

Upset Win for Deer Park's Cusumano

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syracuse — Deer Park senior Sal Cusumano pulled a shocker in the state wrestling championships last night at the Onondaga County Civic Center.

Cusumano stunned the sellout crowd of 6,413 with a rousing 9-8 come-from-behind win over top-ranked P.J. Bory of Suffern in the tournament's first round at 119 pounds. Cusumano cut an 8-6 deficit to 8-7 when he escaped with 19 seconds left in the match and gained a takedown with four seconds remaining for a 9-8 win.

"We've seen him [Bory] before and knew what to look out for," Deer Park coach Ed Luksik said. "We were better off getting him early in the tournament. It's one of my better wins as a coach, but it's not that much of a surprise."

Not that much of a surprise considering Cusumano's only loss in the past two years was in the Suffolk County final last season to Longwood's Rason Phifer, who went on to win a state championship and earn most outstanding wrestler honors. Cusumano is 61-1 during that span, including a 32-0 record this year.

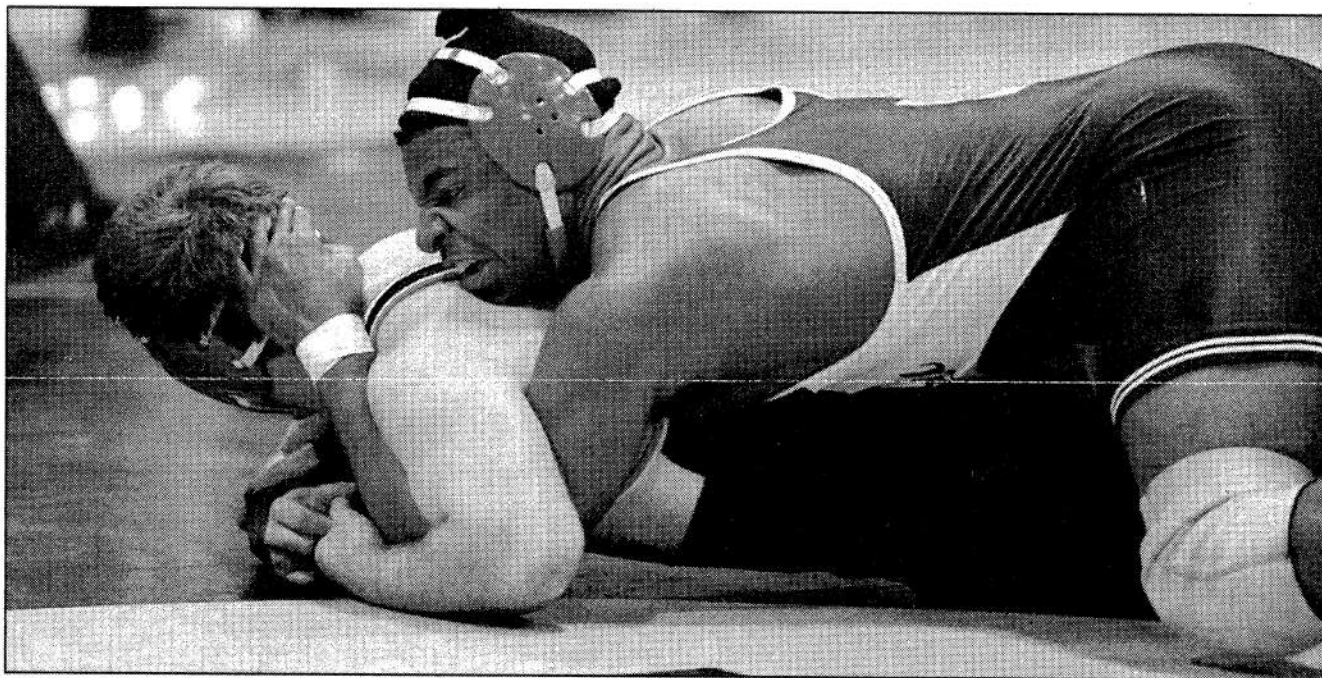
"Sal is extremely scrappy and flexible," Luksik said. "He doesn't stop and kept pushing the action out there."

Cusumano added a 4:34 pinfall in his quarterfinal bout to advance to today's semifinal round.

Ironically, it was Bory that ended the title hopes of Deer Park's Angelo Zegarelli two years ago. Zegarelli won the 105-pound state title last year.

"The Deer Park kids know him [Bory] well," Luksik added.

