

Pascack Valley Gains Mat Championship

Saturday Dec 27, 1969

By TROY GUSTAVSON
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

— Sal Casio should never have left Cos DiBartolo out of his sight. DiBartolo, who switched to Pascack Valley this year after serving five years as Cascio's No. 1 assistant at Bergenfield, came back to haunt his former boss Saturday night as the Indians captured the championship of the 10th annual Bergen County Coaches' Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Westwood Regional High School.

The victory ended three years of frustration for Pascack Valley, which had been runnerup to Bergenfield the past three years. It can't accurately be said that with DiBartolo went Bergenfield's winning ways, however, because the Bears were competing without the services of three injured starters.

A pin by defending champion Lyle Hough (115) put PV out of reach early in the final round. He flattened Hackensack's Pat Giambrone in 3:34 to raise PV's point total to an insurmountable 60.

The other Indian to nail down a gold medal was 178-pounder Mike Lucine. He decisioned Jon Rabinowitz of Englewood, 10-0.

Although Bergenfield still had a shot at Pascack Valley entering the championship finals, the team title had been all but settled in the consolation preliminaries. Bert Picot (130), Dick Cliggott (141) and Gene Santoli (unlimited) won their bouts for third place to give the Valley 12 points. Bergenfield, which entered the consolation just three points behind, split its two bronze-medal matches to fall eight points back.

Hough was the only 1968 champ to repeat, but he



LYLE HOUGH
115 Champ



RUDY REMIGIO
130 King

wasn't the only two-time winner. Bergenfield's Mike Maugeri, who was a 106-pound titlist in 1967, scored an impressive victory over Romeo Remigio of Hackensack in the 141 final.

The 12-0 outpointing of Remigio, coupled with first-period pins in the quarterfinals and semifinals, gave Maugeri the trophy as the tournament's outstanding wrestler. He also was awarded the crown for scoring the most falls in the two-day competition.

North Bergen's Ernie Tabacchino ran second to Maugeri in the voting for outstanding wrestler. The Bruins' tough 123-pounder won his championship the hard way, decisioning Ridgewood's Ricky Bowe 10-1 in the second round, pinning defending champion Jim Axford of Pascack Valley in the quarterfinals, and besting Paramus'

Len Barcelona, 10-2 in the finals.

Hackensack finished a strong third to Pascack Valley with 43 team points. Rudy Remigio led the Comets with a 5-1 title victory over Englewood's Dwayne Erving. The Maroons also scored heavily in the early rounds, placing fourth with 39 points, one ahead Paramus.

River Dell was at the other end of the standings with three points, but it did have a champion in Mike Tfrank. He decisioned Pascack Valley's Howard Bowler, 8-7, in the only close match of the championship round.

The finals were preceded by a short ceremony during which Jack Armstrong of Leonia was awarded a service plaque. The former Teaneck, Tenafly, and Columbia University coach founded the Holiday Wrestling Tournament in 1960.

SEMIFINALS

98—Randy Busch (Pa.V.) dec. Don Romaniello (B), 4-2. Vic Herstein (FL) dec. Dave Finkelstein (NM), 1-0, overtime.

105—Jack Diggs (W) dec. Willis McAlesse (SB), 11-10. Keith Thornbloom (NM) dec. Dan Sarokin (E), 6-0.

115—Pat Giambone (H) dec. Tony Tanzosh (B), 2-1. Lyle Hough (Pk.V) dec. Kevin Wilner (FL), 15-5.

123—Bernie Tabbacchino (NB) dec. Drew Remignante (W), 4-0. Len Barcelona (Pa.) pinned Yoile Sugimoto (E), 5:44.

130—Rudy Remigio (H) dec. Ken Woods (R), 6-3. Dwayne Erving (E) dec. Bert Picot (Pk.V), 8-2.

136—Howie Bowler (Pk.V) pinned Jim Meredith (H), 5:05. Mike Tsank (RD) dec. Joe Benvenuti (Pa.V), 7-2.

141—Mike Maugerri (B) pinned Dick Cliggott (Pk.V), 1:14. Romeo Remigo (H) dec. Fred Miller (Pa.V), 6-4.

148—Ed Hill (B), dec. Linwood Coffin (E), 9-4. John Cerutti (SB) dec. Bill Richman (OT), 4-2.

157—Gary Treinkman (Pa.) dec. Tom Scampini (R), 10-6. Bob Kyse (SB) pinned Jeff Bomser (T), 2:38.

168—Mark Reilly (Pa.) pinned Jerry Herlihy (B), 4:55. Bob Hawkins (OT) pinned Paul Nelson (NM), 1:56.

