

# Heights' Dolan looking for a third Bergen title

By Barry Gramlich  
Record Staff Writer

Evan Dolan of Hasbrouck Heights will be seeking to become the ninth wrestler to win three Bergen County championships when the 32nd Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Tournament begins Friday at Hackensack High School.

Andy Van Horn of Pascack Hills was the last to win three titles (1985-87-88), missing out on an unprecedented fourth when he was upset in his sophomore season.

Dolan (28-2), a returning district winner and fourth-place finisher in his region, captured last year's 125-pound crown, edging John Hernandez of Bergen Catholic, 9-8. The senior likely will jump 15 pounds to 140 and could meet Bergen Catholic's Justin Naddeo in the final.

Other returning champions are John Gargano of Westwood and Anthony Aiello of Paramus. Gargano pinned Elmwood Park's Joe Fulco at 130 pounds, and Aiello pinned Emerson's Sean Leeds at 171 last year.

Bergen Catholic is the defending team champion and Paramus runner-up.

Lightweights weigh in at 7 a.m. Friday and upperweights (140 and up) at 1 p.m. The quarterfinal round is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Semifinals and fifth- and sixth-place rounds begin Saturday at 11 a.m. Third- and fourth-place con-

## WRESTLING

solutions will begin at approximately 3 p.m., with the finals to follow at approximately 5 p.m.

A capsule look at each weight class:

**103 — Favorites:** Kyle Lewis, Garfield; Josh Weil, Ridgewood; Nick Sinatra, Waldwick. **Wrestlers to watch:** Tony Desena, Hasbrouck Heights; Chris Woods, Lodi; Scott Mangano, Ridgefield.

**112 — Favorites:** Greg Falasca, Pascack Hills; Wyman Williams, Garfield; Anthony Aligo, Don Bosco. **Wrestlers to watch:** Jay Ruggiero, Ridgefield Park; Marcos Asan, Ridgefield; Matt Lepis, Glen Rock; Joe Dempsey, Fair Lawn.

**119 — Favorites:** Jeff Nickl, NV/Old Tappan; Jason Hernandez, Bergen Catholic. **Wrestlers to watch:** Wayne Dickson, Garfield; Troy Emidy, Westwood.

**125 — Favorites:** Joe Falasca, Pascack Hills; Dayne Takach, Garfield. **Wrestler to watch:** Jonas Shantz, Don Bosco.

**130 — Favorite:** John Hernandez, Bergen Catholic. **Wrestlers to watch:** Chris Nucifora, Garfield; Mike Gruber, Westwood; Eugene Tunic, Paramus; Keith Martin, River Dell.

**135 — Favorites:** John Gargano, Westwood; Darren Block, Pascack Valley. **Wrestlers to watch:** Tim Barrow, Garfield; Kyle Dray, Rutherford; Sean

Kane, Dumont; Raffy Oghlian, NV/Old Tappan.

**140 — Favorites:** Evan Dolan, Hasbrouck Heights; Justin Naddeo, Bergen Catholic. **Wrestlers to watch:** Chris Petryshyn, Lyndhurst; Tony Bruno, Ridgefield.

**145 — Favorites:** Mike Grigorian, Westwood; Joe Gutilla, Garfield. **Wrestlers to watch:** Hatim Mari, Ridgefield; Mark Johnson, Ramapo; Chris Bronner, Hasbrouck Heights; Scott Osborne, Pascack Hills.

**152 — Favorites:** Tom Bocchino, Westwood; John Alise, New Milford; Rich Lynch, Rutherford. **Wrestlers to watch:** Brian Seiler, Midland Park; Marc Alaimo, Garfield; Ben Ashley, Pascack Hills.

**160 — Favorites:** Brian Baskinger, Bergen Catholic; Pete Bruger, Dumont. **Wrestlers to watch:** Jason Garcia, Garfield; Darren O'Donovan, Pascack Hills; Kevin Szuerven, Westwood.

**171 — Favorite:** Anthony Aiello, Paramus. **Wrestlers to watch:** Phil Barone, River Dell; Frank Carriere, Lodi; Brian Collins, New Milford; Ryan Weber, Leonia.

**189 — Favorites:** Matt Zacccone, NV/Old Tappan; Bill Sommers, Rutherford; Vito Campanile, Paramus Catholic. **Wrestler to watch:** Matt Carrafiello, Lodi.

**Hwt. — Favorites:** Mirhan Torosian, Bergen Catholic; Eric Pacheo, Rutherford. **Wrestlers to watch:** Rob Black, Ridgefield Park; Fred Liparini, Ramapo.

# Garfield, Bergen Catholic field most survivors

By Ron Fox  
Record Staff Writer

**HACKENSACK** — Keeping one step ahead of the flu and wrestling well when it counted Friday, Garfield moved five performers into today's semifinal round of the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Hackensack High School.

No point totals were available at the close of the quarterfinals, but the Boilermakers and Bergen Catholic were in the best shape.

"I've got five kids [Wyman Williams, Wayne Dickson, Chris Nucifora, Tim Barrow, and Jason Garcia] through, so I have to feel pretty good," said Garfield coach Greg Kulig.

Anyone with that type of success in a 43-team tournament — believed to be the largest high school wrestling event in the nation — has to be pleased. The flu, which is sweeping North Jersey, also did some ravaging of its own.

Although tournament director George Jockish couldn't estimate

the number of wrestlers missing because of illness, he said, "At 171 [pounds] we had only 22 wrestlers out of 43 teams. That's unbelievable."

Bergen Catholic advanced four wrestlers to the semis, which begin at 11 a.m. at Hackensack; North Bergen, Pascack Hills, and Rutherford advanced three each.

There was little celebrating among the BC wrestlers, who were

jolted three times by misfortune: a possible broken finger suffered by top-seeded 130-pounder John Hernandez during a 15-0 technical fall victory; the flu that forced top-seeded 160-pounder Brian Baskinger to withdraw; and the upset loss suffered by yet another top seed, heavyweight Mirhan Torosian, who lost to Rutherford's Eric Pacheco, 7-4. Pacheco's step-over takedown with 15 seconds remain-

ing iced it.

"We took Baskinger's temperature and it was 103 degrees," said BC coach John Dizenzo. "He was coughing very badly, and we sent him home. We'll tape John's fingers together and see if he can wrestle."

Two other top seeds were derailed. Waldwick's 103-pound Nick Sinatra lost, 9-7, to Lyndhurst freshman Gregg Settembrino on a late takedown and two back points. At 145 pounds, Mark Johnson of Ramsey was pinned

with an arm bar by Fair Lawn's Rob Liebrock.

But the stunner of the 11-hour day was the 265-pound Pacheco's victory in his first meeting with Torosian, who is of equal size. He was taken down initially and was dominated through most of the first two periods.

"He's a big kid," Pacheco said. "I was trying to throw him, but he wasn't giving it to me because he's experienced. I give him a lot of credit; he deserves to win as much as I do."

# St. Joseph's Bratka is on a mission

By Gregory Schutta  
Record Staff Writer

**HACKENSACK** — The early rounds of the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament provided few surprises Friday as all but one of the top seeds easily advanced to the quarterfinals. The lone exception was junior Tony DeSena of Hasbrouck Heights.

Junior John Bratka of St. Joseph's pinned the second-seeded DeSena in 5:19 to win their first-round match at 103 pounds. Bratka followed that by pinning Bergen Catholic's Ed Skiba in 50 seconds to reach the quarterfinals.

"That comes as no surprise to me at all," said St. Joseph coach Gary Riotto before the start of the quarterfinals. "I expect him to reach the final."

Two other wrestlers who expect to make today's final round are Bergen Catholic's Jason Hernandez and North Bergen's Mike McNeil. Last year's freshman sensations are on a collision course to meet in the 119-pound final.

Hernandez, last year's 112-pound champ and the top seed at 119, advanced to the quarterfinals by pinning River Dell's Bob Saba in 1:21 and Dumont's Jesse Canino in 3:47.

The trip through the preliminaries wasn't any tougher for McNeil, last year's 103-pound champion and the number two seed. McNeil earned a 16-0 technical fall against Elmwood Park's John Cerciello in 3:01, and pinned Don Bosco Prep's Justin Bertone in 3:07.

"He's been talking about it [a confrontation with McNeil] all

week," BC coach John Dizenzo said of Hernandez. "He's very confident about it. I think going to the Caldwell Tournament [where Hernandez won the 119-pound final] helped."

McNeil is just as confident, according to coach Alan Pascual.

