

Sat Dec 29, 2007

BCCA HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Some unfinished business

Fair Lawn's Kover seeks elusive title

By **ANDREW GROSS**
STAFF WRITER

FAIR LAWN – Defeats have been rare for Joe Kover. Still, the tournament titles the Fair Lawn senior covets most have been tantalizingly elusive thanks to a who's who of local talent.

Yet Kover, six wins away from the school record for wrestling victories at 96-17, remains philosophical about constantly facing State-level competition.

"It is [frustrating] but I'd rather see good kids like that," Kover said. "If you want to be the best you've got to beat the best."

Kover has his last chance to win at the Bergen County Coaches Association George Jockish Holiday Tournament this weekend, but knows he's again in a stacked field at 130 pounds. Most notable is North Bergen senior Bob Dabal, who already has beaten Kover, 4-3, this season. Both were State qualifiers as juniors.

Wrestling begins Saturday at 11 a.m. at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y., with the quarterfinals scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday's wrestling

At Rockland Community College, Suffern, N.Y.

Saturday

Preliminaries, 11 a.m.

Wrestlebacks, quarterfinals, 5 p.m.

Sunday

Semifinals, 11 a.m.

Consolations, 3:30 p.m.

Finals, 5:30 p.m.

starts with the semifinals at 11 a.m.; the championship round is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

"Every year he's had a kid, a State-champion-caliber kid, at every weight class, and that's something that's gotten him better," Fair Lawn coach Jon Piela said. "This year, he's hoping he's the guy and that the other guys are going to be intimidated by him."

Kover twice has placed second in the BCCA tournament: losing to Bergen Catholic senior Joe Trause, who went on to win a State title, in the 125-pound final last season, and to three-time State place-winner John Trumbetti of St. Joseph in the 119-pound final as a sophomore. Kover placed fifth as a freshman at 112 pounds.

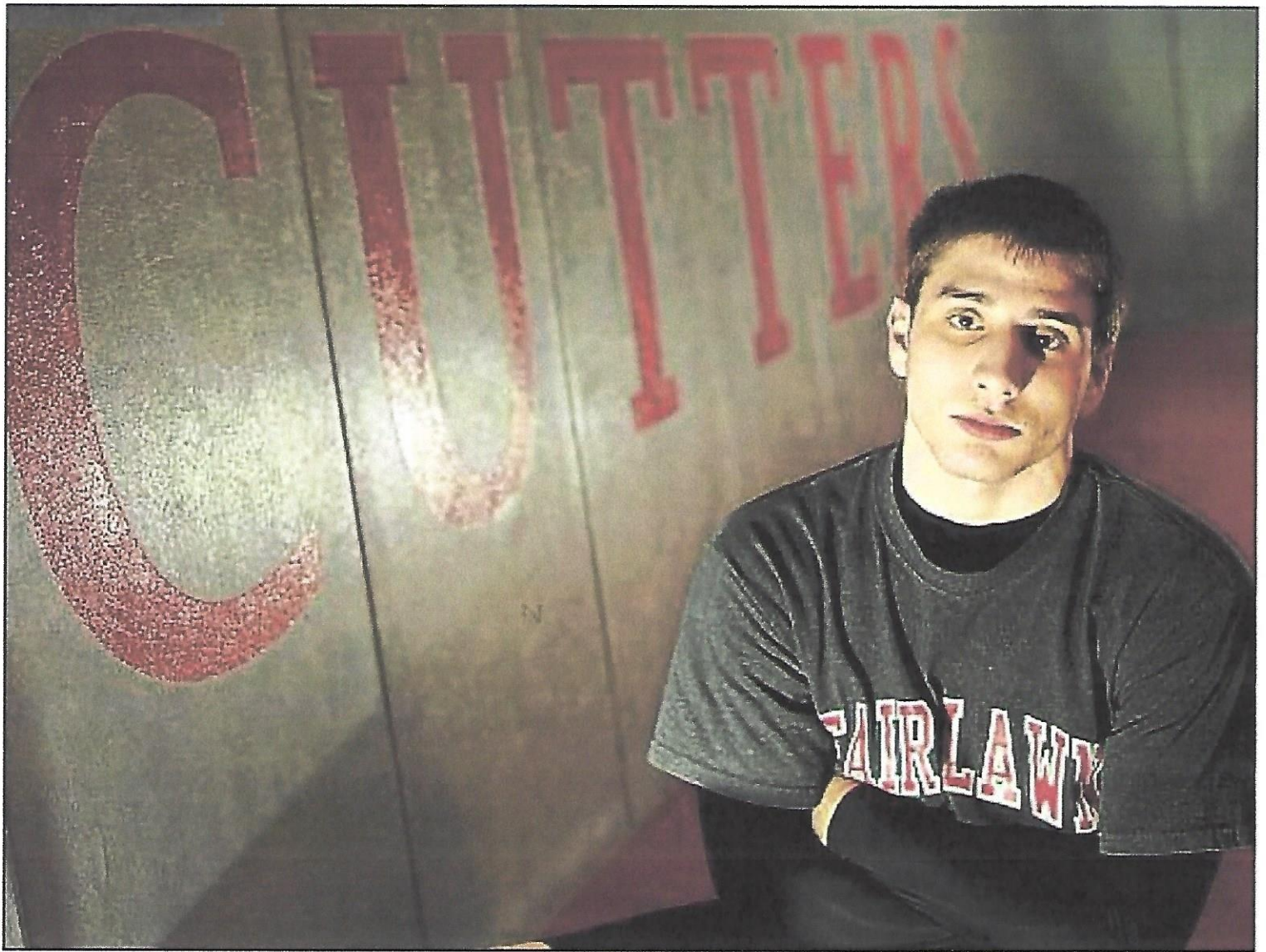
Making this year even more meaningful for Kover is the chance to reach 100 wins.

"One hundred wins was always my goal when I started," Kover said. "It's definitely something monumental for me and to have it in the Counties is definitely great."

Kover placed seventh in the State at 119 as a junior to complete a 38-7 season. That included a

See **KOVER** Page **S-11**

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CARMINE GALASSO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Kover, who is near 100 wins and a school record for victories, has two seconds in BCCA tourney.

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second-place showing in the regions, with the loss to Northern Highlands' Fred Santaite, a State champion the previous season.

"I felt what Joey lacked was his confidence," Piela said. "He was a good wrestler, as we all know, his first two years, but he just didn't beat that kid at the State level. One hundred nineteen was one of the toughest classes in the State last year, and for him to come out with seventh place gave him

tremendous confidence that, 'Yes, I'm at that level.'"

Kover said he set winning a State title as a goal when he was in eighth grade and has used that as his motivation since.

"We'd always been pretty much even in ability until eighth grade," said Fair Lawn senior Joe Yuskaitis, Kover's workout partner since they started wrestling in first grade. "We were always about the same weight, but in eighth grade he put on muscle and grew about 20 pounds. He went all

across the country for tournaments and private coaches."

"I knew I wanted to wrestle in high school," Kover said. "And I knew if I wanted to do it, I wanted to be the best. My goal was always to win a State championship."

But first, Kover has some unfinished business in the BCCA tournament: a chance to reach 100 wins while winning a title that's so far proved elusive.

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The teams

Favorite: Don Bosco

Contenders: Queen of Peace, Paramus, Bergen Catholic, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge

Lowdown: Luke Stala, coming off a tremendous run to the Beast of the East final two weeks ago, and returning champ Vinny Fava lead a deep Don Bosco team that looks poised to end Bergen Catholic's streak of eight championships and 14 overall.

The weights

103

Favorite: Dave Della Torre, River Dell

Contenders: Anthony Perrotti, Queen of Peace; Joe Orecchio, Don Bosco; Thomas Casper, Bergen Catholic

Lowdown: Della Torre, a district champ, won 34 bouts as a sophomore to preside over a weight class that always is a showcase for some of the top freshmen in Bergen County.

112

Favorite: Frank Cagnina, Queen of Peace (returning champ, 103)

Contenders: Alex Preefer, Cresskill; Tony Nadera, Paramus; Nick Adamo, Demarest

Lowdown: Cagnina, a returning

State champ as a sophomore, has yet to lose in New Jersey. Nadera is a returning district champ and region runner-up to Cagnina.

119

Favorite: Vinny Fava, Don Bosco (returning champ, 112)

Contenders: Joe Ortiz, Paramus; Jose Vega, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge; Mike Quinn, Pascack Valley

Lowdown: Fava is a returning State sixth who beat Vega in the BCCA final last year. Ortiz, who lost to Vega in the BCCA semis last year, split with Fava, losing in the district final and winning in the region final. Quinn finished third in the tournament last year.

125

Favorite: Joe Trause, Bergen Catholic (returning champ)

Contenders: Matt Fusco, Queen of Peace, Jason Dack, Don Bosco, Julian Quintero, North Bergen

Lowdown: Trause, a two-time State champ, is looking for his third straight BCCA title and likely will have to go through Fusco again. Keep an eye out for Quintero, a freshman, who has had some big wins to begin his career, but takes a step up in class.