178—Jon Rabinowitz (E) won by default from Ken Van Valken (Pa.V). Mike Lucine (Pk.V) dec. Brian Bilder (R), 8-1.

Unlimited—Mike Kriftich (W) pinned

Gene Santoli (Pk.V), 4:50. Steve Anderson (B) dec. Steve Mettler (NB), 8-1.

Consolation Round

98—Romaniello dec. Finkelstein, 2-1.

105—McAlesse pinned Sarokin, 4:32.

115—Wilner dec. Tanzosh, 1-0.

123—Sugimoto pinned Remignante, 4:31.

130—Picot dec. Woods, 2-0.

136—Benvenuti dec. Meredith, 5-1.

141—Cliggott dec. Miller, 5-0.

148—Richman dec. Coffin, 2-1.

157—Bomser dec. Scampini, 5-2.

168—Nelson dec. Herlihy, 2-0.

178—Bilder won by forfeit.

Uni.—Santoli dec. Mettler, 4-2.

FINALS

98—Herstein dec. Busch, 8-1.

105—Thornbloom dec. Diggs, 7-0.

115—Hough pinned Giambone, 3:34.

123—Tabbacchino dec. Barcelona, 10-2.

130—Remigio dec. Erving, 5-1.

136—Tsank dec. Bowler, 8-7.

141—Maugerri dec. Remigio, 12-0.

148—Hill dec. Cerutti, 8-3.

157—Treinkman dec. Kyse, 12-6.

168—Hawkins dec. Reilly, 13-3.

178—Lucine dec. Rabinowitz, 10-0.

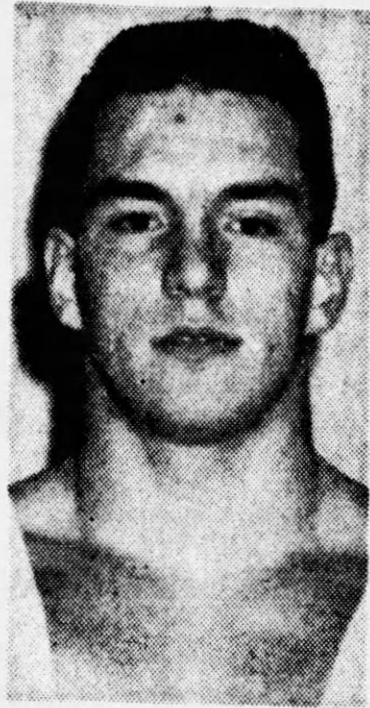
Uni.—Kriftich dec. Anderson, 4-1.

TEAM SCORING

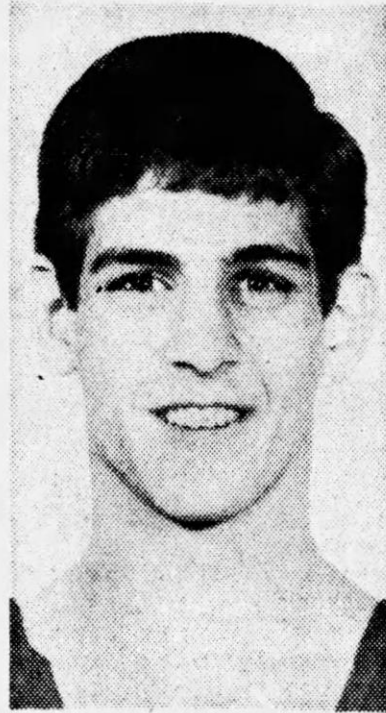
Pascack Valley 63, Bergenfield 54, Hackensack 43, Englewood 39, Paramus 38, Westwood 31, Passaic Valley 26, Saddle Brook 25, Fair Lawn 22, New Milford 2, North Bergen 1, Ridgewood 18, Old Tappan 11, Teaneck 10, River Dell 3, Wayne Valley did not compete.



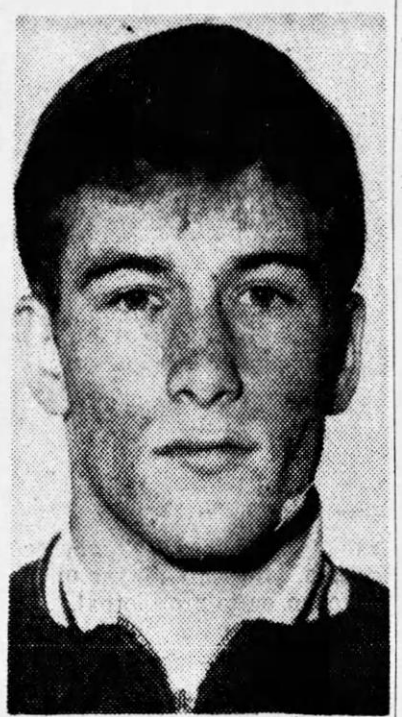
BOB PELSANG
Pascack Valley



GEORGE GALLER
East Paterson



ED KOCHAKJI
Bergenfield



SCOTT CHRISTIE
Glen Rock

Scholastic Sports

Coaches Pick All-Decade



By Troy Gustavson

Three-time State champion Ed Kochakji of Bergenfield heads the All-1960s wrestling team selected for The Record by a panel of 13 Bergen County coaches.

