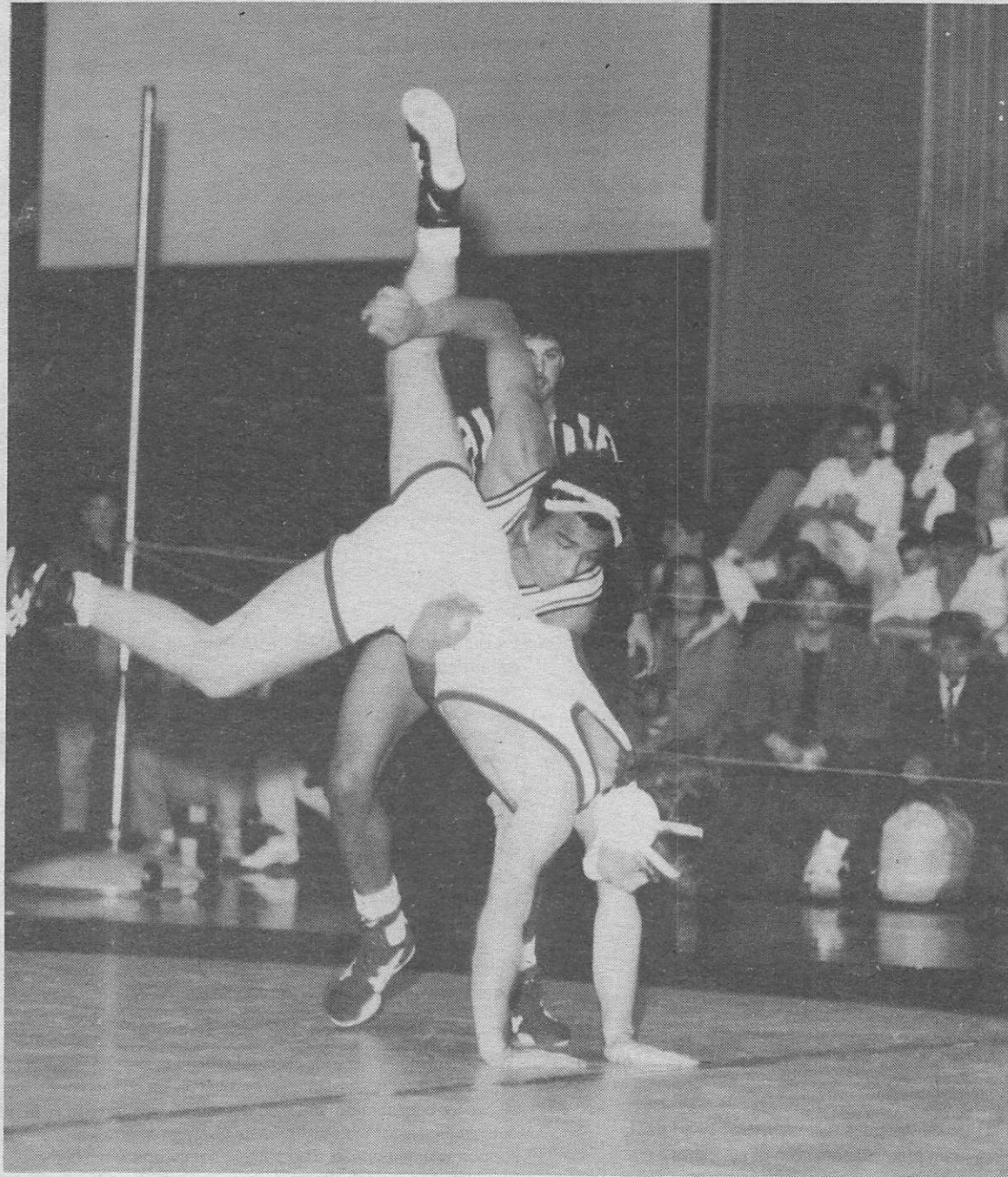


# *New York Wrestling News*

Amateur Wrestling - New York Style!    Volume 2, Number 5    February 1991

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**State Tournament Preview Issue!**

**Gerald Odom  
Upends  
Mark Chapman  
in 7-6 win**  
Photo by Peter Venier

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# New York 100 Nomination Form

**Deadline: March 12, 1991**

**Shipping: May, 1991**

The New York 100 is a computer ranking of the Top 100 high school wrestlers in New York State for the 1990-91 season. It is compiled by New York Wrestling News, and is purchased by major colleges across the country. It is also sent to over 300 newspapers in New York. Making the Top 100 or the Honorable Mention will make people more aware of you. We take many things into consideration for ranking - career wins, tournaments won, Sectional placefinishes, and State placefinishes. To be considered for ranking, fill out this form, using the back and other sheets if needed. Sign the form, have your coach sign it, and mail it in by March 12, 1991. You can also fax it to us at (716) 334-6454. Your signature gives us permission to publish this information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_ Coach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coach's Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Average \_\_\_\_\_ Career W/L Record \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area of interest / major subjects studied \_\_\_\_\_  
 Future plans (concerning college, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

State place-finishes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sectional placefinishes \_\_\_\_\_

Below, list your varsity won/loss record, number of tournaments won, and other honor won each year. Include off-season events, especially Empire Games, Freestyle and Greco State Championships, and National Junior places.

grade	record	number of tournaments won, top wrestlers beaten, other honors
7th		
8th		
9th		
10th		
11th		
12th		
career varsity won/loss record:		
total number of tournaments won (NOT including Sectional or States):		

List any hobbies or special interests you have \_\_\_\_\_

On the back of this form, list any other special honors you have won or top-ranked wrestlers you have beaten. Include as much information as you can! Then mail this form in or fax it to us by March 12, 1991.

Wrestler's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Coach's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**To reserve your copy of The New York 100, send in a check for \$5.00 payable to "New York Wrestling News".**

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 (716) 334-6454 voice and facsimile Mike Morone, editor



# NY State Championship Tournament Preview

An Extremely Talented Crop of Wrestlers from every Section will make this year's High School State Championship Tournament the Best Ever!

In an attempt to make fans more aware of some of the wrestling talent in New York State, the following is a run-down of some wrestlers you may be seeing at the State Championship Tournament on March 1st and 2nd. It is not all-inclusive, as there are several talented wrestlers out there we just don't know about.

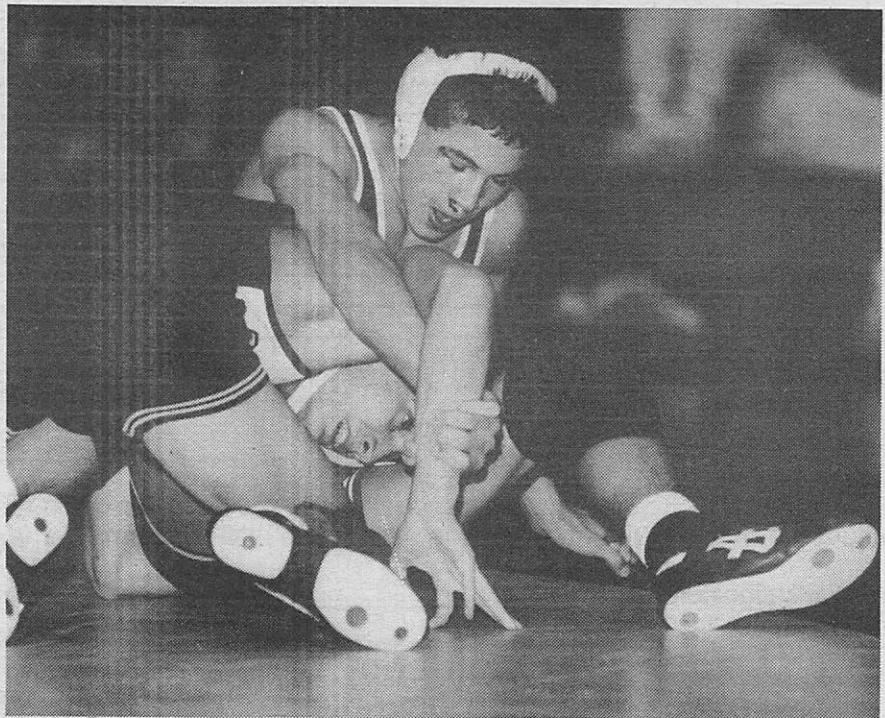
**91** Todd Rutecki, out of Fowler-3, is a senior in a weight class that features mostly underclassmen. In addition, Rutecki is a versatile, experienced wrestler who competes year-round. His combination of talent, skill, and maturity will make him hard to beat. Jeff Reese of Elmira Southside-4 is also talented, but is out with an injury. He has looked especially tough in scoring many pins and technical falls in winning several tournaments. He's only an eighth grader, so look for future greatness out of him. Even without him, Section Four looks loaded for bear, with the likes of Jason Goldman of Maine-Endwell, Dave Dubrava, Chenango Forks, Doug Riddell, Whitney Point, and Jeff Geller of Elmira Free Academy. Goldman beat Reese in January, Dubrava beat Goldman in the recent STAC Championships, and Riddell is right up there with all of them. David Hardwick of Valley Central-9 and Corey Bushey of North Adirondack-7 competed in the states last year and will also be tough to beat if they're at 91 again. Out of Long Island come two tough competitors, Brian Fischenich, a junior from Huntington, and Rason Phifer, an eighth grader from Longwood. Mike Steinbar of Salamanca, Ken Rowe of Ripley, and Dave Brewer of Niagara-Wheatfield are favored in Section Six. One of them may be taking home a state medal. Some of the top wrestlers from Section Five who may be in Syracuse include Dave Ritoli, Spencerport, Brian Roberts, Athena, Peter Cooper, Palmyra-Macedon, and Rod Frey, East Rochester.

Out of Section Two Mark Yanigihara, Ballston Spa, will be in Syracuse. He beat a tough but young Eric Terry of Whitehall in the Section Two finals. Section Eight may offer either Jason Gabel of Bethpage or D. Pellechia of Plainedge. Look for either Eric Pellerin of Saranac or Kevin Gregory of Northern Adirondack to wear the Section Seven singlet. Both are tough competitors who have spilt matches this year. Others who may be earning state medals include Roman Rodriguez, North Rockland-1, Barry McShaw, Mount Vernon-1, Kieven Mack, White Plains-1, Steve Duscharm, Reg Hook-9, Doug Hartwick, Valley Central-9, Bob Pavis, Monsignor Farrell-Cath. This weight class contains a lot of wrestlers who are not afraid to come out shooting from the opening whistle. Look for tons of action at 91!

**98** James Douglas of Bethpage-8 took a strong third place at last year's state tournament. Now at the same weight, he should now be a contender for the title. He is only a junior now, and looks to win big in Section Eight. Last year he went unscored on in the Sectional tournament. He is currently 27-1, with most of his matches coming at 105 and 112. Right behind him is Mike Merry, from Union-Endicott-4. Merry lost 13-5 to Douglas in last year's state tournament and placed fourth. Two weeks ago he lost a squeaker to Shane Mack of Ithaca-4. From that same section Matt Downey of Norwich also looks great, as does Gary Horton of Vestal. Clarence Hunt of Niagara Falls-6 took fifth last year and is top-seeded in Section Six. He will be challenged by Mark Keller, Amherst and Joel Griffith of Niagara Wheatfield for the Section Six crown. The winner of this class could do well at the states. Lenny Fries, Lindenhurst is top-ranked in Section Eleven, but just recently dropped an overtime loss to sophomore Keith Matias of Centereach. Either one could take the Sectional title as well as a state medal. Jon Tyler of Canastota-3 is also looking very good. He placed sixth in last year's state tournament at 91 pounds. Section Five may be sending Jason Barbera, Spencerport, Jeff Bowman, Penfield, Dan Nier, Greece Athena, Mark Regoird, Eastridge, Bob D'Arduini,

Palmyra-Macedon, Kevin Schojan, Marion, or Don Henner, Red Creek. Section Seven will most likely be sending Corey Bushey, who's been winning big at 105 all year. Challenging him for the Sectional title will be Saranac's Ben LaPlante. Another challenger from Seven is David Rabidau of Beekmantown. Two years ago, he made it to the states as only a seventh grader. Now a freshmen, he owns a 2-2 draw with Bushey, last year's Section Seven champ. From Section One, Brett Adams is top seeded. One of his top challengers, Craig Rowe, Ossining, did not make weight and will not be competing for a state berth. Others who have a shot at making the states are David Overton, John Jay-East Fishkill-1, Joe Franek, Red Hook-9, Doug Hartwick, Valley Central-9, and Steve Conlon. Karl Ruud of Burnt Hills-2 was in last year's state tournament. He owns a win over Merry this year, and may well win a state medal this year. Karl Ruud of Burnt Hills qualified by earning the Section Two title with a 3-2 win over JOsh Goldberg of Niskayuna. Ruud competed in last year's state tournament, and with his experience, should be very tough to beat.

