

Mepham's Wrestlers County Champs Again

By Lou DeFichy

Westbury—Coach Ken Hunte was the happiest man in the world Saturday night as his Mepham High School wrestlers won their second straight Nassau championship at Clarke High before a crowd of 3,000.

Mepham won it decisively, amassing 70 points in the two-day tournament to 48 for second-place Calhoun. Wantagh (41) and Valley Stream Central (36) followed. It was one of the largest fields in the tournament's history, attracting 190 wrestlers.

Mepham won three of the 12 individual titles. Bob Stock won the 115-pound championship, Tom Gleason the 136 and Mark DeMicco the 157. Stock won the 104-pound title last season.

Stock decisioned Brian Lambe of Clarke, 2-0, in the finals. Gleason decisioned Roger Shatzkin of South Side, 8-3, and DeMicco decisioned Dan Procida of East Meadow, 5-4.

Ken Long, of Mepham, was eliminated in the semifinals by Scott Higgins of Manhasset, 9-3, in the 141-pound class. Long won at 148 last season.

Two Calhoun wrestlers won their second straight county championships, Ken Haltenhoff (148) and Tom Schlendorf (168).

Haltenhoff decisioned Rich Hoffman of Carle Place, 1-0, in an overtime period and Schlendorf decisioned Cody Keller of South Side, 5-1. Haltenhoff won at 140 last season; Schlendorf at 158.

The only other 1962 champion to win was Jerry Blumberg of Valley Stream Central. Blumberg, heavyweight king last year, won the 183-pound title in a very close match with Mike Westfall of Wantagh on a referee's decision after an overtime period.

Newly crowned champs were Pete Henning of Wantagh in the 98-pound class; John Harris of Hempstead, 106; Elliott Tepper of Berner, 123; Ralph Sammis of Mineola, 130; Andy Taylor of Freeport, 141, and heavyweight Aguido Carloni of Uniondale.

Sammis and Schlendorf were voted the outstanding wrestlers.

Harris' victory was a surprise. Hempstead has only been wrestling on a varsity level for three years. "Someone had to come through to build up the sport at my school," Harris said.

'Completely Disciplined'

Harris, a 17-year-old junior, has a 36-2-2 record. You couldn't stop Hempstead coach Sam Just from talking about his star. "That Harris," Just said, shaking his head in wonderment. "He's amazing. He's the type of wrestler that if you tell him to run five miles, he'd do it. He's completely disciplined and never a problem. The big thing that brought him the championship is his keen insight in studying the sport. He seems to have an ability to retain everything he sees. Winning the county championship will help develop the sport in Hempstead.

"I've got to tell you this too," Just continued. "Harris never missed a day of practice since he's been on the team and he's the best boy to work with. I think it's wonderful when a 105-pound kid can win a county championship in wrestling and also be picked on the league all-star soccer team."

Wrestling Results

98-Pound Class

Final: Henning (Wantagh) dec. Pros (Freeport), 6-0.
Consolation: Greenberg (Calhoun) dec. Recher (Roslyn), 1-0.
Semifinals: Pete Henning dec. Paul Recher, 1-0, in overtime; Gary Pros dec. Eric Greenberg, 1-0, in overtime.

106-Pound Class

Final: Harris (Hempstead) dec. Glassman (Mepham), 3-0.
Consolation: Schoenbach (Valley Stream Central) dec. Barca (Valley Stream North), 3-0.
Semifinals: Al Glassman dec. Schoenbach, 3-0; John Harris dec. Bart Barca, 11-4.

115-Pound Class

Final: Stock (Mepham) dec. Lambe (Clarke), 2-0.
Consolation: Winkle (Hicksville) dec. Bergenson (Valley Stream Central), 3-1.
Semifinals: Bob Stock dec. Bob Winkle, 3-1; Brian Lambe dec. Howie Bergenson, 1-0.

123-Pound Class

Final: Tepper (Berner) dec. Papacena (Valley Stream South), 3-0.
Consolation: DeSario (Mepham) dec. Schwartz (Oceanside), 6-3.
Semifinals: Ed Papacena dec. Steve Schwartz, 4-2; Elliott Tepper dec. Bob DeSario, 2-1.

