

It dozen get any better

Spencerport wins 12th consecutive Monroe County championship

BY STAFF WRITER
JAMES JOHNSON

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Wrestling Almost 11 months have passed since the East Rochester senior last lost a wrestling bout. That was during the consolation rounds of the 2002 state meet, as VanThof finished the season with a 37-2 record.

VanThof arrived at the Monroe County Championships this weekend expecting to get a good gauge on his chances to win during this postseason.

"If you can do well at the counties then you should be able to do well at sectionals," the East Rochester 171-pounder said at Webster Schroeder. "There are some good teams and wrestlers here. There were three undefeated kids in my weight class."

Van Thof ran into one of them and defeated Penfield senior Rich Schimpf, 6-2 in the weight class final to win county titles in back-to-back seasons.

"There are too many people gunning for me," VanThof, who improved his record to 22-0 this season, said. "I figure they have to beat me, because I'm in the top dog right now."

"But that's how you get better too, because they are wrestling you at their best."

Opponents get fired up when they face Spencerport wrestlers, too, but the Rangers still dominated the meet. The Rangers clinched the team title for the 12th consecutive year after the semifinal round and scored 254 points. Webster Schroeder, the runner-up and host, scored 154.

All 15 Spencerport wrestlers placed sixth or higher, including Dereck Gray and Dan Tomasso, who were with the program's junior varsity squad before this week.

"That's something I'm proud of," Spencerport coach Bill Jacoutot said. "I've had 13 or 14 place in a tournament, but I've never had that happen before."

Two Rangers were crowned champions. Alex Baxter, a 189-pound junior, was on one leg long past the halfway point of the third period during the final. Schroeder senior Rex O'Corr seemed to have the upperhand, or at least two points coming for a takedown.

Instead, Baxter rolled O'Corr to the mat and won the match by pin with 16 seconds remaining.

Spencerport senior Steve Stulpin, a county champion in 2002, beat East Rochester's Steven Cragg 6-0 in the 160 final to improve his record 27-0.

Pittsford 96-pounder Kyle



DANESE KENON staff photographer

Alex Baxter of Spencerport defeats Rex O'Corr of Webster Schroeder in the 189-pound weight class. Baxter pinned O'Corr in 5 minutes, 44 seconds and the Rangers went on to clinch their 12th straight Monroe County championship.

Borshoff (27-0), a freshman, Schroeder sophomore 119-pounder Gregor Gillespie (32-0) and Schroeder senior 130-pounder Andrew Krieger (30-0) also remained unbeaten.

Krieger was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the meet for the second consecutive season. He dominated his championship match vs. Hilton's Adam Palermo, a technical fall victim after 2:42.

"We became friends from working out together," Gillespie, a two-time county champion, said. "He's like a brother to me."

