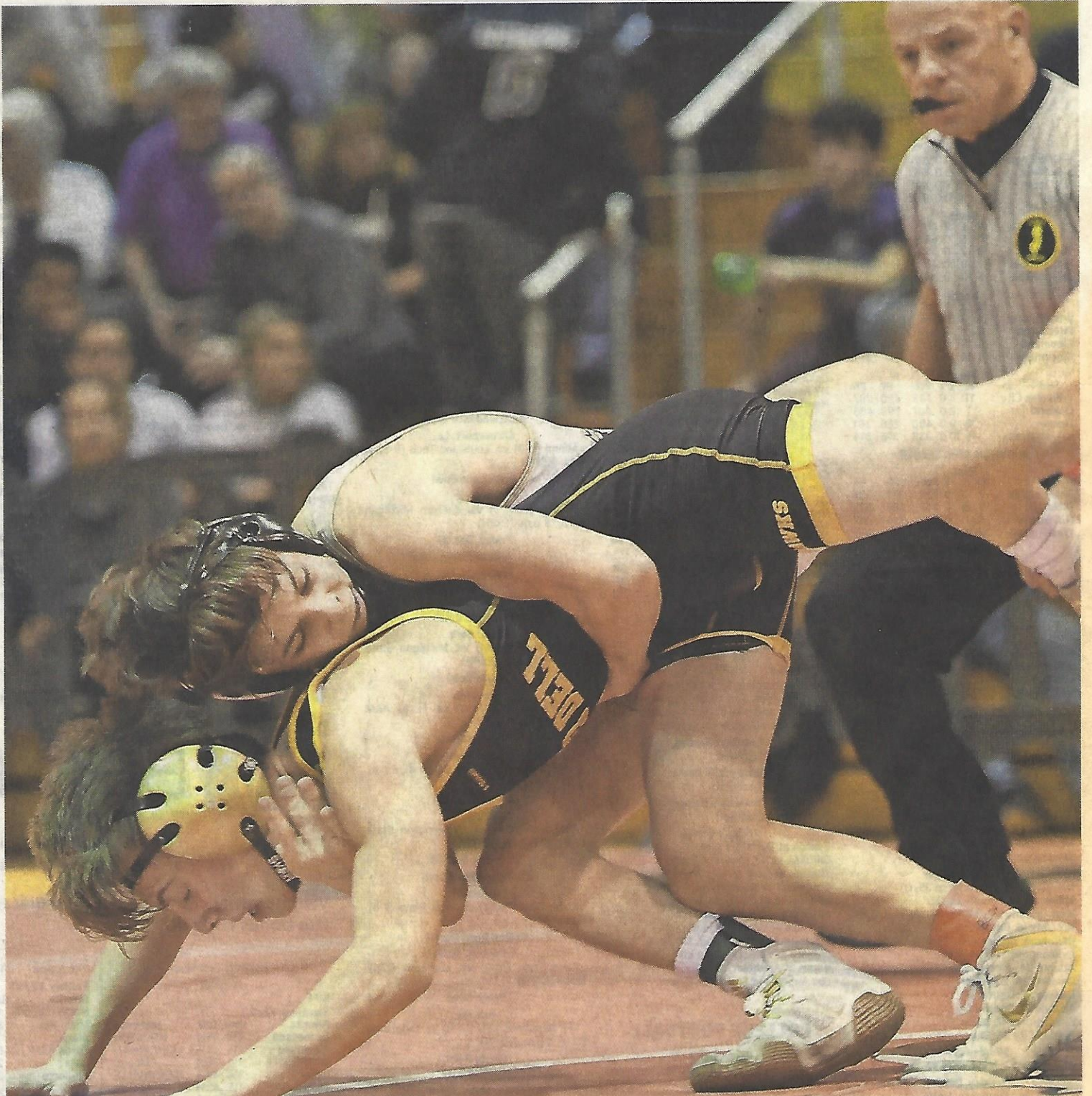


Fri Dec 27, 2019

Top wrestlers in 60th

Bergen Holiday Tournament



St. Joseph wrestler Joe Manno defeated Matt DiGennaro of River Dell for 106-pound championship match in last year's Bergen Holiday Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 28, 2018. MICHAEL KARAS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Fri Dec 27, 2019

Sean Farrell

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

The 60th rendition of the Bergen Holiday Wrestling Tournament takes place this week at Hackensack.

The action begins at 10 a.m. Friday and noon Saturday, with finals expected in the evening.

Make sure to follow NorthJersey.com for live updates from the mat.

Returning champions

The field will be as wide open as ever with just three defending champions. The headliner this year is Emerson/Park Ridge senior Nick Babin, a state finalist and two-time county champ who last won at 113 pounds.

The other returning gold medalists are St. Joseph teammates Joe Manno and Justin Bierdumpfel, who captured titles at 106 and 120, respectively. Green Knight senior Stefano Sgambellone will also be chasing his second championship and the first since 2017.

Defending team champion

St. Joseph rolled to its fourth title last season, and the first in 20 years.

The Green Knights produced 11 medalists - including six finalists and three winners - for a total of 221 points. Emerson/Park Ridge finished second with 177.5. Don Bosco and Pascack Valley rounded out the top four.

Team preview

This is the Green Knights' tournament to lose. That's the reality for a team that lost just three seniors from its championship squad and ranks third in the NJWWA statewide poll.

The race for the next few spots will be fascinating because it could look much different than a year ago. Teams that finished tenth-or-lower, like Paramus Catholic and River Dell, could make a splash in the team race. Some of the usual suspects like the Cavos and NV/Old Tappan will also finish near the top.

Top weight class

It's possible that no race will be deeper than at 220 pounds where the county second, third and fourth are all expected to return. That doesn't even include Paramus Catholic freshman Max Acciardi or Paramus senior Kyle Jacob, a state finalist who withdrew last year with an injury.

The juiciest battles could be at 113 and 120, with potential rematches from the state quarterfinals.

Keep an eye on 152 as well, which should be loaded again behind Lyndhurst's Dylan Weaver.

BCCA Tournament Day 1:

Wrestlers who stood out

Robert Aitken Jr.

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK — After the first day of the 60th BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament, 56 wrestlers still have a chance to become a county champion.

Some are heavily favored and looking to reclaim a crown, while others are surprise semifinalists looking to making personal or program history.

Here are five of the wrestlers that jumped off the page on Day 1 at Hackensack High School.

George Hufnagel

Paramus Catholic, 106 pounds

Hufnagel reached Saturday's semifinals with three victories in the tournament's first day.

The freshman pinned Elmwood Park's Stalin Guzman-Caban in the first period to move into the Round of 16. He then pinned Leonia/Palisades Park's Greg Hadoulis late in the third period to reach the quarterfinals, where he met up with fellow freshman Ryan Hartung of New Milford. Hufnagel hung on for a 4-3 decision over Hartung, preventing a match-winning reversal by his opponent in the final seconds.

Hufnagel was one of four Paladins to reach the semifinals in the lower weights, joined by senior Kley Peralta at 113 pounds, junior Will Matastic at 120 pounds and Joseph Capello at 126 pounds. Paramus Catholic has only two county champions in school history.

Nick Babin

Emerson/Park Ridge, 120 pounds

Last year's county champion at 113 pounds has continued his dominance in this tournament up one weight. The top seed at 120, Babin worked quickly and efficiently to return to the county semifinals.

Babin needed only 20 seconds to pin Tyler Fallen of Paramus in the Round of 16 and needed just 10 seconds to pin Konnor Kovalcik of Indian Hills in the quarterfinals. Babin draws Nicholas Patel of Northern Highlands in the semifinals. Patel finished seventh in last year's tournament at 113 pounds and was pinned by Babin in 42 seconds.

With a win, Babin would face either Myles Leonard of Waldwick/Midland Park or Will Matistic of Paramus Catholic in a potential county final. Both Leonard and Matistic were county medalists last year at 106 pounds.

Andre Ruiz

Bogota/Ridgefield Park,

126 pounds

Bogota/Ridgefield Park has not had a wrestler finish better than fourth place at the county tournament since becoming a co-op program. That fourth place finisher was Ruiz last season at 120 pounds. Ruiz would go on to qualify for the state championships in Atlantic City.

Ruiz was literally the most technical wrestler on Friday, reaching the semifinals on two technical falls. He needed only 3:17 for an 18-3 technical fall over Harrison Chin of Ramsey in the Round of 16, then reached the semifinals with a 15-0 technical fall over Ridgewood's Joseph Bussinelli.

Standing in Ruiz's way of a county title will be Emerson/Park Ridge's Logan Mazzeo in the semifinals. Ruiz has a chance to become the first county champion ever attached to a Bogota wrestling program and just the sixth ever associated with Ridgefield Park.

Michael Dellagatta

St. Joseph, 145 pounds

It was a county tournament debut to be proud of for the freshman.

Dellagatta pinned TJ Linaris of NV/Demarest in the first period and proceeded to shut out his next two opponents in decisions. He took on Nick Anderson of North Bergen and Owen

Stephenson of Glen Rock, both of whom had byes to the Round of 16. Dellagatta shut out Anderson, 9-0, and won a 16-0 technical fall over Stephenson.

Dellagatta is one of six Green Knights still alive after one day of the tournament.

St. Joseph is one champion shy of their 50th in tournament history and Dellagatta is part of a group semifinalists in four straight weight classes for St. Joseph.

Brian Fall

Ramapo, 182 pounds

Fall, a senior, is now one victory away from being the first Ramapo county finalist at 182 pounds in at least three decades.

The senior took care of Brody Alston of Don Bosco and Brian Hughes of Emerson/Park Ridge, each with first period pins. In the quarterfinals against North Bergen's Joe Blaya, Fall won via technical fall, 18-3,

Fall has overcome knee surgery and shoulder surgery in his career and is the lone Raider remaining in the championship bracket.

Fall has a chance to become just the 11th county champion in program history on Saturday.

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Friday
Dec 27, 2019

Mazzeo looking to break through at BCCA tourney

Friday
Dec 27, 2019

Nick Gantaifis

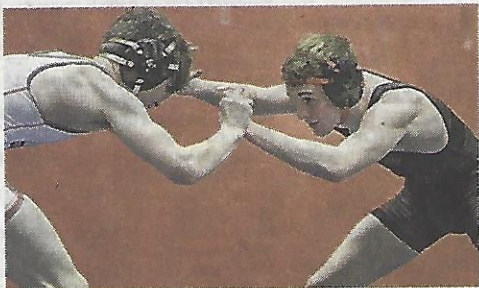
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HACKENSACK — Logan Mazzeo is working in the present.

The Emerson/Park Ridge senior is focused on the road ahead, and everything that happened the previous three years is officially in his rear-view mirror.

