

Sun Dec 27, 1998

# Tourney to honor official

By **RON FOX**  
Staff Writer

PARAMUS — Officiating the Bergen County Coaches Holiday tournament has special meaning for Bob Whitaker.

"It's a very prestigious tournament, so it's an honor just to be selected to work in it," Whitaker said between preliminary-round matches Sunday. The tournament committee considers Whitaker special enough that it will present him with the William F. Powley Memorial Service To Wrestling Award prior to tonight's championship round. Whitaker is the first honoree to also have been a County champion.

## PRELIMINARIES

Whitaker was an unbeaten State 120-pound champion as a high school sophomore in his native Oklahoma in 1963. His family moved to New Jersey the next year, and wrestling for Ridgewood. Whitaker won the Bergen title at 123 pounds in 1964 and another State title in March 1965.

"We had one of the best teams in the state my junior year at Ridgewood," said Whitaker, who resides in Pine Brook with his wife and son. "Ten district champions and five region champions."

He was 47-1-1 in New Jersey and placed in the Big 8 Conference championships for the University of Oklahoma.

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The first surprise in the preliminaries was at 215 pounds, where Paramus Catholic freshman Dan Farina of East Rutherford nipped taller Emerson-Park Ridge veteran Tim Van Overloop, 4-3. It was Farina's second varsity match following a loss last week against Belleville.

"I'm a Farina," was his explanation for success, noting that uncles Jim and John Farina were standout athletes at Becton, and his father, Frederick, also played football and wrestled. "I give up

20 pounds in this weight class, but in my junior program until last year, I was always wrestling against bigger, stronger kids."

He is a two-time junior regional winner and last year's intermediate 180-pound State champion, who weighed in Sunday at 196. However, Farina was pinned in the second round by last year's Bergen County freshman champion, Brian Diorio of Indian Hills. . . . Becton's 103-pound Mike Decio won, 5-3, in overtime over Mahwah's third-seeded Joey Pedevill.

**NOTES** — Another freshman with a background is Brian Lucas of Bergen Catholic, who ousted Pasack Hills' fourth-seeded Mike Kraycinovich, 5-4, with a frontal head and leg takedown. . . . While Dumont lost out when Lucas chose BC, the Huskies held onto Anthony Dunkin, who battled tooth and nail with State junior champion Steve Hult before being pinned in their second-round bout.

There were handshakes galore for new St. Mary's coach Kurt Montanye, who previously coached at Montclair. He won a Bergen title at 160 pounds for

Fair Lawn in 1989. "It's great to be back home in Bergen County," he said. . . . Cliffside Park's fourth-seeded 152-pounder Zeke Hernandez said he learned from watching teammate Oliver Ruiz win the State 119-pound championship after stumbling in the regions. "You can't give up, even if people look at you and say you're not that good. It's all head and heart," he said after toughing it out by answering a reversal with one of his own for an 8-5 second-round win over rugged Mike Rothman of River Dell.

Making the transition from a championship football season to the mat takes about a month, said Glen Rock's 189-pound Gerald Pascarelli. Two weeks into the season, Pascarelli was forced into overtime when taken down with five seconds left by Ridgefield's Kevin Tedesco. "Football's a lot of standing around, and wrestling is non-stop movement; it takes me about a month of hard work to get my wind and brush up on my moves," he said after winning, 12-10, in OT with a double-leg takedown in Paramus High's brutally hot auxiliary gym. Glen Rock, which

forfeited the first three weight classes last year, is fielding a full lineup this year.

One of the earliest showdowns saw St. Joseph 171-pound Matt Romeo decision Don Bosco Prep's third-seeded Bryan DeSousa, 9-5, in the first round. A second-round matchup of major talents saw top-seeded 189-pound Kyle Good of Indian Hills pin St. Joseph's Dustin DeMercurio in 3:00. . . . Garfield's 103-pound quarterfinalist Rodney Yamet is no fresh-faced freshman. He's a senior who has been stuck behind major Boilermaker point-scorers Dave Salmond and Anthony Barber for years.

Pasack Hills was without four injured wrestlers, including Dennis Winters (arthroscopic knee surgery), who was third here last year. . . . Lyndhurst had a tough day — four wrestlers not making weight and one, Oguz Cifteibasi (152), being disqualified for flagrant fouls, costing his team the points he earned and costing him a suspension for his team's next two matches.

Fifth-place consolation and semifinal rounds begin at 11 a.m. today. Third-place consolations are 5:30 p.m. and finals at 7.



Sun Dec 27, 1998

# Eight champions to defend County crowns

By **RON FOX**  
Staff Writer

**PARAMUS** — Depending on their weigh-ins this morning, two or three returning champions could meet in the late rounds of the 39th annual Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Paramus High School.

The excitement should center around either the 135- or 140-pound weight classes, involving Hackensack's Chris Bitetto (winner at 130 pounds last year), St. Joseph's Erik Norgaard (135), and Pascack Hills' Justin Frohlich (140). It all depends on their weights and inclinations. Will they drop to a lower weight class, move up, or stay put?

In case anyone drops to 130 pounds, another returning champion, Ramsey's Chris Brizzi, likely will be waiting. Pascack Valley's David Germakian, St. Joseph's Mike Palo, Ramsey's Phil DeBiasi, and Fort Lee's Brad Christie make it eight champions back to defend titles.

The team title figures to be decided by St. Joseph, Indian Hills, Pascack Hills, and Bergen Catholic. Nine Indian Hills wrestlers meet criteria for seeds as major-tournament medalists. Paramus also has nine, but its best finish was no higher than district champion. Pascack Hills has eight and St. Joseph seven. BC has only five, and two of Hackensack's top six — County silver medalist Aashon Larkins and Chris Labrosse — are out while awaiting shoulder operations.

Like last year, 48 of 49 County teams will compete. However, Bogota has dropped out, while Wood-Ridge is back after a one-year absence.

Here is a rundown of the names the coaches are talking about at each weight class:

**103** — Pascack Valley freshman Steve Hult is a five-time Junior State champion, including last year's National Juniors title. St. Joseph freshman Chris Lowe was second in the Gray Bee tournament at St. Benedict's. Hackensack's Gerard Carroll has more high school experience.

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**112** — Region champion Germakian, Mike Kraycinovich of Pascack Hills (fourth here last year), and Garfield district champ Anthony Barber are proven. Also, Bergen Catholic freshman Brian Lucas, and district medalists Ken Chu of River Dell and Jason Fink of Paramus.

**119** — Bergenfield's Bob Corregio, County runner-up Chris McDonnell of Indian Hills, Westwood's Vicken Minassian, and PV's Ryan Hult. Also, Rich Santana of Paramus, a three-time district champ, lost to Ryan Hult, 8-7, in the Hanover tournament last weekend; Ramsey's Mike Monteith, and Garfield's Jeff Alfonso.

**125** — State quarterfinalist Palo of St. Joseph, followed by Pascack Valley's Justin Mezzadri, and Bergen freshman champion Matt Shaban of Indian Hills. Also, Garfield's Stephen Hurley, Northern Highlands' Rich Van Houten, and Cresskill's Chris Jasonos.

**130** — Brizzi with St. Joseph's Chris Merzeau, Elmwood Park's Paul Chiaramonte, Lodi's Rob DiDomenico, and Indian Hills' Dan McDonnell.

Also, Pascack Hills' Derek Cunningham, Bergenfield's Steve Neff, and Paramus sophomore Dave Bucco.

**135** — Bitetto was fourth in the State. Also, Don Bosco Prep's Frank Petrucci, Lyndhurst's Dennis McSweeney, and St. Joe's Tom Murgolo.

**140** — Norgaard was fifth in the State, Frohlich was sixth, and Indian Hills' Steven Becker won a region medal for Fair Lawn. Also, Northern Valley at Demarest's Ed An, North Bergen's Anthony Falco, and Fort Lee's Spike Kim.

**145** — John Lauterback of Northern Valley at Demarest, who might go at 140, lost a three-point decision to Bitetto in last year's final. Also, Northern Valley at Old Tappan's Mike D'Andrea, Don Bosco Prep's Paul Siemon, Westwood's Adriatik Bajrushli, Indian Hills' Mike Massenzio, Ridgefield Park's Ceasar Maschang, and Leonia's Matt Morales.

**152** — Ralph DeNisco of St. Joseph is mentioned. Challenging are Garfield freshman Ardian Ramadani, Cliffside Park's Zeke Hernandez, Westwood's Joe Murtaugh, and Don Bosco's Donald Gribben.

**160** — State semifinalist Christie and DeBiasi would make a great finals match. Also, St. Joseph's Harry Gooch, Pascack Hills' Dennis Win-

ters, BC's Mike Cook, Hackensack's Bryan Thompson, River Dell's Mike Quinn, Bosco's Jason Moses, and Ridgewood's Andrew Tuculescu.

**171** — IH's Austin Wall and BC's '97 runner-up Kevin Collier. Also, Pascack Hills' Joel Manning, Lyndhurst's Adam Sica, Don Bosco's Bryan DeSousa, Ridgefield's Chris Tedesco, and St. Joseph's Matt Romeo, who lost by four to Collier on Wednesday.

**189** — IH's Kyle Good was seventh in the state. Paramus's Nick Ponzini has been a district second to him for two years. Also, St. Joseph's Dustin DeMercurio, BC's Pete Dray, Ridgefield Park's Don Sheldon, and Hackensack's Alrick Burrell.

**215** — Northern Highlands' Matt Greenberg was second last year and nationally ranked in the summer. Also, BC's Dom Santoli, Pascack Hills' Mike Plati, Indian Hills' County freshman champion Brian Diorio, and Becton's Nolan James.

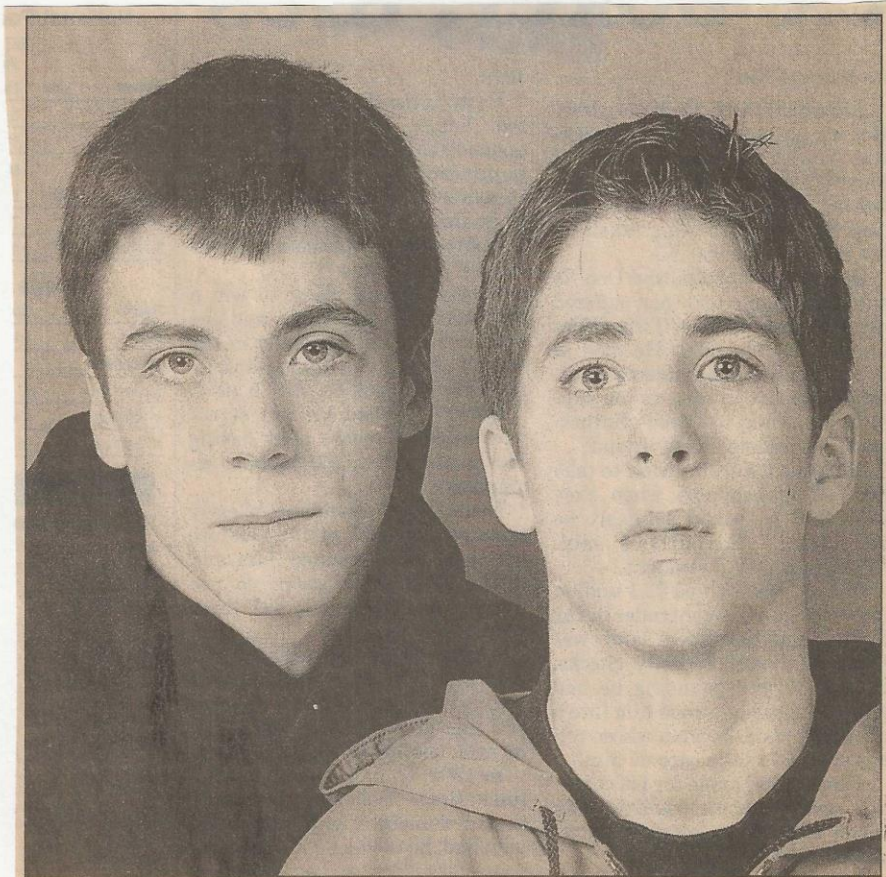
**Hwt** — St. Joseph's Edgar Puzio, Indian Hills' T.J. Hicks, '97 runner-up John Currid of Pascack Hills, BC's Adam Ackerman. Also, Westwood's Kevin Sampson, Fair Lawn's Phil Yucis, Waldwick's Vinny Rizzo, and Lyndhurst's Mike Schifano.