130

Favorite: Bob Dabal, North Bergen

Contenders: Joe Kover, Fair Lawn; Pete Ruiz, Queen of Peace; Frank Acosta, Don Bosco

Lowdown: After winning the title as a freshman in 2004, Dabal, who recently won his 100th career bout, has come up empty the last two years. He's beaten Kover in each of their last two meetings.

135

Favorite: Matt Spataro, Bergen Catholic (returning champ)

Contenders: Glenn Cannici, Queen of Peace, Dan Butcher, Westwood

Lowdown: Another loaded weight class with a pair of returning champs in Spataro and Cannici (130) and a second in Butcher. Spataro won the Most Outstanding Wrestler award last year with his win over Bosco's Dale Fava in the final. Cannici and Butcher face a likely rematch of their 130-pound final last year in the semifinals.

140

Favorite: Taylor Trumbetti, Pascack Hills

Contenders: Tom Murphy, Northern Highlands; Scott Albrecht, Mahwah; Joe Yuskaitis,

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Fair Lawn

Lowdown: Trumbetti won 29 bouts last season, but the hardware always seemed to escape him. He finished third in the BCCA, second in the district and second in the region. He likely will come into the tournament as the top seed. Albrecht, who lost to Trumbetti in the consolation last year, is off to a good start, and so is Murphy, who is 8-0 with a win in the Kearny Tournament.

145

Favorite: Dan Clarke, Ramsey

Contenders: Dominic Maurillo, Queen of Peace; Jim Lombard, St. Mary

Lowdown: Clarke has picked up right where he left off last year, dominating opponents. The senior finished third at 145 last year before dropping to 140. Maurillo was a district runner-up for Nutley in 2006.

152

Favorite: Chris DePaola, Westwood

Contenders: Vinnie Maurillo, Queen of Peace; Andrew Nass, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge; Marc Krapels, Old Tappan

Lowdown: Bergen Catholic's Anthony Pierro is on the bench with an injury, opening up this

weight class to a host of contenders. DePaola and Maurillo are returning district runners-up. Nass is a returning district champ.

160

Favorite: Nick Vetterlein, Don Bosco

Contenders: Jon Rizzitello, Paramus; Jeremy Pierce, Hackensack

Lowdown: Vetterlein didn't start out well, finishing third in the BCCA last year at this same weight, but finished with a flourish with district and region championships. Rizzitello, a returning BCCA sixth, also finished on a high note, winning the region title at 152.

171

Favorite: Dan Rinaldi, Lodi (returning champ)

Contenders: Marc Peck, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge; Trace McDermott, Don Bosco

Lowdown: The news out of Lodi is that Rinaldi is wrestling with a more aggressive attitude. The senior, a two-time State place-winner, is gunning for his third straight title.

189

Favorite: Chris Manna, Don Bosco

Contenders: Kevin Ramishvili, Fair Lawn; Kyle Wengerter,

Cresskill; Devin Hudson, River Dell; Dylan Meola, Mahwah

Lowdown: With returning runner-up Jonathan Becker of Bergen Catholic sitting this one out with a concussion, this could be the most competitive weight class in the tournament. Wengerter has beaten Hudson twice this season. Ramishvili has beaten Wengerter, who lost to Meola. Hudson beat Meola.

215

Favorite: Luke Stala, Don Bosco

Contenders: Kyle Elliot, Cresskill; Nick Pallotta, River Dell, Nikola Mirkovic, Ridgewood

Lowdown: Pallotta is the returning champ, beating Stala, 2-1, in overtime last season. But Stala is the wrestler to beat after beginning his senior year with a run to the Beast of the East final.

285

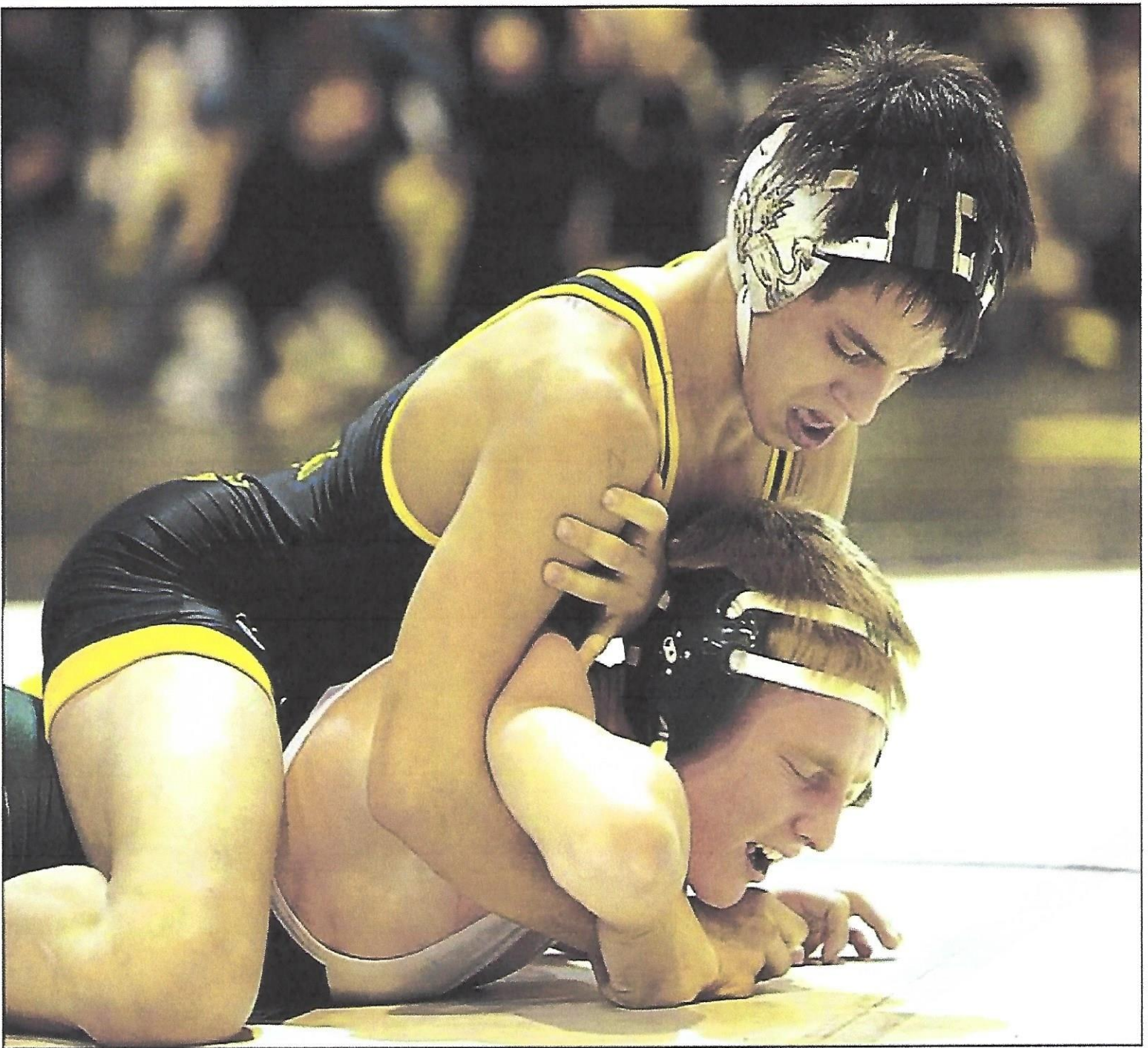
Favorite: Zac Taylor, Northern Highlands

Contenders: Mike Kowalczyk, Garfield; Tyler Blake, Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge; Curtis Sutera, Tenafly

Lowdown: Taylor finished second in the tournament last year, setting himself up as the prohibitive favorite.

— Greg Schutta

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ALDO MARTINEZ JR./SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace, top, working against Bergen Tech's James Boujakli on the way to prevailing in their 112-pound bout Saturday.

A pretty heavy upset

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Demarest senior out to defeat the odds

SUFFERN, N.Y. – Nick Adamo is a realist, yet he's also a fierce competitor.

Sometimes it's impossible to be both as a high school wrestler, especially a successful one at that.

At first he cringed when the bracket for the 112-pound weight class in the BCCA George Jockish Holiday tournament was posted



ART STAPLETON

LOCAL SPORTS
COLUMNIST

Saturday, considering that returning State champion Frank Cagnina of Queen of Peace was placed in his half of the draw. Then that other part of Adamo took over, the one that immediately embraced the challenge awaiting him this morning in the semifinals, where the Demarest senior will go head to head with one of the best lightweight wrestlers in New Jersey.

"How could you not be excited about the opportunity to wrestle a State champion?" said Adamo, who pinned his quarterfinal opponent, Lodi's Adam Mella, in 3:26.

"It's a once-in-a-career chance."

Actually, make it twice-a-career for Adamo, because he's been in this situation before.

Two years ago as a sophomore, he crossed paths with then-Northern Highlands standout Fred Santaita, losing in the semifinals to the eventual two-time BCCA champ and one of North Jersey's most decorated performers.

Once again, Adamo is two wins from that elusive County crown, and this time he has another enormous roadblock in his way, not in size but in star power:

He's now got the unenviable task of trying to knock off Cagnina, who has lost just twice in 48 varsity bouts, including six this year.

