilling his first opponent, 12-0. He then lost in the quarterfinals, 7-0, and had to default out of his next match. He's back as a senior, and with his experience, should be able to go all the way. He may wrestle at 215. Mike Ellerson of Whitney Point-4 returns, and he was just a match away from a medal. Eldric Venne of Saranac-7 lost to Ellerson in the states. But he's looked especially tough over the summer, winning the freestyle states, taking second in the Empire Games freestyle, and coming back to win the ESG Greco gold medal. With his improvement, he could also be a serious contender for a title. Other state participants include Chris Law of Herman-DeKalb-10 and Robert Judge of Cardinal O'Hara-Cath. Others with potential include Kevin Elston, Jason Sullivan, Jason Miller, John Aebly, Charles Perry, Jason Nichols, Kurt Sykes, Jeff Schneider, and Ryan Hammersmith. Nick Hall, from Longwood-11, won the Section 11 crown but did not compete in the states. He's won a few major tournaments over the summer and could very well win it all in Syracuse at 177. If he decides to go 215, he could probably give Kevin Brinkworth a great match. He might even beat Brinkworth.

215 pounds

This will be a strong weight class, as seven state participants return, with several other talented wrestles waiting in the wings. Defending runner-up and two-time placer Kevin Brinkworth added a ton of experience and titles over the summer, including a Junior National Greco crown, a state Greco title, two Northeast Regional titles, and two Empire State Games titles. With all his experience, he will be very difficult to beat. The only one who might pull it off would be Hall. Todd Schaffer, Vestal-3, took a strong third place, losing only to Jamie Huntington of Whitehall-2 in round one. He later beat Huntington to advance to the consolation finals. Schaffer also placed fifth in the National Junior Greco Championships, and will also prove difficult to beat this season. Huntington, now only a junior, then took sixth place. Others who were in the tournament include Otha Davidson, Brighton-5 (one match away from placing), Gasper LoRosa, St Anthony's-Cath, Sott Rowe, Ossining-1, and Dan Parshley of Gouverneur-10. Others who may make it to Syracuse include National Greco Cadet Champion Bob Bucci of Red Hook-9, Mike Ellerson, Joe Vrenderberg, Jamal Johnson, Laurence Lederer, Craig Burns, Tony Croce, Brian Storace, Todd McIntosh, Josh Mastangelo, and Casey Lamb.

250 pounds

Five state participants return this year, including three placemen. The highest returner is Jamee Call, now a senior at Indian River-3. Call took third, and right behind him was David

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Williams of East Rochester-5, now also a senior. In sixth place was Art Dispenza of Starpoint-6. All three have gold medal potential. The others are Craig Colletti, Ossining-1 and Matt Inhelder of Beekmantown-7. Others you may see take medals in Syracuse are Joe Yanis, Jon Porschet, Joe Morgan, Will Bourgeois, Ron Cercy, Buddy Cabrera, Scott McAndrew, Matt Polikowski, Ken Wilson, and Jack Wilson. With many returners, this class has the potential to extremely entertaining again!

Please note: Apologies go out to the perhaps hundreds of note-worthy wrestlers who were not mentioned in this preview. We recognize that some of the most successful athletes for the upcoming season are probably not even mentioned here. However, the blame for these missing names mostly goes to their high school coaches, sectional chairmen, and parents. Folks, we've been around for awhile now. You've seen this magazine all over the state at various events. If you know of an athlete who should be given the recognition he deserves, please send in his name and ranking information.

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PETER VENIER, Wrestling Photographer of the Year, whose photos have appeared on the pages and covers of several publications throughout the country. Photo by Anthony Curto.

Peter Venier Wins 1990 Photographer of the Year Award

Long Island Coach / Photographer Wins Prestigious
Nation-wide award from *Amateur Wrestling News*

Editor's Note: Peter Venier of Bohemia, Long Island, has recently been named as *Amateur Wrestling News' Photographer of the Year*. The award, officially known as the Steve Brown Award for Photography, is given each year to the nation's top wrestling photographer. By winning this prestigious honor, Venier was recently featured in *Amateur Wrestling News*, one of the nation's top wrestling periodicals. He will also be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, OK.

Many of Peter's action photos have appeared in the pages of *New York Wrestling News*. In addition to our magazine, his photos have also graced the pages (and several covers!) of *Suffolk County News*, *Amateur Wrestling News*, *Wrestling USA Magazine*, *Wrestling Masters*, and *The Mat Slap*. And despite all the time and costs involved in producing these award-winning photos, Venier has never accepted money in return for his pictures. He works strictly on a voluntary basis. The following is a story written by Bill Santoro, his long-time friend and head coach at Connetquot High School.

Every once in a long while a person comes along who transcends his sport, someone who not only masters the technical skills but also

excels in the human aspects as well.

Peter Venier is an excellent mat technician and an outstanding sports action photographer, but he is much more. He is a beloved humanitarian who enriches the lives of wrestling people wherever he goes.

Peter attended Wantagh High School where he became a Long Island champion in 1956. (This was prior to the inception of the New York State tournament). He and his twin brother Paul were wrestling standouts in high school and Colgate University. Upon college graduation, the brothers became involved in the family business - Brentwood Lumber Company - which they own and operate to this day.

Although success was achieved in the business world, Peter never lost his passion for the sport and began to combine it with a new interest - photography.

Peter lives in the Connetquot School District (Suffolk County, Section 11) where he is a volunteer assistant coach on the high school level. He began photographing the local wrestlers in the 1970's and his expertise soon became well known. His wrestling camera work extended well beyond district boundaries as his reputation grew.

He is well known at most of the major high

school meets and in recent years has expanded his schedule to include major college dual meets on the east coast and the NCAA tournament.

Peter's expertise with a lens goes beyond that of other cameramen. He is not a journalist taking photos, but a wrestler who captures his love for the sport on film.

Pete's contribution goes far beyond taking great pictures. Over the last two decades, hundreds of wrestling families, coaches, and officials have been touched by his generosity and kindness. He often gives away most of his photos. Many wrestling families have been caught by surprise when given a framed collage including a victory stand photo, action shots and candids of mom and dad in the stands.

His photography work, combined with his generosity, have become his legacy. Pete was asked once why he gives away so much of his work. He replied, "My brother and I always look back with good memories on our wrestling days. We only have a few snapshots as keepsakes because nobody was around to do this then. Kids should remember the good things, and this is my way of giving something back to the sport."

One of the awards that Pete cherishes most was presented to him by the 1989 Suffolk County Champions who went on to win the state title that year. It is inscribed in part: "To Pete - thanks for Everything! Wrestling is a special sport for special people and there is no one more special than you."

Pete Venier has given much back to the sport and those who know him are the richer for it there is no greater ambassador for wrestling.

Another Editor's Note: In these times, many people have abandoned the still camera for the video camera. While this preserves memories in a much more vivid format, it makes it difficult for us to find good quality action photos for the pages of our publication. However, Peter Venier has helped out immensely. He has hundreds of quality action photos from many of New York's major tournaments and is always happy to share them. He takes the shots, develops the film, and mails us the photos at no charge to us. He bears all the expenses himself. Look through the pages and covers of *New York Wrestling News*, *Amateur Wrestling News*, *Wrestling USA Magazine*, and other wrestling publications, and you'll find plenty of Peter Venier photographs.

If he were to photograph other sports as well, Venier would no doubt be able to make a very comfortable living for himself. Instead, he chooses to donate his time, money, and most importantly, his vast skills towards preserving proud, yet fleeting moments for hundreds of wrestlers and their families.

For his efforts and generosity, the staff at *New York Wrestling News* would like to say "Thanks much!!!" to Peter Venier.

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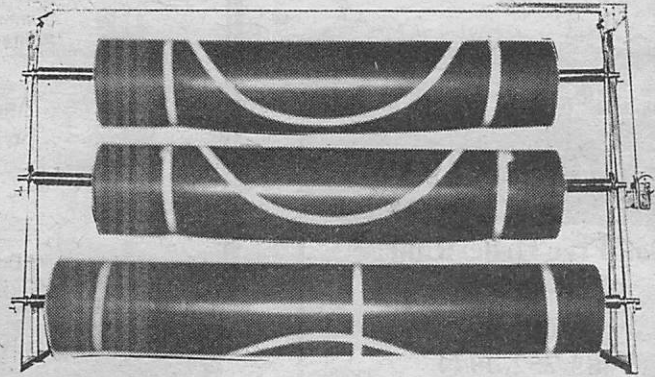
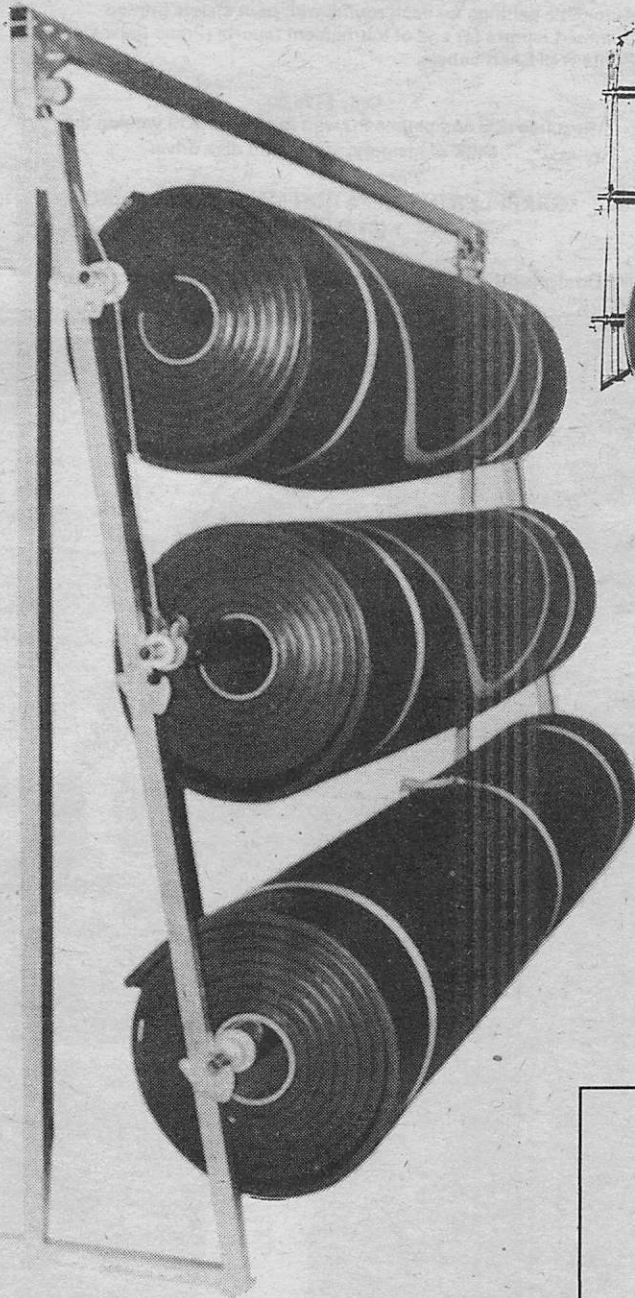
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PETER VENIER, Photographer of the Year, in action at last year's NY State Tournament in Syracuse. Venier, who also is a volunteer high school coach, donates most of his work to the families of hundreds of wrestlers. His work has appeared in several major wrestling publications, and he is considered one of the top wrestling photo-journalists in the country. Photo by Steve Parker.

