

# Trio seeks to recapture

## Bergen gold

Tues Dec 28  
2001

### Nunziato, Dunkin, Rinaldi in spotlight

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

A year ago, there was much anticipation leading up to the Bergen County Coaches Holiday Wrestling Tournament because of a brilliant returning field. A rare four-time champion was crowned in Hackensack's Chris Bitetto, and there also was a three-time winner and four other repeat champions.

This year, only three champions are back. There would have been a fourth, but Mike Marotta is ineligible for his third title. He is sitting out 30 days as a transfer from Wood-Ridge to St. Mary's.

Back for the 42nd annual event at Paramus High School on Friday and Saturday are defending champions Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic, winner as a freshman last year, Anthony Dunkin of Dumont, and Jerry Rinaldi of Lodi. All three earned State medals three months later.

Pascack Valley senior Steve Hult seeks his third title after his string was interrupted by a third-place finish last year.

Runners-up from 2000 abound, however. North Bergen has Alex Brito, who was pinned in last year's 103-pound final by Nunziato; and Pascack Hills has Ryan Strobel, who was pinned by Marotta in the 112 final.

Other returning silver medalists include Ridgewood's Mark Romeo, who defeated Hult in last year's semifinals; New Milford's Jon-Marc Tobin, Bergen Catholic's Brian Lucas, and Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick Calandrino, Garfield's Ardian Ramadani may not have medical clearance in time to wrestle. He has been treated for a neck vertebrae problem discovered during football season.

Six bronze medalists also return.

Bergen Catholic figures to successfully defend its overall title and Group 4 championship. Fair Lawn and North Bergen should be the closest pursuers in Group 4. Indian Hills, hit hard by graduation, is not expected to

repeat in Group 3, as Garfield, Northern Highlands, St. Joseph, Paramus, and perhaps Bergenfield figure to be stronger.

Returning Group 2 champion Pascack Hills is strong, but also should get a battle from Dumont and perhaps Lodi. Defending Group 1 champion Emerson/Park Ridge is heavily favored to repeat and also is expected to present the stiffest challenge to Bergen Catholic in the overall standings, despite the loss of standout upperweight Phil Mazzo to a season-ending knee injury. Westwood and the newly combined Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge program should pursue in Group 1.

Two wrestlers must be experiencing feelings

of release this year. E/PR's Nick Calandrino finished second in the County and district tournaments and third in Region 2 last year after losses to since-graduated two-time State and County champion Mike Massenzio of St. Joseph. Lucas lost in the County and district finals to Bitetto.

George Jockish, in his 17th year as director, has asked all 43 head coaches to supply him with tentative lineups by 2 p.m. today so they can be fed into a computer ahead of time. His phone and fax numbers are the same: (201) 265-7908.

To improve the event, the tournament committee has expanded its wrestlebacks.

"Wrestlers who lose in the Round of 16 will wrestle again if the people they lost to win in the quarterfinals," Jockish said. "Coaches asked for it because you conceivably could win three times on Friday – counting an out-bracket match – and still not advance. It's just one extra round."

Wrestlers are seeded in each weight class off past accomplishments. Freshmen also can be seeded off medals earned in National Federation and summer recreation tournaments.

Preliminaries are 10 a.m. Friday, with quarterfinals at 7 p.m. Saturday's semis and wrestlebacks are at 11 a.m., consolations at 5 p.m., and finals at 7.

Tues Dec 28, 2001

# Traffic jam on top

## BC one of four teams tied for lead after first night on mats

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

PARAMUS – There is no runaway team in the Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament this year. That was perfectly clear Friday when Bergen Catholic's Mike Galorenzo was wrestling in the 150-pound quarterfinals.

At the time, three teams were tied for first place, but when Galorenzo rang up his 12-3 win, he pulled the Crusaders into a four-way knot with Pascack Hills, Garfield, and Northern Highlands. When the quarterfinals were over in the two Paramus High School gyms and the points totaled, Emerson/Park Ridge held a slim lead with 93 points to 90.5 for Fair Lawn, 87 for Bergen Catholic, and – of course – a three-way tie for fourth place

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between Northern Highlands, Garfield, and Pascack Hills at 83.5 points.

There were numerous surprises throughout the day. Chief among them was Northern Highlands senior Tom Kraus (145). Early in the day, he defeated fourth-seeded Jon Zahn of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge, 8-5; and in the quarterfinals he outlasted fifth-seeded Matt Vecchione of Emerson/Park Ridge, 15-11, to earn a bout today with top-seeded Steve Owimrin of Pascack Valley.

"I took a whole new approach," the well-muscled Kraus said. "I used to go crazy out

there and try to muscle everybody. But I'm using my head, and that's better than any muscle in my body. I'm just keeping my head clear."

The 152-pound class was the most experienced-laden group in the tournament with 18 wrestlers earning seeds off past performances. That is where unseeded Jason Butler of Bogota knocked off second-ranked Matt Marquart of Rutherford, a returning fifth-place medalist, 8-6; and Dumont's Dan Wolthoff, seeded 14th, beat third-seeded Mark Macaluso of Fort Lee and pinned sixth-ranked Luis Ubiera of Elmwood Park.

The only top seed to fall was Emerson/Park Ridge's Nick Kabobjian, who was blanked, 9-0, by Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt, who took part in a wrestling exchange to Belarus during the summer.

"I knew he was a district champion and I guess I was a little intimidated," said Flatt, who finished third in a different district in March. "I rode him very well, a lot better than I expected."

The first full round saw a few surprises. St. Mary's freshman 125-pounder Jim Grant beat fifth-seeded Randy Dunkin of Dumont, 10-5, with excellent positioning on his feet. At 125 pounds, Saddle Brook's Jose Rodriguez took down No. 2 Joe DiMartini of Ridgefield Park, for a 4:48 pin after a 41-second pin in his preliminary bout.

North Bergen heavyweight Jose Cartage-na scored a wild 14-12 win over second-seeded and returning sixth-place finisher Steve Van Soest of Indian Hills, and then topped seventh-ranked Joe Jannelli of Waldwick, 2-1, in double overtime.

# Repeat win

## Dumont's Dunkin inspired by his brother

By **RON FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

PARAMUS — As a returning champion, all Anthony Dunkin could do was his best.

"It's toughest to win when you're expected to," said the Dumont 130-pounder, who won perhaps the toughest bout of the night Saturday, downing Bergen Catholic's Mike Galorenzo, 11-5. He impressed so much he was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Bergen County Coaches Holiday tournament.

Dunkin had to put behind him the pain of seeing his younger brother, Randy, upset in an early round Friday. He credited Randy with helping him to a title victory that began with one of the quickest fireman's carries of the event. "My brother hits a fireman's like crazy," he said. "And we drill on them constantly."

Greater personal pain was carried by Bergen Catholic coach Dave Bell, whose father is seriously ill. Coaching was tough, but Bell appreciated the opportunity to stay busy. "It helps take your mind off other things. It kept me occupied."

Coaches had to be preoccupied with the team scores since the race was one of the

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tightest in recent memory. That is until the semifinal round when Emerson/Park Ridge, the leader at the time, was jolted by losses by its two No. 1 seeds. River Dell sophomore Rich Vitale pinned Nick Calandrino in 1:47 of the 171-pound bout and Garfield's Diego Crespo pinned Tom Hill in 5:01 at 215 pounds.

"I really thought it was lost Friday night," said Bell.

Yet BC won its third straight team championship, culling 140.5 points to 126.5 by the E/PR Cavos. Bryan Nunziato and Brian Lucas won titles for the Crusaders. Nunziato, Dunkin, and Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi made it back-to-back individual titles for themselves. Pascack Valley's Steve Hult, who colored his hair green for the occasion to match his uniform, captured his third title, having won as a freshman and sophomore, but not last year when he finished third.

"I got Most School Spirit in the yearbook this year,; I just like to be a little different," he said. Hult, who placed in the State tour-

nament as a freshman, but just missed the last two seasons, is driven. "I'm not leaving anything on the mat," he said.

How far can he go in the State? "No. 1," Hult said succinctly. He pinned five opponents in just 5 minutes, 3 seconds to become the first wrestler in the tourney's 42-year-history to win the Most Pins trophy twice. Hult pinned Becton/Wallington's Mike Decio in 51 seconds of the 140-pound final, starting with a head-and-leg takedown and finishing with an inside cradle.

Nunziato repeated with two cradles to handle North Bergen's Alex Brito in the 103-pound bout, a 15-0 technical fall. Brito had dominated in each of the other rounds. Rinaldi pinned four opponents in 5:34, including St. Joseph's Lee Dugan in the 189 final with a power half.

Ridgewood with Mark Romeo (135) and Tyler Flatt (160) and Lodi with Rob Kaiser (152) and Rinaldi had two winners each. Champions also represented six other schools: Pascack Hills' Ryan Strobel (112), Westwood's Joe Butcher (119), Glen Rock's Evan Gallucio (125), Bergen Tech's Dave Ferrell (145), Saddle Brook's Rob Panfili (215), and Northern Highlands' Josh Arcadia.

## BC wins third straight team championship

By Jim McConville  
Correspondent

**PARAMUS** — There was a little bit of everything in the 42nd annual Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling tournament. Three wrestlers defended titles, another reclaimed one, and the final match went to the last seconds.

Along the way during the two-day event held last Friday and Saturday at Paramus High School, Bergen Catholic retained its team championship, its third straight and ninth in the last 12 years.

