

Patrick Pins Hope On a Title

By Chris Antonacci

STAFF WRITER

Carlos Patrick circled the wrestling mat like a shark stalking its prey. The Freeport senior stared down his opponent and suddenly dropped to the mat, practicing his lightning-quick shots.

Had it not been for the black brace on his left leg, it would be impossible to know that Patrick had torn his anterior cruciate ligament just four months earlier. Patrick refused to let that slow

him down yesterday as he won two bouts in front of more than 2,000 at the Nassau County Wrestling Championships at Nassau CC.

NASSAU WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Patrick, the top seed at 160 pounds, will attempt to become the second wrestler to win county titles in Nassau and Suffolk when the finals begin at 7 p.m. today. First, he will have to get through the semis, which begin at 11 a.m.

Patrick tore his ACL while playing for Central Islip in a football game against Brentwood in late September. Patrick not only battled pain, but depression, as well. For a period of time, he couldn't bear to watch a football game. Patrick decided he needed a change of scenery and to be closer to his physical therapist, so he transferred to Freeport to rehabilitate.

"That was the best thing in the world for me," Patrick said of his move. After his extensive preseason workouts, Patrick looks like he has not lost a step since he won the 160-pound Suffolk title for Central Islip last season.



Photo by Alejandra Villa

Freeport's Carlos Patrick, who has recovered from a torn ACL, is focused on the Nassau County title. The 160-pounder heads to the semifinals after winning two bouts yesterday.

He remained focused and went 16-1 through the regular season, losing his only bout by injury default.

"He made a lot of sacrifices," Freeport coach Steve Whalen said. "I don't want to call it a miracle, but the time and dedication he put in doesn't even tell the whole story. He made a lot of sacrifices and earned my respect."

Patrick will try to earn the county title today, perhaps following in Antonio Pegues' footsteps, who won county titles at Uniondale and Brentwood.

Baldwin's Derek McNearney (112) was the only top seed not to make it to the semis. He was beaten by defending county champ Walter Sosnowski of Massapequa in a quarterfinal bout. East Meadow's Chris DeLuca, the only other returning Nassau champ, also has a chance to defend his title.

Defending team champ MacArthur is tied with Massapequa after the quarterfinals with 113 points each. East Meadow was third with 72.5.

MacArthur's Matt Delorenzo (96), Bruce Popko (103), James Strouse (140), Adam Molano (145), Ron Stubbs (152) and Gian Villante (215) all advanced to the semis. Massapequa sent eight wrestlers to the semis: Sosnowski, Mike Scarola (119), Todd Kaufman (145), Matt Zash (152), Jim Stankard (160), Mike Briesemeister (171), Mike LaBella (189) and Keith Phillips (215).

NASSAU INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Nassau CC — Semifinal Pairings

96 — Delorenzo (Mac) vs. Cook (EM); Tropiano (EM) vs. Zemsky (BJFK). 103 — Gorman (Sea) vs. Moran (VSS); Castilio (EM) vs. Popko (Mac). 112 — Sosnowski (Mas) vs. Carrizo (VSN); MacDonald (Pie) vs. Dennis (O). 119 — Scarola (Mas) vs. Scaglione (Pie); LoFrese (G. City) vs. Reilly (VSC). 125 — Estevez (Bal) vs. Pacciano (Mep); Hagmaler (Div) vs. Williams (LB). 130 — Peikidis (EM) vs. Rodriguez (LB); Higgins (Beth) vs. Davis (Law). 135 — DeLuca (EM) vs. Roehrig (SS); Bennett (Div) vs. Gunther (Mep). 140 — Strouse (Mac) vs. Kiesaris (G. City); Grech (Farm) vs. Lyons (IT). 145 — Molano (Mac) vs. Kaufman (Mas); Nacht (Law) vs. Cervini (Pie). 152 — Stubbs (Mac) vs. Gunder (Min); Zash (Mas) vs. Caban (Bal). 160 — Patrick (Fre) vs. Parinelli (Farm); Stankard (Mas) vs. Selby (Min). 171 — Lawrence (Cal) vs. Briesemeister (Mas); Vitale (NS) vs. Garcia (Pie). 189 — Weidman (Bal) vs. Santi (Her); Athens (GNN) vs. LaBella (Mas). 215 — Villante (Mac) vs. Bretton (Beth); Scherba (BJFK) vs. Phillips (Mas). 275 — McCullough (G. Cove) vs. Jessamy (West); Weiss (BJFK) vs. Bulone (Sea). Team Scores (after quarterfinals) — MacArthur 113, Massapequa 113, East Meadow 72.5, Plainedge 61.5, Baldwin 50, Farmingdale 48.5, Bellmore JFK 45.5, Seaford 44, Calhoun 41, Bethpage 37, Garden City 37, Mepham 37.