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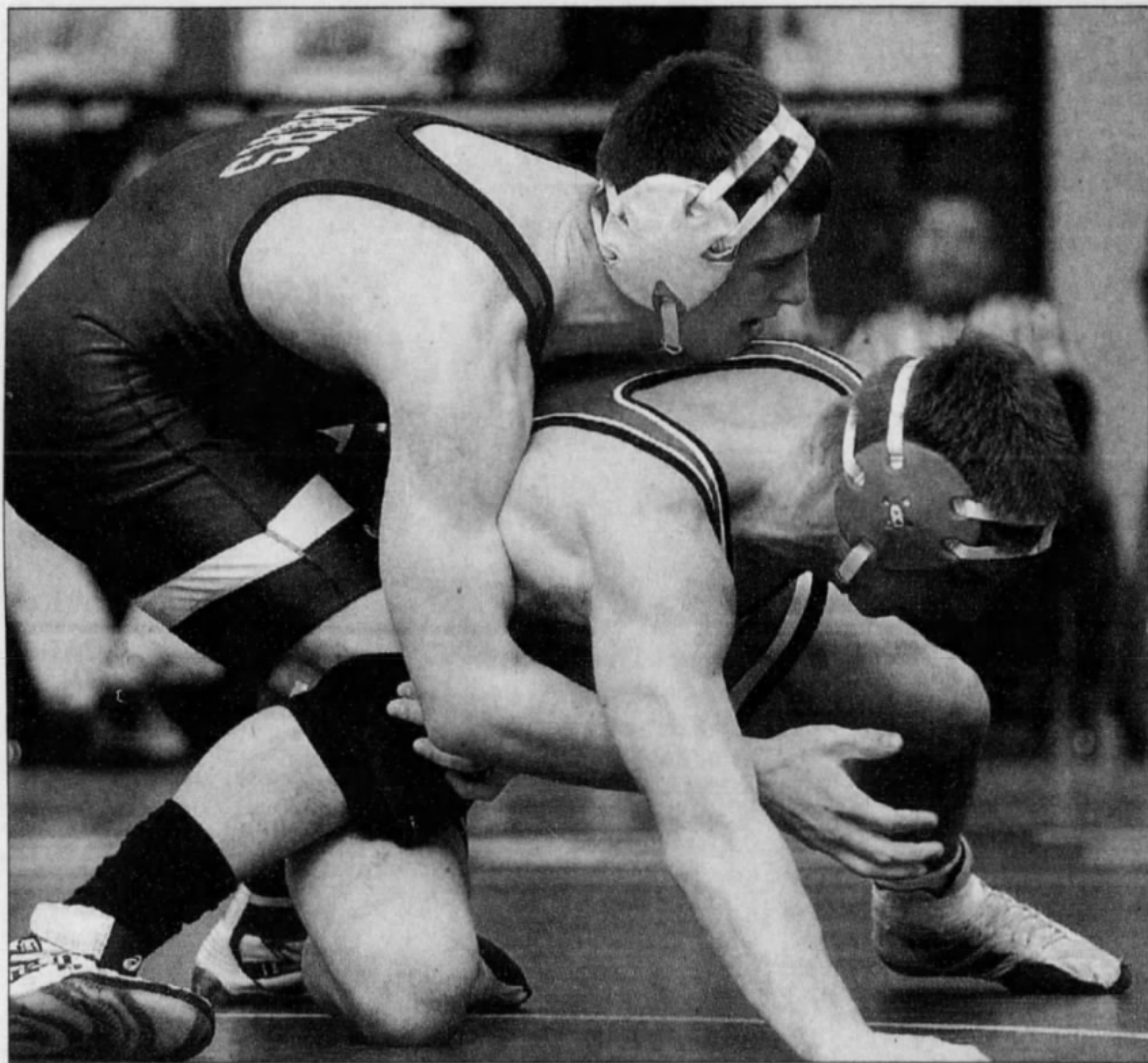
Pittsford sophomore 103-pounder Jasen Borshoff admitted it can be tough to watch his younger brother Kyle on the mat too. Jasen has not had to console Kyle after a loss yet this season and both can call themselves county champions.

Big brother had a more difficult match in his final, as he edged 2002 state meet qualifier Josh Fuller of Spencerport 3-2.

Eastridge junior Mike Wood completed his climb back to the top of the county with a 6-3 win over Brighton senior Gene Kobilansky in the 125 final.

"It's unbelievable," Wood said. "I had a rough year last year, and to beat him is amazing. I just lost to him (9-5) about a week and half ago." □

E-mail address: jjohnson@DemocratandChronicle.com



Penfield's Rick Schimpf, bottom, loses a 6-2 decision to East Rochester's Pat VanThof at 171 pounds. VanThof hasn't lost since the consolation rounds of the 2002 state meet.

MONROE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Webster Schroeder
Final results

Team scores: Spencerport 254 points, Webster Schroeder 154.5, Rush-Henrietta 154, Brockport 148, Hilton 124, Penfield 108.5, Irondequoit 97, Brighton 94.5, Pittsford 80, Gates Chili 75.5, Fairport 72.5, Greece Olympia 66.5, East Rochester 66, Greece Athena 56.5, Eastridge 44.5, Webster Thomas 22, Greece Arcadia 19, Churchville-Chili 17, Batavia 12.

