

# 4 seniors prepare for 1st trip to state

By JOHN N. MITCHELL  
Star-Gazette



BINGHAMTON — One might think that winning Section 4 titles and qualifying for the state wrestling tournament might be reasons to celebrate. It is, but for four area wrestlers, the celebrating ended Sunday.

Waverly's Phil McCarty and Shawn Welch, along with Shane Lese of Horseheads and Notre Dame's Pat Borja are all seniors making their first trip to the state meet. All are happy with their performances thus far, but none is satisfied yet.

McCarty, sectional champ at 145, will continue to do what got him to this point.

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## H.S. WRESTLING

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"You can't get caught up in winning the sectionals because it isn't over yet," said McCarty, who last went to sectionals in 1988 and failed to place. "I enjoyed Sunday and let it all sink in, but I will run about 5 miles tonight and be at practice Monday morning."

Teammate Shawn Welch, a sectional champion at 119 pounds and a runner-up at the same weight last year, agreed.

"Phil and I will keep doing what helped us get to this point and that has been to stay in the

best possible shape that we can," said Welch, who completed the season with a 36-2 record. "Now it's all mental. I'll just try to be more focused than ever before. This is the biggest moment in my career and I don't want to do anything that might blow it."

Although this will be Lese's first trip to the state tournament as a participant, the Section 4 champion said that the situation will not be totally unfamiliar to him. His father took him to the meet when he was an eighth grader wrestling at 91 and 98 pounds. He thinks that trip will work to his advantage.

"My father took me then, just in case I made the states as a wrestler in the future. I got a

good feel for the excitement and everything that goes on up there. Now I think I can handle all the pressure that goes along with making the meet. That trip should definitely help me because I know what to expect," Lese said.

Pat Borja captured the sectional crown at 105 pounds. He isn't about to tamper with his regimen. "I'll keep on working out, trying to improve on my conditioning," Borja said.

But he did add that he would reward himself after winning the sectional crown.

"I'm going to go home and eat some good food," Borja said.

# TWIN TIERS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

## Light wrestler makes big party

Star-Gazette ★

Notre Dame wrestler Pat Borja has been on a silent roll all season. Borja went 31-1 this year at 98 pounds. In addition to winning four tournaments this year, he also won the Class C and Section 4 titles. Saturday at SUNY Binghamton, Borja decisioned Groton's Greg Rotunda 4-1 to earn a shot at the state title this weekend. This big win also earned Borja the *Star-Gazette's* Athlete of the Week honor.

**Coach Steve Weber says:** "We knew all year long that he had a shot at going to the state tournament. After his win at the Spencerport Tournament, where he beat a state-ranked wrestler, we knew that he had a shot at going this far."

"This year his biggest problem was making the weight. In the summer he was getting up to 118 pounds and that made it difficult to get back down to where he is now. But he worked hard at it by wrestling in the summer and going to camps."

"Pat's secret is that he just simply works hard. He spent a lot of time in the weight room after practice and does a lot



**PAT BORJA**

### Pat's Numbers

31-1 on season

Class C title

Section 4 title

of conditioning."

## Lamour added

Star-Gazette

As the games between the Horseheads and the Lady Blue Raiders, Lamoureux's number

Against Binghamton, Lamoureux's had several shots and seven. Binghamton's center had an early foul trouble, but his teammates to drive to a performance, Lamoureux's *Star-Gazette's* Athlete

**Coach Lou Mc** did the job defense. And she was tried to get her in, but couldn't. In fact, they, getting the ble.

"But what has that she is passing open player for her head and her coming more co

# Tiers wrestlers face tough climb

## Line Mountain No. 1 seed in District 4 tourney

Star-Gazette ★

Line Mountain appears to be king of the hill in the District 4, Class AA wrestling tournament.

State powerhouse Line Mountain, ranked No. 1 in Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) rankings, is the top seeded team in the tournament that will be held this weekend in Williamsport.

Locally, Canton and Towanda

are both coming off of big weekends winning their respective sectional tournaments. Canton will be represented in district action by Tuff Brown (119), Matt Jones (125) and Jeremy Route (145) who were all seeded fourth in their respective classes.

Towanda's Jamie Devine and Clay Charlesworth were both seeded fourth at 112 and 140 while Dave Heyer (171), Mike Madigan (160) and Ron Forbes

(189) were all seeded third in their weight classes.

Athens' Kyle Junker, who went 25-3 during the regular season, was seeded second at 135 to Benton's Russ Hughes, while teammate Matt Teeter was seeded second at 103.

Bob Abrams of Sayre, who finished the regular season at 26-2, took the top seed at 119 while teammate Chris Webster was

seeded fourth at 130.

