

Weight shifts change tournament outlook

1987

By Barry Gramlich
Correspondent

In terms of maturity, skills, and confidence, Mike Indorato of Paramus has grown. Physically, he has shrunk.

That's not good news for Bergen County's 119-pound wrestlers, and especially for Emerson's Joe Harriman when the Bergen County Coaches Association Wrestling Tournament begins tomorrow at Hackensack High School. Indorato, the defending 122-pound county champion, will wrestle his senior season at a lighter weight and make things tougher for defending 115-pound Region 1 champion Harriman.

"It looks like Mike will meet Harriman, and that should be one of the best matches of the tournament," said Paramus coach Joe Cervino. "He didn't grow at all since last season. He actually came into practice at a lighter weight [127] this year than he did last year [130]."

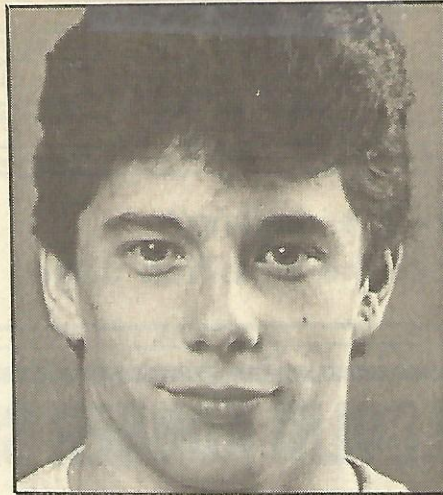
Indorato was the 1986 tournament surprise when he upset Andy Van Horn of Pascack Hills en route to the 122-pound title. He began his junior season with a 2-2 varsity record.

With Indorato and Rob Meehan (140) giving the Spartans a strong one-two punch, Paramus still isn't expected to challenge Pascack Hills for the Group 3 and overall team titles. The Cowboys, champions in 10 of the last 13 years, return eight district place winners.

Two-time defending champion Fair Lawn will be pushed by North Bergen for the Group 4 title. Emerson is favored in Group 1, and Westwood in Group 2.

Here's a breakdown of the weight classes:

103 — The most competitive lightweight division. Fair Lawn's Jason Barch was a bronze medalist last season, but he has challengers from schools in all groups. Waldwick's Hamid Chalileh, a District 4 champion, hasn't given up a point this season, and improved Garfield junior Rich Rivera placed third in District 3 last season. Look out for Steve Rogers of Pas-



MIKE INDORATO
Drops to 119 pounds

cack Hills, who is touted as the second coming of teammate Matt Grossman. Grossman moved up to 112 pounds. Others to watch are Ramsey champion Dom Alessio of Cliffside Park, Nelson Cruz of Fort Lee, Ryan McNeil of North Bergen, and Kris Reff of Westwood.

112 — Grossman, a Region 1 runner-up for Pascack Hills, has no free ticket to the final. North Bergen's Alex Moreno easily defeated Grossman in a summer tournament at Bergen Community College. District 1 champion Brian Cavanagh of Westwood and Joe Tatoli of St. Joseph must be watched, along with juniors Tom Farquhar of Ridgefield Park, Jack Bernardino of Cresskill, and Ed Pucci of Glen Rock. The three underclassmen placed in their districts last season.

119 — Emerson's Harriman would have been the pick if Indorato had moved up to 125 pounds. Indorato began the season at 125, but wrestled his last tournament at 119. Expect Cresskill junior Keith Schoppe, a District 2 champion, and Ridgefield Park's Perry Maio, a District 5 gold medalist, to advance to the later rounds.

125 — Indorato would have wrestled here if he had wanted a rematch with Andy Van Horn. The division suddenly has lost some appeal. The

dark horse could be Fair Lawn sophomore Scott Kemp, who recently won the Wallkill Valley tournament. District 6 runner-up Tom Toscano of Palisades Park could surprise.

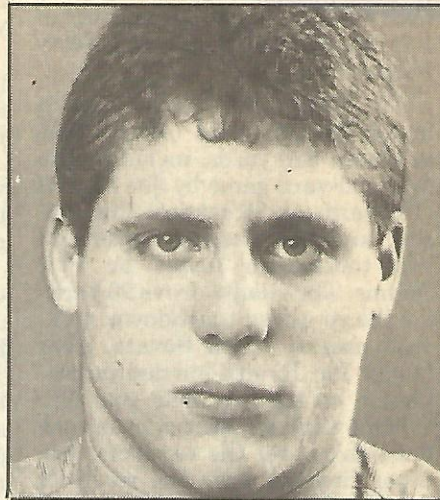
130 — A weak division with some big names. Cresskill's Eugene Martin, who had a school-record 24 victories last season, should go down to the wire with Seth Shulman of Pascack Hills. Martin is a District 2 runner-up. If Shulman doesn't get the call in this weight class, teammate Shane Van Horn will. Joseph Neu of St. Joseph may not be effective after jumping 29 pounds. He won 18 matches at 101 pounds last season.