"I'm looking to dominate. I was out with injuries most of last year and couldn't wrestle much. It was disappointing more than anything," Mazzeo said. "I'm out to prove myself and prove everyone wrong this year. I go by the motto 'be phenomenal or be forgotten.'"

On Friday, Mazzeo reached the semi-final round of the 60th Bergen County Coaches Association George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament for the fourth straight year. In the process, he won his 100th career match with a 15-4 major decision over Jake Sheiner of Fair Lawn in the 126 pound quarterfinal round.



Logan Mazzeo of Emerson/Park Ridge beats Jake Sheiner of Fair Lawn in a 126-pound match on Friday.

ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM

"I want to push the pace the rest of the tournament," said Mazzeo, who also had a seven-second fall in the pre-quarterfinals. "I feel like I dominated in both matches today and feel strong going into tomorrow."

Though he's still searching for his first county title, Mazzeo feels this year is his best chance to bring home the gold. He reached the semifinals as a

freshman and sophomore, finishing sixth in 2016 and fourth in 2017.

Last year he reached the 120-pound finals but was forced to withdraw to Justin Bierdampf of St. Joseph's after suffering an arm injury with the score tied at 1-1 in the third period.

"I push myself every year," said Mazzeo, who is committed to Division I Clarion. "It was disappointing to end that way. But I'm using it as motivation."

Mazzeo is one of three brothers to compete at the annual county tournament. His older brother, Luke, now a freshman at Clarion, was a three time champion from 2016-2018, and his younger brother, Loudon, is a freshman.

Loudon will join his older brother in Saturday's semifinals. He won both his matches in the 132-pound weight class in dominating fashion, winning by fall in the pre-quarterfinals and a technical fall in the quarterfinals.

"This is a great experience being my first time here," Loudon Mazzeo said. "I grew up learning to compete with

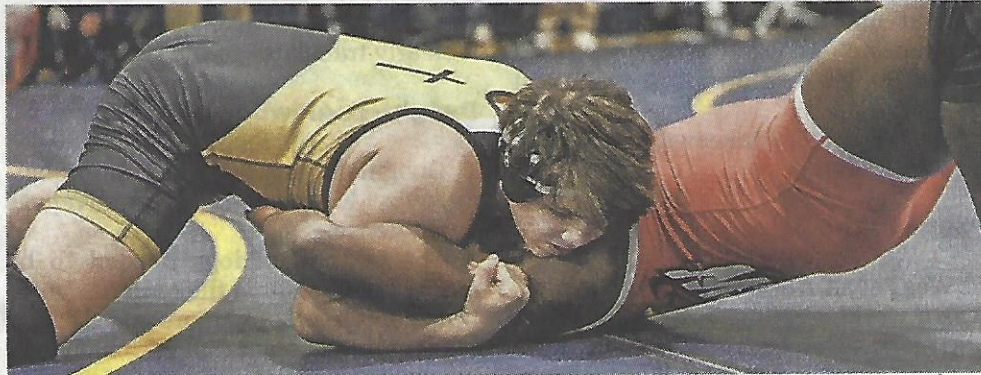
everyone. Since I was little, I wanted to be the best I could be. I watched my brothers compete here over the years and I learned from that. It may be my first time competing in this tournament, but I feel like I've been wrestling here for years."

On Saturday, Logan faces Andre Ruiz of Bogota-Ridgefield Park in the semifinals, while Loudon squares off with Anthony Motta of Fair Lawn.

"Logan basically sat out 30 matches over the last two years with injuries. He works really hard. He's come a long way and never really complained about anything," said Joe Mazzeo, Logan and Loudon's father and an Emerson/Park Ridge assistant coach. "He's one of the top wrestlers around and he's showing it right now."

"It's special having your own kids competing in this tournament, but sometimes it's tough. The brothers drive each other. But win or lose, it's about having the effort and giving a full six minutes."

PC's Acciardi making an immediate impact on mat



Max Acciardi of Paramus Catholic pins Keon Fraser-Morrison of Westwood at the Holiday Wrestling Tournament on Friday. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Sean Farrell

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK — Jon Piela thinks he found his own Jabrill Peppers. His name is Max Acciardi.

Acciardi, a freshman at Paramus Catholic, is changing the culture for the Paladins and shaking up the race in Bergen County.

The 220-pounder got on and off the mat in less than four minutes in his debut Friday at the BCCA Holiday Wrestling Tournament. He heads to the semi-final round with a chance to become the Paladins' first county champion in 16 years.

"He's the guy that's always looking to do something extra," said Piela, now in his fifth year with Paramus Catholic. "The kids see him doing something extra and they join in."

The Paladins lead the overall team race with five wrestlers still alive in the championship bracket. It's an unfamiliar position for Paramus Catholic (which finished 15th last season), but the new reality with four lower weights moving on.

Acciardi punched his ticket by pinning both opponents, including a 23-second win over Westwood's Keon Fraser-Morrison. He works hard to perfect

his craft and has inspired teammates by staying after practice. His next challenge will be Michael Toranzo, a returning finalist from St. Joseph.

"He's worked for everything that he's got," Piela said. "He's special."

"We don't have to worry about what Max is doing," assistant Ed Roselle said.

Baseball was actually Acciardi's first love, but he decided to wrestle year-round when his brother Pete won a state title at Don Bosco. The resemblance between them is uncanny — both on and off the mat — but the freshman says that he doesn't want to live in his brother's shadow. He chose to forge his own path in high school instead of following the

road to Ramsey.

"I want to make a new name for myself," said Acciardi, a Woodcliff Lake native. "I didn't want to be compared to anyone."

For as much tradition as Paramus Catholic has on the gridiron, there is little to show on the mats. For most of their existence, the Paladins have been overshadowed by their non-public rivals. They've produced just two county wrestling champions — Tom Connor in 1981 and Diego Crespo in 2003.

The hope for Piela was to find someone like Peppers, who transferred from Don Bosco and led the Paladins to two titles, to be the face of the program and

change the perception around Paramus Catholic.

"Unfortunately in my first couple of years, losing was contagious," said Piela, whose team went 2-22 in his first season. "Now winning is becoming contagious."

Bergen County also got to see another freshman on Friday who will do a lot of winning in the years to come. St. Joseph's Jim Mullen lived up to the hype with a pair of first-period pins. Mullen has the unusual distinction of being a freshman top seed at heavyweight.

"Jimmy is going to score a lot of points because of his style of wrestling," coach Tom Farinaro said. "He's very aggressive. He's moving. He's scoring. He doesn't get satisfied with just getting a takedown and riding you."

Mullen started at defensive tackle this season and might be even better as a wrestler. The Kearny native pranced around the mat at just 230 pounds, showing the moves of a five-time youth state champion. In the quarterfinals, he scored 12 points before recording the fall in 1:44.

"Every match is like the same match," Mullen said. "I got to wrestle like I'm a senior and it's my last match every time."

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2019 BCCA HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT: DAY 1 RESULTS Fri Dec 27, 2019

Quarterfinals

106
Taisei Kurachi (River Dell) T-Fall Michael Kozdra (Mahwah), 18-3 (5:38).
Dimitri Rainey (Indian Hills) Dec Mark Peter (Dumont), 7-6 (2 OT).
George Hufnagel (Paramus Catholic) Dec Ryan Hartung (New Milford), 4-3.
Max Martinez (Pascack Hills) Maj Dec Evan Cabrera (North Bergen), 9-1.

113
Kelly Dunnigan (Don Bosco) Fall Michael Calabrese (Hasbrouck Heights), 2:59.
Kley Peralta (Paramus Catholic) Maj Dec Patrick Cahill (Pascack Hills), 9-0.
Michael Rodriguez (Becton) Dec Ryan Kozdra (Mahwah), 8-6.
Matt DiGennaro (River Dell) Fall Brendan Connolly (Northern Highlands), 1:36.

120
Nick Babin (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Konnor Kovalcik (Indian Hills), 0:10.
Nicholas Patel (Northern Highlands) Maj Dec Stefano Bruni (Ramapo), 10-1.
Myles Leonard (Waldwick/Midland Park) Dec Pedro Ascencio (Ramsey), 10-5.
Will Mastatic (Paramus Catholic) Fall Noah Krakower (River Dell), 0:56.

126
Ethan Fernandez (Westwood) Fall Mateo Sgambellone (St. Joseph), 3:34.
Joseph Cappello (Paramus Catholic) Fall Steven Ciambone (Paramus), 3:55.
Logan Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) Maj Dec Jake Sheiner (Fair Lawn), 15-4.
Andre Ruiz (Bogota/Ridgefield Park) T-Fall Joseph Bussinelli (Ridgewood), 15-0.

132
Justin Bierdampf (St. Joseph) T-Fall Matthew McCoy (Northern Highlands), 16-1 (2:48).
Cole Pfeufer (Westwood) Dec Vin Keeler (Rutherford), 17-12.
Anthony Motta (Fair Lawn) Maj Dec Shawn Mastroppiero (New Milford), 16-8.
Louden Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) T-Fall AJ DiMayo (Paramus Catholic), 18-3 (5:07).

138
Eric Freeman (Paramus) Fall Nicolas Motta (Fair Lawn), 3:50.
Joshua Palacio (North Bergen) Fall Matt Guerra (Waldwick/Midland Park), 3:20.
Paul DiMarco (New Milford) Maj Dec Max Oliver (Ramsey), 15-4.
Mike Cetta (St. Joseph) Fall Chris Lydon (Paramus Catholic), 2:46.

145
Vincent DeMaria (Northern Highlands) Fall Rob Anziliotti (Emerson/Park Ridge), 3:12.
Tomn Eboli (Westwood) Dec Michael Faustini (Saddle Brook), 6-0.
Michael Dellagatta (St. Joseph) T-Fall Owen Stephenson (Glen Rock), 16-0.
James Sgarella (Dumont) Dec Dale Yehle (Paramus Catholic), 6-2.

152
Stefano Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Fall Hunter Freschi (Hasbrouck Heights), 0:54.
Tyler Pizzi (Pascack Valley) Dec Ty Pfeufer (Westwood), 9-3.
Devin Iannelli (Northern Highlands) Dec Shane Trattner (Ridgewood), 9-5.
Jonathan Siemsen (Ramsey) Fall Jacob Schlenker (Ramapo), 1:41.

160
Greg Schlett (Glen Rock) Dec Luke Munier (Cresskill), 5-2.
Alex Bedoya (NV/Old Tappan) Dec Mike Grisoni (Westwood), 7-4.
AJ Puerto (Fair Lawn) Dec Thomas Lee (NV/Demarest), 10-3.
Luke Petaccia (Pascack Valley) Dec Daniel Gavin (Fort Lee), 7-0.

170
Jack Bernik (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Justin Boesch (Westwood), 0:51.
Eddie Alfieri (Elmwood Park) Dec Jaden Michel (River Dell), 5-2.
Tim Coffey (Cresskill) Dec Alfred Faison (Teaneck), 9-2.
Christian Jimenez (Don Bosco) Fall Shawn Grigsby (Waldwick/Midland Park), 2:39.