Individual results

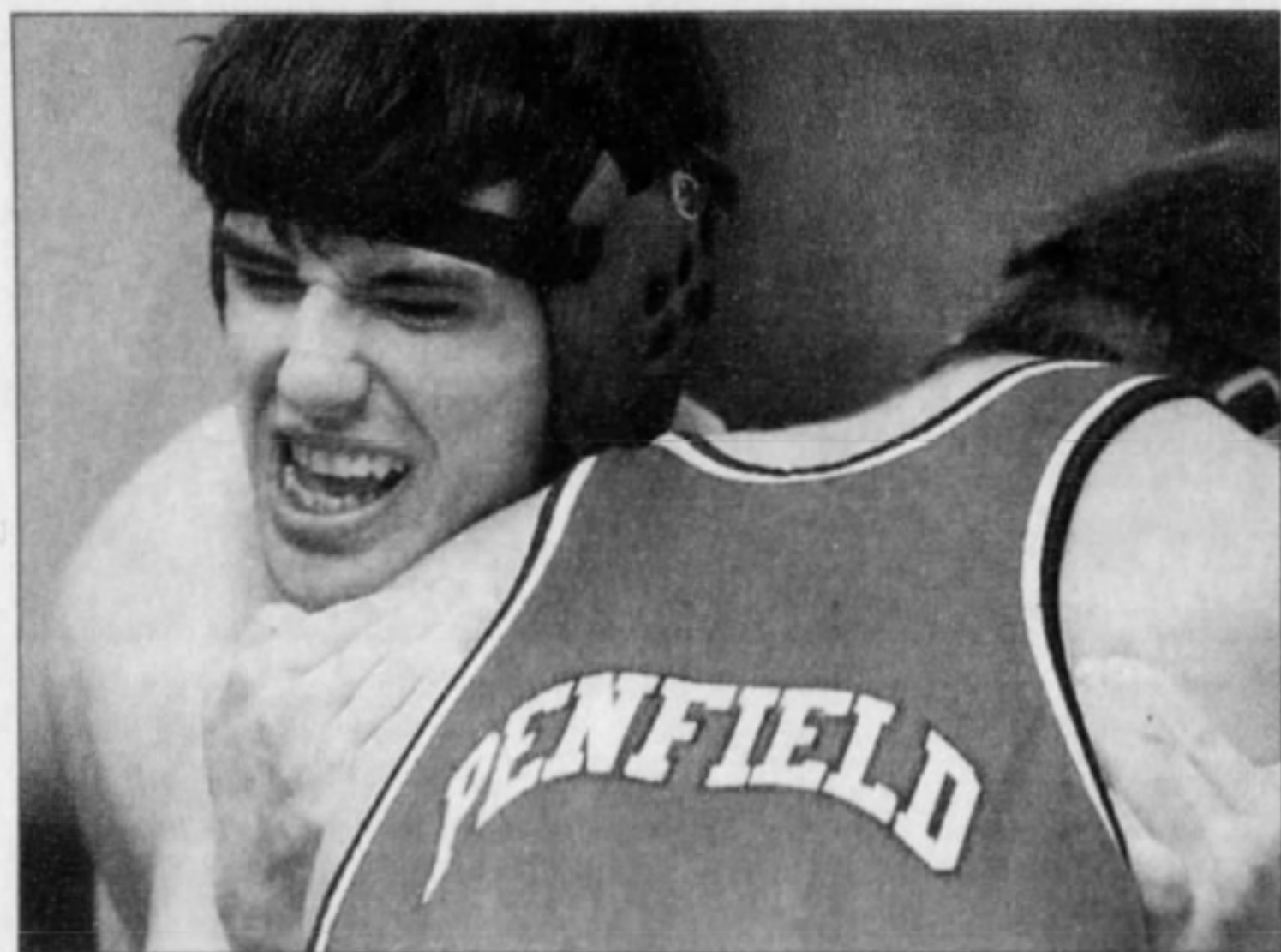
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119: Gregor Gillespie (Schroeder) defeated Joe Ranzenbach (Hilton) via technical fall, 15-0, 4:12; **125:** Mike Wood (Eastridge) dec. Gene Kobilansky (Brighton), 6-3; **130:** Andrew Krieger (Schroeder) def. Adam Palermo (Hilton) via technical fall, 16-0, 2:42.