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THE WRESTLING REPORT

# Hult brothers star for PV



JIRO OSE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brothers Ryan, left, and Stephen Hult each won a tournament title for Pascack Valley.



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# Showdown in the making

By **TIM LEONARD**

Staff Writer

PARAMUS — No one will say it out loud, but here's a not-so-well-kept secret. Wrestlers know who is in their weight class, and they do what they can to avoid certain wrestlers.

So while there will be some intriguing matchups today in the semifinals and finals of the 39th annual Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday tournament at Paramus High, the marquee matchup is expected to happen at 135 pounds.

That's where top-seed Chris Bitetto of Hackensack and second-seed Justin Frohlich of Pascack Hills are expected to meet in the final. Bitetto finished fourth in the State at 135 pounds as a freshman last season. Frohlich finished sixth in the state at 140 pounds last season and has dropped a weight class this season because his off-season workouts were curtailed by knee surgery.

"It would be a good matchup. But I

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have to take it one match at a time. I'm not jumping into the final yet," Frohlich said. "I'm not saying I'm going to beat him and I'm not saying he's going to beat me. It should go back and forth."

The bout would present an interesting contrast in styles. Bitetto is more of a scientific wrestler who utilizes his speed and uses leverage well. Frohlich has a powerful upper-body and relies more a Greco-Roman style of throws and trying to overpower his opponent.

Both wrestlers were impressive during the quarterfinals. Bitetto made short work of St. Joseph's Tom Murgalo, winning by pin in 1:21. Frohlich got Westwood's Alex Koh in a headlock and demonstrated his upper-body strength, taking him over into a pin at 2:32.

"He doesn't want to walk through. He wants to meet some good wrestlers,"

Hackensack coach John Stallone said of Bitetto. "Chris has trained really hard. He's looking forward to good competition."

So is Erik Norgaard. The St. Joseph's 140-pounder pinned Bryan Friedman of Emerson-Park Ridge in 1:05, his third pin in less than two minutes in the tournament. Norgaard, a junior, wrestles year-round and won the 143-pound Freestyle State title over the summer. Frohlich was one of the wrestlers in that same weight class.

"This is warming me up for [today]. I don't look at the charts, I just wrestle whoever is in front of me on the mat," Norgaard said. "My goal this year is not to be taken down once. Freestyle helps with that."

Had things been a little different, Bitetto, Norgaard, and Frohlich could have been in the same weight class for this tournament. All captured titles here last year, with Bitetto winning at 130, Norgaard at 135, and Frohlich at 140. Who do you make the third seed

out of that group?

But tournament organizers didn't have to deal with that dilemma.

There were only a handful of upsets in the quarterfinal rounds. All of the top seeds advanced, but two No. 2 seeds were eliminated. The most shocking result may have come at 103 pounds, where Steve Holt of Pascack Valley pinned No. 2 seed Jared Magka of Ramapo in 2:35. Adrian Ramadani of Garfield, the No. 7 seed, muscled his way into the semifinals with a 6-1 decision over Matt Morales of Leonia.

"This is like Christmas for these kids. Most kids can't sleep because they want to open presents. These kids can't sleep because they want to get out there," Stallone said of the first big tournament of the season. "This is the real Christmas celebration for these kids. They don't get to celebrate like us. Most good wrestlers are running Christmas night."



**OUTBRACKETS**

**119** — Joe Marotta, Wood-Ridge, pin Drew Bolin, Teaneck, 0:41.

**125** — Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, pin Eric Contreras, Teaneck, 1:24; James Luciano, Paramus, dec. Jeff Siedler, River Dell, 10-4; John Villoslada, Leonia, pin Mike Carino, Ramapo, 1:03; Greg Khoury, Ridgewood, pin Scott Moll, Mahwah, 4:48; Alexander Varallo, Midland Park, dsc. Chris Costello, Ramsey, 8-2.

**135** — Matt Kenny, Northern Highlands, pin A.J. Dolan, St. Mary's, 5:06; Rich Owimrin, River Dell, pin James McCullagh, Ridgewood, 3:29; James Weck, Bergen Catholic, pin Mike Fugnitti, Ridgefield, 0:28.

**152** — Ross Flatt, Ridgewood, pin Mark Weber, New Milford, 2:50; Dave Amerman, Ramapo, pin Dario Vargas, Hackensack, 1:21; Joe Murtaugh, Westwood, dec. Joe Cocuzza, Emerson-Park Ridge, 5-3; Ryan O'Connor, Ramsey, pin David DeAngelo, Teaneck, 0:43; Matt Manchess, Ridgefield Park, pin Ken Warn, Waldwick, 5:24.

**160** — Sal Ferrara, Becton, pin Peter Cetta, Westwood, 3:55; Andrew Tuculesu, Ridgewood, pin Jeff Morrow, Dumont, 0:22.

**171** — Bobby Riley, Mahwah, pin Arnold Chanpanichpor, Paramus Catholic, 0:27; Kevin Kohan, Pascack Valley, pin Andrew Hart, Ridgewood, 0:36; Joel Manning, Pascack Hills, pin Ullyses Gibbings, Wood-Ridge, 0:38; Rob Olett, Northern Highlands, pin Ken Celenza, Saddle Brook, 3:16; Anthony Salomon, Cliffside Park, pin John Blackley, Ridgefield, 1:23; Fred Clark, Bergenfield, pin Chris Van Jurg, Hasbrouck Heights, 2:45.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**

**103** — Gerard Carroll, Hackensack, pin Mike Lazar, Fair Lawn, 3:59; Eric Angeli, Don Bosco Prep, pin Mike Rooney, New Milford, 3:09; Rodney Yamet, Paramus, pin Mark Ramos, Lodi, 1:16; Mike Decio, Becton, pin Dan Han, Ridgefield, 0:52; Dan Goldberg, Bergen Tech, bey; Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, pin A.J. Fullam, Emerson-Park Ridge, 2:27; Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Adam D'Allesandro, Lyndhurst, 0:17; Chris Lowe, St. Joseph Reg., pin Andrew McGoldrick, Bergenfield, 1:59.

**112** — David Gerkamian, Pascack Valley, pin Joe Petrucci, Mahwah, 4:35; Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, pin Steve LaSpina, Indian Hills, 0:46; Joe DePaola, Westwood, pin Jack Noy, Fair Lawn, 1:20; Jason Fink, Paramus, maj. dec. Tom Challener, Dumont, 12-4; Walter Burmann, Lodi, pin Andrew Wilson, Teaneck, 1:09; Mike Kravynovich, Pascack Hills, pin Rich Salmon, Bergenfield, 0:33; Dave Botwin, Cliffside Park, pin Chris Jurcenko, St. Mary's, 0:25; Paul Palmeri, Northern Highlands, pin Michael Rose, Wood-Ridge, 2:40; Armando Merlo, St. Joseph Reg., maj. dec. John Tal, Cresskill, 11-0; Ron Palmieri, North Bergen, pin Marc Montalbano, Bergen Tech, 0:30; Ken Chu, River Dell, pin Steve Geleiter, Paramus Catholic, 0:55; John Porto, Palisades Park, dec. Carl Cocuzza, Emerson-Park Ridge, 12-7; Anthony Barber, Garfield, pin David Sica, Lyndhurst, 3:00.

**119** — Chris McDonnell, Indian Hills, pin James LaRucca, Bergen Catholic, 1:38; Luis Escobar, Fort Lee, pin Jim Jessup, Elmwood Park, 2:47; Chris Costa, Lodi, pin Mike DeRosa, Hackensack, 4:38; Grant Dellatorre, River Dell, pin Chris Chin, Leonia, 1:52; Jeff Alfonso, Garfield, pin Steven Juoci, Mahwah, 1:57; Tom Herman, Ridgefield, pin Jay Picinich, New Milford, 0:42; Dominick Attardo, Emerson-Park Ridge, pin Vin Geranio, St. Joseph Reg., 1:56; Mike Monteith, Ramsey, pin Michael Meehan, Midland Park, 4:59; Rich Santana, Paramus, pin David Acosta, Cresskill, 1:00; Joe Marotta, Wood-Ridge, pin Dave Dombrowski, Rutherford, 3:32; George Dabal, North Bergen, pin Ken Michalowski, Ridgefield Park, 2:29; Ryan Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Jason Calogaro, Bergen Tech, 0:39; Bob Correggio, Bergenfield, pin Tyler Maganzini, Ramapo, 2:47; Rick Ziegel, Ridgewood, pin Kyle Cummings, NV/Demarest, 3:55; Adam DeGennaro, Don Bosco Prep, pin Eric DiChiara, St. Mary's, 1:00; Vic Minassian, Westwood, tech. fall Zach Greenberg, Northern Highlands, 21-5, 5:37.

**125** — Mike Palo, St. Joseph Reg., pin Frank Bianchi, Elmwood Park, 0:56; Dave Ferrell, Bergen Tech, dec. Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, 9-4; Antonio Viera, North Bergen, pin Robert Milian, Ridgefield, 0:16; James Luciano, Paramus, pin Adam Cambria, Emerson-Park Ridge, 3:30; Matt Shaban, Indian Hills, pin Donald Mamano, NV/Old Tappan, 3:00; Alberto Diaz, Saddle Brook, pin Hyun Kim, NV/Demarest, 1:59; James Butcher, Westwood, tech fall Justin Dolci, Paramus Catholic, 18-3, 4:41; Rich VanHouten, Northern Highlands, pin Kevin Fitzpatrick, Don Bosco Prep, 0:13; Justin Mezzardi, Pascack Valley, pin Christian Cabrera, Ridgefield Park, 3:34; Jason Kosson, Tenafly, pin Patel Whyte, Hackensack, 0:48; Charles Kryzsiak, Becton, pin Frank Inglese, St. Mary's, 1:10; John Villoslada, Leonia, pin Ian Young, Dumont, 1:39; Uri Bussi, Fair Lawn, pin Greg Khoury, Ridgewood, 1:04; Adam McLaren, Pascack Hills, pin Dan Marfino, Hasbrouck Heights, 0:54; Alexander Varallo, Midland Park, pin Tom Calnan, Bergen Catholic, 5:29; Rob Didomenico, Lodi, pin Vinny Fuccilli, Lyndhurst, 1:35.

**130** — Chris Brizzi, Ramsey, pin Tom Gallone, NB/Demarest, 1:15; Anthony Madonna, St. Mary's, pin Joe Kucharek, Ramapo, 3:24; Chris Jasonos, Cresskill, pin Tony Dilberto, NV/Old Tappan, 3:43; Mike Klapper, Glen Rock, dec. Mike Topel, River Dell, 6-4; Dave Bucco, Paramus, pin Sym Batong, Palisades Park, 1:20; Derek Cunningham, Pascack Hills, pin Victor Villalba, Dumont, 4:38; Emile Sawyer, Hackensack, pin James Shanley, Hasbrouck, 0:10; Chris Marzeau, St. Joseph Reg., maj. dec. Travis Hawkins, Leonia, 15-2; Dan McDonnell, Indian Hills, pin Denilson Porto, Cliffside Park, 1:48; Jeff Esposito, Saddle Brook, dec. Joe Plaza, Lodi, 12-10; David Sayers, Pascack Valley, pin Nick Cateneze, Lyndhurst, 1:30; Pat O'Hara, Ridgefield, pin Kevin Kiefer, Mahwah, 2:08; Albert Monroy, North Bergen, pin Serak Grigorian, Garfield, 3:00; Ron DePaolo, Westwood, pin John Klaus, Northern Highlands, 3:31; Brian Lynch, Emerson-Park Ridge, pin Mike Saputo, Ridgefield Park, 1:52; Paul Charamonte, Elmwood Park, pin Tug Thomson, Don Bosco Prep, 0:22.