Bellport sophomore Chris Felicetta (30-0) continued to roll toward a state title at 91 pounds. He recorded a 42-second first-round pin and then gained a 10-4 decision over Elmira South Side's Nick Richetti in the quarterfinals. Richetti became the first wrestler to score against Felicetta this season when he escaped



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Freeport's Morlon Greenwood, top, controls McQuaid's Dale Parson during their 215-pound opening-round match. Greenwood won by decision

with 13 seconds left in the second period. It was only the third time this season that Felicetta was forced to go the distance. He has 27 pins. Felicetta is looking to become Bellport's first state champion.

Shoreham-Wading River eighth-grader Jesse Jantzen (33-0) narrowly avoided defeat when he used an escape with five seconds left in his 105-pound quarterfinal match with Camden's Brice Kelly to tie the score at 8. Jantzen gained a takedown nine seconds into overtime for the 10-8 win.

"Whew, what a close one," Shpreham coach Paul Jendrewski said. "But Jesse has unbelievable composure for such a young wrestler and that paid off today."

The Suffolk sectional team moved eight wrestlers into the semifinal round and leads the tournament with 75½ points. However, its quest for a

title took a hit when 177-pounder Keith Cadden of East Islip was disqualified from the tournament for flagrant misconduct in his first-round match. Cadden flagrantly elbowed top-seeded Pat Popolizio of Niskayuna in the face on two occasions.

"He [Popolizio] was grabbing Keith's crotch and he took exception to that," East Islip coach Guy Leggio said. "The elbows were incidental in reaction to the crotch rides."

Cadden was ejected from the tournament and the team penalized two points for his unsportsmanlike conduct.

MacArthur senior Shawn Kegel (98) leads six Nassau wrestlers into the semifinal round. Nassau is in fifth place with 57 points.

Freeport teammates Julian Cover (177) and Morlon Greenwood (215) each won two matches to advance.

STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP At Onondaga County Civic Center Quarterfinal results

91 — Kevin Fleenor (Newburgh, IX) pinned Mike McCann (Mepham), 4:42; Chris Felicetta (Bellport) dec. Nick Richetti (Elmira South Side, IV), 10-4. 98 — Tim Page (Wayland-Cohocton, V) pinned Steve Morrison (Hampton Bays), 5:19; Shawn Kegel (MacArthur) dec. Jason Miller (No. Adirondack, VII), 8-5. 105 — Jesse Jantzen (Shoreham-Wading River) dec. Brice Kelly (Camden, III), 10-8 in overtime. 112 — Akil Coad (Long Beach) dec. Jason Terry (So. Glens Fall, II), 7-4; Adrian Bonilla (Huntington) dec. Rick Hall (Franklin Academy, X), 16-3. 119 — Sal Cusumano (Deer Park) pinned Jim Powderly (Newburgh, IX), 4:34; Paul Pfaff (Franklin Academy, X) dec. John Pinto (Mepham), 7-0. 132 — Ryan Bernholz (Mt. Sinai) dec. Lou DeLauro (St. Peter's, CHSAA), 4:37. 138 — Matt Wyllie (Rocky Point) pinned Brad Moore (Lehman, PSAL), 5:02. 145 — Ian Kaplan (South Side) pinned Mario Calderon (Kellenberg), 4:13; Jeremy Flint (Pavilion, V) pinned Rob Relinger (West Islip), 5:04. 155 — Bill Payne (Geneva, V) dec. Brian Haggerty (Long Beach), 8-6. 167 — Jason Kenul (Patchogue-Medford) dec. Anthony Boultron (Geneva, V), 6-3. 177 — Julian Cover (Freeport) pinned Mikael Hogan (Truman, PSAL), 1:23. 215 — Morlon Greenwood (Freeport) dec. Billy Donohue (Middletown, IX), 9-2; Dan Stine (Queensbury, II) dec. Mark Frole (Lindenhurst), 6-4 in overtime. 250 — Thomas Morrero (Wyandanch) dec. Jason DiCesare (McQuaid, V), 4-2 in overtime; Kevin Shippos (Baldwin) dec. Erin Putnam (Falconer, VI), 8-4. Team Scores: Suffolk 75½, Syracuse (III) 65, Rochester (V), 64, Binghamton (IV) 63, Nassau 57, Catskills (IX) 56, Albany (II) 45½, Westchester (I) 40½, Buffalo (VI) 30½, Plattsburgh (VII) 18½, St. Lawrence (X) 18, PSAL 12½, CHSAA 4.