

Mt. Sinai Eyes Title

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

The idea that a Class B wrestling program out of League V could pull off winning the county championships was almost preposterous. The last Class B school to win the county team title was Shoreham-Wading River, a League VI champion, in 1988.

In the past seven years, Longwood, Sachem and two-time defending champion Patchogue-Medford have dominated the team championships.

All are from powerful League I.

So this flirtation for the team title for the Mt. Sinai Mustangs, a program in only its fifth year of varsity wrestling, seemed a little farfetched.

Or was it.

Mt. Sinai moved two wrestlers into the finals and perched itself atop the team standings with 102 points, seven ahead of Huntington, last night at the Suffolk County Wrestling Championships at the Indoor Sports Complex at SUNY-Stony Brook.

"We knew the league dual-meet season was going to be tough and we won that," said senior Ryan Bernholz, Mt. Sinai's 132-pound finalist. "We didn't think we had a shot at the league tournament because we didn't have the depth of other teams. And the guys wrestled great and we won that. So we looked at the county and we said, 'Why not? We can do this.'"

Mt. Sinai and Longwood both had 10 wrestlers in the tournament. Prior to the final round, Longwood had 79 points and was in fourth place behind Patchogue-Medford (86½).

"We're trying to start a winning tradition like our football team," said Bernholz, who finished fourth in the state as a junior and has a 30-1 record this year. "They won a title [1992] and we want one, too."

Bernholz fought off a semifinal scare when Hills East's Jason Bowery took a 5-4 lead into the third period. He hit a five-point third-period move and prevailed with a pin in 4:31 to advance. "I missed that same pancake move the first time I tried it," Bernholz said.

He didn't miss the second one.

Notes & Quotes: Chris Felicetta of Bellport continued his remarkable streak of first-period pins and not allowing an opponent a point at 91 pounds. He pinned North Babylon's Mike Ingenito at 1:08 . . . Defending champion Jesse Jantzen (31-0), an eighth-grader, narrowly avoided elimination when he edged Longwood junior Tony Harrell, 6-5, at 105 pounds. Harrell's (19-2) only two losses this year were to Jantzen . . . Wrestling chairman Joe Giani of Huntington on the number of teams represented in the county semifinals, "It's good for the programs, good for attendance and just a really good situation across the board for competitiveness throughout the county." . . . Randy Fabian of Longwood finished fifth in the county at 112. Fabian was able to continue in the wrestlebacks, where he won three matches, after Dr. Frank Segretto, the tournament site doctor, put four stitches in Fabian's head.

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

Semifinal results

91 — Chris Felicetta (Bellport) pinned Mike Ingenito (North Babylon), 1:08; Steve Broglio (Mt. Sinai) pinned Hector Toro (Brentwood), 1:14. 98 — Steve Morrison (Hampton Bays) dec. Carlos Restrepo (Brentwood), 12-6; Kam Chang (Deer Park) dec. Steve Jenkins (Smithtown), 7-5. 105 — Jesse Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) dec. Tony Harrell (Longwood), 6-5; Jay Bedell (Hampton Bays) dec. Tom Conner (Rocky Point), 2-1. 112 — Brian Schoenfelder (Northport) dec. Joe Halleran (North Babylon), 6-2; Adrian Bonilla (Huntington) pinned Frank Palumbo (Hills East), 1:18. 119 — Sal Cusumano (Deer Park) pinned John Paganas (Huntington), 3:56; Tim Mullady (Shoreham-Wading River) dec. Nino LoCascio (Patchogue-Medford), 6-2. 126 — Mike Longobardi (Islip) dec. Dave Drago (Centereach), 5-3; Lydell Funn (Riverhead) dec. Joe Morbillo (Mt. Sinai), 8-5. 132 — Ryan Bernholz (Mt. Sinai) pinned Jason Bowery (Hills East), 4:31; Steve Shipman (Mattituck) dec. Steve Tseperkas (Rocky Point), 5-4. 138 — Matt Wyllie (Rocky Point) dec. Colin Jerick (Copiague), 15-4; Tom Scelza (Lindenhurst) dec. Thad Alberti (North Babylon), 4-3. 145 — Rob Relinger (West Islip) dec. Erik Bisso (Hauppauge), 13-4; Chauncey Woodley (Longwood) dec. Chris Pfeiffer (Bay Shore), 5-0. 155 — Chris Beck (Huntington) dec. Mike Fields (Brentwood), 6-5; Jamie Riley (Comsewogue) dec. Guy Wavra (Islip), 3-2 overtime criteria. 167 — Jason Kenul (Patchogue-Medford) dec. Joe Amira (Huntington), 4-4, referee criteria; Keith Kelskey (Deer Park) dec. Jon Long (Babylon), 5-3. 177 — Jim Knotte (Sayville) pinned Tom Giallanza (Mt. Sinai), 2:57; Keith Cadden (East Islip) dec. Dave Ross (Sachem), 8-5. 215 — Mark Frole (Lindenhurst) pinned Dan Morales (Copiague), 1:08; Matt Mueller (Patchogue-Medford) dec. Alex Hunt (Greenport-Southold), 6-2. 250 — Bernard Henderson (Amityville) pinned Fred McKnight (Hills East), 5:25; Thomas Morrero (Wyandanch) dec. Matt Gribbin (Harborfields), 7-3. **Team Scores** — Mt. Sinai 102, Huntington 95, Patchogue-Medford 86½, Longwood 79, Deer Park 77, Shoreham-Wading River 66, Hills East 58, Lindenhurst 57, Sayville 52, Hampton Bays 49½.