



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP...Cranford's Pat Hogan, right, fights off a single-leg takedown attempt in the quarterfinals and later goes on to win the 171-lb state championship.



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STATE CHAMP AGAIN...Rahway's Darrion Caldwell, left, claimed his third state wrestling title by winning the 152-lb crown at A.C. Caldwell won at 119-lbs his sophomore year and at 130-lbs his junior year.

Union County Claims 2 Champs, Region 3 Claims 5 Champs At NJSIAA Wrestling Championships in Atlantic City

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drew Shaffer came a long way since his fourth-place showing in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood JV tournament his freshman year. Shaffer registered three takedowns, two near-falls and two escapes to claim a 14-10 decision over Matt Lemma of Haddon Township in the 145-lb preliminary round. Shaffer had a commanding, 14-5, lead until he got careless in the final 28 seconds and yielded a five-point move.

"I thought when he went out, he was ready to go. He was in the right frame of mind. The kid scored the first takedown. It was one that I didn't think he would have to give up but he got right out and had a nice pancake at the end of the period. At one point, he was up by nine points and left the kid back in the match. You can't do that here. We were lucky to survive. He wrestled way too well to lose," commented Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "There are 16 kids left in this weight class."

After losing via 2:48 fall to Garfield's Frank Buenafuente in the pre-quarterfinals, Shaffer shifted to the wrestlebacks where he dropped a 9-2 decision to Pompton Lake's Bob Mathews.

"We were joking around with him before. As a freshman and a sophomore, he started the year by placing fourth in the Scotch Plains JV tournament. To end up in the top-16 in the state just shows he had to have put in a whole lot of work. He wrestled hard and this was a unique opportunity that he got to experience," said coach Kurz.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider Sal Gano fell victim to a 2:34 fall at the

hands of Old Bridge's Steve Fallon in the 119-lb preliminary round and Raider Nick Giannaci got caught with a half nelson in 1:44 by Bergen Catholic's George Kocher in the 189-lb preliminaries. Teammate Pat Mineo, who also qualified for the state tournament, was unable to make

placed sixth at 215-lbs after being pinned by Bryan Fill of Hasbrouck Heights in 5:40. Brearley freshman Ken Knapp lost in the first round wrestlebacks at 103-lbs.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND:
 103: — Fred Santaite (N. Highlands) d Vinnie Delle Fave (Toms River E), 7-2

Gregory (P-burg), 5-0
 119: — Tyler Milonas (Jefferson) p Pat Strizki (Hunt. Cent), 3:30
 125: — Greg Hart (Bernards) d Tom Lorenzo (W. Orange), 4-1, 2 OT
 130: — Nick Murray (Bound Br) d Dan Lopes (Ocean Twp), 8-5
 135: — Dale Fava (Don Bosco Prep) d Luke Lanno (Southern), 4-2



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 GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT A.C....Raider Sal Gano, left, wrestling in the 119-lb preliminaries, gained valuable experience on his first trip to compete in the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City.

the trip due to a severe elbow injury he sustained during the Region 3 140-lb championship bout and it may have had an effect on Gano and Giannaci. "I think so in some respect," said Raider Head Coach John Schulz. "You know Pat is a spunky individual. He builds a lot of character. He can talk to the kids sometimes differently than we talk to them. It was a real shame we didn't have Pat down here. As far as Gano and Giannaci, I think just making it here was something really special to them. I felt they had beatable kids. It's just that everyone is going after it. Nobody wants to go home that night. I'm proud of both boys. It was interesting, on our way out, Nick said, 'Coach can we stop for a moment? I want to take all this in before I go off the mat.' We walked real slow off the mat. It was real nice!"