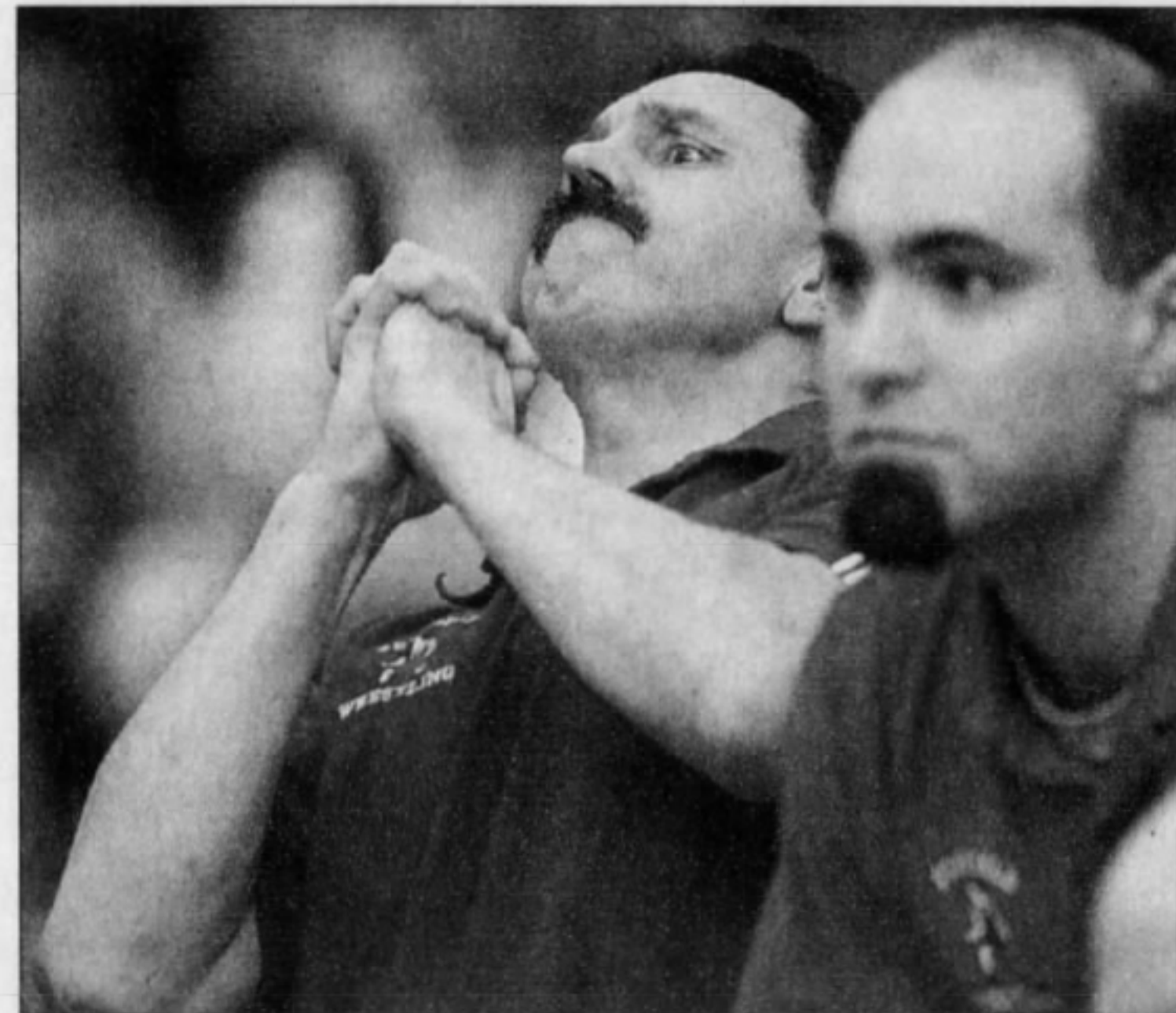
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189: Alex Baxter (Spencerport) pinned Rex O'Corr (Schroeder), 5:44; **215:** Matt Gough (Penfield) dec. Dave Rogers (Brockport), 1-0; **275:** Adam Kennel (Irondequoit) dec. Jake Taylor (R-H), 6-3.



Brockport's Dave Rogers, left, wrestles Penfield's Matt Gough at 215 pounds. Gough earned a 1-0 decision.



Penfield coach John Farrelman, left, clasps his hands together during Matt Gough's match at the championships.

