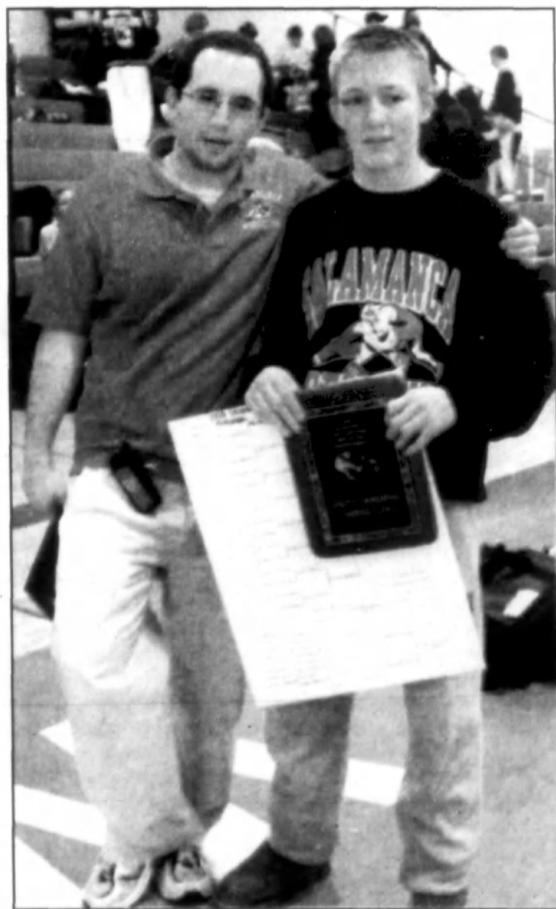
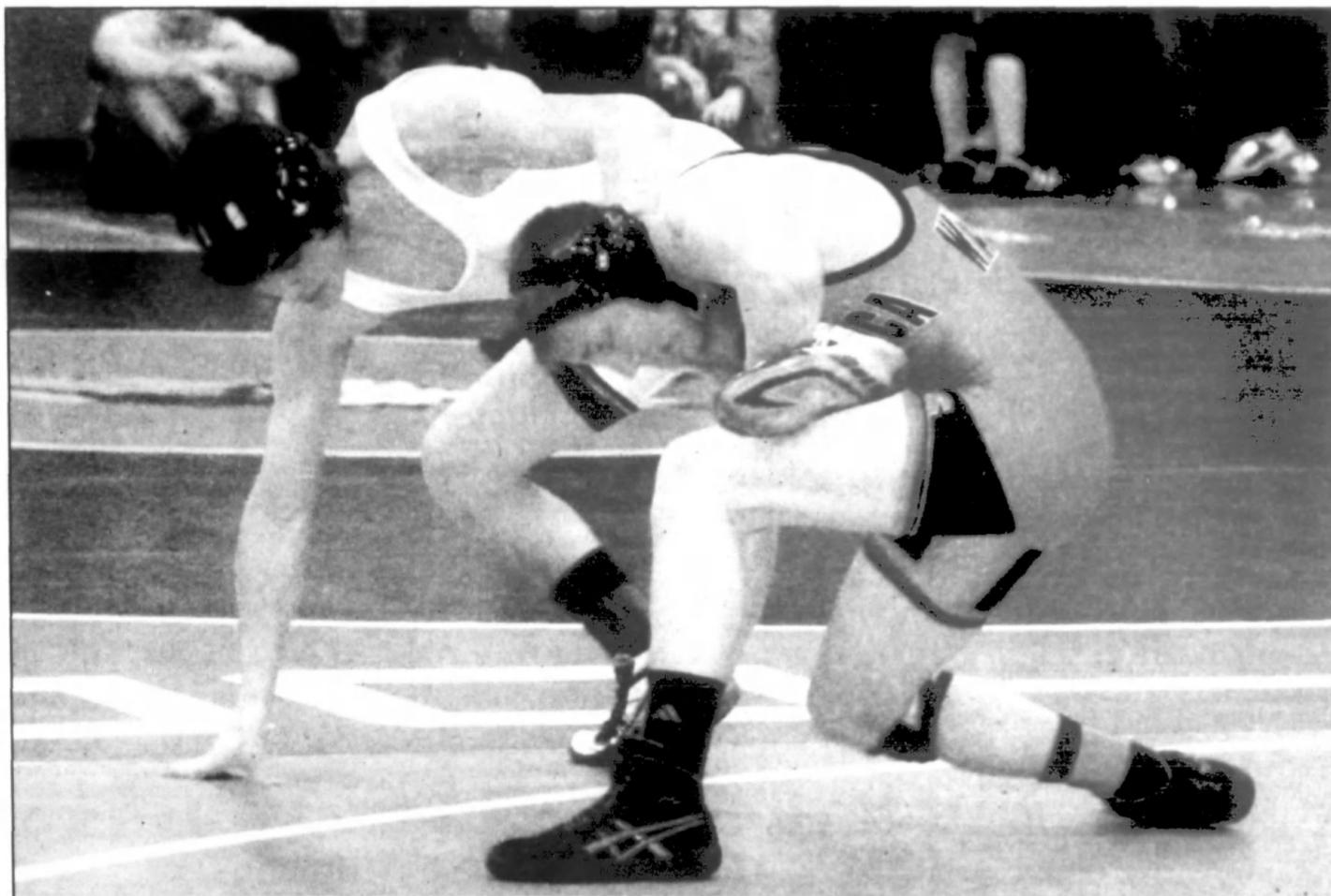


ALONE AT THE TOP

Metzler breaks Salamanca wins record, earns Most Outstanding Wrestler



Salamanca's Matt Metzler owned the spotlight at the Salamanca Tournament over the weekend. Metzler took 130 and the all time school wins record. He now stands at 219 wins, 38-0 on the season. Above: Metzler in the record-breaking match against Commodore Perry's Brandon Collins. Right: Metzler squares off against Vinnie Digravio in the finals.