"The bracket goes up and of course right away you look for Cagnina's name, Demarest coach Jeff Pandich said. "You've got to look forward to a match against the big-name kids, and that comes with maturity. I think Nick's got that maturity now, and I think he realizes at this point you only get better by wrestling the best."

If anything, he's certainly gotten used to it.

Adamo also has matched up twice with Don Bosco's Vinny Fava, who won the BCCA title at 112 last year. Those two battles represent two of his six losses as a junior.

"I try not to get too far ahead of myself, thinking, 'If I win this match, I get this guy,'" Adamo said. "But in a tournament like this, that's a difficult thing not to do."

Adamo has performed well here the past two seasons, finishing fourth as a sophomore and fifth last year, even though he lost only one bout in 2006, falling in the quarterfinals to Joe Ortiz of Paramus. He was so impressive in the consolation wrestlebacks, he earned the award for most pins in the least time, pinning five opponents in a total of 11:51.

His family had even more to celebrate last year, considering his older brother Dan captured the BCCA title at 152. The Adamo siblings have been working out together all week, with Dan, now a freshman wrestler for Duke University, home for the holidays.

"I've been talking to him a lot, picking his brain," the younger Adamo said. "He's done what I hope to do."

Yet Adamo certainly has accomplished plenty on his own, winning 30 bouts last winter before he finished one victory short of advancing to the State championships in Atlantic City. Of course, that's where Cagnina, then a freshman for Bergen Catholic, made a name for himself by winning the 103-pound title.

"I'll try my best to treat it like any other match, to treat [Cagnina] like any other guy out there," Adamo said. "Of course, I won't be able to completely forget how good he is, but I'll try."

That's just it: Trying and doing are two completely different things, and with teenagers, there's often a fine line that separates them. Cagnina is one of several contenders pegged as unbeatable in this year's field, with just about everyone in-

side the Rockland CC Fieldhouse all but putting the gold medal around his neck.

The same can be said for Joe Trause of Bergen Catholic and Lodi's Dan Rinaldi, standouts whose greater days are ahead of them.

Should any of the three lose, it would be the result of a monumental upset.

Adamo knows the odds are against him, but he believes he's ready for the challenge.

"I don't want to get too anxious, but I know wrestling Cagnina is a great opportunity," Adamo said. "Anybody can beat anybody at any time."

And his chance to be that somebody comes today.

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ALDO MARTINEZ JR./SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Old Tappan's Marc Krapels, front, battling with Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge's Andrew Nass.

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Brothers in arms at Queen of Peace

Maurillo twins are making their mark for Golden Griffins

By **ANDREW GROSS**
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. – Fraternal twins Dominic and Vinnie Maurillo don't discuss wrestling much when they're away from the mat. The Queen of Peace juniors find it's easier to maintain family harmony that way.

"It always ends up in, 'Who's the better wrestler?'" Vinnie Maurillo said. "And we both know that answer."

So there could be some bragging rights on the line today as both have advanced to the semifinals of the 48th annual Bergen County Coaches Association George Jockish Holiday tournament – Dominic Maurillo at 145 pounds and Vinnie Maurillo at 152.

Queen of Peace, a first-year program under a two-year probation for alleged recruiting violations that bans it from the State team tournament and District 14 team title, finished the first day of wrestling at Rockland Community College in second place with 104 points. Don Bosco has 152 points.

"We want to succeed as a

team," said Vinnie Maurillo, a Bloomfield resident after the brothers transferred from Nutley. "We always try to prove people wrong and not pay attention to the negative stuff around us."

He decisioned Westwood senior Chris DePaola, 5-2, in the quarterfinals after a bye and a second-round pin and will face fourth-seeded Anthony Pierro, a Bergen Catholic senior, in the semifinals.

Dominic Maurillo defeated Old Tappan senior Paul Vizoukis, 3-1, after pinning his first two opponents and will wrestle St. Mary senior Jim Lombard in the semifinals. "Right after my match I saw just the last minute of his match and he was already winning, 4-2," Dominic Maurillo said. "It's good, we've pretty much grown up wrestling. I got sick last year and he tore his ACL so we're just trying to stay healthy."

The last time the twins both reached a tournament semifinals was as freshmen, when Dominic was in the regional semifinals at 112 and Vinnie advanced at 119.

"I saw the first 15 seconds of his bout and I was a little nervous for him," Vinnie Maurillo said.

"But I know he's a good wrestler and I knew he'd get the job done."

Meanwhile, Fair Lawn senior Joe Yuskaitis delivered at 140 by holding on until the final buzzer. He defeated Lodi senior Mike Zottarelli, 3-2, in their quarterfinal bout, earning the decisive points on a third-period reverse. Yuskaitis rode up high on Zottarelli's back as the final seconds ticked down.

"I was tight under his arm and under his throat and I clamped on for dear life," said Yuskaitis, who had lost his previous four matches to Zottarelli. "You always have doubts when you keep losing to the same person."

Fair Lawn senior Joe Kover, who has placed second the previous two seasons, won his first three bouts and now has 99 career victories.

"It's going to be like any other match," said Kover, who'll face Bergenfield senior Kyle Hopkins in a 150-pound semifinal. "I'm looking forward to the final right now."

TEAM SCORES: Don Bosco (DB) 132.00; Queen of Peace (QP) 104.00; Bergen Catholic (BC) 97.50; Paramus (PAR) 89.00; Northern Highlands (NH) 87.00; Old Tappan (OT) 87.00; North Bergen (NB) 79.00; River Dell (RD) 73.00; Hackensack (H) 71.00; Hasbrouck Heights/ Wood Ridge (HH) 70.50; Westwood (WW) 60.50; Emerson/ Park Ridge (EPR) 60.00; Fair Lawn (FL) 59.00; Lodi (LO) 55.50; Bergenfield (B) 51.00; Saint Joseph (SJ) 45.00; Ramsey (RSY) 41.00; Pascack Valley (PV) 39.00; Mahwah (MAH) 36.00; Waldwick/ Midland Park (WMP) 35.50; Ramapo (RPO) 31.50; Rutherford (RU) 31.00; Pascack Hills (PH) 30.00; Becton/ Wallington (BW) 27.50; Garfield (G) 27.00; Teaneck (TEA) 27.00; Cresskill (CK) 24.50; Cliffside Park (CP) 24.00; Demarest (DEM) 24.00; Saint Mary (SM) 23.00; Elmwood Park (EP) 19.00; Bergen Tech (BT) 15.50; Ridgefield Park/ Ridgefield (RPR) 15.00; New Milford (NM) 14.00; Dumont (DU) 13.00; Indian Hills (IH) ; 13.00; Saddle Brook/ Glenn Rock (SB) 13.00; Lyndhurst/ North Arlington (LY) 10.00; Bogota/ Weehawken (BOW) 8.00; Fort Lee (FTL) 8.00; Tenafly (TEN) 5.00; Ridgewood (RW) 3.00; Leonia/ Palisades Park (LPP) 2.00.

FIRST ROUND

103: Brandon Cocheri (NH) pin Christian Isip (BOW) 1:53; Dom Mangenelli (DU) pin Lance Freedman (PH) 2:41; Joe Orecchio (DB) pin Matt John (CK) 1:40; Jeff Rottingen dec. Zach Zotolito (PAR) 10-4; Tim Ross (LO) pin Joe Benny (WW) 2:40; Mike Laurice (IH) dec. Audel Ventura (CP) 2-1; Darryl Albonico (SJ) pin Emily Rankin (B) 2:55; Trevor Albrecht (MAH) pin Jessica Lee (LPP) 1:55; John Herbener pin Stephen Mastropietro (BT) 3:31.

112: AJ Morgenstern (BC) pin Steven Reindell (PH) 5:15; James Boujakli (BT) tf. Andrew Wiswell (RSY) 15-0, 3:20; Angel Quinones (NB) pin Connor Corish (DB) 1:29; Nick Adamo (DEM) md. Nick Madormo (RPO) 17-6; Nick Alpher (PAR) dec. Sergio Gregorian (FL) 8-2; Mike Johnson (CP) md. Miguel Botero (DU) 17-4; Adam Mella (LO) dec. Ryan Spangler (HH) 9-7; Matt Jacobson dec. Cesar Albuja (BOW) 13-8; Vincent Silano (SJ) pin Erik Derin (FTL) 4:24; Alex Preefer (CK) pin Jake Donofrio (WMP) 2:12; Jake Lebovich pin Gabe Aydin (MAH) 3:54; Brandon Stueben (NH) pin AJ Scimeca (PV) 3:36; Brian Glavis (EP) pin. Joey O'Brien (EPK) 1:19.

