

# Section 4

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## Five wrestlers win state championships

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By ROB CENTORANI  
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE — Not since 1968 has Section 4 crowned so many wrestling champions.

Five times Saturday at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse Section 4 wrestlers had their hands raised after championship bouts in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association tournament.

The common link with the quintet was getting on the board first.

C.J. MacNaught of Walton started the trend and Unatego wrestler Nick Muzashvili finished it.

In between, Dylan Urban of Union-Endicott, Jeff Reese of Elmira Southside and Jake Hoyt of Greene followed suit.

Section 4 won the team title with 207½ points. Suffolk County was second with 154.

MacNaught needed just 10 seconds to score on MacArthur's Shawn Kegal and went on to a 4-1 victory in the 91-pound weight class.

"I don't think he was expecting me to shoot so quick," said MacNaught, a freshman who won the second state wrestling championship in Walton history. "I got in there and finished it quick."

MacNaught sealed the match when he reversed Kegal with a minute left.

After teammate Jim Materese lost an 8-3 decision to Rayson Phifer of Longwood in the 112-pound final, Urban scored a onesided 9-3 victory over Matt Hickey of Half Hollow Hills East.

"It was definitely satisfying with the injuries I've had that have slowed me down," said Urban, a junior who finished the season with a 29-0 record. "Matt Mahar (Urban's first opponent Friday) ran a bar (armbar) through me that really hurt my

shoulder. I really felt it today and yesterday."

Urban's father Jim, who won a Section 4 title for Maine-Endwell in 1970 said: "It's a great feeling. It's a feeling that I wanted to experience.

### Well-schooled wrestlers crowned champs

By ROB CENTORANI  
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE — Put simply, Jake Hoyt of Greene and Nick Muzashvili of Unatego won New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships Saturday because they know wrestling.

Superior technique allowed the two seniors to walk away victorious in their final high school matches, at the Onondaga County War Memorial on Saturday night.

Hoyt's championship victory at 155 pounds was due largely to a move he used late in the first period of his match against Mike Bena of Niskayuna.

Bena had just reversed Hoyt to tie the score at 2 with eight seconds left in the period.

From the bottom position, which normally means a wrestler is looking for a one-point escape, Hoyt switched Bena for a two-point reversal and a 4-2 lead.

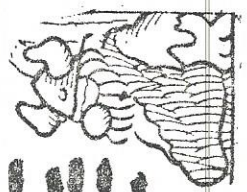
He went on to a 8-3 victory, giving him an 184-35-1 record in his six years of varsity wrestling.

"I hit it real hard and did it at the right time," Hoyt said. "I never really tried to reverse anyone from that position. It may have surprised him."

For Muzashvili, his 177-pound championship victory was the result of his ability to move on his feet.

Leading 8-5 heading into the third period against Niskayuna's unbeaten Pat Popolizio, Muzashvili scored an escape early in the period and then sealed his 14-6 victory with a takedown 50 seconds into the period.

"I got so much support from the Unatego fans," Muzashvili said of the strong Unatego contingent among the 4,000 or so fans in attendance Saturday. "I want to thank Jeff Newman (Unatego wrestling coach) and all my friends and fans."



Jake Hoyt

but having my son do it is even better."

Reese finished the season 44-1 with a 3-2

victory over Griff Powell in the 132-pound final.

Hoyt followed at 155 with an 8-3 victory over Mike Bena of Niskayuna. Muzashvili won the 177-pound title with a 14-6 victory over Niskayuna's Pat Popolizio.