

Pegues Adds A Nassau Title To His Suffolk

By John Boell
STAFF WRITER

Antonio Pegues had heard and read enough. So the Uniondale senior wrestler took the newspaper clippings that mentioned him having the chance to become the first Long Island wrestler to win an individual title in both counties, crumpled them up, and threw them in the trash.

"I started to let those thoughts get into my head," said Pegues, who was a Suffolk champ at 189 for Brentwood last season, before moving back home to Uniondale over the summer with his mother, Dawn. Pegues wrestled for Uniondale in 1997 and 1998, and took fourth in Nassau as a sophomore at 189.

"I was lucky enough to win the [Suffolk] county title last year," Pegues said, "and I was lucky enough to come back home . . . I made a promise to myself I'd get to the finals."

Last night, Pegues went one step better. In fact, he took a step no other area wrestler ever has. Pegues decisioned Farmingdale's Chris Parris, 2-1, in overtime to become the first wrestler on Long Island to win an individual title in both Nassau and Suffolk before a capacity crowd of 2,500 at the 44th annual Nassau wrestling championships at Nassau CC. Parris was called for stalling in overtime — and the second time in the match — as Pegues was awarded a point, the match and a piece of history.

"If it was going to happen, it may as well be me," said Pegues about making Long Island history. Pegues became the first Uniondale wrestler to win a title since 1965.

He wasn't alone. Pegues' teammate, Greg Thomas, remained unbeaten (29-0) at 275 to give Uniondale two individual champs.

MacArthur won its first county title in school history with 208 points.



Photo by Bob Mitchell

Uniondale's Antonio Pegues, left, defeated Garden City's Mike Cirrito, 5-0, in the 189-pound semifinal of Nassau Tournament.

NASSAU WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS At Nassau CC — Final Results

96: Matt Anglin (Hick) d. Kmar Wilder (LB), 1-0. 103: Walter Sosnowski (Mass) d. Jim Dennis (O), 5-4. 112: Derrick Fontaine (LB) d. Joe Grassa (VSS), 16-7. 119: Travis Sickie (BJFK) d. Brett Milgrim (Clarke), 7-1. 125: Cliff Smith (Cal) d. Colin Camac (LB), 5-1. 130: Vinny Romanotto (EM) d. Chris DeSimone (Beth), 5-3 (OT). 135: James Strouse (Mac) d. Chris DeLuca (EM), 3-2. 140: Mike Williams (Hick) d. Reno Reilmayr (Mac), 6-2. 145: Deon Barrett (Free) d. Steve Walters (EM), 5-2. 152: Craig Gunder (Min) d. Carlos Caban (Bald), 13-8. 160: Greg Lawrence (Cal) d. Steve Panarelli (Farm), 2-1. 171: Chris Weidman (Bald) d. Nick Castellano (EM), 6-2. 189: Antonio Pegues (U) d. Chris Parris (Farm) 2-1 (OT). 215: Eddie Gordon (Free) d. Rob DeThomasis (Beth), 12-5. 275: Greg Thomas (U) d. Russ Monti (Herr), 4-0. **Most outstanding wrestler:** Cliff Smith (Calhoun), 125. **Champion of champions:** Vinny Romanotto (East Meadow), 130 and Mike Williams (Hicksville), 140 (tie). **Most pins/least time:** Chris Weidman (Baldwin), 171) 3 pins in 7:49.

Team scores — MacArthur 208, East Meadow 155, Massapequa 143.5, Long Beach 122.5, Bellmore JFK 99, Calhoun 81, Freeport 79.5, Baldwin and Uniondale (tie) 75.5, Farmingdale 68, Mineola 61, Bethpage 60.5, Hicksville 56.5, Wantagh and Division (tie) 52.

Third Place: 96: Bruce Popko (Mac) d. Derek Stroke (Law), 16-3. 103: Mike Mitkowsky (Jer) d. Derek Mc Nerney (Bald), 5-3. 112: Dom Baffa (Mass) d. Mike Crisona (Cal), 5-1. 119: Mike Jimenez (LB) d. Chris Hagmaier (Div), 5-5 (OT rideout). 125: Cary Cook (EM) d. Mike DeFeo (Farm), 9-3. 130: Travis Cook (Mass) d. Justin McCrory (Want), 5-3. 135: Chris Bennett (Div) d. Dan Harvey (Min), 9-4. 140: Jason Layton (Want) d. Jack Popper (BJFK), 6-0. 145: Matt Zash (Mass) d. Mike Cervini (Plainedge), 6-2. 152: Sean O'Donnell (Mac) p. Matt Burdi (Sew), 55. 160: Mike Sandas (Mass) d. Paul Mazziotti (Mac), 2-1 (OT). 171: Mike White (Clarke) d. Jeff Vitale (NShore), 5-3. 189: Mike Carbone (Mac) def. Mike Kelly (Lyn) by TF, 18-3. 215: Keith Phillips (Mass) d. Dave Paskoff (GCove), 3-2. 275: Charles McCullough (GCove) p. Garrett Wykoff (Mac), 4-13.

Fifth Place: 96: Robbie Zemsky (BJFK) d. Giovanni Bennett (U), 6-5. 103: Ron LoFrese (GCity) p. Scott Gorman (Ses), 4-55. 112: Mike Luna (Free), 5-1. 119: Todd Bloom (Want) d. Mike Scarola (Mass), 11-3. 125: Mike Abgarian (BJFK) d. Skylier Davis (Law), 6-1. 130: Steve Glaser (Cal) d. Angel Acosta (Law), 5-3. 135: Frank Conte (Mass) def. Mike Luckert (VSS) by TF, 17-2. 140: Adam Molano (Mac) d. Bryan Cinque (Lyn), 5-2. 145: Rob Stubbs (Mac) d. Alex Kopacz (Herr), 4-2. 152: Rob Scholl (Mep) p. John Dursi (EM), 2-15. 160: Steve Indelicato (Div) def. Eric Cohen (Plainedge) by default. 171: Ilya Shcherba (BJFK) d. Fauree Nicholas (LB) 6-1. 189: Mike Cirrito (GCity) d. Issac Nyarko (VSC), 6-1. 215: Greg Dalton (EM) d. Ed Parra (Mac), 7-4. 275: Joe Sampson (VSN) d. Richard Jackson (U), 5-2.