182
Lucas Sharma (Ridgewood) Maj Dec Bradley Mika (Wood-Ridge), 9-0.
Brian Fall (Ramapo) T-Fall Jon Blaya (North Bergen), 18-3.
Angelo Piazza (Glen Rock) Dec Will Andressen (NV/Old Tappan), 9-4.
Ben Liss (Fair Lawn) Fall CJ Andres (Paramus Catholic), 0:58.

195
Kacper Szuberski (Garfield) Fall Savion Maranon (Becton), 3:35.
Deren Cercioğlu (Paramus Catholic) Dec Ayden Lyubimov (Lodi), 3-2.
Alex Kostantas (Pascack Hills) Fall Nico Gemma (Ramsey), 2:58.
Gunnar Nystedt (River Dell) Fall Lucas Nallen (Dumont), 1:55.

220
Kyle Jacob (Paramus) Fall Charles Davis (Garfield), 1:39.
AJ Menendez (Pascack Valley) Dec Jacob Leiva (Cliffside Park) 8-4.
Mike Toranzo (St. Joseph) Maj Dec Jonas Hyman (Ramsey), 11-3.
Max Acciardi (Paramus Catholic) Fall Keon Fraser-Morrison (Westwood), 0:23.

285
Jim Mullen (St. Joseph) Fall Joe Duffy (Pascack Valley), 1:44.
Hector Lebron (Dwight Morrow) Fall Anthony Vaccarella (Ridgewood), 3:43.
Jakob Shapiro (Fair Lawn) Fall Simon Yung (NV/Old Tappan), 3:05.
Michael Alfonso (Garfield) Fall Joe Stuart (Hackensack), 1:48.

Round of 16

106
Taisei Kurachi (River Dell) Fall Anthony Molinaro (Don Bosco), 0:35.
Michael Kozdra (Mahwah) Fall Erick Narvaez (Northern Highlands), 2:42.
Dimitri Rainey (Indian Hills) Dec Hayden Blair (Ridgewood), 5-2.
Mark Peter (Dumont) Fall Malik Asfour (Lodi), 2:30.
Ryan Hartung (New Milford) Dec Ryan Romeo (Glen Rock), 13-6.
George Hufnagel (Paramus Catholic) Fall Greg Hadoulis (Leonia/Palisades Park), 5:47.
Evan Cabrera (North Bergen) Fall Izabella Frezzo (Becton), 3:15.
Max Martinez (Pascack Hills) Fall Anthony Tardibuono (Rutherford), 1:23.

113
Kelly Dunnigan (Don Bosco) Fall Daniel Hong (Paramus), 0:41.
Michael Calabrese (Hasbrouck Heights) Dec Matt Litchuit (Indian Hills), 10-4.
Kley Peralta (Paramus Catholic) Fall Noah Moss (Cresskill), 0:36.
Patrick Cahill (Pascack Hills) Dec Adam Albino (Bogota/Ridgefield Park), 11-4.
Michael Rodriguez (Becton) Fall Zach Herninko (Rutherford), 0:36.
Ryan Kozdra (Mahwah) Fall Anthony Rambaldi (Westwood), 2:15.
Brendan Connolly (Northern Highlands) Dec Thomas Comeau (Emerson/Park Ridge), 9-7.
Matt DiGennaro (River Dell) Fall Fabio Palulino (Lodi), 0:31.

120
Nick Babin (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Tyler Falen (Paramus), 0:20.
Konnor Kovalcik (Indian Hills) Fall Ryu Katayama (Leonia/Palisades Park), 1:29.
Nicholas Patel (Northern Highlands) Fall Jordan Judkins (Hackensack), 3:40.
Stefano Bruni (Ramapo) Fall Nick Lewis (Mahwah), 1:10.
Myles Leonard (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Peter Torre (Pascack Hills), 1:59.
Pedro Ascencio (Ramsey) Fall Ghali Chah (Becton), 0:22.
Noah Krakower (River Dell) Dec Jona Kim (Cresskill), 11-4.
Will Mastatic (Paramus Catholic) Fall Pierre Aguilar (Saddle Brook), 0:35.

126
Ethan Fernandez (Westwood) T-Fall Branden Rivera (Dumont), 17-0.
Mateo Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Maj Dec George Rivera (Teaneck), 8-0.
Joseph Cappello (Paramus Catholic) T-Fall Bryan Novick (Glen Rock), 16-0 (4:31).
Steven Ciambone (Paramus) Dec Aaron Kim (Waldwick/Midland Park), 4-3.
Logan Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Gabe Hoffman (NV/Old Tappan), 0:07.
Jake Sheiner (Fair Lawn) Dec Sid Hamburger (Cresskill), 3-0.
Joseph Bussinelli (Ridgewood) Dec JJ Herninko (Rutherford), 4-0.
Andre Ruiz (Bogota/Ridgefield Park) T-Fall Harrison Chin (Ramsey), 18-3 (3:17).

132
Justin Bierdampf (St. Joseph) Fall Clay Hunt (River Dell), 0:38.
Matthew McCoy (Northern Highlands) Dec Miguel Marroquin (Teaneck), 12-6.
Vin Keeler (Rutherford) T-Fall Aness Abdelqadar (Elmwood Park), 15-0 (3:25).
Cole Pfeufer (Westwood) Fall Arsenio Garcia (Cresskill), 0:48.
Anthony Motta (Fair Lawn) T-Fall Andy Beras (Bergenfield), 16-1.
Shawn Mastroppiero (New Milford) Maj Dec Kyle Reiter (Wood-Ridge), 11-0.
AJ DiMayo (Paramus Catholic) Fall Jonathon Cherba (Paramus), 0:53.
Louden Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Bido Abdelsalam (Mahwah), 2:16.

138
Eric Freeman (Paramus) Fall Jordan Diab (Hackensack), 3:46.
Nicolas Motta (Fair Lawn) Fall Austin Yalowitz (Fort Lee), 5.
Matt Guerra (Waldwick/Midland Park) Dec Yaseen Abdelaziz (Leonia/Palisades Park), 5-1.
Joshua Palacio (North Bergen) Fall Logan Hurwitt (Northern Highlands), 5:06.
Paul DiMarco (New Milford) Fall Adrian Gacek (Garfield), 1:35.
Max Oliver (Ramsey) Fall Danny Cerbone (Emerson/Park Ridge), 3:48.
Chris Lydon (Paramus Catholic) Dec Michael Bussinelli (Ridgewood), 4-0.
Mike Cetta (St. Joseph) T-Fall Nicki Eboli (Westwood), 18-3 (2:51).

145
Vincent DeMaria (Northern Highlands) Maj Dec Joe Petrola (New Milford), 10-1.
Rob Anziliotti (Emerson/Park Ridge) Dec Matias Murillo (Pascack Hills), 3-2.
Michael Faustini (Saddle Brook) Dec Aaron Frias (Hackensack), 9-3.
Tommy Eboli (Westwood) Fall Tyler Bajakian (NV/Old Tappan), 2:49.
Michael Dellagatta (St. Joseph) Maj Dec Nick Anderson (North Bergen), 9-0.
Owen Stephenson (Glen Rock) Fall Colin Chambers (River Dell), 1:07.
Dale Yehle (Paramus Catholic) Maj Dec Kevin Baker (Elmwood Park), 15-4.
James Sgarella (Dumont) Fall Kevin Carmichael (Paramus), 0:36.

152
Stefano Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Fall Joseph Fojo (Fair Lawn), 0:44.
Hunter Freschi (Hasbrouck Heights) Dec Dean Boltze (Paramus Catholic), 5-0.
Ty Pfeufer (Westwood) Fall Kyle Link (River Dell), 1:19.
Tyler Pizzi (Pascack Valley) Fall Ben Katzman (Glen Rock), 1:00.
Devin Iannelli (Northern Highlands) Fall Justin Jose (North Bergen), 1:35.
Shane Trattner (Ridgewood) Fall Robert Deraney (Indian Hills), 1:14.
Jacob Schlenker (Ramapo) over Michael Tchertchian (NV/Old Tappan).
Jonathan Siemsen (Ramsey) T-Fall Gabe Guzman (Teaneck), 15-0 (3:20).

160
Greg Schlett (Glen Rock) Fall Daniel Ibrahim (Paramus), 1:37.
Luke Munier (Cresskill) Fall Nick DiMassimo (Pascack Hills), 3:12.
Alex Bedoya (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Stephano Hadoulis (Leonia/Palisades Park), 5:20.
Mike Grisoni (Westwood) Dec Devin Stapleton (St. Joseph), 9-5.
AJ Puerto (Fair Lawn) T-Fall Jian Olmedo (Cliffside Park), 15-0.
Thomas Lee (NV/Demarest) Dec McAllister Rutnik (Ramapo), 7-5.
Daniel Gavin (Fort Lee) Dec Francis Hernandez (Ramsey), 9-2.
Luke Petaccia (Pascack Valley) Fall Sebastian Peralta (River Dell), 0:28.

170
Jack Bernik (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Jake Leonard (Ramapo), 3:29.
Justin Boesch (Westwood) Fall Romel Vasquez (New Milford), 5:26.
Jaden Michel (River Dell) Fall Nick Palmieri (Paramus Catholic), 5:08.
Eddie Alfieri (Elmwood Park) Fall Luis Viciosa-Gil (Wood-Ridge), 1:14.
Tim Coffey (Cresskill) Dec AJ Fricchione (St. Joseph), 11-5.
Alfred Faison (Teaneck) Fall Joe Kozdra (Mahwah), 1:28.
Shawn Grigsby (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Sammy Alshameh (Dwight Morrow), 3:38.
Christian Jimenez (Don Bosco) Fall Nicolino Berlinger (Northern Highlands), 5:57.

182
Bradley Mika (Wood-Ridge) Fall Michael Del Grande (Pascack Hills), 0:55.
Lucas Sharma (Ridgewood) T-Fall Jalen Sarraga (Teaneck), 4:53.
Jon Blaya (North Bergen) Fall Ariel Hitterer (Cresskill), 1:12.
Brian Fall (Ramapo) Fall Brendan Hughes (Emerson/Park Ridge), 0:55.
Will Andressen (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Andre Portolatin-River (Cliffside Park), 0:50.
Angelo Piazza (Glen Rock) Dec Joe Sogabe (Mahwah), 9-4.
CJ Andres (Paramus Catholic) Fall Abe Kario (Elmwood Park), 0:25.
Ben Liss (Fair Lawn) Fall Alex Castillo (Dumont), 0:13.

