

# Massapequa Takes Title

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

Frank D'Agostino suffered injury after injury during the football season and into the beginning of the wrestling season. But none, not even a knee injury, slowed the Massapequa 167-pound senior more than the broken nose he suffered at the Huntington Tournament in December.

"Every time someone touches it his eyes water and he's in obvious pain," Massapequa coach Gary Mims said. "The doctors were going to straighten it out but decided against it, and he's been wrestling that way all season."

D'Agostino (26-0) persevered through the pain and punctuated an undefeated season with a first-period pin of MacArthur's George Steiger in 1:56 to lock up the county title for the Chiefs Sunday night at Nassau Community College.

Massapequa led Long Beach 175-174½ going into the D'Agostino match. His pin gave the Chiefs a 181-174½ victory, the team's second successive title.

"The key was in the wrestlebacks," Mims said. "We did it the blue-collar way. All close tournaments are won in wrestlebacks. We teach them that it's an emotional roller-coaster in the county tournament and when they lose the first time, they have to pick themselves up and come back. We had a great group of kids who understood that concept."

Massapequa, with only one county champion, totaled nine place-winners, including six underclassmen. Runner-up Long Beach crowned two champions in Akil Coad (112) and Kevin Haggerty (155) and finished with eight place-winners. MacArthur's Shawn Kegel (98) won his third title to become the tournament's most outstanding wrestler and earn a share of the champion of champions award with Haggerty, an award voted by their peers. Teammate Cartney Curnuck (138) won his second consecutive crown.

Mephram also crowned two champions, sophomore Mike McCann (91)

and senior John Pinto (119).

"I'm very proud of our champions and the rest of the team for wrestling so hard," Long Beach coach Paul Gillespie said. He has 37 county titlists in 18 years.

In a battle of defending county champions, Coad edged East Meadow's Tom D'Agostino, 6-5. Coad used an escape for a 5-3 third-period lead and after D'Agostino gained a takedown to tie the score at 5, Coad escaped with 14 seconds left for the win.

"He just couldn't hang on," East Meadow coach Tommy Reynolds said. "What a very tough loss."

Division moved three wrestlers into the finals for the first time in school history. Freshman Bill Bennett completed his stunning run at a title when he upended Rob Dowd of Mephram, 4-2, at 132 pounds. Bennett became the sixth county champion ever at Division.

"He's very strong on his feet," Division coach Ray Downey said. "He didn't get taken down in all four matches."

Bennett (24-7) had unusual composure and strength for a young wrestler. He seemed stronger than each of his opponents, muscling each of them to the mat. The pressure didn't faze Bennett, who recorded two one-point wins and an overtime win. In the finals he took Dowd down twice and gave up two escapes. Dowd found it impossible to score on the ninth-grader.

"Dowd is great on the mat and we wanted to avoid wrestling there," Downey said. "It turned out to be the right strategy."

There was no strategy involved in some weights as finalists such as South Side's Ian Kaplan (145), Haggerty (155), Freeport's Morlon Greenwood (215) and Baldwin's Kevin Shippas (250) dominated.

Kaplan (33-0) recorded his 30th pin of the season in 4:58 over East Meadow's Chris Hirsch. Haggerty (28-2) matted Wantagh's Mike Russo in 3:12. Greenwood (28-0) got his fourth pin in four bouts, in 3:36 over Massapequa's

Ray Tutku. And Shippas was too fast and too slick for Mephram's Steve Fraser in a 17-6 win.

Perhaps the most touching moment of the finals came when Baldwin's Jason Konigsberg (126) recorded a 57-second pin over Freeport's Pat Fenner. Konigsberg shook hands with Fenner, then charged off the mat, into the stands and up the steps to embrace his parents to the delight of the crowd.

The worst moment came in the 177-pound final when Freeport's Julian Cover (21-0) edged Division's Rich Brzeski, 3-1, gaining a takedown with eight seconds left. Cover taunted Brzeski and baited the crowd, which showered him with boos.

"There was no reason to show us up out there," Downey said. "There is a code of sportsmanship."

Brzeski suffered a bloody nose and facial cuts and needed constant time-outs to clean the blood and catch his breath — the cotton in his nose affected his breathing. "He was very uncomfortable," Downey said. "It wasn't a pretty match."

In all, there were 10 blood-filled bouts. "This was one of the most physical tournaments we've seen," MacArthur coach Howie Greenblatt said.

## NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### At Nassau CC

#### Final Results

91 — Mike McCann (Mephram) dec. Dan Patascher (Division), 6-4. 98 — Shawn Kegel (MacArthur) pinned James Pettito (Massapequa), 2:48. 105 — Anthony Riccardi (Bethpage) dec. Doug Henao (Long Beach), 4-3. 112 — Akil Coad (Long Beach) dec. Tom D'Agostino (East Meadow), 6-5. 119 — John Pinto (Mephram) dec. Nikitas Koroneos (Bethpage), 4-1. 126 — Jason Konigsberg (Baldwin) pinned Pat Fenner (Freeport), 57. 132 — Bill Bennett (Division) dec. Rob Dowd (Mephram), 4-2. 138 — Cartney Curnuck (MacArthur) def. Eddie Gomez (Freeport), by tech. fall, 4:27. 145 — Ian Kaplan (South Side) pinned Chris Hirsch (East Meadow), 4:58. 155 — Kevin Haggerty (Long Beach) pinned Mike Russo (Wantagh), 3:12. 167 — Frank D'Agostino (Massapequa) pinned George Steiger (MacArthur), 1:56. 177 — Julian Cover (Freeport) dec. Rich Brzeski (Division), 3-1. Hvy — Morlon Greenwood (Freeport) pinned Ray Tutku (Massapequa), 3:36. 250 — Kevin Shippas (Baldwin) dec. Steve Fraser (Mephram), 17-6. **Most Outstanding wrestler** — Shawn Kegel, MacArthur. **Champion of Champions** — Kevin Haggerty (Long Beach) and Shawn Kegel (MacArthur). **Most Pins/Least Time** — Morlon Greenwood, Freeport 4 pins in 10:49. **Team Scores** — Massapequa 181, Long Beach 174½, Freeport 162, MacArthur 127, Mephram 120, Bethpage 107, Farmingdale 79, Baldwin 76, Division 74½, Seaford 71½, East Meadow 66, Glen Cove 65.

## SUFFOLK LEAGUE I TOURNAMENT

### Final results

91 — Anthony Coster (Connetquot) dec. Marcio Gonzalez (Ward Melville), 5-4. 98 — Charles Restrepo (Brentwood) dec. Steve Jenkins (Smithtown), 3-1 (OT). 105 — Toney Harrell (Longwood) pinned Artie Weider (Patchogue-Medford), 4:39. 112 — Jeremy Salingier (Brentwood) dec. Rod Delosantos (Sachem), 9-3. 119 — Nino LoCascio (Patchogue-Medford) dec. David Cruz (Sachem), 9-1. 126 — Tom Szykuc (Patchogue-Medford) pinned Mike Burger (Connetquot), 3:05. 132 — Jack McAleese (Longwood) dec. John Ognosky (Patchogue-Medford), 8-2. 138 — William James (Longwood) dec. Brad Hallnar (Longwood), 9-7 (OT).

145 — Chauncey Woodley (Longwood) dec. Rich Petracca (Sachem), 3-1. 155 — Rich Stoia (Floyd) dec. Justin Gatti (Sachem), 1-0. 167 — Jason Kenul (Patchogue-Medford) pinned Mike Short (Longwood), 1:31. 177 — Dave Ross (Sachem) dec. Charlie Reiter (Smithtown), 3-2. Hvy — Matt Mueller (Patchogue-Medford) pinned Len Bieler (Sachem), 4:31. 250 — Corey Bidegain (Floyd) dec. Shawn Greene (Sachem), 5-2. **Most Outstanding Wrestler** — Nino LoCascio (Patchogue-Medford). **Most Pins/Least Time** — Toney Harrell (Longwood) 105, 3 pins in 7:07. **Team Scores** — Longwood 174½, Sachem 163, Patchogue-Medford 148, Floyd 88, Brentwood 82, Connetquot 64, Smithtown 59, Ward Melville 35.

### Consolation

91 — Hector Toro (Brentwood) dec. Mike McGrath (Patchogue-Medford), 3-0. 98 — Brian Burns (Connetquot) dec. Jesse Bonfiglio (Patchogue-Medford), 9-1. 105 — Joe Ketcham (Longwood) pinned Nate Acevedo (Brentwood), 4:59. 112 — Randy Fabian (Longwood) dec. Adam Bernstein (Patchogue-Medford), 5-2. 119 — Rawle Shewprashad (Longwood) dec. Greg DeSario (Ward Melville), 3-1 (OT). 126 — Brian Schlueter (Floyd) dec. Felix Cabrera (Brentwood), 6-5. 132 — Frank Williams (Floyd) dec. Chris Davidson (Sachem), 3-2. 138 — Dan Raupp (Ward Melville) dec. Dan Golini (Sachem), 4-2 (OT). 145 — John Zarcone (Smithtown) dec. Mike D'Moch (Sachem), 3-1 (OT). 155 — Mike Fields (Brentwood) dec. Bryan McLaughlin (Smithtown), 6-1. 167 — Joel Barone (Floyd) dec. Jeff Ventimiglia (Sachem), 2-0. 177 — Steve McAleese (Longwood) dec. Adam Diana (Sachem), 6-2. 215 — Joe Cicero (Floyd) dec. Joe Callis (Connetquot), 7-3. Hvy — Andy Weaver (Patchogue-Medford) dec. Jason Mauro (Sachem), 8-2.