The Crusaders were pushed by Emerson/Park Ridge, which was hurt when its three top-seeded wrestlers all failed to reach the final round. Two of them lost in the semi-finals, which E/PR entered as the leader in the team standings. The Cavos ended up second overall.

Bergen Catholic had six of its wrestlers claim medals, the most of any of the 43 participating schools, and the Crusaders joined Ridgewood and Lodi as the only teams to have two individual champions. BC also took the Group 4 crown for the 11th time in the last 12 seasons.

"We wrestled well," Crusader head coach Dave Bell said. "There were a lot of good teams, and we got a great team effort."

Emerson/Park Ridge did earn the Group 1 title for the second straight year, while Pascack Hills also repeated as the Group 2 champion, its third such title in the last five seasons. Northern Highlands ended Indian Hills' two-year reign as Group 3 champion (they also won Group 2 in 1998), placing third overall in the team standings.

Among the individual award winners were Anthony Dunkin of Dumont, who was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler (MOW), and Steve Hult of Pascack Valley, who took home the Most Falls in Least Time award.

Here is a look at the final round matches, along with some of the other happenings within each weight class.

**103** — The championship match was a repeat of the 2000 final, and it produced the same result, as Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic methodically rang up a 15-0 technical fall in 4:51 over Alex Brito of North Bergen. Last year, Nunziato pinned Brito in 32 seconds, but this year, the top-seeded sophomore used two takedowns, a reversal and three near falls to wrap up his second county crown. Brito, the second seed this year, never put Nunziato in jeopardy the entire match. Glen Rock's Joe Schick, the sixth seed, took third place.

**112** — Senior Ryan Strobel of Pascack Hills overcame a 4-1 deficit after the first period to overtake New Milford's Mike Rooney for a 10-8 decision win. Rooney, the second seed, used two takedowns to gain that first period lead, but Strobel, the top seed, scored a takedown and a near fall toward the end of the second period to grab the lead.

Rooney, a senior, closed to within 7-6 on a takedown in the first 12 seconds of the third period, then allowed Strobel to get up, looking to take him down again. Instead, Strobel, who was pinned in this weight class by Mike Marotta of Wood Ridge in last year's finals, got the key takedown with 52 seconds left, making a Rooney reversal with two seconds on the clock too little too late.

Strobel becomes the 45th Cowboy to win a county title, the most of any school in the history of the event, and the first for Pascack Hills since Justin Frohlich in 1997. Fair Lawn's Ken Giancola, the third seed, took third place.

**119** — For the third bout in a row, the top seed defeated the second seed, as Joe Butcher

of Westwood proved to be too much for Rory O'Donnell of St. Joseph. It was a battle of returning third-place finishers from last year, and O'Donnell, a sophomore, took the early lead with a takedown. Butcher escaped before the end of period one, and he gained a pair of stall points in the second period to take a 3-2 advantage.

Butcher, a junior, then escaped with 1:29 left in the match and scored a key takedown with 51 seconds left to earn a 6-2 decision. He becomes Westwood's 18th champion and first since Dan Bornstein in 1992. Third-seeded Chris Flores of Pascack Hills took third place.

**125** — Last year, Evan Gallucio of Glen Rock finished fifth at 112, then saw his season end shortly after that with a leg injury. This time around, the senior made sure there would be no disappointment, as he scored the first pin of the finals. The fourth seed took down seventh-seeded Christian Diaz of Cliffside Park with 53 seconds left in the first period, hooked a leg and pinned him nine seconds later.

The title is the sixth in school history and the first since Scott Christie won one all the way back in 1966. Gallucio also scored a

decision over top-seed Arthur Rofi of Garfield in the semis, while Diaz reached the finals on the strength of four straight pins. Rofi, a senior, took third.

**130** — Dunkin earned his second county title (he won at 119 pounds last season) with four pins on the way to the title match. There, he used five takedowns to earn an 11-5 decision over senior Mike Galorenzo of Bergen Catholic, the first time he did not win by a pin or a technical fall in his 10 matches this year. Up 6-4 after two periods, the senior escaped and scored a takedown midway through the final period to wrap up the match.

"It's a surprise, because there are a lot of guys who had great tournaments," Dunkin said of winning the MOW award. "Right now, I just want to win every match and get back to the state finals, but like my coach says, just take them one at a time." Fourth-seeded Adam Uffleman, a senior from Pascack Hills, took third place for the second straight year.

**135** — It was a long wait for Ridgewood's Mark Romeo, a full year to work toward reversing last year's championship

loss at 130 pounds in a match he had seemingly won. This year, he did not make the same third-period lapse, and took Ridgewood's first title since Damian Ross won in 1984. The top-seeded senior used a reversal midway through the final period to clinch a 9-5 decision over second-seeded Ryan Palko of Saddle Brook.

Romeo overcame an early takedown by Palko, a senior, to take a 5-3 lead after one period, and he extended it to 7-4 after two. "It's been really tough to wait for another chance, and this time I just wanted to stay aggressive and not let him get an advantage," Romeo said. Senior Ryan McSweeney of Old Tappan, seeded third, took third place.

**140** — Pascack Valley's Steve Hult became only the second wrestler to win three titles in non-consecutive fashion, as the senior wasted little time in pinning second-seeded senior Mike Decio of Becton/Wallington in 51 seconds. Hult won titles as a freshman and sophomore before losing to Romeo in the 130-pound semis last year, and he joins Andy Van Horn of Pascack Hills, who won in 1985, 1987 and 1988, in the non-consecutive club.

Hult, the top seed, became the 15th three-time champion when he took down Decio 19 seconds into the match. He was able to get him in a cradle and finally worked him for the pin. Hult's five pins came in a total of 5:03. "All I had on my mind was to attack and finish," Hult said. Senior Sal Petruso of Emerson/Park Ridge, the third seed, took third place.

**145** — Finally, a second seed defeated a top seed, as Dave Ferrell of Bergen Tech captured the school's first ever title with a 35-second pin of Steve Owimrin of Pascack Valley. Ferrell, a senior, was upset in the second round last year as a third seed, but he went right after Owimrin, a senior who was third at 140 pounds a year ago. Ferrell got the takedown at 17 seconds, put Owimrin right to his back and held him there for the fall. Third-seeded Tim Dillon of Bergenfield took third place.

**152** — After finishing third at 119 pounds for Bergen Catholic last year, junior Rob Kaiser transferred to Lodi before the season ended, making him eligible for this year's tourney. The move paid off in a county title, earned via a 2-0 win over seventh-seeded Ed Verdel of Fair Lawn. After a scoreless first period, Kaiser, the fourth seed, escaped from the defensive position six seconds into the second period. His other point came on a stalling penalty against Verdel, a senior, with 1:03 left in the match.

Kaiser knocked off top-seed Jon-Marc Tobin of New Milford in the semis with a 3-2 decision, while Verdel emerged from an upset-riddled bottom half of the bracket.

Tobin, a senior who was second last year, was able to claim third place on a pin at 27 seconds.

**160** — Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt spent a good part of the summer overseas, wrestling in Belarus as part of an exchange program, and the work paid off. He became the lowest seed to win a championship this year, as he took an 8-4 decision over third-seeded Chris Lowe of St. Joseph. Flatt came into the tournament as the eighth seed. "I didn't really expect to get to the finals, but I am glad that all the work I put in paid off," Flatt said.

Lowe, a senior, took a 2-0 lead after one period and escaped to go up 3-0 early in the second, but Flatt scored a takedown and a near fall midway into the period for a 4-3 lead. He reversed for a 6-2 edge, then held Lowe down until he escaped with nine seconds left in the match. Flatt, who lost in the first round last year, quickly scored a takedown to clinch the match with five ticks on the clock and become the Maroons' 13th all-time county champ.

Lowe had beaten second-seeded sophomore Ryan Arcadia of Northern Highlands in the semis, while Flatt ousted top-seed Nick Kabobjian of Emerson/Park Ridge in the quarterfinals. Arcadia pinned for third place.

**171** — Throughout the tournament, Bergen Catholic's Brian Lucas was a takedown machine, and that practice kept up in the title match, as the senior scored nine of them against fourth-seeded Rich Vitale of River Dell on the way to a 19-10 decision. He got the first one five seconds into the match, and he repeatedly scored two points, let Vitale up and then took him down again.

Lucas, the second seed who finished second last year, becomes the 29th Crusader champion. Vitale

knocked off top-seeded Nick Calandrino of Emerson/Park Ridge via a pin in the semifinals. Calandrino, a junior, came back to take third place.

**189** — Jerry Rinaldi became a two-time champion in short measure, as he scored a pin in just 1:05 over sixth-seeded Lee Dugan of St. Joseph. Rinaldi, the 160-pound winner last year, took Dugan down 20 seconds into the match, and he finally got him turned with a lock on the arm. The top seed finished off his other three opponents by pin also, and the total time of his four falls was 5:34.

The junior gave Lodi its seventh county championship. Dugan, a senior, knocked off second-seeded Ian Michaud of Northern Highlands in the semifinals and bested third-seeded Eric Junco of North Bergen in an earlier bout. Michaud bounced back to take third place.

**215** — Rob Panfili became Saddle Brook's seventh county champ and the first since Terry Rogers in 1992 when he scored a 9-6 decision over fourth-seeded Diego Crespo of Garfield. Panfili, a senior, built up a 4-1 lead after one period, but Crespo came back to tie at 4-4 in the second period with a takedown.