195
Kacper Szuberski (Garfield) Fall John Connors (Northern Highlands), 1:45.
Savion Maranon (Becton) Fall Isaac Saba (Teaneck), 2:55.
Ayden Lyubimov (Lodi) Fall Ben Pichardo (St. Joseph), 3:44.
Deren Cercioğlu (Paramus Catholic) Fall Brandon Moore (Waldwick/Midland Park), 1:02.
Alex Kostantas (Pascack Hills) Fall David Costa-Pollando (Cresskill), 0:32.
Nico Gemma (Ramsey) Fall Aiden Giacomelli (Emerson/Park Ridge), 2:25.
Lucas Nallen (Dumont) Fall Brian Sanchez (Hackensack), 0:36.
Gunnar Nystedt (River Dell) Fall Jace Macfie (Pascack Valley), 0:14.

220
Kyle Jacob (Paramus) Fall Mark Sitar (Mahwah), 1:02.
Charles Davis (Garfield) Maj Dec Nick Alvarado (Don Bosco), 16-5.
AJ Menendez (Pascack Valley) Dec Joe Boyle (River Dell), 2-1 (OT).
Jacob Leiva (Cliffside Park) Dec Dennis Bajanov (Leonia/Palisades Park), 6-3.
Mike Toranzo (St. Joseph) Fall Julian Gonzalez (Bergenfield), 5:06.
Jonas Hyman (Ramsey) Fall Luis Abreau (Cresskill), 3:15.
Keon Fraser-Morrison (Westwood) Fall Manny Ortiz (Saddle Brook), 4:36.
Max Acciardi (Paramus Catholic) Fall Brian McKinnon (Ridgewood), 3:33.

285
Jim Mullen (St. Joseph) Fall Danny Paulino (Teaneck), 0:13.
Joe Duffy (Pascack Valley) Fall Ian Van Riper (River Dell), 1:01.
Anthony Vaccarella (Ridgewood) Fall Connor Haroutunian (Waldwick/Midland Park), 3:24.
Hector Lebron (Dwight Morrow) Dec Ricky Perez (North Bergen), 6-3.
Jakob Shapiro (Fair Lawn) Fall Armando Alvarez (Lodi), 0:47.
Simon Yung (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Tyler Kario (Elmwood Park), 2:22.
Joe Stuart (Hackensack) Fall Justin Gradzki (Northern Highlands), 1:06.
Michael Alfonso (Garfield) Fall Chris Centeno (Pascack Hills), 2:36.

Round of 32

105

Anthony Molinaro (Don Bosco) Dec Andrew DiGia (NV/Old Tappan), 9-0.
Hayden Blair (Ridgewood) Fall Peter Wala (Garfield), 3:01.
Malik Asfour (Lodi) Fall Franklin Rodriguez (Saddle Brook), 0:54.
Ryan Hartung (New Milford) Fall David Rozenblum (Ramapo), 5:43.
George Hufnagel (Paramus Catholic) Fall Stalin

Guzman-Caban (Elmwood Park), 1:33.
Anthony Tardibono (Rutherford) Dec Logan Garcia (Westwood), 5-2.

113

Daniel Hong (Paramus) Dec Andrew Ivanovski (Saddle Brook), 14-12.
Michael Calabrese (Hasbrouck Heights) Fall Ryan Armstrong (Leonia/Palisades Park), 2:42.
Patrick Cahill (Pascack Hills) Fall Jason Longaker (Elmwood Park), 1:42.
Matt Litchuit (Indian Hills) Dec Sam Bodnar (NV/Old Tappan), 10-6.

Thomas Comeau (Emerson-Park Ridge) Fall Juliana Mora (Teaneck), 0:16.
Noah Moss (Cresskill) Fall Joe Convertino (Waldwick/Midland Park), 5:54.

Zach Herninko (Rutherford) Dec Gary Besadigh (Fair Lawn), 8-3.
Anthony Rambaldi Dec Josh Iannone (St. Joseph), 10-3.

Fabio Palulino (Lodi) Fall Gabe Matamoros (Hackensack), 3:16.

120

Tyler Falen (Paramus) Fall Seunghoon Baek (New Milford), 2:50.

126

Branden Rivera (Dumont) Fall Rafael Moran (Dwight Morrow), 1:29.
Joseph Cappello (Paramus Catholic) Fall Sayd Fortuna (Wood-Ridge), 2:30.
George Rivera (Teaneck) Fall Matt Montemarano (River Dell), 1:34.

Mateo Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Dec Danny Principe (Bergenfield), 9-2.
Gabe Hoffman (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Ray Kohan (Pascack Valley), 4:51.

Jake Sheiner (Fair Lawn) Fall Michael Frangos (Pascack Hills), 2:42.
Aaron Kim (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Danny Gaffney (Indian Hills), 3:15.

Harrison Chin (Ramsey) Fall Brandon Cubillos (Leonia/Palisades Park), 2:34.
Bryan Novick (Glen Rock) Dec Ben Grater (Don Bosco), 3-2.

JJ Herninko (Rutherford) Fall Darren Kero (Elmwood Park), 2:24.
Sid Hamburger (Cresskill) Fall Blake Freschi (Hasbrouck Heights), 5:06.

Joseph Bussinelli (Ridgewood) Dec Matthew Wolfe (Ramapo), 4-1.

132

Matthew McCoy (Northern Highlands) Fall Sharbel Nicolas (Pascack Hills), 1:50.
Arsenio Garcia (Cresskill) Fall Daniel Tighe (Don Bosco), 0:40.

Miguel Marroquin (Teaneck) Dec Liam Fowley (NV/Old Tappan), 4-2.
Clay Hunt (Ridgewood) Fall Chris Link (River Dell), 4:37.

Aness Abdelqadar (Elmwood Park) Fall Derek Ramirez (Dumont), 5:14.
Kyle Reiter (Wood-Ridge) Fall Maj Dec Randazzo (Glen Rock), 0:54.

Jonathon Cherba (Paramus) Maj Dec Gabe Nunez (Bogota/Ridgefield Park), 13-3.
Andy Beras (Bergenfield) Fall Colin Hall (Leonia/Palisades Park), 4:39.

Bido Abdelsalam (Mahwah) Dec Colin Bradley (Ramapo) 14-8.

Eric Freeman (Paramus) Fall Nick Hodson (Pascack Hills), 0:55.
Jordan Diab (Hackensack) Maj Dec James Allmers (Pascack Valley), 11-2.

Matt Guerra (Waldwick/Midland Park) T-Fall Etai Weisman (Glen Rock), 18-2.
Joshua Palacio (North Bergen) Fall Gustavo Alarcon (Indian Hills), 1:03.

Paul DiMarco (New Milford) Fall Jordan Coffee (Teaneck), 1:00.
Nicolas Motta (Fair Lawn) Maj Dec Casey Kim (NV/Old Tappan), 11-1.

Austin Yalowitz (Fort Lee) Fall Brook Tulloch (Saddle Brook), 0:52.
Yaseen Abdelaziz (Leonia/Palisades Park) Fall Abe Ovalle (Cresskill), 2:26.

Max Oliver (Ramsey) Fall Abriel Hernandez (Becton), 0:52.
Chris Lydon (Paramus Catholic) Fall Brendan Notarfrancesco (Mahwah), 1:13.

Michael Bussinelli (Ridgewood) Dec Charlie Racine (River Dell), 5-3.
Logan Hurwitz (Northern Highlands) Dec Jake Bedrin (Ramapo), 4-0.

Adrian Gacek (Garfield) Dec Rey Morrell (Bergenfield), 9-3.
Nicky Eboli (Westwood) Fall Robbie Osder (NV/Demarest), 3:59.

Mike Cetta (St. Joseph) Fall Joshua Valladares (Lodi), 1:51.
Danny Carbone (Emerson/Park Ridge) Dec Drew Scullia (Hasbrouck Heights), 6-4.

145

Rob Anzilotti (Emerson/Park Ridge) Dec Ryan Dunn (Pascack Valley), 5-2.
Aaron Frias (Hackensack) Fall Angel Espinosa (Wood-Ridge), 3:25.

Michael Dellagatta (St. Joseph) Fall TJ Linaris (Demarest), 1:28.
Dale Yehle (Paramus Catholic) Fall Kevin Ovalle (Cresskill), 1:13.

Matias Murillo (Pascack Hills) Fall Thomas Arvin (Leonia/Palisades Park), 2:23.
Joe Petrolia (New Milford) Dec Aidan Fojon (Fair Lawn), 6-3.

Tyler Bajakian (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Maksim Tsybulka (Fort Lee), 5:10.
Kevin Baker (Elmwood Park) Fall Tyler Schnorrbusch (Ramapo), 3:47.

Colin Chambers (River Dell) Dec. Joe Nacinovich (Indian Hills), 6-4.
Kevin Carmichael (Paramus) Fall Oliver Fermin (Hasbrouck Heights), 1:33.

152

Stefano Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Fall Zakk Ward (Bergenfield), 1:44.
Dean Boltze (Paramus Catholic) Fall Jonas Muller (Rutherford), 1:34.

Ty Pfeufer (Westwood) Fall Omar Alomar (Leonia/Palisades Park), 1:29.
Tyler Pizzi (Pascack Valley) Fall Robert Russo (Saddle Brook), 0:17.

Kyle Link (River Dell) Dec Christian Farquhar (Emerson/Park Ridge), 5-1.
Jonathan Siemsen (Ramsey) Fall Stephen Abreu (Cresskill), 0:17.

Joseph Fojon (Fair Lawn) Dec Sean Weber (Mahwah), 10-8.
Michael Tchertchian (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Marcus Catuogno (Waldwick/Midland Park), 1:18.

Shane Trattner (Ridgewood) Fall Moe Abdallah (New Milford), 1:46.
Jacob Schlenker (Ramapo) Fall Jaiden Logothetis (Elmwood Park), 1:11.

Ben Katzman (Glen Rock) Fall Brandon Ackerman (Dumont), 1:25.
Devin Ianelli (Northern Highlands) Fall Ryan Baudisch (Pascack Hills), 1:50.

Robert Deraney (Indian Hills) Fall Ian Vega (Garfield), 3:53.
Justin Jose (North Bergen) Fall Ali Aziz (Hackensack), 3:59.

Hunter Freschi (Hasbrouck Heights) Fall Kai Argyros (Don Bosco), 4:58.
Gabe Guzman (Teaneck) Dec Mateo Lopez (Fort Lee), 8-2.

160

Daniel Ibrahim (Paramus) Dec Chad Falcon (Don Bosco) 11-6.
Alex Bedoya (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Nathaniel Tylki (Garfield) 1:37.

Mike Gisoni (Westwood) Fall Luis Mejia Barranco (Becton) 4:41.
Jian Olmedo (Cliffside Park) Dec Randy Owuso (Hackensack) 3-2.

Mcallister Rutnik (Ramapo) Dec Ryan McGuire (Lodi) 7-5.
Sebastian Peralta (River Dell) Fall Devin Malafis (Indian Hills) 3:58.