**105** The clear favorite here is defending state champ Craig Vitagliano of Plainedge-8. As a junior last year, he took the title at 98. He is currently undefeated and should



**BRIAN BETANCOURT**, top-ranked in Section 11, battles John Jaeger from Sachem in the finals of the Sachem Holiday Tournament. Betancourt is from Smithtown East, and both wrestlers are highly regarded throughout New York. Photo by Peter Venier.



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easily win his third consecutive Section 8 title. This weight class in Syracuse will be very strong, yet his experience and superior takedown skills make him the top seed. Alex Croog of Brighton-5 looks great at this weight, and is favored to make it out of Section Five. His challengers will be Mark Voci, McQuaid, Joe Barbera, Spencerport, Jason Sutton, Newark, Tony Ricotta, Perry, and George Washburn, Red Jacket. Year-round competitor Mike Jamison of Fowler-3 may also be a finalist. He's got tons of experience in all styles and placed in the states last year. Challenging him for the Sectional crown will be Baldwinsville's Chris Cali, Veron-Verona-Sherrill's TO Oliver, and Tully's Craig Conant. Conant was state runner-up two years ago at 91 pounds. Section Eleven will most likely offer Ralph Mennechino or Jose Cavero. Both have state medal potential. Craig Bushey of Northern Adirondack-7 will most likely make a return trip to Syracuse in the hopes of taking home a medal. Battling for the Section One honors may be Eric Amato of John Jay-East Fishkill and Chaz Stevenson of Edgemont. Chris Stevens, Fredonia, Chris Colfield, Orchard Park, and Marc Duquette, Tonawanda all have good chances of winning the Section Six tournament. Mark Aquilar of Washingtonville-9 was a match away from a state medal last year. He'll be challenged in Section Nine by Brian Pickell of Ellenville. Peter

Smith of St Anthony's-Cath looks like another good pick for a high state medal. He'll have to get past George Mellow of Blessed Sacrament to make it to Syracuse though. Jamie Loeffler of Susquehanna Valley, Dave Bronson, Windsor, Jeremy Matviak, Sidney, and Ken Hoover of Waverly all have the chance to make it out of Section Four, while Larry Fontaine of Queensbury will represent Section Two. Fontaine was in the states last year as well.

112 The favorite here just may be freshman Terry Showalter of Whitesboro-3. As an eighth grader last year, he placed fourth in the states, losing in the consolations to a wrestler he had earlier beaten. Other co-favorites include Baldwin-8's Craig Schlifstein, and Suffern-1's Chris Matteotti. Schlifstein is extremely tough and versatile. He made it to the states two years ago and is eager for a return trip. He's a year-round wrestler who's experienced a great deal of success in all styles. Matteotti has to be NYS's best wrestler without a sectional title. Should he finally take the Section One crown, he may add the state crown as well. He is big, slick, and strong, and should make an excellent college wrestler in the upcoming years. Mike Artis, also very talented, will seek to upend Matteotti for the State berth. Section Six is jam-packed with

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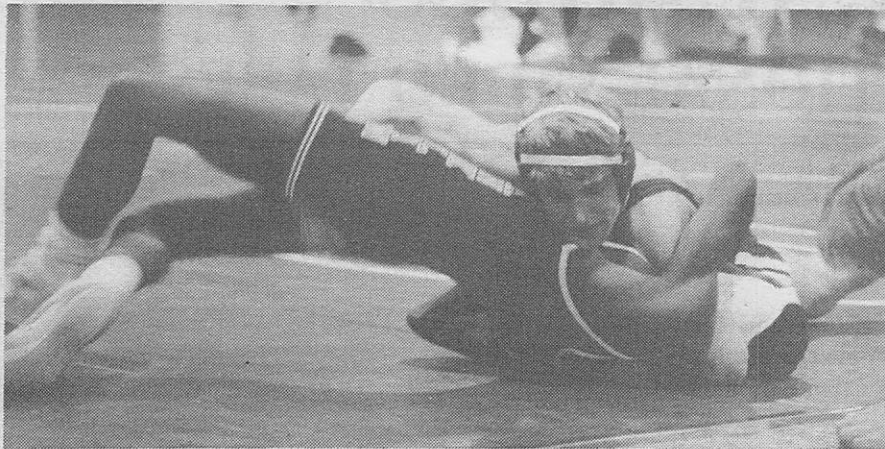
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ALEX CROOG, Brighton-5 105 pounds, pinning Franklin's Ismael Jackson in mid-season tournament action. Croog, a junior, placed in the states as a freshman and is favored to earn a return trip to Syracuse for this year's State Championships. Photo by Nancy Kise.

## State Preview, continued

weight, featuring Jeff Tufano, Port Jervis, Mike Wojehowski, Cornwall, and Josh Jones, Onteora. Tufano was fifth at 105 in last year's states, and Wojehowski has been a consistent winner all season. Jones took an impressive third place in the awesome Mid-Hudson tournament, beating former state place-finisher Ken Wojehowski (who is injured now), Mike Aquilar, and Kyle Sibley. According to Section Nine experts, Jones is a legitimate contender for the Sectional title. Brian Betancourt, a senior out of Smithtown East, is top-ranked in Section Eleven. Challenging him will be John Jaeger of Sachem, Tim Chapman of Riverhead, and Tom Smith of Huntington. Section Seven will most likely offer Chad Kennedy of Peru or Rob Donnelly of Beekmantown. Kennedy has been very successful at 119 for most of the year, and Donnelly is not far behind. The Catholic league will most likely send Hector Cruz, a senior out of Fordham Prep with a 26-2 record. From Section Four, look for either state bronze medalist Jason Chervak of Maine Endwell, Ted Secoolish of Johnson City, Kelly Patterson of Vestal, and Neil Peraza of Norwich. A talented four-some, with Chervak getting the top seed, as well as the top seed in the state overall. Jake Gardner of Hoosick Falls will represent Section Two in the state meet. Don Spaulding of Hilton was last year's Section Five rep, but he recently dropped a 2-1 thriller to Brian Pintagro of Irondequoit. To add to this, Section Five also has hopefuls in Shaft Harrell, Webster, Mike Kohl, Fairport, Tim Steingass, Newark, and Hector Dessis, Lyons.

119 If you thought Juan Carlos Garcia was good last year, wait till you see him this year. An off-season full of wrestling has served to sharpen Garcia's already immense talents. Recently, he became Section One's all-time

winningest wrestlers by beating David Amuso by injury default. Ironically, Amuso's older brother, Joe, had the previous Section One record of 152 wins. Garcia has 160 and counting. Garcia is 31-0 this year. In five tournaments he's entered and won, he's won four Most Outstanding Wrestler awards to boot. Sources close to Garcia indicate he could have made 112 for the states, but wanted to move up to prove how good he really is. And he'll do it, too. His top challenger, Jeff Duque of Valley Central-9, looks to be up at 126. Duque came within a point of Garcia, 4-3, in the Mid-Hudson finals. That has been Garcia's only close match of the year. The entrant from Section Five can be either Felix Medero of McQuaid, Russ Davis of Brighton, Jeff Mohr of Spencerpot, John Pixley of Penfield, Jason Knisely of Waterloo, or Shannon Davis of Warsaw. Section Two will send Rich Barcomb of Hudson Falls, while Section Four will most likely be sending Johnson City's Joe Toner. Toner has good experience, he's rough and tough, and he's fast. Challenging Toner will be Ron Vosburg of Elmira Free Academy, Ed Andres of Susquehanna Valley, and David Iacovelli of Ithaca, who's been coming on strong lately. A couple of favorites from Section 11 are Nick Mancuso of Kings Park and Cameron Jenkins of William Floyd, both seniors. The top threat to Garcia will most likely come from Section 3's Bryan Roggie of Beaver River, who took fourth in last year's state tournament. Campbell of Long Beach and Tarpey of Massapequa are favored in Section 8. Tough and experienced Rob Bashaw will probably be returning to Syracuse. From Section 7's Peru, Bashaw was fourth in last year's state tournament. He beat Mike Jamison there and has also beaten Chris Matteotti last year. Chappy Manzer of Peekskill is favored to make the states from Section 1, with Section 6 packed with talent here. Top seed is Marty Siminski of Lancas-

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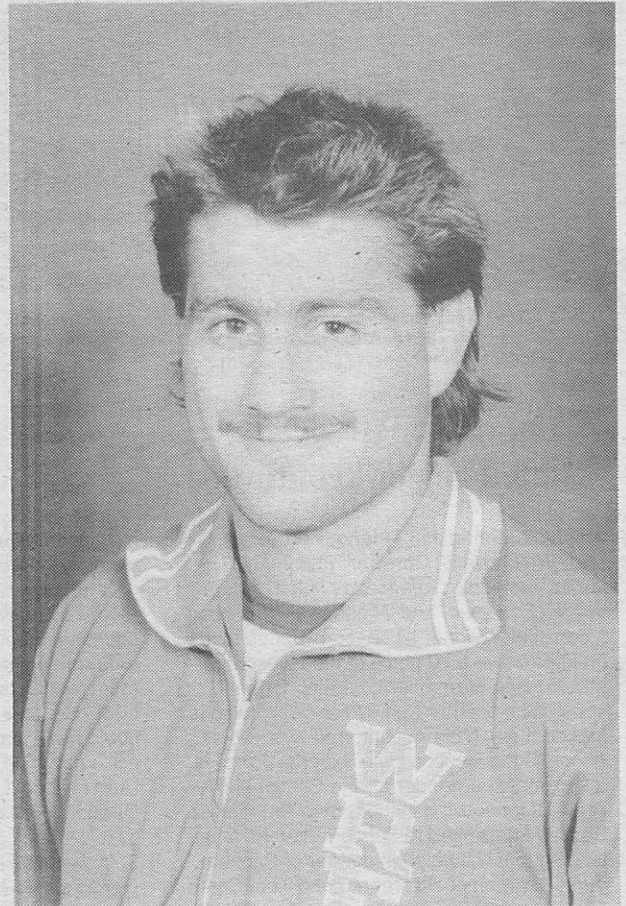
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## State Preview, continued

ter, with state placefinisher Bill Dixon of Niagara-Wheatfield second seeded. Althere there is last year's sectional runner-up Rene Crisafulli, who was the only one to beat Jason Wartinger last year. John Morrello, a very successful wrestler, is not even seeded there, and to top it off, last year's Section 6 champ, Chris Raiber, is also unseeded! Kyle Sibley of Valley Central-9 is favored in that section, but has recently lost to Brian Kirkpatrick of Cornwall. Rob Dinnino of Chaminade-Cath took fourth last year, and should also challenge. He's 19-0, having just pinned his way to the league title.