119: Tyler Myers (WW) pin Mike Kobylarz (SM) 1:31; Justin Cabrera md. Anthony Cirillo (LPP) 12-0; Robert Germinario (TEA) pin Abnaire Toribio (DU) 0:38; Kevin Buonadonna (SJ) pin Gary Puckhaber (TEN) 0:29; Mike McCann (BC) dec. Patrick Barnes (PH) 13-8; Paul Gettor (NH) dec. Josh Alorro (CK) 10-5; Jose Vega pin Marc Dinero (NM) 0:57; Chris Rankin (B) pin Tristen Escolastico (RSY) 1:35; Jon Kanelstein (DEM) dec. Jon Natelli 3-1; Ryan Giovanetti (RW) md. Matt Vennemen (BOW) 14-5; Paul Bogosian (OT) pin Dave Heitman (MAH) 1:42; Alex Mella (LO) pin Bryan Lucky-Heard (H) 5:54; Francesco Caruso (EP) dec. Terek Molamusa (RPO) 10-4; Dominick Martinez (QP) pin Tayfun Ender (FTL) 1:14.

125: Julian Quintero (NB) pin Ryan Biango (WMP) 0:38; Greg Madormo (RPO) pin Alex Storziello (RSY) 2:53; Joe DeQuinzio (HH) pin Brian Alpr (TEN) 1:36; Nick Guarriello (EPK) pin

Scott Standish (B) 2:15; Joe Hadley (EP) dec. Alex Guzman (H) 4-2; Jason Franks (BT) pin Bryan Ramirez (CK) 4:12; Max Gilmour (MAH) dec. Abel Veloz (BOW) 7-0; Steve Orlic (BW) pin Brian Haersten (PH) 0:57; Jason Dark (DB) tf. Paul Anderson (PAR) 16-0, 3:15; Bryan Brown (RU) pin Patrick Wong (DEM) 2:46; David DeMarzo (OT) pin Al Artesona (SB) 1:08; Dan Perez (LO) pin Chris Barroil (SM) 2:52.

130: Lucien Dyer (TEA) pin Aram Karapetyan (FL) 3:29; Marc Cirello (PAR) md. Matt Bond 17-5; Eddie Shellman (H) pin Bryan Chambers 3:34; Lewis Pietrantuono (BC) dec. Jack LaGreca (SJ) 8-6; Julio Alorro (CK) dec. Wedson Paes (CP) 3-1; Willie Holguin (RPR) pin Rich Cannici (HH) 1:12; Frank Acosta (DB) pin John Abbot (RSY) 1:35; Glenn Ulrich (G) pin Matt Waldron (LY) 2:24; Steve Wettstein (WMP) tf. Christian Pecoraro (NM) 19-4, 3:31; Dylan Huddleston (PH) md. Jesse Kolich (RU) 13-3; Kyle Hopkins (B) pin Greg Moore (PV) 1:39; Pete Ruiz (QP) pin Enrique Romero (BOW) 1:25; Jimmi Cardiddi (RD) dec. Vin Dellapenta (LO) 7-0; Takeshi Hasegawa (LPP) dec. Joe Nacco (RPO) 10-8; Joe Kover (FL) pin Sean Fitzpatrick (NH) 1:40.

135: Joe DiBartolo (DB) pin Patrick Patti (RSY) 1:45; Louis Mordaga (PAR) pin David Gold (PH) 0:46; Brian Gibbs (RPO) tf. Matt Hart (EPK) 19-3, 3:36; T.J. Kourgelis (MAH) pin Saviel Costillo (BOW) 2:23; Dan Reham (NH) pin Jake Braunstein (DEM) 2:39; Patrick Tucker (TEA) pin John Truncellito (RPR) 3:13; John Vasquez (NB) pin Sebastian Assis (EP) 2:43; Chris Mullen (OT) tf. Walter Mora (H) 18-3; Mike Purciello (RD) md. Tom Bazel (BW) 10-1; Henry Meza (NM) pin James Vandervalk (PV) 3:05; Rob Fecanin (R) pin Jared Eder (SB) 2:16; Shawn Zahn (HH) pin Rich Maldonado (LO) 3:24; Chris Lombard (SM) pin Matt Ellesworth (BC) 1:41; Vince Dimitri (FL) dec. Pedro Barahona (WMP) 6-4; Ban Butcher (WW) pin Tyler Losure (SJ) 2:51.

140: Matt Spataro (BC) pin Naseef (LY) 0:47; Brian Bakalian (RD) pin Don Valle (FL) 0:45; Steve Bandstra (WMP) md. Larry Germt (DU) 11-1; Frank Siclari (SJ) pin Nick Dimini (SM) 0:40; Mike Zottarelli (LO) pin Anthony Arce (BT) 0:45; Ed Kuzora (EP) md. Mike Habersaat (NM) 12-4; Jim Ryan (HH) dec. Joe Femia (OT) 4-0; Joe Yuskaitis (FL) pin Eric Deleid (BOW) 0:39; Kevin Herget (EPR) pin Gordon (H) 1:55; Chris Dombroski (DB) dec. Andrew Gramaglia (RW) 5:30; Tom Murphy (NH) pin Shaun Montoya (TEA) 2:21; Scott Albrecht (MAH) pin Ryan McKay (SB) 1:38; Dan Murtagh (WW) pin Bruiillo Tores (RPR) 2:58; John Maio (PAR) pin Erik Marrero (B) 1:02; Jaemin Chang (CK) md. Mike Savoy (PV) 13-4; Taylor Trumbetti (PH) pin Sierra (NB) 1:03.

145: Jesus Plata (G) dec. Nat Leer (TEA) 20-15; Cameron Rivera dec. Cameron Rankin (DU) 12-6; Chris Brown (FL) pin Cody McCarthy (PV) 4:40; Steve Kein (BW) tf. James Favia (NM) 15-0, 3:31; Robbie Caprio (IH) dec. Alex Sierra (NB) 8-2; Anthony Iorio (BC) pin Morgan Tarleton (SB) 1:25; T.J. Deoliveira (LO) pin Jahad Faleh (EP) 1:25; Paul Vizoukis (OT) pin Mike Rodriguez (NH) 1:01; Mike Mordaga (PAR) pin Brian Kane (RU) 1:01; Brian Rodriguez (RPO) dec. Matt Grundy (RW) 3-2; Dominic Maurillo (QP) pin Jack Boyajian (DEM)

1:16; Michael Tierman dec. Devin Skrabie (EPR) 5-2; Justin Struss (WW) pin Brion Vasquez (BF) 2:30; Jehan Sarfagaar (RPR) md. Brandon Spangler (HH) 12-0; Jim Lombard (SM) dec. Ryan Sblendorio (MAH) 10-7.

152: Chris Johns (RSY) pin Derek Bach (NH) 2:30; Steve Anders (WMP) dec. Kevin Osborne (EP) 16-10; Marc Krapels (OT) pin Kyle Gibson (RW) 3:27; Brian Dack (DB) pin William Curiel (PV) 1:51; Alex Estela (NB) dec. Jim O'Connor (RPO) 3-1; Danny Lupo dec. Patrick Cotrell (PH) 6-1; Vince Nicoletti (IH) dec. Niko Tsolakis (DEM) 10-9; Adrian Fernandez (RD) pin Chris Marchese (CK) 2:53; Chris DePaola (WW) pin Ryan Walker (MAH) 4:35; Joel Scott (H) pin Matt Conklyn (EPR) 2:57; Eric Basile (LY) pin Jason Rowell (LO) 1:35; Anthony Mordaga (PAR) pin Dominick Rose (SM) 1:01.

160: Arthur Pizza (BT) pin Calvin Kim (TEN) 4:29; Brendan Wengerter (CK) pin Jack Brandazian (RPO) 1:57; Charles DeCarlo (RU) pin James Divite (DEM) 1:23; Bobby Moat (DU) pin Mark Basile (LY) 3:49; Will Esposito (NM) dec. Dave Palmieri (HH) 7-0; Laz Hernandez (CP) dec. Damian Murborg (PV) 7-5; Sean Kirchof (OT) pin Mark Borroso; Jeremy Pierce (H) pin Mike Miech (SM) 1:18; Chris Warren (BC) pin Colin Walters (RSY) 1:32; Stefan Autie (WW) md. Edsel Robinson (LO) 13-4; Jio Vazquez (NB) pin Luke Pragdat (MAH) 0:48; Bobby Heaney (PH) pin Kevin Quiles (BOW) 1:39; Dean Azriel (NH) dec. Eric Torres (QP) 7-4; Dane McDermott (SJ) dec. Chris Piccione (IH) 10-4.

171: Dan Rinaldi (LO) pin Vasilios Ikonmidis (RSY) 0:56; John Bednarz (EPR) pin Adrian Wilson (FL) 1:17; Jared Schlett (SB) pin Jimmy Seuss (PAR) 1:00; Steve Gandolfo (PV) pin Matt Bydlik (MAH) 1:27; Eric Torres (EP) md. Petey Chrisit (RPR) 18-7; Kevin Dischino (WMP) pin G. Rodriguez (NM) 2:40; Blaze Kosscekowski (GAR) pin Erik Hernandez (DU) 1:32; Sam Galassi (BC) dec. Rich Torres (BF) 10-4; Trace McDermott (DB) pin Sam Davis (PH) 1:07; Mike Trost (BW) dec. Derick Layne (DEM) 6-2; Chris D'Amico (RPO) pin Jared Zuckenman (NB) 4:43; Mike Magaraci (OT) pin Nick Barone (WW) 1:15; Ivan Nedds (IH) pin Mike Urgola (QP) 1:54; Shane Fowler (RD) pin Jeff Caride (SJ) 4:32; Dave Zurta (RU) pin Andrew Ceballos (CK) 2:57; Marc Peck (HH) pin Tim Hageman (NH) 1:45.