### LEAGUE IV TOURNAMENT

#### Final results

91 — Mark Ingenito (NB) dec. Joshua Marksberry (C), 11-3. 98 — Mike Cox (S) dec. Kam Chang (DP), 7-2. 105 — Jay Homestead (S) dec. Joe Manning (MP), 6-3. 112 — Joe Halleran (NB) def. Ryan Calabrese (MP) by injury default, 5:00. 119 — Sal Cusumano (DP) pinned Roy Rodas (H), 3:20. 126 — Nick Song (H) dec. Sonu Dhingra (S), 9-5. 132 — Mike Messina (H) dec. Brian Fehn (NB), 10-2. 138 — Thad Albuti (NB) dec. Mark Smith (H), 10-3. 145 — Erik Bisso (H) pinned Anthony Fasaro (DP), 1:32. 155 — Jamie Reilly (C) pinned Dave Mott, 2:33. 167 — Keith Kelsky (DP) dec. John Goode (W), 9-3. 177 — Jim Knots (S) dec. Dan Kelsey (DP), 7-1. Hvy — Harsaan McBroom (NB) pinned Ryan Hogan (KP), 4:30. 250 — David Kohler (W) dec. Mike Clancy, 4-3. **Most Outstanding Wrestler** — Sal Cusumano (Deer Park). **Most Pins/Least Time** — Nick Song (Hauppauge) (126) 3 pins in 3:26. **Team Scores** — Hauppauge 183, North Babylon 161, Deer Park 154½, Sayville 129, Westhampton 97, Comsewogue 67½, Miller Place 61, Kings Park 32.

### Consolation

91 — Ricky Ress (H) dec. Scott DiVeglie, 4-2. 98 — Tony DeLauniversita (NB) pinned Russ Andreasi (H), 4-0. 105 — Stephen Panicioli (NB) dec. Edie Diaz (W), 12-3. 112 — Mike Quaglino (DP) dec. Jason Swenton (H), 4-1. 119 — Ryan Sordelli (H) dec. Joe Esposito (S), 9-7. 126 — Doug Durphee (C) dec. Tim Moore (W), 10-1. 132 — Jason Bencivenga (NB) dec. Liam Keesee (S), 9-5. 138 — Jim Waller (W) dec. Ed Goldrich (DP), 12-7. 145 — Steve Holz (W) dec. Nick Cadmus (H), 6-1. 155 — Juan Garcia (W) dec. Joe Perez (NB), 11-6. 167 — Jason Bonn (H) pinned Dan Abramanski (MP), 4:21. 177 — John Caccualea (MP) dec. Eric Hellmold (S), 11-7. Hvy — Mike McLaughlin (DP) dec. Ed Knots (S), 5-0. 250 — Dave Kirkman (S) pinned Billy Turbush (W), 3:37.

## Playoff Schedule

### TODAY, NASSAU/SUFFOLK

**BOYS BASKETBALL: Nassau — Class B Tournament, Quarterfinals at Hicksville High School; Bellmore JFK vs. MacArthur, 2 p.m. Manhasset vs. Great Neck North, 4 p.m. Al Malverne High School; Westbury vs. South Side, 2 p.m. Great Neck South vs. Glen Cove, 4 p.m. Suffolk — Class B Tournament Outbreak: Harborfields at Mt. Sinai, 7 p.m. Class C Tournament, First Round: Stony Brook at Wyandanch, 2 p.m. Babylon at Hampton Falls, 6 p.m.**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL: Nassau — Class B Tournament, First Round: Plainfield at Hicksville, noon. Mineola at Glen City, 4:15 p.m. Jericho at Division, West Hempstead at Elmont, 4:30 p.m. MacArthur at Wantagh, 6 p.m. Lynbrook at Bethpage, Valley Stream South at Floral Park, Seaford at Island Trees, 7 p.m.**

### TOMORROW

**BOYS BASKETBALL: Nassau — Class A Tournament, Semifinals at Hicksville High School; Hempstead vs. Massapequa, 2 p.m. Uniondale vs. Baldwin, 4 p.m. Class C Tournament, Semifinals at Roslyn High School; Roosevelt vs. Malverne, 2 p.m. Carle Place vs. Wheatley, 4 p.m.**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL: Nassau — Class A Tournament, Quarterfinals: Port Washington at Freeport, noon. Oceanside at Hempstead, 3 p.m. Hericks at Farmingdale, Syosset at Massapequa, 7 p.m. Suffolk — Class A Tournament, First Round: Commack at Hauppauge, East Islip at Northport, West Islip at Connetquot, Huntington at Whitman, 6 p.m. Class B Tournament, Quarterfinals: Westhampton at Shoreham-Wading River, 4:30 p.m. Sayville at Amityville, 4:30 p.m. Harborfields at Miller Place, 6 p.m. Half Hollow Hills East at Mt. Sinai, 7 p.m. Class C Tournament, First Round: Stony Brook at Eastport, 6 p.m. Pierson/SI/BR at Bayport-Blue Point, 7 p.m.**