

Section V win mark falls to Warsaw star Voorhees

By JAMES JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Charlie Voorhees lost more wrestling matches than he won as a sixth-grader.



Voorhees

Voorhees, his mother, father and two older brothers would pack the family car and drive off to weekend youth tournaments. They usually wouldn't stay very long.

"He would have two matches and then he was out," said his mother Charlene Voorhees.

"I don't think he won anything," added his father, Charles Voorhees.

Now a senior at Warsaw High, Charlie Voorhees owns a book called *A Commitment To Wrestling*.

And the Section V record for most career wins.

Voorhees won his 168th match yesterday — passing 1984 Canandaigua Academy graduate Marty King — by defeating Jamestown's (Section VI) Brian Whitmore, 18-5. The record-breaking win came in the first round of the 117-pound weight class of the 31st annual Spencerport Teike/Bernabi Wrestling tournament.

"It means a lot to me," Charlie Voorhees said. "I'm from a small town and now I'll probably be more remembered by coaches than if I didn't."

Voorhees smiled when he said that. He smiled during the ovation for him, kept it on his face while being bear-hugged by coaches.

Voorhees has come a long way.

It took Voorhees just over five seasons to build his win total after joining the Warsaw varsity as a seventh-grader. His career record is 169-19-1 after winning his first and

Voorhees profile

■ **Class:** Senior.

■ **Weight class:** 119 pounds.

■ **Future college:** University of Buffalo, on a partial athletic scholarship (about \$5,000).

■ **Follow the leader:** Section V all-time wrestling career wins leader at 169-19-1.

■ **Yearly breakdown:** 21-5-1 (7th grade); 31-5 (8th); 28-4 (9th); 41-3 (10th); 37-1 (11th); 11-1.

■ **Career goal:** A teacher and athletic coach.

ON THE INSIDE

Bishop Ludden-Syracuse, the state's top-ranked basketball team in Class C, defeated East High 59-46 to win the championship of the Bishop Ludden Tournament. Chris Camplieta scored 19 points to lead the winners, and he was named the tournament's most valuable player. Page 9D.

Wrestle

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quarterfinal round matches at Spencerport.

The state record of 223 wins established by Terry Showalter of Canastota (Section III) in 1993 is out of Voorhees' reach.

Today's second and final day of action at the Spencerport Teike/Bernabi Tournament begins with wrestlebacks (consolations) at 10 a.m. Semifinals are scheduled to start at noon, with the finals getting under way at 7 p.m.

Voorhees, the No. 2 seed, is in one of the tournament's most competitive weight divisions. Top-seed Dan Dixon of Section VI's Niagara-Wheatfield and No. 3 Terrance Green of Spencerport are still in the 119-pound winner's bracket.

What seemed like bad experiences as a youth wrestler really were good times for Voorhees. He developed a bad taste for losing.

"I got my butt kicked for quite awhile," Voorhees said. "I've always practiced as if it was a match."

Voorhees has never lost more than five matches in a season since joining the Warsaw varsity, includ-

ing a 35-1 finish in 1995-96.

The state championship that Voorhees so badly wants has eluded him.

As a sophomore, Voorhees lost 8-7 in the 105-pound state finals.

Last spring, Voorhees lost in the 105-pound SuperSectionals semifinals, the qualifying tournament for the states.

"My real goal is to be a state champion," Voorhees said.

Warsaw senior tri-captain Sean Finnegan has watched Voorhees motivate himself everyday in practice.