**126** Doug Groncki of Burnt Hills-2 took second last year by the narrowest of margins. This year could be the real deal for him. He's ready for it, that's for sure. He just won the Section 2 title by first scoring a 50 second pin, then a technical fall, a 1:00 pin, and then an amazing 19 second pin over Rick Grembocki in the finals. Look for Groncki to come out swinging in Syracuse. Section 5 has a sleeper for the title in smooth technician Justin Raines of Spencerport. To make in out of the section, though, Raines will have to get past a hustling Rusty Grant of Brighton, Peter Friello of Rush-Henrietta, Jason Chuley of Waterloo, Mark Buda of Williamson, Jason Barber of Geneseo, and Tim Hermann of Byron Bergen. Joel Ferrara of Sidney should get the not for Section 4. He's been up at 132 and above all year, and looks real good now. Section 4 fans are looking for performances reminiscent of his older brother, Tony Ferrara, who for two years, won a number of one-point cliffhangers all year till he got to the states, where he turned into a point-scoring monster. Providing a worthy challenge to Ferrara will be Mike Elliott of Watkins Glen, Jim Kohlbach of Windsor, and Pat Bruce of Johnson City. Longwood-11's Chris Conway is also expected to earn a return trip to Syracuse, where he will have the experience to go with anyone. Out of Section 3, Jim Loffredo of Baldwinsville looks dominant, with possible challengers in Steve Caruso of New Hartford and Jim Roggie of Beaver River. Section 8 is jammed up at this weight with defending champ John Posada of Long Beach, Brett Gould, and Lewis DiMaria of Herricks. Gould is a former Sectional champ who recently beat Posada. Chris Howard of Saranac and Matt Thomas of Peru are top-ranked in Section 7. In Section 1, two state placewinners will battle for a return trip to Syracuse, Tom DiTore of Sufern and Phil Donnelly of Pearl River. DiTore is a senior while Donnelly is only a sophomore. DiTore recently won 2-0 over Donnelly. Section 6 will be represented by either Shannon Hein, Sweet Home and Chris Johnson, Falconer. Perhaps Groncki's top challenger will be Jeff Duque of Valley Central-9. He's a two-time state

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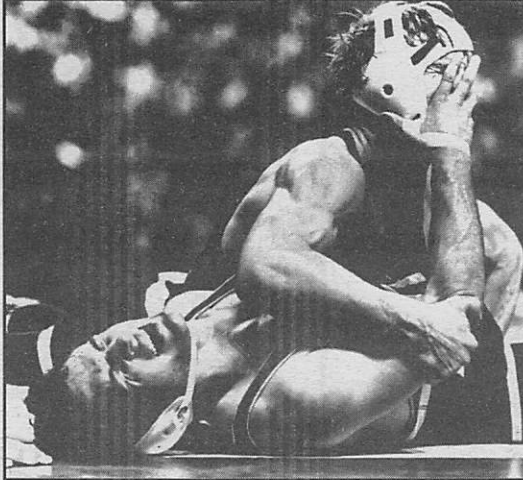
## State Preview, continued

DiTore of Suffern and Phil Donnelly of Pearl River. DiTore is a senior while Donnelly is only a sophomore. DiTore recently won 2-0 over Donnelly. Section 6 will be represented by either Shannon Hein, Sweet Home and Chris Johnson, Falconer. Perhaps Groncki's top challenger will be Jeff Duque of Valley Central-9. He's a two-time state placefinisher who would have done great at last year's tournament if not for a season-ending injury. He's back now, and has beaten everyone except for Garcia, whom he lost only 4-3. Challenging him will be a very able Mike Castro of Washingtonville. Bart DiBellis of Onteora is also in the fray. Chris Tucci of St Anthony's of the Catholic league came one match away from a medal in Syracuse last year. He's 12-1-1 and looking for improvement this year.

132 Like 126, the favorite here is from Burnt Hills - Chad Groncki. He was also runner-up in the states last year, and is a typical Burnt Hills product - tough, skilled, and ready to wrestle. From Section 5, expect either Yancee Fritz, Brighton, Brad Dioguardi, Batavia, Vince Accaicio, Irondequoit, or Todd Miller of Marion. All are tough competitors, and Miller is the only person to beat state champ Kenny Porter over the past two years. Section 4 has Tim DePumpo of Waverly as it's favorite, with others including CJ Hansen of Oxford, Roland Grap of Spencer-Van Etten-Candor, and Larry Russell. While seeded just fourth in Section 4, Russell has been to the states before and could prove hard to beat. Ray Lizzoll, Longwood and Gerald Odom, Walt Whitman, are two Section 11 seniors who look super-tough. Steve Caruso of New Hartford is tops so far in Section 3, with Shawn Akley of Oswego and Mark Virkler of Whitesboro also good. Shawn Edwards of Peru has been to Syracuse more times than Greyhound, and proved himself early in the year by beating Chad Groncki in a dual meet. Mitch Clark of Canton, Section 10, owns a wins over Edwards. He competed in the states last year, and will be in good shape to earn a medal this year. Section 1 is hot at 132, with the likes of Nick Grimaldi, Somers, Shawn Carmody, Pearl River, Chris JeJesus, Mamaroneck, Mike Costanzo, and Mike DiBellis, Carmel. Grimaldi looks to be the tops here, but the others are all legitimate also. Dan Weller, Franklinville, Chris Lemmo, Amherst, and Matt Dawson, Newfane, have about 100 wins between them this season. Any one here could be a state medal winner. The tops in Section 9 are Mike Gardianos of Minisink Valley and Fred Park of Saugerties. Steven Nikolakakos of Forham Prep-Cath came within a 1-0 match away from a state medal. He's 23-1 for the year so far.


138 What a weight class this is going to be in Syracuse! Let's start by talking Kenny Porter. Coming from tiny Alfred-Almond in Section 5, Porter is the defending state

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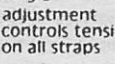
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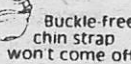
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champ at this weight. He's got 143 career wins against just 13 losses, and he's won the past 60 matches in a row without a loss. On the mat, Porter is confident, highly skilled, powerful, and tireless. Off-seasons full of wrestling have honed his skills, and he looks ready for a return trip to the top step in Syracuse. It won't be exactly as easy task, as he'll have some good competition right within his own section from Fairport's Matt Logan (currently undefeated), Ron Sanger, Athena, Eric Kellenbeck, Spencerport, and Kurt Laird of Sodus. Should he make it to Syracuse, Porter's competitor will be familiar foes. John Spiegelman of Suffern-1 was runner-up to Porter last year. Over the summer, he first beat, then lost to Kenny in the Empire Games. He's currently undefeated at 29-0 and highly favored in Section 1. Another challenger is Fowlwer-3's Kareeb Howard, who split freestyle matches with Porter over the summer. He's also powerful, talented, and very competitive - considered one of the best in Section 3 at any weight. At this point, Porter is the favorite, but the other two have upset potential. Speaking of upsets, a big one occurred in Section 2, where Shawn Nautel of Niskayuna beat Jeff Prendergast of

Averill Park, 3-2, to take the crown and earn his state berth. Section 4 will have a few barnburners in determining its champion. There's Joe Telesky of Norwich, who is considered a "rural wrestler" - very tough, with a mean streak, and devoted to wrestling. Up to this year, he's been unable to win the big matches. But his recent STAC championship proves he's over that hump. A very tenacious competitor, he succeeds in antagonizing his opponents while breaking them down. He beat Johnson City's Keith Smith in the STAC finals, but Smith owns a win against him from last year. There's also a very tough Gus Gorman, Horseheads, who's beaten Telesky early in the year, and a fourth wrestler, Scott Radian of Windsor. Either of these four have state medal potential - it's a matter of who has the better day on the day of the Section 4 Championships. Jason Burke, Longwood, and Tim Godoy, Sachem, are two others capable of state medals. From Section 11, Burke is the defending County champ, and Godoy has split matches with Burke. Mark Napalitano of Massapequa and Phil Coniglio of Bethpage are two top-ranked Section 8 wrestlers

## New York Wrestling News

who may be in Syracuse. Trevor Dauphinais of Northern Adirondack in Section 7 has beaten Sectional champ Andy Duprey of Peru recently, and is now considered a favorite for that title. Bob McMurdy of Cassadaga Valley and Ben Heckathorn of Pioneer are tops in Section 6, while Section 9 may offer Rick Gomez of Washingtonville or Tom Santowsky of New Paltz. And either Gerry Donohue of Chaminade or Torre Mazzara of Canisius will represent the Catholic league. Donohue is 27-1, while Mazzara is 20-1. Both are seniors.

145 Kareem Johnson of Niagara Falls should make it out of Section 6 with ease for his third state trip. Once there, he will be the odds-on favorite to take the title. He placed second last year by a very close one-point match. His biggest challenger may be Matt Sorochinsky of Johnson City, who is undefeated and favored in Section 4 right now. Sorochinsky has been runner-up in the sectionals three times, and is now quite ready

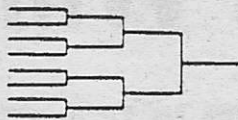
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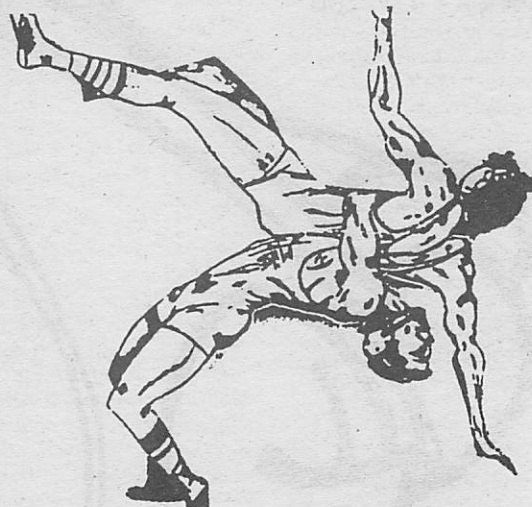
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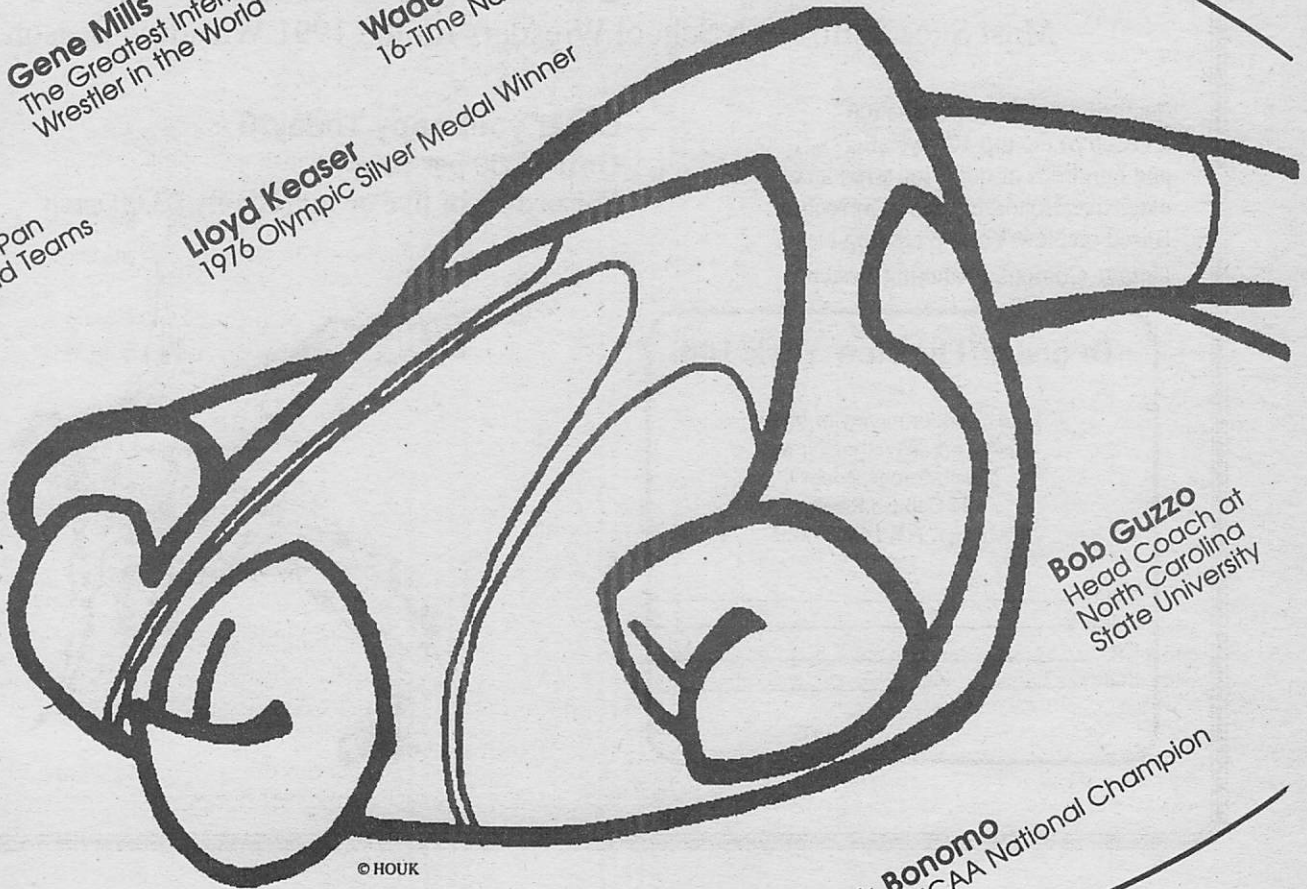
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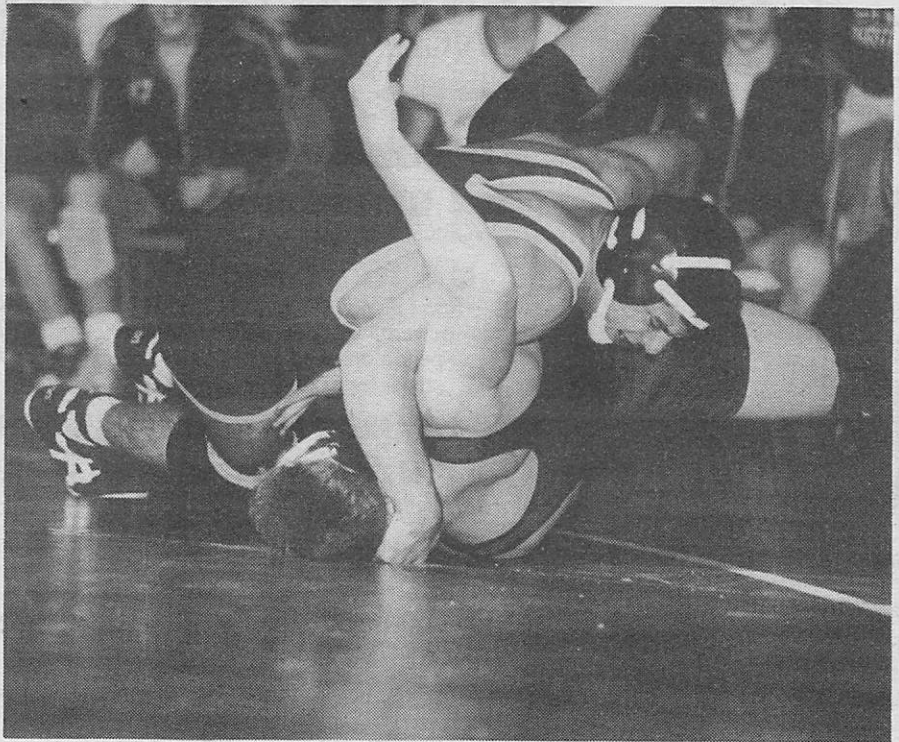
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**Rick Bonomo**  
3 Time NCAA National Champion

