

# Ellis' State Mat Crown Climaxes 8 Years' Work

By **BOB DICESARE**

Wrestling is among the cruelest of sports. Its workouts are murderous, yet inescapable, and it does not tolerate excuses. Lose a match and the mirror reveals the culprit. There are no teammates to share the blame.

Maybe that's why Clarence Coach Greg Kaszubski speaks of

## ★ High School Notebook

Jeff Ellis, Western New York's newest state wrestling champion, with such deep reverence.

Ellis, a junior and the starting fullback on the Red Devils' football team, pinned Vinnie Altebrando of Newfield in 53 seconds Saturday night in Syracuse to win the state 215-pound title and lead Section VI to a third-place finish, its best showing in almost 20 years.

"Jeff has worked so extremely hard for this," Kaszubski said. "He has been working toward this goal for eight years. He's our team leader and all the other kids look to him for advice. And he handles the pressure well."

Ellis, who carried a 35-0 record into the state tourney, easily decided Kevin Keane of St. Anthony's, 9-4, in his opening match but ran into a road block named C.C. Grant of Williamson in his second.

"It was scoreless after the first period and I think that's the first time all season Jeff has been shut out in the first period," Kaszubski said. "He's so good with his take-downs and moves extremely well compared to most big people. He's rarely on the bottom other than the start of a period."

Grant was on the bottom midway through the second period as Ellis pinned him to advance to a semifinal match with Mike Sanjo of Elmira Southside. Ellis opened a 7-3 lead and held on for a 7-5 decision.

He then disposed of Altebrando in rapid fashion.

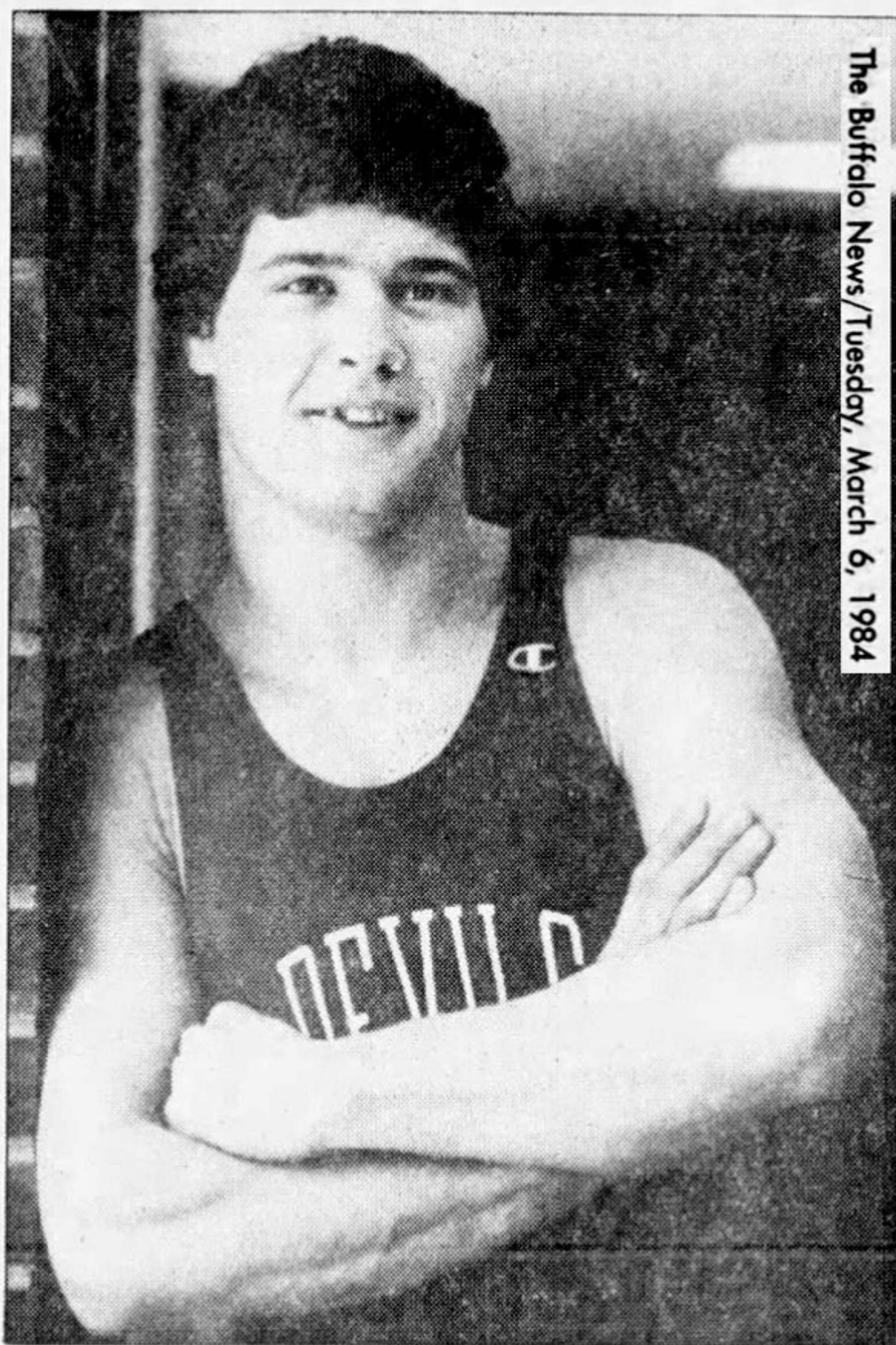
Twelve of Section VI's 14 representatives placed at the meet.

