

Ramsey's Rottingen to be reckoned with

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By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

Jeff Rottingen of Ramsey sat in the stands at Hackensack High School last season just feet away from the quarter-finals of the Region 2 wrestling tournament, knowing that he should have been out on the mat.

"I'm not going to say that I would win the State championship," the sophomore 112-pounder said. "I just want my shot to give it a try and go for it."

It's a shot he didn't get last season. Just a day after falling to eventual regional champ Joe Orrechio of Don Bosco by a point in the District 5 final, Rottingen ended up in the hospital for four days with an infection in his elbow — and on the outside looking in at the regional.

"I felt good going through the district," he said. "The next day there was a red line going up my arm from a cut and they put me in the hospital for the next four days."

The pain wasn't just in his arm.

"He sat there in the stands and said, 'I can beat these guys,'" his father, Rob, said. "I think it hit him right there."

"He'd been struggling with his weight a lot all season, so the first thought was relief that it was over," Ramsey coach Anthony Petrock said. "Then he seemed to realize that he's only got four of these [regionals] and he just missed one."

He's determined to make the next three count. It began days after the regional tournament ended and continues this week with the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y.

"They told me that I couldn't do anything physical for a week," said Rottingen, who finished third in the BCCA on the way to a 26-6 record as a freshman last season. "Two weeks after it happened, I was back on the mat."

"That's why I'm so proud of him," Rob Rottingen said. "He puts his time in and strives for it. If you want to beat these guys, you have to train for it."

Jeff couldn't avoid the mat. His father was a regional champion for Pascack Hills. His uncle, Gary Rottingen, was a State runner-up for the Cowboys.

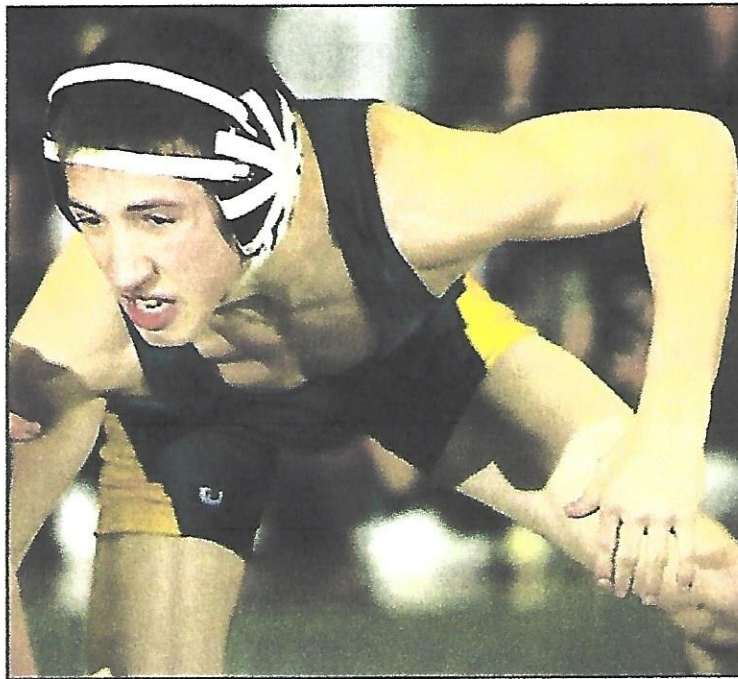
That doesn't mean he didn't try to avoid it.

"My father got me to try it in kindergarten," Jeff said. "I didn't want to do it. But it turns out I was good at it."

"It gets in your blood," Rob Rottingen said.

Petrock saw it from the beginning.

"Coming in, he was expected to be an impact freshman," Petrock said. "But he exceeded my expectations. Any time somebody can do what he did, you know you've got someone special."



LESLIE BARBARO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ramsey's Jeff Rottingen compiled a 26-6 record as a freshman. An elbow infection ended his season after the District 5 tournament.

"I'm happy with what I did last season, but I know I can do better," Jeff Rottingen said. "I was very confident on my feet, but getting out from [the] bottom was tough. I've been working on that and I think I'm a little bit bigger and stronger."

Petrock said the change hasn't just been on the mat.

"The biggest change I've seen in him is his maturity level," Petrock said. "Last season, we had a senior-laden team so he wasn't expected to be a superstar. More than anything, I've seen him take a leadership role as a sophomore. When they see him working hard, other guys

in the room work hard."

"I'm happy for him and happy for the team in Ramsey," Rob Rottingen said. "We're always telling him that it's not just about you, it's about the team."

And Jeff knows that he will be wrestling in a tough weight class at the BCCA.

"Everybody out there is solid," he said. "You have to think that the guy that's standing out there on the mat with you is the best, no matter who he is. If you don't think like that, you're going to lose."

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BCCA George Jockish Tournament

At Rockland Community College, Suffern, N.Y.

Today

Preliminaries 11 a.m.; quarterfinals and wrestlebacks, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Semifinals and wrestlebacks, 11 a.m.; consolations, 3:30 p.m.; Finals, 6 p.m.

Getting there

From Garden State Parkway: Take the Parkway north to the New York State Thruway north (toward Albany) to exit 14B (Airmont Road). Turn right on Airmont Road, which becomes Highview Road. Turn left at fourth traffic light onto College Road. Follow College Road to campus entrance on the left.

From Palisades Interstate Parkway: Palisades Parkway north to exit 9 (New York State Thruway). Take New York State Thruway North (toward Albany). Follow directions above.

McDermott heads to semis

30 schools represented

By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. — Like the rest of his Don Bosco teammates, Trace McDermott looks at the annual BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament as an individual battle.

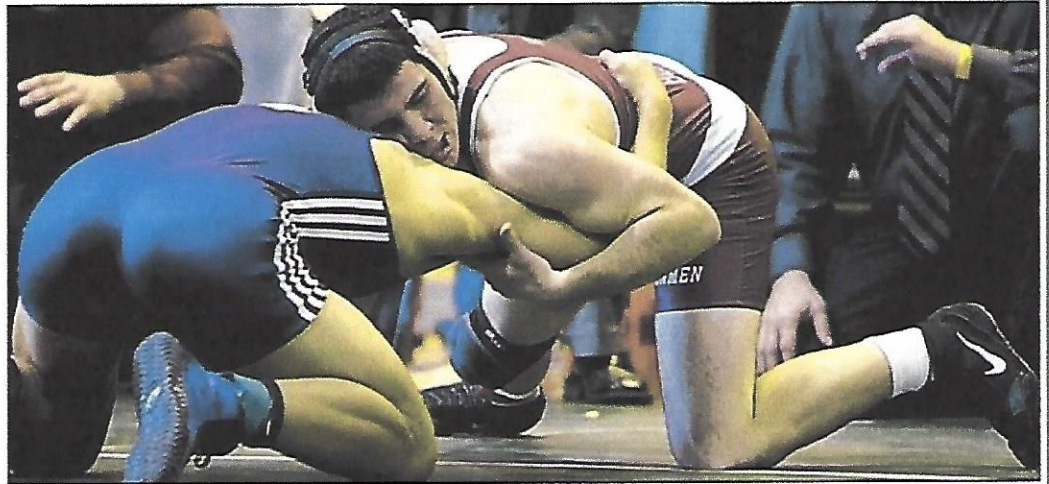
But that doesn't mean he should ignore the implications of his 171-pound showdown with Anthony Mordaga of Paramus in the quarterfinals Monday.