135 — Van Horn is expected to compete here, and is strong favorite. Ridgefield Park sends District 5 129-pound champion Dave Bassano, and Ridgefield answers with District 6 gold medalist Chris Steinbacher. Junior Keith Mulcare of Dumont can pull off an upset.

140 — Two medalists return to this competitive division. Bergenfield's Brendan Ferriter finished second to Fair Lawn state champion Joe Mocco in the 141-pound final, and Fair Lawn's Jamie Pisacane was a 129-pound bronze medalist. Ferriter may move up to 145, but that division is loaded. Scott Lagsdin of Paramus and Eric Weber of Glen Rock should give a strong showing.

145 — Rob Meehan of Paramus and Christian Tirone of Fair Lawn, who split their two bouts last season, are anxious to meet again. But Meehan, a two-time county runner-up, is considering cutting down to 140. Potential roadblocks in the 145-pound class are Ferriter, Jeff Lally of Pascack Hills, Jay Fricchione of Garfield, and Chris O'Boyle of New Milford.

152 — No one should get in the way of Emerson's Mike Mazzeo, the state runner-up at 148 pounds. Fair Lawn's Tirone wrestled Mazzeo close last season but moved to 145. Three district champions — Sonny Merritt of Cresskill, Mike Haemmerle of Ber-



BEN SALERNO
Favorite at 189 pounds

gen Canonic, and Kevin Sheridan of Pascack Hills — seek medalist honors.

160 — Mark Collier of Paramus appeared to be a lock for the gold, but Rob Downes of St. Joseph will move up a class to avoid Emerson's Mazzeo. The same may hold true for BC's Haemmerle.

171 — Heavy favorite John Reese of Fair Lawn should join former Cutter Neil Wright as a three-time county champion. Reese won the 158-pound title as a sophomore and the 170-pound gold last season. District runners-up Rick Bargmann of Westwood and Marc DelGaudio of Waldwick should battle Cliffside Park's Ted Stathis for the silver and bronze.

189 — Bet the ranch on returning champion Ben Salerno of Westwood. Salerno decisioned Fair Lawn's Steve Best, 5-3, in the Wallkill Valley tournament final. Bergen Catholic junior Curt Geisler is no pushover.

Heavyweight — Defending champion Tony DiPasquale of Elmwood Park will have an easier path to the final if Cresskill's Joe Karach isn't fully recovered from a concussion suffered during football season. Cliffside Park's Randy Crane, a District 6 champion, lost only one bout last season. New Milford's David Lane recently won the Ramsey tournament.

Fair Lawn coach makes his point

By Barry Gramlich
Correspondent

WRESTLING

HACKENSACK — Six Fair Lawn wrestlers advanced into the semifinal round of the Bergen County Coaches Association tournament yesterday with little fanfare. The spotlight was on one Cutter who didn't make it.

Fair Lawn 135-pounder Rich Rubino was the target of a diatribe from coach Frank Guadagnino after Rubino dropped a 7-4 decision to James Bastidas of Bergenfield. Rubino's unsportsmanlike toss of his headgear at the conclusion of the match cost the Cutters one team point.

And one team point can be meaningful when Pascack Hills and North Bergen are among the challengers.

"I just hope it doesn't come back to haunt us," said Guadagnino, whose Cutters are the defending two-time county champions. "That's why I was going crazy."

The math wasn't completed after the quarterfinal round, but the collective feeling was that Fair Lawn held a slim lead over the Bruins and Cowboys. North Bergen also sent six wrestlers into the semis, and Pascack Hills advanced five.

The semifinals are at 1 p.m. today at Hackensack High, followed by the 6:30 p.m. consolations and 8 p.m. finals.

North Bergen may be the biggest surprise after making the trip without two of its best wrestlers. Alex Moreno, one of the 112-pound favorites, has a back injury, and 145-pounder Ed Rodriguez

was benched for academic reasons. But Ryan McNeil (103), Dave Cahill (125), Jerry Maletta (135), Brian Bourne (140), Greg Wiessner (160), and Russell Pascale (heavyweight) made it to the final four in their weight classes.

"We have a solid group of seniors that we took all over the state two years ago to get their brains kicked in," said North Bergen coach Ernie Tabbacchino. "You're seeing the results. But we're obviously disappointed that two of our best kids aren't here."