**135** — Chris Bitetto, Hackensack, pin Jeff Boniello, Wood-Ridge, 1:37; Tom Rossi, Indian Hills, pin Brian O'Boyle, Bergenfield, 2:55; Tom Murgolo, St. Joseph Reg., maj. dec. Pete Karamitas, Tenafly, 9-0; Gerard Ridings, New Milford, pin Pete Graf, NV/Old Tappan, 3:40; Frank Petrucci, Don Bosco, pin Dan Zito, Becton, 0:50; Steve Cha, NV/Demarest, pin Joe D'Augustine, Waldwick, 2:40; Igor Martirosian, Cliffside Park, dec. Joe Nunez, Garfield, 9-4; Pat Ronayne, Glen Rock, pin Jeff Kozerskiy, Cresskill, 2:59; Dennis McSweeney, Lyndhurst, pin Gabe Perez, Leonia, 3:28; Matt Kenny, Northern Highlands, maj. dec. Billy Shaller, Dwight-Englewood, 13-3; Anthony Falco, North Bergen, pin Jeff Factor, Teaneck, 0:56; Rich Owimrin, River Dell, maj. dec. Joe Molos, Ridgefield Park, 14-6; Chris Moran, Paramus, pin Frank Kasetta, Saddle Brook, 1:13; Alex Koh, Westwood, pin James Weck, Bergen Catholic, 3:44; Jamie Wagner, Ramsey, pin Kyle Lezette, Dumont, 4:56; Justin Frohlich, Pascack Hills, pin Rob Moore, Paramus Catholic, 0:20.

**140** — Erik Norgaard, St. Joseph Reg., pin Jesse Simons, Northern Highlands, 0:51; Chris Castaneda, North Bergen, pin Jon Lotz, Westwood, 1:22; Bryan Friedman, Emerson-Park Ridge, pin Bobby Rose, Wood-Ridge, 5:59; Derek Johnston, Ridgewood, pin Chris Suchy, Pascack Valley, 1:52; Jason Edelman, Elmwood Park, dec. George Gunset, Pascack Hills, 7-5; Chris Falato, Paramus, pin Tom Nieves, Paramus Catholic, 1:24; Justin Zajicek, Ridgefield Park, pin Mike Drayton, Becton, 0:38; Spike Kim, Fort Lee, pin Ryan Williams, Ramapo, 3:37; Pete Truforos, Glen Rock, maj. dec. Mike Preis, Ramsey, 11-3; John Muscarella, River Dell, pin Patrick Price, Don Bosco Prep, 3:35; Dave Seitel, NV/Demarest, pin Sal Ingui, Lodi, 4:22; Buddy McDaniel, Leonia, pin Jon Connally, Bergen Catholic, 0:53; Eric Fugnitti, Ridgefield, pin Dan Uriate, Garfield, 4:53; Steve Becker, Indian Hills, pin Jason Chacon, Hackensack, 3:40.

**145** — Allan Simpson, Hackensack, pin Chris Soricelli, Bergen Tech, 3:13; Ric Mourkakos, Tenafly, dec. Cesar Maschang, Ridgefield Park, 7-5; Tom Serio, Glen Rock, pin Scott Smith, Mahwah, 1:31; Adriatik Bajrushi, Westwood, pin Nick Cantone, Becton, 1:07; Keith Gehshan, Pascack Valley, pin Justin Rauch, Ridgewood, 3:26; Mike Massenzio, Indian Hills, pin Ramsey Ayyad, North Bergen, 3:13; Paul Siemon, Don Bosco Prep, pin Derek Jones, Saddle Brook, 1:06; Nick Carnicelli, NV/Old Tappan, by forfeit over Nick Gallo, River Dell; Frank Scaglione, Lyndhurst, maj. dec. Kyle Bussell, Ramsey, 18-8; Charles O'Hanlon, Cliffside Park, pin Eric Stern, Cresskill, 2:55; Ardian Ramadan, Garfield, pin David Heller, Teaneck, 0:29; Anthony Cervis, Ridgefield, maj. dec. Albert Masino, St. Mary's, 9-0; Pete Gomez, Northern Highlands, pin Justin Sepede, Lodi, 3:06.

**152** — Ralph DeNisco, St. Joseph Reg., pin Nick Westphal, Dumont, 0:24; Boris Pavcinac, Ridgefield, maj. dec. Luke Johnson, Indian Hills, 23-12; T.J. Rinaldi, Mahwah, pin Joe Liberta, Becton, 4:40; Dan Basto, Leonia, pin Phil Salvatorelli, St. Mary's, 0:40; Donald Gribben, Don Bosco Prep, pin Ross Flatt, Ridgewood, 1:57; Jim McTigue, NV/Demarest, pin Geo Tabbal, Dwight-Englewood, 4:12; Mike Rothman, River Dell, pin Mike Yannuzzi, Pascack Valley, 3:12; Zeke Hernandez, Cliffside Park, pin Dave Amerman, Ramapo, 1:53; Mark Radolan, Fort Lee, pin Bobby Chwasta, Elmwood Park, 0:43; Joe Murtaugh, Westwood, maj. dec. Dan Morris, Bergenfield, 12-4; Morgan Horner, Hasbrouck Heights, pin Jason Eckhardt, Tenafly, 2:46; Scott Barchetto, Paramus, pin Ryan O'Connor, Ramsey, 3:28; Jose Valdez, Glen Rock, pin Matt Manchess, Ridgefield Park, 1:11; Oguz Ciftelbasi, Lyndhurst, pin Leyland Streiff, Bergen Catholic, 2:50; Jim Tessaro, Cresskill, pin Elvis Garcia, Paramus Catholic, 3:59; Mike D'Andrea, NV/Old Tappan, dec. Mike Carey, Northern Highlands, 10-4.

**160** — Brad Christie, Fort Lee, pin Ken Veras, North Bergen, 0:10; James Nicholas, Dwight-Englewood, pin

Adam Alfi, Palisades Park, 3:20; Brian Thompson, Hackensack, pin Harag Hamalian, Pascack Valley, 0:58; James Dolci, Paramus Catholic, pin James Pascarelli, Glen Rock, 3:43; Chris Tedesco, Ridgefield, pin Tom Moltaibano, Bergenfield, 5:01; Rob Jandreski, Saddle Brook, pin Casey Vanbrookhoven, Ramapo, 5:04; John Harz, NV/Demarest, dec. Craig Meyer, Hasbrouck Heights, 3-1; Jason Moses, Don Bosco Prep, pin Sal Ferrara, Becton, 5:07; Mike Cook, Bergen Catholic, dec. Joel Damiele, Emerson-Park Ridge, 10-5; Andrew Tuculescu, Ridgewood, pin Anthony Primerano, Lyndhurst, 1:13; Tom Ratto, NV/Old Tappan, pin Tom Osgoodby, Waldwick, 1:11; Paul Riccardella, Wood-Ridge, dec. Ryan Roettger, Northern Highlands, 8-3; Mike Quinn, River Dell, maj. dec. Rick Anderson, Paramus, 11-3; Harry Gooch, St. Joseph Reg., pin Mike Vallila, St. Mary's, 0:33; Joe Sudol, Indian Hills, pin Dave Hitchcock, Bergen Tech, 2:23; Phil DeBiasi, Ramsey, pin Joe Hecht, Ridgefield Park, 0:23

**171** — Kevin Collier, Bergen Catholic, pin Dan Testa, St. Mary's, 1:53; Bobby Riley, Mahwah, pin Mike Scott, Ramapo, 3:47; Evan Tryforos, Glen Rock, pin Max Rosales, North Bergen, 0:44; Eddie Guy, Fair Lawn, pin Adam Peterman, Ramsey, 5:09; Jay Brower, NV/Old Tappan, pin Scott Wisniewski, Elmwood Park, 5:44; Keving Kohan, Pascack Valley, pin Derek Picinich, New Milford, 1:32; Chris Sadowski, Rutherford, dec. Phil Ziganto, Leonia, 16-11; Joel Manning, Pascack Hills, pin Mitch Brunckhorst, Teaneck, 0:58; Matt Romeo, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Bryan DeSausa, Don Bosco Prep, 9-5; Rob Olett, Northern Highlands, dec. Glen Candrilli, River Dell, 8-1; Justin Quattrini, Tenafly, dec. Michael Grady, Emerson-Park Ridge, 6-4; Anthony Salomon, Cliffside Park, pin Keith Bisig, Cresskill, 2:26; Kevin McKearnin, Westwood, pin John Behnke, Paramus, 3:38; John Kim, Dwight-Englewood, dec. Jermaine Sibdhannie, Hackensack, 17-13; Mark Seto, NV/Demarest, pin Neil Osborne, Dumont, 0:27; Austin Wall, Indian Hills, pin Fred Clark, Bergenfield, 0:49.

**189** — Kyle Good, Indian Hills, pin Manny Ben-Or, Fair Lawn, 0:31; Dustin DeMurcurio, St. Joseph Reg., pin Dan Pergola, Northern Highlands, 0:42; Kevin Tedesco, Ridgefield, pin Jon VahTol, River Dell, 3:08; Dan Shelton, Ridgefield Park, pin Chris DiSanta, Saddle Brook, 1:23; Sam Davies, Dwight-Englewood, pin Victor Jeffries, Teaneck, 0:24; Anthony Mazzo, Emerson-Park Ridge, dec. Pete Dray, Bergen Catholic, 9-2; Nick Ponzini, Paramus, pin Tom O'Melia, Westwood, 1:26; Alrick Burrell, Hackensack, pin Ronald Saglimbene, Don Bosco Prep, 1:17; Greg Anzano, Dumont, pin Donal Gillespie, Palisades Park, 3:57; Jacob Clinton, Elmwood Park, pin Alex Smith, Tenafly, 2:08; Bill Bliss, Pascack Hills, pin John Gennaro, Pascack Valley, 0:53; Matt Hinzpeter, NV/Old Tappan, pin Dan Carrino, Leonia, 0:48; Guy Malatino, Ramsey, pin Chris Wallzak, Ridgewood, 3:25; Jason Schwartz, North Bergen, pin Drew Curtis, Midland Park, 0:45

**215** — Matt Greenberg, Northern Highlands, pin Ed Byron, Paramus, 1:42; Clint House, Cliffside Park, pin Dan Mangani, Ridgefield, 1:19; Bill Cummins, Pascack Valley, pin Zachary Dresler, NV/Demarest, 1:44; Dan Farina, Paramus Catholic, dec. Tim VanOverloop, Emerson-Park Ridge, 4-3; Alex Amato, Ridgefield Park, pin Zach Gotin, River Dell, 1:07; Nolan James, Becton, dec. Joel Thorton, Hackensack, 9-7; Matt Percelli, Glen Rock, pin Ken Jones, Tenafly, 0:47; Adam Heald, Ramsey, pin Justin Merzuau, St. Joseph Reg., 3:16; Peter Sek, Mahwah, pin Luke Sica, Lyndhurst, 1:07; Jim Touhey, Ramapo, pin Ian Brown, Teaneck, 0:27; Rus Whitney, NV/Old Tappan, dec. Beau Hodges, Westwood, 4-2; Mike Healy, Lodi, pin Don Berrian, Elmwood Park, 4:36.

**275** — Edgar Puzio, St. Joseph Reg., pin Greg Evans, Elmwood Park, 0:27; Sam Lim, NV/Demarest, pin John DiGiorgio, Ramapo, 1:40; Karon Singleton, Hackensack, pin Jeo Bertelloni, NV/Old Tappan, 1:10; Phil Yucis, Fair Lawn, pin Joe Youssef, Bergenfield, 0:29; Alex Hallstein, Leonia, pin Luke Midgley, Palisades Park, 0:09; Alex Gomez, St. Mary's, pin Rich Gonzales, Teaneck, 3:59; T.J. Hicks, Indian Hills, pin Steve Morris, Bergen Tech, 0:30; Jorge Quiroz, Dwight-Englewood, dec. Shubb Gregg, Rutherford, 7-6; Chris Hook, Paramus, pin Ray Suazo, Ridgefield Park, 1:35; Alex Trani, Paramus Catholic, dec. Loe Pagano, Glen Rock, 7-0; Steve Havens, Dumont, pin Juan Baez, North Bergen, 3:06; Jesse Daniele, Hasbrouck Heights, pin James Haak, River Dell, 3:05; Garrett Rothschild, Pascack Valley, pin Michael Duffy, Don Bosco Prep, 2:22.

