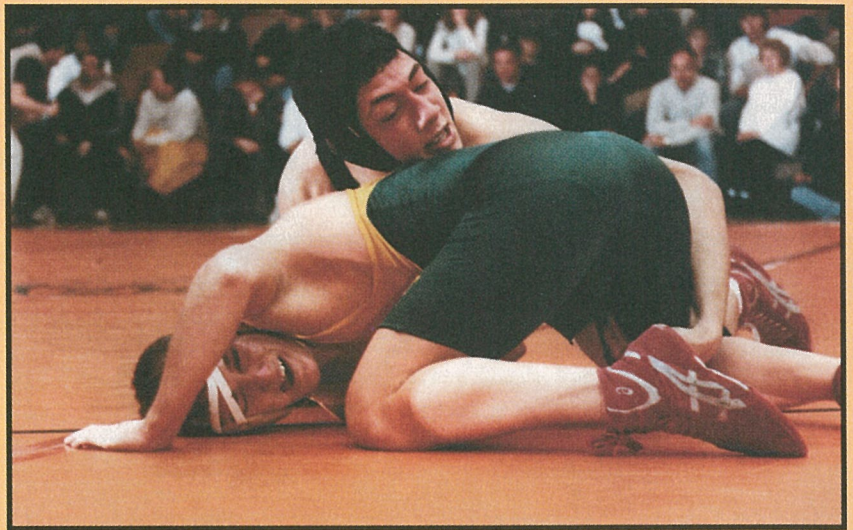


photo by Andrew Gombert

ourselves, every practice, and every day.” Sophomore co-captain Rachel Bucholtz has performed well in the butterfly and sprints, while veteran Heather Nichols has cemented herself into the number one position in the breaststroke and 200 individual medley. In the future Coach Mauks hopes that freshman Sarah Kimmerling will develop into the top notch swimmer she displays glimpses of becoming. Already she has earned the team’s top spot in the backstroke, and has been competitive every meet. As this season winds down, the women’s team hopes to use this year’s experience to help them to become competitive next season.

The swim season is ending, but the most important trials are ahead in the state competitions, where both Tiger Shark teams have the opportunity to finish their season on what hopefully will be a high note.

by Jon-Claude Caton



REPORTER ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

“STAPLES”

It goes without saying that the RIT wrestling team’s unbelievable win against Brockport, ending a 34 year-old drought, has been the high point of the wrestling program’s season. It was quite possibly the highlight of the year for the entire sports department. However, the unforgettable meet was not a cut and dry victory. The Tigers actually lost four of their first five matches. Enter Pat North. With the Tigers finding themselves deeper, and deeper in a hole, the Freshman known as “Staples” to his teammates turned the tide of the meet with the match of his life.

“Pat stepped up and performed above all expectations, he inspired the team, and everyone who was there” said wrestling coach Bob Zoeke. North’s win set the pace for the night, as the Tiger’s shocked their cross town opponents.

North’s teammates gave him the nickname “Staples” following his first collegiate practice at the beginning of the season. He was wrestling one of his teammates when the back of his head was cut open. North had to have four staples used to close the injury, prompting his teammates to affectionately dub him Staples. “He was Staples from day one” commented Coach Zoeke.

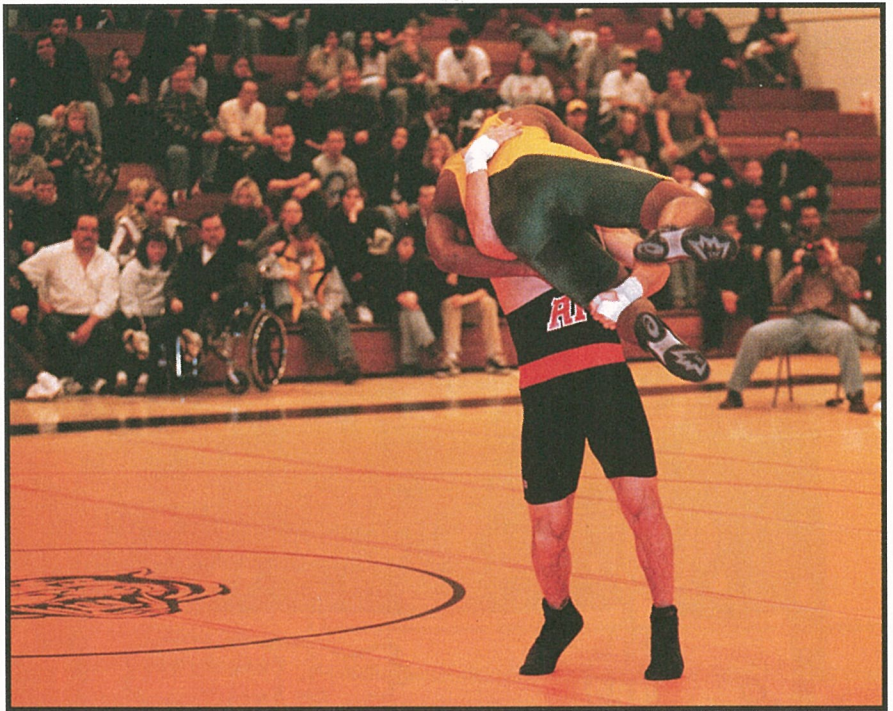
Zoeke is not at all surprised at North’s performance, “Pat is always working hard he is exactly what we need to build this program.” North’s coach is also impressed by his strong academic efforts. “He is a top student, and overall he is the model athlete.”

North’s heroic victory against Brockport has earned him the reputation as one of the team’s leaders. As the Wrestling team looks ahead towards the future, both this season and next, they will count on the courageous freshman known as “Staples” to continue to lead, and inspire them.

by Jon-Claude Caton

photo by Alexandra Daley

TIGERS ESCAPE 34 YEAR OLD CHOKEHOLD



“Awesome.” That was the word that first year wrestling coach Bob Zoeke used to describe the Tiger’s victory over Brockport. “With our placing in the state tournament and this match, we proved that this team is more than just one wrestler. It’s good to have erased this streak and we hope it’s the starting point of preparing for the Empire Championships.”

The match coach Bob Zoeke is speaking about took place Saturday January 30, against SUNY Brockport. The Tigers have not recorded a win against Brockport in a streak that goes all the way back to 1965. The win Saturday is only the Tigers’ second win against Brockport in the program’s history (2-31).

The match got off to a quick start with the number one ranked wrestler against the number two ranked wrestler in the nation. Two-time national champion Matt Hamill (ranked #1 in the nation for Division III at 197 pounds) put R.I.T. ahead, quickly earning an easy 5-1 decision over Brockport’s Eric Vaughn (ranked #2 in the nation for Division III at 197 pounds).

RIT trailed Brockport 12-3 after the first five matches, but Darrell McManus won with a decision, and Freshman Pat North turned the tide of the meet with an 11-2 win. “Pat came back from his match apologizing to me, saying that he was sorry that he didn’t get the pin. I couldn’t understand it, he had turned the tables in our favor” said Zoeke.

A decision win by Matt Telesky put the Tigers ahead 13-12. RIT’s Tony Wallace secured the win and disposed of the 34 year losing streak against Brockport with a pin in 45 seconds against Jamal Moore.

“Anybody who was in the gym that night experienced something that occurs only once every few years, if that,” said Coach Zoeke. “I still can’t believe the heightened atmosphere, and all of the energy the match generated. It was definitely something very special.”

by Brian Moon

Source: William A. McKee

photos by Michael Fagans