In one of the most exciting bouts of the evening, McDermott, seeded fourth, held off fifth-seeded Mordaga in the final seconds to score a 6-5 victory. The win helped lift the defending champion Ironmen to a 124-105½ lead over the second-place Spartans in a historically competitive tournament that featured 30 schools sending wrestlers into today's semifinals.

"Everybody here has a couple of good wrestlers," the senior said. "I knew it would be a tough match. I knew I couldn't just ride him out because I had a stall warning, so I just tried to defend my legs."

McDermott, who finished third a year ago at 171, took a 3-1 lead into the third period, but Mordaga got an escape and a takedown to take a 4-3 lead. McDermott tied it on an escape of his own and a takedown to take a 6-4 lead with a minute left.

He let Mordaga up to cut the lead to one point and then held him off in the final moments for the win. McDermott will face top-seeded Jamie Westwood of Queen of Peace in the semifinals with second-seeded Mike Magaraci of Old Tappan or Mike Khoury of St. Joseph waiting in the final if he advances.



NICK BRANDRETH/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Trace McDermott of Don Bosco has Anthony Mordaga of Paramus tied up en route to 6-5 win in the quarterfinals.

Junior Jorge Reyes of North Bergen provided some excitement of his own when he shocked top-seeded Darryl Albonico of St. Joseph, 1-0, at 112.

"That was on my mind," Reyes said of his performance last year when he lost in the quarterfinals as the second seed before winning his next three bouts to wrestle back for fifth. "I felt like it was a tough seed, but I just had to maintain my defense out there and defense won the match."

The win by Reyes, who missed the districts last year after a yearlong battle with his weight, set up an interesting semifinal against fifth-seeded Tony Nadera of Paramus. Nadera, a junior who qualified for the State tournament as a freshman, wrestled fewer than five varsity bouts last season because he couldn't crack the Spartans' lineup.

"It was nice to see him get a good win and

Today

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Semifinals and wrestlebacks, 11 a.m.;
consolations, 3:30 p.m.; Finals, 6 p.m.

get some confidence back," said Paramus coach Steve Klass.

And this year, more than in the past, every win counts. Of the 30 teams placing wrestlers in today's semifinals, only four teams boast more than two.

"That is amazing," said Bergen Catholic coach Dave Bell, whose Crusaders sit in third place with 97½ points, nine ahead of Queen of Peace. "The results are pretty diverse with a Group 1 school [fifth-place

Emerson/Park Ridge] and a Group 3 school [Paramus]. If you look at individual wrestlers, there is a lot of talent on a lot of teams."

Bergen and Bosco lead the way with six semifinalists apiece, followed by Paramus and Queen of Peace with four each. Nine other teams, eight of them publics, each have two.

The last time a public school won the tournament outright was 19 years ago, when Fair Lawn ended a string of five straight titles in 1989. Klass isn't ready to say if the gap between public and non-public schools is closing.

"It's hard to tell," he said. "Tournaments are different. I expected us to compete a little bit better. It's early in the season, and you can fix technique and the shape your guys are in."

TEAM SCORES: Don Bosco (DB) 124; Paramus (PAR) 105½; Bergen Catholic (BC) 97½; Queen of Peace (QP) 88½; Emerson/Park Ridge (EPR) 76; Mahwah (M) 74½; Ramapo (RPO) 71; Old Tappan (OT) 68; St. Joseph (SJ) 68; North Bergen (NB) 61; Hackensack (H) 57½; Lodi (LO) 51½; Cresskill (CK) 51; Fair Lawn (FLN) 49; Bergenfield (BF) 48½; Ridgefield Park/Ridgefield (RPR) 48; Bogota Weehawken (BOG) 47½; River Dell (RD) 44; Becton/Wallington (BW) 43½; Hasbrouck Heights/Wood Ridge (HHW) 43; Northern Highlands (NH) 42; Elmwood Park (EP) 41; Glen Rock/Saddle Brook (GRS) 40½; Ridgewood (RW) 36; Rutherford (RU) 36; Dumont (DU) 34½; Pascack Hills (PH) 34; Pascack Valley (PV) 33; New Milford (NM) 31; Indian Hills (IH) 30; Lyndhurst/North Arlington (LNA) 29½; Westwood (WW) 26; Demarest (DEM) 25½; Paramus Catholic (PC) 22; Ramsey (RSY) 22; Teaneck (TEA) 22; Waldwick/Midland Park (WMP) 22; St. Mary (SM) 21; Fort Lee (FTL) 19½; Cliffside Park (CP) 15; Frisch (FR) 13; Garfield (G) 10; Torah (TOR) 8; Leonia/Palisades Park (LPP) 4.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

119: Rich Bandstra (WMP) pin Steve Pierce (RD), 1:50; Vincent Macaluso (SJ) dec. Matt Goldstein (PH), 7-2; **125:** Rich Cannici (HHW) pin Peter Pravata (PH), 1:21; **135:** Julian Guilarte (IH) pin Mike Farino (PC), 1:45; Josh Ferraud (EP) pin Gal Levy (FLN), 2:47; **145:** Peter Seeback (PC) pin Ryan Politi (GRS), 2:58; **160:** Mario Foti (LNA) dec. Steve Macko (RSY), 14-9; Ray Donnelly (OT) dec. Ryan Ferreira (QP), 9-2; **171:** Tyler Bray (IH) pin Kahmisher Smith (TEA), 2:19.

FIRST ROUND

103: Justin Scheinert (RPO) pin Sebastian Trugullo (BW), :43; Anthony Tatakis (SJ) pin Marcos Costillo (M), 1:14; Juan Alorro (CK) tech. fall Tarik Jerai (PAR), 19-1; Joe Balcicianas (PC) pin Fernand Llamoca (LO), 1:54; Miguel Vasquez (LPP) dec. Mike Morreale (LNA), 11-7; Lance Friedman (PH) pin Zack Bruggger (BOG), :41; Billy Schwartz (EPR) dec. Kyle Levinsohn (RD), 2-1.

112: Joe Talmo (PH) pin Jose Gronados (FTL), 5:19; Jorge Reyes (NB) pin Christian Negron (BF), 1:55; Tony Nadera (PAR) pin Jesse Thanes (DB), 1:24; Ryan Kramer (EP) dec. Danny Tyson (WMP), 4-2; Alex Scheinert (RPO) dec. Bryan Louchlin (HHW), 16-12; Amitai Mozeson (TOR) pin Steven Schneider (EPR), 1:23; Jeff Rottingen (RSY) pin Ryan Heaney (BC), 3:35; Brian Seeback (PC) pin Steven Quezada (LNA), :43; Brandon Cocherl (NH) dec. Brandon Giovanetti (RW), 4-1; Gary Miuccio (OT) pin Marco Jimenez (FLN), 1:16; Mike Laurice (IH) pin Hassam Anjum (M), 2:47; Dominick Manginelli (DU) pin Dean Pinterski (PV), 3:56; Michael Raccioppi (H) tech. fall Anthony Mobilio (LO), 15-0; C.J. Isip (BOG) pin Tyler Champy (GSR), 1:27.