(Courtesy Sue Metzler)

Matt Metzler and Coach Mike Sebaaly pose with the Most Outstanding Wrestler plaque after the record-breaking night at the Salamanca Tournament.

(Courtesy Sue Metzler)

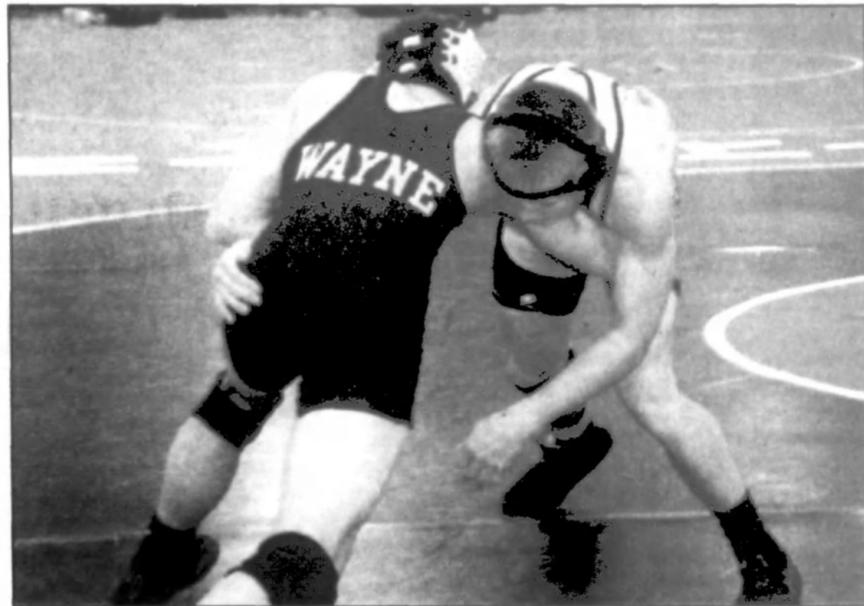
Warriors take third in tournament

By BRIAN COOK
Sports Editor

SALAMANCA — Matt Metzler stands alone atop the Salamanca wrestling world. Marking the final time wrestling before a home crowd at Salamanca, the senior racked up win number 219 — breaking the school mark held by Vic Arena (217) — during the 16th Annual Salamanca Invitational Tournament over the weekend.

Metzler (38-0) also garnered the title of Outstanding Wrestler as voted by the coaches at the tournament.

The new wins leader and the only champion for the Warriors at their tournament toppled Vinnie Digravio of Wayne 18-7 in the 130 pound finals to secure his place in



history.

"Once he got that record and the pressure was off, he was really fun to watch," said his coach, Mike Sebaaly. "He finally got it and he deserves it."

"He's been telling me since he was little that he was going to break it," commented Arena, who is close with Metzler. "You do realize the importance of it, especially in wrestling."

The path for Metzler was not easy, though, according to Sebaaly. The Warrior bested Sweet Home's Matt Danwin 10-7 in the quarterfinals, then struggled a bit with Commodore Perry's Brandon Collins in the semis. Metzler came out of that round with an 8-2 win.

"I thought he was a little nervous," admitted Sebaaly. "He really opened up once he got those wins."

Other notables include Josh

Becker in the 152 division. Falconer's Alex Ognibene finally got the better of Becker as the Warrior fell 7-3 in the finals to lose his first Section VI contest of the season. Meanwhile, Ben Haas lost 15-2 to Wayne's Bob Dierna.

"He's the top ranked kid at 96 in the state," added Sebaaly of Dierna. "That kid was tough."

Roger Phearsdorf succumbed via fall at 1:49 to Commodore Perry's Tim DeFrances at 189. At 285, Calvin Demart snagged third place with a 1:33 fall against Wayne's Devron Bradford.

At 171 pounds, Steven Jacobson took third with a 6-4 win over Wayne's Shawn Nagel. Carmen Papa took fifth place at 135 by shutting down Clarion's Matt Bauer 11-0. Mitch Hoag grabbed seventh at 160 with a win over Justin Tombs of Campbell Savona.

Salamanca finished third as a

team out of 22 with 14½ points without fielding a full squad. "I thought we did a really nice job," Sebaaly said.

Meanwhile, Wayne and Commodore Perry finished 1-2.

Sebaaly says pulling the 16th tournament together was in itself a team effort. The format of the tournament was changed at the last minute to accommodate teams trying to get wrestlers some matches before sectionals.

"The kids were in there on that Friday, the snow day, setting up mats, the parents set up the kitchen Saturday night."

"That was by far the best run tournament we've been to all season," said Jeffrey Hess of Sweet Home.

The Warriors return to the mat Wednesday when they face off at Frewsburg.



The weight class champions of the Salamanca Invitational Tournament: (front left to right) Bob Dierna (Wayne, 96); Frank Affronti (Wayne, 103); Tory Cain (Wayne, 112); Jordan Powell (Commodore Perry, 119); Mike Roselli (Wayne, 125); Metzler (Salamanca, 130); Matt McGuckin (Greece-Athens, 135); Kevin Steinruck (Wayne, 140); Matt Appleby (Bolivar-Richburg, 145); (back left to right) Alex Ognibene (Falconer, 152); Chris Marvin (Wayne, 160); Kyle Roosa (ALCS, 171); Tom DeFrances (Commodore Perry, 189); Craig Amidon (Canisteo-Greenwood, 215); and Colin Weakland (Canisteo-Greenwood, 285).

(Courtesy Sue Metzler)