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Ken Porter, Last Year's Biggest Surprise hopes to do it all over again

Alfred-Almond-5 senior seeks to defend his state title

Last year Alfred-Almond's (Section Five) Ken Porter surprised a lot of people in grabbing the 1990 138 pound New York State Championship. The most surprised person was actually Ken Porter. "I just kept taking things one match at a time. As I kept winning, I kept saying to myself, 'this is just like any other dual meet or any other tournament,'" said Ken. His mental preparedness kept him relaxed, poised and confident as he put together a string of ten awesome victories that carried him from relative obscurity to state champion in two short weeks.

His climb to stardom started in the Section Five Class D Championships. Feeling confident, he pinned all four opponents in capturing the 138 pound title in grand fashion. Keep in mind, though, that at this point, he was still unknown within the section. Each year, Class D brings in their group of placefinishers to compete with placewinners from Classes A, B, and C. And after a couple of rounds, the Class D kids are already taking their showers and heading for the bleachers to watch the tournament as spectators.

The weekend after the Class D championships was the Section Five State Qualifier. The top four in each class get together to determine who goes to Syracuse. There, Porter first shut down rugged Brian Campbell of Williamson, 13-0. Then he pinned Brockport's Matt Leach in the first period. In the semifinals, he overwheeled a fast-improving mark Johnson of Fairport, 11-3.

The other semifinal bracket, however, contained a much more publicized match. It pitted two state-calibre wrestlers, Tom Foos of Spencerport and Frank Trigg of Eastridge. Both wrestlers had over thirty wins and the ability to place in the state tournament. Trigg, who has competed for four schools in his high school career, had defeated Foos in a close match earlier in the season. Spencerport wrestlers, though, have an uncanny knack of winning those rematches, especially when it's for all the marbles.

Such was the case in the semifinal match, as Tom Foos overcame Frank Trigg in a hugely exciting match by a 6-2 margin. Most fans felt that this match should have taken place in the finals. Porter, however, was extremely pumped up for the finals match that was to come. "I made it this far, why be satisfied for second place now? I'll just give it my best again," reasoned Ken to himself.

Both Foos and Trigg were no strangers to Porter. A couple of years ago, he had split two matches with Trigg, and last summer, he lost a 3-2 freestyle match to Foos.

In the finals, Foos scored on a takedown late in the first period and held on to the 2-0 lead. In the second period, Foos chose down, but was unable to escape the grasp of a tenacious Porter. With Porter down in the last period and still unable to get on the scoreboard after four minutes, it didn't look good. Foos rode tightly most of the period, neutralizing any Porter attempts to escape or reverse. With less than a minute remaining, Porter used a sit back to back into and finally over Foos to gain a reversal that put the match at a statemate, 2-2.

A sudden burst of energy fueled Porter as he furiously worked an arm bar. Locking up both arms, he finally turned Foos over and secured a stunning fall with only one second remaining in the match. Says Porter, "It felt awesome! I put everything I had into it, and I was really shocked."

In preparing for the state tournament, Porter maintained his mental state. "I wanted to prove myself, especially coming from a Class D school. It doesn't matter what size school someone comes from, and I wanted to show that Section Five was not sending the wrong guy to the state meet," said Ken.

At the state tournament, Ken got a lot of help from fellow Section Five wrestler, Steve Taylor. Taylor, a senior at 145 pounds, placed third last year and won the title this year. He helped Porter stay calm and zero in on just one match at a time. In round one, Porter drew the Section 9 entrant. Early in the match, both men went to upper body moves. At the 1:19 point, it was Porter who scored on a throw and held on for the fall. In the semifinals, he faced Long Beach-8's Bernard Valentin, a senior with prior state experience. A scrappy Porter came out on top of a hotly-contested match where Valentin almost won it. In the end, though, it was a late takedown that broke a 4-4 tie, giving Porter a 6-4 advantage. In the closing moments, he surrendered a stalling point, making it 6-5.

"It was scary going out there in front of such a big crowd. I again tried to zero everything else out and focus on the match, but it was hard with 7300 screaming people in the place," said Porter of his finals match. It didn't show, and he was able to maintain his intensity and dominance. His finals opponent was Suffern-1's John Spiegelman, also a junior. In period one, Porter put on an awesome display of strength as he scored early on a single leg

takedown that kept Spiegelman in the air for nearly ten seconds. A tight, yet unorthodox riding style followed with Spiegelman nearly reversing before getting turned over for a three-point near fall. After two minutes, it was 5-0 Porter.

Everything went right for Ken as he finished the match on top of a 12-5 decision. At one point, Spiegelman scored back points, but Ken managed to escape the fall. Throughout, Porter kept calm and focused, displaying an unusual amount of confidence and poise for a first-time state participant.

This year, Porter will start the year at 155 pounds, later dropping down a weight class or two. "I'm not even thinking about last year - I don't want to put a lot of pressure on myself. I want to start off at the bottom and do it all over again," says Porter. And from the looks of it, he has an even stronger chance of a state title this year, having wrestled in about 50 matches over the spring and summer.

In off-season competition, he had a lot of success. While injured, he managed a third place medal in the state freestyle championships. He also beat Frank Trigg (7-4) and Tom Foos (13-0), reinforcing that Section Five did not send the "wrong guy" to the states. He also pinned Marion-5's Todd Miller, who had given Porter his only loss last year (a 5-3 decision during a holiday tournament).

His finest showing, though, may have been in the Empire Games. There, he scored two pins before losing to a fired-up Spiegelman, 8-6. He rebounded with another pin and then a 6-4 win over rugged Kareeb Howard of Fulton-3. Howard had placed fifth in the states at the same weight class, and had already beaten Porter twice in freestyle competition. In beating Howard, Porter earned a rematch in the finals against Spiegelman, which he won, 6-2.

Howard and Spiegelman will most likely make it back to the states. Either one is talented enough to claim a state title. These two, along with the usual assortment of tough wrestlers in the states, should make it a challenge for Porter to defend his state crown. The odds right now favor Porter, and whatever happens, we're sure to see some great wrestling in March.

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Groncki Brothers Lead Burnt Hills-2 towards another Banner Year

Twin state runners-up plus others likely to win state medals in March

New York State does not keep track of team competition in the annual high school state championship meet held each year in Syracuse. But if team scores were kept, Burnt Hills-2 would have been right up there last year. As for this year, they're likely to be even higher in the ratings. Last year's team sent three men to the state tournament - 91 pound freshman Karl Ruud and junior twins, Doug and Chad Groncki at 119 and 126 pounds.

Ruud went 1-2 in the state meet, losing to the fifth and sixth place finishers. He finished his freshman year at 30-5, with a career record of 48-14 (with 21 pins). He's now a sophomore at Burnt Hills.

Doug Groncki went to the states at 119 pounds. He used a combination of strength, leverage, and determination to power through three wins in Syracuse in making it to the finals against Waverly-4 senior Shawn Welch. In the finals, both wrestlers fought a defensive battle and ended up with a 0-0 tie after six minutes. In overtime, the lead saw-sawed several times, with Welch somehow surging to win the title on a 6-3 OT win. It was the evening's closest match, and it probably could have gone either way. Anyway, Doug finished the season at 35-2. Overall, his record stands at 107-25, with 50 pins and eight tournament championships, including the Class A and Section Two titles.

Twin brother Chad performed equally well last year. He posted a 33-4 record, also winning the Class A and Section Two championships. At the state meet, he competed at 126 pounds. There, he beat three opponents to set up his finals match against Troy Bouzakis, probably New York's best-ever high school wrestler. Against Bouzakis, he lost by fall in 1:21, but Bouzakis was a college-level wrestler at that point. Chad's career record stands at 55-8, with 37 pin victories and 5 tournament titles.

With all three state tournament participants returning this season, Burnt Hills looks especially strong. And this is a team that has traditionally been very powerful. Coached by Tim Koch (last year's Section Two Coach of the Year), the team went 19-1, winning the Burnt Hills Christmas, Suburban Council, and Class A tournaments. In addition, the team won the North-South Classic and Union-Endicott dual-meet tournaments. Their one loss came in a dual meet with Niskayuna, who won the Suburban Council Gold Division Championships.

Now in his 17th year, Koch carries a team record on 170-54-3. His teams have only lost three meets in the past three seasons. Last year was the first time in Koch's career that he coached three wrestlers (Ruud and the Groncki brothers) to the state tournament. Koch quote Says Tim of his wrestlers, "I try to create an atmosphere that allows them to perform to the best of their ability. I think they really did that. They typify the performance of my team as a whole. I asked them to run a little farther, work a little harder, and they did."

Koch stresses skill and conditioning.

In his career, he has coached many state champs - Jon Cardi (three state titles), Jason

Moris (two titles), Dave Watson, and Scott Hughes. He's also coached TJ Wright, who placed second in the states and posted 157 career wins. His latest batch of athletes will definitely add to his growing list of all-stars. A brief rundown of his top wrestlers in addition to Ruud and the Groncki's includes:

o senior Eric Katz, who owns a 91-37 record with 58 pins. Katz went 5-2 in the Greco Roman National Junior Olympic Championships this summer. He also won a gold medal in the Empire State Games, pinning state champ Juan Carlos Garcia in the finals. Last year Katz posted a 29-6 record, placing 2nd in the Class A tournament and third in Section Two.

o senior Chris Hopkins, who has a 45-15-1 record with 30 pins and 3 tournament titles. Hopkins took a fourth in Empire State Games competition. Hopkins went 19-2 last year, winning the Class A title.

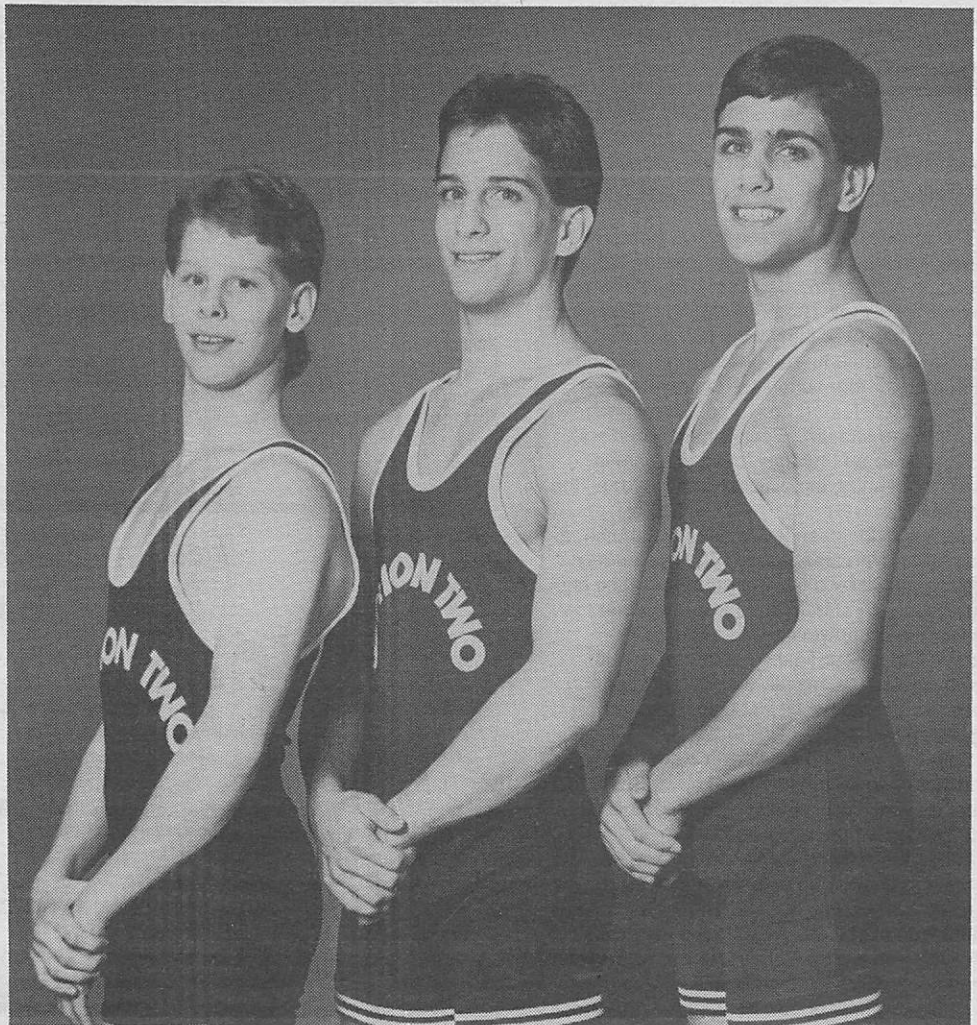
o junior Doug Bikowicz, who with a 63-11-1 record (28 pins) will most certainly break 100 career wins by the time he's finished. Last season Bikowicz was 25-3.

o senior Bill Forlano, who has a 34-10-1 record with 22 pins. Forlano's record last season was 26-5.