Fair Lawn padded its point total with pins by Phil Corso (119) and Scott Kemp (125) in three preliminary matches. Kemp, Jason Barch (103), Jamie Pisacane (140), Christian Tirone (145), John Reese (171), and Steve Best (189) made it to the semis.

Reese, attempting to join former teammate Neil Wright as a three-time county champion, needed 1:01 to pin Ernie Clemente of Bergen Catholic in the quarterfinals. Pisacane had a rocky time with Hasbrouck Heights' Mark Wagner in the same round, winning 7-5.

"We're surprised most with Kemp," Guadagnino said. "He's only a sophomore, and last year he didn't wrestle after breaking his ankle in freshman football."

The tournament shocker came in the first round, when St. Joseph freshman Anthony Riotta upset Region 1 runner-up Matt Grossman of Pascack Hills. Cowboys coach Bucky Rechain still was

shaking his head hours after the conclusion.

Grossman was losing 5-3 when he was disqualified for his third illegal hold.

"They called him for two clasps and a chicken wing," Rechain said. "The kid [Riotta] only scored one legitimate point."

Rechain also swallowed hard over Seth Schulman's 7-5 loss to Cresskill's Eugene Martin at 130

pounds. Rich James (119), Andy Van Horn (125), Shane Van Horn (135), Jeff Lally (145), and Kevin Sheridan (152) advanced to the semis for Hills.

Favorite Emerson appears to be running away with the Group 1 championship. Joe Harriman and defending county champ Mike Inodoro of Paramus are on a collision course for the 119-pound title. Joining Harriman in the semis for

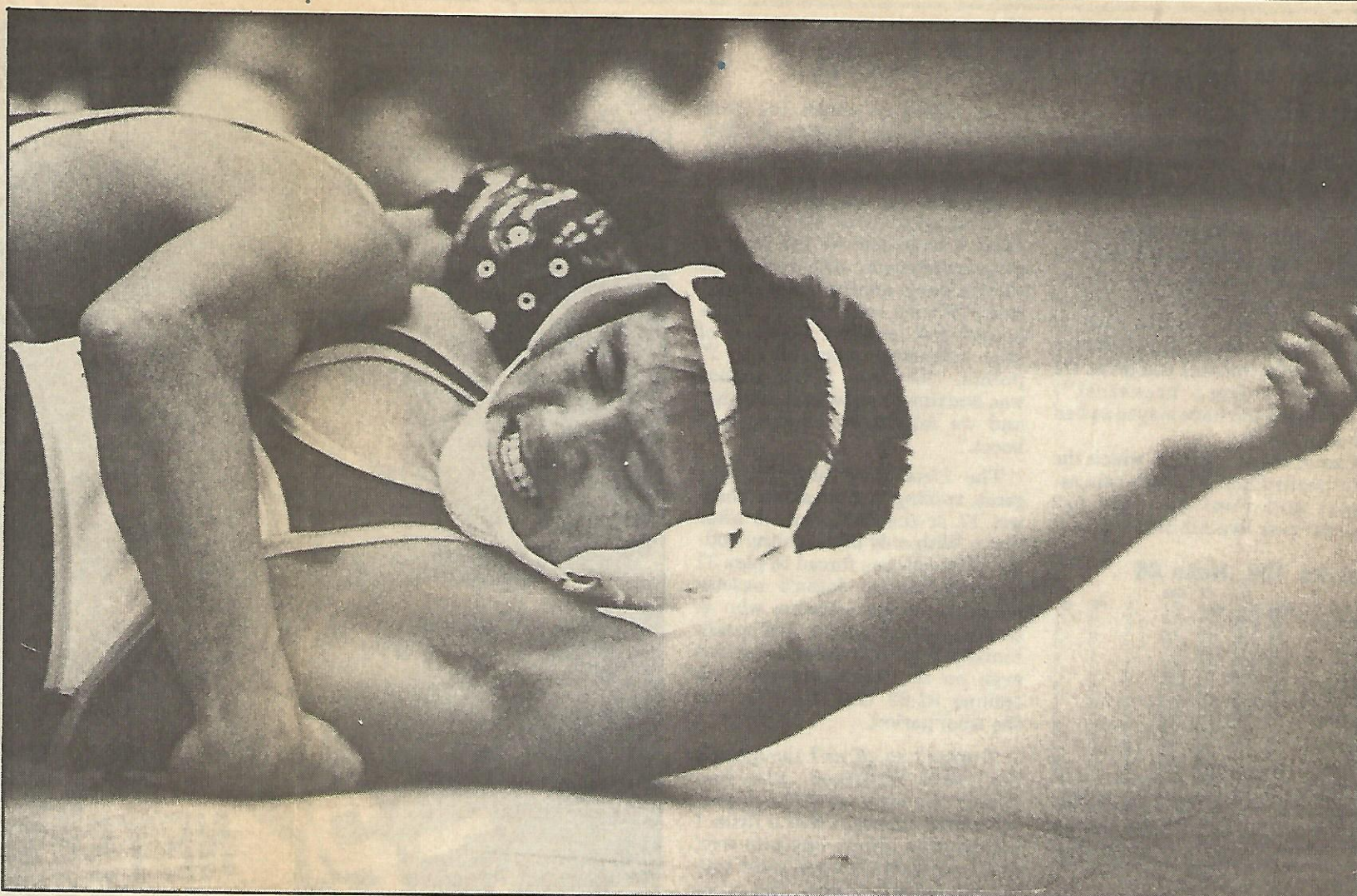
Emerson are John Gulino (135), Mike Mazzeo (152), and Rich Falotico (160).

