

# BC seeks 4th straight tournament title

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

Even without three transfers who aren't eligible for another few weeks, Bergen Catholic is heavily favored to win its fourth straight Bergen County Coaches Holiday wrestling championship. The 43rd annual two-day event opens this morning with 43 teams.

Eight BC wrestlers are likely to earn high seeds today off past accomplishments. Behind them, Northern Highlands – despite the transfer of last year's bronze medal-winning Ryan Arcadia to Lawrenceville School – should contend along with Emerson/Park Ridge, Fair Lawn, North Bergen, and Paramus. Lodi also could build up major points. Individual champions returning are BC's Bryan Nunziato and Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi, both two-time winners; Westwood's Joe Butcher, Glen Rock's Evan Gallucio, Lodi's Rob

**130:** Gallucio is joined by St. Joseph's Rory O'Donnell (second last year), Fair Lawn's Ken Giancola (third), and BC's Derek Sickles (sixth).

**135:** Returning champion Joe Butcher of Westwood is favored ahead of Northern Highlands' Roberto Celis, Fair Lawn's Robbie Hintzen, and Paramus' Matt Raspani.

**140:** Northern Highlands' Teddy Montes, Bergenfield's Dave Burns, and Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick Brandreth contend.

**145:** BC's Nick Matteo is favored. Returning sixth-place finisher Alan Alcalda of Elmwood Park lost to Cresskill's Andy Fleming last weekend.

**152:** Lodi's Kaiser returns here with Kevin Moran (sixth) of Paramus.

**160:** BC's Matt McConville is favored ahead of fourth-place finishers Dan Wolthoff of Dumont and Adam Kleinman of Fort Lee.

Kaiser, and Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt.

The actual makeup of the weight classes will not be determined until this morning's weigh-ins:

**103:** St. Joseph's Vinny Santaite and Garfield's Aaron Khan (fourth last year) are prominent veterans, but Bergenfield's Dan Glover defeated Khan last weekend, and a number of freshman upstarts could force their way in here.

**112:** The surest bet in any weight class is Nunziato. Westwood's Kyle Burdette is among those likely to place.

**119:** St. Mary's Mike Marotta is a favorite with Pascack Hills' Dan Uffleman (fifth last year) in a packed field. Saddle Brook's Gene Palko (sixth) defeated Fair Lawn's Luke Hintzen (fourth) last week. Other contenders include New Milford's Ray Cottiers (sixth), Becton's Rob Kein, Lodi's Sal Tirico, North Bergen's Steve Rodriguez, Westwood's Anthony DiPaola, and Paramus' Nick Buldo.

**171:** Ridgewood's Flatt gets the nod with Northern Highlands' Anthony Trancucci.

**189:** Rinaldi, River Dell's Rich Vitale (second), and Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick Calandrino (third) are solid.

**215:** Garfield's Diego Crespo (second), and two third-place finishers, Emerson/Park Ridge's Tom Hill and Northern Highlands' Ian Michaud, lead the field, with Waldwick/Midland Park's Brian DeCarlo (fifth), Tenafly's Alex Van Poznak (sixth), and BC's Nick Benvenuto (sixth).

**Hwt.:** Westwood's Ramel Meekins (fifth) went on to place in the State. Candidates include North Bergen's Jose Cartagena (third), St. Joseph's Dan Glyck (fourth), Waldwick/MP's Joe Jannelli, Hackensack's Eric Sewell, and River Dell's Joe Hamm.

## Bergen County Coaches Wrestling Tournament

At Paramus High School

### Today

Preliminaries, 10 a.m.

Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

### Saturday

Semifinals and fifth-place consolations, 11 a.m.

Third-place consolations, 5 p.m.

Championships, 7 p.m.

**125:** St. Mary's State quarterfinalist Jim Grant is up from 103 pounds. Challenging are Fair Lawn's Joe Schick (third last year), a transfer from Glen Rock; Rutherford's Cory Dunn (fifth), Northern Highlands' Chris Steuben, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge's Dallas Fill, and Pascack Hills' Adam Strobel.

Friday 12/27/2002

# Sophomore surprises set early tone

## Bogota's Keenen, Hackensack's Brock upset No. 2 seeds

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

PARAMUS – The trend began early in the day Friday when a pair of sophomores, Bogota's Ricky Keenen and Hackensack's James Brock, knocked off No. 2

### WRESTLING BERGEN TOURNEY

seeds in the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Pascack Hills 125-pounder Adam Strobel recorded the biggest victory of the day by pinning State quarterfinalist Jim Grant of St. Mary's. By the end of the night, Lyndhurst senior

145-pounder Joe Scaglione was heard to say while explaining his win over Al Morali of Paramus, "I was seventh seeded and up against a second seed, but then I had seen other No. 2s lose, so I felt more confident."

And that's how it went, beginning in the preliminaries, where the 160-pound Keenen and 171-pound Brock dispatched a pair of No. 2s, Adam Kleinman and Craig Maider – both of Fort Lee.

"My goal today was what my coach said: make the first round the most important part," said Keenen, who sustained his excellence by winning his second-round bout with Elmwood Park's Pat Mulligan, 7-5. "That second kid was

strong and he beat a kid who beat me last year. I just made sure I kept it close to the last period and I knew I wouldn't gas."

Brock wasn't available after winning his second bout of the night, but Hackensack assistant coach Ralph Dass said: "James devoted the year to wrestling and he went to a couple of wrestling schools. He's a basic wrestler who just outscores you, 1-0 and 3-1, like today."

Strobel wrestled at 112 and 119 pounds last year while Grant was a 103-pounder. Strobel felt honored to face Grant at 125 pounds, or anywhere, for that matter. "I've been waiting a year to wrestle him," he said. "I knew he was an awesome wrestler and I just wanted to face him some time."

The Pascack Hills sophomore was under Grant when he made his move, which he calls a kamikaze. "I was on all fours and he put legs in and I headlocked him."

Emerson/Park Ridge junior Nick Brandreth pinned the No. 2 seed at 140 pounds, Juan Capote of Ridgefield Park/Ridgefield, in 1:56 with a cross-leg cradle off a frontal headlock.

"I've got to go after people and redeem myself from last year," the determined Brandreth explained. "I was third in the district last year, but I won it as a freshman. I've got to place in this tournament to start redeeming myself."

Scaglione, the last of the long line of outstanding wrestlers taught the ropes on

the recreation level by Don Pritzlaff Sr., showed how it's always been done in his town. "You can beat on us all you want, but we'll keep coming at you. I could have worked more points off the front headlock today, but I played conservative."

Not unexpected was Bergen Catholic's overall dominance over the proceedings. The Crusaders, seeking their fourth straight team championship, were 27 points ahead of surprising St. Joseph, with Emerson/Park Ridge, Northern Highlands, and Westwood rounding out the top five. Semifinals and fifth-place consolations are at 11 a.m. today at Paramus High School with the matches for third place at 5 p.m. and finals at 7.

# Making a name for himself

Sat 12-28-2002

## Burns a Bergen titlist who can't be underestimated

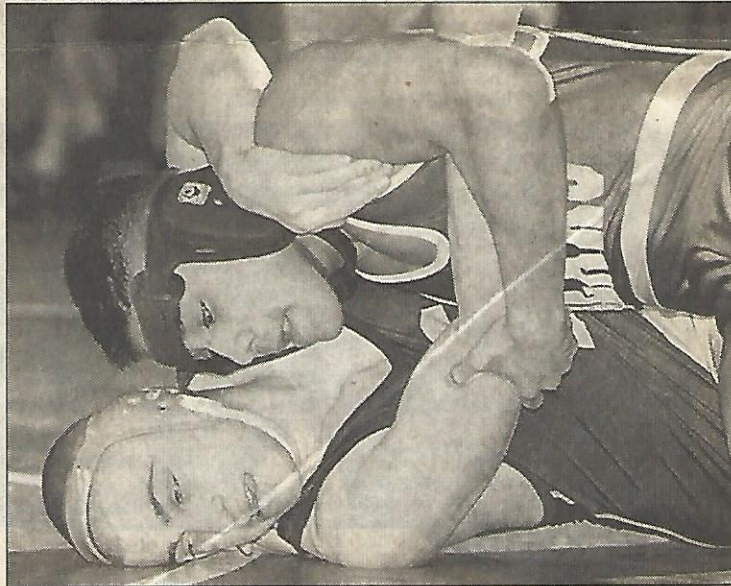
By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

The biggest smile among Bergen County champions belonged to Bergenfield's Dave Burns. The 140-pound senior navigated his way from 14th seed to a championship last week and cherished every minute of the journey.

"Last year I started the season at 125 pounds and got hurt," he said. "When I got back, the only spot open [in the lineup] was 152. And to wrestle at 152, you have to weigh at least 140 pounds. So I drank a lot of water."

Greatly outweighed by virtually everyone in his district, Burns still finished fourth. A yeoman effort, yes, but not enough credentials to gain a high seed in the Bergen County Coaches Holiday tournament. Burns shrugged off the long odds and battled back with three pins before winning the title with an 18-6 decision over top-seeded Teddy Montes of Northern Highlands, a district champion, with a bearhug trip and a head throw.

**A BEAR FIRST:** Hawthorne has sent a number of outstanding wrestlers to the Hawk Classic in Ocean County the last five years, but didn't have a champion until Victor Patrocino took the mat last week. In double overtime of the final, the Bears' senior scored a 6-5 win over Israel Pagan of New Egypt, a returning district silver medalist. A week earlier, Patrocino won the 140-pound Mahwah tournament championship, 10-5, over Roberto Celis of Northern Highlands, a returning district



MEL EVANS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hawthorne's Victor Patrocino, top, captured the 140-pound title at the Hawk Classic in Ocean County, winning the final in double overtime.

champ who finished second in the Bergen County tournament.