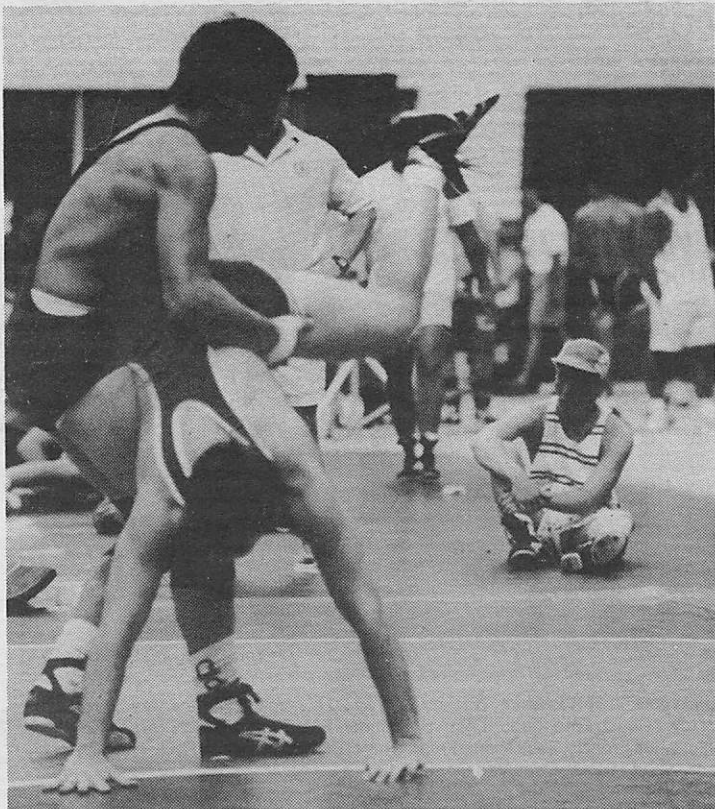
With this talent, and with the team's history of wrestlers who are conditioned to go full tilt for six hard minutes, it's possible that they will send more than three participants to the state meet in March of 1991, and come up with a state champ or two.

And should the Groncki brothers make it back, they will be favored to win titles. It's been a long time coming for these guys they started wrestling a long time ago. Chad started in fourth grade, with Doug joining in the following year. The boys have a rivalry going, with each pushing to top the other's performance. This helps improve both of them. Says Koch, "They're very competitive kids. They like the challenge, and they're also very coachable."

Chad and Doug are aiming for state titles, with Koch feeling that both milestones are attainable. This would be unique, having twin brothers win state titles. To make it even more special, it's likely that Burnt Hills will have other state placefinishers as well, perhaps even another champion.



BURNT HILLS-2 HAS THREE STATE PARTICIPANTS BACK: Karl Ruud, Chad and Doug Groncki. The Groncki Twins both placed second in last year's state tournament. These three, plus others from the team have the potential to earn high placefinishers in this year's state tournament.



KEN PORTER, defending state champ, in freestyle action over the summer. He is shown here about to score back exposure points. Porter will start the season at 155 pounds, but will most likely drop down to 145 pounds for the Sectionals. He is from Alfred-Almond-5 high school.

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Palmyra-Macedon-5 Cracks Top 20 in State Team Rankings for first time

Small Section Five Team of
Overachievers finish season
undefeated and ranked 19th in NYS

There's a new sheriff in town, and his name is Fred Ciaburri. That's pronounced "see-berry". He coaches Pal-Mac, located in Section Five. Where is Pal-Mac, you ask? Well, Section Five is a mighty large area, surrounding Rochester and stretching as far south as Wellsville and Hornell. About twenty minutes outside of Rochester are two small towns, Palmyra and Macedon. They're about 20 and 17 miles east of Rochester, right along the Erie Canal. In Palmyra you'll find the high school that serves kids from both Palmyra and Macedon, hence the name Pal-Mac.

Anyway, this up-until-now-obscure school was never heard of outside of Section Five. In fact, we don't believe they have ever sent anyone to the state tournament in March. But somewhere during the middle of last season, Pal-Mac began to appear on the state poll of the top 25 teams in the state.

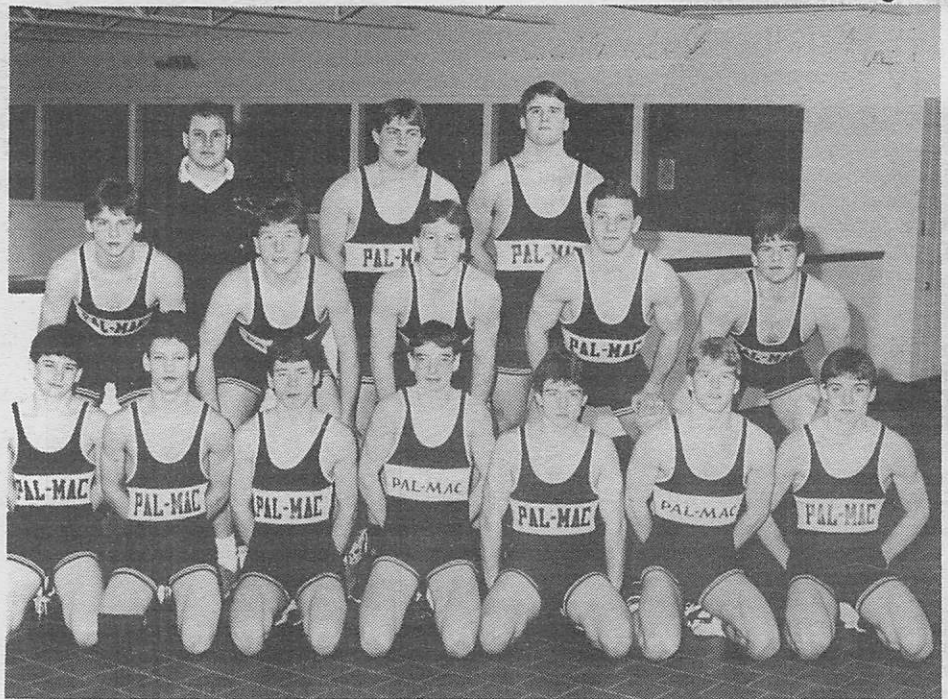
By season's end, the team finished at 14-0 and clinched spot #19 in the final state-wide poll. In dual meet competition, they beat a host of Section Five powers, like Newark, Canandaigua, Wayne, Fairport, Victor, North Rose-Wolcott, Marion, and Waterloo. They won their league championships, the Finger Lakes East Region, as well as the Wayne County League Championships.

In each of the four tournaments they competed in, they won first place. And at season's end, they nipped powerhouse Newark by a mere 4.5 points to win the Class B Sectional title. In that event, Chris Francis (167) and Dennis Horton (105) won individual titles. Two others, Ralph Brongo, 91, and Chris Van Gorden, 132, lost in the finals. Derrick LaRock, 98 and Shad McDuff, 126, placed third; Chad Samson 119, Dave Dennie, 155, and Zach Wert finished fourth. Pal-Mac placed nine wrestlers in the semifinals.

Fred Ciaburri is actually from Long Island. He came to Pal-Mac in 1976, when the team went 4-8. The next year saw great improvements, winning 9 and losing 5. Since then, he has posted three 14-1 seasons (1982, 83, and 86) and has never had a losing season. Overall, Ciaburri's won-lost team record is 142-55-4, for a winning percentage of 71%.

You probably wouldn't consider Pal-Mac a superpower of NYS high school wrestling. Their individuals are not great. However, as a group of individuals, they are a balanced, hard-driving team that has had a lot of success. And for the very first time, they have cracked the NYS Top Twenty, finishing the year ranked 19th. So the next time you look at the state poll and glance down past all the usual teams - Fulton, Spencerport, Huntington, Sagem, Baldwinsville, Johnson City, etc., and you happen to see little old Pal-Mac, you won't have to wonder about them anymore.

Editor's note: Special thanks to John DiSanto, who provided information and inspiration for this article.



PAL-MAC, located in Section Five outside of Rochester, cracked the Top 20 last season for the very first time. In photo, from left to right, back row: Coach Fred Ciaburri, Ron Schommer, Bob Sloan. Middle row: Josh McDuff, Kevin Bell, Dave Dennie, Chris Francis, Zack Wert. Front: Ralph Brongo, Derek LaRock, Dennis Horton, Todd Reeser, Chad Samson, Shad McDuff, Chris Van Gorden.
Photo by Jack McDuff.

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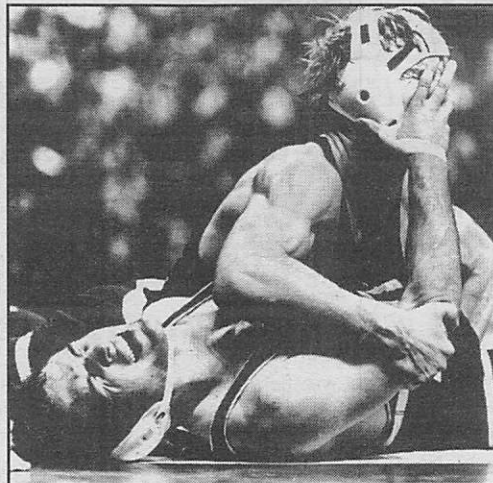


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If you would like more information, please contact Mike Watson, wrestling coach at Wadkins Glen High School.

Send to: Mr Mike Watson
Watkins Glen Central High School
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New Yorkers fare well in Cadet Nationals

Led by Gold Medalist and Most Pins Award Recipient in Greco, Bob Buccl, many medals won by young New Yorkers

Several New Yorkers fared well at the 1990 Cadet National Junior Olympic Championships this year. The event, held at Battle Creek, Michigan is for wrestlers who are 15 or 16 years old. Participants come from all fifty states, and have to qualify for the event. In all, 1,057 athletes competed in the event, up from last year's record number of 995.