"Joe's looking for a shot at Inodoro," Emerson coach Stan Woods said. "He's not the type to duck good wrestlers."

Group 2 favorite Westwood sent Brian Cavanagh (112), Ben Salerno (189), and Padraic Smith (heavyweight) into the semis. St.

Joseph and Bergenfield are the only other schools with at least three wrestlers in the final four.

Riotta joins Rick Wells (171) and Pat Cunningham (heavyweight) for the Green Knights, and the Bears have Bastidas, Brendan Ferriter (140), and Shawn Paterno (152). Paterno had the unlucky draw, and faces state runner-up Mazzeo of Emerson in the semis.



Rich Rivera of Garfield tries to avoid being pinned by St. Joseph's

Anthony

Riotta in the 112-pound class. Riotta won, 10-2.

ED HILL/THE REC

Fair Lawn's 199½ points capture coaches tourney

By Barry Gramlich
Correspondent

WRESTLING

HACKENSACK — Fair Lawn's Christian Tirone received an extended pep talk before his 145-pound bout yesterday. And when Tirone started behaving like a crazed chimpanzee in warm-ups, Cutters' coach Frank Guadagnino smiled.

"No problem getting *him* up," Guadagnino says. "He's one emotional kid."

Tirone was equally intense on the mat, and his hard-fought, 4-3 decision over Jeff Lally of Pascack Hills clinched Fair Lawn's third consecutive Bergen County Coaches wrestling tournament championship.

The Cutters amassed 199½ points. Pascack Hills was second with 185 points, North Bergen third (139½), and Paramus fourth (123½).

Pascack Hills won the Group 3 title, Westwood (122½) captured Group 2, and Emerson (96½) ran away with the Group 1 crown.

103 — Fort Lee's Nelson Cruz avenged last year's 101-pound consolation defeat to Jason Barch of Fair Lawn. Barch tied the match, 3-3, in the second period on his opponent's illegal hold, but Cruz clinched it in the final period with three points on a near fall.

112 — Westwood's Brian Cavanagh, a fourth-place finisher at

108 pounds last season, used a pair of first period takedowns and a third-period reversal to defeat St. Joseph freshman Anthony Riotto, 6-1. Cavanagh is the defending District 1 champion.

119 — With his nose bleeding, defending 122-pound champion Mike Indorato had his hands full with District 6 runner-up Tom Toscano of Palisades Park. Indorato extended a 6-5 lead with an escape and a takedown late in the second period and held on for a 15-6 decision. Toscano upset Emerson's Joe Harriman in the semifinals.

125 — Andy Van Horn of Pascack Hills outlasted Henry Hascup of Lodi, 9-3. Hascup started strong, but Van Horn picked up two back points in the third period to take a five-point lead. Hascup managed one escape point in the first four minutes.

130 — District 6 gold medalist Chris Steinbacher of Ridgefield finished the tournament with two consecutive falls. He stopped Keith Mulcare of Dumont at 3:25 of the final with an unorthodox move one official called a "pretzel." Steinbacher rolled to a 15-4 lead with three near falls.

135 — Pascack Hills' Shane Van Horn withstood an injury to

his right leg and a stubborn James Bastidas of Bergenfield, 9-7.

140 — Two-time county runner-up Rob Meehan of Paramus trailed Brendan Ferriter of Bergenfield after two periods, but he used an escape and takedown early in the final period to edge Ferriter, 10-9. Meehan was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

145 — Tirone clinched the title for Fair Lawn with a 4-3 decision over Lally. Tirone's neutral in the third snapped a 3-3 deadlock.