189: Dylan Meola (MAH) pin Eric Moreno (TEN) 5:27; Justin Murborg (PV) pin John Karachun (LO) 1:30; Tom Kunc-Jasinski (BW) pin Mike Otsuka (BC) 1:49; Kadeem Reid (BF) dec. Mohammed Ramadan (EP) 2-1; Dave Empel (RPO) pin Dylan Pellegrini (SB) 1:02; Naief Medina (FTL) pin Adam Shellenberger (RSY) 1:30; Devin Hudson (RD) pin Peter Aisharif (OT) 1:15; Joe Geronimo (EPR) pin Steven Mafei (SM) 1:56; Chris Russo (WW) pin Diamantis Kyriakakis (PAR) 4:37; Conner Holmes (SJ) pin Gary Yannetti (BT) 3:46; Kyle Wengergger (CK) pin Mike Ruiz (NM) 1:27; Nick Zurta (RU) pin Jordan Sisco (HH) 1:05; Austin Roberts (NH) pin Gordon Ruffing (RW) 1:08; Jonathan Price (H) pin Chris Krassas (RPR) 3:01; Chris Manna (DB) pin Will Gil (LO) 4:51.

215: Jon Medina (RPR) pin Justin Terido (BOW) 0:26; Ryan Benz (PAR) pin Phil McCue (SJ) 2:56; James Clancy (LO) pin Pete Malvasi (RSY)

1:38; Mitz Trinidad (NB) pin James Morrison (QP) 2:42; Anthony Dolan (MAH) dec. William Hughes (BC) 8-6; Ken MacIver (PV) dec. James Tufaro (NM) 12-10.

285: Lawrence Sinclair (BF) dec. Malik Peterson (FL) 2-0; John Ceccio (SJ) pin Dan Flores (SM) 1:29; Zach Chibane (PAR) pin Dan Lewitt (SB) :43; Julian Torres (NB) dec. Zak Helewa (LO) 4-1; Ryan MacIver (PV) pin Hein Jasorowski (RSY) 2:34; Max Meehan (EPR) pin Mike Ugolini (QP) 3:43; Brian Rebele (DB) pin Chris Sywitz (BC) 1:25; Mike Shannon (OT) pin Besim Tunuzzi (FL) 2:21; Albert Verona (BOW) pin Dimitry Druk (CK) 2:51; Curtis Sutura (TEN) pin Dan Maguire (RPO) :30; Dan Suarez (NM) pin Brendan Cougenhour (WW) :10; Tim Curran (RD) md. Darren Wilson (H) 17-8.

Sat Dec 29, 2007

SECOND ROUND

103: Dave Dellatorre (RD) pin. Cocheri 2:31; Orecchio pin. Mangenelli 1:20; Rottingen pin Anthony Miuccio (OT) 2:36; Alex Scheinert (RPO) pin Ross 3:07; Michael Raccioppi (H) pin. Laurice 2:33; Casper d. Albonico 5-0; Anthony Perrotti (QP) pin Albrecht 2:13; Jorge Reyes (NB) pin Herbener 1:56.

112: Frank Cagnina (QP) pin Morgenstern 1:10; Boujakli d. Quinones 8-2; Adama d. Alpher 4-2; Mella d. Johnson 10-6; Anthony Raccioppi (H) pin Jacobson 0:53; Silano d. Preefer 6-4; Stueben d. Lebovich 9-3; E.J. Martin (TEA) pin Glavis 0:14.

119: Vinny Fava (DB) pin. Myers 1:19; Cabrera pin Germinario 4:51; Buonadonna pin McCann 3:11; Vega m.d. Getto 19-4; Rankin pin. Kanelstein 3:17; Bogosian m.d. Giovanetti 14-6; Caruso d. Mella 4-2; Joe Ortiz (PAR) m.d. Martinez 17-6.

125: Joe Trause (BC) d. Quintero 10-4; DeQuinzio d. Madomo 8-5; Guarriello d. Hadley 7-2; Franks (BT) d. Ryan Unger (NH), 9-5; Mike Quinn (PV) pin Gilmour 1:05; Orlic d. Dack 4-1; Brown m.d. DeMarzo 10-2; Matt Fusco (QP) m.d. Perez 16-5.

130: Bob Dabal (NB) pin Dyer 2:38; Cirello d. Shellman 4-1; Alorro d. Pietrantuono 10-9; Acosta pin Holquin 2:34; Ulrich d. Wettstein 9-7; Hopkins d. Huddleston 8-2; Cariddi d. Ruiz 4-2; Kover pin Hasegawa 0:27.

135: Glen Cannici (QP) pin DiBartolo 1:32; Gibbs d. Mordaga 7-2; Rehan d. Kourgelis 10-9; Vazquez pin Tucker 0:35; Mullen m.d. Purciello 15-4; Fecanin m.d. Meza 13-3; Lombard pin Zahn 5:00; Butcher d. Dimitri 7-2.

140: Spataro m.d. Bakalian 19-5; Siclari pin Bandstra 5:18; Zottarelli pin Kuzora 4:45; Yuskaitis pin Ryan 0:46; Herget pin Dombroski 3:55; Murphy m.d. Albrecht 14-4; Maio d. Murtaugh 6-2; Trumbetti pin Chang 2:17.

145: Dan Clarke (RSY) pin Plata 0:13; Rivera d. Brown 17-12; Kein d. Capizzi 9-3; Iorio pin Deoliveira 5:35; Vizoukis d. Mordaga 3-1; Maurillo pin Rodriguez 1:46; Tieman pin Struss 5:17; Lombard pin Sarfagaar 2:12.

152: Andrew Nass (HH) dec. Johns 8-7; Krapels dec. Anders 20-15; Dack tf. Estela 17-2, 5:51; Vincent Egloff (CP) md. Lupo 13-5; Vinnie Maurillo (QP) pin Nicoletti 1:34; DePaola pin Fernandez 3:00; Basile inj. def. Basile 6:44; Anthony Pierro (BC) md. Mordaga 12-0.

160: John Rissitello (PAR) pin Pizza :53; Wengertter dec. DeCarlo 1:23; Moat dec. Esposito 15-10; Kirchhof pin Hernandex 1:54;

Pierce pin Warren :23; Vazquez pin Autie 4:35; Heaney pin Azriel 1:09; Nick Vetterlein (DB) McDermott :46.

171: Rinaldi tf. Bednarz 18-3, 5:58; Gandolfo pin Schlett 6:45; Dischino dec. Torres 10-8; Galassi dec. Kosscekowski 7-2; McDermott dec. Trost 11-5; Magaraci md. D'Amico 9-0; Fowler pin Nedds 4:48; Peck pin Zuria 4:00

189: Kevin Ramishvilli (FL) dec. Meola 9-4; Murberg dec. Kunc-Jasinski 4-2; Reid pin Empel 2:48; Hudson pin Medina 1:25; Geronimo pin Russo :58; Wengertter dec. Holmes 7-5; Roberts dec. Zuria 2-1; Manna pin Price 4:20.

215: Lukasz Stala (DB) pin Medina :26; Jonathan Rentas (H) pin Justyn Cruz (SM) 3:30; Benz pin Anthony Ortiz (OT) 2:26; Leo Cardenas (WW) dec. Clancy 10-4; Tom Comito (WMP) pin Trinidad 1:57; Jamie Myers (NH) md. Dolan 14-6; Steve Pereira (SB) pin Shane Klinger (EP) 3:25; Nick Pallotta (RD) pin MacIver :27.

285: Tyler Blake (HH) pin Sinclair 3:32; Chibane dec. Ceccio 4-2; Torres pin MacIver 2:34; Jon Hernandez (CP) dec. Meehan 3-1; Mike Kowalczyk (G) pin Rebele 4:59; Verona dec. Shannon 7-3; Zak Taylor (NH) pin Curran 3:28; Suarez pin Sutera 1:33.

QUARTERFINALS

103: Dellatorre dec. Orecchio 5-3; Rottingen pin Scheinert 5:49; Casper dec. Raccioppi 10-5; Perrotti dec. Reyes 4-2.

112: Cagnina pin Boujakli 3:05; Adamo pin Mella 3:26; Raccioppi pin Silano 1:15; Martin dec. Stueben 8-2.

119: Vega dec. Buonadonna 3-2; Rankin dec. Bogosian 5-4; Fava pin Cabrera :35; Ortiz md. Caruso 14-1.

125: Trause tf. DeQuinzio 20-5; Guarriello pin Franks 2:56; Quinn md. Orlic 10-1; Fusco md. Brown 13-3.

130: Dabal pin Cirello 2:45; Acosta md. Alorro 19-6; Hopkins dec. Ulrich 10-5; Kover dec. Cariddi 4-0.

135: Cannici dec. Gibbs 5-2; Mullen dec. Fecanin 10-8; Butcher dec. Lombard 4-0; Rehan dec. Vazquez 9-8.

140: Spataro md. Siclari 10-0; Yuskaitis dec. Zottarelli 3-2; Murphy dec. Herget 5-4; Trumbetti dec. Maio 4-2.

