

Hackensack sound effects

Hearing impaired wrestler hears roar

HACKENSACK — Kevin Castillo can hear loud music and the vibrations produced by footsteps and knocks on a door, but the Hackensack junior wrestler never heard a sweeter sound than he did last week — the roar of the crowd.



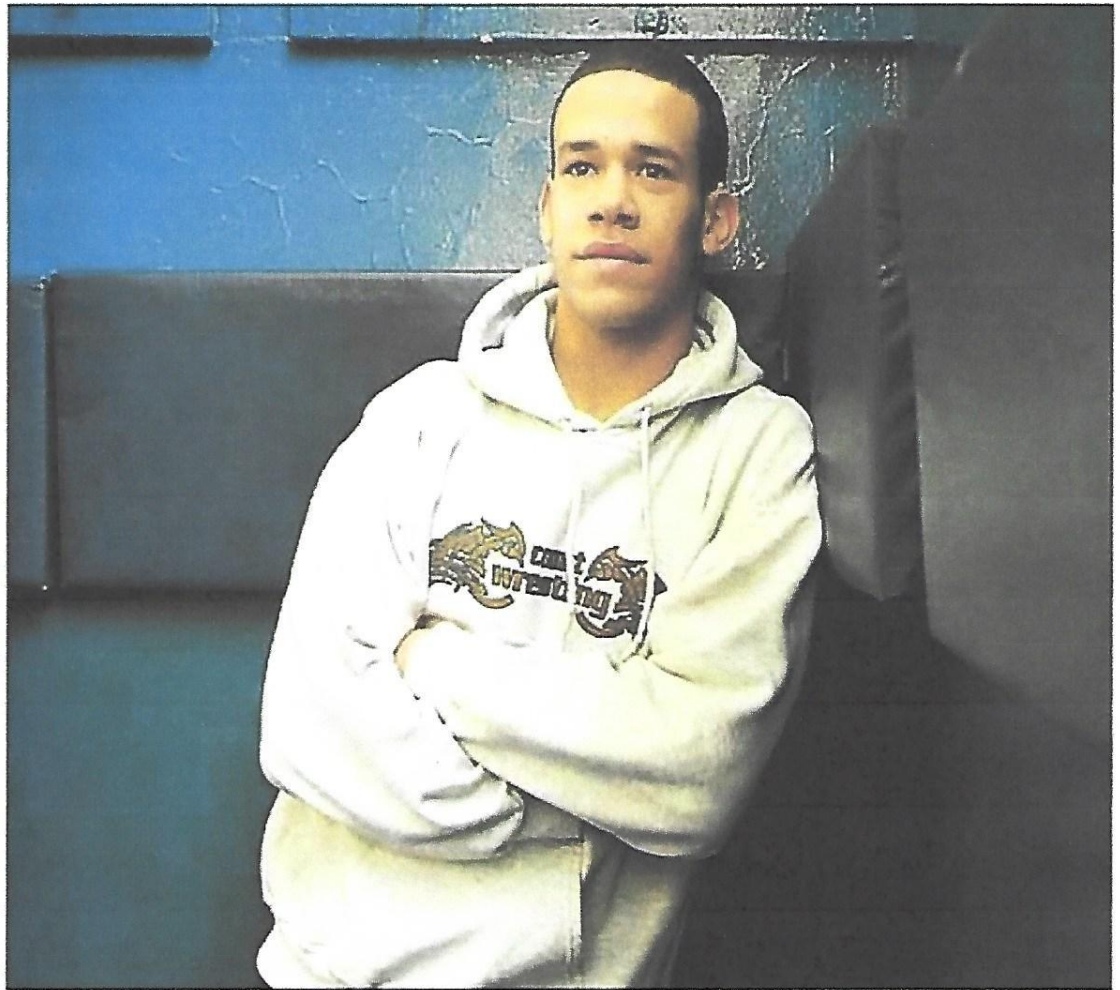
DARREN COOPER

LOCAL SPORTS COLUMNIST

The lithe 171-pounder, who likely will wrestle at 160 pounds later this season, had viral meningitis when he was 4 and spent weeks in the hospital. The result was a severe hearing loss that has forced the Passaic resident to trek to Hackensack every day for school, because his hometown doesn't provide the special services he needs. But it sure hasn't limited his desire, spirit and outlook.

"There are people who think deaf people can't do anything," Castillo said through a sign language interpreter. "I want to prove them wrong."

Castillo plays football and wrestles. Even though he can read lips, at times it gets frustrating, particularly in football, when he



CARMINE GALASSO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

When hearing impaired Kevin Castillo pinned his opponent last week, he heard the fan noise.

misses a call and does the wrong thing playing linebacker or defensive lineman.

Wrestling presents a unique set of challenges. Castillo never tried the sport until he showed up at Hackensack, but he embraced it.

"It's the hardest sport I ever played," Castillo said, "because you can't blame anyone but yourself, and if you want to win, you have to practice hard."

Fortunately, a tremendous sup-

port staff at Hackensack surrounds Castillo.

Wrestling coach John Stallone said the other Comets have accepted him and the crowds have started doing the sign language for applause to support him.

"I still find myself yelling things out at him," Stallone said with a chuckle. "But the team has been great. They see him as part of the family."

There are two sign interpreters

who work with Castillo in the school's program for the deaf. They have become his friends and advisers.

One, Michelle Aviles, was with Castillo at practice Tuesday as the Comets prepared for today's BCCA George Jockish Holiday tournament. She played three sports at Lacey High School and her brother is a wrestling coach, so she's very comfortable near a mat.

Wed
Dec 29
2010

BCCA George Jockish Holiday Tournament

At Rockland Community College, Suffern, N.Y.

Today: First and second rounds and prequarterfinals, 11 a.m.
Quarterfinals and wrestlebacks, 5 p.m.

Thursday: Semifinals and wrestlebacks, 10:30 a.m. Third-
and fifth-place consolations, 4 p.m. Finals, 6 p.m.

**Follow the action live on the Varsity Aces blog at
northjersey.com/varsityaces**

“She helps me; she gives me advice,” Castillo said. “She cares about my education and we get along well. We can be silly. If I’m walking or not trying that hard in practice, she’s like, ‘Get to work.’ She gives me pep talks and helps me stay motivated.”

The interpreters and Castillo come up with specific signs for the different moves in the sport. At every break in a match, Castillo looks over for instructions. It has to be fast.

“The hearing kid has the advantage, because he only has to look at a coach,” Aviles said. “Kevin only has two seconds, but it’s fun though.”

Last week, the Comets had their home opener against Hasbrouck Heights. After trailing early, Hackensack got two pins to climb back in the match. The match hinged on Castillo, who wrestled up at 189. Down 2-1, he hit a duck-under and scored his first career pin to clinch the team’s victory. The fans went crazy.

“It was like a Rudy moment,” Stallone said. “Kevin came and jumped into the guys on the bench. We were so excited.”

“It was awesome,” Aviles said.

“The day before, Kevin had won his wrestle-off and we had just had a pep talk. To see him get the moment every athlete deserves at least once – to win a game for your team – was special.”

Castillo said pinning was the greatest feeling he ever had and he felt as if he earned some respect from his coach and teammates. He also heard the rumble of the crowd, which he won’t soon forget.

“That means it was really loud,” Castillo said with a smile.

Castillo knows that as a first-year performer, he will get a tough seed and likely won’t be a factor in the County tournament, but he said he will practice hard. He wants to wrestle in college and Stallone believes he can post a winning record this season.

Despite his hearing loss, Castillo is a typical 16-year-old. He loves to crank up Eminem and Kid Cudi, eating at Taco Bell and corresponding on Facebook.

And now he has a moment in his life to cherish, one that was seen and heard.

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Wrestling officials pin a tough job

**GREG
SCHUTTA**



Wrestling fans walking into the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament on Wednesday morning were greeted by a patchwork of different colored mats on the floor and everything else that goes with putting on a major wrestling tournament.

Hard to believe that fewer than 48 hours earlier, the field house at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y., was a cavernous

empty space surrounded by a foot and a half of snow.

“What most people don’t understand is that except for the bleachers, we have to bring everything in,” said Jack McCarty. “The mats, the scoreboards, the tables, chairs, even the spit buckets.”

And this year, they had to do it in half the time, working around a track meet at RCC that had been pushed back a day.

“Our plan was to bring in four mats Monday and four mats Tuesday,” said Ed Salvi, who along with McCarty has been running the tournament as co-director since 2003 (when George Jockish retired after 18 years). “Jack and I brought in all eight mats on Tuesday. We started a 10 a.m. and

were done at about 11 p.m.”

And the tournament was running without a glitch through Thursday morning’s semifinals.

It’s something McCarty, Salvi and the more than 50 tournament workers, some of whom have been involved since the 1970s and ’80s, take pride in as the tournament enters its second 50 years.

The BCCA is one of the largest and longest running New Jersey tournaments, with more than 40 teams and 400 wrestlers every year. Last year it cost more than \$31,000 to put on and took in \$35,000, with the proceeds going to the BCCA to fund scholarships.

“It all works because of a great staff,” said McCarty, who typically doesn’t see any wrestling until

the finals. “They all get paid, but nobody here is doing it for any monetary gain. They do it because they like the sport and they want to better the sport.”