Wellsboro's Seth Yost, who went unbeaten during the regular season with a record of 27-0, was seeded first at 130 pounds.

While Northeast Bradford's Luke Clutter was seeded second at 125, Troy's Scott Harkness (Hvy) and Greg Holly (152) were both seeded fourth in their divisions.

Craig and Chris Skelly of Williamson were seeded third and fourth at 140 and 103. Matt Beatty, also of Williamson, was seeded fourth at 135.



**KYLE JUNKER:** Athens wrestler is second seed at 135 pounds.

# Waverly's Welch pulls off upset

By JOHN N. MITCHELL  
Star-Gazette



SYRACUSE — When Shawn Welch of Waverly looked at the seedings for the state wrestling tournament and didn't see his name among the top six, he got upset.

Welch took it out on Dave Brainard of Falconer High School from Section 6 Friday. Brainer was owner of a 37-0 record, ranked No. 1 in the state by *Mat Slap* magazine and the odds-on favorite to win the title at 119 pounds.

Welch came away a 3-1 winner at the War Memorial Auditorium.

"I got mad when I saw that they didn't put me in the top six," said Welch.

"I knocked off the top seed. At first I was wishing I was in the other brackets when I saw that Brainard was in there because I heard a lot about him. Now I just have to go to sleep and not get too cocky about tomorrow."

Welch won't be the only Waverly wrestler donning the red Section 4 uniform today in the quest of a state title. He will be joined by 145-pound teammate Phil McCarty, who received a bye in the first round.

But judging by the way he handled Mike Quaglio of John J-East Fishkill High School from Section 1, an earlier match may not have made any difference. McCarty easily dealt Quaglio, 39-0 coming into the contest, his first loss of the season with a 13-0 shutout.

"I didn't think it would be that easy," McCarty said. "I just went out and got the first takedown."

All the news for Waverly was not as pleasant.

Scott Sullivan dropped a 1-0 decision at 138 pounds to John Spiegelman of Suffern High from Section 1 in the first round.

One local paper here suggested that Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen, ranked No. 1 in the state at

## H.S. WRESTLING

155 pounds, didn't have much of a chance against Dion Visconti of Chaminade.

But Marciniak opened their eyes, crushing Visconti 7-1. Marciniak physically whipped him and after every period he left Visconti sprawled on the mat while dancing on his feet like Muhammed Ali used to.

"I do that to psyshe out my opponents by showing them I've got plenty of energy left," Marciniak said. "But he (Visconti) wasn't as good as advertised."

Today, Marciniak meets an old nemesis in the semifinals in Brian Gray of Wellsville, who Marciniak has defeated twice this year by decision — 8-6 and 5-2.

Seneca Coach Mike Watson said the match with Gray will be a tough one. "He's a good wrestler, probably better than Visconti. We saw films of Visconti and knew he was open for a right-leg attack. We took him down with it three times in the match."

Two other area wrestlers who have had illustrious careers saw their dreams of state titles wither away early.

Pat Borja, Notre Dame's 98-pounder; and 118-pounder Shane Lese of Horseheads, both lost in the quarterfinals after winning their opening matches.

Borja lost a 4-3 decision to Craig Vitagliano of Plainedge High from Section 8, while Lese fell 10-5 to Juan Carlos of Sleepy Hollow from Section 1, last year's state runnerup.

"He dominated me on my feet," Lese said. "For me, the key to winning was keeping him on the mat, and I didn't do that."

Borja spoke with surprise of his opponent. "I didn't know he was that good. I'm not happy losing the way I did — I came so close. Right now I'm mad, but I worked my hardest and you can't do anything more."

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## H.S. WRESTLING

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"I got mad when I saw that they didn't put me in the top six," said Welch, who added that he should be favored to take the title.

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See **WRESTLING/4C**

# Wrestling

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Welch won't be the only Waverly wrestler donning the red Section 4 uniform today in the quest of a state title. He will be joined by 145-pound teammate Phil McCarty, who received a bye in the first round on the basis of an open drawing.

But judging by the way he handled Mike Quaglio of John J-East, Fishkill High School from Section 1, an earlier match may not have made any difference. McCarty easily dealt Quaglio, 39-0 coming into the contest, his first loss of the season with a 13-0 shutout.

"I didn't think it would be that easy," McCarty said. "I just went out and got the first takedown. All year long if I've done that, I usually won the match. The takedown gave me momentum and took his away.

"Now, the very least I can do is place, but winning the title is my goal," McCarty said.

All the news for Waverly was not as pleasant.

Scott Sullivan dropped a 1-0 decision at 138 pounds to John Spiegelman of Suffern High from Section 1 in the first round.