Settling mat matters

Spencerport wins 12th straight Monroe County team crown

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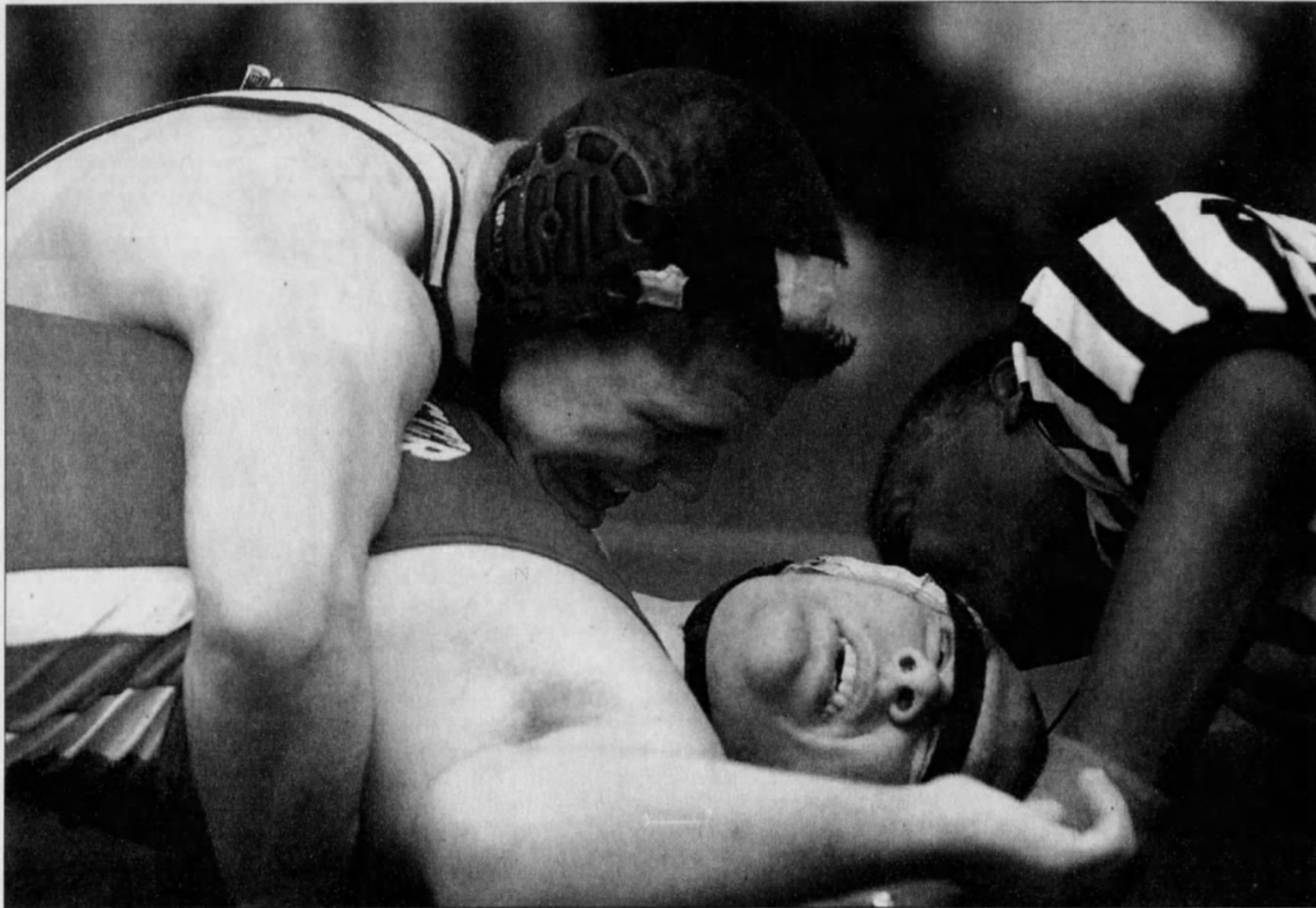
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