## State Preview, continued

for Syracuse. According to our scouts in Binghamton, Sorochinsky "should be teaching wrestling someplace." Mike Bendett duplicated an early season win over defending Section 2 champ Chad MacNaughton and will be at the states. John Phillips of Sachem, Rob Chester of Amityville, and Junius Gradney of Longwood are seasoned wrestlers from Section 11 who could win state medals. Section 3 will offer either Mike Van Buren of Fulton, Stan Congdon, Canastota, or Nate Hanna of New Hartford. Petrullo or Loschin will most likely represent Section 8. From Section 7, look for Troy LaPoint of Northern Adirondack or Matt Taylor to be in Syracuse. LaPoint is favored based on a recent pin victory over Taylor. Three quality wrestlers will vie for the title in Section 1. Adam Bell of Ossining, with over 130 wins, is top-ranked, with Ambrose Aston of Sleepy Hollow and Neil Wanamaker of Suffern trying to unseat him. Goshen's Mike DiVenti and Scott Franza of Ellenville may be representing Section 9 in the states. The favorite in the Catholic league is Mike Messori, a senior at St Francis. Section 5's challengers will be either Anthony Conte of Brockport (a possible successor to Steve Taylor), DeLeon McKee of Edison, Charlie Lesh of Batavia, Chris Van Gorden of Palmyra-Macedon, and Tim Donohue of LeRoy. Conte is a year-round wrestler successful in all styles, and McKee was the surprise winner over Rush Henrietta's Andy Camp, the only wrestler to beat Conte this year.

155 Our Section 4 scouts have practically guaranteed a state title from Watkins Glen senior Matt Marcianiak. He's been close on two occasions, and has the arsenal and experience to take it all this year. He is undefeated and mostly untested this year. A few athletes that will attempt to bump him off in that section are Ryan Hurba from Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton, Andre Cave of Union-Endicott, and David Colgan of Johnson City. Hurba has only lost to the best in the section, and has over 100 wins. Cave is very slick, one of the section's finest athletes on the mat. And Colgan is only a sophomore. Unable to beat Keith Smith at 138 or Matt Sorochinsky, he's up at 155. There's a great chance that his future will include a state title or two. Jim Kane of CBA just earned the Section 2 berth by beating Phil Prest of Niskayuna 7-5. A week prior, Prest was the victor by a 4-3 score. Juniors Jason Kraft of Sachem and Brett Lassen of Connetquot are top dogs in Section 11. East Syracuse-Minoa's Eric Stevenson is top-ranked in Section 3. He was runner-up in the section last year. Dan Majcher, a senior from East Meadow-8 looks to be the favorite in that section. He's been sectional runner-up the past two years, and appears ready to finally get off the Island and win a state title. He was 33-1 as a sophomore, 31-3 as a junior,



DION VISCONTI, Chaminade-Cath, pinning Patchogue-Medford's Jason Nichols in 5:59. Visconti has been to the states twice before. In this, his senior season, he stands an excellent chance of winning a state title. He is currently undefeated. Photo by Peter Venier.

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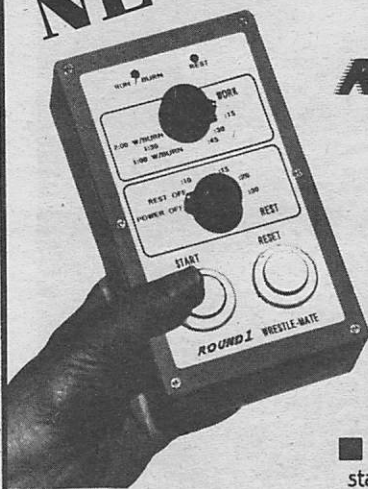
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and is undefeated this year. He has over 100 career wins and plenty of experience to take a state medal. From Section 11, expect someone tough, like Jason Kraft of Sachem or Brett Lassen of Connetquot. Matt Bloomquist of Jamestown, Jason Etheridge of Newfane, and Tom Arno of Clarence are all candidates for the Section 6 title. Overall, if Marciniak is top-seeded state-wide, number two would have to go to Marcus Hutchins of Monticello-9. He lost to Marciniak, 6-2 in the state consolation finals, but beat Marciniak in freestyle by a point in the Empire State Games. He is a definite threat for a title. Challenging him in his section will be Dave Altera of Ontario. Shane Bogardus of Fulton, if he is at this weight, will also be a challenger should he win the Section 3 title. From Section 7, either Larry Benware of Beekmantown or Corey Facticeau of Peru will probably be in the states. Whoever makes it out of Section 1 will have to be good. That weight is packed up with Mike Buxbaum of Clarktown South, Mike Quaglio of John Jay East Fishkill, and Nick Szerlip of Nyack. Buxbaum, now a senior, made it to the states last year at the same weight. He scored 15 points in two matches, but lost both and was eliminated early. A very powerful wrestler, he has worked hard during the off-season with the intent of doing much better in Syracuse. He placed in both styles in the Empire Games. Quaglio is a junior who has been to the state tournament twice already. Last year, he beat

Ron Clinton in a high-scoring 20-11 match, but then was shut down by Phil McCarty, 13-0. In wrestlebacks, Quaglio came one match away from a medal. With 120 career wins already, he will finish his career next year as one of New York's most winningest wrestlers. As for Szerlip, he's proven quite capable of pulling off an upset. With his guaranteed workout partner, twin brother Jeremy, he has been constantly improving and just may open a few eyes before he's done. He's also done a lot of off-season wrestling and was very successful in Empire State Games competition, placing in the top five in both weight styles. Section Five will most likely have either Sirrell Gissendanner of Spencerport, Steve Lysenko, Irondequoit, Matt Leach, Brighton, Tyrone Thomas, Waterloo, or Jason Rucker, East Rochester.

167 Dion Visconti, a senior from Chamaine-Cath will most likely qualify for the state tournament by winning his 100th and 101st career wins. He's currently 28-0 and heavily favored to make his third trip to the states. Two years ago he placed fourth in a weight that contained Seamus Lyman, JJ Stanbro, and Emilio Collins. He also competed in last year's state championships, but was hampered by illness. He won his first match, 8-4, then lost to Matt Marciniak by a 7-1 score. In wrestlebacks, he beat Paul Lyman, but lost a 5-2 match to Isreal Medina.

Had he won that match, he would have placed in the top six in Syracuse. He's looking to win big this year as a climax to a fine season, and has been top-ranked in New York all year. Chris Aliani of Lindenhurst, Shawn McLaughlin of William Floyd, Vitiello of Babylon, and Medico of Huntington are all seniors from Section 11 that have had very successful careers. One of them may possibly win the Sectional crown and medal in Syracuse. John Noel from Fulton and Randy Shaw of Richfield Springs are seniors also with equal credentials. From Section 8 look for Lindsey Lewis of Long Beach or Casper of Mepham. Section 7 will most likely be sending Eldric Venne, a legitimate contender for the title. Now a senior, Venne has had extensive freestyle and Greco Roman experience. He was extremely successful this past off-season, and the work seems to have paid off. He's now 25-2. Among his wins is a 6-5 verdict over Paul Lyman of Johnson City. Section 1's favorites are Jeremy Szerlip (who owns an early season pin victory over Mike Quaglio) of Nyack and Mike Cotto of Ossining, who's a very capable darkhorse. Section 4 has two guys who are both worthy of state medals - Paul Lyman of Johnson City and Jason Sullivan of Vestal. Lyman competed in last year's states and went 1-2. He recently beat Sullivan 7-4 in the Sectionals. Also from Section 4 are Tom Baleno, Union Endicott, Jeff Hogan, Windsor, Chad Puffer, Bainbridge, and

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Jamie Browne of Tioga. Ed Jesmaine of Mechanicville shocked Section 2 fans when he won his berth to the states. A loser 12-3 the prior week to Rob Syles of Corinth, he came back to win the Section 2 tournament with a 4-2 win over Dan McNeil of Warrensburg. Styles finished fourth. From Section 6, expect Steve Sweeney of Panama, Dana Ernst of Williamsville South, or Ken Meyer of Frontier. Gino Brown of Newburgh Free Academy and Ethan Thompkins of Sauger-ties are tops in Section 9. The top wrestlers in Section Five are Ohi Johnsen of Webster, Joe Pemaselli, McQuaid, Joel Sturgis, Rush Henrietta, Chris Francis, Palmyra-Macedon, Matt Smith, Addison, and Nate Van Dusen, Williamson.