"Victor's always had outstanding athletic ability and he was a good wrestler last year [18-9, third in his district]," coach Bob Pasquale said. "Last year he gave Ryan Palko of Saddle Brook his only loss before the regions. And he spent a lot of time during the summer working on his wrestling skills. He has a tremendous series of takedowns and he's 6-0 right now."

**BREEZING:** Corey Dunn of Rutherford was in total command in winning the Bergen title at 125, blanking Fair Lawn's Joe Schick, 10-0, with half-nelson back points. He also had two pins and a major decision. ... Westwood's

nimble heavyweight champ Ramel Meekins had three pins and a 5-2 title decision that featured two spin takedowns. ... Westwood 135-pounder Joe Butcher, a repeat champion, used his power half-nelson to pin all five opponents, never being extended past the second period. ... River Dell's Matt Szucs finished fifth at 112 pounds, but raised eyebrows with five pins, including three in less than a minute.

**TOP COMEBACK:** The 130-pound final ended abruptly as St. Joseph's Rory O'Donnell took down and pinned Bergen Catholic's Derek Sickles off a combination headlock and hip roll. Sickles, who earlier had defeated defending champion Evan

Gallucio of Glen Rock, had a 2-0 lead in the final. But O'Donnell reversed him at the start of the third period, let him up, and then took him down.

**ROOKIES:** River Dell freshman Daryl Cocozzo, who was second to Bergenfield's Dan Glover at 103 pounds, comes from a family of South Bergen wrestlers. His uncle wrestled on East Rutherford High School's last team (1971) for Rich Vartan, presently a member of the Holiday tournament's board of directors. ... Dave Greenwald, who took second at 112 pounds for St. Mary's, was a star on the recreational level in Union. He had three technical falls and a pin before meeting State silver medalist Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic and becoming the victim of a technical fall.

**UNAVAILABLE:** Saddle Brook was without standout middleweight Mark Bradley for the Bergen County event due to a hip injury. But he could be back sometime next week.

**PATRIOTS LOOKING UP:** Good signs at Wayne Hills in the early weeks - a 42-31 win over a more established Kearny program and an eighth-place finish in the 16-team Kearny Holiday Tournament. Scott SanFillipo won a tournament championship and Joe Sciacca and Mike Otterbine finished second.

**ONE TEAM GONE:** Paterson Catholic has dropped its program, at least for one year, due to a small turnout. The Cougars would have wrestled at Elmwood Park on Saturday.

Saturday 12/28/2002

# WRESTLING REPORT



CHRIS PEDOTA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bergenfield's Dave Burns, left, went from the 14th seed to the 140-pound title in the Bergen County Coaches Holiday tournament.

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# Sports

## Flatt is county wrestling champ again

### Bergen Catholic takes home fourth straight team title at Paramus

By Jim McConville  
Correspondent

PARAMUS — Winning the first championship is an accomplishment. Defending that championship is in many cases a more difficult task, but to Tyler Flatt of Ridgewood, it was not about title defenses or any other outside distractions.

The senior 171-pounder became the first two-time county champion in Ridgewood history Saturday night in the 43rd annual Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament, a fact that he was unaware of until one of his coaches told him after the match.

"I went out there with the same attitude, just take it one match at a time," Flatt said of his run to the championship. "Just keep going and get to the finals."

Once there, he remained level-headed, adding, "One of my coaches, Damian Ross, told me to just take what he gives you, so I went out there and tried to work my moves."

Now, Flatt will set his sights on a dual-meet year with a specific goal of getting into peak form for his final run at the state tournament. The idea of continuing his season well into March is one that he definitely wants to expand on.

"The Regions is my number one goal," he said. "I really want to get back to that Region final like I was last year, and this time I'd like to win it. I had a bad match there last year, and I want to make up for that. After that, it's one match at a time in the states."

Ian Michaud of Northern Highlands and Matt McConville of Bergen Catholic took home the top individual silverware, with Michaud being named the Most Outstanding Wrestler while McConville won the Most Pins in the Fastest Time trophy.

Both overcame difficulties in winning their titles and trophies, though it was certainly two different situations. Michaud's came on the mat in his final two matches, while McConville's came after three years of adversity.

Highlander senior Michaud, who lost in the semis at 189 last year, went to 215 pounds this time and knocked off 2001 finalist Diego Crespo of Garfield in the semifinals and Region champion Tom Hill of Emerson/Park Ridge in the finals.

"Those were two of the toughest matches," Northern Highlands head coach Dave Heitman said. "He caught them back-to-back. Both those guys are proven winners, and he was able to win them (the semi was a 3-2 decision and the final a 5-3 decision, with both being decided in the third period)."

For McConville, there was a car accident two years ago and an elbow injury last year in the semifinals that forced him to default. This year, armed with the top seed, he pinned all five opponents in a combined time of 7:54.

"I had some tough draws in past years, and hurting the elbow last year was a big disappointment," the Crusader senior said. "But this year I knew I had a good shot, and I just went out and did what I had to do."

Bergen Catholic won the overall team title for the fourth straight season and the 10th time in the last 13 years by a wide margin over Fair Lawn, which took the Group 4 title. It was Fair Lawn's first Group 4 crown since 1989.

This year, the BCCA split out the Parochial schools, so Bergen Catholic won

the Parochial title as well

Northern Highlands defended its Group 3 title, while Westwood had to wait until Ramel Meekins' win in the 275-pound weight class to claim the Group 2 title over Lodi, its first since winning in 1992. Emerson/Park Ridge won the Group 1 championship for the third straight season.

Here is a rundown of the championship matches by weight class:

**103** — Bergenfield's Dan Glover, the third seed, used an escape and a takedown midway through the third period to defeat unseeded Daryl Cocozzo of River Dell by a 7-5 decision. Cocozzo drew first blood with a takedown, but Glover, a regional fourth last year who lost in the first round of the county tournament in 2001, got even on a second period escape.

He then took the lead with a takedown 16 seconds before the end of the period. Cocozzo reversed him 20 seconds into the third, but Glover escaped at 1:16 and got the eventual winning takedown with 52 seconds to go.

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**112** — Top seed Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic won his third county title (the 16th person in tournament history to do so, with the previous two coming at 103 pounds) with a 17-2 technical fall over Dave Greenwald of St. Mary's in 3:14. Nunziato scored three near falls in the first period on the way to a 10-2 lead, and he reversed and picked up two more near falls to easily defeat the seventh-seeded Greenwald.

The junior, who had three technical falls, a pin and a forfeit in his five matches, is now poised to try next year to become the fourth wrestler to win four county titles, joining Jason Hernandez of Bergen Catholic (1990-93), Eric Norgaard of St. Joseph (1996-99) and Chris Bitetto of Hackensack (1997-2000)

But Nunziato said, "I still have a long way to go to catch them. They each have a state championship, and that's something I still need to do."

**119** — Mike Marotta became the first St. Mary's wrestler to win a county title, with a 12-5 decision over second-seeded Luke Hintzen of Fair Lawn. It was the second championship for Marotta, who won in 2000 at 112 pounds for Wood Ridge (he transferred last year and was ineligible for the tourney due to the 30-day rule).

This time, Marotta was able to continually take down Hintzen and allow him to escape for another chance. He opened a 6-3 lead after one period, was up 8-3 after two and reversed and scored a takedown in the third.

**125** — Rutherford's Corey Dunn earned the first county title for a Bulldog since Harry Marquez in 1997, with a methodical 10-0 decision over third-seeded Joe Schick of Fair Lawn. A quick takedown got Dunn, who lost to eventual champion Joe Butcher in the 119-pound quarterfinals a year ago, ahead, and he added three near-fall points to close out the first period with a 5-0 lead. It was 8-0 after the second, and Dunn scored his last takedown with 50 seconds to go in the match.

**130** — Rory O'Donnell of St. Joseph, a runner-up at 119 pounds to Butcher last season, grabbed his first county title with the first pin of the finals, defeating second-seeded Derek Sickles of Bergen Catholic. The match was tight into the third period, and O'Donnell was on the short end of a 3-2 score after Sickles escaped with 1:45 to go.

From the neutral position, O'Donnell, who pinned his first four opponents, scored a takedown off a quick move, bringing Sickles to his back, and he locked him into a pin three seconds later. The time of the pin was 4:49.

**135** — Westwood's Butcher became the fifth consecutive number one seed to win, as he took his second county title with a pin at 1:29 over second-seeded Roberto Celis of Northern Highlands. Butcher pinned all five of his opponents in the tourney (in a combined time of 12:16), with the last one coming after he scored the first points of the match on a takedown 1:09 in. He was able to roll Celis to his back by controlling his arm and scored the pin.

**140** — The string of top-seed champions came to an end in surprising fashion, as Bergenfield's Dave Burns pulled the upset of the tournament. Seeded 14th, he racked up four pins on the way to the final, where he knocked off top-seeded Teddy Montes of Northern Highlands with an 18-6 decision.

"The big match for me was beating (Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick) Brandreth in the semis," said Burns, who lost in the 130-pound quarterfinals last year before suffering dehydration in a match later in the season. "Once I got past that one, I was very confident for the finals."

Burns took Montes down seven times in the match, allowing him to escape six times, and, after a 2-0 first period, he was in complete control, opening up an 11-4 lead after two periods.

**145** — Nick Matteo, who was ineligible for the tournament last year as he sat out the 30 days after transferring from Ramsey, put another crown in the hands of a top seed, pinning third-seeded Rich Baldan of Don Bosco in 4:53.