Panfili, the third seed, escaped and scored a takedown with 44 seconds left in the stanza, and another takedown with 30 seconds remaining in the match gave him a 9-5 lead. Crespo, a sophomore, had knocked off top-seeded Tom Hill of Emerson/Park Ridge in the semis on a pin, while Panfili dropped second-seeded senior Vinny Mancuso of Paramus in his semifinal bout. Hill, a senior, took third via a forfeit.

**275** — For the better part of two

and a half periods, the last match of the tournament seemed anti-climactic, but the final 35 seconds proved to be the most exciting of the final round. Top-seeded Josh Arcadia of Northern Highlands was awarded a stall point, tying his bout with third-seeded Dan Farina of Becton/Wallington.

Farina then scored a takedown with 11 seconds left, only to have Arcadia pull off a reversal with four seconds left and score a near fall at the buzzer for an 8-6 decision. Prior to that, the two went through a scoreless first period before Farina notched a couple of takedowns and Arcadia escaped three times in the second period.

Arcadia becomes the Highlanders' seventh county champ and first since Matt Greenberg in 1998. Unseeded Jose Cartagena of North Bergen, who knocked off second-seeded Steve Van Soest of Indian Hills in the second round, took third place on a pin three seconds before the end of his match.

**QUARTERFINALS**

103 — Bryan Nunziato, Bergen Cath., dec. Gene Palko, Saddle Brook, 14-3; Aaron Khan, Garfield, dec. Cory Spector, Fair Lawn, 7-6; Joe Schick, Glen Rock, dec. Dan Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, 2-1; Alex Brito, North Bergen, dec. Dave Teran, Bogota, 14-2.

112 — Ryan Strobel, Pascack Hills, pin Pablo Zambrano, Cliffside Park, 2:19; Melvin Hurley, Garfield, dec. Jim Grant, St. Mary's, 11-9; Ken Giancola, Fair Lawn, dec. Kevin Hanson, Ramsey, 9-3; Mike Rooney, New Milford, dec. Dallas Fill, Hasb.Hts/Wd-Ridge, 6-4.

119 — Joe Butcher, Westwood, dec. Cory Dunn, Rutherford, 12-2; Luke Hintzen, Fair Lawn, pin Mike Egizi, Ridgefield Park, 1:53; Chris Flores, Pascack Hills, by injury default; Rory O'Donnell, St. Joseph Reg., tech fall Ray Cottiers, New Milford, 15-0, 2:31.

125 — Arthur Rofi, Garfield, pin Dave Yoon, NV/Old Tappan, 1:57; Evan Gallucio, Glen Rock, pin Jason Horowitz, Pascack Valley, 3:14; Jamen Vassallo, Pascack Hills, pin Pat Clark, Bogota, 3:22; Christian Diaz, Cliffside Park, pin Jose Rodriguez, Saddle Brook, 1:58.

130 — Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, pin Dave Burns, Bergenfield, 1:29; Adam Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, dec. Nick Brandreth, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 17-7; Matt Arlington, Mahwah, dec. Joe Scaglione, Lyndhurst, 6-4; Mike Galorenzo, Bergen Cath., dec. Saevak Grigorian, Garfield, 12-3.

135 — Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, dec. Ja-

son Perez, Bergenfield, 9-1; T.J. Challenger, Dumont, dec. Kevin Moran, Paramus, 7-4; Ryan McSweeney, NV/Old Tappan, dec. A.J. Fullam, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 14-12; Ryan Palko, Saddle Brook, pin Rich Baldan, Don Bosco Prep, 0:34.

140 — Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, def. Eric Angeli, Don Bosco Prep; Sal Petruso, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, pin Jeff Bliss, New Milford, 3:37; Adam Kleinman, Fort Lee, pin Juan Capote, Ridgefield Park, 3:47; Mike Decio, Becton/Wallington, dec. Alan Alcalde, 8-3.

145 — Steve Owimrin, Pascack Valley, pin Mike Conroy, NV/Old Tappan, 0:36; Tom Kraus, N. Highlands, dec. Matt Vecchione, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 15-11; Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, pin Turget Guersel, Cliffside Park, 2:13; Dave Ferrell, Bergen Tech, pin Mark Bradley, Saddle Brook, 1:02.

152 — Jon-Marc Tobin, New Milford, dec. Alex Vasquez, North Bergen, 22-10; Rob Kaiser, Lodi, dec. Dave Sica, Lyndhurst, 3-2; Dan Wolthoff, Dumont, pin Luis Ubieta, Elmwood Park; Ed Verdel, Fair Lawn, vs. Jason Butler, Bogota.

160 — Tyler Flatt, Ridgewood, dec. Nick Kabobjian, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 9-0; Charlie Ferraro, Ridgefield Park, injury default; Chris Lowe, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Anthony Solitto, Lyndhurst, 3-0; Ryan Arcadia, N. Highlands, dec. Dan Cervino, Paramus, 10-9.

171 — Nick Calandrino, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, dec. Zach Greenberg, N. Highlands, 6-2; Rich Vitale, River Dell, dec. Rich Sellito, 9-5; Bobby Guy, Fair Lawn, pin A.J. Dolan, St. Mary's, 4:50; Brian Lucas, Bergen Cath., dec. Mike Buldo, Paramus, 18-4.

189 — Jerry Rinaldi, Lodi, pin Dan Jantz, Hasb.Hts/Wd-Ridge, 1:00; Avon Morgan, Ridgewood, pin Nick Benvenuto, Bergen Cath., 0:52; Lee Dugan, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Eric Junco, North Bergen, 7-4; Ian Michaud, N.Highlands, dec. Frank Vetere, Cresskill, 9-2.

215 — Tom Hill, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, pin Dan Fisher, Ridgewood, 2:31; Diego Crespo, Garfield, tech fall Daruis McGill, Dumont, 19-4; Rob Panfilii, Saddle Brook, tech. fall Brian DeCarlo, Waldwick, 22-7, 3:47; Vinny Mancuso, Paramus, pin Steve Fitzgerald, Indian Hills, 1:09.

275 — Josh Arcadia, N. Highlands, pin Larry Meyers, Paramus, 3:23; Dan Glyck, St. Joseph Reg., pin Josh Kohan, Fair Lawn, 4:19; Dan Farina, Becton/Wallington, dec. Rameel Meekins, Westwood, 8-5; Jose Cartagena, North Bergen, dec. Joe Janneli, Waldwick, 2-1 (2OT).

**SEMIFINALS**

103 — Bryan Nunziato, Bergen Cath., pin Aaron Khan, Garfield, 1:47; Alex Brito, North Bergen, dec. Joe Schick, Glen Rock, 8-3.

112 — Ryan Strobel, Pascack Hills, dec. Melvin Hurley, Garfield, 18-5; Mike Rooney, New Milford dec. Ken Giancola, Fair Lawn, 6-5.

119 — Joe Butcher, Westwood, tech. fall Luke Hintzen, Fair Lawn, 16-0, 5:13; Rory O'Donnell, St. Joseph Reg. pin Chris Flores, Pascack Hills, 1:15.

125 — Evan Gallucio, Glen Rock, dec. Arthur Rofi, Garfield, 6-4; Christian Diaz, Cliffside Park pin Jamen Vassallo, Pascack Hills, 0:33.

130 — Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, pin Adam Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, 1:49; Mike Galorenzo, Bergen Cath., dec. Matt Arlington, Mahwah, 8-4.

135 — Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, dec. T.J. Challenger, Dumont, 2-0; Ryan Palko, Saddle Brook, pin Ryan McSweeney, NV/Old Tappan, 1:35.

140 — Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Sal Petruso, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 0:50; Mike Decio, Becton/Wallington, dec. Adam Kleinman, Fort Lee, 13-0.

145 — Steve Owimrin, Pascack Valley, tech. fall Tom Kraus, N. Highlands, 21-6; 4:05; Dave Ferrell, Bergen Tech, dec. Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, 15-7.

152 — Rob Kaiser, Lodi, dec. Jon-Marc Tobin, New Milford, 3-2; Ed Verdel, Fair Lawn, dec. Dan Wolthoff, Dumont, 16-11.

160 — Tyler Flatt, Ridgewood, dec. Charlie Ferraro, Ridgefield Park, 6-1; Chris Lowe, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Ryan Arcadia, N. Highlands, 5-3.

171 — Rich Vitale, River Dell, pin Nick Calandrino, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 1:47; Brian Lucas, Bergen Cath., dec. Bobby Guy, Fair Lawn, 6-4.

189 — Jerry Rinaldi, Lodi, pin Avon Morgan, Ridgewood, 2:39; Lee Dugan, St. Joseph Reg., dec. Ian Michaud, N.Highlands, 17-7.

215 — Diego Crespo, Garfield, pin Tom Hill, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, 5:01; Rob Panfilii, Saddle Brook, dec. Vinny Mancuso, Paramus, 14-6.

275 — Josh Arcadia, N. Highlands, pin Dan Glyck, St. Joseph Reg., 3:31; Dan Farina, Becton/Wallington, dec. Jose Cartagena, North Bergen, 3-0.

**SECOND-ROUND WRESTLEBACKS**

103 — Dan Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, dec. Kyle Burdette, Westwood, 8-4; Gene Palko, Saddle Brook, dec. Dan Glover, Bergenfield, 4-2.

112 — Dallas Fill, Hasb. Heights/Wood-Ridge, dec. Phil Gernakian, Pascack Valley, 6-1; Derek Sickles, Bergen Catholic, pin Robert Kein, Becton/Wallington, 2:25.