Rahway heavyweight Andre Neblett finished fifth with an injury default over Mike Ragone of Camden Catholic and Brearley's Jesse Boyden

112: — Frank Perrelli (Delbarton) d Dan Kelly (Del. Valley), 4-2, 3 OT
 119: — Joe Trause (Bergen Cath) d John Trumbetti (St Joe - Montvale), 4-3
 125: — Mike Grey (Delbarton) d Jim Conroy (So. Plainfield), 13-7
 130: — Will Livingston (Kittatinny) d Trevor Melde (Delbarton), 7-6
 135: — Jordan Burroughs ((Winslow Twp) d Dave Greenwald (St. Mary's - Rutherford), 9-8
 140: — Frank Molinaro (So. Regional) d Daryl Coccozo (River Dell), 1-0
 145: — Scott Winston (Jackson) d Jesse Harrington (Bound Br), 3-2
 152: — Darrion Caldwell (Rahway) d John Mangini (Hillsborough), 14-8
 160: — Alex Caruso (Watchung Hills) d Scott Giffin (Eastern), 4-3
 171: — Pat Hogan (Cranford) d Anthony Trongone (Camden Cath), 3-2
 189: — Keith Dobish (Lodi) d Nick Parisi (Marlboro), 3-1
 215: — Jack Corcoran (St. Joe - Hammonton) d D.J. Russo (Lenape Valley), 6-4
 Hwt: — Zach Rey (Hopatcong) d Demitrus Hester (Paulsboro), 5-4

THIRD PLACE ROUND:
 103: — Pat Hunter (So Plain) md Derek Valenti (Kitt), 12-4
 112: — Zac Coulas (Ocean Twp) d Jon

140: — Bryan Tracy (Paulsboro) d Pat Riley (Bernards), 5-3
 145: — Cory Bleaken (Clifton) d Ed McCray (So Plain), 5-0
 152: — Tom Scotton (Willingboro) d Nick Weaver (Cen Reg), 9-4
 160: — Dave Richmond (Warren Hills) d Jeff Jacobs (Point Pleasant Boro), 3-2
 171: — Tom Spellman (Kitt) d Dillon Landi (W Morris), 7-5
 189: — Jamelle Jones (Winslow Twp) d Kevin Criley (So Plain), 10-5
 215: — Roy Dragon (BRH20) d Alex Silvestro (Paulsboro), 1-0
 Hwt: — John Price (Wash Twp) d Adam Henig (TRE), 5-0

FIFTH PLACE ROUND:
 103: — Matt Oliver (TRN) p Eric Dunnet (Paul), 4:38
 112: — Bob Dabal (N Bergen) d Filberto Colon (Belleville), 9-2
 119: — Anthony Luma (Egg Harbor Twp) won forfeit over Steve Fallon (Old Br)
 125: — Kris Sigafos (Del Val) d Jake Sweezy (Delran), 6-3
 130: — Chris Notte (Holy Cross) d Aaron Wilcox (Schalick), 9-4
 135: — John Barnett (Jeff) p Andrew Van Dyk (Ocean Twp), 6:22 OT
 140: — Shacol Berry (Millville) p Matt DeTrois (W Essex), 5:13
 145: — Keith Dillard (Southern) p Matt Morganstern (Ber Cath), 1:36
 152: — Chris Norrell (P-burg) d Bill Woodward (Howell), 2-0
 160: — Pete Simon (Iselin Kennedy) p Frank McLaughlin (Hillsboro), 5:08
 171: — Alex Dalrymple (H Point) d Matt Trainor (Winslow Twp), 3-1
 189: — Ollie Ferrarro (Christian Bro) d Mac Mancuso (Holy Spirit), 7-5
 215: — Bryan Fill (Hasbrouck Heights) p Jesse Boyden (Brearley), 5:40
 Hwt: — Andre Neblett (Rahway) won injury default over Mike Ragone (Camden Cath)

Region 3 Wrestling NJ State Wrestling:
 Check out photos of the Region 3 Wrestling Tournament on the web, www.goleader.com - Click Photos then click photos on left. Go to appropriate listing. NJSIAA Wrestling will follow in a few days.

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