Matteo, who had three pins and a technical fall in his four matches leading to the final, was in complete control of the match at the time, having built up a 9-0 lead. He had a takedown for a 2-0 first period lead, and a near fall late in the second contributed to a 7-0 edge after two periods. Matteo scored a takedown with 1:31 left, got a leg lock around Baldan's head and was able to turn him on his back and score the fall.

**152** — Lodi's Rob Kaiser defended his title won in the same weight class last year, as he scored an 11-1 decision over surprise finalist Robbie Bremmer of Pascack Hills. Kaiser had a 2-0 lead after one period thanks to a takedown, and he pushed the margin to 7-0 after two periods, including a near fall. He scored two more back points with 36 seconds left in the match and finished it with a takedown in the final seconds.

**160** — McConville's pin came at the 1:43 mark, as he knocked off third-seeded Dan Wolthoff of Dumont. Coincidentally, McConville is from Dumont, and the two wrestlers go way back.

"I think it was a power half," said McConville of the pinning move. "Actually, he's a good friend of mine, and we wrestled together ever since we were little. We were talking before the match, and we were like, it's going to be weird, but we both have to do what we have to do."

The Crusader scored a takedown 14 seconds in, then turned Wolthoff on his back halfway through the first period. It took about 40 seconds for him to finally get the fall.

**171** — Tyler Flatt became a two-time county champion (he won at 160 pounds last year) with a pin of sixth-seeded Peter Daniele of Dumont at 4:49.

"I had a single leg on him," Flatt said of the fall, "and he was cranking on my head. I spun toward his head and pinned him in a headlock."

Flatt pinned in his first three matches and had a 13-0 decision in the semis before opening up a 9-0 lead in the finals. He had a near fall in the final seconds of the second period that opened up a 7-0 lead.

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**189** — In what was likely the most anticipated match-up, top-seeded Jerry Rinaldi of Lodi became the 17th wrestler to gain three county titles, as he defended the title he won in this weight last year (he took the 160-pound class in 2000) with a 7-1 win over second-seeded Nick Calandrino of Emerson/Park Ridge.

Rinaldi, a state third-place finisher last year, scored the first points with a reversal in the second period, and he was able to ride Calandrino out until 28 seconds were left in the match, when he escaped to make it 2-1. Rinaldi immediately got a takedown and scored three near-fall points at the buzzer.

**215** — Michaud's win over Hill, the top seed, was a hard-fought one, as the two wrestled through a scoreless first period before Michaud earned an escape with 1:35 left in the middle period. He notched a takedown with 46 ticks on the clock before Hill escaped with 13 seconds left to make it 3-1 entering the final period.

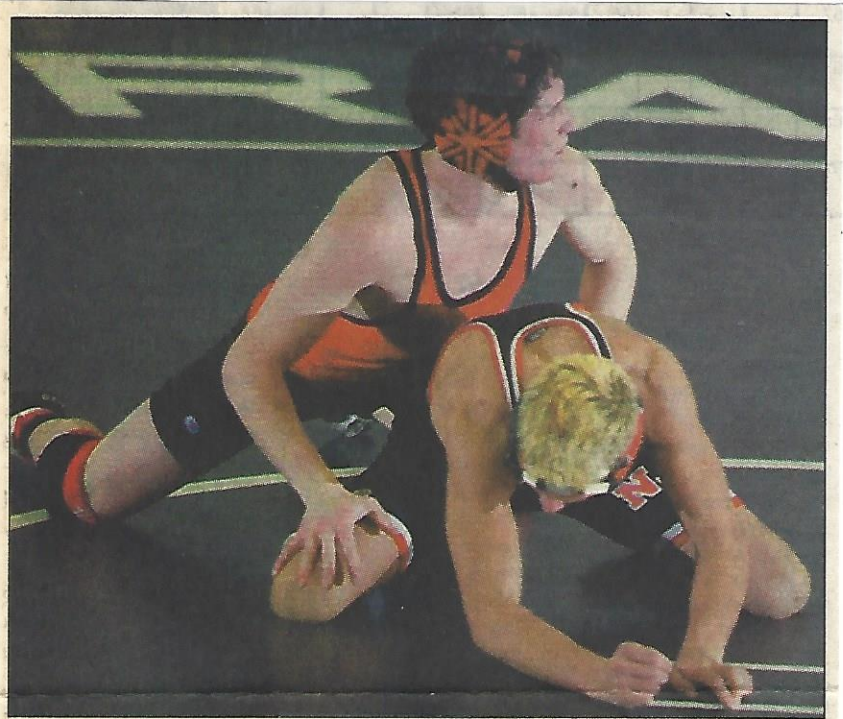
Hill escaped from the defensive position to start the third, but he could not get the go-ahead takedown. With 30 seconds left in the match,

Michaud scored a deciding takedown, and he allowed Hill an escape with five seconds left to make the final score 5-3.

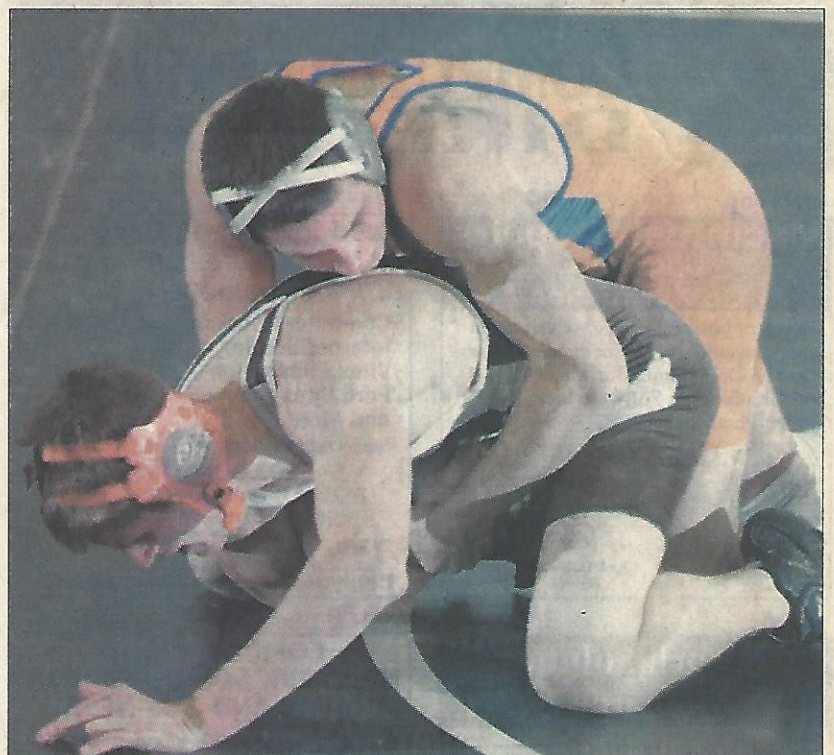
**275** — Westwood's Ramel Meekins secured the Cardinals' Group 2 title and picked up the county title with a 5-2 verdict over second-seeded Jose Cartagena of North Bergen.

The top seed, who fell in the quarterfinals last year before finishing sixth in the state, opened up a 5-0 lead in the second period with two takedowns and an escape before allowing a late second period escape and another with eight seconds left in the match.

"I wasn't thinking about the team title," said the senior, who pinned in his first three matches. "My goal was to come out and do the best I could, and I knew that if I did, I would win the title."



Dave Burns of Bergenfield grapples with Northern Highlands' Teddy Montes on his way to a 18-6 decision in the 140-pound weight class.



In the 152-pound class, Robbie Bremmer of Pascack Hills (bottom) is engaged by Lodi's Rob Kaiser.

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## County wrestling tournament

### TEAM SCORES

1. Bergen Catholic, 192.5; 2. Fair Lawn, 123.5; 3. Emerson/Park Ridge, 114.0; 4. St. Joseph, 111.0; 5. Northern Highlands, 108.0; 6. Westwood, 102.0; 7. Lodi, 97.0; 8. St. Mary's, 94.5; 9. Bergenfield, 86.0; 10. River Dell, 78.0.

### FINALS

103 — Dan Glover (Bergenfield) decisioned Daryl Cocozzo (River Dell), 7-5.

112 — Bryan Nunziato (Bergen Catholic) technical fall over Dave Greenwald (St. Mary's), 17-2.

119 — Mike Marotta (St. Mary's) decisioned Luke Hintzen (Fair Lawn), 12-5.

125 — Corey Dunn (Rutherford) major decision over Joe Schick (Fair Lawn), 10-0.

130 — Rory O'Donnell (St. Joseph) pinned Derek Sickles (Bergen Catholic), 4:49.

135 — Joe Butcher (Westwood) pinned Roberto Celis (Northern Highlands), 1:29.

140 — Dave Burns (Bergenfield) major decision over Teddy Montes (Northern Highlands), 18-6.

145 — Nick Matteo (Bergen Catholic) pinned Rich Baldan (Don Bosco), 3:53.

152 — Rob Kaiser (Lodi) major decision over Robbie Bremmer (Pascack Hills), 11-1.