119: Zach Zotolito (PAR) pin John Herbener (DEM), 1:40; Dominick Martinez (QP) pin Paul Kipiani (RPO), 3:29; James Boujakli (RPR) pin Angelo Giacchi (DB), 2:20; Emmanuel Villanueva (BW) pin Corey Schwartz (FR), 1:34; Scott Bouchard (M) pin Andrew Wissell (RSY), 1:36; E.J. Martin (TEA) pin Mark Sheridan (IH), :54; Alex Preefer (CK) tech. fall Alex Dembowski (LNA), 16-1; Miguel Botero (DU) pin Firas Warrad (BOG), 2:29; Adam Mella (LO) dec. Bryan Lucky-Heard (H), 7-1; John Boyle (RU) dec. Ryan Spangler (HHW), 8-2; Nick Maselli (EPR) pin Jake Lebovich (OT), 4:58; Matt Ja-

cobson (GRS) dec. Krystian Kida (EP), 7-3; Sergio Grigorian (FLN) dec. A.J. Scimeca (PV), 15-3; Connor Melde (BC) dec. Ryan Monteforte (CP), 3-0; Chris Rankin (BF) pin Rob Bandstra (WMP), :18; Brandon Stueben (NH) pin Macaluso, 5:04.

125: Ryan Giovanetti (RW) dec. Nick Provenzano (PC), 13-2; Ryan Mealy (BW) dec. Tyler Myers (WW), 9-6; Matt Venneman (BOG) dec. Nick Madorno (RPO), 6-2; Francesco Caruso (EP) pin Jeff Cardona (BF), 3:47; Angel Quinones (NB) pin Brian Bandstra (WMP), 1:14; Erez Kahan (FR) dec. Matthe Waldron (LNA), 9-8; Nick Guarriello (EPR) dec. Dave Powell (RD), 6-2; Vincent Silano (SJ) dec. Eder Dadul (H), 7-0; Alex Mella (LO) tech. fall Greg Martinez (DU), 17-2; David DeMarzo (OT) dec. James Stewart (FLN), 12-2; Josh Alorro (CK) pin Tayfun Ender (FTL), 1:42; Joe Polizzoti (GRS) dec. Anthony Cirillo (LPP), 10-0; Paul Getto (NH) pin A.J. Morgenstern (BC), 3:58; Frank Acosta (DB) tech. fall Mike Tarulli (RSY), 16-0; Nick Alpher (PAR) dec. Bryan Chambers (M), 8-0; Frank Cagnina (QP) pin Cannici, 5:43.

130: Joe DeQuinzio (HHW) pin Tom Parisi (IH), :48; Joe Sproviero (EP) pin Anthony Ciccarino (SJ), 2:38; Steve Orlic (BW) pin James Gartner (H), 2:18; Shamil Musalava (FLN) pin Andrew Stokesbury (DEM), 5:52; Matt Dickman (GRS) pin Yair Klyman (TOR), 5:03; Jon Caulfield (NH) dec. Wedson Paes (CP), 10-4; Enrique Romero (BOG) pin Chase Ferraro (RSY), 5:07; Joe Ortiz (PAR) pin Mike Valle (BF), 3:14; Greg Madorno (RPO) pin Kyle Naddeo (LNA), 2:37; Matt Gilmour (M) pin Aaron Yanga (DU), 4:39; Steve Altano (PH) pin Dan Weglarz (C), 2:57; Julian Quintero (NB) pin Thanh Lai (EPR), 1:55; Pedro Barahona (WMP) dec. Mike McCann (BC), 7-5; Danny Perez (LO) pin Mike Baez (WW), 5:08; Nick Bruni (RD) dec. Yair Aviner (FR), 7-5; Joe Natelli (PV) dec. Jack McCann (OT), 2-1 (OT).

135: Ramin Ahdoot (TOR) pin Saviel Castillo (BOG), 3:40; Dave Heitman (M) pin Chris Kalimtzis (PH), 1:57; Charlie Woods (DEM) tech. fall Dylan Donegan (DU), 15-0; Dan Rehain (NH) pin Jon Harrison (H), :15; Joe Nacco (RPO) pin Alex Vasquez (NB), 2:36; Dakotah Romero (NM) pin Matt Piotrick (FR), 1:21; Kevin Melley (RPR) pin Anthony Schoener (SM), 1:21; Andrew Vecchione (EPR) pin Lucien Dyer (TEA), 2:17; Aaron Butnick (AR) dec. Patrick Patti (RSY), 4-2; Bryan Brown (RU) pin Jared Kissler (PV), 1:15; Nick Tanelli (LNA) pin Dylan More (SJ), 5:45; Sal Mastriani (DB) dec. Jake Bogosian (OT), 11-3; Tom Bazal (BW) dec. Vincent Dellapenta (LO), 4-2 (ot); Julio Alorro (CK) dec. Brian Merkel (BC), 7-4; Gal Levy (FLN) pin Ferraud, :50; Jimmy Cariddi (RD) dec. Guilarte, 14-3.

140: Brian Bakalian (RD) pin Ron Stecher (GRS), :44; Chris Dombroski (DB) dec. Dwayne Watson (BF), 3-2; Shaun Montoya (TEA) dec. Lucas Iorio (BC), 7-6; Kris Buonomo (EPR), dec. Anthony Messina (NH), 9-0; Mike Paskas (RU) pin Mark Cirello (PAR), 1:51; Chris Duran (NB) dec. Brian Gibbs (RPO), 13-4; Darius Charles (OT) pin KJ Ross (BW) 3:53; Christian Pecoraro (NM) pin Maxx Edmiston (LO), 2:56; Dan Blair (M) pin Taylor Trumbetti (PH), 5:21.

145: Emmanuel Ajagbe (BOG) pin Seeback, 5:00; Justin Mullen (OT) dec. Michael Habersaft (NM), 3-2; Peter Ruiz (HHW) tech. fall Cameron Rankin (DU), 17-0; Juvaunne Gordon (H) pin Cody Kester (NH), :51; Kevin Herget (EP) pin Teddy Alhanti (CK), 5:24; Erick Marero (BF) pin Anthony Capra (LNA), 3:17; Rob Capizzi (IH) dec. Aaron Humphrey (WW), 3-2; Steve Kein (BW) dec. Lenny Smith (RD), 5-1;

Matt Henrici (DB) pin Manny Sierra (NB), 2:58; Tyler Losure (SJ) dec. Shakeed Subin (TOR), 11-9; Jahan Safargar (RPR) pin Binny Walters (TEA), 2:22; Yuval Busei (FLN) pin Edwin Cabrera (EP), 2:47; Andrew Gramaglia (RW) pin Doug Buccu (PAR), 1:45; Brian Beavers (LO) pin en Weber (FR), 2:46; Justin Jenco (M) dec. John Delduca (RPO), 8-0; Glen Cannici (QP) pin Matt Ellsworth (BC), 3:54.