119 — Cory Dunn, Rutherford, dec. Matt Raspanti, Paramus, 11-2; Ray Cottiers, New Milford, pin Eric Krasnic, NV/Demarest, 2:09.

125 — Pat Clark, Bogota, pin Jordan Chacon, Hackensack, 2:21; Dave Yoon, NV/Old Tappan, dec. Jason Horowitz, Pascack Valley, 7-4.

130 — Saevak Grigorian, Garfield, dec. Joe Scaglione, Lyndhurst, 9-3; Joe DePaola, Westwood, dec. Nick Brandreth, Emerson/Park Ridge, 7-6.

135 — A.J. Fullam, Emerson/Park Ridge, pin Rich Baldan, Don Bosco, 3:50; Kevin Moran, Paramus, dec. Jason Perez, Bergenfield, 9-5.

140 — Eric Angeli, Don Bosco Prep, pin Jeff Bliss, New Milford, 2:35; Alan Alcalde, Elmwood Park, dec. Juan Capote, Ridgefield, 2-1.

145 — Mark Bradley, Saddle Brook, dec. Mike Seno, Glen Rock, 7-2; Mike Conroy, NV/Old Tappan, pin Elyran Zamir, Fair Lawn, 4:24.

152 — Jason Butler, Bogota, dec. Nick Riccardella, Hasb. Heights/Wood-Ridge, 6-5; Dave Sica, Lyndhurst, pin Alex Vasquez, North Bergen, 2:35.

160 — Anthony Solitto, Lyndhurst, dec. Dan Cervino, Paramus, 3-2; Nick Kabobjian, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, dec. Dave Revie, Pascack Hills, 7-5.

171 — A.J. Dolan, St. Mary's, dec. Mike Buldo, Paramus, 8-6; Zach Greenberg, N. Highlands, tech. fall Mike Safity, Westwood, 17-0, 4:42.

189 — Frank Vetere, Cresskill, dec. Eric Junco, North Bergen, 3-2; Nick Benvenuto, Bergen Cath., dec. Dan Jantz, Hasb. Heights/Wood-Ridge, 8-4.

215 — Brian DeCarlo, Waldwick, pin Anthony Trancucci, No. Highlands, 2:58; Dan Fisher, Ridgewood, dec. Darius McQuill, Dumont, 9-7.

275 — Rameel Meekins, Westwood, dec. Joe Janneli, Waldwick, 2-1; Steve Van Soest, Indian Hills, pin Bruce Miller, Ridgewood, 0:53.

**FIFTH-PLACE CONSOLATIONS**

103 — Dan Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, pin Gene Palko, Saddle Brook, 0:40.

112 — Dallas Fill, Hasb. Heights/Wood-Ridge, dec. Derek Sickles, Bergen Catholic, 8-4.

119 — Cory Dunn, Rutherford dec. Ray Cottiers, New Milford, 13-3.

125 — Pat Clark, Bogota, pin Dave Yoon, NV/Old Tappan, 2:40.

130 — Saevak Grigorian, Garfield, won by forfeit.

135 — A.J. Fullam, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, pin Kevin Moran, Paramus, 1:21.

140 — Eric Angeli, Don Bosco Prep, pin Alan Alcalde, Elmwood Park, 2:42.

145 — Mark Bradley, Saddle Brook, pin Mike Conroy, NV/Old Tappan, 4:32.

**BCCA TOURNAMENT**

**AT PARAMUS**

**TEAM SCORES**

Bergen Catholic 140.5, Emerson/Park Ridge 126.5, No. Highlands 121, Pascack Hills 109, Saddle Brook 108, Garfield 106.5, St. Joseph Reg. 103.5, Fair Lawn 101.5, Pascack Valley 85, Dumont 82.5, Lodi 82, Ridgewood 81, Paramus 73, New Milford 72, North Bergen 71.5, Westwood 66, Bogota 61.5, Glen Rock 60, Becton/Wallington 59, NV/Old Tappan 49.5, Bergen Tech 48, Hasb. Heights/Wood-Ridge 48, Ridgefield Park 48, Cliffside Park 46, River Dell 43, Bergenfield 39, Lyndhurst 38.5, Waldwick 38, Fort Lee 32, Don Bosco 30, Indian Hills 29, Elmwood Park 28, Mahwah 27.5, Hackensack 26, Rutherford 26, Cresskill 23, St. Mary's 23, Ramsey 14, NV/Demarest 13, Ridgefield 9, Paramus Catholic 8, Ramapo 8, Lonia 6.

**CONSOLATIONS 3rd Pl**

103 — Joe Schick, Glen Rock, dec. Aaron Khan, Garfield, 4-3.

112 — Ken Giancola, Fair Lawn, dec. Melvin Hurley, Garfield, 6-5.

119 — Chris Flores, Pascack Hills, dec. Luke Hintzen, Fair Lawn, 3-1.

125 — Arthur Rofi, Garfield, pin Jamen Vassallo, Pascack Hills, 1:18.

130 — Adam Ufflerman, Pascack Hills, dec. Matt Arlington, Mahwah, 3-1.

135 — Ryan McSweeney, NV/Old Tappan, dec. T.J. Challenger, Dumont, 5-3.

140 — Sal Petruso, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, pin Adam Kleinman, Fort Lee, 2:00.

145 — Tim Dillon, Bergenfield, dec. Tom Kraus, N. Highlands, 8-1.

152 — Jon-Marc Tobin, New Milford, pin Dan Wolthoff, Dumont, 0:27.

160 — Ryan Arcadia, N. Highlands, pin Charlie Ferraro, Ridgefield Park, 1:24.

171 — Nick Calandrino, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, dec. Bobby Guy, Fair Lawn, 9-0.

189 — Ian Michaud, N.Highlands, dec. Avon Morgan, Ridgewood, 7-5.

215 — Tom Hill, Emerson/Pk.Ridge, won by forfeit.

275 — Jose Cartagena, North Bergen, pin Dan Glyck, St. Joseph Reg., 5:57.

**FINALS**

103 — Bryan Nunziato, Bergen Cath., tech. fall Alex Brito, North Bergen, 15-0, 4:51.

112 — Ryan Strobel, Pascack Hills, dec. Mike Rooney, New Milford, 10-8.

119 — Joe Butcher, Westwood, dec. Rory O'Donnell, St. Joseph Reg., 6-2.

125 — Evan Gallucio, Glen Rock, pin Christian Diaz, Cliffside Park, 1:16.

130 — Anthony Dunkin, Dumont, dec. Mike Galorenzo, Bergen Cath., 11-5.

135 — Mark Romeo, Ridgewood, dec. Ryan Palko, Saddle Brook, 10-5.

140 — Steve Hult, Pascack Valley, pin Mike Decio, Becton/Wallington, 0:51.

145 — Dave Ferrell, Bergen Tech, pin Steve Owimrin, Pascack Valley, 0:35.

152 — Rob Kaiser, Lodi, dec. Ed Verdel, Fair Lawn, 2-0.

160 — Tyler Flatt, Ridgewood, dec. Chris Lowe, St. Joseph Reg., 8-4.

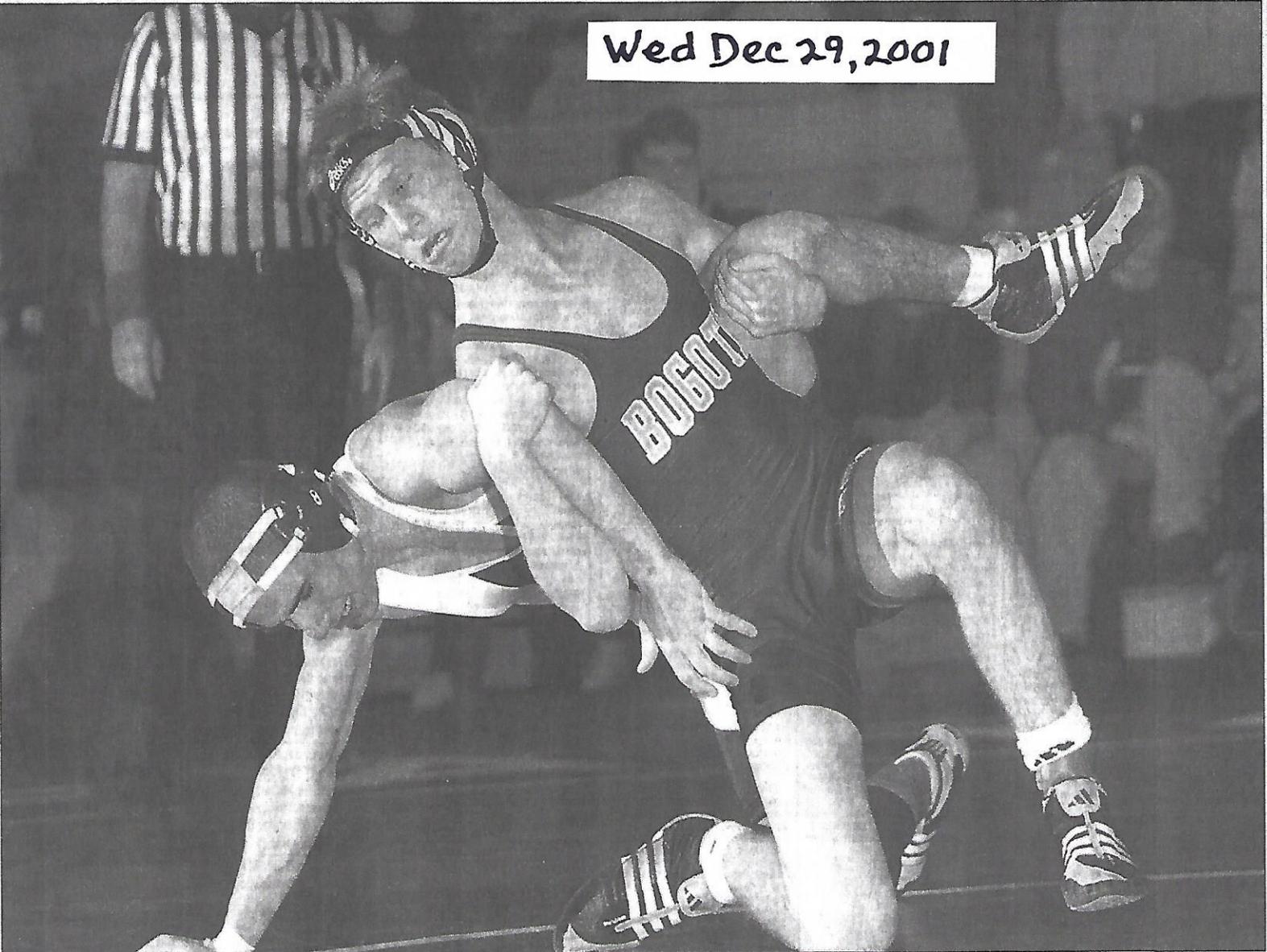
171 — Brian Lucas, Bergen Cath., maj. dec. Rich Vitale, River Dell, 19-10.