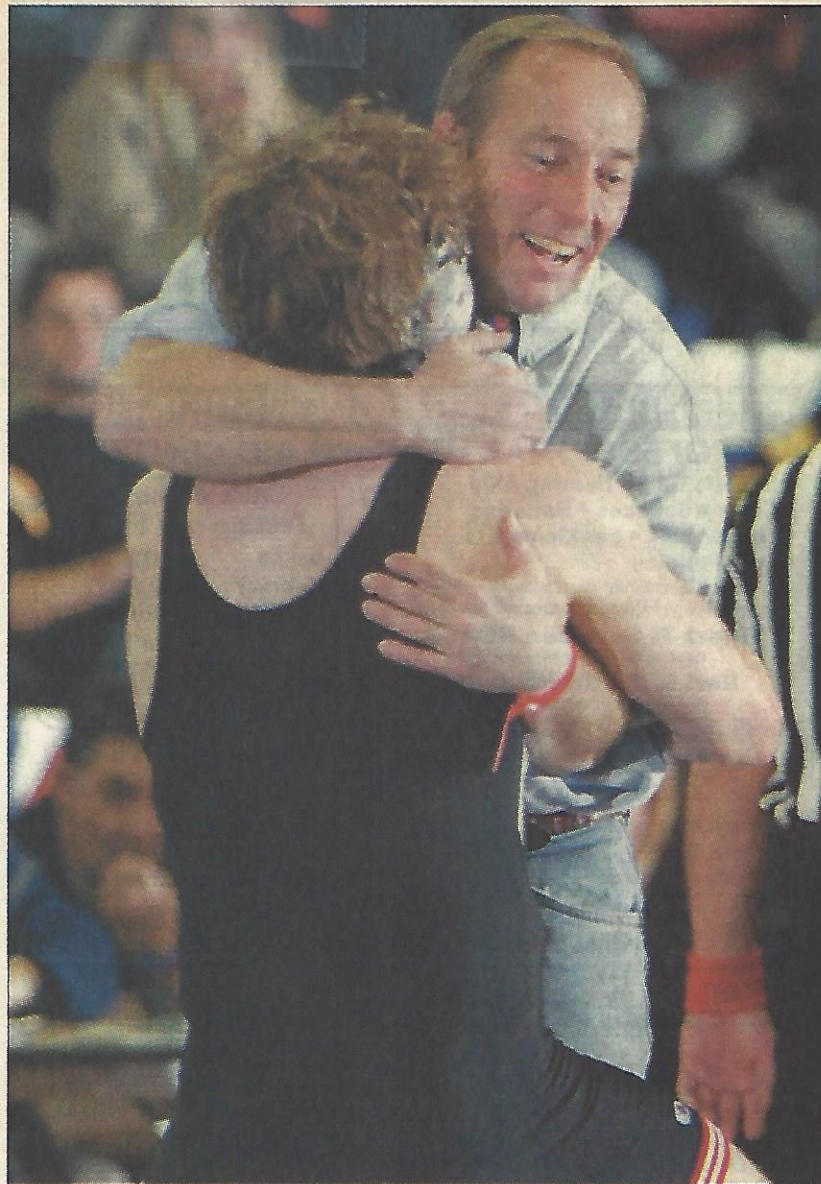
160 — Matt McConville (Bergen Catholic) pinned Dan Wolthoff (Dumont), 1:52.

171 — Tyler Flatt (Ridgewood) pinned Peter Daniele (Dumont), 4:49.

189 — Jerry Rinaldi (Lodi) decisioned Nick Calandrino (Emerson/Park Ridge), 7-1.

215 — Ian Michaud (Northern Highlands) decisioned Tom Hill (Emerson/Park Ridge), 5-3.

275 — Ramel Meekins (Westwood) decisioned Jose Cartagena (North Bergen), 5-2.



Dave Heitman, Northern Highlands' head wrestling coach, gives a victory hug to his 215-pounder, senior Ian Michaud, who was voted by the county's head coaches as the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the county tournament. Michaud carved out a difficult 5-3 win over an equally tough senior from Emerson/Park Ridge, Tom Hill, to win his first county championship. In the tournament, Michaud recorded victories over three returning county medalists, also Garfield's Diego Crespo by a 3-2 decision in the semifinals and Bergen Catholic's Nick Benvenuto by an 8-3 margin in the quarterfinals.

## Three wrestlers three-peat in counties

PARAMUS — For the first time in the 43-year history of the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Wrestling Tournament, three wrestlers each claimed a third title in the same year — Bergen Catholic's Bryan Nunziato at 112 pounds, Mike Marotta of St. Mary's, Rutherford, at 119 and Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi at 189.

That makes it 18 wrestlers who have won three Bergen County championships.

Five wrestlers repeated as champions from last year, the others being Westwood's Joe Butcher at 135 pounds, Lodi's Rob Kaiser at 152 and Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt at 171. Marotta did not compete in the tournament last season.



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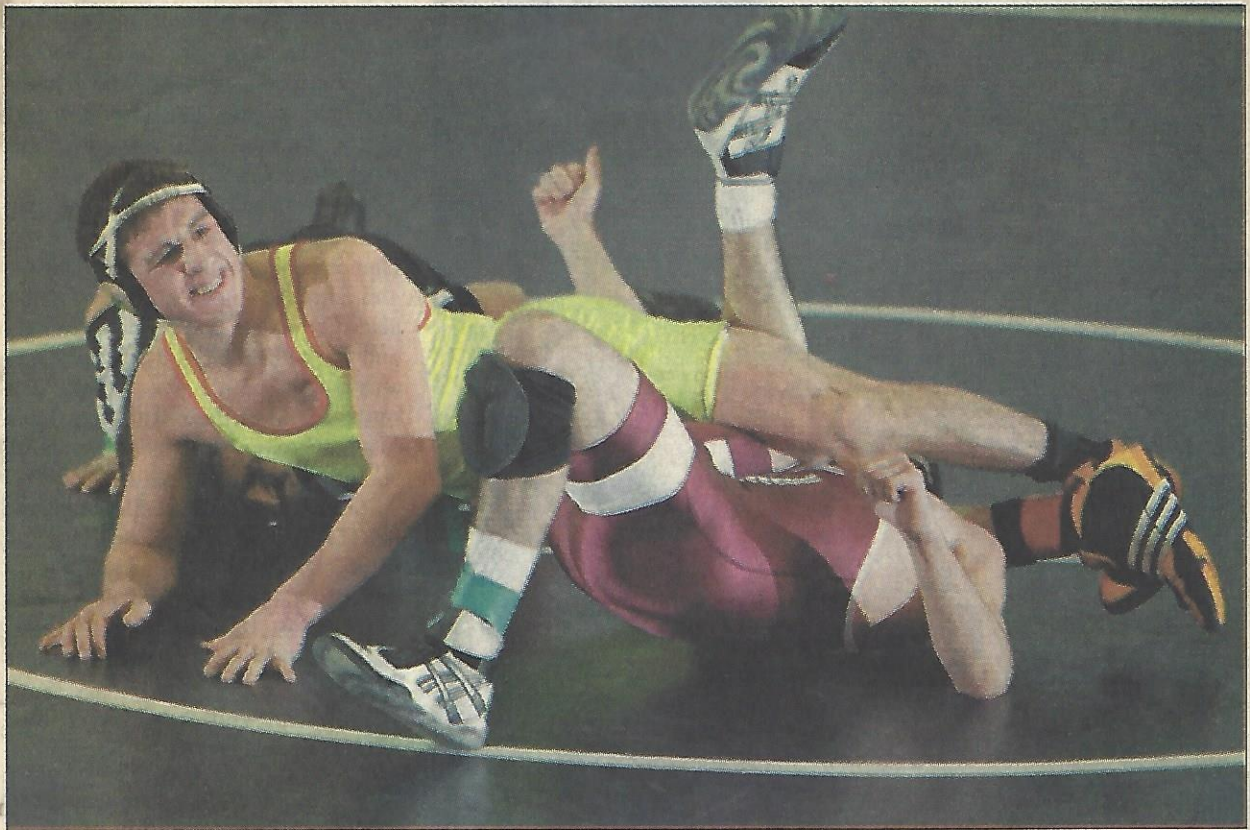


Lodi senior Jerry Rinaldi flips Emerson/Park Ridge senior Nick Calandrino over his left shoulder in their championship bout at 189 pounds. Rinaldi earned his third county title — and second consecutive at 189 — with a 7-1 victory.