Winners of the event go on to the world Cadet Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Second place finishers were invited to compete in the TWA/John E du Pont Cadet International Festival in Warrensburg, MO. A new rule in this year's event created some interesting finals matches. If the finalists in the weight class have not wrestled each other before, they must wrestle a two-out-of-three series. The top eight place finishers in each weight class earn All American honors.

Bob Buccl, of Red Hook-9, did the best of all New Yorkers. At the 209 pound Greco class, Bob decked all eight opponents in just 8:58 to easily take the gold medal. In addition, he won the Most Falls in the Least Amount of Time trophy. Earlier this year, Buccl placed fifth in the freestyle states and fourth in the Greco states.

In freestyle, **Rodney Frey** took eighth place, losing just 5-4 in the consolation finals match. Frey, from East Rochester-5, competed in the 83.5 pound class.

Jason Kraft narrowly missed out on the bronze medal at the 167 pound class, losing a 4-2 decision in the consolation finals. He wound up with fourth place. Kraft has had a successful summer, taking third place in the freestyle Empire Games and third place at the

freestyle states.

At 182.5 pounds, **Kerry McCoy** of Long did very well in taking the silver medal. McCoy lost two close matches in the finals, 9-8 and 14-7. Since the off-season started, McCoy has been hugely successful, placing second in both styles at the Empire Games and taking fifth at the Greco States.

Casey Lamb of Section Five also did well in taking third place at 209 freestyle. In taking third, he decked his opponent in just 21 seconds.

At 83.5 Greco, **Kevin David** took sixth place, losing by fall to the Florida entrant in the consolation finals. At 88 Greco, Ron Grinnell stuck his opponent in just 42 seconds in claiming fifth place, also giving him All American status.

At 132 pounds Greco, Chad Henken scored a fall in 1:53 in taking the bronze medal.

The 209 pound class in Greco Roman had a whopping five New Yorkers who placed. In addition to Buccl's gold medal, Jason Gleasman and Chris Wolf, both from the Empire State, wrestled to determine third and fourth place. Gleasman came out on top, 10-6, for the bronze medal, with Wolf taking a respectable fourth.

Later in the summer, three New Yorkers competed in the Cadet World Championships, held in Budapest, Hungary. In Greco Roman, **Casey Lamb** of Section Five took a sixth place at 209 pounds.

In freestyle, Jason Kraft took a ninth place in the 167 pound class, which was won by the

wrestler from India. Kraft went 2-2 in the competition.

Kerry McCoy, 182.5 pounds freestyle, did better than anyone else on the United States in taking the silver medal. He beat the entrant from Switzerland 4-2, then beat the wrestler from Turkey in a rugged 5-3 OT match. After that, he pinned Cuba's wrestler. In the finals, he lost a 12-2 decision to the Russian wrestler.

The only other silver medal earned was by Steve Hilas of California in Greco. In taking the silver medal in freestyle, Kerry established himself as a threat to future state and national titles.

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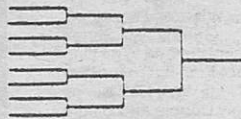
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New York State 1990 College Wrestling Preview

The college wrestling season is here! New York State is fortunate to have several fine programs in many areas - Divisions I, II, III, as well as Junior College. Following is information on the four-year colleges in the state. If you would like more information on any of these schools, give the coaches a call. They will also be happy to provide you with schedule information.

SUNY Albany

Division III - 1400 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12222, (518) 442-3300. Head Coach - Joe DeMeo. Led by perhaps the top Greco coach in the United States (DeMeo) and strengthened by the most successful Greco club in the nation (ATWA), Albany looks to again be powerful this year. They have all starters returning from last year's team, which boasts wins over Division I schools Hofstra, Brown, and Princeton. "This year's team looks to be one of the top two or three teams I have ever had. They look pretty tough, and we are optimistic. Many of our second stringers are better than most of our starters from previous team," says DeMeo. At 118, veteran Steve Mitola will be back. He will be a serious threat to a state and national title. Jeff LaMountain, a junior at 134, took third in the SUNY Conference last year, and looks good. Sophomore Van Fronhofer at 142 pounds, was fifth in the states last year. As one of ATWA's fastest-improving Greco Roman stars, he should also challenge for top honors in the state and NCAA Division III tournaments. Senior Bill Mallin takes the starting nod at 150. Mallin has placed sixth in the states, as well as having qualified for the NCAA's. State fourth-placer John Pavlin returns at 158. Pavlin came within one match of placing in the NCAA's last season. At 167 is Greg Jones, state fourth placer who also took seventh in the nationals. Now a senior, he is the Eastern Region champ. At 190, senior Chris Roberts should challenge for many titles. He took fifth in the states, and has NCAA experience. With a team that has no real weak spots, look for Albany to be one of the top three Division III teams. They should be well represented on the state and national victory stands.

SUNY Binghamton

Division III. PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000 (607) 777-4593 Head Coach: Mark Gumble. Binghamton has a number of talented individuals who will be in the running for medals in all competitions, including state and national tournaments. At 118, junior Mike Tennant will be back to improve on his third place SUNYAC finish. He owns a 27-15 career record, and was the 1988 Springfield Invitational Champion. At 134, Adam Cirilincione, also a junior, was runner-up in the SUNYAC's by a 1-0 margin. He was 16-13 overall. Ken Kaufman, also a junior, posted a 22-6 record last year, taking second in the SUNYAC's and qualifying for the NCAA's. And rounding out the veterans is 177 pound junior Rich Calkins, who was 19-11, taking 3rd in the SUNYAC's and fifth at the states. Joining the veterans will be Jared Olwell, a two-time Vermont state champ Steve Cronmiller Joe Schultz, Eric Christenson, Dave Ledoux, and Chris Vandewinkel. In all, over thirty athletes are listed on the roster, giving the team depth.

Brockport State (SUNY)

Division III. Brockport, NY 14420 (716) 395-5360. Head Coach - Don Murray. It's been over seven years since Brockport won a Division III National Championship. With the team's current line-up and coaching staff, they definitely have a good chance of taking it all this year. The team placed fifth in the NCAA's last year, and 8 of the 10 starters are back this year, including two national champs. Head coach Don Murray will have a fantastic set of assistant coaches in Frank Farniano and John Leone. Farniano is a two-time NCAA champ who has placed in the Division I NCAA's. In 1984, he competed in the Greco Roman Olympic Games, and in 1988, he was just a couple of matches away from making the Olympic team. Leone was a NCAA champ and four-time Division III All American. Both wrestlers are still very active in the practice room. The top dogs on the team are both juniors who won Division III NCAA crowns last season. Fritz Zagorski, 126 pounds, won the title while compiling a 21-3 record. As a freshman, he took a solid third in the national tournament. He could become the school's first three-time NCAA champ as well as its most successful wrestler (an honor held by Farniano currently). That is, unless Brian Quick beats him to it. Quick, also a junior, demolished the competition all last season, compiling a 23-2 record with six pins and waltzing through the nationals. Both are heavily favored to win NCAA titles this year. At 118, Jon Raines will most likely get the nod. Now a sophomore, Raines is a highly skilled technician capable of State, SUNY, and NCAA medals. At 134, senior Junior Chris Stevens has made it to the nationals twice this year he could take a medal. At 142, Nelson Colley also brings national experience. DJ Simon-ton at 150 took the SUNY title last year and competed in the nationals. He should be a medal contender in all tournaments this year. Heavyweight PJ Wendel is the defending SUNYAC

champ who also medaled at the states. He should also be in contention for an NCAA medal this year. At 177, junior Bill Barker was a SUNYAC runner-up and All State wrestler. Other Golden Eagle wrestlers who should make significant contributions are Bob Iovinella, Darren Quick, Scott Wendell, and Regan Johnson. Talented newcomers include Matt McLennan, Bryant Ranger, Todd Sherwood, and Ryan Johnson. With no seniors on the roster, this team is young - also talented. It's possible they may win a national title either this year or next.

University of Buffalo (SUNY)

Division II. Alumni Arena, Buffalo, NY 14260 (716) 636-3148. Head Coach - Ed Michael. UB is in the process of moving from Division II to Division I. Hard-working head coach Ed Michael returns Bill Stanbro at 167/177, Dave Grabenstatter at 177/190, Nick Rastelli at 118, and Jim Hunt at 134. In addition, the team will be boosted by freshman Todd Webb, last year's state champ from Baldwinsville-3 and Joe Muscarella, junior college transfer and Empire Games gold medalist. Their upperweights will definitely score a lot of late-match points for the team, and several could challenge for NCAA Division II medals. Stanbro has probably the best shot at an NCAA crown. Now in his 21st season, Ed Michael looks to have a team with much individual talent and superior depth. Look for them to have a fine dual meet record, several state placers, and a few NCAA All Americans.

Columbia University

Division I. Room 328, Dodge Fitness Center, New York, NY 10027 (212) 854-3435. Head Coach - Ron Russo. Columbia will be led by senior 118 pounder Adam Condo. Condo is a veteran wrestler with NCAA medal potential. At 142, Corey McCaslin finished last season at fifth in the New York State Collegiate poll, as did 167 pounder Khari Freeman. Much of this year's lineup looks to be young, as Columbia graduated many of their starters. However, they were able to recruit some promising newcomers. Look for them to possibly have a Division I All American this year, as well as several state placers.

Cornell University

Division I. PO Box 729, Teagle Hall, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 255-7307. Head Coach - Jack Spates. Since taking over head coaching duties two years ago, Spates has never been at a loss for words, enthusiasm, or wrestling talent. And by the example set by last year's team, the story of Cornell wrestling should again be applauded nation-wide. Last year's team qualified four men for the Division I NCAA's, where they took a number 20 national ranking at the tournament. There are signs that this year's team could exceed the accomplishments of last year's squad. Strong returners plus key transfers and new recruits should again bolster the team. At 118, a bigger and stronger Marc McFarland, along with high school state champ David Hirsch, should get a lot of early points for the Big Red. David Sims at 126 should have the top spot, with challengers Jim Meckley and Jeremy Brunner, Roland Kays and Pat Thomas providing support. Marc Fergesen was last year's Freshman of the Year, according to *Amateur Wrestling News*. He went 31-4 last year, in addition to making it to the nationals. He should be favored this year to take a medal. At 150, Jason Roach, a transfer from Garden City College, looks very good. Already competing coaches are starting to worry about him. At 167, junior Mike New returns to defend the weight class he so ably manned last year. He holds the record for most pins (7), including a streak of five pins. he was the NYS runner-up after placing in both the East Stroudsburg and Wilkes tournaments. Chip Foster will provide support. At 177, Ben Morgan placed in the top four in every major tournament he competed in last year. he could contend for All American honors, and will be tested by transfer Bob Whalen and Mike Hutko. "There is a good balance in relation to team and individual strength," Spates says. "For the most part, we're pretty competitive throughout the lineup and have the potential to be success on the national level." Look for Cornell to be right up there with Army and Syracuse.

Cortland State (SUNY)

Division III. Park Center, Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-5747. Head Coach - Gene Nighman. Cortland was last year's surprise team. While only a moderately successful first semester team, they came on at the end, taking third in the Division II NCAA's behind two national champs. This year's team returns Junior Sean Cavanaugh, an All American last year with an 8th place finish in the NCAA's. Cavanaugh should challenge for a title this year, as well as high state honors. At 190, Ron Ashcroft, now a senior, will be looking to improve on his silver medal performance in the SUNY tournament. The second semester will be bolstered by the presence of JP Epifanio, 126 pounds. Now a junior, Epifanio is an NCAA qualifier who's come within a point of champ Fritz Zagorski. He's also beaten All Americans Brian Darling, Oswego and Dave Regina, Oneonta. Also joining the team in January will be Rich Walker. The new team members feature Chris Kurnow, 118 Chris D'Andrea, a junior college transfer at 126 Jim Creighton, also a jc transfer at 134 Chris Newton, from Morrisville CC at 142,

and Whitehall-2's Chris Terry, 150 / 142. Terry has been looking especially good in preseason scrimmaging. The team should do pretty well in dual meets. As for the NCAA's, they have a top ten possibility if the team wrestles to its ability.