And continually better the tournament. This year, at the suggestion of several coaches, officials added an extra round to allow wrestlers who lose in the second round to wrestle back for third place rather than being relegated to no better than fifth.

“It gives a true picture of third place,” said McCarty, who like Salvi and many of the other tournament workers is a former coach, wrestler and/or official.

And a true picture of just why the BCCA tournament still is going strong in its 51st year.

Finishing touches

Becton/Wallington's Dugan in it for the duration

By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. – James Dugan has tried to keep one thought running through his head for the last two weeks – that a wrestling match lasts six minutes.

"I have to wrestle from start to finish," the Becton/Wallington junior 160-pounder said.

The second-seeded Dugan made sure to keep working through the final whistle Wednesday, pinning River Dell's Rocco Rizzo in 2:32 to advance to today's semifinals of the Bergen County Coaches Association tournament.

"I've been training a lot harder this year, especially since I was a runner-up last year," said Dugan, who finished second as a sophomore to North Bergen's Chris Duran at 152.

Bergen Catholic, which won the tournament 14 times in 17 years through 2006, but not once since, led the team competition through the quarterfinals with 130 points. The Crusaders sent eight wrestlers to the semis.

St. Joseph is second with 94 points, followed by Emerson/Park Ridge (93) and Don Bosco (90). All three teams have five wrestlers through to the semis and 21 of the 42 teams participating had at least one wrestler advance.

Dugan was the second wrestler to advance for the Wildcats, reaching the semifinals in the tough 160-pound class led by two-time defending champion Ryan Sblendorio of Mahwah. Dugan would have to get past St. Joseph's Jeff Farina, who won all three of his bouts by decision, to get a shot at Sblendorio in tonight's final.

"It's a tough weight class, but

it should be good," he said. "The better kids you wrestle, the better wrestler you become."

Dugan got a wake-up call in the finals of the Garfield tournament on opening weekend when he was pinned by Demarest's Charlie Woods while leading in the match. It was the same way his tournament ended in Region 4 last season, when he was pinned by Duran while leading.

"I've been training 10 times harder since that match," he said.

It has showed so far in this event, as he beat Mustafa Aslami of Paramus, 12-2, in his opening bout.

In the quarterfinals, he put Rizzo to his back early in the second period to come away with the pin.

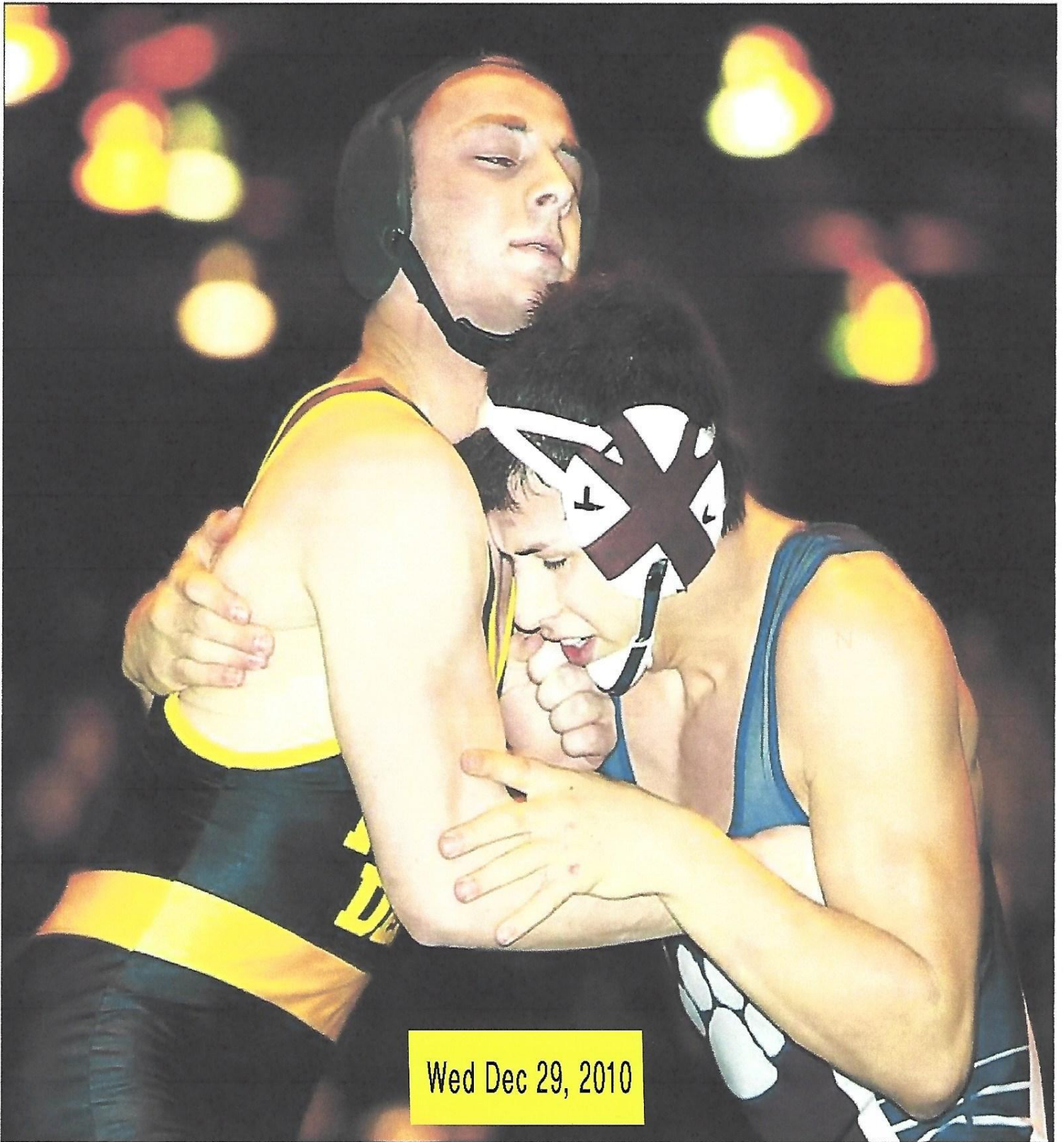
"I stood up and then went for the double [-leg takedown] to his back," Dugan said.

River Dell freshman Enzo Cariddi got his shot at redemption Wednesday, pinning fourth-seeded Mike Laurice of Indian Hills in the 125-pound quarterfinals. Cariddi had lost to Laurice, 6-4, in the finals of the Cutter Classic tournament 10 days ago.

"I was really determined to get another shot at him to redeem myself," said Cariddi, who also pinned fifth-seeded Tyler Champy of Glen Rock/Saddle Brook in 1:35. "I wanted to correct my mistakes."

He won't be able to make any mistakes today, as he faces top-seeded Nick Gravina of Northern Highlands, a returning BCCA champ and State place-winner, in the semis. The two met in the River Dell duals during the summer with Gravina winning, 5-4.

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LESLIE BARBARO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Becton's James Dugan, right, is tied up with River Dell's Rocco Rizzo shortly before Dugan's second-period pin.

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103

Freshman Eric Giannantonio of Paramus knocked off the bracket's top seed, Paramus Catholic's Joe Baldicanas, in a 2-0 decision to face Mike Neal of Bergenfield in the semifinals. Another freshman, North Bergen's Luis Gonzalez, used a pin and a technical fall to clinch a semifinal bout with Tyler Casamenti of Bergen Catholic.

112

A second-round upset of the bracket's No. 2 seed put Anthony Giraldo of North Bergen in position to advance to today's semifinal. Giraldo won his quarterfinal match and advanced to face Don Bosco's Billy Reardon in a semifinal. Top-seeded Trevor Albrecht of Bergen Catholic had two pins and a decision to clinch a semifinal match with Cresskill's Jep Alorro.

119

Ramsey's Jeff Rottingen, the No. 1 seed, used a pin and a major decision to advance to the semifinals against Joe Guerriero of Glen Rock/Saddle Brook. Guerriero pinned two opponents, including a third-round fall in 17 seconds. Mike Maye of Bergen Catholic upset Dumont's Dominick Manginelli to propel him into the semis against Austin Cantone of St. Joseph.

125

Nick Gravina of Northern Highlands and Steven Schneider of Elmwood Park both pinned three opponents en route to their respective semifinal bouts. Gravina, the top seed, will face River Dell's Enzo Cariddi, and Schneider will grapple with Darryl Albonico of St. Joseph.

130

Twelve seconds was all Julian Quintero of North Bergen needed to pin his opponent in the quarterfinals, the fastest pin of the day. He'll face Charlie Mitchell of Bergen Catholic in today's semifinals. Matt Jacobsen will look to win match No. 101 of his career against Nick Maselli of Elmwood Park in the other semifinal bout. Maselli had two pins and a major decision to advance.

135

All four top seeds advanced to the semifinals with defending champ Connor Melde earning two technical falls and a pin on his way. He will face John Herbener of Deamrest while John Boyle (Rutherford) and James DiGregorio battle in the other semi.

140

Top-seed Joe Orecchio of Don Bosco earned a hard-fought, 5-1, victory over Jimmy Sues of Paramus to advance to the semis, where he will face Matt Mangini of Bergen Catholic. Nick Baranello (River Dell) and Mike Paskas (Rutherford) face off in the other semi.

145

The highly anticipated final showdown between Sal Mastriani of Don Bosco and defending champ Nick Alpher of Paramus looms as both advanced to the semis. Mastriani faces Brandon Cocheri (Northern Highlands) and Alpher faces Dylan More (St. Joseph).