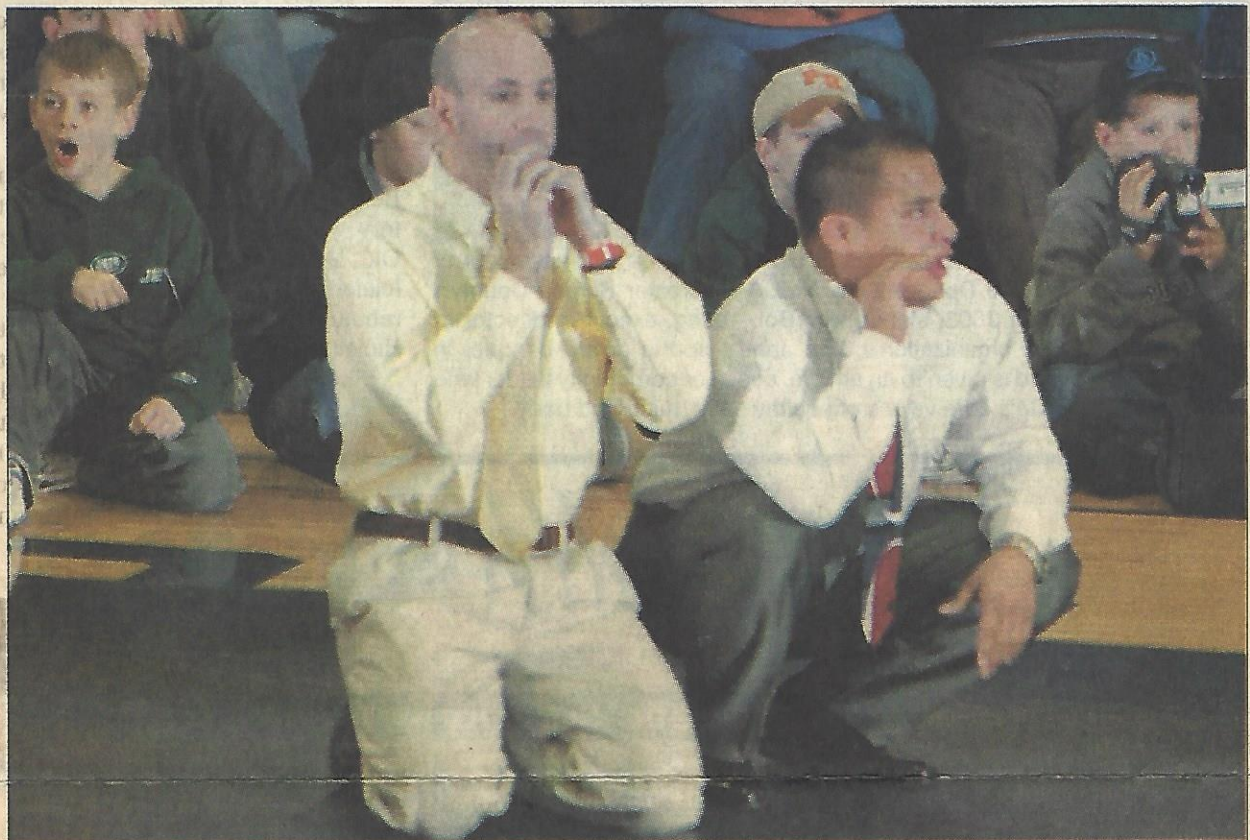
St. Mary's of Rutherford's Dave Greenwald grimaces in pain from the locking grip of Bergen Catholic junior Bryan Nunziato of Carlstad in their duel at 112 pounds. Nunziato took home his third consecutive county crown via his 17-2 technical fall. The referee is Bill Paladino.

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PHOTOS/JOHN CAPPUCILLI

Bergen Catholic senior Nick Matteo of Ramsey brings Don Bosco senior Rich Baldan down to the mat with his legs and proceeds to pin him with his legs in a not-too-often-seen display of leg strength in the final at 145 pounds. Time of the fall: 3:53.



Dave Bell (left), Bergen Catholic's head wrestling coach, and his assistant, Pete Gonzalez, keep their eye on the first of their four combatants in the finals, 112-pound junior Bryan Nunziato, who stormed to his third straight county championship by recording a 17-2 technical fall over St. Mary's Dave Greenwald.

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# Highlands' Michaud is king of Hill

Senior named Most Outstanding Wrestler after  
hard-fought victory at 215 pounds

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

PARAMUS – Ian Michaud's championship bout was the next-to-last of the evening, so he still was experiencing the joy and relief of his victory to realize the significance of an announcement.

The Northern Highlands senior was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the 43rd Bergen County Coaches Holiday Wrestling Tournament.

"I'm surprised," the 215-pound champion said, beaming.

His 5-3 decision over State place winner Tom Hill of Emerson/Park Ridge made it wins over three returning County medalists, including Garfield's Diego

Crespo and Bergen Catholic's Nick Benvenuto.

In the final, he worked hard for a double-leg takedown and 3-0 lead in the second quarter as Hill attempted to hold him off with a powerful grip.

"Tom Hill is such a great competitor," said Michaud, who was third last year. "All I could do was pray."

Also, for the first time in tournament history, three wrestlers each won a third championship the same year – Bergen Catholic's Bryan Nunziato at 112 pounds, Mike Marotta of St. Mary's at 119, and Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi at 189. They made it 18 wrestlers who have won three.

And it was a final round in which five wrestlers repeated from last year, the others being Westwood's Joe Butcher at 135

## BERGEN COACHES WRESTLING TOURNEY

pounds, Lodi's Rob Kaiser at 152, and Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt at 171 pounds. Marotta did not compete in the tournament last year, having to sit out the first 30 days of the season after transferring from Wood-Ridge.

"I think about it every day," said Marotta. "Sure, I could have been a four-time winner, but I transferred for the better and I'm just glad I won the last one, the one that matters."

Marotta emerged from one of the deepest weight classes to dominate his final bout, 12-5, over Fair Lawn's Luke

Hintzen, a win punctuated by five takedowns, beginning with a pair of first-period shrugs.

Nunziato said he needed nothing to inspire him other than his loss in last year's 103-pound State championship. "I use every match to prepare myself for what's to come in March," he said after scoring a 17-2 technical fall over St. Mary's freshman Dave Greenwald.

Bergen Catholic was the runaway team champion with three winners: Nunziato, Nick Matteo (145), and Matt McConville (160), who also won the tournament's pin award.

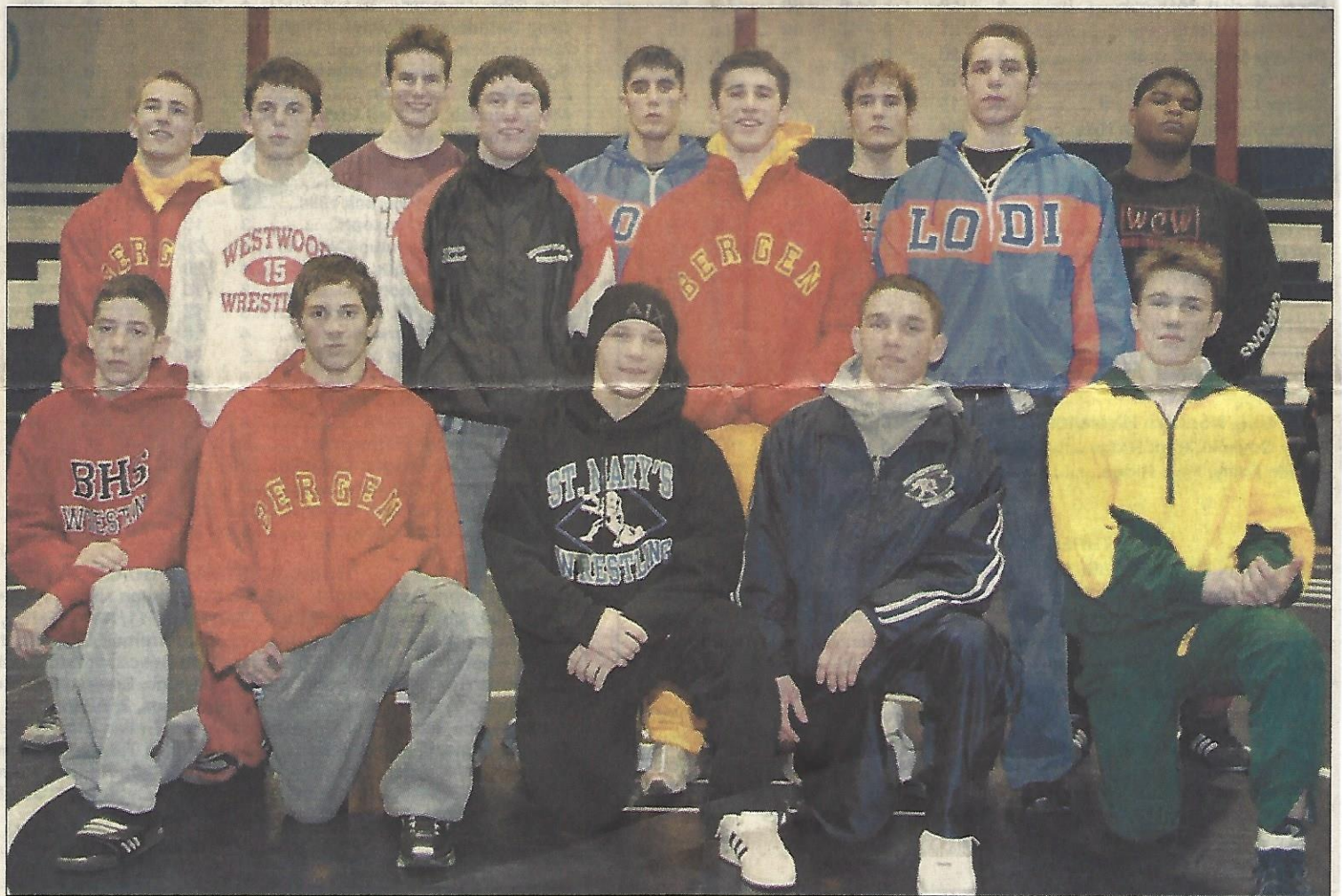
The Crusaders passed Pascack Valley for fourth place all time with 32 champions, but Bergenfield retained third place with two winners to give the Bears 33.

Dan Glover won at 103 pounds and Dave Burns, who fought his way up from 14th seed to decision top-seeded Teddy Montes of Northern Highlands, 18-6, at 140 pounds.

Rinaldi, who gave up his only tournament point in three years during the morning semifinals, defeated Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick Calandrino for the second time in eight days, 7-1.