145: Clarke pin Rivera 2:38; Kein md. Iorio 12-3; Maurillo dec. Vizoukis 3-1; Lombard dec. Tieman 5-0.

152: Maurillo dec. DePaola 5-2; Nass md. Krapels 13-5; Pierro pin Basile 5:34; Dack pin Egloff 3:32.

160: Rizzitello md. Wengertter 17-3; Kirchhof pin Moat 3:24; Pierce dec. Vazquez 3-0; Vetterlein md. Heaney 12-5.

171: Rinaldi pin Gandolfo 1:58; Peck md. Fowler 13-2; Galassi dec. Dischino 10-5; McDermott dec. Magaraci 3-1.

189: Reid dec. Hudson 9-5; Geronimo inj. def. Wengertter; Roberts dec. Manna 3-1; Ramishvilli dec. Murberg 9-4.

215: Stala pin Rentas 2:46; Pallotta pin MacIver :41; Comito dec. Myers 5-4; Cardenas pin Benz 4:05.

285: Kowalczyk pin Verona 3:21; Chibane dec. Blake 3-2 (ot); Hernandez dec. Torres 5-2; Taylor dec. Suarez 7-3.

103

Top-seeded Dave Della Torre of River Dell remains alive in a weight class that lost its second, third and fourth seeds. He will face freshman Jeff Rottinger of Ramsey in one semifinal while sophomore Tom Casper of Bergen Catholic and freshman Anthony Perrotti of Queen of Peace will do battle in what promises to be an entertaining bout in the other semifinal.

112

Returning State champ Frank Cagnina leads the top three seeds into the semifinals. Cagni-

Today
At Rockland Community College, Suffern, N.Y.
 Semifinals, 11 a.m.
 Consolations, 3:30 p.m.
 Finals, 5:30 p.m.

na, of Queen of Peace, will face returning tournament third Nick Adamo of Demarest in one semifinal while Hackensack's Anthony Raccioppi, who pinned in less than a minute in both his bouts Saturday, will face NNJIL rival E.J. Martin of Teaneck.

119

Top-seeded Vinny Fava of Don Bosco and fourth-seeded Jose Vega of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge face off in the semifinals in a rematch of their 112-pound final last year, a bout won by Vega. Joe Ortiz of Paramus, who beat Fava in the Region 2 final last season, will face Bergenfield's Chris Rankin in the other semifinal.

125

The top three seeds in the loaded weight class all made it through to the semifinals to set up a big day today. Bergen Catholic's Joe Trause, gunning for his third BCCA championship, will face Nick Guarriello of Emerson/Park Ridge. Matt Fusco of Queen of Peace, who has lost to Trause in this tournament each of the past two seasons, will face Pascack Valley's Mike Quinn in the other semifinal.

130

Bergenfield's Kyle Hopkins pushed his way into the semifinals in one of the top weight classes with a 10-5 upset of third-seeded Glenn Ulrich of Garfield. Top-seeded Bobby Dabal, a former BCCA champ and returning runner-up from North Bergen, will face fourth-seeded

Frank Acosta of Don Bosco in one semifinal while second-seeded Joe Kover, a two-time tournament runner-up from Fair Lawn, will face Hopkins in the other.

135

Northern Highlands sophomore Dan Rehai defeated fourth-seeded North Bergen senior John Vazquez, 9-8, in the quarterfinals and will face top-seeded Queen of Peace junior Glen Cannici — last year's 130-pound champion — in the semifinals. Third-seeded Old Tappan senior Chris Mullen had a tech fall and a major decision in his first three bouts and next meets second-seeded Westwood senior Dan Butcher, who placed second to Cannici last year.

140

Northern Highlands senior Tom Murphy edged third-seeded Emerson/Park Ridge junior Kevin Herget, 5-4, and will wrestle second-seeded Pascack Hills junior Taylor Trumbetti in the semifinals. Returning BCCA champion Matt Spataro (135), a Bergen

Catholic senior, meets Fair Lawn senior Joe Yuskaitis in the other semifinal.

145

Top-seeded Ramsey senior Dan Clarke pinned his two opponents in a total of 2:51 and will meet Becton/Wallington junior Steve Kein in one semifinal. Queen of Peace junior Dominic Maurillo topped third-seeded Old Tappan senior Paul Vizoukis in the quarterfinals and will wrestle St. Mary senior Jim Lombard.

152

Top-seeded Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge senior Andrew Nass nearly was knocked off in the first round, beating Ramsey senior Chris Johns, 8-7, but advanced to the semifinals with a 13-5 major decision over Old Tappan senior Marc Krapels and will wrestle Don Bosco senior Brian Dack next. Queen of Peace junior Vinnie Maurillo and Bergen Catholic senior Anthony Pierro are the other semifinal.

160

The top four seeds advanced easily, with third-seeded Hackensack senior Jeremy Pierce's 3-0 quarterfinal win over North Bergen senior Jio Vazquez being the closest match. Pierce wrestles Don Bosco junior Nick Vetterlein while top-seeded Paramus senior John Rizzitello meets Old Tappan senior Sean Kirchhof.

171

All four top seeds advanced into the semifinals, setting up a formidable test for County supremacy. Top seed Dan Rinaldi of Lodi, shooting for his third straight title, advanced with a pin while second seed Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge Marc Peck scored a 13-2 major decision. Rinaldi faces Bergen Catholic's Sam Galassi and Peck battles Don Bosco's Trace McDermott.

189

Just two of the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals, one is top seed Kevin Ramishvilli of Fair Lawn. Ramishvilli faces Bergenfield's Kadeem Reid, who advanced with a 9-5 decision. Northern Highlands' Austin

Roberts, who upset second seed Chris Manna of Don Bosco, squares up against Joe Geronimo of Emerson/Park Ridge in the other semifinal match.

215

Don Bosco's Lukasz Stala and River Dell's Nick Pallotta, the top two seeds, respectively, made quick work of their quarterfinal matches with pins and highlight a strong semifinal bracket. Pallotta faces Waldwick/Midland Park's Tony Comito and Stala faces Westwood's Leo Cardenas.

285

Zach Chibane of Paramus beat top-seed Tyler Blake of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge, 3-2, in overtime busting the 285-pound bracket wide open. The rest of the top seeds won, meaning Northern Highlands' Zak Taylor, who won his match, 7-3, is now top dog. Taylor faces third seed Mike Kowalczyk of Garfield and Chibane matches up against Cliffside Park's Jon Hernandez.

— Brian Giuffra, Andrew Gross and Greg Schutta

Sat Dec 29, 2007



ALDO MARTINEZ JR./SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Bergenfield's Chris Rankin, bottom, defeated Paul Bogosian of Old Tappan to advance to the 119-pound semifinals.

Paramus' Chibane tops No.1 at 285

By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. — Zack Chibane didn't take up wrestling until the middle of last season. He wasn't even going to come out this season.

He apparently made the right choice.

The junior from Paramus shocked top-seeded Tyler Blake of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge, 3-2, in the overtime at 285 pounds to reach today's semifinals of the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament.

"I was going to quit," the 6-foot-5 Chibane said. "I wasn't going to come out. But my coaches told me it would be good for me and good for my footwork for football as a tackle."

His footwork was just fine against Blake, a returning BCCA third and regional runner-up, although neither wrestler managed a takedown in the bout at Rockland Community College.

Chibane scored the first point of the bout on an escape in the second period, which became big when he was given the choice of top or bottom to start the third overtime tied at 2.

Starting from the bottom position, Chibane scored the final escape of the bout for the 3-2 win and a berth in the semifinal against fourth-seeded Jon Hernandez of Cliffside Park.

"What I was trying to do was just wrestle careful and not make a mistake," said Chibane, who lost to Blake, 8-2, in a bout over the summer. "I didn't want to make any stupid mistakes."

Don Bosco took the early lead in the team scores, 132-104, over second-place Queen of Peace. Eight-time returning champion Bergen Catholic was in third after the first day with 97.5 and Paramus was fourth with 89.

The most exciting bout took place at 135 pounds, where Dan Rehair of Northern Highlands scored nine points in the final period to erase a seven-point deficit and upset fourth-seeded John Vazquez of North Bergen, 9-8, in the quarterfinals.

It was a day of upsets for Northern Highlands, as Austin Roberts stunned second-seeded Chris Manna of Don Bosco in a 189-pound quarterfinal.

"I just kind of kicked it into overdrive," Rehair said of his win over Vazquez. "I knew I had to score a lot of points real fast."

Faster than even he thought. With Rehair trailing by a point, a clock malfunction cut his time in half to just 15 seconds to get the winning takedown. He took care of that with a fireman's carry to reach the semifinals in his first holiday tournament against Glen Cannici of Queen of Peace.

"I didn't realize I'd won it until I got the final two points with two seconds left," Rehair said. "I never felt that kind of joy; not in a tournament, anyway."

Thirteen of the 14 top seeds advanced to the semifinals, including River Dell junior Dave Della Torre, who had a battle at 103 before outlasting freshman Joe Orecchio of Don Bosco, 5-3.

