

THE ATHLETE

Are You Ready for Rory?

Rory Legacy may not be a household name for most people, but for the high school wrestlers of the area the name symbolizes hard work and success.

Rory Legacy is a sixteen year old junior at E.J. Wilson High School in Spencerport who recently became the Section V Wrestling Champion at 98 pounds. After advancing to the semi-finals of the State Championship, Rory lost to the eventual champion, Al Destefano of Locus Valley. "Destefano and I are familiar with each other - he beat me last year in the states and we've wrestled with each other during the summer. Al is also a junior, which means I'm going to have to wrestle him again next year."

Does Rory still get nervous and tense before each meet? "No, but at first, I was petrified every time I had to wrestle. It was just a case of being scared about wrestling the big names in the area. Now it doesn't bother me as much, because I realized that being

nervous wasn't going to help my wrestling at all. Now I just go out and wrestle."

Although Legacy works out every day by either running, lifting weights or actually wrestling, he claims he has other interests other than wrestling. "I love wrestling, but like any other normal kid, I have other interests too. I really like sitting down and listening to music, and when its not wrestling season per se, I like cooking and eating."

What is Rory doing this summer? You guessed it - he is going to be in a number of area wrestling tournaments, including some as far away as Pennsylvania. "I really get into shape during the summer because I workout so hard. Summer is a good time to workout because there is no pressure from school to do homework. I can also learn what kind of competition is going to be present during the wrestling season and also in the state competition."