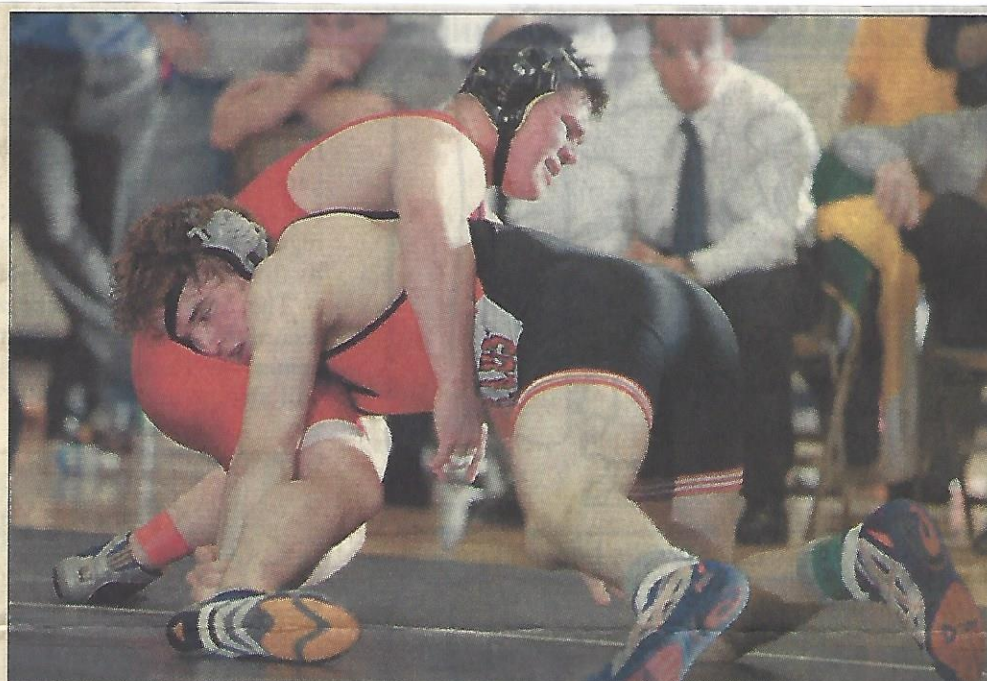
"I wasn't satisfied with the way I wrestled," the State bronze medalist said. "He has one big move and I wrestled him too cautiously."

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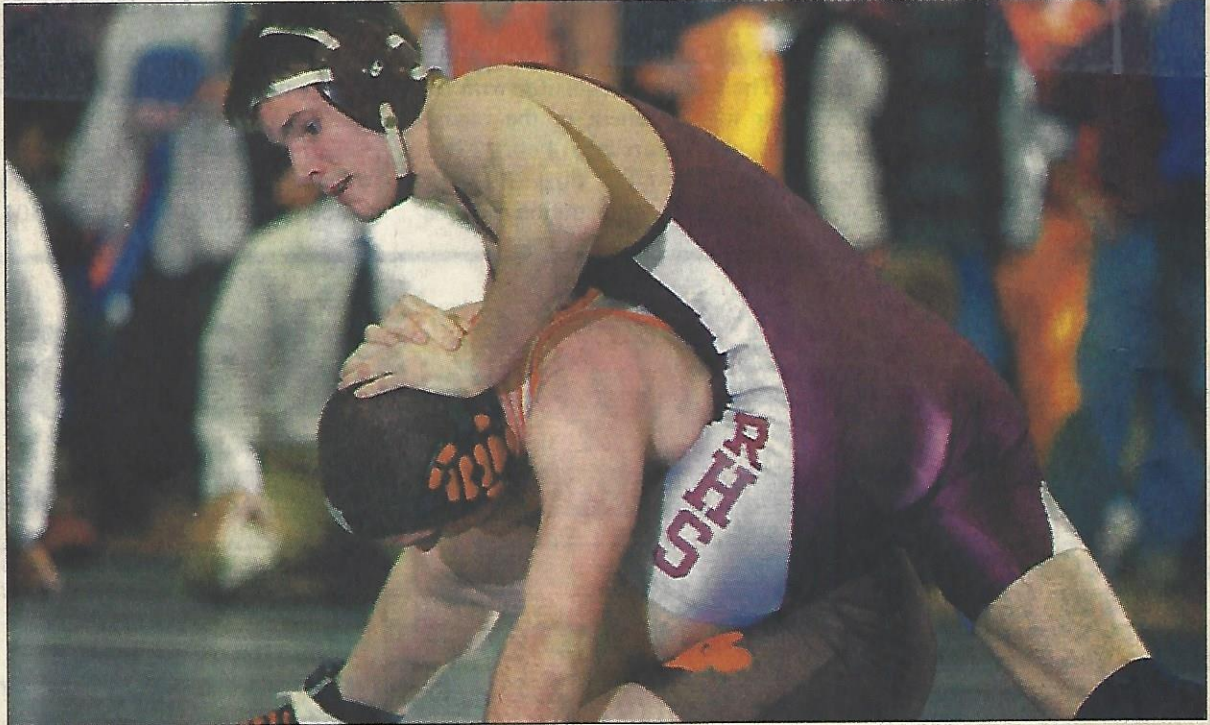
PHOTOS/JOHN CAPPUGILLI

Pictured are the winners of the championship matches of the Bergen County Holiday Wrestling Tournament. FRONT ROW (from left): Bergenfield's Dan Glover (103 pounds), Bergen Catholic's Brian Nunziato (112), St. Mary's Mike Marotta (119), Rutherford's Corey Dunn (125) and St. Joseph's Rory O'Donnell (130). BACK ROW (from left): Bergen Catholic's Matt McConville (160), Westwood's Joe Butcher (135), Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt (171), Bergenfield's Dave Burns (140), Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi (189), Bergen Catholic's Nick Matteo (145), Northern Highlands' Ian Michaud (215), Lodi's Rob Kaiser (152) and Westwood's Ramel Meekins (275).



A horizontal Ian Michaud of Northern Highlands grabs a hold of Emerson/Park Ridge's Tom Hill in the final of the 215-pound division, won on 5-3 decision by Michaud.

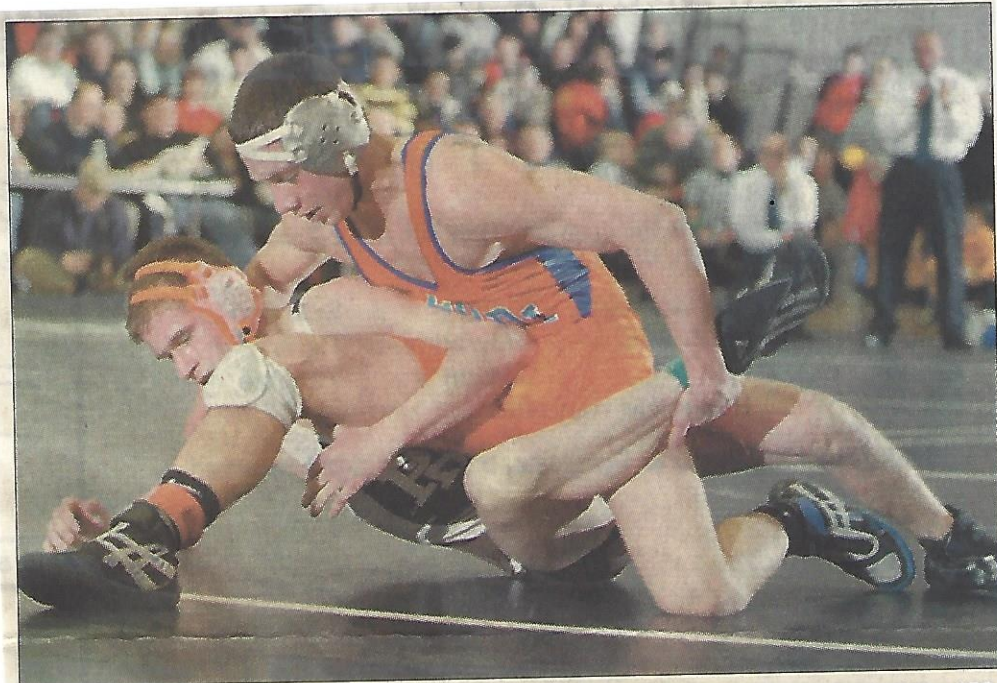
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## Maroon holiday mat kingpin

PHOTO/JOHN CAPPUCCILLI

Tyler Flatt (top) of Ridgewood is en route to a 4:49 pin victory over Peter Daniele of Dumont in the championship bout of the 171-pound match of the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Paramus High School. See Page C-1.