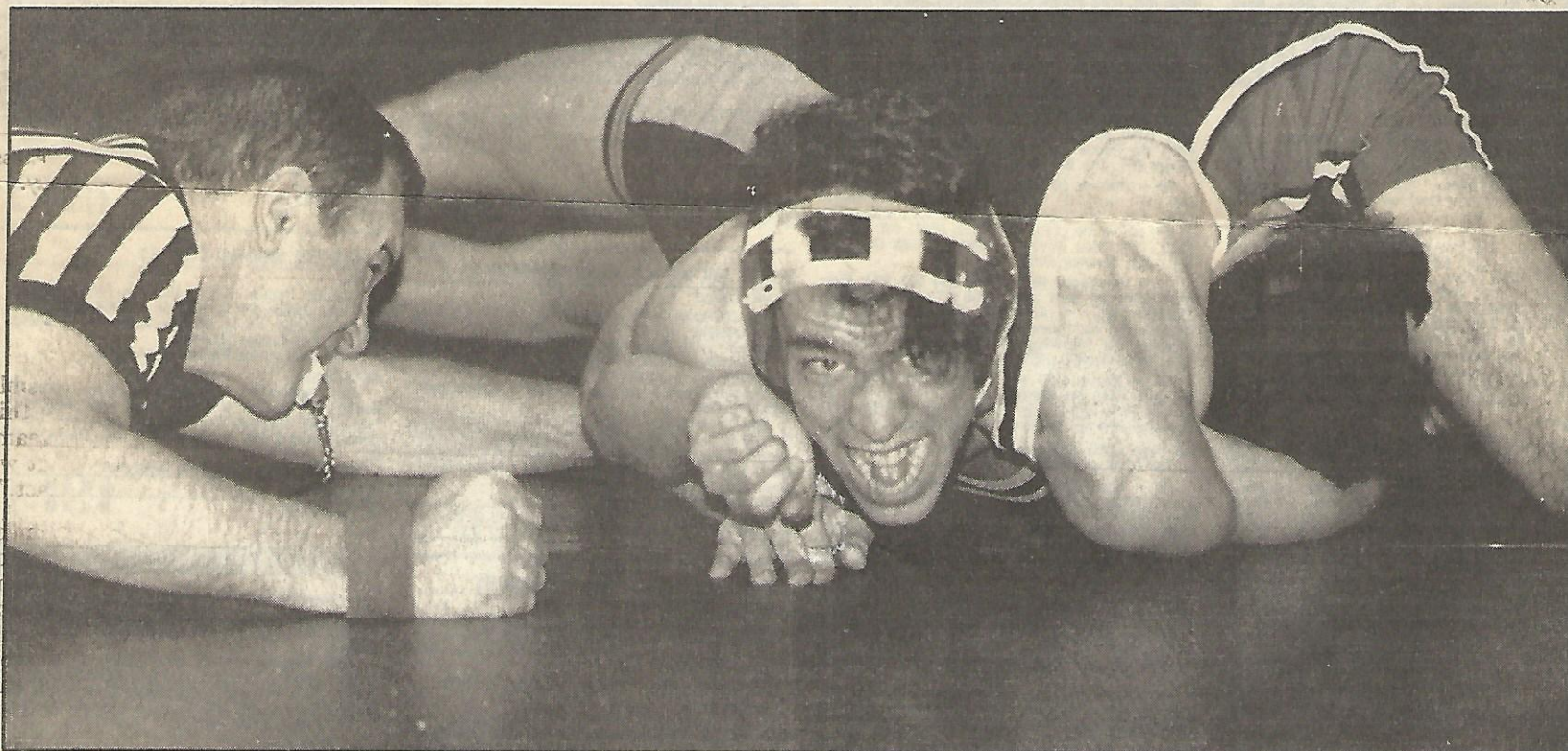
"He's not exactly gunning for Hernandez, but it was his decision to wrestle at 119 at this tournament," Pascual said of McNeil, who will drop to 112 after the tournament. "He figured there would be more competition against the bigger guys. And whether he wins or loses, it's great experience."

Evan Dolan of Hasbrouck Heights, last year's 125-pound champion, showed no ill effects from jumping to 140. Dolan pinned Tenafly's Steve Lim and Midland Park's Phil Eliya to reach

the quarterfinals. But the senior's road to a third Bergen County championship passes through returning champion Justin Naddeo, who spent a total of 1:28 on the mat in winning his first two matches.

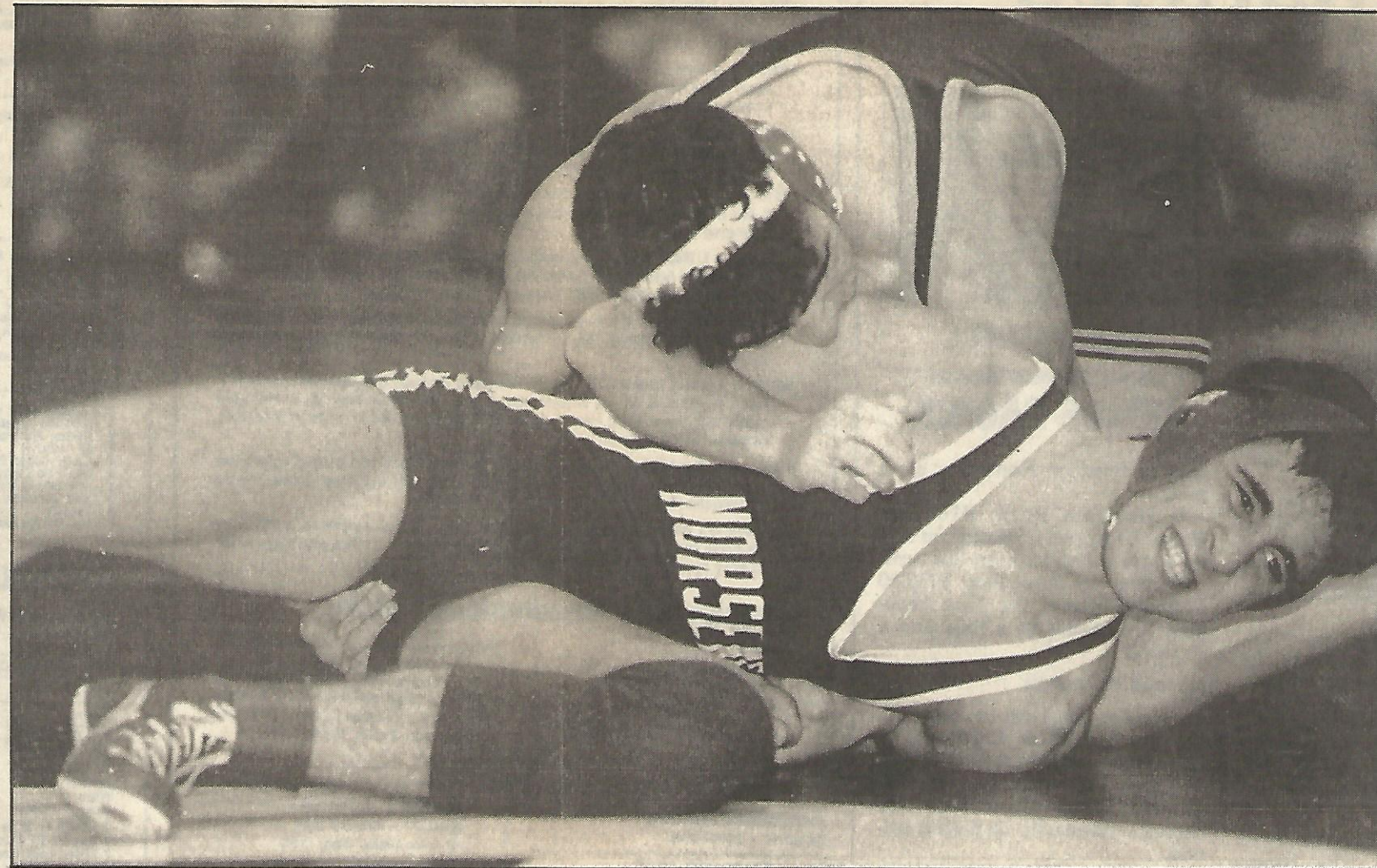
Other returning champions who advanced to the quarters were Westwood's John Gargano, with two pins at 135, and Anthony Aiello of Paramus, who pinned Bergen Catholic's Ben Tonan at 171 after earning a first-round bye.

BC, last year's team champion, led everybody with seven wrestlers in the quarters, including top seeds Naddeo, Jason Hernandez, John Hernandez (130), Brian Baskinger (160), and Mirhan Torosian (275). A strong Garfield team followed close behind with six. Paramus, last year's runner-up, could only manage three.