189 — Jerry Rinaldi, Lodi, pin Lee Dugan, St. Joseph Reg., 1:05.

215 — Rob Panfilii, Saddle Brook, dec. Diego Crespo, Garfield, 9-6.

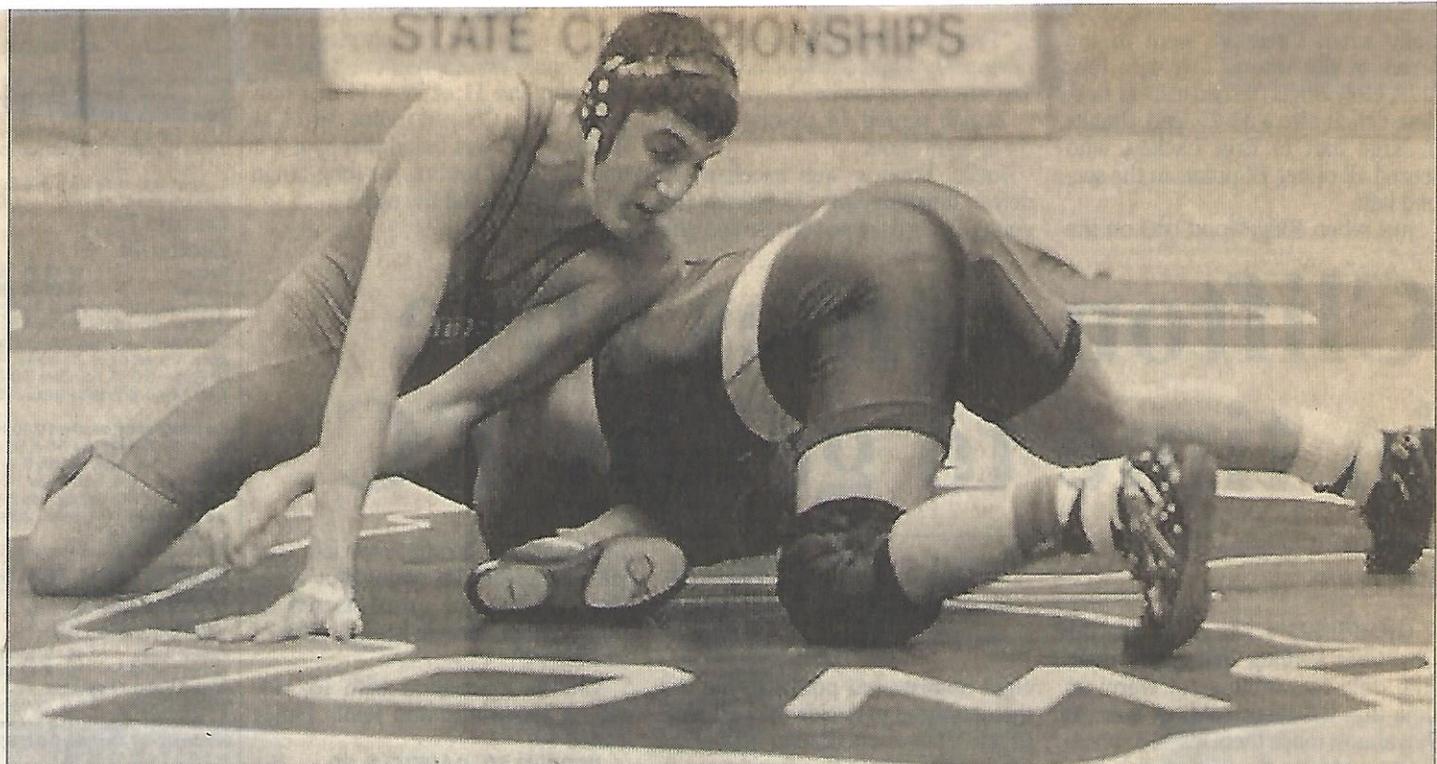
275 — Josh Arcadia, N. Highlands, dec. Dan Farina, Becton/Wallington, 8-6.

Wed Dec 29, 2001



MEL EVANS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

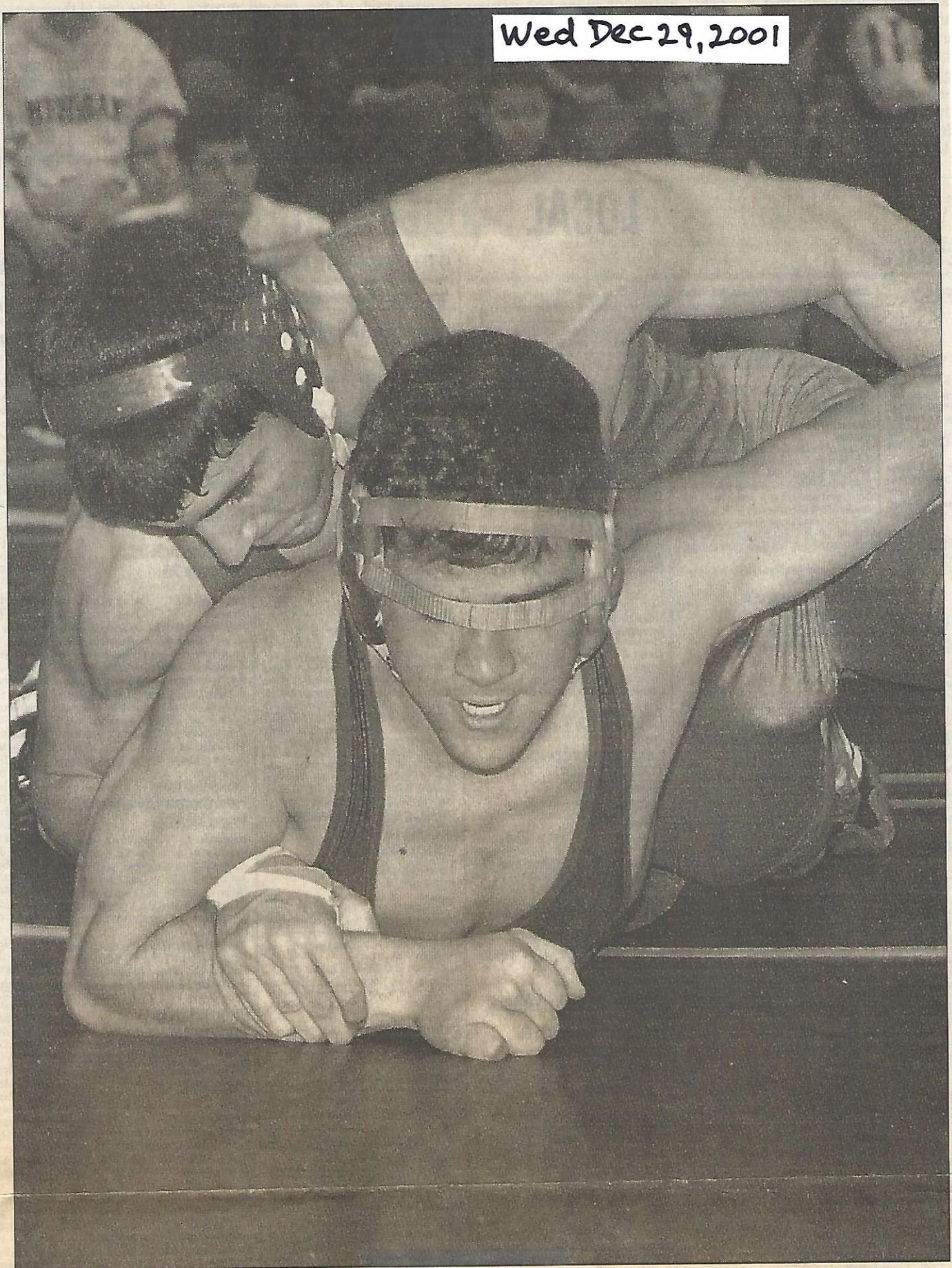
Bogota's Pat Clark tries to control Jamen Vassallo of Pascack Hills in their 125-pound bout at the Bergen County Wrestling tournament Friday night at Paramus High School. Vassallo won.