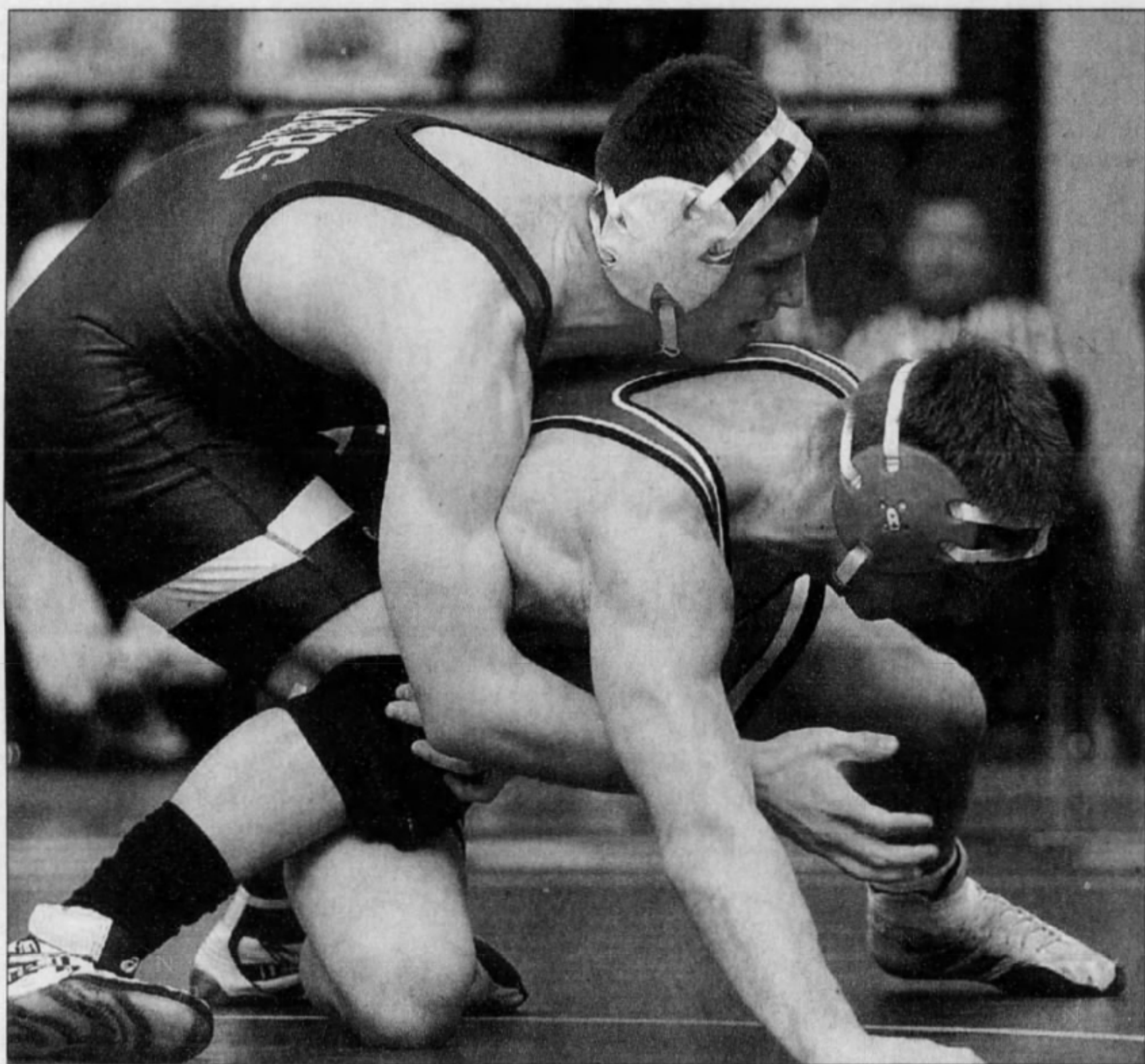
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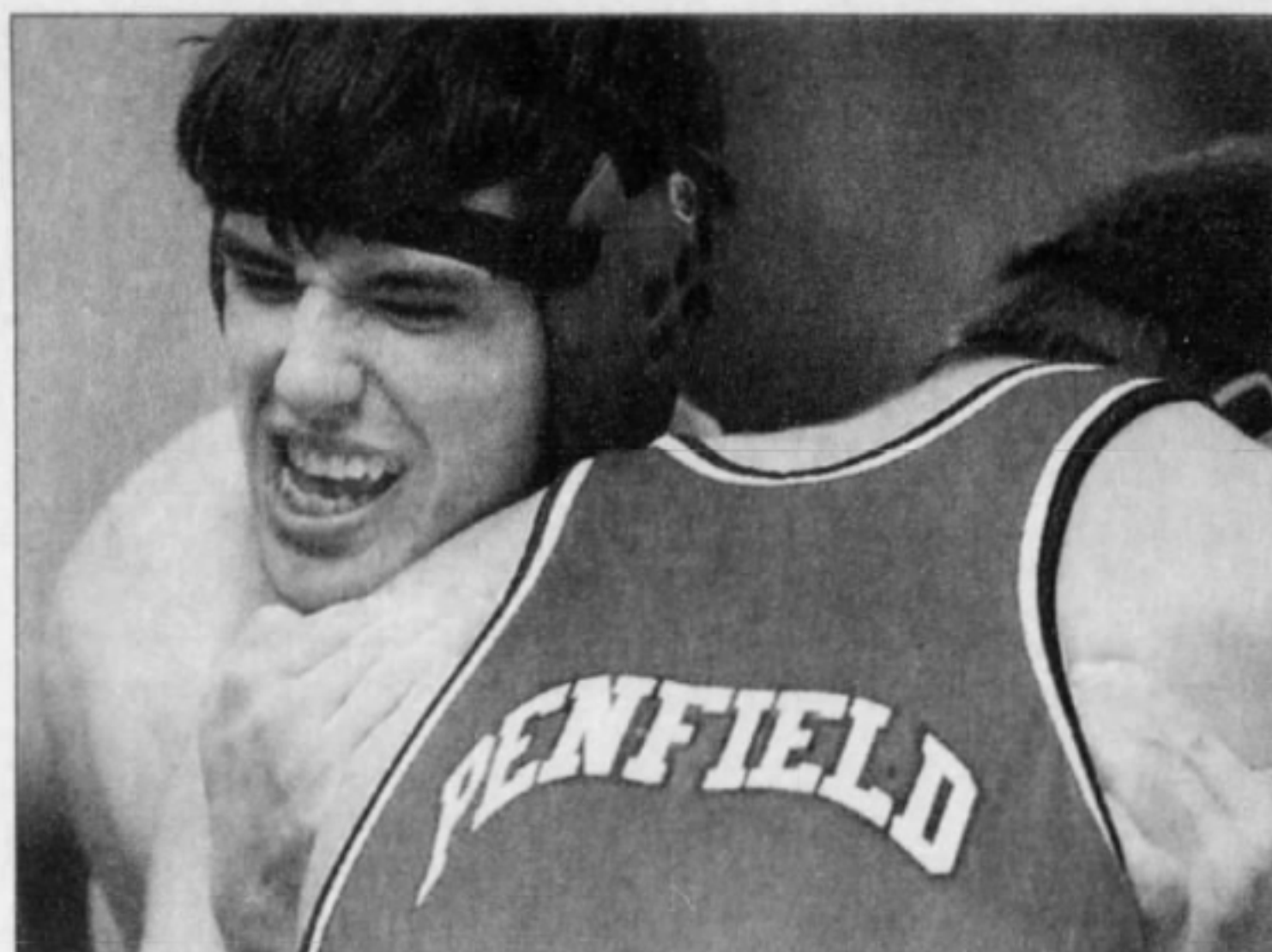
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