130-Pound Class

Final: Sammis (Mineola) dec. Gunzell (Calhoun), 5-4.
Consolation: DeSantis (Seaford) def. Beaulieu (Oceanside) on forfeit (injury).
Semifinals: Ralph Sammis dec. Beaulieu, 9-5; Bob Gunzell def. Bob DeSantis on referee's decision.

136-Pound Class

Final: Gleason (Mepham) dec. Shatzkin (South Side), 8-3.
Consolation: Zebrowski (Mineola) dec. Luisi (Valley Stream North), 4-3.
Semifinals: Roger Shatzkin dec. Ron Luisi, 4-2; Tom Gleason dec. Bob Zebrowski, 10-0.

141-Pound Class

Final: Taylor (Freeport) dec. Higgins (Manhasset), 3-2.
Consolation: Long (Mepham) dec. Beatty (Mineola), 4-2.
Semifinals: Andy Taylor dec. Beatty, 6-1; Scott Higgins dec. Ken Long, 9-3.

148-Pound Class

Final: Haltenhoff (Calhoun) def. Hoffman (Carle Place), 1-0 in overtime.
Consolation: Weisberg (Wantagh) def. Franquemont (Mineola) on referee's decision.
Semifinals: Ken Haltenhoff dec. Ed Franquemont, 4-0; Rich Hoffman dec. Ira Weisberg, 2-1, in overtime.

157-Pound Class

Final: DeMicco (Mepham) dec. Procida (East Meadow), 5-4.
Consolation: Vanderhall (Uniondale) dec. Samberg (Island Trees), 7-2.
Semifinals: Mark DeMicco dec. Steve Samberg, 3-2; Don Procida dec. Matt Vanderhall, 8-6.

168-Pound Class

Final: Schlendorf (Calhoun) dec. Keller (South Side), 5-1.
Consolation: Feder (Valley Stream North) pinned Becker (Valley Stream Central), 5:40.
Semifinals: Tom Schlendorf dec. Chris Feder, 9-0; Cody Keller dec. Brian Becker, 5-...

183-Pound Class

Final: Blumberg (Valley Stream Central) def. Westfall (Wantagh) in overtime on referee's decision.
Consolation: Fritz (Uniondale) def. Zemsky (Mepham) in overtime on referee's decision.
Semifinals: Mike Westfall dec. Lou Zemsky, 4-0; Jerry Blumberg pinned John Fritz, 3:32.

Heavyweight Class

Final: Carloni (Uniondale) def. Stegmeier (Wantagh) in overtime on referee's decision.
Consolation: DeRosa (Carle Place) pinned Wachtel (Great Neck North), 2:58.
Semifinals: Aguido Carloni pinned Jeff Wachtel, 5:59; Ray Stegmeier dec. Neil DeRosa, 12-5.

Team Standings

Mepham 70, Calhoun 48, Wantagh 41, Valley Stream Central 36, Uniondale 28, Mineola 28, Freeport 27, South Side 21, Carle Place 20, Valley Stream North 17, Berner 16, Hempstead 14, Clarke 13, Seaford 11, Manhasset 11, Oceanside 10, East Meadow 10, Valley Stream South 10, Hicksville 7, Roslyn 5, Great Neck North 4, Island Trees 4, Herricks 3, Massapequa 3, Farmingdale 3, Division 2, North Shore 2, Great Neck South 2, Carey 1, Syosset 1, Wheatley 1.

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Harris decisioned Al Glassman of Mepham, 3-0, in the finals. In the first round he pinned Joe Smith of Mineola. In the second he decisioned Bill Starke of Hicksville, and in the semifinals he decisioned Bart Barca of Valley Stream North, 11-4.

Freeport's Taylor was so elated after decisioning Higgins in the 141-pound final that he jumped in the air, ran over to his coach, and embraced him. "It was worth the work," said coach Vince Zuaro to Taylor. "I'd go another five years to win it again," replied Taylor.

Hunte credited the championship to a "team effort."