

# THREE WINNERS PACE ST. FRANCIS

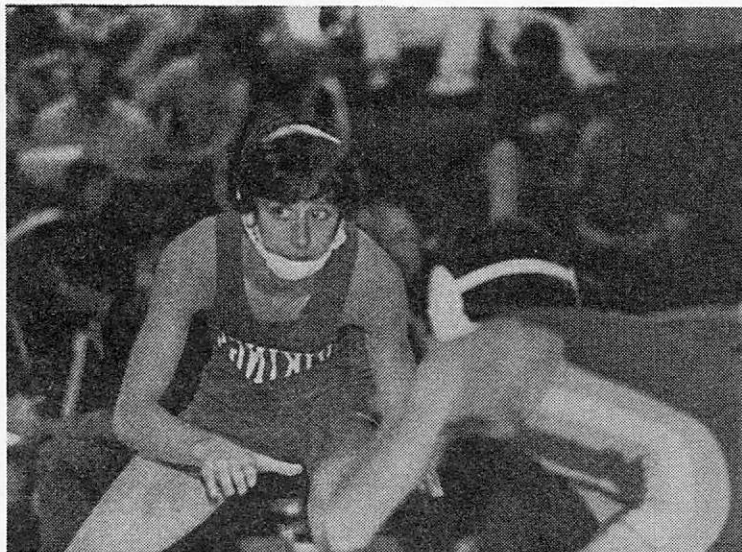
by Chuck Massaro

The St. Francis Red Raiders, under coach Al Bemiller, hosted and won the 2nd annual St. Francis Christmas Tournament, on Thursday, Dec. 23.

St. Francis placed 3 wrestlers in the finals of the 12 team tournament and each came away with first place plaques. Mike Laipple (167), who was All-Catholic Champion in 1982, pinned Amherst's Kevin Cleary in :28 to score one of three pins in the finals.

Carl Michaelewski won the day's most exciting match when he decisioned Chris Osmanski, of West Seneca East, 8-7 at 177. Osmanski trailed by a point with 20 seconds remaining in the match when he shot a double leg takedown to tie the match 7-7, but Michaelewski shot off the mat to escape with 7 seconds to go.

Michaelewski's teammate at 119, Pete Sartori, also used a strong finish to send his match with Cheektowaga's Ken Pease into overtime before Sartori was able to take control of the match and emerge with an 8-1 victory. "I felt tired in the beginning of the match, but when I took the lead in overtime, that seemed to pick me up." said Sartori. He said he was concerned with the upper body strength of Pease and tried to stay away from



Grand Island's Gawel looks for advice before his semi-final match with 91-lb. champ Kevin Davis of Lake Shore.

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And Section V !

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tie ups.

Cheektowaga finished in second place as a team with 152.5 points (11.5 behind the winners), yet the Warriors claimed just one individual title, Jeff Owczarczak's at 132. The Cheektowaga junior captain held off Eden's Paul Gier for an 8-6 triumph.

Three Lake Shore Eagles took home first place awards and helped their team to a 3rd in the team scoring with 137.5 points. Darrin Heppner defeated Kyle Larence of Grand Island by a point in the semis and then decisioned Andy Ewers of Amherst 12-9 in the showcase round, in another thrilling bout.

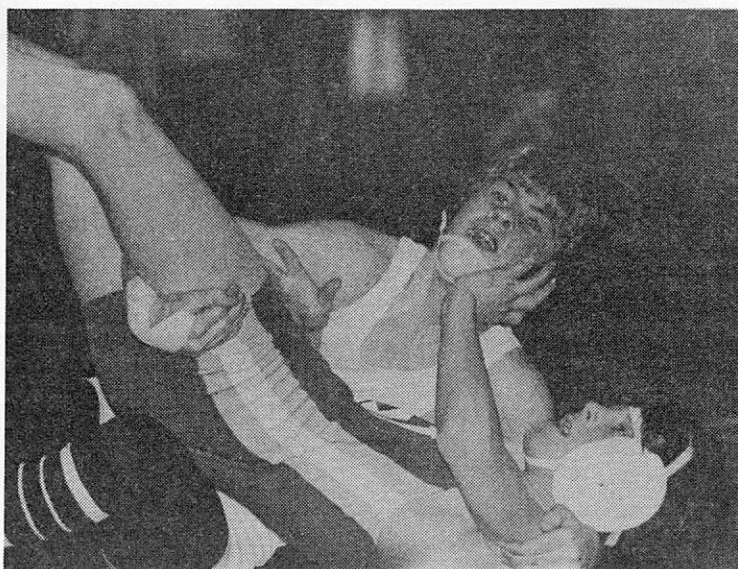
Junior Marty Niedermeier, who won the Iroquois Invitational a week ago, also became champion at St. Francis when he edged Williamsville East's Mike Costanzo 2-0 on a double leg takedown after just :20 of the first period. Niedermeier is presently 10-0 at 105.

Lake Shore other win came at 91 when Kevin Davis scored a 4-0 win over Al Broad of WSE, whose big brother Keith won at 155 after a controversial semifinal win.

Keith trailed Scott Phelan 5-4 with seconds remaining in their semis bout when Phelan shot and grabbed Broad's leg. The Trojan star used his experience to his advantage and stepped over Phelan and threw in a leg, although Phelan still had hold of his other leg. As time ran out, the referee signaled that Broad had earned the 2 points for the takedown and he had won the match 6-5. In the finals, Broad beat Maryvale's Dave Hall 11-5, after scoring 5 third periods by catching Hall trying to throw in legs.

Jeff Costanzo (112), of Will. East, won the Outstanding Wrestler trophy as well as his own weight class. He pinned Gary Wurst of Maryvale in 5:50 of the finals after scoring 4 points in the 3rd period to defeat St. Francis's Chris Jerge 6-1 in the semis.

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98-lb. champion Matt Haberl scores back points in a 15-3 semi-final victory over Lake Shore's Mike Smith.

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Tom Suchyna defeated Mike DeFiglia 6-3 at 145 to give Will. East 2 champions on the day. Another team from the same town claimed 2 champs when Amherst's Don Braun (215) and Keith Ginter (138) defeated Andy Skrzy-pczyk (WSE) and Joe Edgerton (LS) respectively.

Maryvale sophomore Matt Haberl wrestled a smart match in the finals at 98 and avenged a loss that Scott Rogers (WE) dealt him 4 years ago in Kids Wrestling.

"I was able to get ahead of him (Rogers) and I didn't let him put me on my back." said Haberl. "He's good and he's tough, and I made sure that most of the wrestling was done near the edges to give him less room to operate."

**FINAL TEAM SCORES:** St. Francis 164, Cheektowaga 152.5, Lake Shore 137.5, Maryvale 136, Williamsville East 127, Amherst 125, West Seneca East 88.5, Eden 47, Grand Island 45.5, Lackawanna 39, East Aurora 23, Holland 15.

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