152: Paul Lowry (WMP) dec. Matt Fava (DB), 6-1; Victor Kipiani (RPO) pin Chris Grateneau (H), 3:07; Joe O'Brien (EP) pin Mike Decotius (PV), 2:44; Shawn Zahn (HHW) pin Michael Leeman (OT), 5:20; Kiley Escamilla (IH) dec. Anthony Governali (NM), 15-3; Niko Tsolakidis (DEM) pin Vhris Asala (EP), 1:24; Alex Cimiluca (GRS) tech. fall Peter Creamer (SJ), 17-2; Matt Davison (NB) pin Chris Durante (PAR), 1:49; Brian Quintero (LO) pin Yoni Kranzler (FR), 3:35; Ryan Walker (M) pin Matt Hamilton (PH), :31; Eric Del Cid (BOG) dec. John Jenkins (RSY), 15-5; Carlos Pagan (PC) pin Dominick Rose (SM), :53; James Dugan (BW) tech. fall Walter Diaz (LPP), 15-0.

160: Bobby Moat (DU) pin Donnelly (OT), 3:35; Kris Kucab (G) pin Kidane Rutty (SM), :33; Nat Leer (TEA) pin Dyan Walling (DEM), 3:35; Kevin Dischino (WMP) pin Jay Correa (DB), :58; Chris Warren (BC) pin John Jung (LPP), 1:27; Anthony DiBella (RD) dec. Anthony Delcaizo (HHW), 16-8; Dane McDermott (SJ) dec. Alex Sierra (NB), 5-0; Mike Mordaga (PAR) pin John McDonough (NH), 2:36; Kyle Gibson (RW) dec. Jordan Richter (CK), 12-2; Mike Trost (BW) dec. James Favia (NM), 4-1; Justin Struss (WW) pin Arthur Pizza (H), 2:21; Ryan Sblendorio (M) pin Alex Baval (GRS), 1:28; Danny Lupo (BW) dec. Joe Benigno (PV), 15-2; Ryan Melley (RPR) pin Devry Mariano (LO), 4:56; Mike Szwed (FLN) dec. Nolan Cruce (PH), 13-0; Eric Torres (EP) pin Foti, :24.

171: Jamie Westwood (QP) pin Bray, :47; Dylan Pellegrino (GRS) dec. Mike Deegan (PC), 5-3; William Esposito (NM) pin Anthony Sudol (DU), 2:24; Jared Zuckerman (NB) pin Felix Andujar (BOG), 1:09; Anthony Mordaga (PAR) pin Kevin Hwang (EPR), 1:39; Ian Paulic (H) pin Steven Maffei (SM), 2:52; Chris Motichka (LNA) pin Dylan Campanello (RW), 3:27; Trace McDermott (DB) dec. Matt Damato (RSY), 16-5; Chris D'Amico (RPO) pin Michael Otsuka (BC), 2:37; Dave Zuria (RU) pin Time Shrettrner (FLN), :41; Jon Roth (FR) dec. John Gonzalez (BW), 6-3; Mike Khoury (SJ) pin Jon Royce (WW), 1:14; Rich Torres (BF) tech. fall Fred Zott (RD), 20-5; Luke Pragadat (M) dec. Pat Cotrell (PH), 6-5; Damian Murberg (PV) pin Phil Choi (CK), 2:39; Michael Magaraci (OT) pin Troy Woods (EP), :51.

189: Tyler Lee (DB) dec. Mike Abatayo (TEA), 3-1; Ken MacIver (PV) pin Nick Benitez (WMP), 1:06; Gordon Ruffing (RW) pin Ryan Crimmins (DEM), 1:29; Andrew Wagner (LNA) pin Jimmy Sues (PAR), 3:35; Nick Barone (WW) dec. Galo Maldonado (SI), 8-0; Joseph Lalko (HHW) dec. Evans Smith (H), 9-5; Rich Zuccato (PC) pin Mike Moore (FLN), 1:38; Dan Rounds (M) pin Zach Klein (RSY), 2:20; Marcus Cook (SM) pin Mohammed Elsayed (EP), :30; John Karachin (LO) dec. Quinn Simms (CP), 12-3.

215: Joe Voto (PV) dec. Pete Cerny (M), 3-2; Jack Bandazian (RPO) pin Justin Tenido (BOG), 3:52; Joel Rodriguez (FL) pin Mehvar Afkari (DEM), 3:17; Iyi Okunlola (OT) dec. Tim Hagerman (NH), 5-0; Wisam Daoud (H) pin Fernando Garip (PC), :58; James Morrison (QP) dec. Bryon Blake (RSY), 12-7; Phil McCue (SJ) pin Joe Down (PAR), 1:19; Alex Swieca (FR) pin

Steven Sherlock (FLN), 2:59; Jimmy Uzzalino (RW) pin Mohammed Ramadan (EP), 1:50; Joe Schlossberg (RD) pin Justin Cruz (SM), :47; Jason Viana (LNA) pin Brian Hensley (PH), 1:20
285: Mike Ugolini (QP) pin James Remza (IH), 3:25; Brian Crockett (SM) pin Ryan Henderson (PC), 4:17; Abo Mahmoud (BW) pin Wilson Battle (HHW), 5:04; Joe Buttafuoco (H) dec. Bruce Jankulowski (EP), 6-2; Jason Juxon-Smith (TEA) pin Christian Velez (FLN), 2:35; Besim Tonuzi (PH) dec. Jason Powner (BOG), 4-2 (OT); Ryan MacIver (PV) pin Nick Duarte (LNA), 2:50; Andrew Benvenuto (DB) pin Pete Malvasi (RSY), 1:58; Rich Soto (G) pin Alex De-Riso (BC), 1:04.

SECOND ROUND

103: Brian Schneider (H) pin Scheinert, :38; Joe Orecchio (DB) pin Baldicanas, 1:45; Joe Guerriero (GRS) pin Joe DeFuria (BF), 1:00; Anthony Miuccio (OT) pin Tatakis, :49; Vasquez dec. Gio Sema (EP), 12-7; Chuckie Slater (RSY) pin Alorro, 2:59; Dan Ressler (PV) dec. Friedman, 2-0; Tom Casper (BC) dec. Schwartz, 9-3.

112: Darryl Albonico (SJ) dec. Taimo, 11-0; Reyes dec. Scheinert, 3-0; Nadera dec. Kramer, 16-2; Rottingen dec. Mozeson, 12-0; Cocheri pin Seebach, 5:56; Laurice dec. Miuccio, 7-2; Raccioppi dec. Manginelli, 15-8; Monteforte pin Isip, :18.

119: Rankin dec. Zotollo, 6-4; Boyle dec. Martinez, 14-3; Boujakli dec. Villanueva, 15-1; Mella dec. Bouchard, 3-2; Preefer dec. Martin, 6-2; Maselli dec. Botero, 18-4; Melde pin Jacobson, 2:31; Stuben dec. Grigorian, 8-5.

125: Cagnina pin Venneman, 1:40; Caruso pin Giovanetti, 1:54; Guarriello pin Mealy, 1:18; Silano pin Kahan, 2:37; Demarzo dec. Mella, 7-5; Alpher dec. Polizzoti, 9-0; Quinones pin Getto, :53; Acosta pin Alorro, 2:50.

