

Once again, the Ripley Eagle wrestlers came home with a division title. The Division 2 Title in the Southern Tier Wrestling Conference once again had Ripley's name on it.

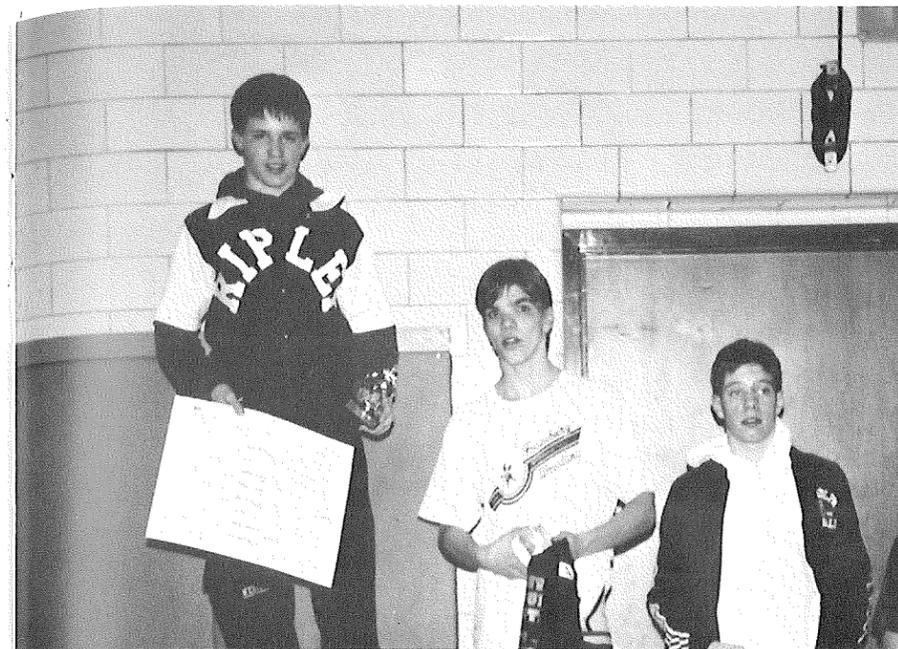
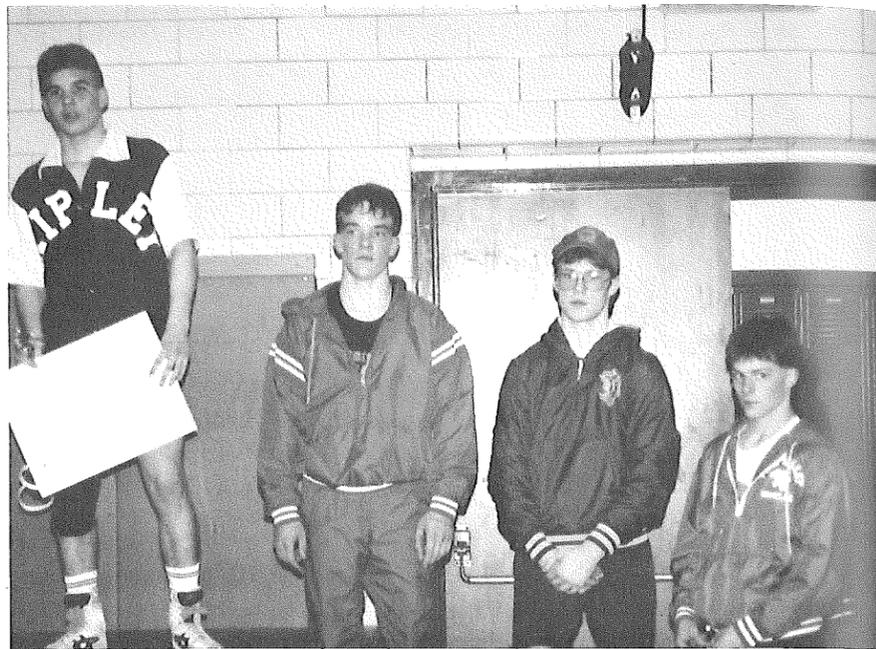
"Last year was a rebuilding year," said coach Carleton. "I thought that we were a year away." Coach Carleton attributed the team's success to the efforts of his assistant coach, Marty Rowe. The team has worked very hard from the beginning of the season and the results showed at the Southern Tier Tournament.

Ripley placed 10 wrestlers in the finals and had a 15 point lead over rival, Westfield as the final matches began. Of the 10 wrestlers in the final matches, seven of them won.

Perhaps the most significant victory of the tournament was by Greg Bentley (105). Greg had the first Ripley victory of the evening, which in itself was a big Eagle boost, but it was also significant that this was the first time that Greg had been victorious over Jason Pecuch.

This year's team had 2 seniors; Mark Irvin and Jason Post. Jason wrestled 132 at the tournament and won his finals match by decision. Mark won in the consolation round by pinning Bob Lewis of Westfield in 1 minute 46 seconds. He wrestled at 167.

Both seniors will be missed next year, but the team should continue to be strong.



(far left) Darin Rammelt won his final match at the Southern Tier Tournament. (left) Greg Bentley fired up the rest of his team by winning the first match of the finals. (below left) Rick Gresh grappled for a close win. (below) Mark Irvin, one of the seniors on the team, wrestled to a victory. (far below) The entire team and cheerleaders celebrated the tournament victory.

