

# Practice Keeps Marrero Perfect

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

Thomas Marrero's troubles have never been on the wrestling mat. He hasn't lost a match in two years. The most difficult task Wyandanch's defending state champion has faced has been finding opponents.

He had no one to wrestle in the 275-pound weight class this season in any of Wyandanch's 12 dual meets. Marrero, who won the 250-pound state title last year with a 3-1 overtime decision over Baldwin's Kevin Shippas, wrestled 11 times before this weekend's Dr. Robert Fallot Memorial county wrestling championships at SUNY-Stony Brook.

And after yesterday's semifinal pin over Alex Kahn of Hills West in 3:04, Marrero moved into last night's final with a chance to defend his title.

"A lot of my work has to come on my own in practice," Marrero said. "I work out with assistant coach Bob Arnold. And I know I'm lucky to have that man. I try to be a leader in the room because I'm the only senior and I take great pride in showing the younger wrestlers what it takes to be a champion."

Marrero (14-0) saw all of his competition in tournaments. He won the Longwood, East Islip, Half Hollow Hills East, Albany and Bay Shore titles. He has been offered a scholarship to wrestle and play football at Virginia.

"I'll take the best offer for the best education," he said. "I want to study criminal justice. But Virginia wants me for both sports and that's tough to do both and get an education."

Marrero met Kings Park senior Mike Clancy in last night's final. He beat Clancy, 1-0, in the final of the Bay Shore Tournament on Jan. 4.

"I really wanted another shot at him," Marrero said. "I've been waiting for this rematch."

Longwood led the team scoring with 115 points and moved three wrestlers into the finals. The Lions' Keith Poloskey gained a takedown with 27 seconds left in overtime to edge Sachem's Dave Cruz, 6-4, at 125 pounds. Teammates William Davis (130) and George Sable (145) also moved into the finals.

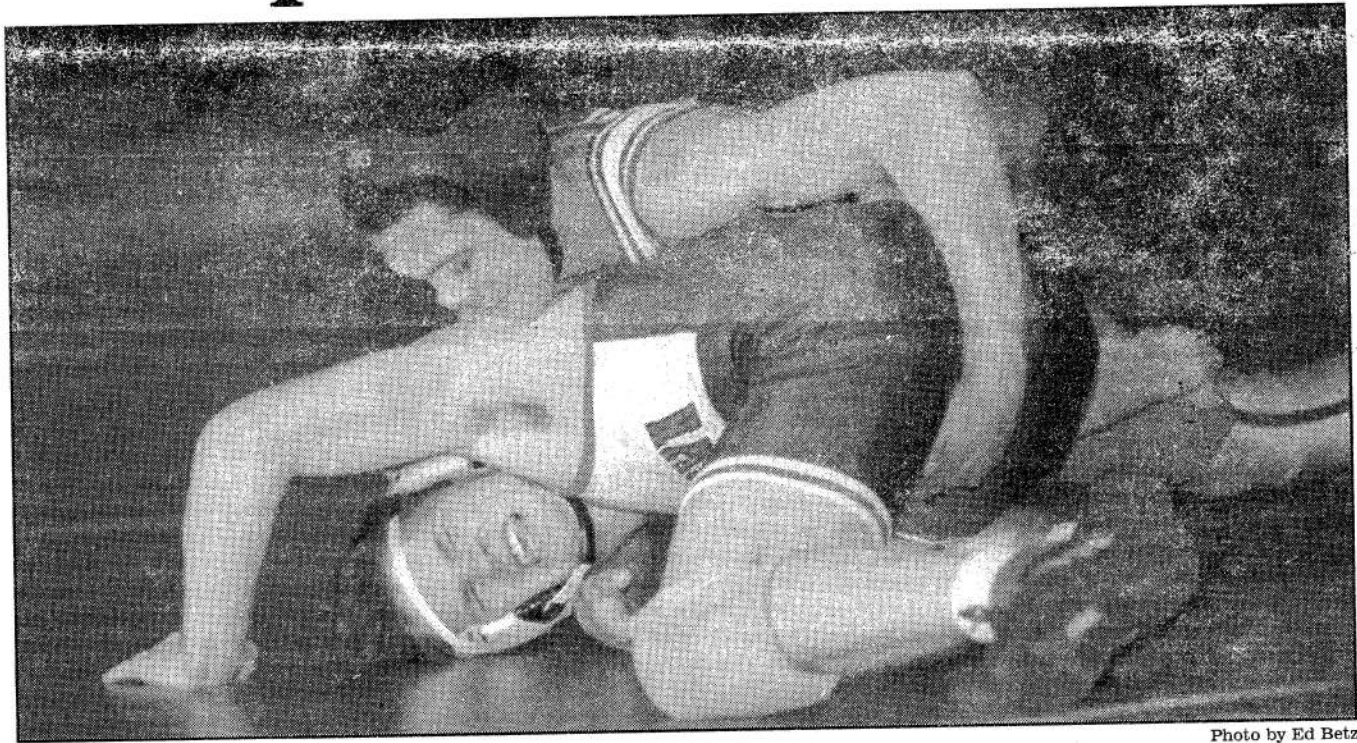


Photo by Ed Betz

Whitman's Martine MacDonald beat Smithtown's Lane Chereskin to advance to the 140-pound final