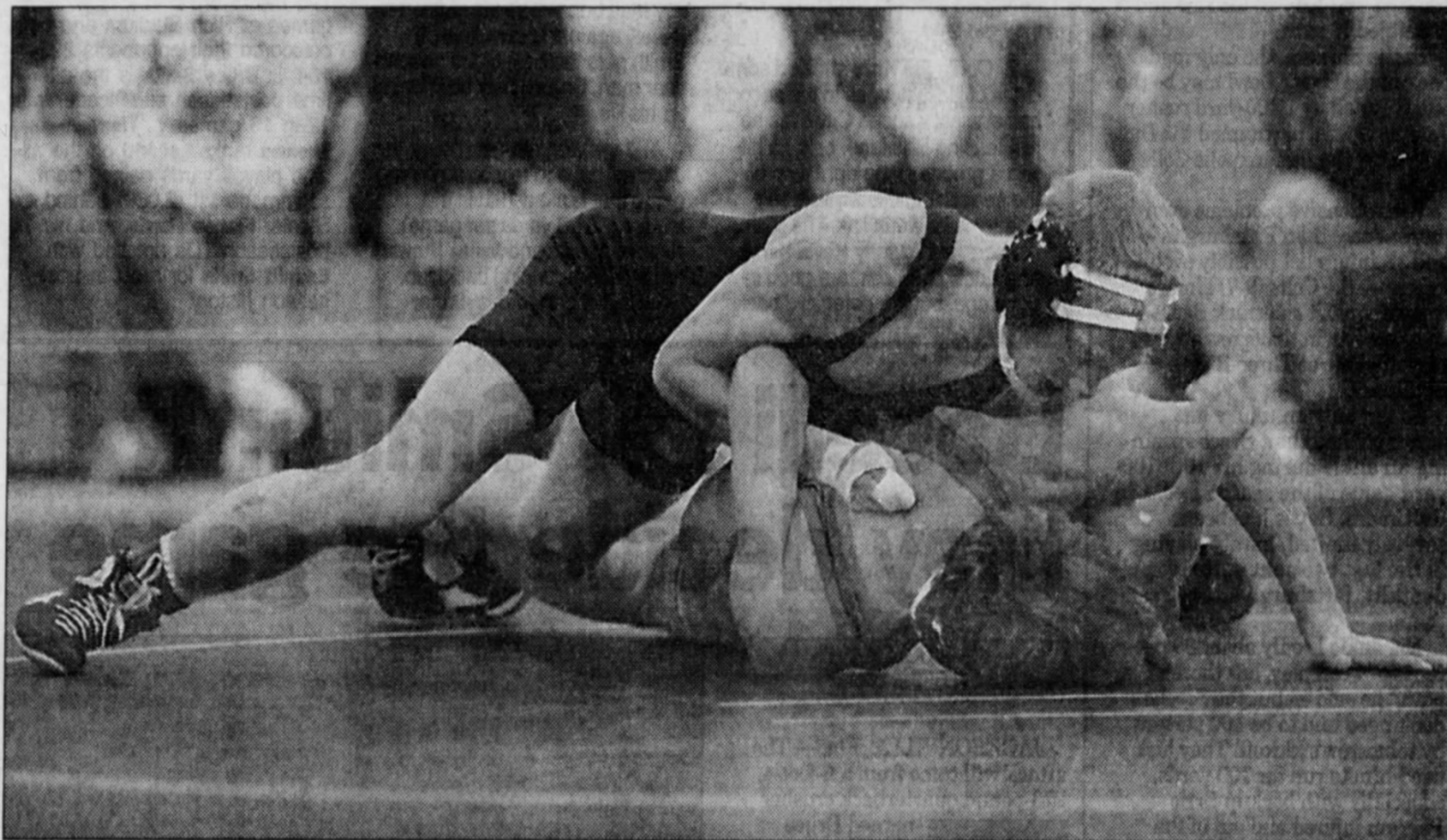
The two have known each other since the Voorhees moved from Le Roy to Warsaw.

"He's always pacing, always running," Finnegan said. "Even when he's not wrestling he's screaming for his teammates. He's the only person I hear during my matches."

A few phrases from *A Commitment To Wrestling* by former U.S. Olympic wrestler Ken Chetow hang in Voorhees' locker.

One of Voorhees' favorite lines in the book is: "*The largest room in the world is the one for improvement.*"

Keeping that and his first wrestling experiences in mind, Voorhees now wins more matches than he loses. □



JIRO OSE staff photographer

On a roll Charlie Voorhees of Warsaw (top) pinned Brian Whitmore of Jamestown at 119 pounds to set a Section V career record for wins.