

Freeport Wrestler Upset

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

Freeport's Kingsley Wederburn couldn't understand what had just happened to him.

His first impulse was to punch his opponent; his second was to throw a fit. He threw a fit. All of the hard work, time and expectations had just gone out the window in a heartbreaking loss to Division's Bill Bennett.

Wederburn (26-3), the top seed at 132, had fallen to a freshman in the Nassau County semifinals, losing in overtime criteria when Bennett controlled the junior for the full 30 seconds. Bennett, who squeezed into the semifinal round by virtue of two one-point wins, moved into last night's county final at Nassau CC.

"He [Wederburn] couldn't come to closure and get on with himself," Freeport coach Terry Haise said. "He needed to realize where his mistakes were and what happened to him. Some kids take longer than others to get over a loss. He hates losing — I mean, hates to lose. But this is a part of the process. We learn from our mistakes and move on."

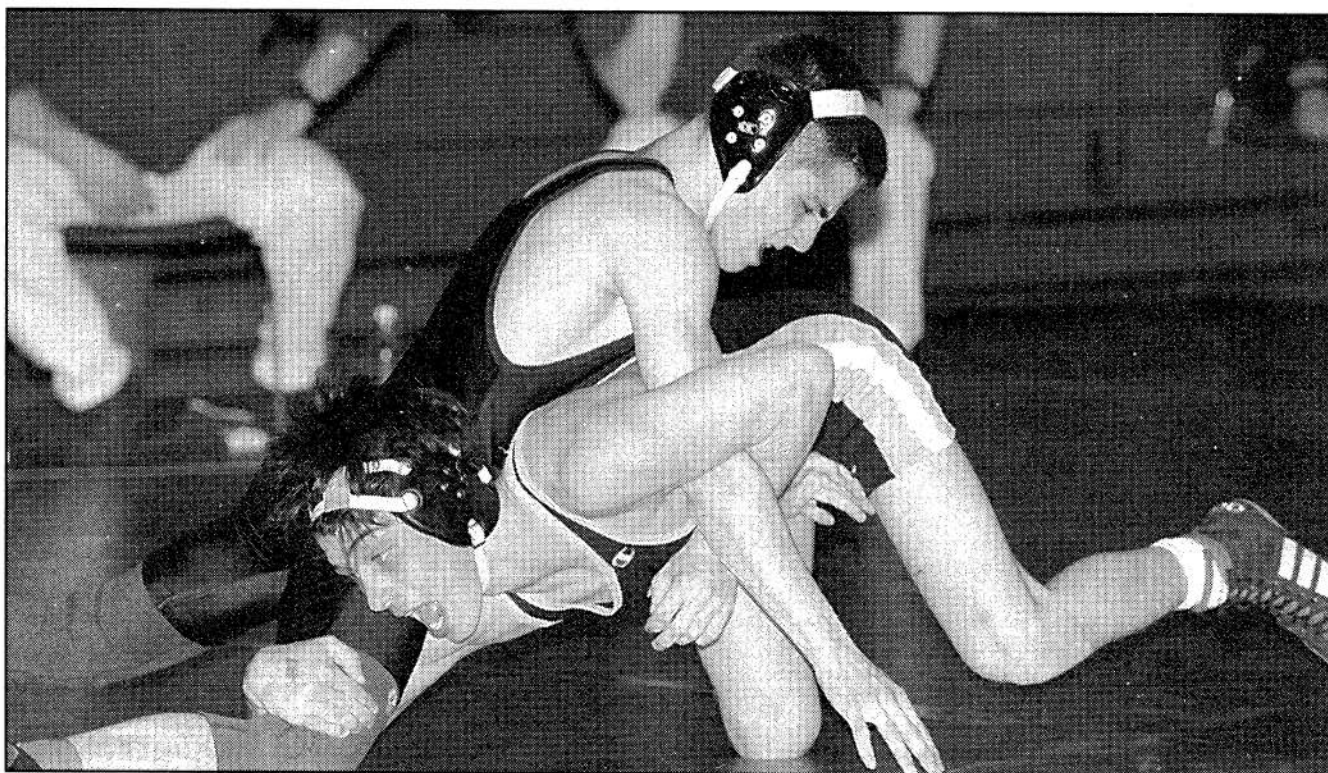
Wederburn wanted to give up and not wrestle back for a place finish. He was coaxed to return by Haise and heavyweight teammate Morlon Greenwood, who were seen comforting and reasoning with the distraught wrestler.