One local paper here suggested that Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen, ranked No. 1 in the state at 155 pounds, didn't have much of a chance against Dion Visconti of Chaminade from the Catholic High School Athletic Association.

But Marciniak opened their eyes, crushing Visconti 7-1. Marciniak physically whipped him and after every period he left Visconti sprawled on the mat and shaking his head.

Meanwhile, at the conclusion of each period, Marciniak danced on his feet like Muhammed Ali used to.

"I do that to psyshe out my opponents by showing them I've got plenty of energy left," Marciniak said. "But he (Visconti) wasn't as good as advertised. He was supposed to be No. 2 in the state, but he didn't feel like it."

Today, Marciniak meets an old nemesis in the semifinals in Brian Gray of Wellsville, who Marciniak has defeated twice this year.

# Sports

Scoreboard 2E  
John Collum 8E

# E

Sports Editor Karen Troxel, 734-5151, Ext. 290

... Star-Gazette/Sunday, March 4, 1990

## Waverly's Welch wins decision for state crown

By JOHN N. MITCHELL  
Star-Gazette

### H.S. WRESTLING

SYRACUSE — As the overtime period came to an end and the crowd of more than 10,000 at the Onondaga County War Memorial came to its feet, Waverly's Shawn Welch ignored the throbbing in his left shoulder and gave the cheering fans the "No. 1" sign.

And why shouldn't he?

Welch, who said he heard his shoulder pop in the first period, had just decisioned Doug Gron-

chi of Burnt Hills 6-3 for the New York state wrestling championship at 119 pounds.

Welch signalled to the referee that his shoulder had been hurt, causing a stoppage in the action with 57 seconds left in the first period. The match ended at 0-0 in regulation.

"I hurt it earlier in the season, but it hadn't bothered me since,"

said Welch, his shoulder packed in ice. "When he threw me out of bounds, I landed on it and it hurt like crazy."

Welch's match was arguably the most competitive of the finals. With the score tied 3-3, Welch scored an uncontested escape and a takedown for the final margin.

"I knew that I had to win outright. I didn't want the officials to decide the outcome," Welch said.

Waverly Coach Jim McCloe

said that if a criteria decision had to be rendered, Welch would have been awarded the victory for having more takedowns, 2-1.

Welch's teammate Phil McCarty dropped a 7-4 decision at 145 pounds to Kareem Johnson of Niagara Falls in the semifinals, and eventually finished fourth.

McCarty was not pleased with the outcome of the semifinal match.

"Every time I went for the tilt, he started yelling and screaming

that his shoulder hurt," McCarty said of Johnson, who twice during the match received injury time-outs. "But I know nothing was wrong with him."

McCarty trailed 4-3 in the third period, but couldn't overcome the lead.

"He escaped, then he took me down. I really thought I should have beaten him, but things didn't go my way," McCarty said.

Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen has now wrestled Brian Gray of Wellsville four times in

his career, and beaten him all but once. But Gray's sole victory, a 3-2 decision at 155 pounds in Saturday's semifinals, cost Marciniak a shot at the state title, which Gray eventually won, 14-7 over Mike Murtha of Bellport.

Marciniak and Gray were deadlocked 1-1 in the third until Gray scored a takedown to take a 3-1 lead. Marciniak could only muster an escape to draw to within one point.

Afterwards, Marciniak, who placed third after a 6-2 win over

See **WRESTLING/3E**

# Wrestling

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Marcus Hutchison of Monticello, remained upbeat about his placing.

"Third place is better than I did last year," said Marciniak, who was fifth last year at the same weight.

"This shows that I have improved from last year. I'm only a junior, but I've still got a long way to go."

Shane Lese, Horseheads' 112-

pounder, managed a sixth-place finish.

Lese won twice in wrestlebacks with a pin over Joel Baer of Gouverneur and a 3-1 decision over Stan Dowley of Mohawk before losing twice.

Notre Dame's Pat Borja, who at 105 pounds lost to eventual state champion Craig Vitagliano Friday, did not place. But he did manage a win in wrestlebacks, a 7-0 decision over Chris Robbins of Stuyvesant

# State Championship Wrestling

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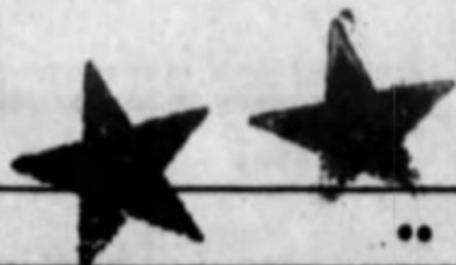
The following are results from the State Wrestling Tournament championship round in Syracuse.