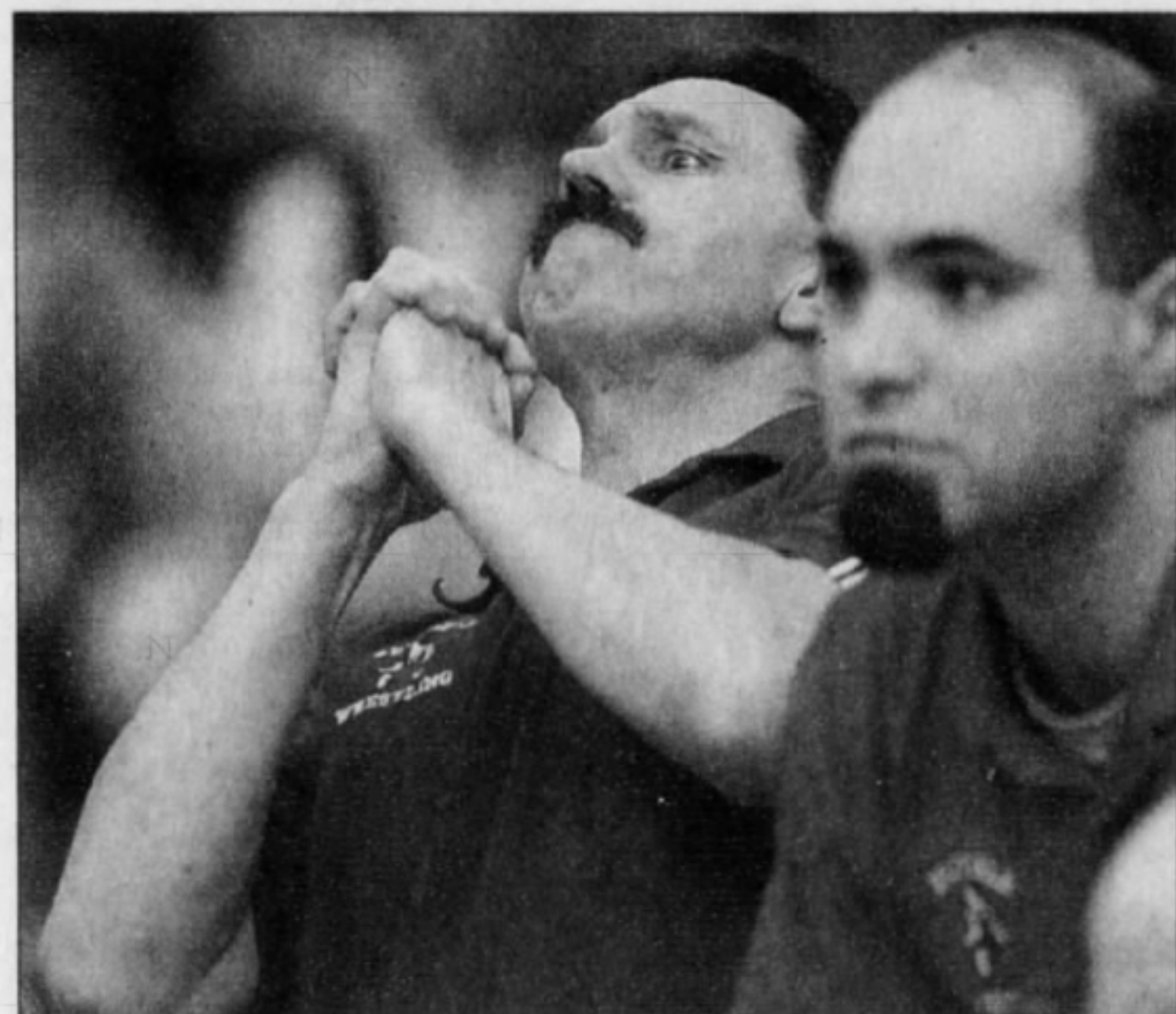
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Penfield coach John Farrelman, left, clasps his hands together during Matt Gough's match at the championships.

