

EVERETT TRIO: DRAGONS' TRIIPLE THREAT

Pembroke brothers grappling for titles at G.R. Tournament

by Mike Hughes
Daily News Sportswriter

PEMBROKE — Look out! Here come the Everett brothers.

That's what most people say when they see Jeremy, Isaac and Josh Everett take the mat during Pembroke High School wrestling matches.

"When we face them, we want to throw our strength at theirs (Pembroke) and that is the Everetts. The Everetts have a reputation because they are good," said Alexander wrestling coach Paul Santoro, whose team faces the brothers each year.

The trio's own coach agrees.

"They are something. They have definitely changed wrestling here at Pembroke ... but in a good way," Dragons coach Jim Morris said.

Their talents will be on display Saturday at Byron-Bergen during the annual Genesee Region League Wrestling Tournament. Isaac was runner-up a year ago, while Jeremy had a fourth-place finish.

In a season where the team has battled illness upon illness, the Everetts are a refreshing topic for the coach to discuss.

"We have been fighting the flu all season. We are really short-handed, but they (the Everetts) have done well," said the fifth-year coach.

Normally, a team carries 12-15 wrestlers. Pembroke has been going with six or seven the past two weeks.

But having an 0-7 record so far, and a 2-8 mark last season, doesn't seem to bother Morris as much as one would think.

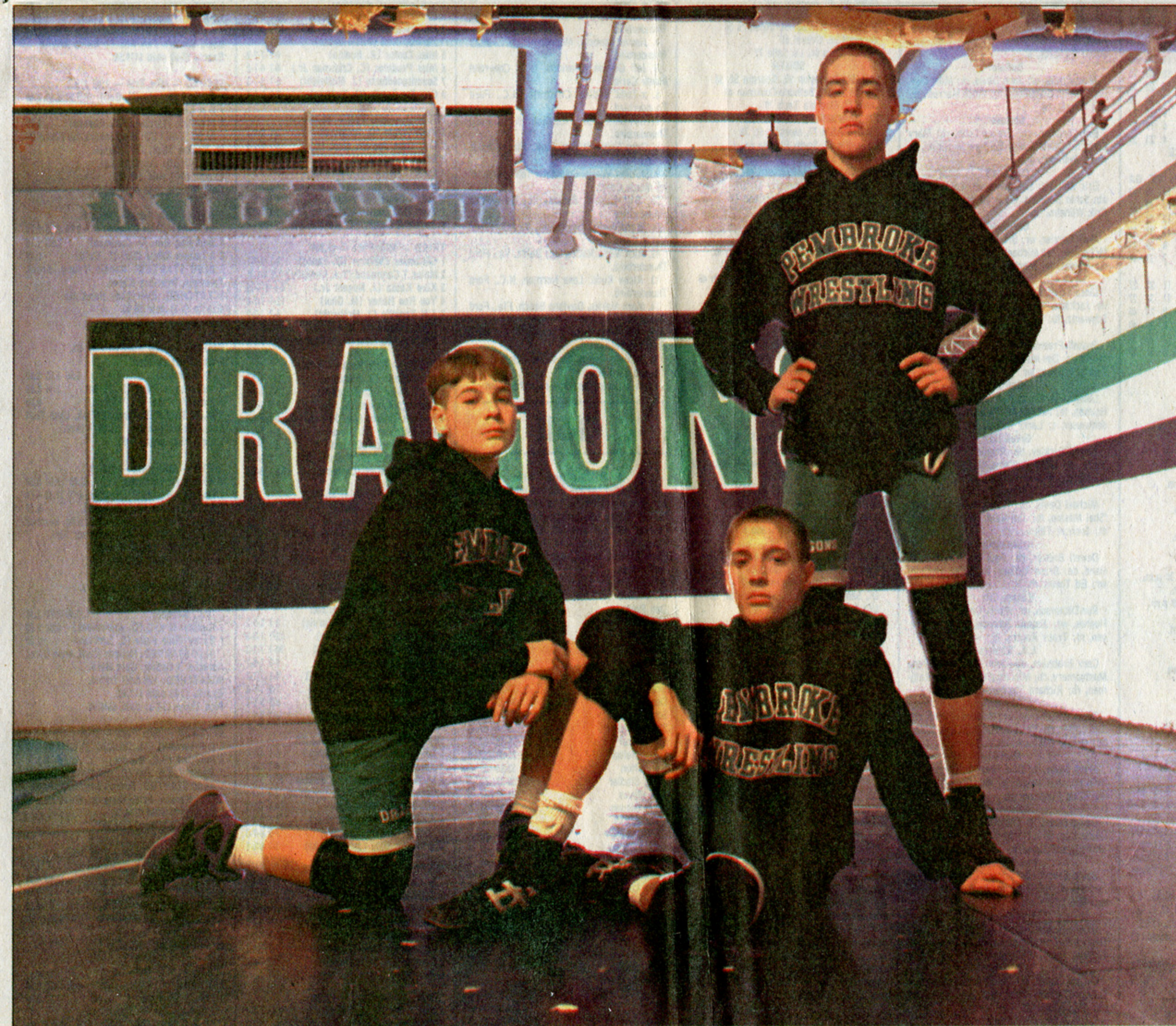
His players are enjoying themselves and having some personal success — like the Everett trio.

