

Julian H. Gonzalez Democrat and Chronicle

Brockport's Rich Parete flying over 126-pound opponent Jeff Jayne of SU, who dropped an 11-6 decision.

Brockport wrestlers reap reward

Eagles upend SU, 27-12; make point for Div. III

By Gary Fallesen

Democrat and Chronicle

Wrestling at a Division III college is, in the words of John Leone, "like holding a full-time job."

For free.

"We're just wrestling without pay," said the 158-pound Brockport State senior from Penfield.

Dirty deeds were done dirt cheap again yesterday by Leone and his teammates. But that's not to say that the Golden Eagles' 27-12 thumping of visiting Division I Syracuse University wasn't some form of compensation.

"For me," Leone said, "this is great. This is the first time I've beaten them in four years. I've caught beatings for three years."

Including last season's 33-14 setback at Syracuse, the only loss Brockport experienced en route to a second-place finish in the NCAA championships.

"This shows that non-scholarship kids can put on a performance," 17th-year Coach Don Murray said after his highly regarded Golden Eagles (1-0) won seven of 10 bouts. "You don't have to go to a Division I school to be in a good program."

Syracuse (0-1), ranked 23rd by *Amateur Wrestling News*, started only one individual from last year's Top 20 team. Six others graduated, two did not return this season, and one (167-pound Jason Morris) was busy placing third at the World Judo Championships this weekend.

"We knew we were going to have troubles," said Coach Ed Carlin, who is in his 23rd year at SU. "We know we've got a long year ahead of us."

Especially if the first 14 minutes were any indication. "We had to have the first two matches," Carlin said after Brockport sophomore Troy Monks won a 7-4 decision at 118 pounds and freshman Rich Parete scored an 11-6 victory at 126.

Murray agreed, saying, "The first two matches were critical and my young guys came through."

TURN TO PAGE 3D

Brockport makes point for Div. III, trips SU, 27-12

FROM PAGE 1D

Brockport led, 6-0, when All-American Scott DeTore recorded a technical fall at 5:28 of the 134-pound bout.

Syracuse's Nick Garone won, 2-1, on riding time at 142 before the Golden Eagles triumphed in succession at 150 (All-American Dave Recor upsetting a higher rated John Gautrau, 9-6), 158 (All-America Leone, 14-5), 167 (All-American and national champion Todd Slade, 10-2) and 177 (Timm Slade, 12-2). Brockport led, 27-3.

