

# Mt. Sinai Captures Title

Remember that children's storybook, "The Little Engine That Could" by Watty Piper, about a small engine that tried to climb a steep hill while towing another train? The engine tried and tried to make it up that hill and finally persevered.

The Mt. Sinai wrestling program pulled off a similar feat. The small Class B program conquered all the larger Class A schools to become the "Little Program That Could" at the Suffolk County Wrestling Championships late Saturday night at the Indoor Sports Complex at SUNY-Stony Brook.

The Mustangs captured the championship in their fifth year with a team score of 124 points. Huntington finished second with 116 points.

Mt. Sinai, which also claimed the League V tournament and dual meet titles, crowned one county champion and placed four other wrestlers in the tournament.

Carrying the burden of all other Class B schools squarely on its shoulders, Mt. Sinai made a statement for all small schools looking for respect.

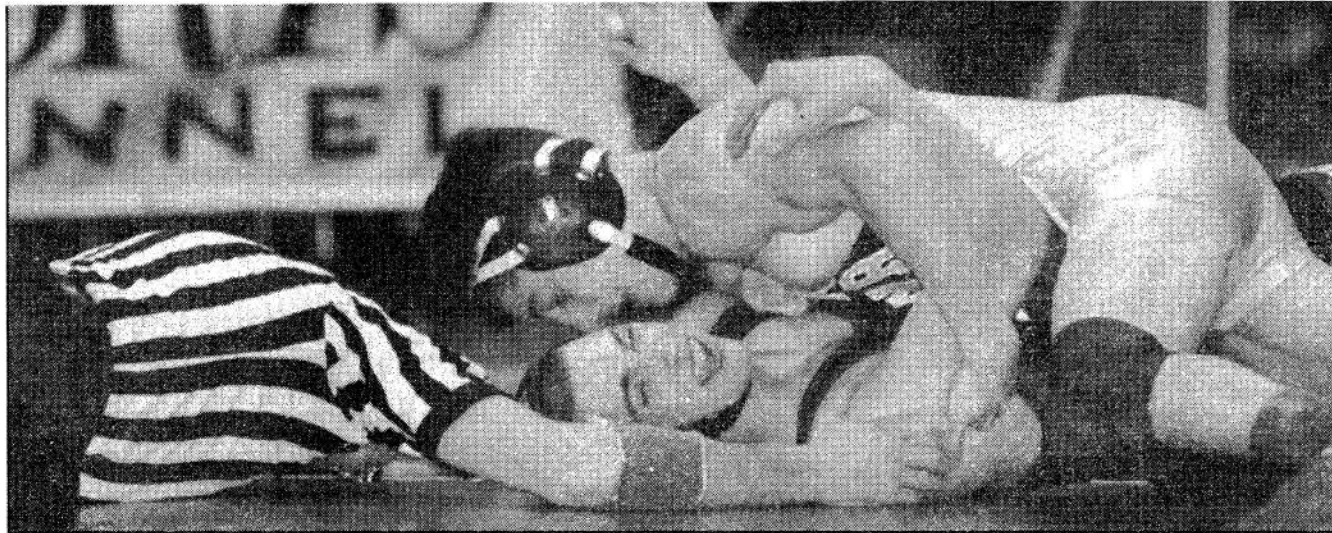
"The small schools never get any respect," Shoreham-Wading River coach Paul Jendrewski said. "It's always about the larger schools."

Not this year. The tournament belonged to League V, which crowned four champions, and League VI, which had two.

It was the first time in eight years that a school other than Longwood, Sachem, or two-time defending champion Patchogue-Medford, all of League I, had claimed the team title. The last Class B school to win the county was Shoreham-Wading River in 1988.

"We wrestled in the toughest League [V] this year," said Mt. Sinai coach Joe Colloca, who celebrated his 51st birthday late Saturday night with the championship plaque. "I knew at the start of the season that we had six kids who were county material and four others that could knock on the door. This is a statement about the competitiveness in the lower leagues."

Mt. Sinai was led by senior two-time county champion Ryan Bernholz (30-1), who pinned Mattituck's Steve Shipman in 1:13 for the 132-pound title. Freshman Steve Broglie (20-5) lost a 6-0 deci-



Shoreham-Wading River's Jesse Jantzen pins Hampton Bays' Jay Bedell in 105-pound final at the Suffolk County Wrestling Championships

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sion to Bellport sophomore Chris Felicetta (28-0) in the 91-pound final. Broglie gained a measure of respect as the only wrestler at that weight to go the distance with Felicetta, who finished the season with 25 first-period pins. "Not bad for a kid [Broglie] who didn't wrestle last year because he had hip surgery," Colloca said of Broglie. "He wrestled great."

Winners from League VI were sophomore Steve Morrison (27-1) of Hampton Bays at 98 pounds and Thomas Morrero (10-0) of Wyandanch at 250 pounds. It's ironic that Morrison won the 98-pound title a year after former Hampton Bays freshman teammate John Case took home that distinction. Case, who moved to Florida, will be reunited with his teammate next year when his family relocates back to Hampton Bays.

Morrero became Wyandanch's fifth champ in the past eight years.