"I want to make a statement here," said Della Torre, who was upset as the fourth seed last year but finished the season with 34 wins, a district championship and a trip to Atlantic City. "If I had another season like last year, I wouldn't be satisfied because I wouldn't feel like I improved. You have to move on to bigger and better things."

Sun Dec 30, 2007

Bosco takes team title

Puts an end to Bergen Catholic's eight-year reign

By **ANDREW GROSS**
STAFF WRITER

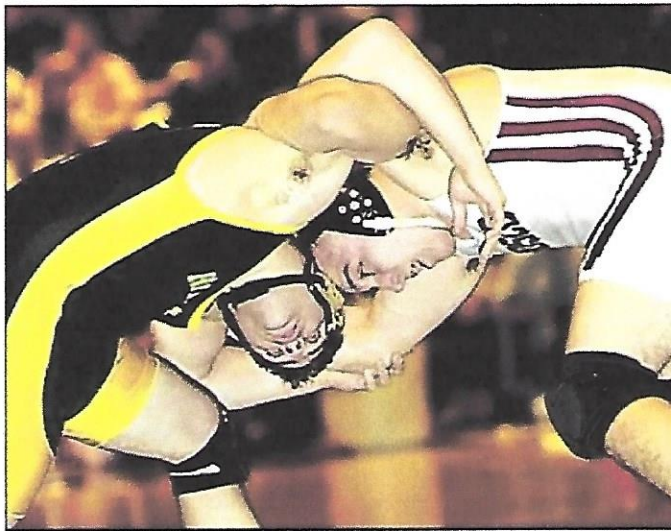
SUFFERN, N.Y. - Confidence was never the problem for Don Bosco. It was the execution that needed work.

"Some people may say we were better last year," said senior Brian Dack, an Oakland resident. "We were just a little sloppy."

The 152-pound Dack was one of four winners as the Ironmen ended Bergen Catholic's eight-year run as team champion Sunday at the Bergen County Coaches Association George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Rockland Community College. Don Bosco had 201 points with Queen of Peace next at 153 points.

In addition to Dack, sophomore Vinny Fava (119), junior Nick Vetterlein (160) and senior Lukasz Stala (215) also were winners as Don Bosco went 4-for-4 in the championship round. Last season, Don Bosco placed five wrestlers in the final round but Fava (112), his brother Dale (135), Dack's brothers Jason Dack (103) and John Dack (145) and Stala (215) all placed second.

Prior to this year, Don Bosco had just two champions in the previous 47 BCCA tournaments -



ALDO MARTINEZ JR./SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Don Bosco's Lukasz Stala, right, outwrestling River Dell's Nick Pallotta on Sunday to win the 215-pound title.

Paul Siemon (152) in 1999 and Jonas Shantz (125) in 1991.

"Bergen Catholic won it eight years in a row, but it's our time now," said Vinny Fava, an Elmwood Park resident. "We could win it the next 10 years. A lot of people say we have an advantage [being a non-public school]. But people don't understand how hard we work."

Fava, with his brother, now at Lockhaven, in the stands watching him, decided Bergenfield junior Chris Rankin, 12-6, for the title. Dack, who had defeated top-seeded Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge senior Andrew Nass, 7-2, in the semifinals, pinned Bergen Catholic senior Anthony Pierro in 5:18.

Vetterlein then needed overtime

to defeat top-seeded Paramus senior John Rizzitello, 5-1. Vetterlein earned a takedown with three seconds remaining in the one-minute sudden death.

"I knew he was strong so I wanted to use my speed and score first," said Vetterlein, an Allendale resident.

"We learned from our mistakes [last year]."

Stala sort of did in defeating River Dell senior Nick Pallotta, 7-4, for the title. Last year, Pallotta beat Stala for the 215-pound championship after Stala was penalized in overtime for a dangerous move. Stala again lost a point this time around when he slapped Pallotta's forehead in the third period to close the gap to 5-4 before getting a takedown.

"Ever since it happened [last year], the whole team has been busting my chops about it," said Stala, another Elmwood Park resident.

In another rematch, North Bergen senior Bob Dabal edged Fair Lawn senior Joe Kover, 5-4, for the 130-pound title. Dabal beat Kover, 4-3, earlier this season and also in the State wrestlebacks last season. Kover had earned his 100th career win with a 6-2 decision over Bergenfield senior Kyle Hopkins in the semifinals.

BCCA HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Dream win for Fusco

QP senior upends BC's Trause at 125

By GREGORY SCHUTTA
STAFF WRITER

SUFFERN, N.Y. — Matt Fusco couldn't wait to get back on the mat. That was his sanctuary. That was where all the controversy of the last six months would disappear and he finally just would be able to wrestle.

Sunday night, that sanctuary became a proving ground.

Fusco shocked two-time State champion Joe Trause of Bergen Catholic, catching him in a headlock for the pin with just 12 seconds left in regulation at 125 pounds, to win his first BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament title and earn the Most Outstanding Wrestler award.

"It feels great," said Fusco, who pinned in 5:48. "He shot. I held him off and he came back up. His head was right there."

And for the first time in three tries, so was Fusco. The Queen of Peace senior had lost to Trause, who was gunning for his third straight tournament title, in the semifinals of each of the past two years.

"I didn't think I could pin him, no way," Fusco said while accepting congratulations from all corners of the gym and a congratulatory phone call from his brother. "I thought I could beat him. But I didn't think about pinning him. Then in a split second, it was right there."

There wasn't a takedown in the bout until the final seconds as both wrestlers proceeded with caution. Then with just 12 seconds left, Fusco got the Rockland Community College Fieldhouse rocking by catching Trause in a headlock and putting him to his back for the pin before leaping into the arms of coach Scot Weaver.

What makes the win even more sweet for Fusco is that he endured a lengthy process earlier this year during which his eligibility was in question after he transferred from St. Mary's.

He was one of three champions for Queen of Peace, who also got wins from Frank Cagnina (112) and Glen Cannici (135) on the way to a second-place finish behind Don Bosco.

Cannici, a returning champ, nearly let his championship rematch with Westwood's Dan Butcher get away, giving up two stall points in the final six seconds to send the match to overtime. But the junior was able to ride out Butcher in the fourth overtime to win, 4-3, by criteria.

Lodi senior Dan Rinaldi completed the ride to his third straight Holiday tournament title, rolling over Marc Peck, 12-4, to win at 171 and join his brother Jerry and former teammate Keith Dobish as three-time champions. Both Jerry Rinaldi and Dobish went on to win State titles after winning their third Holiday tournament titles.

"This is the building block to a State championship," said Dan Ri-

naldi, who received his medal from Jerry, now a first-year assistant at Lodi. "It's not so much that you're looking to put your name in a record book. You want to measure up to your goals and your potential. You don't want to sell yourself short on anything."

There was nothing short about what Ramsey's Dan Clarke and Cliffside Park's Jonathan Hernandez did for their schools. Both ended eight-year droughts for their schools by winning championships at 145 and 285, respectively.

"It feels good because we haven't had a champion in so long," said Clarke, Ramsey's first champion since Chris Brizzi got the gold in 1998. "I even wore his singlet in the semifinals. It was still around."

Clarke, who had more than 20 technical falls last season, continued right where he left off with two pins and two technical falls in his four bouts over the weekend. He won his first BCCA title with a 19-4 technical fall over St. Mary's Jim Lombard in 5:17.

The fourth-seeded Hernandez, the first BCCA champ for Cliffside Park since Zeke Hernandez (no relation) won in 1998, wasn't about to go to all that trouble. He simply flattened third-seeded Mike Kowalczyk of Garfield in 2:33 for his second straight pin and first championship.

"This is a huge deal," said Hernandez, who battled back from a torn knee ligament that cost him a trip to the district tournament last season. "When they wrote about who the guys to beat were going to be here, I was nowhere to be found. I had to prove that I did belong."



River Dell's Dave Della Torre, top

The champions

- 103: Dave Della Torre, River Dell
- 112: Frank Cagnina, Qn. of Peace
- 119: Vinny Fava, Don Bosco
- 125: Matt Fusco, Qn. of Peace
- 130: Bob Dabal, North Bergen
- 135: Glen Cannici, Qn. of Peace
- 140: Matt Spataro, Bergen Cath.
- 145: Dan Clarke, Ramsey
- 152: Brian Dack, Don Bosco
- 160: Nick Vetterlein, Don Bosco
- 171: Dan Rinaldi, Lodi
- 189: Kadeem Reid, Bergenfield
- 215: Luke Stala, Don Bosco
- 285: J. Hernandez, Cliffside Park

Sun Dec 29, 2007



ALDO MARTINEZ JR./SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Lodi's Dan Rinaldi, rear, battling Marc Peck of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge on the way to winning the title at 171 pounds Sunday.

Reid comes of age

Budding star earns a crown

SUFFERN, N.Y. – Kadeem Reid is a rarity in high school wrestling circles nowadays, an emerging standout whose experience dates back to the day he stepped onto the varsity mat.

It's one of the things that made his performance in Sunday's Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Wrestling Tournament so special, so unexpected, considering the junior from Bergenfield still could not believe he had become a champion. Even after he went out and earned the coronation.

