



# Antonucci No. 1 at 119 in Bernabi wrestling

## Hilton senior stops four foes in two days

By John Moriello  
Democrat and Chronicle

Andy Antonucci endured a pair of demanding wrestling matches yesterday in the Rotary-Bernabi Tournament at Spencerport. And then he found out some folks felt his achievement barely counted.

"He's got a lot of experience and he's a great wrestler," North Rose-Wolcott junior Gary DeCarr said, "but nothing counts 'til Super Sectionals."

Antonucci would like to think otherwise. The Hilton senior won the tough 119-pound division with a 4-3 decision over Spencerport's Chris Bannister to depart with a first-place trophy for the third straight year and reaffirm his status as a challenger for state honors.

"You go to states," said Antonucci, a fifth-place finisher last March in the state meet at the Onondaga War Memorial, "and you know guys are going to be out for you."

That may be the case, but 10 straight opponents have taken their shot and missed this season, including four in the past two days. Antonucci, the 91-pound Bernabi champ in 1986 and 105 winner in '87, was named most outstanding wrestler in the 23rd annual tournament, held before a finals crowd of about 600 fans.

Spencerport edged Gates-Chili for the team title, 165½-162½, despite the Spartans' three individual championships by Rob Giannavola (98 pounds), Jim Barbato (122) and Jeff Wittman (177).

Other winners from Section 5 schools were Brockport's Scott Daly (126) and Steve Taylor (145), North Rose-Wolcott's John Brooks (138) and Pittsford heavy-weight Dereck O'Connor.

Antonucci recorded another achievement aside from adding trophies to his

collection. The 5-foot-6 senior earned career victory No. 100 in the quarterfinals held Thursday night.

His work in yesterday's semifinals helped erase memories of one of his more controversial triumphs, the 1987 Bernabi final against DeCarr. In their first meeting since, Antonucci scored two first-period takedowns and won a 7-3 decision.

Their last meeting had been a 7-6 decision. DeCarr had led, 6-5 before being warned for stalling in the closing seconds of the third period. The clock was reset to three seconds remaining, just enough time for Antonucci to execute a takedown and send the partisan crowd into a frenzy.

"That match stuck in my mind until this one," DeCarr said. "I kept thinking about how I wanted to get him back so bad. Now I've got to wait for Supers."

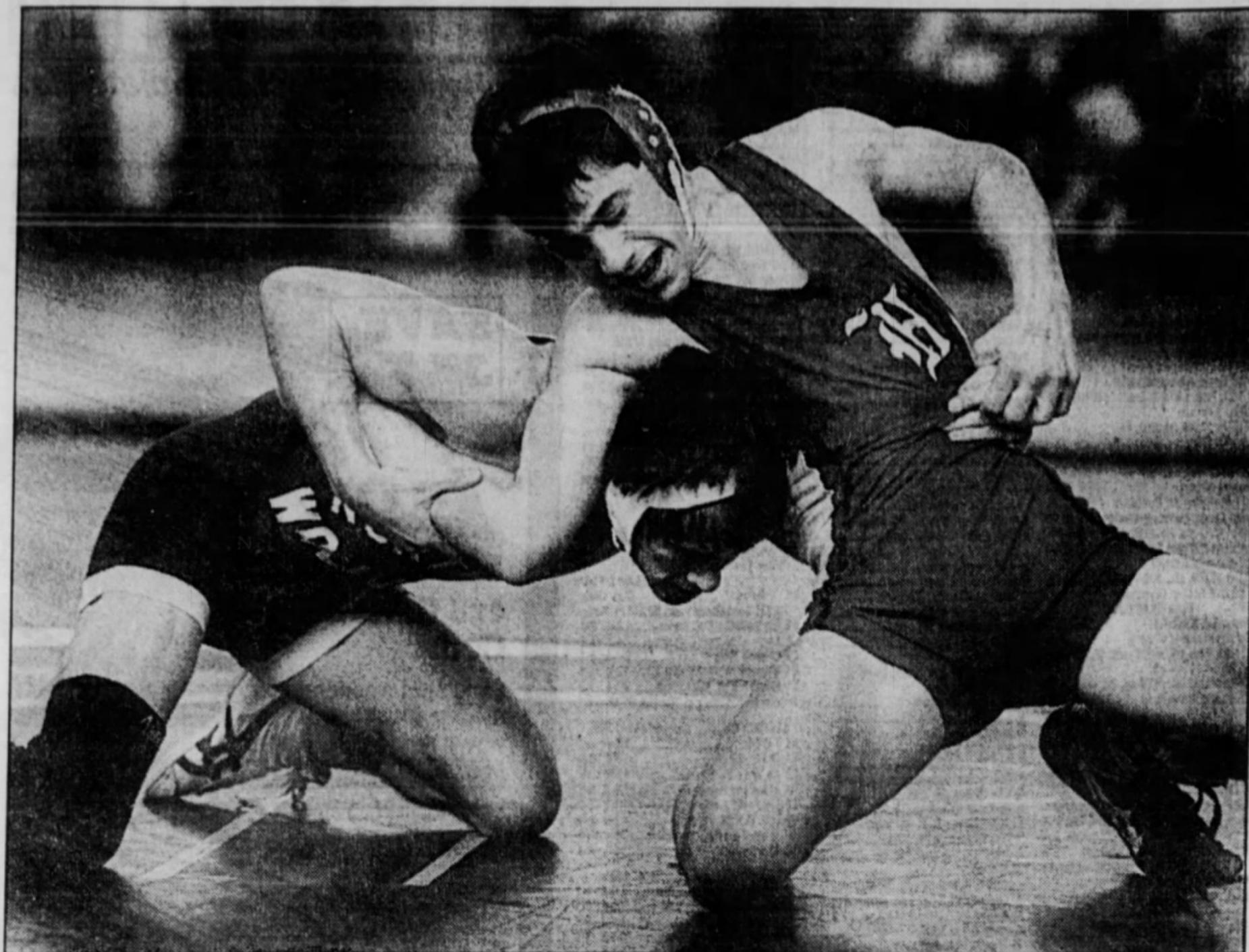
There's a fair chance the two will meet in that state qualifier event. DeCarr and Antonucci, a defending sectional champ, have both qualified in each of the last two years. They'll have to dodge the likes of Bannister, himself a sectional runnerup and state qualifier last season.