130: DeQuinzio tech. fall Caulfield, 15-0; Romero inj. def. Sproviero; Dickman dec. Orlic, 3-1; Madorno pin Musalaev, 2:37; Ortiz pin Bruni, 1:04; Barahona dec. Natelli, 3-1 (OT); Altano pin Gilmour, 3:35; Quintero pin Perez, 1:55.

135: Cariddi dec. Woods, 5-3; Ahdoot dec. Nacco, 6-0; Heitman pin Romero, 1:42; Brown dec. Butnick, 8-3; Rehain dec. Bazel, 10-6; Alorro pin Melley, 1:02; Vecchione pin Tanelli, 1:07; Mastriani pin Levy, 5:13.

140: Mark Cirello (PAR) dec. Paskas, 4-3; Dombroski dec. Bakalian, 3-2; Johansi Rivera (FL) tech. fall Montoya, 15-0; Vince Dimitri (FLN) dec. Buonomo, 13-5; Brian Gibbs (RPO) pin Duran, 4:38; Charles dec. KJ Ross (BW), 1-0; Maxx Edmiston (LO) dec. Pecoraro, 8-2; Taylor Trumbetti (PH) tech. fall Blair, 16-0.

145: Ajagbe tech. fall Mullen, 16-0; Ruiz dec. Gordon, 11-4; Herget pin Marrero, 5:37; Kein pin Capizzi, 1:11; Henrici pin Losure, 1:07; Safargar dec. Busei, 5-2; Gramaglia pin Beavers, 1:24; Cannici dec. Jenco, 14-0.

152: Matt Spataro (BC) pin Lowry, 3:10; Kipiani pin O'Brien, 1:37; Zahn pin Escamilla, 5:08; Tso-lakidis pin Cimiluca, 3:34; Adrian Fernandez (RD) dec. Davison, 7-0; Walker pin Quintero, 1:37; Pagan dec. Del Cid, 5-1; Dan Murtaugh (WW) dec. Dugan, 8-0.

160: Moat tech. fall Kucab, 19-4; Dischino dec. Leer, 14-1; Warren dec. Dibella, 11-3; McDermott dec. Mordaga, 3-2; Gibson dec. Trost, 4-0; Sblendorio tech. fall Struss, 18-3; Melley pin Lupo, 2:33; Torres pin Szwed, 3:24.

171: Westwood pin Pellegrino, 3:29; Zuckerman dec. Esposito, 7-5; Mordaga pin Paulic, 2:43; McDermott pin Motichka, 2:26; D'Amico dec. Zurla, 17-4; Khoury dec. Roth, 21-7; Praga-

dat dec. Torres, 12-8; Magaraci dec. Murberg, 6-1.

189: Jonathan Becker (BC) pin Yee, :54; MacIver pin Ruffing, 5:15; Wagner pin Dave Empel (RPO), 5:46; Mike Scrozzo (QP) dec. Barone, 5-2; Brendan Wengerter (CK) dec. Lalko, 5-1; Taffy Mushman (FL) pin Zuccato, 5:03; Cook dec. Rounds, 5-3; Jared Schlett (GRS) pin Karachin, 2:42.

215: Sam Galassi (BC) dec. Morrison, 2-1; McCue pin Swieca, 5:51; Uzzalino pin Schlossberg, 4:58; Kadeem Goodall-Reid (BF) pin Viana, 2:58; Nick Vetterlein (DB) pin Voto, :30; Rodriguez pin Bandazian, 3:10; Okunlola dec. John Clancy (LO), 6-3; Daoud pin Dan Lewitt (GRS), 3:58.

285: Dan Suarez (NM) dec. Ugolini, 11-2; Crockett dec. Mahmoud, 2-1; Zak Helewa (LO) dec. Buttafuoco, 6-2; Joe Ortiz (RPR) pin Juxon-Smith, 4:15; Zach Chibane (PAR) pin Tonuzi, :23; Michael Shannon (OT) pin MacIver, 2:27; Benvenuto dec. Anthony Dolan (M), 6-5; John Ceccio (SJ) dec. Soto, 7-3.

QUARTERFINALS

103: Casper pin Ressler, 1:40; Orecchio pin Guerreiro, 1:57; Schneider inj. def. Vasquez; Slater dec. Miuccio, 4-2 (OT).

112: Reyes dec. Albonico, 1-0; Nadera pin Rottingen, 3:03; Laurice dec. Cocheri, 7-1; Monteforte dec. Raccioppi, 9-2.

119: Rankin dec. Boyle, 7-3; Boujakli dec. Mella, 1-0; Preefer dec. Maselli, 12-0; Melde dec. Stueben, 13-4.

125: Cagnina tech. fall Caruso, 16-1; Guarriello pin Silano, :49; Alpher dec. Demarzo, 12-0; Acosta pin Quinones, 5:21.

130: DeQuinzio pin Romero, 1:51; Madorno dec. Dickman, 11-2; Ortiz dec. Barahona, 14-6; Quintero dec. Altano, 14-2.

135: Cariddi dec. Ahdoot, 5-1; Brown dec. Heitman, 6-4 (OT); Rehain dec. Alorro, 5-2; Mastriani dec. Vecchione, 14-4.

140: Cirello dec. Dombroski, 18-8; Dimitri pin Rivera, 4:17; Gibbs dec. Charles, 7-6; Trumbetti pin Edmiston, 1:58.

145: Ajagbe dec. Ruiz, 19-6; Herget dec. Kein, 4-2 (OT); Henrici tech. fall Safargar, 17-2; Cannici pin Gramaglia, :59.

152: Spataro pin Kipiani, 2:21; Tso-lakidis pin Zahn, 1:51; Fernandez dec. Walker, 3-0; Murtaugh pin Pagan, 3:54.

160: Moat dec. Dischino, 12-5; Warren dec. McDermott, 13-8; Sblendorio pin Gibson, 2:56; Torres pin Melley, :33.

171: Westwood dec. Zuckerman, 7-1; McDermott dec. Mordaga, 6-5; Khoury dec. D'Amico, 9-7; Magaraci dec. Pragadat, 5-0.

189: Becker pin MacIver, :54; Scrozzo dec. Wagner, 11-4; Wengerter dec. Mushman, 3-0; Cook dec. Schlett, 9-3.

215: Vetterlein pin Rodriguez, :34; Daoud dec. Okunlola, 6-1; Goodall-Reid pin Uzzalino, 1:37; Glassi dec. McCue, 4-2.

285: Suarez dec. Crockett, 8-2; Helewa pin Ortiz, 1:50; Shannon dec. Chibane, 4-2; Ceccio dec. Benvenuto, 8-5.

BCAA GEORGE JOCKISH HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

SURPRISE ENDINGS

Comets' Schneider completes title run

SUFFERN, N.Y. — Brian Schneider never got his dream match Tuesday in the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament.

What the Hackensack junior got instead was something more thrilling than even he could have imagined.

