

Patrovich Family Pins Down 2 Titles

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

The moment was beautiful. It was father and sons in a unique bond of friendship and love. Mike and Joe Patrovich Jr. hugged their father, Joe Sr., at mat-side after Joe Jr. won his second county title.

Joe Patrovich, a senior at Connetquot, pounded Jerome Joe of Hills East by technical fall in 2:57 of the 160-pound final late Saturday night at the Dr. Robert Fallot Suffolk County wrestling championships at the University at Stony Brook.

The win improved Joe to 31-0 and put him in select company with his younger brother Mike, a sophomore at Islip, who turned in an exciting 9-8 upset win over defending county champion Mike Ingenito of North Babylon for the 119-pound title. Mike Patrovich earned the ultimate respect from his peers when he was voted the tournament's Champion of Champions.

The two titles made it an unforgettable tournament for the Patrovich fam-

ily. For the first time in tournament history, brothers from different schools won titles in the same year.

"Oh, this is so special," said Joe Sr., the coach at Islip, who won a county title for Farmingdale in 1973. "I really had to just step back and seize the moment. It was almost surreal. All I kept thinking about was how fortunate I am and how lucky I was to experience this. What a great night to be a father."

Joe Sr. has coached Mike for the past three years at Islip but has had to watch from the stands during Joe Jr.'s matches at Connetquot.

"We sold our house in Bohemia when Mike was headed into the eighth grade and we enrolled him in Islip to get him started over there because we'd bought a new house," Joe Sr. said. "Then both deals fell through. We had Joey start the 10th grade at Connetquot because he was happy there and things were going well. We didn't want to pull him out of school and away from his friends until we were in the new house."

The move never happened, and Joe

Sr. has been paying tuition for Mike to go to school in Islip.

"I always wanted to wrestle and play football for my father," said Mike, who is 32-1. "I ride into school every day with my dad and we have a really close bond. I love being with him — it's great."

Joe Sr. said he was worried about Joe Jr. after Mike won his bout. "He [Joe Jr.] was so pumped and happy for his brother that I was worried that he didn't have enough time to regroup his emotions," he said.

Notes & Quotes: Hauppauge scored 160 points to capture the team title for the first time in school history. Two-time county winner Mike Messina (130) led four Eagles into the finals. Messina upended Floyd's John Cicio, 9-4 . . . Shoreham-Wading River's Jesse Jantzen, a two-time defending state champion, won his 172nd career match and 114th in a row with a technical fall over Harborfields Steve Mally in 2:19 at 145 pounds. Jantzen, a junior, won a Long Island-

record fifth county title . . . The third time was a charm for Rocky Point's Mike Torriero, who outpointed Sayville's Mike Cox, 10-5, for the 140-pound crown . . . And how about Comsewogue's Glenn Burns, who shook off a 5-0 deficit and pinned Glenn's Ed Williams in 2:32 for the 275-pound title . . . Shoreham-Wading River freshman Dan Miracola won the 103-pound title after Dr. Frank Segreto tended to a severe cut over Miracola's eye that required six stitches. The little tough guy edged North Babylon's Greg McCoy, 3-1.

DR. FALLOT SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
At SUNY-Stony Brook

Final results

96 — Vaccaro (El) dec. D. Song (Haup), 8-7. 103 — Miracola (SWR) dec. McCoy (NB), 3-1. 112 — Jimenez (Brent) dec. Cuevas (EH), 8-3. 119 — M. Patrovich (I) dec. Ingenito (NB), 9-8. 125 — Ketcham (Long) dec. J. Iannello (Haup), 2-1. 130 — Messina (Haup) dec. J. Cicio (F), 9-4. 135 — Maurer (F) pin Gholson (Lind), 1:56. 140 — Torriero (RP) dec. Cox (Say), 10-5. 145 — Jantzen (SWR) def. Mally (Harb) by tech. fall, 2:19. 152 — Morbillo (MS) pin Fordyce (Cop), 4:51. 160 — Patrovich (Conn) def. Joe (HHHE), by tech. fall, 2:57. 171 — Roche (Riv) dec. Parente (Haup), 7-2. 189 — Sable (Long) pin Sykes (Sach), 2:45. 215 — Barone (FI) dec. McLaughlin (DP), 2-1. 275 — Burns (Coms) pin Williams (G), 2:32. **Champion of Champions** — Mike Patrovich, Islip, 119. **Most Outstanding Wrestler** — Jesse Jantzen, SWR, 145. **Most pins/least time** — Mike LaTang, Sachem, 4 in 10:04. **Team Scores** — Hauppauge 160, Brantwood 118½, Shoreham-Wading River 110, Floyd 107½, Longwood 96, Copiague 80½, Mt. Sinai 82, East Islip 72½, Northport 66, North Babylon 64.