

HIGH SCHOOLS

Wrestler Welch is now center of attention

By John Moriello ★

Democrat and Chronicle

Canandaigua wrestler **Jon Welch** doesn't mind the notoriety he's receiving during an undefeated senior season, but that doesn't mean he isn't puzzled by it.

"I don't think (Hilton's **Rick Sadwick**) got this much attention," Welch said Saturday, "and he was a two-time state champion."

The reason so many people have taken an interest in Welch is that he, too, appears to have state-title potential.

The All-Greater Rochester football lineman continued toward that goal over the weekend, winning the 167-pound class of the Bradshaw Tournament on a decision and three pins at Community College of the Finger Lakes.

He built a 9-2 first-period lead against **Tom Morton** of Queensbury (Section 2) in the final and then fashioned a hip throw into a pinning combination 40 seconds into the second period.

"You can't ask for any more from me," Welch pleaded. "I've only gone the distance about five times this season."

And, of course, people have been asking more from him during a 21-0 senior season that has raised his career mark to 97-17-2.

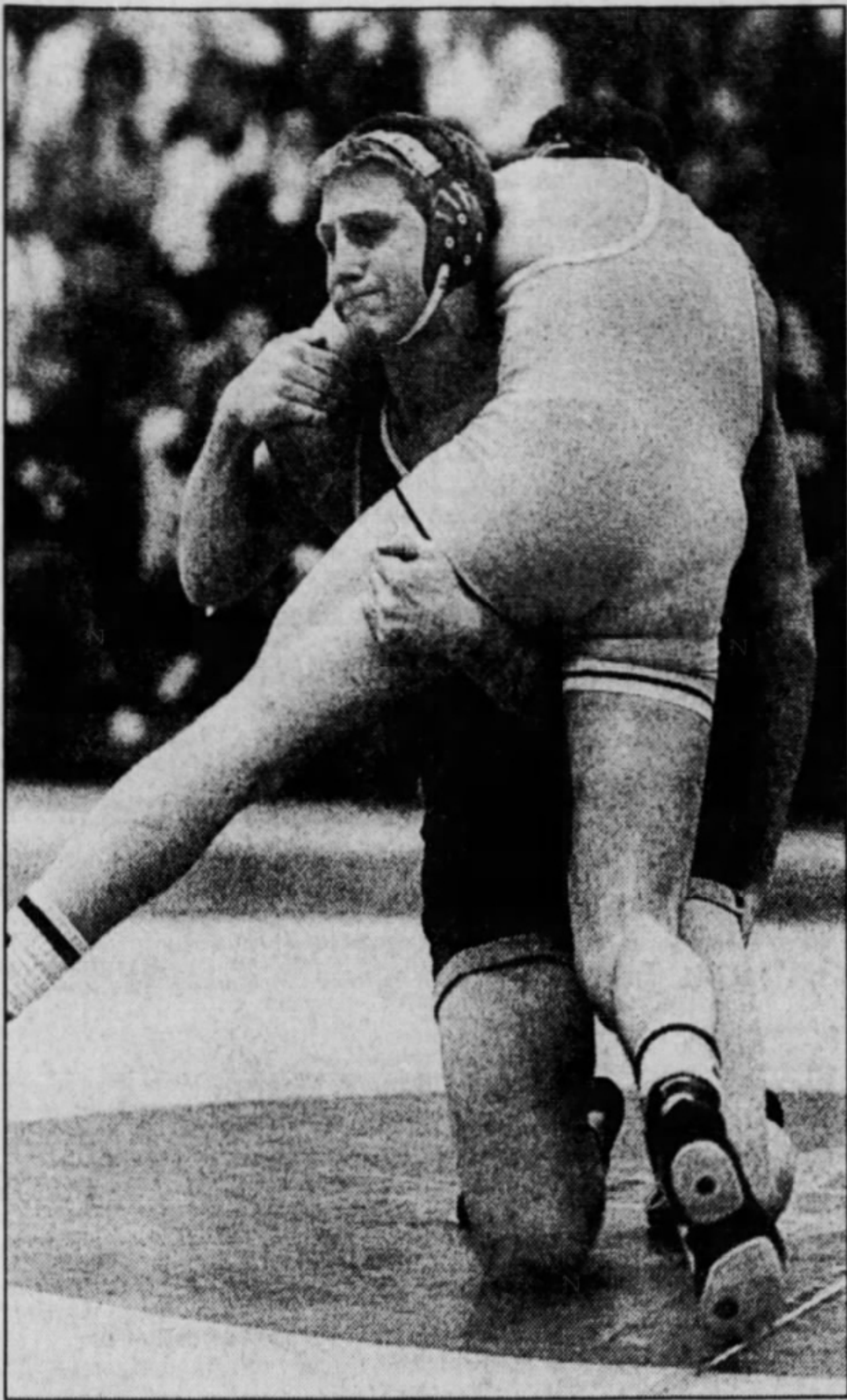
"If I don't pin a kid," Welch said with a laugh, "in school they'll say, 'What happened?' I say, 'What the heck? I only beat the kid about 18 to eight.'"

Few, though, sincerely doubt the abilities of the two-time Section 5 Class A champ who placed fifth at the 1988 state meet.

With the four boys who placed ahead of him in Syracuse having graduated, *The Mat Slap*, a wrestling publication out of Amityville, rates Welch the No. 1 167-pounder in the state.

That won't make him any less in demand with reporters or with coaches from top collegiate teams like Pennsylvania's Bloomsburg, Edinboro and Lock Haven. It's the same routine Hilton's Sadwick, a 155-pound competitor, went through before accepting a scholarship from Syracuse University.

"People call you and you have to be polite," Welch said. One coach called and said he didn't want to take much of my time.



Julian H. Gonzalez Democrat and Chronicle

Canandaigua senior Jon Welch (facing) is 21-0 in 167-pound class.

We ended up talking about half an hour."

Braves Coach **Tobin Tansey** doesn't worry about his star big man becoming distracted en route to the Onondaga War Memorial in March.

"He's handling it well," Tansey said. "He still knows what he's got to do . . . There are no guarantees until you finally finish the job."

● Marion's **Jerry Newby**, another undefeated 167-pounder, was named most outstanding wrestler Saturday night at the Midlakes Tournament. He scored an 8-1 decision in the final to improve to 17-0 and earn his third championship of the season.

Waterloo's **Eric Boynton** (138) was MOW at Geneva's Panther Invitational. Another '38, Geneseo's **Jim Casey**, was named most valuable at Palmyra-Macedon.

● Spencerport's home wrestling match with Fulton, the state's co-

No. 1 team, is tomorrow at 8:15 p.m., not Wednesday as was reported earlier.

Arkport's season over

The boys' basketball season at Arkport Central has ended prematurely. Sixth-year Coach **Larry**

GOO

CAN YOU SURVIVE

It's easy. Just see your nearest Auto Service retailer. He has trained Technicians, schooled in Goodyear nationwide. They use the very latest much of it computerized for speed to keep your car in top condition driving.

See your Goodyear Certified