Hofstra University

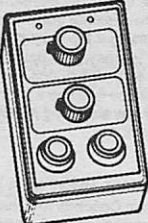
Division I. Physical Fitness Center, Herrpstead, NY 11550 (516) 560-6750. Head Coach - Xavier Armengau. This year's team looks pretty good. It features a solid distribution of talent within just about all weight classes. In addition, senior co-captain Joe Sabol adds muscle at 158, being one of the top wrestlers in the state. Sabol won a state title two years ago, then redshirted last year. Over the summer, he established himself as a national calibre Greco wrestler, placing in several prestigious events. Sabol has an excellent chance of winning an ECC title and then taking a medal in the NCAA's Division I. At 118, junior Andy Marlow and freshman Keith Sequeira will be battling for the starting bid. Sophomore Ralph Tubello at 126 posted a 15-7 record last year. This year, he has a shot at an ECC title and an NCAA appearance. Pat Greenlee at 134 won 15 matches last year and will be looking to improve. At 150, junior Dan Holahan will be in contention for an ECC title, having posted a 18-15-1 record last year. Others who look to win points for the Dutchmen include John Lamar, Dom DeSilvio, Dave Young, and Mike Dellbero.

Hunter College


Division III 695 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021 (212) 772-4783, 4782. Head Coach - Bob Gaudenzi. This year looks to be a challenging one for the Hawks, with six top 20 schools and six tournaments scheduled. This year's team combines experience and balance with nine freshmen joining thirteen returning veterans. At 118, senior captain Ron Sinacore posted a 23-9-1 season last year, missing out on the NCAA tournament by one wild card vote. Junior Tom Wilder at 126 adds a wealth of freestyle and Greco experience and will be looking to improve on his 14-11 record from last year. Powerful Bryan Mirabella at 142 pounds is back for his junior year. In 1989, he took sixth place in the state tournament. Senior Kevin Kennedy, 167, also has placed sixth in the states. Last year he posted a 20-12-1 record. He may decide to drop down to 158, but at either weight, has the potential for state and NCAA medals.

continued on next page

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College Previews, cont.

Ithaca College

Division I. Hill Center, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 274-3660. Head Coach - John Murray. The defending two-time NCAA Division III champions will be starting fresh this year, having graduated most of their starters from last year. At any one point, the team could have from five to seven freshmen in the line-up. Despite this, their schedule remains one of the most rigorous of all Division III schools. At 126 either soph Chris Passero or freshman Kelley Hermann will earn the spot. At 134 or 142 senior Lenny Bruehweiller should pick up some medals. He won last year's Delhi Open, copping MOW honors as well. At 150, fifth-year Marty Sullivan should also be a contender for state and national medals. Ron Post at 177 is a sophomore who placed in last year's state meet at 190. And Bill Hadsell at 190 should also be in contention for state and national medals. Randy Cotton at heavyweight will be eligible for competition in January. Both men have prior NCAA tournament experience. Some of the talented newcomers to the Ithaca squad include David Issebacher, Kent Maslin, Jeff Geller, Mike Murtha, and Carl Zelen.

Manhattan College

Division III. Manhattan College Parkway, Bronx, NY 10471 (212) 920-0227. Head Coach - Bruce Haberli. Following a much-improved season last year, fourth-year coach Haberli feels the Jaspers will present a very competitive team this year. It looks to be the toughest team since he started. The team's depth will come from a 16-man squad that consists totally of freshmen and sophomores. The top returnees include sophomore Bill Pollard, 177 Halle Brown, 158 and Shawn Holliday, heavyweight. Pollard should be a contender for the New England Championships, with Brown coming off a red-shirt season. Holliday has improved over the off-season, competing in the Empire Games. The top new men include Steve Harshen, 118, Todd Keating, 126, Mike Campeanu, 134 Alex Pollina, 134 Pat Hayes, 142 Gary McTiernan, 150 Pat McGrath, 158 Phil Mazzurco, 167 Feliz Tianga, 177/190 Tom Flynn, 177/190 Fred Schiller, 177/190 Brian Stapleton, 190 and Roy Mazzo, 190.

New York University

Division III. 181 Mercer St, New York, NY 10012 (212) 998-2050. Head Coach - Sonny Greenhalgh. First year coach Greenhalgh is optimistic about this year's team. Last year's squad returns a very talented group of wrestlers. Junior Mat McLenahan from Burlington, Iowa, took eighth in last year's NCAA championships. He was also second in the NCAA qualifier and Most Outstanding Wrestler in the University Athletic Association. Senior Eric Bibeau, 150, and junior Tom Nohilly, 167, just missed qualifying for last year's national tournament. Sophomore Alex Solovey, 177, won the regional qualifier and competed in the NCAA's, narrowly missing a top eight place finish. Other returners include Sean Toomey, Eric Baum, Sergio Diaz, and Jon Shweky. Coach Greenhalgh brings a wealth of experience to the team as they continue building a strong wrestling program. Look for at least a few state and NCAA medal winners from this improving team.

Oneonta State (SUNY)

Division III SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta, NY 13820, (607) 431-3594. Head Coach: Al Sosa. Assistant Coaches Al Scheer and Greg Geisenhof. A strong nucleus of seasoned returners along with a fresh crop of enthusiastic freshmen could lead to a very promising finish. The team appears to be geared and excited in regards to the upcoming competition. Opponents will be off to a tough start, as the team's two best athletes are at 118 and 126. Junior Marat Lempert at 118 took sixth in the 1989 state tournament and was second this past year to NCAA champ Troy Monks. He was also runner-up to Monks by an overtime loss in the SUNY conference championships. Dave Regina, at 126, took first in the 1988 SUNYAC tournament, then was second in 1989. He is also a .12.two-time All American who owns a win last season over .13.NCAA champ Fritz Zagorski. Look for Lempert and Regina to challenge for all titles. At 167, Bob Sauer took 4th in the SUNYAC's and will look for improvement. And at 190, Stan Pelech made All State. Only a sophomore, Pelech will challenge for honors again this year.

SUNY Oswego

Division III Laker Hall, Oswego, NY 13126 (315) 341-2402 Head Coach: Mike Howard. This year's team will be hosts for the 1991 NYS Intercollegiate Championships in January, as well as the New Jersey Athletic Association - SUNYAC Challenge Meet. A strong nucleus of nine lettermen return from last year's 9-8 team. At 142, sophomore John Hill should improve on his 6-12-1 freshman record. At 150, senior Mike Wade went 24-13 last year, with a third place finish at the RIT Invitational, a second at SUNYAC, and an eighth place in the states. Rob Price, a senior at 158, went 22-12-1 last year, and was fifth at the Ithaca Invitational, third at SUNYAC, and fourth at RIT. Junior Steve Arnyot at 167 went 16-11 last year, with a 6th at states and a 3rd at the SUNYAC's. At 190 senior Chris Buhner returns after a 18-16 season which saw him take medals at Ithaca, RIT, and SUNYAC. Junior Matt Ladka, heavyweight, also medaled in all three events, posting a 16-13 record. New talent will be provided by TJ Fraher, Mike McGulness, Brian Schaab, Matt Stevenson, Shawn Lowe, Robert Douglas, and Jamie Coon.

Potsdam (SUNY)

Division III. Maxcy Hall, Potsdam, NY 13676 (315) 267-2316. Head Coach - Nick Zupan, first year. The Bears return Don Duell, sophomore at 150, Matt Skidare, 158, Matt Depoint, 177, Dan Tanvis, 158, Mike Colburn, 150, Mike Heburn, 142, Tom Cunningham, heavyweight, and Craig Buck, 150, and Nate Howard at 190. Some of the new men who could fill in the lower weights include Chad Sheldon, 134 (who nearly beat three-time state champ Troy Bouzakis in last year's state meet), Dennis Logalbo, 126, and Fred Kiechle, 134. The team has two new coaches in Zupan and assistant coach Bob Zoelke. Both are excellent athletes who should provide plenty of motivation and opportunities for improvement for this young team. The team has potential to place some individuals in SUNY, state, and NCAA competition.

Rochester Institute of Technology

Division III One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 475-2400 Head Coach - Earl Fuller. Coach Fuller has been coaching this sport longer than any other coach in the nation, regardless of division. And while RIT is not considered a superpower of college wrestling, the team has had its share of outstanding athletes. This year's crop has four or five veterans who have the potential to earn All State as well as All American honors. At 126 pounds, junior Dave Lyndaker had 12 wins last year. Senior Ilias Diakomihalis, 142 pounds, went 18-11 last year. Ilias is the most successful returner from last year, and could surprise a few people at tournament time. The team's winningest returner is Dave Ciocca, only a sophomore. From Endicott, Ciocca posted a 19-14-1 record as a freshman. Ciocca will wrestle at 167 pounds, and is also favored to win medals in state and national competition. Senior Jon Boyd at 177 pounds won 12 matches last year and looks to improve on that.

St Lawrence University

Division III. Augsburg Center, Canton, NY 13617 (315) 379-5877. Head Coach - John Clark. St Lawrence has a solid core of athletes capable of high state and NCAA medals. At 118, sophomore Jim Canty from Suffern-1 looks extremely tough. Chris Bannister, from Spencerport-5, is at 128. Having won over twenty matches last year and wrestled in the NCAA's, he could be the best wrestler this year. Rich Paulewicz, junior 134 pounder, has placed in the states three times and has been to three NCAA tournaments. He definitely has the experience to win a title. Tom Gleason at 150 has also placed in the state tournament twice. Sophomore Jeff Way will score late points at heavyweight. He also has NCAA tournament experience. Of the new recruits, Clark is especially high on Jason Bovenzi, Greece Athena-5. Bovenzi took fourth in the states last year, and Coach Clark believes he can be one of SLU's best.