170

Jake Leonard (Ramapo) Dec David West (Pascack Hills), 8-4.
Justin Boesch (Westwood) Fall Carlito Andino (Hackensack), 5:08.

Romel Vasquez (New Milford) Fall Hassan Sileem (Saddle Brook), 0:43.
Jaden Michel (River Dell) Fall Juan Preciado (Lodi), 2:49.

Nick Palmieri (Paramus Catholic) Fall Davin Sung (Fort Lee), 0:48.
Luis Viciosa-Gil (Wood-Ridge) Fall Chris Lowery (Ramsey), 1:39.

AJ Fricchione (St Joseph) Fall Chan Kim (Leonia/Palisades Park) 0:56.
Joe Kozdra (Mahwah) Fall Anthony Zapatosky (Glen Rock), 2:44.

Alfred Faison (Teaneck) Fall Joe Carabillo (Dumont), 1:05.
Sammy Alshameh (Dwight Morrow) Fall Jake Falatico (Emerson/Park Ridge), 1:45.

Shawn Grigsby (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Brandon Myack (Paramus), 1:36.
Nicolino Berlinger (Northern Highlands) Dec Jose Matias (Garfield), 9-7.

182

Michael Del Grande (Pascack Hills) Dec Tomi Lee Minaya (Becton), 5-4.
Jalen Sarraga (Teaneck) Fall Mohamad Fayeze (Saddle Brook) 0:48.

Lucas Sharma (Ridgewood) Fall Peyton Chang (Pascack Valley), 2:36.
Ariel Hitterer (Cresskill) Fall David Morgan (Hasbrouck Heights), 2:39.

Brian Fall (Ramapo) Fall Brody Alston (Don Bosco), 1:14.
Andre Portalatin-River (Cliffside Park) Fall Ruben Mantilla (Leonia/Palisades Park) 1:08.

Joe Sogabe (Mahwah) T-Fall Francisco De La Cruz (Hackensack), 2:59.
Angelo Piazza (Glen Rock) Fall Vincent Montelbano (Westwood), 0:51.

CJ Andres (Paramus Catholic) Fall Tyler Jones (Northern Highlands), 0:32.
Abe Kario (Elmwood Park) Fall Hamdi Karreshi (Garfield) 1:04.

Alex Castillo (Dumont) M-Dec Kevin Flores (Bogota/Ridgefield Park), 10-2.

195

No matches.

220

Mark Sitar (Mahwah) Fall Gavin Ballinger (Indian Hills), 1:51.
Nick Alvarado (Don Bosco) Fall Thomas Glickman (Pascack Hills), 4:26.

Charles Davis (Garfield) Fall Sean Fleitas (North Bergen), 1:17.
Joe Boyle (River Dell) Dec Joseph Tembo (Teaneck), 3-0.

Dennis Bajanov (Leonia/Palisades Park) Fall JJ Vera (Dumont) 0:30
Julian Gonzalez (Bergenfield) Fall Jake Smith (NV/Old Tappan), 0:55.

Luis Abreau (Cresskill) Fall Kevin Basmadjian (NV/Demarest), 1:26.
Keon Fraser-Morrison (Westwood) Def Tahsheem Williams (Becton).

Manny Ortiz (Saddle Brook) Fall Matt Murray (Wood-Ridge) 0:23.
Brian McKinnon (Ridgewood) Fall Michael Greenbaum (Northern Highlands), 1:00.

285

Danny Paulino (Teaneck) Fall David Flores (Wood-Ridge), 1:05.
Armando Alvarez (Lodi) Fall Robbie Mandel (Ramsey), 3:56.

Chris Centeno (Pascack Hills) Fall Dennis Wanis (Paramus), 0:54.

Round of 64

138: Nick Hodson (Parsippany Hills) Fall Michael Urso (Dumont), 0:48.

Wrestling: St. Joseph wins second straight Bergen title

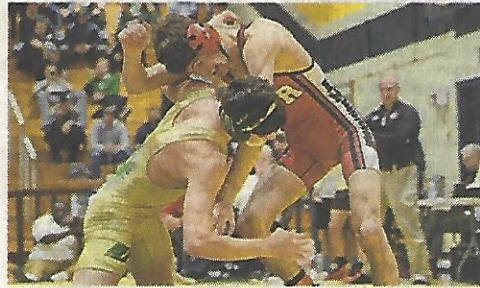
Robert Aitken Jr.

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK — St. Joseph came into the 60th Bergen County Wrestling Tournament slightly undermanned. Some minor injuries forced them to send five freshmen.

For captain Justin Bierdumfjel, there were two words to focus on: Bonus points.



Justin Bierdumfjel of St. Joseph, left, beat Louden Mazzeo of Emerson/Park Ridge in the 132-pound title match.

Sat Dec 28, 2019

The Green Knights earned some bonus points. Two-hundred-ten-and-a-half of them.

St. Joseph won its second straight and fifth overall county team championship Saturday, defeating second-place Paramus Catholic by 25-and-a-half points. They were led by five county champions, including champions at four consecutive weight classes.

"Our team did a great job of getting points," said Bierdumfjel, who won the 132-pound title. "We weren't winning after the first day, but when it was time to step up, guys stepped up. As a captain, I'm just really proud of my guys."

Bierdumfjel won his final match with a 10-0 major decision over Emerson/Park Ridge freshman Louden Mazzeo. It started four straight weight classes taken by the Green Knights.

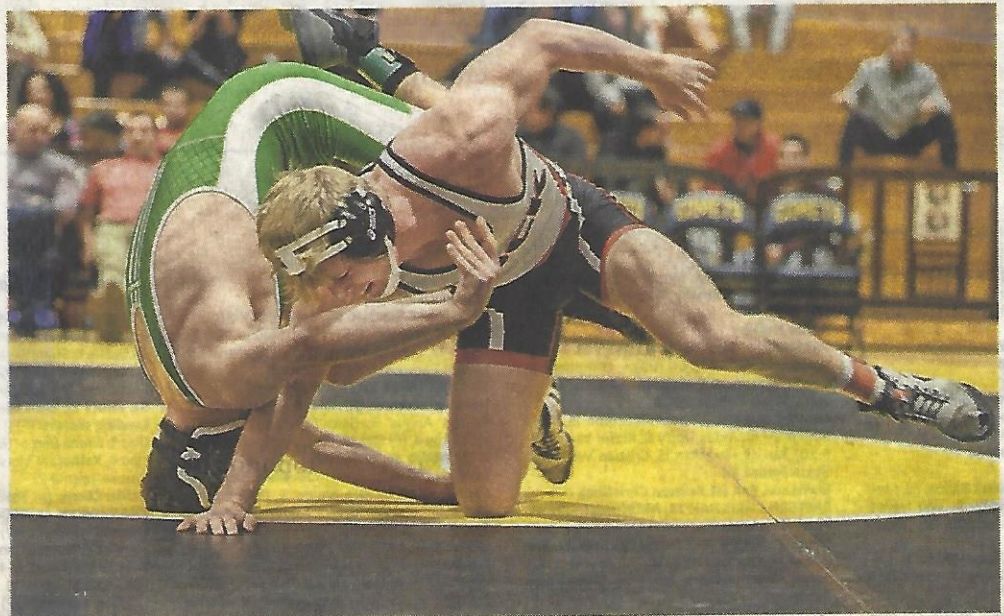
Junior Mike Cetta won the 138 pound title, followed by freshman Michael Dellagatta's 145 pound crown and senior Stefano Sgambellone winning the 152 pound bracket.

"We definitely make each other better in the wrestling room," Bierdumfjel said. "We've got our own little Murderer's Row. We need some guys to get healthy and it'll be a good sign for a final

push to Atlantic City."

That row of tough wrestlers wasn't even as long as it could have been. Sophomores Joe Manno and Alex Almeyda did not wrestle in this tournament after both reaching the quarterfinals in the Beast of the East tournament last weekend.

Manno, a 113-pounder, and Almeyda, a Fort Lee transfer now at 120 pounds, could have potentially given St. Joseph a chance at county championships in six straight weight classes. St. Joseph was also missing junior Jack Farinaro at 182 pounds, who was a county finalist a year ago.



Greg Schlett of Glen Rock, right, beat Luke Petaccia of Pascack Valley in the 160-pound match to become the champion. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM

With their strongest chances weakened, St. Joseph relied upon the rest of the lineup and delivered a team championship.

"I know [Mike Cetta] got close a couple of times, so it was nice seeing him

win," coach Tom Farina said. "Seeing AJ Fricchione come back and win third was great to see. Some of these guys, freshmen transitioning from middle school into high school, it makes a big difference."

Among the Knights' stellar freshmen performances was Jim Mullen at 285 pounds. The freshman finished fifth at Beast of the East and came into the county tournament as the fifth seed, rolling to the final with three first period pins. He won a 4-0 decision over Garfield's Michael Alfonso.

Mullen, a Kearny native with five state youth wrestling titles, has made quite the splash in his freshman season, now with an 11-2 record.

"This title goes on top of everything else," Mullen said. "It was the first high school tournament in state and it was important for me to show everyone what's coming in the next four years."

Despite an experienced lineup with championship pedigree, St. Joseph showed that their strength may just be in their youth.

"These kids are hard workers, said Bierdumfjel. "These freshman, they're very developed for freshman. We scrap hard and work hard in the room. They're good listeners. I'll be gone by next year, but St. Joe's will be something special in the future."

Glen Rock senior earns redemption

Sat
Dec 28, 2019

Sean Farrell

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK — Greg Schlett can now forget about the past. The Glen Rock senior will forever be known as a Bergen County champion.

Schlett showed perseverance and the heart of a champion on Saturday at the BCCA Holiday Wrestling Tournament. The 160-pounder raced to the gold after three empty trips to Hackensack. The redemption tour has officially begun for a wrestler who came a point away from reaching Atlantic City in each of the past two years.

"It just makes it that much better," Schlett said. "That helped me fuel my mindset. This is my last chance to do something."

Schlett was proud to represent his hometown after an 8-4 win over Pascack Valley's Luke Petaccia in the gold medal match.

It's been 15 years since the program had a county champion, but that one came as a co-op with Saddle Brook. The

last winner from the town of Glen Rock was Evan Gallucio in 2001.

Maybe there was no one better to end that drought than Schlett, whose three cousins and two brothers wrestled for the Panthers as well. His uncle even started the rec wrestling program in town.

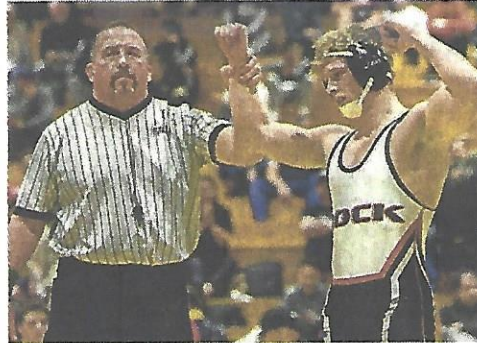
"It's definitely special," coach Corey Fitzpatrick said. "It's good for the town and good for the program."