**FIRST ROUND**

**103** — Gerard Carroll, Hackensack, dec. Jason Steinfeld, Westwood, 7-2; Eric Angeli, Don Bosco Prep, pin Moose Ramos, Indian Hills, 1:31; Rodney Yamet, Garfield, pin Don Maskal, Paramus Catholic, 0:48; Will Vaccione, Paramus, pin Brendan Bland, Bergen Catholic, 1:22; Mike Decio, Becton, dec. Joey Pedevill, Mahwah, 5-3 (OT); Chris Shaffer, Ramsey, pin Dan Goldberg, Bergen Tech, 1:20; Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, 3:15; Jared Magka, Ramapo, pin Chris Lowe, St. Joseph Reg., 1:51.

**112** — David Germakian, Pascack Valley, maj. dec. Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, 15-4; Mike Yalovelli, NV/Old Tappan, dec. Joe DePaola, Westwood, 11-4; Jason Fink, Paramus, dec. Walter Burmann, Lodi, 7-5; Brian Lucas, Bergen Catholic, dec. Mike Kraycinovich, Pascack Hills, 5-4; Dave Botwin, Cliffs Park, dec. Paul Palmeri, Northern Highlands, 9-8; Ron Palmieri, North Bergen, dec. Armando Merio, St. Joseph Reg., 4-1; Ken Chu, River Dell, pin Jon Porto, Palisades Park, 3:48; Anthony Barber, Garfield, pin Les Barbire, Becton, 0:51.

**119** — Chris McDonnell, Indian Hills, pin Luis Escobar, Fort Lee, 3:32; Grant Dellatorre, River Dell, pin Chris Costa, Lodi, 5:02; Jeff Alfonso, Garfield, maj. dec. Tom Herman, Ridgefield, 18-5; Mike Monteith, Ramsey, dec. Dominick Attardo, Emerson-Park Ridge, 8-4; Rich Santana, Paramus, dec. Joe Marotta, Wood-Ridge, 5-4; Ryan Hult, Pascack Valley, pin George Dabal, North Bergen, 2:27; Bob Correggio, Bergenfield, maj. dec. Rick Ziegel, Ridgewood, 11-2; Vic Minassian, Westwood, pin Adam DeGennaro, Don Bosco Prep, 1:33.

**125** — Mike Palo, St. Joseph Reg., pin Dave Ferrell, Bergen Tech, 5:51; Antonio Viera, North Bergen, dec. James Luciano, Paramus, 11-5; Matt Shaban, Indian Hills, pin Alberto Diaz, Saddle Brook, 17-2; Rich VanHouten, Northern Highlands, pin James Butcher, Westwood, 18-1, 4:00; Justin Mezzadri, Pascack Valley, dec. Jason Kosson, Tenafly, 3-1 (OT); Charles Kryzsiak, Becton, dec. John Villoslada, Leonia, 12-9; Adam McLaren, Pascack Hills, pin Uri Bussi, Fair Lawn, 3:55; Rob Didomenico, Lodi, pin Alexander Varallo, Midland Park, 1:22.

**130** — Chris Brizzi, Ramsey, pin Anthony Madonna, St. Mary's, 0:41; Chris Jasonos, Cresskill, maj. dec. Mike Klapper, Glen Rock, 12-0; Dave Bucco, Paramus, dec. Derek Cunningham, Pascack Hills, 7-3; Chris Marzeau, St. Joseph Reg., maj. dec. Emile Sawyer, Hackensack, 12-2; Dan McDonnell, Indian Hills, pin Jeff Esposito, Saddle Brook, 0:39; Pat O'Hara, Ridgefield, dec. David Sayers, Pascack Valley, 7-5; Albert Monroy, North Bergen, dec. Ron DePaola, Westwood, 10-5; Paul Chiaramonte, Elmwood Park, tech. fall Brian Lynch, Emerson-Park Ridge, 18-3, 4:16.

**135** — Chris Bitetto, Hackensack, pin Tom Rossi, Indian Hills, 1:03; Tom Murgalo, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Gerard Ridings, New Milford, 4-2; Frank Petrucci, Don Bosco Prep, pin Steve Cha, NV/Demarest, 2:46; Pat Ronayne, Glen Rock, dec. Igor Martirosian, Cliffs Park, 7-5; Matt Kenny, Northern Highlands, pin Dennis McSweeney, Lyndhurst, 2:58; Anthony Falco, North Bergen, dec. Rich Owimrin, River Dell, 17-18; Alex Koh, Westwood, dec. Chris Moran, Paramus, 11-8; Justin Frohlich, Pascack Hills, pin Jamie Wagner, Ramsey, 1:10.

**140** — Erik Norgaard, St. Joseph Reg., pin Chris Castaneda, North Bergen, 1:49; Bryan Friedman, Emerson-Park Ridge, pin Derek Johnston, Ridgewood, 3:40; Jason Edelman, Elmwood Park, pin Alan Lyashkov, New Milford, 0:48; Justin Zajicek, Ridgefield Park, pin Chris Falato, Paramus, 1:10; Spike Kim, Fort Lee, pin Pete Truforos, Glen Rock, 2:28; John Muscarella, River Dell, pin Dave Seitel, NV/Demarest, 2:39; Mike Califano, Fair Lawn, pin Buddy McDaniel, Leonia, 1:40; Steve Becker, Indian Hills, maj. dec. Eric Fugnitti, Ridgefield, 10-1.

**145** — John Lauterback, NV/Demarest, maj. dec. Allan Simpson, Hackensack, 13-0; Tom Serio, Glen Rock, pin Ric Mourkakos, Tenafly, 1:38; Adriatik Bajrush, Westwood, dec. Keith Geshan, Pascack Valley, 8-2; Mike Massenzio, Indian Hills, pin Jason Bille, Rutherford, 3:36; Paul Siemon, Don Bosco Prep, pin Nick Carnicelli, NV/Old Tappan, 0:24; Frank Scaglione, Lyndhurst, dec. Charles O'Hanlon, Cliffs Park, 8-6; Ardian Ramadan, Garfield, maj. dec. Anthony Cervis, Ridgefield, 10-2; Matt Morales, Leonia, maj. dec. Pete Gomez, Northern Highlands, 10-0.

**152** — Ralph DeNisco, St. Joseph Reg., pin Boris Pavcinac, Ridgefield, 0:26; Dan Basto, Leonia, dec. T.J. Rinaldi, Mahwah, 10-9; Donald Gribben, Don Bosco Prep, pin Jim McTigue, NV/Demarest, 2:59; Zeke Hernandez, Cliffs Park, dec. Mike Rothman, River Dell, 8-5; Mark Radolan, Fort Lee, pin Joe Murtaugh, Westwood, 4:54; Morgan Horner, Hasbrouck Heights, dec. Scott Barchetto, Paramus, 4-1; Jose Valdez, Glen Rock, won by disqualification over Ouz Citfelbasi, Lyndhurst, Mike D'Andrea, NV/Old Tappan, pin Jim Tessaro, Cresskill, 3:36.

**160** — Brad Christie, Fort Lee, pin James Nicholas, Dwight-Englewood, 1:14; James Dolci, Paramus Catholic, pin Brian Thompson, Hackensack, 2:45; Chris Tedesco, Ridgefield, pin Rob Jandreski, Saddle Brook, 18-2; Jason Moses, Don Bosco Prep, pin John Harz, NV/Demarest, 1:59; Mike Cook, Bergen Catholic, pin Andrew Tuculescu, Ridgewood, 4:48; Harry Gooch, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Mike Quinn, River Dell, 6-3; Phil DeBisi, Ramsey, pin Joe Sudol, Indian Hills, 0:32.

**171** — Kevin Collier, Bergen Catholic, pin Bobby Riley, Mahwah, 0:27; Eddie Guy, Fair Lawn, maj. dec. Evan Tryloros, Glen Rock, 18-7; Keving Kohan, Pascack Valley, pin Jay Brower, NV/Old Tappan, 0:44; Joel Manning, Pascack Hills, pin Chris Sadowski, Rutherford, 3:04; Matt Romeo, St. Joseph Reg., by forfeit over Rob Olett, Northern Highlands; Anthony Salomon, Cliffs Park, dec. Justin Catrinni, Tenafly, 12-10 (OT); Kevin McKearnin, Westwood, pin John

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**QUARTERFINALS**

**103** — Carroil, Hackensack, pin Angeli, Don Bosco Prep, 1:30; Yamet, Garfield, pin Veccione, Paramus, 3:02; Decio, Becton, pin Shaffer, Ramsey, 1:31; Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Magka, Ramapo, 2:35.

**112** — Germakian, Pascack Valley, dec. Yalovelli, NV/Old Tappan, 10-5; Fink, Paramus, dec. Lucas, Bergen Catholic, 7-5; Palmeri, Northern Highlands, dec. Botwin, Cliffs Park, 11-0; Barber, Garfield, pin Chu, River Dell, 5:18.

**119** — McDonnell, Indian Hills, dec. Dellatorre, River Dell, 3-1; Alfonso, Garfield, maj. dec. Mike Monteith, Ramsey, 15-3; Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Santana, Paramus, 1:08; Minassian, Westwood, dec. Correggio, Bergenfield, 7-1.

**125** — Palo, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Viera, North Bergen, 6-1; VanHouten, Northern Highlands, dec. Shaban, Indian Hills, 12-10; Mezzadri, Pascack Valley, pin Kryzsiak, Becton, 5:22; Didomenico, Lodi, pin McLaren, Pascack Hills, 1:42.

**130** — Brizzi, Ramsey, maj. dec. Jasonos, Cresskill, 12-0; Marzeau, St. Joseph Reg. dec. Bucco, Paramus, 17-8; McDonnell, Indian Hills, dec. O'Hara, Ridgefield, 4-3; Chiaramonte, Elmwood Park, pin Monroy, North Bergen, 1:27.

**135** — Bitetto, Hackensack, pin Murgalo, St. Joseph Reg., 1:21; Petrucci, Don Bosco Prep, maj. dec. Ronayne, Glen Rock, 13-5; Kenny, Northern Highlands, pin Falco, North Bergen, 3:38; Frohlich, Pascack Hills, pin Koh, Westwood, 2:30.

**140** — Norgaard, St. Joseph Reg., pin Friedman, Emerson-Park Ridge, 1:05; Zajicek, Ridgefield Park, pin Edelman, Elmwood Park, 5:10; Kim, Fort Lee, dec. Muscarella, River Dell, 8-7 (sudden death); Becker, Indian Hills, pin Califano, Fair Lawn, 1:13.

**145** — Lauterback, NV/Demarest, maj. dec. Serio, Glen Rock, 10-2; Bajrush, Westwood, pin Massenzio, Indian Hills, 4:09; Siemon, Don Bosco Prep, dec. Scaglione, Lyndhurst, 10-4; Ramadan, Garfield, dec. Morales, Leonia, 6-1.

**152** — DeNisco, St. Joseph Reg., pin Basto, Leonia, 1:26; Hernandez, Cliffs Park, dec. Gribben, Don Bosco Prep, 8-6 (OT); Horner, Hasbrouck Heights, dec. Radolan, Fort Lee, 8-6; 9-6; D'Andrea, NV/Old Tappan, pin Valdez, Glen Rock, 5:46.

**160** — Christie, Fort Lee, pin Dolci, Paramus Catholic, 0:51; Tedesco, Ridgefield, dec. Moses, Don Bosco Prep, 13-11; Cook, Bergen Catholic, dec. Riccardella, Wood Ridge, 11-7; DiBiasi, Ramsey, Gooch, St. Joseph, 8-3.

**171** — Collier, Bergen Catholic, pin Guy, Fair Lawn, 0:55; Manning, Pascack Hills, by injury default over Kohan, Pascack Valley; Romeo, St. Joseph, dec. Salomon, Cliffs Park, 13-5; Wall, Indian Hills, pin McKearnin, Westwood, 1:42.