Syracuse University

Division I Wrestling Office, Archbold Gym, Syracuse, NY 13244-1140 (315) 443-3144. Head Coach - Ed Carlin. Assistant: Gene Mills. With a great group of veterans, redshirts, and recruits, this year's SU wrestling team aspires to be its best since 1981's 17-1 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championship team. All Americans Rich Santana and Darren Schulman, along with 1989 EIWA champ Mark Kerr, will head up a pack of 19 high school state champs, holding 23 state titles, who could top the record set by the 1981 team for most points scored in the EIWA's. At 118, junior Drew Black returns and will be pushed by sophomore redshirt transfer Matt Van Housen, who was a junior college national qualifier, and freshmen state champ Shawn Welch. Senior Steve Trumpet is back at 126 and should be challenged by Iowa state champ and national high school champ, Joe Piazza. At 134 and 142 EIWA Champs and All Americans junior Rich Santana (35-8) and senior Darren Schulman (34-4) return to defend their respective Eastern crowns. Both men are definitely in the running for an NCAA crown, and both took eighth in the NCAA's. Rich Parete, Jon Greenhalgh, Jamie Kyriazis, and Jeff Liberman should all provide adequate back-up. Redshirt soph Chris Saba, bronze medalist at the Junior Nationals, looks for action at 142 or 150. Also challenging will be state champ Andy Antonucci (a redshirt freshman), freshman Steve Taylor, a state champ, and Rick Greenstein (a two-time MA state champ). Two-time state champ Jamie St John, fifth at the EIWA's as a freshman last year, should be the man at 158. The 167 pound weight class has lots of talent with sophomore two-time state champ Rich Sadwick, junior college transfer senior Steve Hart, transfer junior Orlando Rosa, and freshman three-time state finalist Seamus Lyman all bidding for a spot. At 177, NCAA Darin Farrell returns after a redshirt season, along with state champ Ethan Bosch, who took fifth at the EIWA's as a freshman. Redshirt junior Mark Kerr is back as the 1989 EIWA champ where he beat 1990 NCAA champ Matt Ruppel of Lehigh in the finals as a sophomore. Having beat Ruppel the last three times they have met, Kerr has the ability to win it all. At heavy, NCAA qualifier junior Rob Cole, junior Joe Zito, and sophomore Gil Calmeira will bid for the spot. With its wealth of experience and new talent and top coaching, SU will be bumping heads with Army and Cornell for the number one spot in New York State.

United States Military Academy

Division I - West Point, NY 10996-9988, (914) 938-4011 or fax (914) 446-7157. Jack Eifner, head coach. Assistant coaches: Joe Baranik, Paul Kuznik, Eric Zeeman. This year's schedule is one of the toughest the Academy has ever had. They wrestle all the top North Eastern teams and will see many other top schools at the Sunshine Open over the Christmas break. Last year the team finished 15-3-1 and 19th in the country, Division

I. All starters return and the team has plenty of depth. As returning state champs, Army is the early-season number one team in New York. Their starting lineup features junior Tom Larson at 118 (27 match winner from last year) Dave Warnick at 126 (state runner-up 31-10 record) senior Mike Ferrari, state bronze medalist, at 134 Jack Vantress and Doug McCormick (state bronze medalist) at 142 and 150 state champ Nick Mauldin, a senior at 167 (31-4 last season) state champ Bill Barrow at 177 (35-11 last year) state runner-up Alex Porcelli at 190 and state champ EJ Pasteur at heavyweight. Pasteur was 23-8-3 last season. Army had three NCAA Division I qualifiers last year, and all return this year. Among Coach Eifner's goals are to have three All Americans and one National Champion. Those with perhaps the best shot are Mauldin, Warnick, Larson, Barrow, Ferrari, and Pasteur. However, Army has no weak spots, and has many second-stringers who are state champs and placemen. They should battle Syracuse University and Cornell for top honors in New York State. Between these schools, there should be a number of All Americans this year, and perhaps a National Champ!

US Merchant Marine (King's Point)

Division III. Athletic Department, Kings Point, NY 11024 (516) 773-5859. Head Coach - Mike Cigala. The King's Point wrestling program will be looking to capture its sixth straight winning season, as well as its sixth straight double-digit win season. Graduation hit the team hard but Cigala thinks that ready replacements are waiting in the wings. Co-captains Ken Kosteckl (177) and Karl Hill (150) will anchor this year's team. Kosteckl has limitless potential, and could be one of the team's best ever. Last year's rookie sensation, Chris Schroeder will be back at 126, and will be joined by sophomores Howie Hague, 134 Rich Blake, 142, and John Volpe, 158 when they return from sea duty in January. All four are former high school state champions. Newcomers include Mark Vacanti, 142, a three-time Iowa City and District champ Kris Glaser, 126, a Nebraska state champ Ken Davis, 118, district champ Joe Woods, 142, a Pennsylvania district champ and Mark Bell-simo, 134. With five state champs and several other talented pebes on the roster, the team should see a sixth consecutive winning season.

Wagner College

Division I. Athletic Department, Staten Island, NY 10301 (718) 390-3489. Head Coach - Kevin Gallagher. Now in his sixth year, Coach Gallagher is developing the team into a competitive and well-respected program. In 1989, he was voted both the Metropolitan Conference and Division I New England Conference Coach of the Year. That same year, he sent the team's first wrestler to the NCAA's, Matt Gallagher. Senior Dan Sanchez returns at 190 pounds. As the team's best wrestler, last year he posted a 35-6-2 record, winning the Hunter Invitational and taking runner-up in the NY States, Metropolitan Tournament, and New England Championships. Don't be surprised if he makes it to the Division I NCAA's. Sophomore Rob Haydak went 26-11-1 last year, winning the rugged Metropolitan Tournament. He also took third in the Hunter Invitational, and should be in the running for an NCAA berth this year. Frank Swart also returns after posting 18 wins last year. In addition, the team much new talent, including Tom Bolen, heavyweight Joe Burke, 150 Dante Caprio, 126 Jeremy Dellapia, 142 Matt Grapski, 142 Mike Halleran, 118 Heath Macaluso, 177 Phil Martinez, 118, Joe Pettit, 158 and twins Craig and John Reynolds, 167 and 177.

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Doug Irving, editor

Several New Yorkers Capable of NCAA Division One Medals

This is the year! It's been a while in coming, but this year it will happen again. New York State will crown at least one NCAA Division I Wrestling Champion. New York Wrestling News is going out on a limb in making this prediction. It's something we rarely do, but because of the vast talent bank out there, we feel it's a realistic forecast.

The last time New York State had a Division I NCAA Champ was a few years ago, when 126-pound Brad Penrith captured the title while competing for Dan Gable's Iowa University team. The following two years, Penrith took silver medals. He is now active in national freestyle competition, in addition to his assistant coaching duties at Iowa.

The following is a preview of the top prospects, weight-by-weight. Some of these athletes are serious threats to NCAA titles; others are potential medal winners. The top eight in national competition are considered All Americans.

Special thanks goes out to *Wrestling USA Magazine* and their College Editor, Dan Fickel. Much of the following information was compiled and written by Dan in the publication's October 15th issue. For subscription information to *Wrestling USA Magazine*, write to Subscription Department, *Wrestling USA*, PO Box 3028, La Habra, CA 90632-3028.

Advance apologies to anyone who deserves recognition but was left out of this preview. And if you know of someone who should be included, please let us know. Write to us, or better yet, fax us the information at (716) 334-6454.

Jeff Prescott, 118 pounds Prescott, from Penn State, was picked as the forecasted NCAA champ by Dan Fickel. He is considered to be the current number one ranked wrestler in the nation at 118 pounds. Last year, he took a fifth place medal, and is a "high-scoring competitor who is exceptionally strong in the advantage position." Prescott is a rare three-time NYS high school state champ. This past summer, he did a lot of wrestling, including a dual meet against a Soviet team at Brockport State as part of the World Duals series.

Lew Roselli, 118 pounds Roselli is a two-time NYS state champ now competing for Edinboro University. He just missed out on a medal in last year's NCAA's, losing to Prescott by a wide margin. Fickel writes of Roselli, "He has excellent athletic ability", and has ranked Roselli fifth in the nation.

Sam Geraci, 118 pounds While not originally from New York, Geraci now competes for Hofstra University on Long Island. A junior college national champ, Geraci earned a pre-season rank of 27 by Wrestling USA.

Adam Condo, 118 pounds Condo is a senior at Columbia University. He made it to the NCAA's last year, and that experience may help him win a medal this year.

Dave Warnick, 126 Warnick is only a sophomore competing for Army. As a freshman last year, he placed second in the NYS Intercollegiate State championships, and is a devastating pinner capable of pulling out upset

victories.

Fritz Zagorski, 126 Last year Zagorski took a gold medal in NCAA Division III action as a sophomore while competing for Brockport State. And while Division III wrestlers are no longer eligible to compete in the Division I NCAA's, he's included here because he has the ability to place in that division as well. He's a great collegiate wrestler, but is even better at freestyle and Greco wrestling.

Rich Santana, 134 Now a junior at Syracuse University, Santana was ranked sixth by Wrestling USA. Last year he finished eighth in the NCAA's, and according to Dan Fickel, "has a long and lanky body type and is a fabulous rider". He won the EIWA title last year, and has a good chance at a top four or better placefinish this season. While in high school, Santana was a NYS state champ.

Mark Fergesen, 134 Fergesen is ranked 11th in the nation, even though he owns two wins over Santana from last year. Now a sophomore for Cornell, his rivalry with Santana could continue in the NCAA meet, where both should earn medals. He was voted last year's "Freshman of the Year" by *Amateur Wrestling News*, and could even challenge for a national title over the course of his career. Fergesen is

from the state of Oklahoma.

Mike Ferrari, 134 Ferrari is a senior for Army and is ranked 29th in the country right now. With two other NY wrestlers in his weight, he is considered a darkhorse for placing in the NCAA meet. However, he does have the potential to do so, and it's even possible to have three All Americans (Santana, Fergesen, and Ferrari) at 134!

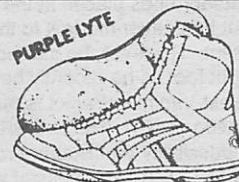
Darren Schulman, 142 According to Fickel of Wrestling USA Magazine, Schulman of Syracuse University "is amazingly strong and capable of defeating anyone." He placed eighth in the nation last year as a junior. This year, he is ranked fourth in the nation. Schulman is originally from New Jersey, where he was a state champ.

Rich Brzozinsky, 142 Rich competed in the NCAA's last year without placing. That experience should help him this year should he earn a return trip. As a high schooler, he was a two-time NYS state champ. He now has a good shot at a medal in the NCAA's and is ranked seventh.

Jason Roach, 150 Roach is a junior transfer at Cornell University. Prior to that, he was a two-time junior college (NJCAA) national champion for Garden City (KS) Community College, destroying most of his competition over the past two seasons. He currently has a ranking of 12. Roach is not originally from New York.

continued on next page

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continued from page 21

Nick Garone, 150 Garone competed for Syracuse University two years ago, winning a state title and qualifying for the national meet. Since then, however, he has transferred to Old Dominion, where he did not compete last year. He was a NYS high school state champ. Fickel ranks him at 31st, but Garone might quickly move up in the rankings once the season starts.

Nick Mauldin, 158 Mauldin, a senior at Army, has previous NCAA experience. Last year, he beat Scott Schleicher of Navy in the EIWA finals. Schleicher later went on to place second in the nationals, proving that Mauldin has the ability to beat anyone. He is not originally from New York. He won the NYS title, and is ranked eighth in the nation by Wrestling USA. His weight class will be loaded with talent should he earn a return trip to the NCAA's. But a top four placefinish is not out of range for Mauldin.

Joe Sabol, 158 Sabol is back for his senior year at Hofstra after redshirting for a year. He was a NYS college champ two years ago, and has added a lot of experience, especially in Greco Roman, since then. Fickel ranks him currently at 20th in the nation.

Jamie St John, 158 A two-time state kingpin in high school, St John now competes for Syracuse. He will be pushed by several talented wrestlers at his weight. He now enjoys a rank of 24 according to Wrestling USA. He is a sophomore.

Bill Stanbro, 167 Stanbro competes for the University of Buffalo, a Division II school in the process of upgrading to Division I. Stanbro has placed in the Division II Nationals, but has never made it to the Division I tournament. However, he started this year out on the right foot as he recently beat Mark Banks of West Virginia. Banks is ranked second in the nation at 167. The two wrestled at 177, but it's a possibility that Stanbro may drop back down to 167. But regardless of weight class, Stanbro has proven that he can hang with the best, and

has to be considered for NCAA Division I medal potential.