152

Top-seed Matt Dickman (Glen Rock/Saddle Brook) moved on to the semifinals where he will face Andrew Vecchione (Emerson/Park Ridge) in a feature match. Peter Seebach (Paramus Catholic) and Jovan Rivera (Bergenfield) square off in the other semi.

160

Ryan Sblendorio of Mahwah is on track to win his third straight 160-pound title after winning his two matches easily. He faces Alex Cimiluca (Glen Rock/Saddle Brook) in one semifinal while Jeff Favina (St. Joseph) and James Dugan (Becton/Wallington) battle in the other.

171

Third-seeded Ryan Walker of Mahwah needed three overtimes to score a 4-3 come-from-behind win over Bryan Loughlin of Becton/Wallington in the quarterfinals. Fellow seeds Dane McDermott (1) of St. Joseph, Nate Leer (2) of Teaneck and Luke Iorio (4) of Bergen Catholic also advanced.

189

Top-seeded sophomore Razhonn Gross of Don Bosco led the four top seeds into the semifinals. Third-seeded Damian Murberg of Pascack Valley had a pin and a technical fall to set up what promises to be an exciting semifinal against second-seeded Luke Pragdat of Mahwah.

215

Top-seeded Matt Mecca of Northern Highlands posted three pins in less than a minute each to lead the four top seeds into the semifinals. Second-seeded Rich Torres of Bergenfield also had three first-period pins and will face returning place-winner Abo Mahmoud of Becton/Wallington in the semifinals. Fourth-seeded Dave Heitman of Mahwah also advanced.

285

Second-seeded Nick Pallotta of Westwood needed three overtimes to beat George Gregorian of Emerson/Park Ridge in the third round and followed that up with a 40-second pin of Paramus Catholic's Ricky Sanchez in the quarterfinals. Top-seeded Cody Mann of Mahwah won both his matches as the Thunderbirds sent all five upper weights from 160 through 285 into the semifinals.

Century mark for Jacobson

By **BRIAN A. GIUFFRA**
STAFF WRITER

Two more hurdles to clear

SUFFERN, N.Y. – In one bout, Matt Jacobson made school history and reached an individual milestone. Now he's after more.

Jacobson advanced to the 130-pound semifinals of the Bergen County Coaches Association wrestling tournament for the first time with a 7-2 quarterfinal victory over Brandon Giovanetti of Ridgewood. In the same bout, he became the first Saddle Brook wrestler to reach the 100 career-win mark.

It was a double dose of delight for the Glen Rock-Saddle Brook wrestler, who entered the tournament with 97 wins. After advancing to the quarterfinals with two major decisions, Jacobson knew his first shot at a semifinal berth and his chance to reach 100 was on the

line. But the key was ignoring reality.

"I knew what I had to do [to get to 100 wins], but I just had to take it one match at a time," Jacobson said. "I couldn't think about it while I was wrestling. I just had to focus on the match."

When it was all done and the magnitude of his win started to sink in, Jacobson wore the smile of a champion as his accomplishments were announced in the gymnasium. But with two more bouts to go for a title, Jacobson knows he has work to do.

"I came in hoping to win," Jacobson said, "and I feel the same way now."

Jacobson will face No. 2 seed Nick Maselli of Emerson/Park

Ridge in the semis. He said he didn't know much about Maselli and was just excited to be in a position to make the finals. But after winning in monumental fashion, he's ready to claim 101.

"Now that I'm in there, I'm going to go all out," Jacobson said. "It's my first time, so it's going to be a different experience. But I don't want to be content."

Paramus freshman Eric Giannantonio also is preparing for a new experience. He's never been in a high school tournament semifinal, but after earning the biggest upset of the tournament, he's in position for more.

Giannantonio beat Paramus Catholic senior and top-seeded Joe Baldicanas, 1-0, in the 103-pound

quarterfinals. In an interesting decision, Baldicanas decided to concede an escape point to Giannantonio with less than 30 seconds left, and Giannantonio kept him at bay.

"It could have been anyone's decision," Giannantonio said. "But it was a great match and I was just excited to win."

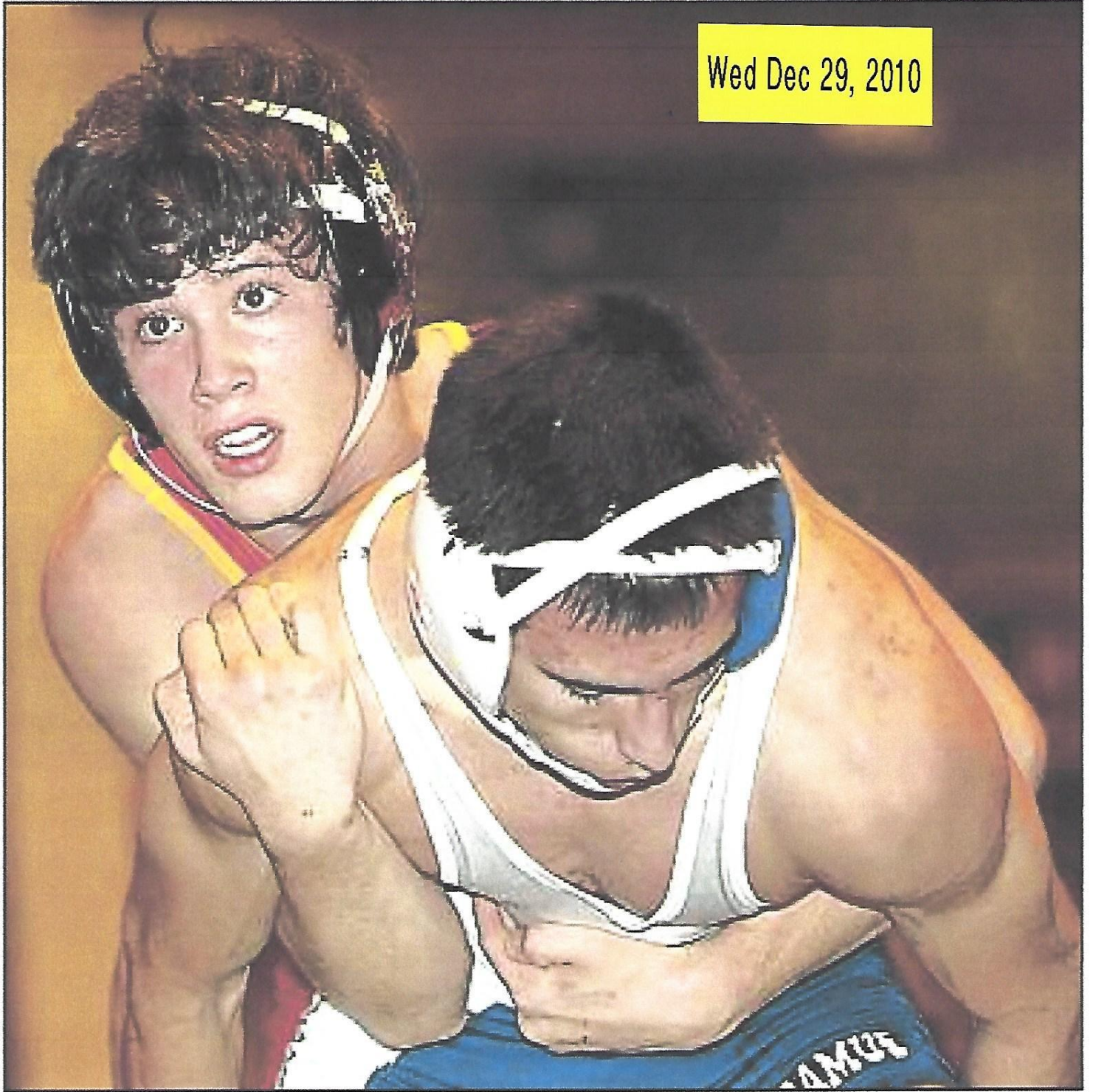
Giannantonio will face Mike Neal of Bergenfield in the semis on the heels of losing in the first round of the Caldwell tournament.

"I've been in these situations before," Giannantonio said of being in big matches. "I just have to wrestle hard and take it one match at a time."

That's a smart idea for both first-time semifinalists. It's that mentality that carried them there in the first place.

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LESLIE BARBARO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bergen Catholic 130-pounder Charlie Mitchell applying a rear underhook to Paramus' Joe Rizzitello. Mitchell won, 4-3.

WRESTLING: BCCA GEORGE JOCKISH HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT *Wed Dec 29, 2010*

AT ROCKLAND CC, SUFFERN, N.Y.