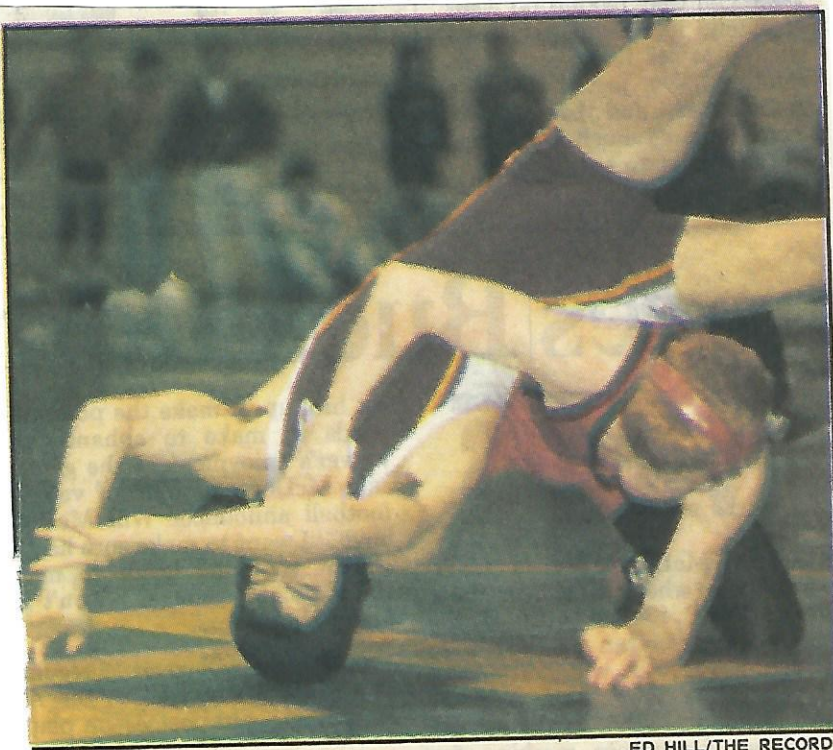


ED HILL/THE REC

Jason Cirelli of Pascack Hills lets out a yell as he attempts to pin Sergio Aranguren of Saddle Brook in 135 first-round bout.



Raffi Oghlian of Northern Valley at Old Tappan trying to put a move on Matt Lake of Northern Valley at Demarest in a battle of 135-pou



ED HILL/THE RECORD

**LEADING TO VICTORY:** Jason Well of Ridgewood, being put on his head by Emerson's R.J. Kenney, rebounded for a second-period pin during the Bergen County Coaches Association Wrestling Tournament at Hackensack High School Friday. The 43-school tourney is believed to be the country's largest high school wrestling event.



## Bergen Coaches tournament

### QUARTERFINAL ROUND

- 103 — Settembrino dec. Sinatra, 9-7; Weil pin Della-portas, 3-47; Galorezo dec. Silerie, 4-2 (OT); Bratka pin Machternes, 1-00.  
 112 — Williams pin Trivento, 2-23; G. Falasca pin Allgo, 3-58; Fazio pin Walker, 3-04; Dempsey dec. Reid, 8-2.  
 119 — Ja. Hernandez dec. Ruggiero, 10-0; Kan dec. O'Connor, 17-5; Dickson dec. Dow, 9-4; McNeil dec. Wegman, 13-3.  
 125 — Milani pin Mowery, 1:37; Shantz tech. fall Lipton, 4:00 (25-9); J. Falasca dec. Hacksapker, 9-6; Matzkanin dec. Venice, 11-8.  
 130 — Jo. Hernandez tech. fall Tunic, 5:55 (15-0); Martin dec. Mitchell, 17-4; Seymour dec. Gruber, 22-13; Nucifora pin Vicari, 5-49.  
 135 — Gargano dec. Diorio, 5-1; Oghlian dec. Hagg, 12-1; Bloch by disqualification over Ragozzino; Barrow dec. Dray, 8-4.  
 140 — Naddeo pin Ardizzone, 0:48; Arnsen pin Dennis, 0:57; Dolan dec. Bergen, 19-8; Petryshyn pin Gullino, 2-24.  
 145 — Liebrock pin Johnson, 3:25; Guttilla dec. Bualls, 5-3; Forziati dec. Bronner, 108; Rala dec. Olive, 7-4.  
 152 — Inglian pin Patino, 4:44; Alise dec. Seiler, 10-6; Bocchino pin Broderick, 3:16; Lynch pin Castronova, 1:34.  
 160 — Olley by default (illness) over Baskinger; O'Donovan dec. Scrivanich, 5-2; Garcia pin McNair, 4:51; Bruger dec. Barone, 6-5.  
 171 — Aiello pin Fischer, 4:29; Brown pin Moses, 3:05; Ebnetter dec. Rogers, 11-5; Carriere pin Mullin, 5:51.  
 189 — Sommers dec. Horgan, 12-3; Zaccone dec. Loll, 14-3; Campanile pin Caraffello, 1:31; Marinucci pin Capasso, 2-26.  
 Hwt. — Pacheco dec. Torosian, 7-4; Kangas pin Liparini, 1:12; Black pin McDevitt, 3:31; Abromowicz pin Favor, 5:05.

### SEMIFINALS

- 103 — Josh Weil, Ridgewood, pin Gregg Settembrino, Lyndhurst, 5:29; John Bratka, St. Joseph's, pin James Galorezo, Don Bosco Prep, :53.  
 112 — Wyman Williams, Garfield, dec. Greg Falasca, Pascack Hills, 6-4; Jeff Fazio, Emerson dec. Joe Dempsey, Fair Lawn, 2-0.  
 119 — Jason Hernandez, Bergen Cath., by disqualification over Atilia Kan, Fort Lee; Mike McNeil, North Bergen, pin Wayne Dickson, Garfield, 1:59.  
 125 — Jonas Shantz, Don Bosco Prep, pin Joe Milani, Tenafly, 1:22; Joe Falasca, Pascack Hills, dec. Jason Matzkanin, St. Joseph's, 13-1.  
 130 — John Hernandez, Bergen Cath., technical fall Keith Martin, River Dell, 17-0, 3:55; Chris Nucifora, Garfield, dec. Harry Seymour, North Bergen, 7-2.  
 135 — Raffi Oghlian, Old Tappan, dec. John Gargano, Westwood, 7-4 (OT); Darren Bloch, Pascack Valley, pin Tim Barrow, Garfield, :27.  
 140 — Justin Naddeo, Bergen Cath., pin Jay Arnsen, Paramus Catholic, 5:34; Evan Dolan, Hasbrouck Heights, pin Chris Petryshyn, Lyndhurst, 2:28.  
 145 — Joe Guttilla, Elmwood Park, dec. Rob Lebrock, Fair Lawn, 8-2; Jason Rala, Bogota, pin Mike Forziati, Pascack Valley, 5:07.  
 152 — John Alise, New Milford, dec. Adam Inglian, Cliffs Park, 9-4; Tom Bocchino, Westwood, dec. Rich Lynch, 12-11.  
 160 — Darren O'Donovan, Pascack Hills, dec. Mike Olley, Mahwah, 5-2; Pete Bruger, Dumont, pin Jason Garcia, Garfield, :42.  
 171 — Anthony Aiello, Paramus, pin Andrew Brown, Dwight Englewood, 1:40; Frank Carriere, Lodi, dec. Andy Ebnetter, Emerson, 6-1.  
 189 — Bill Sommers, Rutherford, pin Matt Zaccone, Old Tappan, 2:14; Vito Campanile, Paramus Catholic, dec. Joe Marinucci, Bergen Catholic, 9-4.  
 275 — Jason Kangas, Cliffs Park, dec. Eric Pacheco, Rutherford, 11-10; Rob Black, Ridgefield Park, pin Jason Abromowicz, North Bergen, 4:26.

### At Hackensack

### FINALS

- 103 — John Bratka, St. Joseph Reg., pin Josh Weil, Ridgewood, 1:10.  
 112 — Wyman Williams, Garfield, dec. Jeff Fazio, Emerson, 6-3.  
 119 — Jason Hernandez, Bergen Cath., dec. Mike McNeil, North Bergen, 14-0.  
 125 — Jonas Shantz, Don Bosco, dec. Joe Falasca, Pascack Hills, 10-7.  
 130 — Chris Nucifora, Garfield, dec. John Hernandez, Bergen Cath., 3-2.  
 135 — Raffi Oghlian, NV/Old Tappan, dec. John Gargano, Westwood, 7-4 (OT).  
 140 — Evan Dolan, Hasbrouck Heights, dec. Justin Naddeo, Bergen Cath., 6-3.  
 145 — Joe Guttilla, Elmwood Park, dec. Jesse Rala, Bogota, 4-3.  
 152 — John Alise, New Milford, tech. fall Tom Bocchino, Westwood, 19-3, 5:26.  
 160 — Peter Bruger, Dumont, pin Darren O'Donovan, Pascack Hills, 1:37.  
 171 — Anthony Aiello, Paramus, dec. Frank Carriere, Lodi, 11-6.  
 189 — Bill Sommers, Rutherford, by default Vito Campanile, Paramus Catholic.  
 275 — Jason Kangas, Cliffs Park, dec. Rob Black, Ridgefield Park, 5-4.