**189** — Good, Indian Hills, pin Pascarelli, Glen Rock, 3:09; Ponzini, Paramus, dec. Shelton, Ridgefield Park, 12-6; Burrell, Hackensack, pin Bliss, Pascack Hills, 5:38; Sica, Lyndhurst, pin Malatino, Ramsey, 1:53.

**215** — Greenberg, Northern Highlands, maj. dec. Cummins, Pascack Valley, 20-7; James, Becton, dec. Diorio, Indian Hills, 4-2; Percelli, Glen Rock, pin Heald, Ramsey, 1:48; Santoli, Bergen Catholic, dec. Whitney, NV/Old Tappan, 12-6.

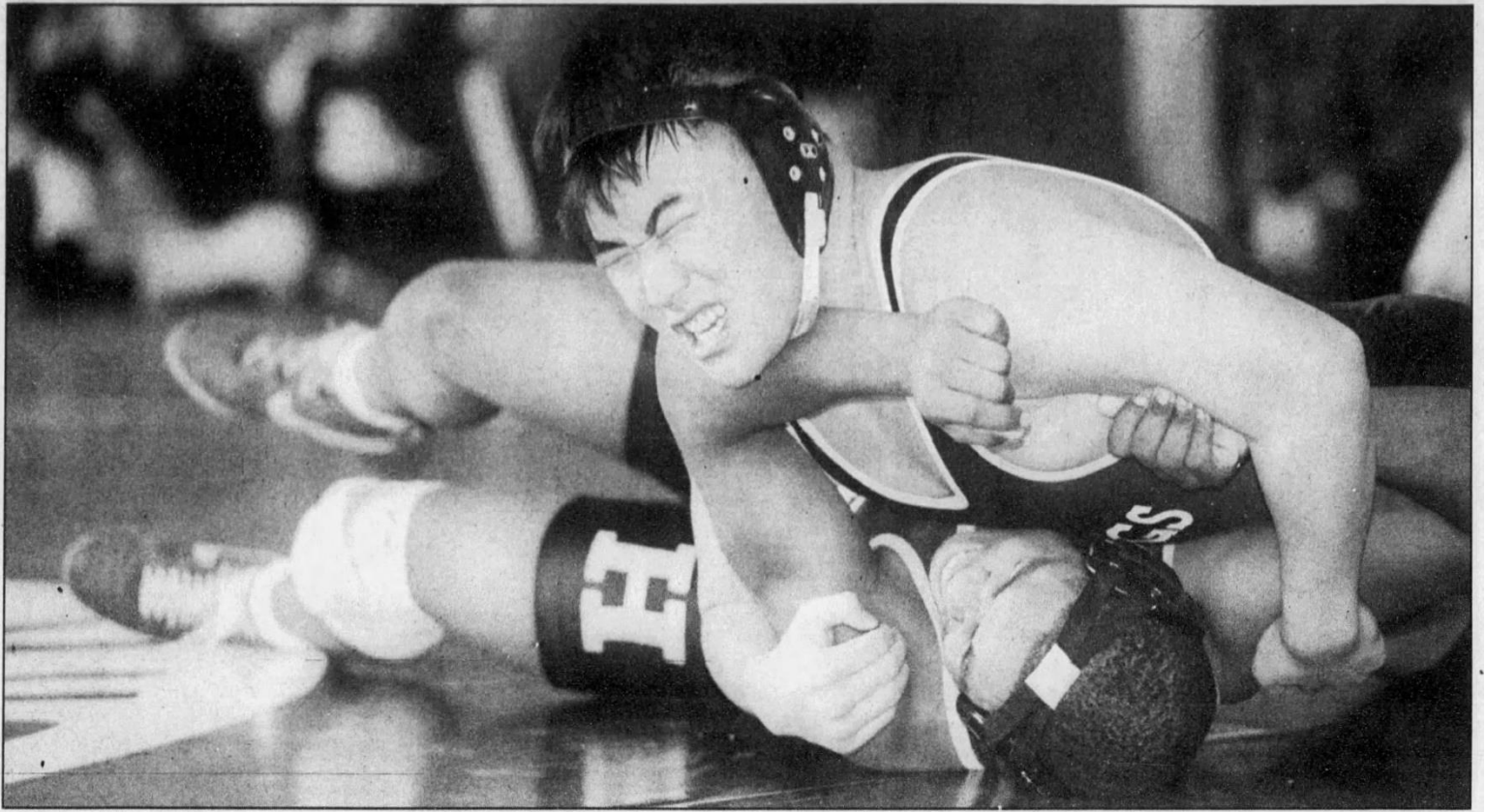
**275** — Puzio, St. Joseph Reg., pin Rizzo, Waldwick, 0:58; Hicks, Indian Hills, pin Yucis, Fair Lawn, 3:37; Currid, Pascack Hills, pin Hook, Paramus, 4:30; Schiafano, Lyndhurst, pin Daniele, Hasbrouck Heights, 5:37

Kim, Dwight-Englewood, 2:30; Austin Wall, Indian Hills, pin Mark Seto, NV/Demarest, 2:45.

**189** — Kyle Good, Indian Hills, pin Dustin DeMurrurio, St. Joseph Reg., 3:00; Gerald Pascarelli, Glen Rock, dec. Kevin Tedesco, Ridgefield, 12-10 (OT); Nick Ponzini, Paramus, pin Anthony Mazzo, Emerson Park-Ridge, 0:18; Alrick Burrell, Hackensack, pin Greg Anzano, Dumont, 4:50; Bill Bliss, Pascack Hills, pin Jacob Cintron, Elmwood Park, 2:47; Guy Malatino, Ramsey, pin Matt Hinzpeter, NV/Old Tappan, 0:33; Adam Sica, Lyndhurst, pin Jason Schwartz, North Bergen, 2:29.

**215** — Matt Greenberg, Northern Highlands, pin Clint House, Cliffs Park, 1:38; Bill Cummins, Pascack Valley, pin Dan Rosenshein, Fort Lee, 3:19; Brian Diorio, Indian Hills, pin Dan Farina, Paramus Catholic, 1:47; Nolan James, Becton, pin Alex Amato, Ridgefield Park, 0:51; Matt Percelli, Glen Rock, pin Anthony Romero, St. Mary's, 1:33; Rus Whitney, NV/Old Tappan, pin Jim Touhey, Ramapo, 1:44; Dom Santoli, Bergen Catholic, pin Mike Healy, Lodi, 0:25.

**275** — Edgar Puzio, St. Joseph Reg., by forfeit over Sam Lim, NV/Demarest; Vinny Rizzo, Waldwick, pin Karon Singleton, Hackensack, 2:37; Phil Yucis, Fair Lawn, pin Alex Hallstein, Leonia, 3:25; T.J. Hicks, Indian Hills, pin Alex Gomez, St. Mary's, 0:15; John Currid, Pascack Hills, pin Jorge Quiroz, Dwight-Englewood, 3:00; Chris Hook, Paramus, pin Alex Trani, Paramus Catholic, 1:15; Jesse Daniele, Hasbrouck Heights, pin Steve Havens, Dumont, 4:45; Mike Schiafano, Lyndhurst, pin Garrett Rothchild, Pascack Valley, 1:32.



DANIELLE P. RICHARDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Kim of Dwight-Englewood scoring back points en route to a 17-13 preliminary-round decision over Hackensack's Jermaine Sibdhannie in the 171-pound class.

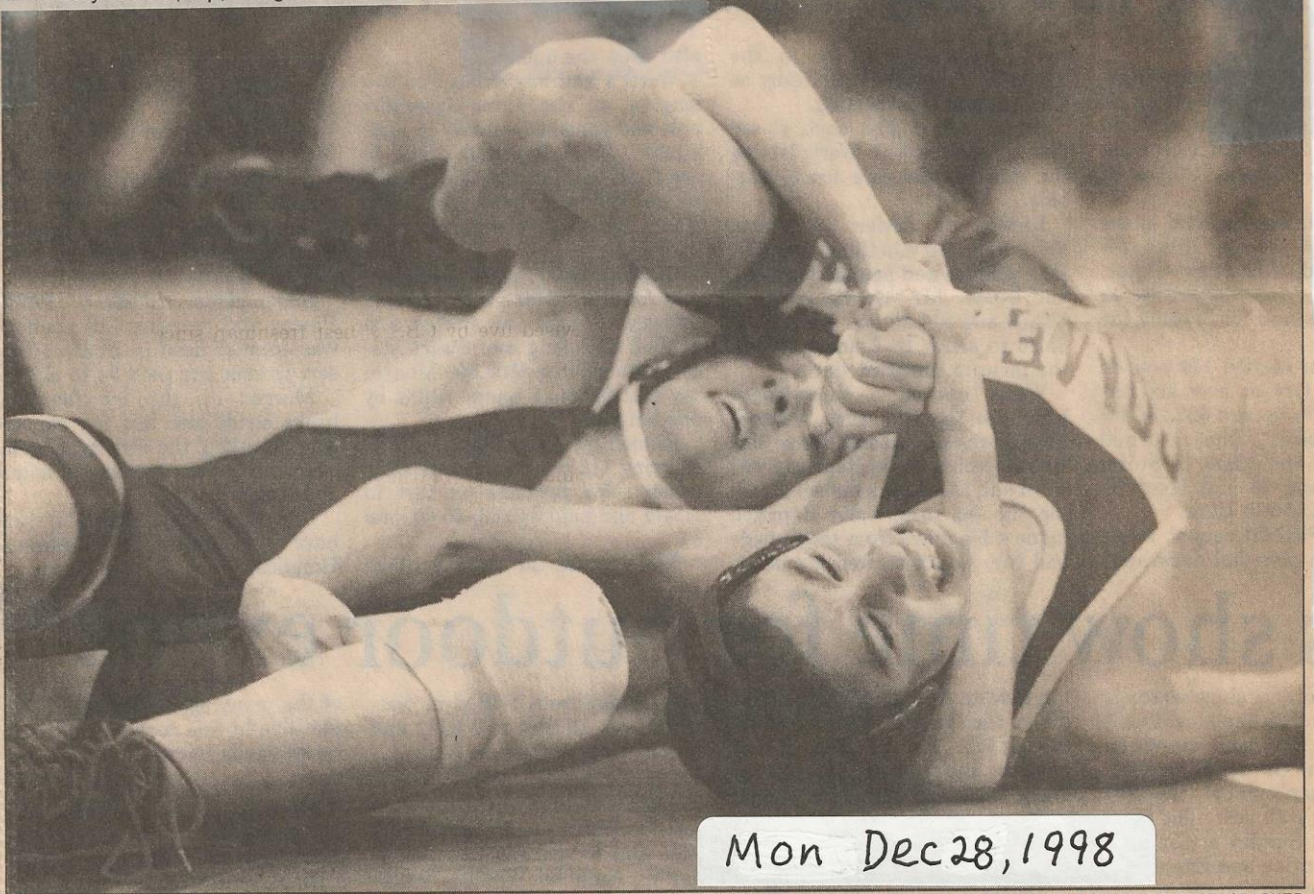


Sun Dec 27, 1998



DANIELLE P. RICHARDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Healy of Lodi, top, using a deadlock and half-nelson to pin Elmwood Park's Don Berrian in 4:36 in the 215-pound class.



Mon Dec 28, 1998

CARMINE GALASSO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gerard Carroll of Hackensack, right, trying to fight off the pin attempt of Pascack Valley's Steve Hult in the 103-pound final in

Monday's Bergen Coaches tournament. Hult eventually pinned Carroll for the title. It was his fifth straight pin.



Mon Dec 28, 1998

# Indian Hills' Good is living up to his name

By **TIM LEONARD**  
Staff Writer

PARAMUS — Instead of being sent to his room without supper, Kyle Good served a different sort of punishment this time last year.

The Indian Hills wrestler had arrived at the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday tournament at slightly more than his 189-pound limit and was banished to the 215-pound weight class where he finished sixth.

Good's season wasn't ruined, but he feels he was never given the credit someone of his talent would normally merit after that early-season mistake. Good went on to finish seventh in the State at 189, but never seemed to be as highly regarded as many other North Jersey wrestlers.