NORM SUTARIA/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi, left, is a defending champion at this weekend's Bergen County Holiday Wrestling Tournament. He was a State medalist last year.

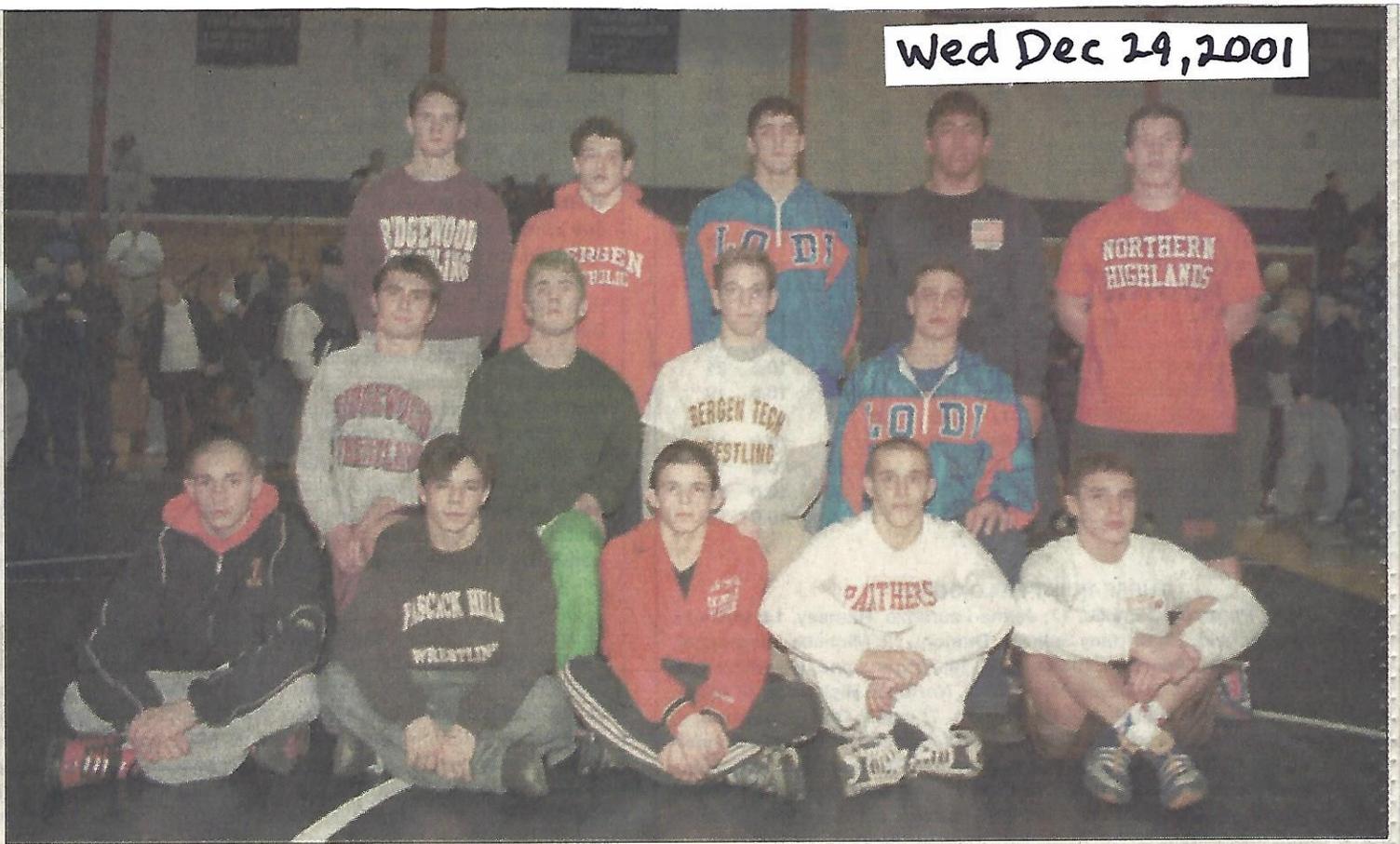
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DON SMITH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

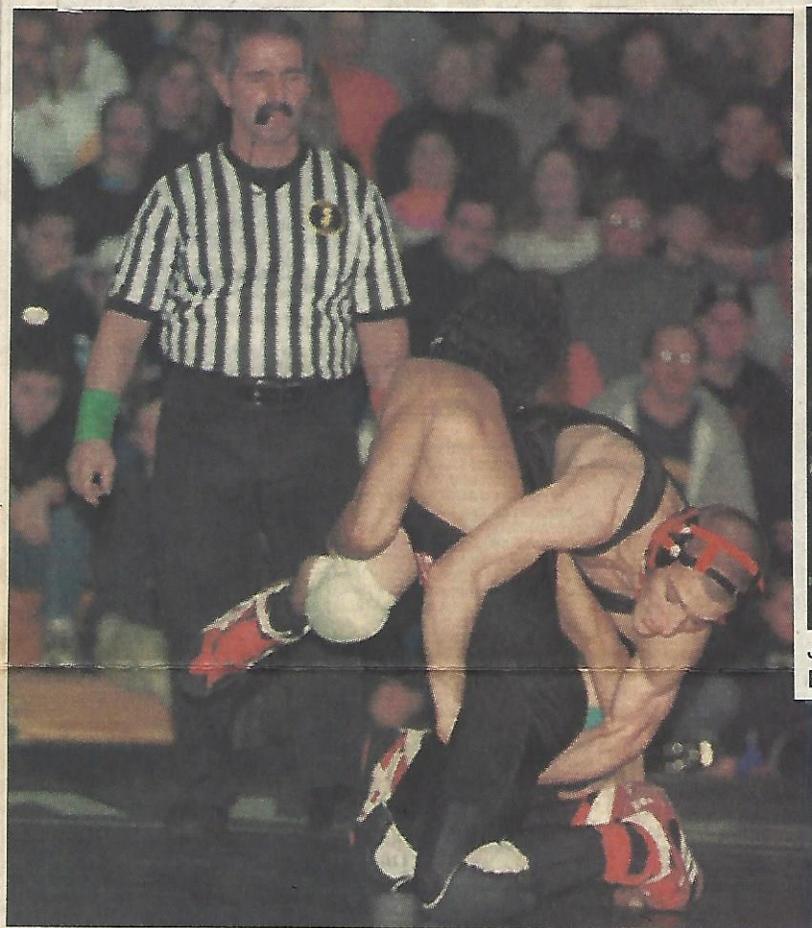
Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi, top, on his way to pinning St. Joseph's Lee Dugan in the 189-pound final for his second straight Bergen Holiday title.

Wed Dec 24, 2001

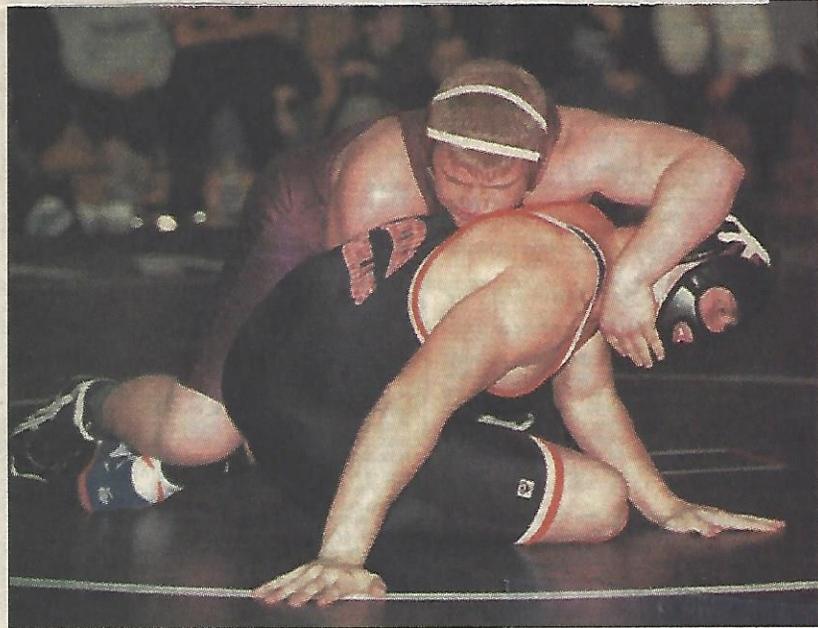


PHOTO/JOHN CAPPUCILLI

Pictured are the winners of the championship matches of the Bergen County Holiday Wrestling Tournament. FRONT ROW (from left): Bergen Catholic's Brian Nunziato (103 pounds), Pascack Hills' Ryan Strobel (112), Westwood's Joe Butcher (119), Glen Rock's Evan Gallucio (125) and Dumont's Anthony Dunkin (130). MIDDLE ROW (from left): Ridgewood's Mark Romeo (135), Pascack Valley's Steve Hult (140), Bergen Tech's Dave Ferrell (145) and Lodi's Rob Kaiser (152). BACK ROW (from left): Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt (160), Bergen Catholic's Brian Lucas (171), Lodi's Jerry Rinaldi (189), Saddle Brook's Rob Panfili (215) and Northern Highlands' Josh Arcadia (275).



Glen Rock's Evan Gallucio (right) pinned Christian Diaz of Cliffside Park in the 125-pound final.



Josh Arcadia (bottom) of Northern Highlands scored an 8-6 decision over Becton/Wallington's Dan Farina in the 275-pound final.