### THIRD-PLACE CONSOLATION

- 103 — Greg Settembrino, Lyndhurst, dec. James Galorezo, Don Bosco, 6-3.  
 112 — Greg Falasca, Pascack Hills, dec. Joe Dempsey, Fair Lawn, 5-4.  
 119 — Atilia Kan, Fort Lee, dec. Wayne Dickson, Garfield, 9-2.  
 125 — Joe Milani, Tenafly, dec. Jason Matzkanin, St. Joseph Reg., 6-4.  
 130 — Harry Seymour, North Bergen, dec. Keith Martin, River Dell, 9-4.  
 135 — John Gargano, Westwood, dec. Tim Barrow, Garfield, 5-3.  
 140 — Jay Arnsen, Paramus Cath., pin Chris Petryshyn, Lyndhurst, 4:22.  
 145 — Rob Lebrock, Fair Lawn, dec. Mike Forziati, Pascack Valley, 6-0.  
 152 — Rich Lynch, Rutherford, dec. Adam Inglian, Cliffs Park, 5-4.  
 160 — Jason Garcia, Garfield pin Mike Olley, Mahwah, 5:49.  
 171 — Andrew Brown, Dwight-Eng. by forfeit Andy Ebnetter, Emerson.  
 189 — Joe Marinucci, Bergen Cath., dec. Matt Zaccone, NV/Old Tappan, 5-2.

- 275 — Eric Pacheco, Rutherford, dec. Jason Abromowicz, North Bergen, 6-4 (OT).

### FIFTH-PLACE CONSOLATION

- 103 — Steve Dellaortas, North Bergen, pin Jay Silerie, Ridgefield Park, 0:41.  
 112 — Mike Walker, Hackensack, pin Andy Trivento, Westwood, 3:39.  
 119 — Jay Dow, Hackensack, by forfeit Jason Ruggiero, Ridgefield Park.  
 125 — Ron Hacksasper, Fair Lawn, pin Bruce Mowery, Ramapo, 1:26.  
 130 — Eugene Tunic, Paramus, pin Mike Gruber, Westwood, 2:29.  
 135 — Joe D'Orio, Paramus Cath., dec. Kyle Dray, Rutherford, 7-3.  
 140 — Ed Bergen, Elmwood Park, dec. Joe Ardizzone, Garfield, 3-1 (OT).  
 145 — Mark Johnson, Ramapo, dec. Ken Olive, Mahwah, 10-6.  
 152 — Brian Seiler, Midland Park, pin Dale Castronova, NV/Old Tappan, 2:01.  
 160 — Phil Barone, Saddle Brook, dec. Dennis Scrivanich, Fair Lawn, 6-5.  
 171 — Terry Rogers, Saddle Brook, dec. Jon Fischer, Pascack Valley, 11-8.  
 189 — Ray Capasso, Elmwood Park, dec. Mike Horgan, New Milford, 7-3.  
 275 — Mike McDevitt, Emerson, dec. Mirhan Torosian, Bergen Cath., 4-3.

### SIXTH-PLACE CONSOLATION

- 103 — Steve Della Portas, North Bergen, dec. Nick Sinatra, Waldwick, 13-8; Jay Silerie, Ridgefield Park, pin Mike Machternes, Elmwood Park, 1:31.  
 112 — Andy Trivento, Westwood, dec. Anthony Allgo, Don Bosco Prep, 13-8; Mike Walker, Hackensack, dec. Mike Reid, Ramsey, 9-0.  
 119 — Jason Ruggiero, Ridgefield Park, dec. Rory O'Connor, Glen Rock, 16-4; Jay Dow, Hackensack, dec. Ben Wegmen, Mahwah, 10-7.  
 125 — Bruce Mowery, Ramapo, by forfeit over Paul Lipton, Bergenfield; Ron Hacksasper, Fair Lawn, dec. Sal Venise, Cliffs Park, 7-3.  
 130 — Eugene Tunic, Paramus, pin Mike Mitchell, Ridgefield, :56; Mik Gruber, Westwood, dec. Angelo Vicari, Elmwood Park, 7-5.  
 135 — Joe D'Orio, Paramus Cath., dec. Andy Hagg, 1-0; Kyle Dray, Rutherford, dec. Felix Ragozzino, Becton, 19-4.  
 140 — Joe Ardizzone, Garfield, by forfeit over Reginald Dennis, Don Bosco Prep; Ed Bergen, Elmwood Park, dec. Gary Gullino, Hackensack, 12-5.  
 145 — Mark Johnson, Ramapo, dec. Marc Baultis, Lyndhurst, 14-3; Ken Olive, Mahwah, dec. Chris Bronner, Hasbrouck Heights, 13-5.  
 152 — Brian Seiler, Midland Park, tech. fall, Fernando Patino, Fair Lawn, 18-3, 4:27; Dale Castronova, Old Tappan, dec. Matt Broderick, Bergen Catholic, 7-5 (OT).  
 160 — Dennis Scrivanich, Fair Lawn, by forfeit over Brian Baskinger, Bergen Catholic; Phil Barone, River Dell, by forfeit over Keith McNair, Paramus.  
 171 — Jon Fischer, Pascack Valley, dec. Chris Moses, Old Tappan, 6-2; Terry Rogers, Saddle Brook, pin Sean Mullin, Tenafly, 6:53 (OT).  
 189 — Mike Horgan, New Milford, dec. Sean Loll, St. Joseph's, 6-0; Ray Capasso, Elmwood Park, pin Matt Caraffello, Lodi, 2:14.  
 275 — Mirhan Torosian, Bergen Catholic, pin Fred Liparini, Ramapo, 1:29; Mike McDevitt, Emerson dec. Josh Favor, Becton, 7-1.

# No sure things in this tournament

By Gregory Schutta  
Record Staff Writer

**HACKENSACK** — Parity has come to Bergen County wrestling.

Of the 26 wrestlers who advanced to the finals of the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Tournament on Saturday, 22 were from different schools.

One of them, Northern Valley at Old Tappan's Ed Oghlian, pulled off the upset of the tournament by defeating returning champion John Gargano of Westwood, 7-5, in the 135-pound semifinal.

"He lost to [Garfield's Tim] Barrow in the final of the Garfield tournament last week after being up by three points, so I think he redeemed himself today," said Old Tappan coach Lou Sirignano. "He was under control the entire match. He did a great job."

Oghlian's rematch with Barrow never materialized, however, as Darren Bloch of Pascack Valley pinned the Garfield senior in 27 seconds in the other semifinal.

Another top seed who did not get past the semis was Tenafly's Joe Milani, who was pinned in 1:22 by Don Bosco Prep's Jonas Shantz.

Garfield had five wrestlers in the semis, the most of any team, but their chances for a team championship began to slip away when three of the five lost in Saturday morning's semis. Jason Garcia, at 160 pounds, was the only one of three Boilermakers to win in the third-place consolations, and Garfield was 0-for-1 in the fifth-place bouts.

Bergen Catholic led the way with three wrestlers in the finals. John Hernandez, earned a 17-0 technical fall over River Dell's Keith Martin at 130 pounds despite a broken finger.

Garfield and Pascack Hills had two finalists each.