Finishing third were Olean's Jeff Prescott at 91 pounds, Orchard Park's Bob Breidenstein (98), Kenmore East's Mike Tucker (138), Sweet Home's Shawn Kelly (167) and Niagara-Wheatfield's Dominic Clanchetti (177).

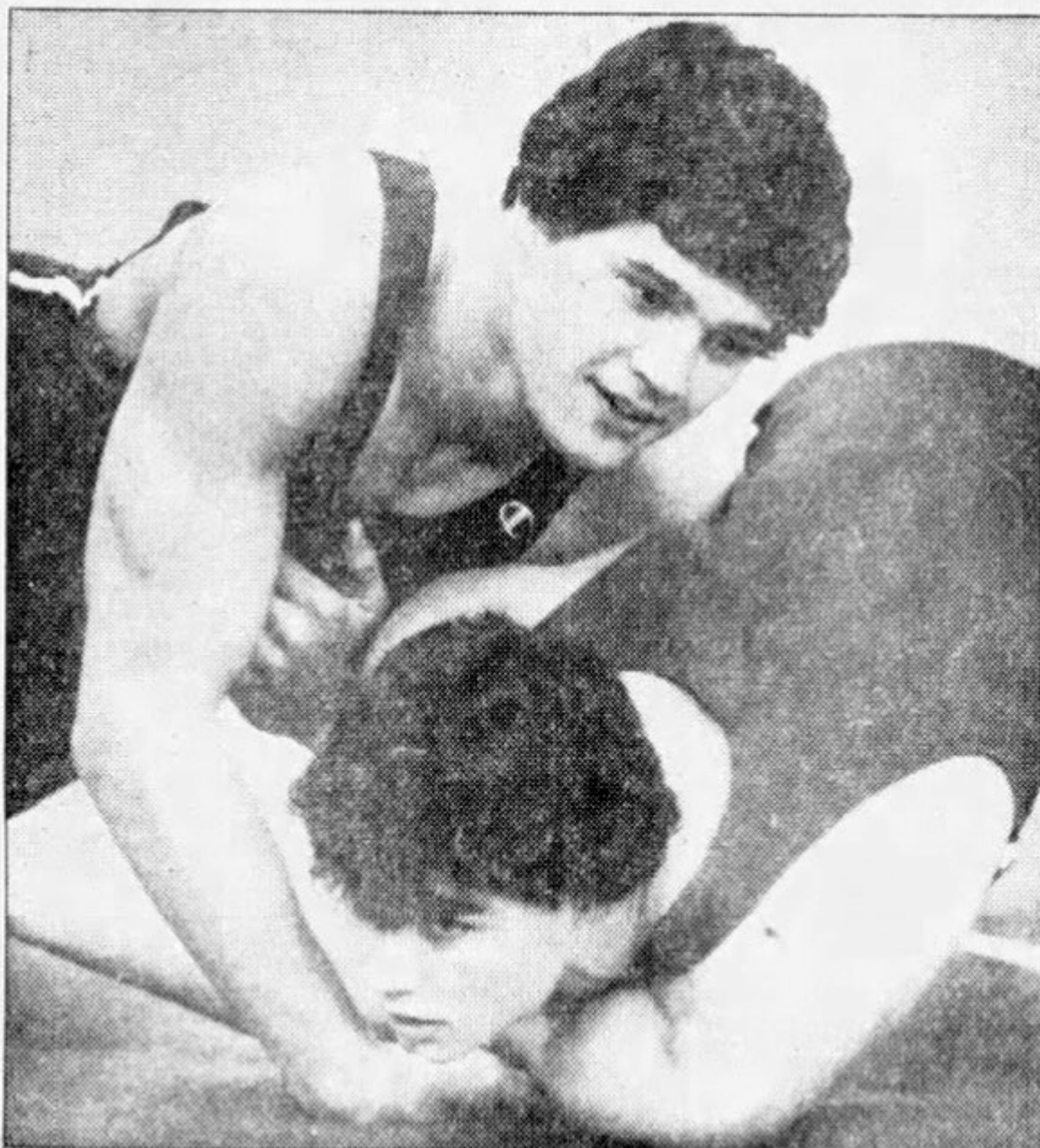
Rob Waddington of Falconer (105) and John Howe of Orchard Park (250) placed fourth; Ron Leder of Salamanca (132) and Scott Allen of Tonawanda (112) fifth; and Dan Finnerty of Kenmore East (119) sixth.

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Last week it was asked why "The Harrier," a national cross-country publication, had left Clarence Central off its list of 50 boys' All-American teams. It turns out Clarence is in the alphabetical listing, right between Warwick Bishop Hendriken and West Chester Lako-



The Buffalo News/Tuesday, March 6, 1984



Clarence's Jeff Ellis is the New York State wrestling champion in the 215-pound class.

BILL WIEPERS Buffalo News