"They are a reason why coaches coach. They work hard, they never are a problem, and always give it their best. It's great having them," Morris said.

In fact, the brothers have not

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Sharon Cantillon/Daily News

Going to the mat for each other

From left, Josh, Isaac and Jeremy Everett pose in the wrestling room in the basement at Pembroke High School, as they get in final

preparations for Saturday's Genesee Region League Wrestling Tournament at Byron-Bergen.

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only dominated scholastic wrestling, but they have redefined wrestling in the entire Tri-Town area.

Jeremy, a 17-year-old senior, began wrestling intramurals in the sixth grade.

By seventh grade he was on varsity, throwing opponents around like rag dolls.

"I just had fun in gym wrestling everybody, so I thought I would try it (join the high school program)," Jeremy said.

This past year, he has won his weight class in three different tournaments, en route to a 19-1 mark.

Today, with a 131-31 record, he is the all-time win leader in the school's history.

His success gives opposing coaches something to think about when preparing their lineup.

"It's neat. I like it because coaches have to duck me when we go against them. It makes me feel good," Jeremy said.

Success seems to run in the family.

Isaac, 15, a sophomore, sports a 39-9 career record, including a 16-2 mark for the 1994-95 campaign.

Four different times this season he has won the 91-pound weight class at tournaments.

"I just try to do the best I can. But it's fun to win," Isaac said.

Josh, a freshman and first-year varsity member, is 9-3 on the season. Not bad for a rookie.

"I just like getting out there and 'whomping' on people. Jer-

emy and Ike wrestled so I wanted to. It's a lot of fun," Josh said.

Combined, the trio are 44-6 this year. Coaches, as well as fans, have begun to take notice.

"We know we are (noticed). It doesn't bother us, we like it," Isaac said.

"Yeah, people always ask how we did in our matches," Josh chimed in.

A few weeks back at the Hornell Invitational, the three set a rare feat.

With Isaac at 91, Josh at 98, and Jeremy at 126, each was crowned champion in their respective weight classes.

"That's the first time I've ever heard it being done. At least in this area. You really never see three brothers wrestle on the same team, let alone win like that," Morris said.

Scholastic wrestling, which gives each grappler about 30 matches a season, is only a small part of the Everetts' routine.

Spring and summertime means traveling and wrestling against topflight talent in the state, in the region, and nationally.

Last summer, as part of the Tri-Town Greco-Roman contingent, the three participated in the State Fair tournament, state qualifiers and state finals.

Oh yeah, all three even qualified for the *national* finals.

One problem existed though. Each weight class conducted its national finals in a different state.

"Jeremy went to North Dakota, Josh to Missouri, and Isaac went to Brockport College. It was pretty exciting for them," Morris said.

And for their parents.

Dave Everett, a general contractor, and his wife, Deb, a nurse, have been loyal supporters of the wrestling careers of the boys ever since Jeremy was in the seventh grade.

"We are involved. In the summer when they had to go to the nationals, they had to do some fund-raising. So we had a car wash. The kids even went door-to-door. Businesses chipped in. It was great," Dave said.

"And the kids had a great experience. Thank God each final was two weeks apart though. I wanted to be there for all of them."

Dave Everett has been so involved with their wrestling, he became a volunteer coach for Pembroke the past four years. He even has started up a junior high team to bolster the school's program.

Sometimes it is tough for a father to coach his own kids, but Mr. Everett doesn't find that to be the case.

"Not really. They all work hard. And it (success) comes natural to them. I'm more worried when I go home," Dave said.

That's because home has become the second favorite place to wrestle.

"Let's just say I have gone through a lot of furniture over the years," he quipped.

But that doesn't stop the three. After all boys will be boys.

"We still (wrestle) at home but that's only until we break something. Then we have to stop because mom and dad get mad," Josh said.

The Everett brothers agree that dad is doing a good job at coaching. Perhaps Jeremy summed it up best.

"We think it's cool. But I don't like it when he brings home all healthy food for us to eat. He never has junk food," Jeremy said.

And wrestling is not the only sport they compete in.

"We all play football. And we ran track last year. Track helps us keep in shape," Jeremy said.

According to Morris, good conditioning is one of the strengths of the trio.

At school, all three are B students or better. And the trio realizes good grades can only help them in the future.

Jeremy, who will graduate in June, plans on attending Alfred University.

"I want to wrestle in college," he said.

Isaac, who is only a sophomore, is already thinking about his future.

"I want to either be on the Army or Navy wrestling team. So I can have a chance at the Olympics," Isaac said.

The Olympics? Is that really a possibility?

"Anything is possible with us," Jeremy said.

That's for certain. Just ask the opposing coaches!