"He's fought some demons and came back."

Those demons returned when Schlett was awarded the top seed at his weight. There were flashbacks to last year when he went 1-2 as the favorite, but he vowed that this time would be different.

In the final, he took down Petaccia about a minute into the match and never gave up the lead. He scored a reversal in the second period and another takedown soon after that gave him a 6-2 advantage.

"I was just wrestling smart, getting to my offense and takedowns and not letting him get to my legs," Schlett said.



Greg Schlett of Glen Rock celebrates after beating Luke Petaccia of Pascack Valley in the 160-pound title match.

ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM

"That's been a big thing with me these past few weeks."

Instead of being discouraged by past losses, Schlett used them as motivation. In the fall, it drove him to go straight from football practice to the mat, to train with Apex Wrestling. That schedule was tiring enough for the fullback/linebacker, but Schlett gave himself

even more of a challenge. He went up against bigger guys like Mike Toranzo and Jim Mullen, who compete at 220 and 285 pounds respectively.

"I made some changes in football and decided that I really wanted to persevere in wrestling this year," Schlett said. "I trained a lot harder than I had in the past."

"It's night and day," Fitzpatrick said. "He's matured a lot over the last year."

Glen Rock showed some progress of its own by sending three other wrestlers to the podium: Ryan Romeo (fifth at 106), Owen Stephenson (seventh at 145) and Angelo Piazza (third at 182). It made for a special weekend for the Panthers (who had one medalist in 2017 and 2018), and one that culminated with Schlett's first major title.

With the win, Schlett improved to 83-25 in his career and proved that the past is behind him.

"He just keeps coming back," Fitzpatrick said. "He's just a tough kid. He's a good person and a special young man."

Sat Dec 28, 2019

Wrestling:

Weight-by-weight recap of BCCA

Nick Gantaifis

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK — Fourteen champions were crowned on Saturday at the 60th Bergen County Coaches Association George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Hackensack High School. Here's a breakdown of each weight class and results.

106 pounds: River Dell sophomore Taisei Kurachi held on to defeat junior Max Martinez of Pascack Hills 1-0 for his first county title. Scoreless through two periods, Kurachi scored on an escape to start the third period. Kurachi is River Dell's first county champion since 2015 and first in the weight class since 2007 when Dave Della Torre took top honors.

113 pounds: In his BCCA debut, junior Kelly Dunnigan of Don Bosco claimed his first title when he pinned Michael Martinez of Becton in 1:54. Dunnigan, a 2018 state medalist, did not participate in last year's county tournament as he sat out the first 30 days of his sophomore season after transferring from Bergen Catholic.

120 pounds: Nick Babin of Emerson/Park Ridge didn't even wrestle a full minute in the entire tournament. The senior captured his third-consecutive title with a 10-second fall over Myles Leonard of Waldwick/Midland Park in the finals to earn the Most Outstanding Wrestler award. A 2018 NJSIAA finalist, Babin recorded falls in all four of his matches in a combined 48 seconds. He had pins in 20, 10, eight and 10 seconds.

126 pounds: In an epic battle that went a full eight minutes, junior Ethan Fernandez of Westwood won his championship with a 2-1 double-overtime decision over senior Logan Mazzeo of Emerson Park Ridge. Tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation, Fernandez escaped with 22 seconds remaining in the second overtime period to prevail.

132 pounds: Senior Justin Bierdumpefel of St. Joseph earned his second straight title with a 10-0 decision over Emerson/Park Ridge freshman Loudon Mazzeo. Bierdumpefel, a Brown commit, took a quick 5-0 lead in the first period on a takedown, followed by three backpoints.

138 pounds: St. Joseph junior Mike Cetta won his first county title with an 8-4 decision over sophomore Eric Freeman of Paramus. Cetta took a 6-0 first period lead on a series of takedowns.

145 pounds: Freshman Michael Dellagata of St. Joseph made his county debut count when he held on for a 2-1 decision over senior Tommy Eboli of Westwood. Trailing 1-0 to start the third period, Dellagata scored on a reversal early in the period and held off an aggressive fight by Eboli down the stretch.

152 pounds: St. Joseph senior Stefano Sgambellone won his second county crown and first since 2017 with an 8-2 decision over senior Devin Iannelli of Northern Highlands. Sgambellone led 4-0 through the first period and padded his lead with a takedown and reversal in the third.

160 pounds: Greg Schlett of Glen Rock captured his first county title with an 8-4 decision over Luke Petaccia of Pascack Valley. Schlett is Glen Rock's first champ in 15 years when the school was a co-op with Saddle Brook in 2004. He led throughout the match and scored on three takedowns and a reversal.

170 pounds: Jack Bernik of NV/Old Tappan held on for a 4-2 decision over Christian Jimenez of Don Bosco to win his first title. Following a scoreless first period, Bernik scored on two reversals in the second and third periods to erase a 2-2 tie.

182 pounds: After finishing second a year ago, Fair Lawn senior Ben Liss captured his first championship with an 8-4 victory over senior Brian Fall of Ramapo. Leading 3-2 to start the second period, Liss padded his lead on an escape and takedown in the third.

195 pounds: Senior Deren Cercioğlu of Paramus Catholic held on for a 6-4 double overtime victory over junior Alex Kostantas of Pascack Hills. Cercioğlu became the Paladins first county champion since 2003. Trailing 3-1 late in the third period, Cercioğlu scored on a takedown with six seconds remaining in regulation to tie the match and force overtime. After trading escapes in the second overtime periods, Cercioğlu sealed the victory on a takedown.

220 pounds: Senior Kyle Jacob of Paramus earned his first county crown with a 7-0 victory over junior Mike Toranzo of St. Joseph. Jacob, a three-time medalist, pinned his way through the tourney before shutting out Toranzo on a series of takedowns in the final round.

285 pounds: St. Joseph freshman Jim Mullen made a splash in his county tournament debut, shutting out 2018 runner-up Michael Alfonso of Garfield, 4-0. Mullen scored on two takedowns in the first and second periods. He pinned his first three opponents in the heavy-weight bracket and was the Green Knights fifth champ of the tournament.

Team standings

1. St Joseph, 210.50; 2. Paramus Catholic, 185.00; 3. Westwood, 135.50; 4. Fair Lawn, 112.00; 5. Northern Highlands, 109.00; 6. Emerson Park Ridge, 103.50; 7. Old Tappan, 102.00; 8. River Dell, 98.50; 9. Pascack Hills, 84.00; 10. Glen Rock, 80.50; 11. Paramus, 78.00; 12. Ridgewood, 75.50; 13. Ramsey, 75.50; 14. Don Bosco, 74.50; 15. Pascack Valley, 68.00; 16. Ramapo, 66.50; 17. New Milford, 64.00; 18. North Bergen, 62.00; 19. Garfield, 58.00; 20. Mahwah, 56.50; 21. Dumont, 56.00; 22. Elmwood Park, 49.00; 23. Waldwick/Midland Park, 47.00; 24. Teaneck, 46.00; 25. Cresskill, 45.00; 26. Becton, 41.00; 27. Leonia Palisades Park, 34.00; 28. Indian Hills, 29.00; 29. Bogota Ridgefield Park, 25.50; 30. Dwight Morrow, 25.00; 31. Hackensack, 22.00; 32. Rutherford, 18.50; 33. Lodi, 17.00; 34. Wood-Ridge, 17.00; 35. Saddle Brook, 15.00; 36. Cliffside Park, 14.00; 37. Hasbrouck Heights, 14.00; 38. Fort Lee, 10.00; 39. Bergenfield, 8.00; 40. Demarest, 4.00.

Finals matchups

106: Taisei Kurachi (River Dell) Dec Max Martinez (Pascack Hills), 1-0.
113: Kelly Dunnigan (Don Bosco) Fall Michael Martinez (Becton), 1:54.
120: Nick Babin (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Myles Leonard (Waldwick/Midland Park), 0:10.

126: Ethan Fernandez (Westwood) Dec Logan Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge), 2-1 (2OT)

132: Justin Bierdumpef (St. Joseph) M-Dec Loudon Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge), 10-0.

138: Mike Cetta (St. Joseph) Dec Eric Freeman (Paramus), 8-4.

145: Michael Dellagatta (St. Joseph) Dec. Tommy Eboi (Westwood), 2-1.

152: Stefano Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Dec Devin Iannelli (North Highlands), 8-2.

160: Greg Schlett (Glen Rock) Dec Luke Petaccia (Pascack Valley), 8-4.

170: Jack Bernik (NV/Old Tappan) Dec Christian Jimenez (Don Bosco), 4-2.

182: Ben Liss (Fair Lawn) Dec Brian Fall (Ramapo), 8-4.

195: Deren Cercioglu (Paramus Catholic) Dec Alex Kostantas (Pascack Hills), 6-4 (2OT).

220: Kyle Jacob (Paramus) Dec Mike Toranzo (St. Joseph), 7-0.
285: Jim Mullen (St. Joseph) Dec Michael Alfonso (Garfield), 4-0.

Third-place matchups

Third-place matches: **106:** Ryan Hartung (New Milford) dec. George Hufnagel (Paramus Catholic), 2-1
113: Ryan Kozdra (Mahwah) dec. Matt DiGennaro (River Dell), 6-3
120: Will Mastic (Paramus Catholic) dec. Nicholas Patel (Northern Highlands), 7-6

126: Andre Ruiz (Bogota/Ridgefield Park) tf. Joseph Cappello (Paramus Catholic), 22-6

132: Anthony Motta (Fair Lawn) dec. Cole Pfeufer (Westwood), 6-1
138: Joshua Palacio (North Bergen) dec. Paul DiMarco (New Milford), 7-0

145: Vincent DeMaria (Northern Highlands) md. James Sgarella (Dumont), 10-2

152: Ty Pfeufer (Westwood) forf. Tyler Pizzi (Pascack Valley)

160: AJ Puerto (Fair Lawn) dec. Stephano Hadoulis (Leonia/Pal. Park), 9-4

170: AJ Fricchione (St. Joseph) dec. Eddie Alfieri (Elmwood Park), 16-7

182: Angelo Piazza (Glen Rock) dec. Will Andresen (Old Tappan), 7-0

195: Lucas Nallen (Dumont) fall Savion Maranon (Becton), 1:48

220: Max Acciardi (Paramus Catholic) fall Jonas Hyman (Ramsey), 1:05

285: Hector Lebron (Dwight Morrow) dec. Anthony Vaccarella (Ridgewood), 3-1 OT

Fifth-place matches

106: Ryan Romeo (Glen Rock) Fall Dimitri Rainey (Indian Hills), 1:36.
113: Kley Peralta (Paramus Catholic) Forf Patrick Cahill (Pascack Hills).