Mike New, 167 New is from Cornell. He was runner-up in the NYS college championships last year, and is ranked at 32 right now by Wrestling USA Magazine.

Darrin Farrell, 177 Farrell is returning from a redshirt season at Syracuse University. Fickel ranks him at 21st in the nation, Division I, right ahead of two other New Yorkers, Adam Mariano and Bill Barrow. Farrell has the potential to make it to the Division I NCAA's, and once he's there, there's no telling what could happen.

Adam Mariano, 177 Mariano, now at Penn State, was one of New York State's most dominant high school wrestlers, winning two state titles and taking third as a sophomore. Mariano is a junior. He competed in the NCAA's last year without placing. With the added experience, he has the ability to place this year and then perhaps earn a title before he's finished. He was ranked 22 in Wrestling USA Magazine.

Bill Barrow, 177 Barrow, from Army, is the defending NYS college state champ. A solid performer, he won 35 matches last year for Army, and was ranked 23rd in the nation.

Mark Kerr, 190 Kerr, from Syracuse University, is currently ranked 10th by Wrestling USA's Dan Fickel. However, he is very likely to move up nine or ten places before the end of the season. He redshirted last year, the year Lehigh's Matt Ruppel won the NCAA title. The year before last, though, Kerr beat Ruppel all three times they met. This indicates the potential is there to go all the way.

Dan Sanchez, 190 Sanchez is a veteran wrestler who has placed in several major events. He is a high-scoring threat to everyone he wrestles, and is very capable of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Wrestling USA Magazine ranked him at 32.

Rob Cole, HWT Ranked 22nd in the nation, junior Rob Cole has the potential of

making it the the NCAA meet, where anything is possible.

EJ Pasteur, HWT The defending state champ, Pasteur is ranked 27th in the nation, and is sure to move up quickly. An NCAA medal is definitely within his grasp.

We're sure there are more medal potentials out there. If you know of anyone we have missed, please let us know. You can now fax us information at (716) 334-6454.

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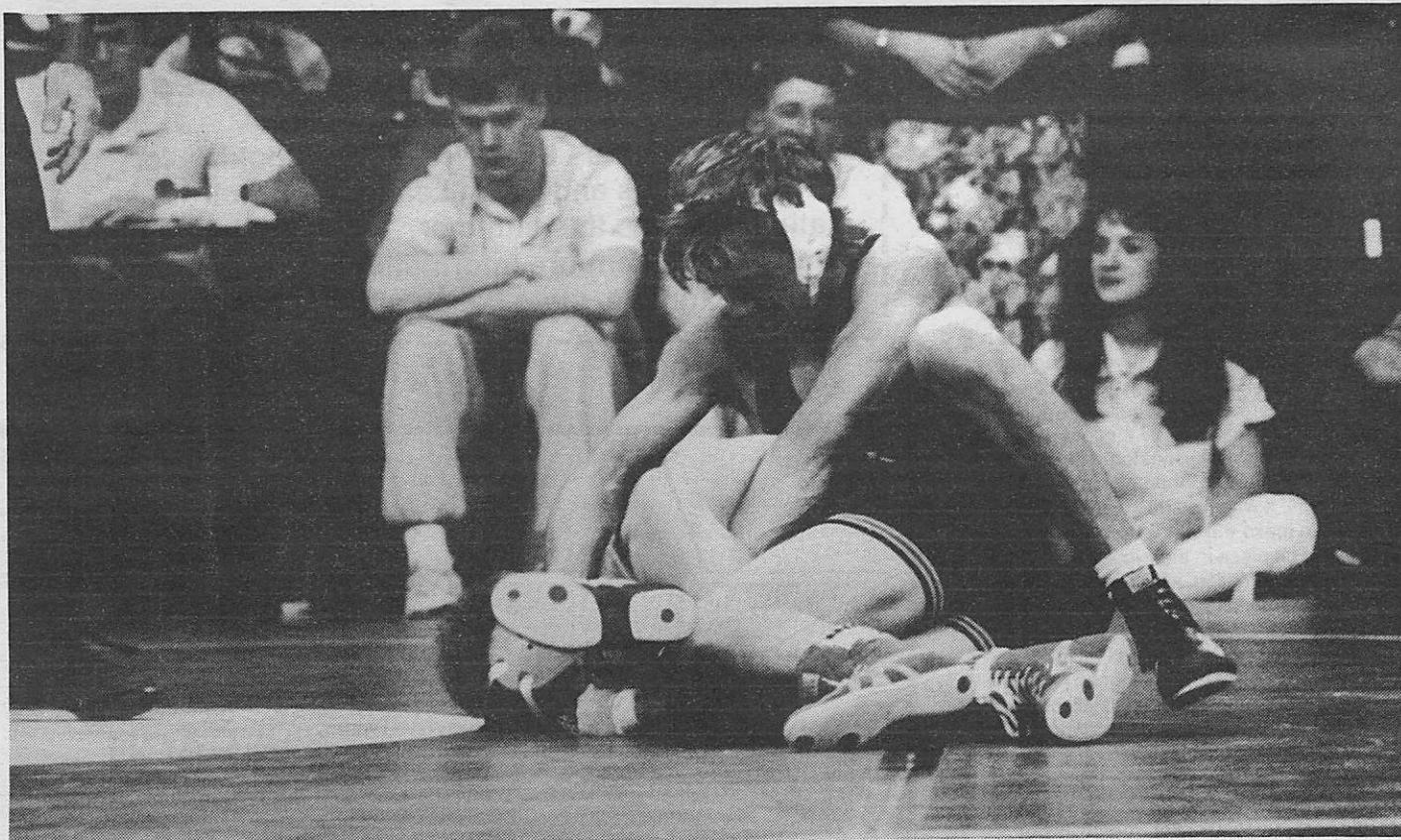
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RICH BRZOZINSKI, of Virginia (top) controls Pat Boyd of Notre Dame in last year's NCAA Division One Championships. Brzozinski is from West Islip-11 High School, and was a two-time NY State Champ. Now in his senior year, he is favored to place in the top eight on the NCAA's. Photo by Peter Venier.

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Shawn Sheldon Takes Fifth in Greco World Championships

Andy Seras and Chris Tironi also compete in World Championships

This year, New York State had three wrestlers who made the US Greco team that traveled to Rome, Italy for the World Championships of Greco Roman Wrestling last month. All three members, Shawn Sheldon, Andy Seras, and Chris Tironi compete for Jets USA, headed by Joe DeMeo. Sheldon and Seras have been to the World Championships before; for Tironi, it was his first.

To make the US Team, wrestlers had to take first place in the rugged US World Team Trials competition, which involves qualifying tournaments, a ladder-style competition, and the best two-out-of-three match series for the finals. Eight NYS wrestlers in all made the Greco Roman US National Team by placing in the top three of the US Team Trials competition. Only the winner of this event, though, qualified for the World Championships, which were held in Rome from October 19th to 21st.

Shawn Sheldon, considered to be the US's best Greco wrestler, regardless of weight, took fifth place at 114.5 pounds. He defeated Shoei Nakamori of Japan 3-1 in the fifth place match. It was Sheldon's first place finish in four trips to the world championships.

To start out the event, he first shut down the Finnish opponent, 4-0. Then he edged the entrant from Columbia, 1-0. In round three, Sheldon beat Bakbam Su of North Korea, 2-1 in 5:48 of overtime. After that, he won by disqualification over the French entrant. In his fifth match, he lost to the Romanian, 11-3. Next he faced the eventual champion from the Soviet Union and lost a close 2-0 match.

To claim fifth, he beat the Japanese wrestler. The Romanian wound up in fourth. Shawn went 5-2 in taking his medal. No other US wrestler won as many matches there as Shawn did. The only US wrestler to place higher than Sheldon was Buddy Lee, 136.5, who went 4-3 in taking fourth place.

At 149.5, **Andy Seras** first beat wrestlers from Finland and China by 4-0 margins. In round three, he faced the German entrant, losing 6-0. In his last match, he lost 5-1 to the Romanian. Both losses were to medal winners (the silver medalist and the fourth placer). He finished at a very respectable 2-2. Last year Seras took ninth.

The other New York wrestler was **Chris Tironi** at 220 pounds. Tironi started off slowly, losing by disqualification to the Czechoslovakian opponent. He got back on track with a disqualification win over the Bulgarian opponent in only 2:12. This in itself was quite a feat, as the Bulgarians are one of the top Greco countries in the world. Not many US wrestlers own wins over Bulgarians. In round three, Tironi again won by disqualification, this time over the Swedish opponent. Next, he lost by 35 second fall to the Hungarian opponent, and another loss, 3-0 in his final match. Overall, he went 2-3 in the event.

Coaches and Team Leaders Needed

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New York State Collegiate Wrestling "Top 80 Individuals" Poll

Poll Coordinator
 Mike Morone
 NY Wrestling News

WGT	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SEVENTH	EIGHTH
118	Adam Condo Columbia (Sr)	Tom Larson Army (So)	Matt McLenahan NYU (Sr)	Marat Lempert Oneonta (Jr)	Drew Black Syracuse (Jr)	Steve Mitola Albany (Jr)	Marc McFarland Cornell (So)	Ron Sinacore Hunter (Sr)
126	Fritz Zagorski Brockport (Jr)	Dave Warnick Army (So)	Dave Regina Oneonta (Sr)	Ralph Tubello Hofstra (So)	Steve Trumpet Syracuse (Sr)	David Sims Cornell (So)	Chris Bannister St Lawrence (So)	Jim Hunt Buffalo (Sr)
134	Marc Furgeson Cornell (So)	Rich Santana Syracuse (Jr)	Mike Ferrari Army (Sr)	Pat Greenlee Hofstra (Sr)	Rick Pawlewicz St Lawrence (Jr)	Jeff LaMountain Albany (Jr)	Chris Stevens Brockport (Jr)	Todd Hammerlee Buffalo (Jr)
142	Jack Vantress Army (Jr)	Corey McCaslin Columbia (So)	David Salemme Cornell	Nelson Colley Brockport (Jr)	Ilias Diakamihalis RIT (Sr)	Ken Kaufman Binghamton (Sr)	Van Fronhofer Albany (So)	Bryan Mirabella Hunter (Jr)
150	Darren Schulman Syracuse (Sr)	Jason Roach Cornell (Jr)	Doug McCormick Army (Sr)	Dan Holahan Hofstra (Jr)	Mike Wade Oswego (Sr)	DJ Simonton Brockport (So)	Bill Mallin Albany (Sr)	Don Duell Potsdam (So)
158	Joe Sabol Hofstra (Sr)	Jamie St John Syracuse (So)	John Pavlin Albany (Jr)	Tom Gleason St Lawrence (Sr)	Bob Whalen Cornell (So)	Rob Price Oswego (Sr)	Pat Quinn Cortland (So)	Neal Wright Army (Sr)
167	Nick Mauldin Army (Sr)	Mike New Cornell (Jr)	Rick Sadwick Syracuse (So)	Bill Stanbro Buffalo (Sr)	Khari Freeman Columbia (Jr)	Greg Jones Albany (Sr)	Steve Amyot Oswego (Jr)	Kevin Kennedy Hunter (Sr)
177	Bill Barrow Army (Sr)	Darrin Farrell Syracuse (Jr)	Ben Morgan Cornell (Jr)	Rich Calkins Binghamton (Jr)	Bill Barker Brockport (Jr)	Jon Boyd RIT (Sr)	John LaMarr Hofstra (Sr)	John Mankowich Cortland (Sr)
190	Mark Kerr Syracuse (Jr)	Brian Quick Brockport (Jr)	Alex Porcelli Army (Sr)	Dan Sanchez Wagner (Sr)	Tim Szwec Cornell (Sr)	Dave Grabenstatter Buffalo (Sr)	Bill Hadsell Ithaca (Sr)	Chris Roberts Albany (Sr)
HWT	EJ Pasteur Army (Sr)	Rob Cole Syracuse (Jr)	Shawn Cavanaugh Cortland (Jr)	PJ Wendel Brockport (Jr)	Jeff Way St Lawrence (So)	Mike Delibero Hofstra (Jr)	Joe Muscarella Buffalo (Jr)	Matt Ladka Oswego (So)

NOTE: The New York State "Top 80 Individuals" includes only wrestlers who are enrolled full-time and NCAA eligible. As determined by the NYS Collegiate Wrestling Coach's Poll Committee. Freshmen are not eligible for the pre-season poll, but will be considered for all forth-coming polls.