# Flatt, Romeo spark resurgent

## Ridgewood wrestling program

By Jim McConville  
Correspondent

PARAMUS — The resurgence of the Ridgewood wrestling program continued this past weekend in the 42nd Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament, as the Maroons broke a 17-year drought with two champions crowned.

Mark Romeo and Tyler Flatt became the first wrestlers since Damian Ross in 1984 to win individual titles for Ridgewood, and the team itself placed 11th out of the 43 participating schools, its best finish in a decade.

Romeo was top-seeded in the 135-pound weight class, so his victory was not an unexpected one, but Flatt entered the 160-pound draw as the eighth seed, and he became the lowest seed to take home a championship.

"I didn't expect this," Flatt said. "I definitely was trying to get into the finals, but I really hadn't thought about winning it."

Flatt was able to score a tough, 8-4 decision over third-seeded Chris Lowe of St. Joseph, scoring a take-down in the final five seconds to secure his win. At the conclusion of

the match, and after the referee raised his arm in triumph, Flatt leaped into the arms of one of his coaches and then slumped to his knees at the edge of the mat, seemingly taking in what he had just accomplished.

The road to that title had begun long months ago and included a trip overseas to Belarus, where he was able to train with wrestlers who were not only older but much more experienced.

"Over there, I wrestled against men," said Flatt. "Here, I am wrestling against my peers. It is definitely a difference, and I think it helped me in my approach to this tournament."

Flatt scored five straight decisions, including a 9-0 one over top-seeded Nick Kabobjian of Park Ridge/Emerson in the semifinals, and the junior raised his season record to 10-0 and his career record to 40-16.

Romeo was making his second appearance in the finals, and he was determined not to have a repeat of last year, when he held a 6-0 lead over Bergen Catholic's James Weck, only to have a momentary lapse that allowed Weck to pin him.

This time, Romeo did not allow second-seeded Ryan Palko of Saddle

Brook to get the better of him. He was up 5-3 after one period and 7-4 after two, and was in the down position to start the third period. The senior reversed Palko with 1:09 left in the bout, and even though he allowed an escape with 36 seconds left, Romeo made sure he did not get taken down.

"He (Palko) is a really tough opponent," said Romeo, who raised his season record to 10-0 and his career mark to 84-12. "I knew I had to be aggressive. This is sure a load off my back."

Ridgewood also got a good effort out of Avon Morgan at 189 pounds, where the senior finished fourth. He reached the semis on three pins, only to suffer a pin at the hands of eventual champion Jerry Rinaldi of Lodi. Ian Michaud of Northern Highlands defeated Morgan, 7-5, in the third place bout.

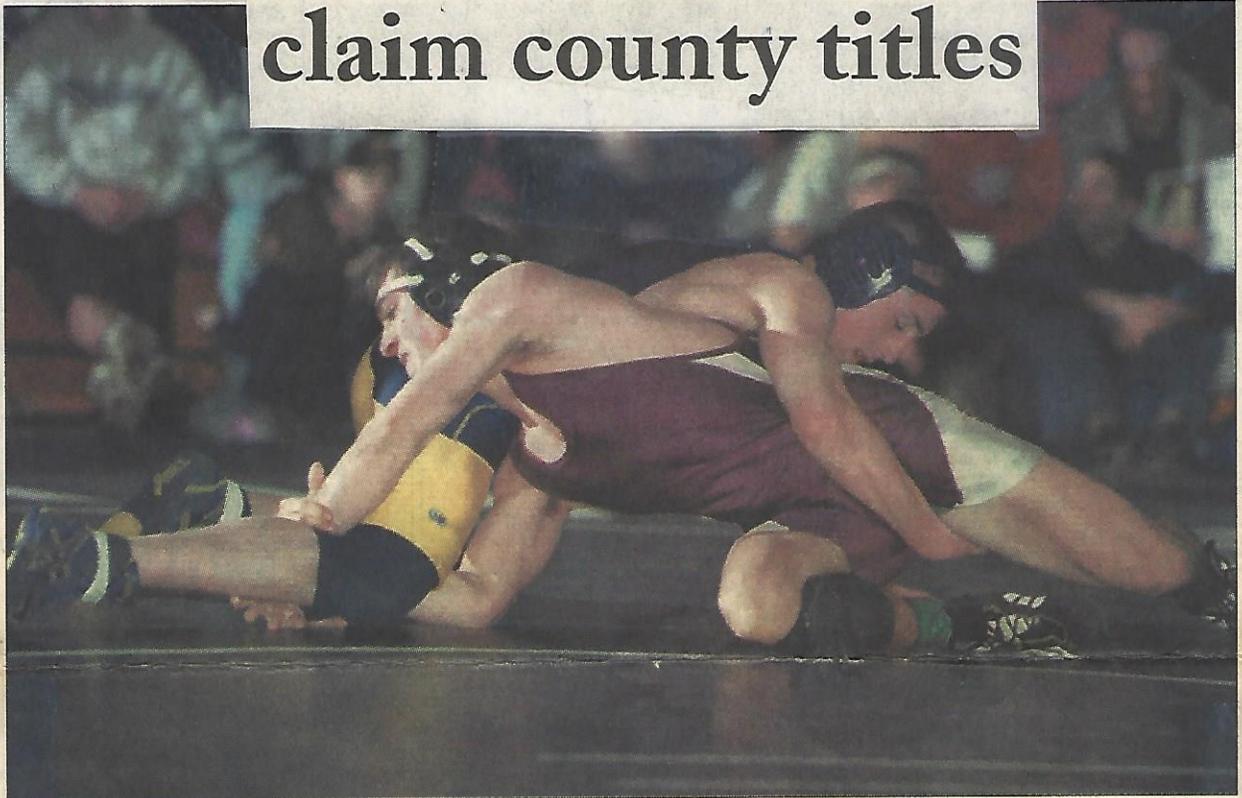
The Maroons resume their dual-match slate, where they stand at 1-1, including a tough 2-point loss to Old Tappan. They will be trying to outdo last year's school-record 12-6-1 mark as well as gain a berth in the Group 4 team state tournament.

"We have a lot of goals ahead of us as a team," said Romeo. "We feel good about what we can accomplish as a team," Flatt said.

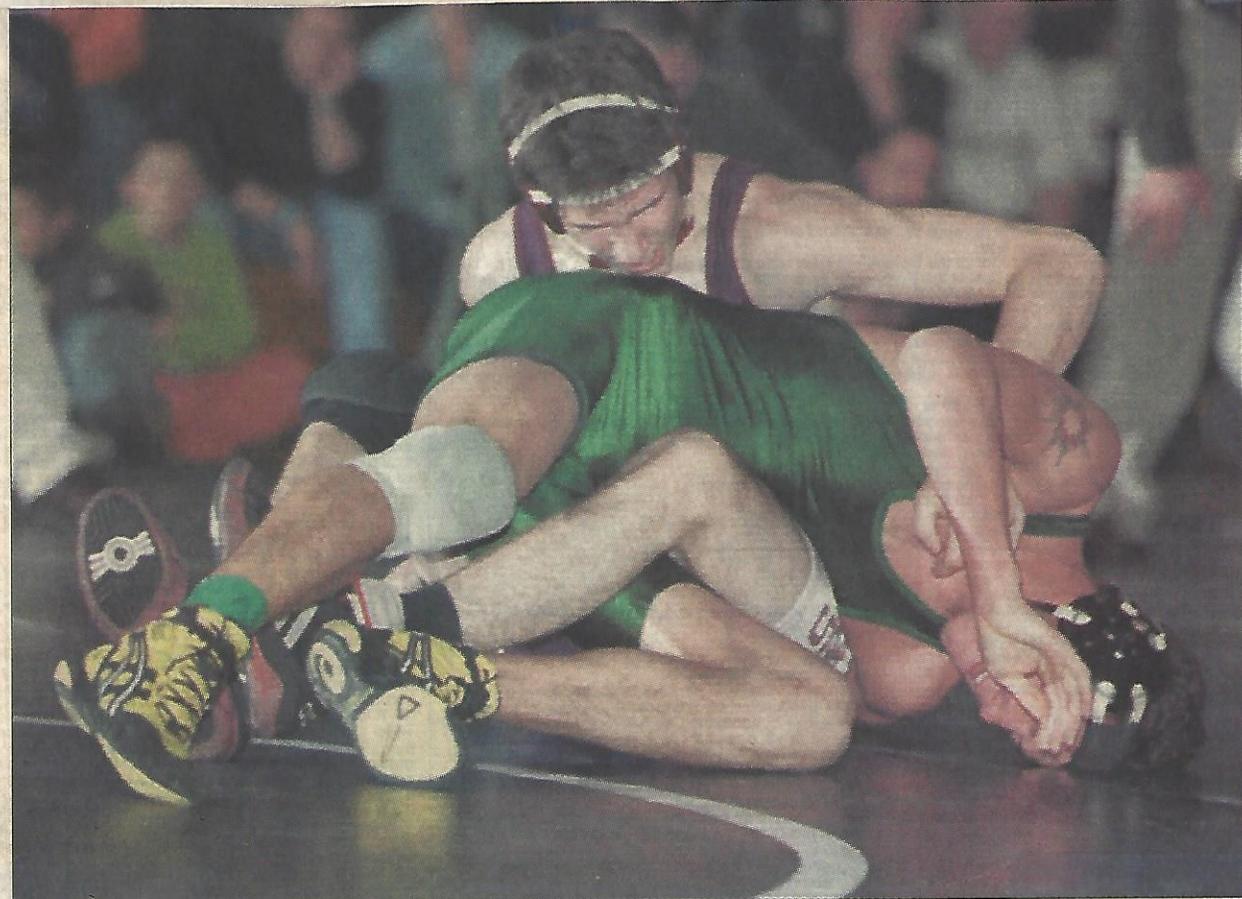
# Ridgewood's Flatt, Romeo

Wed  
12/29/01

## claim county titles



Ridgewood's Mark Romeo (front) captured the 135-pound championship with a 10-5 decision over Ryan Palko of Saddle Brook.