152 — Emerson's Mike Mazzeo manhandled district champion Kevin Sheridan of Pascack Hills, 13-1.

160 — Returning district champion Mike Hammerle of Bergen Catholic stopped Dave Walton of Northern Highlands, 8-2. Hammerle was in control from the outset with three takedowns and two back points.

171 — Fair Lawn's John Reese became a three-time county champion with a 9-5 decision over Ted Stathis of Cliffside Park. Reese built a 9-2 lead after two periods.

189 — Favorite Ben Salerno of Westwood was upset by Steve Best of Fair Lawn, 3-2. Salerno surrendered a neutral point with 50 seconds left, but he couldn't score a takedown.

Hwt. — Top-seeded Tony Di-

Pasquale of Elmwood Park coasted to a 9-1 decision over St. Jo-

seph's Pat Cunningham. DiPasquale received the tourna-

ment trophy for most falls (four) in the least amount of time (3:08).

Bergen Tournament

TEAM SCORES

Fair Lawn 199½; Pascack Hills 185; No. Bergen 139½; Paramus 123½; Westwood 122½; St. Joseph 112½; Emerson 96½; Bergenfield 94; Elmwood Park 93½; Dumont 88; Fort Lee 86½; No. Highlands 80½; Cliffs Park 77; Palisades Park 76½; Ridgefield 71; Bergen Catholic 69; New Milford 64; Cresskill 61; Rutherford 58½; Bogota 57; Lodi 52½; Saddle Brook 48; Ramsey 41½; Ridgefield Park 40; Indian Hills 39½; Hasbrouck Heights 38½; Hackensack 36; Garfield 36; Old Tappan 34½; Demarest 34; Pascack Valley 34; Lyndhurst 32; Mahwah 28; Teaneck 26; Leonia 26; Ramsey 24½; River Dell 22; Park Ridge 16½.

Q FINALS

103 — Nelson Cruz (FL) def. Steve Rogers (PH), 5-2; Ryan McNeil (NB) def. Kris Reff (W), 4-2; Jason Barch (FL) def. Mike Keeler (R), 6-0; Dom Alessio (CP) def. Mike DeLuca (Ly), 12-3. 112 — Anthony Riotta (S.J.) def. Rich Rivera (G), 10-2; John Jasionowicz (Ru) def. Tom Farquhar, 7-5 (RP); Auni Qaira (Rp) pin Matt Lombardi (P), 1:18; Brian Cavanaugh (W) def. Mike Rogan (EP), 7-3. 119 — Mike Indorato (P) pin Scott Kaine (Du), 1:34; Rich James (PH) pin Shawh Mohovich (NH), 1:08; Tom Toscano (PP) pin Noel Aquino (CP), 1:25; Joe Harriman (E) tech. fall, Phil Corso (FL), 3:47 (15-0). 125 — Andy Van Horn (PH) dec. Kevin Marino (SB), 8-0; David Cahill (NB) pin Mike Kubrin (Du), 5:55; Scott Kemp (FL) dec. Mike Moran (P), 7-0; Henry Hascup (Lo) dec. Jim Davis (Ru), 8-0. 130 — Keith Mulcare (Du) pin Frank Patti (PP), 2:37; Eugene Martin (C) dec. Seth Schulman (PH), 7-5; Leo Rossi (FLe) dec. Ken Marino (SB), 2-0 (OT); Chris Steinbacher (Ri) dec. Larry Landicina (OT), 7-3. 135 — Shane Van Horn (PH) tech. fall Rocco Regina (Du), 4:25 (15-0); John Gulino (Em) pin Brian Nashel (FLe), 1:35; James Bastidas (B) dec. Rich Rubino (FL), 7-4; Jerry Maletta (NB) dec. Frank Staner (CP), 10-4. 140 — Rob Meehan (P) pin Pete Ban (IH), 5:05; Jamie Pisacane (FL) dec. Mark Wagner (HH), 7-5; Brian Bourne (NB) dec. Steve Chan (FLe), 7-3; Brendan Ferriter (B) tech. fall Todd Duffy (PP), 4:03 (16-0). 145 — Chris Boyle (NM) def. Mike Craig (PP), 15-3; Christian Tyrone (FL) tech. fall Lance Kelly (H), 5:48 (17-2); Gary Lane (Bo) def. Scott Lagsdin (P), 9-2; Jeff Lally (PH) pin Brian Hartman (B), 4:56. 152 — Mike Mazzeo (E) tech. fall Joe Whalen (De), 5:29 (15-0); Robert Downes (SJ) dec. Shawn Paterno (B), 8-5; David Georges (NH) tech. fall Chris Rotella (FL), 5:42 (18-2); Kevin Sheridan (PH) disq. Rich Couret (NB). 160 — Mike Hammerle (BC) tech. fall Chris Butz (PH), 4:38 (16-1); Rich Falotico (E) dec. Rick Bargmann (W), 11-4; Dave Walton (NH) dec. Sonny Merritt (Cr), 12-4; Greg Wiessner (NB) pin Joe Barbaccia (Lo), 3:43. 171 — John Reese (FL) pin Ernie Clemente (BC), 1:01; Rich LaManna (B) pin Willie Varella (NB), 3:21; Rick Wells (SJ) tech. fall Derrick Chaplan (NM), 5:32 (17-1); Rich Mentoli (EP) def. Ted Stathis (CP), 9-3. 189 — Ben Salerno (W) pin John Mender (SJ), 3:31; Brian Kochman (EP) dec. Tony Wunder (D), 14-1; Steve Best (FL) dec. Dave Sobocinski (PH), 5-3; Dave Lane (NM) dec. Mike Bischoff (HH), 7-4. Hwt — Tony DiPasquale (EP) pin Larry Billotta (PH), 0:48; Pdraic Smith (W) tech. fall Dave Desposito (RP), 16-1; Pat Cunningham (SJ) dec. Joe Karach (C), 12-6; Russell Pascale (NB) pin Lloyd Rippe (P), 4:59.