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PITTSBURGH, PA - Twelve matches will be on the card at the greatest wrestling event of all time, the Grand Masters of Olympic Wrestling. For the second straight year, Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania will help to organize this all-star wrestling challenge, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA on December 27th at the Civic Arena.

The event, which marked the first time in history that Olympic wrestlers competed for significant prize money will be bigger and better in 1990. The greatest wrestlers in the world have been invited to Pittsburgh, to face America's top stars in the richest event in Olympic wrestling. The 1990 bout card features wrestlers who have won a combined total of 37 world or Olympic titles, easily the greatest collection of superstars ever assembled in the United States.

John Smith, America's world champion in 1990 and the winner of four straight world titles at 136.5 pounds, will be joined by the other four American medalists for the 1990 world meet: Royce Alger (180.5), Chris Campbell (198), Kirk Trost (220), and Bruce Baumgartner (286).

Five other freestyle wrestling stars, who have won or medaled in other major world events in their career, have also been invited to compete. They are Zeke Jones, 114.5, Nate Carr, 149.5, Randy Lewis, 149.5, John Giura, 149.5, and Kenny Monday, 163.

For the first time, Greco Roman wrestlers are invited. Two members of the 1990 Greco Roman Team USA, Buddy Lee, 136.5, and Matt Ghaffari, 286, have been invited to face the world champions in their weight divisions.

The highlight of the Greco events, and perhaps the entire competition, will be Soviet superstar 286 pound Alexander Karelin, who has won three straight world titles. He has never been beaten in major international competition, and is considered to be the strongest, most dominant wrestler alive.

The announcement of the Thrift Drug Main Event match, which will offer higher prize money and larger attention than the other bouts, will be made at a press conference in Pittsburgh in November. The total of the prize money purses to be offered this year will also be announced at that time. At last year's event, a record \$65,000 was awarded in eleven bouts. The prize money is expected to be much higher for this year's event.

Wrestling officials hope to break the national attendance record, set at this event in 1989 with 9,669 fans.

For ticket and other information, contact USA Wrestling, 225 South Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80910. Or call (719) 597-8333.

Bout Card

114.5 Zeke Jones, US vs. Valentin Jordanov, Bulgaria
Jones placed fourth in the 1990 Worlds. Jordanov is a four-time World champion.

136.5 (Greco) Buddy Lee, US vs. Mario Oliveras, Cuba
Lee placed fourth in the 1990 Worlds; Oliveras is the 1990 World champ.

136.5 John Smith, US vs. Lazaro Reinoso, Cuba
Smith has won four straight World titles; Reinoso is the only man to beat Smith in 1990.

149.5 Nate Carr, US vs. Arsen Fadzaev, USSR
Carr was the 1988 Olympic bronze medalist; Fadzaev has six World championships.

149.5 John Giura, US vs. Boris Budaev, USSR
Giura was 1990 World Cup champion; Budaev was the 1989 World champion.

149.5 Randy Lewis, US vs. Stepan Sarkissian, USSR
Lewis was 1984 Olympic champion; Sarkissian was the 1988 Olympic silver medalist.

163 Kenny Monday, US vs. Raahmat Sofiyadi, Bulgaria
Monday is a World and Olympic champion; Sofiyadi is the 1990 World champ.

180.5 Royce Alger, US vs. Josef Lohyna, Czech.
Alger was the 1990 World runner-up; Lohyna was the 1990 World champ.

198 Chris Campbell, US vs. Makharbek Khadartsev, USSR
Campbell was the 1981 World champ; Khadartsev has five straight World titles.

220 Kirk Trost, US vs. Leri Khabelov, USSR
Trost was the 1990 World bronze medalist; Khabelov is a three-time World champ.

286 (Greco) Matt Ghaffari, US vs. Alexander Karelin, USSR
Ghaffari was sixth in the 1990 Worlds; Karelin is a three-time World champ.

286 Bruce Baumgartner, US vs. David Gobedjshvili, USSR
Baumgartner is a World and Olympic champ; Gobedjshvili is a three-time world champ.

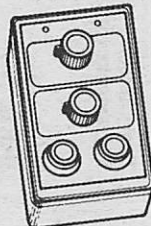
NYS Collegiate Pre-Season Team Poll

- 1 Army
- 2 Syracuse
- 3 Cornell
- 4 SUNY Brockport
- 5 Buffalo
- 6 St Lawrence
- 7 Albany
- 8 Hofstra
- 9 Columbia
- 10 Ithaca
- 11 Oswego
- 12 Cortland
- 13 Oneonta
- 14 Binghamton
- 15 Potsdam

Poll No 90:1
Early November 1990
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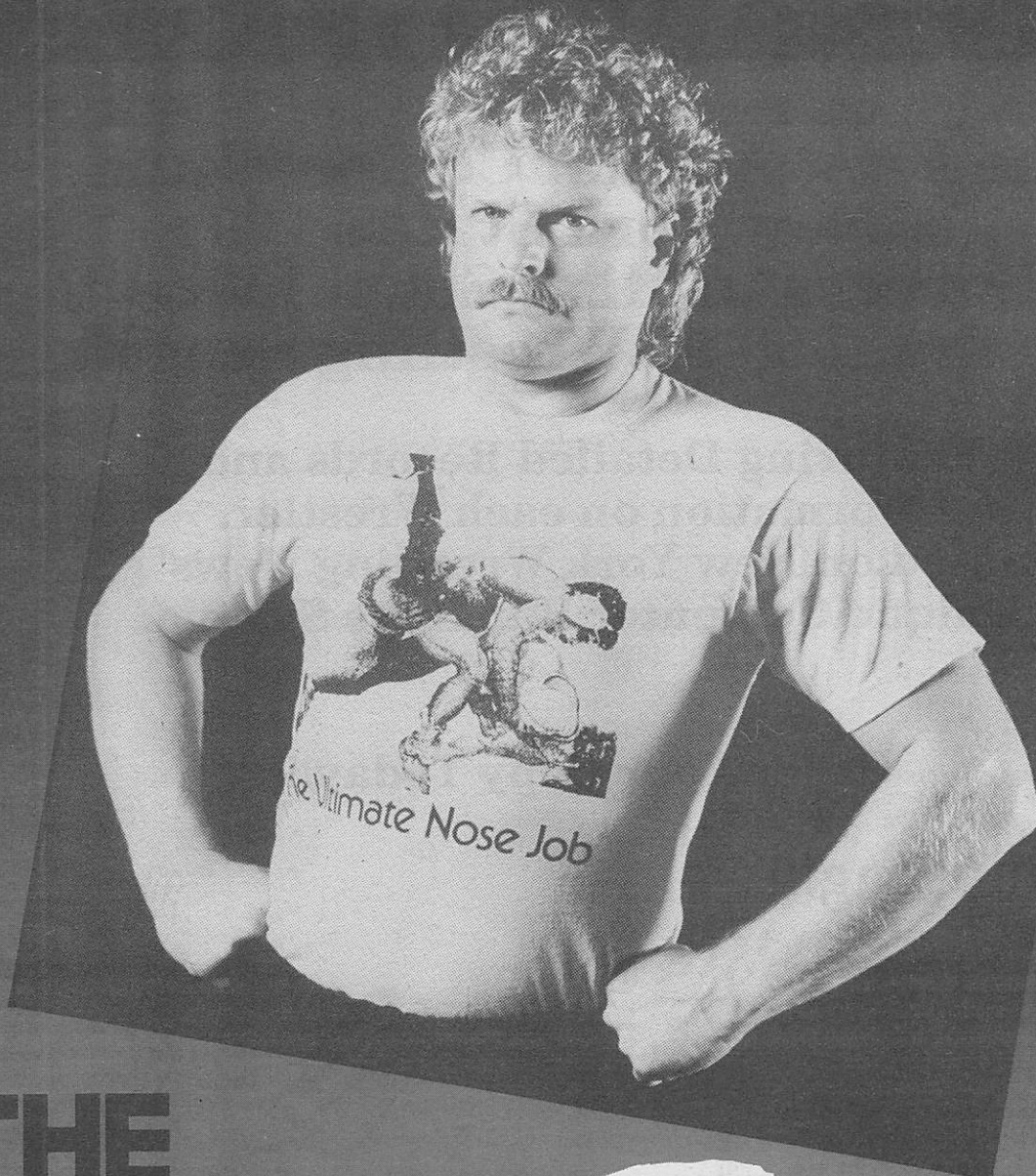
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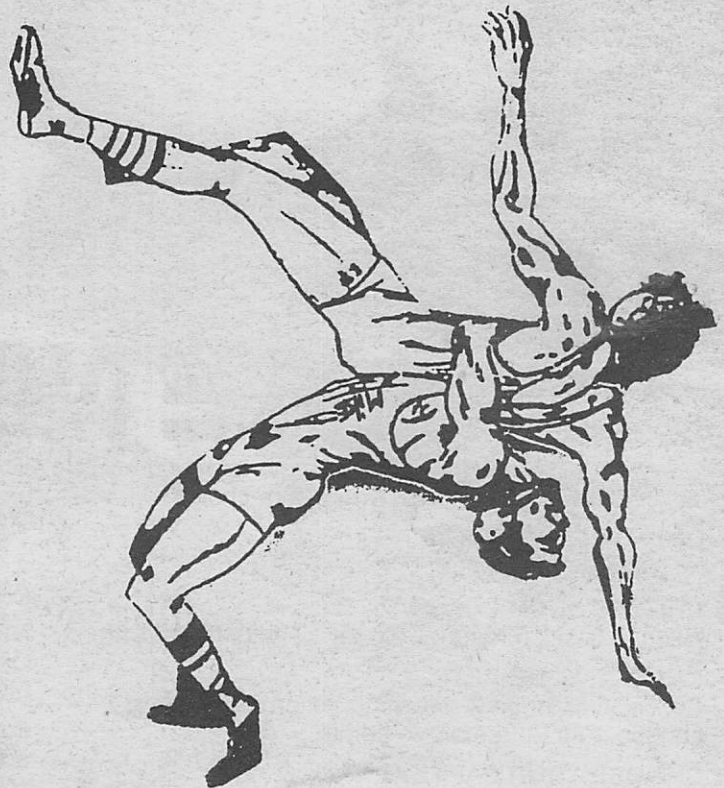
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