TEAM SCORES: 1. Bergen Catholic (BC) 130, 2. St. Joseph's (SJ) 94, 3. Emerson/Park Ridge (EPR) 93, 4. Don Bosco (DB) 90.50, Tie 5. Glen Rock/Saddle Brook (GS) and Mahwah (M) 83, Tie 7. Bergenfield (B) and Paramus (P) 81.50, 9. Northern Highlands (NH) 77, 10. River Dell (RD) 67, 11. Becton/Wallington (BW) 65, 12. North Bergen (NB) 64.50, 13. Old Tappan (OT) 53, 14. Rutherford (RU) 47, 15. Pascack Valley (PV) 42.50, 16. Ramsey (R) 40, Tie 17. Demarest (NVD) and Fair Lawn (FL) 38, 19. Pascack Hills (PH) 34, 20. Westwood (WW) 33, 21. Cliffside Park (CP) 31, Tie 22. Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge (HW) and Indian Hills (IH) 30.50, Tie 24. Teaneck (T) and Waldwick/Midland Park (WM) 29, Tie 26. Paramus Catholic (PC) and Ridgely Park/Ridgefield (RPR) 24, Tie 28 Fort Lee (FTL) and Ramapo (RPO) 23, 30. St. Mary's (SM) 22, 31. Garfield (G) 21, Tie 32. Hackensack (H) and Lodi (L) 20, 34. Elmwood Park (EP) 19.50, Tie 35. Dumont (D) and Lyndhurst/North Arlington (LN) 18, 37. Ridgewood (RW) 16, 38. Leonia/Palisades Park (LP) 15, 39. Cresskill (C) 13, 40. Bogota/Weehawken (BOW) 12.50, Tie 41. New Milford (NM) and Torah (TO) 8

FIRST ROUND

125 – Robert Spangler (HW) pin Will Ganzer (SM), :35; Mike Tarulli (R) pin Amit Haim (C), 5:58; Craig Carmaloni (WW) dec. Rolando Lantigua (PV), 7-1; Nick Semti (BC) dec. David Peterson (RU), 12-5.

130 – Angelo Panaligan (LP) pin Chris Rotonda (R), 3:34.

135 – John Arancio (RD) dec. Jack Pomerantz (WW), 5-3 (ot).

140 – Dawlin Delacruz (NB) dec. Jack DeLuca (R), 13-8.

145 – Anthony Apolito (RU) pin John Abbott (R), 4:23.

171 – Greg Zambrana (NB) pin Rob Litterio (LN), 3:15; Diemiti Tubito (HW) pin Adam Cord (WW), 3:50

215 – Jacob Chang (R) dec. Ian Robles (T), 4-1

SECOND ROUND

103 – Zach Lanzalotto (PV) pin Luis Polanco (H), 2:52; Danny Lynch (RD) pin Mike Andreano (GS), 1:35; Dallas Vy-chick (EPR) pin Jack Halbach (IH), 3:40; Eric Giannantonio (P) maj. dec. Kyle Layne (NVD), 12-4; Nick DeMarco (LN) pin Erik Molina (M), :23; Sarkis Dovatlyan (NM) pin Nate Mungatana (D), 3:15; Mark Mastropietro (HW) tech fall. Shreenath Bhandari (OT), 15-0, 4:24; Andrew Scarcella (SJ) maj. dec. Elijah Bezarez (G), 10-2; Brian Rottingen (R) dec. Frank Paparozzi (L), 15-9

112 – Trevor Albrecht (BC) pin DJ Tirelli (RD), 1:29; Dean Priterski (PV) pin Justin Glazer (GS), :50; Max Gallo (FL) pin Kyle McCann (EPR), :34; Zach Taeschler (R) pin Matt Murphy (NH), 1:55; Billy Reardon (DB) pin James Lane (H), 3:08; Ahmed Abdelhamid (RU) pin Jordii Martin (BOW), 3:09; Sebastian Trujillo (BW) pin Adrian Gierek (IH), :51; Vincent Macaluso (SJ) maj. dec. Eric Hicks (PC), 12-4; Mike Vilela (RPR) pin Johnathan Cruz (L), 1:27; Jep Alorro (C) pin Dan Melon (P), 2:42; Mike Morraele (LN) pin Mathew Innis (HW), 2:59; Jack Nigro (NVD) dec. Conner Ranklin (D), 11-10; Matt McKay (WW) dec. Lucas Bogosian (OT), 6-0; Emerald Besholli (G) dec. Zach Gdebielski (SM), 5-4; Anthony Giraldo (NB) pin Eric Grossbard (NM), 4:45; Joe Oliva (RW) dec. Matthew Joskowitz (CP), 3-2 (ot);

119 – Jesse Massaro (OT) pin Nick Knight (M), 5:02; Mike Maye (BC) pin Sam Meyer (RW), 1:13; Dominick Manginelli (D) pin Danny White (PV), :54; Jeff Cardona (B) pin Tariq Aldakhalah (BOW), 3:17; Craig Layne (NVD) dec. Paul Scalici (C), 7-4; Joe Guerriero (GS) pin Nick Eggert (NM), 1:07; Brendan Campbell (RD) dec. Billy Duby (PC), 5-0; Marco Jimenez (FL) pin Anthony Arena (SM), :59; Danny Tyson (WM) pin Andrew Gordon (H), 3:54; Rick Gonzalez (NB) dec. John Citro (NH), 5-1; Tristan Hollenbaugh (DB) pin Navid Ahdoot (TO), 3:44; John Maldonado (PH) maj. dec. Vincent Totaro (WW), 9-1; Jose Granados (FTL) pin Alberto Rosa (L), 2:28; Brandon Buonomo (EPR) maj. dec. Laith Abwini (P), 14-4

125 – Tyler Champy (GS) maj. dec. Mike Minardi (NM), 12-4; Cenzo Cariddi (RD) dec. Shimmy Auman (TO), 6-0; Austen Fischer (FL) dec. Brandon Pica (EP), 10-5; Peter Pravata (PH) pin Shane Altman (NVD), 2:28; Joe DeFuria (B) maj. dec. Ryan Coburn (M), 9-0; Anthony Dabal (NB) dec. Anthony Magaraci (OT), 7-6; Tarek Jerai (P) pin Tommy DeOliviera (L), 4:36; Piotr Kucab (G) pin William Montgomery (RW), 4:50; Edwin Fiscal (BOW) pin R.J. Izquierdo (PC), 4:57; Pedro Morejon (LN) dec. Dan McBrinn (DB), 9-6; Justin Scheinert (RPO) dec. Issrsael Curbelo (RPR), 10-5; Tyler Loughlin (BW) dec. James Henry (H), 10-6; Steven Schneider (EPR) pin Tarulli, 2:54; Nick Gravina (NH) pin Spangler (HW), 1:49; Darryl Albonico (SJ) pin Semti, 4:29; Mike Laurice (IH) tech fall Carmaloni, 17-0, 5:47;

130 – Mike Valle (B) pin Nick Frasse (NM), 3:03; John McLaughlin (RD) pin DJ Newman (TO), 2:31; Joe Rizzitello (P) pin Rob Nicoletti (IH), :52; Richard Dempster (H) pin Ken Montoya (SM), :43; Matt Jacobson (GS) maj. dec. Zach

Spira (M), 17-4; Charlie Mitchell (BC) pin Sean Coffey (C), 1:43; Brandon Giovanetti (RW) pin Declan Scanlon (NVD), :42; Nick Maselli (EPR) pin Sean Kelly (NH), 3:59; Alex Oroszco (CP) tech fall Greg Nowak (L), 20-5; Mike Senchi (T) pin Connor Gorman (D), 4:22; Chris Lassoni (BW) dec. Angelo Giacci (DB), 10-8 (ot); Rick Provenzano (PC) pin Adam Berg (PV), :43; Steven Ortiz (OT) dec. Chris Mutterer (RPO), 10-4; Ryan Spangler (HW) dec. Chris Maselli (SJ), 6-2; Willy Doherty (WW) pin Albert Albino (BOW), 3:10; Julian Quintero (NB) pin Angelo Panaligan (LP), 1:09

135 – Krystian Kida (EP) tech. fall Derek Lee (FTL), 15-0; Jake Knight (M) pin Branden Sanabria (T), :34; Christian Morrero (B) dec. Chris DeMarco (LN), 17-11; Troy Cathey (BW) maj. dec. Tommy Alhanti (C), 12-3; John Boyle (RU) pin Dave Sandnes (PC), :18; John Herbener (NVD) maj. dec. Brandon Laterino (NH), 20-6; Chris Leidig (D) dec. Rob DeMazero (SJ), 9-4; Chris Jacobson (GS) dec. Matt Goldstein (PH), 1-0; Luke Farinaro (DB) pin Nick Spinoso (P), 3:16; Adam Elayan (CP) pin Matt Johns (R), 5:28; Adam Rusch (OT) pin Thomas Hernandez (NM), 1:24; Michael Spangler (HW) dec. Paul Kipiani (RPO), 8-6; Connor Melde (BC) pin Arancio, 2:38; Andrew Lee (FTL) dec. Oscar Medina (BOW), 6-3; James DiGregono (EPR) pin Pat DiCrisci (SM), :36; Amir George (H) pin Justin Gramaglia (RW), 3:17

140 – Joey Orecchio (DB) pin Delacruz, 1:21; Matt Mangini (BC) pin Jed Benhamroun (C), :36; Jack McCann (OT) pin Ari Chorluyan (NVD), 3:09; Dylan Myers (NH) dec. Issa Musalae (FL), 5-2; Jimmy Suess (P) pin Mike Benducci (PH), 3:00; Mike Paskas (RU) pin Evan Daniele (PC), :21; Nick Madorno (RPO) pin Gabe Calderon (G), 5:28; Nick Baranello (RD) pin Nick Williams (NM), 1:44; Jack Mallett (EPR) pin Eric Reynoso (RPR), 3:50; Brendan Dolan (GS) dec. Jason Gibson (RW), 13-8; Dan Ressler (PV) dec. Ed Cox (HW), 9-4; Julian Guilarte (IH) dec. Andrew L-Abbate (WW), 8-4; Bob Bandstra (WM) maj. dec. Gio Born (M), 12-2; Lacin Koro (CP) tech. fall Diego Rodriguez (H), 18-2, 5:30; Tom Oppici (D) dec. JJ LeClerc (LN), 9-4; Mike Silano (SJ) dec. Ryan Mealy (BW), 2-1