Great Eight left in county wrestling

STAFF REPORTS

WEBSTER — Call them the Great Eight, at least this week-end anyway.

High School Update

Eight is the number of 2002 Monroe County wrestling champions who have advanced to the semifinals of this year's league meet at Webster Schroeder.

Spencerport's Josh Fuller, Mike Brongo and Steve Stulpin are among them, as they helped the Rangers earn 83 points during the first day. Brockport is next in the team standings with 69.5 points, followed by Hilton (65.5).

East Rochester's Pat VanThof, Fairport's Dan Safranec, Rush-Henrietta's Jake Taylor, plus Schroeder teammates Andrew Krieger and Gregor Gillespie are also still in line to win county titles in back-to-back seasons.

Brongo and Gates Chili senior J.P. Zengerle are at opposite ends of the 140-pound bracket.

Penfield's Rich Schimpf, Brockport's Kevin Bush and VanThof, three of the top-ranked 171-pounders in Section V, have reached the final four of their division.

Bush takes on Schimpf, while VanThof is matched up with Greece Athena's Brett Giehl in today's semifinals. Wrestling

begins at 9:30 a.m.

GENESEE REGION

Holley 46, Kendall 22: Ron Ryan pinned Raul Estella in 2:00 at 215 pounds, and Andrew Grillo pinned Chris Benes in 1:03 at 130 pounds for Holley (7-3, 9-0).

NON-LEAGUE

Waterloo 53, McQuaid 21: At 152, Dustin Thomas pinned Marco Accordo in 2:10 for visiting Waterloo. Curtis Wheeler pinned Ryan Delaney at 125 in 3:15 for the Indians (7-0).

Andy Merkel scored a technical fall on Jason Havelin, winning by a score of 18-3 at 171 for McQuaid.

103: Andy Riegel (W) by forfeit; **112:** Anthony Guererri (W) p. Walter Casper, 2:52; **119:** Ray Sanchez (W) p. Isaac Figueras, :56; **125:** Curtis Wheeler (W) p. Ryan Delaney, 3:15; **130:** Tony DiDuro (W) p. Joe Clark, 1:18; **135:** Lorren Taddeo (M) dec. Curtis Andreas, 6-4; **140:** Will Boddy (M) p. Josh Mateo, 3:30; **145:** John Moore (M) p. Donnie Gantz, :43; **152:** Dustin Thomas (W) p. Marco Accordo, 2:10; **160:** Dave Everett (W) p. J.P. Rowe, 2:53; **171:** Andy Merkel (M) tf. Jason Havelin, 18-3; **189:** Jared Ticconi (W) dec. Carmen Rondash, 16-2; **215:** Dean Lemon (W) p. Peter Vanheyst, :56.

HOCKEY

MONROE COUNTY

Rush-Henrietta 6, Penfield 5 (OT): Senior center Randy Kuhn scored 18 seconds into overtime to win the game for R-H. Joe Larocca found Kuhn alone in front of the net and Kuhn deked the goalie for the goal.

The Royal Comets had to overcome two two-goal deficits in the game. Brandon Stephens scored with 20 seconds remaining on a pass from Matt Miller to tie the game for R-H. The

Royal Comets had their goalie pulled for the extra attacker.

Kuhn and Stephens finished with two goals and Larocca finished with two goals and an assist for the Royal Comets (16-4).

Eric Skeels scored two goals for Penfield.

MCQUAID TOURNAMENT

Shenendehowa-II 5, McQuaid 4: Brian Keane scored twice and made an assist to lead the Knights (6-15) at RIT. Matt Kevlin scored with 1:27 left to lift the Plainsmen.

Bishop Timon 3, Fairport 1: Steve Econimedes scored for Fairport.

OGDENSBURG TOURNAMENT

Brockport 8, Thousand Islands-III 1: Jarrod Miner scored three goals, and Brandon Dries added two goals for Brockport (16-2-1). Colby Jones had one goal and two assists and Craig Willis added three assists for the Blue Devils.

Pat Young made 13 saves for Brockport.

NON-LEAGUE

Whitesboro-III 7, Batavia 3: Eric Mruczek and Nick Priolo each had a goal and an assist for Batavia (13-4-2). Pete Shaffer also scored for the Blue Devils, giving him 100 career points.

Whitesboro, ranked No. 1 in the state in Division II, scored four times in the third period after leading 3-2.

Varsity coaches . . .

All home-team coaches, please report your varsity events by calling immediately afterward on our special coaches call-in line at (585) 258-2400 after 5 p.m. Use our 800 number if it's long distance (1-800-767-7539). If you're calling from out of state, use 1-800-473-5274. We ask home-team coaches to be the primary call because it saves time to get the event published. Visiting coaches are welcome to call, too, to double-check information.

SWIMMING

GENESEE REGION DIVING

Girls: 1. Taryn Persia (Pembroke) 301.05 points, 2. Heather Kelly (Wheatland-Chili), 246.00, 3. Nell Westermier (Attica) 167.45, 4. Danielle Powers (Alexander) 164.85.

Boys: 1. Chris Musshafen (W-C) 229.15, 2. Gary Neth (Alexander) 149.65.

NON-LEAGUE

Penfield 110, McQuaid 72: The 200-yard medley relay team of Jerry VanStrydonck, Jeremy Chang, Ben Monti, and Hal Grossman set a pool record with a time of 1 minute, 43.00 seconds to lead host Penfield (11-2). The Patriots also set a pool record in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.39), a team which included VanStrydonck, Grossman, Monti, and Quint Sugnet.

Penfield finished winning 10 of 12 events, and set a school record for most wins in a season (11). □