177 Perhaps the top seed here is Farmington-8 senior Aaron Brown. As a sophomore, Brown placed fifth in the state tournament, behind Adam Mariano, John Penhollow, Mike Bucci, and Chris Knazik. Pretty impressive place-finish, especially considering that the top four that year accounted for a total of ten state medals, including three gold medals (Mariano and Bucci). Last year Brown was runner-up in the section, with that loss being the only blemish on the year. He's had a lot of experience, and he has the tools to return and take it all. Challenging him from Section 11 could be Jason Dove of Hauppauge or Kerry McCoy of Longwood. From Section 3 the top seed is John Vitullo of New Hartford (whose brother was a state champ) and Curt Sykes of Madison. Shawn Akey of AuSable Valley and Jeremy Collins of Saranac are tops in Section 7 and may be in Syracuse challenging as well. John Degl of Mahopac and Jeff Schneider of Ossining look good in Section 1, but Jeremy Szerlip may be the representative from that area. Section 4 has another log-jam here, with Kevin Elson, Joe Vredenburg, Chenango Forks, Dan Jenkins, Norwich, and Mike Ellerson, Whitney Point. All four have had long, super-successful careers. Overall, the favorite has to be Ellerson. He went to the states last year and was one match away from winning a medal. He has beaten Elston a few times this year, and will be gunning for a title should he return to Syracuse. One guy who's drawing a lot of attention is Hudson Falls' Todd McIntosh. He's already qualified for the states and most people who've seen him in action think he's going to crush everyone at the tournament. He's a senior, and according to one observer, looks like "a man in a boy's weight class. He's huge, tough, and mean." McIntosh is undefeated, and one of his most impressive wins was against Eldric Venne, now at 167. In their tournament finals match in December, McIntosh drilled Venne 18-5. Look for him to come out swinging! Ryan Hammersmith of Clarence and Chris Pery of Silver Creek are two experienced wrestlers who may qualify through Section 6. From Section 9, look for Greg

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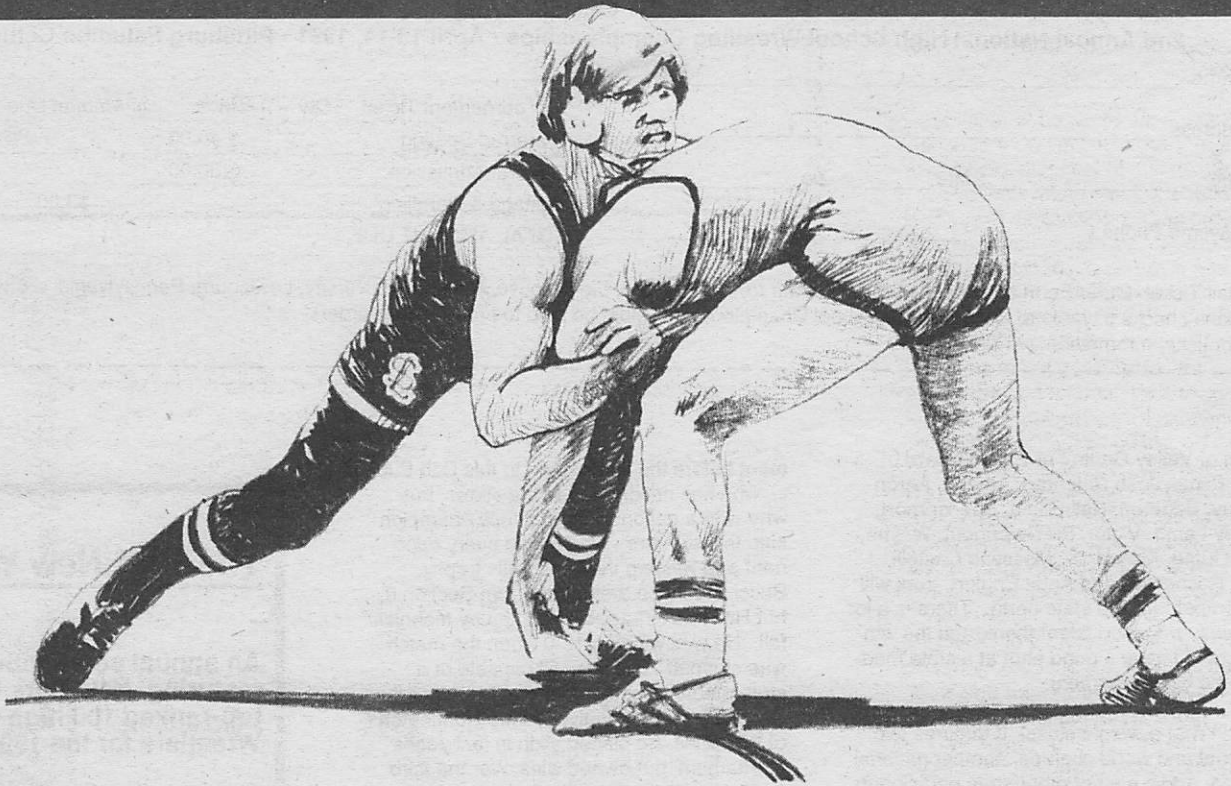
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Conn of Valley Central or Brad Stallard of New Paltz. Josh Coleman, Athena, Aaron Gabay, Brighton, Neil Gillott, Spencerport, Casey Lamb, Victor, Bill Swarthout, Wayne, Scott Kline, Mynderse, Massimo Castelli, East Rochester, and Andy Englert, York will all compete for the state berth. There is a lot of evenly-matched talent there, and the winner should have a good shot at a state medal in the big tournament.

215 What a weight class! It features two national and world champs, another national champ, and a host of other state participants and rugged wrestlers. Let's start with Kevin Brinkworth, a senior out of Williamsville South-6. He was second last year in the states by the closest of margins. The year before, he took a fifth. Over this past off-season, he won a state title, two Empire Gold medals, two Northeastern Regional titles, and to cap it off, an ASICS National Junior Greco Roman gold medal. That puts him right on target for an Olympic berth in the near future. He is undefeated this year. On the mat, he is a constant aggressor, using a wide variety of state-of-the-art techniques to score points by the bushel. Challenging him is equally impressive Nicky Hall of Longwood. He won the Section 11 title last year and has been a varsity wrestler since eighth grade. He's also won a Cadet national and world title and a state title in freestyle over the summer. He's been simply awesome this year, pinning the vast majority of his opponents in the first period. It's a shame that these guys will probably meet in the tourna-

ment before the finals. Add to this Bob Bucci, who has never been to the states, but who won a national Cadet Greco championship this summer - by decking every opponent and winning the Most Falls trophy. Bucci should be the entrant from Section 9, but Hall has already beaten him by technical fall. He was winning 15-0 when the match was stopped. Bucci is still capable of a state medal. Another rising superstar is the Section 2 representative, Jamie Huntington of Whitehall. He placed sixth in last year's tournament, but owned wins over the third and fourth place-finishers in the tournament. One of his wins was a 14-6 verdict over Todd Schaffer of Vestal, the guy who's going to probably win the 250 pound title in Syracuse. Huntington is undefeated. He's beaten top-ranked Otha Davidson of Brighton-5, 9-0. Davidson is now at 250 also, and should challenge for that title. In winning Section 2, Huntington scored four falls - 1:15, :45, :25, and 1:01. He is only a junior, and he's on the same side of the brackets as Brinkworth and Hall. This is going to be better than when Godzilla met King Kong! From Section 3 state bronze medalist Jamie Call is back. He won four impressive matches in Syracuse last year, and has to be favored to do well this year as well. Jason Gleesman of Adirondack and Bruce Thomas of Chittenango are also very tough from Section 3. Bonjorno of MacArthur and Reese of Herricks are two solid heavies from Section 8. From Section 7, look for Scott Phillips of Peru or Scott Lucia of Northern Adirondack. The Section 1 entrant

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## New York Wrestling News

could be another major surprise. Scott Rowe of Ossining competed in last year's states, but he's been bested three times by Josh Mastrangelo of Carmel. Mastrangelo, only a junior, won by the scores of 7-3, 6-5, and most recently, 9-1. If he makes it, he could be yet another darkhorse. Four seasoned veterans will vvy for the Section 4 title - Joe Walker, Chenango Forks, Adam Robbs, Watkins Glen, Walyand "Buddy" Alexander, Johnson City, and Joe Morgan, Corning. This could be anybody's ball game - there is really no clear favorite here. Adding to the fray could be Gasper LaRosa of St Anthony's-Cath, who's been to the states before. And to top off this excellent weight class, Section 5 will definitely send someone very capable of taking a high medal. The favorite is East Rochester's DJ Williams. If his name sounds familiar, it's because he took fourth place in last year's states at 250 pounds. He dropped down to 215 just a week ago and established himself as the top man in Section 5. He will be challenged by a fine core of talent in Buddy Cabrera, Batavia, Brandon Thompson, Brockport, Curt Snyder, Spencerport, Mark Crawford, Irondequoit, and Jon Porschet, Midlakes, who was runner-up in the section last year. These guys are all big, strong, and very tough. Bar none, 215 will be the most talent-packed weight class by far this year.

**250** The big name here is Vestal's Todd Schaffer. Schaffer took a strong third place in the states last year, avenging his first-round loss in the wrestlebacks. That was his only loss last year, and this year no one has been able to stay even close to him. Believe it or not, he is unscored upon this year. He was good last year, but something happened to him over the summer. He's big, fast, agile, and he knows how to wrestle. Over the summer, he placed fifth in the national junior Greco Roman tournament, coming very close to actually winning. He also won a host of other major tournaments and has to be as strong a favorite as Garcia, Vitagliano, Porter, or anyone else. According to our Section 4 scouts, his phone is ringing off the wall with offer after offer from all the big Division One colleges. He's got 106 career wins, and every one of his matches this year has ended in a pin - and he has not wrestled past the first period! Looking for upsets is a host of talented heavies. Two of them from Section 11 might be Bill Zack of Kings Park and Jim Pagusa of Newfield. Both are seniors with tons of experience. Brian Storace of Vernon-Verona-Sherrill-3 is another year-round wrestler with lots of experience and talent. Whittaker of Long Beach and Levy of Oceanside are two of the

top dogs in Section 8. From Section 7 Matt Imhelder of Beekmantown and Chad Robinson of Peru look very tough. From Section 1 a couple of darkhorses may be Aubrey Francous of Arlington and Ryan Thompkins of Carmel. Scott Bishop of Hudson Falls secured his state berth by recently defeating William Bourgeois of Salem 3-1. Meanwhile, Art Dispenza of Starpoint-6 took sixth place in the states last year. He'll be looking for upward mobility should he earn a return trip. But perhaps the biggest threat to Schaffer could be Minisink Valley's Joe Yanis. Yanis is also undefeated and has had tons of experience in all styles of wrestling. Another threat might come from Brighton-5's Otha Davidson. He made it to the states last year at 215 and has beaten Yanis over the summer. Davidson's only loss this year has been a 9-0 shutout at the hands of Jamie Huntington at 215. Most of his other matches have been one-sided impressive victories.

Those that will seek to upend Davidson will be Matt Baldassare Athena, Alton Turner, McQuaid, Ron Schommer, Palmyra-Macedon, and Jack Fisher, Newark (only a sophomore). This will be another exciting weight class, and hardly anyone in Syracuse on March 2nd will be leaving early to beat the traffic!

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# New York State Championship Statistics

New York State has had two five-time state placefinishers, Marty King and Troy Bouzakis. King, of Canandaigua-5, placed in the states from 1980 to 1984. In weights from 91 to 126, he placed second, third, fourth, first, and first again. As a senior, he won the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" award as well.

The other five-timer was Troy Bouzakis of Pine Bush-9. He placed from 1986 to 1990, taking first, first, third, second, and first again as a senior. He won the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" award two times, the only wrestler in NYS history to do so. Bouzakis' overall record was 175-2, with an amazing 151 pins! His only two losses were in the states, one by overtime criteria, and the other by 5-4 overtime decision. His winning percentage was an astounding 98.8%.

There have been two four-time state finalists, Bouzakis and Dan Hunt of West Genesee-3. Bouzakis took three firsts and a second in his finals appearances. Hunt, wrestling at 112 and 119 pounds, took second as a freshman, then won his next three years. He competed from 1971 to 1974.

We have had eight three-time champs:

- 1 Dan Hunt, West Genesee-3
- 2 Mark Iacovelli, Ithaca-4
- 3 Bob Bury, Calhoun-8
- 4 Al Palacio, Long Beach-8
- 5 Jon Cardi, Burnt Hills-2
- 6 Jeff Prescott, Olean-6
- 7 Frank Fronhofer, Salem-2
- 8 Troy Bouzakis, Pine Bush-9

In addition to three titles, six of the above three-timers also had other place-finishes:

- 1 Dan Hunt, second
- 2 Mark Iacovelli, third
- 3 Bob Bury, fourth
- 4 Al Palacio, third
- 5 Jeff Prescott, third
- 6 Troy Bouzakis, third and second

Other three-time state finalists include:

- 1 Marty King, Canandaigua-5, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 1st, 1st
- 2 Chris Schojan, East Rochester-5, 2nd, 2nd, 1st
- 3 Rick Brzozinski, West Islip-11, 1st, 2nd, 1st
- 4 Lou Roselli, Royalton-Hartland-6, 3rd, 1st, 2nd, 1st
- 5 Adam Mariano, Comsewogue-11, 2nd, 1st, 1st
- 6 Seamus Lyman, Watertown-3, 2nd, 1st, 2nd

There have been 72 teams (schools) with three or more place-winners in the same year in the NYS State Tournament. There has been 19 schools with four or more

place-winners in the same year. In 1984, Canandaigua-5 had five place-finishers, a first, two seconds, and two fifths. Huntington-11 in 1976 and Brentwood-11 in 1971 share the NYS record for the most place-winners (six) in the same year in the States. Huntington had a champ, a second, a third, a fourth, and two fifths. Brentwood had an amazing three champs, a second, a fourth, and a fifth.