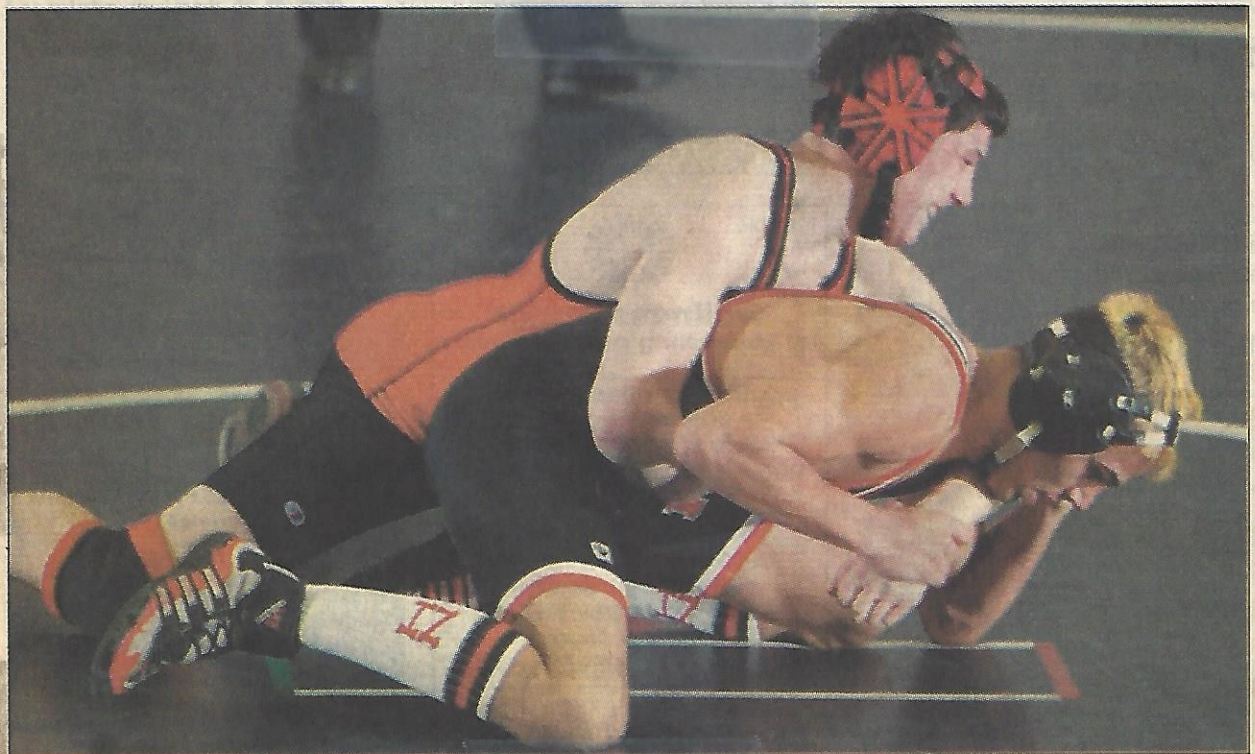


Rob Kaiser of Lodi puts pressure on Pascack Hills' Robbie Bremmer in the final of the 152-pound weight class. Kaiser scored an 11-1 decision.

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Dan Glover of Bergenfield goes for the head of River Dell's Daryl Cocozzo in the final of the 103-pound class. Glover took a 7-5 decision.

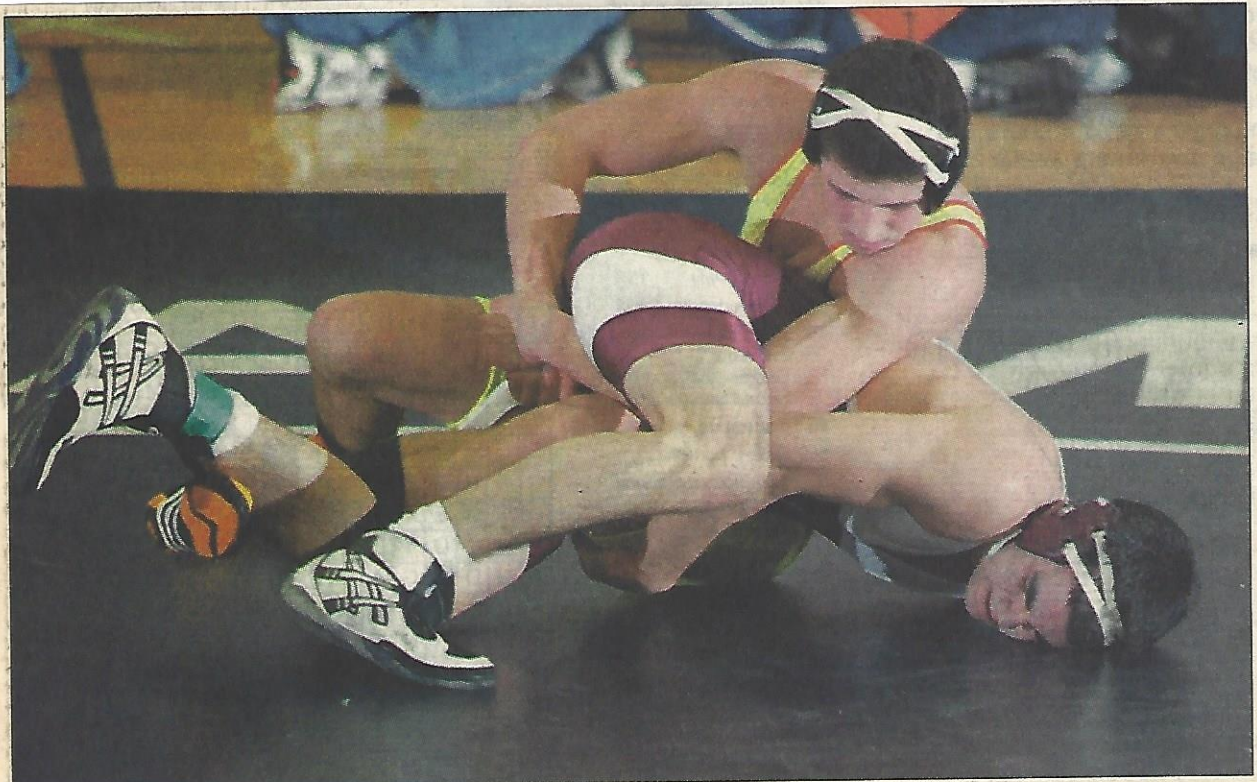


Bergenfield's Dave Burns (top) exerts his control over Northern Highlands senior Teddy Montes in their final at 140 pounds. Burns, the 14th seed, recorded an 18-6 major decision to upset the top-seeded Montes.

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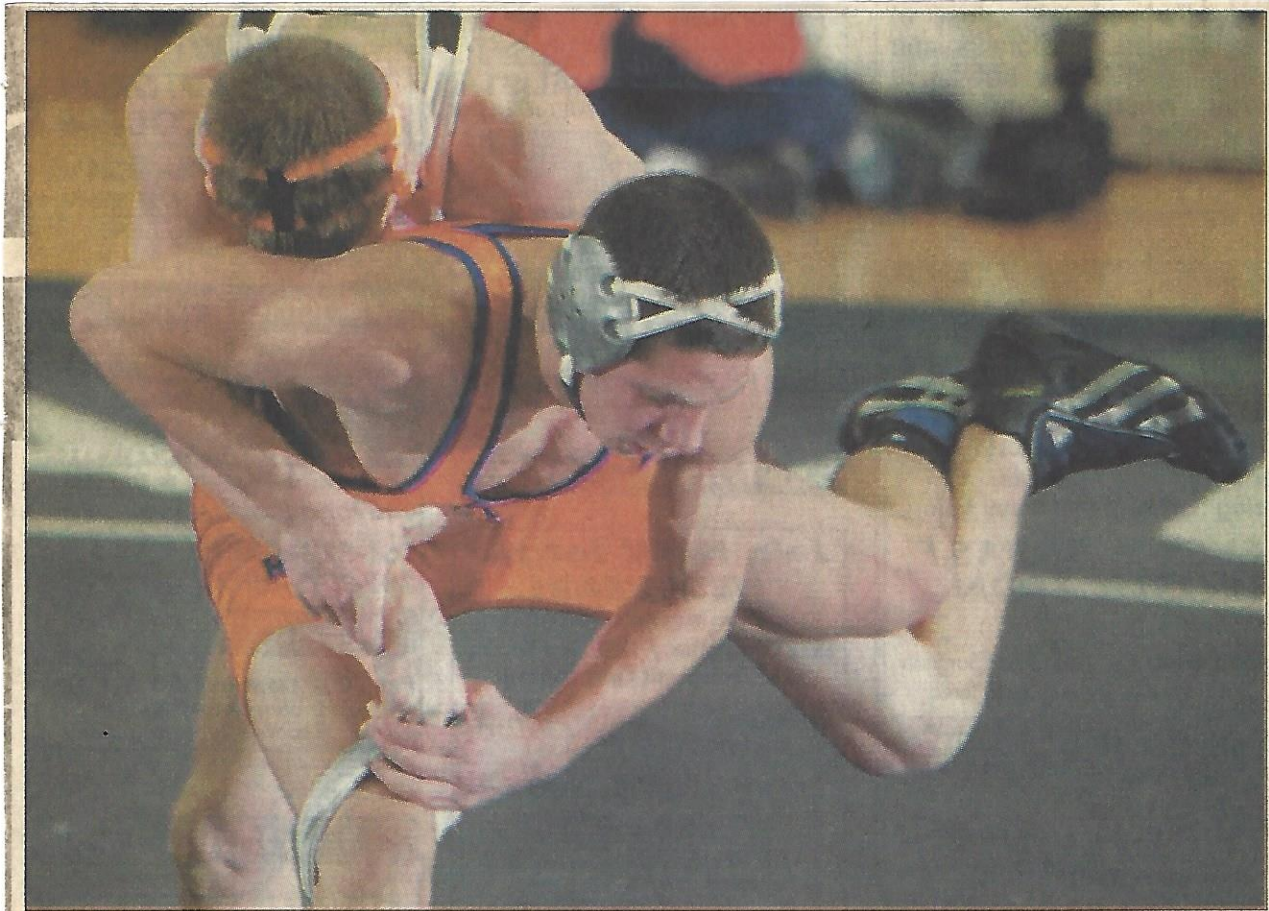


Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic is in control in his 112-pound final bout with St. Mary's Dave Greenwald which the Crusader won by a technical fall, 17-2. It was Nunziato's third holiday tourney title.

