

Freeport's 1st Wrestling Title

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

The 43rd annual Nassau wrestling championships ended with a resounding thud late Saturday night. With that crash went state runner-up Vinny D'Agostino of Massapequa, who couldn't fight off a final charge by Seaford's Pat O'Brien in overtime of the 275-pound final.

The two behemoths battled into overtime, when O'Brien, an All-Long Island football player who will attend Hofstra next season, used a ferocious single-leg takedown and landed atop the fallen D'Agostino for the 3-1 victory.

That finish climaxed a brilliant night of wrestling. It was certainly special if you were part of the Freeport program. The Red Devils crowned three county champions and scored 192 points to land the school's first team title.

"The team title is the result of a lot of hard work and everlasting influence from people in this program like Vince Suaro and Terry Haise," said Freeport's third-year coach, Joe Chetti. "The title is tremendous for Freeport. How fortunate we were to have three champs."

Freeport sophomore Tyshawn Scarlett (112 pounds) and senior John Nuzzi (171) won their second titles and junior Deion Barrett (152) his first. Six Freeport underclassmen placed in the tournament.

Haise, who coached the Red Devils for 29 years before moving into administrative duties in the district, has been a cornerstone of the community. He

was on hand with former Freeport wrestlers Noel Thompson (state champ in 1998), Andre Cox (county winner in '81 and '82), Eddie Gomez (county champ in '99), Terry Brown (two-time county champ '98-99) and Chris Edmonds (county champ '80).

"I think we've all worked very hard at maintaining the level of excellence in Freeport," said Haise, who will retire in June. "We were runners-up four times and had some real close margins."

Now Chetti, along with coaches Russ Cellan and Steve Whelan, have finally broken through. Freeport ended Massapequa's five-year title reign heading into the final round.

"We dedicated this to my mom," said Chetti, whose mother, Rachel, is recuperating from spinal-cord surgery. "She's been very supportive of the program. She was in our prayers. It's really been a great weekend."

Masa Wins Second County Crown. Jon Masa of Long Beach earned his second county title with a fall in 3:15 over Massapequa's Mitch Langsam at 130 pounds. His six-year career record moved to 152-27 and he became only the second wrestler to place five times in Nassau history. Anthony Riccardi of Bethpage, a four-time county champ, also placed five times from 1995-98. "I feel it in my heart this year," said Masa, who finished third in the state tournament. "No one is stopping me."

Lou Dionisio Jr. was a two-time CHSAA champion at Holy Trinity and placed fifth at the state tournament last year. He transferred to Baldwin this year and made his way through the 140-pound weight

class with a 9-1 victory over Justin Wallentin of Bethpage. His father, Lou Sr., was a two-time county champion at Baldwin in 1976-77.

Giancarlo Mosca (125) of East Meadow won his 100th match during the wrestlebacks.

COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Final Results — At Nassau CC

96: Walter Sosnowski (Mass) d. Matt Reilly (VSC), 4-0. 103: Derek Fontaine (LB) d. Travis Sickie (BJFK), 5-4. 112: Tyshawn Scarlett (Free) d. Dominick Baffa (Mass), 8-7. 119: Vinny Romanotto (EM) d. Frank Hoeffner (EM), 8-6. 125: Mike Trotta (Ocean) d. Chris DeSimone (Beth), 2-1. 130: Jon Masa (LB) p. Mitch Langsam (Mass), 3-15. 135: Tom Paladino (Beth) p. George Walls (Bald), 3-16. 140: Lou Dionisio Jr. (Bald) d. Justin Wallentin (Beth), 9-1. 145: Guigliano (Sew) d. Volpi (Law), 7-3. 152: Deion Barrett (Free) d. Kitt (Sea), 1-0. 160: Khawaja (EM) d. Kurtz (Law), 2-1. 171: John Nuzzi (Free) p. Yuri Miller (Mass), 3-18. 189: Matt Daddino (Sew) d. Chris Parris (Farm), 3-2. 215: Anthony Antoniadis (Herr) d. Eddie Gordon (Free), 3-0. 275: Pat O'Brien (Sea) d. Vinny D'Agostino (Mass), 3-1, OT. Most outstanding wrestler: Derek Fontaine (LB). Champion of champions: Derek Fontaine (LB). Most pins/least time: Jon Masa (LB) 4 pins in 16:06. Team scores: Freeport 192, East Meadow 156, Massapequa 142.5, Long Beach 119.5, MacArthur 117, Seaford 112.5, Baldwin 86, Bethpage 79, Bellmore JFK 67.5, Sewanhaka 58.5, Lawrence 55, Herricks 53, Uniondale 52.5, Glen Cove 50.5, Calhoun 47.

Third Place

96: Keith Mitchell (Free) d. Ron Lofrese (GCity), 3-1. 103: German Almonte (Hicks) d. Joe Grassa (VSS), 5-3. 112: Brett Milgrim (Cal) d. Mike DeLorenzo (Mac), 4-2. 119: Mike Abgarian (BJFK) d. Evan LiCausi (Sea), 4-2. 125: Brian Ramirez (Free) d. John Cardace (Sea), 3-0. 130: Reno Reitmayer (Mac) d. Hanson Elpenord (Union), 8-3. 135: Ryan Dowd (Mep) d. Frank Conte (Mass), 6-2. 140: Craig Gunder (Min) d. Hector Surliel (SS), 3-1. 145: Shawn Swift (Wheat) d. Dave Mercado (Farm), 2-30. 152: Aaron Weiss (LB) d. Chris Schlesinger (Mac), 2-1, OT. 160: Chris Weidman (Bald) d. John Braggs (Lyn), 10-4. 171: Chris Kneer (Plain) d. Mike Ragone (Sea), 3-0. 189: Dave Graziosi (GCove) p. Mike Carbone (Mac), 2-00. 215: Wayne Hoffman (LB) p. Will Meyer (VSS), 1-43. 275: Andre McGlashan (Union) p. Eddie McCoy (Free), 4-28.

Fifth Place

96: Bralio Luna (Free) d. Rudy Trent (Union), 12-4. 103: Mike Mtkowski (Jer) d. Jerome LaCorte (Sea), 4-1. 112: Mike Crisona (Cal) def. Sean Murphy (IT), 119: Kris Knab (Ocean) d. Colin Camac (LB), 7-2. 125: Chris DeLuca (EM) won by forfeit. 130: Rich Rogers (Mep) d. Mike Kessler (Cal), 9-0. 135: Jack Popper (BJFK) d. Jose Galeano (PW), 4-0. 140: Dave DeJesus (Hick) d. Chris Giordano (Lyn), 18-5. 145: Joe Wille (Cal) d. John Dursi (EM), 9-1. 152: Sean O'Donnell (Mac) d. Nick Castellano (EM), 9-1. 160: Greg Savran (PW) d. Greg Lawrence (Cal), 4-3. 171: Chris Grady (Plain) d. Erik Gonzalez (Hick), 13-8. 189: Glen Ziminski (Wan) d. Isaac Nyarko (VSC), 7-1. 215: Andrew Pelzer (Man) p. Anthony Marasco (CP), 1-30. 275: Russ Monti (Herr) p. Charles McCulloch (GCove), 1-24.