There have been 18 teams with three or more finalists in the same year in the States. Mephram-8 in 1964 had three state champs. Sidney-4 in 1965 had two state champs. Brentwood-11 in 1971 had three. Huntington-11 in 1980 had one champ, and Long Beach-8 in 1982 had one champ.

Huntington-11 has the most state champs of any school in New York State. They have 14 so far, with Mephram-8 at 10, Ithaca-4 at 9, Sidney-4 at 8, Locust Valley-8 at 8, Burnt Hills, Spencerport, and Union-Endicott all with 7 state champs.

Canandaigua-5 has the most number of State place-winners with 31. They are followed by Huntington-11 (30), Peru-7 (29), Baldwinsville-3 (26), Mephram-8 (25), Port Jervis-9 (23), Brentwood-11 (22), Fulton-3 (22), Spencerport-5 (21), Massapequa-8 (20), Lindenhurst-11 (20), Ithaca- (20), Sidney-4 (19), Long Beach-8 (18), Burnt Hills-2 (16), Waverly-4 (16), Olean-6 (16), Calhoun-8 (15), Bellmore-8 (14), Queensbury-2 (14), Island Grees-8 (14), Locust Valley-8 (14), Berner-8 (12), Baldwin-8 (12), Bay Shore-11 (12), and Walt Whitman-11 (11).

Jeff Prescott of Olean-6 has the NYS record for the most consecutive victories by a wrestler. From 1894 to 1987, he won 120 straight matches! He is followed by Mark Iacovelli of Ithaca-4 with 102 straight wins from 1974-77.

All-time career wins:

- 1 JJ Stanbro, Johnson City-4 188-39-1
- 2 Troy Bouzakis, Pine Bush-9 175-2-0
- 3 JP Epifanio, Queensbury-2 172-20-0
- 4 Chris Terry, Whitehall-2 171-30-0
- 5 Adam Mariano, Coms.-11 168-9-0
- 6 Marty King, Canandaigua-5 168-11-1
- 7 Tony Cotroneo, Irondeq-5 164-15-0
- 8 Jeff Prescott, Olean-6 162-15-0
- 9 Clar Anderson, Olean-6 158 wins
- 10 TJ Wriht, Burnt Hills-2 157-27-1
- 11 Lou Rosselli, Roy-Hart-6 155-8-0
- 12 Kevin DiCerbo, Galway-2 155-14-0
- 13 Seamus Lyman, Watertwn-3 153-16-2
- 14 Frank Fronhofer, Salem-2 153-8-2
- 15 Chris Saba, Bethlehem-2 153-25-2
- 16 Jeff Clark, Vorheesville-2 152-10-2

Section 11 has the record for the msot number of place-winners in the States (272), followed by Section 8 (241), Section 4 (226), and Section 5 with 195 place-winners.

Section 8 has the NYS record for the most number of state champions with a total of 78, followed by Section 11 with 67, Section 4 with 555, Section 3 with 45, and Section 5 with 37, Section 6 with 38, Section 2 with 27, Section 9 with 21, Section 1 with 17, Section 7 with 2, and the CHSAA (Catholic League) with 1. Section 10 and the PSAL (New York City area schools) have never had a state champion.

New York has had eight three-time state champs, 43 two-time state champs, and a total of 378 NYS Champs in the history of the State tournament.

Based on Neil Kerr's NYS Sportswriters Association Rankings, the top teams of the 1980's are listed below. A point system that awards 10 points for a first place ranking, 9 points for second, 8 points for third, etc. has been used:

- 1 Fulton-3 59 points
- 2 Sachem-11 58
- 3 Huntington-11 55
- 4 Baldwinsville-3 44
- 5 Canastota-36 42
- 6 Canandaigua-5 25
- 7 Brentwood-11 23
- 7 East Rochester-5 23
- 9 Johnson City-4 22
- 10 Bayshore--11 19
- 11 Queensbury-2 18

Randy Payne of Sidney-4 has the best overall winning percentage in New York State. From 1967 to 1969, he went 107-1, taking third, first, and first in the State tournament. His only loss was in the 1967 semifinals. His winning percentage is over 99%.

The above information was graciously compiled and supplied by Andrew Slawson. He is looking to add to this information by getting copies of ALL completed bracket sheets and wrestlebacks for the State tournament from 1963 to 1973. If you have a copy, please contact Andrew at (516) 581-5595.



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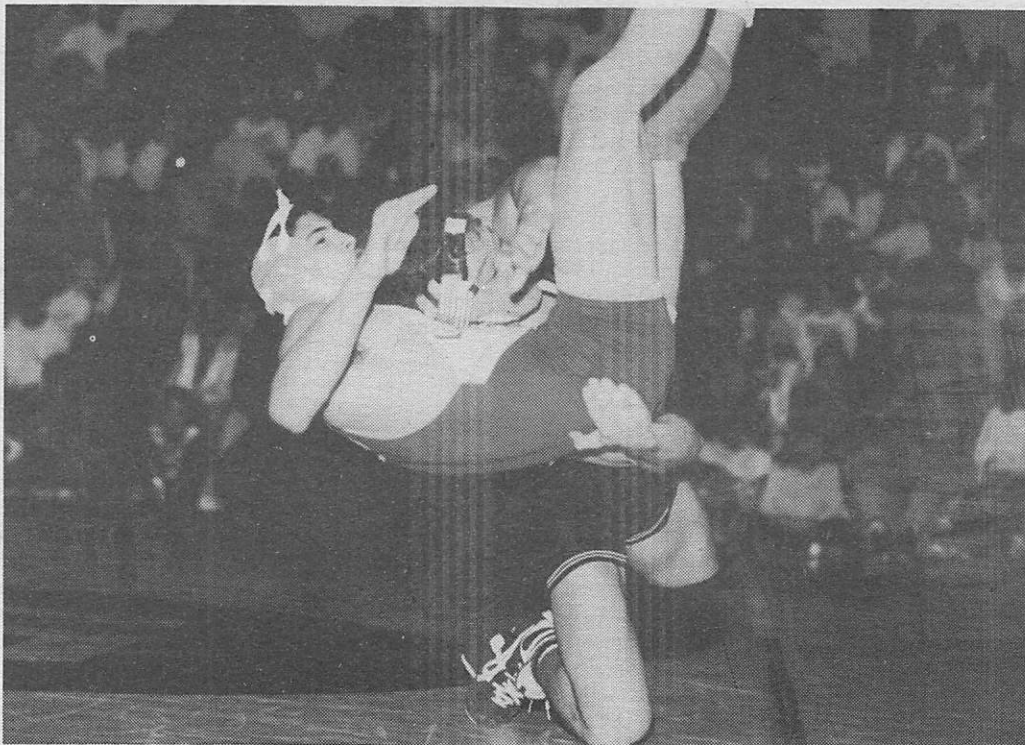
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JASON KRAFT, Sachem, scores takedown against Anthony Camisa for an 8-2 win in dual meet action. The meet was won by Longwood by the score of 24-21. These teams are two of the finest in the state, and should produce several Sectional Champs. Photo by Peter Venier.

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## Several State Place-finishers Eligible for Return Trip

If you've ever watched a New York State Championship Tournament, you'll agree to one assumption that makes every match hair-raising: Anything is possible. No matter who is out there, anyone can win, and anyone can lose. Nothing is predictable. This is proven in almost every tournament, where in most weight classes, the top-seeded wrestler fails to win the title. We won't attempt to predict state placefinishes in this year's state tournament, set for March 1st and 2nd in the War Memorial in downtown Syracuse. The purpose of this article is to make you more aware of some of the wrestlers you may see in that event.

Three defending state champions and many other placefinishers will be eligible to defend their titles and place-finishes. As happens every year, however, some of these wrestlers will not make it out of their sections, and other wrestlers who have never competed in the states will wind up winning titles. With this in mind, let's take a look at some of New York's top wrestlers.

Craig Vitagliano, Plainedge-8, Juan Carlos Garcia, Sleepy Hollow-1, and Kenny Porter, Alfred-Almond-5 all won state titles last year as juniors. So far this year, they are all undefeated and heavily favored to earn return trips to Syracuse. Should they defend their sectional titles, they will each bring diverse experiences and backgrounds to the state meet.

It will be Garcia's third trip to the states, having placed second as a sophomore. That year, he gave up a last-gasp takedown to lose to three-time state champ Frank Fronhofer of Salem-2. It was one of the most exciting finals matches that year, and thousands of shocked fans almost saw a young Garcia prevent Fronhofer from becoming NYS's seventh three-time state champion.

Adding a lot of off-season competition, Garcia came back the following year at 112 pounds and won the state title. Using speed, power, and about fifteen brilliant takedowns, he defeated Shane Lese, Bryant Ranger, and Keith Sequeira on his way to the top. Of all fourteen weight class champions, his technique looked most advanced.

Juan has won several tournaments this year already, including the rugged Mid-Hudson, held at Kingston High School. In the finals there, he edged a resurging Jeff Duque of Valley Central-9, 4-3. Duque was well on his way towards challenging Garcia for the title last year when a January car accident halted him. Over the off-season, he recuperated and now looks to

be back in top form. Duque has placed in the state tournament twice, as a freshman, and as a sophomore. He and Garcia are probably the top wrestlers in the weight class this year.

Craig Vitagliano was also impressive in Syracuse last year. At 98 pounds, he rallied in the closing seconds in two straight matches to win 4-3 over Pat Borja and Terry Showalter. Borja was a senior last year, and Showalter only an eighth grader. In the finals last year, Vitagliano faced East Rochester-5's Roy Frey, an aggressive, confident wrestler. Frey looked awesome in winning three matches by the combined score of 28-3 in earning his berth in the finals.

And while many fans expected Frey to also dominate in the finals, it was a series of perfectly-executed single leg takedowns that won it for Vitagliano. He started by surrendering a takedown to Frey, but soon established his offensive shot that was just too quick and too low to be stopped.

Craig will most likely be at 105 pounds for the Section 8 tournament. Should he return to Syracuse, his weight appears to be one of the strongest of all. It has the potential to contain as many as ten or eleven wrestlers who have been to the states before, and many of whom have placed. If so, he will again need his takedown ability and tenacity to repeat. As it stands now, he is heavily favored to win.

The third state champion that looks to defend his title is Kenny Porter of Alfred-Almond-5. Rising from the ranks of Class D schools, Porter kept surprising himself and the rest of New York as he put together a series of impressive wins on his way to the title. Using a combination of strength, technique, and experience, Porter was unflappable on his climb to the top. He displayed college-level poise that never left him, even when John Spiegelman turned him over and nearly pinned him in period three of the state finals with Porter up 10-0. Of all returning champs, he was perhaps most active in off-season wrestling. Currently, he is also undefeated and heavily favored to leave Syracuse with another state title.

Five state second-place finishers are back this year with thoughts of moving up a notch. First off are the Groncki brothers, two durable wrestlers that go balls-out for six full minutes (or more) each match. From Burnt Hills-2, they were the highlight of Section 2, which managed only 89.5 points for a disappointing ninth place state finish.

Doug Groncki had the closest match of all finals matches last year. Facing a pumped-up Shawn Welch, who had just

decked Brian Roggie, Doug managed to hold him scoreless for six full minutes. However, Welch was equally successful in his defense. After a 0-0 regulation tie, they loosened up, with Groncki opening up a 3-0 lead. Almost miraculously, Welch scored six points in the last period to take a 6-3 OT win. Welch is now at Syracuse University, close to where Groncki should be on March 1st and 2nd.