120: Stefano Bruni (Ramapo) Dec Pedro Ascencio (Ramsey), 6-2.
126: George Rivera (Teaneck) Dec Mateo Sgambellone (St. Joseph), 7-6.

132: Shawn Mastropiero (New Milford) Fall Matthew McCoy (Northern Highlands), 2:58.

138: Nicolas Motta (Fair Lawn) Maj Dec Logan Hurwit (Northern Highlands), 13-3.

145: Dale Yehle (Paramus Catholic) Dec Michael Faustini (Saddle Brook), 4-1.

152: Jonathan Siemsen (Ramsey) Fall Jacob Schlenker (Ramapo), 3:37.

160: Alex Bedoya (NV/Old Tappan) Pin Sebastian Peralta (River Dell), 0:54.

170: Tim Coffey (Cresskill) Dec Alfred Faison (Teaneck), 7-0.

182: Jon Blaya (North Bergen) Forf Lucas Sharma (Ridgewood).

195: Gunnar Nystedt (River Dell) Forf Kacper Szuberski (Garfield).

220: AJ Menendez (Pascack Valley) Fall Charles Davis (Garfield), 4:45.
285: Simon Yung (NV/Old Tappan) Forf Jakob Shapiro (Fair Lawn).

Seventh-place matches

106: Anthony Molinaro (Don Bosco) Dec Michael Kozdra (Mahwah), 12-5.

113: Brendan Connolly (Northern Highlands) Fall Michael Calabrese (Hasbrouck Heights), 1:35.

138: Connor Kovalcik (Indian Hills) Dec Noah Krakower (River Dell), 2-0.

126: Jake Sheiner (Fair Lawn) Fall Steven Ciambro (Paramus), 2:48.

132: Clay Hunt (Ridgewood) Fall Vin Keeler (Rutherford), 3:22.

138: Jordan Diab (Hackensack) Dec Matt Guerra (Waldwick/Midland Park), 13-7.

145: Owen Stephenson (Glen Rock) Fall Kevin Baker (Elmwood Park), 3:52.

152: Shane Trattner (Ridgewood) Fall Hunter Freschi (Hasbrouck Heights), 2:35.

160: Mike Grisoni (Westwood) Dec Nick DiMassimo (Pascack Hills), 9-4.

170: Shawn Grigsby (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Justin Boesch (Westwood), 3:19.

182: CJ Andres (Paramus Catholic) T-Fall Abe Karlo (Elmwood Park), 17-2 (3:41).

195: Aiden Giacomelli (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Nico Gemma (Ramsey), 0:41.

220: Jacob Leiva (Cliffside Park) Maj Dec Nick Alvarado (Don Bosco), 10-2.

285: Joe Duffy (Pascack Valley) Forf Joe Stuart (Hackensack).

Semifinals

106
 Taisei Kurachi (River Dell) Fall Dimitri Rainey (Indian Hills), 4:31.
 Max Martinez (Pascack Hills) Dec George Hufnagel (Paramus Catholic), 8-5.

113
 Kelly Dunnigan (Don Bosco) T-Fall Kley Peralta (Paramus Catholic), 16-0, 2:42.

120
 Michael Rodriguez (Becton) Dec Matt DiGennaro (River Dell), 13-9 (OT).

126
 Nick Babin (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Nicholas Patel (Northern Highlands), 0:08

132
 Myles Leonard (Waldwick/Midland Park) Fall Will Mastic (Paramus Catholic), 3:54.

138
 Ethan Fernandez (Westwood) Fall Joseph Cappello (Paramus Catholic), 1:29.

145
 Logan Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) Dec Andre Ruiz (Bogota/Ridgefield Park), 3-1.

152
 Justin Bierdumpef (St. Joseph) Dec Cole Pfeufer (Westwood), 5-2

160
 Loudon Mazzeo (Emerson/Park Ridge) Fall Anthony Motta (Fair Lawn), 4:48.

170
 Eric Freeman (Paramus) Dec Joshua Palacio (North Bergen), 2-1

182
 Mike Cetta (St. Joseph) Maj Dec Paul DiMarco (New Milford), 19-6.

195
 Tommy Eboi (Westwood) Dec Vincent DeMaria (Northern Highlands), 3-1.

220
 Michael Dellagatta (St. Joseph) Pin James Sgarella (Dumont), 5:42.

285
 Stefano Sgambellone (St. Joseph) Dec Tyler Pizzi (Pascack Valley), 5-2.

106
 Devin Iannelli (Northern Highlands) Dec Jonathan Siemsen (Ramsey), 7-5.

160
 Greg Schlett (Glen Rock) T-Fall Alex Bedoya (NV/Old Tappan), 16-1.

220
 Luke Petaccia (Pascack Valley) Dec AJ Puerto (Fair Lawn), 5-3.

170
 Jack Bernik (NV/Old Tappan) Fall Eddie Alfieri (Elmwood Park), 2:20.

220
 Christian Jimenez (Don Bosco) Fall Tim Coffey (Cresskill), 1:39.

182
 Brian Fall (Ramapo) Dec Lucas Sharma (Ridgewood), 8-6.

195
 Ben Liss (Fair Lawn) Dec Angelo Piazza (Glen Rock), 6-1.

220
 Deren Cercioglu (Paramus Catholic) Dec Kacper Szuberski (Garfield), 5-2.

285
 Alex Kostantas (Pascack Hills) Fall Gunnar Nystedt (River Dell), 4:03.

220
 Kyle Jacob (Paramus) Fall AJ Menendez (Pascack Valley), 0:44.

285
 Mike Toranzo (St. Joseph) Dec Max Acciardi (Paramus Catholic), 4-1.

285
 Jim Mullen (St. Joseph) Fall Hector Lebron (Dwight Morrow), 1:20.

285
 Michael Alfonso (Garfield) Dec Jakob Shapiro (Fair Lawn), 4-3.

What was the Moment of the Decade in North Jersey?

Stan Woods reaches the pinnacle

For coach Stan Woods, win No. 704 will always stand above the rest.

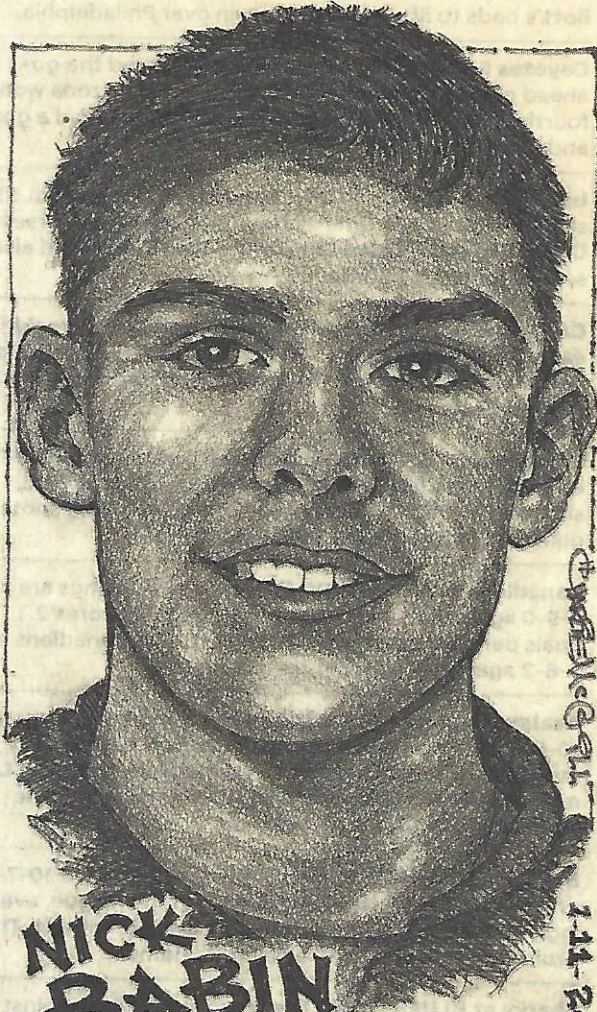
The Emerson/Park Ridge wrestling coach has more wins than anyone in state history, but none were bigger than a one-point victory in 2016. The Cavos had gone down to Toms River time and time again before finally breaking through with a state championship. The title came in dramatic fashion, with Zach Lewis avoiding a pin to finish off a 29-28 win over Delaware Valley in the Group 2 final.

It remains the culmination of Woods' 55-year career and a historic moment for the region. The co-op became the first public school wrestling team in Bergen or Passaic to win a state championship.

North Jersey has become a hotbed for wrestling, and the annual state tournament in Atlantic City is a showcase of its dominance. And yet, no one in the decades before (or the three seasons since) has experienced a moment like the Cavos did on Feb. 14, 2016.

— Sean Farrell

MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**NICK
BABIN**
OF EMERSON/PARK RIDGE

1-11-20

Sport: Wrestling

Class: Senior **Age:** 17

Accomplishment:

Babin won the 120-pound weight class for his third Bergen County championship, earning the tournament's most outstanding wrestler award. The Columbia University-bound Babin won all four matches via pin in a total time of 48 seconds.

"He's a super, all-around kid. He's in the National Honor Society. He really works hard at (wrestling) and he works year-round at it. He travels all over the country in big national tournaments. He is so calm and never gets flustered. When he wrestles, he's very focused."

— Coach Stan Woods

Also nominated: Greg Schlett of Glen Rock, Kyle Jacob of Paramus and Lucas Nallen of Dumont for wrestling; and Rashawn Markman of Waldwick for indoor track and field.

As 2019 draws to a close, the NorthJersey.com sports staff is looking back on the best athletes to come through Bergen and Passaic counties in the last decade.

Here, we present the All-Decade Wrestling Team.

First team
Sammy Alvarez

St. Joseph, Class of 2019

The Garfield native was a three-time state finalist who won the 126-pound title as a senior. He became a champion after taking down friend and national No. 1 Robert Howard of Bergen Catholic in a dramatic overtime match at Boardwalk Hall.

Better known as "Sammy the Bull", he raced to a 136-11 career record before heading to Rutgers.

Kyle Bierdumpf

Don Bosco, Class of 2016

Bierdumpf had a tremendous high school career with one state championship and three silver medals. The Mahwah native earned a 123-15 record to go with four district and three region titles.

He took his talents to Harvard after being a captain in his final two seasons at Don Bosco.

Ricky Cabanillas

DePaul, Class of 2019

Cabanillas became a star middleweight at DePaul, after wrestling for one season at Bergen Catholic. He made three straight trips to the state final, winning the gold in 2018.

The Whippany native won 112 matches with the Spartans and now wrestles at Brown, alongside his twin brother, Nicky.