It bugs him.

"I didn't get as much credit because of this tournament," Good said after defeating Nick Ponzini of Paramus in

Monday's semifinal at Paramus High School. "This does a lot for your reputation because it's a tough tournament."

This time, Good didn't want to just live up to his name. His weight was where it should be, but he had to fight a hamstring injury suffered during a quarterfinal match against Gerald Pascarelli of Glen Rock and appeared to be completely spent after defeating Ponzini. Good lay on the mat for a few seconds and then practically had to crawl off.

Good spent part of his offseason training in Russia. The workouts lasted about seven hours a day. Good admits he got his butt kicked on a regular basis, but he returned with a wealth of knowledge and the realization that he can't rely solely on his power. The brain has to be part of the equation.

"This is where you get your name," Good said. "Win this and people look out for you."

## SEMIFINALS

One of the most exciting bouts of the day happened at 152 pounds, where fourth-seeded Zeke Hernandez of Cliffside Park scored an 11-8 decision over top-seeded Ralph DeNisco of St. Joseph. DeNisco had won his previous two bouts by pin in 24 and 26 seconds, respectively.

Hernandez took the lead using switches from the bottom and catching DeNisco with two single-leg takedowns. Sensing an upset, the entire gymnasium roared in the final minute as Hernandez held on for the victory.

"I know I have to do it and beat the kid. There's no way I want to go home fourth or second or third," said Hernandez, last year's District 16 champion at 145 pounds. "It's a really awesome feel-

ing. These are the best times in my life. I know I'm not going to get them back so I'm doing my best to live those."

Hackensack junior Gerard Carroll is looking forward to his best season. Added weight is the difference. The added mass already is showing results, as Carroll advanced to the final of the 103-pound class.

Carroll weighed in the 90-pound range last season, when he wrestled at 103. The disadvantage was especially noticeable against stronger wrestlers. While they have moved up to 112, Carroll remains at 103 with more experience and savvy against mostly younger competition.

"It's like moving him up a weight class," Hackensack coach John Stallone said. "This year he actually weighs the weight."

Carroll has no idea why he can't keep

weight on. He is one of those few wrestlers who can chow down fast food whenever he feels the craving. He doesn't have to cut weight, though he has been above 103 on occasion. Practice usually takes care of those.

"I always eat. I just can't gain weight," said Carroll, who has to credit metabolism and not genetics. "My father is 6-foot, 280 pounds. He's big. I guess I haven't hit that growth spurt yet."

**NOTES** — The seeds held true in seven of the 14 weight classes as No. 1 met No. 2 in the final. In all, 11 No. 1 seeds advanced to the final.

Perhaps the most unlikely final match was at 119, where No. 5 Jeff Alfonso of Garfield took on No. 6 Ryan Hult of Pascack Valley. Alfonso dethroned No. 1 seed Chris McDonnell, 7-5. Hult eliminated Vic Minassian of Westwood, 7-1, to reach the final.



## BERGEN COACHES WRESTLING

# St. Joseph wins title

By **RON FOX**  
Staff Writer

PARAMUS — Even longtime wrestling followers were agog Monday as the championships of the Bergen County Coaches Wrestling Tournament unfolded. One bout, Chris Bitetto's repeat championship, will belong to the ages.

Two other competitors, Chris Brizzi of Ramsey and Erik Norgaard of St. Joseph, recorded rare achievements, becoming the 13th and 14th wrestlers in the 39 years of the tournament to win three titles.

Unsung Pascack Valley opened eyes by placing wrestlers in the first four championship bouts and coming away with three titles. Brothers Steve (103 pounds) and Ryan Hult (119) each pinned five opponents and came out as champions, and 112-pound Dave Gernakian won his second straight title. PV teammate Justin Mezzadri (125) also made it to the finals, but fell victim to the brilliant Mike Palo of St. Joseph, 15-5.

The team title came down to the final bout, in which heavyweight Edgar Puzio took advantage of a mistake by John Currid of Pascack Hills to gain the winning takedown and allow his St. Joseph team to overtake Indian Hills for the championship, 194-193. Following the afternoon's semifinals and fifth-sixth consolations, Indian Hills held a 189-172 lead. St. Joseph pulled it out with wins in the finals by Norgaard at 140 pounds, repeat champion Palo at 125 pounds, and Puzio, who won in overtime when Currid seemed on his way to spinning around a single-leg miss for a takedown, but slipped and fell to his stomach. Puzio alertly leaped on him with 40 seconds left in overtime for the takedown and 6-4 win.

Bitetto, the Hackensack sophomore who already owns two County titles, was named Most Outstanding Wrestler

of the 48-team, two-day tournament. He won a battle of returning State medal winners over Pascack Hills' Justin Frohlich for the 135 title. It was a match that reminded some of the classic battle in the early Eighties between Bergenfield's Pete Georgoutsos and Bergen Catholic's Tim Doherty, a great matchup that did not disappoint.

Former Becton and Lyndhurst coach Rich Vartan, the Region 4 representative to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, was among the many veterans fully entertained by what took place. "This is one of the greatest matches I've ever seen in the County," he said as the crowd roared following Bitetto's 18-17 win that wasn't assured until he took Frohlich to his back while locked in a Frohlich headlock with 11 seconds left.

To open the match, the acrobatic Frohlich notched a takedown off a nifty duckunder and built a 12-3 lead in the first period. The demonstrative Bitetto recalls it as a 13-2 score and won't soon forget the alarm that it caused.

"To look up at the clock and see it's 13-2 and the whole crowd's against you, there's plenty of concern," he said. "He [Frohlich] definitely is an outstanding wrestler and somehow he got me on my back early."

Interestingly, Frohlich scored most of his early points in a defensive position with spectacular escape moves, springing out and up to combat the pressure Bitetto applied. Bitetto began to turn the tables by using a snap move close to the mat to face Frohlich for a neutral point and then immediately snapping again to swing around his man for a takedown. He used that three-point series twice in the third period to cut the deficit to 17-13.

"I saw Tim Brandt of [the University of] Iowa use that in the National [Collegiate] finals," Bitetto said. "I figured it

was the fastest way for me to get my takedowns back."

Indian Hills had one champion, Austin Wall at 171 pounds. Northern Valley at Demarest's John Lauterback won at 145 pounds to move up from last year's silver medal — he lost to Bitetto in the

final round then. Zeke Hernandez of Cliffside Park won at 152, Brad Christie of Fort Lee repeated at 160 by downing another returning champion, Ramsey's Phil DeBiasi, 12-4.

Adam Sica of Lyndhurst stunned Indian Hills' State medal-winning top

seed, Kyle Good, 10-4, with a strong takedown attack. Matt Greenberg of Northern Highlands won at 215 pounds, 10-4, over Bergen Catholic standout Dom Santoli.

Mon  
Dec 28, 1998



Mon Dec 28, 1998

# St. Joseph wins second consecutive title

By **RON FOX**  
Staff writer

Following any dual meet or tournament, Pascack Valley coach **Gary Beyer** awards a Most Outstanding Wrestler T-shirt to a member of his team. The decision should have been more difficult Monday after PV placed finalists in the first four weight classes of the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Tournament and came away with three champions — brothers **Stephen and Ryan Hult** and repeat winner **David Germakian** — and a silver medalist, **Justin Mezzadri**.

Beyer, a former district and regional champion and County runner-up for Valley, says choosing senior 119-pounder Ryan Hult was not a difficult decision. "Ryan had to handle the added pressure," he said.

A year ago, after beating a returning State medalist the previous week, Hult lost in the County's first round to upcoming freshman standout **Mike Palo** of St. Joseph. That loss had to be on his mind entering this year's event, and there was even more pressure applied when his brother, a freshman, won the 103-pound title two bouts before Ryan took the mat.

"I felt a little pressure, but if he won and I lost, it would still be all right," the older brother said. "And if I won and he lost, I know it would be all right with my brother, too."

Each Hult pinned all five of his opponents and Stephen won the Most Falls in the Least Amount of Time award by 23 seconds over his brother.

An evaluation process helped buoy Ryan Hult. He gauged the abilities of his opponents and believed he was better than any of them. "I just had a positive attitude. I know they don't work as hard as I do."

"They're both unorthodox wrestlers," Beyer said of the brothers. "They're longer in build, they use their hips more, and wrestle more with their legs; and they're both very aggressive."

Stephen Hult is one of those cool freshmen who do not seem fazed by the step up to varsity. He won four straight State Junior Wrestling championships. He did notice a few differences. "Longer matches, and there weren't as many weight classes," he said, noting that junior matches go 4½ or five minutes, compared to six minutes in high school; and that there is only one age group in high school, as opposed to many in junior tournaments.

Co-stars in the development of the brothers are uncles **David Helfenbein**, who wrestled for Beyer, and **Joe Helfenbein**, a weight-training expert.

**UP A WEIGHT:** Lyndhurst's **Adam Sica** missed his usual 171 pounds by two-fifths of a pound for the tournament, but it was for the best. "It would have been tough

making weight the second day of the tournament," he said. Now the rugged senior, who looks aggressive even when walking through the halls between rounds, says he'll stay at 189, where he defeated returning State seventh-place medalist **Kyle Good** of Indian Hills for the County championship.

"At least I won't have to be cutting so much weight all year," he said.

Of the Good bout, Sica said, "My coach [**Scot Weaver**] gave me a full game plan; he scouted him very well. "[Good is] strong up top, so coach said to work him on his feet and stick with our usual leg attack. He almost caught me on my back in the second period, so I had to let him go. When we got back to the middle, I reversed him. I sort of came off my hips and trippedodded."

**NOTES:** The Sica stunner helped St. Joseph win its second straight team title, 195-193, over Indian Hills. The most ironic twist was a loss in the 145-pound quarterfinals by **Mike Massenzio**, who transferred from St. Joseph to Indian Hills for this school year. Westwood's **Adriatik Bajrush** was behind on points when he pinned Massenzio in 4:09. To his credit, Massenzio won his next two bouts to finish fifth. . . . Also telling was an injury suffered by the Braves' **Dan McDonnell**, who had to forfeit his 130-pound

third-place consolation bout to **Chris Merzeau** of St. Joe's. . . . St. Joseph heavyweight **Edgar Puzio** won the big head-to-head battle, 13-4, over **T.J. Hicks** in the semis; and Sica's teammate, **Mike Schifano**, decisioned Hicks, 3-1, for third place with a steparound takedown.

Among third-place highlights, Becton's **Mike Decio** (103 pounds) tied Garfield's **Rodney Yamet** in regulation with a rock-out reversal and single-legged him for the 4-2 overtime win. . . . Fort Lee's **Spike Kim** also went into OT to win at 140. Ridgefield Park's **Justin Zajicek** pulled him into a cradle for the 8-8 tie, but slipped in overtime trying a snap-down takedown and Kim pinned in 5:38. . . . **Jason Fink**'s spin reversal in the second period earned the Paramus 112-pounder a 2-1 decision over North Bergen's **Ron Palmieri**.

Last year, eventual champions Palo and Hackensack's **Chris Bitetto** were well known through their junior wrestling prowess, but could not be seeded as freshmen without high school experience. To correct the situation this year, **George Jockish**'s tournament committee added seeding criteria, making it possible for National Wrestling Federation place winners and New Jersey State Federation champions to be ranked.



Mon Dec 28, 1998

## WRESTLING

### Bergen Holiday tournament

At Paramus

#### TEAM CHAMPIONS

Group 4: Paramus; Group 3: St. Joseph; Group 2: Indian Hills; Group 1: Glen Rock. Overall: St. Joseph.