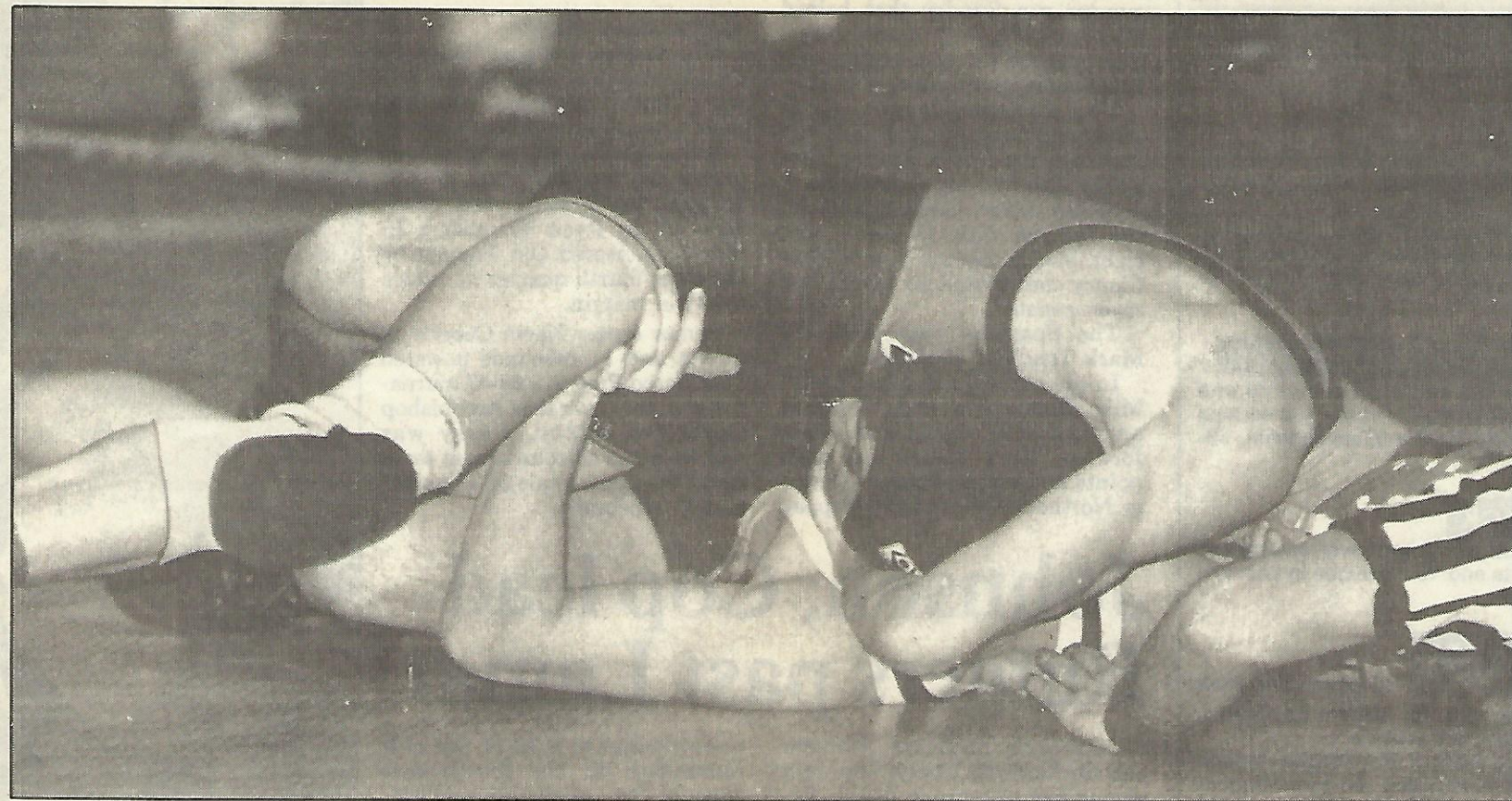
Lightning did not strike twice for Rutherford's Eric Pacheco, who ousted top seed Mirhan Torosian of Bergen Catholic in the 275-pound division Friday. Cliffside Park's Jason Kangas edged the 265-pounder, 11-10, to set up a showdown in the final with Bergen County Scholastic League American Division opponent Rob Black.

Black pinned second seed Jason Abromowicz of North Bergen in 4:26, his fourth pin of the tournament, to reach the final. Pacheco needed overtime to defeat Abromowicz, 6-4, in the 275-pound consolation bout.

In matchups most people expected to see in the final, Gargano edged Barrow, 5-3, to take third place in the 135-pound division, and Rutherford's Rich Lynch just got by Cliffside Park's Adam Ingilian, 5-4, in the 152-pound consolation bout.

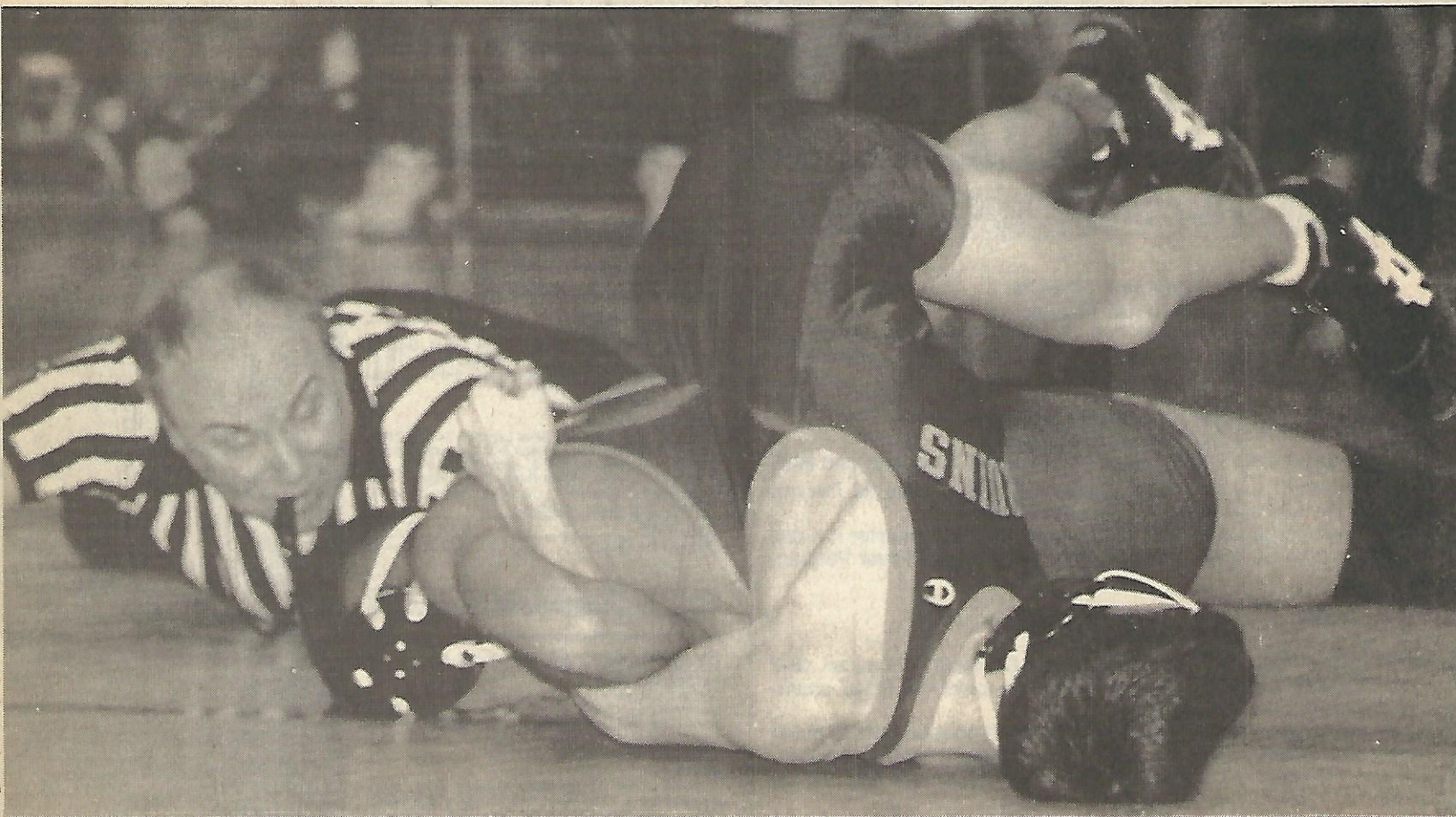
Joe Marinucci had a big win for Bergen Catholic beating Old Tappan's Matt Zaccone, 5-2, to finish third at 189 pounds.