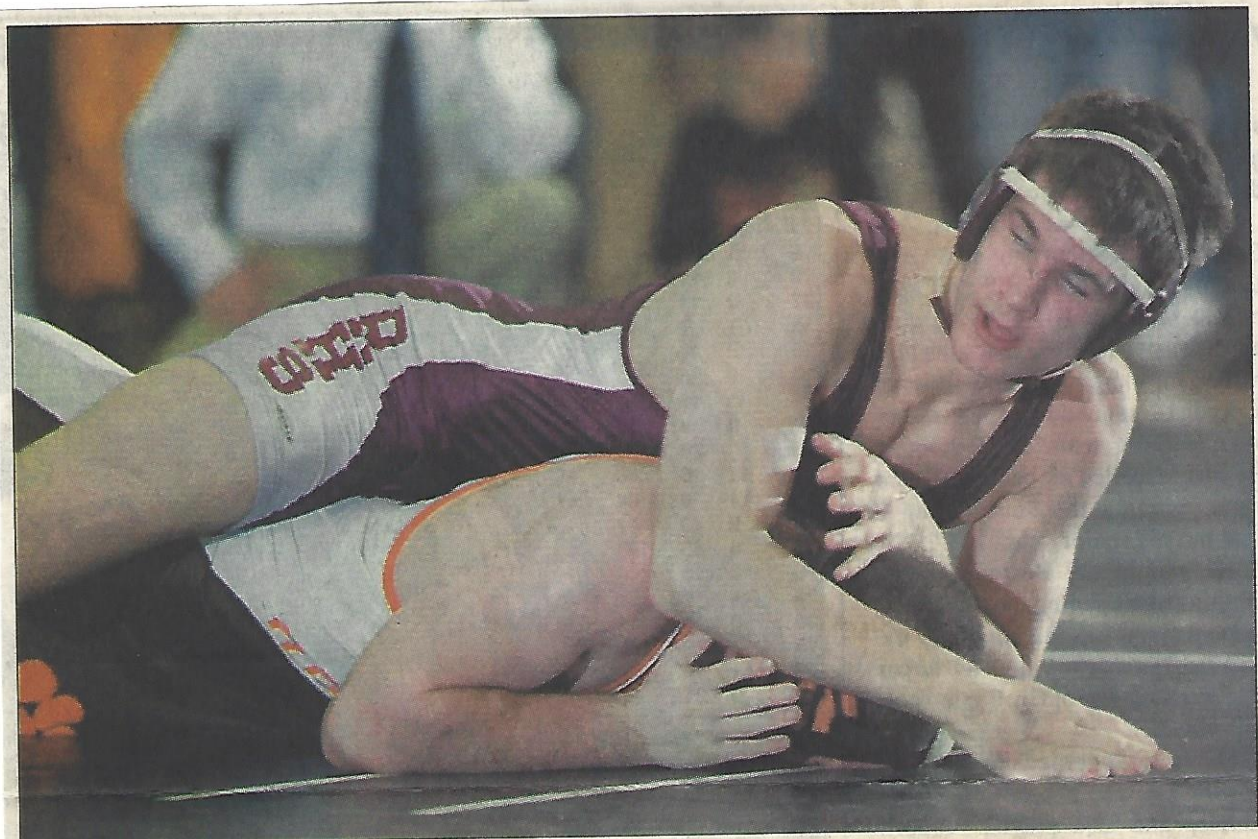


Nick Matteo (top) of Bergen Catholic is shown en route to a 4:53 pin victory over Don Bosco's Rich Baldan in the 145-pound title bout.

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Even though he's not on top, Lodi senior Rob Kaiser is in control of his championship bout at 152 pounds versus Pascack Hills' Robbie Bremmer in this sequence. Kaiser is King of the 152-pound realm in the county for the second straight year by virtue of his 11-1 major decision over Bremmer.

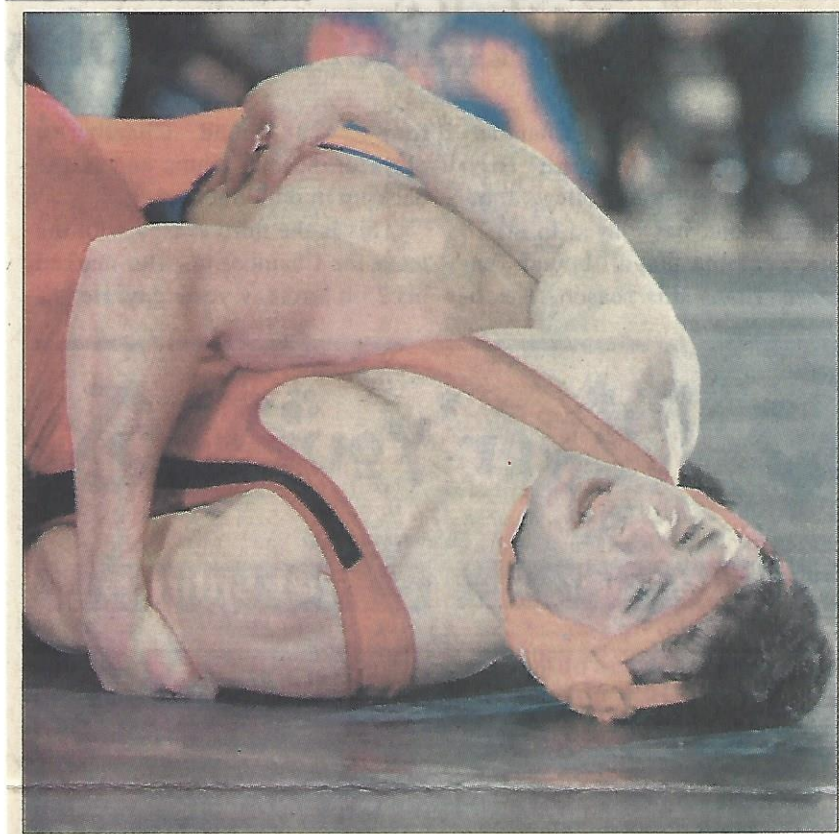


PHOTOS/JOHN CAPPUCILLI

Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt, the 171-pound winner, gets the better of Dumont's Peter Daniele in the final, which he took by virtue of a pin.



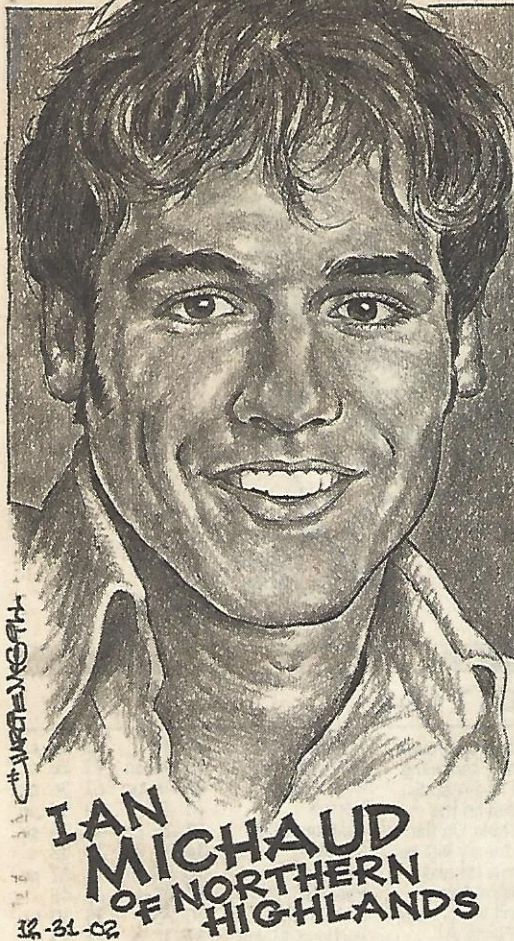
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Nick Calandrino of Emerson/Park Ridge feels the pain as he is held down by Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi, who went on to win the 189-pound weight class by a 7-1 decision.

# ATHLETE 0

By **JASON McINTYRE**  
STAFF WRITER



## MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Sport:** Wrestling **Age:** 18 **Class:** Senior

**Accomplishment:** Won the 215-pound championship at the 43rd Bergen County Coaches Holiday Tournament and was named Most Outstanding Wrestler.

**Also nominated:** Victor Patrocino, Hawthorne, wrestling; Michael Quo, Indian Hills, basketball; Dan Mongelli, West Milford, wrestling, and Dave Burns, Bergenfield, wrestling.

Those seeking to hire a speaker on the topic "never overlooking opponents," look no further than Ian Michaud of Northern Highlands.

Last year at the Bergen Coaches Holiday Wrestling Tournament, Michaud advanced to the semifinals, and all he could think about was the finals and winning a championship. Naturally, he lost in the semifinals to Lee Dugan.

"That was such a big mistake I made, and I don't do that anymore," he said.

This year, Michaud was poised and patient.

"I was just thinking about the preliminaries coming into the tournament, because you never know who's going to catch you," he said.

And Michaud streamrolled the competition on the way to the 215-pound championship and Most Outstanding Wrestler honors.

For his efforts, Michaud is The Record's Male Athlete of the Week.

"I was just really patient in the tournament, not looking ahead and overlooking anybody," he said.

Although Michaud plans on wrestling in college – he has been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania – dominating kids on a mat is not all he is thinking about.

For instance, Michaud plans on majoring in biology and becoming a doctor.

"I really want to be a surgeon, and I understand that usually, biology is the accepted route," he said.

Michaud's interest in surgery dates back to his sixth-grade days watching "Code Blue" on The Learning Channel. His stomach can take it.

He is also an accomplished singer, having joined the Pro Arte Chorale in the spring and traveling around the state to places such as the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and singing before large crowds. Knowledge of Latin was a requirement, one that Michaud met.

He recently tried out for the popular television show "American Idol 2." Michaud stayed overnight "walking around" the streets of New York City while a friend saved his spot in line, and once inside the studio, he advanced to the second round.

His talent knowing no bounds, Michaud repeated in a perfect Australian accent the rejection he received from an executive producer.