Here's a brief recapitulation of the exploits of the finest wrestler in Bergen history, and his fellow first-team members.

98-Pounds: BOB HURLEY, Bergenfield. Hurley was in on the ground floor of the Bergenfield dynasty which controlled Bergen wrestling in the late '60s. He was the NJSIAA 98 titlist in 1965, the year Sal Cascio's Bears won the first of their four consecutive Bergen County Coaches' Holiday Tournament championships.

106-Pounds: JIM FIORE, St. Cecilia. Fiore spoiled Hurley's senior year by scoring a 3-2 decision on riding time in the Region 1 final. He placed second in the State, but returned the following year to take the 115 title. He was also Christmas champ in 1967. He is currently on the Temple University varsity.

115-Pounds: ED KOCHAKJI, Bergenfield: There would be few dissenting votes to calling Kochakji the best high school wrestler in New Jersey in the decade. He was thrice Christmas champ, thrice State champ, and twice winner of the Ringler trophy, symbolic of the outstanding wrestler in the State final. During his three years on the Bergenfield varsity, the Bears were unbeaten in 35 dual matches. He is now a sophomore 126-pounder on the C. W. Post varsity.

123-Pounds: KERIN RAFTERY, Fair Lawn. Raftery first showed promise when he placed second as a junior in the 1962 Holiday Tournament. Maturity and a year of experience made the difference the following season as he swept to the State crown with only one loss. He capped the climb with a pin at 4:46 over Dave Gleitzman of Union in the NJSIAA final. Raftery attended Syracuse University.

130-Pounds: DON MILONE, Cliffside Park, and RAY BARKER, Lodi. A generation gap in the coaching ranks created this tie. The elders went with Milone, and the youngsters with Barker, now the Fairleigh Dickinson University. Milone registered a fall in 49 seconds of overtime to give Bergen a State title in 1962. Barker was never a New Jersey champ, but he was National AAU junior champ in 1960. Lodi was placed on probation the following winter, so he was not permitted to compete in the Districts, Regionals, or States.

137-Pounds: TOM BOCCHINO, Fair Lawn. Bocchino began an illustrious career by winning a State crown in 1961. He went on to compete at New York University, and as of last year, was freshman FDU.

141-Pounds: SAL MESSINA, Teaneck. Messina was Bergen's second gold medal winner in 1961. His victory atoned for a second-place finish the previous year.

148-Pounds: LARRY NELSON, Pascack Valley. Nelson failed in his attempt to win a State championship in 1962. Before being eliminated in the final, however, he scored a mem-

orable pin over Hackensack's Rich Oliver with a guillotine in the 1961 Christmas Tourney. He was succeeded at Pascack Valley by another fine 148-pounder, Greg Huff.

157-Pounds: REGGIE WILLIAMS, Hackensack. Although he never won a State championship, Williams was perhaps the best middleweight of the decade. He was fourth as a junior, second as a senior, and two-time Holiday king. After four successful years at Omaha, he returned to the County as an assistant coach at Englewood High School. Another great 157-pounder was Glen Rock's Scott Christie, who was a Regional runnerup, second in the States, and third in the States in his three varsity seasons.

168-Pounds: GEORGE GALLER, East Paterson. Galler was Bergen's reigning muscle man in the early '60s. He powered his way to a third in the State as a junior, and to the championship the following season. He is still wrestling on the amateur level in the U. S. Army.

178-Pounds: BOB WILLMAN, Teaneck. Willman, a NJSIAA gold medalist in 1967, is now on the varsity team at the University of Massachusetts. He won his State title with a 2-1 decision over Dale Baldwin, who returned the following year to win the heavyweight class.

Heavyweight: BOB PELSANG, Pascack Valley. Although he is best remembered for his feats as a football player, Pelsang gave Bergen a second in 1960 and a first in 1961. He led the Valley to an 11-0 record in his senior year. Vin Fowlkes of Teaneck and Stan Sebastian of Hackensack trailed Pelsang in the balloting.