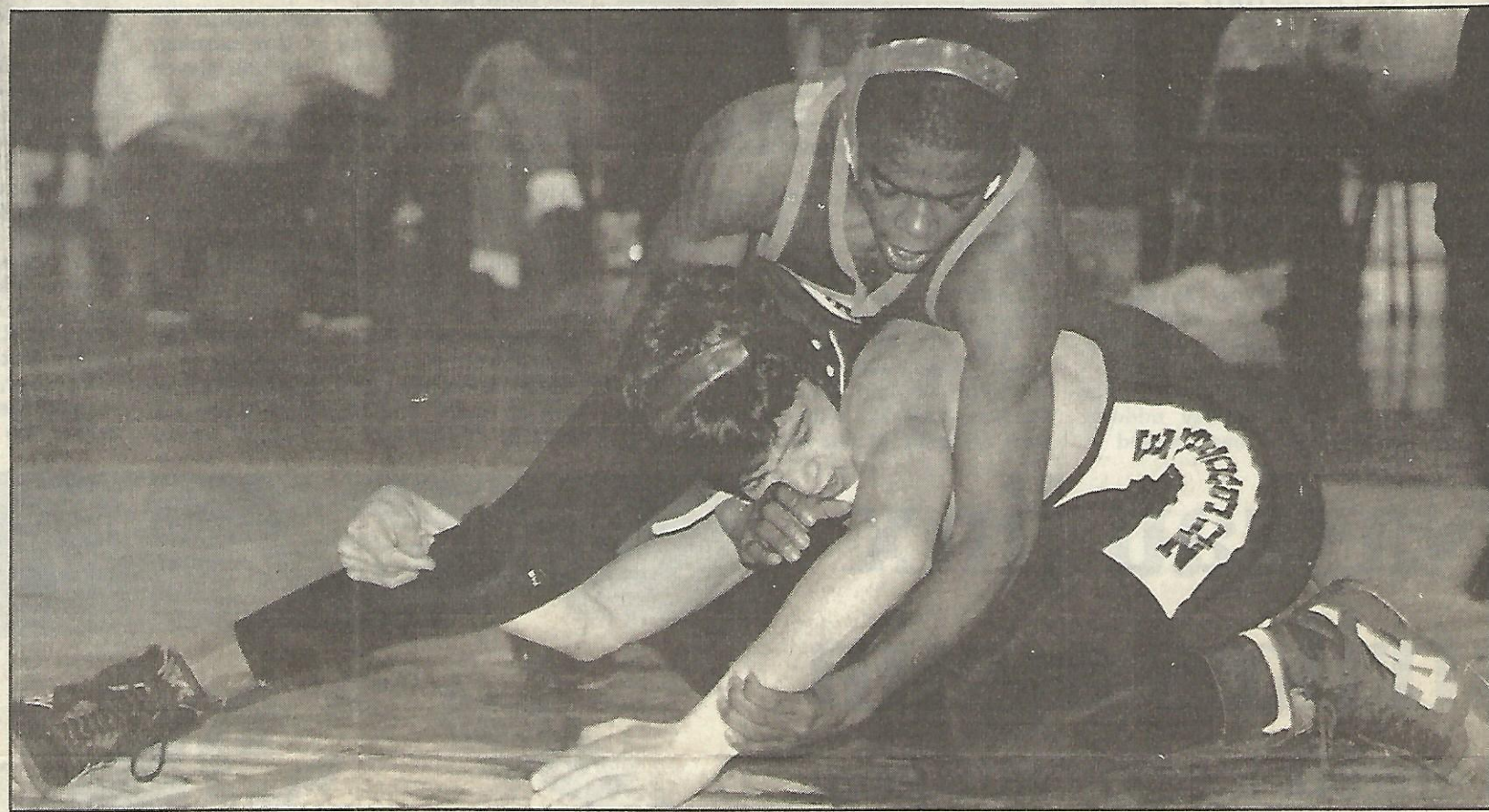
JOE GIARDELLI/THE RE

John Bratka of St. Joseph needed only 70 seconds to pin Ridgewood's Josh Weil in the Bergen tournament 103 final.



JOE GIARDELLI/THE RE

Bergen Catholic's Jason Hernandez nearly pins North Bergen's Mike McNeil in Bergen 119 final. Hernandez won, 14-0.



JOE GIARDELLI/THE REC

Wyman Williams, top, of Garfield works on turning Emerson's Jeff Fazio en route to the Bergen tourney 112-pound title.

# Heights' Dolan becomes

By Gregory Schutta  
Record Staff Writer

12/28/91

## WRESTLING

# three-time champ

**HACKENSACK** — Evan Dolan chose the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Hackensack High School to give notice that this is going to be his year.

The Hasbrouck Heights senior edged returning champion Justin Naddeo of Bergen Catholic, 6-3, in the 140-pound final Saturday, avenging a summertime loss and giving him his third straight County championship.

Bergen Catholic won the team trophy for the second straight year, easily outdistancing Garfield, 144-123½.

"I really worked hard for this," said Dolan, who was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler. "I wanted to do something nobody else in Hasbrouck Heights history has done."

In fact, only eight other wrestlers have won three titles in the tournament's 32-year history. But when it was over, Dolan knew he'd been in a war.

The bout was marked by several stalling calls on both sides, and Naddeo was penalized one point for using dangerous moves in the third period. With 10 seconds left in the match, Dolan slightly twisted his knee as he and Naddeo rolled outside the circle.

When the final buzzer sounded, Dolan bounded up, ran around the outside edge of the ring with his arms raised high, and tossed his headgear to his coach as his supporters cheered.

"He wanted the shot," Heights coach Tom Basile said of Dolan,

last year's 125-pound champion. "I think he showed with that display of emotion how much. Evan is not the type of person to dodge competition."

"I expected a tough match from [Naddeo]," Dolan said. "He's the type of guy who never gives up."

One person who may be on track to tie or even surpass Dolan's feat is Bergen Catholic sophomore Jason Hernandez, who rolled over fellow sophomore Mike McNeil of North Bergen, 14-0, in the 119-pound final to win his second straight county title.

"I was looking forward to this," Hernandez said. "We're both sophomores. We're both returning champions [McNeil at 103, Hernandez at 112]. It was like a showdown."

But the showdown never materialized, as Hernandez controlled the bout from start to finish. He nearly pinned McNeil with a double bar with seven seconds left in the first period and had several near-pins after that.

"He's very strong," Hernandez said. "He was fighting hard the entire time."

Jason's brother John, who went into Saturday's semis and finals with a broken finger, did not fare as well, dropping the 130-pound championship, 3-2, to Garfield's Chris Nucifora. It was second time in two years that he had lost the county championship by one point.

"He was very disappointed," Crusaders coach John Drenzo

said. "His goal was to win the counties this year. He pinned that guy last year. I think the finger made the difference."

John Bratka of St. Joseph's and Raffi Oghlian of Northern Valley at Old Tappan also had tournaments to remember.

Bratka, who surprised second seed Tony DeSena of Hasbrouck Heights in his opening-round

match Friday, marched through the 103-pound division and pinned Ridgewood's Josh Weil with a bar chin in 1:10 for his first championship. His five pins in 9:17 tied a tournament record for most pins and was the second shortest time in tournament history.

"It's a move I've depended on since I was a kid," Bratka said.

Oghlian, a fifth-place finisher in last year's tournament, was the surprise of a loaded 135-pound bracket, ousting returning champion John Gargano of Westwood and following that by pinning Pascack Valley's Darren Bloch in 1:41 to win the championship.

Other winners included last year's runner-up to Elmwood Park's Evan LaManna, Pete

Bruger of Dumont, who pinned Darren O'Donovan of Pascack Hills in 1:37. Jonas Shantz of Don Bosco Prep outlasted Joe Falasca of Pascack Hills, 10-7, for the 125-pound title, and Jason Kangas of Cliffside Park needed a late take-down and survived a near pin in the final seconds to edge Ridgefield Park's Rob Black in the 275-pound division.

# Costs keep rising for Bergen tournament

Dec 28, 1991

Some final thoughts on the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Tournament.

Although tournament director **George Jockish** has not added up the damage, the 1991 event is certain to eclipse last year's cost of \$13,107. If a school thinks the \$200 team entry fee is too steep, consider the cost per bout.

"Last year, if a team sent only five wrestlers and they all lost in the first round, they were ahead of the game," Jockish says. "It cost about \$46 a bout to run the event and it was higher this year."

There were 43 teams entered this season instead of 44 because Northern Highlands entered a tournament in Pennsylvania. Team entry fees netted Jockish only \$8,600.

A \$6 spectator ticket was good for all rounds Friday, while the cost per session Saturday was \$3. It's less than the price to see a movie, but attendance was down from last season. Participation also was down.

"You'd think the recession would help high school sports," Jockish says. "It's cheap entertainment. I can't figure it out. Are things that tough?"

The high cost of police and custodians in Hackensack High School continues to increase each year, but the price of a ticket hasn't.

"Everybody is suffering," Jockish says.

\* \* \*

**Mike Reid** of Ramsey was the first Bergen tournament wrestler to prevail in the new overtime procedure. In his 112-pound bout against Ramapo's **Steve Raff**, no points were scored in the sudden-death two-minute session. In the 30-second tie-breaker, Reid chose the top position and rode out a victory.

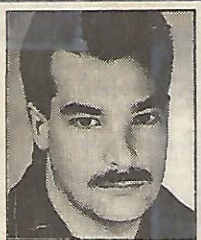
Northern Valley at Old Tappan's **Raffi Oghlan** had swifter success in the 135-pound final. He scored three points in the sudden-death period to defeat defending champion **John Gargano** of Westwood, 7-4.

\* \* \*

Will any team step forward in this year's Group 3 State tournament? NV/Old Tappan claimed Bergen's Group 3 team championship, but finished 10th overall. Five Group 2 schools — Garfield, Rutherford, Pascack Hills, Westwood, and Elmwood Park — finished ahead of the Golden Knights.

Other group champions were Bergen Catholic (4), Garfield (2), and Hasbrouck Heights (1).

\* \* \*



**BARRY GRAMLICH**

Ridgefield's disappointing finish needs an explanation. After finishing second to powerful Bound Brook in its Christmas tournament and ahead of Ridgefield Park and Rutherford, the Royals were 37th at Hackensack with 10½ points.

The draw didn't help when 112-pounder **Marco Asan** lost to top-seeded **Wyman Williams** of Garfield in the first round. And unbeaten **Hatim Mari** (145) was away for the holiday with his family.

Incidentally, Mari is a first-year varsity wrestler who previously attended an Arab school. He picked up a first-period pin Saturday in a 45-29 victory over New Milford to improve to 4-0. Ridgefield also has a dual-meet win over Rutherford, which was fourth overall in the Bergen tournament.