Ridgewood's Tyler Flatt (top) scored an 8-4 decision over Chris Lowe of St. Joseph in the 160-pound final.

PHOTOS/JOHN CAPPUCILLI

# Improved strength is paying dividends

By **JIM BRENNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

There was a time between last season and this season when Dumont's Anthony Dunkin knew he was going to be a bigger wrestler than the 119 slot he maintained last winter. So he figured he might as well be stronger, too.

"Absolutely," said Dunkin, who raised the eyebrows of a packed house in Paramus on Saturday night by displaying lower body strength in winning his second straight Bergen County title. "I worked on my leg strength all summer with [Bergen Catholic's] Brian Lucas — one of my best friends."

So Dunkin spent the summer on squats and lunges instead of beaches and malls, and after his display of power and technique in an 11-5 victory over Bergen Catholic's Mike Galorezo in the 130-pound final, the voters had no choice but to elect Dunkin Outstanding Wrestler of the holiday tournament. Now he can add The Record's Male Athlete of the Week honors to the story of his senior year.

"There's no time to hold back now," said Dunkin, who is off to a 10-0 to start and has designs on improving upon his fifth-place finish in the states last season — by about five places. "You don't realize until it's coming to an end, but soon it'll be March and then it'll be over."

Dunkin won't make any predictions about his chances to win it all in Atlantic City because 125 and 130 "are stacked."

Dumont coach Frank Manning not only has been impressed with Dunkin's increased strength, but every aspect of his star's repertoire.

"He's done most of this on his own," the coach said of Dunkin's yearlong dedication. "Apparently he's on a mission to win it all this year."

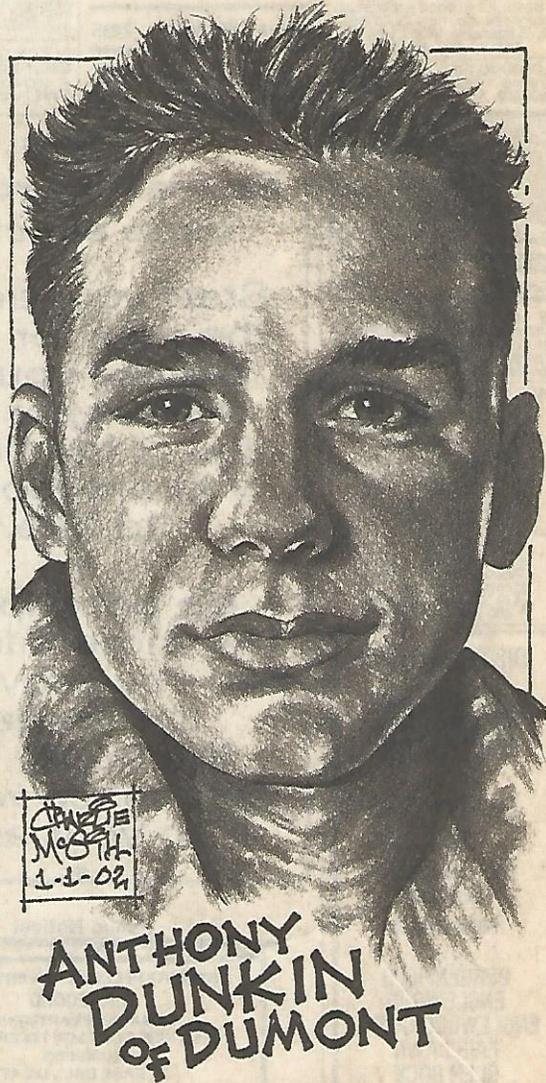
If Dunkin were fortunate enough to come out on top March 10, he would become Dumont's first-ever State champ. In fact, Dunkin's showing last season at the Meadowlands is the best the school ever had.

Given Dunkin's improvements over last season, a State title is not so far-fetched. Last winter he lost a one-point decision to Butler's Anthony Leardi and Lenape Valley's Derrick Goduto in the State tournament. Both were among the top wrestlers in the weight class. Dunkin recorded three pins late in the tournament to wrestle back into medal status, which he now considers a confidence-booster.

Dunkin, who used his new and improved legs to thwart several powerful Galorezo offensives during the final, said the Bergen Catholic standout was by no means an easy assignment.

"People think all he's got is strength, but he's a pretty good technical wrestler, too," said Dunkin, who finally accumulated some breathing room with two quick take-downs in the third period. "I find it easier to finish now. And just the extra year of being there, and already knowing what it takes to win, is so important."

That and the newfound power that just may have put Dunkin in the state's upper echelon. And just in time.



## MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Sport:** Wrestling

**Position:** 130 pounds

**Age:** 17

**Latest accomplishment:** Won 130-pound Bergen County title and was named Outstanding Wrestler after first-period pins in the quarterfinals and semis, followed by an 11-5 win over Bergen Catholic's Mike Galorezo in the final.

## WRESTLING

### Bergen County Freshman Tournament

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS

**93:** Mike Sloan, Waldwick/Midland Park, pin Paul Angeli, Northern Highlands, 1:36;

**103:** Kyle Burdette, Westwood, pin Eddie Brown, Rutherford, 2:33;

**112:** Rob Kein Becton/Wallington, dec. Kyle Bognatz, Hackensack, 12-4;

**119:** Adam Strobel, Pascack Hills, tech. fall Herbert Gonzales, North Bergen, 16-1 (3:59);

**125:** Jason Horowitz, Pascack Valley, dec. Joe O'Connor, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge, 5-3 (OT);

**130:** Brad Marquart, Rutherford, tech. fall Ali Pardani, Fair Lawn, 21-4 (2:10);

**135:** John Randozza, Paramus, tech fall Everett Sayers, Pascack Valley, 17-2 (4:10);

**140:** Jeff Bliss, New Milford, dec. Tim Ryan, Rutherford, 7-3;

**145:** Peter Vetterlein, Emerson/Park Ridge, tech fall Tim Janz Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge, 15-0 (5:40);

**152:** Greg Osgoodby, Waldwick/Midland Park, pin Mike Saglimbene, Don Bosco Prep, 1:18;

**160:** Anthony Sachiavello, Leonia, dec. John Buondanna, Pascack Valley, 20-12;

**171:** Ryan Donde, New Milford, pin James Brock, Hackensack, 2:38;

**189:** Chris Dixon, Hackensack, pin Manny Delgado Hackensack, 3:52;

**215:** Mark Fersa, Saddle Brook, pin Bryan Banker, Don Bosco Prep, 2:37;

**Hwt.:** Eric Sewell, Hackensack, pin Dan Trancucci, Northern Highlands, 0:43.

**COMETS RISING:** When it came to the 189-pound championship of the recent Bergen County freshman tournament, both Chris Dixon and Manny Delgado wore Hackensack uniforms. And they were pretty much on their own as head coach John Stallone and assistant Ralph Dass stepped aside.

"We just sat back, smiled, and enjoyed it," says Stallone, declining to coach one wrestler over the other.

Dixon pinned in 3:52 for the title.

More than one wrestler from a team can compete in the same weight class, but only one can add points to the team score. Dixon was the designated point man and helped the Comets to the team championship.

It was a nice release for eight frosh who have been wrestling varsity all year, often against seniors, yet maintaining individual records around .500.

The team is 5-9 and recently defeated a solid, older, Kearny squad.

The Comets' other champion was heavyweight Eric Sewell [5-10, 230].

"We've been blessed with some great heavyweights at Hackensack and he should be the next one," Stallone said. "He has great balance and a lot of tools. The kids came to us from the town junior rec program very well coached."

**FANTASTIC FROSH:** Brad Marquart, who has been a major part of Rutherford's rise to power on the varsity level, won by technical fall in every round to earn the title of Most Outstanding Wrestler in the Bergen freshman tourney. Fellow freshman Cory Dunn was not entered due to a new rule. Anyone who placed in the Bergen varsity tournament in December was ineligible, and Dunn placed fifth there.

"Brad and Cory were in the fourth grade when we started the Rutherford rec program," coach Jeff Rehan says. "Cory had wrestled in the East Rutherford program before that, so they definitely have experience."

Both placed in the eighth-grade State tournament.

**STUNNING:** Few wrestlers come back as dramatically as Westwood freshman Anthony DePaola, who was down, 9-1, when he suddenly rocked his way into a reversal and pinned Emerson/Park Ridge's Sebastian Szot at 3:50 of the first (112) bout. It was a swing of 10 points in a Group 1, North 1 title match eventually won by three points by Westwood.

**FINE JOB:** With up to six freshmen in the lineup along with two sophomores new to wrestling, New Milford qualified for the sectionals. Regulars Jeff Bliss and Ryan Donde won County freshman titles.

"When we had an undefeated team, those kids came from the rec program," said head coach Walt Pevny, who is assisted by his brother, Mike. "We couldn't take credit for that team, but we're proud of what we've accomplished this year."