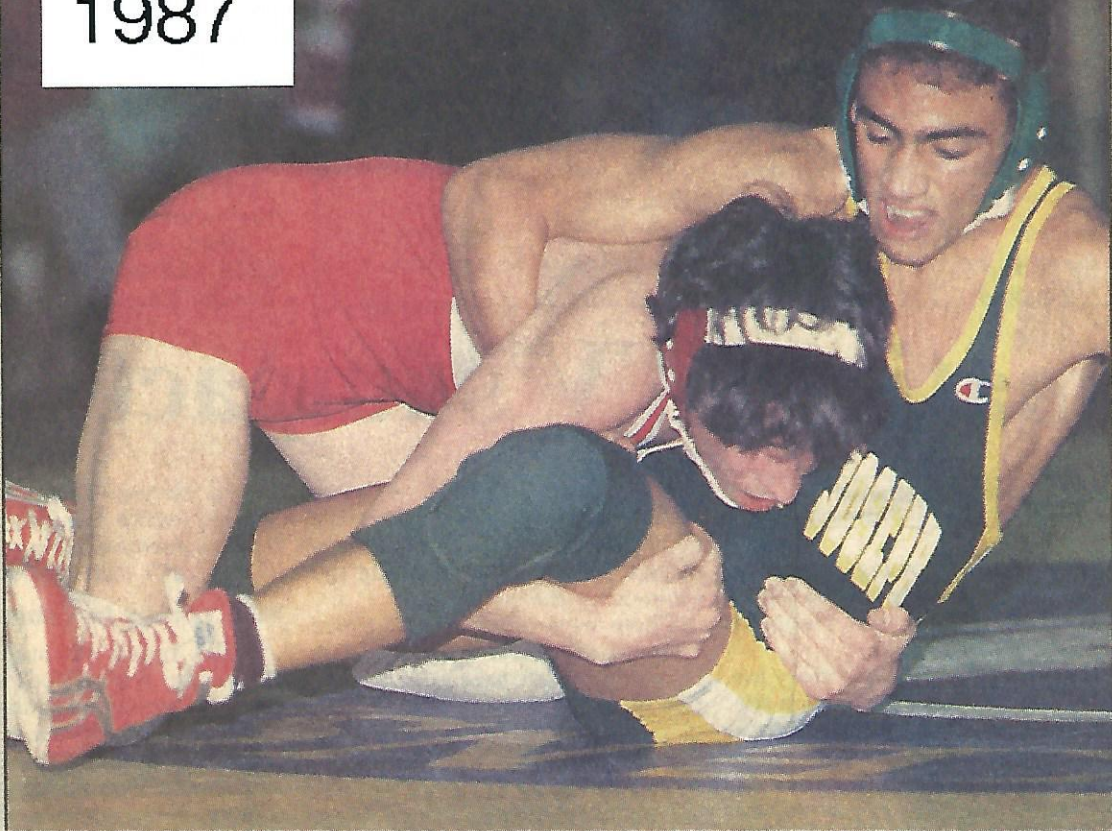
FINALS

103 — Cruz dec. Barch, 6-3; 112 — Cavanaugh pin Riotta, 5:32; 119 — Indorato dec. Toscano, 5-4; 125 — Van Horn dec. Hascup, 9-8; 130 — Steinbacher pin Mulcare, 3:25; 135 — Van Horn dec. Bastidas, 9-7; 140 — Meehan dec. Ferriter, 10-9; 145 — Tirone dec. Lally, 4-3; 152 — Mazzeo dec. Sheridan, 13-1; 160 — Hammerle dec. Walton, 8-2; 171 — Reese dec. Stathis, 9-5; 189 — Best dec. Salerno, 3-2; Hwt — DePasquale dec. Cunningham, 9-1.

