

Tim Wins State Title

1969-70
Season

Gay Seventies Begin at ER

By RICK SAYERS

A sign in front of East Rochester High School proclaims Tim Gay as the school's first State Intersectional wrestling champion.

"I can't believe it," Gay said today. "I said that after each match. I was so happy just to be in the tournament, I never thought I'd win."

But Gay pinned Rich Kowalchuk of Hicksville (Section 8) in 5:08 of the third period Saturday at Syracuse to win the 178-pound championship to climax a fantastic 26-0-1 season.

As Gay talked, classmates and teachers passing by congratulated him. A little embarrassed, he just smiled and said thanks.

"Tim surprised a lot of people," says Coach Don Quinn, "but he shouldn't have, he's an outstanding wrestler, one of the best we have ever had."

A husky 175-pounder, Gay wore a scratch under his left eye from the victory match.

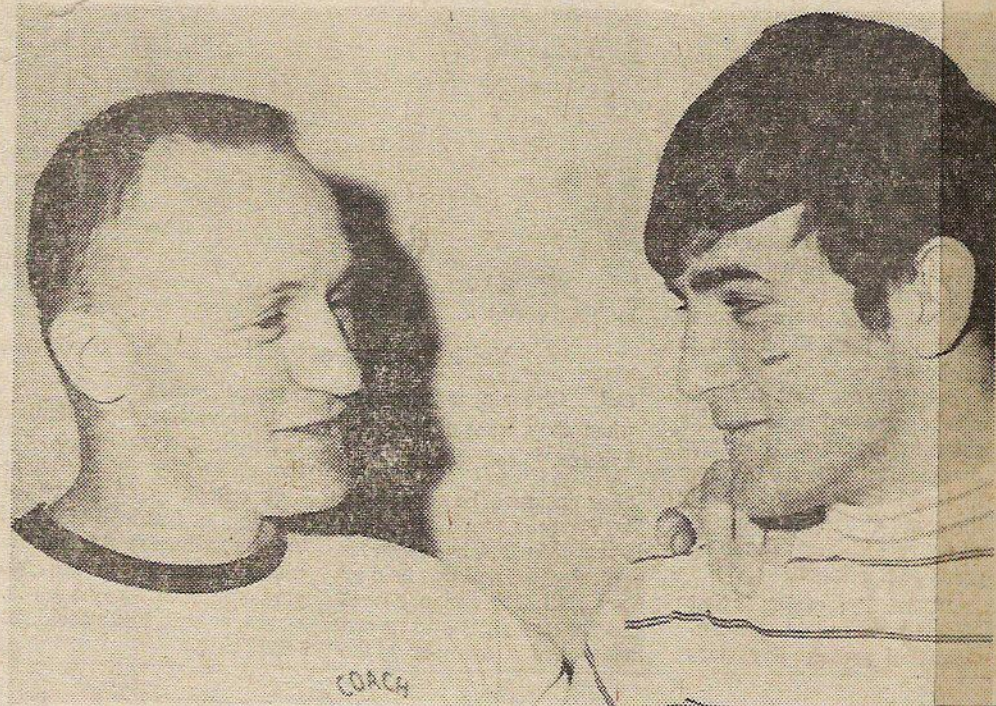
Tim was behind 4-0 early in the final bout and was losing 8-6 before he pinned Kowalchuk.

"It was the first time this year I was taken down," says Gay, brushing aside his long hair. "And the first time I was behind. I wanted to tire him out in the last period, but I got a good move and pinned him."

Gay is usually not a pinner. He had only six pins all year.

"Tim is quick for 175 pounds, an asset for big guy and he's very strong," says Quinn. "He didn't have many points scored on him. He won his matches like 9-0 and 10-2 all year."

Gay, a three-year veteran at East Rochester, had a 6-2 re-



--Times-Union Photo--Claude Brown

Coach Don Quinn and Tim Gay, his No. 1 East Rochester wrestler.

cord as a sophomore and was 12-3 last year, losing to Pittsford's Ernie DiBella in the Sectional finals. DiBella went on to win the Intersectional title.

Gay, 26-0-1 this year, drew with Joel Archer of Pittsford in the first match of the season, but was unstoppable the rest of the way.

"Tim was too cautious in that match (1-1)," says Quinn. "Archer was an Sectional champion and both wrestlers layed back, neither wanted to lose."

Gay was also an All-Central Western Conference tackle in football last fall.

He wants to compete in both wrestling and football in college, and is interested in Slippery Rock or Scranton.