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 103 — Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Gerard Carroll, Hackensack, 3:06.  
112 — Dave Germakian, Pascack Valley, pin Anthony Barber, Garfield, 3:42.  
119 — Ryan Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Jeff Alfonso, Garfield, 5:09.  
125 — Mike Palo, St. Joseph, dec. Justin Mezzadri, Pascack Valley, 3:55.  
130 — Chris Brizzi, Ramsey, dec. Paul Chlaromonte, Elmwood Park, 6-1.  
135 — Chris Bitetto, Hackensack, dec. Justin Frohlich, Pascack Hills, 18-17.  
140 — Erik Norgaard, St. Joseph, dec. Steve Becker, Indian Hills, 7-0.  
145 — John Lauterback, NV/Demarest, dec. Paul Slemmon, Don Bosco Prep, 4-2.  
152 — Zeke Hernandez, Cliffside Park, dec. Mike D'Andrea, NV/Old Tappan, 13-7.  
160 — Brad Christie, Fort Lee, dec. Phil DeBlasi, Ramsey, 12-4.  
171 — Austin Wall, Indian Hills, dec. Joel Manning, Pascack Hills, 7-2.  
189 — Adam Sica, Lyndhurst, dec. Kyle Good, Indian Hills, 10-4.  
215 — Matt Greenberg, Northern Highlands, dec. Dom Santoli, Bergen Catholic, 10-4.  
275 — Edgar Puzio, St. Joseph, dec. John Currid, Pascack Hills, 6-4 (OT).

#### SEMIFINALS

- 103 — Gerard Carroll, Hackensack, dec. Rodney Yamet, Garfield, 6-5; Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Mike Decio, Becton, 0:30.  
112 — David Germakian, Pascack Valley, by tech. fall over Jason Fink, Paramus, 16-0; Anthony Barber, Garfield, pin Ron Palmieri, North Bergen, 0:24.  
119 — Jeff Alfonso, Garfield, dec. Chris McDonnell, Indian Hills, 7-5; Ryan Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Vic Minassian, Westwood, 0:53.  
125 — Mike Palo, St. Joseph, pin Rich Van Houten, Northern Highlands, 3:47; Justin Mezzadri, Pascack Valley, pin Rob DiDomenico, Lodi, 3:55.  
130 — Chris Brizzi, Ramsey, dec. Chris Marzeau, St. Joseph, 7-3; Paul Chlaromonte, Elmwood Park, dec. Dan McDonnell, Indian Hills, 15-14.  
135 — Chris Bitetto, Hackensack, dec. Frank Petrucci, Don Bosco Prep, 14-7; Justin Frohlich, Pascack Hills, pin Matt Kenny Northern Highlands, 1:01.  
140 — Erik Norgaard, St. Joseph, pin Justin Zajicek, Ridgefield Park, 0:52; Steve Becker, Indian Hills, pin Spike Kim, Fort Lee, 5:22.  
145 — John Lauterback, NV/Demarest, dec. Adriatik Bajrushli, Westwood, 2-1; Paul Slemmon, Don Bosco Prep, dec. Adrian Ramadan, Garfield, 11-9.  
152 — Zeke Hernandez, Cliffside Park, dec. Ralph DeNisco, St. Joseph, 11-8; Mike D'Andrea, NV/Old Tappan, pin Morgan Horner, Hasbrouck Heights, 1:07.  
160 — Brad Christie, Fort Lee pin Chris Tedesco, Ridgefield, 2:34; Phil DeBlasi, Ramsey, dec. Mike Cook, Bergen Catholic, 13-9.  
171 — Joel Manning, Pascack Hills, dec. Kevin Collier, Bergen Catholic, 9-8; Austin Wall, Indian Hills, dec. Matt Romeo, St. Joseph's, 3-1.  
189 — Kyle Good, Indian Hills, dec. Nick Ponzini Paramus, 11-2; Adam Sica, Lyndhurst, dec. Alrick Burrell, Hackensack, 8-1.  
215 — Matt Greenberg, Northern Highlands, pin Nolan James, Becton, 1:46; Dom Santoli, Bergen Catholic, pin Matt Percelli, Glen Rock, 2:25.  
275 — Edgar Puzio, St. Joseph, dec. T.J. Hicks, Indian Hills, 13-4; John Currid, Pascack Hills, dec. Mike Schiavano, Lyndhurst, 11-4.

#### THIRD-PLACE CONSOLATIONS

- 103 — Mike Decio, Becton, dec. Rodney Yamet, Garfield, 4-2 (OT).  
112 — Jason Fink, Paramus, dec. Ron Palmieri, North Bergen 2-1.  
119 — Vic Minassian, Westwood, dec. Chris McDonnell, Indian Hills, 6-3.  
125 — Rich VanHouten, Northern Highlands, pin Rob DiDomenico, Lodi, 1:27.  
130 — Chris Marzeau, St. Joseph, by medical forfeit over Dan McDonnell, Indian Hills.  
135 — Frank Petrucci, Don Bosco, dec. Matt Kenny, Northern Highlands, 7-2.  
140 — Spike Kim, Fort Lee, pin Justin Zajicek, Ridgefield Park, 5:38.  
145 — Adrian Ramadan, Garfield, dec. Adriatik Bajrushli, Westwood, 8-6.  
152 — Ralph DeNisco, St. Joseph, pin Morgan Horner, Hasbrouck Heights, 4:30.  
160 — Mike Cook, Bergen Catholic, dec. Chris Tedesco, Ridgefield, 12-3.  
171 — Kevin Collier, Bergen Catholic, pin Matt Romeo, St. Joseph, 4:05.  
189 — Nick Ponzini, Paramus, pin Alrick Burrell, Hackensack, 1:58.  
215 — Nolan James, Becton, pin Matt Percelli, Glen Rock, 0:29.  
275 — Mike Schiavano, Lyndhurst, dec. T.J. Hicks, Indian Hills, 3-1.

#### FIFTH-PLACE CONSOLATIONS

- 103 — Jared Magka, Ramapo, pin Will Vecchione, Paramus, 2:08.  
112 — Ken Chu, River Dell, dec. Brian Lucas, Bergen Catholic, 10-5.  
119 — Bob Correggio, Bergenfield, dec. Grant DellaTorre, River Dell, 5-4.  
125 — Matt Shaban, Indian Hills, pin Adam McLaren, Pascack Hills, 4:40.  
130 — Dave Bucco, Paramus, tech. fall Albert Monroy, North Bergen, 18-2, 4:04.  
135 — Alex Koh, Westwood, dec. Tom Murgolo, St. Joseph, 8-0.  
140 — John Muscarella, River Dell, dec. Bryan Friedman, Emerson-Park Ridge, 9-3.  
145 — Mike Massenzio, Indian Hills, tech. fall Matt Morales, Leonia, 15-0, 4:24.  
152 — Donald Gribben, Don Bosco Prep, dec. Mark Radoian, Fort Lee, 8-2.  
160 — Harry Gooch, St. Joseph, pin James Dolci, Paramus Catholic, 2:18.  
171 — Eddie Guy, Fair Lawn, pin Kevin McKearnin, Westwood, 1:28.  
189 — Gerald Pascarelli, Glen Rock, pin Bill Bliss, Pascack Hills, 4:38.  
215 — Brian Diorio, Indian Hills, dec. Russ Whitney, NV/Old Tappan, 3-1.  
275 — Vinny Rizzo, Waldwick, dec. Chris Hook, Paramus, 1-1 (OT tie-breaker).

Sat Feb 6, 1999

### Bergen freshman

At Bergenfield

#### FINALS

- 93 — Thomas Pires, Hackensack, dec. Ryan Strobel, Pascack Hills, 12-4.  
103 — Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, pin Eric Angelli, Don Bosco Prep, 1:29.  
112 — Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, tech. fall Ryan Palko, Saddle Brook, 16-1 (5:35).  
119 — Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, tech. fall Chris Flores, Pascack Hills, 15-0 (2:30).  
125 — Matt Marquardt, Rutherford, dec. Ed Verdel, Fair Lawn, 4-0.  
130 — Brian Radoian, Fort Lee, pin Matt Ciangola, Paramus, 2:38.  
135 — George Gunset, Pascack Hills, dec. A.J. Dolan, St. Mary's, 16-6.  
140 — Bill Schneider, Saddle Brook, pin Alex Quintanilla, Ridgefield Park.  
145 — Eric Mourkakos, Tenafly, dec. Nick Cantone, Becton, 8-0.  
152 — Mike Buldo, Paramus, pin Casey Finneran, Dumont, 0:47.  
160 — Frank Vetere, Cresskill, dec. Mike Malatino, Ramsey, 9-2.  
171 — Ralph Baez, North Bergen, pin Dan Zimmermann, Ridgefield Park, 5:13.  
189 — Dan Gold, Paramus, dec. Danilo Amato, Ridgefield Park, 12-8.  
215 — Dan Farina, Paramus Catholic, pin Anthony Robertson, Dumont, 0:32.  
275 — Colin Maxwell, Ridgewood, pin Josh Luis, Ridgefield Park, 3:24.  
**Most Outstanding Wrestler:** Anthony Dunkin, Dumont.



Mon Dec 28, 1998

## BERGEN COACHES WRESTLING BOUT-BY-BOUT

Following is a breakdown of the championship bouts on Monday's Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament:

**103** — Pascack Valley freshman Steve Hult built an 11-0 lead and pinned Hackensack's top-seeded Gerard Carroll in 3:06. Hult got around for the opening takedown and pulled back for three back points. The only time he seemed in danger of being taken down, Hult somehow caught a leg and headlocked to set up the pin.

**112** — Takedowns on a low single-leg shot and a shrug-and-around enabled PV's repeat champion Dave Germakian to build a 4-1 lead over Garfield's Anthony Barber. Then, after Barber chose the bottom position, Germakian locked in a nearside or bow-and-arrow cradle for the 3:42 pin.

**119** — Older brother Ryan Hult of PV pinned Garfield's Jeff Alfonso in 5:09. Hult was caught in a leg lock, but caught Alfonso by the leg and worked around for a 4-0 lead. Taking the bottom position in the third period, he used a Peterson roll to turn the tables. PV, which won three individual titles, finished third overall behind St. Joseph and Inian Hills.

**125** — Repeat champion Mike Palo, the St. Joseph sophomore, faced the fourth straight Pascack Valley wrestler to reach the finals, Justin Mezzadri. Palo had takedowns off single-leg trips, arm drags, and doubles-to-singles off duckunders for a 15-5 win.

**130** — Ramsey's Chris Brizzi's third County championship was not an easy one over Elmwood Park's Paul Chiaramonte. The first point was on Chiaramonte's standup switch 31 seconds into the second period. Brizzi followed with a driving double-leg dump in the second and reversed in the third, rocking his man back for back points and a 6-1 win.

**135** — Most Outstanding Wrestler Chris Bitetto of Hackensack repeated his title, 18-17, over Pascack Hills' Justin Frohlich in a battle of State medalists. Two flamboyant five-point reversals — a flip and a legs high somersault — had Frohlich ahead, 12-3, in the first period. But a series of head and body snaps by Bitetto earned two neutrals and two takedowns, and he then burst out of a headlock to take Frohlich down to his back with 11 seconds left for the win.

**140** — A walk-around and a grapevine put three-time champion Erik Norgaard of St. Joseph ahead, 2-0. His pull-back cradle and work-around reversal gained a 7-0 win over Steven Becker, an Inian Hills transfer from Fair Lawn.

**145** — Northern Valley at Demarest's John Lauterback was taken down in the first period by Don Bosco Prep's Paul Siemon with a single-leg spin, but rolled to an escape 29 seconds later and went from a single- to a double-leg for a takedown and the lead 28 seconds later, leading to a 4-2 win.

**152** — Cliffside Park's Zeke Hernandez, who beat top-seeded Ralph DeNisco of St. Joseph in the semis, topped Northern Valley at Old Tappan's second-seeded Mike D'Andrea, 13-7, with single-legs and spins, plus a double grapevine for back points.

**160** — Fort Lee's Brad Christie won the match of returning

champions, 12-4, over Ramsey's Phil DeBiasi with a smooth duckunder-single for most of his six takedowns, and inserted an eight-second escape in the third.

**171** — Indian Hills' second-seeded Austin Wall topped fourth-ranked Joel Manning of Pascack Hills after the latter eliminated Bergen Catholic's top-seeded Kevin Collier in the semis. A step-around and two spin takedowns built a 7-2 win.