Schneider capped off one of the more improbable runs in the event's 49-year history when he claimed the 103-pound title with a pin that stunned Bergen Catholic's Tom Casper, not to mention most of the crowd inside the Rockland



ART STAPLETON
LOCAL SPORTS COLUMNIST

Community College Field House. Schneider was just as surprised, considering he won the crown despite being on the mat for 3:37 in the entire tournament, or what amounts to a period and a half of action.

He earned his place in BCCA lore, for sure, and did so without wrestling the one bout he wanted more than anything. Sometimes fate has a way of altering history, and from his perspective, things could not have ended up any better.

"I never expected this, because all I was really focused on was getting my shot in the semifinals against [Don Bosco standout Joe] Orecchio," said Schneider, Hackensack's first BCCA champion since Eric Sewell won the heavy-weight title in 2004. "Winning the title never crossed my mind, but it's the best feeling ever."

Schneider spent the previous night preparing for that semifinal match against Orecchio, a returning regional champion and one of the top lightweights in the state.

The 17-year-old Rochelle Park resident went back to Hackensack High School and worked for two more hours after competing Monday, sharpening his skills against

coaches in the room before settling in to watch more tape on Orecchio.

The showdown against the top seed in the weight class figured to be an uphill battle for him, but as Schneider put it, "To be the best, you've got to want to see the best, and I thought he was the best."

It was not until Schneider arrived for weigh-ins Tuesday morning that he learned Orecchio was home and an illness had forced him to pull out of the tournament.

In one sense, if this were college basketball, it was as if Schneider showed up to play a marquee game against Duke, only to find out the bus broke down on the way here and the Blue Devils were not coming.

"It was exactly like that," Hackensack coach John Stallone said. "To say we were shocked, that'd be an understatement."

That meant Schneider was headed to the final, but his road there certainly included plenty of downtime. He received an opening-round bye before pinning Ramapo's Justin Scheinert in a second-round match.

There's no way he could have expected that would be his last time competing until his championship meeting with Casper. That's what happened as Schneider advanced through the quarterfinals and semifinals by injury default.

In theory, the more bouts a wrestler has, the better he gets.

For eight hours Tuesday, Schneider had to find a way to stay focused on the ultimate prize while also forgetting about the prized opponent whom he was determined to face.

There are only so many times you can listen to the songs on your iPod before the pre-match routine gets old, before the wait begins to get the best of you.

"After a while, I just wanted to get out there and go already," Schneider said with a laugh. "Staying focused, staying ready was a challenge, and I just could not wait to get called out for [the 103-pound final]."

Schneider paced as State finalist Jonathan Becker of Bergen Catholic won his first title at 189, watched as another Don Bosco standout Nick Vetterlein captured his second consecutive BCCA crown at 215, and began pacing again when St. Joseph's John Ceccio closed out his title victory at 285.

His unexpected journey here, after batting for a varsity spot at 103 for much of last season, was about to take another remarkable turn.

Trailing, 3-2, in the second period, Schneider caught Casper with a takedown he turned into a cradle, which ended up producing his championship-clinching pin in 2:59.

He raced off the mat and into the arms of Stallone, who called the triumph "one of the best we've had at Hackensack in my 19 years here."

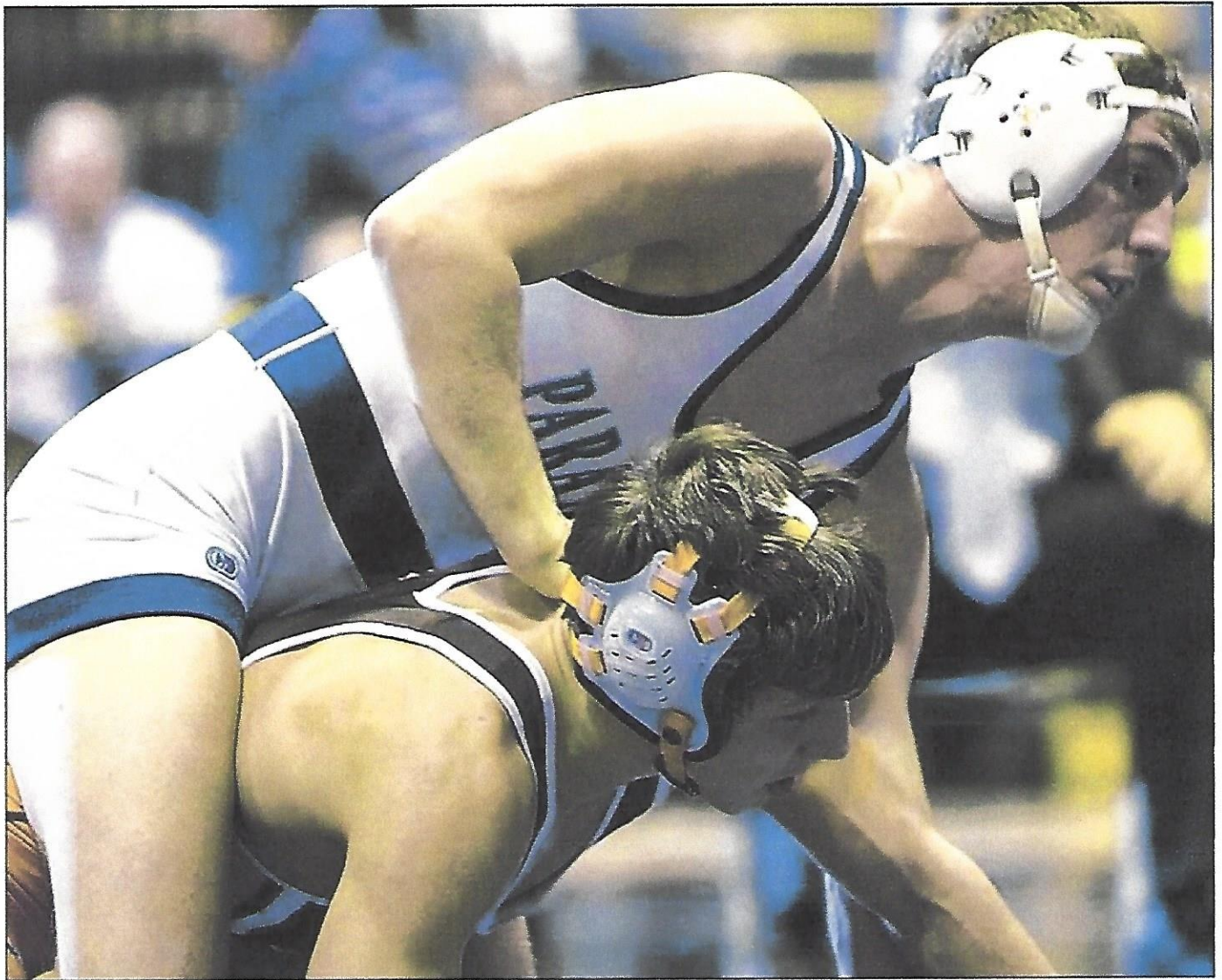
And that says something, considering the Comets have had their share during his tenure, including State championships for brothers Rich and Chris Bitetto.

No one would have expected the latest to come from Schneider, yet it did, and in such unforgettable fashion.