Wederburn came back strong to win two wrestle-backs and place third in the tournament.

"It's a learning process and I think he learned that he did the right thing," Haise said. "You have two choices in life: stand and fight or run and flee, and that's not the answer."

Seaford's Ricky Ravens (126) was the only other top seed who failed to make the final. He lost a 3-2 quarterfinal match to Freeport's Pat Fenner. Ravens won three consecutive matches after his loss before dropping a 3-1 decision to John DelMonaco of Island Trees to finish fourth.

The semifinal round offered four overtime matches and four one-point



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Anthony Riccardi of Bethpage goes low to take control in his victory over Luke Palmisano of Massapequa yesterday at Nassau CC

bouts. Twelve of the 14 top-seeded wrestlers reached the final. Defending county champions Akil Coad of Long Beach and Tom D'Agostino of East Meadow were on a collision course for the 112-pound final. Both found their respective semifinal opponents game. Coad held off an aggressive Kevin Hines of Syosset for a 3-0 win, which included a beautiful counter for a takedown with 14 seconds left in the match. D'Agostino used a second-period reversal for a 2-0 lead and edged Ian McConnell of Oceanside, 2-1. McConnell missed a two-point takedown as time expired.

The most impressive trek to the final might have been by Freeport's unseeded Eddie Gomez, who came from the out-bracket and won four matches.

"I expected him to place in the county," Haise said. "But this is incredible."

Defending champion Massapequa led the team scoring with 175 points, followed by Long Beach (164) and Freeport (152).

Wantagh senior Mike Russo (155) became the first Warrior in nine years to reach the final round. The last was Hofstra coach Tom Ryan, who was a three-time county champ.

NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS At Nassau CC Semifinal results

91 — Dan Patascher (Division) dec. Jon Masa (Long Beach), 11-2; Mike McCann (Mepham) dec. Tom Buchman (Farmingdale), 13-0. 98 — James Pettito (Massapequa) dec. Don Moore (Mepham), 8-7; Shawn Kegel (MacArthur) dec. Tom Feehey (Farmingdale), 10-0. 105 — Anthony Riccardi (Bethpage) dec. Luke Palmisano (Massapequa), 9-4; Doug Henao (Long Beach) dec. Adam Shapiro (East Meadow), 9-0. 112 — Akil Coad (Long Beach) dec. Kevin Hines (Syosset), 3-0; Tom

D'Agostino (East Meadow) dec. Ian McConnell (Oceanside), 2-1. 119 — Nikitas Koroneos (Bethpage) dec. David Takeseras (Seaford), 2-1; John Pinto (Mepham) dec. Jeremy Coffin (Valley Stream South), 1-1, referee criteria. 126 — Pat Fenner (Freeport) dec. John DelMonaco (Island Trees), 1-1, referee criteria; Jason Konigsberg (Baldwin) dec. Eric Klein (Valley Stream Central), 6-4, overtime. 132 — Bill Bennett (Division) dec. Kingsley Wederburn (Freeport), 1-1, referee criteria; Rob Dowd (Mepham) dec. Jon Alarcon (Long Beach), 9-8. 138 — Cartney Curnuck (MacArthur) dec. Wayne Portee (Long Beach), 7-1; Eddie Gomez (Freeport) dec. Matt DeNatale (Locust Valley), 5-4. 145 — Ian Kaplan (South Side) def. Chris Grimm (Mineola), by tech. fall, 4:34; Chris Hirsch (East Meadow) dec. Peter Kouroumoussis (Island Trees), 5-3. 155 — Kevin Haggerty (Long Beach) dec. Eric Kufs (East Meadow), 8-2; Mike Russo (Wantagh) dec. Angelo Lancia (Farmingdale), 2-0. 167 — George Steiger (MacArthur) dec. Terry Brown (Freeport), 12-6; Frank D'Agostino (Massapequa) dec. Donielle Warren (Long Beach), 9-4. 177 — Julian Cover (Freeport) pinned Jesus Marcano (Glen Cove), 4:12; Rich Brzeski (Division) dec. Chris Wolfe (North Shore), 7-3. 215 — Morlon Greenwood (Freeport) pinned Anson Duncan (Long Beach), 2:53; Ray Tutku (Massapequa) pinned Tom Innes (Farmingdale), 2:49. 250 — Kevin Shippis (Baldwin) pinned Dan Vicchiarelli (Bethpage), :50; Steve Fraser (Mepham) dec. Ryan Fletcher (Glen Cove), 5-3.