Jacob Cardenas

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2019

Cardenas won back-to-back state championships and finished his high school career ranked No. 1 in the country at 195 pounds. The Kearny native amazed the crowds at Boardwalk Hall, where his speed and power was too much to handle.

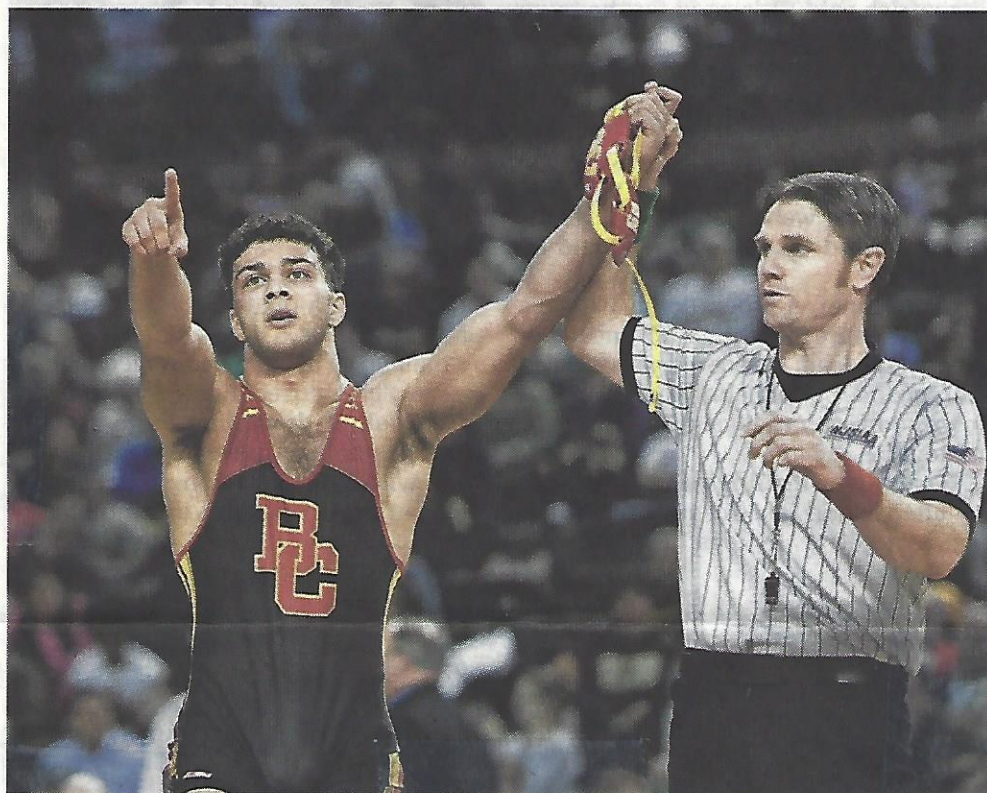
After spending two years at Queen of Peace, he broke out at Bergen Catholic with a 41-2 record as a senior and 121 career wins. He will wrestle for Cornell.

North Jersey

Sports

All-Decade

Wrestling Team



Jacob Cardenas was ranked No. 1 nationally. DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Eric Chakonis

Don Bosco, Class of 2017

Chakonis followed in the footsteps of his brother, Zack, and won the state heavyweight title in 2016 and 2017. He pinned Alexander LaGrippo in his final high school match, becoming the second two-time state champ in Don Bosco history.

With deceptive speed for a big man, Chakonis went 111-31 in his career and got taken down only once as a senior.

Zack Chakonis

Don Bosco, Class of 2015

The elder Chakonis has a long list of accomplishments as a three-time state finalist and 2015 heavyweight champion.

He rose to No. 1 in the country after winning four straight county, region and district titles. The Northwestern signee remains the only Don Bosco wrestler (and one of 10 overall) to win four Bergen Holiday championships. His career record was 146-10.

Anthony Giraldo

North Bergen, Class of 2014

This Bruin lower weight went 4-for-4 at the Bergen County tournament and won two gold medals in Atlantic City. Both were firsts for a North Bergen wrestler and foreshadowed a career at Rutgers.

Giraldo would finish high school with a 160-10 record, winning his last 81 bouts and all 44 as a senior.

Joe Grello

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2016

Grello won every step of the way and played a big part in turning Bergen Catholic into a national powerhouse. He helped the Crusaders tie a modern-day

record with four individual state champions by getting the gold in 2015 and 2016.

Grello went on to wrestle for Rutgers, but not before going 118-20 with three county and region championships.

Shane Griffith

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2018

Now at Stanford, Griffith was among the most consistent winners with three state titles and four trips to the final. He ascended to No. 1 in the country after going 39-1 as a senior and reclaiming the NJSIAA title at 160 pounds.

Griffith also took part in one of the biggest wins in team history when Bergen Catholic knocked off Blair Academy for control of the top national ranking in January 2018.

Razohnn Gross

Don Bosco, Class of 2013

Gross became the first Don Bosco wrestler to win a state title and then became a two-time champion just a year later. As an Ironman, he went 127-18, with three region and four district titles.

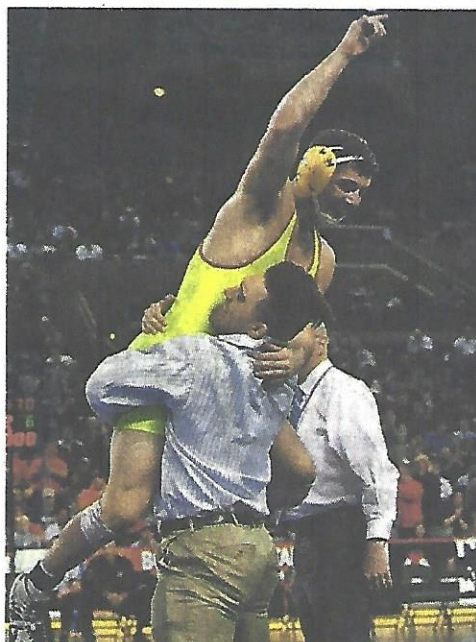
He later played football and wrestled for Rutgers.

Robert Howard

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2020

Howard enters his senior season with a commitment to Penn State and a host of achievements, both on and off the mat at Bergen Catholic. The acrobatic Howard has appeared in three state finals, winning as a sophomore.

A three-time Cadet World Team member, Howard also impressed on the international stage with a Youth Olympic gold medal.



Joe Grello of Bergen Catholic celebrates winning in 2015.

MARKO GEORGIEV/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David McFadden

DePaul, Class of 2015

McFadden was a dynasty builder at DePaul and may be the greatest wrestler in Passaic County history. He went undefeated as a senior, en route to a second state title and his fourth county, district and region championships.

In the process, the West Milford native set a Passaic County record for wins (161) and made the Spartans one of New Jersey's elite programs. Success followed at Virginia Tech, where McFadden is a three-time All-American with one more year of eligibility.

Kevin Mulligan

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2016

A two-time state champion, Mulligan left a huge legacy in Oradell by going 138-30 in his Crusader career, finishing fifth on the school wins list.

He also picked up four district titles and two championships at the Bergen County tournament.

Johnny Sebastian

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2014

By any measure, Sebastian was one of the most successful wrestlers in North Jersey history. He joined elite company by winning four Bergen County titles and three state championships, matched only by Frank Cagnina and teammate Nick Suriano.

Sebastian briefly held the Bergen

Catholic record with 144 career wins and later wrestled for Northwestern. He's finishing his college career at Wisconsin.

Nick Suriano

Bergen Catholic, Class of 2016

Suriano is the most decorated Bergen County wrestler of all-time. The Paramus native became the fourth wrestler in New Jersey history to win four state championships, and the second to do it while undefeated. He also led the Crusaders to four state titles, giving him an unprecedented set of team and individual gold.

After going 159-0 in high school, he broke new ground at Rutgers as its first national wrestling champion.

Second team

Peter Acciardi, Don Bosco, Class of 2018

Gerard Angelo, Bergen Catholic, Class of 2018

Kyle Cochran, Paramus, Class of 2017

Chris Foca, Bergen Catholic, Class of 2019

Luis Gonzalez, Don Bosco, Class of 2014

Nick Gravina, Northern Highlands, Class of 2013

Brandon Kui, DePaul, Class of 2017

Sal Mastriani, Don Bosco, Class of 2012

Luke Mazzeo, Emerson/Park Ridge, Class of 2019

Connor Melde, Bergen Catholic, Class of 2012

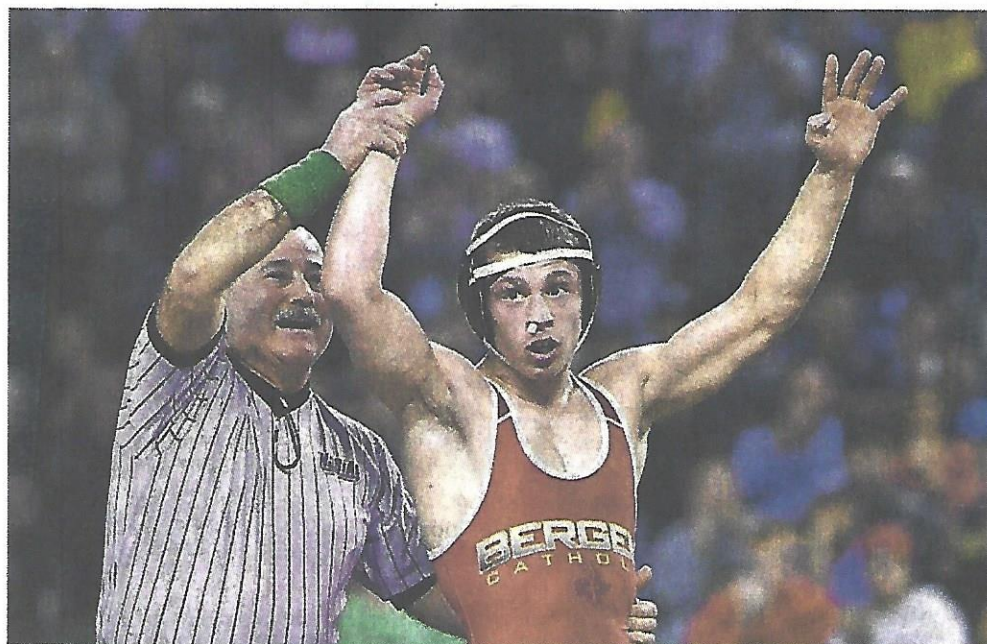
Mickey O'Malley, Hasbrouck Heights, Class of 2018

Joe Orecchio, Don Bosco, Class of 2011

Ethan Ramos, Hawthorne, Class of 2013

Jonathan Tropea, St. Joseph, Class of 2016

Joe Trovato, Paramus, Class of 2015



Nick Suriano of Bergen Catholic celebrates winning his fourth state title.

MICHAEL KARAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER