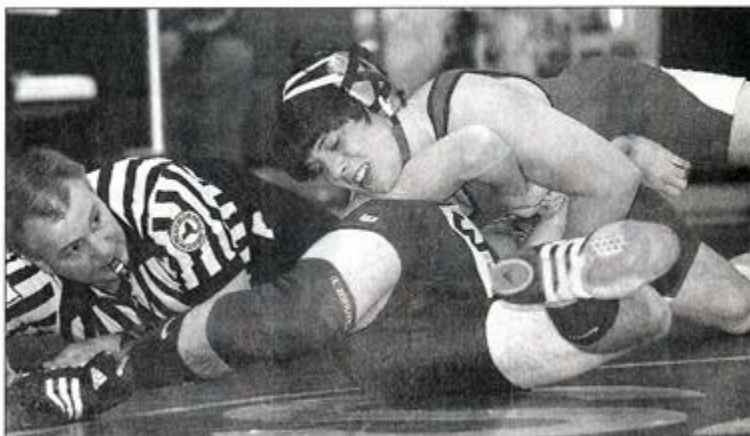
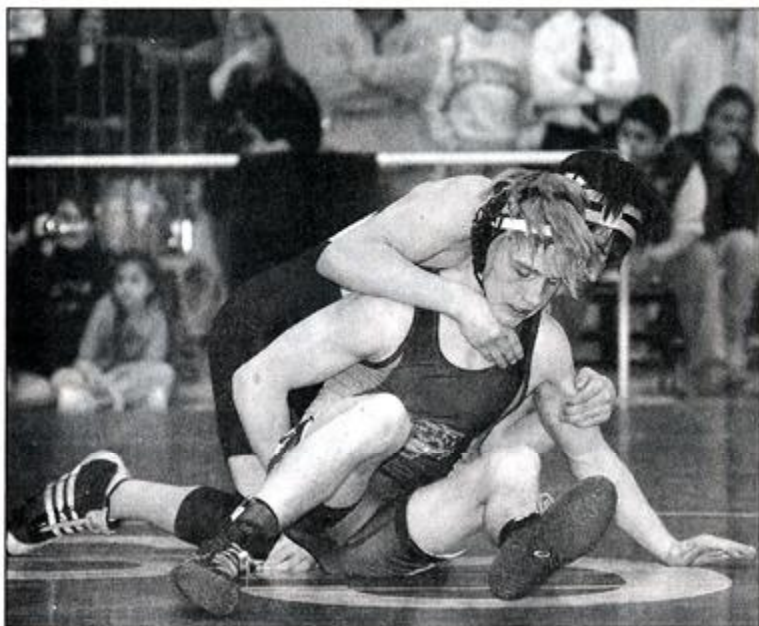


## LIVINGSTON CONFERENCE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Michael Johnson/For The Daily News

**BACK ON TOP:** In the photo above, Letchworth's Mike Nevinger (top) rolls Wayland-Cohocton's Adam Mortensen to his back for back points in Nevinger's 7-0 win in the 135-pound finals during Saturday's Livingston Conference Wrestling Championships.

Michael Johnson/For The Daily News

**TIGER TRIUMPHS:** In the photo at left, Warsaw's Ian Paddock (front) sits out of the hold of Richard Sikes of Wayland-Cohocton after the second period restart during their 125-pound match that saw Paddock win with a pin for the Tigers.

# Letchworth cruises to team title over Warsaw

By Chris Metcalf  
For The Daily News

AVON — No meltdown this time.

Exercising their demons from five years ago, the Letchworth wrestling team put to rest their infamous 2002 meltdown and captured their first-ever tournament title at the Livingston Conference Wrestling Championships Saturday night at Avon High School.

"Winning the division title last week and now winning the LCAA tournament title really seals the deal," said Letchworth coach Chad Wittenrich. "I couldn't be any prouder of this team, and this staff, for the season we're having. To win the divisional crown, and now the tournament title, that really says a lot about this program."

It wasn't even close as Letchworth won the tournament title with 214½ points, easily topping runner-up Warsaw (177) and third-place finisher Bath (131).

The victory was sweet, much sweeter than the bitter taste that the Indians swallowed back in '02 when they blew a huge lead they had entering the championship finals only to watch it slip away as the Indians lost all eight title matches and finished second to Le Roy, 223-220.

This time, however, Letchworth

placed seven wrestlers into the championship finals and came away with three individual champions.

In fact, Bucky Hendrickson, a freshman, secured a 8-0 victory at 112 pounds against his own teammate, eighth-grader Chris Nevinger, picking up valuable team points in that weight class.

Section 5 has a new rule that you can place more than one wrestler into each weight class, a rule that helps out the Indians with all their depth.

"I really love the new rule, especially with our depth," Wittenrich said.

Bucky, who improved his record to 32-3, won his weight class in dominant fashion as he pinned Keshequa's Travis Baker in 2:19 in the quarterfinals before topping Le Roy's Don Pangrazio 8-2 in the semifinals.

"Bucky is a really tough kid — both mentally and physically," Wittenrich said. "One of the things I respect about Bucky is that he doesn't care who he's going up against, he treats them all the same. He is so mentally tough. He always gives 110 percent."

Bucky's twin brother Dakota captured the 103-pound title with a hard-fought victory over Bath's Jacob Harrison.

In Dakota's only other match of the

tournament he pinned HF-L's Joe Smith in 2:37 in the semifinals.

Sophomore Mike Nevinger gave the Indians three champions when he scored a 7-0 decision over Way-Co senior Adam Mortensen at 135 pounds.

Mike Nevinger was on top of his game as he showed why he was the top seed at 135. In his first round match he pinned Le Roy's Brian Gombos in 1:23 before pinning Way-Co's Tim Chapman in 42 seconds in the quarterfinals. Nevinger would get a 15-0 technical fall win over Dansville's Jerry Pilkenton in the semifinals.

"Last year Mike was at 112 pounds and this year he's been wrestling between 130 and 135 pounds, and he's handled the jump tremendously well," Wittenrich said. "He spends a lot of time in the offseason working on improving. He is a very dominant wrestler."

Letchworth also had outstanding tournaments from seniors Al Fagan, Matt Hendrickson and Cam Barber.

Fagan placed second at 160 pounds, where he lost his title match 6-1 to Warsaw's Paul Paddock, who captured his fifth straight LCAA crown. Matt Hendrickson lost his 189-pound finals match by a 7-2 score to Bath's Tony Viselli. Barber

lost his title match by a 12-0 count to defending champion Bryant Madigan of Bath in a match that was much closer than the final score.

"Those three have been a big part of this program's success over the years," Wittenrich said. "It would be nice to see them win (sectionals) next week."

Warsaw, the D-II league champions during the regular season, had four individual champions including Paul Paddock, Dakota Stackhouse (96), Ian Paddock (125) and Billy Romasser (215).

Stackhouse won a 10-0 major decision over Bath's Kyle Conrad; Ian Paddock pinned Way-Co's Richie Sikes in 3:03 and Romasser defended his 215-pound championship with a convincing pin in 2:30 over Geneseo's Vinnie Lukaszonas.

Warsaw's Chris Whiting placed second at 119 pounds as he lost a 4-2 decision to Hornell's Joe Sirianni.

Le Roy had one individual champion as senior Chad Condidorio captured the 130-pound title with a 7-3 victory over Hornell's Austin Dwyer. Pavilion's Kevin Green captured the 140-pound title in dramatic fashion as he reversed Way-Co's Andrew Wray with three seconds left in the match to pull out a thrilling 11-10 victory.

Perry's Eddie Koziel looked impressive as he captured the 145-pound title with a 3-1 victory over Warsaw's Colin Ewell.

Cal-Mum's Nate Schiedel stayed unbeaten on the season as the junior won the 171-pound title with a pin in 1:01 over Keshequa's Jake Dale.

Bath's Cody Hutcheson, only a sophomore, was named Most Outstanding Wrestler for the second straight year as he defeated Warsaw freshman Zak Griffith 6-2 in the 152-pound finals.

The 37-point victory was the largest winning margin since 1992 when Livonia won the team title with 210 points over York's 127.

"We knew a couple of years ago we had some pretty special kids coming up," Wittenrich said. "Winning by that large a margin, in what many consider one of the toughest tournaments in the state, is very special."

The convincing victory for Letchworth propelled them into this weekend's Class BB sectional tournament in Lyons, where the Indians are overwhelming favorites to wire the field.

"We have to be at our best, this is the sectionals and anything can happen," Wittenrich said. "We have a few seniors I would love nothing more than to see them win a sectional title come Saturday night."