Twin brother Chad Groncki trashed Chris Tucci 9-1, then outlived Tom DiTore in a thrilling 10-9 semifinal shootout. In the finals, he was unable to mount an offensive in losing by 1:21 fall to Troy Bouzakis. From his first shot, Bouzakis snapped him down and spun around for a 2-0 lead. He then maintained a tight ride for over a minute before using at least a 145-pounder's half nelson to pin Groncki.

At this year's tournament, there doesn't appear to be anyone from Bouzakis' home planet, so Groncki has the potential to beat anyone. However, so do a lot of other people, as evidenced by the early season loss suffered by Groncki at the hands of Peru-7's Shawn Edwards.

At 138 pounds last year, Suffern-1's John Spiegelman lost a lop-sided 12-5 decision to Ken Porter. The only bright spot for John came when he scored a reversal and back points in nearly decking Porter in the third period. Aside from that, Porter handled him. Since then, though, these two guys have split matches. In addition, other wrestlers within the same weight class have done well and will seek to usurp these two finalists. Right now, Spiegelman has looked great in beating most opponents easily. He is undefeated and looking towards his third Section One title.

Another runner-up from 1990 is Niagara Falls-6 senior Kareem Johnson. He lost a very controversial 10-9 overtime decision to Steve Taylor in the state finals. In that match, he scored most of the technical points and looked superior to Taylor in his ability to score. However, he was penalized for stalling on several occasions and lost four points for stalling. Whether he really was stalling and deserved the four penalty points is a matter of opinion. The important thing to realize is that his technique was better than anyone else's in Syracuse, and he is favored to win the title this year.

Johnson is a very powerful wrestler whose forte is takedowns. He blends speed, strength, and a diversified technique in his matches. With his knowledge of Greco Roman and freestyle, he has the ability to score from any position. His ex-



plosiveness also enables him to escape from anyone, giving him access to his specialty - wrestling on his feet. In Syracuse last year, he beat Mark Dacosta, Chad MacNaughton, and Phil McCarty by the combined score of 26-10. He then scored several takedowns on the way to his 10-9 loss against Taylor. He has been to the States twice now, and as a senior, will be very tough to beat should he make a return trip.

The fifth and last silver medalist from last year is Williamsville-6's Kevin Brinkworth at 215 pounds. Brinkworth might have won the finals match if not for his super-aggressiveness. With time waning, and him leading by a 3-2 margin, both men were on their feet. Instead of protecting his lead, Brinkworth stormed ahead, shooting in for the takedown. As he was completing the move, his opponent, Mike Bucci, Red Hook-9, miraculously turned it into a Petersen roll and wound up with the takedown - right at the edge of the mat, and just before the buzzer sounded! Final score: 4-3 Bucci. It was one of the evening's most entertaining matches, and it was apparent that both men were very evenly matched.

Brinkworth is now a senior, and has medaled at the states twice (he was fifth as a sophomore). He is the clear favorite to come back and win the title this year. There does not seem to be any challengers except for Longwood-11's Nick Hall. Also a senior, Hall is currently undefeated and untested. He did the same last year at 177, in addition to winning the Section 11 title. He was not able to compete at the states, though. This year, people from Long Island are already conceding the state title to Hall.

If both men make it to Syracuse, they will be on the same side of the brackets with a possible semifinals match-up.

Over the summer, Brinkworth competed in many tournaments with great success. He won the Empire State Games in both styles with ease. He won the Northeast Regional Junior Olympics in both styles as well. But the climax of his off-season was in the ASICS Tiger National Junior Greco Roman Tournament, an event that is usually the largest tournament in the world each year. There, Kevin won the 220 pound title, defeating an opponent in the finals who had earlier beaten him in a controversial 4-3 match. Last summer, Brink-

worth also won the Cadet World Championships. All this experience makes him very difficult to beat.

Hall is also a Cadet World Champ and hard to beat. This match-up could be the highlight of the state tournament, with future match-ups coming in perhaps the Division One NCAA finals someday.

Bronze medalists are sometimes second only to the state champ. Often, he will lose by a close margin to the eventual champ, who will score a blow-out in the finals. This year, there are five very tough third-place finishers from last year's state tournament that may be moving up on the victory stand.

At 91 pounds, James Douglas of Bethpage-8 looked great in Syracuse last year. He started with a 15-3 win over David Hardwick of Valley Central-9. Then he beat a tough Pietro Furguele of East Rochester by a 6-3 margin. In the semifinals, though, he was pinned by the eventual and two-time champ, Anthony Alberti of Hendrik-Hudson-1. Douglas rebounded by decking Jon Tyler of Canastota--3 in just 28 seconds and by whipping Mike Merry of Union Endicott-4, 13-5. He looked awesome in taking a strong third place finish,

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and has to be considered the favorite in this year's meet. It should be a great weight class, because everyone he beat is also returning this year.

Jason Chervak of Maine Endwell-4 also took third last year. He lost his very first match last year to David Hirsch, who won the tournament. Then he won by scores of 5-2, 15-0, 16-1, and 4-0. Four straight wins by the combined score of 40-3, plus a very impressive current season combine to make Jason Chervak the state favorite in this year's meet.

Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen-4 placed fifth as a sophomore, but could have possibly placed third if not for an illegal slam call against him. His opponent was unable to continue. And with him ahead on points, Marciniak lost by default. Last year he dropped a hair-raiser, 3-2 against the eventual champ, Brian Gray of Wellsville-5. And he had beaten Gray twice that year and once the year before. Marciniak came back to take third. So for this year, he is undefeated. He's looked awesome, and is favored to make the finals this year should he return to Syracuse for his third trip.

Vestal-4's Todd Schaffer, 215 pounds, lost in round one last year to Jamie Huntington of Whitehall-2. The score was by a 14-6 margin. Following that, Schaffer warmed up and beat four guys straight to take third. Victim number three was Huntington in the re-match, won by Schaffer, 7-3. Todd added a ton of summer experience in all styles and should be the man to beat at 250 pounds.

Also at 250 is Jamie Call of Indian River-3. In last year's state tournament, he scored two pins and two decisions in taking third. His only loss was 10-5 against the champ, Bruce Manley. Call is now a senior. He did a good amount of off-season wrestling, and appears to be a favorite to make the finals at 250.

In addition to these gold, silver, and bronze state medalists, a number of other place-finishers and participants are back this year and may be in Syracuse. Last year's other place-finishers include Mike Merry, fourth; Clarence Hunt, fifth; Jon Tyler, sixth; Terry Showalter, fourth; Jeff Tufano, fifth; Bill Dixon, sixth; Rob Bashaw, fourth; Mike Jamison, fifth; Rob Donnino, fourth; Bryan Roggie, fourth; Phil Donnelly, sixth; Tom DiTore, fourth; Kareeb Howard, fifth; Marcus Hutchins, fourth; Jamie Huntington, sixth; DJ Williams, fourth, and Art Dispenza, fifth.

In addition to these place-finishers, a number of participants from last year are eligible for return trips this year. Some of them even placed in the states the year before, and have the potential to win titles in this year's event.

Add to this all the guys who have been to the states before, and may have even placed, but who did not make it back last

year. We'll even see our share of wrestlers who have never, ever been to the states before. Some of them will win titles and other medals. All these variables make for thrilling state tournaments every year! And our next issue (March 1991) will capture all the excitement of this tournament.

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# Heavyweight Class Looks Great!

The 215 pound class at this year's state tournament looks to be the finest gathering of big men in New York State History

In boxing, the most exciting weight class is undoubtedly heavyweight. Here, you never know what might happen when two big, powerful guys start exchanging punches. But in wrestling, it's the lower and middle weights that seem to attract the most attention. That's where you will typically see the most action, best techniques, fastest moves, and greatest endurance. In fact, at many dual meets and tournaments, half the crowd is beating the traffic home when the big guys step up.

In Syracuse on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, it will be different. The heavyweight classes at the state tournament will be packed up with national calibre wrestlers you will probably see on TV in coming years winning NCAA titles. The 250 pound class will be unusually exciting, as one super wrestler (Vestal-4's Todd Schaffer) and a whole bunch of great wrestlers mix it up to determine who's the baddest and biggest wrestler in New York State.

However, this year's toughest weight class will definitely be 215 pounds. This year's state champion may just turn out to be New York's finest heavyweight of all

time. That would be no small accomplishment, considering some of the heavyweight state champs in recent history - guys like Jeff Ellis, Tim Green, Andy Schwab, Jeff Blatnick, Jim Davis, and many others. Let's take a look at some of the potential participants.

**Kevin Brinkworth**, a senior, of Williams-ville South-6 took second place last year by one point. The year before he was fifth. He is a year-round wrestler who has already won a Cadet World title and a Junior National tournament in Greco Roman. If you look at some of yesterday's Junior National champions, most of them are enjoying national prominence in college and several are at the top in Open International competition. Brinkworth has the heart of a 98-pound wrestler - non-stop flurries of action with an overabundance of stamina. His accomplishments in Greco and freestyle enable him to score from any position, while his mat experience arm him with a very powerful defense.

**Nicky Hall**, also a senior, is from Longwood-11. Since eighth grade he's been wrestling varsity at 145 pounds and up. Unlike a young lightweight who typically faces freshman and sophomores, Hall was matched up against three- and four-year veterans right from the start. And although he's never been to the states, we can explain that. As a freshman, he was probably second best to Adam Mariano in Suffolk County. So was the rest of the planet. As a sophomore, he was injured and lost to Dean Morrison, who wound up with a state bronze medal. Finally, last year, he did win the Sectional title, but a family situation prevented him from going. The big question on the Island was "Would he have won?" After you see him, judge for yourself. Hall is awesome in freestyle; in fact, he is a Cadet National and World Champ in that style. His techniques are college-level, he's big, strong, agile, super-aggressive, and very poised. He will be very tough to beat.

Another top heavyweight is Whitehall's **Jamie Huntington**, now a junior. He took sixth last year in the states. In the process, he beat the third place finisher (Schaffer) and the fourth place finisher (Bill Neuss). Huntington is undefeated, and he just won the Section 2 title by decking four guys in just 3:26. With a record of 29-0, he's got an amazing 24 pins. He is not a huge heavyweight. Mobility, quickness, technique, and an aggressiveness is his trademark.

**Bob Bucci** is also a junior. He is from Red Hook-9, where he replaces his brother Mike who was last year's state champ. Bucci's only loss this year has been by 15-0 technical fall to Hall. Aside from that, he has been hugely dominant in his quest for first a Section 9 title, and then a state place-finish. He emerged onto the scene in mid-summer when he won the Cadet National title by pin-

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ning every single wrestler he faced. For his efforts, he also won the Most Falls title. Look him to add to the immense talent that appears to be heading towards Syracuse. Section One will be sending someone tough, that's for sure. **Scott Rowe** of Ossining won the sectional crown and made it to the states last year. This year, though, he's been beaten three times by the upstart **Josh Mastrangelo** of Carmel, the last match being 9-1. Only a junior, Mastrangelo looks like a solid favorite to win a medal in Syracuse.

Four workhorses from Section 4 also appear to be quite capable of pulling off a medal in the states. The problem is getting there, though. Only one can go, and it will be interesting to see who it is. In no specific order, they are **Joe Walker** of Chenango Forks, **Joe Morgan** of Corning, **Wayland Alexander** of Johnson City, and **Adam Robbs** of Watkins Glen.

In addition to these heavies, consider some of the other potential state participants: **Jason Gleasman** of Adirondack-3, **Bruce Thomas** of Chittenango-3, **Dan Parshley** of Gouverneur-10, and **Gasper LaRosa** of St Anthony's-Cath.

And if the War Memorial mats weren't crowded enough, consider this guy: **DJ Williams** of East Rochester-5, the weight



## Heavyweights, continued

class's big guy. He placed fourth last year at 250 pounds. Currently undefeated, he's pinned most of the opponents he's faced this year. Dropping down to 215 adds another high-powered opponent to a jam-packed class of heavyweights. Challenging him for the Section Five title will be a core of also very tough wrestlers, including **Jon Porschet** of Midlakes, who was runner-up to go to the states last year; **Buddy Cabrera**, Batavia, **Brandon Thompson**, Brockport, and **Curt Snyder**, Spencerport.