"I've been wrestling all of my life, and I've worked so hard to have a shot [at varsity]," Schneider said. "Now I've got my shot, I want to make the best of it."

Schneider did that without question Tuesday night.

Tues Dec 30, 2008



NICK BRANDRETH/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Mark Cirello of Paramus, top, en route to victory over Taylor Trumbetti of Pascack Hills on Tuesday.

Spartans buck the County trend

By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. – Nobody told Mark Cirello what was riding on his 140-pound final at the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament on Tuesday. They didn't have to.

"It was no secret that if he won, we won," Paramus coach Steve Klass said.

The senior sent the tournament out in style, getting the winning reversal with just 29 seconds left to edge returning regional champ Taylor Trumbetti of Pascack Hills, 2-1, in the final bout of the night. The win broke a tie with defending champion Don Bosco and sent the Spartans home as the first public-school team to win the tournament title in 19 years, by a 159½-155½ margin.

"It feels really good," said Cirello, who leapt into the arms of longtime assistant coach Jose Ortiz after the stunning win.

"I was so nervous," said fellow senior captain Joe Ortiz, who was parked at the corner of the mat for the entire bout. "We've been gunning for this for years."

The Spartans became the first non-public team to win the tournament since 1989, when Fair Lawn ended its string of five straight titles. It was just the second championship for Paramus in the 49-year history of the tournament and first since 1978.

"What are we going to do?" Don Bosco coach Nunzio Campanile said. "We could only take care of what we could on the mat, and I think we did that. What I know is that they are a great team and they took care of what they had to."

Cirello was the Spartans' first BCCA champ since Mike Bassett won back-to-back titles in 1996 and 1997.

"I feel very happy for guys like Jose Ortiz and Joe Ortiz and people in Paramus who have been waiting for this for a long time," said Klass, the Spartans' third-year coach.

Paramus and Bosco were tied after the morning's semifinals and wrestlebacks, but the Spartans took an eight-point lead into the finals following the consolation bouts. Still, Bosco had three in the finals and Paramus only two.

Bosco, which was wrestling without reigning region champ Joe Orecchio, who forfeited in the semifinals with bronchitis, cut the deficit in half with an 8-3 win by Nick Vetterlein over Kadeem Goodall-Reid of Bergenfield at 215. Vetterlein, with three pins out of four bouts, was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Paramus took a hit when Tony Nadera dropped a 4-0 decision to Cliffside Park's Corey Monteforte at 112.

Bosco's Frank Acosta fell, 9-3, to Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace at 125. But needing a win just to keep things going, freshman Sal Mastriani came up big for the Ironmen with a stunning 3-1 victory over top-seeded Jimmy Cariddi of River Dell at 135 to tie the score at 155½.

"He's a tough kid," Campanile said. "He works hard and he's been getting used to wrestling six-minute matches."

That put Cirello on the mat, a win sending Paramus home happy and a loss forcing the tournament to end in a tie.

"I really don't know what happened," Cirello said. "I somehow ended up with him in a single and I was able to get behind him [for the reverse]."

Spataro a headache for opponents

BC senior wins 3rd County title

By **BRIAN A. GIUFFRA**
STAFF WRITER

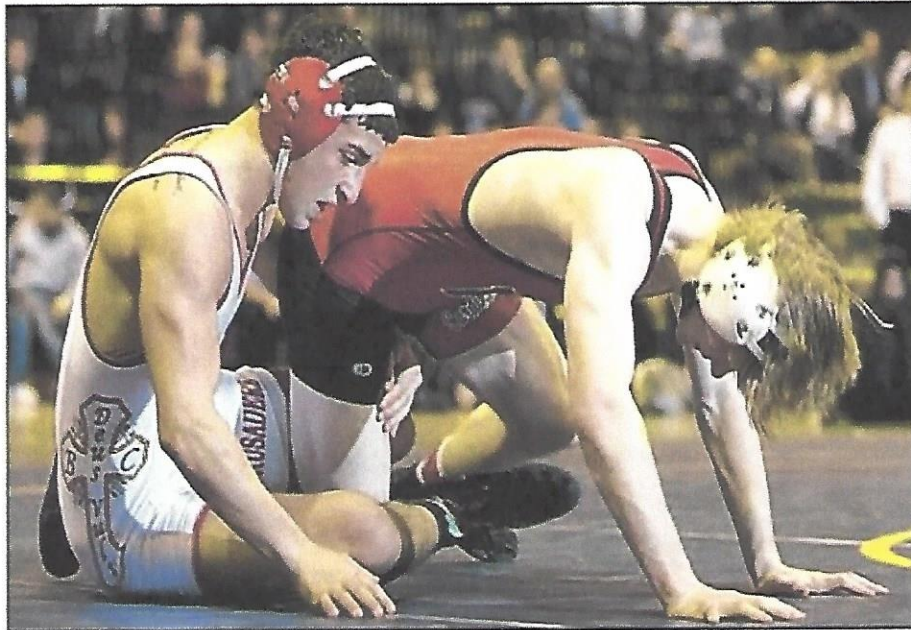
SUFFERN, N.Y. - Matt Spataro's headache wouldn't go away.

For five days he kept hoping the concussion he suffered, and subsequent headache that developed would evaporate. But every morning when he woke up, he was greeted with a sharp pain in his head.

Post-concussion syndrome gripped the Bergen Catholic senior, and on the eve of his favorite early-season wrestling tournament, Spataro didn't know if he would be healthy enough to defend his back-to-back George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament titles.

"My head was killing me," he said. "At practice Sunday I was still undecided."

But the following morning, when the Garfield resident arose before the sun did, his headache had subsided. It wasn't completely gone. But the limited side effects weren't bad enough to keep him from going for a three-



NICK BRANDRETH/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Matt Spataro of Bergen Catholic, left, cruised to his third consecutive BCCA Holiday title.

peat, and that's exactly what he did.

Spataro joined the elite group of three-time champions at the tournament, winning the 152-pound title with relative ease. On the road to his third title, Spataro recorded three pins and a 10-0 major decision in the final against Westwood's Dan Murtaugh.

"It was tougher than I thought it was going to be," Spataro said. "I feel good. I still have a headache, but it's not that bad."

The headache came from a concussion he sustained in Bergen Catholic's match against South Plainfield on Dec. 23. During his bout against Nick Vallone, Spataro was slammed

to the mat on the back of his head. He finished the match, and then was rushed to the hospital.

After two days of rest, Spataro returned to practice but still didn't feel right.

"I really couldn't do much," he said.

That's understandable considering it takes most people weeks,

if not months, to recover from a concussion.

After winning the tournament at 135 in 2006 (he was also named most valuable wrestler) and 140 in 2007, Spataro spent this summer lifting weights and gorging on whatever food he could get his hands on.

"I was sick of cutting weight," he said.

While the extra weight made him stronger and gave him more energy, it also came with drawbacks, like feeling sluggish late in matches.

Spataro isn't totally set on what weight he'll wrestle at all year, but he is set on one thing: winning a State championship. He was disappointed with his eighth-place finish at the States last year, and is on a mission to prove he's better than that. No matter what weight it is.