CONSOLATIONS

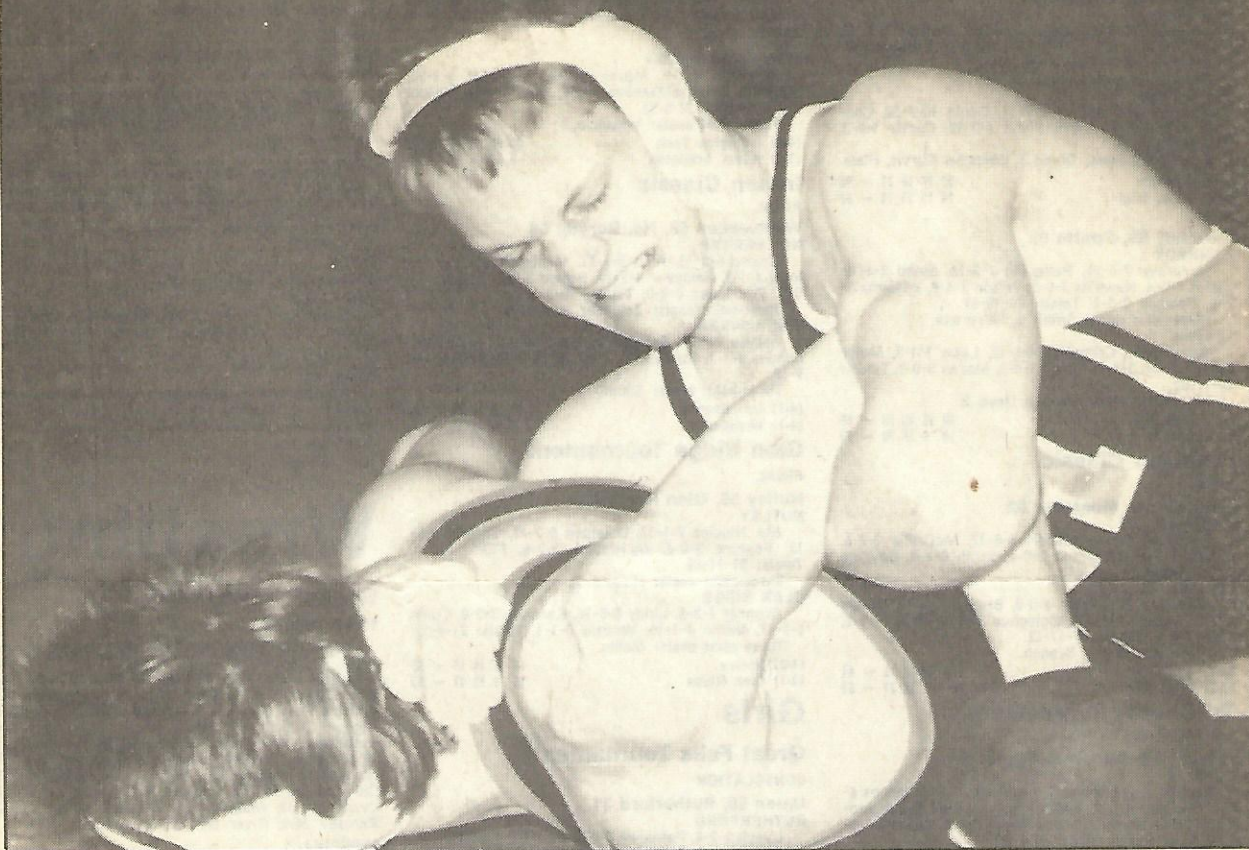
103 — McNeil by forfeit; 112 — Qira dec. Jasionowicz, 3-2; 119 — Harriman dec. James, 3-2; 125 — Cahill dec. Kemp, 7-2; 130 — Martin dec. Rossi, 7-2; 135 — Maletta dec. Guillino, 7-5; 140 — Piscane by forfeit; 145 — Boyle dec. Lane, 10-4; 152 — Paterno def. Georges, criteria 9 (OT); 160 — Wiessner pin Falotico, 1:00; 171 — LaManna dec. Wells, 4-1; 189 — Lane pin Kochman, 3:00; Hwt — Smith def. Pascale, criteria 2 (OT).