**91** — Anthony Albri (Hendrick Hudson) dec. David Bracaro (Newfield) 12-3; **98** — Craig Vitagliano (Plain Edge) dec. Rob Frey (E. Rochester) 10-5; **105** — David Hirsh (Clarkston) dec. Keith Strychalsky (Patchogue) 10-2; **112** — Juan Carlos Garcia (Sleepy Hollow) dec. Keith Sequiera (E. Meadow) 13-3; **119** — Shawn Welch (Waverly) dec. Doug Groncki (Burnt Hills) 6-3; **126** — Troy Bouzakis (Pine Bush) pinned Chad Groncki (Burnt Hills) 1:28; **132** — Tom Shifflet (Sweet Home) dec. Brandon MacNaught (Walton) 8-5; **138** — Kenny Porter (Alfred-Almond) dec. John Spiegelman (Suffern) 12-5; **145** — Steve Taylor (Brockport) overtime dec. Kareem Johnson (Niagara Falls) 6-6; **155** — Brian Gray (Wellsville) dec. Mike Murtha (Bellport) 14-7; **167** — Emilio Collins (TapanZee) dec. Seamus Lyman (Watertown) 7-4; **177** — Todd Webb (Baldwinsville) dec. Steve Thompson (Ward-Mellville) 12-4; **215** — Mike Bucci (Redhook) dec. Kevin Brinkworth (Williamsville) 12-4; **250** — Bruce Manley (Ithaca) dec. Cary Huggard (Freeport) 3-2. **Outstanding Wrestler** — Troy Bouzakis

# Sports

Scoreboard 2E  
John Collum 8E

# E



•• Star-Gazette/Sunday, March 4, 1990

Sports Editor Karen Troxel, 734-5151, Ext. 290

## Marciniak places 3rd in state tournament

By JOHN N. MITCHELL  
Star-Gazette

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Afterwards, Marciniak, who placed third after a 6-2 win over Marcus Hutchison of Monticello,

remained upbeat about his placing.

"Third place is better than I did last year," said Marciniak, who was fifth last year at the same weight. "This shows that I have improved from last year. I'm only a junior, but I've still got a long way to go."

One area wrestler did come away with a state title, as Waverly's Shawn Welch ignored the throbbing in his left shoulder to

decision Doug Gronchi of Burnt Hills 6-3 at 119 pounds.

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See **WRESTLING/3E**

# Wrestling

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Kyle Junker of Athens, Jeremy Route of Canton and Chris Golden of Williamson are all returning to the regionals.

Junker, who also went to the state tournament in 1989, defeated Pat Fortin of South Williamsport 10-0 in the consolation final at 135 pounds to advance.

Route and Golden squared off in the consolation final at 145, where Route scored an injury default at 2:15 in the match.

Two Liberty wrestlers, Troy Repard at 160 and Chris Fabian at heavyweight also advanced, both taking fourth-place finishes.

Chris Webster of Savre will

join teammate Abrams in the regionals after Webster took fourth at 140 pounds. In the consolation finals, he was pinned by Greg Budman of Hughesville in 4:24.

In the semifinals of the consolation bracket at 103 pounds, both Athens' Matt Teeter and Williamson's Kris Skelley were defeated, so neither will go on to

the regional tournament next weekend.

Also in the consolation semifinals, Canton 112-pounder Chad Machmer lost a 15-2 decision to Warrior Run's Bob Anderson. Machmer will also miss the regional tournament.

The regional tournament will be held this Friday and Saturday at Williamsport High School.

## Welch casts big shadow

**Star-Gazette**

All season long the Waverly wrestling team, loaded with outstanding talent from top to bottom, stood atop the *Star-Gazette's* wrestling poll. But at the end of the season, one of the team's smallest wrestlers, 119-pound Shawn Welch, cast the largest shadow. On Saturday, Welch, a senior, captured the state title with a 6-3 overtime victory over Doug Groncki of Burnt Hills. For his accomplishment, Welch receives the *Star-Gazette* Athlete of the Week honor.

**Coach Jim McCloe says:** "Shawn is our fourth state champion since 1981. They have all been exciting but this was the most exciting of them all because of the way that Shawn won. This is the first time that we have had an overtime winner.

"When you get down to the top 12 wrestlers in the state, there isn't too much that separates them ability-wise, so it really comes down to determination



### SHAWN WELCH

Shawn's Numbers

N.Y. State Champion

at 119 pounds

Won by a 6-3 overtime decision over Doug Groncki of Burnt Hills

and heart and Shawn shows a lot of both.

"Shawn works hard and he should get all of the credit for his accomplishment. During the season, he ran anywhere from 30 to 40 miles a week after practice to stay in the best shape possible."