"When I think back to where I was and where I am now, I've come so far," Reid said. "You see guys out here who have been wrestling forever. They've been in big tournaments all over. They've got a ton of experience, so much knowledge.

"Me, I've learned from my mistakes, and I'm still learning, I'm getting there."



ART STAPLETON
LOCAL SPORTS COLUMNIST

From Page S-1

Reid finally arrived somewhere he never thought was possible Sunday: atop the 189-pound weight class in one of North Jersey's most prestigious tournaments, where wrestlers with remarkable résumés and Atlantic City dreams usually command the spotlight.

Yet here he was among the best of the best inside the Rockland Community College Field House six months after making a full-time commitment to the sport by joining his first wrestling club to train year-round.

As a freshman, Reid lost his first five varsity bouts, a bitter memory from his first season wrestling competitively on a team. He was on the losing end more times than not that year, relying on strength and athleticism alone.

Against more seasoned opponents, Reid found himself at a distinct disadvantage.

"The way I was wrestling, matches were a dogfight," Reid said. "I'd see a leg and grab it, and that was it. It took me awhile to figure out [the sport]."

Reid made the leap to elite status, at least in his own mind, when he toppled top-seeded Kevin Ramishvilli of Fair Lawn in Sunday's semifinals. Later he took his final step, knocking off Northern Highlands senior Austin Roberts to claim the BCCA title with a 13-8 decision.

"Before that match with Ramishvilli, he was not sure he belonged and you could see it," Bergenfield coach Kevin Manning said. "After that match, I truly believe he became a different wrestler. You could see it in the way he carried himself."

In some ways, Reid is still learning his craft.

He remained in awe during much of this weekend's action, new to the hype of everything that comes with being a contender for championship gold.

For now, his wrestling background pales in comparison to that of most of his peers, especially those such as Queen of Peace senior Matt Fusco, who stunned two-time State champion Joe Trause of Bergen Catholic to capture the 125-pound title.

Fusco can't remember when he started in the sport, only that it's been a long time.

He's got plenty of big-time matches under his belt, yet none bigger than Sunday's rousing upset. Still, this is something for which he's always been aiming.

Of course, Reid can remember when he started, and this was never a destination.

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Of course, Reid can remember when he started, and this was never a destination.

His first taste of the sport came in eighth grade when a bunch of his friends thought it'd be fun to hit the mat and try some moves.

"I was so tall, everybody always thought I'd play basketball," the 6-foot-3 Reid said. "My brother [Corey Goodall] was a basketball player in college, and I think they always figured I'd follow in his footsteps."

He paused before adding: "I played football, too, but I think my love for wrestling really came out this summer."

That's when Reid began focusing on his technique at Premier Wrestling Club in Saddle Brook.

And the more he wrestled against better competition, the sharper he became.

His confidence also increased, as did his skill, and not just physically, either.

"There's a mental edge you need and I

didn't have it until I started wrestling club," Reid said. "The more experienced you get, the more you learn about the game."

For those who walked away with BCCA championships Sunday, the season of their dreams has only begun. For many, the focus will remain on the bigger picture.

"Same goals as always," said Fusco, the event's Most Outstanding Wrestler. "Win States and win Nationals."

Reid might be the only one not thinking that far ahead, at least for now.

He's still trying to get used to being a BCCA champion.

"I don't think it's kicked in yet," Reid said. "I'm in shock that I've got this far."

Even more surprising is that, after what he did Sunday, someone might be able to convince Reid that he actually belongs.

Sun Dec 29, 2007

BCCA HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

at Rockland Community College
Suffern, N.Y.

TEAM SCORES

Don Bosco (DB) 201; Queen of Peace (QP) 153; Paramus (PAR) 131; North Bergen (NB) 129; Bergen Catholic (BC) 126.5; Old Tappan (OT) 122; Northern Highlands (NH) 106; River Dell (RD) 106; Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge (HH) 98.5; Hackensack (H) 81; Bergenfield (BF) 71; Westwood (WW) 70.5; Lodi (LO) 68; Fair Lawn (FLWN) 67; Emerson/Park Ridge (EPR) 66; Ramsey (RSY) 57.5; Pascack Valley (PV) 52; Cliffside Park (CP) 49; Mahwah (MAH) 45; Garfield (G) 43; Waldwick/Midland Park (WMP) 42.5; St. Joseph (SJ) 42; Rutherford (RU) 40; Ramapo (RPO) 39.5; Pascack Hills (PH) 35; Cresskill (CK) 33.5; St. Mary (SM) 30; Becton/Wallington (BW) 28.5; Teaneck (T) 27; Demarest (DEM) 26; Elmwood Park (EP) 24; Bergen Tech (BT) 22.5; New Milford (NM) 21; Saddle Brook/Glen Rock (SB) 19; Lyndhurst/North Arlington (LNA) 17; Ridgefield Park/Ridgefield (RPR) 16; Dumont (DU) 13; Indian Hills (IH) 13; Bogota/Weehawken (BOW) 8; Fort Lee (FtL) 8; Tenafly (TEN) 5; Ridgewood (RW) 3; Leonia/Palisades Park (LPP) 2.

THIRD PLACE CONSOLATION

103: Jeff Rottingen (RSY) d. Casper (BC), 5-4; **112:** Adamo (DEM) d. Martin (T), 3-2; **119:** Ortiz (PAR) d. Vega (DB), 9-2; **125:** Quinn (PV) d. Guarriello (EPR), 5-2; **130:** Hopkins (BF) d. Acosta (DB), 5-4; **135:** Mullen (OT) tech. fall over Rehairn (NH), 18-0, 3:57; **140:** Trumbetti (PH) d. Yuskaitis (FLwn), 4-3; **145:** Maurillo (QP) d. Kein (BW), 7-5; **152:** Nass (HH) by forfeit; **160:** Pierce (H) d. Kirchhof (OT), 6-3; **171:** McDermott (DB) by forfeit; **189:** Ramishvilli (FLwn) d. Geronimo (EPR), 3-2; **215:** Comito (WMP) d. Cardenas (WW), 7-0; **285:** Taylor (NH) d. Chibane (PAR), 2-0.

SEMIFINALS

103: Anthony Perrotti (QP) p. Tom Casper (BC), 1:43; Dave Della Torre (RD)

m.d. Jeff Rottingen (RSY), 11-1; **112:** Anthony Raccioppi (H) d. E.J. Martin (T), 8-5; Frank Cagnina (QP) m.d. Nick Adamo (DEM), 16-3; **119:** Vinny Fava (DB) d. Jose Vega (HH), 12-5; Chris Rankin (BF) d. Joe Ortiz (PAR), 4-3 (ot); **125:** Joe Trause (BC) dec. Nick Guarriello (EPR), 10-3; Matt Fusco (QP) d. Mike Quinn (PV), 8-1; **130:** Bob Dabal (NB) d. Frank Acosta (DB), 8-6 (ot); Joe Kover (FLwn) d. Kyle Hopkins (BF), 6-2; **135:** Glen Cannici (QP) m.d. Dan Rehairn (NH), 14-6; Dan Butcher (WW) d. Chris Mullen (OT), 10-4; **140:** Matt Spataro (BC) m.d. Joe Yuskaitis (FLwn), 12-2; Tom Murphy (NH) d. Taylor Trumbetti (PH), 7-3; **145:** Jim Lombard (SM) d. Dominic Maurillo (QP), 7-6; Dan Clarke (RSY) tech. fall Steve Kein (BW), 15-0, 4:45; **152:** Brian Dack (DB) d. Andrew Nass (HH), 7-2; Anthony Pierro (BC) p. Anthony Maurillo (QP), 5:23; **160:** John Rizzitello (PAR) m.d. Sean Kirchhof (OT), 12-3; Nick Vetterlein (DB) d. Jeremy Pierce (H), 11-4; **171:** Dan Rinaldi (LO) tech. fall Sam Galassi (BC), 16-0, 2:40; Marc Peck (HH) p. Trace McDermott (DB), 2:25; **189:** Kadeem Reid (BF) d. Kevin Ramishvilli (FLwn), 5-3; Austin Roberts (NH) p. Joe Geronimo (EPR), 5:45; **215:** Luke Stala (DB) p. Leo Cardenas (WW), 2:59; Nick Pallotta (RD) p. Tony Comito (WMP), 1:43; **285:** Mike Kowalczyk (G) d. Zak Taylor (NH), 5-0; Jon Hernandez (CP) p. Zack Chibane (PAR), 5:08.

FINAL

103: Della Torre d. Perrotti, 5-3; **112:** Cagnina m.d. Raccioppi, 13-1; **119:** Fava d. Rankin, 12-6; **125:** Fusco p. Trause, 5:28; **130:** Dabal d. Kover, 5-4; **135:** Cannici d. Butcher, 4-3 (criteria); **140:** Spataro d. Murphy, 9-1; **145:** Clarke tech. fall Lombard, 19-4, 5:17; **152:** Dack p. Pierro, 5:18; **160:** Vetterlein d. Rizzitello, 3-1 (ot); **171:** Rinaldi d. Peck, 12-5; **189:** Reid d. Roberts, 13-8; **215:** Stala d. Pallotta, 7-4; **285:** Hernandez p. Kowalczyk, 2:33.