Antonucci used two escapes and a drag-by takedown to overcome an early 2-0 deficit to the previously undefeated Rangers senior, then survived a penalty point resulting from a body slam.

Antonucci received a similar penalty against DeCarr. That wasn't a payback of any sort for last year, but merely the way he treats all opponents.

"It's my style to get them in the air," he said. "I get excited and I'm not careful enough because I try to get them to their back too quick. I get too greedy."

**NOTES** — Section 4's Johnson City the team champion the last two years,



Kevin Higley Democrat and Chronicle

Hilton's Andy Antonucci (right) eluding move by Gary DeCarr of North Rose-Wolcott at Spencerport tourney.

did not participate. Spencerport has won the event four times, but went without an individual winner for only the second time in a decade. Spencerport put four wrestlers into the finals . . . Antonucci was the only 1987 champion to wrestle in a final.

The Gates-Chili finalists made quite an

impression. Giannavola raised his season record to 11-0 with three pins in an elapsed 7:19 and a technical in 5:13 in the 98 final. Barbato, a 1988 sectional champ, improved his record to 11-0 as a junior. Wittman, an All-Greater Rochester football player, is 11-0 after three quick pins and an easy decision.

Empire State Games silver medalist Brooks was an impressive 13-5 winner at 138 pounds over Whitehall's Chris Terry, who placed sixth in the '88 state meet. The other state qualifier to wrestle last night was Niagara Falls' Al Wooten. The state runnerup won the 215-pound bracket with a second-period pin.

# WRESTLING

Yesterday

Rotary-Bernabi Tournament

At Spencerport

**Team:** Spencerport 165½, Gates-Chili 162½; Brockport 129, North Rose-Wolcott 109, Athenas, Pa., 99½, Lancaster 99, Hilton 95, Pittsford 83, Lockport 73½, Cicero-North Syracuse 59, Bethlehem 51, Williams-ville North 48½, Niagara Falls 44, Cheektowaga 42, Whitehall 34½, Guilderland 32½, Elmira Southside 31½, Elmira Notre Dame 30, Horseheads 16.

## Individual finals

91 pounds — Jason Wartinger (Cheek) d. John Morello (Lock), 5-1; 98 — Rob Giannavola (G-C) tf. Don Spalding (Hil), 5:13; 105 — Mike Ford (Lock) d. Jim Heines (Pit), 4-1; 112 — Jim Barbato (G-C) d. Rich Stevens (NRW), 11-5; 119 — Andy Antonucci (Hil) d. Chris Bannister (Spen), 4-3; 126 — Scott Daly (Brock) d. Mark Teeter (Athens), 2-1; 132 — Rob Kearney (Will N.) d. Joe LoPresti (Spen), 3-1; 138 — John Brooks (NRW) d. Chris Terry (Whit), 13-5; 145 — Steve Taylor (Brock) d. Pat White (Hil), 8-7; 155 — Todd Miller (Lan) p. Mark Mattia (Hil), 2:40; 167 — Chip Foster (Guil) d. Larry Zerniak (NRW), 7-5; 177 — Jeff Wittman (G-C) d. Mike Licata (Spen), 20-8; 215 — Al Woolen (NF) p. John Thurston (Athens), 3:15; 250 — Dereck O'Connor (Pitt) p. Hasan Uyar (Spen), 3:05.