**189** — Lyndhurst's Adam Sica didn't make his usual weight at 171, so moved up and scored a 10-4 decision over State medalist Kyle Good of Indian Hills. Two low double-leg takedowns helped build the lead and the two wrestlers traded reversals in the third, Good's on a stepover and Sica's on a work-around.

**215** — Northern Highlands' Matt Greenberg topped Bergen Catholic's Dom Santoli, 10-4, with a driving single-leg, a double-leg, a two-second standing switch escape, and a four-point move off a leg hook.

**275** — St. Joseph's Edgar Puzio topped Pascack Hills' John Currid in overtime, 6-4, when he pounced on Currid, who slipped, for the deciding takedown. It gave the Green Knights the team title. Currid's driving trip takedown and a clasp gained a 3-1 lead, but Puzio's driving takedown made it 4-3 at the end of two. Currid's standup escape six seconds into the third tied it at 4-4 and he barely missed a takedown at the buzzer after Puzio countered two drags.

### Final team scoring

#### OVERALL

St. Joseph Regional 195, Indian Hills 193, Pascack Valley 160, Pascack Hills 122, Paramus 105, Ramsey 93, Hackensack 92, Garfield 90, Northern Highlands 88½, Don Bosco Prep 85, Westwood 84, Bergen Catholic 80, Fort Lee 75, Glen Rock 66, NV/Old Tappan 63, River Dell 60, Cliffside Park 56, NV/Demarest 56, Lyndhurst 56, North Bergen 53, Becton 50, Ridgely 45½, Fair Lawn 38, Elmwood Park 35½, Lodi 34, Ridgely Park 34, Leonia 32, Ridgewood 30, Bergenfield 24, Hasbrouck Heights 24, Emerson/Park Ridge 23, Ramapo 23, Mahwah 18, Paramus Catholic 18, Dwight-Englewood 16, Wood-Ridge 16, Saddle Brook 14, Cresskill 13, Waldwick 13, Dumont 12, Tenafly 12, St. Mary's 8, Midland Park 6, New Milford 6, Bergen Tech 4, Rutherford 4, Palsades Park 2, Teaneck 0.

#### GROUP 4

Paramus 105, Hackensack 92, Don Bosco Prep 85, Bergen Catholic 80, North Bergen 53, Fair Lawn 38, Ridgewood 30, Teaneck 0.

#### GROUP 3

St. Joseph Regional 195, Pascack Valley 160, Garfield 90, Northern Highlands 88½, Fort Lee 75, NV/Old Tappan 63, Cliffside Park 56, NV/Demarest 56, Bergenfield 24, Ramapo 23, Paramus Catholic 18, Tenafly 12, Bergen Tech 4.

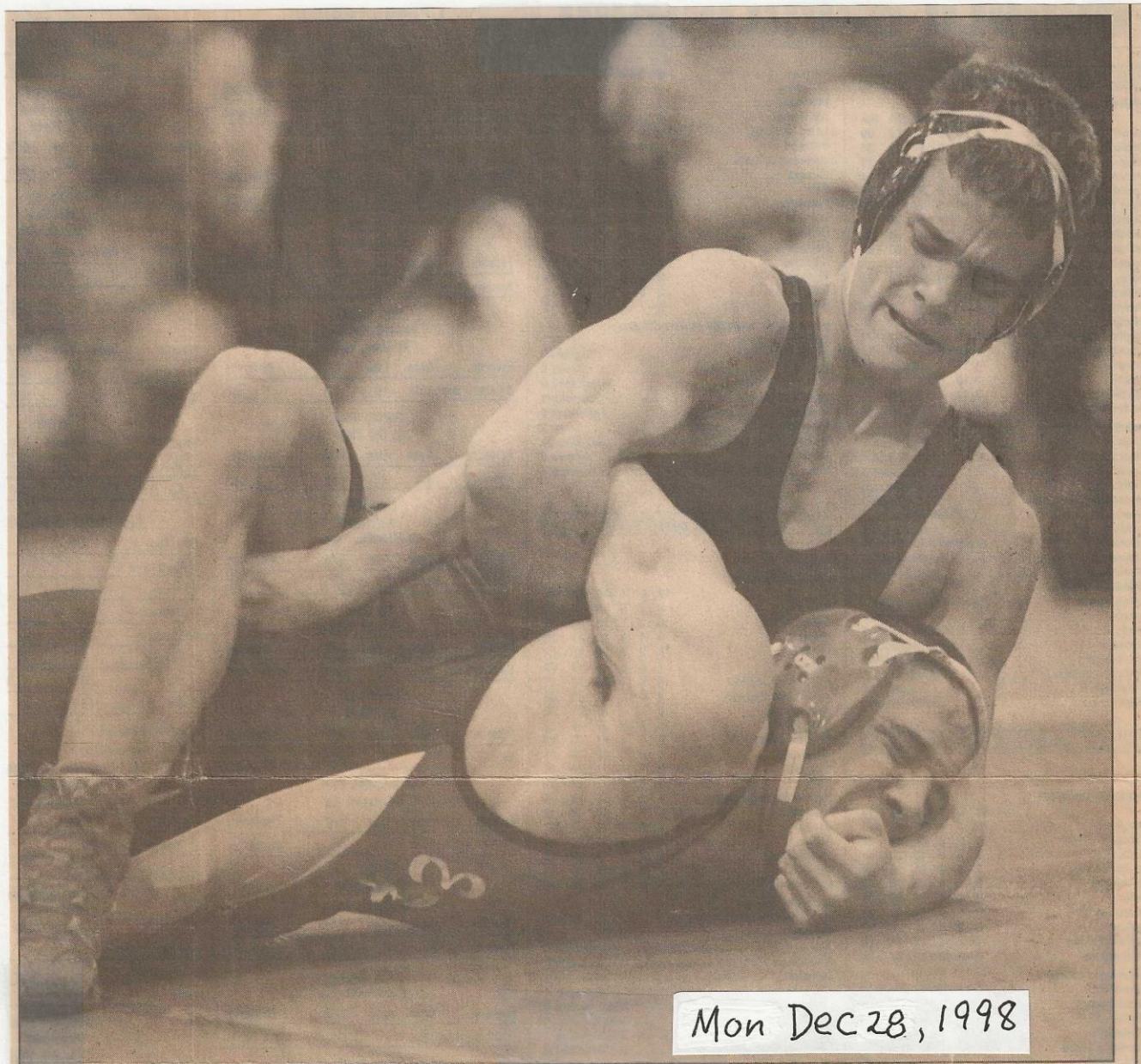
#### GROUP 2

Indian Hills 193, Pascack Hills 122, Ramsey 93, Westwood 84, River Dell 60, Lyndhurst 56, Elmwood Park 35½, Lodi 34, Ridgely Park 34, Emerson-Park Ridge 23, Mahwah 18, Dumont 12, Rutherford 4.

#### GROUP 1

Glen Rock 66, Becton 50, Ridgely 45½, Leonia 32, Hasbrouck Heights 24, Dwight-Englewood 16, Wood-Ridge 16, Saddle Brook 14, Cresskill 13, Waldwick 13, St. Mary's 8, Midland Park 6, New Milford 6, Palsades Park 2.





Ramsey's Chris Brizzi is in command in his 130-pound bout with Elmwood Park's Paul Chiamonte. Brizzi won his third title.



# North Jersey Sports

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# This boy's got poise

By **RON FOX**  
Staff Writer

**C**hris Bitetto, 4, was watching. His brother was five years older and preparing to wrestle. Completing the family triumvirate in the gym that day 11 years ago, their father was the junior wrestling coach for the Hackensack program. "My dad put me in a singlet [wrestling uniform] and asked me if I wanted to go out there," says Chris Bitetto, now a Hackensack High School sophomore. He waited until the following year to become a junior wrestler.

Today, he is The Record's Athlete of the Week and the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the Bergen County Coaches Holiday tournament. In the 135-pound final, he recorded a remarkable 18-17 win over fellow State medal winner Justin Frohlich of Pascack Hills after trailing, 12-3.

"I had to be calm," the repeat champion recalls. "In wrestling, you can't think, 'Man, I'm down 12-3 or 13-2.' You have to score fast, maybe catch him on his back, and pin him or at least narrow the score."

While concerned, his high school coaches — John Stallone and Ralph Dass — had faith. "Chris truly believes he is going to win," says Stallone. "And he

Dass mentioned the wrestler's incredible poise, admiring the fact that he did not force any moves against a powerful senior who was sixth in the State at 140 pounds last March.

Bitetto, who was fourth in the State at 130 pounds, credits many costars for his success. It begins with his mother, Darlene, who drives him to The Edge, a half hour away, for extra practices. "My mom washes all my sweaty clothes, puts me on a strict, healthy diet, and pushes me on. Without her in my life, I wouldn't be here. And I can't say enough about my dad [Frank]. He has shown me everything and always encourages me."

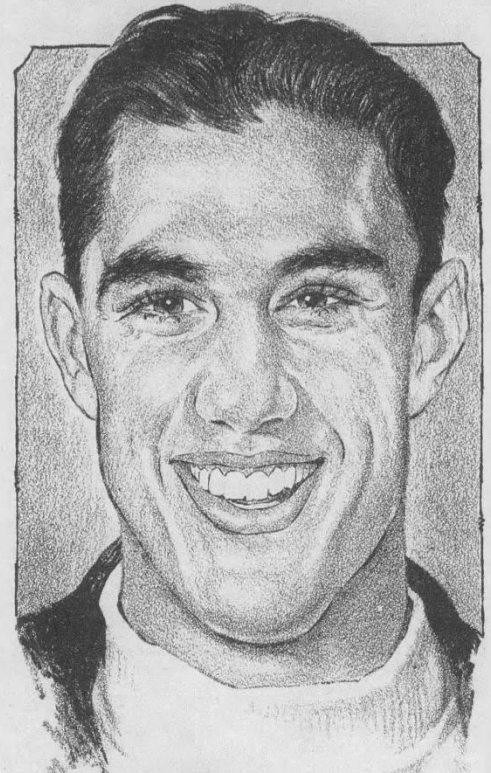
There's more. "I have lots of friends, but my two best friends are my sister and brother," he says of Brandi, 18, and Rich, 20, a former State high school champion for Hackensack. "If I need something, my sister is right there. And my brother's always been my idol. I've always looked up to him and wanted to be just like him. I don't think there's anyone in Bergen County or the State who doesn't like him."

Stallone, Dass, and his private coach, former State champion Pete Gonzalez, also draw praise. "If I don't push myself, I can count on them to push me to the furthest point in practice," the 5-foot-10 Bitetto says.

"Religion is important and Pete inspires me by telling me a story relating to God and the Bible," said Bitetto, who is Catholic. "I became poised in eighth grade because Pete and my father made me that way."

In 2001, it won't be surprising if Bitetto chooses to wrestle at Michigan. "I've been dreaming of going there since I was 7," he recalls. "I loved their football helmets, and their colors are similar to Hackensack's. [St. Joseph graduate] Damion Logan is a friend of my brother's and he loves it at Michigan. So I know it's a great school, too."

Runners-up for Athlete of the Week were **Nick Garrett** of Saddle Brook in track; **Adam Sica** of Lyndhurst and **Stephen Hult** of Pascack Valley in wrestling; and **Niree Drakeford** of Bogota, **Maritsa Christoudias** of Ramsey, **Cathy Perez** of Lyndhurst, **Mike Pero** of Garfield, and **Kevin Stokes** of Ramapo in basketball.



**CHRIS BITETTO OF HACKENSACK**  
CHRIS BITETTO 1-6-99

### SPORT: WRESTLING

**WEIGHT CLASS:** 135 **CLASS:** Sophomore **AGE:** 15

#### LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Bitetto was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the 48-team Bergen County tournament by a panel of coaches. He captured a wild 18-17 win over fellow State medal-winner Justin Frohlich of Pascack Hills for the title. He also had two pins and a 14-7 victory in the two-day event.

#### BACKGROUND

By sixth grade, Bitetto gave up baseball, and by eighth grade he was through with football in order to concentrate on wrestling. He won two State junior titles before high school and last year placed fourth in the State at 130 pounds as a freshman.

#### QUOTE

"To work hard is expected. To train like a madman is to exceed all expectations."