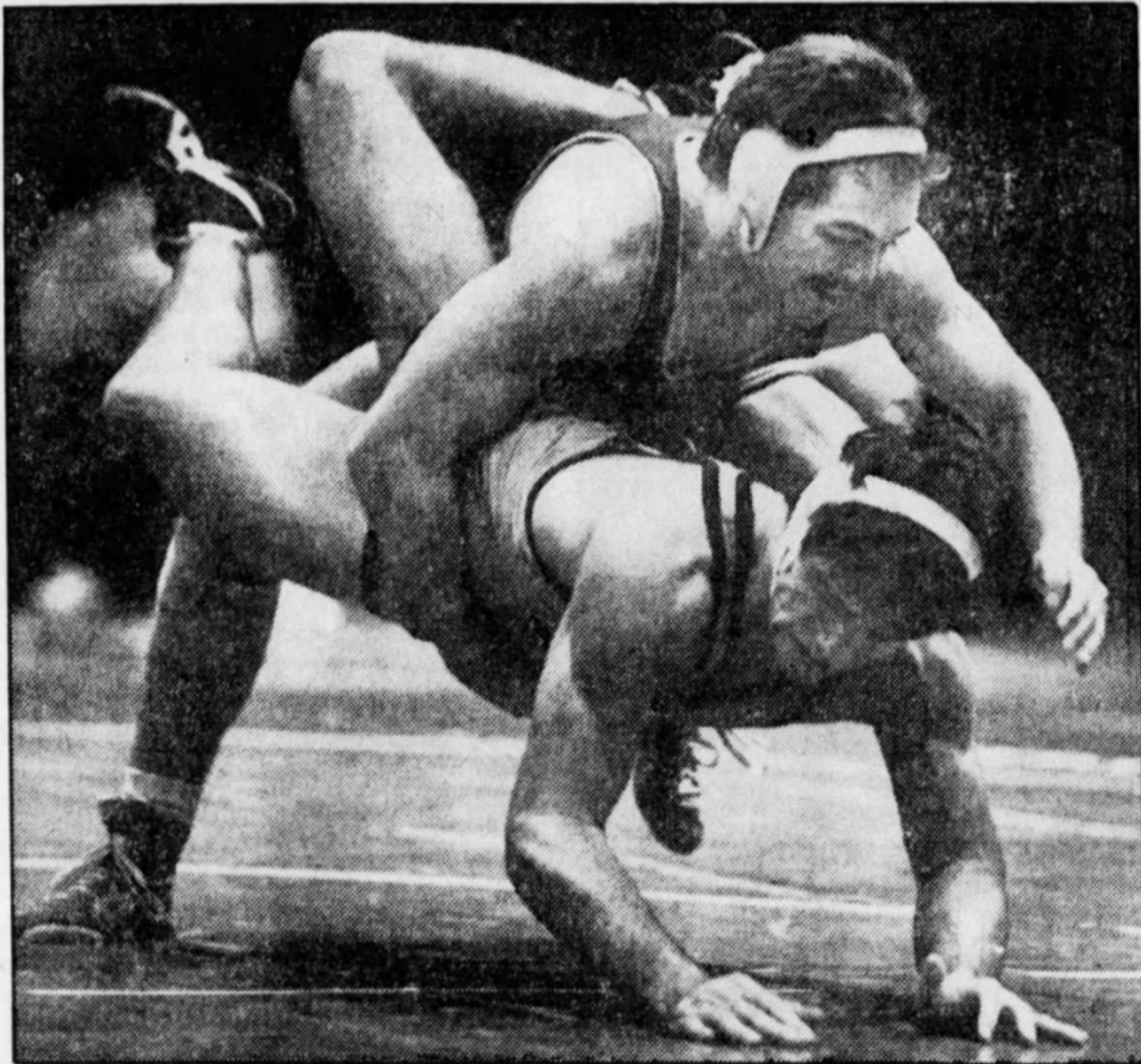
Mike Narewski then rallied for a 14-7 decision over Brockport sophomore Dave Lang at 190 and All-America heavyweight Rusty Middlebrook was pinned in 1:05 by the state's top-rated 190-pounder Leland Rogers of SU.

"Murray's probably got the best team that I've seen (at Brockport)," Carlin said. "They're definitely the best conditioned team he's had here."

The Golden Eagles have worked at it. "I very rarely go for a win in a dual meet," Murray said after defeating SU for only the second time in 12 meetings. "I did go after this one, though. I knew the opportunity was there (to win), so I went for it."

Not that this victory is likely to lure recruits away from Carlin's eight-scholarship program to Murray's non-scholarship team. SU's wrestling budget is more than 20 times larger than Brockport's.

"They're not as weak as everybody thinks," Leone said. "Supposedly the freshmen they get are so good they give them full rides. Well, their good guys matched up with our good guys, and we won."



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Brockport's Dave Recor (top) throwing John Gautrau to the mat. Gautrau entered the 150-pound match with a better ranking than Recor, but left a 9-6 upset loser.

Credit Murray.

"I can take the average kid and make him a champion if he's willing to work," he said. "It showed out there. They didn't quit."

"He (Carlin) has the state champs. I have the scrappers."

Whatever money can buy.

"Coach primed us all week for this one," Leone said. "This was three years in

the coming. It was finally worth it."

But the Golden Eagles refrained from carrying Murray out of the gymnasium on their shoulders after the meet ended.

"Usually you win something like this and you're jumping around hugging each other," Murray said. "I told them I'm proud of them. That was enough."

"This gave the kids some bragging rights."

At no cost to the university.