145 – Zach Frohlich (OT) pin Emmanuel De Jesus (D), 1:08; Zack Deckler (RD) pin Carlos Aristuzabel (NM), 1:18; Sal Mastriani (DB) tech. fall Apolito, 2:28; Tyler Patasnik (GS) dec. Stephen Mastropietro (HW), 7-4; Stephen Cardinal (EP) pin Jared Gagliardi (T), 3:48; Devon Pia (PV) pin Noah Lerner (TO), 1:42; Anthony Mobilio (L) pin William Nora (H), 3:13; Chris Fitzgerald (RPR) pin Sam

Lippin (BC), 1:20; Brandon Cocheri (NH) pin Freddy Takla (BOW), :45; Billy Schwartz (EPR) pin Jack Anderson (FL), 1:50; Nick Alpher (P) pin Chris Glaser (NB), 2:30; Mike Karlewicz (M) dec. Jesse Moss (C), 3:49; Dylan More (SJ) pin Frank Mezzina (LN), :32; John Pestana (SM) dec. Ricardo Fuentes (G), 10-3; Brian Bandstra (WM) dec. Paul Valle (B), 8-2; Mark Sheridan (IH) maj. dec. Mohammed Alanous (BW), 10-2

152 – Shawn Flesche (OT) pin Alex Delacruz (NB), 1:13; Peter Seebeck (PC) pin Eric Berman (FL), 1:15; CJ Levin (T) pin Dan Longo (IH), 3:04; Justin Genco (M) pin Ronu Thomas (NVD), 2:28; Matt Dickman (GS) pin Tyler Kallensee (RD), 1:44; Vincent Silano (SJ) pin Alex Hodulik (HW); Tyler Mealy (BW) pin Tommy Hollenfer (C), :52; Anatoliy Alkhazov (FTL) pin Matt Bachmann (NM), 5:52; Mike Lampanillo (WW) dec. Aaron Bess (RW), 5-1; Andrew Vecchione (EPR) pin Mike Rodriguez (H), :46; Tyler Napoleone (G) pin Pete Douma (RPO), 2:26; Johnny Sebastian (BC) pin David Choi (RU), 1:27; Kevin Melly (RPR) pin Dan Murphy (DB), 1:07; Jovan Rivera (B) pin Ryan Ribauda (R), 1:36; David Arrighi (P) pin Conor Hurley (WM), 1:21; Mike Hausch (PV) maj. dec. George Kostantakis (D), 8-0

160 – Kevin Alberque (RPR) pin Kelvin Rosario (FL), :41; Mike Yi (CP) pin John Hwang (C), :50; Craig Stugart (DB) pin Nick Smith (EPR), :28; Evan Lam (NH) pin Jack Montgomery (SM), 2:12; Jimmy MacWilliams (R) pin Adam Lukas (OT), 3:30; Alex Cimiluca (GS) pin Pedro Delacruz (NB), :26; Charlie Woods (NVD) pin Gian Salazar (LN), 1:39; Rocco Rizzo (RD) pin Javier Rodriguez (NM), 2:59; Alex Krukliniski (BC) pin Isaiah Holder (B), 4:26; Mustafa Aslami (P) tech. fall Asher Radensky (TO), 15-0, 4:18; Jeff Farina (SJ) dec. Peter Creamer (WW), 9-2; Jerome Huger (LP) maj. dec. Justin Savio (G), 13-4; Andrew Hodulik (HW) dec. Jeff Bulick (WM), 11-6; Jack Conklin (IH) pin Anthony Sudol (D), 3:36

171 – Dylan Walling (NVD) pin Cameron Schlenker (IH), 1:11; Nate Leer (T) pin Tubito, :44; Jared Vergara (PH) pin Gavin John (C), :41; Matt Tozzi (P) maj. dec. Taylor Sweeney (DB), 11-0; Dane McDermott (SJ) maj. dec. Zambrana, 11-0; Lukas Iorio (BC) pin Justin Costello (PC), :27; Dylan Menze (EPR) pin Branco Paredes (G), 4:55; Mike Arnold (D) dec. Anthony Governali (NM), 6-3; Kyle Myers (NH) pin Kevin Castillo (H), 5:41; Jake Regina (RU) pin Phil Vorderstrasse (WM), 1:18; Mike Pasolini (PV) dec. Sam Vovsi (FL), 11-10 (ot); Aaron Rodman (OT) dec. Evan Friedlander (TO), 3-1; Ryan Walker (M) maj. dec.

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Zach Hunko (GS), 12-3; John Paluskiewicz (LP) dec. John Jenkins (R), 9-6; Shan Shabsigh (RPO) pin Kevin Dagger (BOW), 1:57; Bryan Loughlin (BW) pin Victor Trascu (B), 3:25

189 - Zach Klein (R) pin Sal Ciambriello (NM), :37; Paul Lowry (WM) pin James Pagano (GS), 1:27; Zack Preschel (T) pin Jordan Bahno (PC), :39; Domini Carfango (SJ) pin Tyler Bray (IH), 3:07; Michael Amaro (SM) pin Nick Frangides (WW), :23; Keith Rodman (OT) dec. Robbie Maggwilli (EPR), 4-2; Lenny Smith (RD) pin Matthew Grayner (D), 3:16; Shawn Coward (B) pin Kelvin Hernandez (NB), 3:47; Cruz Cobias (H) dec. Zuka Sakhvadze (LP), 2-1; Mario Foti (LN) pin Nathan Bueno (BW), 1:33; Christian Jenco (BC) dec. Mike Sebahie (P), 6-5; Gordon Ruffing (RW) dec. Dab Delpercio (G), 3-2 (ot); Joe Nicoletti (NH) pin Demetri Rodriguez (FL), 5:36

215 - Matt Mecca (NH) pin Chang, :50; Steven Sherlock (FL) pin Andy Sosa (EPR), 3:11; Nick Garcia (NB) pin Zach Goetz (NVD), :30; James Favia (NM) dec. Glenn Beckmeyer (SJ), 12-10; Ryan Cottrell (PH) pin Marcus Pantoja (PC), 1:39; Gus Molina (WW) dec. Chris Piper (CP), 1-0; Dan Fedor (G) dec. Omar Hamza (RW), 9-2; Lucas Sahdo (P) pin Dick Benitez (WM), :44; Hunter Kiselick (BC) dec. Pat Vareles (DB), 11-4; Abo Mahmoud (BW) pin Tommy Kramer (OT), 2:07; Dave Heitman (M) pin Brandon Faison (H), 5:55; Rich Torres (B) pin Scott Barlett (LN), 1:47; Anthony Guerriero (IH) pin Pierce Donegan (D), 3:24; Aaron Gonzalez (EP) dec. John Begen (PV), 10-6; Kyle Bratyanski (GS) dec. Nick Formisano (SM), 2-1 (ot); Demir Radoncic (FTL) pin Joe Lopez (BOW), :52

285 - Dovid Greenfield (TO) pin John Alkobi (LN), :39; Peter Schmitt (CP) pin Adam Velazquez (PV), 1:08; George Gregorian (EPR) pin Chukwumaijem Indigo (H), 3:50; Chris Garcia (NB) dec. Besim Tonuzi (PH), 5-2; James Remza (IH) dec. Mike Aydin (P), 7-3; Mike Guerrero (GS) pin Dan Hurwitz (NH), :28; Maalyjah Goodall-Red (B) pin Josh Kim (OT), 1:23; Matt Marcazo (SJ) def. Robby Reiss (BOW), 2-1; Carmine Goldsack (BC) pin Jamie Cooper (D), :45

THIRD ROUND

103 - Giannantonio dec. Scarcella, 5-4; Casamenti dec. DeMarco, 2-1; Baldicanas dec. Vychick, 6-0; Neal dec. Rottingen, 7-4; Lynch dec. Burns, 4-0; Avella pin Lanzalotto, 4:59; Brugger pin Dovlatyan, 1:31; Gonzalez tech. fall, 19-4, 5:55

112 - Alorro pin Nigro, :48; Vilela pin McKay, 1:44; Giraldo pin Oliva, 1:10; Al-

brecht pin Macaluso, 3:50; Trujillo pin Besholli, 2:48; Piterski maj. dec. Morreale, 10-0; Reardon dec. Abdelhamid, 12-6; Taeschler dec. Gallo, 9-3

119 - Jeff Rottingen (R) pin Cardona, 5:30; Guerriero pin Layne, :17; Tyson pin Granados, 3:24; Buonomo pin Campbell, 2:25; Maye inj. def. Manginelli, 5:32; Jimenez pin Gonzalez, 4:15; Massaro dec. Hollenbaugh, 4-2 (ot); Austin Cantone (SJ) maj. dec. Maldonado, 11-0

125 - Schneider pin Fiscal, :59; Cariddi pin Champy, 1:35; DeFuria dec. Scheinert, 8-3; Gravina pin Loughlin, 3:29; Laurice maj. dec. Fischer, 12-3; Dabal dec. Kucab, 10-5; Albonico dec. Jerai, 5-1; Pravata pin Morejon, 1:58

