

Massapequa Grabs Wrestling Honors

By Gregg Sarra
STAFF WRITER

Massapequa coach Gary Mims recently posted a sign in the team wrestling room that read, "Expunge the demons."

Yesterday they did just that.

The Chiefs ended Long Beach's six-year stranglehold on the Nassau County wrestling title last night by scoring 190½ points and crowning two county champions at Nassau CC.

"We wanted to address a number of things and keep the kids focused mentally for the county tournament," Mims said. "Too many times, kids allow the pressure to pop stupid things into their heads and they fail to perform to their ability. We wanted to erase the demons — those negative feelings — and have each kid go out and wrestle to their potential."

Mike Giuliani (91) and Phil Baroni (145) captured titles for the Chiefs while teammates Dan Maccarone (3rd at 119), Kurt Blauberg (2nd at 132), Darren Grammich (2nd at 138) and Frank Rapacki (3rd at 167) all placed.

The Chiefs won the team title in 1981 and finished second seven times.

"Our motto was, 'You have to practice to win but you don't have to practice to lose,'" Mims said.

All four defending county champions will make the return trip to the state tournament in Syracuse March 5-6. Freeport's James Hieronymous (105), Cold Spring Harbor's Brian Mulada (112), Long Beach's Aldy Teran (155) and Farmingdale's Dusty Amodio (177) were all victorious. Hieronymous, a state runner-up, was Freeport coach Terry Haise's 19th champion.

"I can go back to the states with experience," Hieronymous said. "And instead of expecting a place-finish, I expect to win."

Teran, who failed to place last year, also looks forward to a second opportunity.

"My brother Alex finished fifth in 1988 and [my family] would like to improve on that," he said. "I'll go as far as my talent will take me. Inexperience was a factor last year."

Another returner to the states will be

Plainedge's Craig Walter (119), who turned in a 15-6 victory over Westbury's Menford Casseus. Walter won the county title as a sophomore but lost a 6-4 final to MacArthur's Rob Paletta last year.

"I learned a lesson," Walter said. "I'm fortunate that I was young enough to get another chance. I put in the extra practice time with [former Mepham state titlist] Mike Arena and it paid off."

MacArthur's Doug Nick upended top-seeded Willie Ferris in the 98-pound final by technical fall in 4:35. Nick used a variety of duck-unders and switches to outscore Ferris, 23-7.

"It was his best performance," said MacArthur coach Howie Greenblatt. "We told him to work on his feet and stay away from the dangerous cradles that Ferris uses."

Nick's performance earned him the champion of champions and tournament's outstanding wrestler awards.

Carey's Miguel Pires (138) withstood Grammich's power-half for 48 seconds of the second period and pulled out a 5-2 win. Pires battled the flu and stomach cramps to give coach Rob Pontecorvo his first titlist in four years and the school's first since Rich Barone (98) in 1983.

"He's a solid four-year varsity wrestler and the third brother to place for me," said Pontecorvo. "And the Pires have Tony, who has a nasty headlock on the way up. But that won't be for a while — he's only a 3-year-old."

MASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT MASSAU CC FINAL RESULTS

91 — Mike Giuliani (Massapequa) dec. Jamie Brodsky (Long Beach), 9-2. 98 — Doug Nick (MacArthur) def. Willie Ferris (Mepham), by tech. fall, 4:35. 105 — James Hieronymous (Freeport) dec. Rob Eisbruck (Plainview), 8-1. 112 — Brian Mulada (Cold Spring Harbor) dec. Joe Catalanotta (East Meadow), 3-0. 119 — Craig Walter (Plainedge) dec. Menford Casseus (Westbury), 15-6. 126 — Mike Mundo (Calhoun) dec. Nick Beviacqua (Mepham), 12-9. 132 — Sergio Nicolosi (East Meadow) dec. Kurt Blauberg (Massapequa), 8-4. 138 — Miguel Pires (Carey) dec. Darren Grammich (Massapequa), 5-2. 145 — Phil Baroni (Massapequa) dec. Brian Alesius (Island Trees), 11-6. 155 — Aldy Teran (Long Beach) dec. Jim Karl (Valley Stream South), 3-2. 167 — Ariel Marine (Valley Stream South) dec. Carmine Apuzzo (Island Trees), 7-1. 177 — Dusty Amodio (Farmingdale) pinned Gerry Papadatos (Island Trees), 3:04. 215 — Dan Hansen (Baldwin) pinned Tim Moran (Carle Place), 1:12. 250 — Barry Weed (Long Beach) pinned Ted Boutadakis (Locust Valley), :50. **Most Outstanding Wrestler** — Doug Nick (MacArthur). **Most pins least time** — Alki Coad (Long Beach) 3 in 13:30. **Champion of champions** — Doug Nick (MacArthur). **Team scores** — Massapequa 180½, Long Beach 143, East Meadow 135, Mepham 96, Island Trees 89, Baldwin 86½, Herricks 83, Freeport 76, VS North 66½, Bellmore JFK 65.