"I have higher expectations than I ever had," Spataro said. "I'm hoping that this is going to steer me in the right direction."

The trophy, the prestigious title of three-time champion, the extra weight, the concussion; one day Spataro will look back on it all with a smile. In fact that day is today, and hopefully his headache is gone.

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BCCA GEORGE JOCKISH HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

AT ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SUFFERN, N.Y.

TEAM SCORES: Paramus (PAR) 159.5; Don Bosco (DB) 155.5; Bergen Catholic (BC) 146.5; Queen of Peace (QP) 128; Ramapo (RPO) 98; Mahwah (M) 96.5; St. Joseph (SJ) 94; Old Tappan (OT) 92; Emerson/Park Ridge (EPR) 81.5; Cresskill (CK) 80.5; Hackensack (H) 79.5; Glen Rock/Saddle Brook (GRS) 77.5; North Bergen (NB) 71; Bergenfield (BF) 67.5; Ridgefield Park/Ridgefield (RPR) 64; Bogota/Weehawken (BOG) 63.5; Hasbrouck Height/Wood-Ridge (HHW) 61.5; Lodi (LO) 54.5; River Dell (RD) 54; Becton/Wallington (BW) 51.5; Rutherford (RU) 50; Fair Lawn (FL) 49; Northern Highlands (NH) 44; Pascack Hills (PH) 43; Elmwood Park (WP) 42; Pascack Valley (PV) 42; Dumont (DU) 41.5; New Milford (NM) 41; Ridgewood (RW) 41; Waldwick/Midland Park (WMP) 37.5; Ramsey (RSY) 37; Lyndhurst/North Arlington (LNA) 36.5; Westwood (WW) 36; Indian Hills (IH) 30; Fort Lee (FL) 28.5; Cliffs Park (CP) 28; St. Mary (SM) 26; Demarest (DEM) 25.5; Teaneck (TEA) 25; Paramus Catholic (PC) 22; Frisch (FR) 13; Garfield (G) 10; Torah (TOR) 9; Leonia/Palisades Park (LPP) 4.

SEMIFINALS

103: Brian Schneider (H) by forfeit; Tom Casper (BC) dec. Chuckie Slater (RSY), 5-0.

112: Tony Nadera (PAR) tech. fall Jorge Reyes (NB), 15-0, 4:54; Corey Monteforte (CP) pin Mike Laurice (IH), 3:41.

119: Chris Rankin (BF) pin James Boujakli (RPR), 2:23; Connor Melde (BC) dec. Alex Preefer (CK), 6-1.

125: Frank Cagnina (QP) tech. fall Nick Guarriello (EPR), 19-2, 5:22; Frank Acosta (DB) dec. Nick Alpher (PAR), 2-1.

130: Julian Quintero (NB) dec. Joe Ortiz (PAR), 13-8; Joe DeQuinzio (HHW) dec. Greg Madormo (RPO), 4-1.

135: Jimmy Cariddi (RD) maj. dec. Bryan Brown (RU), 9-1; Sal Mastriani (DB) maj. dec. Dan Rehain (NH), 14-3.

140: Taylor Trumbetti (PH) maj. dec. Brian Gibbs (RPO), 11-2; Mark Cirello (PAR) maj. dec. Vince Dimitri (FLN), 13-0.

145: Emmanuel Ajagbe (BOG) dec. Kevin Herget (EPR), 5-2; Glen Cannici (QP) dec. Matt Henrici (DB), 6-4.

152: Matt Spataro (BC) pin Niko Tsolakidis (DEM), 1:17; Dan Murtaugh (WW) dec. Adrian Fernandez (RD), 8-2.

160: Bobby Moat (DU) dec. Chris Warren (BC), 9-3; Ryan Sblendorio (M) maj. dec. Eric Torres (EP), 18-6.

171: Mike Magaraci (OT) dec. Mike Khoury (SJ), 3-1 (ot); Jamie Westwood (QP) dec. Trace McDermott (DB), 9-2.

189: Jonathan Becker (BC) pin Mike Scrozzo (QP), 1:02; Brendan Wengerter (CK) maj. dec. Marcus Cook (SM), 18-5.

215: Nick Vetterlein (DB) tech. fall Wisam Daoud (H), 17-2, 2:17; Kadeem Goodall-Reid (BF) dec. Sam Galassi (BC), 4-3.

285: Dan Suarez (NM) pin Zak Helewa (LO), 5:20; John Ceccio (SJ) dec. Mike Shannon (OT), 2-1 (ot rideout).

FIFTH PLACE

103: Juan Alorro (CR) pin Dan Ressler (PV), 4:41.

112: Jeff Rottingen (RSY) dec. Michael Raccioppi (H), 5-3.

119: Zach Zotollo (PAR) dec. John Boyle (RU), 3-2.

125: Vincent Silano (SJ) dec. David Demarzo (OT), 4-3.

130: Matt Dickman (GRS) pin Pedro Barahona (WMP), 4:39.

135: Dave Heitman (M) dec. Julio Alorro (CK), 5-3.

140: Mike Paskas (RU) dec. Johansi Rivera (FL), 4-3.

145: Steve Kein (BW) dec. Jahan Safargar (RPR), 14-6.

152: Victor Kipiani (RPO) pin Alex Cimiluca (GRS), 0:59.

160: Kevin Dischino (WMP) dec. Kyle Gibson (RW), 5-4.

171: Chris D'Amico (RPO) dec. Anthony Mordaga (PAR), 3-2.

189: Jared Schlett (GRS) pin Andrew Wagner (LNA), 1:23.

215: James Morrison (QP) dec. Dan Lewitt (GRS), 9-3.

285: Zach Chibane (PAR) pin Joe Ortiz (RPR) 0:51.

THIRD PLACE

103: Slater by forfeit.

112: Reyes dec. Laurice, 3-1.

119: Preefer dec. Boujakli, 3-2.

125: Alpher dec. Guarriello, 4-2.

130: Ortiz dec. Madormo, 7-3.

135: Rehain dec. Brown, 5-2.

140: Gibbs dec. Dimitri, 5-4.

145: Henrici dec. Herget, 3-1.

152: Fernandez dec. Tsolakidis, 3-1.

160: Warren by inj. def. Torres, 5:56.

171: Khoury dec. McDermott, 5-1.

189: Cook pin Scrozzo, 2:14

215: Galassi dec. Daoud, 8-2.

285: Shannon pin Helewa, 2:23.

FINALS

103: Schneider pin Casper, 2:59.

112: Monteforte dec. Nadera, 4-0.

119: Rankin dec. Melde, 5-4.

125: Cagnina dec. Acosta, 9-3.

130: DeQuinzio by forfeit.

135: Mastriani dec. Cariddi, 3-0.

140: Cirello dec. Trumbetti, 2-1.

145: Ajagbe by forfeit.

152: Spataro maj. dec. Murtaugh, 10-0.

160: Sblendorio pin Moat, 1:05.

171: Westwood maj. dec. Magaraci, 11-3.

189: Becker pin Wengerter, 3:02.

215: Vetterlein dec. Goodall-Reid, 8-3.

285: Ceccio dec. Suarez, 3-1 (ot).

Tues
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