130 - Quintero pin McLaughlin, :40; Rizzitello maj. dec. Oroszco, 11-2; Jacobson maj. dec. Dempster, 12-4; Maselli pin Doherty, 1:04; Mitchell dec. Lassoni, 6-1; Giovanetti dec. Ortiz, 9-2; Valle dec. Senchi, 9-2; Spangler maj. dec. Provenzano, 11-2

135 - Herbener pin Elayan, 4:18; Kida pin Cathey, 1:11; George pin Lee, :22; Rusch pin Jacobson, 5:15; Melde tech. fall Knight, 18-3, 5:13; Morrero pin Leidig, 2:43; DiGregorio dec. Farinero, 5-2; Boyle maj. dec. Spangler, 18-6

140 - Madormo pin Bandstra, :53; Mangini pin Mallett, 1:20; Baranello maj. dec. Guilarte, 11-0; Paskas dec. Oppici, 7-0; Suess pin Dolan, 3:18; Ressler dec. McCann, 7-3; Orecchio pin Myers, 3:57; Koro dec. Silano, 13-6

145 - Mastriani pin Cardinal, 1:12; More dec. Bandstra, 8-2; Alpher pin Fitzgerald, 1:03; Frohlich pin Pestana, 5:05; Cocheri pin Patasnik, 3:13; Deckler maj. dec. Pia, 15-4; Karlewicz dec. Schwartz, 3-2; Mobilio by dq. Sheridan;

152 - Silano maj. dec. Levin, 10-1; Seebach dec. Melly, 10-6; Mealy pin Hausch, :38; Rivera pin Arrighi, 3:34; Dickman dec. Lamparillo, 4-1; Sebastian dec. Flesche, 2-0; Napoleone dec. Alkhazov, 6-2; Vecchione maj. dec. Genco, 14-1

160 - Woods pin Lam, 2:39; Cimiluca maj. dec. Krukiński, 16-6; Ryan Sblendorio maj. dec. Alberque, 10-0; Farina dec. Stugart, 10-5; Huger pin Hodulik, 5:58; Rizzo dec. Conklin, 6-2; James Dugan (BW) maj. dec. Aslami, 12-2; MacWilliams dec. Yi, 5-3

171 - Walker pin Shabsigh, 1:57; Vergara pin Tozzi, 3:38; Iorio pin Pasolini, 2:14; Walling pin Rodman, 3:53; Regina dec. Myers, 8-4; McDermott pin Arnold, 3:33; Loughlin dec. Menze, 8-4; Leer pin Paluskiewicz, 2:51

189 - Damian Murberg (PV) pin Foti, 1:39; Smith dec. Preschel, 9-3; Amaro dec. Jenco, 6-0; Rodman dec. Klein, 10-7; Ruffing dec. Coward, 2-1 (ot); Lowry

pin Cubias, 1:39; Razhonn Gross (DB) maj. dec. Carfagno, 10-2; Luke Pragnat (M) dec. Nicoletti, 9-2

215 - Mecca pin Fedor, :49; Kiselick dec. Gonzalez, 6-4; Sherlock by dq. Garcia; Radoncic dec. Sahdo, 9-6; Bratyanski dec. Favia, 5-4; Torres pin Guerriero, 1:32; Heitman pin Molina, 1:45; Mahmoud dec. Cottrell, 13-7

285 - Adam Polisi (FL) pin Marcazo, :23; Ricky Sanchez (PC) pin Remza, 3:56; Cody Mann (M) pin Guerrero, 1:56; Jeff Rodriguez (L) maj. dec. Schmitt, 11-2; Greenfield pin Garcia, 2:43; Byron Blake (R) dec. Goldsack, 6-4 (ot); Andrew Benvenuto (DB) pin Goodall-Red, 3:29; Nick Pallatta (WW) dec. Gregorian, 5-4 (ot)

QUARTERFINALS

103 - Gonzalez pin Brugger, 1:17; Clementi pin Avella, 5:49; Giannantonio dec. Baldicanas, 2-0; Neal dec. Lynch, 4-2

112 - Giraldo dec. Trujillo, 3-0; Reardon maj. dec. Vilela, 15-5; Albrecht dec. Piterski, 8-4; Alorro dec. Taeschler, 4-2

119 - Rottingen maj. dec. Buonomo, 14-5; Cantone dec. Jimenez, 5-2; Maye dec. Tyson, 7-4; Guerriero maj. dec. Massaro, 15-4

125 - Schneider pin Pravata, 0:38; Albonico pin Dabal, 1:58; Gravina pin DeFuria, 5:39; Cariddi pin Laurice, 3:18

130 - Quintero pin Valle, 0:12; Jacobsen dec. Giovanetti, 7-2; Mitchell dec. Rizzitello, 4-3; Maselli maj. dec. Spangler, 18-7

135 - Herbener pin Morrero, 1:02; Boyle maj. dec. Rusch, 12-3; Melde tech. fall, Kida, 19-1; DiGregorio pin George, 3:51

140 - Mangini dec. Ressler, 4-3; Orecchio dec. Suess, 5-1; Baranello dec. Madormo, 9-6; Paskas pin Koro, 5:14

145 - Cocheri pin Deckler, 2:49; Mastriani pin Frohlich, 2:56; Alpher pin Karlewicz, 4:50; More pin Mobilino, 2:33

152 - Vecchione dec. Silano, 9-4; Dickman pin Napoleone, 4:36; Rivera pin Mealy, 3:30; Sebastian dec. Seebach, 7-2

160 - Sblendorio pin MacWilliams, 1:51; Dugan pin Rizzo, 2:32; Cimiluca inj. def. Woods; Farina dec. Huger, 8-2

171 - McDermott maj. dec. Walling, 14-5; Iorio dec. Vergara, 4-3; Walker dec. Loughlin, 4-3; Leer dec. Regina, 7-1

189 - Murberg tech fall Ruffing, 15-0; Gross maj. dec. Lowry, 15-6; Amaro dec. Rodman, 7-4; Pragdat dec. Smith, 8-4

215 - Mecca pin Bratyanski, 0:24; Torres pin Radoncic, 1:04; Heitman dec. Sherlock, 8-4; Mahmoud pin Kiselick, 2:51

285 - Pallatta pin Sanchez, 0:40; Mann dec. Greenfield, 3-2; Benvenuto pin Blake, 4:42; Rodriguez dec. Polisi, 3-1

Thurs Dec 30, 2010

Sebastian's grand entrance

By **BRIAN A. GIUFFRA**
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. — He's young, brash and full of confidence. And now Johnny Sebastian has the trophy to back it all up.

Sebastian came from nowhere to win the brutal 152-pound bracket at the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament and earn the Most Outstanding Wrestler trophy. The Bergen Catholic freshman went from an afterthought at the seeding meeting to a champion, upsetting the top three seeds in the bracket on his way to the title while introducing himself to the Bergen County wrestling community in grand fashion.

He dominated defending Region 2 champion Matt Dickman of Glen Rock/Saddle Brook in the final, 7-2, after earning a technical fall victory over No. 2 seed Jovan Rivera of Bergenfield in the semifinals. When Sebastian was done beating the best Bergen County threw at him, he wasn't afraid to heap a little more pressure on himself.

"Hopefully there are three more [County titles] to come," Sebastian said with a smile.



MICHAEL KARAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Johnny Sebastian, right, of Bergen Catholic made his debut by defeating Matt Dickman of Glen Rock/Saddle Brook, left.

Considering there are only five four-time champions in the history of the BCCA, that's a bold statement. But Sebastian isn't afraid of setting high expectations. He did coming into the BCCA, and that turned out pretty well.

"I believe I can wrestle with any-

one," Sebastian, a Ramsey resident, said. "It doesn't matter who I face. I believe I can win."

Sebastian went on to include all of Bergen Catholic in that, saying he thinks the Crusaders can beat anyone, too. And after the way they performed here, there's no reason to

think he's wrong.

Bergen Catholic won its first BCCA title since 2006 (after winning 14 of 17 before that) behind Sebastian and Connor Melde's individual championships and Mike Maye's second place finish to 119-pound champ Jeff Rottingen of Ramsey. The Crusaders had 10 wrestlers medal and finished with 211.5 points, almost 40 points more than second-place Don Bosco.

Melde has been the centerpiece of the Crusaders' climb back to the top. The junior won his second straight BCCA title with a 1-0 decision over John Boyle of Rutherford in the 130-pound final.

Melde wasn't completely satisfied with his performance, insisting he should have gotten more points in the neutral position. But after earning an escape in the second period and riding out the scrappy Boyle for the last two minutes, he still was happy to have won.

"I'm kind of disappointed I didn't do more," Melde said. "He was stronger than a lot of the guys I've faced and none of my attacks were working on him. But not a lot of people have won two in a row so I'm happy about that."

BCCA GEORGE JOCKISH HOLIDAY WRESTLING

Splendor on the mat

Mahwah's Sblendorio wins third title

By **GREGORY SCHUTTA**
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. – Mahwah's Ryan Sblendorio stood at the corner of the mat with his hometown Thunderbirds logo in the middle Thursday, gold medal in hand, knowing that he had just joined a select group in Bergen County.

But he was more interested in watching his teammates on the mat.