Rocky Point also moved three wrestlers into the finals. Unseeded Mike Torriero erased a 4-0 second-period deficit to come back and beat second-seeded Manny Orama of Brentwood, 6-4, in a 112-pound semifinal. He was joined in the final round by three-time county champion Matt Wyllie (24-0), Rocky Point's all-time winningest wrestler (145 wins), and 171-pounder Mike Wachholder (27-0).

Wyllie attempted to become only the third in Suffolk history to win four county titles.

The semifinal round was highlighted by Hampton Bays' 103-pounder Steve Morrison, the defending county champion. He trailed Brentwood's Steve Jenkins 9-1 in the second period. Jenkins allowed an uncontested escape, was taken down, cradled and pinned by Morrison in 3:35. "I never gave up," Morrison said. "No one should."

**Notes & Quotes:** Three former all-

county wrestlers who captained teams from Bay Shore advanced wrestlers into last night's finals. Bay Shore coach Mike Porcelli (1979) had Mike Mills at 130, East Islip coach Guy Leggio (1981) had Matt Dailey at 140 and Brentwood coach Bob Panariello (1982) had Carlos Restrepo at 103. Restrepo upset defending county champion Chris Felicetta of Bellport, 5-3. . . Two coaches and two wrestlers were ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. Floyd's Corey Bidegain was ejected from his 275-pound semifinal match as was his coach, Terry Phelan. Floyd lost 15 team points. Copiague's Colin Jerrick was ejected from his 152-pound quarterfinal match as was his coach, Jim Konen. Copiague lost 9½ team points. Tournament director Joe Giani said both coaches were allowed to coach in the finals. . . Cablevision will air the championships on tape at 2 p.m. today on Long Island One and again at 4 p.m. Wednesday on Ch. 40.

## DR. ROBERT FALLOT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT AT SUNY-Stony Brook Semifinal results

96 — Broglie (Mt. Sinai) d. Cicco (Floyd), 6-1; Jacobs (Amityville) p. Lewis (Wyandanch), :53. 103 — Morrison (Hampton Bays) p. Jenkins (Smithtown), 3:35; Restrepo (Brentwood) d. Felicetta (Bellport), 5-3. 112 — Case (Hampton Bays) p. Finnerty (Longwood), 3:03; Torriero (Rocky Point) d. Orama (Brentwood), 6-4. 119 — Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) tf. Bedell (Hampton Bays), 4:36; Rose (Bayport-Blue Point) p. Fabian (Longwood), 3:33. 125 — Weidler (Patchogue-Medford) p. Paganas (Huntington), 3:29; Poloskey (Longwood) d. Cruz (Sachem), 6-4. OT. 130 — Mills (Bay Shore) d. Inoa (Copiague), 3-1; Davis (Longwood) d. Galvez (Hills East), 9-2. 135 — Longobardi (Islip) p. Latessa (Hauppauge), 5:02; J. Morbillo (Mt. Sinai) d. Lule (Huntington), 7-0. 140 — MacDonald (Whitman) d. Chereskin (Smithtown), 8-3; Dailey (East Islip) d. Buechner (Longwood), 9-8. 145 — Wyllie (Rocky Point) d. Mousakheel (Smithtown), 16-3; Sable (Longwood) d. Crespi (Bay Shore), 6-5. 152 — Brady (Sachem) d. Omelchuck (Bellport), 4-2; Patrovich (Connetquot) d. Carlsson (Bayport-Blue Point), injury def. 160 — Wavra (Islip) d. Dmoch (Sachem), 3-1; Newman (Bellport) d. Petersen (Sachem), 7-0. 171 — Wachholder (Rocky Point) d. Weston (Bellport), 2-1; Cardenas (Copiague) d. Kelskey (Deer Park), 3-1. 189 — Reiter (Smithtown) d. McLaughlin (Deer Park), 1-0; Rechul (Huntington) d. Fakhro (Mt. Sinai), 4-2. 220 — Welsh (Riverhead) d. Ottomanelli (Mt. Sinai), 8-3; Knot (Sayville) d. Cicero (Floyd), 4-1. 275 — Marrero (Wyandanch) p. Kahn (Hills West), 3:04; Clancy (Kings Park) d. Bidegain (Floyd), disq. **Team Scores** — Longwood 109½, Mt. Sinai 96, Sachem 95½, Hauppauge 95, Bellport 93, Smithtown 87, Sayville and Shoreham-Wading River 77, Hampton Bays 72, Islip 71½, Rocky Point 66½, Riverhead 66, Bay Shore 64½, Huntington 57, Brentwood 50½.