It's too dangerous to make any predictions at this point. Upstaters are talking Brinkworth, downstaters are pointing to Hall, and the folks who haven't seen either are looking to their own worthy representatives to snag the state title. It's a shame only one can win - but that's the excitement of wrestling. One more thing - if you go to the states, pay the babysitter an extra five dollars - you won't be leaving Syracuse early!

### Wrestlers:

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# Coaches Corner

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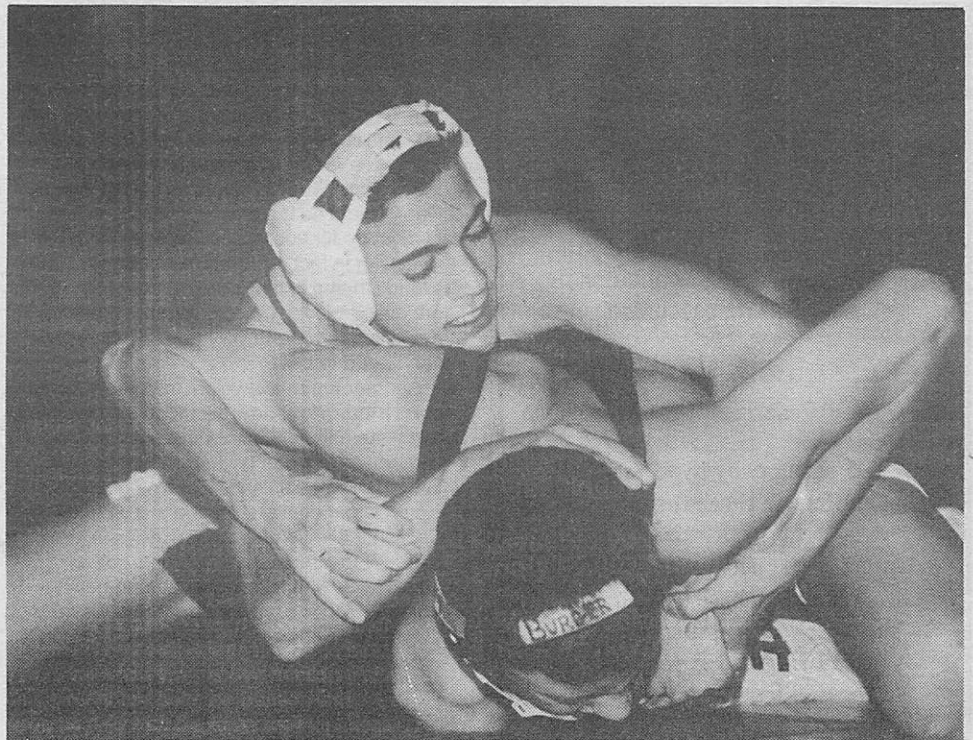
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**JAMES DOUGLAS**, Bethpage-8 junior slaps on a half on the way to a 6-0 shutout of Joe Burger of Connetquot-11. Douglas is the defending Section 8 Champ. In the States last year, he placed a very strong third and will be looking to do even better this year. Connetquot won the meet, 39-21. Photo by Peter Venier.

# 1991 NYS/USA Wrestling Schedule of Events

## Age Eligibility Key

K = Kids, born 1977-1984  
 S = Schoolboy, born 1977-78  
 C = Cadet, born 1975-76  
 J = Junior, grades 9-12 & born 9/1/71 or later  
 F - FILA juniors, born 1973-75  
 E = Espoirs, born 1971-72, plus 73-75 w/ medical certification  
 U = University, TBA, born 1967-73 ?  
 O= Open, born 1971 or before, plus 1972-74 w/ med cert

## Styles

FS = Freestyle  
 GR = Greco Roman  
 HS = High School  
 B = Both FS and GR

DATE	EVENT / SITE	CONTACT
Mar 9	Sec 9 Kids Tourn K/S; HS Suffern, NY	Mike DeSimone (914) 351-3800
Mar 9	Sec 6 Roy Hart K/S; FS Middleport, NY	Frank Palisano (716) 735-9224
Mar 9	NYC GR Champ/Sec 12 State qualifier 11-12/S/C/J; GR	Bob Myers (718) 846-5569
Mar 9	Sec 2 State qual/Empire Cup J; FS	Paul Ochal (518) 842-5144
Mar 10	NYC FS Champ; Sec 12 State qualifier K/S/C/J; FS	Bob Myers (718) 846-5569
Mar 15-17	Mohawk Valley Festival Verona, NY K C J O, etc Many events, many people!!!	Don McGee (315) 633-9362 or (315) 633-5300
Mar 16-17	Sec 6 Southwestern K S C J O; FS Jamestown, NY	Lou Golando (716) 487-1865
Mar 17	Sec 12 Kingston FS Open State qual K S C J; FS	Bob Myers (718) 846-5569
Mar 17	Sec 2 Kids Cadet Jr State qual K S C J; FS Albany, NY	Brent Becker (518) 853-4086
Mar 23	Sec 9 Walten Rotary K S; HS Montgomery, NY	Rich Jansen (914) 778-1773
Mar 23	Sec 6 Pendelton AA C J E; FS Lockport, NY	Ricky Tripp (716) 433-2581
Mar 23	Sec 6 Gowanda tourn K S; FS	Paul Hollander (716) 532-4508
Apr 5-7	NE Reg Champs J U; B SUNY Brockport, NY	Don Murray (716) 395-5360
Apr 5-7	CADET Word Trials C; B	Don Murray (716) 395-5360
Apr 6	Sec 2 State Qual K S C J; FS Schuylerville, NY	Les King (518) 695-5507
Apr 13	Sec 6 Pendleton AA K S; FS Lockport, NY	Ricky Tripp (716) 433-2581
Apr 13	SEc 5 State qualifer KC; FS Monroe Comm College	Fred Kemp (716) 248-9341
Apr 13	Sec 3 Mustang Invit & State qualifier K S C J O; FS	John Pearsall (315) 822-5850
Apr 14	Sec 6 Pioneer Cadet tourn C; FS	Rich Lewis (716) 353-8703
Apr 20	Sec 6 State qualifier K S; FS	Rich Lewis (716) 353-8703
Apr 20	Sec 5 State Qualifier K S C; FS Albion, NY	John Grillo (716) 589-7139
Apr 26-28	WNY State champs. 11/12 yr old S C; B K; FS Buffalo	Paul Kaczmarek (716) 941-5341
Apr 27-29	ENYS State champs 11/12 yr old S C; B K; FS Burnt Hills State qual for top 4 for S C; B	Les King (518) 695-5507
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### NYS Team Rankings

New York State SportsWriters Association  
State Team Rankings as of 2/6/91  
as compiled by Neil Kerr  
(dual meets records in parens)

1	Fulton-3	22-0
2	Longwood-11	9-0
3	Sachem-11	9-1
4	Brighton-5	11-1
5	Burnt Hills-2	19-1
6	Johnson City-4	12-1
7	Windsor-4	13-0
8	Huntington-11	10-1
9	Ossining-1	10-0
10	Queensbury-2	13-1
11	Mahopac-1	9-0
12	Lindenhurst-11	10-1
13	Spencerport-5	11-1
14	Baldwinsville-3	13-2
15	Suffern-1	7-3
16	Rocky Point-11	10-0
17	Fairport-5	10-1
18	Norwich-4	12-1
19	Carthage-3	14-2
20	Massapequa-8	11-4
21	Palmyra-Macedon-5	11-1
22	Union-Endicott-4	11-3
23	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill-3	15-3
24	East Meadow-8	10-4
25	Long Beach-8	11-1
	tie Corinth-2	13-1

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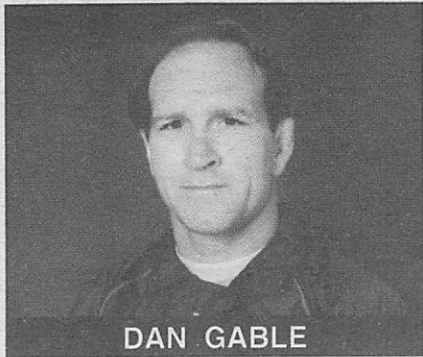
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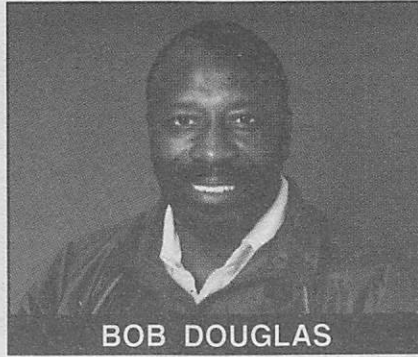
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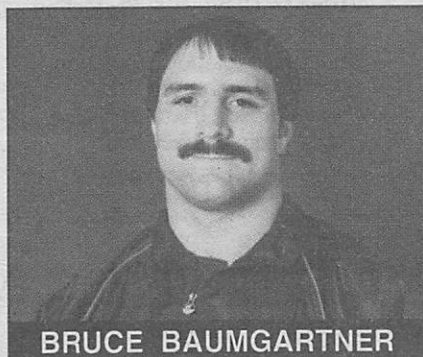
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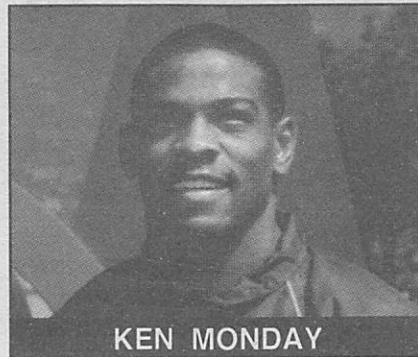
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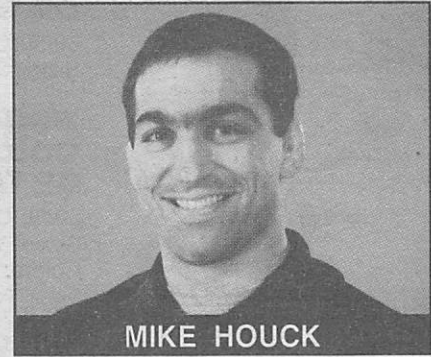
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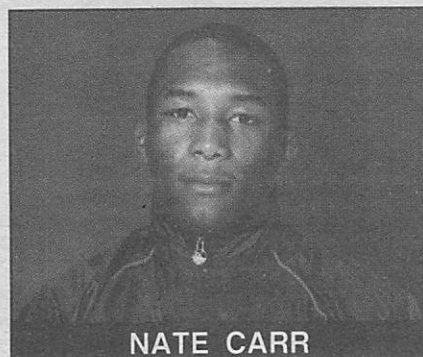
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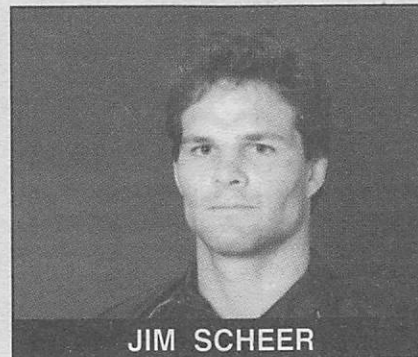
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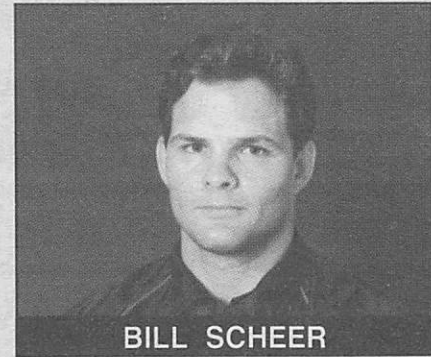
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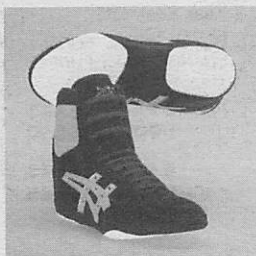
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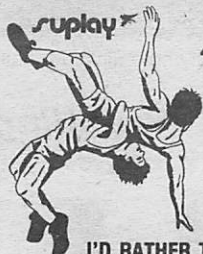


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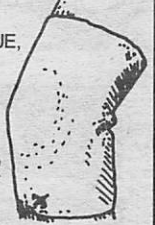
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