Rocky Point lost 9 one-point matches and finished 11th in the team standings. The Eagles were led by junior three-time county champion Matt Wyllie (26-0), who won the 138-pound class. Wyllie could join Al Leftenant of Amityville (1939-42) and Guy Guccione of Bay Shore (1953-56) as the only four-time county champions in history with a title next year.

Shoreham-Wading River's Jesse

Jantzen (32-0) won his second successive title with a 4:43 pin over Hampton Bays' Jay Bedell (26-4) at 105 pounds.

Huntington was the only school to crown two titlists as Adrian Bonilla (112, 27-0) and Chris Beck (155, 28-0) won titles.

Islip's Mike Longobardi (126, 30-4) became the second wrestler at his school to win the county. His brother Tom won titles in 1993 and '94. Keith Cadden (177, 21-1) gave East Islip its first champ since 1986, and its first under coach Guy Leggio, who wrestled in the same weight class for three years at Bay Shore. "It feels good to get that first one," Leggio said. "Real good." Patchogue-Medford senior Jason Kenul (24-0) shook off a vicious but accidental third period headbutt and edged Deer Park senior Keith Kelskey (27-3), 4-3, for the 167-pound title. In the bout of the night, Deer Park senior Sal Cusumano (30-0) used a late third period reversal to beat Shoreham junior Tim Mullady (31-1), 9-7 at 119 pounds.

West Islip senior Rob Relinger (29-0) earned the tournament's most outstanding wrestler award when he upended defending county champion Chauncey Woodley (23-3) of Longwood, 5-0, at 145 pounds.

And in the battle of two of last year's county champions, Lindenhurst senior

Mark Frole (27-1) slipped past Patchogue-Medford senior Matt Mueller (22-1), last year's champ at 250 pounds, 2-1, in overtime at 215 pounds. Frole escaped in the 30-second sudden-death format with 10 seconds left for the win. "It wasn't easy," Frole said. "It never is. I'm happy I pulled it out."

## DR. ROBERT FALLOT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS At SUNY-Stony Brook

**Final results**  
91 — Chris Felicetta (Bellport) dec. Steve Broglie (Mt. Sinai), 6-0. 98 — Steve Morrison (Hampton Bays) dec. Kam Chang (Deer Park), 2-2, overtime criteria. 105 — Jesse Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) pinned Jay Bedell (Hampton Bays), 4:43. 112 — Adrian Bonilla (Huntington) pinned Brian Schoenfelder (Northport), 3:52. 119 — Sal Cusumano (Deer Park) dec. Tim Mullady (Shoreham-Wading River), 9-7. 126 — Mike Longobardi (Islip) pinned Lydell Funn (Riverhead), 5:31. 132 — Ryan Bernholz (Mt. Sinai) pinned Steve Shipman (Mattituck), 1:13. 138 — Matt Wyllie (Rocky Point) pinned Tom Soelza (Lindenhurst), 2:35. 145 — Rob Relinger (West Islip) dec. Chauncey Woodley (Longwood), 5-4. 155 — Chris Beck (Huntington) dec. Jamie Riley (Comsewogue), 8-3. 167 — Jason Kenul (Patchogue-Medford) dec. Keith Kelskey (Deer Park), 4-3. 177 — Keith Cadden (East Islip) dec. Jim Knoke (Sayville), 8-4. 215 — Mark Frole (Lindenhurst) dec. Matt Mueller (Patchogue-Medford), 2-1, overtime criteria. 250 — Thomas Morrero (Wyandanch) dec. Bernard Henderson (Amityville), 4-3.  
**Team Scores** — Mt. Sinai 124, Huntington 116, Patchogue-Medford 104½, Longwood 92½, Deer Park 81, Shoreham-Wading River 75½, Hills East 69, North Babylon 67, Lindenhurst 66½, Sayville 59, Amityville 55, Rocky Point 56, Hampton Bays 53½, Bellport 47½, Brentwood 46½, Hauppauge 46, Sachem 46. **Outstanding wrestler** — Rob Relinger (West Islip). **Champion of champions** — Rob Relinger (West Islip). **Most Pins / Least Time** — Adrian Bonilla (Huntington) 4 pins in 9:28.

## Playoff Schedule

**TODAY**  
**NASSAU/SUFFOLK**  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Nassau — Class C Tournament, Semifinals at Wantagh High School: Cold Spring Harbor vs. Malverne, 5 p.m. Roosevelt vs. Oyster Bay, 7:15 p.m. Suffolk — Class A Tournament, Semifinals at Mt. Sinai High School: Sachem vs. Whitman, 6 p.m. Bay Shore vs. Northport, 8 p.m. **Class B Tournament, Final at Floyd:** Harborfields vs. Amityville, 8 p.m. **Class C Tournament, Final at Floyd:** Southampton vs. Eastport, 6 p.m. **Nassau-Suffolk — CHSAA Tournament, Quarterfinals:** St. John the Baptist at Holy Trinity; St. Anthony's at St. Mary's, 4:30 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy at Sacred Heart, 5 p.m. Kellenberg at St. Dominic, 6 p.m. **GISAL Tournament Semifinals:** Portledge at Holy Child, South Shore Christian at Lexington (Queens), 4:15 p.m.  
**BOYS SWIMMING:** Suffolk County Individual Championships (State Qualifier) at Sachem, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.