"I told coach [**Doug**] Loucks it was nice to get them early in the season," says Ridgefield coach **Tim O'Hara**. "They've got some young wrestlers who'll improve as the season goes on."

\* \* \*

Next for Ridgefield is unbeaten Tenafly, which downed Ramapo on junior **Alex Parlamis**' pin at 189. The clincher was fitting because the Tigers are 20-deep in the junior class and ready to roar next season. **Paul Amicucci** (130), **Andy Baggs** (160), and **Sean Mullin** (171) are the only seniors.

Coach **Jim Sutera** has had eight consecutive winning seasons and says the Tigers can improve on last season's 13-4 record.

"Three of our losses were to Paramus, Cliffside Park, and Dumont," he says. "We're really progressing and eventually we'll get to the top in our district."

Tenafly meets Ridgefield Wednesday night.

\* \* \*

Can someone explain why six points are awarded to each team for a double forfeit? Nobody wrestles. Nobody wins. It's as if there's a reward for offsetting penalties.

\* \* \*

Four forfeits in a dual meet will not be the norm for Hawthorne this year. There were three extenuating circumstances Friday in a 51-18 loss to powerful Elmwood Park.

This is not to say that the Bears — who have a program on the rise — should have won the show-down. However, there were three outstanding reasons for the unavailability of three wrestlers.

1. **Jack Cacamis** was in his sister's wedding party; 2. **Bebert Kaghado** was taking part in a tryout at Rutgers for the U.S. Olympic developmental soccer team. 3. **Jimmy Alvarez**, a football star, had yet to get in his six mandatory practice sessions and, thus, was ineligible.

"Hey, these are real-world situations, and they come before wrestling," coach **Bob Pasquale** told the threesome.

Kaghado transferred from Manchester in time to play soccer at Hawthorne.

"He told us before day one that he was going, so we knew about it and it was all right with me," Pasquale says.

The trip was not just a lark for Kaghado, says Hawthorne soccer coach **John Giudice**. "He is plenty good. He played midfield for us, but he could play the front line, anywhere. He's a relentless worker and he has plenty of tools, not just some tools."

Alvarez planned to use his after-school time to continue working for his black belt in jiu jitsu. But friends talked him into joining them on the wrestling team.

# Dolan as confident on the bottom as on his feet

By Ron Fox  
Record Staff Writer

Credit Evan Dolan for winning his third Bergen County championship, but one question has to be asked. It concerns one of the tournament's most curious decisions.

## WRESTLING

The Hasbrouck Heights 140-pounder was so confident on his feet that he twice allowed escapes by returning regional champion Justin Naddeo of Bergen Catholic, who also was a defending County champion. Leading 5-2 after scoring two single-leg takedowns, Dolan had to make a decision. Instead of choosing the neutral position in the third period to continue taking advantage of his footwork, he took the bottom position.

"I just felt he couldn't hold me down," said Dolan, who held on, 6-3. "I practiced real hard on the bottom. That's my strength. That's where my conditioning comes out. Very few people can hold me down."

**DAD AND LAD:** Westwood 152-pounder Tom Bocchino has a tough act to follow. His father, Tom, was the County 136-pound champion representing Fair Lawn High School in the first Bergen County tournament in 1960.

The younger Bocchino made it to the finals and was even with John Alise of New Milford in the first period. However, Alise es-

caped to open the second period and hit a four-point move, switching from a duck-under and hiping in for the takedown. He rolled to a

19-3 triumph.

To his credit, the elder Bocchino didn't overreact. He gave his son time to cool off before consoling him.

**MORE BLOODLINES:** Bogota's Jason Rala, runner-up at 145 pounds, is the nephew of three former Paramus standouts — Rob Anstatt and brothers Lenny and Kenny Barcellona.

**SELF ASSURED:** Garfield's champions, Wyman Williams and Chris Nucifora, have at least one thing in common — confidence. "Wyman worked hard all summer and he's more mature and confident," said coach Greg Kulig. "Nucifora's losses last year were all to good kids. He was a step behind, but he said he was going to win the County this year, and he took it to the kid."

**FOOTWORK TELLS:** Paramus 171-pounder Anthony Aiello used driving takedowns to build a 6-2 lead in his 11-6 victory... Elmwood Park's Joe Guttilla almost fell victim to Raia's sterling footwork at 145 pounds. Raia took him down with a single-leg shot for a 3-3 tie and then, brimming with confidence, let Guttilla up for the lead point. Guttilla countered every move from then on for a 4-3 win... A hard shrug takedown by Rutherford's Bill Sommers not only gained a 3-2 lead in the 189-pound final, but actually brought about its end. Paramus Catholic's Vito Campanile suffered an injury to his right ankle and, after trying to continue, had to withdraw, down 7-2.

# At any weight, Dolan proves he's first-rate

By Greg Mattura  
Correspondent

Those who know him thought he was taking on more than he could handle. Those who know him *well* knew it was something he could do.

Rarely does a wrestler move up three weight classes and find success. So there was skepticism when Evan Dolan of Hasbrouck Heights climbed from 125 pounds to 140.

"Some people said, 'He has no right being in that weight class,'" Dolan said. "But just because you jumped up three weight classes doesn't mean you can't handle yourself."

Dolan handled five opponents at last week's Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament. The Record's Athlete of the Week won the 140-pound title and was chosen the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Dolan's title placed him in an elite group. The 5-foot-8 senior became the ninth competitor in the tournament's 32 years to capture three BCCA crowns.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### EVAN DOLAN

Senior, Hasbrouck Heights

**AGE:** 17

**SPORT:** Wrestling

**LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Dolan won the 140-pound title at the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament. Seeded third, he became the ninth wrestler to win three County crowns in the tournament's 32 years.

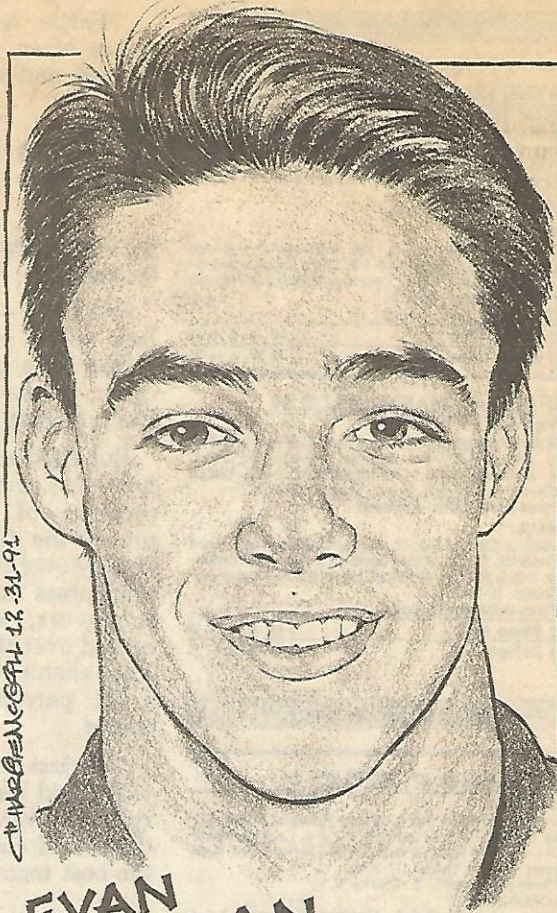
**BACKGROUND:** Dolan won at 125 pounds last season, and at 103 as a sophomore. He began competing at age 8, and dedicates most of his athletic energy to wrestling. He is interested in several colleges, including Trenton State and Rider.

**QUOTE:** "After my first year [in third grade] I did really well. I went down to the State tournament and won a few matches. I was good at it, so I figured, 'Why choose anything else?'"

"It was the best feeling in the world when I came through on top," said Dolan, who defeated returning champion Justin Naddeo of Bergen Catholic, 6-3, in the final. "Just knowing that I had joined some of the greats that won the County tournament three times."

"He's made his little niche in Bergen County history," coach Tom Basile said. "Like he said, he just wanted to be part of an elite group that won it three times. What he's done is fantastic."

More fantastic is the route Dolan took to earn the titles. Each came at a drastically different weight. In addition to victories at 140 and 125, he won at 103



EVAN DOLAN  
OF HASBROUCK  
HEIGHTS-

pounds as a sophomore.

"I think I'm the first person to jump up three weight classes two years in a row and win the County tournament," Dolan said. "Sometimes when I think about it, it's such a shock. Only two years ago at this time, I was 37 pounds lighter."

A 37-pound jump was the primary reason for the doubts about Dolan's chances for continued success. In the preseason, even Basile suggested Dolan consider starting at 135.

"But when he saw how well I handled myself at the higher weight," said Dolan, "he said, 'Well, you seem to have found your weight class, so just take it from there.'"

Dolan says competing at 140 pounds has made it easier to battle one of wrestling's biggest challenges: weight reduction. A higher weight class allows him to have more than a glass of water for dinner.