"It feels good," he said after becoming just the 18th wrestler in the 51-year history of the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament to win three titles. "But it feels better to have five guys in the final. That's what makes it special."

Sblendorio held off returning BCCA and Region 4 runner-up James Dugan of Becton/Wallington, 10-8, to win his third straight 160-pound title.

"He was definitely a tough kid," the senior said. "It was a great challenge."

Sblendorio opened up leads of 4-1 in the first period and as much as 9-5 with his fourth takedown of the bout in the third. But Dugan kept coming back.

He cut the deficit to 9-8 with less than a minute left in the bout on an escape and a tremendous double-leg takedown, keeping both feet in bounds. But after letting Sblendorio up, he couldn't beat the clock for the tying takedown.

"I was getting out of position a lot and that's where he was scoring his points, so props to him," Sblendorio said.

Sblendorio was the only Thunderbird to earn a championship. But it still was a tremendous tournament for Mahwah, which put all five of its upper weights from 160 through 285 into the finals.

Luke Pragdat came within a hair of beating returning Region champ Razhonn Gross of Don Bosco, dropping a 9-8 decision at 189, and 285-pounder Cody Mann earned an escape with 20 seconds left to tie his bout with Bosco's Andrew Benvenuto, only to give up an escape point in the second overtime to fall, 2-1.

Bosco's Sal Mastriani and returning BCCA champ Nick Alpher of Paramus continued a war at 145 that began last season with wins by Alpher in the BCCA semis and the District 5 finals and Mastriani's revenge in the Region 2 final, all on close decisions.

Mastriani got things started by jumping over Alpher's attempt at a single-leg takedown and coming down on his back for a 2-0 lead.

Alpher came right back, taking advantage when Mastriani missed an attempt at an arm drag to take him down and open up a 5-2 lead.

But leading 6-3 in the second period, Alpher ran out of gas and finally was disqualified after his fifth stall at 5:33.

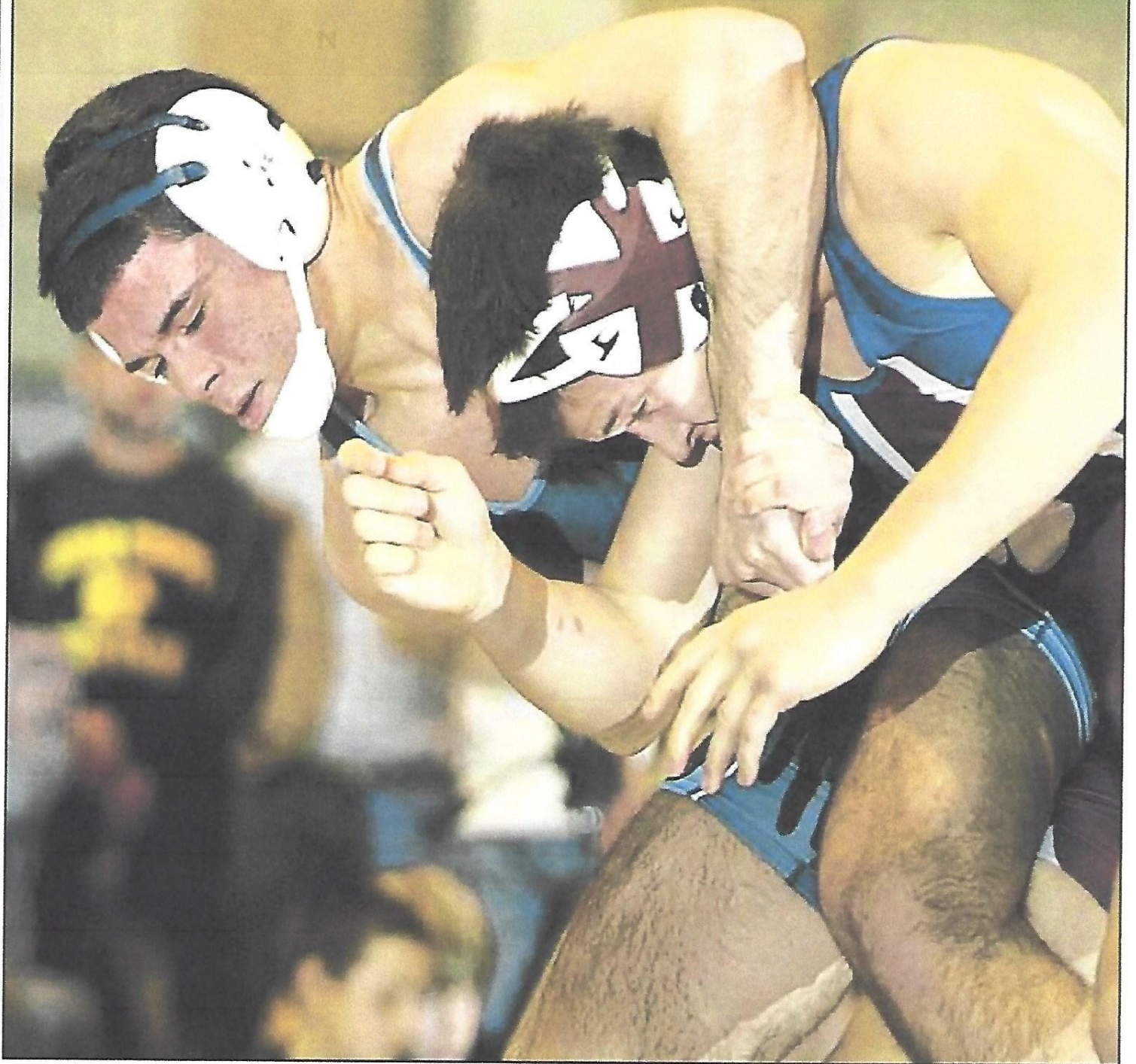
"I'm very aggressive, and he likes to score off people's mistakes, so our styles are totally opposite," Mastriani said. "That's what makes it a good match between us every time."

North Bergen's Julian Quintero, a two-time BCCA runner-up, has a nice scar on his shoulder to remind him of his trials and tribulations in this tournament. But that all went away with a 6-2 victory over Matt Jacobson of Glen Rock/Saddle Brook at 150 pounds.

"It took me long enough," said Quintero, who fractured his clavicle while winning his semifinal as a sophomore and defaulted in the final, and lost to Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace in last year's final. "It took me three tries."

He was one of three first-place finishers for North Bergen, joining freshman Luis Gonzalez (103) and Anthony Giraldo (112).

Thurs Dec 30, 2010



MICHAEL KARAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ryan Sblendorio of Mahwah, left, on his way to defeating James Dugan of Becton/Wallington.

The champions

103

Luis Gonzalez, North Bergen

112

Anthony Giraldo,
North Bergen

119

Jeff Rottingen, Ramsey

125

Nick Gravina,
No. Highlands

130

Julian Quintero,
North Bergen

135

Connor Melde,
Bergen Catholic

140

Joe Orecchio, Don Bosco

145

Sal Mastriani, Don Bosco

152

Johnny Sebastian,
Bergen Catholic

160

Ryan Sblendorio, Mahwah

171

Dane McDermott,
St. Joseph's

189

Razhonn Gross, Don Bosco

215

Rich Torres, Bergenfield

285

Andrew Benvenuto,
Don Bosco

Thurs Dec 30
2010

WRESTLING: BCCA TOURNAMENT

AT ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SUFFERN, N.Y.

TEAM SCORES: 1. Bergen Catholic (BC) 211.50, 2. Don Bosco (DB) 172.50, 3. Mahwah (M) 154.00, 4. St. Joseph's (SJ) 152.00, 5. Emerson/Park Ridge (EPR) 131.50, 6. Paramus (P) 130.50, 7. Northern Highlands (NH) 122.00, 8. Becton/Wallington (BW) 116.50, 9. Glen Rock/Saddle Brook (GS) 116.00, 10. Bergenfield (B) 111.50, 11. North Bergen (NB) 110.00, 12. Pascack Valley (PV) 78.50, 13. River Dell (RD) 71, 14. Rutherford (RU) 69.00, 15. Old Tappan (OT) 67, 16. Ramsey (R) 64, 17. Waldwick/Midland Park (WM) 61.00, 18. Fair Lawn (FL) 53.00, (38), 19. Demarest (NVD) 48.00, 20. Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge (HW) 47.50, 21. Pascack Hills (PH) 43.00, Tie for 22. Teaneck (T) and Westwood (WW) 38.00, 24. Ramapo (RPO) 35.00, 25. Cliffside Park (CP) 34.00, 26. Ridgefield Park/Ridgefield (RPR) 33.00, 27. Indian Hills (IH) 30.50, Tie for 28. Paramus Catholic (PC) and Torah (TO) 28.00, Tie for 30. Cresskill (C), Dumont (D), Fort Lee (FTL) 26.00, 33. St. Mary's (SM) 24, 34. Hackensack (H) 23.00, 35. Ridge-wood (RW) 22.00, 36. Garfield (G) 21.00, 37. Lodi (L) 20.00, 38. Elmwood Park (EP) 19.50, 39. Lyndhurst/North Arlington (LNA) 19.00, 40. Bogota/Weehawken (BOW) 12.50, Tie 41. Leonia/Palisades Park (LP) and New Milford (NM) 8