Legacy vs. DeStefanis
Photo by S.C. Parker

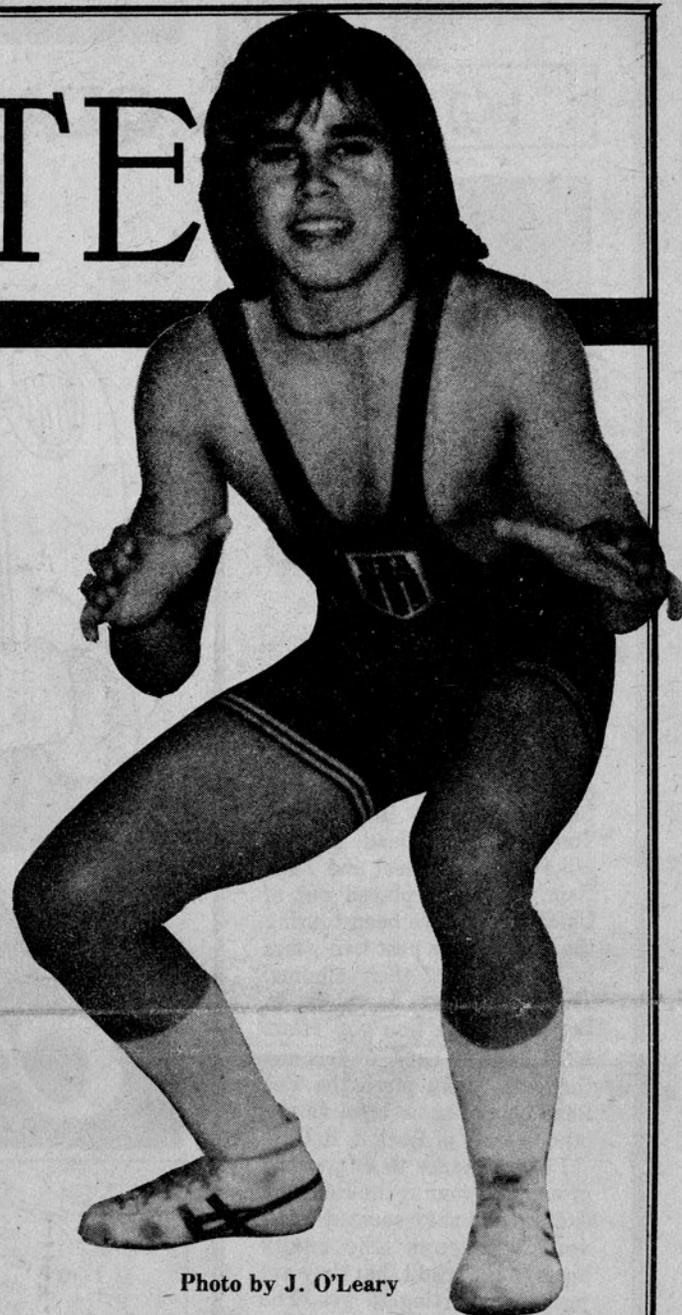
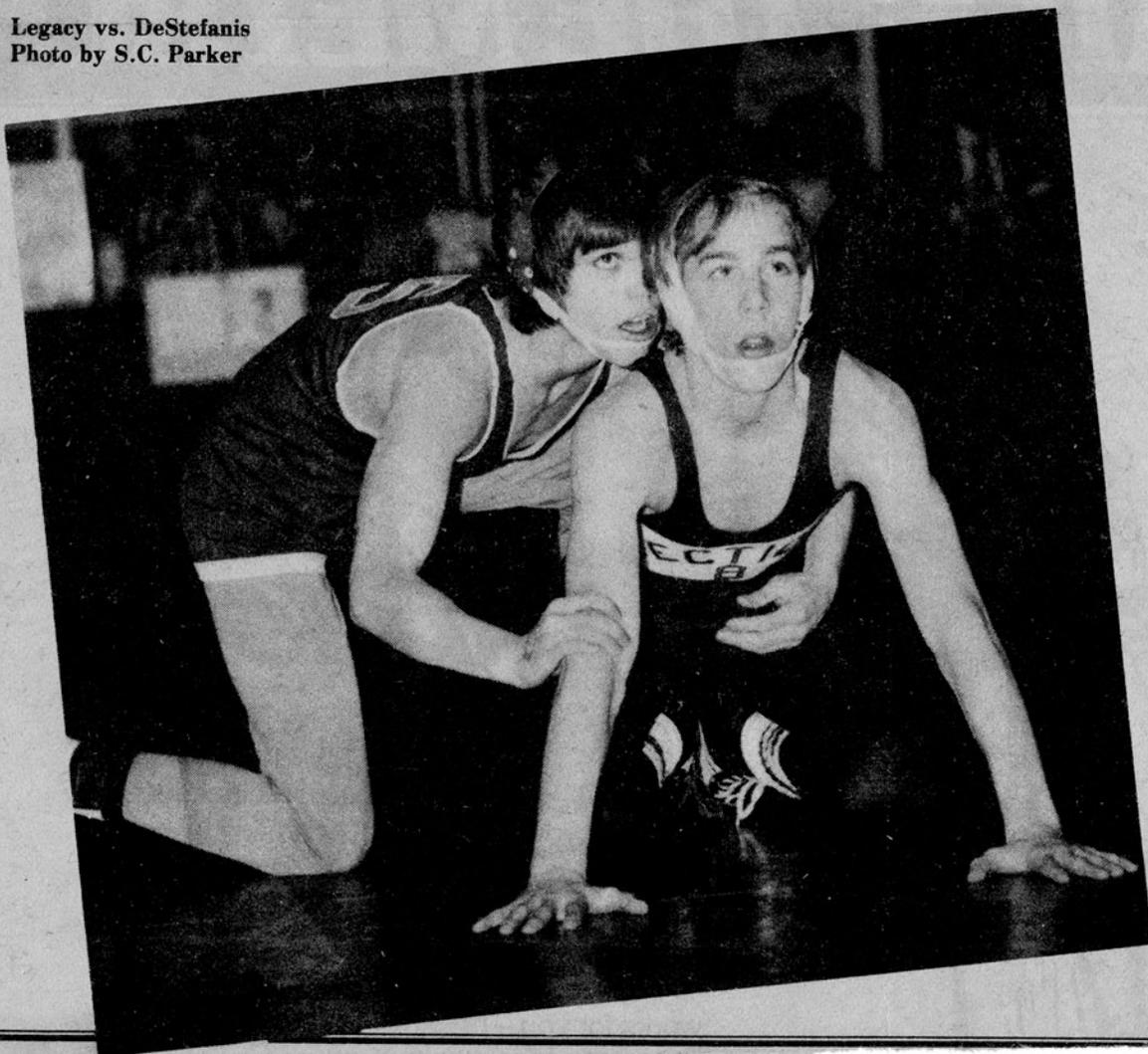


Photo by J. O'Leary

Wrestling and traveling have long been synonymous for Rory Legacy. Because of certain differences between himself and his coaches or teammates Rory has wrestled for several area schools. "At first, I started wrestling at Churchville-Chili, then I moved to Eastridge, then back to Churchville-Chili, then to Bishop Kearney to where I am now, at Spencerport. I really like it here because the kids and coaches are really good people." Has it been hard for Rory to adjust to the schools that he has attended? "Well sure, it's bound to effect anybody. However, here at Spencerport I've got a really good coach in Pete Widener and really good friends who have made me feel as though I've been accepted."

Does Rory have any goals concerning his wrestling career? "I'd really like to win the states, and then maybe try for the 1984 Olympics." Why the 1984 Olympics? "Well, at age 22, which I'll be in 1984, I'll probably be at the peak of my physical condition. I'd probably stand my best chance of making the United States team then."

Rory Legacy - not only a name to look for at the present time, but also one to look for in the future.

Rick Roxin
Brighton High School