"When you're constantly thinking about your weight, you're not thinking enough about wrestling," Dolan said. "If you don't have to worry about your weight, you're better off."

"It's very difficult to go home and do homework when you have to lose 15 pounds and you can't eat dinner," said Basile. "This way it helps you become more of a complete person."

"I could have made 135 pounds this year but the little bit extra . . .," said Dolan. "I figured 'Why cut the extra weight when I could stay at this weight and avoid getting sick.'"

Runners-up for Athlete of the Week are Don Bosco Prep's **Jonas Shantz** for wrestling; Hackensack's **Darius Pemberton** and Don Bosco Prep's **Brian Barry** for track; and Rutherford's **Meredith Eberspacher** and Midland Park's **Tracy Smith** for basketball.

# Freshmen find a welcome mat

By Jim McGuinness  
Special to The Record

At most Bergen County high schools, full-fledged freshman wrestling programs are a thing of the past.

Enter the Bergen County Coaches Association's Freshman Wrestling Tournament, the only area wrestling event held exclusively for freshmen. The tournament's second edition took place Feb. 8 at Bergenfield High School.

"At a lot of schools, freshmen weren't getting a chance to compete against kids at their own level," said tournament director George Jockish. "So the BCCA decided there was a desperate need to create a freshman tournament."

With the demise of numerous freshman wrestling programs, many young wrestlers have been force-fed into junior varsity or varsity programs in recent years. The BCCA tournament was designed to create better matchups for high school newcomers.

"It gives freshmen a chance to compete against their peers instead of varsity seniors or juniors," Jockish said. "Some of them were able to experience some high school success for the first time."

A total of 29 schools and 162 wrestlers competed in the event. Ramsey took the overall team title with 92 points, followed by Ridge-

field Park (86) and Palisades Park (81.5).

Six Ramsey wrestlers made the semifinals, including 125-pound champion Chris Mabie. Ryan Paquin (103) and Phil Christian (160) each posted second-place finishes, while Rams teammates Pat Layng (130), Rob Rapp (171), and Kevin Tiesman (189) each came in third.

"Ramsey is an example of what we're trying to do with this tournament," Jockish said. "Their varsity record is 1-8 and they're using a lot of freshmen. With their success in the freshman tournament, they can take something positive into next season."

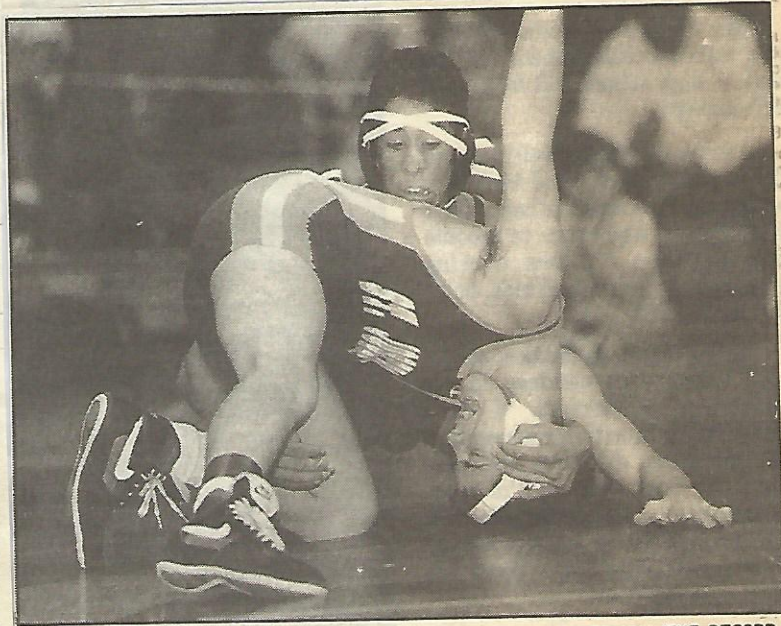
Matt Moran, Bergenfield's 130-pound entry, was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

Runner-up Ridgefield Park had a pair of champions in Alex Baez (135) and Brian Vallabla (152). St. Joseph's and Emerson also had two champions each. St. Joseph's champs were Frank Loderseto (160) and Paul Hernandez (171), while the Emerson winners were Bill Lovett (112) and Tom Mulhern (119). Other individual champions were Ed Choosing (93) of Glen Rock, Dan Pires (103) of Fair Lawn, Alex Sanchez (145) of Palisades Park, Mike Ostros (189) of Bergen Tech, and John Gagnon

(heavyweight) of Northern Highlands.

Bergenfield athletic director Robert Wieboldt said his school enjoyed being the tournament's host.

"We had a very good experience with it," Wieboldt said. "It's a good idea, and all the kids seemed to have a good time."



ED HILL/THE RECORD

Kipp Cruz (top) of Palisades Park has a hold of Dan Fitzpatrick of St. Joseph during the Bergen County Freshman Wrestling Tournament.

## Bergen County Freshman Wrestling Tournament

### Team scores

1. Ramsey, 92; 2. Ridgefield Park 86; 3. Palisades Park, 81.5; 4. St. Joseph's Regional, 70; 5. Fair Lawn, 62; 6. Emerson, 48.5; 7. Paramus 40; 8. Hasbrouck Heights, 41; 9. Tenafly, 40; 10. Bergenfield, 39; 11. Cliffside Park, 36; 12. Bergen Catholic, 35.5; 13. Saddle Brook, 32; 14. NV/Old Tappan, 30; 15. Bergen Tech, 27; 16. Northern Highlands, 25; 17. Waldwick, 24; 18. Glen Rock, 22; 19. Don Bosco, 17; 20. River Dell 17; 21. Lyndhurst, 13; 22. Teaneck, 11; 23. Pascack Hills, 9; 24. Midland Park, 6; 25. Bogota, 4; 25. Englewood, 4; 25. Indian Hills, 4; 29. Demarest, 0; 29. Pascack Valley, 0.

### FINALS

93 pounds - Ed Choosing, Glen Rock, pin Joe Clark, Don Bosco, 1:01; 103 - Dan Pires, Fair Lawn dec Ryan Paquin Ramsey, 10-6; 112 - Bill Lovett, Emerson dec Marco Capalon, Ridgefield Park, 4-0 (OT); 119 - Tom Mulhern, Emerson, pin Ted Witte, Tenafly, 1:37; 125 - Chris Mabie, Ramsey, pin John Batista, Palisades Park, 2:45; 130 - Matt Moran, Bergenfield, dec. Bret Essmann, Old Tappan, 15-6; 135 - Alex Baez, Ridgefield Park, pin Mike Cappello, Hasbrouck Heights, 1:33; 140 - Joe Flanagan, Bergen Catholic, dec. Kipp Cruz, Palisades Park, 10-5; 145 - Alex Sanchez, Palisades Park, pin Billy Ghorayeb, Saddle Brook, 1:41; 152 - Brian Vallabla, Ridgefield Park, pin Shamel Edwards, Teaneck, 2:26; 160 - Frank Loderseto, St. Joseph, pin Phil Christian, Ramsey, 1:15; 171 - Paul Hernandez, St. Joseph, pin Mike Mullin, Tenafly, 1:14; 189 - Mike Ostros, Bergen Tech, pin Mike Russo, Hasbrouck Heights, 1:59; 275 - John Gagnon, Northern Highlands, pin Chris Mania, Fair Lawn, :25.

### CONSOLATION

93 pounds - Nick DeBonis, Paramus, pin Brent Hobart, Midland Park, 2:44; 103 - Neil Sikder, Paramus, dec. Ed Crus, Palisades Park, 13-5; 112 -

Tom Wondra, River Dell, dec. Mike Raguseo, Hasbrouck Heights, 9-0; 119 - Kitaka Hall, Ridgefield Park, pin John Countouroudas, Pascack Hills, 3:54; 125 - Steven Kuropchan, St. Joseph, pin Jason Evans, Bergen Tech, 1:56; 130 - Pat Layng, Ramsey, pin Joe Rettig, Cliffside Park, 2:24; 135 - Jesse Girkesch, Bergenfield, by forfeit over Dave Dennis, Bergen Catholic; 140 - Rob Thiemann, Ridgefield Park, pin Josh Thompson, 1:08; 145 - Jeff Posner, Fair Lawn, pin Keith Kockelbeck, Old Tappan, :44; 152 - Andy Chang, Paramus, pin Phil Kaczor, Fair Lawn, 2:30; 160 - Julio Maschang, Ridgefield Park, pin Lyle Freeman, Northern Highlands, 3:27; 171 - Rob Rapp, Ramsey, pin Ilir Miftary, Paramus, :49; 189 - Kevin Tiesman, Ramsey, pin Kevin McCannbridge, Don Bosco, 1:45; 275 - Mike DiSanto, Saddle Brook, pin George Marin, Lyndhurst, 3:35.