SEMIFINALS

103 - Luis Gonzalez (NB) pin Tyler Casamenti (BC), 2:27; Mike Neal (B) dec. Eric Giannantonio (P), 5-4.
112 - Jep Alorro (C) pin Trevor Albrecht (BC), 5:09; Anthony Giraldo (NB) tech. fall Billy Reardon (DB), 16-1, 5:10.
119 - Jeff Rottingen (R) pin Joe Guerriero (GS), 0:20; Mike Maye (BC) pin Austin Castone (SJ), 1:27.
125 - Nick Gravina (NH) pin Cenzo Cariddi (RD), 5:58; Steven Schneider (EPR) dec. Darryl Albonico (SJ), 3-2.
130 - Julian Quintero (NB) dec. Charlie Mitchell (BC), 11-5; Matt Jacobson (GS) dec. Nick Maselli (EPR), 6-5.
135 - Connor Melde (BC) pin John Herbener (NVD), 2:56; John Boyle (RU) dec. James DiGregorio (EPR), 7-3.
140 - Joe Orecchio (DB) maj. dec. Matt Mangini (BC), 9-0; Mike Paskas (RU) dec. Nick Baranello (RD), 7-4.
145 - Nick Alpher (P) pin Dylan More (SJ), 3:14; Sal Mastriani (DB) pin Brandon Cocherl (NH), 5:38.
152 - Johnny Sebastian (BC) tech. fall Jovan Rivera (B), 22-6, 5:20; Matt Dickman (GS) dec. Andrew Vecchione (EPR), 7-2.
160 - Ryan Sblendorio (M) pin Alex Cimiluca (GS), 4:15; James Dugan (BW) dec. Jeff Farina (SJ), 7-2.
171 - Dane McDermott (SJ) dec. Lukas Iorio (BC), 2-1; Ryan Walker (M) dec. Nate Leer (T), 7-5.
189 - Luke Pragdat (M) dec. Damian Murberg (PV), 8-1; Razhonn Gross (DB) dec. Michael Amaro (SM), 9-5.

215 - Dave Heitman (M) pin Matt Meca (NH), 0:40; Rich Torres (B) dec. Abo Mahmoud (BW), 7-4.

285 - Cody Mann (M) pin Nick Pallotta (WW), 3:54; Andrew Benvenuto (DB) dec. Jeff Rodriguez (L), 4-1.

FIFTH PLACE

103 - Casamenti dec. Joe Burns (NH), 5-2.
112 - Albrecht pin Reardon, 1:38.
119 - Guerriero maj. dec. Cantone, 11-3.
125 - Cariddi pin Mike Laurice (IH), 5:58.
130 - Joe Rizzitello (P) dec. Brandon Giovanetti (RW), 1-0.
135 - Adam Rusch (OT) dec. DiGregorio, 6-4.
140 - Nick Madammo (R) win by forfeit.
145 - Brian Bandstra (WM) win by forfeit.
152 - Tyler Mealy (BW) dec. Rivera, 6-2.
160 - Mustafa Aslami (P) dec. Alex Kruklinski (BC), 7-6 (2ot)
171 - Bryan Loughlin (BW) dec. Jared Vergara (PH), 2-0.
189 - Amaro dec. Paul Lowry (WM), 4-2.
215 - Lucas Sahdo (P) dec. Hunter Kiselick (BC), 11-5.
285 - Adam Polisi win by forfeit

THIRD PLACE

103 - Mark Mastropietro (HW) dec. Giannantonio, 8-3
112 - Dean Piterski (PV) dec. Sebastian Trujillo (BW), 6-1
119 - Danny Tyson (WM) dec. Brandon Buonomo (EPR), 6-2
125 - Albonico dec. Tyler Loughlin (BW), 4-2
130 - Maselli maj. dec. Mitchell, 11-1
135 - Luke Farinaro (DB) pin Herbener, 5:26
140 - Dan Ressler (PV) dec. Mangini, 6-2
145 - Cocherl maj. dec. More, 11-0
152 - Vecchione dec. Vincent Silano (SJ), 5-3
160 - Farina dec. Cimiluca, 6-5
171 - Leer dec. Iorio, 9-5
189 - Murberg dec. Domini Carfagno (SJ), 5-3
215 - Mecca dec. Mahmoud, 5-2
285 - Dovid Greenfield (TO) pin Pallotta, 4:10

FINALS

103 - Gonzalez tech. fall Neal, 16-0, 4:00
112 - Giraldo dec. Alorro, 2-0
119 - Rottingen pin Maye, 5:59
125 - Gravina pin Schneider, 5:17
130 - Quintero dec. Jacobson, 6-2
135 - Melde dec. Boyle, 1-0
140 - Orecchio dec. Paskas, 6-2
145 - Mastriani by disq. Alpher, 5:33
152 - Sebastian dec. Dickman, 7-2
160 - Sblendorio dec. Dugan, 10-8
171 - McDermott dec. Walker, 5-2
189 - Gross dec. Pragdat, 9-8
215 - Torres pin Heitman, 3:20
285 - Benvenuto dec. Mann, 2-1 (2 ot)

Thurs
Dec 30
2010

By **ANDY VASQUEZ**

STAFF WRITER

Johnny Sebastian doesn't like talking about himself. The freshman wrestler at Bergen Catholic is humble. He'd much rather tell you about each person who has helped his career than discuss what he's accomplished.

"I just want to thank all the people who have helped me get here," Sebastian said. "That's very important to me."

But if Sebastian keeps performing at a high level, people will continue to ask. He's in his first few weeks of high school wrestling, but the accomplishments are many.

Sebastian earned The Record Male Athlete of the Week honor after tearing through the 152-pound bracket to win the BCCA Holiday tournament and help Bergen Catholic to the team title for the first time since 2006.

The early success didn't come easy for Sebastian, a Ramsey resident.

He's been wrestling since he was 5 years old and captured four state titles in middle school.

Sebastian also plays football (quarterback) and baseball (center field/first base), and divides his year into thirds to focus on each sport.

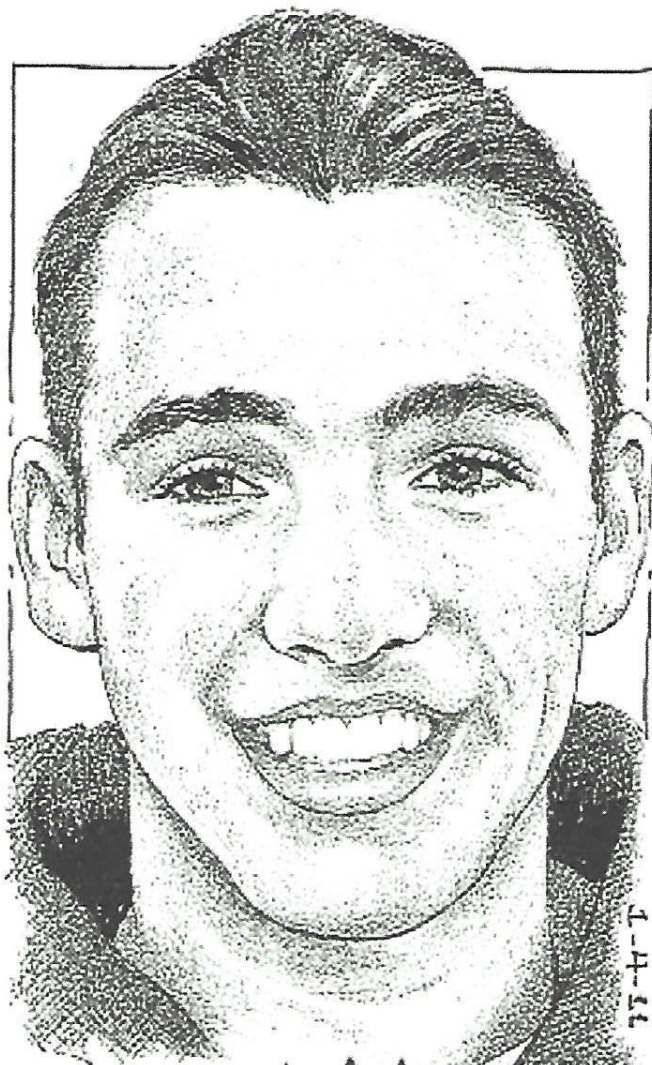
But wrestling is the sport he grew up with and embraced.

"I think I've always loved this sport," Sebastian said.

Sebastian credits his success to working with his personal coach – former Purdue All-American Jason Silverstein – and training with the Olympic Wrestling Club in Wyckoff. Sebastian says the Bergen Catholic coaching staff has helped him make a quick adjustment to the high school level.

"It's a faster pace," Sebastian said. "And the coaches [at Bergen Catholic] have helped me a bunch with getting faster and making the transition easier."

Also nominated: Sean Boylan of Old Tappan for hockey; Ryan Sblendorio of Mahwah for wrestling; David Palladino of Emerson, Angel Colon of Wood-Ridge, Joe DeCotiis of Pascack Valley, Nick DiCristina of Passaic Valley and Raza Nassim of Palisades Park for basketball.



**JOHNNY
SEBASTIAN
OF BERGEN CATHOLIC**
CHARLIE NESBITH

MALE ATHLETE

Sport: Wrestling **Class:** Freshman **Age:** 15

Accomplishment: Johnny Sebastian captured the 152-pound championship in the BCCA Holiday tournament, helping Bergen Catholic win its first team title since 2006.