1987



112-POUNDERS STRUGGLE: Westwood's Brian Cavanagh tries to cradle Anthony Riotto of St. Joseph during final of the Bergen County

STEVE AUCHARD/THE RECORD
Coaches Wrestling Tournament. Cavanagh posted a 6-1 decision. Fair Lawn claimed the team title at Hackensack High School. **D-5**



STEVE AUCHARD/THE RECORD
Andy Van Horn of Pascack Hills, top, has things well in hand in his 125 bout with Lodi's Henry Hascup.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

By Mark J. Czerwinski
Correspondent

Rob Meehan of Paramus might have spent his summer working out and running in the hot sun, but his thoughts were always on December.

After two consecutive years as runner-up in the Bergen County Coaches Association wrestling tournament, Meehan believed he had something to prove when he took his final crack at the title.

"In his sophomore year, he was just proud and happy to make it to the finals," said Paramus wrestling coach Joe Cervino. "He was disappointed when he lost, but as a sophomore, being there was enough. Last year, he was very upset when he lost to Frank Manning [of Bergenfield], and he really concentrated and worked hard so he could succeed in his senior year."

The hours of running and weightlifting paid off Wednesday at Hackensack High School. Meehan rallied to defeat Bergenfield's Brendan Ferriter, 10-9, in the 140-pound title match to cap his three-year quest for the championship.

Meehan also won four other bouts, all by pins, to earn the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler award. For his accomplishments, Meehan has been named The Record's Athlete of the Week.

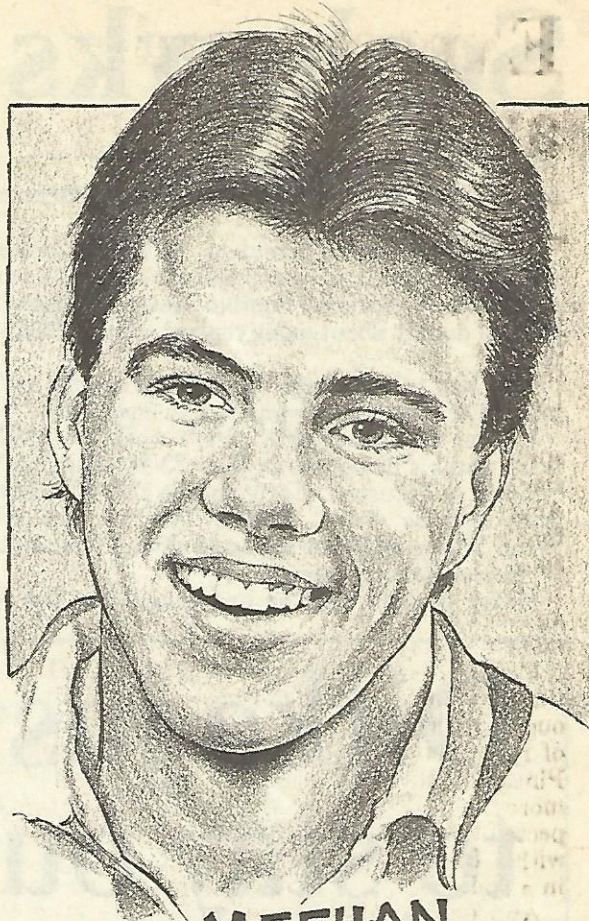
Meehan took up wrestling eight years ago at the urging of close friend and former Paramus teammate Kenny Carmichael. The two have worked closely together over the years, and Meehan's style has become a reflection of Carmichael's.

"Kenny has showed me how to wrestle with my legs and use a lot of cradle moves," said Meehan, who sports a bruise and cut under his right eye suffered in a recent practice session with Carmichael. "He's the one who really pushes me, making me work hard. Even though he's only one year ahead of me, he's my idol."

Carmichael finished third in the state last year, was an all-county selection, and earned a partial scholarship to Central Connecticut State College. He was the Paramus team captain last season, an honor that was passed on to Meehan.

"Rob does a great job as captain," Cervino said. "He really looked up to Kenny, and now, in the same way, our freshman and younger kids look up to him. He's always coming to the town's recreation program practices, and he has become the role model for some of those kids."

The victory over Ferriter was one of the highlights



**ROB MEEHAN
OF PARAMUS**

CHUCK NICHOLS 1-5-88

of Meehan's scholastic career, but he still has some lofty goals. Wrestling is a week-long obsession for Meehan, and the constant practice, dieting, and workouts have taught him discipline and self-confidence.

"Right now, I have two main goals," Meehan said. "One goal is to win the county title. The second goal is to win the state. If I keep working hard, I can do it."