

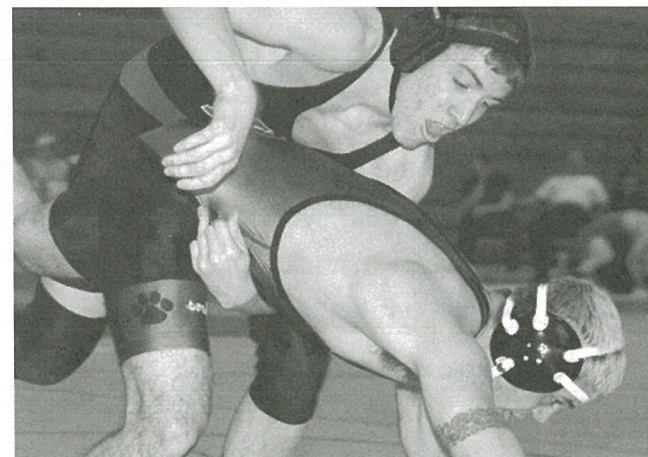
With one senior, six juniors, seven sophomores, and eight freshmen, the team is quite young; Stever feels the team needs to improve on their technique and conditioning. In a soft and relaxed tone he said, "They have to learn more 'set-ups', and...be more offensive instead of defensive."

Stever went on to say that the team is striving to "peak at the end of the season" and qualify for the Division III National Tournament. Before that takes place, achieving a ranking at the New York State Collegiate Tournament would certainly boost the confidence of the athletes.

Overall, the Tigers ranked seventh at the Invitational, with Pat North and Luke Walsh taking third place in their respective weight categories, and Ashley Grillo and Josh Torres taking fifth.

Captain Grillo, seeded first, wrestled well his first two matches, but ran into trouble in the third. "I was dominating the whole match, but then I got caught—put in a position where I gave up enough points so that I lost the match." After the upsetting third match, going into the fourth was a psychological double-whammy. "The next match was frustrating because our styles conflicted, and I wasn't able to open up like I wanted to," said Grillo. "But at this point in the season, it's not about winning the tournament," Grillo emphasized—"It's more about how you wrestle."

The Tigers are making a transition to a new beginning—it will be exciting to see what Coach Scott Stever, Assistant Coaches David Ciocca and Ilias Diakomihis, and the team will accomplish in the coming months. •



# Working Out the Knots

Wrestlers Compete in the 34th Annual Invitation

By Ranjan Ahuja

Photographs by Kevin Lorenzi

**"But at this point in the season, it's not about winning the tournament. It's more about how you wrestle."**

**—Ashley Grillo, team captain**

The focus and intensity saturated the gymnasium. On the mats, competitors' bodies struggled as they used strength and technique to gain control of the match. One wrestler had the other's leg twisted at some unnatural angle, while his own arm lay pinned under his competitor's chest. The audience watched intently and shouted encouragement from the stands. Around the mats, other wrestlers looked downward, concentrating on some near point in space while they stretched their limbs and spoke to themselves silently.

This was the scene for nearly 10 straight hours on Saturday, December 4, when RIT hosted its 34th annual Wrestling Invitational. Nine colleges attended, with close to 140 wrestlers competing in 10 weight categories.

Scott Stever, the new coach of the wrestling team, brings a wealth of experience to the program. Among the many accomplishments of his college years, Stever captured six Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) freestyle titles, won the first New York State Championship at 142 pounds, and qualified for four National tournaments.

No less impressive is Stever's 28-year coaching career. For his numerous accomplishments in this regard, he has been inducted into four different Halls-of-Fame.

During the matches, Stever's eyes conveyed a calm attentiveness. "Not only does he know the sport, but he also knows what he has to do and say to make us better wrestlers," said third-year wrestler Phil McNeil.